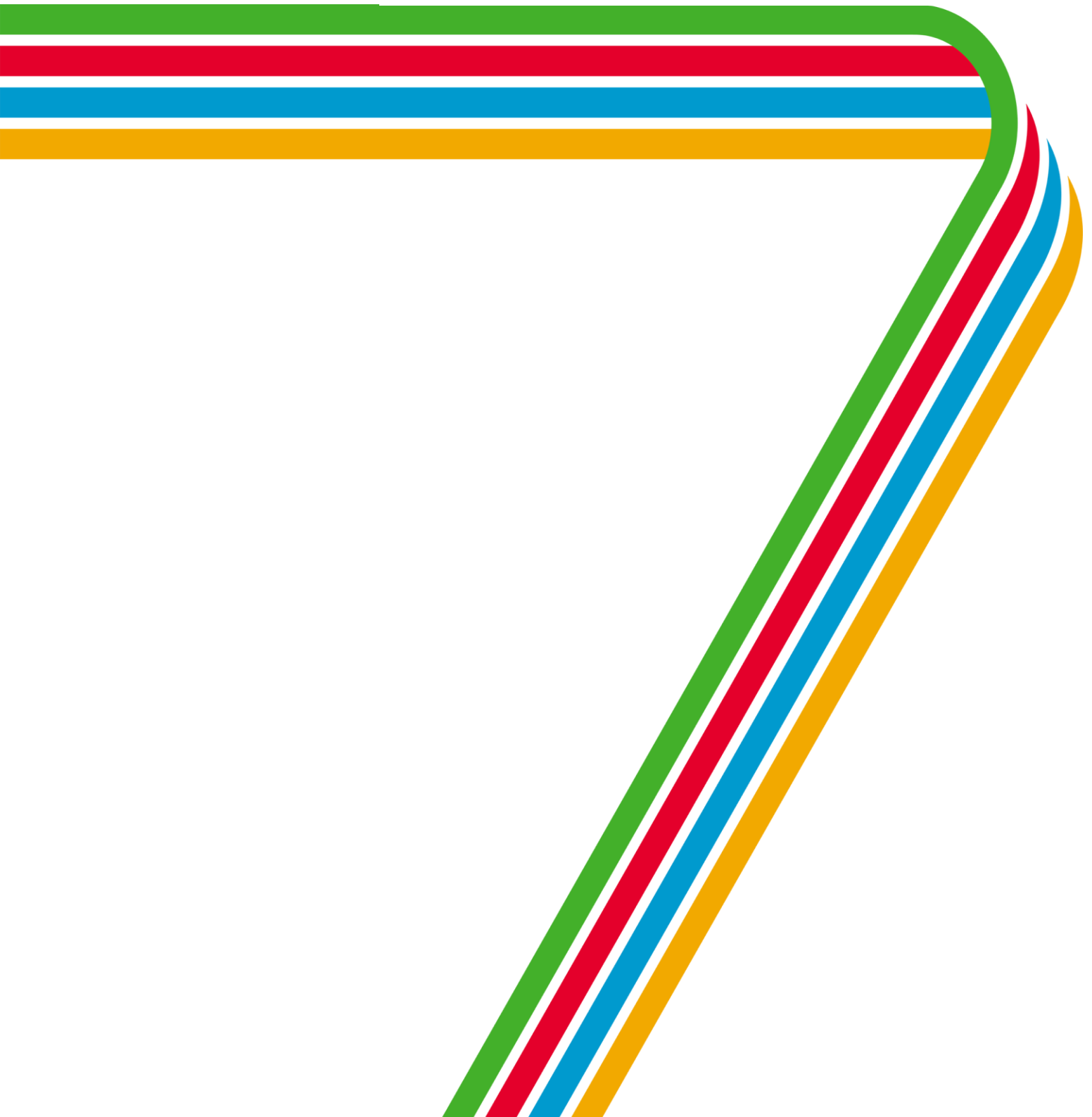




Northumberland Playing Pitch Strategy

Needs Assessment Report

Version: Final



SHAPING THE FUTURE OF SPORT



4global Consulting Terms of Reference

Estimates and forecasts contained within this report are based on the data obtained at that time and the accuracy of resultant findings and recommendations is dependent on the quality of that data.

The author(s) will not be held liable for any data provided by third party organisations as part of the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) delivery process. While the data and recommendations have been conscientiously reviewed through the PPS governance process followed throughout project delivery, it has not been possible for the author to independently review every element of data provided by third parties.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Introduction and Methodology	6
1.1	Introduction to the project	6
1.2	Methodology	7
1.3	What is a 'Needs Assessment'?	8
1.4	The Structure of our Report	8
2	Strategic Context	10
2.1	Northumberland	10
2.2	Planning Policy	10
2.3	Physical Activity and Participation	14
2.4	Previous Northumberland PPS (2011)	15
2.5	Neighbouring Playing Pitch Strategies	18
2.6	Sub Areas	26
3	Football Analysis	28
3.1	Introduction	28
3.2	Strategic Priorities for the Football Association	28
3.3	Supply	29
3.4	Supply and Demand Balance	51
3.5	Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) for Football	53
3.6	Site-by-Site Analysis	53
3.7	Football Summary	104
4	Cricket Analysis	107
4.1	Introduction and Strategic Context	107
4.2	Supply	111
4.3	Demand	116
4.4	Imported and Exported Demand	121
4.5	Supply and demand balance	121
4.6	Capacity Analysis for Cricket in Northumberland	152
4.7	Peak-time Capacity Analysis	153
4.8	Cricket Summary	154
5	Rugby Union Analysis.....	157
5.1	Introduction and Strategic Context	157
5.2	Supply	158
5.3	Demand	163
5.4	Site by Site Table.....	167
5.5	Future Balance	177
5.6	Analysis: Increasing Capacity.....	178
5.7	Peak Demand Capacity Analysis	180
5.8	Rugby Union Summary.....	181
6	Hockey Analysis	184
6.1	Introduction and Strategic Context	184
6.2	Supply	187
6.3	Demand	190
6.4	Site by site table	194
6.5	Supply and Demand Balance	197
6.6	Berwick Academy	198
6.7	Hockey Summary	198
6.8	200
7	AGP Analysis	201
7.1	Introduction	201
7.2	Football	204
7.3	Rugby.....	210

7.4	Hockey	212
7.5	AGP Summary	214
8	Bowls	217
8.1	Introduction	217
8.2	Strategic Context	217
8.3	Bowls Supply	218
8.4	Demand	220
8.5	Bowls Summary	222
9	Tennis	224
9.1	Introduction and Strategic Context	224
9.2	Demand	230
9.3	Future Demand	231
9.4	Supply and Demand Balance	232
9.5	Tennis Summary	234
10	Athletics	236
10.1	Introduction	236
10.2	Strategic Context	236
10.3	Vision	237
10.4	Supply	237
10.5	Demand	238
11	Glossary of Terms	241

Section 1: Introduction and Methodology



1 Introduction and Methodology

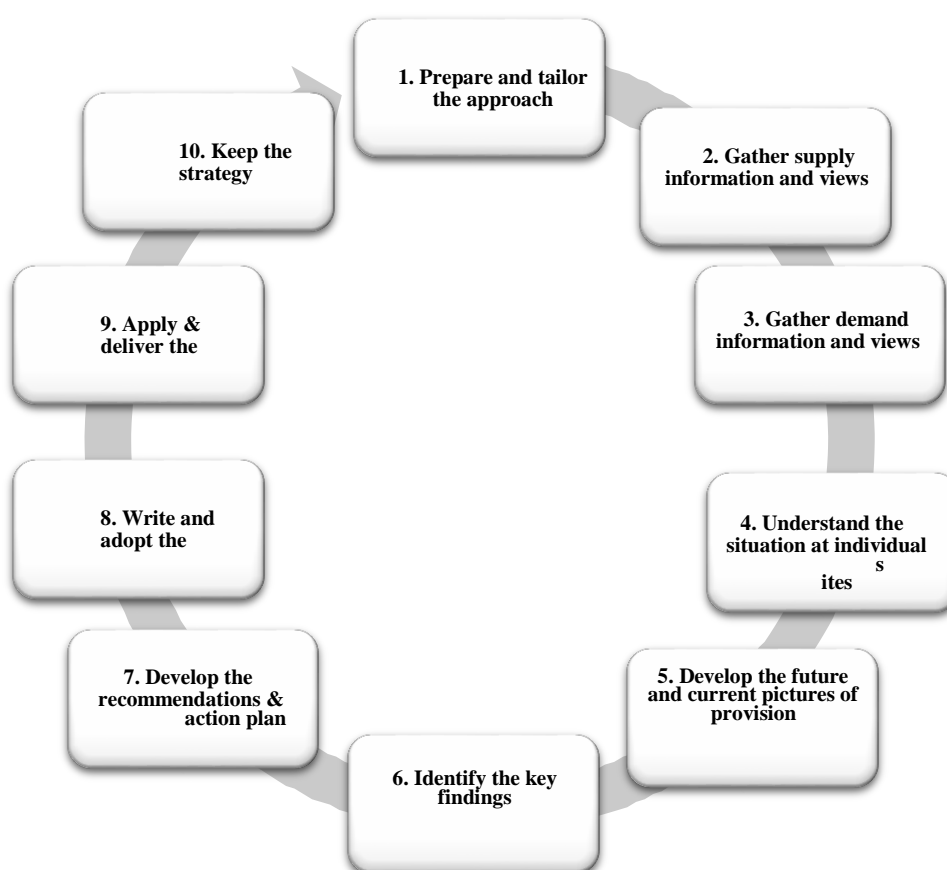
1.1 Introduction to the project

- 1.1.1 Northumberland County Council has commissioned 4global Consulting to produce a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for the local authority. The PPS will provide an audit and set of strategic recommendations for outdoor pitch sports played in the County. Northumberland County Council will be hereafter referred to as 'the Council' and the overall geographical area will be referred to as the 'study area'.
- 1.1.2 A PPS is a strategic assessment that provides an up to date analysis of supply and demand for playing pitches (grass and artificial) in the local authority. In line with the relevant Sport England guidance, as described in the methodology section, this study focusses on five pitch sports; football, cricket, rugby union, hockey and rugby league. The National Governing Bodies (NGB's) of these sports have issued a detailed framework for assessment and analysis of their facilities, and these will therefore form the basis of the study.
- 1.1.3 At the request of the council, 4global have undertaken analysis on 6 "additional" sports. These sports are not subject to a Sport England guidance document, but analysis remains focused on assessing the suitability of facilities to meet current and future demand in the County.
- 1.1.4 The Council is committed to providing sports provision that meets the needs of its residents and local clubs. The evidence collected as part of this study will inform the preparation of the new Northumberland Local Plan.
- 1.1.5 The objectives of the Northumberland PPS are to;
- Engage with Sport England and the relevant NGB's to use the national PPS methodology to provide a PPS consistent with the structure and process used across England
 - Provide a robust evidence base that can be used by the Council and other stakeholders for a wide range of future projects
 - Gather a representative evidence base, by achieving a high response rate from the surveys sent to clubs, schools and Parish Councils/community organisations
 - Identify cross boundary NGB issues, the nature and location of any overuse, unmet demand and spare capacity for play across all pitch types and sports including all elements of current and future demand
 - Establish clear, prioritised, specific and achievable recommendations and actions to address the key issues around pitch provision and participation.
- 1.1.6 In addition to the Playing Pitch Strategy, the Council has also commissioned an Indoor Facilities Strategy.
- 1.1.7 When both documents are considered as one, the overarching strategy will represent a comprehensive view of sports facility provision across the study area.

1.2 Methodology

- 1.2.1 The assessment methodology adopted for the PPS follows the published guidance from Sport England. The guidance used is the 2013 version; Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance – An Approach to Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy¹. Figure 1.1 summarises the approach proposed in this guidance, which is broken down into 10 steps. The steps covered by the project up-to the construction of this report are highlighted in bold.

Figure 1.1: Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy – The 10 Step Approach (Sport England, 2013)



- 1.2.2 To facilitate information gathering and help ensure PPS reports are based on a robust evidence base, 4global has developed an online data entry and assessment platform (see images below), which contains all pitch provider and club information. This will enable the Council to keep supply and demand information and the strategy up to date through to the end of the strategy and beyond.

¹¹ <https://www.sportengland.org/media/3522/pps-guidance-october-2013-updated.pdf>

Figure 1.2: 4global's Online Playing Pitch Platform



- 1.2.3 A Project Steering Group comprising representation from the Council, Sport England, County Sports Partnership and NGBs from each sport has guided the study from its commencement. At critical milestones, the Steering Group members have reviewed and verified the data and information collected to allow the work to proceed efficiently through each stage, reducing the margin of error. Details of the steering group and the organisations they represent are included in Appendix A – Steering Group Members.

1.3 What is a 'Needs Assessment'?

- 1.3.1 The purpose of the need's assessment is to conduct an analysis of the supply and demand data gathered during 'Stage B' research phase of the PPS project. The aims of this report are to clearly identify and state the various facility-related requirements of the local community in-order to ensure they are provided with adequate facilities to meet their needs. This is both from the perspective of quality and quantity.

1.4 The Structure of our Report

- 1.4.1 The structure of the PPS report is as follows:

- Section 1 – Introduction
- Section 2 – Strategic Context
- Section 3 – Football Analysis
- Section 4 – Cricket Analysis
- Section 5 – Rugby Analysis
- Section 6 – Hockey Analysis
- Section 7 – AGP Analysis
- Section 8 – Bowls Analysis
- Section 9 – Tennis Analysis
- Section 10 – Athletics Analysis.

Section 2: Strategic Context



2 Strategic Context

2.1 Northumberland

- 2.1.1 Northumberland is a county in the north-east of England. It is England's northern most county with the Scottish Borders to the north, Carlisle and Eden (part of the County of Cumbria) to the west and borders with County Durham, Gateshead, North Tyneside and Newcastle Upon Tyne to the south. To the east is the North Sea and the county has a large coastline. It is the 6th largest county by area with a total of 5,014 sq. km. Roughly a quarter of this area (predominantly in the north and west) is covered by Northumberland National Park.
- 2.1.2 The geography of the county is diverse with relatively low-lying areas by the coast and the Cheviot Hills located in the National Park to the west. The park is also the largest Dark Sky Park in Europe, which means light pollution from artificial sources are restricted.

2.2 Planning Policy

- 2.2.1 There are a number of key national and local planning policies which are relevant to the Northumberland Playing Pitch Strategy. These policies inform the approach to current and future provision of sports facilities in the county through the need to link to the overall target of health improvement to improved participation in sport and ensuring the appropriate provision of facilities is available meet the needs of the local community.
- 2.2.2 From a planning perspective, the national agenda links the national planning policy, a Local Plan and population growth at local level and the need to plan for increased demands for infrastructure and provision for sport. This is linked to the key site-by-site recommendations of Protect, Enhance and Provide contained within this report which are the key elements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

2.2.3

NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK (NPPF)

- 2.2.4 The national planning policy framework (NPPF) sets out the requirement of local authorities to establish and provide adequate and proper leisure facilities to meet local needs. Paragraphs 96 and 97 outline the planning policies for the provision and protection of sport and recreation facilities:
- 2.2.5 **PAR 96:** "Access to a network of high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate."
- 2.2.6 **PAR 97:** "Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:
- An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
 - The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or

- The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.”

2.2.7 Protection, Enhancement and Provision of Facilities

2.2.8 Sport England is a statutory consultee on all planning applications that affect playing fields that have been used in the last 5 years. However, as set out in its 2018 playing fields policy, Sport England’s policy regarding playing fields is:

2.2.9 “...to protect all parts of a playing field, not just those which happen, for the time being, to be laid out as pitches. This is because those other parts of a playing field are a resource which may be needed, now or in the future, and it is important that they be afforded the same protection.”

2.2.10 As well as protecting sports facilities, it looks to improve the quality, access and management of sports facilities as well as investing in new facilities to meet unsatisfied demand. Sport England requires local authorities to have an up-to date assessment of sports facility needs and an associated strategy including a recommendation that the evidence base is reviewed every five years.

2.2.11 The key drivers for the production of the strategy as advocated by Sport England are to protect, enhance and provide sports facilities, as follows:

- **Protect:** to provide evidence to inform policy and specifically to support site allocations and development management policies which will protect sports facilities and their use by the community, irrespective of ownership
- **Enhance:** to ensure that sports facilities are effectively managed and maintained and that best uses are made of existing resources - whether facilities, expertise and/or personnel to improve and enhance existing provision – particularly in the light of pressure on local authority budgets
- **Provide:** to provide evidence to help secure external funding for new facilities and enhancements through grant aid and also potentially through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and section 106 agreements. Sport England and local authorities can then use the strategies developed and the guidance provided in making key planning decisions regarding facility developments in the area and to support or protect against loss in relation (refused planning application) to planning applications brought forward by developers.

A NEW STRATEGY FOR SPORT – DEPARTMENT FOR CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

2.2.12 The department for culture, media and sport, following a consultation paper in 2015, launched the new strategy ‘sporting future: a new strategy for an active nation’ in 2016. The development of the new strategy reflects a need to re-invigorate the nation’s appetite for participation in sport following what appears to be a significant reduction in participation (highest profile being swimming), following the upsurge after the 2012 London Olympics.

2.2.13 The sport strategy is targeting five outcomes which each sports organisation, public or private sector, will be measured against:

- Physical wellbeing
- Mental wellbeing
- Individual development
- Social and community development

- Economic development.

2.2.14 Government funding will go toward organisations which can best demonstrate that they will deliver some or all of the five outcomes.

2.2.15 The delivery of the outcomes will be through three broad outputs:

- More people from every background regularly and meaningfully taking part in sport and physical activity, volunteering and experiencing live sport
- A more productive, sustainable and responsible sports sector
- Maximising international and domestic sporting success and the impact of major sporting events.

2.2.16

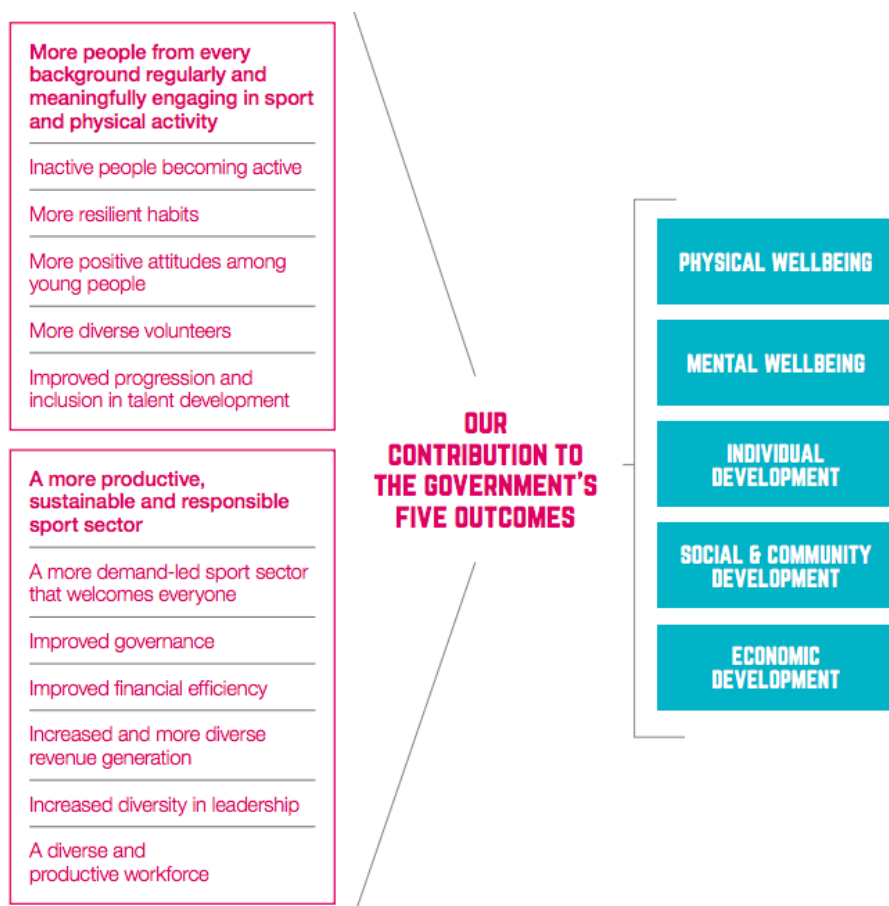
SPORT ENGLAND STRATEGY 2016 - 'TOWARDS AN ACTIVE NATION'

2.2.17 The vision for this strategy is:

2.2.18 “We want everyone in England regardless of age, background or level of ability to feel able to engage in sport and physical activity. Some will be young, fit and talented, but most will not. We need a sport sector that welcomes everyone – meets their needs, treats them as individuals and values them as customers.”

2.2.19 The Sport England strategy ‘Towards An Active Nation’ puts the policies set out in ‘a new strategy for an active nation’ into practice. This will mean significant change for Sport England and for their partners.

Figure 2.1: The Sport England strategy contribution to government outcomes



2.2.20 This strategy sets out how Sport England will deliver this task. The key changes Sport England will make are:

- Focusing more money and resources on tackling inactivity because this is where the gains for the individual and for society are greatest
- Investing more in children and young people from the age of five to build positive attitudes to sport and activity as the foundations of an active life
- Helping those who are active now to carry on, but at lower cost to the public purse over time. Sport England will work with those parts of the sector that serve the core market to help them identify ways in which they can become more sustainable and self-sufficient
- Putting customers at the heart of what we do, responding to how they organise their lives and helping the sector to be more welcoming and inclusive, especially of those groups currently under-represented in sport
- Helping sport to keep pace with the digital expectations of customers
- Working nationally where it makes sense to do so (for example on infrastructure and Workforce) but encouraging stronger local collaboration to deliver a more joined-up
- Experience of sport and activity for customers
- Working with a wider range of partners, including the private sector, using our expertise as
- Well as our investment to help others align their resources
- Working with the sector to encourage innovation and share best practice particularly through
- Applying the principles and practical learning of behaviour change.

LOCAL PLANNING POLICY

2.2.21 At the time of writing, Northumberland County Council are in the process of reviewing their Local Plan to comply with the NPPF. The most update to date information can be found at www.northumberland.gov.uk.

2.2.22 The Local Plan sets out a vision and framework for development in the County for the next 15 years (until 2036). It addresses the needs and opportunities across a number of themes, including housing, the economy, infrastructure, transport and sustainability. The Local Plan is due to be available for public reading between 30 January 2019 to March 2019 before submission in May 2019 and adoption in March 2020.

2.3 Physical Activity and Participation

THE VALUE OF PARTICIPATION

2.3.1 The value of participation in sport and physical activity is significant, and its contribution to individual and community quality of life should not be underestimated. This is true for both younger and older people; participation in sport and physical activity delivers:

- Opportunities for physical activity, and therefore more 'active living'
- Health benefits – cardio vascular, stronger bones, mobility
- Health improvement
- Mental health benefits
- Social benefits – socialisation, communication, inter-action, regular contact, stimulation.

2.3.2 In addition, participation in sport and physical activity can facilitate the learning of new skills, development of individual and team ability / performance, and provide a 'disciplined' environment in which participants can 'grow' and develop.

2.3.3 The benefits of regular and active participation in sport and physical activity will be important to promote in relation to future sport, leisure and physical activity in Northumberland. There is an existing audience in the county, which already recognises the advantages of participation, and a latent community who are ready to take part. The sport, physical activity and leisure offer in the study area can support the delivery of the desired outcomes across a number of study area priorities and objectives.

CURRENT PARTICIPATION RATES

2.3.4 The figures in Table 2.1 are taken from Sport England's Active Lives Survey and provide a comparison for Northumberland to the wider region and national level. Active Lives defines physical activity in the following way: "Active" participants are defined as those completing at least 150 minutes of physical activity per week; 'Fairly Active' are those completing between 30-149 minutes per week, 'Inactive' participants have done less than 30 minutes of physical activity in the past week.

Table 2.1: Comparison of Physically Active and Inactive Adults (Active Lives Survey 2017/18)

Rate	Northumberland	North East	England
Active %	60.1	60.1	62.3
Fairly Active %	12.0	11.7	12.5
Inactive%	27.8	28.2	25.2

2.3.5 The survey shows that Northumberland is highly comparable to the North East region and national picture in both measures although it is slightly lower in levels of activity and slightly higher levels of inactivity when compared to the national average.

2.3.6 These figures have stayed relatively stable with levels of activity falling slightly since the start of the survey. This can be seen in Table 2.2

Table 2.2: Levels of Active Participation in Northumberland (Active Lives Survey)

Survey Period	Rate %
November 2015/ 2016	61.3
May 2016/2017	62.9
November 2017/ 2017	62.2
May 2017/ 2018	60.1

2.4 Previous Northumberland PPS (2011)

- 2.4.1 Examining the findings of the previous PPS (published in 2011) helps to understand the trend of outdoor provision in Northumberland. The following table details the number and type of playing pitch as well as the level of formal demand in the previous survey. As the survey before the production of Sport England's (2013) Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance, the reporting is different, and the following information is a translation into the terminology of the current guidance.

Table 2.3: Pitch and Club details from 2011 PPS

Sport	Number of Pitches	Number of Securely Available Pitches	Number of Clubs	Number of Teams
Football	254	215	212	673
Cricket	49	48	50	225
Rugby Union	39	39	12	94
Hockey	4	4	4	24

- 2.4.2 The quality of pitches is another important assessment criteria when considering provision in a given area as it has an effect on the capacity of a site. Table 2.4 details the percentage of pitches at different quality levels, again, because this was published before the 2013 guidance the rating scale is different to the one used in this report. Hockey is not included as no quality assessment was provided.

Table 2.4: Quality ratings for each sport in 2011 PPS

Sport	Excellent/ Good	Average	Below Average	Poor
Football*	49%	26%	11%	0%
Cricket	68%	16%	16%	0%
Rugby Union	62%	31%	7%	0%

*Not all sites were assessed but percentage was calculated from overall number of sites hence values that do not add up to 100%.

- 2.4.3 It is important to understand the issues and recommendations made in the action plan of Northumberland's previous Playing Pitch Strategy (published 2011) to measure the progress and effectiveness of the plan.
- 2.4.4 The issues identified in the report were divided in 3 sections; quantity, quality and accessibility, all of which are outlined below:

QUANTITATIVE DEFICIENCIES

- There are significant current and future deficiencies in provision for mini and youth football and cricket across the County generally, but this is more prominent in a number of areas – in the case of football the West (highest levels of demand) and South East (least number of pitches per head of population).
- It is suggested that these deficiencies will not be met through re-designation (or re-marking) of pitches – i.e. changing pitches from one type to another or by bringing into use pitches not currently community accessible (there is relatively little provision not currently in use).
- There is some evidence that where there is a spare capacity on pitches (i.e. perhaps pitches in areas of lower population which are not used as intensively as those in more densely populated areas; this situation however does not necessarily imply a surplus, particularly where the pitch is the only accessible green space in e.g. a village/hamlet) this is not always in the right place to meet demand – there are indications that potential oversupply in some rural areas could mask higher levels of deficiency in urban areas.
- Additional to this, the assessment results on a sub-area basis can mask the characteristics of some sports. In particular, rugby demand is generated from a relatively small number of clubs and is not necessarily met by all the available supply identified. There are a large number of single cricket pitch sites with limited capacity for significant facility development.

- There is also a current and future deficiency, in real terms, of rugby pitches when training demand is factored in.
- There is a current and future deficiency in hockey appropriate AGPs, particularly in the North (Alnwick) and West areas (no AGPs suitable for hockey; Tynedale Hockey Club has to play out of the area).
- Although not explicit from the assessment results, there is a perceived deficiency of AGP facilities to facilitate an accessible network of hockey opportunities, for accommodating football and rugby training and to provide for potential future developments in some sports (e.g. use of 3G surfaces for football matches).

QUALITY DEFICIENCIES

- The application of proposed quality standards (based on the non-technical visual assessment performance) identifies deficiencies across the County – across the sub-analysis areas 33% - 44% of sites audited are poor quality pitches.
- The more pronounced deficiency relates to the quality of ancillary facilities – football as a sport appears to be the most poorly served by appropriate facilities, but there are shortfalls across all sports in all areas. Overall only around 1 in 5 sites visited are served by good quality accessible facilities suitable to cater for multi-team / age group / gender specific sport.

ACCESSIBILITY DEFICIENCIES

- Wide-spread deficiencies across all sports in relation to access to quality ancillary facilities (see Maps 11, 13 and 15)
- A number of deficiencies in terms of access to opportunities and access to appropriate facilities result directly from the points above (see Maps 11, 12 and 15)
- Access to AGP provision, both for hockey and 3G provision to support football and rugby varies significantly across the County.

2.4.5 These 'deficiencies' formed the basis for recommended actions for the action plan, which were divided into 4 types; monitoring of the PPS (MO), operational management of playing pitches (M), planning (P) and investment (I). These can be found in Table 2.5.

Table 2.5: Recommendations from Northumberland PPS 2011

Type	Recommendation*
MO1	Given the findings of the assessment and the reliance on non-Council facilities there is a need to strengthen and develop partnership working with parish councils, private providers, Governing Bodies and neighbouring authorities. Given that in many of Northumberland's towns and villages playing pitch provision is made through the town/parish council, it will be vital to involve these bodies in any forward planning. It is recommended that some form of Playing Pitch Strategy Group should be developed and used to facilitate this. The Group should also take ownership of the Action Plan and should work with partners towards implementation of its recommendations.
MO2	Update the supply and demand information collated as part of the study on a regular basis as part of evaluating action and delivery. A full playing pitch assessment should be repeated every 5 years or as near as possible to fit in with area planning processes.
MO3	Subject to resources continue to develop regular consultation with pitch users to establish trend data in relation to satisfaction, ratings of quality and common pitch issues. This is partially undertaken via the pitch booking forms administered by the Council to users of public football pitches, and through the proposed Playing Pitch Strategy Group.

Type	Recommendation*
MO4	Use the Sport England Market Segmentation toolkit on an ongoing basis to ensure changes in demographics and participation are monitored and can then be reflected in the type of playing pitches provided, and where this provision is made.
M1	Explore with the relevant Governing Bodies and clubs the potential to play some fixtures on Synthetic Pitches – particularly mini and youth football. This recommendation is dependent on the future development of appropriate 3G AGP facilities. Greater use of AGPs could reduce the demand for natural turf pitches and help address future deficiencies. It may also release some football only sites which could be explored for development as cricket facilities. Use of MUGAs should be optimised for training. Appropriate management arrangements with schools would need to be implemented to effect the development of community use – preferably a formal dual-use arrangement.
M2	Community use agreements, to an agreed specification should be required from future school redevelopment schemes (this is also an objective of the Northumberland Facilities Strategy). This is particularly important for any facilities developed under externally funded programmes. However, it is important that future access arrangements consider affordable pricing and priority access to those local clubs most in need of facilities and most impacted by current and projected future deficiencies.
M3	<p>Given the low levels of engagement with schools and limited information about the availability of some facilities it is recommended that closer partnership working with key Schools is explored and developed. Schools have an increasingly important role to support mini and junior sport and potentially provide additional community accessible facilities. High Schools are priorities, but there are a number of Independent schools with high quality facilities that are not currently available to the community. Key schools that do not currently facilitate community use and have substantial provision include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bedlingtonshire Community School (4 pitches) • King Edward VI School (8 pitches) • Queen Elizabeth High School (3 pitches) (poor quality AGP and grass pitches currently prevent external use – barely good enough to support curriculum usage) <p>There is a possible need for this recommendation to be supported by revenue funding to support additional maintenance costs and administration relating to pitch booking.</p>
M4	Condition surveys on changing facilities should be undertaken at regular intervals to identify any remedial work that may be required, identify any additional disability access requirements and provide an estimated lifespan for the building. This should be used in conjunction with the outcome of recommendation I1 below. These surveys should cover the extent and nature of investment needed, to inform development of a detailed specification for each site. Given that NGBs and the FA in particular are now considering more flexible provision for e.g. toilets and changing facilities, providers should make reference to the latest guidance from these bodies. It is also important to stress that each site will need to be provided with fit for purpose ancillary facilities catering for the specific type of pitch use on site.
M5	Continue to work with local clubs, NGBs and other partners to develop training facilities for all sports and/or ensure better use for training purposes of the facilities currently available.
M6	Provide appropriate support to clubs and community organisations taking local responsibility for the operation of a playing pitch under community asset transfer initiatives. This should be to ensure playing pitch quality is maintained and preferably improved, and to ensure current levels of provision and accessibility are maintained as a minimum.
M7	Develop a rolling programme of site specific technical inspections, targeted at Low Quality/High Value sites, to try and improve the quality e.g. drainage schemes, of the poorer pitches, linked to funding opportunities.
P1	The recommendations from the PPS should be further assessed through the LDF process moving forward to optimise opportunity for investment in improved quality of playing pitch provision - the development of multi-pitch sites, improved partnership working and/or the development of new pitches where appropriate. Supplementary Planning Guidance may need to be developed to assist in this process and policy implementation.
P2	Use the Quality/Value matrix and the priority sites for investment identified in in the survey as part of the LDF process to inform decisions about investment in/ development of/ rationalisation of playing pitches across Northumberland.

Type	Recommendation*
P3	Use the playing pitch hierarchy and the priority sites for investment identified to inform the LDF process, particularly in relation to the development of guidance on developer contributions.
P4	It should be clearly stated in planning guidance that every community accessible site, and particularly those providing for juniors, women and girls, should at minimum have toilet provision, even if it is a portaloo.
I1	Use the consultation findings of the assessment together with the Quality / Value matrix, and NGB data to prioritise identified investment to deliver a hierarchy of facilities, so that opportunities for capital/revenue funding to address and deliver on identified Northumberland PPS priorities and recommendations can be optimised. The priority sites for investment are identified and priorities include additional provision at existing sites, investment in community access at school facilities, improvements to the quality at some sites and new AGP provision. Specific improvements need to be guided by the results of the quality audit completed.
I2	Explore additional AGP provision in the North and West areas of the County. These should complement existing provision to provide an adequate network of facilities with maximum coverage across the County, which includes small AGPs provided for training, coaching and small sided competitive games. Planning and delivery should consider the guidance detailed in Sport England's Selecting the Right Artificial Surface.
I3	Identify potential sites for additional pitch developments. This will need to be guided by the data collected as part of the PPG17 audits and should include any known disused sites. Priority should be given to additional facilities for existing Cricket and Football Clubs. The sub-area analysis results should be used to prioritise areas and clubs should be involved in this process. The Northumberland PPG17 Study (2010) should be used to inform identification of potential sites at a local level, given that it highlights the availability of existing recreational land which could be developed as pitches, if appropriate.

* Reference to specific tables or appendices in the original document have been removed to avoid confusion.

2.5 Neighbouring Playing Pitch Strategies

2.5.1 The following section summarises the key and relevant findings on the most recently, publicly available Playing Pitch Strategies (PPS's) for the local authorities immediately bordering Northumberland.

CARLISLE (2015)

FOOTBALL

- Over supply of senior pitches and shortfall of dedicated mini soccer pitches.
- Changing format of the game which will include the need for 5v5, 7v7 and 9v9 pitches.
- Priorities and options regarding how best to address the issue of drainage and flooding at certain sites.
- Poor quality of changing facilities particularly at some Council sites.
- Demand for additional 3G AGP provision in the City. Specifically, in order to meet demand expressed for football training as well as potential future demand league fixtures.

CRICKET

- Demand and evidence for appropriate training facilities for clubs in the City.
- Potential development of two non-turf wickets at Richard Rose Morton Academy in order to accommodate LMS cricket.
- Most sites in Carlisle have spare capacity with the exception of Lanercost CC which is being played over-capacity.

- A number of clubs with aspirations for ancillary facility developments.

RUGBY UNION

- Lack of spare carrying capacity at sites i.e. Creighton RFC is at capacity and Carlisle RFC is overplayed.
- Deteriorating quality of pitches at both club sites in the City; particularly with regard to flooding and drainage issues.
- Options to address club requirements for training facilities, especially for Carlisle RFC.

RUGBY LEAGUE

- Lack of spare carrying capacity at sites i.e. Creighton RFC is at capacity.
- Deteriorating quality of pitches available for rugby league in the City; particularly with regard to flooding and drainage issues.

HOCKEY

- Continued sustainability of Carlisle Hockey Club as the only hockey club in the City. Likely requirement for refurbishment of the existing AGPs at Richard Rose Academy and William Howard Centre.

COUNTY DURHAM (2011):

FOOTBALL

- County Durham has the potential to secure an adequate supply of pitches to meet current and future demand. If school sites are secured for community access through community - use agreements, the county will comfortably meet current and future demand.
- Numerous pitches in schools exist unused outside the pitch supply utilised within the analysis, quantity is not an issue, however accessing the provision in a planned and coordinated way is fundamental to the future of playing pitch provision across the county.
- Quality of pitches is a main concern of both suppliers and users.
- Numerous facilities within parks which cannot provide the quality of pitches expected by users and open access facilities are vulnerable to vandalism and misuse.
- Users, changing facilities need to be fit for purpose.
- Insufficient junior pitches. This generally relates to the need to provide more small pitches, the dimensions of which must be appropriate for the age of users.

CRICKET

- Cricket is a high profile sport within County Durham attracting a large number of players at senior and junior level.

- Major issues include; the quality of changing/clubhouse facilities; the lack of or ability to access indoor training facilities and the general shortage of training facilities; concerns over the continuity of playing opportunities created by uncertainties over the future availability and quality of publicly owned facilities; the lack of funding support and the increasing cost of maintaining viable clubs.

RUGBY LEAGUE AND RUGBY UNION

- Both rugby codes are considered growing sports. Although the provision is concentrated on a small number of established clubs, pitch and ancillary facilities are considered to be inadequate.

HOCKEY

- Insufficient hockey pitches available for training and growth of league structure.

GATESHEAD (2016)

FOOTBALL

- In total, 57 youth 11v11 teams currently use adult pitches for home matches, which is not ideal for youth players and is not in line with the FA Youth Review.
- In total, 45 pitches are assessed as standard quality and 36 as poor quality. No pitches were assessed as good quality.
- In total, 53% of pitches have poor quality ancillary facilities and 47% have standard quality. The assessment of ancillary facilities includes assessing the condition of the clubhouse, car parking and boundary fencing. However, changing facilities are generally viewed well by clubs that have access to them with 88% of clubs rating them as good or adequate.
- A total of 254 teams are identified as playing within Gateshead. This consists of 49 men's teams, eight women's teams, 94 youth boys' teams, 10 youth girls' teams and 93 mini soccer teams.
- The highest increase in teams is seen in mini and youth football, with 23% of clubs reporting an increase over the last three years. The most noticeable statistic is that no clubs have reported a decrease at the mini age groups.
- Team generation rates predict a growth of 18 youth boys' teams, two youth girls' teams and seven mini teams, as well as two adult teams based on ONS population projections.
- There is a total of 27 match sessions of actual spare capacity across Gateshead with most (25) expressed on adult pitches and in the East Analysis Area (seven).
- There are 26 pitches overplayed by a total of 35.5 match equivalent sessions. Of which, 13 pitches are assessed as poor quality across seven sites.
- Overall in Gateshead there is a current shortfall of adult match sessions (6) and a future shortfall of 8 match sessions overall. Overall in Gateshead there is no current shortfall of youth 11v11 match sessions and a future shortfall of 10 match sessions. In addition, the level of shortfall is much greater when accounting for youth teams (u13-u16) playing on adult pitches (57 match sessions).

- Overall in Gateshead there is a current shortfall of youth 9v9 match sessions (4) and there is a future shortfall of 14 match sessions. Overall in Gateshead there is a small amount of spare capacity of mini 7v7 (1.5 match sessions) and 2.5 match sessions in the future.
- Overall in Gateshead demand for mini 5v5 pitches is being met but there is a future shortfall of three match sessions.
- There are two full size 3G pitches within Gateshead, all of which are medium pile. There are also 13 smaller 3G pitches available.
- Pitches at Gateshead Stadium have not been refurbished since 2006. As the lifespan of a 3G surface is approximately ten years all are likely to need refurbishing in the near future.
- 49% of clubs reported the need for access to additional training facilities of which 58% reported demand for 3G pitches.
- Based on 254 teams in Gateshead there is a requirement for six AGPs.
- The FA model of training demand indicates a need for six AGPs based on 254 teams in Gateshead, which would be an additional four 3G pitches .
- Scenario: Moving all mini (5v5 and 7v7) teams to 3G pitches would generate demand for a total of seven 3G pitches based on the programming principles developed in the FA's Parklife model. Therefore;
- The overall requirement is for a total of seven 3G AGPs in Gateshead to accommodate both training and mini match play.
- Although current 3G pitches are well used it is likely that some spare capacity exists, however, cost and access issues are likely to influence usage.

CRICKET

- In total, there are 11 grass cricket pitches identified in Gateshead all of which are available for community use.
- Tenure is considered secure in Gateshead with all leased sites having at least 25 years remaining. There are 11 cricket clubs in Gateshead generating 30 men's, one women's and 32 junior teams. Team Generation Rates indicate that there is potential for four new junior teams.
- Clubs indicate aspirations for a total of three additional senior teams and one additional junior teams.
- Peak time demand for adult cricket is Saturdays and midweek for junior cricket.
- Sustainability for clubs is important and it can be difficult for smaller clubs to remain sustainable, particularly if there are only one or two teams.
- Ten pitches have spare capacity; however, only one pitch is available at senior peak time (Saturday), Kibblesworth Park.
- Spare capacity is considered to exist for junior matches both now and in the future, with the exception of the square at Gateshead Fell Cricket Club which is considered to be played to capacity. Taking into consideration current demand only, there is a small amount of spare capacity (to accommodate one team) on pitches in the South Analysis Area (Kibblesworth

Park).

- Future demand for three senior teams (39 match equivalent sessions) results in a shortfall of 26 match equivalent sessions per season overall in Gateshead in the future.

RUGBY UNION

- Within Gateshead there are 14 sites containing a total of 23 senior rugby union pitches. Of these, 16 pitches are considered available for community use.
- Four rugby union clubs play within Gateshead, consisting of 14 seniors, 15 juniors and 18 (mixed) mini teams.
- Future demand expressed by clubs amounts to one senior, six junior and two mini teams.
- At Ryton RFC there is spare capacity of five match sessions per week and at Blaydon Leisure & Primary Care Centre there is spare capacity for two match sessions.
- Overplay amounts to 1.25 match equivalent sessions all at Gateshead RFC.
- There will be a shortfall of match sessions in the Central South, East and Inner West areas, to accommodate demand, which is exacerbated in the Central South Area where Gateshead RFC is already overplayed.
- Overall there is spare capacity across Gateshead due to the spare capacity identified in the West Analysis Area. However, not all of this spare capacity can accommodate the demand from the other areas as five match sessions are at a club site (Ryton RFC).
- It is the intention of the RFU investment strategy into AGPs to invest in communities across the country where grass rugby pitches in the local community are over capacity and where the installation of an AGP would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local rugby clubs and other organisations within the Local Authority.
- The RFU is keen to work with partners such as the Council and the FA to look at sites of mutual interest for future AGP provision.
- Taking training off site or on to different pitches would reduce all overplay and give additional capacity. At Blaydon RFC there would be three spare match equivalents, at Gateshead RFC there would be 1.75 spare match equivalents and at Ryton RFC there would be 3.5 match equivalents. Additional floodlighting can reduce overplay at sites by allowing training to be spread out. Floodlighting an additional pitch at Ryton RFC would mean that some training could be transferred giving additional spare capacity.
- If unsecured pitches were lost (Dryden Centre) there would be a shortfall of two match equivalent sessions and the home site of Gateshead RFC would be overplayed by 3.25 sessions.
- Providing additional pitches would increase capacity and reduce overplay. If an additional pitch was provided at the Dryden Centre (converted from football) there would be spare capacity of 0.75 match equivalents across the two sites for Gateshead RFC.

RUGBY LEAGUE

- There are three rugby league pitches within Gateshead.

- All pitches are assessed as standard quality and can subsequently accommodate two match sessions per week.
- The pitches at Winlaton are over marked on to rugby union pitches and are dual use. Any spare capacity is therefore discounted due to rugby union use.
- The pitch at Gateshead Stadium is overplayed by 2.25 match equivalents per week. The Club is nearing capacity and will require additional pitch capacity in the future.
- In order for Gateshead RLFC to continue to grow, there is a requirement for access to an additional pitch in the Area.

HOCKEY

- There are five full sized sand based artificial pitches in Gateshead that are suitable and available for competitive hockey.
- Blaydon Leisure & Primary Care Centre has been omitted from the list as there are no hockey markings on the pitch and the surface is considered too poor to accommodate competitive play.
- There is one hockey club based within the Borough; Gateshead Hockey Club which has four men's teams, one women's teams and a junior section (U10 and U13).
- The Club hopes to increase the number of players and is particularly targeting new junior players via its links with local schools.
- There is a need for one hockey suitable pitch to accommodate current and future demand, there are currently five within Gateshead which means that demand is being met.
- Should a new pitch be created Gateshead Hockey Club would have a home base with onsite facilities, other than at school sites (for curriculum and after school) there would not be a requirement for any additional sand pitches in Gateshead.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE (2015)

2.5.2 The Newcastle Upon Tyne PPS was refreshed in 2015 and therefore does not provide the same level of detail as some of the other areas, profiled in this section. Key headline findings include:

- There are significant shortfalls of youth and mini football pitches across the city which will be exacerbated by an increase in population in these age groups. 70 new teams are projected to be added to the area as part of housing and population growth.
- There is a need for additional 3G AGPs to be considered in the area to meet match demand for youth and mini teams.
- The City was overplayed by 6 teams worth of demand in 2015. This is expected to be made worse by a lack of new provision in the area.
- The PPS assessment identified a shortfall of 17 match equivalent sessions for Rugby Union (due mainly to training on match pitches). Population increases in the City are not expected place some additional strain on available facilities.

NORTH TYNESIDE (2016)

FOOTBALL

- There are a total of 272 teams playing on pitches in North Tyneside.
- The audit identifies 36 sites available for community use, providing a total of 109 pitches. The majority of provision with no community usage is at school sites, where NTC gaining access for community use is difficult.
- Distribution of provision reflects the patterns of population density although there are reduced numbers in the smaller South West Analysis Area.
- Team generation rates (TGRs) highlight that participation rates in North Tyneside are higher than national averages. Future TGRs suggests an increase in senior men's football (15 teams) and mini-soccer (7.3 teams).
- Site assessments suggest that generally the quality of pitches across North Tyneside is 'mixed'. Consultation in general supports this. The issue of drainage is often highlighted as a common problem and is the main reason cited for poor quality sites.
- Over three-quarters (76%) of clubs responding to the survey, report that the number of senior teams fielded over the previous three years has remained static. Only a small percentage report that the number of senior teams has increased (9%) or decreased (9%).
- A third (33%) of clubs report that if more pitches were available at their home ground they would have more teams. Similarly, over a quarter (27%) of clubs believe better ancillary facilities at their home ground would mean they would have more teams. Consideration should be given to changing the designation of some senior pitches to cater for junior and mini football.
- Almost all clubs report that further access to a 3G pitch is required to support their training requirements. An issue of teams training on pitches designated as the home ground pitch for other teams is highlighted.
- A number of clubs in North Tyneside report specific pitch/facility developments including the work at Foxhunters and the potential investment in Seaton Burn
- In general, there is a need to improve the quality of existing playing pitch stock, ancillary facilities and the provision of more all-weather facilities.

CRICKET

- There are nine cricket pitches, of which all are available for community use in North Tyneside, accommodating 41 teams (including seniors and juniors).
- TGRs shows that there is likely to be an additional three senior men's teams and one junior team for cricket in 2023.
- Site assessments generally score the quality of pitches as good. Prior's Park is rated as poor quality which is inhibiting further use.
- Seaton Burn Recreation Ground ancillary facilities are rated as poor quality but are subject to improvement dependent upon the development of the golf course next to the site.
- Demand for additional cricket pitch facilities across North Tyneside is expressed by Tynemouth CC. The Club is looking to create a second pitch to accommodate growth;

particularly in its junior section. Two clubs, Backworth and Percy Main, also express demand for additional training facilities.

- Most sites in North Tyneside are rated as having spare capacity with the exception of Blue Flames CC. Despite this, Tynemouth CC reports being at capacity and in need of an additional pitch.
- There is a need for access to at least one better quality cricket pitch in North Tyneside given the demand expressed by clubs.

RUGBY UNION AND RUGBY LEAGUE

- There are 9 rugby union grass pitches and one rugby league grass pitch available for community use in North Tyneside. Rugby union pitches are predominately located in North Shields.
- In total, there are 13 senior rugby union teams playing across North Tyneside. In addition, the majority of training for senior teams as well as a large number of junior teams occurs on competitive grass rugby pitches in North Tyneside (due to a lack of designated training facilities) which further adds pressure on pitches.
- TGRs suggest there will be an additional 1.4 junior boys and 1.1 senior men's rugby union teams up to 2023. There is one dedicated rugby league pitch which hosts the Whitley Bay Barbarians first team and junior teams at Whitley Bay High School. The Club is currently looking at the potential of relocating to Langley Playing Fields.
- Quality of provision is in general deemed to be of a sufficient level. However, drainage is identified as being an issue at Whitley Bay High School.
- Wallsend RFC is currently in the process of securing final funding in order to create a new home ground. The development will include two senior pitches and associated ancillary facilities including a new clubhouse and changing facilities.
- It is anticipated that participation in rugby union will increase given the focus of the RFU's Strategic Plan which identifies an annual growth of 2% of adult players until 2013. Furthermore, the hosting of the Rugby World Cup is also predicted to see an increase in the demand for rugby provision in North Tyneside.
- Due to the large number of teams training on match pitches in North Tyneside, most pitches are overplayed. More pitches and ancillary facilities are needed to meet both current and future demand.

HOCKEY

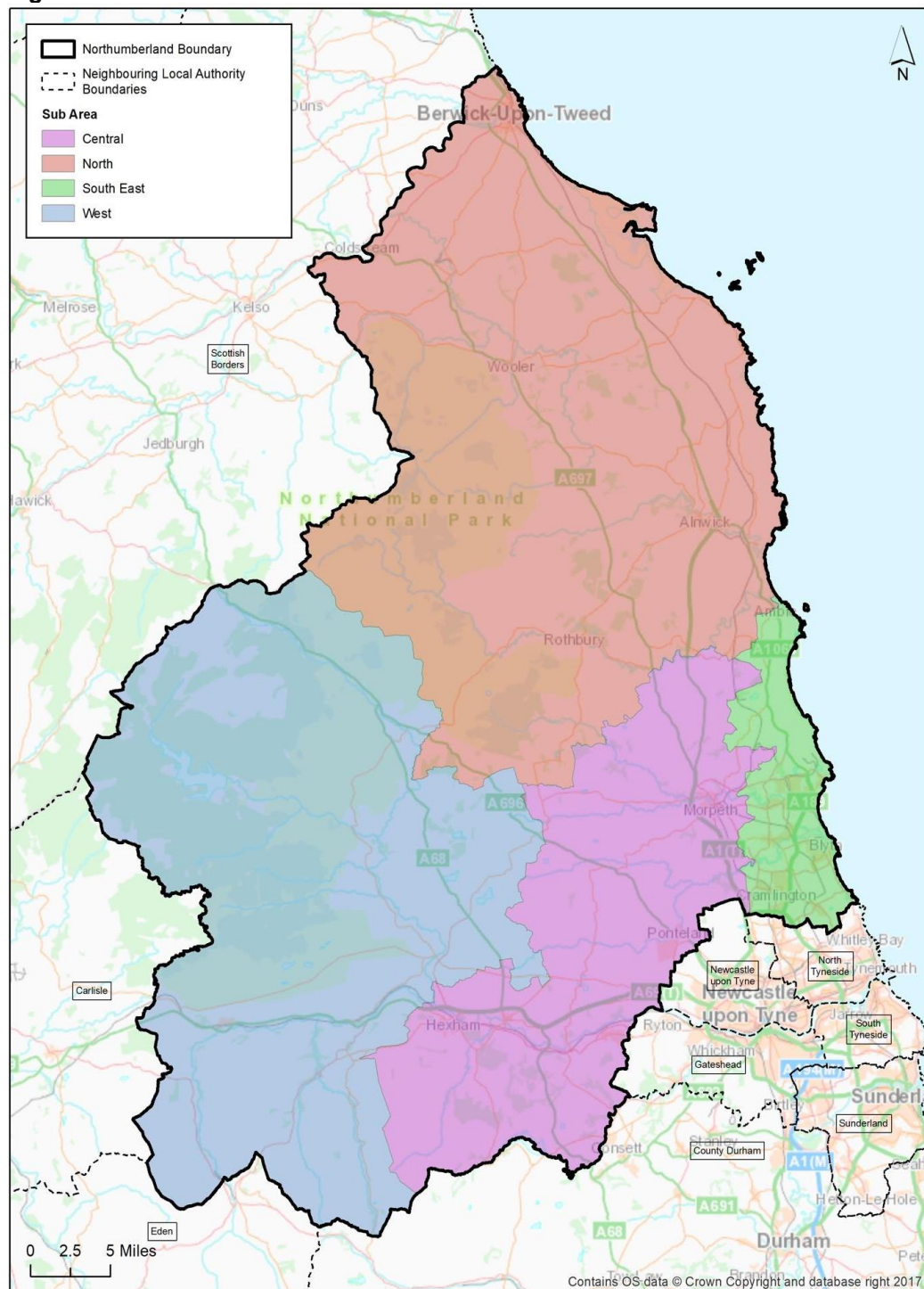
- There are six full size AGPs in North Tyneside. Four are suitable and available for competitive hockey; all are rated as good quality with floodlights. However, Marden Bridge Sports Centre is not used by a hockey club.
- The resurfacing of the all-weather pitch at Marden Bridge Sports Centre is a priority.
- There are two hockey clubs in North Tyneside fielding a total of 11 senior teams. Both have junior membership. John Spence Community High School currently accommodates North Shields HC and The Parks Sports Centre accommodates Whitley Bay and Tynemouth HC.
- All AGPs are available for community use. There is significant football use (for training) of all AGPs in North Tyneside which further adds to the wear and tear of carpets/surfaces.

- Consultation with England Hockey and clubs does not identify the need for more provision per se but it does identify the need to retain the current level of hockey surfaces (at a good level of quality).

2.6 Sub Areas

2.6.1 The study has divided the County of Northumberland into four sub areas; Central, North, South East and West. These sub areas will be referred to when a more localised analysis is required. These sub areas can be seen in Figure 1.3 below.

Figure 1.3: Northumberland Sub areas



Section 3: Football Analysis



3 Football Analysis

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 This section of the report focuses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches. At the end of this section there is also a summary of the supply and demand findings for third generation (3G) Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP's) that are becoming increasingly important to service the needs of football for both competitive play and training.
- 3.1.2 This section includes the headline findings from the PPS, as well as a site by site analysis of football sites across Northumberland County. For further detail on the supply and demand of football in the study area, Technical Appendix A – Football Analysis provides a detailed analysis of supply and demand of football in Northumberland, including all the required analysis as defined in the Sport England Playing Pitch Guidance.

3.2 Strategic Priorities for the Football Association

- 3.2.1 In August 2015, the Football Association (FA) released their National Game Strategy for Participation and Development (2015 – 2019), which committed the organisation to invest £260 million into grassroots football over the next four years. The strategy has four key priorities;
- **Participation** – 'More players playing football more often'. The FA are aiming to boost female youth participation by 11% and retain the current level of male team affiliation
 - **Player Development** – 'Better quality players being developed and entering the talent pathways. The FA will invest £16m into coach education and development programmes. There will also be 1,000 more top level grassroots coaches developed and on-going investment into the skills coaching programme for 5 – 11-year old's
 - **Better Training and Playing Facilities** – The FA has committed £48m to new and improved facilities through the Football Foundation. This includes the roll out of a new sustainable model for grassroots facilities in 30 cities through football hubs owned and operated by local communities. An ambition has also been stated to ensure that half of mini-soccer and youth matches are played on high-quality artificial grass pitches
 - **Football Workforce** – 'Recruiting and developing volunteers and paid staff who service the game'. This will grow the workforce, increase the number of qualified referees and ensure there is an advisory board for every County FA.
- 3.2.2 The national strategy follows the FA's October 2014 announcements, stating its intentions to deliver 30 football hubs in cities across the country. The FA intends to increase the number of full size, publicly accessibility 3G AGP's to over 1,000 across England. It also intends to facilitate the delivery of more than 150 new club-owned and managed football hubs to support the delivery of FA, County FA and professional club youth development and coach education programmes. It also aims to ensure that at least 50% of all mini soccer and 9v9 matches are played on good quality 3G AGP's.
- 3.2.3 A key trend for football across the country is the contraction of adult affiliated clubs and the growth of more casual and informal forms of football, such as 5 and 7-a-side and organised evening 11-a-side, typically played on floodlit 3G pitches. This trend reflects the perceived reduction in free time across the UK and the reticence to commit to weekly football on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon.
- 3.2.4 The growth of demand and supply of 3G provision and the changing patterns of demand among grass

roots footballers is key and will be addressed as an output of this study. In addition to the focus on 3G facilities the FA has emphasised, throughout consultations, the commitment of the organisation to improving grass pitches, with the overall target being to improve 2,000 grass pitches across the UK and reduce the amount of cancellations, especially due to waterlogging.

- 3.2.5 The body that governs football in the study area is the Northumberland FA and all of the FA's community and development objectives are implemented through this local body.

3.3 Supply

- 3.3.1 To gather a full understanding of the supply of football pitches in Northumberland, 4global's research team visited all football sites in the area and assessed the facilities using the FA's guidelines, as shown in Playing Pitch Strategy Appendix 2 - Football Association².
- 3.3.2 A detailed record of all the supply data can be found in [Appendix A](#), however this section will summarise the key findings.
- 3.3.3 Table 3.1 summarises how the grass football pitches in the study area were assessed, in line with Sport England PPS methodology (non-technical assessments). "Good" pitches are those that scored 80-100% on the non-technical assessment, "Standard" pitches are those that scored 50-79.9% and "Poor" pitches were those that scored less than 50%.

Table 3.1: Supply of grass pitches in the study area

Quality score	Adult football	Youth football		Mini soccer		Total
	11v11	11v11	9v9	7v7	5v5	
Good (80-100%)	25	5	6	7	2	45
Standard (50-79.9%)	68	40	29	35	6	178
Poor (0-49.9%)	22	3	11	13	2	51
Total	115	48	46	55	10	274

- 3.3.4 Table 3.1 shows that 65% of pitches across the County are rated as Standard, with the 42% of the sites identified as Good and the remaining 15% of sites being rated as Poor.
- 3.3.5 Adult 11v11 pitches are the best rated in the area, with 22% rated as Good and 19% rated as Poor.
- 3.3.6 Table 3.2 below, compares the split of scoring between the ratings for Northumberland with 4 other local authorities that 4global has undertaken site assessments for in the past two years. These Local Authorities have been kept anonymized as the associated strategies are still in progress at the time of issue. These local authorities differ from Northumberland in geography and profile and therefore do not offer a direct comparison but can be used as a general guide regarding the relative quality of the pitches in comparison to other areas.

Table 3.2: Quality benchmarking across Counties

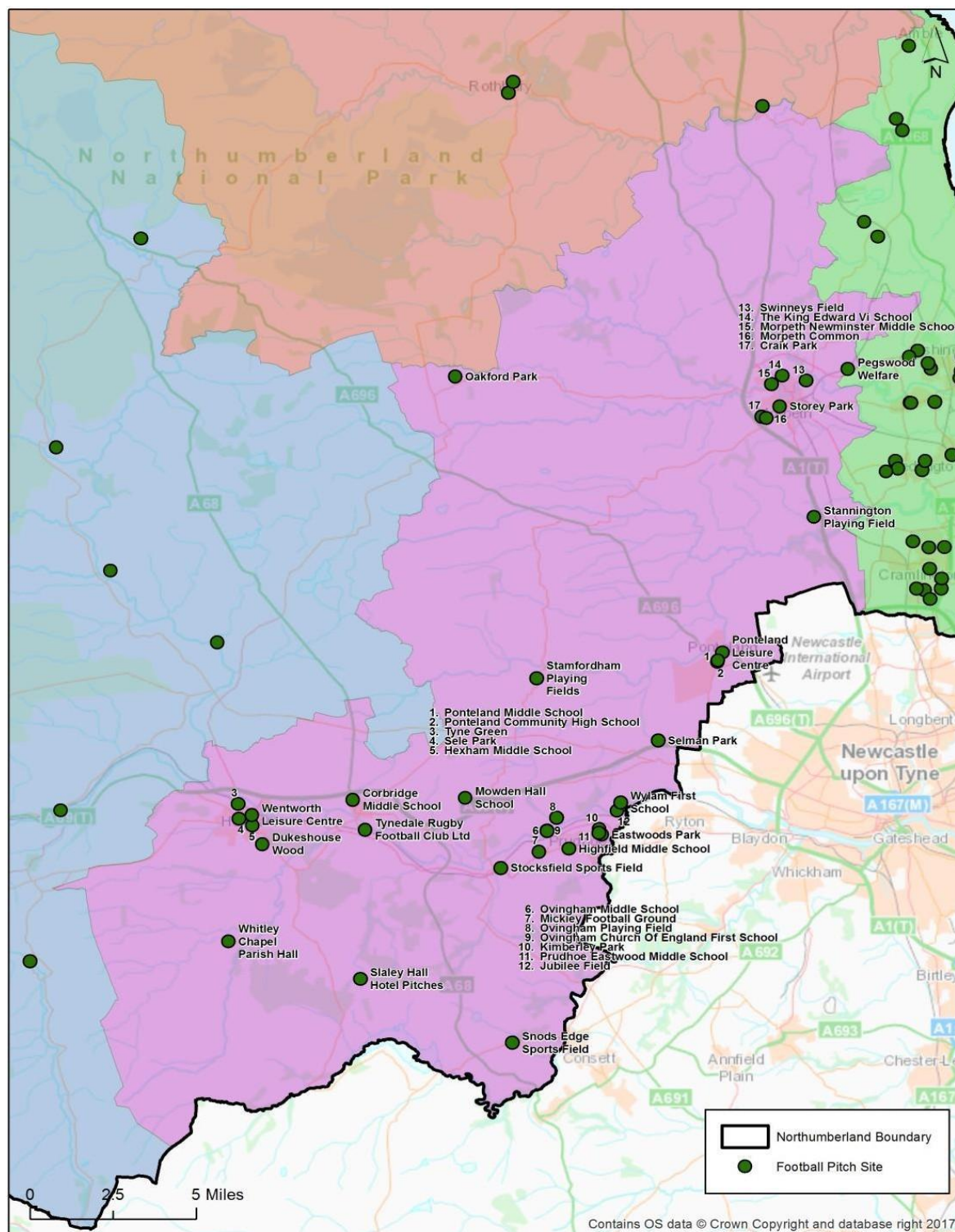
Pitch Rating	Average Pitch Scores				
	Area A	Area B	Area C	Area D	Northumberland
Good	32%	27%	16%	19%	16%
Standard	58%	63%	82%	73%	65%
Poor	11%	11%	2%	8%	19%

- 3.3.7 The average quality of pitches in Northumberland is slightly below the other local authorities included in the table above. The region has proportionally higher numbers of poor quality pitches and a lower numbers of good quality pitches in comparison to the other areas. The reasons for the differences in scores between the selected areas and Northumberland are numerous and vary across the many football sites in the County. Lower levels of pitch maintenance associated with the rural nature of the area can be

considered to be a key factor in this outcome. This will be addressed in more detail below.

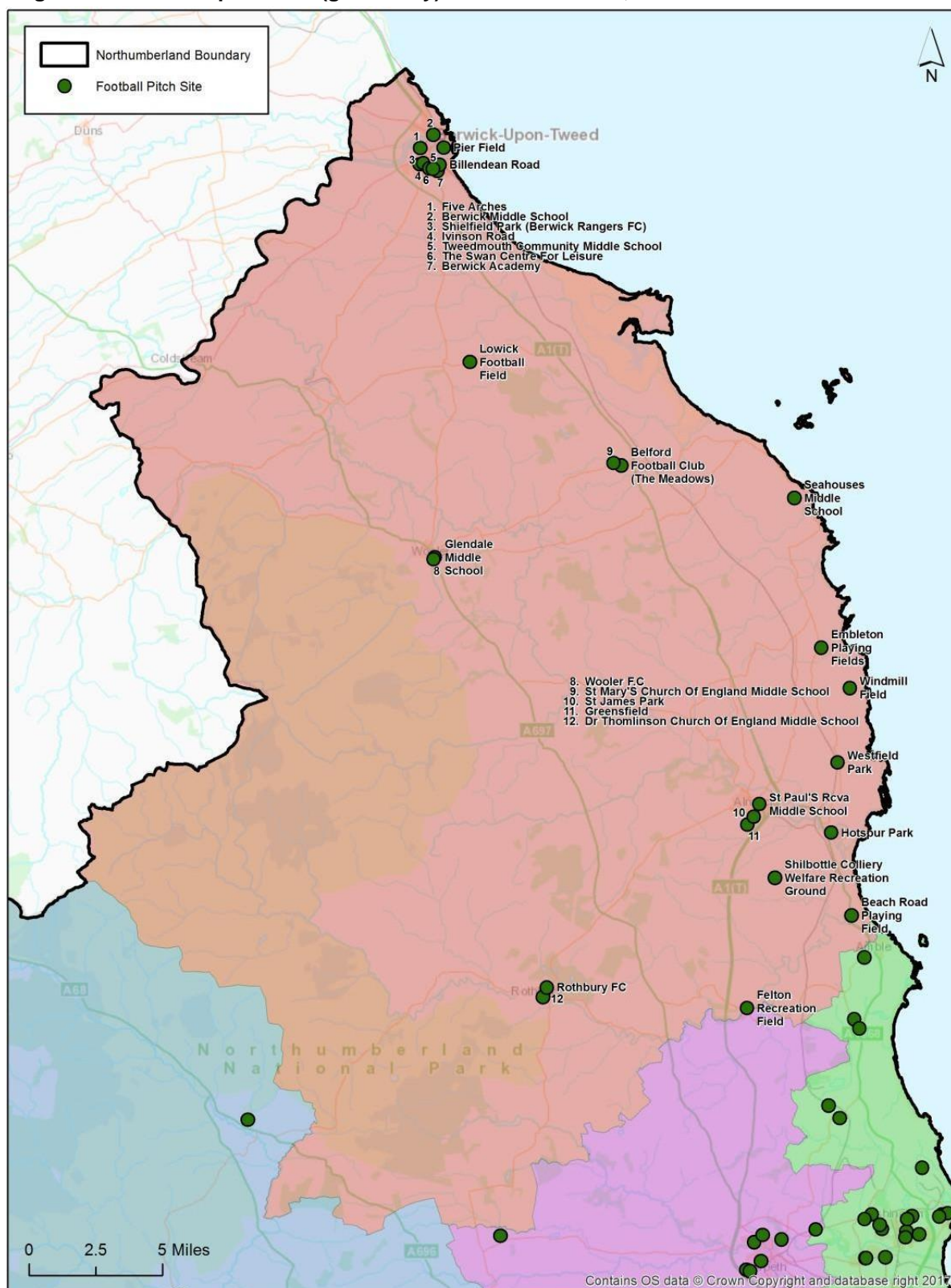
3.3.8 Figures 3.1 – 3.4 (below) shows the distribution of all grass football pitch sites throughout the County by sub area. The figures show that facilities are concentrated in Central and South East sub areas.

Figure 3.1: Football provision (grass only) in Central sub area, Northumberland



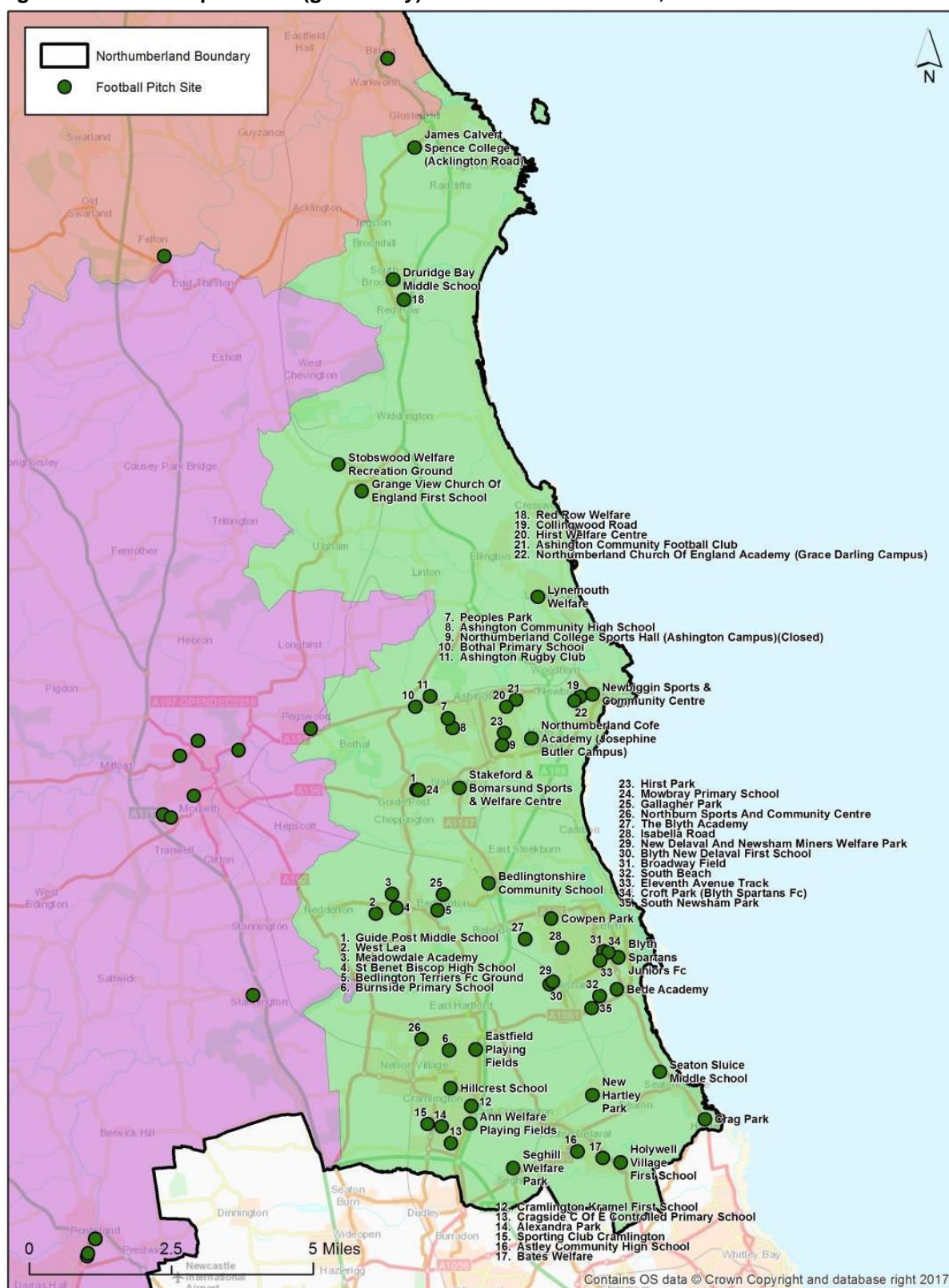
3.3.9 Figure 3.1 shows how football sites in the Central sub area are located in 3 key areas: in around the town of Morpeth, Prudhoe or Hexham. There are also a number of facilities in Ponteland. The map also shows that there are handful of other facilities supporting more rural communities dotted around the sub area.

Figure 3.2: Football provision (grass only) in North sub area, Northumberland



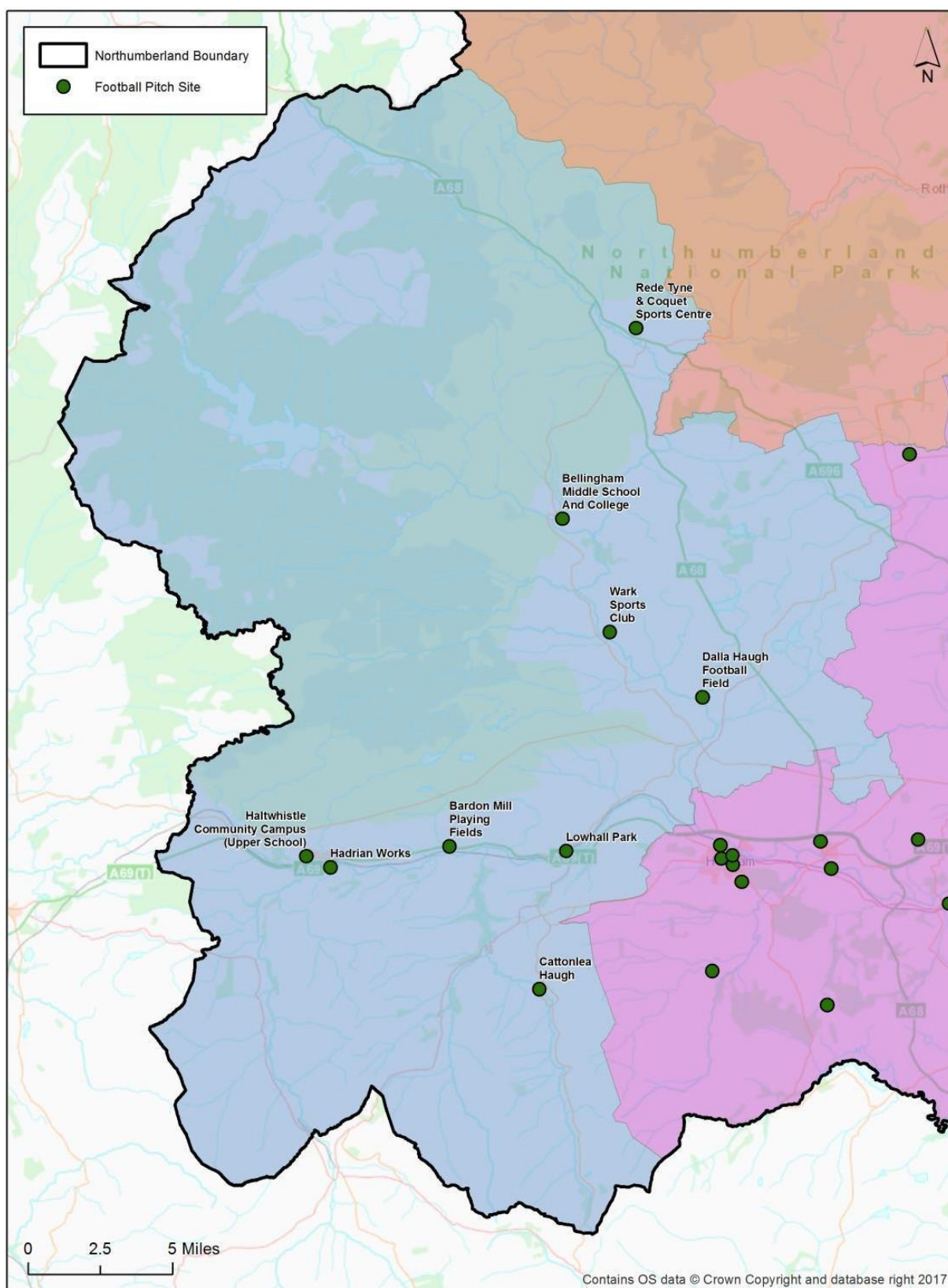
3.3.10 Figure 3.2 shows that a large proportion of facilities in the North are located around the sub area's largest town, Berwick. There is a smaller cluster of facilities in or close to Alnwick. In addition, smaller settlements, predominantly located on the coast, are supported by single sites containing all of the pitches for that settlement.

Figure 3.3: Football provision (grass only) in South East sub area, Northumberland



3.3.11 Figure 3.3 shows that in contrast to the Central and North, the South East sub area's pitches are more densely distributed, especially throughout the southern half of the sub area. This is due to 3 of the largest population centres of the whole County being located here: Cossington (in the south), Blyth (to the south east) and Ashington (in the centre-east).

Figure 3.4: Football provision (grass only) in West sub area, Northumberland



- 3.3.12 Unlike the other three sub areas, the West has no major settlements. As a result, the nature of the provision follows a similar pattern to the rest of the County, with larger rural villages being supported by single sites with no local alternative provision.

3.3.13 The table below summarises the distribution of pitch supply by sub-area.

Table 3.3: Pitch distribution by type and sub-area

Sub-area	Adult	Youth		Mini soccer		Total
	11v11	11v11	9v9	7v7	5v5	
Central	32	17	13	20	5	87
North	20	11	7	2	1	41
South East	55	19	22	29	2	127
West	8	1	4	4	2	19
Northumberland	115	48	46	55	10	274

3.3.14 Table 3.3 shows that there are 274 pitches in the County, 78% of which are located in the Central and South East sub-areas.

PITCH OWNERSHIP

3.3.15 As is common across the UK, a large proportion of sports provision in the study area is owned and operated by local government. In addition to this, the Northumberland assessment results illustrate that there is a significant amount of private site ownership in the study area.

3.3.16 Table 3.4 below shows the spread of ownership, illustrating that the County Council owns the large majority of football in Northumberland.

Table 3.4: Site ownership in Northumberland

Organisation Type	Ownership	Management
Academy	1	3
Active Northumberland	0	9
CISWO	1	1
Club	8	38
Dioceses	1	0
Education	0	42
Local Authority	92	27
Parish Council	4	9
Private	13	2
Private/Local Authority	1	0
Religious Organization	1	0
Town Council	1	1
Trust	9	2
Unknown	10	8

3.3.17 Table 3.4 shows that the NCC own the greatest proportion of sites across the County (65%). The table also shows how there is no other significant or dominant ownership type in the County. The reason for the high proportion of local authority owned sites is due to the Council owning most of the land on which school playing fields are located. Furthermore, the Council have inherited a significant amount of pitches from the consolidation of six former district councils.

3.3.18 The management of football facilities is significantly more varied than their ownership. Given the nature of the area and the high level of County Council ownership, it is unsurprising to see that schools and academies, along with the local authority itself, make up the majority of sites' management. The table also shows that 27% of sites are managed by clubs. The impact of club management generally means there is greater pride in the condition of the facilities, but not necessarily the budget, equipment or expertise to deliver a comprehensive maintenance programme.

3.3.19 9% of football sites are owned by Private entities but less than 2% are managed by them. The security of continued use of privately-owned facilities by the community can often be minimal due to the land owner

wishing to have flexibility with how they choose to use the land. The security of continued community use will be addressed below.

- 3.3.20 The Study Area has a large number of sites so a representative sample of consultations taken with site owners/ managers has been included in Table 3.5 below.

Table 3.5: Football Club Site Summary

Site Name	Sub Area	Consultation Summary
Shielfield Park	North	<p>The site itself is impressive with a large stand and pitch surrounded by a speedway track.</p> <p>The main stadium pitch is of average quality and suffers from poor drainage in parts. The 2nd pitch is of good quality, but also struggles with drainage. The club would like to have an artificial drainage system in place to address this issue.</p> <p>At the site, there is a car parking facility although the club would like to utilise the grassed area that is also being used for parking and tarmac this area as when wet the grassed area can get very muddy.</p>
Blyth Academy	South East	<p>All the land is owned by the Blyth Academy and is managed in a partnership with Active Northumberland, the Blyth Academy has full use of the whole site during school days up to 5pm and Active Northumberland manages the site after 5pm and at weekends. The academy feels the grass pitches are overused in the winter.</p> <p>Changing blocks on site that managed by Active Northumberland. The Blyth Academy governs the use of the pitches and are currently used by Blyth Rangers.</p> <p>The 3G pitch has issues with anti-social behaviour and the Academy feel the site isn't managed correctly out of school hours. They have had issue with damage to the nets, that split the pitches, as well as smoking on the pitch. The penalty spot at the end closest to the entrance has been taken out and there is a large burn mark above the penalty box. The pitch is starting to show signs of wear and tear which is worrying considering its age.</p> <p>They have also opened the rugby pitch up to community access and are looking to develop rugby within the Academy. They raised the issue that they would like higher fencing for the 3G pitch and that they are currently in the process of applying for grants for CCTV and alarm systems.</p>
Dukeshouse Wood	Central	<p>Dukeshouse is the home site of Hexham Juniors, and was made through a major development in 2011, although have struggled with a lot of issues since then. The main problem is the drainage and waterlogging of all three pitches at the site, which was be consistent since the creation of the site. Although in recent year this issue has become considerably worse, leading to many weekends' games being called off.</p>
Eastwoods Park	Central	<p>The site is owned by the council and ran by Active Northumberland. The changing pavilion is also owned by Council. It has two full sized pitches, two 7v7 and one 5v5.</p> <p>The site has a moderate slope all over and is known to struggle with drainage issues. The site assessment reported poor grass coverage and that the pitches appeared overused. The park is open to community and is reported to be used for informal use. Some of the crossbars were bent and damaged from antisocial behaviour.</p> <p>There is currently no security between the pitch users for leasing the pitches but in general the site has a good relationship with the council. Further</p>

Site Name	Sub Area	Consultation Summary
		development of changing room facilities is planned for 2018. The Council are trying to make improvements to the whole park. Prudhoe Youth FC have expressed an intent to undertake an asset transfer of the pavilion and a long term lease on site.
Gallagher Park	South East	A large site with a good level of football provision throughout. There is a new clubhouse facility and good parking available.
Greensfield	North	The site is used by Alnwick FC and hosts many of their junior matches. However, there is currently no long term lease for this use. The site recently lost four pitches when a school was developed nearby.
Hotspur Park	North	The site contains a full size senior pitch with dugouts, railings and sponsorship boards. The club have reported major problems with mole hills on the pitch. They re-turf goal mouths every summer. Drainage is an issue on site as there are field drains in place, but they are blocked and no longer functional. No work has been done to the drains the 9 years they have leased the pitch. Volunteers from the club cut and mark the pitch. No special care and the pitch cuts up very easily. The pitch can't cope with much use. The pitches are in a poor condition. There is a major issue with dog walking on site. The changing rooms are in a poor condition and don't meet league requirements. The club are looking for new changing rooms and storage lockers but feel they may struggle for planning permission.
Lowhall Park	West	Site is the home to Haydon Bridge FC and has struggled a lot in previous years due to floods from the river nearby. They would like to add a drainage system to the first team pitch, as drainage is particularly poor on here, would also like to have a contractor to maintain and improve this pitch as well. The site is surrounded by fields and the club would like to expand and add extra pitches utilising some of this area. The AGP is currently small sided and the club would like to increase the size and have a full size 3G AGP.
Northburn Community Centre	South East	The site is used by Cramlington United FC and is leased for 25 years. It is owned by the Council but managed by Active Northumberland. Changing facilities were built in 2005 and are of adequate quality. The site is maintained by Cramlington United and the County council maintain it during the off season. The site has some issues with anti-social behaviour and there was evidence of damage to fencing from this activity. Two of the pitches on site have drainage but can still be very boggy.
Ponteland Leisure Centre	Central	The leisure centre is due to be fully developed. Once completed the site will have two adult football, one 9v9 and one 7v7 pitch. Although this represents no overall change in grass provision it is expected that the new pitches will be of good quality with no drainage issues. The redevelopment will also include an artificial pitch, new ancillary facilities and improved provision for a number of other sports.
Sporting Club Cramlington	South East	The site is run by the school until 5pm it is then managed by Active Northumberland after 5pm and at weekends. Pitches are used by Cramlington Town FC for all age groups as well as pub teams.
Stocksfield Sports Field	South East	The site assessment identified significant issues regarding drainage on 7v7 fields. There is no drainage system in place at the site. The club have blueprints for a new clubhouse which they are looking to construct as soon as possible. They are in talks with the RFU, ECB, FA and community asset fund for securing funding for the improvement of the clubhouse. The

Site Name	Sub Area	Consultation Summary
		clubhouse needs to be developed due to the poor condition of the showers and child safeguarding issues, they haven't been refurbished since 1996. There is a high volume of community use of the site including a local school and local football club using the 5-a-side AGP.
Tynedale Rugby Club	Central	<p>The major issue raised with this site is that one 11v11 pitch is currently out of use due to council work on creating a drain. This is only a temporary issue however. All pitches were generally of good quality in terms of grass length and coverage. However, there were drainage issues on a couple as well as most pitches are uneven.</p> <p>Ancillary facilities were to a suitable and in good condition. There is a wing of the clubhouse with 2 changing rooms, which were developed in 2007 (used by the football club), the remaining changing rooms haven't been renovated since 1975 and are in need of some improvement. The site is situated on a floodplain, which is a key issue in regard to securing insurance and also ensuring constant provision throughout a season.</p>
Wentworth Leisure Centre	Central	<p>The one adult football pitch is set within a 400m athletics track, and on the same site as a leisure centre. During consultation, it became evident that the pitch is very well used, as it the only floodlit training pitch in the area, the pitch struggles with drainage and often has to cancel training and matches.</p> <p>The centre has ambitions to add a 3G AGP to the site, as to better utilise the facility. The changing room facility is of good quality and is easily accessible from the pitch.</p>
Westfield Park	North	Over 1 million pounds invested on the site 7 years ago. Investment was on both the ancillary and pitches. No issues with site were reported but the club did raise concerns regarding the future of the site once the lease runs out.

- 3.3.21 Football is the most popular team participation sport across the study area, with a total of 567 teams recorded by the study, as shown in Table 3.6.

Table 3.6: Demand for football (by team) in Northumberland and sub areas

Area	Men 11v11 (16+)	Women 11v11 (16+)	Boys 11v11 (12-15yrs)	Girls 11v11 (12-15yrs)	Boys 9v9 (10-11yrs)	Girls 9v9 (10-11yrs)	Mini Soccer 7v7 (8-9yrs)	Mini Soccer 5v5 (6-7yrs)	Total
Central	33	3	28	2	28	5	34	25	158
North	22	1	20	8	15	1	17	13	97
South East	82	5	57	0	43	5	58	39	289
West	8	0	3	0	3	0	4	5	23
Northumberland	145	9	108	10	89	11	113	82	567

- 3.3.22 Table 3.6 shows that the study has captured 567 teams including 154 senior teams (over 15s), 118 youth 11v11 teams (U12s-U15s), 100 youth 9v9 teams (U10s and U11s) and 195 mini soccer teams. The table shows that there are 30 girls teams operating in the County. This represents 8% of the 372 gender specific teams in Northumberland. Mini teams represent 34% of all teams in the area.
- 3.3.23 Table 3.6 shows that 289 teams are located in the South East sub area. This equates to 51% of all demand across the County. The Central sub area which neighbours the South East, accounts for 158 teams (28% of the total number of teams across the County). Together these two sub areas account for 447 teams, equating to 79% of all the teams in the County. This represents an almost exact mirroring of the distribution of supply.

MAJOR CLUB DEMAND SUMMARY

3.3.24 The study area has a small number of large clubs, with large membership numbers and a high demand for facilities. A summary of the consultations with a sample of large clubs is included below, with further detail included within Technical Appendix A – Football Analysis.

Table 3.7: Football Club Consultation Summary

Club Name	Consultation Summary
Berwick Rangers FC	<p>The club's home ground is Shielfield Park which is currently leased via the Council, this is due to end in 2023 but the club are looking to extend this.</p> <p>The club would like to have a 3G surface put onto the pitch, to allow a better quality surface to play on themselves but to also have a facility that the community could use for training. The club is currently travelling as far as Edinburgh for training for an appropriate pitch, they believe the sense of community would be improved if such a facility was created on the current site within the stadium. During consultation, the club highlighted that within their current league (Scottish Third Tier) 6 of 10 teams who have 3G surfaces.</p>
Blyth Spartans FC	<p>The club have their own site (Blyth Spartans FC) with the ability to have about 4,500 watching a match. There is limited community use on the site but is used annually for Sunday League cup finals and charity events.</p> <p>The club are looking to get promoted to National League, and due to the club previously being in this league, the stadium meets the criteria to do this. The pitch itself is of good quality, which is attributed to the thorough maintenance regime. The club have recently built a small AGP on the site, which is of very good quality.</p>
Barrasford FC	<p>The club has been based at Dalla Haugh for 47 years, they play on a Sunday morning in the Hexham & District league. They raise all money for the club themselves.</p> <p>The pitch has natural drainage in place only. All work is carried out by volunteers mainly one family who has run the club for years. They are in need of a changing facility and new goalposts as they are a Health & Safety hazard. They would be open for more use on the pitch if there was ever demand for it. The club fears the loss of the club in coming years as players are losing interest and starting to move to clubs with better facilities.</p>
Hexham Juniors	<p>Dukeshouse is the home site of Hexham Juniors and was built after a major development in 2011. However, there have been significant issues with waterlogging since then. In recent years this issue has become considerably worse, leading to many weekends' games being called off.</p> <p>The site is maintained by the council's maintenance providers, but the club do not believe the contracted regime is followed. Because of this the club have the use various different sites in the area, which puts a lot of financial pressure on the club.</p> <p>The club would like a 3G facility at the site, due to a lack of suitable training pitches in the area.</p>
Alnwick Town FC	<p>The club plays at St. James Park, Alnwick and Greensfield. The club would like a full size AGP on site and would allow access for the high school during the day. Ideally, the club would like to see the construction of a clubhouse facility and car park. The current pitches are of below average quality, and the club would also like to improve these in the future and believe an AGP would take some of the playing pressure of the pitches. There is some capacity for extra land on the site.</p>

ADDITIONAL DEMAND – INFORMAL DEMAND ON COMMUNITY SITES

- 3.3.25 In addition to the formal demand identified above, the study has identified demand on community site that is produced by informal activity and, occasionally, educational use.
- 3.3.26 Informal or casual activity refers to any activity that might take place on marked out pitches which does not constitute a formal football match (taking place in an administered league in compliance with FA rules and regulations). This mainly refers to 'kick-about' by local groups but does include training session for clubs that have not booked the use of the pitch.
- 3.3.27 Table 3.8 below shows the sites identified as being key for informal use in Northumberland.

Table 3.8: Sites with Significant Informal Use

Site Name	Sub Area	Owners	Comments	Severity Rating	Quantified Demand (in match equivalents)	Original Carrying Capacity of Site (in match equivalents)	Revised Carrying Capacity (in match equivalents)
Alexandra Park	South East	Local Authority	Posts removed in summer for pitch reinstatement. No excessive casual use/damage reported	Low	0.5	4	3.5
Ann Welfare Playing Fields	South East	Local Authority	Posts removed in summer for pitch reinstatement. No excessive casual use/damage reported	Low	0.5	13	12.5
Bates Welfare	South East	Local Authority	Posts removed in summer for pitch reinstatement. No excessive casual use/damage reported. Used for cricket in the summer.	Low	0.5	2	1.5
Broadway Field	South East	Local Authority	Posts removed in summer for pitch reinstatement. No excessive casual use/damage reported	Low	0.5	6	5.5
Collingwood Road	South East	Local Authority	Posts removed in summer for pitch reinstatement. No excessive casual use/damage reported	Low	0.5	1	0.5

Site Name	Sub Area	Owners	Comments	Severity Rating	Quantified Demand (in match equivalents)	Original Carrying Capacity of Site (in match equivalents)	Revised Carrying Capacity (in match equivalents)
Cowpen Park	South East	Local Authority	Posts removed in summer for pitch reinstatement. No excessive casual use/damage reported	Low	0.5	4	3.5
Crag Park	South East	Local Authority	Posts removed in summer for pitch reinstatement. No excessive casual use/damage reported	Low	0.5	2	1.5
Eastfield Playing Fields	South East	Local Authority	Posts removed in summer for pitch reinstatement. No excessive casual use/damage reported	Low	0.5	6	5.5
Eastwood Park	Central	Local Authority	Heavy casual use in summer months on one side of 11v11 and 7v7 (2 goal mouths affected, but different pitches) post removed at end of season, but people bring their own markers.	High	1.5	8	6.5
Eleventh Avenue Track	South East	Local Authority	Posts removed in summer for pitch reinstatement. No excessive casual use/damage reported	Low	0.5	1	0.5
Five Arches	North	Local Authority	No real issues thought involved with this site	Low	0.5	2	1.5
Gallagher Park	South East	Local Authority	Posts removed in summer for pitch reinstatement. No excessive casual use/damage reported	Low	0.5	18	17.5
Lynemouth Welfare	South East	Local Authority	Posts removed in summer for pitch reinstatement. No excessive casual	Low	0.5	6	5.5

Site Name	Sub Area	Owners	Comments	Severity Rating	Quantified Demand (in match equivalents)	Original Carrying Capacity of Site (in match equivalents)	Revised Carrying Capacity (in match equivalents)
			use/damage reported				
Morpeth Common	North	Local Authority	Can have goal mouth damage but there are plans to remove posts after use by teams	Medium	1	2	1
New Delaval And Newsham Miners Welfare Park	South East	Local Authority	Posts removed in summer for pitch reinstatement. No excessive casual use/damage reported. Only one pitch in use	Low	0.5	4	3.5
New Hartley Park	South East	Local Authority	Posts removed in summer for pitch reinstatement. No excessive casual use/damage reported. Used for cricket in the summer.	Low	0.5	4	3.5
Newbiggin Sports & Community Centre	South East	Local Authority	Posts removed in summer for pitch reinstatement. No excessive casual use/damage reported	Low	0.5	2	1.5
Peoples Park	South East	Local Authority	Posts removed in summer for pitch reinstatement. No excessive casual use/damage reported	Low	0.5	4	3.5
Riding Dene recreation area	Central	Local Authority	Not a significant issue	Low	0.5	2	1.5
Seghill Welfare Park	South East	Local Authority	Posts removed in summer for pitch reinstatement. No excessive casual use/damage reported	Low	0.5	2	1.5

Site Name	Sub Area	Owners	Comments	Severity Rating	Quantified Demand (in match equivalents)	Original Carrying Capacity of Site (in match equivalents)	Revised Carrying Capacity (in match equivalents)
The Sele Hexham Park	West	Local Authority	Heavy casual use in summer months in spite of post removal	High	1.5	1	0.5
The Swan Centre For Leisure	North	Local Authority	Some goal mouth damage but maintenance team are going to remove goal posts at end of season to help prevent this	Medium	1	2	1
Tyne Green Country Park	West	Local Authority	Not a significant issue	Low	0.5	2	1.5
West Lea	South East	Local Authority	Posts removed in summer for pitch reinstatement. No excessive casual use/damage reported	Low	0.5	2	1.5

- 3.3.28 Most sites with significant casual use are located in the South East sub area. This follows the trend identified in the above sections regarding the distribution of demand across the County.
- 3.3.29 Of the 32 sites identified, only 3 have been reported be significantly impacted as a result of the casual use: Eastwood Park, The Sele Hexham Park, The Swan Centre for Leisure
- 3.3.30 The consultation with Northumberland County Council indicated that, whilst most casual use occurs in the summer months, there can be some residual damage to goal mouths on certain sites. This is being combatted by the removal of goals at the end of each weekend and, on less effected sites, at the end of each season.
- 3.3.31 The impact of informal use on sites will be considered further as part of the supply and demand analysis for the County and sub areas as well as the site-by-site analysis (below).

ADDITIONAL DEMAND – EDUCATIONAL DEMAND ON COMMUNITY SITES

- 3.3.32 Where educational sites, such as schools, colleges and academies, not have access to sufficient playing pitch provision, they may hire community sites for matches, training sessions or PE lessons.
- 3.3.33 It is important for the study to capture this demand as in some areas, this can place a significant additional demand on community facilities that would not necessarily be picked up as part of the traditional supply and demand research.
- 3.3.34 Table 3.9 shows the educational sites that have reported insufficient capacity on their playing fields.

Table 3.9: Education sites without sufficient pitch provision

Site Name	Sub area	Does the establishment have its own playing pitch provision?	Does this provision meet all of its current and likely future demand? for pitches?	Does the establishment use any external sites to meet its current? demand?	How much additional provision would the establishment require to meet its current and likely future demand?	Site Consultation Notes
Allendale Primary School	West	No	No	No	pace for pitches to be marked if required	The school has two large fields that could be utilised for sports pitches. There are major drainage issues on the field closest to the school and would need sorting if it was to be used. They currently have no special grass care. The fields are currently only used by the school and mainly in the summer. They have a changing block on the school grounds. They currently have no pitches marked out.
Alnwick Dukes Middle School	North	No	No	No	None as school is closing	Site has no pitches and is planned to close.
Amble Links First School	South East	No	No	No	Space for pitches to be marked if required	No pitches marked out. There is room for a number of junior pitches on the site although it may need levelled out. Full perimeter fencing built on the site.
Belsay First School	Central	No	No	No	Site is not large enough for a 7v7 but is large enough for a 5v5	No official provision marked out, 2 plastic nets but no pitch marked out.
Chollerton Church of England Aided First School	West	No	No	No	The fields the school has are of adequate size but on a significant slope.	The grass area is small and on a large slope. They have a contractor who cuts the grass when it is required and they have had no pitches marked out in the past.
Croftway Primary Academy	South East	No	No	No	No space on site to accommodate pitches	School has no official pitches but has one MUGA. There is no grass space on the site for any formal provision.
Darras Hall First School	Central	No	No	No	2x 7v7 would be adequate and there is space for these pitches	School is being rebuilt and changing from a three tier to two tier education system. There is a field measuring

Site Name	Sub area	Does the establishment have its own playing pitch provision?	Does this provision meet all of its current and likely future demand? for pitches?	Does the establishment use any external sites to meet its current? demand?	How much additional provision would the establishment require to meet its current and likely future demand?	Site Consultation Notes
						approximately 100m x 100m but there were no formal pitches at the time of assessment and no community use on the site.
Eastlea Primary School	South East	No	No	No	Space on the site to add pitches if required	School is owned by the County council, it has no pitches on the site. Good large area but suffers from bad drainage. No changing rooms on site either.
Ellingham C of E Primary School	North	No	No	No	Large enough fields but poor quality facilities	No provision on site when visited. Is marked out over spring apparently. Majorly sloping, no drainage and is maintained by a contractor.
Greenhaugh First School	West	No	No	No	The field is not large enough to support a 7v7 pitch	No pitches on site.
Holywell Village First School	South East	No	No	No	School has space for 2 pitches if it chooses	The site has two pitches, that are used by a local football team.
Humshaugh Church of England First School	West	No	No	Yes	None as playing field is right next to the school	No pitches on site. They use Humshaugh Playing Fields which is next door.
Josephine Butler Academy (Primary)	South East	No	No	No	Space for 7v7 on field if required	This site is within the same grounds as the Church of England Academy. There is no official provision on the primary school site. Potential usage for 7v7 but no markings upon visit. The grass area was to a good standard and does have underground drainage.
Morpeth Stobhillgate First School	Central	No	No	No	Improved maintenance on pitches would bring the pitches into the supply	Very boggy grass condition. Site gets marked out as required. No pitches currently marked out. Work is carried out by outside contractor. Ground is soaking wet and on a slope. No changing rooms, would like plastic

Site Name	Sub area	Does the establishment have its own playing pitch provision?	Does this provision meet all of its current and likely future demand? for pitches?	Does the establishment use any external sites to meet its current? demand?	How much additional provision would the establishment require to meet its current and likely future demand?	Site Consultation Notes
						goalposts in the future.
Newbrough School	West	No	No	No	Adequate space for pitches if needed	No pitches at time of visit, currently in the transition from first school to a primary school and might have a pitch in the future.
Newsham Primary School	South East	No	No	No	Space for pitches to be marked if required, need to improve the condition of the fields to do so	There are no pitches marked out on site. They have regular subsidence issues making the pitch unsafe. Markings get carried out as required but often not used throughout the winter. Small changing rooms with showers. Council had suggested expanding the school onto grass site to cope with numbers. Has field drainage inserted but uncertain that it actually works.
Northburn Primary School	South East	No	No	No	Space on the site to add pitches if required	No pitches present at the time of the site visit.
Queen Elizabeth High School Hexham	Central	Yes	No	Yes	2 youth 11v11 pitches and 1 youth 9v9 pitch	A large school site with a sand based AGP and two rugby pitches. The rugby pitches suffer from poor drainage and are unused throughout the winter. The changing room facilities servicing those pitches are very poor, and in need of improvements, are 40 years old. The school play matches elsewhere. The AGP is of average condition and was relayed 4-5 years ago. The school would like floodlighting on the AGP.
Red Row First School	South East	No	No	No	Large fields suitable of for 2x 7v7 pitches	No officially marked out provision on site. Maintained to a suitable standard.
Spittal First School	North	No	No	No	Space for 7v7 on field if required	Grass field to rear of the school. No official provision marked out on site but

Site Name	Sub area	Does the establishment have its own playing pitch provision?	Does this provision meet all of its current and likely future demand? for pitches?	Does the establishment use any external sites to meet its current? demand?	How much additional provision would the establishment require to meet its current and likely future demand?	Site Consultation Notes
						potentially could be used for mini or youth soccer. Well maintained area.
St Joseph's Middle School	Central	No	No	No	Improved maintenance and drainage would improve the pitches to enable them to be used	School currently has no pitches. This is due to very poor drainage, and very wet pitches, means the fields are out of use all of the winter. Both causing a problem for the school, as they aren't using their facilities well, but also would offer these facilities to the community, but can't. School has to play all field sports matches at away school venues.
St Paul's Catholic Academy	South East	No	No	No	Site is large enough to add 2x 7v7 pitches	No formal provision on site at the time of assessment.
St Paul's Rcv Middle School	North	No	No	No	The site has a fairly large playing field which could accommodate at least 1x 7v7	School currently has no community usage, but may look into it for the future, although there would be no access to any changing rooms.
St Roberts Roman Catholic School	Central	No	No	No	Fields large enough to accommodate pitches if required	No pitches currently marked out, could be used for small junior pitches. Small grass area.
St Wilfred's School	South East	No	No	No	Need additional maintenance to improve capacity of playing fields	School has a lot of grass space, but currently on pitches no the site. The grassed area suffers very badly from drainage issues and becomes very bad condition from around October each year.
Swarland First School	North	No	No	No	Site's fields are large enough to accommodate 1x 7v7 pitches	Secure school site. No pitches were marked out at the time of the visit.
Thropton	North	No	No	No	Space for	No pitch currently marked out

Site Name	Sub area	Does the establishment have its own playing pitch provision?	Does this provision meet all of its current and likely future demand? for pitches?	Does the establishment use any external sites to meet its current? demand?	How much additional provision would the establishment require to meet its current and likely future demand?	Site Consultation Notes
Village School					pitches if required	on site, and it has no community use. School would be open for community use but no demand and never has been. There are no changing rooms on site and has slight drainage problems
Tritlington Church of England First School	Central	No	No	No	Space for 7v7 on field if required	No official provision on visit. An area that could potentially be used for 7v7 youth football, but it is quite small.
Whitonstall First school	Central	No	No	No	School has a field large enough to support 1x 7v7 pitch	No pitches assessed as there is currently building work being carried out on the field.

3.3.35 Table 3.9 shows that most sites without sufficient access to formal pitches on-site have some playing field space that is lying unmarked. Typically, this is due to a lack of resources on the school's behalf to maintain the pitches adequately, or a repurposing of the field for use other than for football.

3.3.36 The table shows there are two sites that are currently using alternative provision:

Humshaugh Church of England First School: The school is not hampered by the lack of provision on site as they access and use Humshaugh Playing Fields for PE and any matches they play.

Queen Elizabeth High School Hexham: The school uses several alternative sites for matches only due to the poor drainage of its playing fields. The demand from matches is placed on Sele Park when the school must host home fixtures.

3.3.37 For each of the sites utilised by the school, any additional demand generated by the lack of facilities on both school sites will be added and analysed as part of the supply and demand analysis for the County and each of the sub areas as well as the site-by-site analysis (below).

IMPORTED / EXPORTED DEMAND

- 3.3.38 Imported demand refers to any demand that is generated outside of the County, but that is serviced by pitch provision within it. For example, if a team in Newcastle cannot find a pitch at their preferred slot in the city, they may choose to travel into the study area to utilise an available pitch.
- 3.3.39 Conversely, exported demand refers to demand that is generated within the County that is met by pitch supply in another area.
- 3.3.40 Understanding imported and exported demand is important for short and medium-term modelling of supply and demand balances across the study area. Significant imported demand can be reduced by neighbouring authorities adding pitches of adequate quality, closer to where the demand is being imported from. This in turn, frees up pitch capacity for further domestically generated demand or even existing latent demand. High exported demand can mean that the quality of provision in the study area is not of sufficient quality, is too expensive or simply lacks the capacity required to meet demand.
- 3.3.41 The study has identified limited imported demand across the County. The major exception is at Close House Hotel and Golf. This site located in the Central sub region and is used by Northumbria University (located in Newcastle) for some of their intramural fixtures. The site is reported to be used for four matches per week by the university and is not used to supply any other demand.
- 3.3.42 The study has identified a greater level of exported demand from Northumberland into Newcastle. Table 3.10 shows the clubs and the number of teams that play 'home' matches outside of the County.

Table 3.10: Exported demand from Northumberland based clubs using facilities outside of the County

Club	Number of Teams
Blyth Rangers	4
Cramlington United Juniors	10
Newcastle Benfield Juniors	8
Ponteland United	7
Prudhoe Youth Club	4

- 3.3.43 Table 3.10 shows that there a total of 33 teams across 5 Northumberland-based clubs are playing 'home' fixtures outside of the County. Further analysis shows that the 31 of these 33 teams are playing mini soccer. It is important to note that these teams are understood to be playing at facilities "out of area" as a requirement of the leagues in which they complete. Typically, this is to use a Newcastle-based 'central' venue. The other 2 teams, both Prudhoe Youth Club U10s sides, are also required to play at a central venue by their league.
- 3.3.44 The absence of any other significant export of demand shows that whilst there is significant export of demand in the area, especially regarding mini-soccer, this does not appear to be linked with any lack of availability, quality or cost issues – as indicated in the analysis below.

FUTURE DEMAND DRIVEN BY POPULATION GROWTH

- 3.3.45 Having established the level of demand in the area, the following section will project the amount of future demand there is likely to be in the area by 2031.
- 3.3.46 To calculate the future demand for football in the study area, a Team Generation Rate²² (TGR) has been calculated using the current number of teams and the current population. This measure allows us to calculate what size of population (for various age groups) will typically cause enough demand for a football team.
- 3.3.47 This TGR can then be applied to the population projections for the local authority to confirm how population growth or reduction will affect the demand for teams in each of the key age groups.

Table 3.11– Team Generation Rates for Football in Northumberland

Sport and Age Groups	Teams	Current Popn (2017)	Future Popn (2031)	Current TGR	Popn Change	Potential Change
Football Adult Men 11v11 (16-45yrs)	145	49478.6	48564.8	341.2	-913.8	-3
Football Adult Women 11v11 (16-45yrs)	9	49357.8	46928.2	5484.2	-2429.5	0
Football Youth Boys 11v11 (12-15yrs)	108	6872.4	6722.0	63.6	-150.4	-2
Football Youth Girls 11v11 (12-15yrs)	10	6439.5	6427.4	643.9	-12.1	0
Football Youth Boys 9v9 (10-11yrs)	89	3480.9	3321.2	39.1	-159.8	-4
Football Youth Girls 9v9 (10-11yrs)	11	3200.3	3153.3	290.9	-47.0	0
Football Mini Soccer Mixed 7v7 (8-9yrs)	113	3582.7	3264.6	31.7	-318.1	-10
Football Mini Soccer Mixed 5v5 (6-7yrs)	82	3310.0	3094.8	40.4	-215.3	-5

- 3.3.48 Table 3.11 illustrates that due to the changing profile of the population in Northumberland, there will be a reduction of 25 teams across the County if current team generation rates remain the same. The most significant reduction in teams is in mini soccer for 8-9 year old's which is projected to decrease by 10 teams. Overall mini soccer is projected to decrease by 15 teams, representing a decline of 8% from the present level.
- 3.3.49 The distribution of the decrease in teams will be addressed as part of the sub-area analysis below.

²² The Team Generation Rate calculation uses the current number of teams and the current population to calculate a proxy measure of the number of total residents per relevant sports team. This measure is therefore applied to the projected population (depending on the length of the strategy) to predict how many additional teams will be required in order to satisfy the demand from the 'new' population.

- 3.3.50 When comparing the findings for the whole study area to national trends, the projected decrease in adult teams represents a similar outlook than the rest of the country, which is also projected to decrease. The downward trend for mini soccer and the significant decrease in youth football is, however, not consistent with the rest of the UK.
- 3.3.51 It is important to note that the TGR calculation assumes that clubs, the Council and the local FA development officers do not improve their marketing or participation schemes over the period and are therefore no more successful than they are now in attracting new players to participate in football in the study area. In reality, it is expected that there will be improved channels of digital communication and improved maintenance technology, as well as higher quality ancillary provision. The output of this will be a higher quality and an improved ability to generate additional demand and convert it into participation.

FUTURE DEMAND DRIVEN BY LATENT DEMAND

- 3.3.52 Alongside the future demand generated by additional population in the area, it is also important to understand the level of latent demand for football in an area. Latent demand refers to when clubs or teams believe there is the required demand within the area for them to grow but they have not been able to realise this growth.
- 3.3.53 The causes, or reasons for latent demand can be complex and multifaceted but may commonly include a lack of qualified coaches to manage teams, a lack of facilities to play matches at peak times or even a lack of parking capacity on site.
- 3.3.54 Table 3.12 below outlines the level of latent demand in Northumberland by age group as reported by clubs responding to the 4global football clubs survey.

Table 3.12: Latent Demand for Football in Northumberland

Area	Adult 11v11	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Central	3	7	6	6	5	27
North	0	2	2	1	1	6
South East	2	9	7	2	2	22
West	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northumberland	5	18	15	10	7	55

- 3.3.55 If all latent demand was realised across Northumberland, there would be an additional 55 teams with a match demand of 27.5 match equivalents per week.
- 3.3.56 Table 3.12 shows that the majority of latent demand, 89%, is located in Central and South East sub areas. This follows the trend identified above that supply and demand for football facilities is concentrated within this area. Morpeth Town Juniors and Seniors were the clubs to report the largest levels of latent demand, reporting they have latent demand for 20 additional teams.
- 3.3.57 33 of the 55 unfulfilled teams are reported to be for youth teams. This represents 60% of the total reported latent demand.
- 3.3.58 Key barriers for latent demand identified during the consultations is finding appropriately sized pitches at peak-times as well as pitch capacity and volunteer recruitment.
- 3.3.59 Considering there is a decrease in demand projected by the TGR analysis, combined a net increase of 30 teams can be projected by 2031. This demand will be included within the future supply and demand analysis to assess whether there is sufficient provision to meet the needs of residents should clubs realise the expected level of latent demand.

3.4 Supply and Demand Balance

- 3.4.1 This section presents the supply and demand balance findings for grass football pitches (both for current and future estimated demand) for the study area, split by sub-area.
- 3.4.2 For every site, an analysis has been undertaken to assess whether each pitch on the site has enough capacity to meet the current level of demand for affiliated football. The capacity for natural grass pitches to regularly provide for matches, training and other activity over a week and a season is most often determined by their quality. The quality of both the pitch and the ancillary facilities will determine how well a pitch is able to contribute to meeting demand. The following key terms are summarised below, with more detailed definitions included within the glossary;
- **Spare capacity:** When the level of recorded demand for a pitch is less than the weekly carrying capacity of that pitch
 - **At capacity:** When the level of recorded demand for a pitch is equal to the weekly carrying capacity of that pitch
 - **Overplay:** When the level of recorded demand for a pitch exceeds the weekly carrying capacity of that pitch.
- 3.4.3 It should be noted that this section of the supply and demand analysis refers to 'theoretical capacity' over the period of a week, however it does not allow for the fact that teams and participants may want to play at the same time, therefore generating a high level of demand during certain points of the week. This point is referred to as the 'Peak Period', which is explained in more detail later in this chapter.

OVERPLAY

- 3.4.4 Overplay occurs when a grass football pitch is played on to a greater extent than is recommended by the pitch's carrying capacity. For example, if an adult football pitch is given a quality rating of **standard**, then it has a recommended maximum usage of two match equivalent sessions^{3*} and/or training sessions per week. If, however, this pitch is used for three adult football matches per week (equating to three match equivalent sessions), the pitch is being used over and above its carrying capacity and is therefore being overplayed by one match equivalent session.
- 3.4.5 There are a number of reasons for a pitch being overplayed, such as lack of alternative provision, poor site management, or a discrepancy in pitch rates, making some more affordable than others.
- 3.4.6 It is important that any overplay of pitches is considered as part of the overall supply and demand analysis, therefore Table 3.13 below identifies all sites that have pitches with overplay (measured in match equivalents per week).
- 3.4.7 Where overplay has been identified as part of this analysis, it is included within the overall supply and demand analysis for football in the Study Area.
- 3.4.8 A full capacity analysis of all sites with football provision is included within Technical Appendix A – Football Analysis.

^{3*} Refer to Phrases (9.1.14)

Table 3.13: Sites with Overplay In Northumberland (in MEPW)

Site	Sub area	Secured?	Mini 5v5	Mini 7v7	Youth 9v9	Youth 11v11	Adult Football
Dukeshouse Wood	Central	Secured	2.5		-2	-3	
Eastwoods Park	Central	Unsecured	1.5	3			-0.5
Kimberley Park	Central	Secured					-0.5
Morpeth Common	Central	Secured					-0.5
Pegswood Welfare	Central	Secured		3.5	-0.5	3	
Ponteland Leisure Centre	Central	Secured		3	0.5		-2.5
Sele Park	Central	Secured				-0.5	
Tynedale Rugby Football Club Ltd	Central	Secured		6			-0.5
Tynedale Sports Club	Central	Secured			1.5	-2	
Billendean Road	North	Secured					-1
Glendale Middle School	North	Unsecured				-10.5	
Greensfield	North	Unsecured				-4.5	
Blyth Spartans Juniors Fc	South East	Secured		0	0	-2	
Eastfield Playing Fields	South East	Secured					-1
Hirst Welfare Centre	South East	Secured		3	2		-6.5
Meadowdale Academy	South East	Unsecured			1	-0.5	
Northumberland Church of England Academy (Grace Darling Campus)	South East	Unsecured			-1	3	1.5
South Newsham Park	South East	Secured			-7	-1.5	1.5
Sporting Club Cramlington	South East	Secured		14.5		-4.5	5.5
St Benet Biscop High School	South East	Unsecured		1	0		-1
Haltwhistle Community Campus (Upper School)	West	Unsecured					-1
Lowhall Park	West	Secured	3	3		-0.5	2

3.4.9 Table 3.13 shows that there are several sites with pitches suffering from significant overplay. It should be noted that where there is demand recorded for a specific pitch type (e.g. Mini 5v5), which is not present on a site, this demand is placed on to the next largest pitch type available on the site. This is most common with Youth 11v11 matches being played on Adult pitches. On sites where there are no youth 11v11 pitches but demand from teams requiring this pitch type is present, this demand is attributed against the adult pitches.

3.5 Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) for Football

- 3.5.1 Artificial pitches are a key component of the pitch supply for both training and matches. Full analysis on the impact of these on football can be found in the AGP Analysis Chapter of this assessment.

3.6 Site-by-Site Analysis

- 3.6.1 Tables 3.14 to 3.17 provide a breakdown in the site by site analysis for each of the football sites in Northumberland.
- 3.6.2 The site by site tables (3.14 to 3.17) outline the number and type of pitch, community availability and security of tenure, a quality assessment, capacity for community use and a calculation of the level of peak time capacity, by sub area. The stated quality assessments apply to all pitches at the site unless indicated otherwise (see Northburn Sports and Community Centre as an example).
- 3.6.3 The Capacity Balance column shows the current level of spare capacity / overplay on each site by pitch type as well as a total capacity balance for the whole site. This is calculated by subtracting the demand for a pitch type from the total supply provided for that specific pitch type on site. On sites where there is just one pitch type the figure shown represents both the total capacity balance for that pitch type and for the site overall. The Peak Time Capacity column can be read in the same way except that this is expressed using either the remaining available match sessions or remaining spare capacity (which-ever is least). For more information on how capacity is calculated see the PPS guidance document.⁴
- 3.6.4 This is designed to give a detailed picture of the provision at each site with key users for the site and any development issues or aspirations.
- 3.6.5 Due to the number of sites included in the site-by-site analysis, the pitches have been divided into sub areas. Tables 3.14 to 3.17 reference several different organisations throughout. These are abbreviated here:

Abbreviations:

- **NCC:** Northumberland County Council
- **FA:** Football Association
- **FC:** Football Club
- **FF:** Football Foundation
- **NFA:** Northumberland Football Association
- **PC:** Parish Council

⁴ <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/playing-pitch-strategy-guidance/>

Table 3.14: Northumberland Football Facilities Site-by-Site Analysis – Central sub area

Site Name	Pitch Supply	Availability & Security	Assessment Rating	Capacity Balance (Supply - Demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Abbeyfields First School	2x Mini Soccer 7v7	Available-Secured	Standard	5.5	At Capacity	This site is being used by Morpeth Town Junior Teams. It has been identified that pitch maintenance is poor, especially the grass cutting which has been reported to be too infrequent to be adequate for formal football use.
Acomb Playing Fields	1x Adult 11v11	Available-Secured	Standard	2	1.0 Match Slots	This site is being used occasionally by Hexham Juniors FC. The site has been identified as having issues with dog fouling which is affecting the experience of the junior teams using the site. The ancillary building is rated as poor and car parking is limited.
Adderlane First School	1 x Youth 9v9	Available-Unsecured	Standard	0.5	At Capacity	The site is being used by Prudhoe Youth Club FC for their three U11 sides. Additional maintenance could be added to increase its carrying capacity but cost of this maintenance would be a concern for the club. Maintenance is currently carried out by an external contractor. The club would like separate changing rooms so the main school can remain closed on the weekend. Should the demand on the pitches at grow above the expected rate, the site is large enough for an additional pitch to be marked out to increase the capacity of the site.
Broomhaugh Sports Field	1x Youth 11v11	Available-Secured	Good	4	1.0 Match Slots	There is currently no formal demand on the site, but the pitch is used for informal matches by a local community group. The site has recently been leased from the parish council to the Riding Mill Sports club until 2041. The club have ambitious plans to develop the site further for formal sports use; including football and the ancillary facilities. The site is accessible to dog walkers and fouling is an issue.

Site Name	Pitch Supply	Availability & Security	Assessment Rating	Capacity Balance (Supply - Demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Chantry Middle School	3 1x Adult 11v11 2x Youth 9v9	Available-Secured	Standard	4.5 +1 Adult 11v11 +3.5 Youth 9v9	1.0 Match Slots Available for Adult 11v11 2.0 Match Slots Available for Youth 9v9	The site is being used by the Morpeth Town Juniors for their two U13 teams and one U12 team. The club have reported aspirations to introduce seven new teams. The site currently has capacity to service demand from a further two U13s teams and another seven U12s teams. The site has reported issues around poor drainage and sits on a floodplain. Should demand increase on this site there is a need for the school and club additional maintenance works that could look to address this issue. The ancillary building was recently refurbished and in good condition.
Close House Hotel and Golf	4x Adult 11v11	Available-Unsecured	Good	8	At Capacity	The site is well used by Newcastle University for intramural and occasional BUCs league fixtures, catering for four matches per week on average. There are also a number of rugby pitches on the site. There is a large ancillary building with an adequate number of changing rooms, including officials changing.
Collingwood School and Media Arts College	1x Youth 9v9	Available-Secured	Poor	1	1.0 Match Slots Available	The site is not used by the community but is used by the school for matches, training, physical education and other activity. The pitch has been identified as having very poor drainage and is uneven. Additional maintenance could help to improve quality of the pitch.
Corbridge Middle School	2 1x Youth 11v11 1x Mini Soccer 7v7	Available-Unsecured	Standard	5 +1 Youth 11v11 +4 Mini 7v7	1.0 Match Slots Available for Youth 11v11 At Capacity for Mini 7v7	This site is being used by Corbridge United Juniors U11s and U12s. There is potential for the club to work with the school to reconfigure the second Youth 11v11 Football pitch into a Youth 9v9 Football pitch, possibly by working together to provide mobile 9v9 goals to allow the site to be used more flexibly. The pitches appeared to be overlapped in the site assessment.

Site Name	Pitch Supply	Availability & Security	Assessment Rating	Capacity Balance (Supply - Demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Craik Park	1x Adult 11v11	Available-Secured	Good	2.5	0.5 Match Slot Available	This site is being used by Morpeth Town First Team, and occasionally by Morpeth Town Juniors. It is leased to the club from the Town Council on a long-term agreement. The site has poor drainage, apparently due to an underlying clay bed. There is drainage in place but it is not sufficient.
Dukeshouse Wood	3 1x Youth 11v11 1x Youth 9v9 1 x Mini Soccer 5v5	Available-Secured	Standard	-0.5 -2.5 Youth 11v11 -0.5 Youth 9v9 +2.5 Mini Soccer 5v5	At Capacity	This site is being used by Hexham FC for one adult male side and Hexham Juniors for their twenty junior sides. The site was created in 2011. Drainage has been identified as a key issue on this site and leads to many match cancellations during the season. Subsequently the club has to use other sites in the area. The club would like access to an AGP to ease overplay.

Site Name	Pitch Supply	Availability & Security	Assessment Rating	Capacity Balance (Supply - Demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Eastwood Park	5 2x Adult 11v11 2x Mini Soccer 7v7 1x Mini Soccer 5v5	Available-Unsecured	Standard	7.5 (6 with informal demand included) +4 Adult 11v11 -1.0 Youth 11v11 +3 Mini Soccer 7v7 +1.5 Mini Soccer 5v5	1.0 Match Slots Available for Youth 11v11 At Capacity for Mini Soccer 7v7 1.0 Match Slots Available for Mini 5v5	<p>It is used by Prudhoe Youth Club for five of their junior teams along with informal use occurring on the adult's pitches. The site is also reported to receive significant use for informal football. There are drainage issues across the site and poor grass coverage in high traffic areas. Prudhoe Youth FC are looking to initiate an asset transfer of pavilion and also a long-term lease on this site. The pavilion has just received investment for refurbishment from the NFA. There is also potential for use of portable goals which could help to prevent overplay of key areas.</p>
Hexham Middle School	1x Youth Football 11v11	Available-Unsecured	Poor	1	1.0 Match Slots Available	<p>The site is not used by the community but is used by the school for matches, training, physical education and other activity.</p>
Highfield Middle School	4 1x Youth 9v9 3x Mini Soccer 7v7	Available-Secured	Standard	14	1.0 Match Slots Available for Youth 9v9 3.0 Match Slots Available for Mini 7v7	<p>The site is not used by the community but is used by the school for matches, training, physical education and other activity. The facility element score for ancillary was ranked as poor, in particular the changing rooms are in poor condition.</p>

Site Name	Pitch Supply	Availability & Security	Assessment Rating	Capacity Balance (Supply - Demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Jubilee Field	2 1x Youth Football 9v9 1x Mini Soccer 7v7	Available-Secured	Poor	3	1.0 Match Slots Available for Youth 9v9 At Capacity for Mini Soccer (no capacity)	There are issues with drainage across the site which is affecting the quality of provision across the site. However, there is relatively low demand on the site and there is some spare capacity on the 9v9 pitch. There are some issues with vandalism on site.
Kimberley Park	1x Adult Football 11v11	Available-Secured	Good	1 +1.5 Adult Football 11v11 -0.5 Youth Football 11v11	At Capacity	This site is used by three adult teams at Prudhoe Town along with a Prudhoe Town Juniors U14s. The facility element score for the ancillary was ranked low, with only a half-completed pavilion roof and floodlights. The club hopes to secure funding to enable work to be completed.
Mickley Football Ground	1x Adult Football 11v11	Available-Secured	Standard	+1.5 Adult Football 11v11	0.5 Match Slots Available	This site is used by Prudhoe Social Club for their adult male side. The site has been identified as having issues with dog fouling which is having an adverse effect on the experience of using the site. The ancillary was scored one the poorest in the study area which adds to the poor experience.
Morpeth Common	1x Adult Football 11v11	Available-Secured	Standard	1.5 (0.5 with informal demand included)	0.5 Match Slots Available	This site is used by Morpeth Conservative First Team along with Morpeth Town Juniors U17 and U17. The site is also identified as being heavily used for informal football. After consultation with the FA, this site has been identified as a potential site for 3G development. This is one of two sites in Morpeth under consideration. A final decision on which of these two sites will be taken forward is subject to further needs and suitability analysis. The area of the fixed goals is heavily worn. Portable goals could help to reduce overplay by rotating position of pitches.

Site Name	Pitch Supply	Availability & Security	Assessment Rating	Capacity Balance (Supply - Demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Morpeth Newminster Middle School	1x Youth Football 9v9	Available-Secured	Standard	1 -0.5 Youth Football 11v11 +1.5 Youth Football 9v9	1.0 Match Slots Available	This site is used by Morpeth Town Juniors U13. The facility element score for the ancillary ranks it as poor. The pitch is small for the teams using it and could be upgraded to Youth 11v11.
Mowden Hall School	4 1x Adult Football 11v11 2x Mini 5v5 1x Sand AGP	Not Available	Good (Standard AGP)	19	Not Available	The site is not used by the community but is used by the school for matches, training, physical education and other activity. This is a large, private school and there are no plans to have community use on the grass pitches.
Oakford Park	1x Adult Football 11v11	Available-Secured	Poor	0.5	0.5 Match Slots Available	This site is used by Wallington FC for their adult male side. The site has poor drainage which has an impact on the quality of the pitch which had particular damage around the goalmouths. The pitch does have railings, dug outs and a pavilion.
Ovingham Church of England First School	1x Mini Soccer 7v7	Not Available	Poor	2	Not Available	The site is used by Prudhoe Youth Club for six of their junior sides. Pitch maintenance could be improved to increase quality of provision. The grass was too long at time of visit.
Ovingham Middle School	5 2x Youth 11v11 3x Mini Soccer 7v7	Available-Secured	Standard	12.5 +1.5 Youth 11v11 -1 Youth 9v9	1 Match Slots Available for Youth 11v11 3 Match Slots Available for Youth 11v11	The site is used Prudhoe Youth Club by seven of their junior sides. No development plans were indicated and there are no significant issues at the site.
			Standard			

Site Name	Pitch Supply	Availability & Security	Assessment Rating	Capacity Balance (Supply - Demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Ovingham Playing Field	2 1x Adult 11v11 1x Mini Soccer 5v5	Available-Secured		6 +2 Adult 11v11 +4 Mini Soccer 5v5	2 Match Slots Available for Adult 11v11 1 Match Slots Available for Mini 5v5	There is no formal demand here, however it is potentially a need for the current demand at Eastwoods Park to be offset. The ancillary is of poor condition at this site and could be improved if more formal demand were to be placed on the pitches.
Pegswood Welfare	4 2x Youth 11v11 1x Youth 9v9 1x Mini 7v7	Available-Secured	Standard	6 +3 Youth 11v11 -0.5 Youth 9v9 +3.5 Mini 7v7	1.5 Match Slots Available for Youth 11v11 At Capacity For Youth 9v9 0.5 Match Slots Available for Youth 11v11	This site is used by Morpeth Town Juniors for eight of their junior teams. Ancillary facilities were renovated in 2011 through Football Foundation funding, consequently no further development plans have been raised.
Ponteland Community High School	2x Youth 11v11	Available-Unsecured	Standard	4	2 Match Slots Available	The site has been sold for redevelopment and the school site will amalgamate with Ponteland Leisure Centre. This is a large development and no further developments are planned.

Site Name	Pitch Supply	Availability & Security	Assessment Rating	Capacity Balance (Supply - Demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Ponteland Leisure Centre	4 2x Adult 11v11 1x Youth 9v9 1x Mini 7v7	Available-Secured	Good	1 +4.5 Adult 11v11 -7 Youth 11v11 +0.5 Youth 9v9 +3 Mini 7v7	0.5 Match Slots Available for Youth 11v11 At Capacity for All Other Pitch Types	This site is used Ponteland United for their two adult sides and twenty-five junior teams. There is also great informal use, especially on the football pitch nearest the leisure centre building. The site suffers from poor drainage. After consultation with the NCB and ECB, it appears the outfield of the cricket pitch will have new drainage installed which should enhance the quality of the football pitches as a consequence. Current development plans at Ponteland Leisure Centre site are to build two schools as well as to demolish the existing leisure centre and rebuild it. In addition to this, the proposal also includes the delivery of a full size 3G pitch.
Ponteland Middle School	2 1x Youth 11v11 1x Youth 9v9 1x 3G AGP (80x55)	Available – Unsecured (AGPs are securely available)	Good	6 +2- 11v11 Youth +4 9v9 Youth AGP- Community access 5pm-10pm weekdays	1.0 Match Slots Available for Youth 11v11 1.0 Match Slots Available for Youth 9v9	The site is not used by the community but is used by the school for matches, training, physical education and other activity. The ancillary facilities at the site are deemed to be sub-par and the school have stated that refurbishing these are a priority. There is a potential for floodlights to be added to the pitch closest to the school. This could offset demand placed at Ponteland Leisure Centre.
Prudhoe Eastwood Middle School	2x Youth 11v11	Available-Secured	Standard	4	2.0 Match Slots Available for Youth 11v11	The site previously was used by the school for matches, training, physical education and other activity. However, the site has recently been transferred to Prudhoe Youth AFC. Current development of the existing ancillary has halted on site. The club has secured funding from NFA for this and the club are also exploring the amalgamation of themselves and Prudhoe Town FC, to expand the site to that of multiple pitches.
Prudhoe Football And Sports Centre	3x 3G AGP	Available-Secured	Standard	AGP is open for 40hrs per week during peak time		This site is used by Prudhoe Town East End for their one adult side along with Prudhoe Youth Club who use this site for two of their teams. The AGP is in excellent condition and the

Site Name	Pitch Supply	Availability & Security	Assessment Rating	Capacity Balance (Supply - Demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
						existing ancillary have just been developed through FF support. There is space to develop grass pitches at the site if required in the future.
Queen Elizabeth High School	1x Sand Based AGP	Available-Secured	Standard	AGP is open for 40hrs per week during peak time		The AGP is required for Hockey. The surface is of poor condition, leaving the school to play elsewhere. The surface will need to be resurfaced in the near future and does not have floodlighting at present which limits community use. Proximity of housing is thought to make it difficult to get planning permission for floodlights.
Riding Dene Recreation Area	No pitches present on site	Available-Unsecured	NA	-0.5 Informal Demand	NA	The site has no pitch but is reported to be used for informal football. It is unclear whether there is desire for the site to be used for formal use.
Sele Park	1x Youth 11v11	Available-Secured	Poor	1 (-0.5 when informal demand is included)	1 Match Slots Available	The maintenance equipment at the site has been identified as insufficient to adequately maintain the pitches. The car park is also limited and there is no ancillary provision.

Site Name	Pitch Supply	Availability & Security	Assessment Rating	Capacity Balance (Supply - Demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Storey Park	1x Adult Football 11v11	Available-Secured	Standard	1.5	0.5 Match Slots Available	<p>The community centre that is located on this site is in disrepair. The town council, who lease the building from the county council are looking to get a freehold of the building and have looked into the possibility of refurbishing it. There is one adult 11v11 pitch on site which is not well secured and has informal usage on the pitch as a result.</p>
Tyne Green Country Park	1x Adult Football 11v11	Available-Secured	Poor	1 (0.5 with informal demand included)	1 Match Slots Available for Adult 11v11	<p>The site has no pitch but is reported to be used for informal football. It is unclear whether there is interest in using the site from football clubs in the area.</p>
Wentworth Leisure Centre	1x Adult 11v11	Available-Secured	Standard	1.5	1 Match Slots Available	<p>The site is used by Hexham Phoenix FC for adult football. The drainage on site has been identified as poor but more maintenance could help to offset the drainage issues. The site has been identified as a key target for the development of a 3G AGP due to the lack of facilities in the area and its location to transport links.</p> <p>However, the conversion of the grass pitch to 3G will have a significant effect on the athletics club and the ability to train for and hold field events. There is potentially a need for a more dedicated options appraisal of how best to resolve the issue be undertaken. The results of this study should be used to determine a clear direction in terms of whether the site would be best retained for athletics or re-designated for 3G AGP provision.</p>

Table 3.15: Northumberland Football Facilities Site-by-Site Analysis – North sub area

Site Name	Pitch Supply	Community Use of Site	Assessment Rating	Capacity Balance (Supply - Demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Alnwick Community Centre	1x AGP Sand based	Available-Secured	Poor	AGP is open for 40hrs per week during peak time		This site is being used by AFC Newbiggin FC. It had been made apparent that the club are in discussion with the NFA and FF around replacing the existing AGP here, with it being scheduled to be completed in September 2018.
Beach Road Playing Field	1x Adult 11v11	Available-Secured	Standard	3	1 Match Slots Available	This site was previously home to formal community access, however, this is no longer the case as the council are looking to terminate the playing field lease due to lack of demand. As such there are no development plans for the site.
Belford Football Club (The Meadows)	2 1x Adult 11v11 1x Mini Soccer 5v5	Available-Secured	Poor	3 +0.5 Adult 11v11 +2 Mini Soccer	0.5 Match Slot Available for Adult 11v11 1 Match Slots Available for Mini 5v5	This site is used by Belford FC for their one adult male team. The pitch maintenance, has been identified as being in need of improvement. The 5v5 pitch is on a slope and the car parking is limited.
Berwick Academy	3x Youth 11v11 1x AGP Sand Based	Available-Secured	Standard	3 +4.5 Youth 11v11 -1.5 Youth 9v9	2.5 Match Slots Available for Youth 11v11 AGP is open for 40hrs per week during peak time	This site is used by Berwick Rangers Juniors for their six junior sides. Provision on site was to a good standard. AGP is maintained well and frequently used by the community. Generally, no major issues with this site currently therefore, no development plans for the site. The club have suggested that they may introduce two new mini soccer sides. There is, therefore, a need to identify a site which has surplus capacity to accommodate these teams.

Site Name	Pitch Supply	Community Use of Site	Assessment Rating	Capacity Balance (Supply - Demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Berwick Middle School	2 1x Youth Football 11v11 1x Youth Football 9v9	Available-Unsecured	Standard	4	1 Match Slots Available for Youth 11v11 1 Match Slot Available for Youth 9v9	The site is not used by the community but is used by the school for matches, training, physical education and other activity. There is a need to enhance the maintenance of the pitches with particular focus on grass length. There is a separate ancillary building but it only has one changing room, toilets and no showers.
Billendean Road	1x Adult 11v11	Available-Secured	Poor	0.5	0.5 Match Slot Available	This site is used by Tweedmouth Harrow FC. The pitch is rated as poor quality and improved maintenance would help improve the carrying capacity. However, there are also issues with drainage and unevenness. There was a cabin beside the pitch but it is thought to be too small to offer adequate changing facilities.
Dr. Thomlinson Church of England Middle School	2x Youth Football 9v9	Available-Unsecured	Poor	2	2 Match Slots Available for Mini 5v5	The site is not used by the community but is used by the school for matches, training, physical education and other activity. It has been noted that the issues with drainage at this site reduces the potential for community usage.
Embleton Playing Fields	1x Adult 11v11	Available-Secured	Standard	1.5	0.5 Match Slot Available for Mini 5v5	This site should be protected as playing fields in the local plan. The site is used by Embleton Whinstone Rovers FC for their one adult male team. Pitch is of good quality, ancillary has been recently built also. Therefore, no further enhancement has been identified for this site. No further provision has been identified as part of this study.

Site Name	Pitch Supply	Community Use of Site	Assessment Rating	Capacity Balance (Supply - Demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Felton Recreation Field	3 1x Youth Football 9v9 2x Mini Soccer 7v7	Available-Secured	Standard	8.5 +1 Youth 9v9 +7.5 Mini Soccer 7v7	0.5 Match Slot Available for Youth 9v9 0.5 Match Slot Available for Mini 7v7	The site is being used by Felton Juniors for their three junior sides. Pitches are of standard quality however they are slightly uneven, and drainage is an evident issue also. There is potential to reconfigure the pitches in order to better meet actual demand in the area. Parish council are currently in discussion regarding a plan to develop the onsite community centre into changing rooms. The community centre is currently unused so would be a feasible idea to develop a centre which could be used for the football club and community.
Five Arches	1x Adult Football 11v11	Available-Secured	Standard	-0.5 (-1 with informal demand included)	1 Match Slot Available for Adult 11v11	The site is being used by Felton Juniors for their U14 sides. In order to prevent the site being over capacity there is potential to reconfigure the site to incorporate a second Adult 11v11 pitch on site, due to free space being located towards the south of the site. This will also help to reduce the impact of informal football on the site.
Glendale Middle School	1x Youth Football 11v11	Available-Unsecured	Poor	-1	At Capacity	The site is being used by Alnmouth Juniors (one team), Alnmouth United (one team), Berwick Rangers Juniors (five teams), Long Horsley Juniors (six teams), Lowick United (two teams), Rothbury Juniors (six teams) and Spittal Rovers (two teams). Due to the high demand of use of this site, most of the teams play on spare grass space rather than designated pitches.

Site Name	Pitch Supply	Community Use of Site	Assessment Rating	Capacity Balance (Supply - Demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Greenfield	3x Youth Football 11v11	Available-Unsecured	Standard	-2.5 -1 Adult 11v11 +2 Youth 11v11 -1.5 Youth 9v9 -2 Youth 7v7	At Capacity	The site is being used by Alnwick Town Juniors by their nineteen junior sides and two adult sides. Currently the club does not have a long-term usage agreement in place which limits the club's development plans. There is also potential to reconfigure the site to add more appropriate provision for mini teams.
Hotspur Park	1x Adult Football 11v11	Available-Secured	Standard	2	1 Match Slots Available	The site is used by Alnmouth FC. A number of mole hills were identified on the on the pitch and the lack of adequate maintenance was identified in consultation. The current ancillary facility does not currently match the league requirements and therefore also needs to be improved to enable community use of the site.
Ivinson Road	1x Youth Football 9v9	Available-Unsecured	Poor	1	1 Match Slots Available	This site should be protected as playing fields in the local plan. The site is used by Berwick Rangers FC for their junior teams. The pitch suffers from drainage issues and there are no changing facilities at the site.

Site Name	Pitch Supply	Community Use of Site	Assessment Rating	Capacity Balance (Supply - Demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Lowick Football Field	1x Adult Football 11v11	Available-Secured	Standard	2	1 Match Slots Available	No formal community use has been identified at this site however, the pitch is standard quality. There is a lack of car parking at the site.
Pier Field	1x Adult Football 11v11	Available-Secured	Standard	1.5	0.5 Match Slots Available	This site is used by Springhill Berwick's one adult male side. Car parking at the site is limited.
Rothbury FC	1x Adult Football 11v11	Available-Secured	Poor	0 +0.5 Adult 11v11 -0.5 Youth 11v11	0.5 Match Slot Available	This site is used by Rothbury FC for their one adult male team, and Rothbury Juniors U15. The pitches are rated as poor due to drainage issues and evidence of wear in the goalmouths. The ancillary building is also poor quality.
Rothbury Recreation Club	1x AGP 3G	Available-Secured	Standard	AGP is open for 40hrs per week during peak time		This site is used by Rothbury Juniors FC who use it in addition to their own grass pitches. There are no issues with the pitch and it has adequate car parking and fencing.
Seahouses Middle School	1x Youth Football 11v11	Not available	Standard	2	1 Match Slots Available	This site is used by Seahouses Juniors for three junior and one adult team. The ancillary ranked poorly on the facility element scores, with one of the lowest in the study area.

Site Name	Pitch Supply	Community Use of Site	Assessment Rating	Capacity Balance (Supply - Demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Seafield Sports Park	2 1x Adult Football 11v11 1x Youth Football 11v11	Available-Secured	Standard	2 +1.5 Adult 11v11 +0.5 Youth 11v11	0.5 Match Slot Available for Adult 11v11 0.5 Match Slot Available Youth 11v11	This site is used by North Sunderland FC for four of their junior teams. The ground has been identified as having a poorly operating drainage system with 50-60% of games to be cancelled in the winter, with strain therefore added to Longhoughton 3G facility. Repairing the drainage was identified as a key development goal if funded is found.
Shielfield Park (Berwick Rangers FC)	2x Adult Football 11v11	Available-Secured	Standard	4	2 Match Slots Available	This site is used by Berwick Rangers FC. Both pitches are of standard quality but suffer from poor drainage in parts. Club would like to improve drainage on these parts of the site as well as identify areas of land that the club can expand the car park into. There is an NFA priority to the development of a 3G AGP at Alnwick, which (although 40 minutes' drive from Berwick) is more centrally located within the North sub area and would be significantly closer than any other facility for Berwick based clubs. Shielfield Park is considered one of the candidates for this investment.
Shilbottle Colliery Welfare Recreation Ground	1x Adult Football 11v11	Available-Secured	Good	2.5	0.5 Match Slot Available	This site is used by Shilbottle Colliery Welfare FC. Issues with dog fouling on site have been identified and need to be addressed by providing dedicated bins and signage on site. The pitches are, however, in good condition.

Site Name	Pitch Supply	Community Use of Site	Assessment Rating	Capacity Balance (Supply - Demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
St James Park	1x Adult Football 11v11	Available-Secured	Standard	0.5	0.5 Match Slot Available	<p>This site is used by Alnwick Town FC. The clubhouse facility isn't adequate to the club's requirements and they would like to improve them. The site has been identified as a good candidate site for a full sized, floodlit 3G AGP. Although the site is privately owned the resident club, Alnwick Town FC has 25 years secured use of the site. The site's proximity to The Duchess's Community High School could help it to maximise use during the off-peak period (subject to a formal agreement). The site also neighbours the Willowburn Sports and Leisure Centre which could be used to help manage the bookings of the site for a portion of the revenue. Finally, the site has floodlighting and is self-contained so should have few issues gaining planning permission.</p>
St Mary's Church of England Middle School	1x Adult Football 11v11	Not available	Poor	1	1 Match Slots Available	<p>The site is not used by the community but is used by the school for matches, training, physical education and other activity. Issues with subsidence and sloping have been identified on site. These need to be addressed to ensure the site provides adequate provision.</p>
St Paul's Rcva Middle School	1x Youth Football 11v11	Not available	Standard	2	1 Match Slots Available	<p>The site is not used by the community but is used by the school for matches, training, physical education and other activity. The ancillary facilities have been identified as requiring renovation, along with establishing greater maintenance provision of the site to improve the overall site quality score. Although there is potential interest to host community teams, they would not have access to the changing rooms.</p>

Site Name	Pitch Supply	Community Use of Site	Assessment Rating	Capacity Balance (Supply - Demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
The Swan Centre for Leisure	1x Adult Football 11v11 1x 3G AGP	Available-Secured	Standard	1.5 (1 with informal demand included)	0.5 Match Slot Available for Adult 11v11 AGP is open for 40hrs per week during peak time	Poor drainage has been identified on the grass pitch. There is also a need to improve the quality of the 3G AGP on site also, and there is potential to expand to a full-size facility. The ancillary facilities are also old and in poor condition.
Tweedmouth Community Middle School	1x Youth Football 9v9	Available-Unsecured	Poor	1	1 Match Slots Available for Youth 9v9	The site is occasionally used for local tournaments, however there is no formal community use on this site. The site is considered poor quality with low maintenance. There are no changing facilities accessibility to the community.
Westfield Park	4 2x Adult Football 11v11 1x Youth Football 9v9 1x AGP 3G	Available-Secured	Good – Adult 11v11 Standard- 3G AGP	-1 -2.5 Youth 11v11 +3 Youth 9v9 -1 Mini Soccer 7v7 -0.5 Mini Soccer 5v5	At Capacity for Youth 11v11 AGP is open for 40hrs per week during peak time	This site is used by Longhoughton Rangers Juniors for 10 of their sides. The club's lease on the ground is coming to the end of its time-frame and needs to be renewed to ensure its continued use for community football. There has been significant investment in the site and the quality of provision is good.

Site Name	Pitch Supply	Community Use of Site	Assessment Rating	Capacity Balance (Supply - Demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Windmill Field	1x Adult Football 11v11	Available-Unsecured	Standard	1.5	0.5 Match Slot Available	This site is used by Craster Rovers for their one adult male side. The pitch was in standard condition with a notice to deter informal usage. The ancillary is located across the road.
Wooler F.C	1x Adult Football 11v11	Available-Secured	Good	2.5	0.5 Match Slot Available for Adult 11v11	This site is used by Wooler FC. The ancillary provision on site is currently storage containers and the club would like more permanent structure in the future. Otherwise the pitch is in good condition with good drainage and volunteers carrying out maintenance.

Table 3.16: Northumberland Football Facilities Site-by-Site Analysis – South East sub area

Site Name	Pitch Supply	Community Use of Site	Assessment Rating	Capacity Balance (Supply - Demand)	Peak time capacity	Site Summary
Alexandra Park	2x Adult Football 11v11	Available-Secured	Standard	3 (2.5 with informal demand included)	1 Match Slots Available	The site is used by Cramlington Green FC for their two adult sides. Improved maintenance could increase the pitch quality score. One of the pitches appears to have temporary goals.

Site Name	Pitch Supply	Community Use of Site	Assessment Rating	Capacity Balance (Supply - Demand)	Peak time capacity	Site Summary
Ann Welfare Playing Fields	3 1x Adult Football 11v11 1x Youth Football 11v11 1x Mini Soccer 7v7	Available-Secured	Good	8.5 (8 with informal demand included) +1.5 Youth Football 11v11 +4 Mini Soccer 7v7	1 Match Slots Available for Adult 11v11 0.5 Match Slot Available for Youth 9v9 At Capacity for Mini 7v7	The site is used by Cramlington Juniors FC for nine junior sides. Issues of poor drainage have been identified on the site. Games are cancelled on a regular basis during peak season also, consequently carrying capacity could be improved. Despite the slope, the majority of the issues are on the top field, meaning the issue could relate to collapsed drains. The clubhouse is managed by the club and has adequate provision despite being built over 40 years ago.
Ashington Community Football Club	1x Adult Football 11v11	Available-Secured	Standard	1	At Capacity	The site is used by Ashington FC, one adult male side, and Ashington Colliers, one adult male side also. Poor drainage has been identified on site situated where the new the stand has been constructed. This means that the pitch is rarely used by the wider community. Predominantly only used by the first team. The club have expressed an interest in expanding the youth section site/pitch. This would likely mean extra provision being found elsewhere. This site has been considered as a potential site for a new 3G AGP, however, Ashington sits within a 20-minute drive time of 3 AGPs (Hirst Welfare Centre, Northumberland Academy and Blyth Academy).
Ashington Community High School	3x Adult Football 11v11 1x 3G AGP	Available-Unsecured	Standard	5.5	2.5 Match Slots Available for Adult 11v11 AGP is open for 40hrs per week during peak time	The site is used by Ellington Juniors, one U15 side, and Woodhorn Lane Over 40s, one adult male side. Poor drainage on the site has been identified which impacts significantly on the club's use of the pitches. The club has reported a desire for a new drainage system at the ground to eradicate issues of standing water and enhance the quality of pitch on site. The AGP is small and suitable for 7v7 only and, therefore, it cannot supplement 11v11 supply.

Site Name	Pitch Supply	Community Use of Site	Assessment Rating	Capacity Balance (Supply - Demand)	Peak time capacity	Site Summary
Ashington Rugby Club	1x Adult Football 11v11	Available-Secured	Good	2	At Capacity	The site is used by Ellington Juniors for two adult sides which is leased to them by the rugby club. Poor drainage has been identified as an issue at the site. Maintenance is carried out by volunteers and there is a clubhouse with bar on site.
Astley Community High School	2 1x Adult Football 11v11 1x Youth Football 11v11	Available-Unsecured	Standard	4 +2 Adult Football 11v11 +2 Youth Football 11v11	1 Match Slots Available for Adult 11v11 1 Match Slots Available for Youth 11v11	The site is used by the school for PE and football matches. Along with this, the school has a lot of community use from a local football team. The pitches are of below average quality, attributed to overplaying on the site. In addition, the pitches struggle with poor drainage and the ancillary facilities are poor.
Bates Welfare	1x Adult Football 11v11	Available-Secured	Standard	2 (1.5 with informal demand included)	1 Match Slots Available	The site has no formal football demand, however it is a key site for cricket in the area, being the home of Bates Cottages CC.
Bede Academy (North)	1x 3G AGP	Available-Unsecured	Standard	AGP is open for 40hrs per week during peak time		The site is not used by the community but is used by the school for matches, training, PE and other activity. The AGP is of good quality, and is used well by the school, the site consultation did not reveal any immediate development plans.

Site Name	Pitch Supply	Community Use of Site	Assessment Rating	Capacity Balance (Supply - Demand)	Peak time capacity	Site Summary
Bedlington Terriers FC Ground	1x Adult Football 11v11	Available-Secured	Good	2.5	0.5 Match Slots Available	<p>This site is also known as Dr. Pit Park and is home to Bedlington Terriers C.I.C. The maintenance is carried out by volunteers.</p> <p>The pitch has floodlights but these do not work. The ancillary buildings are in poor condition and in need of investment and improvement. In particular the roof is not weather proof. There is artificial drainage for the pitch but this no longer works.</p>
Bedlingtonshire Community School	4 2x Youth Football 11v11 2x Mini Soccer 7v7	Available-Secured	Standard	2.5 -0.5 Adult Football 11v11 +3 Youth 11v11 Football	0.5 Match Slots Available for Youth 11v11 2 Match Slots Available for Mini 7v7	<p>This site is home to Bedlington Town FC for their three junior and one adult side. The site is over capacity for Adult 11v11 Football however has spare capacity for Youth 11v11 Football.</p> <p>The maintenance of pitches has been identified to be adequate on the site.</p>
Blyth New Delaval First School	1x Mini Soccer 7v7	Available-Unsecured	Standard	4	1 Match Slots Available	<p>The site is not used by the community but is used by the school for matches, training, PE and other activity. This site has good grass condition and a flat surface with no drainage issues.</p>
Blyth Spartans Juniors	3 1x Youth Football 11v11 1x Youth Football 9v9 1x Mini Soccer 7v7	Available-Secured	Standard	-2 -2 Youth Football 11v11 0 Youth Football 9v9 +2 Mini Soccer 7v7 -2 Mini Soccer 5v5	At Capacity	<p>The site is used by Blakelaw Social FC for their 10 sides, and Blyth Spartans Juniors for their 10 sides also. The club has plans to expand the current ancillary facility in order to create a multipurpose function room to better support its activities.</p> <p>The club have expressed a desire to produce and use more pitches, but there is a lack of available space on the current site to do so.</p>

Site Name	Pitch Supply	Community Use of Site	Assessment Rating	Capacity Balance (Supply - Demand)	Peak time capacity	Site Summary
Bothal Primary School	3 1x Youth Football 9v9 2x Mini Soccer 7v7	Available-Unsecured	Standard	10 +2 Youth 9v9 Football +8 Mini Soccer 7v7	1 Match Slots Available for Youth 9v9 2 Match Slots Available for Mini 7v7	The site is not used by the community but is used by the school for matches, training, PE and other activity. The school is open to accommodating community use. There is a need to increase the quality of maintenance provision to address issues such as grass length of the pitches. It is also evident that the drainage on the mini pitches is poor.
Broadway Field	2 1x Adult Football 11v11 1x Mini Soccer 7v7	Available-Secured	Standard	5 (4.5 with informal demand included) +1.5 Adult Football 11v11 +3.5 Mini Soccer 7v7	0.5 Match Slots Available for Adult 11v11 0.5 Match Slots Available for Mini Soccer	This site is being used by Blyth Rangers U10s and Real Waterloo Blyth for their adult male side. Site has a new clubhouse facility which is of very good condition, the football pitches themselves are of average condition. There is scope to improve the pitch maintenance to improve the quality of provision.
Burnside Primary School	2 1x Youth 11v11 1x Youth 9v9	Available-Unsecured	Standard	2 +2 Youth 11v11 +1 Youth Football 9v9 -1 Mini Soccer 7v7	1 Match Slots Available for Youth 11v At Capacity for Youth 9v9 11	This site is being used by Northburn Wanderers FC for four junior sides who lease it on a rolling, yearly basis. Grass length and poor drainage are reported as key quality issues on the site. The pitches are maintained by an external contractor every 2 weeks. There are no changing rooms on the site.
Collingwood Road	1x Adult Football 11v11	Available-Secured	Poor	1 (0.5 with informal demand included)	1 Match Slots Available	There is no formal demand from community clubs at this site. There is no clubhouse and limited on road parking, along with a pitch in poor quality. There is a considerable amount of tire marks across the pitch also. The site has space to add additional pitches if required.

Site Name	Pitch Supply	Community Use of Site	Assessment Rating	Capacity Balance (Supply - Demand)	Peak time capacity	Site Summary
Cowpen Park	2x Adult Football 11v11	Available-Secured	Standard	3 (2.5 with informal demand included)	1 Match Slots Available	<p>The site is used by Blyth FC and Bebside Inn FC for their adult male sides.</p> <p>Despite the levelling and reseeding that occurred in 2015, this has had minimal impact on the quality of the site. Therefore, enhanced maintenance is required to increase the quality of the pitches.</p> <p>In consultation with the FA, AFC Newbiggin are understood to be in the process of adding a changing ancillary facility to the site to use in conjunction with the Newbiggin Welfare site across the road.</p>
Crag Park	1x Adult Football	Available-Secured	Standard	1.5 (1 with informal demand included)	0.5 Match Slots Available	<p>The site is used by The Tavern Blyth FC.</p> <p>The existing ancillary requires refurbishment, with particular reference to the installation of a new ancillary roof and new showers. The site has limited car parking available.</p>
Cragside CofE Controlled Primary School	1x Youth Football 9v9	Available-Unsecured	Poor	1	1 Match Slots Available	<p>The site is not used by the community but is used by the school for matches, training, PE and other activity. Pitch maintenance on site needs improvement to mitigate the poor drainage on some pitches. There are no changing rooms present on the site.</p>
Cramlington Kramel First School	1x Youth Football 9v9	Available-Secured	Standard	2	1 Match Slots Available	<p>The site is used by the school for matches, training, PE and other activity, along with four junior sides at Cramlington Juniors FC.</p> <p>Dog fouling has been identified as a key issue on site, this is particularly importance as the site has a Mini Soccer 9v9 pitch. This problem can be limited through installing bins and signage and stressing the importance of responsible dog ownership to reduce the issue of dog fouling on this site.</p>

Site Name	Pitch Supply	Community Use of Site	Assessment Rating	Capacity Balance (Supply - Demand)	Peak time capacity	Site Summary
Croft Park (Blyth Spartans FC)	1x Adult Football 11v11 1x3G AGP	Not available	Good-Adult Football 11v11 Standard-3G AGP	3	Not Available	The site is used by Blyth Spartans FC. There is limited community use other than this on the site but is used annually for Sunday League cup finals and charity events. The site is of good enough quality to allow the team to be promoted into the National League and appears to be sufficient for the club's current needs. There is no additional space for expanding provision at this site.
Druridge Bay Middle School	1x Adult Football 11v11	Available-Unsecured	Poor	1	1 Match Slots Available	The site is not used by the community but is used by the school for matches, training, PE and other activity. Poor drainage and long grass length have been identified as key issues on site. In particular the condition of the smaller pitch is poor but this is likely because it is currently unused. Better maintenance would increase the carrying capacity of the site.
Eastfield Playing Field	3x Adult Football 11v11	Available-Secured	Standard	-0.5 (-1 with informal demand included) +5.5 Adult 11v11 Football -5 Youth 11v11 Football -1 Youth 9v9	2.5 Match Slots Available for Adult 11v11 At Capacity for Youth 11v11	The site is used by Cramlington United Juniors for twelve junior sides and one adult side. There are issues with residents driving cars and bikes on the pitch causing track marks which is coupled with frequent evidence of dog fouling. Currently there are no preventative measures in place to combat either issue. To the east of the site there is additional room to accommodate additional pitches.

Site Name	Pitch Supply	Community Use of Site	Assessment Rating	Capacity Balance (Supply - Demand)	Peak time capacity	Site Summary
Eleventh Avenue Track	1x Adult Football 11v11	Available-Secured	Poor	0.5 (0.0 with informal demand included)	0.5 Match Slot Available	The site is used by High Street Blyth FC for their one adult side. Both the ancillary and the pitch are considered in need of investment. The pitch is also one of the worse ranked within the sub area, therefore collaboration will be needed around improving this element also.
Gallagher Park	5 1x Adult Football 11v11 3x Mini Soccer 7v7 1x Mini Soccer 5v5	Available-Secured	Standard	14 (13.5 with informal demand included) +1.5 Adult 11v11 Football +10 Mini 7v7 Soccer +2.5 Mini Soccer 5v5	0.5 Match Slots Available for Adult 11v11 1 Match Slots Available for Mini 7v7 At Capacity for Mini 5v5	The site is used by Bedlington Social Club for seven junior sides and one adult side. A large site with a good level of football provision, there is a modern clubhouse facility and good parking available. The site consultation did not reveal any immediate development plans.
Grange View Church of England First School	2x Mini Soccer 7v7	Available-Unsecured	Standard	8	2 Match Slots Available	The site is not used by the community but is used by the school for matches, training, PE and other activity. The pitches do not have permanent goals and the temporary goals are stored in a locked building when not in use. A key issue raised was the school's willingness to be community accessible, however, demand is low for 7v7 pitches. There is additional space to reconfigure the pitches to have larger pitches if required.

Site Name	Pitch Supply	Community Use of Site	Assessment Rating	Capacity Balance (Supply - Demand)	Peak time capacity	Site Summary
Guide Post Middle School	4 1x Youth Football 11v11 1x Youth Football 9v9 2x Mini Soccer 7v7	Available-Unsecured	Standard	12 +2 Youth Football 11v11 +2 Youth Football 9v9 + 8 Mini Soccer 7v7	1 Match Slots Available for Youth 11v11 1 Match Slots Available for Youth 9v9 1 Match Slots Available for Mini 7v7	The site is not used by the community but is used by the school for matches, training, PE and other activity. Limited maintenance on site and drainage issues are identified as key issues for this site.
Hillcrest School	2x Mini Soccer 7v7	Available-Unsecured	Poor	4	2 Match Slots Available	The site is being used by Cramlington United Juniors for their two U10 sides. Drainage and grass length are considered the key issues at this site. In addition, creating safer access down to the pitches is of importance due to the age of the people using this site.
Hirst Park	1x Adult Football 11v11	Available-Secured	Standard	2	1 Match Slots Available	The site does not have any formal community access here. The pitch used to experience issues with waterlogging but there has been recent work to improve the drainage. An ancillary building was being built at time of the visit which will provide changing provision for teams using the site.
Hirst Welfare Centre	3 1x Adult Football 11v11 1x Youth Football 9v9 1x Mini Soccer 7v7	Available-Secured	Good	-5.5 0 Adult Football 11v11 -6.5 Youth 11v11 Football +2 Youth 9v9 Football	At Capacity for all pitch types	This is a key site in the area which is used by 33 sides across five clubs. The site is overplayed significantly and this is particularly true of the adult, youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 pitches. The NFA has confirmed a new changing block is to be built on the site to support its continued use. No further developments have been identified for the site

Site Name	Pitch Supply	Community Use of Site	Assessment Rating	Capacity Balance (Supply - Demand)	Peak time capacity	Site Summary
	1x3G AGP			+4 Mini Soccer 7v7 -1 Mini Soccer 5v5		
Holywell Village First School	2 1x Mini Soccer 7v7 1x Mini Soccer 5v5	Available-Unsecured	Standard	8 +4 Mini Soccer 7v7 +4 Mini Soccer 5v5	1 Match Slots Available for Mini 7v7 1 Match Slots Available for Mini 5v5	The site is not used by the community but is used by the school for matches, training, PE and other activity. The site scored poorly on the grass pitch aspect of facility element test. The site requires increased pitch maintenance to improve the site quality.
Isabella Road	1x Adult Football 11v11	Available-Secured	Poor	1	1 Match Slots Available	There is currently no community use at this site. The ancillary is in very poor condition and currently unused due to the water system being condemned. There is significant overplay in this sub area. If this site were improved, it would help to attract users and to spread demand more evenly. Car parking at the site is limited.
James Calvert Spence College (Acklington Road)	4 1x Adult Football 11v11 2x Youth Football 11v11 1x Youth	Available-Unsecured	Standard	8	1 Match Slots Available for Adult 11v11 2 Match Slots Available for Youth 11v11 1 Match Slots Available for Youth 9v9	The site is being used by the school for matches, training, PE and other activity along with being used by F.C. Amble Juniors for three junior sides. The club has a rolling yearly agreement. The school caretaker cuts the grass but little other maintenance is done on the pitches. Drainage at the site is poor, possible as the field drains have been blocked for a number of years. The school has their own changing rooms but these are not opened for community use. However, the Amble Welfare Club next door is used for changing provision.

Site Name	Pitch Supply	Community Use of Site	Assessment Rating	Capacity Balance (Supply - Demand)	Peak time capacity	Site Summary
	Football 9v9					
Lynemouth Welfare	3 2x Adult Football 11v11 1x Youth Football 9v9	Available-Secured	Standard	5.5 (5 with informal demand included) +4 – Adult 11v11 Football 0.5	2 Match Slots Available for Adult 11v11 0.5 Match Slots Available for Youth 9v9	The site is used by Ellington Juniors FC. The clubhouse is old and will need refurbishment in the near future. One of the adult football pitches has an overmarked junior pitch. The pitches are standard quality but there are no particular issues with them.
Meadowdale Academy	3 1x Youth Football 11v11 2x Youth Football 9v9	Available-Unsecured	Standard	0.5 -0.5 Youth 11v11 Football +3 Youth 9v9 -1 Mini Soccer 7v7 -1 Mini Soccer 5v5	At Capacity for Youth 11v11 1 Match Slots Available for Youth 9v9	The site is used by Bedlington Juniors for their eleven junior teams, as well as being used as a central venue for annual area finals. The school are looking to develop a pavilion on site to provide changing rooms, toilets and a kitchen area, which would be available for use by community clubs.
Mowbray Primary School	1x Youth Football 9v9	Available-Unsecured	Standard	2	1 Match Slots Available for Youth 9v9	The site is being used by the school for matches, training, PE and other activities. Although there are no drainage issues, the pitch is on a minor slope. No developments plans were identified for the site.

Site Name	Pitch Supply	Community Use of Site	Assessment Rating	Capacity Balance (Supply - Demand)	Peak time capacity	Site Summary
New Delaval and Newsham Miners Welfare Park	2x Adult Football 11v11	Available-Secured	Standard	3.5 (3 with informal demand included)	1.5 Match Slots Available	The site is being used Newsham Victory FC. There is a need for new goal posts at this site. It is also suggested that the club configures the second Adult 11v11 Football pitch into a Youth 11v11 Football pitch. This would help to meet the unmet demand Blyth Spartans Juniors site and also means that this site is utilised to a greater extent. There are no ancillary facilities or car parking at the site.
New Hartley Park	2x Adult Football 11v11	Available-Secured	Standard	3 (2.5 with informal demand included)	1 Match Slots Available	This site is being used by New Hartley Juniors and Seaton Delaval Juniors for one junior side each. The car park is quite limited and the goal posts are in poor condition.
Newbiggin Welfare	2x Adult Football 11v11	Available-Unsecured	Poor	0.5 (0.0 with informal demand included)	0.5 Match Slots Available	This site is being used by A.F.C Newbiggin for their two adult sides and also Guidepost Shakespeare Tavern FC. Evidence of dog fouling, tire tracks and animals on the pitch. There are no preventative measures on site at present. AFC Newbiggin are planning on reconfiguring the pitches to allow for 1x adult 11v11, a youth 9v9 and a mini 7v7 pitch. This, coupled with the plans for the new ancillary facility at the neighbouring Collingwood Road site, means this site is expected to receive more play in the future.
Northburn Sports and Community Centre	6 1x Adult Football 2x Youth Football 9v9	Available-Secured	Good- Adult Football 11v11 Poor- Youth Football 9v9 Mini Soccer 7v7	6.5 +2 Adult 11v11 Football -0.5 Youth 11v11 Football +1 Youth 9v9 Football +4 Mini Soccer 7v7 Football	At Capacity for Adult and Youth 11v11 1 Match Slots Available for Youth 9v9 0.5 Match Slots	The site is being used by Cramlington United Juniors for nine teams. The site is council-owned but managed by Active Northumberland and the football club are responsible for pitch maintenance. The club recently increased the amount spent on maintenance. Poor drainage persists on site despite Cramlington United investing in the maintenance of the pitch. Anti-social behaviour is an issue at the site, evidenced by damaged to pitch fencing. Improved fencing may be required to address this issue.

Site Name	Pitch Supply	Community Use of Site	Assessment Rating	Capacity Balance (Supply - Demand)	Peak time capacity	Site Summary
	3x Mini Soccer 7v7				Available for Mini 7v7	Changing facilities were built in 2005. The senior pitch has floodlights, railings and dugouts. It is used by senior men's and women's teams.
Northumberland C of E Academy (Grace Darling Campus)	4 1x Adult Football 11v11 2x Youth Football 11v11 1x Youth Football 9v9	Available-Unsecured	Standard	2 +3 Youth 11v11 Football +1 Youth 9v9 Football -1 Mini Soccer 7v7 -1 Mini Soccer 5v5	1 Match Slots Available for Youth 11v11 At Capacity for Youth 9v9	The site is being used by A.F.C Newbiggin and Newbiggin Juniors for eight junior sides. As well as the pitches there is a designated training area. All drains have collapsed under the pitches and there are issues with molehills. Some teams have been interested in building changing rooms at the site but funds could not be secured to do so.
Northumberland C of E Academy (Josephine Butler Campus)	5 1x Adult Football 11v11 1x Youth Football 11v11 2x Youth Football 9v9 1x Mini Soccer 7v7 1x 3G AGP	Available-Secured	Standard	3.5 +0.5 Youth 11v11 +2 Youth 9v9 +2.5 Mini Soccer 7v7 -1.5 Mini Soccer 5v5	At Capacity for All Pitch Types AGP is open for 40hrs per week during peak time	The site is being used by Ashington Town for fourteen sides. The site currently lacks a Mini Soccer 5v5 pitch so there is a need to ensure portable goals are available to make this pitch type available (via overmarking of larger mitch types).

Site Name	Pitch Supply	Community Use of Site	Assessment Rating	Capacity Balance (Supply - Demand)	Peak time capacity	Site Summary
Northumberland College Sports Hall (Ashington Campus) (Closed)	1x Adult Football 11v11	Available - Unsecured	Poor	0 +1 Adult 11v11 Football -1 Youth 11v11 Football	At Capacity for Youth 11v11	The pitches are identified as poor and require improvement. There is on adult 11v11 pitch present and the provision is at capacity.
Peoples Park	2x Adult Football 11v11	Available-Secured	Standard	2 (1.5 with informal demand included) .5 Adult 11v11 Football -0.5 Youth 11v11 Football	0.5 Match Slot Available for Adult 11v11	The site is home to Ashington R.A.O.B (one adult male side), Ashington Sporting Club (one adult male side), Ashington Station Lounge (one adult male side) and also Ellington Juniors (U13). There are no changing rooms on site and users are currently using a neighbouring school's changing provision. Providing changing rooms would increase the appeal and user experience of the site.
Red Row Welfare	2x Adult Football 11v11	Available-Secured	Standard	3	1 Match Slot Available	The site is used by Red Row Welfare for two adult male sides and Ellington Plough for one adult male side. There is no evidence with any issues with either of the pitches. There is a good amount of car parking at the site and it is large enough to add an additional two pitches if necessary.
Seaton Sluice Middle School	2 1x Adult Football 11v11 1x Mini Soccer 7v7	Available-Unsecured	Standard	6 +2 Adult 11v11 Football +4 Mini Soccer 7v7 Football	1 Match Slot Available for Adult 11v11 0.5 Match Slot Available for Mini 7v7	The site is not used by the community but is used by the school for matches, training, PE and other activity. No development plans have been identified in the survey.

Site Name	Pitch Supply	Community Use of Site	Assessment Rating	Capacity Balance (Supply - Demand)	Peak time capacity	Site Summary
Seghill Welfare Park	1x Adult Football 11v11	Available-Secured	Standard	1.5 (1 with informal demand included)	0.5 Match Slot Available	The site is used by Seghill Village FC. Pitch quality has been identified as requiring improvement on site. No other developments have been revealed as part of the survey.
South Beach	2x Adult Football 11v11	Available-Secured	Poor	1	1 Match Slot Available	The site is used by Blyth Town Sunday FC and South Beach Community FC. The grass pitch facility element score for this site is poor. Further maintenance is needed on site to improve the site's quality and make it an attractive facility for local clubs to use.
South Newsham Park	3 1x Youth Football 11v11 1x Youth Football 9v9 1x Adult Football	Available-Secured	Good- Adult Football 11v11 Standard- Youth Football 9v9 and Youth Football 11v11	-7 +1.5 Adult 11v11 Football -1.5 Youth 11v11 Football -1 Youth 9v9 -4 Mini Soccer 7v7 -2 Mini Soccer 5v5	At Capacity for All Pitch Types	The site is being used by Blyth Town juniors for twenty-five sides, and Blyth Town First Team LTD for three adult sides along with Blyth Town 'A'. The senior pitch is used for matches only and has floodlights, dugouts, fencing and a main stand. Improved pitch quality through enhanced maintenance had been identified as a priority for this site, particularly on the pitches on the far side of the site. This could help to increase the carrying capacity at the site as it is overplayed at present. The youth pitches also appear to suffer from poor drainage.

Site Name	Pitch Supply	Community Use of Site	Assessment Rating	Capacity Balance (Supply - Demand)	Peak time capacity	Site Summary
Sporting Club Cramlington	7 3x Adult Football 11v11 1x Youth Football 11v11 3x Mini Soccer 7v7	Available-Secured	Good	15.5 +5.5 Adult 11v11 Provision -2.5 Youth 11v11 Football -2 Youth 9v9 Football +15.5 Mini Soccer 7v7 Football -1 Mini Soccer 5v5	At Capacity for Adult and Youth 11v11 0.5 Match Slot Available for Mini 7v7	<p>The site is being used by Ashington Sporting Club (two male sides), Cramlington Brockwell Seam (one adult male side), Cramlington Town (three adult male side), Cramlington Town Juniors (twenty-six junior sides), Cramlington Village S.C (one adult male side), Marden Over 40s (one adult side) along with Morpeth Town Juniors for their three adult sides.</p> <p>The site is key to the area due to the number of teams using the pitches. Despite the amount of games that this site hosts, the quality of the pitches and ancillary are one of the highest in the sub area.</p>
St Benet Biscop High School	4 1x Adult Football 11v11 1x Youth Football 9v9 2x Mini Soccer 7v7	Available-Unsecured	Poor	-1 -2 Youth 11v11 Football 0 Youth 9v9 Football +2 Mini Soccer 7v7 -1 Mini Soccer 5v5	At Capacity for Youth 11v11 and 9v9 2 Match Slots Available for Mini 7v7	<p>This site is being used by Bedlington Town FC and Juniors for twelve sides.</p> <p>The site suffers from poor drainage despite recent aeration to the pitches. The current ancillary is of an unsatisfactory nature and does not cater for the needs of the club, as it does not open on weekends.</p> <p>The club are looking to fund additional changing facilities and a pavilion to improve the experience of users.</p>
Stakeford & Bomarsund Sports & Welfare Centre	2 1x Youth Football 11v11 1x Youth Football	Available-Secured	Good	4.5 +2.5 Youth 11v11 Football +3 Youth 9v9 Football -1 Mini Soccer	At Capacity for Youth 11v11 and Youth 9v9 AGP is open for 40hrs per week during peak time	<p>This site is being used by Stakeford CSC Juniors for seven junior side. The pitches are in good condition with no apparent issues. The 3G pitch is small sided and capable of 5 a side use only.</p> <p>The club reported a need for an extension to the clubhouse with a viewing area and extra car parking spaces.</p>

Site Name	Pitch Supply	Community Use of Site	Assessment Rating	Capacity Balance (Supply - Demand)	Peak time capacity	Site Summary
	9v9 1x 3G			7v7		
Stobswood Welfare Recreation Ground	2x Adult Football 11v11	Available-Secured	Standard	-0.5 +4 Adult 11v11 Football -2.5 Youth 11v11 Football -1 Youth 9v9 Football -1 Mini Soccer 7v7	2 Match Slots Available for Adult 11v11 At Capacity for Youth 11v11	This site is being used by Stobswood Welfare FC for their one adult male side. The existing ancillary scored poorly and is in need of renovation. Enhanced maintenance is could to improve carrying capacity on the site.
The Blyth Academy	3 2x Youth Football 11v11 1x Youth Football 9v9 1x 3G AGP	Available-Secured	Standard	6 +4 Youth 11v11 Football +2 Youth 9v9 Standard	2 Match Slots Available for Youth 11v11 1 Match Slots Available for Youth 9v9 AGP is open for 40hrs per week during peak time	The site is not used by the community but is used by the school for matches, training, PE and other activity. A more suitable maintenance regime is required for the site as the pitches do not currently score well and the school reported during consultation that the grass pitches are overused in the winter. The 3G AGP suffers from evidence of antisocial behaviour including burns in the surface and to removal parts of the surface. The school raised the issue that they would like higher fencing for the 3G pitch and that they are currently in the process of applying for grants for CCTV and alarm systems.

Site Name	Pitch Supply	Community Use of Site	Assessment Rating	Capacity Balance (Supply - Demand)	Peak time capacity	Site Summary
West Lea	1x Youth Football 11v11	Available-Secured	Standard	2 (1.5 with informal demand included)	1 Match Slots Available for Youth 11v11	The site is not used by the community at present. However, it is recommended that the improvements to the pitch occur in order to attract this demand.
Wheatridge Park	1x Adult Football 11v11	Available-Secured	Standard	1 +1.5 Adult 11v11 Football -0.5 Youth 11v11 Football	0.5 Match Slot Available for Adult 11v11	The site is used by Seaton Delaval A.F.C for their one adult male side, and Seaton Delaval Dynamos for one junior side. Due to the site scoring poorly on the pitch score and the site being over overplayed for youth 11v11 football. Due to the ownership type of this land, and the developments on sites in close proximity to this one, the club are looking to find a site that can accommodate the club currently and has capacity for the club to expand.
Whytrig Community Middle School	1x Youth Football 9v9	Available-Unsecured	Poor	0.5 -0.5 Youth 11v11 Football +1 Youth 9v9 Football	0.5 Match Slot Available for Adult 11v11	The site is used by the school for matches, training, PE and other activity. Along with this, the site is used by Seaton Delaval Dynamos FC for three junior sides. A significant number of games were cancelled last season due to poor drainage and consequently impacted upon the capacity of the site during peak times. Improved maintenance and aeration of the pitches would help improve this. Acts of vandalism have been reported as common on the site. There have been issues with the old-school building, with it being broken into and damaged.

Table 3.17: Northumberland Football Facilities Site-by-Site Analysis – West sub area

Site Name	Pitch Supply	Community use on site	Assessment Rating	Capacity Balance (Supply - Demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
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Bardon Mill Playing Fields	1x Adult 11v11 Football	Available-Secured	Standard	+1.5	0.5 Match Slot Available	The pitch is used by Bardon Mill Bowes Lyons FC for their adult male side. It is standard quality but no particular issues were identified. The clubhouse is old and there is limited car parking available at the site.
Bellingham Middle School and College	1x Adult 11v11 Football	Available-Unsecured	Poor	+0.5	0.5 Match Slot Available	The pitch is used by Bellingham Rose and Crown FC for their one adult male side. Improved maintenance would increase the site's quality to an adequate level. The goal posts on site are also identified as requiring replacement. The club have expressed an interest to move ground, due to the poor standard of this site. No development plans were identified as part of this survey.
Cattonlea Haugh	3 1x Adult 11v11 Football 1x Youth 9v9 Football 1x Mini Soccer 7v7	Available-Secured	Good- Youth 9v9 Football, Mini Soccer 7v7 Standard- Adult Football 11v11	+9 +2 Adult 11v11 Football -0.5 Youth 11v11 Football +4 Youth 9v9 Football +5.5 Mini Soccer 7v7 -1.5 Mini Soccer 5v5	1 Match Slot Available for Adult 11v11 0.5 Match Slot Available for Mini 7v7	It is used by Allendale Sports Club for five junior sides. The site has had previous funding from Sport England and the Football Foundation. The pitches are maintained by volunteers. The quality of the Adult 11v11 Football pitch on site requires improvement. This pitch scores significantly lower than the other pitches and is unplayable for large parts of the season, consequently greatly reducing the carrying capacity at this site. There is an adequate level of changing provision and car parking and the ancillary building also has a kitchen.

Dalla Haugh Football Field	1x Adult 11v11 Football	Available-Secured	Standard	+1.5	0.5 Match Slot Available	<p>The site is used by Barrasford FC for one adult male side.</p> <p>There is a need identified to renovate and extend the current ancillary facilities to incorporate changing rooms. The goal posts have been deemed to be unsafe and in need of replacement.</p>
Hadrian Works	2 1x Adult 11v11 Football 1x Mini Soccer 7v7	Available-Unsecured	Poor	+3 +1 Adult 11v11 Football +2 Mini Soccer 7v7	1 Match Slots Available for Adult 11v11 and Mini 7v7	<p>There is no formal community use on site.</p> <p>Both the pitches and the ancillary score as one of the lowest quality facilities in the sub area. Improvements to these scores can be achieved through enhanced maintenance of grass pitches in conjunction with ancillary renovation.</p>
Haltwhistle Community Campus (Upper School)	1x Adult 11v11 Football	Available-Unsecured	Poor	0	At Capacity	<p>This site is used by Haltwhistle United for their one adult male team. The grass pitch is poor quality which has an impact on the site's carrying capacity. No future developments were identified as part of the survey.</p>

Lowhall Park	<p>5</p> <p>1xAdult 11v11 Football 1xYouth 11v11 Football 1x Mini Soccer 7v7 1xMini Soccer 5v5 1x3G AGP</p>	Available-Secured	Standard	<p>+5.5 +0.5 Youth 11v11 Football -1 Youth 9v9 Football +3 Mini Soccer 7v7 +3 Mini Soccer 5v5</p>	<p>1 Match Slots Available for Adult 11v11</p> <p>5 Match Slots Available for Youth 11v11</p> <p>At Capacity for Mini 7v7 and 5v5</p> <p>AGP is open for 40hrs per week during peak time</p>	<p>This site is used by Haydon Bridge Juniors FC for nine junior sides.</p> <p>Flooding is an issue for the club who have previously struggled due to a nearby river.</p> <p>The club have expressed an interest to expand their current AGP to full-size in order to offset demand, particularly when the grass pitches are waterlogged.</p> <p>The club have expressed a desire to introduce two new junior sides to the club, and consequently would like to expand the site into the fields surrounding in order to increase the carrying capacity of the site.</p>
Rede Tyne & Coquet Sports Centre	<p>2</p> <p>1x Adult 11v11 Football 1x Youth Football 9v9</p>	Available-Secured	Standard	<p>+4 +2 Adult Football 11v11 +2 Youth Football 11v11</p>	<p>1 Match Slots Available for Adult 11v11 and Youth 9v9</p>	<p>There is no formal community demand on this site, however, there is informal use by Otterburn Juniors FC for training camps.</p> <p>There are drainage issues that occur close to the pitch and enhanced drainage at the site would increase carrying capacity. There is also additional space for other pitches if the drainage allowed for more.</p>
Wark Sports Club	<p>4</p> <p>2x Youth Football 9v9 1x Mini Soccer 7v7</p> <p>1x Mini Soccer 5v5</p>	Available-Secured	Standard	<p>+11.5 +4 Youth Football 9v9 +3.5 Mini Soccer 7v7</p> <p>+4 Mini Soccer 5v5</p>	<p>2 Match Slots Available for Youth 11v11</p> <p>0.5 Match Slots Available for Mini 7v7</p> <p>1 Match Slots Available for Mini 5v5</p>	<p>The site is used by Wark Juniors for their U9s side.</p> <p>The pitches appear to be well-maintain and there are no major issues with them. The site previously had an adult pitch but this is no longer marked out due to lack of demand.</p>

CURRENT AND FUTURE POSITIONS

- 3.6.6 Tables 3.18 to 3.27 below shows the balance between supply and demand for sub-area, split by pitch typology. The information gathered in the earlier stages of the project is used to present the current supply and demand position for each pitch typology. The current position is then used to look at the likely future position by incorporating latent/unmet, displaced and future demand.
- 3.6.7 The points below provide further explanation on the terms used within the tables:
- Actual spare capacity: The amount of spare capacity from all pitches during the peak period, quantified in Match Equivalent Sessions (MES).
 - Total overplay: The total amount of overplay for football sites in the area, calculated by adding together the balance from any site that is currently being overplayed and expressed in match equivalent sessions (MES).
 - Current position: The supply and demand position for grass pitch provision, when taking into consideration the extent of spare capacity and then deducting the amount of overplay.
 - Unmet/latent demand: Potential demand that has been identified as not being converted yet. For more information see the latent and unmet demand sections of this needs assessment.
 - Displaced demand: Demand that cannot be satisfied within the local authority, due to a lack of suitable facilities
 - Future demand: The projected growth of demand, calculated using Team Generation Rates and the population projections for each sub-area
 - Future position: The projected supply and demand analysis for 2031, using the current position and taking into consideration the additional demand from unmet, latent, displaced and future (population growth) demand.
- 3.6.8 It should be noted that for each pitch typology, there is one table that takes into account all available sites and a second table which only takes into account sites that are available and secured for community use.
- 3.6.9 The table below shows the current and future position for adult 11v11 grass pitches across the study area, however it is key that this information in the tables is only used as a starting point to help develop the key findings of the assessment work for each pitch type which will inform the strategy, recommendations and action plan. The information in the tables has therefore been used alongside the site by site assessment work, consultation responses and other information gathered, to build a fuller picture of the current and future positions. This detail, which presents the key findings and specific issues for each pitch type, is presented under each respective table and in the key findings section of this assessment report.

Table 3.18: Adult 11v11 analysis for ALL AVAILABLE SITES – all data in Match Equivalent Sessions (MES)

Analysis Area	Actual spare capacity	Total overplay	Current position	Unmet/latent demand	Displaced demand	Future Demand	Future position
Central	51	-1	50	1.5	0	-0.5	49
North	32.5	-1	31.5	0	0	-0.5	32
South East	73	-0.5	72.5	11	0	-6	67.5
West	10.5	-1	9.5	0	0	0	9.5
Northumberland	167	-3.5	163.5	3	0	-1.5	162

- 3.6.10 As a starting point, the table above shows the position for all available sites, however there is adult 11v11 demand currently taking place on unsecured provision across the study area. To provide a detailed analysis on the potential implications of this unsecured provision being lost from the overall pitch stock across the study area, an additional table for each pitch typology is presented that explores the potential impact of losing this pitch provision over the period of the local plan.
- 3.6.11 Table 3.18 illustrates that for adult 11v11 pitch provision, there is currently an overall level of spare capacity in the study area of 163.5 MES. The highest amount of spare capacity exists in the South East sub-area and there is spare capacity throughout the whole study area.
- 3.6.12 The level of spare capacity in both the current and future position is the highest of all pitch typologies in the study area. Despite the high level of spare capacity, it must be taken into account that many parts of Northumberland are principally rural in nature, meaning that pitch provision may only accommodate a small amount of demand, yet this provision may well be the only pitch provision in a village.
- 3.6.13 There is projected to be 162 MES of spare capacity by 2031, meaning there will be an ample amount of supply to cater for future demand.

Table 3.19: Adult 11v11 analysis for ALL AVAILABLE AND SECURED SITES – all data in Match Equivalent Sessions (MES)

Analysis Area	Actual spare capacity	Total overplay	Current position	Unmet/latent demand	Displaced demand	Future Demand	Future position
Central	38.5	-1	37.5	1.5	0	-0.5	36.5
North	31	-1.5	29.5	0	0	-0.5	30
South East	58	-4	54	11	0	-6	49
West	9	-2.5	6.5	0	0	0	6.5
Northumberland	136.5	-9	127.5	3	0	-1.5	126

- 3.6.14 When removing unsecured provision from the analysis, table 3.19 shows that there is a reduction in the amount of spare capacity in both the current position and the future position, reducing to 127.5 MES and 126 MES respectively.
- 3.6.15 The sub area with the highest proportion of unsecured provision is the North, where 52.3% of spare capacity is unsecured for community use. This contributes largely to the decrease in current position in Northumberland from table 3.18 and in table 3.19.

Table 3.20: Youth 11v11 analysis for ALL AVAILABLE SITES – all data in Match Equivalent Sessions (MES)

Analysis Area	Actual spare capacity	Total overlay	Current position	Unmet/latent demand	Displaced demand	Future Demand	Future position
Central	24.5	-18.5	6	3.5	0	-0.5	3
North	8.5	-7.5	1	1	0	0	0
South East	25.5	-24.5	1	4	0	-0.5	-2.5
West	0.5	-0.5	0	0	0	0	0
Northumberland	59	-51	8	9	0	-1	0

- 3.6.16 The analysis presented in Table 3.20 illustrates that for youth 11v11 pitch provision, when adding total overlay, there is enough actual spare capacity currently to meet demand. Throughout the study area and across all sub-areas, there is a current surplus on youth 11v11 pitch provision, apart from in the West sub area which is currently at capacity. When looking at the future position for Youth 11v11 there is expected to be a deficit in the South East sub area with a deficit of 2.5 MES. This deficit has primarily been created from demand created from a large amount of unmet/latent demand attributed to this age group in the South East sub area.
- 3.6.17 The future position for youth 11v11 provision in Northumberland shows that there is predicted to be no spare capacity when taking the study area as a whole. This reduction in spare capacity from the current position occurs despite the fact that there is projected to be a reduction in future demand arising from population changes. The increase in demand comes primarily from unmet/latent demand that was identified.

Table 3.21: Youth 11v11 analysis for ALL AVAILABLE AND SECURED SITES – all data in Match Equivalent Sessions (MES)

Analysis Area	Actual spare capacity	Total overlay	Current position	Unmet/latent demand	Displaced demand	Future Demand	Future position
Central	15.5	-18.5	-3	3.5	0	-0.5	-6
North	4.5	-12.5	-8	1	0	0	-9
South East	13	-28	-15	4	0	-0.5	-18.5
West	0.5	-0.5	0	0	0	0	0
Northumberland	33.5	-59.5	-26	9	0	-1	-34

- 3.6.18 Table 3.21 shows that when analysing only sites that are secured and available for community use, there is a reduction in available capacity in both the current and future positions for Youth 11v11 provision. The current position reduces from a surplus of 8 MES to a deficit of 26 MES. The future position reduces to a deficit of 34 MES.

Table 3.22: Youth 9v9 analysis for ALL AVAILABLE SITES – all data in Match Equivalent Sessions (MES)

Analysis Area	Actual spare capacity	Total overlay	Current position	Unmet/latent demand	Displaced demand	Future Demand	Future position
Central	16.5	-3	13.5	3	0	-0.5	11
North	14	-6	8	1	0	-0.5	7.5
South East	26	-5	21	4	0	-1	18
West	10	-1	9	0	0	0	9
Northumberland	66.5	-15	51.5	8	0	-2	45.5

3.6.19 Table 3.22 illustrates that for youth 9v9 pitch provision, there is a large current surplus when taking into account total overlay in the study area as a whole. This surplus is projected to reduce when incorporating unmet, latent and displaced demand, as well as demand driven by population growth. An overall future surplus is projected in Northumberland of 45.5 MES. The largest future surplus is seen in the South East sub-area with spare capacity of 18 MES.

3.6.20 The level of spare capacity in all sub areas in the current position, combined with a relatively low expected amount of future demand, means that there is enough current provision to accommodate future demand.

Table 3.23: Youth 9v9 analysis for ALL AVAILABLE AND SECURED SITES – all data in Match Equivalent Sessions (MES)

Analysis Area	Actual spare capacity	Total overlay	Current position	Unmet/latent demand	Displaced demand	Future Demand	Future position
Central	12	-4.5	7.5	3	0	-0.5	5
North	8	-6	2	1	0	-0.5	1.5
South East	12	-10.5	1.5	4	0	-1	-1.5
West	10	-1	9	0	0	0	9
Northumberland	42	-22	20	8	0	-2	14

3.6.21 For youth 9v9 provision that is available and secured for community use there is a significant reduction in the current and future position for Northumberland as a whole. The sub area that experiences the greatest decrease in spare capacity is the South East sub area, falling from a surplus position of 18 MES to a position of deficit of 1.5 MES.

Table 3.24: Mini 7v7 analysis for ALL AVAILABLE SITES – all data in Match Equivalent Sessions (MES)

Analysis Area	Actual spare capacity	Total overlay	Current position	Unmet/latent demand	Displaced demand	Future Demand	Future position
Central	58	-1.5	56.5	3	0	-1.5	55
North	7.5	-8.5	-1	1	0	-1	-1
South East	94.5	-9	85.5	1	0	-2.5	87
West	14	0	14	0	0	0	14
Northumberland	174	-19	155	5	0	-5	155

3.6.22

3.6.23 The analysis presented in Table 3.24 illustrates that for mini 7v7 pitch provision there is a large amount of current spare capacity in the South East and Central sub areas. This large surplus in capacity in these two

sub areas make up a large proportion of the overall surplus of 155 MES in Northumberland as a whole for mini 7v7 pitches.

3.6.24 Despite the large current surplus in the overall provision of mini 7v7 pitches in Northumberland, the table identifies areas of deficit in the North sub area of 1 MES.

3.6.25 The future population projections estimate that in all sub-areas as a whole, there is expected to be a decrease of 5 teams. This is the largest decrease arising from population estimates. Despite this, the unmet/latent demand that has been identified offsets this decrease in teams arising from population figures and means there is no change in the future position. The future position for mini 7v7 pitches shows that Northumberland has enough supply to cater for the increases in demand, with spare capacity of 155 MES. This is the second largest amount of spare capacity expected in the future position, when comparing to all other pitch typologies in the study area.

3.6.26

Table 3.25: Mini 7v7 analysis for ALL AVAILABLE AND SECURED SITES – all data in Match Equivalent Sessions (MES)

Analysis Area	Actual spare capacity	Total overplay	Current position	Unmet/latent demand	Displaced demand	Future Demand	Future position
Central	45.5	-5	40.5	3	0	-1.5	39
North	7.5	-8.5	-1	1	0	-1	-1
South East	53.5	-13	40.5	1	0	-2.5	42
West	12	0	12	0	0	0	12
Northumberland	118.5	-26.5	92	5	0	-5	92

3.6.27 Table 3.25 shows that when analysing only sites that are secured and available for community use, there is a reduction in the amount of spare capacity in both the current and future positions for mini 7v7 provision. The future spare capacity projection of 92 MES is the second highest when compared to the other pitch typologies for secured provision, whilst looking at Northumberland as a whole.

Table 3.26: Mini 5v5 analysis for ALL AVAILABLE SITES – all data in Match Equivalent Sessions (MES)

Analysis Area	Actual spare capacity	Total overplay	Current position	Unmet/latent demand	Displaced demand	Future Demand	Future position
Central	8	-2.5	5.5	2.5	0	-1	4
North	2	-7	-5	0	0	0	-5
South East	6.5	-10.5	-4	1	0	-1.5	-3.5
West	7	-1.5	5.5	0	0	0	5.5
Northumberland	23.5	-21.5	2	4	0	-3.5	1.5

3.6.28 Table 3.26 illustrates that for mini 5v5 pitch provision, there is spare capacity across the Central and West sub-areas. This spare capacity in these two sub-areas particularly, leads a small amount of actual spare capacity in the study area of 2 MES. Despite this, there is a deficit in the North and South East sub areas of 5 MES and 4 MES respectively.

3.6.29 When incorporating unmet, latent and displaced demand, as well as demand driven by population growth, it is predicted that there will be a decrease in the amount of spare capacity of 0.5 MES. The largest reduction in spare capacity is seen in the Central sub area.

3.6.30 In the future position, the sub areas of North and South East are expected to retain their position of deficit.

Table 3.27: Mini 5v5 analysis for ALL AVAILABLE AND SECURED SITES – all data in Match Equivalent Sessions (MES)

Analysis Area	Actual spare capacity	Total overlay	Current position	Unmet/latent demand	Displaced demand	Future Demand	Future position
Central	6.5	-3	3.5	2.5	0	-1	2
North	2	-7	-5	0	0	0	-5
South East	2.5	-10.5	-8	1	0	-1.5	-7.5
West	7	-1.5	5.5	0	0	0	5.5
Northumberland	18	-22	-4	4	0	-3.5	-4.5

3.6.31

3.6.32 When analysing only sites that are available and secured for community use, table 3.27 above highlights that there is a deficit in both the current and future positions for mini 5v5 provision. Therefore, if provision that is unsecured for community use is removed in the future, the level of available mini 5v5 supply would not be able to accommodate all demand placed against it.

PEAK TIME DEMAND CAPACITY ANALYSIS

3.6.33 Using the Sport England 2013 guidance, the PPS has identified an over-supply of football pitches across the study area. While this is valuable, it is also important to understand the capacity of pitch provision at the periods of highest (peak) demand.

3.6.34 Peak time analysis is calculated differently from carrying capacity. Pitches of any quality rating are considered to have just 1 match slot available at peak time per week. For example, if a site has 1 adult 11v11 pitch and two adult teams using this site during the peak time slot (Saturday PM), then this site can be said to have no spare peak time capacity (accounting for each team using the site once per fortnight to account for home and away fixtures). In a further example, if a site has 2 adult pitches and 3 adult teams using it at peak period, then this site would have 0.5 spare peak time capacity. i.e. this site could accommodate 1 further team at peak time.

3.6.35 The following assumptions on peak times have been developed using data collected during the demand consultations with clubs and the Whole Game System FA report;

- Adult peak demand is assumed to be Saturday PM
- All youth demand is assumed to be Sunday PM
- All mini demand is assumed to be Sunday AM.

3.6.36 A full methodology for calculating peak time capacity can be found in Technical Appendix A – Football Analysis.

3.6.37 Table 3.28 below shows the total spare peak time capacity of currently available and securely available pitch types by sub area. Peak time balance is also included as part of the site-by-site analysis.

Table 3.28: Spare Peak Time Capacity for Football

	Mini Soccer 5v5	Mini Soccer 7v7	Youth 9v9	Youth 11v11	Adult Football
Available Sites					
Central	-1.5	13.5	8.5	12.5	25.5
North	-6	-5	1	1	13
South East	-10	17	10	7	42
West	-0.5	1.5	1.5	-1.5	5.5
Northumberland	-18	27	21	19	86
Secured Sites					
Central	-2.5	8.5	6.5	7.5	19.5
North	-6	-5	-4	-4	12
South East	-11	4	-1	-1	30
West	-0.5	0.5	1.5	-1.5	2.5
Northumberland	-20	8	3	1	64

3.6.38 Table 3.28 shows that in total there is some spare peak time capacity for all typologies across the County as a whole and in most sub areas. However, there are significant exceptions:

- There is a deficit of Mini 5v5 pitches across all sub areas. However, it should be noted that much of this demand is expected to be met by larger pitch types with temporary goals used.
- In the North sub area, there is spare peak-time capacity only for adult football when secured facilities are considered.
- Similarly, the South East has no spare match slots on secured youth pitches.
- Although the West does have some spare capacity at peak times, this quite low. Due to the West sub area's rural nature it is expected that all secured pitches are needed to service peak time demand.

SPATIAL ANALYSIS OF SITE CAPACITY

3.6.39 The below maps display a coloured indication of the current capacity balance of all available sites with grass pitch provision. This is broken down by sub-area. Each site is distinguished by a green, amber or red dot. This indicates the following:

- **Green:** The site has spare capacity
- **Amber:** The site has some capacity issues but these should be resolvable via pitch re-configuration
- **Red:** The site is overplayed and the issues cannot be resolved by pitch re-configuration.

Figure 3.5: Capacity balance illustration of available sites (grass only) in Central sub area

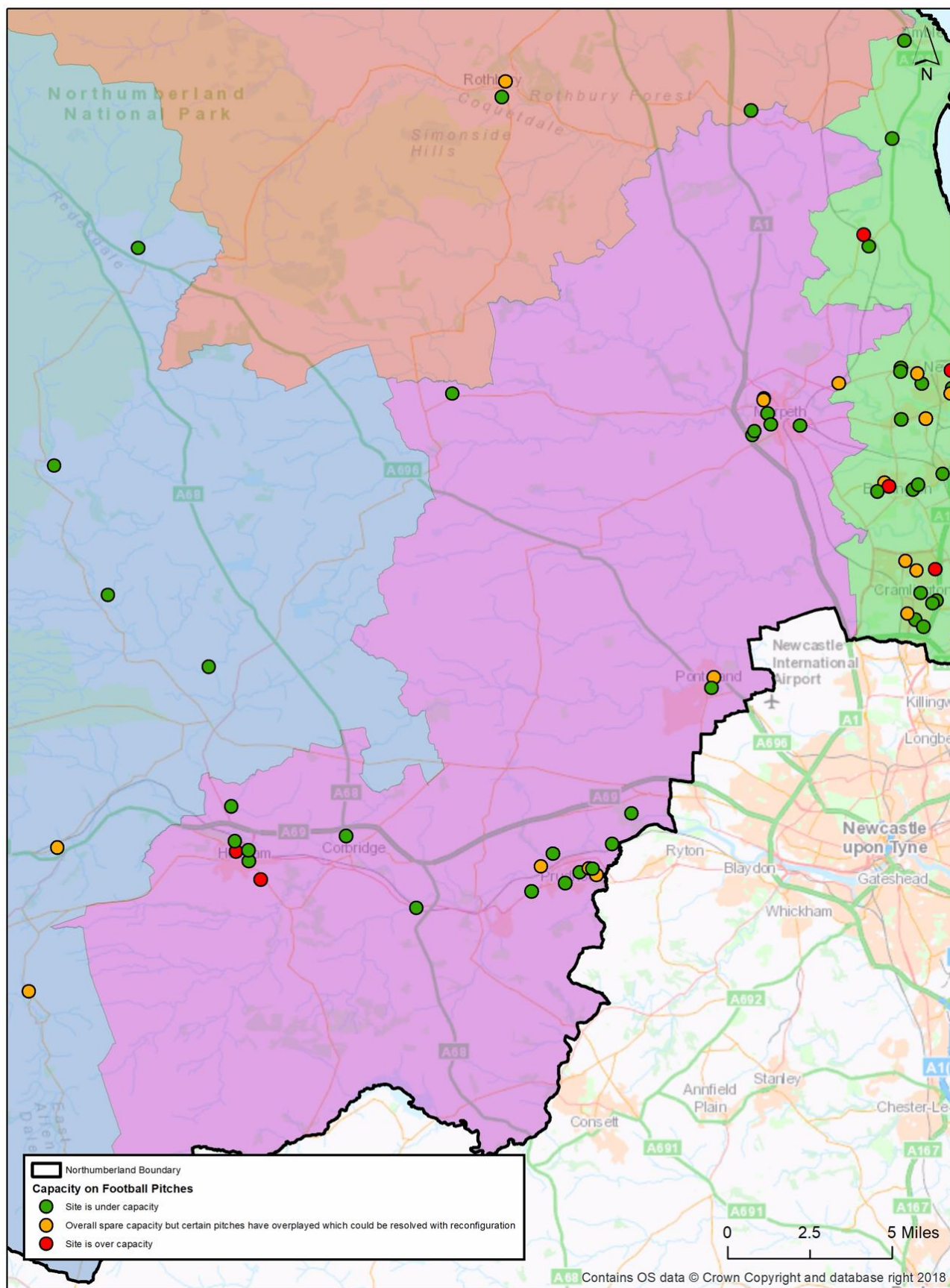


Figure 3.6: Capacity balance illustration of available sites (grass only) in South East sub area

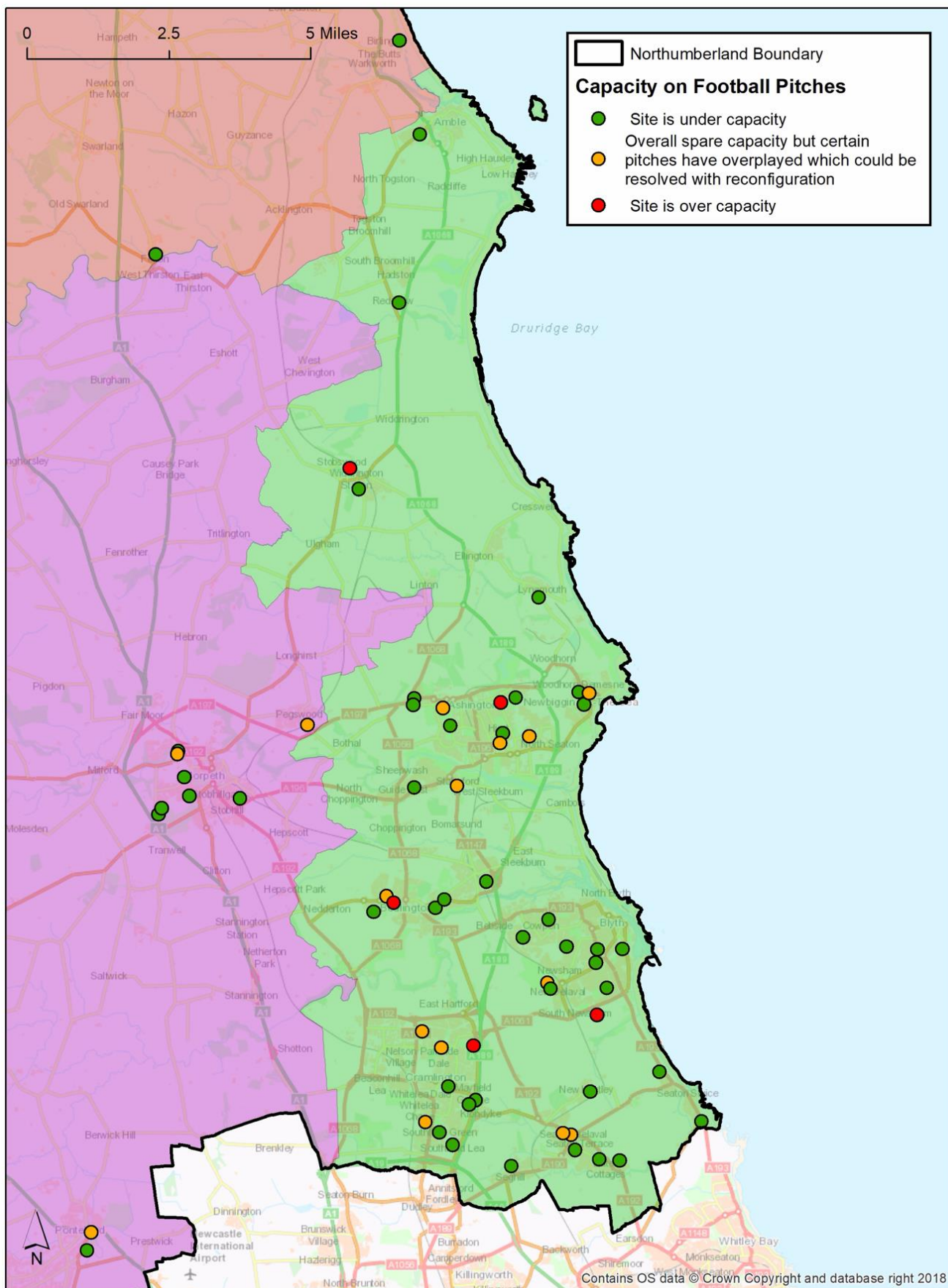


Figure 3.7: Capacity balance illustration of available sites (grass only) in North sub area

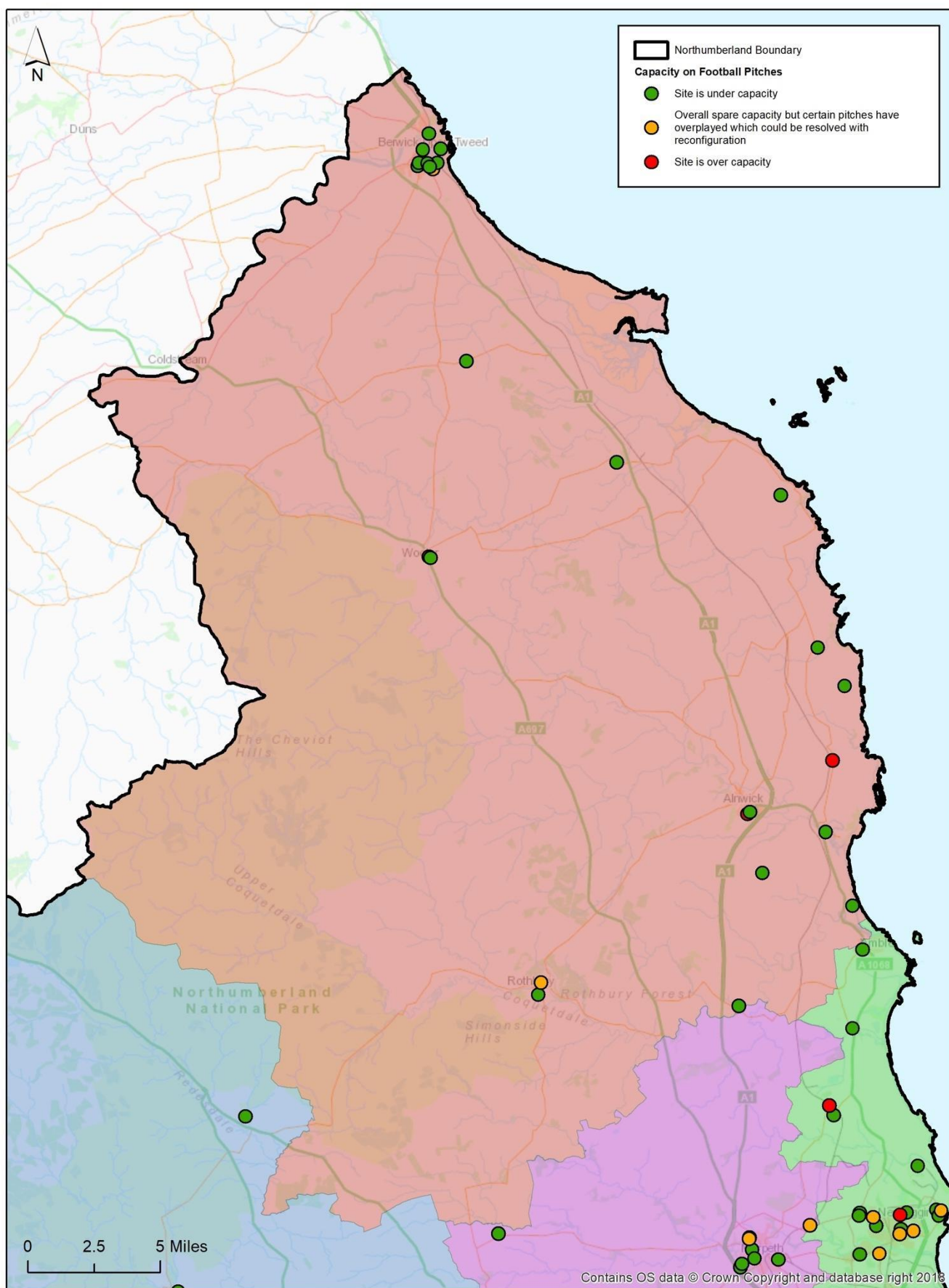
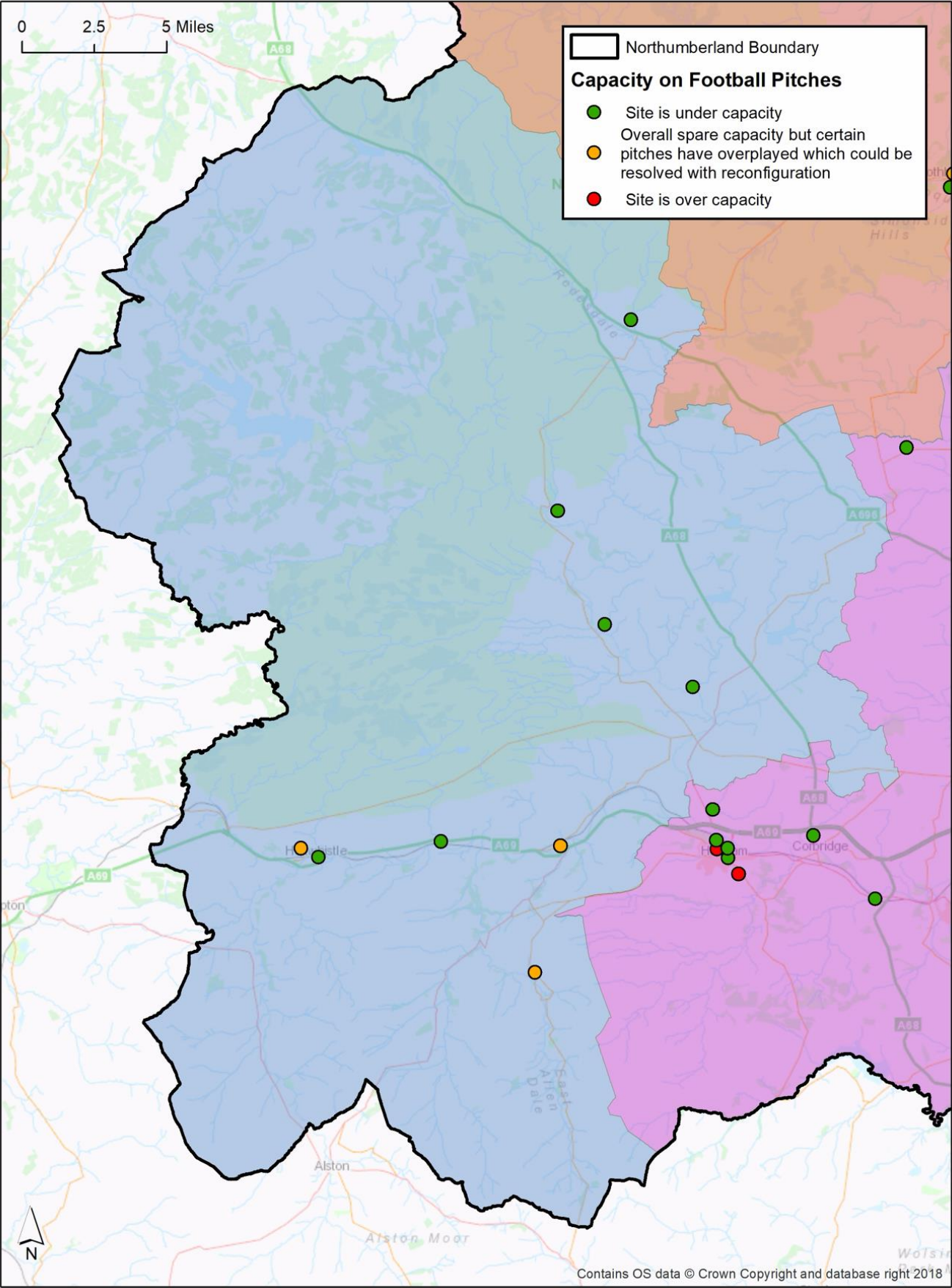


Figure 3.8: Capacity balance illustration of available sites (grass only) in West sub area



- 3.6.40 Figures 3.5 – 3.8 show the level of stress on pitch supply in the sub area. Key observations regarding each sub area is provided below:
- 3.6.41 **Central (figure 3.5):** There is limited levels of stress across the Central sub area with just two sites in need of demand being re-distributed in order for it to be better met. Both of these sites are located in Hexham, the major market town of the sub area. The figure shows there is sufficient spare capacity in the neighbouring sites to meet this overlay.
- 3.6.42 **South East (figure 3.6):** The figure shows that again there is limited levels of ‘stress’ on supply in this sub area. The exception to this is in Ashington and Cramlington where there are multiple ‘amber’ sites and some ‘red’ sites present. Again, there appears to be sufficient capacity in the numerous ‘green’ sites that are also present in or near to these towns.
- 3.6.43 **North (figure 3.7):** There is little pitch stress in this sub area, even around the main settlements of Alnwick and Berwick.
- 3.6.44 **West (figure 3.8):** Again, similar to the North sub area, figure 3.8 shows that there is limited pitch ‘stress’ in this sub area.

3.7 Football Summary

- 3.7.1 This section summarises the findings from the football analysis, which will form the basis of the recommendation and action plan section for Northumberland.
- 3.7.2 Table 3.29 includes the response to 5 key questions, which are asked for all PPS studies across the UK in order to provide a standardised illustration of supply and demand for sports provision.

Table 3.29: Key PPS findings for football in Northumberland

Key Question	Analysis
What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?	<p>There is available supply for 653 pitches match equivalents across all pitch types in the County. The greatest level of supply is for adult football pitches and Mini 7v7 pitches, together these make up 66% of the total supply capacity across the County. Northumberland County Council owns 65% of all football sites in the County. The NCC is only responsible for managing 25% of these however, as most are managed by educational establishments such as colleges, schools and academies.</p> <p>There is demand for 286.5 match equivalents per week. Youth 11v11 teams place the largest demand of any pitch type, demanding 88.5 match equivalents per week.</p> <p>Supply and demand are concentrated in the South East and Central sub areas. Together, these two sub areas represent 80% of available supply and demand in the County.</p> <p>74% of available supply is on sites that are currently utilised by community sites. The West has the highest level of utilisation of available pitches, at 90%. The South East has the poorest at 64%.</p> <p>Many sites, predominantly parks and playing fields, are used by the community for informal use. Consultation with the Council and Active Northumberland reveals that in the majority of cases, this has limited impact on the quality or condition of these sites save for some damage to goal mouth areas.</p>
	<p>In looking at all available football sites in Northumberland there is spare capacity in all pitch typologies, with adult 11v11 pitches having the highest surplus of 163.5 MES. The mini 5v5 pitch typology has the lowest level of spare capacity in the current position, with only 2 MES.</p> <p>Currently, there is little exported demand outside of the area, with this being limited to a small proportion of mini soccer demand which is required to use a central venue in Newcastle as a</p>

Key Question	Analysis
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand	<p>condition of playing in their league.</p> <p>Peak time analysis shows that in general there is a fair amount of spare peak time capacity across most pitch types in most sub areas. The exceptions to this are in the West sub area, where both Youth football pitch types are at capacity at peak times, with limited adult capacity at peak time also. There is also limited peak time capacity for Youth 9v9 pitches, with just 7.5 match slot available across the entire County.</p>
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?	<p>The quality of provision is considered to be acceptable but below other local authorities audited by 4global with 19% of pitches rated as 'Poor' compared with 7.5% in other areas. Issues with poor drainage are very common across all sub areas and are reported to be responsible for the majority of cancellations in the area.</p> <p>It is expected that increased maintenance programmes, especially regarding the regular aeration and sand dressing of pitches will significantly improve drainage on many sites.</p>
What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?	<p>The future demand analysis shows a mixed picture. Across the County, clubs have reported significant levels of latent demand across all pitch types. In total, the clubs reported sufficient latent demand to produce 55 new teams.</p> <p>The largest area of latent demand is for Youth 11v11, with clubs reporting enough demand to fill 18 teams, equivalent to 9 match equivalents per week. Latent demand is concentrated in the Central sub area (accounting for 50% of latent demand). This primarily due to the levels of latent demand reported by Morpeth Juniors and Seniors who together reported sufficient demand for up to 20 teams.</p> <p>Conversely, the TGR analysis shows that, due to the changing nature of the age profile of the population in Northumberland, there is a projected reduction of 24 teams across the County. Mini soccer 7v7 is the pitch demand projected to be affected the most, with 10 teams projected to be lost by 2031.</p> <p>If the TGR analysis is proved accurate but the barriers creating the high levels of latent demand are removed, then there is a projected increase of 31 teams across the County, this equates to 15.5 match equivalents per week. The greatest increase in demand is expected to be in Youth 11v11 football, where there is an overall projection for 16 additional teams across the County.</p>

Section 4: Cricket Analysis



4 Cricket Analysis

4.1 Introduction and Strategic Context

- 4.1.1 In order to understand the overall objectives and priorities of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), an analysis of key recent strategies and documentation has been undertaken and summarised below.

INSPIRING GENERATIONS (2019 - 2024)

- 4.1.2 The ECB published its new strategic plan in 2019, with the ambition being to inspire a generation to say that 'cricket is a game for me'.
- 4.1.3 The ECB wants to encourage more young people to form a lifelong relationship with cricket from an early age, to be passionate about the game throughout their lives, and to pass this passion on for generations to come.
- 4.1.4 The ECB will deliver in cricket's purpose and ambition through six priorities:
- **GROW AND NURTURE THE CORE:** Ensure that there is a thriving county network at the heart of the domestic game
 - **INSPIRE THROUGH ELITE TEAMS:** Create and celebrate the heroes at the pinnacle of the elite game
 - **MAKE CRICKET ACCESSIBLE:** Give more people the opportunity to engage with cricket more often
 - **ENGAGE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE:** Inspire a new generation of players and fans to develop a love for cricket
 - **TRANSFORM WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' CRICKET:** Drive cricket's progress to becoming a truly gender-neutral sport
 - **SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITIES:** Use the purpose to connect communities and improve lives more broadly across society.

- 4.1.5 It is key that this PPS recognises the opportunity made available by Inspiring Generations and provides a framework that allows stakeholders to work together and deliver against the priorities identified above. It's also vital that any facility development for cricket takes the objectives of the strategy into consideration, namely the growth of entry level cricket, women and girls' cricket, T20 and engagement of previously hard-to-reach demographics groups.

CRICKET UNLEASHED (2016)

- 4.1.6 The ECB published its new strategic plan in 2015. One of the core aims of the strategy is to create more players, great teams and inspired fans, guided by good governance and strong financial operations. The goal of Cricket Unleashed is to make the game more accessible and inspire the next generation of players, coaches, officials and volunteers.
- 4.1.7 The ECB are looking to work with local authorities to develop fit-for-purpose facility and participation plans that will engage with local residents and ensure residents are provided with the right facilities to help them play the game.
- 4.1.8 It is key that this Playing Pitch Strategy recognises the opportunity made available by Cricket Unleashed

and provides a framework that allows stakeholders to work together and deliver against the key objectives of ‘more play’, ‘great teams’ and ‘inspired fans’. It’s also vital that any facility development for cricket takes the objectives of the strategy into consideration, namely the growth of entry level cricket, women and girls’ cricket, T20 and engagement of previously hard-to-reach demographics groups.

ALL STARS CRICKET (2017)

- 4.1.9 Launched in 2017, All Stars Cricket is an ECB initiative that provides children aged five to eight with an introduction to cricket, focusing on parental engagement in supporting the newly trained All Stars Cricket Activators, as well as having a special focus on establishing women’s softball and cricket events.
- 4.1.10 The programme will be delivered nationwide at over 1,800 centres, predominantly at club sites, with the ECB expecting the programme to have a positive impact on junior demand in the short to medium term, providing a transition for children into formal junior cricket.
- 4.1.11 It is key that this Playing Pitch Strategy recognises the opportunity made available by Cricket Unleashed and All Stars Cricket and provides a framework that allows stakeholders to work together and deliver against the key objectives of ‘more play’, ‘great teams’ and ‘inspired fans’.
- 4.1.12 A comprehensive list of clubs in Northumberland who run all stars cricket programmes is provided in the ‘Future Demand’ section.

CONSULTATION OVERVIEW

- 4.1.13 As part of the PPS process, a club-consultations were held where all clubs in the County were invited to share their facility issues and development priorities with consultants on site. Key findings from this consultation are included below, with further detail provided as part of the specific club consultation sections.
- 4.1.14 The general issues across the local authorities were identified as;
- Generally adequate quality of facilities but greater flexibility with assisting with grounds maintenance on NCC sites would be preferable
 - Use and security of tenure at school / local authority sites, with short term leases / renting agreements in place on most sites
 - Difficulties with vandalism and antisocial behaviour on some site.
- 4.1.15 Club and site-specific facility issues and priorities will be identified in the following sections. Consultations were held with key clubs within the County for Cricket. A summary of these consultations is outlined below in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1: Key PPS findings for Cricket in Northumberland

Club	Consultation Summary
Alnmouth & Lesbury CC	<p>The club currently consists of 5 senior teams and 7 junior teams, all training and playing at Alnmouth and Lesbury Cricket Club. The club amalgamated with Holwick CC to combine two clubs, meaning they now have 2 sites.</p> <p>Developments: Four years ago, the club gained a grant from the ECB and Sport England to rebuild and develop the Alnmouth & Lesbury CC site. They received around £200,000 altogether and rebuilt the pavilion, received new nets and roll on covers.</p> <p>The Howick site did not receive any development; however, the club now has plans to develop the site, the pavilion is outdated and needs replacing. The club have acquired the appropriate planning permission and other paperwork and are now in the process of looking</p>

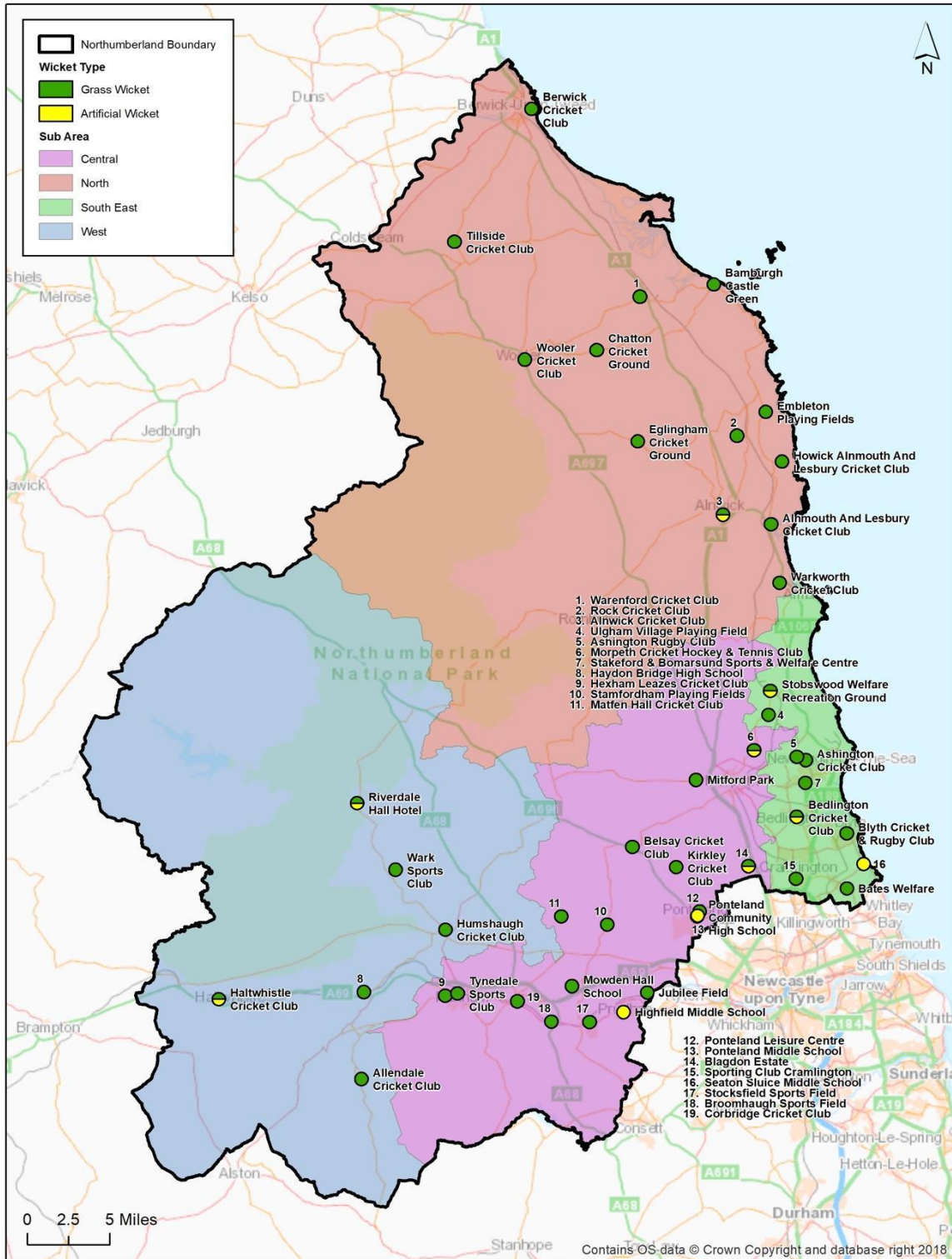
Club	Consultation Summary
	for potential grants and funding to develop the site. They have no immediate plans to increase the number of teams, they currently have 140 junior members and around 60-70 senior. They hope that with the development of the Howick site they may be able to grow further. Currently the Howick site is used as spill-over when there is no availability of the main site and is sometimes used by junior sides.
Alnwick CC	<p>The club consists of two senior teams and five junior teams, but they also have a women's section playing softball cricket. All play and training is done at the Alnwick Cricket Club which is owned by the Local Authority. The club also hosts an All Stars programme.</p> <p>Developments: The club recently invested in the on-site facilities which included: refurbishment of the changing rooms, enlargement of the car park, improved disability access and toilet facilities, and a new roller. A new tractor/ cutter is also due to be purchased to assist maintenance.</p>
Cramlington CC	Club consists of four senior teams and six junior teams, introducing a junior girls' team and a U9s team last year. Following on from this, the club would like to further expand and introduce an additional three teams: one senior and two juniors. All of the teams are currently playing and training and Sporting Club Cramlington, which the club rent from Active Northumberland and is maintained by the local authority to a poor standard.
Corbridge CC	The club consists of five adult teams including two female teams, and four junior teams, with all teams training and playing at Corbridge CC site. In the previous three years the club has introduced a new senior team, a joint venture with Riding Mill CC with home games being played at Broomhaugh Sports Field. The club runs an all stars cricket programme. In the winter, the club hires the indoor facilities at Thorp High School. However, the club would prefer to hire facilities in the Corbridge / Hexham area, but there is nothing available here. The club have had an assessment on their site with regards to drainage and flooding, working closely with a Sport England and ECB pitch advisor. There also needs to be a rearrangement of the angle of the practice net provision as currently the sun set creates issues with use.
Morpeth CC	<p>Club consists of four senior teams and 10 junior teams, all of which train and play at Morpeth Cricket, Hockey & Tennis Club. An increase in participation over the past few years has led to the development of new junior teams, the club currently has 140 junior members and would like the develop further, in particular the girl's section, but would currently struggle as they don't have enough coaches / volunteers.</p> <p>Developments: There is a desire to upgrade the nets and artificial surfaces as they are dated and wearing out. The club would also like to update the changing rooms and shower areas and promote usage of the facility during the day to generate money. It should be noted that there are plans for housing development close to the club but there are in their infancy.</p>
Ponteland CC	<p>The club consists of four senior and four junior teams. Currently, they play at Ponteland Leisure Centre which is a Local Authority owned site. However, there is uncertainty about whether they will be able to continue to use this site in the future. An education development project will result in significant redevelopments on the site and the club is unsure whether they will be able to use the facilities during or after the works.</p> <p>It is likely that all teams will be displaced and will need to be accommodated at a suitable, nearby location. In the longer term, full reinstated of the site for cricket (if possible) needs to be achieved to allow the club to return. The increased area of hard surfaces could cause increased water run off that will require improved drainage to prevent waterlogging of the pitch.</p> <p>The site and club should be subject to ongoing and close monitoring to protect future use.</p>

Club	Consultation Summary
Stocksfield CC	<p>The club consists of seven adult teams, including two female teams, and seven junior teams ranging from U9 – U18. All of the teams currently train and play at Stocksfield Sports Field, which is rented from the parish council on a 30-year lease, however it is maintained by club volunteers to a high standard. In the previous three years, the club has introduced a new adult team and 2-3 additional junior teams, however have no further plans to expand as a club. They have recently refurbished the practice facilities on site.</p> <p>Developments: The club has planning permission to extend the pavilion in the near future. There is a strong fundraising effort to improve the ancillary facilities at the club to make these more suitable for the club's needs.</p>
Tynedale CC	<p>The club consists of three senior teams and 10 junior teams, all of which train and play at their own site, Tynedale Sports Club. The wickets and outfield are managed and maintained by club volunteers to a high standard. In the past few years the club has seen a large increase in the number of teams, in particular the junior section which has expanded by four teams in the past three years. The club runs an all stars cricket programme.</p>

4.2 Supply

4.2.1 The number of cricket pitches in Northumberland has been detailed in the table below. It is important to understand where there may be potential further supply should the capacity analysis inform us that there is overlay within Northumberland.

Figure 4.1: Cricket Pitch Provision in Northumberland



4.2.2 Details of all cricket sites within the county are provided in the table below. Capacity of sites is calculated using the ECB's capacity calculation. Under this calculation, 'good' grass wickets (those scoring 80% or more for quality) are considered to be able to meet demand for 5 games per season. 'Standard' wickets (those scoring over 50% but less than 80%) are considered to be able to meet demand 4 games per season. 'Poor' wickets (those scoring below 50% for quality) are not considered to have any carrying capacity. For non-turf pitches (NTPs), 'good' and 'standard' quality pitches are considered to have a carrying capacity of 60 matches per season. Poor quality NTPs are not considered to have any carrying capacity at all.

Table 4.2: Cricket Supply in Northumberland by site

Sites	Sub area	Community Use on Site	Secured Community Use	Ownership	Squares	Wickets		Supply: grass - NTP
						Grass	NTP	
Allendale Cricket Club	West	Available	Secured	Community Group (Allendale Agricultural Society)	1	12	0	60-0
Alnmouth And Lesbury Cricket Club	North	Available	Secured	Local Authority	1	14	0	70-0
Alnwick Cricket Club	North	Available	Secured	Local Authority	1	14	1	70-60
Ashington Cricket Club	South East	Available	Secured	Duke of Ponteland	1	19	0	95-0
Ashington Rugby Club	South East	Available	Secured	Club	1	15	0	75-0
Bamburgh Castle Green	North	Available	Secured	Bamburgh Castle Estates	1	6	0	30-0
Bates Welfare	South East	Available	Secured	Local Authority	1	10	0	40-0
Bedlington Cricket Club	South East	Available	Secured	Club	1	14	1	56-0
Belsay Cricket Club	Central	Available	Secured	Private (Belsay Estate)	1	8	0	32-0
Berwick Cricket Club	North	Available	Secured	Local Authority	1	9	0	45-0
Blagdon Estate	Central	Available	Secured	Private	1	8	1	32-60
Blyth Cricket & Rugby Club	South East	Available	Secured	Private	1	8	0	32-0
Broomhaugh Sports Field	Central	Available	Secured	Local Authority	1	7	0	28-0
Chatton Cricket Ground	North	Available	Secured	Duke of Northumberland	1	5	0	25-0
Corbridge Cricket Club	Central	Available	Secured	Club	1	14	0	70-0
Eglington Cricket Ground	North	Available	Secured	Eglington Estate	1	6	0	30-0
Embleton Playing Fields	North	Available	Secured	Parish Council	1	4	0	20-0

Sites	Sub area	Community Use on Site	Secured Community Use	Ownership	Squares	Wickets		Supply: grass - NTP
						Grass	NTP	
Haltwhistle Cricket Club	West	Available	Secured	Club	1	11	1	55-0
Haydon Bridge High School	West	Available	Secured	Local Authority	1	10	0	50-0
Hexham Leazes Cricket Club	Central	Available	Secured	James Straker	1	6	0	30-0
Highfield Middle School	Central	Not available	Unsecured	County Council	1	0	1	0-0
Howick Alnmouth And Lesbury Cricket Club	North	Available	Secured	Lord Howick	1	6	0	30-0
Humshaugh Cricket Club	West	Available	Secured	Private (WR Heslop and Partners)	1	12	0	60-0
Jubilee Field	Central	Available	Secured	Field and Trust part of 2012 jubilee project	1	8	1	32-60
Kirkley Cricket Club	Central	Available	Secured	Club	1	12	0	60-0
Matfen Hall Cricket Club	Central	Available	Secured	Private	1	9	0	36-0
Mitford Park	Central	Available	Secured	Mitford Estate	1	7	0	35-0
Morpeth Cricket Hockey & Tennis Club	Central	Available	Secured	Club	2	15	1	75-0
Mowden Hall School	Central	Available	Secured	Trust	1	8	0	32-0
Newbrough Sports Field	Central	Disused	Secured	Local Authority	-	-	-	0-0
Ponteland Community High School	Central	Not available	Unsecured	Local Authority	1	0	1	0-0
Ponteland Leisure Centre	Central	Available	Secured	Local Authority	1	15	0	75-0
Ponteland Middle School	Central	Available	Secured	Local Authority	1	0	1	0-60
Queen Elizabeth High School	Central	Disused	Unsecured	Local Authority	1	0	1	0-0
Riverdale Hall Hotel	West	Disused	Secured	Unknown	-	-	-	0-0
Rock Cricket Club	North	Available	Secured	Rock Estates	1	10	0	50-0
Seaton Sluice Middle School	South East	Not available	Unsecured	Local Authority	1	0	1	0-0
Sporting Club Cramlington	South East	Available	Secured	Local Authority	1	10	0	50-0

Sites	Sub area	Community Use on Site	Secured Community Use	Ownership	Squares	Wickets		Supply: grass - NTP
						Grass	NTP	
Stakeford & Bomarsund Sports & Welfare Centre	South East	Available	Secured	Coal Industry	1	8	0	32-0
Stamfordham Playing Fields	Central	Available	Secured	Private	1	6	0	24-0
Stobswold Welfare Recreation Ground	South East	Available	Secured	CISWO	1	12	1	60-60
Stocksfield Sports Field	Central	Available	Secured	Allendale Estates	2	17	0	85-0
Tillside Cricket Club	North	Available	Secured	Lord Joyce	1	12	0	60-0
Tynedale Sports Club	Central	Available	Secured	Club	1	16	0	80-0
Ulgham Village Playing Field	South East	Available	Secured	Parish Council	1	6	0	30-0
Warenford Cricket Club	North	Available	Secured	Duke of Northumberland	1	6	0	30-0
Wark Sports Club	West	Available	Secured	Sports Club	1	10	0	50-0
Warkworth Cricket Club	North	Available	Secured	Northumberland Estates	1	10	0	40-0
Wooler Cricket Club	North	Available	Secured	Alan Ferguson	1	8	0	40-0

4.2.3 The breakdown of pitches, grass wickets and NTPs by sub area is provided below.

Table 4.3 Cricket Supply in Northumberland by sub area

Area	Squares	Grass Wickets	NTPs
Central	20	155	6
North	13	110	1
South East	10	102	3
West	5	55	1
Northumberland	48	423	11

4.2.4 Table 4.3 shows that around 40% of the total supply within the County is located in the Central sub area.

TENURE/MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW

- 4.2.5 The following table provides a breakdown of the cricket pitches in the area by ownership and management (please note that this table refers to pitches and not sites).

Table 4.4 - Ownership of cricket sites by type

Type of Ownership	Ownership	Management
Active Northumberland	0	1
Coal Industry	2	0
Education	0	6
Local Authority	12	2
Parish Council	2	2
Private	18	2
Sports Club	8	32
Trust	2	0
Unknown	4	2

QUANTITY OVERVIEW

- 4.2.6 Table 4.2 presents the data collected on cricket pitch supply in Northumberland. Technical Appendix B – Cricket Analysis presents a detailed audit of all pitches across the study area including carrying capacity and supply and demand balance. Figure 4 .1 overleaf also shows the supply of cricket pitches across the study area.
- 4.2.7 Table 4.3 shows that there are only 5 cricket squares in the West sub area. The Central sub area accounts for 42% of cricket squares in Northumberland.
- 4.2.8 There are 11 non-turf wickets in the County, again with a large proportion of this supply being located in the Central sub area.

QUALITY ASSESSMENT

- 4.2.9 Each site (where access was possible) was visited and assessed by the 4global research team (in July 2017) using a non-technical assessment framework provided by the ECB. The assessment considers the quality of playing surface, the quality of changing rooms and the score of their maintenance regime when compared to ECB recommendations. In addition to the site visits, the club consultation was used to validate the quality ratings. Each site is rated as Good, Standard or Poor.
- 4.2.10 Table 4.5 summarises the quality assessment results. Full details of the subsequent carrying capacity allocations of each site by pitch type can be found in Technical Appendix B – Cricket Analysis. Given the ratings, the overall standard of pitches across Northumberland is adequate, with 97.5% of open and working pitches scoring Standard OR Good.
- 4.2.11 Table 4.5 shows that 51% of cricket sites in Northumberland are recorded as good. Just 6% of sites recorded as poor.

Table 4.5: Summary of cricket pitch scoring in Northumberland

Rating	Good	Standard	Poor
Central	10	8	2
North	8	4	1
South East	6	4	0
West	4	1	0
Northumberland	28	17	3

- 4.2.12 Table 4.5 shows that 58% are considered to be of Good quality, and a further 35% to be of Standard quality. The Central region, whilst having the most squares also has the lowest quality pitches in terms of average rating. This is thought to be due to this sub area containing more pitches based at education sites (which tend to produce lower scores than club sites). The West sub area has the best pitches on average, with 83% of pitches assessed as Good and 17% as Standard.

4.3 Demand

CLUB AND TEAM PROFILE

- 4.3.1 41 clubs have been identified as playing in Northumberland. Survey responses were received by 38 clubs and are shown in Table 4.6, with details on the team profiles. Information from the 3 non-responsive clubs was taken from online resources, such as the ECB's play-cricket platform, where possible.

Table 4.6: Cricket demand by club

Club	Home Ground	Subarea	Senior men	Senior women	Juniors	Total
Allendale CC	Allendale Cricket Club	West	2	1	3	6
Alnmouth & Lesbury CC	Alnmouth And Lesbury Cricket Club	North	7	1	6	14
Alnwick CC	Alnwick Cricket Club	North	2	0	5	7
Ashington CC	Ashington Cricket Club	South East	3	0	3	6
Ashington Rugby CC	Ashington Rugby Club	South East	3	0	0	3
Bamburgh CC	Bamburgh Castle Green	North	1	0	0	1
Bates Cottages CC	Bates Welfare	South East	3	0	2	5
Bedlington CC	Bedlington Cricket Club	South East	3	0	1	4
Belsay CC	Belsay Cricket Club	Central	2	0	0	2
Berwick CC	Berwick Cricket Club	North	2	0	3	5
Blagdon Park CC	Blagdon Estate	Central	3	0	4	7
Blyth CC	Blyth Cricket & Rugby Club	South East	3	0	0	3
Bomarsund Welfare CC	Stakeford & Bomarsund Sports & Welfare Centre	South East	2	0	1	3
Chatton CC	Chatton Cricket Ground	North	1	0	0	1
Corbridge CC	Corbridge Cricket Club	Central	3	2	4	9
Cramlington CC	Sporting Club Cramlington	South East	2	0	6	8
Eglington CC	Eglington Cricket Ground	North	1	0	0	1
Embleton CC	Embleton Playing Fields	North	1	0	0	1

Club	Home Ground	Subarea	Senior men	Senior women	Juniors	Total
Haltwhistle CC	Haltwhistle Cricket Club	West	2	0	2	4
Haydon Bridge CC	Haydon Bridge High School	West	1	0	0	1
Hexham Leazes CC	Hexham Leazes Cricket Club	Central	3	1	0	4
Humshaugh CC	Humshaugh Cricket Club	West	3	0	0	3
Kirkley CC	Kirkley Cricket Club	Central	2	1	1	4
Matfen CC	Matfen Hall Cricket Club	Central	1	0	1	2
Mitford CC	Mitford Park	Central	3	0	0	3
Morpeth CC	Morpeth Cricket Hockey & Tennis Club	Central	3	1	10	14
Newton CC	Mowden Hall School	Central	1	0	0	1
Ponteland CC	Ponteland Leisure Centre	Central	4	0	4	8
Riding Mill CC	Broomhaugh Sports Field	Central	1	0	0	1
Rock CC	Rock Cricket Club	North	1	0	3	4
Stamfordham CC	Stamfordham Playing Fields	Central	1	0	0	1
Stobswood CC	Stobswood Welfare Recreation Ground	South East	2	0	0	2
Stocksfield CC	Stocksfield Sports Field	Central	5	2	6	13
Tillside CC	Tillside Cricket Club	North	3	1	5	9
Tynedale CC	Tynedale Sports Club	Central	3	0	10	13
Ulgham CC	Ulgham Village Playing Field	South East	3	0	0	3
Warenford CC	Warenford Cricket Club	North	1	0	0	1
Wark CC	Wark Sports Club	West	1	0	0	1
Warkworth CC	Warkworth Cricket Club	North	3	0	3	6
Wooler CC	Wooler Cricket Club	North	1	0	0	1
Wylam CC	Jubilee Field	Central	2	0	0	2
Total			94	10	83	187

4.3.2 Table 4.6 shows there are 94 adult teams and 83 junior teams in the County. Unless otherwise directed by the clubs, the assumption for how much demand is allocated to each team will be in line with ECB guidance (included in Appendix C). The guidance estimates each adult team will require 10 home matches per team and 8 home matches per junior team.

4.3.3 Table 4.6 shows that 45% of teams are located in the Central sub area, including 39% of senior men's teams, 70% of senior women's teams and 48% of junior teams. The table also shows that 27% of teams are based in the North sub area. As can be seen when measured against Figure 4.1 (above), this distribution is approximately in line with the distribution of supply across the County.

USE OF EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES FOR CRICKET

- 4.3.4 Due to the expense associated with maintaining a quality cricket square and the space requirements of any cricket pitch, it is common for clubs to utilise neighbouring school facilities as second pitches for their 3rd and 4th XIs, or even to use them as their main home grounds (usually the case for smaller clubs).
- 4.3.5 Table 4.7 below shows the number of clubs utilising educational facilities to meet their community demand for cricket pitches.

Table 4.7: Impact of population projections on the need for cricket provision

Site Name	Sub area	Club	Team
Haydon Bridge High School	Central	Haydon Bridge CC	1 st XI
Mowden Hall School	Central	Newton CC	1 st XI

- 4.3.6 The table shows that at present, comparatively few clubs are utilising educational facilities. This may be due to a number of factors including quality of the facilities, NTP only squares being unsuitable for league use or a lack of awareness that the facility is available.
- 4.3.7 Whatever the reasons for the lack of use of community facilities, this maybe away of boosting capacity in areas that are struggling to meet demand.

FUTURE DEMAND

- 4.3.8 In order to calculate the future demand for cricket in the study area, a Team Generation Rate⁴ (TGR) has been calculated using the current number of teams and the current population. This measure allows us to calculate what size of population (for various age groups) will typically cause enough demand for a cricket team.
- 4.3.9 This TGR can now be applied to the population projections for the study area to confirm how population growth or reduction will affect the demand for teams in each of the key age groups.

Table 4.8: Impact of population projections on the need for cricket provision

Age Groups	Tea ms	Current popn	Future popn	Current TGR	Popn Change	Potential Change in Team Numbers	Predicted Future Number of Teams
Cricket Open Age Men's (18-55yrs)	94	68,738	62,346	731	-6392.403	-9	85
Cricket Open Age Women's (18-55yrs)	10	70,747	62,592	7,075	-8155.757	-1	9
Cricket Junior Boys (7-18yrs)	79	20,982	19,997	266	-985.217	-4	75
Cricket Junior Girls (7-18yrs)	4	19,531	19,020	4,883	-511.467	0	4

- 4.3.10 Table 4.8 shows that there is projected to be a decrease of 14 teams in Northumberland due to a reduction of the playing-age population. The projected reduction indicates that it is unlikely there will be a requirement for new facilities in the future. Equally, stakeholders must ensure that facilities are of an appropriate quality to remain attractive to potential players, especially given the reduced population projected in Table 4.8.
- 4.3.11 It should be noted that the impact of the reduced playing base will be different across the 4 sub areas, with some areas significantly impacted but other areas seeing less of a decline.

- 4.3.12 TGR analysis utilises the current conversion rate of population to participants (known as the rate of participation). The ECB's All Stars Cricket participation programme, launched in the 2017 season, has a long-term target of increasing youth participation in the sport by 25% by engaging with 5-8 year old's and retaining them within the sport for as long as possible. A significant change in the rate of participation would mean that, although the playing base is reduced from its level in 2017, the number of teams (especially in the Junior age categories) could increase. Those clubs that currently have an All Stars programme are: Allendale, Alnmouth & Lesbury, Alnwick, Ashington, Ashington Rugby, Bates Cottages, Bedlington, Blyth, Corbridge, Cramlington, Kirkley, Mitford, Morpeth, Ponteland, Rock, Stamfordham, Stocksfield, Tillside, Tynedale, Ulgham Village, Warkworth, Wooler and Wylam.
- 4.3.13 There is also a future impact that the increased prominence of women's softball cricket will have on cricket provision, yet not to the same extent as all stars cricket as it can be played on the outfield.
- 4.3.14 Due to softball cricket not being recognised as formal cricket demand, there is no set guidance on how to implement this into demand. Nevertheless, it is important to note. There are a number of clubs that run women's softball cricket and these are provided below:
- Rock Cricket Club
 - Alnwick Cricket Club
 - Ashington Cricket Club.

LATENT DEMAND

- 4.3.15 Latent demand is defined as unrealised, existing demand for a sport or activity.
- 4.3.16 The reason(s) for demand remaining unrealised (latent) can be simple or complex. Some of the common barriers to realising latent demand are identified below:
- Lack capacity at home or neighbouring sites, either during peak time or in general
 - Limited volunteer capacity
 - Cost of entry being too high
 - Poor quality facilities / experience of the participants.
- 4.3.17 For the purposes of this study, the level of latent demand in any area has been identified during consultations with community clubs. During the consultation, clubs are asked if they feel there is any latent demand for their sport in their area.
- 4.3.18 Clubs then report the number of teams they feel there is sufficient latent demand for, by age and gender category.

4.3.19 Table 4.9 shows the level of latent demand identified by each club.

Table 4.9: Latent demand for new teams by age category and gender

Club	Sub Area	Senior Men		Senior Women		Junior	
		Current	Latent	Current	Latent	Current	Latent
Allendale CC	West	2	0	1	0	3	1
Ashington Rugby CC	South East	3	0	0	0	0	2
Bates Cottages CC	South East	3	0	0	0	2	1
Bedlington CC	South East	3	0	0	0	1	1
Berwick CC	North	2	1	0	1	3	1
Blyth CC	South East	3	0	0	0	0	2
Corbridge CC	Central	3	0	2	0	4	1
Wylam CC	Central	2	0	0	0	0	1
Kirkley CC	Central	2	0	1	0	1	1
Mitford CC	Central	3	0	0	0	0	1
Morpeth CC	Central	3	0	1	1	10	1
Newton CC	Central	1	1	0	0	0	0
Rock CC	North	1	0	0	0	3	1
Cramlington CC	South East	2	1	0	0	6	2
Tynedale CC	Central	3	0	0	1	10	1
Warkworth CC	North	3	0	0	0	3	1
Wooler CC	North	1	0	0	0	0	2
Subtotal:		94	3	10	3	83	20
Potential Total (Current + Latent):		97		13		103	

4.3.20 Table 4.9 shows that 17 of the 41 clubs in the area have reported at least 1 team's worth of latent demand for cricket. This represents 41% of all clubs in the County have some level of latent demand.

4.3.21 The table reports a total of 6 additional senior teams across the County. The table shows that a half of this latent senior demand for senior/open age women's teams. If realised this would equate to a 33.4% increase in the number of senior women's teams across the County. For men's cricket, an increase of 3 teams represents just a 3.2% increase on the 94 teams currently playing.

4.3.22 The largest increase in teams through latent demand is among junior teams. Clubs reported and overall latent demand for 20 teams. This represents a 24% increase in junior demand, from 83 teams. High levels of latent demand for junior cricket is most commonly caused by a lack of qualified, experienced volunteers to carryout coaching and to administer teams, however, reasons for the lack of realised demand are likely to vary from club to club.

4.3.23 It should be noted that this latent demand is spread relatively evenly across 16 clubs. This indicates that there is a commonality to realising latent junior demand for cricket across the County. Whilst the ECB's All Star's cricket programme is (partly) designed to address the issue of lower participation rates in cricket among young children, the consistency of the issue indicates that the ECB and NCB should look to work more with clubs on how to attract, train and retain high quality volunteers for their junior programmes.

4.3.24 Club consultations have also indicated that a lack of fixed net practice facilities is also a detriment to their ability to recruit and retain young players. Whilst the use of fixed net practice facilities is considered important for training, it should be noted that the ECB's guidance for coaching young players focuses on

mini games and drills that do not typically utilise practice nets. It is recommended that where clubs have expressed an interest in adding fixed practice nets to their facilities as a means of addressing the latent demand for cricket at their club, the NCB and ECB should work with them to determine whether adding this facility element would be the best way of addressing this latent demand.

- 4.3.25 These observations will be analysed further during the site-by-site analysis and key findings sections of this chapter.

4.4 Imported and Exported Demand

- 4.4.1 As indicated by the lack of latent demand for junior or men's teams, there is significant and sufficient supply of facilities to meet demand across the County. All major towns have good standard facilities available playing in ECB's regional league structure, in the Northumberland County League, or, in the case of Tynemouth CC, in the North East Premier League, the highest level of amateur cricket in the region. As a result, there is little need for significant levels of demand to be exported outside of the County.
- 4.4.2 However, despite the lack of reported exported demand, the analysis below will show that, when only facilities that are being used by community are included in the supply, the South East sub area is at capacity on Saturday afternoons. This means any new teams generated in this area that wish to play on Saturday afternoons will need to find pitches outside of their sub area, either in Newcastle or another sub area in the County (most likely Central).
- 4.4.3 There appears to be limited imported demand into Northumberland by teams based in Newcastle or Gateshead. No exported demand is mentioned in either of the most recent Playing Pitch Strategies and no clubs or teams have reported a desire to have their home ground outside of the County.
- 4.4.4 One important point pertaining to exported demand that was picked up as part of the study is the lack of adequate indoor practice facilities for winter training. Several clubs reported having to hire centres in Newcastle to meet demand for indoor practice sessions. This is a key point that should be addressed as part of the Indoor Facilities Strategy.

4.5 Supply and demand balance

- 4.5.1 To ensure that the PPS can be seen as a robust evidence base, the site-by-site assessment below includes all cricket sites that have been included within the study. This table serves to summarise the key parts of the PPS assessment that have been identified so far within this sport specific section.
- 4.5.2 In line with the 2013 Sport England PPS guidance, this study has considered the total supply and demand for facilities, measured in match equivalent sessions per season for cricket.
- 4.5.3 While this is a valuable measure of whether or not pitches are at capacity, underplayed or overplayed, the patterns of demand should also be considered when assessing whether there are sufficient facilities across Northumberland.
- 4.5.4 With this in mind, this section undertakes a peak time capacity analysis, to assess whether there are sufficient facilities during the periods that the greatest proportion of the population like to play cricket and this is displayed in the 'capacity in the peak period' column.
- 4.5.5 This will indicate whether there are enough pitches to satisfy the demand where a large amount of cricket is played at the same time (e.g. are there enough grass cricket squares so that all adult teams can play on Saturday afternoons?)

- 4.5.6 The following assumptions on peak times have been developed, based on standard practice for competitive grass roots cricket
- Adult peak demand is assumed to be Saturday PM
 - Youth cricket peak demand takes place mid-week.
- 4.5.7 A full methodology for calculating peak time capacity can be found in Technical Appendix B – Cricket Analysis.

Table 4.10: Site-by-site Analysis of Cricket Facilities in Northumberland

Site Name	Sub Area	No. of Pitches (Squares)	Community use on site	Secured or Unsecured use	Non-Technical Assessment Rating	Grass Balance (supply of grass minus total demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Allendale Cricket Club	West	1	Available	Secured	Good	<p>60 - 30 = 30</p> <p>This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets</p>	<p>The site is at capacity on Saturdays.</p> <p>The site has 0.5 spare match slots per week on Sundays.</p> <p>The site has 3.5 spare match slots during the midweek period.</p>	<p>This site is being used by Allendale CC for all of their activity. There are 2 men's, 1 women's' and 3 junior sides playing here. The club has identified latent demand for one further junior team. As the site is considered to have spare capacity at midweek to accommodate this team, further investigation is needed to understand the barriers to adding the new team.</p> <p>The club has confirmed enhancement of the net facilities to be a priority.</p>

Site Name	Sub Area	No. of Pitches (Squares)	Community use on site	Secured or Unsecured use	Non-Technical Assessment Rating	Grass Balance (supply of grass minus total demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Alnmouth And Lesbury Cricket Club	North	1	Available	Secured	Good	$70 - 116 = -46$ This site is currently over capacity for grass wickets	The site is at capacity on Saturdays. The site has 0.5 spare match slots per week on Sundays. The site has 1.5 spare match slots during the midweek period.	This site is being used by Alnmouth and Lesbury CC. The site is the club's main ground and is used for the club's first and second teams, as well as it's friendly side, midweek side and ladies' team plus all six junior sides. The club has stated that the existing site screens are of poor quality and would like to replace them. There is evident overplay of the existing grass wicket provision.
Alnwick Cricket Club	North	1	Available	Secured	Good	$70 - 57 = 13$ This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets	The site is at capacity on Saturdays. The site has 0.5 spare match slots per week on Sundays. The site has 3 spare match slots during the midweek period.	This site is being used by Alnwick CC for all of their activity. There are two adult sides and five junior sides here. The club has undergone recent development of nets, scoreboard and storage for machinery. No future developments were revealed during the site consultation.

Site Name	Sub Area	No. of Pitches (Squares)	Community use on site	Secured or Unsecured use	Non-Technical Assessment Rating	Grass Balance (supply of grass minus total demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Ashington Cricket Club	South East	1	Available	Secured	Good	$95 - 45 = 40$ This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets	The site is at capacity on Saturdays. The site has 1 spare match slots per week on Sundays. The site has 3 spare match slots during the midweek period.	This site is being used by Ashington CC for all of their activity. There are 3 adult and 3 junior sides at this site. The changing facilities have been identified as inadequate for the needs of the club. The club has plans to renovate and extended the changing rooms and to add disability access. If extension and refurbishment of the current changing block isn't possible, the club could consider building a new pavilion.
Ashington Rugby Club	South East	1	Available	Secured	Good	$75 - 30 = 45$ This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets	The site is at capacity on Saturdays. The site has 1 spare match slots per week on Sundays. The site has 4.5 spare match slots during the midweek period.	This site is being used by Ashington Rugby CC for all of their activity. There are three adult sides here. The rugby club own the site and lease the pitch to the cricket club. No future developments have been identified for the site.

Site Name	Sub Area	No. of Pitches (Squares)	Community use on site	Secured or Unsecured use	Non-Technical Assessment Rating	Grass Balance (supply of grass minus total demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Bamburgh Castle Green	North	1	Available	Secured	Good	$30 - 16 = 14$ This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets	The site has 1 spare match slots per week on a Saturday. The site has 0.5 spare match slots per week on Sundays. The site has 5 spare match slots during the midweek period.	This site is being used by Bamburgh Castle Green CC for all of their activity. There is just one adult side at the club. Current provision is sufficient to meet the current demand.
Bates Welfare	South East	1	Available	Secured	Good	$40 - 46 = -6$ This site is currently over capacity for grass wickets	The site is at capacity on Saturdays. The site has 1 spare match slots per week on Sundays. The site has 3.5 spare match slots during the midweek period.	This site is being used by Bates Cottages CC for all of their activity. There are three adults and two junior sides here. The site's grass pitch is currently overplayed.

Bedlington Cricket Club	South East	1	Available	Secured	Standard	<p>$56 - 34 = 22$</p> <p>This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets.</p>	<p>The site is at capacity on Saturdays.</p> <p>The site has 0.5 spare match slots on Sundays.</p> <p>The site has 4.5 spare match slots during the midweek period.</p>	<p>This site is being used by Bedlington CC for all their activity. There are three adult teams and one junior team here.</p> <p>Both the grass and artificial wickets scored poorly here which limits the site's carrying capacity.</p> <p>The club have a desire for a fixed net practice facility to potentially shift demand from the existing artificial wicket as well as helping to attract junior members.</p> <p>The club has identified latent demand for one junior cricket team at their club. There club have run an all stars cricket programme.</p>
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Site Name	Sub Area	No. of Pitches (Squares)	Community use on site	Secured or Unsecured use	Non-Technical Assessment Rating	Grass Balance (supply of grass minus total demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Belsay Cricket Club	Central	1	Available	Secured	Standard	$32 - 13 = 19$ This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets	The site has 0.5 spare match slots per week on a Saturday. The site has 0.5 spare match slots per week on Sundays. The site has 5 spare match slots during the midweek period.	This site is being used by Belsay CC for all of their activity. There are two adult teams here. The pavilion has been identified to be of very poor quality and needs to be improved.
Berwick Cricket Club	North	1	Available	Secured	Standard	$45 - 35 = 10$ This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets	The site is at capacity on Saturdays. The site has 1 spare match slots per week on Sundays. The site has 3.5 spare match slots during the midweek period.	This site is being used by Berwick CC for all of their activity. There are two adult teams and three junior teams here. Club has stated a need to renovate the existing ancillary facility, which has been identified as poor during the site assessments. Refurbishing the existing practice facilities to bring them to an adequate condition for the club's requirements, as these are also identified as being in a poor condition.

Site Name	Sub Area	No. of Pitches (Squares)	Community use on site	Secured or Unsecured use	Non-Technical Assessment Rating	Grass Balance (supply of grass minus total demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Blagdon Estate	North	1	Available	Secured	Standard	$32 - 41 = 9$ This site is currently over capacity for grass wickets	The site is at capacity on Saturdays. The site has 0.5 spare match slots per week on Sundays. The site has 3 spare match slots during the midweek period.	This site is being used by Blagdon Park CC by four of their sides as well as the club's U15s Girls team. The site is overplayed. Improvement to the grass wicket through enhanced maintenance of the square will reduce overplay. The club have identified a desire for DDA compliant WC facility.
Blyth Cricket & Rugby Club	North	1	Available	Secured	Good	$32 - 33 = -1$ This site is currently over capacity for grass wickets	The site is at capacity on Saturdays. The site has 1 spare match slots per week on Sundays. The site has 4.5 spare match slots during the midweek period.	This site is being used by Blyth CC who have three adult teams. Improvements to the quality of maintenance of the grass wickets and the outfield at the site is required to reduce the number of cancelled fixtures per season. The site is also slightly overplayed.

Site Name	Sub Area	No. of Pitches (Squares)	Community use on site	Secured or Unsecured use	Non-Technical Assessment Rating	Grass Balance (supply of grass minus total demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Broomhaugh Sports Field	North	1	Available	Secured	Standard	$28 - 28 = 0$ This site is currently over capacity for grass wickets	The site has 0.5 spare match slots per week on a Saturday. The site has 1 spare match slots per week on Sundays. The site has 3.5 spare match slots during the midweek period.	This site is being used by Corbridge Cricket Club and Riding Mill CC who have recently merged. The site is used by two adult male team from this club. It should be considered that this site is likely to be used more often as Corbridge CC continues to grow. The pavilion has also been identified as poor by the site assessments and would require refurbishment to bring them up to an adequate condition.
Chatton Cricket Ground	North	1	Available	Secured	Standard	$25 - 10 = 15$ This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets	The site has 0.5 spare match slots per week on a Saturday. The site has 1 spare match slots per week on Sundays. The site has 5 spare match slots during the midweek period.	The site is being used by Chatton Cricket Ground which is home to one adult male team. The pavilion has been identified as poor which has a detrimental impact of the experience of those using the site.

Site Name	Sub Area	No. of Pitches (Squares)	Community use on site	Secured or Unsecured use	Non-Technical Assessment Rating	Grass Balance (supply of grass minus total demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Corbridge Cricket Club	North	1	Available	Secured	Good	$70 - 65 = 5$ This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets	The site is at capacity on Saturdays. The site is at capacity on Sundays. The site has 2.5 spare match slots during the midweek period.	The site is being used by Corbridge Cricket Club, three adult male and two adult female teams along with four junior teams are apparent at this site. A threat to the loss of fixtures through flooding was identified as part of the consultation. Subsequently the site has had a flooding assessment and will work alongside Sport England/ ECB's pitch advisor to resolve the issue. The net provision is currently oriented in a way that causes problems at sun set (East to West) and impacts the ability of the club to practice. The club has identified 1 junior team of latent demand.
Eglington Cricket Ground	North	1	Available	Secured	Standard	$30 - 12 = 18$ This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets	The site has 0.5 spare match slots per week on a Saturday. The site has 1 spare match slots per week on Sundays. The site has 5 spare match slots available in the midweek period.	The site is being used by Eglington CC which has one adult male team here. The club's pavilion was identified as poor during the site assessments and is in need of some refurbishment.

Site Name	Sub Area	No. of Pitches (Squares)	Community use on site	Secured or Unsecured use	Non-Technical Assessment Rating	Grass Balance (supply of grass minus total demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Embleton Playing Fields	North	1	Available	Secured	Good	$20 - 11 = 9$ This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets	The site is at capacity on Saturdays. The site has 1 spare match slots per week on Sundays. The site has 4 spare match slots during the midweek period.	The site is being used by Embleton CC, there is one adult male team here. Refurbishment of the pavilion is needed to bring them up to an acceptable condition.
Haltwhistle Cricket Club	West	1	Available	Secured	Standard	$55 - 46 = 9$ This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets	The site has 0.5 spare match slots per week on a Saturday. The site has 1 spare match slots per week on Sundays. The site has 5 spare match slots during the midweek period.	The site is being used by Haltwhistle CC, there are two adult male teams and two junior teams here. The ancillary facilities on site have been identified as being in need of refurbishment.

Site Name	Sub Area	No. of Pitches (Squares)	Community use on site	Secured or Unsecured use	Non-Technical Assessment Rating	Grass Balance (supply of grass minus total demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Haydon Bridge High School	West	1	Available	Secured	Standard	<p>$50 - 13 = 37$</p> <p>This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets</p>	<p>The site is at capacity on Saturdays.</p> <p>The site has 0.5 spare match slots per week on Sundays.</p> <p>The site has 4.5 spare match slots during the midweek period.</p>	<p>The site is being used by Haydon Bridge CC, there is one adult male team here.</p> <p>The ancillary facilities of this site have been identified as poor and in need of refurbishment.</p>
Hexham Leazes Cricket Club	Central	1	Available	Secured	Good	<p>$30 - 43 = -13$</p> <p>This site is currently over capacity for grass wickets</p>	<p>The site is at capacity on Saturdays.</p> <p>The site has 1 spare match slots per week on Sundays.</p> <p>The site has 4.5 spare match slots during the midweek period.</p>	<p>This site should be protected as playing fields in the local plan. The site is being used by Hexham Leazes CC for all of their sides, three adult male and two adult female teams.</p> <p>The site's grass wickets are currently operating overcapacity.</p>

Site Name	Sub Area	No. of Pitches (Squares)	Community use on site	Secured or Unsecured use	Non-Technical Assessment Rating	Grass Balance (supply of grass minus total demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Highfield Middle School	Central	1	Not available	Unsecured	Poor	N/A	N/A	The quality of the NTP on this site has been identified as very poor. No community use has been identified for this site, but the site is used by the school for PE lessons. To ensure the continued provision of cricket facilities at this site, the NTP would need to be replaced.
Howick Alnmouth And Lesbury Cricket Club	North	1	Available	Secured	Poor	$30 - 10 = 20$ This site is currently under capacity for	N/A	This site is being used by Alnmouth and Lesbury CC for adult male third and fourth teams. It is occasionally used for junior games also. The pavilion was identified as being in particularly poor condition and requires refurbishment to bring them up to an acceptable condition. The club has reported that it believes the pavilion is beyond refurbishment and that a new pavilion is required.

Site Name	Sub Area	No. of Pitches (Squares)	Community use on site	Secured or Unsecured use	Non-Technical Assessment Rating	Grass Balance (supply of grass minus total demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Humshaugh Cricket Club	West	1	Available	Secured	Good	$60 - 30 = 30$ This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets	The site is at capacity on Saturdays. The site has 1 spare match slots per week on Sundays. The site has 5 spare match slots during the midweek period.	This site is being used by Humshaugh Cricket Club with three adult sides here. The current provision is capable of meeting the demand on the pitch and no development plans were identified for the site.
Jubilee Field	Central	1	Available	Secured	Standard	$32 - 22 = 10$ This site is currently under capacity for	The site has 0.5 spare match slots per week on a Saturday. The site has 1 spare match slots per week on Sundays. The site has 5 spare match slots during the midweek period.	This site is being used by Wylam Cricket Club with two adult sides here. The need to improve the maintenance equipment (in order to improve the quality of the grass wickets) on site has been identified. The ground is susceptible to waterlogging with can impact the beginning and end of the season.

Site Name	Sub Area	No. of Pitches (Squares)	Community use on site	Secured or Unsecured use	Non-Technical Assessment Rating	Grass Balance (supply of grass minus total demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Kirkley Cricket Club	North	1	Available	Secured (Currently under dispute with Kirkley College)	Good	<p>$60 - 43 = 17$</p> <p>This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets</p>	<p>The site is at capacity on Saturdays.</p> <p>The site has 0.5 spare match slots per week on Sundays.</p> <p>The site has 4.5 spare match slots during the midweek period.</p>	<p>This site is currently used by Kirkley Cricket Club, the club has 3 adult teams including 2 men's teams 1 ladies and a junior section consisting of 1 u11 side. The ownership of the land is currently under dispute as the club believed they had a 100-year lease however no legal documents can be found to evidence this. Kirkley College have stated that they believe they own the freehold on the land. It is vital to ensure the continued existence of the club that it has security of access to the pitch.</p>

Site Name	Sub Area	No. of Pitches (Squares)	Community use on site	Secured or Unsecured use	Non-Technical Assessment Rating	Grass Balance (supply of grass minus total demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Matfen Hall Cricket Club	South East	1	Available	Secured	Poor	$36 - 20 = 16$ This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets	The site has 0.5 spare match slots per week on a Saturday. The site has 1 spare match slots per week on Sundays. The site has 4.5 spare match slots during the midweek period.	The site is currently used by Matfen Hall Cricket Club, with 1 senior men's team and 1 junior u13 team. The maintenance at the site is poor and the club does not have appropriate equipment.
Mitford Park	North	1	Available	Secured	Good	$35 - 27 = 8$ This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets	The site is at capacity on Saturdays. The site has 1 spare match slots per week on Sundays. The site has 4.5 spare match slots during the midweek period.	Mitford CC currently use this site as their home ground, with 3 senior men's team training and playing here. The pitch is good quality and sufficient to meet the demand on it.

Site Name	Sub Area	No. of Pitches (Squares)	Community use on site	Secured or Unsecured use	Non-Technical Assessment Rating	Grass Balance (supply of grass minus total demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Morpeth Cricket Hockey & Tennis Club	Central	2	Available	Secured	Good	<p>75 - 136 = -61</p> <p>This site is currently over capacity for grass wickets</p>	<p>The site has 1 spare match slots per week on a Saturday.</p> <p>The site has 1 spare match slots per week on Sundays.</p> <p>The site has 5 spare match slots during the midweek period.</p>	<p>Morpeth CC are the sole cricket club operating at this site, consisting of 3 senior men's teams, 1 senior women's team and 10 junior sides ranging from U9 – U15.</p> <p>Renovating and extending the ancillary facility to an appropriate level for both the hockey and cricket club is seen as a priority for the club.</p> <p>The NTP on the main pitch (east of the site) is poor which discourages use by junior teams. The grass provision on the site is currently far from capable of meeting the demand from the teams.</p>

Site Name	Sub Area	No. of Pitches (Squares)	Community use on site	Secured or Unsecured use	Non-Technical Assessment Rating	Grass Balance (supply of grass minus total demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Mowden Hall School	South East	1	Available	Secured	Standard	<p>$32 - 24 = 8$</p> <p>This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets</p>	<p>The site has 0.5 spare match slots per week on a Saturday.</p> <p>The site has 1 spare match slots per week on Sundays.</p> <p>The site has 5 spare match slots during the midweek period.</p>	<p>There is no community use recorded on the pitches however the pitches are reported to be used by the school for P.E lessons and matches.</p> <p>No development plans were identified as part of the site consultation.</p>
Newbrough CC	Central	-	Disused	Unsecured	-	N/A	N/A	<p>The site was previously used by a local club, however, the club is thought to no longer play here. The pitch is disused.</p>

Site Name	Sub Area	No. of Pitches (Squares)	Community use on site	Secured or Unsecured use	Non-Technical Assessment Rating	Grass Balance (supply of grass minus total demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Ponteland Community High School	Central	1	Not available for community use	Unsecured	Poor	N/A This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets	N/A	<p>There is no community use recorded on the pitches at present, however the pitches are reported to be well used by the school for P.E lessons and matches. There are plans for the school site to be relocated to the site of the Ponteland Leisure Centre. Under current plans this move would result in the loss of the current pitch. It is recommended that if the school is to be relocated as planned, the school's pitch must be replaced with equivalent or enhanced provision elsewhere within the subarea.</p> <p>To ensure the continued provision of cricket facilities at the school, the NTP should be replaced. Should the school move to the site of Ponteland Leisure Centre progress as planned the pitch should be considered as a single NTP cricket pitch and be replaced.</p>

Site Name	Sub Area	No. of Pitches (Squares)	Community use on site	Secured or Unsecured use	Non-Technical Assessment Rating	Grass Balance (supply of grass minus total demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Ponteland Leisure Centre	Central	1	Available	Secured	Good	<p>$75 - 77 = -2$</p> <p>This site is currently over capacity for grass wickets</p>	<p>The site is at capacity on Saturdays.</p> <p>The site has 0.5 spare match slots per week on Sundays.</p> <p>The site has 2.5 spare match slots during the midweek period.</p>	<p>Ponteland Cricket Club have used this site as their home ground, with 4 senior teams and 4 junior teams playing here. The leisure centre is scheduled to be demolished and for two new schools to be constructed on the site, but for the existing cricket pitch to remain in place. It is recommended that all provision should be mitigated with alternative facilities of an equivalent or improved quality should this go ahead.</p> <p>To counter the additional surface run-off, artificial drainage should be installed.</p> <p>An NTP may be needed at the site to offset junior demand from the grass wickets.</p>

Site Name	Sub Area	No. of Pitches (Squares)	Community use on site	Secured or Unsecured use	Non-Technical Assessment Rating	Grass Balance (supply of grass minus total demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Ponteland Middle School	Central	1	Available	Secured	Good	N/A This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets	N/A	The pitches are used extensively by the school for PE lessons, training and matches. No future development plans have been identified as part of this survey.
Riverdale Hall Hotel	West	-	Disused	Unsecured	-	N/A	N/A	The site was previously the home of Bellingham Riverside CC. However, the club is thought to no longer play here. The pitch is disused.

Site Name	Sub Area	No. of Pitches (Squares)	Community use on site	Secured or Unsecured use	Non-Technical Assessment Rating	Grass Balance (supply of grass minus total demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Rock Cricket Club	South East	1	Available	Secured	Good	<p>$50 - 24 = 26$</p> <p>This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets</p>	<p>The site is at capacity on Saturdays.</p> <p>The site has 1 spare match slots per week on Sundays.</p> <p>The site has 2 spare match slots during.</p>	<p>Rock Cricket Club operate at this site, with 1 senior men's team and 3 junior teams ranging from u9 – u13. The club also has a burgeoning girl's section which only trains at present, but has aspirations to play matches in the near future. The club also have a Women's softball team. The site is currently undergoing work to connect it to mains electricity and further enhancements are required to support future growth. The club runs an all stars cricket programme.</p>
Seaton Sluice Middle School	South East	1	Not available for community use	Unsecured	Standard	<p>N/A</p> <p>This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets</p>	N/A	<p>There is no community use recorded on the pitches at present however the pitches are reported to be used by the school for P.E lessons and matches. To preserve the continued teaching at cricket on the site, the NTP will require some renovation or replacement in the future.</p>

Site Name	Sub Area	No. of Pitches (Squares)	Community use on site	Secured or Unsecured use	Non-Technical Assessment Rating	Grass Balance (supply of grass minus total demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Sporting Club Cramlington	South East	1	Available	Secured	Good	<p>$50 - 65 = -15$</p> <p>This site is currently over capacity for grass wickets</p>	<p>The site has 0.5 spare match slots per week on a Saturday.</p> <p>The site has 1 spare match slots per week on Sundays.</p> <p>The site has 5 spare match slots during the midweek period.</p>	<p>This multi-sport site is a hub for sport in Northumberland, home to Cramlington CC, consisting of 2 senior teams and 6 junior teams, as well as many other teams from different sports.</p> <p>The site is over capacity and reports latent demand to add more teams. The grass wicket provision on site is not capable of meeting the current or future demand from the club.</p>

Site Name	Sub Area	No. of Pitches (Squares)	Community use on site	Secured or Unsecured use	Non-Technical Assessment Rating	Grass Balance (supply of grass minus total demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Stakeford & Bomarsund Sports & Welfare Centre	South East	1	Available	Secured	Standard	$32 - 30 = 2$ This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets	The site has 0.5 spare match slots per week on a Saturday. The site has 1 spare match slots per week on Sundays. The site has 5 spare match slots during the midweek period.	The site is home to Bomarsund Welfare CC, which consists of 2 senior teams and 1 junior team. The club believes that the pavilion is in need of refurbishment to bring them up to an acceptable condition. The club is also enquiring about building an extension to the clubhouse, which is shared with Stakeford Juniors CFC.
Stamfordham Playing Fields	Central	1	Available	Secured	Standard	$24 - 10 = 14$ This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets	The site is at capacity on Saturdays. The site has 1 spare match slots per week on Sundays. The site has 4.5 spare match slots during the midweek period.	The site is home to Stamfordham CC, a club consisting of 1 senior team. The maintenance equipment on site has been identified as insufficient to adequately maintain the pitches to a high standard.

Site Name	Sub Area	No. of Pitches (Squares)	Community use on site	Secured or Unsecured use	Non-Technical Assessment Rating	Grass Balance (supply of grass minus total demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Stobswood Welfare Recreation Ground	Central	1	Available	Secured	Good	$60 - 20 = 40$ This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets	The site has 0.5 spare match slots per week on a Saturday. The site has 1 spare match slots per week on Sundays. The site has 5 spare match slots during the midweek period.	The site is home to Stobswood CC, a club consisting of 2 senior teams. The site has a considerable amount of supply and has spare capacity (both in total and peak time).
Stocksfield Sports Field	Central	2	Available	Secured	Standard	$85 - 130 = -45$ This site is currently over capacity for grass wickets	The site is at capacity on a Saturday. The site has 0.5 spare match slots per week on Sundays. The site has 3 spare match slots during the midweek period.	The site is home to Stocksfield CC, a large club consisting of 5 senior men's teams, 2 senior women's teams and 6 junior teams. This large number of teams means that the grass wicket provision is incapable of meeting the demand from the club. There is a strong fundraising effort to improve the ancillary facilities at the club to make these more suitable for the club's needs. The club have refurbished their practice facilities on site.

Site Name	Sub rea	No. of Pitches (Squares)	Community use on site	Secured or Unsecured use	Non-Technical Assessment Rating	Grass Balance (supply of grass minus total demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Tillside Cricket Club	North	1	Available	Secured	Good	<p>60 – 70 = -10</p> <p>This site is currently over capacity for grass wickets</p>	<p>The site is at capacity on Saturdays.</p> <p>The site is at capacity on Sundays.</p> <p>The site has 1.5 spare match slots during the midweek period.</p>	<p>Tillside CC are based at this site, a club that has 3 senior men's teams, 1 senior women's team and 5 junior teams ranging from u9 – u18.</p> <p>There is considerable overplay of the grass wickets at the site.</p> <p>The club has a desire to install NTP practice nets to help reduce play on wickets.</p>

Site Name	Sub Area	No. of Pitches (Squares)	Community use on site	Secured or Unsecured use	Non-Technical Assessment Rating	Grass Balance (supply of grass minus total demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Tynedale Sports Club	Central	1	Available	Secured	Good	$80 - 92 = -12$ This site is currently over capacity for grass wickets	The site is at capacity on Saturdays. The site is at capacity on Sundays. The site has 2.5 spare match slots during the midweek period.	<p>Tynedale CC are the sole club operating at this site, consisting of 3 senior men's teams and 7 junior teams ranging from u9 – u18. The site is overplayed with a significant junior section.</p> <p>The club have reported that there is latent demand to form a women's team and a further junior team. There is no spare capacity on Sundays (to accommodate the women's team) but there are spare match slots during weekdays at the site. The club have a desire to have a mobile net facility to allow for more training.</p>

Site Name	Sub Area	No. of Pitches (Squares)	Community use on site	Secured or Unsecured use	Non-Technical Assessment Rating	Grass Balance (supply of grass minus total demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Ulgham Village Playing Field	South East	1	Available	Secured	Standard	$30 - 33 = -3$ This site is currently over capacity for grass wickets	The site is at capacity on Saturdays. The site has 1 spare match slots per week on Sundays. The site is at capacity midweek period.	It is the home ground of Ulgham CC, a club consisting of 3 senior men's teams. The net facilities and NTP are currently not suitable to meet the demands of the club. The site is also overplayed with it's current supply of grass wickets.
Warenford Cricket Club	North	1	Available	Secured	Standard	$30 - 15 = 15$ This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets	The site is at capacity on Saturdays. The site has 0.5 spare match slots per week on Sundays. The site has 5 spare match slots during the midweek period.	The site is home to Warenford CC, with 1 senior men's team playing and training here. The club has expressed a desire to install a non-turf practice net and failing that, a roll-on cage for training purposes.

Site Name	Sub Area	No. of Pitches (Squares)	Community use on site	Secured or Unsecured use	Non-Technical Assessment Rating	Grass Balance (supply of grass minus total demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Wark Sports Club	North	1	Available	Secured	Good	$50 - 10 = 40$ This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets	The site has 0.5 spare match slots per week on a Saturday. The site has 1 spare match slots per week on Sundays. The site has 5 spare match slots during the midweek period.	Wark CC, made up of one senior men's team are based here. The net facilities and NTP are poor and not suitable for current use. However, the grass wickets are capable of meeting current demand.
Warkworth Cricket Club	West	1	Available	Secured	Good	$40 - 12 = -12$ This site is currently over capacity for grass wickets	The site has 0.5 spare match slots per week on a Saturday. The site has 1 spare match slots per week on Sundays. The site has 5 spare match slots during the midweek period.	The site is home to Warkworth CC which consists of 3 senior men's teams and 3 junior teams. Latent demand for an additional junior side has been identified. Whilst there is overuse of the facilities, there is peak time capacity to accommodate the additional team. During consultation the club reported they did not wish to install an NTP. Therefore, further grass provision would be needed to meet latent demand.

Site Name	Sub Area	No. of Pitches (Squares)	Community use on site	Secured or Unsecured use	Non-Technical Assessment Rating	Grass Balance (supply of grass minus total demand)	Peak Time Capacity	Site Summary
Wooler Cricket Club	North	1	Available	Secured	Good	$40 - 11 = 29$ This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets	The site is at capacity on Saturdays. The site has 1 spare match slots per week on Sundays. The site has 3 spare match slots during the midweek period.	The site is home to Wooler CC, a club consisting of one senior men's team. The club identified the need to refurbish the existing pavilion located there to bring it up to an acceptable standard.

4.6 Capacity Analysis for Cricket in Northumberland

- 4.6.1 Using the supply of the cricket sites and the current level of demand, the overall capacity of each of the sites has been calculated.
- 4.6.2 Table 4.11 below, summarises all of the supply, capacity, current demand and future demand into one table, with the current and future positions presented by sub area. It should be noted that for the future analysis, ECB guidance suggests that adult teams will play 10 home matches per season and junior teams 8 home matches per season. These figures have therefore been utilised to calculate the future demand for pitch provision.
- 4.6.3 Table 4.11 shows the total supply and demand balance for grass cricket pitches in Northumberland. Table 4.12 also shows the balance when it is assumed that non-turf pitches are used for matches at any age groups. It is likely that in reality, a small number of clubs such as those with larger junior sections, will use the non-turf pitches for a small proportion of their matches.
- 4.6.4 The table includes the level of latent demand for cricket for both adults and juniors. Latent demand refers to the potential number of teams that could be added if all those that wanted to play cricket but do not, at present, do so. This data is gathered during the club consultations and uses the number of teams that clubs believe they will increase by over the next 3 years.

Table 4.11: Overall cricket supply and demand in Northumberland (grass wickets only)

Sub Area	Current Picture			Projected Picture (2031)		
	Spare capacity	Overplay	Actual capacity balance	Demand from population change	Latent/Unmet Demand	Future balance
Central	156	-165	-9	-6	9	-12
North	172	-92	80	-4	7	77
South East	205	-6	199	-3	9	193
West	135	0	135	-1	1	135
Northumberland	668	-263	405	-14	26	393

- 4.6.5 Table 4.11 above shows that there is sufficient spare carrying capacity across 3 of the 4 sub areas in the study area. The sub area which is an exception is the Central sub area where a deficit of 9 MES has been identified when taking into account overplay. The sub area with the largest surplus of provision is seen in the South East, with 199 MES of spare capacity. The overall current position for grass wicket provision in Northumberland shows 405 MES of spare capacity, meaning that the current level of supply is able to meet the current level of demand.
- 4.6.6 When incorporating future demand growth, brought about by populations projections and unmet/latent demand, there is an overall reduction in the level of spare capacity of grass wicket provision, falling to 393 MES. Despite the decrease, the level of spare capacity shows that there is enough supply in Northumberland to accommodate future demand increases. The sub area that is expected to experience the largest decrease in available spare capacity is in the South East, with a decrease of 6 MES. This is predominantly caused by unmet/latent demand that has been identified in the area.
- 4.6.7 Table 4.11 above shows that when analysing TGR calculations, there is projected to be a decline in team demand of 14 teams in Northumberland, due to changes in population figures. The largest drop in team

numbers is expected to be in the Central sub area, with a decrease of 6 teams. Despite this decrease in team demand, there is still expected to be an overall increase in future demand, which explains why the level of spare capacity in the 'future balance' column has reduced. This is due to latent/unmet demand that has been identified, which offsets the decrease in team demand from population change.

Table 4.12: Overall cricket supply and demand in Northumberland (including artificial wickets)

Sub Area	Current Picture			Projected Picture (2031)		
	Spare capacity	Overplay	Actual capacity balance	Demand from population change	Latent/Unmet Demand	Future balance
Central	306	-135	171	-6	9	168
North	232	-92	140	-4	7	137
South East	265	-6	259	-3	9	253
West	135	0	135	-1	1	135
Northumberland	938	-233	705	-14	26	693

- 4.6.8 Table 4.12 above presents the current and future position for cricket in Northumberland, with both grass wickets and artificial wickets included.
- 4.6.9 The inclusion of artificial wickets improves the actual capacity balance position and shows spare capacity of 705 MES for the study area as a whole. All sub areas show a large level of spare capacity, with the Central sub area experiencing the greatest increase due to its relatively large provision of artificial cricket provision compared to the other three sub areas. The Central sub area, when including artificial provision, went from a position of deficit of 9 MES to a position of spare capacity of 171 MES.
- 4.6.10 The future position for cricket provision when including artificial wickets shows a projected level of spare capacity of 693 MES for Northumberland as a whole.

4.7 Peak-time Capacity Analysis

- 4.7.1 The following section contains the summary of peak time capacity analysis for cricket in Northumberland and its constituent sub areas. Peak periods refer to the times when most cricket matches are scheduled in an area.
- 4.7.2 To assess the availability of cricket facilities at peak times, it has been assumed that the period of highest demand for cricket matches is on a Saturday afternoon for adult cricket and Sunday morning for Junior cricket. The capacity analysis below takes account of peak period usage.
- 4.7.3 A full capacity analysis of each site can be found in the Technical Appendix B.

Table 4.13: Total Peak Time Match Slots Available (for pitches currently accommodating community demand)

Area	Saturday PM	Sunday PM	Midweek (5x per Week)
Central	4	12	63
North	4	10	47
South East	At Capacity	8	37
West	1	5	22
Northumberland	9	34	168

- 4.7.4 Table 4.13 shows that there is very limited availability for Saturday afternoon match slots. The table shows that, when available pitches are considered, Northumberland has spare capacity for just 9 match slots during Saturday afternoons across the entire County. The majority of spare capacity on grounds on a Saturday afternoon is located in the Central and North sub areas. The central sub area has the greatest amount of latent demand for senior teams with three and the North the second greatest, with two. This means that there is sufficient spare capacity within the sub area to meet this demand.
- 4.7.5 However, there is no spare peak-time capacity at either adult or junior level in South East. The South East has latent demand for one senior team but there are no match slots for this team to be accommodated within the sub area on a Saturday afternoon.
- 4.7.6 Midweek capacity is high because the table assumes that junior teams will play on any weekday evening meaning there are five slots available. At present, no sub area is at capacity during Sunday afternoons or midweek. Only Tynedale CC are thought to be at capacity for midweek timeslots.

4.8 Cricket Summary

- 4.8.1 This section summarises the findings from the cricket analysis, which will form the basis of the recommendation and action plan section for Northumberland.
- 4.8.2 Table 4.14 includes the response to 5 key questions, which are asked for all PPS studies across the UK, in order to provide a standardised illustration of supply and demand for sports provision.

Table 4.14: Key PPS findings for Cricket in Northumberland

Key Question	Analysis and Recommendations
What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?	<p>There are 46 cricket sites in Northumberland containing 48 squares, 423 grass wickets and 11 NTPs. This equates to an overall capacity of 2,311 matches per season, 2,011 of which is from grass wickets. The Central sub area has the most supply with 39% of all supply in Northumberland.</p> <p>The study has captured demand for a total of 1,665 matches per season from 41 clubs across the County. 1,139 of these matches are for senior games (68%). 42% of this demand is concentrated in the Central sub area. Demand is typically traditional village and town clubs playing in local leagues.</p> <p>10 sites are recognised as being over capacity and where this the case the table above has recommended that NTPs or additional grass wickets are installed to meet this future demand.</p> <p>The key issues with the supply of the area is the quality of pavilions and practice facilities is particularly poor. Where the ECB and NCC consider sites to be a priority, it is recommended that these facility elements be prioritised for improvement in the short to medium term.</p> <p>16 of the 41 clubs reported a total of 20 unrealised teams in latent demand. This equates to 160 matches. Key reasons for this are considered to be a lack of NTP and fixed net practice facilities at clubs as a well as a lack of volunteer capacity to help run and administer these teams.</p>
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand	<p>All available sites are considered to be secured for continued use for cricket.</p> <p>When all available facilities are factored into the supply, Northumberland is estimated to have a total spare capacity of 405 MES per season when looking at grass wicket provision only. When including artificial wicket provision into the supply, this level of spare capacity increases to 705 MES.</p> <p>There is a notable lack of NTP provision across the County. NTPs are considered to be beneficial for the development of younger aged-junior cricket due to the increased bounce they</p>

Key Question	Analysis and Recommendations
	<p>can produce over grass wickets. Both the Central and North sub areas are at deficit for these wickets.</p> <p>Having a deficit of NTP provision, plus the lack NTPs at key sites where multiple junior teams play, means that there are fewer opportunities for young cricketers to benefit from playing on NTPs as well as and increased strain on the grass wickets.</p> <p>Peak time analysis shows that there is limited spare capacity during Saturday afternoons, with only 9 match slots available across the entire County. The lack of peak time capacity is felt most in the South East sub area, where there are no match slots available. This means that any new teams in the sub area that want to play on Saturday afternoons are likely to need to travel out of the County (most likely to Newcastle) or to neighbouring sub areas.</p>
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?	<p>58% of pitches are considered to be good, with a further 35% of pitches being recorded as standard across the entire county.</p> <p>The reason for the fair quality of pitches is thought to be down to the fact that many clubs play an active role in the maintenance and management of the facility. This results in a strong volunteer workforce producing good or standard quality grass pitches across the County at large or medium sized clubs.</p> <p>The volunteer workforce tends to be good at delivering fair quality outfielders and grass wickets however, the study has identified common short comings across multiple sites. The study highlights that many sites identify as having poor quality NTPs, practice nets or changing facilities; with several having more than one of these facility elements in a poor or inadequate condition.</p> <p>Enhancing the support to clubs to better maintain these facilities will be key in ensuring that aging facilities of this kind are maintained to the best possible level to sustain a better quality of supply across the county.</p>
What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision	<p>Future supply is not expected to alter very much between 2017-2031 as few sites are considered to be 'at risk'</p> <p>The future picture of demand is a mixed. Due to the changing demographics of the area, the TGR analysis identifies that demand is expected to decline in the County. The TGR analysis projects a decline of 10 adult teams and 4 junior teams in total. However, latent demand analysis shows that many clubs in the area have identified that there is sufficient demand in the area to add to the number of teams. This is especially prominent amongst junior teams and to a lesser extent, ladies' teams.</p> <p>Overall, the future demand analysis shows that should the TGR analysis be accurate and all latent demand realised, there will be an additional 16 junior teams and 4 fewer adult teams.</p> <p>The projected and high latent demand to increase the number of junior teams in Northumberland reinforces the need to improve practice and NTP facilities at key sites across the County.</p>
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand	<p>There is enough supply to meet projected future demand. Taken together, if all future teams are realised, the supply and demand balance for Northumberland in 2031 will be 393 spare match equivalents per week if all demand was to be placed on grass wickets.</p> <p>It is important to note that, in order to enable large clubs to continue progress and increase the number of teams they field additional capacity will be needed at sites. This includes the need for additional NTPs and practice facilities to accommodate coaching and junior match play.</p>

Section 5: Rugby Union Analysis



5 Rugby Union Analysis

5.1 Introduction and Strategic Context

- 5.1.1 The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is the national governing body responsible for grassroots and elite rugby in England, with the season operating from September to April.

RFU STRATEGIC PLAN (2017-2021)

- 5.1.2 In October 2017, the RFU published its strategic plan, with the overall objective of being England's strongest sport, underpinned by good governance and regulation, as well as increased investment in the game to drive elite performance and community participation.

- 5.1.3 The following key areas of focus are particularly relevant for this strategy;

- Protect our clubs: Support clubs to protect themselves against risks to sustainability in the key areas of leadership, facilities and finances. Support clubs to meet all their statutory and regulatory obligations
- Expand places to play through Artificial Grass Pitches: Install and manage strategically placed Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP's) nationwide, increasing playing opportunities for the 15- a-side game and other variants in communities where natural turf pitches are significantly overused. Improve access to rugby in non-traditional and urban areas
- Engage new communities in rugby: Increase female player numbers, with more teams and matches, expansion in the education environment and transitioning more players to clubs
- Grow the grass-roots game: Increase the number of active male and female (14+) 15-a-side teams by 10%. Increase the number of 15-a-side matches played by 20%. Increase the number of active rugby union players by 10%.

- 5.1.4 The objectives and targets of the RFU will be referenced throughout this strategy and utilised to prioritise facility development projects as part of the recommendations and action plan section.

RFU FACILITIES STRATEGY (2014-2018)

- 5.1.5 The RFU published its Facility Strategy (2014) for the next four years. The strategy includes the following relevant objectives and priorities relevant to the PPS:

- The core aims of the RFU are to create effective and efficient facilities, management and governance along with community integration.
- Facility priorities include improving changing provision, natural turf pitch quality, AGPs and floodlighting for both matches and training. These affect commercial opportunities within community clubs.

5.2 Supply

QUANTITY OVERVIEW

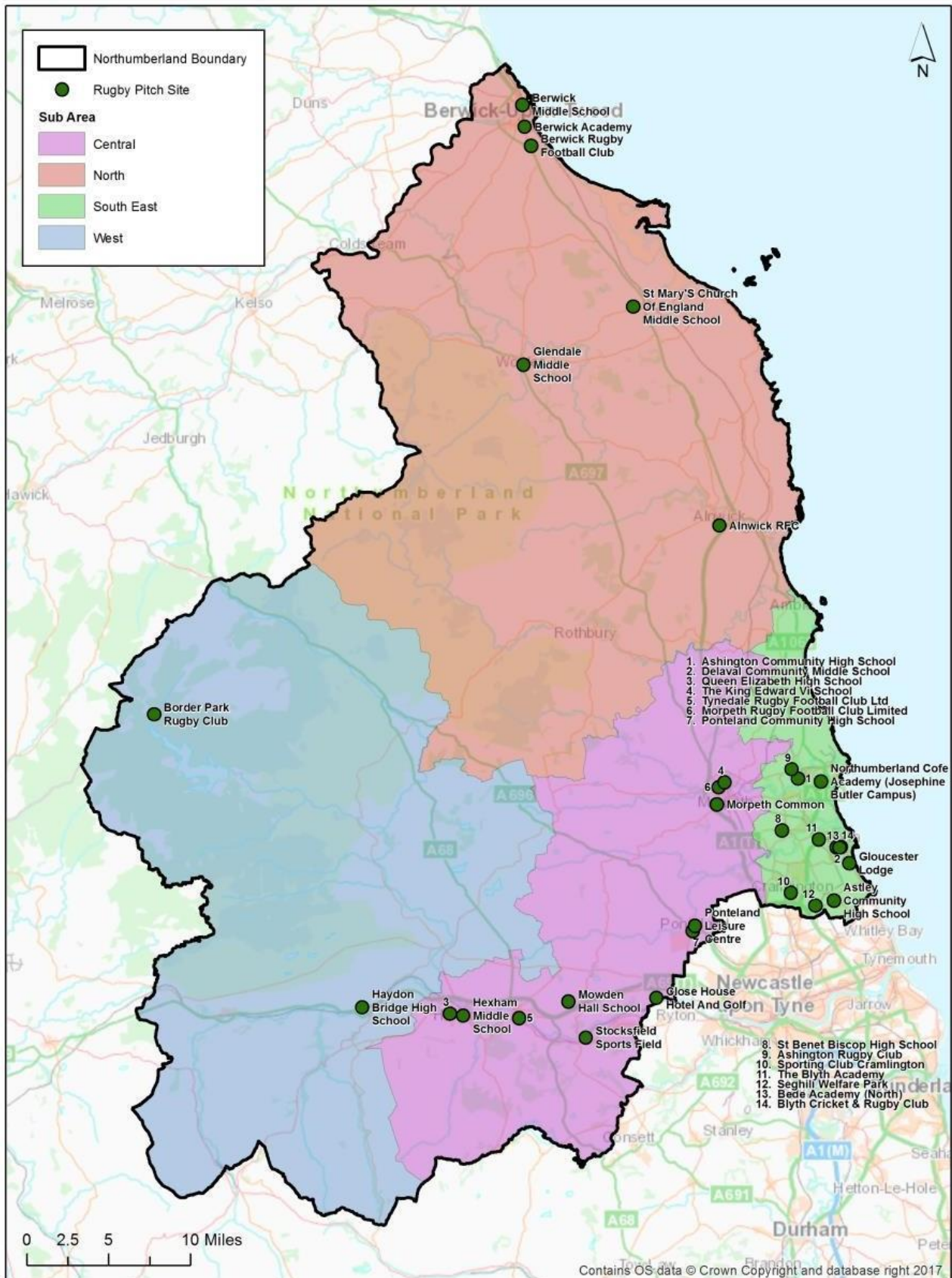
- 5.2.1 There are seven sites in Northumberland comprising rugby of 61 pitches including 46 senior pitches. 26 of these senior pitches accommodate community rugby union across 10 sites. The ownership of the rugby sites across the study area is shown in Table 5.1 by the number of pitches, to reflect the significance of each ownership and management type.

Table 5.1: Ownership of Rugby Pitches in Northumberland

	Ownership	Management
Academy	0	3
Active Northumberland	0	1
Sports Club	10	26
Council	0	3
Education	0	21
Local Authority	25	4
Parish Council	0	1
Private	11	0
Trust	13	0
Unknown	2	2

- 5.2.2 Table 5.1 shows that although a significant proportion of pitches are based at local authority owned sites, 43% are managed by sports clubs. The study has found at all clubs in the area have a level of management and control over their home pitches.
- 5.2.3 Figure 5.1 shows the geographic location of the rugby pitches across the study area and illustrates that the current supply is predominately in the Central and South East sub areas.

Figure 5.1: Rugby pitch audit in Northumberland



5.2.4 Table 5.2 provides a breakdown of the rugby sites in Northumberland.

Table 5.2: Rugby Site Breakdown of Security of Community Use

Site Name	Postcode	Sub area	Community use on site	Security of Use	Owners	Adult	Junior/ Minis	WR22 Compliant AGP
Alnwick RFC	NE661BE	North	Available	Secured	Club	3	0	0
Ashington Community High School	NE638DH	South East	Available	Unsecured	County Council	1	0	0
Ashington Rugby Club	NE638TP	South East	Available	Secured	Club	3	0	0
Astley Community High School	NE250BP	South East	Available	Unsecured	Local Authority	2	0	0
Bede Academy (North)	NE242SY	South East	Available	Unsecured	Trust	0	1	0
Berwick Academy	TD152JF	North	Available	Secured	Trust	0	2	0
Berwick Middle School	TD151LA	North	Available	Unsecured	County Council	0	1	0
Berwick Rugby Football Club	TD152QY	North	Available	Secured	Trust	4	0	0
Blyth Cricket & Rugby Club	NE243LE	South East	Available	Secured	Private	1	0	0
Border Park Rugby Club	NE481HG	West	Available	Secured	Club	1	0	0
Close House Hotel and Golf	NE150HT	Central	Available	Unsecured	Private	5	0	0
Delaval Community Middle School	NE243NL	South East	Available	Unsecured	Trust	2	0	0
Glendale Middle School	NE716QF	North	Available	Unsecured	Local Authority	0	1	0
Gloucester Lodge	NE243PH	South East	Available	Secured	County Council	1	0	0
Haydon Bridge High School	NE476LR	West	Available	Unsecured	Local Authority	0	2	0
Hexham Middle School	NE461BU	Central	Available	Unsecured	Local Authority	0	1	0
Morpeth Common	NE612YS	Central	Available	Secured	County Council	1	0	0
Morpeth Rugby Football Club Limited	NE611RJ	Central	Available	Secured	Club	3	0	0
Mowden Hall School	NE437TP	Central	Not available	Unsecured	Trust	0	1	0
Northumberland Cofe Academy (Josephine Butler Campus)	NE639RZ	South East	Available	Secured	County Council	1	0	1
Ponteland Community High School	NE209EY	Central	Available	Unsecured	Local Authority	0	2	0
Ponteland Leisure	NE209EG	Central	Available	Unsecured	Local Authority	3	0	0

Site Name	Postcode	Sub area	Community use on site	Security of Use	Owners	Adult	Junior/ Minis	WR22 Compliant AGP
Centre ¹								
Ponteland Middle School*	NE209EY	Central	Available	Unsecured	Local Authority	2	0	0
Queen Elizabeth High School	NE463JB	Central	Available	Unsecured	Local Authority	0	2	0
Seghill Welfare Park	NE237EZ	South East	Available	Secured	Local Authority	2	0	0
South Beach*	NE243RJ	South East	Available	Secured	County Council	2	0	0
St Benet Biscop High School	NE226ED	South East	Available	Unsecured	Local Authority	1	0	0
St Mary's Church of England Middle School	NE707NX	North	Not available	Unsecured	County Council	0	1	0
St Mary's Church of England Middle School	NE707NX	North	Not available	Unsecured	County Council	0	1	0
Stocksfield Sports Field	NE437NN	Central	Available	Secured	Allendale Estates	1	0	0
The Blyth Academy	NE244JP	South East	Available	Secured	Trust	1	0	0
The Duchess' Community High School ²	NE662DH	North	Unknown	Unsecured	Unknown	2	0	0
The King Edward VI School	NE611DN	Central	Available	Secured	Trust	2	0	0
Tynedale Rugby Football Club Ltd	NE455AY	Central	Available	Secured	Private	4	0	0

These pitches are unavailable for 2 years during the construction work at Ponteland Leisure Centre.

² Although the school has 2 pitches these are not in use as they are being used to store top soil.

QUALITY ASSESSMENT

- 5.2.5 Each site was visited and assessed by 4global using non-technical assessments as determined by the RFU. The methodology for assessing rugby pitch quality analyses two key elements; the maintenance programme and level of drainage.
- 5.2.6 Each pitch is scored and classified in one of three categories. These represent actions required to improve site quality. A breakdown for each of the two scoring elements and three respective categories is provided in the following two tables. Further detail on this process can be seen in the Technical Appendix D: Rugby Union Analysis.

Table 5.3: Rugby pitch maintenance quality assessment specifications

Category	Overall Quality Rating
MO	Action requires significant improvements to the maintenance programme
M1	Action requires minor improvements to the maintenance programme
M2	Action requires no improvements to the maintenance programme

Table 5.4: Rugby pitch drainage quality assessment specifications

Category	Overall Quality Rating
DO	Action on pipe draining system is needed on pitch
D1	Action on silt drainage system is needed on pitch
D2	No action is needed on pitch drainage

- 5.2.7 These scores are then combined to provide a match equivalent capacity, as calculated in Table 5.5 below. Depending on the score of a site, a pitch is assigned a certain carrying capacity which can then be used to calculate the overall capacity of a site.

Table 5.5: Match equivalent calculation

Drainage	Maintenance		
	Poor (MO)	Standard (M1)	Good (M2)
Natural Inadequate (DO)	0.5	1.5	2
Natural Adequate (D1)	1.5	2	3
Pipe Drained (D2)	1.75	2.5	3.25
Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	2	3	3.5

- 5.2.8 Table 5.6 summarises the quality assessment results for those sites currently used by the community. Full details of the subsequent carrying capacity allocations of each site by pitch type can be found in Technical Appendix C – Rugby Analysis.

Table 5.6: Pitches by Match equivalent calculation

Drainage	Maintenance		
	Poor (M0)	Standard (M1)	Good (M2)
Natural Inadequate (D0)	11	0	0
Natural Adequate (D1)	7	6	6
Pipe Drained (D2)	20	8	0
Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	0	0	1

- 5.2.9 Across all pitches, 64% of pitches are recorded as receiving 'poor' maintenance. Of these 11 have inadequate drainage also.
- 5.2.10 Only 7 pitches (12%) are recorded as receiving good maintenance and all are considered to have adequate drainage also. All but one of the M2 pitches are located at Close House Hotel and Golf, which is a Newcastle University site used exclusively either intramural or British Universities and Colleges Sport matches (BUCS).
- 5.2.11 All pitches receiving M0 quality maintenance are either education sites (mostly managed by academies) or club pitches.
- 5.2.12 8 of the 25 pitches located at club sites are considered to have poor quality maintenance. 5 of the 10 sites have at least one pitch that is considered to receive poor quality maintenance. 3 of the 10 club sites are considered to have 100% of their pitches in receipt of poor maintenance.

5.3 Demand

CURRENT DEMAND

- 5.3.1 10 clubs have been identified as playing in Northumberland. Their home-grounds and the number of competitive teams they field is detailed in Table 5.7.

Table 5.7: Rugby club profiles for responding clubs

Club	Home Ground	Sub area	Community use on site	Security of Use	Owners	Adult teams	18-19 years youth teams	Junior teams (U12-17)	Mini / Midi teams (U7-11)	Totals
Alnwick RUFC	Alnwick RFC	North	Available	Secured	Club	3	1	6	6	16
Ashington Joint Welfare RFC	Ashington Rugby Club	South East	Available	Secured	Club	3	0	3	2	8
Berwick Upon Tweed RFC	Berwick Rugby Football Club	North	Available	Secured	Trust	2	1	6	6	15
Blyth RFC	Blyth Cricket & Rugby Club	South East	Available	Secured	Private	3	1	4	3	11
Border Park RFC	Border Park Rugby Club	West	Available	Secured	Club	1	0	0	0	1
Morpeth RFC	Morpeth Rugby Football Club Limited	Centra	Available	Secured	Club	4	2	7	5	18
Ponteland RFC	Ponteland Leisure Centre	Centra	Available	Unsecured	Local Authority	3	1	6	5	15

Prudhoe and Stocksfield RFC	Stocksfield Sports Field	Central	Available	Secured	Allendale Estates	1	0	0	0	1
Seghill RFC	Seghill Welfare Park	South East	Available	Secured	Local Authority	2	0	0	0	2
Tynedale RFC	Tynedale Rugby Football Club Ltd	Central	Available	Secured	Private	3	1	8	6	18

5.3.2

Table 5.7 shows that there 10 clubs in the County comprising 105 teams including 25 adult teams, 7 colts' teams, 40 junior teams and 33 mini/midi teams.

5.3.3 6 of the 10 clubs have 11 teams or more and comprise 89% of all of the teams in the County. This includes 72% of all adult teams and 94% of all colts, juniors and min/midi teams. This means these 6 clubs should be considered the most significant clubs in the County and should therefore be considered a higher priority for facility development.

5.3.4 Table 5.8 provides a summary of the consultations undertaken with key clubs in the County.

Table 5.8: Summary of demand consultations from rugby clubs in Northumberland

Club	Consultation Summary
Alnwick RFC	A large site, with the club being mainly run by volunteers. The club are planning on increasing the parking on site, due to during busy times there is currently not enough spaces. The club used to have access to two pitches which were very well used, although due to the development of Duchess' Community School these pitches were lost. Subsequently they have been restored and these pitches have a community use requirement. However, they are currently being used to store top soil and are not available for rugby. The clubhouse is a 1960's build and was refurbished in recent years.
Ashington Rugby Club	The land at the Rugby Club is owned by Ashington Rugby Club. They lease it out to Ellington FC juniors, Northumberland Lightning American Football and a disabled archery club. They have 3 rugby pitches and a football pitch. They also have a specific grids area for training. Maintenance is carried out by volunteers. Aeration is carried out twice per year and all other work at end of the season if funds are available. They have a changing block with home/away/ref and first aid rooms. Have a fully functioning bar area which has recently had an extension added to it. Main source of funding comes through the bar, they also have a cricket team in the summer. Drainage on pitches 1 & 2 to the right of the clubhouse is a major issue. Fencing also needs mended on the main senior pitch. On pitch two they are looking to add floodlights.
Berwick RFC	The rugby club lease the land from the Hospital Estates and have at least 30 years remaining. The club have recently had a grant from the inspired facilities fund and have used this money well by adding drainage, levelling, and creating a new fully floodlit pitch next to the club house. Although have had issues with the weather meaning poor growth and therefore the pitch hasn't grown through as expected, so aren't using the pitch for matches yet, mainly for training. The other three pitches over the road are of poor quality and struggle with drainage issues across all of them, which they attribute to poor drainage system and also surrounding fields filtering onto theirs. The club's main development priority is to improve the changing facilities, which are over 20+ years.
Blyth Cricket & Rugby Club	The site is owned by Hastings Estates, and provide a long-term lease to the club. The rugby pitch is of poor condition and evidently overplayed, attributed to be the only pitch for the club, and floodlit. The rugby club use the cricket outfield for junior matches/training, but have secured funding to provide a new pitch on the site which should be ready in Spring 2019. The ancillary has had a recent refurbishment and the changing rooms are in good quality. The club would like to improve the drainage on the site.
Border Park Rugby Club	The club has recently restarted again, and they have done a lot of work to the ground. It is currently used by one team who play approximately 12 friendlies a season. The goalposts are in need of replacing but are currently safe. Only half of the pitch is floodlit. They have a good grass coverage but do suffer with drainage. Most of the special care to the grass was carried out around five years

	ago. However, the current groundsman has recently chain harrowed the pitch.
Morpeth Rugby Club	All pitches on site were of good quality and a regular maintenance scheme was being undertaken. Ancillary facilities to a very high standard, they were renovated in 2009. Current discussions being had within the committee looking at potentially developing an AGP on site. New construction near the site has meant that Mitford Construction, who are building new housing, may potentially help with the funding of one. Still in the early stages of being discussed.
Ponteland Leisure Centre	The leisure centre is being redeveloped which is due to last 2 years. The work will result in rugby club losing access to 2 pitches and they will need to find alternative provision. After completion there will be a new rugby training pitch and a floodlit pitch as well as the remaining existing. The redevelopment also covers other sports pitches, including an artificial pitch and new ancillary facilities.
The Duchess Community High School	New build school, completed in Aug 2016, meaning in its first year of operation. There are 2 grass pitches but are no longer in use. These are subject to a community use agreement and the nearby rugby club feel the planning conditions have not been met. The school is unsure what the mix of pitches it will be. The availability of the site for community use is not certain at the moment. The school plan to consult with local clubs as to what requirements in the area for sport.
Tynedale Rugby Club	There is a wing of the clubhouse with 2 changing rooms which were developed in 2007 (used by the football club), the remaining changing rooms have not been renovated since 1975 and could do with updating. The site is situated on a floodplain which is a key issue in regard to securing insurance and also ensuring constant provision throughout a season.

LATENT DEMAND

5.3.5 Latent demand is defined as unrealised, existing demand for a sport or activity.

5.3.6 The reason(s) for demand remaining unrealised (latent) can be simple or complex. Some of the common barriers to realising latent demand are identified below:

- Lack capacity at home or neighbouring sites, either during peak time or in general
- Limited volunteer capacity
- Cost of entry being too high
- Poor quality facilities / experience of the participants.

5.3.7 For the purposes of this study, the level of latent demand in any area has been identified during consultations with community clubs. During the consultation, clubs are asked if they feel there is any latent demand for their sport in their area. Clubs then report the number of teams they feel there is sufficient latent demand for, by age and gender category. Table 5.9 shows the level of latent demand identified by each rugby club during the consultation.

Table 5.9: Latent demand for new teams by age category and gender

Club	Sub area	Senior		Colts		Junior		Mini	Total
		Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls		
Alnwick RFC	North	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	3
Berwick RFC	North	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	4
Blyth RFC	South East	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Morpeth RFC	Central	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	3
Ponteland RFC	Central	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Seghill RFC	South East	1	0	0	0	2	0	2	5
Tynedale RFC	Central	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
Total		3	2	0	3	4	3	4	19

5.3.8 Table 5.9 shows that there is latent demand for rugby in Northumberland, with 19 unrealised teams. Given

that there are 109 teams currently active within the catchment, this means 15% of potential teams are currently being not being realised within the County.

- 5.3.9 7 of the 11 clubs identified at least some level of latent demand for their club. Seghill RFC reported the highest level of latent demand for their club with 5 teams unrealised. This represents 26% of all latent demand in the area and if realised would result in an increase of over double the existing number of teams at this club.
- 5.3.10 Ponteland is the only club in the County reported to have any female teams (at U15s and U13s). Table 5.9 shows that there is sufficient latent demand to add 8 female teams across 3 clubs (none of which offer female rugby at present). If realised, this would represent a substantial change to female rugby in the area, with an increase of 400%. This demand is recorded in the Central and Northern sub areas.
- 5.3.11 Key barriers to realising these teams are reported to be a lack of pitch capacity and changing facilities (for female rugby). These barriers will be addressed further as part of the site-by-site analysis (below).

IMPORTED / EXPORTED DEMAND

- 5.3.12 All clubs reported their current home grounds as being their preferred site. The only mention of exported demand has been a desire to use the WR22 at Druids Park just to the south of the County during times of poor weather. During consultation with the RFU it is understood that WR22 pitches located in Newcastle (Kingston Park) and Tyneside (Whitely Bay, Rockcliff) are being used by NCC clubs for midweek training demand.
- 5.3.13 The only imported demand in the area takes place at Close House Hotel and Golf which is used exclusively by Newcastle University for 4 intramural matches per week.
- 5.3.14 The reason for the lack of import and export of demand across the County boundary is thought to be due to the presence of a major club in, or near each major settlement, reducing the need for demand to be exported. Furthermore, the presence of established clubs in Newcastle and Gateshead reduces the need for demand from these clubs to be imported into the County.
- 5.3.15 The site capacity, and peak time capacity analysis below indicate a lack of capacity for further teams to be added within the existing provision within the County. Therefore, unless carrying capacity is increased, either by adding provision or improving the quality of maintenance and drainage, then pressure from demand may result in exported demand outside of the County.
- 5.3.16 The issue of the lack of carrying capacity, and steps to address this are laid out in the site-by-site analysis below.

FUTURE DEMAND

- 5.3.17 In order to calculate the future demand for rugby in Northumberland, a Team Generation Rate⁷ has been calculated using the current number of teams and the current population. This measure allows us to calculate what size of population (for various age groups) will typically cause enough demand for a rugby team.
- 5.3.18 This Team Generation Rate can now be applied to the population projections for the study area to confirm how population growth or reduction will affect the demand for teams in each of the key age groups. As before, ONS, SNPP data has been used for the population projection.

Table 5.10: Future demand projections for rugby teams in Northumberland

Age Groups	Teams	Current popn	Future popn	Current TGR	Popn Change	Potential Change in Team Numbers	Predicted Future Number of Teams
Rugby Union Senior Men (19-45yrs)	32	44214	43474	1382	-741	-1	31
Rugby Union Youth Boys (13-18yrs)	36	10365	10139	288	-227	-1	35
Rugby Union Youth Girls (13-18yrs)	4	9811	9655	2453	-156	0	4
Rugby Union Mini/Midi Mixed (7-12yrs)	33	20337	19222	616	-1114	-2	31

- 5.3.19 Table 5.10 shows the TGR calculations for rugby teams in Northumberland. Based on future population projections a total of 4 fewer rugby teams in the County by 2031. This figure is calculated by rounding the projected figure reached by the TGR to the nearest whole number. The table shows that due to the reduced number of residents in the age groups, there will be a 1-team reduction in Senior Men's, Youth Boys and a 2-team reduction across mini/midi age groups.

5.4 Site by Site Table

- 5.4.1 Table 5.11 details the balance of pitch supply and formal demand from clubs in the area. All sites have been included with their availability and security of use listed alongside.
- 5.4.2 There is also a measure of peak period capacity where by each pitch has a predetermined number of match slots. Peak time capacity is as follows: senior pitches are available for senior men's and colt teams on Saturday afternoon for 2 match slots and Sunday morning for junior and women's teams for 2 match slots. Junior pitches are available on Sunday morning to mini teams for 2 match slots. Capacity is factored into these calculations and can limit the peak time capacity.
- 5.4.3 As education demand is not captured as part of the survey, balance on educational sites has been adjusted to factor in school use. This should result in a fair representation of the balance of supply and demand in the area from a community use perspective. The balance is measured in Match Equivalent Sessions (MES).

Table 5.11: Site-by-Site analysis of rugby sites in Northumberland

Site Name	Sub Area	Pitch Supply	Available to the community	Non-Technical Assessment Rating	Capacity for community use/ balance	Site Summary
Alnwick RFC	North	3x Adult	Available Secured	1x Adequate (M1) 2x Poor (M0)	-3.5 (At capacity during Sunday PM)	<p>This site is being used by Alnwick RFC for three adult and seven junior sides.</p> <p>Maintenance on one pitch is rated as adequate whilst the other two are poor. Improving the maintenance would provide an additional 1.5 match equivalents per week. This improvement may not be enough to meet all current demand. Due to the loss of pitches to developments at Duchess High School, the club currently finds that provision is limited and reduced from the level they have had previously.</p> <p>Between 2 to 4 pitches are expected to be added to The Duchess High School once renovation to their playing fields has been completed. This additional provision is expected to be large enough to meet demand on the site. Whilst the club expects to have the opportunity to access these pitches, it is not known on what the cost or longevity of any agreement will be. Security of tenure is an important issue for the club.</p>
Ashington Rugby Club	South East	3x Adult	Available Secured	2x Poor (M0) 1x Adequate (M1)	-3 (Spare capacity during Saturday PM and Sunday Am)	<p>The site is used by Ashington Joint Welfare RFC for eight sides, along with Ashington Rugby Club who use the site for three sides.</p> <p>Drainage on pitches one and two, to the right of the clubhouse, is an issue.</p> <p>Improving the drainage on the pitches would provide a total carrying capacity of 8.25 match equivalents per week; an increase of 0.75 match equivalents per week.</p> <p>Maintenance on all three pitches also has scope for improvement which would further increase the capacity.</p> <p>The club are looking to add floodlighting to the second pitch in order to spread training demand, which is currently concentrated on the one floodlit pitch.</p>

Site Name	Sub Area	Pitch Supply	Available to the community	Non-Technical Assessment Rating	Capacity for community use/ balance	Site Summary
Ashington Community High School	South East	1x Adult	Available Unsecured	1x Poor (M0)	+1.5	The site is not used by the community but is used by the school for matches, training, physical education and other activity. Issues of standing water are evident at this site. There is scope to improve the maintenance at the site.
Astley Community High School	South East	2x Adult	Available Unsecured	2x Poor (M0)	+3.5	The site is not used by the community but is used by the school for matches, training, physical education and other activity. There is significant evidence of overplaying on the site. The pitches struggle with poor drainage and could do with more space for pitches. Maintenance of the pitches is rated as poor with significant scope for improvement. Despite there appearing to be spare capacity for community use at the site, the evidence of overplay from school use and poor maintenance mean that this figure is probably inflated.
Bede Academy (North)	South East	1x Junior	Available Unsecured	1x Poor (M0)	+1.75	This site should be protected as playing fields in the local plan. The site is not used by the community but is used by the school for matches, training, physical education and other activity. It is recommended that the academy enters into a secured community use agreement with Blyth RFC to use the academy's junior pitch. No further provision has been identified as part of this study.
Berwick Academy	North	2 x Junior	Available Secured	2x Poor (M0)	+3	The site is not used by the community but is used by the school for matches, training, physical education and other activity. The maintenance of the pitches is poor so there is scope for improvement. The pitches are also not full-sized so community use is limited to youth teams in their current configuration. The ancillary building is good and there are no major issues with the site.
Berwick Middle School	North	1x Junior	Available Unsecured	1x Poor (M0)	+1.75	The site is not used by the community but is used by the school for matches, training, physical education and other activity.

Site Name	Sub Area	Pitch Supply	Available to the community	Non-Technical Assessment Rating	Capacity for community use/ balance	Site Summary
						Maintenance at the site is poor with infrequent grass cutting meaning the grass length is a specific issue which could be addressed.
Berwick Rugby Football Club	North	4x Adult	Available Secured	1x Good (M2) 3x Adequate (M1)	-3.5 (At capacity during Sunday AM)	The site is home to Berwick Upon Tweed RFC. Increasing the quality of maintenance at the site so that all pitches receive 'good' maintenance score will increase the carrying capacity of the site to 14 match equivalents per week. This would leave the site 0.5 match equivalents over capacity at current usage. The site is at capacity during the Sunday AM match slot. This means the club are limited in their ability to expand the junior section at the site. This is an issue for the club.
Border Park Rugby Club	West	1x Adult	Available Secured	1x Poor (M0)	+1.25	The site is used by Border Park RFC for one adult side. The current floodlight provision only covers part of the pitch which means the pitch becomes overplayed in certain areas due to midweek training. The pitch is currently poor quality and the maintenance could be improved to increase capacity.
Blyth Cricket & Rugby Club	South East	1x Adult	Available Secured	1x 6 - Poor (M0)	-7.75 (At capacity during Sunday AM)	The site is used by Blyth RFC for eleven the teams. The site is currently overplayed. Improving the site maintenance to good will improve the quality of provision as well as increase the carrying capacity of the site to 3.25 match equivalents per week. In addition, upgrading the quality of maintenance of the floodlit training pitch to good would mean that this pitch is no longer operating over capacity when meeting midweek training demand. With good maintenance, this pitch would be projected to have a carrying capacity of 3.25 which, along with a new pitch (see below) would provide the club with access enough capacity to meet current demand. Given the level of overplay and lack of spare peak-time capacity, there is clear need to development of their second pitch on site. The club has secured funding and permission for second pitch development under the improving playing pitch programme, and these developments hope to be completed soon.

Site Name	Sub Area	Pitch Supply	Available to the community	Non-Technical Assessment Rating	Capacity for community use/ balance	Site Summary
						This pitch should be maintained to a 'good' level also. With adequate natural drainage, this pitch will have a carrying capacity of 3 matches per week, bringing the total capacity of the club up to 6.25 (provided the current pitch also receives good drainage).
Close House Hotel and Golf	Central	6 5x Adult 1x Junior	Available Unsecured	1x Good (M2)	+12	The site is not used by the community but is used by Newcastle University for intramural matches. It has a large ancillary facility and the site also has a number of football pitches.
Delaval Community Middle School	South East	2x Adult	Available Unsecured	2x 5 - Poor (M0)	+3.5	The site is not used by the community but is used by the school for matches, training, physical education and other activity. There are overhanging trees which impact of the quality of provision. The maintenance is also poor with scope for improvement.
Glendale Middle School	North	1x Junior	Available Unsecured	1x Poor (M0)	+1.5	The site is not used by the community but is used by the school for matches, training, physical education and other activity. The maintenance on site is poor with scope for improvement. The pitches are also uneven and the school would like to improve this.
Gloucester Lodge	South East	1x Adult	Available Secured	1x Poor (M0)	+1.5	The site is not used by the community but it is used by the school for matches, training, physical education and other activity. The maintenance at the site is poor with scope for improvement. The pitch is uneven, possible as the site is used for overflow car parking for large events in the area.
Haydon Bridge High School	West	2x Junior	Available Unsecured	1x Poor (M0)	+1.0	The site is not used by the community but is used by Northumberland College for matches, training, PE and other activity. The maintenance at the site is poor with scope for improvement. Both the rugby pitches are overmarked with football meaning both sports share the same space.
Morpeth Common	Central	1x Adult	Available Secured	2-Poor (M0)	+1.5	There is no regular, formal demand from the community on this site, but it is occasionally used by Morpeth RFC. This is mostly due to overplay and lack of peak time capacity at

Site Name	Sub Area	Pitch Supply	Available to the community	Non-Technical Assessment Rating	Capacity for community use/ balance	Site Summary
						<p>their main site.</p> <p>The pitch is reported to be in poor condition. Morpeth RFC work to improve the quality of maintenance on the pitch. Improving the quality of maintenance to 'good' would give this pitch a carrying capacity of 3 match equivalents per week.</p>
Morpeth Rugby Football Club Limited	Central	3x Adult	Available Secured	9- Adequate (M1)	-5 (At capacity during Saturday PM and Sunday AM)	<p>The site should be protected as playing pitches in the Local Plan. The site is used by Morpeth RFC for all 16 of its teams.</p> <p>It is recommended that improved maintenance provision occurs at the site, with specific focus on the floodlit pitches.</p> <p>Increasing the quality of maintenance to good would still leave the club 3.5 match equivalents of overcapacity. This can be met by displacing some of the club's demand to Morpeth Common. Adding slit drainage to the pipe drained pitches will add a further 0.75 match equivalents per week to the site's capacity, enough to meet current demand (including the capacity at Morpeth Common).</p> <p>The club have identified the need to renovate the existing ancillary through carrying out work to refurbish toilets, upgrade electricity supply along with upgrading the kitchen and bar facilities.</p> <p>No further provision has been identified as part of this study.</p>
Mowden Hall School	Central	1x Junior	Not available Unsecured	5- Poor (M0)	1.75	<p>The site should be protected as playing pitches in the Local Plan. The site is not used by the community but is used by Mowden Hall School for matches, training, PE and other activity.</p> <p>It is recommended that the school improves the level of maintenance on the pitches to ensure a better quality of pitch.</p> <p>No further provision has been identified as part of this study.</p>

Site Name	Sub Area	Pitch Supply	Available to the community	Non-Technical Assessment Rating	Capacity for community use/ balance	Site Summary
Northumberland Cofe Academy (Josephine Butler Campus)	South East	1x Adult	Available Secured	1x Poor (M0)	+1.75	The site is not used by the community but is used by the school for matches, training, physical education and other activity. Maintenance at the site is poor with scope for improvement.
Ponteland Community High School	Central	2xJunior	Available Unsecured	2x Poor (M0)	+3.5	The site is not used by the community but is used by school for matches, training, PE and other activity. The Ponteland leisure centre is currently being redeveloped and the school will be moving to this site in the future. Therefore, there are no other development plans for the sports provision at the current site.
Ponteland Leisure Centre	Central	2xJunior	Available Unsecured	1x Adequate (M1) 2x Poor (M0)	-7 (At capacity for Sunday AM)	The site is used by Ponteland RFC for 15 teams. It has been designated for two new school buildings as well as a new leisure centre. The site contains 3 pitches all of which are used by Ponteland RFC and but 2 of these will be lost for the 2 year duration of the redevelopment work. Once completed a new training pitch and new floodlit pitch will be provided. The site is currently operating significantly over capacity. It is recommended that upgrading all maintenance to 'good' and drainage be installed on the undrained pitch. Slit drainage should be added to this pitch also. These procedures would improve the carrying capacity on site by 5 match equivalents per week. However, this would still leave the site operating 2.5 match equivalents over capacity per week.
Ponteland Middle School	Central	3x Adult	Available Unsecured	1x Poor (M0)	+0.5	The site is not used by the community but is used by the school for matches, training, PE and other activity. The Ponteland Leisure Centre is currently being redeveloped and the school will be moving to this site in the future. Therefore, there are no other development plans for the sports provision at the current site.
Queen Elizabeth High School	Central	2x Junior	Available Unsecured	2x Poor (M0)	+3.5	The site is not used by the community but is used by the school for matches, training, PE and other activity. The maintenance is rated as poor and there is scope for improvement.

Site Name	Sub Area	Pitch Supply	Available to the community	Non-Technical Assessment Rating	Capacity for community use/ balance	Site Summary
						There is currently a lack of floodlit provision, including on the AGP which limits the ability for mid-week use by the community.
Seghill Welfare Park	South East	2x Adult	Available Secured	2x Poor (M0)	1.5	This site is used by Seghill RFC and owned by the council. The maintenance on the pitches is poor and there is scope for improvement. This would improve the user experience on the site, particularly in times of poor weather.
South Beach	South East	2x Adult	Available Secured	2x Poor (M0)	+1.0	This site has no formal rugby community use on site. The maintenance on the pitches is poor and there is scope for improvement. Specifically there was poor grass coverage and the pitches appeared waterlogged at time of visit.
St Benet Biscop High School	South East	1x Adult	Available Unsecured	1x Poor (M0)	+0.5	The site is not used by the community but is used by the school for matches, training, physical education and other activity. The site has issues with poor drainage and the pitch maintenance is rated as poor. Improving the maintenance would increase capacity and user experience. The ancillary building at the school is not available for community use on weekends.
St Mary's Church of England Middle School	North	1x Junior	Not Available Unsecured	0-Poor (M0)	+0.5	The site is not used by the community but is used by the school for matches, training, physical education and other activity. The maintenance is poor and there is scope for improvement. Specifically, there has been subsidence at the site which has led to sloping and uneven pitches. There are no changing facilities available for community teams.
Stocksfield Sports Field	Central	1x Adult	Available Secured	2-Poor (M0)	-0.5	The site is home to Prudhoe and Stocksfield RFC. If quality of the maintenance on the site were to be improved to 'standard' this would increase the carrying capacity of the site to 1.5 matches per week and therefore provide 1.0 spare capacity at current usage. It would also increase the safety of the pitches during times of poor weather. The sports field have blueprints for a new clubhouse

Site Name	Sub Area	Pitch Supply	Available to the community	Non-Technical Assessment Rating	Capacity for community use/ balance	Site Summary
						which they are looking to construct as soon as possible. The site is used by multi sports and the existing clubhouse sees a lot of community use. The rugby club have a floodlit training area which does not have any markings so help reduce overplay on the pitch.
The King Edward VI School	Central	2x Adult	Available Secured	2x Adequate (M1)	+4	The site is not used by the community but is used by the school for matches, training, PE and other activity. The maintenance regime on the grass pitches was adequate at the time of visit but the responsibility was due to be changed to an external contractor.
The Blyth Academy	South East	1x Adult	Available Secured	1x Poor (M0)	+0.5	The site is not used by the community but is used by the school for matches, training, physical education and other activity. The expansion of the school rugby offer is of key priority to them. They have also opened the rugby pitch up to community access however have no established formal community demand thus far. The school has use of the facilities during the school day and Active Northumberland manages the facilities in the evenings and at weekends. There is an ancillary with changing for community teams which is also managed by Active Northumberland.
The Duchess Community High School	North	2x Adult	Unknown Unsecured	Assessment not possible due to pitches currently under construction.	NA	Alnwick RFC use the site along with teams from the school. At the time of the site assessment the pitches were still being constructed. At present two adult pitches have now been built at the school, however, one has been used to store large quantities of top soil for nearby construction work. This has a subsequent impact on the rugby club who only have access to one pitch, rather than two. This is an on-going issue which needs to be addressed.
Tynedale Rugby Football Club Ltd	Central	4x Adult	Available Secured	4x Adequate (M1)	-2 (At capacity during Sunday AM)	The site is home to Tynedale RFC. This site is situated on a floodplain and causes issues in terms of fixture cancellation and also securing appropriate insurance for the site. The site also has reported problems with anti-social behaviour. Increasing the pitch maintenance to a 'good' level would

Site Name	Sub Area	Pitch Supply	Available to the community	Non-Technical Assessment Rating	Capacity for community use/ balance	Site Summary
						provide spare capacity for a further 1.0 additional match equivalents per week.

5.5 Future Balance

- 5.5.1 Whilst table 5.11 shows the current view of capacity, it is important to consider how future supply and demand will change the balance in the area. Table 5.13 breaks down future demand into sub areas, using TGRs from Table 5.11 and latent demand estimations from club consultations. calculated that there is no spare capacity for training or matches on any of the pitches.
- 5.5.2 It is important to consider that even the high estimate of projected demand may be low considering the potential growth of female rugby and/ or the impact of any future participation campaigns from the RFU.
- 5.5.3 Assumptions about the demand placed on pitches from future teams are as follows:
- A senior team will train twice per week generating 1 MES training demand. They will play 1 home game every other weekend generating 0.5 MES demand on senior pitches
 - A junior team (U13 and up) will train once per week generating 0.5 MES training demand. They will play 1 home game every other weekend generating 0.5 MES demand on senior pitches
 - A mini team will not generate midweek training demand. They will play 1 home game per week generating 0.5 MES demand on junior pitches.

Table 5.12: Current and future capacity balance of rugby sites in Northumberland

Sub Area	Current Balance			Projected Future Balance		
	Training	Senior Match	Junior Match	Training	Senior Match	Junior Match
Central	-12	31	-13.25	-15.5	30	-14.75
North	-1.5	9.5	-11.25	-2	8	-13.25
South East	-4.25	15.75	-6	-4.25	14.75	-8
West	-0.25	0	1	-0.25	0	1
Northumberland	-18	56.25	-29.5	-22	52.75	-35

- 5.5.4 The key findings from Table 5.12 are:
- There is current spare capacity for senior match pitches of 56.25 MES in Northumberland as a whole. The sub area with the largest level of spare capacity is in Central, with 31 MES of spare capacity.
 - Whilst there is current spare capacity for senior pitches for Northumberland as a whole, the West sub area is operating at capacity. Nevertheless, the level of demand and supply is low in this area and is offset by the relatively high level of provision in the other 3 sub areas. This current level of adult match provision is able to accommodate future demand growth which is predicted by 2031, maintaining a high level of spare capacity of 52.75 MES.
 - When considering the projected future demand and future supply, all sub areas have a lack of training supply. The Central area has the highest projected deficit of 15.5 MES.
 - Junior match training is in deficit in both the current and future position for Northumberland, with a deficit of 29.5 MES and 35 MES respectively. The Central sub area has the highest deficit for junior match play.

5.6 Analysis: Increasing Capacity

- 5.6.1 The tables above indicate that lack of pitch capacity is a major issue across sites in Northumberland. There are two ways of increasing capacity on rugby sites without adding additional pitches. These are to:
- Improve drainage
 - Improve maintenance.
- 5.6.2 Of these two options improving maintenance is considered the most sustainable and cost effective option for most sites. This is because while improving maintenance involves ensuring clubs have the access to the equipment, materials expertise and man power to deliver good maintenance, installing artificial drainage also requires addition maintenance to ensure it does not become ‘capped’. Therefore, in most cases it is preferable to ensure clubs are capable of delivering adequate maintenance before installing maintenance.
- 5.6.3 ‘Good’ maintenance refers to achieving a minimum of 73% on the RFU’s nontechnical assessment which records the regularity with which specific maintenance procedures are undertaken (including aeration, chain harrowing, seeding and fertilisation).
- 5.6.4 The table below shows the supply and demand balance for each club site if maintenance were improved to ‘good’.

Table 5.13: Rugby balance figures if all pitch maintenance was ‘Good’

Site Name	Sub area	Demand (matches + training in match equivalents)		Supply (Pitch Capacity)	Current Balance	Potential Supply (All pitches receive good maintenance)	Potential Balance
		SNR	JNR				
Alnwick RFC	North	3	3	6	-3.5	9.75	0.25
Ashington Rugby Club	South East	3.5	3.5	4.5	-3	8.25	0.75
Berwick Rugby Football Club	North	3	3	11	-3.5	13.25	-1.25
Blyth Cricket & Rugby Club	South East	4	4	1.75	7.75	3.25	-6.25
Border Park Rugby Club	West	0.5	0.5	1.75	1.25	3.25	2.75
Morpeth Rugby Football Club	Central	4	4	7	-5	9.5	-2.5
Ponteland Leisure Centre	Central	5	5	5.5	-7	9	-3
Stocksfield Sports Field	Central	1	1	0.5	-0.5	2	1
Seghill Welfare Park	South East	2	2	3.5	1.5	6.5	4.5
Tynedale Rugby Football Club	Central	3.5	3.5	9	-2	12	1

- 5.6.5 The table shows that most club sites are over capacity given their current maintenance regime. If all clubs up graded their maintenance to “Good” then there is estimated generate an additional 26.25 match

equivalents per week (leaving clubs with combined deficit of 2.75 match equivalents per week).

- 5.6.6 Table 5.13 shows that improving maintenance to 'Good' for all community sites will provide 4 clubs that were previously over capacity, with some spare capacity. This would ensure matches are played on better surfaces not only increasing the enjoyment and technical development of players (especially youth players) but also helps to prevent injury and decreases the likelihood of matches being cancelled. Finally, this additional capacity would also benefit clubs as it provides additional capacity for them to grow into, without compromising the quality of pitches by overplaying them. Not all clubs have capacity issues solved by simply increasing the level of maintenance. Blyth Rugby Club has 8 teams and just one pitch and would remain significantly over capacity despite an improvement to maintenance levels. Morpeth RFC and Ponteland RFC would also be considered to still be operating over capacity even if they did adopt a 'good' maintenance regime.
- 5.6.7 In such instances, it may be necessary to complement an enhanced maintenance regime with artificial drainage. Site specific recommendations to address a lack of pitch capacity will be addressed as part of the site-by-site analysis, below.

FLOODLIT CAPACITY

- 5.6.8 RFU see midweek training as a core part of many rugby clubs and integral to their ability to continue making the game attractive to players across a range of ability levels. The table below shows the number of sites that have access to a floodlit pitch which they can use for midweek training.
- 5.6.9 Following consultation with the RFU, midweek demand has been calculated by determining the number of senior and junior teams using the site and then using an assumption that a senior team trains twice per week (1 match equivalent) and a junior team trains once per week (0.5 match equivalents). The number of teams using the site has been determined through consultations with either the clubs, the RFU or a combination.

Table 5.14: Floodlit Capacity Balance

Site Name	Number of Teams Training at Site		Quantity of Floodlit Pitches	Supply – Floodlit Capacity	Demand (Training in match equivalents)		Balance (Supply minus demand)
	SNR	JNR			SNR	JNR	
Alnwick RFC	3	6	1	2.5	3	3	-3.5
Ashington Rugby Club	2	3	1	1.5	2	1.5	-2
Berwick Rugby Football Club	2	6	1	3.5	2	3	-1.5
Blyth Cricket & Rugby Club	3	4	1	1.75	3	2	-3.35
Border Park Rugby Club	1	0	0.5	0.75	1	0	-0.25
Morpeth Rugby Football Club	4	7	1	2.5	4	3.5	-5
Ponteland Leisure Centre	3	6	1	3	2	3	-2
Stocksfield Sports Field	1	0	0	0	1	0	-1
Seghill Welfare Park	1	0	0	0	1	0	-1
Tynedale Rugby Football Club	3	8	1	2	2	4	-4

- 5.6.10 Table 5.14 shows that 2 clubs are currently without a floodlit pitch:

- Of these clubs Seghill Welfare Park, used by Seghill RFC is the largest club with 4 teams, two junior and senior teams.
- Ashington Rugby Club and Blyth Cricket and Rugby Club both have a floodlit pitch but are

operating these pitches over capacity.

- Alnwick RFC, Border Park RFC and Morpeth RFC are all operating their floodlit pitch within just one session or less of their capacity.

5.7 Peak Demand Capacity Analysis

- 5.7.1 Using the Sport England 2013 guidance, the PPS has identified an under-supply of pitches across the study area, based on the capacity analysis that assumes a set number of match equivalents per week, based on the quality of a site.
- 5.7.2 While this is valuable, it is also important to understand the capacity of pitch provision at the periods of highest (peak) demand. This will indicate whether there are enough pitches to satisfy the demand when a large amount of rugby is played at the same time. For instance, this will indicate whether there is sufficient provision of senior pitches if all adult's teams are looking to play at the same time on a Saturday afternoon.
- To undertake the peak demand analysis, the following assumptions need to be made. Adult and colts peak demand is assumed to be Saturday PM
 - Juniors and Minis is assumed to be Sunday AM.
- 5.7.3 With the above assumptions in mind, Table 5.15 below shows the capacity analysis at peak demand for each sub area.

Table 5.15: Peak demand capacity analysis by Club

Club	Home ground	Sub area	Saturday PM	Sunday PM
Alnwick RUFC	Alnwick RFC	North	At Capacity	At Capacity
Ashington Joint Welfare RFC	Ashington Rugby Club	South East	At Capacity	At Capacity
Berwick Upon Tweed RFC	Berwick Rugby Football Club	North	At Capacity	At Capacity
Blyth RFC	Blyth Cricket & Rugby Club	South East	At Capacity	At Capacity
Border Park RFC	Border Park Rugby Club	West	1	2
Morpeth RFC	Morpeth Rugby Football Club Limited	Central	At Capacity	At Capacity
Ponteland RFC	Ponteland Leisure Centre	Central	At Capacity	At Capacity
Prudhoe and Stocksfield RFC	Stocksfield Sports Field	Central	At Capacity	At Capacity
Seghill RFC	Seghill Welfare Park	South East	2	4
Tynedale RFC	Tynedale Rugby Football Club Ltd	Central	At Capacity	At Capacity

- 5.7.4 Table 5.15 shows that there is significant under supply of pitches to meet demand at club sites. Despite this lack of overall capacity, the table above shows that if carrying capacity at club sites could be increased, there is sufficient peak time capacity to meet some of the reported latent demand for senior rugby across the clubs in Northumberland.
- 5.7.5 The only site that is considered to be at peak time capacity on Saturdays is Morpeth RFC. This club accounts for 8 of the 14 senior teams reported in the latent demand analysis. With this site at capacity during the peak time of demand for these 8 teams the lack of peak time capacity

5.8 Rugby Union Summary

- 5.8.1 This section summarises the findings from the rugby analysis, which will form the basis of the recommendation and action plan section for Northumberland.
- 5.8.2 Table 5.16 includes the response to 5 key questions, which are asked for all PPS studies across the UK, in order to provide a standardised illustration of supply and demand for sports provision.

Table 5.16: Key PPS findings for rugby in Northumberland

Key Question	Analysis
What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?	<p>There is a supply of 105.25 match equivalents across the entire County. 50% of this supply is located in the Central sub area.</p> <p>However, much of this supply is located on schools and other sites that are either unavailable or unutilised by community rugby clubs.</p> <p>There is demand from 79.5 matches per week across the county. 37% of this demand is produced by adults and the remaining 63% by junior teams.</p> <p>45% of demand is generated by the Central sub area.</p> <p>There are 10 community clubs in Northumberland, of which Berwick RFC is the largest with 15 teams.</p>
Is there enough accessible provision to meet current demand?	<p>As with most rugby clubs in England, most clubs in Northumberland have a longstanding home ground where all of their matches take place. Some clubs are travelling to train on AGPs, in particular the pitch at Ashington. Ponteland RFC have lost access to their pitches whilst the redevelopment on Ponteland Leisure Centre is ongoing.</p> <p>The current level of provision of adult match provision is able to accommodate current demand placed upon it. There is 56.25 MES of spare capacity when looking at Northumberland as a whole, with all sub areas carrying spare capacity, with exception of the West. Despite this, in both the current position and the future position, there is deficit in training pitches and junior match pitches.</p> <p>It should also be noted that 6 of the 10 clubs are operating at capacity during the Sunday AM peak period (usually used by junior sections for training and matches). This lack of capacity means there is limited scope to increase the number of junior teams in the area. A consequence of this is that clubs will struggle to grow, and the game cannot expand given the current level of supply being used by clubs.</p> <p>There is also a lack of floodlit capacity on most club sites. 4 clubs are thought to be operating above their floodlit capacity with a further 4 operating with just one additional training sessions worth of spare capacity.</p>
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?	<p>The majority of sites are not considered to be maintained to an adequate level. If all pitches used by the community were maintained to a 'good' level then across the County, the deficit in capacity would decrease by 90%, leaving just a small under supply.</p> <p>Poor quality drainage has been a constant issue across most clubs. It is thought that increasing levels of maintenance across all sites will also help to reduce the issues around drainage, however, there are some circumstances in which adding artificial drainage has been recommended to address specific problems.</p>
What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?	<p>Analysis shows there is latent demand for an estimated 19 additional teams in Northumberland; 11 junior teams and 8 adult teams.</p> <p>However, the TGR analysis shows that due to the changing age profile of the area, there will be a reduction of 4 teams across the County; 1 adult team and 3 junior teams, should current</p>

Key Question	Analysis
	<p>participation rates remain the same between 2017 and 2031.</p> <p>Should all latent demand be realised this growth be balanced out by a reduction in the playing age population as projected in the TGR analysis, then future demand of an additional teams in Northumberland can be projected to be 15 additional teams. 7 of these teams are adult teams and 8 are junior teams.</p> <p>Replacement pitches have been added at The Duchess High School but are not available to either the school or local club in their current state. There is also projected to be a further pitch added at Blyth RUFC. However, this has not yet been realised or secured for future use at the time of writing.</p>
Is there enough community use provision to meet future demand?	<p>There are enough available community facilities to meet current adult match demand in the County. If all projected teams are realised then the County is forecasted to be operating 52.75 MES of spare capacity by 2031. Nevertheless, this is not the case when it comes to training provision and junior match pitches. There is a projected deficit for rugby training pitches of 22 MES and a even greater deficit of 35 MES for junior match pitches. The level of provision of these facilities is not sufficient to meet current demand and this is made worse by future demand growth.</p> <p>It should be noted that as most sites are operating at capacity during junior rugby's peak period (Sunday AM), there is very little possibility of adding 8 new teams without needing to provide additional pitches.</p> <p>Whilst there is thought to be enough supply to meet 7 new adult teams at peak periods, new demand is unlikely to be spread even throughout the County. The Central sub area, where demand is already centralised, is likely to see a significant amount of this increased adult demand but has capacity for 7 new adult teams at peak times, should most of the projected new demand be distributed in the Central sub area, then rugby is likely to be operating very close to capacity during the peak period. This means that clubs would have no opportunity to grow and develop either themselves or rugby further.</p> <p>There is also a concern at the lack of spare floodlit capacity to accommodate additional training sessions with just 2 clubs able to accommodate more than one new training session per week.</p> <p>Along with the addition of some pitches in the area, the study has recommended that the NRFU and clubs seek to add peak time capacity by accessing nearby school or academy pitches. This should be considered vital to the future success of rugby in Northumberland as most sites do not have the spare room to accommodate new pitches and a failure to add peak time capacity to key sites will mean a severe stagnation in the growth of the game across the entire of Northumberland.</p>

Section 6: Hockey Analysis



6 Hockey Analysis

6.1 Introduction and Strategic Context

- 6.1.1 In order to understand the overall objectives and priorities of the England Hockey Board (EHB), an analysis of key recent strategies and documentation has been undertaken and summarised below.

ENGLAND HOCKEY FACILITIES STRATEGY (2017)

- 6.1.2 In 2017 England Hockey published the latest facilities strategy for the sport, which replaces the previous 2012 edition and aims to help every hockey club in England work towards having appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players.

Vision: For every hockey player in England to have appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players.

Mission: More, Better, Happier players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities.

- 6.1.3 The club market for hockey is well structured and clubs are required to affiliate to England Hockey to play in community leagues. As a result, only a few occasional teams lie outside of the EH affiliation structure.

- 6.1.4 Schools and Universities are the other two areas where significant hockey is played.

- 6.1.5 The EHB has the ambition of growing participation by 10,000 adults and 32,500 children. To enable this, the following three objectives have been highlighted;

- **PROTECT:** To conserve the existing hockey provision. EH currently has over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities). We need to retain the current provision where appropriate to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country.
- **IMPROVE:** To improve the existing facilities stock (physically and administratively). The current facilities stock is ageing and there needs to be strategic investment into refurbishing the pitches and ancillary facilities. There needs to more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset.
- **DEVELOP:** To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain. This might include consolidation hockey provision in a local area where appropriate. Research has identified key areas across the country where there is a lack of suitable Hockey provision and there is a need for additional pitches. There is an identified demand for multi pitches in the right places to consolidate hockey and allow clubs to have all of their provision catered at one site.

- 6.1.6 In order to understand the overall objectives and priorities of the England Hockey Board (EHB), an analysis of key recent strategies and documentation has been undertaken and summarised below.

CONSULTATION OVERVIEW

- 6.1.7 Table 6.1 contains a summary of the consultations undertaken for hockey in Northumberland, focusing on their key issues and future. All pitch-rating comments are the opinions of the club and may differ from the impartial rating given by the site assessor.

Table 6.1: Summary of Consultations from Hockey Sites in Northumberland

Club	Consultation Summary
Alnwick HC	<p>The club has 2 ladies' teams and a junior section. The junior section is one large collective team of all junior ages and mixed genders (do not play fixtures), they used to train at Duchess High School (indoor) once a week, however the school was demolished and rebuilt. The new building and facility that was built will not allow Alnwick Juniors to train in the sports hall anymore, as it is a new surface and they do not want it damaged / scratched. This means that the juniors currently have nowhere to train for the coming season. The club is looking at hiring Lindisfarne Sports Centre indoor facility for the juniors to train once a week for 1hr30, however this has not yet been confirmed. The juniors used the indoor facility at Willowburn Sports Centre for 4 Saturdays over the summer, however it is too expensive to hire weekly throughout the year.</p> <p>The ladies team currently play and train at Morpeth Hockey Club on a sand based AGP. However, players have to travel from 30mins up to an hour to reach this facility, as there are no other facilities in the area. The quality of the pitch was identified as adequate; however, the floodlights are not up to England Hockey standard and therefore the 1st team cannot play fixtures in the winter on the pitch after 3pm. The club pays £3,000 a year for this pitch hire. It was mentioned that if something isn't resolved then the club may fold as players are not willing to travel up to an hour for training and home games. The club would love to expand and have people who would love to play, however this is restricted by the accessibility and provision of hockey facilities in the area, which they described as is extremely poor.</p>
Berwick HC	<p>Membership has stayed consistent in recent years and the club are not expecting it to increase in coming years either.</p> <p>The club have identified the lack of a clubhouse and pitch hiring costs as their main issues:</p> <p><i>"Pitch costs are crippling to a small club and leave us restricted in our development as we can't run more sessions as the club can't afford the extra pitch hire costs. Also, the lack of a club house facility means we have no hub for the Club, no storage, nowhere for juniors/parents to gather and get involved with the club meaning our support network is very limited which again reduces the coaching the club can offer".</i></p> <p>The club have rated the quality of the pitch at Berwick Academy as unsuitable. They have reported that general and essential maintenance is not being carried out, that weeds are growing on the pitch and it can often be littered too. The club also report that Hockey goals are being abused with football and during school hours and will need replaced very shortly. The club are reluctant to buy their own as they have nowhere to securely store them and fear this will continue to happen.</p> <p>Maintenance at the site is very poor and the club stated that the pitch urgently needs a deep clean or it will become unfit for purpose - it is extremely slippery when slightly damp now and becomes waterlogged more and more regularly.</p>
Morpeth HC	<p>The club fields 3 ladies and 4 men's teams, as well as a large junior section with 11 competitive teams and kids in all age groups from U8 to U18s.</p> <p>All teams play and train at the same pitch at the Morpeth Cricket, Hockey and Tennis Club, which is also hired to Alnwick HC ladies 1st and 2nd teams.</p> <p>The club has grown significantly in the last few years, particularly the junior section, and have also added a 3rd ladies' team last season. The pitch is available during the day but currently nearing capacity at peak times. The club stated that if the club continues to grow at this pace it will become an issue due to a lack of pitch availability. The quality of the pitch was identified as adequate, they have recently cleaned it and polished (£16k job), as it was flooding, and it did not drain properly. They would like to replace the surface (but stated that they have another 10 years on the current one) and would also like dugouts and a separate training/warm up area but stated that this is not realistic at the moment.</p> <p>The club's main priority at the is to upgrade the clubhouse, which is old and dilapidated.</p>

Club	Consultation Summary
	<p>They are the only club in the area with a clubhouse and being so rural the bar is not generating much revenue. The club is currently seeking funds to have a full refurbishment of ancillary facilities and stated that they would like support with this.</p> <p>The floodlighting on site is also deemed to be of insufficient quality for competitive play. However, the condition of the floodlighting is so poor it has resulted in two small fires in recent times.</p>
Tynedale HC	<p>The club fields 3 men's teams, one ladies and junior section with boys' and girls' teams in the U8, U10 and U12 age groups.</p> <p>The club has seen a significant increase of teams in the junior sections, and they have also recently added a new men's team. They have aspirations to add 1 more women's team and more juniors too in coming years (the club has strong links with the Queen Elizabeth High School and they have recently started running an after-school session on a Friday evening.</p> <p>The club has also had a strong advertising links with the local paper as well as Facebook and Twitter).</p> <p>Current development plans include the installation of a storage container at the school site, so it doesn't have to store equipment in the junior organiser's garage. The club are also in desperate need for floodlights on the school site and when the nights become dark, they have to train 15 miles away at Wallbottle Campus Community High School.</p> <p>All four senior teams train at this site and the ladies play the majority of their fixtures as well, due to a lack of available pitches with the necessary facilities (floodlights) in the area. This was stated to be "very negative for the club".</p> <p>The pitch at Queen Elizabeth School was identified as standard, with poor fencing, some litter problems, inappropriate use and poor changing facilities. It was stated that, on numerous occasions this season, the club have had to clear the pitch of leaves, etc. in order for matches to go ahead.</p> <p>"Our main problems regarding the pitch are the lack of floodlights. As a club, we would be interested to work with Northumberland County Council and the High School to look at potential options to put these in place. We have also had a number of issues this season where we have had no access to the school and have had to use the old Rugby changing rooms when clubs are travelling a long distance (can be up to 2 hours). The rugby changing rooms are in no fit state for use".</p>

6.2 Supply

- 6.2.1 Northumberland has 7 hockey appropriate AGPs in the County. Table 6.2 provides details of these facilities.

Table 6.2: Hockey Facilities in Northumberland

Site Name	Sub-area	Sand Based / Water based	Ownership	Management	Availability/ Security of community use	Size	Floodlit	Age of playing surface (Years)	Condition
Bede Academy (North)	South East	Sand Dressed	Trust	Academy	Available/ Unsecured	100x60	Yes	5-10	Standard
Berwick Academy	North	Sand Dressed	Trust	Academy	Available/ Secured	100x60	Yes	5-10	Standard
Morpeth Hockey Club	Central	Sand Dressed	Club	Club	Available/ Secured	100x60	Yes*	>10	Standard
Mowden Hall School	Central	Sand Dressed	Private	Education	Not available/ Unsecured	85x53	No	<2	Standard
Queen Elizabeth High School	Central	Sand Filled	Local Authority	Education	Available/ Secured	100x60	No	5-10	Standard
The King Edward VI School	Central	Sand Dressed	Trust	Education	Not available/ Unsecured	100x60	Yes	>10	Poor

*not of sufficient quality for competitive matches

- 6.2.2 Table 6.2 shows that of the 6 hockey pitches in Northumberland, 4 are available for use for the community. Of these 4 facilities, 3 are securely available for community use.
- 6.2.3 All of the community pitches are over 5 years old and each is considered to be in a standard condition. However, only 1 club manages their own pitch meaning the community has limited control into the level of use, maintenance, investment or replacement of the pitch. The management of the other 3 facilities is undertaken by educational institutions (either Academies or Local Education Authority run schools). This means there is a risk of investment into pitches being delayed or ceased due to reduced school budgets. There is also a risk that these sites may seek to convert their pitches to 3G surfaces, which can be perceived to be more profitable than hockey appropriate surfaces.
- 6.2.4 Table 6.3 below details the availability of AGPs at sites where they are utilised for hockey use. This has been presented in the form of match slots (1.5 hours AGP use) and in hours for mid-week demand (as this is mainly for training purposes).

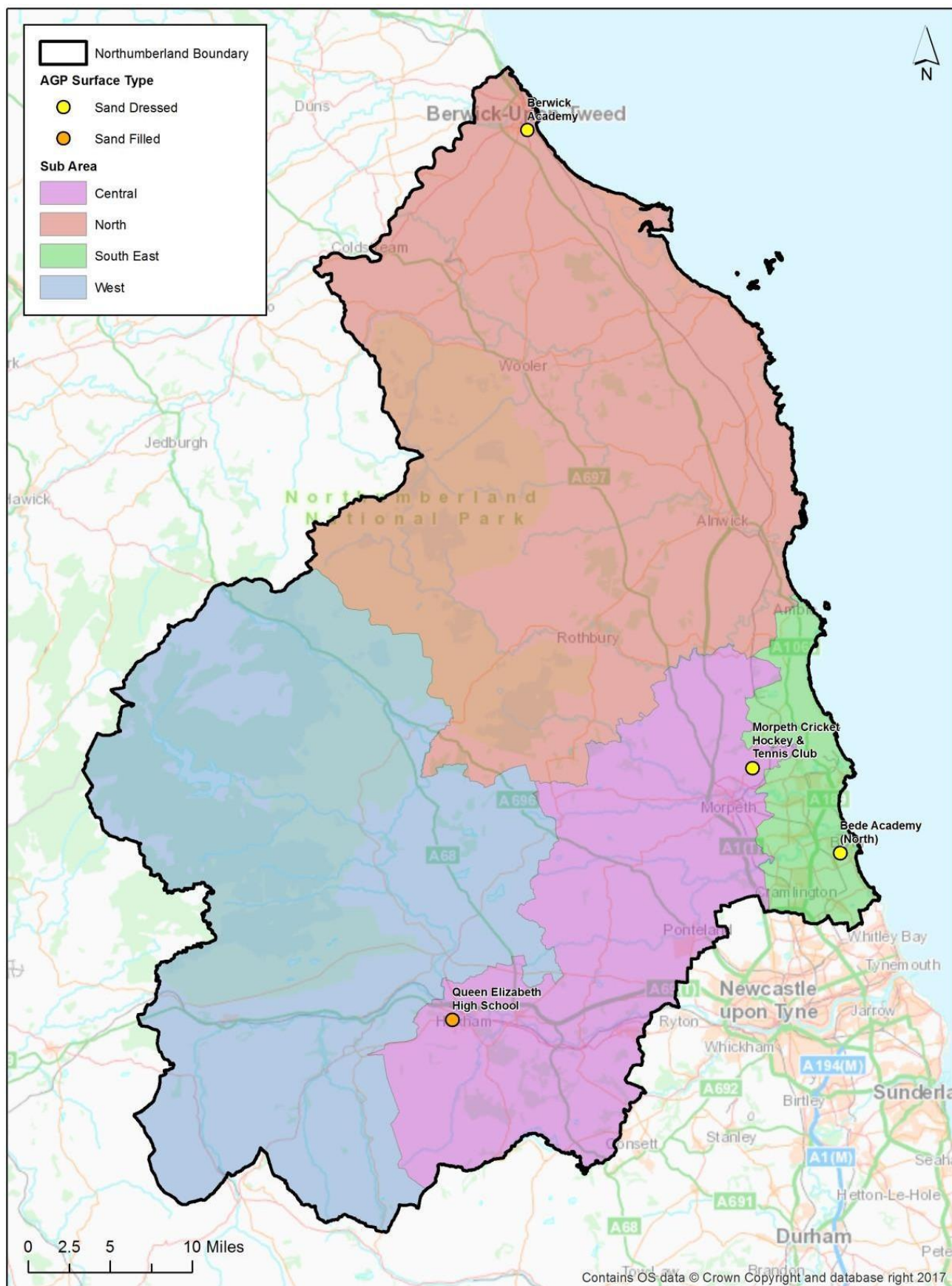
Table 6.3: Quantity overview for Hockey AGP's in Northumberland

Site name	AGP type	Weekday midweek hours	Saturday match slots	Sunday match slots
Bede Academy (North)	Sand Dressed	20	8	8
Berwick Academy	Sand Dressed	20	8	8
Morpeth Hockey Club	Sand Dressed	20	3*	8
Queen Elizabeth High School	Sand Filled	0	3*	3*

* Number of match slots for non-floodlit pitches taken from the shortest days of the hockey season.

- 6.2.5 Table 6.3 shows that there are up to 60 hours per week of pitch supply available for midweek hockey, 33 hours (22 match slots) for competitive hockey on Saturdays and 39 hours (27 match slots) for Sunday matches / training sessions. In total, this equates to a total supply of 132 hours of hockey supply per week across the County,
- 6.2.6 Figures 6.1 and 6.2 below shows the location of the full-sized AGPs used by clubs in Northumberland and their accessibility to residents within a 20 minute drive time.

Figure 6.1: Community Hockey Pitches in Northumberland



- 6.2.7 Figure 6.1 shows that hockey provision is located at 4 of the major population centres within Northumberland.
- 6.2.8 Specifically; Blyth (in close proximity to Cramlington and Ashington), Morpeth, Hexham and Berwick.

6.3 Demand

CURRENT DEMAND

- 6.3.1 There are 4 hockey clubs using hockey facilities in Northumberland playing a range of competitive hockey and recreational hockey through junior and adult teams. In addition to the regular teams below, Tynedale HC are looking to add a casual, mixed side. Alnwick HC do have a junior section, this team does only play in annual festivals similar competitions each year. The club is being encouraged by England Hockey to develop this section towards playing competitive fixtures in the coming years.
- 6.3.2 The team profile and demand for pitches in the County is summarised in Table 6.4 and 6.5 below.

Table 6.4: Team profile for Hockey in Northumberland

Club	Home ground - Sub area	Senior Men	Senior Women	Junior	Total
Alnwick HC	Morpeth HC - Central	0	2	0	2
Berwick HC	Berwick Academy - North	0	1	1	2
Morpeth HC	Morpeth HC - Central	4	3	11	18
Tynedale HC	Queen Elizabeth HS - Central	3	1	6	10
Total:		7	7	18	32

Table 6.5: Match demand for hockey in Northumberland

	Number of teams	Weekday	Saturday	Sunday
		Competitive Hours Required		
Senior teams (16-65)	14	0	10.5	4
Junior teams (11-15)	18	0	0	3
	Number of teams	Training Hours Required		
		Weekday	Saturday	Sunday
Senior teams (16-65)	14	12.5	0	0
Junior teams (11-15)	18	1	0	3

- 6.3.3 Tables 6.4 and 6.5 show that there are 32 hockey teams in Northumberland, 14 adult teams and 18 junior teams. Morpeth HC is the largest of these clubs with 18 teams, 56% of the total number of teams in the County including 11 of the 18 junior teams (61%). It should also be noted that there are only 2 teams (from Berwick HC) based outside of the Central sub area, although Alnwick HC would prefer to be located in the North sub area. It also means that all demand is spread across just 3 pitches based in 2 sub areas.
- 6.3.4 Collectively, all teams produce 34 hours of demand for hockey in the County. 17.5 hours of this demand is dedicated to match play (48%). Despite having more teams, junior demand equates to just 7 hours (22%) of the total demand.
- 6.3.5 The balance between the supply and demand of hockey facilities will be addressed below, once the future demand for hockey in Northumberland has been established.

FUTURE DEMAND

- 6.3.6 To calculate the future demand for hockey in the study area, a Team Generation Rate⁸ has been calculated using the current number of teams and the current population. This measure allows us to calculate what size of population (for various age groups) will typically cause enough demand for a hockey team. Population projections have been taken from SNPP figures based from 2017.
- 6.3.7 This Team Generation Rate can now be applied to the population projections for the study area to confirm how population growth or reduction will affect the demand for teams in each of the key age groups. Junior hockey is the County is mixed gender, so the number of teams has been distributed evenly to conform to Sport England requirements for undertaking a TGR analysis.

Table 6.6: Future Demand Projections for Hockey Teams in Northumberland

Age group	Current popn. (2017)	Current teams	TGR	Future popn. (2031)	Predicted future number of teams	Additional provision needed to accommodate new teams
Adult – M (16-45)	72,198	7	10314.0	65,726	6	-1
Adult – F (16-45)	73,999	7	10571.3	65,800	6	-1
Junior hockey – boys	8,655	9	961.7	8,385	9	0
Junior hockey – girls	8,094	9	899.3	8,013	9	0
Total		32			32	-2

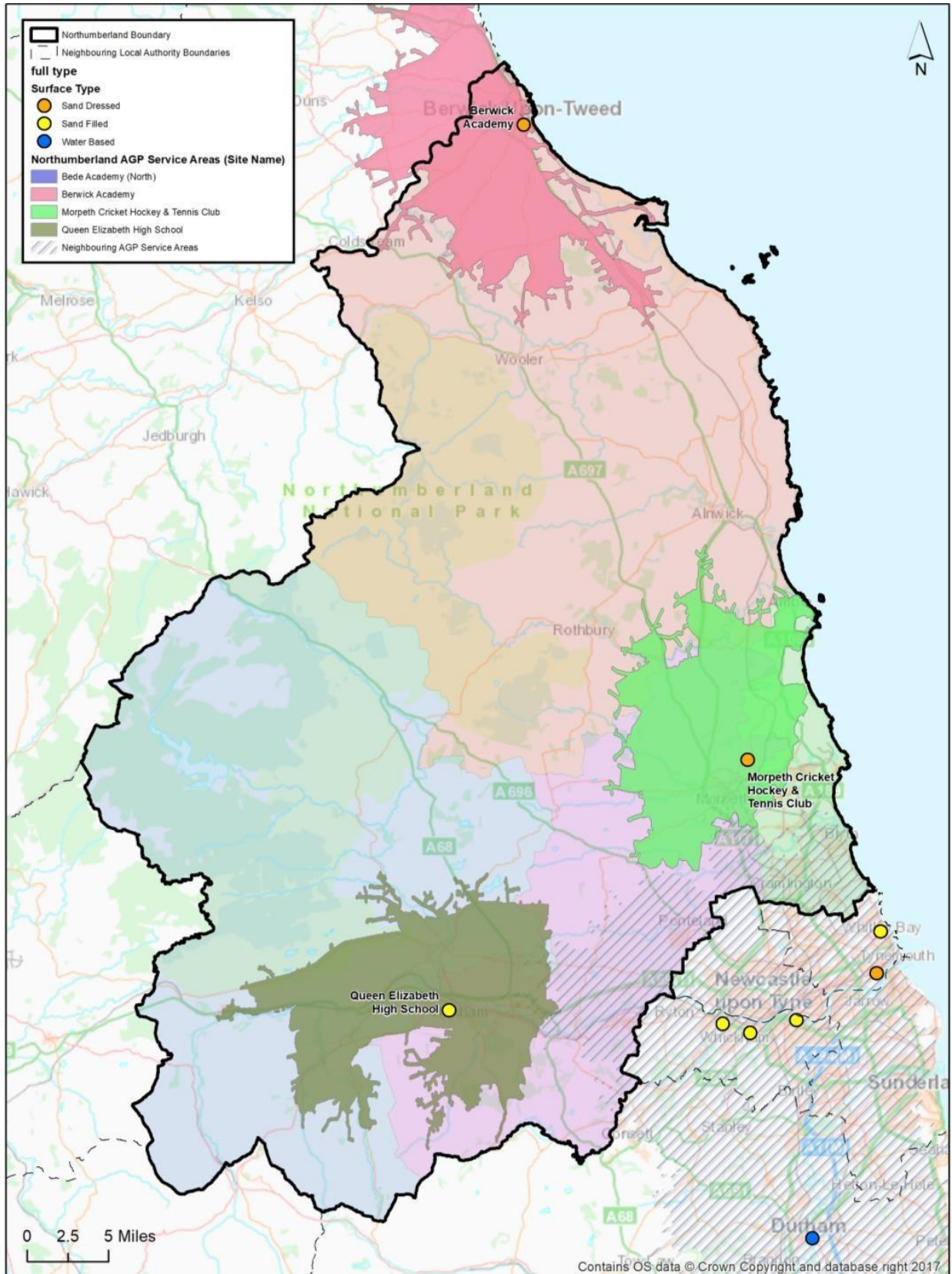
- 6.3.8 Table 6.6 illustrates that there is projected to be 2 fewer teams added by 2031. This decline is shared between male and female teams.
- 6.3.9 It should be noted that the TGR is intended to provide an indication of the impact of population change on team numbers given the current participation rate (the conversion of residents into teams and players). England Hockey, like all NGBs, are working to support clubs, invest in facilities to the end of maximising the participation rate in their sport. Therefore, the level of success and impact of their activities is likely to alter the participation rate within their sport, which in turn, will alter the level of demand for hockey facilities across the County.
- 6.3.10 During the club consultations, Tynedale HC reported that they have latent demand for a further 3 teams; 1 adult men's team and 2 junior teams. This latent demand is thought to be due to a lack of access to floodlit training facilities at their preferred home pitch, Queen Elizabeth High School.

⁸ The Team Generation Rate calculation uses the current number of teams and the current population to calculate a proxy measure of the number of total residents per relevant sports team. This measure is therefore applied to the projected population (depending on the length of the strategy) to predict how many additional teams will be required in order to satisfy the demand from the 'new' population.

IMPORTED / EXPORTED DEMAND

6.3.11 Figure 6.2 shows the 20-minute drive time catchment areas of the 3 pitches that are used by community clubs.

Figure 6.2: 20-minute drive catchment Community Hockey Pitches in Northumberland



- 6.3.12 The map shows that there are significant areas in the south of the County for which the closest facilities are located in Newcastle. These areas include population centres such as Ponteland, Prudhoe Blyth, Cramlington and Ashington, all of which are served by facilities outside of the County.
- 6.3.13 Convenience of access and proximity of facilities are understood to be key factors in determining the clubs and facilities participants use. Figure 6.2 indicates that there is likely to be significant export of hockey players to clubs outside of the County as these facilities represent their most convenient sites.
- 6.3.14 Tynedale HC have reported that all of their training demand is exported to facilities outside of the County. This is thought to be a minimum of 4 hours of exported demand per week. In addition, the lack of available facilities is thought to be a key barrier in preventing the club from realising the 3 teams it has reported there is latent demand for. When figure 6.2 is considered the level of exported demand can be estimated to be significant as the areas in which export is likely to be highest, are the most populated areas in the entire County.

6.4 Site by site table

- 6.4.1 The table below summarises the key information found above into a single point of reference.
- 6.4.2 The site by site, capacity analysis table (6.8) outlines the type of pitch, community availability and security of tenure. It provides the capacity for community use on a weekday, Saturday and Sunday.

Table 6.7 –Site-by-site analysis of hockey facilities In Northumberland

Site Name	Sub-area	Availability/ Security of community use	Pitch Type and Quality	Floodlit	Balance (Weekday / Saturday / Sunday)	Site Summary
Bede Academy (North)	South East	Available/ Unsecured	Sand Dressed - Standard	Yes	20 / 8 / 8	The site is available for community hockey but unused at present. The pitch is used by the Academy for PE and other activities. There are no nearby hockey clubs, however, this site could be an option for a new club if a usage agreement was reached with the school.
Berwick Academy	North	Available/ Secured	Sand Dressed - Standard	Yes	17 / 7 / 8	The pitch is used by the Academy for multiple sports and physical activities in PE and extracurricular clubs as well as Berwick HC. Maintenance on the pitch has been highlighted as needing improvement to ensure longevity of the surface. Based on consultation with the club and the report from the site assessment, the estimated remaining life-span of the existing surface is considered to be around 3-5 years. Replacement should take place before the quality of the surface becomes inappropriate for the standard of hockey played by Berwick HC and the replacement surface should satisfy this quality level also. The club have reported that the lack of a club house or club room is limiting the ability of the club to have a focus or hub. This is a key issue for the club as it impacts on ability to attract new members and retain current players.
Morpeth Cricket Hockey & Tennis Club	Central	Available/ Secured	Sand Dressed - Standard	Yes (But not adequately for competitive	10.5 / -0.5 / 5	The site is used by Morpeth HC and Alnwick HC for all of their match demand. The surface of the pitch is reported to be in an

Site Name	Sub-area	Availability/ Security of community use	Pitch Type and Quality	Floodlit	Balance (Weekday / Saturday / Sunday)	Site Summary
				use)		<p>adequate condition. However, the current surface is said to have been laid 20 years ago. The club have reported that the condition of the pitch is adequate and reported in consultation that they estimate the surface to have a further 10 years life-span before it will require replacing. It is uncertain whether that is realistic.</p> <p>The ancillary facilities have been identified as poor and the club would like to refurbish them.</p> <p>The lack of adequate floodlighting reduces the number of competitive matches the site can host on Saturdays. The age and condition of the floodlighting is understood have resulted in two fires at the site recently. This underlines the urgency with which this issue needs to be addressed.</p> <p>The club has reported that given the dual use of the site with Alnwick HC, Morpeth HC have limited capacity to grow the club further.</p>
Mowden Hall School	Central	Not available/ Unsecured	Sand Dressed - Standard	No	NA	<p>The pitch is used by school for PE and other activities.</p> <p>There is currently no community use at the site. The AGP is in good condition and was built at the end of 2016. There are no floodlights but there are foundations in place for them if required in the future.</p> <p>It is believed that Tynedale HC have considered approaching the school to use the site, however, it is a considerable drive for members and they have not pursued it further.</p>
Queen Elizabeth High School	Central	Available/ Secured	Sand Filled - Standard	No	-1 / 0 / 0	<p>The site is used by Tynedale HC and is currently operating at capacity.</p> <p>The pitch recorded the lowest quality score of all AGPs used by community hockey, just 1% above the "Poor" quality threshold. It is likely that the surface will need to be replaced in the near future.</p> <p>The club currently exports a significant amount of demand outside of the County due to the lack of floodlighting on the pitches. The lack of floodlighting</p>

Site Name	Sub-area	Availability/ Security of community use	Pitch Type and Quality	Floodlit	Balance (Weekday / Saturday / Sunday)	Site Summary
						is due to the proximity of residential housing, however, both the school and club would like to add floodlighting if a solution was found.
The King Edward VI School	Central	Not available/ Unsecured	Sand Dressed - Poor	Yes	NA	The pitch is considered to be of the poorest quality in the County and it does not have any formal demand from community clubs. Indeed the presence of moss on the pitch indicates that the facility is rarely used, even by the school. However, it is floodlit and located near to community hockey clubs.

6.5 Supply and Demand Balance

- 6.5.1 Having established the supply and demand for hockey in Northumberland, the following section will assess the adequacy of the supply to meet the demand in the area.
- 6.5.2 To calculate whether there is any spare capacity at hockey sites in the study area, Table 6.8 shows the supply and demand figures for the sites that are used for community hockey. The table below provides capacity analysis for all hockey club AGPs in Northumberland. This table contains demand (in hours) from competitive matches as well as training required by local clubs. In order to assess the availability of hockey facilities at peak times, it has been assumed that the period of highest demand for hockey matches is on a Saturday.

Table 6.8: Supply and demand balance for hockey in Northumberland

Site Name	Sub area	Supply			Demand			Balance		
		Weekday (hours)	Saturday (match slots)	Sunday (match slots)	Weekday (hours)	Saturday (match slots)	Sunday (match slots)	Weekday (hours)	Saturday (match slots)	Sunday (match slots)
Berwick Academy	North	20	8	8	3	1	0	17	7	8
Morpeth Hockey Club	Central	20	3	8	9.5	3.5	3	10.5	-0.5	5
Queen Elizabeth High School	Central	0	3	3	1	3	3	-1	0	0
Total		40	14	19	13.5	7.5	6	26.5	6.5	13

- 6.5.3 Table 6.8 illustrates that across the County, there is a total spare capacity of 26.5 hours for midweek training, 6.5 match slots on Saturdays and 13 match slots on Sundays. It should be noted that Berwick Academy provides 65% of midweek and Sunday spare capacity as well as 100% of spare capacity on the platform.
- 6.5.4 Table 6.8 shows that for the Central sub area there is a shortage of spare capacity on Saturdays. Saturdays are the traditional day on which all adult league matches are played. A lack of capacity at this time means that clubs will be forced to use alternative facilities or to begin matches outside of the preferred hours of play. Either of these solutions are likely to represent partial or significant barriers to hockey for current and potential players and increases the likelihood of latent demand for hockey remaining unrealised in the area, as is demonstrated by Tynedale Hockey Club.
- 6.5.5 Morpeth Hockey Club is currently being used by Alnwick Hockey Club as a home ground (for both clubs). Table 6.8 shows that this demand means that some fixtures are either being played in match slots outside of the preferred times or on alternate facilities, situated a significant distance from the club's home ground. This situation means that neither club can develop their adult sections further given the current lack of spare capacity on Saturdays.
- 6.5.6 Along with the lack of available capacity on Saturdays, Tynedale Hockey Club's home ground, Queen Elizabeth High School is also at capacity across all peak hockey playing periods. Midweek capacity is considered to be vital for adult training sessions. As addressed above, the club tends to use facilities in Newcastle to meet adult training demand. Sunday match slots are typically used for cup matches, mixed hockey, friendly matches and junior training sessions. Again, the lack of spare capacity at this time means that the club has no possibility of developing further or adding more new participants to its clubs.

- 6.5.7 This is primarily due to the lack of floodlighting on this pitch. Adding floodlighting to the pitch would not only provide midweek training capacity but also provide further capacity on Saturdays and Sundays. A recommendation regarding the implementation of floodlighting at the site will be covered as part of the site-by-site analysis (below).

6.6 Berwick Academy

- 6.6.1 Berwick Hockey Club use the AGP at Berwick Academy for their home games and training. The club have been affiliated to England Hockey whilst playing in a Scottish hockey league due to their proximity to the border and distance from other clubs in England. However, the club has recently changed their membership to Scottish Hockey which has potential implications for the future of the Berwick Academy site.
- 6.6.2 At present the sand dressed AGP is over 5 years old and will need to be resurfaced in the near future. England Hockey has the ability to protect sites from changing to a 3G surface if an affiliated hockey club is based at the site. However, the change in affiliation means that this protection is no longer afforded to the club or site.

6.7 Hockey Summary

- 6.7.1 This section summarises the findings from the hockey analysis, which will form the basis of the recommendation and action plan section for Northumberland.
- 6.7.2 Table 6.9 includes the response to 5 key questions, which are asked for all PPS studies across the UK, in order to provide a standardised illustration of supply and demand for sports provision.

Table 6.9– Key PPS findings for hockey in Northumberland

Key Question	Analysis
What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?	<p>There are 6 hockey appropriate AGPs in Northumberland. 4 of these 6 pitches are located in the Central sub area. Only 3 pitches in total are used by the community for hockey (Berwick Academy, Morpeth Hockey Club and Queen Elizabeth High School). Of these three facilities, only Berwick Academy has floodlighting suitable for competitive match play (although Morpeth HC does have lighting sufficient for training and friendly matches).</p> <p>The pitch stock is ageing across the County. Although none of the pitches currently in use are deemed inappropriate for use, several pitches are projected to require surface replacements in the next 3-7 years. Sites such as Berwick Academy requires more immediate improvements. Work is required on these pitches in order to ensure the quality of pitches reflect the quality of pitches in other areas in the North of England.</p> <p>There are 4 clubs operating in Northumberland; Alnwick HC, Berwick HC, Morpeth HC and Tynedale HC. These clubs' field a total of 32 teams including 18 junior teams. Most demand is concentrated in the Central sub area with 30 of the 32 teams located here. However, it should be noted that Alnwick HC would prefer to be located in their home town and therefore can be said to be based in the north along with Berwick HC.</p>

Key Question	Analysis
Is there enough accessible community use provision to meet current demand?	<p>Morpeth, the largest club in the County with 18 teams, and Tynedale (10 teams) both reported a lack of spare capacity on sites limiting their capacity for growth. Furthermore, Tynedale reported latent demand for a further 3 teams which is currently unfulfilled due to a lack of available capacity.</p> <p>A major issue for the area is a lack of floodlighting, Morpeth HC has floodlighting but it is considered inadequate for the hosting of competitive matches whilst Tynedale HC's home ground, Queen Elizabeth High School does not have any floodlighting at all. This means Morpeth HC are limited in the number of competitive matches they can play on Saturdays. The club is considered to be at capacity during this time slot.</p> <p>Similarly, Tynedale are considered to be at capacity during both Saturdays and Sundays. Furthermore, the lack of floodlighting means the club has to train at facilities in Newcastle, estimated to be around 30-40 minutes' drive at peak times.</p>
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?	<p>At present, all of the AGPs used by the community are considered to be of standard quality. However, all 3 of these surfaces are over 5 years old and all are projected to require replacement within the next 3-7 years. The only club to report a deficiency in the maintenance of their pitches was Berwick HC. It has been recommended that England Hockey consult with the school as to how best to improve the maintenance programme on the pitches. The pitch at King Edwards VI School is considered to be Poor quality. If this were upgraded there is a possibility that these pitches could be brought into the community supply, helping to solve capacity issues at other sites in the County.</p>
What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?	<p>Unless each of surfaces for the 3 facilities currently used by the community for hockey are upgraded, then teams are likely to be playing on surfaces of inadequate quality within the near future.</p> <p>The number of teams in the County is projected to decline slightly by 1 adult and 1 junior. However, the lack of spare capacity for the two largest clubs, and the lack of a facility in the home town of Alnwick HC can be considered to be suppressing the number of teams in the area. Tynedale HC noted that they consider there to be latent demand for a further 3 teams at their club which cannot be realised due to a lack of capacity.</p> <p>Should no further floodlit provision be established in the area then there is likely to be further export of demand to facilities Newcastle. This will further suppress the demand for hockey in the area and limit the ability of clubs to grow.</p>
Is there enough accessible community use provision to meet future demand?	<p>Given that there are no current projects reported by any club, or by England Hockey regarding the resurfacing of pitches, it is considered likely that all 3 pitches will be considered to be of inadequate quality in the next couple of years.</p> <p>If another facility cannot be brought into the community supply to support Alnwick HC and reduce demand on Morpeth HC's pitch, then community facilities in the Central sub area will continue to operate at capacity during peak periods, giving clubs limited opportunity to grow. King Edward VI School, Morpeth, is considered the best candidate for this.</p> <p>The situation at Berwick Academy and Morpeth Hockey Club should also be noted. Berwick Academies change in affiliation to Scottish hockey affiliation, removes the protection from England Hockey with regards to 3G conversion. Additionally, the current state of Morpeth and the safety hazard for which the floodlighting presents, means that Berwick is under threat from being lost and Morpeth from being out of action. This potential problem is exacerbated by the lack of spare capacity that Queen Elizabeth High School currently presents, meaning that if provision at the two sites mentioned were to be lost then there may be a lack of available supply to meet hockey demand. This will be explored further in Stage D of the strategy.</p>

Section 7: AGP Analysis



7 AGP Analysis

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 This section assesses the adequacy of AGP pitches for football, rugby and hockey in Northumberland by presenting the following:

- An overview of pitch supply
- An overview of demand for football
- The pattern of play of football
- A review of the capacity and adequacy of current provision across Northumberland, including an understanding of activity at individual sites. This is based on a review of sites as broken down by sub-areas of which there are 4 in the region
- The future picture of provision for football in Northumberland
- A summary of findings and the key issues for the Plan to address.

7.1.2 As has been emphasized in this report AGPs are used by different pitch sports for both training and match play. It is therefore important to consider their function and provision 'in the round', as they are valuable resource for playing sport, and there is clearly competition to play on the AGPs that exist in the area.

7.1.3 The data and assessments in this Section are taken from a variety of sources including Sport England's planning tools (including Active Places, Facilities Planning Model, and Sports Facilities Calculator), local authority records, and site visits and meetings with facility managers. The data have been analysed separately, partly because the criteria for each tool differs slightly, but are brought together in the final assessment. The assessment deals with the following topics- supply/ quantity, demand, accessibility and quality.

SUPPLY

7.1.4 There are a variety of different surfaces of AGPs and which have differing levels of suitability for different sports. A high-level overview is included below:

- Long pile 3G with shock pad – suitable for football and rugby training and matches (World Rugby 22) (pile should be 50mm or 60mm)
- Long pile 3G – preferred surface for football (pile should be 50mm or 60mm)
- Sand filled – acceptable surface for football and hockey
- Sand dressed – acceptable surface for football and hockey
- Water based – acceptable surface for football (if irrigated) and preferred surface for hockey.

7.1.5 The table below lists details of the AGP facilities in the area. The full-sized facilities (those capable of hosting a full-sized rugby, football or hockey pitches) are highlighted in bold.

Table 7.1: AGPs in Northumberland

Site Name	Sub Area	Facility Sub Type	Size (m)	Floodlit	Access Type	Age of Surface	Quality
Alnwick Community Centre	North	3G	30x20	Yes	Available & Secured	Over 10 years	Poor
Ashington Community High School	South East	3G	80x35	Yes	Available & Secured	Less than 2 years	Standard
Bede Academy (North)	South East	Sand Dressed	100x60	Yes	Available & Unsecured	5-10 years	Standard
Bedlingtonshire Community School	South East	3G	100x70	Yes	Available & Secured	Less than 2 years	Good
Berwick Academy	North	Sand Dressed	100x60	Yes	Available & Secured	5-10 years	Standard
Croft Park (Blyth Spartans FC)	South East	3G	40x30	Yes	Not available & Unsecured	Less than 2 years	Standard
Hirst Welfare Centre	South East	3G	100x60	Yes	Available & Secured	Less than 2 years	Standard
Lowhall Park	West	3G	40x30	Yes	Available & Secured	5-10 years	Standard
Morpeth Hockey Club	Central	Sand Dressed	100x60	Yes	Available & Secured	Over 10 years	Standard
Mowden Hall School	Central	Sand Dressed	85x53	No	Not available & Unsecured	Less than 2 years	Standard
Northumberland Cofe Academy (Josephine Butler Campus)	South East	3G	100x70	Yes	Available & Secured	Less than 2 years	Standard
Ponteland Middle School	Central	3G	80x50	Yes	Available & Secured	2-5 years	Good
Prudhoe Football and Sports Centre	Central	3G	100x60	Yes	Available & Secured	Less than 2 years	Good

Site Name	Sub Area	Facility Sub Type	Size (m)	Floodlit	Access Type	Age of Surface	Quality
Prudhoe Football and Sports Centre	Central	3G	30x20	Yes	Available & Secured	2-5 years	Good
			30x20	Yes			
Queen Elizabeth High School	Central	Sand Dressed	100x60	No	Available & Secured	5-10 years	Standard
Rothbury Recreation Club	West	3G	40x30	Yes	Available & Secured	Standard	Standard
Sporting Club Cramlington	South East	3G	100x60	Yes	Available & Secured	2-5 years	Good
Stakeford & Bomarsund Sports & Welfare Centre	South East	3G	40x30	Yes	Available & Secured	2-5 years	Good
Stocksfield Sports Field	Central	3G	40x20	Yes	Available & Secured	5-10 years	Standard
The Blyth Academy	South East	3G	110x70	Yes	Available & Secured	5-10 years	Standard
The King Edward VI School	Central	Sand Dressed	100x60	Yes	Not available & Unsecured	Over 10 years	Poor
The Swan Centre for Leisure	North	3G	40x35	Yes	Available & Secured	5-10 years	Standard
Westfield Park	North	3G	60x40	Yes	Available & Secured	5-10 years	Standard

Table 7.2: Distribution of AGPs per region in Northumberland

Location	Total Number	Total %	Number of Full-Size	% of Full-Size
Central	8	38	5	42
North	4	19	1	8
South East	7	33	6	50
West	2	10	0	0
Northumberland	21	-	12	-

- 7.1.6 Table 7.2 shows the distribution of AGPs throughout the region, including the location of full-sized pitches. The central and south east areas have the majority of the supply with the west having the lowest with no full-sized pitches.

7.2 Football

- 7.2.1 The FA considers high quality 3G pitches as essential in promoting coach and player development across all age groups. These pitches can support intensive use and as such are valuable assets for both playing and training. Primarily, such facilities have been installed for community use and training however they are increasingly used for competition, which the FA wholly supports providing the pitch has been appropriately tested and is on the FA 3G pitch register. The FA's long-term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England with the opportunity to train once a week on a floodlit 3G surface, together with priority access for Charter Standard Community Clubs through a partnership agreement.
- 7.2.2 The FA has adopted the use of 3G pitches across all its competitions and incorporated this into the standard code of rules. This decision was taken due to the significant advances that have been made to the development of 3G Football Turf (FT) and the adoption of these surfaces by professional leagues throughout Europe and by both UEFA and FIFA for major competitions.
- 7.2.3 Competitive affiliated football can take place on 3G surfaces that have been tested to FA standards and are on the FA 3G Football Turf Pitch Register. All football training can take place on sand and water-based surfaces, but a 3G surface is preferred.

QUANTITY AND QUALITY OVERVIEW

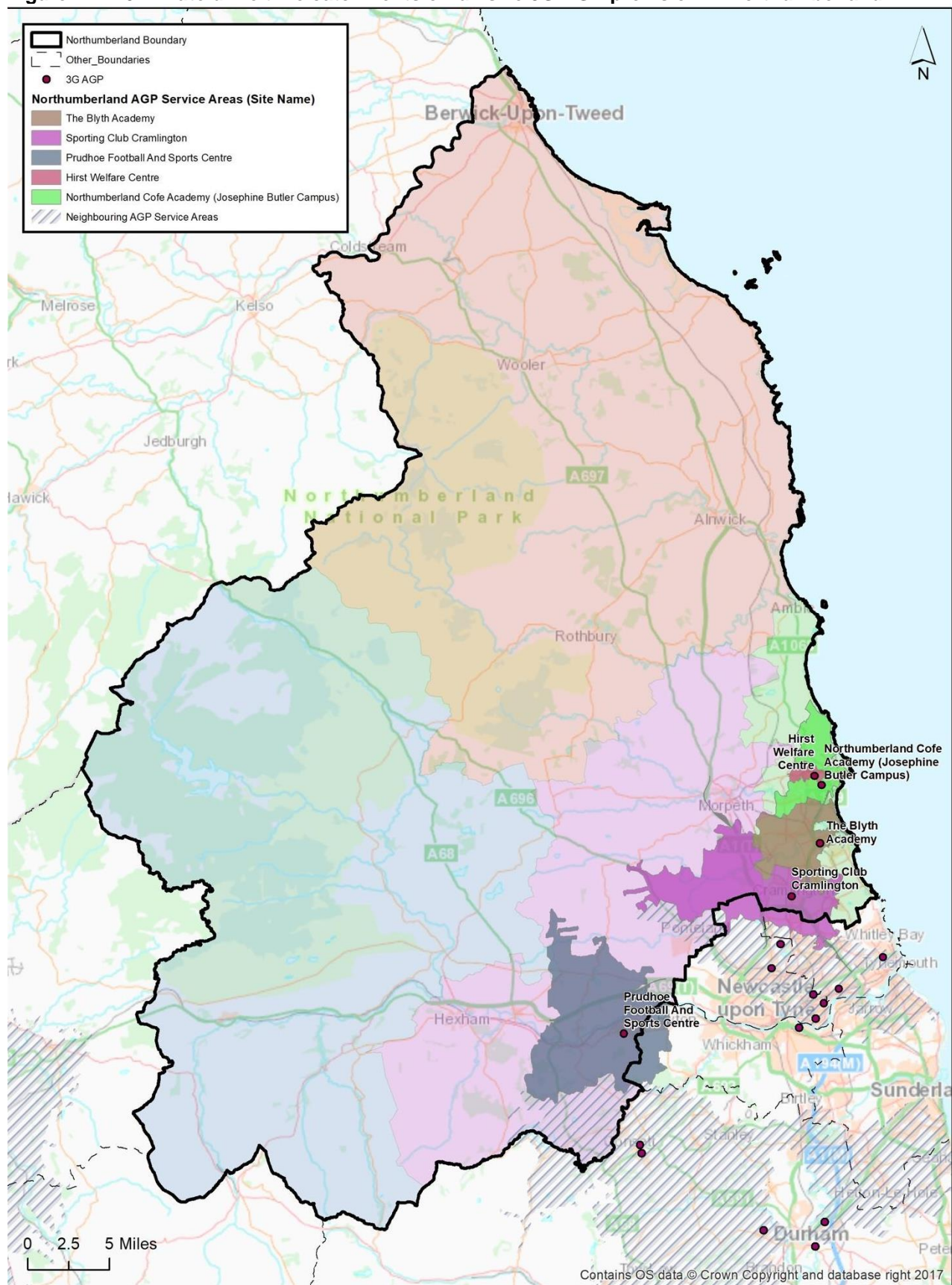
- 7.2.4 The study area currently has identified 11 full sized AGP's, 9 of which are available for community use. Of the available facilities, 8 are floodlit and therefore can be used by the community at peak times throughout the winter.
- 7.2.5 Of the 8 full-sized, floodlit AGPs available to the community in Northumberland, 6 are 3G, the preferred surface for football. All of these are securely available for community use (accessible either on a pay and play basis or through a community club) and are considered to be available for all 40 hours during the period of highest demand (6pm-10pm Monday – Friday / 10am – 8pm Saturday – Sunday).

Table 7.3: Strategic sized AGP facilities in Northumberland

Site Name	Sub area	Class-ification	Size (m)	Community use category	Security of use	Flood-lighting	Peak Hours	Age of Surface	Pitch score
Bedlingtonshire Community School	South East	FIFA	100x70	Available	Secured	Yes	40	Less than 2 years	Good
Hirst Welfare Centre	South East	FIFA	100x60	Available	Secured	Yes	40	Less than 2 years	Standard
Northumberland Cofe Academy (Josephine Butler Campus)	South East	FA	100x70	Available	Secured	Yes	40	Less than 2 years	Standard
Prudhoe Football and Sports Centre	Central	FIFA	100x60	Available	Secured	Yes	40	Less than 2 years	Good
Sporting Club Cramlington	South East	FA	100x60	Available	Secured	Yes	40	2-5 years	Standard
The Blyth Academy	South East	None	110x70	Available	Secured	Yes	40	5-10 years	Standard

- 7.2.6 Pitches classified based on their surface type, the base upon which the pitch is laid, floodlighting and numerous other facility elements (these are provided in Appendix). Pitches that meet FIFA's criteria are suitable to host play at Steps 3-7 of the FA's National League System (step 3 being the higher level). The higher the level that teams play, the more conditions the stadium and surrounding facilities must meet in addition to the pitch specification. Pitches that meet FA classification can be used to host adult matches at step 7 and below, but pitches must meet this classification as a minimum of hosting competitive matches. Table 7.3 shows that three of the AGPs in the County meet the FIFA classification standards, with a further two facilities meeting the FA's minimum requirements to host competitive matches.
- 7.2.7 The Blyth Academy pitch is the only full-sized 3G pitch in the County that does not meet these criteria. Table 7.3 shows that of the 6 facilities, only the Blyth Academy has a surface aged 5 years or more and so should therefore be considered for refurbishment or replacement within the next 5 years. Figure 7.1 shows the location of the existing provision in Northumberland requirement.
- 7.2.8 Figure 7.1 shows that of the 6 available 3G AGPs, 5 are located in the South East, with one further facility in the Central sub area. There are no facilities north of the Hirst Welfare Centre and large swathes of the County do not have access to a 3G AGP. At present AGPs are distributed roughly in line with the distribution of demand, as detailed in Table 7.4.

Figure 7.1: 20 minute drive time catchments of full size 3G AGP provision in Northumberland



CURRENT SUPPLY AND DEMAND BALANCE – ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES

- 7.2.9 As part of the FA National Game Strategy, the Football Association have identified a strategic objective to ensure that all teams playing competitive football have access to a floodlit 3G AGP to train on at least once a week. To do this, FA calculations show that a full size 3G AGP (available for community use at peak times) is required for every 38 teams, which will allow the required training and match play slots, as well as providing suitable supply at peak times (weekday evenings and weekends).
- 7.2.10 Using the demand data for the County, 567 teams have been identified as playing within Northumberland. Using the FA's suggested ratio of 1:38, this demonstrates the need for 14.9 full sized 3G AGP's. There are currently 6 securely available 3Gs within the County. With the total number required rounded to 15 there is currently under supply of 8 3G AGP's (rounded down) in Northumberland.
- 7.2.11 Table 7.4 shows the existing levels of provision of 3G AGPs in Northumberland against this FA's preferred standard.

Table 7.4: Balance of 3G AGP provision in Northumberland

Area	Current Teams	FA's preferred Number of AGPs (based on 1:38 team ratio)	Current Number of AGPs	Balance
Central	158	4	1	-3
North	97	3	0	-2
South East	289	7	5	-2
West	23	1	0	-1
Northumberland	567	15	6	-8

- 7.2.12 Table 7.4 shows that there is a deficit of 8 3G AGPs (rounded down) in Northumberland when measured against the FA's preferred ratio.
- 7.2.13 Despite containing 5 of the 6 pitches in the County, the South East sub area is considered to be 2 facilities under supplied given current team demand.
- 7.2.14 The Central sub area, the only other sub area with any supply is under supplied by three 3G AGPs, the greatest deficit of all the sub areas in Northumberland.
- 7.2.15 The North is also undersupplied by two 3G AGPs and the West by one. Neither of these sub areas has any 3G AGP provision at present.
- 7.2.16 Although the West is undersupplied by 1 full sized AGP, a smaller sized AGP may be more appropriate due to the rural nature of the area and so a lack of demand.

AGP ANALYSIS – SMALL SIDED AGP AS TRAINING SUPPLY

- 7.2.17 Given the lack of supply in the area, the study has also considered the impact of small-sided, floodlit 3G AGPs available for community use in the area.
- 7.2.18 Full-sized 3G AGPs are commonly split into thirds to allow multiple training sessions to take place simultaneously. If a full sized 3G facility can be said to have a capacity for 3 training sessions at once then the additional capacity provided by small sided AGPs can be considered alongside the full-sized provision.
- 7.2.19 It should be noted that small-sided training sessions are not appropriate for all teams or clubs and

therefore this analysis should be considered alongside, and not instead of the FA's preferred ratio of 1 full sized 3G AGP to every 38 clubs.

7.2.20 Table 7.5 shows provides the details of appropriate small-sided 3G AGPs in Northumberland and details the number of training sessions each pitch can hold simultaneously.

Table 7.5: Small-sided 3G provision in Northumberland available for training demand (all pitches floodlit)

Site Name	Sub area	Size (m)	Maximum Number of Simultaneous Training Sessions	Availability and Security of use	Age of Surface	Pitch score
Alnwick Community Centre	North	30x20	1	Available & Secured	Over 10 years	Poor
Ashington Community High School	South East	80x35	2	Available & Secured	Less than 2 years	Standard
Lowhall Park	West	40x30	1	Available & Secured	5-10 years	Standard
Ponteland Middle School	Central	80x50	2	Available & Secured	2-5 years	Good
Prudhoe Football and Sports Centre	Central	30x20	1	Available & Secured	2-5 years	Good
		30x20	1			
Rothbury Recreation Club	North	40x30	1	Available & Secured	Unknown	Standard
Stakeford & Bomarsund Sports & Welfare Centre	South East	40x30	1	Available & Secured	2-5 years	Good
Stocksfield Sports Field	Central	40x20	1	Available & Secured	5-10 years	Standard
The Swan Centre for Leisure	North	40x35	1	Available & Secured	5-10 years	Standard
Westfield Park	North	60x40	2	Available & Secured	5-10 years	Standard

7.2.21 Under this analysis, the small-sided AGPs can be said to add 14 training sessions per hour to the County's training capacity. This is the equivalent of 4.7 full sized AGPs in terms of simultaneous training capacity.

7.2.22 Added to the 18 sessions provided by the full sized facilities (3x sessions per pitch per hour) this equals a total capacity of 32 training sessions per hour on 3G pitches across the County.

7.2.23 Broken down by sub area, this means:

- The Central sub area can also be said to have capacity for 5 additional training sessions through its small sided 3G AGPs. This is equivalent to 1.6 additional full-sized 3G pitches bringing its total capacity to 8 simultaneous training sessions for the sub area, the equivalent of 2.7 full sized 3G AGPs. This leaves the sub area under supplied by the equivalent of 1.7 full sized 3G AGP.
- The North can be considered to have capacity for 5 training sessions through its small sided 3G provision, the equivalent of 1.7 full sized AGPs. This leaves the sub area under supplied by 1.3 Full-sized 3G AGPs.
- The South East has 2 small-sided 3G facilities providing 3 additional training sessions of capacity for the sub area. This brings the sub area's capacity for training sessions to 18, the equivalent of 6 full sized 3G AGPs. This would leave the sub area undersupplied by the equivalent of 1 full sized AGP.

- With the inclusion of Lowhall Park, the West can be said to have 1 training session of capacity in total across the entire sub area. This would leave the sub area undersupplied by the equivalent of 0.7 full sized 3G AGPs.

7.2.24 If small-sided AGPs can be said to be part of the supply to meet training demand, then Northumberland has the equivalent of 10.7 full sized 3G AGPs of training supply across the County. Under this analysis, the deficit of supply for 3G AGPs can be said to have dropped from 8 to 4.3 full-sized AGPs.

7.2.25 This analysis is intended to show how training demand can be met by small AGPs in Northumberland but should be considered alongside the FA's clear and stated strategic priorities for full-sized facilities where possible.

POTENTIAL FUTURE AGP FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

7.2.26 In line with their strategic priorities, the FA have initial plans to install new 3G AGPs in Northumberland.

7.2.27 These plans are at differing levels of development and priority at this stage.

7.2.28 The list below provides details on the progress of 6 projects that are on-going:

- Alnwick (North) - There are plans to install a full sized, floodlit 3G in the town with construction commencing in early 2019.
- Wentworth Leisure Centre (Central) – There were plans to install an AGP on the football pitch that sits inside the athletics track at the centre. However, this suggestion was identified as an issue for the athletics club due to the limitations it would place on field events. Hexham FC has had £1-2mil investment in its facilities and was a considered a possible alternate site but ruled out due to a lack of transport links and no other alternative site has been identified for the town.
- Queen Elizabeth High School (Central) – Located in Hexham, the FA is exploring the possibility of adding a 3G AGP to the school to help meet demand for such a facility in the town. The site already has issues with its hockey AGP (as floodlighting is not possible due to planning constraints). Adding a 3G AGP in Hexham would fulfill a key priority for the FA in Northumberland and this site appears to be the best option for fulfilling this.
- Berwick (North) – An aspiration for the at this stage (the nearest 3G across the border in Scotland and clubs here have reported travelling to Edinburgh to use 3G facilities). Options include Berwick Academy or possibly converting the pitch at Sheffield Park (home to Berwick Rangers FC) in to a 3G AGP to better service the club and community.
- Morpeth (Central) – A major town with significant demand and no AGP facilities, the town has been considered a good candidate for 3G provision for some time. Possible sites include Morpeth common or King Edwards high school, however this project is in the very early stages of development at the time of writing.
- Ponteland Leisure Centre (Central) – A new 3G provision is to be added as part of substantial site redevelopment works.

7.2.29 There are currently no plans to add facilities to the South East. Although this sub area is also undersupplied by 2 AGPs, figure 3.5 shows residents here generally have better access (in-terms of drive-time to their nearest facility) to 3G AGP provision than in other sub areas.

FUTURE SUPPLY AND DEMAND BALANCE – ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES

- 7.2.30 To understand the projected level of demand for 3G AGPs in Northumberland across the lifetime of the project, the same ratio of 1:38 has been used, as well as the additional 31 teams identified in the future demand analysis (TGR and latent demand calculations).
- 7.2.31 Using these updated parameters, it is projected that 1 further full sized 3G AGPs will be required to be accessible to the community by 2031 in Northumberland, above the 9 facilities identified in Table 7.4 (making the total full-sized, floodlit 3G AGPs required to meet FA aspirations in Northumberland to 16).

MEETING CURRENT & FUTURE DEMAND FOR 3G FACILITIES ACROSS NORTHUMBERLAND

- 7.2.32 To meet the 3G shortfall for future AGP demand, the likely solution may be either a newly built facility or resurfacing sand-based pitches. A key consideration when identifying potential development sites is meeting the current and future demands for hockey and identifying sites that can be considered as surplus to hockey's requirements.
- 7.2.33 A key objective for the FA is to maximise the use of 3G pitches for competitive football match play. This will increase the quality of provision, reduce the number of cancellations and help to address future demand.
- 7.2.34 Affordable pricing policies that include match-based charges, in line with grass pitches, should be a consideration.
- 7.2.35 When selecting the sites that are appropriate for 3G AGP development, sites should have the following characteristics:
- Be available for significant use by local community clubs
 - Have good access and ancillary facilities to service the pitch(es)
 - Be financially sustainable
 - Be able to be maximized for training and match play provision during peak time
 - Be well positioned to deliver wider football development programmes, including coach education and a recreational football offer, using spare off-peak capacity for delivery.

7.3 Rugby

- 7.3.1 AGPs are becoming recognized surfaces for both match play and training for rugby. They need to be World Rugby 22 compliant which requires the installation of a shock pad. This pad also has additional specifications to one that would be installed on a dedicated football facility. WR22 compliant facilities can be used by football as well and having a FA pitch register (meaning they can be used for competitive football matches as well as rugby matches). The dimensions of a 'rugby' 3G pitch tend to be slightly bigger than a dedicated football AGP; however, the RFU are flexible on the pitch size. Full-sized artificial rugby pitches are also able to accommodate a number of other sports including American Football.

SUPPLY

7.3.2 There is one WR22 compliant pitch in Northumberland. Details are below:

Table 7.6 - WR22 compliant AGPs in Northumberland

Site Name	Sub area	Size (m)	Floodlight	Availability and Security of use	Age of Surface	Pitch score
Northumberland CofE Academy (Josephine Butler Campus)	North	100x70	Yes	Available & Secured	Less than 2 years	Standard

DEMAND

- 7.3.3 Despite the pitch having a community use agreement only one rugby union club in Northumberland reported making regular use of the site; Morpeth RFC. It is estimated that the club are located between 20 and 30 minutes from the facility. The floodlit balance in the Rugby Analysis Chapter of this assessment (Table 5.6) demonstrated how midweek training demand impacted on floodlit grass rugby pitches. Morpeth RFC generates 7.5 match equivalents of demand with floodlit supply of 2.5 match equivalents. If we assume that half of this midweek demand is being met by the Northumberland C of E Academy pitch then the grass pitch will be over capacity by 2.5 match equivalents as opposed to 5 match equivalents.
- 7.3.4 Other clubs that use the site include Ashington RFC and Alnwick RFC. The usage has not been deemed regular enough to warrant analysis and is more a contingency for exceptionally adverse weather.
- 7.3.5 Blyth RFC represent exported demand for a WR22 compliant AGP as they use the pitch at Whitley Bay RFC when required and consultation with the RFU indicates that, other clubs in Northumberland are also making use of the WR22 pitches located in Newcastle (Kingston Park).

ACCESSIBILITY

- 7.3.6 Given the large geographic size of the study area many clubs face a long travel time if they were interested in using the WR22 compliant pitch. Table 7.7 details estimated drive time for each club.

Table 7.7: Distance and travel time for rugby clubs to the WR22 compliant AGP

Club	Home Ground Sub Area	Distance to AGP (miles)	Estimated Drive Time (minutes)
Alnwick RUFC	North	16	40
Ashington Joint Welfare RFC	South East	2	12
Berwick Upon Tweed RFC	North	43	70
Blyth RFC	South East	4	15
Border Park RFC	West	41	90
Morpeth RFC	Central	6	23
Ponteland RFC	Central	12	30
Prudhoe and Stocksfield RFC	Central	14	30
Seghill RFC	South East	8	20

Club	Home Ground Sub Area	Distance to AGP (miles)	Estimated Drive Time (minutes)
Tyndale RFC	Central	24	45

- 7.3.7 The table shows that only two clubs are within a 20minute drive time of a WR22 compliant 3G AGP, with a third Seghill RFC, right on the edge of this catchment. When the catchment is widened to 30minutes, a further three clubs are considered to be within the catchment of the facility, including Ponteland RFC and Prudhoe and Stocksfield RFC which are on the edge of this catchment.
- 7.3.8 The Table shows that Tyndale RFC, Alnwick RUFC, Berwick Upon Tweed RFC and Border Park RFC are not within a commutable distance of a WR22 complaint 3G AGP. It should be noted that all of these sites are considered to be overplayed for mid-week training demand indicating there is a need to consider a WR22 3G AGP as an alternative solution to improvement to drainage and increased floodlighting where appropriate.

7.4 Hockey

- 7.4.1 Unlike football and rugby, hockey is played exclusively on AGP surfaces. As a result, the key issues regarding the supply and demand of hockey facilities are principally covered in the hockey needs assessment chapter. However, this chapter does not consider the impact of football demand on sand dressed / based AGPs. This impact will be modelled below.
- 7.4.2 Table 6.2 in the Hockey Analysis Chapter identified 6 appropriate AGPs for hockey; 2 of which are not available for community use and an additional site which is not secured for community use. 4 of the 6 pitches are located in the Central sub area. Of the 4 available pitches, 1 does not have floodlighting and another has floodlights that are not appropriate for competitive matches. When examining the site-by-site demand there appears to be additional capacity at some sites, in particular during midweek. However, consultation with England Hockey and clubs reveal that there is limited opportunity for clubs to increase the number of hours they use facilities as peak time capacity is used for other activities, principally football, during the midweek period.
- 7.4.3 This is significant as it not only limits the formal training clubs can offer members, but also limits the non-traditional offer (such as rush hockey or back to hockey) which are considered key areas of growth for the sport.
- 7.4.4 Table 6.7 in the Hockey Analysis Chapter identifies a minimum of 13.5 peak time midweek hours of demand from hockey clubs on hockey appropriate AGPs which have 60 hours of total supply available (40 hours securely available).
- 7.4.5 Taking into account that there are 567 football clubs and the FA guidance is for 1 AGP per 38 teams it can be assumed that Northumberland requires 14 full-sized 3G pitches (see Table 7.4). This is a current deficit of 8 pitches (rounded down).
- 7.4.6 Table 7.7 demonstrates how this unmet training demand affects midweek supply of non-3G AGPs in Northumberland. The unmet training demand from football has been calculated using the number of clubs in the area and the FAs 1:38 ratio as well as factoring in the supply of full-sized 3G pitches. Queen Elizabeth High School has been excluded as it does not have floodlights.

Table 7.7: Balance of unmet football and hockey training demand on non-3G AGPs.

Site Name	Sub area	Midweek Supply (hours)	Hockey Training Demand (hours)	Unmet Football Training Demand (hours)	Capacity
Morpeth Hockey Club	Central	20	9.5	50	No Spare Capacity
Berwick Academy	North	20	3	31	No Spare Capacity
Bede Academy (North)	South East	20	0	91	No Spare Capacity
Total		60	13.5*	178**	No Spare Capacity

*Includes demand from Tynedale HC that play at Queen Elizabeth High School

** Includes unmet training demand from football clubs in the west sub area.

- 7.4.7 Table 7.7 clearly shows that any football clubs place demand for midweek training on non-3G pitches across Northumberland which is likely to impact on the hours available for hockey clubs.
- 7.4.8 Furthermore, this covers only part of the picture as it only covers formal demand and neglects the demand from informal football use. This typically will take the form of small-sized football on artificial pitches. If we assume a full sized AGP can accommodate 3 sessions (typically of 1 hour duration) and that these involve up to 15 participants which totals at 45 people per hour.
- 7.4.9 Sport England's Active Lives Survey reveals that in Newcastle (the closest location with relevant data geographically to Northumberland) has 3.8% of the population participating in small-sided AGP football at least twice in a 28 day period. Given that the population of Northumberland is 267,000 that equates to 5,073 participants per week.
- 7.4.10 Table 7.8 demonstrates how this informal demand affects the midweek supply of AGPs in Northumberland when full-sized, floodlit and available pitches are converted to small-sided.

Table 7.8: Balance of midweek informal demand against AGP supply

Study Area	Full-Sized Supply (hours)	Small Sided Supply (hours)	Informal Demand (hours)	Balance (total supply minus demand)
Northumberland	108	280	113	275

- 7.4.11 This above table demonstrates the impact that informal demand has on the supply of available midweek hours for AGPs which has a knock-on effect for both football and hockey clubs.

7.5 AGP Summary

- 7.5.1 This section summarises the findings from the AGP analysis, which will form the basis of the recommendation and action plan section for Northumberland.
- 7.5.2 Table 7.9 includes the response to 5 key questions which are identified in the Sport England PPS Guidance Checklists. Using these key questions to summarise the findings of each of the sport chapter creates consistency, not only within the report but with similar PPS projects in neighbouring local authorities and further afield.

Table 7.9: Key PPS findings for AGP's in Northumberland

Key Question	Analysis
What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?	<p>The quality of AGP provision across the Study Area is primarily of standard/good quality. There are only two facilities that are of poor quality - The King Edward VI School and Alnwick Community Centre. The first of which is not available to community use. 22 out of the 23 AGP's in the area floodlit, allowing for maximum utilisation of available hours.</p> <p>There is just one WR22 complaint pitch for rugby, located at Northumberland CofE Academy (Josephine Butler Campus). This facility services three clubs within a 20minute drive time and a further three within a 30minute catchment. This leaves 4 clubs outside of the catchment for a WR22 complaint 3G AGP.</p> <p>There are three hockey pitches used by community clubs in the County. Each of these is in need of facility enhancement, see hockey chapter for more details.</p>
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand?	<p>There is a significant deficit of full-sized, floodlit 3G AGP provision. The FA's desired standard of 1 3G AGP to every 38 teams means that Northumberland would ideally have 14 full-sized, floodlit 3G pitches available for hire to meet midweek training demand. At present, the County has 5 pitches in total, with 4 located in the South East and 1 in the Central sub area.</p> <p>According to the distribution of demand in the area, 4 pitches further would each be distributed to the Central and South East sub areas. A further 2 would be located in the north of the County, with just one required in the west.</p> <p>The consultation with the FA reveals there are currently plans to install new AGP provision in the area but that these are at differing levels of development.</p> <p>If small-sided 3G AGPs are considered as part of the supply to meet midweek training demand, then Northumberland can be considered to have a total supply equivalent to 9 full-sized 3G AGPs. This leaves a deficit of 5 full sized AGPs across the County. It should be noted however, that this is not the FA's preferred strategic approach to meeting midweek training demand.</p> <p>All rugby clubs in Northumberland are overplayed during the midweek period. At present, 4 of the ten clubs within the county would not be able to access a WR22 compliant pitch to off-set training within a reasonable drive-time. At present, it is understood that WR22 pitches located in Newcastle (Kingston Park) and Tyneside (Whitely Bay, Rockcliff) are being used by NCC clubs for midweek training demand.</p> <p>The provision of hockey pitches is adequate to meet demand but the quality and the access to floodlit provision is a greater issue.</p>
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?	<p>While several clubs and sites have identified issues regarding surface condition, the overall quality of facilities and the robustness of maintenance regimes is standard. There are a small number of poor quality artificial pitches.</p>

Key Question	Analysis
	<p>For rugby, the quality of the only WR22 in the County is not considered a deterrent from use.</p> <p>For hockey, poor pitch a facility issues are creating issues for clubs. This includes the age of surface at Berwick and Queen Elizabeth's School, Hexham and the lack of adequate floodlighting at Queen Elizabeth's School, Hexham and Morpeth Hockey Club.</p>
What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?	<p>There is expected to be a need for 1 additional full sized 3G AGP within Northumberland to meet football demand, in addition to the current deficit of 5 3G AGPs currently required. In line with the strategic objectives of the Football Foundation, FA, Sport England, RFU and, it is expected that the demand for 3G AGP provision will increase over the period of the local plan, as there is an ambition to improve the overall playing experience of participants by moving more grass-roots participation onto artificial surfaces.</p> <p>For rugby, demand for facilities is expected to remain relatively stable across the County and therefore, there is expected to be limited additional demand above that which currently exists.</p> <p>For hockey, retaining all current facilities is seen as a major priority. Given latent demand and population reports there is not thought to be a dramatic increase in demand forecast, however, England Hockey has a target of doubling participation by 2028. The impact of meeting this will be modelled in the Strategy document accompanying this report.</p>
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand?	<p>For football, the future supply and demand analysis for secured and accessible pitch provision shows there is a significant total deficit for secured provision equivalents across all AGPs, equating to 9 full sized AGPs. This is paired down to 5 AGPs to account for the contribution of small-sided facilities to help meet some of the demand.</p> <p>There are initial plans for the creation of new AGP facilities in Northumberland. This will have an impact on the current imbalance. However, there are no plans to add facilities to the South East sub-area which currently has a deficit of 2AGP's.</p> <p>For rugby, there is not currently sufficient supply to meet any demand for WR22 AGPs for the clubs that are not within an acceptable commute of such a facility. There are presently 4 such clubs in this situation.</p> <p>For hockey, if all pitches are retained and adequate floodlighting and surface replacement carried out then there is considered to be sufficient supply to meet projected future demand. It should be noted that this does not include England Hockey's plans to increase participation in the sport by 100% by 2028.</p>

Section 8: Bowls Analysis



8 Bowls

8.1 Introduction

- 8.1.1 Bowls England is responsible for governance administration and promotion of Flat Green Lawn Bowls in England. It was formed in 2008 following a unification of the English Bowling Association (EBA) and English Women's Bowling Association (EWBA).
- 8.1.2 The following section provides detail of the existing strategies that are being delivered by Bowls England.
- 8.1.3 Following this, the supply and demand section of this report evaluates the adequacy of facilities for bowls and considers:
- Recommendations moving forward
 - The supply of facilities and demand for these.
 - The adequacy of facilities in Northumberland.

8.2 Strategic Context

- 8.2.1 The most recent strategy formulated by Bowls England to help drive the game forward was the Strategic Plan (2014-2017). This plan outlines the main vision, values and mission of Bowls England.
- 8.2.2 The strategy produced three 3 key strategic priorities:
- 8.2.3 Underpinning these 3 Strategic priorities are the vision and values of the organisation:
- To increase participation in the sport of outdoor flat green bowls
 - To support County Associations and Clubs
 - To provide strong leadership and direction.
- 8.2.4 Bowls England have 3 areas feeding into their key vision:
- Promote the sport of outdoor flat green bowls
 - Recruit new participants to the sport of outdoor flat green bowls
 - Retain current and future participants within the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- 8.2.5 Bowls England have also identified areas feeding into their key vision:
- Be progressive: seek opportunities to adapt the sport to meet the needs of clubs and participants and embrace change when required;
 - Offer opportunities: for players to participate at national and international level
 - Work to raise the profile of the sport: in support of recruitment and retention
 - Lead the sport: We will drive the sport forward towards our vision
 - Support clubs and county associations: in developing their facilities and bowls facility.

8.3 Bowls Supply

8.3.1 Table 8.1 below shows there are currently 28 bowling greens in Northumberland. Of these greens, 18 are local Authority owned sites. 20 greens are managed by sports clubs, which indicates a greater degree of control over the maintenance and management of the surface.

8.3.2 Table 8.1 also provides non-technical site assessment scores for the quality the bowling green. 15 of the 25 sites have a good quality of green provision.

Table 8.1: Bowls Sites in Northumberland

Site Name	Resident Clubs	Ownership	Management	Community use	Security of Use	Greens	Rinks	Green Condition
Alnwick Bowls Club	Alnwick Bowls Club	Duke of Northumberland	Club	Available	Secured	1	6	Good
Amble Bowls Club	Amble Bowls Club	Club	Club	Available	Secured	1	6	Good
Astley Park Bowls Club	Astley Park Bowls Club	Local Authority	Club	Available	Secured	1	6	Good
Berwick Bowling Club	Berwick Bowling Club	Club	Club	Available	Secured	1	6	Good
Cowpen and Crofton Welfare Bowls Club	Cowpen and Crofton Welfare Bowls Club	Local Authority	Club	Available	Secured	1	6	Good
Cramlington Bowling Club	Cramlington Bowling Club	Local Authority	Club	Available	Secured	1	6	Standard
Doctor Pit Welfare Park	Bedlington Dr Pit Bowling Club	Local Authority	Club	Available	Secured	1	6	Good
Haltwhistle Bowling Club	Haltwhistle Bowls Club	Local Authority	Club	Available	Secured	1	6	Good
Hexham House Bowling Green	Hexham House Bowling Club	Local Authority	Club	Available	Secured	1	6	Good
Hexham Elvaston Bowls Club	Hexham Elvaston Bowls Club	Club	Club	Available	Secured	1	6	Good
Hirst Park	Hirst Park Bowling Club	Local Authority	Local Authority	Available	Secured	2	6/6	Good /Poor
Lesbury Bowls Club	Lesbury Bowls Club	Duke of Northumberland	Club	Available	Secured	1	4	Standard
Lynemouth Welfare	-	Local Authority	Local Authority	Available	Secured	1	6	Poor
Morpeth Riverside Leisure Centre	Morpeth Bowling Club	Local Authority	Local Authority	Available	Secured	2	6/6	Good

Site Name	Resident Clubs	Ownership	Management	Community use	Security of Use	Greens	Rinks	Green Condition
Newbiggin Bowling Club	Newbiggin Bowling Club	Local Authority	Local Authority	Available	Secured	1	6	Good
New Delaval and Newsham Bowling Club	New Delaval and Newsham Bowling Club	Local Authority	Club	Available	Secured	2	6/6	Poor
Rothbury Recreation Ground	Rothbury Bowling Club	Duke of Northumberland	Club	Available	Secured	1	5	Good
Seahouses Sports and Community Centre	Seahouses Outdoor Bowling Club	Local Authority	Local Authority	Available	Secured	1	6	Standard
Seaton Sluice Bowling Club	Seaton Sluice Bowling Club	Local Authority	Club	Available	Secured	1	6	Standard
Seghill Welfare Park	Seghill Bowling Club	Local Authority	Club	Available	Secured	1	6	Standard
Spittal Bowling Club	Spittal Bowling Club	Local Authority	Club	Available	Secured	1	6	Good
St George's Hospital Bowls Club	St George's Hospital Bowls Club	Local Authority	Club	Available	Unsecured	1	6	Standard
Tweedmouth Bowling Club	Tweedmouth Bowling Club	Local Authority	Club	Available	Secured	1	6	Good
Vyner Park	Vyner Park Bowls Club	Local Authority	Parish Council	Available	Secured	1	6	Poor
Wooler Bowls Club	Wooler Bowls Club	Club	Club	Available	Secured	1	6	Standard

8.4 Demand

8.4.1 There have been 24 separate clubs that have been identified as playing in the study area, occupying the 25 sites presented in Table 8.1. A large proportion of bowls clubs appear to be mixed gender, rather than gender specific clubs. Full details on the clubs present in the study area and their home ground location can be found in the 'Resident Club' section of table 8.1.

8.4.2 Table 8.2 below summarises the consultations carried out with a few specific bowls clubs in Northumberland.

Table 8.2: Selected Consultation Summaries

Site Name	Summary
Alnwick Bowls Club	No major issues were identified upon consulting with the club. The green is maintained by club members voluntarily and is of a good standard. The clubhouse is to a good standard, there are two changing rooms, toilets, a kitchen and bar with social area. Only issue raised during the consultation was the fact that the machinery used to maintain the green is getting old and the club are worried about potential costs of repairing or replacing this. The club has around 60 members with around 40 men and 20 female members. This is slightly down on previous years.
Berwick Bowling Club	The quality of the site was very good. The clubhouse had toilets and changing rooms which were to a good standard. The club has a need to replace the windows and ceiling as they are outdated and are now looking at potential funding to help assist with this. The clubs membership has gone up in recent years, currently having around 85 members with about 60 of those male and 25 female. The main concern for the club was available indoor greens during the winter. During the consultation it was mentioned that members of the club are worried about potentially losing the indoor green at the nearby swan centre, without this during the winter the nearest indoor greens will be over 20 miles away.
Doctor Pit Welfare Park	This is a good quality site. The clubhouse is used for multiple activities including youth groups and an art club, the bowls club has no issue with this as they have their own dedicated bowls room. It was mentioned during the consultation that the quality of the pitch has slightly dropped in comparison to last year although still a good surface. Membership has fallen in recent years at the club, with a current number of roughly 45 members split evenly between male and female. The club has previously suffered from vandalism but this has not been an issue in the recent years.
Haltwhistle Bowls Club	No major issues or development plans for the club. The club currently has 40 members which is slightly lower than a couple of years ago. They run free regular taster sessions to try and gain members. The clubhouse only has one changing facility which has proved problematic for female members but the club have no plans or space to develop further facilities.
Lesbury Bowls Club	The quality of the green on site was good. There were some noticeable patches on the green where the club had struggled with moss but this was not substantial. The green only has 4 rinks. The club has increased its membership by 12 from last year. The main concern of the club is the general cost of maintenance of the green, with the club barely managing to afford it but are worried about potential unexpected costs.
Morpeth Riverside Leisure Centre	This site is where Morpeth Bowling Club are based. The site is to a good standard and both greens are well maintained. They did have minor issues with moss but during the consultation it was mentioned that the greens still bowled well. The greens are owned by the council and the club pays £1,400 a year to have use of the greens and pavilion on site. Currently the club has 50-60 members with a pretty much equal split of male and female. The club would like to potentially develop the on-site pavilion but generally the club had no complaints with the site.
Newbiggin Bowling Club	Generally, the site was to a good standard. The club ideally would like to maintain the green themselves if they could find the capital to purchase suitable machinery. During the consultation an issue raised was that the green isn't scarified which the club believe would be beneficial for improving the quality of the green and protecting it over winter. It was also mentioned that there is a lack of indoor facilities for local bowls players in the

Site Name	Summary
	area during the winter months due to a couple of sites closing indoor bowls greens. The club currently has around 50 members which is fairly stable, and they have recently just completed improvements on the clubhouse.
Rothbury Recreation Ground	Bowls green was in good condition with a suitable clubhouse for the use of the bowls club. The club has around 30 members which is around 6 members down from the previous season. Main issue raised during the consultation was the maintenance of the green, it is currently maintained by volunteers who struggle due to their age. As well as this, the bowls club is trying to raise money in order to buy aerating machinery as they currently don't have the equipment to do it. Overall the quality of the green is good though.
Tweedmouth Bowling Club	The club has a total of 80 members. There is a very good quality green present, with 6 rinks. During consultation with the club, it was revealed that they have development aspirations for one of the buildings on site. This building was originally the clubhouse for the club and its now used for storage of the tanks for irrigation and maintenance equipment, along with the locker room. The building was built in 1934 and is now in disrepair, requiring refurbishment. There is a new clubhouse present which was built in 2002 and is used as a local village hall, hosting numerous different groups. There is a large amount of demand present on site and the club feel they need to refurbish the old building to cater for this.
Wooler Bowls Club	Main issue for the club on a maintenance level was struggling with moss over winter time. The green was patchy on visit due to moss growth in winter months. The club has also seen a drop in members from around 50 to 30 over the past couple of years, this is proving problematic as the club are struggling to find volunteers to maintain the green. It was highlighted during the consultation that the club would be grateful if there was some way they could be made aware of potential grants or funding that may be available to them in the future through better contact from bowls England or the council.

- 8.4.3 The club consultations presented in the table above demonstrate a common theme and one that is fairly consistent at a national level. Clubs are struggling to maintain the membership numbers they once enjoyed, with most clubs now operating with between 20-40 members or fewer. However, despite declining numbers many clubs are filled with enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers who strive to maintain and develop their facilities. The reported satisfaction with existing facilities reflects the dedication of volunteers and the adequacy of facilities to meet existing demand.
- 8.4.4 According to Active Lives data, the average participation in Bowls nationally is 0.4%. Given there are 267,000 people aged 16 over within Northumberland, this equates to an estimated 1,068 bowlers; an average of 45 bowlers per club. Given that membership of bowling clubs is estimated to be around 50-70 it is thought there may be a significant amount of latent demand in the County.
- 8.4.5 Should demand for bowls increase along with the population, then it is thought there will be demand for bowls from between 1030 residents by 2031. Should all of this demand be converted into memberships to local bowling clubs, this would mean average membership per club would be 43; which the majority of bowling clubs in the County would be expected to be capable of accommodating. This means there is not thought to be a justification for adding any new bowling greens within the study area at this time.

8.5 Bowls Summary

- 8.5.1 This section summarises the findings from the Bowls analysis, which will form the basis of the recommendation and action plan section for Northumberland.
- 8.5.2 Table 8.3 includes the response to 5 key questions which are identified in the Sport England PPS Guidance Checklists.

Table 8.3: Key PPS findings for Bowls in Northumberland

Key Question	Analysis
What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?	The Northumberland study area has a large amount of provision of bowls facilities. There are a total of 28 bowling greens, spread over 25 separate sites. The bowls provision present is predominantly secured for community use, with only one site at St George's Hospital Bowls Club identified as being unsecured for community use. Upon consultation with various bowls clubs, a common theme emerged with regards to decreasing membership numbers. Rothbury Bowls Club, Alnwick Bowls Club, Haltwhistle Bowls Club and Wooler Bowls Club all stated that membership numbers had fallen in recent years.
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand?	With membership numbers falling at many bowls clubs and with there being a relatively large amount of provision in Northumberland, it can be seen that there is enough supply of bowls facilities to meet current demand.
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?	There are 25 bowls sites that have been identified in the study area. Of these 25 sites, 15 were rated as being of good quality, with only 4 greens being of poor quality. This shows that the current quality of bowls provision in Northumberland is sufficient and that maintenance procedures are of a good standard. During consultation with bowls clubs it was evident that the majority of clubs have an extensive maintenance regime, and this translates into the high quality of provision that is seen.
What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?	The large amount of secured provision of bowls facilities in Northumberland suggests that in terms of supply there is expected to be little change. However, the declining membership that is being experienced by a number of clubs is compounded by falling population projections, meaning future demand for bowls is expected to decline further.
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand?	The current level of supply of bowls provision is able to accommodate current demand. Thus, the projected decrease in demand for bowls in the future would suggest that there is more than enough provision to accommodate future demand. Using Active Lives Data and applying population projections, it is predicted that demand from bowls will fall from 1,068 residents to 1030 residents. This shows that demand pressures on bowls facilities is expected to drop by 2031.

Section 9: Tennis Analysis



9 Tennis

9.1 Introduction and Strategic Context

- 9.1.1 The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the organisation responsible for the governance of tennis. The Northumberland LTA is responsible locally for the sport in terms of county teams and county-based initiatives in Northumberland. The following section provides greater detail of the existing strategies and national facility plans that are currently being delivered by the LTA.
- 9.1.2 Following this, the supply and demand section of this report evaluates the adequacy of facilities for tennis and considers:
- The supply of courts and demand for these
 - The quality of courts in Northumberland
 - Recommendations moving forward.

TENNIS OPENED UP 2019-2023

- 9.1.3 The LTA has recently produced a new strategy which outlines the strategic priorities for the future of the sport.
- 9.1.4 The overriding mission statement of the strategy is “to grow tennis by making it more relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable.”
- 9.1.5 To help with delivering on this mission statement, four pillars have been identified to provide focus for improvement. These are:
- **Relevant:** Tennis is seen as traditional, old-fashioned and reserved. To succeed it needs to be seen as modern, fresh and exciting
 - **Accessible:** Tennis needs to be seen as an easy sport for people to engage with. The process must be frictionless and available when people want it
 - **Welcoming:** Tennis is perceived as inward looking, elitist, and socially and technically intimidating. This image must be broken down; everyone is welcome in the tennis family whatever their age, ability or social background
 - **Enjoyable:** Tennis is viewed as a tough sport requiring commitment, dedication and a lot of hard work but it doesn't have to be this way. The social side, the different formats and the exhilaration of playing are richly rewarding and hugely positive.
- 9.1.6 To translate the strategic vision into a reality the LTA has produced a programme of action that is based on 7 core strategies. These are:
- **Visibility:** Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players
 - **Innovation:** Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal
 - **Investment:** Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunity to play
 - **Accessibility:** Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for

anyone

- **Engagement:** Engage and collaborate with everyone involved in delivering tennis in Britain, particularly coaches and volunteers, to attract and maintain more people in the game
- **Performance:** Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders
- **Leadership:** Lead tennis in Britain to the highest standard so it is a safe, welcoming, well-run sport.

9.1.7 The Sport England Active People Survey confirms the seasonal participation peaks in the summer. This is particularly pronounced amongst non-club and occasional players.

9.1.8 It is key to note that the correlation between the lack of 'community' tennis in the non-summer months is likely to be heavily influenced by the lack of floodlighting, which is often a characteristic of local authority owned courts.

9.1.9 Further research carried out by the LTA suggests that many more people would play tennis if they knew where courts were located, particularly local authority courts. Its assertion is that better promotion would increase conversion of latent demand.

9.1.10 Technology development is evolving and it is now possible for an access gate to be connected to the internet via 3G / Wi-Fi. The key pad can be used to open the gate with a code, automatically generated by the LTA online booking system 'clubs park'. Courts can be booked via mobile phone tablets and laptop / desktop. The booking system manages payments for the courts alongside a number of other customer relationship features.

9.1.11 It is hoped that increasing the awareness, the ease of bookings and the security of facilities from petty crime and vandalism will increase the conversion of latent demand to actual demand across the country. The LTA are therefore keen to work with local authorities, especially those in areas of high population, to deliver fit-for-purpose projects at sites with community access.

SUPPLY

9.1.12 The following table 10.1 provides a breakdown of tennis courts in the area (please note that this table refers to courts and not sites). The quality rating of a site is calculated using the following LTA criteria:

- **Good:** Good playing surface, courts recently been upgraded, resurfaced, nets and fencing in working order.
- **Standard:** Court colour is fading or showing signs of wear. The surface remains largely intact. The court life, prior to needing resurfacing, would be extended for up to 5 years by cleaning and repainting of the existing surface.
- **Poor:** Playing surface poor, slippery playing surface, poor drainage, cracks on the playing surface and surrounding area, court markings hardly visible, no nets or nets damaged, surrounding fencing poor/dangerous.

9.1.13 Table 9.1 shows there are 99 outdoor courts across 31 sites in Northumberland. Out of these sites, 13 (42%) are of good quality, with 9 being of standard quality (29%) and the remaining 9 being poor (29%). Floodlit provision is present at 12 sites across Northumberland. 28 out of the 31 (90%) of tennis sites in Northumberland are considered to be available to the community.

9.1.14 Of the sites that are not available for community use, 7 are located on sites ran by educational establishments, it is therefore assumed that these courts are utilised for school use and there are potential issues regarding security.

9.1.15 The following table 9.1 provides a breakdown of tennis courts in the Study Area.

Table 9.1 Outdoor Tennis Provision by Site

Site Name	Ownership	Management	Courts	Surface	Floodlit	Availability	Site Quality
Acomb Playing Fields	Local Authority	Parish Council	2	Tarmac	No	Available	Standard
Allendale Tennis Club	Local Authority	Club	2	Tarmac	Yes	Available	Good
Alnwick Tennis Club	Duke of Northumberland	Club	3	Tarmac	No	Available	Standard
Bamburgh Green	Bamburgh Castle Estates	Club	1	Tarmac	Yes	Available	Poor
Berwick Academy	Local Authority	Education	6	Tarmac	No	Available	Poor
Berwick Tennis Club	Local Authority	Club	5	Polymeric Rubber	No	Available	Good
Blyth Ridley Tennis Club	Local Authority	Local Authority	2	Tarmac	No	Available	Poor
Corbridge Tennis Club	Local Authority	Club	3	Macadam	Yes	Available	Good
Cramlington Community Tennis	Local Authority	Local Authority	4	Artificial Grass	Yes	Available	Good
Felton Recreation Ground	Parish Council	Parish Council	1	Tarmac	Yes	Available	Standard
Haydon Bridge High School	Local Authority	Education	4	Tarmac	No	Available	Poor
Hexham Middle School	Local Authority	Education	3	Tarmac	No	Not Available	Poor
Highfield Middle School	Local Authority	Education	4	Tarmac	No	Available	Poor
Hirst Park	Local Authority	Council	3	Tarmac	No	Available	Standard
Morpeth Cricket, Hockey and Tennis Club	Club	Club	6	Artificial Grass	Yes	Available	Standard
Morpeth Riverside Leisure Centre	Local Authority	Council	4	Tarmac	No	Available	Standard
Ponteland Lawn Tennis Club	Local Authority	Club	3	Artificial Grass	Yes	Available	Good
Ponteland Middle School	Local Authority	Education	3	Macadam	Yes	Not Available	Standard
Red Row Welfare	Local Authority	Local Authority	2	Tarmac	No	Available	Poor
Riding Mill Tennis Club	Club	Club	3	Macadam	No	Available	Good
Rothbury Recreation Ground	Duke of Northumberland	Club	3	Sand Based	Yes	Available	Good

Site Name	Ownership	Management	Courts	Surface	Floodlit	Availability	Site Quality
Seahouses Sports and Community Club	Local Authority	Club	2	Tarmac	No	Available	Poor
Shilbottle Colliery Welfare Recreation Ground	Local Authority	Club	1	Tarmac	No	Available	Standard
Stocksfield & District Tennis Club	Club	Club	4	Artificial Grass	Yes	Available	Good
The Duchess' Community High School	Local Authority	Education	4	Tarmac	No	Available	Good
The King Edward VI School	Trust	Education	7	Tarmac	No	Available	Poor
Tynedale Sports Club	Club	Club	8	6 artificial grass, 2 grass	3 artificial courts	Available	Good
Village Farm Health Club	Private	Commercial	1	Polymeric Rubber	No	Not Available	Good
Vyner Park	Local Authority	Trust	2	Tarmac	No	Available	Poor
Wark Sports Club	Community Organisation	Community Organisation	1	Tarmac	No	Available	Standard
Whitley Chapel Recreation Ground	Local Authority	Trust	1	Tarmac	No	Available	Good
Wooler Tennis Club	Local Authority	Club	2	Macadam	No	Available	Good
Wylam Lawn Tennis Club	Club	Club	3	Artificial Grass	Yes	Available	Good

Table 9.2: Selected Site Summaries

Site Name	Summary
Alnwick Tennis Club	Three tarmac tennis courts are present on site. 2 of the tennis courts aren't flat and are slightly dome in shape. The club have approached Sport England for potential funding, but this was unsuccessful. The fencing on one of the courts has been put on the wrong way and so the club question the structural integrity of the fence. The club currently has around 100 members, but the courts are not locked and are open to community use. The club are looking to install a system where they could possibly charge non-members to introduce a new revenue stream. The club are set to install floodlighting with work starting in September, after this they would like to develop the clubhouse if possible. The clubhouse was originally installed in around 1910 and has not had any major structural work done to it since. The roof has issues with leaking and the changing rooms are outdated. At this present time, the clubhouse suffices for the clubs use but they would like to develop it if possible.
Bamburgh Green	The tennis court on site is owned by the county council. It is in a generally poor condition. The club are currently fundraising to try and refurbish this court. The fencing surrounding the court is damaged and is falling away in areas. The net is also in need of replacing, it is currently ripped in places. The clubhouse was recently refurbished 3 years ago, with the club raising funds themselves as well as receiving help from the pavilion association.
Berwick Cricket Club	The 5 tennis courts on site which are maintained and used by Berwick tennis club. The courts are in good condition as they underwent development 2 years ago with the assistance of the county council and the LTA. This involved respraying and treating the courts for moss issues. The county council holds the freehold of the tennis courts and they are on a 25-year lease to the club. The tennis club has access to the cricket pavilion and use the kitchen and bar area after matches. They have issues with the changing rooms also as they have male and female teams who can't use changing rooms simultaneously. The tennis club would also like to develop floodlighting if possible and are currently looking at potential fundraising as well as potentially available grants.
Morpeth Riverside Leisure Centre	Courts are to an acceptable standard. All four courts were relayed 3 years ago. Apart from minor vandalism issues, the fencing surrounding the site is good and the nets are in good condition. There are some issues with the lining, however it was mentioned that the leisure centre is looking to reline them in the near future. Two of the courts sit next to a skatepark and have suffered from vandalism, with broken glass on the court during consultation. It was mentioned during the consultation that the fencing had been broken and repaired recently.
Tynedale Sports Club	The overall condition of the cricket square and tennis courts are very good. They are maintained on a regular basis. No major issues for either the cricket or the tennis club. The cricket club have plans to extend the patio area outside the clubhouse. The tennis club pavilion recently underwent a renovation in 2013 to improve the interior. The cricket club are looking at the possibility of using one of the tennis clubs grass courts to develop a third cricket net. Only in the preliminary stages of planning at the moment though. The tennis club has two changing rooms, a kitchen and a sitting area.

9.1.16 Table 9.3 shows how the total estimated membership capacity for each club and community site is calculated by the LTA from existing data. Table 9.4 shows the capacity at each of these sites.

Table 9.3: LTA Membership Capacity Calculations

Court Type	Membership Capacity
Non-floodlit Outdoor	40
Floodlit Outdoor	60
Grass Outdoor	20
Park Site	250
Education Site	100

Table 9.4: Tennis site capacity scores

Site Name	Number of Courts	Surface	Floodlit	Capacity
Acomb Playing Fields	2	Tarmac	No	80
Allendale Tennis Club	2	Tarmac	Yes	120
Alnwick Tennis Club	3	Tarmac	No	120
Bamburgh Green	1	Tarmac	Yes	60
Berwick Academy	6	Tarmac	No	600
Berwick Tennis Club	5	Polymeric Rubber	No	200
Blyth Ridley Tennis Club	2	Tarmac	No	80
Corbridge Tennis Club	3	Macadam	Yes	180
Cramlington Community Tennis	4	Artificial Grass	Yes	240
Felton Recreation Ground	1	Tarmac	Yes	60
Haydon Bridge High School	4	Tarmac	No	400
Hexham Middle School	3	Tarmac	No	300
Highfield Middle School	4	Tarmac	No	400
Hirst Park	3	Tarmac	No	120
Morpeth Cricket, Hockey and Tennis Club	6	Artificial Grass	Yes	360
Morpeth Riverside Leisure Centre	4	Tarmac	No	160
Ponteland Lawn Tennis Club	3	Artificial Grass	Yes	180
Ponteland Middle School	3	Macadam	Yes	300
Red Row Welfare	2	Tarmac	No	80
Riding Mill Tennis Club	3	Macadam	No	120
Rothbury Tennis Club	3	Sand Based	Yes	180
Seahouses Sports and Community Club	2	Tarmac	No	80
Shilbottle Colliery Welfare Recreation Ground	1	Tarmac	No	40
Stocksfield & District Tennis Club	4	Artificial Grass	Yes	240
The Duchess' Community High School	4	Tarmac	No	400
The King Edward VI School	7	Tarmac	No	700

Site Name	Number of Courts	Surface	Floodlit	Capacity
Tynedale Sports Club	8	6 artificial grass, 2 grass	3 artificial courts	340
Village Farm Health Club	1	Polymeric Rubber	No	40
Vyner Park	2	Tarmac	No	80
Wark Sports Club	1	Tarmac	No	40
Whitley Chapel Recreation Ground	1	Tarmac	No	40
Wooler Tennis Club	2	Macadam	No	80
Wylam Lawn Tennis Club	3	Artificial Grass	Yes	180

9.2 Demand

9.2.1 This section of the analysis examines the demand for tennis in the study area.

ACTIVE LIVES SURVEY

9.2.2 As per the LTA's insight as captured at the start of this chapter, demand for tennis is comprised of members and more 'casual' or 'recreational' players. These 'casual' or 'recreational' players are usually defined by a lack of membership to a tennis club and typically access facilities through public park courts and other publicly available facilities.

9.2.3 Sport England's Active Lives Survey represents the most robust data-set regarding participation in sport in England amongst those aged 16 or older. The latest iteration of this data is taken from surveys carried out in May 2017/18. The data shows the following:

- 0.8% residents in the North East reported playing tennis twice within the last 28 days (survey carried out in May). Not enough data specific to Northumberland was gathered for a Northumberland specific participation rate to pass robustness tests.
- The 0.8% North East 'twice-monthly' participation rate is lower than the national equivalent participation rate of 1.9%.
- 4.2% of residents in the North East reported playing tennis at least once over the past year.
- The 4.2% Northumberland annual participation rate is lower than the national average of 6.6%.

9.2.4 According to the population figures used throughout this report, there are 267,000 residents in Northumberland aged 16 or over. This means that when translated in to demand, the Active Lives Figures show that 2,136 people play tennis at least twice every 28 days and 11,214 play at least once per year. These figures can be taken forward to analysis the utilisation the court capacity in Northumberland.

Membership Data

- 9.2.5 The LTA has provided the membership data from its affiliated clubs in the County. This information can be seen below in table 9.5.

Table 9.5: LTA Affiliated Club Membership

Club	Members
Allendale Tennis Club	37
Alnwick Tennis Club	135
Berwick Tennis Club	95
Blyth Ridley Tennis Club	20
Corbridge Tennis Club	160
Cramlington Community Tennis	88
Morpeth Cricket, Hockey and Tennis Club	106
Ponteland Lawn Tennis Club	217
Ponteland Middle School	58
Riding Mill Tennis Club	76
Rothbury Tennis Club	100
Stocksfield & District Tennis Club	89
Tynedale Tennis Club	125
Wooler Tennis Club	20
Wylam Lawn Tennis Club	44
Total	1,370

- 9.2.6 The table above shows that there are 15 members clubs in Northumberland with a combined membership of 1,370 people.
- 9.2.7 According to the LTA figures, 16% of all tennis club members within the study area are members of Ponteland Lawn Tennis Club and 12% are members of Corbridge Tennis Club. These two clubs make up the greatest proportion of membership figures in Northumberland, with the rest of tennis membership spread across a large number of other clubs.

9.3 Future Demand

Table 9.6: Future 16+ population projection

Current 16+ population	Future 16+ population projection (2031)
267,000	257,655 (-3.5%)

- 9.3.1 This means that, should participation and tennis club memberships grow in-line with the population increase there will be around a 3.5% drop in membership numbers. This is broken down further in detail in table 9.7 below.

Table 9.7: Future demand estimates

Participant Category	Current	Population Projection
Club Members	1,370	1,322
Non-club players	9,844	9,500
Total Participants	11,214	10,822

9.4 Supply and Demand Balance

9.4.1 This section of the report will draw together the supply and demand data presented above to show the current and projected capacity balances for tennis in Northumberland.

CLUB BALANCE

9.4.2 Table 9.8 below summarises the current utilisation of each community club in Northumberland.

Table 9.8: Current and Projected Utilisation of Tennis Club Courts in Northumberland

Club	Capacity (membership)	Members	% Utilisation	Projected Members (2035)	Projected % Utilisation
Allendale Tennis Club	120	37	31%	36	30%
Alnwick Tennis Club	120	135	112%	130	108%
Berwick Tennis Club	200	95	48%	92	46%
Blyth Ridley Tennis Club	80	20	25%	19	24%
Corbridge Tennis Club	180	160	89%	154	86%
Cramlington Community Tennis	240	88	37%	85	35%
Morpeth Cricket, Hockey and Tennis Club	360	106	29%	102	28%
Ponteland Lawn Tennis Club	180	217	121%	209	116%
Ponteland Middle School	300	58	19%	56	19%
Riding Mill Tennis Club	120	76	63%	73	61%
Rothbury Tennis Club	180	100	56%	97	54%
Stocksfield & District Tennis Club	240	89	37%	86	36%
Tynedale Tennis Club	340	125	37%	121	36%
Wooler Tennis Club	80	20	25%	19	24%
Wylam Lawn Tennis Club	180	44	24%	42	23%
Total	2920	1370	47%	1321	45%

9.4.3

9.4.4 Table 9.8 shows that, when considered together, community tennis clubs in Northumberland are operating 53% below their estimated operational capacity.

9.4.5 The majority of clubs in Northumberland are operating significantly under capacity; however, there are two clubs that have been identified as operating over capacity. These are Alnwick Tennis Club and Ponteland Lawn Tennis Club.

9.4.6 Ponteland Middle School has the greatest proportion of spare capacity, at just 19% utilisation.

9.4.7 When the capacity of clubs not currently being utilised to their respective capacity is added together, there is enough space for an additional 1550 members.

9.4.8 If growth in membership were to grow in line with population, then clubs in Northumberland are projected to be operating at 45% of their capacity. This is equivalent to between 22 floodlit outdoor tennis courts. This shows that there is a good level of current provision to meet demand at community club courts in Northumberland.

PUBLIC COURTS

9.4.9 This section summarises the current supply and demand balance of public (non-club) courts in Northumberland. To be clear, only courts accessible on a free-to-access or pay-and-play basis can be considered as 'public courts'.

9.4.10 The LTA devises the capacity of public courts to be 7 hours per day for non-floodlit courts and 12 hours per day for floodlit courts. This equates to 2,555 hours per year on non-floodlit courts and 4,380 on floodlit courts.

9.4.11 It is estimated that there are 819 hours per week of playing capacity among the existing public courts stock to meet demand in Northumberland.

9.4.12 Table 8.5 above shows that there are currently an estimated 9,844 people who are not members of clubs that have demand to access public tennis courts. According to Active Lives data, around 19% of the 9,844 people will play at least twice per month; which equates to 2,136 people.

9.4.13 Assuming an average of 3 people per court per 'booking / use' (to account for an even split between singles, doubles and some sessions where 3 people share a court) this equates to 1,424 sessions per month played on public courts. If each match lasts for 1 hour on average, then this equates to 43.4% of the public courts capacity being utilised in Northumberland.

9.4.14 According to data provided by the LTA's online booking system (Clubspark) with court access technology, the average level of utilisation in venues (UK wide) is 53%. By this barometer, Northumberland is operating below average in terms of its utilisation of public courts.

9.4.15 If demand for courts increases in line with population, there will be an estimated 1,412 sessions on public courts by 2031. This would equate to between 43.1% of existing public court capacity.

9.4.16 This shows that there is a good level of current provision to meet demand at public courts in Northumberland.

9.5 Tennis Summary

- 9.5.1 This section summarises the findings from the Bowls analysis, which will form the basis of the recommendation and action plan section for Northumberland.
- 9.5.2 Table 9.9 includes the response to 5 key questions which are identified in the Sport England PPS Guidance Checklists.

Table 9.9: Key PPS findings for Bowls in Northumberland

Key Question	Analysis
What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?	<p>The study has identified that there are currently 99 outdoor courts across 31 sites in Northumberland. There is floodlit provision present at 12 of these sites. A large proportion of tennis sites are available to the community with 28 out of 30 sites (90%) being seen as available for community use.</p> <p>There are 15 affiliated community tennis clubs, with a combined membership number of 1,370 members. The club with the largest membership base is at Ponteland Lawn Tennis Club, making up 16% of total membership in the study area.</p>
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand	<p>When analysing the capacity balance of community tennis club courts in Northumberland, it was identified that there is a 47% utilisation of courts, 53% below their operational capacity. This shows that there is a large amount of spare capacity for community tennis clubs and enough supply to accommodate demand. The situation for public courts is very much the same. Using active lives data and analysing supply of public courts in the study area, it can be seen that only 43.4% of public courts capacity is being utilised in Northumberland. According to data provided by the LTA's online booking system (Clubspark) with court access technology, the average level of utilisation in venues (UK wide) is 53%. By this barometer, Northumberland is operating below average in terms of its utilisation of public courts.</p>
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?	<p>Out of the 31 outdoor tennis sites in Northumberland, 42% are of good quality and 29% being rated as standard and poor. Out of the 13 sites that are rated as having good quality tennis courts, 11 of these are located at club sites. This shows that although there are more sites rated as good than standard or poor, these are mostly found at club sites. Due to this, the sites that are of lower quality are predominantly managed by the council.</p>
What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision	<p>When analysing the future capacity balance of community tennis club courts in Northumberland, it was projected that the utilisation of these courts is expected to decrease from 47% to 45% by 2031. This is down to reductions in the population within the study area, meaning that clubs will be 55% below their operational capacity. This means that there is an even greater level of spare capacity in the future to accommodate demand.</p> <p>This is also the case with public courts. If demand for courts changes in line with population projections, then 34.1% of existing public court capacity will be taken up. This means that public courts will be 65.9% below their operational capacity.</p>
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand	<p>The analysis demonstrates that there is enough accessible tennis provision to meet future demand on both public courts and also community tennis club courts. Decreases in population is expected to reduce demand pressures on these courts, adding to the already large amount of spare capacity that is present in the current position.</p>

Section 10: Athletics Analysis



10 Athletics

10.1 Introduction

- 10.1.1 Athletics in England is administered by England Athletics. England Athletics is the membership and development body for grassroots athletics and running clubs in England. It states that the function of England Athletics is to:
- 10.1.2 “Develops grass roots athletics in England, supporting affiliated clubs to prosper, developing more and better coaches, recruiting and supporting volunteers and officials. England Athletics provides and supports competition opportunities at an international (England representative), national, area and county level.”
- 10.1.3 The following section provides greater detail of the existing strategies that are currently being delivered by England Athletics. Subsequently, the supply and demand section of this report evaluates the adequacy of facilities.

10.2 Strategic Context

- 10.2.1 England Athletics released their national strategy “Athletics & Running: for everyone, forever” in 2017. Its vision is for the sport of athletics and running to be the “most inclusive and popular sport in England”.
- 10.2.2 England Athletics believe that this should be led by a network of progressive clubs and organisations, and it has identified three key values as part of the 2017 strategy:
- Pride: inspiring athletes of the future by celebrating the history and contemporary success of British Athletes
 - Integrity: essential the ongoing success and future of the sport and its ability to attract participants
 - Inclusivity: athletics can contribute towards a healthy lifestyle and a sense of achievement, whatever the age, ability or background of the athlete or volunteer.
- 10.2.3 The strategic priorities to achieve this include the following:
- To expand the capacity of the sport by supporting and developing its volunteers and other workforce
 - To sustain and increase participation and performance levels in our sport
 - To influence participation in the wider athletics and running market.
- 10.2.4 The delivery methods for achieving these priorities are:
- Positive culture, progressive performance and collaborative leadership
 - Transparent governance and accountability
 - High-quality member engagement and communications.

10.3 Vision

- 10.3.1 Athletics and running will be the most popular and inclusive sport in England, led by a network of progressive clubs and organisations and supported by a sustainable, respected and trusted governing body.
- 10.3.2 Due to a significant reduction in funding for the 2017-2021 funding cycle, England Athletics no longer have capital expenditure budget. England Athletics work with clubs and facility operators on applying for funding from various sources.
- 10.3.3 The current EA facilities strategy states that there are enough 6/8 lane tracks in England for the foreseeable future and that our priority should be:
- To safeguard our existing stock of facilities
 - To upgrade non-competition standard venues
 - To develop new and innovative models for training provision
 - Infill Geographical Gaps with compact facilities that are located at Satellite sites (preferably school sites). Sport England Compact facilities Design Guidance Document. Pick components based on Space available.
- 10.3.4 England Athletics encourages participation from all ages and are currently working with Sport England on an initiative for clubs to apply for funding to develop running opportunities for less active younger people, in the 12-25yr age range. Less competitive, more social running has had large participation increase over the last few years. The introduction of England Athletics social offer, RunTogether, allows qualified leaders to set up groups aimed more at beginners and those not wanting to join affiliated clubs.
- 10.3.5 In addition to Track & Field there are many road running clubs, meaning that increased emphasis should be placed on the design of urban space, in order to provide runners with safe, well-lit paved routes.

10.4 Supply

- 10.4.1 As shown in Table 10.1, there are two athletics sites in Northumberland, Wentworth Leisure Centre and Morpeth Athletics track. Table 10.2 provides a brief commentary of the sites based on the site visit carried out by 4 global.

Table 10.1: Athletics Sites in Northumberland

Site Name	Facility	Lanes	Ownership	Management	Community Use	Security of Use
Morpeth Athletics Track	Synthetic	7	Trust	Mixed	Available	Unsecured
Wentworth Leisure Centre	Synthetic	6	Local Authority	Commercial	Available	Secured

Table 10.2: Selected site summaries

Site	Site Summary
Morpeth Athletics Track	Morpeth Athletics track is owned by the council, but the school have a long-term lease to have the facility on their grounds. It is managed by the school, the council and by Morpeth running club. It was resurfaced in July 2012 and is in very good condition. There is a 7-lane running track with an 8-lane straight sprint track. The site accommodates a wide range of other track and field events. The surface was transferred from the Bisham Abbey Sports

	Centre. There is an agreement in place that the school have sole use of the facility during school hours, but the running club have use out of school hours. The club use of the track is: Monday PM – 3 hours, Wednesday PM – 3 hours, Thursday PM – 2 hours, Saturday AM – 2 hours. The site has an estimated 40 hours per week of available capacity.
Wentworth Leisure Centre	The athletics track located at Wentworth Leisure Centre in Hexham has been refurbished in 2018 and is one of the first athletics tracks in the UK to have upgraded markings for relay races. The track has 6 lanes with an 8 lane straight. The club that predominantly use the facility is Tynedale Harriers & Athletics Club. The facility is open to community use from Mon-Sun (9am-10pm). A total available capacity of 91 hours per week can be assumed.

10.5 Demand

10.5.1 Consultation and online research of athletics and clubs in Northumberland has informed the demand for athletics in the study area. Consultations have been presented in Table 10.3 below. The clubs listed below have been identified as operating in the Northumberland area; however, at this present time they have not responded to 4global's request for a consultation.

- Tynedale Harriers & Athletics Club
- Stocksfield Striders
- Allen Valley Striders
- Blyth Running Club
- Tweed Striders.

10.5.2 Table 10.3: Athletics club consultations in Northumberland

Club name	Sites Used	Summary
Morpeth Harriers & Athletics Club	Morpeth Athletics Track	The club have approximately 400 members, consisting of a junior and senior set-up. They predominantly use Morpeth Athletics Track for training; however, they're sometimes asked by the league to host competitions at the track. The facility is owned by the council, but the school have a long-term lease to have the track on their land. Club have sessions on the track on a Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. The club have members with a wide range of abilities. There are approximately 20 qualified coaches at the club; however, they have a concept of group leaders which involves members taking up a level of responsibility. There are two main issues facing the club at this present time. Firstly, UK Athletics have tightened up regulations relating to throwing cages and so the club are going to have to upgrade the current cage at the track. This has financial implications, and although the club has recently started a sinking fund with the school for such circumstances, they did not expect to have to use this so quickly. Secondly, a freehold was given to the rugby club by the council at the club's old headquarters at Mitford Road. This has created issues for Morpeth Harriers in terms of getting a lease from the rugby club.
Alnwick Harriers	- N/A -	There are 160 senior members and 110 junior members on the books at the club. Along with this, there are an additional 75 juniors who are on the waiting list to join. There are a wide range of abilities within the club and they have around 15 coaches. The senior club is predominantly endurance running, whilst the junior club do both endurance and track and field. The juniors currently do track and field at the Lindisfarne Middle School sports hall; however, the school has shut down and the future security of the sports hall is not known. If the sports hall shut, the club say that they would have to shut down the junior section. The club are unable to expand the

		junior section due to a lack of facilities and the sports hall would have to be expanded to do so. There have been conversations with the council for many years to try and get a track facility in Alnwick. The last round of funding was given primarily to football clubs in the area and funding towards athletics was neglected.
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10.5.3

10.5.4 Sport England Active Lives data suggests that on a basis of two sessions per 28 days 14.9% of all Northumberland residents aged 16 or over undertake some form of running, whereas only 0.5% of all residents utilise a track to do so. This equates to 39,783 potential users in the County but just 1,335 people that regularly use a track as part of their training. Based on two sessions per month this equates to on average 2,670 uses per month.

10.5.5 It should be noted that the commentary above mirrors a nationwide trend where the vast majority of running is undertaken away from dedicated facilities.

10.5.6 If the available tracks were limited to a combined 131 hours of use from formal clubs (it is anticipated that a significant proportion of this use would be from formal clubs) then this means that on average 40 people use the track per 2hour club session. This is expected to make these club sessions very congested and limit the amount club coaches can do. In turn, this is expected to limit the user's experience of using the track and could dissuade them from coming back with the club or using it outside of a dedicated club session.

10.5.7 If the estimated uses of the track per month were to increase in line with the population, then monthly track uses may decrease to 2,577 sessions per month.

10.5.8 The above analysis shows that there is currently a justification for an additional track within the study area. This calculation is supported by consultation summaries from certain clubs in table 10.3, stating that a lack of available facilities is leading to a large amount of unmet demand.

Section 11: Glossary of Terms



11 Glossary of Terms

11.1.1 In order to fully understand the Playing Pitch Strategy, 4global have created a glossary detailing key terms and phrases mentioned throughout. The glossary is detailed below, along with appropriate definitions;

ACRONYMS

- **3G AGP:** Third Generation Artificial Grass Pitch
- **4g:** 4global Consulting
- **AGP:** Artificial Grass Pitch(es)
- **APS:** Active People Survey(s)
- **CC:** Cricket Club
- **CIL:** Community Infrastructure Levy
- **CSP:** County Sports Partnership
- **ECB:** England and Wales Cricket Board
- **EH:** England Hockey
- **FA:** Football Association
- **FC:** Football Club
- **FE:** Further Education
- **GIS:** Geographical Information Systems
- **HC:** Hockey Club
- **HE:** Higher Education
- **IOG:** Institute of Groundsmanship
- **JFC:** Junior Football Club
- **LDF:** Local Development Framework
- **LMS:** Last Man Stands
- **MES:** Match equivalent sessions
- **NPPF:** National Planning Policy Framework
- **PPS:** Playing Pitch Strategy
- **PQS:** Performance Quality Standard
- **RFU:** Rugby Football Union
- **RUFC:** Rugby Union Football Club

- **S106:** Section 106 Agreement
- **U:** Under.

PHRASES

- 11.1.2 **National Governing Body of Sport (NGB)** - typically these are independent, self-appointed organisations that govern their sports through the common consent of their sport. Sport England has a recognition process for NGBs that aims to identify a single lead NGB structure which governs a sport at UK, GB or home country level.
- 11.1.3 **Unsecured Community Use** - these are pitches that are currently used or available for community-use, however there is no secure management/usage agreement in place.
- 11.1.4 **Secured Community Use** - these pitches will be managed as either; a 'play & play' site by the local authority or leisure trust, by a specific sports club or Parish Council, or by an education establishment with secure community-use agreements in place.
- 11.1.5 **Team Generation Rate** – Provides an indication of how many people it may take to generate a team. A TGR can be calculated by dividing the current population within an age group for a sport by the number of teams in the area within that age group. This is then used to calculate the number of teams that will be required in the future, to allow for future population growth or reduction.
- 11.1.6 **Displaced demand** generally relates to play by teams or other users of playing pitches from within the Study Area (i.e. from residents of the Study Area) which takes place outside of the area. This may be due to issues with the provision of pitches and ancillary facilities in the Study Area, just reflective of how the sports are played (e.g. at a central venue for the wider area) or due to the most convenient site for the respective users just falling outside of the local authority/Study Area.
- 11.1.7 **Unmet demand** is demand that is known to exist but unable to be accommodated on current supply of pitches. This could be in the form of a team with access to a pitch for matches but nowhere to train or vice versa. This could also be due to the poor quality and therefore limited capacity of pitches in the area and/or a lack of provision and ancillary facilities which meet a certain standard of play/league requirement. League secretaries may be aware of some unmet demand as they may have declined applications from teams wishing to enter their competitions due to a lack of pitch provision which in turn is hindering the growth of the league.
- 11.1.8 **Latent demand** is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. This could include feedback from a sports club who may feel that they could set up and run an additional team if they had access to better provision.
- 11.1.9 **Future demand** is an informed estimate made of the likely future demand for pitches in the Study Area. This is generally based on the most appropriate current and future population projections for the relevant age and gender groupings for each sport. Key trends, local objectives and targets and consultation also inform this figure.
- 11.1.10 **Casual use or other use** could take place on natural grass pitches or AGPs and include:
- Regular play from non-sports club sources (e.g. companies, schools, fitness classes)
 - Infrequent informal/friendly matches
 - Informal training sessions

- More casual forms of a particular sport organised by sports clubs or other parties
- Significant public use and informal play, particularly where pitches are located in parks/recreation grounds.

- 11.1.11 **Carrying capacity** is the amount of play a site can regularly accommodate (in the relevant comparable unit) for community use without adversely affecting its quality and use. This is typically outlined by the NGB.
- 11.1.12 **Overplay** is when a pitch is used over the amount that the carrying capacity will allow, (i.e. more than the site can accommodate). Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected.
- 11.1.13 **Spare capacity** is the amount of additional play that a pitch could potentially accommodate in addition to current activity. There may be reasons why this potential to accommodate additional play should not automatically be regarded as actual spare capacity, for example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below its carrying capacity, to ensure that it can cater for a number of friendly matches and training activity. This needs to be investigated before the capacity is deemed actual spare capacity.
- 11.1.14 **Match equivalent sessions** is an appropriate comparable unit for pitch usage. For football, rugby union and rugby league, pitches should relate to a typical week within the season and one match = one match equivalent session if it occurs every week or 0.5 match equivalent sessions if it occurs every other week (i.e. reflecting home and away fixtures). For cricket pitches it is appropriate to look at the number of match equivalent sessions over the course of a season and one match = one match equivalent session.

- END -

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