



CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

FULL ASSESSMENT REPORT JANUARY 2024

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

CONTENTS

GLOSSARY	1
PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY	2
PART 2: FOOTBALL.....	17
PART 3: THIRD GENERATION TURF (3G) ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES (AGPS)	60
PART 4: RUGBY UNION	83
PART 5: RUGBY LEAGUE	106
PART 6: HOCKEY	108
PART 7: CRICKET.....	129
PART 8: OTHER GRASS PITCH SPORTS	172
PART 9: TENNIS	185
PART 10: NETBALL.....	210
PART 11: BOWLS	222
PART 12: ARCHERY	247
PART 13: GOLF.....	251
PART 14: ATHLETICS.....	265
PART 15: CYCLING.....	274
APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT	280
APPENDIX 2: NON TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT SHEETS.....	294

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

GLOSSARY

3G	Third Generation Turf
AGP	Artificial grass pitch
ANOG	Assessing Needs & Opportunities Guide
BAFA	British American Football Association
CCB	Cheshire Cricket Board
CC	Cricket Club
CFA	Cheshire Football Association
CJNL	Cheshire Junior Netball League
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
CFS	County Facilities Strategy
DCMS	Department for Culture, Media and Sport
ECB	England & Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FF	Football Foundation
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FIT	Fields in Trust
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GIS	Geographic Information System
GMA	Grounds Maintenance Association
GPMF	Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund
HC	Hockey Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LFFP	Local Football Facility Plan
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
LTC	Lawn Tennis Club
MUGA	Multi-use games area
NC	Netball Club
NFFS	National Football Facilities Strategy
NGB(s)	National Governing Body (of sport)
NLS	National League System
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PIP	Pitch Improvement Programme
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PPOSS	Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
SADPD	Site Allocations and Development Policies Document
SCPNL	South Cheshire Premier Netball League
TC	Tennis Club
U	Under (related to participating age groups)
WNLS	Women's National League System

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

1.1: Introduction

Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) has been commissioned to deliver a Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) for Cheshire East Council. This will provide the necessary robustness and direction to inform decisions affecting relevant provision within the local authority area.

This report presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities across Cheshire East. For playing pitch sports, it is delivered in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Guidance. This details five stages for the developing the study:

- ◆ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach (1)
- ◆ Stage B: Gather information and views on supply of and demand for provision (2 & 3)
- ◆ Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views (4, 5 & 6)
- ◆ Stage D: Develop the strategy (7 & 8)
- ◆ Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date (9 & 10)

Stages A to C are covered in this report, with Stage D covered in the ensuing strategy document. Stage E references the ongoing work that will be required once the PPOSS has been approved and adopted.

For "non -pitch" sports, Sport England's 'Assessing Needs & Opportunities Guide (ANOG)' is followed. This has a similar staged approach:

- ◆ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach
- ◆ Stage B: Gather information on supply and demand
- ◆ Stage C: Assessment – bringing the information together
- ◆ Application: Application of an assessment

The PPOSS will replace the existing PPS for Cheshire East whilst also now covering a wider scope and additional sports. The previous PPS was completed in 2017 before being kept regularly updated (the last update was carried out in 2021).

1.1: Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach

Management arrangements

A project team from the Council has worked with KKP to ensure that all relevant information is readily available and to support the consultants as necessary to ensure that project stages and milestones are delivered on time, within the cost envelope and to the required standard to meet Sport England guidance.

Further to this, a Steering Group is and has been responsible for the direction of the PPOSS from a strategic perspective. Its role is also to support, check and challenge the work of the project team. The Steering Group comprises representatives from the Council, Everybody Health & Leisure, ANSA, Active Cheshire, Sport England and the relevant national governing bodies of sport (NGBs).

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

It will be important for the Steering Group to continue to meet once the PPOSS has been finalised for several reasons, including a continuing responsibility to:

- ◀ Be a champion for playing pitch provision in the area and promote the value of the PPOSS.
- ◀ Ensure implementation of the recommendations and action plan.
- ◀ Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the study and ensure that the PPOSS is updated.

The lifespan of a PPOSS is considered to be three years, although this can be increased if it is kept up to date.

Why the Strategy is being developed

The primary purpose of the PPOSS is to provide a strategic framework to ensure that the provision of playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities can meet the local and community needs of existing and future residents of Cheshire East, as well as visitors.

Planning policy and other relevant sport related corporate strategies must continue to be based upon a robust evidence base in order to ensure that planning and sports development policy can be implemented efficiently and effectively. The PPOSS will inform this process, covering the key aspects listed below.

Corporate and Strategic¹

- ◀ It ensures a strategic approach to playing pitch and outdoor sport provision. The PPOSS will act as a tool for Cheshire East Council and partner organisations to guide resource allocation and set priorities for pitch and outdoor sports in the future.
- ◀ It provides robust evidence for capital funding. As well as proving the need for developer contributions towards pitches, outdoor sport facilities and ancillary facilities, a PPOSS can provide evidence of need for a range of capital grants.
- ◀ It helps in the achievement of the Council's corporate plan and particularly in relation to the 'green' priority, the key for open green space, that outlines that the Council 'will lead communities to protect and enhance the environment, tackle the climate emergency and drive sustainable development'.
- ◀ It helps with the protection of pitch and outdoor sports facilities to ensure that opportunities are not lost in the future due a lack of facilities.

Planning

- ◀ The PPOSS will provide important evidence to support the future update of the Cheshire East Local Plan and future updates to the Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) or the new Infrastructure Levy under national planning reforms.
- ◀ It adds sport specific information and scenario testing to be cross referenced with the Council's Green Spaces Strategy and Open Spaces Assessment.

Operational

- ◀ It can help improve management of assets, which should result in more efficient use of resources and reduced overheads.
- ◀ The Action Plan (included within the Strategy document) will identify sites where the quality of provision can be enhanced.

¹ A new plan is in preparation and is expected to be agreed in 2024.

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

- ◀ An assessment of all pitches and outdoor sport facilities (in use and disused) will be undertaken to understand how pitches and outdoor sport facilities are used and whether the current maintenance and management regimes are appropriate or require change.

Sports development

- ◀ It helps identify which sites have community use and whether that use is secure or not.
- ◀ It helps identify where community use of school and other education-based facilities is most needed to address any identified deficits in provision.
- ◀ It provides better information to residents and other users of relevant facilities on availability for use.
- ◀ It promotes sports development and can help unlock latent demand by identifying where a lack of facilities might be suppressing usage.
- ◀ It promotes the opportunity for community clubs/users and facilitators to deliver sports development programmes to encourage more people to become and stay active.
- ◀ It promotes the opportunity to recover from and develop new opportunities for participation in outdoor sport following the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown periods.

One of the core planning principles of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. Section eight of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities, with Paragraph 102 stating that “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.”

Paragraph 103 sets three criterion that ensures existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- a) An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- b) 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
- c) The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

Paragraphs 105, 106, and 107 set the parameters for the designation of Local Green Space. Such spaces may include playing fields and outdoor sport facilities.

Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy (adopted 2017)

The Local Plan Strategy is the first part of the Council's Local Plan and sets out the overall planning framework for the Borough between 2010 and 2030, including the need for at least 36,000 additional homes. The policies that most specifically relate to playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities are Policies SC1 (Leisure and Recreation), SC2 (Outdoor Sports Facilities) and Policy SE6 (Green Infrastructure). These policies are set out below.

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Policy SC1 – Leisure and Recreation

In order to provide appropriate leisure and recreational facilities for the communities of Cheshire East, the Council will:

- ◀ Seek to protect and enhance existing leisure and recreation facilities, unless they are proven surplus to requirements or unless improved alternative provision, of similar or better quality, is to be made.
- ◀ Support and promote the provision of better leisure, community and recreation facilities, where there is a need for such facilities, the proposed facilities are of a type and scale appropriate to the size of the settlement, are accessible and support the objectives of the Local Plan Strategy. The Council will do this by:
 - ◀ Encouraging facilities that serve the Borough as a whole, and facilities that attract large numbers of people, to be located, where possible, within or adjoining Crewe or Macclesfield town centres.
 - ◀ Requiring facilities serving key service centres to be located in or adjacent to their town centre or highly accessible locations.
 - ◀ Requiring facilities intended to serve the everyday needs of a community or neighbourhood to be in or adjacent to the centres of local service centres or other settlements.
 - ◀ Encouraging the development of shared service centres that combine public services, health and community functions in modern accessible buildings.
- ◀ Supporting proposals for facilities that would not be appropriate to be located in or adjacent to centres, provided they are highly accessible by a choice of transport, do not harm the character, amenity, or biodiversity value of the area, and satisfy a range of other criteria. The proposal is a facility that:
 - ◀ Supports a business use;
 - ◀ Is appropriate in an employment area; or
 - ◀ Supports an outdoor sports facility, education or related community / visitor facility; or
 - ◀ Supports the visitor economy and is based on local cultural or existing attractions.
- ◀ Work with agencies, services and businesses responsible for providing facilities to make sure that the needs and demands of communities are met.
- ◀ Make sure that appropriate developments contribute, through land assembly and financial contributions, to new or improved facilities where development will increase demand and / or there is a recognised shortage of local leisure, community and recreation facilities.

Policy SC2 – Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities

In order to provide appropriate indoor and outdoor sports facilities for the communities of Cheshire East, the Council will:

- ◀ Protect existing indoor and outdoor sports facilities, unless:
 - ◀ They are proven to be surplus to need (as identified in an adopted and up to date needs assessment); or
 - ◀ Improved alternative provision (a full quantity and quality replacement to accord NPPF and Sport England policy) will be created in a location well related to the functional requirements of the relocated use and its existing and future users.
 - ◀ The proposal would not result in the loss of an area important for its amenity or contribution to the character of the area in general.
- ◀ Support new indoor and outdoor sports facilities where:
 - ◀ They are readily accessible by public transport, walking and cycling.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

- ◀ The proposed facilities are of a type and scale appropriate to the size of the settlement.
- ◀ They are listed in an action plan in any emerging or subsequently adopted PPS or Indoor Sports Strategy, subject to the criteria in the policy.
- ◀ Make sure that major residential developments contribute, through land assembly and financial contributions, to new or improved sports facilities where development will increase demand and/or there is a recognised shortage.

Policy SE6 Green Infrastructure:

Cheshire East aims to deliver a good quality, and accessible network of green spaces for people to enjoy, providing for healthy recreation and biodiversity and continuing to provide a range of social, economic and health benefits. This will be done by:

Linking the various assets of Cheshire East's unique landscape – its upland fringes, Cheshire Plain, lowland heath, parkland estates, rivers, canals and watercourses, valleys and cloughs, meres and mosses, trees and woodland and wildlife habitats and its distinctive towns and villages and their urban fringe.

- ◀ This network of Green Infrastructure assets should be safeguarded, retained and enhanced through the development of green networks/wedges and corridors.
- ◀ Areas identified as having a shortage or opportunities for the provision of Green Infrastructure should be a particular focus for enhancement.
- ◀ Any development should contribute to the creation of a good quality, integrated and accessible multi-functional network of green spaces.
- ◀ Safeguarding Green Infrastructure assets to make sure that:
 - ◀ Development does not compromise their integrity or potential value;
 - ◀ Developer contributions are secured wherever appropriate in order to improve their quality, use and multi-functionality; and
 - ◀ Opportunities to add to the Green Infrastructure network are maximised through partnership working.
- ◀ Working with partners, to support the potential of Strategic Green Infrastructure Assets to contribute to the aims of the wider green infrastructure. The Strategic Green Infrastructure Assets⁷¹ identified in Cheshire East are:
 - ◀ Weaver, Bollin, Dane and Wheelock river corridors including cloughs and floodplains
 - ◀ Macclesfield, Shropshire Union (including the Llangollen and Middlewich branches) and Trent and Mersey canals
 - ◀ Meres and Mosses Nature Improvement Area and Local Nature Improvement Areas
 - ◀ Heritage town parks and open spaces of historic and cultural importance
 - ◀ Public Rights of Way, cycle routes and greenways
 - ◀ Country Parks and estate parklands
 - ◀ Peak Park Fringe
 - ◀ The Cloud, Congleton Edge and Mow Cop upland fringe
 - ◀ Sandstone Ridge
 - ◀ The ecological network of habitats identified in Policy SE3
- ◀ Strengthening the contribution that sport and playing fields, open space and recreation facilities make to Cheshire East's Green Infrastructure network by requiring all development to:
 - ◀ Protect and enhance existing open spaces and sport and recreation facilities;
 - ◀ Encourage multiple use and improvements to their quality;
 - ◀ Provide adequate open space (as outlined in Table 13.1);

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

- ◀ Contribute to the provision of outdoor sports facilities in line with Policy SC2;
- ◀ Create or add to the networks of multi-functional Green Infrastructure;
- ◀ Secure new provision to help address identified shortages in existing open space provision, both in quantity, quality and accessibility;
- ◀ Locate open space facilities in appropriate locations, preferably within developments; and
- ◀ Promote linkages between new development and surrounding recreational networks, communities and facilities.

Strategic Green Infrastructure assets are those assets that either provide or could provide wider Green Infrastructure benefits.

Cheshire East Site Allocations and Development Policies Document (adopted 2022)

The Site Allocations and Development Policies Document (SADPD) is the second part of the Cheshire East Local Plan and provides detailed planning policies and land allocations in line with the overall approach set out in the Local Plan. The policies that most specifically relate to playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities are Policies REC 1 (open space protection) and REC 3 (open space implementation).

The relevant parts of these policies are set out below.

Policy REC 1: Open space protection

Development proposals that involve the loss of open space, as defined below, will not be permitted unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken that has clearly shown the open space is surplus to requirements; or
- ◀ It would be replaced by equivalent or better open space in terms of quantity and quality and it is in a suitable location; or
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss.

The types of open space to which this policy applies includes: existing areas of open space shown on the adopted policies map, such as formal town parks, playing fields, pitches and courts, play areas, allotments and amenity open space; other incidental open spaces, which are too small to be shown on the adopted policies map, but which are of public value for informal recreation or visual amenity; and open spaces provided through new development yet to be shown on the adopted policies map.

Policy REC 3: Open space implementation

The provision of, or contribution to, outdoor playing pitch sports facilities will be informed by the PPS and Sport England Sport Pitch Calculator. Other outdoor sports provision not covered by the PPS will be sought on a site-by-site basis using 10 square metres per family home as a benchmark figure.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Cheshire East Strategic Leisure Review

In February 2023, the Strategic Leisure Review proposal was approved, with this to be delivered in two stages. The first stage, which is based around the need to generate a budget saving in 2023/2024 is now secured, whilst the principal objective of the second stage is to consider how to address health inequalities and maximise health outcomes for the residents of Cheshire East. This is from the current value of funding towards the delivery of leisure services.

Aligned to the principal objective, the Council is also to consider options around alternative “commercial” delivery models for leisure sites where council subsidised funding provision cannot be justified on a combined public health and service demand basis. In conjunction with this is, it is to promote a managed approach to future capital investment in leisure sites, driven by public health need, service user demand and considering pinch points in capacity of existing provision.

The Council’s leisure centres are currently operated by its delivery partner Everybody Health & Leisure, which is a charitable trust. The operating contract was entered into in May 2014 for an initial period of ten years with an option of a further fixed 5 years; however, the contract was then the subject of a decision in 2019 to extend it taking the end date to May 2029, resulting in a total a contract period of 15 years. The leisure estate spans across a total of 15 sites located throughout the Borough, although Alderley Park and Holmes Chapel Community Centre are private initiatives and hence are out of scope, despite also being managed by Everybody Health & Leisure.

The outcomes from the review are intended to implement a transitional change process towards a new operating model after May 2029, accelerating the reduction in subsidies paid in support of Everybody Health & Leisure. This transitional arrangement will be supported by a defined Investment Plan delivered over a period of 2-3 years, designed to enhance both service provision specific to health-based outcomes and the fixed leisure asset.

Pertinent to the PPOSS, the sites operated by Everybody Health & Leisure provide a significant proportion of playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities, most of which are key sites within the areas that they reside. As such, the findings of the Strategic Leisure Review may have a substantial impact on the findings of this study, with this therefore requiring consideration, particularly as part of the Stage E process.

Study area

The study area is the entire Cheshire East local authority area. However, analysis areas (or sub areas) are also used to allow for more localised analysis in addition to the assessment for the Borough as a whole. For this purpose, three areas have been established via grouping the aforementioned towns/centres together, with a further individual breakdown provided where necessary. This further breakdown differs from previous studies and is most pertinent to the sports with the highest level of participation (e.g., football and cricket) due to them being played more locally and participants being less likely to travel a significant distance to access provision.

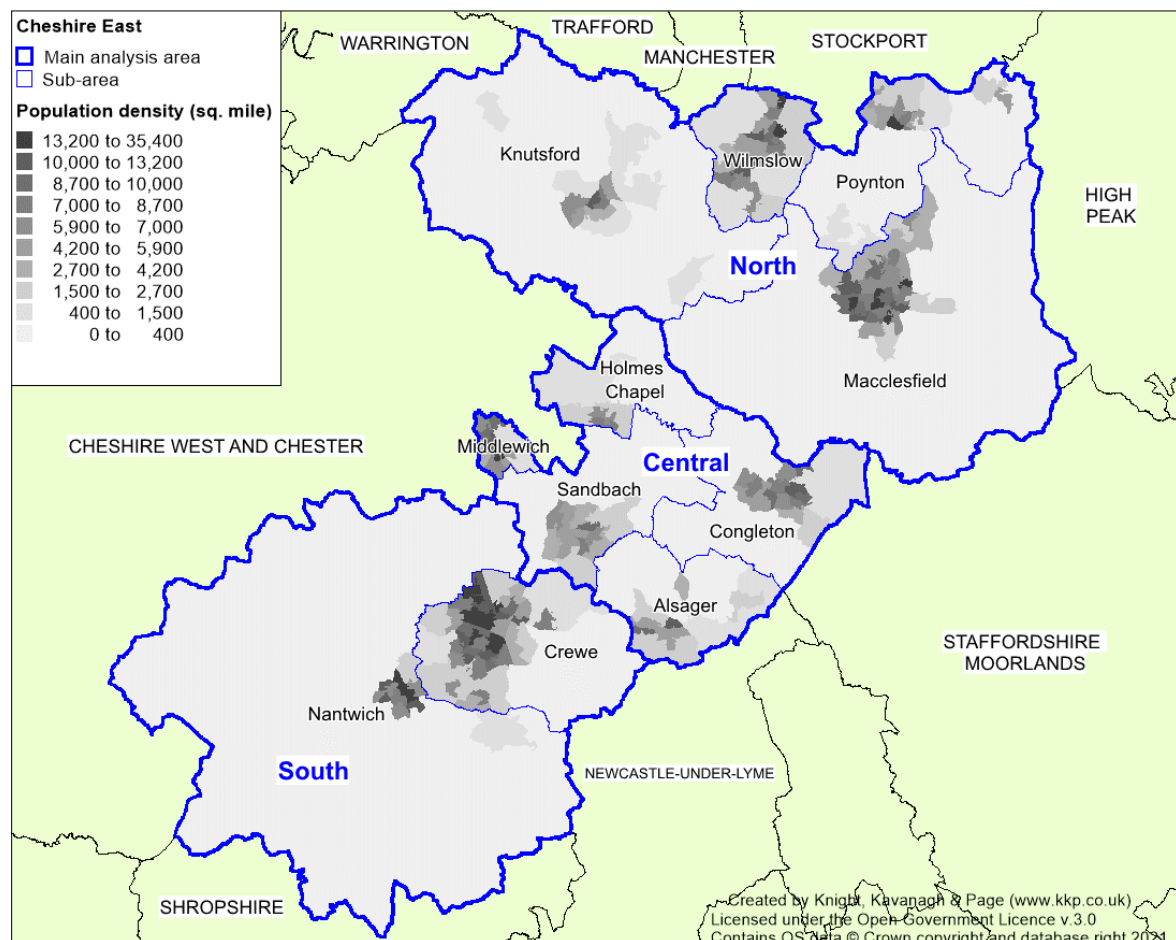
CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

The sub-areas are shown in the following figure and table.

Table 1.1: Analysis area breakdown

Analysis area	Towns/centres
North	Knutsford
	Macclesfield
	Poynton
	Wilmslow
Central	Alsager
	Congleton
	Holmes Chapel
	Middlewich
	Sandbach
South	Crewe
	Nantwich

Figure 1.1: Cheshire East and its analysis areas



In addition, cross-boundary considerations are recognised with regard to neighbouring local authorities, including reference to imported and exported demand into and from Cheshire East as well as key sites and developments that sit close to boundary lines.

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

As examples, cross-boundary activity from authorities such as Warrington, Trafford, Manchester and Stockport is likely from the North Analysis Area (and its sub areas), whilst the Central Analysis Area borders Cheshire West & Chester, Staffordshire Moorlands and Newcastle-under-Lyme. These are also located close to areas of the South Analysis Area in addition to Stoke-on-Trent and Shropshire.

Scope

As standard, the PPOSS covers the following 'core' playing pitch sports, as follows:

- ◀ Cricket
- ◀ Football
- ◀ Hockey
- ◀ Rugby league
- ◀ Rugby union

In addition, other grass pitch sports are also included where supply and/or demand has been identified. In Cheshire East, this includes American football, baseball/softball, lacrosse and rounders.

A section dedicated to third generation turf (3G) pitches is also included due to the number of sports such provision can accommodate. This predominately pertains to football but is also relevant to both rugby codes and potentially American football and lacrosse.

In terms of other outdoor sports, the following are included within the scope, as agreed by the Steering Group:

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| ◀ Archery | ◀ Athletics |
| ◀ Bowls | ◀ Cycling |
| ◀ Golf | ◀ Netball |
| ◀ Tennis | |

Where a sport has not been included, this is because its presence has not been evidenced. However, that is not to say that the sports are not played informally, or that localised demand does not exist.

Sport England's PPS guidance applies to football, rugby union, rugby league cricket and hockey as well as the other grass pitch sports identified. ANOG guidance applies to the remaining 'non-pitch' sports.

1.2: Gather information and views on supply of and demand for provision (Stage B)

A clear picture of the supply of and demand for playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities in Cheshire East is required to enable an accurate assessment of quantity, quality and usage. This has been achieved through site assessments and consultation with key stakeholders.

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Gather supply information and views – an audit of provision

Quantity

Where known, all outdoor sports facilities are included within the PPOSS, irrespective of ownership, management and use. Sites were initially identified using Cheshire East's previous PPS and Sport England's Active Places web-based database, with the Council and NGBs supporting this process by checking and updating this initial data as well as by supplying their own affiliation data and booking information.

For each site, the following details are recorded in the project database:

- ◀ Site name, address (including postcode) and location
- ◀ Ownership and management type
- ◀ Security of tenure
- ◀ Community availability
- ◀ Total number, type and quality of provision
- ◀ Usage levels.

For playing pitch sports, Sport England's guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field. These definitions are set out by the Government in the 2021 'Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order'.

- ◀ **Playing pitch** – a delineated area which is used for association football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, rounders, baseball, softball, American football, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo.
- ◀ **Playing field** – the whole of a site that encompasses at least one playing pitch.

Although the statutory definition of a playing field sets out a minimum size, the PPOSS takes account of smaller sized pitches that contribute to the supply side. For example, a site containing a mini 5v5 football pitch is included despite it potentially being smaller than 0.2ha. The study counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply, with the definition of a playing pitch also including artificial grass pitches (AGPs).

As far as possible, this report aims to capture all playing pitches and relevant outdoor sport facilities within Cheshire East; however, there may be instances that have led to omissions, such as unused school sites where access was not possible (although facilities at sites not accessed are still included where provision is identified via other sources e.g., affiliation data or club/league consultation). Where provision is not recorded within the report, it is still considered to exist for planning purposes and will continue to do so. Furthermore, any exclusion does not mean that the provision is not required from a supply and demand point of view.

Accessibility

Not all outdoor sports facilities offer the same level of access to the community, with ownership and accessibility often influencing actual availability. As such, each site included in the PPOSS is assigned a level of community use as follows:

- ◀ **Community use** - facilities in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams/members/individuals (depending on the sport).

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

- ◀ **Available but unused** - facilities that are available for hire but are not currently used externally; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire or particularly poor quality.
- ◀ **No community use** - facilities which are, as a matter of policy or practice, unavailable for external hire. This includes professional club pitches along with some semi-professional club pitches where play is restricted to the first or second team of the host club.
- ◀ **Disused** – any sites where facilities were once provided but are no longer in place, yet they remain undeveloped and could therefore be brought back into use.

In addition, there should be a good degree of certainty that provision will be available to the community for at least the following three years. If this is not the case, the provision is still included within the assessment but is noted as having unsecure tenure. A judgement is made based on the information gathered and a record of secured or unsecured community use is put against each site.

Quality

The capacity of provision to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of provision affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of a sport. In extreme circumstances, it can result in a facility being unable to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times.

The quality of all provision identified in the audit and the ancillary facilities supporting them are assessed as part of a PPOSS, regardless of ownership, management and availability. Along with capturing any detail specific to the individual facilities and sites, a quality rating is also recorded within the audit for each pitch/facility. These ratings are then used to help estimate the capacity (aligned to NGB guidance) to accommodate competitive and other play within the supply and demand assessment.

For the purposes of quality assessments, the PPOSS refers to playing facilities and ancillary facilities separately as being of 'good', 'standard' or 'poor' quality. However, some good quality sites may have poor quality elements and vice versa (e.g., a good quality pitch may be serviced by poor quality changing facilities).

Good quality refers to facilities with, for example, good grass cover, even surfaces and that are free from vandalism and litter. For ancillary facilities, it refers to access for disabled people, sufficient provision for referees, juniors/women/girls and appropriate showers, toilets and car parking. Facility age can also have a significant bearing on the overall quality rating.

Standard quality refers to playing provision that has, for example, adequate grass cover, minimal signs of wear and tear and goalposts that may be secure but in need of minor repair. In terms of ancillary facilities, standard quality refers to adequately sized changing rooms, storage provision and the provision of toilets, although some level of improvement/modernisation may be required.

Poor quality refers to playing provision with, for example, inadequate grass cover, uneven surfaces and waterlogging issues, whilst for ancillary facilities it may relate to changing rooms with no showers (or communal showers), no running water and old, dated interiors. They are often unsuitable for mixed gender use.

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

To ensure accurate findings, site assessments for each sport are carried out during the playing season for that sport. As such, site assessments for sports played in the winter are generally conducted between November and February, whilst the sports played in the summer are assessed between July and August. This also enables sufficient play to be carried out on the provision before the assessments take place by means of providing an accurate picture regarding the impact of demand.

In addition to undertaking non-technical assessments (using the templates provided within the guidance), users and providers have also been consulted on the quality as well as the Council and relevant NGBs. In some instances, the quality rating has been adjusted to reflect feedback (thus establishing an “agreed quality rating”).

Furthermore, technical assessments have also been provided, where undertaken, such as those carried out by the Grounds Maintenance Association (GMA), which now provides technical assessments across football, rugby union, rugby league and cricket (known as PitchPower reports). PitchPower reports where carried out have informed the quality assessments for the PPOSS to ensure the findings align (unless there is a clear reason for a differential e.g., recent improvements).

Gather demand information and views

Current demand

Presenting an accurate picture of current demand for playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities (i.e., recording how and when provision is used) is important when undertaking a supply and demand assessment. To that end, demand for provision in Cheshire East tends to fall within the following categories:

- ◀ Organised competitive play
- ◀ Organised training
- ◀ Informal play
- ◀ Unofficial use

Current and future demand for provision is presented on a sport-by-sport basis within the relevant sections of this report. In addition, unmet, latent, imported and exported demand for provision is also identified within each section (unless no such demand has been identified).

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to provision. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is in training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a club has a waiting list due to a lack of provision, which in turn is hindering the growth of the competition. In comparison, latent demand is defined as the number of additional teams (or members) that could be accommodated if access to a sufficient number of outdoor sports facilities (and ancillary provision) was available.

Exported and imported demand refers to those that are playing outside of their local authority area of choice. This therefore includes Cheshire East-based demand that travels outside of the Borough to access provision (exported demand), as well as demand from nearby authorities that travel into the Borough (imported demand). This can often be linked to capacity and/or quality issues within an authority, although nationally some leagues and competitions operate a central venue system that can necessitate the displacement.

A variety of consultation methods have been used to collate demand information. Firstly, face-to-face consultation (normally via video call) has been carried out with key clubs and leagues from each sport (as identified by the Steering Group).

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

This enables the collection of detailed demand information and further interrogation of key issues. For all remaining clubs, telephone consultation or an online survey (postal if required) has been utilised.

Key providers and other users of provision have also been contacted, including parish/town councils, schools and further/higher education establishments. This involves face-to-face meetings with secondary schools, colleges and universities and an online survey which was sent to primary schools and special schools.

Future demand

Alongside current demand, it is important for a PPOSS to assess whether the future demand for provision can be met. One method for calculating this is by using Office of National Statistics (ONS) population projections and proposed housing growth to provide an estimate of the likely future demand for relevant facilities. Assumptions can then be made as to whether existing provision can cater for such growth via the use of team/member generation rates. This involves using an existing participation ratio and applying it to predicted growth to help estimate the change in demand for each sport that may arise in the future.

Other information sources used to help identify future demand include:

- Recent trends in the participation.
- The nature of the current and likely future population and their propensity to participate.
- Feedback from clubs on plans to develop additional teams / attract additional members.
- Any local and NGB specific sports development targets e.g., women's and girls' activity.

All future demand projections across the PPOSS for Cheshire East covers the period up until 2030, in line with the Council's Local Plan. The 2021 Census estimated that the population of Cheshire East is 398,800. The Borough continues to have an ageing population. Over the last 10 years, the Census identified that there has been an increase of 25% in people aged 65 years and over, an increase of 3% in people aged 15 to 64 years, and an increase of 5.8% in children aged under 15 years.

1.3: Assess the supply and demand information and views (Stage C)

Supply and demand information gathered is used to assess the adequacy of playing pitch and outdoor sport provision in Cheshire East and to identify key issues, challenges and aspirations. This forms the basis of this report.

Understanding the situation at individual sites

Qualitative ratings are linked to a capacity rating derived from NGB guidance and tailored to suit a local area. For playing pitch sports, the quality and use of each pitch is assessed against recommended capacity to indicate how many match equivalent sessions could be accommodated.

Each pitch is then said to have potential spare capacity, be at capacity, or be overplayed – as follows:

Potential spare capacity: Play is below the level the site could sustain.	
At capacity: Play is at a level the site can sustain.	
Overused: Play exceeds the level the site can sustain.	

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

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. As the main usage of pitches is likely to be for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions but may for example include training sessions and informal use. One team accessing one whole pitch is considered to use the pitch for 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week based on them playing home and away fixtures on an alternate basis (therefore only requiring access to their home pitch every two weeks).

As a guide, the NGBs for football, cricket, rugby union and hockey have set a standard number of matches that each pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its quality. Given how the sports operate, this is per week for football and rugby union, per day for hockey and per season for cricket. It is further detailed in the table below.

Table 1.2: Capacity of playing pitches

Sport	Pitch type	No. of match equivalent sessions		
		Good	Standard	Poor
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union	Natural inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and slit drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Rugby league	Senior pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Junior pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season	60 per season	60 per season
Hockey	One AGP	4 matches per day	4 matches per day	0 matches per day

For non-pitch sports, capacity is not linked to the number of matches taking place but rather the number of members (and other users) attracted to a site. For example, for tennis, a sports-lit hard court is said to have capacity for 60 members, whereas a non-lit has court has capacity for 40 members (this varies for grass courts). Other sport specific capacity guidance is detailed within the relevant sections of this report.

Develop the current and future picture of provision

Once capacity is determined on a site-by-site basis, actual spare capacity is calculated on a borough-wide and an area-by-area basis via further interrogation of peak time demand (i.e., the day/time demand is most likely to exist). This then identifies whether there is overall spare capacity or whether there is a shortfall.

Although spare capacity may be identified at some sites and in some areas, it does not necessarily mean that there is surplus provision. For example, spare capacity may not be available when it is needed (actual spare capacity) or a site may be retained in a 'strategic reserve' to enable rotation and to reduce wear and tear. There may also be a need to discount some capacity, for example at poor quality sites that should not be used until they are improved or at unsecure sites where long-term access cannot be guaranteed.

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Conversely, where a shortfall of capacity is identified, this does not necessarily mean there is a need for increased provision via new facilities. Instead, it may be possible for deficits to be overcome through better utilisation of the existing stock, such as via quality improvements or through improving community access.

Once current capacity is determined, future capacity can be calculated via incorporating the future demand identified plus any unmet, latent and exported demand.

Identify the key findings and issues

The Assessment Report, which is this document, is drafted and presented on a sport-by-sport basis, with data analysis undertaken on both a Council-wide and sub-area basis. This focuses on reporting research findings, consultation, site audit information and data analysis supported by detailed GIS mapping. It is agreed and 'signed off' prior to moving on to the strategy and action plan development stages.

Each included section (from Part 2 onwards) summarises the local administration of the included sport (or facility type). Each provides a summary of the supply of and demand for provision, with key issues identified and an overall supply and demand analysis undertaken.

1.4: Develop the strategy (Stage D)

The Strategy follows the production of this Assessment Report, once it has been finalised and signed off by the Steering Group. It will feature:

- ◆ Headline findings
- ◆ An overall vision and associated aims for the PPOSS
- ◆ Sport-by-sport recommendations and scenarios
- ◆ Strategic recommendations
- ◆ A site-by-site and area-by-area action plan
- ◆ Housing growth scenarios

Additionally, it will provide detail as to how to deliver the PPOSS and keep it robust and up-to-date (Stage E).

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

PART 2: FOOTBALL

2.1: Introduction

Cheshire FA is the primary organisation overseeing the development (and some elements of administration) of football in Cheshire East. It is responsible for growing participation, promoting diversity and regulating the sport for everyone to enjoy.

Facility development for football is largely the responsibility of the Football Foundation (FF), which is a charity, linked to and funded by the Premier League, The FA and the Government (via Sport England), that helps communities improve their local football facilities through grant funding. It is committed to improving the experience of playing football for everyone involved in the game. The FF also acts on behalf of The FA as the strategic NGB for football in supporting development of the PPOSS.

This section of the report focuses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches, where formal demand is generally defined through five formats of play and five pitch types, linked to the age of teams and players. Please refer to the table below for more detail relating to this.

Table 2.1: Football grass pitch formats

Format/pitch type	Age range	Recommended pitch size (metres)	Recommended pitch size including runoff (metres)
Adult	U17s+	100 x 64	106 x 70
Youth 11v11	U15s-U16s	91 x 55	97 x 61
	U13s-U14s	82 x 50	88 x 56
Youth 9v9	U11s-U12s	73 x 46	79 x 52
Mini 7v7	U9s-U10s	55 x 37	61 x 43
Mini 5v5	U7s-U8s	37 x 27	43 x 33

Part 3 of this report captures supply and demand for third generation pitches (3G pitches), which is the preferred artificial surface type for football.

Local Football Facility Plans (LFFPs)

To support in delivery of both the current and superseding FA National Games Strategy, the FA commissioned a nationwide consultancy project. As part of this, an LFFP has been produced for every local authority across England, with each plan being unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation.

The LFFP is strategically aligned to the National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS); a 10-year plan to change the landscape of football facilities in England. The NFFS represents a major funding commitment from the national funding partners (The FA, Premier League and Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)) and is delivered through the FF to inform and direct an estimated one billion pounds of investment into facilities.

Each LFFP builds upon PPS/PPOSS findings (where present and current) regarding the formal and affiliated game as well as including strategic priorities for investment across small-sided football (including recreational and indoor activity). The LFFP also incorporates consultation with groups outside of formal football, as well as under-represented communities. This includes those which may be key partners with regards to using football for behavioural change, plus groups which may be key drivers of FA priorities around participation in the likes of women and girls' football, disability football and futsal.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

The LFFP for Cheshire East was produced in 2019. As it is a 'live' document it should be updated following the completion of this study as an up-to-date supply and demand assessment may present findings and recommendations that need to be incorporated for investment purposes. LFFPs identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require potential funding through the FF.

Notwithstanding the above, it is important to recognise that the LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment; it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of a PPOSS and is not an accepted evidence base for site change of use or disposal. A LFFP does, however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans.

Consultation

A total of 81 football clubs play in Cheshire East (2022/2023 season), with 56 responding to consultation requests. This equates to a club response rate of 69% and a team response rate of 87%. Most clubs that have not responded are small clubs fielding just one or two teams, with only Bollington United FC and Ruskin Park FC having more than this.

Key clubs consulted as part of the study include:

- ❖ Cheshire Blades FC
- ❖ Crewe Alexandra FC
- ❖ Holmes Chapel Hurricanes FC
- ❖ Macclesfield FC
- ❖ Nantwich Town FC
- ❖ Richmond Rovers FC
- ❖ Vale Juniors FC
- ❖ Crewe FC
- ❖ Egerton FC
- ❖ Knutsford FC
- ❖ Middlewich Town FC
- ❖ Sandbach United FC
- ❖ Wilmslow Sports Community FC

In addition, consultation was also undertaken with Crewe Regional Sunday League and South Cheshire Youth League.

2.2: Supply

The audit identifies 310 grass football pitches within Cheshire East across 172 sites. Of the pitches, 250 are available for community use across 136 sites, as presented in the table below. Most unavailable pitches are located within schools.

Table 2.2: Summary of grass football pitches available to the community

Analysis area	Sub area	Number of pitches					Total
		Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
North	Knutsford	10	6	4	1	1	22
	Macclesfield	1	21	7	8	5	42
	Poynton	4	5	2	1	3	15
	Wilmslow	7	5	3	7	5	27
							105
Central	Alsager	3	6	3	2	1	15
	Congleton	5	7	3	6	5	26
	Holmes Chapel	1	5	4	2	-	12
	Middlewich	1	4	3	1	-	9
	Sandbach	2	8	2	1	-	13
							75

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Analysis area	Sub analysis areas	No. of pitches					
		Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
South	Crewe	13	12	5	4	4	38
	Nantwich	10	8	2	7	5	32
							70
Cheshire East		57	86	38	40	29	250
2021 PPS Study		85	44	53	66	29	277

The North Analysis Area provides the largest number of pitches with 105, with most of these found in Macclesfield (42 pitches). There are then 76 pitches in the Central Analysis Area and 71 in the South Analysis Area.

The largest number of pitches are identified as youth 11v11 (34%), followed by adult pitches (23%). The fewest number of pitches are mini 5v5 size (12%), although this is likely to be a consequence of many mini football matches across Cheshire East being played on 3G provision.

Changes since the previous study

Overall, since the previous study in 2021, the total number of community available pitches has decreased from 277 to 250 available currently (a 10% decrease). This is predominately a consequence of fewer pitches being marked out and provided at school sites, although the stock of pitches across Council sites also marginally reduced.

Schools that previously marked out pitches but no longer do so include:

- ❖ Bunbury Aldersey Primary School (CW6 9NR)
- ❖ Elworth Hall Primary School (CW11 1TE)
- ❖ Goostrey Primary School (CW4 8PE)
- ❖ Monks Coppenhall Primary School (CW1 4LY)
- ❖ Smallwood Primary School (CW11 2UR)
- ❖ St Alban's Catholic Primary (SK10 3HJ)
- ❖ St Mary's Primary (Middlewich) (CW10 9BS)
- ❖ St Odwald's Worleston Primary (CW5 6DP)
- ❖ Sound & District Primary School (CW5 8AE)
- ❖ St Gabriel's Catholic Primary (ST7 2PG)
- ❖ St Michael's Community Academy (CW1 3SL)
- ❖ The Dingle Primary (CW1 5SD)
- ❖ Warmingham Primary School (CW11 3QL)
- ❖ Weston Village Primary School (CW2 5LZ)
- ❖ Woodcocks Well CE Primary (ST7 3NQ)

In addition, the following sites are known to have previously contained more football pitches than they currently do:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ❖ Back Lane | ❖ Barony Sports Complex |
| ❖ Bollington (Atax) | ❖ Bunbury Playing Field |
| ❖ Disley Amalgamated Sports Club | ❖ Haslington Playing Fields |
| ❖ Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre | ❖ King George V Playing Fields |
| ❖ Lacey Green Pavilion | ❖ Tytherington High School |
| ❖ Weston Playing Field | ❖ Wrenbury Recreation Ground |

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

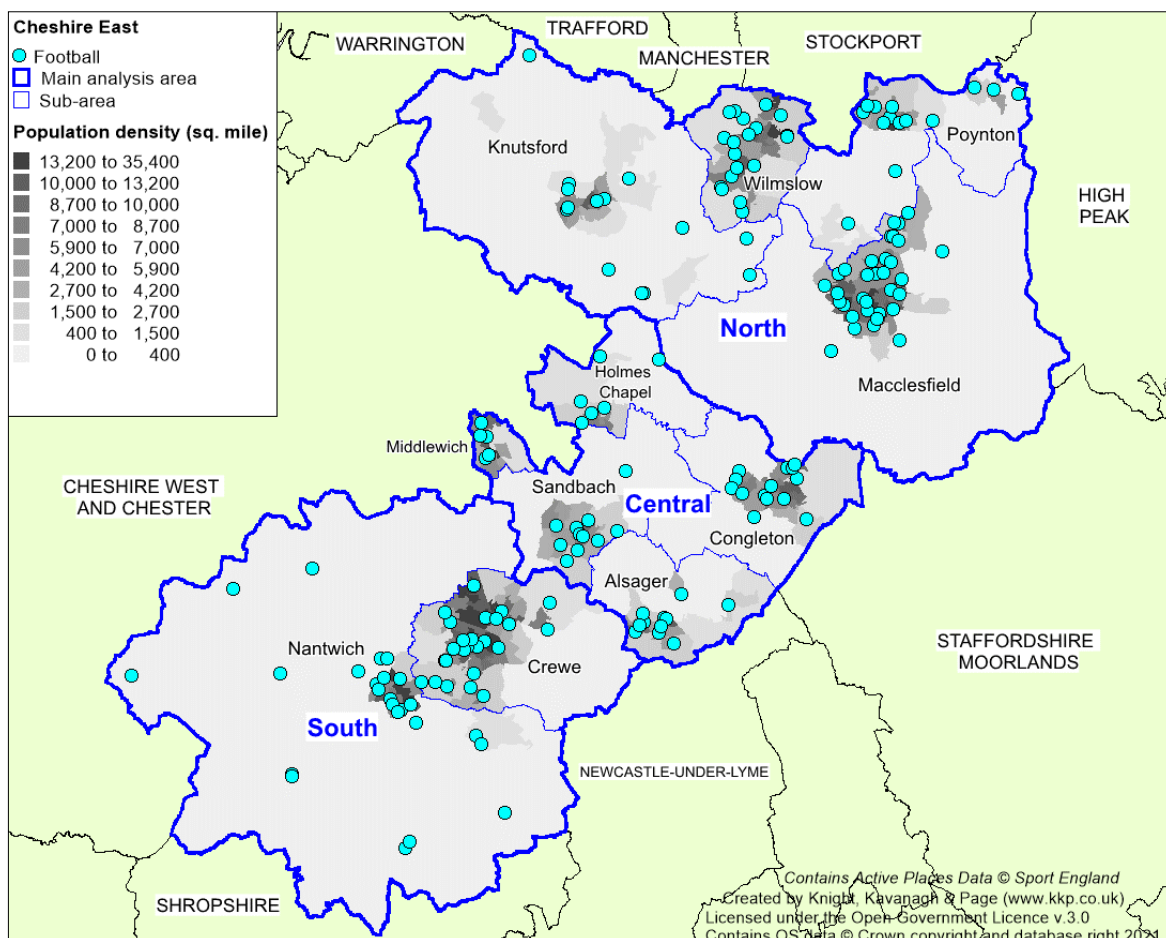
Notwithstanding the above, it must be referenced that for the Council sites included above, the pitch layout changes season-to-season based on the demand received, rather than an intentional loss of provision. There is no reduction in the area of playing field provided or to the maintenance regime undertaken.

At Back Lane and King George V Playing Fields, youth 9v9 provision can be accommodated if required, or an additional adult pitch, whereas Weston Playing Field had one pitch last season and three the season before, prior to no demand being received (an adult pitch is still available on request). Demand at Haslington Playing Fields has reduced from two adult pitches to one, with this enabling the remaining pitch to be relocated away from wetter areas of the site.

Lacey Green Pavilion has more pitches marked out this season when compared to recent years. A youth pitch was however removed the site a few years back from the bottom of the site due to waterlogging.

Figure 2.1 below identifies all grass football pitches currently servicing Cheshire East. For a key to the map, see Table 2.17.

Figure 2.1: Location of all football pitches in Cheshire East



CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Disused provision

Overall, there are seven sites identified as disused that previously provided football pitches in Cheshire East. These are as follows:

- ❖ Brooke Dean Community College (SK9 3QN) – last marked out circa 2005.
- ❖ Brook House Playing Field (CW2 6NA) – last marked out circa 2003.
- ❖ Cranage Hall (CW4 8EW) – last marked out circa 2010.
- ❖ Lanark Walk (SK10 3ES) – last marked out circa 2015.
- ❖ Nantwich Town Football Club – replaced by full size stadia 3G pitch circa 2023.
- ❖ Sandwich Drive (SK10 2UD) – last marked out circa 2021.
- ❖ St Barnabas C of E Primary School (SK11 7QA) – last marked out circa 2004.

In addition, there are several sites that are still in use recreationally that previously provided formal football pitches but no longer do so. Sport England would not classify these sites as disused as they are still being accessed, although they are no longer marked out for affiliated football. The sites are:

- ❖ Cedar Avenue (ST7 2QP)
- ❖ Cumberland Arena – Razzer (CW1 3BD)
- ❖ Hassall Road – (CW11 4HN)
- ❖ Hazelbadge Road Playing Field (SK12 1HE)
- ❖ McLaren Street Playing Field (CW1 3SP)
- ❖ Peover Playing Fields (WA16 8TU)
- ❖ Portland Drive (ST7 3BS)
- ❖ Wheelock Playing Field (CW11 4RD)

Several still active primary schools also previously provided pitches but no longer do so.

The lack of use at disused sites should not be seen as necessarily indicating an absence of need for playing pitches in the locality. Such land can retain the potential to provide playing pitches to meet current or future needs. Furthermore, with respect to disused playing fields, it should be emphasised that the lawful planning use is still that of a playing field until such time as there is a formal change of use or development occurs.

Potential future provision

The Poynton Mitigation Strategy² completed in 2021 identifies that football pitches should be established at Land North of Glastonbury Drive. The recommendation is to provide three adult pitches (or two adult pitches and one youth 11v11 pitch), one youth 9v9 pitch, one mini 7v7 pitch and two mini 5v5 pitches to offset the loss of one adult pitch at Poynton Sports Club and two youth pitches at Former Vernon Infants School. It is also identified that quality should improve at Poynton High School.

A new housing development under construction at the Crown Estates site in Knutsford (land North of Northwich Road) consisting of 190 dwellings will include the provision of a grass youth 11v11 football pitch.

Planning permission has been granted for the development of a new mini 5v5 pitch at Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre, linked to new classroom development. This will be secured via a community use agreement, with Holmes Chapel Hurricanes FC a signatory.

² [Poynton Mitigation Strategy](#)

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Egerton Youth Club had plans to develop an additional four adult pitches on land adjacent to its current site; however, the landowner has a planning proposal for a residential led scheme (making the space unavailable for playing pitches (18/3672M)). The Club has leasehold of the land.

A grass adult pitch has been included as part of outline plans to create a Garden Village in Handforth, although further work is ongoing regarding what provision is required.

Discussions are ongoing regarding a planned youth 11v11 football pitch at Alderley Park (Astra Zeneca) for this to essentially be moved to Macclesfield Leisure Centre (utilising the centre of the athletics track at the site), together with a smaller size 3G pitch. Pre-application advice has been sought from Sport England.

A planning application has been submitted at Fermain Academy. The plan is replace the football pitch with a new youth centre, including a pavilion, recreational sports area, MUGA and gardening area as well as associated car parking.

Cheshire East has received funding for a series of pilot projects for ground source heat pumps, including at five primary schools. Planning applications relating to this are live and the proposed bore holes will temporarily impact on playing fields, although none thus far identified receive community use.

Management

Of the 250 community available pitches in Cheshire East, most are operated by education providers, with this covering 130 accessible pitches (52%). There are then 85 pitches (34%) managed by the Council (including parish/town councils) or its leisure provider, Everybody Health & Leisure. Of the remaining pitches, 32 (13%) operated by clubs, with the remaining three (1%) managed privately at Nuffield Health and by a community organisation at Joey the Swan Playing Fields.

Table 2.3: Summary of pitch management (community available pitches)

Number of pitches			
Education	Council	Clubs	Other
130	85	32	3

Security of tenure

Tenure of sites in Cheshire East is generally secure, i.e., through a long-term lease or a guarantee that pitches will continue to be provided over the next three years. An exception to this is found at schools and academies that state their own policies and are more likely to restrict levels of community use. In total, 34 educational providers do not allow community use of some or all their pitches and this includes schools that have a large number of pitches such as Poynton High School (five pitches) and Wilmslow High School (six pitches).

The reasons for not allowing community use vary. The most common example is that schools want to protect pitches for curricular and extra-curricular purposes due to existing quality issues, including the aforementioned Poynton High School and Wilmslow High School. Other reasons include staffing issues, health and safety issues and a perceived lack of profitability.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Moreover, many schools that do provide community availability do so without providing security of tenure, meaning they can stop the external use at any point devoid of any warning. To prevent this happening, it is recommended that club users enter community use agreements with the schools that they access. Nationally, some local authorities have a policy requirement for community use agreements where development proposals affect playing fields, which is therefore something Cheshire East could look to implement moving forward.

In total, 30 teams across Cheshire East currently play regular home matches at unsecure sites, which equates to just under 4% of demand. However, this includes Knutsford FC following the expiration of its lease agreement via Tatton Estates at Manchester Road. The Club has an aspiration for a new long-term arrangement and is also exploring options to enable it to develop additional pitch provision.

Whilst no other clubs report any major issues, some do state a desire to acquire land through an asset transfer and on a long-term lease. This particularly applies to the following:

- ◀ Crewe FC
- ◀ Holmes Chapel Hurricanes FC
- ◀ Vale Juniors FC

Crewe FC has explored many different sites and now is pursuing an asset transfer agreement for a parcel of land at King George V Playing Fields. Relating to this, the Council is progressing with a tender to select a football development partner for the site, with this scheduled to be released in early 2024.

Holmes Chapel Hurricanes FC is interested in taking over the management of Cranage Playing Field, which it currently accesses as its primary venue. However, the Club now also uses Sutton Lane Playing Fields as a secondary venue and is reportedly interested in increasing such access.

Vale Juniors FC did not identify a potential site. However, it states that it is seeking to source a ground to build new grass football pitches, 3G provision and a clubhouse.

In order to attract external funding, clubs and sites generally need long-term security of tenure. As an example, this is a requirement for FF investment (freehold or a lease of 21+ years is needed for funding over £100,000).

Pitch quality

The quality of football pitches across Cheshire East has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by the FA), PitchPower reports (see below), and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating on a scale of good, standard and poor. For the full site assessment criteria, please see Appendix 2.

Pitch quality primarily influences the carrying capacity of a site; often pitches lack the drainage and maintenance necessary. Pitches that receive little to no ongoing repair or post-season remedial work are likely to be assessed as poor, therefore limiting the number of games they can accommodate each week without it having a detrimental effect on quality. In contrast, well maintained pitches are likely to be of a higher standard and capable of taking a number of matches without a significant reduction in surface quality.

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

The table below summarises the quality of community available pitches in Cheshire East. As seen, most pitches are assessed as standard quality, with 165 (66%) being rated as such. Of the remaining pitches, 24 (10%) community available pitches assessed as good quality and 61 (24%) are assessed as poor.

Table 2.4: Pitch quality assessments (community use pitches)

Pitch type	Good	Standard	Poor
Adult	14	28	15
Youth 11v11	6	59	21
Youth 9v9	3	33	2
Mini 7v7	1	29	10
Mini 5v5	-	17	12
Total	24	165	61

The good quality pitches are located at:

- ✦ Booth Street Stadium (Congleton Town Football Club)
- ✦ Cheshire College South & West
- ✦ Cumberland Arena
- ✦ Egerton Youth Club
- ✦ Manchester Road (Knutsford Football Club)
- ✦ Mary Dendy Playing Fields
- ✦ Poynton Sports Club
- ✦ Reaseheath College
- ✦ Sandbach Community Football Club
- ✦ Wood Park Stadium (Alsager Town Football Club)

Crewe Alexandra Football Club and Reaseheath Training Complex also offer good quality pitches; however, they are not available for community use due to being reserved for access by professional club Crewe Alexandra FC.

In contrast, 61 community available pitches located across 43 sites are assessed as poor quality. In the main, these pitches show significant signs of wear and tear, with many also having waterlogging problems. The majority are operated by the Council (23 pitches) or schools (37 pitches).

Although many Council-operated pitches are assessed as poor quality, most are assessed as standard quality when considering the maintenance regime undertaken (by ANSA) and following recent investment. This is the case at sites such as at Back Lane, Congleton Road Tytherington Pitches (Rugby Drive) and Jim Evison Playing Fields, although some key sites such as Sutton Lane Playing Fields remain poor quality.

Several feasibility studies have also been undertaken in recent years to identify improvements that are required at other venues, with these incorporating sites such as New Town Playing Fields, Carnival Fields, Chorley Hall and Victoria Park. At Chorley Hall, the pitch has been closed recently due to its worsening condition, with waterlogging issues identified due to an ongoing issue with outflow from the site.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Linked to the above, for pitches operated by the Council that have been involved in the Pitch Improvement Programme (see further detail below), maintenance has been enhanced. It consists of weekly mowing and fortnightly line marking, whilst further grooming takes place 10 times during the season in addition to a deep slit once a year, a deep spike once a year and raking twice a year. During the closed season, the pitches are top-dressed, seeded and fertilised, whilst weedkilling also takes place if and where required.

For the remaining pitches operated by the Council, mowing takes place on a fortnightly basis, raking occurs once rather than twice and although some additional grooming takes place, there is no fertilisation or weedkilling. Everything else follows the same approach (e.g., line marking, top-dressing and seeding).

For a full breakdown of quality ratings at each site, please refer to Table 2.17.

Changes since the previous study

Since the previous study was completed in 2021, overall quality has remained relatively unchanged, with improvements at some sites offset by deterioration at others. There are now, however, a slightly lower proportion of poor quality and a slightly higher proportion of good quality pitches.

In connection with the above, 22% of responding clubs report an improvement in their home pitches' quality in recent seasons, whilst 18% report that conditions have worsened (the remainder report no change).

Pitch improvement

The FA has a Pitch Improvement Programme aimed at improving the standard of grass pitches across the Country. For provision included in the programme, clubs can utilise the services of the FF's PitchPower web app to carry out a free on-site assessment of their pitches. This then provides the Grounds Management Association (GMA) with the detail needed to create a personalised, informative report to advise on how improvements can be made. Clubs then receive bespoke advice and support to help with any future actions, funding applications and equipment, with clubs getting access to discounted rates for machinery and consumables through local partnerships.

The web app is open to access by all providers, including clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches. Applicants are also required to submit a PitchPower assessment for each of their pitches as a condition of any grant funding application for FF grass pitch investment, such as the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (detailed later in this section).

PitchPower is less restricted by the seasonal window of in-season play than the non-technical assessments within the PPS guidance, instead being able to be undertaken within a 10-month period, with assessments completed and submitted within one of three windows: September - October, November – March or April – June. Organisations must carry out two assessments a year, with at least one in the November – March window.

As well as the completion of other supporting information such as detail of volunteer training and what maintenance equipment is available, the assessment requires the taking of images and a single soil sample at each assessment site. There are three assessment sites for adult and youth pitches at each goal area and the centre circle, whilst for mini pitches there are two sites at the centre circle and one goal area.

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

The PitchPower assessments use a new five step Performance Quality Standard (PQS) rating system developed by the GMA, with the FF and Sport England agreeing alignment with the capacity guidance within the existing PPS Guidance. This alignment is shown in the table below.

Table 2.5: Agreed equivalent PPOSS quality rating for PQS ratings

PQS Rating	PPPOS Quality Rating
Poor	Poor
Basic	Standard
Good	Good
Advanced	
High	

In Cheshire East, the following sites have received PitchPower reports (up to July 2023):

- ✦ Alsager Sports Hub
- ✦ Bollington Cross Playing Fields
- ✦ Eaton Bank Academy
- ✦ Eric Swan Sports Ground
- ✦ Jim Evison Playing Fields
- ✦ Manchester Road (Knutsford Football Club)
- ✦ Middlewich Town Football Club
- ✦ Oakwood Farm
- ✦ Sandbach Community Football Club
- ✦ Styal Playing Fields
- ✦ Back Lane
- ✦ Daven Primary School
- ✦ Egerton Youth Club
- ✦ Jasmine Park
- ✦ King George V Playing Fields
- ✦ Mary Dendy Playing Fields
- ✦ Poynton Sports Club
- ✦ Sandbach School
- ✦ Sutton Lane Playing Fields
- ✦ Wood Park

These have been accounted for within the PPOSS quality ratings to ensure the findings align, unless there is a clear reason for a difference (e.g., quality alterations since the PitchPower assessments took place).

In addition to PitchPower, the FA has a general pitch improvement strategy, in partnership with the GMA. As part of this, it has a Pitch Advisory Service that can be utilised by eligible organisations (e.g., clubs, league, parish/town council, schools and community/charitable organisations) with the aim of improving knowledge, skills and therefore the quality of pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide clubs with advice and practical solutions in a range of areas, with the simple aim of improving playing surfaces. This is designed to help clubs on sites that they themselves manage and maintain but can also be used to advise local authority-maintained sites.

Football Foundation Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund

With quality of grass pitches becoming one of the biggest influences on participation in football, the FA has made it a priority to work towards improving quality of grass pitches across the country. This has resulted in the creation of the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (GPMF). As part of this, grass pitches identified as having quality issues undergo a pitch inspection from a member of the GMA (formerly Institute of Groundsmanship).

The GPMF can be utilised by grassroots football clubs, leagues and other eligible, organisations with the simple aim of improving the quality of grass pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide members of the programme with advice/practical solutions via a PitchPower site assessment and subsequent Grass Pitch Assessment Report which will also identify the key enhanced maintenance works required along with machinery requirements.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Following a report, clubs can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches. Once a PitchPower grass pitch assessment report has been produced for the site, eligible organisations can then apply for grant funding support through the Football Foundation Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund, a fund offering six-year tapered grants to help enhance or sustain the quality of their grass pitches. The fund is a key part of the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Improvement Programme - an ambition to deliver 20,000 good quality grass pitches by 2030. If a site is categorised as 'poor' or 'basic' then clubs can apply for funding to enhance pitch quality, whilst clubs with good quality pitches can also apply for a lower level of funding to sustain quality.

All applicants must have the required security of tenure and have received a PitchPower Pitch Assessment Report, with the fund currently open to football clubs (excluding pitches used for National League System play), leagues, County FAs, community organisations and charities. In 2023 the fund has now been opened up to education organisations and town/parish councils as eligible applicants. Local authorities are not currently eligible applicants, however, eligible organisations using local authority sites can apply provided they have permission of the landowner via service level agreement.

The following sites have received funding from the GPMF:

- ✦ Bollington (Atax)
- ✦ Egerton Youth Club
- ✦ Eric Swan Sports Ground
- ✦ Jasmine Park
- ✦ Middlewich Town Football Club
- ✦ Poynton Sports Club
- ✦ Sandbach Community Football Centre
- ✦ Styal Playing Fields
- ✦ Upcast Lane

Wilmslow Albion FC is also in the process of applying for the GPMF and is awaiting landlord permission, which entails a formal process within the Council.

Over marked pitches

Over marking of pitches can cause notable damage to the surface quality and lead to overuse beyond recommended capacity. In some cases, mini or youth pitches may be marked onto adult pitches or mini matches may be played widthways across adult or youth pitches. This can lead to targeted areas of surface damage due to a large amount of play focused on high traffic areas, particularly the middle third of the pitch.

Over marking of pitches not only influences available capacity, but it may also cause logistical issues regarding kick off times; for example, when two teams of differing age formats are due to play at the same site at the same time.

Overall, 31 pitches are overmarked across 20 sites. Sites which contain pitch over markings are identified in the table overleaf.

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 2.6: Sites containing over marked pitches

Site ID	Site	Comments
5	Alsager Leisure Centre	One youth 11v11 pitch is over marked by one youth 9v9 pitch.
34	Congleton High School	Two adult pitches over marked by two youth 9v9 pitches and two youth 11v11 pitches over marked by mini 5v5 pitches.
42	Disley Amalgamated Sports Club	Youth 9v9 pitch is a dual use lacrosse pitch.
44	Egerton Youth Club	Three youth 11v11 pitches both over marked by mini 7v7 pitches.
58	Holmes Leisure Centre	One adult pitch is a dual use rugby union pitch.
63	Kerridge Cricket Club	One youth 9v9 pitch and one mini 7v7 pitch over mark a cricket outfield.
69	Lacey Green Pavilion	Two mini pitches marked out within youth provision.
75	Malbank School & Sixth Form College	One adult pitch that is a dual use rugby union pitch.
80	Mary Dendy Playing Fields	Youth pitches are marked within the adult provision as and when required.
107	Sandbach Community Football Centre	Two adult pitches are both over marked by mini 7v7 pitches.
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	One adult pitch is a dual use rugby union pitch.
113	Sir William Stanier School	One adult pitch that is a dual use rugby union pitch.
114	Cheshire College South & West	One adult pitch that is also used for American football.
119	St Thomas More Catholic High School	One adult pitch that is a dual use rugby union pitch.
129	The Oaks Academy	One youth 9v9 pitch that is over marked by one mini 5v5 pitch.
130	The Peacock Sports Ground	Two youth 11v11 pitches are both over marked by a mini 7v7 pitch.
132	Tytherington Pitches (Rugby Drive)	One youth 11v11 pitch that is over marked by two mini (7v7 and 5v5) pitches.
136	Weston Playing Field	Youth pitch marked within adult pitch.
141	Wilmslow High School	One adult pitch and one youth 11v11 pitch, both of which are over marked by youth 9v9 pitches.
248	Jasmine Park	One youth 11v11 pitch that is over marked by two mini 5v5 pitches.

Ancillary facilities

As with pitches, the quality of ancillary facilities servicing football sites across Cheshire East has been assessed on the basis of identifying good, standard and poor quality provision. To that end, ancillary facility ratings are primarily influenced by the type and quality of amenities which are available on a site, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, car parking and boundary fencing (the full site assessment criteria is shown in Appendix 2).

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

The assessment concluded that 91 community available pitches in Cheshire East are not serviced by accessible changing accommodation. The majority of these are found at school sites that do have on-site changing rooms but do not allow for community use of them, although some council sites are also without provision. A lack of changing facilities can cause issues, particularly for adult football and women's and girls' football, where adequate provision can be a league requirement.

Of community available pitches that are serviced by changing provision, 25 are serviced by good quality facilities, 83 by standard quality facilities and 52 by poor quality facilities. Most assessed as good quality are located at sports club sites, such as Sandbach Community Football Centre, although council provision at Alsager Sports Hub is also assessed as good quality following recent developments.

In contrast, the facilities at the following sites receive a poor rating:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| ◀ Bunbury Playing Fields | ◀ Congleton Road |
| ◀ Deva Close | ◀ Goodwill Hall Playing Fields |
| ◀ Knutsford Football Club (Manchester Road) | ◀ Oakwood Farm |
| ◀ Poynton Sports Club | ◀ Sutton Lane Playing Field |
| ◀ Upcast Lane | ◀ Wood Park |
| ◀ Wrenbury Recreation Ground | |

The facilities at Deva Close and Sutton Lane Playing Field are currently closed due to the condition of the buildings on site. Wilmslow Albion FC identifies that the provision at Oakwood Farm requires modernisation.

In addition to the above, although assessed as standard quality, the changing facilities servicing Barony Sports Complex and King George V Playing Fields are also identified as needing improvement. This is due to the key nature of the sites and because the existing facilities are relatively small and basic.

Out of all clubs that responded to consultation requests, 19% report they have access to good quality clubhouse and/or changing provision at their respective home venues, whilst standard quality facilities are accessed by 25% of clubs and 37% access poor quality facilities. The remaining 19% report that they are without such ancillary provision.

Tytherington High School has submitted a planning application for the development of a new sports pavilion (including associated car parking).

Away from clubhouse provision, 33% of responding clubs report that they have inadequate car parking facilities on match days.

National League system

The football pyramid is a series of interconnected leagues for adult men's football clubs in England. It is known as the National League System (NLS) and begins below the football league (the National League) and comprises of six steps, with various leagues at each level and more leagues lower down the pyramid than at the top. These are then supported by regional feeder leagues, which were previously at Step 7 of the pyramid but are now not included.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

The system has a hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the levels, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top. Clubs within the step system must adhere to ground requirements set out by the FA. The higher the level of football being played the higher the requirements.

Clubs playing within the NLS must adhere to Stadium Accreditation requirements set out by the FA and the Premier League for the 2023/24 season. The higher the level of football being played the higher the requirements. Clubs cannot progress into the league above if the ground grading requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Stadium Accreditation assesses grounds from Grade 1 to 7, which aligns with Step 1 clubs down to Step 6 clubs making the transition from Regional Feeder League.³

In Cheshire East, Crewe Alexandra FC is a professional club that plays above the NLS in the English Football League (League Two). A further four teams then play within the system, whilst five play in regional feeder leagues. This is summarised in the table below.

Table 2.7: Summary of teams playing within the NLS

Team	League	Level
Macclesfield Town FC	Northern Premier League	Step 3
Nantwich Town FC	Northern Premier League West	Step 4
Congleton Town FC	Midland League Premier Division	Step 5
Alsager Town FC	North West Counties Football League – Division One South	Step 6
Sandbach United FC		
Altrincham FC (reserves)	Cheshire Football League – Premier Division	Regional feeder league
Congleton Town FC (reserves)		
Crewe FC		
Egerton FC		
Middlewich Town FC		

All clubs are currently able to meet their league requirements, although improvements may be needed in some instances for clubs to progress. For example, Crewe FC would be required to install turnstiles and a seated area, which is not possible at its current site (Cumberland Arena) due to its operating model. This is a principal reason for the Club wanting to acquire its own provision at King George V Playing Fields.

In a similar vein, Alsager Town FC aspires to build a new stand at Wood Park that would contain changing rooms, a bar, a kitchen and a social area. However, these plans have stagnated recently.

Knutsford FC has a development plan in place that states an aim to improve, expand and develop its current site (Manchester Road), with the primary aim being to meet Step 5 Stadium Accreditation criteria. Included within this are plans to erect sports lighting and a 100-seater stand as well as plans to improve the changing rooms, build a new clubhouse and storage facilities, provide new dugouts and to extend the car park. However, as previously noted, it is currently without security of tenure.

³ <https://premierleaguestadiumfund.co.uk/stadium-accreditation-programme>

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Women's National League System

Correspondingly there is a Women's National League System (WNLS) similar to the adult men's which provides structure to the women's game. This ranges from Tier 1 to Tier 6 with each Tier requiring differing Stadium Accreditation requirements.

Although women's clubs still require to meet ground requirements set out by the FA these differ from the men's National League System. Ratings range from grade A to C each with differing minimum requirements. Tier 1 and 2 in the Women's National League System is akin to Tier 3 and four of the men's National League System, although not exactly the same. The system is also hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the levels, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top of the system.

In Cheshire East, Crewe Alexandra Ladies FC plays in the North West Women's Regional League Premier Division, which is at the fifth tier of the WNLS.

In addition, the following clubs have teams playing at Tier 6, 7 or 8:

- ◀ Altrincham FC
- ◀ Egerton FC
- ◀ Nantwich Town FC
- ◀ Congleton Town FC
- ◀ Macclesfield FC
- ◀ Sandbach United FC

See the table below for a full summary.

Table 2.8: Summary of teams playing within the Women's National League System

Team	League	Level
Crewe Alexandra Ladies FC	North West Women's Regional League - Premier Division	Tier 5
Altrincham FC Women	North West Women's Regional League – Division One South	Tier 6
Macclesfield FC Women	Cheshire Women's & Youth Football League – Premier Division	Tier 7
Nantwich Town Ladies		
Congleton Town Ladies		
Sandbach United Ladies	Cheshire Women's & Youth Football League – Division One	Tier 8
Egerton FC Women		

2.3: Demand

Through the audit and assessment, a total of 776 teams across 82 clubs are identified as playing regular, competitive matches within Cheshire East. This consists of 136 senior men's, 24 senior women's, 332 youth boys', 60 youth girls' and 224 mini soccer teams (including any designated girls only mini teams).

There are more youth 11v11 teams (30%) when compared to other formats of play, with mini 5v5 teams (11%) being the least represented. This is further summarised in the table below.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 2.9: Summary of competitive teams currently playing in Cheshire East

Analysis area	Sub analysis areas	No. of teams					Total
		Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
North	Knutsford	18	22	14	17	11	82
	Macclesfield	29	43	36	40	26	174
	Poynton	8	7	4	6	2	27
	Wilmslow	9	19	15	8	-	51
							334
Central	Alsager	6	9	3	-	1	19
	Congleton	19	20	16	11	6	72
	Holmes Chapel	6	15	5	6	2	34
	Middlewich	3	9	11	4	2	29
	Sandbach	18	28	12	8	4	70
							224
South	Crewe	24	38	31	29	27	149
	Nantwich	20	21	14	8	6	69
							218
Cheshire East		160	231	161	137	87	776
2021 PPS Study		129	223	128	120	92	692

Included within the above figures are teams from Richmond Rovers FC, which has recently expanded following a merger with Poynton Juniors FC and 8by8 FC. The Club now fields a total of 98 teams across both Cheshire East and Stockport.

There are 334 teams within the North Analysis Area, 224 within the Central Analysis Area and 218 within the South Analysis Area. By sub area, the Macclesfield Analysis Area has the highest number of teams with 174, whilst the Alsager Analysis Area has the fewest with 19. This is reflective of the supply of pitches.

Notwithstanding the above, it should be noted that the large number of mini teams playing in Crewe (29 mini 7v7 teams and 27 mini 5v5 teams) can be linked to the Alexandra Soccer League using the Alexandra Soccer Centre as a central venue. This not only results in all Crewe-based mini teams using the site, but also mini teams from nearby areas such as Nantwich as the League is one of the only mini soccer options servicing this part of Cheshire East. This also explains the minimal number of mini teams playing within Nantwich (eight mini 7v7 and six mini 5v5).

The South Cheshire Youth League also uses a central venue system for mini and youth 9v9 football. The most prominent sites used for this are Alsager Sports Hub, Sandbach Community Football Centre and Cumberland Arena (in Sandbach and Crewe). Again, this leads to a high amount of cross-analysis area activity.

The Alderley Mini Soccer League also uses a central venue system, accessing the 3G pitch at All Hallows Catholic College. This caters for large clubs within and surrounding Wilmslow, such as Wilmslow Sports FC and Alderley United FC.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Of the teams identified, 593 are currently playing on the grass pitches included within this section of the report. The remaining 179 are playing on 3G pitches, predominately due to the use of them by the aforementioned Alderley Mini Soccer League, the Alexandra Soccer League and the South Cheshire Youth League as central venues. This is a considerably high proportion of teams when compared to most other local authorities (see Part 3 for more information).

Participation trends

Since the previous study was last updated in 2021, the total number of teams in Cheshire East has increased significantly from 692 teams to 776 teams (12% increase), despite a decline in pitch supply over the same period of time. This is broken down as an overall increase of 31 adult teams, eight youth 11v11 teams, 33 youth 9v9 teams and 17 mini 7v7 teams. In contrast, there has been a small decline in mini 5v5 demand, amounting to a decrease of five teams.

In connection with the above, more clubs report a growth in demand in recent years compared to those reporting a decrease. In total, 41% of responding clubs report an increase in their number of adult teams, whilst 44% report an increase in youth and mini teams. Only 12% of clubs report any form of decrease.

Women's and girls' demand

The FA's current four-year strategy, 'Time for Change' has a focus on providing all girls with equal access to football by 2024. This focus will be a key objective of any facility investment to ensure that facilities are suitable for female access, particularly in relation to toilets and appropriate changing facilities.

Increasing female participation is currently a key aim for the FA and it therefore reflects well on Cheshire East that the number of female teams has increased by 43 since 2020/2021. There are currently 24 senior women's teams and 60 youth girls' teams across the area, in addition to 12 wildcat centres, as summarised in the table below.

Table 2.10: Summary of Wildcats centres in Cheshire East

Club	Venue	Date & Time
AFC Alsager	Alsager Sports Hub	Monday at 18:00
Cheshire Blades FC	The Peacock Sports Ground	Wednesday at 18:00
Congleton Town FC	Congleton High School	Thursday at 16:45
Vale Juniors	Eaton Bank Academy	Monday at 18:00
Egerton FC	Egerton Youth Club	Wednesday at 17:00
Holmes Chapel Hurricanes	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	Saturday at 09:00
Macclesfield FC	All Hallows Catholic College	Friday at 17:30
	The Macclesfield Academy	Thursday at 17:00
Middlewich Town FC	Middlewich Town Football Club	Tuesday at 18:00
Nantwich Town FC	Nantwich Town Football Club	Friday at 18:00
Sandbach United FC	Sandbach Community Football Centre	Wednesday at 18:00
Tytherington Juniors FC	Tytherington High School	Sunday at 11:30

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Exported/imported demand

Exported demand refers to teams that are currently accessing pitches for home fixtures outside of Cheshire East, despite being registered to the local authority. This is normally because pitch requirements cannot be met.

Overall, 57 teams are identified as being exported outside of Cheshire East to fulfil match demand, all of which are using full size 3G provision. This is primarily due to the use of central venues by leagues, such as the Cheshire Girls Football League, which uses Moss Farm Leisure Complex in Cheshire West & Chester. Cheshire FA reports that it wants to introduce a South Cheshire division of the Cheshire Girls League which would enable this demand to return to Cheshire East; however, this has not been possible due to insufficient access to appropriate facilities.

Clubs expressing exported demand are:

- ◀ Alderley United FC
- ◀ Cheshire Blades FC
- ◀ Crewe FC
- ◀ Macclesfield FC
- ◀ Nantwich Town FC
- ◀ Sandbach United FC
- ◀ Bollington United FC
- ◀ Congleton Town Juniors FC
- ◀ Holmes Chapel Hurricanes FC
- ◀ Middlewich Town FC
- ◀ Tytherington Juniors FC
- ◀ Vale Juniors FC

Overall, the most exported demand is identified amongst mini 7v7 teams (13 match equivalent sessions) and is most prevalent in Macclesfield (nine match equivalent sessions). See below for a breakdown of exported demand playing in other local authorities by analysis area.

Table 2.11: Summary of exported match play demand (by analysis area)

Analysis area	Sub analysis areas	Exported demand (match equivalent sessions)					
		Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
North	Knutsford	-	-	-	-	-	0
	Macclesfield	3	-	1.5	4.5	-	9
	Poynton	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Wilmslow	-	-	-	-	-	0
Central	Alsager	-	-	-	-	-	0
	Congleton	-	0.5	2	2	-	4.5
	Holmes Chapel	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	-	2
	Middlewich		0.5	1	1	-	2.5
	Sandbach	1	2	1	1	-	5
South	Crewe	1	1	3	1	-	6
	Nantwich	-	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	2
Cheshire East		5.5	5	9.5	10.5	0.5	31

In addition, as previously mentioned, Richmond Rovers FC also fields demand outside of Cheshire East, in Stockport. However, this has not been factored into the above figures as the Club is based in both authorities following the recent merger.

Imported demand into Cheshire East is also identified, primarily due to the presence of the Alderley Mini Soccer League, the Alexandra Soccer League and the South Cheshire Youth League and their use of central venues. These attract demand from authorities such as Stockport, Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Latent/unmet demand

Of the responding clubs, Crewe, Egerton, Holmes Chapel Hurricanes, Knutsford, Mobberley Juniors, Nantwich and Richmond Rovers football clubs each report having latent and/or unmet demand, with pitch capacity limiting this growth. Both Crewe FC and Holmes Chapel Hurricanes FC in particular report that they are significantly restricted at their respective home grounds (Cumberland Arena and Cranage Playing Fields, respectively). Consequently, both clubs report having a large waiting list in place.

The latent demand referenced is also considered to be future demand. As such, it is absorbed by the quantifiable figures evidenced below, rather than considered separately.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined via several ways, including through participation increases and by using population forecasts. In addition, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate additional demand that could arise from housing developments across Cheshire East.

Participation growth

From respondents, nine clubs report aspirations to increase the number of teams that they provide. This equates to a predicted growth of 59 teams across Cheshire East.

Table 2.12: Potential team increases identified by clubs

Club	Future demand	Pitch type	Match equivalent sessions
Knutsford FC	1 x youth 11v11	Youth	0.5
	2 x adult	Adult	1
Mobberley Juniors FC	1 x mini 5v5	Mini	0.5
Poynton FC	1 x adult	Adult	0.5
Richmond Rovers FC	5 x mini 5v5	Mini	2.5
	5 x mini 7v7	Mini	2.5
	6 x youth 9v9	Youth	3
	7 x youth 11v11	Youth	3.5
	7 x adult	Adult	3.5
Vale Juniors FC	3 x adult	Adult	1.5
	2 x youth 9v9	Youth	1
	2 x mini 7v7	Mini	1
Willaston White Star FC	1 x youth 11v11	Youth	0.5
Wilmslow Albion FC	2 x adult	Adult	1
Wilmslow Sports Junior FC	2 x mini 5v5	Mini	1
	2 x mini 7v7	Mini	1
	4 x youth 9v9	Youth	2
	3 x youth 11v11	Youth	1.5
Wilmslow Town FC	2 x youth 11v11	Youth	1
	1 x adult	Adult	0.5
Total			26

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

In addition, during consultation, Crewe FC indicates that if its relocation to King George V Playing Fields goes ahead, the Club could reportedly field an additional 34 teams. However, it did not quantify the specifics of this future demand in terms of team age and pitch type. Regardless, this would represent significant growth.

Holmes Chapel Hurricanes FC, Nantwich Town FC and Sandbach United FC also signify an expected growth in teams. However, this is not quantified.

The total future demand quantified by clubs amounts to 29.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Most is expressed in Poynton and on youth 11v11 pitches.

Population growth

Based on population projections to 2030 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for grass football pitches that will arise from any growth. This is through using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers. Team generation rates have then been established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team.

The table below shows the number of new teams that may be generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions per week this will create.

Table 2.13: Projected future demand from population growth

Age group	Team generation rate	Number of new teams generated by the new population ⁴	Match equivalent sessions ⁵
Adult Mens (18-45)	1:434	5	2.5
Adult Womens (18-45)	1:2519	1	0.5
Youth Boys (12-17)	1:48	7	3.5
Youth Girls (12-17)	1:274	1	0.5
Youth Boys (10-11)	1:36	5	2.5
Youth Girls (10-11)	1:174	1	0.5
Mini Mixed (8-9)	1:66	5	2.5
Mini Mixed (6-7)	1:101	3	1.5

As seen, it is anticipated that there will be a growth of 28 additional teams, consisting of six adult, eight youth 11v11, six youth 9v9, five mini 7v7 and three mini 5v5 teams. This represents a large degree of growth.

The growth by analysis area is shown in the following table. The growth is projected across Knutsford, Macclesfield, Wilmslow, Alsager, Congleton, Holmes Chapel, Sandbach and Crewe.

⁴ Rounded to the nearest whole number.

⁵ Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, one team accounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on their relevant pitch type.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 2.14: Summary of future demand identified via population growth

Analysis area	Sub analysis areas	Future demand (no. of teams)					
		Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
North	Knutsford	1	1	1	1	-	-
	Macclesfield	1	1	1	1	1	-
	Poynton	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Wilmslow	1	1	1	-	-	-
Central	Alsager	-	1	-	-	-	-
	Congleton	1	1	1	1	1	-
	Holmes Chapel	-	1	-	-	-	-
	Middlewich	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Sandbach	1	1	1	1	-	-
South	Crewe	1	1	1	1	1	-
	Nantwich	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		6	8	6	5	3	28

Notwithstanding the above, it must be noted that some aims and initiatives are likely to result in participation increasing to a greater level than what is projected through population growth. For example, the FA has a current focus on growing women's and girls demand that will likely see a greater number of female teams than what is currently predicted, especially considering Cheshire FA's aspiration to set up a division of the Cheshire Girls League within the authority.

Future demand summary

In the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section of the report, it is considered unfeasible for all future demand to be factored in. This is because it is likely that club aspirations will absorb the future demand identified through population growth, rather than them being judged separately and therefore double counted. As such, only demand identified through population growth is taken forward, with club demand considered to be more theoretical and aspirational.

Notwithstanding the above, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain a scenario that will consider the impact if club aspirations are also realised.

2.4: Capacity analysis

The capacity for pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of playing football. In extreme circumstances, it can result in the inability of the pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times. Pitch quality is often influenced by weather conditions and drainage.

As a guide, the FA has set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its current quality (pitch capacity).

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Taking into consideration the guidelines on capacity, the following ratings are used:

Adult pitches		Youth pitches		Mini pitches	
Pitch quality	Matches per week	Pitch quality	Matches per week	Pitch quality	Matches per week
Good	3	Good	4	Good	6
Standard	2	Standard	2	Standard	4
Poor	1	Poor	1	Poor	2

Table 2.17 applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play recorded to determine a capacity rating as follows:

Potential capacity	Play is below the level the site could sustain
At capacity	Play matches the level the site can sustain
Overused	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

Match equivalent sessions

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. As the main usage of pitches is likely to be for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions but may for example include training sessions and informal use.

Education sites

To account for curricular/extra-curricular use of education pitches, the current usage at such sites needs to be adjusted. The only time this would not happen is when a school does not use its pitches at all and the sole use is community use. The adjustment is typically dependent on the amount of play carried out, the number of pitches on site and whether there is access to an on-site AGP (as this can result in less grass pitch use).

In some cases, where there is no identified community use, there is little capacity to accommodate further play. Internal usage often exceeds recommended pitch capacity, which is further exacerbated by basic maintenance regimes that may not extend beyond grass cutting and line marking. As such, where not overplayed as a result of community use, many school sites are considered to have no spare capacity to accommodate further usage based on assumed curricular and extracurricular activity.

For school sites which are available for community use, current play has been enlarged on a site-by-site basis following consultation with the providers. Generally, usage is increased by one match equivalent session per pitch; however, in some cases, further use is added when it is known that a particular provider uses a particular pitch heavily.

Informal use

Where information is known, informal and unofficial use of pitches has been factored into current play. This is especially the case at high-traffic open access sites such as King George V Playing Fields, Back Lane and Barony Sports Complex, which are heavily used, particularly during the summer for club training purposes.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

It must be noted that informal use of sites is not recorded and it is therefore difficult to quantify on a site-by-site basis. Instead, it is recommended that popular open access sites be protected through an improved maintenance regime and through retaining some spare capacity to protect quality.

Over marked pitches

Where pitches are overmarked, only the larger pitch type is included within the capacity analysis as it is acknowledged that only one pitch can be used at one time, whilst any usage the larger pitch size receives will also result in usage of the smaller pitch/es within it. However, all usage is recorded, regardless of which of the pitches is accessed.

Peak time

Spare capacity can only be considered as actual spare capacity if pitches are available at peak time. In Cheshire East, peak time is considered to be Sunday AM for adult and youth 11v11 teams, whilst peak time is Saturday AM for youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 teams, as shown in the table below.

Table 2.15: Summary of peak time for playing formats

Playing format	Peak time
Adult	Sunday AM
Youth 11v11	Sunday AM
Youth 9v9	Saturday AM
Mini 7v7	Saturday AM
Mini 5v5	Saturday AM

On occasion, spare capacity in the peak period is identified despite the pitch being played to capacity or overplayed, or more spare capacity is identified in the peak period than the overall spare capacity that exists. This is because most or all of the use on those particular pitches occurs outside of the peak period. Where this is the case, given that peak time usage should not be utilised over and above overall capacity, adjustments have been made.

A pitch is only said to have 'actual spare capacity' if it is available for community use and available at the peak time for that format of play. Any pitch not meeting this criterion is therefore not considered to have additional capacity, although it may have capacity outside of peak time.

There may also be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

Pitches that are of a poor quality are not deemed to have actual spare capacity due to the already low carrying capacity of the pitches. Any identified spare capacity should be retained in order to relieve the pitches of use, which in turn will aid the improvement of pitch quality. Furthermore, any pitches with unsecured tenure are not considered to have actual spare capacity as no further play should be encouraged on such sites given that future access cannot be guaranteed.

The table below identifies the way actual spare capacity is represented in Table 2.17.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 2.16: Spare capacity examples

Spare capacity in peak period (examples)	Explanation of spare capacity
1	If the cell is highlighted in green with a number, it means that the pitches have actual spare capacity at peak time.
-	If the cell has a dash in it, this means that the pitch is unavailable in the peak period. If it was to be made available, actual spare capacity could exist.
0	If the cell has a 0 in it, this means that the pitch is played to capacity either overall, or during the peak period.
1	If the cell has a number in it but is not highlighted, it means the pitch has spare capacity in the peak period; however, this is discounted. This is most commonly due to unsecure tenure and/or poor pitch quality.
1	Pitch is overplayed if the cell is highlight in red.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 2.17: Football pitch capacity analysis

Site ID	Active Places Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Sub area	Management	Type of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity (match sessions)	Capacity balance	Spare capacity available in peak period	Comments
5	1004924	Alsager Leisure Centre	Central	Alsager	Leisure Trust	Secure	Adult	-	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	2	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.
							Youth	11v11	2	Yes-unused	Standard	2	4	4	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.
							Youth	9v9	1	Yes-unused	Standard	2	2	2	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.
7	30003835	Ash Grove Academy	North	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
10	6007154	Audlem Playing Fields	South	Nantwich	Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.
11	6009947	Back Lane	Central	Congleton	Council	Secure	Adult	-	2	Yes	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	1.5	Actual spare capacity.
							Youth	11v11	2	Yes	Standard	3	4	1	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.
12	1018908	Barony Sports Complex	South	Nantwich	Leisure Trust	Secure	Adult	-	4	Yes	Poor	1.5	4	2.5	2.5	Discounted due to poor pitch quality.
13	1200743	Beech Hall School	North	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Youth	11v11	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	1	0	0	Played to capacity.
14	6005247	Beechwood Primary School	Central	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	2	1	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor pitch quality.
15	30002544	Black Firs County Primary	Central	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	7v7	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
16	6005977	Bollington (Atax)	North	Macclesfield	Private	Secure	Youth	11v11	1	Yes	Poor	1	1	0	0	Played to capacity.
17	6006025	Bollington Cross Playing Field	North	Macclesfield	Council	Secure	Youth	11v11	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.
18	1208656	Bollington Recreation Ground	North	Macclesfield	Council	Secure	Youth	11v11	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.
19	6016160	Booth Street Stadium (Congleton Town Football Club)	Central	Congleton	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Yes	Good	2	3	1	1	Discounted as site is used for NLS football.
22	1200868	Brine Leas School	South	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Youth	11v11	3	Yes	Standard	3	6	3	3	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
							Youth	9v9	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
23	6007165	Brookfield Park	South	Nantwich	Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity.
24	3000287	Buglawton Primary School	Central	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Youth	9v9	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
26	6016318	Calveley School	South	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	No	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
27	6005710	Carnival Field	North	Wilmslow	Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
30	6005699	Chorley Hall	North	Wilmslow	Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Yes	Poor	1	1	0	0	Played to capacity.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Active Places Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Sub area	Management	Type of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity (match sessions)	Capacity balance	Spare capacity available in peak period	Comments
32	1036086	Alderley Park (Astra Zeneca)	North	Knutsford	Leisure Trust	Secure	Adult	-	1	Yes	Poor	0	1	1	1	Discounted due to poor pitch quality.
34	1103336	Congleton High School	Central	Congleton	School	Secure	Adult	-	2	Yes	Standard	2	4	2	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
							Youth	11v11	2	Yes	Standard	4.5	4	0.5	0	Overplayed.
							Youth	9v9	2	Yes	Standard	2.5	4	1.5	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.
							Mini	7v7	2	Yes	Standard	3.5	8	4.5	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.
							Mini	5v5	2	Yes	Standard	2	8	6	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.
35	6005662	Congleton Road	North	Macclesfield	Council	Secure	Youth	11v11	3	Yes	Standard	3.5	6	2.5	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.
							Youth	9v9	1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	0	At capacity.
36	6009725	Cranage Playing Fields	Central	Holmes Chapel	Council	Secure	Youth	11v11	1	Yes	Standard	0	2	2	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.
							Youth	9v9	1	Yes	Poor	1	1	0	0	Played to capacity.
37	30003922	Cranberry Academy	Central	Alsager	School	Secure	Mini	5v5	2	No	Standard	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
39	1011522	Cumberland Arena	South	Crewe	Leisure Trust	Secure	Adult	-	1	Yes	Good	2	3	1	1	Actual spare capacity.
42	1208102	Disley Amalgamated Sports Club	North	Poynton	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	11v11	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.
							Youth	9v9	1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.
43	1200863	Eaton Bank Academy	Central	Congleton	School	Secure	Youth	11v11	2	Yes	Standard	9	4	5	-	Overplayed.
							Mini	7v7	1	Yes	Poor	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity.
							Mini	5v5	2	Yes	Poor	1	4	3	2	Discounted due to poor pitch quality.
44	6016072	Egerton Youth Club	North	Knutsford	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Yes	Good	4.5	3	1.5	0	Overplayed.
							Youth	11v11	3	Yes	Standard	13	6	7	0	Overplayed.
							Youth	9v9	1	Yes	Standard	6	2	4	0	Overplayed.
46	1038237	Fallibroome Academy	North	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Adult	-	1	No	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
47	6009919	Forge Fields	Central	Sandbach	Council	Secure	Youth	11v11	1	Yes	Poor	1	1	0	0	Played to capacity
48	30002848	Goodwill Hall Playing Fields, Faddiley	South	Nantwich	Council	Secure	Youth	11v11	1	Yes	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.
49	30002845	Goostrey Playing Fields	Central	Holmes Chapel	Council	Secure	Youth	11v11	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	2	2	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.
52	1041729	Haslington Playing Fields	South	Crewe	Parish	Secure	Adult	-	1	Yes	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Discounted due to poor pitch quality.
55	3000251	Hermitage Primary School	Central	Holmes Chapel	School	Unsecure	Youth	9v9	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
58	1004943	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	Central	Holmes Chapel	Leisure Trust	Secure	Adult	-	1	Yes	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	0	Overplayed.
							Youth	11v11	1	Yes	Standard	7	2	5	0	Overplayed.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Active Places Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Sub area	Management	Type of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity (match sessions)	Capacity balance	Spare capacity available in peak period	Comments
59	30002968	Holmes Chapel Primary School	Central	Holmes Chapel	School	Unsecure	Youth	11v11	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
							Youth	9v9	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
60	30002473	Hungerford Primary School	South	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	7v7	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	2	1	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
61	1208664	Jim Evison Playing Fields	North	Wilmslow	Council	Secure	Adult	-	3	Yes	Standard	3.5	6	2.5	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.
							Youth	11v11	1	Yes	Standard	4	2	2	0	Overplayed.
							Youth	9v9	1	Yes	Standard	4	2	2	0	Overplayed.
							Mini	7v7	1	Yes	Standard	2	4	2	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.
62	30003146	Bunbury Playing Field	South	Nantwich	Parish	Secure	Adult	-	1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity.
							Mini	7v7	1	Yes	Standard	1	4	3	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.
63	30004157	Kerridge Cricket Club	North	Macclesfield	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	9v9	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.
							Mini	7v7	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	4	4	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.
64	6005674	Windmill Park	North	Macclesfield	Council	Secure	Youth	11v11	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.
65	6007227	King George V Playing Fields	South	Crewe	Council	Secure	Adult	-	3	Yes	Standard	2.5	6	3.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
							Youth	9v9	3	Yes-unused	Standard	1	6	5	3	Actual spare capacity
66	1041711	Knutsford Academy	North	Knutsford	School	Secure	Adult	-	2	Yes-unused	Poor	2	2	0	2	Discounted due to poor pitch quality.
67	1004946	Knutsford Leisure Centre	North	Knutsford	Leisure Trust	Secure	Youth	11v11	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	2	2	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.
							Youth	9v9	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	2	2	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.
69	6005725	Lacey Green Pavilion	North	Wilmslow	Council	Secure	Youth	11v11	2	Yes	Poor	5	2	3	-	Overplayed.
70	30002950	Lacey Green Primary Academy	North	Wilmslow	School	Unsecure	Mini	7v7	2	Yes-unused	Standard	1	8	7	2	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
71	1018863	Legends Health & Leisure Centre	South	Crewe	Private	Unsecure	Youth	11v11	2	Yes-unused	Standard	0	4	4	2	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
72	1044198	Lindow Community Primary School	North	Wilmslow	School	Unsecure	Youth	9v9	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
							Mini	7v7	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
73	6008596	Lower Park Primary School	North	Poynton	School	Unsecure	Mini	7v7	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
75	1200932	Malbank School & Sixth Form College	South	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Adult	-	3	Yes	Poor	4	3	1	0	Overplayed.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Active Places Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Sub area	Management	Type of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity (match sessions)	Capacity balance	Spare capacity available in peak period	Comments
77	6002259	Knutsford Football Club (Manchester Road)	North	Knutsford	Sports Club	Unsecure	Adult	-	1	Yes	Good	1.5	3	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
79	30003745	Marlborough Primary School	North	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Mini	7v7	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
80	6005685	Mary Dendy Playing Fields	North	Knutsford	Council	Secure	Adult	-	3	Yes	Good	5	9	4	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.
							Youth	9v9	1	Yes	Good	1	3	2	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.
83	1004950	Middlewich Leisure Centre (High School)	Central	Middlewich	School	Unsecure	Adult	-	1	No	Poor	-	-	-	v-	Unavailable for community use.
84	6021441	Middlewich Town Football Club	Central	Middlewich	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Yes	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	0	Overplayed.
85	6005964	Barnaby Road Playing Fields (Midway)	North	Poynton	Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.
86	6009786	Milton Park	Central	Alsager	Council	Secure	Youth	11v11	1	Yes-unused	Poor	0	1	1	1	Discounted due to poor pitch quality.
93	6005965	Newtown Playing Field	North	Poynton	Council	Secure	Youth	11v11	1	Yes	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	1	Discounted due to poor pitch quality.
94	1036238	Nuffield Fitness & Wellbeing Centre (Radbroke Hall)	North	Knutsford	Private	Unsecure	Youth	11v11	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
95	1038181	Oakwood Farm	North	Wilmslow	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Yes	Poor	1	1	0	0	Played to capacity.
96	6010737	Offley Primary School	Central	Sandbach	School	Unsecure	Mini	7v7	1	No	Standard	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
98	30003830	Peover Superior Endowed Primary School	North	Knutsford	School	Unsecure	Youth	9v9	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	1	0	0	Played to capacity.
99	6016026	Pikemere School	Central	Alsager	School	Unsecure	Mini	7v7	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	2	1	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor pitch quality.
101	30003411	Pownall Hall School	North	Wilmslow	School	Unsecure	Youth	9v9	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
							Mini	7v7	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
102	1041692	Poynton High School	North	Poynton	School	Unsecure	Adult	-	1	No	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
							Youth	9v9	1	No	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
							Mini	7v7	3	No	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
103	1036696	Poynton Sports Club	North	Poynton	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Yes	Good	1.5	3	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
105	1101021	Reaseheath College	South	Nantwich	College	Unsecure	Adult	-	1	Yes	Good	1.5	3	1.5	0.5	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Active Places Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Sub area	Management	Type of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity (match sessions)	Capacity balance	Spare capacity available in peak period	Comments
106	1201163	Ruskin Community High School	South	Crewe	School	Secure	Adult	-	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity.
							Youth	11v11	2	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.
107	1042075	Sandbach Community Football Centre	Central	Sandbach	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	-	2	Yes	Good	6.5	6	0.5	0	Overplayed.
							Youth	11v11	5	Yes	Good	12	20	8	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.
							Youth	9v9	2	Yes	Good	5	8	3	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.
109	1200857	Sandbach High School & Sixth Form Centre (Girls)	Central	Sandbach	School	Secure	Youth	11v11	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.
110	1200738	Sandbach School (Boys)	Central	Sandbach	School	Unsecure	Adult	-	1	No	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
							Youth	11v11	3	No	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
							Mini	7v7	2	No	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
111	N/A	Shavington Academy	South	Crewe	School	Secure	Adult	-	2	Yes	Standard	2	4	2	2	Actual spare capacity.
							Youth	11v11	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.
							Mini	7v7	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	4	4	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.
113	1004935	Sir William Stanier School	South	Crewe	School	Secure	Adult	-	1	Yes-unused	Poor	0	1	1	1	Discounted due to poor pitch quality.
							Youth	11v11	3	Yes-unused	Poor	0	3	3	3	Discounted due to poor pitch quality.
114	1200693	Cheshire College South & West	South	Crewe	College	Unsecure	Adult	-	1	Yes-unused	Good	1	3	2	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
115	30002466	South Park	North	Macclesfield	Council	Secure	Youth	11v11	1	Yes	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	1	Discounted due to poor pitch quality.
117	1040058	St John's Road	Central	Congleton	Council	Secure	Youth	11v11	1	Yes	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	0	Overplayed.
118	1200978	St John's Wood Academy	North	Knutsford	School	Unsecure	Adult	-	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
119	1200761	St Thomas More Catholic High School	South	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Adult	-	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
							Youth	11v11	1	No	Standard	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
120	6016012	Styal Playing Fields	North	Wilmslow	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Yes	Good	1	3	2	1	Actual spare capacity.
121	6009951	Sutton Lane Playing Field	Central	Middlewich	Council	Secure	Youth	11v11	3	Yes-unused	Standard	0	6	6	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.
							Youth	9v9	1	Yes	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	1	Discounted due to poor pitch quality.
122	30002888	Terra Nova School	Central	Holmes Chapel	School	Unsecure	Youth	11v11	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Active Places Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Sub area	Management	Type of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity (match sessions)	Capacity balance	Spare capacity available in peak period	Comments
							Youth	9v9	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
							Mini	7v7	2	Yes-unused	Standard	2	8	6	2	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
123	3000405	The Berkeley Academy	South	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	7v7	1	No	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
128	1038139	The Macclesfield Academy/ Macclesfield College	North	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Adult	-	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
							Youth	11v11	2	Yes	Standard	5.5	4	1.5	0	Overplayed.
							Youth	9v9	1	Yes	Standard	3.5	2	1.5	0	Overplayed.
129	1200844	The Oaks Academy	South	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Youth	11v11	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	1	0	0	Played to capacity.
							Youth	9v9	2	Yes-unused	Poor	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity.
							Mini	5v5	2	Yes-unused	Poor	2	4	2	2	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
130	30002984	The Peacock Sports Ground	South	Crewe	Council	Secure	Youth	11v11	2	Yes	Standard	9.5	4	5.5	-	Overplayed.
132	6005683	Tytherington Pitches (Rugby Drive)	North	Macclesfield	Council	Secure	Youth	11v11	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.
							Youth	9v9	1	Yes	Standard	7	2	5	0	Overplayed.
133	6015985	Upcast Lane	North	Wilmslow	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	11v11	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.
							Youth	11v11	1	Yes	Poor	2.5	1	1.5	0	Overplayed.
134	6005701	Victoria Park	North	Macclesfield	Council	Secure	Youth	11v11	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.
136	6005659	Weston Playing Field	North	Macclesfield	Council	Secure	Youth	11v11	1	Yes-unused	Poor	0	1	1	1	Discounted due to quality.
138	30003977	Whirley Primary School	North	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
139	6007369	Willaston White Star Football Club	South	Crewe	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	11v11	2	Yes	Standard	3	4	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time.
140	6016375	Wilmslow Grange Primary School	North	Wilmslow	School	Secure	Mini	7v7	1	No	Standard	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
141	1201174	Wilmslow High School	North	Wilmslow	School	Unsecure	Adult	-	2	No	Standard	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
							Youth	11v11	2	No	Standard	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
							Youth	9v9	2	No	Standard	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
144	6015986	Eric Swan Sports Ground	South	Crewe	Community Organisation	Secure	Adult	-	1	Yes	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	0	Overplayed.
145	6018651	Wood Park	Central	Alsager	Council	Secure	Youth	11v11	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	2	2	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.
146	6009995	Wood Park Stadium (Alsager Town Football Club)	Central	Alsager	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Yes	Good	1	3	2	1	Actual spare capacity.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Active Places Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Sub area	Management	Type of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity (match sessions)	Capacity balance	Spare capacity available in peak period	Comments
147	1041863	Wrenbury Recreation Ground	South	Nantwich	Leisure Trust	Secure	Youth	11v11	1	Yes	Poor	1	1	0	0	Played to capacity.
							Mini	5v5	1	Yes-unused	Poor	0	2	2	1	Discounted due to poor pitch quality.
148	6007237	Wynbury Playing Fields	South	Nantwich	Council	Secure	Mini	7v7	1	Yes	Poor	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity.
149	N/A	Wistaston Church Lane Primary School	South	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	7v7	1	No	Standard	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
							Mini	5v5	1	No	Standard	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
150	30005617	Crewe Alexandra Football Club	South	Crewe	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	-	1	No	Good	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
151	1200789	All Hallows Catholic College	North	Macclesfield	School	Secure	Youth	11v11	2	Yes	Poor	3.5	2	1.5	0	Overplayed.
162	1009521	Tytherington High School	North	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Youth	11v11	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
							Youth	9v9	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
163	30007527	Reaseheath Training Complex	South	Nantwich	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	-	2	No	Good	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
							Youth	11v11	2	No	Good	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
							Youth	9v9	2	No	Good	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
164	N/A	Acton Primary School	South	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	No	Standard	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
165	N/A	Adlington Primary School	North	Poynton	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	No	Standard	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
166	N/A	Alderley Edge Community Primary School	North	Wilmslow	School	Unsecure	Mini	7v7	1	Yes	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
167	N/A	Alsager Highfields Primary School	Central	Alsager	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
168	N/A	Ashdene Primary School	North	Wilmslow	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
169	N/A	Astbury St Mary's CE Primary	Central	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	No	Standard	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
170	N/A	Audlem St James CE Primary	South	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	7v7	1	No	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
171	N/A	Bickerton Holy Trinity Primary School	South	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	2	Yes-unused	Poor	2	4	2	2	Discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor pitch quality.
172	N/A	Bollinbrook Primary School	North	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Mini	7v7	1	Yes	Standard	3	4	1	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor pitch quality.
174	N/A	Brereton Primary School	Central	Sandbach	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Active Places Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Sub area	Management	Type of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity (match sessions)	Capacity balance	Spare capacity available in peak period	Comments
175	N/A	Bridgemere Primary School	South	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	2	1	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor pitch quality.
176	N/A	Broken Cross Community School	North	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Mini	7v7	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	2	1	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor pitch quality.
178	N/A	Christ the King Primary	North	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	2	1	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor pitch quality.
179	N/A	Cledford Primary School	Central	Middlewich	School	Unsecure	Mini	7v7	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	2	1	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor pitch quality.
180	N/A	Daven Primary School	Central	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	7v7	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
181	N/A	Dean Oaks Primary School	North	Wilmslow	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
182	N/A	Disley Primary School	North	Poynton	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	No	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
184	N/A	Elworth Primary School	Central	Sandbach	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	No	Standard	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
185	N/A	Excalibur Primary School	Central	Alsager	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	No	Standard	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
187	N/A	Haslington Primary School	South	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
188	N/A	Havannah Primary School	Central	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	No	Standard	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
190	N/A	Hollinhey Primary School	North	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Youth	9v9	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
191	N/A	Hurdsfield Community Primary School	North	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Youth	9v9	1	Yes	Poor	2.5	1	1.5	0	Overplayed.
192	N/A	Ivy Bank Primary School	North	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Mini	7v7	1	No	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
194	N/A	Little Bollington Primary	North	Knutsford	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	No	Standard	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
195	N/A	Lostock Hall Primary School	North	Poynton	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	2	Yes-unused	Standard	2	8	6	2	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
196	N/A	Mablins Lane Community Primary School	South	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	No	Standard	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
197	N/A	Manor Park Primary School	North	Knutsford	School	Unsecure	Mini	7v7	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	2	1	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor pitch quality.
198	N/A	Marlfields Primary School	Central	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
199	N/A	Middlewich Primary School	Central	Middlewich	School	Unsecure	Youth	9v9	2	Yes	Standard	3	4	1	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
							Youth	11v11	1	Yes	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	0	Overplayed.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Active Places Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Sub area	Management	Type of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity (match sessions)	Capacity balance	Spare capacity available in peak period	Comments
200	N/A	Millfields Primary School	South	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	No	Standard	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
202	N/A	Mossley CE Primary	Central	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	7v7	1	No	Standard	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
203	N/A	Nether Alderley Primary School	North	Knutsford	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	2	1	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor pitch quality.
204	N/A	Pear Tree Primary School	South	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	7v7	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
206	N/A	Puss Bank Primary School	North	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Mini	7v7	2	Yes	Poor	2.5	4	1.5	2	Discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor pitch quality.
207	N/A	Rainow Primary School	North	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	No	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
208	N/A	Rode Heath Primary School	Central	Alsager	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	2	No	Standard	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
209	N/A	Sandbach Community Primary School	Central	Sandbach	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	No	Standard	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
210	N/A	Scholar Green Primary School	Central	Alsager	School	Unsecure	Mini	7v7	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
211	1041822	Shavington Primary School	South	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	7v7	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
215	N/A	St Anne's Catholic Primary	South	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	No	Standard	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
216	N/A	St Anne's Fulshaw Primary	North	Wilmslow	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
217	N/A	St Benedict's Catholic Primary	North	Wilmslow	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
219	N/A	St John's Primary (Sandbach)	Central	Sandbach	School	Unsecure	Mini	7v7	1	No	Standard	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
220	N/A	St Mary's Primary School (Congleton)	Central	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	No	Standard	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
221	N/A	St Mary's Primary School (Crewe)	South	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	7v7	1	No	Standard	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
226	N/A	Stapeley Broad Lane Primary	South	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	No	Standard	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
227	N/A	Styal Primary School	North	Wilmslow	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	2	1	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor pitch quality.
229	N/A	The Quinta Academy	Central	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	7v7	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
230	N/A	Upton Priory Primary School	North	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Mini	7v7	2	Yes	Standard	2.5	8	5.5	2	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
231	30005513	Vernon Infant School	North	Poynton	School	Secure	Youth	9v9	1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Active Places Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Sub area	Management	Type of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity (match sessions)	Capacity balance	Spare capacity available in peak period	Comments
234	30005658	Weaver Primary School	South	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Youth	11v11	2	Yes-unused	Standard	2	4	2	2	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
							Youth	9v9	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
							Mini	7v7	4	Yes-unused	Standard	4	16	12	4	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
236	N/A	Wheelock Primary School	Central	Sandbach	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	No	Standard	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
237	N/A	Willaston Primary School	South	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	No	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
238	N/A	Wistaston Green Primary School	South	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	7v7	1	No	Standard	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
240	N/A	Worth Primary School	North	Poynton	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
241	N/A	Wrenbury Primary School	South	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	No	Standard	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
242	N/A	Wybunbury Delves Primary School	South	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
247	3000471	Prestbury Playing Fields	North	Macclesfield	Parish	Secure	Youth	11v11	1	Yes-unused	Poor	0	2	2	1	Discounted due to poor pitch quality.
248	N/A	Jasmine Park	North	Macclesfield	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	11v11	2	Yes	Standard	5.5	2	3.5	0	Overplayed.
249	6005975	Mount Vernon	North	Poynton	Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity.
250	N/A	St Gregory's Catholic Primary School	North	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
251	N/A	Dean Valley Primary School	North	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
253	3000859	Alsager Sports Hub	Central	Alsager	Leisure Trust	Secure	Adult	-	1	Yes	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	0	Overplayed.
							Youth	11v11	2	Yes	Standard	4	4	0	0	Played to capacity.
							Youth	9v9	2	Yes	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.
257	6005762	Deva Playing Fields	North	Poynton	Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Yes-unused	Poor	0	1	1	1	Discounted due to poor pitch quality.
							Youth	11v11	2	Yes	Poor	1.5	2	0.5	1	Discounted due to poor pitch quality.
260	30006868	Ilford Playing Fields (Mobberley)	North	Knutsford	Council	Secure	Youth	11v11	1	Yes	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	0	Overplayed.
261	30004799	Over Peover Parish Playing Fields	North	Knutsford	Parish	Secure	Adult	-	1	Yes-unused	Poor	0	1	1	1	Discounted due to poor pitch quality.
266	N/A	Joey the Swan Playing Fields	South	Crewe	Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Yes-unused	Poor	0	1	1	1	Discounted due to poor pitch quality.

CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Active Places Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Sub area	Management	Type of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity (match sessions)	Capacity balance	Spare capacity available in peak period	Comments
							Mini	7v7	1	Yes-unused	Poor	0	2	2	1	Discounted due to poor pitch quality.
267	N/A	The Wilmslow Academy	North	Wilmslow	School	Unsecure	Mini	7v7	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
268	N/A	Gawsworth Primary School	North	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Youth	11v11	1	Yes	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	-	Overplayed.
269	N/A	Fermain Academy	North	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Youth	11v11	1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	-	Played to capacity.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Actual spare capacity

The table below identifies actual spare capacity by site and pitch type across Cheshire East. It totals 13.5 match equivalent sessions per week and is identified across 17 pitches at 11 sites.

Table 2.18: Actual (peak time) spare capacity site by site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Sub area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match sessions)
11	Back Lane	Central	Congleton	Adult	2	1.5
23	Brookfield Park	South	Nantwich	Adult	1	1
27	Carnival Field	North	Wilmslow	Adult	1	0.5
39	Cumberland Arena	South	Crewe	Adult	1	1
65	King George V Playing Fields	South	Crewe	Adult	3	0.5
				Youth 9v9	3	3
77	Knutsford Football Club (Manchester Road)	North	Knutsford	Adult	1	0.5
103	Poynton Sports Club	North	Poynton	Adult	1	0.5
106	Ruskin Community High School	South	Crewe	Adult	1	1
111	Shavington Academy	South	Crewe	Adult	1	1
120	Styal Playing Fields	North	Wilmslow	Adult	1	1
146	Wood Park Stadium (Alsager Town Football Club)	Central	Alsager	Adult	2	2
Total					17	13.5

Actual spare capacity is broken down by analysis area and pitch type in the table below. It is only identified predominately on adult pitches and is most prevalent in Crewe (6.5 match equivalent sessions per week). No actual spare capacity is found on youth 11v11, mini 7v7 or mini 5v5 pitches.

Table 2.19: Actual spare capacity summary

Analysis area	Sub area	Actual spare capacity (match sessions per week)					
		Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
North	Knutsford	0.5	-	-	-	-	0.5
	Macclesfield	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Poynton	0.5	-	-	-	-	0.5
	Wilmslow	1.5	-	-	-	-	1.5
Central	Alsager	2	-	-	-	-	2
	Congleton	1.5	-	-	-	-	1.5
	Holmes Chapel	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Middlewich	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Sandbach	-	-	-	-	-	-
South	Crewe	3.5	-	3	-	-	6.5
	Nantwich	1	-	-	-	-	1
Cheshire East		10.5	0	3	0	0	13.5

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

In addition, 110.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity are discounted due to poor quality or unsecure tenure, or a combination of both. This is considerable.

Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it can sustain (based on its quality rating), which can often be due to the low carrying capacity of pitches. In Cheshire East, 39 pitches across 22 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 57 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 2.20: Overplay on pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Sub area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match sessions)
34	Congleton High School	Central	Congleton	Youth (11v11)	2	0.5
43	Eaton Bank Academy	Central	Congleton	Youth (11v11)	2	5
44	Egerton Youth Club	North	Knutsford	Adult	1	1.5
				Youth (11v11)	3	7
				Youth (9v9)	1	4
58	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	Central	Holmes Chapel	Adult	1	0.5
				Youth (11v11)	1	5
61	Jim Evison Playing Fields	North	Wilmslow	Youth (11v11)	1	2
				Youth (9v9)	1	2
69	Lacey Green Pavilion	North	Wilmslow	Youth (11v11)	2	3
75	Malbank School & Sixth Form College	South	Nantwich	Adult	3	1
84	Middlewich Town Football Club	Central	Middlewich	Adult	1	0.5
107	Sandbach Community Football Centre	Central	Sandbach	Adult	2	0.5
117	St John's Road	Central	Congleton	Youth (11v11)	1	0.5
128	The Macclesfield Academy/Macclesfield College	North	Macclesfield	Youth (11v11)	2	1.5
				Youth (9v9)	1	1.5
130	The Peacock Sports Ground	South	Crewe	Youth (11v11)	2	5.5
132	Tytherington Pitches (Rugby Drive)	North	Macclesfield	Youth (9v9)	1	5
133	Upcast Lane	North	Wilmslow	Youth (11v11)	1	1.5
144	Eric Swan Sports Ground	South	Crewe	Adult	1	0.5
151	All Hallows Catholic College	North	Macclesfield	Youth (11v11)	2	1.5
191	Hurdsfield Community Primary School	North	Macclesfield	Youth (9v9)	1	1.5

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Sub area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match sessions)
199	Middlewich Primary School	Central	Middlewich	Youth (11v11)	1	0.5
248	Jasmine Park	North	Macclesfield	Youth (11v11)	2	3.5
253	Alsager Sports Hub	Central	Alsager	Adult	1	0.5
260	Ilford Playing Fields (Mobberley)	North	Knutsford	Youth (11v11)	1	0.5
268	Gawsworth Primary School	North	Macclesfield	Youth (11v11)	1	0.5
Totals					39	57

Overplay is broken down by analysis area and pitch type in the following table. The highest level of overplay is identified on youth 11v11 pitches (38 match equivalent sessions per week) and in Macclesfield (15 match equivalent sessions per week).

Table 2.21: Overplay summary

Analysis area	Sub analysis areas	Overplay (match sessions per week)					
		Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
North	Knutsford	1.5	7.5	4	-	-	13
	Macclesfield	-	7	8	-	-	15
	Poynton	-	-	-	-	-	0
	Wilmslow	-	6.5	2	-	-	8.5
Central	Alsager	0.5	-	-	-	-	0.5
	Congleton	-	6	-	-	-	6
	Holmes Chapel	0.5	5	-	-	-	5.5
	Middlewich	0.5	0.5	-	-	-	1
	Sandbach	0.5	-	-	-	-	0.5
South	Crewe	0.5	5.5	-	-	-	6
	Nantwich	1	-	-	-	-	1
Cheshire East		5	38	14	0	0	57

Of the overplayed pitches, eight are assessed as poor quality, whereby their low carrying capacity contributes to the overuse. Moreover, some of the overplayed pitches are over marked by other pitch types, which intensifies their usage and either causes the overplay or makes it significantly worse (e.g., at Peacock Sports Ground and Egerton Youth Club).

When compared to 2020/21 findings, overplay has remained the same, although it is now present at seven fewer sites. This suggests more concentrated use at some key sites such as Egerton Youth Club.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

2.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify current demand (i.e., spare capacity taking away overplay) in each of the analysis areas for the different pitch types, based on match equivalent sessions. Future demand is then also considered, based on future growth identified through population increases.

Adult football

Overall spare capacity exists currently on adult pitches, with this amounting to 5.5 match equivalent sessions per week. However, shortfalls are evident in Knutsford in the North Analysis Area and in Holmes Chapel, Middlewich and Sandbach in the Central Analysis Area.

When accounting for future demand through population growth, six additional teams are expected to be generated (three match equivalent sessions per week). This leads to minimal spare capacity remaining, with this amounting to 2.5 match equivalent sessions. A shortfall is also created in Macclesfield.

Table 2.22: Supply and demand position for adult pitches

Analysis area	Sub area	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
North	Knutsford	0.5	1.5	1	0.5	1.5
	Macclesfield	-	-	0	0.5	0.5
	Poynton	0.5	-	0.5	-	0.5
	Wilmslow	1.5	-	1.5	0.5	1
Central	Alsager	2	0.5	1.5	-	1.5
	Congleton	1.5	-	1.5	0.5	1
	Holmes Chapel	-	0.5	0.5	-	1
	Middlewich	-	0.5	0.5	-	0.5
	Sandbach	-	0.5	0.5	0.5	1
South	Crewe	3.5	0.5	3	0.5	2.5
	Nantwich	1	1	0	-	0
Cheshire East		10.5	5	5.5	3	2.5

Youth 11v11 football

There is a considerable shortfall of youth 11v11 pitch capacity identified, with this currently amounting to 38 match equivalent sessions per week. Shortfalls are evidenced in Knutsford, Macclesfield, Wilmslow, Congleton, Holmes Chapel, Middlewich and Crewe.

When accounting for future demand, eight additional teams are expected to be generated (four match equivalent sessions per week). This leads to a future shortfall of 42 match equivalent sessions per week, with a shortfall also established in Sandbach.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 2.23: Supply and demand position for youth 11v11 pitches

Analysis area	Sub area	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
North	Knutsford	-	7.5	7.5	0.5	8
	Macclesfield	-	7	7	0.5	7.5
	Poynton	-	-	0	-	0
	Wilmslow	-	6.5	6.5	0.5	7
Central	Alsager	-	-	0	0.5	0.5
	Congleton	-	6	6	0.5	6.5
	Holmes Chapel	-	5	5	0.5	5.5
	Middlewich	-	0.5	0.5	-	0.5
	Sandbach	-	-	0	0.5	0.5
South	Crewe	-	5.5	5.5	0.5	6
	Nantwich	-	-	0	-	0
Cheshire East		0	38	38	4	42

Youth 9v9 football

There is a current shortfall of youth 9v9 pitch capacity identified, with this amounting to 11 match equivalent sessions per week. Shortfalls are evidenced in Knutsford, Macclesfield, and Wilmslow, all of which are in the North Analysis Area.

When accounting for future demand, six additional teams are expected to be generated (three match equivalent sessions per week). This leads to a future shortfall of 14 match equivalent sessions, with a shortfall also established in Congleton and Sandbach.

Table 2.24: Supply and demand position for youth 9v9 pitches

Analysis area	Sub area	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
North	Knutsford	-	4	4	0.5	4.5
	Macclesfield	-	8	8	0.5	8.5
	Poynton	-	-	0	-	0
	Wilmslow	-	2	2	0.5	2.5
Central	Alsager	-	-	0	-	0
	Congleton	-	-	0	0.5	0.5
	Holmes Chapel	-	-	0	-	0
	Middlewich	-	-	0	-	0
	Sandbach	-	-	0	0.5	0.5
South	Crewe	3	-	3	0.5	2.5
	Nantwich	-	-	0	-	0
Cheshire East		3	14	11	3	14

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Mini 7v7 football

Mini 7v7 pitches are currently operating at capacity, with no actual spare capacity or overplay. This is partly a consequence of most demand utilising the 3G pitches across Cheshire East.

When accounting for future demand, five additional teams are expected to be generated (2.5 match equivalent sessions per week). This theoretically leads to a future capacity shortfall in Knutsford, Macclesfield, Congleton, Sandbach and Crewe, although it is likely that the growth will also be accommodated on the 3G pitch stock.

Table 2.25: Supply and demand position for mini 7v7 pitches

Analysis area	Sub area	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
North	Knutsford	-	-	0	0.5	0.5
	Macclesfield	-	-	0	0.5	0.5
	Poynton	-	-	0	-	0
	Wilmslow	-	-	0	-	0
Central	Alsager	-	-	0	-	0
	Congleton	-	-	0	0.5	0.5
	Holmes Chapel	-	-	0	-	0
	Middlewich	-	-	0	-	0
	Sandbach	-	-	0	0.5	0.5
South	Crewe	-	-	0	0.5	0.5
	Nantwich	-	-	0	-	0
Cheshire East		0	0	0	2.5	2.5

Mini 5v5 football

As with mini 7v7 pitches, mini 5v5 pitches are also currently operating at capacity, with 3G provision generally being utilised instead of grass pitches for this format of play.

When accounting for future demand, three additional teams are expected to be generated (1.5 match equivalent sessions per week). This will lead to a future shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week and shortfalls in Macclesfield, Congleton and Crewe, if grass pitches are used.

Table 2.26: Supply and demand position for mini 5v5 pitches

Analysis area	Sub area	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
North	Knutsford	-	-	0	-	0
	Macclesfield	-	-	0	0.5	0.5
	Poynton	-	-	0	-	0
	Wilmslow	-	-	0	-	0
Central	Alsager	-	-	0	-	0
	Congleton	-	-	0	0.5	0.5
	Holmes Chapel	-	-	0	-	0
	Middlewich	-	-	0	-	0
	Sandbach	-	-	0	-	0

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Analysis area	Sub area	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
South	Crewe	-	-	0	0.5	0.5
	Nantwich	-	-	0	-	0
Cheshire East		0	0	0	1.5	1.5

2.6: Conclusion

Using the supply and demand tables above, the table below summarises the overall supply and demand balance by pitch type in Cheshire East.

Table 2.27: Summary of supply and demand

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult	10.5	5	5.5	3	2.5
Youth 11v11	0	38	38	4	42
Youth 9v9	3	14	11	3	14
Mini 7v7	0	0	0	2.5	2.5
Mini 5v5	0	0	0	1.5	1.5

Overall, it is determined that there is current and future spare capacity for adult football, but a significant shortfall of capacity of both youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 football. Mini football is being played to capacity on grass pitches on account of 3G pitches also being utilised.

Changes since the previous study

When compared to the findings of the last update of the previous study, there is now a larger shortfall of youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches. However, historic shortfalls of adult, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches have been eradicated, despite a growth in demand within these formats of play. For adult football, this is seemingly a consequence of many youth 11v11 teams transferring away from adult pitches (consequently resulting in the increased youth 11v11 pitch shortfalls), whereas for mini pitches it is due to an increased level of activity taking place via 3G pitches.

Table 2.28: Supply and demand comparison to previous PPS update (2021)

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
	2021 current total	2023 current total	2021 future total	2023 future total
Adult	6	5.5	7	2.5
Youth 11v11	14	38	27	42
Youth 9v9	10.5	11	16	14
Mini 7v7	3	0	4.5	2.5
Mini 5v5	0.5	0	6.5	1.5

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Football – supply and demand summary

- ▶ In total, 17 pitches display some level of actual spare capacity across 11 sites, equating to 13.5 match equivalent sessions, whereas 39 pitches across 22 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 57 match equivalent sessions per week.
- ▶ Overall, it is determined that there is current and future spare capacity for adult football and a significant shortfall of capacity for both youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 football, whilst mini football is at capacity.
- ▶ There is now a larger shortfall of youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches when compared to 2021 findings, although previous shortfalls of adult and mini pitches have been eradicated.
- ▶ For adult football, the improved picture is seemingly a consequence of many youth teams transferring demand (resulting in the increased youth pitch shortfalls), whereas for mini pitches it is due to an increased level of activity taking place via 3G pitches.

Football – supply summary

- ▶ The audit identifies 310 grass football pitches within Cheshire East across 172 sites, with 250 pitches available for community use across 136 sites.
- ▶ Overall, since the 2021 PPS study, the total number of pitches has decreased by 10%.
- ▶ There are seven disused sites identified that previously offered football pitches.
- ▶ Future provision could be established at Land North of Glastonbury Drive as well as at the Crown Estates site in Knutsford, as part of the Garden Village development in Handforth, and at Egerton Youth Club.
- ▶ 30 teams (representing 4% of demand) are currently without security of tenure at their venues, including Knutsford FC following the expiration of its lease agreement.
- ▶ Of the community available pitches, 130 are managed by education operators, 85 by the Council or its leisure provider, 32 by clubs and three by other entities.
- ▶ 24 community available pitches are assessed as good quality, 165 as standard and 61 as poor.
- ▶ There are 91 pitches not serviced by accessible changing accommodation, whilst 52 are serviced by poor quality facilities.

Football - demand summary

- ▶ A total of 776 teams across 82 clubs are identified as playing within Cheshire East, with this equating to 136 senior men's, 24 senior women's, 332 youth boys', 60 youth girls' and 224 mini soccer teams.
- ▶ Since the previous study was last updated in 2021, the total number of teams has increased from 692 teams, representing a growth of 84 teams, which is substantial.
- ▶ Overall, 57 teams are exported outside of Cheshire East to fulfil match demand, although this is predominately due to accessing central venue structures.
- ▶ Many teams import demand into Cheshire East, which is also a consequence of central venues being used by leagues such as the Alexandra Soccer League and the South Cheshire Youth League.
- ▶ Seven clubs indicate that they could field more teams if they had access to more pitches (latent/unmet demand).
- ▶ Team generation rates predict an increase amounting to six adult, eight youth 11v11, six youth 9v9, five mini 7v7 and three mini 5v5 teams, whilst nine clubs have aspirations to grow by a total of 59 teams.
- ▶ Crewe FC, Holmes Chapel Hurricanes FC, Nantwich Town FC and Sandbach United FC also express an aspiration to grow but do not quantify this potential.

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

PART 3: THIRD GENERATION TURF (3G) ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES (AGPS)

3.1: Introduction

Competitive football can take place on 3G surfaces that have been FIFA or International Matchball Standard tested and approved by the FA for inclusion on the FA pitch register. As such, in addition to training demand, a growing number of 3G pitches are now used for match play, providing that the performance standard meets FIFA quality requirements.

World Rugby produced the 'Performance Specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22', which provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. The artificial surface standards identified in Regulation 22 allows matches and full contact training to be played on surfaces that meet the required standard, meaning full contact activity, including tackling, rucking, mauling and lineouts, can take place.

Competitive rugby league play and contact practice is permitted to take place on 3G pitches which are deemed by the Rugby Football League (RFL) to meet its Performance Standard. Pitches fall under two categories; community club pitches which require retesting every two years and elite stadia pitches which require an annual retest. Much of the criteria within the RFL performance standard test also forms part of the World Rugby test, meaning World Rugby certified 3G pitches are considered by the RFL to be able to meet rugby league requirements, subject to passing an additional RFL performance standard test.

Many test contractors offer reduced rates through efficiency savings to carry out multiple performance tests in the same session, therefore providers seeking 3G pitch compliance for a number of sports would be recommended to consider this opportunity. Other sports that are known to use 3G pitches for training and match play include American football and lacrosse.

EH's Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy (June 2016) advises that 3G pitches should not be used for hockey matches or training and that they can only be used for lower level hockey (introductory level) as a last resort when no sand-based or water-based AGPs are available.

3.2: Supply

The recommended dimensions for a full size 3G artificial grass pitch for football are 100 x 64 metres. This extends to an area of 106 x 70 metres with the recommended minimum three metre run off area included. These dimensions allow for all age group match play to take place including adults, youth under 17/18 and younger age groups via overmarked pitches, e.g. the marking out of two 9v9 pitches for under 11/12s.

If a new pitch is proposed to measure below the recommended dimensions, then justification must be provided for this in relation to the identified needs it will provide for and/or site constraints. In doing so, the impacts of a reduced pitch size in meeting current and future needs must be considered, e.g., a pitch not providing the recommended dimensions for adult match play and/or only being able to accommodate one rather than two overmarked 9v9 pitches. This justification needs to be included in the planning application details submitted to the relevant Local Planning Authority for the new pitch.

Unless otherwise stated and justified for an individual pitch, proposals in this PPS for any new 3G artificial grass pitches are based on providing them to the recommended dimensions.

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

There are currently 16 full size 3G pitches in Cheshire East, provided across 15 sites (Nantwich Town Football Club hosts two). Each pitch is serviced by sports lighting and 15 are available for community use (the pitch at Reaseheath Training Complex is considered to unavailable due to access being reserved for professional club Crewe Alexandra FC).

Table 3.1: Full size 3G pitches in Cheshire East

Site ID	Active Places Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Sub area	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Size (meters)
3	1103330	Alexandra Soccer Centre	CW2 5AF	South	Crewe	Yes	Yes	104 x 76
5	1004924	Alsager Leisure Centre	ST7 2HP	Central	Alsager	Yes	Yes	102 x 62
34	1103336	Congleton High School	CW12 4NS	Central	Congleton	Yes	Yes	100 x 61
39	1011522	Cumberland Arena	CW1 2BD	South	Crewe	Yes	Yes	97 x 60
43	1200863	Eaton Bank Academy	CW12 1NT	Central	Congleton	Yes	Yes	104 x 69
44	6016072	Egerton Youth Club	WA16 6SL	North	Knutsford	Yes	Yes	104 x 71
58	1004943	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	CW4 7DZ	Central	Holmes Chapel	Yes	Yes	96 x 61
83	1004950	Middlewich High School (Leisure Centre)	CW10 9BU	Central	Middlewich	Yes	Yes	97 x 63
88	6004609	Moss Rose Stadium	SK11 7SP	North	Macclesfield	Yes	Yes	105 x 74
91	1037543	Nantwich Town Football Club	CW5 5BS	South	Nantwich	Yes	Yes	102 x 64
						Yes	Yes	100 x 68
105	1101021	Reaseheath College	CW5 6DF	South	Nantwich	Yes	Yes	130 x 80
107	1042075	Sandbach Community Football Centre	CW11 3LZ	Central	Sandbach	Yes	Yes	105 x 70
151	1200789	All Hallows Catholic College	SK11 8LB	North	Macclesfield	Yes	Yes	106 x 70
163	30007527	Reaseheath Training Complex	CW5 6EL	South	Nantwich	No	Yes	106 x 73
253	3000859	Alsager Sports Hub	ST7 2TH	Central	Alsager	Yes	Yes	106 x 70

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Of the community available pitches, three are in the North Analysis Area, seven in the Central Analysis Area and five in the South Analysis Area. This is summarised in the following table.

Table 3.2: Summary of the community available 3G pitches by analysis area

Analysis area	Sub area	Full size pitches available for community use
North	Knutsford	1
	Macclesfield	2
	Poynton	-
	Wilmslow	-
Central	Alsager	2
	Congleton	2
	Holmes Chapel	1
	Middlewich	1
	Sandbach	1
South	Crewe	2
	Nantwich	3
Cheshire East		15

Of the pitches in the North Analysis Area, two are in Macclesfield and one is in Knutsford, whilst none are supplied in Poynton or Wilmslow. In the Central Analysis Area, there are two pitches in Alsager and Congleton, with one pitch in each of Holmes Chapel, Middlewich and Sandbach. In the South Analysis Area, Crewe supplies two community available pitches in the and Nantwich supplies three (in addition to the unavailable pitch).

In addition to the full size 3G pitches, there are also 12 smaller sized outdoor pitches across the same number of sites in Cheshire East. Of these, seven are available for community use and are serviced by sports lighting, as summarised overleaf.

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 3.3: Additional supply of 3G pitches (smaller sized)

Site ID	Active Places Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Sub area	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Size (meters)
3	1103330	Alexandra Soccer Centre	CW2 5AF	South	Crewe	Yes	Yes	50 x 44
12	1018908	Barony Sports Complex	CW5 5QY	South	Nantwich	Yes	Yes	40 x 33
15	3033307	Black Firs County Primary	CW12 4QJ	Central	Congleton	No	No	60 x 45
32	1036086	Alderley Park (Astra Zeneca)	SK10 4TS	North	Wilmslow	Yes	Yes	36 x 18
42	1208102	Disley Amalgamated Sports Club	SK12 2JR	North	Poynton	Yes	Yes	45 x 35
76	1200756	Apollo Buckingham Health Sciences Campus	CW1 5DU	South	Crewe	Yes	Yes	60 x 40
84	6021441	Middlewich Town Football Club	CW10 9DR	Central	Middlewich	Yes	Yes	55 x 30
101	3011207	Pownall Hall School	SK9 5DW	North	Macclesfield	No	No	34 x 18
104	1208746	Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club)	SK10 4AE	North	Macclesfield	Yes	Yes	65 x 40
163	30007527	Reaseheath Training Complex	CW5 6DF	South	Nantwich	No	No	25 x 20
173	N/A	Bollington St John's Primary School	SK10 5EF	North	Macclesfield	No	No	39 x 24
205	N/A	Pebble Brook Primary School	CW2 6PL	South	Crewe	No	No	20 x 10

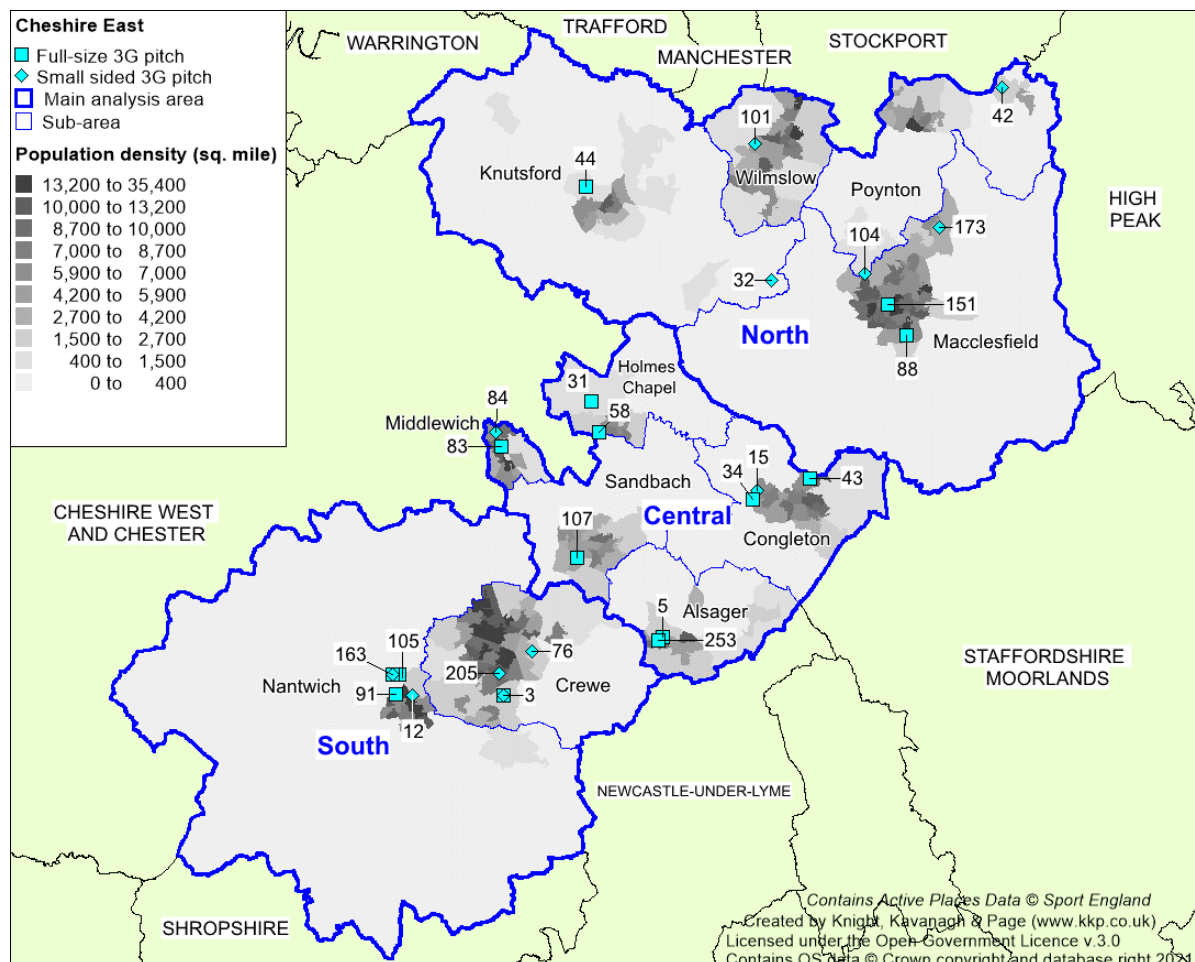
Whilst not large enough to accommodate adult match play, smaller size provision can be used to accommodate youth and mini matches, in addition to training demand, providing that they are FA approved, of an adequate size and with appropriate run-off areas. The FA's recommended pitch size for youth football varies from 91 x 55 metres to 73 x 46 metres depending on age, whilst it is 55 x 37 metres for mini 7v7 play and 37 x 27 metres for mini 5v5 play.

In addition, Reaseheath Training Complex also hosts an indoor 3G pitch, measuring 60 x 40 metres, although this is unavailable for community use as with the outdoor pitches at the site. Furthermore, an artificial area is provided at Leighton Academy, with two mini 7v7 pitches marked out. However, this is not considered to be 3G, with no rubber crumb infill. No sports lighting is provided, and community use is not offered.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

For the location of the 3G pitches currently servicing Cheshire East, regardless of size, please see Figure 3.1 below.

Figure 3.1: Location of 3G pitches in Cheshire East



Changes since the previous study

Overall, there has been an increase of two full size and two smaller sized 3G pitched since the update of the previous study was carried out in 2021. The full size pitch increases is attributed to the conversion of what was a hockey suitable AGP at Alsager Leisure Centre and the creation of a second pitch at Nantwich Town Football Club, whilst the two additional smaller size pitches are located at Disley Amalgamated Sports Club and Bollington St John's Primary School. The former was also recently resurfaced from a sand-based pitch.

Future provision

Several proposals and aspirations exist across Cheshire East regarding the future creation of 3G pitches for football. Implicated sites include:

- ◀ Congleton Road
- ◀ Jim Evison Playing Fields
- ◀ Macclesfield Academy/College
- ◀ Poynton High School
- ◀ Sir William Stanier School
- ◀ Egerton Youth Club
- ◀ King George V Playing Fields
- ◀ Oakwood Farm
- ◀ Sandbach Community Football Centre

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

A Mitigation Strategy⁶ completed in 2021 incorporating provision at Poynton High School identifies that a 3G pitch should be established at the site to help offset an overall loss of playing field land (a net gain will be provided via a scheme at Glastonbury Drive). This is linked to various housing developments across the area and incorporates the School, Poynton Sports Club and the former Vernon Infants School.

At King George V Playing Fields, Crewe FC has created plans to develop a full size 3G pitch as part of an asset transfer agreement on a parcel of land at the site. Relating to this, the Council is progressing with a tender to select a football development partner for the site, with this scheduled to be released in early 2024.

In Wilmslow, discussions are ongoing as to where a full size 3G pitch could be located, given that none are currently provided. Jim Evison Playing Field is being explored. In addition, Wilmslow Albion FC has aspirations to develop a pitch at Oakwood Farm.

Both Macclesfield Academy/Macclesfield College and Sir William Stanier School have aspirations to develop full size 3G provision at their sites. At the former, discussions are ongoing as to whether this could be through the conversion of the existing sand-based pitch or via a separate piece of land. At the latter, the development would be in addition to the existing smaller-sized sand based pitch.

Both Egerton FC and Sandbach United FC have aspirations to develop a second full size 3G pitch at each of their sites (Egerton Youth Club and Sandbach Community Football Centre).

In addition to those listed above, Macclesfield RUFC previously attempted to develop a full size World Rugby compliant 3G pitch at Priory Park; however, planning permission was refused. In addition, Wilmslow RUFC also expresses an aspiration to develop such provision.

FA 3G Pitch register

In order for competitive matches to be played on 3G pitches, the pitch should be FIFA or IMS tested and approved and added to the FA pitch register, which can be found at: <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/3g-pitch-register>.

Pitches undergo testing to become a FIFA Quality pitch or a FIFA Quality Pro pitch, with provision commonly constructed, installed and tested in situ to achieve either accreditation. The differences between the accreditations are that FIFA quality pitches are designed to accommodate substantial levels of regular usage, whereas FIFA Quality Pro pitches are more for high level performance, with usage levels therefore more limited to protect the standard.

For pitches used by affiliated grassroots football clubs (below Regional Feeder Leagues (Step 7)) and clubs in the Women's Football Pyramid (Tier 3), the minimum requirement of testing is the FA Register Test. However, matches played at Step 1 to 6 of the Men's National League System must follow more stringent testing, with this including a minimum pitch size of 100 x 64 metres, a run-off area of between 1.83 metres (Step 2-6) and 2.25 metres (Step 1), a consistent playing surface shade of green and line markings must be in accordance with the Laws of Association Football. In addition, FA testing must take place annually rather than every three years.

As for 3G pitches used in the Women's Football Pyramid; at Tier 1, matches cannot be played on a 3G pitch, whilst existing 3G pitches at Tier 2 must be accredited to the FIFA Recommended Quality performance standard.

⁶ [Poynton Mitigation Strategy](#)

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Generally, FIFA Quality pitches can be typically used for 60-85 hours per week, whereas FIFA Quality Pro pitches are able to accommodate 20-30 hours. To remain accredited, pitches must be re-assessed every three years to ensure that quality has not deteriorated beyond acceptable levels, although this is required annually for clubs using 3G pitches within the football pyramid (steps 1-6).

In Cheshire East, all the full size 3G pitches are on the FA 3G Pitch Register and can therefore be used to host competitive matches, with the exception of the pitch at Alsager Leisure Centre (a test has taken place, but its certification is yet to be confirmed). Re-testing is required every three years to ensure that this remains the case, although due to the level that Macclesfield FC play at (Step 3), the pitch at Moss Rose Stadium is tested every year.

The new pitch at Nantwich Town Football Club is FIFA Quality Pro and will also require annual testing.

Table 3.4: Summary of FIFA/FA compliancy

Site ID	Site name	FIFA/FA approved?	Certification (expiry)
3	Alexandra Soccer Centre	Yes	31/05/2024
5	Alsager Leisure Centre	TBC	TBC
34	Congleton High School	Yes	31/05/2025
39	Cumberland Arena	Yes	31/05/2024
43	Eaton Bank Academy	Yes	31/05/2024
44	Egerton Youth Club	Yes	31/05/2025
58	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	Yes	31/05/2025
83	Middlewich High School (Leisure Centre)	Yes	31/05/2026
88	Moss Rose Stadium	Yes	31/05/2024
91	Nantwich Town Football Club	Yes	31/05/2024
		Yes	31/05/2026
105	Reaseheath College	Yes	31/05/2026
107	Sandbach Community Football Centre	Yes	31/05/2026
151	All Hallows Catholic College	Yes	31/05/2024
163	Reaseheath Training Complex	Yes	31/05/2024
253	Alsager Sports Hub	Yes	31/05/2025

Contrastingly, none of the smaller size pitches in Cheshire East are FA approved and therefore cannot be used officially for matches (none have been identified as being used for such activity).

World Rugby compliant pitches

To enable 3G pitches to accommodate competitive rugby union matches, World Rugby has developed the Rugby Turf Performance Specification. This is to ensure that the surfaces can replicate the playing qualities of good quality grass pitches, provide a playing environment that will not increase the risk of injury and are of an adequate durability.

The specification includes a rigorous test programme that assesses ball/surface interaction and player/surface interaction and has been modified to align the standard with that of FIFA. Any 3G pitch used for any form of competitive rugby and full contact training must comply with this specification and must be tested every two years to retain compliance.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Reaseheath College provides the sole World Rugby compliant 3G pitch in Cheshire East, with teams from Crewe & Nantwich RUFC using the pitch for training and occasional match play. However, the smaller size 3G pitch at Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) is also used for some activity, despite not being accredited.

Management/ownership

In relation to the full size 3G provision, the pitches at Alexandra Soccer Centre and Reaseheath Training Complex are both managed by Crewe Alexandra FC. Similarly, pitches at Egerton Youth Club, Moss Rose Stadium, Sandbach Community Football Centre and Nantwich Town Football Club are also managed by clubs (Egerton, Macclesfield, Sandbach United and Nantwich Town football clubs, respectively).

Everybody Health & Leisure manages the provision at Alsager Sports Hub, Alsager Leisure Centre, Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre, Cumberland Arena and Middlewich Leisure Centre (High School) on behalf of the Council, whereas the pitches at Eaton Bank Academy, Reaseheath College, Congleton High School and All Hallows Catholic College are managed internally by the education providers.

Of the community available smaller size pitches, Everybody Health & Leisure manages the pitches at Alderley Park (Astra Zeneca) and Barony Sports Complex, whereas clubs manage the pitches at Alexandra Soccer Centre, Disley Amalgamated Sports Club, Middlewich Town Football Club and Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club). The pitch at Apollo Buckingham Health Sciences Campus is operated by the University.

Availability

The availability of the full size 3G pitches in Cheshire East is good, with only the pitch at Reaseheath Training Complex offering no availability during peak time (midweek evenings and weekends). The only other limitations in place are due to school use at dual use sites and where 3G pitches are also used for NLS football activity, such as those at Moss Rose Stadium and Nantwich Town Football Club. No community use is allowed in and around match days because of this.

The availability at each venue providing a full size pitch is summarised in the table below.

Table 3.5: Summary of full size 3G pitch availability

Site ID	Site	Availability
3	Alexandra Soccer Centre	Available to the community from 10:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday, from 09:00 until 19:30 on Saturdays and from 09:00 until 22:00 on Sundays.
5	Alsager Leisure Centre	Reserved for school use during the week until 18:00 Monday to Thursday and until 17:00 on Fridays. Available to the community from 18:00 until 22:00 Monday to Thursday, from 17:00 until 22:00 on Fridays, from 09:00 until 22:00 on Saturdays and from 09:00 until 16:00 on Sundays.
34	Congleton High School	Reserved for school use until 17:45 or 18:00 during the week. Available to the community from 17:45 until 21:45 Monday to Thursday, from 18:00 until 21:00 on Fridays and from 09:00 until 13:00 Saturday to Sunday.
39	Cumberland Arena	Available to the community from 17:00 until 21:30 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 18:00 Saturday to Sunday.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site	Availability
43	Eaton Bank Academy	Reserved for school use until 18:00 during the week. Available to the community from 18:00 until 21:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 21:00 Saturday to Sunday.
44	Egerton Youth Club	Available to the community every day from 09:00 until 22:00 although use is limited if Egerton FC has a home match.
58	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	Reserved for school use until 17:00 or 18:00 during the week. Available to the community from 17:00 until 22:00 on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays, from 18:00 until 22:00 on Tuesdays and Thursdays and from 09:00 until 17:30 Saturday to Sunday.
83	Middlewich Leisure Centre (High School)	Reserved for school use until 18:00 during the week. Available to the community from 18:00 until 22:00 Monday to Thursday (it is unavailable on Fridays) and from 09:00 until 20:00 Saturday to Sunday.
88	Moss Rose Stadium	Available for community use, although exact hours are unknown and are limited when Macclesfield FC has home games.
91	Nantwich Town Football Club	Available to the community every day from 09:00 until 22:00 although use is limited if Nantwich Town FC has a home match.
105	Reaseheath College	Reserved for college use until 18:00 during the week. Available to the community from 18:00 until 21:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 18:00 Saturday to Sunday.
107	Sandbach Community Football Centre	Available to the community from 09:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 20:00 Saturday to Sunday although use is limited if Sandbach United FC has a home match.
151	All Hallows Catholic College	Reserved for school use until 18:00 during the week. Available to the community from 18:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 17:00 Saturday to Sunday.
163	Reaseheath Training Complex	Used solely by Crewe Alexandra FC and therefore not available for community use.
253	Alsager Sports Hub	Available to the community from 15:00 until 21:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 18:00 Saturday and Sunday.

Eaton Bank Academy has submitted a planning application to extend its operating hours. If successful, its midweek hours will increase until 22:00.

Quality

Depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of a 3G pitch usually lasts for approximately ten years and it is the age of the surface, combined with maintenance levels, which most commonly affects quality. It is therefore recommended that sinking funds be put into place by providers to enable long-term sustainability, ongoing repairs and future refurbishment beyond this period.

Across the full size pitches in Cheshire East, seven are assessed as good quality and eight as standard quality (none are poor quality). Assessments at Reaseheath Training Complex have not been possible due to the private nature of the site.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 3.6: Age and quality of full size 3G pitches

Site ID	Site	Year installed/ resurfaced	Quality
3	Alexandra Soccer Centre	2022	Good
5	Alsager Leisure Centre	2023	Good
34	Congleton High School	2016	Standard
39	Cumberland Arena	2017	Standard
43	Eaton Bank Academy	2020	Good
44	Egerton Youth Club	2022	Good
58	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	2015	Standard
83	Middlewich High School (Leisure Centre)	2012	Standard
88	Moss Rose Stadium	2021	Good
91	Nantwich Town Football Club	2007	Standard
		2023	Good
105	Reaseheath College	2016	Standard
107	Sandbach Community Football Centre	2011	Standard
151	All Hallows Catholic College	2014	Standard
163	Reaseheath Training Complex	2013	N/A
253	Alsager Sports Hub	2019	Good

The pitches at Alexandra Soccer Centre, Alsager Leisure Centre and Egerton Youth Club as well as the newest 3G pitch at Nantwich Town Football Club are assessed as particularly good quality, with all four either resurfaced or provided within the last 12 months. The pitches at Eaton Bank Academy, Moss Rose Stadium and Alsager Sports Hub are the others that are also assessed as good quality.

The full size pitches at Congleton High School, Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre, Middlewich High School (Leisure Centre), Reaseheath College, Sandbach Community Football Centre, All Hallows Catholic High School and the Cumberland Arena are each assessed as standard quality. Some of these are at or approaching their recommended ten-year lifespan, such as the pitch at Middlewich High School (Leisure Centre), whilst others have minor issues that need resolving. An example of this is found at Cumberland Arena, where a hole in the surface has appeared.

The full size pitch that is the oldest it at Nantwich Town Football Club. It has exceeded its recommended lifespan of ten years having been installed in 2007 and has noticeable quality issues, although plans are in place for it to be resurfaced soon. The pitch was initially developed with grant funding support from the FF.

The standard quality pitches at All Hallows Catholic College, Cumberland Arena, Nantwich Town Football Club and Sandbach Community Football Centre were all Football Foundation funded and therefore should have sinking funds in place as per the terms and conditions of the funding agreement.

The smaller size pitches at Apollo Buckingham Health Sciences Campus and Barony Sports Complex have also exceeded their recommended lifespans and are assessed as poor quality. The pitch at Middlewich Town Football Club is also in need of resurfacing in the near future.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Ancillary facilities

All full size 3G pitches in Cheshire East are accompanied by ancillary facilities that are considered at least adequate and no issues were raised during consultation or via site assessments.

In addition, aspirations exist for a separate clubhouse to be established at Congleton High School and for this to service the 3G pitch.

3.3: Demand

The 3G pitch stock currently servicing Cheshire East is reported to be operating at or close to capacity at peak times during midweek, especially in winter months when grass pitches cannot be used for training or recreational demand (due to a lack of sports lighting). This applies to both mid-week training demand and weekend usage given that each full size pitch is also on the FA 3G Pitch Register to host competitive matches, with the pitch at Reaseheath College also World Rugby compliant.

Currently, it is considered that most of the community-based activity on the 3G pitches is football related. To quantify this, the pitches at Cumberland Arena, Egerton Youth Club, Nantwich Town Football Club, Sandbach Community Football Centre and All Hallows Catholic College are all used by more than 50 football teams for training, in addition to supplementary midweek usage. Of the full size pitches available to the community, only those at Middlewich High School (Leisure Centre) and Reaseheath College are accessed by fewer than 20 football teams.

In addition, 179 affiliated football teams are registered across the full size pitch stock as using the provision for regular match play. The pitches at Alexandra Soccer Centre, All Hallows Catholic College, Alsager Sports Hub, Cumberland Arena and Sandbach Community Football Centre currently receive particularly high levels of match play use via the Alexandra Soccer League, Alderley Mini Soccer League and the South Cheshire Youth League.

The pitch at Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre is also being well used for match play, particularly by Holmes Chapel Hurricanes FC, Macclesfield FC and Macclesfield Town Ladies FC. However, it is also suggested that the pitch is being block booked by certain users even if they do not require access, with this subsequently limiting capacity for other clubs. Everybody Health & Leisure identifies that this happens when, as an example, Macclesfield Town Ladies FC has both of its junior teams playing away games on the same weekend, although it notes that this has only happened on a couple of occasions.

There are also small-sided commercial leagues operating on the 3G pitches. For example, Leisure Leagues operates at Cumberland Arena, Moss Rose Stadium, Sandbach Community Football Centre and Nantwich Town Football Club, whilst Soccer Sixes run leagues at Cumberland Arena, Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre and Sandbach Community Football Centre. Powerplay utilises Nantwich Town Football Club, Middlewich Leisure Centre (High School) and Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre, whereas the Alexandra Soccer Centre runs its own leagues on Mondays, Wednesdays and Sundays.

For the smaller sized pitches, those at Alexandra Soccer Centre, Barony Sports Complex, Disley Amalgamated Sports Club and particularly Middlewich Town Football Club are identified as being used for formal football training activity. All remaining usage is via recreational and casual demand.

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Away from football usage, only the full size pitch at Reaseheath College and the smaller sized pitch at Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) have identified usage. The former is used for training by Crewe & Nantwich RUFC and Crewe & Nantwich Blaze Touch Rugby Club, whereas the latter is accessed by Macclesfield RUFC (for non-contact activity) and Box Lacrosse.

Demand across the 3G provision in Cheshire East is further summarised below, with the information secured via a combination of booking information from providers, club consultation and affiliation data.

Table 3.7: Summary of 3G pitch usage in Cheshire East

Site ID	Site name	Number of football teams using pitch for training	Notable users (clubs with more than five teams)	Other key users
Full size 3G				
3	Alexandra Soccer Centre	44 ⁷	Cheshire Blades FC Crewe Arrows FC	Crewe Alexandra FC Foundation Alexandra Soccer League
5	Alsager Leisure Centre ⁸	46	N/A	N/A
34	Congleton High School	39	Congleton Town FC	-
39	Cumberland Arena	50	Crewe FC Crewe Town FC Ruskin Park FC	South Cheshire Youth League Leisure Leagues / Soccer Sixes
43	Eaton Bank Academy	38	Vale Congleton Juniors FC	-
44	Egerton Youth Club	65	Egerton FC	-
58	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	38	Holmes Chapel Hurricanes FC Macclesfield FC	Soccer Sixes / Powerplay
83	Middlewich High School (Leisure Centre)	14	-	Powerplay
88	Moss Rose Stadium	31	Macclesfield FC	Leisure Leagues
91	Nantwich Town Football Club ⁹	64	Nantwich Town FC	Powerplay / Leisure Leagues

⁷ Includes usage of the smaller sized pitch on site.

⁸ As the pitch has only recently been installed, some data is unavailable.

⁹ Information applies only to the oldest 3G pitch on site, with usage of the new pitch not yet clear.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Number of football teams using pitch for training	Notable users (clubs with more than five teams)	Other key users
105	Reaseheath College	8	NAR Sports FC	Crewe Alexandra FC Crewe & Nantwich RUFC Crewe & Nantwich Blaze
107	Sandbach Community Football Centre	66	Sandbach United FC	South Cheshire Youth League Soccer Sixes / Leisure Leagues
151	All Hallows Catholic College	55	Bollington United FC Park Royal Macclesfield FC Tytherington Juniors FC	Alderley Mini Soccer League
163	Reaseheath Training Complex	-	-	-
253	Alsager Sports Hub	47	AFC Alsager	South Cheshire Youth League
Smaller size 3G				
3	Alexandra Soccer Centre	44 ¹⁰	-	Crewe Alexandra FC Foundation
12	Barony Sports Complex	3	-	-
15	Black Firs County Primary	-	-	-
32	Alderley Park (Astra Zeneca)	-	-	Bootcamp (every Saturday)
42	Disley Amalgamated Sports Club	4	-	-
76	Apollo Buckingham Health Sciences Campus	-	-	-
84	Middlewich Town Football Club	22	Middlewich Town FC	-
101	Pownall Hall School	-	-	-
104	Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club)	-	-	Macclesfield RUFC UKLacrosse Coaching LTD
163	Reaseheath Training Complex	-	-	Crewe Alexandra FC
173	Bollington St John's Primary School	-	-	-
205	Pebble Brook Primary School	-	-	-

¹⁰ Includes usage of the full size pitch on site.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

In addition, supplementary booking information has been supplied by Everybody Health & Leisure regarding its pitches to further display current usage and levels of remaining capacity, based on the average week. To portray this, usage is compared against availability at peak time, using Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM), which applies an overall peak period of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00). However, for midweek time slots, total availability has been multiplied where relevant based on how the provision is hired for training activity (e.g., clubs only hire a third or half a pitch depending on how it is marked out).

For the five full size pitches, the information identifies that out of 246 midweek booking slots at peak time, 182 are currently utilised, meaning only 64 remain free. No capacity remains at Cumberland Arena.

At weekends, 80 hours of availability exists, with 43 hours currently taken up, resulting in 37 hours of capacity remaining. The pitch at Middlewich High School (Leisure Centre) is particularly under-utilised in this respect.

For the smaller sized pitches, eight out of 36 midweek slots remain available, whilst 24 out of 28 weekend booking slots do. This is primarily because the supply is generally unsuitable for match play.

Table 3.8: Additional summary of 3G pitch usage for those operated by Everybody Health & Leisure

Site ID	Site name	Midweek availability (hours)	Midweek usage (hours)	Weekend availability (hours)	Weekend usage (hours)	Comments
Full size 3G						
5	Alsager Leisure Centre	36	28	16	7	Midweek, eight booking slots of spare capacity remains, with this being identified on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays (the pitch is fully used Mondays and Wednesdays). At weekends, the pitch is used to capacity on Saturdays, but only receives usage from 16:00-17:00 on Sundays.
39	Cumberland Arena	54	54	16	12	The pitch has no available booking slots at peak time during midweek. At weekends, the pitch is also fully utilised on a Sunday, although spare capacity remains 09:00-10:00, 13:00-14:00 and 15:00-17:00 on Saturdays.

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Midweek availability (hours)	Midweek usage (hours)	Weekend availability (hours)	Weekend usage (hours)	Comments
58	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	54	34	16	12	Midweek, 20 booking slots remain free, with these existing across each evening but predominately on Mondays and Tuesdays. At weekends, the pitch remains available 14:00-17:00 on Saturdays and 16:00-17:00 Sundays but is used to capacity on both days prior to this.
83	Middlewich High School (Leisure Centre)	48	34	16	2	Midweek, 14 booking slots of capacity remain, with this equating to two slots on Mondays, four slots on Tuesdays, five slots on Wednesdays and three slots on Thursdays. At weekends, the pitch is used 10:00-12:00 on Saturdays but is available outside of this.
253	Alsager Sports Hub	54	32	16	12	Midweek, 22 booking slots remain, with this equating to four on Mondays, five on Tuesdays, four on Wednesdays, five on Thursdays and four on Fridays. At weekends, four hours of capacity exists, with this identified on Saturdays (the pitch is at capacity on Sundays).
Smaller size 3G						
32	Alderley Park (Astra Zeneca)	18	14	14	2	Midweek capacity remains 17:00-18:00 on Tuesdays, 17:00-18:00 and 20:00-21:00 on Wednesdays and 17:00-18:00 on Fridays. Only two hours of usage are currently received at weekends (10:00-12:00 on Saturdays).
12	Barony Sports Complex	18	14	14	2	Midweek, capacity remains 17:00-18:00 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays as well as 20:00-21:00 on Wednesdays. At weekends, the pitch is only used 09:00-10:00 and 11:00-12:00 on Saturdays.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Unmet/latent demand

Getting access to good quality, affordable training facilities is a problem for many clubs throughout the country. In the winter months, midweek training is only possible at sports lit facilities, with 3G provision preferred by the FA and most clubs.

In Cheshire East, 45% of football clubs that responded to consultation report that they require additional access to 3G provision, which represents a relatively high proportion of unmet demand although it is lower than that identified in many other local authorities. Around two thirds (64%) of these clubs are currently training on 3G pitches but do not have capacity for all of their teams, or do not have access at preferred times, with this stated as an issue particularly at Alexander Soccer Centre, Cumberland Arena and Congleton High School.

The remaining clubs expressing unmet demand (36%) are not training on 3G pitches at all and are instead using sand-based pitches (particularly at Fallibroome Academy, Knutsford Leisure Centre, Macclesfield Academy Shavington Leisure Centre, Wilmslow High School, Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club and Tytherington High School) or grass pitches, either at their home grounds or elsewhere. In total, 143 teams in Cheshire East are using sand-based pitches for training, with 126 using full size pitches and 17 using smaller sized pitches.

A degree of unmet demand for rugby union is also identified by Wilmslow RUFC as it aspires to access a 3G pitch to alleviate overuse of its grass pitches. No unmet demand for any other sports is identified.

Exported/imported demand

No football or any other relevant clubs identified as playing matches in Cheshire East currently export training activity outside of the Borough, suggesting that no exported training demand exists. However, 67 teams are exporting match play demand outside of the area, with all of these using 3G pitches. This is primarily due to the use of central venues by leagues, such as the Cheshire Girls Football League, which uses Moss Farm Leisure Complex in Cheshire West & Chester.

Linked to the above, there are plans for a second full size 3G pitch to be installed at Moss Farm Leisure Complex which will likely increase the level of exported demand from Cheshire East as it will increase capacity for central venue leagues. However, as mentioned in Part 2, Cheshire FA has aspirations to introduce a South Cheshire Division of the Cheshire Girls League which would result in the demand returning to Cheshire East. It has not been able to secure sufficient access to a suitable venue.

In terms of imported demand, a high level is reported at Alsager Leisure Centre, with several large Staffordshire-based clubs known to be using it such as Kidsgrove Athletic FC and Port Vale FC (via its academy).

No other imported training demand has been identified, although some demand does import for match play purposes due to the central venue systems used by the South Cheshire Youth League and the Alexandra Soccer League.

Future demand

As set out in Part 2 of this report, there is potential growth equating to 28 teams forecast through population projections (in addition to club aspirations). If this demand was realised, and if all additional teams wanted to train on 3G provision, it would increase the number of 3G pitches required.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Similarly, many rugby union clubs express a demand to grow, including Wilmslow RUFC which aspires to access a 3G pitch.

In addition, the Poynton Mitigation Strategy identifies that access to the planned 3G pitch at Poynton High School should be sought for Poynton Lacrosse Club. This is because its three lacrosse pitches are to be re-provided as part of a move to land north of Glastonbury Drive, but not the existing AGP due to a general lack of demand.

Furthermore, UKLacrosse Coaching LTD plans to increase its use of the smaller size 3G pitch at Priory Park (Macclesfield RUFC) to fulfil both its match and training demand. As of yet, lacrosse lines have not been marked out and the pitch is used principally by the rugby club during the winter period.

3.4: Supply and demand analysis

Football

The FA considers high quality 3G pitches as an essential tool in promoting coach and player development, with the pitches considered to be great assets on account of being able to support intensive use and use during inclement weather. Primarily, such facilities have been installed for social use and training, however, they are increasingly being used for competition, which the FA wholly supports.

Training demand

To quantify the 3G shortfall for football, the FA has established a training model, which suggests that one full size 3G pitch can accommodate 38 affiliated teams (with capacity built in for other forms of demand). It also has an aspiration for all teams to train once per week on a 3G pitch, although it is recognised that nationally some activity may need to be retained on sand-based pitches to ensure the sustainability of them.

For the model, in addition to full size pitches being included, some smaller sized pitches can also be incorporated as nationally many are suitable for accommodating training demand, especially larger ones. To calculate their contribution, a pitch large enough to cater for youth matches (but not adult) is considered to be the equivalent of half a full size pitch (0.5 pitches), whilst a pitch that is large enough for mini matches (but not youth or adult) is the equivalent of quarter of a full size pitch (0.25 pitches). Any pitch smaller than this is discounted, as are any pitches that are unavailable for community use.

In contrast to the above, some full size pitches are not always considered to provide full capacity for football due to existing usage limitations. In Cheshire East, this includes the pitches at Reaseheath College on account of it primarily being used for rugby union and the pitch at Reaseheath Training Complex as no community availability is offered. It also relates to the newly installed pitch at Alsager Leisure Centre as it reportedly accommodates significant demand from Staffordshire-based clubs, meaning it cannot contribute in full to meeting Cheshire East-based demand.

The contribution each pitch makes towards the modelling is summarised in the table below. This then informs the proceeding modelling tables.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 3.9: Contribution of 3G pitches in meeting training requirements

Site name	Sub area	Size (metres)	Comments	Full size pitch equivalents
Full size				
Alexandra Soccer Centre	Crewe	104 x 76	Full size pitch fully available to the community	1
Alsager Leisure Centre	Alsager	102 x 62	Full size pitch but a significant level of usage comes from outside of Cheshire East	0.5
Cumberland Arena	Crewe	97 x 60	Full size pitch fully available to the community	1
Congleton High School	Congleton	100 x 61	Full size pitch fully available to the community	1
Eaton Bank Academy	Congleton	104 x 69	Full size pitch fully available to the community	1
Egerton Youth Club	Knutsford	104 x 71	Full size pitch fully available to the community	1
Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	Holmes Chapel	96 x 61	Full size pitch fully available to the community	1
Middlewich High School (Leisure Centre)	Middlewich	97 x 63	Full size pitch fully available to the community	1
Moss Rose Stadium	Macclesfield	105 x 74	Full size pitch fully available to the community	1
Nantwich Town Football Club	Nantwich	102 x 64	Full size pitch but FIFA Quality Pro and therefore has usage restrictions.	0.25
		100 x 68	Full size pitch fully available to the community	1
Reaseheath College	Nantwich	130 x 80	Full size pitch but used predominately for rugby (no football clubs identify that they currently use it).	-
Sandbach Community Football Centre	Sandbach	105 x 70	Full size pitch fully available to the community	1
All Hallows Catholic College	Macclesfield	106 x 70	Full size pitch fully available to the community	1
Reaseheath Training Complex	Nantwich	106 x 73	Unavailable for community use	-
Alsager Sports Hub	Alsager	106 x 70	Full size pitch fully available to the community	1
Smaller sized				
Alexandra Soccer Centre	Crewe	50 x 44	Used predominately for recreational football and internal programmes	-
Barony Sports Complex	Nantwich	40 x 33	Used predominately for recreational football	-
Black Firs County Primary	Congleton	60 x 45	Unavailable for community use	-
Alderley Park (Astra Zeneca)	Wilmslow	36 x 18	Too small for purposeful play	-
Disley Amalgamated Sports Club	Poynton	45 x 35	Used predominately for recreational football	-

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site name	Sub area	Size (metres)	Comments	Full size pitch equivalents
Apollo Buckingham Health Sciences Campus	Crewe	60 x 40	Used predominately for recreational football and commercial leagues	-
Middlewich Town Football Club	Middlewich	55 x 30	Large enough to accommodate mini football	0.25
Pownall Hall School	Macclesfield	34 x 18	Unavailable for community use	-
Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club)	Macclesfield	65 x 40	Small size pitch but used predominately for rugby union and recreationally	-
Reaseheath Training Complex	Nantwich	25 x 20	Unavailable for community use	-
Bollington St John's Primary School	Macclesfield	39 x 24	Unavailable for community use	-
Pebble Brook Primary School	Crewe	20 x 10	Unavailable for community use	-
Total				13

Using the above, with current demand totalling 776 teams, it is feasible that at least 20.5 full size community available 3G pitches are required in Cheshire East (rounded up from 20.42). This means that there is an existing theoretical shortfall of 7.5 pitches.

Table 3.10: Current theoretical shortfall of 3G pitches to meet football training demand

Current demand (number of teams)	Full size 3G pitch requirement	Current number of available full size 3G pitch equivalents	Current shortfall
776	20.50	13	7.5

When factoring in future demand, the overall requirement could increase to the need for 8.25 additional full size pitches.

Table 3.11: Future theoretical shortfall of 3G pitches to meet football training demand

Future demand (number of teams)	Full size 3G pitch requirement	Current number of available full size 3G pitches	Future shortfall
804	21.25	13	8.25

To further this analysis, the table below explores where theoretical 3G pitch shortfalls exist by sub area on the assumption that all demand will want to train within the area that they play matches in. On this basis, there is a potential overall shortfall of 9.25 pitches.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 3.12: Current theoretical shortfall for 3G pitches by sub area for training demand

Analysis area	Sub area	Current demand	Current pitch requirement	Current number of full size pitches	Current shortfall
North	Knutsford	82	2.25	1.00	1.25
	Macclesfield	174	4.50	2.00	2.50
	Poynton	27	0.75	-	0.75
	Wilmslow	51	1.50	-	1.50
Central	Alsager	19	0.50	1.50	
	Congleton	72	2.00	2.00	
	Holmes Chapel	34	1.00	1.00	
	Middlewich	29	0.75	1.25	
	Sandbach	70	1.75	1.00	0.75
South	Crewe	149	4.00	2.00	2.00
	Nantwich	69	1.75	1.25	0.50
Cheshire East		776	20.75	13	9.25

The theoretical shortfall amounts to a deficit of six pitches in the North Analysis Area, 2.5 pitches in the South Analysis Area and 0.75 pitches in the Central Analysis Area. Broken down further, there is a shortfall of 2.5 pitches in Macclesfield, two pitches in Crewe, 1.5 pitches in Wilmslow, 1.25 pitches in Knutsford, 0.75 pitches in each of Poynton and Sandbach, and 0.5 pitches in Nantwich.

Overall, the number of 3G pitches required within the sub area modelling is higher than the broader analysis of provision across Cheshire East. This is in part due to a theoretical oversupply in Alsager, Middlewich and Nantwich, whilst it is also an impact of how the figures are rounded. In reality, clubs will travel to neighbouring analysis areas to access provision if required, especially if pitches are strategically located in close proximity, meaning that the wider analysis is a more accurate tool for determining overall need and that the number presented within the analysis area approach can be discounted.

The analysis area approach is, however, beneficial in determining where new pitches should be located to overcome the remaining shortfall. In addition, potential multi-sport use of future pitches to meet demand from other sports (further referenced below) may also reduce the capacity of provision, which in turn may increase the number of pitches that could be required and sustained for football.

In addition, it must also be noted that the deficits identified relate only to affiliated football training need. As there is expressed demand from other sports for use of 3G pitch provision, there may be a case for additional pitches over and above what is outlined within this section.

Notwithstanding the above, it must also be noted that the modelling assumes that all teams will want and can afford to access 3G provision, which in reality may not be the case. The emphasises the need for pitches to be priced fairly to ensure community use can be attracted and maximised.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Match play demand

Improving grass pitch quality is one way to increase the capacity at sites but given the cost of doing such work and the continued maintenance required (and associated costs), alternatives need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. The substitute to grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches for competitive matches, providing that the pitch is one the FA 3G Pitch Register, sports lit and available for community use during the peak period.

In Cheshire East, all but one full size 3G pitch is on the FA 3G Pitch Register (Alsager Leisure Centre is not yet) and can therefore host competitive matches, with 179 affiliated teams registered as using the provision currently. Whilst this is a considerable number, especially compared to most other authorities, there are opportunities for this to be further increased. As the number of 3G pitches increases in line with meeting training demand shortfalls, so should the number of teams utilising the provision for matches, which in turn should further relieve grass pitches of use. As such, whilst the number of 3G pitches needed for matches will never outweigh the number of 3G pitches needed for training (as they would not be sustainable without midweek usage), maximising the pitches that are in place and that are proposed should be fully supported.

The use of 3G pitches for matches also emphasises the importance of maintaining good quality pitches. Should pitches become poor quality, they will likely lose accreditation to accommodate fixtures. This will then result in all teams using the provision needing to transfer to grass pitches, adding to their usage, reducing their capacity and further diminishing their quality.

Rugby union

For rugby union, there is evidence to warrant the creation of additional World Rugby compliant 3G provision given the grass pitch shortfalls evident in Part 4 of this report, particularly regarding Wilmslow, Sandbach, Knutsford and Macclesfield rugby clubs. Whilst other solutions to alleviate these deficits may be possible, they could be difficult to achieve and would not be as impactful (this will be tested in the subsequent Strategy document).

The grass pitch rugby union shortfalls evidenced are predominately generated by training demand, rather than there being an insufficient level of provision to accommodate match play. As such, the focus of any World Rugby compliant pitches should first and foremost be transferring training activity from match pitches.

Other sports

Through Poynton Lacrosse Club and UKLacrosse Coaching LTD, there is clear training and match play lacrosse demand for access to the existing 3G pitch at Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) and the planned 3G pitch at Poynton High School. Ensuring sufficient access to these should continue to be a priority.

With no other activity identified in Cheshire East that expresses an interest in the 3G pitch stock, no other requirements are currently evident. However, it should be noted that Crewe Railroaders has expressed an interest in accessing a 3G pitch at King George V Playing Fields for American football training, if developed. This would need to be factored into design considerations (e.g., in relation to dimensions and line markings), although it currently only indicates a need for training activity rather than match play (playing matches on grass remains its preference).

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

3.5: Conclusion

There is a clear theoretical shortfall of 3G pitch provision in Cheshire East to meet requirements for football team training, as evidenced through the significant levels of unmet demand identified for football. As there are no other means to completely alleviating these shortfalls, as can be the case with grass pitches (e.g., increasing capacity through improving quality), new provision is required. The FA training model and evidence gathered as part of this study should inform areas that should be prioritised before the exploration of potentially suitable sites.

Notwithstanding the above, there is also seemingly some scope to increase the usage of the existing stock of pitches, with capacity remaining at some sites, particularly those operated by Everybody Health & Leisure (with the exception of the pitch at Cumberland Arena). Maximising this could lessen the need for additional pitches.

For rugby union, the existing provision of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch is beneficial; however, this is currently only suitable for access by Crewe & Nantwich RUFC. As such, additional provision may be warranted, particularly given the overplay of grass pitches as a result of high levels of training activity. This could be achieved in collaboration with reducing shortfalls for football, or exclusively if it is adjudged that the provision would receive enough usage and be sustainable without football demand.

For other sports, there is also clear demand for lacrosse to have sufficient access to 3G provision and this should therefore be ensured. Aspirations should also be considered in relation to American football and proposals at King George V Playing Fields.

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

3G – supply and demand summary

- Based on current demand at a Borough-wide level, there is a theoretical shortfall of at least 7.5 full size 3G pitches to meet football training requirements, increasing to 8.25 when accounting for future demand.
- When broken down by analysis area, deficits are identified in the north (Macclesfield, Knutsford, Poynton and Wilmslow), as well as central (Sandbach) and south (Crewe and Nantwich).
- There is also evidence to warrant the creation of additional World Rugby compliant 3G provision given the grass pitch shortfalls evident as this could be a solution to alleviating the deficits (subject to usage level and balance of multi-sport access, this could increase the overall need for 3G pitches).
- For other sports, there is a clear need for lacrosse to have sufficient access to 3G provision, whilst aspirations also exist for American football.

3G – supply summary

- There are 16 full size 3G pitches within Cheshire East, all of which are serviced by sports lighting.
- The pitch at Reaseheath Training Complex is the only pitch considered unavailable for community use.
- In addition, there are also 12 smaller sized 3G pitches, with seven sports-lit and available to the community.
- Plans and/or aspirations exists regarding establishing provision at Congleton Road, Egerton Youth Club, Jim Evison Playing Fields, King George V Playing Fields, Macclesfield Academy/College, Poynton High School, Sandbach Community Football Centre, Sir William Stanier School and Oakwood Farm.
- All but one of the full size 3G pitches are on the FA 3G Pitch Register and sanctioned to host competitive matches (the pitch at Alsager Leisure Centre is awaiting certification), whilst the pitch at Reaseheath College is also World Rugby compliant.
- Of the community available full size pitches, seven are assessed as good quality and eight are assessed as standard quality (none are poor).
- The oldest of the two 3G pitches at Nantwich Town Football Club requires imminent resurfacing due to its age.
- No ancillary facility issues have been identified, although aspirations exist for a separate clubhouse to be established at Congleton High School and for this to service the 3G pitch.

3G – demand summary

- The majority of 3G provision currently servicing Cheshire East is reported by providers and clubs as operating at or close to capacity at peak times, especially during winter months.
- Most of the community-based activity on the 3G pitches is football related, with the exception of rugby union and touch rugby demand at Reaseheath College (the site is used for football, but this is minimal).
- Demand is received from football clubs not only for training demand but also for match play, with 179 teams currently using 3G provision for this purpose.
- Small-sided commercial football leagues operate at several venues including Cumberland Arena, Nantwich Town Football Club, Sandbach Community Football Centre and Alexandra Soccer Centre.
- Some capacity does remain, such as on pitches operated by Everybody Health & Leisure, where 64 peak time midweek booking slots remain free across four of its five full size pitches in addition to 37 hours at weekends.
- A total of 45% of clubs report that they require additional access to 3G provision, with this representing a high proportion of unmet demand.
- Imported training demand is identified at Alsager Leisure Centre, whilst some 3G match play demand imports into Cheshire East due to the use of central venues by some leagues.
- If future demand from population projections and club aspirations is realised, this will further increase 3G requirements for both football and rugby union.
- In the Poynton Mitigation Strategy, it is recommended that Poynton Lacrosse Club has access to the proposed 3G pitch at Poynton High School in order to accommodate its training demand due to capacity issues on its grass pitches.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

PART 4: RUGBY UNION

4.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is split into four areas across the country with a workforce team that covers development, coaching, governance and competitions. It governs a variety of formats and programmes, including 15-a-side, 10-a-side, 7-a-side and Tag rugby as well as the O2 Touch programme. Its aim is to increase and retain participation within the game, with facilities needing to be appropriate, affordable and accessible in order to enable this.

For traditional rugby union, there are generally three playing formats, based on the age of the players involved. These are now known as age grade mixed rugby (previously mini), age grade boys/girls rugby (previously junior) and senior rugby.

The rugby union playing season operates from September to May.

Consultation

There are seven rugby union clubs in Cheshire East, all of which, responded to consultation requests, resulting in a response rate of 100%.

Table 4.1: Summary of rugby club consultation

Club	Responded?
Crewe & Nantwich RUFC	Yes
Congleton RUFC	Yes
Holmes Chapel RUFC	Yes
Knutsford RUFC	Yes
Sandbach RUFC	Yes
Macclesfield RUFC	Yes
Wilmslow RUFC	Yes

4.2: Supply

Within Cheshire East, there are 44 grass rugby union pitches identified across 22 unique sites, with 34 pitches available for community use across 14 sites. The pitches that are unavailable for community use are located at education sites (Brine Leas School, Fallibroome Academy, Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre, Poynton High School, Sir William Stanier School, St Thomas More Catholic High School and Tytherington High School).

Of the pitches available for community use, 30 are senior pitches and four are smaller size age grade pitches. The majority are identified in the North Analysis Area (21 pitches), whilst the fewest are located in the South Analysis Area (four pitches).

Table 4.2: Summary of grass rugby union pitches available for community use

Analysis area	No. senior pitches	No. of age grade pitches
North	17	4
Central	9	-
South	4	-
Cheshire East	30	4

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

The audit only identifies dedicated, line marked pitches that are serviced by goalposts. However, there are some additional marked spaces that are used, without goalposts, particularly for age grade rugby. It is also common for age grade matches to be played on senior pitches via the use of cones, particularly at sites used by clubs. This is the case across club sites in Cheshire East, even at sites with standalone age grade pitches.

Recommended pitch dimensions for all formats of play are shown in the table below.

Table 4.3: Rugby union pitch dimensions

Age	Playing format	Maximum pitch dimensions (metres) ¹¹
U7	Age grade mixed	20 x 12
U8	Age grade mixed	45 x 22
U9	Age grade mixed	60 x 30
U10	Age grade mixed	60 x 35
U11	Age grade mixed	60 x 43
U12	Age grade mixed	60 x 43
U13	Age grade boys/girls	90 x 60 (60 x 43 for girls)
U14	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U15	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U16	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U17	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U18	Colts	100 x 70
Senior	Senior	100 x 70

In addition to the grass provision, there is one full size World Rugby compliant 3G pitch in Cheshire East that is in use for rugby union. This is at Reaseheath College and is detailed later on in this section of the report as well as in Part 3: Third Generation Turf (3G) Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs).

Changes since the previous study

There has been a significant decrease in the number of rugby union pitches across Cheshire East since the previous study was updated, in 2021. However, this is mostly a consequence of many smaller size pitches no longer being included as formal pitches, with only those being serviced by goalposts now accounted for. Examples of this include five pitches at Sandbach Rugby Club and three pitches at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club which are no longer referenced, although it is recognised that such spaces are still able to accommodate some demand.

Notwithstanding the above, there has also been a decrease of three senior pitches. This is a result of Eaton Bank Academy no longer providing a pitch and only one pitch being supplied at both Back Lane and Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre when there were previously two. In all three instances, football pitches are now in place instead.

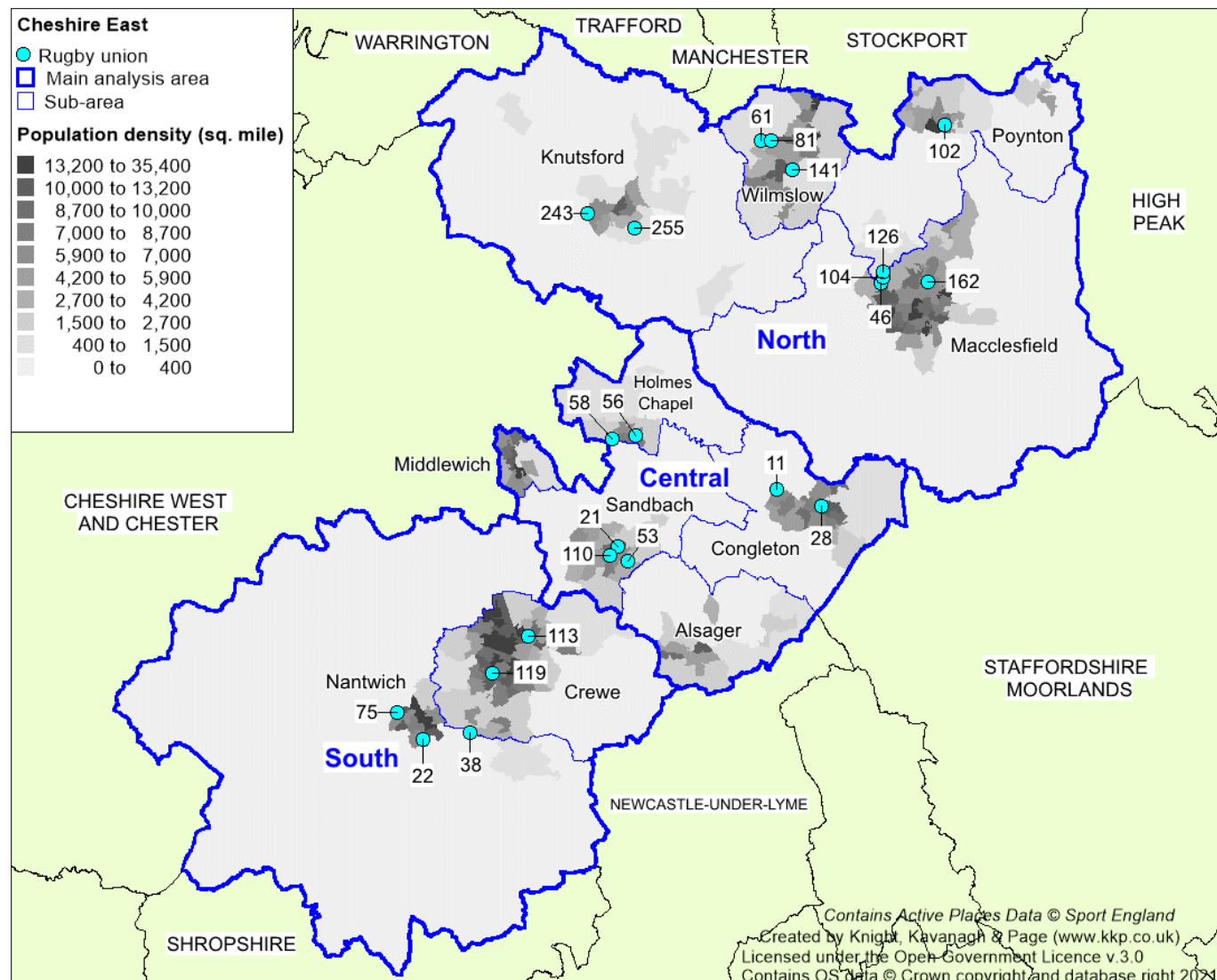
At Back Lane, the number of rugby union pitches has, as always planned, reverted back to 2018/2019 levels following the development at Hankinson's Field. There is also no demand for the additional pitch at the site.

Figure 4.1 overleaf shows the location of all rugby union pitches currently servicing Cheshire East. For a key to the map, see Table 4.9.

¹¹ Recommended run off area for all pitch types requires five-metres each way and a minimum in-goal length of six metres.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Figure 4.1: Location of rugby union pitches within Cheshire East



CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Disused provision

There are no disused sites that previously accommodated rugby union pitches. However, in addition to the loss of pitches identified above, there are several other sites that remain active and that previously contained one senior rugby union pitch but no longer do so. This applies to the following:

- ✦ Alsager Leisure Centre
- ✦ Barony Park Sports Complex
- ✦ Congleton High School
- ✦ Egerton Youth Club
- ✦ Middlewich Leisure Centre (High School)

At Alsager Leisure Centre, Congleton High School, Egerton Youth Club and Middlewich Leisure Centre (High School), each pitch that was used for rugby union is now marked out and used for football. Knutsford RUFC previously used Egerton Youth Club before the Club transferred its demand to Knutsford Academy.

At Barony Park Sports Complex, the rugby union pitch was used by Acton Nomads RUFC; however, this is no longer marked out now that the Club does not compete. The space that accommodated the provision remains unmarked, despite football pitches being provided elsewhere on the site.

Future developments

Macclesfield RUFC reports an aspiration to extend its footprint to provide additional pitch space, stating that it is in negotiations with private landowner to fulfil this. This was previously linked to the potential sale of some of its existing land, but it is now acknowledged that this will not be possible on planning grounds.

Knutsford Academy, working alongside Knutsford RUFC, has identified adjacent land that it wishes to acquire from Crown Estates. Should this proposal take place, the School intends to supply one senior and one junior rugby union pitch in addition to the one senior and one junior pitch that is currently provided. That being said, this is a longstanding aspiration and there has been no movement on the proposal in recent years.

Congleton RUFC reports a long-standing aspiration to acquire its own site that can accommodate all of its demand and ancillary facility requirements. It currently spreads its demand across several sites, all of which are rented from the Council.

A Mitigation Strategy¹² completed in 2021 incorporating provision at Poynton High School identifies that the rugby union pitch on site should be improved to good quality as part of wider plans in the area, centred around Poynton Sports Club and its potential relocation. Whilst it is unlikely that there will ever be demand for use of the pitch by a community club, improvements are required to better accommodate the School's own rugby union programme and the associated curricular and extra-curricular demand.

Management and security of tenure

Of the 44 pitches provided, 21 are operated by education providers, although only 11 of these are available to the community. The remaining pitches are all available, with 14 supplied at club sites and nine at council sites, with these operated by either ANSA or Everybody Health & Leisure. This is summarised in the table overleaf.

¹² [Poynton Mitigation Strategy](#)

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 4.4: Rugby union pitches by management type

Community use	Number of pitches			
	Club	Council	Education	Other
Available	14	9	11	-
Unavailable	-	-	10	-
Total	14	9	21	0

In relation to clubs, tenure of the sites that they use is generally secure, with the only significant exception being Knutsford RUFC at Knutsford Academy (the Club also utilises the provision at Booths Park for training activity). It rents the pitches on an annual basis from the School, with no guarantee of access beyond this. To ensure prolonged use, it is recommended that the parties enter into a secure, long-term community use (or lease) agreement.

Holmes Chapel RUFC is considered to have secure tenure via the use of council pitches at Holmes Chapel Community Centre (as all Council facilities are deemed to be safeguarded for future sporting use). However, it has only four years remaining on a memorandum of understanding to use site, in addition to an annual hire agreement. It is recommended that this be increased to at least 25 years to provide greater security of tenure and to help the Club attract funding for club and site developments.

Similarly, Congleton RUFC rents pitches at Hankinson's Field, Congleton Park and Back Lane from the Council, which whilst secure does not provide the Club with long-term assurances. Separately to the pitch sites, it owns its clubhouse. This is a former public house within the centre of Congleton.

Tenure is considered secure for Macclesfield RUFC, which owns Priory Park. It is also secure for Sandbach RUFC, which owns part of its site and leases the remainder from a local landowner in an agreement that has around 85 years remaining.

Security of tenure is also provided to Wilmslow RUFC as it owns Memorial Ground in addition to accessing the pitches at Jim Evison Playing Fields as a secondary site via a yearly rental agreement from the Council. Crewe & Nantwich RUFC owns its pitches and then operates out of the clubhouse at Crewe Vagrant Sports Club via an annual subscription. Again, this is considered to be secure.

Away from clubs, the majority of the unused school sites do not provide security of tenure for access to their rugby provision, even where community availability is offered. The only exception to this is found at King's School, whereby a community use agreement is in place as part of the planning conditions for the recent development of the site.

Pitch quality

The assessment of rugby union pitch quality looks at two key elements; the maintenance programme and the level of drainage on each pitch. For maintenance, each pitch is given a maintenance rating of M0, M1 or M2, based on the regime that is usually undertaken, with the definitions of these shown in the table below.

Table 4.5: Definition of maintenance categories

Category	Definition
M0	Minimal or no maintenance is undertaken
M1	Regular maintenance is undertaken that extends beyond a basic regime
M2	A sophisticated, regular and dedicated maintenance regime is undertaken

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

For drainage, a rating of D0, D1, D2 or D3 is assigned to each pitch. This is based on whether or not drainage is adequate and considers the presence of an operational system. The figures are based upon a pipe drained system at 5m centres that has been installed in the last eight years and a slit drained system at 1m centres that has been installed in the last five years.

Table 4.6: Definition of drainage categories

Category	Definition
D0	Drainage is natural but inadequate
D1	Drainage is natural and adequate
D2	A pipe drainage system is installed (at 5-metre centres and within the last eight years)
D3	A pipe and slit drainage system is installed (at 1-metre centres in the last five years)

An overall quality based on both drainage and maintenance can then be generated on a scale of good, standard and poor as shown below.

Table 4.7: Quality ratings based on maintenance and drainage scores

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)	Poor	Poor	Standard
	Natural Adequate (D1)	Poor	Standard	Good
	Pipe Drained (D2)	Standard	Standard	Good
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	Standard	Good	Good

For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

Of the community available pitches in Cheshire East, 13 are assessed as good quality, 17 are assessed as standard quality and four are assessed as poor quality.

Table 4.8: Quality of pitches available for community use

Senior pitches			Age grade pitches		
Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
12	15	3	1	2	1

All unavailable pitches are assessed as standard or poor quality. A pitch-by-pitch breakdown can be seen in the table overleaf.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 4.9: Site quality ratings

Site ID	Active Places ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Sub area	Management	Community use?	Pitch type	Sports lighting?	Quality score	Quality rating
11	6009947	Back Lane	CW12 4RB	Central	Congleton	Council	Yes	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor
21	1042154	Sandbach Rugby Club	CW11 1GH	Central	Sandbach	Sports club	Yes	Senior	Yes	M2 / D1	Good
								Senior	Yes	M2 / D1	Good
								Senior	No	M2 / D1	Good
								Senior	No	M2 / D1	Good
								Senior	No	M2 / D1	Good
22	1200868	Brine Leas School	CW5 7DY	South	Nantwich	School	No	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
								Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
28	30009248	Congleton Park	CW12 1JG	Central	Congleton	Council	Yes	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
38	1208642	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club	CW5 7EP	South	Nantwich	Sports club	Yes	Senior	No	M2 / D1	Good
								Senior	Yes	M2 / D1	Good
								Senior	No	M2 / D1	Good
46	1038237	Fallibroome Academy	SK10 4AF	North	Macclesfield	School	No	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
								Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
53	30009248 ¹³	Hankinson's Field	CW12 1JL	Central	Sandbach	Council	Yes	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
56	1006713	Holmes Chapel Community Centre	CW4 8AA	Central	Holmes Chapel	Council	Yes	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
58	1004943	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	CW4 7DZ	Central	Holmes Chapel	School	No	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor
61	1208664	Jim Evison Playing Fields	SK9 4LY	North	Wilmslow	Council	Yes	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
								Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
								Age grade	No	M1 / D1	Standard
								Age grade	No	M1 / D1	Standard
75	1200932	Malbank School & Sixth Form College	CW5 5HD	South	Nantwich	School	Yes-unused	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
81	1036505	Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club)	SK9 5PZ	North	Wilmslow	Sports club	Yes	Senior	Yes	M2 / D1	Good
								Senior	Yes	M1 / D1	Standard
102	1041692	Poynton High School	SK12 1PU	North	Poynton	School	No	Senior	No	M0 / D0	Poor
104	1208746	Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club)	SK10 4AE	North	Macclesfield	Sports club	Yes	Senior	No	M2 / D1	Good
								Senior	Yes	M2 / D1	Good
								Senior	No	M2 / D1	Good
								Age grade	No	M2 / D1	Good
110	1200738	Sandbach School (Boys)	CW11 4NS	Central	Sandbach	School	No	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
113	1004935	Sir William Stanier School	CW1 4EB	South	Crewe	School	No	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
119	1200761	St Thomas More Catholic High School	CW2 8AE	South	Crewe	School	No	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
126	1203220	The King's School	SK10 4RH	North	Macclesfield	School	Yes-unused	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
								Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
								Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
								Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
								Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
141	1201174	Wilmslow High School	SK9 1LZ	North	Wilmslow	School	Yes-unused	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
								Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
								Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
162	1009521	Tytherington High School	SK10 2EE	North	Macclesfield	School	No	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor
243	1041711	Knutsford Academy (lower)	WA16 0BL	North	Knutsford	School	Yes	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor
								Age grade	No	M1 / D0	Poor
255	3000871	Booths Park	WA16 8QX	North	Knutsford	Council	Yes	Senior	Yes	M1 / D1	Standard

¹³ Active Places currently identifies this pitch as part of Congleton Park
January 2024

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Poor quality pitches are found at the following community available sites:

- ◀ Back Lane
- ◀ Holmes Chapel Community Centre
- ◀ Knutsford Academy (lower)

Each of these is in active use by clubs, which should be of concern. Recent investment has taken place at both Back Lane and Holmes Chapel Community Centre in an attempt to improve quality; however, the pitches remain poor quality.

At Knutsford Academy (lower) it is reported by both the School and Knutsford RUFC that drainage improvements are required. The RFU has also previously investigated completing the required works at the site, but notes that this would be dependent on the Club firstly securing long-term security of tenure.

In contrast, the good quality pitches are found at:

- ◀ Crewe Vagrants Sports Club
- ◀ Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club)
- ◀ Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club)
- ◀ Sandbach Rugby Club

Each of these sites receive a much higher level of maintenance, assisted by the regimes being carried out by clubs and associated volunteers. These programmes are generally more specialised and more frequent than at those sites maintained by the Council or by schools.

Despite being assessed as good quality, Macclesfield RUFC reports that its sports lit senior pitch at Priory Park suffers from drainage issues due to the clubhouse building shielding the pitch from sunlight. The Club hopes to resolve this by replacing the existing facility at a perpendicular angle in addition to other site development plans albeit a previous planning application was refused.

At Crewe Vagrants Sports Club, the good quality pitch with sports lighting cannot be used for senior or junior match play demand due to the proximity of concrete paving by one of the touchlines.

At Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club), only one of the two pitches is assessed as good quality, with the second assessed as standard (M1/D1). The Club reports an aspiration to carry out levelling works on this pitch to improve its condition.

Changes since the previous study

The quality of rugby union pitches has remained relatively unchanged since the 2021 update of the previous study, although there has been an increase in standard quality provision and a decrease in poor quality provision. This is due to improvements at both Jim Evison Playing Fields and Congleton Park.

Conversely, the pitches at King's School (Alderley Road) are now considered to be standard quality rather than good.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Ancillary facilities

As previously mentioned, the clubhouse facility servicing Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) is detrimental to pitch quality and the building itself is dated. As such, the Club has an aspiration to upgrade the provision and states that an increase in the number of changing rooms would help grow demand. It has recently added female changing rooms to the site in order to better facilitate its growing women's and girls' membership.

Elsewhere, Congleton RUFC reports a need for the changing rooms servicing Back Lane to be improved as the current provision is too small and is deemed unsuitable for rugby use having been built to primarily accommodate football users. In addition, the Club has been without access to the facilities servicing Hankinson's Field and Congleton Park due to the ongoing development of the Leisure Centre on site, although the facilities will be available for the 2023/2024 season.

Wilmslow RUFC reports similar quality issues at Jim Evison Playing Fields, identifying that significant refurbishment is required. The provision is assessed as poor quality.

Crewe & Nantwich RUFC aspires to refurbish the existing changing provision at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club and it wants to extend the clubhouse so that it provides two additional changing rooms, dedicated refereeing provision, a physio room and increased storage space. Furthermore, the Club is also trying to acquire funding to improve the site's car parking, both in terms of quality and size. Given the operational structure at the site, both developments would have to go through the wider sports club (which is supportive).

Knutsford RUFC has recently had its own dedicated clubhouse space provided at Knutsford Academy (lower). However, it reports that it requires additional and improved changing rooms.

The facilities at Wilmslow RUFC's main venue, Memorial Ground, are adequate, with no issues raised by the Club. Similarly, Holmes Chapel RUFC has no significant issues with its ancillary provision following relatively recent refurbishment at Holmes Chapel Community Centre, although it does state that more showers are required.

The facilities at Sandbach Rugby Club are good quality. However, the Club reports a long-term aim to re-develop the provision as the building is becoming dated.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

4.3: Demand

Demand for rugby pitches in Cheshire East tends to fall within the categories of organised competitive play and organised training.

Competitive demand

There are seven clubs based in Cheshire East, collectively providing a total of 95 teams. As a breakdown, this consists of 22 senior men's, three senior women's, 26 age grade boys', nine aged grade girls' and 35 mini teams.

Most of the clubs are large clubs providing several teams across the playing formats, although Holmes Chapel RUFC only fields senior men's teams.

Table 4.10: Summary of demand

Club	Analysis area	Number of teams				
		Men's	Women's	Age grade boys'	Age grade girls'	Age grade mixed
Crewe & Nantwich RUFC	South	3	2	5	3	6
Congleton RUFC	Central	3	-	2	-	5
Holmes Chapel RUFC	Central	2	-	-	-	-
Knutsford RUFC	North	2	-	2	-	6
Sandbach RUFC	Central	4	-	7	3	6
Macclesfield RUFC	North	4	1	6	3	6
Wilmslow RUFC	North	4	-	4	-	6
Total		22	3	26	9	35

As seen in the table above, senior women's teams are fielded by both Crewe & Nantwich RUFC and Macclesfield RUFC, whilst both, in addition to Sandbach RUFC, have age grade girls' teams. Age grade girls' rugby has recently been re-banded, with four bands now existing at U12, U14, U16 and U18 level, whereas previously only three bands were in place at U13, U15 and U18 level.

Most teams (44) play in the North Analysis Area, primarily due to the presence of large clubs such as Macclesfield RUFC and Wilmslow RUFC. Conversely, the fewest play in the South Analysis Area (19 teams) on account of only Crewe & Nantwich RUFC providing an offering.

Table 4.11: Summary of demand by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of teams				
	Men's	Women's	Age grade boys'	Age grade girls'	Age grade mixed
North	10	1	12	3	18
Central	9	-	9	3	11
South	3	2	5	3	6
Cheshire East	22	3	26	9	35

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Participation trends

When comparing current data to the findings of last update of the previous study, there has been a small increase in demand amounting to one team across the clubs. This consists of a large increase in age grade girls' demand and a small increase in senior men's and women's demand, offset partly by a decrease in age grade boys' rugby. Age grade mixed activity has remained static.

On a club-by-club basis, the largest decrease has been experienced by Congleton RUFC. The Club states that this is due to a variety of factors, including the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and because it often loses players to larger clubs such as Macclesfield RUFC and Sandbach RUFC. It previously had three age grade boys and six age grade mixed teams but now only has one aged grade boys (at U13 level) and five age grade mixed teams.

In addition, both Knutsford RUFC and Wilmslow RUFC report a recent decline in the number of teams provided, although Knutsford RUFC states that this follows a previous growth period.

The remaining clubs have all seen demand remain static or have experienced small increases in the number of teams. The largest growth is seen at Sandbach RUFC, which reports that its good quality facilities assist with attracting players and retaining existing users.

Training demand

Throughout the Country, many rugby teams train at their home ground on match pitches. As a result, usage is concentrated which reduces the capacity for match play on these pitches and means they are more likely to be overplayed. A key factor in determining the extent of training on match pitches is the presence of sports lighting.

In Cheshire East, two sports lit pitches are provided at both Sandbach Rugby Club and Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby), whilst one is provided at Booths Park, Crewe Vagrants Sports Club and Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club). These accommodate training demand from Sandbach, Wilmslow, Knutsford, Crewe & Nantwich and Macclesfield rugby clubs.

In addition to using its sports-lit pitch, Crewe & Nantwich RUFC also access the World Rugby compliant full size 3G pitch at Reaseheath College for some of its training demand. In fact, this accommodates the majority of its activity during winter months as this preserves the quality of its grass provision. As mentioned previously, its sports-lit pitch at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club cannot be used for senior or junior match play demand due to the proximity of a concrete path.

Similarly, Macclesfield RUFC uses its on site smaller size 3G pitch for some training demand, predominately from its age grade teams. However, the pitch is not World Rugby compliant, meaning it should not be used for any form of full-contact activity. The sports-lit grass pitch on site therefore still accommodates the majority of usage.

Only one of the two sports-lit pitches at Memorial Ground is used by Wilmslow RUFC for most of its training demand, with other pitch mostly reserved for matches. Likewise, Sandbach RUFC generally only accesses one of its two sports-lit pitches for its training activity.

The sports-lit pitch at Booths Park is utilised by Knutsford RUFC for all its training demand (the site is not used for matches) as no suitable provision is provided at Knutsford Academy. However, the Club aspires for sports lighting to be installed at the School so that it can be solely based on one site and this is something that the RFU are supportive of.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

The remaining two clubs do not generally use match pitches for training. Instead, Holmes Chapel RUFC uses a disused bowling green at Holmes Chapel Community Centre via portable lighting. Before this, the Club utilised the 3G pitch at Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre but this was not ideal as it was not World Rugby compliant and therefore could not be used for full contact activity. The Club would like a permanent sports-lit solution and also notes that this has been advised by the RFU.

Congleton RUFC previously trained at Hankinson's Field but states that this has not been possible over recent seasons due to the Leisure Centre development, although it will be able to use the site again ahead of the 2023/2024 season. This will be via a permanent solution, with an upgrade to its lighting, which was agreed as part of the scheme. Recently, it has instead been using Congleton High School and has hired the provision for two nights a week.

The training activity for each club is summarised in the table below.

Table 4.12: Summary of training activity for each club

Club name	Site/s used	Comments
Crewe & Nantwich RUFC	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club / Reaseheath College	Majority of training takes place via the World Rugby compliant 3G pitch at Reaseheath College, with the sports-lit pitch at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club also accessed if required.
Congleton RUFC	Congleton High School	All training takes place at Congleton High School but will return to Hankinson's Field for 2023/2024.
Holmes Chapel RUFC	Holmes Chapel Community Centre	Utilising a disused bowling green via the use of portable lighting, with no permanent solution in place.
Knutsford RUFC	Booths Park	All training demand via the sports-lit pitch on site, although it has an aspiration for sports lighting to instead be supplied at Knutsford Academy.
Sandbach RUFC	Sandbach Rugby Club	All training via the sports-lit pitches at the site, with one used for the majority.
Macclesfield RUFC	Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club)	Majority of training via the sports-lit pitch on site, although the smaller sized 3G pitch is used for some age grade activity.
Wilmslow RUFC	Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby)	All training via the sports-lit pitches at the site, with one used for the majority.

Use of artificial pitches

The alternative to training on grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches. World Rugby produced the 'Performance Specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22' that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. A World Rugby compliant pitch also enables the transfer of match demand from grass pitches onto 3G pitches, which alleviates overplay of grass pitches and as a result protects quality.

As mentioned above, Reaseheath College provides the sole World Rugby compliant 3G pitch in Cheshire East, with teams from Crewe & Nantwich RUFC using the pitch for training and occasional match play. However, the smaller sized 3G pitch at Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) is also used for some activity, despite not being accredited.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Macclesfield RUFC previously attempted to develop a full size World Rugby compliant 3G pitch at Priory Park; however, planning permission was refused. In addition, Wilmslow RUFC also expresses an aspiration to develop such provision.

Holmes Chapel RUFC previously trained on a 3G pitch at Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre, although this was not accredited and could therefore not be used for full contact activity. It does not identify demand for re-accessing 3G provision.

See Part 3 of this report for further information.

Additional demand

Club activity

Macclesfield RUFC 50 members that regularly use its site for walking rugby, in addition to also operating a Touch programme. However, this activity generally takes place via the 3G pitch on site, rather than the grass provision being utilised.

Crewe & Nantwich Blaze Touch Rugby Club utilises the 3G pitch at Reaseheath College for its activity.

Crewe Vagrants Sports Club is also used for American football by Crewe Railroaders (further explored in Part 8). Whilst this dual usage does not impact on capacity, as the seasons run at separate times of the year, it can impact on post season remedial work at the site.

Education

Rugby union is traditionally a popular sport within independent schools as is the case in Cheshire East where it is particularly prominent at the King's School.

The RFU is also active in developing rugby union in local state schools through the All Schools programme launched in September 2012. The aim is to increase the number of secondary state schools playing rugby union, with such schools linking to a local team of Club Developers. These deliver coaching sessions and support the schools to establish rugby union as part of the curricular and extracurricular programme.

Within Cheshire East, the following schools are part of the All Schools programme:

- ◀ Malbank School and Sixth Form College
- ◀ Ruskin Community High School
- ◀ Shavington Academy

In addition, most other state schools have extensive rugby union activity that is highlighted by many having access to on-site pitches. The following schools are known to involve rugby union within their sporting curriculum:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ◀ Brine Leas School | ◀ Congleton High School |
| ◀ Fallibroome Academy | ◀ Holmes Chapel High School |
| ◀ Knutsford Academy | ◀ St Thomas More Catholic High School |
| ◀ Poynton High School | ◀ The Oaks Academy |
| ◀ Sandbach School (Boys) | ◀ Wilmslow High School |

Many of these schools also work closely with the RFU to develop the sport and, as part of that, RFU community coaches enter the schools to deliver regular sessions.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Over markings

Senior pitches at the following sites are also dual use football pitches and, as such, their capacity to accommodate rugby union is limited:

- ◀ Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre
- ◀ Malbank School & Sixth Form College
- ◀ Sandbach School (Boys)
- ◀ Sir William Stanier School
- ◀ St Thomas More Catholic High School

Although none of the above are in current use by rugby clubs, the pitches at Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre, Malbank School and Sixth Form College and Sir William Stanier School are available.

Exported/imported demand

No match play demand is displaced from Cheshire East; however, some training demand is occasionally exported to the World Rugby compliant 3G pitch at Lymm Rugby Club in Warrington.

Conversely, no imported demand into Cheshire East is identified.

Unmet/latent demand

Congleton RUFC reports being split across numerous venues is inhibiting its potential to grow, with this also identified as a factor behind its recent decline in demand. It identifies that it could be accommodated from one site then it would be able to increase its number of teams.

Similarly, Macclesfield RUFC identifies that it could accommodate more teams if it had more changing rooms on site.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined through multiple ways, including through participation increases and by using population forecasts. In addition, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain housing growth scenarios that can be used to estimate additional demand for rugby union arising from housing developments across Cheshire East.

Participation growth

Across Cheshire East, six clubs report growth aspirations, with this collectively amounting to a potential increase of 18 teams. This is summarised below.

Table 4.13: Summary of future demand expressed by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Number of rugby union teams				
		Men's	Women's	Boys'	Girls'	Mixed
Congleton RUFC	Central	1	-	1	2	1
Crewe & Nantwich RUFC	South	-	-	1	1	-
Knutsford RUFC	North	1	-	1	-	2
Macclesfield RUFC	North	1	1	-	-	-
Sandbach RUFC	Central	1	-	1	1	-
Wilmslow RUFC	North	1	-	1	-	-

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Club	Analysis area	Number of rugby union teams				
		Men's	Women's	Boys'	Girls'	Mixed
Total		5	1	5	4	3

Holmes Chapel RUFC does not report any future demand, stating that its priority is on sustaining current participation levels.

Population growth

Based on population projections to 2030 (in line with the Council's Local Plan), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for grass rugby pitches that will arise from any growth. This is by using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers, with team generation rates then established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team.

The table below shows the number of new teams generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions. As seen, growth of only one senior men's, one age grade boys and one age grade mixed team is projected.

Table 4.14: Authority-wide team generation rates

Age group	Current number of teams	Team generation rate	Number of new teams generated by the new population
Men (19-45yrs)	22	1:2432	1
Women (19-45yrs)	3	1:18324	-
Boys (13-18yrs)	24	1:549	1
Girls (13-18yrs)	9	1:1406	-
Mixed (7-12yrs)	35	1:783	1

Notwithstanding the above, team generation rates do not account for specific development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives. As such, increased future growth is still considered possible despite population projections indicating that there will only be minimal growth. A growth in women and girls' rugby is thought to be particularly likely given current RFU aspirations and due to the upcoming 2025 Rugby World Cup.

Future demand summary

Due to the limited increases forecast through population projections, the aspirations held by clubs will instead be used within the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section as these are considered to be more realistic growth levels. The small growth predicted by population increases is likely to be absorbed by club plans.

The peak period

In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established for all types of rugby. For senior teams in Cheshire East, it is considered to be Saturday PM, whilst it is Sunday AM for age grade rugby.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

4.4: Capacity analysis

The capacity for pitches to regularly accommodate competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of playing rugby. In extreme circumstances, it can result in the inability of a pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times.

To enable an accurate supply and demand assessment of rugby union pitches, the following assumptions are applied to the site-by-site and pitch-by-pitch analysis:

- ✦ All sites that are or could be used for competitive rugby matches (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included on the supply side.
- ✦ All competitive play is on senior sized pitches, with age grade teams playing on overmarked pitches, unless dedicated age grade pitches are known to be instead.
- ✦ From U13s upwards, teams play 15v15 and use a full pitch.
- ✦ For senior and age grade boys/girls teams, the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 match equivalent sessions for each match played based on all teams operating on a home and away basis.
- ✦ Age grade mixed teams (U6s-U12s) play on half of a senior pitch, meaning two matches and four teams can be accommodated at any one time.
- ✦ Play per week for age grade mixed teams is set at 0.25 match equivalent sessions for each match played based on teams operating on a home and away basis.
- ✦ Training that takes place on marked pitches is reflected by the addition of match equivalent sessions to current usage levels (one training session is one match equivalent session).
- ✦ Internal use of school pitches is added to current play, where community availability is offered, as determined on a site-by-site basis depending on levels of activity.
- ✦ Other usage of pitches (e.g., by football teams) is added as match equivalent sessions based on the level and regularity of play.

As a guide, the RFU has set a standard number of matches that each pitch should be able to accommodate, based on quality, as set out below.

Table 4.15: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)	0.5	1.5	2
	Natural Adequate or Pipe Drained (D1)	1.5	2	3
	Pipe Drained (D2)	1.75	2.5	3.25
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	2	3	3.5

Please see Table 4.16 overleaf for the site by site capacity analysis.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 4.16: Capacity table for rugby pitches in Cheshire East

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Pitch type	Sports lighting?	Non-technical assessment score	Quality rating	Pitch Capacity (sessions per week)	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Training equivalent sessions (per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
11	Back Lane	Central	Yes	Council	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor	1.5	0.5	-	1	Used for occasional match play demand by Congleton RUFC, with spare capacity remaining.
21	Sandbach Rugby Club	Central	Yes	Sports club	Senior	Yes	M2 / D1	Good	3	2	-	1	Used for match play demand by Sandbach RUFC, with spare capacity remaining.
					Senior	Yes	M2 / D1	Good	3	-	5	2	Overplayed through training demand from Sandbach RUFC.
					Senior	No	M2 / D1	Good	3	2	-	1	Used for match play demand by Sandbach RUFC, with spare capacity remaining.
					Senior	No	M2 / D1	Good	3	3	-		Used to capacity by Sandbach RUFC for its match play demand
					Senior	No	M2 / D1	Good	3	3	-		Used to capacity by Sandbach RUFC for its match play demand
22	Brine Leas School	South	No	School	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
28	Congleton Park	Central	Yes	Council	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	2.75	-	0.75	Used for match play demand by Congleton RUFC and overplayed.
38	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club	South	Yes	Sports club	Senior	No	M2 / D1	Good	3.	2.5		0.5	Used for match play demand by Crewe & Nantwich RUFC, with spare capacity remaining.
					Senior	Yes	M2 / D1	Good	3	1.5	1	0.5	Used for mini match play demand and some training by Crewe & Nantwich RUFC, with minimal spare capacity remaining
					Senior	No	M2 / D1	Good	3	2.5	-	0.5	Used for match play demand by Crewe & Nantwich RUFC, with minimal spare capacity remaining.
46	Fallibroome Academy	North	No	School	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
53	Hankinson's Field	Central	Yes	Council	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	1.5	1	0.5	Used for match play and training demand (from 2023/2024) by Congleton RUFC and overplayed.
56	Holmes Chapel Community Centre	Central	Yes	Council	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor	1.5	1	-	0.5	Used for match play demand by Holmes Chapel RUFC, with minimal spare capacity remaining.
58	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	Central	No	School	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
61	Jim Evison Playing Fields	North	Yes	Council	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	2	-	0.5	Used for match play demand by Wilmslow RUFC, with minimal spare capacity remaining.
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	2	-	0.5	Used for match play demand by Wilmslow RUFC, with minimal spare capacity remaining.
					Age grade	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	2	-		Used to capacity by Wilmslow RUFC for its match play demand.
					Age grade	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	2	-		Used to capacity by Wilmslow RUFC for its match play demand.
75	Malbank School & Sixth Form College	South	Yes-unused	School	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	1	-	1	Unused by the community.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Pitch type	Sports lighting?	Non-technical assessment score	Quality rating	Pitch Capacity (sessions per week)	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Training equivalent sessions (per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
81	Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club)	North	Yes	Sports club	Senior	Yes	M2 / D1	Good	3	1.5	-	1.5	Used for match play demand by Wilmslow RUFC, with spare capacity remaining.
					Senior	Yes	M1 / D1	Standard	2	-	5	3	Overplayed through training demand from Wilmslow RUFC.
102	Poynton High School	North	No	School	Senior	No	M0 / D0	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
104	Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club)	North	Yes	Sports club	Senior	No	M2 / D1	Good	3	2	-	1	Used for match play demand by Macclesfield RUFC, with spare capacity remaining.
					Senior	Yes	M2 / D1	Good	3	-	4	1	Overplayed through training demand from Macclesfield RUFC.
					Senior	No	M2 / D1	Good	3	3	-		Used to capacity by Macclesfield RUFC for its match play demand.
					Age grade	No	M2 / D1	Good	3	3	-		Used to capacity by Macclesfield RUFC for its match play demand.
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	Central	No	School	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
113	Sir William Stanier School	South	No	School	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
119	St Thomas More Catholic High School	South	No	School	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
126	The King's School	North	Yes-unused	School	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	2	-		Unused by the community; played to capacity internally.
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	2	-		Unused by the community; played to capacity internally.
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	2	-		Unused by the community; played to capacity internally.
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	1	-	1	Unused by the community.
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	1	-	1	Unused by the community.
141	Wilmslow High School	North	Yes-unused	School	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	1	-	1	Unused by the community.
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	1	-	1	Unused by the community.
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	1	-	1	Unused by the community.
162	Tytherington High School	North	No	School	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
243	Knutsford Academy (lower)	North	Yes	School	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor	1.5	2	-	0.5	Used for match play demand by Knutsford RUFC and overplayed.
					Age grade	No	M1 / D0	Poor	1.5	2	-	0.5	Used for match play demand by Knutsford RUFC and overplayed.
255	Booths Park	North	Yes	Council	Senior	Yes	M1 / D1	Standard	2	2	-		Used to capacity by Knutsford RUFC for its training demand

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Actual spare capacity

There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as actual spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

Furthermore, there are numerous rugby pitches in Cheshire East at education sites that are unused by clubs despite being reported as available. Whilst these may theoretically provide some spare capacity, it would not be reasonable to equate this as actual spare capacity as school usage itself is likely to limit what additional activity should take place on the provision. Moreover, the nature of club rugby generally means that clubs are generally unwilling to utilise secondary venues, making community use unlikely.

In addition, any pitches that are used by clubs to capacity at peak time, that are poor quality or that provide unsecure tenure are not considered to have actual spare capacity. As such, the table below ascertains whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be used to accommodate an increase in play on a site-by-site and pitch-by-pitch basis. This is regarding senior demand.

For age grade rugby, ascertaining actual spare capacity can be unclear with regards to the programming of matches as it can vary from week to week. This is because junior and mini sections tend to enter cup competitions or play organised friendly fixtures, with clubs arranging for several of their age groups to play those from another club all at once, either at home or away. Then when fixtures are not scheduled, clubs will generally hold training sessions, which means that clubs may require use of home pitches for consecutive weeks, or not at all for the same time period.

Given the above, it is generally assumed that no pitches used by age grade teams have significant actual spare capacity for an increase in demand. However, it is acknowledged that some capacity does exist during weekends when the pitches are not in use.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 4.17: Actual spare capacity table (senior demand)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches with spare capacity	Pitch type	Potential spare capacity	Actual spare capacity (peak period)	Comments
11	Back Lane	Central	1	Senior	1	-	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
21	Sandbach Rugby Club	Central	2	Senior	2	-	Used to capacity at peak time for senior rugby.
38	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club	South	3	Senior	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time, although 0.5 match equivalent sessions are discounted due to the sports lit pitch being unusable for senior and junior matches.
56	Holmes Chapel Community Centre	Central	1	Senior	1	-	Used to capacity at peak time for senior rugby and poor quality.
61	Jim Evison Playing Fields	North	2	Senior	1	-	Used to capacity at peak time for senior rugby.
75	Malbank School & Sixth Form College	South	1	Senior	1	-	Spare capacity discounted due to it being a school site with unsecure tenure and no club demand.
81	Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club)	North	1	Senior	1.5	-	Used to capacity at peak time for senior rugby.
104	Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club)	North	1	Senior	1	-	Used to capacity at peak time for senior rugby.
126	The King's School	North	2	Senior	2	-	Spare capacity discounted due to it being a school site with no club demand.
141	Wilmslow High School	North	3	Senior	3	-	Spare capacity discounted due to it being a school site with unsecure tenure and no club demand.

Of the 17 pitches identified as having potential spare capacity in Cheshire East, only two of those at Crewe Vagrant Sports Club are considered to have actual spare capacity for a growth in demand. The remainder are all used to capacity on Saturdays, or are located at school sites with unsecure tenure and where no future demand is likely to exist.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

The total amount of actual spare capacity amounts to one match equivalent sessions and is identifiable in the South Analysis Area.

Overplay

There are seven pitches across six sites in Cheshire East that are overplayed by a total of 8.25 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 4.18: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Number of overplayed pitches	Overplay (match equivalent sessions)
21	Sandbach Rugby Club	Central	1	2
28	Congleton Park	Central	1	0.75
53	Hankinson's Field	Central	1	0.5
81	Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club)	North	1	3
104	Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club)	North	1	1
243	Knutsford Academy (lower)	North	2	1
Total				8.25

At Sandbach Rugby Club, Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club) and Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club), the overplay is identified on the pitches that are used to accommodate training demand. The majority of overplay is evident in the North Analysis Area (five match equivalent sessions), followed by the Central Analysis Area (3.25 match equivalent sessions) and with no overplay in the South Analysis Area.

Table 4.19: Summary of overplay by analysis area

Analysis area	Overplay (match equivalent sessions)
North	5
Central	3.25
South	-
Cheshire East	8.25

4.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the table below identifies the overall spare capacity and overplay in each of the analysis areas as well as in Cheshire East as a whole for rugby union based on match equivalent sessions.

Future demand is based on club development plans includes age grade teams as it is presumed that these will access senior pitches. However, please note that this currently only quantifies future demand in terms of match demand and not training activity as the latter is unknown at present. It is likely that additional single gender age grade teams or senior teams will require additional training capacity which may exacerbate demonstrated shortfalls.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 4.20: Supply and demand balance of rugby pitches in Cheshire East

Analysis area	Match equivalent sessions				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current demand	Future demand	Total
North	-	5	5	3.5	8.5
Central	-	3.25	3.25	3.75	7
South	1	-	1	1	0
Cheshire East	1	8.25	7.25	8.25	15.5

There is a current shortfall of 7.25 match equivalent sessions per week to meet rugby union demand in Cheshire East, despite minimal levels of spare capacity being identified in the South Analysis Area. There are shortfalls in the Central and North analysis areas.

When factoring in future demand, the overall shortfall increases to 15.5 match equivalent sessions per week and worsens in the Central and North analysis areas. The South Analysis Area becomes played to capacity.

Changes since the previous study

When compared to the last update of the previous study, completed in 2021, the overall current shortfall has increased from 5.5 match equivalent sessions per week, whilst the future shortfall has increased from 11 match equivalent sessions per week. This is primarily due to increased demand (e.g., at Sandbach Rugby Club).

4.6: Conclusion

There is a clear shortfall of rugby union capacity in Cheshire East, particularly in the Central and North analysis areas, with this impacting upon six of the seven clubs (only Crewe & Nantwich RUFC plays in the South Analysis Area).

Where shortfalls are present, these could be alleviated through providing new pitches, although the number required is dependent on the quality they are provided to and whether they can accommodate training needs or not. However, there are also alternatives to reducing the deficits, for example via improving the quality of the existing stock, increasing the presence of sports lighting and enabling access to World Rugby compliant 3G pitches. These will be further explored in the proceeding strategy document.

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Rugby union – supply and demand summary

- Despite 17 senior pitches displaying potential spare capacity, only one is considered to provide actual spare capacity (at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club).
- There are seven pitches across six sites that are overlapped by a combined 8.25 match equivalent sessions.
- Overall, there is a shortfall of 7.25 match equivalent sessions to meet current demand, with this increasing to 15.5 match equivalent sessions when accounting for future demand.

Rugby union – supply summary

- There are 44 grass rugby union pitches identified across 22 unique sites, with 34 pitches available for community use across 14 sites.
- There are no disused sites that previously accommodated rugby union pitches, although several sites that are still active previously provided provision.
- Macclesfield RUFC, Knutsford RUFC and Congleton RUFC all aspire to increase the number of pitches that they have access to.
- Tenure is unsecure for Knutsford RUFC at Knutsford Academy as no community use agreement is in place, whereas Holmes Chapel RUFC and Congleton RUFC utilise council provision without a long-term arrangement.
- Of the community available pitches, 13 are assessed as good quality, 17 are assessed as standard quality and four are assessed as poor quality.
- Poor quality pitches are provided at Back Lane, Holmes Chapel Community Centre and Knutsford Academy (lower), with all of these in use by clubs.
- Congleton, Crewe & Nantwich, Knutsford, Macclesfield, Sandbach and Wilmslow rugby clubs all report development plans or issues with their changing and/or wider ancillary facilities.

Rugby union – demand summary

- Seven rugby union clubs play within Cheshire East consisting of 95 teams, which as a breakdown equates to 22 senior men's, three senior women's, 26 age grade boys', nine age grade girls' and 35 age grade mixed teams.
- There has been a small increase in participation recently, particularly relating to Sandbach RUFC, although Congleton RUFC has seen demand decline.
- Sandbach, Knutsford, Macclesfield and Wilmslow rugby clubs all train on pitches with sports lighting, with Crewe & Nantwich RUFC also accessing the World Rugby 3G pitch at Reaseheath College.
- Congleton RUFC is currently training at Congleton High School following the temporary loss of its area at Hankinson's Field (which it will re-use from 2023/2024), whilst Holmes Chapel RUFC is using a disused bowling green via portable lighting.
- Some training demand is exported from Cheshire East to access the World Rugby compliant 3G pitch at Lymm Rugby Club, in Warrington.
- Congleton RUFC reports that being spread across numerous sites is inhibiting its potential to grow, whereas Macclesfield RUFC identifies that it could accommodate more teams if it had more changing rooms on site (latent demand).
- Team generation rates predict a minimal growth of three teams, whilst Congleton, Crewe & Nantwich, Knutsford, Macclesfield, Sandbach and Wilmslow rugby clubs have plans to expand collectively by 18 teams.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

PART 5: RUGBY LEAGUE

5.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football League (RFL) is the governing body for rugby league in England. It administers the England national rugby league team, the Challenge Cup, Super League and the championships which form the professional and semi-professional structure of the game in the UK.

Most community club rugby league is played throughout the summer season (from February to October). However, rugby league is considered as a winter season sport within schools, colleges and universities and therefore pitch provision for matches and training is also required throughout the winter months.

Senior rugby league is played on a field measuring 100 x 68 metres. The preferred pitch size for U7s, U8s and U9s is 60 x 40 metres, whereas for U10s and U11s it is 80 x 30 metres, with U12s and above generally playing on senior pitches. Teams from U7s to U11s are known as primary teams, with teams from U12s to U18s known as junior teams.

5.2: Supply

There are currently no dedicated rugby league pitches in Cheshire East. The nearest pitches are located in neighbouring authorities including Warrington, Cheshire West & Chester and Manchester.

5.3: Demand

No current demand has been identified for rugby league in Cheshire East itself. In effect, any residual need is unlikely to be sufficient for a club to be created, with individuals instead likely to travel outside of Cheshire East to form part of clubs in neighbouring authorities.

Consultation with the RFL identifies that moving forward, it would be interested in exploring any school-based demand in order to help grow the game locally.

5.4: Supply and demand analysis

As no demand is presently identified within Cheshire East, there is no current requirement to provide rugby league pitches within the Borough. If any demand does exist, if not already, it should be signposted to clubs in neighbouring authorities.

Notwithstanding the above, support should be given towards establish links with schools that could deliver rugby league-based activity. This should then be monitored to understand if demand levels are growing and to what extent.

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Rugby league – supply and demand summary

- ◆ As no demand is presently identified within Cheshire East, there is no current requirement to provide rugby league pitches within the Borough.
- ◆ Support should be given towards establish links with schools that could deliver rugby league-based activity.

Rugby league – supply summary

- ◆ There are currently no dedicated rugby league pitches in Cheshire East.
- ◆ The nearest pitches are located in neighbouring authorities including Warrington, Cheshire West & Chester and Manchester.

Rugby league – demand summary

- ◆ No current demand has been identified for rugby league in Cheshire East itself.
- ◆ Any residual need is unlikely to be sufficient for a club to be created, with individuals instead likely to travel outside of Cheshire East to form part of clubs in neighbouring authorities.
- ◆ The RFL identifies that moving forward, it would be interested in exploring any school-based demand in order to help grow the game locally.

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

PART 6: HOCKEY

6.1: Introduction

Hockey in England is governed by England Hockey (EH) and is administered locally by the Cheshire Hockey Association (North West Area). It is considered that a hockey pitch can accommodate a maximum of four matches on one day, providing that it has sports lighting. Training is generally midweek for senior activity and requires access to a pitch and sports lights, whereas many junior teams train on a Sunday as well as during midweek.

Competitive league hockey matches and training can only be played on sand filled, sand dressed or water based artificial grass pitches (AGPs). Although competitive, adult and junior club training cannot take place on third generation turf pitches (3G), 40mm pitches may be suitable for introductory level hockey, such as school curriculum low level hockey. EH's Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy details suitability of surface type for varying levels of hockey, as shown below.

Table 6.1: England Hockey guidelines on artificial surface types suitable for hockey

Category	Surface	Playing Level	
		Essential	Desirable
1	Water surface approved within the FIH Global/National Parameters	International hockey (training and matches).	Domestic National Premier League competition; Higher levels of player pathway (performance centres and upwards).
2	Sand dressed surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	Domestic National Premier League competition; Higher levels of player pathway (academy centres and upwards).	All adult and junior league hockey; Intermediate or advanced school hockey; EH competitions for clubs and schools.
3	Sand filled surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	All adult and junior club training and league hockey; EH competitions for clubs and schools; Intermediate or advanced school hockey.	Lower level hockey (introductory level).
4	All 3G surfaces	No hockey.	Lower level hockey (introductory level) when no category 1-3 surface is available.

In addition to the above pitch types, EH is currently trialling a different multi-sport surface in order to better accommodate lower levels of hockey demand on a pitch that is also suitable for other sports such as netball and tennis. The surface type, known as Gen 2¹⁴, is a versatile surface that will ensure that the sports do not need to compromise on the playing experience; it is a sand dressed synthetic turf with a compatible shock pad. The concept is designed to provide facilities, including at schools, with a dynamic carpet which reduces the amount of space required and enables the provision to be utilised to its full potential.

¹⁴ <http://www.englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2596§ionTitle=Gen+2+Playing+Surface>

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Club consultation

There are currently eight hockey clubs fielding teams within Cheshire East:

- ◀ Alderley Edge HC
- ◀ Crewe Vagrants HC
- ◀ Macclesfield HC
- ◀ Triton HC
- ◀ Cheshire Blues HC
- ◀ Knutsford HC
- ◀ Sandbach HC
- ◀ Wilmslow HC

Of these, six responded to consultation requests, resulting in a response rate of 75%. The unresponsive clubs are Cheshire Blues HC and Knutsford HC.

6.2: Supply

Full size pitches

For senior teams, a full-size pitch for competitive matches must measure at least 91.4 x 55 metres excluding surrounding run off areas, which must be a minimum of two metres at the sides and three metres at the ends. EH's preference is for four-metre side and five-metre end run offs, with a preferred overall area of 101.4 x 63 metres, though a minimum overall area of 97.4 x 59 metres is accepted.

There are 16 full size hockey suitable AGPs in Cheshire East across 15 sites that comply with the above specification. The majority of full size AGPs are located in the South Analysis Area, with nine provided. There are then four pitches in the Central Analysis Area and three in the North Analysis Area.

Table 6.2: Full size hockey suitable AGPs by location

Analysis area	No. of full size hockey suitable AGPs
North	3
Central	4
South	9
Cheshire East	16

Most of the pitches are serviced by sports lights, although provision at Malbank School & Sixth Form College, Sandbach High School & Sixth Form Centre (Girls) and Cheshire College South & West is not.

All the full size AGPs are available for community use. However, those at Fallibroome Academy, Shavington Leisure Centre, Cheshire College South & West and Macclesfield Academy/Macclesfield College are not in current use by hockey clubs and the latter two are without hockey goals.

The site-by-site breakdown of the pitches is shown in the table overleaf, followed by a map to identify the locations.

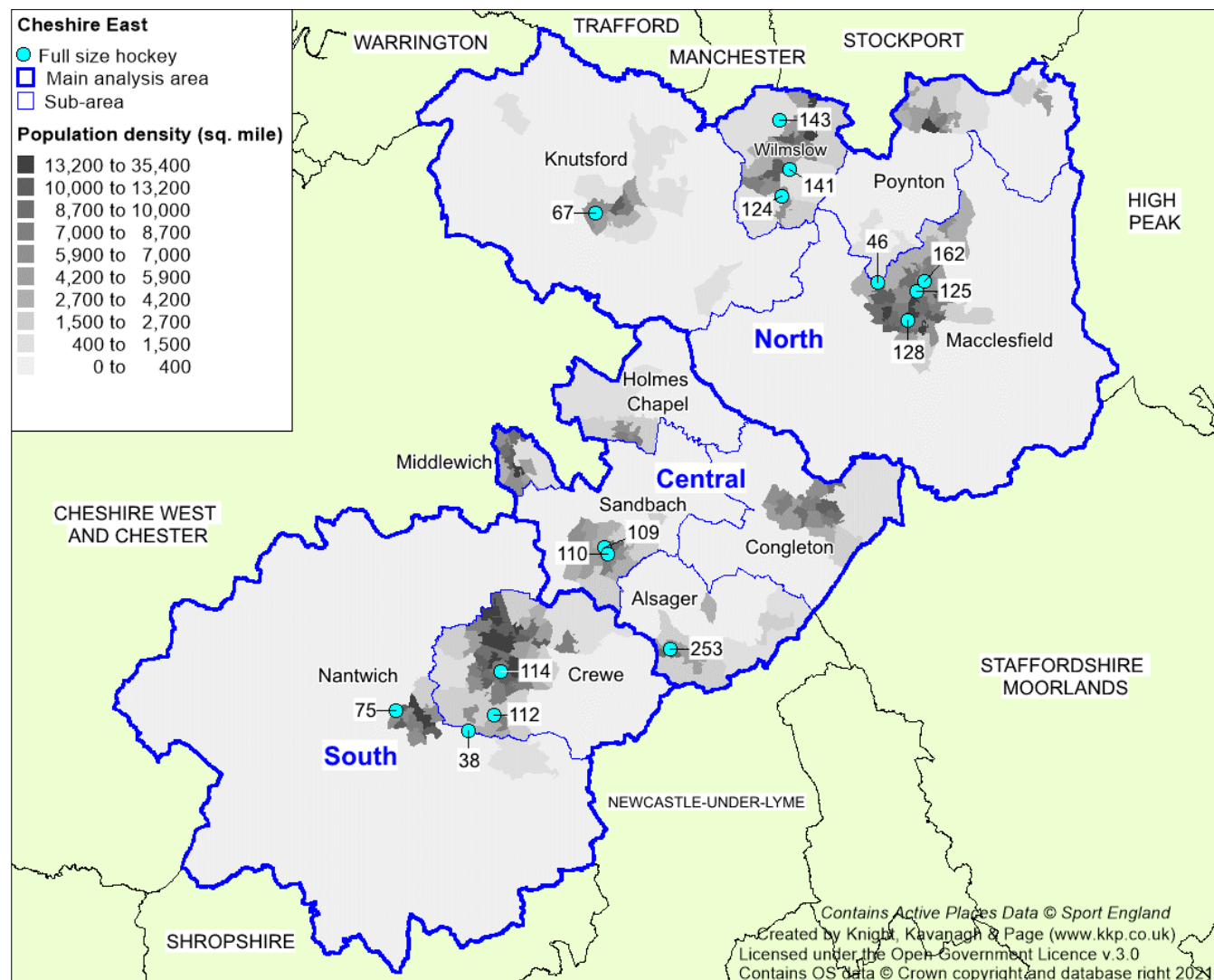
CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 6.3: Summary of full size hockey suitable AGPs in Cheshire East

Site ID	Active Places ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	Sub area	No. of pitches	Sports lighting?	Community use?	Hockey use?	Size (metres)
38	1208642	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club	CW5 7EP	South	Nantwich	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
46	1038237	Fallibroome Academy	SK10 4AF	North	Macclesfield	1	Yes	Yes	No	100 x 60
67	1004946	Knutsford Leisure Centre	WA16 0BL	North	Knutsford	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
75	1200932	Malbank School & Sixth Form College	CW5 5HD	South	Nantwich	1	No	Yes	Yes	110 x 60
109	1200857	Sandbach High School & Sixth Form Centre (Girls)	CW11 3NT	Central	Sandbach	1	No	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
110	1200738	Sandbach School (Boys)	CW11 3NS	Central	Sandbach	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
112	1004962	Shavington Leisure Centre	CW2 5DJ	South	Crewe	1	Yes	Yes	No	100 x 60
114	1200693	Cheshire College South & West	CW2 8AB	South	Crewe	1	No	Yes	No	100 x 60
124	1044870	The Edge Hockey Centre	SK9 7QN	North	Wilmslow	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
126	1203220	The King's School	SK10 4RH	North	Poynton	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 x 63
128	1038139	The Macclesfield Academy/Macclesfield College	SK11 8JR	North	Macclesfield	1	Yes	Yes	No	100 x 65
141	1201174	Wilmslow High School	SK9 1LZ	North	Wilmslow	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	105 x 60
143	1038181	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club	SK9 4HP	North	Wilmslow	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
162	1009521	Tytherington High School	SK10 2EE	North	Macclesfield	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
253	3000859	Alsager Sports Hub	ST7 2TL	Central	Alsager	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 x 63

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Figure 6.1: Location of full size hockey suitable APGs



CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Changes since previous study

Since the previous study in 2021, there has been the loss of three full size pitches and one smaller size pitch. One of these pitches, at Alsager Leisure Centre, has been converted to a 3G surface, whilst the remaining two pitches (at The King's School (Alderley Road)) have been built on, following the closure of the site.

However, two full size pitches have been provided at The King's School.

Smaller sized pitches

In addition to the full size pitches, there are 17 smaller size sand-based AGPs in Cheshire East, as seen in the table below. Of the pitches, nine are available to the community and eight of those are serviced by sports lights (the pitch at the Oaks Academy is available for community use but is not lit). The pitches at Beech Hall School and Terra Nova School have sports lights but are not available to the community.

Table 6.4: Summary of smaller sized hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Size (metres)
13	Beech Hall School	North	No	Yes	30 x 20
49	Goostrey Playing Fields	Central	Yes	Yes	45 x 35
90	Nantwich Primary Academy	South	No	No	70 x 40
94	Nuffield Fitness & Wellbeing Centre (Radbroke Hall)	North	Yes	Yes	30 x 20
97	Parkroyal Community School	North	No	No	40 x 30
103	Poynton Sports Club	North	Yes	Yes	60 x 30
106	Ruskin Community High School	South	Yes	Yes	78 x 40
113	Sir William Stanier School	South	Yes	Yes	55 x 35
118	St John's Wood Academy	North	No	No	25 x 20
122	Terra Nova School	Central	No	Yes	80 x 45
129	The Oaks Academy	South	Yes	No	85 x 30
142	Wilmslow Leisure Centre	North	Yes	Yes	25 x 20
144	Eric Swan Sports Ground	South	Yes	Yes	40 x 35
166	Alderley Edge Community Primary School	North	No	No	55 x 35
168	Ashdene Primary School	North	No	No	35 x 20
196	Mablins Lane Community Primary School	South	No	No	65 x 30
270	Adelaide Heath Academy	North	No	No	25 x 20

Nationally, most smaller size pitches are considered too small to accommodate any purposeful hockey demand, although some larger ones are utilised for training demand and junior play. However, in Cheshire East, none of the smaller size pitches are considered suitable as they are either too small, unavailable for community use, or without sports lighting. Based on this, the stock is discounted from this point forward as the pitches are not relevant from a hockey perspective.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Notwithstanding the above, in addition to being used for curricular and extra-curricular activities, the smaller sized pitches are still capable of servicing a community need for other sports and for recreational demand and therefore require continued consideration in this regard. The pitches at Poynton Sports Club, Ruskin Community High School and Eric Swan Sports Ground are all being used by football teams for training, whilst the pitch at the latter site is also hired regularly for tennis.

Future developments

Planning consent has been granted for the development of a second full size pitch at Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club. Pre-conditions are now being dealt with and funding opportunities are being investigated.

A Mitigation Strategy¹⁵ completed in 2021 incorporates provision at Poynton Sports Club and the potential relocation of the site. The recommendation is for the smaller sized AGP not to be re-provided as part of this due to a lack of hockey demand in the area. EH reports that it is comfortable with this approach providing that contributions go towards improving other pitch stock in the locality as part of the mitigation package (e.g., towards resurfacing the pitch at Tytherington High School).

Aspirations exist for the full size sand-based pitch at Macclesfield Academy/Macclesfield College to be converted to a 3G pitch. However, providing a 3G pitch on a separate piece of land at the front of the site is also being explored.

Management and security of tenure

The following full size AGPs are located at educational sites and are managed in house:

- ✦ Cheshire College South & West
- ✦ Fallibroome Academy
- ✦ Malbank School & Sixth Form College
- ✦ Sandbach High School & Sixth Form Centre (Girls)
- ✦ Sandbach School (Boys)
- ✦ The King's School
- ✦ The Macclesfield Academy/Macclesfield College
- ✦ Tytherington High School
- ✦ Wilmslow High School

Most of these sites do not provide security of tenure for access to their AGPs, which is an issue as most are in active use by clubs. However, this is not the case at the King's School, whereby a community use agreement has been established as part of the development of the site.

The pitches at Knutsford Leisure Centre and Shavington Leisure Centre are also located at educational sites; however, Everybody Health & Leisure operates them under a dual use agreement. It also manages the provision at Alsager Sports Hub. Similarly, The Edge Hockey Centre is owned by Ryleys School but is leased to and managed by Alderley Edge HC in an agreement that has 21 years remaining.

¹⁵ [Poynton Mitigation Strategy](#)

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

As for the remaining full size pitches, the respective clubs manage both Crewe Vagrants Sports Club and Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club internally. Crewe Vagrants Sports Club, which Crewe Vagrants HC forms part of, is owned, whereas Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club, which Wilmslow HC forms part of, is leased from the Council. This is via a 99-year agreement that commenced in 2019.

The table below summarises the pitches and whether security of tenure is provided to the clubs that use them. As seen, several clubs utilise more than one pitch, as is the case for Alderley Edge, Macclesfield and Sandbach hockey clubs. Only Crewe Vagrants, Knutsford, Triton and Wilmslow hockey clubs are considered to have security of tenure across all venues being used (some clubs have security of tenure at one site being accessed but not at all).

Table 6.5: Summary of security of tenure

Site ID	Site	Club user/s	Tenure
38	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club	Crewe Vagrants HC	Secure
46	Fallibroome Academy	-	Unsecure
67	Knutsford Leisure Centre	Knutsford HC	Secure
75	Malbank School & Sixth Form College	Cheshire Blues HC	Unsecure
109	Sandbach High School & Sixth Form Centre (Girls)	Sandbach HC	Unsecure
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	Sandbach HC	Unsecure
112	Shavington Leisure Centre	-	Unsecure
114	Cheshire College South & West	-	Unsecure
124	The Edge Hockey Centre	Alderley Edge HC	Secure
126	The King's School	Macclesfield HC / Alderley Edge HC	Secure
128	The Macclesfield Academy/Macclesfield College	-	Unsecure
141	Wilmslow High School	Alderley Edge HC	Unsecure
143	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club	Wilmslow HC	Secure
162	Tytherington High School	Macclesfield HC	Unsecure
253	Alsager Sports Hub	Triton HC	Secure

Availability

Sport England's FPM applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00). Using this calculation, all full size AGPs in Cheshire East are readily available to the community, with all pitches available for at least 29 hours during the peak period and seven pitches available throughout (34 hours).

Notwithstanding the above, it must also be noted that, despite extensive opening hours, the pitches at Sandbach School & Sixth Form College (Girls), Cheshire College South & West and Malbank School & Sixth Form College do not provide sports lights, and this therefore impacts on the amount of use that can be accommodated. This is particularly an issue during midweek evening slots and especially in winter months.

Please see the table overleaf for a site-by-site breakdown.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 6.6: Availability of full size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Comments
38	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club	34	Available to the community from 08:30 until 22:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 22:00 Saturday to Sunday.
46	Fallibroome Academy	29	Reserved for private use until 18:00 during the week. Available to the community from 18:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 22:00 Saturday to Sunday.
67	Knutsford Leisure Centre	30	Reserved for private use until 17:00 during the week. Available to the community from 17:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday, from 12:00 until 18:00 on Saturdays and from 10:00 until 18:00 on Sundays.
75	Malbank School & Sixth Form College	29	Reserved for private use until 18:00 during the week. Available to the community from 18:00 until 21:30 Monday to Friday and from 08:30 until 22:30 Saturday to Sunday, however, a lack of floodlighting makes these times obsolete during winter months.
109	Sandbach High School & Sixth Form Centre (Girls)	31.5	Reserved for private use until 17:30 during the week. Available to the community from 17:30 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 17:30 Saturday to Sunday, however, a lack of floodlighting makes these times obsolete during winter months.
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	29	Reserved for private use until 18:00 during the week. Available to the community from 18:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 18:00 Saturday to Sunday.
112	Shavington Leisure Centre	34	Hired by Shavington High School until 17:00 during the week. Available to the community from 17:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday, from 09:00 until 19:00 on Saturdays and from 09:00 until 20:00 on Sundays.
114	Cheshire College South & West	31.5	Reserved for private use until 16:30 during the week. Available to the community from 16:30 until 22:00 Monday to Friday, from 09:00 until 17:30 on Saturdays and from 09:00 until 16:30 on Sundays, however, a lack of floodlighting makes these times obsolete during winter months.
124	The Edge Hockey Centre	34	Available to the community from 09:00 until 21:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 18:00 Saturday to Sunday.
126	The King's School (Deby Playing Fields)	31.5	Reserved for private use until 17:30 during the week. Available to the community from 17:30 until 21:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 21:00 Saturday to Sunday.
128	The Macclesfield Academy/Macclesfield College	31.5	Reserved for private use until 17:30 during the week. Available to the community from 17:30 until 21:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 21:00 Saturday to Sunday.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Comments
141	Wilmslow High School	34	Reserved for private use until 17:00 during the week. Available to the community from 17:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 22:00 Saturday to Sunday.
143	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club	34	Available to the community from 09:00 until 21:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 22:00 Saturday to Sunday.
162	Tytherington High School	34	Reserved for private use until 17:00 during the week. Available to the community from 17:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 22:00 Saturday to Sunday.
253	Alsager Sports Hub	34	Available to the community from 15:00 until 21:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 18:00 Saturday and Sunday.

Quality

Depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately ten years and it is the age of the surface, together with maintenance levels, that most commonly affects quality. An issue for hockey nationally is that many providers did not financially plan to replace the carpet when first installed.

For the PPOSS, each AGP has been assigned a quality rating of good, standard or poor following site assessments. This rating is linked to the condition and age of the playing surface, as well as surrounding hard areas and the maintenance that is undertaken. For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

The following table indicates when each full size pitch was installed or last resurfaced within Cheshire East, together with an agreed quality rating. Six pitches are assessed as good quality, two as standard quality and eight as poor quality.

Table 6.7: Age and quality of full size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site	No. of pitches	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
38	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club	1	2013	Standard
46	Fallibroome Academy	1	2005	Poor
67	Knutsford Leisure Centre	1	2003	Poor
75	Malbank School & Sixth Form College	1	2001	Poor
109	Sandbach High School & Sixth Form Centre (Girls)	1	2004	Poor
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	1	2020	Good
112	Shavington Leisure Centre	1	2004	Poor
114	Cheshire College South & West	1	2011	Poor
124	The Edge Hockey Centre	1	2011	Standard
126	The King's School	2	2020	Good
128	The Macclesfield Academy/Macclesfield College	1	1990	Poor
141	Wilmslow High School	1	2007	Poor
143	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club	1	2019	Good
162	Tytherington High School	1	2023	Good

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site	No. of pitches	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
253	Alsager Sports Hub	1	2019	Good

As evidenced above, there is a clear need for several AGPs to be resurfaced. The following sites contain AGPs that have exceeded their recommended 10-year lifespan:

- ✦ Cheshire College South & West
- ✦ Fallibroome Academy
- ✦ Knutsford Leisure Centre
- ✦ Malbank School & Sixth Form College
- ✦ Sandbach High School & Sixth Form Centre (Girls)
- ✦ Shavington Leisure Centre
- ✦ The Edge Hockey Centre
- ✦ The Macclesfield Academy/Macclesfield College
- ✦ Wilmslow High School

Except for the pitch at The Edge Hockey Centre (standard quality), each of the above is also assessed as poor quality. Issues such as wear and tear, worsening grip underfoot, worn line markings, broken fencing and poor drainage are prevalent.

Of particular concern are the poor quality pitches at Knutsford Leisure Centre, Sandbach High School & Sixth Form Centre (Girls) and Wilmslow High School as these are all in current use by hockey clubs. Furthermore, the pitch at Fallibroome Academy was previously accessed by Alderley Edge HC before significant quality deterioration.

All remaining pitches are within their lifespan and those at Alsager Sports Hub, Sandbach School (Boys), The King's School (Deby Playing Fields), Tytherington High School and Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club are assessed as good quality following recent resurfacing or installation. Nevertheless, if not already in place, a sinking fund should be set up at these sites, as it should be at all sites, to ensure funds are available for ongoing repairs as well as eventual resurfacing. This will ensure that quality can be sustained in the long-term.

Ancillary provision

All full size AGPs within Cheshire East are serviced by ancillary provision that ranges from basic changing facilities and toilets at most sites to more extensive clubhouse facilities that include a bar and kitchen at sites such as Alsager Sports Hub, Crewe Vagrants Sports Club and Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club, which has recently been refurbished. The pitch at the site is also accompanied by a stand, allowing for seated spectators.

A common issue raised by users of other sites is that their social space is located separate to their pitches. For example, Alderley Edge HC currently accesses Alderley Edge Cricket Club as a home base, whereas Macclesfield HC uses Macclesfield Cricket Club. This is because there is no suitable space offered to the clubs at the sites that they use for matches.

In terms of quality at the sites used by clubs, Malbank School & Sixth Form College, the Edge Hockey Centre, Sandbach School (Boys) and Sandbach High School & Sixth Form Centre (Girls) are serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities, with only basic, dated facilities provided. Furthermore, the provision at Malbank School & Sixth Form College is based on a separate piece of land to the AGP, which can cause logistical issues. Cheshire Blues HC utilises a nearby pub for its post-match facilities.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Whilst all remaining provision is assessed as good quality or standard quality, it must be noted that Crewe Vagrants Sports Club is attempting to acquire funding to improve the car parking at its site, both in terms of quality and size.

Tytherington High School has submitted a planning proposal for the development of classrooms and social space at its site, with this set to include some level of changing provision (planning reference: 23/2318M).

6.3: Demand

There are eight clubs based in Cheshire East, most of which are large clubs with several senior and junior teams for both males and females. Combined, the clubs contribute a membership of 461 senior men, 400 senior women and 862 juniors and consist of 28 senior men's teams, 26 senior women's teams and 25 junior teams as well as nine other team varieties (most commonly mixed teams and masters' teams).

Table 6.8: Summary of hockey demand in Cheshire East

Name of club	No. of teams				No. of members		
	Men's	Women's	Junior	Other	Men's	Women's	Junior
Alderley Edge HC	7	7	4	4	140	106	367
Cheshire Blue HC	-	1	-	-	-	27	-
Crewe Vagrants HC	4	4	-	1	77	71	82
Knutsford HC	3	1	-	-	45	24	80
Macclesfield HC	4	4	4	-	62	64	71
Sandbach HC	2	2	3	1	25	30	58
Triton HC	3	2	4	-	48	19	114
Wilmslow HC	5	5	6	3	64	59	90
Total	28	26	25	9	461	400	862

Alderley Edge HC is the largest club, both in terms of its number of teams (22) and its number of members (613). In contrast, Cheshire Blues HC is the smallest club, fielding just one senior women's team and consisting of just 27 members.

Most teams and members are based in the North Analysis Area, whereas the fewest play in the South Analysis Area.

Table 6.9: Summary of members by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of members		
	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior
North	311	253	608
Central	73	49	172
South	77	98	82
Cheshire East	461	400	862

Participation trends

When compared to data collected during the previous study in 2021, there are now 75 more senior men's members, 83 more senior women's members and 32 more junior members across the eight clubs. As such, there has been a clear increase in demand across Cheshire East. There are also 13 more teams fielded.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Notwithstanding the above, some clubs have experienced some slight decreases in membership, such as Triton HC which now has 14 fewer senior members (offset by 15 more junior members). Cheshire Blues, Knutsford and Wilmslow HC also have a smaller senior section now than previously.

In contrast, Alderley Edge, Crewe Vagrants, Macclesfield and Sandbach hockey clubs have seen demand grow across the playing formats, whereas Triton HC has seen an increase in a senior demand despite a slight decline in junior participation.

Additional demand

In addition to club-based hockey activity, there are also various initiatives for hockey which are promoted by EH, as detailed below. These can add to the demand in a local authority and also necessitate the need for further pitch capacity.

Back to Hockey

Back to Hockey sessions are fun, social, and informal and are aimed at people who either have not played for a number of years or that are looking to play for the first time. They are generally hosted by clubs, with EH providing guidance on how to deliver the programme.

Back to Hockey sessions operate across Cheshire East courtesy of Alderley Edge, Crewe Vagrants, Macclesfield, Sandbach, Triton and Wilmslow hockey clubs.

Rush Hockey/Small sided Hockey

Rush Hockey is a way to play hockey, designed as a small-sided hockey game for adults. It can be played by men and women in mixed or single gender teams, indoors or outdoors and on pitches of varying sizes. Teams are four or five aside and it is played with a standard hockey stick but with unique goals and balls.

No Rush Hockey activity has been identified in Cheshire East.

Walking Hockey

Increasing in popularity, Walking Hockey is perfect for players looking for a less physically demanding version of the game but still enjoy showing their skills and being involved in the team and social aspect.

Crewe Vagrants HC operates Walking Hockey at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club, as does Alderley Edge HC at The Edge Hockey Centre and Triton HC at Alsager Sports Hub.

Hockey Heroes

Hockey Heroes is a six-week hockey programme aimed at beginners (children aged five to eight) that not only focuses on helping children develop some physical hockey skills such as dribbling, passing and goal scoring, but also places as much emphasis on character development including teamwork, communication, perseverance, and respect.

Triton HC hosts Hockey Heroes and utilises the pitch at Alsager Sports Hub to do so.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

In2hockey

In2Hockey is an adapted game format aimed at players 10-14 years old and is played as a 6-a-side game without goalkeepers, or as a 7-a-side game with goalkeepers. It is a fun, exciting and dynamic game to help players develop hockey skills and techniques and to provide a gradual progression into the 11-a-side version of the game.

Triton HC hosts In2hockey at Alsager Sports Hub.

Flyerz Hockey

Flyerz is the name widely associated with grassroots disability hockey in Great Britain. There are now more than 50 Flyerz sections across England, Wales, and Scotland, providing inclusive hockey for disabled people.

No Flyerz Hockey activity is evident in Cheshire East.

Exported demand

Wilmslow HC previously exported some demand to Cheadle Hulme School, in Stockport, due to capacity pressures on its pitches in Cheshire East. However, due to the recent development at The King's School and the greater supply of pitches, this is no longer the case. As such, no exported demand is now identified out of Cheshire East and Wilmslow HC is now able to accommodate all of its demand within the Borough.

Imported demand

No imported demand into Cheshire East has been discovered. Keele University HC previously travelled from Newcastle-under-Lyme to play matches at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club due to quality issues but no longer does so.

Latent/unmet demand

Across the clubs in Cheshire East, four report latent demand in that their ability to grow demand and/or increase pitch usage for existing demand is limited by the current pitch provision that is available. These are:

- ◆ Alderley Edge HC
- ◆ Crewe Vagrants HC
- ◆ Macclesfield HC
- ◆ Wilmslow HC

Crewe Vagrants HC reports that the pitch at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club is currently used to capacity, meaning it cannot field more teams despite having demand to do so. It states that it has approached the operator at Shavington Leisure Centre but have been told that its pitch is not conducive for competitive hockey in its current condition.

Alderley Edge HC reports that no capacity exists for a growth in demand at The Edge Hockey Centre or The King's School, whilst also noting that the latter site is not ideal due to the travel involved. The pitch at Wilmslow High School has potential capacity; however, its poor condition deters members, whereas the pitch at Fallibroome Academy is no longer considered useable by the Club due to its quality.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Linked to the above, Macclesfield HC reports that no capacity exists at The King's School due to multiple hockey clubs accessing the provision, whilst no room for growth exists at Tytherington High School because all non-hockey bookings are utilised by football groups. This includes affiliated training demand from Hurdsfield Phoenix FC and Tytherington Juniors FC.

Wilmslow HC states that the pitch at Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club is currently used to capacity, which is linked to proposals for a second pitch to be established at the site.

Future demand

Growing participation is a key aim within EH's Strategic Plan and key drivers include working with clubs, universities, schools and regional and local leagues as well as developing opportunities for over 40s and delivering a quality programme of competition. Overall, it has an aim to double participation over the next ten years, meaning it does not consider team generation rates to provide an accurate representation of potential growth.

In relation to club aspirations, four report plans to increase their teams in the future, with demand to collectively grow by four senior men's, three senior women's and three junior teams.

Table 6.10: Summary of future demand aspirations

Club	Number of teams		
	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior
Alderley Edge HC	1	1	-
Crewe Vagrants HC	1	1	2
Sandbach HC	1	-	1
Wilmslow HC	1	1	-
Total	4	3	3

In addition to the above, Macclesfield HC does not report demand to grow its number of teams but does suggest that it wants to increase its membership and consequently its pitch access requirements. This is linked to the latent demand referenced above.

6.4: Capacity analysis

When assessing the capacity of AGPs, all usage needs to be taken into account. This is because, in addition to hockey activity, there is often heavy football usage of the provision and occasionally other sporting use which can take capacity away from hockey-based demand.

In Cheshire East, football demand at sites such as Crewe Vagrants Sports Club and Shavington Leisure Centre is particularly high, with small-sided leagues in operation. Furthermore, extensive activity is also noted at sites including Fallibroome Academy, The King's School, The Macclesfield Academy, Tytherington High School, Wilmslow High School and Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club due to football clubs accessing the provision for training. Across these pitches, 126 football teams are identified as regularly accessing the provision, with key clubs (e.g., the largest) identified in Table 6.11, below.

Additionally, the pitch at Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club is also used for lacrosse activity by Wilmslow Lacrosse Club. This means that three sports are competing for capacity at the site, with this a key reason as to why there are plans in place for a second pitch to be provided.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

The table below details the usage at all sites providing full size hockey suitable pitches, comparing availability during peak time against hockey use and other activity as well as taking into consideration any remaining spare capacity. Peak time for senior hockey matches in Cheshire East is Saturday, whilst it is Sunday for junior hockey matches. For training, it is Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, with Mondays and Fridays generally not considered as teams do not want to train in such close proximity to weekend matches.

Spare capacity is considered to exist for matches if there are currently less than eight teams assigned to a pitch on a Saturday or Sunday (and if the remaining capacity is not being utilised for other purposes). It exists for training if at least a section of a pitch is available for at least an hour during midweek evenings (Tuesday-Thursday).

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 6.11: Usage of full size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site name	Midweek usage comments	Midweek capacity for hockey	Weekend usage comments	Weekend capacity for hockey
38	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club	Used to capacity by Crewe Vagrants HC for training, with some football usage also recorded outside of this (six teams train at the site).	No capacity for an increase in demand.	Used to capacity by Crewe Vagrants HC for matches on both Saturdays and Sundays. Also used for small-sided football leagues.	No capacity for an increase in demand.
46	Fallibroome Academy	No current midweek hockey usage but used for football (12 teams train at the site).	Capacity remains between 18:00-22:00 on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and between 18:00-19:00 on Thursdays. However, quality deters access.	No current hockey demand and only minimal usage for other purposes.	Capacity on both Saturdays and Sundays, although quality is an issue.
67	Knutsford Leisure Centre	Used to capacity by Knutsford HC for training, with some football usage also recorded outside of this (11 teams train at the site).	Minimal spare capacity exists for an increase in demand.	Used by Knutsford HC on both Saturdays and Sundays, but some capacity remains.	Capacity on both Saturdays and Sundays for an increase in demand.
75	Malbank School & Sixth Form College	Relatively unused due to no sports lighting being provided.	No capacity exists due to lack of sports lighting.	Used by Cheshire Blues HC but no usage outside of this.	Capacity on both Saturdays and Sundays for an increase in demand, although this is somewhat limited in the late afternoons due to the lack of sports lighting.
109	Sandbach High School & Sixth Form Centre (Girls)	Relatively unused due to no sports lighting being provided.	No capacity exists due to lack of sports lighting.	Used minimally by Triton HC for matches but no usage outside of this.	Capacity on both Saturdays and Sundays for an increase in demand, although this is somewhat limited in the late afternoons due to the lack of sports lighting.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Midweek usage comments	Midweek capacity for hockey	Weekend usage comments	Weekend capacity for hockey
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	Accessed by Sandbach HC for two hours on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for training purposes. No other regular activity identified.	Minimal spare capacity exists for an increase in demand.	Used by Sandbach HC on both Saturdays and Sundays, but some capacity remains.	Capacity remains on both Saturdays and Sundays.
112	Shavington Leisure Centre	No current hockey usage, but heavily used for football with seven teams training at the site in addition to small-sided leagues being in operation.	Some capacity remains, but the pitch is unsuitable for hockey due to quality issues.	Unused for hockey but used for small-sided football.	Capacity remains on both Saturdays and Sundays, but quality is an issue.
114	Cheshire College South & West	Relatively unused due to no sports lighting being provided.	No capacity exists due to lack of sports lighting.	No current hockey demand and only minimal usage for other purposes.	Capacity on both Saturdays and Sundays for an increase in demand, although this is limited in the late afternoons due to the lack of sports lighting.
124	The Edge Hockey Centre	Used to capacity by Alderley Edge HC for training, with no other regular usage recorded.	No capacity for an increase in demand.	Used to capacity on both Saturdays and Sundays by Alderley Edge HC.	No capacity for an increase in demand.
126	The King's School	Used by Macclesfield HC for three hours across Tuesdays and Thursdays. All remaining capacity is taken up by football users, with 14 teams training at the site (including teams from Alderley United FC).	No capacity for an increase in demand.	Used to capacity by Macclesfield HC and Alderley Edge HC on Saturdays, with some capacity remaining on Sundays.	No capacity for an increase in demand on Saturdays, but spare capacity exists on Sundays.
128	The Macclesfield Academy/Macclesfield College	No current midweek hockey usage, but heavily used for football with 19 teams training (including teams from Macclesfield Town Ladies FC).	Capacity exists across midweek. However, quality deters access.	No current hockey demand and only minimal usage for other purposes.	Capacity on both Saturdays and Sundays, although quality is an issue.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Midweek usage comments	Midweek capacity for hockey	Weekend usage comments	Weekend capacity for hockey
141	Wilmslow High School	No current midweek hockey usage, but heavily used for football with 38 teams using it for training (including teams from Wilmslow Sports Community FC and Wilmslow Town FC).	Due to extensive football usage, no capacity exists for an increase in demand.	Used occasionally by Alderley Edge HC, but quality prevents further access.	Capacity on both Saturdays and Sundays, although quality is an issue.
143	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club	Used by Wilmslow HC for all of its training demand, in addition to usage by football clubs (17 teams use it for training) and Wilmslow Lacrosse Club.	No capacity for an increase in demand.	Used to capacity on both Saturdays and Sundays by Wilmslow HC.	No capacity for an increase in demand.
162	Tytherington High School	No current midweek hockey usage but used for football with nine teams training at the site.	Minimal spare capacity exists for an increase in demand.	Used on Saturdays by Macclesfield HC but some capacity remains. Unused on Sundays.	Capacity on both Saturdays and Sundays.
253	Alsager Sports Hub	Used by Triton HC for all training activity, with football demand somewhat limited with a 3G pitch also supplied on site.	Minimal spare capacity exists for an increase in demand.	Used by Triton HC on both Saturdays and Sundays, although some spare capacity remains on both days.	Minimal spare capacity on both Saturdays and Sundays.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Spare capacity

Using the table above, pitches at the following sites have spare capacity for an increase in midweek training demand:

- ✦ Alsager Sports Hub
- ✦ Fallibroome Academy
- ✦ Knutsford Leisure Centre
- ✦ Sandbach School (Boys)
- ✦ Shavington Leisure Centre
- ✦ The Macclesfield Academy/Macclesfield College
- ✦ Tytherington High School

However, quality issues are present at most of these sites, except for Alsager Sports Hub, Sandbach School (Boys) and Tytherington High School, therefore making them unsuitable for access. Of the poor quality pitches with spare capacity, only the one at Knutsford Leisure Centre currently receives midweek hockey demand.

Similarly, each of the pitches at the above sites have capacity for an increase in weekend usage for matches, with quality issues again impacting upon this. In addition, capacity is also evident at Wilmslow High School, Cheshire College South & West, Malbank School & Sixth Form College and Sandbach High School & Sixth Form Centre (Girls), although quality is also problematic at these sites in addition to a lack of sports lighting at all bar the pitch at Wilmslow High School (meaning later matches cannot be played).

Minimal or no spare capacity for additional usage during midweek or at weekends is considered to exist at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club, The Edge Hockey Centre, The King's School and Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club.

6.5: Supply and demand analysis

It is suggested that a full size, sports lit pitch is able to accommodate four match equivalent sessions per day. With teams playing on a home and away basis, this equates to one AGP being able to cater for eight 'home' teams at peak time (one team requires 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week). Using this, on the basis that there are 16 pitches in Cheshire East, this provides a theoretical opportunity to accommodate up to 128 hockey teams on any one day.

For senior hockey matches, with 63 teams currently playing in Cheshire East (including masters and mixed teams), there is seemingly a surplus of pitches. However, this is not actually the case, with quality issues at several sites in addition to a lack of sports lighting on three of the pitches. If all of the poor quality pitches were to be discounted, capacity for only 56 teams would exist, suggesting that capacity is actually insufficient. There is also future demand for an additional seven teams.

There is also more pressure in terms of midweek training capacity, with the hockey demand competing for booking slots with football clubs and other users, in addition to some clubs again using poor quality pitches. Furthermore, the nature of Cheshire East and the landscape of hockey across the area means that it is not reasonable to simply aggregate spare capacity on pitches to an oversupply of provision. The travel time can be greater between pitches than in other local authorities, meaning it is not necessarily viable or feasible for a club to transfer demand to sites or have greater use of a particular site.

Taking the above into account, a better approach is to assess supply and demand on a club-by-club basis. This is provided overleaf.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 6.12: Summary of hockey pitch capacity for match play on a club-by-club basis

Club name	Site/s used	Comments
Alderley Edge HC	The Edge Hockey Centre / The King's School / Wilmslow High School	The pitches at The Edge Hockey Centre and The King's School are used to capacity by the Club, whereas the pitch at Wilmslow High School has potential spare capacity for matches but is poor quality. This leads to the Club expressing latent demand.
Cheshire Blue HC	Malbank School & Sixth Form College	Used for just one match; however, the pitch is poor quality.
Crewe Vagrants HC	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club	The pitch is at capacity, leading to latent demand being expressed.
Knutsford HC	Knutsford Leisure Centre	Potential capacity remains at the site but the pitch is poor quality.
Macclesfield HC	The King's School / Tytherington High School	The pitch at The King's School is used to capacity, whereas the pitch at Tytherington High School has potential spare capacity, although this is somewhat limited due to football use.
Sandbach HC	Sandbach School (Boys) / Sandbach High School (Girls)	Pitches have spare capacity for an increase in demand, although quality is poor at Sandbach High School (Girls).
Triton HC	Alsager Sports Hub	The pitch at Alsager Sports Hub has spare capacity for an increase in demand, whilst pitches at Sandbach School (Boys) and Sandbach High School (Girls) could be accessed if required, although the latter is poor quality.
Wilmslow HC	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club	The pitch is used to capacity by the Club, leading to it expressing latent demand.

As seen, only Triton HC is currently being adequately provided for, with the remaining clubs either experiencing capacity issues and/or accessing poor quality pitches.

For junior hockey matches, the need for pitches is generally less than it is for senior hockey. This is because younger age groups can play on half a pitch (meaning two fixtures can take place at one time) and there are also significantly less junior teams in Cheshire East than there are senior teams. As such, resolving issues for senior hockey should be sufficient to also meet demand adequately for junior hockey.

6.6: Conclusion

In terms of quantity, there is a sufficient supply of hockey provision in Cheshire East to meet demand; however, hockey is not currently being adequately provided for, primarily due to quality issues at several sites. As such, priority should be placed on improving the current stock of pitches, with a focus on those that are poor quality but currently in use, and on those that would be used if quality improved. It is also vital that each of these is protected for continued/future hockey activity unless new pitches are established that can instead cater for the demand.

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Hockey – supply and demand summary

- Seven sites have spare capacity for an increase in training demand and 11 have spare capacity for an increase in match play demand; however, most of these are unsuitable due to quality issues and/or a lack of sports lighting.
- Despite a theoretical surplus in the number of pitches provided, demand is not being adequately supplied, with seven of the eight clubs accessing poor quality provision and/or experiencing capacity issues.

Hockey – supply summary

- There are currently 16 full size hockey suitable AGPs in Cheshire East across 15 sites.
- Most of the pitches are sports-lit, although provision at Malbank School & Sixth Form College, Sandbach High School & Sixth Form Centre (Girls) and Cheshire College South & West is not.
- All of the full size AGPs are available for community use, however, four are currently unused for hockey purposes (at Cheshire College South & West, Fallibroome Academy, The Macclesfield Academy/Macclesfield College and Shavington Leisure Centre).
- In addition, there are also 17 smaller sized AGPs, although none are suitable to host purposeful hockey demand.
- Security of tenure is an issue across the full size pitch stock, with most education operators not providing any guarantees in regards to long-term access.
- Six pitches are assessed as good quality, two as standard quality and eight as poor quality, with all of the poor quality and one of the standard quality pitches at the end of their recommended lifespans.
- The pitches at Malbank School & Sixth Form College, the Edge Hockey Centre and Sandbach High School & Sixth Form Centre are considered to be serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities.
- A common issue raised by clubs such as Alderley Edge, Macclesfield and Sandbach hockey clubs is that their social space is located separate to their pitches because there is no suitable space offered to the clubs at the sites that they use for matches.

Hockey – demand summary

- There are currently eight clubs fielding teams in Cheshire East.
- Combined, the clubs contribute a membership of 461 senior men, 400 senior women and 862 juniors and consist of 28 senior men's teams, 26 senior women's teams and 25 junior teams as well as nine other team varieties.
- There has been an increase of 75 senior men's, 83 senior women's and 32 junior members since data collected for the last update of the previous study.
- A variety of EH initiatives (e.g., Back to Hockey) have a presence in Cheshire East and are provided by clubs such as Alderley Edge, Crewe Vagrants, Macclesfield, Sandbach, Triton and Wilmslow hockey clubs.
- No exported or imported demand is identified, despite previous occurrences.
- Alderley Edge, Crewe Vagrants, Macclesfield and Wilmslow hockey clubs are considered to have latent demand in that they could field more teams if more pitch capacity was available.
- Future demand is expressed by Alderley Edge, Crewe Vagrants, Sandbach and Wilmslow hockey clubs and collectively amounts to four senior men's, three senior women's and three junior teams.
- In addition to hockey usage, 126 football teams are identified as regularly accessing full size sand-based AGPs for training, in addition to other football activity, which takes capacity away from hockey clubs.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

PART 7: CRICKET

7.1: Introduction

The Cheshire Cricket Board (CCB) is the main governing and representative body for Cricket within Cheshire East. Working closely with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), it is responsible for the management and development of every form of recreational cricket for men, women and children within Cheshire East. It is currently working with the ECB on delivering its Strategy, 'Inspiring Generations', which has been live since 2020.

For adult cricket in Cheshire East there are three main offerings; Saturday, Sunday and midweek cricket (including strong recreational demand across the Borough). The youth league structure tends to be club-based matches which are played mid-week, although some matches are also played on Sundays. The playing season runs from April-September.

County Facilities Strategy

The CCB has recently completed its County Facilities Strategy (CFS) in partnership with the ECB. The CFS is a ten-year plan which involves engagement with key stakeholders, including, leagues, active partnerships, county pitch advisors and Sport England.

To inform the strategies, the ECB has set out guidelines to ensure that the following facilities are considered throughout the development of the strategies:

- ◆ Traditional facilities (pitches, outfield, pavilions, practice areas)
- ◆ Non-traditional facilities (multi-use games areas, tapeball/softball spaces, courts/cages)
- ◆ Indoor facilities (multi use halls, cricket specific halls, match play venues)

The CFS is to be used to shape investment decisions and priorities for CCB moving forward.

Consultation

In total, there are 33 affiliated cricket clubs identified as playing within Cheshire East. All of these have engaged in the PPOSS process, whether it be through KKP consultation or via consultation with the CCB.

7.2: Supply

Grass wicket squares

In total, there are 47 grass wicket cricket squares in Cheshire East provided across 40 sites. All 47 squares are available for community use. Elworth Cricket Club, Macclesfield Cricket Club and The King's School all accommodate more than two squares, with the latter hosting six.

The North Analysis Area has the largest number of squares with a total of 28 (60% of provision). In comparison, the Central and South analysis areas provide 10 and nine, respectively.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 7.1: Summary of grass wicket squares

Analysis area	Sub areas	No. of community available grass squares
North	Knutsford	8
	Macclesfield	6
	Poynton	9
	Wilmslow	5
Total		28
Central	Alsager	2
	Congleton	2
	Holmes Chapel	1
	Middlewich	1
	Sandbach	4
Total		10
South	Crewe	3
	Nantwich	6
Total		9
Cheshire East		47
2021 PPS Study		46

Changes from the previous study

The previous study identified a total of 46 grass cricket squares, all of which were available for community use. Therefore, the number of squares and community available squares has increased by just one.

The growth can be explained via The King's School, which has acquired three additional grass squares since the previous PPOSS. This is partly offset by a previous grass wicket squares lost at The King's School (Cumberland Street) and at Sandbach School (now hosts only one grass square and one non-turf pitch (NTP)).

Non-turf pitches

There are 29 active NTPs across Cheshire East, with 13 accompanying grass wickets squares and the remaining 16 being standalone.

Of the NTPs, 15 are considered to be unavailable for community use. All of these are standalone and are located at educational sites. There is, however, some form of community available provision located in each analysis area.

The NTPs are summarised in the table below.

Table 7.2: Summary of NTPs in Cheshire East

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Sub area	Com use?	Number of NTPs	Position
4	Alsager Cricket Club	Central	Alsager	Yes	1	Square
5	Alsager Leisure Centre	Central	Alsager	Yes	1	Standalone
22	Brine Leas School	South Area	Nantwich	No	1	Standalone
25	Bunbury Cricket Club	South	Nantwich	Yes	1	Square

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Sub area	Com use?	Number of NTPs	Position
33	Congleton Sports & Social Club	Central	Congleton	Yes	1	Square
34	Congleton High School	Central	Congleton	No	1	Standalone
38	Crewe Vagrants	South	Nantwich	Yes	1	Square
42	Disley Amalgamated Sports Club	North	Poynton	Yes	1	Square
45	Elworth Cricket Club	Central	Sandbach	Yes	1	Square
51	Haslington Cricket Club	South	Crewe	Yes	1	Square
74	Macclesfield Cricket Club	North	Macclesfield	Yes	1	Square
75	Malbank School & Sixth Form College	South	Nantwich	No	1	Standalone
89	Nantwich Cricket Club	South	Nantwich	Yes	1	Square
					1	Standalone
101	Pownall Hall School	North	Wilmslow	No	1	Standalone
102	Poynton High School	North	Poynton	No	1	Standalone
106	Ruskin Community High School	South	Crewe	No	1	Standalone
110	Sandbach School	Central	Sandbach	Yes	1	Standalone
111	Shavington Academy	South	Crewe	No	1	Standalone
119	St Thomas More Catholic High School	South	Crewe	No	1	Standalone
129	The Oaks Academy	South	Crewe	No	1	Standalone
131	Wilmslow Leisure Centre	North	Wilmslow	Yes	1	Square
135	Weston Cricket Club	South	Crewe	Yes	1	Square
141	Wilmslow High School	North	Wilmslow	No	1	Standalone
151	All Hallows Catholic College	North	Macclesfield	No	1	Standalone
153	Langley Cricket Club	North	Macclesfield	Yes	1	Square
157	Mossley Cricket Club	Central	Congleton	Yes	1	Square
162	Tytherington High School	North	Macclesfield	Yes	1	Standalone
231	Vernon Primary School	North	Poynton	No	1	Standalone

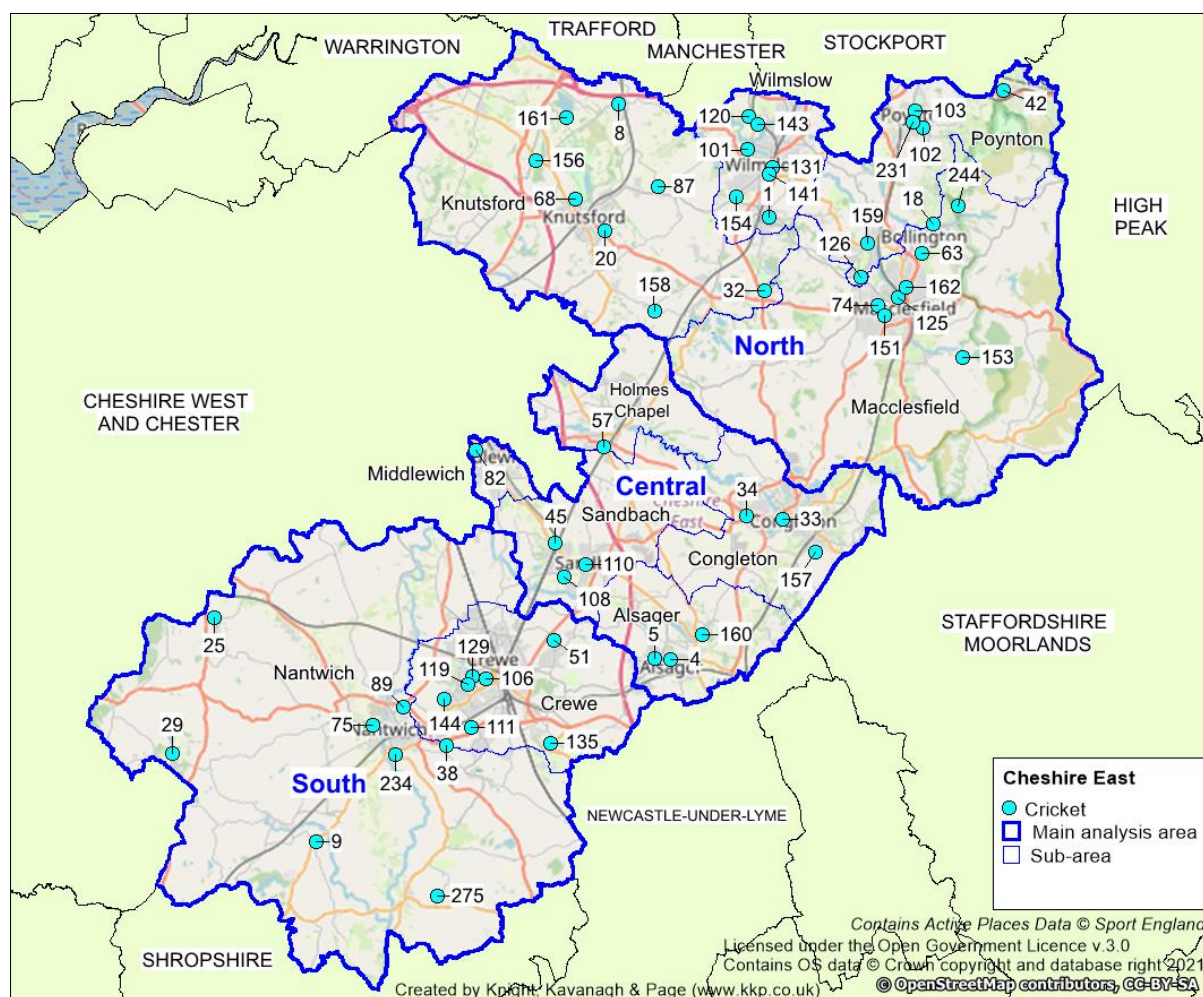
NTPs, particularly when located at club sites, can aid with training and practice and can help reduce overplay on grass wickets when used for matches. The ECB highlights that NTPs which follow its TS6 guidance on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play. Additionally, NTPs are frequently used for junior matches across the Country.

Since the previous PPOSS study, additional NTPs have been installed at Bunbury Cricket Club and Disley Amalgamated Sports Club. In addition, two standalone NTPs and one NTP accompanying a square have been fallen out of use, with the latter identified at Pott Shrigley Cricket Club and the standalone NTPs at Eaton Bank Academy and Marton Primary School (see Table 7.4 for more details).

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

For the location of all grass wicket and NTP cricket provision, see Figure 7.1 below. For a key to the map, refer to Table 7.3.

Figure 7.1: Location of cricket pitches within Cheshire East



CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 7.3: Key to map of cricket squares

Site ID	Active Places Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Sub area	Community use?	No. of squares	Type of wicket	No. of wickets	
									Grass	Non-turf
1	1036068	Alderley Edge Cricket Club	SK9 7HN	North	Wilmslow	Yes	1	Senior	13	-
								Junior	6	
4	1039286	Alsager Cricket Club	ST7 2NW	Central	Alsager	Yes	1	Senior	9	1
								Junior	2	
5	1004924	Alsager Leisure Centre	ST7 2HP	Central	Alsager	Yes	1	-	-	1
8	1208724	Ashley Cricket Club	WA15 0QP	North	Knutsford	Yes	1	Senior	15	-
								Junior	3	
9	1041727	Aston Cricket Club	CW5 8DE	South	Nantwich	Yes	1	Senior	8	-
								Junior	4	
18	1208656	Bollington Recreation Ground	SK10 5JT	North	Macclesfield	Yes	1	Senior	12	-
20	1041626	Toft Cricket Club	WA16 8QX	North	Knutsford	Yes	1	Senior	18	-
								Junior	1	
22	1200868	Brine Leas School	CW5 7DY	South Area	Nantwich	No	1	-	-	1
25	1041722	Bunbury Cricket Club	CW6 9NR	South	Nantwich	Yes	1	Senior	9	1
								Junior	2	
29	1041721	Cholmondeley Cricket Club	SY14 8AH	South	Nantwich	Yes	1	Senior	8	-
33	1208560	Congleton Sports & Social Club	CW12 4DG	Central	Congleton	Yes	1	Senior	6	1
								Junior	3	
34	1103336	Congleton High School	CW12 4NS	Central	Congleton	Yes	1	-	-	1
38	1208642	Crewe Vagrants	CW5 7EP	South	Nantwich	Yes	1	Senior	14	1
								Junior	2	
42	1208102	Disley Amalgamated Sports Club	SK12 2JR	North	Poynton	Yes	1	Senior	12	1
								Junior	2	

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Active Places Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Sub area	Community use?	No. of squares	Type of wicket	No. of wickets	
									Grass	Non-turf
45	1039287	Elworth Cricket Club	CW11 3BF	Central	Sandbach	Yes	1	Senior	14	1
							1 ¹⁶	Junior	4	-
51	1208635	Haslington Cricket Club	CW1 5SE	South	Crewe	Yes	1	Senior	14	1
57	1208635	Holmes Chapel Cricket Club	CW4 7BE	Central	Holmes Chapel	Yes	1	Senior	8	-
63	1039288	Kerridge Cricket Club	SK10 5AH	North	Macclesfield	Yes	1	Senior	10	-
68	30004157	Knutsford Sports Club	WA16 6SZ	North	Knutsford	Yes	1	Senior	11	-
74	1036566	Macclesfield Cricket Club	SK10 3JE	North	Macclesfield	Yes	2	Senior	10	-
								Junior	4	
								Senior	8	1
								Junior	4	
75	1200932	Malbank School & Sixth Form College	CW5 5HD	South	Nantwich	No	1	-	-	1
82	30002744	Middlewich Cricket Club	CW10 9EZ	Central	Middlewich	Yes	1	Senior	13	-
								Junior	5	
87	1041627	Mobberley Cricket Club	WA16 7RD	North	Knutsford	Yes	1	Senior	5	-
								Junior	3	
89	1208638	Nantwich Cricket Club	CW5 6HH	South	Nantwich	Yes	2	Senior	12	1
								Junior	2	
								-	-	1
101	30003411	Pownall Hall School	SK9 5DW	North	Wilmslow	No	1	-	-	1
102	1041692	Poynton High School	SK12 1PU	North	Poynton	No	1	-	-	1
103	1036696	Poynton Sports Club	SK12 1AG	North	Poynton	Yes	1	Senior	7	-
								Junior	5	
106	1201163	Ruskin Community High School	CW2 7JT	South	Crewe	No	1	-	-	1

¹⁶ Junior square

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Active Places Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Sub area	Community use?	No. of squares	Type of wicket	No. of wickets	
									Grass	Non-turf
108	1040074	Sandbach Cricket Club	CW11 3LZ	Central	Sandbach	Yes	1	Senior	12	-
								Junior	5	
110	1200738	Sandbach School	CW11 3NS	Central	Sandbach	Yes	2	Senior	12	-
								-	-	1
111	1041822	Shavington Academy	CW2 5DH	South	Crewe	No	1	-	-	1
119	1200761	St Thomas More Catholic High School	CW2 8AE	South	Crewe	No	1	-	-	1
120	6016012	Styal Playing Fields	SK9 4JE	North	Wilmslow	Yes	1	Senior	7	-
								Junior	1	
126	1203220	The King's School	SK10 4RH	North	Poynton	Yes	6	Senior	10	-
								Senior	10	-
								Senior	13	-
								Senior	4	-
								Senior	6	-
								Senior	11	-
129	1200844	The Oaks Academy	CW2 7NQ	South	Crewe	No	1	-	-	1
131	1041691	Wilmslow Leisure Centre (The Rectory Field)	SK9 1BU	North	Wilmslow	Yes	1	Senior	6	1
								Junior	1	
135	1041728	Weston Cricket Club	CW2 5NA	South	Crewe	Yes	1	Senior	11	1
								Junior	5	
141	1201174	Wilmslow High School	SK9 1LZ	North	Wilmslow	No	1	-	-	1
143	1038181	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club	SK9 4HP	North	Wilmslow	Yes	1	-	10	-
144	6015986	Eric Swan Sports Ground	CW2 8EZ	South	Crewe	Yes	1	Senior	10	-
151	1200789	All Hallows Catholic College	SK11 8LB	North	Macclesfield	No	1	-	-	1
153	N/A	Langley Cricket Club	SK11 0DE	North	Macclesfield	Yes	1	Senior	9	1
								Junior	2	
154	N/A	Lindow Cricket Club	SK9 6EH	North	Wilmslow	Yes	1	Senior	6	-
								Junior	9	

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Active Places Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Sub area	Community use?	No. of squares	Type of wicket	No. of wickets	
									Grass	Non-turf
156	30009881	Mere Cricket Club	WA16 0TD	North	Knutsford	Yes	1	Senior	11	-
157	30007139	Mossley Cricket Club	CW12 3BN	Central	Congleton	Yes	1	Senior	12	1
158	N/A	Over Peover Cricket Club	WA16 8TZ	North	Knutsford	Yes	1	Senior	13	-
159	N/A	Prestbury Cricket Club	SK10 4DG	North	Poynton	Yes	1	Senior	12	-
								Junior	2	
160	N/A	Rode Park & Lawton Cricket Club	ST7 3QT	Central	Alsager	Yes	1	Senior	9	-
								Junior	2	
161	30007140	Rostherne Cricket Club	WA16 6RY	North	Knutsford	Yes	1	Senior	7	-
								Junior	2	
162	1009521	Tytherington High School	SK10 2EE	North	Macclesfield	No	1	-	-	1
231	30005513	Vernon Primary School	SK12 1NW	North	Poynton	No	1	-	-	1
244	N/A	Pott Shrigley Cricket Club	SK10 5RT	North	Macclesfield	Yes	1	Senior	12	-
								Junior	4	
258	1036086	Alderley Park (Monks Heath)	SK10 4TS	North	Knutsford	Yes	1	Senior	10	-
275	N/A	Gorse Croft Farm (Audlem Cricket Club)	CW3 0HU	South	Nantwich	Yes	1	Senior	10	-

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Future provision

A Mitigation Strategy¹⁷ completed in 2021 incorporates provision at Poynton Sports Club and the potential relocation of the site to land north of Glastonbury Drive. The recommendation is for the cricket square to be re-provided as part of this and for more grass wickets to be established given the increase in playing field land that is entailed.

Knutsford Academy has identified adjacent land that it wishes to acquire from Crown Estates. Should this proposal take place, the School intends to supply a grass wicket square that will be available to the community. There is currently no cricket provision on site, although there has been little movement on this in recent years.

In addition, to supplement the new cricket provision at The King's School, a dedicated pavilion is to be constructed, although the timeline of such a development is currently unknown.

Disused provision

There are five sites identified with disused cricket provision. Chelford Cricket Club provided a grass wicket square, whilst the remaining four provided standalone NTPs. These are summarised in the table below.

Table 7.4: Summary of disused cricket squares

Site ID	Site	Post code	Analysis area	Sub area	Disused site / disused provision ¹⁸	Comments
126	The King's School	SK10 4RH	North	Poynton	Disused provision	Site previously accommodated an NTP which is no longer maintained.
152	Chelford Cricket Club	SK11 9AJ	North	Knutsford	Disused site	Site previously accommodate a grass wicket square prior to the Club folding.
155	Marton Primary School	SK11 9HD	North	Macclesfield	Disused site	Site previously accommodated an NTP which is no longer maintained.
245	Cumberland Arena (Razzer)	CW1 2BD	South	Crewe	Disused provision	Site previously accommodated an NTP which is no longer maintained.
258	Alderley Park ¹⁹ (Monks Heath)	SK10 4TS	North	Knutsford	Disused provision	Site previously accommodated an NTP which is no longer maintained.

¹⁷ [Poynton Mitigation Strategy](#)

¹⁸ Disused provision relates to former cricket provision that was maintained on a site which is currently in currently in use for another sport such as football / rugby union etc.

¹⁹ The NTP is due to be brought back into use for the following season.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

As seen, a disused grass wicket square is provided at Chelford Cricket Club; the Club folded in 2018 and whilst interest has been shown in other clubs using the site as a satellite ground, no agreement has been found with the private landowner. The site has been subject to planning applications (dwellings), but this could be a key site in alleviating excess demand.

In addition, there are four sites (Eaton Bank Academy, Sir William Stanier School, The King's School (Cumberland Street) and The King's School (Fence Avenue Site)) which previously contained one grass wicket square (at The King's School (Cumberland Street)) and NTPs (five NTPs in total) that have now been built on.

Management and security of tenure

The below table is a summary of clubs' tenure at their primary sites. As shown, most clubs are considered to have secure tenure through either a long-term lease (three to five years), rental from Cheshire East Council or freehold.

Table 7.5: Summary of security of tenure for clubs at their primary site

Site ID	Site name	Club user	Agreement	Security of tenure?
1	Alderley Edge Cricket Club	Alderley Edge CC	Freehold	Secure
4	Alsager Cricket Club	Alsager CC	Freehold	Secure
8	Ashley Cricket Club	Ashley CC	Lease (expires in 2038)	Secure
9	Aston Cricket Club	Aston CC	Freehold	Secure
18	Bollington Recreation Ground	Bollington CC	Rent from Cheshire East Council	Secure
20	Toft Cricket Club	Toft CC	Lease from Bruntwood (30-year agreement)	Secure
25	Bunbury Cricket Club	Bunbury CC	Three-year lease with Andrew Bird (expires in 2024)	Unsecure
29	Cholmondeley Cricket Club	Cholmondeley CC	Rent from private landlord	Unsecure
33	Congleton Sports & Social Club	Congleton CC	Freehold	Secure
38	Crewe Vagrants	Crewe CC	Freehold	Secure
45	Elworth Cricket Club	Elworth CC	Freehold	Secure
51	Haslington Cricket Club Ltd	Haslington CC	Lease from private landlord (25-year agreement)	Secure
57	Holmes Chapel Cricket Club	Holmes Chapel CC	Freehold	Secure
63	Kerridge Cricket Club	Kerridge CC	Freehold	Secure
68	Knutsford Sports Club	Knutsford CC	Lease from private landlord (50-year agreement)	Secure
74	Macclesfield Cricket Club	Macclesfield CC	Freehold	Secure
82	Middlewich Cricket Club	Middlewich CC	Lease from private landlord (100-year agreement)	Secure
87	Mobberley Cricket Club	Mobberley CC	Freehold	Secure
89	Nantwich Cricket Club	Nantwich CC	Freehold	Secure
103	Poynton Sports Club	North East Cheshire CC	Freehold	Secure

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Club user	Agreement	Security of tenure?
108	Sandbach Cricket Club	Sandbach CC	Freehold	Secure
120	Styal Playing Fields	Styal CC	Freehold	Secure
142	Wilmslow Leisure Centre	Wilmslow CC	Rent from Cheshire East Council	Secure
144	Eric Swan Sports Ground	Wistaston Village CC	Lease from Wistaston Sports & Leisure Association (25-year agreement)	Secure
153	Langley Cricket Club	Langley CC	Freehold	Secure
154	Lindow Cricket Club	Lindow CC	Lease from Trust (18-years remaining)	Secure
156	Mere Cricket Club	Europa Exiles CC	Leased (20 years)	Secure
158	Over Peover Cricket Club	Over Peover CC	Lease from private landlord (ten-year agreement)	Secure
159	Prestbury Cricket Club	Prestbury CC	Rent from private landlord	Unsecure
160	Rode Park & Lawton Cricket Club	Rode Park & Lawton CC	Rent from Rode Hall Estate	Unsecure
161	Rostherne Cricket Club	Rostherne CC	Lease from Tatton Estate	Secure
275	Gorse Croft Farm	Audlem CC	Rent from private landlord	Unsecure

Bollington CC and Wilmslow CC rent their squares (Bollington Recreation Ground and Wilmslow Leisure Centre respectively) on a yearly basis from the Council, which is seen as less of an issue because the Council is expected to continue providing cricketing provision at the sites used. Nevertheless, Bollington CC indicates a desire to enter into a longer term agreement so that it can potentially attract investment into the facilities, particularly in terms of practice nets.²⁰

Macclesfield CC also splits its usage across two squares, albeit they are co-located. Its use of its second square (known locally as Parkside Cricket Ground) is currently considered unsecure as the Council is awaiting transfer of the provision as part of a planning agreement. Following this, it will be leased to the Club.

The majority of school sites do not provide security of tenure for access to their cricket provision; however, this is not currently an issue as none of them are in active use by clubs and little demand is perceived to exist. Secure tenure is provided at The King's School, a community use agreement that was setup as part of the planning conditions for the development of the squares.

Several of clubs do have unsecure tenure, with this relating to:

- ◀ Audlem CC
- ◀ Cholmondeley CC
- ◀ Prestbury CC
- ◀ Bunbury CC
- ◀ Rode Park & Lawton CC

²⁰ It should be aspirational for all clubs to attain a 25-year plus tenure agreement, in order to assist in delivering ancillary development aspirations.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

A particular issue is reported by Bunbury CC, which states that is incapable of fulfilling its future aspirations due to its lack of security of tenure. Its current agreement is due to end in 2024 and this has now been an issue for several years.

In addition, six clubs also access secondary venues to meet their level of demand in addition to the primary venues listed above. The clubs in questions and subsequent sites used are as follows:

- ♦ Ashley CC – Rostherne Cricket Club
- ♦ Congleton CC – Mossley Cricket Club
- ♦ Lindow CC - Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club
- ♦ Nantwich CC – Weston Cricket Club
- ♦ North East Cheshire CC – Disley Amalgamated Sports Club
- ♦ Toft CC – Alderley Park (Monks Heath)

Although the tenure for most clubs at the sites listed above is unknown, it can be assumed that as secondary venues, most clubs will rent use of the squares on an annual basis. Whilst this signifies unsecure tenure, no issues are reported. Clubs utilising secondary squares generally do not want to be tied into a long-term commitment as access may not always be required.

Square quality

The quality of cricket pitches has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by the ECB) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating on a scale of good, standard and poor. For the full assessment criteria, please see Appendix 2.

Maintaining high square quality is the most important aspect of cricket; if the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and can, in some instances, become dangerous. As an example, if a square is poor quality, a ball can bounce erratically on a wicket and become a danger to players.

The audit of grass wicket cricket squares in Cheshire East found 39 to be good quality and nine to be standard quality. This means that none are poor quality, which is relatively rare. The site-by-site breakdown of this is shown in the following table.

Table 7.6: Quality ratings for all grass wicket squares (site-by-site)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Sub area	Community use?	No. of squares	Square quality
1	Alderley Edge Cricket Club	North	Wilmslow	Yes	1	Good
4	Alsager Cricket Club	Central	Alsager	Yes	1	Good
8	Ashley Cricket Club	North	Knutsford	Yes	1	Good
9	Aston Cricket Club	South	Nantwich	Yes	1	Good
18	Bollington Recreation Ground	North	Macclesfield	Yes	1	Good
20	Toft Cricket Club	North	Knutsford	Yes	1	Good
25	Bunbury Cricket Club	South	Nantwich	Yes	1	Good
29	Cholmondeley Cricket Club	South	Nantwich	Yes	1	Good

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Sub area	Community use?	No. of squares	Square quality
33	Congleton Sports & Social Club	Central	Congleton	Yes	1	Good
38	Crewe Vagrants	South	Nantwich	Yes	1	Good
42	Disley Amalgamated Sports Club	North	Poynton	Yes	1	Good
45	Elworth Cricket Club	Central	Sandbach	Yes	2	Good
51	Haslington Cricket Club Ltd	South	Crewe	Yes	1	Good
57	Holmes Chapel Cricket Club	Central	Holmes Chapel	Yes	1	Good
63	Kerridge Cricket Club	North	Macclesfield	Yes	1	Standard
68	Knutsford Sports Club	North	Knutsford	Yes	1	Good
74	Macclesfield Cricket Club	North	Macclesfield	Yes	1	Good
82	Middlewich Cricket Club	Central	Middlewich	Yes	1	Good
87	Mobberley Cricket Club	North	Knutsford	Yes	1	Good
89	Nantwich Cricket Club	South	Nantwich	Yes	1	Good
103	Poynton Sports Club	North	Poynton	Yes	1	Standard
108	Sandbach Cricket Club	Central	Sandbach	Yes	1	Good
110	Sandbach School	Central	Sandbach	Yes	1	Standard
120	Styal Playing Fields	North	Wilmslow	Yes	1	Good
126	The King's School	North	Poynton	Yes	3	Good
					3	Standard
131	Wilmslow Leisure Centre (The Rectory Field)	North	Wilmslow	Yes	1	Good
135	Weston Cricket Club	South	Crewe	Yes	1	Good
143	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club	North	Wilmslow	Yes	1	Good
144	Eric Swan Sports Ground	South	Crewe	Yes	1	Good
153	Langley Cricket Club	North	Macclesfield	Yes	1	Good
154	Lindow Cricket Club	North	Wilmslow	Yes	1	Good
156	Mere Cricket Club	North	Knutsford	Yes	1	Good
157	Mossley Cricket Club	Central	Congleton	Yes	1	Standard
158	Over Peover Cricket Club	North	Knutsford	Yes	1	Good
159	Prestbury Cricket Club	North	Poynton	Yes	1	Good

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Sub area	Community use?	No. of squares	Square quality
160	Rode Park & Lawton Cricket Club	Central	Alsager	Yes	1	Good
161	Rostherne Cricket Club	North	Knutsford	Yes	1	Standard
244	Pott Shrigley Cricket Club	North	Macclesfield	Yes	1	Good
258	Alderley Park (Monks Heath)	North	Knutsford	Yes	1	Standard
275	Gorse Croft Farm (Audlem Cricket Club)	South	Nantwich	Yes	1	Good

As seen, the standard quality squares are located at:

- ✦ Alderley Park (Monks Heath)
- ✦ Kerridge Cricket Club
- ✦ Mossley Cricket Club
- ✦ Poynton Sports Club
- ✦ Rostherne Cricket Club
- ✦ Sandbach School
- ✦ The King's School x3

Whilst no major concerns are identified at the sites, there are generally greater signs of wear and tear, unevenness and waterlogging.

All remaining sites are considered to be good quality. This is a testament to sophisticated maintenance regimes in place, which is helped by the majority of regimes being operated or at least organised by clubs.

Changes from the previous study

A slight difference in the quality of squares is identified between the quality scores above and 2021 findings. Overall, the 2021 study assessed 36 squares as good quality, nine squares as standard quality and one square as poor quality. Therefore, in comparison, there has been an increase of five good quality squares and a decrease of two standard quality and one poor quality square.

The noticeable improvement in quality is captured via club consultation, whereby none of the responding clubs report worsening conditions and with 12 clubs reporting an improvement. This includes Alderley Edge CC, which has had its square relayed recently. Most clubs reporting an improvement attribute this to maintenance enhancements, aided by investment in machinery and more hours being put towards it.

However, many clubs still report aspirations to improve their squares; the following table summarises clubs' aspirational square improvement plans.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 7.7: Summary of clubs' square improvement plans

Site ID	Site name	Club	Comments
1	Alderley Edge Cricket Club	Alderley Edge CC	Continue grounds improvement scheme
4	Alsager Cricket Club	Alsager CC	Grounds maintenance (outfield drainage)
18	Bollington Recreation Ground	Bollington CC	Scorebox refurbishment, outfield maintenance
20	Toft Cricket Club	Toft CC	Scorebox refurbishment, irrigation system
25	Bunbury Cricket Club	Bunbury CC	Grounds maintenance /equipment (new outfield mower)
33	Congleton Sports & Social Club	Congleton CC	Grounds maintenance / equipment
38	Crewe Vagrants	Crewe CC	Grounds maintenance / equipment
51	Haslington Cricket Club	Haslington CC	Grounds maintenance (outfield drainage)
74	Macclesfield Cricket Club	Macclesfield CC	Grounds maintenance /equipment (new outfield mower)
82	Middlewich Cricket Club	Middlewich CC	Grounds maintenance /equipment (new outfield mower)
89	Nantwich Cricket Club	Nantwich CC	Rainwater recycling (irrigation system)
144	Eric Swan Sports Ground	Wistaston Village CC	Replace sightscreen, scorebox refurbishment

Notwithstanding the above, some damage to squares and vandalism remains prevalent, with this reported at numerous sites within Cheshire East. Bollington, Crewe, Macclesfield, Rostherne, Sandbach, Styal and Wistaston Village cricket clubs each report consistent damages to their respective squares, whether it be from dog foul, rabbits or litter. Nevertheless, overall good quality is still suggested by most.

To obtain a full technical assessment of wicket and squares, the ECB recommends a Performance Quality Standard (PQS) assessment. The PQS looks at a cricket square to ascertain whether the pitch meets standards, which are benchmarked by the GMA.

Table 7.8: Performance Quality Standard ratings

Quality rating	Details
Premier (High)	Where the surface is intended for Premier League play, with those within the top quartile capable of holding minor county and 1st class one day matches. May include some of the better schools and university pitches
Club (Standard)	A Club pitch suitable for league, school and junior cricket
Basic	An acceptable level suitable for recreational cricket and where the surface is designed and maintained within tight financial limitations such as local authorities
Unsuitable	This is where the surface is deemed unfit or unsafe for play

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Clubs can contact the CCB to arrange for a pitch advisor to complete three different reports that vary in cost. A fully comprehensive report includes soil testing and guidance on machinery and corrective procedures, a mini report includes guidance on machinery and corrective procedures and a verbal report is a spoken version of a mini report.

Ball strike

Where there is either new cricket provision being put in place, or more commonly where there is a development which may prejudice the use of an existing cricket facility, there is a requirement for a full ball strike risk assessment to be undertaken and appropriate mitigation put in place as part of the development. As such, the ECB recommends that the affected or at-risk clubs and organisations seek to have a ball strike risk assessment undertaken. Further information can be provided by the ECB.

Ancillary facilities

The table below identifies the quality of the clubhouse and changing provision at sites used for community cricket within Cheshire East. Overall, ten sites are accompanied by good quality facilities, 19 have standard quality provision and nine sites are categorised as having poor quality provision.

Table 7.9: Summary of ancillary quality

Site ID	Site name	Club	Clubhouse quality
1	Alderley Edge Cricket Club	Alderley Edge CC	Good
4	Alsager Cricket Club	Alsager CC	Good
8	Ashley Cricket Club	Ashley CC	Standard
9	Aston Cricket Club	Aston CC	Poor
18	Bollington Recreation Ground	Bollington CC	Standard
20	Toft Cricket Club	Toft CC	Poor
25	Bunbury Cricket Club	Bunbury CC	Poor
29	Cholmondeley Cricket Club	Cholmondeley CC	Standard
33	Congleton Sports & Social Club	Congleton CC	Standard
38	Crewe Vagrants	Crewe CC	Good
42	Disley Amalgamated Sports Club	North East Cheshire CC	Standard
45	Elworth Cricket Club	Elworth CC	Good
51	Haslington Cricket Club Ltd	Haslington CC	Standard
57	Holmes Chapel Cricket Club	Holmes Chapel CC	Standard
63	Kerridge Cricket Club	Kerridge CC	Standard
68	Knutsford Sports Club	Knutsford CC	Good
74	Macclesfield Cricket Club	Macclesfield CC	Standard
82	Middlewich Cricket Club	Middlewich CC	Standard
87	Mobberley Cricket Club	Mobberley CC	Good
89	Nantwich Cricket Club	Nantwich CC	Good
103	Poynton Sports Club	North East Cheshire CC	Standard
108	Sandbach Cricket Club	Sandbach CC	Good
120	Styal Playing Fields	Styal CC	Standard
131	Wilmslow Leisure Centre (The Rectory Field)	Wilmslow CC	Standard
135	Weston Cricket Club	Nantwich CC	Good
143	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club	Lindow CC	Standard

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Club	Clubhouse quality
144	Eric Swan Sports Ground	Wistaston Village CC	Standard
153	Langley Cricket Club	Langley CC	Standard
154	Lindow Cricket Club	Lindow CC	Good
156	Mere Cricket Club	Europa Exiles CC	Poor
157	Mossley Cricket Club	Congleton CC	Poor
158	Over Peover Cricket Club	Over Peover CC	Poor
159	Prestbury Cricket Club	Prestbury CC	Standard
160	Rode Park & Lawton Cricket Club	Rode Park & Lawton CC	Standard
161	Rostherne Cricket Club	Ashley CC	Poor
		Rostherne CC	
244	Pott Shrigley Cricket Club	Pott Shrigley CC	Standard
258	Alderley Park (Monks Heath)	Toft CC	Poor
275	Gorse Croft Farm	Audlem CC	Poor

The sites with poor quality provision are:

- ✦ Alderley Park (Monks Heath)
- ✦ Aston Cricket Club
- ✦ Bunbury Cricket Club
- ✦ Gorse Croft Farm (Audlem CC)
- ✦ Mere Cricket Club
- ✦ Mossley Cricket Club
- ✦ Over Peover Cricket Club
- ✦ Rostherne Cricket Club
- ✦ Toft Cricket Club.

These sites have been rated as such based on site assessment visits, the age of the building and information provided by clubs via consultation. Of particular concern is the condition of the clubhouse building at Mere Cricket Club, which is considered too small and poor quality.

In addition, despite overall standard quality ancillary provision at Wilmslow Leisure Centre, Wilmslow CC reports that it is not serviced by a dedicated pavilion. This Club instead utilises the main building at the site for all of its ancillary needs.

A further 22 clubs also have ancillary provision aspirations. The table below summarises the plans.

Table 7.10: Summary of clubs' ancillary development plans

Site ID	Site name	Club	Comments
1	Alderley Edge Cricket Club	Alderley Edge CC	Clubhouse and changing refurbishment
8	Ashley Cricket Club	Ashley CC	Clubhouse refurbishment
20	Toft Cricket Club	Toft CC	Clubhouse redevelopment
33	Congleton Sports & Social Club	Congleton CC	Changing room refurbishment
38	Crewe Vagrants	Crewe CC	Changing room refurbishment
45	Elworth Cricket Club	Elworth CC	Clubhouse and changing refurbishment

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Club	Comments
1	Alderley Edge Cricket Club	Alderley Edge CC	Clubhouse and changing refurbishment
51	Haslington Cricket Club Ltd	Haslington CC	Changing room refurbishment
57	Holmes Chapel Cricket Club	Holmes Chapel CC	Replace sightscreens
63	Kerridge Cricket Club	Kerridge CC	Clubhouse redevelopment
74	Macclesfield Cricket Club	Macclesfield CC	Clubhouse and changing room refurbishment
82	Middlewich Cricket Club	Middlewich CC	Clubhouse redevelopment
87	Mobberley Cricket Club	Mobberley CC	Changing room refurbishment
108	Sandbach Cricket Club	Sandbach CC	Scorebox renovation, tarmac club car park
120	Styal Playing Fields	Styal CC	Clubhouse and changing refurbishment
135	Weston Cricket Club	Nantwich CC	Changing room refurbishment
153	Langley Cricket Club	Langley CC	Clubhouse and changing refurbishment
154	Lindow Cricket Club	Lindow CC	Clubhouse redevelopment
157	Mossley Cricket Club	Congleton CC	Solar panel installation
158	Over Peover Cricket Club	Over Peover CC	Clubhouse redevelopment
159	Prestbury Cricket Club	Prestbury CC	Clubhouse and changing refurbishment
160	Rode Park & Lawton Cricket Club	Rode Park & Lawton CC	Changing room refurbishment
161	Rostherne Cricket Club	Rostherne CC	Clubhouse and changing refurbishment

Of the developments listed above, Toft CC has now secured planning permission from the Council for its pavilion redevelopment and are now actively fundraising, while Lindow CC are in a similar position. Elsewhere, the pavilion redevelopment at Elworth CC is a multi-phased approach, with updates to the toilets and social space carried out in 2023 and further work planned to redevelop the changing areas. Furthermore, Over Peover CC has submitted updated pavilion plans and are awaiting a planning decision.

The majority of changing room refurbishments are intended to support the development of women and girls cricket, with the creation of gender-neutral spaces incorporating the latest ECB technical specifications including replacing 'open' shower areas with individual cubicles.

In addition to the clubhouse and changing facility quality, Alsager CC, Langley CC, Lindow CC and Mobberley CC each report having unsuitable parking provision at their sites. No other clubs report any issues in this regard.

Training facilities

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for training purposes. The table overleaf identifies the practice facilities that are available across Cheshire East.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

As seen, 30 sites are serviced by practice nets in some form, which represents a high number. This includes Poynton Sports Club, which recently (in 2023) received a three-lane practice net facility, with this servicing North East Cheshire CC. However, 25 clubs report a need for new, additional or improved provision, which is also significant. Furthermore, Wilmslow, Rostherne and Holmes Chapel cricket clubs are currently without their own facilities.

In addition, although not covered by the scope of this study, several clubs report an increasing struggle for access to indoor cricket facilities due to the limited venues offering such provision and due to having to compete with other sports and pre-existing block bookings. This applies to Bunbury, Macclesfield, Haslington, North East Cheshire and Pott Shrigley cricket clubs.

Table 7.11: Summary of training facilities at club sites

Site ID	Site name	Club user	Does the ground have nets?	Permanent or roll on?	Demand for improved/ additional training provision?
1	Alderley Edge Cricket Club	Alderley Edge CC	Yes	Permanent	Yes
4	Alsager Cricket Club	Alsager CC	Yes	Both	Yes
8	Ashley Cricket Club	Ashley CC	Yes	Permanent	No
9	Aston Cricket Club	Aston CC	Yes	Permanent	No
18	Bollington Recreation Ground	Bollington CC	Yes	Permanent ²¹	Yes
20	Toft Cricket Club	Toft CC	Yes	Permanent	Yes
25	Bunbury Cricket Club	Bunbury CC	Yes	Both	Yes
29	Cholmondeley Cricket Club	Cholmondeley CC	Yes	Permanent	No
33	Congleton Sports & Social Club	Congleton CC	Yes	Roll on	Yes
38	Crewe Vagrants	Crewe CC	Yes	Permanent	Yes
45	Elworth Cricket Club	Elworth CC	Yes	Permanent	Yes
51	Haslington Cricket Club	Haslington CC	Yes	Both	Yes
57	Holmes Chapel Cricket Club	Holmes Chapel CC	No	-	No
63	Kerridge Cricket Club	Kerridge CC	Yes	Roll on	No
68	Knutsford Sports Club	Knutsford CC	Yes	Permanent	Yes
74	Macclesfield Cricket Club	Macclesfield CC	Yes	Permanent	Yes
82	Middlewich Cricket Club	Middlewich CC	Yes	Both	No
87	Mobberley Cricket Club	Mobberley CC	Yes	Both	No
89	Nantwich Cricket Club	Nantwich CC	Yes	Both	No
103	Poynton Sports Club	North East Cheshire CC	Yes	Permanent	Yes
108	Sandbach Cricket Club	Sandbach CC	Yes	Permanent	Yes
120	Styal Playing Fields	Styal CC	Yes	Roll on	Yes
135	Weston Cricket Club	Nantwich CC	Yes	Permanent	Yes
142	Wilmslow Leisure Centre	Wilmslow CC	No	-	Yes
144	Eric Swan Sports Ground	Wistaston Village CC	Yes	Roll on	Yes
153	Langley Cricket Club	Langley CC	Yes	Both	Yes
154	Lindow Cricket Club	Lindow CC	Yes	Both	Yes

²¹ Permanent practice nets have been taken out of use and have not yet been replaced.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Club user	Does the ground have nets?	Permanent or roll on?	Demand for improved/ additional training provision?
156	Mere Cricket Club	Europa Exiles CC	Yes	Permanent	Yes
158	Over Peover Cricket Club	Over Peover CC	Yes	Permanent	Yes
159	Prestbury Cricket Club	Prestbury CC	Yes	Roll on	Yes
160	Rode Park & Lawton Cricket Club	Rode Park & Lawton CC	Yes	Permanent	Yes
161	Rostherne Cricket Club	Rostherne CC	No	-	Yes
244	Pott Shrigley Cricket Club	Pott Shrigley CC	Yes	Roll on	Yes
275	Gorse Croft Farm (Audlem Cricket Club)	Audlem CC	Yes	Roll on	Yes

Of the sites listed above, Toft CC has secured a grant from ECB to refurbish its three-bay net facility, which it hopes to complete in time for the 2024 season. Prestbury CC has applied for an ECB Interest Free Loan to support its application for a non-turf practice facility.

7.3: Demand

The large majority of competitive hard-ball cricket demand in Cheshire East is accommodated within the Cheshire County Cricket League. This consists of a senior structure and a junior structure. For senior demand, teams play in a pyramid league system consisting of the ECB Cheshire County Premier League and the Cheshire Cricket League, while several clubs also compete in the ECB North Staffs and South Cheshire Premier League as well as a number of midweek and friendly leagues. The Cheshire Cricket Board also runs the “Get the Game On” initiative for more ad hoc friendly fixtures, and there are also a number of junior leagues covering the Cheshire area and beyond that provide a mix of league, cup and friendly matches.

There are 33 affiliated clubs in Cheshire East which collectively provide 333 teams. This equates to 128 senior men’s, 16 senior women’s and 189 junior teams (171 junior boys’ and 18 junior girls’ teams).

As seen in the table below, most teams are based in the North Analysis Area (200 teams), whilst the fewest number of teams are found in the South Analysis Area (56 teams).

Table 7.12: Summary of affiliated teams by analysis area

Analysis area	Sub areas	No. of teams				Total
		Senior men’s	Senior women’s	Junior boys’	Junior girls’	
North	Knutsford	26	2	23	1	52
	Macclesfield	19	3	29	3	54
	Poynton	9	2	21	3	35
	Wilmslow	19	3	30	7	59
Total						200
Central	Alsager	11	-	12	-	23
	Congleton	3	-	5	1	9
	Holmes Chapel	3	-	3	-	6
	Middlewich	4	-	8	-	12
	Sandbach	8	1	15	3	27

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Analysis area	Sub areas	No. of teams				Total
		Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys'	Junior girls'	
Total						77
South	Crewe	12	2	12	-	26
	Nantwich	14	2	13	1	30
Total						56
Cheshire East		128	16	171	18	333
2021 PPS Study		119	6	157	15	297

Most clubs are relatively large, with several teams at both senior and junior level, such as Ashley, Lindow, Macclesfield and Toft cricket clubs. However, there are also some smaller clubs with just one or two senior teams and no junior section. Examples include Europa Exiles, Kerridge and Rostherne cricket clubs.

For a full summary of demand at a club-specific level, please see Table 7.13, overleaf.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 7.13: Current summary of teams by club and a comparison to the previous study

Site ID	Site name	Club	Sub area	No. of teams				Total	Team % change from previous study
				Men's	Women's	Boys'	Girls'		
1	Alderley Edge Cricket Club	Alderley Edge CC	Wilmslow	5	-	12	-	17	18%
4	Alsager Cricket Club	Alsager CC	Alsager	7	-	5	-	12	25%
8	Ashley Cricket Club	Ashley CC	Knutsford	7	-	11	-	18	6%
161	Rostherne Cricket Club		Knutsford						
9	Aston Cricket Club	Aston CC	Nantwich	3	1	3	-	7	14%
50	Audlem Cricket Club	Audlem CC	Nantwich	2	-	-	-	2	-
18	Bollington Recreation Ground	Bollington CC	Macclesfield	4	-	2	-	6	-
25	Bunbury Cricket Club	Bunbury CC	Nantwich	2	-	3	-	5	20%
29	Cholmondeley Cricket Club	Cholmondeley CC	Nantwich	2	-	-	-	2	33%
33	Congleton Sports & Social Club	Congleton CC	Congleton	3	-	5	1	9	-
157	Mossley Cricket Club		Congleton						
38	Crewe Vagrants	Crewe CC	Nantwich	2	-	3	-	5	20%
45	Elworth Cricket Club	Elworth CC	Sandbach	5	1	9	3	18	28%
156	Mere Cricket Club	Europa Exiles CC	Knutsford	1	-	-	-	1	-
51	Haslington Cricket Club Ltd	Haslington CC	Crewe	6	-	7	-	13	15%
57	Holmes Chapel Cricket Club	Holmes Chapel CC	Holmes Chapel	3	-	3	-	6	67%
63	Kerridge Cricket Club	Kerridge CC	Macclesfield	1	-	-	-	1	-
68	Knutsford Sports Club	Knutsford CC	Knutsford	2	-	-	-	2	-
153	Langley Cricket Club	Langley CC	Macclesfield	3	1	9	2	15	13%
143	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club	Lindow CC	Wilmslow	9	3	18	7	37	16%
154	Lindow Cricket Club		Wilmslow						
74	Macclesfield Cricket Club	Macclesfield CC	Macclesfield	8	2	15	1	26	23%
82	Middlewich Cricket Club	Middlewich CC	Middlewich	4	-	8	-	12	25%
87	Mobberley Cricket Club	Mobberley CC	Knutsford	4	-	3	-	7	-
89	Nantwich Cricket Club	Nantwich CC	Nantwich	6	2	7	-	15	-

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Club	Sub area	No. of teams				Total	Team % change from previous study
				Men's	Women's	Boys'	Girls'		
135	Weston Cricket Club		Crewe						
42	Disley Amalgamated Sports Club	North East Cheshire CC	Poynton	6	2	17	3	28	18%
103	Poynton Sports Club		Poynton						
158	Over Peover Cricket Club	Over Peover CC	Knutsford	3	-	1	-	4	33%
244	Pott Shrigley Cricket Club	Pott Shrigley CC	Macclesfield	3	-	3	-	6	33%
159	Prestbury Cricket Club	Prestbury CC	Poynton	3	-	4	-	7	12.5%
160	Rode Park & Lawton Cricket Club	Rode Park & Lawton CC	Alsager	4	-	7	-	11	18%
161	Rostherne Cricket Club	Rostherne CC	Knutsford	1	-	-	-	1	75%
108	Sandbach Cricket Club	Sandbach CC	Sandbach	3	-	5	-	8	38%
120	Styal Playing Fields	Styal CC	Wilmslow	2	-	-	-	2	60%
20	Toft Cricket Club	Toft CC	Knutsford	8	2	8	1	19	26%
258	Alderley Park (Monks Heath)		Knutsford						
131	Wilmslow Leisure Centre (The Rectory Field)	Wilmslow CC	Wilmslow	3	-	-	-	3	-
144	Eric Swan Sports Ground	Wistaston Village CC	Crewe	3	2	3	-	8	11%
Total				128	16	171	18	333	11%

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Changes from the previous study

As seen in Table 7.13 above, there has been an increase in the number of teams playing within Cheshire East since the previous study, with demand rising from 297 teams in 2021 to 333 teams currently. This represents a 11% increase.

Notwithstanding the overall growth, nine clubs have seen demand decrease over the time period, with these being Cholmondeley, Congleton, Over Peover, Pott Shrigley, Prestbury, Rostherne, Sandbach, Styal and Wistaston Village cricket clubs. However, this more than offset by a growth at 15 clubs, with a significant increase seen at some, such as Elworth CC, Holmes Chapel CC and Toft CC.

Latent/unmet demand

From consultation, no clubs report any latent or unmet demand in Cheshire East. In effect, all clubs report that their current demand is being adequately provided for across the primary and, where required, secondary venues.

Imported demand

Didsbury CC imports a single men's team into Cheshire East from Manchester, playing home matches at Mere Cricket Club. This is used as a secondary venue by the Club, accessing the square on alternative weekends alongside Europa Exiles CC.

In addition, Mere Cricket Club is also utilised by Friends United CC and Copthorne CC from the Greater Manchester Amateur Cricket League on Sundays, as well as by Bowdon CC for junior play on both Sundays and Tuesdays. The Club emanates from Trafford.

An adult friendly team known as High Legh CC also utilises the site on Wednesday evenings.

Exported demand

No exported cricket demand is identified. That is to say that no Cheshire East-based clubs currently access provision outside of the area for their home matches.

Additional activity

The ECB is currently running a number of initiatives across the Country which results in additional cricket demand and use of cricket facilities. Whilst these do not generally utilise grass wickets, they can impact upon availability when sessions are being held due to use of cricket outfield, making squares unusable for matches during these periods. This can mean no availability on one or two nights a week.

Women's and girls' cricket

One of the six key priorities within ECB's Inspiring Generations strategy is 'transforming the women and girls game'. Through the strategy, ECB have pledged to increase the representation of women and girls in every level of cricket by:

- ◆ Growing the base through participation and facilities investment.
- ◆ Launching centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure.
- ◆ Investing in girls' county age group cricket.
- ◆ Delivering a girls' secondary school programme.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Linked to the above, the CCB now employs a Women's and Girls' Manager and three dedicated Women's and Girls' Development Officers, with a remit to grow female participation in club and community settings throughout the County. The County Facilities Strategy also has 'Transform Womens and Girls Cricket' as one of its 5 Priority Areas.

There are currently 34 women's and girls teams competing within Cheshire East (16 women's, 18 girls) the majority of whom play within the Cheshire Women's Cricket League structure, which offers a blend of hard ball and soft ball competition. Hard ball fixtures are played on the square, but softball fixtures typically take place on outfields and some are played within round-robin 'festival' format to maximise participation for those involved. A full list of Women and Girls teams in the Borough is included within Table 7.13 above.

All Stars cricket

In partnership with the ECB and Chance to Shine, cricket clubs can register to become an ECB All Stars Cricket Centre. Once registered, a club can deliver the programme which aims to introduce cricket to children aged from five to eight. Subsequently, this may lead to increased interest and demand for junior cricket at clubs.

The programme seeks to achieve the following aims:

- ♦ Increase cricket activity for 5-8 year olds in the school and club environment.
- ♦ Develop consistency of message in both settings to aid transition.
- ♦ Improve generic movement skills for children, using cricket as the vehicle.
- ♦ Make it easier for new volunteers to support and deliver in the club environment.
- ♦ Use fun small-sided games to enthuse new children and volunteers to follow and play the game.

In Cheshire East, 18 clubs currently deliver All Stars activity, which is a large number.

Dynamo's cricket

A key development area for the ECB in delivering on the outcomes of 'Inspiring Generations' will be the Dynamos programme for 8-11 year olds, which originally aimed to launch in 2020. It plans on building on the significant growth of the All Stars and will develop the pathway to retain juniors who progress.

Where All Stars seeks to engage children in cricket activity and learning the skills, Dynamo's seeks to engage children in learning how to play, introducing a modified softball format as competitive progression with a view to eventual transition through to hardball cricket. The programme will be strongly linked to The Hundred, a new short format competition which also aimed to launch in 2020 (pre-Covid-19).

In Cheshire East, nine clubs currently take part in the Dynamos initiative.

The below table summarises which community cricket clubs have women/girls, All Stars and Dynamos activity.

Table 7.14: Cheshire East clubs involved in ECB initiatives

Club name	All Stars	Dynamos	Women/Girls
Alderley Edge CC	No	No	No
Alsager CC	No	No	No
Ashley CC	Yes	No	No

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Club name	All Stars	Dynamos	Women/Girls
Aston CC	No	No	Yes
Audlem CC	No	No	No
Bollington CC	Yes	Yes	No
Bunbury CC	No	No	No
Cholmondeley CC	No	No	No
Congleton CC	Yes	No	Yes
Crewe CC	Yes	Yes	No
Elworth CC	Yes	Yes	Yes
Europa Exiles CC	No	No	No
Haslington CC	Yes	Yes	No
Holmes Chapel CC	No	No	No
Kerridge CC	No	No	No
Knutsford CC	No	No	No
Langley CC	Yes	No	Yes
Lindow CC	Yes	No	Yes
Macclesfield CC	Yes	No	Yes
Middlewich CC	Yes	Yes	No
Mobberley CC	Yes	No	No
Nantwich CC	Yes	No	Yes
North East Cheshire CC	No	No	Yes
Over Peover CC	Yes	No	Yes
Pott Shrigley CC	No	Yes	No
Prestbury CC	Yes	Yes	No
Rode Park & Lawton CC	Yes	No	No
Rostherne CC	No	No	No
Sandbach CC	No	No	No
Styal CC	Yes	Yes	No
Toft CC	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wilmslow CC	No	No	No
Wistaston Village CC	Yes	No	Yes
Total	18/33 (55%)	9/33 (27%)	10/33 (30%)

Across the Borough, only Elworth CC and Toft CC offer all three cricket initiatives.

Last Man Stands

Last Man Stands (LMS) was founded in 2005, in London. The social outdoor eight-a-side T20 cricket game is played midweek, lasts approximately two hours and is generally played on NTPs. All eight wickets are required to bowl a team out so when the seventh wicket falls, the 'Last Man Stands' on his own. This shorter format of the game has encouraged more people to participate in the sport and is increasing in popularity.

LMS does not currently operate in Cheshire East, however, should suitable locations be available it is something that will be considered in the future as there is currently no dedicated alternative (such as a T20 league). The CCB indicates that a venue in Crewe, such as King George V Playing Fields, and/or Macclesfield would be best suited.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Future demand

Future demand can be defined via several ways, including through participation increases and by using population forecasts. In addition, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate additional demand that could arise from developments across Cheshire East.

Participation increases

In total, 15 of the 33 clubs in Cheshire East report future demand aspirations. This totals a potential increase of 26 teams, which broken down equates to one senior men's, eight senior women's and 17 junior teams. This is summarised in the following table.

Table 7.15: Summary of future demand

Club name	Future demand (members)			Total
	Senior men's	Senior women's	Juniors	
Alsager CC	-	-	1	1
Bollington CC	-	1	2	3
Bunbury CC	-	-	1	1
Crewe Vagrants CC	-	-	2	2
Elworth CC	-	-	2	2
Haslington CC	-	1	2	3
Langley CC	-	1	1	2
Lindow CC	-	1	1	2
Mobberley CC	-	1	-	1
Over Peover CC	-	-	2	2
Pott Shrigley CC	-	1	-	1
Sandbach CC	1	1	1	3
Styal CC	-	1	1	2
Wistaston Village CC	-	-	1	1
Total	1	8	17	26

Population forecasts

For population projections, Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for grass wicket cricket squares that will arise from forecasted growth. This uses the current population within each relevant age group together with current participation levels to establish team generation rates that are applied to future population projections.

Using the above, it is predicted in Cheshire East that there will be a growth of five senior men's, one senior women's, seven junior boys and one junior girls team to 2030 (the date selected to align the PPOSS with the Council's Local Plan). This is shown in the table below.

Table 7.16: Future demand via population growth (2030)

Age group	Team generation rate	Number of new teams generated by the new population	Number of new teams generated by the new population ²²
Men (18-55yrs)	1:653	5.04	5
Women (18-55yrs)	1:5643	0.60	1

²² Rounded to the nearest whole number

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Age group	Team generation rate	Number of new teams generated by the new population	Number of new teams generated by the new population ²²
Boys (7-18yrs)	1:164	6.85	7
Girls (7-18yrs)	1:1484	0.73	1

Notwithstanding the above, it is important to acknowledge that there are plans and strategies in place to increase the number of teams at some formats beyond what current trends and population changes would suggest. For example, consultation with the ECB suggests that further development of women and girl's participation in cricket in Cheshire East is likely as it is currently a national priority. This also applies to potential increased growth in junior cricket, linked to the abovementioned All Stars and Dynamos initiatives.

In addition, the ECB's media rights deal includes a continuation of its relationship with Sky Sports, up to 2028. This now extends beyond broadcasting and is a partnership which will secure significant investment and a commitment to increase participation and drive engagement. This could therefore boost demand to levels in excess of those anticipated through the PPOSS, meaning the impact should be reviewed over coming years.

Furthermore, the demand identified is based solely upon current levels of formal demand from community-based cricket clubs and does not capture informal or recreational activity.

Future demand summary

In the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section of the report, it is considered unfeasible for all future demand to be factored in. This is because it is likely that club aspirations will absorb the future demand identified through population growth, rather than them being judged separately and therefore double counted. As such, only demand identified through population growth is taken forward, with club demand considered to be more theoretical and aspirational.

Notwithstanding the above, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain a scenario that will consider the impact if club aspirations are also realised.

7.4: Capacity analysis

Capacity analysis for cricket is measured on a seasonal rather than a weekly basis. This is due to playability (as only one match is generally played per square per day at weekends or weekday evening) and because wickets are rotated throughout the season to reduce wear and tear and to allow for repair.

The capacity of a square to accommodate matches is driven by the number and quality of wickets. This section of the report therefore presents the current pitch stock available for cricket and illustrates the number of competitive match equivalent sessions per season per square that is available and that currently takes place.

For good quality squares, capacity is considered to be five matches per grass wicket per season, whilst for a standard quality square, capacity is four matches per wicket per season. For poor quality squares, no capacity is considered to exist as such provision is not deemed safe for play.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

The number of matches played by each team has been derived from consultation with the clubs. Where the level of play was not made clear through the consultation process, an assumption has been made that all senior teams play between ten and 12 home matches per year and all junior teams play between four and eight matches per year depending on their age and level of competition.

The above is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

Potential capacity	Play is below the level the site could sustain
At capacity	Play matches the level the site can sustain
Overused	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

Please note that non-turf wickets have been discounted from the analysis. No non-turf wicket squares are recorded as accommodating more than 60 matches per season; therefore, all non-turf wickets are considered to have spare capacity.

The above generally translates to actual spare capacity for junior cricket as peak time is midweek, whereby non-turf wickets are more commonly used and where matches can be played on a variety of days. However, this is not the case where midweek demand is particularly high, with capacity still limited due to general site usage.

The capacity analysis assumes that all clubs rotate their wickets evenly. However, this may not be the case at all sites, with central wickets potentially used more commonly than outer wickets that are closer to a boundary, especially for senior matches. The idea is to showcase what the capacity is or could be if best practice is followed for the whole square, rather than doing it on a wicket-by-wicket basis.

In addition, the analysis also differentiates between senior and junior wickets, with junior wickets those located on the outer parts of the square. These generally cannot be used for senior play due to their proximity to the boundary, unless the pitch is large enough for this not to be an issue, and they therefore should not contribute towards capacity for such demand. It is then assumed that, where junior wickets are identified, that these are used for junior demand up to U14 level (U14s and above are more likely to use senior wickets).

Peak time demand

An analysis of match play identifies that peak time demand for senior cricket in Cheshire East is Saturday, although a good proportion of teams are also fielded on a Sunday, including senior women's teams, as well as midweek in shorter formats of the game. In addition, peak time is midweek for junior cricket, albeit that some Sunday cricket is also recorded.

Based on the above, capacity across Saturday's, Sunday's and midweek requires consideration, which the following analysis looks to provide. This involves factoring in the overall capacity level at each site and current usage levels across each relevant period.

Education usage

Whilst all squares based at school sites currently are available for community use, it must be recognised that the majority also cater for curricular and extra-curricular, especially at those with a relatively strong cricket programme. At such sites, internal usage leaves little capacity remaining for any external access, with this demand therefore built into the capacity analysis.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Spare capacity

The table below explains the difference between the potential spare capacity referenced in Table 7.18 and the actual spare capacity identified in the final three columns (Saturday, Sunday and midweek).

Table 7.17: Spare capacity examples

Examples	Explanation of spare capacity
No	If the cell has a “no” it means that the pitch is played to capacity within this period and therefore cannot accommodate any further demand.
Yes	If the cell has a “yes” that is not highlighted it means there is spare capacity to accommodate further demand within this designated peak period; however, this is discounted due to unsecure tenure, poor quality, the lack of community availability, or the pitch already being played to capacity or being overplayed.
Yes	If the cell has a “yes” and is also highlighted in green it means there is actual available spare capacity within this peak period which can be utilised.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 7.18: Capacity analysis of grass cricket squares across Cheshire East

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Sub area	Available for community use?	Security of tenure	Club users	No. of squares	Square quality	Type of wicket	No. of grass wickets	Capacity (Sessions per season)	Actual play (Sessions per season)	Capacity rating (sessions per season)	Potential spare capacity for senior cricket? (Saturday)	Potential spare capacity for senior cricket? (Sunday)	Potential spare capacity for junior cricket? (Midweek)
1	Alderley Edge Cricket Club	North	Wilmslow	Yes	Secure	Alderley Edge CC	1	Good	Senior	13	65	51	14	No	No	No
									Junior ²³	6	30	32	2			
4	Alsager Cricket Club	Central	Alsager	Yes	Secure	Alsager CC	1	Good	Senior	9	45	50	5	No	No	No
									Junior	2	10	22	12			
8	Ashley Cricket Club	North	Knutsford	Yes	Secure	Ashley CC	1	Good	Senior	15	75	68	7	No	No	No
									Junior	3	15	16	1			
9	Aston Cricket Club	South	Nantwich	Yes	Secure	Aston CC	1	Good	Senior	8	40	28	12	No	Yes	Yes
									Junior	4	20	12	8			
18	Bollington Recreation Ground	North	Macclesfield	Yes	Secure	Bollington CC	1	Good	Senior	12	60	42	18	No	Yes	Yes
20	Toft Cricket Club	North	Knutsford	Yes	Secure	Toft CC	1	Good	Senior	18	90	72	18	No	No	No
									Junior	1	5	12	7			
25	Bunbury Cricket Club	South	Nantwich	Yes	Unsecure	Bunbury CC	1	Good	Senior	9	45	22	23	No	Yes	No
									Junior	2	10	12	2			
29	Cholmondeley Cricket Club	South	Nantwich	Yes	Unsecure	Cholmondeley CC	1	Good	Senior	8	40	12	28	No	Yes	Yes
33	Congleton Sports & Social Club	Central	Congleton	Yes	Secure	Congleton CC	1	Good	Senior	6	30	24	8	No	No	No
									Junior	3	15	22	7			
38	Crewe Vagrants	South	Nantwich	Yes	Secure	Crewe CC	1	Good	Senior	14	70	28	42	No	Yes	No
									Junior	2	10	12	2			
42	Disley Amalgamated Sports Club	North	Poynton	Yes	Secure	North East Cheshire CC	1	Good	Senior	12	60	50	10	No	No	No
									Junior	2	10	30	20			
45	Elworth Cricket Club	Central	Sandbach	Yes	Secure	Elworth CC	1	Good	Senior	14	70	82	12	No	No	No
							1 ²⁴	Good	Junior	4	20	30	10	No	No	No
51	Haslington Cricket Club	South	Crewe	Yes	Secure	Haslington CC	1	Good	Senior	14	70	64	6	No	No	No
57	Holmes Chapel Cricket Club	Central	Holmes Chapel	Yes	Secure	Holmes Chapel CC	1	Good	Senior	8	40	44	4	No	No	No
63	Kerridge Cricket Club	North	Macclesfield	Yes	Secure	Kerridge CC	1	Standard	Senior	10	40	63	23	No	No	No
68	Knutsford Sports Club	North	Knutsford	Yes	Secure	Knutsford CC	1	Good	Senior	11	55	24	31	No	No	No
74	Macclesfield Cricket Club	North	Macclesfield	Yes	Secure	Macclesfield CC	2	Good	Senior	10	50	51	1	No	No	No
					Unsecure			Good	Junior	4	20	14	6			
									Senior	8	40	43	3	No	No	No
									Junior	4	20	14	6			
82	Middlewich Cricket Club	Central	Middlewich	Yes	Secure	Middlewich CC	1	Good	Senior	13	65	40	25	No	No	No
									Junior	5	25	20	5			
87	Mobberley Cricket Club	North	Knutsford	Yes	Secure	Mobberley CC	1	Good	Senior	5	25	36	11	No	No	No
									Junior	3	15	14	1			

²³ Under 13s and below play on junior wickets only

²⁴ Junior square

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Sub area	Available for community use?	Security of tenure	Club users	No. of squares	Square quality	Type of wicket	No. of grass wickets	Capacity (Sessions per season)	Actual play (Sessions per season)	Capacity rating (sessions per season)	Potential spare capacity for senior cricket? (Saturday)	Potential spare capacity for senior cricket? (Sunday)	Potential spare capacity for junior cricket? (Midweek)
89	Nantwich Cricket Club	South	Nantwich	Yes	Secure	Nantwich CC	1	Good	Senior	12	60	57	3	No	No	No
									Junior	2	10	16	6			
103	Poynton Sports Club	North	Poynton	Yes	Secure	North East Cheshire CC	1	Standard	Senior	7	28	58	30	No	No	No
									Junior	5	20	21	1			
108	Sandbach Cricket Club	Central	Sandbach	Yes	Secure	Sandbach CC	1	Good	Senior	12	60	30	30	No	Yes	No
									Junior	5	25	23	2			
110	Sandbach School	Central	Sandbach	Yes	Unsecure	Haslington CC	1	Standard	Senior	12	48	12	36	Yes	Yes	Yes
120	Styal Playing Fields	North	Wilmslow	Yes	Secure	Styal CC	1	Good	Senior	7	35	24	11	No	No	No
									Junior	1	5	0	5			
126	The King's School	North	Poynton	Yes-unused	Secure	-	3	Good	Senior	10	50	12	38	No ²⁵	No	No
									Senior	10	50	12	38	No	No	No
									Senior	13	65	12	53	No	No	No
							3	Standard	Senior	4	16	12	4	No	No	No
									Senior	6	24	12	12	No	No	No
									Senior	11	44	12	32	No	No	No
131	Wilmslow Leisure Centre (The Rectory Field)	North	Wilmslow	Yes	Secure	Wilmslow CC	1	Good	Senior	6	30	28	2	No	No	No
									Junior	1	5	0	5			
135	Weston Cricket Club	South	Crewe	Yes	Secure	Nantwich CC	1	Good	Senior	11	55	29	26	Yes	Yes	Yes
									Junior	5	25	0	25			
143	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club	North	Wilmslow	Yes	Secure	Lindow CC	1	Good	Senior	5	25	35	10	No	No	No
									Junior	5	25	31	6			
144	Eric Swan Sports Ground	South	Crewe	Yes	Secure	Wistaston Village CC	1	Good	Senior	10	50	41	9	No	No	Yes
153	Langley Cricket Club	North	Macclesfield	Yes	Secure	Langley CC	1	Good	Senior	9	45	48	3	No	No	No
									Junior	2	10	12	2			
154	Lindow Cricket Club	North	Wilmslow	Yes	Secure	Lindow CC	1	Good	Senior	6	30	64	34	No	No	No
									Junior	9	45	14	31			
156	Mere Cricket Club	North	Knutsford	Yes	Secure	Europa Exiles CC Didsbury CC Friends United CC Copthorne CC Bowden CC High Legh CC	1	Good	Senior	11	55	66	11	No	No	No
157	Mossley Cricket Club	Central	Congleton	Yes	Unsecure	Congleton CC	1	Standard	Senior	13	52	10	42	Yes	Yes	Yes
158	Over Peover Cricket Club	North	Knutsford	Yes	Secure	Over Peover CC	1	Good	Senior	13	65	24	41	No	Yes	Yes
159	Prestbury Cricket Club	North	Poynton	Yes	Unsecure	Prestbury CC	1	Good	Senior	12	60	37	23	No	No	No
									Junior	2	10	8	2			

²⁵ No actual spare capacity despite the School having a community use agreement in place, the facilities are not able to accommodate demand due to a lack of facilities and only available during the School terms.

CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Sub area	Available for community use?	Security of tenure	Club users	No. of squares	Square quality	Type of wicket	No. of grass wickets	Capacity (Sessions per season)	Actual play (Sessions per season)	Capacity rating (sessions per season)	Potential spare capacity for senior cricket? (Saturday)	Potential spare capacity for senior cricket? (Sunday)	Potential spare capacity for junior cricket? (Midweek)
160	Rode Park & Lawton Cricket Club	Central	Alsager	Yes	Unsecure	Rode Park & Lawton CC	1	Good	Senior	9	45	49	4	No	No	No
									Junior	2	10	20	10			
161	Rostherne Cricket Club	North	Knutsford	Yes	Secure	Rostherne CC	1	Standard	Senior	7	28	24	4	No	No	No
						Ashley CC			Junior	2	8	6	2			
244	Pott Shrigley Cricket Club	North	Macclesfield	Yes	Unsecure	Pot Shrigley CC	1	Good	Senior	12	60	26	34	No	Yes	No
									Junior	4	20	16	4			
258	Alderley Park (Monks Heath)	North	Knutsford	Yes	Secure	Toft CC	1	Standard	Senior	10	40	10	30	Yes	Yes	Yes
275	Gorse Croft Farm (Audlem Cricket Club)	South	Nantwich	Yes	Unsecure	Audlem CC	1	Good	Senior	10	50	24	26	Yes	Yes	Yes

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Actual spare capacity

A square is only considered to have actual spare capacity if it is available for further usage during a particular peak period. Using the capacity analysis, this section considers the level of actual spare capacity available for each playing format.

Notwithstanding the above, it should be noted that the actual spare capacity on Saturdays, Sundays and during midweek should not be viewed collectively as utilising it across different days may result in overplay. For example, a site with 12 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity per season theoretically has capacity for one additional senior team and two additional junior teams; however, it does not have capacity for both. As such, this needs to be taken into consideration on a site-by-site basis as and when demand grows.

Saturday cricket spare capacity

For senior men's cricket, peak time is Saturday as this is when most demand exists. As only one match can be played on each square per day, only two Saturday teams can be assigned to play home matches on one square (based on matches being played on an alternate home and away basis). As such, if a square has two Saturday teams already playing home fixtures on it, no actual spare capacity is perceived to exist for additional senior usage. If one or no teams are playing on a square on a Saturday, and it has overall capacity, actual spare capacity for senior demand is generally identified.

Notwithstanding the above, there may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as actual spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular training sessions, or to protect the quality of the site. As such, no sites that are over, at, or close to capacity are considered to have actual spare capacity (at least 12 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity are required for an additional senior team to be accommodated) and neither are sites with unsecure tenure as future usage cannot be guaranteed.

Taking the above into consideration, two squares in Cheshire East currently have spare capacity for an increase in Saturday demand. These are shown below.

Table 7.19: Summary of actual spare capacity for senior cricket (Saturday) by site

Site ID	Site name	Sub area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)	Comments
135	Weston Cricket Club	Crewe	26	Used by one Saturday team; spare capacity for one additional team.
258	Alderley Park (Monks Heath)	Knutsford	30	Used by one Saturday team; spare capacity for one additional team.

In total, actual spare capacity equates to 56 match equivalent sessions per season.

The actual spare capacity is found in the North Analysis Area on account of Alderley Park (Monks Heath) being situated within it (Knutsford) and in the South Analysis Area with Weston Cricket Club situated within it (Crewe). The Central Analysis Area is without actual spare capacity for additional Saturday cricket.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 7.20: Actual spare capacity for senior cricket (Saturday) by analysis area

Analysis area	Sub area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)
North	Knutsford	30
	Macclesfield	-
	Poynton	-
	Wilmslow	-
Total		30
Central	Alsager	-
	Congleton	-
	Holmes Chapel	-
	Middlewich	-
	Sandbach	-
Total		0
South	Crewe	26
	Nantwich	-
Total		26
Cheshire East		56

Sunday cricket spare capacity

Similar to Saturday cricket, a square on a Sunday is only considered to have actual spare capacity if it is not already used by two teams at this time, has secure tenure and is not over, at, or close to capacity. Taking this into consideration, there are seven squares in Cheshire East that have potential capacity to accommodate further Sunday demand.

Table 7.21: Summary of actual spare capacity for senior cricket (Sunday) by site

Site ID	Site name	Sub area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)	Comments
9	Aston Cricket Club	Nantwich	12	Used by one Sunday team; spare capacity for one additional team.
18	Bollington Recreation Ground	Macclesfield	18	Used by one Sunday team; spare capacity for one additional team.
38	Crewe Vagrants	Nantwich	42	Unused on a Sunday.
108	Sandbach Cricket Club	Sandbach	30	Unused on a Sunday.
135	Weston Cricket Club	Crewe	26	Used by one Sunday team; spare capacity for one additional team.
158	Over Peover Cricket Club	Knutsford	41	Used by one Sunday team; spare capacity for one additional team.
258	Alderley Park (Monks Heath)	Knutsford	30	Unused on a Sunday.

In total, actual spare capacity equates to 199 match equivalent sessions per season for Sunday cricket. This is again predominantly found in the South Analysis Area, which has 80 match equivalent sessions identified. The Central and North analysis areas then have 30 and 89 match equivalent sessions, respectively.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 7.22: Actual spare capacity for senior cricket (Sunday) by analysis area

Analysis area	Sub area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)
North	Knutsford	71
	Macclesfield	18
	Poynton	-
	Wilmslow	-
Total		89
Central	Alsager	-
	Congleton	-
	Holmes Chapel	-
	Middlewich	-
	Sandbach	30
Total		30
South	Crewe	26
	Nantwich	54
Total		80
Cheshire East		199

Midweek cricket spare capacity

For midweek cricket, most squares with spare capacity have actual spare capacity for an increase in demand. This is because matches can be spread across numerous days, meaning capacity is not limited to two teams. Moreover, the presence of junior wickets at certain sites, as well as NTPs, provide further capacity that is generally not available to senior demand.

For a square to have actual spare capacity for midweek cricket, it must have secure tenure, not be overplayed and have more than four match equivalent sessions of spare capacity as this is the average number of matches an additional junior team would play. However, a square is not considered to have capacity for an increase in demand if it is already used by six midweek teams or more as availability is then assumed to be limited (on average, clubs are able to play fixtures on three nights per week, with other nights reserved for other activity such as All Stars and Dynamos).

Taking the above into consideration there are six squares across the same number of sites in Cheshire East that have potential capacity to accommodate further demand during midweek. This is shown in the table below.

Table 7.23: Summary of actual spare capacity for midweek cricket by site

Site ID	Site name	Sub area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)	Comments
9	Aston Cricket Club	Nantwich	8	Used by four midweek teams; spare capacity exists for an additional two teams.
18	Bollington Recreation Ground	Macclesfield	18	Used by three midweek teams; spare capacity exists for an additional three teams.
135	Weston Cricket Club	Crewe	25	Used by five midweek teams; spare capacity exists for one additional team.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Sub area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)	Comments
144	Eric Swan Sports Ground	Crewe	9	Used by two midweek teams; spare capacity exists for an additional four teams.
158	Over Peover Cricket Club	Knutsford	41	Used by one midweek team; spare capacity exists for an additional five teams.
258	Alderley Park (Monks Heath)	Knutsford	30	Unused midweek.

As seen, a total of 131 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity is identified for midweek cricket, most significantly of which is in the North Analysis Area (89 match equivalent sessions identified). The South Analysis Area caters for 42 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity, whilst the Central Analysis Area is without any.

Table 7.24: Actual spare capacity for senior cricket (Midweek) by analysis area

Analysis area	Sub area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)
North	Knutsford	71
	Macclesfield	18
	Poynton	-
	Wilmslow	-
Total		89
Central	Alsager	-
	Congleton	-
	Holmes Chapel	-
	Middlewich	-
	Sandbach	-
Total		0
South	Crewe	25
	Nantwich	17
Total		42
Cheshire East		131

Overplay

Overplay translates to a site accommodating more demand than it can sustain based on the number of wickets provided and the quality of the square. Although it is possible to sustain certain, minimal levels of overplay providing that a regular, sufficient maintenance regime is in place, a reduction in play is recommended on overplayed squares to ensure there is no detrimental effect on quality over time.

In Cheshire East, 21 sites are overplayed by a total of 250 match equivalent sessions a season. This amounts to overplay of 160 match equivalent sessions on senior wickets and 90 match equivalent sessions on junior wickets.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 7.25: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Sub area	Type of wicket	Overplay (Matches per season)
1	Alderley Edge Cricket Club	North	Wilmslow	Junior	2
4	Alsager Cricket Club	Central	Alsager	Senior	5
				Junior	12
8	Ashley Cricket Club	North	Knutsford	Junior	1
20	Toft Cricket Club	North	Knutsford	Junior	7
25	Bunbury Cricket Club	South	Nantwich	Junior	2
33	Congleton Sports & Social Club	Central	Congleton	Senior	8
				Junior	7
38	Crewe Vagrants	South	Nantwich	Junior	2
42	Disley Amalgamated Sports Club	North	Poynton	Junior	20
45	Elworth Cricket Club	Central	Sandbach	Senior	12
				Junior	10
57	Holmes Chapel Cricket Club	Central	Holmes Chapel	Senior	4
63	Kerridge Cricket Club	North	Macclesfield	Senior	23
74	Macclesfield Cricket Club	North	Macclesfield	Senior	1
				Senior	3
87	Mobberley Cricket Club	North	Knutsford	Senior	11
89	Nantwich Cricket Club	South	Nantwich	Junior	6
103	Poynton Sports Club	North	Poynton	Senior	30
				Junior	1
143	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club	North	Wilmslow	Senior	10
				Junior	6
153	Langley Cricket Club	North	Macclesfield	Junior	2
154	Lindow Cricket Club	North	Wilmslow	Senior	34
156	Mere Cricket Club	North	Knutsford	Senior	11
160	Rode Park & Lawton Cricket Club	Central	Alsager	Senior	4
				Junior	10
161	Rostherne Cricket Club	North	Knutsford	Senior	4
				Junior	2
Total					250

The overplay is predominately identified in the North Analysis Area, with this amounting to 168 match equivalent sessions. The least significant overplay is found in the South Analysis Area, with 10 match equivalent sessions.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 7.26: Summary of overplay by analysis area

Analysis area	Sub area	Overplay (sessions per season)
North	Knutsford	36
	Macclesfield	31
	Poynton	51
	Wilmslow	52
Total		168
Central	Alsager	31
	Congleton	15
	Holmes Chapel	4
	Middlewich	-
	Sandbach	22
Total		72
South	Crewe	-
	Nantwich	10
Total		10
Cheshire East		250

7.5: Supply and demand analysis

Consideration must be given to the extent to which current provision can accommodate current and future demand for both senior and junior cricket. This section therefore looks at actual spare capacity on grass wicket squares considered against overplay and identified future demand. Match equivalent sessions for future demand are calculated using the average number of matches played per season (12 matches for senior Saturday teams, six match for Sunday teams and four matches for junior teams).

Senior cricket supply and demand analysis (Saturday)

The table below looks at the supply and demand balance during the peak period for senior men's cricket (Saturday).

For actual spare capacity, please note that this is converted from the number of match equivalent sessions identified above to the number of match equivalent sessions that could feasibly be utilised by a growth in demand. This is calculated by using the average number of matches played per season by senior teams (12) multiplied by the number of additional teams that can be fielded at peak time (two teams per square that is available). The entirety of the spare capacity at each site is not used as this number of matches may not be able to be accommodated at peak time.

As seen in the table below, there is a shortfall for Saturday cricket in Cheshire East, amounting to 226 match equivalent sessions. Furthermore, both the North and Central analysis areas have an overall shortfall, although spare capacity remains in the South Analysis Area. Only one sub area yields an overall spare capacity (Crewe in the South Analysis Area).

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 7.27: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for senior cricket (Saturday)

Analysis area	Sub area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
North	Knutsford	12	36	24
	Macclesfield	-	29	29
	Poynton	-	51	51
	Wilmslow	-	52	52
Total		12	168	156
Central	Alsager	-	31	31
	Congleton	-	15	15
	Holmes Chapel	-	4	4
	Middlewich	-	-	0
	Sandbach	-	22	22
Total		0	72	72
South	Crewe	12	-	12
	Nantwich	-	10	10
Total		12	10	2
Cheshire East		24	250	226

When future demand is accounted for, the overall shortfall for Saturday cricket increases by 60 match equivalent sessions a season (five senior men's teams) to total 286 match equivalent sessions per season. However, it should be noted that future demand for population growth at this stage cannot be allocated to individual analysis areas and is therefore assigned to the overall Borough.

Table 7.28: Future supply and demand balance for Saturday cricket in Cheshire East

	Match equivalent sessions per season		
	Current total	Future competitive demand	Future total
Cheshire East	226	60	286

Senior cricket supply and demand analysis (Sunday)

The table below looks at the supply and demand balance for Sunday cricket, which is peak time for senior women's demand but also relevant to some senior men's and junior teams. Similar to Saturday cricket, actual spare capacity is converted from the number of match equivalent sessions identified to the number of match equivalent sessions that could feasibly be utilised by a growth in demand (the average number of matches played per season is six).

There is an overall shortfall amounting to 130 match equivalent sessions for Sunday cricket. Six sub areas have identified shortfalls, with these being Alsager, Congleton, Holmes Chapel, Macclesfield, Poynton and Wilmslow, whilst Middlewich is at capacity. In contrast, only three sub areas (Crewe, , Nantwich and Sandbach) yield overall actual spare capacity.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 7.29: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for senior cricket (Sunday)

Analysis area	Sub area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
North	Knutsford	36	36	0
	Macclesfield	12	25	13
	Poynton	-	51	51
	Wilmslow	-	52	52
Total		48	186	120
Central	Alsager	-	31	31
	Congleton	-	15	15
	Holmes Chapel	-	4	4
	Middlewich	-	-	0
	Sandbach	24	22	2
Total		24	72	48
South	Crewe	12	-	12
	Nantwich	36	10	26
Total		48	10	38
Cheshire East		120	250	130

When future demand is accounted for (12 match equivalent sessions/one senior women's team), the overall shortfall for Sunday cricket worsens, leaving a shortfall of 142 match equivalent sessions per season.

Table 7.30: Future supply and demand balance for Sunday cricket in Cheshire East

	Match equivalent sessions per season		
	Current total	Future competitive demand	Future total
Cheshire East	130	12	142

Midweek cricket supply and demand analysis (midweek)

For the midweek supply and demand analysis, actual spare capacity equates to the total spare capacity at each available site or, if it is lower, the total number of additional midweek teams that could be fielded on each available square (on the assumption that one square can accommodate six midweek teams), multiplied by four (the average number of matches a junior team plays). This is because midweek demand at peak time is not limited to one day, although some capacity should be reserved for activity such as All Stars and Dynamo's Cricket.

There is an overall shortfall amounting to 166 match equivalent sessions for midweek cricket. This is predominately made up of large shortfall amounting to 112 match equivalent sessions in the North Analysis Area. The Central Analysis Area also yields a shortfall amounting to 72 match equivalent sessions; whilst in contrast, the South Analysis Area offers actual spare capacity of 18 match equivalent sessions.

There are also two sub areas with identified spare capacity, despite the overall shortfall. These are Crewe and Knutsford.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 7.31: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for midweek cricket

Analysis area	Sub area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
North	Knutsford	44	36	8
	Macclesfield	12	25	13
	Poynton	-	51	51
	Wilmslow	-	52	52
Total		56	168	112
Central	Alsager	-	31	31
	Congleton	-	15	15
	Holmes Chapel	-	4	4
	Middlewich	-	-	0
	Sandbach	-	22	22
Total		0	72	72
South	Crewe	20	-	20
	Nantwich	8	10	2
Total		28	10	18
Cheshire East		84	250	166

When future demand is accounted for, the overall shortfall for midweek cricket exacerbates (due to eight new teams being projected) to 198 match equivalent sessions per season.

Table 7.32: Future supply and demand balance for midweek cricket in Cheshire East

	Match equivalent sessions per season		
	Current total	Future competitive demand	Future total
Cheshire East	166	32	198

7.6: Conclusion

Overall, there is currently an insufficient supply of cricket capacity in Cheshire East to cater for Saturday, Sunday and midweek cricket.

When considering future demand, the shortfalls worsen for each format.

Table 7.33: Capacity balance of grass cricket squares across Cheshire East

Playing format	Match equivalent sessions per season				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Saturday	24	250	226	60	286
Sunday	120	250	130	12	142
Midweek	84	250	166	32	198

The above suggests that demand for cricket is not being adequately met, particularly for Saturday cricket.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Changes from the previous PPOSS

In comparison with the previous study, shortfalls have increased for Saturday cricket, whilst the spare capacity previously prevalent for Sunday and midweek cricket no longer exists, leaving small shortfalls for both. This is primarily due to an increase in demand across Cheshire East (a 11% increase in the number of teams), whilst the supply has remained relatively unaltered.

Cricket – supply and demand summary

- Overall, there is currently an insufficient supply of cricket capacity in Cheshire East to cater for Saturday, Sunday and midweek cricket.
- When considering future demand, the shortfalls worsen for each format.
- Actual spare capacity totals 24 match equivalent sessions for Saturday cricket, 120 match equivalent sessions for Sunday cricket and 84 match equivalent sessions for midweek cricket, whereas a total of 21 sites are overplayed by 250 match equivalent sessions.

Cricket – supply summary

- In total, there are 47 grass wicket cricket squares provided across 40 sites, with all squares available for community use.
- There are a total of 29 NTPs across the Borough, with 13 accompanying grass wickets squares and the remaining 16 being standalone.
- There are also five disused sites identified, including Chelford Cricket Club which previously provided a grass wicket square prior to the Club folding.
- Security of tenure issues are apparent for Audlem, Bunbury, Cholmondeley, Presbury and Rode Park & Lawton cricket clubs.
- The audit of grass wicket cricket squares found 39 to be good quality and nine to be standard quality (none are considered poor).
- Nine sites are categorised as having poor quality ancillary provision.
- 22 clubs report of aspirations for ancillary provision refurbishment.
- There are 30 sites serviced by practice nets in some form, although 25 clubs report a need for new, additional or improved provision.

Cricket – demand summary

- There are 33 clubs playing in Cheshire East which collectively provide 333 teams, equating to 128 senior men's, 16 senior women's and 189 junior teams.
- There has been an increase in demand in recent years, with demand rising from 297 teams in 2021 (a 11% increase).
- No clubs report any latent or unmet demand.
- Didsbury, Friends United, Copthorne, Bowdon and Didsbury cricket clubs import teams into Cheshire East from Manchester, playing matches at Mere Cricket Club, whereas no exported demand is identified.
- A total of 18 clubs undertake All Stars cricket, whilst nine undertake Dynamo's and ten have women's and/or girls demand.
- Future demand from population forecasts equates to the predicted growth of five senior men's, one senior women's and eight junior teams.
- There are 15 clubs with future demand aspirations, with potential growth totalling one senior men's, eight senior women's and 17 junior teams.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

PART 8: OTHER GRASS PITCH SPORTS

This section focuses on other sports that are played on grass pitches and where some form of supply and/or demand in Cheshire East or nearby has been found. It does not include sports where no current, formal activity has been identified in the Borough, although that is not to say that other sports have not been played historically, that they are not played informally or that some demand is not exported to where supply and demand exists outside of the area.

8.1: Lacrosse

Introduction

Lacrosse is a contact sport played using a small rubber ball and long-handled stick to catch and hold the lacrosse ball. It is governed nationally by English Lacrosse, which has the role of controlling, promoting and developing the sport nationally. Competitive matches are played on grass pitches or artificial grass pitches, with fixtures running from September through until April.

Participation in lacrosse in Cheshire East is limited to three clubs located to the north of the Borough; however, English Lacrosse is keen to expand further, specifically into Macclesfield and the surrounding areas.

Club consultation

Norbury Lacrosse Club, Poynton Lacrosse Club and Wilmslow Lacrosse Club have been consulted to inform this section of the report. In addition, UKLacrosse Coaching LTD (previously known as Northern Box Lacrosse) has also inputted into the study.

Supply

There are seven senior grass lacrosse pitches in Cheshire East located across four sites, all of which are available for community use. There are three pitches at Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club, two at Poynton Sports Club and one at both Disley Amalgamated Sports Club and Mount Vernon.

There are no dedicated pitches for junior teams, which instead play on senior pitches that are shortened through temporary line markings or with cones.

Table 8.1: Summary of lacrosse pitches

Site ID	Active Places Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Sub area	No. of pitches
42	1208102	Disley Amalgamated Sports Club	North	Poynton	1
103	1036696	Poynton Sports Club	North	Poynton	2
143	1038181	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club	North	Wilmslow	3
249	N/A	Mount Vernon	North	Poynton	1

In addition, the sand-based AGPs at both Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club and Poynton Sports Club accommodate some lacrosse demand, predominately in regards to training. Furthermore, the smaller size 3G pitch at Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) is being used for box lacrosse via UKLacrosse Coaching LTD after the organisation, together with the RFU, helped fund a resurface of the pitch to bring it up to international standards.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

The AGP at Disley Amalgamated Sports Club was previously accessed by UKLacrosse Coaching LTD before it transferred to Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club).

Future developments

A Mitigation Strategy²⁶ completed in 2021 incorporates provision at Poynton Sports Club and the potential relocation of the site to land north of Glastonbury Drive. The recommendation is for the three lacrosse pitches to be re-provided as part of this, although no requirement for the AGP to be included is identified. Instead, it is stated that lacrosse access to the planned 3G pitch at Poynton High School should be sought, with this linked to the overall proposal.

A multi-use games area (MUGA) is being established at Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club for the purpose of accommodating training demand from Wilmslow Lacrosse Club and to free up capacity for hockey and football at the site. The provision is to measure 27 x 9 metres and will be sports lit.

Aspirations exist at Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) for a dome to be established over the 3G pitch to make it an indoor/covered facility as it is thought that this will better cater for the box lacrosse demand. Prior to this, UKLacrosse Coaching LTD previously explored creating a bespoke facility as part of the Handforth Garden Village development did not progress with these plans following Covid-19.

Management

The pitches at Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club and Poynton Sports Club are managed internally by the respective clubs, with Wilmslow Lacrosse Club forming part of the former and Poynton Lacrosse Club forming part of the latter. Poynton Sports Club is owned, whereas Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club is leased from the Council via a 99-year agreement that commenced in 2019.

Disley Amalgamated Sports Club is also managed internally by the Club, with Norbury Lacrosse Club then accessing the site via a rental agreement. It uses this as a secondary venue, with most of its activity taking place at its own site in Stockport.

The pitches at Mount Vernon are owned and managed by the Council. Poynton Sports Club accesses the site as a secondary venue via a yearly rental agreement.

UKLacrosse Coaching LTD has entered into a three year agreement with Macclesfield RUFC for use of the 3G pitch at Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club).

Pitch quality

Sport England PPS Guidance does not specifically include lacrosse. However, quality has still been determined on a scale of good, standard or poor via consultation with the clubs and through site visits (in correlation with the other pitch sports).

The pitches at Disley Amalgamated Sports Club, Poynton Sports Club and Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club are rated as standard quality, with relatively sophisticated maintenance regimes in place. Nevertheless, drainage is an issue at Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club following inclement weather spells, whilst the pitch at Disley Amalgamated Sports Club is overmarked within a youth 9v9 football pitch. This can cause issues when both have been in use during the same weekend.

²⁶ [Poynton Mitigation Strategy](#)

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

The pitch at Mount Vernon is considered to poor quality. The site suffers from waterlogging issues, poor grass coverage and an undulating surface that can make it dangerous for players.

Ancillary facilities

Disley Amalgamated Sports Club, Poynton Sports Club and Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club are all serviced by extensive clubhouse facilities that include numerous changing rooms, and large social areas as well as bar and kitchen provision. Recent renovations have taken place at Wilmslow Phoenix Club, whereas the provision at Poynton Sports Club is considered to be poor quality. This is primarily due to the age of the facilities and is a key driver for the Club being supportive of relocation proposals.

There are no changing facilities servicing Mount Vernon, which is an issue for Poynton Lacrosse Club, particularly as it is trying to grow its female section and has increasing demand for access to the site.

UKLacrosse Coaching LTD reports that it is not currently allowed to use the ancillary facilities at Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club). It would like this to be enabled.

Demand

There are three lacrosse clubs playing in Cheshire East, in addition to demand expressed by UKLacrosse Coaching LTD.

Club demand

All three clubs participate in the North of England Men's Lacrosse Association League, whilst Norbury LC also competes in the women's version of the structure. All matches are played on Saturday afternoons at 14:00 on a home-and-away basis.

Poynton Lacrosse Club currently fields two senior men's, an u19s development, four junior boys' (u16s, u14s, u12s and u10s) and one junior girls' team (u13s), whereas Wilmslow Lacrosse Club fields two senior men's and one senior women's team as well as one junior boys' and one junior girls' team. All of these play within Cheshire East.

Norbury Lacrosse Club fields three senior men's, three junior boys' and three junior girls' teams, although most of this play takes place outside of Cheshire East at the Club's home site in Stockport. It has only recently started to access Disley Amalgamated Sports Club and generally uses its pitch for one or two matches a week. An existing relationship exists with the site as Stopfordians Lacrosse Club were based there prior to merging with Norbury Lacrosse Club and transferring all demand.

Table 8.2: Summary of teams

Club name	Analysis area	No. of teams			
		Senior men's (19-45)	Senior women's (19-45)	Junior boys' (10-18)	Junior girls' (10-18)
Norbury Lacrosse Club	North	3	-	3	3
Poynton Lacrosse Club	North	3	-	4	1
Wilmslow Lacrosse Club	North	2	1	1	1

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Wilmslow Lacrosse Club utilises the grass pitches at Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club for all of its match demand, whilst utilising the sand-based AGP on site for training in order to reduce wear and tear. The majority of its training demand will reportedly transfer to the MUGA once built.

Similarly, Poynton Lacrosse Club utilises the grass pitches at Poynton Sports Club and trains on the sand-based AGP on site. However, it also utilises the grass pitch at Mount Vernon as a secondary venue when required.

Participation trends

Demand at Wilmslow Lacrosse Club has decreased in recent years, which it attributes to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Prior to 2020, it fielded an additional senior men's team and two additional junior boys' teams (as identified in the previous 2021 study).

Norbury Lacrosse Club reports a recent growth in demand which has necessitated its need to re-access Disley Amalgamated Sports Club.

Poynton Lacrosse Club has seen membership remain stable.

Box lacrosse

Box Lacrosse is a small-sided version of lacrosse, originating in Canada. Worldwide, it is generally played on a re-formed ice hockey rink, with each team fielding five outfield players and a goalkeeper. It is growing in popularity in England and is supported by England Lacrosse, with AGPs or sports halls typically used due to the scarcity of ice rinks across the Country. Whereas traditional lacrosse activity takes place over winter months, box lacrosse is generally played in the summer.

UKLacrosse Coaching LTD governs the format of the sport in Cheshire East. As part of this, as previously referenced, it has started to utilise the 3G pitch at Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) having previously used an AGP at Disley Amalgamated Sports Club. Its activity currently consists of ad hoc events, with appropriate line markings required before it can fulfil a full summer programme.

Latent demand

Poynton Lacrosse Club reports that it could field up to an additional four teams if it had more available pitches. This is because it uses its current pitches to capacity at peak time, meaning a lack of pitches is hindering potential growth.

No latent demand was expressed by Wilmslow Lacrosse Club or Norbury Lacrosse Club.

Imported/exported demand

Due to the format of the competition for u19 teams, Poynton Lacrosse Club fields its development teams outside of Cheshire East at a central venue in Trafford. Although technically displaced, this is preferred by the Club due to the level of competition accessed and the lack of an alternative.

The demand from Norbury Lacrosse Club that accesses Disley Amalgamated Sports Club is technically imported from Stockport, although this is not reported to be an issue. This is because the Club has roots in Cheshire East following its merger with Stopfordians Lacrosse Club.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

No other exported or imported demand is currently identified, although it is likely that UKLacrosse Coaching LTD will attract some cross-boundary activity when it fully establishes itself at Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club). This is because no alternative exists in the region.

Future demand

Linked to the latent demand identified above, Poynton Lacrosse Club has demand to grow, particularly at junior level and in regards to female participation as this is a key part of its development plan. In total, the Club plans to grow by one senior men's, one senior women's and two junior girls' teams.

Wilmslow Lacrosse Club also expresses future demand, with this equating to two junior teams. In effect, this growth will offset the recent loss of teams within this format.

Norbury Lacrosse Club also reports that it is focusing on increasing its junior demand and suggests that it could form teams from Cheshire East that will utilise Disley Amalgamated Sports Club now that it is accessing the site.

UKLacrosse Coaching LTD expects to achieve significant growth when it fully establishes itself at Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club), although to what extent is currently difficult to quantify due its infancy.

Supply and demand analysis

Although English Lacrosse does not provide a set guidance for determining the capacity of lacrosse pitches, it is considered that a similar formula to that of other grass pitch sports should be used. As such, a good quality grass pitch is deemed able to accommodate three match equivalent sessions per week, whilst a standard quality pitch can accommodate two matches and a poor quality pitch can accommodate one match.

Using the above, the Table 8.3 below explores current usage at each site to determine whether the existing provision is sufficient to meet demand. This is based on the following:

Potential capacity	Play is below the level the site could sustain
At capacity	Play matches the level the site can sustain
Overused	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

Table 8.3: Capacity analysis of lacrosse pitches

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Capacity rating	Current usage	Capacity balance
42	Disley Amalgamated Sports Club	North	1	2	2 ²⁷	0
103	Poynton Sports Club	North	2	4	4	0
143	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club	North	3	6	2.5	3.5
249	Mount Vernon	North	1	1	1	0

As seen, pitches at Disley Amalgamated Sports Club, Poynton Sports Club and Mount Vernon are being played to capacity, whilst spare capacity exists at Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club.

²⁷ Include football use.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Conclusion

Given the latent and future expressed by Poynton Lacrosse Club, and with the pitches at both of its venues currently being played to capacity, consideration must be given to providing increased pitch capacity to the Club. As such, proposals relating to Poynton Sports Club's relocation to land north of Glastonbury Drive should continue to be supported. In addition, as the pitch at Mount Vernon is assessed as poor quality, improvements should be pursued to sustain future use by the Club.

In contrast, as Wilmslow Lacrosse Club does not express any latent demand and as the pitches at Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club have spare capacity to absorb future growth aspirations, the current level of supply is sufficient to meet the Club's needs. This will likely be enhanced once it has access to the MUGA that is being developed.

For Norbury Lacrosse Club, its demand can seemingly be accommodated. However, it must be remembered that its pitch at Disley Amalgamated Sports Club is also used for football, meaning that this dual use needs to be carefully managed. Given use by both sports, no capacity exists for any growth in demand.

Away from the clubs, UKLacrosse Coaching LTD should continue to be supported to help it grow and maximise its activity at Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club). First and foremost, this can be achieved via appropriately line marking the 3G pitch and through plans to make it a covered facility.

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Other grass pitch sports – lacrosse supply and demand summary

- ▶ Poynton Lacrosse Club requires access to increased pitch capacity, meaning proposals relating to Poynton Sports Club's relocation to land north of Glastonbury Drive should be supported in addition to quality improvements at Mount Vernon.
- ▶ Norbury Lacrosse Club's demand can seemingly be accommodated, although the provision at Disley Amalgamated Sports Club needs to be carefully managed given that it is also used for football.
- ▶ As Wilmslow Lacrosse Club does not have any capacity issues, supply is considered sufficient to meet its demand, whilst UKLacrosse Coaching LTD should continue to be supported to help it grow and maximise its activity at Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club).

Other grass pitch sports – lacrosse supply summary

- ▶ There are seven senior lacrosse pitches located across four sites (Disley Amalgamated Sports Club, Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club, Poynton Sports Club and Mount Vernon), all of which are available for community use.
- ▶ AGPs at Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club and Poynton Sports Club also accommodate lacrosse training activity, whilst the smaller sized 3G pitch at Macclesfield Rugby Club is being used by UKLacrosse Coaching LTD.
- ▶ Poynton Sports Club is subject to a potential development that could entail the relocation of its three lacrosse pitches to land north of Glastonbury Drive, whilst a MUGA is to be built at Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club for Wilmslow Lacrosse Club's training activity.
- ▶ UKLacrosse Coaching LTD has aspirations to cover the 3G pitch at Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club), and the provision also requires appropriate line markings to maximise the lacrosse activity that it can accommodate.
- ▶ The pitches at Disley Amalgamated Sports Club, Poynton Sports Club and Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club are rated as standard quality, whereas the pitch at Mount Vernon is poor quality.
- ▶ Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club is serviced by good quality ancillary facilities, Disley Amalgamated Sports Club by standard quality provision and Poynton Sports Club by poor quality provision, whilst Mount Vernon is without changing rooms.

Other grass pitch sports – lacrosse demand summary

- ▶ Poynton Lacrosse Club fields two senior men's teams, an u19s development team, four junior boys' teams and one junior girls' team, whilst Wilmslow Lacrosse Club fields two senior men's teams, one senior women's team, one junior boys' team and one junior girls' team.
- ▶ Norbury Lacrosse Club fields three senior men's, three junior boys' and three junior girls' teams, although most activity takes place in Stockport at the Club's home site.
- ▶ Demand at Wilmslow Lacrosse Club has decreased in recent years, which it attributes to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ▶ Poynton Lacrosse Club has significant latent demand linked to a lack of pitch capacity across Poynton Sports Club and Mount Vernon.
- ▶ Norbury Lacrosse Club, Poynton Lacrosse Club and Wilmslow Lacrosse Club all report aspirations to grow demand in the future.
- ▶ UKLacrosse Coaching LTD expects to achieve significant growth when it fully establishes itself at Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club), with some of this also likely to be imported due to no alternatives existing in the region.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

8.2: American football

Introduction

The British American Football Association (BAFA) is responsible for the governance of the sport which is continuing to grow in popularity in the UK. There are now hundreds of clubs and thousands of players competing regularly across the Country.

The American football season in England generally runs from May until August. Teams play either the full contact version of the sport or a version known as flag football, which follows the same principles but with the removal of a players' flag constituting a tackle. This makes it more suitable for younger players and beginners.

Consultation

There is one American football club in Cheshire East, known as Crewe Railroaders. Attempts have been made to consult with the Club; however, this has been unsuccessful.

Supply

There are no dedicated American football pitches within Cheshire East. Instead, a rugby union pitch at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club (South Analysis Area) is used by Crewe Railroaders for all activity.

As detailed in Part 4 of this report, the rugby union pitch is identified as being of good quality with minimal signs of wear and tear or damage to the surface and with maintenance carried out to a high level. The ancillary provision at the site is also good.

Prior to using Crewe Vagrants Sports Club, the Club was based at Cheshire College South & West and has also previously used King George V Playing Field.

Demand

Crewe Railroaders fields just one team, playing the full contact version of American football.

The Club carries out all its training sessions and plays all its matches at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club. The Club competes in the NFC 2 West, with matches played on Sunday afternoons at 14:00, whilst pre-season training also takes place on Sundays. During the season, sessions are held on an ad hoc basis.

Future demand

Crewe Railroaders is currently looking to expand and field a senior women's team. A recruitment drive for players and coaches is ongoing.²⁸

In addition, the Club also identifies an interest in accessing a 3G pitch at King George V Playing Fields, if developed, for its activity. Use of 3G pitches for American football is fairly common, although this will need to be factored into any future design and line marking exercise.

²⁸ Information provided via online research.

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Supply and demand analysis

In isolation, the provision at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club is sufficient to cater for the needs of American football given that the American football and rugby union seasons run at separate times of the year. Furthermore, the site also currently has some spare capacity during the rugby union season, further suggesting that there are no issues.

Notwithstanding the above, the presence of American football at a site that is otherwise heavily used for rugby union must be carefully managed as this adds to the maintenance requirements at the venue and makes post-season remedial work more difficult.

Other grass pitch sports – American football supply and demand summary

- ◀ In isolation, the provision at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club is sufficient to cater for the needs of American football given that the American football and rugby union seasons run at separate times of the year.
- ◀ However, the presence of American football at a site that is otherwise heavily used for rugby union must be carefully managed as this adds to the maintenance requirements at the venue and makes post-season remedial work more difficult.

Other grass pitch sports – American football supply summary

- ◀ There are no dedicated American football pitches within Cheshire East, with a rugby union pitch at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club instead used.
- ◀ The pitch is of good quality.
- ◀ Activity has previously taken place at Cheshire College South & West and King George V Playing Fields.

Other grass pitch sports – American football demand summary

- ◀ There is one American football club, known as Crewe Railroaders.
- ◀ It fields just one team, playing the full contact version of American football.
- ◀ The Club carries out all its training sessions and plays all its matches at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club.
- ◀ It has an aspiration to access a 3G pitch at King George V Playing Fields, if developed.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

8.3: Rounders

Rounders England is the NGB for the sport of rounders in England. Its key role is to co-ordinate a development network, working through local delivery partners that provide a pathway and opportunities for aspiring players to progress to whatever level of play is right for them. In addition, it provides information about the game, runs coaching and umpiring courses, tournaments, sell resources, and promotes the sport at all levels.

The mission of Rounders England is to 'Connect People through Rounders' and get more people from any background playing rounders, more often.

Supply

There are currently 21 rounders diamonds identified across seven sites in Cheshire East, 15 of which are available for community use.

Table 8.4: Summary of rounders diamonds

Site ID	Active Places Power Site ID	Site	Post code	Analysis area	Sub area	Community available?	No. of pitches
5	1004924	Alsager Leisure Centre	ST7 2HP	Central	Alsager	Yes	4
22	1200868	Brine Leas School	CW5 7DY	South	Nantwich	No	1
43	1200863	Eaton Bank Academy	CW12 1NT	Central	Congleton	Yes	4
58	1004943	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	CW4 7DZ	Central	Holmes Chapel	Yes	3
109	1200857	Sandbach High School & Sixth Form College	CW11 3NT	Central	Sandbach	No	4
113	1004935	Sir William Stanier School	CW1 4EB	South	Crewe	Yes	4
162	1009521	Tytherington High School	SK10 2EE	North	Macclesfield	No	1

Demand

No formal rounders club demand currently exists in Cheshire East; however, a significant number of clubs are identified in neighbouring Manchester.

In Cheshire East, all present demand is seemingly school-based.

Supply and demand analysis

The current level of supply is seemingly sufficient enough to meet community demand for rounders in Cheshire East, with the four community available facilities at Alsager Leisure Centre, Eaton Bank Academy, Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre and Sir William Stanier able to adequately cater for any potential future demand. That being said, there are no community available facilities in the North Analysis Area.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Other grass pitch sports – Rounders supply and demand summary

- ◀ The current level of supply is seemingly sufficient enough to meet community demand for rounders in Cheshire East, with the community available facilities able to adequately cater for any potential future demand.

Other grass pitch sports – Rounders supply summary

- ◀ There are currently 21 rounders diamonds identified across seven sites in Cheshire East, 15 of which are available for community use.

Other grass pitch sports – Rounders demand summary

- ◀ No formal rounders club demand currently exist in Cheshire East; however, a significant number of clubs are identified in neighbouring Manchester.
- ◀ All present demand is seemingly school-based.

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

8.4: Baseball/softball

Introduction

Both baseball and softball are governed by Baseball and Softball UK (BSUK). BSUK has aligned its strategic goals to Sport England's Uniting the Movement, an initiative concentrated on increasing the sporting activity levels across under-represented communities, in the hope of securing investment for 2022-2027.

Baseball, the more commonly known of the two sports, is played between two teams of nine players, both of which, alternate between batting and fielding across nine innings. In contrast, two forms of softball exist: slow pitch and fast pitch.

Supply

There is only one softball diamond identified in Cheshire East, located at Malbank School & Sixth Form College. However, the diamond is unavailable for community use.

Demand

No formal baseball/softball club demand currently exists in Cheshire East. However, consultation with BSUK identifies that, although it does not operate programmes in the area, the Borough is of interest as many of players are based South of Manchester. As such, it identifies that the possibility of exploring a project would be beneficial, whilst also noting that many schools play the sports locally.

In addition, BSUK notes that it has been looking for a place to build its own facility in the north of England as its current one is in the south, near Slough. It has previously worked with Manchester City Council and a baseball/softball facility was provisionally included in the redevelopment of a very sought-after facility at Hough End, in South Manchester, with this to be provided to international standards and to service over 500 players in the surrounding areas. However, despite the Council and local clubs being in favour, plans have since been halted.

BSUK is still looking for a facility that can in time be developed to host elite players, international events and service the local community.

Supply and demand analysis

Although there are currently no community available facilities for baseball/softball within Cheshire East, BSUK identifies that demand could exist in the Borough. As such, a development that can cater for this could be pursued.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Other grass pitch sports – Baseball/softball supply and demand summary

- ◀ Although there are currently no community available facilities for baseball/softball within Cheshire East, BSUK identifies that demand could exist in the Borough, meaning that a development that can cater for this could be pursued.

Other grass pitch sports – Baseball/softball supply summary

- ◀ There is only one softball diamond identified in Cheshire East, located at Malbank School & Sixth Form College.
- ◀ The provision is unavailable for community use.

Other grass pitch sports – Baseball/softball demand summary

- ◀ No formal baseball/softball club demand currently exists in Cheshire East.
- ◀ Consultation with BSUK identifies that, although it does not operate programmes in the area, the Borough is of interest as many of players are based South of Manchester.
- ◀ BSUK identifies that the possibility of exploring a project would be beneficial, whilst also noting that many schools play the sports locally.
- ◀ In addition, BSUK notes that it has been looking for a place to build its own facility in the north of England that can in time be developed to host elite players, international events and service the local community.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

PART 9: TENNIS

9.1: Introduction

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the organisation responsible for the governance of tennis and administers the sport locally across Cheshire East. It has recently restructured its strategic approach to target several national focus areas, with a priority on developing the sport at park sites.

As tennis was not included in the previous study, an exact comparison to previous levels of supply and demand cannot be presented.

Consultation

There are 21 tennis clubs in Cheshire East with a total of 20 clubs responding to consultation requests resulting in a 95% response rate. The table below shows the list of clubs and whether they have responded to consultation.

Table 9.1: Summary of Cheshire East tennis clubs' consultation

Club ²⁹	Analysis area	Sub area	Responded to consultation?
Alderley Edge TC	North	Wilmslow	Yes
Alsager LTC	Central	Alsager	Yes
Audlem TC	South	Nantwich	Yes
Bunbury TC	South	Nantwich	Yes
Congleton LTC	Central	Congleton	Yes
Crewe Congregational TC	South	Crewe	Yes
Croftside TC	North	Wilmslow	Yes
Handforth Hall TC	North	Wilmslow	Yes
Heyes Lane LTC	North	Wilmslow	Yes
Higher Poynton TC	North	Poynton	Yes
High Legh TC	North	Knutsford	No
Knutsford TC	North	Knutsford	Yes
Lindow LTC	North	Wilmslow	Yes
Macclesfield TC	North	Macclesfield	Yes
Nantwich LTC	South	Nantwich	Yes
Pownall Park LTC	North	Wilmslow	Yes
Poynton TC	North	Poynton	Yes
Prestbury Village LTC	North	Poynton	Yes
Styal TC	North	Wilmslow	Yes
Wistaston Jubilee TC	South	Crewe	Yes
Wrenbury & District LTC	South	Nantwich	Yes

As seen, the unresponsive club is High Leigh TC.

²⁹ Holmes Chapel Victoria Club is an unaffiliated club, based at Holmes Chapel Cricket Club.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

9.2: Supply

There are 241 tennis courts identified in Cheshire East across 62 sites. Of the courts, 196 are categorised as being available for community use at 53 sites, compared to 45 that are unavailable at ten sites.

The North Analysis Area contains the highest amount of accessible provision with 117 courts, which equates to 60% of all community available tennis courts. This is followed by 41 courts (21%) in the South Analysis Area and 39 courts (19%) in the Central Analysis Area.

Table 9.2: Summary of the number of courts by analysis area

Analysis area	Sub areas	No. of community available tennis courts	No. of community unavailable tennis courts
North	Knutsford	16	3
	Macclesfield	31	3
	Poynton	26	16
	Wilmslow	44	-
		117	22
Central	Alsager	8	-
	Congleton	13	5
	Holmes Chapel	11	4
	Middlewich	-	-
	Sandbach	6	3
		38	12
South	Crewe	19	4
	Nantwich	22	7
		41	11
Cheshire East		196	45

Please note that courts are classified as being available for community use provided that they are deemed to be easily accessible to the general population, either via pay and play or through a membership at a club (or a mixture of both). All unavailable courts in Cheshire East are located at educational sites or commercial operators such as the Club at Cranage Hall and Nuffield Health & Fitness Wellbeing Centre.

Figure 9.1 shows the location of the courts servicing Cheshire East regardless of community use. For a key to the map, see Table 9.3.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 9.3: Tennis courts in Cheshire East

Site ID	Active Places Power Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Sub area	Management	Community use?	Club user/s	No. of courts	Sports lit?	Court type	Court quality
1	1036068	Alderley Edge Cricket Club	SK9 7HN	North	Wilmslow	Sports Club	Yes	Alderley Edge TC	14	Yes	Artificial turf	Good
5	1004924	Alsager Leisure Centre	ST7 2HP	Central	Alsager	Leisure Trust	Yes	-	4	No	Macadam	Poor
10	6007154	Audlem Playing Fields	CW3 0AH	South	Nantwich	Council	Yes	Audlem TC	2	Yes	Macadam	Good
12	1018908	Barony Sports Complex	CW5 5QY	South	Nantwich	Leisure Trust	Yes	-	3	Yes	Macadam	Standard
18	1208656	Bollington Recreation Ground	SK10 5JT	North	Macclesfield	Council	Yes	-	2	No	Macadam	Good
22	1200868	Brine Leas School	CW5 7DY	South	Nantwich	Education	No	-	6	Yes	Macadam	Standard
26	6016318	Calverley School	CW6 9LE	South	Nantwich	Education	No	-	1	No	Macadam	Standard
31	1000417	Club at Cranage Hall	CW4 8EW	Central	Holmes Chapel	Commercial	No	-	1	Yes	Macadam	Poor
32	1036086	Alderley Park	SK10 4TS	North	Knutsford	Commercial	Yes	-	3 ³⁰	Yes	Macadam	Good
34	1103336 1208102	Congleton High School	CW12 4NS	Central	Congleton	Education	Yes	-	3 1	Yes No	Macadam Macadam	Standard Standard
42	1200863	Disley Amalgamated Sports Club	SK12 2JR	North	Poynton	Sports Club	Yes	-	1	No	Artificial turf	Good
43	1038237	Eaton Bank Academy	CW12 1NT	Central	Congleton	Education	No	-	5	No	Macadam	Poor
46	30002845	Fallibroome Academy	SK10 4AF	North	Macclesfield	Education	Yes	-	5	Yes	Macadam	Standard
49	1039288	Goostrey Playing Fields	CW4 8NB	Central	Holmes Chapel	Council	Yes	-	3	Yes	Artificial turf	Poor
57	1004943	Holmes Chapel Cricket Club	CW4 7BE	Central	Holmes Chapel	Sports Club	Yes	-	3	Yes	Macadam	Good
58	1103336	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	CW4 7DZ	Central	Holmes Chapel	Leisure Trust	Yes	-	5	No	Macadam	Standard
62	30003146	Bunbury Playing Field	CW6 9QP	South	Nantwich	Council	Yes	Bunbury TC	2	Yes	Macadam	Good
68	1036566	Knutsford Sports Club	WA16 6SZ	North	Knutsford	Sports Club	Yes	Knutsford TC	7	Yes	Polymeric	Good
71	1018863	Legends Health & Leisure Centre	CW2 8WD	South	Crewe	Commercial	Yes	-	4	No	Macadam	Poor
75	1200932	Malbank School & Sixth Form College	CW5 5HD	South	Nantwich	Education	Yes	-	6	No	Macadam	Standard
94	1036238	Nuffield Health & Fitness Wellbeing Centre	WA16 9EU	North	Knutsford	Commercial	No	-	3	Yes	Macadam	Poor
102	1041692	Poynton High School	SK12 1PU	North	Poynton	Education	No	-	12 4	No Yes	Macadam Macadam	Poor Poor
103	1036696	Poynton Sports Club	SK12 1AG	North	Poynton	Sports Club	Yes	Poynton TC	1 6	Yes Yes	Macadam Artificial turf	Good Good
109	1200857	Sandbach High School & Sixth Form College	CW11 3NT	Central	Sandbach	Education	No	-	3	No	Macadam	Standard
110	1200738	Sandbach School	CW11 3NS	Central	Sandbach	Education	Yes	-	5	Yes	Macadam	Standard
111	1041822	Shavington Academy	CW2 5DH	South	Crewe	Education	Yes	-	4	Yes	Macadam	Standard
113	1004935	Sir William Stanier School	CW1 4EB	South	Crewe	Education	Yes	-	3	No	Macadam	Standard
115	30002466	South Park	SK11 7RG	North	Macclesfield	Council	Yes	-	8	No	Macadam	Good
119	1200761	St Thomas More Catholic High School	CW2 8AE	South	Crewe	Education	No	-	4	No	Macadam	Standard
120	6016012	Styal Playing Fields	SK9 4JE	North	Wilmslow	Sports Club	Yes	Styal TC	3	No	Macadam	Poor
122	30002888	Terra Nova School	CW4 8BT	Central	Holmes Chapel	Education	No	-	2 1	Yes No	Macadam Macadam	Standard Standard
126	30002466	The King's School	SK10 4RH	North	Poynton	Education	Yes	-	6	Yes	Polymeric	Good
141	1201174	Wilmslow High School	SK9 1LZ	North	Wilmslow	Education	Yes	-	8	No	Artificial turf	Standard
144	6015986	Eric Swan Sports Ground	CW2 8EZ	South	Crewe	Community Organisation	Yes	-	2	Yes	Artificial turf	Poor

³⁰ Courts have recently been replaced by padel courts.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Active Places Power Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Sub area	Management	Community use?	Club user/s	No. of courts	Sports lit?	Court type	Court quality
147	1041863	Wrenbury Recreation Ground	CW5 8EW	South	Nantwich	Council	Yes	Wrenbury & District LTC	2	Yes	Macadam	Good
162	N/A	Tytherington High School	SK10 2EE	North	Macclesfield	Education	No	-	3	No	Macadam	Poor
247	N/A	Prestbury Playing Fields	SK10 4JJ	North	Poynton	Parish Council	Yes	Prestbury Village LTC	3	Yes	Artificial Clay	Good
									5	Yes	Artificial turf	Good
254	N/A	Arnold Rhodes Recreation Ground	SK12 2HF	North	Poynton	Council	Yes	-	1	No	Macadam	Poor
270	N/A	Alsager Lawn Tennis Club	ST7 2AP	Central	Alsager	Sports Club	Yes	Alsager LTC	4	Yes	Artificial turf	Good
272	N/A	Congleton Lawn Tennis Club	CW12 1JR	Central	Congleton	Sports Club	Yes	Congleton LTC	3	No	Macadam	Good
									3	Yes	Macadam	Good
									3	Yes	Artificial turf	Good
273	N/A	Crewe Hall	CW1 6UZ	South	Crewe	Commercial	Yes	-	2	Yes	Macadam	Good
274	N/A	Croftside Tennis Club	SK9 6JL	North	Wilmslow	Community Organisation	Yes	Croftside TC	3	Yes	Artificial turf	Standard
275	N/A	Gorse Croft Farm	CW3 0HU	South	Nantwich	Sports Club	Yes	-	1	Yes	Macadam	Poor
276	N/A	Heyes Lane Tennis Club	SK9 7LT	North	Wilmslow	Sports Club	Yes	Heyes Lane LTC	3	No	Polymeric	Standard
277	N/A	High Legh Tennis Club	WA16 0RU	North	Knutsford	Sports Club	Yes	High Legh TC	3	Yes	Macadam	Good
278	N/A	Lindow Lawn Tennis Club	SK9 6EF	North	Wilmslow	Sports Club	Yes	Lindow LTC	2	Yes	Artificial turf	Good
									1	No	Artificial turf	Good
280	N/A	Meriton Road Park	SK9 3HB	North	Wilmslow	Council	Yes	-	2	No	Macadam	Standard
282	N/A	Nantwich Tennis Club	CW5 6PF	South	Nantwich	Sports Club	Yes	Nantwich LTC	4	Yes	Macadam	Good
									2	Yes	Artificial turf	Good
283	N/A	Pownall Park Tennis Club	SK9 5DN	North	Wilmslow	Sports Club	Yes	Pownall Park LTC	3	Yes	Polymeric	Good
284	N/A	Sandbach Park	CW11 1FJ	Central	Sandbach	Council	Yes	-	1	No	Macadam	Good
286	N/A	The Mere Golf Resort & Spa	WA16 6LJ	North	Knutsford	Commercial	Yes	-	3	Yes	Artificial turf	Standard
287	N/A	The Tytherington Golf & Country Club	SK10 2JP	North	Macclesfield	Commercial	Yes	-	2	No	Macadam	Good
292	N/A	Alderley Edge Park	SK9 7UY	North	Wilmslow	Council	Yes	-	2	Yes	Artificial turf	Standard
306	N/A	High Town Tennis Club	CW2 7PL	South	Crewe	Trust	Yes	Crewe Congregational TC	2	No	Acrylic	Standard
312	N/A	Macclesfield Tennis Club	SK11 8JR	North	Macclesfield	Council	Yes	Macclesfield TC	4	No	Macadam	Standard
									1	No	Artificial turf	Standard
									5	Yes	Artificial turf	Standard
									1	No	Acrylic	Standard
330	N/A	Lower Withington Village Hall	SK11 9DX	North	Macclesfield	Parish Council	Yes	-	1	No	Macadam	Standard
331	N/A	West Park	SK10 3BJ	North	Macclesfield	Council	Yes	-	1	No	Macadam	Standard
339	N/A	Gawsworth Village Hall	SK11 9QY	North	Macclesfield	Parish Council	Yes	-	1	No	Macadam	Poor
367	N/A	Handforth Hall Tennis Club	SK9 3AW	North	Wilmslow	Sports Club	Yes	Handforth Hall TC	3	No	Macadam	Standard
368	N/A	Higher Poynton Tennis Club	SK12 1TL	North	Poynton	Council	Yes	Higher Poynton TC	2	No	Clay	Standard
369	N/A	Wistaston Jubilee Tennis Club	CW2 8EZ	South	Crewe	Wistaston Parish Council	Yes	Wistaston Jubilee TC	2	Yes	Macadam	Good

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Disused provision

Further to the courts reference above, there are also eight tennis courts that are considered disused across Cheshire East, with four at Wilmslow High School and two at both Clare's Space Boutique Health Club and The Carrs Park. These are further summarised in the table below.

Table 9.4: Disused tennis courts within Cheshire East

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	Sub area	No. of tennis courts	Comments
141	Wilmslow High School	SK9 1LZ	North	Wilmslow	4	Four disused polymeric courts which are undergoing construction.
271	Clare's Space Boutique Health Club	WA16 7RN	North	Knutsford	2	Two disused macadam courts which are no longer maintained.
317	The Carrs Park	SK9 4AA	North	Wilmslow	2	Two disused macadam courts which are no longer maintained.

In addition, there are three sites (Alsager Bowling & Recreation Club, Disley Amalgamated Sports Club and The King's School (Fence Avenue Site)) which previously contained tennis courts (nine courts in total) that have now been built on.

Future provision

A Mitigation Strategy³¹ completed in 2021 incorporating provision at Poynton High School identifies that a 3G pitch should be established at the site to help offset an overall loss of playing field land (a net gain will be provided via a scheme at Glastonbury Drive). This is earmarked for where the tennis courts currently reside.

A planning application has been submitted at Terra Nova School that would result in the loss of two of its three courts for the erection of a sports hall and associated drainage and servicing, sub-station, car parking and hard and soft landscaping (planning REF: 22/4305C).

Padel tennis

Padel tennis is relatively new to Great Britain and is growing in popularity, particularly since its recognition as a sport and integration within the LTA. **It is, however, a different sport to tennis.** It is played mainly in a doubles format on an enclosed court and can be played in groups of mixed ages and abilities; the rules are broadly the same as tennis, although you serve under-arm and the walls are used as part of the game with the ball allowed to bounce off them.

In order to grow the sport, the LTA is focused on improving the infrastructure and the coach education pathway. At the end of 2020, there were 87 courts, whereas there are now 275, with a projected growth to 450 in 2023. It is therefore envisaged that the infrastructure and participation in padel will increase significantly in the next five years.

³¹ [Poynton Mitigation Strategy](#)

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

In Cheshire East, Mottram Hall, Total Fitness (Wilmslow) and Clare's Space Boutique Health Club all offer access to padel tennis courts – one is provided at Mottram Hall, four at Total Fitness and one at Clare's Space Boutique Health Club. In addition, Total Fitness (Wilmslow) has a current planning application for the construction of four additional courts, whilst a second court is in the process of being constructed at Clare's Space Boutique Health Club.

In addition, retrospective planning permission is being sought for the construction of padel on two existing tennis courts at Alderley Park.³²

In terms of future supply, the LTA states that padel court development at leisure centre sites can be particularly beneficial as provision can be tied into other sports facilities and profit from an already established operating model. Furthermore, it identifies that they can benefit clubs and particularly those that may be otherwise struggling due to the additional revenue that they can provide.

Notwithstanding the above, the LTA also states that it is not encouraging clubs or local authorities to convert existing tennis courts to padel courts, unless it can be evidenced that it is for the benefit of both tennis and padel. This is to ensure that the provision of traditional courts remains sufficient.

Three clubs in Cheshire East each report an aspiration to provide padel courts at their club sites, with these being Bunbury TC, Knutsford TC and Nantwich TC. Bunbury TC specifically states that it has the geographical space to provide such provision without the loss of any courts.

Management and security of tenure

The table below highlights the management of tennis courts within Cheshire East. As seen, the majority are operated by schools (82 courts), although only half of these are available for community use, with more club operated courts considered to be accessible.

There are 51 courts identified at local authority sites (26%).

Table 9.5: Tennis courts by management type

Community use?	Number of courts				
	Council ³³	Education	Sports club	Community organisation / trust	Commercial
Available	51	41	70	19	15
Unavailable	-	41	-	-	4
Total	51	82	70	19	19

Security of tenure

The majority of tennis clubs in Cheshire East are provided with security of tenure, with 15 clubs owning their sites or leasing them on a long-term basis. However, five clubs are noted as having unsecure tenure, with these being Bunbury, Macclesfield, Styal, Wistaston Jubilee and Wrenbury & District tennis clubs.

³² Planning application reference: 23/3868M

³³ Includes parish and town council provision.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Venues used by each club and existing usage arrangements are summarised in the following table.

Table 9.6: Summary of club venues and tenure

Club name	Site used	Type of tenure	Security of tenure?
Alderley Edge TC	Alderley Edge Cricket Club	Freehold	Secure
Alsager LTC	Alsager Lawn Tennis Club	Freehold	Secure
Audlem TC	Audlem Playing Fields	Freehold	Secure
Bunbury TC	Bunbury Playing Field	Rented from Bunbury Parish Council	Unsecure
Congleton LTC	Congleton Lawn Tennis Club	Freehold	Secure
Crewe Congregational TC	High Town Tennis Club	Leased from Trust	Secure
Croftside TC	Croftside Tennis Club	Freehold	Secure
Handforth Hall TC	Handforth Hall Tennis Club	Freehold	Secure
Heyes Lane LTC	Heyes Lane Tennis Club	Freehold	Secure
Higher Poynton TC	Higher Poynton Tennis Club	Freehold	Secure
High Legh TC	High Legh Tennis Club	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>Unknown</i>
Knutsford TC	Knutsford Sports Club	Leased from Tatton Estates (28-years remaining)	Secure
Lindow LTC	Lindow Lawn Tennis Club	Freehold	Secure
Macclesfield TC	Macclesfield Tennis Club	Rented from Cheshire East Council	Unsecure
Nantwich LTC	Nantwich Tennis Club	Freehold	Secure
Pownall Park LTC	Pownall Park Tennis Club	Freehold	Secure
Poynton TC	Poynton Sports Club	Freehold	Secure
Prestbury Village LTC	Prestbury Playing Fields	Leased from Parish Council (25-years remaining)	Secure
Styal TC	Styal Playing Fields	Rented from Cheshire East Council	Unsecure
Wistaston Jubilee TC	Wistaston Jubilee Tennis Club	Leased from Parish Council (one-year rolling)	Unsecure
Wrenbury & District LTC	Wrenbury Recreation Ground	Rented from Wrenbury Trust	Unsecure

Court type

Most community available outdoor tennis courts in Cheshire East (104 courts or 53%) have a macadam surface. The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels. To ensure courts can continue to be used beyond this time frame, it is recommended that a sinking fund is put into place for eventual refurbishment.

The remaining provision is artificial grass (65 courts), polymeric (19 courts) clay (two courts), artificial clay (three courts) or acrylic courts (three courts). Whilst artificial and polymeric courts have a similar lifespan to macadam courts, clay courts are generally much harder and more expensive to maintain, especially during bad weather spells.

No grass courts have been identified within Cheshire East.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Sports lighting

Sports lit courts enable use throughout the year and are identified by the LTA as being a key priority for growing participation nationally. The LTA reports that sports lighting allows for a 35% increase in available court time on an annual basis.

In Cheshire East, 126 of the 196 community available tennis courts are serviced by sports lights, representing 64% of the provision. This is a relatively high number when compared to national rates.

Access to courts with sports lighting is considered particularly key for clubs as it allows for greater use of provision, which in turn can help accommodate more members. To that end, it must be noted that in Cheshire East, five clubs are not serviced by any form of sports-lit provision. These clubs are:

- ◀ Crewe Congregational TC
- ◀ Handforth Hall TC
- ◀ Heyes Lane TC
- ◀ Higher Poynton TC
- ◀ Styal TC

Of the clubs without sports lighting, all but Higher Poynton TC indicate a desire to service their courts with sports lighting in the future. Each expresses that this will help increase capacity to better accommodate members.

In addition, of the clubs that are already equipped with sports lighting, ten report demand for either additional or refurbished sports lighting. These clubs are:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| ◀ Alderley Edge TC | ◀ Alsager LTC |
| ◀ Audlem TC | ◀ Croftside TC |
| ◀ Macclesfield TC | ◀ Nantwich TC |
| ◀ Pownall Park TC | ◀ Poynton TC |
| ◀ Prestbury TC | ◀ Wrenbury & District TC |

Away from clubs, a lack of sports lighting at school sites presents a key reason as to why many of the courts are unavailable for community use. Many of the schools state that making them available for lettings would not be financially viable as usage would be limited, although the LTA does offer solutions to help overcome this, including initiatives such as Clubspark and Gate Access (detailed further on).

Increasing the number of local authority courts with sports lighting is also a strategic aim for the LTA due to the additional recreational demand and tennis programmes such provision can help accommodate. Of the local authority courts in Cheshire East, only 26 out of 51 are currently serviced.

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

LTA Quick Access Loan Scheme³⁴

The LTA's mission is to grow tennis and padel by making them accessible, welcoming, and enjoyable. Ensuring local communities have access to quality facilities is critical to attracting and retaining more players. As such, the LTA's Quick Access Loan Scheme aims to provide interest-free loans to support venues investment in facilities, prioritising the installation and construction of covered courts. The objectives of the fund are to:

- ♦ Provide covered or sports-lit playing facilities to encourage community accessible play all year.
- ♦ Retain and increase the number of participants at the venue.
- ♦ Offer and increase both non-members pay and play usage and coaching opportunities.
- ♦ Grow the numbers of adults and juniors on the coaching programme.
- ♦ Provide seamless booking of tennis courts and lessons through an [online booking system](#).

As part of the fund, the LTA will fund:

- ♦ Lighting upgrades to LED (outdoor and indoor)
- ♦ New sports lights
- ♦ New court provision
- ♦ Outdoor padel courts
- ♦ Covered padel (courts and cover)
- ♦ Covered tennis courts

Over markings

Tennis courts, particularly within schools, are often over marked by netball, basketball and/or football courts. Courts which are over marked tend to receive higher levels of use which can be detrimental to quality over time, as well as creating capacity issues if there is community demand from more than one sport.

In Cheshire East, the table below identifies sites with overmarked tennis courts. In fact, all of the courts each site is overmarked.

Table 9.7: Summary of tennis court overmarking

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Sub area	No. of courts	Overmarked with
5	Alsager Leisure Centre	Central	Alsager	4	Four netball courts
22	Brine Leas School	South	Nantwich	6	Five netball courts
26	Calverley School	South	Nantwich	1	One netball court
34	Congleton High School	Central	Congleton	3	Two netball courts
43	Eaton Bank Academy	Central	Congleton	5	Five netball courts
46	Fallibroome Academy	North	Macclesfield	5	Five netball courts
58	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	Central	Holmes Chapel	5	Three netball courts
75	Malbank School & Sixth Form College	South	Nantwich	6	Four netball courts
102	Poynton High School	North	Poynton	12	Six netball courts

³⁴ [Quick Access Loan Scheme for tennis facilities \(lta.org.uk\)](#)

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Sub area	No. of courts	Overmarked with
109	Sandbach High School & Sixth Form College	Central	Sandbach	3	Three netball courts
110	Sandbach School	Central	Sandbach	5	Three netball courts
111	Shavington Academy	South	Crewe	4	Three netball courts
113	Sir William Stanier School	South	Crewe	3	Three netball courts
119	St Thomas More Catholic High School	South	Crewe	4	Three netball courts
122	Terra Nova School	Central	Holmes Chapel	3	Three netball courts
126	The King's School	North	Poynton	6	Six netball courts
144	Eric Swan Sports Ground	South	Crewe	2	Two netball courts
162	Tytherington High School	North	Macclesfield	3	Two netball courts
331	West Park	North	Macclesfield	1	One netball court

As seen, all are overmarked by netball courts. Details pertaining to this are identified in greater detail in Part 10: Netball.

Quality

The quality of tennis courts has been informed through non-technical site assessments and consultation with providers to assign each court a rating of good, standard or poor. Key aspects informing the findings include surface quality, grip underfoot, line marking quality, evenness and evidence of inappropriate use (e.g. vandalism and/or littering).

For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

Of the courts in Cheshire East, 101 (42%) are assessed as good quality, 93 (39%) as standard quality and 47 (20%) as poor quality. Of the community available provision, 101 (52%) are good quality, 76 (39%) are standard and 19 (10%) are poor. In both aspects, this resembles a relatively high proportion of good quality courts and a relatively low proportion of poor quality courts.

Table 9.8: Quality of tennis courts across Cheshire East

Community use?	Quality		
	Good	Standard	Poor
Available	101	76	19
Unavailable	-	17	28
Total	101	93	47

The community available courts assessed as poor quality are located at the following sites:

- ✦ Alsager Leisure Centre
- ✦ Eric Swan Sports Ground
- ✦ Goostrey Playing Fields
- ✦ Legends Health & Leisure Centre
- ✦ Arnold Rhodes Recreation Ground
- ✦ Gawsworth Village Hall
- ✦ Gorse Croft Farm
- ✦ Styal Playing Fields

Issues recorded at these sites include poor grip underfoot, the presence of moss, worn line markings and loose gravel. Moreover, maintenance is also considered to be basic and infrequent at most of the poor quality sites, which can lead to further deterioration.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Several of the poor quality courts are at local authority sites (Arnold Rhodes Recreation Ground, Goostrey Playing Fields and The Carrs Park). Improving local authority courts is currently a national priority for the LTA, with a focus on suitable sites that cater for high levels of recreational demand or that have the potential to do so. This is especially if the provision is serviced (or could be serviced) by changing facilities and sports lighting.

Most clubs access good quality courts, with the only exceptions being:

- ◀ Crewe Congregational TC (at High Town Tennis Club)
- ◀ Croftside TC (at Croftside Tennis Club)
- ◀ Handforth Hall TC (at Handforth Hall Tennis Club)
- ◀ Heyes Lane TC (at Heys Lane Tennis Club)
- ◀ Higher Poynton TC (at Higher Poynton Tennis Club)
- ◀ Macclesfield TC (at Macclesfield Tennis Club)
- ◀ Styal TC (at Styal Playing Fields)

In correlation with this, 37% of responding clubs report an improvement in the quality of their courts in recent seasons, although 26% report that conditions have worsened (the remainder report no change). This includes all seven clubs that access standard or poor quality provision.

Seven clubs also reference a desire to resurface their courts in the near future, with these being Alderley Edge, Croftside, Handforth Hall, Lindow, Macclesfield, Prestbury and Styal tennis clubs. Four clubs that report of an improvement in their courts' quality have recently had their courts resurfaced (at Alsager Lawn Tennis Club, Bunbury Playing Fields, Congleton Lawn Tennis Club and Poynton Sports Club).

Renovation fund⁶⁵

The LTA has secured a £22 million investment fund to be put into public tennis courts across Britain, together with an £8.5 million investment from the LTA. This will see thousands of public park tennis courts that are in poor or unplayable condition improved for the benefit of local communities.

The LTA's ambition is to drive participation across park tennis sites, as well as ensuring the future sustainability of these facilities. As well as paying for the refurbishment of public park courts, the new investment will also pay for the implementation of sustainable operating models for the facilities, with specialist programmes (e.g., gated access and Smart Access lite) and support to ensure courts are both affordable and utilised.

At present, the following four sites have been identified for investment in Cheshire East as part of the funding:

- ◀ Alderley Edge Park
- ◀ Bollington Recreation Ground
- ◀ Meriton Road Park
- ◀ South Park

These still need to go to cabinet approval before developments can take place.

³⁵<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/30-million-package-to-refurbish-4500-public-tennis-courts-in-deprived-parts-of-uk-announced>

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Ancillary facilities

The table below identifies the quality of ancillary provision at community available tennis sites within Cheshire East. Overall, 17 sites are accompanied by good quality facilities, 13 have standard quality provision and three are categorised as having poor quality provision, with an additional ten not currently serviced. Of these, four are club-sites (Audlem Playing Fields, Hightown Tennis Club, Styal Playing Fields and Wrenbury Recreation Ground).

Please note that education sites are not included within the table. This is because the ancillary provision does not generally service the tennis courts at the sites', meaning quality is irrelevant.

Table 9.9: Summary of ancillary quality

Site ID	Site name	Club	Quality
1	Alderley Edge Cricket Club	Alderley Edge TC	Good
5	Alsager Leisure Centre	-	Standard
10	Audlem Playing Fields	Audlem TC	N/A
12	Barony Sports Complex	-	Standard
18	Bollington Recreation Ground	-	Standard
32	Alderley Park	-	Good
42	Disley Amalgamated Sports Club	-	Good
49	Goostrey Playing Fields	-	Good
57	Holmes Chapel Cricket Club	-	Standard
58	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	-	Good
62	Bunbury Playing Field	Bunbury TC	Standard
68	Knutsford Sports Club	Knutsford TC	Good
71	Legends Health & Leisure Centre	-	Good
103	Poynton Sports Club	Poynton TC	Poor
115	South Park	-	Standard
120	Styal Playing Fields	Styal TC	N/A
144	Eric Swan Sports Ground	-	Standard
147	Wrenbury Recreation Ground	Wrenbury & District LTC	N/A
247	Prestbury Playing Fields	Prestbury Village LTC	Good
254	Arnold Rhodes Recreation Ground	-	N/A
270	Alsager Lawn Tennis Club	Alsager LTC	Standard
272	Congleton Lawn Tennis Club	Congleton LTC	Good
273	Crewe Hall	Congleton LTC	Good
274	Croftside Tennis Club	Croftside TC	Good
275	Gorse Croft Farm	-	Poor
276	Heyes Lane Tennis Club	Heyes Lane LTC	Standard
277	High Legh Tennis Club	High Legh TC	Standard
278	Lindow Lawn Tennis Club	Lindow LTC	Good
280	Meriton Road Park	-	N/A
282	Nantwich Tennis Club	Nantwich LTC	Standard
283	Pownall Park Tennis Club	Pownall Park LTC	Good

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Club	Quality
284	Sandbach Park	-	N/A
286	The Mere Golf Resort & Spa	-	Good
287	The Tytherington Golf & Country Club	-	Good
292	Alderley Edge Park	-	N/A
306	High Town Tennis Club	Crewe Congregational TC	N/A
312	Macclesfield Tennis Club	Macclesfield TC	Good
330	Lower Withington Village Hall	-	Standard
331	West Park	-	N/A
339	Gawsworth Village Hall	-	N/A
367	Handforth Hall Tennis Club	Handforth Hall TC	Standard
368	Higher Poynton Tennis Club	Higher Poynton TC	Poor
369	Wistaston Jubilee Tennis Club	Wistaston Jubilee TC	Good

Two clubs are serviced with poor quality ancillary facilities, with these being Higher Poynton TC and Poynton TC. Both sites have provision that is outdated and unfit for purpose and both clubs express an aspiration for improvements. Gorse Croft Farm is the remaining site with poor quality ancillary provision.

A further four clubs also have ancillary provision aspirations. The table below summarises the plans.

Table 9.10: Summary of clubs' ancillary development plans

Site ID	Site name	Club	Comments
62	Bunbury Playing Field	Bunbury TC	Clubhouse refurbishment
272	Congleton Lawn Tennis Club	Congleton LTC	Clubhouse refurbishment
68	Knutsford Sports Club	Knutsford TC	Clubhouse refurbishment
278	Lindow Lawn Tennis Club	Lindow LTC	Clubhouse refurbishment
282	Nantwich Tennis Club	Nantwich TC	Clubhouse refurbishment
120	Styal Playing Fields	Styal TC	Clubhouse refurbishment

Only Lindow LTC reports that it has secured funding for its ancillary development.

For non-club courts, ancillary provision is generally considered to be problematic. Whilst most of the other sites do provide changing facilities and/or toilets, they are not specific for tennis and are generally too far away from the courts to be realistically used. Often, the facilities predominately service football/cricket pitch users and therefore are not readily available or suited to tennis court users.

Insight from the LTA indicates good quality ancillary facilities such as toilets, changing rooms and cafes encourage players to visit community available provision and stay for extended periods of time. Therefore, a potential way to increase usage of such provision would be to invest in suitable ancillary amenities, which can then also provide a source of income.

9.3: Demand

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Competitive tennis

There are 21 tennis clubs in Cheshire East with membership equating to 4,028, where known through consultation (details for High Leigh TC are unknown). As a breakdown, this totals 2,759 senior members and 1,269 junior members.

Membership is summarised by club in the table below.

Table 9.11: Summary of tennis club demand

Club	Analysis area	Sub area	Number of members		Total
			Senior	Junior	
Alderley Edge TC	North	Wilmslow	500	200	700
Alsager Lawn TC	Central	Alsager	150	40	190
Audlem TC	South	Nantwich	62	50	112
Bunbury TC	South	Nantwich	71	48	119
Congleton LTC	Central	Congleton	300	50	350
Crewe Congregational TC	South	Crewe	35	5	40
Croftside TC	North	Wilmslow	108	156	264
Handforth Hall TC	North	Wilmslow	32	2	34
Heyes Lane LTC	North	Wilmslow	76	22	98
Higher Poynton TC	North	Poynton	59	15	74
High Legh TC	North	Knutsford	Unknown		
Knutsford TC	North	Knutsford	257	107	364
Lindow LTC	North	Wilmslow	120	104	224
Macclesfield TC	North	Macclesfield	154	59	213
Nantwich LTC	South	Nantwich	150	30	180
Pownall Park LTC	North	Wilmslow	100	100	200
Poynton TC	North	Poynton	120	120	240
Prestbury Village LTC	North	Poynton	354	137	491
Styal TC	North	Wilmslow	22	6	28
Wistaston Jubilee TC	South	Crewe	69	15	84
Wrenbury & District LTC	South	Nantwich	20	3	23
Total			2,759	1,269	4,028

Of the clubs, many are particularly large, such as Alderley Edge TC with 700 members and Prestbury Village TC with 491 members. In total, 12 of the clubs have more than 100 members.

In comparison, Alsager LTC is the smallest of the responsive clubs with just four members in total.

Participation trends

Nationally, the LTA has announced participation figures for 2022 showing sustained success in getting more people playing tennis more often, with growth across all demographics, regions and nations of Great Britain. This is particularly amongst 16-34 year-olds and those from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

The number of adults reporting that they had played tennis during the year increased 43% compared to the previous year (2021), rising from 3.3 million to 4.7 million from January

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

through to December. This is the highest total recorded since 2017 and has continued the growth seen in 2018-19 before being interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

In addition, more than two million adults play monthly, and this is the highest level recorded since the LTA started tracking this measure seven years ago. This means that the LTA has achieved the targets set out in its five-year 2018-23 strategy for adult annual and monthly participation one year ahead of schedule.

Finally, children's weekly participation in tennis has seen positive growth in the past year with over three and a half million children playing tennis and with an extra 328,000 children playing tennis in schools.

In Cheshire East, in correlation with the above, a total of 11 responding clubs (55%) report an increase in senior participation over recent years in comparison to only five clubs (25%) that indicate a decrease. However, seven clubs (35%) indicate a decrease in junior demand over the same time period, with only five clubs (25%) reporting an increase. Most attribute this to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The table below further explores demand changes over recent years, based on consultation response.

Table 9.12: Summary of tennis club participation trends

Senior membership over the past five years		
Increased	Decreased	Stayed the same
Alderley Edge TC Alsager LTC Audlem TC Congleton LTC Croftside TC Higher Poynton TC Knutsford TC Macclesfield TC Nantwich TC Poynton TC Prestbury Village TC	Handforth Hall TC Heyes Lane TC Styal TC Wistaston Jubilee TC Wrenbury & District TC	Crewe Congregational TC Handforth Hall TC Lindow TC Pownall Park TC
Junior membership over the past five years		
Increased	Decreased	Stayed the same
Audlem TC Congleton LTC Croftside TC Macclesfield TC Wistaston Jubilee TC	Alsager LTC Handforth Hall TC Heyes Lane TC Nantwich TC Poynton TC Prestbury Village TC Styal TC	Alderley Edge TC Crewe Congregational TC Handforth Hall TC Higher Poynton TC Knutsford TC Lindow TC Pownall Park TC Wrenbury & District TC

Informal and parks tennis

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

The majority of clubs allow for pay and play usage from non-members, although take up is seemingly low throughout Cheshire East.

Away from clubs, community usage can be difficult to quantify as it is not always monitored, especially at sites that are free to access as is the case at some local authority sites in Cheshire East. Demand for such provision is generally at its highest during summer months, especially following events such as Wimbledon, but significant capacity is likely to exist outside of this.

The LTA has developed a support package for local authorities to grow use of tennis courts by removing key barriers to participation; products known as ClubSpark, Play (previously Rally) and Gate Access have been established. These represent what the LTA calls a major improvement to the customer journey and provide a clear revenue stream to reinvest into court provision.

The following courts in Cheshire East are known to utilise some or all of the products currently, although the LTA reports that there are likely to be more:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ◀ Alsager Lawn Tennis Club | ◀ Audlem Playing Fields |
| ◀ Bunbury Playing Fields | ◀ Congleton Lawn Tennis Club |
| ◀ Croftside Tennis Club | ◀ Handforth Hall Tennis Club |
| ◀ Heyes Lane Tennis Club | ◀ Higher Poynton Tennis Club |
| ◀ Knutsford Sports Club | ◀ Lindow Lawn Tennis Club |
| ◀ Macclesfield Tennis Club | ◀ Nantwich Tennis Club |
| ◀ Pownall Park Tennis Club | ◀ Prestbury Playing Fields |
| ◀ Styal Playing Fields | ◀ Wistaston Jubilee Tennis Club |
| ◀ Wrenbury Recreation Ground | |

Five of the sites mentioned above are Council/Parish council owned sites; Bunbury Playing Fields, Macclesfield Tennis Club, Prestbury Playing Fields, Styal Playing Fields and Wistaston Jubilee Tennis Club.

The products are further summarised below.

ClubSpark – Improving the booking process

ClubSpark is a flexible and simple venue management platform with multiple products and applications to help venues, local authorities and coaches manage their sport. ClubSpark is a tool that is offered for free as part of LTA venue registration and allows administrators to manage all functions at their venue(s), including:

- ◀ Managed website - create and manage a mobile friendly website tailored to LA/club requirements to promote events and activities.
- ◀ Managed coaching – set up coaching lessons and courses online.
- ◀ Membership management - improve membership engagement by making it easier for the venue and for members to pay, renew and keep in touch (includes online payments, direct debits and the monitoring of revenue streams; membership modules can also be used to take season ticket payments for venues operating a non-traditional annual facility fee).
- ◀ Organise payments - set the way payments are taken, whether it's immediate pay and play, or bookable as part of a membership package
- ◀ Court bookings – reduced administration for managing bookings; give staff, coaches, members and the general public access to book and pay for courts, classes or other resources online.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

- ◀ Scheduling - set unique booking and price rules to suit the venue and enable lights to switch on/off automatically when linked to the LTA Premium Gate Access system.
- ◀ Book and pay remotely - customers can make bookings and payments for a venue anytime, anywhere via the real-time booking app.
- ◀ Reporting - ClubSpark allows administrators to view reports highlighting income, court usage, revenue and number of members and season ticket holders; this allows for identification of trends and patterns and evidence to demonstrate participation levels and impact.

LTA Play

Play is an aggregator that collects all booking and coaching information via ClubSpark pages and displays it for participants in one easy to view page. It allows players to search for venues close to them and provides booking options, removing the barriers of not knowing where courts are or how to book.

Play provides a helpful customer journey, with a personal profile to review and manage bookings, and helpful reminders. Courts can be set to book for free of charge or at a fee agreed by the provider.

Gate Access

The LTA has developed two Gate Access gate systems that work in association with ClubSpark to secure courts and to allow access to booked customers only. Members of the public can book a court online (making payment if required) and receive a four digit access code via email to enter using a courtside keypad. The gate access system then allows entry for the time booked if a correct code is entered.

There are two gate options available: SmartAccess Premium and SmartAccess Lite. The demands and needs of users plus the setup of the venue determines the most appropriate system for each site.

Nationally, the LTA has supported the installation of 177 gate access systems within the last two years. Furthermore, it states that sites with Gate Access installations:

- ◀ Attracted 65,751 unique players
- ◀ Led to 791,226 court bookings
- ◀ Generated £1.5 million of income

Additional demand

The LTA operates various tennis initiatives across the Country which result in some courts receiving additional demand. Furthermore, there are other formats away from traditional tennis that can result in increased usage. These are all detailed below.

Local Tennis Leagues

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Recreational Tennis leagues are less formal in comparison to established club play, offering greater flexibility and an opportunity for all abilities to engage in competition at local venues. The leagues are available to all aged 18 years and above and are run by an organisation called Local Tennis Leagues, which is owned by the LTA. Players are organised into mixed sex leagues of eight based on similar ability levels, with matches arranged between the two players at whatever time and court is agreed. The flexibility of play is conducive to the use of park sites which are typically more easily accessible.

The South & Mid Cheshire Tennis League is prevalent within Cheshire East. The league is played on a home and away basis, of which, the various venues include:

- ✦ Acton Bridge Tennis Club (exported)
- ✦ Audlem Playing Fields
- ✦ Congleton Lawn Tennis Club
- ✦ Goostrey Playing Fields
- ✦ Holmes Chapel Cricket Club
- ✦ Tarporley Tennis Club (exported)
- ✦ Wistaston Jubilee Tennis Club
- ✦ Alsager Lawn Tennis Club
- ✦ Bunbury Playing Fields
- ✦ Cuddington Tennis Club (exported)
- ✦ Hartford Tennis Club (exported)
- ✦ Nantwich Tennis Club
- ✦ Winsford Tennis Club (exported)

LTA Youth Programme

The LTA coordinate courses for children aged 4 - 18, consisting of fun games and dynamic training. Specialist coaches make sure every child has the best start to their tennis journey in a safe and inclusive environment. Sessions cater to all abilities and split into the following:

- ✦ Blue Stage (Age 4-6)
- ✦ Red Stage (Age 6-8)
- ✦ Orange Stage (Age 8-9)
- ✦ Green Stage (Age 9-10)
- ✦ Yellow Stage (Age 10+)

Key points:

- ✦ There are assigned ages to each stage, but this only serves as a guide.
- ✦ Young people want to play in groups and with their friends, and so whatever stage they start at, all kids will see progression.
- ✦ In every LTA Youth stage, young people will be active, having fun and developing skills

LTA Youth Start³⁶

LTA Youth Start³⁷ is a six week coaching offer for children that have never played tennis before and is identified as a priority by the LTA. For £29.99 (Plus £5 postage & packaging), kids get six weeks coaching by an LTA Accredited coach, along with a free racket, pack of balls and personalised t-shirt so that they can continue playing.

The following venues across Cheshire East participate in the LTA Youth Start programme:

- ✦ Croftside Tennis Club (Croftside TC)
- ✦ Prestbury Playing Fields (Prestbury Village LTC)

Free Parks Tennis

³⁶ <https://www.lta.org.uk/play-compete/lta-youth/start/>

³⁷ <https://ClubSpark.lta.org.uk/tennisforkids>

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

The LTA is due to launch the LTA Free Parks Tennis offer. This is due to the following needs:

- ▶ Player Trends:
 - ▶ 35% of people who play tennis once per year or more do so in a park.
 - ▶ The most common type of play for park players is socially with friends or family.
- ▶ Barriers:
 - ▶ 25% of players cite not having anyone to play with as a barrier to playing more tennis.
 - ▶ 24% of players cite having nowhere to play or difficulty in accessing local courts as reasons why they do not play tennis more often
 - ▶ 32% of these players say local courts are not affordable.
 - ▶ 75% of parks players consider themselves to be of beginner (41%) or improver (36%) standard, which is significantly lower than club players
 - ▶ 22% of players state that a lack of equipment prevents them from playing tennis.

The key points of a free park tennis session are:

- ▶ Free for all players to book and attend
- ▶ Run by a minimum of two trained and DBS checked Activators
- ▶ Sessions should run all year round (weather depending)
- ▶ Run on a Saturday or Sunday morning at 10.00-11.00am

Court requirements are for three courts minimum in parks that have this many, or two courts at two court sites – a three court site can have up to 34 players attending. The sessions are designed for those aged eight and over, but under eights can attend when accompanied by a parent.

Future consideration should be given to offer Free Parks Tennis in parks across Cheshire East.

Padel

Currently 90,000 people reportedly play padel more than once a year in England - a 493% year on year increase compared to 2021 (15,000). This exemplifies the continued growth of the sport and the need to ensure that such demand is being adequately catered for.

There are currently only eight padel courts in Cheshire East (with an additional four courts in the near future), hence only minimal activity is likely to take place within the Borough. However, given the growing popularity of the format, that is not to say that there is no demand as it is likely that take-up would be considerable were additional and more accessible provision established.

Latent/unmet demand

Latent demand for tennis nationally is reported to be high by the LTA, which has an insight tool that suggests that 18% of the five million players that pick up a racket each year would play more often if key barriers such as poor promotion of opportunities to get on court, unclear booking journeys (especially those that are 'offline') and low quality facilities were addressed. As such, there is a potential opportunity in Cheshire East for the Council and other providers to address such barriers, whilst also bettering understanding of court usage.

In addition, Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables an analysis of the percentage of adults that would like to participate in tennis but that 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 7,272 people within Cheshire East, which represents approximately

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

1.9% of the Authority's population compared to a national average of 1.7%. This therefore suggests that unmet demand is marginally greater than what would otherwise be expected.

Notwithstanding the above, all responding clubs report that existing membership can be accommodated on the current level of provision available to them and that no potential members are being turned away due to capacity issues. As such, no clubs report any latent or unmet demand, with the majority actively trying to recruit new members. This suggests that the latent demand identified through other methods is for non-club activity, or that other barriers aside from club facilities are preventing activity.

Future demand

The below table summarises the future demand aspirations highlighted during consultation with the clubs. In total, this equates to 765 members (360 senior and 405 junior) and is expressed by 13 clubs.

Table 9.13: Summary of tennis club aspirations future demand

Club	Analysis area	Sub area	Number of members		
			Senior	Junior	Total
Alsager LTC	Central	Alsager	20	30	50
Audlem TC	South	Nantwich	10	10	20
Bunbury TC	South	Nantwich	100	65	165
Congleton LTC	Central	Congleton	30	100	130
Heyes Lane TC	North	Wilmslow	20	30	50
Knutsford TC	North	Knutsford	30	5	35
Lindow LTC	North	Wilmslow	20	20	40
Macclesfield TC	North	Macclesfield	50	50	100
Nantwich TC	South	Nantwich	20	40	60
Pownall Park TC	North	Wilmslow	10	10	20
Poynton TC	North	Poynton	20	20	40
Prestbury TC	North	Poynton	10	25	35
Styal TC	North	Wilmslow	20	-	20
Total			360	405	765

It should be noted that many of the remaining clubs which responded to consultation requests also mention aspirations to increase in membership; however, they did not quantify their potential growth. Most are just open to as many new members as they can recruit/attract.

In addition, the LTA also expects future growth via its insight tools, with much of this demand likely to include participation outside of the club environment.

9.4: Supply and demand analysis

Club tennis

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

The LTA suggests that a hard court with no sports lighting can accommodate 40 members, whereas a hard court with sports lighting can accommodate 60 members. However, it must be noted that this should only be used as a guide as capacity can, in reality, vary from site to site depending on how the demand operates and the programmes of use in place. Some clubs can comfortably operate over capacity guidance, whilst others may have pressures without theoretically being over capacity.

Using the guidance, the table below identifies the capacity balance at all sites currently used by clubs.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 9.14: Capacity analysis (club courts)

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Sub area	No. of courts	Sports lighting?	Capacity	Membership	Current capacity balance
1	Alderley Edge Cricket Club	North	Wilmslow	14	Yes	840	700	140
10	Audlem Playing Fields	South	Nantwich	2	Yes	120	112	8
62	Bunbury Playing Field	South	Nantwich	2	Yes	120	119	1
68	Knutsford Sports Club	North	Knutsford	7	Yes	420	364	56
103	Poynton Sports Club	North	Poynton	7	Yes	420	240	180
120	Styal Playing Fields	North	Wilmslow	3	No	120	28	92
147	Wrenbury Recreation Ground	South	Nantwich	2	Yes	120	23	97
247	Prestbury Playing Fields	North	Poynton	8	Yes	480	491	11
270	Alsager Lawn Tennis Club	Central	Alsager	4	Yes	240	190	50
272	Congleton Lawn Tennis Club	Central	Congleton	3	No	480	350	130
				6	Yes			
274	Croftside Tennis Club	North	Wilmslow	3	Yes	180	264	84
276	Heyes Lane Tennis Club	North	Wilmslow	3	No	120	98	22
277	High Legh Tennis Club	North	Knutsford	3	Yes	180	Unknown	
278	Lindow Lawn Tennis Club	North	Wilmslow	2	Yes	160	224	64
				1	No			
282	Nantwich Tennis Club	South	Nantwich	4	Yes	360	180	180
				2	Yes			
283	Pownall Park Tennis Club	North	Wilmslow	3	Yes	180	200	20
306	High Town Tennis Club	South	Crewe	2	No	80	40	40
312	Macclesfield Tennis Club	North	Macclesfield	6	No	540	213	227
				5	Yes			
367	Handforth Hall Tennis Club	North	Wilmslow	3	No	120	34	96
368	Higher Poynton Tennis Club	North	Poynton	2	No	80	74	6
369	Wistaston Jubilee Tennis Club	South	Crewe	2	Yes	120	84	36

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

As seen, there are potential capacity issues at Croftside Tennis Club (Croftside TC), Lindow Lawn Tennis Club (Lindow LTC), Pownall Park Tennis Club (Pownall Park TC) and Prestbury Playing Fields (Prestbury TC). The shortfall is greatest for Croftside TC (84 members) and Lindow LTC (64 members), whilst it is relatively minimal for Pownall Park TC (20 members) and Prestbury TC (11 members).

The table below further reflects the current and future capacity of club-courts in Cheshire East, based on current and future members figures.

Table 9.15: Supply and demand position for tennis club-courts in Cheshire East

Analysis area	Sub area	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Spare capacity	Shortfall	Current total	Future demand	Future total
North	Knutsford	56	-	56	35	21
	Macclesfield	227	-	227	100	127
	Poynton	186	11	175	75	100
	Wilmslow	350	168	182	130	52
Central	Alsager	50	-	50	50	0
	Congleton	130	-	130	130	0
	Holmes Chapel	-	-	0	-	0
	Middlewich	-	-	0	-	0
	Sandbach	-	179	179	-	179
South	Crewe	76	-	76	-	76
	Nantwich	180	-	180	145	35
Cheshire East		1,255	358	897	765	132

Overall, there is a current spare capacity of 897 members, primarily due to significant spare capacity in the North Analysis Area. Only Sandbach in the Central Analysis Area yields a current shortfall, with all remaining sub areas presenting either spare capacity or being at capacity. When accounting for future demand, capacity reduces significantly to 132 members across the Borough.

Non-club tennis

For non-club courts, analysing supply and demand is difficult in Cheshire East as usage figures are not generally known. However, no capacity issues have been identified and it is therefore considered that all sites have capacity for additional growth, although this does not equate to a surplus of courts given the high levels of unmet/latent demand identified. It is considered likely that some courts are being well utilised, although this could be enhanced via further roll-out of LTA products such as ClubSpark as well as through quality improvements and increasing the number of sports lit courts.

9.5: Conclusion

For club-based tennis, four clubs (Croftside TC, Lindow LTC, Pownall Park TC and Prestbury TC) have potential capacity issues through using LTA guidelines. However, none of these clubs report any capacity issues themselves, and all remaining clubs have spare capacity, with spare capacity also existing across Cheshire East as a whole. This therefore suggests that supply is sufficient to meet such demand, although there may be a localised issue in Sandbach.

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

For non-club courts, whilst no courts are identified as having any capacity issues, it is clear that the existing supply can be improved upon through roll out of LTA products and, where required, quality improvements. This should therefore be of focus, with the proceeding Strategy document to identify priority sites.

Tennis – supply and demand summary

- For club-based tennis, four clubs (Croftside TC, Lindow LTC, Pownall Park TC and Prestbury TC) have potential capacity issues through using LTA guidelines. However, none of these clubs report any capacity issues themselves, and all remaining clubs have spare capacity, with spare capacity also existing across Cheshire East as a whole.
- For non-club activity, no capacity issues have been identified and it is therefore considered that all sites have capacity for additional growth, although this does not equate to a surplus of courts given the high levels of unmet/latent demand identified.
- It is clear that the existing supply can be improved upon through roll out of LTA products and, where required, quality improvements.

Tennis – supply summary

- There are 241 tennis courts identified in Cheshire East across 62 sites.
- Of the courts, 196 are categorised as being available for community use at 53 sites, compared to 45 that are unavailable at ten sites.
- There are also eight tennis courts that are considered disused across Wilmslow High School, Clare's Space Boutique Health Club and The Carrs Park.
- Alderley Park, Total Fitness (Wilmslow), Mottram Hall and Clare's Space Boutique Health Club each offer access to padel tennis courts.
- The majority of the courts are operated by schools (82 courts), although only 50% of these are available for community use, with more local authority and club operated courts considered to be accessible.
- Tenure is unsecure for Bunbury, Macclesfield, Styal, Wistaston Jubilee and Wrenbury & District tennis clubs.
- The majority of community available outdoor tennis courts (104 courts) have a macadam surface, although some artificial turf (65 courts), polymeric (19 courts), acrylic (three courts) and clay (two courts) surfaces are also evident.
- A total of 126 of the 196 community available tennis courts are serviced by sports lights, representing 64% of the provision.
- Of the courts, 101 are assessed as good quality (all available to the community), 93 as standard quality (with 76 available) and 47 as poor quality (19 available).
- Of the community available sites, 17 have good quality ancillary facilities, 13 have standard quality provision and three have poor quality provision, with an additional ten sites not currently serviced.

Tennis – demand summary

- There are 21 tennis clubs with membership, where known, equating to 4,028 members.
- For senior membership, a total of 11 clubs report an increase participation in comparison to five clubs which indicate a decrease, although more clubs report a decrease in junior participation.
- A total of 17 sites utilise LTA products, which can increase recreational tennis demand (e.g., Clubspark).
- A Local Tennis League known as the South & Mid Cheshire League is also in operation, whilst two sites are involved in the LTA Youth Start programme.
- The LTA reports that latent/unmet demand is high nationally, although no responding clubs in Cheshire East suggest any issues, which indicates that such usage is likely to fall outside of the club environment.
- 13 clubs express future demand aspirations, with this totalling 360 senior members and 405 junior members, whilst the LTA also expects future recreational demand via its insight tools.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

PART 10: NETBALL

10.1: Introduction

England Netball is the governing body with overall responsibility for ensuring the effective governance of the sport.

Whilst often played indoors, there are far more outdoor courts provided and in use by the netball community than there are indoor. Nationally, England Netball reports that the challenge is that the supply of outdoor netball courts is generally not of a good enough standard for use by the community, whilst accessibility and a lack of sports lighting can also be problematic.

As netball was not included in the previous study, an exact comparison to previous levels of supply and demand cannot be presented.

Consultation

Information to inform this section of the report was primarily obtained through discussions with England Netball and the various clubs across Cheshire East.

10.2: Supply

A total of 67 netball courts are identified in Cheshire East across 22 sites. Of the courts, 49 at 15 sites are available for community use, whilst 18 courts at seven sites are unavailable.

The North Analysis Area contains the highest amount of accessible provision with 19 courts, which equates to 39% of all community available netball courts. This is followed by 18 courts (37%) in the Central Analysis Area and 12 courts (24%) in the South Analysis Area.

Table 10.1: Summary of the number of courts by analysis area

Analysis area	Sub areas	No. of community available netball courts	No. of community unavailable netball courts
North	Knutsford	3	-
	Macclesfield	6	2
	Poynton	10	-
	Wilmslow	-	-
Total		19	2
Central	Alsager	3	-
	Congleton	3	4
	Holmes Chapel	3	3
	Middlewich	3	-
	Sandbach	6	-
Total		18	7
South	Crewe	8	3
	Nantwich	4	6
Total		12	9
Cheshire East		49	18

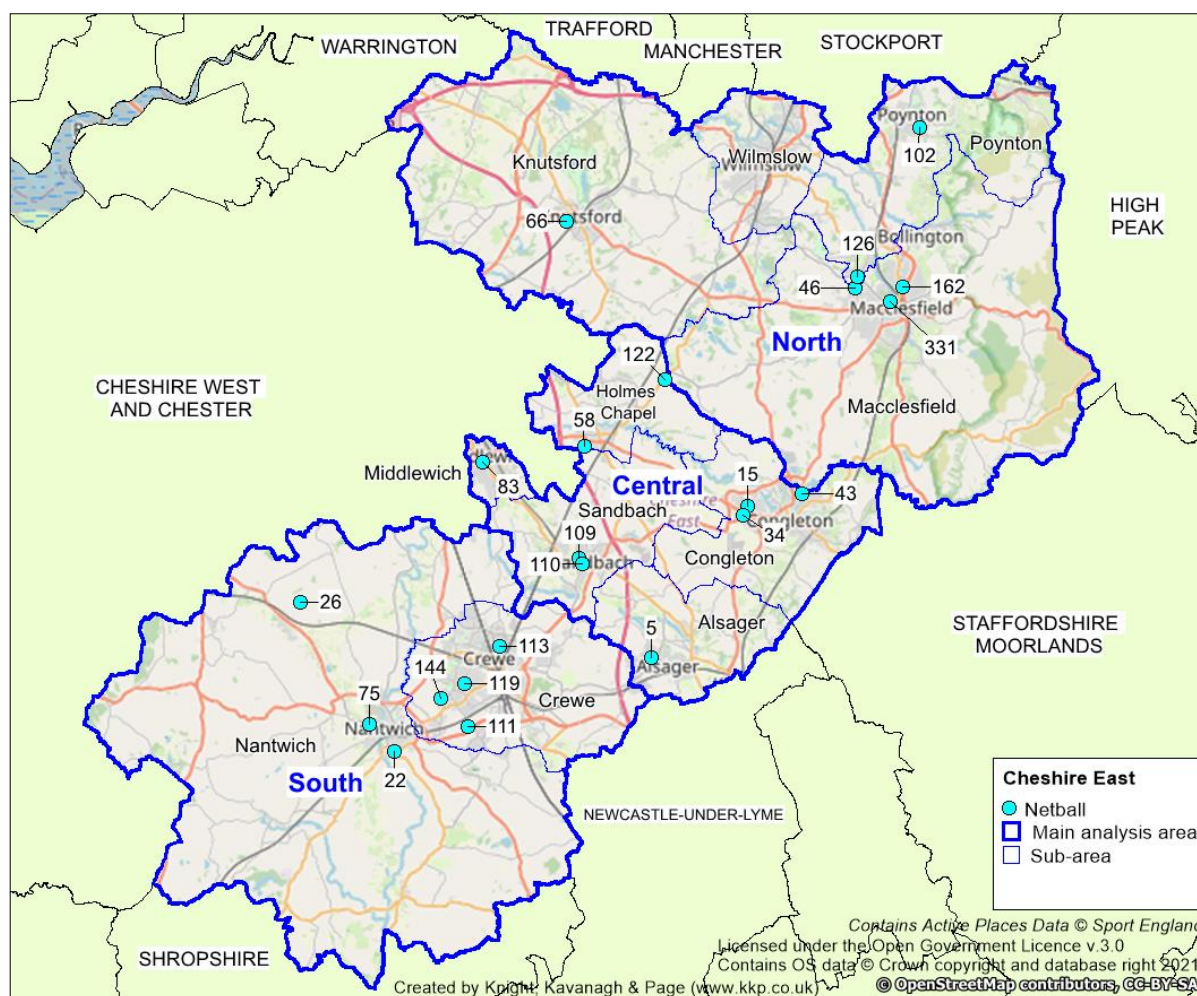
CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

A traditional netball court is 30.5 metres long and 15.25 metres wide. As such, please note that some additional courts are not included in the above figures due to them being undersized, especially those located at primary schools. Such courts are generally marked out on generic playgrounds and are not considered to be permanent or conducive for formal play. It is, however, recognised that such provision can meet a curricular and extra-curricular needs.

Figure 10.1 shows the location of the netball courts included within the study. Please see Table 10.2 for a key to the map.

Figure 10.1: Location of netball courts in Cheshire East



CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 10.2: Netball courts in Cheshire East

Site ID	Active Places Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Sub area	Ownership	Community use?	No. of courts	Sports lighting?	Court type	Over-marked?	Court quality
5	1004924	Alsager Leisure Centre	ST7 2HP	Central	Alsager	Leisure Trust	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Yes	Poor
15	30002544	Black Firs County Primary	CW12 4QJ	Central	Congleton	Education	No	1	No	Macadam	No	Standard
22	1200868	Brine Leas School	CW5 7DY	South	Nantwich	Education	No	5	Yes	Macadam	Yes	Standard
26	6016318	Calverley School	CW6 9LE	South	Nantwich	Education	No	1	No	Macadam	Yes	Standard
34	1103336 1200863	Congleton High School	CW12 4NS	Central	Congleton	Education	Yes	2	Yes	Macadam	Yes	Standard
								1	No	Macadam	No	Standard
43	1038237	Eaton Bank Academy	CW12 1NT	Central	Congleton	Education	No	3	No	Macadam	Yes	Poor
46	1004943	Fallibroome Academy	SK10 4AF	North	Macclesfield	Education	Yes	5	Yes	Macadam	Yes	Standard
58	1041711	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	CW4 7DZ	Central	Holmes Chapel	Leisure Trust	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Yes	Standard
66	1200932	Knutsford Academy (upper)	WA16 0BL	North	Knutsford	Education	Yes	3	No	Macadam	No	Poor
75	1004950	Malbank School & Sixth Form College	CW5 5HD	South	Nantwich	Education	Yes	4	No	Macadam	Yes	Standard
83	1041692	Middlewich High School (Leisure Centre)	CW10 9BU	Central	Middlewich	Leisure Trust	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Yes	Poor
102	1200857	Poynton High School	SK12 1PU	North	Poynton	Education	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam	Yes	Poor
109	1200738	Sandbach High School & Sixth Form College	CW11 3NT	Central	Sandbach	Education	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Yes	Standard
110	1041822	Sandbach School	CW11 3NS	Central	Sandbach	Education	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam	Yes	Standard
111	1004935	Shavington Academy	CW2 5DH	South	Crewe	Education	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam	Yes	Standard
113	1200761	Sir William Stanier School	CW1 4EB	South	Crewe	Education	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Yes	Standard
119	30002888	St Thomas More Catholic High School	CW2 8AE	South	Crewe	Education	No	3	No	Macadam	Yes	Standard
122	1203220	Terra Nova School	CW4 8BT	Central	Holmes Chapel	Education	No	2	Yes	Macadam	Yes	Standard
								1	No	Macadam	Yes	Standard
126	30002544	The King's School	SK10 4RH	North	Poynton	Education	Yes	6	Yes	Polymeric	Yes	Good
144	1200868	Eric Swan Sports Ground	CW2 8EZ	South	Crewe	Community Organisation	Yes	2	Yes	Artificial	Yes	Poor
162	N/A	Tytherington High School	SK10 2EE	North	Macclesfield	Education	No	2	No	Macadam	Yes	Poor
331	N/A	West Park	SK10 3BJ	North	Macclesfield	Council	Yes	1	No	Macadam	Yes	Standard

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Disused provision

Further to the courts identified above, there are also three netball courts that are now considered disused in Cheshire East. These are located at Wilmslow High School, where the disused polymeric courts are currently undergoing construction.

In addition, there are two sites (Disley Amalgamated Sports Club and The King's School (Fence Avenue)) which previously contained netball courts (seven courts in total) that have now been built on.

Future provision

A Mitigation Strategy³⁸ completed in 2021 incorporating provision at Poynton High School identifies that a 3G pitch should be established at the site to help offset an overall loss of playing field land (a net gain will be provided via a scheme at Glastonbury Drive). This is earmarked for where the netball courts currently reside.

A planning application has been submitted at Terra Nova School that would result in the loss of two of its three courts for the erection of a sports hall and associated drainage and servicing, sub-station, car parking and hard and soft landscaping (planning REF: 22/4305C).

Management and security of tenure

Most outdoor netball courts in Cheshire East are operated by education providers, with 55 courts falling under this management type. However, only 37 of these are available to the community.

Of the remaining courts, one is managed by the Council (at West Park), nine are managed by Everybody Health & Leisure (at Alsager Leisure Centre, Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre and Middlewich Leisure Centre) and the remaining two courts are managed by a community organisation (at Eric Swan Sports Ground).

Table 10.3: Courts by management type

Community use	Number of courts			
	Council	Education	Leisure Trust	Community Organisation
Available	1	37	9	2
Unavailable	-	18	-	-
Cheshire East	1	55	9	2

The outdoor courts at the following sites are currently used by the community for netball:

- ♦ Fallibroome Academy
- ♦ Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre
- ♦ Middlewich Leisure Centre
- ♦ Poynton High School
- ♦ Sandbach High School & Sixth Form College
- ♦ Shavington Academy
- ♦ Sir William Stanier School
- ♦ The King's School
- ♦ Tytherington High School

³⁸ [Poynton Mitigation Strategy](#)

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

However, from the responsive users, none have a long-term lease agreement in place for access the provision, with annual, monthly or weekly hire agreements instead in place. This means that only limited security of tenure is provided across Cheshire East.

Court type

All but eight of the outdoor netball courts in Cheshire East have a macadam surface, with 59 being of this type and 41 of these being available for community use. The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels.

The eight remaining courts have either an artificial surface (two courts) or a polymeric surface (six courts). The former are located at Eric Swan Sports Ground, whilst the latter is found at The King's School.

Sports lighting

Of the 67 outdoor netball courts currently provided in Cheshire East, 32 (48%) are serviced by sports lighting across nine sites. The sports-lit courts are located at:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| ◀ Brine Leas School | ◀ Congleton High School |
| ◀ Eric Swan Sports Ground | ◀ Fallibroome Academy |
| ◀ Poynton High School | ◀ Sandbach School |
| ◀ Shavington Academy | ◀ Terra Nova School |
| ◀ The King's School | |

Of these, 25 are available to the community, whilst the remaining seven courts (across Brine Leas School and Terra Nova School) are unavailable, despite the presence of sports lighting.

An absence of sports lighting on courts is an issue nationwide, with England Netball's national database (updated in 2020) identifying that only 1,941 of 5,108 outdoor netball courts are with sports lighting throughout the Country (38%). Despite this being identified as problematic, the percentage is lower than that identified in Cheshire East, evidencing a healthier position for the Borough.

Over markings

Netball courts, particularly at school sites, are often overmarked, predominately by tennis courts but also on occasion by basketball and/or football courts. Provision such as this tends to receive higher levels of use which can be detrimental to quality over time, as well as potentially causing capacity issues when there is external netball demand.

In Cheshire East, 62 netball courts are overmarked compared to five that are dedicated for netball use. This represents a low number of standalone courts and can be attributed to most of the provision being located at schools where tennis markings are also often provided.

The standalone courts are provided at Black Firs County Primary, Congleton High School and Knutsford Academy (upper). Of these, only the courts at Knutsford Academy (upper) are available for community use.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Quality

The quality of netball courts has been informed through non-technical site assessments and consultation with providers to assign each court a rating of good, standard or poor. Key aspects informing the findings include surface quality, grip underfoot, line marking quality, evenness and evidence of inappropriate use (e.g., vandalism and/or littering). For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

Of the courts in Cheshire East, six are assessed as good quality, 41 as standard quality and 20 as poor quality. Of those available to the community, six courts are good quality, 29 courts are standard quality and 12 courts are poor quality.

Table 10.4: Quality of all courts in Cheshire East

Community use	Quality		
	Good	Standard	Poor
Available	6	28	15
Unavailable	-	13	5
Total	6	41	20

The poor quality courts available for community use are found at:

- ✦ Alsager Leisure Centre
- ✦ Eric Swan Sports Ground
- ✦ Middlewich Leisure Centre
- ✦ Knutsford Academy (upper)
- ✦ Poynton High School

The poor quality courts unavailable for community use are identified at Eaton Bank Academy and Tytherington High School. Issues surrounding the poor quality courts include poor grip underfoot, evidence of moss and worn line markings.

The poor quality courts identified at Poynton High School are particularly problematic as these are used by the community. In addition, Alsager NC identifies that it would provision at Alsager Leisure Centre if quality improved.

In contrast, the good quality courts are found at The King's School, which offers six polymeric courts that are available for community use.

All remaining courts are assessed as standard quality.

Ancillary provision

Ancillary provision is generally considered to be problematic for community netball. Whilst most sites provide changing facilities and/or toilets, they are not specific for netball and are generally too far away from the courts to be realistically used. Moreover, given that most courts are located at schools, the facilities predominately service sports halls or grass pitches and are therefore not readily available or suited to netball court users. Access can then also be limited, even at sites that allow for community use as this may entail opening the main school buildings.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

10.3: Demand

Demand for outdoor netball tends to come in two forms; league and club-based netball that consists of matches and training, and the various netball-based initiatives such as Back to Netball and walking netball. As such, there is significant activity across Cheshire East, as summarised via the following sub sections.

Club demand

There are 13 netball clubs based in Cheshire East. Across these, there are currently 1,274 playing members, representing significant demand. The table below provides a summary of this by club.

Table 10.5: Summary of club membership

Clubs	Analysis Area	Sub area	Current membership
Alsager NC	Central Area	Alsager	80
Blaze NC	-	-	10
Cheshire Stars NC	Central Area	Middlewich	117
Knutsford NC	North Area	Knutsford	82
Knutsford Juniors NC	North Area	Knutsford	84
Ladyhawkes NC	South Area	Crewe	121
Loppy Birds NC	-	-	10
Macclesfield NC	North Area	Macclesfield	288
Northern Netball	South Area	Crewe	51
Oaklands NC	-	-	26
Poynton NC	North	Poynton	93
Sandbach NC	Central	Sandbach	78
Wilmslow Lightening NC	North	Wilmslow	234
Cheshire East			1,274

As seen, the largest membership base is found at Macclesfield NC, which provides 288 members. At the other end of the scale, there are two one-team clubs, Blaze and Loppy Birds netball clubs, both with ten members.

The average membership across the clubs is 98.

In addition, it should be noted that Kingsway Power NC with 222 members is also affiliated to Cheshire East. However, the Club is based in Manchester, despite competing in the Cheshire Junior Netball League.

Three leagues cater for the majority of netball participation from the clubs, each with winter and summer iterations in operation. The leagues are:

- ❖ Cheshire Elite League
- ❖ Cheshire Junior Netball League (CJNL)
- ❖ South Cheshire Premier Netball League (SCPNL)

Each is further summarised below. However, as is explained, none of the leagues currently utilise outdoor courts, with only indoor activity instead taking place.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Cheshire Elite League

The Cheshire Elite League consists of 12 teams, playing its competitive matches from October to March. The League has recently been held via a central venue (as opposed to teams playing home and away and arranging their own venue) at Alderley Park, although a venue has not been chosen for the upcoming season as of yet.

All fixtures have been played indoors, meaning no outdoor courts have been utilised.

Cheshire Junior Netball League (CJNL)

The CJNL is run across five different venues within Cheshire East and outside of the Borough, all of which are indoor venues. The CJNL caters for 15 clubs, with teams ranging from under 11s to under 19s.

The venues used are:

- ◀ Hartford High School (Cheshire West & Chester)
- ◀ Kingsway Leisure Centre (Halton)
- ◀ Middlewich Leisure Centre
- ◀ The King's School
- ◀ Winsford Academy (Cheshire West & Chester)

South Cheshire Premier Netball League (SCPNL)

The SCPNL operates via a central venue format, with all competitive matches held at Crewe Lifestyle Centre. As such, all activity takes place via indoor provision.

The SCPNL accommodates competition across four nights a week, with three divisions accommodating 12-14 teams per division. As a central venue league, significant imported demand is identified from teams based outside of Cheshire East, travelling into the Borough to compete.

Club training

In addition to Cheshire East-based clubs playing within the league formats referenced above and using the associated sites, many also access sites for their training requirements. The table below identifies what has been uncovered from consultation and online research, although it should be noted that the large majority train via indoor facilities rather than outdoor courts as this negates weather issues.

Table 10.6: Summary of known club training demand

Club name	Site/s used for training	Comments
Alsager NC	Alsager Leisure Centre	Indoor courts used; outdoor courts not used due to poor quality.
Blaze NC	No training	-
Cheshire Stars Netball Club	Middlewich Leisure Centre	Indoor courts used; outdoor courts not used due to poor quality.
Knutsford Juniors NC	Knutsford Academy (upper)	Indoor courts used; outdoor courts not used due to poor quality.
Knutsford NC	Knutsford Academy (upper)	Indoor courts used; outdoor courts not used due to poor quality.
Ladyhawkes NC	Sir William Stanier School	Outdoor courts used.
Loopy Birds NC	No training	-

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Club name	Site/s used for training	Comments
Macclesfield NC	Fallibroome Academy	Outdoor courts used.
	The King's School	
	Tytherington High School	
Northern Netball	Shavington Academy	Outdoor courts used.
Oaklands NC	Unknown	Unknown
Poynton NC	Poynton High School	Indoor courts used.
Sandbach NC	Sandbach High School & Sixth Form College	Indoor courts used.
Wilmslow Lightening NC	Wilmslow High School	Indoor courts used.

As seen, where known, outdoor courts at Sir William Sanier School, Fallibroome Academy, The King's School, Tytherington High School and Shavington Academy are currently accessed. All remaining clubs either use indoor provision or are not known to train.

Unaffiliated leagues

In addition to the club-based demand identified above, there are also commercial netball leagues operating in Cheshire East, with these catering for teams outside of the normal club environment on more of a casual/recreational basis. The leagues generally run all-year round (a new season begins as soon as the previous one ends) and, in addition to welcoming already established teams, individual players are also encouraged to sign up before being within a team that suits their ability.

Play Netball is seemingly the main provider locally, operating leagues at the following sites:

- ◀ Congleton Leisure Centre
- ◀ Crewe Lifestyle Centre
- ◀ Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre
- ◀ Macclesfield Leisure Centre
- ◀ Middlewich Leisure Centre
- ◀ Poynton High School
- ◀ Sandbach High School & Sixth Form College
- ◀ Wilmslow Leisure Centre

However, this activity takes place in the sports halls at the site rather than via the outdoor courts.

In addition, unofficial leagues are also operating at Fallibroome Academy and The King's School. However, these leagues are predominantly competed in a friendly manner, accommodating a more recreational form of the sport.

Back to Netball

Back to Netball is a scheme put into place by England Netball in 2010, with participation increasing ever since. Sessions are running weekly by qualified coaches across England with the aim of re-introducing female players over the age of 16 to the sport. In Cheshire East, several Back to Netball sessions are running, with the following sites currently accessed:

- ◀ Congleton Leisure Centre
- ◀ Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre
- ◀ Middlewich Leisure Centre
- ◀ Sandbach High School & Sixth Form College
- ◀ Crewe Lifestyle Centre
- ◀ Macclesfield Leisure Centre
- ◀ Poynton High School
- ◀ Wilmslow Leisure Centre

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

The majority of this demand is taking place via indoor provision.

Walking netball

Walking netball is a lower version of the sport, designed so that anyone can play regardless of age or fitness level. It can give those who are isolated an outlet, provide an activity for those who do not deem themselves fit enough and offer a stepping-stone for those looking for a pathway back into traditional netball.

Walking Netball sessions are hosted in Cheshire East at several sites:

- ◀ Congleton Leisure Centre
- ◀ Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre
- ◀ Middlewich Leisure Centre
- ◀ Sandbach High School & Sixth Form College
- ◀ Crewe Lifestyle Centre
- ◀ Macclesfield Leisure Centre
- ◀ Poynton High School
- ◀ Wilmslow Leisure Centre

The majority of this demand is also taking place via indoor provision.

Netball Now

Netball Now is a simple, straight forward way to play netball. It is not a competition led by rules or scores but rather a simple session where players can play a variety of positions and even have a go at umpiring.

Netball Now sessions are in operation in Cheshire East at:

- ◀ Congleton Leisure Centre
- ◀ Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre
- ◀ Middlewich Leisure Centre
- ◀ Sandbach High School & Sixth Form College
- ◀ Crewe Lifestyle Centre
- ◀ Macclesfield Leisure Centre
- ◀ Poynton High School
- ◀ Wilmslow Leisure Centre

Again, this demand is predominately catered for via indoor provision.

Bee Netball

A new initiative by England Netball, Bee Netball is a programme for children all about friendship, inclusion, fair play and teamwork.

In Cheshire East, Bee Netball is in operation at Alsager Leisure Centre via Alsager NC on Friday from 17:00 to 18:00 and at Middlewich Leisure Centre via Cheshire Stars NC on Tuesday from 17:00 to 18:00. This is via the sports halls at the sites.

Exported/imported demand

In addition to playing within Cheshire East-based leagues, many clubs otherwise located within the Borough export some demand to play within other league formats in neighbouring authorities. This includes the Epic Netball League in Cheshire West & Chester and the Warrington & District Netball League in Warrington.

Notwithstanding the above, due to the presence of leagues such as the CJNL and SCPNL, there is considered to be much higher levels of imported demand than there is exported. This is due to the popularity of the formats and the use of central venues within the Borough.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Clubs identified as importing demand into Cheshire East from neighbouring authorities such as Cheshire West & Chester, Hartford, Trafford and Winsford include the following:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| ◀ Barclays NC | ◀ Bentley NC |
| ◀ Cheshire Police | ◀ Didsbury NC |
| ◀ Falcons NC | ◀ Fusion NC |
| ◀ Indigo NC | ◀ Kingsway Power NC |
| ◀ Merge Netball | ◀ Northern Vipers NC |
| ◀ Northwich Sapphires NC | ◀ N20 NC |
| ◀ Panthers NC | ◀ Ringwood NC |
| ◀ Witton Albion NC | ◀ Tigers NC |

Latent/unmet demand

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of the percentage of adults that would like to participate in netball but that 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 1,094 people within Cheshire East, which represents approximately 0.28% of the Borough's population compared to a national average of just over 0.2%. This therefore suggests that unmet demand is marginally higher in Cheshire East than what would otherwise be expected.

Notwithstanding the above, no responding clubs express any form of latent demand. This suggests that other barriers are preventing participation, or that most latent demand is being expressed outside of the club environment (at which point initiatives such as Back to Netball or commercial leagues are pivotal).

Future demand

Three responding clubs report aspirations to grow in the future. Alsager NC forecasts a growth of 20 members, Knutsford NC indicates a growth of five members, and Sandbach NC reports an expected growth of increase of 57 members.

In addition to club-based activity, it is hoped by England Netball that there will be an increase in the number of its initiatives held in Cheshire East and the demand for them. However, this is reliant on volunteers running and organising the sessions.

10.4: Supply and demand analysis

With the presence of the CJNL and SCPNL, as well as several large clubs and the presence of England Netball initiatives and commercial leagues, there is clearly a high level of demand for netball identified across Cheshire East. However, it is also clear that the large majority of activity is taking place via indoor facilities, which in most instances seems to be preferred, although it is also being impacted upon by quality at some sites.

Based on the above, the current supply of outdoor netball courts is likely to be sufficient in quantitative terms due to the large number of courts in place and the preference for indoor provision. However, improvements are needed to better meet what demand does exist and to ensure that the sport can continue to grow.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

10.5: Conclusion

The current stock of netball courts requires investment and need to be better utilised in order to adequately accommodate the demand that exists. This can be achieved via securing tenure at key, well used sites, gaining access to a greater number of sites, especially where multiple courts are provided, improving quality, and through installing sports lighting where such provision would accommodate and attract greater levels of demand.

Netball – supply and demand summary

- There is a high level of demand for netball identified; however, it is also clear that most activity is taking place via indoor facilities, which in most instances seems to be preferred, although it is also being impacted upon by quality at some sites.
- The current supply of outdoor courts is sufficient in quantitative terms, although improvements to tenure, quality and access is needed to better meet what demand exists and to ensure that the sport can continue to grow.

Netball – supply summary

- There are 67 netball courts identified in Cheshire East across 22 sites, with 49 courts at 45 sites available for community use.
- There are also three netball courts that are now considered disused, with these located at Wilmslow High School.
- 55 courts are operated by education providers, with one managed by the Council, nine by a leisure trust and two by a community organisation.
- A total of nine sites are reported as being in use for netball activity across the Borough; however, no long-term security of tenure is provided at any of the venues.
- All but eight of the outdoor netball courts have a macadam surface (two are artificial and six are polymeric).
- Only 32 courts (48%) are serviced by sports lighting, although this represents a higher number than the national rate.
- 62 netball courts are overmarked (e.g., by tennis courts) compared to only five that are dedicated for netball use (standalone).
- Of the courts, six are assessed as good quality, 41 as standard quality and 20 as poor quality, with all the good quality courts available to the community as well as 28 standard quality courts and 15 poor quality courts.

Netball – demand summary

- There are 13 netball clubs based in Cheshire East, with these collectively catering for 1,274 members and mostly competing in the Cheshire Elite, Cheshire Junior and South Cheshire Premier netball leagues.
- The Cheshire Elite League consists of 12 teams and has recently been held via a central venue at Alderley Park.
- The Cheshire Junior Netball League uses five venues within Cheshire East and outside of the Borough, although these are all indoor venues.
- The South Cheshire Premier Netball League operates via a central venue format at Crewe Lifestyle Centre but uses indoor provision.
- Outdoor courts at Fallibroome Academy, The King's School, Tytherington High School, Shavington Academy and Sir William Stanier School are used to host club training activity.
- Play Netball runs unaffiliated leagues in the Borough across eight venues; however, no outdoor provision is currently utilised.
- Back to Netball, Netball Now, Bee Netball and Walking Netball are collectively in operation across eight school and leisure centre sites, predominately via indoor courts.
- Some demand is exported to league formats in neighbouring authorities, such as the Epic Netball League in Cheshire West & Chester and the Warrington & District Netball League in Warrington.
- A high proportion of demand is imported, with this identified from 16 clubs.
- Alsager, Knutsford and Sandbach netball clubs report growth aspirations equating to 20, five and 57 members, respectively.
- No clubs report any unmet or latent demand.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

PART 11: BOWLS

11.1: Introduction

Outdoor bowls in Cheshire East is played on crown greens (as opposed to flat greens), with a typical season running in the Summer from May until October. The British Crown Green Bowling Association (BCGBA) is the NGB with overall responsibility for ensuring effective governance of the sport.

As bowls was not included in the previous study, an exact comparison to previous levels of supply and demand cannot be presented.

Consultation

There are 59 bowls clubs identified as currently using outdoor greens in Cheshire East. Of these, 26 responded to consultation requests, equating to a response rate of 44%. A low response rate can be common when it comes to bowls, with around half responding therefore representing a relatively typical level, especially when accounting for the large number of clubs.

Table 11.1: Summary of consultation

Name of club	Analysis Area	Sub area	Responded?
Alderley Union BC	North	Wilmslow	Yes
Alderley & District Probus BC	North	Wilmslow	Yes
Alsager Institute BC	Central	Alsager	Yes
Audlem BC	South	Nantwich	No
Barony Park BC	South	Nantwich	No
Bollington BC	North	Macclesfield	Yes
Bunbury BC	South	Nantwich	Yes
Chelford BC	North	Knutsford	No
Congleton Coronation BC	Central	Congleton	No
Congleton Park BC	Central	Congleton	Yes
Coppenhall Methodist BC	South	Crewe	No
Cranford BC	North	Knutsford	No
Crewe BC	South	Crewe	No
Cross Town BC	North	Knutsford	No
Dean Row W.I BC	North	Wilmslow	No
Fun to Bowl BC	South	Crewe	No
Good Companions BC	Central	Holmes Chapel	No
Goostrey BC	Central	Holmes Chapel	No
Haslington BC	South	Crewe	No
High Legh BC	North	Knutsford	Yes
Kerridge BC	North	Macclesfield	No
Knutsford BC	North	Knutsford	Yes
Limes BC	Central	Sandbach	Yes
Macclesfield Crown Green BC	North	Macclesfield	No
Marriott House BC	Central	Sandbach	Yes
Mere BC	North	Knutsford	No
Middlewich BC	Central	Middlewich	No
Middlewich RBL	Central	Middlewich	No
Mobberley VH Memorial BC	North	Knutsford	Yes

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Name of club	Analysis Area	Sub area	Responded?
Mottram BC	North	Poynton	Yes
Nantwich Park Road BC	South	Nantwich	Yes
Packhorse BC	North	Macclesfield	Yes
Parkside BC	North	Macclesfield	No
Post Office BC	South	Crewe	Yes
Poynton Sports BC	North	Poynton	No
Poynton WMC BC	North	Poynton	Yes
Prestbury BC	North	Poynton	Yes
Railway BC	Central	Congleton	Yes
Ram's Head BC	North	Poynton	Yes
Rode Heath BC	Central	Alsager	No
Sandbach & District U3A BC	Central	Sandbach	No
Sandbach Methodist Church BC	Central	Sandbach	No
Sandbach Park BC	Central	Sandbach	Yes
Sandbach Park Veterans BC	Central	Sandbach	No
Sandbach Park Probus BC	Central	Sandbach	Yes
Shavington BC	South	Crewe	Yes
South Park Ladies BC	North	Macclesfield	Yes
The Swettenham BC	Central	Holmes Chapel	No
Victoria BC	Central	Holmes Chapel	No
Victoria Park BC	North	Macclesfield	Yes
Waggon & Horses BC	North	Wilmslow	No
West Park U3A BC	North	Macclesfield	No
West Park Veterans BC	North	Macclesfield	No
Willaston BC	South	Crewe	No
Wilmslow BC	North	Wilmslow	Yes
Wilmslow Conservative BC	North	Wilmslow	No
Wilmslow Grove Sports & Social Club	North	Wilmslow	No
Wilmslow U3A BC	North	Wilmslow	Yes
Wistaston MH BC	South	Crewe	No

11.2: Supply

There are currently 63 bowling greens in Cheshire East provided across 60 sites, with all of the greens available for community use. Most are located in the North Analysis Area, which has 32 (51%), whilst the South Analysis Area accommodates 17 (27%) greens. The fewest number of greens are provided in the Central Analysis Area, with 14 (22%).

Table 11.2: Summary of the number of greens by analysis area

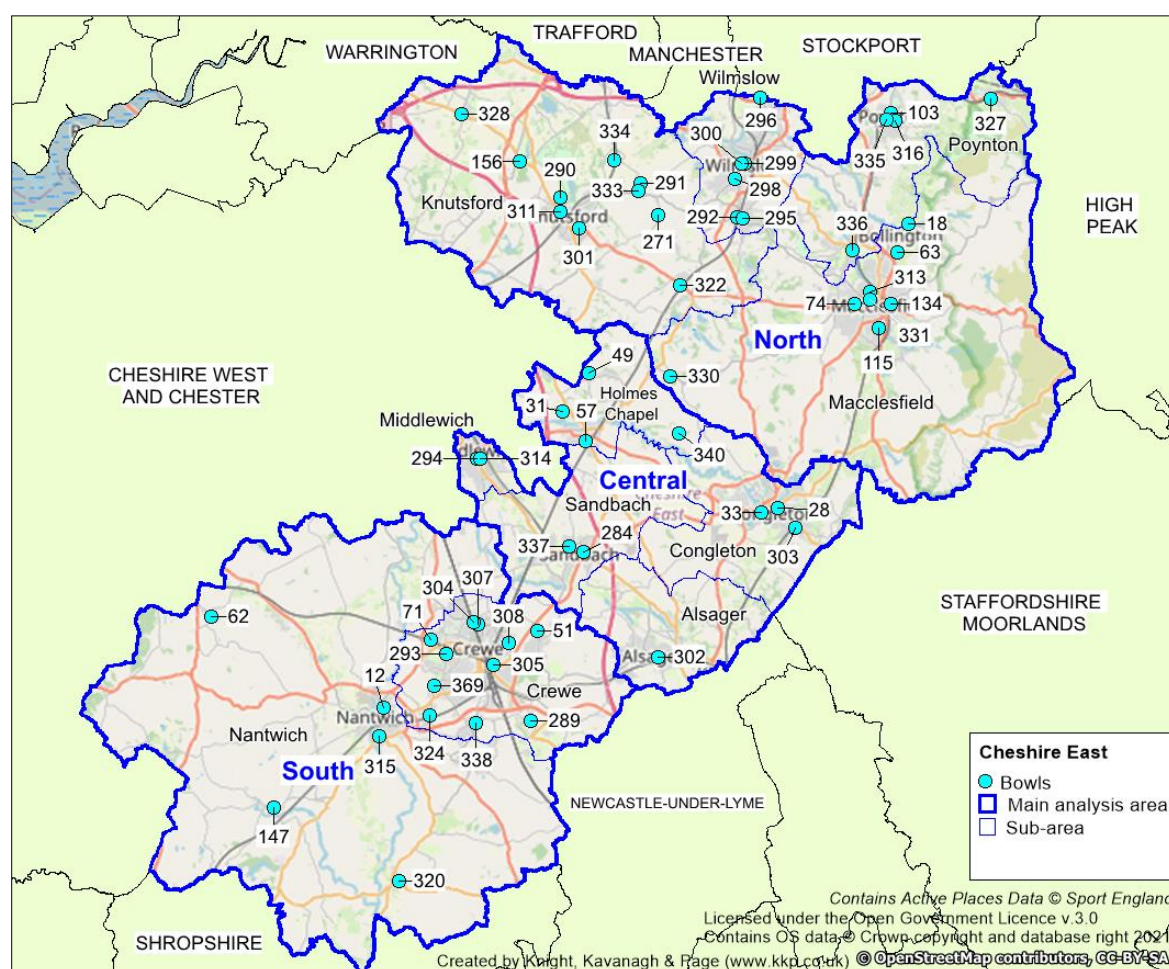
Analysis area	Sub areas	No. of greens
North	Knutsford	10
	Macclesfield	10
	Poynton	6
	Wilmslow	6
Total		32
Central	Alsager	2
	Congleton	3
	Holmes Chapel	4

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Analysis area	Sub areas	No. of greens
	Middlewich	2
	Sandbach	3
Total		14
South	Crewe	12
	Nantwich	5
Total		17
Cheshire East		63

Figure 11.1 below shows the location of all bowling greens currently servicing Cheshire East. For a key to the map, see Table 11.3 overleaf.

Figure 11.1: Location of bowling greens in Cheshire East



CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 11.3: Key to map

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	Sub area	Club user/s	No. of greens
12	Barony Sports Complex	CW5 5QY	South	Nantwich	Barony Park BC	1
18	Bollington Recreation Ground	SK10 5JT	North	Macclesfield	Bollington BC	1
28	Congleton Park	CW12 1JG	Central	Congleton	Congleton Park BC	1
31	Club at Cranage Hall	CW4 8EW	Central	Holmes Chapel	Good Companions BC	1
33	Congleton Sports & Social Club	CW12 4DG	Central	Congleton	Congleton Coronation BC	1
49	Goostrey Playing Fields	CW4 8NB	Central	Holmes Chapel	Goostrey BC	1
51	Haslington Cricket Club	CW1 5SE	South	Crewe	Haslington BC	1
57	Holmes Chapel Cricket Club	CW4 7BE	Central	Holmes Chapel	Victoria BC	1
62	Bunbury Playing Field	CW6 9QP	South	Nantwich	Bunbury BC	1
63	Kerridge Cricket Club	SK10 5AH	North	Macclesfield	Kerridge BC	1
71	Legends Health & Leisure Centre	CW2 8WD	South	Crewe	-	2
74	Macclesfield Cricket Club	SK10 3JE	North	Macclesfield	Macclesfield Crown Green BC	1
103	Poynton Sports Club	SK12 1AG	North	Poynton	Poynton Sports BC	1
115	South Park	SK11 7RG	North	Macclesfield	South Park Ladies BC	2
134	Victoria Park	SK10 1GA	North	Macclesfield	Victoria Park BC	1
147	Wrenbury Recreation Ground	CW5 8EW	South	Nantwich	-	1
156	Mere Cricket Club	WA16 0TD	North	Knutsford	Mere BC	1
271	Clare's Space Boutique Health Club	WA16 7RN	North	Knutsford	-	1
284a	Sandbach Park (top green)	CW11 1FJ	Central	Sandbach	Limes BC; Sandbach & District U3A BC; Sandbach Park BC; Sandbach Park Veterans BC;	2
284b	Sandbach Park (bottom green)	CW11 1FJ	Central	Sandbach	Limes BC; Marriot House Veterans BC; Sandbach & District U3A BC; Sandbach Methodist Church BC Sandbach Probus BC	
289	The White Lion	CW2 5NA	South	Crewe	-	1

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	Sub area	Club user/s	No. of greens
290	Knutsford Bowling Club	WA16 6SL	North	Knutsford	Knutsford BC	1
291	The Church Inn	WA16 7RD	North	Knutsford	-	1
292	Alderley Edge Park	SK9 7UY	North	Wilmslow	Alderley & District Probus BC; Dean Row W.I BC; Wilmslow U3A BC	1
293	Queen's Park	CW2 7SE	South	Crewe	Fun to Bowl BC	1
294	The Royal British Legion Bowling Green	CW10 9AS	Central	Middlewich	Middlewich RBL	1
295	Alderley Edge Union Club	SK9 7NL	North	Wilmslow	Alderley Union BC	1
296	Waggon & Horses Bowling Green	SK9 3JZ	North	Wilmslow	Waggon & Horses BC	1
298	Wilmslow Bowling Club	SK9 6JA	North	Wilmslow	Wilmslow BC	1
299	Wilmslow Royal British Legion Club	SK9 5EG	North	Wilmslow	Wilmslow Grove Sports & Social Club	1
300	Wilmslow Conservative Club	SK9 5EG	North	Wilmslow	Wilmslow Conservative BC	1
301	Cross Town Bowling & Social Club	WA16 8LY	North	Knutsford	Cross Town BC	1
302	Alsager Bowling & Recreation Club	ST7 2NA	Central	Alsager	Alsager Institute BC	1
303	The Railway Bowling Club	CW12 3JS	Central	Congleton	Railway BC	1
304	Coppenhall Working Men's Club	CW1 4NJ	South	Crewe	Coppenhall Methodist BC	1
305	Crewe Bowling Club	CW1 6ED	South	Crewe	Crewe BC	1
307	North Street Methodist Bowling Club	CW1 4JJ	South	Crewe	-	1
308	Sydney Post Office Club	CW1 5LU	South	Crewe	Post Office BC	1
311	Manchester Road Bowling Green	WA16 0GJ	North	Knutsford	Cranford BC	1
313	Packhorse Bowling & Social Club	SK10 3AT	North	Macclesfield	Packhorse BC	1
314	Brooks Lane Bowling Green	CW10 0JG	Central	Middlewich	Middlewich BC	1
315	Park Road Bowling Club	CW5 7AH	South	Nantwich	Nantwich Park Road BC	1
316	Poynton Workmen's Club	SK12 1RG	North	Poynton	Poynton WMC BC	1
320	Audlem & District Bowls Club	CW3 0HH	South	Nantwich	Audlem BC	1
322	Dixon Court	SK11 9AX	North	Knutsford	Chelford BC	1
324	Willaston Social Club	CW5 6RQ	South	Crewe	Willaston BC	1

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	Sub area	Club user/s	No. of greens
327	Rams Head Bowling Green	SK12 2AE	North	Poynton	Ram's Head BC	1
328	High Legh Bowls Club	WA16 6LR	North	Knutsford	High Legh BC	1
330	Lower Withington Village Hall	SK11 9DX	North	Macclesfield	-	1
331	West Park	SK10 3BJ	North	Macclesfield	West Park U3A BC; West Park Veterans BC	1
333	Mobberley Victory Hall	WA16 7JD	North	Knutsford	Mobberley Victory Hall BC	1
334	Railway Inn	WA16 6LA	North	Knutsford	-	1
335	Poynton Legion Club	SK12 1JY	North	Poynton	-	1
336	Prestbury Bowls Club	SK10 4XP	North	Poynton	Prestbury BC	1
337	Limes Bowling Green	CW11 1DA	Central	Sandbach	-	1
338	Shavington Social Club	CW2 5DL	South	Crewe	Shavington BC	1
340	Swettenham Club	CW12 2LA	Central	Holmes Chapel	The Swettenham BC	1
369	Wistaston Jubilee Tennis Club	CW2 8EZ	South	Crewe	Wistaston MH BC	1
371	Mottram Village Hall	SK10 4QP	North	Poynton	Mottram BC	1
373	Rode Heath Bowling Club	ST7 3SB	Central	Alsager	Rode Heath BC	1
375	Parkside Bowls Club	SK10 3JE	North	Macclesfield	Parkside BC	1

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Disused provision

In addition to the greens above, there are also seven disused greens that are provided across the same number of sites. These are summarised in the following table. In most cases, the bowling greens mentioned have stopped formally being maintained for bowls and are now receiving basic levels of maintenance as open green spaces.

Table 11.4: Disused bowling greens sites within Cheshire East

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	Sub area	No. of disused greens	Comments
309	The Hop Pole	CW2 7RQ	South	Crewe	1	Area where green used to be is now a seating area.
310	Brook Street Bowling Green	WA16 8EB	North	Knutsford	1	Area where green used to be is now a seating area.
319	Traveller's Rest	CW6 9JA	South	Nantwich	1	No longer formally maintained.
325	Bombardier Bowling Club	CW1 2RP	South	Crewe	1	No longer formally maintained, out of use since 2007.
327	Rams Head	SK12 2AE	North	Poynton	1	One green no longer maintained. Site still offers one green.
329	Knutsford Masonic Hall	WA16 9BQ	North	Knutsford	1	No longer formally maintained, out of use since 2005.
341	Cotton Arms	CW5 8HG	South	Nantwich	1	No longer formally maintained, overgrown.

In addition, there are two sites (Coated Papers Bowling Green and North Ward Club) which previously contained one bowling green each that have now been built on.

Ownership/management

Details around the ownership and management arrangements for clubs which responded to consultation requests are provided in the table below. As seen, where such arrangements are known, eight clubs own their green, four have some form of lease arrangement in place and the remaining 21 rent their greens.

Table 11.5: Ownership/management arrangements for bowling clubs in Cheshire East

Site ID	Site name	Name of club	Ownership/management details	Security of tenure?
12	Barony Sports Complex	Barony Park BC	Rent from Everybody Leisure	Secure
18	Bollington Recreation Ground	Bollington BC	Rent From ANSA (owned by Cheshire East Council)	Secure
28	Congleton Park	Congleton Park BC	Rent from Cheshire East Council	Secure
31	Club at Cranage Hall	Good Companions BC	Unknown	-

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Name of club	Ownership/ management details	Security of tenure?
33	Congleton Sports & Social Club	Congleton Coronation BC	<i>Unknown</i>	-
49	Goostrey Playing Fields	Goostrey BC	Rent From Cheshire East Council	Secure
51	Haslington Cricket Club	Haslington BC	<i>Unknown</i>	-
57	Holmes Chapel Cricket Club	Victoria BC	<i>Unknown</i>	-
62	Bunbury Playing Fields	Bunbury BC	Rent from Bunbury Parish Council	Secure
63	Kerridge Cricket Club	Kerridge BC	<i>Unknown</i>	-
74	Macclesfield Cricket Club	Macclesfield Crown Green BC	<i>Unknown</i>	-
103	Poynton Sports Club	Poynton Sports BC	<i>Unknown</i>	-
115	South Park	South Park Ladies BC	Rent from Cheshire East Council	Secure
134	Victoria Park	Victoria Park BC	Rent From ANSA (owned by Cheshire East Council)	Secure
156	Mere Cricket Club	Mere BC	<i>Unknown</i>	-
284a	Sandbach Park (top green)	Limes BC; Sandbach & District U3A BC; Sandbach Park BC; Sandbach Park Veterans BC;	Rent From ANSA (owned by Cheshire East Council)	Secure
284b	Sandbach Park (bottom green)	Limes BC; Marriot House Veterans BC; Sandbach & District U3A BC; Sandbach Methodist Church BC; Sandbach Probus BC	Rent From ANSA (owned by Cheshire East Council)	Secure
290	Knutsford Bowling Club	Knutsford BC	Lease from Monkton Properties (expires 2073)	Secure
292	Alderley Edge Park	Alderley & District Probus BC; Dean Row W.I BC; Wilmslow U3A BC	Rent from Cheshire East Council	Secure
293	Queen's Park	Fun to Bowl BC	Rent from Cheshire East Council	Secure
294	The Royal British Legion Bowling Green	Middlewich RBL	<i>Unknown</i>	-
295	Alderley Edge Union Park	Alderley Union BC	Freehold	Secure
296	Waggon & Horses Bowling Green	Waggon & Horses BC	Lease from Greene King (expires in 2028)	Unsecure
298	Wilmslow Bowling Club	Wilmslow BC	Freehold	Secure

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Name of club	Ownership/ management details	Security of tenure?
299	Wilmslow Royal British Legion Club Ltd	Wilmslow Grove Sports & Social Club	<i>Unknown</i>	-
300	Wilmslow Conservative Club	Wilmslow Conservative BC	<i>Unknown</i>	-
301	Cross Town Bowling & Social Club	Cross Town BC	<i>Unknown</i>	-
302	Alsager Bowling & Recreation Club	Alsager Institute BC	Rent from Cheshire East Council	Secure
303	The Railway Bowling Club	Railway BC	Freehold	Secure
304	Coppenhall Working Men's Club	Coppenhall Methodist BC	<i>Unknown</i>	-
305	Crewe Bowling Club	Crewe BC	<i>Unknown</i>	-
308	Sydney Post Office Club	Post Office BC	Freehold	Secure
311	Manchester Road Bowling Green	Cranford BC	<i>Unknown</i>	-
313	Packhorse Bowling & Social Club	Packhorse BC	Freehold	Secure
314	Brooks Lane Bowling Green	Middlewich BC	<i>Unknown</i>	-
315	Park Road Bowling Club	Nantwich Park Road BC	Freehold	Secure
316	Poynton Workmen's Club	Poynton WMC BC	Freehold	Secure
320	Audlem & District Bowls Club	Audlem BC	<i>Unknown</i>	-
322	Dixon Court	Chelford BC	<i>Unknown</i>	-
324	Willaston Social Club	Willaston BC	<i>Unknown</i>	-
327	Rams Head Bowling Green	Rams Head BC	<i>Unknown</i> ³⁹	-
328	High Legh Bowls Club	High Legh BC	Lease from High Legh Parish Council (expires 2039)	Unsecure
331	West Park BC	West Park U3A BC; West Park Veterans BC	Rent from Cheshire East Council	Secure
333	Mobberley Victory Hall	Mobberley Victory Hall Memorial BC	Rent from Mobberley Parish Council	Secure
336	Prestbury Bowls Club	Prestbury BC	Lease from Prestbury Parish Council (expires 2058)	Secure
338	Shavington Social Club	Shavington BC	Freehold	Secure
340	Swettenham Club	The Swettenham BC	<i>Unknown</i>	-
369	Wistaston Jubilee Tennis Club	Wistaston MH BC	<i>Unknown</i>	-
371	Mottram Village Hall	Mottram BC	Rent from Trust	Unsecure
373	Rode Heath Bowling Club	Rode Heath BC	<i>Unknown</i>	-

³⁹ The Club are currently in negotiations for a lease agreement with Mitchell & Butler (owners of The Rams Head).

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Name of club	Ownership/ management details	Security of tenure?
375	Parkside Bowls Club	Parkside BC	Rent from Cheshire East Council	Secure

Limes BC, normally situated at Limes Bowling Green, is temporarily operating across both greens at Sandbach Park due to a recent fire at the site of its usual home green (Limes Bowling Green).

Where rental agreements are in place, no security of tenure is provided, unless the site is operated by the Council (or Everybody Leisure or ANSA), in which case long-term access is considered guaranteed as part of its commitment to provide a leisure offering. A lack of security of tenure is especially the case at private sites such as public houses which can easily prevent future access beyond current arrangements.

Clubs with lease agreements are considered to have greater security of tenure. Generally, clubs require at least 25 years on lease arrangements in order to secure funding for site improvements; such lease agreements are in place at Knutsford Bowling Club and Prestbury Bowling Club.

Sports lighting

Bowling greens that are serviced by sports lighting can enable increased usage, especially during evenings outside of summer months. In Cheshire East, 35 greens are serviced by sports lighting at the following sites:

- ◀ Alderley Edge Union Club
- ◀ Barony Sports Complex
- ◀ Clare's Space Boutique Health Club
- ◀ Congleton Sports & Social Club
- ◀ Cross Town Bowling & Social Club
- ◀ Goostrey Playing Fields
- ◀ High Legh Bowls Club
- ◀ Kerridge Cricket Club
- ◀ Lime Bowling Green
- ◀ Mere Cricket Club
- ◀ North Street Methodist Bowling Club
- ◀ Park Road Bowling Club
- ◀ Poynton Sports Club
- ◀ Rams Head Bowling Green
- ◀ Swettenham Club
- ◀ The White Lion
- ◀ Wilmslow Conservative Club
- ◀ Audlem & District Bowls Club
- ◀ Bunbury Playing Field
- ◀ Club at Cranage Hall
- ◀ Crewe Bowling Club
- ◀ Dixon Court
- ◀ Haslington Cricket Club Ltd
- ◀ Holmes Chapel Cricket Club
- ◀ Legends Health & Leisure Centre (x2)
- ◀ Mobberley Victory Hall
- ◀ Packhorse Bowling & Social Club
- ◀ Poynton Legion Club
- ◀ Poynton Workmen's Club
- ◀ Sandbach Park (x2)
- ◀ The Railway Bowling Club
- ◀ Waggon & Horses Bowling Green
- ◀ Wrenbury Recreation Ground

Greens with sports lighting are relatively rare across the Country. As such, the level of supply in Cheshire East is comparatively very high, with 56% of the provision accompanied by lighting.

From consultation, no additional clubs report aspirations to construct sports lighting at their home ground.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Quality

The quality of bowling greens across Cheshire East has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

For bowling greens, the non-technical assessment considers several attributes of the site including the surrounding hard surfaces to the green, disability access, evenness, grass coverage and signs off unofficial use. For further detail regarding the criteria, please see Appendix 2.

Across Cheshire East, 51 greens are assessed as good quality (81%), 12 as standard quality (19%) and none assessed as poor quality.

Table 11.6: Summary of bowling green quality

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Sub area	No. of greens	Quality
12	Barony Sports Complex	South	Nantwich	1	Good
18	Bollington Recreation Ground	North	Macclesfield	1	Good
28	Congleton Park	Central	Congleton	1	Standard
31	Club at Cranage Hall	Central	Holmes Chapel	1	Good
33	Congleton Sports & Social Club	Central	Congleton	1	Good
49	Goostrey Playing Fields	Central	Holmes Chapel	1	Good
51	Haslington Cricket Club Ltd	South	Crewe	1	Good
57	Holmes Chapel Cricket Club	Central	Holmes Chapel	1	Good
62	Bunbury Playing Field	South	Nantwich	1	Good
63	Kerridge Cricket Club	North	Macclesfield	1	Good
71	Legends Health & Leisure Centre	South	Crewe	2	Standard
74	Macclesfield Cricket Club	North	Macclesfield	1	Good
103	Poynton Sports Club	North	Poynton	1	Good
115	South Park	North	Macclesfield	2	Good
134	Victoria Park	North	Macclesfield	1	Good
147	Wrenbury Recreation Ground	South	Nantwich	1	Good
156	Mere Cricket Club	North	Knutsford	1	Good
271	Clare's Space Boutique Health Club	North	Knutsford	1	Good
284a	Sandbach Park (top green)	Central	Sandbach	1	Good
284b	Sandbach Park (bottom green)	Central	Sandbach	1	Good
289	The White Lion	South	Crewe	1	Good
290	Knutsford Bowling Club	North	Knutsford	1	Standard
291	The Church Inn	North	Knutsford	1	Standard
292	Alderley Edge Park	North	Wilmslow	1	Standard
293	Queen's Park	South	Crewe	1	Good
294	The Royal British Legion Bowling Green	Central	Middlewich	1	Standard
295	Alderley Edge Union Park	North	Wilmslow	1	Good
296	Waggon & Horses Bowling Green	North	Wilmslow	1	Good
298	Wilmslow Bowling Club	North	Wilmslow	1	Good

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Sub area	No. of greens	Quality
299	Wilmslow Royal British Legion Club Ltd	North	Wilmslow	1	Good
300	Wilmslow Conservative Club	North	Wilmslow	1	Good
301	Cross Town Bowling & Social Club	North	Knutsford	1	Good
302	Alsager Bowling & Recreation Club	Central	Alsager	1	Good
303	The Railway Bowling Club	Central	Congleton	1	Good
304	Coppenhall Working Men's Club	South	Crewe	1	Standard
305	Crewe Bowling Club	South	Crewe	1	Good
307	North Street Methodist Bowling Club	South	Crewe	1	Good
308	Sydney Post Office Club	South	Crewe	1	Standard
311	Manchester Road Bowling Green	North	Knutsford	1	Good
313	Packhorse Bowling & Social Club	North	Macclesfield	1	Good
314	Brooks Lane Bowling Green	Central	Middlewich	1	Good
315	Park Road Bowling Club	South	Nantwich	1	Good
316	Poynton Workmen's Club	North	Poynton	1	Good
320	Audlem & District Bowls Club	South	Nantwich	1	Good
322	Dixon Court	North	Knutsford	1	Good
324	Willaston Social Club	South	Crewe	1	Standard
327	Rams Head Bowling Green	North	Poynton	1	Good
328	High Legh Bowls Club	North	Knutsford	1	Good
330	Lower Withington Village Hall	North	Macclesfield	1	Good
331	West Park	North	Macclesfield	1	Good
333	Mobberley Victory Hall	North	Knutsford	1	Good
334	Railway Inn	North	Knutsford	1	Good
335	Poynton Legion Club	North	Poynton	1	Good
336	Prestbury Bowls Club	North	Poynton	1	Good
337	Limes Bowling Green	Central	Sandbach	1	Good
338	Shavington Social Club	South	Crewe	1	Standard
340	Swettenham Club	Central	Holmes Chapel	1	Standard
369	Wistaston Jubilee Tennis Club	South	Crewe	1	Good
371	Mottram Village Hall	North	Poynton	1	Good
373	Rode Heath Bowling Club	Central	Alsager	1	Good
375	Parkside Bowls Club	North	Macclesfield	1	Good

As seen in the table above, the standard quality greens are found at:

- ◀ Alderley Edge Park
- ◀ Knutsford Bowling Club
- ◀ Mottram Village Hall
- ◀ Swettenham Club
- ◀ The Church Inn
- ◀ Willaston Social Club
- ◀ Coppenhall Working Men's Club
- ◀ Legends Health & Leisure Centre
- ◀ Shavington Social Club
- ◀ Sydney Post Office Club
- ◀ The Royal British Legion Bowling Green

The greens above display some signs of wear and tear, as well as areas of poor grass coverage, although no significant issues are identified.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Of responding clubs, ten report that quality has improved over the last 12 months, with most of these stating that this is due to improved and/or increased maintenance. This relates to the following clubs:

- ◀ Bollington BC
- ◀ Poynton WMC BC
- ◀ Railway BC
- ◀ South Park Ladies BC
- ◀ Wilmslow BC
- ◀ Knutsford BC
- ◀ Prestbury BC
- ◀ Rams Head BC
- ◀ Waggon & Horses BC
- ◀ Wilmslow U3A BC

Of the greens used by these clubs, eight are assessed as good quality, with the remaining two (servicing Knutsford BC and Wilmslow U3A BC) assessed as standard. This therefore correlates with the improvements, with none being assessed as poor.

Contrastingly, three clubs report that quality has worsened recently, with these being High Legh BC, Limes BC and Sandbach Park BC. High Legh BC describes reduced grass coverage, whilst Limes and Sandbach Park bowling clubs both report excessive grass length at Sandbach Park.

Ancillary provision

Most clubs have access to some form of clubhouse/pavilion on site or through an adjoining public house, although the quality of these ranges from purpose-built, good quality brick pavilions to basic wooden huts and shelters. It is therefore important to recognise the importance of ancillary provision to bowling clubs as, if the facilities onsite are of suitable quantity/quality and meet players' needs, this can help sustain and grow membership levels. This is also acknowledged by the BCGBA as it offers potential grants for clubs looking to make ancillary facility improvements.

The table below identifies the quality of ancillary provision at community available bowling greens within Cheshire East. Overall, 21 sites are accompanied by good quality facilities, 27 have standard quality provision and seven sites are categorised as having poor quality provision.

An additional four sites do not provide any ancillary provision. These are Alderley Edge Park, Congleton Park, Limes Bowling Green and Victoria Park.

Table 11.7: Summary of ancillary quality

Site ID	Site name	Club	Quality of ancillary provision
12	Barony Sports Complex	Barony Park BC	Standard
18	Bollington Recreation Ground	Bollington BC	Standard
28	Congleton Park	Congleton Park BC	N/A
31	Club at Cranage Hall	Good Companions BC	Good
33	Congleton Sports & Social Club	Congleton Coronation BC	Standard
49	Goostrey Playing Fields	Goostrey BC	Good
51	Haslington Cricket Club Ltd	Haslington BC	Standard
57	Holmes Chapel Cricket Club	Victoria BC	Standard
62	Bunbury Playing Field	Bunbury BC	Standard
63	Kerridge Cricket Club	Kerridge BC	Standard
71	Legends Health & Leisure Centre	-	Good

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Club	Quality of ancillary provision
74	Macclesfield Cricket Club	Macclesfield Crown Green BC	Poor
103	Poynton Sports Club	Poynton Sports BC	Poor
115	South Park	South Park Ladies BC	Standard
134	Victoria Park	Victoria Park BC	N/A
147	Wrenbury Recreation Ground	-	Poor
156	Mere Cricket Club	Mere BC	Poor
271	Clare's Space Boutique Health Club	-	Good
284a	Sandbach Park (top green)	Limes BC; Sandbach & District U3A BC; Sandbach Park BC; Sandbach Park Veterans BC;	Standard
284b	Sandbach Park (bottom green)	Limes BC; Marriot House Veterans BC; Sandbach & District U3A BC; Sandbach Methodist Church BC; Sandbach Probus BC	Standard
289	The White Lion	-	Good
290	Knutsford Bowling Club	Knutsford BC	Standard
291	The Church Inn	-	Good
292	Alderley Edge Park	Alderley & District Probus BC; Dean Row W.I BC; Wilmslow U3A BC	N/A
293	Queen's Park	Fun to Bowl BC	Good
294	The Royal British Legion Bowling Green	Middlewich RBL	Good
295	Alderley Edge Union Club	Alderley Union BC	Standard
296	Waggon & Horses Bowling Green	Waggon & Horses BC	Good
298	Wilmslow Bowling Club	Wilmslow BC	Good
299	Wilmslow Royal British Legion Club Ltd	Wilmslow Grove Sports & Social Club	Standard
300	Wilmslow Conservative Club	Wilmslow Conservative BC	Standard
301	Cross Town Bowling & Social Club	Cross Town BC	Good
302	Alsager Bowling & Recreation Club	Alsager Institute BC	Good
303	The Railway Bowling Club	Railway BC	Standard
304	Coppenhall Working Men's Club	Coppenhall Methodist BC	Standard
305	Crewe Bowling Club	Crewe BC	Good
307	North Street Methodist Bowling Club	-	Standard
308	Sydney Post Office Club	Post Office BC	Standard
311	Manchester Road Bowling Green	Cranford BC	Good
313	Packhorse Bowling & Social Club	Packhorse BC	Good
314	Brooks Lane Bowling Green	Middlewich BC	Poor
315	Park Road Bowling Club	Nantwich Park Road BC	Good
316	Poynton Workmen's Club	Poynton WMC BC	Standard
320	Audlem & District Bowls Club	Audlem BC	Good
322	Dixon Court	Chelford BC	Poor
324	Willaston Social Club	Willaston BC	Standard
327	Rams Head Bowling Green	Rams Head BC	Good

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Club	Quality of ancillary provision
328	High Legh Bowls Club	High Legh BC	Good
330	Lower Withington Village Hall	-	Standard
331	West Park	West Park U3A BC; West Park Veterans BC	Good
333	Mobberley Victory Hall	Mobberley Victory Hall Memorial BC	Standard
334	Railway Inn	-	Standard
335	Poynton Legion Club	-	Standard
336	Prestbury Bowls Club	Prestbury BC	Poor
337	Limes Bowling Green	-	N/A ⁴⁰
338	Shavington Social Club	Shavington BC	Standard
340	Swettenham Club	The Swettenham BC	Good
369	Wistaston Jubilee Tennis Club	Wistaston MH BC	Standard
371	Mottram Village Hall	Mottram BC	Standard
373	Rode Heath Bowling Club	Rode Heath BC	Standard
375	Parkside Bowls Club	Parkside BC	Poor

In terms of consultation, just Prestbury BC states that it is serviced with poor quality ancillary facilities, whilst all remaining clubs report that they have good or standard quality provision. In addition, across Cheshire East, several clubs have plans/aspirations to improve their provision. This includes the following nine clubs:

- ◀ Knutsford BC
- ◀ Mobberley Victory Hall Memorial BC
- ◀ Poynton WMC
- ◀ Ram's Head BC
- ◀ Wilmslow BC
- ◀ Marriot House Veterans BC
- ◀ Packhorse BC
- ◀ Railway BC
- ◀ Shavington BC

Of these, Knutsford BC reports that it has secured funding to refurbish the pavilion at Knutsford Bowling Club, whereas the remaining clubs listed state that they are yet to secure funding for their respective development aspirations. The table below summarises bowling clubs' aspirational development plans.

Table 11.8: Summary of clubs' ancillary development plans

Club	Comments
Knutsford BC	Pavilion refurbishment
Marriot House Veterans BC	Provide disabled toilet provision
Mobberley Victory Hall Memorial BC	Improve the green and surrounding area
Packhorse BC	New pavilion and improve the green's surrounding area
Poynton WMC BC	New shelter for spectators
Railway BC	Car park refurbishment and extension
Rams Head BC	Toilet provision refurbishment
Shavington BC	Improve the green's surrounding area and purchase additional equipment for new members
Wilmslow BC	Kitchen and toilet provision refurbishment

⁴⁰ Recent fire at the site; Limes BC have temporarily moved to Sandbach Park.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

11.3: Demand

There are currently ten leagues known to be running within Cheshire East. These are the following:

- ◀ Alderley Edge & District Bowling League
- ◀ Crewe & Nantwich Bowling League
- ◀ Knutsford Bowling League
- ◀ Macclesfield Bowling League
- ◀ Mid Cheshire Bowling League
- ◀ Congleton & District Bowling League
- ◀ Holmes Chapel Bowling League
- ◀ Knutsford Friday Bowling League
- ◀ Macclesfield Veterans Bowling League
- ◀ Sandbach & District Bowling League

Each league operates with numerous divisions, with most matches tending to take place on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

There are 59 clubs using bowling greens in Cheshire East. Membership, where known (26 clubs), equates to 1,928 members, made up of 1,189 senior men, 722 senior women and 17 juniors. The average club membership is 74.

Membership numbers are summarised in the table below, by club.

Table 11.9: Summary of club membership

Club name	Analysis area	Sub area	Members			Total
			Men	Women	Juniors	
Alderley Union BC	North	Wilmslow	41	17	-	58
Alderley & District Probus BC	North	Wilmslow	12	-	-	12
Alsager Institute BC	Central	Alsager	94	72	1	167
Audlem BC	South	Nantwich	Unknown			
Barony Park BC	South	Nantwich	Unknown			
Bollington BC	North	Macclesfield	25	3	-	28
Bunbury BC	South	Nantwich	30	15	-	45
Chelford BC	North	Knutsford	Unknown			
Congleton Coronation BC	Central	Congleton	Unknown			
Congleton Park BC	Central	Congleton	45	7	-	52
Coppenhall Methodist BC	South	Crewe	Unknown			
Cranford BC	North	Knutsford	Unknown			
Crewe BC	South	Crewe	Unknown			
Cross Town BC	North	Knutsford	Unknown			
Dean Row W.I BC	North	Wilmslow	Unknown			
Fun to Bowl BC	South	Crewe	Unknown			
Good Companions BC	Central	Holmes Chapel	Unknown			
Goostrey BC	Central	Holmes Chapel	Unknown			
Haslington BC	South	Crewe	Unknown			
High Legh BC	North	Knutsford	94	61	-	155
Kerridge BC	North	Macclesfield	Unknown			
Knutsford BC	North	Knutsford	51	46	-	97
Limes BC	Central	Sandbach	33	9	-	42

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Club name	Analysis area	Sub area	Members			Total
			Men	Women	Juniors	
Macclesfield Crown Green BC	North	Macclesfield	Unknown			
Marriot House Veterans BC	Central	Sandbach	33	20	-	53
Mere BC	North	Knutsford	Unknown			
Middlewich BC	Central	Middlewich	Unknown			
Middlewich RBL	Central	Middlewich	Unknown			
Mobberley Victory Hall Memorial BC	North	Knutsford	40	20	-	60
Mottram BC	North	Poynton	34	34	-	68
Nantwich Park Road BC	South	Nantwich	68	37	1	106
Packhorse BC	North	Macclesfield	75	23	-	98
Parkside BC	North	Macclesfield	Unknown			
Post Office BC	South	Crewe	100	100	-	200
Poynton Sports BC	North	Poynton	Unknown			
Poynton WMC BC	North	Poynton	65	56	-	121
Prestbury BC	North	Poynton	44	44	-	88
Railway BC	Central	Congleton	53	9	1	63
Rams Head BC	North	Poynton	70	31	-	101
Rode Heath BC	Central	Alsager	Unknown			
Sandbach & District U3A BC	Central	Sandbach	Unknown			
Sandbach Methodist Church BC	Central	Sandbach	Unknown			
Sandbach Park BC	Central	Sandbach	48	7	12	67
Sandbach Park Veterans BC	Central	Sandbach	Unknown			
Sandbach Probus BC	Central	Sandbach	16	2	-	18
Shavington BC	South	Crewe	Not declared			
South Park Ladies BC	North	Macclesfield	-	21	-	21
The Swettenham BC	Central	Holmes Chapel	Unknown			
Victoria BC	Central	Holmes Chapel	Unknown			
Victoria Park BC	North	Macclesfield	Unknown			
Waggon & Horses BC	North	Wilmslow	40	25	-	65
West Park U3A BC	North	Macclesfield	Unknown			
West Park Veterans BC	North	Macclesfield	Unknown			
Willaston BC	South	Crewe	Unknown			
Wilmslow BC	North	Wilmslow	74	45	2	121
Wilmslow Conservative BC	North	Wilmslow	Unknown			
Wilmslow Grove Sports & Social Club	North	Wilmslow	Unknown			

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Club name	Analysis area	Sub area	Members			Total
			Men	Women	Juniors	
Wilmslow U3A BC	North	Wilmslow	7	18	-	25
Wistaston MH BC	South	Crewe	Unknown			
Total (where known)			1,189	722	17	1,928

The largest clubs with known membership levels are Alsager Institute BC (167 members), High Legh BC (155 members), Poynton WMC (121 members), Wilmslow BC (121 members) and Rams Head BC (101 members). In comparison, the smallest clubs are Alderley & District Probus Club (12 members), Sandbach Probus Club (18 members), South Park Ladies BC (21 members) and Wilmslow U3A (25 members).

Participation trends

Nine clubs report that senior demand has increased over the previous three years, whilst five clubs report a decrease in senior demand (the remaining clubs indicate no change). In addition, Knutsford BC and Railway BC both report a decrease in junior demand, whereas the remaining responding clubs report no change (meaning no clubs report an increase).

Table 11.10: Summary of club participation trends

Senior membership over the past five years		
Increased	Decreased	Stayed the same
Alderley Union BC Alsager Institute BC High Legh BC Poynton WMC Sandbach Park BC Shavington Club South Park Ladies BC Wilmslow BC Wilmslow U3A	Bunbury BC Knutsford BC Limes BC Prestbury BC Waggon & Horses BC	Bollington BC Congleton Park BC Mobberley VH Memorial BC Mottram BC Nantwich Park Road BC Packhorse BC Post Office BC Ram's Head BC Sandbach Park Probus Club Sandbach U3A (Marriott House BC)

Due to the nature of the bowls as a sport, it is important that clubs with static membership continuously attract new members to replace existing users.

Additional demand

Four clubs report that their greens are available for pay and play, in addition for use by members. These clubs are:

- ◆ Knutsford BC (Knutsford Bowling Club)
- ◆ Packhorse BC (Packhorse Bowling & Social Club)
- ◆ Railway BC (The Railway Bowling Club)
- ◆ Shavington BC (Shavington Social Club)

Notwithstanding the above, none of the clubs report significant uptake and all state that most pay and play users tend to be accompanied by members.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

For the remaining clubs, the most prominent reason for pay and play not being offered is that there is no one on site at required times to manage the process. There is also a perceived lack of demand to make it financially viable.

Play Bowls

Play Bowls is a new product designed to assist clubs in attracting more casual, pay and play users. Clubs are able to sign up to the scheme, with booking slots for access then secured and paid for via the Play Bowls website. The aim is for this to help greens become more accessible whilst making it easy for clubs to evolve and manage the demand from the casual audience.

Latent/unmet demand

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in bowls but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand amounting to 644 people in Cheshire East, which equates to just over 0.02% of the population. This is slightly higher than the national average (just over 0.01%).

In addition to the above, both Marriot House Veterans BC (Central Analysis Area) and Wilmslow U3A BC (North Analysis Area) report that their existing membership levels cannot be accommodated on the current level of provision available to them. Both report having a waiting list to join, which therefore represents unmet demand. Furthermore, both clubs share their respective greens with more than one additional club, highlighting capacity struggles.

All remaining clubs report no capacity issues.

Future demand

Using ONS projections, the number of persons aged 65 and over is likely to significantly increase for the period up to 2030. Due to this age band being the most likely to play bowls, demand for greens could increase, although exactly to what extent is unclear.

In addition, the BCGBA is actively working to negate the stereotype that bowls is a sport for the older generation. As such, it is taking active steps at both county and national level to encourage younger players to participate.

Of responding clubs in Cheshire East, 11 quantify future demand aspirations, with this equating to an overall potential growth of 162 members (140 senior and 22 junior). This is summarised in the following table.

Table 11.11: Summary of future demand

Club name	Future demand (members)		Total
	Senior	Junior	
Alsager Institute BC	5	-	5
High Legh BC	30	10	40
Knutsford BC	10	-	10
Mobberley Victory Hall Memorial BC	16	5	21
Packhorse BC	10	5	15
Prestbury BC	10	-	10
Railway BC	12	-	12
Rams Head BC	20	-	20
Sandbach Park BC	2	2	4

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Club name	Future demand (members)		Total
	Senior	Junior	
South Park Ladies BC	10	-	10
Wilmslow U3A	15	-	15
Total	140	22	162

Furthermore, Alderley Union BC, Bollington BC, Bunbury BC, Nantwich Park Road BC, Mottram BC and Shavington BC also indicate growth aspirations but do not quantify such future demand.

11.4: Capacity analysis

The capacity of a bowling green is very much dependent on the leagues and the day that they operate (most matches tend to take place on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evening). A green may have no spare capacity on an afternoon or evening when a popular league operates but may be unused for the rest of the week. However, in many cases, greens are used during morning and afternoons by club members who bowl socially, with access a potential issue during peak times if membership is particularly high.

The BCGBA does not have any specific guidance on bowling green capacity, stating that it can vary from site-to-site and from club-to-club. However, it states that any green used by at least 20 members is generally considered to be sustainable, whilst any green operating with a membership of over 80 may need additional resource to ensure that it is meeting the required level of demand. It is also agreed that capacity should be assessed on a site-by-site and club-by-club basis as the club-orientated nature of the sport means that demand cannot and does not easily transfer.

Based on the above, capacity ratings for bowling greens in Cheshire East is classified as follows:

Within capacity range	Membership ensures green is sustainable without capacity issues
At capacity range	Membership is at the capacity limit of the green
Outside capacity range	Membership is below or above the recommended capacity range

Following this, the table below highlights the level of usage each green receives, taking into account both current and expressed future demand.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 11.12: Supply and demand balance of bowling greens in Cheshire East

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Sub area	Club user/s	No. of greens	Capacity threshold	Current membership	Future membership
12	Barony Sports Complex	South	Nantwich	Barony Park BC	1	20-80	Unknown	Unknown
18	Bollington Recreation Ground	North	Macclesfield	Bollington BC	1	20-80	28	28
28	Congleton Park	Central	Congleton	Congleton Park BC	1	20-80	52	52
31	Club at Cranage Hall	Central	Holmes Chapel	Good Companions BC	1	20-80	Unknown	Unknown
33	Congleton Sports & Social Club	Central	Congleton	Congleton Coronation BC	1	20-80	Unknown	Unknown
49	Goostrey Playing Fields	Central	Holmes Chapel	Goostrey BC	1	20-80	Unknown	Unknown
51	Haslington Cricket Club	South	Crewe	Haslington BC	1	20-80	Unknown	Unknown
57	Holmes Chapel Cricket Club	Central	Holmes Chapel	Victoria BC	1	20-80	Unknown	Unknown
62	Bunbury Playing Field	South	Nantwich	Bunbury BC	1	20-80	45	45
63	Kerridge Cricket Club	North	Macclesfield	Kerridge BC	1	20-80	Unknown	Unknown
71	Legends Health & Leisure Centre	South	Crewe	-	2	40-160	-	-
74	Macclesfield Cricket Club	North	Macclesfield	Macclesfield Crown Green BC	1	20-80	Unknown	Unknown
103	Poynton Sports Club	North	Poynton	Poynton Sports BC	1	20-80	Unknown	Unknown
115	South Park	North	Macclesfield	South Park Ladies BC	2	40-160	21	31
134	Victoria Park	North	Macclesfield	Victoria Park BC	1	20-80	Unknown	Unknown
147	Wrenbury Recreation Ground	South	Nantwich	-	1	20-80	-	-
156	Mere Cricket Club	North	Knutsford	Mere BC	1	20-80	Unknown	Unknown
271	Clare's Space Boutique Health Club	North	Knutsford	-	1	20-80	-	-
284a	Sandbach Park (top green)	Central	Sandbach	Limes BC; Sandbach & District U3A BC; Sandbach Park BC; Sandbach Park Veterans BC;	1	20-80	88	92

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Sub area	Club user/s	No. of greens	Capacity threshold	Current membership	Future membership
284b	Sandbach Park (bottom green)	Central	Sandbach	Limes BC; Marriot House Veterans BC; Sandbach & District U3A BC; Sandbach Methodist Church BC; Sandbach Probus BC	1	20-80	92	92
289	The White Lion	South	Crewe	-	1	20-80	-	-
290	Knutsford Bowling Club	North	Knutsford	Knutsford BC	1	20-80	97	107
291	The Church Inn	North	Knutsford	-	1	20-80	-	-
292	Alderley Edge Park	North	Wilmslow	Alderley & District Probus BC; Dean Row W.I BC; Wilmslow U3A BC	1	20-80	37	52
293	Queen's Park	South	Crewe	Fun to Bowl BC	1	20-80	Unknown	Unknown
294	The Royal British Legion Bowling Green	Central	Middlewich	Middlewich RBL	1	20-80	Unknown	Unknown
295	Alderley Edge Union Club	North	Wilmslow	Alderley Union BC	1	20-80	58	58
296	Waggon & Horses Bowling Green	North	Wilmslow	Waggon & Horses BC	1	20-80	65	65
298	Wilmslow Bowling Club	North	Wilmslow	Wilmslow BC	1	20-80	121	121
299	Wilmslow Royal British Legion Club	North	Wilmslow	Wilmslow Grove Sports & Social Club	1	20-80	Unknown	Unknown
300	Wilmslow Conservative Club	North	Wilmslow	Wilmslow Conservative BC	1	20-80	Unknown	Unknown
301	Cross Town Bowling & Social Club	North	Knutsford	Cross Town BC	1	20-80	Unknown	Unknown
302	Alsager Bowling & Recreation Club	Central	Alsager	Alsager Institute BC	1	20-80	167	172
303	The Railway Bowling Club	Central	Congleton	Railway BC	1	20-80	63	75
304	Coppenhall Working Men's Club	South	Crewe	Coppenhall Methodist BC	1	20-80	Unknown	Unknown
305	Crewe Bowling Club	South	Crewe	Crewe BC	1	20-80	Unknown	Unknown

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Sub area	Club user/s	No. of greens	Capacity threshold	Current membership	Future membership
307	North Street Methodist Bowling Club	South	Crewe	-	1	20-80	-	-
308	Sydney Post Office Club	South	Crewe	Post Office BC	1	20-80	200	200
311	Manchester Road Bowling Green	North	Knutsford	Cranford BC	1	20-80	Unknown	Unknown
313	Packhorse Bowling & Social Club	North	Macclesfield	Packhorse BC	1	20-80	98	113
314	Brooks Lane Bowling Green	Central	Middlewich	Middlewich BC	1	20-80	Unknown	Unknown
315	Park Road Bowling Club	South	Nantwich	Nantwich Park Road BC	1	20-80	106	106
316	Poynton Workmen's Club	North	Poynton	Poynton WMC BC	1	20-80	121	121
320	Audlem & District Bowls Club	South	Nantwich	Audlem BC	1	20-80	-	-
322	Dixon Court	North	Knutsford	Chelford BC	1	20-80	Unknown	Unknown
324	Willaston Social Club	South	Crewe	Willaston BC	1	20-80	Unknown	Unknown
327	Rams Head Bowling Green	North	Poynton	Rams Head BC	1	20-80	101	121
328	High Legh Bowls Club	North	Knutsford	High Legh BC	1	20-80	155	195
330	Lower Withington Village Hall	North	Macclesfield	-	1	20-80	-	-
331	West Park	North	Macclesfield	West Park U3A BC; West Park Veterans BC	1	20-80	Unknown	Unknown
333	Mobberley Victory Hall	North	Knutsford	Mobberley Victory Memorial BC	1	20-80	60	81
334	Railway Inn	North	Knutsford	-	1	20-80	-	-
335	Poynton Legion Club	North	Poynton	-	1	20-80	-	-
336	Prestbury Bowls Club	North	Poynton	Prestbury BC	1	20-80	88	98
337	Limes Bowling Green	Central	Sandbach	-	1	20-80	-	-
338	Shavington Social Club	South	Crewe	Shavington BC	1	20-80	Unknown	Unknown
340	Swettenham Club	Central	Holmes Chapel	The Swettenham BC	1	20-80	Unknown	Unknown
369	Wistaston Jubilee Tennis Club	South	Crewe	Wistaston MH BC	1	20-80	Unknown	Unknown
371	Mottram Village Hall	North	Poynton	Mottram BC	1	20-80	68	68
373	Rode Heath Bowling Club	Central	Alsager	Rode Heath BC	1	20-80	Unknown	Unknown
375	Parkside Bowls Club	North	Macclesfield	Parkside BC	1	20-80	Unknown	Unknown

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

11.5: Supply and demand analysis

Ten greens are currently operating above the capacity limit, with these being:

- ✦ Alsager Bowling & Recreation Club
- ✦ Knutsford Bowling Club
- ✦ High Legh Bowls Club
- ✦ Packhorse Bowling & Social Club
- ✦ Poynton Workmen's Club
- ✦ Prestbury Bowls Club
- ✦ Rams Head Bowling Green
- ✦ Sandbach Park (x2)
- ✦ Wilmslow Bowling Club

In addition, when accounting for future demand, the green at Mobberley Victory Hall is forecast to also exceed its capacity limit due to aspirations expressed by Mobberley Victory Memorial BC. All remaining greens are considered to have spare capacity for growth, or existing membership levels are unknown.

Notwithstanding the above, of the affected clubs, only Marriot House Veterans BC, based at Sandbach Park, reports an existing capacity issue (due to sharing the green with other clubs). The remaining clubs each suggest that both current and future demand can be accommodated via their existing provision. In addition, capacity issues at Sandbach Park should be relieved to some extent when Limes BC returns to its usual home site (Limes Bowling Green).

Wilmslow U3A also identifies capacity issues via unmet demand. However, it is unclear as to why this is the case based on its current demand levels, with ample capacity seemingly remaining at Alderley Edge Park.

At the other end of the scale, the two greens located at South Park are the only greens in Cheshire East that currently operating below the recommended capacity range, accommodating approximately 21 members. Subsequently, South Park Ladies BC may require support to ensure that it can remain sustainable, with avenues needing to be explored to increase membership levels.

There are also 11 greens that do not currently have clubs assigned to them. The future requirement and sustainability of these is therefore questionable.

11.6: Conclusion

There are some capacity pressures on bowling greens in Cheshire East; however, only two affected clubs report capacity issues (Marriot House Veterans BC & Wilmslow U3A). All remaining greens either have sufficient capacity to meet both current and future demand, or club users state that they do. As such, overall supply is considered sufficient to meet requirements, especially when factoring in the presence of some unused greens, although focus should be placed on oversubscribed sites to ensure this remains the case.

Whilst no provision shortfalls are identified, it is also clear that most of the supply requires protection to ensure that demand can continue to be accommodated. Of greens that are in use, all receive relatively high levels of demand, with the only exception found at South Park. As a result, it is considered that no in-use greens can be lost.

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Bowls – supply and demand summary

- ◆ Ten greens are currently operating above the capacity limit, whilst Mobberley Victory Hall is also forecast to have a shortfall when factoring in future demand.
- ◆ At the other end of the scale, the two greens located at South Park are the only greens in Cheshire East that currently operating below the recommended capacity range, although there are also 11 greens without a club assigned to them.
- ◆ Whilst there are clearly some capacity pressures, only two affected club reports any issues, suggesting that overall supply is considered sufficient to meet demand.
- ◆ Whilst no shortfalls are identified, it is also clear that most of the supply requires protection to ensure that demand can continue to be accommodated, meaning no in-use greens can be lost.

Bowls – supply summary

- ◆ There are 63 crown green bowls greens in Cheshire East provided across 60 sites.
- ◆ There are also seven disused greens identified at The Hop Pole, Brook Street, Travellers Rest, Bombardier Bowling Club, Rams Head, Knutsford Masonic Hall and Cotton Arms.
- ◆ Congleton Park, High Legh, Limes, Mottram, South Park Ladies and Waggon Horses bowls clubs all express unsecure tenure for use of their greens.
- ◆ 35 greens are serviced by sports lighting, which represents a significantly large amount.
- ◆ Across the Borough, 51 greens are assessed as good quality and 12 as standard quality (none are poor).
- ◆ Greens at Macclesfield Cricket Club, Wrenbury Recreation Ground, Mere Cricket Club, Brooks Lane and Dixon Court are serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities.
- ◆ Nine clubs have aspirations to improve their ancillary provision.

Bowls – demand summary

- ◆ There are 59 clubs using bowling greens in Cheshire East, with membership, where known, totalling 1,928 members and equating to 1,189 senior men, 722 senior women and 17 juniors.
- ◆ In contrast to a national trend of declining membership, nine clubs state that membership has increase in recent years, whilst only five identify a decrease.
- ◆ Four clubs state that their greens are available for pay and play, although take up is seemingly low.
- ◆ Marriot House Veterans BC and Wilmslow U3A BC report that their existing membership levels cannot be accommodated on the current level of provision available to them (unmet demand).
- ◆ 10 clubs quantify future demand aspirations collectively totalling 157 members (135 senior and 22 junior).

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

PART 12: ARCHERY

12.1: Introduction

Archery GB is the NGB for the sport of archery in England. It is responsible for all levels of archery within the UK from grassroots to performance level. There are several disciplines of archery including target archery, indoor archery, field and 3D archery, paralympic archery, flight archery and run archery.

Target archery, which is the discipline of shooting arrows at circular targets at a fixed distance, is the most widely known due to its inclusion on the programme of the Olympic Games, Paralympic Games and World Games. Para archery is one of the sports with the most similarity to its able-bodied counterpart and disabled archers can compete in both the Olympics and Paralympics as long as they meet the qualification criteria. Para archers may use their assistive devices to level the playing field against their able-bodied competitors.

Field archery is the discipline of shooting at stationary circular targets of different sizes set at varying distances, heights and angles around a course of natural terrain. 3D archery is the discipline of shooting at stationary foam targets in the shapes of different animals set at varying distances, heights and angles around a course.

The Archery GB rules of shooting includes clear guidelines on range layout, which includes the standards to be met depending on the distance being shot and/or the bow being used. The range guidelines also include overshoot and side safety areas to account for arrows that may go beyond the targets (either missing or deflections).

In addition, Archery GB has a range assessment process for any range that does not meet the Rules of Shooting compliance to ensure required standards are met and followed at all times. Dispensations are only given where safety expectations can be successfully met.

Archery is a sport participated in all-year round; outdoor activity takes place between April and October, whilst during the winter indoor facilities are used.

Consultation

There are three affiliated archery clubs within Cheshire East known as Alsager Company of Archers, Greenbank Company of Archers and North Cheshire Bowmen. Of these, Alsager Company of Archers did not respond to consultation requests, whilst North Cheshire Bowmen and Greenbank Company of Archers did.

12.2: Supply

There is one dedicated outdoor archery range identified within Cheshire East, situated in south Nantwich. The venue is operated by commercial operators National Archery; however, it is important to note that the facility is not affiliated to Archery GB.

In addition, the three affiliated clubs in the Borough also access registered outdoor facilities. Alsager Company of Archers uses Cranberry Academy (in Alsager), Greenbank Company of Archers uses an area off Parkers Road (in Crewe), and North Cheshire Bowmen uses Knutsford Sports Club.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Greenbank Company of Archers highlights that the area off Parkers Road gets muddy and boggy following inclement weather as it is provided on marshland, with this particularly affecting disabled archers in wheelchairs. Furthermore, the area was previously due to be impacted upon by HS2 plans, although this is no longer the case. The Club operates at the site via a 30-year lease with the Council.

12.3: Demand

The three archery clubs in Cheshire East are summarised below.

Alsager Company of Archers

Alsager Company of Archers currently consists of 98 (five juniors) members, operating at Cranberry Academy. The Club has access to the playing field at the site Monday to Friday from 17:30 until dusk, as well as all day on Saturday and Sunday. In addition, the Club also uses an indoor facility at The Quinta Academy (in Alsager) on Tuesday and Friday evenings from 19:00 to 21:00, as well as on Sunday afternoons from 12:30 to 14:30.

In addition, in recent years, the Club has established a junior division, using the indoor facility at St Mary's Church Hall on Saturday mornings from 10:00 to 12:00.

The Club provides beginner courses for newcomers looking to learn the sport; however, due to such a high demand, it currently has a waiting list of around 40 people.

Greenbank Company of Archers

Greenbank Company of Archers consists of 86 members (nine juniors), primarily focusing on offering beginner courses to newcomers, providing a four-week training course as well as individual taster sessions. The Club is based in north Crewe off of Parkers Road, holding evening sessions twice a week and a session on Sunday mornings.

During the winter months, the Club also utilises an indoor facility at St Thomas More Catholic High School (also in Crewe).

North Cheshire Bowmen

North Cheshire Bowmen consists of 150 members, ten of which are junior members. The Club trains and competes at Knutsford Sports Club, utilising the outfield of the site's cricket square for its sessions. Furthermore, the Club also accesses an indoor facility at the aforementioned site. The Club holds sessions Monday to Friday from 19:00 till dusk as well as on Sunday mornings.

The Club also offers beginner courses to newcomers and cites that such programmes have been very successful, leading to an average of ten additional members derived from each course.

The Club expresses an aspiration to access a larger field than it does at Knutsford Sports Club. It states that this will enable it to participate in clout archery and crossbow provision.

Additional demand

National Archery operates the dedicated archery range in south Nantwich, offering community access via one-hour sessions. These are available to hire on a commercial basis.

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Latent/unmet demand

Waiting lists at archery clubs is common nationally. In part, this is due to the sport having rules for beginner courses and safety requirements in line with the Rules of Shooting, with membership often limited by the number of instructors available and the size of the sites being used.

In Cheshire East, as previously referenced, unmet demand is identified at Alsager Company of Archers, whereby the Club currently has a waiting list of 40 people. No other club expresses latent or unmet demand.

In addition, Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in Archery but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 403 people who would like to participate in the sport within Cheshire East.

Future demand

North Cheshire Bowmen identifies that it plans to continue increasing membership by around 10 members per year. It ties this into recent growth from its beginner courses. In addition, Greenbank Company of Archers reports it aspires to grow its membership but does not quantify as much.

Notwithstanding the above, Archery GB identifies that it would expect future growth aspirations to be higher as this would better reflect the national picture and recent trends.

12.4: Supply and demand analysis

It is considered that there is currently insufficient provision to adequately cater for the archery demand identified. This is due to capacity pressures existing at Alsager Company of Archers, whereby a resolution is required to meet the unmet/latent demand identified, and because North Cheshire Bowmen requires a larger grass area in order to help it enhance its offering.

Greenbank Company of Archery is seemingly being adequately provided for, particularly given that it is no longer to be impacted upon by HS2 plans.

Conclusion

A resolution is required to better meet demand from both Alsager Company of Archers and North Cheshire Bowmen.

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Archery - supply and demand summary

- It is considered that there is currently insufficient provision to adequately cater for archery demand due to capacity pressures existing at Alsager Company of Archers and because North Cheshire Bowmen requires a larger grass area
- Greenbank Company of Archery is seemingly being adequately provided for, particularly given that it is no longer to be impacted upon by HS2 plans.

Archery - supply summary

- There is one dedicated outdoor archery range identified within Cheshire East, situated in Nantwich and operated by commercial operators National Archery.
- The site is not affiliated to Archery GB.
- In addition, Alsager Company of Archers uses Cranberry Academy (in Alsager), Greenbank Company of Archers uses an area off Parkers Road (in Crewe), and North Cheshire Bowmen uses Knutsford Sports Club.
- The site used by Greenbank Company of Archers was previously subject to HS2 plans, although this is no longer the case.
- Alsager Company of Archers also uses indoor provision at both The Quinta Academy and St Mary's Church Hall, whilst Greenbank Company of Archers does likewise at St Thomas More Catholic High School.

Archery – demand summary

- Alsager Company of Archers currently consists of 98 members and provides beginner courses for newcomers looking to learn the sport.
- Greenbank Company of Archers is a Club which primarily focuses on offering beginner courses to newcomers, providing a four-week training course as well as individual taster sessions.
- North Cheshire Bowmen consists of 150 members (including ten juniors) and also offer beginner courses.
- The dedicated archery range in Nantwich offers community access via one-hour sessions and is also available to hire on a commercial basis.
- Unmet demand is identified at Alsager Company of Archers, whereby the Club currently has a waiting list of 40 people.
- North Cheshire Bowmen has demand to access a larger field than that provided at Knutsford Sports Club so that it can increase its activity.
- North Cheshire Bowmen identifies that it plans to continue increasing membership by around 10 members per year, tying this into recent growth from its beginner courses.
- Archery GB identifies that it would expect future growth to be high as this would reflect the national picture and recent trends.

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

PART 13: GOLF

13.1: Introduction

Golf is the fifth largest participation sport in England, with around 730,000 members belonging to one of 1,800 affiliated clubs and a further two million people playing independently outside of club membership. There are an estimated 3,000 golf courses across the Country, with approximately 90 designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest because apart from the intensively managed trees and greens they have other habitats with high wildlife value. Many other courses also exist within designated Heritage Coast sites, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, or listed Historic Parklands.

Nationally, the sport is governed by England Golf. Its role includes providing competitions for players of all ages and abilities, identifying and developing the most talented golfers, maintaining a uniform system of handicapping, administering and applying the rules, and introducing new golfers via its initiatives such as 'Get into Golf'.

Consultation

This section was informed via consultation with England Golf, which provided information relating to all facilities and clubs within Cheshire East.

13.2: Supply

There are three different types of golf facilities recognised by Sport England and governed by England Golf, as defined in the table below. Facilities such as pitch and putt courses and miniature/crazy golf courses not included as these are not considered to be traditional formats of the game and are not comparable offerings.

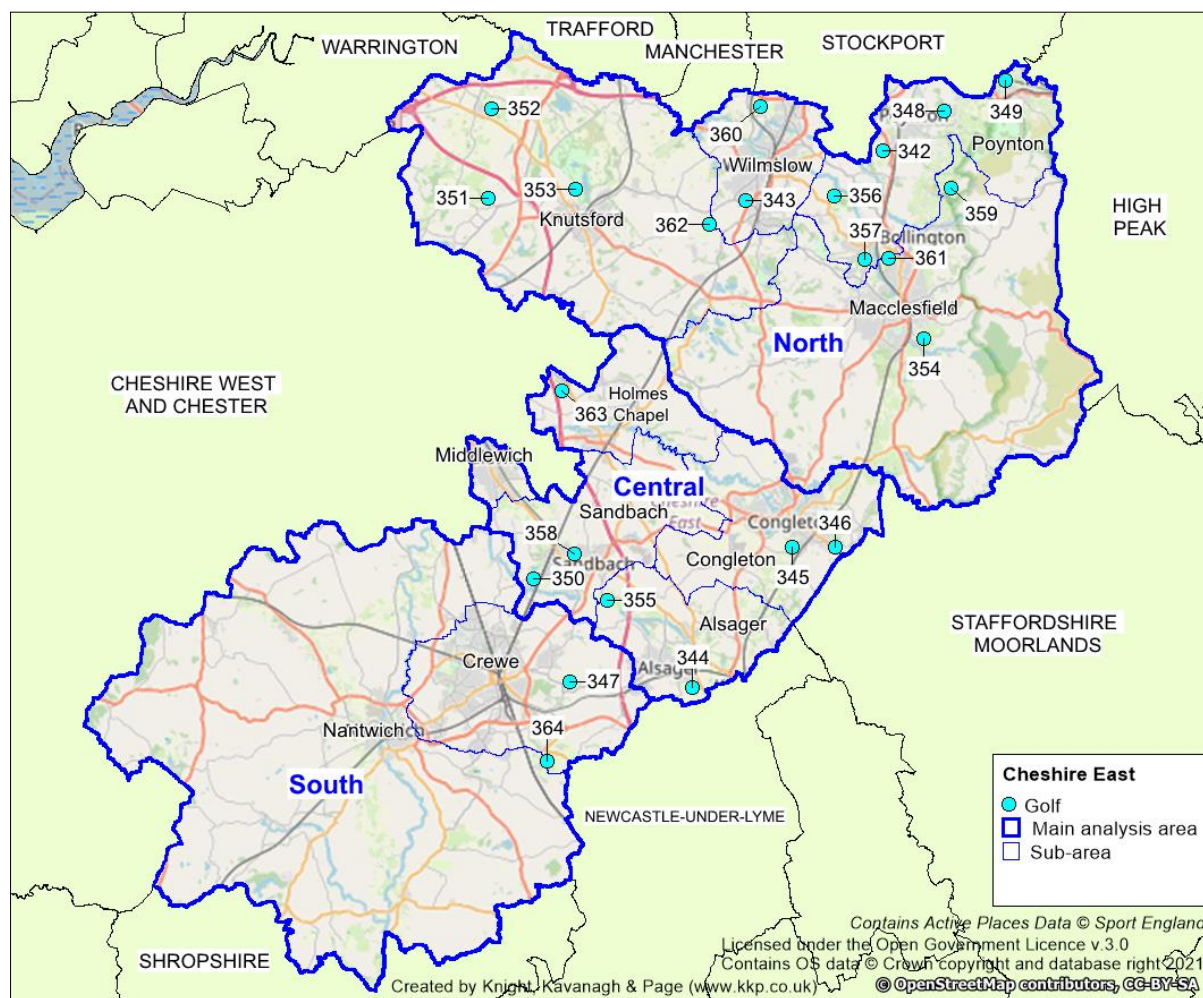
Table 13.1: Definitions of golf facilities

Facility type	Description
Standard	A standard par course, with a minimum of 9 holes but normally associated with 18-hole courses; many 9-hole courses have different tee boxes which allow the provision to be played as an 18-hole course. Some courses provide 27 holes, with any two loops of 9-holes played to make up an 18-hole round.
Par 3	Shorter length of holes than a standard course, with no hole longer than Par 3. Most likely to be a 9-hole course although 18-hole offerings do exist. Does not include pitch and putt courses, which are even shorter offerings and are not considered to be a traditional version of the sport.
Driving Range	Includes covered and uncovered driving range bays but not practice areas within golf courses; ranges are based on the hiring of balls, with users not required to retrieve, whereas practice areas are generally for members to use with their own balls (although a growing number have dispensers). Does not include 'entertainment' ranges or virtual offerings, although some driving ranges have expanded to also provide these features.

Within Cheshire East, there are 24 golf venues that provide facilities conforming with the above definitions, as identified in Figure 13.1 and Table 13.2 overleaf.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Figure 13.1: Location of golf courses in Cheshire East



CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 13.2: Golf facilities within Cheshire East

Site ID	Active Places Power Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Sub area
342	1200206	Adlington Golf Centre	SK10 4NG	North	Poynton
343	1101033	Alderley Edge Golf Club	SK9 7RU	North	Wilmslow
344	1101012	Alsager Golf & Country Club	ST7 2UR	Central	Alsager
345	1101013	Astbury Golf Club	CW12 4RE	Central	Congleton
346	1101014	Congleton Golf Club	CW12 3LZ	Central	Congleton
347	1101022	Crewe Golf Club	CW1 5TB	South	Crewe
348	1101034	Davenport Golf Club	SK12 1TS	North	Poynton
349	1101035	Disley Golf Club	SK12 2JX	North	Poynton
350	1200208	Elton Driving Range	CW11 3TT	Central	Sandbach
351	1101036	Heyrose Golf Club	WA16 0HZ	North	Knutsford
352	1101037	High Legh Park Country Club	WA16 0WA	North	Knutsford
353	1101038	Knutsford Golf Club	WA16 6HS	North	Knutsford
354	1101039	Macclesfield Golf Club	SK11 7EA	North	Macclesfield
355	1101016	Malkins Bank Golf Club	CW11 4XN	Central	Alsager
356	1000517	Mottram Hall Golf & Country Club	SK10 4QT	North	Poynton
357	1101045	Prestbury Golf Club	SK10 4BJ	North	Poynton
358	1019103	Sandbach Golf Club	CW11 1FH	Central	Sandbach
359	1001436	Shrigley Hall Hotel Golf & Country Club	SK10 5SB	North	Macclesfield
360	1101047	Styal Golf Club	SK9 4JN	North	Wilmslow
361	1000085	The Tytherington Club	SK10 2JP	North	Macclesfield
362	1101049	Wilmslow Golf Club	WA16 7AY	North	Knutsford
363	1101018	Woodside Park Golf Club	CW4 8HJ	Central	Holmes Chapel
364	1008687	Wychwood Park Golf Club	CW2 5GP	South	Crewe
374	1101023	Queen's Park Golf Club	CW2 7SU	South	Crewe

Disused provision

Two golf facilities across Cheshire East are now deemed to be disused. These are Alvaston Hall Country Club and Brookfield Golf Club. The former had previously offered a nine-hole course, whereas the latter previously offered 18-hole provision.

Standard hole golf courses

Across Cheshire East, there are 19 standard 18-hole courses and four standard 9-hole courses across 22 sites. These are summarised in the table overleaf.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 13.3: Summary of standard hole provision in Cheshire East

Site ID	Site name	Holes	Par	Yardage ⁴¹			Slope rating
343	Alderley Edge Golf Club	18	68	5,794	5,611	5,214	126 - 131
344	Alsager Golf & Country Club	18	70	6,142	5,835	5,325	116 - 128
345	Astbury Golf Club	18	71	6,261	6,087	5,454	127 - 131
346	Congleton Golf Club	18	68	-	4,749	4,397	113
347	Crewe Golf Club	18	71	6,448	6,218	5,599	119 - 131
348	Davenport Golf Club	18	69	6,006	5,736	5,216	117 - 120
349	Disley Golf Club	18	71	6,002	5,773	5,162	120 - 124
351	Heyrose Golf Club	18	73	6,458	6,247	5,560	128
352	High Legh Park Country Club	18	71	6,484	5,796	5,371	119
		9	33	2,517	2,239	1,954	90 - 92
353	Knutsford Golf Club	18	70	6,217	5,918	5,477	119
354	Macclesfield Golf Club	18	71	5,975	5,681	5,313	116 - 137
355	Malkins Bank Golf Club	18	70	6,009	5,760	5,448	129 - 136
356	Mottram Hall Golf & Country Club	18	72	6,670	6,296	5,776	132 - 136
357	Prestbury Golf Club	18	71	6,419	6,193	5,611	140 - 146
358	Sandbach Golf Club	9 ⁴²	68	5,605	5,423	5,016	114 - 118
359	Shrigley Hall Hotel Golf & Country Club	18	71	6,189	5,942	5,152	124 - 135
360	Styal Golf Club	18	69	6,089	5,598	5,156	120 - 132
361	The Tytherington Club	18	72	6,500	6,210	5,607	131 - 139
362	Wilmslow Golf Club	18	72	6,433	6,201	5,808	127 - 130
363	Woodside Park Golf Club	9 ⁴³	70	5,785	5,657	5,348	123 - 125
364	Wychwood Park Golf Club	18	72	6,784	6,377	5,618	121 - 123
374	Queen's Park Golf Club	9 ⁴⁴	35	2,461	-	2,430	113

Of the 18-hole courses, Wychwood Park Golf Club provides the longest offering (6,784 yards), with Alderley Edge Golf Club providing the shortest (5,794 yards). However, all courses are in the range of what you would expect from traditional provision. Shorter courses tend to offer some variety that may appeal more so to a defined market that would not feel comfortable playing lengthier provision e.g., beginner and/or casual golfers.

Nationally, many 9-hole courses are shorter than the front or back nine of an 18-hole course, primarily to attract and cater for a different userbase. This is the case for High Legh Park Country Club's offering, which is only 2,517 yards long. The site has both an 18-hole and a 9-hole course.

⁴¹ White denotes Championship tees, yellow denotes men's tees and red denotes ladies' tees.

⁴² Two sets of tees are provided to enable 18 holes to be played.

⁴³ Two sets of tees are provided to enable 18 holes to be played.

⁴⁴ Two sets of tees are provided to enable 18 holes to be played.

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Slope ratings⁴⁵

Slope ratings are new to golf across the World (established in 2021). The intention is for them to allow the handicap system to reflect course difficulty and the difference in difficulty for all players compared to scratch golfers. In effect, this enables each player to have a handicap that will vary from course-to-course, depending on difficulty, as well as a general handicap.

The maximum slope rating is 155, whereas the minimum is 55. The standard difficulty is considered to be 113, which means that the courses in Cheshire East are generally considered to be more difficult than the mean, with them collectively ranging from 90-146 (the slope rating varies depending on which tee is used).

Prestbury Golf Club is identified as being the most challenging (140-146), whereas the 9-hole course at High Legh Park Country Club is the least (90-92).

Par 3 golf holes

Most commonly, Par 3 provision is used by beginner and casual players, although they are also frequented by more traditional golfers wanting to practice their short game.

There are five dedicated Par 3 courses in Cheshire East, located at Adlington Golf Centre (two courses), Shrigley Hall Hotel Golf & Country Club, Styal Golf Club and Woodside Golf Club. The course at Shrigley Hall Hotel Golf & Country Club provide six holes, whilst the remainder provide nine, which is more common.

Table 13.4: Summary of Par 3 provision in Cheshire East

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Sub area	Holes	Par	Yardage
342	Adlington Golf Centre	North	Poynton	9	27	660
				9	27	1,483
359	Shrigley Hall Hotel Golf & Country Club	North	Macclesfield	6	18	-
360	Styal Golf Club	North	Wilmslow	9	27	1,203
363	Woodside Park Golf Club	Central	Holmes Chapel	9	27	-

The Par 3 course at Woodside Park Golf Club is more commonly used for FootGolf.

Driving range bays

Accumulatively, there are 207 dedicated driving range bays in Cheshire East across 11 sites, with the largest offering provided at Adlington Golf Centre. Eight of the 11 sites are available for anyone to use on a pay and play basis, whereas provision at Mottram Hall Golf & Country Club, The Tytherington Club and Wilmslow Golf Club is generally reserved for members.

All 11 driving ranges are serviced by sports lighting to allow all-year round and late evening usage.

⁴⁵ <https://www.randa.org/en/course-handicap-calculator>

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 13.5: Summary of driving range bays in Cheshire East

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Sub area	No. of bays	Sports lit?	Pay and play?
342	Adlington Golf Centre	North	Poynton	41	Yes	Yes
350	Elton Driving Range	Central	Sandbach	16	Yes	Yes
351	Heyrose Golf Club	North	Knutsford	12	Yes	Yes
352	High Legh Park Country Club	North	Knutsford	14	Yes	Yes
355	Malkins Bank Golf Club	Central	Alsager	8	Yes	Yes
356	Mottram Hall Golf & Country Club	North	Poynton	10	Yes	No
360	Styal Golf Club	North	Wilmslow	34	Yes	Yes
361	The Tytherington Club	North	Macclesfield	10	Yes	No
362	Wilmslow Golf Club	North	Knutsford	17	Yes	No
363	Woodside Park Golf Club	Central	Holmes Chapel	30	Yes	Yes
364	Wychwood Park Golf Club	South	Crewe	15	Yes	Yes

Of the 11 driving ranges, 10 are located at sites with golf courses, thus providing a supplementary offer. The exception to this is Elton Driving Range, which operates as a standalone facility.

Other courses also provide practice facilities, such as Crewe Golf Club which has a large practice ground. However, despite this also being based on ball hire via a dispenser, such provision is not classified as a driving range as there are no dedicated bays and access is reserved for members.

Nationally, many driving range providers are updating their facilities with modern technology in a bid to increase demand, such as through the installation of automatic tees or via entertainment systems such as TopTracer and FlightScope. Such provision allows for users to simulate playing on courses across the world and provides ball tracking and statistical feedback.

In Cheshire East, both Adlington Golf Centre and High Legh Park Country Club currently have such technology installed.

Management and ownership

There are three main types of ownership and management models of golf facilities in England: members clubs, proprietary clubs and municipal facilities, as summarised in the table below.

Table 13.6: Types of ownership and management of golf facilities

Management type	Description
Members	Traditionally owned by members and run by committees. They are likely to hire caterers and green staff. Most members' clubs offer some level of pay and play and encourage golf societies but are mostly focused on membership numbers.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Management type	Description
Proprietary	Owned or managed by businesses or individuals, these can include country club type facilities at the high end of the golfing market alongside more localised facilities. Many have clubs operating within them but can also take a much more relaxed attitude to dress and traditions of golf. Pay and play opportunities tend to be a key feature of the business plan.
Municipal	These are generally owned by a local authority, although in a growing number of instances, management has been contracted and externalised to private companies. Due to a lack of financial viability, many have closed across the Country in recent years and many that remain are under threat.

It is recognised that members clubs and visitors to such clubs are normally expected to dress appropriately, have a registered handicap certificate (a certificate issued by the Council of National Golf Unions (CONGU)) and be familiar with the rules and etiquette of the game. This is not uncommon at some proprietary clubs, but municipal courses tend to be more relaxed and do not require people to have handicaps, making golf much more accessible.

Consequently, municipal courses are, in many instances, seen as entry level facilities, with players using them before having the confidence to move on to a members' or high-end proprietary club (although many people can and do stay attached to a particular course). They also tend to offer a more affordable golfing experience.

The business model for members clubs tends to rely heavily on income through membership subscriptions and use of ancillary facilities, rather than from pay and play usage, although attention has somewhat switched at many sites in recent years due to demand falling. The same can be said for some proprietary clubs, although, in general, more emphasis is placed on supplementing regular activity with green fee sales. Conversely, municipal sites have always been heavily reliant on visitors even though membership packages are normally available (often in the shape of season tickets). On occasion, these can be linked to access to other local authority operated sports facilities, such as leisure centres and swimming pools.

Despite the above generalisations, each golf facility, regardless of management type, will have its own processes in terms of how much focus is placed on membership and pay and play usage, or whether it equally encourages both. There is no correct way to run a site. A club that focuses on members has guaranteed income, but this can often deter more casual players or nomadic golfers through, for example, a lack of peak time availability. In contrast, a site that depends on visitors can struggle to be viable if there are spells of inclement weather during summer months and can discourage people that want to be part of a club environment.

Of the 24 golfing sites in Cheshire East, 17 operate as members clubs, whilst six are proprietary sites.

There is just one municipal golf course in Cheshire East, identified at Queen's Park Golf Club.

Table 13.7: Summary of ownership/management in Cheshire East

Site ID	Site name	Management type
342	Adlington Golf Centre	Proprietary
343	Alderley Edge Golf Club	Membership
344	Alsager Golf & Country Club	Membership
345	Astbury Golf Club	Membership
346	Congleton Golf Club	Membership

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Management type
347	Crewe Golf Club	Membership
348	Davenport Golf Club	Membership
349	Disley Golf Club	Membership
350	Elton Driving Range	Proprietary
351	Heyrose Golf Club	Proprietary
352	High Legh Park Country Club	Proprietary
353	Knutsford Golf Club	Membership
354	Macclesfield Golf Club	Membership
355	Malkins Bank Golf Club	Membership
356	Mottram Hall Golf & Country Club	Membership
357	Prestbury Golf Club	Membership
358	Sandbach Golf Club	Membership
359	Shrigley Hall Hotel Golf & Country Club	Proprietary
360	Styal Golf Club	Proprietary
361	The Tytherington Club	Proprietary
362	Wilmslow Golf Club	Membership
363	Woodside Park Golf Club	Proprietary
364	Wychwood Park Golf Club	Membership
374	Queen's Park Golf Club	Municipal

Pricing

A key issue for the wider golf population is whether golf courses are available to the general population at a price point which is accessible to the majority of residents. Better quality courses tend to cost more to use, whilst 18-hole provision is generally more expensive to access than 9-hole provision.

Nationally, over the past few years, many facilities have altered their pricing structures to allow for discounts following a previous decline in golf membership. England Golf has positively encouraged this as its view is that clubs are more likely to experience growth when flexible packages are available. For instance, some now offer five and/or six day memberships (whereby members can access the course on specific days but not on one or both weekend days), whilst others provide discounts that are no longer limited solely to junior players (e.g. discounts for those aged 18-21 and 21-30 or for those aged 65 and over).

England Golf reports that the average cost of a full adult membership across the Country is currently £901.00. In Cheshire East, average membership fees, where known, are above this national average and come to £940. However, nine sites have lower membership fees, suggesting that both lower end and higher end offerings exist (thus catering for a broad range of golfers).

The most expensive membership offerings are identified at Prestbury Golf Club and Wilmslow Golf Club, whereby full membership fees amount to £1,650 and £1,548, respectively, and with the latter also charging new members a £2,500 joining fee. In comparison, the lowest membership fee is identified at Queen's Park Golf Club, amounting to £375, which accounts for it being a municipal course and only a 9-hole offering. This is followed by Malkins Bank Golf Club, which is £579 per annum, and Sandbach Golf Club, also a 9-hole course, at £595.

Green fees in Cheshire East also vary. The lowest amount for an 18-hole round is identified as £15 at both Knutsford Golf Club and Malkins Bank Golf Club, whilst the highest is £110 at Wilmslow Golf Club.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Pricing at all the sites providing a course is summarised in the table below.

Table 13.8: Pricing structures at golf facilities within Cheshire East

Site ID	Site name	Joining fee	Full membership (per year) ⁴⁶	Green fee (per round)	
				Weekday	Weekend
342	Adlington Golf Centre	-	-	£22 (18 holes)	£22 (18 holes)
343	Alderley Edge Golf Club	-	£860	£20 (18 holes)	£25 (18 holes)
344	Alsager Golf & Country Club	-	£950	£30	£40
345	Astbury Golf Club	-	POA	£50	£50
346	Congleton Golf Club	-	£690	£25	£30
347	Crewe Golf Club	-	£990	£35	£40
348	Davenport Golf Club	-	£1,265	£25	£28.50
349	Disley Golf Club	-	£1,085	£20	£20
350	Elton Driving Range	-	-	-	-
351	Heyrose Golf Club	-	£881	£30	£35
352	High Legh Park Country Club	-	£1,199	£25	£25
353	Knutsford Golf Club	-	£1,200	£15	£15
354	Macclesfield Golf Club	-	£975	£25	£25
355	Malkins Bank Golf Club	-	£579	£15	£20
356	Mottram Hall Golf & Country Club	-	POA	£40	£60
357	Prestbury Golf Club	-	£1,650	POA	POA
358	Sandbach Golf Club	-	£595	£25	£30
359	Shrigley Hall Hotel Golf & Country Club	-	£800	£35	£40
360	Styal Golf Club	-	£991	POA	POA
361	The Tytherington Club	-	£1,068	£70	£100
362	Wilmslow Golf Club	£2,500	£1,548	£95	£110
363	Woodside Park Golf Club	-	POA	£19.80	£22.50
364	Wychwood Park Golf Club	-	£1,150	£60	£60
374	Queen's Park Golf Club	-	£375	£9	£10

Quality

There are no official national or county golf facility rankings. Generally, the better course quality and supporting infrastructure is, the higher the joining/membership and green fees are likely to be. Some sites gain status through hosting county, national and international golf events and some tend to feature in ranking articles put together by golf magazines.

Quality of the golf courses in Cheshire East is relatively good, with no significant issues identified, especially at the members club sites such as Crewe Golf Club, Malkins Bank Golf Club, Prestbury Golf Club and Wilmslow Golf Club. It is generally worse at sites such as Queens Park Golf Club, Woodside Park Golf Club and Adlington Golf Centre, where the maintenance regime is less sophisticated. However, this would be expected given their lower price point and the target market.

⁴⁶ Prices referenced are based on a full adult membership and do therefore not account for any discounts offered.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

The ancillary facilities are also for the most part good across Cheshire East. Golf clubs often need such revenue sources to operate effectively and the provision of a good quality, well equipped clubhouse is a key opportunity to provide a secondary income stream. This emanates from a variety of sources including bar and catering income from members and visitors as well as venue hire for special occasions including weddings, christenings and funerals.

From a golfing perspective, given the current emphasis on increasing levels of female and junior golf membership across the Country, it is also imperative that ancillary provision can adequately cater for all types of members e.g., by providing gender specific changing facilities.

13.3: Demand

Prior to the recent growth in demand, participation in golf had generally been in decline, with only recent signs showing that the reduction may have been levelling off. The landscape of demand has also changed, with fewer users taking up membership packages and more golfers becoming nomadic and using a range of courses on a pay and play basis.

The following section examines current demand for golf in Cheshire East as well as recent trends and potential future demand.

Membership

England Golf suggests that the average membership of a golf club nationally is 386, which is based on a central national handicap platform. In Cheshire East, the average across the clubs that operate a membership (discounting Adlington Golf Centre and Elton Driving Range) is currently 470 and therefore significantly above the national average. Furthermore, this has increased significantly since 2018, when the club average was 399.

Data by club is not available as this is considered to be commercially sensitive information.

Table 13.9: Summary of golf membership within Cheshire East

2015 Average	2016 Average	2017 Average	2018 Average	2022 Average (26/04/22)
420	422	395	399	470 (18% growth since 2018)

It should be noted that whilst some clubs will operate below the national average, this does not necessarily indicate insufficient levels demand. In fact, this could simply mean there is a particular emphasis on pay and play use, or it will take account of 9-hole courses having less capacity than 18-hole courses. At the members clubs with 18-hole courses, it is expected that most if not all will have a membership that is higher than average.

Where demand is especially low, England Golf can assist in this regard, primarily through a variety of tools that can be used to better understand the local market. There may also be opportunities for some clubs across the area to work more collaboratively in terms of creating pathways where appropriate to collectively cater for all types of players.

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Pay and play

Whilst pay and play usage has increased across England in recent years, usage figures within Cheshire East are not generally known as it is not something that is tracked by England Golf. However, it would be expected that demand would be highest at Queens Park Golf Club given that it is a municipal course, as well as at sites such as Adlington Golf Centre, Malkins Bank Golf Club and Woodside Golf Club which are more geared towards pay and play access and cheaper to use. In contrast, it will be lower at sites such as Wilmslow Golf Club and Prestbury Golf Club given that these are predominately focused on members and more expensive to play.

If facilities with low membership numbers do not have high green fee demand, long-term viability is questionable. Attracting pay and play usage is key to the business model and sustainability of such sites.

Exported/imported demand

Cross-boundary demand for golf is common nationally due to the nature of the sport. Golfers do not necessarily recognise local authority borders, and many will choose a facility for a whole range of reasons other than where it is located, with factors including quality, availability, cost and where friends/family play. This can be especially pronounced at venues located close to neighbouring authorities and if there is a comparative lack of provision within those authorities.

For Cheshire East, imported demand is expected to be higher than what would ordinarily be considered given the number and variety of golf courses that are provided. Many neighbouring local authorities do not have as much choice, with many, for example, lacking Par 3 and/or 9-hole courses. As such, any users looking for a specific are therefore more likely to travel into Cheshire East, although there is no data to evidence this clearly.

Unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to golf facilities. This could be reflected via a waiting list at a club, although it is likely that people on a waiting list are still playing golf elsewhere, either via membership of another club or through pay and play access. As such, unmet demand in Cheshire East is considered to be very minimal, with most of the sites offering a membership scheme actively looking for new members and with ample opportunities for pay and play access.

Notwithstanding the above, it is clear in Cheshire East based on the high average membership level that some clubs will be facing capacity pressures. Furthermore, it is known that Wilmslow Golf Club, Prestbury Golf Club and Crewe Golf Club all have some level of restriction in place regarding new members (e.g., no availability exists for certain age groups or membership packages). This conforms with recent analysis carried out by England Golf that indicates an increasing number of clubs now operate a waiting list nationwide (approximately one third of all clubs).

Latent demand

Latent demand is demand for golf that is not currently being realised. This could be for numerous reasons, such as time constraints, financial reasons and a lack of suitable, available provision. To that end, Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in golf but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 4,740 people within Cheshire East.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

In addition, England Golf also has a mapping tool that enables an assessment of potential demand within a 20-minute drive time of each golf facility (which is considered to be a reasonable travel distance). This is based on research undertaken that identifies that 24% of adults in England are potential players, amounting to circa 9.6 million people and equating to 9% current players, 8% lapsed (former) players and 7% latent players. It can be used by providers to identify what demand may exist for their facilities, thus helping inform marketing, development and investment decisions.

Using the tool across Cheshire East, High Legh Park Country Club is identified as having the largest potential demand, with 97,915 people falling within the segments within a 20-minute drive time. In comparison, Shrigley Hall Hotel Golf & Country Club has the smallest potential demand, equating to 19,222 people.

The tool also breaks the potential playing population down into nine golfing segments, with these defined to help provide an indication as to what type of golfing offer each would be most likely to access. They are:

- ◀ Relaxed members
- ◀ Older traditionalists
- ◀ Younger traditionalists
- ◀ Younger fanatics
- ◀ Younger actives
- ◀ Late enthusiasts
- ◀ Occasional time pressed
- ◀ Social couples
- ◀ Casual fun

The demand for each of the sites is relatively evenly split across the nine segments; the highest demand is from “casual fun” (153,096 people), whilst the lowest is from “older traditionalists” (131,419 people).

Whilst the reasoning for the latent demand is unknown and is likely to be varied, the data does show relatively high demand which would significantly increase membership and/or pay and play usage across facilities if realised. England Golf is supportive of clubs/sites that proactively target new audiences in an attempt to tap into such demand i.e., through developing a variety of golfing offers, coaching programmes and a range of membership options.

Future demand

England Golf has an aim to increase membership of clubs nationally; however, after reaching its previous target, it no longer has a fixed goal in terms of growth. Nationally, many clubs, especially the most established ones, will be happy to retain current demand levels, whilst others will be open to growing and some considerably so. In that regard, England Golf reports that many providers are proactively targeting new audiences through coaching programmes and a wider range of membership and playing options.

In Cheshire East, each facility will have different aspirations in terms of future growth, with clubs such as Wilmslow Golf Club, Prestbury Golf Club and Crewe Golf Club likely to be satisfied with current usage levels and with others open to growing by significantly more than most.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

13.4: Supply and demand analysis

With 24 golfing sites in Cheshire East and a mix of 18-hole courses, 9-hole courses, Par 3 courses and 11 driving ranges, the Borough is well placed to meet demand. This is especially the case given the various operational structures in place, with some facilities offering a high price point and others offering a low price point, and with some prioritising membership and others focusing on pay and play usage. This suggests that all types of golfers can be collectively catered for.

Based on the above, it is considered that supply is sufficient to meet demand; however, it must be noted that membership levels are well above the national average. This means that some sites will have capacity pressures that would only be amplified if any sites were to be lost. As such, there is a clear need to protect all existing provision and to support sites to ensure that any future demand can be absorbed.

13.5: Conclusion

There is a large quantity of golfing facilities in Cheshire East that offer a good variety of facilities to ensure that all golfers can be catered for. However, demand is also very high, which means that all existing provision needs to be protected.

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Golf – supply and demand summary

- ▶ With 24 golfing sites in Cheshire East and a mix of standard hole courses, Par 3 courses and driving ranges, the Borough is well placed to meet demand, especially given the various operational structures in place and the variety of price points on offer.
- ▶ It is considered that supply is sufficient to meet demand, although memberships levels are high and some capacity pressures exist.
- ▶ There is a clear need to protect all existing provision and to support sites to ensure that any future demand can be absorbed.

Golf – supply summary

- ▶ Within Cheshire East, there are 24 golf venues that provide facilities.
- ▶ In total, there are 19 standard 18-hole courses and four standard 9-hole courses in addition to five Par 3 courses and 11 driving ranges (provided 207 bays).
- ▶ Disused provision is also identified at Alvaston Hall Country Club (9-hole course) and Brookfield Golf Club (18-hole course).
- ▶ Of the active sites, 17 operate at members clubs, six are proprietary sites and one is a municipal venue (Queen's Park Golf Club).
- ▶ Membership costs are above the national average (£904) across the Borough at £940, although nine sites have lower fees, suggesting a broad mix.
- ▶ Quality is relatively good, with no significant issues identified, especially at the members club sites such as Crewe, Malkin Bank, Prestbury and Wilmslow golf clubs.
- ▶ It is generally worse at sites such as Queens Park Golf Club, Woodside Park Golf Club and Adlington Golf Centre, although this would be expected given their lower price point and the target market.

Golf – demand summary

- ▶ In Cheshire East, the average membership across the clubs that affiliate to England Golf is currently 470, which is substantially above the national average (384).
- ▶ Membership has increased significantly recently, with the average membership in 2018 noted as 388 (an 18% growth).
- ▶ Whilst pay and play usage is not known as it is not something that is tracked by England Golf, it would be expected that demand would be highest at the municipal and proprietary sites.
- ▶ Imported demand into the Borough is expected to be higher than what would ordinarily be considered given the number and variety of golf courses that are provided across the Borough.
- ▶ It is clear based on the high average membership level that some clubs will be facing capacity pressures and it is known that Wilmslow Golf Club, Prestbury Golf Club and Crewe Golf Club all have some level of restriction in place regarding new members.
- ▶ Using an England Golf tool, High Legh Park Country Club is identified as having the largest potential demand, whereas Shrigley Hall Hotel Golf & Country Club has the smallest potential demand.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

PART 14: ATHLETICS

14.1: Introduction

As a Governing Body, UK Athletics is responsible for developing and implementing the rules and regulations of athletics, including everything from anti-doping, health and safety, facilities and welfare, to training and education for coaches and officials as well as permitting and licensing.

Locally, the sport is governed through England Athletics, which is the development and membership body for athletics and running clubs in England. It has a National Head of Clubs and Participation as well as a team of five club support managers across the Country, with one of these covering activities in Cheshire East as part of the north-west region.

Consultation

Consultation took place with England Athletics to inform this section of the report. Furthermore, electronic surveys have been completed by the following clubs:

- Cheshire Hill Racers
- Crewe & Nantwich Athletics Club
- Handforth, Wilmslow & Alderley Athletics
- Knutsford Triathlon Club
- Macclesfield Harriers Athletics Club
- Running Bear Running Club
- South Cheshire Harriers
- Styal Running Club
- Wilmslow Striders

14.2: Supply

In Cheshire East there are two dedicated athletics facilities across the same number of sites, with both providing purpose-built synthetic 400-metre tracks. These are identified at Cumberland Arena and Macclesfield Leisure Centre, with both available for community use and serviced by sports lighting.

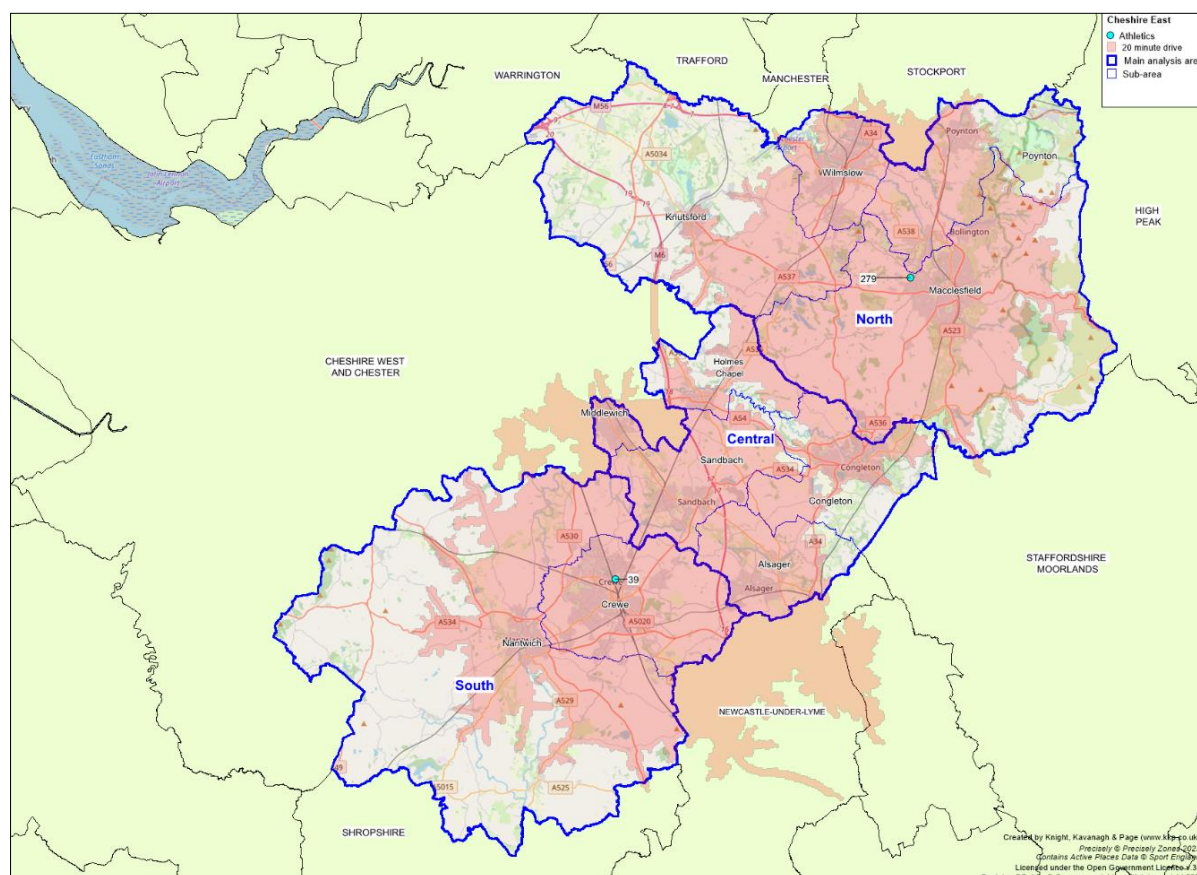
Table 14.1: Summary of community available athletics tracks in Cheshire East

Site ID	Active Places Power Site ID	Site	Sub area	Club users	Length	No. of lanes	Sports lit?
39	1011522	Cumberland Arena	Crewe	Crewe & Nantwich AC	400m	6	Yes
279	1004948	Macclesfield Leisure Centre	Macclesfield	Macclesfield Harriers AC	400m	8	Yes

Cumberland Arena is located in Crewe in the South Analysis Area, whereas Macclesfield Leisure Centre is in Macclesfield in the North Analysis Area. The specific locations can be seen as well as a 20-minute drivetime radius, in Figure 14.1 overleaf.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Figure 14.1: Location of athletics tracks in Cheshire East (with 20-minute drivetime included)



Additional provision

An additional, non-traditional dedicated running track is located at Wilmslow Rugby Club, which is home to Wilmslow Running Club. This provides a 600-metre single-lane track with a cinder surface.

Future provision

There are no known new athletics tracks proposed to be constructed in Cheshire East. In addition, consultation with England Athletics reveals that, nationally, no new standard 400-metre athletics tracks are planned to be established, with focus instead on the retention of existing 400-metre facilities and the development of new, innovative, entry level facilities such as mini tracks and endurance loops. This is particularly the case if they can be provided as part of sports-lit, multi-sport developments.

Four alternative approaches have been developed in designing new athletics provision, with these presenting alternative approaches to development via more affordable and feasible means. The New Gen designs are known as Play Track, Compact Track, Mini Track and Active Track, with each further summarised below.

For more information relating to the designs, please see:

<https://www.englandathletics.org/?media-alias=4fcc0dfb81a559e39bf7>

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Play Track

The first of the four alternative designs is a 'play track' featuring visually hardstanding areas which can be located in school playgrounds (KS1 & KS2), parks and play areas. The track encourages participation through challenging environments and promotes independent learning and skills development.

Compact Track

A 'compact track' featuring sprint straight (minimum four lanes and 40-metre length) with a accompanying long jump runways, landing pit(s) and shot put circles/landing areas. This provision is the smallest of the four and England Athletics recommends that they are suitable for both education and club settings.

MiniTrack

A 'mini track' features a sports-lit synthetic oval track (minimum 100-metre, maximum 200-metre), ideally with a sprint straight and accompanying shot put and jumps provision.

An advantage to a mini track design is that it leaves a large space in the centre of the oval track to be used for either various field events such as long jump/ triple jump, or alternatively it can be used for other sports such as football pitches or an outdoor gym.

Mini track sites also feature a new design of shot put practice areas in which it flattens a natural slope and athletes throw into a hill allowing for the put to roll back to the participant thus reducing time spent retrieving the put after each throw.

ActiveTrack

Finally, an 'active track' is a macadam surface or synthetic loop with no fixed shape or distance in which a track is drawn to fit its natural surroundings such as an existing park or school field. An Active Track attracts users of all ages and abilities across a wide variety of activities (runners, joggers, walkers (particularly the elderly), cyclists, wheelchair users).

Management

The tracks at both Cumberland Arena and Macclesfield Leisure Centre are operated by the Everybody Health & Leisure on behalf of the Council.

Quality

Key factors impacting upon the quality ratings of athletics facilities include the condition and age of the track surface, the prominence of the line markings and any signs of wear and tear or unofficial use. For the full site assessment criteria, please see Appendix 2.

In Cheshire East, the tracks at both Cumberland Arena and Macclesfield Leisure Centre are assessed as standard quality. No major issues are identified; however, both tracks are now aging.

Table 14.2: Summary of the quality of athletics tracks in Cheshire East

Site ID	Site	Year built / last refurbished)	Surface type	Quality
39	Cumberland Arena	2009	Synthetic	Standard
279	Macclesfield Leisure Centre	1999	Synthetic	Standard

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

England Athletics highlights that the track at Macclesfield Leisure Centre will require resurfacing in 2026, whilst the throwing cage at Cumberland Arena requires imminent refurbishment. The track will also need resurfacing in the near future.

TrackMark⁴⁷

TrackMark is UK Athletics' quality assurance scheme for outdoor track and field athletics facilities. A venue that achieves TrackMark is recognised by UK Athletics as having well managed, compliant facilities that are accessible to participants of all abilities. From 2021, venues that actively choose not to pursue accreditation are not eligible to apply for a competition licence at any level.

In Cheshire East, the track at Macclesfield Leisure Centre is currently TrackMark compliant. These means that it can host competitions. However, it will still require refurbishment within the lifespan of this study.

The track at Cumberland Arena is currently TrackMark compliant; however, the throwing cage is not. England Athletics is supporting the venue with a grant to repair the provision to a compliant standard which it hopes will result in it achieving TrackMark status for 2024-2027.

Ancillary provision

The ancillary facilities servicing both Cumberland Arena and Macclesfield Leisure Centre are considered to be adequate, with no major issues raised. Both have changing rooms and toilets on site, whilst Cumberland Arena also provides a small social room.

14.3: Demand

For the purposes of this study, athletics demand is considered to come in various forms, rather than just traditional track and field activity. As such, running clubs are also considered, as are organised running events and various running initiatives, some of which are governed by England Athletics. It is also acknowledged that recreational running forms a large part of demand, although this is difficult to measure.

Crewe & Nantwich Athletic Club

Crewe & Nantwich Athletic Club is based at the Cumberland Arena and currently caters for 260 members. The Club uses the track for its training sessions on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 17:30 to 20:30, whilst occasionally also accessing it on Saturdays for any additional competition training. During the winter, the Club also makes use of the facilities at Apollo Buckingham Health Sciences Campus for indoor training sessions.

Macclesfield Harriers Athletic Club

Macclesfield Harriers Athletic Club is a large club catering for 750 members covering both females and males of all ages and abilities. The Club utilises the track at Macclesfield Leisure Centre on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 18:00 to 19:00, whilst also hosting road running sessions every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evening from 18:30.

⁴⁷ <https://www.uka.org.uk/about/what-we-do/facilities/>

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Handforth, Wilmslow & Alderley Athletics Club

Handforth, Wilmslow & Alderley Athletic Club offers training sessions for children of all abilities between the ages of 8-16. Training sessions take place on the playing field at Wilmslow High School from 19:00 to 20:15 during the summer months, whereas the School's sports hall is used by the Club during the winter period.

Knutsford Triathlon Club

Knutsford Triathlon Club offers training sessions throughout the week with members being free to pick and choose which sessions they attend. The swimming segment of training takes place at Knutsford Leisure Centre, whereas running sessions are held on Monday and Tuesday evenings at 19:00, beginning at various locations within Knutsford. The road network is utilised, meaning no dedicated facilities are accessed or required.

Congleton Harriers

Congleton Harriers consists of 170 members, accommodating for age groups from 12 upwards. It traditionally meets at Congleton Tennis Club on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 18:30 before utilising the local road network. In addition, the Club organises three races each year, including the Congleton Half Marathon.

Nantwich Running Club

Established in 2021, Nantwich Running Club were voted 'National Club of The Year' by England Athletics. The Club offers an inclusive range of pace-runs, typically holding training sessions on Monday and Wednesday evenings from Malbank School & Sixth Form College from 18:30.

RunMiddlewich

RunMiddlewich holds training sessions on Tuesday evenings from 19:15 and on Saturday mornings at 09:00. It meets at Middlewich Leisure Centre.

Running Bear Running Club

Running Bear Running Club provides training sessions every Wednesday evening from 18:00, meeting at various locations within Alderley Edge. A unique feature of the Club is that it has two shops located in Alderley Edge and Nantwich, stocking all types of running clothing and equipment for the local area and other clubs.

Sandbach Striders

Sandbach Striders, based at Sandbach Rugby Club, consists of 150 members. The Club's weekly running session is typically held on Wednesday evening at 18:30, meeting at the aforementioned site and utilising its clubhouse afterwards. It has previously also used Elworth Cricket Club for this.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Styal Running Club

Styal Running Club meets on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club from 18:00. It has access to the sites ancillary facilities both beforehand and afterwards.

Tattenhall Runners

Tattenhall Runners meet on Tuesdays and Thursday evenings at various meeting locations in the area, usually starting its sessions from 18:30.

Wilmslow Running Club

Wilmslow Running Club utilises the cinder running track at Wilmslow Rugby Club on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 18:45, whilst also offering a more recreational session on Sunday morning from 09:00. It currently caters for over 100 members.

Wilmslow Striders

Wilmslow Striders offers two training sessions per week. On Tuesdays, its sessions are a mix of hills and steps, whereas speed-work sessions are provided on Thursdays.

Run Together⁴⁸

Run Together is an official England Athletics recreational running project which aims to get the whole nation running. Its aim is to provide fun, friendly, supportive and inclusive running opportunities for everyone, regardless of ability and availability. It believes that running is more fun and easier to become part of a lifestyle when shared with others.

In Cheshire East, the aforementioned Running Bear Running Club forms part of the initiative, as well as the following three Run Together groups:

- ◀ Disley Runners
- ◀ Lyme Runners
- ◀ Run Knutsford

A key focus for England Athletics is increasing demand for participation in initiatives such as Run Together, meaning this could be targeted moving forward, especially given the number of other clubs that could be involved.

Park Run

Park Run is a series of 5k runs held on Saturday mornings in areas of open space around the UK, with 1,063 events now operating across the Country. They are open to all, free, and are safe and easy to take part in. Runners must first register online in order to access a printed barcode which gives them access to all Park Run events.

The below summarises both Park Run and junior Park Run events in Cheshire East. In total, there are six weekly Park Run events, which is a considerable number, as well as three Junior Park Run events.

⁴⁸ <https://runtogether.co.uk/>

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

For reference, those aged between 4 and 14 participate in Junior Park Run events.

Table 14.3: Summary of Park Runs / Junior Park Runs in Cheshire East

Location	Post code	Event	Number of events	Average attendance
Alderley Park	SK10 4TG	Park Run	49	157
Astbury Mere Country Park	CW12 4FP	Park Run	486	193
Lyme Park	SK12 2NR	Park Run	407	117
Queens Park	CW2 7SE	Park Run	205	277
		Junior	105	55
South Park	SK11 8AD	Park Run	195	220
The Carrs Park	SK9 4AA	Park Run	367	182
		Junior	330	97
Victoria Park	SK10 1LT	Junior	168	61

As seen, the Park Run at Queens Park is seemingly the most popular, averaging 277 runners, which is considerable.

Couch to 5k

Couch to 5k is a national health initiative promoted by the National Health Service (NHS) to encourage absolute beginners get into running as part of establishing and maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle including regular exercise.

The plan consists of three runs per week and a day of rest in between, with a different schedule for each of the nine weeks to completion. It starts with a mix of running and walking, to gradually build up fitness and stamina, in order to create realistic expectations and a sense of achievability to encourage participants to stick with it. The end goal of the plan is for the participant to be able to run 5k.

Through the Couch to 5k plan the NHS particularly promotes the health benefits of running and regular exercise which underpin the initiative, such as improved heart and lung health, weight loss and possible increases in bone density which can help protect against bone diseases such as osteoporosis. This also includes mental benefits of running through goal setting and challenge setting, which can help boost confidence and self-belief. Furthermore, running regularly has been linked to combating depression.

It is believed that an increase in people running through the Couch to 5k plan may increase interest and possibly have a knock-on effect of leading to increased demand at running groups and clubs as people may wish to continue developing their running further.

Latent/unmet demand

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in athletics but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies significant latent demand amounting to 8,216 people within Cheshire East, which works out at just over 2.1% of the population. This is just above the 2% national average.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Notwithstanding the above, all clubs suggest that they are open to accommodating new members, suggesting that most people wanting to participate can do so. As such, access to clubs is not considered to be a barrier preventing participation, with most latent demand therefore likely to be for athletics and running outside of the club environment.

Exported/imported demand

Figure 14.1 represents a 20-minute drivetime radius from both athletics track in the Borough, at Cumberland Arena and Macclesfield Leisure Centre. As reflected in the figure, both athletics tracks attract imported demand from Cheshire West & Chester, Newcastle-Under Lyme, Staffordshire Moorlands and Stockport.

Future demand

All clubs consulted with express an aspiration to grow membership, although the majority state that this is difficult to quantify as they will do their utmost not turn demand away. Often, future growth can be limited by a lack of coaches rather than being due to facility issues.

England Athletics also believes that demand for initiatives such as Park Run is likely to continue to increase in the future, although again to what extent is difficult to quantify.

14.4: Supply and demand analysis

Cheshire East is relatively well provided for in relation to athletics tracks, with two synthetic 400-metre facilities provided and with these covering both the northern and southern areas of the Borough. However, demand is also notably high given that both have clubs attached to them, with a large volume of other clubs also existing. As such, priority should be placed on protecting the provision, with quality improvements also required within the lifespan of this study to ensure they remain sufficient to accommodate the level of demand received.

In addition, the Central Analysis Area is not currently provided for by any formal athletics facilities. This could therefore be a focus area for the creation of new provision, tied into England Athletics' current focus on providing new, innovative facilities (i.e., mini/active/compact tracks).

Away from track and field activity, emphasis should also be placed on supporting the other activities taking place in Cheshire East, with a focus on retaining and increasing participation and growing the various initiatives that are in place. This, however, does not require dedicated provision.

14.5: Conclusion

Both existing 400-metre tracks at Cumberland Arena and Macclesfield Leisure Centre require protection and future improvement to ensure that existing demand can continue to be met. In addition, the creation of an additional formal athletics facility should be explored in the Central Analysis Area given that it is currently without provision.

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Athletics – supply and demand summary

- Cheshire East is relatively well provided for in relation to athletics tracks, with two synthetic 400-metre facilities provided and with these covering both the northern and southern areas of the Borough; however, demand is also notable, with large clubs attached to both sites.
- Priority should be placed on protecting the provision, with quality improvements also likely to be required in the near future to ensure they remain sufficient to accommodate the level of demand received.
- The Central Analysis Area is not currently provided for by any formal athletics facilities, meaning this area could be a focus area for the creation of new provision, tied into England Athletics' current focus on providing new, innovative facilities.
- Away from track and field activity, emphasis should also be placed on supporting the other activities taking place in Cheshire East, with a focus on retaining and increasing participation and growing the various initiatives that are in place.

Athletics – supply summary

- There are two dedicated athletics facilities in Cheshire East, with both providing purpose-built 400 metre tracks (at Cumberland Arena and Macclesfield Leisure Centre).
- An additional, non-traditional running track is located at Wilmslow Rugby Club, with this providing a 600-metre single-lane track with a cinder surface.
- The tracks at both Cumberland Arena and Macclesfield Leisure Centre are operated by the Everybody Health & Leisure on behalf of the Council.
- Both tracks are standard quality, primarily due to their age.
- The track at Macclesfield Leisure Centre will require resurfacing in 2026, whilst both the track and the cage at Cumberland Area need improving in the near future.
- The track at Macclesfield Leisure Centre is currently TrackMark accredited, whilst the throwing cage at Cumberland Arena is not compliant.
- The ancillary facilities servicing the provision is adequate.

Athletics – demand summary

- There are 13 affiliated clubs in Cheshire East taking part in athletics or running activities.
- Crewe & Nantwich Athletic Club is based at the Cumberland Arena and currently caters for 260 members.
- Macclesfield Harriers Athletic Club is a large club catering for 750 members and utilises the track at Macclesfield Leisure Centre.
- Wilmslow Running Club utilises the cinder running track at Wilmslow Rugby Club, whilst all remaining clubs generally do not use dedicated provision.
- In addition, there are six weekly Park Run events, which is a considerable number, as well as three Junior Park Run events.
- All clubs suggest that they are open to accommodating new members, suggesting that most people wanting to participate can do so, meaning capacity is not a barrier to any unmet/latent demand.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

PART 15: CYCLING

15.1: Introduction

British Cycling is the NGB for all forms of cycling. It oversees six sporting disciplines, with each having a dedicated facility type:

- ◆ Track cycling – velodromes
- ◆ Road cycling – closed road circuits
- ◆ Mountain biking – trails
- ◆ BMX racing – race/pump tracks
- ◆ Cycle speedway – cycle speedway tracks
- ◆ Cyclocross – non-dedicated, non-permanent venues

British Cycling aids in the development of all six formats, helping to safeguard those that wish to participate in a competitive and compelling environment. The popularity of cycling has increased since recent, elite sporting success in the Olympics and Paralympics as well as in other major championships.

Consultation

Information for cycling was gathered through online research and via consultation with British Cycling.

15.2: Supply

In Cheshire East, there are six purpose built outdoor cycling facilities which are identified in the table below. Two are located in the South Analysis Area in Crewe, at Tipkinder Park (BMX racetrack) and Weston Pump Track, whilst three pump tracks and one BMX are located in the North Analysis Area. Windmill Park and Lanark Walk are in Macclesfield; Lacey Green Park and Picton Drive are in Wilmslow.

Table 15.1: Cycling facilities within Cheshire East

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Sub area	Type of provision	Year built
64	Windmill Park	SK11 7JD	North	Macclesfield	Pump track	2010
376	Weston Pump Track	CW2 5LW	South	Crewe	Pump track	2018
377	Tipkinder Park (Shanaze Reade BMX Track)	CW2 7SF	South	Crewe	BMX track	2009
378	Lanark Walk	SK10 3ES	North	Macclesfield	Pump track	2008
379	Picton Drive	SK9 2SQ	North	Wilmslow	Pump track	2009
380	Lacey Green Park	SK9 4BU	North	Wilmslow	BMX track	2000

Quality

The track at Tipkinder Park (Shanaze Reade BMX Track) was completely remodelled in 2009 and is deemed to be of a very high standard.

Similarly, the track at Windmill Park is considered to be good quality. Macclesfield Town Council completed consultation on improving the provision, with this subsequently carried out in 2023.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

The remaining pump tracks in the Borough at Weston Pump Track, Lanark Walk, Picton Drive and Lacey Green Park are of adequate quality. These mostly provide for recreational use only (i.e., non-club/group activity).

15.3: Demand

There are ten prominent cycling clubs based in Cheshire East. The name of the clubs, membership levels and relevant types of cycling activity that they provide are outlined in the table below.

Table 15.2: Summary of cycling demand within Cheshire East

Club name	Members ⁴⁹	Types
Alsager Harlequins Cycling	50	Charity rides / Club training rides / Competitive Time Trials / Recreational Rides / Road racing
Cheshire Ghostriders BMX	82	BMX racing / Charity rides / Coaching / Recreational rides / Sportives / Women only rides
Congleton Cycling Club	147	Charity rides / Club training rides / Competitive Time Trials / Recreational Rides / Road racing / Sportives
Crewe Clarion Wheelers	89	Club training rides / Competitive Time Trials / Cyclo-Cross racing / Recreational rides / Road racing / Track racing / Women only rides
Handcycling Association of the UK	80	Charity rides / Coaching / Recreational rides / Road racing / Sportives
Innovation Racing	28	Club training rides / Competitive Time Trials / Road racing / Track racing
Macclesfield Wheelers	250	Charity rides / Club training rides / Competitive Time Trials / Cyclo-Cross racing / MTB Cross Country racing / Recreational rides / Road racing / Sportives / Track racing / Women only rides
Middlewich Cycling Club	18	Charity rides / Club training rides / Competitive Time Trials / Recreational Rides / Road racing / Track racing
Nantwich Cycling Group	70	Charity rides / Club training rides / Competitive Time Trials / Cyclo-Cross racing / MTB Cross Country racing / Recreational rides / Road racing / Sportives
SFC North	14	BMX racing / Cyclo-Cross racing / MTB 4X racing

As seen, Macclesfield Wheelers is the largest club, catering for 250 members.

Each club is further summarised via the sections below. As part of this, it should be noted that only Congleton Ghost Riders BMX Club regularly accesses a formal cycling facility, with all other using the road network.

Alsager Harlequins

Alsager Harlequins caters for all abilities, offering three rides on a Sunday, the length of which is dependent on the riders who participate. The Club's meeting point is typically at Alsager Golf & Country Club.

⁴⁹ Information gathered from British Cycling data.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Congleton Ghost Riders BMX Club

Congleton Ghost Riders BMX utilises the BMX track at Tipkinder Park (Shanaze Reade BMX Track), with sessions typically held on Tuesday evenings from 17:00 to 20:00 and Thursday evenings from 18:00 to 20:30.

Congleton Cycling Club

Congleton Cycling Club offers a variety of rides such as time-trials and training rides. Club rides take place on a Saturday and Sunday, with these catering for a wide variety of riders including juniors, disability cyclists, novice riders and racing cyclists. The Club meets at the Unicorn at West Heath from 09:30.

Crewe Clarion Wheels

Crewe Clarion Wheels hold cycling sessions each Tuesday, Friday and Sunday, meeting at the Hickory Smokehouse in Shavington. It then utilises the local road network.

Handcycling Association UK

Handcycling Association UK is a charity and offers hand cycling sessions. At these sessions, the Club provides hand cycles for those without one. Each year in June, it also coaches a team of nine hand cyclists to participate in a team time trial, which is held at Silverstone Race Course.

Macclesfield Wheelers

Macclesfield Wheelers provides multiple rides throughout the week, all at different times and locations within Macclesfield. In addition, it offers three cycling sessions to see if prospective members enjoy the atmosphere and environment of the Club prior to joining. Furthermore, the Club emphasises the importance of making new friends, getting fitter, and discovering hidden lanes.

Middlewich Cycling Club

Middlewich Cycling Club offers road cycling, racing, and family/beginner cycling sessions. Road rides take place on both Saturday and Sunday.

Nantwich Cycling Group

Nantwich Cycling Group is run by its members and is open to all levels of ability, with rides taking place six days a week (excluding Friday evenings). Longer rides are held at the weekend.

SFC North

SFC North offers a specialist BMX racing coach and an elite BMX team, with sessions aimed at a variety of abilities from beginners on flat ground through to ranked BMX racers. One-on-one sessions are available in Crewe.

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Go-Ride

Go-Ride is a British Cycling's development programme for young people. It offers a fun and safe way to introduce young people to the sport and provides a platform to improve cycling skills. People can get involved through holiday coaching programmes or through their local accredited club which allows them to sample the various disciplines of the sport. Progression is obtainable with Go-Ride Racing, offering competition for riders to transition from school or club coaching to inter club and open regional competitions.

Across Cheshire East, one club is identified as offering Go-Ride programmes, with this known as Cheshire Ghostriders BMX.

Breeze

Breeze is a British Cycling's development programme for women. It offers three categories easy going, steady and challenging to allow women of all abilities to get involved. The programme offers exercise whilst also creating a comfortable environment to meet new people.

In Cheshire East, there are currently no Breeze sessions taking place, with the nearest identified at Delamere Forest in neighbouring Cheshire West & Chester.

Cycling UK

Cycling UK is a charity with a mission to enable millions more to cycle. It wants cycling to become a safe and popular mode of transport for people of all backgrounds and abilities, where air pollution is not an issue, obesity has been eliminated and traffic congestion is gone. As such, it promotes all forms of cycling, protects the interests of existing and would-be cyclists and inspires people across the Country to take-up cycling.

Across the UK, Cycling UK has around 1,000 member and affiliated cycling groups offering rides and events for all abilities. Within Cheshire East, this includes those identified within the following table. There are eight in total.

Table 15.3: Cycle UK groups within Cheshire East

Club name	Activities
Cheshire Maverick Cycle Group	<i>Unknown</i>
Crewe Calrion Wheelers	<i>Unknown</i>
Cycle Britain	Leisure rides, offroad rides, family rides, women only rides
Cycle Wilmslow	Road rides, leisure rides, women only rides, campaigning
Group Rides	Road rides, leisure rides, offroad rides, family rides, women only rides
Shropshire, Staffordshire & Crewe	<i>Unknown</i>
Tatton Velo	Leisure rides, offroad rides, women only rides
The Goostrey Wheelers	<i>Unknown</i>

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Future/latent demand

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables an analysis of the percentage of adults that would like to participate in cycling but that 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 16,717 people within Cheshire East, which represents approximately 4.3% of the Authority's population compared to a national average of 3.4%. This therefore suggests that unmet demand is higher than what would otherwise be expected.

Notwithstanding the above, the nature of cycling likely means that most of the latent and future demand will not require space within a club or at a dedicated facility. Instead, most new participants will likely take up cycling by themselves (or with friends) on a recreational basis and will utilise the local road network to fulfil this. It is therefore likely that other barriers are preventing participation.

15.4: Supply and demand analysis

Relatively high demand for cycling is identified within Cheshire East, especially when taking into account latent demand. Whilst most of this will fall outside of the club environment and will not require dedicated provision, protecting and sustaining what is provided across the six identified sites should be seen as particularly key given the off-road facilities offered. The provision at Tipkinder Park in particular should be seen as a destination venue for BMX cyclists in the area.

Elsewhere, with all dedicated facilities existing across the North and South analysis areas, demand for the creation of facilities within the Central Analysis Area could be explored. Any provision should complement what is already in place to ensure a broader range of activities can be catered for across the Borough.

Continued implementation of initiatives promoted by British Cycling should also be explored in order to encourage more people to get into cycling. This therefore includes Go-Ride and Breeze.

15.5: Conclusion

Formal cycling provision at Tipkinder Park (Shanaze Reade BMX Track) requires protection to ensure competitive demand can continue to be met, whilst the protection of provision at Lanark Walk, Lacey Green Park, Picton Drive, Weston Pump Track and Windmill Park should also be seen as a priority. In addition, the creation of formal cycling provision in the Central Analysis Area could be explored to better accommodate demand from across Cheshire East.

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Cycling – supply and demand summary

- ◆ Formal cycling provision at Tipkinder Park (Shanaze Reade BMX Track) requires protection to ensure competitive demand can continue to be met, whilst the protection of provision at Lanark Walk, Lacey Green Park, Picton Drive, Weston Pump Track and Windmill Park should also be seen as a priority.
- ◆ With dedicated provision only existing in the North and South analysis areas, demand for the creation of facilities within the Central Analysis Area could be explored, and any provision should complement what is already in place to ensure a broader range of activities can be catered for across the Borough.

Cycling – supply summary

- ◆ In Cheshire East, there are six purpose built outdoor cycling facilities at Tipkinder Park (Shanaze Reade BMX Track), Weston Pump Track and Windmill Park, Picton Drive, Lanark Walk and Lacey Green Park
- ◆ The provision at Tipkinder Park was completely remodelled in 2009 and is deemed to be of a very high standard.
- ◆ The pump track at Windmill Park is also assessed as good quality following improvement work in 2023.
- ◆ The remaining facilities are of adequate quality.

Cycling – demand summary

- ◆ There are ten prominent cycling clubs based in Cheshire East.
- ◆ Macclesfield Wheelers is the largest club, catering for 250 members.
- ◆ Congleton Ghost Riders BMX utilises the BMX track at Tipkinder Park (Shanaze Reade BMX Track), whilst all remaining clubs do not access dedicated provision nor do they have demand to.
- ◆ One club is identified as offering Go-Ride programmes, with this known as Cheshire Ghostriders BMX.
- ◆ In addition, there are eight Cycle UK groups within Cheshire East.
- ◆ Whilst levels of future and latent demand are identified, the nature of cycling means that most of this will not require space at a dedicated facility or within a club.

APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT

The following section outlines a series of national, regional and local policies pertaining to the study and which will have an important influence on the Strategy.

National context

The provision of high quality and accessible community outdoor sports facilities at a local level is a key requirement for achieving the targets set out by the Government and Sport England. It is vital that this strategy is cognisant of and works towards these targets in addition to local priorities and plans.

Department of Media Culture and Sport Get Active: A Strategy for the Future of Sport and Physical Activity (2023)

The Government published its new strategy for sport in August 2023. The 2015 government sport strategy, Sporting Future: A New Strategy for a More Active Nation, was a fundamental re-framing of sport and physical activity in the UK. It set out five outcomes delivered by sport and physical activity:

- ◀ Physical wellbeing
- ◀ Mental wellbeing
- ◀ Individual development
- ◀ Social and community development
- ◀ Sustainable economic development

This new strategy builds on the foundations of Sporting Future and retains these five outcomes at its core. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of three core priorities, with seven indicators to achieve these priorities as follows:

- ◀ **Being unapologetically ambitious in making the nation more active**
 - ◀ Ensuring everyone is focused on increasing physical activity, meaning fewer inactive children, and narrowing the gap on inactivity where groups are not being reached, with visible progress across the country by 2030
 - ◀ Focusing on evidence, data and metrics
 - ◀ Setting the future direction for facilities and spaces where people can be active
- ◀ **Making sport and physical activity more inclusive and welcoming for all that everyone can have confidence that there is a place for them in sport**
 - ◀ Helping the sector to be welcoming to all
 - ◀ Improving how issues and concerns are dealt within the sector
- ◀ **Moving towards a more sustainable sector that is more financially resilient and robust**
 - ◀ Supporting the sector to access additional, alternative forms of investment
 - ◀ Working towards a more environmentally sustainable sector

Delivering against these priorities will help create a more active nation and a more sustainable sport sector. These aims are complementary; greater participation, stronger governance and confidence in the sector will help to drive investment, which in turn helps to attract new audiences. The vision is to make sport and physical activity accessible, resilient, fun and fair, for now and the years to come – for the benefit of individuals and the country.

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Sport England Uniting the Movement: Our 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport (2021-2031)

Sport and physical activity makes people happier and healthier, and movement is the lens through which we can make that happen. It does the same thing for our communities, with life-changing, sustainable benefits that have huge economic and social value. That's why Sport England wants sport and physical activity to be recognised as essential to help overcome these national challenges.

The Strategy recognises the need to invest in sport and physical activity through NGBs, other sports bodies and local sports clubs, organisations and community groups to increase engagement for different groups as part of our core purpose. It states that there is now a need to go further in promoting movement in general as the means to unlock sport and activity for some people.

Tackling inequalities

There are deep-rooted inequalities in sport and physical activity, which means that there are people who feel excluded from being active because the right options and opportunities aren't there. These inequalities are at the very core of the Uniting the Movement.

Sport England plans on having a laser focus on tackling inequalities in all that it does, because providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity is vitally important.

National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It also provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

The NPPF states the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It identifies that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

The 'promoting healthy communities' theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficiencies or surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown that the open space, buildings or land is surplus to requirements.
- ◀ 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.
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

In order for planning policies to be 'sound' local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities.

The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)

The Football Association's (FA) National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS) provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a ten-year period.

The Strategy sets out shared aims and objectives it aims to deliver on in conjunction with The Premier League, Sport England and the Government, to be delivered with support of the FF.

These stakeholders have clearly identified the aspirations for football to contribute directly to nationally important social and health priorities. Alongside this, the strategy is clear that traditional, affiliated football remains an important priority and a core component of the game, whilst recognising and supporting the more informal environments used for the community and recreational game.

Its vision is: *"Within 10 years we aim to deliver great football facilities, wherever they are needed"*

£1.3 billion has been spent by football and Government since 2000 to enhance existing football facilities and build new ones. However, more is needed if football and Government's shared objectives for participation, individual well-being and community cohesion are to be achieved. Nationally, direct investment will be increased – initially to £69 million per annum from football and Government (a 15% increase on recent years).

The NFFS investment priorities can be broadly grouped into six areas, recognising the need to grow the game, support existing players and better understand the different football environments:

- ◀ Improve 20,000 Natural Turf pitches, with a focus on addressing drop off due to a poor playing experience;
- ◀ Deliver 1,000 3G AGP 'equivalents' (mix of full size and small sided provision, including MUGAs - small sided facilities are likely to have a key role in smaller / rural communities and encouraging multi-sport offers), enhancing the quality of playing experience and supporting a sustainable approach to grass roots provision;
- ◀ Deliver 1,000 changing pavilions/clubhouses, linked to multi-pitch or hub sites, supporting growth (particularly in women and girls football), sustainability and providing a facility infrastructure to underpin investment in coaching, officials and football development;
- ◀ Support access to flexible indoor spaces, including equipment and court markings, to support growth in futsal, walking football and to support the education and skills outcomes, exploiting opportunities for football to positively impact on personal and social outcomes for young people in particular;
- ◀ Refurbish existing stock to maintain current provision, recognising the need to address historic under-investment and issues with refurbishment of existing facilities;
- ◀ Support testing of technology and innovation, building on customer insight to deliver hubs for innovation, testing and development of the game.

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Local Football Facility Plans

To support in delivery of the NFFS, The FA has commissioned a national project. Over the next two years to 2020, a Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) will be produced for every local authority across England. Each plan will be unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation, including currently underrepresented communities.

Identifying strategic priorities for football facilities across the formal, recreational and informal game, LFFPs will establish a ten-year vision for football facilities that aims to transform the playing pitch stock in a sustainable way. They will identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all will be identified via LFFPs. LFFPs will guide the allocation of 90% of national football investment (The FA, Premier League and DCMS) and forge stronger partnerships with local stakeholders to develop key sites. This, together with local match-funding will deliver over one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next 10-years.

It is important to recognise that a LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment - it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Therefore, it cannot be used as a replacement for a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and it will not be accepted as an evidence base for site change of use or disposal.

A LFFP will; however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans and may adopt relevant actions from a PPS and/or complement these with additional investment priorities.

The FA: Survive. Revive. Thrive. (2020-24)

This new strategy aims to ensure the grassroots game in England will survive, revive, and thrive over the next four years.

The strategy outlines seven transformational objectives through to 2024:

- ◀ **Male Participation:** Modernised opportunities to retain and re-engage millions of male participants in the game.
- ◀ **Female Participation:** A sustainable model based on a world-class, modernised offer.
- ◀ **Club Network:** A vibrant national club network that delivers inclusive, safe local grassroots football and meets community needs.
- ◀ **Facilities:** Enhanced access to good quality pitches across grassroots football.
- ◀ **Grassroots Workforce:** A transformation in community football by inspiring, supporting and retaining volunteers in the game.
- ◀ **Digital Products and Services:** An efficient grassroots digital ecosystem to serve the administrative and development needs of players, parents, and the workforce.
- ◀ **Positive Environment:** A game that's representative of our diverse footballing communities, played in a safe and inclusive environment.

This strategy was launched as grassroots football was able to safely return after lockdown from Monday 29 March, it also identifies the immediate challenge, in light of COVID-19, to get grassroots football back on its feet.

The new strategy sets out a number of goals to revive the game by addressing the areas that require particular attention. This includes increasing opportunities to ensure girls have the same access as boys to football in schools and clubs, and improving quality of pitches, with the aim of seeing 5000 good quality pitches added to the current number by 2024.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

The FA: Time for Change Strategy (2020-24)

The FA launched its new National Game Strategy in January 2021 which aims to 'unite the game and inspire the nation'. It will do this in two ways, by 'changing the game to maximise its impact' and by 'serving the game to deliver football for all'.

To achieve this, the strategy will focus on six Game Changer objectives, to change the fabric of the game and tackle long-term issues, to make the largest possible impact in the years ahead:

- ◀ Win a major tournament
- ◀ Service > two million through a transformed media platform
- ◀ Ensure equal opportunities for every girl
- ◀ Delivery of 5,000 quality pitches
- ◀ A game free of discrimination

These are underpinned by eight Serve objectives, ensuring maintenance of brilliant business-as-usual services to support the growing and evolving needs of the game:

- ◀ Trusted, progressive regulation and administration
- ◀ Safe and inclusive football pathways and environment
- ◀ Personalised and connected learning experiences
- ◀ Maximum investment into the game
- ◀ Diverse, high-performing workforce and inclusive culture
- ◀ World class venues and events
- ◀ Strong reputation and clear brand identity
- ◀ Technology enabled and insight driven

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Inspiring Generations (2020-2024)

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic plan in 2019. The strategic plan aims to connect communities and improve lives by inspiring people to discover and share their passion for cricket

The plan sets out six important priorities and activities, these are:

- ◀ **Grow and nurture the core**
 - ◀ Create an infrastructure investment fund for First Class County Clubs (FCCs)
 - ◀ Introduce a new Community Investment Funding for FCCs and County Cricket Boards (CCBs)
 - ◀ Invest in club facilities
 - ◀ Develop the role of National Counties Cricket
 - ◀ Further invest in County Competitions
- ◀ **Inspire through elite teams**
 - ◀ Increase investment in the county talent pathway
 - ◀ Incentivise the counties to develop England Players
 - ◀ Drive the performance system through technology and innovation
 - ◀ Create heroes and connect them with a new generation of fans
- ◀ **Make cricket accessible**
 - ◀ Broaden crickets appeal through the New Competition
 - ◀ Create a new digital community for cricket
 - ◀ Install non-traditional playing facilities in urban areas
 - ◀ Continue to deliver South Asian Action Plans
 - ◀ Launch a new participation product, linked to the New Competition

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

- ◀ **Engage children and young people**
 - ◀ Double cricket participation in primary schools
 - ◀ Deliver a compelling and coordinated recreational playing offer from age five upwards
 - ◀ Develop our safeguarding to promote safe spaces for children and young people
- ◀ **Transform women's and girls' cricket**
 - ◀ Grow the base through participation and facilities investment
 - ◀ Launch centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure
 - ◀ Invest in girls' county age group cricket
 - ◀ Deliver a girls' secondary school programme
- ◀ **Support our communities**
 - ◀ Double the number of volunteers in the game
 - ◀ Create a game-wide approach to Trust and Foundations through the cricket network
 - ◀ Develop a new wave of officials and community coaches
 - ◀ Increase participation in disability cricket

The Rugby Football Union Strategy (2021 Onwards)

Through the strategy, the RFU aims to enrich lives, introduce more people to rugby union and develop the sport for future generations. The goal is to achieve this by strengthening and uniting rugby union in England and producing consistently winning England teams.

Eight key strategic priorities are identified with all investment decisions aligned to these. The strategy also outlines the RFU's core activities which form the backbone of its business operations and services to the game.

The priorities include four 'Game Objectives' and four 'Driving Objectives' as detailed below.

Game Objectives:

- ◀ Enjoyment – enable positive player experiences on and off the field
- ◀ Winning England – create the best possible high-performance system for England Rugby
- ◀ Welfare – enhance player welfare to protect and support the wellbeing of players
- ◀ Flourishing rugby communities – support clubs to sustain and grow themselves and to reflect society

Driving Objectives:

- ◀ Diversity & Inclusion – drive rugby union in England to reflect the diversity of society
- ◀ Understand – build a deep understanding of players, volunteers and fans to shape the future of the game
- ◀ Connect – connect with and grow the rugby community and create exceptional experiences
- ◀ Commercial and operational excellence – ensure a sustainable and efficient business model delivered by an inspired workforce

Rugby Football League Strategic Plan 2015 – 2021

The RFL's most recent strategy aims to establish rugby league as "a growing sport, available throughout the country, that is recognised as providing positive experience for all participants and spectators, in environments that are welcoming, inclusive, vibrant, safe and comfortable - encouraging people to return again and again, featuring:

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

- ◆ Financially viable and sustainable professional clubs creating stable employment opportunities, showcasing local, national and international playing talent, and leading the sport's development - and making a difference - in their own communities;
- ◆ Welcoming community clubs, putting players first, offering recreational enjoyment for children and adults alike in a safe and inclusive environment;
- ◆ A central organisation that stands out for excellence, innovation, mutual respect, integrity and inclusion that understands its role in servicing the wider sport;
- ◆ A sports that lives its values in all its decisions and actions.

This vision is underpinned by 13 core principles, including:

- ◆ **An integrated whole sport.** Each constituent part of the sport will have a responsibility to ensure the good health of the entire game;
- ◆ **Return on investment.** Investment will be targeted to ensure the sustainability of member clubs, and growth in the number and quality of players thus seeking an effective return for the game;
- ◆ **Financial parameters.** Financial distributions will be undertaken to ensure the whole of the game will move forward together;
- ◆ **Geographic expansion.** Geographic expansion of the sport should be carried out in a proportionate and sustainable manner.

Rugby League World Cup 'Inspired by 2021' Legacy Programme

The Rugby League World Cup 2021 will develop a £10 million legacy programme with funds driven into local clubs and community projects. The government investment, delivered by Sport England, is part of an ambitious plan to grow the sport and make it more visible, engaging and welcoming to current and potential participants.

The funding will be split into large transformational community projects, such as changing room improvements and new artificial grass pitches with the remaining funding used for smaller scale initiatives such as supplying new kit and equipment to promote club and community development. The investment will focus on the following four key areas:

- ◆ Creating welcoming environments
- ◆ Encouraging participation growth
- ◆ Building community engagement
- ◆ Cultivating further investment

England Hockey Strategy

The vision of the Strategy is for "every hockey club in England to have appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players", whilst its missions is for "More, Better, Happier Players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities."

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

- ◆ **PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision**

There are currently over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities) across the country. It is important to retain the current provision where appropriate to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country.

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

◀ **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. EH works to provide 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 consolidating hockey provision in a local area where appropriate.**

EH has identified key areas across the country where there is a lack of suitable hockey provision and there is a need for additional pitches, suitable for hockey. 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 for at one site.

Tennis in Britain - LTA Strategy

The LTA's vision for 2019 – 2023, Tennis Opened Up includes seven strategies relating to three objectives which are built around its mission 'to grow tennis by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable'.

Objectives:

- ◀ Increase the number of fans on our database from [623,602] to [1,000,000] by 2023.
- ◀ More people playing more often;
 - Increase the number of adults playing tennis each year from [7.7% (4,018,600)] of the population to [8.5% (4,420,460)], and the frequency of adults playing tennis twice a month 2.5% 1,311,800 to 1.9% 1,500,000 by 2023.
 - The number of children playing tennis once a week from 550,000 to 700,000 (7.9% to 10% of the population) by 2023.
- ◀ Enable 5 new players to break into the top 100 by 2023 and inspire the tennis audience.

Strategies:

1. Visibility -Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players.
2. Innovation - Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal.
3. Investment - Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunities to play
4. Accessibility - Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone
5. 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.
6. Performance - Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.
7. Leadership - Lead tennis in Britain to the highest standard so it is a safe, welcoming, well-run sport.

England Netball

In November 2021 England Netball launched a 10-year 'Adventure Strategy' for the game with a new brand identity for the organisation.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

England Netball's 'Adventure Strategy' shares a purpose-led ambition for the game, to build on the momentum the sport has seen in recent years and take it to new heights for the decade ahead.

The 'Adventure Strategy' outlines the intention to:

- ◆ Accelerate the development and growth of the game at every level, from grassroots to the elite,
- ◆ Elevate the visibility of the sport, and
- ◆ Lead a movement to impact lives on and beyond the court.

At the heart of its purpose, England Netball, with its proud and unique female foundations, will remain dedicated to increasing opportunities for women and girls to play the game as a priority, working tirelessly to address the gender participation gap in sport that has widened since the global pandemic.

Underpinned by years of engaging with and delivering netball for female communities, the organisation pledges to understand, support and nurture women and girls more deeply at every life stage, at every age.

The organisation is also committed to opening the sport to new audiences in every community, so netball better represents the rich diversity of the country it proudly represents, and ensures the sport continues to evolve and adapt to thrive in the future, helping to create a truly inclusive sport for all where everyone can belong, flourish and soar. A recent partnership announcement with England Men's and Mixed Netball Association (EMMNA) to help develop and grow male participation in the game, supports this commitment as England Netball pledges to promote difference and embrace the opportunity to make the sport a possibility within everyone's reach.

Transforming netball for children and young people is a strategic priority to protect the future of the sport. Working with schools and policy makers to extend physical literacy within, and after the school day with a focus on netball specific provision will pave the way for greater community participation. The organisation will accelerate the expansion of its Bee Netball programme for young children, whilst supporting teens and young women to stay in the game to keep them physically active and in the game for life.

Facility Development

The facility development aspirations stated within the Strategy are to:-

- ◆ Take a fresh look at the spaces required to support the sport, creating accessible places in every community to allow netball to be incorporated into how and where women and girls live their lives;
- ◆ Protect, enhance, and extend the network of homes that house the sport at a local and regional level;
- ◆ Develop an elite domestic professional competition that supports full time athletes underpinned by a world class infrastructure and environments.
- ◆ For England Netball to achieve its ambitions to make the game accessible to wider audiences and in every community, it encourages Local Authorities to adopt policies within Playing Pitch Strategies and Built Facilities Strategies that:-
- ◆ Facilitates informal netball activity within neighbourhood multi use games areas for example by installing combined outdoor basketball and netball goals and art courts in Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs).

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

- ✦ Incorporates the cultural and health needs of women and girls within any designs for improved or new facilities.
- ✦ Protects and enhances netball facilities within all Primary and Secondary School environments so they offer a positive first experience of the sport for students and the wider community during out of school hours.
- ✦ Supports the installation of floodlights on outdoor courts to increase all year-round use.
- ✦ Facilitates the development of netball growth programmes, club training and competition within public leisure centres.
- ✦ Where appropriate, supports the development of netball homes and performance environments that enable local women and girls to pursue a career in netball as an elite athlete, official, coach or administrator.

Bowls England: Fit for the Future (2021-2026)

Bowls England's Strategy; 'Fit For The Future' frames an exciting course for the sport. The five-year plan has been designed with the ultimate goal of getting more people playing & enjoying bowls. It sets out its vision for the sport, how it plans to achieve its objectives and what success looks like in 2026. The priorities that will get it to the target of 1 million bowls experiences per year by 2026 are:

- ✦ Building the brand of bowls by increasing focus on international & top domestic bowls, and utilizing opportunities such as Birmingham 2022 to achieve larger media coverage;
- ✦ Ensuring the sport is truly accessible to all by offering different formats of the game which suit all time constraints, as well as driving more people to clubs in new ways;
- ✦ Creating positive playing experiences for everyone who steps on the green, both for casual and competitive players, as well as growing our events calendar and introducing a Performance Pathway
- ✦ Putting volunteers first, as the lifeblood of our sport, by increasing our support for clubs in order to empower them to thrive;
- ✦ Leading the sport with purpose by developing our Governance structures, diversifying our revenue streams, and work collaboratively with all the sport's key stakeholders.

England Athletics Strategic Plan – Athletics & Running: for everyone, forever – 2017 and beyond

This plan sets out England Athletics' mission, vision and strategic priorities that will direct how they work as an organisation during the coming years: what they do and how they will do it.

Vision: Make athletics and running the most inclusive and popular sport in England, led by a network of progressive clubs and organisations and supported by a sustainable, respected and trusted governing body.

For England Athletics to achieve this vision, they will focus on three values:

- ✦ Pride – taking pride in their work and demonstrating to athletes that they recognise the importance of their role in bettering athletics.
- ✦ Integrity – demonstrate integrity to earn respect and to build effective partnerships.
- ✦ Inclusivity – promote inclusivity in all their actions.

Mission: To grow opportunities for everyone to experience athletics and running, to enable them to reach their full potential.

In order to achieve their mission, England Athletics will have three strategic priorities.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

1. To expand the capacity of the sport by supporting and developing its volunteers and other workforce. The target is to achieve a 6% increase every year of licensed leaders, coaches and officials.
2. To sustain and increase participation and performance levels in our sport. To achieve this, England Athletics' current targets are to increase the number of club registered athletes from (149,000 to 172,000), engage 135,000 people through the RunTogether programme and to increase athlete performance levels across all events and disciplines by 1% every year.
3. To influence participation in the wider athletics market. Their target here is to increase the number of regular athletes or runners by at least one million.

England Athletics Facility Strategy (2018 – 2025)

The purpose of this document is to set out our long term vision for athletics facilities in England. Facilities form a vital component of the overall England Athletics strategy.

The development, protection and enhancement of facilities will support our strategic plan and help England Athletics contribute to the delivery of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's Sporting Futures: A New Strategy for Sport and Sport England's strategy Towards an Active Nation. Appropriate facilities help to attract and inspire new participants and provide the foundation and focus for a significant proportion of the England Athletics family.

The England Athletics Strategic Plan notes that the sport increasingly needs to become financially sustainable and that a business-like and innovative approach is a vital component of its future success. Facilities are fundamental, but they are also expensive to create and to maintain. The sport therefore faces a significant challenge to develop, improve and maintain facilities, most of which are currently operated and funded by third parties.

This strategy sets out a challenge to all those involved with the delivery of the sport to be innovative and business like in the operation and development of facilities at a time of financial challenge, as it aims "To create an innovative and inspiring network of sustainable athletic facilities, with the capacity to meet both current and future demand across England".

England Golf Course Planner – Strategic Direction (2021-2025)

England Golf has always had a mission to lead, support, inspire and deliver for its community of golfers, golf clubs and counties. To help enable this, its Course Planner forms the core of its strategy, with 18 guiding principles established that are designed to best position growth in the game:

- ◆ Strengthen governance in all aspects of the sport
- ◆ Deliver safeguarding throughout the golfing community
- ◆ Utilise data and technology to enhance decision making
- ◆ Drive equality and equity in everything it does
- ◆ Support golf clubs with member recruitment and retention
- ◆ Connect and engage with all golfers
- ◆ Inspire and educate golf's network of volunteers
- ◆ Increase golf's influence
- ◆ Advocate and inform on all elements of sustainability
- ◆ Drive diversity at all levels of golf
- ◆ Create more opportunities for junior and young adults
- ◆ Promote the health and wellbeing of golf
- ◆ Inspire more women and girls to play golf
- ◆ Develop greater access for disabled people

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

- ◀ Enthuse all golfers through relatable role models
- ◀ Communicate a positive perception change for golf
- ◀ Deliver an excellent talent development pathway
- ◀ Host best-in-class competitions for all golfers

<https://www.Englandgolf.org/Englandgolfstrategy/>

British Cycling Lead our Sports – Inspire our communities⁵⁰

British Cycling's Strategy identifies seven key priorities for cycling before the Paris Olympics in 2024. These priorities are:

- ◀ Inspiring Performances
- ◀ Grow Communities
- ◀ Engage the Next Generation
- ◀ Flagship Events
- ◀ Cycling for Everyone
- ◀ Work Together
- ◀ Equipped for Success

The seven priorities are not everything that British Cycling will do, but that can have the greatest impact over the next 36 months. The priorities are all interconnected and are cross interdependencies – achieving one strategic priority is often reliant upon achieving the other.

For each of the priorities, the Strategy sets out the measures of success:

Priority	Sub priority	Measures
Inspiring Performances	Sustain inspirational global elite cycling success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Win 10 Olympic and 15 Paralympic medals. ◀ Creation of a development plan to support elite non Olympic and Paralympic disciplines. ◀ Increase by 10% the number of riders in the talent pathway across ethnic communities, disability and low socioeconomic backgrounds.
Grow Communities	Grow and serve our cycling communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Diversify and grow our cycling communities. ◀ Grow membership from 150k to 250k. ◀ Increase affiliated clubs and groups by 20%
Engage the Next Generation	Encourage more children and young people to make cycling a lifelong habit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Increase the number of children and young people in clubs or groups by 20%. ◀ Increase by 10% the number of children and young people participating across ethnic communities, disability and low socio-economic backgrounds. ◀ Increased awareness and perception of British Cycling in a younger audience through yearly tracking.
Flagship Events	Host world class major events to excite and inspire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Achieve major event hosting targets across disciplines. ◀ Support the legacy impact of both the 2022 Commonwealth Games and the Cycling World Championships 2023. ◀ Increase the opportunities for British riders to perform on home soil.

⁵⁰ [British Cycling Lead our Sports](#)

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Priority	Sub priority	Measures
Cycling for Everyone	Ensure cycling is open to everyone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put in place robust tracking and increased diversity in facilitators and governance. 90% of our communities to believe cycling is an inclusive activity and a sport for them. Increase participation in our sport across genders, ages, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation and low socioeconomic backgrounds by 10%.
Work Together	Work together with everyone who makes cycling happen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 25% increase in the percentage of cycling facilitators that feel appreciated for the work they do. Retain, grow and diversify the range of partners in line with our strategic priorities.
Equipped for Success	Deliver our strategy effectively and efficiently	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% increase in the diversity of the industries represented in the British Cycling partnership portfolio. Grow and diversify income streams.

Baseball/Softball UK's Strategic Plan (2020-24)

This Strategic Plan aims to have more people playing baseball and softball in more places. Its strategic priorities to achieve this include:

Targeted participation growth

To encourage and enable growth, working with a range of partners and organisations to reach new audiences:

- Coordinating a children and young people participation plan that establishes local youth leagues particularly for baseball and girls fastpitch, underpinned by strong schoolclub links.
- Further developing adult baseball and softball in the Higher Education and the workplace.
- Facilitating and enhancing playing opportunities for LGBTQ+ people, women and girls, lower socio-economic communities, BAME people and those with a disability.

Talent development

We will build an effective and efficient talent identification and development pathway:

- Supporting home-grown talent from all communities, reducing financial barriers that prevent talent from blossoming.
- Developing and communicating clear performance pathways from grassroots to elite.
- Delivering regular high-quality coaching opportunities, in appropriate facilities.

Efficient grassroots support services

Spanning baseball and softball, we will support grassroots organisations to be stronger, safer and sustainable:

- Offering services that add value in safeguarding, integrity, administration, technology and marketing, through collaborative working.
- Coordinating UK-wide and home country development plans for baseball, and for slow-pitch and fast-pitch softball, spanning grassroots, talent and workforce development.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

- c) Supporting grassroots organisations to become an important part of their local community.
- d) Taking a leading role in enabling the improvement and creation of appropriate local playing facilities.

◀ Organisational sustainability

Build the organisation and sports to be more financially sustainable, including:

- a) Increasing and diversifying our partnerships and funding sources.
- b) Realising the potential of our workforce, assets, services and relationships.
- c) Increasing funding from events, fundraising and sponsorship.

Archery GB's Strategic Plan (2021-2026)

This Strategic Plan aims to enrich lives through archery and rebuild, reimagine and re-present archery in the next five years. To do this, it has six strategic ambitions:

- ◀ Membership structure – an effective and efficient governance and delivery structure for the whole sport, with a member-centric membership offer.
- ◀ Empowering workforce – connections that engage, recruit and support the thousands of people who create opportunities for archery to happen.
- ◀ Diversity throughout – a diverse and inclusive organisation that enables everyone to be themselves and develop in a way that suits them.
- ◀ Archer recruitment – a revitalised club network, rebuilding from the damage of Covid-19, new groups, partnerships, places that increase the breadth of our archery communities.
- ◀ Digital first – putting digital transformation at the heart of the organisation, leveraging technology to modernise systems and resources.
- ◀ Pathway & podium – redefine GB performance archery and be the pioneers on the world archery stage.

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

APPENDIX 2: NON TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT SHEETS

Grass football pitch non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Football									
Please complete one form per pitch									
Site reference:				Site Name:					
6 figure grid reference				Pitch ID(s):					
Number of football pitches on site:				Pitch size:		(Adult 11v11, Youth 11v11, 9v9, 7v7 Mini, 5v5, 7v7)			
Availability				Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?					
				If yes, please indicate what pitches are overmarked? (i.e. one youth pitch is overmarked on a adult pitch) in Pitch Issues					
Weather at time of visit & date of visit									
Pitch Issues:									
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)									
Element (Gathered via a non technical site assessment)	Rating						Guidance notes	Comments	
Playing surface									
Grass Cover	Good >80%		Adequate 60-80%		Poor <60%		Advice is to walk through the middle of the pitch		
Does the pitch meet The FA minimum size?	Yes - as per the FA recommended size		Within FA recommended guidelines		No		See size chart below for recommended dimensions		
Slope of pitch (gradient and cross fall)	Flat		Moderate		Severe				
Length of grass	Good		Too long		Too short		Good 30mm-50mm, Too long 51mm plus, Too short 29mm less		
Evenness of pitch	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Problem Areas: Evidence of dog fouling/glass/litter/vehicle tracks	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of unofficial use/damage to the surface	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of poor drainage	No evidence of standing water or poor drainage		Some evidence of poor drainage		Yes, poor drainage				
Maintenance programme (information from maintenance schedule/grounds team/club survey)								Section total	
Grass cutting	Yes, as required		Yes, but not frequent enough		No				
Seeded	Yes, as required		Not known		No				
Aerated (per year)	Three or more times		Once/ twice		No				
Sand dressed	Within the last 12 months		Within the last 2 years		No				
Fertilised	Within the last 12 months		Within the last 2 years		No				
Weed killed	Within the last 12 months		Within the last 2 years		No				
								Section total	
NB If none of this information is provided you should assume that only the grass is being cut and the rest of the maintenance items should be marked with the lowest score option.									
PITCH SCORE				0.0%	RATING		Poor		

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Grass rugby pitch non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Rugby Union									
Please complete one form per pitch									
Site reference			Site Name						
6 figure grid reference			Pitch ID(s)						
Date of assessment			Pitch size	(Senior, Mini/Midi)					
Number of pitches on site			Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?						
Availability			If yes, please indicate what pitches are overmarked? (i.e. one mini/midi pitch is overmarked on a senior pitch) in Pitch Issues						
Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused									
Weather at time of visit									
General comments/observations									
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)									
Qualitative information (gathered on site)	Rating						Guidance notes	Comments	
Grass Coverage	Good		Adequate		Poor		>90% = good. <80% = poor		
Size of pitch	Acceptable (between recommended minimum and maximum sizes)		Flag for further investigation (below recommended minimum size)		Unacceptable (above maximum size)		Maximum size = width 70m, goal line to goal line 100m, in goal area 22m, run offs 5m where practical. Recommended minimum size = width 68m, goal line to goal line 94m, in goal area 6m, run offs 5m where practical.		
Length of grass	Too Long		Good		Too short		Too long = >75mm. Too short = <50mm		
Problem Areas: Evidence of glass/litter/vehicle tracks/dog fouling	None		Yes - some		Yes lots				
GOALPOSTS									
Are goalposts installed?	Yes		No						
Is there any obvious danger on posts?	Yes		No						
Are the posts stable in the ground?	Yes		No						
Is the crossbar fixed securely?	Yes		No						
Is there evidence of rust on the posts?	Yes		No						
ANCILLARY									
Is the pitch floodlit?	Yes		No						
Is there changing accommodation for the pitch?	Yes		No						
Is an appropriate level of car parking available?	Yes		No						
Pitch maintenance (information gathered via club survey/ pitch provider consultation) - refer to the guidance notes below									
Aerated (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never		
Sand dressed (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never		
Fertilised (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never		
Weed killed (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never		
Chain harrowed	every week		fortnightly		monthly		never		
								Pitch Maintenance Score	
Drainage	Natural (inadequate) SCORE D0		Natural (adequate) SCORE D1		Pipe drained SCORE D2		Pipe and slit drained SCORE D3		Unknown SCORE D0
Natural (adequate) = 3 or less training/match cancellations per season Natural (inadequate) = 4 or more training match cancellations per season *Based on a pipe drained system at 5m centres that has been installed in the previous eight years **Based on a slit drained system at 1m centres completed in the previous five years.									

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Artificial grass pitches non-technical assessment (including third generation turf pitches)

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Artificial grass pitches									
Site reference			Site Name						
6 figure grid reference			Pitch ID						
Number of AGPs on site			Pitch size	Full (i.e., 100m x 60m)		Half (i.e., 60m x 40m)			
Availability									
Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused									
Type of pitch	Long Pile 3G (65mm with shock pad)		Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)		Short Pile 3G (40mm)				
	Sand Dressed		Sand Filled		Water based				
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)									
Element	Rating						Guidance notes	Site comments	
Age of Surface	less than 2 years		2-5 years		5-10 years		over 10 years		
Evidence of moss/lichen (all surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Loose gravel (macadam surface)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Holes or rips in surface (macadam, art. grass or polymeric surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of damage to surface	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots		If no evidence, assume none.		
Access for disabled players. i.e.: ramps onto courts, width of gates	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Condition of posts/ nets/ goals	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Surrounding fencing	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Adequate safety margins (w here appropriate)	Yes - fully		No- but adequate		No - not adequate				
Is the AGP floodlit?	Yes		No						
Is the AGP left open at all times?	Yes		No						
Are there dug outs?	Yes		No						
Are there youth shelters/spectator seating around AGP?	Yes		No						
Is there changing accommodation for the AGP?	Yes		No						
Maximum score	93	Scoring:	Poor	<=50	Total Score	0			
			Standard	51-79	Potential Rating	Poor			
			Good	80+					

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Cricket non-technical assessment

Element	Rating				Guidance notes	Comments (use the guidance notes to help complete)
About the cricket outfield						
Grass coverage	Good	Acceptable	Poor	CBEX falls below the ECB basic standard		
Length of grass	Good	Acceptable	Poor	14-16mm - 25mm		
Evenness	Even	Uneven		Ball should run without deviation or ramp		
Evidence of Dog fouling/glass/stones/litter?	None	Yes	Immediate action required	May also wish to refer to water marking. If yes, refer to water marking/side manager		
Evidence of Unofficial use?	None	Yes	Immediate action required	eg informal, casual use, unbooked use, kids kickabout etc. May also wish to refer to water marking. If yes, refer to water marking/side manager		
Evidence of Damage to surface?	None	Yes	Immediate action required	eg from mowers/animals - rabbits, quails and fowls etc may also wish to refer to water marking		
Artificial wickets						
Is the wicket and surrounds married in	Yes	No	There should be no trip points			
Evenness of wicket	Even	Uneven	There should be no unevenness in surface levels			
Stump holes	Yes	No	Should be no wider than a standard cricket ball			
Moss or materials in the surface	Yes	No	There should be none			
Rips or surface lifting	Yes	No	If "yes" notify side manager			
Surface worn in high traffic areas - creases	Yes	No	If "yes" notify side manager			
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down?	Yes	No				
Grass wickets						
Presence of line markings	Yes	No				
Evidence of rolling - is wicket smooth and uniform	Yes	No				
Evidence of straight cut and height	Yes	No	3mm max width/15mm max of square			
Evidence of repair work on old wickets	Yes	No				
Grass coverage (square and wickets)	Yes	No	CBEX falls below the ECB basic standard			
Hardness - does a cricket ball thrown straight down into the surface rebound?	Yes	No				
Changing/ Pavilion						
Umpires provision	Yes	No				
Toilets	Yes	No				
Hot/cold water	Yes	No				
Heating	Yes	No				
Condition of building	Good	Acceptable	Requires attention			
NTP						
Is the wicket and surrounds married in (no trip points)	Yes	No				
Evenness of wicket (no contours in surface levels)	Even	Uneven				
Stump holes (no wider than a standard cricket ball)	Yes	No				
Moss or materials in the surface (should be none)	Yes	No				
No rips or surface lifting	Yes	No				
Surface worn in high traffic areas - crease	Yes	No				
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down	Yes	No				
Is the steel frame/posts upright?	Yes	No				
Are steel cross members detached?	Yes	No				
Are all posts and net fixings in place?	Yes	No				
Can a ball pass through any part of the netting?	Yes	No				
Is appropriate safety/supervisory signage present?	Yes	No				

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Court non-technical assessment (netball and tennis)

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Tennis/ Netball/ Basketball Courts

[illegible]

Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)

Element	Rating						Comments				
About the courts											
Evidence of moss/lichen (all surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots						
Loose gravel (macadam surface)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots						
Holes or rips in surface (macadam, art. grass or polymeric surface)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots						
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate		Poor						
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor						
Surrounding fencing	Good		Adequate		Poor						
Size of courts	Yes - fully		No - but adequate		No - not adequate						
Adequate safety margins	Yes - fully		No - but adequate		No - not adequate						
Slope of courts	Flat		Slight		Gentle		Moderate		Severe		
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots						
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots						
Access for disabled players - ie: ramps onto courts, width of gates	Good		Adequate		Poor						
Changing Accomodation											
Changing Accomodation	Yes		No								
About the equipment											
Posts and net	Good		Adequate		Poor						
Are the courts locked when not in use?	Yes		No								
Practice wall	Yes		No								

Bowling green non-technical assessment

KKPref	
Site name:	
Number of greens	
Flat/crown	
	Community Use?

Element	Rating				Comments	
About the greens						
Grass cover	Over 70%		40-69%		less than 40%	
Evenness of surface	Good		Adequate		Poor	
Signs of wear and tear	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots	
Condition of ditches/boarding	Good		Adequate		Poor	
Surface of surrounding hard areas	Good		Adequate		Poor	
Is the green and surrounding area fenced?	Yes		No			
Fencing around the green and ancillaries	Good		Adequate		Poor	
Problem areas: litter, glass, fouling, leaf fall on the green	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots	
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use on the green	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots	
Access for disabled players/spectators - ie: ramps onto greens, width of gates	Good		Adequate		Poor	
Ancillary facilities						
Changing Accomodation	Yes		No			
Toilets	Yes		No			
Car parking	Yes		No			

[illegible]

CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Athletics tracks non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Athletics Tracks									
KKPref									
Site name:									
Track surface		Grass, polymeric, cinder, other specify		Specify If 'Other'					
No. of Lanes		Length of track:		Community Use:					
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each track with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)									
Element	Rating						Comments		
About the track facilities									
Damage to the track surface	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Track edging	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Disabled access	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Floodlighting	Yes		No						
Is the track fenced?	Yes		No						
Surface of run ups - long/triple jump, high jump									
	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Adequate landing areas - jumps	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Adequate safety margins	Yes - fully		No-but adequate		No-not adequate				
Take off boards	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Landing mats	Yes		No						
Surface of throw ing areas - shot, discuss, hammer	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Adequate safety margins - throw s	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Throw ing cages	Yes		No						
Access to toilets									
	Yes		No						
Changing accomodation	Yes		No						
Changing accomodation - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Club room	Yes		No						
Car parking	Good		Adequate		Poor				
General Comments									
				ENTER Athletics		Please make sure there is no filter on in sheet At_db !			