



**CHESHIRE EAST**  
**PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**  
**ASSESSMENT REPORT**  
**JANUARY 2017**

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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# CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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## ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial grass pitch)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
CC	Cricket Club
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
CSP	County Sports Partnership
CASC	Community Amateur Sports Club
CCB	Cheshire Cricket Board Ltd
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
ESAR	Everybody Sport and Recreation
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FE	Further Education
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HC	Hockey Club
HE	Higher Education
IOG	Institute of Groundmanship
IMS	International Match Standard
JFC	Junior Football Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LDF	Local Development Framework
LMS	Last Man Stands
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PF	Playing Field
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106 Agreement
TGR	Team Generation Rate
U	Under

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## PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

Cheshire East Council has commissioned a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) to be prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP).

The project began as an in-house collaborative project involving the Council's spatial planning, parks and green spaces and leisure development teams. During its preparation, in line with the Council's move towards establishing alternative delivery vehicles, the parks and green spaces service became part of the company ANSA in 2014, whereas the leisure development team became part of Everybody Sport and Recreation (ESAR). ANSA is a new company established to provide a range of environmental services; Everybody Sport and Recreation is a charitable trust established to deliver leisure services in partnership with the Council.

In July 2014, Everybody Sport and Recreation was commissioned by Cheshire East Council to draw together the work already completed into an Assessment Report in order to set out the strategic direction and local priorities for facilities used for cricket, football, hockey, lacrosse and rugby.

This report presents a refresh and update of the supply and demand assessment in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy. It has been followed to develop a clear picture of the balance between the local supply of, and demand for, playing pitches within Cheshire East.

The guidance details a stepped approach to developing a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS). These steps are separated into five distinct sections:

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

Stages A to C are covered in this report.

### **Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach**

#### ***Why the PPS is being developed***

The primary purpose of the PPS is to provide a strategic framework that ensures that the provision of outdoor playing pitches meet the local needs of existing and future residents within the Cheshire East area. The Strategy will be produced in accordance with national planning guidance and provide robust and objective justification for future playing pitch provision throughout Cheshire East.

The production of the PPS will also support the following areas as identified as imperative to the project.

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## *Corporate and strategic*

- ◀ It ensures a strategic approach to playing pitch provision. During times of change for local authorities, a playing pitch strategy will provide direction and set priorities for pitch sports.
- ◀ It provides robust evidence for capital funding. As well as proving the need for developer contributions towards pitches and facilities, a playing pitch strategy can provide evidence of need for a range of capital grants. Current funding examples include the Sport England Lottery Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund (for park improvements), the Football Foundation and the Big Lottery.
- ◀ It helps deliver government policies for social inclusion, environmental protection, community involvement, and healthy living.
- ◀ It helps demonstrate the value of leisure services during times of increasing scrutiny of non-statutory services.
- ◀ It helps the Best Value process through:
  - ◀ Consultation with pitch-based sports clubs, providers and organised leagues in Cheshire East
  - ◀ Consultation with regional officers from national governing bodies to gain a strategic perspective of sport delivery and growth
  - ◀ Challenges current systems for sports pitch ownership, management and maintenance
  - ◀ Comparison with other local authorities through various benchmarks
  - ◀ Competition, for example, for pitch and associated facility management/ maintenance contracts.

## *Planning*

- ◀ It provides a basis for establishing new pitch requirements arising from new housing developments or improvements to existing where demand can be satisfied by increasing capacity
- ◀ It is one of the best tools for the protection of pitches threatened by development.
- ◀ It links closely with work being undertaken on open spaces to provide a holistic approach to open space improvement and protection.
- ◀ It provides for an integrated approach towards land use planning and playing pitch provision through the Council's emerging Local Plan Strategy and through decisions on individual planning applications.

## *Operational*

- ◀ It can help improve current asset management, which should result in a more efficient use of resources and reduced overheads.
- ◀ It highlights locations where quality of provision can be enhanced.

## *Sports development*

- ◀ It helps identify where community use of school sports pitches is most needed.
- ◀ It provides better information to residents and other users of sports pitches available for use. This includes information about both pitches and sports teams / user groups.
- ◀ It promotes sports development and can help unlock latent demand by identifying where the lack of facilities might be suppressing the formation of teams / community needs.

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## ***Meeting Sport England PPS Requirements***

- ◀ To support the improving health and well-being and increasing participation in sport.
- ◀ Sports development programmes and changes in how the sports are played.
- ◀ The need to provide evidence to help protect and enhance existing provision.
- ◀ The need to inform the development and implementation of planning policy.
- ◀ The need to inform the assessment of planning applications.
- ◀ Potential changes to the supply of provision due to capital programmes e.g. for educational sites.
- ◀ To review budgetary pressures and ensure the most efficient management and maintenance of playing pitch provision.
- ◀ To develop a priority list of deliverable projects that will help to meet any current deficiencies provide for future demands and feed into wider infrastructure planning work.
- ◀ To prioritise internal capital and revenue investment.
- ◀ To provide evidence to help secure internal and external funding.

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 8 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities. Paragraph 73 discusses the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

Paragraphs 73 and 74 of the NPPF discuss assessments and the protection of “existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields”. A Playing Pitch Strategy will provide the evidence required to help protect playing fields to ensure sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future pitch requirements.

Paragraph 76 and 77 promote the identification of important green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities. Such spaces may include playing fields.

## ***Cheshire East Council – Three Year Plan, 2013-16***

The Cheshire East Council Three Year Plan outlines its purpose as aiming ‘to serve the people of Cheshire East through’ three areas, which are:

- ◀ Fulfilling our community leadership role well
- ◀ Ensuring quality and value in public services
- ◀ Safeguarding the most vulnerable in society

Subsequently this is split into six outcomes, they are:

- ◀ Our local communities are strong and supportive
- ◀ Cheshire East has a strong and resilient economy
- ◀ People have the life skills and education they need to thrive
- ◀ Cheshire East is a green and sustainable place
- ◀ People live well and for longer
- ◀ Cheshire East is a good place to live and work

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## ***Cheshire East Council – Local Plan (Public Consultation Version, 2016)***

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 for the provision of at least 36,000 additional homes. The Plan is at an advanced stage of preparation. Draft Main Modifications to the Plan will be published for public consultation early in 2017. Once adopted, it will form part of the Statutory Development Plan for Cheshire East and will be the starting point for deciding planning applications. The policies that most specifically relate to playing pitches and leisure and recreation facilities are Policies SC1 (Leisure and Recreation), SC2 (Outdoor Sports Facilities) and Policy SE6 (Green Infrastructure). These policies are set out below. Further detailed policies relating to sport and recreation are expected to be added to the Local Plan through its second part, the Site Allocations and Development Policies Document (SADPD). Work on the SADPD will move forward in 2017. The SADPD will respond, as necessary, to the detailed findings and recommendations of the PPS. Until both the Local Plan Strategy and SADPD are adopted, the 'saved policies' relevant to sport and recreation facilities within the local plans prepared by the three predecessor borough councils will continue to apply.

### *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 visitor attractions.
- ◀ Work with agencies, services and businesses responsible for providing facilities to make sure that the needs and demands of communities are met.

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- ◀ 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 with paragraph 74 of the 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.
  - ◀ 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 Playing Pitch Strategy 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 SE 6 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.

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- ◀ 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 Assets<sup>71</sup> 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;<sup>72</sup>
  - ◀ Encourage multiple use and improvements to their quality;
  - ◀ Provide adequate open space (as outlined in Table 13.1);
  - ◀ 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.

### **Active Cheshire**

Active Cheshire is a strategic commissioner of sport and physical activity in Cheshire and Warrington. It works with a wide range of health, sport, education, environment, transport and business partners to find new ways of enabling people to get active on a regular basis. It invests in understanding local people and the market, ensuring that its annual investment of £500k is targeted to deliver the greatest sustainable impact of more people, more active, more often.

Active Cheshire aims to inspire greater collaboration and coordination between partners to tackle physical inactivity locally. It aims to encourage a change in behaviour of local citizens, enabling physical activity to become part of their everyday habit.

Further, Sport Cheshire has developed a strategy "Count me in" to get more people, more active more often by 2017. This strategy is developed with the aim to make sport and physical activity enjoyable and accessible for all abilities within Cheshire and Warrington.

The underlying theme is to focus on individual needs, rather than categorising and responding to the vast spectrum of impairments in the same way. By 2017, sub-regional

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partners will target resources to deliver a three-point plan in direct response to the needs of those with impairments.

### *Target outcomes:*

- ◀ 10,000 more people, more active, more often = happier, healthier citizens.
- ◀ Greater range of activities that are easier to access for individuals.
- ◀ More confident, competent coaches and volunteers, adding to the experience.
- ◀ Increase in use of personal budgets to fund sport and physical activity.
- ◀ Increased awareness of the needs of individuals with impairments.

### ***Neighbourhood Planning in Cheshire East***

Neighbourhood planning allows communities, led by their Town and Parish Councils, to shape the development and growth of their local areas. This includes through the preparation of Neighbourhood Development Plans containing local planning policies that become part of the statutory development plan if supported through a local referendum. They can identify how and where new development should take place including what infrastructure should be provided and where this is aligned with the overall strategic needs and priorities of the wider area.

There is considerable neighbourhood planning activity in Cheshire East. At the time this report was prepared there were 40 active neighbourhood planning groups. Five plans in Cheshire East have been 'made' (Audlem, Brereton, Bunbury, Marton and Sandbach) with Holmes Chapel Neighbourhood Plan to be subject to local referendum in March 2017. It is expected that a further 20 Neighbourhood Development Plans will be completed in 2017.

The Council is very keen to support neighbourhood planning and continues to provide advice and guidance to local groups. This includes understanding the relationship between emerging Neighbourhood Plans and the Local Plan. It is hoped that the PPS and the Council's Indoor and Built Facilities Strategy will provide useful sources of evidence to support policies and proposals within Neighbourhood Plans. Clearly, planning decisions will have to take proper account of the policies and proposals in both the Local and Neighbourhood Plan, the latter probably adding more locally-specific policy. For example, through their Neighbourhood Plans, local communities may want to recognise the need to protect and enhance specific facilities and/or allocate land for new or improved facilities, where such requirements are justified by appropriate evidence.

### ***Everybody Sport and Recreation***

Everybody is an independent non-profit distributing organisation (NPDO) with charitable status (Registered Charity No. 1156084), responsible for delivering leisure services in partnership with Cheshire East Council. It is the lead operator for the Cheshire East area. Key services include:

- ◀ 15 leisure facilities including the new Holmes Chapel Community Centre and Crewe Lifestyle Centre,
- ◀ Everybody Fitness membership scheme and Learn to Swim scheme,
- ◀ Everybody Options concessionary discount programme,
- ◀ Leisure development service including key programmes such as: Talented Athlete Support Scheme, Volunteer Programme, Club & Coach Development, Bikeability and more.

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- ◀ Everybody Academy – specialist leisure training provider delivering a range of training and development opportunities including volunteering, apprenticeships and work placements
- ◀ Taste for Life Catering – onsite café's in local Everybody leisure centres in Cheshire East, business and event catering as well as children's party catering
- ◀ Everybody Healthy – a range of health and wellbeing programmes and initiatives to support people in our communities

The Aim is to provide 'Leisure for Life' by:

- ◀ Changing lives through healthy recreation
- ◀ Growing an ethical and sustainable business
- ◀ Providing a great customer experience
- ◀ Developing our people to be the best
- ◀ Building strong communities and effective partnership

## ***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 quality standard to meet Sport England guidance.

Further to this, the Steering Group is and has been responsible for the direction of the PPS from a strategic perspective and for supporting, checking and challenging the work of the project team. The Steering Group is made up of representatives from the Council, Sport England and NGBs (see Appendix 3).

## ***Agreed scope***

The following types of playing pitches were agreed by the steering group for inclusion in the Assessment and Strategy:

- ◀ Football pitches (including 3G AGPs)
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Rugby union pitches
- ◀ Hockey pitches (sand/water-based AGPs)
- ◀ Lacrosse pitches

Please note that rugby league pitches have not been included as there is no recorded provision within Cheshire East and no existing demand.

## **The study area**

Cheshire East is a unitary Authority with a population of 370,100 and an area of 116,638 hectares.

In addition to Cheshire West and Chester Council on the west, Cheshire East is bounded by the Manchester conurbation to the north and east, Warrington to the north-west and Staffordshire and Shropshire to the south. It contains the major towns of Crewe, Macclesfield, Congleton and the commuter town of Wilmslow (population above 20,000). There are also a number of other significant centres of population (over 10,000) in Sandbach, Poynton, Nantwich, Middlewich, Knutsford and Alsager.

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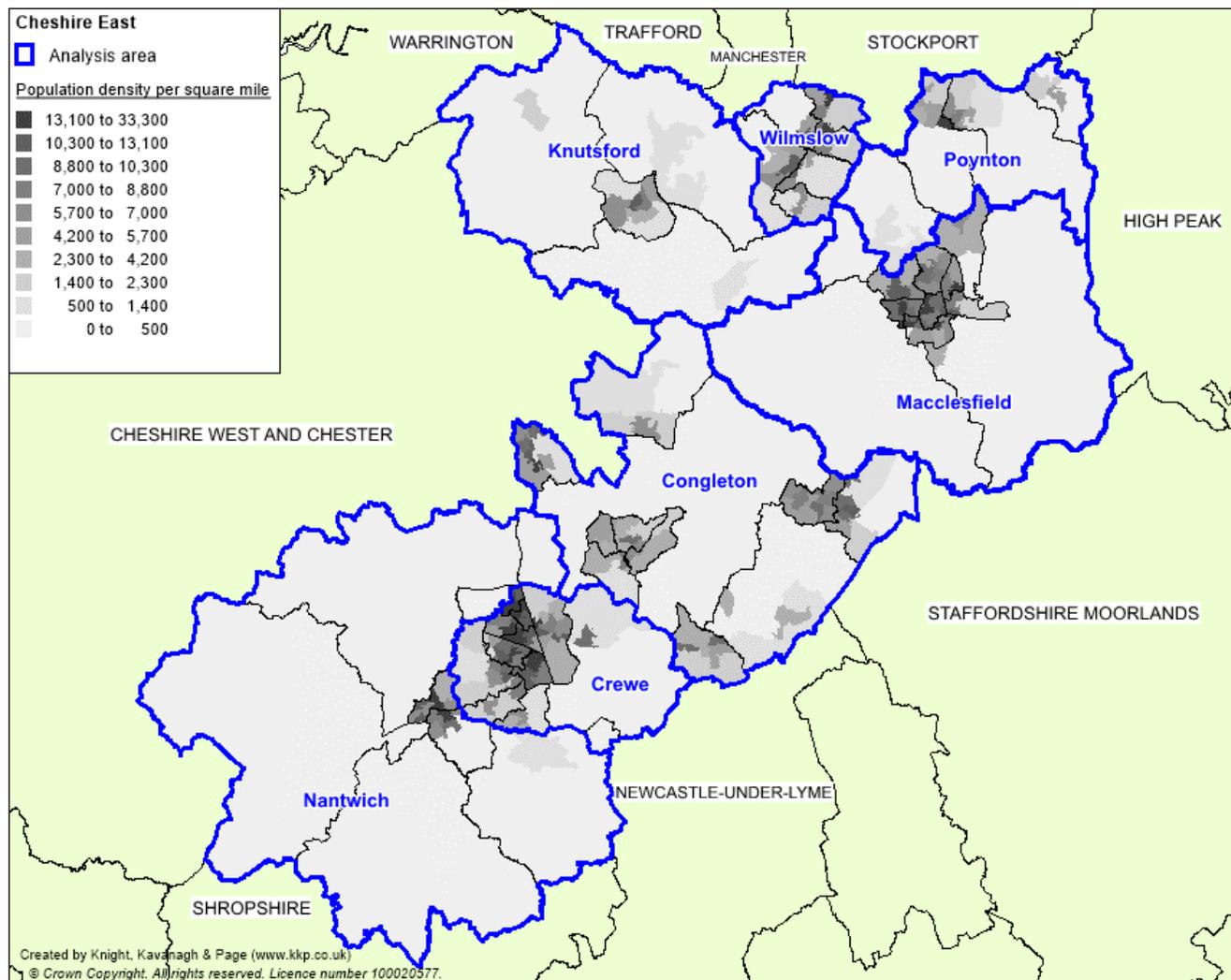
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The strategy covers the borough boundary area of Cheshire East; however, the data gathered has been presented in such a way as to be further analysed by smaller analysis areas. There are also a number of sports teams from outside the specified area that use pitches within Cheshire East and sports teams from inside Cheshire East that use facilities outside of the Borough. This cross boundary movement has been taken into consideration when producing this assessment report.

For the purpose of this analysis, Cheshire East has been broken down into seven analysis areas. They are: Congleton, Crewe, Macclesfield, Knutsford, Nantwich, Poynton and Wilmslow. They are the same as the borough's local area partnerships and are illustrated below.

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Figure 1.1: Analysis area map



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## Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision

A clear picture of supply and demand for playing pitches in Cheshire East needs to be provided to include an accurate assessment of the quality of pitches. This is achieved through consultation with key stakeholders to ensure that they inform the subsequent strategy. It informs current demand, adequacy, usage, future demand and strategies for maintenance and investment for playing pitches in Cheshire East

### ***Gather supply information and views – an audit of playing pitches***

PPS guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field. These definitions are set out by the Government in the 2015 'Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order'.<sup>1</sup>

- ◀ ***Playing pitch*** – a delineated area of 0.2ha or more 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 which encompasses at least one playing pitch.

Although the statutory definition of a playing field is the whole of a site with at least one pitch of 0.2ha or more, this PPS takes into account smaller sized pitches that contribute to the supply side, for example, 5v5 mini football pitches. This PPS counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply. The definition of a playing pitch also includes artificial grass pitches (AGPs).

As far as possible the assessment report aims to capture all of the pitches within Cheshire East. However, there may be instances, for example, on school sites, where access was not possible and has led to omissions within the report. Where pitches have not been recorded within the report they remain as pitches and for planning purposes continue to be so. Furthermore, exclusions of a pitch does not mean that it is not required from a supply and demand point of view.

### *Quantity*

All playing pitches are included irrespective of ownership, management and use. Playing pitch sites were initially identified using Sport England's Active Places web based database. The Council and NGBs supported the process by checking and updating this initial data. This was also verified against club information supplied by local leagues. For each site, the following details were recorded in the project database (which will be supplied as an electronic file):

- ◀ Site name, address (including postcode) and location
- ◀ Ownership and management type
- ◀ Security of tenure
- ◀ Total number, type and quality of pitches

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<sup>1</sup>. [www.sportengland.org](http://www.sportengland.org)>Facilities and Planning> Planning Applications

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### *Accessibility*

Not all pitches offer the same level of access to the community. The ownership and accessibility of playing pitches also influences their actual availability for community use. Each site is assigned a level of community use as follows:

- ◀ **Available for community use and used** - pitches in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams playing in community leagues.
- ◀ **Available but unused** - pitches that are available for hire but are not currently used by teams which play in community leagues; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire.
- ◀ **No community use** - pitches which as a matter of policy or practice are not available for hire or use by teams playing in community leagues. This should include professional club pitches along with some semi-professional club pitches where play is restricted to the first or second team.
- ◀ **Disused** – pitches that are not being used at all by any users and are not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as ‘lapsed sites’.
- ◀ **Lapsed** - last known use was as a playing field more than five years ago (these fall outside of Sport England’s statutory remit but still have to be assessed using the criteria in paragraph 74 of the National Planning Policy Framework).

In addition, there should be a good degree of certainty that the pitch will be available to the community for at least the following three years. A judgement is made based on the information gathered and a record of secured or unsecured community use put against each site. NB: This refers to pitches in community use and not lapsed/disused sites.

### *Quality*

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

It is not just the quality of the pitch itself that has an effect on its capacity but also the quality, standard and range of ancillary facilities. The quality of both the pitch and ancillary facilities will determine whether a pitch is able to contribute to meeting demand from various groups and for different levels and types of play.

The quality of all pitches identified in the audit and the ancillary facilities supporting them are assessed regardless of ownership, management or availability. Along with capturing any details specific to the individual pitches and sites, a quality rating is recorded within the audit for each pitch.

These ratings are used to help estimate the capacity of each pitch to accommodate competitive and other play within the supply and demand assessment.

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In addition to undertaking non-technical assessments (using the templates provided within the guidance and as determined by NGBs), users and providers were also consulted on the quality and in some instances the quality rating was adjusted to reflect this.

### ***Gather demand information and views***

Presenting an accurate picture of current demand for playing pitches (i.e. recording how and when pitches are used) is important when undertaking a supply and demand assessment. Demand for playing pitches in Cheshire East tends to fall within the following categories:

- ◀ Organised competitive play
- ◀ Organised training
- ◀ Informal play

In addition, unmet and displaced demand for provision is also identified on a sport-by-sport basis. Unmet demand is defined as the number of additional teams that could be fielded if access to a sufficient number of pitches (and ancillary facilities) was available. Displaced demand refers to teams that are generated from residents of the area but due to any number of factors do not currently play within the area.

Current and future demand for playing pitches is presented on a sport-by-sport basis within the relevant sections of this report.

A variety of consultation methods were used to collate demand information about leagues, clubs, county associations and national/regional governing bodies of sport. Face-to-face consultation was carried out with key clubs from each sport. This allowed for the collection of detailed demand information and an exploration of key issues to be interrogated and more accurately assessed.

For data analysis purposes an online survey (converted to postal if required) was utilised. This was sent to all clubs not covered by face-to-face consultation.

Local sports development officers, county associations and regional governing body officers advised which of the clubs to include in the face-to-face consultation. Sport England was also included within the consultation process prior to the project commencing. Issues identified by clubs returning questionnaires were followed up by telephone or face-to-face interviews.

The response rates of such consultation are as follows:

Sport	Total number	Number responding	Response rate	Methods of consultation
Football clubs	124	77	62%	Face-to-face, online survey
Football teams	557	485	87%	
Cricket clubs	38	24	62%	Online survey
Rugby union clubs	7	7	100%	Face-to-face, online survey
Rugby league clubs	-	-	-	-
Hockey clubs	8	8	100%	Online survey; telephone
Universities	1	1	100%	Face-to-face

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Sport	Total number	Number responding	Response rate	Methods of consultation
Colleges	3	3	100%	Face-to-face
Secondary schools	21	19	91%	Face-to face
Primary schools	125	91	73%	Online survey; telephone

### ***Future demand***

Alongside current demand, it is important for a PPS to assess whether the future demand for playing pitches can be met. Using population projections and proposed housing growth an estimate can be made of the likely future demand for playing pitches.

### ***Population growth***

The resident population in Cheshire East is recorded as 374,179 (based on ONS 2014 mid-year estimates). By 2027 population is projected to increase to 393,202 and by 2030 it is projected to further increase to 398,181 (ONS 2014-based projections 2014-2030). This time period is used to align with the Cheshire Local Plan period.

Team generation rates are used to provide an indication of how many people it may take to generate a team (by gender and age group), in order to help estimate the change in demand for pitch sports that may arise from any population change in the study area.

Future demand for pitches is calculated by adding the percentage increases, to the ONS population increases, to 2030, in each analysis area. This figure is then applied to the TGRs and is presented on a sport-by-sport basis within the relevant sections of this report.

Other information sources used to help identify future demand include:

- ◀ Recent trends in the participation in playing pitch sports.
- ◀ The nature of the current and likely future population and their propensity to participate in pitch sports.
- ◀ Feedback from pitch sports clubs on their plans to develop additional teams.
- ◀ Any local and NGB specific sports development targets (e.g. increase in participation).

### ***Housing growth***

The Cheshire East Local Plan is currently being developed and is at its examination stage. The Council is proposing to allocate a number of Strategic Sites for housing. Stage D of the PPS will include a housing growth scenario that will estimate the additional demand for pitch sports arising from planned housing growth. This scenario will be contained within the overall strategy report and is not included within this report.

There is an overall housing requirement for at least 36,000 new homes and proposals to achieve 31,400 additional jobs within the Local Plan period (2010-2030). The Council is planning positively to support growth in line with national planning policy:

Summary of housing growth	All areas
Expected Level of Development made up of:	36,000
a) Completions 01/04/10 to 31/03/15	5,473

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Summary of housing growth	All areas
b) Commitments 31/03/16	10,822
c) Local Plan Strategy Sites and Strategic Locations	18,555
d) Further non-strategic sites in the future Site Allocations and Development Policies Document	3,335
e) Small sites windfall provision	1,375
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,560</b>

The Local Plan also seeks to ensure that the right mix of new homes is provided to meet the needs of a growing workforce and support both current and future employers. This is set within the demographic context that Cheshire East will have a 65% increase in the population aged 65 and above and a 134% increase in the population aged 85 and above, over the Plan period. (Paragraph 1.27 of the Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy Proposed Changes Version March 2016).

The Local Plan Strategy plays a central role in achieving jobs growth in the Borough and the infrastructure and housing that are needed to support it. There is a need to provide for a wide range of employment opportunities, including highly skilled jobs, jobs that retain young people and attract new employees to live and work locally, limiting travel congestion. Therefore, much of the new housing provision will need to attract people, particularly younger people, who do or can work in the sort of local, high-skill jobs that will help the Council achieve its aspirations for economic and social wellbeing.

Using housing allocation figures (2012-2030), indicative population growth can be determined. These figures are not population projections, but simply an approximate indication of what future population growth may be at a local level. The indicative figures are based on the assumption that population growth will average 1.61 per dwelling. This is taken from the fact that the Local Plan Housing Development Study<sup>2</sup> projects population growth of 58,100 and identifies a need for 36,000 dwellings (implying an average increase of 58,100/36,000, or 1.61 people per dwelling). In reality, population growth per dwelling will vary from site to site, depending on factors such as household formation rates, migration patterns and the type of dwellings being built. There is, however, insufficient data to quantify these variations at such a local geographical level. Therefore, the population figures should be treated with considerable caution:

Analysis Area	Number of new homes	Indicative population growth
Alsager	2,000	3,200
Congleton	4,150	6,700
Crewe	7,700	12,400
Handforth	2,200	3,500
Knutsford	950	1,500
Macclesfield	4,250	6,800
Middlewich	1,950	3,100
Nantwich	2,050	3,300
Poynton	650	1,000
Sandbach	2,750	3,400

<sup>2</sup> Cheshire East Housing Development Study, ORS, June 2015. Local Plan Examination Library Reference PS E033: <http://cheshireeast-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/planning/cs/library>

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Analysis Area	Number of new homes	Indicative population growth
Wilmslow	900	1,400
Local Service Centres	3,500	5,600
Other Settlements and Rural areas (inc Alderley Park)	2,950	4,700
<b>Cheshire East</b>	<b>36,000</b>	<b>56,600</b>

### *High speed 2*

High Speed Two (HS2) is a new high speed railway proposed by the Government to connect major cities in Britain. It will be built in phases. Phase One of the HS2 network will run from London to the West Midlands, with a connection to the West Coast Main Line near Lichfield, and will start operating in 2026. Phase Two will extend HS2 to the North of England with trains running to Manchester via Crewe, and to Leeds via the East Midlands and South Yorkshire. Connections to the East Coast and West Coast Main Lines would enable HS2 services to travel onwards on the existing rail network. A connection to the Midland Mainline would also provide HS2 services to Sheffield city centre.

In November 2015, the Government published High Speed Two: East and West: The next steps to Crewe and beyond. This outlined the Government's plan to accelerate part of the Phase Two route from the West Midlands to Crewe, and set out the preferred line of route for what is now known as Phase 2a. Phase 2a is due to start running in 2027, one year after the opening of Phase One. This is six years earlier than originally planned.

A second Command Paper, High Speed Two; From Crewe to Manchester, the West Midlands and beyond, published in November 2016 states that Government remains supportive of the vision for a Crewe HS2 Hub station, and plans to make decisions on additional investment at Crewe in 2017. If the government proceeds with this proposal it has decided that it would be located at the site of the existing Crewe station. In 2015 Government also asked that further work is undertaken to look at bringing high speed rail services to Macclesfield, the 2016 work concludes that Macclesfield could be served by one HS2 train per hour via Stoke-on-Trent and the Handsacre Junction. The 2016 Command Paper also confirmed HS2 intend to locate the rolling stock depot north of Crewe, whilst the outcome of the consultation proposing the relocation of the infrastructure maintenance depot from Crewe to Stone is expected in 2017. The announcement also outlines the confirmed route for HS2 from Crewe to Manchester Airport.

Given the benefits that Crewe Hub would bring to the area the Council is supportive of HS2 and believes it reinforces Cheshire East as the best place to live and do business in the North West. The Council believes that investment in HS2 will consolidate Cheshire East as one of the most connected areas in the UK and will support existing businesses, inward investment and job creation in and around Crewe and the wider sub-region.

The Crewe Hub could be served by up to seven high speed trains an hour – with journey times to London reduced by 35 minutes. The final section of the line to Manchester will be completed by 2033.

# CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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## *Manchester Metropolitan University*

Following closure of its Alsager Campus in 2010, Manchester Metropolitan University's Crewe Campus is also to be closed after board members decided it was "no longer academically or financially sustainable", despite a recent £70 million transformation.

The Crewe site is set to shut in 2019 after the University decided the Campus was no longer sustainable; however, the endorsement is not a final decision and work to assess the impact of the plan is continuing.

### **Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views**

In line with Sport England's Playing Pitch Guidance Stage C, an in-depth understanding of playing pitch provision has been developed using the supply and demand information and by assessing views from stakeholders in light of local and national information. This stage should:

- ◀ Provide a clear understanding of the provision and management of playing pitches at individual sites.
- ◀ Develop the current and future picture of provision.
- ◀ Identify the key findings and issues

### ***Understand the situation at individual sites***

Qualitative pitch ratings are linked to a pitch capacity rating derived from NGB guidance and tailored to suit a local area. The quality and use of each pitch is assessed against the recommended pitch capacity to indicate how many match equivalent sessions<sup>3</sup> per week (per season for cricket) a pitch could accommodate.

This is compared to the number of matches actually taking place and categorised as follows, to identify:

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.	

### ***Develop the current picture of provision***

Once capacity is determined on a site-by-site basis, actual spare capacity is calculated on an area-by-area basis via further interrogation of temporal demand. Although this may have been identified, it does not necessarily mean that there is surplus provision. For example, spare capacity may not be available when it is needed or the site may be retained in a 'strategic reserve' to enable pitch rotation to reduce wear and tear.

Capacity ratings assist in the identification of sites for improvement/development, rationalisation, decommissioning and disposal.

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<sup>3</sup> A match equivalent session can be either a match or a training session

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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### ***Develop the future picture of provision - scenario testing***

Modelling scenarios to assess whether existing provision can cater for unmet, displaced and future demand is made after the capacity analysis. This will also include, for example, removing sites with unsecured community use to demonstrate the impact this would have if these sites were to be decommissioned in the future. Scenario testing occurs in the strategy report and therefore does not form part of the assessment report.

### ***Identify the key findings and issues***

By completing Steps 1-5, it is possible to identify several findings and issues relating to the supply, demand and adequacy of playing pitch provision in Cheshire East. This report seeks to identify and present the key findings and issues, which should now be checked, challenged and agreed by the Steering Group prior to development of the Strategy (Section D).

The following sections summarise the local administration of the main grass pitch sports in Cheshire East. Each provides a quantitative summary of provision and a map showing the distribution of facilities. It also provides information about the availability of facilities to/for the local community and, the governing body of each sport and regional strategic plan (where they exist). Local league details are provided in order to outline the competitive structure for each sport. The findings of club consultation and key issues for each sport are summarised.

# CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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## PART 2: FOOTBALL

### 2.1: Introduction

Cheshire County FA is the primary organisation responsible for the development (and some elements of administration) of football in Cheshire East. It is also responsible for the administration, in terms of discipline, rules and regulations, cup competitions and representative matches, development of clubs and facilities, volunteers, referees, coaching courses and delivering national football schemes.

This section of the report focuses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches only. Part 3 captures supply and demand for third generation (3G) artificial grass pitches (AGPs). In the future, it is anticipated that there will be a growing demand for the use of 3G pitches for competitive football fixtures, especially to accommodate mini and youth football.

#### **Consultation**

In addition to face-to-face consultation with key football clubs, an electronic survey was sent to all clubs playing in Cheshire East. Contact details were provided by Cheshire County FA, and the invitation to complete the survey was distributed via email. The survey was returned by 77 clubs (including face-to-face meetings), which equates to a club response rate of 62% and a team response rate of 87%.

The following key clubs were met with for a face-to-face consultation:

- ◀ Alsager Town FC
- ◀ Club AZ
- ◀ Crewe FC
- ◀ Egerton FC
- ◀ Holmes Chapel Hurricanes FC
- ◀ Middlewich Town FC
- ◀ Nantwich Town FC
- ◀ Richmond Rovers FC
- ◀ Vale Juniors FC

In addition, the following leagues servicing Cheshire East were also consulted:

- ◀ Alexandra Soccer League
- ◀ Cheshire Football League
- ◀ Cheshire Veterans League
- ◀ South Cheshire Youth League

The results of such consultation are used to inform key issues within this section of the report.

# CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

## 2.2: Supply

The audit identifies 331 grass football pitches within Cheshire East across 189 sites. Of the pitches, 245 are available, at some level, for community use across 132 sites, as presented in the table below. The large majority of unavailable pitches are located within schools.

Table 2.1: Summary of grass football pitches available to the community

Analysis area	Available for community use					Totals
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Congleton	21	15	13	17	11	77
Crewe	18	9	1	2	2	32
Knutsford	10	4	3	6	1	24
Macclesfield	10	5	9	14	4	42
Nantwich	12	3	4	2	5	26
Poynton	7	1	3	4	3	18
Wilmslow	8	-	4	10	4	26
<b>Cheshire East</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>245</b>

Congleton (77 pitches) contains substantially more provision when compared to the other analysis areas; Poynton (18 pitches) contains the least.

There are a large number of adult pitches (86) identified when compared to other pitch sizes, which reflects that the majority of teams use adult pitches. It should be noted, however, that nationally many youth 11v11 teams are playing on adult pitches, which may be due to a lack of dedicated provision rather than through preference.

In accordance with the FA Youth Review, u17s and u18s can play on adult pitches. The FA's recommended pitch size for adult football is 100 x 64 metres. The recommended size of a youth pitch is 91 x 55 metres for u16s and u15s, 82 x 50 metres for u14s and u13s and 73 x 46 metres for u12s and u11s. The recommended size for 7v7 pitches (u10s and u9s) is 55 x 37 metres and for 5v5 pitches (u8s and u7s) it is 37 x 27 metres.

There are a large number of youth 11v11 pitches in Cheshire East when compared to other local authorities, however, there remains 83 youth 11v11 (u13s-u16s) teams regularly using adult pitches. The following sites contain adult pitches that are used by youth 11v11 teams:

- ◀ Alsager Leisure Centre
- ◀ Bollington Cross Playing Field
- ◀ Congleton High School
- ◀ Cranage Playing Fields
- ◀ Deva Close
- ◀ Haslington Playing Fields
- ◀ King George V Playing Field
- ◀ Malbank School & Sixth Form College
- ◀ Mary Dendy Playing Fields
- ◀ Mount Vernon
- ◀ Sir William Stanier Leisure Centre
- ◀ Styal Playing Fields
- ◀ Willaston White Star Football Club
- ◀ Barony Sports Complex
- ◀ Carnival Field
- ◀ Congleton Road
- ◀ Cumberland Arena (Razzer)
- ◀ Eric Swan Sports Ground
- ◀ Jim Evison Playing Fields
- ◀ Lacey Green Pavilion
- ◀ Manchester Metropolitan University
- ◀ Middlewich High School
- ◀ Sandbach Community Football Centre
- ◀ St John's Wood Community School
- ◀ Weston Playing Field

## **CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

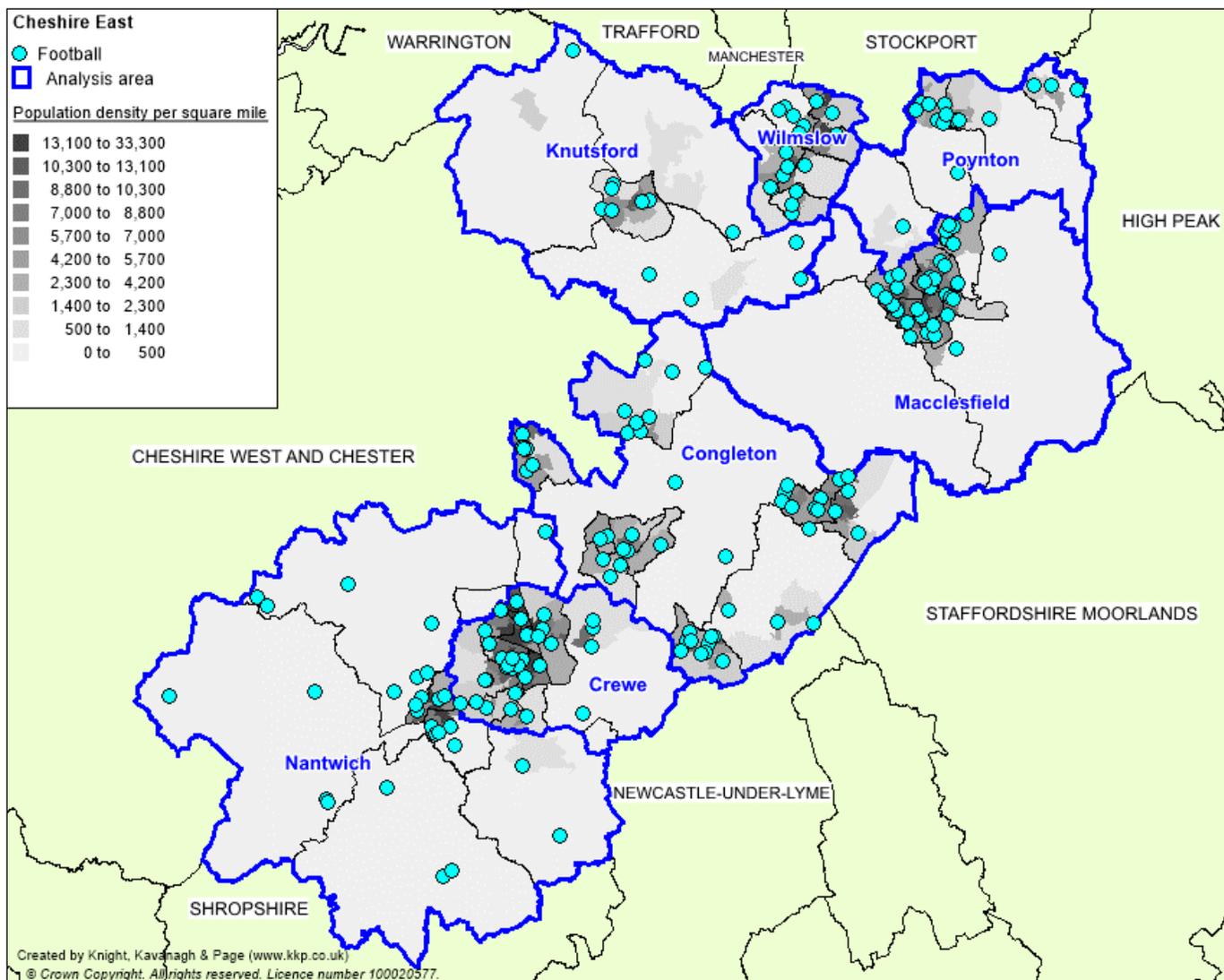
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Of the above, Bollington Cross Playing Field, Cranage Playing Fields, Cumberland Arena (Razzer), Malbank High School and Sixth Form College, Middlewich High School, St John's Wood Community School and Weston Playing Field are used solely by youth 11v11 teams. These sites can therefore provide a starting point to increase youth 11v11 provision as no adult teams would be adversely affected by a pitch re-configuration, although there may be a need to retain adult pitches should shortfalls be identified.

Figure 2.1 overleaf identifies all grass football pitches currently servicing Cheshire East. For a key to the map, see Table 2.9.

# CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 2.1: Location of all football pitches in Cheshire East



# CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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## ***Future provision***

The King's School plans to sell both its Westminster Road and Fence Avenue sites for housing as it looks to consolidate to one site (Derby Fields). Both contain two football pitches but there are no plans for these to be re-provided. Despite a net loss of playing fields, Sport England has no objection to the proposed development as alternative sports provision will be provided that is of sufficient benefit to sport to outweigh the loss of playing field.

A planning application has been approved at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) that will include grass pitch provision as well as a full size, floodlit 3G pitch and changing rooms.

Similarly, Egerton Youth Club has planning permission to develop five adult pitches on land adjacent to its current site that it leases from a local landowner. It is expected that numerous youth and mini pitches will also be provided, most likely through over markings.

Poynton Sports Club is in negotiations with a local landowner to purchase nearby land that will be used to relocate all on-site provision, including the football pitches. This is, however, dependent on securing planning permission and the sale of its existing site.

Middlewich Town FC expresses an interest in acquiring Sutton Lane so that it can develop pitches for its youth teams as well as creating a community hub for other local teams. The site is currently unused although it does still contain one marked pitch.

## ***Lapsed sites***

Four sites are classed as lapsed for football purposes. These previously had pitches marked out but that has not been the case for more than five years:

- ◀ Bisto Football Club (one adult pitch – Congleton Analysis Area)
- ◀ Cranage Hall (one 7v7 pitch – Congleton Analysis Area)
- ◀ Crewe Hall (one adult pitch – Crewe Analysis Area)
- ◀ Goddard Street (one adult pitch – Crewe Analysis Area)

All of the above have the potential to be re-provided, if required, as none of them have been built on or replaced by alternative provision. That said, both Cranage Hall and Crewe Hall remain in use for other open space purposes albeit not for playing pitch purposes.

## ***Disused sites***

There are nine sites that contained football pitches at some point in the previous five years but no longer do so. These are as follows:

- ◀ Brooke Dean Community College (Wilmslow Analysis Area)
- ◀ Brook House Playing Field (Crewe Analysis Area)
- ◀ Cedar Avenue (Congleton Analysis Area)
- ◀ Hazelbadge Road Playing Field (Poynton Analysis Area)
- ◀ Peover Playing Fields (Knutsford Analysis Area)
- ◀ Portland Drive (Congleton Analysis Area)
- ◀ St John's Road (Congleton Analysis Area)
- ◀ Wheelock Playing Field (Sandbach Analysis Area)
- ◀ Wybunbury Recreation Ground (Nantwich Analysis Area)

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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As with lapsed sites, all of the above have the potential to be re-provided as none of them have been built on or replaced by alternative provision.

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

- ◀ Alderley Park (Astra Zeneca)
- ◀ Brookfield Park
- ◀ Cranage Playing Fields
- ◀ Haslington Playing Fields
- ◀ Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus)
- ◀ Sutton Lane
- ◀ Tytherington High School
- ◀ Wrenbury Playing Fields

Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) now contains just one adult pitch following its closure to students in 2011. When the site was open, it contained as many as six adult pitches.

Alderley Park (Club AZ) previously contained a 7v7 pitch but that is no longer the case. A needs assessment report into the development of the site concluded that the pitch should be re-provided elsewhere to a good quality. An adult pitch is still in use and is not affected by the development plans.

Sutton Lane now contains one adult pitch, yet it provided two last year and up to four in previous years. Likewise, Haslington Playing Fields, Wrenbury Playing Fields and Cranage Playing Fields now contain just one adult pitch, whereas they all contained two in the past.

Tytherington High School contained an adult pitch on an area of land that is no longer in use due to access and drainage issues, whereas Brookfield Park no longer provides football pitches and is solely in use as a park.

### ***Informal pitches***

There are a number of sites identified that do not have official football pitches marked out but could have the capacity to provide pitches if required. Many of these contain a solitary goalpost or goalposts of an unofficial size but are not marked out or maintained for football use. They are as follows:

- ◀ Alton Street
- ◀ Green Street
- ◀ Hassall Road
- ◀ Joey the Swan Playing Fields
- ◀ Lanark Walk
- ◀ Mabllins Lane Playing Field
- ◀ Macclesfield College
- ◀ McLaren Street

# CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

## **Pitch quality**

The quality of football pitches in Cheshire East has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by The FA) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

Pitch quality primarily influences the carrying capacity of a site; often pitches lack the drainage and maintenance necessary to sustain levels of use. 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 are able to accommodate each week without it having a detrimental effect on quality. Conversely, well-maintained pitches that are tended to regularly are likely to be of a higher standard and capable of taking a number of matches without a significant reduction in surface quality.

Private sites (e.g. sports clubs) typically offer better quality facilities than Council parks/playing fields and school pitches. In general, such sports clubs tend to have dedicated ground staff or volunteers working on pitches and the fact that they are often secured by fencing prevents unofficial use. The maintenance of council sites tends to be less frequent and unofficial use of these sites can further exacerbate quality issues.

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows: Good (>80%), Standard (50-80%), Poor (<50%). The final quality ratings assigned to the sites also take into account the user quality ratings gathered from consultation.

The table below summarises the quality of pitches that are available for community use. In total, 16 pitches are assessed as good quality, 158 as standard quality and 71 as poor quality.

*Table 2.2: Pitch quality assessments (community use pitches)*

Adult pitches			Youth pitches			Mini pitches		
Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
12	45	29	4	53	17	-	60	25

The non-technical pitch quality audit shows that the majority of pitches are poor or standard quality, particularly at local authority sites. All pitches managed by the Council receive a basic level of maintenance, which is undertaken by ANSA and is limited to fortnightly grass cutting, annual seeding and regular aeration. No sand dressing, weed killing or fertilisation takes place.

The majority of pitches within schools also receive basic maintenance, which in most cases is sub-contracted to an external company such as Bancroft Amenities and Countrywide.

Maintenance of pitches at club sites varies. Some clubs, such as Sandbach Community Football Centre and Nantwich Town Football Club, hire dedicated ground staff, whilst others depend on remedial work by volunteers that is often limited by cost and a lack of specialised equipment.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

In general, club consultation indicates varying degrees of change in pitch quality over the previous three years. Of responding clubs, 43 (56%) report no significant difference, compared to 22 (28%) that report worsening pitch quality and 12 (16%) that report improving pitch quality.

Of those that cite pitch quality improvements, five play at Sandbach Community Football Centre and five of the remaining seven also play at private, sports club operated sites. The two that do not are Alsager Bank Corner FC, which plays at Alsager Leisure Centre and Nantwich Young Farmers FC, which plays at Wrenbury Recreation Ground.

The most common factors attributed to pitch improvements are an investment in drainage work and more frequent, specialised maintenance, whilst the opposite is true for pitches that are worsening in quality. Specific comments relating to pitch conditions at individual sites can be seen in the table overleaf. The comments are a combination of club feedback and site assessment information.

*Table 2.3: Site-specific comments*

Site ID	Site	Comments
11	Back Lane	Dog fouling is a major issue identified by clubs, as is infrequent line marking
12	Barony Sports Complex	One adult pitch suffers from severe drainage issues in one of the corners, making it hazardous.
18	Bollington Recreation Ground	Drainage issues are prevalent leading to no matches being played during winter months
39	Cumberland Arena	Maintained to a high standard and reported as the best quality pitch by many clubs in Crewe
48	Goodwill Hall Playing Fields	An overhanging tree affects play on one side of the pitch
61	Jim Evison Playing Fields	The adult pitch on site is suffering from a mole infestation
62	Bunbury Playing Fields	Grass is identified as too long due to a lack of frequent maintenance
65	King George V Playing Fields	Recent site renovations have improved quality
71	Legends Health and Leisure Centre	A lack of maintenance results in faded line markings during the season
77	Manchester Road	Major ground renovation has recently taken place but pitch still has drainage issues
83	Middlewich High School	High amounts of dog fouling despite the site being fenced off
93	Newtown Playing Field	Recent drainage work has improved quality
102	Poynton High School	All pitches on site suffer from severe drainage issues
105	Reaseheath College	Reported as the best quality pitch available by many Crewe and Nantwich based clubs
107	Sandbach Community Football Centre	A fairly new site that is getting better year by year, especially now that drainage issues have been corrected
114	South Cheshire College	Reported as the best quality pitch in use by teams in the Crewe Regional Sunday League
121	Sutton Lane	High amounts of dog fouling and the goalposts are dangerous due to being rusty and not being level

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site	Comments
129	The Oaks Academy	All pitches on site suffer from drainage issues
133	Upcast Lane	High amount of dog fouling and litter negatively affects quality
195	Lostock Hall Primary School	Worn line markings make visibility difficult

For a full breakdown of quality ratings at each site, please refer to Table 2.9.

### ***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, 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.

There are also some football pitches in Cheshire East that are dual use rugby union pitches. This can create availability issues as the rugby union and football seasons run parallel to each other.

Furthermore, numerous pitches are marked onto cricket outfields. This creates availability issues as the cricket season begins in April when the football season is still ongoing and the football season begins in August as cricket fixtures are still being played. Generally, cricket is given priorities at such sites, meaning football teams either finish their season early or have to relocate to another site.

*Table 2.4: Sites containing over marked pitches*

Site ID	Site	Comments
5	Alsager Leisure Centre	A youth 11v11 pitch is over marked by 9v9 pitch
34	Congleton High School	Two adult pitches over marked by 9v9 pitches and two youth 11v11 pitches over marked by mini pitches
44	Egerton Youth Club	Two youth 11v11 pitches both over marked by two 7v7 pitches
49	Goostrey Playing Fields	An youth 11v11 pitch over marked by a 9v9 pitch
57	Holmes Chapel Cricket Club	A 5v5 pitch that over marks a cricket outfield
58	Holmes Leisure Centre	An adult pitch that is a dual use rugby union pitch
63	Kerridge Cricket Club	Two 7v7 pitches that over mark a cricket outfield
75	Malbank School and Sixth Form College	An adult pitch that is a dual use rugby union pitch
83	Middlewich High School	An adult pitch that is a dual use rugby union pitch
107	Sandbach Community Football Centre	An adult pitch that is over marked by a 9v9 pitch
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	An adult pitch and a youth 11v11 pitch, both of which are dual use rugby union pitches
113	Sir William Stanier Leisure Centre	An adult pitch that is a dual use rugby union pitch

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site	Comments
114	South Cheshire College	Adult pitch that is also used for American football
119	St Thomas More Catholic High School	An adult pitch that is a dual use rugby union pitch
129	The Oaks Academy	A 9v9 pitch that is over marked by a 5v5 pitch
141	Wilmslow High School	An adult pitch and a youth 11v11 pitch, both of which are over marked by two 9v9 pitches
214	St Alban's Catholic Primary School	A 9v9 pitch that is over marked by a 7v7 pitch
248	Jasmine Park	A 9v9 pitch that is over marked by two 7v7 pitches and a youth 11v11 pitch that is over marked by two 5v5 pitches

In addition, some clubs have taken to marking out pitches using cones. This is due to a lack of pitch markings at sites in the locality as well as it enabling clubs to save money on pitch hire costs. Willaston White Star FC uses cones to mark out a 9v9 pitch within its adult pitch at Willaston White Star Football Club, whereas Bollington Juniors FC uses cones to mark out 5v5 pitches at Bollington Cross Playing Field.

### **Ancillary facilities**

The non-technical assessment assesses ancillary facilities servicing pitches. This includes the condition of clubhouses, changing accommodation, toilets, showers, car parking and boundary fencing, amongst other things.

The assessment concluded that 103 (42%) community available pitches 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.

Of community available pitches that are serviced by changing provision, 17 (12%) are serviced by good quality facilities, 60 (43%) by standard quality facilities and 65 (45%) by poor quality facilities. In addition, of clubs that responded to consultation, ten (13%) rate changing room provision as good, 39 (51%) rate provision as standard and 28 (36%) rate provision as poor.

*Table 2.5: Clubs response to changing facility quality*

Good	Standard	Poor
13%	51%	36%

The majority of changing facilities assessed as good quality are located as sports club sites, such as Sandbach Community Football Centre, although council provision at King George V Playing Fields is also assessed as good quality following recent refurbishment.

In contrast, the following facilities receive a poor rating:

- ◀ Audlem Playing Fields
- ◀ Bunbury Playing Fields
- ◀ Congleton Road
- ◀ Manchester Road
- ◀ Poynton Sports Club
- ◀ Sutton Lane
- ◀ Bollington Recreation Ground
- ◀ Congleton High School
- ◀ Goodwill Hall Playing Fields
- ◀ Mary Dendy Playing Fields
- ◀ Newtown Playing Fields
- ◀ Upcast Lane

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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### ◀ Wrenbury Recreation Ground

Of particular concern are the facilities at Sutton Lane as the on-site clubhouse was the victim of numerous break-ins, which led to all demand transferring elsewhere. As such, the site is now unused. The majority of adult football leagues require sides to have access to changing facilities; otherwise, they face expulsion.

Poynton FC reports that the poor condition of the clubhouse at Poynton Sports Club is affecting its growth, especially in relation to female participation. As with adult football, female teams require access to changing facilities and the rooms must be secluded from male changing rooms and with showers and toilets enclosed.

Congleton Rovers FC states that it is working in collaboration with Congleton High School to provide new changing rooms on-site. This is considered especially important following the recent development of a full size 3G pitch and the increased traffic that it has brought to the School.

Styal FC reports ongoing discussions with a hotel company that wants to build a hotel near to its site (Styal Playing Fields) and include a new clubhouse with additional changing facilities.

AFC Prestbury Nomads has raised £95,000 towards creating its own changing facility at Prestbury Playing Fields. Its overall target is £130,000.

### **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, 58 educational providers do not allow community use of some or all of their pitches and this includes schools that have a large number of pitches such as the King's School, the Oaks Academy and Wilmslow High School.

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

Moreover, some 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.

In general, no other clubs report major issues with security of tenure; however, some did state a desire to acquire land through an asset transfer and on a long-term lease. This applies to the following:

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

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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### ***Football pyramid demand***

The football pyramid is a series of interconnected leagues for adult men's football clubs in England. It begins below the football league (the National League) and comprises of seven steps, with various leagues at each level and more leagues lower down the pyramid than at the top. 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 of the system.

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 cannot progress into the league above if the ground requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Ground grading assesses grounds from A to H, with 'A' being the requirement for Step 1 clubs and H being the requirement for Step 7 clubs.

In Cheshire East, Crewe Alexandra FC is a professional club that plays above the football pyramid. A further ten clubs play within the football pyramid, as seen in the table below.

*Table 2.6: Cheshire East clubs playing within the football pyramid*

Step	Clubs
1	Macclesfield FC
2	-
3	-
4	-
5	Congleton Town FC; Nantwich Town FC
6	Alsager Town FC
7	Congleton Vale FC; Crewe FC; Knutsford FC; Poynton FC; Sandbach United FC; Styal FC

Additionally, both Middlewich Town FC and Egerton FC are just one promotion short of joining the football pyramid, whilst AFC Macclesfield is two promotions short.

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 will be required to install turnstiles and a seated area, which is not possible at its current site (Cumberland Arena) due to it being council owned. This is the principal reason for the Club wanting to acquire its own site.

Egerton FC is submitting a planning application for the creation of a full size, floodlit 3G pitch in replacement of an adult grass pitch at Egerton Youth Club. This will then be used to host first team (football pyramid) fixtures.

Sandbach United FC is developing a stand at Sandbach Community Football Centre to service its main pitch that will seat 50 people. This is expected to be completed ahead of next season and will go some way to ensuring that the Club can progress to Step 6 should it achieve promotion.

Alsager Town FC aspires to build a new stand at Wood Park that will contain changing rooms, a bar, a kitchen and a social area. The Club previously had plans to move sites but this fell through due to a change of developer.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

### 2.3: Demand

Through the audit and assessment, 557 teams from within 124 clubs were identified as playing within Cheshire East. This consists of 123 adult men's teams, eight adult women's teams, 264 youth boys' teams, eight youth girls' teams and 154 mini soccer teams.

*Table 2.7: Summary of competitive teams currently playing in Cheshire East*

Analysis area	No. of teams					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Congleton	35	53	29	12	11	140
Crewe	26	26	23	39	24	138
Knutsford	18	23	9	10	-	60
Macclesfield	11	19	17	21	7	75
Nantwich	20	16	6	-	-	42
Poynton	12	10	9	5	1	37
Wilmslow	9	17	15	13	11	65
<b>Cheshire East</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>557</b>

Poynton services the fewest number of teams (37 teams). The majority of teams play in Congleton (140 teams), which coincides with it containing the largest number of pitches although there is a similar level of demand in Crewe (138 teams). The most prevalent playing format is youth 11v11 football (164 teams); the least is 5v5 football (54 teams).

It should be noted that the large number of mini teams playing in Crewe (39 7v7 teams and 24 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 in Nantwich and Congleton as the League is the only mini soccer option servicing that part of Cheshire East. This also provides an explanation as to why there are no mini teams playing within Nantwich.

The South Cheshire Youth League also uses a central venue system, but for 9v9 football rather than mini soccer. The most prominent sites used are Sandbach Community Football Centre, Cumberland Arena and Barony Sports Complex.

Both the Alexandra Soccer League and the South Cheshire Youth League access 3G pitches and the use of 3G pitches for match play is particularly prominent in Cheshire East. In total, 98 teams currently play home matches on 3G pitches, which is a considerably high number when compared to other local authorities. For more information, see Part 3: Third Generation Turf (3G) Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs).

#### **Participation trends**

When data was collected in 2013, there were significantly fewer teams then (498 teams) compared to now (557 teams). That said, there were more clubs then (129 clubs) than currently (124 clubs). This can be correlated to many one-team, adult only clubs folding whilst large clubs that service numerous mini and youth teams, such as Sandbach United FC and Holmes Chapel Hurricanes FC, have prospered and grown substantially.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Clubs that responded to the online survey were asked whether there had been a change in their number of teams over the previous three years. The response rates for those that answered this question can be seen in the table overleaf.

*Table 2.8: Change in the number of teams over the previous three years*

Team type	Clubs response		
	Increased	Decreased	Stayed the same
Adult	6%	14%	80%
Youth	20%	7%	73%
Mini	24%	5%	71%

The highest increase in teams is seen in mini soccer, with just under a quarter (24%) of clubs reporting an increase over the last three years compared to 5% that report a decrease. Similarly, 20% of clubs report an increase in youth teams compared to 7% that report a decrease.

It would be expected that an increase in mini and youth teams would translate into more adult teams; however, this is generally not the case. In Cheshire East, only 6% of clubs report an increase in senior demand, whilst 14% report a decrease. The way in which adult men want to play football is changing. There is a national trend of players opting to play small-sided versions of the game as people want to be able to fit it into busy lifestyles. Shorter versions of the sport allow players to do this and if this trend continues, there is likely to be demand for more access to 3G pitches.

### **Exported 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.

AFC Macclesfield has an adult men's team that accesses a pitch at Stockport Sports Village due to no suitable venue existing within Cheshire East. The Club plays at a relatively high level and expresses a need for a good quality pitch to match its ambition of reaching the football pyramid. Talks are ongoing with the Council in regards to use of Mary Dendy Playing Fields.

Both Alsager Town FC and Wistaston Blackcats FC have an u12s youth boys' team displaced. Alsager Town FC plays in Stoke-on-Trent as there is no 9v9 provision at its home site (Wood Park), whereas Wistaston Blackcats FC plays in Newcastle-under-Lyme so that it can access pitches that are perceived to be better quality. Both clubs state that they would return to Cheshire East if they felt it possible.

Six Cheshire East based clubs have youth girls' teams playing in the Cheshire Girls' League, which uses a central venue at Moss Farm (Northwich) for all of its fixtures. These clubs are:

- ◀ Crewe FC
- ◀ Egerton FC
- ◀ Middlewich Town FC
- ◀ Sandbach United FC
- ◀ Tytherington Juniors FC
- ◀ Vale Juniors FC

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Similarly, Poynton, Wilmslow Sports and Alderley United football clubs have mini teams that play in Trafford, as per the central venue requirements of the Timperley and District Junior Football League. None of these clubs express a requirement for the demand to return to Cheshire East, although that could be due to the lack of an alternative.

All remaining exported demand is through choice rather than necessity. For example, Richmond Rovers FC is based on the Cheshire East border to Stockport, where the Club leases and accesses a site for the majority of its mini and youth teams.

### ***Unmet demand***

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to pitches. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a league has a waiting list due to a lack of pitch provision, which in turn is hindering the growth of the league. No clubs report this as being the case in Cheshire East.

### **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). Taking into consideration the guidelines on capacity the following ratings were used in Cheshire East:

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

<b>Potential capacity</b>	Play is below the level the site could sustain
<b>At capacity</b>	Play matches the level the site can sustain
<b>Overused</b>	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

### ***Education sites***

To account for curricular/extra-curricular use of education pitches it is likely that the carrying capacity at such sites will need 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.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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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.

For Cheshire East, current play at primary schools, secondary schools, colleges and independent schools 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. It must be noted, however, that informal use of these sites is not recorded and it is therefore difficult to quantify on a site-by-site basis. Instead, it is recommended that open access sites be protected through an improved maintenance regime and through retaining some spare capacity to protect quality.

### ***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 all formats of play as this is when the majority of teams access each pitch type.

In the table below, please note that, 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 what exists overall. This is because the majority of use occurs outside of the peak period; therefore, the identified spare capacity at peak time should not be utilised over and above overall capacity unless quality improvements are made that increases overall capacity.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 2.9: Football pitch capacity analysis

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure <sup>4</sup>	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity <sup>5</sup> (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)
5	Alsager Leisure Centre	Congleton	Leisure Trust	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0
					Youth	(11v11)	2	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	1
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0.5
6	Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus)	Congleton	University	Unsecure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0.5
7	Ash Grove Academy	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
10	Audlem Playing Fields	Nantwich	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	1	1	0	0.5
11	Back Lane	Congleton	Council	Secure	Adult		2	Yes	Poor	4	2	2	0
					Youth	(11v11)	2	Yes	Poor	2.5	3	0.5	0
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	0
					Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Poor	1.5	2	0.5	0
12	Barony Sports Complex	Nantwich	Leisure Trust	Secure	Adult		3	Yes	Poor	3	3	0	0.5
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	0
13	Beech Hall School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Adult		1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	1	0	1
14	Beechwood Primary School	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	2	1	1
15	Black Firs County Primary	Congleton	School	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
16	Bollington Cross (Atax)	Macclesfield	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	1
17	Bollington Cross Playing Field	Macclesfield	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	3.5	2	1.5	0
18	Bollington Recreation Ground	Macclesfield	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0
19	Booth Street Stadium (Congleton Town Football Club)	Congleton	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Good	1	3	2	1
22	Brine Leas School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	3	Yes-unused	Standard	3	6	3	3
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1
24	Buglawton Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	0.5
26	Calveley School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	No	Poor	1	2	1	-
27	Carnival Field	Wilmslow	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	0
30	Chorley Hall	Wilmslow	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	0
32	Alderley Park (Astra Zeneca)	Knutsford	Private	Unsecure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0.5
34	Congleton High School	Congleton	School	Secure	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	5.5	4	1.5	2
					Youth	(11v11)	2	Yes	Standard	5	5	1	1.5
					Youth	(9v9)	2	Yes	Standard	5.5	4	1.5	0.5
					Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	7	8	1	1
					Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes	Standard	7	8	1	1
35	Congleton Road	Macclesfield	Council	Secure	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	1	4	3	0.5
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5
					Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	1
36	Cranage Playing Fields	Congleton	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	1

<sup>4</sup> Unless local information suggests otherwise it can be assumed that the availability of all pitches in Council, town and parish council and sports club ownership will be secure.

<sup>5</sup> Based on pitch quality The FA recommends a maximum number of match equivalent sessions to be accommodate per pitch type. Please refer to Section 2.4 for the full breakdown.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure <sup>4</sup>	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity <sup>5</sup> (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (!) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)
37	Cranberry Academy	Congleton	School	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	2	No	Standard	2	8	6	-
39	Cumberland Arena	Crewe	Leisure Trust	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Good	2	3	1	0
41	Deva Close	Poynton	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	4	2	2	0
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	0
42	Disley Amalgamated Sports Club	Poynton	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	1.5
43	Eaton Bank Academy	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Yes	Poor	2	2	0	2
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Poor	2	2	0	0
					Mini	(5v5)	7	Yes	Poor	8.5	14	5.5	5.5
44	Egerton Youth Club	Knutsford	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	0
					Youth	(11v11)	3	Yes	Standard	9	6	3	0
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	4.5	2	2.5	0
					Mini	(7v7)	4	Yes	Standard	14	16	2	1
46	Fallibroome Academy	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Adult		1	No	Poor	1	1	0	-
47	Forge Fields	Congleton	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5
48	Goodwill Hall Playing Fields	Nantwich	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5
49	Goostrey Playing Fields	Congleton	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	1
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5
52	Haslington Playing Fields	Crewe	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	1	1	0	0.5
55	Hermitage Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0
57	Holmes Chapel Cricket Club	Congleton	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Standard	1	4	3	0
58	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	Congleton	Leisure Trust	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0
					Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0
59	Holmes Chapel Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	1
					Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	2	4	2	0
60	Hungerford Primary School	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	2	1	1
61	Jim Evison Playing Fields	Wilmslow	Council	Secure	Adult		3	Yes	Poor	7.5	3	4.5	0
					Youth	(9v9)	2	Yes	Poor	3.5	2	1.5	0
					Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Poor	2	4	2	0
62	Bunbury Playing Field	Nantwich	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0.5
63	Kerridge Cricket Club	Macclesfield	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	2	8	6	2
64	King George V Playing Field	Macclesfield	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	2	1	1	0
65	King George V Playing Fields	Crewe	Council	Secure	Adult		4	Yes	Standard	4	8	4	1
66	Knutsford Academy (upper)	Knutsford	School	Secure	Adult		2	Yes-unused	Poor	2	2	0	2
69	Lacey Green Pavilion	Wilmslow	Council	Secure	Adult		2	Yes	Poor	1	2	1	1
70	Lacey Green Primary Academy	Wilmslow	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	4	8	4	0
					Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Standard	6	4	2	0
71	Legends Health and Leisure Centre	Crewe	Private	Secure	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	4.5	4	0.5	1.5
72	Lindow Community Primary School	Wilmslow	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	3	8	5	1
73	Lower Park Primary School	Poynton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes-unused	Standard	2	8	6	2
75	Malbank School And Sixth Form College	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Adult		3	Yes	Standard	6	6	0	0.5
77	Manchester Road	Knutsford	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0.5

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure <sup>4</sup>	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity <sup>5</sup> (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (!) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)
79	Marlborough Primary School	Macclesfield	School	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
80	Mary Dendy Playing Fields	Knutsford	Council	Secure	Adult		3	Yes	Poor	4.5	3	1.5	0
83	Middlewich High School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	4	4	0	1.5
84	Middlewich Town Football Club	Congleton	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Good	2	3	1	0.5
85	Midway Playing Fields	Poynton	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	1	1	0	0
86	Milton Park	Congleton	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5
88	Moss Rose Stadium	Macclesfield	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	No	Good	0.5	3	2.5	-
91	Nantwich Town Football Club	Nantwich	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Good	1.5	3	1.5	0.5
93	Newtown Playing Field	Poynton	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5
94	Nuffield Fitness And Wellbeing Centre (Radbrooke Hall)	Knutsford	Private	Unsecure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	0
95	Oakwood Farm	Wilmslow	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0.5
96	Offley Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
98	Peover Superior Endowed Primary School	Knutsford	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	1	0	1
99	Pikemere School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	2	1	1
102	Poynton High School	Poynton	School	Unsecure	Adult		1	No	Poor	1	1	0	-
					Youth	(11v11)	2	No	Poor	2	2	0	-
					Youth	(9v9)	1	No	Poor	1	1	0	-
103	Poynton Sports Club	Poynton	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	0.5
105	Reaseheath College	Nantwich	College	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Good	4	3	1	0.5
106	Ruskin Community High School	Crewe	School	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	0
					Youth	(11v11)	2	Yes-unused	Standard	2	4	2	2
107	Sandbach Community Football Centre	Congleton	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		5	Yes	Good	15	15	0	0
					Youth	(11v11)	2	Yes	Good	6	6	0	0
					Youth	(9v9)	3	Yes	Good	4	4	0	0
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Adult		1	No	Standard	1	2	1	-
					Youth	(11v11)	1	No	Standard	1	2	1	-
111	Shavington Academy	Crewe	School	Secure	Adult		2	Yes-unused	Standard	2	4	2	2
					Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1
113	Sir William Stanier Leisure Centre	Crewe	Leisure Trust	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	2.5	1	1.5	0
					Youth	(11v11)	3	Yes-unused	Poor	3	3	0	0.5
114	South Cheshire College	Crewe	College	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Good	2.5	3	0.5	0.5
118	St John's Wood Community School	Knutsford	School	Unsecure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	1
119	St Thomas More Catholic High School	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Adult		1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1
					Youth	(11v11)	1	No	Standard	1	2	1	-
120	Styal Playing Fields	Wilmslow	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	3	2	1	0
121	Sutton Lane	Congleton	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	2	2	1
122	Terra Nova School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0.5
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0
					Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	2	8	6	1.5

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure <sup>4</sup>	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity <sup>5</sup> (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (!) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)
123	The Berkeley Academy	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Poor	1	2	1	-
124	The Edge Hockey Centre	Wilmslow	Club	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	No	Standard	1	2	1	-
					Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
125	The Kings School (Westminster Road)	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	2	No	Standard	2	4	2	-
127	The Kings School (Fence Avenue)	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	2	No	Standard	2	4	2	-
128	The Macclesfield Academy	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0.5
					Youth	(11v11)	2	Yes	Standard	2.5	4	1.5	1.5
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	0
129	The Oaks Academy	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	1	0	1
					Youth	(9v9)	2	No	Poor	1	1	0	-
					Mini	(5v5)	2	No	Poor	2	4	2	-
130	The Peacock Sports Ground	Crewe	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	1	0	1
					Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Poor	2.5	1	1.5	0
132	Tytherington Pitches	Macclesfield	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0
133	Upcast Lane	Wilmslow	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0
					Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1	4	3	1
134	Victoria Park	Macclesfield	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	1	1	0	0.5
136	Weston Playing Field	Macclesfield	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5
138	Whirley Primary School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Standard	2	4	2	1
139	Willaston White Star Football Club	Crewe	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	0
140	Wilmslow Grange Primary And Nursery School	Wilmslow	School	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
141	Wilmslow High School	Wilmslow	School	Unsecure	Adult		2	No	Standard	2	4	2	-
					Youth	(11v11)	2	No	Standard	2	4	2	-
					Youth	(9v9)	2	No	Standard	2	4	2	-
144	Eric Swan Sports Ground	Crewe	Community	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0
145	Wood Park	Congleton	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5
146	Wood Park (Alsager Town Football Club)	Congleton	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Good	1	3	2	1
147	Wrenbury Recreation Ground	Nantwich	Leisure Trust	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	1	1	0	0
149	Wistaston Church Lane Primary School	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
					Mini	(5v5)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
150	Crewe Alexandra Football Club	Crewe	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	No	Good	0.5	3	2.5	-
151	All Hallows Catholic College	Macclesfield	School	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	No	Poor	3	2	1	-
162	Tytherington High School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	No	Standard	1	2	1	-
163	Reaseheath Training Complex (Crewe Alex)	Nantwich	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		2	No	Good	1	6	5	-
					Youth	(11v11)	2	No	Good	2.5	8	5.5	-
					Youth	(9v9)	2	No	Good	1	8	7	-
164	Acton Primary School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
165	Adlington Primary School	Poynton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure <sup>4</sup>	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity <sup>5</sup> (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)
166	Alderley Edge Community Primary School	Wilmslow	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
167	Alsager Highfields Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
168	Ashdene Primary School	Wilmslow	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
169	Astbury St Mary's CE Primary	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
170	Audlem St James CE Primary	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Poor	1	2	1	-
171	Bickerton Holy Trinity Primary School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes-unused	Poor	1	4	3	2
172	Bollinbrook Primary School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1
173	Bollington St John's Primary	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Poor	1.5	2	0.5	0.5
174	Brereton Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
175	Bridgemere Primary School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	2	1	1
176	Broken Cross Community School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	2	1	1
177	Bunbury Aldersey Primary School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1
178	Christ the King Primary	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	0.5
179	Cledford Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	1	0	1
180	Daven Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
181	Dean Oaks Primary School	Wilmslow	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
182	Disley Primary School	Poynton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Poor	1	2	1	-
183	Elworth Hall Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
184	Elworth Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	No	Standard	2	8	6	-
185	Excalibur Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
186	Goostrey Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Poor	1	2	1	-
187	Haslington Primary School	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
188	Havannah Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
189	Highfields Community Primary School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
190	Hollinhey Primary School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	1	1
191	Hurdsfield Community Primary School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	No	Poor	1	1	0	-
192	Ivy Bank Primary School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	No	Poor	1	1	0	-
193	Leighton Academy	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	No	Standard	2	8	6	-
194	Little Bollington Primary	Knutsford	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
195	Lostock Hall Primary School	Poynton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	2	4	2	1
196	Mablins Lane Community Primary School	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
197	Manor Park Primary School	Knutsford	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes-unused	Poor	2	4	2	2
198	Marlfields Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	3	8	5	1
199	Middlewich Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	3	8	5	1
200	Millfields Primary School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
201	Monks Coppenthal Primary School	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
202	Mossley CE Primary	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-

**CHESHIRE EAST  
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure <sup>4</sup>	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity <sup>5</sup> (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)
203	Nether Alderley Primary School	Knutsford	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	2	1	1
204	Pear Tree Primary School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
205	Pebble Brook Primary School	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
206	Puss Bank Primary School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes-unused	Poor	1	4	3	2
207	Rainow Primary School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Poor	1	2	1	-
208	Rode Heath Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
209	Sandbach Community Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
210	Scholar Green Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
211	Shavington Primary School	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
212	Smallwood Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1
213	Sound and District Primary School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Poor	1	2	1	-
214	St Alban's Catholic Primary	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Poor	2.5	1	1.5	1
					Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Poor	3.5	2	1.5	1
215	St Anne's Catholic Primary	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
216	St Anne's Fulshaw Primary	Wilmslow	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
					Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
217	St Benedict's Catholic Primary	Wilmslow	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
218	St Gabriel's Catholic Primary	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	No	Poor	1	2	1	-
219	St John's Primary School (Sandbach)	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
220	St Mary's Primary School (Congleton)	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
221	St Mary's Primary School (Crewe)	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
222	St Mary's Primary School (Middlewich)	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	0.5
223	St Michael's Community Academy	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
224	St Odwald's Worleston Primary	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1
225	St Paul's Catholic Primary	Poynton	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	3	2	1	0
					Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
226	Stapeley Broad Lane Primary	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
227	Styal Primary School	Wilmslow	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	2	1	1
228	The Dingle Primary	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
229	The Quinta Academy	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
230	Upton Priory Primary School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1
					Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
231	Vernon Primary School	Poynton	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	0
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	0
					Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
232	Vine Tree Primary School	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
					Mini	(5v5)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
233	Warmingham Primary School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-

**CHESHIRE EAST  
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure <sup>4</sup>	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity <sup>5</sup> (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)
234	Weaver Primary School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
235	Weston Village Primary School	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
236	Wheelock Primary School	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
237	Willaston Primary School	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Poor	1	4	1	-
238	Wistaston Green Primary School	Crewe	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-
239	Woodcocks Well CE Primary	Congleton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	No	Poor	1	2	1	-
240	Worth Primary School	Poynton	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes-unused	Standard	2	8	6	2
241	Wrenbury Primary School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	No	Standard	1	2	1	-
242	Wybunbury Delves Primary School	Nantwich	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1
243	Knutsford Academy (lower)	Knutsford	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1
245	Cumberland Arena (Razzer)	Crewe	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5
247	Prestbury Playing Fields	Macclesfield	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5
248	Jasmine Park	Macclesfield	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	2	2	0	1
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	3	2	1	0
					Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	3	8	5	0.5
					Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes	Standard	2.5	8	5.5	1.5
249	Mount Vernon	Poynton	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	0
250	St Gregory's Catholic Primary School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	2	4	2	0.5
251	Dean Valley Primary School	Macclesfield	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	2	4	2	0.5

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

### 2.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify current demand (i.e. spare capacity taking away overplay and any latent/exported demand) in each of the analysis areas for the different pitch types, based on match equivalent sessions. Exported demand includes only the teams that express an aspiration to play within Cheshire East; Future demand is based on team generation rates, which are driven by population increases, as well as club development plans. A detailed analysis of spare capacity, overplay, latent and future demand is set out later in this section and explains how the overall supply/demand balance has been derived.

Table 2.10: Supply and demand balance of adult pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity <sup>6</sup>	Demand (match equivalent sessions)					Total
		Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	
Congleton	2	3.5	-	1.5	-	1	2.5
Crewe	1	2.5	-	1.5	-	0.5	2
Knutsford	0.5	1.5	-	1	-	-	1
Macclesfield	1	2.5	0.5	2	-	1	3
Nantwich	1	1	-		-	-	
Poynton	1.5	3	-	1.5	-	-	1.5
Wilmslow	1	5.5	-	4.5	-	-	4.5
<b>Cheshire East</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>14.5</b>

There is a current shortfall of adult pitches amounting to 12 match equivalent sessions and a future shortfall of 14.5 match equivalent sessions. The only analysis area that does not feature a shortfall is Nantwich, which is played to capacity both presently and when accounting for future demand.

Table 2.11: Supply and demand balance of youth 11v11 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity <sup>7</sup>	Demand (match equivalent sessions)					Total
		Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	
Congleton	2.5	1	-	1.5	-	2	0.5
Crewe	-	1.5	-	1.5	-	-	1.5
Knutsford	-	3	-	3	1	0.5	4.5
Macclesfield	-	1	-	1	-	-	1
Nantwich	-	-	-		-	-	
Poynton	-	-	-		-	-	
Wilmslow	-	-	-		-	1	1
<b>Cheshire East</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5.5<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>10.5</b>

<sup>6</sup> In match equivalent sessions

<sup>7</sup> In match equivalent sessions

<sup>8</sup> Overall future demand figure includes TGRs. Overall total is therefore not the sum of the total column because TGR's are only calculated on a Cheshire East wide basis, not on an analysis area basis.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

There is a current shortfall of youth 11v11 pitches amounting to four match equivalent sessions and a future shortfall of 10.5 match equivalent sessions. Current shortfalls are evident in Crewe, Knutsford and Macclesfield, with future shortfalls also identified in those analysis areas as well as Congleton and Wilmslow. Nantwich and Poynton are both played to capacity currently and accounting for future demand.

In addition, please note that a further 41.5 youth 11v11 match equivalent sessions (83 youth 11v11 teams) are recorded as taking place on adult pitches. As such, there is a clear need for an increase in youth 11v11 provision in order for this play to be transferred on to the correct pitch size without overplay being exacerbated. This in turn will also reduce overplay on adult pitches.

Table 2.12: Supply and demand balance of youth 9v9 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity <sup>9</sup>	Demand (match equivalent sessions)					
		Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Congleton	-	2	0.5	2.5	3	1.5	6
Crewe	-	-	0.5	0.5	-	0.5	1
Knutsford	-	2.5	-	2.5	0.5	-	3
Macclesfield	0.5	3	-	2.5	-	-	2.5
Nantwich	-	-	-		0.5	1	1.5
Poynton	-	1.5	-	1.5	-	-	1.5
Wilmslow	-	2	-	2	-	0.5	2.5
<b>Cheshire East</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4.5<sup>10</sup></b>	<b>20</b>

The current picture shows that there is an overall shortfall of 9v9 pitches amounting to 11.5 match equivalent sessions and a future shortfall of 20 match equivalent sessions. There is also a shortfall in each analysis area.

Table 2.13: Supply and demand balance of mini 7v7 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity <sup>11</sup>	Demand (match equivalent sessions)					
		Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Congleton	4	-	-	4	1	2	1
Crewe	-	-	-		-	-	
Knutsford	-	-	-		-	-	
Macclesfield	2	1.5	-	0.5	-	-	0.5
Nantwich	-	-	-		-	-	
Poynton	1	-	-	1	-	-	1
Wilmslow	2	-	-	2	-	2	
<b>Cheshire East</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2.5</b>

<sup>9</sup> In match equivalent sessions

<sup>10</sup> Overall future demand figure includes TGRs. Overall total is therefore not the sum of the total column because TGR's are only calculated on a Cheshire East wide basis, not on an analysis area basis.

<sup>11</sup> In match equivalent sessions

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

There is current spare capacity overall on 7v7 pitches amounting to 7.5 match equivalent sessions. When accounting for future demand, spare capacity remains in Congleton, Macclesfield and Poynton as well as overall. All remaining analysis areas are played to capacity.

Table 2.14: Supply and demand balance of mini 5v5 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity <sup>12</sup>	Demand (match equivalent sessions)					
		Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Congleton	-	-	-		2	3.5	5.5
Crewe	-	-	-		-	1.5	1.5
Knutsford	-	-	-		-	-	
Macclesfield	-	-	-		-	1	1
Nantwich	-	-	-		-	-	
Poynton	-	-	-		-	-	
Wilmslow	-	2	-	2	-	1	3
<b>Cheshire East</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>

There is an overall shortfall identified on 5v5 pitches amounting to two match equivalent sessions and this can be attributed solely to Wilmslow, with all other analysis areas played to capacity. When considering future demand, shortfalls worsen in Wilmslow and appear in Congleton, Macclesfield and Crewe. The overall future shortfall equates to 11 match equivalent sessions.

Table 2.15: Summary of supply and demand balance

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity <sup>13</sup>	Demand (match equivalent sessions)					
		Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Adult	8	19.5	0.5	12	-	2.5	14.5
Youth 11v11	2.5	6.5	-	4	1	5.5 <sup>14</sup>	10.5
Youth 9v9	0.5	11	1	10.5	4	4.5 <sup>15</sup>	19
Mini 7v7	9	1.5	-	7.5	1	4	2.5
Mini 5v5	0	2	-	2	2	7	11

There is a current and future shortfall of adult, youth 11v11, 9v9 and 5v5 pitches, with overall minimal spare capacity existing only on 7v7 pitches.

<sup>12</sup> In match equivalent sessions

<sup>13</sup> In match equivalent sessions

<sup>14</sup> Overall future demand figure includes TGRs. Overall total is therefore not the sum of the total column because TGR's are only calculated on a Cheshire East wide basis, not on an analysis area basis.

<sup>15</sup> Overall future demand figure includes TGRs. Overall total is therefore not the sum of the total column because TGR's are only calculated on a Cheshire East wide basis, not on an analysis area basis.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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In order to reduce shortfalls, there is a clear need for pitch quality improvements, which will increase pitch capacity. There is also a potential need for access to more pitches, which could be gained, for example, through access to sites currently unavailable for community use (with secure tenure provided). This is, however, dependant on the willingness of the owner/provider to allow for community use. Although often difficult to achieve, such options will be further explored in the Strategy document.

It must also be noted that many teams within Cheshire East access 3G pitches for matches, particularly 9v9, 7v7 and 5v5 teams that play in either the South Cheshire Youth League or the Alexandra Soccer League due to the use of central venues. As such, if these teams were to transfer to grass pitches, shortfalls would largely increase on 9v9 and 5v5 grass pitches and shortfalls would be created on 7v7 grass pitches.

Alternatively, greater use of 3G pitches would reduce shortfalls on 9v9 and 5v5 pitches as well as increasing spare capacity on 7v7 pitches. Moreover, 3G pitches could be used to accommodate expressed future demand. For this to occur, however, there may be a requirement for an increase in 3G provision. An analysis of the supply and demand for 3G pitches and to what extent they can address deficiencies in football is set out in Part 3 of this report.

### ***Spare capacity***

To determine 'actual spare capacity', each site with 'potential capacity identified in Table 2.9 has been reviewed. 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 the game. Any pitch not meeting this criterion has consequently been discounted.

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.

School sites that are currently available for community use but unused are also not considered to have actual spare capacity as the full availability of these pitches cannot be determined. Further consultation with the providers is therefore recommended to fully understand community use aspects, i.e. are the pitches available during peak time, are they available throughout the playing season and are they affordable.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 2.16: Actual spare capacity

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (!) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Match equivalent sessions available in peak period	Comments
5	Alsager Leisure Centre	Congleton	Youth	(11v11)	2	Yes	Standard	0.5	1	1	Pitch over marked; spare capacity discounted
			Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0.5	1	0.5	Pitch over marked; spare capacity discounted
6	Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus)	Congleton	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1.5	0.5	0.5	Proposed development plans; spare capacity discounted
7	Ash Grove Academy	Macclesfield	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
14	Beechwood Primary School	Crewe	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	0	1	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
15	Black Firs County Primary	Congleton	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
19	Booth Street Stadium (Congleton Town Football Club)	Congleton	Adult		1	Yes	Good	1	2	1	Football pyramid site; spare capacity discounted to protect quality
22	Brine Leas School	Nantwich	Youth	(11v11)	3	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	3	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
			Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	1	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
24	Buglawton Primary School	Congleton	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time
32	Alderley Park (Astra Zeneca)	Knutsford	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1	1	0.5	Private site; spare capacity discounted
34	Congleton High School	Congleton	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	5	1	1	Pitch over marked; spare capacity discounted
			Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes	Standard	5	1	1	Pitch over marked; spare capacity discounted
35	Congleton Road	Macclesfield	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	1	3	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time
			Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time
			Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time
36	Cranage Playing Fields	Congleton	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	0.5	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time
42	Disley Amalgamated Sports Club	Poynton	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	1.5	2.5	1.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time
43	Eaton Bank Academy	Congleton	Mini	(5v5)	7	Yes	Poor	1.5	5.5	5.5	Poor quality; spare capacity discounted
44	Egerton Youth Club	Knutsford	Mini	(7v7)	4	Yes	Standard	14	2	1	Pitch over marked; spare capacity discounted
47	Forge Fields	Congleton	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	0.5	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time
48	Goodwill Hall Playing Fields	Nantwich	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	0.5	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time
49	Goostrey Playing Fields	Congleton	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	1.5	1	Pitch over marked; spare capacity discounted
			Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	1.5	0.5	Pitch over marked; spare capacity discounted
60	Hungerford Primary School	Crewe	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	0	1	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
62	Bunbury Playing Field	Nantwich	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1.5	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time
63	Kerridge Cricket Club	Macclesfield	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	2	6	2	Cricket site; spare capacity discounted
65	King George V Playing Fields	Crewe	Adult		4	Yes	Standard	4	4	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time
69	Lacey Green Pavilion	Wilmslow	Adult		2	Yes	Poor	1	1	1	Poor quality; spare capacity discounted
72	Lindow Community Primary School	Wilmslow	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	1	5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time
73	Lower Park Primary School	Poynton	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes-unused	Standard	0	6	2	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
77	Manchester Road	Knutsford	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1.5	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time
79	Marlborough Primary School	Macclesfield	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (!) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Match equivalent sessions available in peak period	Comments
84	Middlewich Town Football Club	Congleton	Adult		1	Yes	Good	2	1	0.5	Football pyramid site; spare capacity discounted to protect quality
86	Milton Park	Congleton	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time
91	Nantwich Town Football Club	Nantwich	Adult		1	Yes	Good	1.5	1.5	0.5	Football pyramid site; spare capacity discounted to protect quality
93	Newtown Playing Field	Poynton	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	0.5	0.5	0.5	Poor quality; spare capacity discounted
95	Oakwood Farm	Wilmslow	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1	1	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time
99	Pikemere School	Congleton	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	0	1	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
106	Ruskin Community High School	Crewe	Youth	(11v11)	2	Yes-unused	Standard	0	2	2	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
111	Shavington Academy	Crewe	Adult		2	Yes-unused	Standard	0	2	2	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
			Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	1	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
			Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	1	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
114	South Cheshire College	Crewe	Adult		1	Yes	Good	1.5	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted to protect quality
119	St Thomas More Catholic High School	Crewe	Adult		1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	1	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
121	Sutton Lane	Congleton	Adult		1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	2	1	Changing rooms inaccessible; spare capacity discounted
122	Terra Nova School	Congleton	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	1	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time
			Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	0.5	6	1.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time
128	The Macclesfield Academy	Macclesfield	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	0.5	1	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time
			Youth	(11v11)	2	Yes	Standard	0.5	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time
132	Tytherington Pitches	Macclesfield	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time
133	Upcast Lane	Wilmslow	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1	3	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time
136	Weston Playing Field	Macclesfield	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	0.5	0.5	0.5	Poor quality; spare capacity discounted
138	Whirley Primary School	Macclesfield	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	Spare capacity discounted due to school use
145	Wood Park	Congleton	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	0.5	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time
146	Wood Park (Alsager Town Football Club)		Adult		1	Yes	Good	1	2	1	Football pyramid site; spare capacity discounted to protect quality
166	Alderley Edge Community Primary School	Wilmslow	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
167	Alsager Highfields Primary School	Congleton	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
168	Ashdene Primary School	Wilmslow	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
171	Bickerton Holy Trinity Primary School	Nantwich	Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes-unused	Poor	0	3	2	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
172	Bollinbrook Primary School	Macclesfield	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	1	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
173	Bollington St John's Primary	Macclesfield	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Poor	0.5	0.5	0.5	Poor quality; spare capacity discounted
174	Brereton Primary School	Congleton	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (!) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Match equivalent sessions available in peak period	Comments
175	Bridgemere Primary School	Nantwich	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	0	1	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
176	Broken Cross Community School	Macclesfield	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	0	1	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
177	Bunbury Aldersey Primary School	Nantwich	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	1	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
180	Daven Primary School	Congleton	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
183	Elworth Hall Primary School	Congleton	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
187	Haslington Primary School	Crewe	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
189	Highfields Community Primary School	Nantwich	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
190	Hollinhey Primary School	Macclesfield	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	1	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
195	Lostock Hall Primary School	Poynton	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time
197	Manor Park Primary School	Knutsford	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes-unused	Poor	0	2	2	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
198	Marfields Primary School	Congleton	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	1	5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time
199	Middlewich Primary School	Congleton	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	1	5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time
203	Nether Alderley Primary School	Knutsford	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	0	1	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
204	Pear Tree Primary School	Nantwich	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
206	Puss Bank Primary School	Macclesfield	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes-unused	Poor	0	3	2	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
210	Scholar Green Primary School	Congleton	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
211	Shavington Primary School	Crewe	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
212	Smallwood Primary School	Congleton	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	1	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
216	St Anne's Fulshaw Primary	Wilmslow	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
			Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
217	St Benedict's Catholic Primary	Wilmslow	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
224	St Odwald's Worleston Primary	Nantwich	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	1	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
225	St Paul's Catholic Primary	Poynton	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
227	Styal Primary School	Wilmslow	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	0	1	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
229	The Quinta Academy	Congleton	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted

**CHESHIRE EAST  
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (!) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Match equivalent sessions available in peak period	Comments
230	Upton Priory Primary School	Macclesfield	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	1	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
			Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
			Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
234	Weaver Primary School	Nantwich	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
240	Worth Primary School	Poynton	Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes-unused	Standard	0	6	2	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
242	Wybunbury Delves Primary School	Nantwich	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	3	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
243	Knutsford Academy (lower)	Knutsford	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	1	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
			Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	1	1	Unused school site; spare capacity discounted
245	Cumberland Arena (Razzer)	Crewe	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	0.5	0.5	0.5	Poor quality; spare capacity discounted
247	Prestbury Playing Fields	Macclesfield	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	0.5	0.5	0.5	Poor quality; spare capacity discounted
248	Jasmine Park	Macclesfield	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	3	5	0.5	Pitch over marked; spare capacity discounted
			Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes	Standard	2.5	5.5	1.5	Pitch over marked; spare capacity discounted
250	St Gregory's Catholic Primary School	Macclesfield	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time
251	Dean Valley Primary School	Macclesfield	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Actual spare capacity has been aggregated up by area and by pitch type.

Table 2.17: Actual spare capacity summary

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions per week)				
	Adult	Youth (11v11)	Youth (9v9)	Mini (7v7)	Mini (5v5)
Congleton	2	2.5	-	4	-
Crewe	1	-	-	-	-
Knutsford	0.5	-	-	-	-
Macclesfield	1	-	0.5	2	-
Nantwich	1	-	-	-	-
Poynton	1.5	-	-	1	-
Wilmslow	1	-	-	2	-
<b>Cheshire East</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>-</b>

The table shows 19.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity across 26 sites in Cheshire East with most expressed on 7v7 pitches and in Congleton. There is also moderate levels of spare capacity on adult pitches and at least some level of capacity exists in each analysis area on this pitch type. There is no spare capacity on 5v5 pitches.

Furthermore, there are ten match equivalent sessions of spare capacity discounted (aggregated from all pitch types) due to quality, the majority of which is on adult pitches. An improvement in quality at these sites will therefore create more actual spare capacity.

### Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it is able to sustain, which can often be due to the low carrying capacity of the pitches.

In Cheshire East, 43 pitches are overplayed across 24 sites by 40.5 match equivalent sessions. Of these, 17 pitches are assessed as poor quality, accounting for 17 match equivalent sessions. An improvement in quality at these sites will therefore result in a reduction of overplay.

Table 2.18: Overplay on pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match sessions)
11	Back Lane	Congleton	Adult	2	2
			Youth (9v9)	1	0.5
17	Bollington Cross Playing Field	Macclesfield	Adult	1	1.5
30	Chorley Hall	Wilmslow	Youth (9v9)	1	0.5
34	Congleton High School	Congleton	Adult	2	1.5
			Youth (11v11)	2	1
			Youth (9v9)	2	1.5
41	Deva Close	Poynton	Adult	1	2
44	Egerton Youth Club	Knutsford	Youth (11v11)	3	3
			Youth (9v9)	1	2.5

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match sessions)
61	Jim Evison Playing Fields	Wilmslow	Adult	3	4.5
			Youth (9v9)	2	1.5
64	King George V Playing Field	Macclesfield	Adult	1	1
70	Lacey Green Primary Academy	Wilmslow	Mini (5v5)	1	2
71	Legends Health and Leisure Centre	Crewe	Adult	2	0.5
80	Mary Dendy Playing Fields	Knutsford	Adult	3	1.5
103	Poynton Sports Club	Poynton	Adult	1	0.5
105	Reaseheath College	Nantwich	Adult	1	1
113	Sir William Stanier Leisure Centre	Crewe	Adult	1	1.5
120	Styal Playing Fields	Wilmslow	Adult	1	1
130	The Peacock Sports Ground	Crewe	Youth (11v11)	1	1.5
139	Willaston White Star Football Club	Crewe	Adult	1	0.5
151	All Hallows Catholic College	Macclesfield	Youth (11v11)	2	1
178	Christ the King Primary	Macclesfield	Youth (9v9)	1	0.5
214	St Alban's Catholic Primary	Macclesfield	Youth (9v9)	1	1.5
			Mini (7v7)	1	1.5
225	St Paul's Catholic Primary	Poynton	Youth (9v9)	1	1
231	Vernon Primary School	Poynton	Youth (9v9)	1	0.5
248	Jasmine Park	Macclesfield	Youth (9v9)	1	1
249	Mount Vernon	Poynton	Adult	1	0.5

Several of the overplayed pitches are at educational sites, where the main reason for overplay is a culmination of curriculum PE use, extra-curricular use including school fixtures and any additional overuse by the community. Moreover, 13 of the overplayed pitches are over marked by other pitch types, which intensifies the usage and either causes the overplay or makes it significantly worse.

The majority of overplay occurs on adult pitches (19.5) although some level of overplay is recorded on each pitch type. More overplay occurs in Wilmslow than any other analysis area; the least amount occurs in Nantwich.

Table 2.19: Overplay summary

Analysis area	Overplay (match equivalent sessions per week)				
	Adult	Youth (11v11)	Youth (9v9)	Mini (7v7)	Mini (5v5)
Congleton	3.5	1	2	-	-
Crewe	2.5	1.5	-	-	-
Knutsford	1.5	3	2.5	-	-
Macclesfield	2.5	1	3	1.5	-
Nantwich	1	-	-	-	-
Poynton	3	-	1.5	-	-
Wilmslow	5.5	-	2	-	2
<b>Cheshire East</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2</b>

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

### Latent demand

During the consultation process, five clubs identify that if more pitches were available at their home ground or in the local area they could develop more teams in the future (latent demand). The table below highlights the number of teams (16) that could *potentially* be fielded if more pitches were available.

Table 2.20: Summary of latent demand expressed by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Latent demand	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions <sup>16</sup>
Knutsford FC	Knutsford	3 x Youth	(11v11)	1
			(9v9)	0.5
Alsager Town FC	Congleton	2 x Youth	(9v9)	1
Nantwich Pumas FC	Nantwich	1 x Youth	(9v9)	0.5
Middlewich Town FC	Congleton	2 x Youth 2 x Mini	(9v9)	1
			(5v5)	1
Sandbach United FC	Congleton	2 x Youth 4 x Mini	(9v9)	1
			(7v7)	1
			(5v5)	1

All latent demand is expressed in either Congleton, Knutsford or Nantwich and the majority is for 9v9 pitches. Latent demand for 9v9 football tends to be high in most local authorities. It is the most recent format of play and therefore pitches can be sparse, with providers also reporting difficulties in attaining correctly sized goalposts.

In total, latent demand quantified by clubs equates to eight match equivalent sessions, as seen in the table overleaf. No latent demand is expressed in relation to adult pitches.

Table 2.21: Latent demand by analysis area

Analysis area	Future demand (match equivalent sessions)					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Congleton	-	-	3	1	2	<b>6</b>
Crewe	-	-	-	-	-	-
Knutsford	-	1	0.5	-	-	<b>1.5</b>
Macclesfield	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nantwich	-	-	0.5	-	-	<b>0.5</b>
Poynton	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilmslow	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Cheshire East</b>	-	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>

In addition, eight clubs indicate that they would field more teams if more or better training facilities were available, seven clubs state that team numbers would increase if ancillary provision improved and four clubs highlight that a lack of coaches prevents growth.

<sup>16</sup> Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, 0.5 pitches can therefore be seen in the table where there is latent demand for one team.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

### Future demand

Future demand can be defined in three ways. Through participation increases, using population forecasts and additional demand generated from housing growth. The latter will be assessed via a range of scenarios contained within the Strategy document.

#### Population increases

Team generation rates are used to calculate the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2030) based on population growth. It is predicted that there will be a possible increase of six youth boys' teams, four at youth 11v11 level and two at 9v9 level.

Table 2.22: Team generation rates (2030)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Mens (16-45)	63,092	123	1:513	62,782	122	0.0
Senior Women (16-45)	64,016	8	1:8002	62,992	7	0.0
Youth Boys (12-15)	8,334	158	1:53	8,548	162	4.0
Youth Girls (12-15)	8,118	6	1:1353	8,254	6	0.0
Youth Boys (10-11)	4,132	106	1:39	4,222	108	2.0
Youth Girls (10-11)	3,926	2	1:1963	3,995	2	0.0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (8-9)	8,373	100	1:84	8,413	100	0.0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-7)	8,614	54	1:160	8,552	53	0.0

#### Participation increases

A number of clubs report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide. Of the 19 clubs that quantify their *potential* increase, there is a predicted growth of 41 teams, as seen in the table overleaf. Please note that latent demand highlighted previously has been discounted from these calculations as it is presumed to be absorbed in future growth.

Table 2.23: Potential team increases identified by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Future demand	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions <sup>17</sup>
AFC Prestbury	Macclesfield	1 x Adult		0.5
Alderley United FC	Wilmslow	2 x Youth	(11v11)	1
Bollington United Junior FC	Macclesfield	2 x Mini	(5v5)	1
Bunbury Youth FC	Nantwich	1 x Youth	(9v9)	0.5
Cheshire Phoenix FC	Wilmslow	2 x Mini	(5v5)	1

<sup>17</sup> Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, 0.5 pitches can therefore be seen in the table where there is latent demand for one team.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Club	Analysis area	Future demand	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions <sup>18</sup>
Congleton Rovers FC	Congleton	1 x Adult		0.5
		5 x Youth	(11v11)	1.5
			(9v9)	1
		3 x Mini	(7v7)	0.5
(5v5)	1			
Crewe Cavaliers FC	Crewe	1 x Mini	(5v5)	0.5
Crewe FC	Crewe	1 x Adult		0.5
		2 x Mini	(5v5)	1
Holmes Chapel Hurricanes FC	Congleton	1 x Adult		0.5
		2 x Mini	(5v5)	1
Knutsford FC	Knutsford	1 x Youth	(11v11)	0.5
Macc Vets FC	Macclesfield	1 x Adult		0.5
Middlewich Town FC	Congleton	1 x Youth	(9v9)	0.5
Nantwich Pumas Junior FC	Nantwich	1 x Youth	(9v9)	0.5
Park Royal FC	Congleton	2 x Mini	(7v7)	0.5
			(5v5)	0.5
Sandbach Curshaws FC	Congleton	1 x Youth	(11v11)	0.5
Sandbach United FC	Congleton	4 x Mini	(7v7)	1
			(5v5)	1
Styal FC	Wilmslow	1 x Youth	(9v9)	0.5
Wilmslow Town FC	Wilmslow	4 x Mini	(7v7)	2
Wisaston Athletic FC	Crewe	1 x Youth	(9v9)	0.5

The total future demand expressed amounts to 20.5 match equivalent sessions, the majority of which is identified in Congleton and on 5v5 pitches. There is no quantified future demand in Poynton.

Table 2.24: Future demand by analysis area

Analysis area	Future demand (match equivalent sessions)					
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Congleton	1	2	1.5	2	3.5	<b>10</b>
Crewe	0.5	-	0.5	-	1.5	<b>2.5</b>
Knutsford	-	0.5	-	-	-	<b>0.5</b>
Macclesfield	1	-	-	-	1	<b>2</b>
Nantwich	-	-	1	-	-	<b>1</b>
Poynton	-	-	-	-	-	<b>-</b>
Wilmslow	-	1	0.5	2	1	<b>4.5</b>
<b>Cheshire East</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>20.5</b>

<sup>18</sup> Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, 0.5 pitches can therefore be seen in the table where there is latent demand for one team.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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### Football – grass pitch summary

- ◀ **There is a current and future shortfall of adult, youth 11v11, 9v9 and 5v5 pitches, with minimal spare capacity existing only on 7v7 pitches.**
- ◀ **In total, 19.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity exists across 26 sites in Cheshire East, with most expressed on 7v7 pitches and in Congleton.**
- ◀ **Overplays occurs on 43 pitches across 24 sites equating to 40.5 match equivalent sessions.**
- ◀ The audit identifies 331 grass football pitches within Cheshire East across 189 sites, of which, 245 pitches are available, for community use across 132 sites.
- ◀ The King's School plans to sell both its Westminster Road and Fence Avenue sites for housing as it looks to consolidate to one site. Both contain two football pitches but there are no plans for these to be re-provided.
- ◀ A planning application is in place at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) that will include grass pitch provision as well as a full size, floodlit 3G pitch.
- ◀ Egerton Youth Club has planning permission to develop five adult pitches on land adjacent to its current site that it leases from a local landowner.
- ◀ Poynton Sports Club is in negotiations with a local landowner to purchase nearby land that will be used to relocate all on-site provision, including the football pitches.
- ◀ There are four lapsed and nine disused sites identified.
- ◀ In total, 16 community available pitches are assessed as good quality, 158 as standard quality and 71 as poor quality.
- ◀ Of community available pitches that are serviced by changing provision, 17 are serviced by good quality facilities, 60 by standard quality facilities and 65 by poor quality facilities.
- ◀ Congleton Rovers FC, Styal FC and AFC Prestbury Nomads all report an intention to improve their clubhouse facilities.
- ◀ Crewe FC, Holmes Chapel Hurricanes FC and Vale Juniors FC express an aspiration to acquire their own sites on a long-term lease.
- ◀ In addition to Crewe Alexandra FC, which is a professional club, a further ten clubs in Cheshire East play on the football pyramid.
- ◀ Through the audit, 557 teams from within 124 clubs were identified as playing within Cheshire East consisting of 123 adult men's teams, eight adult women's teams, 264 youth boys' teams, eight youth girls' teams and 154 mini soccer teams.
- ◀ AFC Macclesfield, Alsager Town FC and Wistaston Blackcats FC express exported demand that would prefer to play within Cheshire East.
- ◀ Five clubs report latent demand amounting to eight match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Team generation rates (2030) predict a growth of six youth boys' teams, whilst future demand expressed by clubs amounts to 41 teams and 20.5 match equivalent sessions.

# CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

## 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 (IMS) tested and approved by the FA for inclusion on the FA pitch register. As such, a growing number of 3G pitches are now used for competitive match play, providing that the performance standard meets FIFA quality (previously FIFA One Star), as well as for training purposes.

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. The artificial surface standards identified in Regulation 22 allows matches to be played on surfaces that meet the standard, meaning full contact activity, including tackling, rucking, mauling and lineouts, can take place. For rugby league, the equivalent is known as RFL Community Standard.

England Hockey'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) when no sand-based or water-based AGPs are available.

*Table 3.1: 3G type and sport suitability*

Surface	Sport	Comments
Rubber crumb	Rugby	Long pile surface (60mm) that is compliant to World Rugby regulation 22 and/or RFL Community Standard
Rubber crumb	Football	Performance standard to meet FIFA Quality after FIFA or IMS testing with the preferred surface medium pile (55-60mm)
Rubber crumb	Hockey	Short pile surface (40mm) for lower level hockey only

### 3.2 Current provision

A full size 3G pitch is considered by the FA to measure at least 100 x 64 metres (106 x 70 metres including run offs); however, for the purposes of this report, all pitches measuring over 100 x 60 metres (inclusive of run offs) are considered to be full size due to the amount of demand they can accommodate.

There are 11 full size 3G pitches in Cheshire East that fully comply with this specification, consisting of four pitches in Congleton, three in Nantwich, two in Crewe and one in both Knutsford and Macclesfield. There are no full size 3G pitches in either Poynton or Wilmslow.

All full size 3G pitches are floodlit and the majority are available to the community, with the only exception being Reaseheath Training Complex as access is reserved solely for use by Crewe Alexandra FC.

For a full breakdown of the pitches, please refer to the table overleaf.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 3.2: Full size 3G pitches in Cheshire East

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Floodlit?	Size (metres)
3	Alexandra Soccer Centre	Crewe	Yes	Yes	100 x 70
34	Congleton High School	Congleton	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
39	Cumberland Arena	Crewe	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
44	Egerton Youth Club	Knutsford	Yes	Yes	100 x 70
58	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	Congleton	Yes	Yes	100 x 70
83	Middlewich Leisure Centre	Congleton	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
91	Nantwich Town Football Club	Nantwich	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
105	Reaseheath College	Nantwich	Yes	Yes	105 x 62
107	Sandbach Community Football Centre	Congleton	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
151	All Hallows Catholic College	Macclesfield	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
163	Reaseheath Training Complex	Nantwich	No	Yes	100 x 60

In addition, there are also five smaller sized pitches servicing Cheshire East. Such pitches are generally not suitable for adult match play but can be used to accommodate youth and mini matches provided they are FA approved, of an adequate size and with adequate run-off areas.

The FA's recommended pitch size for adult football (including u17s and u18s) is 100 x 64 metres. The recommended size of a youth pitch is 91 x 55 metres for u16s and u15s and 82 x 50 metres for u14s and u13s. The recommended size for 7v7 pitches is 54 x 37 metres and for 5v5 pitches, it is 37 x 27 metres. All pitch sizes should also include a three-metre safety run-off area.

All smaller sized pitches within Cheshire East are available to the community and they are all floodlit. Two are located in Crewe and one is located in each of Congleton, Nantwich and Poynton.

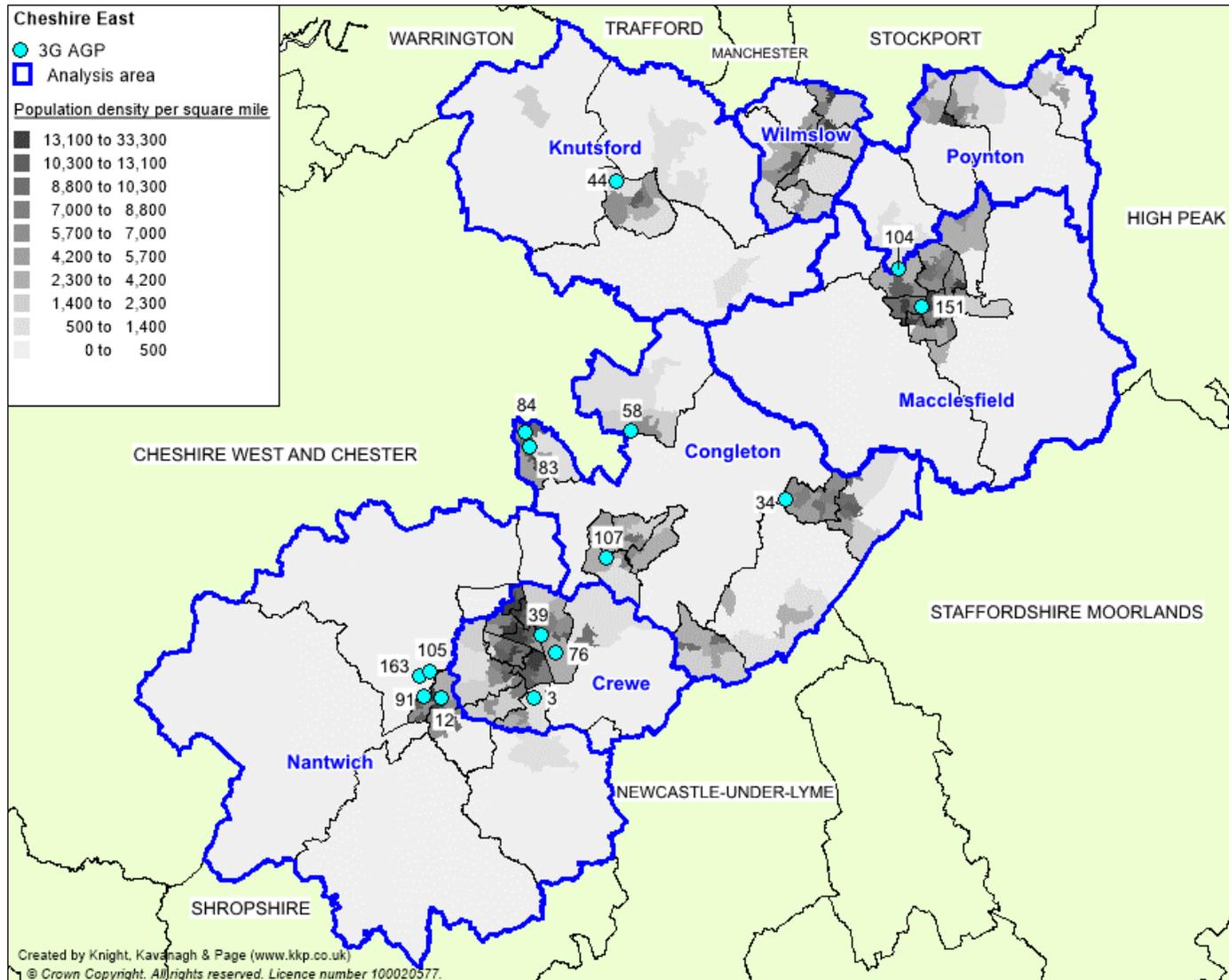
Table 3.3: Additional supply of 3G pitches

Site ID	Site	Analysis Area	Community use?	Floodlit?	Size (metres)
3	Alexandra Soccer Centre	Crewe	Yes	Yes	50 x 44
12	Barony Sports Complex	Nantwich	Yes	Yes	40 x 33
76	Manchester Metropolitan University (Cheshire Sports Centre)	Crewe	Yes	Yes	55 x 40
84	Middlewich Town Football Club	Congleton	Yes	Yes	55 x 30
104	Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club)	Poynton	Yes	Yes	65 x 40

Figure 3.1 overleaf shows the location of all 3G AGPs within Cheshire East, regardless of size.

# CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 3.1: Location of 3G AGPs in Cheshire East



## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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### ***Future provision***

A planning application is in place at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) that will include provision of a full size, floodlit 3G pitch.

Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) is to undergo a development that will result in one of its grass pitches being replaced by a full size, floodlit, World Rugby compliant 3G pitch (subject to planning permission and funding). This will be in addition to the smaller sized 3G pitch on site, rather than a replacement.

Egerton Youth Club intends on submitting a planning application for the creation of a full size, floodlit 3G pitch in replacement of an adult grass pitch.

Poynton High School previously undertook a feasibility study to explore the addition of a full size 3G pitch on its site, however, this is no longer considered an option after the intended ground was deemed unsuitable.

### ***FA/FIFA approved pitches***

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: <http://3g.thefa.me.uk/>.

Pitches undergo FIFA testing to become a FIFA Quality pitch (previously FIFA One Star) or a FIFA Quality Pro pitch (previously FIFA Two Star), with pitches commonly constructed, installed and tested in situ to achieve either accreditation. This comes after FIFA announced changes to 3G performance in October 2015 following consultation with member associations and licenced laboratories. The changes are part of FIFA's continued ambition to drive up performance standard in the industry and the implications are that all 3G pitches built through the FA framework will be constructed to meet the new criteria.

The changes from FIFA One Star to FIFA Quality will have minimal impact on the current hours of use guidelines, which suggests that One Star pitches place more emphasis on the product's ability to sustain acceptable performance and can typically be used for 60-85 hours per week with a lifespan of 20,000 cycles. In contrast, pitches built to FIFA Quality Pro performance standards are unlikely to provide the hours of use that some FIFA Two Star products have guaranteed in the past (previously 30-40 hours per week with a lifespan of 5,000 cycles). Typically, a FIFA Quality Pro pitch will be able to accommodate only 20-30 hours per week with appropriate maintenance due to strict performance measurements.

Clubs playing in the football pyramid on 3G pitches meeting FIFA One Star or Two Star guidelines will still be expected to certify pitches annually, however, if any pitch replacement takes place the Club will need to meet the new FIFA performance criteria of FIFA Quality/Quality Pro. Pitches below the national league pyramid require FA testing every three years.

The following full size 3G pitches in Cheshire East are currently FIFA or FA approved and can therefore be used to host competitive football matches:

- ◀ Alexandra Soccer Centre
- ◀ Congleton High School
- ◀ Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre
- ◀ Nantwich Town Football Club
- ◀ All Hallows Catholic College
- ◀ Egerton Youth Club
- ◀ Middlewich Leisure Centre
- ◀ Sandbach Community Football Centre

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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In addition, Cumberland Arena is also in current use for competitive matches, despite it not being on the FA register. This should not be happening and therefore it is imperative that the pitch undergoes testing as soon as possible. Otherwise, demand will need to transfer to an alternative site.

Neither Reaseheath College nor Reaseheath Training Complex are on the FA pitch register and neither provider reports an intention to undergo testing in the future. Crewe Alexandra FC reports that Reaseheath Training Complex is not required for matches as that is the purpose of Alexandra Soccer Centre, whereas Reaseheath College would prefer its pitch to be dedicated for rugby use.

None of the smaller sized 3G pitches are FIFA or FA approved.

### ***World Rugby compliant pitches***

To enable 3G pitches to host competitive rugby union matches, World Rugby has developed the Rugby Turf Performance Specification. This is to ensure that the surfaces 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 must comply with the above specification and must be tested every two years to maintain its World Rugby compliance. In Cheshire East, Reaseheath College is expected to undergo World Rugby compliance in the near future having been recently installed following RFU funding.

In addition, as previously mentioned, plans are in place for the creation of a World Rugby Compliant 3G pitch at Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club). The RFU investment strategy into 3G pitches considers sites where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where a pitch would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education sites.

Reports suggest that Congleton High School claims that its new 3G pitch is World Rugby compliant; however, that is currently not the case and it is unknown as to whether the pitch was constructed to the correct standards.

### ***Management***

Alexandra Soccer Centre and Reaseheath Training Complex are both managed by Crewe Alexandra FC. Similarly, Egerton Youth Club, Sandbach Community Football Centre and Nantwich Town Football Club are also managed by football clubs (Egerton, Sandbach United and Nantwich Town football clubs respectively).

Everybody Sport and Recreation manages Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre, Cumberland Arena and Middlewich Leisure Centre; Reaseheath College, Congleton High School and All Hallows Catholic College are managed internally.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

### Availability

Availability varies for each pitch throughout the week, with some pitches reserved for curricular use until 17:00 or 18:00 from Monday to Friday and others restricted to external hirers at specific times during the weekend as home matches are being played by the managing club.

Please note that the table below relates to the availability of the pitches and not current capacity or usage levels. This is instead discussed further on in this section of the report.

Table 3.4: Summary of 3G pitch availability

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Availability
3	Alexandra Soccer Centre	Crewe	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
34	Congleton High School	Congleton	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	Crewe	Available to the community from 17:00 until 21:30 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 18:00 Saturday to Sunday
44	Egerton Youth Club	Knutsford	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	Congleton	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	Congleton	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 20:00 Saturday to Sunday
91	Nantwich Town Football Club	Nantwich	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	Nantwich	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	Congleton	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	Macclesfield	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	Nantwich	Used solely by Crewe Alexandra FC and therefore not available for community use

# CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

## 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, 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.

The following table indicates when each full size 3G pitch was installed or last resurfaced in Cheshire East together with an agreed quality rating following non-technical assessments and user and provider consultation.

*Table 3.5: Age and quality of full size 3G pitches*

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Year installed/ resurfaced	Quality
3	Alexandra Soccer Centre	Crewe	2007	Standard
34	Congleton High School	Congleton	2016	Good
39	Cumberland Arena	Crewe	2002	Standard
44	Egerton Youth Club	Knutsford	2010	Standard
58	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	Congleton	2015	Good
83	Middlewich Leisure Centre	Congleton	2012	Standard
91	Nantwich Town Football Club	Nantwich	2007	Standard
105	Reaseheath College	Nantwich	2016	Good
107	Sandbach Community Football Centre	Congleton	2011	Standard
151	All Hallows Catholic College	Macclesfield	2014	Good
163	Reaseheath Training Complex	Nantwich	2013	Good

Cumberland Arena is well over ten years old (having been installed in 2002) and requires imminent resurfacing to prevent full deterioration. Despite its age, the pitch is currently assessed as standard quality, rather than poor quality, due to how well it has been maintained.

Furthermore, Alexandra Soccer Centre and Nantwich Town Football Club are nearing the end of their lifespan (having been last resurfaced in 2007) and will require refurbishment in the near future. This is especially key at both sites given that they are FA approved, meaning failure to sustain quality will result in the pitches losing certification.

All remaining pitches are well within their lifespan and all are assessed as good or standard quality, with no major issues identified.

## Ancillary facilities

All full size 3G provision is accompanied by ancillary facilities that are considered adequate and no issues were raised during consultation or via site assessments.

## 3.3 Demand

The majority of 3G provision currently servicing Cheshire East is reported as operating at or close to capacity at peak times, especially during winter months. Most of the pitches that are FA approved are also heavily used during weekends for competitive matches.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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The only major exception to the above is Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre, which reports that it has significant spare capacity remaining. It is believed that the rural nature of Holmes Chapel affects the level of demand, with fewer football teams playing in the surrounding areas when compared to other parts of Cheshire East.

Reaseheath College and Congleton High School also report the existence of spare capacity as both are yet to be fully utilised following recent installation. Reaseheath College states that it has available capacity at weekends and sporadically during weekday evenings, whereas Congleton High School has capacity remaining throughout weekday evenings but particularly on Wednesday and Thursday nights.

All capacity at remaining sites is taken up, not only by sports teams for training and match purposes but also by casual users and small-sided commercial football leagues. For example, Soccer Sixes runs leagues at Cumberland Arena four nights a week (Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays) as well as one night a week at Nantwich Town Football Club and Middlewich High School (both on Sundays). The Cheshire FA Football League runs out of Middlewich Leisure Centre once a week (Mondays), whilst Alexandra Soccer Centre runs its own leagues on Mondays, Wednesdays and Sundays.

### ***Football***

The FA considers high quality 3G pitches as an essential tool in promoting coach and player development. The pitches can support intensive use and as such are great assets for football use. Primarily, such facilities have been installed for social use and training, however, they are increasingly used for competition, especially in Cheshire East, which The FA wholly supports.

### ***Training 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 floodlit facilities.

Of clubs responding to consultation, 27% report that they require additional training facilities, of which, 81% specifically mention demand for 3G pitches. This is a relatively low figure when compared to other local authorities, though it still suggests a significant amount of unmet demand. Many clubs currently access sand-based pitches or indoor sports halls, whilst others do access 3G pitches but do so at undesirable times.

The FA's long-term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on a floodlit 3G surface, together with priority access for every Charter Standard Community Club through a partnership agreement. In order to calculate the number of football teams a 3G pitch can service for training, peak time access is considered to be from 18:00 until 22:00 Tuesday-Thursday resulting in an overall peak period of 12 hours per week. Mondays and Fridays are not included within this calculation as it is considered that most teams do not want to train in such close proximity to a weekend match.

Full size 3G pitches are divided into thirds or quarters for training purposes meaning they can accommodate either three or four teams per hour and either 36 or 48 teams per week (during the peak training period). Based on an average of these numbers it is estimated that 42 teams can be accommodated on one full size 3G pitch for training.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

On this basis, with 557 teams currently playing in Cheshire East, there is a need for 13 full size 3G pitches (rounded down from 13.3 as it is considered that smaller sized pitches can be used to accommodate the excess demand).

Discounting Reaseheath Training Complex, which is unavailable for community use and Reaseheath College, which prioritises rugby union use, there are presently nine pitches provided. This means a current shortfall of four full size 3G pitches, although actual demand may be less depending on the utilisation of smaller sized pitches.

When considering future demand for an additional 41 teams (based on population increases and future demand expressed by clubs), there is a demand for 14 full size pitches (rounded down from 14.2), which means a future shortfall of five pitches.

Alternatively, the table below considers the number of full size 3G pitches required if every team was to remain training within the respective analysis area that they play in. For this, the Congleton Analysis Area has been broken down into its individual towns (Alsager, Congleton, Holmes Chapel, Middlewich and Sandbach) given its large size and long drive time distances. Please also note that the 3G requirement is rounded to the nearest whole number. That said, this approach may not be sustainable and any developments beyond the number of pitches required for Cheshire East as a whole must have robust business plans to justify further provision.

*Table 3.6: Current demand for 3G pitches in Cheshire East (42 teams per pitch)*

Analysis area	Current number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Potential shortfall
Alsager	10	1	-	1
Congleton	48	2	1	1
Crewe	138	3	2	1
Holmes Chapel	16	1	1	-
Knutsford	60	1	1	-
Macclesfield	75	2	1	1
Middlewich	14	1	1	-
Nantwich	42	1	1	-
Poynton	37	1	-	1
Sandbach	52	2	1	1
Wilmslow	65	2	-	2
<b>Cheshire East</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>

As a breakdown, this equates to a shortfall of two full size 3G pitches in Wilmslow and a shortfall of one in Alsager, Congleton, Crewe, Macclesfield, Poynton and Sandbach. Holmes Chapel, Knutsford, Middlewich and Nantwich are serviced by a sufficient number of pitches.

The development of a full size 3G pitch at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) will reduce the overall shortfall in Cheshire East and fully satisfy demand in Alsager.

The proposal for a full size pitch at Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) would reduce the overall shortfall in Cheshire East and fully satisfy demand in Macclesfield, however, as the development is primarily for rugby use it is not yet known whether it will also accommodate football use.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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Whilst calculations show that Sandbach may require an increase in provision, it must be noted that the figures are slightly distorted due to Sandbach Community Football Centre being used as a central venue. This results in the Town attracting match demand from teams that would otherwise play in other analysis areas or other towns within the Congleton Analysis Area.

### *Moving match play to 3G pitches*

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 FA approved, floodlit and available for community use during the peak period.

In Cheshire East, eight of the 11 full size 3G pitches have undergone testing and are therefore FA approved. Reaseheath Training Complex and Reaseheath College are not FA tested and neither is Cumberland Arena, despite it being in active use for match play.

A total of 98 teams currently play home matches on 3G pitches, which is a considerably high number when compared to the majority of other local authorities. Most of these are mini or youth teams competing in either the Alexandra Soccer League or the South Cheshire Youth League as both use a central venue system for certain age groups. The Alexandra Soccer League uses Alexandra Soccer Centre for all mini matches, whereas the South Cheshire Youth League uses a variety of venues, including the 3G pitches at Cumberland Arena and Sandbach Community Football Centre, mostly for youth 9v9 matches.

Furthermore, Crewe FC uses Cumberland Arena for matches outside of the South Cheshire Youth League's central venue system, as does Sandbach United FC at Sandbach Community Football Centre. Bollington Juniors FC and Alderley United FC access All Hallows Catholic College, Congleton Rovers FC accesses Congleton High School, Holmes Chapel Hurricanes FC accesses Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre and Middlewich Town FC and AFC Middlewich Athletic access Middlewich High School. Both Nantwich Town Football Club and Egerton Youth Club are also used for matches, predominately by the respective owners (Nantwich Town FC and Egerton FC).

### **Rugby**

There are no World Rugby compliant 3G pitches in Cheshire East; however, Reaseheath College is expected to undergo testing in the near future and the majority of teams from Crewe & Nantwich RUFC are to use the pitch for training and occasional match play. Acton Nomads RUFC also reports an aspiration to access the pitch but reports that no availability exists at preferred times as well as citing high costs as an issue.

Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre is also accessed for rugby purposes by Holmes Chapel RUFC, despite it not being World Rugby Compliant and despite it being without a shock-pad and its pile length (medium) being unsuitable. As such, no form of contact rugby should be played on the surface.

Other than Macclesfield RUFC, which has development plans at Priory Park; no other rugby union club expresses a demand for access to a 3G pitch.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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### 3.4 Supply and demand analysis

For football, there is limited spare capacity on the present supply of 3G pitches when teams require access for training purposes leading to 27% of clubs reporting a need for increased provision. The FA model suggests that there is a current shortfall of four full size 3G pitches and a future shortfall of five. As such, if more 3G pitches are to be developed, preference should be given to Crewe, Macclesfield, Poynton and Wilmslow as this is where most demand is located.

Priority should not only be placed on the creation of new full size 3G pitches but also on sustaining the current pitch stock. To that end, providers are encouraged to put sinking funds in place and it is also recommended that all new and existing pitches undergo FA testing every three years to remain or become FA approved. This is particularly key at Cumberland Arena, which has reached the end of its lifespan and is not on the FA register, despite it being used for competitive matches.

For rugby union, the 3G pitch development at Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) will further help satisfy demand. Nevertheless, further provision may be required given the identified overplay of grass pitches at sites such as Knutsford Academy, Sandbach Rugby Club and Congleton Park (see Part 5: Rugby Union). Assisting the utilisation of Reaseheath College for Acton Nomads RUFC is also encouraged.

#### 3G summary

- ◀ **With 557 teams currently playing in Cheshire East, there is a need for 13 full size 3G pitches, meaning a current shortfall of four pitches (discounting Reaseheath Training Complex and Reaseheath College).**
- ◀ **When considering future demand for an additional 41 teams, the shortfall increases to five full size 3G pitches.**
- ◀ **Alternatively, if each team was to remain within their respective analysis area for training, there is a shortfall of eight 3G pitches.**
- ◀ There are 11 full size 3G pitches within Cheshire East, all of which are floodlit and ten of which are available to the community.
- ◀ In addition, there are also five smaller sized 3G pitches.
- ◀ A planning application is in place at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) that will include provision of a full size, floodlit 3G pitch.
- ◀ Subject to planning and funding, Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) is to undergo a development that will result in one of its grass pitches being replaced by a full size, floodlit, World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.
- ◀ Eight of the 11 full size 3G pitches are FA approved to host competitive matches.
- ◀ Reaseheath College is still to undergo necessary performance testing in order to become World Rugby Compliant.
- ◀ Cumberland Arena is well over ten years old (having been installed in 2002) and therefore requires imminent resurfacing.
- ◀ Each FA approved pitch is in use for match play and 98 teams currently play home matches on them, which is a considerably high number when compared to the majority of other local authorities.
- ◀ Cumberland Arena is also in current use for competitive matches, despite it not being on the FA register.
- ◀ For football, priority should not only be placed on the creation of new full size 3G pitches but also on sustaining the current pitch stock.
- ◀ For rugby union, the 3G pitch development at Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) will further help satisfy demand; however, consideration should be given to further provision given overplay of grass pitches.

# CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

## PART 4: CRICKET

### 4.1: Introduction

The Cheshire Cricket Board Ltd (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 the Local Authority.

The CCB is currently working with the ECB on delivering its new five-year plan Cricket Unleashed. Its success will be measured by the number of people who support, play and follow the whole game, and is based upon five key areas (More play, great teams, inspired fans, good governance and social responsibility and strong finance and operations).

Senior cricket is typically played in leagues on Saturday afternoons, although within Cheshire East there is also significant demand for Sunday cricket. The junior league structure tends to be club based matches that are played mid-week, meaning there is usually no conflict with access to squares as matches can be played on a variety of days (Monday-Friday). In Cheshire East, however, a lot of junior matches are also played on Sunday mornings.

### **Consultation**

There are 38 cricket clubs playing in Cheshire East. Of these, 24 responded to consultation requests resulting in a response rate of 63%. The table below indicates which clubs were responsive and those that were not.

*Table 4.1: Summary of consultation*

<b>Name of club</b>	<b>Responded?</b>
Alderley Edge CC	Yes
Alderley Park CC	No
Alsager CC	No
Ashley CC	No
Aston CC	Yes
Audlem CC	No
Bollington CC	Yes
Bunbury CC	No
Chelford CC	No
Cholmondeley CC	Yes
Congleton CC	No
Crewe CC	No
Disley CC	Yes
Elworth CC	Yes
Haslington CC	No
Holmes Chapel CC	Yes
Kerridge CC	Yes
Knutsford CC	Yes
Langley CC	Yes
Lindow CC	Yes
Macclesfield CC	Yes

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Name of club	Responded?
Mere CC	No
Middlewich CC	No
Mobberley CC	Yes
Mossley CC	Yes
Nantwich CC	Yes
Over Peover CC	Yes
Pott Shrigley CC	Yes
Poynton CC	No
Prestbury CC	No
Rode Park & Lawton CC	Yes
Rostherne CC	Yes
Sandbach CC	Yes
Styal CC	Yes
Toft CC	Yes
Weston CC	Yes
Wilmslow CC	Yes
Wilmslow Wayfarers CC	No
Wistaston CC	No

Prior to this, consultation also took place between August and September 2013, with 37 out of 38 clubs responding (97%). The only club that did not respond was Holmes Chapel CC (it did respond this time around).

### 4.2: Supply

In total, there are 48 grass cricket squares in Cheshire East across 42 sites. All of the squares are available for community use.

As seen in the table below, the majority of grass wicket squares available for community use are found in Congleton (11) and Macclesfield (eight), whereas the least are located in Crewe (three). The majority of the grass wicket squares available for community use are in current use by clubs with the exception of those found at the King's School, although a community use agreement is in place with Macclesfield CC.

*Table 4.2: Summary of squares available for community use*

Analysis area	Squares available for community use
Congleton	11
Crewe	3
Knutsford	8
Macclesfield	9
Nantwich	6
Poynton	6
Wilmslow	5
<b>Cheshire East</b>	<b>48</b>

# CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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## ***Non turf pitches (NTPs)***

There are NTPs accompanying 16 grass wicket squares:

- ◀ Alsager Cricket Club
- ◀ Disley Amalgamated Sports Club
- ◀ Eric Swan Sports Ground
- ◀ Lindow Cricket Club
- ◀ Mossley Cricket Club
- ◀ Poynton Cricket Club
- ◀ Weston Cricket Club
- ◀ Wilmslow Leisure Centre
- ◀ Chelford Cricket Club
- ◀ Elworth Cricket Club
- ◀ Holmes Chapel Cricket Club
- ◀ Langley Cricket Club
- ◀ Macclesfield Cricket Club (x2)
- ◀ Nantwich Cricket Club
- ◀ Sandbach School (Boys)

In addition, there are standalone NTPs located at the following sites:

- ◀ All Hallows Catholic College
- ◀ Brine Leas School
- ◀ Eaton Bank Academy
- ◀ Marton Primary School
- ◀ Pownall Hall School
- ◀ Ruskin Community High School
- ◀ St Thomas More Catholic High School
- ◀ Tytherington High School
- ◀ Wilmslow High School
- ◀ Alsager Leisure Centre
- ◀ Congleton High School
- ◀ Malbank School and Sixth Form College
- ◀ Nantwich Cricket Club
- ◀ Poynton High School
- ◀ Shavington High School
- ◀ The King's School (Fence Avenue)
- ◀ The Oaks Academy

Of the above, only Alsager Leisure Centre, Malbank School and Sixth Form College, Marton Primary School and Nantwich Cricket Club offer community use and, of those, only Nantwich Cricket Club receives any regular demand. All remaining standalone NTPs are considered to be unavailable to the community, although the majority do receive internal usage as they are located within educational sites.

The ECB highlights that NTPs which follow its TS6 guidance on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play. Additionally, NTPs not only assist with training (with the aid of mobile nets) but they are also frequently used for junior matches, which in turn can help reduce excessive use of grass wickets. Although only one standalone NTP in Cheshire East is recorded as accommodating junior play, the majority of those accompanying grass wicket squares are in use for this purpose.

## ***Disused wickets***

There is a disused square located at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) that previously featured eight grass wickets. Prior to the campus closing, the square was sporadically used by the University for matches, although teams are no longer fielded other than in indoor competitions. It was not considered to be available for community use.

Furthermore, Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre was previously serviced by a standalone NTP that was lost in 2015 as part of a 3G pitch development. The same also applies to Sir William Stanier School, which had a standalone NTP taken out of use in 2009 as part of Building

## **CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

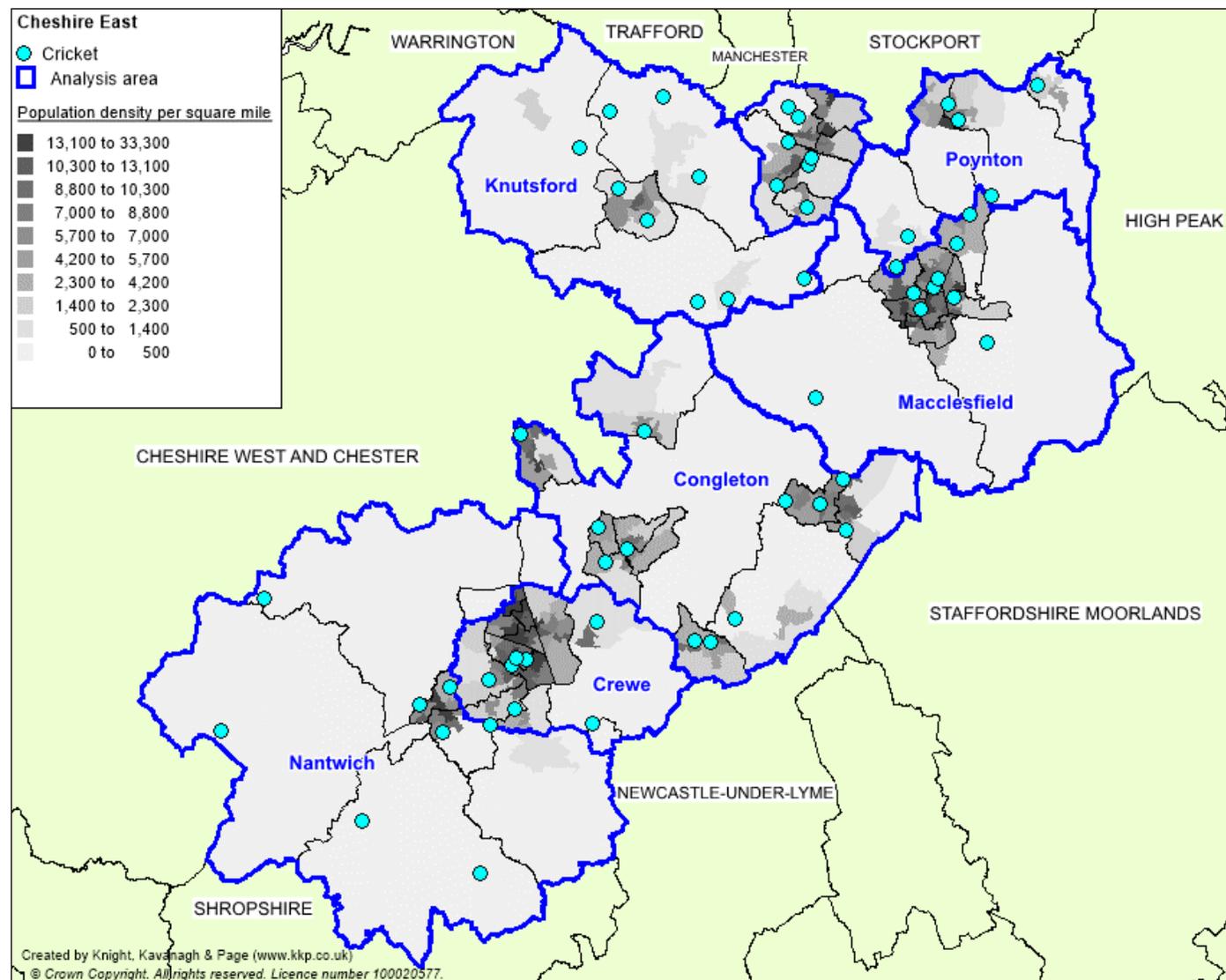
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Schools for the Future (BSF). Both schools express an interest in having replacement provision installed in order to help with curricular activity.

The map overleaf shows the location of all cricket squares (grass and non-turf) currently servicing Cheshire East.

# CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 4.1: Location of cricket pitches in Cheshire East



## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 4.3: Key to map of cricket pitches

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	No. of wickets	
					grass	non-turf
1	Alderley Edge Cricket Club	Wilmslow	Yes	1	20	-
4	Alsager Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	1	12	1
5	Alsager Leisure Centre	Congleton	Yes-unused	1	-	1
8	Ashley Cricket Club	Knutsford	Yes	1	16	-
9	Aston Cricket Club	Nantwich	Yes	1	10	-
18	Bollington Recreation Ground (Bollington Cricket Club)	Macclesfield	Yes	1	12	-
20	Toft Cricket Club	Knutsford	Yes	1	14	-
22	Brine Leas School	Nantwich	No	1	-	1
25	Bunbury Cricket Club	Nantwich	Yes	1	10	-
29	Cholmondeley Cricket Club	Nantwich	Yes	1	10	-
32	Alderley Park (Astra Zeneca)	Knutsford	Yes	1	10	-
33	Congleton Sports And Social Club (Congleton Cricket Club)	Congleton	Yes	1	10	-
34	Congleton High School	Congleton	No	1	-	1
38	Crewe Vagrants (Crewe Cricket Club)	Nantwich	Yes	1	22	-
42	Disley Amalgamated Sports Club (Disley Cricket Club)	Poynton	Yes	1	10	1
43	Eaton Bank Academy	Congleton	No	1	-	1
45	Elworth Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	2	12	1
					4	-
50	Audlem Cricket Club	Nantwich	Yes	1	10	-
51	Haslington Cricket Club	Crewe	Yes	1	13	-
57	Holmes Chapel Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	1	9	1
63	Kerridge Cricket Club	Macclesfield	Yes	1	12	-
68	Knutsford Sports Club (Knutsford Cricket Club)	Knutsford	Yes	1	15	-

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	No. of wickets	
					grass	non-turf
74	Macclesfield Cricket Club	Macclesfield	Yes	2	11	1
					8	1
75	Malbank School And Sixth Form College	Nantwich	Yes-unused	1	-	1
82	Middlewich Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	1	18	-
87	Mobberley Cricket Club	Knutsford	Yes	1	16	-
89	Nantwich Cricket Club	Nantwich	Yes	2	14	1
					-	1
101	Pownall Hall School	Wilmslow	No	1	-	1
102	Poynton High School	Poynton	No	1	-	1
103	Poynton Sports Club (Poynton Cricket Club)	Poynton	Yes	1	12	1
106	Ruskin Community High School	Crewe	No	1	-	1
108	Sandbach Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	1	14	-
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	Congleton	Yes	2	10	-
					6	1
111	Shavington Academy	Crewe	No	1	-	1
119	St Thomas More Catholic High School	Crewe	No	1	-	1
120	Styal Playing Fields (Styal Cricket Club)	Wilmslow	Yes	1	16	-
125	The King's School (Westminster Road)	Macclesfield	Yes	2	9	-
					6	-
126	The King's School (Derby Fields)	Poynton	Yes	3	9	-
					6	-
					3	-
127	The King's School (Fence Avenue)	Macclesfield	No	1	-	1
129	The Oaks Academy	Crewe	No	1	-	1
131	The Rectory Field (Wilmslow Cricket Club)	Wilmslow	Yes	1	7	1
135	Weston Cricket Club	Crewe	Yes	1	14	1
141	Wilmslow High School	Wilmslow	No	1	-	1

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	No. of wickets	
					grass	non-turf
143	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club (Wilmslow Wayfarers Cricket Club)	Wilmslow	Yes	1	8	-
144	Eric Swan Sports Ground (Wistaston Cricket Club)	Crewe	Yes	1	10	1
151	All Hallows Catholic College	Macclesfield	No	1	-	1
152	Chelford Cricket Club	Macclesfield	Yes	1	10	1
153	Langley Cricket Club	Macclesfield	Yes	1	11	1
154	Lindow Cricket Club	Wilmslow	Yes	1	12	1
155	Marton Primary School	Macclesfield	Yes-unused	1	-	1
156	Mere Cricket Club	Knutsford	Yes	1	10	-
157	Mossley Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	1	10	1
158	Over Peover Cricket Club	Knutsford	Yes	1	12	-
159	Prestbury Cricket Club	Poynton	Yes	1	12	-
160	Rode Park and Lawton Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	1	16	-
161	Rostherne Cricket Club	Knutsford	Yes	1	8	-
162	Tytherington High School	Macclesfield	No	1	-	1
244	Pott Shrigley Cricket Club	Macclesfield	Yes	1	11	-

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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### ***Future developments***

The King's School plans to sell both its Westminster Road and its Fence Avenue site for housing. Both currently contain cricket squares but there are no plans for these to be re-provided. Despite a net loss of playing fields, Sport England has no objection as there will be indoor cricket nets provided and community access to the existing three cricket pitches as part of the new school development at Derby Fields.

A second pitch and two new practice nets have recently been developed at Elworth Cricket Club via Inspired Facilities funding and will be ready for use ahead of the 2017 season. As such, the provision has been included within this report.

A feasibility study into the development of Alderley Park (Astra Zeneca) concluded that, as a minimum, replacement provision of the grass wicket square is required as is the inclusion of an NTP to allow for increased play. In addition, the study recommended the installation of three outdoor practice nets after this was identified as a key need following consultation with local clubs. An agreement has now been reached for Lindow CC to take on the site, which safeguards its cricketing future.

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.

Poynton Sports Club is negotiating with a local landowner to purchase nearby land that will be used to relocate all on-site provision, including the cricket square. This is, however, dependent on securing planning permission and the sale of the existing site.

Nantwich, Toft and Weston cricket clubs are all exploring the development of secondary squares, however, no formal plans are in place.

### ***Security of tenure***

The majority of clubs across Cheshire East either own their home grounds or have a long term lease arrangement in place, meaning security of tenure is provided. This is not the case, however, for Audlem, Chelford, Over Peover and Prestbury cricket clubs, which currently rent squares on a rolling annual basis from local landowners, or for Bunbury CC, which has only nine years remaining on its lease, again from a local landowner.

A long term lease arrangement (25 years or more) improves the chances of clubs attracting funding that can be used to sustain and improve square quality, ancillary provision and surrounding infrastructure.

Bollington CC and Wilmslow CC rent their squares (Bollington Recreation Ground and Rectory Field respectively) on a yearly basis from the Council. This is seen as less of an issue because the Council is expected to continue providing cricketing provision at the sites used and neither club expresses any concern with the current arrangement.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Furthermore, some clubs also use secondary venues through a rental agreement, either due to a lack of capacity at their main ground or to prevent overplay. Alderley Edge CC splits its excess usage across Chelford Cricket Club and Styal Playing Fields, Sandbach CC and Haslington CC use Sandbach School (Boys), Toft CC uses Mere Cricket Club, Prestbury CC uses Kerridge Cricket Club and Ashley CC uses Rostherne Cricket Club. It is therefore recommended that secure agreements are put into place for these clubs at these venues to ensure long term access.

### ***Pitch quality***

As part of the PPS guidance, there are three levels to assessing the quality of cricket pitches: good, standard and poor. Maintaining high pitch 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. To obtain a full technical assessment of wicket and pitches, the ECB recommends a Performance Quality Standard (PQS) assessment. The PQS looks at a cricket square to ascertain whether the pitch meets the Performance Quality Standards, which are benchmarked by the Institute of Groundsmanship.

The non-technical assessment of grass wicket squares in Cheshire East found 37 community available pitches to be good quality, ten to be standard quality and one to be poor quality. As such, there is a much higher proportion of good quality squares in Cheshire East when compared to the majority of other local authorities.

*Table 4.4: Summary of pitch quality in Cheshire East*

Good	Standard	Poor
37	10	1

The second square at Sandbach School (Boys) is considered poor quality predominately due to drainage issues that lead to the pitch being unplayable after inclement weather. The surface of the outfield also undulates and is uneven, making it dangerous for the fielding team. In contrast, the first square at the School is assessed as good quality as it suffers from none of the above issues and is maintained to a higher level.

The following squares are assessed as standard quality:

- ◀ Audlem Cricket Club
- ◀ Chelford Cricket Club
- ◀ Kerridge Cricket Club
- ◀ King's School (all campuses)
- ◀ Mossley Cricket Club
- ◀ Rostherne Cricket Club

Of the club sites, Audlem, Kerridge, Mossley and Rostherne cricket clubs are used primarily to host Cheshire Cricket Alliance matches, which is the lowest level of senior club cricket within Cheshire. As such, the clubs are generally smaller and therefore have less resource to maintain the squares to comparable levels. Kerridge Cricket Club and Rostherne Cricket Club are also without covers, which makes preparation difficult following rainfall.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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Although all remaining squares are assessed as good quality, several suffer from recurring issues that affect pitch condition. For example, Disley CC reports that over marked football pitches on its square (Disley Algamated Sports Club) makes post season remedial work challenging, whereas Nantwich CC reports that its square suffers from occasional drainage issues. Macclesfield CC also cites drainage problems, particularly alongside the boundary edge of its main square, whilst Bollington CC and Wilmslow CC report that the open access nature of their squares (Bollington Recreation Ground and Rectory Field respectively) can lead to high levels of unofficial use and dog fouling.

Macclesfield CC also reports that the NTP that accompanies its main square needs replacing. The wicket has reached the end of its lifespan and as a result is worn in high traffic areas such as on the crease lines.

The audit of standalone NTPs assessed one as good quality, 12 as standard and three as poor. The good quality square is located at Nantwich Cricket Club, whereas the poor quality ones are located at All Hallows Catholic College, Alsager Leisure Centre and Ruskin Community High School. All three poor quality NTPs have fallen into a state of disrepair and are no longer used by the respective schools, although all three providers report that they would be interested in having them refurbished or replaced for curricular purposes.

### ***Ancillary facilities***

All clubs in Cheshire East have access to changing facilities at their home ground, with the majority of provision considered good or standard quality. Of particular concern, however, is the condition of the clubhouse building at Mere Cricket Club, which is considered too small and poor quality.

The clubhouse at Poynton Cricket Club is also reported to be poor quality due to the age of the facility. The changing rooms are dated and therefore the layout is unsuitable, particularly for junior members. Likewise, Macclesfield CC reports that the provision on its second square (previously Parkside Hospital Cricket Club) requires renovation, despite the changing rooms servicing its main square being good quality.

In terms of other ancillary issues, Lindow Cricket Club is serviced by a car park that is too small to accommodate the number of visitors received during a weekend, whereas a new development nearby to Aston Cricket Club may cause an issue to residents with the ball going over the separating tree line.

### ***Training facilities***

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training and many clubs in Cheshire East express an aspiration for more nets to be provided or for existing nets to be improved.

Wilmslow CC is currently without nets at Rectory Field, as are Audlem, Chelford and Mere cricket clubs, albeit Mere CC only fields one team so is less likely to require nets at its site. Sandbach CC currently has access to two practice nets but reports an aspiration for more to be provided.

Disley, Holmes Chapel and Nantwich cricket clubs all report a need for their existing practice nets to be improved, whereas Alderley Edge CC is looking to acquire a mobile net and a bowling machine to better aid with its training.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Access to indoor nets during the winter is also reported as a problem by clubs. Some report that they are priced out of using facilities, whilst others cannot get access at desirable times as the majority of sports halls are dominated by other sports. The Cheshire Cricket Board Facilities Strategy 2013-2018 recognises that the provision of indoor facilities across Cheshire is of a mixed standard, with some good quality facilities but the majority being dated and in need of investment. The key indoor facilities currently used are:

- ◀ Brine Leas School
- ◀ Sandbach School (Boys)
- ◀ South Cheshire College
- ◀ Tytherington School
- ◀ Wilmslow High School

Planning permission has been granted at King's School for the creation of a specialist indoor cricket centre, amongst other sports facilities, within its development plans.

### 4.3: Demand

In total, there are 38 clubs competing in Cheshire East generating 290 teams. As a breakdown, this equates to 115 senior men's, two senior women's, 171 junior boys' and two junior girls' teams.

As seen in the table below, the majority of clubs are large clubs offering several senior teams and numerous junior teams across different age levels. Only nine of the clubs do not provide a junior section and only three of these are one team clubs (Kerridge, Rostherne and Mere cricket clubs).

*Table 4.5: Summary of teams*

Club name	Analysis area	No. of competitive teams			
		Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys'	Junior girls'
Alderley Edge CC	Wilmslow	3	-	9	-
Alsager CC	Congleton	3	-	8	-
Ashley CC	Knutsford	4	-	5	-
Aston CC	Nantwich	2	-	6	-
Audlem CC	Nantwich	3	-	-	-
Bollington CC	Macclesfield	4	-	3	-
Bunbury CC	Nantwich	3	-	5	-
Chelford CC	Macclesfield	2	-	1	-
Cholmondeley CC	Nantwich	3	-	-	-
Congleton CC	Congleton	2	-	6	-
Crewe CC	Nantwich	3	-	5	-
Disley CC	Poynton	3	-	5	-
Elworth CC	Congleton	3	-	5	-
Haslington CC	Crewe	4	-	6	-
Holmes Chapel CC	Congleton	2	-	2	-
Kerridge CC	Macclesfield	1	-	-	-
Knutsford CC	Knutsford	3	-	1	-
Langley CC	Macclesfield	4	-	3	-
Lindow CC	Wilmslow	3	1	10	1

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Club name	Analysis area	No. of competitive teams			
		Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys'	Junior girls'
Macclesfield CC	Macclesfield	5	-	17	-
Mere CC	Knutsford	1	-	-	-
Middlewich CC	Congleton	2	-	5	-
Mobberley CC	Knutsford	4	-	4	-
Mossley CC	Congleton	2	-	4	-
Nantwich CC	Nantwich	3	-	5	-
Over Peover CC	Knutsford	3	-	-	-
Pott Shrigley CC	Knutsford	2	-	4	-
Poynton CC	Poynton	3	-	11	-
Prestbury CC	Poynton	3	-	6	-
Rode Park & Lawton CC	Congleton	3	-	5	-
Rostherne CC	Knutsford	1	-	-	-
Sandbach CC	Congleton	5	-	10	-
Styal CC	Wilmslow	4	-	-	-
Toft CC	Knutsford	5	-	11	-
Weston CC	Crewe	3	-	3	-
Wilmsow CC	Wilmslow	3	-	2	-
Wilmslow Wayfarers CC	Wilmslow	3	-	-	-
Wistaston CC	Crewe	3	1	4	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>117</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>2</b>

Congleton contains the highest number of teams (69), in part due to large clubs such as Sandbach, Alsager and Congleton cricket clubs playing within the Analysis Area. Knutsford (48 teams), Macclesfield (40 teams), Wilmslow (39 teams) and Nantwich (38 teams) and have a similar level of demand, whilst Poynton (31 teams) and Crewe (25 teams) and are serviced by the least number of teams.

Table 4.6: Summary of teams by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of teams				Total
	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys'	Junior girls'	
Congleton	24	-	45	-	69
Crewe	10	1	13	1	25
Knutsford	23	-	25	-	48
Macclesfield	16	-	24	-	40
Nantwich	17	-	21	-	38
Poynton	9	-	22	-	31
Wilmslow	16	1	21	1	39
<b>Cheshire East</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>290</b>

No unmet, latent or displaced demand is recorded by any of the clubs.

# CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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## **Participation trends**

The ECB unveiled a new strategic five-year plan in 2016 (available at <http://www.cricketunleashed.com>). Its success will be measured by the number of people who play, follow or support the game and the plan sets out five important headline elements: More play; great teams; inspired fans; good governance and social responsibility; strong finance and operations.

The National Player Survey (NPS) conducted over the past three years by the ECB reveals that the nature of participation in traditional league cricket is currently suffering a decline, although this is being offset by a rapid increase in non-traditional formats (such as LMS and T20 competitions). These are shorter, quicker formats of the game and are referenced further on in this report.

Contrary to this, participation in Cheshire East has increased overall in the last three years, with only 268 teams competing in 2013 compared to 292 teams presently. The increase, however, is seen mostly at junior level, with clubs such as Lindow, Macclesfield, Sandbach and Toft cricket clubs experiencing substantial growth. Clubs that have increased their number of teams cite reasons such as improved coaching, improved facilities, increased advertising and closer links with local schools as key factors in recruiting new players and retaining existing players.

This growth, however, is partially offset as many clubs have experienced a reduction in their number of teams, particularly at senior level. The following clubs were recorded as fielding more senior teams in 2013 than they do currently:

- ◀ Chelford CC
- ◀ Congleton CC
- ◀ Crewe CC
- ◀ Kerridge CC
- ◀ Middlewich CC
- ◀ Nantwich CC
- ◀ Pott Shrigley CC
- ◀ Mere CC

The most prominent reason for clubs losing senior teams is due to a lack of players, with people now less likely to play both Saturday and Sunday cricket and instead opting to play on just one day. This has led to Sunday cricket suffering a particular decline.

## **Last Man Stands**

Last Man Stands (LMS) was founded in 2005. The social outdoor eight-a-side T20 cricket game is played midweek, lasts approximately two hours and is generally played on non-turf wickets. 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, which has recently undergone renovation for football use, and/or Macclesfield would be best suited.

# CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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## **Peak time demand**

An analysis of match play identifies peak time demand for senior cricket as Saturdays, with 79 teams playing on this day compared to 31 that play on Sundays and seven veteran's teams that play midweek.

For junior cricket, peak time demand is considered mid-week, although some matches are scheduled on a Sunday. It should therefore be noted that mid-week cricket has the potential to be spread across numerous days (Monday-Friday) and, as a result, pitches have greater capacity to carry junior demand (providing the pitches are not overplayed).

## **4.4: 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 pitch 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 pitch to accommodate matches is driven by the number and quality of wickets. This section of the report presents the current pitch stock available for cricket and illustrates the number of competitive matches per season per square.

The number of matches played by each team has been derived from consultation with the clubs. Where consultation was not possible, the 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.

To help calculate spare capacity, the ECB suggests that a good quality grass wicket should be able to take five (senior) matches per season (e.g. a square with 12 grass wickets can accommodate 60 matches). This is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

<b>Potential capacity</b>	Play is below the level the site could sustain
<b>At capacity</b>	Play matches the level the site can sustain
<b>Overused</b>	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

The ECB also suggests that a non-turf wicket can accommodate 60 matches per season. As no non-turf wickets are recorded as accommodating more than this in Cheshire East, they are all considered to have spare capacity. This translates to actual spare capacity as they are generally accessed during mid-week by junior teams and as a result can be used on a variety of days. For this reason, non-turf wicket capacity has been discounted from the table overleaf so that it does not distort the capacity of grass wickets.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 4.7: Cricket pitch capacity

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	Pitch quality	No. of grass wickets	Capacity (sessions per season)	Actual play (sessions per season)	Capacity rating (sessions per season)
1	Alderley Edge Cricket Club	Wilmslow	Yes	1	Good	20	100	86	14
4	Alsager Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	1	Good	12	60	70	10
5	Alsager Leisure Centre	Congleton	Yes-unused	-	Poor	-	-	-	-
8	Ashley Cricket Club	Knutsford	Yes	1	Good	16	80	76	4
9	Aston Cricket Club	Nantwich	Yes	1	Good	10	50	50	
18	Bollington Recreation Ground (Bollington Cricket Club)	Macclesfield	Yes	1	Good	12	60	63	3
20	Toft Cricket Club	Knutsford	Yes	1	Good	14	70	84	14
22	Brine Leas School	Nantwich	No	1	Standard	-	-	-	-
25	Bunbury Cricket Club	Nantwich	Yes	1	Good	10	50	68	18
29	Cholmondeley Cricket Club	Nantwich	Yes	1	Good	10	50	30	20
32	Alderley Park (Astra Zeneca)	Knutsford	Yes	1	Good	10	50	30	20
33	Congleton Sports and Social Club (Congleton Cricket Club)	Congleton	Yes	1	Good	10	50	56	6
34	Congleton High School	Congleton	No	1	Standard	-	-	-	-
38	Crewe Vagrants (Crewe Cricket Club)	Nantwich	Yes	1	Good	22	110	86	24
42	Disley Amalgamated Sports Club (Disley Cricket Club)	Poynton	Yes	1	Good	10	50	50	
43	Eaton Bank Academy	Congleton	No	1	Standard	-	-	-	-
45	Elworth Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	2	Good	12	80	88	8
					Good	4			
50	Audlem Cricket Club	Nantwich	Yes	1	Standard	10	50	36	14
51	Haslington Cricket Club	Crewe	Yes	1	Good	13	65	72	7
57	Holmes Chapel Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	1	Good	9	45	48	3
63	Kerridge Cricket Club	Macclesfield	Yes	1	Standard	12	60	38	22
68	Knutsford Sports Club (Knutsford Cricket Club)	Knutsford	Yes	1	Good	15	75	58	17
74	Macclesfield Cricket Club	Macclesfield	Yes	2	Good	11	95	118	23
					Good	8			
75	Malbank School and Sixth Form College	Nantwich	Yes-unused	1	Standard	-	-	-	-
82	Middlewich Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	1	Good	18	90	64	26
87	Mobberley Cricket Club	Knutsford	Yes	1	Good	16	80	60	20
89	Nantwich Cricket Club	Nantwich	Yes	2	Good	14	70	68	2
					Good	-			
101	Pownall Hall School	Wilmslow	No	1	Standard	-	-	-	-
102	Poynton High School	Poynton	No	1	Standard	-	-	-	-
103	Poynton Sports Club (Poynton Cricket Club)	Poynton	Yes	1	Good	12	60	72	12
106	Ruskin Community High School	Crewe	No	1	Poor	-	-	-	-
108	Sandbach Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	1	Good	14	70	86	16
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	Congleton	Yes	2	Good	10	80	40	40
					Poor	6			
111	Shavington Academy	Crewe	No	1	Standard	-	-	-	-
119	St Thomas More Catholic High School	Crewe	No	1	Standard	-	-	-	-
120	Styal Playing Fields (Styal Cricket Club)	Wilmslow	Yes	1	Good	16	80	64	16
125	The King's School (Westminster Road)	Macclesfield	Yes-unused	2	Standard	9	75	-	75
					Standard	6			

**CHESHIRE EAST  
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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	Pitch quality	No. of grass wickets	Capacity (sessions per season)	Actual play (sessions per season)	Capacity rating (sessions per season)
126	The King's School (Derby Fields)	Poynton	Yes-unused	3	Standard	9	90	-	90
					Standard	6			
					Standard	3			
127	The King's School (Fence Avenue)	Macclesfield	No	1	Standard	-	-	-	-
129	The Oaks Academy	Crewe	No	1	Standard	-	-	-	-
131	The Rectory Field (Wilmslow Cricket Club)	Wilmslow	Yes	1	Good	7	35	43	8
135	Weston Cricket Club	Crewe	Yes	1	Good	14	70	56	14
141	Wilmslow High School	Wilmslow	No	1	Standard	-	-	-	-
143	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club (Wilmslow Wayfarers Cricket Club)	Wilmslow	Yes	1	Good	8	40	30	10
144	Eric Swan Sports Ground (Wistaston Cricket Club)	Crewe	Yes	1	Good	10	50	54	4
151	All Hallows Catholic College	Macclesfield	No	1	Poor	-	-	-	-
152	Chelford Cricket Club	Macclesfield	Yes	1	Standard	10	50	36	14
153	Langley Cricket Club	Macclesfield	Yes	1	Good	11	55	60	5
154	Lindow Cricket Club	Wilmslow	Yes	1	Good	12	60	72	12
155	Marton Primary School	Macclesfield	Yes-unused	1	Standard	-	-	-	-
156	Mere Cricket Club	Knutsford	Yes	1	Good	10	50	44	6
157	Mossley Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	1	Standard	10	50	50	
158	Over Peover Cricket Club	Knutsford	Yes	1	Good	12	60	30	30
159	Prestbury Cricket Club	Poynton	Yes	1	Good	12	60	58	2
160	Rode Park and Lawton Cricket Club	Congleton	Yes	1	Good	16	80	74	6
161	Rostherne Cricket Club	Knutsford	Yes	1	Standard	8	40	22	18
162	Tytherington High School	Macclesfield	No	1	Standard	-	-	-	-
244	Pott Shrigley Cricket Club	Macclesfield	Yes	1	Good	11	55	50	5

# CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

## 4.5: Supply and demand analysis

Consideration must be given to the extent in which current provision can accommodate current and future demand.

As previously mentioned, junior teams can play on NTPs and generally play mid-week on a variety of days; consequently, spare capacity is considered to exist for junior matches both now and in the future. Each grass wicket square that is not overplayed is thought to have spare capacity for an increase in mid-week demand, and no NTP is at capacity or overplayed. That said, there is evidence to suggest that an increase in provision of NTPs would further help satisfy junior demand, as well as providing an increase in capacity for senior matches on grass wickets.

The table below looks at available spare capacity at peak time for senior cricket (Saturdays) considered against overplay and future demand highlighted during consultation. Match equivalent sessions for future demand has been calculated using the average number of matches played per season by that team type (12 matches for senior men, eight matches for senior women).

*Table 4.8: Capacity of grass wicket squares*

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match sessions)	Demand (match sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Congleton	-	43	43	24	67
Crewe	-	11	11	-	11
Knutsford	6	14	8	12	20
Macclesfield	22	31	9	-	9
Nantwich	-	18	18	12	30
Poynton	-	12	12	12	24
Wilmslow	-	20	20	12	32
<b>Cheshire East</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>193</b>

For senior cricket, a significant overall shortfall of pitches is identified with more grass wicket squares being overplayed than those with actual spare capacity. There is current overplay amounting to 149 match equivalent sessions, whereas pitches with actual spare capacity only providing 28 match equivalent sessions. The shortfall is also evident in each analysis area; with overplay again amounting to more than actual spare capacity.

Priority, therefore, should be placed on retaining the current number of grass wicket squares and providing a solution to the identified shortfalls through addressing overplay and accommodating expressed future demand. In addition, focus should also be on improving pitch quality, where required, as well as improving changing facilities and increasing access to training provision.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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### ***Spare capacity***

The table overleaf ascertains whether any identified 'potential capacity' can be deemed '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 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.

There are 29 squares that show potential spare capacity on grass wickets in Cheshire East totalling 499 match equivalent sessions per season across 24 sites. Where there is a significant amount of potential capacity available, however, this may not represent actual spare capacity, i.e. whether a pitch is available at the peak time. The table overleaf therefore explores where spare capacity is identified on a Saturday (peak period) as this can be deemed actual spare capacity.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 4.9: Summary of actual spare capacity

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of squares	Amount of spare capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Pitches available in the peak period (Saturday)	Comments
1	Alderley Edge Cricket Club	Wilmslow	1	14	-	No actual spare capacity
8	Ashley Cricket Club	Knutsford	1	4	-	No actual spare capacity
29	Cholmondeley Cricket Club	Nantwich	1	20	-	No actual spare capacity
32	Alderley Park (Astra Zeneca)	Knutsford	1	20	-	No actual spare capacity
38	Crewe Vagrants (Crewe Cricket Club)	Nantwich	1	24	-	No actual spare capacity
50	Audlem Cricket Club	Nantwich	1	14	-	No actual spare capacity
63	Kerridge Cricket Club	Macclesfield	1	22	0.5	Spare capacity for one additional team on a Saturday
68	Knutsford Sports Club (Knutsford Cricket Club)	Knutsford	1	17	-	No actual spare capacity
82	Middlewich Cricket Club	Congleton	1	26	-	No actual spare capacity
87	Mobberley Cricket Club	Knutsford	1	20	-	No actual spare capacity
89	Nantwich Cricket Club	Nantwich	2	2	-	No actual spare capacity
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	Congleton	2	40	1	Spare capacity discounted to account for school use
120	Styal Playing Fields (Styal Cricket Club)	Wilmslow	1	16	-	No actual spare capacity
125	The King's School (Westminster Road)	Macclesfield	3	90	3	Spare capacity discounted to account for school use
126	The King's School (Derby Fields)	Poynton	2	75	2	Spare capacity discounted to account for school use
135	Weston Cricket Club	Crewe	1	14	-	No actual spare capacity
143	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club (Wilmslow Wayfarers Cricket Club)	Wilmslow	1	10	-	No actual spare capacity
152	Chelford Cricket Club	Macclesfield	1	14	-	No actual spare capacity

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of squares	Amount of spare capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Pitches available in the peak period (Saturday)	Comments
156	Mere Cricket Club	Knutsford	1	6	0.5	Spare capacity for one additional team on a Saturday
158	Over Peover Cricket Club	Knutsford	1	30	-	No actual spare capacity
159	Prestbury Cricket Club	Poynton	1	2	-	No actual spare capacity
160	Rode Park & Lawton Cricket Club	Congleton	1	6	-	No actual spare capacity
161	Rostherne Cricket Club	Knutsford	1	18	-	No actual spare capacity
244	Pott Shrigley Cricket Club	Macclesfield	1	5	-	No actual spare capacity

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Although a large amount of spare capacity is identified, it is not as simple as to aggregate this into a general oversupply of cricket squares. Of the 29 pitches identified with spare capacity, only four are available for further use on a Saturday and only two of those (Kerridge Cricket Club and Mere Cricket Club) can be considered as having actual spare capacity (Sandbach School is discounted to take into account internal usage). All remaining squares are used to capacity on a Saturday with at least two teams assigned to them as a home venue on this day.

It is worth noting, however, that more squares have spare capacity on a Sunday, meaning additional senior demand could be accommodated outside of the peak period whilst still playing in a league format. The following sites have overall spare capacity and spare capacity on a Sunday:

- ◀ Alderley Edge Cricket Club
- ◀ Audlem Cricket Club
- ◀ Cholmondeley Cricket Club
- ◀ Kerridge Cricket Club
- ◀ Knutsford Sports Club
- ◀ Mere Cricket Club
- ◀ Over Peover Cricket Club
- ◀ Prestbury Cricket Club
- ◀ Rostherne Cricket Club
- ◀ Weston Cricket Club

### **Overplay**

As guidance, all pitches receiving more than five match equivalent sessions per wicket per season are adjudged overplayed. On this basis, overplay in Cheshire East is high, with 16 squares overplayed across 15 sites by a total of 149 match equivalent sessions, as seen in the table below.

*Table 4.10: Summary of overplay*

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of squares	Overplay (matches per season)
4	Alsager Cricket Club	Congleton	1	10
18	Bollington Recreation Ground (Bollington Cricket Club)	Macclesfield	1	3
20	Toft Cricket Club	Knutsford	1	14
25	Bunbury Cricket Club	Nantwich	1	18
33	Congleton Sports And Social Club (Congleton Cricket Club)	Congleton	1	6
45	Elworth Cricket Club	Congleton	1	8
51	Haslington Cricket Club	Crewe	1	7
57	Holmes Chapel Cricket Club	Congleton	1	3
74	Macclesfield Cricket Club	Macclesfield	2	23
103	Poynton Sports Club (Poynton Cricket Club)	Poynton	1	12
108	Sandbach Cricket Club	Congleton	1	16
131	The Rectory Field (Wilmslow Cricket Club)	Wilmslow	1	8
144	Eric Swan Sports Ground (Wistaston Cricket Club)	Crewe	1	4
153	Langley Cricket Club	Macclesfield	1	5

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of squares	Overplay (matches per season)
154	Lindow Cricket Club	Wilmslow	1	12

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. This is particularly key at sites that are heavily overplayed, such as Bunbury, Macclesfield, Sandbach and Toft cricket clubs.

As a large percentage of usage on overplayed squares comes from junior cricket, the best solution would be to install NTPs in situ. The following overplayed sites are currently without an NTP:

- ◀ Bollington Recreation Ground
- ◀ Bunbury Cricket Club
- ◀ Congleton Sports and Social Club
- ◀ Haslington Cricket Club
- ◀ Holmes Chapel Cricket Club
- ◀ Langley Cricket Club
- ◀ Sandbach Cricket Club
- ◀ Toft Cricket Club

By installing an NTP at these sites, junior matches can be transferred from the grass wickets, thus alleviating overplay.

For the remaining overplayed sites (Alsager Cricket Club, Elworth Cricket Club, Eric Swan Sports Ground, Macclesfield Cricket Club, Lindow Cricket Club, Poynton Sports Club and Rectory Field), greater use of their NTPs is required. If overplay still exists, demand could be transferred to sites with actual spare capacity, or to sites with a standalone NTP such as currently unavailable school sites. This is, however, unlikely given the landscape of cricket within Cheshire East. As the majority of clubs own or lease their own grounds, there is a reluctance for secondary venues to be accessed, not only due to cost and travel implications but also because it results in certain teams becoming detached from what is a home base.

The identified overplay is spread across each analysis area, with the majority found in Congleton (43 match equivalent sessions) and the least found in Crewe (11 match equivalent sessions).

*Table 4.11: Summary of overplay by analysis area*

Analysis area	Overplay (matches per season)
Congleton	43
Crewe	11
Knutsford	14
Macclesfield	31
Nantwich	18
Poynton	12
Wilmslow	20
<b>Cheshire East</b>	<b>149</b>

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

In addition, there are three sites adjudged to being played at capacity: Aston Cricket Club, Disley Amalgamated Sports Club and Mossley Cricket Club. Should any of these sites receive further demand, it is essential that an appropriate maintenance regime is in place to sustain the resultant overplay.

### **Future demand**

Future demand can be defined in three ways, through participation increases, using population forecasts and housing growth. The Strategy Report will contain a range of Housing Growth scenarios that will estimate the additional demand for cricket arising from housing development.

#### *Participation increases*

In total, ten clubs report plans to increase their number of teams in the future. Where expressed, this amounts to an increase of six senior men's, two senior women's and eight junior teams, as seen in the table below.

*Table 4.12: Summary of future demand expressed by clubs*

Club	Analysis area	No. of competitive teams		
		Senior men	Senior women	Junior
Disley CC	Poynton	1	-	1
Elworth CC	Congleton	1	-	1
Holmes Chapel CC	Congleton	-	-	1
Langley CC	Macclesfield	-	-	1
Lindow CC	Wilmslow	1	-	1
Macclesfield CC	Macclesfield	-	-	1
Mobberley CC	Knutsford	-	1	1
Nantwich CC	Nantwich	1	1	-
Rode Park & Lawton CC	Congleton	1	-	1
Styal CC	Wilmslow	1	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>

None of the above clubs can currently accommodate all of their expressed future demand for senior teams on the squares that they use either due to overplay or a lack of actual spare capacity. That being said, all future demand for junior cricket can be accommodated; Rode Park & Lawton CC and Mobberley CC have spare capacity during midweek, whereas the junior demand expressed by Disley, Elworth, Langley, Lindow, Macclesfield and Nantwich cricket clubs can be catered for provided it is via their NTPs rather than their grass wickets.

Furthermore, the expressed senior demand from Mobberley, Styal, Nantwich and Rode Park & Lawton cricket clubs can be accommodated provided it is outside of the peak period (i.e. on a Sunday). This is because the squares that these clubs access have overall spare capacity, despite not offering actual spare capacity (on a Saturday).

In contrast, Disley, Elworth and Lindow cricket clubs cannot realise senior growth plans on the pitch stock currently available to them without exacerbating overplay. As such, either the clubs will need to access secondary venues that have spare capacity or new provision will be required.

# CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

## Population forecasts

In addition, team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2030) based on population growth. Using this, an increase of 11 junior boys' teams is expected.

Table 4.13: Team generation rates based on population growth (2030)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate <sup>19</sup>	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Men (18-55)	87,030	117	1:744	80,896	105.9	0
Senior Women (18-55)	89,058	2	1:44529	79,848	1.8	0
Junior Boys (7-17)	25,725	171	1:150	27,146	182.4	11
Junior Girls (7-17)	24,668	2	1:12334	25,466	2.1	0

Due to participation trends nationally within the sport, it is considered unlikely that both population growth and future demand expressed by clubs will be realised, exclusive of each other. Instead, it is considered more likely that population growth will be incorporated into planned club growth, and vice versa.

The Strategy Report will contain a Housing Growth Scenario that will estimate the additional demand for cricket arising from housing development.

<sup>19</sup> Please note TGR figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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### Cricket summary

- ◀ **For senior cricket, a significant overall shortfall of pitches is identified, with more grass wicket squares being overplayed than those with actual spare capacity.**
- ◀ **No non-turf wicket pitches are recorded as accommodating more than 60 matches per season, therefore, all non-turf wickets are considered to have spare capacity, which equates to spare capacity existing for junior cricket both currently and in the future.**
- ◀ In total, there are 48 grass cricket squares in Cheshire East located across 42 sites, all of which are available for community use.
- ◀ There are NTPs accompanying grass wicket squares at 15 sites (16 squares) and there are standalone NTPs pitches at 17 sites.
- ◀ There is a disused grass wicket square at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus), whilst standalone NTPs were previously in place at Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre and Sir William Stanier School.
- ◀ Tenure is considered unsecure for Audlem, Chelford, Over Peover and Prestbury cricket clubs, which rent their squares on an annual basis, and for Bunbury CC, which has only nine years remaining on its lease.
- ◀ The audit of grass wicket squares found 37 community available pitches to be good quality, ten to be standard quality and one to be poor quality.
- ◀ Of particular concern is the condition of clubhouse buildings servicing Poynton Cricket Club and Mere Cricket Club, as well as the facility servicing the second square at Macclesfield Cricket Club.
- ◀ Four clubs (Wilmslow, Audlem, Chelford and Mere cricket clubs) are currently without access to cricket nets and three clubs (Disley, Holmes Chapel and Nantwich cricket clubs) express a demand for more nets to be provided.
- ◀ In total, there are 38 clubs generating 290 teams, which equates to 115 senior men's, two senior women's, 171 junior boys' and two junior girls' teams.
- ◀ There is currently no Last Man Stands (LMS) operating in Cheshire East, however, it is a target area for the future, particularly in Crewe and/or Macclesfield.
- ◀ Peak time demand for senior cricket is Saturday, whereas for junior cricket it is midweek.
- ◀ There are 29 squares that show potential spare capacity on grass wickets, totalling 499 match equivalent sessions per season; however, only two of these (Kerridge Cricket Club and Mere Cricket Club) have actual spare capacity on a Saturday.
- ◀ Overplay in Cheshire East is high, with 16 squares overplayed across 15 sites by 149 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Ten clubs report plans to increase their number of teams in the future, amounting to an increase of six senior men's, two senior women's and eight junior teams.

# CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

## PART 5: RUGBY UNION

### 5.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is the national governing body for rugby union. It is split into six areas across the Country with a workforce team that covers development, coaching, governance and competitions. A full-time development officer is responsible for Cheshire East (as part of the Lancashire, Cheshire, Staffordshire and North Midlands area) and works closely with all clubs to maximise their potential. This work involves developing club structures, including working towards the RFU accreditation (Clubmark) and the development of school-club structures.

The rugby union playing season operates from September to May.

#### **Consultation**

There are eight rugby union clubs in Cheshire East, all of which responded to consultation requests resulting in a 100% response rate. Crewe & Nantwich, Congleton, Macclesfield and Sandbach rugby clubs were met with face-to-face; Acton Nomads, Holmes Chapel, Knutsford and Wilmslow rugby clubs responded via an online survey.

In addition, teams are also fielded within Cheshire East by Manchester Metropolitan University. Information relating to this demand was discovered as part of a wider meeting with the University.

### 5.2: Supply

Within Cheshire East, there are 24 sites containing 45 senior, nine junior and ten mini rugby union pitches. Of these, 28 senior, five junior and all mini pitches are available for community use. Those not available for community use are all located at educational sites.

Although there are dedicated junior and mini pitches identified, it must be noted that most junior and mini rugby traditionally takes place on over marked senior pitches. This is the case across Cheshire East, even at sites with dedicated junior/mini markings.

As seen in the table below, the large majority of community available pitches are located in Congleton (18). There are no community available pitches within Macclesfield, whereas only one is located within Crewe, two within Knutsford, five within Wilmslow, eight within Poynton and ten within Nantwich.

*Table 5.1: Summary of grass rugby union pitches available for community use*

Analysis area	No. of senior pitches	No. of junior pitches	No. of mini pitches
Congleton	11	3	3
Crewe	1	-	-
Knutsford	1	1	-
Macclesfield	-	-	-
Nantwich	7	-	3
Poynton	4	-	4
Wilmslow	4	1	-
<b>Cheshire East</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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Hankinson's Field has been temporarily taken out of use as the site is required as an access point for the development of Congleton Leisure Centre. It currently contains one senior pitch (that has been included in the table above) as well as an unmarked training area and other areas that are used for mini rugby. Congleton RUFC is now unable to access the site and instead has to consolidate its use on to Congleton Park and Back Lane, although it is expected that provision will be re-provided once the development of the Leisure Centre is complete. If this does not happen, alternative provision will be required.

### ***Disused provision***

There are two disused senior rugby union pitches located at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus). The site closed down to students in 2010 but some facilities, such as a sand-based AGP and a football pitch, are still in use by the community. Planning permission has been secured to develop housing on the site, as well as new sports pitches, although no rugby union provision is included. Instead, the University has previously made improvements to the rugby pitches at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club, which the University's rugby teams relocated to. In addition, a contribution has been secured via a S106 agreement to buy maintenance equipment to ensure the pitches can be maintained to the required standard to support the amount of play. It is envisaged that the maintenance equipment will be in place for the start of the next season once the Club receives the financial contribution from the development.

In addition, the following sites each previously contained one senior rugby union pitch but no longer do:

- ◀ Alsager Leisure Centre
- ◀ Congleton High School
- ◀ Egerton Youth Club

In each case, the 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.

### ***Future developments***

The King's School plans to provide five additional rugby union pitches at Derby Fields as part of its consolidation to the site; however, both the existing junior pitches at Fence Avenue and Westminster Road (that are not to RFU standards) will be lost. This results in a net gain of three pitches, the pitch dimensions of which are subject to a condition that both the RFU and Sport England will be consulted on (indicative plans suggest five rugby pitches). In addition, a new clubhouse is to be provided and a link between the School and Macclesfield RUFC is being encouraged via a Sports Development Plan and Community Use Agreement, which would include sharing of pitches and facilities on both the new site and the adjacent existing site, as well as maintenance teams and equipment. Please note, however, that this development involves the overall net loss of playing field, which has been mitigated by the provision of new indoor/outdoor sports facilities that will benefit the rugby clubs and other pitch sports.

Subject to planning permission and successful sale of land, Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) is to undergo a development that will result in one of its senior pitches being replaced by a full size, floodlit, World Rugby compliant 3G pitch. In addition, the clubhouse servicing the site will be rebuilt.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

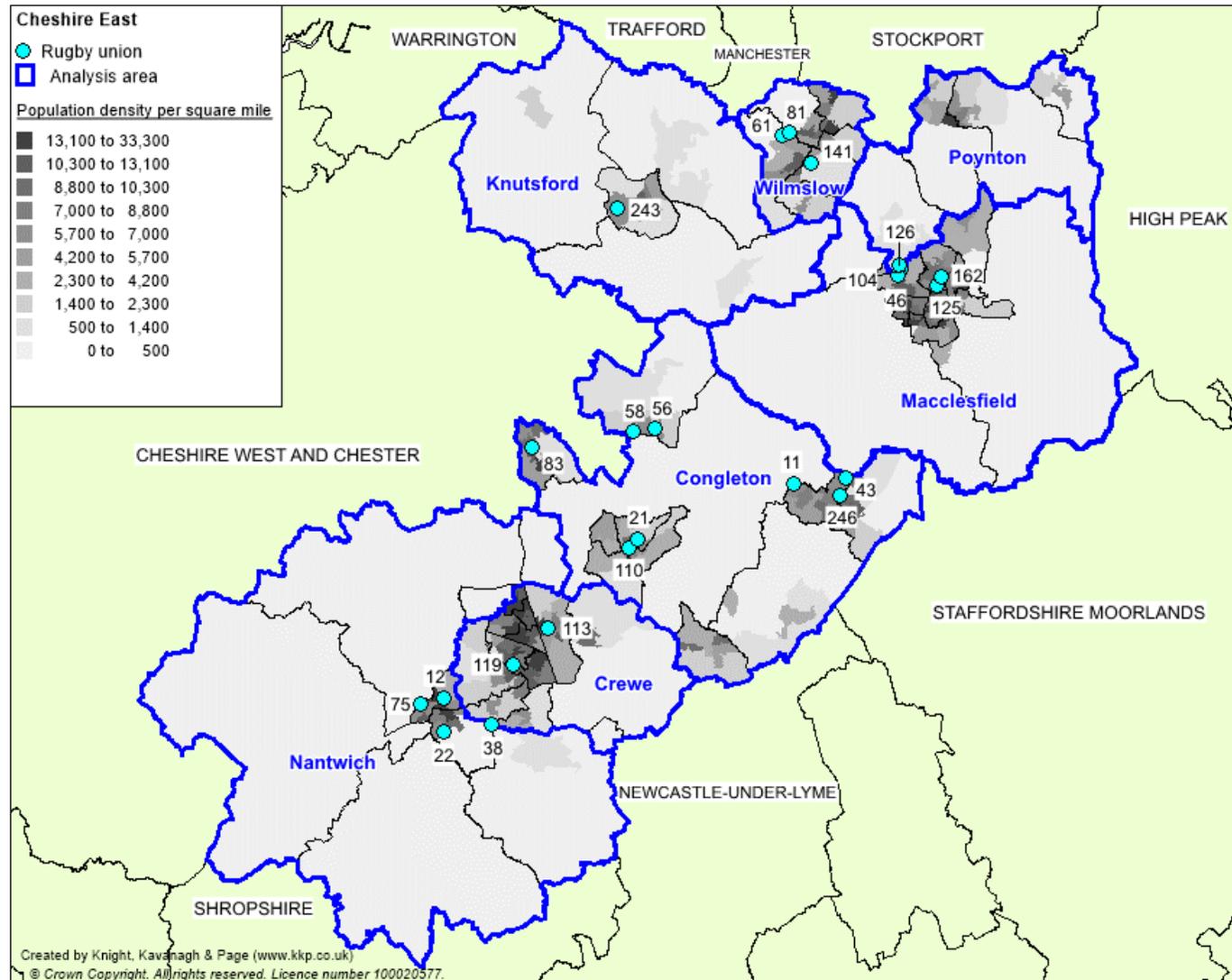
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Knutsford Academy, working alongside Knutsford RUFC, has identified adjacent land that it wishes to acquire from Crown Estates. Should this proposal take place, the School intends to supply one additional senior and one additional junior rugby union pitch in addition to the one senior and one junior pitch that is currently provided.

Figure 5.1 overleaf shows the location of all rugby union pitches currently servicing Cheshire East, regardless of community use. For a key to the map, see Table 5.6.

# CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 5.1: Location of rugby union pitches within Cheshire East



# CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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## **Security of tenure**

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 over 90 years remaining.

Security of tenure is also provided to Wilmslow RUFC, as it owns Memorial Ground. In addition, the Club accesses Jim Evison Playing Fields as a secondary venue via a yearly rental agreement from the Council.

Crewe & Nantwich RUFC owns its pitches and then operates out of Crewe Vagrant Sports Club via an annual subscription. The Club also rents the pitches to teams fielded by Manchester Metropolitan University on a weekly basis throughout the academic calendar.

Holmes Chapel RUFC has only ten years remaining on its licence of Holmes Chapel Community Centre from Holmes Chapel Parish Council. It is recommended that this be increased to a 25 year lease to provide greater security of tenure and to help the Club attract funding for club and site developments.

Acton Nomads RUFC rents Barony Sports Complex from the Council, as does Congleton RUFC in relation to Hankinson's Field, Congleton Park and Back Lane. Congleton RUFC also owns its clubhouse, which is a former pub within the centre of Congleton.

Knutsford RUFC rents Knutsford Academy on an annual basis from the School. To ensure prolonged use, it is recommended that the parties enter into a secure community use agreement. In order to attract funding, the club will need to obtain a lease agreement. It is recommended that this is at least 25 years in length.

## **Pitch quality**

The methodology for assessing rugby pitch quality looks at two key elements: the maintenance programme and the level of drainage on each pitch. An overall quality based on both drainage and maintenance can then be generated.

The agreed rating for each pitch type also represents actions required to improve pitch quality. A breakdown of actions required based on the ratings can be seen below:

*Table 5.2: Definition of maintenance categories*

Category	Definition
M0	Action is significant improvements to maintenance programme
M1	Action is minor improvements to maintenance programme
M2	Action is no improvements to maintenance programme

*Table 5.3: Definition of drainage categories*

Category	Definition
D0	Action is pipe drainage system is needed on pitch
D1	Action is pipe drainage is needed on pitch
D2	Action is slit drainage is needed on pitch
D3	No action is needed on pitch drainage

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 5.4: 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

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.

Of the community available pitches in Cheshire East, 22 are assessed as good quality, 12 are assessed as standard quality and nine are assessed as poor quality.

Table 5.5: Quality of pitches available for community use

Senior pitches			Junior pitches			Mini pitches		
Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
14	6	8	2	2	1	6	4	-

The table overleaf shows the quality ratings for each of the pitches in Cheshire East based on a combination of non-technical site assessments and user consultation.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 5.6: Site quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Non-tech score	Quality rating
11	Back Lane	Congleton	Yes	2	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor
					Junior	No	M1 / D0	Poor
12	Barony Sports Complex	Nantwich	Yes	1	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor
21	Sandbach Rugby Club	Congleton	Yes	10	Senior	No	M2 / D2	Good
					Senior	Yes	M2 / D1	Good
					Senior	Yes	M2 / D1	Good
					Senior	No	M2 / D2	Good
					Senior	No	M2 / D1	Good
					Junior	No	M2 / D1	Good
					Junior	No	M2 / D1	Good
					Mini	No	M2 / D1	Good
					Mini	No	M2 / D1	Good
22	Brine Leas School	Nantwich	Yes-unused	2	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
28	Congleton Park	Congleton	Yes	1	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor
38	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club	Nantwich	Yes	6	Senior	Yes	M2 / D2	Good
					Senior	No	M2 / D2	Good
					Senior	No	M2 / D1	Good
					Mini	No	M2 / D1	Good
					Mini	No	M2 / D1	Good
					Mini	No	M2 / D1	Good
43	Eaton Bank Academy	Congleton	No	1	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor
46	Fallibroome Academy	Macclesfield	No	2	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
53	Hankinson's Field	Congleton	Yes	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Non-tech score	Quality rating
56	Holmes Chapel Community Centre	Congleton	Yes	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
58	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	Congleton	Yes-unused	2	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor
					Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor
61	Jim Evison Playing Fields	Wilmslow	Yes	2	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor
					Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor
75	Malbank School And Sixth Form College	Nantwich	Yes-unused	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
81	Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club)	Wilmslow	Yes	3	Senior	Yes	M2 / D1	Good
					Senior	Yes	M2 / D1	Good
					Junior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
83	Middlewich High School (Leisure Centre)	Congleton	No	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
104	Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club)	Poynton	Yes	8	Senior	Yes	M2 / D1	Good
					Senior	No	M2 / D1	Good
					Senior	No	M2 / D1	Good
					Senior	No	M2 / D1	Good
					Mini	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Mini	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Mini	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Mini	No	M1 / D1	Standard
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	Congleton	No	4	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
113	Sir William Stanier School	Crewe	Yes-unused	1	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
119	St Thomas More Catholic High School	Crewe	No	1	Senior	No	M0 / D0	Poor
125	The Kings School (Westminster Road)	Macclesfield	No	1	Junior	No	M1 / D1	Standard

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Non-tech score	Quality rating
126	The Kings School (Derby Fields)	Poynton	No	6	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Junior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Junior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
127	The Kings School (Fence Avenue)	Macclesfield	No	1	Junior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
141	Wilmslow High School	Wilmslow	No	3	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Standard
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
162	Tytherington High School	Macclesfield	No	1	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
243	Knutsford Academy (lower)	Knutsford	Yes	2	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Junior	No	M1 / D1	Standard

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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

- ◀ Back Lane
- ◀ Barony Sports Complex
- ◀ Congleton Park
- ◀ Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre
- ◀ Jim Evison Playing Fields
- ◀ Sir William Stanier School

Both the senior and the junior pitch at Back Lane are assessed as poor quality due to drainage issues (D0), as are the senior pitches at Barony Sports Complex, Jim Evison Playing Fields, Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre and Congleton Park. The senior pitch at Sir William Stanier School is rated as poor quality due receiving very limited maintenance (M0).

Of the poor quality pitches, both Back Lane and Congleton Park are used by Congleton RUFC, Barony Sports Complex is in use by Acton Nomads RUFC and Jim Evison Playing Fields is in use by Wilmslow RUFC. Neither Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre nor Sir William Stanier School are in use by clubs, despite being available, although both sites do receive use internally.

Furthermore, both St Thomas More Catholic High School and Eaton Bank Academy contain a poor quality senior pitch, albeit neither are available for community use.

Despite being assessed as good quality and despite having a pipe drainage system in place (D2), Macclesfield RUFC reports that its floodlit senior pitch suffers from drainage issues due to the clubhouse building shielding the pitch from sunlight. It is hoped that the Club's development plans will solve this issue as a new building is going to replace the existing facility at a perpendicular angle.

Other good quality pitches are found at Sandbach Rugby Club, Crewe Vagrants Sports Club, Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club) and Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club). All of these sites are maintained by clubs and therefore the maintenance regime is more specialised and more frequent than at those sites maintained by the Council or by schools.

Moreover, two senior pitches at both Crewe Vagrants Sports Club and Sandbach Rugby Club (all D2) have some form of drainage installed.

### ***Ancillary facilities***

Holmes Chapel RUFC is the only club within Cheshire East to report no issues with ancillary provision. The Club rates the quality of its changing provision at Holmes Chapel Community Centre as adequate quality as recent refurbishments have taken place.

As previously mentioned, clubhouse facilities servicing Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) and the King's School (Derby Fields) are to be redeveloped as part of wider site improvements. Derby Fields has received planning permission but Priory Park has not at the time of writing.

Congleton RUFC reports a need for the changing rooms servicing Back Lane to be improved. The current facilities are considered too small and are deemed unsuitable for rugby use having been built to accommodate football users.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Crewe & Nantwich RUFC aspires to refurbish its existing changing provision at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club and to extend its 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.

Knutsford RUFC reports a need for its own clubhouse in closer proximity to the pitches it uses at Knutsford Academy. Currently, the Club accesses the changing rooms at the School, which are considered to be poor quality, before using Knutsford Sports Club for post-match refreshments, travelling 1.2 miles to do so.

Acton Nomads RUFC has recently lost access to its clubhouse, a pub called the Red Lion. Due to the social aspects of rugby, clubs tend to require access to a social area that is serviced by a bar, which in turn can also generate income to help with sustainability. It is therefore vital that the Club is provided with an alternative as soon as possible.

Wilmslow RUFC reports that the changing rooms servicing Jim Evison Playing Fields are poor quality and are in desperate need of modernisation. The facilities at the Club's main venue, Memorial Ground, are considered adequate quality.

### 5.3: Demand

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

#### *Competitive play*

Nine rugby union clubs play within Cheshire East. These Clubs vary in size; Congleton, Crewe & Nantwich, Knutsford, Macclesfield, Sandbach and Wilmslow rugby clubs have a large number of teams at both senior and junior level, whereas Acton Nomads RUFC and Holmes Chapel RUFC consist of just one and two senior teams respectively.

As seen in the table below, there are 101 teams across the clubs, which as a breakdown equates to 30 senior, seven colts', 25 junior and 39 mini teams.

*Table 5.7: Summary of demand*

Club	Analysis area	No. of rugby union teams			
		Senior (19+)	Colts (18-19)	Junior (13-17)	Mini (6-12)
Acton Nomads RUFC	Nantwich	1	-	-	-
Congleton RUFC	Congleton	4	1	4	5
Crewe & Nantwich RUFC	Nantwich	5	2	6	6
Holmes Chapel RUFC	Congleton	3	-	-	-
Knutsford RUFC	Knutsford	2	-	4	7
Macclesfield RUFC	Poynton	4	1	4	7
Sandbach RUFC	Congleton	5	2	3	7
Wilmslow RUFC	Wilmslow	4	1	4	7
Manchester Metropolitan University RUFC	Nantwich	2	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>39</b>

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

As seen, teams are fielded in Cheshire East by Manchester Metropolitan University. This demand previously used the University's Alsager Campus; however, following closure of that site to students, Crewe Vagrants Sports Club was accessed instead via an agreement with Crewe & Nantwich RUFC. The level of access has varied over recent years, but it is now limited to two men's teams (as well as a rugby league team), with other teams playing at locations in Manchester. In total, the University comprises of three senior men's and one senior women's team.

Also included in the figures above are one senior women's team, as fielded by Crewe & Nantwich RUFC as well four junior girls' teams that are recorded at Crewe & Nantwich RUFC (three) and Congleton RUFC (one). Although none of the other clubs field dedicated female teams, Sandbach RUFC has plans to develop a women's section and others do have girls playing within mixed mini teams.

The majority of teams are fielded within Congleton (34), which is reflective of the Analysis Area containing the most number of pitches as well as large clubs such as Congleton RUFC and Sandbach RUFC. No teams are fielded within Macclesfield, which is without community available provision, or Crewe (as Crewe & Nantwich RUFC plays in Nantwich).

*Table 5.8: Summary of demand by analysis area*

Analysis area	Senior (19+)	Colts' (18-19)	Junior (13-17)	Mini (6-12)
Congleton	12	3	7	12
Crewe	-	-	-	-
Knutsford	2	-	4	7
Macclesfield	-	-	-	-
Nantwich	8	2	6	6
Poynton	4	1	4	7
Wilmslow	4	1	4	7
<b>Cheshire East</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>39</b>

No latent or unmet demand is expressed by any of the clubs.

### ***Training demand***

Nationally, 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 floodlighting and there are five floodlit pitches within Cheshire East. Two are located at both Sandbach Rugby Club and Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club) and one is located at both Crewe Vagrants Sports Club and Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club).

In addition, Macclesfield Rugby Club also has access to a smaller sized, floodlit 3G pitch at Priory Park that is accessed for non-contact training. The floodlit grass pitch is used to accommodate all remaining training demand.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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One of the two floodlit pitches at Memorial Ground is used by Wilmslow RUFC for the majority of its training demand, with other floodlit pitch mostly reserved for matches. Likewise, Sandbach RUFC accesses one of its two floodlit pitches for its training, with the other being preferred for matches.

The floodlit pitch at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club is used to accommodate all training demand from Manchester Metropolitan University and Crewe & Nantwich RUFC from August until October. From October onwards, following its development, the majority of training demand expressed by Crewe & Nantwich RUFC moved to the 3G pitch at Reaseheath College; however, because the pitch is yet to be World Rugby certified, some teams and especially the senior teams remained at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club.

Should the pitch become compliant in the future, as expected, all training demand expressed by Crewe & Nantwich RUFC is to transfer to Reaseheath College, although some demand will return during the spring and summer as floodlit provision is not required. Training demand expressed by Manchester Metropolitan University will remain at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club throughout the year.

The remaining clubs do not generally use match pitches for training. Instead, Knutsford RUFC accesses a floodlit area at Booths Hall and Acton Nomads RUFC does not train at all, although the Club is currently looking for a suitable venue. Congleton RUFC uses lighting attached to Congleton Leisure Centre to train on an unmarked piece of land at Hankinson's Field, although, as aforementioned, this is currently out of use due to development of the Leisure Centre.

Holmes Chapel RUFC uses a 3G pitch for training purposes, located at Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre, although this pitch is not World Rugby compliant and therefore no form of contact rugby should be played on the surface. Reports also suggest that Congleton High School claims that its new 3G pitch is World Rugby compliant, however, at the time of writing this report this is not the case. The RFU is monitoring the situation and any updates will be made accordingly.

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. The RFU investment strategy into AGPs considers sites where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where an AGP would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education sites.

### ***Additional usage***

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

- ◀ Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre
- ◀ Malbank School and Sixth Form College
- ◀ Middlewich High School
- ◀ Sandbach School (Boys)

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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- ◀ 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. Further to this, the pitch at Middlewich High School is available to the community for football purposes (and used by Middlewich Town FC) but not for rugby.

### **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 RFU Rugby Development Officers (RDOs). The RDO's deliver coaching sessions and support the schools to establish rugby union as part of the curricular and extracurricular programme.

In Cheshire East, the majority of state schools have extensive rugby union activity that is highlighted by them having access to on-site pitches. As such, the following schools heavily involve rugby union within their sporting curriculum:

- ◀ All Hallows Catholic College
- ◀ Brine Lease School
- ◀ Congleton High School
- ◀ Fallibroome Academy
- ◀ Holmes Chapel High School
- ◀ Malbank School and Sixth Form College
- ◀ Sandbach School (Boys)
- ◀ St Thomas More Catholic High School
- ◀ Tytherington High School

Many of these schools also work closely with the RDO's to develop the sport and, as part of that, RFU community coaches enter the schools to deliver regular sessions. This particularly applies to St Thomas Catholic High School, Malbank School and Sixth Form College, Sandbach School (Boys) and Congleton High School. Sir William Stanier School and Eaton Bank also previously had involvement with the RFU but this is no longer the case due to staff and priority changes within the schools.

In addition, Reaseheath College has an extensive rugby programme that will be further helped with the installation of a 3G pitch that is expected to become World Rugby compliant.

As previously mentioned, Manchester Metropolitan University fields three men's and one women's team as well as a men's rugby league team that all previously played within Cheshire East; however, some of this demand is now moving to Manchester following the closure of the Alsager Campus and the uncertainty over the Crewe Campus. Currently, two men's (and one rugby league team) play at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club; the remaining teams play at Manchester locations.

# CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

## *The peak period*

In order to establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be determined. Peak time for senior rugby union matches in Cheshire East is Saturday afternoons, although colt's, junior and mini teams also access senior pitches on Sundays.

Peak time for colt's rugby is Sunday afternoons, whereas it is Sunday mornings for junior and mini rugby. For women's and girls' rugby, peak time is considered to be Sunday afternoons.

## **5.4: Capacity analysis**

The capacity for pitches to 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 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 pitches, the following assumptions are applied to site-by-site analysis:

- ◀ All sites that are used for competitive rugby matches (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included on the supply side.
- ◀ Use of school pitches by schools reduces potential capacity.
- ◀ All competitive play is on senior sized pitches (except for where dedicated mini and junior pitches are provided).
- ◀ From u13s upwards, teams play 15v15 and use a full pitch.
- ◀ Mini teams (u6-u12) play on half of a senior pitch i.e. two teams per senior pitch
- ◀ For senior and junior teams the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis.
- ◀ For mini teams playing on a senior pitch, play per week is set at 0.25 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis and playing across half of one senior pitch.
- ◀ Senior rugby generally takes place on Saturday afternoons.
- ◀ Colt's rugby generally takes place on Sunday afternoons.
- ◀ Junior rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ◀ Mini rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ◀ Women's and girls' rugby generally takes place on Sunday afternoons.
- ◀ Training that takes place on club pitches is reflected by the addition of match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Team equivalents have been calculated on the basis that 30 players (two teams) train on the pitch for 90 minutes (team equivalent of one) per night.

As a guide, the RFU has set a standard number of matches that each pitch should be able to accommodate:

*Table 5.9: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments*

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
<b>Drainage</b>	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

## **CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

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Capacity is based upon a basic assessment of the drainage system and maintenance programme ascertained through a combination of the quality assessment and consultation. This guide, however, is only a very general measure of potential pitch capacity. It does not account for specific circumstances at time of use and it assumes average rainfall and an appropriate end of season rest and renovation programme.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 5.10: Rugby union provision and level of community use within Cheshire East

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Quality rating	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
11	Back Lane	Congleton	Yes	Senior	No	Poor	2.5	1.5	1	A senior pitch that is used by Congleton RUFC and overplayed by one match equivalent session
				Junior	No	Poor	1.5	1.5	0.5	A junior pitch that is used by Congleton RUFC and played to capacity
12	Barony Sports Complex	Nantwich	Yes	Senior	No	Poor	0.5	1.5	1	A senior pitch that is used by Acton Nomads RUFC with spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions
21	Sandbach Rugby Club	Congleton	Yes	Senior	No	Good	1	3.25	2.25	A senior pitch that is used by Sandbach RUFC and generally reserved for first team fixtures with spare capacity of 2.25 match equivalent sessions
				Senior	Yes	Good	5	3	2	A floodlit senior pitch that is used by Sandbach RUFC to accommodate training demand. Overplayed by two match equivalent sessions
				Senior	Yes	Good	3	3	0.5	A floodlit senior pitch that is used by Sandbach RUFC mostly for matches and occasional training demand. Played to capacity.
				Senior	No	Good	2.25	3.25	1	A senior pitch that is used by Sandbach RUFC with spare capacity of one match session
				Senior	No	Good	2	3	1	A senior pitch that is used by Sandbach RUFC with spare capacity of one match session
				Junior	No	Good	2	3	1	A junior pitch that is used by Sandbach RUFC with spare capacity of one match session
				Junior	No	Good	2	3	1	A junior pitch that is used by Sandbach RUFC with spare capacity of one match session
				Mini	No	Good	1	3	2	A mini pitch that is used by Sandbach RUFC with spare capacity of one match session
				Mini	No	Good	1	3	2	A mini pitch that is used by Sandbach RUFC with spare capacity of one match session
				Mini	No	Good	1	3	2	A mini pitch that is used by Sandbach RUFC with spare capacity of one match session
22	Brine Leas School	Nantwich	Yes-unused	Senior	No	Standard	-	1	1	A senior pitch that is available to the community but unused. School usage reduces capacity by one match session; however, one match session of spare capacity remains
				Senior	No	Standard	-	1	1	A senior pitch that is available to the community but unused. School usage reduces capacity by one match session; however, one match session of spare capacity remains
23	Congleton Park	Congleton	Yes	Senior	No	Poor	2	1.5	0.5	A senior pitch that is used by Congleton RUFC and overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions

**CHESHIRE EAST  
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Quality rating	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
38	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club	Nantwich	Yes	Senior	Yes	Good	5.5	2.75	2.75	A floodlit senior pitch that is used to accommodate training demand from Crewe & Nantwich RUFC and Manchester Metropolitan University. Overplayed by 2.75 match equivalent sessions
				Senior	No	Good	2.5	3.25	1.25	A senior pitch that is used by Crewe & Nantwich RUFC and generally reserved for first team fixtures. Spare capacity of 1.25 match equivalent sessions remains
				Senior	No	Good	4.5	3	1.5	A senior pitch that is used by Crewe & Nantwich RUFC and also by Manchester Metropolitan University teams. Overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions
				Mini	No	Good	2	3	1	A mini pitch that is used by Crewe & Nantwich RUFC with spare capacity of one match session
				Mini	No	Good	2	3	1	A mini pitch that is used by Crewe & Nantwich RUFC with spare capacity of one match session
				Mini	No	Good	2	3	1	A mini pitch that is used by Crewe & Nantwich RUFC with spare capacity of one match session
43	Eaton Bank Academy	Congleton	No	Senior	No	Poor	-	0.5	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community. School usage reduces capacity by one match session
46	Fallibroome Academy	Macclesfield	No	Senior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community. School usage reduces capacity by one match session
				Senior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community. School usage reduces capacity by one match session
53	Hankinson's Field	Congleton	No	Senior	No	Standard	2	2		A senior pitch that has temporarily been taken out of use due to nearby developments. When in use, it is accessed by Congleton RUFC and played to capacity
				Mini	No	Standard	-	-		Unmarked areas that are used for mini rugby and are considered to be played to capacity
56	Holmes Chapel Community Centre	Congleton	Yes	Senior	No	Standard	1	2	1	A senior pitch that is used by Holmes Chapel RUFC with one match equivalent sessions of spare capacity
58	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	Congleton	Yes-unused	Senior	No	Poor	-	-		A senior pitch that is available to the community but unused. School usage results in no spare capacity remaining as it is over marked by a football pitch
				Senior	No	Poor	-	0.5	0.5	A senior pitch that is available to the community but unused. School usage reduces capacity by one match session; however, 0.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity remain
61	Jim Evison Playing Fields	Wilmslow	Yes	Senior	No	Poor	1	1.5	0.5	A senior pitch that is used by Wilmslow RUFC with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity
				Senior	No	Poor	1	1.5	0.5	A senior pitch that is used by Wilmslow RUFC with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity
75	Malbank School And Sixth Form College	Nantwich	Yes-unused	Senior	No	Standard	-	-		A senior pitch that is available to the community but unused. School usage results in no spare capacity remaining as it is over marked by a football pitch
81	Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club)	Wilmslow	Yes	Senior	Yes	Good	3.5	3	0.5	A floodlit senior pitch that is used by Wilmslow RUFC to mostly accommodate its match demand but also some training demand. Overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions
				Senior	Yes	Good	3.5	3	0.5	A floodlit senior pitch that is used by Wilmslow RUFC to accommodate its training demand. Overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions
				Junior	No	Standard	2	2		A junior pitch that is used by Wilmslow RUFC and used to capacity

**CHESHIRE EAST  
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Quality rating	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
83	Middlewich High School (Leisure Centre)	Congleton	No	Senior	No	Standard	-	-	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable for community use. School and community football usage results in no spare capacity remaining as it is over marked by a football pitch
104	Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club)	Poynton	Yes	Senior	Yes	Good	5.5	3	2.5	A floodlit senior pitch that is used by Macclesfield RUFC to accommodate its training demand. Overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions
				Senior	No	Good	2	3	1	A senior pitch that is used by Macclesfield RUFC with one match equivalent session of spare capacity
				Senior	No	Good	2	3	1	A senior pitch that is used by Macclesfield RUFC with one match equivalent session of spare capacity
				Senior	No	Good	2	3	1	A senior pitch that is used by Macclesfield RUFC with one match equivalent session of spare capacity
				Mini	No	Standard	1	2	1	A mini pitch that is used by Macclesfield RUFC with one match equivalent session of spare capacity
				Mini	No	Standard	1	2	1	A mini pitch that is used by Macclesfield RUFC with one match equivalent session of spare capacity
				Mini	No	Standard	1	2	1	A mini pitch that is used by Macclesfield RUFC with one match session of spare capacity
				Mini	No	Standard	1	2	1	A mini pitch that is used by Macclesfield RUFC with one match session of spare capacity
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	Congleton	No	Senior	No	Standard	-	-	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable for community use. School usage results in no spare capacity remaining as it is over marked by a football pitch
				Senior	No	Standard	-	-	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable for community use. School usage results in no spare capacity remaining as it is over marked by a football pitch
				Senior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community. School usage reduces capacity by one match session
				Senior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community. School usage reduces capacity by one match session
113	Sir William Stanier School	Crewe	Yes-unused	Senior	No	Poor	-	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable for community use. School and community football usage results in no spare capacity remaining as it is over marked by a football pitch	
119	St Thomas More Catholic High School	Crewe	No	Senior	No	Poor	-	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable for community use. School usage results in no spare capacity remaining as it is over marked by a football pitch	
125	The Kings School (Westminster Road)	Macclesfield	No	Senior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community. School usage reduces capacity by one match session
126	The Kings School (Derby Fields)	Poynton	No	Senior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community. School usage reduces capacity by one match session
				Senior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community. School usage reduces capacity by one match session
				Senior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community. School usage reduces capacity by one match session
				Senior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community. School usage reduces capacity by one match session
				Junior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A junior pitch that is unavailable to the community. School usage reduces capacity by one match session
				Junior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A junior pitch that is unavailable to the community. School usage reduces capacity by one match session

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Quality rating	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
127	The Kings School (Fence Avenue)	Macclesfield	No	Senior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community. School usage reduces capacity by one match session
141	Wilmslow High School	Wilmslow	No	Senior	No	Standard	-	0.5	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community. School usage reduces capacity by one match session
				Senior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community. School usage reduces capacity by one match session
				Senior	No	Standard	-	1	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community. School usage reduces capacity by one match session
162	Tytherington High School	Macclesfield	No	Senior	No	Poor	-	0.5	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable to the community. School usage reduces capacity by one match session
243	Knutsford Academy (lower)	Knutsford	Yes	Senior	No	Standard	3.5	1	2.5	A senior pitch that is used by Knutsford RUFC and overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions. School usage reduces capacity by one match session
				Junior	No	Standard	3	1	2	A senior pitch that is used by Knutsford RUFC and overplayed by two match equivalent sessions. School usage reduces capacity by one match session

# CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

## 5.5: 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 senior rugby union based on match equivalent sessions. Future demand is based on club development plans, where quantified, and includes future demand for mini, junior and colt's teams as it is presumed that these will access senior pitches.

Table 5.11: Summary of supply and demand balance on senior rugby union pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity <sup>20</sup>	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand <sup>21</sup>	Future total
Congleton	0.5	2.5	2	-	2
Crewe	-	-		-	
Knutsford	-	4.5	4.5	-	4.5
Macclesfield	-	-		-	
Nantwich	0.5	4.25	3.75	1	4.75
Poynton	-	2.25	2.25	1	3.25
Wilmslow	1	1		1.5	1.5
<b>Cheshire East</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>16</b>

Overall, there is a shortfall of 12.5 match equivalent sessions identified on senior rugby union pitches to meet current demand, with no analysis areas deemed to have spare capacity. The overall shortfall worsens when considering future demand, with a shortfall of 16 match equivalent sessions recognised and again no analysis areas considered to have spare capacity.

To reduce shortfalls there is a clear need to alleviate overplay, which for the most part can be achieved through improving pitch quality and increasing dedicated, floodlit training provision. This is, however, less of an issue at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club providing the 3G pitch at Reaseheath College undergoes World Rugby certification and at Priory Park due to plans for the creation of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch. If both occur, all training demand from Crewe & Nantwich RUFC and Macclesfield RUFC will transfer to the respective 3G pitches, thus alleviating overuse of grass pitches currently used by the clubs for training.

The identified overplay at Knutsford Academy cannot be fully alleviated through pitch quality improvements though it can be reduced. As such, the Club requires access to more pitches and the School's plans to acquire adjacent land to increase its pitch supply could therefore provide the ideal solution. There are no other rugby union pitches in Knutsford.

### **Spare capacity**

'Actual spare capacity' has been ascertained following review of identified 'potential capacity' in Table 5.11. There may 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.

<sup>20</sup> In match equivalent sessions

<sup>21</sup> As identified from club consultation

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Despite 14 senior pitches displaying potential spare capacity to accommodate additional play, only four are available for further use during the peak period for senior rugby (Saturday PM). As seen in the table below, this equates to two match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity, as opposed to 14 match equivalent sessions of potential spare capacity.

Table 5.12: Summary of actual spare capacity on senior pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Potential capacity	Actual capacity	Comments
12	Barony Sports Complex	Nantwich	1	0.5	Currently used by just one senior team meaning actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions remains
21	Sandbach Rugby Club	Congleton	2.25	-	Used to capacity at peak time
			1	-	Used to capacity at peak time
			1	-	Used to capacity at peak time
22	Brine Leas School	Nantwich	1	1	No spare capacity considered due to school use
			1	1	No spare capacity considered due to school use
38	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club	Nantwich	1.25	-	Used to capacity at peak time
56	Holmes Chapel Community Centre	Congleton	1	-	Used to capacity at peak time
58	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	Congleton	0.5	0.5	Currently used by just one senior team meaning actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions remains
61	Jim Evison Playing Fields	Wilmslow	0.5	0.5	Currently used by just one senior team meaning actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions remains
			0.5	0.5	Currently used by just one senior team meaning actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions remains
104	Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club)	Poynton	1	-	Used to capacity at peak time
			1	-	Used to capacity at peak time
			1	-	Used to capacity at peak time

The programming of junior and mini rugby union matches can be unclear in regards to ascertaining actual spare capacity, especially at peak time as the number of matches played varies from week to week. Teams do not play regular matches as part of a league format; rather, clubs enter cup competitions or organise for their younger age groups to play those from another club either at home or away and on a friendly basis.

When matches are not being played, teams will generally hold training sessions instead, meaning that mini and junior teams may require access to their home pitches for consecutive weeks whilst no away fixtures are organised. Consequently, it is presumed that no pitches used by mini or youth teams have significant actual spare capacity for an increase in demand, but it is acknowledged that some does exist when the pitches are not in use.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

### **Overplay**

There are ten pitches across seven sites that are overplayed by a combined 14.75 match equivalent sessions.

*Table 5.13: Overplay summary*

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Overplay (match equivalent sessions per week)
11	Back Lane	Congleton	1
21	Sandbach Rugby Club	Congleton	2
23	Congleton Park	Congleton	0.5
38	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club	Nantwich	2.75
			1.5
81	Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club)	Wilmslow	0.5
			0.5
104	Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club)	Poynton	2.5
243	Knutsford Academy (lower)	Knutsford	2.5
			2
<b>Total</b>			<b>14.75</b>

Most overplay is recorded at Knutsford Academy, where pitches are overplayed due to the site offering a limited number of pitches to Knutsford RUFC when compared to clubs of a similar size. This is further exacerbated by school usage reducing capacity.

Crewe Vagrants Sports Club is overplayed first and foremost due to its floodlit pitch accommodating large amounts of training demand. This should reduce if the 3G pitch at Reaseheath College achieves World Rugby certification.

In contrast, the pitches at Congleton Park and Back Lane are overplayed because of their limited capacity due to being poor quality and this overplay will worsen with the temporary loss of Hankinson's Field. The remaining overplayed pitches (Sandbach Rugby Club, Memorial Ground and Priory Park) are used to accommodate training demand, which explains their excessive use as demand is more frequent and concentrated.

No dedicated mini or junior pitches are adjudged overplayed but that is not to say that they all have capacity for an increase in demand. As aforementioned, due to the nature of mini and junior rugby, it is unlikely that those pitches already accommodating such demand have actual spare capacity for a significant increase in demand.

### **Future demand**

Future demand can be defined in three ways, through participation increases, using population forecasts and housing growth. The Strategy Report will contain a range of Housing Growth scenarios that will estimate the additional demand for rugby union arising from housing development.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

### Population increases

In addition to planned club growth, team generation rates are used overleaf as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth (2030).

Table 5.14: Team generation rates (2030)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate <sup>22</sup>	Future population within age group (2030)	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Mens (19-45)	56,287	31	1:1816	54,316	29.9	0
Senior Women (19-45)	57,547	1	1:57547	53,537	0.9	0
Junior Boys (13-18)	13,135	26	1:505	13,859	27.4	1
Junior Girls (13-18)	12,707	2	1:6354	12,965	2.0	0
Mini rugby mixed (7-12)	24,551	39	1:630	26,265	41.7	2

As seen, an increase of one junior boys and two mini teams is predicted. Please note, however, that this does not take into account contextual events, such as the 2015 Rugby World Cup, or RFU initiatives that preceded and have followed the staging of the competition.

### Participation increases

The following six clubs within Cheshire East express future demand:

- ◀ Acton Nomads RUFC
- ◀ Congleton RUFC
- ◀ Crewe & Nantwich RUFC
- ◀ Sandbach RUFC
- ◀ Macclesfield RUFC
- ◀ Wilmslow RUFC

Macclesfield RUFC reports an intention to expand by one additional colt's team in addition to the creation of a junior girls' section. The Club states that the condition of its clubhouse has prevented female participation in the past, which will no longer be a problem when it is redeveloped.

Crewe & Nantwich RUFC plans to increase by one senior men's team and one junior girls' team. The Club did previously field an additional men's team but this folded due to a lack of interest.

Wilmslow RUFC states that it expects to increase its number of teams by one senior men's (veterans'), one colts' and one junior boys' team.

Both Acton Nomads RUFC and Congleton RUFC also report future demand though neither quantify their potential increase due to current issues. This relates to Acton Nomads RUFC

<sup>22</sup> Please note TGR figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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being without a clubhouse and to Congleton RUFC not being able to access Hankinson's Field.

Sandbach RUFC reports an intention to grow a female section within its club but does not state how many additional teams it expects to field. The Club also reports a lack of capacity may hinder potential growth.

Where quantified, total future demand reported by clubs equates to seven teams and 3.5 match equivalent sessions (one match session in both Nantwich and Poynton and 1.5 match equivalent sessions in Wilmslow). Neither Holmes Chapel RUFC nor Knutsford RUFC report any future demand.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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### Rugby union summary

- ◀ Overall, there is a shortfall of 12.5 match equivalent sessions identified on senior rugby union pitches to meet current demand, which worsens when considering future demand, with a shortfall of 16 match equivalent sessions recognised.
- ◀ Shortfalls are greatest in relation to Knutsford RUFC, where there is a considered need for access to more pitches or for new pitches to be provided.
- ◀ Remaining shortfalls can be addressed through pitch quality improvements and/or through access to increased dedicated floodlit training provision, particularly in relation to Congleton RUFC, Sandbach RUFC and Wilmslow RUFC.
- ◀ Reaseheath College becoming World Rugby compliant (still to undergo testing) will alleviate shortfalls at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club, whereas the provision of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch at Priory Park (subject to planning and funding) will alleviate shortfalls relating to Macclesfield RUFC.
- ◀ There are 23 sites containing 43 senior, nine junior and ten mini rugby union pitches, of which, 28 senior, five junior and all mini pitches are available for community use.
- ◀ Hankinson's Field, which contains one senior pitch, an unmarked training area and areas for mini rugby, has been temporarily taken out of use as the site is required as an access point for the development of Congleton Leisure Centre.
- ◀ There are two disused senior rugby union pitches located at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus).
- ◀ Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) is to undergo a development (subject to planning and funding) that will result in one of its senior pitches being replaced by a full size, floodlit, World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.
- ◀ Knutsford Academy, working alongside Knutsford RUFC, has identified adjacent land that it wishes to acquire so that it can increase its supply of rugby union pitches.
- ◀ The King's School plans to provide five additional rugby union pitches at Derby Fields as part of its consolidation to the site; however, both the pitch at Fence Avenue and the pitch at Westminster Road will be lost.
- ◀ Holmes Chapel RUFC has only ten years remaining on its licence of Holmes Chapel Community Centre and tenure is also considered to be unsecure for Knutsford RUFC at Knutsford Academy as no community use agreement is in place.
- ◀ Of the community available pitches, 22 are assessed as good quality, 12 are assessed as standard quality and nine are assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ Acton Nomads RUFC are currently without a clubhouse, whereas Congleton, Crewe & Nantwich, Macclesfield, Knutsford and Wilmslow rugby clubs all report development plans or issues with their changing facilities.
- ◀ Eight rugby union clubs play within Cheshire East consisting of 99 teams, which as a breakdown equates to 28 senior, seven colts', 25 junior and 39 mini teams.
- ◀ Sandbach, Crewe & Nantwich, Macclesfield and Wilmslow rugby clubs all train on match pitches using floodlighting.
- ◀ Acton Nomads RUFC is currently without a training venue despite attempts to find a suitable location.
- ◀ Five clubs report future demand, which, where quantified, amounts to two senior men's, two colts, one junior boys' and two junior girls' teams.
- ◀ There are ten pitches across seven sites that are overplayed by a combined 14.75 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Despite 14 senior pitches across nine sites displaying potential spare capacity, only four are available for further use during the peak period for senior rugby (Saturday PM).

# CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

## PART 6: HOCKEY

### 6.1: Introduction

Hockey in England is governed by England Hockey (EH) and is administered locally by the Cheshire Hockey Association.

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	Playing Level
England Hockey Category 1	Water surface approved within the FIH Global/National Parameters	<b>Essential</b> International Hockey - Training and matches	<b>Desirable</b> Domestic National Premier competition Higher levels of EH Player Pathway Performance Centres and upwards England
England Hockey Category 2	Sand dressed surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	<b>Essential</b> Domestic National Premier competition Higher levels of player pathway: Academy Centres and Upwards	<b>Desirable</b> All adult and junior League Hockey Intermediate or advanced School Hockey
England Hockey Category 3	Sand based surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	<b>Essential</b> All adult and junior club training and league Hockey EH competitions for clubs and schools Intermediate or advanced schools hockey	EH competitions for clubs and schools (excluding domestic national league)
England Hockey Category 4	All 3G surfaces	<b>Essential</b> None	<b>Desirable</b> Lower level hockey (Introductory level) when no category 1-3 surface is available.

For senior teams, a full sized 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.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

It is considered that a hockey pitch can accommodate a maximum of four matches on one day (peak time) provided the pitch has floodlighting. Training is generally midweek and requires access to a pitch and floodlights.

### **Club consultation**

There are currently seven hockey clubs fielding teams within Cheshire East and all seven responded to consultation requests resulting in a 100% response rate. Alderley Edge, Crewe Vagrants, Knutsford, Macclesfield, Sandbach and Wilmslow hockey clubs responded via an online survey, whereas Triton HC engaged in a telephone consultation.

### **6.2: Supply**

There are currently 16 full size hockey suitable AGPs in Cheshire East. The majority of the pitches are floodlit, although Malbank School and Sixth Form College, Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre and South Cheshire College are not.

As seen in the table below, all of the full size AGPs are available for community use, however, Shavington Leisure Centre, Malbank School and Sixth Form College, South Cheshire College and Macclesfield Academy are not in current use by hockey clubs and the latter two are without hockey goals.

*Table 6.2: Summary of full size hockey suitable AGPs in Cheshire East*

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Flood-lit?	Comm use?	Hockey use?	Size (metres)
5	Alsager Leisure Centre	Congleton	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
6	Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus)	Congleton	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 x 63
38	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club	Nantwich	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
46	Fallibroome Academy	Macclesfield	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
67	Knutsford Leisure Centre	Knutsford	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
75	Malbank School and Sixth Form College	Nantwich	No	Yes	No	110 x 60
109	Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre (Girls)	Congleton	No	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	Congleton	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
112	Shavington Leisure Centre	Crewe	Yes	Yes	No	100 x 60
114	South Cheshire College	Crewe	No	Yes	No	100 x 60
124	The Edge Hockey Centre	Wilmslow	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
125	The King's School (Westminster Road)	Macclesfield	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
128	The Macclesfield Academy	Macclesfield	Yes	Yes	No	100 x 65
141	Wilmslow High School	Wilmslow	Yes	Yes	Yes	105 x 60
143	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club	Wilmslow	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
162	Tytherington High School	Macclesfield	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 x 60

The majority of full size AGPs are located in Congleton and Macclesfield (both contain four), whereas there are no full size pitches in Poynton and only one is located in Knutsford. Two pitches service both Crewe and Nantwich, whilst three service Wilmslow.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 6.3: Full size hockey suitable AGPs by location

Analysis area	Full size hockey suitable AGPs
Congleton	4
Crewe	2
Knutsford	1
Macclesfield	4
Nantwich	2
Poynton	-
Wilmslow	3
<b>Cheshire East</b>	<b>16</b>

In addition, there are also 15 smaller sized AGPs suitable for hockey use, as seen in the table below. Although too small to host competitive matches, they can be accessed to accommodate some training demand, especially the larger ones such as Ruskin Community high School and Terra Nova School. Of the pitches, ten are available to the community and nine of those are floodlit (only the Oaks Academy is not).

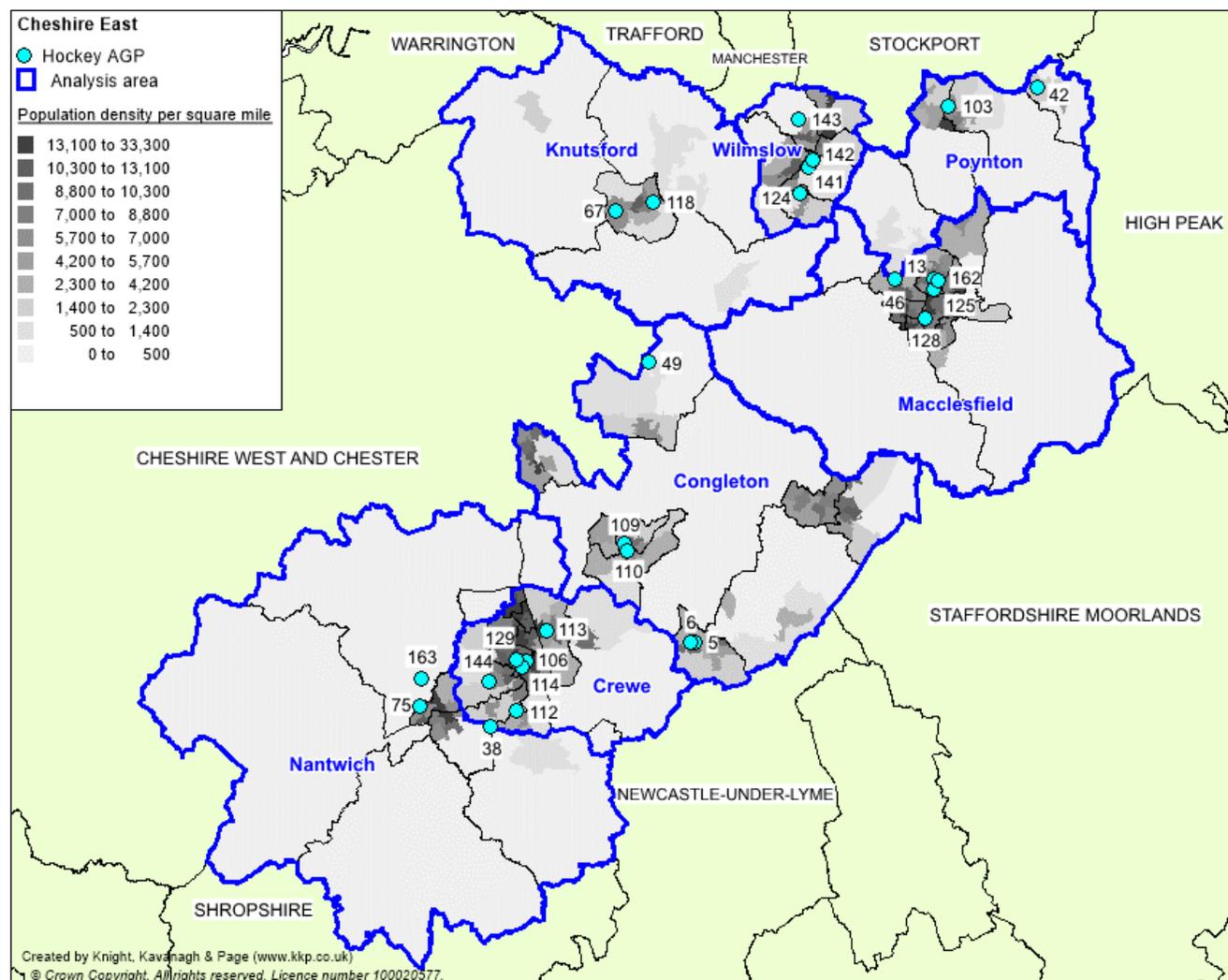
Table 6.4: Summary of smaller sized hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Comm use?	Flood-lit?	Size (metres)
13	Beech Hall School	Macclesfield	No	Yes	30 x 20
42	Disley Amalgamated Sports Club	Poynton	Yes	Yes	45 x 35
49	Goostrey Playing Fields	Congleton	Yes	Yes	45 x 35
90	Nantwich Primary Academy	Nantwich	No	No	70 x 40
94	Nuffield Fitness and Wellbeing Centre	Knutsford	No	Yes	30 x 20
97	Parkroyal Community School	Macclesfield	No	No	40 x 30
103	Poynton Sports Club	Poynton	Yes	Yes	60 x 30
106	Ruskin Community High School	Crewe	Yes	Yes	78 x 40
113	Sir William Stanier Leisure Centre	Crewe	Yes	Yes	55 x 35
118	St John's Wood Community School	Knutsford	No	No	25 x 20
122	Terra Nova School	Congleton	Yes	Yes	80 x 45
127	The King's School (Fence Avenue)	Macclesfield	No	No	80 x 45
129	The Oaks Academy	Crewe	Yes	No	85 x 30
142	Wilmslow Leisure Centre	Crewe	Yes	Yes	25 x 20

Please refer to Figure 6.1 overleaf for the location of all hockey suitable AGPs, regardless of size.

# CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 6.1: Location of hockey suitable AGPs in Cheshire East



# CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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## ***Future developments***

A planning approval has been granted at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) that will involve replacing the existing sand-based AGP with a new sand-based AGP as well as a clubhouse that will include changing rooms and catering facilities. It is expected that the new provision will enable Triton HC to make the site its home base, using it for the majority of its matches whilst accessing Alsager Leisure Centre as an overspill venue.

The King's School has planning approval to move from its existing three sites at Cumberland Ave, Fence Ave and Westminster Road onto one site at Derby Fields. The approved plans will provide two full size, floodlit, sand-based AGPs as part of its consolidation to Derby Fields. This is to replace the existing pitches at Westminster Road. It is hoped by the School that a double pitch site will encourage a club to make it a home base, rather than just using it as a secondary venue. Conversations are ongoing with Alderley Edge HC and Macclesfield HC regarding this.

## ***Management***

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

- ◀ Fallibroome Academy
- ◀ Malbank School & Sixth Form College
- ◀ Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus)
- ◀ Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre (Girls)
- ◀ Sandbach School (Boys)
- ◀ South Cheshire College
- ◀ The King's School (Westminster Road)
- ◀ The Macclesfield Academy
- ◀ Tytherington High School
- ◀ Wilmslow High School

Alsager Leisure Centre, Knutsford Leisure Centre and Shavington Leisure Centre are also located at educational sites; however, Everybody Sport and Recreation manages them under a dual use agreement. 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 26 years remaining.

As for the remaining pitches, the respective clubs manage both Crewe Vagrants Sports Club and Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club internally. Crewe Vagrants Sports Club is owned, whereas Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club is leased from the Council (25 years remaining).

## ***Availability***

Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (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 25 and a half hours during the peak period and seven pitches available throughout (34 hours).

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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The King's School (Westminster Road) is open for the least amount of time (25.5 hours), partly due to limited opening hours during the weekend. It must also be noted that, despite extensive opening hours, Sandbach School and Sixth Form College (Girls), South Cheshire College (both 31.5 hours) and Malbank School and Sixth Form College (29 hours) are not floodlit and this therefore impacts on the amount of use that can be accommodated.

Despite theoretically being available to the community for the full 34 hours during the peak period, Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) is currently limited to existing club users and therefore will not be hired out for any additional use over what is presently received. The University is selling the site and a replacement sand-based AGP is expected to be provided under new management with different community use aspects.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 6.5: Availability of full size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Comments	Hockey club users
5	Alsager Leisure Centre	29	Reserved for private 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. No floodlighting is allowed on a Sunday.	Triton HC
6	Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus)	34	Theoretically available to the community from 09:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 20:00 Saturday and Sunday, however, bookings are only taken from select users and must be block bookings.	Triton HC
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.	Crewe Vagrants HC
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.	Alderley Edge HC
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.	Knutsford HC
75	Malbank School and 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.	-

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Comments	Hockey club users
109	Sandbach High School and 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.	Sandbach HC
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.	Sandbach HC
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	South Cheshire College	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.	Alderley Edge HC
125	The King's School (Westminster Road)	25.5	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 12:00 until 21:00 Saturday to Sunday.	Alderley Edge HC; Macclesfield HC; Wilmslow HC
128	The Macclesfield Academy	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 ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Comments	Hockey club users
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.	Alderley Edge HC
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.	Wilmslow HC
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.	Macclesfield HC

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Both Alsager Leisure Centre and Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) are accessed by Triton HC, which splits its usage across the two sites. That being said, the majority of usage is expected to transfer to Manchester Metropolitan University should development plans go ahead.

The Edge Hockey Centre, the King's School (Westminster Road), Fallibroome Academy and Wilmslow High School are all accessed by Alderley Edge HC. The Club uses the Edge Hockey Centre as its main venue and the others as secondary venues.

The King's School (Westminster Road) is also accessed by Wilmslow HC and Macclesfield HC as a secondary venue. Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club is the main pitch used by Wilmslow HC, whereas Tytherington High School is the main pitch used by Macclesfield HC.

Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre (Girls) and Sandbach School (Boys) are both accessed by Sandbach HC. The former is generally used for matches, whereas the latter is used for training.

Crewe Vagrants Sports Club and Knutsford Leisure Centre are accessed by Crewe Vagrants HC and Knutsford HC respectively, with the former provided with priority access.

To reiterate, Malbank School and Sixth Form College, Shavington Leisure Centre, South Cheshire College and Macclesfield Academy are not accessed by hockey clubs; however, that is not to say that they are unused. Usage of sand-based AGPs is also common for football and all full size pitches within Cheshire East have recorded football activity taking place on them. The majority of this use is for training purposes, although sites such as Shavington Leisure Centre also run small-sided leagues that take further potential capacity away from hockey users.

Both Malbank School and Sixth Form College and South Cheshire College are without floodlighting, which impacts on availability and makes them less desirable for hockey club access, especially for midweek training purposes. The latter is also without hockey goals, as is Macclesfield Academy, which therefore make hockey use impossible. Shavington Leisure Centre is considered poor quality and thus unsuitable for hockey use.

### **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.

The following table indicates when each full size pitch was installed or last resurfaced within Cheshire East, together with an agreed quality rating following non-technical assessments and user consultation.

*Table 6.6: Age and quality of full size hockey suitable AGPs*

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
5	Alsager Leisure Centre	Congleton	1995	Poor
6	Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus)	Congleton	1990	Poor
38	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club	Nantwich	2013	Good

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
46	Fallibroome Academy	Macclesfield	2005	Standard
67	Knutsford Leisure Centre	Knutsford	2003	Poor
75	Malbank School and Sixth Form College	Nantwich	2001	Poor
109	Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre (Girls)	Congleton	2004	Standard
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	Congleton	2003	Standard
112	Shavington Leisure Centre	Crewe	2004	Poor
114	South Cheshire College	Crewe	2011	Good
124	The Edge Hockey Centre	Wilmslow	2011	Good
125	The King's School (Westminster Road)	Macclesfield	2012	Good
128	The Macclesfield Academy	Macclesfield	1990	Poor
141	Wilmslow High School	Wilmslow	2007	Standard
143	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club	Wilmslow	2007	Standard
162	Tytherington High School	Macclesfield	2007	Standard

As evidenced above, there is a clear need for a number of AGPs to be resurfaced. The following facilities have exceeded their recommended lifespan:

- ✦ Alsager Leisure Centre
- ✦ Knutsford Leisure Centre
- ✦ Malbank School and Sixth Form College
- ✦ Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus)
- ✦ Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre
- ✦ Sandbach School
- ✦ Shavington Leisure Centre
- ✦ The Macclesfield Academy

Of these, Alsager Leisure Centre, Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus), Knutsford Leisure Centre, Malbank School and Sixth Form College, Shavington Leisure Centre and the Macclesfield Academy are rated as poor quality, with issues such as wear and tear, worn line markings and poor drainage prevalent.

As previously mentioned, Malbank School and Sixth Form College, Shavington Leisure Centre and the Macclesfield Academy are without hockey use, whereas quality issues at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) will be corrected once the planned redevelopment of the pitch goes ahead.

Fallibroome Academy, Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre and Sandbach School are assessed as standard quality, despite their age, as there are less signs of wear and tear. Nevertheless, refurbishment in the near future is still recommended to prevent further deterioration and to ensure long-term accessibility.

All remaining pitches are within their lifespan, with Crewe Vagrants Sports Club, South Cheshire College (albeit there is no hockey use), the Edge Hockey Centre and the King's School (Westminster Road) assessed as good quality. If not already in place, a sinking fund should be set up at these sites to ensure funds are available for ongoing repairs as well as eventual resurfacing.

# CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

## *Ancillary provision*

All full size AGPs within Cheshire East are serviced by changing provision that ranges from basic changing facilities and toilets at the majority of sites to more extensive clubhouse facilities that include a bar and kitchen at sites such as Crewe Vagrants Sports Club. A large clubhouse also services Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club; however, the building is currently being renovated due to its dated interior.

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 Triton HC uses Alsager Cricket Club and 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.

Alderley Edge HC rates the changing provision servicing the Edge Hockey Centre as poor quality, as does Sandbach HC in relation to the facilities at Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre (Girls). Club users rate all remaining changing facilities as standard.

Crewe Vagrants Sports Club is currently attempting to acquire funding to improve its car park, both in terms of quality and size.

## **6.3: Demand**

There are currently seven clubs fielding teams in Cheshire East, all of which are large clubs with several senior and junior teams for both males and females. Combined, the clubs contribute a membership of 402 senior men, 280 senior women and 1,092 juniors and consist of 28 senior men's teams, 24 senior women's teams and 25 junior teams.

Please note that these figures, and the table below, only take into consideration teams playing within Cheshire East and therefore do not account for teams fielded by the same clubs in other local authorities (exported demand).

*Table 6.7: Summary of teams playing in Cheshire East*

Name of club	No. of teams			No. of members		
	Men's	Women's	Junior	Men's	Women's	Junior
Alderley Edge HC	7	7	6	109	57	470
Crewe Vagrants HC	4	4	5	66	61	105
Knutsford HC	3	1	1	50	13	53
Macclesfield HC	4	4	4	53	41	99
Sandbach HC	2	1	3	20	33	144
Triton HC	4	3	4	45	28	136
Wilmslow HC	4	4	2	59	47	85
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>1092</b>

Alderley Edge HC is the largest club, both in terms of its number of teams (20) and its number of members (636). The smallest club is Knutsford HC (five teams and 116 members). The majority of teams are fielded in Wilmslow (25), whereas the least amount of teams play in Poynton (none) as it is not serviced by a pitch. There are five teams playing in Knutsford, 13 in Nantwich, 17 in Congleton and 18 in Macclesfield. No teams play in Crewe (as Crewe Vagrants HC plays in Nantwich).

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Table 6.8: Summary of teams by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of teams		
	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior
Congleton	6	4	7
Crewe	-	-	-
Knutsford	3	1	1
Macclesfield	6	6	6
Nantwich	4	4	5
Poynton	-	-	-
Wilmslow	9	9	6
<b>Cheshire East</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>

### **Participation trends**

Of the current clubs, Alderley Edge, Crewe Vagrants, Sandbach and Triton hockey clubs have all increased their number of members over the previous three years, whereas only Knutsford HC has experienced a reduction after its second senior women's team folded.

Junior participation has also experienced an overall increase within the clubs during this time span. Alderley Edge, Crewe Vagrants, Knutsford, Sandbach and Wilmslow hockey clubs have grown their junior sections, whilst only Macclesfield HC consists of less junior members now than it did in 2013.

Nationally, since 2012, hockey has seen a 65% increase of juniors taking up hockey within the club environment. This increase is expected to continue across all age groups in the future, especially given the success of Great Britain's women's team in the 2016 Rio Olympics.

### **Exported demand**

Wilmslow HC occasionally accesses Cheadle Hulme School, in Stockport. This is due to a lack of capacity at Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club and due to the Club competing with Alderley Edge HC and Macclesfield HC for access to its preferred secondary venues, the King's School (Westminster Road) or Wilmslow High School.

Although not displaced from Cheshire East, it must also be noted that Wilmslow HC fields teams in Macclesfield, at the King's School, despite the club being based in Wilmslow and the same applies to Alderley Edge HC. This is seen as less than ideal by the clubs due to the travel involved.

Manchester Metropolitan University previously fielded its teams at its Alsager Campus until the site closed down to its students. Demand then transferred to Crewe Vagrants Sports Club but matches are now played at venues in and around Manchester. The University, given the uncertainty surrounding the future of its Crewe Campus, prefers this.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

### ***Latent demand***

Clubs were asked if they had more AGPs would they have more teams. Wilmslow HC reports that it could have an additional eight teams (four senior and four junior), Alderley Edge HC four teams (two senior and two junior), Macclesfield HC two teams (both senior) and Crewe Vagrants HC an additional one team (senior). This suggests that access to pitches is a major issue affecting the growth of the clubs.

### ***Future demand***

Growing participation is a key aim within EH's strategic plan and key drivers include working with clubs, universities and schools, working with regional and local leagues, developing opportunities for over 40s and delivering a quality programme of competition. Overall, EH has an aim to double participation over the next ten years.

EH applies a growth rate to current affiliated membership numbers to determine anticipated increases in future demand. The predicted growth rate for Cheshire East based clubs is 15% and the table below uses this to determine potential growth.

*Table 6.9: Predicted future club based membership based on growth rate*

Club name	Current senior members	Future senior members (15% growth rate)	Current junior members	Future junior members (15% growth rate)	Total future members
Alderley Edge HC	166	191	470	540	731
Crewe Vagrants HC	127	146	105	121	267
Knutsford HC	63	72	53	61	133
Macclesfield HC	94	108	99	114	222
Sandbach HC	53	61	144	166	227
Triton HC	73	84	136	156	240
Wilmslow HC	106	122	85	98	210
<b>Total</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>1092</b>	<b>1256</b>	<b>2030</b>

In addition, five of the Cheshire East based clubs express future demand. Both Alderley Edge HC and Sandbach HC aspire to increase by one senior men's and one senior women's team as well as one junior team, whereas Knutsford HC reports that it expects to grow an additional two junior teams. This growth amounts to 33 members at Alderley Edge HC, 32 members at Sandbach HC and 20 members at Knutsford HC.

Triton HC and Crewe Vagrants HC also report future demand, however, neither club quantifies their potential growth. Crewe Vagrants HC states that it cannot forecast its increase as there is no further capacity on its pitch, meaning any new teams will have to play elsewhere. Triton HC does not quantify its increase because of the uncertainty surrounding Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus).

### ***Usage***

The table below shows all available sites with full size hockey suitable AGP provision and a summary of use at each site against the peak period (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00).

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 6.9: Summary of usage

Site ID	Site	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Hockey Club users	Other usage	Training capacity comments (mid-week)	Match capacity comments (weekend)
5	Alsager Leisure Centre	29	Triton HC	Football training	Eight hours of available capacity exist during the week, the majority of which is on Mondays and Fridays. The pitch is accessed on a Saturday by Triton HC for junior training, whilst all midweek demand is football related.	Used by Triton HC for six hours on a Saturday and four hours on a Sunday. No further weekend demand is recorded.
6	Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus)	34	Triton HC	-	No available capacity is considered to exist as bookings are only taken from select users. Currently, the site is used by Triton HC for two hours on a Wednesday for training purposes. No other midweek demand is known to exist.	Used by Triton HC for two hours on a Saturday. No further weekend demand is recorded.
38	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club	34	Crewe Vagrants HC	Football training; Small sided football leagues	Used by Crewe Vagrants HC for four hours on a Tuesday and three hours on a Wednesday. Remaining midweek capacity is taken up by football, although the hockey club has priority access if it needs to increase its usage.	Used by Crewe Vagrants HC to capacity (eight hours) on a Saturday and two hours on a Sunday. All remaining capacity on a Sunday is used to host small-sided football leagues.
46	Fallibroome Academy	29	Alderley Edge HC	Football training	Currently unused for training purposes by hockey clubs. Some spare capacity exists within the peak period on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, with remaining usage coming from football clubs.	Used by Alderley Edge HC for six hours on a Saturday. No further use or Sunday use is recorded within the peak period, although Sunday usage is recorded afterwards in the form of a small-sided football league.
67	Knutsford Leisure Centre	30	Knutsford HC	Football training	Used by Knutsford HC for two hours on a Wednesday. Spare capacity is considered to exist across each week day for an increase in demand, with only some football use otherwise recorded.	Used by Knutsford HC for four hours on a Saturday and for two hours on a Sunday. No further weekend use is recorded.
75	Malbank School and Sixth Form College	29	-	Football training	No hockey use recorded. Limited football demand exists although availability is restricted as there is no floodlighting.	Unused for hockey purposes and completely unused most weekends.
109	Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre (Girls)	31.5	Sandbach HC	-	Currently unused by hockey clubs for training purposes due to a lack of floodlighting. No other regular demand is recorded during mid-week.	Used by Sandbach HC for four hours on a Saturday and for two hours on a Sunday. No other regular weekend demand is recorded.
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	29	Sandbach HC	Football training	Accessed by Sandbach HC for two hours on Thursdays for training purposes. The majority of remaining capacity is taken up by football, although one hour remains on Mondays and three hours remain on Fridays.	Unused for hockey purposes and completely unused most weekends.
112	Shavington Leisure Centre	34	-	Football training; Small sided football leagues	No hockey use recorded. Only minimal availability exists as the pitch is used to capacity via football during mid-week.	Unused for hockey purposes. Used to host small-sided football leagues on a Sunday from 2pm. No regular demand is recorded on a Saturday.
114	South Cheshire College	31.5	-	Football training; American football training	No hockey use recorded. Limited football demand exists although availability is restricted as there is no floodlighting.	Unused for hockey purposes and completely unused most weekends.
124	The Edge Hockey Centre	34	Alderley Edge HC	-	Alderley Edge HC uses the site to capacity during midweek for training purposes.	Used by Alderley Edge HC to capacity (eight hours) on a Saturday and six hours on a Sunday. No further weekend use is recorded.

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Site ID	Site	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Hockey Club users	Other usage	Training capacity comments (mid-week)	Match capacity comments (weekend)
125	The King's School (Westminster Road)	25.5	Alderley Edge HC; Macclesfield HC; Wilmslow HC	Football training	No regular access is recorded by hockey clubs for training purposes although it is heavily used by the School for this reason. Spare capacity exists on Mondays and Fridays as well as two slots on Tuesdays. All recorded community use during midweek is football related.	Used by all three clubs to capacity (eight hours) on a Saturday and for four hours on a Sunday. No further weekend use is recorded.
128	The Macclesfield Academy	31.5	-	Football training; Small sided football leagues	Around 14 hours of available capacity exist during the week, although this unsuitable for hockey clubs due to no hockey goals being provided. All current use is football related.	Unused for hockey purposes and only sporadically used for football purposes.
141	Wilmslow High School	34	Alderley Edge HC	Football training; Tennis coaching; Fitness classes;	Used for training by Alderley Edge HC although irregular. Remaining capacity used by football clubs although sporadic use comes from tennis and fitness clubs. The only midweek capacity remaining exists on Fridays.	Used by Alderley Edge HC for four hours on a Saturday. No other, regular demand is recorded.
143	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club	34	Wilmslow HC	Football training; Lacrosse training;	Used by Wilmslow HC for two hours on both Tuesdays and Wednesday for training purposes. Remaining capacity is taken up by football users as well as lacrosse demand. Minimal capacity remains on Fridays.	Used by Wilmslow HC to capacity (eight hours) on a Saturday and for four hours on a Sunday. No other regular demand is recorded.
162	Tytherington High School	34	Macclesfield HC	Football training	Used by Macclesfield HC on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays for training purposes. Remaining capacity is taken up by football users, although some minimal capacity remains on Mondays and Fridays.	Used by Macclesfield HC to capacity (eight hours) on a Saturday and for four hours on a Sunday. No other regular demand is recorded.

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### 6.4: Supply and demand analysis

Despite spare capacity being shown overall for matchplay purposes, it is not realistic to aggregate this into a general oversupply of hockey pitches. The landscape of the sport in Cheshire East shows that some pitches are leased by clubs, and the travel time between pitches can be greater than in other local authorities, meaning it is not necessarily viable or feasible for a club to transfer demand to sites with potential spare capacity.

The picture is also different when considering training demand as many pitches are used to capacity during midweek, whilst those that have capacity are generally only available on Mondays and Fridays, which are undesirable times given their close proximity to weekend matches. This means that clubs such as Alderley Edge, Wilmslow and Macclesfield hockey clubs have limited availability for an increase in training demand.

The priority, therefore, should be to protect or mitigate the loss of any of the 12 pitches currently in use by hockey clubs. To that end, it is imperative that Alsager Leisure Centre and Knutsford Leisure Centre are refurbished and continue to provide a hockey suitable surface as they have both reached the end of their lifespan, have been assessed as poor quality and are in use by hockey clubs. Likewise, both Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre (girls) and Sandbach School (boys) will require imminent resurfacing as they are beyond ten years old albeit currently assessed as standard quality.

Precedence should also be placed on accommodating expressed exported, latent and future demand as well as increased demand stemming from growth rates, which, in at least one aspect, relates to each club based in Cheshire East. Knutsford, Triton and Sandbach hockey clubs report that all of their demand can be accommodated on their current pitches, however, Alderley Edge, Crewe Vagrants, Macclesfield and Wilmslow hockey clubs will have to utilise spare capacity at alternative venues or new provision will be required.

Shavington Leisure Centre is considered to have spare capacity for an increase in usage on a Saturday and offers a viable option for Crewe Vagrants HC, should the Club be willing to access a secondary venue, although the pitch will have to be resurfaced as it is currently unsuitable for hockey use due to its poor quality. The Macclesfield Academy provides an option to the remaining clubs, although hockey goals will need to be provided and again quality will need to improve. The location is also not ideal for the Wilmslow based clubs (Alderley Edge HC and Wilmslow HC).

#### ***Converting sand-based AGPs to 3G***

Since the introduction of 3G pitches and given their popularity for football, providers have seen this as a way of replacing their tired sand-based carpet and generating money from hiring out a 3G pitch to football clubs and commercial football providers. This has come at the expense of hockey, with players now travelling further distances to gain access to a suitable pitch and many teams being displaced from their preferred geographical area.

Due to its impact on hockey, it is appropriate to ensure that sufficient sand-based AGPs are retained for the playing development of hockey. To that end, a change of surface will require a planning application and, as part of that, the applicants will have to show that there is sufficient provision available for hockey in the locality. Advice from Sport England and England Hockey should also be sought prior to any planning application being submitted.

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It should also be noted that, if a surface is changed, it could require the existing floodlighting to be changed and, in some instances, noise attenuation measures may need to be put in place.

The 3G surface is limited in the range of sport that can be played or taught on it. Those proposing a conversion should take advice from the appropriate sports' governing bodies or refer to Sport England guidance 'Selecting the Right Artificial Grass Surface which can be found on Sport England's website:

<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/artificial-sports-surfaces/>

### Hockey summary

- ◀ **Due to the landscape of hockey within Cheshire East, the priority should be to protect or mitigate the loss of any of the 12 pitches currently in use by hockey clubs.**
- ◀ **Precedence should also be placed on accommodating expressed displaced, latent and future demand, which, in at least one aspect, relates to each club.**
- ◀ There are currently 16 full size hockey suitable AGPs in Cheshire East. The majority of the pitches are floodlit, although Malbank School and Sixth Form College, Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre (Girls) and South Cheshire College are not.
- ◀ All of the full size AGPs are available for community use, however, four are currently unused for hockey purposes and two are without hockey goals.
- ◀ In addition, there are also 15 smaller sized AGPs suitable for hockey use, which, although too small to host competitive matches, can be used to accommodate some training demand.
- ◀ A planning application is in place at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) that will involve replacing the existing sand-based AGP with a new sand-based AGP as well as a clubhouse that will include changing rooms and catering facilities.
- ◀ The King's School plans to provide two full size, floodlit AGPs as part of its consolidation to Derby Fields, rather than the one full size and one smaller sized pitch that currently service the School.
- ◀ All full size AGPs are readily available to the community during the peak period, as identified by Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM).
- ◀ Eight of the full size AGPs have reached the end of their lifespan and therefore require resurfacing.
- ◀ There are currently seven clubs fielding teams in Cheshire East. Combined, the clubs contribute a membership of 402 senior men, 280 senior women and 1,092 juniors and consist of 28 senior men's teams, 24 senior women's teams and 25 junior teams.
- ◀ Wilmslow HC expresses exported demand as it occasionally accesses Cheadle Hulme High School, in Stockport, due a lack of pitch capacity within Cheshire East.
- ◀ Wilmslow, Alderley Edge, Macclesfield and Crewe Vagrants hockey clubs express latent demand in that they could field more teams if more pitches were available to them.
- ◀ Five of the Cheshire East based clubs express future demand, which, where quantified, equates to four senior teams and four junior teams.
- ◀ EH applies a growth rate to current affiliated membership numbers and for Cheshire East this is 15%, which results in a predicted combined growth of 256 members to 2,030 members in the future.

# CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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## PART 7: LACROSSE

### 7.1: 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 (110x60 metres). For community clubs, fixtures run from September through until April.

Participation in lacrosse in Cheshire East is currently limited to two clubs located to the north of the Borough, however, English Lacrosse are keen to expand further, specifically into Macclesfield and the surrounding areas.

#### **Club consultation**

Both Poynton Lacrosse Club and Wilmslow Lacrosse Club were consulted via an online survey.

### 7.2: Supply

There are seven senior lacrosse pitches in Cheshire East located across three sites, all of which are available for community use. There are four pitches at Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club, two pitches at Poynton Sports Club and one pitch at 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 7.1: Summary of lacrosse pitches*

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of senior pitches
103	Poynton Sports Club	Poynton	2
143	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club	Wilmslow	4
249	Mount Vernon	Poynton	1

#### **Management**

Both Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club and Poynton Sports Club are managed internally by the respective clubs. Poynton Sports Club is owned, whereas Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club is leased from the Council in an agreement that has 25 years remaining. Mount Vernon is owned and managed by the Council.

Wilmslow Lacrosse Club is a club that forms part of Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club and only accesses the pitches at this site. Likewise, Poynton Lacrosse Club is a club that forms part of Poynton Sports Club; however, the Club also accesses the pitch at Mount Vernon through a yearly rental agreement.

#### **Pitch quality**

Sport England guidance does not include lacrosse and therefore quality has instead been determined via consultation with the clubs as well as through site visits on a scale of good, standard or poor.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Both Poynton Lacrosse Club and Wilmslow Lacrosse Club rate the pitches at their main grounds (Poynton Sports Club and Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club respectively) as standard quality. All pitches at these sites are considered flat, with adequate drainage, although it is acknowledged that maintenance could be improved.

In contrast, Mount Vernon is considered to poor quality by Poynton Lacrosse Club. The site suffers from drainage issues, poor grass coverage and an undulating surface that makes it dangerous for players.

### ***Ancillary facilities***

Both Poynton Sports Club and Wilmslow Phoenix Club are serviced by extensive clubhouse facilities that include numerous changing rooms, a bar, a kitchen and a large social area.

The facilities at Poynton Sports Club are considered good quality, compared to the facilities at Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club that are considered to be poor quality, albeit renovation is currently taking place to modernise the building.

There are no changing facilities servicing Mount Vernon, which is identified as an issue by Phoenix Lacrosse Club, particularly as it is currently trying to grow its female section and has increasing demand for access to the site.

### **7.3: Demand**

Poynton Lacrosse Club currently fields three senior men's teams, an u19s development team, three junior boys' teams (u16s, u14s and u12s) and one junior girls' team (u13s).

Wilmslow Lacrosse Club fields two senior men's teams, one senior women's team, an u19s development team and three junior boys' teams (u16s, u14s and u12s).

*Table 7.2: 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)
Poynton Lacrosse Club	Poynton	4	-	3	1
Wilmslow Lacrosse Club	Wilmslow	3	1	3	-

At a senior level, both clubs currently compete in the North of England Men's Lacrosse Association (NEMLA) and various cup competitions and both have been successful in recent years not only regionally but also nationally. In addition, both clubs have also produced players that play or have played internationally.

### ***Training***

Both clubs use AGPs at their home ground to accommodate the majority of training demand, particularly during winter months as this saves the grass pitches from added wear. Poynton Sports Club contains a smaller sized sand-based AGP that measures 60x30 metres, whereas Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club contains a full sized sand-based AGP (100x60 metres). Both facilities are floodlit and neither has capacity issues.

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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### ***Latent demand***

Poynton Lacrosse Club illustrated that it could field up to an additional four junior teams if it had more available pitches. This suggests that 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.

### ***Exported demand***

Due to the format of the competition for u19s teams, both Poynton Lacrosse Club and Wilmslow Lacrosse Club fields its development team outside of Cheshire East at a central venue in Trafford. Although technically displaced demand, this is preferred by the clubs due to the level of competition accessed and the lack of an alternative.

### ***Future demand***

Poynton Lacrosse Club expresses high levels of future demand, particular in terms of 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 over the next three years.

Wilmslow Lacrosse Club also expresses future demand equating to two junior teams, both of which may be junior girls' teams. The Club currently has a number of females participating in training sessions and playing as part of junior boys' teams, albeit there is not currently enough demand for a girls' only team to be created.

## **7.4: Supply and demand analysis**

As Mount Vernon is assessed as poor quality, improvements are required to sustain future use of the pitch for Poynton Lacrosse Club.

Consideration must also be given to providing Poynton Lacrosse Club with access to more pitches given the high levels of latent and future demand it expresses. An alternative to creating new grass pitches for the Club could be to encourage access to a full size 3G pitch, which is becoming increasingly common for lacrosse clubs nationally.

As Wilmslow Lacrosse Club does not express any latent demand and as it has access to more pitches, it is considered that the Club has enough to provision to accommodate both current and future demand.

To conclude, a shortfall of pitches is identified in relation to Poynton Lacrosse Club, whereas supply servicing Wilmslow Lacrosse Club is deemed to be sufficient.

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### Lacrosse summary

- ◀ **Consideration must be given to providing Poynton Lacrosse Club with access to more pitches given the high levels of latent and future demand it expresses.**
- ◀ **As Wilmslow Lacrosse Club does not express any latent demand and as it has access to more pitches, it is considered that the Club has enough to provision to accommodate both current and future demand.**
- ◀ There are seven senior lacrosse pitches located across three sites (Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club, Poynton Sports Club and Mount Vernon), all of which are available for community use.
- ◀ Both Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club and Poynton Sports Club are managed internally by the respective clubs, whereas Mount Vernon is owned and managed by the Council.
- ◀ Poynton Sports Club and Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club are rated as standard quality; Mount Vernon is considered to poor quality.
- ◀ Poynton Lacrosse Club fields three senior men's teams, an u19s development team, three junior boys' teams and one junior girls' team; Wilmslow Lacrosse Club fields two senior men's teams, one senior women's team, an u19s development team and three junior boys' teams.
- ◀ Both clubs use AGPs at their home ground to accommodate the majority of training demand, particularly during winter months as this saves the grass pitches from added wear.
- ◀ Poynton Lacrosse Club illustrates that it could field up to four additional junior teams if it had more available pitches.
- ◀ Poynton Lacrosse Club expresses future demand for one senior men's, one senior women's and two junior girls' teams, whereas Wilmslow Lacrosse Club expresses future demand equating to two junior teams.
- ◀ As Mount Vernon is assessed as poor quality, improvements are required to sustain future use of the pitch for Poynton Lacrosse 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 Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation (2015)***

The Government published its strategy for sport in December 2015. This strategy confirms the recognition and understanding that sport makes a positive difference through broader means and that it will help the sector to deliver five simple but fundamental outcomes: physical health, mental health, individual development, social and community development and economic development. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of 23 performance indicators under nine key headings, as follows:

- ◀ More people taking part in sport and physical activity.

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- ◀ More people volunteering in sport.
- ◀ More people experiencing live sport.
- ◀ Maximising international sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ A more productive sport sector.
- ◀ A more financially and organisationally sustainable sport sector.
- ◀ A more responsible sport sector.

### ***Sport England: Towards an Active Nation (2016-2021)***

Sport England has recently released its new five year strategy 'Towards an Active Nation'. The aim is to target the 28% of people who do less than 30 minutes of exercise each week and will focus on the least active groups; typically women, the disabled and people from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

Sport England will invest up to £30m on a plan to increase the number of volunteers in grassroots sport. Emphasis will be on working with a larger range of partners with less money being directed towards National Governing Bodies.

The Strategy will help deliver against the five health, social and economic outcomes set out in the Government's Sporting Future strategy.

- ◀ Physical Wellbeing
- ◀ Mental Wellbeing
- ◀ Individual Development
- ◀ Social & Community Development
- ◀ Economic Development

### ***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:

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- ◀ 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.

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 Game Strategy (2015 – 2019)***

The Football Association's (FA) National Game Strategy provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities, expenditure proposals and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a four year period. The main issues facing grassroots football are identified as:

- ◀ Sustain and Increase Participation.
- ◀ Ensure access to education sites to accommodate the game.
- ◀ Help players to be the best that they can be and provide opportunities for them to progress from grassroots to elite.
- ◀ Recruit, retain and develop a network of qualified referees
- ◀ Support clubs, leagues and other competition providers to develop a safe, inclusive and positive football experience for everyone.
- ◀ Support Clubs and Leagues to become sustainable businesses, understanding and serving the needs of players and customers.
- ◀ Improve grass pitches through the pitch improvement programme to improve existing facilities and changing rooms.
- ◀ Deliver new and improved facilities including new Football Turf Pitches.
- ◀ Work with priority Local Authorities enabling 50% of mini-soccer and youth matched to be played on high quality artificial grass pitches.

### **England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Cricket Unleashed 5 Year Plan**

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic five-year plan in 2016 (available at <http://www.cricketunleashed.com>). Its success will be measured by the number of people who play, follow or support the whole game.

The plan sets out five important headline elements and each of their key focuses, these are:

- ◀ **More Play** – make the game more accessible and inspire the next generation of players, coaches, officials and volunteers. Focus on:
  - *Clubs and leagues*
  - *Kids*
  - *Communities*
  - *Casual*
- ◀ **Great Teams** – deliver winning teams who inspire and excite through on-field performance and off-field behaviour. Focus on:
  - *Pathway*
  - *Support*
  - *Elite Teams*
  - *England Teams*
- ◀ **Inspired Fans** – put the fan at the heart of our game to improve and personalise the cricket experience for all. Focus on:
  - *Fan focus*

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- *New audiences*
- *Global stage*
- *Broadcast and digital*
- ◀ **Good Governance and Social Responsibility** – make decisions in the best interests of the game and use the power of cricket to make a positive difference. Focus on:
  - *Integrity*
  - *Community programmes*
  - *Our environments*
  - *One plan*
- ◀ **Strong Finance and Operations** – increase the game’s revenues, invest our resources wisely and administer responsibly to secure the growth of the game. Focus on:
  - *People*
  - *Revenue and reach*
  - *Insight*
  - *Operations*

### ***The Rugby Football Union National Facilities Strategy (2013-2017)***

The RFU National Facility Strategy 2013-2017 provides a framework for development of high-quality, well-managed facilities that will help to strengthen member clubs and grow the game in communities around them. In conjunction with partners, this strategy will assist and support clubs and other organisations, so that they can continue to provide quality opportunities for all sections of the community to enjoy the game. It sets out the broad facility needs of the sport and identifies investment priorities to the game and its key partners. It identifies that with 1.5 million players there is a continuing need to invest in community club facilities in order to:

- ◀ Create a platform for growth in club rugby participation and membership, especially with a view to exploiting the opportunities afforded by RWC 2015.
- ◀ Ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of rugby clubs, through supporting not only their playing activity but also their capacity to generate revenue through a diverse range of activities and partnerships.

In summary the priorities for investment which have met the needs of the game for the Previous period remain valid:

- ◀ Increase the provision of changing rooms and clubhouses that can sustain concurrent adult and junior male and female activity at clubs
- ◀ Improve the quality and quantity of natural turf pitches and floodlighting
- ◀ Increase the provision of artificial grass pitches that deliver wider game development

It is also a high priority for the RFU to target investment in the following:

- ◀ Upgrade and transform social, community and catering facilities, which can support the generation of additional revenues
- ◀ Facility upgrades, which result in an increase in energy-efficiency, in order to reduce the running costs of clubs
- ◀ Pitch furniture, including rugby posts and pads, pitch side spectator rails and grounds maintenance equipment

### ***England Hockey (EH) - A Nation Where Hockey Matters (2013-2017)***

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EH have a clear vision, a powerful philosophy and five core objectives that all those who have a role in advancing Hockey can unite behind. With UK Sport and Sport England's investment, and growing commercial revenues, EH are ambitious about how they can take the sport forward in Olympic cycles and beyond.

*“The vision is for England to be a ‘Nation Where Hockey Matters’. A nation where hockey is talked about at dinner tables, playgrounds and public houses, up and down the country. A nation where the sport is on the back pages of our newspapers, where children dream of scoring a goal for England’s senior hockey team, and where the performance stirs up emotion amongst the many, not the few”*

England Hockey aspires to deepen the passion of those who play, deliver and follow sport by providing the best possible environments and the best possible experiences. Whilst reaching out to new audiences by making the sport more visible, available and relevant and through the many advocates of hockey.

Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes the sport function. EH understand the importance of volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational people can be, the more progressive Hockey can be and the more befitting the facilities can be, the more EH will achieve. The core objectives are as follows:

- ◀ Grow our Participation
- ◀ Deliver International Success
- ◀ Increase our Visibility
- ◀ Enhance our Infrastructure
- ◀ Be a strong and respected Governing Body

England Hockey has a Capital Investment Programme (CIP), that is planned to lever £5.6 million investment into hockey facilities over the next four years, underpinned by £2m million from the National Governing Body. With over 500 pitches due for refurbishment in the next 4-8 years, there will be a large focus placed on these projects through this funding stream. The current level of pitches available for hockey is believed to be sufficient for the medium term needs, however in some areas, pitches may not be in the right places in order to maximize playing opportunities.

### ***‘The right pitches in the right places<sup>23</sup>’***

In 2012, EH released its facility guidance which is intended to assist organisations wishing to build or protect hockey pitches for hockey. It identifies that many existing hockey AGPs are nearing the end of their useful life as a result of the installation boom of the 90's. Significant investment is needed to update the playing stock and protect the sport against inappropriate surfaces for hockey as a result of the rising popularity of AGPs for a number of sports. EH is seeking to invest in, and endorse clubs and hockey providers which have a sound understanding of the following:

- ◀ Single System – clubs and providers which have a good understanding of the Single System and its principles and are appropriately places to support the delivery.
- ◀ ClubsFirst accreditation – clubs with the accreditation are recognised as producing a safe effective and child friendly hockey environment

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<sup>23</sup>

<http://englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=1143&sectionTitle=The+Right+Pitches+in+the+Right+Places>

## CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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- ◀ Sustainability – hockey providers and clubs will have an approved development plan in place showing their commitment to developing hockey, retaining members and providing an insight into longer term goals. They will also need to have secured appropriate tenure.

### ***England Hockey Strategy***

EH's new Club Strategy will assist hockey clubs to retain more players and recruit new members to ultimately grow their club membership. EH will be focusing on participation growth through this strategy for the next two years. The EH Strategy is based on seven core themes. These are:

- 1 Having great leadership
- 2 Having Appropriate and Sustainable Facilities
- 3 Inspired and Effective People
- 4 Different Ways to Play
- 5 Staying Friendly, Social and Welcoming
- 6 Being Local with Strong Community Connections
- 7 Stretching and developing those who want it

### ***The Rugby Football League Facility Strategy***

The RFL's Facilities Strategy was published in 2011. The following themes have been prioritised:

- ◀ Clean, Dry, Safe & Playable
- ◀ Sustainable clubs
- ◀ Environmental Sustainability
- ◀ Geographical Spread
- ◀ Non-club Facilities

The RFL Facilities Trust website [www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk](http://www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk) provides further information on:

- ◀ The RFL Community Facility Strategy
- ◀ Clean, Dry, Safe and Playable Programme
- ◀ Pitch Size Guidance
- ◀ The RFL Performance Standard for Artificial Grass Pitches
- ◀ Club guidance on the Annual Preparation and Maintenance of the Rugby League Pitch

Further to the 2011 Strategy detail on the following specific programmes of particular relevance to pitches and facility planning are listed below and can be found via the trust link (see above):

- ◀ The RFL Pitch Improvement Programme 2013 – 2017
- ◀ Clean, Dry and Safe programmes 2013 - 2017

# CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

## APPENDIX 2: CONSULTEE LIST

Consultee	Designation	Organisation
Anthony Stewart	Club Secretary	Richmond Rovers FC
Phillip Bell	Chairman	Sandbach RUFC
Graham Evans	Chairman	Vale Juniors FC
Terry Greer	Chairman	Alsager Town FC
Jonathan Marsh	Business Director	Macclesfield RUFC
Steven Morris	Chairman	Middlewich Town FC
Jon Cockburn	Chairman	Crewe & Nantwich RUFC
Steve Parker	Chairman	Crewe FC
Tom O'Donnell	Chairman	Egerton FC
Gaynor Clifton	Club Development Manager	Congleton RUFC
Patrick Garland	President	
Ken Williams	Trustee	
Alison Williams	Trustee	
Dan Allman	Club Development Manager	Sandbach United FC
Tim Sheldon	Chairman	Holmes Chapel Hurricanes FC
Alistair Wheeler	Pitch Bookings Officer	Wilmslow Town FC
Andrea Huby	Business Manager	South Cheshire College
Natalie Lawrence	Curriculum Leader	St Thomas More High School
Paul Davies	Maintenance Officer	Shavington Academy
Paul McManus	Community Manager	Wilmslow High School
Janet Robinson	Director of Personnel	Knutsford Academy
Tony Halsall	Head Teacher	Holmes Chapel School
Janet Leigh	Director of Business	All Hallows Catholic College
Simon Malkin	Bursar	Alderley Edge School for Girls
Robert McNeill	Business Manager	Fallibroome Academy
Sarah Ruff	Sports Development Manager	Reaseheath College
Frank Feltz	Site Manager	The Oaks Academy
Elizabeth Whitehurst	Headteacher	Eaton Bank Academy
Nicki Cooper	Business Manager	Poynton High School
Neil Hurren	Strategic Lead for Sport	Manchester Metropolitan University
Dawn Litter	Manger	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club
Lee Pugh	Sports Manager	Alsager School
David Hunt	Manager	Knutsford Sports Club
Isla Connolly	Community Lettings Manager	Tytherington School
Dawn Yearsley	Personnel Manager	Ruskin High School
Alistair Denham	Head of PE	Middlewich High School
Steve Hough	Site Manager	Macclesfield College
Mike Smith	Site Manager	Malbank School and Sixth Form
Fiona Davidson	Business Manager	Sandbach School
Jonathan Spencer Pickup	Bursar	The King's School
Anthony Murray	Senior Team Leader	ANSA
Chris Greenleigh	Investment & Performance Lead	Everybody Sport and Recreation

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## APPENDIX 3: THE STEERING GROUP

Member	Designation	Organisation
Ralph Kemp	Corporate Manager (Waste and Environmental Services)	Cheshire East Council
Robert Rogers	Project Manager	
George Broughton	Parks Development Manager	
Rhian Davies	Project Support Officer	
Fiona Pudge	Planning Manager	Sport England
Paul Kelsall	County Development Manager	Cheshire FA
Alice Watson	Regional Facilities and Investment Manager	FA
Fiona Prescott	Regional Club and Facilities Manager	ECB
Mike Woollard	Club and League Development Manager	Cheshire County Cricket Board
Tom Bartram	Area Facilities Manager	RFU
Julie Longden	Relationship Manager	England Hockey