

A Playing Pitch Strategy for the Principal West Oxfordshire Settlements (Witney, Carterton, Chipping Norton)

Final Report

February 2014



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1. Introduction

1.1 Why is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) being developed and what does it seek to achieve?

West Oxfordshire is essentially a rural local authority in character, but with the principal settlements of Witney, Carterton, and Chipping Norton being subjected to significant change in the foreseeable future, as a result of planned new development. Ensuing population change will impact upon the demand for different types of sport and recreation opportunity, including for pitch sports like football, cricket, rugby and hockey. Such sports need significant areas of land to host pitches of an appropriate standard and size. In addition, pressure for new development poses a threat for playing fields and recreation grounds to be developed for alternative purposes.

A review of the supply of and demand for playing pitches will provide the opportunity to examine these pressures. It will also provide the opportunity to consider other needs and issues faced by existing clubs and teams, both now and in the foreseeable future.

The PPS therefore seeks to achieve the following:

- Generally, to provide a clear and well-argued framework for making taking decisions and actions affecting the use and development of community playing pitches into the foreseeable future.
- Specifically, to:
 - Identify ways in which the demand for playing pitches will change into the foreseeable future, and how these issues might be addressed, both generally and on a site-specific basis..
 - Consider issues relating to the quality of pitches and supporting facilities, especially in relation to the capacity of pitches to absorb the combined needs of matches, training, and casual play.
 - Identify and make recommendations to address sports and area/site-specific issues. In so doing consider where there will be demands for new facilities; or, conversely, where there are facilities that have outlived their utility.
 - Recommend standards for the provision of playing pitches to be used in local policy and decision-making.

1.2 Scope of the study

The PPS covers pitch sports that are played locally by community clubs and teams. In practice, these will be Football, Cricket, Rugby (Union), and Hockey. The PPS will initially cover the principal urban catchments Witney, Carterton, and Chipping Norton. The intention is for the PPS to be extended to cover the rest of the District, as resources permit. However, it is within the three principal urban catchments that the supply of and demand for pitch sport facilities is greatest, and which is therefore the focus of this report.

Much of the information collected on facilities was obtained through a wider open space study conducted on behalf of the District Council by external consultants. The information was obtained in a way which allows it to be used in conjunction with other information required to undertake the PPS, consistent with a methodology recommended by Sport England (explained later in this report).

Relevant interests, such as Sport England, Governing Bodies of Sport, local leagues and clubs, town and parish councils, principal schools, and the Ministry of Defence (in respect of facilities at RAF Brize Norton) have been actively engaged. The scope of the study has been defined by the District Council. Time and resources have not allowed all relevant parties a role in the actual scoping of the study, but the authors are confident that relevant issues expressed by the above interests have been covered in this report, and have helped shape findings, conclusions and recommendations.

1.3 Project steering group

A small steering group was established to guide the study, including representatives of the District Council's planning and leisure services, supported by the project consultants. The steering group did not include directly representatives of external groups simply because it became obvious at an early stage that it would be extremely difficult to arrange meetings at mutually convenient times, given other commitments. It was felt that such interests would, in any event have an opportunity to air their views through the consultation process.

1.4 Partnership approach

Notwithstanding the above, the District Council is very aware that the local supply of playing pitches is dependent on a range of providers. Elsewhere in this report the diversity of ownership of playing fields is described and is shown to span local authorities (including town and parish council), schools, clubs, and institutions (notably the MoD). It will therefore be very important for the District Council to achieve the practical support and cooperation of such providers to achieve the desired outcomes expressed in this report.

1.5 The study area

As mentioned, the study area has been defined as the catchments of the three principal towns of Witney, Carterton and Chipping Norton. These are shown on the map, and include the named town and parish councils. The evidence from this study suggests that use of pitches within these three sub areas is drawn largely from their residents. The sub areas are similar to those used for the wider open spaces study with the exception of Witney, where the parishes of North Leigh and Minster Lovell have also been included due to the existence of significant local sports provision in these two villages.

1.6 Pitch sports covered

As mentioned, the pitch sports covered by this study are: Association Football, Cricket, Rugby Union, and Hockey. Other pitch sports can be excluded either because they are:

- Non-existent in the study, and there is little prospect of there being any demand to generate and sustain teams in the longer term; or,
- Exist, but are considered to be 'curriculum' as opposed to 'community' based sport.

Examples of the former include Rugby League and American Football. In both cases there is no existing framework to allow such teams to play competitively. This is not in itself an argument for not attempting to establish such sports within the study area, but it would require an inordinate amount of time and effort that is probably best directed at other (established) sports. An example of the latter is rounders, which is a sport played at many local schools, but not by community teams.

1.7 Vision and time horizon for the PPS

The vision guiding this project is set by the Council's lead policy document: 'Shaping Futures: a sustainable community strategy for West Oxfordshire', the aim of which is to make,

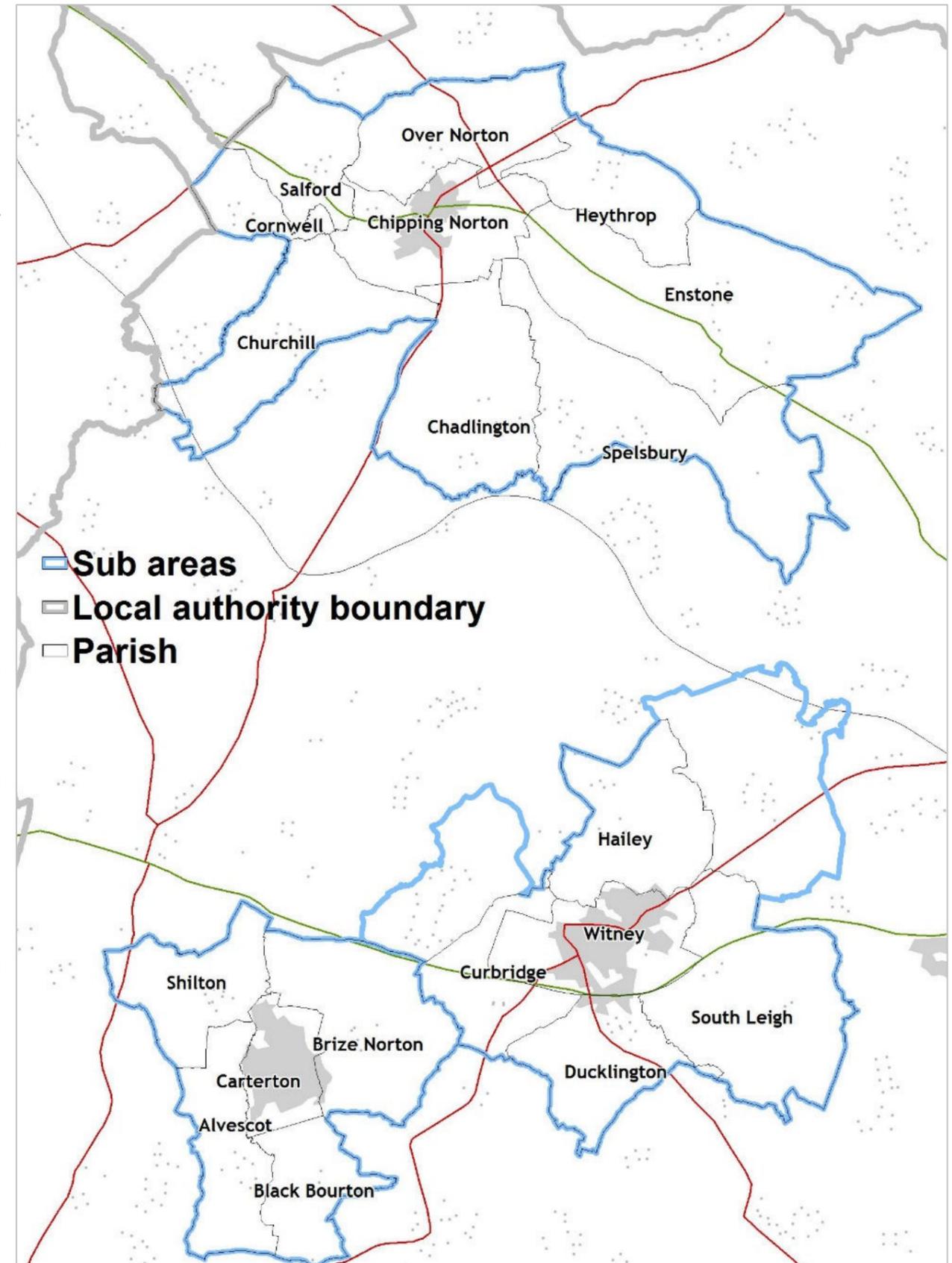
"West Oxfordshire: one of the best places to live, work and visit".

The recommendations of this PPS will be linked to this strategy in a way that demonstrates how they can help to achieve the Community Strategy's objectives. The PPS covers the period up to 2029, which is the current timescale for the draft West Oxfordshire Local Plan (The Core Strategy). Using this timeframe will allow the projections and recommendations made within this report to be consistent with key dates within the local planning framework. Timescale for conducting the study has effectively been 6 months running from late spring/early summer, and through the autumn period. This allowed site visits to be made over seasons for all the major pitch sports. It also allowed sufficient time for meaningful consultation.

1.8 This report

The remainder of this report takes to following format:

- Section 2: Explains the method statement behind the study
- Section 3: Considers the relevant local geographical and policy context- looking at the characteristics of the local population, as these between them will shape greatly the demand for and supply of local opportunities.
- Section 4: Examines the existing supply of pitches, as well as where additional facilities are planned.
- Section 5: looks at the existing demand for pitches and relates this to the existing supply, drawing conclusions based on analysis and the findings of the consultation exercise, as well as site investigations.
- Section 6: explains some principles that should be used to underpin the development of recommendations and a sports/area-specific action plan.
- Section 7: offers some standard of provision for playing pitches that could be used in policy and decision-making affecting playing pitches (perhaps as adopted planning policy).
- Section 8: offers an area/sports/site-site specific action plan.



2. Method Statement

2.1 General

The method underpinning this study is essentially based on the use of two approaches that have been recommended by Sport England. At the time of undertaking this study the detail of the method advocated by Sport England changed, and the revised method was subject to a period of consultation. As the outcome of this consultation period is uncertain, this report has combined both the old and new Sport England methods, by:

- Investigating the number of pitches available at times of peak-demand compared with the number of teams, and drawing conclusions on the adequacy of the net supply for the various sports; and,
- Examining the Carrying Capacity of the stock of pitches relative to the demands placed upon them- that is, the ability of the pitch stock to absorb pitch sport activity regularly over a period without undue wear and tear.

This study has been underpinned by a considerable amount of research and analysis based on, site visits, desk research, and consultation. The consultation itself involved a dialogue with providers and users of the local pitch stock, as well as governing body of sport and local league representatives.

The method statement is fully described in **Appendix 1**.

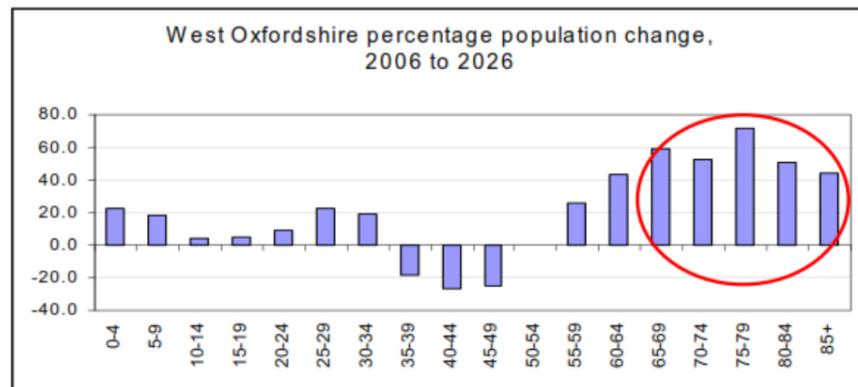
3. Context

3.1 General

West Oxfordshire is a rural area covering 71,494 hectares. With around 105,000 people living in the district, it is the second most sparsely populated of the 67 local authorities in South East England. A third of the district is in the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and 2% lies within the Green Belt surrounding Oxford city. The district's population is spread out over a wide area, however it is mainly concentrated in the towns of Witney and Carterton. Other towns are Burford, Charlbury, Chipping Norton and Woodstock. The combined population of the three sub area is 62,683, which therefore represents almost 60% of the total population. The table below provides an estimate of the detailed population breakdown for the three sub areas.

Sub area	All usual residents	0-4	5-7	8-9	10-14	15	16-7	18-19	20-24	25-29	30-44	45-59	60-64	65-74	75-84	85-89	90+
Witney	34232	2190	1213	724	1945	421	857	756	1850	2264	7289	6959	2053	2940	1946	567	258
Carterton	18071	1345	654	355	959	216	430	438	1476	1739	4377	3208	798	1142	655	164	115
Chipping Norton	10380	605	307	220	605	113	254	209	446	502	1976	2172	742	1168	689	241	131
	62683	4140	2174	1299	3509	750	1541	1403	3772	4505	13642	12339	3593	5250	3290	972	504

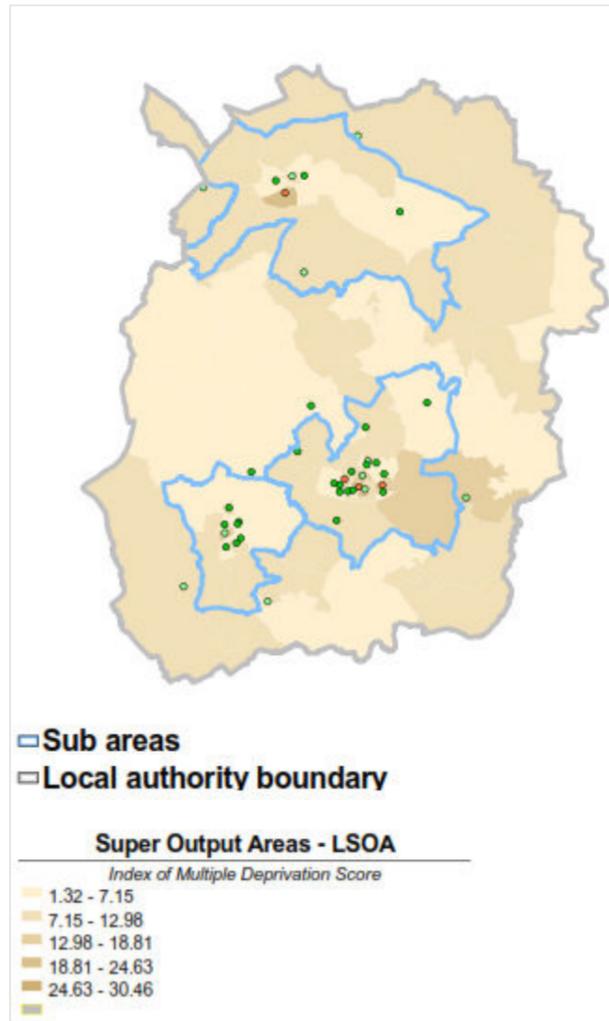
Based on 2011 Census



3.2 Population change

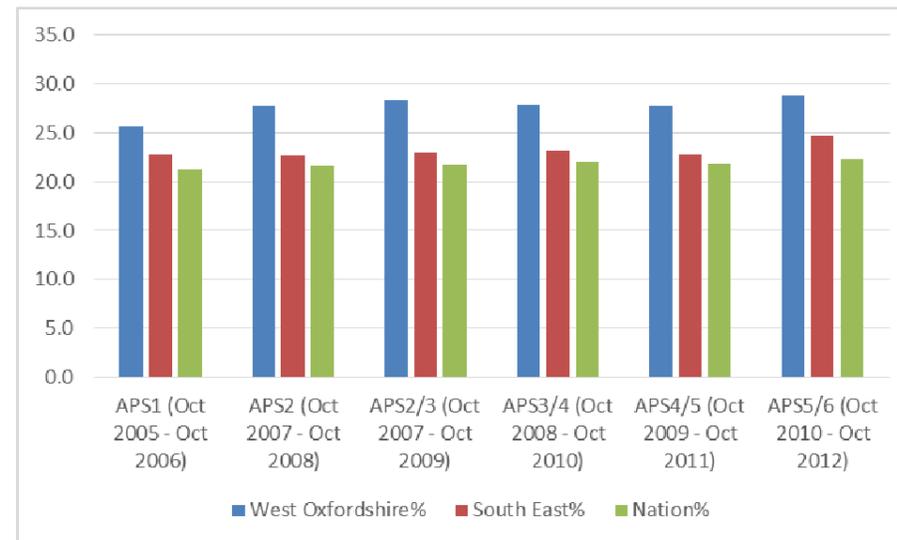
The proportion of older people in West Oxfordshire as a whole is above average with 18% aged over 65 compared with 16% nationally. Population increase due to planned growth is considered later in this section. However, Oxfordshire County Council population projections suggest that natural changes in the population will between 2006 and 2026 lead to

- an increase in number of children
- a significant increase in elderly population
- a decrease in numbers of 35-55 year olds



3.3 Deprivation and affluence

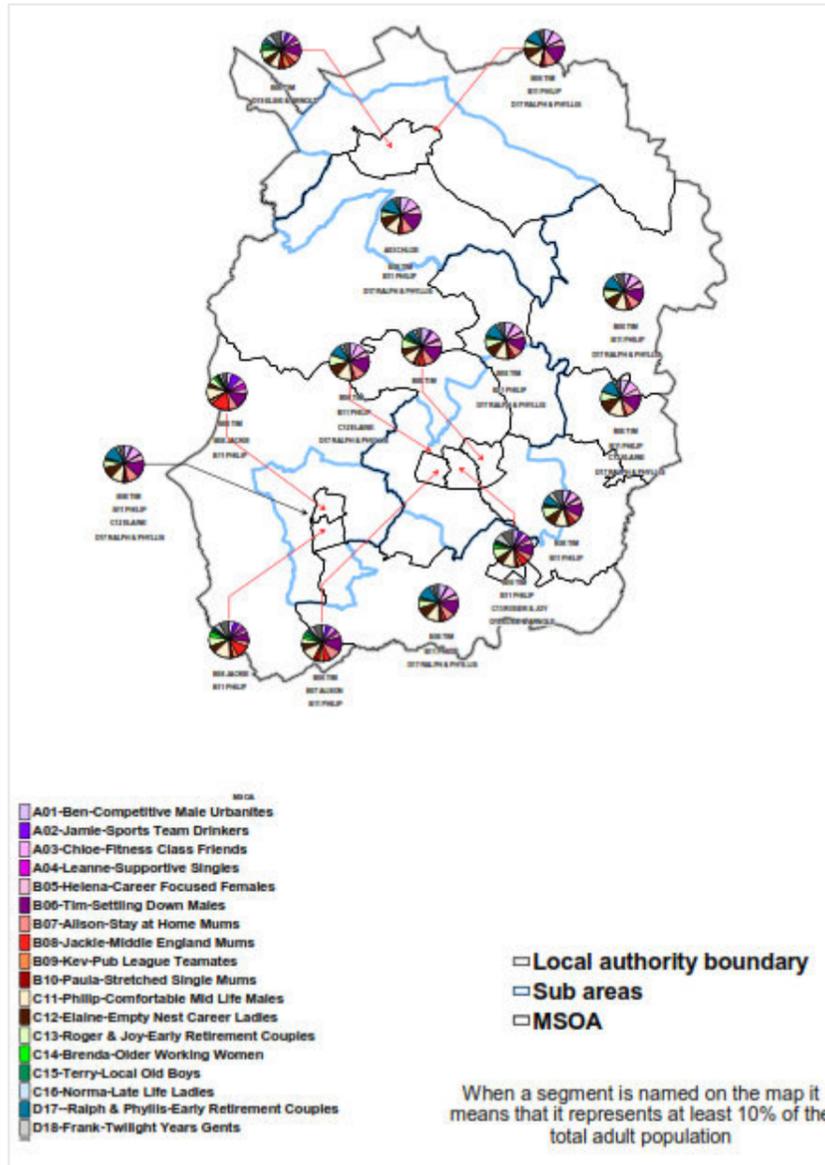
Relative to most other local authorities in England, West Oxfordshire as a whole is not especially deprived in terms of the official Government Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). The IMD is based on a range of social and economic indicators. The map on the left shows the variation in the IMD scores across the district based on Census Super Output Areas (SOA). The dots represent a traffic light scheme (with colours ranging from red, orange, light green, and dark green). On a national basis the dots categorise each SOA based on which overall percentage quartile they fall within (red being the most deprived and dark green being the least deprived quartile). As can be seen, there are no red dots in the district, but the orange dots indicate that there are a handful of areas in sub areas falling in the 50-75% quartile.



3.4 Participation

Sport England conducts annual Active People surveys. These are sample surveys that measure adult (16 years +) participation in sport. The chart on the left shows adult participation in at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity sport (at least 3 sessions a week) by year. It will be seen that overall participation in West Oxfordshire is consistently higher than the national and regional averages.

The map on the left takes some of the past findings of these surveys and applies them to Census Middle Super Output Areas (MSOAs). Although the data from the most recent survey are not currently available to map in this way, the map still shows the general pattern of variation in participation levels across the district and within the three sub areas. Although there are exceptions, it does appear that the levels of participation in the core urban areas within the sub areas are often less than the found in other parts of the district



3.5 Market Segments

The map on the left is reproduced here but is included at a larger scale as a separate document. It analyses population broken down into 19 different categories that aim to help in identifying the sport and recreation activities that would seemingly appeal within each category. This Market Segmentation information is available from Sport England for all English local authorities at a Middle Layer Super Output Area (MSOA) level. The categories are on the map.

The names are of largely Anglo-Saxon origin and may not be particularly well-suited to use in some areas. However, the Market Segmentation package offers alternative names for use where circumstances require a change. The Segment Characters are summarised in the table to the left, based on far more detailed profiles available on the Sport England Market Segmentation website: http://www.sportengland.org/research/market_segmentation.asp. It is worth noting that the 'Bens', 'Jamies' and 'Kevs' (who are noted as liking football and other pitch sports) do not live in large numbers in the sub areas when compared with some other groups. The information must be used cautiously. Such data sets and analysis 'lag behind' population changes. More important though is the possible inference that sections of the population may have an automatic predisposition towards certain activities. Participation in a given activity will be influenced by many factors including access, awareness, cost, social convention, time etc. The fact that a person is 'categorised' in one of 19 different ways should not lead to an assumption that their preferences will be predetermined. In reality, Active People and other national surveys can misrepresent local circumstances because of the limited size and scope of the local samples, as well as their concentration on adult participants (as opposed to also looking at participation by children and young people). Information readily available at the local level can often be patchy. In terms of the codified sports activities, additional information has been secured through this study using material supplied by the sport governing bodies, clubs, and local leagues.

A summary of the 19 different categorisations is provided in the table on the next page, along with their share of the national adult population.

Ben	Jackie	Brenda
Competitive Male Urbanites	Middle England Mums	Older Working Women
Male, recent graduates, with a 'work-hard, play-hard' attitude	Mums juggling work, family and finance	Middle aged ladies, working to make ends meet
5% of all adults; 10% of adult men	5% of all adults; 10% of adult women	5% of all adults; 10% of adult women
Jamie	Kev	Terry
Sports Team Lads	Pub League Team Mates	Local 'Old Boys'
Young 'blokes' enjoying football, pints and pool	Blokes who enjoy pub league games and watching live sport	Generally inactive older men, low income and little provision for retirement
5% of all adults; 11% of adult men	6% of all adults; 12% of adult men	4% of all adults; 8% of adult men
Chloe	Paula	Norma
Fitness Class Friends	Stretched Single Mums	Later Life Ladies
Young image-conscious females keeping fit and trim	Single mums with financial pressures, childcare issues and little time for pleasure	Older ladies, recently retired, with a basic income to enjoy their lifestyles
5% of all adults; 9% of adult women	4% of all adults; 7% of adult women	2% of all adults; 4% of adult women
Leanne	Philip	Ralph & Phyllis
Supportive Singles	Comfortable Mid-Life Males	Comfortable Retired Couples
Young busy mums and their supportive college mates	Mid-life professional, sporty males with older children and more time for themselves	Retired couples, enjoying active and comfortable lifestyles
4% of all adults; 8% of adult women	9% of all adults; 18% of adult men	4% of all adults; 5% of adult men, 4% of adult women
Helena	Elaine	Frank
Career-Focussed Females	Empty Nest Career Ladies	Twilight Year Gents
Single professional women, enjoying life in the fast lane	Mid-life professionals who have more time for themselves since their children left home	Retired men with some pension provision and limited sporting opportunities
5% of all adults; 9% of adult women	6% of all adults; 12% of adult women	4% of all adults; 8% of adult men
Tim	Roger & Joy	Elsie & Arnold
Settling Down Males	Early Retirement Couples	Retirement Home Singles
Sporty male professionals, buying a house and settling down with partner	Free-time couples nearing the end of their careers	Retired singles or widowers, predominantly female, living in sheltered accommodation
9% of all adults; 18% of adult men	7% of all adults; 6% of adult women, 8% of adult men	8% of all adults; 2% of adult men; 14% of adult women
Alison		
Stay at Home Mums		
Mums with a comfortable, but busy, lifestyle		
4% of all adults; 9% of adult women		

3.4.1 Data on children's and young people's participation in pitch sport.

Outside school and, in contrast to adult participation, there are limited national data on participation by children and young people in sports (to enable comparisons with the adult profile). Outside school, most participation will be casual and often more akin to 'play'. More structured activity will take place at clubs often involving tuition and taking part in modified versions of sports. For this reason, the only way to obtain a good understanding of local participation by youngsters in extra-curricular sport is through having a direct dialogue with clubs, leagues, and governing bodies- which has been the approach adopted.

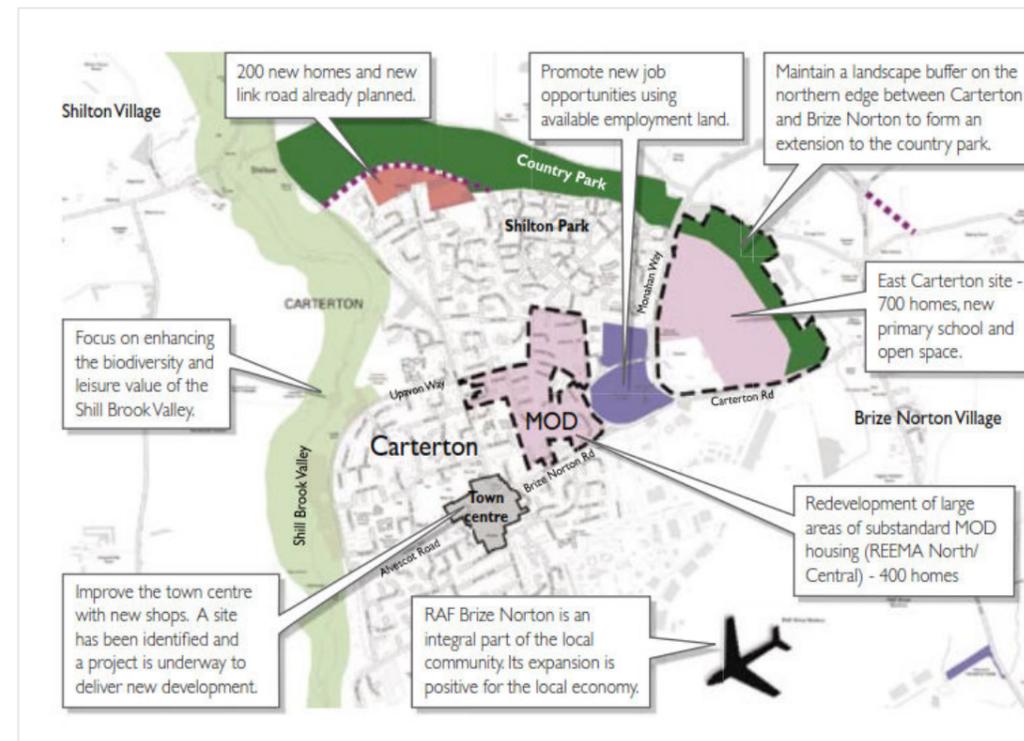
3.6 Key policy

3.6.1 Planning policy

The new Local Plan will set out an overall strategy to guide development across the District in the period up to 2029. A draft Local Plan was published for consultation in November 2012. It has been prepared to replace the existing Local Plan which was adopted in 2006. This draft version of the plan, provides an opportunity for local communities and other relevant stakeholders, including developers, land owners and statutory consultees, to comment on its contents and to express any views, whether in support or objecting to the planning strategy for the area. The Draft Local Plan (formerly known as the Core Strategy) includes:

- An overall presumption in favour of 'sustainable development'
- Provision for at least 5,500 new homes up to 2029
- The majority of housing to be built at Witney and Carterton, with strategic sites identified at West and East Witney, East Carterton and on MOD land in Carterton town centre
- Development on a smaller scale elsewhere, with new homes in other towns and villages to meet local housing needs
- Around 60 hectares of land for businesses, focused on the main towns
- New junctions at Down's Road and Shore's Green, Witney, together with improvements in the Ducklington Lane/Station Lane area
- Guidance to ensure a good mix of new housing, including affordable homes, promotion of the rural and visitor economy and protection of local services, town centres and the District's rich natural and historic environment

There will be some further planned growth in the Chipping Norton area, but this will be the subject of a 'Neighbourhood Plan' to be developed at a later date. The following two diagrams are reproduced from the new draft Local Plan, and show the key locations for planned new development in Witney and Carterton. Outline planning approval (subject to the signing of legal agreements) was given last year for development of West Witney, including sports' pitches. Proposals are also already at an advanced stage in respect of East Carterton, with a masterplan having been published by the developers, which shows in schematic form some new sports pitches for community use. The Local Plan stresses the importance of providing supporting community infrastructure (including sports facilities) to service the needs of the expanded communities.



Following consultation on the draft Local Plan in 2012 the Council had hoped to publish the final plan and submit it to Government for examination in summer 2013. However, a decision was made to delay this pending the outcome of the new Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) expected in January 2014. Once the SHMA is finalised, the Council will need to consider its findings and determine an appropriate housing target for delivery through the new West Oxfordshire Local Plan. Depending on the outcome of the SHMA there may be a need for further consultation on the Local Plan.

3.6.2 National sports policy

Sport England and the national governing bodies of sport have been consulted as part of this study, and comments received from these organisations would have reflected their own strategic priorities, as noted primarily in the associated consultation report (**Appendix 3**). A review of relevant policy in this regard is however provided in **Appendix 4**.

4. Supply

4.1 General

In terms of the supply of pitches, the following categorisation has been employed to reflect the availability of pitches for community use.

Category	Definition	Supplementary information
A(i)	Secured community pitches	Pitches in local authority or other public ownership or management
A(ii)		Pitches in the voluntary, private or commercial sector which are open to members of the public
A(iii)		Pitches at education sites which are available for use by the public through formal community use arrangements
B	Used by community, but not secured	Pitches not included above, that are nevertheless available for community use, e.g. school/college pitches without formal user agreements
C	Not open for community use	Pitches at establishments which are not, as a matter of policy or practice, available for hire by the public

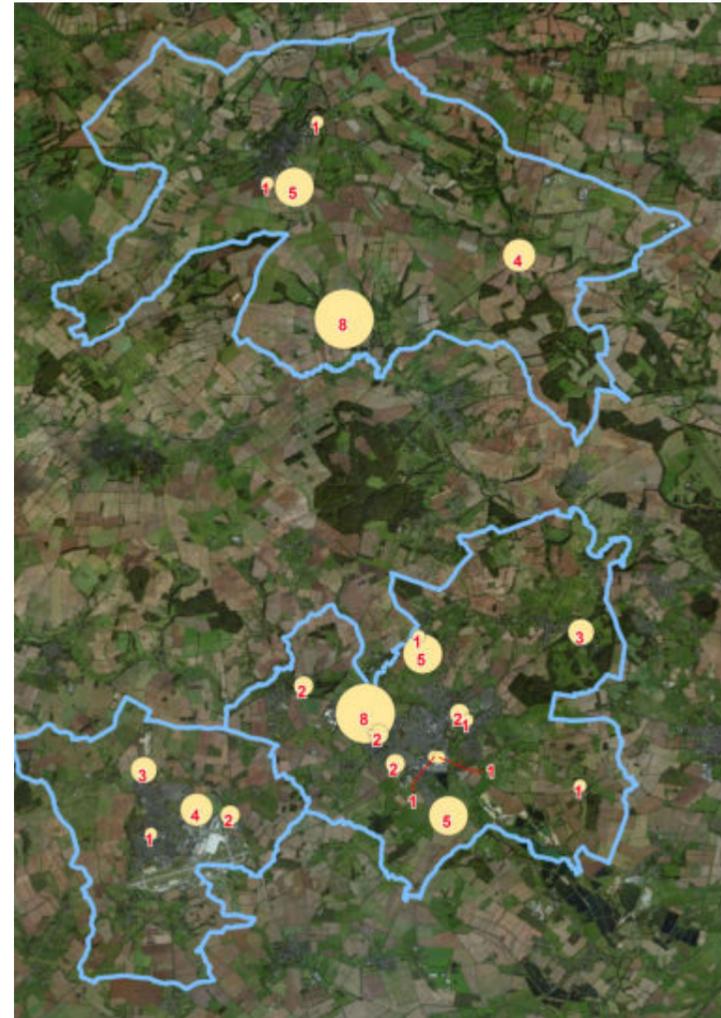
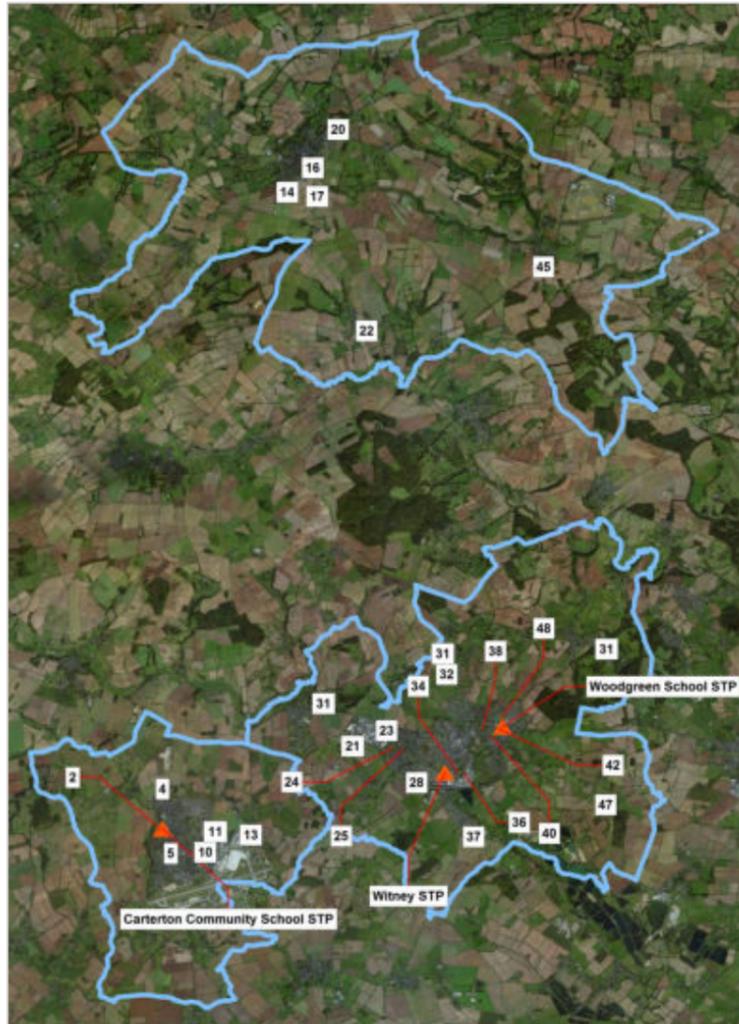
4.2 Numbers of pitches

The following tables summarises provision by type, category, and sub area.

Sub area and category	Senior football	Junior football	Minisoccer	Cricket	Senior rugby	Junior rugby	Mini rugby	Hockey
Carterton (A1, A2, A30)	6		2	2				
Carterton (B)	2	1			1			
Carterton (C)	6		5	1	2			
Chipping Norton (A1, A2, A3)	7	4	3	4	6		2	
Chipping Norton (B)					0			2
Chipping Norton (C)			2					
Witney (A1, A2, A3)	15	3	3	5	4	1		
Witney (B)	2		3	1	1			
Witney (C)	5	1	11		2			1

The table includes all known pitches within the study area (excluding those MoD pitches 'behind the wire'). Only category A pitches are, however, included in the assessment of availability, in line with the Sport England method. Importantly, this means that certain school pitches are excluded from the assessment as they do not have secured community use agreements. These include Wood Green and Henry Box Schools in Witney, and Carterton Community College in Carterton. There is known to be at least some use of pitches by the community on these sites. (For example at Carterton Community College). However, this is not on a secured basis. Conversely, pitches at Chipping Norton School are subject to a secured community use agreement and are therefore included. (Paradoxically, it will be shown later in this report that these pitches at the Chipping Norton School are very much underused).

The location of pitch sports sites in the three sub areas is shown on the left-hand map, which can be cross-referenced to the full schedule of sites in **Appendix 2**. Many of these are categorised as Category B and C, and have no immediate relevance to this study, save the fact that they at least offer theoretical potential for improving the supply of community pitches if their use for this purpose could be secured. The right-hand map shows the scale of provision (total number of pitches of all kinds) only for those sites in secure community use (A1, A2, A3).



4.3 Key sites in Witney and Carterton sub areas

The following pages summarise graphically the sites in secure community use in the Witney and Carterton sub area. The pages show:

- The location of the site
- General comments of relevance (including those made through consultation)
- A summary of the quality assessment for each site. (This is for pitch and changing room quality (where the latter exists). The scoring is from 1 to 5 in each case:
 - 1=very poor
 - 2=poor
 - 3=average
 - 4=good
 - 5=excellent
- Provision of pitches of different kinds; and,
- Numbers of teams estimated to be playing at the given site.

It must be noted that where teams do not own and/or manage a given site themselves, they will often rotate around several sites. A record of where teams play locally can only therefore be considered to be a snapshot in time, and the situation may change from season to season, or even from week to week. The situation tends to be most fluid in respect of junior football and mini-soccer. There are a few sites where governing body, league and club evidence has not highlighted any use by teams. However, it is likely that if an assessment was made at a different time, these pitches would be recorded as being used.

Site: 22

Sub area: Witney

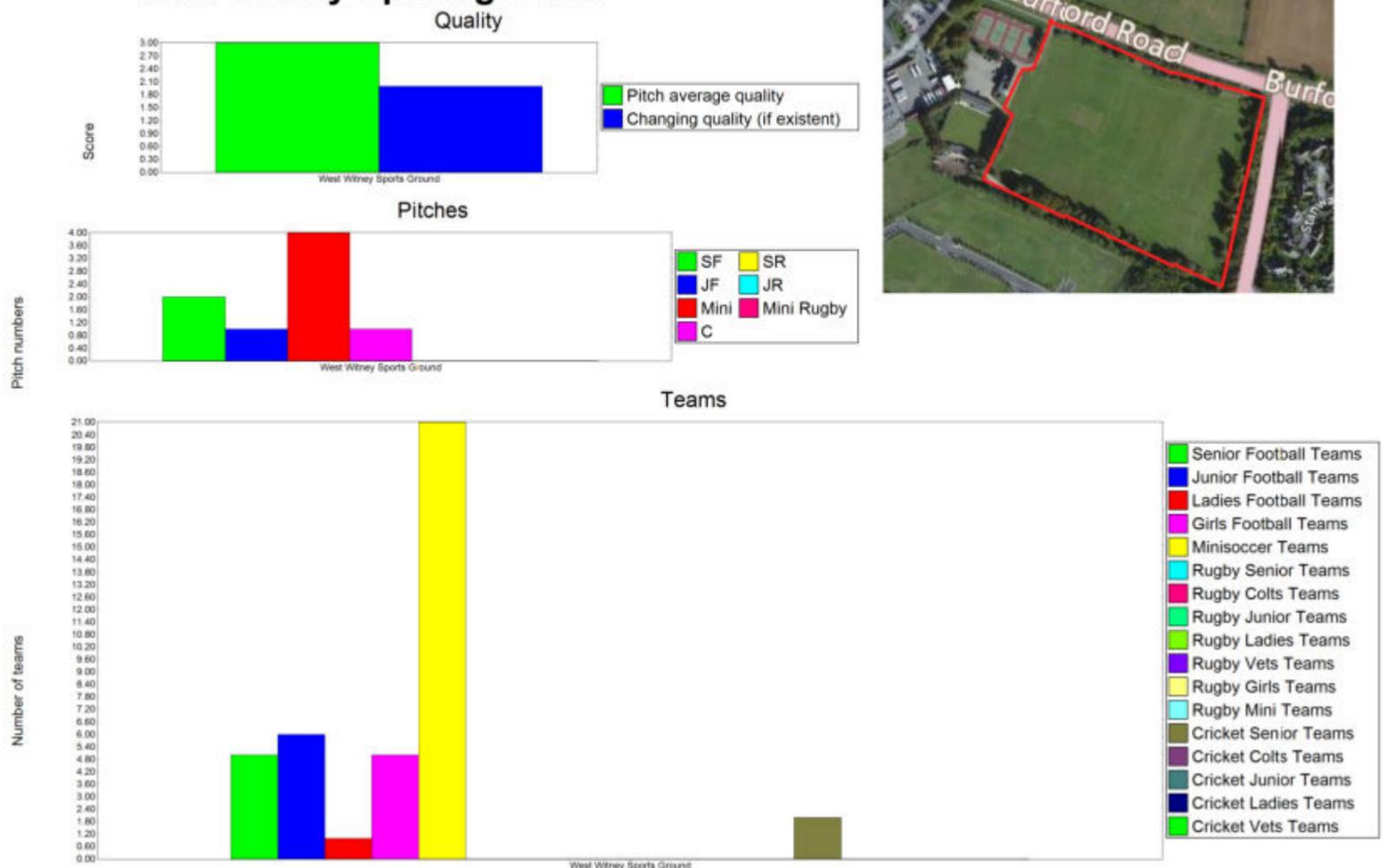
Access: A1

Ownership: LA (town council)

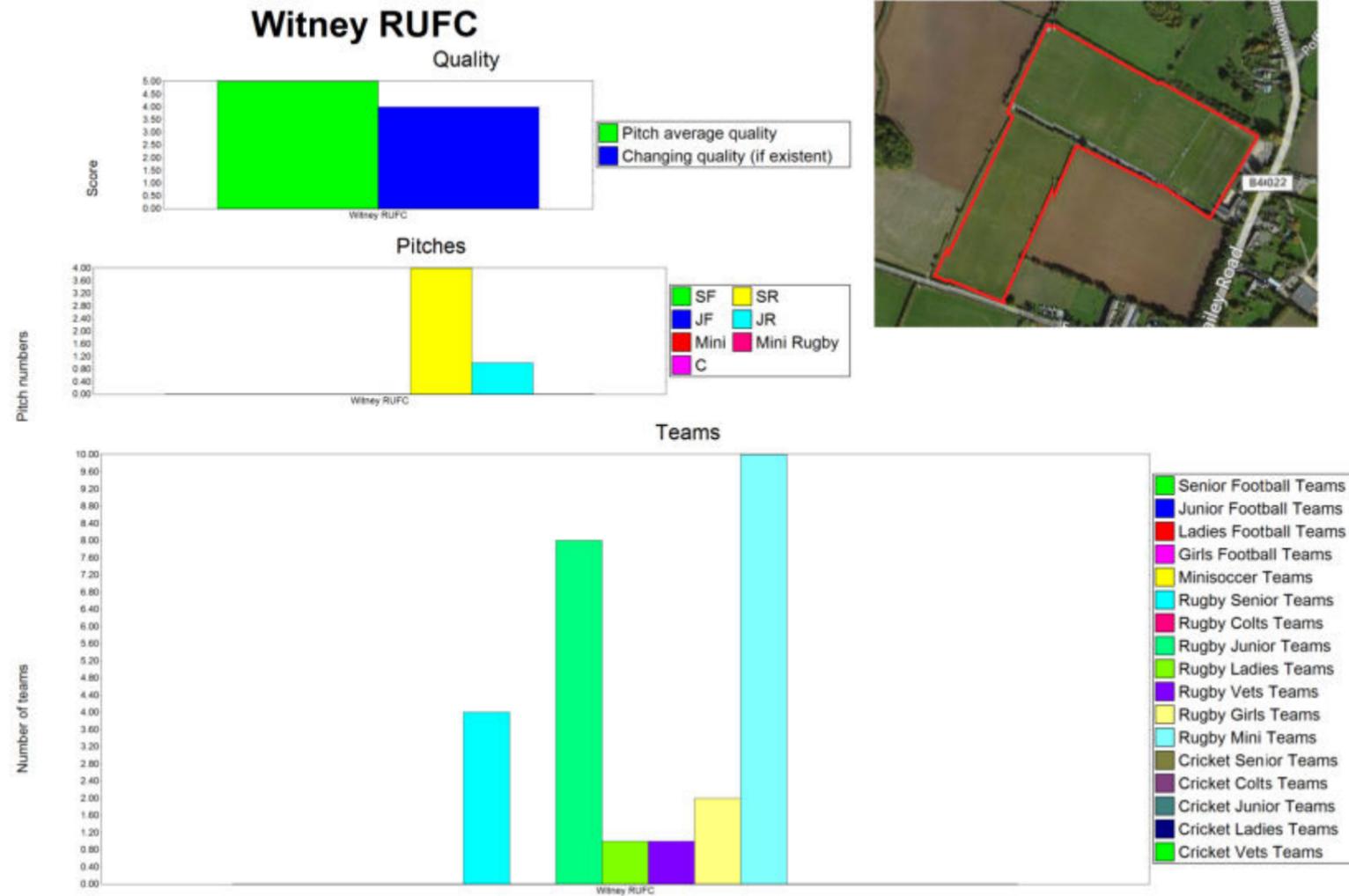
Relevant consultation comments: Football: Poor drainage at site and poor and insufficient changing facilities for numbers of teams and for the ladies' team. Not enough car parking. Cricket: poor outfield resulting from overlapping sports and seasons

Other comments: This is a very important local venue. It is owned and managed by Witney Town Council, and is used intensively for football, as well as for cricket in the late spring/summer. There are concerns about its ability to cope with both existing and potential future demands placed upon it- especially with regard to the condition of the changing accommodation, and the Ability of the pitches to absorb the wear and tear placed upon them.

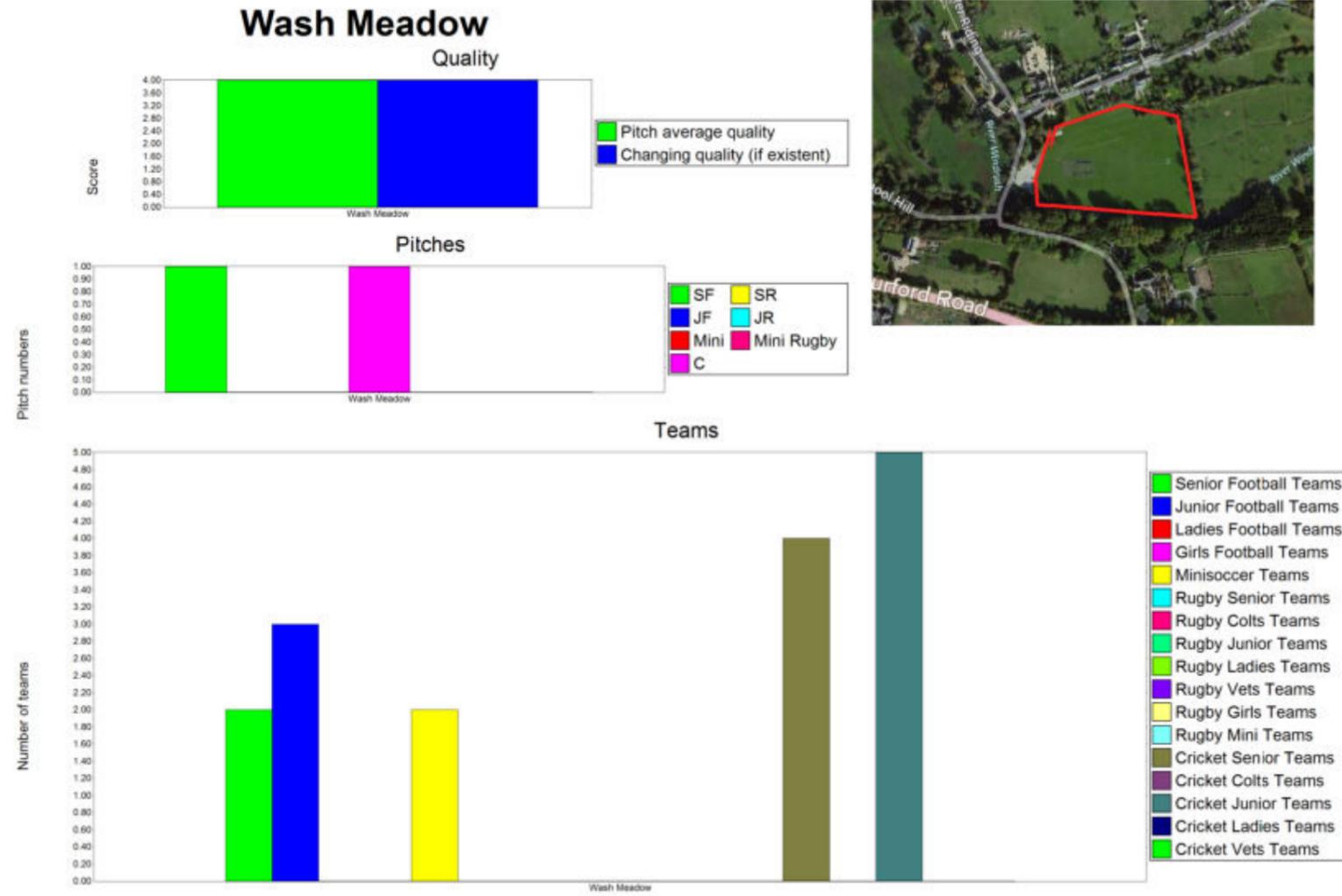
West Witney Sportsground



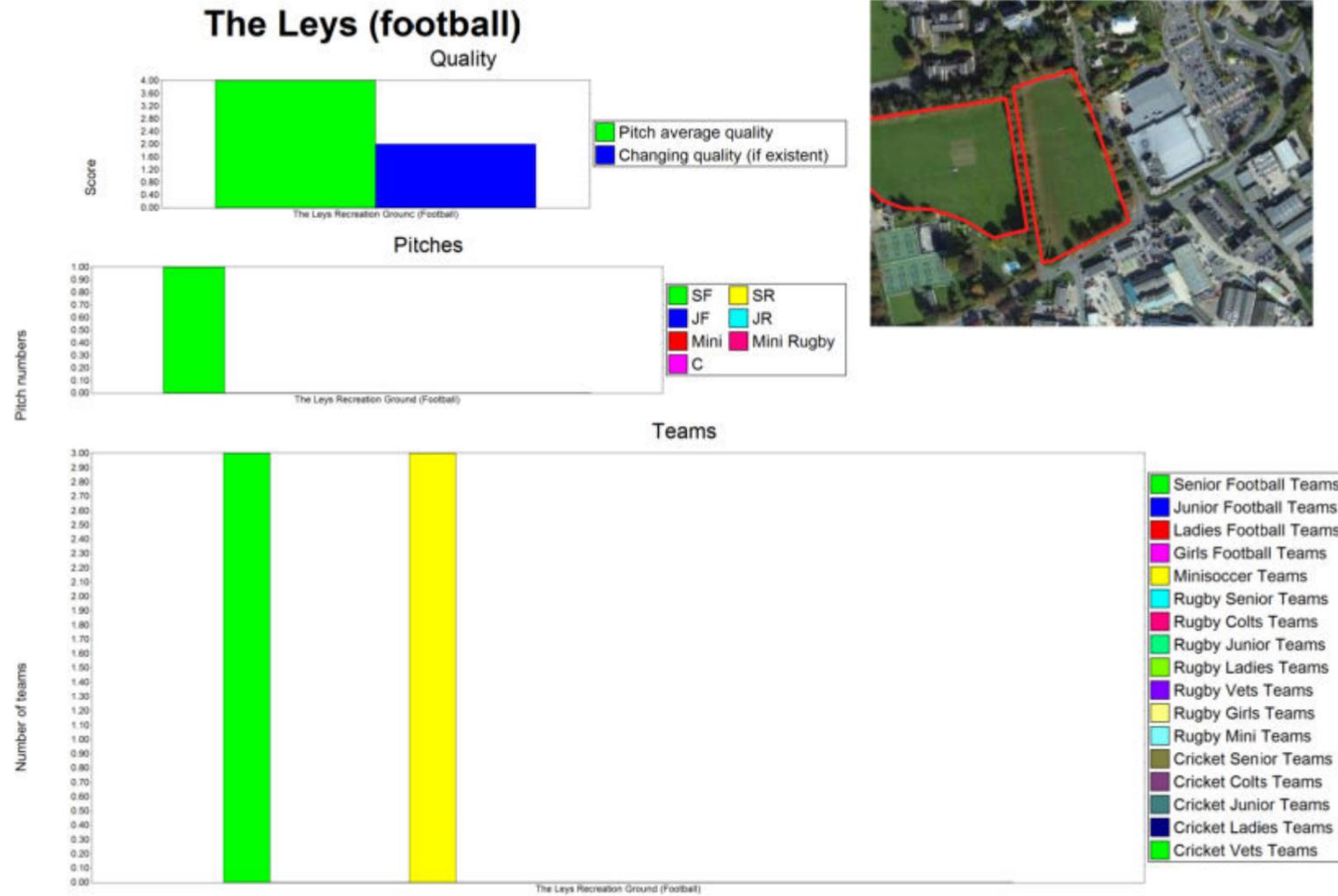
Site: 31
Sub area: Witney
Access: A2
Ownership: Club
Relevant consultation comments: The club have plans to floodlight the main pitch.
Other comments: The site was recently expanded to provide an additional pitch.



Site: 18
Sub area: Witney
Access: A1
Ownership: Other
Other comments: Minster Lovell Sports and Social Club is the trustee for this site, and it manages the facility. The site is a significant facility in this rural area.

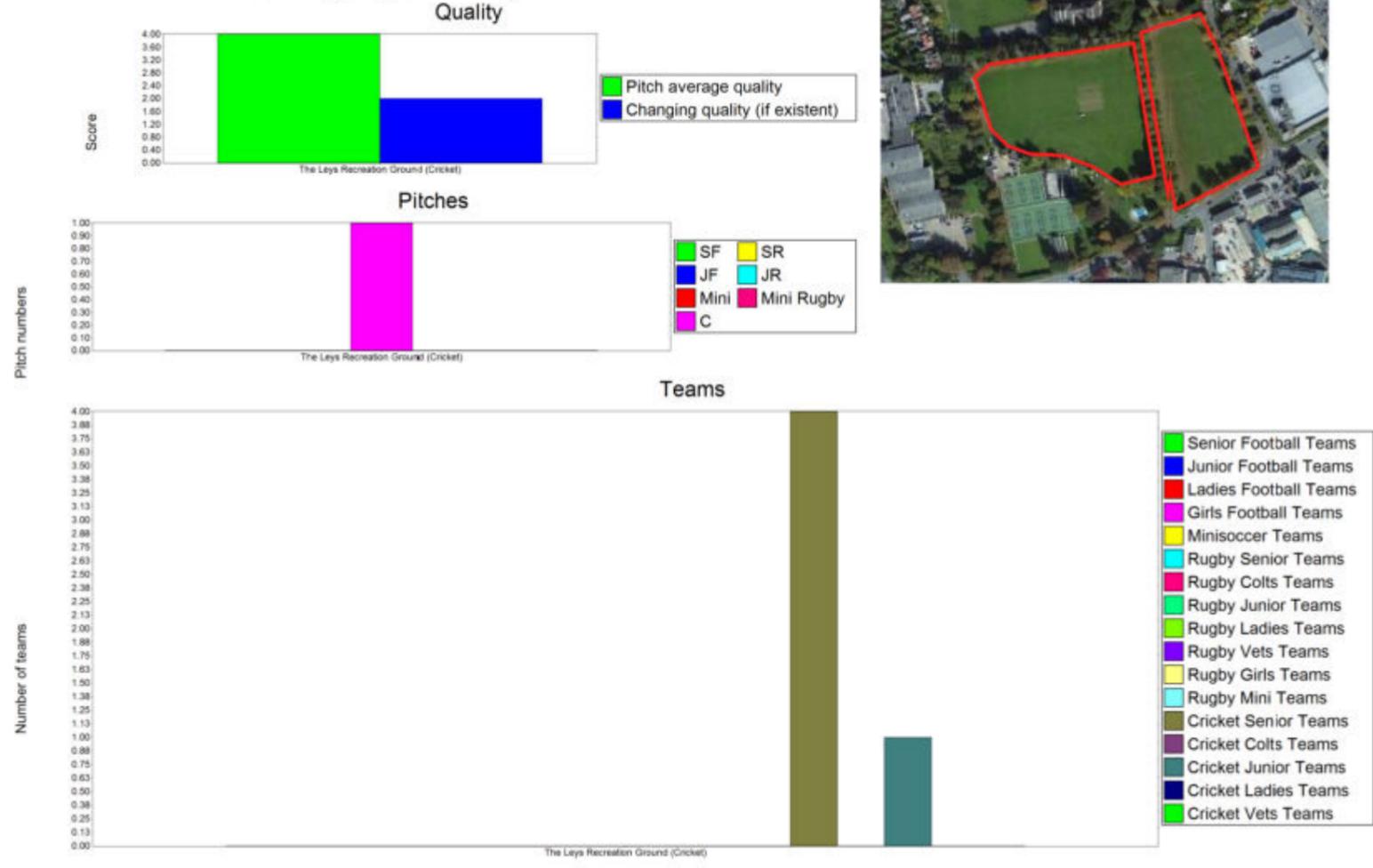


Site: 35
Sub area: Witney
Access: A1
Ownership: LA (town council)
Relevant consultation comments: Football: Changing facilities deemed to be very poor and not big enough for the number of teams. Dog-fouling and litter.

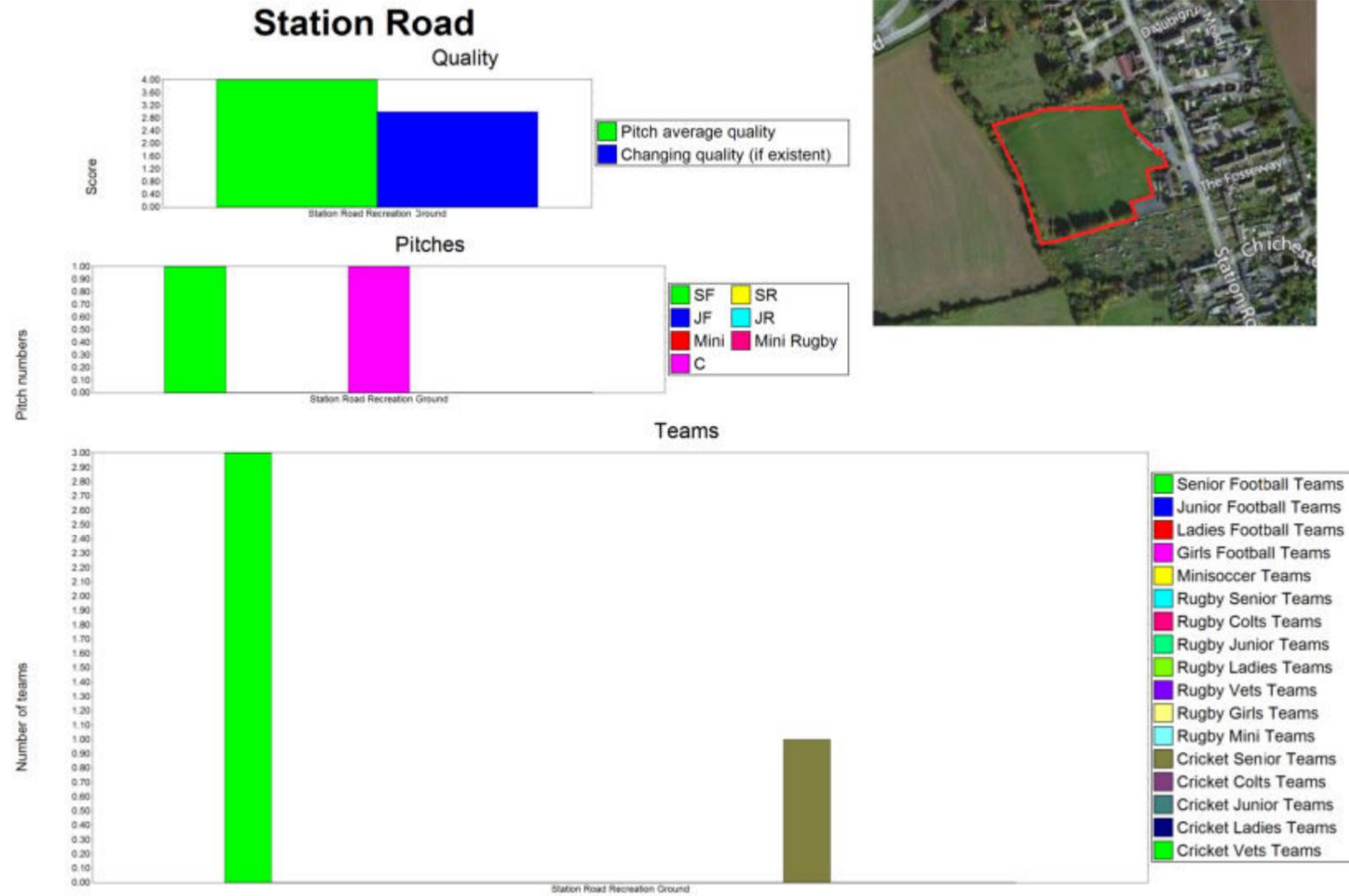


Site: 33
Sub area: Witney
Access: A1
Ownership: LA (town council)
Relevant consultation comments: Cricket: variable opinion on the part of the clubs using the cricket pitch. Dog-fouling and litter. However the pavilion/changing block is not considered to be good.

The Leys (cricket)



Site: 12
Sub area: Carterton, Brize Norton Parish
Access: A1
Ownership: LA (Brize Norton Parish Council)
Other comments: Amongst the users is Minster Lovell CC (based largely in the Witney sub area)



Site: 45
Sub area: Witney
Access: A1
Ownership: Private (parish council managed)
Other comments: This is an outlying site in a small village. The parish council cut the grass, but do not own it. There is a disused football pitch, and the site is used very occasionally for cricket- no regular sports use.

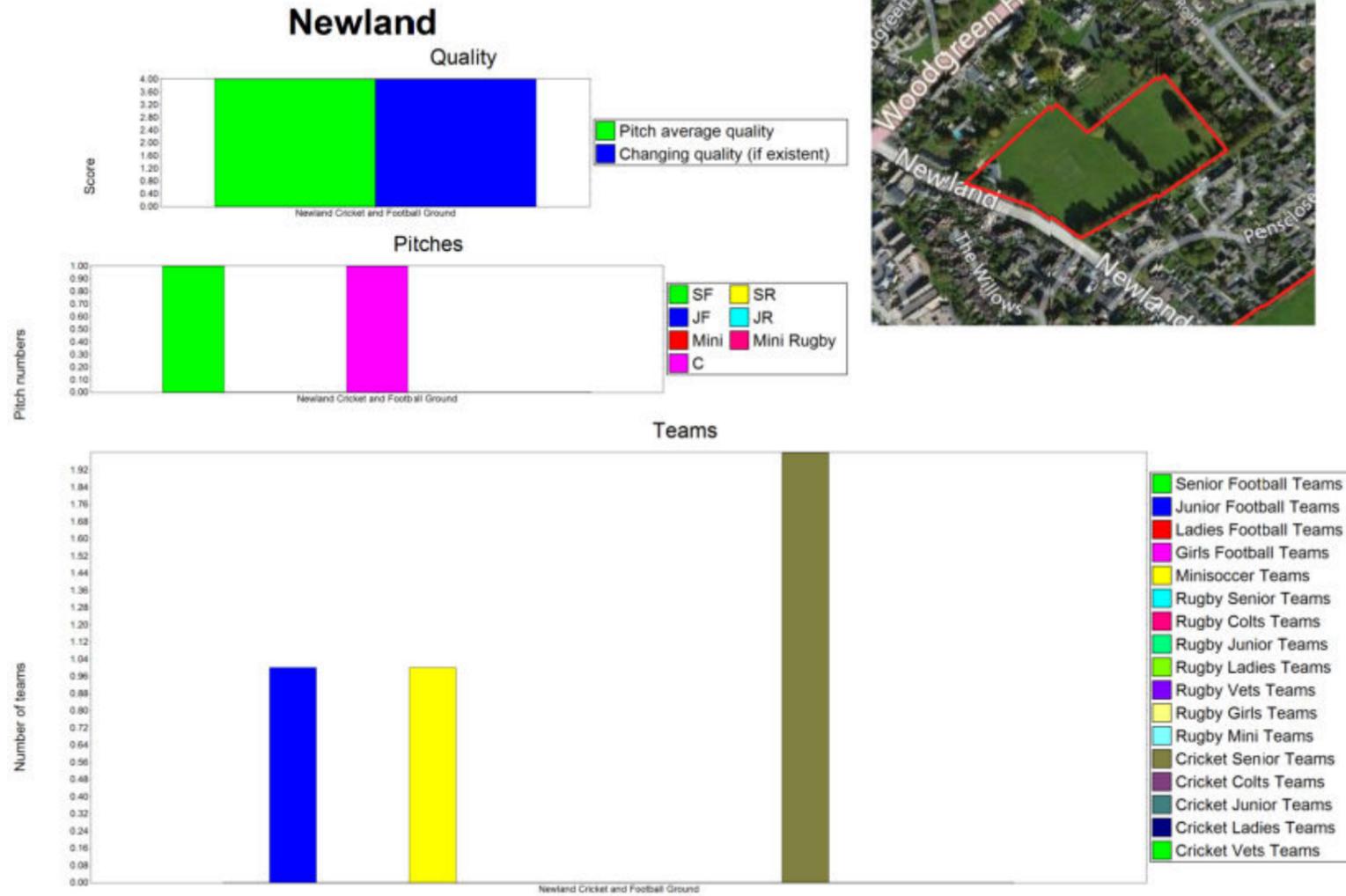
South Leigh Recreation Ground Quality



Site: 24
Sub area: Witney
Access: A1
Ownership: LA (District Council)
Notes: This site is used informally for kickabouts



Site: 37
Sub area: Witney
Access: A2
Ownership: Privately owned (by an Oxford University college) and club managed
Relevant comments from consultation: Cricket: Short tenure a problem, hampering club development.

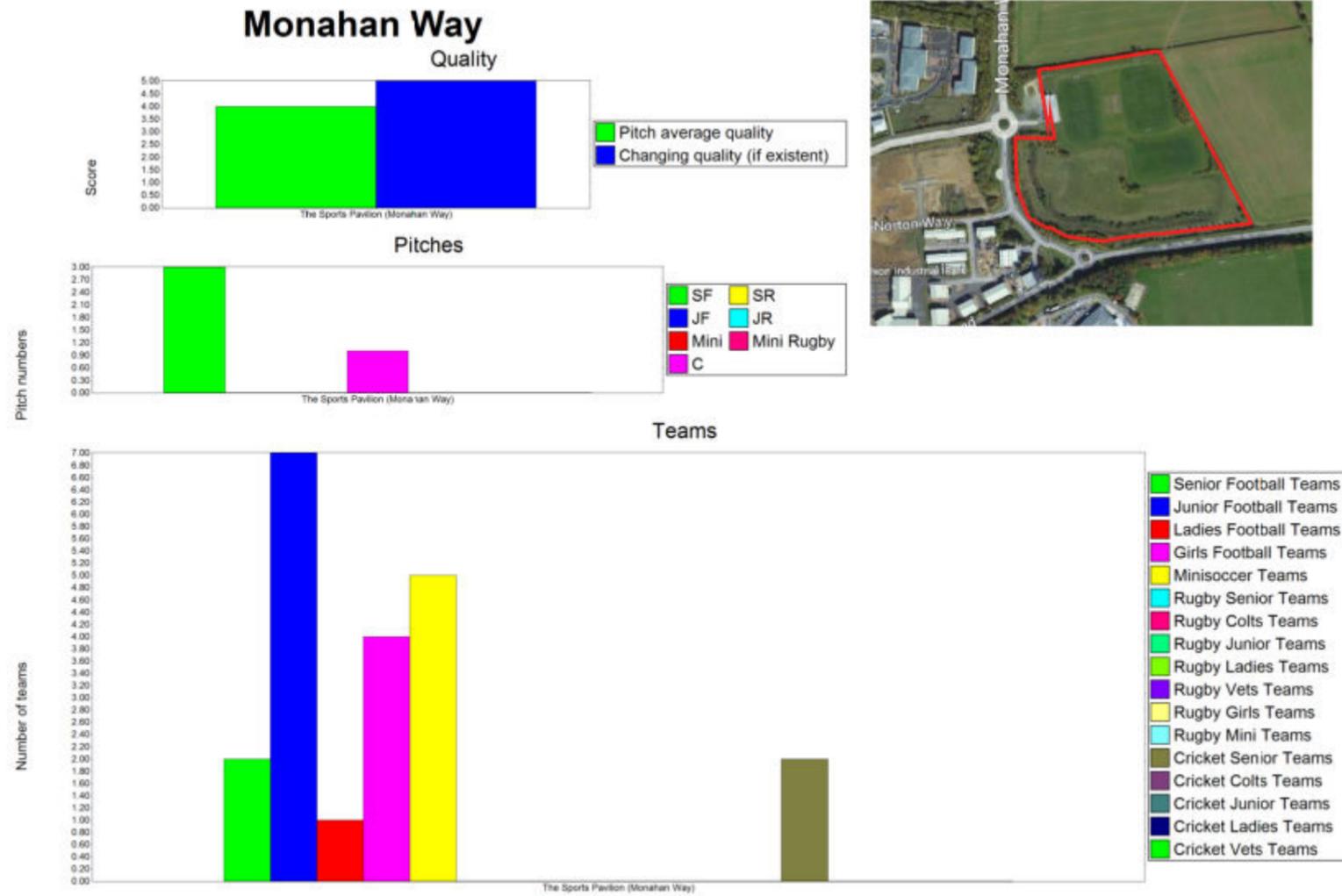


Site: 10
 Sub area: Carterton
 Access: A1
 Ownership: LA (District council)

Relevant comments from consultation: Football: Needs all-year round maintenance programme for pitches at Monahan Way. Because of the heavy demand, the site is over-used. Overlapping seasons and the popularity of a minisoccer tournament over two weeks in the summer, causes particular problems for cricket.

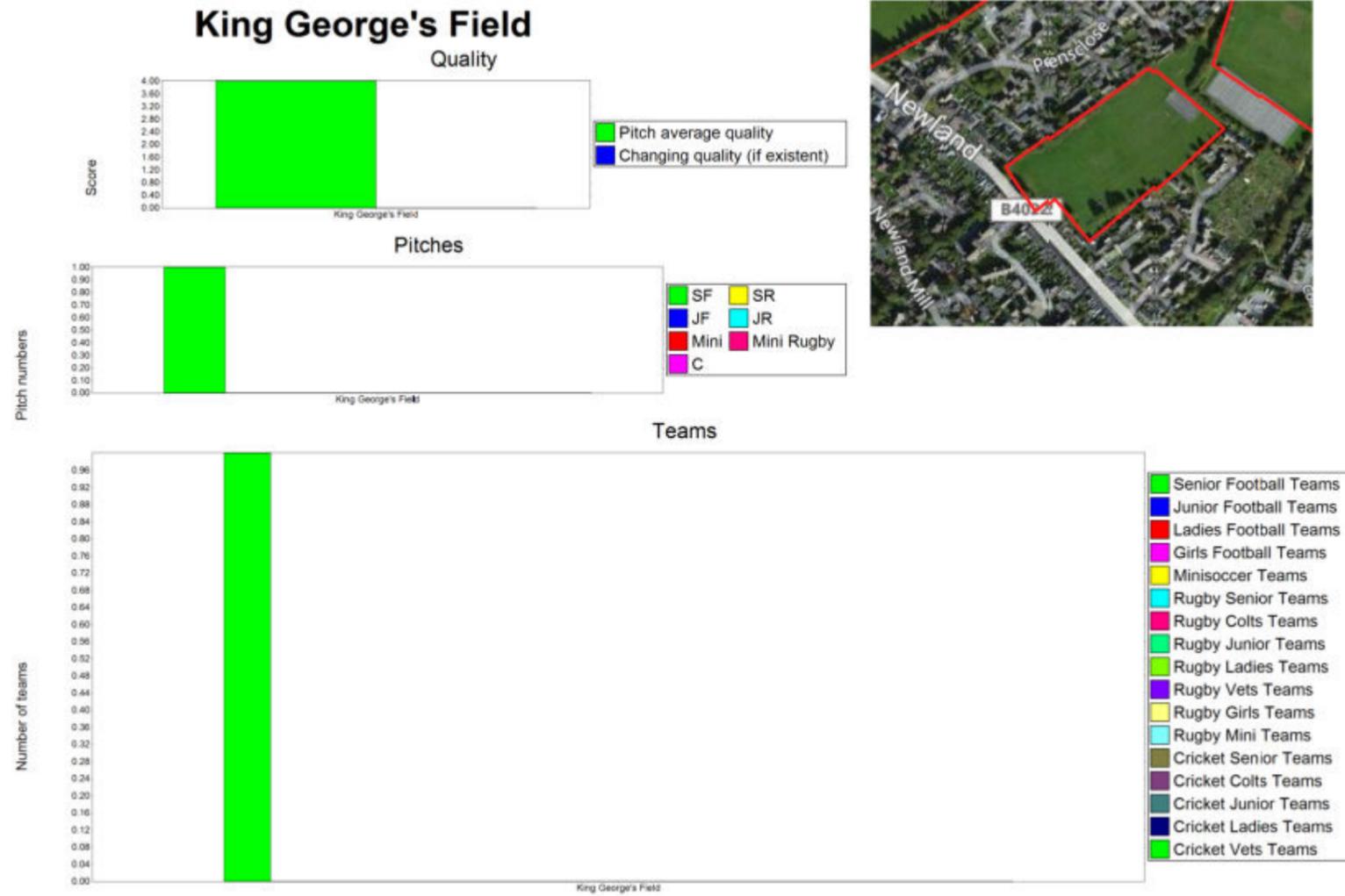
The site drainage is perhaps 'too good' in that it prevents sward growth in the summer months.

Note: a very important local site for both football and cricket. Installation of a twin bay synthetic turf practice nets and a synthetic match pitch will start in Feb 2014 ready in time for the start of the season at Monahan Way. The Project includes a bowling machine. These facilities will be available to book by all clubs.

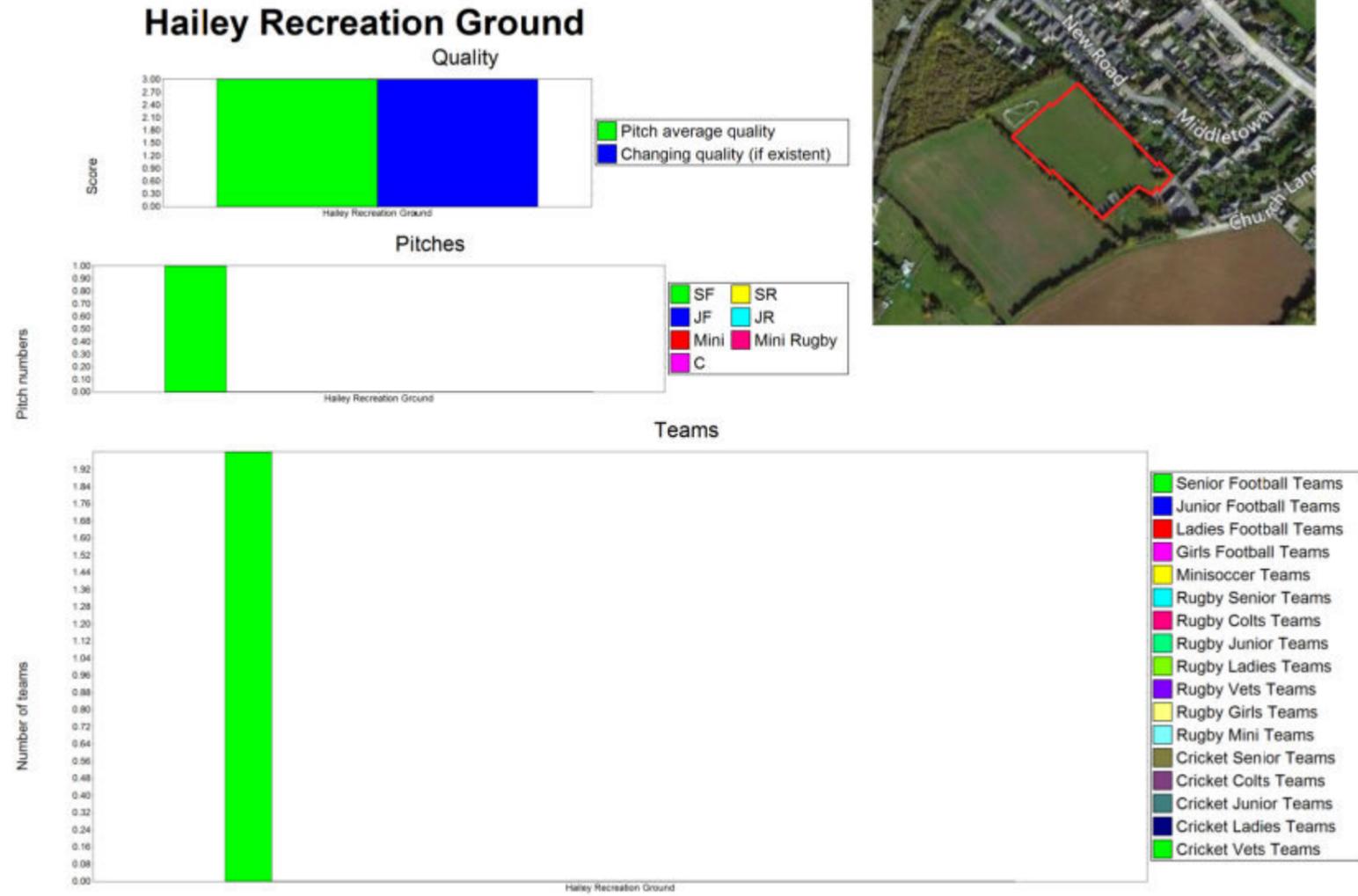


Site: 39
Sub area: Witney
Access: A1
Ownership: LA (town council)
Relevant comments from consultation: Football: Lack of changing facilities on site, and the low quality of the playing surface.

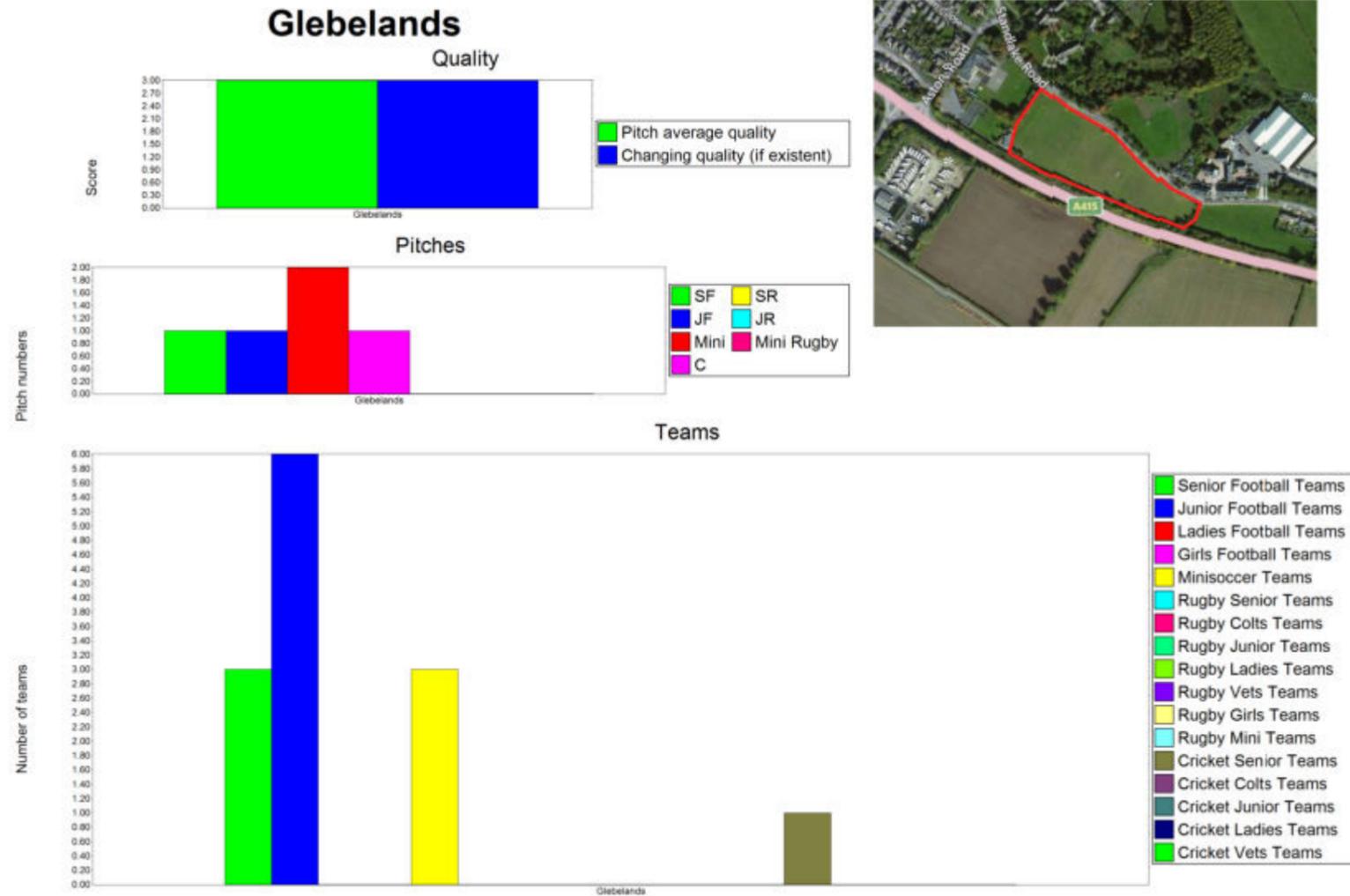
Note: Teams can in fact access changing facilities in the adjacent Wood Green School via a gate in the boundary fence.



Site: 30
Sub area: Witney
Access: A1
Ownership: LA (Hailey Parish Council)
Other comments: a small, outlying recreation ground.

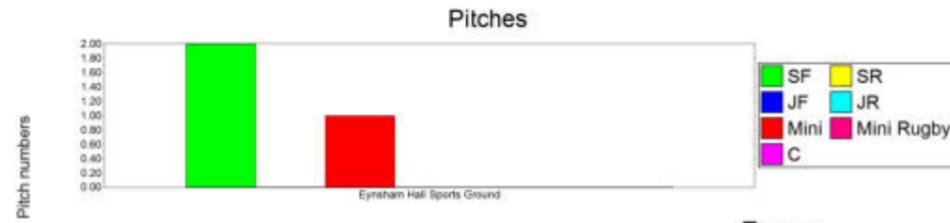


Site: 36
Sub area: Witney
Access: A2
Ownership: LA (parish council, but managed by a sports club)
Relevant comments from consultation: Football: Glebelands is lacking topsoil, so ground cover is too thin. Clubhouse changing facilities also insufficient. Cricket: Better changing facilities needed. Parish Council: the PC believes that there are insufficient rugby opportunities in the area- this comment is not necessarily site-specific.



Site: 46
Sub area: Witney
Access: A2
Ownership: Private
Relevant comments from consultation: the users (North Leigh FC) consider this is an excellent facility.

Eynsham Hall Sportsground



Site: 4

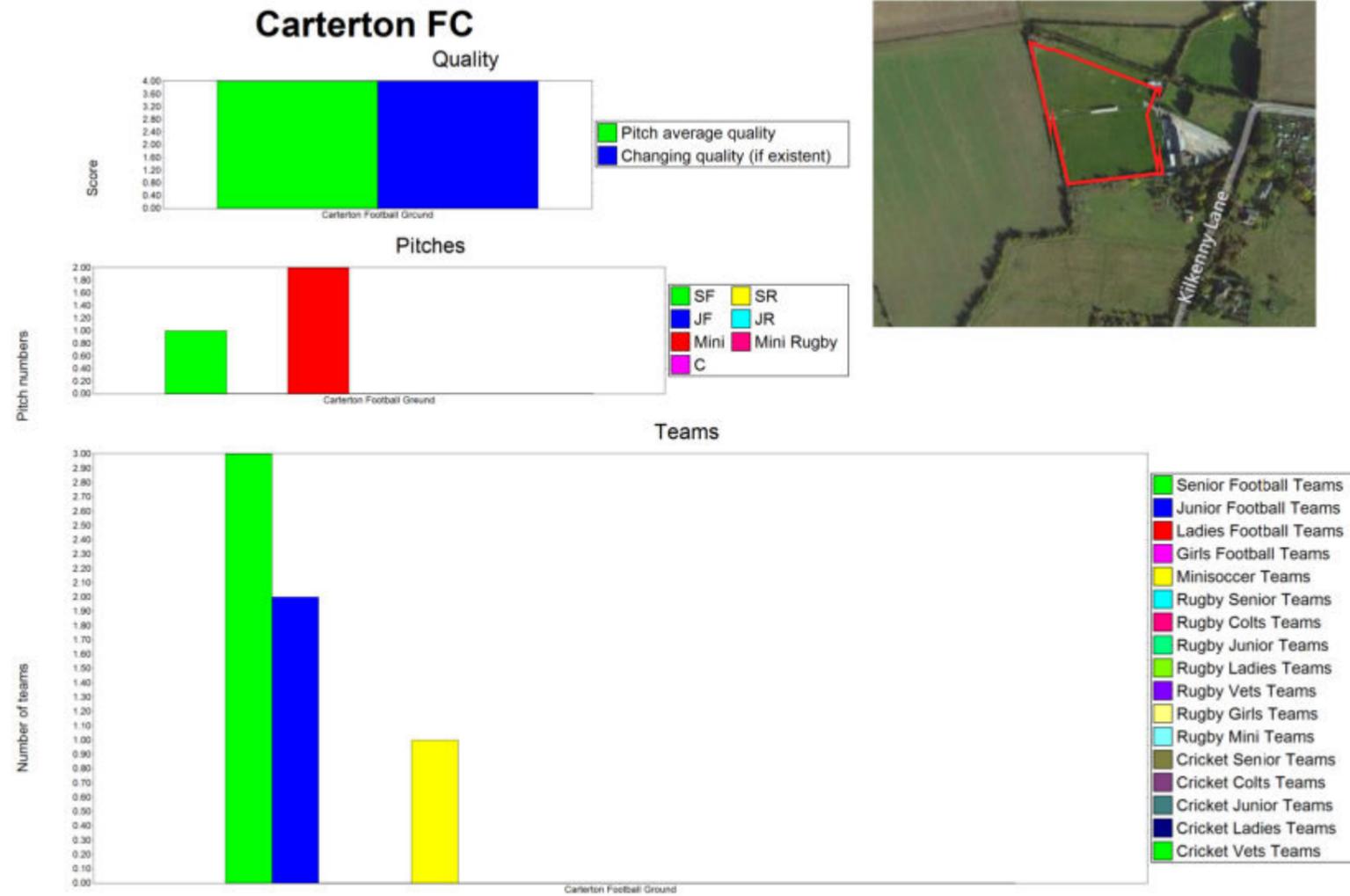
Sub area: Carterton

Access: A2

Ownership: LA (Carterton Town Council, but managed by Carterton FC)

Relevant comments from consultation: Football: although not site-specific, Carterton FC feel that there are insufficient pitches in the area (they use several sites, and not just these Kilkenny Lane facilities).

Town Council: The TC believes there is scope to expand these facilities, but outside the town council area.



Site: 27

Sub area: Witney

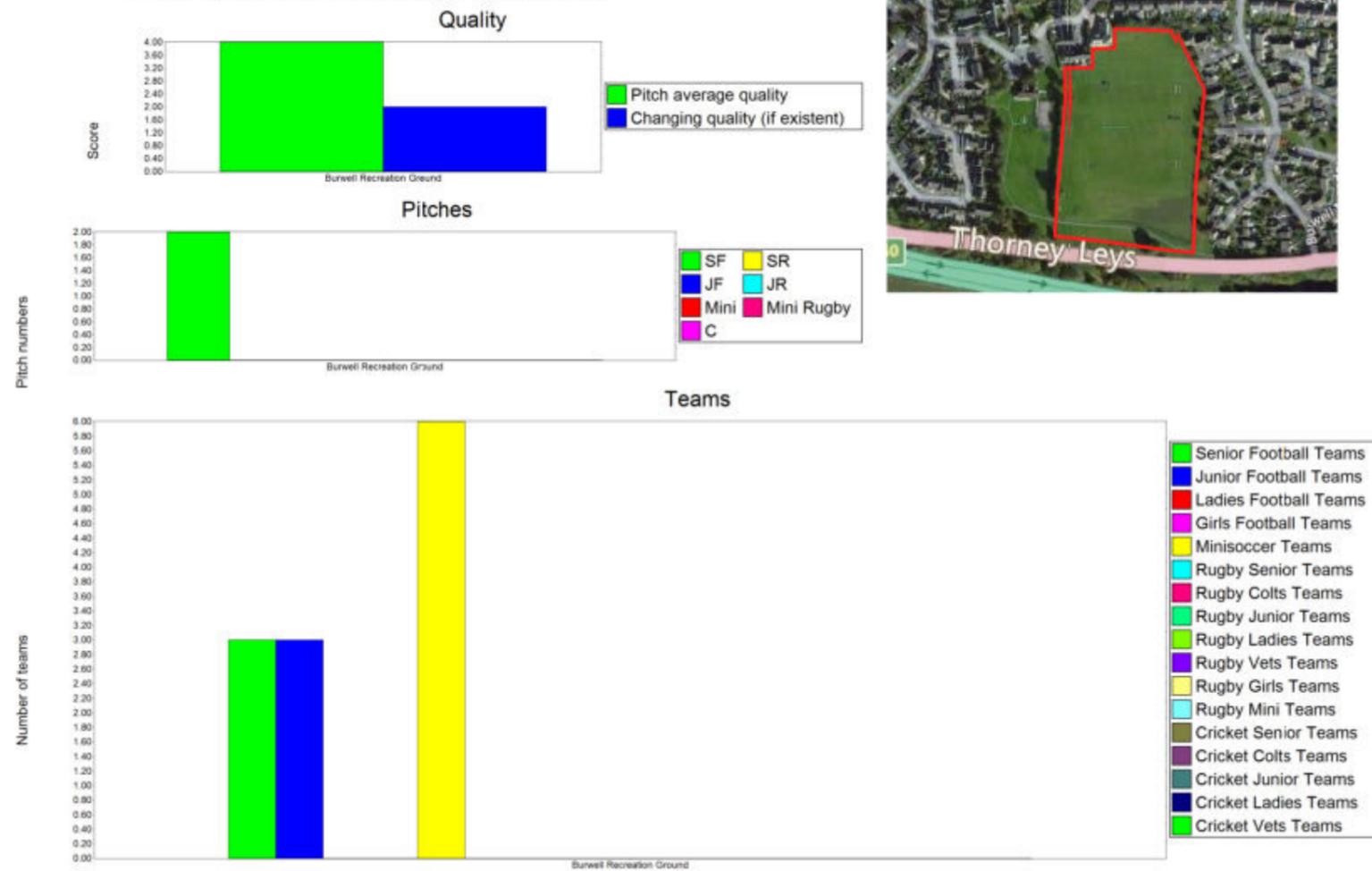
Access: A1

Ownership: LA (Town Council)

Relevant comments from consultation: Football: Insufficient changing facilities, and the low quality of the playing surface.

Town Council: The Town Council points out that the existing changing is insufficient to service the two pitches and, ideally, should be separate from the community centre.

Burwell Recreation Ground



Site: 23

Sub area: Witney

Access: A1

Ownership: LA (District Council)

Note: This is a local authority owned and managed site that appears to be laid out and used for junior and mini-soccer, but there is no changing accommodation. The site can be booked, but club, governing body and league records do not record use. However, there is de facto use by junior teams



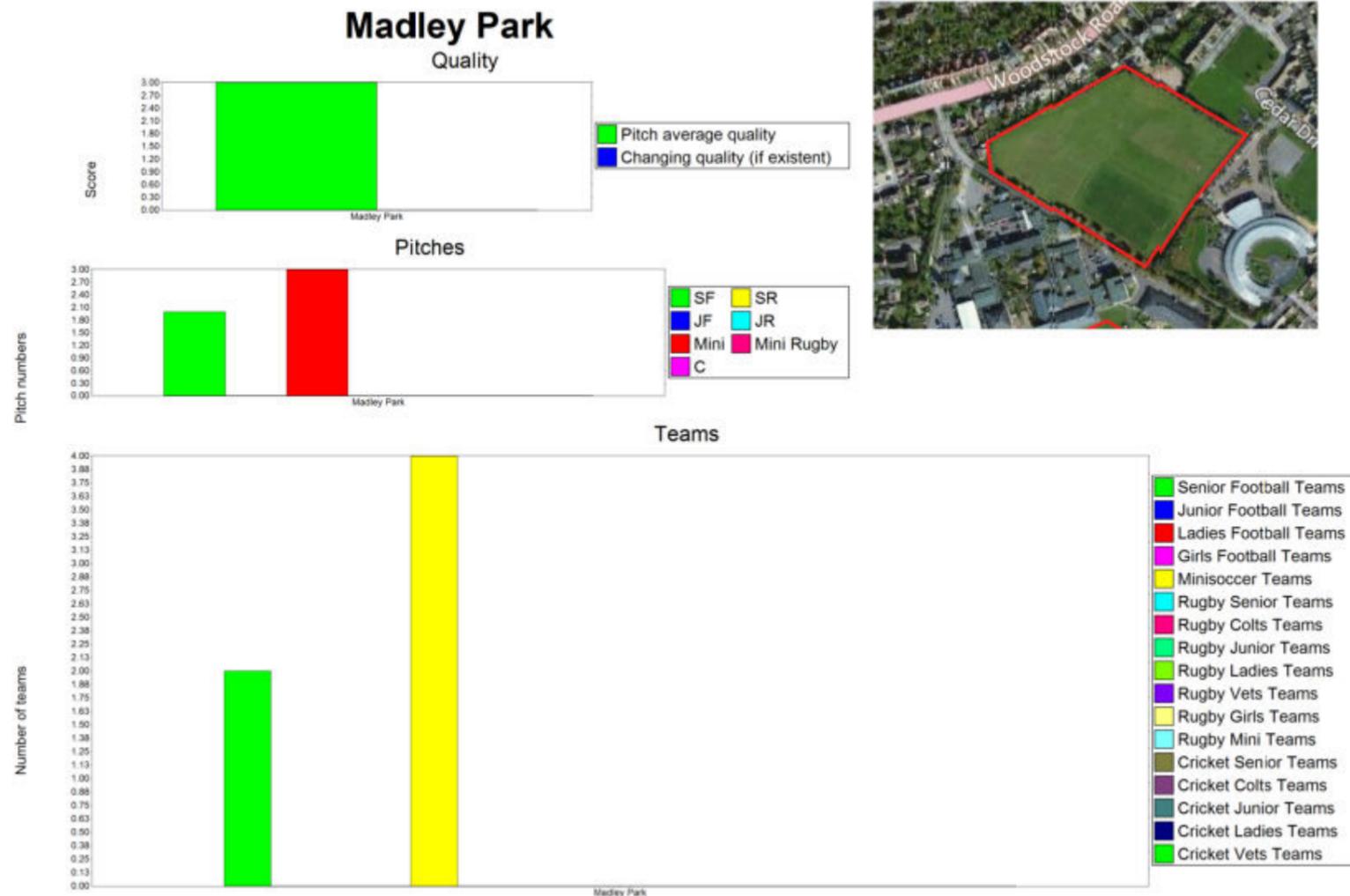
Site: 47

Sub area: Witney

Access: A3

Ownership: LA (District Council)

Note: This is a dual site, used both by local schools as well as community teams at the weekend. It is also available as a public open space. Purpose-built changing rooms are available within the adjacent Wood Green School. There are reported issues with the drainage of these pitches.



4.4 Other sites (AGPs)

In addition to the grass pitches in the Witney and Carterton sub areas there are three full size Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) that help meet various community sport needs. These are located at Carterton Community College, Henry Box School, and Wood Green School (the latter two in Witney). The pitches at Henry Box School (known as Witney AGP) and at Carterton School are owned by the District Council and managed by a trust, with assured community use. The pitch at Wood Green School, is owned and managed by the school, but there is community use. Further details are given below, and further information and analysis of their contribution is provided later in this report.

Carterton School



Sub area: Carterton
Surface: 3G
Floodlit: Yes

Note: Recently re-laid with a 3G surface. Managed by a trust for the District Council

Witney AGP (Henry Box School)



Sub area: Witney
Surface: Sand
Floodlit: Yes

Note: Managed by a trust for the District Council

Wood Green School AGP



Sub area: Witney
Surface: Sand
Floodlit: Yes

Note: Managed by the school

4.5 Other sites (grass)

Elsewhere in the Witney and Carterton sub areas there are other grass pitches, but which do not tend to be available for community use. The most notable facilities in this regard are probably the MoD facilities at RAF Brize Norton. Of the school facilities (not covered by this study, although their presence is acknowledged). The grass pitches at Carterton School are known to be used on an occasional basis, but are not available on a secured basis. The grass pitches at Chipping Norton School are, however, covered by a secured community use agreement, and can be booked via the leisure centre. This fact does not appear to be very well known amongst local clubs, and there is likely to be scope to promote them further as being available for hire by outside teams.

4.6 Key sites in Chipping Norton sub area

The following pages summarise graphically the sites in secure community use in the Chipping Norton sub area. The pages show:

- The location of the site
- General comments of relevance (including those made through consultation)
- A summary of the quality assessment for each site. (This is for pitch and changing room quality (where the latter exists). The scoring is from 1 to 5 in each case:
 - 1=very poor
 - 2=poor
 - 3=average
 - 4=good
 - 5=excellent
- Provision of pitches of different kinds; and,
- Numbers of teams estimated to be playing at the given site.

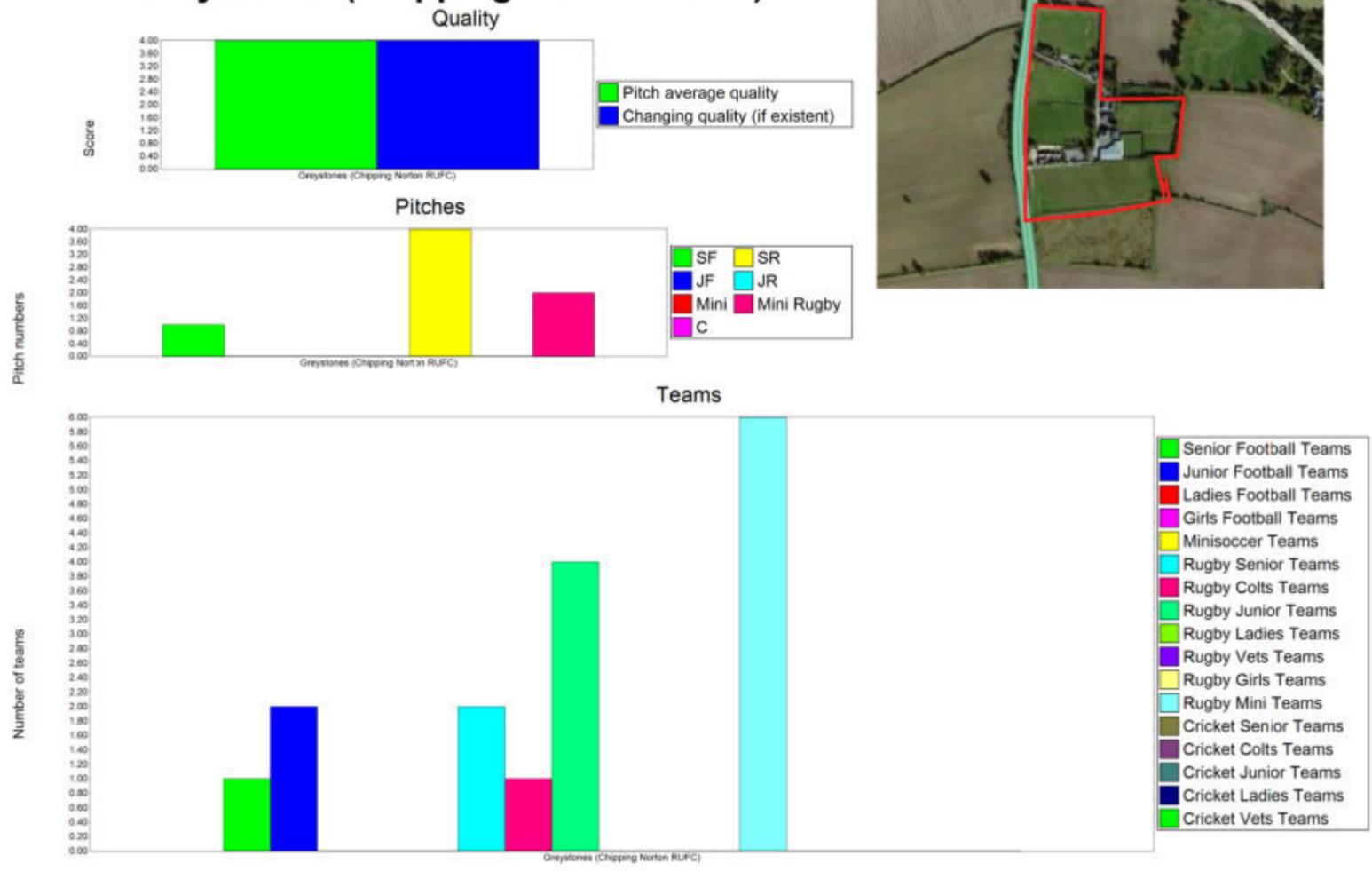
It must be noted that where teams do not own and/or manage a given site themselves, they will often rotate around several sites. A record of where teams play locally can only therefore be considered to be a snapshot in time, and the situation may change from season to season, or even from week to week. The situation tends to be most fluid in respect of junior football and mini-soccer.

Site: 16
 Sub area: Chipping Norton

Access: A2
 Ownership: Club

Relevant: comments from consultation: Football: The resident club feels it has outgrown the site, and no room to develop further. Lacking training lighting. Security issues. Rugby: Use of grass pitches for training adds to wear and tear of pitches. More synthetic surfaces for training would be desirable.

Greystones (Chipping Norton RUFC)



Site: 43

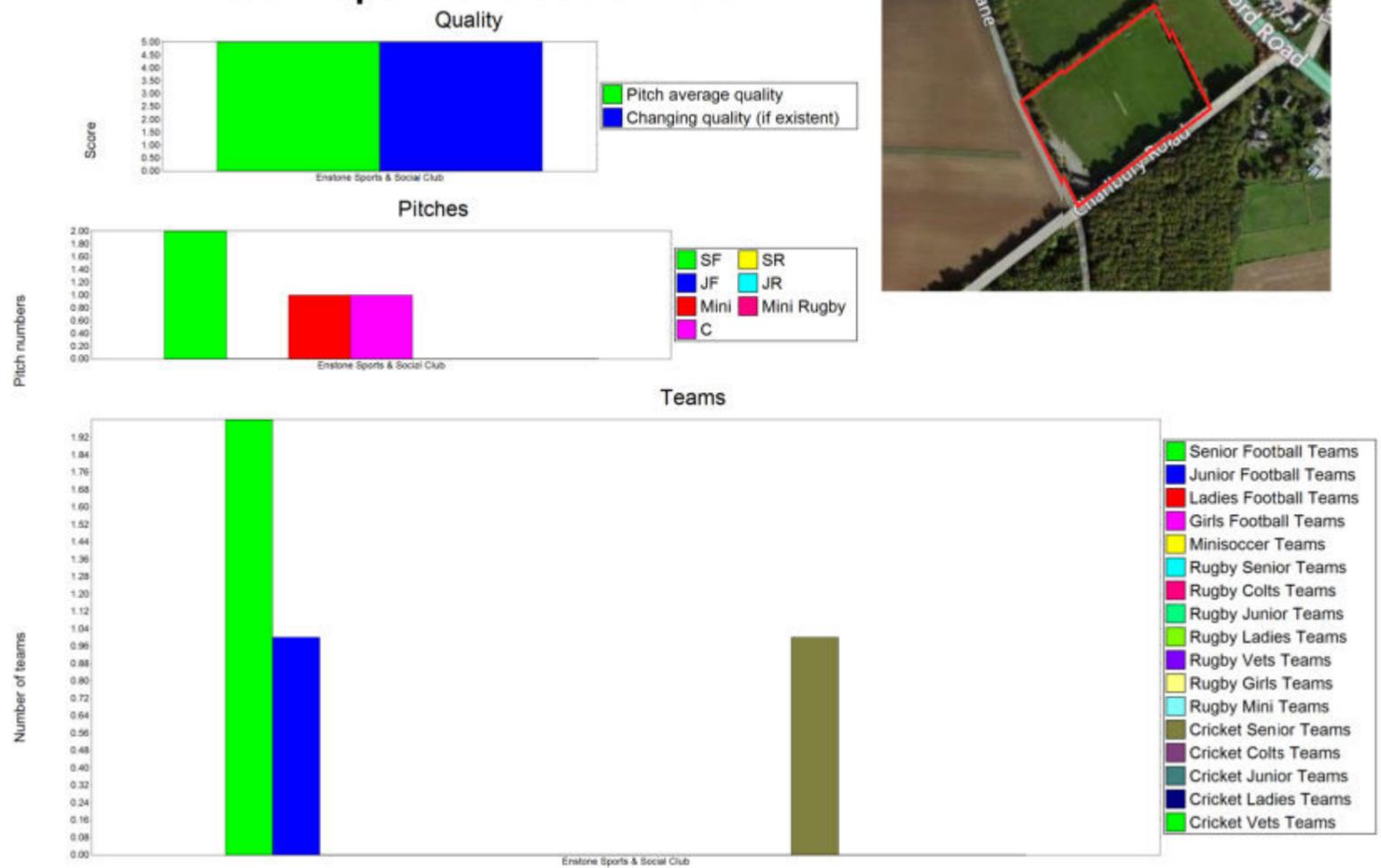
Sub area: Chipping Norton

Access: A2

Ownership: Club (Enstone Sport and Social Club)

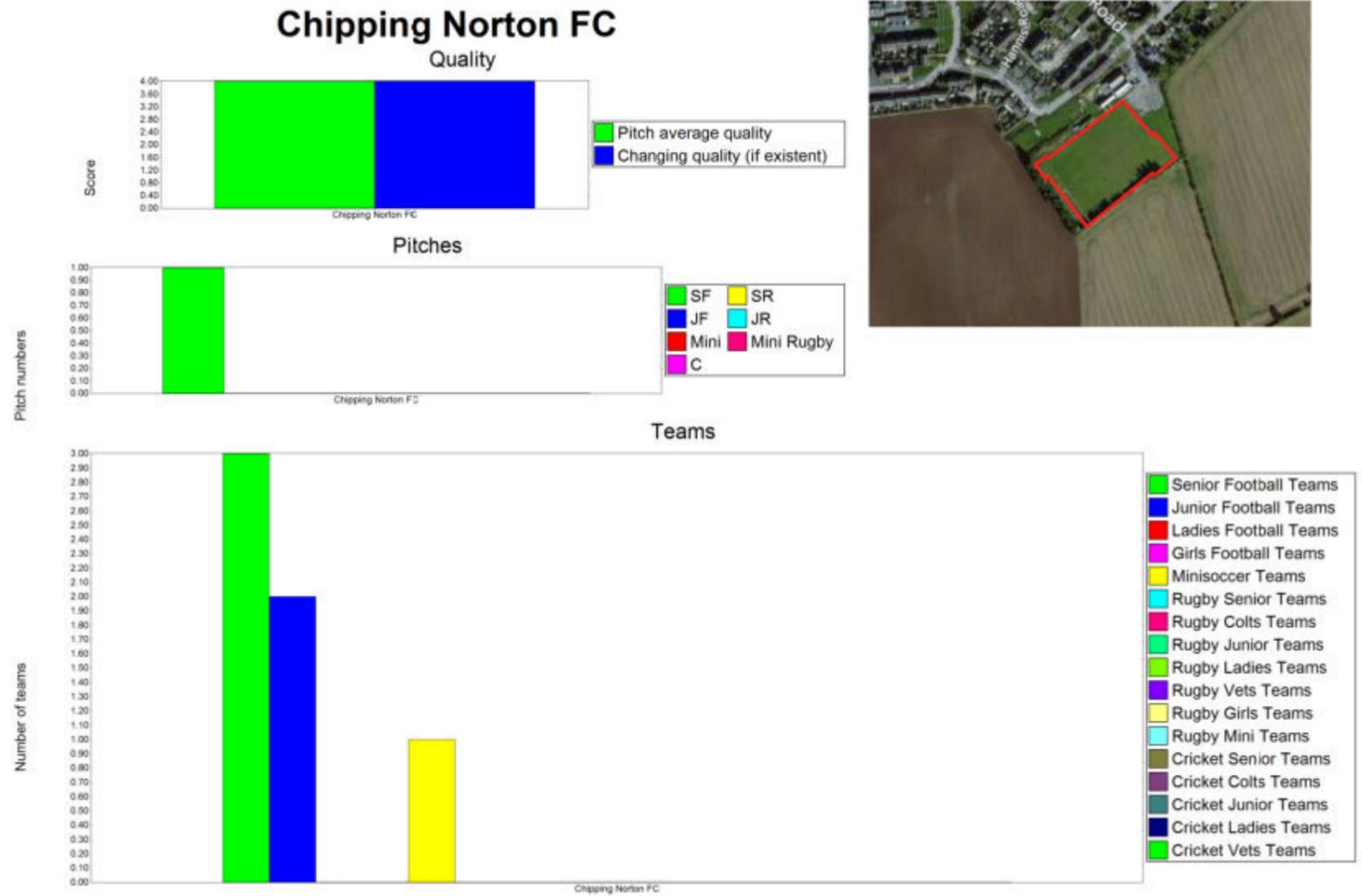
Relevant comments from consultation: The club rates its facilities as good to excellent, and have plans to expand their number of cricket teams.

Enstone Sports and Social Club

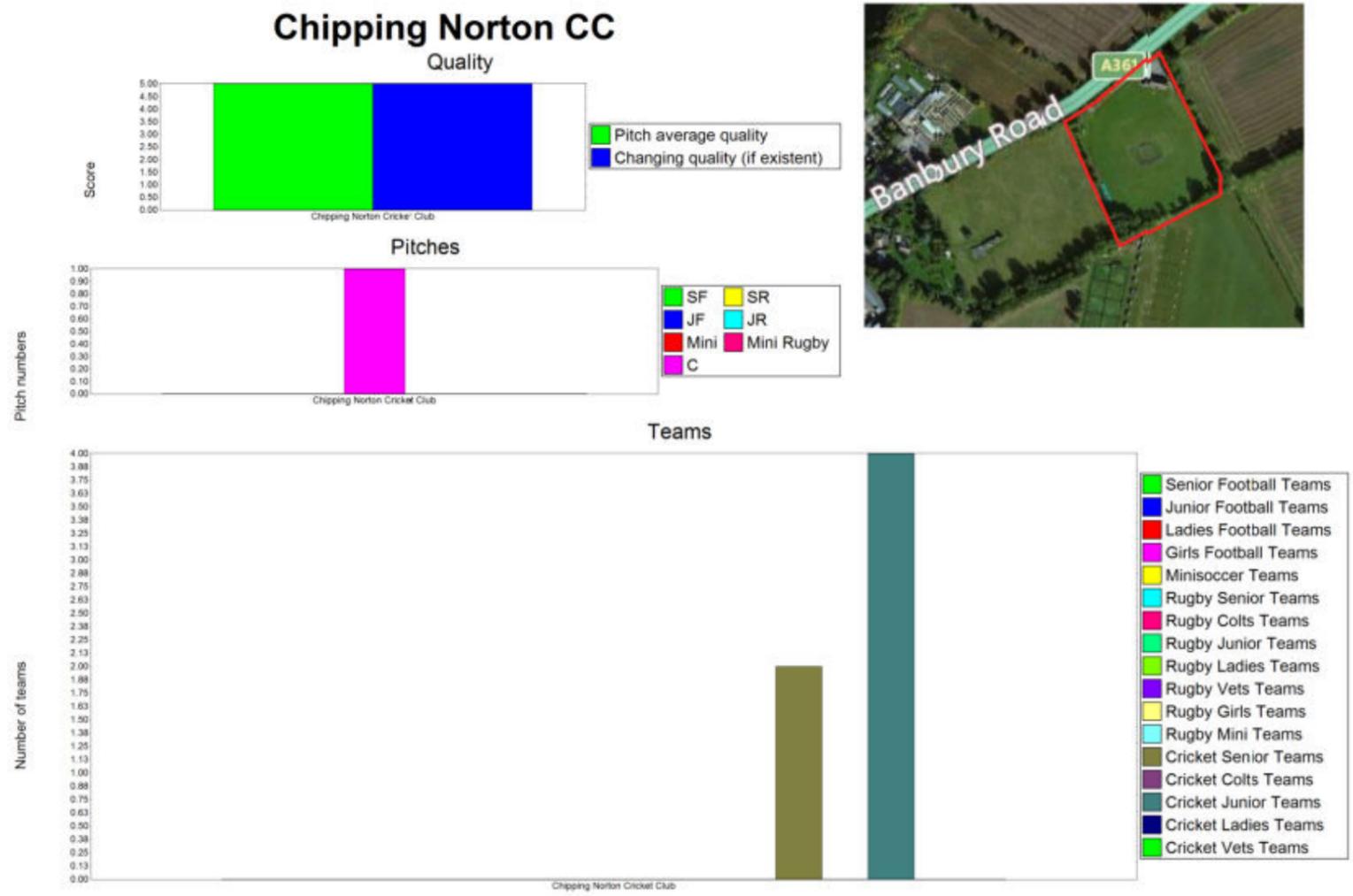


Site: 13
Sub area: Chipping Norton
Access: A2
Ownership: Club (Chipping Norton FC)

Notes: The Chipping Norton FC have not made comments with regard to this particular site, but note comments with regard to Chipping Norton Swifts in respect of Greystone site.

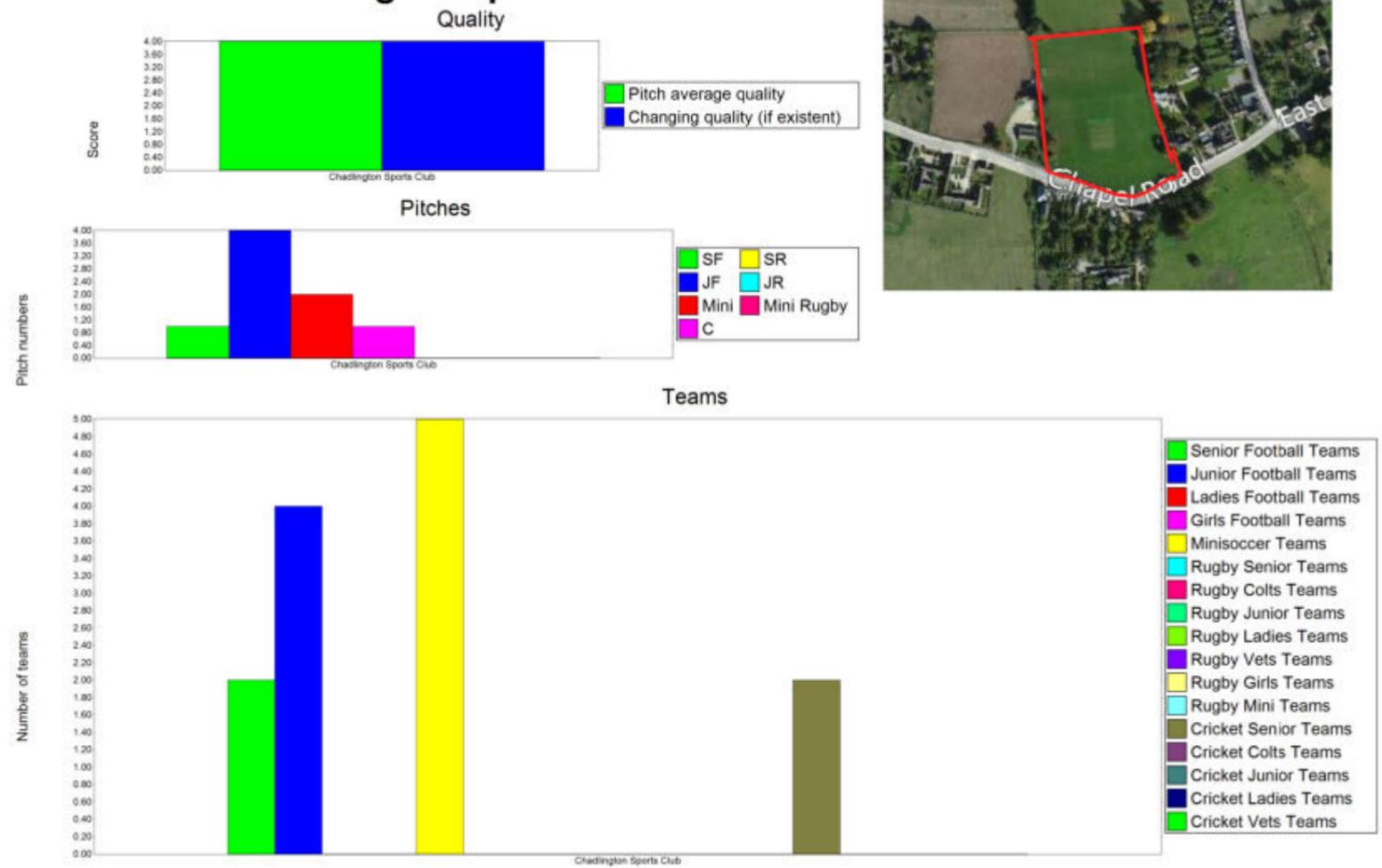


Site: 19
Sub area: Chipping Norton
Access: A2
Ownership: Club (Chipping Norton CC)
Relevant comments from consultation: Cricket: ground used to capacity now, with the re-introduction of junior teams



Site: 21
Sub area: Chipping Norton
Access: A2
Ownership: Club (Chadlington Sports Club)
Note: No comments received from this club. However, the County FA note that the club has undertaken significant improvements to its site, with the benefit of grant aid.

Chadlington Sports Club



5. Demand in relation to supply

5.1 Football

5.1.1 Leagues

The main leagues operating in the area are the Witney and District Football League (WDFL); the Witney and District Youth Football League (WDYFL); the Oxford Mail Girls' League (OMGL). Other higher level leagues represented include The Thames Valley Central Women's Football League; The Hellenic League; The Calor League; The FA Southern Women's League.

5.1.2 Clubs and teams

The following table identifies teams located in the three sub areas, as well as where they play. (A club is identified more than once if it plays at more than one venue)

Name	Sub Area	Ground	Adult male	Boys	Ladies	Girls	Mini Teams	League
Brize Norton Ladies FC	Carterton	Station Road Recreation Ground						Thames Valley Counties Women's League
Carterton FC	Carterton	Monahan Way		7			4	WDFL
Carterton FC	Carterton	Carterton Town Football Club	3	2			1	WDFL, Thames Valley Women's, Hellenic league, Oxford Mail Girls, WDYFL, FA Invitational
Carterton Ladies and Girls F.C.	Carterton	Monahan Way			1	4	1	Thames Valley Central Women's Football League, Oxford Mail Girls' League
Carterton Rangers	Carterton	Carterton Town Football Club	1					WDFL
Chipping Norton Town FC	Carterton	Chipping Norton Town FC	3	2			1	WDFL, WDYFL, Veterans' Premier
Corinthians FC	Carterton	Monahan Way	1					WDFL
Minster Lovell FC	Carterton	Station Road Recreation Ground	3					WDFL, Veteran's Premier
Sub area total			11	11	1	4	7	
Chadlington Sports FC	Chipping Norton	Chadlington Sports Club	2	4			5	WDFL, WDYFL
Chipping Norton Swifts	Chipping Norton	Greystones		2				WDYFL
Enstone Sports FC	Chipping Norton	Enstone Sports & Social Club	2	1				WDFL, WDYFL
Greystones FC	Chipping Norton	Greystones	1					WDFL
Sub area total			5	7			5	
Ducklington FC	Witney	Glebelands Playing Field	3	6			3	WDFL
FC Hollybush	Witney	Madley Park	2					WDFL
FC Mills	Witney	West Witney Sports Ground	2					WDFL
Hailey FC	Witney	Hailey Recreation Ground	2					WDFL

Name	Sub Area	Ground	Adult male	Boys	Ladies	Girls	Mini Teams	League
Minster Lovell FC	Witney	Wash meadow Recreation Ground	2	3			2	WDFL
North Leigh FC	Witney	Eynsham Park	5					WDFL, Calor League, Hellenic League
Spartan Rangers FC	Witney	The Leys Recreation Ground	3	0			3	WDFL
Tower Hill FC	Witney	West Witney Sports Ground	1	6			12	WDYFL, WDFL
Tower Hill Ladies & Girls FC	Witney	West Witney Sports Ground			1	5	9	FA Southern Women's League, Oxford Mail Girls' Football League
West Witney FC	Witney	West Witney Sports Ground	2					WDFL
Witney Royals FC	Witney	Burwell Recreation Ground	3					WDFL
Witney Vikings Youth FC (1)	Witney	Witney Mills Cricket Ground		1			1	WDYFL
Witney Vikings Youth FC (2)	Witney	Burwell Recreation Ground		3			6	WDYFL
Witney Vikings Youth FC (3)	Witney	Madley Park					4	WDYFL
Witney Wanderers FC	Witney	King George V Recreation Ground	1					WDFL
Sub area total			26	19	1	5	40	
Grand total			42	37	2	9	48	

There are therefore 42 adult male teams; 37 junior male teams; 2 ladies teams; 9 girls' teams; and 48 mini-soccer teams. This breaks down into the following numbers over the three sub areas

Sub area	Adult male	Boys	Ladies	Girls	Mini Teams
Carterton	11	11	1	4	7
Chipping Norton	5	7			5
Witney	26	19	1	5	40
	42	37	2	9	52

5.1.3 Team Generation Rates (TGRs)

TGRs can be defined as the number of people it takes within a given population to generate a 'team' based on information available about local teams and population. Examining team numbers as a ratio to population can be a starting point to examining current and possible future levels of participation. The table below provides the estimated TGRs for football over defined age groups. They can help to plan for future needs as will be explained later in this report. The TGRs shown are generalised to take into account population data available to the study. In this case there is a simple division of teams within a given age group into the total population for the study area (62,683). Sport England advocates more detailed breakdowns covering both male and female age groups. However, these cannot be produced, due to the absence of population estimates/projections which fit the age groups used by different governing bodies.

	Adult male	Boys	Ladies	Girls	Mini Teams
Team numbers	42	37	2	9	52
TGRs	1,492	1,694	31,341	6,964	1,205

It will be noted from the above that there is a very wide variation in the respective TGRs.

5.1.4 General trends issues and problems

The National Governing Body - Oxfordshire County Football Association

The following information was received from the FA regionally and the Oxfordshire County FA (FA)

Trends and Demand

- Overall, unlike a lot of counties, Oxfordshire has not suffered a decline in adult male 11v11 football and adult female 11v11 has remained fairly stable. FA Team figures in West Oxfordshire may not provide a completely accurate picture of potential participation as the lack of available 11v11 facilities has left new teams with little choice but to discontinue as there have been no pitches available to play on.
- Youth male football, 7v7, 9v9 and 11v11, continues to grow across the county although this is not so prevalent in West Oxfordshire. Youth female has suffered a decline countywide although again this is less prevalent in the west.

Some specific Issues

- Disability football team provision is fairly poor in the west compared to the rest of the county as there is at least 1 disability club in each of the three other districts. There are also only 3 adult female 11v11 teams in the district and a lack of facilities means there are few small-sided football opportunities within the district compared to the rest of the county and no Futsal (version of small-sided indoor football) opportunities
- Lack of available 11v11 pitches and appropriate changing facilities
- Cost of facilities.
- No female small- sided provision
- Lack of appropriate facilities to host central venue trophy events in line with The FA Youth Development review
- Club progression hampered by inability to develop facilities further due to planning restrictions e.g. floodlights or further enhancement at North Leigh
- Poor changing provision e.g. West Witney and limited funds to address
- Pitches owned by a range of Town, Parish, Playing Field Associations and other organisations meaning a coordinated approach to development is very difficult
- Lack of 11v11 pitches in Carterton & Witney

Potential Improvements

- Greater 11v11 grass pitch provision in Carterton
- 3G re-surface at Carterton ATP (now completed)
- Refurbishment of West Witney Sports and Social Club
- Changing room refurbishment at Glebelands (Ducklington FC)
- Coordinated approach to pitch usage and the development of more youth pitches in Chipping Norton to allow the Town Swifts to grow their youth section

Good Practice

- Chadlington FC have done a huge amount of work to their site through grant funding including the creation of new grass pitches and changing room refurbishment

League Secretary Response - Witney & District Youth Football League

The Witney & District Youth Football League run football for players in the age range under 7 through to Under 15 and in total have over 3,300 players registered and approximately 250 teams (over the whole of West Oxfordshire - not just the study area).

Trends and Demand

Youth football participation is increasing. Over the last few years the league has seen a marked increase in younger teams (U7 to U11) and coupled with the FA rules changes on team sizes this has resulted in more teams needing pitches.

Some specific Issues

With the changes in youth football brought in by the FA there is a need for different sized pitches for the age groups Under 7 and Under 8; Under 9 and Under 10; Under 11 and Under 12; Under 13, U14 & U15. Pitches are becoming "like gold dust".

In some cases the same pitches are over used due to the volume of matches on them, this coupled with poor drainage leads to cancellations during bad weather and child welfare issues with boggy pitches. For training, as well as the above problem, there is a lack of illuminated areas and hard surfaces to train during the winter months. There is also a lack of indoor facilities for youngsters to use. Many schools seem very reluctant or refuse to open their facilities for teams to use.

Some sites suffer from a lack of or poor parking, no toilets; and poor changing rooms at grounds is common. The league have tried to organise one day events as suggested by the FA but there is a lack of grounds with sufficient pitches to be able to have 20+ teams there in one day. This, coupled with lack of parking, toilet and refreshments makes it a "no go". At the beginning and at the end of the season a number of pitches are lost due to cricket being played on or near the pitch. This leads to frustrations and raises issues in getting games played.

Potential Improvements/opportunities

- Remedies to the above issues!
- More changing rooms and a referee changing room and toilet at Burwell Meadow; and, more changing rooms and referees rooms at West Witney. Improvements are needed to cater for all the pitches (both sites need two changing rooms and one referee's room per pitch.)
- Make better use of the parish council pitches.
- Increase the number 3G pitches.

Club consultation findings

From clubs responding to the consultation the following issues were raised:

- 7 of the 14 clubs reported that there were not enough pitches to accommodate matches and 9 said there were not enough pitches available for training.
- 9 out of the 14 clubs indicated that the quality of their pitch was no better than "average". This includes Tower Hill FC (West Witney Sports Ground) and Carterton Town FC (Monahan Way) who both thought that the quality was below average.
- 9 clubs reported that their changing facilities were no better than average. Facilities at West Witney Sports Ground, Burwell Meadow Recreation Ground (Witney) and Monahan Way (Carterton) were deemed to be poor.
- 12 clubs reported fielding at least the same number of teams as last season, and 6 (Chipping Norton Swifts, Tower Hill, Ducklington, Stonesfield Strikers, Witney Vikings Youth and Milton-under-Wychwood) reporting an increase.
- 5 clubs had plans to field more teams in the future and 8 clubs wished to expand and/or refurbish their facilities. 3 clubs would consider relocating (Carterton Town FC, Stonesfield Strikers and Witney Vikings Youth).
- The most common barriers to club development were a shortage of pitches (junior and senior); a shortage of indoor facilities for training; a lack of external funding

- ; and a shortage of volunteers/falling membership.

5.1.5 Temporal demand for and supply of pitches

The following tables summarise the existing peak time demand/supply situation for football over the three sub areas. It uses a method advocated by Sport England to examine demand in this manner (see **Section 2 and Appendix 1** for a fuller explanation of the study method).

Carterton

Comment for Carterton: The calculations for the Carterton sub area show that there is sufficient provision of pitches in the sub area to meet the current peak-time demand for adult football and mini soccer. However, there is a net peak-time shortage of junior pitches. The explanation for this is that many junior teams will be playing on adult size pitches. Some of these might be over-marked, but it is more than likely that teams will still in fact be playing on the full adult dimension pitches.

	Adult Football	Junior Football	Mini Soccer
Stage 1: Identify teams	9.00	13.00	6.00
Stage 2: Calculate home games per week	0.50	0.50	0.50
Stage 3: Calculate total home games per week (S1 x S2)	4.50	6.50	3.00
Stage 4: Establish temporal demand (expressed as %)			
<i>Saturday AM</i>	0.00	33.33	100.00
<i>Saturday PM</i>	66.66	0.00	0.00
<i>Sunday AM</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Sunday PM</i>	11.11	66.66	0.00
<i>Midweek</i>	22.22	0.00	0.00
Stage 5: Define pitches used each day (S3 x S4)			
<i>Saturday AM</i>	0.00	2.17	3.00
<i>Saturday PM</i>	3.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Sunday AM</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Sunday PM</i>	0.50	4.33	0.00
<i>Midweek</i>	1.00	0.00	0.00
Stage 6: Establish pitches currently available	6.00	0.00	3.00
Stage 7: (S6 – S5)			
<i>Saturday AM</i>	6.00	-2.17	0.00
<i>Saturday PM</i>	3.00	0.00	3.00
<i>Sunday AM</i>	6.00	0.00	3.00
<i>Sunday PM</i>	5.50	-4.33	3.00
<i>Midweek</i>	5.00	0.00	3.00

Chipping Norton

Comment for Chipping Norton: The calculations for the Chipping Norton sub area show that there is sufficient provision of pitches in the sub area to meet the current peak-time demand for adult football and mini soccer. However, there is a net peak-time shortage of junior pitches. The explanation for this is that many junior teams will be playing on adult size pitches. Some of these might be over-marked, but it is more than likely that teams will still in fact be playing on the full adult dimension pitches.

It should be noted that this table includes provision at Chipping Norton School, as these pitches are the subject of a secured community use agreement. However, the fact that these pitches are available for use does not appear to be well-known amongst potential users, given their very limited current use by outside teams.

	Adult Football	Junior Football	Mini Soccer
Stage 1: Identify teams	7.00	9.00	6.00
Stage 2: Calculate home games per week	0.50	0.50	0.50
Stage 3: Calculate total home games per week (S1 x S2)	3.50	4.50	3.00
Stage 4: Establish temporal demand (expressed as %)			
<i>Saturday AM</i>	0.00	0.00	100.00
<i>Saturday PM</i>	85.72	0.00	0.00
<i>Sunday AM</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Sunday PM</i>	0.00	100.00	0.00
<i>Midweek</i>	14.28	0.00	0.00
Stage 5: Define pitches used each day (S3 x S4)			
<i>Saturday AM</i>	0.00	0.00	3.00
<i>Saturday PM</i>	3.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Sunday AM</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Sunday PM</i>	0.00	4.50	0.00
<i>Midweek</i>	0.50	0.00	0.00
Stage 6: Establish pitches currently available	7.00	3.00	3.00
Stage 7: (S6 – S5)			
<i>Saturday AM</i>	7.00	3.00	0.00
<i>Saturday PM</i>	4.00	3.00	3.00
<i>Sunday AM</i>	7.00	3.00	3.00
<i>Sunday PM</i>	7.00	-1.50	3.00
<i>Midweek</i>	6.50	3.00	3.00

Witney

Comment for Witney: The calculations for the Witney sub area show that there is sufficient provision of pitches in the sub area to meet the current peak-time demand for adult football. However, there is a net peak-time shortage of junior pitches. The explanation for this is that many junior teams will be playing on adult size pitches. Some of these might be over-marked, but it is more than likely that teams will still in fact be playing on the full adult dimension pitches.

There is also an apparent peak-time undersupply of mini-soccer pitches. However, this will be due to the fact that a lot of mini-soccer is played on over-marked pitches and/or using temporary markings.

	Adult Football	Junior Football	Mini Soccer
Stage 1: Identify teams	27.00	29.00	37.00
Stage 2: Calculate home games per week	0.50	0.50	0.50
Stage 3: Calculate total home games per week (S1 x S2)	13.50	14.50	18.50
Stage 4: Establish temporal demand (expressed as %)			
<i>Saturday AM</i>	0.00	15.62	100.00
<i>Saturday PM</i>	85.18	0.00	0.00
<i>Sunday AM</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Sunday PM</i>	7.40	84.38	0.00
<i>Midweek</i>	7.40	0.00	0.00
Stage 5: Define pitches used each day (S3 x S4)			
<i>Saturday AM</i>	0.00	2.26	18.50
<i>Saturday PM</i>	11.50	0.00	0.00
<i>Sunday AM</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Sunday PM</i>	1.00	12.24	0.00
<i>Midweek</i>	1.00	0.00	0.00
Stage 6: Establish pitches currently available	13.00	3.00	11.00
Stage 7: (S6 – S5)			
<i>Saturday AM</i>	13.00	0.74	-7.50
<i>Saturday PM</i>	1.50	3.00	11.00
<i>Sunday AM</i>	13.00	3.00	11.00
<i>Sunday PM</i>	12.00	-9.24	11.00
<i>Midweek</i>	12.00	3.00	11.00

5.1.6 Import/export of demand

The evidence of this study suggests that there is currently little significant importation or exportation of demand from the three study areas. Inevitably some teams will draw their membership from outside the study areas, and this will be especially case for the higher standard teams, which will draw their players from a wider catchment. The three study areas fall entirely within West Oxfordshire District, and it is highly likely that the majority of membership/players will be drawn from the District as a whole.

5.1.7 Qualitative issues

Having sufficient number of pitches to meet peak-time demand is not in itself an adequate measure of the adequacy of supply. At least as important are qualitative factors such as:

- the capacity of pitches to absorb wear and tear as a result of match and training play, and other activity (especially where pitches are situated in public recreation grounds and on school sites; and,
- the adequacy of supporting facilities, such as changing accommodation.

As is clear from the (above) summary of consultation findings, and the site-by-site comments received (see Section 4), the above factors are of major concern to local football interests (from the perspective of both users and providers).

5.1.8 Carrying capacity

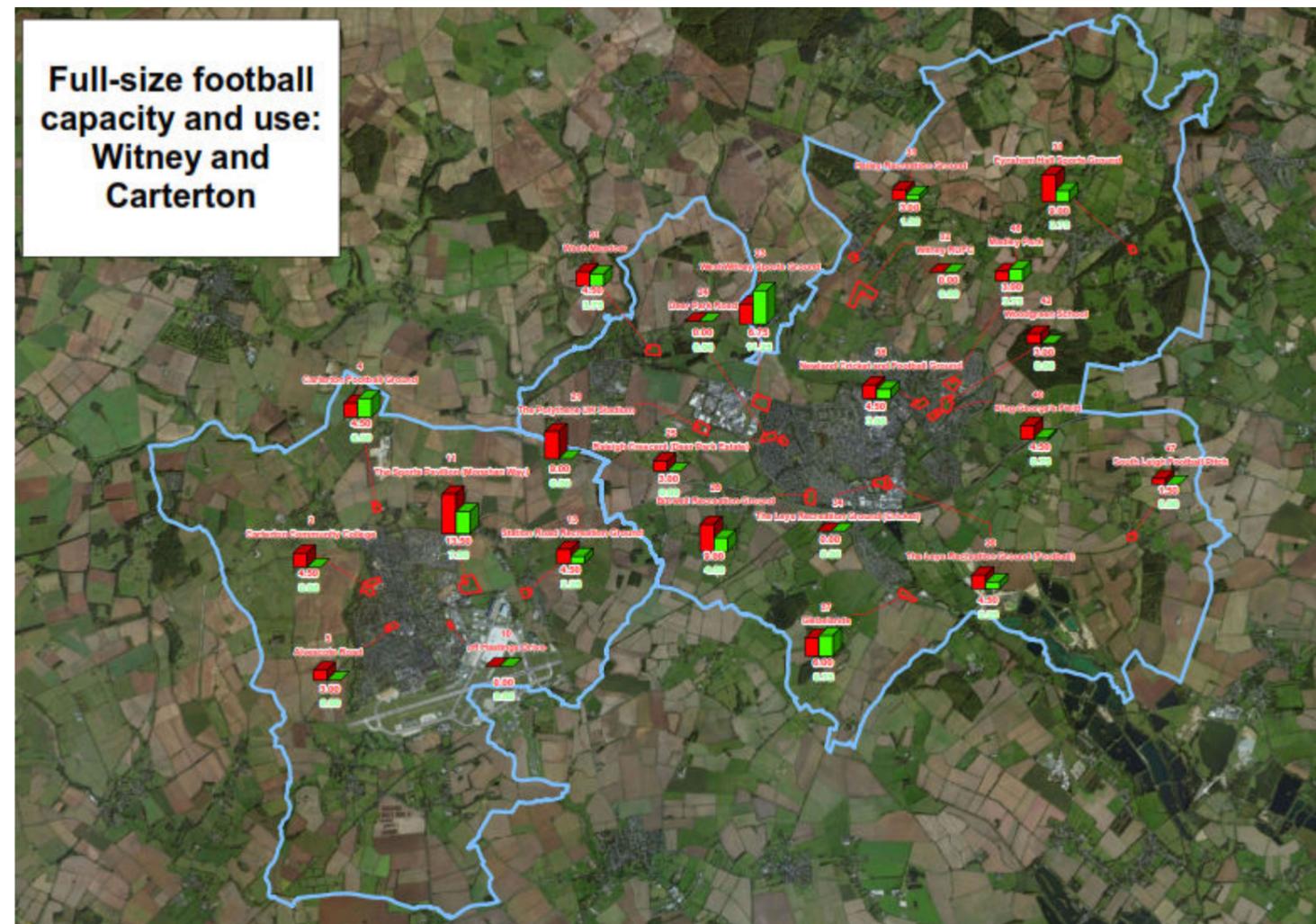
Carrying capacity is defined as the level to which a pitch can be used before it is reduced to an unsatisfactory condition, and cannot be used as frequently and regularly as required. The carrying capacity of a grass pitch is largely defined by the quality of the playing surface and how well it drains. However, it is also influenced by the extent to which it is used for activities other than matches by community sports teams. For example, a pitch located on a recreation ground might also legitimately host other kinds of activity. Equally, a pitch on a school site also needs to host curriculum activity. Pitches will also be used for training in many situations, and this must also be taken into account.

5.1.9 An assessment of carrying capacity relative to estimated levels of use

A site-by-site assessment has been made of the carrying capacity of pitches relative to the levels of activity generated by the clubs and teams playing on those sites. The method underpinning this assessment is described fully in **Appendix 1**. This provides a comparison of the notional capacity of a pitch to absorb use on a weekly basis (expressed as match capacity equivalent hours) with the estimated level of activity generated by clubs and teams playing on those sites (expressed as team equivalent hours).

Factors determining match capacity hours include:

- Pitch quality and how this influences the level of play that can be absorbed (governing body of sport guidelines have been followed in this regard (see Appendix xxx).
- Other activity- for example, if a pitch is located in a public recreation ground or on a school site (as opposed to a dedicated sports ground)



Factors determining team equivalent hours include:

- The number of games each relevant team will play on a given site/pitch
- Whether training is also conducted on a given site/pitch
- The length of matches and training session; and, the size of team (squads) and their age- as these will all influence 'wear and tear'

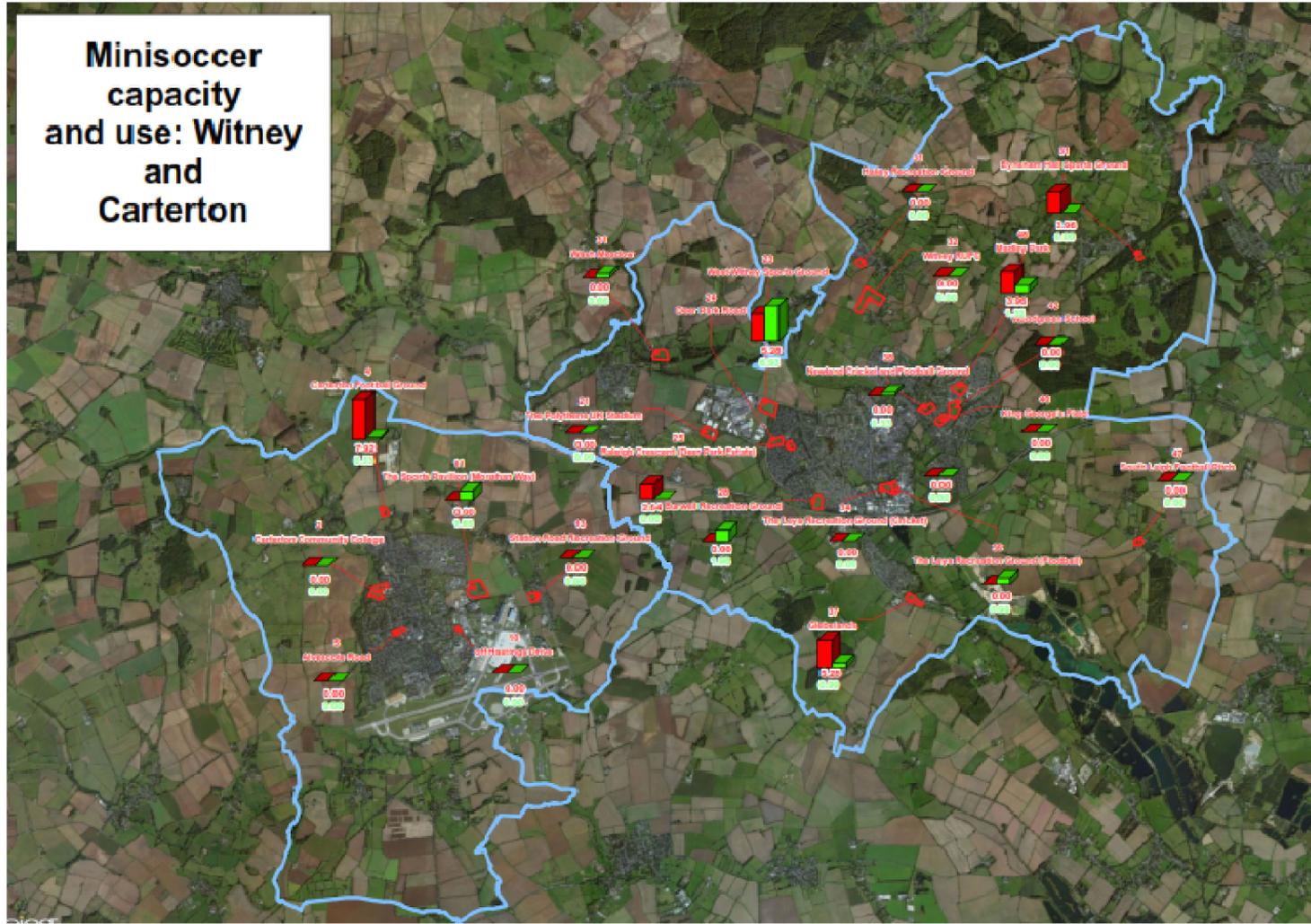
The following maps illustrate the results of this assessment for full-size football and mini-soccer for all three of the sub areas. The **red** bars represent notional total site match capacity (hours/week); and, the **green** bars represent the total team equivalent hours/week. If the green bar is higher than the red bar it means that pitches on a site are probably being used too much, to the long-term detriment. For those sites where football pitches and teams are not located, the bars will have no height.

Comment: Three sites stand out here for being 'overplayed':

- 23 West Witney Sports ground (Witney sub area)
- 37 Glebelands, Ducklington (Witney sub area);
- 48 Madley Park (Witney sub area) and,
- 4 Carterton FC (Carterton sub area)

Of these the situation at West Witney Sports ground seems especially bad. This reflects concerns expressed through the consultation about this site.

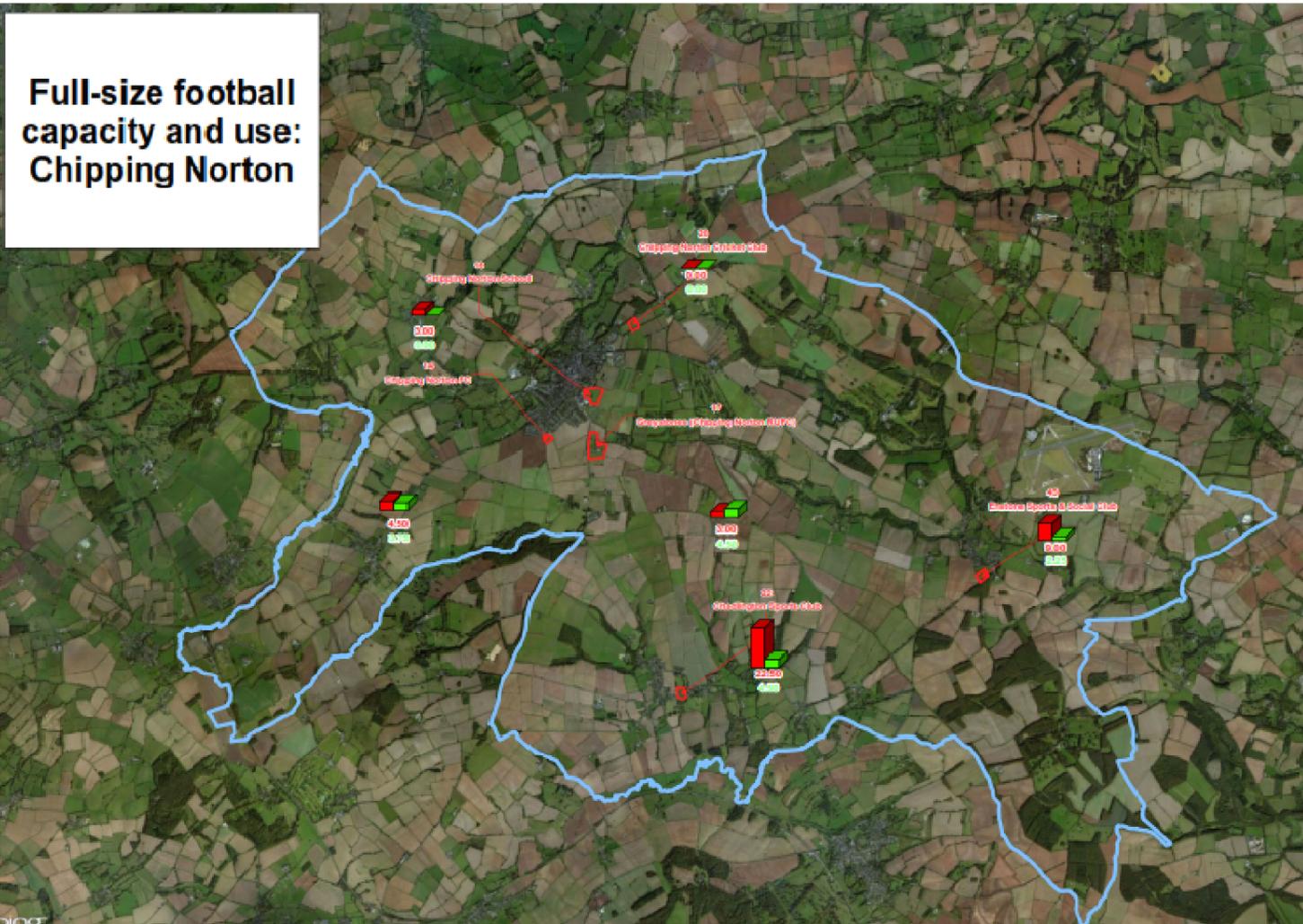
**Minisoccer
capacity
and use: Witney
and
Carterton**



Comment: The following sites appear to be overlaid by mini-soccer:

- 23 West Witney Sports ground (Witney sub area)
- 31 Wash Meadow (Witney sub area)
- 11 Sports Pavilion, Monahan Way (Carterton sub area)
- 28 Burwell Recreation Ground (Witney sub area)
- 36 The Leys Recreation Ground (Witney sub area)

To an extent this apparent overplay will be as a result of mini-soccer matches and training taking place on larger pitches (being over-marked). However, this in itself will contribute to the wear and tear on larger pitches.

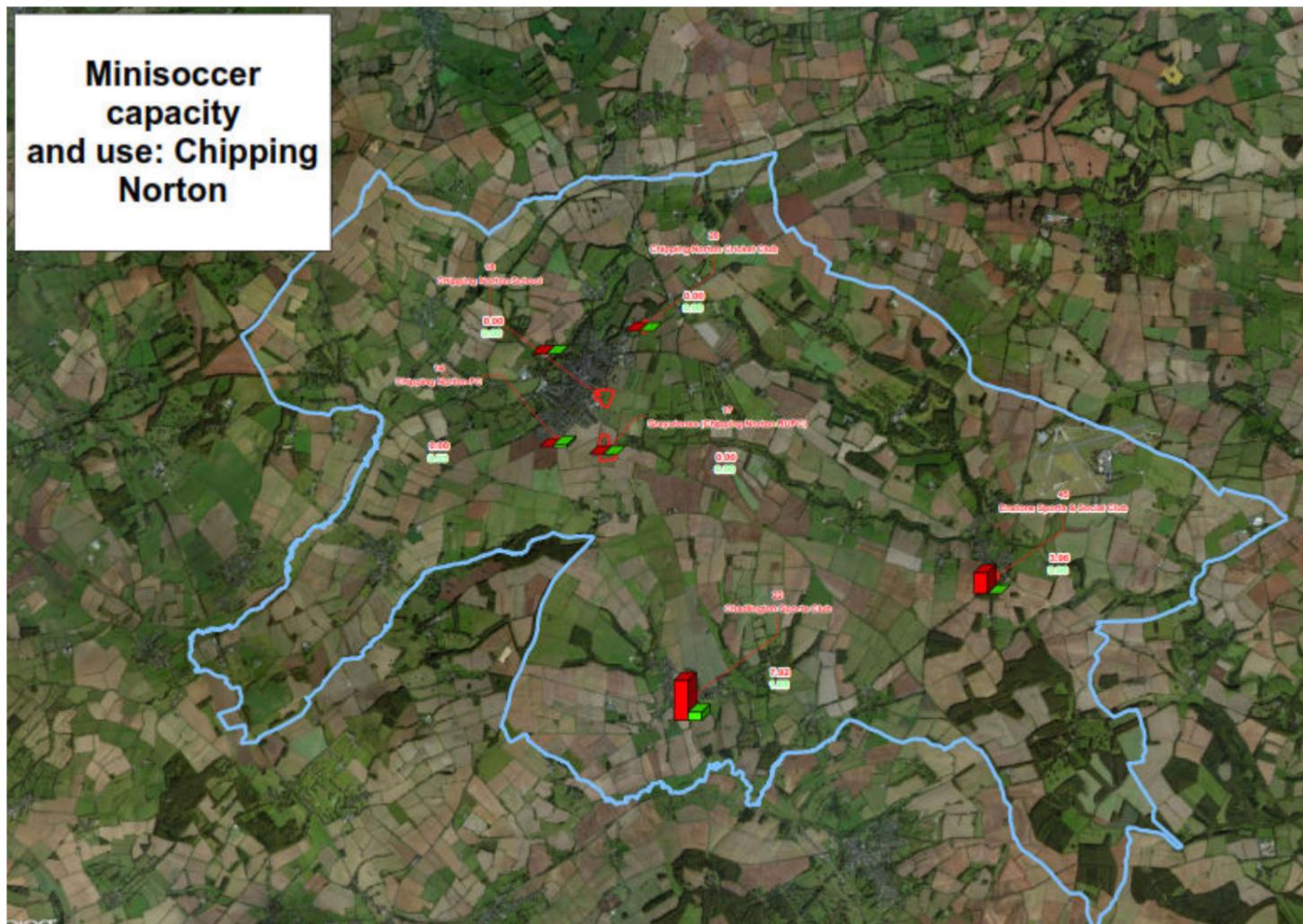


Comment: One site stands out for being overplayed:

- 17 Chipping Norton RUFC, Greystones.

Part of this site is used for football, and the club that uses the site has suggested through the consultation that it feels it has 'outgrown' the facilities available. This view seems to be borne out by the capacity assessment.

There are also pitches at Chipping Norton School that are technically available and subject to a secured community use agreement. However, these pitches do not appear to be used much, if at all, by community teams.



Comment: The following site appear to be overlaid by mini-soccer:

- 17 Chipping Norton FC

To an extent this apparent overplay will be as a result of mini-soccer matches and training taking place on larger pitches (being over-marked). However, this in itself will contribute to the wear and tear on larger pitches.

5.1.10 Scope for transferring play from over-used sites to others

In light of this apparent over-use of pitches in parts of the study area, it is worth considering whether it might be possible to transfer some of the 'overplay' from sites that are acknowledged to be under stress, to those where there may currently be lighter levels of use.

In the Chipping Norton sub area There is one site considered to be sufficiently close to the Chipping Norton Swifts at Greystones to absorb any of the overplay. This is Chipping Norton School, where pitches are technically available and subject to a secured community use agreement. However, these pitches do not appear to be used much, if at all, by community teams. Sites at Enstone and Chadlington are quite remote. In any event, activity displaced over more than one site is not ideal for a club. A significant amount of activity (especially training) could be hosted by a local synthetic pitch, if one were available.

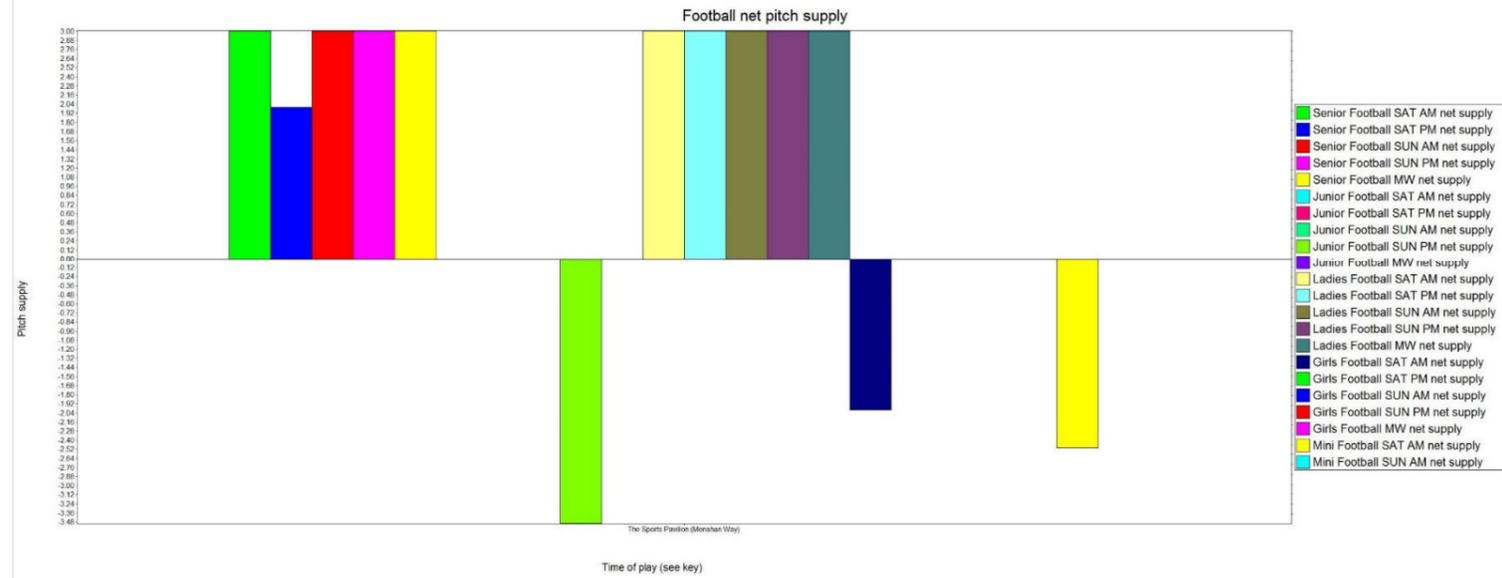
In Witney and Carterton sub areas sites such as Deer Park Road (24) (Witney); Raleigh Crescent (25) (Witney); and, Alvescot Road (5) (Carterton) are not considered to be suited for more intensive use given their locations and lack of supporting infrastructure. There are other sites in the Witney and Carterton sub areas that might be capable of accommodating more use. However, this will not be the case if the pitches are already being fully used at times of heaviest peak demand (Saturday and Sunday afternoons). An examination is made below of these sites is made below. However, a significant amount of activity (especially training) could be hosted by additional local synthetic pitches, if they were available.

Monahan Way (Carterton Sports Pavilion)



Site 11: Monahan Way (Carterton)

Comment: There may be scope for additional peak-time use on Saturday PM, but not on Sundays (junior/youth peak time). There would be a need to resolve potential overlapping seasons (already, the popularity of a minisoccer tournament over two weeks in the summer, causes particular problems for cricket).

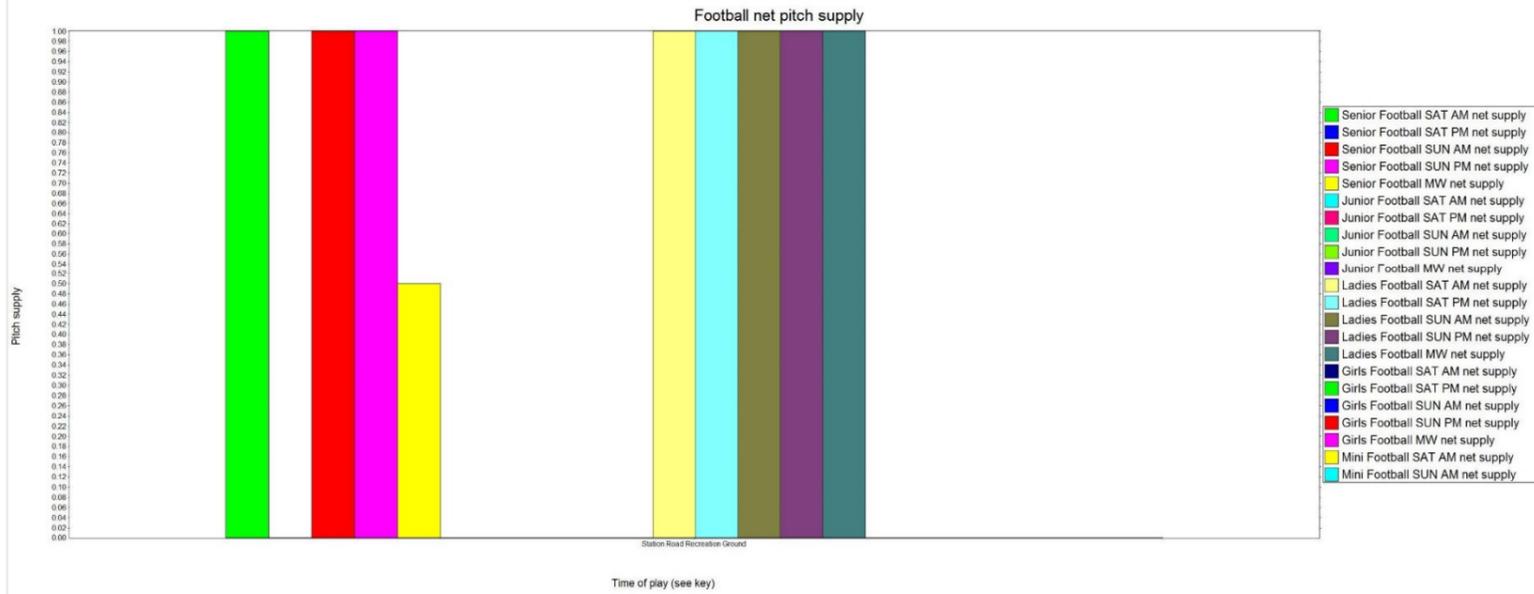


Station Road



Site 13: Station Road (Carterton Sub Area - Brize Norton Parish)

Comments: There may be scope for some more peak time use. However, the site is owned by a parish council and its cooperation would be required. Furthermore, the quality of changing accommodation might need to be improved.

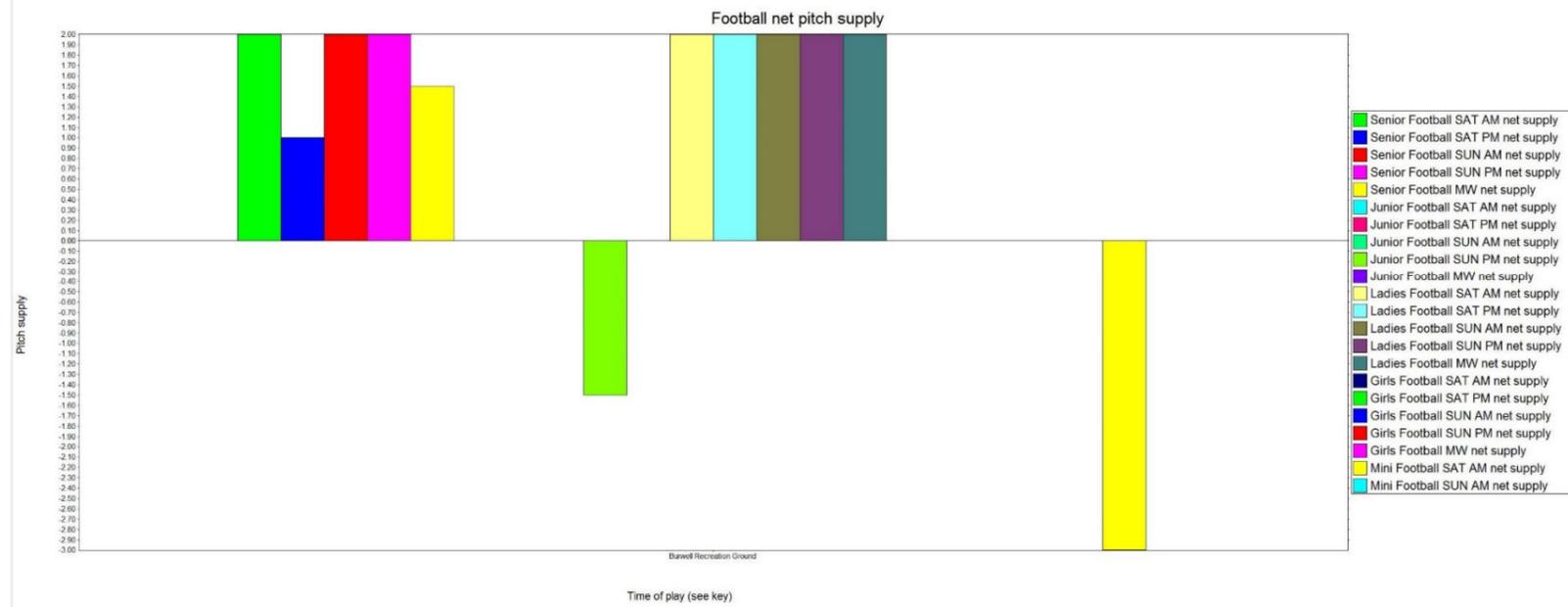


Burwell Recreation Ground



Site: 28. Burwell Recreation Ground (Witney)

Comment: There may be some limited scope for additional peak-time play on Saturday PM, but enlarged and improved changing facilities will be required, in addition to an improved playing surface.

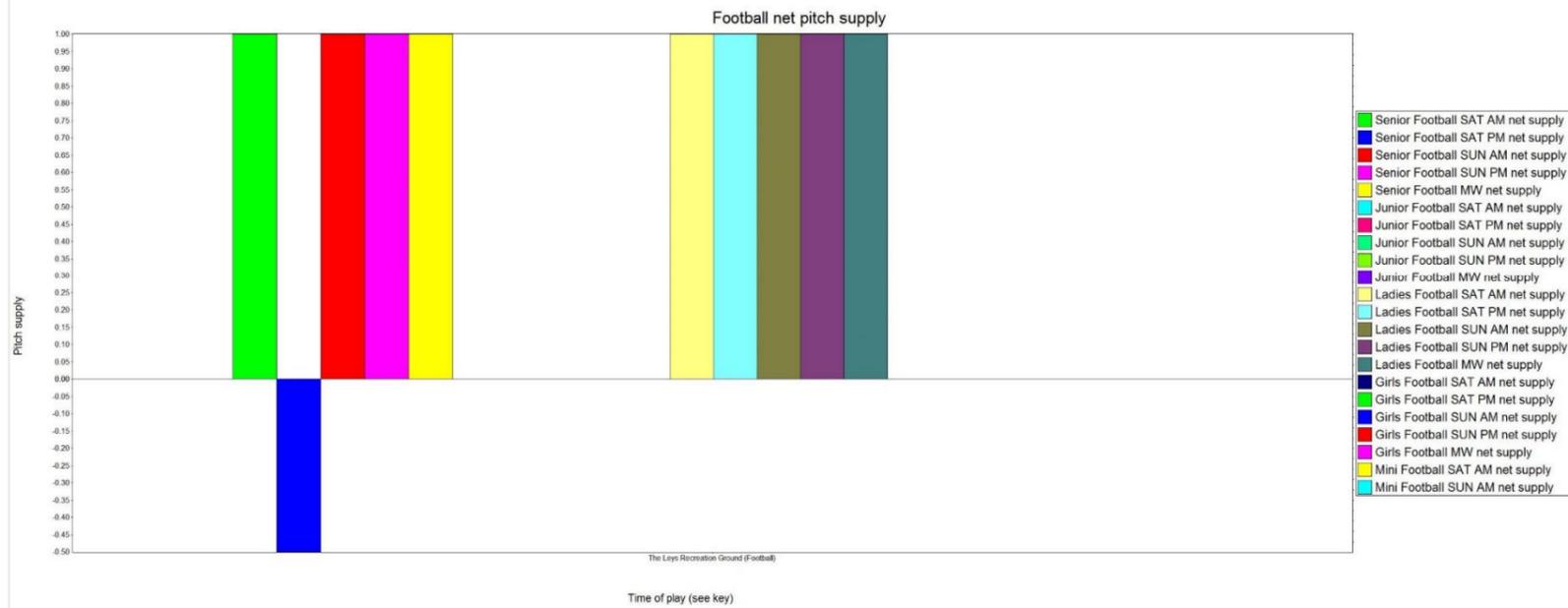


The Leys (football)



Site: 36. The Leys (Witney)

Comment: There may be scope for additional Sunday PM use, but the changing accommodation and playing surface will require improvement. It is likely that adult teams playing on this site will also play some of their home games elsewhere, which can explain the apparent under-supply.

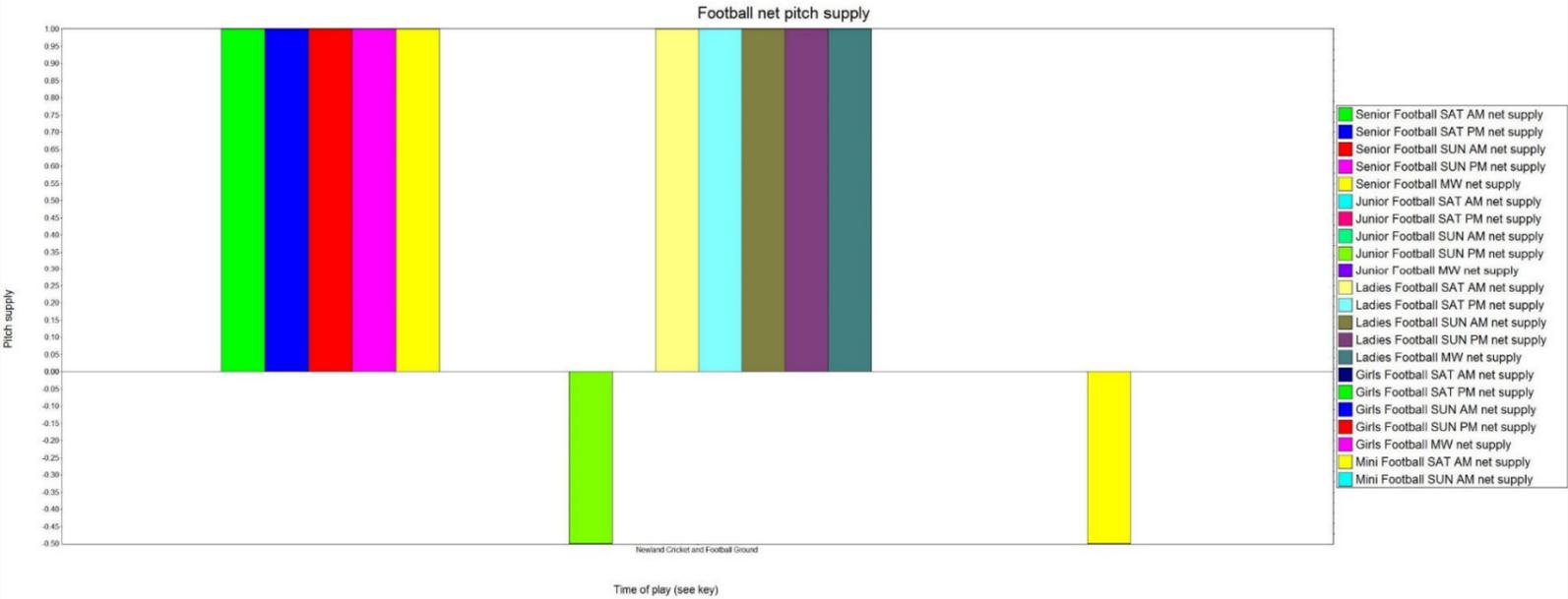


Newland



Site: 38. Newland (Witney)

Comment: Due to tenancy restrictions it is unlikely that this site could be further improved and used without the long-term cooperation of the private owner. Therefore additional use would be inappropriate.

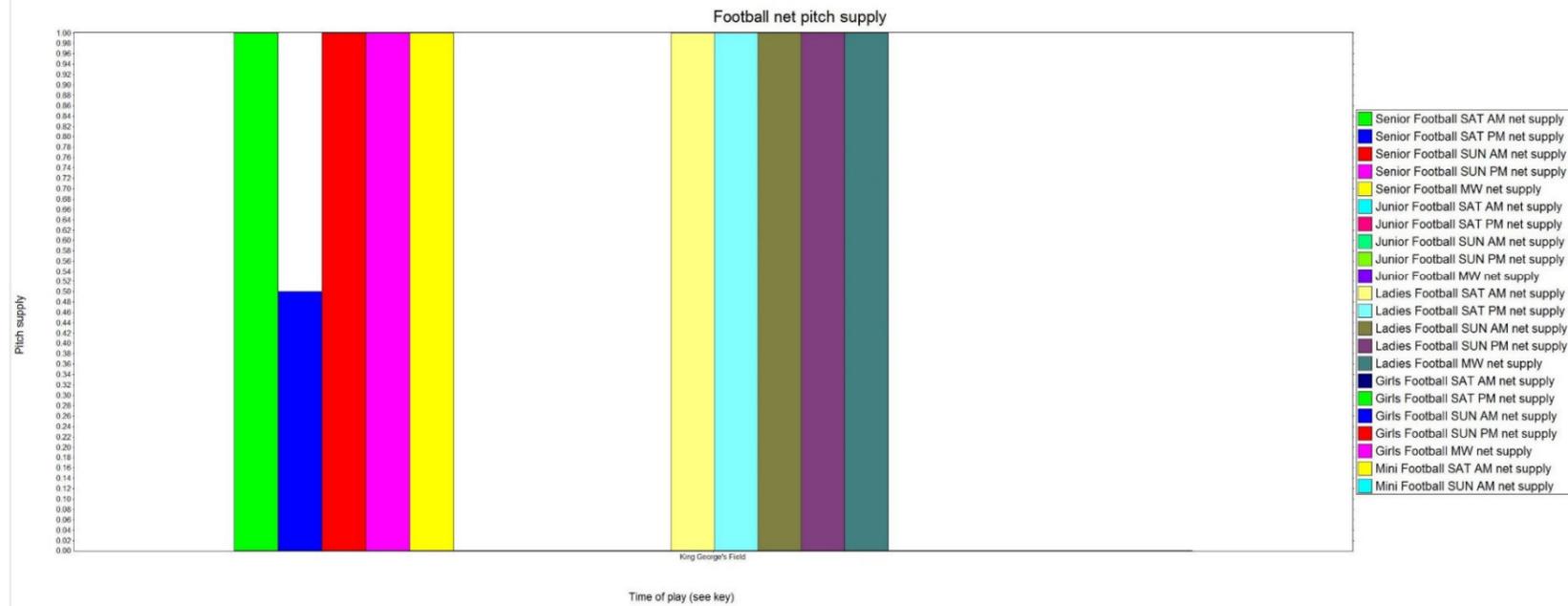


King George's Field



Site: 40. King George's Field (Witney)

Comment: Some additional peak-time demand could be accommodated, but access to the adjacent changing facilities at Wood Green School should be facilitated, along with improvements to the playing surface.



5.2 Cricket

5.2.1 Leagues

The main leagues operating in the area are the Oxfordshire Cricket Association (OCA); and, the Cherwell League.

5.2.2 Clubs and teams

The following table identifies teams located in the three sub areas, as well as where they play. (A club is identified more than once if it plays at more than one venue)

Name	Ground	Sub Area	Senior Teams	Junior Teams	Ladies Teams	League
Kilkenny CC	Monahan Way	Carterton	2			OCA
Minster Lovell CC (Third x1)	Station Road	Carterton	1			OCA
<i>Sub area total</i>			3			
Chadlington Sports CC	Chadlington Sports Ground	Chipping Norton	2			OCA
Chipping Norton CC	Chipping Norton Cricket Ground	Chipping Norton	2	4		OCA
Enstone Sports CC	Enstone Sports & Social Club	Chipping Norton	1			Friendlies
<i>Sub area total</i>			5	4		
Abbots CC	West Witney Sports ground	Witney	1			
Audley Ducks CC	West Witney Sports ground	Witney	1			
Ducklington Cricket Club	Glebelands Playing Field	Witney	1			OCA
Hailey CC	West Witney Sports Ground	Witney	1			OCA
Minster Lovell CC	Wash meadow Recreation Ground	Witney	4	5		OCA, Friendlies
West Witney CC	West Witney Sports Ground	Witney	1			OCA
Witney Mills CC	Witney Mills Cricket Ground	Witney	2			Cherwell League
Witney Swifts CC	The Leys Recreation Ground	Witney	2	1		OCA
<i>Sub area total</i>			13	6		
Grand total			21	10	0	

There are therefore 21 adult male teams; 10 junior (male) teams; and no female teams, as such. This breaks down into the following numbers over the three sub areas

Sub area	Adult male	Juniors
Carterton	3	
Chipping Norton	5	4
Witney	13	6

5.2.3 Team Generation Rates (TGRs)- see para 5.1.3 for an explanation

The TGRs shown are generalised to take into account population data available to the study. In this case there is a simple division of teams within a given age group into the total population for the study area (62,683). Sport England advocates more detailed breakdowns covering both male and female age groups. However, these cannot be produced, due to the absence of population estimates/projections which fit the age groups used by different governing bodies.

	Adult male	Juniors
Team numbers	21	10
TGRs	2,984	6,283

5.2.4 General trends issues and problems

The National Governing Body – English Cricket Board (ECB)

Information was received from the Oxfordshire County Cricket Board (OCCB) who had also discussed issues with the regional ECB facilities officer.

General

- The Board has set up a District Development Group in each of the local authority areas of Oxfordshire, which supports clubs and provide a variety of competitions and activities at entry level, i.e. for the youngest children. From under-11 upwards the OCCB provide competitions on a county-wide basis, and West Oxfordshire is particularly well represented; approximately one-third of all the clubs with junior sections are located in the district.
- A variety of clubs host OCCB competition finals and county and district games- the main ones are Shipton-under-Wychwood, Charlbury, Great Tew, Combe, Freeland and Oxford Downs (who play at Standlake). While these are outside of the study area they are still important venues for clubs that fall within the area (particularly for junior teams).

Trends and Demand

- OCCB are currently working with the ECB to draft a strategy for cricket in Oxfordshire for the next three years. Junior cricket continues to be a priority area and OCCB are now putting much of their energies into developing women's and girls' cricket.
- West Oxfordshire is the locomotive for the rest of the county; over half of all clubs with girls sections are located in the district (but not necessarily in the study area).
- Demand for male cricket is fairly static but women's and girl's cricket is a major growth area.

Some Issues

- Cricket is traditionally a game which has appealed to people from a wide range of social and ethnic backgrounds. There are no areas of major concern at the moment.
- Because the cricket season is relatively short, especially for junior cricket where all the games have to be fitted in before the schools break up and families go away on holiday, a lot of matches have to be squeezed into a short space of time and this puts huge pressure on grounds and facilities.
- The above comments also apply to training. Cricket is a game which requires a playing surface of high quality and much time, expertise and equipment is needed to prepare the surface. This is necessary to ensure that a good standard of play is possible and also for the safety of the players; this is particularly relevant to junior cricket. Hence it is difficult for cricket to share its facilities with other sports and problems often arise when a local cricket club shares its ground with, say, the local football club.
- The leading clubs in West Oxfordshire generally have good facilities. Deficiencies occur mainly in smaller village clubs and most commonly these are lack of adequate changing facilities and the absence of an all-weather surface.

Potential Improvements

- OCCB has worked for many years to foster club/school links but there are still opportunities for clubs and local schools to work together and share facilities. The "conversion rate" could be improved – this is the proportion of girls and boys introduced to cricket at school (e.g. through the "Chance to Shine" scheme) who go on to join the junior section of their local club.

- The main priorities are to assist clubs to improve their playing surfaces; better management of facilities which are shared by cricket and other sports; supporting clubs who want to improve their changing facilities; and assisting clubs to install all-weather surfaces.
- OCCB have no specific site-based strategic priorities for facility improvements in the study area.

Good Practice

- Charlbury CC (not in the study area) has in recent years improved its facilities by opening a second pitch at their ground and constructing a new pavilion. This has enabled them to expand the range of cricket they are able to offer; particularly women's and girl's cricket where they are now one of the county's main centres.
- Similarly, Shipton-under-Wychwood (not in the study area) installed a second pitch three years ago and they are now an important centre for junior cricket and particularly girl's cricket.

Additional Comments

- The majority of West Oxfordshire's cricket clubs are located in villages and often the club is the main social focus of the village as well as a sport facility.

The West Oxfordshire Cricket Development Group (WOCDG)

Some Issues

- There is not much disability cricket within Oxfordshire generally and this is an area that needs developing. WOCDG also believe that although girls/women's cricket is on the rise, the lack of training facilities indoor and outdoor is holding back the development of this niche. [Author's note: Installation of a twin bay synthetic turf practice nets and a synthetic match pitch will start in Feb 2014 ready in time for the start of the season at Monahan Way. The project includes a bowling machine. These facilities will be available to book by all clubs].
- There are always budget restraints for us to accommodate more matches and availability of grounds is a continued problem. WOCDG would fully back the development of the West Witney site for a cricket venue with a good size pavilion and indoor facilities as this would be a first of its kind in our county.
- In terms of training, it is difficult finding a sports hall that is cricket specific. This is impossible not only in West Oxfordshire but Oxfordshire as a whole. School sports halls might have cricket nets, but often have poor lighting or flooring or cricket matting that is not fit for purpose. This is one of the hardest areas to find availability, certainly midweek and the costs can be quite high.
- WOCDG suggest a need for more areas for outdoor synthetic surface nets but also a provision for grass nets as this has to be the best practice for any player. Obviously these need preparing and has to be as good as the pitches on the square.
- More grounds being available would help clubs put out a third or fourth X1 sides that would enable younger players participating in the adult game which is great for their development, not only as a player, but as a human being.
- There are not enough bowling machines available and only one Merlin spin bowling machine in the county currently.

Potential Improvements/opportunities

- Hub clubs could be used to rent out their facilities to other clubs who are less fortunate. If two squares were produced with some outdoor synthetic pitches and some grass nets, but which had an indoor cricket school, that could be utilised by other sports if required would be a fantastic move.
- WOCDG also think new matting, especially for sprung indoor floors could be looked into, along with updated lighting and possibly painting the walls white, I have seen this make a massive difference in one or two places in the county including Radley College and St Edwards School.
- WOCDG think that all grounds have potential to grow and to provide more facilities, but there would always be a lack of funds to be able to do this. Any improvements would be good, more net facilities with surfaces that have a true bounce and without doubt more grass net areas.

Good Practice

- All clubs are looking to aid participation in cricket but can be held back by the lack of playing areas and facilities.

Additional Comments

WOCDG would like to provide the best facilities possible for all young, talented, male/female cricketers. As mentioned above the facilities are not necessarily fit for purpose and this makes things very hard for training/coaching. WOCDG feel that there must be a way of having a cricket centre of excellence within Oxfordshire and “would it not be fantastic” that West Oxfordshire made the first steps in this direction to perhaps one day help Oxfordshire Cricket become First Class rather than the Minor County it is now. To provide West Oxfordshire with top facilities that would be second to none for this sport would be a real driver in pushing Oxfordshire to the next level, not only on a semi- professional basis, but would encourage more players into the game and hopefully swell junior sections at clubs and then the future would look very healthy indeed. Durham have done it previously and I personally have always wondered why Oxfordshire could not do the same given the right focus and direction. This could be a really exciting opportunity for developing our county going forward.

Club consultation findings:

The consultation revealed the following issues raised by responding clubs:

- All 8 clubs reports having enough pitches currently for fixtures. However 4 indicate that they do not have access to sufficient pitches for training.
- 4 clubs indicate that their main pitch/wicket is no better than average. Of these, Kilkenny (Carterton) CC who play at Monahan Way and Witney Swifts CC rate pitch quality as worse than average.
- Witney Swifts, Witney Mills and Ducklington report that the quality of their changing facilities is below average or poor. Chipping Norton and Enstone rate their pavilion facilities as excellent.
- All 8 clubs are fielding at least the same number of teams as last season including Audley Ducks who are fielding more.
- 6 clubs have plans to increase members. Enstone, Kilkenny (Carterton) and Witney Mills and also intend to increase the number of teams fielded.
- 5 clubs plan to expand and/or refurbish their facilities.
- The factors most commonly identified as barriers to development are a shortage of volunteers and a lack of external funding.
- Witney Swifts identify many additional factors as barriers including a shortage of senior and junior pitches, lack of all-weather and training facilities, poor quality changing facilities, and a shortage of coaches. They also supplied photographic evidence to emphasise the poor quality of their current pavilion.

5.2.5 Temporal demand for and supply of pitches

The following tables summarise the existing demand/supply situation for cricket over the three sub areas. It uses a method advocated by Sport England to examine demand in this manner (see Section 2 for a fuller explanation of the study method).

Carterton

	Adult and Junior Cricket
Stage 1: Identify teams	3
Stage 2: Calculate home games per week	0.5
Stage 3: Calculate total home games per week (S1 x S2)	1.5
Stage 4: Establish temporal demand (expressed as %)	
<i>Saturday AM</i>	0
<i>Saturday PM</i>	100
<i>Sunday AM</i>	0
<i>Sunday PM</i>	0
<i>Midweek</i>	0
Stage 5: Define pitches used each day (S3 x S4)	
<i>Saturday AM</i>	0
<i>Saturday PM</i>	1.5
<i>Sunday AM</i>	0
<i>Sunday PM</i>	0
<i>Midweek</i>	0
Stage 6: Establish pitches currently available	2
Stage 7: (S6 – S5)	
<i>Saturday AM</i>	2
<i>Saturday PM</i>	0.5
<i>Sunday AM</i>	2
<i>Sunday PM</i>	2
<i>Midweek</i>	2

Comment: Saturday PM is the potential pinch point for cricket, given the league's emphasis on adult games being played at this time.

Chipping Norton

	Adult and Junior Cricket
Stage 1: Identify teams	9.00
Stage 2: Calculate home games per week	0.50
Stage 3: Calculate total home games per week (S1 x S2)	4.50
Stage 4: Establish temporal demand (expressed as %)	
<i>Saturday AM</i>	0.00
<i>Saturday PM</i>	44.50
<i>Sunday AM</i>	0.00
<i>Sunday PM</i>	44.50
<i>Midweek</i>	11.00
Stage 5: Define pitches used each day (S3 x S4)	
<i>Saturday AM</i>	0.00
<i>Saturday PM</i>	2.00
<i>Sunday AM</i>	0.00
<i>Sunday PM</i>	2.00
<i>Midweek</i>	0.50
Stage 6: Establish pitches currently available	4.00
Stage 7: (S6 – S5)	
<i>Saturday AM</i>	4.00
<i>Saturday PM</i>	2.00
<i>Sunday AM</i>	4.00
<i>Sunday PM</i>	2.00
<i>Midweek</i>	3.50

Comment: Saturday PM is the peak-time demand. There does appear to be sufficient pitches on a sub area- wide basis, but the facilities at Chipping Norton CC are now being heavily used as a result of the re-establishment of junior teams. The cricket pitch at Chipping Norton School is technically available on a secured community use basis, but is little used by the community, in practice.

Witney

	Adult and Junior Cricket
Stage 1: Identify teams	17.00
Stage 2: Calculate home games per week	0.50
Stage 3: Calculate total home games per week (S1 x S2)	8.50
Stage 4: Establish temporal demand (expressed as %)	
<i>Saturday AM</i>	0.00
<i>Saturday PM</i>	57.89
<i>Sunday AM</i>	0.00
<i>Sunday PM</i>	31.57
<i>Midweek</i>	10.52
Stage 5: Define pitches used each day (S3 x S4)	
<i>Saturday AM</i>	0.00
<i>Saturday PM</i>	4.92
<i>Sunday AM</i>	0.00
<i>Sunday PM</i>	2.68
<i>Midweek</i>	0.89
Stage 6: Establish pitches currently available	5.00
Stage 7: (S6 – S5)	
<i>Saturday AM</i>	5.00
<i>Saturday PM</i>	0.08
<i>Sunday AM</i>	5.00
<i>Sunday PM</i>	2.32
<i>Midweek</i>	4.11

Comment: Saturday PM is the potential pinch point for cricket, given the league's emphasis on adult games being played at this time.

5.2.6 Import/export of demand

The evidence of this study suggests that there is currently little significant importation or exportation of demand from the three study areas. Inevitably, some teams will draw their membership from outside the study areas, and this will be especially case for the higher standard teams, which will draw their players from a wider catchment. The three study areas fall entirely within West Oxfordshire District, and it is highly likely that the majority of membership/players will be drawn from the District as a whole. The cricket leagues which operate in the area have a geographic coverage wider than West Oxfordshire District, and many clubs will anticipate travelling out of the study areas to play matches.

There may be a reliance on some facilities outside the study areas, for specialist out-of-season/winter training.(such as indoor nets practice).

5.2.7 Qualitative issues

Having sufficient number of fields and wicket to meet peak-time demand is not in itself an adequate measure of the adequacy of supply. At least as important are qualitative factors such as:

- the capacity of pitches to absorb wear and tear as a result of match and training play, and other activity (especially where pitches are situated in public recreation grounds and on school sites; and,
- the adequacy of supporting facilities, such as changing accommodation.

5.2.8 Carrying capacity

Carrying capacity is defined as the level to which a cricket field/table can be used before it is reduced to an unsatisfactory condition, and cannot be used as frequently and regularly as required. The carrying capacity of a field/table pitch is defined by the quality of the playing surface and how well it drains and is maintained. However, it is also influenced by the extent to which it is used for activities other than matches by community sports teams. For example, a cricket table located on a recreation ground might also legitimately host other kinds of activity. Equally, a table on a school site also needs to host curriculum activity. Unlike with football, cricket tables do not tend to be used for training, which is conducted on the outfield; in nets; and, in winter, indoors in leisure centres and other suitable buildings. So, the impact of training on the quality of the playing surface will be relatively insignificant.

5.2.9 An assessment of carrying capacity relative to estimated levels of use

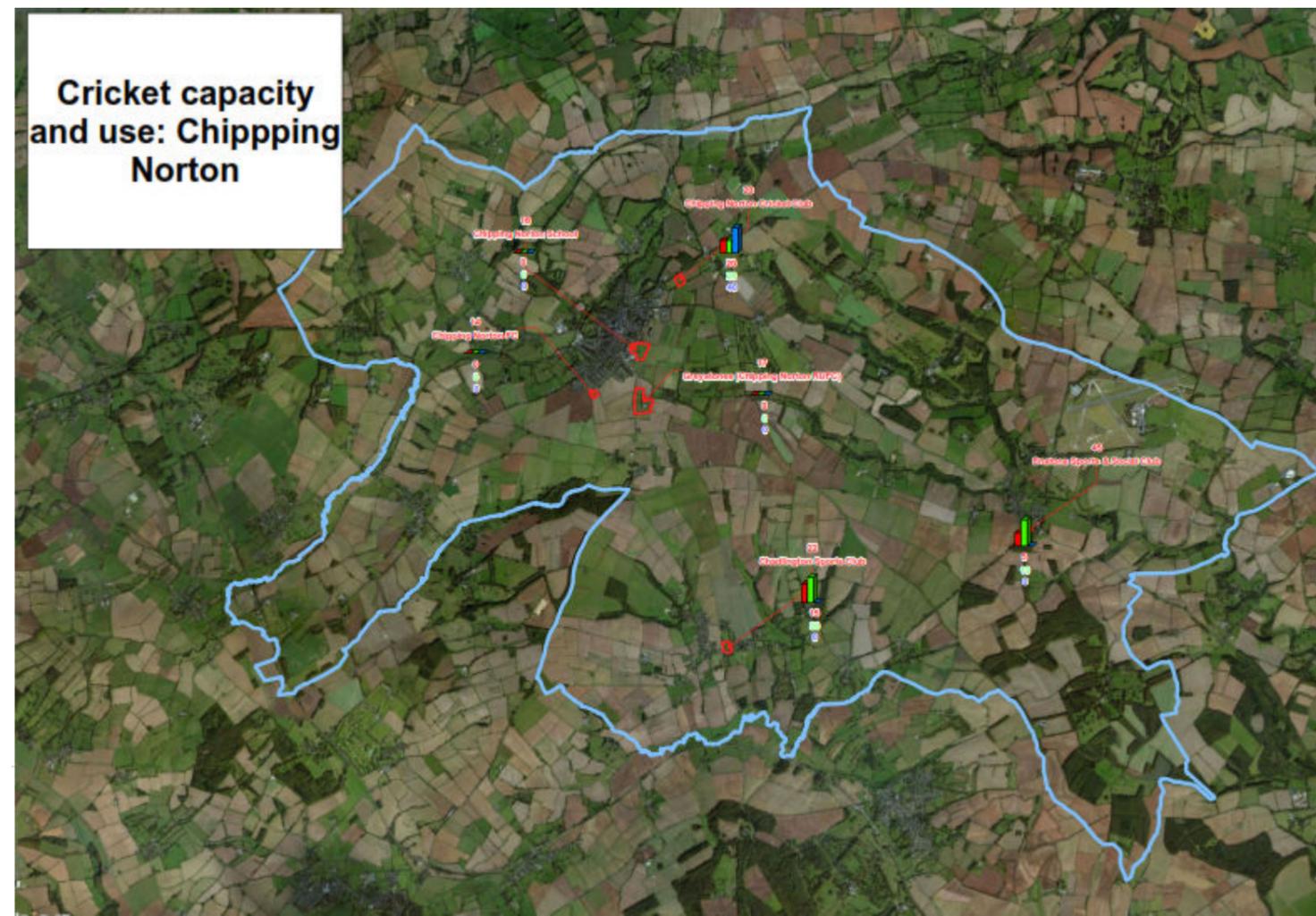
A site-by-site assessment has been made of the carrying capacity of fields/tables relative to the levels of activity generated by the clubs and teams playing on those sites. The method underpinning this assessment is described fully in **Appendix 1**. This provides a comparison of the notional capacity of a field/table to absorb use on a seasonal basis (expressed as the match per season each 'wicket strip' on a cricket table can host per season with the estimated level of activity generated by clubs and teams playing on those wickets (expressed as matches per season).

Factors determining wicket capacity:

- Wicket quality and how this influences the level of play that can be absorbed (governing body of sport guidelines have been followed in this regard (see Appendix xxx).
- Other activity- for example, if a pitch is located in a public recreation ground or on a school site (as opposed to a dedicated sports ground)

Matches per season is determined by multiplying the number of teams using the site by the number of home games played per team each season; and, comparing this with the notional total match capacity derived by multiplying the number of wicket strips on a cricket table with the estimated number of games that can be played each season on each strip.

The following maps illustrate the results of this assessment for cricket for all three of the sub areas. The **red** bars represent notional total site match capacity (total matches that can theoretically be played per season); and, the **green** and **blue** bars represent the total number of adult and junior games respectively actually played per season. If the combined height of the green and blue bars is higher than the red bar it means that wickets on a site are probably being used too much, to the long-term detriment. For those sites where cricket wickets and teams are not located, the bars will have no height.

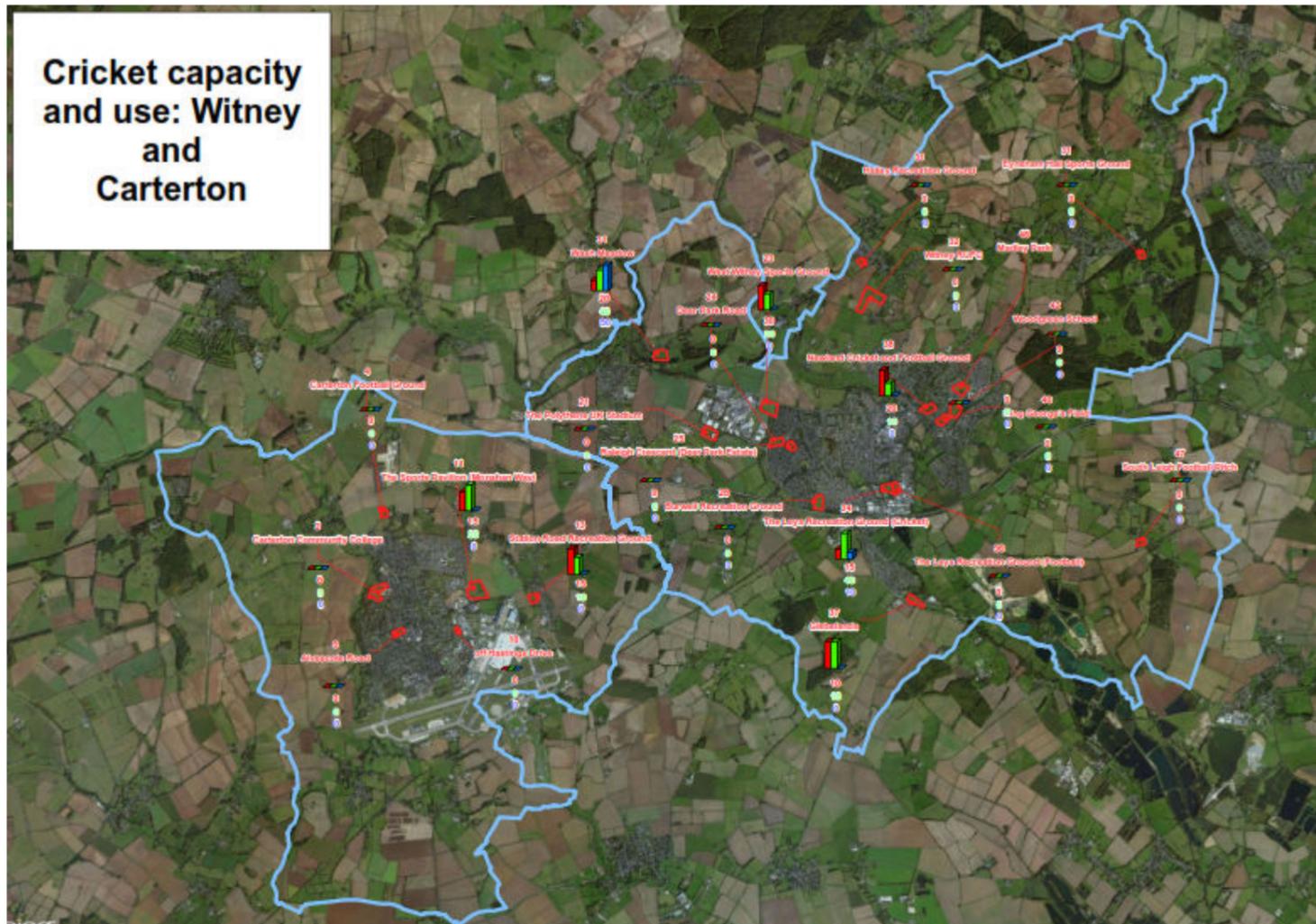


Comment:

There appears to be overplaying at:

- Site 20: Chipping Norton CC
- Site 22: Chadlington Sports and Social Club
- Site 45: Enstone Sports and Social Club

With the increase in junior activity it would appear that the wickets at Chipping Norton CC, are especially heavily used. The cricket pitch at Chipping Norton School may also be available for community use, but is currently little used, if at all, by outside teams.



Comment:

Several sites appear to be being over-played according to governing body benchmarks. The most notable examples are:

- Site 11: Monahan Way (Carterton sub area)
- Site 31: Wash Meadow (Witney sub area)
- Site 28: The Leys Cricket Ground ((Witney sub area)

5.2.10 Scope for transferring play from over-used sites to others

In light of this apparent over-use of wickets in parts of the study area, it is worth considering whether it might be possible to transfer some of the ‘overplay’ from sites that are acknowledged to be under stress, to those where there may currently be lighter levels of use. However, there do not appear to be sites that can easily absorb this overplay due to their location or other issues. In any event, clubs will not wish to see their games displaced over more than one home site if this can be avoided. The consultation highlighted a concern aired by some clubs and governing body representatives about the quality of some of the playing surfaces away from the principal private grounds, and especially where the surface is shared by more than one sport/activity.

In situations where local authorities (including town and parish councils) control sites, it will be very difficult for them to justify providing dedicated, as opposed to shared use, facilities. The only solution might therefore be to encourage the provision of more artificial wickets, where appropriate, for both training and play.(such as is being implemented at Monahan Way, Carterton.

5.3 Rugby

5.3.1 Leagues

The main leagues operating in the study areas are the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxford League; and, the RFU National Challenge.

5.3.2 Clubs and teams

The following table identifies teams located in the three sub areas, as well as where they play.

Name	Ground	Sub Areas	Senior Teams	Colts Teams	Junior Teams	Ladies Teams	Vets Teams	Girls Teams	Mini Teams	League
Chipping Norton RUFC	Greystones	Chipping Norton	2	1	4	0	0	0	6	Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Witney RFC	Witney Rugby Football Club	Witney	4		8	1	1	2	10	Berks/Bucks & Oxon, RFU National Challenge

There are no rugby clubs operating in the Carterton sub area.

5.3.3 Team Generation Rates (TGRs)- see para 5.1.3 for an explanation

The TGRs shown are generalised to take into account population data available to the study. In this case there is a simple division of teams within a given age group into the total population for the study area (62,683). Sport England advocates more detailed breakdowns covering both male and female age groups. However, these cannot be produced, due to the absence of population estimates/projections which fit the age groups used by different governing bodies.

	Senior Teams	Colts Teams	Junior Teams	Ladies Teams	Vets Teams	Girls Teams	Mini Teams
Teams	6	1	12	1	1	2	16
TGRs	10,447	62,683	5,223	62,683	62,683	31,341	3,917

5.3.4 General trends, issues, and problems

The National Governing Body – The Rugby Football Union (RFU).

The following information and feedback was received from the RFU via the Rugby Area Facility Manager.

Background

- There are two very active Clubs in the study area (Chipping Norton RUFC and Witney RUFC) – both having a range of teams from under 13s to adults.
- The teams play in the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire league.
- Carterton is in proximity to Brize Norton and rugby is played there [although not by the general community]. However, no Brize Norton teams play in the RFU leagues.
- School Participation is extensive, with rugby commonly played in junior schools and in all the secondary schools. Schools are being targeted within the RFU work programme. This work programme includes participation opportunity, Teacher training and support, Young Leadership Training and volunteer opportunities

Trends & Demand

Rugby Union is considered to be very strong in West Oxfordshire and with active participation at junior and secondary schools demand is growing.

Supply

- Overall, with the facilities on schools sites for schools rugby and the two clubs' own facilities there are probably just about enough pitches available to meet demand for league play and training.
- Witney RUFC over recent years has developed an additional pitch which means that they can currently meet demand. Prior to this they were at full capacity.
- Chipping Norton RUFC however is probably at capacity/short of pitches to accommodate growing demand.
- Witney RUFC is currently working to secure funding to provide floodlights for their main pitch (supported by the RFU).

Issues

- Jason highlighted the importance of using the playing pitch model developed by the RFU and Sport England
- In the past there has been some interest shown in developing a Rugby Club at Carterton but this is not currently a development objective for the RFU as the two existing clubs are able to offer sufficient opportunities for participation.

Good practice

- Witney RUFC has developed an active disability section and has a team (Witney Wolves). They are hosting an international festival in May 2013.
- Both clubs are developing girls and ladies participation

Summary of club consultation

- Both clubs report currently having enough pitches to meet fixtures but insufficient pitches for training.
- The clubs rate the quality of their main pitch as either excellent (Chipping Norton) or good (Witney)
- They also say that their changing and ancillary facilities are of either excellent (Chipping Norton) or good (Witney) quality.
- The clubs report fielding the same number of teams as last season
- Chipping Norton RUFC is planning to increase its membership and the number of teams fielded.
- Common barriers to development noted are the cost of hiring/using their facilities, a shortage of volunteers and a lack of funding, both internal and external. Other factors noted by Chipping Norton are a shortage of ATPs for matches and training; and a shortage of indoor training facilities. Factors specifically highlighted by Witney are the cost of insurance and access difficulties.
- Rugby Union is very strong in West Oxfordshire and with active participation at junior and secondary schools demand is growing.
- There are two very active Clubs in the study area (Chipping Norton RUFC and Witney RUFC) – both having a range of teams from under 13s to adults.
- Carterton is in proximity to Brize Norton and rugby is played there. However, no Brize Norton teams play in the RFU leagues.
- Witney RUFC has developed an active disability section and has a team (Witney Wolves). Both clubs are developing girls and ladies participation
- Overall, with the facilities on schools sites for schools rugby and the two clubs' own facilities there are enough pitches available to meet demand for league play.
- Chipping Norton RUFC however is short of pitches to accommodate training and has an aspiration for a 3G pitch. Witney RUFC is currently working to secure funding to provide floodlights for their main pitch (supported by the RFU).
- The quality of pitches and ancillary facilities are reported as good, though it is noted that training use damages the pitches for league play.
- Barriers to development noted are a shortage of AGP pitches for matches and training; a shortage of indoor training facilities; the cost of hiring/using their facilities and a lack of funding; and a shortage of volunteers.

5.3.5 Temporal demand for and supply of pitches

The following tables summarise the existing demand/supply situation for rugby over the two relevant sub areas. It uses a method advocated by Sport England to examine demand in this manner (see **Section 2 and Appendix 1** for a fuller explanation of the study method).

Chipping Norton

	Adult Rugby (inc Colts)	Junior Rugby	Mini Rugby
Stage 1: Identify teams	6.00	8.00	6.00
Stage 2: Calculate home games per week	0.50	0.50	0.50
Stage 3: Calculate total home games per week (S1 x S2)	3.00	4.00	3.00
Stage 4: Establish temporal demand (expressed as %)			
<i>Saturday AM</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Saturday PM</i>	66.66	0.00	0.00
<i>Sunday AM</i>	0.00	100.00	100.00
<i>Sunday PM</i>	33.33	0.00	0.00
<i>Midweek</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00
Stage 5: Define pitches used each day (S3 x S4)			
<i>Saturday AM</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Saturday PM</i>	2.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Sunday AM</i>	0.00	4.00	3.00
<i>Sunday PM</i>	1.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Midweek</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00
Stage 6: Establish pitches currently available	4.00	0.00	2.00
Stage 7: (S6 – S5)			
<i>Saturday AM</i>	6.00	0.00	2.00
<i>Saturday PM</i>	4.00	0.00	2.00
<i>Sunday AM</i>	6.00	-4.00	-1.00
<i>Sunday PM</i>	5.00	0.00	2.00
<i>Midweek</i>	6.00	0.00	2.00

Comment: There appears to be a peak-time shortage of pitches for junior and mini-rugby play (Chipping Norton RUFC). In actual fact, these age group will generally be sharing the same surface as for the senior teams. However, this together with the training needs of teams will contribute to added wear and tear on pitches (considered later in this section). The pitches at Chipping Norton School are technically available for use by community teams, but in practice are not used on this basis.

Witney

	Adult Rugby (inc Colts)	Junior Rugby	Mini Rugby
Stage 1: Identify teams	6.00	10.00	10.00
Stage 2: Calculate home games per week	0.50	0.50	0.50
Stage 3: Calculate total home games per week (S1 x S2)	3.00	5.00	5.00
Stage 4: Establish temporal demand (expressed as %)			
<i>Saturday AM</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Saturday PM</i>	83.33	0.00	0.00
<i>Sunday AM</i>	0.00	100.00	100.00
<i>Sunday PM</i>	16.66	0.00	0.00
<i>Midweek</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00
Stage 5: Define pitches used each day (S3 x S4)			
<i>Saturday AM</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Saturday PM</i>	2.50	0.00	0.00
<i>Sunday AM</i>	0.00	5.00	5.00
<i>Sunday PM</i>	0.50	0.00	0.00
<i>Midweek</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00
Stage 6: Establish pitches currently available	4.00	1.00	4.00
Stage 7: (S6 – S5)			
<i>Saturday AM</i>	4.00	1.00	4.00
<i>Saturday PM</i>	1.50	1.00	4.00
<i>Sunday AM</i>	4.00	-4.00	-1.00
<i>Sunday PM</i>	3.50	1.00	4.00
<i>Midweek</i>	4.00	1.00	4.00

Comment: As with the Chipping Norton sub area, there appears to be a peak-time shortage of pitches for junior and mini-rugby play (Witney Norton RUFC). In actual fact, these age group will generally be sharing the same surface as for the senior teams. However, this together with the training needs of teams will contribute to added wear and tear on pitches (considered later in this section)

5.3.6 Import/export of demand

The evidence of this study suggests that there is currently little significant importation or exportation of demand from the two study areas where clubs are based. Inevitably, some teams will draw their membership from outside the study areas, and this will be especially case for the higher standard teams, which will draw their players from a wider catchment. It is reasonable to assume that some players for the Witney and Chipping Norton Clubs will be drawn from the Carterton area. The three study areas fall entirely within West Oxfordshire District, and it is highly likely that the majority of membership/players will be drawn from the District as a whole. The rugby leagues which operate in the area have a geographic coverage wider than West Oxfordshire District, and clubs will anticipate travelling out of the study areas to play matches.

There may be a reliance on some facilities outside the study areas, and a particular issue in Chipping Norton is access to a synthetic surface for training, which would reduce wear and tear of the grass pitches.

5.3.7 Qualitative issues

Having sufficient number of pitches to meet peak-time demand is not in itself an adequate measure of the adequacy of supply. At least as important are qualitative factors such as:

- the capacity of pitches to absorb wear and tear as a result of match and training play, and other activity (especially where pitches are situated in public recreation grounds and on school sites; and,
- the adequacy of supporting facilities, such as changing accommodation.

5.3.8 Carrying capacity

Carrying capacity is defined as the level to which a pitch can be used before it is reduced to an unsatisfactory condition, and cannot be used as frequently and regularly as required. The carrying capacity of a grass pitch is defined by the quality of the playing surface and how well it drains. However, it is also influenced by the extent to which it is used for activities other than matches by community sports teams. For example, a pitch located on a recreation ground might also legitimately host other kinds of activity. Equally, a pitch on a school site also needs to host curriculum activity. Pitches will also be used for training in many situations, and this must also be taken into account.

5.3.9 An assessment of carrying capacity relative to estimated levels of use

A site-by-site assessment has been made of the carrying capacity of pitches relative to the levels of activity generated by the clubs and teams playing on those sites. The method underpinning this assessment is described fully in **Appendix 1**. This provides a comparison of the notional capacity of a pitch to absorb use on a weekly basis (expressed as match capacity equivalent hours) with the estimated level of activity generated by clubs and teams playing on those sites (expressed as team equivalent hours).

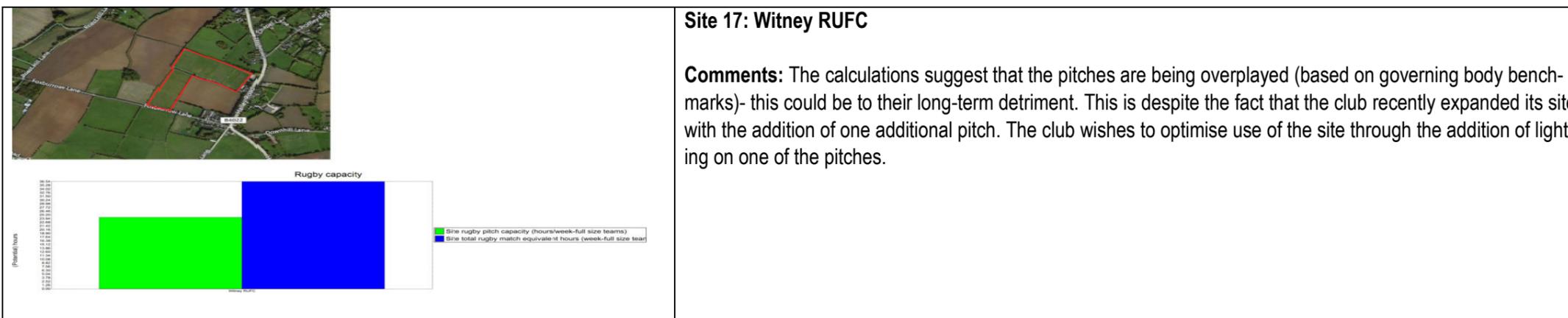
Factors determining match capacity hours include:

- Pitch quality and how this influences the level of play that can be absorbed (governing body of sport guidelines have been followed in this regard (see Appendix xxx).
- Other activity- for example, if a pitch is located in a public recreation ground or on a school site (as opposed to a dedicated sport ground)

Factors determining team equivalent hours include:

- The number of games each relevant team will play on a given site/pitch
- Whether training is also conducted on a given site/pitch
- The length of matches and training session; and,
- the size of team (squads) and their age- as these will all influence 'wear and tear'

The following charts illustrate the results of this assessment for full-size rugby, junior and mini rugby for the relevant sub areas. The **green** bars represent notional total site match capacity (hours/week); and, the **blue** bars represent the total team equivalent hours/week. If the green bar is higher than the red bar it means that pitches on a site are probably being used too much, to the long-term detriment.



Site 32: Chipping Norton RUFC

Comments: The calculations suggest that the pitches are being overplayed, perhaps to their long-term detriment. This is despite the fact that the club has already stated that use of pitches both for matches and training is contributing to significant wear and tear. The club has stated that it wishes to field more teams, and this wish might be frustrated by the lack of suitable extra space both for matches and training.

5.4 Hockey

5.4.1 Leagues

The two clubs that actually play in the area are both represented in the Middlesex, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and Oxfordshire Leagues.

5.4.2 Clubs and teams

The following table identifies teams located in the two relevant sub area as well as where they play. (A club is identified more than once if it plays at more than one venue). Chipping Norton Hockey Club is an embryonic club that is in fact based at Kingham School, just outside the study area, and which currently fields mini-teams for young players.

Name	Ground	Sub area	Senior Teams	Junior Teams	Ladies Teams	Vets Teams	Minis	League
Chipping Norton Hockey Club	Kingham Hill School	NA					3	
Witney Hockey Club	Wood Green School	Witney	4	12	1	3	2	Middx, Berks, Bucks & Oxon
Witney Hockey Club (2)	Witney STP	Witney			2			South and Trysports

5.4.3 Team Generation Rates (TGRs)- see para 5.1.3 for an explanation

The TGRs shown are generalised to take into account population data available to the study. In this case there is a simple division of teams within a given age group into the total population for the study area (62,683). Sport England advocates more detailed breakdowns covering both male and female age groups. However, these cannot be produced, due to the absence of population estimates/projections which fit the age groups used by different governing bodies.

	Senior Male Teams	Junior Teams	Ladies Teams	Vets Teams	Minis
Teams	4	12	3	3	5
TGRs	15,670	5,223	12,536	20,894	12,536

5.4.4 General trends, issues, and problems

The National Governing Body – England Hockey

The following information and feedback was received from England Hockey via the Relationship Manager:

Background

- There are two hockey clubs in West Oxfordshire: Witney and Chipping Norton.
- There is both JDC and JAC Single System activity for young people within West Oxfordshire.

- The Witney ladies' teams play in the South and Trysports leagues with the Men's 4 teams all competing within the MBBO league structure.
- Chipping Norton has a number of junior teams playing within the Oxfordshire HA competitions.
- Main grounds are: Witney STP, Wood Green School, Kingham Hill School and Cokethorpe School (outside of study area).

Trends and Demand

- Demand is Increasing
- There is a growing demand for youth opportunities within the district. There has been an increase in adult membership for males and females at Witney H.C.

Some Issues

- The most active club in West Oxfordshire is Witney Hockey Club. Currently their matches are split between Wood Green School and Witney AGP which makes it difficult to manage club activity given the distance between both pitches. The club use West Witney Sports Centre as a clubhouse meaning that activity is split between 3 locations. This makes creating a club atmosphere and retaining participants more difficult.
- On a number of the current hockey facilities the pitches are used to generate revenue through 5 aside football provision, this means that clubs often can't access the pitches at their preferred times.
- Witney ATP is very tired and the playing surface is at the end of its life. The quality of surface is now so poor players prefer to use Wood Green School.
- Wood Green School is acceptable. However, given the heavy school use is likely to have a shorter lifespan than many surfaces. It is already very slippery which can be a risk to players.
- Cokethorpe is a useful additional facility however community access is very restricted and there are no floodlights which mean the facility is not used for training.
- Kingham Hill School is acceptable but hockey would definitely benefit from a synthetic turf facility in Chipping Norton, even if not full size.
- The biggest challenge isn't a deficiency in facilities so much as a lack of access at peak times for hockey clubs.
- Ideally two pitches next to each other would create a significantly better proposition for Witney HC – the main club in the area.

Potential Improvements

- Chipping Norton – the school are looking at a pitch development which could be a great asset for hockey in the West Oxon area.
- Ancillary facilities are usually reasonably good. There is a lack of social facilities near any of the synthetic pitches which limits the club atmosphere.

Summary of club consultation

The following comments were received from Witney Hockey Club:

- Witney HC report that they have insufficient pitches for both their fixture and training needs.
- They rate the quality of their main pitch as good.
- They report that the quality of their changing and ancillary facilities is poor.
- They fielded more teams this season than last and the club have plans to further increase membership and the number of teams.
- The main barriers to their development are:
 - A shortage of AGP for matches and training
 - Poor quality changing and ancillary facilities and a lack of specialist equipment
 - Cost of hiring/using their facility and a lack of external funding
 - A shortage of coaches and volunteers

Chipping Norton HC did not reply to the survey.

5.4.5 Temporal demand for and supply of pitches

Given that hockey is played on artificial surfaces, the peak-time supply assessment method used for football, rugby and cricket is not appropriate for this sport. Instead, an assessment should be made of the ease with which local hockey teams can access AGPs for both matches and training. The provision of AGPs is considered more fully at paragraph 5.5 below. However, it is to be noted that, whilst Witney HC do not appear to have difficulty accessing pitches for matches at weekends, there are problems in securing weekday evening slots for training.

5.4.6 Import/export of demand

The evidence of this study suggests that there is currently little significant importation or exportation of demand from Witney, where the major club is based. Inevitably, some membership will be drawn from outside the Witney area, and this will be especially case for the higher standard teams, which will draw their players from a wider catchment. It is reasonable to assume that some of the Witney Club's membership will be drawn from the Carterton area. The hockey leagues which operate in the area have a geographic coverage wider than West Oxfordshire District, and clubs will anticipate travelling out of the study areas to play matches. The small club at Chipping Norton currently plays at a school just outside the Chipping Norton study- whether or not this poses a problem for club members is unclear.

5.4.7 Qualitative issues

Witney HC have highlighted that there may be problems with the quality of both the Witney (Henry Box School) and Wood Green School AGP, in the near future, if the facilities are not refurbished/overhauled.

5.4.8 Carrying capacity

Given that hockey is played on artificial surfaces that can be heavily used without undue wear and tear, the capacity assessment method used for football, rugby and cricket is not appropriate for this sport.

5.5 Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs)

There are three full size AGPs in the study area (**see Page xxx**), of these Carterton AGP and Witney AGP (located at Carterton Community College, and Henry Box School respectively) have bone fide dual use agreements allowing for assured community use at times of heaviest demand. The facility at Wood Green School, is also available for community use, but is heavily used by the school, and there is limited availability beyond the use by Witney Hockey Club.

The Witney and Carterton AGPs are dual use (used both by the schools and the community), and are managed on behalf of the District Council by GLL (which also manages a smaller facility at Eynsham, just outside the study area). Community use of both these facilities tends to be in the evenings (both are floodlit) and at weekends, offering in the order of 40 hours of use apiece per week. Critically, they are available for the community to use at times of heaviest demand for both competition and training. The recent resurfacing of the Carterton AGP with a 3rd Generation long-pile surface, now makes it suited mostly to the needs of football, and its use is dominated by this sport. The Witney AGP is used for both football and hockey (with football again being the dominant use).

GLL have provided the following figures in relation to the use of the two main community AGPs.

- Total hours of community use available / and how much used
 - Witney AGP - 51 hours available – 26 hours used (51%)
 - Carterton AGP – 36 hours of availability 18 hours used (50%)

- Peak time demand (i.e. most popular slots)
 - Witney AGP - All weekdays have at least 4 hours of bookings from 5-10pm
 - Carterton AGP - All week days are busy from 6pm. Friday evening and weekends are quiet and very few bookings.

- % split of usage by sports i.e. 60% of bookings are adult football, 10% junior football, 30% hockey)
 - Witney AGP - 65% Junior Football, 25% Adult Football, 10% Hockey

- Carterton AGP – 40% Junior Football, 60% Adult Football
- Any concerns on quality of surface, and customer feedback issues
 - Witney AGP - Would estimate life of <5 years on surface
 - Carterton AGP – New 3G surface opened in October, bookings heavily anticipated to increase in the New Year.
- Future plans
 - Carterton AGP – Work with Oxfordshire FA to develop small sided league football.

5.5.1 Comment

The consultation has revealed a desire on the part of Witney Hockey Club for easier access to AGPs for training during weekday evenings. However, this is the period when there is heaviest demand from local football teams for training and small-sided games. Weekday evenings. The desire of many football and rugby clubs for better access to AGPs for training is also emphasised through the consultation.

5.6 Future demand

5.6.1 General

Future Demand for Pitch Sports facilities (and sports facilities in general) is comprised of several causal factors:

- Natural demographic changes within the population (especially in relation to the team playing age groups);
- Population change driven by planned developments (via the Statutory Development Plan);
- The Impact of Sports Development and related campaigns; and,
- The release of any 'latent' or 'frustrated' demand to play sport

The interaction of these factors will have a considerable effect on the demand for outdoor sports opportunities within the local authority area over the coming years. However, some factors will have a far more profound impact than others. Each is considered in turn below.

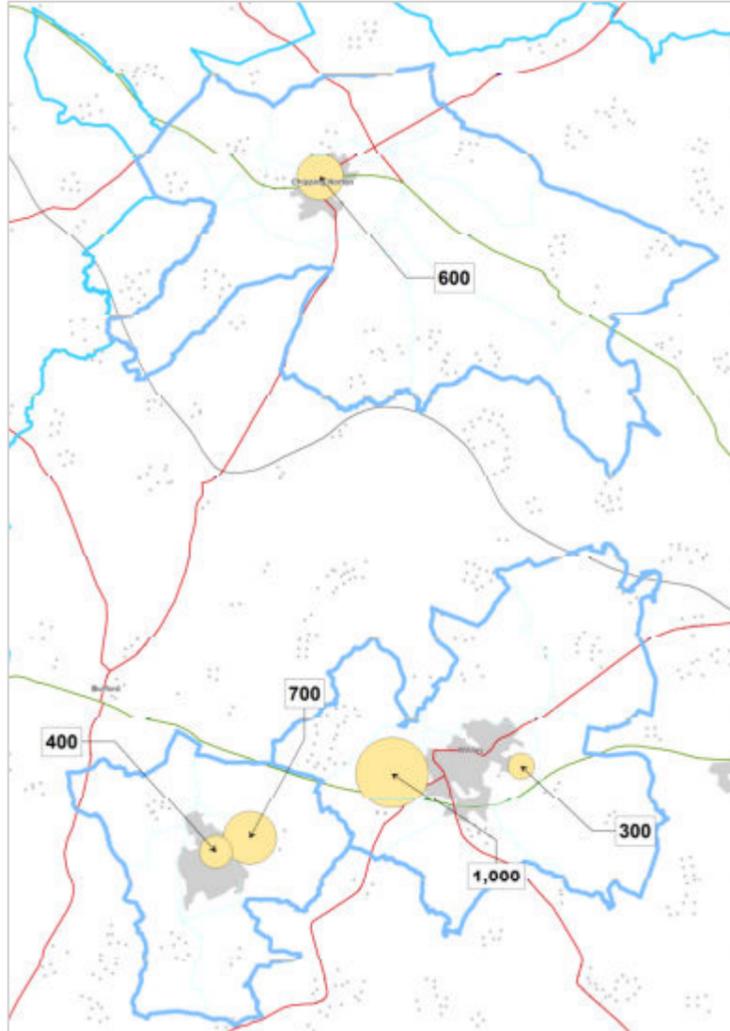
5.6.2 The impact of sports development and related campaigns, and the release of latent and frustrated demand

The relevant governing bodies consulted as part of this study each have strategic targets for the growing of participation in their particular sports. These figures tend to be expressed in either percentage or real numbers, and where they exist they are summarised in **Appendix 3**. These targets are aspirational, and may not necessarily be realistic guidelines for the planning and allocation of land for outdoor sports. Land is expensive and in fixed-supply. It is important to plan realistically for the future needs of sport, but an overambitious assumption of future needs may lead to an over-supply of space at the expense of other land-use needs. The impact of social trends on participation levels is very difficult to measure. Uptake in participation can often be linked to international sports success.

Fad, fashion and changing technology will also play their part here. In terms of the latter, the onset of synthetic surfaces has dramatically changed the sports facility 'landscape'. Equally, sports crazes come and go and are occasionally cyclical. Long-term watchers of sports participation trends will be familiar with these patterns and would probably advise that the only sensible solution is to plan for and protect sufficient open space to cater for fluctuating patterns of participation. Teams can 'come and go' very quickly, and it is therefore very crucial to maintain a 'margin of error' when providing space for pitches, so as to allow for a fluctuation in the number of teams; the need to rotate pitches and allow some to lay fallow; and, the possibility of sudden upsurges in demand for the reasons described above.

The study consultation has identified a view in some situations of clubs aspiring to field more teams, but being potentially frustrated by the lack of facilities currently available. Two apparent examples are in Chipping Norton, with regard to Witney Swifts junior FC, and Chipping Norton RUFC (who share the same site). There are other examples, in addition to these two.

Taking these things into account, it is prudent to plan in a margin of error of 10% to account for fluctuations in demand, for the potential reasons explained.



5.6.3 Natural and Planned Demographic Change

At the time of undertaking this study there was a lack of sufficiently detailed and up-to-date population projections to allow examination of the likely change in the demographic structure of the population between now and 2029 (the study end date). For this reason it has not been possible to examine how detailed *natural* demographic change will influence the levels of participation within the relevant pitch sports. An examination of these will only be possible when such population projection data are available. However, it is likely that the overwhelming majority of the projected growth will be 'development-led'. The potential scale and location of proposed new development and the potential impact on the local population is shown on the adjacent map. As will be seen, although development is likely to be distributed over sites throughout the local authority area, the majority will be in the principal towns of Witney, Carterton, and Chipping Norton. This will create pressures for access to outdoor sports opportunities.

The emerging draft local plan (core strategy) earmarks the following major allocations for each of the three sub areas.

Around 1,900 new homes to be focused on Witney and to include affordable housing and homes for older people and newly forming households. This includes a Strategic Development Area of around **1,000 dwellings on the western side of Witney**; and, a Strategic Development Area of around **300 dwellings on the eastern side of Witney**.

Around 1,850 new homes to be focused on Carterton and to include affordable housing and homes for older people and newly forming households. This includes a **Strategic Development Area of about 700 dwellings to the east of the town**; and, redevelopment of existing sub-standard MOD housing including **a Strategic Development Area of about 400 dwellings (net) at REEMA North and Central**

Around **600 new homes within the sub-area** in the Chipping Norton area, including affordable housing and homes for older people and newly forming households. This is to be brought forward via a neighbourhood plan.

It is impossible at this stage to predict the exact scale of planned new development; occupancy rates; or, the demographic characteristics of new occupants. However, using some assumptions it is possible to 'model' future scenarios based on the anticipated location and scale of new development. For example, the 2011 Census suggests that the District has an average household size of about 2.4 persons/household, and this multiplier has been applied to the projected number of planned houses in each of the main growth areas to produce the following gross population increases resulting from the planned new housing up to 2029.

Football

	Adult male	Boys	Ladies	Girls	Mini Teams
Existing team numbers	42	37	2	9	52
TGRs	1,492	1,694	31,341	6,964	1,205
TGRs + 10% margin for error	1,343	1,525	28,207	6,268	1,084
New development population in Carterton (by 2029) (dwelling nos x 2.4)	2,040	2,040	2,040	2,040	2,040
New development population in Chipping Norton (by 2029) (dwelling nos x 2.4)	1,440	1,440	1,440	1,440	1,440
New development population in Witney (by 2029) (dwelling nos x 2.4)	4,560	4,560	4,560	4,560	4,560
Teams estimated to be generated by new development population (by 2029) in <u>Carterton</u>	1.51	1.33	0.07	0.32	1.88
Teams estimated to be generated by new development population (by 2029) in <u>Chipping Norton</u>	1.07	0.94	0.05	0.23	1.33
Teams estimated to be generated by new development population (by 2029) in <u>Witney</u>	3.39	2.99	0.16	0.73	4.20

Cricket

	Adult male	Juniors
Existing team numbers	21	10
TGRs	2,984	6,283
TGRs + 10% margin for error	2,686	5,655
New development population in Carterton (by 2029) (dwelling nos x 2.4)	2,040	2,040
New development population in Chipping Norton (by 2029) (dwelling nos x 2.4)	1,440	1,440
New development population in Witney (by 2029) (dwelling nos x 2.4)	4,560	4,560
Teams estimated to be generated by new development population (by 2029) in <u>Carterton</u>	0.76	0.36
Teams estimated to be generated by new development population (by 2029) in <u>Chipping Norton</u>	0.53	0.25
Teams estimated to be generated by new development population (by 2029) in <u>Witney</u>	1.70	0.80

Rugby Union

	Senior Teams	Colts Teams	Junior Teams	Ladies Teams	Vets Teams	Girls Teams	Mini Teams
Existing team numbers	6	1	12	1	1	2	16
TGRs	10,447	62,683	5,223	62,683	62,683	31,341	3,917
TGRs + 10% margin for error	9,402	56,415	4,701	56,415	56,415	28,207	3,525
New development population in Carterton (by 2029) (dwelling nos x 2.4)	2,040	2,040	2,040	2,040	2,040	2,040	2,040
New development population in Chipping Norton (by 2029) (dwelling nos x 2.4)	1,440	1,440	1,440	1,440	1,440	1,440	1,440
New development population in Witney (by 2029) (dwelling nos x 2.4)	4,560	4,560	4,560	4,560	4,560	4,560	4,560
Teams estimated to be generated by new development population (by 2029) in <u>Carterton</u>	0.22	0.04	0.43	0.04	0.04	0.07	0.58
Teams estimated to be generated by new development population (by 2029) in <u>Chipping Norton</u>	0.15	0.02	0.31	0.02	0.02	0.05	0.41
Teams estimated to be generated by new development population (by 2029) in <u>Witney</u>	0.48	0.08	0.97	0.08	0.08	0.16	1.3

Hockey

	Senior Male Teams	Junior Teams	Ladies Teams	Vets Teams	Minis
<i>Existing team numbers</i>	4	12	3	3	5
<i>TGRs</i>	15,670	5,223	12,536	20,894	12,536
<i>TGRs + 10% margin for error</i>	14,103	4,701	11,282	18,805	11,282
<i>New development population in Carterton (by 2029) (dwelling nos x 2.4)</i>	2,040	2,040	2,040	2,040	2,040
<i>New development population in Chipping Norton (by 2029) (dwelling nos x 2.4)</i>	1,440	1,440	1,440	1,440	1,440
<i>New development population in Witney (by 2029) (dwelling nos x 2.4)</i>	4,560	4,560	4,560	4,560	4,560
<i>Teams estimated to be generated by new development population (by 2029) in <u>Carterton</u></i>	0.14	0.43	0.18	0.11	0.18
<i>Teams estimated to be generated by new development population (by 2029) in <u>Chipping Norton</u></i>	0.10	0.30	0.13	0.07	0.13
<i>Teams estimated to be generated by new development population (by 2029) in <u>Witney</u></i>	0.32	0.87	0.40	0.22	0.40

5.8.4 Comment

Whilst these estimated increases in the number of teams in the three sub areas are not great, in circumstances where the net peak-time supply of pitches is already tight, even small increases in the numbers of teams can have a telling impact. For example, the existing peak-time net supply of pitches in Witney for both adult male football and junior football is +1.5 on Saturday PM and -9.20 respectively (see Para 5.1.5). Taking into account that each team normally plays at home every alternate week, the estimated weekly demand for adult pitches will effectively lead to a small net deficit of adult pitches at the peak-time slot of Saturday pm. The increase in junior teams will further aggravate wear and tear on adult pitches already used by junior teams.

6. Principles

6.1 General

This section establishes and discusses some important principles, which should inform the future planning of pitch sports in the study area. Specific findings and recommended actions will be found at various points elsewhere in the document and reflected in the Action Plan (Section 8).

Nurture participation: This study presents a mixed picture in terms of participation. There is evidence that overall participation in adult football (for example) has declined, and that the demographic characteristics of the population in parts of the study are not conducive to encouraging further participation in pitch sports. . On the other hand, there seems to be a burgeoning in the popularity of many junior versions of the game, with several clubs across the four major pitch sports reporting a need to provide additional facilities to meet a perceived demand for additional junior play. Action arising from this study and its recommendations should help to improve the overall stock of facilities, so helping to realise optimal participation levels.

Mend before Extend: There is a lot that is good about pitch sport provision in the study area. But there are also some things requiring attention. The mapping analysis undertaken clearly shows that additional pressures may be created from the needs of new residents in the proposed growth areas. At least some of the major outdoor venues are conveniently placed relative to the growth areas. It would be appropriate to examine how new needs might in part be met by improvements to the capacity and quality of *existing venues* within the study area. Where this is determined as the best approach it would be legitimate to use developer contributions arising from the growth areas for this purpose. A '*Mend before Extend*' principle should be employed to ensure that such improvements have been made in good time to meet the needs of new residents, but with the added benefit of addressing some of the problems that have been expressed through this study.

Conflict resolution: Pitch sports can often be seen as 'cuckoos in the nest', dominating public parks and spaces. Particular problems can develop when sports clubs (primarily football and cricket) want to take a step up in standard and establish 'roots' in the form of facilities and additional teams. Clubs' aspirations for facility development, use and management may not coincide with the District and local councils' duties to retain overall community access to what is essentially public space. The aim should be to strike an appropriate balance in meeting a multiplicity of needs, of which sport is just one. Because of this, the best prospect for clubs seeking to develop might be to achieve links with schools and non-council provision (see below).

The education sector: The contribution made by schools and the education sector in general to the study area's stock of open space is considerable. But it maintains a 'low profile'. Its principal function is to help in the delivery of the curriculum and whilst there is a sporadic community use for pitch sports, such use is not generally assured through formal agreements. Widespread community use of school facilities has been strongly advocated over the years. In reality, progress to this goal has been piecemeal both in the District and elsewhere. The reasons for this are manifold but stem from concerns over management and security, cost and funding, design, wear and tear and abuse, fears of litigation. Some of these concerns are generally misplaced, but others are entirely justifiable. The schools capital programme locally offers scope with some schools to plan and design community sports use - both for indoor and outdoor use concurrently as an integral function of the school, thus radically addressing many of the traditional concerns. National policy on sport sees a greater focus on bodies such as the Youth Sport Trust, governing bodies of sport and the education sector in delivering strategic sports objectives. Links between schools and clubs are integral to the success of these policies. Local schools capital programmes (where they exist) represent the major opportunity for implementing this approach, and what better way of achieving this than having clubs physically integrated with schools? Because the needs of school and community generally arise at different times there would be no innate potential for conflict.

There are unprecedented pressures to reduce public spend. Local authority leisure budgets being discretionary are prime candidates for retrenchment. Traditional local authority sports budgets are therefore in grave danger, and in this light schools' capital programme may represent the only opportunity for creating, sustaining and nurturing sports participation in a structured way beyond the basic community level, especially when linked with another new approach to sports provision.

Beyond these larger educational facilities, there are also a considerable number of primary and junior schools that have some form of playing pitch provision. Whilst many primary and junior schools have grass pitches, only a minority are noted as being available for community use. Those sites which are available for community will not tend to be on a 'secured' basis (via a formal agreement). Potentially, primary and junior schools could have an important contribution to make in creating school/club links for younger players and therefore help maintain participation amongst older children, once they move beyond primary/junior school age. This could be encouraged through the active promotion of community use of some primary/junior school pitches, as a joint initiative between the District Council, relevant school(s), education authority, and local clubs. This initiative might be assisted through the creation of small synthetic surface pitches for all-year use by both the school and community small-sided teams. These would be easier to manage as distinct community use facilities, compared to grass pitches.

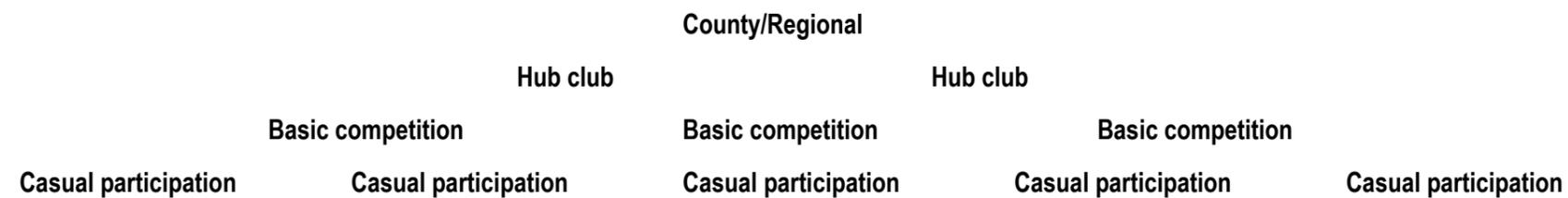
The creation of some synthetic turf pitches in lieu of grass, where drainage is an issue, would support an improved PE curriculum by allowing access to facilities for the entire school year. Such measures, in conjunction with ensuring an adequate supply of conventional pitches, are appropriate in improving participation in PE and school sport. Although their creation would result in the loss of some grass areas, their current status in terms of community use (or lack of it) means the loss of a limited amount of grass space would have no impact whatsoever on the current or projected supply of pitches relative to demand within the community.

Sustaining and nurturing sport: Away from the television, Premiership Football etc, pitch sports are most definitely not a money spinner. Public investment in sport generally is justified by the perceived good it can do in other ways relating to physical and emotional health, social integration, and community well-being. Much of this benefit is impossible to value/quantify financially. This is problematic especially when taking into account that sport is essentially a discretionary area of local authority spend, and therefore vulnerable to cutback. As discussed, in the medium to longer-term developer contributions from the growth areas might be used to help regenerate the existing ageing and declining provision at some locations.

However, in many ways this will be a 'one off fix' to mend the physical infrastructure of sport at the *basic community level*. It will probably not help to put in place a hierarchy of opportunities enabling progression by participants commensurate with ability and ambition (see below). It is unlikely that developer contributions can fund provision to be used only by a relatively very small section of the community. Achieving a good hierarchy will require the practical support of many sectors, especially governing bodies and local clubs working in conjunction with the District Council in general; the Education Authority in particular; and, local agencies such as the Local Sports Partnership. The District Council can play its part as an 'enabler' in this process but the financial obligations - the annual subsidies, maintenance and sport development - placed on the Council should be kept to an absolute minimum.

Sport England believes this can be achieved by using various income streams - commercial and other - to create a 'dowry', which ensures the long-term financial stability of the sports hub. Sport England's 'Sustainable Community Sports Hub Toolkit' explores the drivers and characteristics such a sports hub will have, as well as its potential benefits and risks. This concept might be explored as a model for helping to develop the upper echelons of the hierarchy of local sports opportunities, in conjunction with some of the site/sport specific recommendations made in the Action Plan. Such venues might be focussed on established schools or clubs where intensive facilities might be best located to optimum benefit.

Developing a hierarchy of provision: There may be a benefit in developing a conceptual hierarchy to guide future investment in pitches and attract funding from other sources including the sports governing bodies, Football Foundation, regeneration funds etc. It could also provide the link with overall sports development objectives. This hierarchy could look as follows:



The District Council's role in this hierarchy would be at the lower levels, and it would require constructive contributions from various sectors to develop the upper tiers of the hierarchy

Within this diagram:

- The casual (foundation) level would include practice areas, kick-about areas, rough pitches for casual play, encouraging initial participation. In West Oxfordshire District this could comprise small grass areas available within walking distance of all communities, together with a network of free access MUGAs throughout the area.
- The basic competition level would include pitches for regular competitive play, adequately drained with a flat playing surface, and normally including changing accommodation. This would correspond with several sites available within the study area, but would involve some improvement to pitches and especially changing and other facilities. (Examples might be Witney: Burwell, King Georges, Leys Recreation Grounds; and, Carterton Sub Area, Brize Norton: Station Road Recreation Ground, amongst others.)
- Hub Sports Sites. Where clubs/sports are sufficiently developed they may aspire to owning their own facilities. This may not be often possible in the study area where land is in short supply. However, there may be mutual benefit in individual clubs and sports working with the District and local councils to create a network of hub sports sites on certain sites where arrangements can be made for clubs to be offered the security of leases or licences which would then allow them to establish some longevity of tenure. (Examples might include the West Witney and Monahan Way (Carterton Pavilion) sites.)
- District/County/Regional (performance/excellence) level, where teams have reached the higher standard of play and require enhanced facilities, would include spectator areas, floodlights and higher standard pitches. At this level clubs and the private sector are likely to be more important in provision.

7. Suggested Standards and Additional Guidance

7.1 General

Following the completion of the assessment of local needs and the audit of provision, new standards of provision for pitch sports are proposed. This section explains how these standards have been developed, and provides specific information and justification for each.

7.2 The development of standards

The standards for outdoor sport and play that have been proposed are for minimum guidance levels of provision. So, just because geographical areas may enjoy levels of provision exceeding minimum standards does not mean there is a surplus, as all such provision may be well used. The standards have three components:

- **Quantity standards:** Determined by the analysis of the existing quantity of provision in the light of community views and other research as to its adequacy and levels of use.
- **Quality standards:** Derived from the quality audit, the views of the community and other sources. Quality standards should reflect the priorities that emerge through consultation and other relevant knowledge.
- **Accessibility standards:** Spaces and facilities likely to be used on a frequent and regular basis need to be within easy walking distance and safe to access. Other opportunities which are used less frequently, but where stays are longer can be further away.

The land requirements for outdoor can be very extensive. For example, a full size football pitch complete with run off margins may require almost a nearly a hectare of land, and its use for this purpose will be generally confined to weekend activity. For cricket (in the summer) there will tend to be more mid-week games than for football, but the land required for a cricket field is greater than for football. Private and voluntary club sports grounds usually have 'dedicated' playing field space. Playing pitches in Council controlled parks and recreation grounds are also used for informal recreation. This situation can lead to 'conflict' between the interests of players and casual users of such space. Grass sports pitches by their nature do not make for aesthetically or ecologically rich areas and many informal users would presumably prefer more attractive environments to walk the dog, run around, jog etc. There is a movement in football and rugby to promote the use of artificial surfaces for both training and competitive. If this were to occur on a large scale it would mean much less of a demand being placed on green space for such activity.

7.3 Standard for grass pitches

7.3.1 Quantity standard

A new minimum standard 1.60 ha per 1000 people of *dedicated* grass pitch sport space is proposed both as a basis for a contribution from new housing and as a minimum target for provision across the local authority area. In practice, much pitch sport occurs on multifunctional space. As far as possible new outdoor sports space should be dedicated to that use, so avoiding some of the problems arising from multi use cited above. Inevitably, pitch sports will continue to be played in some parks and recreation grounds, and also on school sites. This minimum standard does not cover provision of synthetic turf pitches (STPs) and other relevant outdoor sports spaces. Guidance for STPs is included elsewhere in this section.

7.3.1.1 How the outdoor sports quantity standard has been calculated

Generally speaking, the study has concluded that there is sufficient space currently available to meet existing demands. Beyond this there will also be some *grass* pitch space in *unsecured* Community Use, which is situated mostly on the larger state school sites. This will be used in varying degrees by outdoor teams. Some schools host very regular and frequent such activity. Other schools don't for various reasons, although they clearly offer potential. It's fair to say that the consultation for this study has yielded a mixed view in terms of perceptions about the adequacy of local provision. Although some sports representatives have suggested that demand is increasing, this is by no means a commonly shared view. It must also be said that for football (the most popular sport in terms of local participation) local evidence suggests an ebb and flow cycle in terms of participation. The main issues appear to be in respect of the:

- possible capacity and management issues in respect of cricket facilities;
- some limited quality issues in respect of ancillary accommodation and changing facilities;
- lack of training facilities, and especially appropriate synthetic surfaces;
- for some sports, lack of access to junior pitches (football and rugby in particular); and,
- whether the existing stock of facilities will be sufficient to absorb additional demands generated by new residential growth, or whether additional capacity is required.

The lack of certainty about what will happen in terms of future levels of demand *relative* to the current situation is therefore very unclear. The best thing to do in these circumstances is to therefore ensure that there will be sufficient space to accommodate any potential likely increase in demand from the current 'base' population by ensuring a buffer of sports space is available. For example, assuming a 10% increase in demand from the current base within the local authority would lead to the following additional teams. In determining the figure of 1.60 hectares of grass pitch space per 1000 people, the following assumptions and calculations have been used:

- Assumptions about pitch sizes (includes run-off space)

- Full size football pitch 0.9 hectares
- Junior football pitch 0.7 hectares
- Mini-soccer pitch 0.3 hectares
- Full size Rugby pitch 1.2 hectares
- Cricket Pitch 1.6 hectares

- Each team plays half their games away

- Each of the modified Team Generation Rates (TGRs) is converted into a standard expressed as a ratio of per 1000 population

- There is no 'shared space' between summer and winter sports- such as football pitches making use of cricket outfields. There is in practice some overlap locally, but this is difficult to factor into the calculations. This issue is considered further, shortly.

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Team age groups	TGRs with additional 10% margin for error	(1) converted into TGR per 1000 population	(2) multiplied by pitch area	(3) Divided by 50% to account for 50% of games being played away from home
Cricket Adult Male	2,686	0.37	0.59	0.295
Cricket Junior	5,655	0.18	0.23	0.115
Cricket Ladies	nil	nil		
Football Senior Male	1,343	0.75	0.67	0.335
Football Junior Male	1,525	0.66	0.46	0.23
Football Ladies	28,207	0.035	0.31	0.155
Football Junior Female	6,268	0.16	0.11	0.055
Mini-soccer	1,084	0.92	0.27	0.135
Rugby Adult Male	9,402	0.11	0.13	0.065
Rugby Colts	56,415	0.018	0.02	0.01
Rugby Male Vets	56,415	0.018	0.02	0.01
Rugby Junior Male	4,701	0.21	0.25	0.125
Rugby Mixed Mini	3,525	0.28	0.08	0.04
Rugby Ladies	56,415	0.02	0.02	0.01
Rugby Junior Female	28,207	0.03	0.04	0.02
				1.60 hectares/000
Hockey Adult Male	14,103	Dealt with under separate standard for AGPs		
Hockey Junior Boys	9,402*			
Hockey Ladies	11,282			
Hockey Junior Girls	9,402*			

*This is an average TGR for junior boys and junior girls

7.3.2 Access standard

The consultation for the wider open spaces study identified that around 30% of people want playing fields within 5 minutes walk of home, and 40% are willing to travel up to 10 minutes. Therefore an access standard of 480 metres, or 10 minutes walk time is suggested. In rural areas, it is accepted that there may be a need to travel to playing pitches by car, and a 10 minute drive-time might be anticipated. These benchmarks are generally consistent with the results of public consultation exercises conducted by this consultancy for other similar local authorities.

7.3.3 Quality standard

The consultation undertaken for this study has identified varying levels of satisfaction with the standard of grass pitches and supporting facilities within the study area. Sport England have produced a wealth of useful documents outlining the desired quality of facilities, as have the Football Association/Football Foundation, the Rugby Football Union, and the England and Wales Cricket Board. However, generally speaking in terms of the quality of pitches:

- Football: adult pitches should be capable of hosting at least 2 matches a week without undue wear and tear (3 ideally);
- Cricket: each grass wicket strip (on a cricket table) should be capable of hosting at least 5 matches a season; and,
- Rugby: each grass pitch should be capable of hosting at least 3 matches a week without undue wear and tear (3.5 ideally).

For changing accommodation, each facility should have sufficient changing rooms for both teams and match officials to service the number of pitches on a given site.

7.4 Standard for STPs

7.4.1 Justification for a standard

In urban areas where demands on space are great, it is very important to promote synthetic surfaces as a robust and high capacity medium for sport that can potentially take much pressure off other spaces. For this reason a separate standard for AGPs is recommended. The findings of this study make very clear the importance of AGPs in providing for the competitive and training needs of a variety of sports, but especially football, hockey and rugby. For hockey an AGP of an appropriate specification is a pre-requisite for even basic competition. Whilst reduced-size AGPs have their role as a training resource and for small-sided games, full-size pitches have the widest potential use and adaptability. There are currently 3 full-size, floodlit AGPs in the study area (2 in Witney and 1 in Carterton). Only two of these (one in both Carterton and Witney) have secure community use agreements (although the Wood Green school facility is nonetheless used by community teams for hockey and football).

In the District as a whole there are a further 3 full-size AGPs (2 at Kingham and 1 at Cokethorpe Schools). However, these are primarily for the use of boarding schools, and access for community teams is limited. If Woodgreen School is included in the calculation, the provision per capita in the study area is 1 full-size AGP (6,426 square metres) for 20,894 people, and although the evidence of the Sport England Facility Calculator suggests a need for fewer such facilities, all appear to be well used on a shared basis between schools and clubs. If the Wood Green School facility is excluded the level of provision drops to 1 full-size AGP for every 31,340 people or 1 for about 52,500 people in the District as a whole. There is demand for further access to AGPs, and especially for mid-week evening training slots, for football, hockey, and rugby. There is no community AGP in the Chipping Norton sub area. In this respect the discussed potential for a facility at Chipping Norton School is noted, as are the comments of the Chipping Norton RUFC, Town Council and Chipping Norton Swifts FC about the desirability of providing a, AGP locally for training for the benefit of rugby, hockey, and football.

It is considered that the equivalent of three additional full-size AGPs in full-community use be sustainable in the Study area- one in Chipping Norton, and the equivalent of two in the Witney and Carterton area.

[Author's note: Outside the study areas, Bartholomew School, Eynsham now has a sand filled 42m x 35m (x2 five-a-side) floodlit AGP (S106 and School funded), Community use is secured by a dual use agreement. Eynsham Primary School also has a 34.25 x 19.5m sand filled AGP (1 x five-a-side) fenced, but no floodlights. There is no community use agreement: however it is available for hire. Burford School has an aspiration to procure x2 AGP's but has been unable to source the funding.]

7.4.2 Quantity standard

1 x full size STP (6,426 m²) per 15,659 persons (or 410 m² per 1000 persons). This level of provision should be an appropriate balance of full and half-size pitches (the latter primarily for training)

7.4.3 Accessibility standard

Within 15 minutes walk time (preferred).

Research conducted by Sport England suggests that users of STPs tend to be prepared to travel up to 20 minutes (mainly by car) to use these facilities on a regular basis, although the majority of trips will take significantly less (up to 10 minutes). Within the urban areas it will often be convenient (and perhaps easier) to walk or cycle to the nearest facility. An appropriate compromise might be to aim for no more than 15 minutes walk or drive to the nearest facility, with walking being the preferred travel mode within the urban area.

7.4.4 Quality standard

To an agreed performance specification complying with relevant governing body of sport requirements. The choice of surface type in particular will depend on the intended principal sporting use.

Facilities should be available for genuine community use on a largely pay-and-play basis for a minimum of 40 hours a week including times of peak demand for the community (generally weekday evenings and weekends). One of the issues to address in considering synthetic surfaces is its suitability for the different sports. Football and Rugby Union have been cooperating to produce guidance on a 'Third Generation' playing surface that is acceptable for both sports. Up until very recently Hockey did not sanction 3G for certain activity. However, it has now finally sanctioned this surface type in principle for basic competition. The preferred surface for hockey though continues to be sand-based for local levels of competition; and, water based for high level competition.

8. Policies and actions

8.1 General

This section draws on the findings and conclusion of the previous sections in recommending a series of policies and prioritised action points which the district council may wish pursue in conjunction with relevant partner groups and organisations.

8.2 General recommendations (GR)

GR1: Given the current pressures on the use of existing playing pitches in community use, and their susceptibility to wear and tear, the District Council should resist proposals that would involve the loss of pitches (either in or with the potential to be in community use) unless alternative playing pitch provision is offered of equivalent community benefit, or better.

GR2: The District Council should consider adopting the standards of provision suggested in this report, principally to help in assessing the need for additional playing pitch space resulting from population growth and, in particular, proposed housing allocations.

GR3: The District Council should consider adopting the action plan (below), to inform investment planning decisions.

GR4: The District Council should systematically monitor and review the implementation of recommendations and actions adopted from this report. A full review of the strategy and underlying study should be undertaken according to a regular 5-yearly cycle, which should synchronise with the local development plan review.

GR5: The following venues be recognised as community sports hub sites: West Witney Sports Ground; Monahan Way; Witney RUFC; Chipping Norton RUFC; Carterton FC, Chipping Norton School, Carterton Community College, Wood Green School and/or Henry Box School. These will be considered to be the key multi or single-pitch sport community venues in the study area (and in the West Oxfordshire District as a whole). Recognition of this status will have implications for the protection and encouragement of community pitch sport interests at these venues, and for prioritisation of District Council practical and financial support. In terms of sites within the control of the voluntary and education sector recognition of this status by the District Council will be conditional to the establishment of appropriate secured community use status.

8.3 Action plan

Sub Area	Sport	Description	Potential partners	Notional cost (where Sport England guidance available)	Suggested priority
Witney	Football	<i>West Witney Sports ground:</i> new changing accommodation (outline specification could follow that provided in Witney Town Council report of 2013)	Witney Town Council, local clubs, local leagues, governing bodies, District Council	£1.3 - £1.4 million (based on Witney Town Council report of 2013)	High
		<i>West Witney Sports ground:</i> improved drainage of pitches.	Witney Town Council, local clubs, local leagues, governing bodies, District Council	c.£200,000	High
		<i>West Witney Sports ground:</i> planned decanting of some footballing activity to other sites, especially where it will help reduce the potential overlap of football and cricket seasons. This could be undertaken in conjunction with the suggested capital improvements to other sites in the area (see below)	Witney Town Council, local clubs, local leagues, governing bodies, District Council	N.A.	Medium
		<i>West Witney Sports ground:</i> consider the potential for and desirability of providing an artificial cricket strip on the ground to reduce wear and tear of the grass wicket.	Witney Town Council, local clubs, local leagues, governing bodies, District Council	£20,000	Medium
		<i>The Leys (football):</i> new changing accommodation (outline specification could follow that provided in Witney Town Council report of 2013)	Witney Town Council, local clubs, local leagues, governing bodies, District Council	£0.36 - £0.37 million (based on Witney Town Council report of 2013)	Medium

Sub Area	Sport	Description	Potential partners	Notional cost (where Sport England guidance available)	Suggested priority
		cil report of 2013)	trict Council		
		<i>King George's Field</i> : heighten awareness of, and consider ways of facilitating access to changing facilities at the adjacent Wood Green School.	Witney Town Council, local clubs, local leagues, governing bodies, District Council	N.A./minimal cost	Medium
		<i>Hailey Recreation Ground</i> : In conjunction with the parish council, consider the potential for improving and utilising this space for formal pitch sports perhaps by identifying an 'anchor club'.	Hailey Parish Council, local clubs, local leagues, governing bodies, District Council	N.A.	Medium
		<i>Glebe land</i> : assist the parish council and resident clubs with improvements to the playing surface- specifically in relation to improving the depth of the top soil.	Ducklington Parish Council, local clubs, local leagues, governing bodies, District Council	Cannot be specified at this stage.	Medium
		<i>Burwell Recreation Ground</i> : new changing accommodation (outline specification could follow that provided in Witney Town Council report of 2013)	Witney Town Council, local clubs, local leagues, governing bodies, District Council	£0.22 - £0.30 million (based on Witney Town Council report of 2013)	Medium
		<i>Madley Park</i> : heighten awareness of, and consider ways of facilitating access to changing facilities at the adjacent Wood Green School. Examine scope for improving drainage of these pitches.	Wood Green School, local clubs, local leagues, governing bodies, District Council	N.A./minimal cost	Medium
	AGPs	Within the Witney sub area consider the provision of the equivalent of an additional one full-size AGP based on the <u>existing</u> population. This might be comprised of two half-size pitches. However, it is suggested that the optimal solution would be for a full-size pitch, and based on one of the main school sites. This would make three AGPs in Witney in total. It is considered that the new pitch should be sand-based, or of a compromise surface to meet the training needs of football, hockey and rugby. The two other existing pitches (at Henry Box and Wood Green Schools) will both require overhaul within the next five years pitches. It is suggested that the overall balance of pitches within the town might ideally be: 1 x long-pile 3G (for football and rugby); 1 x shortpile 3G (for use by hockey and football for training and some competition, and by rugby for modified forms of the game); and, sand-based (principally for hockey, but with some limited use by other sports)	Witney Town Council, local clubs, local leagues, governing bodies, District Council, local schools	Based on suggested optimum balance of pitches. 1 x £885,000 (60-65mm pile 3G, fenced, floodlit, 106 x 70m) 1 x £840,000 (40mm pile 3G, fenced, floodlit, 106 x 70m) 1 x £715,000 (18mm sand-dressed, fenced, floodlit, 106 x 70m) = £,2440,000 (assumes complete reconstruction as opposed to major refurbishment of existing)	High

Sub Area	Sport	Description	Potential partners	Notional cost (where Sport England guidance available)	Suggested priority
	Cricket	<i>West Witney Sports ground</i> : see above (for football)	Witney Town Council, local clubs, local leagues, governing bodies, District Council	See above	High
		<i>The Leys (cricket)</i> : consider the possibilities for improving the changing facilities for cricket	Witney Town Council, local clubs, local leagues, governing bodies, District Council	£255,000	Medium
	Rugby	Witney RUFC: assist and advise as appropriate in the provision of floodlights for the main rugby pitch.	Witney RUFC, District Council, RFU	Cannot be specified at this stage.	Medium
	Hockey	See comments for AGPs later in this table.	Witney Town Council, local clubs, local leagues, governing bodies, District Council, local schools	See below	
Carterton	Football	<i>Monahan Way</i> : planned decanting of some footballing activity to other sites, especially where it will help reduce the potential overlap of football and cricket seasons. This could be undertaken in conjunction with the suggested capital improvements to other sites in the area (see below). The annual summer small-sided football tournament is an event that could potentially benefit by moving to a school based venue.	Carterton Town Council, local clubs, local leagues, governing bodies, District Council	See below	High
		<i>Kilkenny Lane (Carterton FC)</i> : in conjunction with Carterton Town Council, Carterton FC, and neighbouring parish councils, consider the longer-term scope for implementing the Town Council's plans for the expansion of the Carterton FC site at Kilkenny Lane.	Carterton Town Council, Carterton FC, local leagues, governing bodies, District Council	Cannot be specified at this stage	Medium
	Cricket	As above	Carterton Town Council, local clubs, local leagues, governing bodies, District Council	See above	High
	AGPs	Within the Carterton sub area consider the provision of the equivalent of an additional one full-size AGP based on the <u>existing</u> population. This might be comprised of two half-size pitches. The ideal solution might be 2 half-size pitches. The best locations might be on dual use school sites. Carterton Community College, would be a good location, alongside the existing pitch. However, a second pitch might be best provided within the environs of Monahan Way (perhaps in conjunction with new development). Longer-pile 3G surfaces would be the best surface type (primarily for football, given the importance of the sport locally, and absence of rugby or hockey clubs in the town).	Carterton Town Council, local clubs, local leagues, governing bodies, District Council, local schools	2 x £410,000 (60-65mm pile 3G, fenced, floodlit, 61 x 43m) = £820,000	High

Sub Area	Sport	Description	Potential partners	Notional cost (where Sport England guidance available)	Suggested priority
Chipping Norton	Football	<i>Chipping Norton School</i> : Make special efforts to promote the availability of the existing grass pitches at the school, as they are already the subject of a secured community use agreement, but are rarely used by outside teams. District Council support for an AGP at Chipping Norton School should be contingent on the above. (See below regarding AGPs).	Chipping Norton School/Leisure Centre, local clubs, local leagues, governing bodies, District Council	N.A./cannot be specified at this stage	High
		<i>Chipping Norton School and Greystones</i> : In conjunction with the Chipping Norton School and Chipping Norton Swifts FC, consider the potential for the latter to relocate to the former thereby offering the club scope to expand.	Chipping Norton School/Leisure Centre, local clubs, local leagues, governing bodies, District Council	N.A./cannot be specified at this stage	Medium
	Cricket	<i>Chipping Norton CC</i> and Chipping Norton School: consider the scope for decanting some of the junior team activity to Chipping Norton School, thereby reducing pressure on the existing main club facilities. Provision of an artificial wicket at the school may benefit both the school and community.	Chipping Norton School/Leisure Centre, local clubs, local leagues, governing bodies, District Council	N.A./cannot be specified at this stage	Medium
	Rugby	See comments for AGPs later in this section.	Chipping Norton School/Leisure Centre, local clubs, local leagues, governing bodies, District Council	N.A.	Medium
		Greystones: In conjunction with Chipping Norton Swifts FC and Chipping Norton RFC, explore the potential benefits for the rugby club utilising pitch space vacated by Swifts FC if the latter were to relocate to Chipping Norton School.	Chipping Norton RUFC, Chipping Norton Swifts FC, local leagues, governing bodies, District Council	N.A./cannot be specified at this stage	Medium
		Hockey	See comments for AGPs later in this table.		Medium
	AGPs	Within the Chipping Norton sub area consider the provision of the equivalent of a full-size AGP based on the <u>existing</u> population. This might be comprised of two half-size pitches, but the ideal solution is felt to be one full-size pitch. The best location might be on the dual use Chipping Norton School campus. A shorter pile 3G surface would meet the training needs of both local football and rugby clubs, but could also be used for local hockey activity (there is a small local club bearing the name of the town, but which currently plays outside the study area).	Chipping Norton School/Leisure Centre, local clubs, local leagues, governing bodies, District Council	£840,000 (40mm pile 3G, fenced, floodlit, 106 x 70m)	High

Appendix 1: Study method

Introduction

This section sets out our proposed approach to the production of the Playing Pitch Strategy, consistent with the guidance contained in the document 'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance' published by Sport England in October 2013.

The new methodology sets out a framework for the delivery of such a document and is subdivided into five stages A to E, specifically:

- Stage A – Prepare and tailor the approach
- Stage B – Gather Information and views on the supply of and demand for provision
- Stage C – Assess the supply and demand information and views
- Stage D – Develop the strategy
- Stage E - Deliver the strategy and maintain its robustness.

Each of the 5 stages is subdivided into steps (of which there are 10 in total), summarised as follows:

The new playing pitch assessment method



Key changes from the previous Sport England methodology (known as Towards and Level Playing Field) include the focus on site and settlement specific priorities; recognition of the changing demand for pitch sports; and, an expectation of increased engagement from National Governing Bodies as well as Sport England.

There are fundamental differences in the approaches taken by the previous method, and that which is now advocated by Sport England. The original methodology (contained in the document ('Towards and Level Playing Field') was based on the approach of assessing units of demand (teams) against units of supply (pitches), and determining the extent to which supply satisfied demand at critical peak times. This is a gross simplification, as the supporting guidance also emphasised the need to understand other critical influences, such as latent demand and the 'carrying capacity' of pitches. However, a belief that the importance of considering the capacity of pitches was being overlooked has led to a revised method being published in the document 'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance'. In essence the revised method (from information provided through Stages A and B above):

- Identifies the 'carrying capacity' of individual pitches (that is the ability of a pitch to absorb activity over a given period);
- Establishes how much activity takes place on each pitch (both matchplay, training, informal);
- Compares the above and assesses whether there is over or underuse in relation to notional capacity; and,
- In the event of 'overplay' or 'underplay' on various sites/pitches, identifies whether there is an opportunity to relocate activity, consistent with times of peak demand.

The following method has been used to assess the notional 'carrying capacity' of pitches relative to actual levels of use *for football and rugby*. Different methods have been used for cricket and hockey (considered later in this appendix).

The table below can be used for different age categories of football and rugby. For the purpose of this study, each of the described fields are the basis for calculations performed in GIS with the output displayed on maps and charts in the main report.

	Field	Type of entry	Description	Value	Notes
DEMAND					
a	Match factor	Defined	Length of matches	1.5	Pre-determined
b	Training factor	Manual	Length of training session	1.5	Could change
c	Home/away factor (week)	Manual		0.5	Could change
d	Training team equivalent (week)	Manual	No of teams training weekly		Could factor in larger squads and also something similar for schools use, where activity takes place on dual use school sites.
e	Training hours (week)	Formula	$b \times d$		This needs a good understanding of where teams play and for how long, and how regularly
f	Total teams	Manual	No. of teams		Could be totalled through a formula from given lists.
g	Total games played (week)	Formula	$c \times f$		
h	Match hours (week)	Formula	$a \times g$		
j	Total team equivalent hours (week)	Formula	$e + h$		Overall number of hours a pitch is used/club uses its venue

	Field	Type of entry	Description	Value	Notes
SUPPLY					
i	Total pitches	Manual	Total number of pitches		Can be totalled through a formula from given lists
ii	Match capacity factor	Manual	Number of (community) matches each pitch might be expected to host per week	Based on NGB guidance (see 'Notes')	These tend to follow Sport England and NGB guidance. They are influenced by the quality of pitch; age group of user; and, type of pitch. (See the paragraph below headed 'Pitch capacity')
iii	Site match capacity (week)	Formula	i x ii		
iv	Site football match equivalent hours (week)	Formula	iii x 1.5 hours		Estimate of the overall number of hours a venue can 'technically absorb'

NOTES

Bar Chart Maps' basically total up all the entries for the two summary fields ('total full size team equivalent hours' & 'site football match equivalent hours') for the clubs and venues entries within each defined sub area.

Large number of formula fields in a sub class called 'Sub Areas' which do all the calculations required by the PPM.

Acknowledged problems:

Full size pitches, as well as full size teams all put together (based on the assumption that most junior teams play on adult pitches)

Ideally need to assume how many pitches on school sites allegedly in SCU are actually available.

Cricket

The method to assess the notional carrying capacity relative to actual use of pitches has many similarities to the above approach, but the following noticeable differences:

- The period of assessment is over a season (as opposed to a week, as is the case for football and rugby);
- The unit of supply is, for the purpose of assessing 'carrying capacity' is not a 'pitch' but rather a wicket strip, of which there are normally several on the 'wicket table'. Matchplay is rotated between the various wicket strips. The cricket NGB has provided guidance on the number of matches that might be sustained on grass wicket strips of varying quality over the course of the season; and,
- The impact of training on pitch/wicket quality is fairly negligible, as most in-season training takes place off the field, and in nets.

Hockey

Hockey relies on the provision of specific types of AGP for both matches and training. The above type of assessment is not therefore appropriate for this sport, and should instead be based on the availability of AGPs of the correct specifications at the appropriate times of the week for both matches and training.

Times of peak demand

The revised playing strategy assessment guidelines produced by Sport England suggest that if some sites appear to be 'overplayed' using the above assessment techniques, it is important to identify sites that are apparently 'underplayed' at the appropriate times of need. In order to identify such sites it is not only necessary to take into account the findings of the above 'Capacity' assessments, but also undertake an assessment of the relative availability of pitches on these sites at times of peak demand.

Pitch capacity

The following pitch capacity guidance is from the various NGBs and is contained in appendices to the revised Sport England guidance.

Football

Pitch carrying capacity - As a guide, details are provided below on the number of match equivalent sessions a week that a natural grass pitch is likely to be able to regularly accommodate, based on an agreed quality rating, without adversely affecting its current quality:

Agreed pitch quality rating	Adult Football	Youth Football	Mini Soccer
	Number of match equivalent sessions a week		
Good	3	4	6
Standard	2	2	4
Poor	1	1	2

Rugby

Pitch carrying capacity – As a guide (see the table below), the RFU has set a standard number of match equivalent sessions that natural grass pitches should be able to sustain without adversely affecting their current quality (pitch carrying capacity). The RFU believes that it is most appropriate to base this calculation of capacity upon an assessment of the drainage system and maintenance programme afforded to a site. This information can be ascertained through a combination of a technical or non-technical assessment and consultation with Rugby Clubs who use the site. Where the club does not own/manage its own site this information can also be sought from the relevant provider of the site.

This guide should only be used as very general measure of potential pitch carrying capacity and does not account for specific circumstances at the time of use, assumes seasonally average weather conditions and an appropriate end of season rest and renovation programme.

The figures for pipe and slit drained pitches are based upon a pipe drained system at 5m centres that has been installed in the last 8 years and a slit drained system at 1m centres completed in the last 5 years.

Standards may be adjusted to better reflect individual sites which are of a higher quality. However, you should seek to agree the pitch carrying capacity figures with your RFU representative.

Suggested number of senior match equivalent sessions a week based on maintenance and drainage details:

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

Cricket

Pitch carrying capacity – Pitch carrying capacity for Cricket should be measured on a season rather than weekly basis. This is due to the capacity of a cricket pitch being primarily determined by the number and quality of wickets on a pitch. Only one match is generally played per pitch per day at the weekend or weekday evening. However, play is rotated throughout the season across the number of wickets on a pitch to reduce wear and allow for repair. Each wicket will be able to accommodate a certain amount of play per season.

As a guide, the ECB suggests that a good quality wicket should be able to take:

- 5 matches per season per grass wicket (adults)
- 7 matches per season per grass wicket (juniors)
- 60 matches per season per non turf wicket (adults)
- 80 matches per season per non turf wicket (juniors)

As set out in the ECB offer, the ECB will assist local authorities to work out quality and carrying capacity ratings using the quality assessment information to help define whether sites are overplayed or have some potential to accommodate additional play.

Appendix 2a: List of sites

Name	Ref	Sub Area	SF	JF	Mini	C	SR	JR	Mini Rugby	H	Am F	STP	Availability	Ownership	Summary of relevant consultation findings	Changing?	Pitch Quality Score	Changing Quality Score
Alvescot Road	5	Carterton	1										A1	LA	Football: These need changing facilities		3	
Brize Norton Airfield	11	Carterton	4			1	1						C	MoD				
Brize Norton Airfield	7	Carterton	2				1						C	MoD		Yes		
Carterton Community College	2	Carterton	2	1			1					1	B	Education				
Carterton County Primary School	6	Carterton			1								C	Education				
Carterton Football Ground	4	Carterton	1		2								A2	Club		Yes	4	4
Edith Moorhouse Primary School	3	Carterton			1								C	Education				
Gateway Primary School	8	Carterton			1								C	Education				
Monahan Way (aka The Sports Pavilion)	10	Carterton	3			1							A1	LA	Football: Needs all-year round maintenance programme for pitches at Monahan Way. Cricket: outfield is very poor due to over-lapping seasons between cricket and football.	Yes	4	5
St John Primary School	9	Carterton			1								C	Education				
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	1	Carterton			1								C	Education				
Station Road Recreation	12	Carterton	1			1							A1	LA		Yes	4	3

Name	Ref	Sub Area	SF	JF	Mini	C	SR	JR	Mini Rugby	H	Am F	STP	Availability	Ownership	Summary of relevant consultation findings	Changing?	Pitch Quality Score	Changing Quality Score
Ground																		
Chadlington Sports Club	21	Chipping Norton	1	4	2	1							A2	Club		Yes	4	4
Chipping Norton Cricket Club	19	Chipping Norton				1							A2	Club	Cricket: Ground used to capacity now, with the re-introduction of junior teams	Yes	5	5
Chipping Norton FC	13	Chipping Norton	1										A2	Club		Yes	4	4
Chipping Norton School	15	Chipping Norton	2			1	2			2			A3	Education	The fact that the grass pitches are available via a formal community abuse agreement does not appear to be well-known			
Enstone Sports & Social Club	43	Chipping Norton	2		1	1							A2	Club		Yes	5	5
Greystones (Chipping Norton RUFC)	16	Chipping Norton	1				4		2				A2	Club	Football: The resident club feels it has outgrown the site, and no room to develop further. Lacking training lighting. Security issues. Rugby: Use of grass pitches for training adds to wear and tear of pitches. More synthetic surfaces for training would be desirable.@@	Yes	4	4

Name	Ref	Sub Area	SF	JF	Mini	C	SR	JR	Mini Rugby	H	Am F	STP	Availability	Ownership	Summary of relevant consultation findings	Changing?	Pitch Quality Score	Changing Quality Score
Holy Trinity Catholic School	17	Chipping Norton			1								C	Education				
St Marys Primary School	14	Chipping Norton			1								C	Education				
Burwell Recreation Ground	27	Witney	2										A1	LA	Football: Lack of changing facilities, and the low quality of the playing surface.	Yes	4	2
Deer Park Road	23	Witney											A1	LA		No	3	
Eynsham Hall Sports Ground	46	Witney	2		1								A2	Private		Yes	5	5
Glebelands	36	Witney	1	1	2	1							A2	LA	Football: Glebelands is lacking topsoil, so ground cover is too thin. Clubhouse changing facilities also insufficient. Cricket: Better changing facilities needed.	Yes	3	3
Hailey Primary School	32	Witney			2								C	Education				
Hailey Recreation Ground	30	Witney	1										A1	LA		Yes	3	3
Henry Box School	29	Witney	1				2					1	C	Education		Yes	3	3
King George's Field	39	Witney	1										A1	LA	Football: Lack of (on-site) changing facilities, and the low quality of the playing surface. The Wood Green School changing facilities can, however, be accessed via a	No	4	

Name	Ref	Sub Area	SF	JF	Mini	C	SR	JR	Mini Rugby	H	Am F	STP	Availability	Ownership	Summary of relevant consultation findings	Changing?	Pitch Quality Score	Changing Quality Score
															gate.			
Madley Brook and Springfield Primary School	42	Witney											C	Education				
Madley Park	47	Witney	2		3								A3	LA	The changing facilities at Wood Green School can, however, be accessed via a gate. Some drainage issues.	No	3	
Newland Cricket and Football Ground	37	Witney	1			1							A2	Club	Cricket: Short tenure a problem, hampering club development.	Yes	4	4
North Leigh Cof E Primary School	44	Witney			1								C	Education				
Raleigh Crescent (Deer Park Estate)	24	Witney		1	1								A1	LA		No	3	
South Leigh Football Pitch	45	Witney	1										A1	LA		No	2	
St Hugh of Lincoln Nursery School	26	Witney			1								C	Education				
The Blake Primary School	38	Witney			1								C	Education				
The Kings School	40	Witney		1						1			C	Education				
The Leys Recreation Ground (Cricket)	33	Witney				1							A1	LA	Cricket: The user club deems the facilities to be very poor.	Yes	4	2
The Leys Recreation Ground (Football)	35	Witney	1										A1	LA	Football: Changing facilities deemed to be very poor and	No (on adjacent site)	4	2

Name	Ref	Sub Area	SF	JF	Mini	C	SR	JR	Mini Rugby	H	Am F	STP	Availability	Ownership	Summary of relevant consultation findings	Changing?	Pitch Quality Score	Changing Quality Score
															not big enough for the number of teams. Dog-fouling and litter.			
The Polythene UK Stadium	20	Witney	2										C	Commercial		Yes	5	5
Tower Hill CP School	28	Witney			1								C	Education				
Wash Meadow	18	Witney	1			1							A1	Other		Yes	4	4
West Witney County Primary School	25	Witney			1								C	LA				
West Witney Sports Ground	22	Witney	2	1	4	1							A1	LA	Football: Poor drainage at site and poor and insufficient changing facilities for numbers of teams and for the ladies team. Not enough car parking. Cricket: poor outfield resulting from overlapping sports and seasons	Yes	3	2
Witney Community Primary School	34	Witney			1								C	Education				
Witney RUFC	31	Witney					4	1					A2	Club	Club would like to provide floodlights on main pitch.	Yes	5	4
Wood green School	41	Witney	2		3	1	1					1	B	Education		Yes		

Appendix 2b: List of clubs/teams

Football

Name	Post-code	Sub Area	Ground	Senior Teams	Junior Teams	Ladies Teams	Girls Teams	Mini Teams	League
Brize Norton Ladies FC	OX18 3QA	Carterton	Station Road Recreation Ground						Thames Valley Counties Women's League
Carterton FC	OX18 1DY	Carterton	Carterton Town Football Club	3	2			1	Witney & District, Thames Valley Women's, Hellenic league, Oxford Mail Girls, Witney & District Youth, FA Invitational
Carterton FC	OX18 3AN	Carterton	The Sports Pavilion		7			4	Witney & District Youth League
Carterton Ladies and Girls F.C.	OX18 3AN	Carterton	The Sports Pavilion			1	4	1	Thames Valley Central Women's Football League, Oxford Mail Girls' League
Carterton Rangers	OX18 3AN	Carterton	Carterton Town Football Club	1					WDFL
Chadlington Sports FC	OX7 3LY	Chipping Norton	Chadlington Sports Club	2	4			5	WDFL, WDYFL
Chipping Norton Swifts	OX7 5BU	Chipping Norton	Greystones		2				WDYFL
Chipping Norton Town FC		Carterton	Chipping Norton Town FC	3	2			1	WDFL, WDYFL, Veterans' Premier
Corinthians FC	OX18 3AN	Carterton	Carterton Pavilion	1					WDFL
Ducklington FC	OX29 7UX	Witney	Glebelands Playing Field	3	6			3	WDFL
Enstone Sports FC	OX7 4LN	Chipping Norton	Enstone Sports & Social Club	2	1				WDFL, WDYFL
FC Hollybush	OX28 1DX	Witney	Wood Green Pitches	2					WDFL
FC Mills	OX29 0NB	Witney	West Witney Sports Ground	2					WDFL
Greystones FC	OX7 5BU	Chipping Norton	Greystones	1					WDFL
Hailey FC	OX29 9UB	Witney	Hailey Recreation Ground	2					WDFL
Minster Lovell FC	OX29 0RN	Witney	Wash meadow Recreation Ground	2	3			2	WDFL
Minster Lovell FC	OX18	Carterton	Station Road Recreation	3					WDFL, Veterans Premier

Name	Post-code	Sub Area	Ground	Senior Teams	Junior Teams	Ladies Teams	Girls Teams	Mini Teams	League
	3QA		Ground						
North Leigh FC	OX29 6PN	Witney	Eynsham Park	5					WDFL, Calor League, Hellenic League
Spartan Rangers FC	OX28 4EJ	Witney	The Leys Recreation Ground	3	0			3	WDFL
Tower Hill FC	OX29 0NB	Witney	West Witney Sports Ground	1	6			12	WDYFL, WDFL
Tower Hill Ladies & Girls FC	OX29 0NB	Witney	West Witney Sports Ground			1	5	9	FA Southern Women's League, OMXGL
West Witney FC	OX29 0NB	Witney	West Witney Sports Ground	2					WDFL
Witney Royals FC	OX28 5NR	Witney	Burwell Recreation Ground	3					WDFL
Witney Vikings (3)		Witney	Madley Park					4	WDFL, WDYFL
Witney Vikings Youth FC (1)	OX28 4AJ	Witney	Witney Mills Cricket Ground		1			1	WDYFL
Witney Vikings Youth FC (2)	OX28 5NR	Witney	Burwell Recreation Ground		3			6	WDYFL
Witney Wanderers FC	OX28 3JN	Witney	King George V Recreation Ground	1					WDFL

Cricket

Name	Ground	Sub Area	Senior Teams	Junior Teams	Ladies Teams	Vets Teams	Colts Teams	Girls Teams	League	Note
Abbots CC	West Witney Sports ground	Witney	1							Casual mid-week?
Audley Ducks CC	West Witney Sports ground	Witney	1							Casual mid-week?
Chadlington Sports CC	Chadlington Sports Ground	Chipping Norton	2						Oxfordshire Cricket Association (OCA)	
Chipping Norton CC	Chipping Norton Cricket Ground	Chipping Norton	2	4					OCA	
Ducklington Cricket Club	Glebelands Playing Field	Witney	1						OCA	
Enstone Sports CC	Enstone Sports & Social Club	Chipping Norton	1						Friendlies	

Name	Ground	Sub Area	Senior Teams	Junior Teams	Ladies Teams	Vets Teams	Colts Teams	Girls Teams	League	Note
Hailey CC	West Witney Sports Ground	Witney	1						OCA	
Kilkenny CC	Carterton Pavilion	Carterton	2						OCA	
Minster Lovell CC	Wash meadow Recreation Ground	Witney	4	5					OCA, Friendlies	
Minster Lovell CC (Third x1)	Station Road	Carterton	1						OCA	
West Witney CC	West Witney Sports Ground	Witney	1						OCA	
Witney Mills CC	Witney Mills Cricket Ground	Witney	2						Cherwell League	
Witney Swifts CC	The Leys Recreation Ground	Witney	2	1					OCA	

Rugby

Name	Post-code	Ground	Sub Areas	Senior Pitches	Junior Pitches	Club	Senior Teams	Colts Teams	Junior Teams	Ladies Teams	Vets Teams	Mini Teams	Girls Teams	League
Chipping Norton RUFC	OX7 5UY	Greystones	Chipping Norton	0	0		2	1	4	0	0	6	0	Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Witney RFC	OX29 9UH	Witney Rugby Football Club	Witney				4		8	1	1	10	2	Berks/Bucks & Oxon, RFU National Challenge

Hockey

Name	Ground	Sub Area	Senior Teams	Junior Teams	Ladies Teams	Vets Teams	Minis	League
Chipping Norton Hockey Club	Kingham Hill School (outside sub area)		0	0	0	0	3	
Witney Hockey Club	Wood green School	Witney	4	12	1	3	2	Middx, Berks, Bucks & Oxon
Witney Hockey Club (2)	Witney STP	Witney	0	0	2	0	0	

Appendix 3: Consultation report

West Oxfordshire Playing Pitch Study - Consultation

1. INTRODUCTION

This section examines the identified local need for the various types of pitches and associated facilities for the four main pitch sports (football, cricket, rugby and hockey). It has drawn upon a range of survey and analytical techniques as well as a review of existing consultation data and other relevant documentation. The report details the community consultation and research process that has been undertaken as part of the study as well as the main findings¹.

Reviews of consultation and documentation were undertaken in relation to:

- West Oxfordshire Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (2013)
- Witney Sports Facility Study (2013)
- West Oxfordshire Leisure Facilities Action Plan (2010)

Three additional questionnaire surveys were undertaken:

- Local Pitch Sports Clubs
- Parish Councils
- Secondary Schools

In addition to the above a number of stakeholder interviews were undertaken.

¹ It should be noted that this section of the study provides consultation evidence in the form of the observations and views/opinions sourced from many different organisations, individuals and studies. On occasion the views and observations expressed by individuals and groups may not be consistent with each other, nor are such individual contributions necessarily accurate or wholly up to date.

2. WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL - LEISURE SERVICES

We interviewed the District Council Leisure Services Manager Martin Holland as part of the 2013 Open Space Study. Martin provided us with the District Council perspective on pitch sports provision in the three towns:

Background

In general the policy of the District Council is that outdoor sports facilities are most appropriately owned and managed at Town and Parish Council level. This is how most such facilities in West Oxfordshire are owned and managed. Some exceptions are noted below, along with general observations on provision.

Witney

- The District Council is responsible for pitches at Deer Park Road/Raleigh Crescent. This has an informal pitch for kickabouts. It has also been marked out for mini-soccer and currently has a 9x9 pitch which is used by a local youth football team– Witney Vikings. There are no changing facilities.
- Wood Green School – Council have a dual use arrangement. 2 x full size football pitches (changing facilities in school). Legacy of historic 106 agreement.
- The Town Council would be the most appropriate managers of these facilities but are not currently showing an interest in taking on that responsibility.
- Martin indicated that the Town Council may suggest there may be an overall shortage of grass pitches.

Carterton

- Carterton is a fairly “young” town near Brize Norton air base. It has a very active interest in football and a huge number of teams – particularly youth. Carterton Town FC alone has about 25 teams!
- The Town Council suggest that there is a shortage of pitches and a need for a second ATP.
- Brize Norton air base has merged with RAF Lynham and as a result has needed to build on what were some of its sports facilities/pitches. This means it needs to use town facilities more, some of which are already quite stretched.
- There is a local sports forum supported by the Town Council. The Town Council are very interested in pitch sports provision
- The District Council is responsible for The Pavilion and pitches at Monahan Way - 3 full-size outdoor football pitches and a cricket pitch (with good changing rooms). It also has a social/function room with a kitchen area (the internal specification and car park have recently been upgraded).
- The Town Council, with local clubs, were looking at the idea of a multi-sports “hub” facility. There were various options under consideration, but the evidence base was never all that clear.

Chipping Norton

- This is the smaller of the towns and the District Council does not have any direct responsibility for any open space facilities (though there is a dual use leisure centre that has a floodlit MUGA - no STP)
- There is an ATP at Kingham Hill School (about 4 miles away) that can be hired (as can school grass pitches, cricket facilities and tennis courts).
- The local Rugby Club is strong and has its own facilities. It is making a case for an artificial pitch.
- The Council also provided notes from a needs assessment exercise with local sports clubs (see Sports Section for details).

3. TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS

3.1 Review of consultation - West Oxfordshire Leisure Facilities Action Plan (2010)

Consultation was undertaken with Town Councils in 2010 in relation to the *West Oxfordshire Leisure Facilities Action Plan*. Key points and observations from that exercise in relation to pitch sports are highlighted below:

Carterton Town Council

Carterton Town Council has a progressive approach to sport and leisure provision in the town. The town has grown considerably in the past decade or so and has a relatively “young” population; it is also likely to grow significantly in the future. Accordingly, the Council believes there is a need for:

- Expansion of and consolidation of football pitch provision at the Monahan Way Pavilion site. The Carterton Town Football Club, after a period of financial difficulties, is now back on an even footing and supports a huge amount of mini-soccer and junior football.
- Higher quality and higher capacity facilities, especially football pitches; there is so much football demand for the Community College ATP that other sports are “squeezed out”.

Chipping Norton Town Appraisal²

The Chipping Norton Town Appraisal (2003) identified a range of needs in the town on the basis of a survey of local residents, the most significant in terms of outdoor sport being:

- An all-weather sports pitch: this is available just outside the town at the Kingham Hill School (see above)
- Better sports facilities for young people: the District Council has recently developed an open access multi use games area at Chipping Norton Common.

Witney Town Council

Witney Town Council is of the view that the town has an inadequate number of grass football pitches and changing accommodation, with the greatest needs relating to mini-soccer and junior football for boys and girls and football training for players of all ages. It manages 12 football and 2 cricket pitches and the town contains around 33 amateur football teams (excluding Witney Town FC³) of whom 9 are adult teams and 22 are junior ones. Accordingly there are enough adult football pitches but a shortage of dedicated pitches for mini-soccer and youth teams.

The Town Council believes there is also a need in the town for better facilities for Witney United Football Club⁴. On the other hand it believes that the Witney Rugby Club has sufficient land for expansion and that there is adequate provision for cricket but expressed no particular views on future of the Windrush Leisure Centre.

² The Town Council have recently been consulting on a neighbourhood plan that will update these findings. One specified objective is “Provide appropriate high-quality green space and youth recreation opportunities as an integral part of new developments. Favour development that incorporates community facilities”.

³ Witney Town FC no longer exist (February 2014)

⁴ Witney United Football Club no longer exist (February 2014)

3.2 Town and Parish Councils Survey

Within the study area there are 3 town and 18 parish councils and one parish that has an annual parish meeting (Heythrop). As part of the Open Spaces study we sent surveys to all of the Councils as well as reminders. As part of this study we sent additional surveys relating specifically to pitch sports.

All of the town councils provided a completed survey return and seven of the parishes did so.

The survey covered issues relating to the quantity, quality and accessibility of pitch sports provision. There was also an opportunity for the councils to highlight any priorities they might have for new or improved provision.

Overview

The general findings from the Town and the parish council who responded in terms of quantity and quality are summarised on the table below⁵:

⁵ Detailed responses from the Councils in relation to the various kinds of pitches can be found in the full excel spreadsheet

West Oxfordshire Town/Parish Councils	Not Enough Football Pitches	Not Enough Cricket Pitches	Not Enough Rugby Pitches	Poor Quality Playing Pitches	Not Enough MUGAs	Poor Quality of MUGAs	Poor Quality/ Inadequate Changing Facilities
Carterton Town Council	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Chipping Norton Town Council	x				x		
Witney Town Council	x			x	x		x
Brize Norton Parish Council							
Crawley Parish Council							
Curbridge and Lew Parish Council							
Ducklington Parish Council			x				
Enstone Parish Council							
Minster Lovell Parish Council							
South Leigh Parish Council							
TOTALS	3	1	2	2	3	1	2

From this it can be seen that:

- All of the town councils note a shortage of MUGAs.
- Carterton Town Council highlighted shortfalls in all of the various categories of pitch sports facility in terms of both quantity and quality.
- Witney Town Council indicated a need for more football pitches and MUGAs. They also highlighted the current poor quality of much of the provision.
- Chipping Norton TC highlight a lack of football pitches and MUGAs.
- Other than Ducklington (for Rugby), the smaller parish councils did not highlight any general shortfall in terms of the quantity for any pitch sport facilities.

Town/Parish Specific Issues

Carterton Town Council

Carterton Town Council have undertaken extensive local research and consultation in relation to the supply of and demand for outdoor sports provision. They have supplied detailed and carefully considered options for future provision that they believe would best suit the current and future needs of the town. These proposals should be given full and detailed consideration in relation to future development options.

Given the lack of suitable open space with the town council boundary some of these proposals would involve land in adjacent parishes so it will be necessary to take an overview including appropriate pitch sport availability in the adjacent parishes.

Outdoor Facilities in the town

The town council manage two recreation grounds, one with pitches. The Football Club is on land owned by Town Council but run independently.

Sports pitch facilities managed by others include pitches (shared football and cricket) owned by West Oxfordshire District Council; an astro turf (WODC) and pitches at the Community College. The Town Council highlight the existence of various facilities “behind the wire” on RAF Brize Norton but note that access to these is limited.

The Council emphasises that the main need is for more land for all sports. There is none available within the town so they have to look to neighbouring parishes. They are aiming to secure more land through the Local Plan process.

Potential for additional community use of outdoor school facilities

The town council do not think there is potential for more community use of school facilities⁶ and note that all existing pitches are already used to capacity. They think that more pitches are needed; particularly if the RAF needs to come off the base for sport.

Groups whose needs are not currently being met

The Council highlight the following groups and interests:

- The Football club and cricket club - both have a need for more/better facilities.
- Hockey and rugby are not provided for in Carterton.

Other Comments

⁶ The District Council's Leisure Officer suggested that there could be additional community use of school facilities if investment into drainage and changing provision were made.

- The Council note the quality of changing rooms is variable but that they need the additional land for pitches first.
- They mention that they have received complaints from residents about children kicking balls about on the amenity spaces indicating a possible need for more kickabout areas.

Chipping Norton Town Council

Outdoor Facilities in the town

The Town Council are responsible for four recreation grounds in Chipping Norton at New Street, at the end of Walterbush road, at Cornish Road and at Cotswold Crescent. The Council also highlights that the town benefits from various active sports clubs, notably the football club, rugby club, cricket club and bowls club.

Potential for additional community use of outdoor school facilities

The Town Council reports that the secondary school has playing fields that have significant potential for community use. They note that if the school allowed the local community to use their outdoor facilities this would be much appreciated by local groups⁷.

Groups whose needs are not currently being met

The Council specifically highlights that the Chipping Norton Swifts Football Club have a lot of people on their waiting list but do not have enough pitches for them to play on.

Other Comments

The Council reported that:

- They are currently developing a Neighbourhood Plan which is looking in detail at the needs of the town.
- Chipping Norton Swifts need more football pitches

Witney Town Council

Outdoor Facilities in the town

The town council manages 4 recreation grounds with sports pitches – 12 Football and 2 Cricket; and a MUGA.

⁷ Pitches are in fact available for community use under a dual use agreement but it appears that this requirement is not widely promoted or understood locally.

Outdoor spaces/facilities managed by others include:

- A 9v9 football pitch on Deer Park Estate – managed by WODC
- 2 adult and 2 mini pitches & changing rooms at Wood Green school (Madley Park) for community use – managed by the school
- An ATP – owned by WODC and managed by GLL
- Rugby pitches – between Witney & Hailey – managed by Witney Rugby Club
- Witney Mills Cricket Club facilities

The Council noted that over recent years the town had grown but that the infrastructure hasn't expanded in line with the population resulting in a general shortfall that is likely to get worse with additional growth anticipated.

Potential for additional community use of outdoor school facilities

The town council do not think there is potential for more community use of school facilities.

Other comments

- The Council point out that their own football pitches are played to full capacity and that they are not able to accommodate any more teams – however they are hoping that the new development at West Witney will alleviate this problem – but note that this is a few years away.
- They note that because of the high level of demand and bad weather sometimes pitches can be overplayed; also that drainage can be a problem on various council owned sites.
- As regards changing facilities they highlight that at Burwell there is only one set of changing rooms to service 2 pitches – and that this is integral to a community hall. They believe this site needs separate changing facilities for the 2 pitches. Also, King Georges Field/Newland doesn't have any changing facilities; and the Pavilion at the Leys Recreation Ground could do with improvement.
- The Council note that all facilities at West Witney Sports Ground are of poor quality.

Brize Norton Parish Council

- Brize Norton Parish Council manages a recreation Ground at Station Road (including football, and a cricket pitch).

Crawley Parish Council

- The Council do not manage any pitches and are not aware of such in the parish.
- They note that no representations have been made to the Parish Council for recreation facilities and that nearby Witney provides plenty of recreational spaces, sports clubs etc. They also note that the village is very small with no obvious space for sports fields/areas.
- There are no schools in the parish; hence there is no potential for any community use of such.

Ducklington Parish Council

- The Council specifically highlights that there is a shortage of rugby facilities in the area.

Curbridge and Lew Parish Council

- The Council manage a playground in Curbridge and are not aware of any other outdoor facilities in the parish managed by others
- They are not sure whether there is a need for additional or improved sports pitch provision within the parish.
- There are no schools in the parish.
- They are not aware of any particular groups within their community whose needs are not currently met.

Enstone Parish Council

- The Council do not manage any pitches but note that there is a Sports Club – members only - which provides a sports field; there is also a playing field next to the primary school.
- They are not sure whether there is a need for additional or improved sports pitch provision within the parish.
- There is a school in the parish but the Council do not see any potential for additional community use due to a "lack of room".
- They note that most people attend the local Leisure Centre at Chipping Norton which is four miles from Enstone; and that a new parish hall is currently being built which will offer indoor sports' facilities in the summer of 2014.

Minster Lovell Parish Council

- The Council is responsible for Ripley Avenue Amenity Area – a recreation area used for football and rugby. They also note additional facilities as below:
 - Minster Lovell Sports & Social Club/Trustees of Wash Meadow – Village cricket and football clubs use Wash Meadow for their sporting activities. A cricket pavilion is on the site.
 - *Minster Lovell Playing Field Trust* – A recreation area to the rear of St Kenelm's Hall, Brize Norton Road. Consists of a tarmac tennis court, swings and slide.
- The Council are not sure if there is a need for additional pitch facilities or any potential for greater community use of school pitches and facilities

South Leigh Parish Council

- The Council highlights a recreational field within the parish that they do not manage. This used to be a football pitch but the club ceased to operate so is now used as an occasional cricket pitch and part of it used as a croquet lawn. They note that the goal posts remain so it is also useful for local children to play on. Grass cutting is paid for by the Parish Council.
- The Council do not think there is a need for additional or improved sports pitches within the parish.
- There are no schools in the parish; hence there is no potential for any community use of such.
- They are not aware of any particular groups within their community whose needs are not currently met.
- The Council point out that it is a very small village with a population of just less than 300. They note that a few more houses and a few more people would enable more clubs to operate.

4. SPORTS SPECIFIC INTERESTS

This section contains feedback from Sport England and the governing bodies of pitch sports (football, cricket, rugby union and hockey) - as secured through the 2013 Open Spaces study. It also incorporates findings from a survey of pitch sports clubs and information gained from the sports related stakeholder discussions. The section summarises some of the general themes and issues from this process.

Response Rates

We received responses from all four of the relevant governing bodies and response rates from pitch sports clubs in the study area is summarised in the table below. The overall club response rate was **73%**.

	Number of clubs in study area	Number of clubs consulted	% of clubs consulted	Survey response rate
Football	24	20	83%	65%
Cricket	12	10	83%	80%
Rugby	2	2	100%	100%
Hockey	2	1	50%	50%
All Clubs	40	33	83%	73%

It is also important to note that we focused in particular on securing responses from multi team clubs. In this respect, looking at the response rates in relation to teams rather than clubs, the overall survey response rate was **85%** as summarised in the table below:

	Number of teams in study area	Number of teams consulted	% of teams consulted	Survey response rate
Football	144	135	94	84%
Cricket	31	22	71	77%
Rugby	24	24	100	100%
Hockey	17	17	100	82%
All Teams	216	198	92%	85%

4.1 Sport England

While undertaking the 2013 Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study we contacted Vicki Aston from Sport England who is one of the Principle Planning Managers for the South of England. West Oxfordshire is one of the local authorities for which she has responsibility.

In general, Sport England highlighted that it is important that the outcomes of Open Spaces studies are clear and provide specific recommendations as to what local areas need, in terms of open space, and where it could be provided. They note that the study will be used to make decisions on whether to grant planning permission for certain types of development, so it is important that it gives the Council robust evidence to help it make decisions on which open space sites should and should not be developed; and why – with reference to existing and future demands for open space.

Vicki had already supplied feedback to the draft Local Plan in relation to planning for sports provision. In particular she highlighted the importance of completing a full playing pitch study in line with Sport England guidance.⁸

Vicki highlighted the availability of various Sport England tools and data, such as Active People, Active Places, Market Segmentation, and the Facility Planning model. She recommended that we make use of such tools at appropriate times in the study process.

Sport England also emphasised the importance of consulting with the relevant national governing bodies of sport. Key sports are Football, Cricket, Rugby, Hockey and Tennis.

4.2 Football

A) The National Governing Body - Oxfordshire County Football Association

We received the following information from the FA regionally (Stuart Lamb) and the Oxfordshire County Football Association (Andy Earnshaw).

General

Andy supplied the FA annual participation reports for West Oxfordshire and requests that these are taken into account in the assessment.

He notes that the following are grass pitch facilities in the study area providing a base for more than 3 teams and are therefore particularly important in relation to protection and potential development:

- Monahan Way, Carterton
- Brize Norton Recreation Grounds
- Chadlington Sports Ground
- Glebelands Playing Fields, Ducklington
- Burwell Recreation ground, Thorney Leys, Witney
- West Witney Sports Ground
- Wood Green School, Madley Park, Witney

Trends and Demand

- Overall, unlike a lot of counties, Oxfordshire has not suffered a decline in adult male 11v11 football and adult female 11v11 has remained fairly stable. Team figures in West Oxfordshire may not provide a completely accurate picture of potential participation as the lack of available 11v11 facilities has left new teams with little choice but to discontinue as there have been no pitches available to play on.

⁸ That is, the process undertaken by this particular study

- Youth male football, 7v7, 9v9 and 11v11, continues to grow across the county although this is not so prevalent in West Oxfordshire. Youth female has suffered a decline countywide although again this is less prevalent in the west.

Some specific Issues

- Disability football team provision is fairly poor in the west compared to the rest of the county as there is at least 1 disability club in each of the three other districts. There are also only 3 adult female 11v11 teams in the district and a lack of facilities means there are few small sided football opportunities within the district compared to the rest of the county and no Futsal opportunities
- Lack of available 11v11 pitches and appropriate changing facilities
- No appropriate Futsal facilities
- Cost of facilities.
- Lack of football specific facilities i.e. no 3G provision or appropriate indoor facilities
- No female small sided provision
- Lack of appropriate facilities to host central venue trophy events in line with The FA Youth Development review
- Club progression hampered by inability to develop facilities further due to planning restrictions e.g. floodlights or further enhancement at North Leigh
- Poor changing provision e.g. West Witney and limited funds to address
- Pitches owned by a range of Town, Parish, Playing Field Associations and other organisations meaning a coordinated approach to development is very difficult
- Lack of 11v11 pitches in Carterton & Witney

Potential Improvements

- Greater 11v11 grass pitch provision in Carterton
- 3G re-surface at Carterton ATP
- Refurbishment of West Witney Sports and Social Club
- Changing room refurbishment at Glebelands (Ducklington FC)
- Coordinated approach to pitch usage and the development of more youth pitches in Chipping Norton to allow the Town Swifts to grow their youth section

Good Practice

- Chadlington FC have done a huge amount of work to their site through grant funding including the creation of new grass pitches and changing room refurbishment

B) League Secretary Response - Witney & District Youth Football League

We received the following information from Terry Williams of the Witney & District Youth Football League.

General

The Witney & District Youth Football League run football for players in the age range under 7 through to Under 15 and in total have over 3,300 players registered and approximately 250 teams (over the whole of West Oxfordshire - not just the study area).

Trends and Demand

Youth football participation is increasing. Over the last few years we have seen a marked increase in younger teams (U7 to U11) and coupled with the FA rules changes on team sizes this has resulted in more teams needing pitches.

Some specific Issues

With the changes in youth football brought in by the FA we now have different sized pitches for the age groups Under 7 and Under 8; Under 9 and Under 10; Under 11 and Under 12; Under 13, U14 & U15. Pitches are becoming "like gold dust".

In some cases the same pitches are over used due to the volume of matches on them, this coupled with poor drainage leads to cancellations during bad weather and child welfare issues with boggy pitches.

For training, as well as the above problem, there is a lack of illuminated areas and hard surfaces to train during the winter months. There is also a lack of indoor facilities for youngsters to use. Many schools seem very reluctant or refuse to open their facilities for teams to use.

Some sites suffer from a lack of or poor parking, no toilets; and poor changing rooms at grounds is common. The league have tried to organise one day events as suggested by the FA but there is a lack of grounds with sufficient pitches to be able to have 20+ teams there in one day. This, coupled with lack of parking, toilet and refreshments makes it a "no go". At the beginning and at the end of the season a number of pitches are lost due to cricket being played on or near the pitch. This leads to frustrations and raises issues in getting games played.

Potential Improvements/opportunities

- Remedies to the above issues!
- There is a clear need for more changing rooms and a referee changing room and toilet at Burwell Meadow and more changing rooms and referees rooms at West Witney. Improvements are needed to cater for all the pitches (both sites have two changing rooms and one referees room per pitch.)
- Make better use of the parish council pitches.
- Increase the number G4 ATP pitches.

C) Club responses

Responses were secured from 13 football clubs: Carterton FC; Carterton Town Football Club; Chipping Norton Swifts FC; Ducklington Sports Club FC; Enstone Sports Football Club; FC Mills; North Leigh FC; Stonesfield Strikers; Tower Hill Football Club; West Witney FC; Witney Royals; Witney Vikings Youth; Witney Wanderers

A summary of the responses is provided in the two tables below:

Table 1

Club	Venue	Pitch provision sufficient for fixtures?		Pitch provision sufficient for training?		Main Pitches Rating					Changing facilities and showers rating					Fielding more, less or same teams as last season?			
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Poor	Below average	Average	Good	Excellent	Poor	Below average	Average	Good	Excellent	Doesn't exist	More	Less	Same
Carterton FC	The Sports Pavilion, Monahan Way		1	1				1			1							1	
Carterton Town Football Club	Monahan Way, Carterton		1	1			1						1						1
Chipping Norton Swifts FC	Greystones, Chipping Norton		1		1			1					1				1		
Ducklington Sports Club FC	Glebelands		1		1			1				1					1		
Enstone Sports Football Club	Enstone Sports & Social Club	1		1						1				1					1
FC Mills	West Witney Sports Ground	1		1				1					1					1	
North Leigh FC	Eynsham Park Sports Ground	1			1					1				1					1
Stonesfield Strikers	Stonesfield Playing Field		1		1			1					1				1		
Tower Hill Football Club	West Witney Sports Ground		1		1		1				1						1		
West Witney FC	West Witney Sports Fields	1			1			1			1								1
Witney Royals	Burwell Meadow Recreation Ground		1		1			1			1								1
Witney Vikings Youth	Burwell Meadow Recreation Ground	1			1				1				1				1		
Witney Wanderers	King George V Playing field, Witney	1		1					1				1					1	
TOTALS		6	7	5	8		2	7	2	2	4	1	4	2	2		5	2	6

Table 2

Club	Clubs future plans						Barriers to club development																	
	Increase members	Increase teams	Expand facilities	Refurbish	Relocation		Shortage of Senior pitches	Shortage of Junior pitches	Shortage of awp's for matches	Shortage of awp's for training	Lack of /poor changing facilities	Shortage of indoor training facilities	Shortage of specialist equipment	Restrictions on development	Cost of hiring/using facilities	Falling membership	Lack of internal funding	Lack of external funding	Access difficulties	Shortage of coaches	Shortage of volunteers	Problems in travelling	Cost of insurance	
Carterton Town FC			1	1			1	1			1													
Carterton Town Football Club	1	1			1		1	1						1							1			
Chipping Norton Swifts FC		1	1				1	1		1		1		1						1				
Ducklington Sports Club FC			1	1													1	1						
Enstone Sports Football Club	1	1	1	1												1		1				1		
FC Mills	1						1									1								
North Leigh FC	1		1	1								1			1		1					1		
Stonesfield Strikers	1	1		1	1			1		1		1			1			1						
Tower Hill Football Club	1	1					1	1	1	1	1								1					
West Witney FC																	1	1						
Witney Royals											1				1	1		1						
Witney Vikings Youth	1		1	1	1							1						1				1		
Witney Wanderers																1								
	7	5	6	6	3		5	5	1	3	3	4		2	3	4	3	6	1	1	4			

From the above tables it can be seen that:

- 7 of the 13 clubs reported that there were not enough pitches to accommodate matches and 8 said there were not enough pitches available for training.
- 9 out of the 13 clubs indicated that the quality of their pitch was no better than “average”. This includes Tower Hill FC (West Witney Sports Ground) and Carterton Town FC (Monahan Way) who both thought that the quality was below average.
- 9 clubs reported that their changing facilities were no better than average. Facilities at West Witney Sports Ground, Burwell Meadow Recreation Ground (Witney) and The Sports Pavilion (Monahan Way) were deemed to be poor.
- 12 clubs reported fielding at least the same number of teams as last season, and 5 (Chipping Norton Swifts, Tower Hill, Ducklington, Stonesfield Strikers and Witney Vikings Youth) reporting an increase.
- 5 clubs had plans to field more teams in the future and 6 clubs wished to expand and/or refurbish their facilities. 3 clubs would consider relocating (Carterton Town FC, Stonesfield Strikers and Witney Vikings Youth).
- The most common barriers to club development were a shortage of pitches (junior and senior); a shortage of indoor facilities for training; a lack of external funding; and a shortage of volunteers/falling membership.

The full detail of the club responses can be found in the associated Excel Consultation Spreadsheet.

We also gave clubs an open opportunity to provide additional comments as noted below:

Club	Additional Comments
Carterton FC	Need all year round maintenance programme for the pitches at Monahan Way, Alvescot Road Rec needs changing room facilities - none at present. We currently use all the facilities in Carterton and often have to reverse fixtures due to a lack of pitches, 2 of the pitches we use don't have changing or toilet facilities.
Carterton Town Football Club	CTFC currently utilises The Recreation ground on Alvescott Road, where the changing and toilet facilities are not fit for Adult or Girls teams, it also utilises 2 pitches at Carterton Community college, where there are no toilet or changing facilities on match days.
Chipping Norton Swifts FC	The Swifts have really outgrown the site, the number of teams could increase year on year but we do not have the facilities and the site has no room for development and we are worried about what will happen when the new recycling centre traffic passes directly past us. We have investigated several options to extend and develop the site but have been unable to source more land neighbouring the current pitch and pavilion. The car park and road need resurfacing, the pitch needs fencing in to stop cars driving on to it. Lighting for winter training is needed. All the villages seem to have far better facilities for football than Chipping Norton. More help and funding is needed from the District and Town Councils to provide improved facilities for football as in Carterton, Witney and Banbury.
Ducklington Sports Club FC	Glebelands is lacking topsoil, so ground cover is too thin. No scope currently to rectify, either time wise or financially. Clubhouse changing facilities also insufficient, with funds difficult to attract to improve.
North Leigh FC	North Leigh FC is fortunate in having an excellent base at Eynsham Park but in the dark winter evenings we use indoor training facilities around the district and find huge pressure on these limited resources. With a rapidly expanding population Witney/Carterton really require additional training facilities forthwith. However we are very doubtful that this will occur with the lim-

	ited development land available around the district and the general lack of interest in sports facilities shown by the authorities. The demise of Witney Town FC last year means that is no senior football club in the whole of West Oxfordshire apart from ourselves which frankly is a disgrace.
Stonesfield Strikers	We are actively looking for new land to develop new pitches. We would need financial support to achieve this
Tower Hill Football Club	Mini Soccer is changing over the next 2 years, with different age groups playing different formats (5v5, 7v7 and 9v9) which require different size pitches which are not currently provided. Witney has a whole will greatly expand over the next 5 years, and with one of the best clubs in the county within the town we need pitches and facilities to meet demand. It is of the most urgency that drainage is provided at West Witney Sports Ground, to allow the pitches to be used over the winter months and facilities improved with the Senior Ladies team playing at a high level (FA Southern league) where we need to meet certain requirements. With Schools not able to provide after school activities, we have noticed an increase in both young Boys and Girls enrolling within our club. Our Development plan over the next 5 years shows a steady increase in teams, which we know will be achieved with such interest.
West Witney FC	Very limited changing facilities (2 small rooms for 4 teams to change in) and shower facilities are terrible (not enough, and the ones there don't work very well) We are also charged for using these facilities by West Witney SSC. This is on top of the pitch charges paid to Witney council. Also parking is inadequate as there are also many youth games played at West Witney and many clubs use the facility to train during lighter evenings. Any promotion to a higher standard of football is impossible due to the facilities previously mentioned. Carterton Town Football club facilities at Kilkenny Lane Carterton. We now use these facilities as often as possible, mainly due to issues already mentioned regarding West Witney Sports fields.
Witney Royals	No major investment has been put into our changing facilities in the 20 years we have been there. We are accommodating more teams but even the temporary changing facilities that were put in a few years ago have been removed so we have to accommodate 4 teams (majority of the time) at home on a Saturday when our changing facilities only cater for 2 teams (one game). It's a major issue that does not seem to be being addressed by local council – probably due to funding, although hire prices are going up year on year. Currently struggling to field 3 sides. We do not have the investment to refurbish facilities as this is not our responsibility.

D) Summary

- Overall, unlike a lot of counties, Oxfordshire has not suffered a decline in adult male 11v11 football and adult female 11v11 has remained fairly stable.
- Youth male football, 7v7, 9v9 and 11v11, continues to grow across the county although this is not so strong in West Oxfordshire. Youth female has suffered a decline countywide although this is less so in West Oxfordshire.
- Disability football team provision is poor compared to the rest of the county as there is at least 1 disability club in each of the three other districts.
- All of the three towns appear to have a shortfall of grass football pitches for both adult and junior play. A lack of available 11v11 facilities has left new teams with little choice but to discontinue as there have been no pitches available to play on.
- The implementation of The FA Youth Development Review will see the mandatory introduction of 9 v 9 football, at U11 & U12 in 2013/14, more pitches and goalposts, of the required sizes, will need to be provided to enable young players to participate.
- There is a general need for 3G artificial grass pitches for both training and league play (the latter for juniors). There are no indoor facilities for training and no Futsal opportunities.
- The quality of pitches is variable with some being very poor due to drainage issues. Many of the changing facilities are of poor quality and in need of refurbishment. Some sites still do not have any changing and shower facilities.

4.3 Cricket

A) The National Governing Body – English Cricket Board (ECB)

We received the following information from Paul Salway of the Oxfordshire County Cricket Board who had also discussed issues with the regional ECB facilities officer Chris Whittaker.

General

- The Board has set up a District Development Group in each of the local authority areas of Oxfordshire who support clubs and provide a variety of competitions and activities at entry level, i.e. for the youngest children. From under-11 upwards we provide competitions on a county wide basis, and West Oxfordshire is particularly well represented; approximately one-third of all the clubs with junior sections are located in the district.
- A variety of clubs host our competition finals and county and district games. The main ones we use are Shipton-under-Wychwood, Charlbury, Great Tew, Combe, Freeland and Oxford Downs (who play at Standlake). While these are outside of the study area they are still important venues for clubs that fall within the area (particularly for junior teams).

Trends and Demand

- We are currently working with the ECB to draft a strategy for cricket in Oxfordshire for the next three years. Junior cricket continues to be a priority area and we are now putting much of our energies into developing women's and girls' cricket.
- West Oxfordshire is the locomotive for the rest of the county; over half of all clubs with girls sections are located in the district.
- Demand for male cricket is fairly static but women's and girl's cricket is a major growth area.

Some Issues

- Cricket is traditionally a game which has appealed to people from a wide range of social and ethnic backgrounds. There are no areas of major concern at the moment.
- Because the cricket season is relatively short, especially for junior cricket where all the games have to be fitted in before the schools break up and families go away on holiday, a lot of matches have to be squeezed into a short space of time and this puts huge pressure on grounds and facilities.
- The above comments also apply to training
- Cricket is a game which requires a playing surface of high quality and much time, expertise and equipment is needed to prepare the surface. This is necessary to ensure that a good standard of play is possible and also for the safety of the players; this is particularly relevant to junior cricket. Hence it is difficult for cricket to share its facilities with other sports and problems often arise when a local cricket club shares its ground with, say, the local football club.
- The leading clubs in West Oxfordshire generally have good facilities. Deficiencies occur mainly in smaller village clubs and most commonly these are lack of adequate changing facilities and the absence of an all-weather surface.

Potential Improvements

- We have worked for many years to foster club/school links but there are still opportunities for clubs and local schools to work together and share facilities. The "conversion rate" could be improved – this is the proportion of girls and boys introduced to cricket at school (e.g. through the "Chance to Shine" scheme) who go on to join the junior section of their local club.

- The main priorities are to assist clubs to improve their playing surfaces; better management of facilities which are shared by cricket and other sports; supporting clubs who want to improve their changing facilities; and assisting clubs to install all-weather surfaces.
- We have no specific site-based strategic priorities for facility improvements in the study area.

Good Practice

- Charlbury CC (not in the study area) has in recent years improved its facilities by opening a second pitch at their ground and constructing a new pavilion. This has enabled them to expand the range of cricket they are able to offer; particularly women's and girl's cricket where they are now one of the county's main centres.
- Similarly, Shipton-under-Wychwood (not in the study area) installed a second pitch three years ago and they are now an important centre for junior cricket and particularly girl's cricket.

Additional Comments

- The majority of West Oxfordshire's cricket clubs are located in villages and often the club is the main social focus of the village as well as a sport facility.

B) The West Oxfordshire Cricket Development Group

We received the following information from Darryl Woods – Chairman of the West Oxfordshire Cricket Development Group

General

The West Oxfordshire Cricket Development Group run three district cricket teams at under 11, 13 & 15 age group levels. They are looking into running an under 17 best of districts team across all five districts. They have just started a West Oxfordshire Ladies Team and training is on Thursday nights for 1 hour at Carterton Community College.

Some of the main venues used are Carterton Community College, Burford School, Oxford Downs CC, Minster Lovell CC, Brize Norton CC, Shipton-u-Wychwood CC and Gt Tew CC

Trends and Demand

From a participation side of things Development Group is looking in to providing venues where people after work could turn up just in their work clothes and hit a soft ball around, but in a friendly league; this could provide a route into other clubs and provide more players at the weekend should those players get the "bug".

They suggest that after the wet summer of 2012 numbers were on the decline especially at the younger age levels; however after the "fantastic" one this year they believe there will be a major positive impact for the 2014 season and beyond.

Some Issues

There is not much disability cricket within Oxfordshire generally and this is an area that needs developing. We also believe that although girls/women's cricket is on the rise, the lack of training facilities indoor and outdoor is holding back the development of this niche.

There are always budget restraints for us to accommodate more matches and availability of grounds is a continued problem. We would fully back the Development of the West Witney site for a cricket venue with a good size pavilion and indoor facilities as this would be a first of its kind in our county.

In terms of training, it is difficult finding a sports hall that is cricket specific. This is impossible not only in West Oxfordshire but Oxfordshire as a whole. You may get a school gym, which has cricket nets, but often has poor lighting or flooring or cricket matting that is not fit for purpose. This is one of the hardest areas to find availability, certainly midweek and the costs can be quite high.

We need more areas for outdoor synthetic surface nets but also a provision for grass nets as this has to be the best practice for any player. Obviously this needs preparing and has to be as good as the pitches on the square but can be done by full time grounds men I am sure.

More grounds being available would help clubs put out a third or fourth X1 sides that would enable younger players participating in the adult game which is great for their development, not only as a player, but as a human being.

There are not enough bowling machines available and only one Merlin spin bowling machine in our county currently.

Potential Improvements/opportunities

Hub clubs could be used to rent out their facilities to other clubs who are less fortunate. If two squares were produced with some outdoor synthetic pitches and some grass nets, but which had an indoor cricket school, that could be utilised by other sports if required would be a fantastic move.

We also think new matting, especially for sprung indoor floors could be looked into, along with updated lighting and possibly painting the walls white, I have seen this make a massive difference in one or two places in the county including Radley College and St Edwards School.

We think that all grounds have potential to grow and to provide more facilities, but there would always be a lack of funds to be able to do this. Any improvements would be good, more net facilities with surfaces that have a true bounce and without doubt more grass net areas.

Good Practice

All clubs are looking to aide participation in cricket but can be held back by the lack of playing areas and facilities.

Additional Comments

We would like to provide the best facilities we can for all of our young, talented, male/female cricketers, so that we can make them the best they can be. As mentioned above the facilities are not necessarily fit for purpose and this makes things very hard for training/coaching. We feel that there must be a way of having a cricket centre of excellence within Oxfordshire and would it not be fantastic that West Oxfordshire made the first steps in this direction to perhaps one day help Oxfordshire Cricket become First Class rather than the Minor County it is now.

We would love to provide the best opportunities for all of our cricketers for them to achieve the best results and by that we mean providing top notch training and match day facilities that would not be match not only in our county but other counties would be envious off.

West Oxfordshire have the most cricket clubs within our county, so there is a need to help develop this further and in providing the best possible means of training and playing.

To provide West Oxfordshire with top facilities that would be second to none for this sport would be a real driver in pushing Oxfordshire to the next level, not only on a semi- professional basis, but would encourage more players into the game and hopefully swell junior sections at clubs and then the future would look very healthy indeed.

Durham have done it previously and I personally have always wondered why Oxfordshire could not do the same given the right focus and direction. This could be a really exciting opportunity for developing our county going forward.

C) Club responses

We also received responses from 8 Cricket Clubs in the study area: Audley Ducks Cricket Club; Chipping Norton Cricket Club; Ducklington Sports Club CC; Enstone Sports Cricket Club; Hailey Cricket Club; Kilkeny (Carterton) Cricket Club; Witney Mills Cricket Club; and Witney Swifts Cricket Club.

A summary of the responses is provided in the two tables below:

Club	Venue	Pitch provision sufficient for fixtures?		Pitch provision sufficient for training?		Main Pitches Rating					Changing facilities and showers rating					Fielding more, less or same teams as last season?			
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Poor	Below average	Average	Good	Excellent	Poor	Below average	Average	Good	Excellent	Doesn't exist	More	Less	Same
Witney Swifts Cricket Club	The Leys																		
TOTALS																			
Audley Ducks Cricket Club	Leys Recreation Ground	1							1					1			1		
Chipping Norton Cricket Club	Chipping Norton Cricket Ground	1		1						1				1					1
Ducklington Sports Club CC	Glebelands	1			1			1				1							1
Enstone Sports Cricket Club	Enstone Sports & Social Club	1		1						1				1					1
Hailey Cricket Club	Leys Recreation Ground	1			1			1					1						1
Kilkeny (Carterton) Cricket Club	Monahan Way Sports Facility	1			1		1						1						1
Witney Mills Cricket Club	Witney Mills Cricket Club	1		1					1			1							1

Table 2	Clubs future plans						Barriers to club development																
	Increase members	Increase teams	Expand facilities	Refurbish	Relocation		Shortage of Senior pitches	Shortage of Junior pitches	Shortage of awp's for matches	Shortage of awp's for training	Lack of /poor changing facilities	Shortage of indoor training facilities	Shortage of specialist equipment	Restrictions on development	Cost of hiring/using facilities	Falling membership	Lack of internal funding	Lack of external funding	Access difficulties	Shortage of coaches	Shortage of volunteers	Problems in travelling	Cost of insurance
Audley Ducks Cricket Club	1																				1		
Chipping Norton Cricket Club	1			1																			
Ducklington Sports Club CC			1	1												1	1	1					
Enstone Sports Cricket Club	1	1	1	1												1		1			1		
Hailey Cricket Club																							
Kilkenny (Carterton) Cricket Club	1	1	1				1		1	1		1					1				1		
Witney Mills Cricket Club	1	1		1											1			1			1		
Witney Swifts Cricket Club	1						1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1					1			
	6	3	3	4			2	1	2	2	1	2	1		2	2	2	3		1	4		1

From the above tables it can be seen that:

- All 8 clubs reports having enough pitches currently for fixtures. However 4 indicate that they do not have access to sufficient pitches for training.
- 4 clubs indicate that their main pitch/wicket is no better than average. Of these, Kilkenny (Carterton) CC who play at Monahan Way and Witney Swifts CC rate pitch quality as worse than average.
- Witney Swifts, Witney Mills and Ducklington report that the quality of their changing facilities is below average or poor. Chipping Norton and Enstone rate their pavilion facilities as excellent.
- All 8 clubs are fielding at least the same number of teams as last season including Audley Ducks who are fielding more.
- 6 clubs have plans to increase members. Enstone, Kilkenny (Carterton) and Witney Mills and also intend to increase the number of teams fielded.
- 5 clubs plan to expand and/or refurbish their facilities.
- The factors most commonly identified as barriers to development are a shortage of volunteers and a lack of external funding.
- Witney Swifts identify many additional factors as barriers including a shortage of senior and junior pitches, lack of all weather and training facilities, poor quality changing facilities, and a shortage of coaches. They also supplied photographic evidence to emphasise the poor quality of their current pavilion.

The full detail of the clubs' responses can be found in the associated Excel Consultation Spreadsheet.

We also gave the clubs an open opportunity to provide additional comments as noted below:

Club	Other Comments
Chipping Norton Cricket Club	We are very lucky to have access to the leased facilities at Chipping Norton Cricket Club provided by the Fire Charity. This lease permits only the playing of cricket and so we cannot introduce other sports. We are also lucky to have a number of dedicated volunteers who have got us into a much better financial position over the last few years and led to us re-starting junior cricket for the community 3 years ago. This does put pressure on our volunteers who have completed coaching courses and carry out the activities each Friday. They also organise and run the league matches for the youth teams. Hence new volunteers are always welcome as are new members. We have refurbished the ground considerably with the help of grants including those from West Oxfordshire District Council. The number of teams we have means that the pitch is at full capacity. Although we do not have a formal development plan we continue to discuss options around expansion. However current membership in the seniors has fallen and so we cannot over extend ourselves.
Ducklington Sports Club CC	More grounds and adequate changing facilities required
Kilkenny (Carterton) Cricket Club	Please note that this is a dual-use facility between football and cricket and that this report is from the Cricket Club, which only has primary rights on the ground in the summer. We are hindered by many factors. Firstly, we have to confine our use of the ground between 1 May and 31 Aug because of the football season. Our season is, in fact, longer than this by a week either side. Secondly, the outfield (which becomes the football pitches on 1 Sept) has to be left to grow during August and this is directly contrary to the needs of our sport. Thirdly, there are football competitions held in mid-summer on the facility which destroy the outfield if it has been wet in the week preceding. Even after 11 years, I have been unable to prevent this. This is far too football-centric. The needs of fundraising for football appear to outweigh the needs for cricket. I might add that my club has just been given a 1 year official warning for the condition of the outfield by the OCA after which they may throw us out of the league. The Mayor and Town Clerk of Carterton are aware. Fourthly, the wicket and outfield are managed and maintained by a sub-contractor to WODC (Street Scene), not by ourselves. I will not comment on this for obvious legal reasons, but may I suggest they appear to fail in maintenance of the outfield. The wicket is broadly regarded as acceptable.
Witney Mills Cricket Club	The Witney Mills Cricket Ground is owned by All Souls College. Due to the short notice period on the lease we have no security of tenure, so we are unable to obtain external funding from grants to improve the facilities. The football pitch on the ground is used by Witney Vikings Football Club.
Witney Swifts Cricket Club	Facilities are very poor, not maintained and extremely costly. Please ring me to arrange site meeting 07788 148446

D) Summary

- Demand for male cricket is fairly static but women's and girl's cricket is a major growth area.
- Junior cricket is particularly strong in West Oxfordshire.
- Overall across the study areas there appear to be enough cricket pitches to meet current levels of demand
- With the exception of Witney Swifts all the clubs wish to expand and/or refurbish their facilities. Chipping Norton CC note that they are currently running at full capacity and have an aspiration to expand.
- Quality is very variable e.g. facilities at Chipping Norton CC are excellent while Witney Swift's facilities at The Leys recreation ground are very poor.
- There is a need for quality artificial pitch facilities available for clubs to hire as well as a lack of good quality indoor practice facilities.
- The main barriers to club development appear to be a shortage of volunteers, cost of hiring/using facilities and a lack of external funding.
- The NGB suggest that the main priorities are to assist clubs to improve their playing surfaces; better management of facilities which are shared by cricket and other sports; supporting clubs who want to improve their changing facilities; and assisting clubs to install all-weather surfaces.

4.4 Rugby Union

A) The National Governing Body – The Rugby Football Union.

We received the following information and feedback from the RFU via the Rugby Area Facility Manager, Jason Bowers.

Background

- There are two very active Clubs in the study area (Chipping Norton RUFC and Witney RUFC) – both having a range of teams from under 13s to adults.
- The teams play in the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire league.
- Carterton is in proximity to Brize Norton and rugby is played there. However, no Brize Norton teams play in the RFU leagues.
- School Participation is extensive, with rugby commonly played in junior schools and in all the secondary schools. Schools are being targeted within the RFU work programme. This work programme includes participation opportunity, Teacher training and support, Young Leadership Training and volunteer opportunities

Trends & Demand

Rugby Union is very strong in West Oxfordshire and with active participation at junior and secondary schools demand is growing.

Supply

- Overall, with the facilities on schools sites for schools rugby and the two clubs' own facilities there are probably just about enough pitches available to meet demand for league play and training.
- Witney RUFC over recent years has developed an additional pitch which means that they can currently meet demand. Prior to this they were at full capacity.
- Chipping Norton RUFC however is probably at capacity/short of pitches to accommodate growing demand.
- Witney RUFC is currently working to secure funding to provide floodlights for their main pitch (supported by the RFU).

Issues

- Jason highlighted the importance of using the playing pitch model developed by the RFU and Sport England
- In the past there has been some interest shown in developing a Rugby Club at Carterton but this is not currently a development objective for the RFU as the two existing clubs are able to offer sufficient opportunities for participation.

Good practice

- Witney RUFC has developed an active disability section and has a team (Witney Wolves). They are hosting an international festival in May 2013.
- Both clubs are developing girls and ladies participation

B) Club responses

We also received direct responses from both local clubs Chipping Norton and Witney as summarised in the tables below:

Table 1

Club	Venue	Pitch provision sufficient for fixtures?		Pitch provision sufficient for training?		Main Pitches Rating					Changing facilities and showers rating					Fielding more, less or same teams as last season?				
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Poor	Below average	Average	Good	Excellent	Poor	Below average	Average	Good	Excellent	Doesn't exist	More	Less	Same	
Chipping Norton RFC	Greystones	1			1					1					1					1
Witney Rugby Football Club	Hailey Road	1			1				1				1							1
TOTALS		2			2				1	1				1	1					2

Table 2

	Clubs future plans	Barriers to club development																		

Club	Increase members	Increase teams	Expand facilities	Refurbish	Relocation																	
Chipping Norton RFC	1	1							1	1		1			1		1	1			1	
Witney Rugby Football Club															1		1	1	1		1	1
	1	1							1	1		1			2		2	2	1		2	1

From the above it can be seen that:

- Both clubs report currently having enough pitches to meet fixtures but insufficient pitches for training.
- The clubs rate the quality of their main pitch as either excellent (Chipping Norton) or good (Witney)
- They also say that their changing and ancillary facilities are of either excellent (Chipping Norton) or good (Witney) quality.
- The clubs reports fielding the same number of teams as last season
- Chipping Norton RUFC is planning to increase its membership and the number of teams fielded.
- Common barriers to development noted are the cost of hiring/using their facilities, a shortage of volunteers and a lack of funding, both internal and external. Other factors noted by Chipping Norton are a shortage of ATPs for matches and training; and a shortage of indoor training facilities. Factors specifically highlighted by Witney are the cost of insurance and access difficulties.

Further detail of their response can be found in the full Excel Consultation Spreadsheet.

We also gave the clubs an open opportunity to provide additional comments as noted below:

Club	Other Comments
Chipping Norton RFC	Pitches for training do damage the pitches then having to be used for matches artificial surface would be ideal which can be used all year round by all age groups without damaging playing surfaces. Enabling everyone to train when they wanted.
Witney Rugby Football Club	Would like to have floodlights on pitch 1. We are a proactive club, with good local ties to West Oxfordshire District Council.

C) Summary

- Rugby Union is very strong in West Oxfordshire and with active participation at junior and secondary schools demand is growing.
- There are two very active Clubs in the study area (Chipping Norton RUFC and Witney RUFC) – both having a range of teams from under 13s to adults.
- Carterton is in proximity to Brize Norton and rugby is played there. However, no Brize Norton teams play in the RFU leagues.
- Witney RUFC has developed an active disability section and has a team (Witney Wolves). Both clubs are developing girls and ladies participation
- Overall, with the facilities on schools sites for schools rugby and the two clubs' own facilities there are enough pitches available to meet demand for league play.
- Chipping Norton RUFC however is short of pitches to accommodate training and has an aspiration for a 3G pitch. Witney RUFC is currently working to secure funding to provide floodlights for their main pitch (supported by the RFU).
- The quality of pitches and ancillary facilities are reported as good, though it is noted that training use damages the pitches for league play.
- Barriers to development noted are a shortage of all weather pitches for matches and training; a shortage of indoor training facilities; the cost of hiring/using their facilities and a lack of funding; and a shortage of volunteers.

4.5 Hockey

A) The National Governing Body – England Hockey

We received the following information and feedback from England Hockey via the Relationship Manager, Lucy Moore:

Background

- There are two hockey clubs in West Oxfordshire: Witney and Chipping Norton.
- There is both JDC and JAC Single System activity for young people within West Oxfordshire.
- The 2 Witney ladies' teams play in the South and Trysports leagues with the Men's 4 teams all competing within the MBBO league structure.
- Chipping Norton has a number of junior teams playing within the Oxfordshire HA competitions.
- Main grounds are: Witney STP, Wood Green School, Kingham Hill School and Cokethorpe School (outside of study area).

Trends and Demand

- Demand is Increasing
- There is a growing demand for youth opportunities within the district. There has been an increase in adult membership for males and females at Witney H.C.

Some Issues

- The most active club in West Oxfordshire is Witney Hockey Club. Currently their matches are split between Wood Green School and Witney ATP which makes it difficult to manage club activity given the distance between both pitches. The club use West Witney Sports Centre as a clubhouse meaning that activity is split between 3 locations. This makes creating a club atmosphere and retaining participants more difficult.
- On a number of the current hockey facilities the pitches are used to generate revenue through 5 aside football provision, this means that clubs often can't access the pitches at their preferred times.
- Witney ATP is very tired and the playing surface is at the end of its life. The quality of surface is now so poor players prefer to use Wood Green School.
- Wood Green School is acceptable however given the heavy school use is likely to have a shorter lifespan than many surfaces. It is already very slippery which can be a risk to players.
- Cokethorpe is a useful additional facility however community access is very restricted and there are no floodlights which mean the facility is not used for training.
- Kingham Hill School is acceptable but hockey would definitely benefit from a synthetic turf facility in Chipping Norton, even if not full size.
- The biggest challenge isn't a deficiency in facilities so much as a lack of access at peak times for hockey clubs.
- Ideally two pitches next to each other would create a significantly better proposition for Witney HC – the main club in the area.

Potential Improvements

- Chipping Norton – the school are looking at a pitch development which could be a great asset for hockey in the West Oxon area.
- Ancillary facilities are usually reasonably good. There is a lack of social facilities near any of the synthetic pitches which limits the club atmosphere.

B) Club Response

We received a direct response from Witney Hockey Club but Chipping Norton HC did not reply.

- Witney HC report that they have insufficient pitches for both their fixture and training needs.
- They rate the quality of their main pitch as good.
- They report that the quality of their changing and ancillary facilities is poor.
- They fielded more teams this season than last and the club have plans to further increase membership and the number of teams.
- The main barriers to their development are:
 - A shortage of all weather pitches for matches and training
 - Poor quality changing and ancillary facilities and a lack of specialist equipment
 - Cost of hiring/using their facility and a lack of external funding
 - A shortage of coaches and volunteers

We also gave the clubs an open opportunity to provide additional comments as noted below:

Club	Comments
Witney Hockey Club	We have over 200 U16 at the club but training has to be split between the two astro turf pitches at Wood green and the Witney ATP. This makes the administration and organisation of the Juniors very difficult. The club would benefit from either a double ATP at the West Witney Sport Club or another pitch at Wood Green School

C) Summary

- There are two hockey clubs in West Oxfordshire: Witney and Chipping Norton. The main grounds are the Witney STP, Wood Green School, Kingham Hill School and Cokethorpe School.
- Demand is increasing. There is a growing demand for youth opportunities within the district. There has been an increase in adult membership for males and females at Witney HC.
- On a number of the current hockey facilities the pitches are also used to generate revenue through 5 aside football provision, this means that clubs often can't access the pitches at their preferred times.
- Witney HC report that they have insufficient pitches for both their fixture and training needs and that the quality of their changing and ancillary facilities is poor.
- Witney ATP is very tired and the playing surface is at the end of its life. The quality of surface is now so poor players prefer to use Wood Green School. Wood Green School is acceptable; however given the heavy school use it is likely to have a shorter lifespan than many surfaces. It is already very slippery which can be a risk to players. Ideally two pitches next to each other would create a significantly better proposition for Witney HC.
- Kingham Hill School near Chipping Norton is acceptable but hockey would definitely benefit from a synthetic turf facility in Chipping Norton, even if not full size.
- The school in Chipping Norton are looking at a pitch development which could be a great asset for hockey in the West Oxon area.

5 Chipping Norton Leisure Facility Needs

Following from a specific recommendation in the Leisure Facilities Action Plan (see 3.1 above) the District Council convened a meeting of local sports clubs in Chipping Norton to help identify priority needs and aspirations for the town; and specifically to try to identify a sports facility project that could be realistically progressed for mutual benefit, thereby maximising the potential to secure external funding. The meeting was held in September 2012 and had representation from clubs in the town covering football, bowls, rugby, and rifle and pistol shooting. Feedback relating to pitch sports is noted below:

The Chipping Norton Neighbourhood Plan

It was noted that the Town Council were developing a neighbourhood plan and in this respect:

- Rugby and football clubs attended task groups early 2012 in Chipping Norton and Charlbury.
- Any sports facility related plans that the group are keen to take forward could tie in with the neighbourhood plan.

Dual use at Chipping Norton School

- Chipping Norton School will be moving to an academy, the terms and conditions for the dual use of the leisure centre (including tennis courts and sports hall) will remain the same but Oxfordshire County Council will be removed from the agreement.

- Meetings have previously been held between WODC, Chipping Norton School and Chipping Norton Swift Football Club to look at the club accessing the sports pitches on the school site for training, although the School are reluctant for this to happen even though their use is part of a dual use agreement.

The Greystone Development

- The clubs had various concerns about the Greystone development and its impact on open space and sports facilities in the town (full details available from the meeting notes).

Sports and Leisure Facilities needs in the Town

The priorities put forward by the clubs are summarised below:

Chipping Norton Rugby Club

- 3G pitch for training purposes.
- More flood lighting.
- Additional car parking.

Chipping Norton Swifts Football Club

- We need three pitches but currently we only have one and a half.
- A flood lit training area either 3G or grass.
- All pitches need to be close together, as the social side of the game is important.
- In the ideal world 4 full pitches and 4 training pitches would meet all needs of the club.

General

- All clubs agreed that more land for sport and leisure is required in the town, in order for the clubs to meet their current demand and also for them to progress and widen their offer.
- There is no space surrounding Greystones that is available meaning an alternative site would be required, for example the Allen land north of the Greystones site has a 10 year covenant on it.
- Hiring facilities at the Leisure Centre is expensive and not sustainable for the clubs.
- The group spoke about the Swifts moving to another suitable location in the town and the rugby club taking on the Swifts current pitch – what sites are available in Chipping Norton (Parker Knowles site?)

6 School Facilities

6.1 School Sports Co-ordinator

We interviewed Rachel Mills who is the School Games co-ordinator with a district wide role. As such she has a useful overview of provision of sports facilities at state schools in the three towns. She is based at Carterton School where she also has a local partnership role for school sports.

Community Use of School Pitches

All of the state secondary schools have grass pitches and some kind of synthetic grass pitch or MUGA. Community use of such is varied. Some used by local football, rugby and hockey clubs as noted below.

Cricket – There are a good number of Cricket Clubs but these tend to be mainly in the villages. There are good school club links with a number of Cricket clubs. There is no general community use of school Cricket facilities.

Witney Schools (Henry Box and Wood Green)

- Dual use arrangement at Henry Box secondary including astro turf pitch – used mainly for football. Grass pitches also available (with school changing facilities).
- Wood Green also has an STP mainly used for Hockey. Used by Hockey club for fixtures and training. There are also dual use District Council grass pitches adjacent.
- There are good school club links with the local Rugby Club.

Carterton School

- STP being resurfaced to create a 4G artificial turf pitch to be used mainly for football but also by other sports for training. This will have community use.
- The grass pitches do not have regular community use mainly due to lack of appropriate changing facilities.
- Carterton would be likely to offer community use of grass pitches if it had improved changing facilities suitable for community use.

Chipping Norton

- There is a floodlit community use MUGA at the adjacent Leisure Centre.
- The school has extensive grass pitches which may be used by clubs though not, as far as Rachel knew, on a formal dual use basis.
- The school pitches may be suitable for additional community use but may need appropriately designed changing facilities to accommodate such use.
- There are good school club links with the local Rugby Club and the school sometimes use the Club’s facilities. This includes promoting participation by girls.

6.2 Schools Survey

We also conducted a survey of all six of the secondary schools in the study area (including public/independent schools) and received responses from all of them. The six secondary schools/colleges are: Cokethorpe, Henry Box, Kingham Hill School, Chipping Norton , Carterton and Wood Green.

The full details can be found in the associated consultation spreadsheet and some general points are highlighted below:

- All the schools report some community use of their pitches, though under a variety of different arrangements some more formal than others.
- All six report that they have requests for community use that they are unable to accommodate currently for various reasons. Four of the six indicate that there is no spare capacity for such use.
- The two schools who do have some capacity (Chipping Norton and Carterton) say that they would consider opening up their pitches more for community use in the future⁹.
- Most of the schools report having good links with local clubs currently.

Stated aspirations for improved pitch sports facilities are highlighted in the table below:

School	Improvement aspirations
Cokethorpe School	Flood lights for astro pitches; athletics track/stadium; and a rubber crumb pitch.

⁹ Chipping Norton School do not appear to promote the fact their pitches are available for community use under a DUA

Kingham Hill School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighting for our netball and tennis court • A second all weather playing surface • A Multi-Use Games Area • All weather cricket wicket • External Changing Facilities
Chipping Norton	We would love to see an Astroturf facility developed for the use by the whole of our community.
Carterton College	We need an external changing facility.
Wood Green School	We need better changing facilities and better storage facilities. No improvements planned currently however.

7. Brize Norton RAF Base

Both the District Council Leisure Services Manager and Carterton Town Council highlight the current and potential impact of RAF Brize Norton on demand on pitches in the study area due to the use of local "civilian" facilities by Air base staff and families. We therefore spoke to a representative of the air base, Sergeant Steve McMinn, part of whose role involves the management of on site air base sports facilities

On site Pitch Sport Facilities

In summary the current outdoor facilities comprise:

- 4 x adult grass football pitches
- 1 x floodlit artificial turf pitch (not full sized)
- 1 x adult rugby grass rugby pitch
- 1 x artificial cricket wicket, nets for training etc. Not suitable for match play.
- No hockey facilities

There are associated changing rooms on site, but no separate male/female provision they are and not suitable for children and youth. The Rugby Club also has a club house with bar etc.

Services Sports Clubs

- Football Club - plays in military leagues - not in local leagues
- Rugby Club - plays in military leagues - not in local leagues
- Cricket Clubs - plays at Kilkenny (Carterton) Monahan Way in local (not military) league. The Brize Norton RAF cricket club has worked with the local "civilian" club to secure funding to improve facilities (practice nets and match wicket).
- Occasionally the services sports clubs (football and rugby) play friendly games with local clubs and teams on site but access is restricted to playing members of civilian teams along with the application of appropriate security checks and systems.

Use of external pitches

- The cricket club plays at plays at Kilkenny (Carterton) Monahan Way in a local (not military) league.
- Football and Rugby clubs do not use local pitches but many services staff are members of local clubs and play in local teams.

Community use of RAF Brize Norton Pitches

- No local clubs currently use any pitches for league play
- RAF Service families and dependents e.g. children and youth also use the pitches and facilities, but not local people generally. There are currently in the order of 6,500 personnel/family members attached to the base.
- There is no current intention or plan to open up pitch facilities to local clubs and for community use on a regular planned basis. This is largely due to security issues and the practical management, insurance and cost implications of providing community use.
- There is occasional one-off type community use of facilities and approaches e.g. for tournaments or day events at the weekends, can be made via the RAF Business and Development section. Any approaches for more regular access would be made via this route, but Steve felt that such requests would be unlikely to be successful given the security and practical issues highlighted above.

Other issues/observations

- Many individual RAF services staff who play pitch sports (football, cricket and rugby) are members of local sports clubs and teams; and quite a number are active club volunteers. Some also provide coaching for local clubs and teams.
- There is no capacity for additional use of the pitch facilities during the week. The pitches are fully used by RAF services during these times. There is some spare capacity at weekends.
- The medium and long-term future of existing grass pitches is dependent upon the space not being used for other developments e.g. in the past there had been plans to use some of the area for parking, and there have been plans for building development.
- Sports facilities are essentially a secondary consideration to the primary military function of the base and as such long term commitments to future sports use cannot be made.
- A degree of regular community access has been provided at other bases e.g. RAF Cosford under a scheme called "selling of spare capacity", but this has demonstrated that such arrangements do have practical difficulties and are quite expensive to set up and manage.
- There are other services sports clubs who use off base facilities and some play at local facilities in "civilian" leagues e.g. RAF basketball, netball, squash and volleyball clubs

8. Summary of key findings

General

- The policy of West Oxfordshire District Council is that outdoor pitch sports facilities are most appropriately owned and managed at Town and Parish Council level. This is how most such facilities in West Oxfordshire are owned and managed.
- All of the town councils note a shortage of MUGAs.
- Carterton Town Council highlight shortfalls in all of the various categories of pitch sports facility in terms of both quantity and quality.
- Witney Town Council indicate a need for more football pitches and MUGAs. They also highlight the current poor quality of much of the provision.
- Chipping Norton Town Council highlight a lack of football pitches and MUGAs.
- Other than Ducklington (for rugby), the smaller parish councils do not highlight any general shortfall in terms of the quantity for any pitch sport facilities.
- All six secondary schools in the study area report some degree of community use of their pitches; under a variety of different arrangements - some more formal/secured than others.
- All six report that they have requests for community use that they are unable to accommodate currently for various reasons. Four of the six indicate that there is no spare capacity for such use.

- The two schools who do have some capacity (Chipping Norton and Carterton) say that they would consider opening up their pitches more for community use in the future¹⁰.
- Most of the schools report having good links with local clubs currently.
- Five of the six schools have reported aspirations to improve some of their pitch sport facilities.
- There are pitches on site at Brize Norton RAF base but no regular community use; nor does it appear likely that this will change in the foreseeable future.
- The staff and families at Brize Norton RAF do make use of off-base local facilities as do some of their clubs and this places additional demand upon local pitches.

Football

- Overall, unlike a lot of counties, Oxfordshire has not suffered a decline in adult male 11v11 football and adult female 11v11 has remained fairly stable.
- Youth male football, 7v7, 9v9 and 11v11, continues to grow across the county although this is not so strong in West Oxfordshire. Youth female has suffered a decline countywide although this is less so in West Oxfordshire.
- Disability football team provision is poor compared to the rest of the county as there is at least 1 disability club in each of the three other districts.
- All of the three towns appear to have a shortfall of grass football pitches for both adult and junior play. A lack of available 11v11 facilities has left new teams with little choice but to discontinue as there have been no pitches available to play on.
- The implementation of The FA Youth Development Revue will see the mandatory introduction of 9 v 9 football, at U11 & U12 in 2013/14, more pitches and goalposts, of the required sizes, will need to be provided to enable young players to participate.
- There is a general need for 3G artificial grass pitches for both training and league play (the latter for juniors). There are no indoor facilities for training and no Futsal opportunities.
- The quality of pitches is variable with some being very poor due to drainage issues. Many of the changing facilities are of poor quality and in need of refurbishment. Some sites still do not have any changing and shower facilities.

Cricket

- Demand for male cricket is fairly static but women's and girl's cricket is a major growth area.
- Junior cricket is particularly strong in West Oxfordshire.
- Overall across the study areas there appear to be enough cricket pitches to meet current levels of demand
- With the exception of Witney Swifts all the clubs wish to expand and/or refurbish their facilities. Chipping Norton CC note that they are currently running at full capacity and have an aspiration to expand.
- Quality is very variable e.g. facilities at Chipping Norton CC are excellent while Witney Swift's facilities at The Leys recreation ground are very poor.
- There is a need for quality artificial pitch facilities available for clubs to hire as well as a lack of good quality indoor practice facilities.
- The main barriers to club development appear to be a shortage of volunteers, cost of hiring/using facilities and a lack of external funding.
- The NGB suggest that the main priorities are to assist clubs to improve their playing surfaces; better management of facilities which are shared by cricket and other sports; supporting clubs who want to improve their changing facilities; and assisting clubs to install all-weather surfaces.

Rugby

- Rugby Union is very strong in West Oxfordshire and with active participation at junior and secondary schools demand is growing.
- There are two very active Clubs in the study area (Chipping Norton RUFC and Witney RUFC) – both having a range of teams from under 13s to adults.
- Carterton is in proximity to Brize Norton and rugby is played there. However, no Brize Norton teams play in the RFU leagues.
- Witney RUFC has developed an active disability section and has a team (Witney Wolves). Both clubs are developing girls and ladies participation
- Overall, with the facilities on schools sites for schools rugby and the two clubs' own facilities there are enough pitches available to meet demand for league play.
- Chipping Norton RUFC however is short of pitches to accommodate training and has an aspiration for a 3G pitch. Witney RUFC is currently working to secure funding to provide floodlights for their main pitch (supported by the RFU).
- The quality of pitches and ancillary facilities are reported as good, though it is noted that training use damages the pitches for league play.

¹⁰ Chipping Norton School do not in fact have a choice in this respect as the pitches are included within the dual use agreement for the on-site leisure centre and bookings for the pitches are made from the same not the school.

- Barriers to development noted are a shortage of all weather pitches for matches and training; a shortage of indoor training facilities; the cost of hiring/using their facilities and a lack of funding; and a shortage of volunteers.

Hockey

- There are two hockey clubs in West Oxfordshire: Witney and Chipping Norton. The main grounds are the Witney STP, Wood Green School, Kingham Hill School and Cokethorpe School.
- Demand is increasing. There is a growing demand for youth opportunities within the district. There has been an increase in adult membership for males and females at Witney HC.
- On a number of the current hockey facilities the pitches are also used to generate revenue through 5 aside football provision, this means that clubs often can't access the pitches at their preferred times.
- Witney HC report that they have insufficient pitches for both their fixture and training needs and that the quality of their changing and ancillary facilities is poor.
- Witney ATP is very tired and the playing surface is at the end of its life. The quality of surface is now so poor players prefer to use Wood Green School. Wood Green School is acceptable; however given the heavy school use it is likely to have a shorter lifespan than many surfaces. It is already very slippery which can be a risk to players. Ideally two pitches next to each other would create a significantly better proposition for Witney HC.
- Kingham Hill School near Chipping Norton is acceptable but hockey would definitely benefit from a synthetic turf facility in Chipping Norton, even if not full size.
- The school in Chipping Norton are looking at a pitch development which could be a great asset for hockey in the West Oxon area.

Appendix 4: Relevant national policy

The following are extracts from relevant NGB appendices contained in the revised Sport England Guidance.

<p style="text-align: center;">Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Appendix 2b</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Football Landscape</p> <p>The Football Association (FA), the governing body of football in England, is responsible for developing and regulating the game at all levels from international football to the grassroots. It is committed to making football accessible, enjoyable and safe for everyone, regardless of race, religion, gender, sexuality, background or ability.</p> <p>National Game Strategy (2013-17) provides a strategic framework that sets out the key priorities, expenditure proposals and targets for the national game. One of the key headings within the National Game Strategy is 'Facilities'. To underpin the National Game Strategy in 2013 The FA launched its first FA Facility Strategy seeking to implement the following vision: Build, protect and enhance sustainable football facilities to improve the experience of the Nations Favourite Game.</p> <p>The strategy is made up of 5 key strands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leading the development of technical standards• Facility planning protection of playing fields• Supporting club and league volunteers• Targeted facility improvement schemes• Capital investment <p>The Strategy also reinforces the urgent need to provide affordable, new and improved facilities in schools, clubs and on local authority sites where there is community use. Of particular interest is working with Charter Standard Community Clubs to work through asset transfer opportunities to reduce the reliance on the public sector.</p> <p>Over 75% of football is played on public sector facilities rather than in private members' clubs. The leisure budgets of most local authorities have been reduced over recent years as priorities have been in other sectors. The loss of playing fields has also been well documented and adds to the pressure on the remaining facilities to cope with the demand, especially in inner city and urban areas.</p> <p>The growth of the commercial sector in developing custom built 5-a-side facilities has changed the overall environment. High quality, modern facilities provided by Powerleague, Goals, JJB (now DW) and playfootball.net for example, have added new opportunities to participate and prompted a significant growth in the number of 5-a-side teams in recent years.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Appendix 4b</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Rugby Union Landscape</p> <p>Rugby Football Union (RFU) is the national governing body for grassroots and elite rugby union in England.</p> <p>The RFU's National Facilities Strategy provides a framework for the sustainable development of facilities for rugby union in England, at a national, regional and local level.</p> <p>http://clubs.rfu.com/Clubs/portals/lancashire/Media/File/National%20Facility%20Strategy_Final.pdf</p> <p>The framework enables clubs, Constituent Bodies (CBs) the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and other partners to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify priorities for facility developments to meet the various needs of the sport.• Identify what facilities are required to meet the needs of the Government sports policy and the RFU's Strategic Plan.• Support the prioritisation of investment and funding through a detailed set of developmental criteria, technical requirements, management / operational structures and potential financial viability which will be critical to the provision of quality rugby facilities.• Prioritise future investment to ensure that the right facilities are provided in the right locations and for the right reasons.• Identify and deliver a minimum standard for all facility provision. <p>The strategy shows clubs what facilities are needed to provide these different programmes, from grass roots through to the professional game.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"><p>RFU Facility Investment Programmes</p><ul style="list-style-type: none">◀ Between 2003 and 2008 the RFU Community Club Development Programme (CCDP) invested £10.61m in 161 projects with an additional £6m partner funding.◀ Between 2009 and 2013The RFU Capital Investment Programme (CIP) funded via the RFU's Whole Sport Plan (WSP) has invested £11.42m in 206 projects with an additional £43m partner funding.◀ Between 2003 and 2013The Rugby Football Foundation (RFF) has granted £6.68m loans and £1.99m grants, attracting an additional £16.46m partner funding</div>
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Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance

An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy

Appendix 3b



The Cricket Landscape

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) is responsible for the development of cricket across England and Wales. Increasing participation, club membership, club affiliation, coaching roles and volunteering roles, together with securing funding, promoting equity, and ensuring strong relationships with all counties are just some of the priorities for ECB's development team.

Cricket's Delivery System

Nationally - The 'Cricket Partnerships' team is ultimately responsible for the delivery of the National Club Strategy. The team has looked to improve its corporate and operational planning to ensure the National Club Strategy and associated services and support is presented in a cohesive and planned way to the club game.

The purpose of the Cricket Partnerships team is:

- To create opportunities
- To influence others
- Advocate continuous improvement
- Leave a lasting legacy

The team is divided into four delivery units, known as the '4Ps'. Each unit is charged with interpreting the purpose in its own context, developing future strategy and policy, responding to current priorities and trends and protecting and nurturing the brand and core values of grassroots cricket.

The guiding principles of the 4P's are:

'People' - Great Cricket needs great people. It will support, develop and reward the skills required to grow and sustain participation and inspire the nation to choose Cricket. It will provide easy access to affordable, high quality training and support. It will fully understand people's needs and all training, support and delivery will be based on this. People will be at the heart of maintaining the spirit of cricket and providing a fun, open, fair and accessible game.

'Places' - It will develop accessible, high quality and innovative facilities which inspire the nation to choose cricket and create a culture of sustainable development which will leave a legacy for generations to come.

'Playing' - It will develop appropriate, innovative and accessible coaching and competition with a clear player pathway. The playing of the game will focus on recruitment and retention of adult players, playing drop off trends and satisfaction of existing players.

'Policy' - It will modernise the game through robust and transparent corporate governance and compliance with core policies and legislation, which embeds accountability.

Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance

An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy

Appendix 6b



The Hockey Landscape

England Hockey governs all hockey in the country from grass roots to the elite end of the sport. The game is played predominately on sand dressed/filled artificial grass pitches (AGPs).

There are approximately 900 sand-filled or sand-based and 50 water-based hockey pitches in England. Most have been installed in the past 10-15 years. Many of the sand-filled or sand-dressed pitches are investments representing partnerships e.g. they involve arrangements made between clubs, schools and local authorities. A considerable number of these pitches are used for multisport activity e.g. hockey, football, rugby and tennis etc.

EH is working with The FA in particular to programme key areas, to ensure that the future provision of AGPs for hockey activities is secure. This includes looking at displacement in areas football AGPs are installed, and increasing the hours available to access existing AGPs in use by hockey to create communities with adequate provision for both sports, and a sustainable future.

EH works to ensure that AGPs suitable for hockey use are provided and/or existing surfaces renewed in areas of identified need including where interventions project that the hockey population will increase significantly in the coming years. Information to help direct this work will be provided through the EH Club and Facilities Strategy during 2013.

England Hockey Single System Pathway

Junior Development Centres (JDC), Junior Academy Centres (JAC) and Junior Regional Performance Centres (JRPC)

A JDC is a local training centre for the U13 to U17 age groups. Each centre is open to any hockey player who has been nominated by their club, school or coach. After playing for a club or school, attending a centre is the next step on the Player Pathway. In order to become a JDC, the site must provide a full size (floodlit) AGP and be able to provide a minimum of 12 hours coaching per week from U13 through to U17s.

A JAC is the next step on the Player Pathway. JACs are located, in the majority of cases, at same locations as JDCs.

JRPCs are double pitch facilities used for training and competition which feed selection opportunities for young people to access the junior national age group squads.

The Single System adds over 7,000 additional hours of AGP use annually over and above club use.