

Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS)

Westmorland and Furness Council



**Westmorland
& Furness
Council**

Final Assessment Report

January 2025

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 In October 2022, Tetrattech were appointed to produce a Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS) for Westmorland and Furness Council. The work has been delivered by Sports Planning Consultants, on behalf of Tetrattech.
- 1.2 The primary purpose of the PPOSS is to provide a strategic framework that ensures that the playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities that are provided to meet the needs of existing and future residents and visitors to Westmorland and Furness. The scope of this work includes facilities for:
- Football (grass pitches and 3G)
 - Rugby Union (grass pitches and 3G)
 - Hockey
 - Cricket
 - Rugby League
 - Tennis
 - Bowls
 - Athletics
 - Archery
 - Golf.
- 1.3 This document summarises the key findings of the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports assessment (Stages A-C of the Playing Pitch Strategy guidance). The Strategy, which sets out how the issues identified in this assessment will be addressed, and an action plan for delivery, is found under separate cover. This document will cover Stage D (strategy development) and facilitate stage E (implementation).

Key Drivers

- 1.4 The key drivers for the preparation of this PPOSS are:
- To inform the preparation of relevant Local Plans (for Westmorland and Furness, the Lake District National Park and Yorkshire Dales National Park) and policy decision making for Westmorland and Furness Council
 - To provide the qualitative and quantitative evidence to help protect and enhance existing provision
 - Provide evidence to inform any potential changes to the supply of provision
 - To inform decision making in relation to key schemes
 - To inform decision making in relation to the determination of planning applications
 - To provide evidence to help secure internal and external funding
 - To support local objectives as set out in the Westmorland and Furness Council Plan and other local strategies and national objectives to improve health and wellbeing through participation in sport

Objectives

- 1.5 The Key objectives of the PPOSS are to:
- Gather information on the quantity, quality and accessibility of all existing facilities, including pitches in private and public ownership, as well as education sites
 - Establish a clear understanding of the demand for playing pitches and other outdoor sports facilities. Also establish an understanding of any cross boundary participation
 - Provide an understanding of current and future demand for Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs)
 - Outline the current and future demand for playing pitches and sports and identify deficiencies or surpluses in provision and options for addressing these

- Develop a robust action plan based on the evidence collected.

Structure

1.6 This assessment report seeks to explore the issues across Westmorland and Furness. It includes both site-specific data and an understanding of the adequacy of provision in defined sub areas. It is structured as follows:

- Section 2: Methodology - this section sets out the methodology undertaken
- Section 3: Strategic Context - this section briefly summarises the strategic context, as well as the key issues across Westmorland and Furness relating to demographics
- Section 4: Cricket - this section outlines the current picture for cricket and evaluates the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future demand
- Section 5: Tennis - this section outlines the current picture for tennis and evaluates the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future demand
- Section 6 – Bowls - this section outlines the current picture for bowls and evaluates the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future demand
- Section 7: Hockey- this section outlines the current picture for hockey and evaluates the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future demand
- Section 8: Rugby Union - this section outlines the current picture for rugby union and evaluates the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future demand
- Section 9: Football- this section outlines the current picture for football and 3G AGPs and evaluates the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future demand
- Section 10 – Rugby League – this section outlines the current picture for rugby league and evaluates the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future demand
- Section 11–Athletics– this section outlines the current picture for athletics and evaluates the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future demand
- Section 12 – Archery - this section outlines the current picture for archery and evaluates the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future demand
- Section 13 – Golf - this section outlines the current picture for golf and evaluates the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future demand.

2.0 Methodology

Introduction

- 2.1 This PPOSS has been produced in line with guidance produced by Sport England, specifically 'Playing Pitch Guidance, An Approach to Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) (Sport England 2013) and 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities (Sport England 2014).
- 2.2 The Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG) is used to assess outdoor sports, whilst the PPS Guidance is used to evaluate the adequacy of playing pitches. The sports covered by each guidance are clarified later in this section.
- 2.3 These guidance documents remain the most up to date guidance notes available. It is understood that the Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance will be updated during 2024, but no further information is yet available. It is understood that the changes that will be made to the guidance will not be significant however the impact of any changes will need to be taken into account as part of the monitoring of the assessment report and strategy documents.
- 2.4 The remainder of this section briefly summarises the key principles of each methodology and the tasks that have been undertaken at each stage of the process. Work has been tailored to ensure that the specific needs of the Westmorland and Furness area are captured following detailed discussions with the project steering group.

Playing Pitch Guidance

- 2.5 The Playing Pitch Guidance sets out the process for delivering a PPS for football, cricket, rugby union, rugby league and hockey. It advocates a 10-step approach which is split into five stages. This can be summarised as follows:

Stage 1 – Undertaking an Assessment

- 1. Prepare and Tailor the approach

Stage 2 – Gather Information on Supply & Demand

- 2. Gather supply information and views
- 3. Gather demand information and views

Stage 3 – Bring the Information together

- 4. Understand the situation at individual sites
- 5. Develop the current and future picture of provision
- 6. Identify the key findings and issues

Stage 4 – Strategy Development

- 7. Develop the recommendations and action plan
- 8. Write and adopt the strategy

Stage 5- Implementation

- 9. Apply and deliver the strategy
- 10. Keep the Strategy Robust and up-to-date.

- 2.6 This assessment report covers Stages 1 – 6. The tasks undertaken at each stage are summarised in the text that follows.

Step 1 – Prepare and Tailor the Approach

- 2.7 The assessment and strategy has been developed in partnership with Sport England and the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport and a steering group has been established to guide the preparation of the PPOSS. In addition to supporting the preparation of the assessment and

strategy document, Sport England and the NGBs are also committed to assisting the Council with the ongoing monitoring, updating and delivery of the PPOSS.

- 2.8 The initial phase of work included discussions with key partners in order to tailor the approach that would be taken to consultation and site audits, drawing upon the local knowledge and experience of how each sport is played. Discussions have also taken place throughout the process with representatives of Westmorland and Furness Council, as well as relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport.

Steps 2 and 3 - Gather Supply and Demand Information and Views

Supply

- 2.9 The data collection process included a full audit of pitches across Westmorland and Furness. For each site, the following information was collected:

- Site name, location, ownership and management type
- Number and type of pitches and outdoor sports facilities
- Accessibility of pitches to the community
- Overall quality of pitches and ancillary facilities (including maintenance regimes)
- Level of protection and security of tenure
- Views of users and providers.

- 2.10 The assessment aims to capture all the pitches within the area. There may however be instances where a site is omitted if it has not been identified at the time of the audit. Where pitches are unintentionally excluded from the report, they remain covered by policies relating to playing fields. Furthermore, exclusion of a pitch does not mean that it is not required from a supply and demand point of view.

- 2.11 Monitoring procedures that will be implemented as part of the action plan will seek to ensure that the list of sites across Westmorland and Furness is kept up to date as any omissions arise.

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

- Pitches are deemed to offer **secured** community use when they have:
 - A formal community use agreement
 - A leasing or management agreement requiring pitches to be available to the community/ a community club
 - A formal policy for community use adopted by the owner and or educational establishment
 - Written confirmation from the owner and or educational establishment
 - Freehold by the lead user
 - Are owned or managed by public bodies.

Which suggest that use is likely to continue for at least three years.

- Where community use is currently available, but does not meet the definitions above, this is listed as **unsecured** community use. Securing long term access to these facilities may emerge as a key priority
- **No community use** - pitches which as a matter of policy or practice are not available for hire or use by teams playing in community leagues.

- 2.13 Each site was also assessed to determine the quality of provision. The quality ratings for facilities for each sport are bespoke to that sport. They are determined through the use of:
- Technical assessments (including PitchPower reports)
 - Non-technical assessments (in line with Sport England Playing Field guidance templates)
 - Consultation and local knowledge.
- 2.14 Site visits were undertaken during January / February 2023 for winter sports, and during June – August 2023 for summer sports. Available technical assessments were included up until the finalisation of the assessment report (June 2023). Ratings have been agreed with representatives of relevant National Governing Bodies where relevant.

Disused Sites

- 2.15 In addition to the currently active sites identified, it should be noted that Sport England Playing Field policy also takes into account disused sites. These may be important in terms of meeting current or future demand and where possible, such sites are identified in the relevant sections.
- 2.16 Even where a site was last used more than five years ago (and would consequently fall outside of Sport England's statutory remit), it still needs to be assessed using the criteria in paragraph 103 of the National Planning Policy Framework in advance of any proposals for disposal. Sport England would challenge a proposed loss of playing pitches/playing field which fails to meet this criteria - the lawful planning use of a disused site is still that of a playing field.
- 2.17 The action plan (Stage D) will include comment on the proposed role of any existing disused sites.

Demand

- 2.18 To evaluate the demand for playing pitches, the following information was collated:
- Number of sports clubs and teams and their match and training requirements
 - Casual and other demand
 - Educational demand
 - Imported demand (i.e. teams playing within Westmorland and Furness that are based in other areas)
 - Displaced demand (i.e. teams wishing to play within Westmorland and Furness but unable to)
 - Latent demand
 - Future demand (including club and team aspirations for development as well as National Governing Body priorities and targets)
 - User views and experiences, including trends and changes in demand.
- 2.19 The following tasks were undertaken to compile the above supply and demand data:
- Review of existing data on playing fields and the Sport England Active Places tool
 - Review of NGB data on pitches, outdoor sports facilities and local participation
 - Analysis of local league websites, fixture lists and pitch booking records
 - Use of available technical quality assessment reports and PitchPower data
 - Non-technical site visits
 - Distribution of a detailed survey and follow up consultation with schools
 - Consultation with Parish and Town Councils through a survey and follow up consultation
 - A full programme of consultation with sports clubs and league secretaries, including telephone and virtual meetings
 - Virtual meetings with NGBs to discuss key issues and priorities.

- 2.20 A high proportion of teams across Westmorland and Furness successfully engaged with the process as set out in Table 2.1. Response rates are above targets set in the Sport England guidance.

Table 2.1: Club Survey Response Rate (proportion of teams)

Sport	Contact Rate
Hockey	87%
Rugby Union	88%
Football	76%
Cricket	82%
Tennis	70%
Bowls	50%
Athletics	100%
Archery	72%

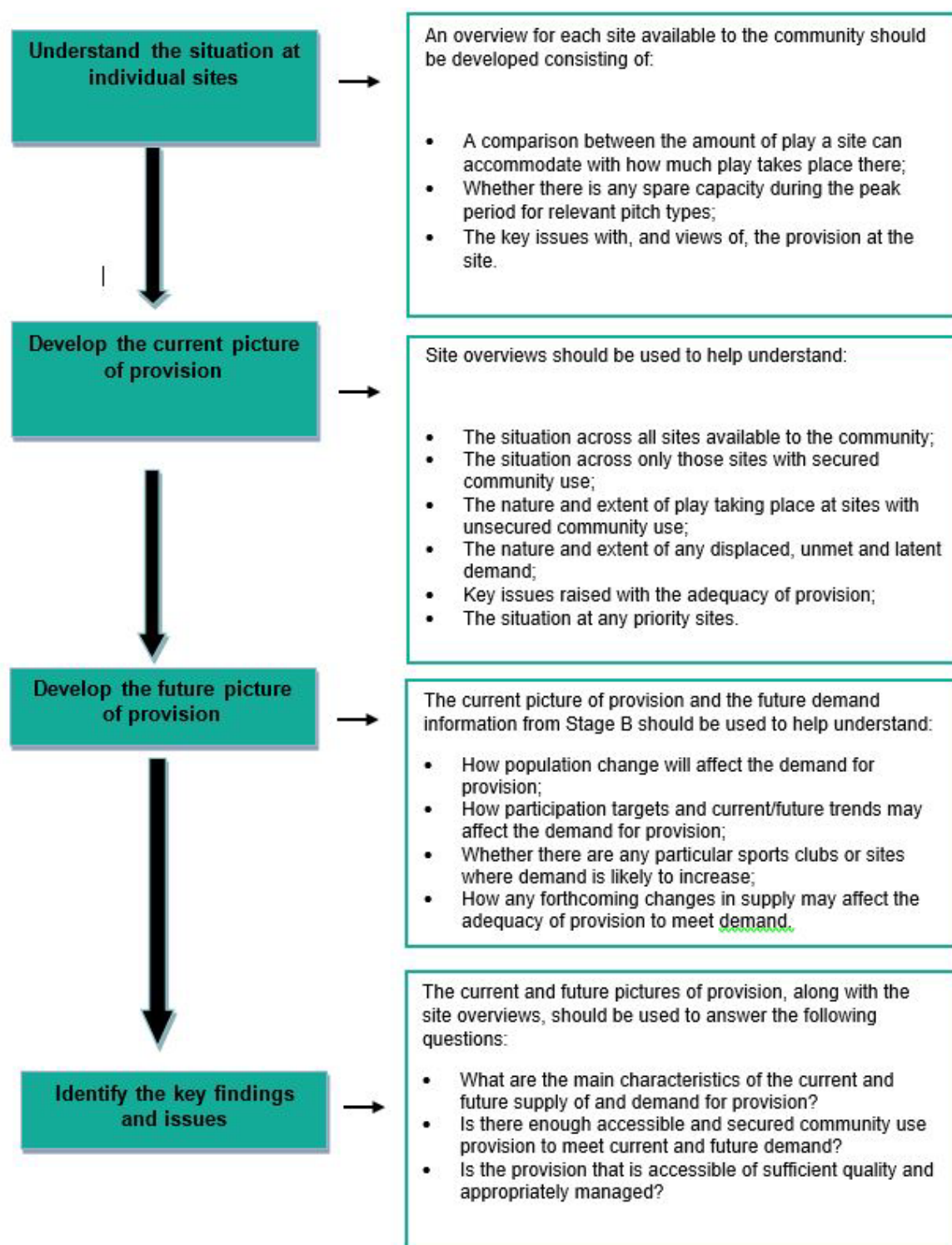
Steps 4, 5 and 6 – Assessing the Supply and Demand Information and Views

- 2.21 The supply and demand information collated has been used, in line with the Sport England methodology, to produce calculations to:
- Understand the situation at individual sites
 - Develop the current and projected future pictures for each sport; and
 - Identify the key findings and issues that need to be addressed.
- 2.22 Figure 2.2 overleaf, extracted directly from the guidance (Sport England 2013), provides further detail of the issues explored during the analysis of the adequacy of provision.

Steps 6 - 10 Develop and Deliver the Strategy and Keep it Up to Date and Robust

- 2.23 Stages 6 – 10 will be covered by the strategy and action plan document (under separate cover). This will set out a strategic framework to address the issues identified relating to playing pitch provision.
- 2.24 Recommendations and priorities will be developed following extensive scenario testing and in conjunction with key stakeholders (both internal to the Council and external). The resulting action plan will be used to inform the delivery of the key priorities and to monitor the success of the strategy.

Figure 2.2: Overview of the Assessment Process



Non-Pitch Outdoor Sports - Sport England (Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities; 2013)

2.25 For bowls, tennis, athletics, archery and golf, the assessment stages (Phase A) of the Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG) approach are as follows:

- Stage 1 – Prepare and tailor your assessment
- Stage 2 – Gather information on supply and demand
- Stage 3 – Assessment, bring the information together.

2.26 The key tasks undertaken in relation to the assessment are briefly summarised below.

Stage 1: Undertaking an Assessment

2.27 The approach was tailored following detailed discussions with the steering group.

Stage 2: Gather Information on Supply and Demand

2.28 To gather information on supply, visits were carried out to all community use facilities and assessments made of their quality, maintenance and 'fit for purpose' rating. Discussions were held with operators, managers and users.

2.29 To gather information on demand, questionnaires were sent (many with follow up phone calls) to all known sports clubs. Consultation also took place with national and regional governing body of sport representatives.

Stage 3: Assessment – Bring the Information Together

2.30 The analysis seeks to bring together the evidence gathered to gain an understanding of the relationship between supply and demand. Key findings and issues to be addressed are set out for each of the sports / facilities covered.

Application of Assessment – Strategy Development

2.31 Recommendations and strategy priorities are developed to address the issues identified through the data collection and analysis undertaken. An action plan is developed, identifying both strategy and site-specific priorities. This is set out under separate cover alongside the action plan relating to playing fields.

Geographical Analysis

2.32 The area covered in this playing assessment is a large geographic area. Until April 2023, this area was covered by three separate Councils:

- South Lakeland District Council
- Eden District Council
- Barrow Borough Council.

2.33 Whilst it is important to understand the needs of the Westmorland and Furness Council area as a whole, the scale and terrain of the area means that it is also necessary to understand the adequacy of provision at a more local level. To enable this, the Westmorland and Furness area has therefore been divided into sub areas.

2.34 To create these sub areas, the former local authority areas have been used as a base, to ensure that the document is able to effectively support the planning process. These former local authority areas have then been subdivided further in order to ensure that it is possible to understand the position more locally within each area. This approach was agreed with the

steering group. With no previous PPOSS across the area as a whole, these areas have been defined specifically for this PPS.

2.35 The Lake District National Park (LDNP) and Yorkshire Dales National Park represent separate sub areas to ensure that information can be extracted to inform the local plans in these areas (which are prepared by a separate planning authority, although the area is administered by Westmorland and Furness). A summary will also be provided by planning area to support implementation in the planning process.

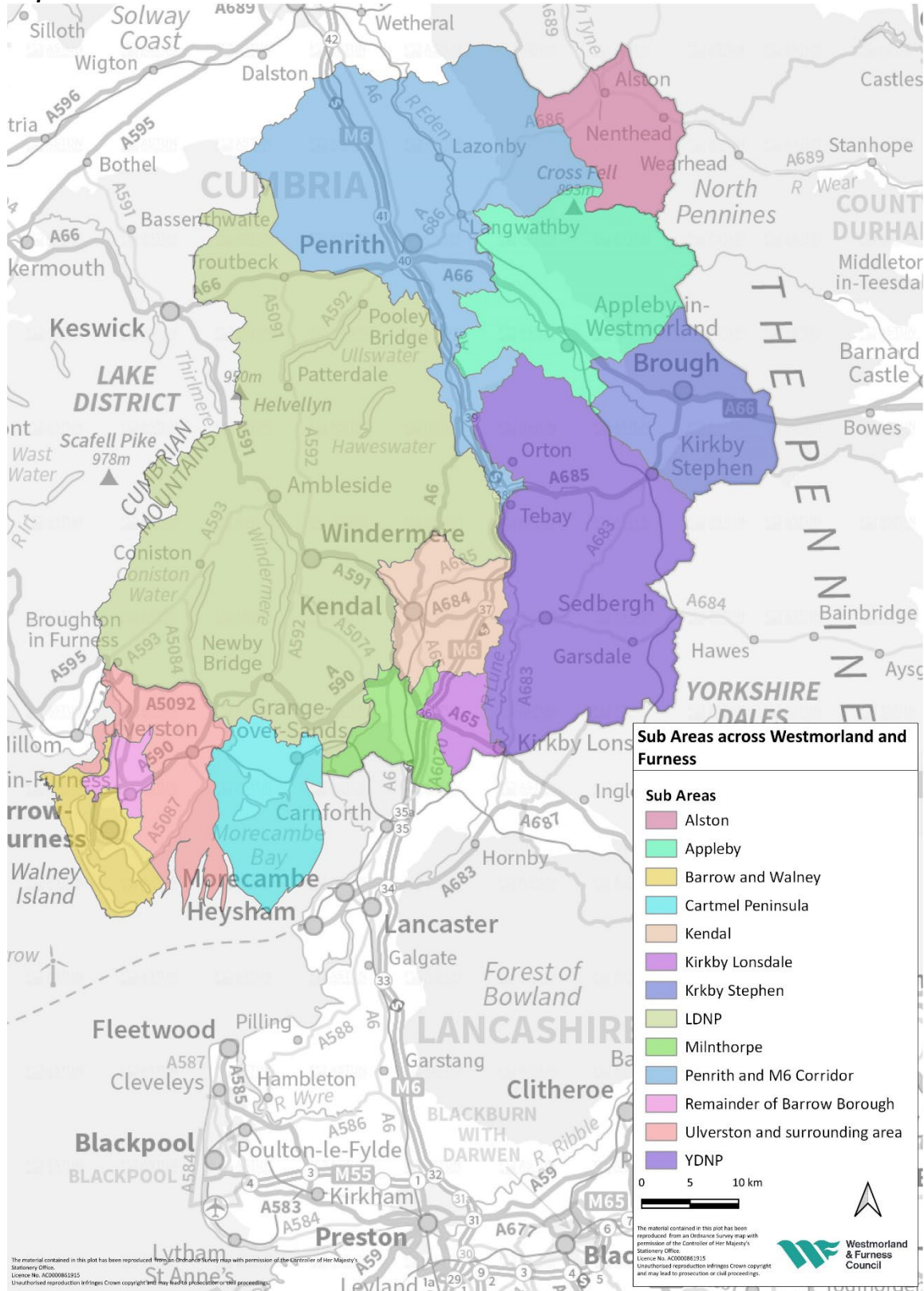
2.36 Table 2.1 summarises the areas included within each of the sub areas while this is illustrated on Map 2.1.

Table 2.1 – Sub Areas across Westmorland and Furness

Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Areas included
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	The town of Barrow and Walney Island
Barrow Borough	Remainder of Barrow Borough	Remainder of former Barrow Borough – Askam and Dalton (parishes of Askam & Ireleth, Dalton with Newton and Lindal & Marton)
Eden	Kirkby Stephen	Kirkby Stephen and the surrounding area – the following parishes excluding those areas that fall within YDNP: Asby, Brough, Brough Sowerby, Hartley, Helbeck, Kaber, Kirkby Stephen Musgrave, Nateby, Soulby, Stainmore, Waitby, Warcop, Winton
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	The following parishes excluding those areas that fall within either the LDNP or YDNP; Ainstable, Brougham Castle, Sowerby, Catterlen Clifton, Crosby, Ravensworth, Dacre, Glassonby, Great Salkeld, Great Strickland, Greystoke, Hesketh, Hunsonby, Hutton Kirkoswald, Langwathby, Lazonby, Little Strickland Lowther, Melmerby, Mungrisdale, Orton, Ousby, Penrith, Shap, Skelton, Sockbridge and Tirril, Tebay, Yanwath and Eamont Bridge
Eden	Appleby	Appleby and the surrounding area (the following parishes excluding those areas that fall within YDNP) Appleby-in-Westmorland, Bandleyside Bolton, Cliburn, Crackenthorpe, Culgaith, Dufton, King's Meaburn, Kirkby Thore, Long Marton, Milburn, Morland, Murton, Newbiggin, Newby, Sleagill, Temple Sowerby
Eden	Alston	Parish of Alston Moor
Eden	LDNP	The areas of the following parishes that fall within the LDNP Dacre, Hutton, Shap, Little Strickland, Lowther, Mungrisdale, Orton, Tebay
Eden	YDNP	The areas of the following parishes that fall within the YDNP Shap, Crosby Ravensworth, Tebay, Kings Meaburn, Asby, Kirkby Stephen, Musgrave, Nateby, Soulby, Waitby

Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Areas included
South Lakeland	Kendal	Kendal and the surrounding area (the following parishes excluding those areas that fall within the LDNP) Kendal with Oxenholme, Natland, Strickland Ketel, Strickland Roger (including Burneside), Skelsmergh and Scalthwaiterigg, Selside and Fawcett Forest, Whinfell, Grayrigg, Lambrigg, Docker, New Hutton, Helsington, Old Hutton and Holmescales, Sedgwick, Stainton, Killington and Firbank
South Lakeland	Milnthorpe	Milnthorpe and the surrounding area (the following parishes excluding those areas that fall within the LDNP) Hincaster, Heversham, Milnthorpe, Levens, Burton-in-Kendal, Preston Richard (including Endmoor), Holme, Beetham (including Sandside and Storth), Arnside
South Lakeland	Kirkby Lonsdale	Kirkby Lonsdale and the surrounding area (the following parishes excluding those areas that fall within the YDNP) Kirkby Lonsdale, Hutton Roof, Preston Patrick, Lupton and Mansergh
South Lakeland	Cartmel Peninsula	Grange-over-Sands, Allithwaite and Cartmel, Lower Holker (including Cark/Flookburgh)
South Lakeland	Ulverston and surrounding area	Ulverston and the surrounding Furness area (the following parishes excluding those areas that fall within the LDNP) Ulverston, Aldingham, Mansrigg, Pennington (including Swarthmoor), Kirkby Ireleth (including Kirkby-in-Furness), Urswick, Egton-with-Newland (including Greenodd/Penny Bridge), Osmotherley, Lowick, Broughton West (including part of Broughton-in-Furness), Blawith and Subberthwaite, Angerton,
South Lakeland	LDNP	The areas of the following parishes that fall within the LDNP, Selside and Fawcett Forest, Whinfell, Grayrigg, Helsington, Lowick. Blawith and Subberthwaite, Broughton West, Kirkby Ireleth, Egton-with-Newland, Haverthwaite, Broughton East, Staveley-in-Cartmel, Lindale and Newton in Cartmel, Witherslack, Meathop and Ulpha, Levens, Crosthwaite and Lyth, Cartmel Fell, Underbarrow and Bradleyfield, Crook, Strickland Ketel, Strickland Roger, Longsleddale, Over Staveley, Nether Staveley, Hugill, Kentmere, Coniston, Hawkshead, Windermere and Bowness, Lakes including Ambleside and Grasmere, Skelwith, Claife, Satterthwaite, Colton, Dunnerdale-with-Seathwaite, Torver,
South Lakeland	YDNP	The areas of the following parishes that fall within the YDNP Kirkby Lonsdale, Casterton, Barbon, Mansergh, Killington, Middleton, Sedbergh, Dent, Garsdale, Firbank

Map 2.1 – Sub Areas across Westmorland and Furness



2.37 Cross boundary issues with neighbouring authorities will also be identified where relevant. These issues are understood both through interpretation of existing PPS, as well as attendance at the steering group for this by neighbouring authorities. The following neighbouring authorities have existing PPS:

- Lancaster City Council (2023)
- Carlisle PPS (2022)
- Cumberland Council (preparing a PPS. Existing reports for former authorities)
- Durham (2021)
- North Yorkshire Council (existing reports for former authorities).

Summary

2.38 This assessment report summarises the key issues arising from the assessment and evaluation of facilities and informs the preparation of the strategy document (under separate cover). For each of the sports covered, it aims to:

- Summarise the current supply of facilities
- Outline the current demand and project future demand based upon population growth
- Evaluate the adequacy of provision to meet demand and
- Identify the key issues that need to be addressed.

2.39 It has been produced following the most up to date guidance documents prepared by Sport England.

2.40 The strategy document will build on the issues identified and set out strategic priorities and actions for delivery. It will use scenario testing to determine the most appropriate course of action for each sport.

2.41 To inform the analysis of the current and projected future picture for each sport and to provide context for the sport specific issues discussed, Section 3 briefly summarises the strategic context, as well as the demographic profile of Westmorland and Furness Council.

3.0 Strategic Context and Demographic Profile

Introduction

- 2.42 An understanding of the local strategic context, population and geography is essential in order to ensure that the PPOSS is tailored to the characteristics, profile and aspirations of Westmorland and Furness.
- 2.43 This section therefore briefly summarises the policies that impact upon the preparation of this PPOSS and provides an overview of the demographics and geography, and the impact of this on demand for sports facilities.

Strategic Context

National

- 2.44 A national Government vision is set in 'Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation'. This document sets out a framework and outcomes that can be translated locally against issues and opportunities for Westmorland and Furness. This framework lists 5 Core Outcomes:
- developing physical well-being
 - developing mental well-being
 - individual development
 - social and community development and
 - economic development.
 -
- 2.45 Delivery of these outcomes will be driven by:
- Engagement in sport and physical activity
 - Sporting success
 - Strong and resilient sports sector.
- 2.46 The document notes that:
- 'We want to ensure that in future, the whole population is encouraged and supported to engage in sport and physical activity in whatever way is best for them.'*
- 2.47 To facilitate this, it is recognised that several actions will need to take place to drive behavioural change. The effective provision of playing fields and outdoor sports facilities will be key in helping to achieve the goals of this framework in Westmorland and Furness.
- 2.48 **The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)** (December 2024) establishes the requirement for local plans to ensure that there is proper provision of community and cultural facilities to meet local needs. The NPPF's expectations and policy relating to sport and physical activity/recreation is set out in paragraphs 103 and 104. They require there to be a sound (i.e. up-to-date and verifiable) evidence base underpinning policy and its application. Paragraph 103 indicates that;
- 'Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities, and can deliver wider benefits for nature and support efforts to address climate change. Planning policies should be based on robust and up to date assessments of the need for open space, sports and recreation facilities (including qualitative or quantitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.'*

2.49 Paragraph 104 states that; *'Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:*

- An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or*
- The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or*
- The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use'*

2.50 The preparation of this playing pitch assessment and strategy will provide an evidence base to ensure that Westmorland and Furness Council is able to deliver upon the requirements of this national policy.

Sport England

2.51 In January 2021, Sport England published 'Uniting the Movement', which sets a strategic vision for the next 10 years of:

'a nation of equal, inclusive and connected communities and a country where people live happier, healthier and more fulfilled lives'

2.52 It highlights that being active is one of the most effective and sustainable ways of achieving this.

2.53 Uniting the Movement seeks to ensure that sport and physical activity is recognised as essential to help overcome national challenges. It highlights that before the COVID- 19 pandemic, record levels of activity were being achieved in England and seeks both to get that momentum back, but also to reach people who have traditionally been excluded. It can be found on the following link: <https://www.sportengland.org/about-us/uniting-movement>

2.54 The strategy sets three objectives:

- Advocating for movement, sport and physical activity
- Joining forces on five big issues
- Creating the catalysts for change.

2.55 This PPOSS will help the local authorities and its partners to ensure that an effective network of facilities is in place to support and engage with these priorities.

2.56 The five big issues highlighted that Sport England will seek to address are of particular relevance to this PPOSS and are as follows:

- **Recover and reinvent** – responding to the short, medium and long term challenges of COVID-19 pandemic and supporting organisations and people to return to activity that's stronger, more relevant and more inclusive than before
- **Connecting communities** – working in collaboration with communities - local people and organisations. This will include investing in clubs and charities and collaborating on local solutions, helping to deliver the outcomes that are needed through sport
- **Positive experiences for children and young people** – working to ensure that every child / young person experiences the enjoyment and benefits that being active can bring. This will

include using sport and physical activity to improve mental and physical wellbeing, creating and protecting quality and safe spaces for children to play and enjoy being active outdoors

- **Connecting with health and wellbeing** – ensuring that sport and physical activity is at the heart of health and wellbeing both by stopping health problems arising in the first place, but also supporting people to manage problems when they do happen.
- **Active Environments** – the strategy recognises a range of environments, from dedicated leisure facilities and playing fields, other community spaces (parks / open spaces / community centres and schools) through to the built environment (streets / housing estates etc). It seeks to make activity easier for everyone and focuses upon the protection and improvement of sport and leisure facilities (as well as the innovation of new designs and operational models), the creation of opportunities around community spaces and the development of better places to live through an influence on design.

2.57 The strategy therefore focusses on investment driven by local need that drives down inequalities and puts physical activity and sport at the heart of life.

2.58 These national drivers underpin facility provision in Westmorland and Furness. It will be important to understand how continued investment in facilities can contribute to achieving the targets around physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing and so on.

Sport England Playing Field Policy

2.59 If participation in physical activity is increased, valued facilities must be protected. Sport England has been a statutory consultee on planning applications affecting playing pitches since 1996 and has a long-established policy of retention, which is the precursor to the National Planning Policy Framework guidance. The policy indicates that:

Sport England will oppose the granting of planning permission for any development which would lead to the loss of, or would prejudice the use of:

- *'All or any part of a playing field, or*
- *Land which has been used as a playing field and remains undeveloped, or*
- *And allocated for use as a playing field unless, in the judgement of Sport England, the development as a whole meets with one or more of five specific exceptions.'*

2.60 Sport England also advises that to make informed decisions on playing pitch matters, all local authorities must have an up-to-date assessment of need and a strategy emanating from this. Sport England recommend that a strategy is monitored and updated annually and refreshed every three years. This PPOSS will therefore support the Council in responding to this, and in implementing a robust strategic approach to the delivery of pitches.

2.61 Sport England are a non-statutory consultee on issues involving non pitch sports. As with playing fields, they will seek to protect all facilities and advise that informed decisions are made in response to an up-to-date assessment of need. This document responds to this.

2.62 Further detail on Sport England's role as a consultee and Sport England's Playing Field policy is set out at <https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/planning-sport>

National Governing Body Strategies

2.63 The assessment also looks to reflect and deliver upon the priorities of the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport set out in their facility strategies. The key priorities of these documents are explored within individual sport specific sections where relevant.

Local Context

- 2.64 The Westmorland and Furness Council plan sets out the Council's vision, specifically:
'To be a great place to live, work and thrive.'
- 2.65 The key priorities of the Council include:
- Supporting active, healthy happy lives for young and old
 - Supporting people in need and reducing inequality
 - Providing leadership in the drive to become net zero
 - Creating confident, empowered and resilient communities
 - Driving sustainable, inclusive economic growth.
- 2.66 Specifically with regards health and wellbeing the Council Plan notes that:
'We will maximise the potential of our natural environment to provide open spaces for activity and recreation...'
- 2.67 The Council Plan Delivery Framework supports the Council plan. It sets out the key projects that the Council will carry out over the year and what they will achieve. The key findings of this assessment will contribute to the preparation of the Council Plan Delivery Framework.

Planning Policy Framework

- 2.68 Westmorland and Furness Council has now started on the process of preparing a new Local Plan for the area of the Council outside of the National Parks. It is acknowledged, however, that this is a long process. In the interim therefore, the Council will continue to be guided by the planning policy documents of the Councils from which it was formed (Eden, Barrow Borough and South Lakeland). When the Westmorland and Furness Council Local Plan is adopted, it will replace all the existing local plans.
- 2.69 The Westmorland and Furness Local Plan will only cover parts of the authority outside the National Parks. Planning within the Lake District National Park (LDNP) and Yorkshire Dales National Park (YDNP) will continue to be dealt with by separate planning authorities (although the areas within the national parks are also located within the former South Lakeland and Eden authority areas). The current Lake District National Park Local Plan, and Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Plan will continue to be applied until superseded by a new Lake District National Park Local Plan and a new Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Plan.
- 2.70 This assessment and strategy will form a key component of the evidence base for the Westmorland and Furness Local Plan.
- 2.71 It will also support the application of existing policies against the adopted Local Plans. The status of each of these plans, as well as the key policies impacting sport and recreation facilities is therefore briefly summarised below.

South Lakeland Local Plan area

- 2.72 The South Lakeland current Local Plan (2003-25) comprises of a number of separate Development Plan Documents:
- Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) (Oct. 2010)
 - Land Allocations DPD (Dec. 2013)
 - Development Management Policies DPD (March 2019); and the
 - Arnsdale and Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) DPD (March 2019).

2.73 Policies in the existing South Lakeland Local Plan seek to ensure that all residents of South Lakeland have access to appropriate outdoor sport, open space and recreation facilities. Policy CS8.3a sets out local accessibility standards, but does not include sports facilities, but Policy CS8.3b, uses a local standards approach (amount of provision per 1000 population) to set out the amount of space required for outdoor sports facilities. It notes that this will be used to determine where and how much new sports provision is required.

2.74 Policy LA1.11 in South Lakelands Local Plan Allocations DPD protects playing fields designated as outdoor formal sports facilities from development unless a suitable replacement facility is provided in an accessible location within the same area of need or demand. It states that:

'The outdoor formal sports facilities identified on the Policies map will be safeguarded from development unless a suitable replacement facility is provided in an accessible location within the same area of need or demand and where sites are also identified as greenspace or as a green gap, the requirements of policy LA1.10 or LA1.9 (as applicable) are met.'

Barrow Borough Local Plan Area

2.75 The Barrow Borough Local Plan 2016-2031 was adopted in June 2019. It allocates sites for development and protects important areas such as natural habitats and public open spaces. This PPOSS is required to provide further context and to understand and plan for the needs of the community. This assessment will provide an up-to-date evidence base to inform the application of policies.

2.76 The Local Plan recognises that there is a clear and justified need to get the former Borough's population more active in order to improve health. It notes that there is a reasonable spread of sports and leisure provision in this area and highlights many recent developments that have improved that position. The Local Plan takes a protectionist stance on Playing Fields and Outdoor Sports Facilities.

2.77 Policy HC7 states that:

'Playing fields, sports pitches and facilities are an important factor in the health and wellbeing of the wider community. For this reason proposals that would result in a partial or total loss of any of these assets, or would otherwise constitute a change of use to non-sport or recreation uses, shall not be permitted unless:

a) A robust up-to-date assessment has been undertaken which clearly shows the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or

b) The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location nearby; or

c) The development only affects land that is incapable of forming all or part of a playing field, sports pitch or facility; or

d) The proposed development is ancillary to the use of the playing field; or

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

In all cases the loss of openness should not undermine the Green Infrastructure objectives. This policy does not apply to school playing fields, which are covered by national legislation and guidance.'

- 2.78 In addition, Policy HC8, New Outdoor Sports Facilities, reports that new outdoor sports facilities and associated buildings and infrastructure will also be supported provided that:

- 'a) The development will not result in visual harm to the character and appearance of the surroundings, countryside or coastal area*
- b) The development will not result in the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land*
- c) The development would not harm any site of identified nature conservation interest*
- d) Adequate on-site parking is provided, or there is adequate on street parking in the immediate area without causing congestion or loss of amenity*
- e) Its use does not cause a significant loss of residential amenity*
- f) The type, size and location of the new facility is informed by an up to date and robust assessment of need*
- g) Any floodlighting situated in the built-up areas is subject to a sports lighting assessment which demonstrates that residential amenities, highway safety and recognised ecological interests would not be adversely affected*

Consideration should be given to the reuse of existing buildings where possible.'

- 2.79 This assessment will therefore provide evidence to justify the implementation of Policy HC7, as well as to evidence where new provision is required.

Eden Local Plan area

- 2.80 The Eden Local Plan 2014 to 2032 was adopted in October 2018. It allocates land for various uses, including housing development across the former District and setting out a strategic vision for growth.

- 2.81 Policy ENV4 notes that green infrastructure networks, which can include playing fields, will be identified, protected, managed and enhanced. Policy COM2 specifically requires the protection of Open Space, Sport, Leisure and Recreation Facilities./ It notes that:

'Development proposals that result in the loss of open space, sport, leisure, allotments, recreational and cultural facilities will not be permitted. The exception to this will be where the benefits of the development outweigh the loss. Proposals must satisfy each of the following criteria:

- There is a strong social or economic justification for the development.*
- There is no longer a need for the facility in the area, or if a need remains, alternative provision will be provided nearby.*

Any replacement facility must provide an equivalent or greater net benefit to the community, in terms of quality, availability and accessibility of open space or recreational opportunities.

Where development of a small area of the site would enable investment to improve the rest of the site this may be taken into account as a circumstance under which benefits may outweigh the loss of a site or facility.'

- 2.82 Policy COM3 also refers to outdoor sports facilities and playing fields and sets a requirement for new development to contribute towards outdoor sports facilities using a local standards approach. It sets a quantitative requirement of 1.76ha per 1000 population.

Lake District National Park Authority

- 2.83 The current Lake District Local Plan was adopted in 2021 for the period 2020 to 2035. Policy 23 of this document deals with Community Facilities and Local Green Spaces, outlining that:

'We want to sustain community and cultural facilities and local services, and ensure communities have improved availability and access to high quality greenspaces and recreation facilities. We will achieve this by:

- 1. supporting development proposals for new, or improvements to existing community facilities and services where they are appropriately located to serve the needs of the community.*
- 2. supporting development proposals that enable flexible / multi-use of buildings or that combine a range of services and facilities on one site to sustain its long term viability.*
- 3. resisting the change of use of existing shops, and pubs and drinking establishments to alternative uses outside Primary Shopping Areas unless: – the current use is no longer suitable or viable for its purpose; or – it can be demonstrated that there are suitable alternatives within the settlement.*
- 4. only permitting the loss of a Local Green Space designation in special circumstances where: – it can be demonstrated that the green space is no longer needed, or – a suitably located replacement of at least equivalent standard is secured.*
- 5. requiring new housing development of ten houses and above and new business parks, large-scale retail and commercial developments (over 1250sqm) to include Amenity Local Green Space to enhance amenity value.*

Further clarification in relation to sports and recreation facilities is provided, with the Plan specifically stating that;

New sports and recreation facilities will be considered against evidence of need, guidance for which is provided by Sport England. The Local Green Space designation is identified on the Policies Map. Proposals which would result in the loss of a Local Green Space designation should include clear justification as to why the designation is surplus to requirements. This should demonstrate why the Local Green Space no longer holds a particular local significance, such as, of its beauty, historic significance, landscape setting, recreational value, tranquillity or richness of its wildlife. This could also show there is an excess of playing field provision, which will remain the case should the development be permitted.'

- 2.84 This PPOSS provides the local needs assessment referred to above and will therefore support in the application of existing policies.

Yorkshire Dales National Park

- 2.85 Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority are currently producing a new Local Plan, which will cover the period 2025 to 2040. This document will be an important evidence base for this plan.

- 2.86 Policy C9 of the existing Local Plan (2015 – 2030) requires that:

'Development that would result in the loss of, or have an unacceptable adverse effect on, an existing community facility will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that:

a) the current use is no longer needed or a suitably located replacement facility of at least equivalent standard has been secured; and,

b) the land or building could not fulfil, or is not needed for, an alternative community use. Applications must be supported by appropriate and proportionate independent evidence,

including appropriate financial, business planning, options appraisals, marketing and community engagement evidence.'

- 2.87 Policy C10 of the current adopted Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Plan (2015-2030) states that:

'Development will be permitted for new, or improvements to existing, community facilities, where: a) there is evidence of need for a facility of the scale and type proposed; and, b) they are appropriately located to serve the needs of the community.'

Summary by Local Plan Areas

- 2.88 To support the application of the assessment to each planning area, a summary is provided at the end of each sports section by planning area of the key issues that need to be addressed. The strategy document will include a site by site action plan for each planning area, which will therefore include separate action plans for YDNPA and LDNPA.

Active Well-Being Strategy

- 2.89 Westmorland and Furness Council are preparing an Active Well-Being Strategy. The key findings of this PPOSS will inform this Active Well-Being Strategy.

Demographics and Population Profile

- 2.90 Westmorland and Furness covers a geographically vast area of Cumbria. It is bordered to the West and North by the remaining areas of Cumbria, part of Cumberland Council, to the south by Lancashire and to the east Yorkshire and County Durham, and to the north west Northumberland. Population density is the lowest in England.
- 2.91 As set out above, part of the area falls within the Lake District National Park and Yorkshire Dales National Park Planning authorities. These areas are designated particularly because of their natural beauty.
- 2.92 Overall, Sub National Population Data (2018) confirms that Westmorland and Furness is home to 225,400 people, which represents a slight decrease of 0.4% over the last decade. The area is home to an ageing population, with:
- 15.6% of the population aged 0-15, compared to 19.2% nationally
 - 26.3% aged 65 and above, compared to 18.5% nationally.
- 2.93 Statistics suggest that health is slightly poorer than is typical nationally, with 20% of residents (compared to 18%) reporting that their activities are limited by illness or disability. Physical activity can be a key vehicle for improving health and the proactive implementation of actions in the PPOSS action plan will therefore be critical.
- 2.94 Across the area as a whole, deprivation is low. 12 communities however fall within the most 10% deprived community areas in England. These are all located within the Barrow area.
- 2.95 Whilst overall therefore, the picture is of an ageing population with few areas of deprivation, the scale of the area disguises significant differences between the characteristics of different settlements. Whilst some places are overwhelmingly rural in nature, others are very urban and present different challenges.
- 2.96 It should also be noted that in addition to local residents, the tourism industry is a key part of the demographic make-up of Westmorland and Furness. Some facilities may be attractive to tourists. In addition, the increasing emphasis on holiday lets is changing the demography of the area, and also needs to be taken into account in the assessment of the adequacy of facilities.

Projected Population Growth

- 2.97 Table 3.1 sets out the current and projected future populations of Westmorland and Furness as a whole, and the changes that are projected to take place within the former local authority areas. This analysis draws upon the 2018 sub national population projections, which are the most up to date available.
- 2.98 It should be noted that the new Westmorland and Furness Local Plan will outline projected future growth. Given that the plan is at early stages, it is not possible to identify where this long term growth may take place at this point. The strategy document will consider the potential impact of planned growth arising from the five year housing land supply projections.

Table 3.1 – Projected Population Growth

Authority Area	Current Position	2031	2040
Former Barrow Borough	66076	64355	63068
Former Eden District	53587	54284	54595
Former South Lakeland District	106438	108589	110200
Westmorland and Furness	226101	227227	227863

Source (2018 Sub National Population Projections)

- 2.99 Table 3.1 demonstrates that:
- The total population of Westmorland and Furness is expected to increase, although at a slower pace than the increase expected nationally (increase of 1% compared to 5% across England)
 - The majority of growth will take place in the former South Lakeland area, with an increase of 3% by 2040
 - There will be a small amount of growth in the former Eden area (circa 1000 people)
 - The population of the former Barrow Borough area will decline by 2031 and further decline will take place up to 2040.
- 2.100 This means that at face value, and based on population projections alone, there is likely to be a small increase in demand for sports facilities.
- 2.101 By 2040, the population will reach 227,863. Table 3.2 considers the age profile of Westmorland and Furness.

Table 3.2 – Age Profile Westmorland and Furness

Former Authority Area	Age	Total Population (2023)	Future Population (2040)	Current Proportion of Total Population in Age Group	Future Proportion of Total Population in Age Group
Barrow Borough	0-18	13608	12392	20.6%	19.6%
Barrow Borough	19 – 45	20102	19419	30.4%	30.8%
Barrow Borough	46+	32367	31257	49.0%	49.6%
Eden	0-18	9566	8531	17.9%	15.6%
Eden	19 – 45	12999	12369	24.3%	22.7%
Eden	46+	31022	33695	57.9%	61.7%
South Lakeland	0-18	18839	18134	17.7%	16.5%
South Lakeland	19 – 45	26082	26581	24.5%	24.1%
South Lakeland	46+	61517	65485	57.8%	59.4%

- 2.102 Table 3.2 suggests that the population of the former Barrow Borough has a much younger profile than the former Eden and South Lakeland authority areas. With younger residents having a particular propensity to participate in sport, this may mean that there is a higher potential participation rate in this part of Westmorland and Furness. It may also influence the type of facilities that are required.
- 2.103 Critically, Table 3.2 suggests that almost all of the population increase will take place in those aged 46+. These groups have a lower propensity to participate formally in most of the sports covered in this assessment and this same pattern is evident in all three geographical areas. The increasing numbers of people in these groups emphasises the importance of providing other opportunities within these sports tailored to the needs of older residents.
- 2.104 The opposite is true of the younger age groups, with the proportion of the population declining in the 0-18 range in all three former authority areas and a decline in the number of people aged 0-18 in real terms. Notably, there is also a decline in those aged 19 – 45 in the former Barrow Borough and Eden authority areas, but a small increase in the former South Lakeland authority area in terms of number of people.
- 2.105 The impact of this will be considered in the sports specific sections that follow. The key conclusion however is that while the population will therefore likely grow slightly, it is unlikely that this will impact participation in pitch and outdoor sports at the same rate. Sports development initiatives will be instrumental in driving growth in participation.

Sports Participation Profile

- 2.106 As part of the previous Sport England Strategy, Towards and Active Nation (2016), Sport England introduced a new national survey Active Lives to measure adult participation in sport and physical activity. Active Lives recognises the breadth of both formal and informal ways people choose to get active and stay healthy.
- 2.107 At a national level, the findings of the survey demonstrate that:

- 25.8% of the population are inactive
 - Activity levels generally decrease with age, with the sharpest decrease at 75. Activity levels also continue to fall amongst young adults
 - The least affluent have seen a larger drop in activity levels
 - Participation in all different categories of walking has a considerably higher rate of participation than any sport. Walking for leisure by all adults, has the highest rate of participation of any activity and is the only activity where numbers have risen
 - Participation in teams sports is much lower and has declined since 2015
 - What appears apparent is that the time, organisation and fixed times for playing team sports, both indoor and outdoor were maybe becoming barriers to participation prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. National Covid restrictions have also made participation in such sports more difficult, although outdoor activity has been impacted to a lower degree than indoor sports.
 - Individual sports and activities which require little organisation and are available at times that suit the lifestyle of participants are becoming more popular. This may have implications longer term on the demand for team sports considered within this PPOSS
 - It should be noted however that since the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governing Bodies relating to the majority of sports considered within this strategy document have recorded increases in participation, suggesting that there may have been an overall positive impact on demand for sport. This may be reflected in the findings of the Active Lives survey in future years.
- 2.108 Analysis of the Active Lives survey indicates that 20.8% of the population in Westmorland and Furness are physically inactive. 67.2% are active, compared to 63.1% in England. This means that activity is above national averages, which is positive given the profile of the population. An effective network of facilities will be essential if this is to be maintained.
- 2.109 Levels of volunteering are also higher than the national average. It is clear however that inactivity increases with age, with 46% of those aged 75+ inactive, compared to 20.6% age 16 – 34.
- 2.110 Participation levels amongst children and young people are also increasing and are now back in line with those measured prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Active Play, team sports and active travel are the most common types of activity undertaken by children.
- 2.111 One of the key challenges across Westmorland and Furness as a whole therefore is to address the proportion of people who are physically inactive and to make these residents more active, whilst retaining those that are already participating. This is considered essential, given the direct impact that activity has on health. An effective network of facilities will support the achievement of this objective.

Summary

- 2.112 Analysis of the strategic and demographic context therefore demonstrates that:
- The contribution that health and physical activity can make to the achievement of many of the strategic goals of both national organisations as well as Westmorland and Furness Council and local partner organisations is clear– an effective facility infrastructure will be essential in the achievement of these goals. This PPPOSS will directly contribute to other Council Strategies and plans including the Active Well Being Strategy and the Council Plan Delivery Framework. This PPOSS will also provide an important evidence base for the emerging Westmorland and Furness Local Plan, the review of the current adopted Lake

District National Park Local Plan and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Plan that is currently being prepared.

- Although the population of Westmorland and Furness is increasing by circa 1%, it is the age groups that are less likely to participate in pitch sports where projected growth is highest. In reality, there will be a small decline in the number of people in the age groups likely to participate in pitch sports, and this may impact on demand for some facilities.
- Participation levels in Westmorland and Furness are above national and regional averages, despite the age profile of the Authority and the proportion of people volunteering is strong. An effective and sustainable facility infrastructure will be essential if this is to continue.

4.0 Cricket

Introduction

4.0 This section assesses the adequacy of pitches for cricket. It includes:

- A brief overview of the supply and demand for cricket
- An understanding of activity at individual sites
- A picture of the adequacy of current provision and
- The future picture of provision for cricket.

Supply

- 4.1 Table 4.1 summarises the cricket facilities that are available in Westmorland and Furness. It records 39 grass squares. There is an additional square at a club site (Penrith CC) with an artificial wicket and there are also three schools that have NTPs.
- 4.2 There is at least one cricket facility in each of the sub areas across Westmorland and Furness and a wide geographical dispersion of facilities. Cricket grounds appear to be important community facilities in some of the more rural settlements of Westmorland and Furness.
- 4.3 Provision is highest in the former South Lakeland authority area, with just over half of all grass squares located in this area. There are only 5 cricket squares in the former Barrow Borough. Four of these five squares are located in the Barrow and Walney sub area, with just one in Remainder of Barrow Borough (in Dalton).
- 4.4 In the former Eden area, most cricket facilities fall into the Penrith and M6 Corridor area (7 out of 10), whilst in South Lakeland, provision is equitably spread across the sub areas.

Table 4.1 – Cricket Provision across Westmorland and Furness

Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Number Community Sites (Grass Square)	Number of Community Sites (NTP)	School Sites (Grass Square)	School Sites (NTP)	Sites Provided
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	4	0	0	0	Barrow CC, Furness CC, Hawcoat Park Sports Club Vickerstown CC
Barrow Borough	Remainder of Barrow Borough	1	0	0	0	Dalton CC
Eden	Kirkby Stephen	1	1 (on same square)	0	0	Kirkby Stephen CC
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	7	4 (same squares)	0	0	Edenhall CC, Gamblesby CC, Nunwick CC, Penrith CC (2), Stainton CC, Staffield CC
Eden	Appleby	1	0	0	0	Appleby Eden CC
Eden	Alston	0	0	0	0	
Eden	LDNP	2	0	0	0	Patterdale CC, Threlkeld CC

Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Number Community Sites (Grass Square)	Number of Community Sites (NTP)	School Sites (Grass Square)	School Sites (NTP)	Sites Provided
Eden	YDNP					
South Lakeland	Kendal	5	5 (on same squares)	0	0	Kendal CC, Netherfield CC, Burneside CC, Sedgwick CC
South Lakeland	Milnthorpe	3	1 (on same square)	0	0	Milnthorpe CC, Holme CC, Arnside CC
South Lakeland	Kirkby Lonsdale	1	0	2	0	Lunesdale Park (Kirkby Lonsdale CC), Casterton Sedbergh School, Queen Elizabeth School
South Lakeland	Cartmel Peninsula	2	1 (on same square)	0	1	Cartmel Park (grass and NTP), Holker Cricket Club
South Lakeland	Ulverston and surrounding area	3	0	0	0	Ulverston CC, Lindal Moor CC, Kirkby in Furness CC
South Lakeland	LDNP	4	1 (on same square)	0	2	Ambleside CC, Coniston CC, Windermere CC, Leven Valley CC, John Ruskin School, The Lakes School
South Lakeland	YDNP	0	0	4	1	Sedbergh School (4 squares), Settlebeck School.

4.5 Table 4.1 demonstrates that there are few opportunities for cricket on education sites.

4.6 The majority of clubs have security of tenure, either through a lease or ownership of the site. Where clubs do not have security of tenure, as well as the lack of guaranteed access each season, they are typically also unable to access funding to improve their facilities. Those clubs that are understood to not have full security of tenure include:

- Kirkby in Furness Cricket Club – rented from community ground
- Arnside Cricket Club – rented from Parish Council
- Milnthorpe Cricket Club – sub-let from Parish Council
- Stainton Cricket Club – informal agreement with Recreation Ground committee
- Staffield Cricket Club – Annual rent from local landowner.

Disused Cricket Pitches

4.7 There are no disused sites that have previously contained cricket pitches. The following sites (which are still active) used to contain facilities for cricket but no longer do so:

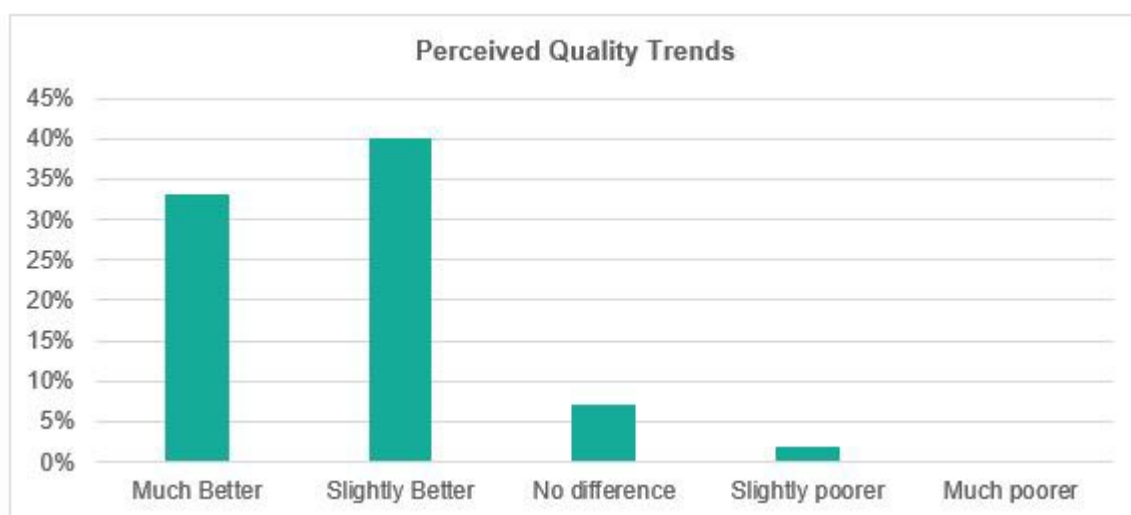
- Duddon Sports and Social Club
- Frenchfield Sports Centre
- Millenium Field, Ravenstonedale.

4.8 It is understood that these no longer provide cricket due to a lack of local demand.

Grass Pitch Quality

- 4.9 The quality of club cricket grounds was evaluated through a variety of means. Final pitch ratings have been derived through the triangulation of data (NGB feedback and quality audit, club feedback, site visits). This has enabled the production of an accurate picture of quality.
- 4.10 To inform decision making in relation to each site, non-technical site assessments were undertaken as part of the assessment process. These took place during the cricket season and provide an overview of all sites. Clubs were also asked to comment on the quality of their own facilities.
- 4.11 Figure 4.1 demonstrates that there is a general perception that the quality of facilities is improving. The same perception is evident across the whole of Westmorland and Furness.

Figure 4.1– Perceived Trends in Pitch Quality



- 4.12 Enhanced maintenance procedures / efforts of volunteers were identified as the key reason by all clubs where improvements have been made. Whilst most clubs have access to qualified groundsmen (some through paying contractors rather than skilled club members), there remain some clubs that continue to depend solely on unqualified groundsmen and volunteers. Volunteers were highlighted as being critical to the success of a club.
- 4.13 For those clubs where there had been no improvement, this was attributed to a lack of appropriate volunteers / groundsmen.
- 4.14 Whilst quality of the squares has improved, clubs report continuing issues with the condition / availability of training facilities, as well as the need for investment into associated ancillary facilities. The increasing focus on accommodating female (and junior) cricket in particular generates a need to provide improved and segregated facilities and some clubs highlight this as a priority. Training facilities and works to pavilions / clubhouses emerged as the key issues emerging from consultation.
- 4.15 It is clear that significant recent investment has taken place into the cricket club infrastructure, with most clubs able to list improvements that they have undertaken in the last three years. Many clubs have also received funding, including ECB Return to Play, Inspired to Play Grants and a small number of clubs have also benefitted from storm damage funds following the decimation of their facilities. Many clubs have also benefitted from the ECB pitch advisory scheme which is designed to support clubs in the management and maintenance of their facilities.

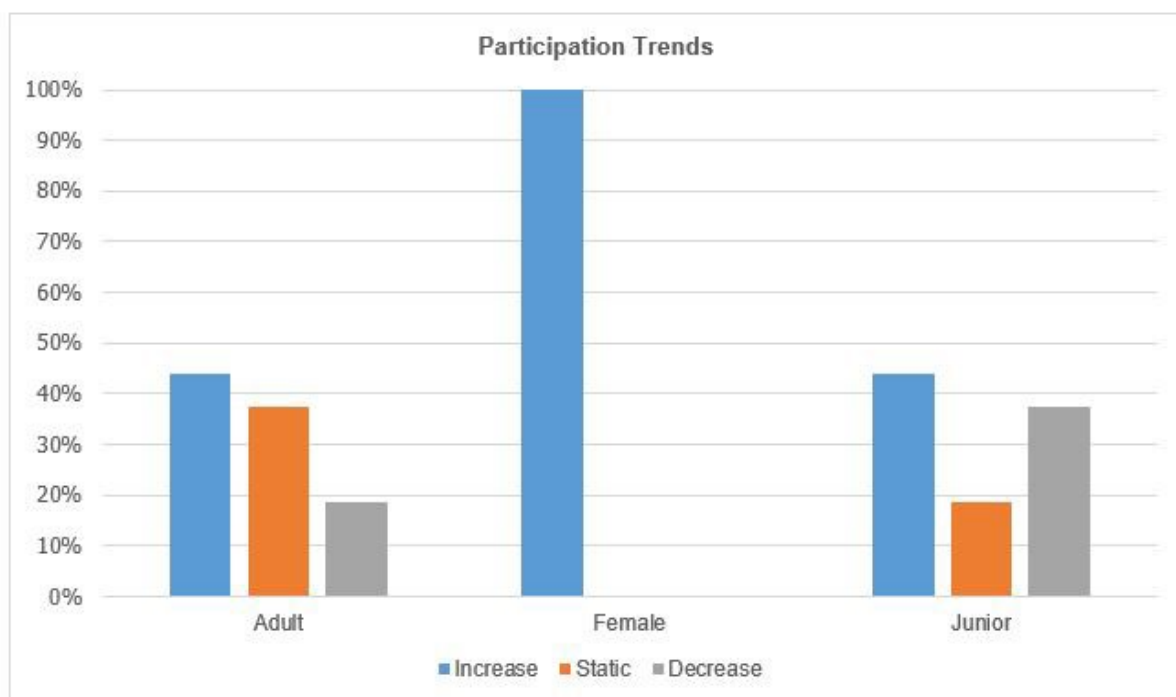
- 4.16 Reflecting the recent maintenance efforts and investment that was reported by clubs, site visits demonstrate that all but one ground is functional and playable for the standard of play that they sustain (although most facilities would benefit from further investment).
- 4.17 In general, the key issues identified during site visits reflect comments made by clubs, specifically:
- Squares are adequate and well maintained, with clubs clearly prioritising this area of the facility. There are few issues identified with the quality of squares, although fairy ring was found on some sites
 - The quality of outfield is more varying, with the surface of some grounds uneven, and some moss and weeds evident. There was also evidence of rabbits, badgers and unofficial use
 - The quality of training facilities is a concern – there is a lack of facilities on some sites and poor quality facilities on others. Where clubs do not have off field training resources, there is a greater reliance on the use of the square. The need to replace ageing / defunct Non Turf Pitches (NTPs) was identified on several sites and some training nets were also poor
 - The majority of clubs have pavilions that are functional, and many have recently invested in them. Most clubs have function rooms and clubhouses as well as changing rooms. Some are however ageing and modernisation is required to support cricket development.
- 4.18 Site by site quality issues will be explored later in this section.
- 4.19 It should be noted that in many instances, outfield and square issues can be improved by tailored maintenance programmes rather than costly interventions such as drainage installation. This will be explored further in the strategy document, but any capital investment should be preceded by detailed grounds maintenance and pitch condition reports in order to determine the best approach to addressing the issues identified.

Demand

Club Based Demand

- 4.20 Cricket in Cumbria is currently strong and more clubs are experiencing increase than decline across all age groups and genders. This is illustrated in Figure 4.2. In particular, all clubs that are encouraging female players are experiencing rapid increase. The same patterns are evident across all parts of Westmorland and Furness.

Figure 4.2 – Participation in Cumbria



- 4.21 Teams typically participate in:

- Cumbria Cricket League (former Barrow Borough area)
- Westmorland and Furness Cricket League (former South Lakeland area)
- Eden Valley Cricket League (former Eden Area)
- Northern Cricket League (higher standard league with a wider geographical catchment).

- 4.22 There are also strong midweek cricket opportunities:

- Furness Alliance (predominantly former Barrow Borough area and Ulverston)
- Cumbria Villages Cricket League (former Eden area)
- Northern Premier League T20 (former Eden and South Lakeland areas).

- 4.23 The senior leagues play predominantly on a Saturday, but many third / fourth eleven games take place on a Sunday to ensure that fixtures can be accommodated. Eden Valley League runs a Sunday league to maximise the opportunities for adult cricket.

- 4.24 In response to increasing demand for women and girls cricket, Cumbria Cricket have introduced women and girls cricket hubs. These hub sites seek to promote the development of female cricket and therefore require appropriate facilities to enable this to be delivered.

4.25 The hub sites are geographically spread across Westmorland and Furness to maximise opportunity, and are located in:

- Former Barrow Borough – Barrow Town, Dalton
- Former Eden - Appleby, Penrith, Stainton, Threlkeld
- Former South Lakeland – Burneside, Holme, Lindal, Milnthorpe, Netherfield, Sedgwick, Ulverston.

4.26 The provision of appropriate facilities at the above sites will therefore be crucial in the drive to grow female cricket.

4.27 Table 4.2 sets out the spread of teams that play across Westmorland and Furness.

Table 4.2 – Demand for Cricket across Westmorland and Furness

Former Authority Area	Senior Male	Senior Female	Junior	Midweek
Barrow Borough	13	2	11	7
Eden	19	2	19	6
South Lakeland	35	3	43	9
Total	67	7	73	22

4.28 Table 4.2 demonstrates that the largest proportion of teams in Westmorland and Furness are based in the South Lakeland area. This corresponds with the largest quantity of pitches also being in this area. Just 17% of teams are based in the Barrow area.

4.29 With 43% of all teams across Westmorland and Furness being junior teams, this suggests that there are strong foundations for growth in cricket. There is a similar proportion of junior teams in each of the former authority areas, meaning that this positive sign is evident in all parts.

4.30 Whilst clubs with larger junior sections are more sustainable, facility requirements increase at the same time as juniors place extra pressures both on match play facilities but also in relation to training facilities. Engagement with ECB schemes designed to attract new players further increases the usage of the club base.

4.31 Although many of the clubs in Westmorland and Furness are large, several clubs do have only one team. Clubs with only one team typically struggle more in terms of managing and maintaining facilities, as they have lower income and fewer volunteers. As such, they are considered to be less sustainable. The following clubs currently have just one team (or one team and a midweek team):

- Former Barrow Borough - Hawcoat Park Sports Club
- Former Eden - Edenhall CC, Staffield CC (one senior team and a midweek), Gamblesby CC, Patterdale CC, Nunwick CC
- Former South Lakeland – Ambleside, Holker, Leven Valley.

4.32 This clearly demonstrates that a higher proportion of clubs in Eden have just one team than in the other parts of Westmorland and Furness. This suggests that supporting these clubs will be a key priority. It is important to note that it does not suggest that these sites are not a valuable resource for cricket.

4.33 Further detail on demand at each club site is provided later in this section.

Displaced, Latent and Unmet Demand

- 4.34 There is no evidence of any displaced or latent demand in Westmorland and Furness.

Other Demand

- 4.35 One of the major uses of cricket grounds in Westmorland and Furness outside of match play is training. Several clubs without off field training facilities use the square for training one or more times per week.
- 4.36 In addition to this, 15 clubs indicate that they have hosted (or currently host) Cumbria County and District Pathway Cricket. This is reliant upon the provision of a ground of an appropriate quality, and the usage adds extra wear and tear to the wickets. Barrow, Burneside, Coniston, Furness, Holme, Kendal, Kirkby Stephen, Lindal Moor, Netherfield, Penrith, Sedgwick, Stainton and Ulverston Cricket Clubs all currently host such activities.
- 4.37 Many clubs also engage with ECB programmes including All Stars and Dynamos. These add additional wear and tear, although this is typically focused on the outfield rather than the square itself. This all impacts upon the level of use that the grounds are subjected to, but also increases the challenges with scheduling fixtures as well as training.

Training Needs

- 4.38 Access to appropriate training facilities emerged as one of the key issues in consultation with clubs.
- 4.39 Clubs primarily use indoor training nets / sports halls during the winter months and a lack of indoor facilities was highlighted as a key issue by several clubs.
- 4.40 A variety of sites are used, with clubs travelling to:
- Former Barrow Borough - Furness College, Walney School, Dowdales
 - Former Eden – Penrith Leisure Centre
 - Former South Lakeland - Dallam School, The Lakes School.
- 4.41 A small number of cricket clubs reported a need for better access to indoor cricket facilities, with some concerns about the challenges accessing nets when competing with other sports.
- 4.42 In the summer, clubs train predominantly at their club base. As was highlighted earlier in this section, training facilities at many club sites are typically either poor quality or lacking. This therefore impacts on the wear and tear of the square and also reduces the training that can be achieved.
- 4.43 The ECB highlight the importance of clubs having access to appropriate training facilities – this is particularly important for clubs trying to grow / sustain junior sections, as juniors tend to gravitate towards high quality training facilities and a developmental environment. A lack of off field training facilities can also restrict the amount of development activities that can take place, as youth training / implementation of All Stars programmes etc starts to conflict with space required for training.
- 4.44 The quality of facilities at each cricket ground on a site-specific level is explored later in this section.
- ### **Schools Cricket**
- 4.45 Demand for formal cricket pitches is much less evident from the education sector than other sports. While many primary schools play cricket and have cricket teams, this is primarily kwik cricket played indoors or on the playground. The Chance to Shine Programme, which brings cricket back into primary schools and seeks to create strong links between schools and clubs

has however been particularly successful nationwide and locally. Around half of all responding schools indicate that cricket is on their curriculum.

- 4.46 Participation in secondary schools is more limited, primarily as a result of the lack of cricket facilities at these school sites. With four cricket grounds, Sedbergh School are very active in cricket and participate in the local community league (Westmorland and Furness Cricket League) as well as both midweek and at weekends in school leagues. Cricket is also played at Casterton Sedbergh School and Queen Elizabeth School. Outside of these schools, there is little regular participation in cricket. Furness Cricket Club and Kendal Cricket Club indicate that there is some ad hoc usage of their facilities by schools but in general, a lack of cricket played in schools was one of the key barriers to cricket development highlighted by clubs.

Adequacy of Provision

- 4.47 The adequacy of facilities for cricket is measured by comparing the number of wickets available against the level of use of these wickets. This is considered at a site-specific level and then compiled to present a sub area and authority -wide picture.
- 4.48 For cricket, unlike other pitch sports, the capacity of a pitch is measured on a seasonal basis (as opposed to weekly) and is primarily determined by the number and quality of wickets on a pitch. Play is rotated throughout the season across the wickets to reduce wear and allow for repair. Consideration is however also given to the availability of facilities at peak time.
- 4.49 With regards capacity, 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); and
 - 80 matches per season per non-turf wicket (juniors).
- 4.50 For sites where the condition of the wicket is poorer, the amount of games that can be sustained without impact on the condition of the facility is lower. Standard quality wickets are able to sustain 4 adult games (5 junior) per season, whilst poor facilities should not be considered to offer any capacity for health and safety reasons. Only one facility in Westmorland and Furness (Holker Cricket Club) is currently classified as poor. Matches were cancelled at this ground this season as the square was unplayable.
- 4.51 For the purposes of calculations, demand is therefore measured in terms of the number of home games that each team will play per season. It is acknowledged that this is approximate (as fixtures can be cancelled, and progress in cup competitions for example varies each year). The number of additional games (representative cricket, Cumbria Cricket etc) will also be different annually.
- 4.52 The site-specific calculations are set out later in this section in individual sections relating to the three former local authorities. Table 4.3 however provides an overview of the adequacy of provision across Westmorland and Furness as a whole, and within the three former authorities.

4.53 Table 4.3 contains the following information:

- Number of wickets required to accommodate adult play (based upon number of games each adult team plays and assumption of wicket capacity where good wickets can take 5 games and standard wickets can sustain 4 games)
- Number of wickets required to accommodate junior play (based upon number of games each adult team plays and assumption of wicket capacity where good wickets can take 7 games and standard wickets can sustain 5 games)
- Total number of wickets required to meet demand
- Spare capacity (i.e. capacity of adult wickets on each site minus demand from adult teams, likewise for junior teams) and the potential additional MES that could be accommodated.

4.54 Figures with a ‘-’ indicate that the wickets are overplayed i.e. demand is greater than supply. Figures assume that all match play takes place on grass wickets, which reflects the feedback provided during consultation and is also a consequence of the limited availability of on field non turf wickets.

4.55 Whilst it is acknowledged that part strips do not exist, Table 4.3 (and subsequent tables) include decimals where a strip is not fully used. All figures should be rounded up.

Table 4.3 – Supply and Demand for Cricket across Westmorland and Furness

Authority Area	Number of Wickets Required	Total Number of Wickets Available	Spare Capacity (wickets)	Approximate Spare Capacity (MES)	Comment
Former Barrow Borough	54	64	10	52	Overplay at Dalton CC
Former Eden	66	83	17	85	Overplay at Appleby Eden CC (minimal), Stainton CC and Temple Sowerby CC (minimal).
Former South Lakeland	141.5	192	50	250	Overplay at Lindal Moor CC (very limited), Milnthorpe CC (very limited) and Ulverston CC.
Westmorland and Furness	261	339	77	385	Strong level of spare capacity but overplay at small number of sites.

NB: Note spare capacity may not tally as a direct correlation between wickets available and required due to impact of NTP and overplay which is taken into account in these calculations.

4.56 Table 4.3 indicates that:

- Across Westmorland and Furness as a whole, provision is adequate to meet current demand. With 77 wickets spare capacity, approximately 385 additional games could be accommodated
 - There is also spare capacity within each of the former authority areas, specifically:
 - In the former Barrow Borough area, spare capacity is relatively limited (10 strips) and there is overplay at Dalton CC. There is however a relatively small stock of facilities in this part of the former Borough
 - In the former Eden area, spare capacity is slightly higher. In part, this is because there is a greater proportion of clubs that have only one team. Notably however, many of the grounds also have small squares, which limits the overall capacity of the site. Spare capacity in this area equates to 17 wickets and is therefore higher than in the former Barrow Borough area. There are two sites where pressures are evident – these are at Appleby CC and Stainton CC
 - The amount of grounds is highest in the former South Lakeland area and the highest levels of spare capacity are also in this area. With over 50 strips spare capacity, an additional 250 games could take place. There is however overplay at Ulverston CC and Lindal Moor CC -these are both large clubs.
- 4.57 On a site-specific note (set out in detail later in this section, it is clear that the majority of cricket grounds have adequate capacity to accommodate their current activity. The following clubs are over capacity:
- Dalton in Furness CC (large club with lots of teams, no NTP on square, standard quality rating)
 - Appleby Eden CC – large club with no NTP on the square
 - Stainton CC – small square and junior activity. Club benefit from NTP on the square but provision remains tight
 - Lindal Moor CC – large club with no NTP on square
 - Ulverston CC – high demand and no NTP on square.
- 4.58 It is clear that the clubs that are close to capacity are the larger clubs, running multiple teams and typically also participating in the ECB engagement programmes, as well as hosting ad hoc pathway competition.
- 4.59 All active grass pitches accommodate cricket during the season.
- 4.60 It should be noted that for some clubs, there is additional wear and tear on the wicket due to ad hoc use for grass square for training. This arises directly as a result of the lack of suitable off field training facilities.

Peak Time Demand

- 4.61 While Table 4.3 demonstrates that there is a small amount of spare capacity, scheduling and programming of cricket matches must also be taken into consideration.
- 4.62 Adult cricket fixtures are generally played over several hours and only one home fixture can be played in a day. With most senior cricket taking place at the weekend, this therefore limits the capacity of the ground.
- 4.63 Table 4.4 therefore summarises the availability of cricket pitches at peak time and reveals that there is some scope for additional play. Notably however, when considering availability on site-specific level, it is clear that the majority of spare capacity exists at the smaller sites. The quality of these is lower than that at some of the larger clubs and therefore the facilities may not necessarily meet all requirements.
- 4.64 There is scope for additional play in all parts of Westmorland and Furness , although this is limited in the former Barrow Borough area, where only Hawcoat Park Sports Club is able to accommodate additional activity.
- 4.65 Table 4.4 considers both spare capacity at peak time (i.e. when the ground is unused) but also actual spare capacity. Actual spare capacity can only exist where there is enough spare capacity on the wicket to accommodate at least one additional adult team at peak time (2 wickets).

Table 4.4 – Peak Time Demand

Former Existing Authority and Local	Spare Capacity at Peak Time (MES)	Actual Spare Capacity (MES)	Spare Capacity Location
Barrow Borough	0.5	0.5	Hawcoat Park Sports Club
Eden	5	3	Edenhall Cricket Club, Patterdale Cricket Club, Nunwick CC, Penrith CC (on NTP square), Stafffield CC, Threlkeld CC, Temple Sowerby CC.
South Lakeland	3.5	3	Ambleside CC, Cartmel CC, Holker CC (poor), Leven Valley CC, Kirkby in Furness CC, Netherfield CC, Windermere CC,
Westmorland and Furness	9	6.5	

- 4.66 The next section considers the site-specific issues for cricket in each of the three former authority areas and provides a breakdown of the adequacy of provision by sub area.

Former Barrow Borough

- 4.67 The former Barrow Borough area contains the smallest stock of cricket facilities of the three former authority areas. On the whole however, participation is improving and there is a sustainable network of clubs. Hawcoat Park Sports Club have experienced some decline, however the remaining clubs are all now seeing increased participation. A lack of engagement with cricket by schools is however considered to be a barrier to ongoing growth.
- 4.68 Table 4.5 summarises the facilities that are provided and the qualitative improvements that are required, outlining the key issues relating to:
- The outfield and wicket
 - Training facilities and NTPs
 - The pavilion.
- 4.69 It demonstrates that at four of the five clubs, the key priorities in this part of Westmorland and Furness relate to the improvement of training facilities. The quality of cricket grounds is predominantly good, but works are also required to pavilions to bring them up to modern day standards. In addition, investment into improved facilities for women and girls is a key priority for Barrow CC, which has been identified as a hub site by Cumbria Cricket.
- 4.70 Table 4.6 summarises the supply and demand at each facility, and the adequacy of provision. It indicates that:
- The greatest pressures are evident at Dalton CC – these are influenced by the quality of the facility (standard) as well as the growing number of teams that the club run
 - There is a small amount of spare capacity on most other sites
 - Spare capacity at peak time is limited, with Hawcoat Park Sports Club the only site offering potential to increase participation.
- 4.71 None of the cricket grounds have NTPs and this therefore represents an opportunity to increase capacity.

Table 4.5 – Site Specific Quality Issues

Sub Area	Site Name	Wicket / Outfield	Training Facilities	Pavilion	Key Priorities
Barrow and Walney	Barrow Cricket Club	Even wickets but uneven outfield and some bare patches. Some issues with moss and fairy ring on outfield. Square undulating	Artificial wicket external 2 net bay. Bowling machine and miscellaneous training aids.	2 changing rooms, 2 showers in each. Umpires room. Kitchen. Large clubhouse and bar area. In need of a female changing facility. Parking issues due to location adjacent to hospital. Require female changing.	Female changing facilities and combatting moss with new drainage system
Remainder of Barrow Borough	Dalton-in-Furness Cricket Club	Even outfield, uneven wickets and evidence of fairy ring.	2 laned fully enclosed artificial surface nets. Mobile cage.	2 changing rooms, umpires room. Clubhouse containing kitchen, bar and function room. Dated, two toilet facilities are unsuitable.	New mobile net and grass practice pitches
Barrow and Walney	Furness Cricket Club	Two squares at right angles sharing same outfield. Outfield uneven cutting at time of site visits.	2 hard surface nets, mobile cage.	2 changing rooms with open showers. Large function room, bar and lounge. Dated in parts.	Mobile nets need repair
Barrow and Walney	Hawcoat Park Sports Club	Good square although bare patch evident. Some fairy ring and weeds on outfield.	NTP on the outfield (dated). Mobile nets.	6 rooms, 3 big and 3 small. Umpires room, kitchen, clubhouse and function room. Dated	Updated NTP / training facilities
Barrow and Walney	Vickerstown Cricket Club	Well maintained site with some evidence of vandalism. Square appeared even. Sight screens damaged. Club highlight lack of machinery for maintenance	Old and dated nets.	2 small changing rooms with open showers. Dated clubhouse and pavilion	Practice nets or mobile net cage, sight screens. Updating and adding machinery

Table 4.6 – Site Overviews – Former Barrow Borough

Sub Area	Site Name	number of wickets (Natural)	NTP on Square	Pitch Rating	NTP Rating	Number of Games (Senior)	Number of Games (Junior)	Wickets Required (Adult)	Wickets Required (Junior)	Total Wickets Required	Supply / Demand Position	Peak Time Position	Actual Spare Capacity at Peak Time
Barrow and Walney	Barrow Cricket Club	16	0	High Standard to Good	Good	48	18	9.6	2.6	12.2	3.8	0	0
Remainder of Barrow Borough	Dalton Cricket Club	16	0	Standard	N/a	64	18	16.0	3.6	19.6	-3.6	0	0
Barrow and Walney	Furness Cricket Club	12	0	Good	N/a	36	30	7.2	4.3	11.5	0.5	0	0
Barrow and Walney	Hawcoat Park Sports And Social Club	8		Good	Standard to poor	16	0	3.2	0.0	3.2	4.8	0.5	0.5
Barrow and Walney	Vickerstown Cricket Club	12	0	Standard	N/a	28	0	7.0	0.0	7.0	5	0	0

- 4.72 Table 4.7 brings together the site-specific information to present an overall picture in the former Barrow Borough area by sub area. It reveals that with only one ground in the remainder of Barrow (Dalton CC), there is insufficient capacity in this area. There is a small amount of spare capacity in Barrow and Walney itself, although this is limited.
- 4.73 Spare capacity at peak time is also limited, with only Hawcoat Park offering the opportunity for any additional play at peak time.

Table 4.7 – Adequacy of Cricket Facilities in the former Barrow Borough area

Sub Area	Number of Wickets Required (adult play)	Total Number of Wickets Available	Spare Capacity (wickets)	Approximate Spare Capacity (MES)	Spare Capacity at Peak Time	Comment
Barrow and Walney	34	48	14	70	0.5	No overplay Hawcoat Park is the only site with spare capacity at peak time
Remainder of Barrow Borough	20	16	-4	-20	0	Overplay at Dalton CC

Former Eden Area

- 4.74 The former Eden area is characterised by smaller clubs which operate from smaller grounds. This means that sustainability is a greater concern in this part of Westmorland and Furness than in other areas. The dispersed nature of the population in Eden however means that to serve local residents and provide cricket on their doorstep, more facilities are required. These smaller sites are however supplemented by larger clubs in the bigger settlements, specifically Appleby, Kirkby Stephen and Penrith.
- 4.75 Table 4.8 summarises the facilities that are provided and the qualitative improvements that are required, outlining the key issues relating to:
- The outfield and wicket
 - Training facilities and NTPs
 - The pavilion.
- 4.76 It demonstrates that the quality of club sites is predominantly good, with all facilities playable and most achieving ratings of good. For most clubs, the key priorities are training facilities and works are also required to pavilions to bring them up to modern day standards. Threlkeld, Stainton, Penrith and Appleby CC are designated female cricket hubs and therefore have an important role to play in female development. Gaps in facilities at these sites will therefore be particularly critical.
- 4.77 Table 4.9 summarises the supply and demand at each facility, and the adequacy of provision. It indicates that:
- The greatest pressures are evident at Appleby and Stainton CC, with both sites having small amounts of overplay. There is an NTP at Stainton that could be used to take additional play to reduce the overplay

- There is spare capacity on most other sites, although is minimal at all sites, with only Staffield CC, Edenhall CC and Patterdale CC having more than 4 wickets spare
- The small size of most clubs means that the majority could accommodate additional play at peak time. There is no remaining spare capacity at Appleby CC or Penrith CC (unless the game was played on the NTP).

Table 4.8 – Site-Specific Quality Issues

Sub Area	Club	Wicket / Outfield	Training Facilities	Pavilion	Key Priorities
Appleby	Appleby Eden Cricket Club	Even and well maintained. Drainage installed and recently levelled following flooding.	2 line practice net area, sand on area at time of visit.	ECB standard new pavilion following flooding. Kitchen, function room excellent condition.	Extension of practice net facilities
Penrith and M6 Corridor	Edenhall Cricket Club	Outfield shared with football and croquet and restricted. Volunteer maintained. Nice location with no clear issues evident.	Roll on training cage, 1 bay. 1 lane at rear of pavilion in poor condition	2 small changing rooms, clubhouse under renovation. Kitchen	Training nets
Penrith and M6 Corridor	Gamblesby CC	Basic grass cricket facility with small square. Weeds in the outfield and long. Limited quality but functional. Maintained by volunteers and requires attention if cricket is to be sustained	Single net facility	2 small changing rooms in cabin. No running water, no showers, kitchen or catering facility. No electricity either	Changing room renovations
LDNP	Patterdale CC	Well-presented cricket field also used by football.	Mobile nets, no NTP or training bay	New pavilion, 3 changing rooms and shower cubicles. Includes female changing.	Training facilities
Kirkby Stephen	Kirkby Stephen CC	Outfield even and strong maintenance regime means square is even and plays well. Volunteer groundstaff and issues accessing ground	Dated outdoor training nets x 2	Limited size and quality, small changing rooms and no umpires rom. Includes kitchen	New nets, electric supply for bowling machine, mobile net cage. Bridge and mains electricity
Penrith and M6 Corridor	Nunwick Cricket Club	Large cricket ground in rural location on slope. Some mole / rabbit damage.	NTP old and requires replacement, artificial training bay good condition	Large pavilion	Replacement NTP. Address outfield issues
Penrith and M6 Corridor	Penrith Cricket Club	Playing area uneven in parts but in good condition overall. Site contains two grounds. Second square is artificial only and is used by Ullswater College as well as the club. Functional square for match play	New 3 lane practice facility. NTP requires refurbishment	Large clubhouse, portacabin used for changing for second pitch and has no showers. Kitchen requires upgrade, no umpires room. Club have aspirations to upgrade pavilion changing rooms and extend function room.	Architect plans and planning permission for a new 5 changing room block to serve both pitches.

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Sub Area	Club	Wicket / Outfield	Training Facilities	Pavilion	Key Priorities
Penrith and M6 Corridor	Stainton Cricket Club	Ground appears tired, but square and outfield both functional. Maintenance undertaken by club volunteers	2 bay Artificial practice lanes and NTP require replacement. Roll on cage.	Small changing rooms in pavilion with two showers, no umpires room, kitchen. Toilet facilities require upgrading	Upgrade of toilets and shower facilities, practice facilities require replacement. Landscape outfield to improve drainage, quality of surface and increase pitch area.
Penrith and M6 Corridor	Staffield CC	Wicket and outfield even, although wicket suffers from moss issues. Struggle with maintenance in this area, maintenance undertaken by club volunteers.	Portable nets 1 bay. Adequate condition.	Traditional wooden pavilion, 2 changing rooms. No umpire room. Upgrade to away changing rooms and provision of accessible visitor toilet required. Also includes function room and kitchen	Extension of pavilion to modernise changing facility showers and toilets.
LDNP	Threlkeld Cricket Club	Beautiful setting and well presented. Square dipped in parts and has historically suffered from flooding	NTP requires new surface. 2 bay nets also require investment.	Large pavilion which includes catering facilities and function room	Training facilities
Appleby	Temple Sowerby Cricket Club	Maintained by volunteers. NTP on square. Rabbits dig holes on the outfield and cause holes which need filling constantly.	NTP on square. Roll on mobile cage.	Wooden pavilion with 2 changing rooms, toilets require upgrading. Includes kitchen	Outfield, Ancillary provision

Table 4.9 – Supply and Demand at each Cricket Ground

Sub Area	Site Name	No. of wickets (grass)	NTP on Square.	Pitch Rating	NTP Rating	No. of Games (Snr)	No. of Games (Jnr)	Wickets needed. (Adult)	Wickets needed (Junior)	Total Wickets needed.	Supply / Demand Position	Peak Time Position	Actual Spare Capacity at Peak Time	Position at Club if NTP not used
Appleby	Appleby Eden Cricket Club	12		Good	Good	48	24	9.6	3.4	13.0	-1.0	0	0	
Penrith and M6 Corridor	Edenhall Cricket Club	8	0	High Standard to Good	N/a	16	0	3.2	0	3.2	4.8	0.5	0.5	
Penrith and M6 Corridor	Gamblesby Recreation Field	4	0	Low standard	Poor	12	0	3	0	3	1	0.5	0	
LDNP	King George V Playing Fields (Penrith) - Patterdale Cricket Club	8	0	Good	N/a	12	0	2.4	0	2.4	5.6	0.5	0.5	
Kirkby Stephen	Kirkby Stephen Cricket Club	5	1	Good		16	0	3.2	0	3.2	1.8	0.5	0	-3.2
Penrith and M6 Corridor	Nunwick Cricket Club	5	0	Standard	Poor	12	0	3	0	3	2	0.5	0.5	2
Penrith and M6 Corridor	Penrith Cricket Club	10	1	Good	Standard	48	18	9.6		9.6	0.4	0	0	-4.7
Penrith and M6 Corridor	Penrith Cricket Club	0	1	Good	Good	0	0	0	2.57	0		0.5	0.5	0
Penrith and M6 Corridor	Stainton Recreation Ground	5	1	Standard	Poor	44	0	11	0	11	-6	0.5	0	-6.4
Penrith and M6 Corridor	The Old Show Field - Staffield Cc	7	1	Good	N/a	12	0	2.4	0	2.4	4.6	0.5	0.5	3.8
LDNP	Threlkeld Cricket Ground	14	0	Good	Poor	40	12	8	1.71	9.7	4.3	0.5	0.5	4.2857143
Appleby	Temple Sowerby Cc	5	1	Standard	N/a	12	12	3	2.4	5.4	-0.4	0.5	0	

4.78 Table 4.10 brings together the site-specific information to present an overall picture in the former Eden area by sub area. It reveals that:

- In the Appleby area overall, there is insufficient provision, with the pressures at Appleby CC generating greater unmet demand than the amount of spare capacity available at Temple Sowerby CC. There is no remaining actual spare capacity at peak time
- Kirkby Stephen CC is an important facility, being the only cricket ground in this part of Eden. There is a small amount of spare capacity, but none at peak time. The club have significant aspirations for improvement and growth
- Both sites in the LDNP have spare capacity at peak time and across the season
- Overall there is adequate capacity in Penrith across the season and at peak time. Stainton CC is the only site in this area where provision is at capacity, and this arises because of the large number of teams and the small size of the square.

Table 4.10 – Adequacy of Provision across Eden

Sub Area	Number of Wickets Required (adult play)	Total Number of Wickets Available	Spare Capacity (wickets)	Approximate Spare Capacity (MES)	Spare Capacity at Peak Time	Comment
Penrith and M6 Corridor	32	39	7	35	2	Overplay at Stainton CC Spare capacity at peak time at Edenhall, Nunwick, Penrith and Staffield
Appleby	18.5	17	-1.5	0	0	No spare capacity at peak time Overplay at both sites in the area (Temple Sowerby CC and Appleby CC), although very minimal
Kirkby Stephen	3	5	2	10	0	No spare capacity at peak time Small amount of availability at Kirkby Stephen CC due to use of NTP
Alston	0	0	0	0	0	No provision No evidence of demand
LDNP	12	22	10	20	1	Spare capacity at peak time at Threlkeld and Patterdale Both sites just have adequate capacity to meet demand

- 4.79 Ongoing improvements to quality and associated facilities will be priority in this part of Westmorland and Furness, there is no clear requirement for additional capacity to meet current demand.

Former South Lakeland Area

- 4.80 The former South Lakeland area contains the largest amount of clubs in Westmorland and Furness and in general, participation continues to grow. Like the other areas, the quality of cricket grounds in general is deemed to be improving, primarily as a result of strong efforts to enhance maintenance procedures.
- 4.81 Table 4.11 summarises the facilities that are provided and the qualitative improvements that are required, outlining the key issues relating to:
- The outfield and wicket
 - Training facilities and NTPs
 - The pavilion.
- 4.82 It demonstrates that the quality of club sites is predominantly good, with all facilities except Holker Cricket Ground playable and most achieving ratings of good. For most clubs, the key priorities are training facilities and improvement works to pavilions and clubhouses. At Holker CC, Kendal CC and Ambleside CC, improvements are also identified as being required to the grounds themselves.
- 4.83 Table 4.12 summarises the supply and demand at each facility, and the adequacy of provision. It indicates that:
- The greatest pressures are evident in Milnthorpe, Lindal Moor and Ulverston. The highest deficiencies in provision are found in Ulverston and surrounding area
 - There is spare capacity on most other sites, and most grounds are able to sustain at least an additional adult team. This means that the spare capacity in South Lakeland is greater than in other areas
 - There is spare capacity on several sites at peak time, however it is evident that none of the larger clubs are able to accommodate additional play on a Saturday. This may mean that if adult cricket is to continue to increase, there will be a need to pair larger clubs with smaller clubs to accommodate their teams.
- 4.84 It is notable that the number of grounds supported by NTP on the square is much higher in the former South Lakeland area of Westmorland and Furness than in the former Eden and Barrow Borough areas. This contributes to the adequacy of provision, with games at several sites accommodated on NTP.

Table 4.11 – Site-Specific Quality Issues

Sub Area	Club	Wicket / Outfield	Training Facilities	Pavilion	Key Priorities
LDNP	Ambleside Cricket Club	Grass coverage acceptable, both outfield and wicket are uneven. Undulating playing surface	No non turf wicket. Club have one standing training net, portable square practice surface and net. Nets require refurbishment	2 small changing rooms, 1 shower, no umpires room. Small kitchen and function room. In good condition	Levelling playing surface, re- fence boundary, nets require replacement
Kendal	Burneside Cricket Club	Edge of village, tidy site, well maintained by volunteers and in good condition. Outfield floods and could do with being levelled to bring it to senior county level.	NTP requires replacement. 3 lane fully enclosed net facility.	2 changing rooms, small kitchen and function room. Would benefit from modernisation to improve accessibility to pavilion.	Training facility upgrade and pavilion improvements. Improving the outfield drainage and non turf pitches. Needs 2 more changing rooms for women.
Cartmel Peninsula	Cartmel Cricket Club	Some damage to the surface and unofficial use. Grass coverage acceptable and land is even, but pitch is shared with racecourse (9 days) which impacts outfield quality	NTP on square, mobile batting cage. Require fixed nets but not possible due to dual function as racecourse	Wooden, 55 years old. 2 changing rooms, small clubhouse and kitchen. Changing and toilets require upgrade.	New/ upgraded pavilion - changing and toilet area.
LDNP	Coniston Cricket Club	Outfield and square adequate, but unusable NTP on square. Well maintained by volunteers.	Mobile net. NTP unusable	Small pavilion with no showers. Small kitchen and function room area that appear to be well maintained.	Indoor facilities
Cartmel Peninsula	Holker CC (friendly only)	Outfield experienced significant badger issues during 2023, some games called off as a result.	No training facilities	Small pavilion, poor plumbing in pavilion	Address square and outfield issues
Milnthorpe	Holme Cricket Club	Even wickets, uneven outfield caused by ridge and furrow that needs to be levelled.	Grass wicket off the main square, mobile net cage	Small pavilion with no catering facilities. Two changing rooms. Club seeking new clubhouse	Improvement in clubhouse facilities.
Kendal	Kendal Cricket Club	2 artificial match play wickets. Main square has a dip where water pools in the rain.	3 lane artificial nets, 2 artificial practice wickets	Pavilion in good condition	Levelling of square

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Sub Area	Club	Wicket / Outfield	Training Facilities	Pavilion	Key Priorities
LDNP	Ambleside Cricket Club	Grass coverage acceptable, both outfield and wicket are uneven. Undulating playing surface	No non turf wicket. Club have one standing training net, portable square practice surface and net. Nets require refurbishment	2 small changing rooms, 1 shower, no umpires room. Small kitchen and function room. In good condition	Levelling playing surface, re- fence boundary, nets require replacement
LDNP	Leven Valley CC	Rabbit damage to outfield at time of site visit. Square covered.	Poor mobile practice nets.	Basic wooden pavilion with no showers. 2 changing rooms. No function room or clubhouse.	Outfield, practice nets, pavilion
Ulverston and surrounding area	Kirkby-in-Furness CC	Undulating outfield, slight slope on square.	Artificial practice lane, unusable and requires replacement	Modern pavilion with showers, female facilities and kitchen / function room.	Practice facilities
Ulverston and surrounding area	Lindal Moor CC	Outfield undulating and small. Pleasant outlook and tidy appearance, appears well maintained.	2 lane cricket nets, ageing but adequate condition. Mobile nets.	New pavilion 2016, glass fronted balcony. 3 large changing rooms. Small kitchen and function room. Umpires room.	None identified
Kirkby Lonsdale	Kirkby Lonsdale CC	Crows damaging pitch outfield at time of visit, but overall well maintained and functional	Mobile net but no permanent training facilities	Pavilion tired with limited facilities. 2 changing rooms, but no showers or catering facilities.	Pavilion is poor / training facilities
Milnthorpe	Arnside Cricket Club	Undulating outfield, fairy ring on square. Area shared with football.	Mobile net cage has no nets - poor.	Pavilion with 2 changing rooms, function room and kitchen. Basic that requires upgrade	Pavilion / training facilities
Kendal	Netherfield CC	Square good, outfield slightly uneven and suffers from unofficial use at times. Evidence of rabbits but no clear damage to outfield. Site contains two squares, one has an NTP	4 artificial nets, starting to age. Considering installation of new tech non turf for practice and matches. NTP surface will require replacement	Pavilion requires new roof, alterations also need to old changing rooms to ensure they remain fit for purpose. 4 changing rooms serving both grounds. Contains function room and kitchen	Indoor facilities, practice facilities, improvements to changing pavilion
Milnthorpe	Milnthorpe Cricket Club	Weeds in outfield and some damage on square - shared with football. Maintained by volunteer groundsperson	Mobile training net	2 changing rooms, communal showers and small kitchen.	Training facilities, ground
Ulverston and surrounding area	Ulverston Cricket Club	Some bare patches and weeds on outfield but in good condition. Even square. As an open ground they suffer from anti-social behaviour, vandalism, high levels of litter and dog mess	Mobile training net, brand new 2 lane artificial training bay	Pavilion, but changing facilities are poor with open showers. No facilities for females. Pavilion would benefit from refurbishment.	Changing room renovations

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Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Assessment



Sub Area	Club	Wicket / Outfield	Training Facilities	Pavilion	Key Priorities
LDNP	Ambleside Cricket Club	Grass coverage acceptable, both outfield and wicket are uneven. Undulating playing surface	No non turf wicket. Club have one standing training net, portable square practice surface and net. Nets require refurbishment	2 small changing rooms, 1 shower, no umpires room. Small kitchen and function room. In good condition	Levelling playing surface, re- fence boundary, nets require replacement
LDNP	Windermere Cricket Club	Uneven outfield, even wickets. Site looks tired	Rolling net and non-turf wicket. NTP defunct	3 changing rooms shared with football. Bar and clubhouse, but current issues with mould. No catering facilities	Improvement to mobile net cage and investment on non-turf wicket

Table 4.12 – Site Overviews

Sub Area	Site Name	No.of wickets (Grass)	NTP on Square.	Pitch Rating	NTP Rating	No. of Games (Snr)	No. of Games (Jnr)	Wickets needed. (Adult)	Wickets needed. (Junior)	Total Wickets needed.	Supply / Demand Position	Peak Time Position	Actual Spare Capacity at Peak Time	Position at Club if NTP not used
LDNP	Ambleside Cricket Club	11	0	Standard	N/a	12	0.0	3.0	0.0	3.0	8.0	0.5	0.5	8.0
Kendal	Burneside Cricket Club	18	1	Good	Poor	40	42.0	8.0	6.0	14.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	4.0
Cartmel Peninsula	Cartmel Park	12	1	Standard	Good	12	0.0	3.0	0.0	3.0	9.0	0.5	0.5	12.0
LDNP	Coniston Sports Field	10	1	Good	Poor	28	6.0	5.6	0.9	6.5	3.5	0.0	0.0	3.5
Cartmel Peninsula	Holker Cricket Club	4		Poor	N/a	12	0.0	2.4	0.0	2.4	1.6	0.5	0.0	1.6
Milnthorpe	Holme Cricket Club	10	0	High Standard to Good	N/a	36	12.0	7.2	1.7	8.9	1.1	0.0	0.0	1.1
Kendal	Kendal Cricket Club	14	2	Good	Good	52	18.0	10.4	2.6	13.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
LDNP	King George V Playing Field (Haverthwaite) - Leven Valley Cc	7	0	Standard	N/a	12	0.0	3.0	0.0	3.0	4.0	0.5	0.5	
Ulverston and surrounding area	Kirkby-in-Furness Community Centre	8	0	Standard	N/a	16	0.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.5	0.5	

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Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Assessment



Sub Area	Site Name	No. of wickets (Grass)	NTP on Square.	Pitch Rating	NTP Rating	No. of Games (Snr)	No. of Games (Jnr)	Wickets needed. (Adult)	Wickets needed. (Junior)	Total Wickets needed.	Supply / Demand Position	Peak Time Position	Actual Spare Capacity at Peak Time	Position at Club if NTP not used
Ulverston and surrounding area	Lindal Moor Cricket Club	12	0	Good	N/a	44	30.0	8.8	4.3	13.1	-1.1	0.0	0.0	
Kirkby Lonsdale	Lunesdale Park	10	0	Good	N/a	24	0.0	4.8	0.0	4.8	5.2	0.5	0.5	
Milnthorpe	Memorial Playing Field (Arnside Cricket Club)	9	1	Good	N/a	36	12.0	7.2	1.7	8.9	0.1	0.0	0.0	-1.6
Kendal	Netherfield Cricket Club	16	1	Good	Poor	31	9.0	6.2	1.3	7.5	8.5	0.0	0.0	1.3
Kendal	Netherfield Cricket Club	12	0	Good	N/a	27	9.0	5.4	1.3	6.7	5.3	0.5	0.5	
Milnthorpe	Park Road Recreation Ground	9	0	Good	N/a	24	30.0	4.8	4.3	9.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0	
Ulverston	Priory Road Sports Ground	10	0	Good	N/a	56	36.0	11.2	5.1	16.3	-6.3	0.0	0.0	
LDNP	Queens Park (Windermere Cricket Club)	8	0	Standard	Poor	24	0.0	6.0	0.0	6.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	2.0
Kendal	Sedgwick Cricket Club	12	1	Good	N/a	40	24.0	8.0	3.4	11.4	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.6

4.85 Table 4.13 brings together the site-specific information to present an overall picture in the former South Lakeland area by sub area. It reveals that:

- In the Cartmel Peninsula, there is spare capacity at peak time and across the season. Both facilities however require improvement, with the Holker Cricket Ground being the only site where provision is currently poor
- The Kendal area is characterised by large and sustainable clubs, all of which have junior sections as well as multiple senior teams. These clubs however all have squares of a reasonable size, as well as NTP on the square. This means that there is currently a small amount of spare capacity, although this is very limited at peak time. The amount of spare capacity available on grass wickets is however small, although additional play could also be accommodated on NTP
- Lunesdale Park is an important facility, being the only cricket ground in this part of South Lakeland. There is a small amount of spare capacity across the season and at peak time
- All four sites in the LDNP have spare capacity at across the season, but only Ambleside CC and Leven Valley CC can accommodate additional demand at peak time
- There is almost no spare capacity in Milnthorpe across the season, and no availability at peak time
- Two of the three sites in Ulverston and the surrounding area are overplayed and the amount of overplay almost eliminates the spare capacity at other sites. There is little spare capacity overall therefore.

Table 4.13 – Adequacy of Provision in South Lakeland

Sub Area	Number of Wickets Required	Total Number of Wickets Available	Spare Capacity (wickets)	Approximate Spare Capacity (MES)	Spare Capacity at Peak Time	Comment
Cartmel Peninsula	5	16	11	55	0.5	Cartmel Cricket Club good level of capacity Holker Cricket Club suitable for friendlies only Spare capacity at peak time at Cartmel
Milnthorpe	27	28	1	5	0	Supply very closely matched with demand at all sites.
Kendal	53	72	19	95	0.5	No spare capacity at peak time except at Netherfield Limited remaining capacity on all sites, largest spare capacity at Netherfield (two squares and NTP)

Sub Area	Number of Wickets Required	Total Number of Wickets Available	Spare Capacity (wickets)	Approximate Spare Capacity (MES)	Spare Capacity at Peak Time	Comment
Kirkby Lonsdale	5	10	5	25	0.5	Only one site, Kirkby Lonsdale CC Spare capacity across the season and at peak time
Ulverston and surrounding area	33	30	-3	0	0.5	Overplay at Ulverston (high) and Lindal Moor (negligible) Spare capacity only at Kirkby in Furness
LDNP	18	36	18	90	1	Spare capacity and highest seasonal spare capacity at Ambleside CC Provision adequate at all clubs
YDNP	0	0	0	0	0	No community site. Sedbergh School offers extensive cricket grounds for pupils

Future Picture

- 4.86 Population growth, as well as the successful implementation of sports development initiatives will impact upon future demand. These issues are considered in turn in order to understand how facility requirements will change. The growth of female cricket in particular will place significant extra demands on the squares across Westmorland and Furness.

Population Change

- 4.87 Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. By applying TGRs to population projections, we can project the theoretical number of teams that would be generated from population growth and gain an understanding of future demand.
- 4.88 Table 4.14 summarises the current TGRs for cricket and uses them to evaluate the potential impact of projected changes to the population on demand. It presents the total number of additional teams that will be generated by 2040.
- 4.89 It reveals that by 2040, there will be a reduction in the number of teams in all areas. This is because the number of people in relevant age groups is actually projected to decline.

Table 4.14 - Impact of Changes to the Population Profile

Former Authority	Local Sport and Age Groups	Number of Teams	Current population in age group within the area	Current TGR	Population Change in Age Group up to 2031	Population Change in Age Group up to 2040	Potential Change in Team Numbers in Age Group by 2031	Potential Change in Team Numbers in Age Group by 2040
Barrow Borough	Open Age Womens (18-55yrs)	2	14705	7353	-932	-899	-0.1	-0.1
Barrow Borough	Open Age Mens (18-55yrs)	20	14719	736	-639	-574	-0.9	-0.8
Barrow Borough	Junior Girls (7-17yrs)	0	3950	0	-278	-522	0	0
Barrow Borough	Junior Boys (7-17yrs)	11	4104	373	-276	-471	-0.7	-1.3
Eden	Open Age Womens (18-55yrs)	2	10359	5179	-573	-627	-0.1	-0.1
Eden	Open Age Mens (18-55yrs)	25	10361	414	-445	-418	-1.1	-1.0
Eden	Junior Girls (7-17yrs)	0	2935	0	-158	-340	0	0
Eden	Junior Boys (7-17yrs)	19	3163	166	-341	-535	-2.0	-3.2
South Lakeland	Open Age Womens (18-55yrs)	3	20869	6956	-569.885	-344	-0.1	0.0
South Lakeland	Open Age Mens (18-55yrs)	44	20451	465	-406.531	92	-0.9	0.2
South Lakeland	Junior Girls (7-17yrs)	0	5689	0	-354.956	-463	0	0
South Lakeland	Junior Boys (7-17yrs)	43	6384	148	-293.527	-480	-2.0	-3.2

4.90 Table 4.14 therefore suggests that demand for cricket pitches will decline when accounting for population change.

4.91 The potential impact of cricket development initiatives will be explored in the next section.

Driving Growth in Cricket – Impact on Pitches

4.92 Cumbria Cricket Board serves as the governing and representative body for cricket across Cumbria. The Cricket Board works with a variety of partners to promote the development of cricket and is now working alongside the ECB to deliver the national five-year plan, Inspiring Generations.

- 4.93 The plan seeks to inspire current and future generations through cricket and highlights a number of recent successes, including strong growth in participation for 5–8 year olds through All Stars Cricket, as well as year on year growth in the number of women playing cricket. This success is believed to provide a strong platform to deliver the strategy.
- 4.94 The plan sets six clear priorities for growing cricket and outlines the key mechanisms for the delivery of these objectives. It is hoped that the successful delivery of the strategy will stimulate further growth in cricket.
- 4.95 The key objectives of the strategy are summarised in Table 4.15.

Table 4.15 - Key Objectives of Inspiring Generations (ECB 2020)

Objectives	Key Delivery Mechanisms
Grow and Nurture the Core	• Create infrastructure investment funds • Invest in club facilities • Develop the role of National Counties Cricket • Drive Governance across the game.
Inspire through elite teams	• Increase investment in the county talent pathway • Incentivise the counties to develop England players • Drive the performance system through technology and innovation.
Make cricket accessible	• Broaden appeal of Cricket • Create a new digital community for cricket • Install non-traditional playing facilities in urban areas • continue to deliver the South Asian Action Plan • Launch a new participation product.
Engage children and young people	• Double cricket participation in primary schools • Deliver a compelling and coordinated recreational playing offer from age 5 upwards • Develop safeguarding to promote safe spaces for children and young people.
Transform women's and girls' cricket	• Grow the base through participation and facilities investment • Launch centre of excellence and a new elite domestic structure • Invest in girls county age group cricket • Deliver a girls' secondary school programme.
Support Communities	• Double the number of volunteers in the game • Increase participation in disability cricket • Develop a new wave of officials and community coaches.

- 4.96 The success of the above will be measured by the ECB against the following Key Performance Indicators:
- The number of people playing / volunteering / attending / watching or following cricket
 - Percentage of people who have a positive perception of cricket
 - Total number of people under the age of 16 engaging with cricket
 - Total number of women and girls engaging with cricket.
- 4.97 The strategy commits strategic investment to the delivery of these priorities. While participation in some of the development initiatives may not immediately generate a direct requirement for additional capacity, longer term, if new participants successfully transition into the full game, it is likely that there will be greater demand for cricket pitches in years to come.
- 4.98 The current key schemes and priority delivery areas are:
- Women and Girls Cricket is a national priority and there is a target to establish female and girls teams in clubs. Softball cricket is an ECB initiative aimed at women and girls to increase participation in cricket as a sport. The aim of softball cricket sections are

enjoyment and participation: without pads, a hardball, a heavy bat and limited rules. Sessions follow a festival format with each session running for a maximum of two and half hours, shorter than traditional formats. The ECB are looking to establish hubs for women's sport and will seek to ensure that facilities are family friendly in order to accommodate new members. 14 sites in Westmorland and Furness have been identified as hubs for women and girls cricket

- All Stars Cricket – In partnership with the ECB cricket clubs can register to become an ECB All Stars Cricket Centre. The engagement with this programme across Westmorland and Furness is good. Once registered, a club can deliver the programme which aims to introduce cricket to children aged from five to eight. Subsequently, this may lead to increased interest and demand for junior cricket at clubs and may therefore represent a key opportunity to reinvigorate cricket in Westmorland and Furness. The programme seeks to achieve the following aims:
 - Increase cricket activity for five to eight-year olds in the school and club environment
 - Develop consistency of message in both settings to aid transition
 - Improve generic movement skills for children, using cricket as the vehicle
 - Make it easier for new volunteers to support and deliver in the club environment
 - Use fun small-sided games to enthuse new children and volunteers to follow and play the game
 - Dynamos Cricket targets children aged 8 – 11 and builds upon the All Stars Cricket Scheme. It seeks to make cricket more accessible and complements existing junior cricket structures. It includes simplified rules and uses a soft ball and looks to promote cricket to those that may prefer a more fun, recreational approach (as opposed to competitive cricket in the traditional junior structures). As with All Stars Cricket, there has been good local engagement with this programme to date:
 - Cumbria CC identify their biggest priority as support for clubs and volunteers, through Cricket District Development groups. This also includes running safeguarding, first aid, grounds management courses etc.
- 4.99 Inspiring Generations therefore seeks to increase the number of people engaging with cricket and this will have clear implications for facilities if successfully delivered. It is clear that demand for cricket is likely to increase if these growth targets are met, and that clubs are already starting to see improved attendances amongst young people as a result of the engagement with ECB schemes.

Cricket Growth in Cumbria

- 4.100 Whilst All Stars and Dynamos cricket have been running successfully in Cumbria for several years, now, there has been significant recent engagement with girls and women's cricket and extensive recent growth in participation.
- 4.101 Cumbria Cricket Board has, as a consequence designated a series of larger sites as women and girls cricket hubs. In Westmorland and Furness, these include: Appleby, Arnside, Barrow, Burneside, Dalton, Holme, Lindal, Milnthorpe, Netherfield, Penrith, Sedgwick, Stainton, Threlkeld and Ulverston.
- 4.102 Alongside ongoing growth in junior boys cricket (stimulated by All Stars and Dynamos), it is likely that the majority of growth in cricket will therefore occur at these sites. Although this activity is likely to take place outside at peak time (and therefore a lack of spare capacity at peak time does not impact), at many of these centres, supply is already closely matched with demand.

- 4.103 The following clubs designated as hub sites have very limited spare capacity for additional activity:
- Dalton-in- Furness Cricket Club (currently overplayed)
 - Ulverston Cricket Club (currently overplayed)
 - Appleby Eden Cricket Club (small amount of overplay)
 - Stainton Cricket Club
 - Lindal Moor Cricket Club
 - Milnthorpe Cricket Club.
- 4.104 Improvements to capacity at these sites (through qualitative improvement, installation / greater use of NTP, improved training facilities etc) will need to be considered as part of the strategy document.
- 4.105 There are also likely to be ancillary facility requirements associated with this demand. In particular Barrow Cricket Club, Dalton Cricket Club, Stainton Cricket Club, Ulverston Cricket Club and Sedgwick Cricket Club all prioritise improvements to changing facilities to better accommodate female players.
- 4.106 With a successful club structure already in place and engagement with ECB initiatives evident, it is therefore evident that increases in participation through the development work led by clubs is the most likely source of additional cricket demand.
- 4.107 For those clubs responding to consultation, it is clear that there is a focus on the development of women and girls cricket, as well as increasing the number of junior teams. This places greater pressures on the outfield and ancillary facilities in particular, and longer term will transition into increased demand at the wicket. In relation to senior cricket, clubs are seeking to improve their playing numbers within each squad.
- 4.108 Table 4.16 therefore summarises the position at club level if participation in juniors (boys and girls) was to increase by 25%. It demonstrates that at most clubs, there remains capacity, but at some of the sites listed earlier where capacity is already closely matched with demand, this is exacerbated.

Table 4.16 – Future Adequacy of Cricket Provision

Former Local Authority	Sub-area	Site Name	Supply / Demand Position	MES
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Barrow Cricket Club	3.2	15.9
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Furness Cricket Club	-0.6	-2.8
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Hawcoat Park Sports and Social Club	4.8	24.0
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Vickerstown Cricket Club	5.0	25.0
Barrow Borough	Remainder of Barrow Borough	Dalton Cricket Club	-4.5	-22.5
Eden	Appleby	Appleby Eden Cricket Club	-1.9	-9.4
Eden	Appleby	Temple Sowerby Cricket Club	-1	-5.0
Eden	Kirkby Stephen	Kirkby Stephen Cricket Club	1.8	9.0
Eden	LDNP	King George V Playing Fields (Penrith) - Patterdale Cricket Club	5.6	28.0
Eden	LDNP	Threlkeld Cricket Ground	3.9	19.3

Former Local Authority	Sub-area	Site Name	Supply / Demand Position	MES
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Edenhall Cricket Club	4.8	24.0
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Gamblesby Recreation Field	1	5.0
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Nunwick Cricket Club	2	10.0
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Penrith Cricket Club	0.4	2.0
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Stainton Recreation Ground	-6	-30.0
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	The Old Show Field - Staffield Cricket Club	4.6	23.0
South Lakeland	Cartmel Peninsula	Cartmel Park	9.0	45.0
South Lakeland	Cartmel Peninsula	Holker Cricket Club	1.6	8.0
South Lakeland	Kendal	Burneside Cricket Club	2.5	12.5
South Lakeland	Kendal	Kendal Cricket Club	0.4	1.9
South Lakeland	Kendal	Netherfield Cricket Club	8.2	41.0
South Lakeland	Kendal	Sedgwick Cricket Club	-0.3	-1.4
South Lakeland	Kirkby Lonsdale	Lunesdale Park	5.2	26.0
South Lakeland	LDNP	Ambleside Cricket Club	8.0	40.0
South Lakeland	LDNP	Coniston Sports Field	3.3	16.6
South Lakeland	LDNP	Queens Park (Windermere Cricket Club)	2.0	10.0
South Lakeland	LDNP	King George V Playing Field (Haverthwaite) - Leven Valley Cricket Club	4.0	20.0
South Lakeland	Milnthorpe	Holme Cricket Club	0.7	3.3
South Lakeland	Milnthorpe	Memorial Playing Field (Arnside Cricket Club)	-0.3	-1.7
South Lakeland	Milnthorpe	Park Road Recreation Ground	-1.2	-5.8
South Lakeland	Ulverston and surrounding area	Kirkby in Furness Community Centre	4.0	20.0
South Lakeland	Ulverston and surrounding area	Lindal Moor Cricket Club	-2.2	-10.8
South Lakeland	Ulverston and surrounding area	Priory Road Sports Ground	-7.6	-38.1

4.109 Table 4.17 summarises the position by sub area. It highlights that overall, there is spare capacity in most areas, but insufficient provision in Ulverston and surrounding area and Remainder of Barrow Borough sub areas.

Table 4.17 – Future Adequacy of Cricket Provision by Sub Area

Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Supply / Demand by Sub Area	MES by Sub Area
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	12.4	62.1
Barrow Borough	Remainder of Barrow Borough	-4.5	-22.5
Eden	Appleby	-2.8857143	-14.4
Eden	Kirkby Stephen	1.8	9

Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Supply / Demand by Sub Area	MES by Sub Area
Eden	LDNP	9.4571429	47.3
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	6.8	34.0
South Lakeland	Cartmel Peninsula	9.0	45.0
South Lakeland	Kendal	10.8	53.964286
South Lakeland	Kirkby Lonsdale	5.2	26
South Lakeland	LDNP	17.3	85
South Lakeland	Milnthorpe	0.3	1.6
South Lakeland	Ulverston and surrounding area	-5.8	-40

Summary and Key Issues by current Local Plan Area

4.110 To support the planning process, the key issues in each current local plan area are summarised below.

Former Barrow Borough Local Authority Area

Key Issue	Description
Supply	- Provision lower in this area than in other parts of Westmorland and Furness – 5 club sites - Almost all provision located within Barrow and Walney. Only one site (Dalton Cricket Club) in Remainder of Barrow Borough.
Demand	- Just 17% of teams are based in the former Barrow Borough area. Total of 13 male, 2 senior female, 11 junior and 7 midweek teams are located in the area - Most clubs experiencing growth in demand - Hawcoat Park is the exception to this, the club currently only have one team - Barrow Cricket Club and Dalton Cricket Club identified as girls hubs
Adequacy of Provision	- Spare capacity across the sub area as a whole is limited (10 strips) - Spare capacity at peak time equates to 0.5 MES - The greatest pressures are evident at Dalton Cricket Club – these are influenced by the quality of the facility (standard) as well as the growing number of teams that the club run - There is a small amount of spare capacity on most other sites. Supply equals demand however at Furness Academy - Spare capacity at peak time is limited, with Hawcoat Park Sports Club the only site offering potential to increase participation. - None of the cricket grounds have NTPs and this therefore represents an opportunity to increase capacity. - For four out of five clubs, key priorities relate to improving training facilities - Works also required to pavilions to bring to modern day standards, particularly at Barrow and Dalton Cricket Club which are female hubs
Key Issues to Address	- Protection of existing facilities - Capacity issues and pressure at key sites - Requirement for qualitative improvements - Investment into training and ancillary provision

Former South Lakeland Local Authority Area

Key Issue	Description
Supply	18 club bases. Netherfield Cricket Club contains two grounds - Quality of club sites is predominantly good, with all facilities except Holker Cricket Ground playable and most achieving ratings of good.
Demand	- Largest proportion of teams in Westmorland and Furness are based in the South Lakeland area – currently there are 35 senior male teams and 9 midweek teams, 43 junior teams and 3 senior female teams - Most clubs large, accommodating both junior and senior teams - Ambleside, Holker, Leven Valley all only have one existing team - small clubs are at greater risk of issues with sustainability - Burneside Cricket Club, Holme Cricket Club, Lindal Moor Cricket Club, Arnside Cricket Club, Netherfield Cricket Club, Milnthorpe Cricket Club, Ulverston Cricket Club and Sedgwick Cricket Club identified as girls / development centres.
Adequacy of Provision	- Area contains highest amount of spare capacity - with over 70 strips spare capacity, an additional 385 games could take place. - Overplay at Ulverston Cricket Club (high demand and no NTP on square) and Lindal Moor Cricket Club (high demand and no NTP on square) - Spare capacity at peak time equates to 3 MES. Ambleside Cricket Club, Cartmel Cricket Club, Holker Cricket Club (poor), Leven Valley Cricket Club, Kirkby in Furness Cricket Club, Arnside Cricket Club, Netherfield Cricket Club, Windermere Cricket Club are all able to sustain an additional 0.5 MES - It is notable that the number of grounds supported by NTP on the square is much higher in the former South Lakeland area than in former Eden and Barrow Borough areas. This contributes to the adequacy of provision, with games at several sites accommodated on NTP. - Key issues at a sub area level: - In the Cartmel Peninsula, there is spare capacity at peak time and across the season. Both facilities however require improvement, with the Holker Cricket Ground being the only site where provision is currently poor - The Kendal area is characterised by large and sustainable clubs, all of which have junior sections as well as multiple senior teams. These clubs however all have squares of a reasonable size, as well as NTP on the square. This means that there is currently a small amount of spare capacity, although this is very limited at peak time. The amount of spare capacity available on grass wickets is however small, although additional play could also be accommodated on NTP - Lunesdale Park is an important facility, being the only cricket ground in this part of South Lakeland. There is a small amount of spare capacity across the season and at peak time - All four sites in the LDNP have spare capacity at across the week, but only Ambleside Cricket Club and Leven Valley Cricket Club can accommodate additional demand at peak time - There is almost no spare capacity in Milnthorpe across the season, and no availability at peak time - Two of the sites in Ulverston and the surrounding area are overplayed and the amount of overplay almost eliminates the spare capacity at other sites. There is little spare capacity overall therefore - For most clubs, the key priorities are training facilities and improvement works to pavilions and clubhouses. At Holker Cricket Club, Kendal Cricket Club and Ambleside Cricket Club, improvements are also identified as being required to the grounds themselves.
Key Issues to Address	- Protection of existing facilities - Capacity issues and pressure at key sites - Requirement for qualitative improvements - Investment into training and ancillary provision

Former Eden Area

Key Issue	Description
Supply	11 club bases, including Penrith Cricket Club which has two grounds - The quality of club sites is predominantly good, with all facilities playable and most achieving ratings of good. - For most clubs, the key priorities are training facilities and works are also required to pavilions to bring them up to modern day standards. - Threlkeld, Stainton, Penrith and Appleby Cricket Clubs are designated female cricket hubs and therefore have an important role to play in female development.
Demand	- Currently there are 19 senior male teams and 6 midweek teams, 19 junior teams and 2 senior female teams - Higher proportion of single teams than elsewhere in Westmorland and Furness - Edenhall Cricket Club, Staffield Cricket Club (one senior team and a midweek), Gamblesby Cricket Club, Patterdale Cricket Club, Nunwick Cricket Club currently only have one team – small clubs are at greater risk of issues with sustainability
Adequacy of Provision	- Spare capacity equates to 17 strips (circa 85 matches) In part, this is because there is a greater proportion of clubs that have only one team. - Many of the grounds also have small squares, which limits the overall capacity of the site. - There are two sites where pressures are evident – these are at Appleby Cricket Club (high demand and no NTP on square) and Stainton Cricket Club (small square and also host junior activity) - There is spare capacity on most other sites, although is minimal at all sites, with only Staffield Cricket Club, Edenhall Cricket Club and Patterdale Cricket Club having more than 4 wickets spare - Spare capacity at peak time equates to 3 MES - The small size of most clubs means that the majority could accommodate additional play at peak time. There is no remaining spare capacity at Appleby Cricket Club or Penrith Cricket Club (unless the game was played on the NTP) - By sub area: - In the Appleby area overall, there is insufficient provision, with the pressures at Appleby Cricket Club generating greater unmet demand than the amount of spare capacity available at Temple Sowerby CC. There is no remaining actual spare capacity at peak time - Kirkby Stephen Cricket Club is an important facility, being the only cricket ground in this part of Eden. There is a small amount of spare capacity, but none at peak time. The club have significant aspirations for improvement and growth - Both sites in the LDNP have spare capacity at peak time and across the season - Overall there is adequate capacity in Penrith across the season and at peak time. Stainton Cricket Club is the only site in this area where provision is at capacity, and this arises because of the large number of teams and the small size of the square.
Key Issues to Address	- Protection of existing facilities - Capacity issues and pressure at key sites - Requirement for qualitative improvements - Investment into training and ancillary provision.

LDNP

Key Issue	Description
Supply	- Six club bases at Windermere, Coniston, Ambleside, Leven (South Lakeland) Patterdale and Threlkeld (Eden) - Scope to improve quality, with only three of the six grounds rated good.
Demand	Mostly small clubs, potential issues around sustainability.
Adequacy of Provision	- All sites in the LDNP have spare capacity at across the season - Four sites can accommodate additional demand at peak time.
Key Issues to Address	- Protection of existing facilities - Investment required into training and ancillary facilities - Qualitative improvements needed to bring sites up to good standard.

5.0 Tennis

Introduction

- 5.1 This section assesses the adequacy of facilities for tennis across Westmorland and Furness by presenting an overview of supply (quantity, quality, accessibility and availability) and demand for outdoor courts. The key findings are then summarised, alongside the issues to be addressed.

Supply

- 5.2 The audit identifies 134 courts across Westmorland and Furness as a whole. Of these, 84 are available for community use.
- 5.3 Of the courts that are available for community use, these are split between club sites, park / recreation sites and school facilities. Some of the schools host clubs on their sites. The remaining courts are all located at schools that do not offer use of their tennis courts, or private holiday complexes which offer courts just for guests.
- 5.4 Table 5.1 summarises the spread of courts across by facility type while Table 5.2 summarises the geographical spread of tennis courts across Westmorland and Furness. Site-specific detail for each site is included within Table 5.3.
- 5.5 Table 5.1 demonstrates that the number of club bases and parks sites is broadly even, however the number of courts provided at club sites is much higher than the number of courts provided at parks. Many of the public sites are single courts in small villages.
- 5.6 Table 5.1 also reveals that almost all of the floodlit courts are located at club bases.
- 5.7 In addition to the courts documented in Table 5.1, there are indoor courts at Kirkby Stephen Grammar School (3, seasonal) and Ulverston Leisure Centre (2).

Table 5.1 – Type of Tennis Courts across Westmorland Furness

Type of Site	Number of Sites	Total Number of Courts	Number of Floodlit Courts	Courts Available for Community Use	Comments
Club	21	57	32	57	Includes school sites that host clubs – Ullswater and Eden (Ullswater Community College), Heversham with Milnthorpe (Dallam School), Appleby LTC (Appleby Grammar). Parks sites that host clubs also included (Ravenstonedale, Penrith Castle Park) Also includes Ulverston Leisure Centre (club)
Park	18	27	4	27	Includes all public sites with no club based on them.
School	11	40	0	0	All school sites with courts that do not have clubs based on them are school use only.
Private	5	10		0	Includes Penrith Rugby Club site. Role of these courts now unclear since relocation of club.
Total	55	134		84	

5.8 Table 5.2 summarises the location of tennis courts in each of the sub areas. It considers only the courts that are accessible to the public (and therefore excludes school sites and private sites from the table listed above).

5.9 It demonstrates that the largest proportion of courts is found in the former South Lakeland area, with:

- 12 courts on two sites in the former Barrow Borough area
- 22 courts on 14 sites in the former Eden area
- 50 courts on 23 sites in the former South Lakeland area.

5.10 Of the above courts, 17 fall within the LDNP and 4 courts fall within the YDNP.

5.11 It is evident that the size of sites in the former Barrow Borough area is much larger than in the other two areas, particularly in the former Eden area which is characterised by small scale facilities (one or two courts). This represents the geographical nature of the area, with higher

density population in the former Barrow Borough area. To effectively provide for residents of the former Eden and former South Lakeland areas, more geographically dispersed facilities are required.

Table 5.2 – Location of Tennis Courts by Former Authority Area and Sub Area

Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Number of Sites	Public Courts	Club Courts	Floodlit Courts	Sites Provided
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	2	0	12	3	Hawcoat Park Sports Club, West Mount LTC
Barrow Borough	Remainder of Barrow Borough	0	0	0	0	N/a
Eden	Kirkby Stephen	2	1	3	3	Kirkby Stephen TC (Lunesdale Sports Centre), Church Brough Tennis Court
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	6	4	6	5	Penrith LTC / Castle Park, Ullswater and Eden, Lowther Village Hall, Shap Memorial Park, Tebay Recreation Ground, Langwathby Village Hall
Eden	Appleby	3	2	2	2	Appleby Grammar, Morland Tennis Court, Culgaith Recreation Ground
Eden	Alston	1	1	0	0	Nenthead Village Hall
Eden	LDNP	1	0	2	0	Patterdale TC
Eden	YDNP	1	1	0	0	Ravenstonedale TC
South Lakeland	Kendal	2	0	6	4	Kendal LTC, Burneside LTC
South Lakeland	Milnthorpe	7	5	8	7	Arnside TC, Heversham with Milnthorpe, Endmoor LTC, Burton in Kendal, Holme Sports and Community Centre, Levens Playing Field
South Lakeland	Kirkby Lonsdale	1	0	3	3	Kirkby Lonsdale TC
South Lakeland	Cartmel Peninsula	3	2	3	2	North Lonsdale LTC, Allithwaite Playing Field, Grange over Sands,
South Lakeland	Ulverston and surrounding area	3	2	4	2	Ulverston LC, Broughton in Furness, Kirkby in Furness Tennis Courts
South Lakeland	LDNP	7	10	5	2	Coniston & District, Windermere LTC, Crosthwaite & Lyth TC, The Glebe Park, Coniston Tennis Courts, Hawkshead Tennis Courts, White Platts Recreation Ground
South Lakeland	YDNP	1	0	3	2	Sedbergh TC

5.12 Table 5.2 reveals that there are facilities for tennis in the majority of sub areas. It is clear however, that:

- There are no facilities for tennis in the remainder of Barrow Borough sub area
 - There are no public parks courts in either Barrow and Walney or Kendal sub areas
 - Provision is highest in Milnthorpe (13), Lake District National Park (17) and Barrow and Walney (12)
 - Unlike for some other sports, many of the facilities for tennis are located in the smaller settlements.
- 5.13 Tennis is one of only three sports (the others being bowls and cricket) where there is provision in the Eden areas of the LDNP and YDNP as well as the South Lakeland areas. Tennis courts are therefore providing important recreational opportunities in these areas.
- 5.14 In addition to the courts included in Tables 5.1 and 5.2, there are several courts that have been provided until recently but are now disused. Specifically:
- Piper Lane Recreation Ground, (Kirkby Thore) – area still fenced, but lines no longer visible and nets not on site
 - Galloper Park Tennis Court, Tebay – no nets, court is overgrown with weeds and unusable
 - Staveley Tennis Courts – still fenced off, but no lines on surface and loose material.
- 5.15 At the time of site visit (August 2023), all courts in the centre of Bowness-on-Windermere (LDNP) were being used for a market rather than for tennis. It is understood that the courts are still available for hire for tennis on occasion however and they have therefore been included as active courts. The future of these courts is however in doubt as the provider has identified very little demand for the courts. In this instance, the location in an important tourist area represents both an opportunity (potential user numbers) but also a barrier (busy / lack of parking / other interests).
- 5.16 The court at Lowther Village Hall had faint visible markings for tennis, but also no evidence of equipment at the time of visit although it is understood to still be an active tennis court.
- 5.17 Interestingly, courts on other sites have been repurposed to support dual functionality, most typically between football and tennis. Courts were seen to include portable nets, allowing them to be wheeled on and off the court. Examples of this are:
- Kirkby Lonsdale Tennis Club
 - Burton-in- Kendal
 - Coniston and District (thought to also be used for camping).

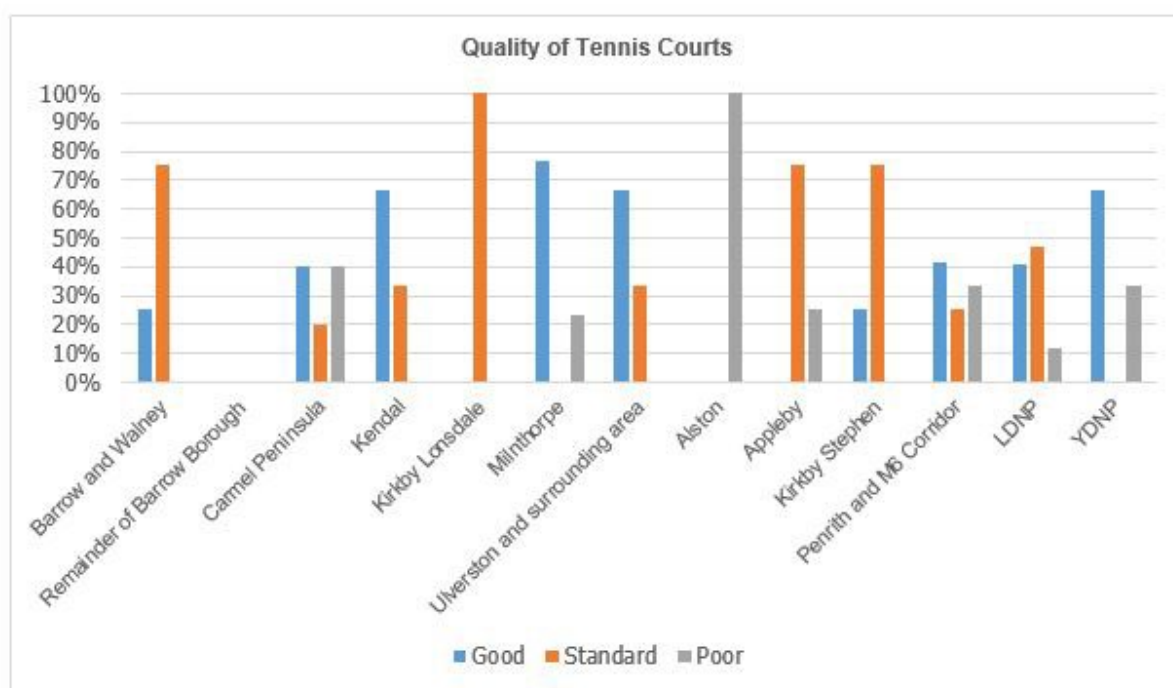
Quality

- 5.18 The quality of tennis courts was assessed through site visits (using a non-technical site assessment matrix) as well as via consultation with the clubs and providers. In general, these assessments conclude that tennis courts are either of really high quality, or really poor quality, with few courts in the middle.
- 5.19 There are several examples of courts that have received recent investment, and where courts have recently been refurbished. Equally, there are numerous examples of courts that will become unusable in the short term if they do not receive any investment.
- 5.20 Analysis of the quality of courts demonstrates that perhaps unsurprisingly, club courts are on the whole, of a higher quality than public courts. Looking specifically at the three former authority areas:

- 25% courts in the former Barrow Borough area are good and the remainder standard
- In the former Eden area, 33% of courts are in good condition, however 21% are poor
- In the former South Lakeland area, 55% of courts are good and 15% are poor.

5.21 Chart 5.3 summarises the quality of courts by sub area. It reveals that in most areas, there are more good courts than poor facilities.

Chart 5.3 – Quality of Courts by Sub Area



5.22 The quality of facilities on a site-by-site basis, and the key issues for improvement will be discussed later in this section.

5.23 Overall therefore, there are strong foundations for tennis in Westmorland and Furness, but also significant scope to improve the quality of tennis courts on some sites.

5.24 Importantly, it should be noted that many of the poor quality facilities are the only courts within their specific locality. If these courts are allowed to fall into disrepair, there will be no remaining opportunities for tennis without significant travel. Sites containing poor courts that are potentially located in a critical area are:

- Barrow Borough area – none
- Eden area – Ravenstonedale (YDNP), Nenthead Village Hall (Alston), Langwathby Village Hall (Penrith and M6 Corridor)
- South Lakeland area – Grange-over-Sands Promenade (Cartmel), Coniston Tennis Courts (LDNP), Holme Sports and Community Centre and Levens Playing Field (Milnthorpe).

5.25 In addition to the physical quality of facilities, site visits also revealed some other key messages. Specifically:

- Many of the tennis courts are poorly located and well hidden– there is a lack of signage and this limits awareness.
 - Several of the courts were also uninviting (in part due to quality), again discouraging potential users.
 - Many courts were locked at the time of site visit, with no clear messages as to how to book the court / use the facility. This reduces the likelihood of people using the facilities.
 - Some of the courts that appear to be free (following online research) do not clearly articulate this on site. Again this is off-putting to potential users who are not clear on processes for using facilities.
- 5.26 Follow up work online exacerbated these issues further – there are many sites with little online presence, or where it is not clear how facilities are booked and / or courts are not easily booked.
- 5.27 This limits opportunities for residents, but also reduces the likelihood of use of the facilities by tourists.
- 5.28 These issues were evident across the whole Westmorland and Furness area and in all sub areas, primarily on public courts.

Demand

Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) Vision and Mission (2019 – 2023)

- 5.29 The Vision of the LTA is to “Open Tennis Up” grow tennis by making it more relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable. There are 3 key objectives:
- 1. Increasing the number of fans engaging with tennis*
 - 2. Grow participation by increasing the number of adults and juniors playing tennis*
 - 3. Enabling new players to break into the world top 100.*
- 5.30 Given that this assessment of tennis relates to facilities, it is (2), growth in participation that is most pivotal. Successful delivery of this objective would have an impact on the number and quality of tennis courts required, but alongside this, the provision of an appropriate infrastructure will be central in the achievement of this objective.
- 5.31 The LTA strategy indicates that the key elements connected to growing participation include:
- Widening the appeal of tennis through inclusion of flexible formats of the game
 - Improving the customer journey by making it easier to find a court, book it, and find somebody to play with
 - Developing more relevant and enjoyable competitions at grass roots level for all abilities and ages
 - Supporting community facilities & schools to provide more opportunities to play
 - Helping clubs grow & retain members
 - Creating more opportunities for children to play at school
 - Facilitating partnerships to further increase rate of participation in parks
 - Supporting venues to provide a welcoming and enjoyable experience
 - Increasing awareness of affordability.
- 5.32 Many of the above priorities directly relate to the issues identified across the tennis stock in Westmorland and Furness.

LTA Insight into Improving Participation in Tennis

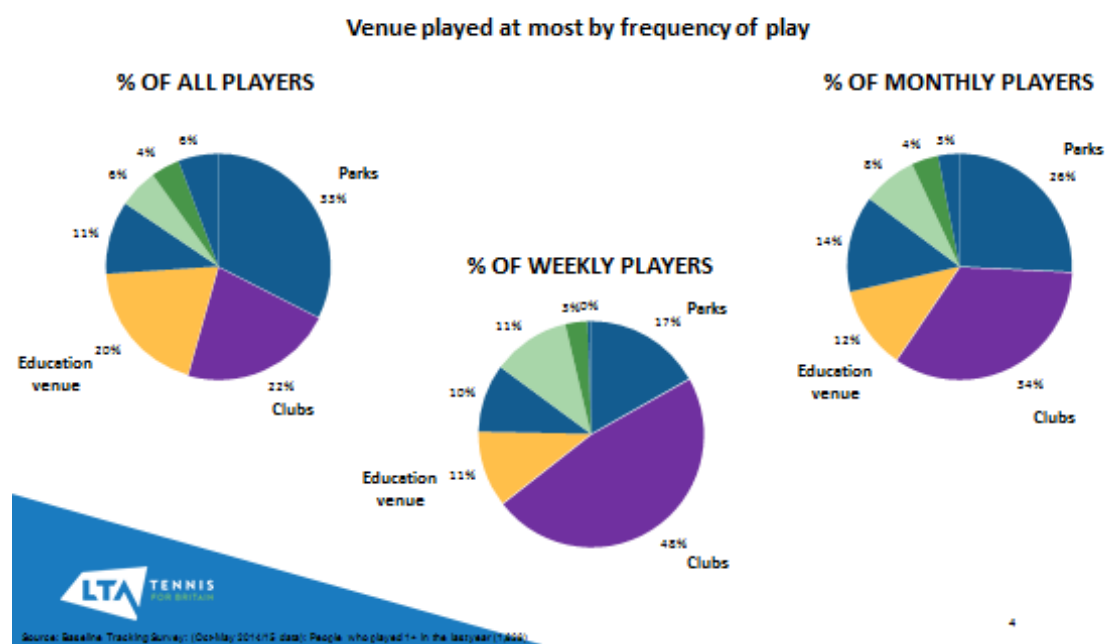
- 5.33 The LTA has worked hard to gain a better understanding of where people play tennis and understand some of the barriers that restrict participation levels and this can be used to inform decision making in relation to facilities. Around 5 million players pick up a racquet at least once a year. This participation is spread across the park, club and education sector.

Parks Sector

- 5.34 Figure 5.1 (provided by the LTA) reveals that the majority of participation in the UK (32%) takes place in a park environment and it is this location where most new participants will start their tennis journey. For those that don't play, most people who have expressed an interest in playing would see the park environment as their first option for play.

Figure 5.1 – LTA Insight into importance of Parks

WHERE DO PEOPLE PLAY – IMPORTANCE OF PARKS



- 5.35 The importance of the parks sector is clear in Figure 5.1. Public facilities across Westmorland and Furness are even more important in grass roots tennis development, with travel distances between settlements meaning that the parks facilities in areas where there are no clubs represent the only opportunity to start out in tennis.
- 5.36 LTA research demonstrates several key points relating to tennis in parks, specifically:

- Participation in parks is often less frequent and generally aligns with the seasonal participation peaks in the summer months. This trend is not helped by the lack of floodlit provision in the park environment.
 - Park players are interested in recreational play and are less reliant on organised activity.
 - Park players are most dissatisfied with the condition of the courts, the number of courts available and the journey from booking a court to the actual play.
- 5.37 This highlights the importance of court quality in attracting players to use public facilities, but also emphasises the need to ensure that these facilities are fully accessible to potential players and that the customer journey is as good as it can be.
- 5.38 To support growth of tennis, and in response to the research findings, The LTA is working to implement solutions across the country and has now successfully implemented technology that improves the customer journey to court. This involves the use of an access gate with key pad entry which is connected to the Clubspark venue management system. When a booking is made an automated code is generated and sent to the customer, thus allowing access to the court during the allocated booking time. Where implemented, the system has been successful in increasing participation rates, and can also help to generate income that helps to improve the financial sustainability of a venue. The LTA is looking to significantly increase the number of gate access systems that are installed nationally as part of the Digital Participation Pathway.
- 5.39 These opportunities can help to transform facilities outside parks sites into pay and play facilities as well as to improve the user experience and promote tennis. Engagement with these opportunities at key venues may be crucial if grass roots tennis is to be effectively delivered across Westmorland and Furness. Reviews of participation also note the successes that have been brought about through the emphasis on parks tennis, with a 56% increase in court hours booked at venues where the LTA had worked with the local authority.
- 5.40 The characteristics of Westmorland and Furness mean that in many areas, where clubs are the only tennis courts available, they have a role to play in providing access to pay and play tennis courts in order to stimulate growth in participation. These processes can also be implemented at club sites to enable the clubs to offer pay and play opportunities with an effective customer journey.
- 5.41 In 2021, it was announced that Government funding of £22 million had been secured alongside committed resources from the LTA of £8.5million to transform public courts across Britain and this project is now active. Investment will target existing poor / unplayable parks courts and seek to bring them back to life for the benefit of the nearby community. Running alongside specialist programmes designed to stimulate activity on the site (including LTA Youth / Tennis for Free / Parks Tennis Leagues), the investment will seek to develop tennis across the country.
- 5.42 Castle Park in Penrith has recently benefitted from this investment, with the installation of gate access supported by refurbishment of 4 courts. A new high-quality facility has now been provided and provides a case study facility for the remainder of Westmorland and Furness.
- 5.43 This fund however focuses on courts with a high potential penetration rate and sites of at least 2 courts. To receive funding for court refurbishment, court quality also needs to be poor.
- Club Environment**
- 5.44 While the role (and potential role) of facilities in parks and pay and play at other venues is clear, the club environment remains an important sector for participation. Specifically:

- The regularity of play generally increases in the club market.
 - The club market has a higher focus on organised activity both via coaching and competition.
 - There has been an increase in the number of clubs that are looking to implement online booking systems and the gate access technology. This not only offers the ability to increase the amount of court usage at a venue (and to offer pay as you go access) but acts as a key marketing tool locally in the quest to attract more users to a venue.
- 5.45 Players who start off in the parks environment will often transition to clubs as they wish to play more frequently and to play with people of similar interests and standards. The provision of club facilities as well as parks site is therefore crucial to a sustainable and vibrant tennis environment.
- 5.46 In 2020, the LTA participation tracker confirmed increasing participation in tennis. Previous years had seen a decline. Early after the COVID-19 pandemic, tennis was one of the first sports to return to lockdown, and the sport benefitted from increasing interest. The LTA priority therefore is now focused on undertaking targeted activity to drive participation and continue to seek participation improvements. The overwhelming priority remains however around the need to retain players (and particularly the increase in players since the COVID- 19 pandemic). These objectives rely on the delivery of high-quality facilities in both the club and park settings.
- 5.47 In addition to the provision of effective grassroots facilities (i.e. the parks courts), LTA insight therefore suggests that facilities at club bases are essential to harness more regular players. In Westmorland and Furness, clubs need to have a dual role in order to maximise their outreach to local residents and tourists alike.

Existing Participation and Use of Facilities across Westmorland and Furness.

- 5.48 Insight therefore demonstrates the varying roles that different facilities play in meeting demand. As a consequence, provision of tennis courts in a variety of settings is necessary if all potential tennis players are to be captured.

Public Sites

- 5.49 Public sites make up just 32% of accessible courts across Westmorland and Furness. This is a lower ratio of parks courts than is typically found. There are lots of sites providing public courts in Westmorland and Furness, however the majority of these are small sites. Critically, parks / public sites are also often found in the smaller settlements, with few large public parks facilities in any of the larger settlements. Analysis of the distribution of parks courts demonstrates that:
- There are no parks courts in the former Barrow Borough area at all – this is the area where there is the highest density of residents. Hawcoat Park Sports Club offers pay and play opportunities although it is known that this is heavily underused and there is a lack of awareness. This site represents an important opportunity to stimulate tennis participation in this area.
 - There are also no parks courts in Kendal. As a larger, more urban area, pay and play tennis opportunities will be particularly important. The tennis club offers pay and play opportunities but this is not currently delivered effectively (with the website not promoting pay and play and access requiring telephone calls and club members to open gates). There are opportunities to enhance this customer experience.
 - Several of the other larger settlements also have no public park tennis facilities – Appleby and Kirkby Stephen for example are reliant on school provision to meet club needs. With no public recreation ground provision therefore, pay and play access to club bases will again be crucial in these areas.

- There is a strong stock of parks courts in the LDNP with courts in the larger settlements. These offer opportunities for tourists as well as local residents. Again however these are poorly promoted and are mostly reliant on people turning up and paying on site. There is little online presence. Courts in Bowness-on-Windermere are currently used for a market and are not listed as being available online.
- 5.50 Where parks sites do exist, there is very limited data available recording who is using the facilities and when they are being used. Site visits highlighted very little usage on parks courts during the summer months and almost all providers that responded suggested that there is scope to increase usage.
- 5.51 Consultation with GLL, who do monitor usage, suggested that the tennis courts in the public park in Windermere and Bowness-on-Windermere currently achieve a usage rate of only 4% capacity. This is particularly low and suggests significant opportunity for improvement. The courts at Ulverston Leisure Centre are operating at around 60% capacity, suggesting better levels of engagement.
- 5.52 It is clear however that the lack of engagement with tennis facilities cannot necessarily be attributed to a lack of demand. Site visits and feedback from clubs clearly demonstrate a lack of clarity on how courts are booked and promoted and a lack of awareness of the facilities.
- 5.53 Access to parks tennis courts across Westmorland and Furness is provided in a variety of ways:
- Some sites are free of charge
 - Some sites rely on use of an honesty box
 - Some parks courts are accessed by obtaining a key from the local shop
 - A small number of parks / public courts can be booked online (Penrith Castle Park, Ulverston Leisure Centre, Burton-in-Kendal).
 - Booking methods (or whether the site is accessed free of charge) is unclear on some sites.
- 5.54 The methods of booking tennis courts on public facilities is therefore a key issue, with a lack of clarity on some sites and methods that do not necessarily support a smooth customer journey evident on other sites. There are therefore clear opportunities to address the latent demand.
- 5.55 Site-specific booking procedures are summarised later in this section to inform the action plan.

Club Membership

- 5.56 Club members generally participate more regularly and on a less seasonal basis than those that use park facilities. Participation can also be more accurately quantified at club bases.
- 5.57 All tennis clubs affiliated to the LTA were offered the chance to participate in consultation as part of the preparation of this assessment. For those that responded, there were no clear patterns in participation trends:
- 33% of respondents had seen increased participation.
 - 33% had seen the number of members decline.
 - The remainder had a static participation.
- 5.58 Analysis of the reasons behind the differing patterns of participation suggests that:
- Clubs that seek to proactively develop tennis (e.g. go into schools etc) are having greater success.
 - Those clubs who are targeting juniors are increasing growth.
 - A lack of coaches / volunteers remains a key barrier to growth.

- The ageing population in parts of Westmorland and Furness was deemed to reduce the number of members, lack of interest is also evident across the local population.
 - Facility quality is also viewed as critical. Poor quality facilities mean that clubs struggle to attract new players.
- 5.59 Critically, some of the clubs noted that they are located in very small settlements. They therefore consider themselves to have small catchments and limited potential for growth. In these areas however the tennis courts have the potential to become one of the social hubs of the village.
- 5.60 It was also highlighted that clubs are finding it easier to attract potential participants for coaching than they are for memberships currently.
- 5.61 Looking wider than just the facilities at club sites, clubs perceived the following to be barriers to tennis development across Westmorland and Furness as a whole:
- Lack of indoor tennis courts
 - Poor quality / limited public courts
 - Poor weather in Cumbria creating seasonality
 - Reduction in number of residents due to increasing holiday lets.
- 5.62 Many of these are evident in the analysis to date.
- 5.63 Despite the challenges that clubs are experiencing, it is clear that there has been significant investment into tennis. All responding clubs were able to demonstrate investment into their courts / facilities provided over the past three years, suggesting that they are sustainable and with a focus on growth.
- 5.64 These issues were common in all areas.

School sites

- 5.65 As outlined above, the majority of school sites in Westmorland and Furness either function as a tennis club base, or are not available for community use.
- 5.66 Facilities at Dallam School (Milnthorpe, South Lakeland), Kirkby Stephen School (Kirkby Stephen) and Ullswater Community College (Penrith) are however examples of good practice, accommodating both school and club use.
- 5.67 At some sites, access to tennis courts is not available due to the poor quality of facilities. These include St Bernards School, Walney School, Queen Elizabeth Grammar School (Penrith).
- 5.68 Improving courts at school sites and opening them to the community (following the examples of good practice) would offer a means of improving the facilities that are available should demand arise.

Adequacy of provision

- 5.69 Analysis therefore demonstrates that there is variety in the type of tennis court offered, but that there are some challenges in terms of the usage of facilities, with issues attracting players identified by clubs, and usage appearing low at public facilities. The quality of facilities is also varying. It is clear that much of the underuse of facilities stems from the lack of clarity around the customer journey.
- 5.70 There are no formal demand models providing guidance on how many courts are required in a local area to inform analysis of the adequacy of provision and how well facilities should be used. The LTA has however defined a series of parameters that can be used to determine the number of tennis players that can be accommodated by the existing infrastructure. Parameters used (LTA 2017) are as follows:

- 40 members per non floodlit, outdoor court
- 60 members per floodlit outdoor court
- 200 members per indoor tennis court
- 40 members per non floodlit, outdoor court
- 60 members per floodlit outdoor court
- 200 members per indoor tennis court.

5.71 Table 5.3 uses the above figures to identify how many players the stock of facilities in each of the former authority areas is able to serve.

Table 5.3 – Capacity of Tennis Courts

Authority Area	Current Courts Available to the Community (Non Floodlit)	Current Courts Available to the Community Floodlit	Indoor Courts	Total Capacity
Former Barrow Borough	9 (capacity 360)	3 (capacity 180)	0	540
Former South Lakeland	29 (capacity 1160)	22 (capacity 1320)	2 (capacity 400)	2880
Former Eden	12 (capacity 480)	10 (capacity 600)	3 (capacity 600)	1680
Westmorland and Furness	Capacity 2000	Capacity 2100	Capacity 1000	5100

- 5.72 In order to determine whether this number of courts is adequate, it is necessary to quantify current and potential demand for tennis. This is impossible to accurately define due to the lack of monitoring of the use of the majority of public courts. The existing demand and potential penetration and consequently the adequacy of the existing infrastructure for tennis can therefore be measured theoretically to provide an indication.
- 5.73 Sport England Active Lives data suggests that nationally, 2% of adults currently participate (figures most up to date available, from November 2021 / 2022). This represents an increase from previous years and the highest figure since November 2015 / 2016. Participation statistics for regular play in tennis across Westmorland and Furness are not available.
- 5.74 Active Lives young people data suggests that tennis participation has reached 8.6% amongst young people. This is however likely to include play at school as well as outside school and in public facilities.
- 5.75 If an average rate of 2% participation is therefore assumed across the whole population, this would suggest that 4531 residents play tennis in Westmorland and Furness. With Table 5.2 above showing that capacity is 5100, this suggests that theoretically, there are enough tennis courts in Westmorland and Furness as a whole in quantitative terms.
- 5.76 Table 5.3 applies the same principles to the three former local authority areas and reveals that there is adequate capacity in South Lakeland and Eden, but insufficient capacity for tennis in the former Barrow Borough area.
- 5.77 Again this indicative only, as this does not take into account any locational demand / geographic distribution.

Table 5.4 – Adequacy of Provision to meet demand in quantitative terms

Authority Area	Supply (Capacity)	Demand (2% participation)	Supply / Demand Balance
Former Barrow Borough	540	2089	-1549
Former South Lakeland	2880	1348	1532
Former Eden	1680	1094	586
Westmorland and Furness	5100	4531	569

5.78 Table 5.4 above therefore provides an indication of the adequacy of provision.

5.79 As demonstrated throughout this section however, number of courts is only a part of the infrastructure – it is the quality and accessibility that is also central to an evaluation of the adequacy of provision. In both South Lakeland and Eden, a higher number of facilities are required to service the needs of the dispersed population, and potentially, if access to tennis courts is to be strong, then it is likely that some courts will be underused, due to the low catchment population. This is also particularly true of the LDNP and YDNP areas (and it is in these parts where the highest quantities of provision are located).

5.80 That said, it is evident that some of the current facilities are heavily underused and this is potentially a direct reflection of the poor quality of many of the facilities, as well as the issues identified with accessibility and awareness. Improvement of opportunities for grass roots tennis will therefore be essential if participation targets are to be achieved. Engagement in a grass roots setting is likely to lead to higher transition into clubs, which will in turn enhance their sustainability. The role that clubs can also play in stimulating grass roots tennis through pay and play will also need to be a key feature of the strategy document.

LTA Insight into Potential Demand

5.81 The LTA have researched the number of people playing tennis across the country and the composition of the tennis playing population. This provides both an understanding of who is currently playing, but also the potential tennis playing population within an area.

5.82 To provide further insight into the type of facilities that are required (and to inform the type of marketing and promotion that may be successful). The LTA have created 6 different profiles to show what different people want from their tennis experience. These 6 profiles are:

- Tennis Titan - Frequent players & tennis club members for whom tennis is their main sport and key interest.
- Tennis Troupers - Often club members, largely family-oriented, middle-aged players for whom tennis is a hobby; interested in playing with teams to partnering with their kids in the sunnier seasons.
- Seasonal Spinners - Largely young women, they play sport in general for athletic reasons (often being gym-goers and joggers), and enjoy their tennis a lot, though tennis is very intertwined with friends and being social.
- Wimbledon Warriors - Largely young men who are keen athletes, they like tennis and want to play more, though are often held back by other factors outside of the summer.
- Social Butterflies - Infrequent, younger and less experienced players for whom tennis is an occasional fun summer activity.
- Senior Stalwarts - An older group of players for whom tennis is a social habit and they play with a regular group as a way of keeping social and enjoyable gentle exercise.

- 5.83 The above profiles can be used to analyse the catchment in terms of the potential penetration for tennis – the number of people in each of the groups within a defined catchment area is determined. They can also be used to understand the facilities that are necessary to provide for the potential demand.
- 5.84 Analysis of the profile of each of the three former authority areas (provided by the LTA) demonstrates that:

Former Barrow Borough Area

- Current members of LTA affiliated clubs predominantly fall into the senior stalwarts and tennis troupers categories – these groups are over represented when compared to the proportion of residents that fit into these categories.
- Senior stalwarts do however represent the group most likely to play tennis in the former Barrow Borough. A high proportion of the population (42%) are non-profile in this area – this suggests that they fall into groups not typically associated with tennis.
- As a consequence, LTA insight suggests that there is reasonably low potential for club membership within the former Barrow Borough area for club membership. There is however potential to generate 1849 tennis players at parks venues if demand was fully realised.

Former South Lakeland Area

- 89% of current members of LTA affiliated clubs fall into the senior stalwart's category, 6% are tennis titans and 5% tennis troupers– the senior stalwarts group are over represented when compared to the proportion of residents that fit into these categories
- Senior stalwarts do however represent the group most likely to play tennis (83% of likely players). There is however also opportunity to generate interest in Tennis Titans, Tennis Troupers and seasonal spinners
- As a consequence, LTA insight suggests that there is some potential for club membership within the former South Lakeland area (227). There is however potential to generate 2426 tennis players at parks venues if demand was fully realised.

Former Eden Area

- 85% of current members of LTA affiliated clubs fall into the senior stalwart's category, 10% are tennis titans – the senior stalwart's group are over represented when compared to the proportion of residents that fit into these categories.
- Senior stalwarts do however represent the group most likely to play tennis in Eden (91% of likely players), with the next group being Tennis Titans.
- As a consequence, LTA insight suggests that there is reasonably low potential for club membership within Eden for club membership. There is however potential to generate 1270 tennis players at parks venues if demand was fully realised.

- 5.85 In all areas therefore, with senior stalwarts enjoying regular tennis for social reasons as well as exercise, their interest spans across both club courts and park courts. Critically for this group, play often takes place during the daytime as many are retired. This means that access to facilities at these times is essential. This raises the importance of providing appropriate parks facilities, as well as access to the club sites. It also highlights the importance of providing facilities local to the home.
- 5.86 Almost half of all LTA members in former South Lakeland use courts within a 10-minute drivetime of their home, and this rises to almost 60% in the former Eden and Barrow Borough areas. This suggests that access to local facilities is important if tennis participation is to be sustained, and that this requirement is common across all areas of Westmorland and Furness. This emphasises the importance of protecting the existing facilities to maintain local access.

- 5.87 In all areas that there is scope to increase the amount of tennis participation, targeting both senior stalwarts, but also the other population sectors with propensity to participate. In all areas, potential demand appears to be higher for ad hoc play.
- 5.88 Interestingly, a large proportion of the population of former Barrow Borough residents do not fit the typical tennis profile, suggesting potentially lower levels of demand in this part of Westmorland and Furness. Whilst residents in this area are therefore more likely to be harder to attract, activity is likely to focus their activity on pay and play in the first instance.
- 5.89 Insight therefore suggests that stimulation of new players at a grass roots level is central to increasing participation – this demonstrates the importance of providing facilities to meet the needs of grass roots tennis players (who can then transition into clubs). Typically, this is provided at public parks, which are located amongst large populations and offer pay and play opportunities.
- 5.90 In more rural areas however, it is not possible to provide the same amount and variety of facilities as in areas that are more densely populated. This therefore raises the importance of ensuring that there are different means of accessing the same facilities – for example clubs providing pay and play opportunities, functioning as a parks site as well as offering membership to encourage more regular play.
- 5.91 The characteristics of the area as a tourist destination adds extra weight to the importance of pay and play facilities. Tourists are transient and in the area for a short period of time. They do not have capacity to purchase memberships, and instead will use pay and play sites if they are well promoted.
- 5.92 With the initial quantitative analysis demonstrating that provision is broadly adequate, but that there is latent demand due to the poor customer journey, Table 5.5 therefore considers the adequacy of provision in each area and how facilities are accessed in order to provide an overview of potential gaps in provision.
- 5.93 It illustrates that the key areas for improvement are Kendal, Barrow and Walney and potentially lack of pay and play access in Cartmel Peninsula and Milnthorpe. There is a good balance of facility types in the LDNP, although it is clear that these facilities are underused and there are issues with the customer journey.
- 5.94 In all areas, there is scope to improve the customer journey. Even where the booking journey is known, in most instances the process is not optimised.
- 5.95 Effective provision in the larger settlements is particularly important, as these areas function as local hubs. If strong facilities are available in these settlements, the other sites that provide local facilities effectively function as spokes to these hubs.

Table 5.5 – Access to Facilities and Key Gaps

Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Open Access	Pay and Play (non-members)	Club Base	Key Gaps
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	N/a	Hawcoat Park Sports Club (online booking) but promotion limited	Hawcoat Park Sports Club (online booking) Westmount (members only)	Pay and play delivered at a club site, but lack of promotion of opportunity

Westmorland and Furness Council

Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Assessment



Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Open Access	Pay and Play (non-members)	Club Base	Key Gaps
Barrow Borough	Remainder of Barrow Borough	N/a	N/a	N/a	No provision. Proximity of sites in Barrow town and Ulverston Leisure Centre means that these facilities must accommodate demand from these areas.
Eden	Kirkby Stephen	Church Brough Tennis Court	School site available, but no promotion of details	Kirkby Stephen TC (school site)	Lack of promotion of existing opportunities. No clear gaps
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Lowther Village Hall (unclear), Shap, Tebay, Langwathby (unclear)	Penrith Castle Park (online booking), Ullswater and Eden (online booking)	Penrith LTC, Ullswater and Eden. Role of Penrith Rugby Club facility unclear.	No clear gaps
Eden	Appleby	Culgaith Recreation Ground	Morland Tennis Court (open but small charge)	Appleby TC	No pay and play in Appleby
Eden	Alston	Nenthead Village Hall (free access)			No clear gaps
Eden	LDNP	N/a	Patterdale TC (online booking)	Patterdale TC (online booking)	No clear gaps
Eden	YDNP	Ravenstonedale TC (honesty box)		Ravenstonedale TC (annual membership)	No clear gaps
South Lakeland	Kendal	N/a	Online and at shop at Burneside LTC Kendal LTC – pay and play permitted but no promotion at all	Kendal LTC – online booking for members Burneside LTC	Pay and play in Kendal

Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Open Access	Pay and Play (non-members)	Club Base	Key Gaps
South Lakeland	Milnthorpe	Holme Sports and Community Centre (unclear), Levens Playing Field (honesty box)	Arnside TC (online booking) Burton in Kendal (e mail address)	Arnside TC (online booking), Heversham with Milnthorpe (online booking) Endmoor LTC (gate access codes for members), Burton in Kendal (online booking)	No pay and play in Milnthorpe (although strong club base which could be expanded)
South Lakeland	Kirkby Lonsdale	N/a	Lundsedale Sports Centre – pay and play	Kirkby Lonsdale TC (at Lunesdale Sports Centre / School) – online booking for members	No clear gaps
South Lakeland	Cartmel Peninsula	Allithwait e Playing Field	Grange over Sands (hut to pay)	North Lonsdale LTC – online booking for members	Cartmel. Courts at school unavailable
South Lakeland	Ulverston and surrounding area	Kirkby in Furness Tennis Courts (paper recording system)	Ulverston LC (leisure centre / online booking)	Ulverston LC (online booking), Broughton in Furness (online booking)	No clear gaps
South Lakeland	LDNP	N/a	Hawkshead Tennis Courts (unclear) White Platts Recreation ground (ticket booth)	Coniston & District (e mail booking), Windermere LTC, (online booking) Crosthwaite & Lyth TC (online booking)	No clear gaps
South Lakeland	YDNP	Sedbergh LTC (Honesty box)	N/a	Sedbergh TC (access available)	No clear gaps

5.96 It is important to note however that whilst Table 5.3 reveals that there are few gaps in the network of facilities, consultation suggests that there is almost no take up of opportunities for pay and play tennis at club sites and as set out earlier, it is also understood that there is significant scope to increase the usage of the free to access facilities. For those where usage is better understood, it was highlighted that a higher proportion of pay and play usage is tourists, rather than local residents who would represent more regular users of the facilities. This represents the importance of the pay and play facilities to tourists, but again reinforces the opportunities to promote tennis to local residents.

5.97 It appears therefore that the issue is not necessarily one of inadequate facilities, but more of inadequate promotion and customer journey. Even where clubs are offering pay and play, it is clear that there is little promotion of these opportunities online. The LTA highlight several examples of good practice which could be replicated including:

- Penrith Castle Park – public facility with gate access system and online booking
- Patterdale LTC – club base with online booking and padlock key code
- Dallam School – accommodating club base that is accessible during school hours to club.

Capacity of Club Bases

- 5.98 Whilst overall it is not possible to quantify the exact levels of demand for tennis, it is important to understand the capacity of clubs, to ensure that facilities are adequate for the current and projected future members. Club membership can be accurately measured using LTA parameters – and this is set out in Table 5.6 for those clubs that have provided their membership details, and / or have affiliated with the LTA. This reveals that there is capacity for growth within the existing club infrastructure.
- 5.99 It is important however to also take into account pay and play access. It is known that where available, current uptake is limited. Pay and play will however increase the usage of facilities over and above the club base, but equally will improve the income for the club. Pay and play is not thought to generate overcapacity at any club currently.
- 5.100 Supporting this, all responding clubs indicated that they had capacity for new members, and no clubs believe that the number of courts (or the capacity of their courts) is restricting club activities.
- 5.101 Several clubs highlight the importance of attracting new members in order to ensure ongoing sustainability. It is necessary however to understand that the nature of the area means that clubs have small catchment areas in terms of potential participants. It is therefore not expected that all clubs will necessarily meet maximum occupancy levels and instead, maintaining stability is crucial.

Table 5.6 - Capacity of Club Bases

Former Local Authority Area	Sub Area	Site Name	Total Members	Non-Floodlit Courts	Total Floodlit Courts	Indoor Courts	Capacity	Potential increase in members	Pay and Play
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Hawcoat Park Sports Club	134	6	3	0	420	286	Yes (but poor promotion)
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	West Mount LTC	70	3	0	0	120	50	No
Eden	Appleby	Appleby TC		0	2	0	120		No
Eden	Kirkby Stephen	Kirkby Stephen LTC (Kirkby Stephen School). Small club / user group.		0	3	0	180		Yes (but poor promotion)
Eden	LDNP	Patterdale Tennis & Croquet Club		2	0	0	80		Yes
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Penrith Castle Park		0	4	0	240		Yes
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Ullswater & Eden Junior Tennis Club		2	0	0	80		Yes
Eden	YDNP	Ravenstonedale Tennis Courts		1	0	0	40		Yes
South Lakeland	Cartmel Peninsula	North Lonsdale Tennis Club	73	1	2	0	160	87	Not online

Former Local Authority Area	Sub Area	Site Name	Total Members	Non-Floodlit Courts	Total Floodlit Courts	Indoor Courts	Capacity	Potential increase in members	Pay and Play
South Lakeland	Kendal	Burneside TC	79	2	0	0	80	1	Village shop
South Lakeland	Kendal	Kendal LTC	137	0	4	0	240	103	Yes but not online and not promoted
South Lakeland	Kirkby Lonsdale	Kirkby Lonsdale Tennis Club		0	3	3	780		Yes
South Lakeland	LDNP	Coniston & District Tennis Club		0	2	0	120		Not online
South Lakeland	LDNP	Crosthwaite & Lyth TC		1	0	0	40		Yes (off peak)
South Lakeland	LDNP	Windermere LTC		2	0	0	80		Not online
South Lakeland	Milnthorpe	Arnside TC	63	1	1	0	100	37	Unknown
South Lakeland	Milnthorpe	Endmoor & District LTC		2	0	0	80		No
South Lakeland	Milnthorpe	Heversham with Milnthorpe TC		0	4	0	240		No
South Lakeland	Ulverston and surrounding area	Broughton-In-Furness Tennis Club		2	0	0	80		Yes
South Lakeland	Ulverston and surrounding area	Ulverston Leisure Centre / Ulverston Tennis Club / Wanderers Tennis Club	33	0	2	2	520	487	Yes but promotion
South Lakeland	YDNP	Sedbergh TC	34	0	2	0	120	86	Free access

5.102 The club infrastructure above is therefore good, with only qualitative issues identified. Clubs have access to a good balance of facilities and there is scope to increase the amount of usage at each site.

Adequacy of Provision to meet Future Population Growth

5.103 Analysis of future population projections demonstrate that participation growth will be limited, with just a 1% growth rate across Westmorland and Furness as a whole. This equates to an increase of 1762 people. Assuming that 2% of this additional population play tennis (based on the most up to date Sport England Active Lives data) there would be an extra 34 tennis players. This increase can easily be accommodated within the existing infrastructure.

5.104 The location of any additional housing development is currently unclear, given the early stages of the Westmorland and Furness Local Plan. The impact of any localised development on specific clubs will therefore be evaluated once further detail is known as the Westmorland and Furness Local Plan is prepared, and the Lake District National Park Local Plan is reviewed and through future monitoring of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Plan once adopted .. The strategy document provides an indication of the likely impact of housing development using the five year housing land supply.

5.105 To provide further geographic detail, the next section considers the site-specific issues for tennis. Provision is grouped by each of the three former authority areas.

Former Barrow Borough area

5.106 The former Barrow Borough area contains the lowest amount of tennis facilities in Westmorland and Furness. Table 5.3 revealed that there are no parks courts and therefore a reliance on Hawcoat Park Sports Club to provide pay and play opportunities in Barrow town itself, as well as a lack of facilities for tennis in the areas outside of Barrow. Residents in Dalton and Askam and surrounding areas must either travel to clubs in Barrow or Ulverston if they wish to play tennis.

5.107 Whilst insight modelling by the LTA suggests that large swathes of the population are not of the typical profile of the most regular tennis players, it still suggests that is strong propensity to participate and there is capacity within the existing infrastructure to improve participation.

5.108 If residents are to play tennis, marketing and promotion will be central to this, as well as the introduction of participation initiatives. Hawcoat Park Sports Club Tennis Club note that they have tried to engage with local schools and have offered use of the tennis courts for free, but there has been no take-up of this. Alongside the potential requirement for grass roots pay and play tennis therefore, new participation initiatives will be key.

5.109 To support the action planning process, Table 5.7 provides site-specific detail at each club site. It demonstrates that:

- Courts are on the whole in good condition with few quality issues.
- There is capacity for additional members – it is growing membership to improve sustainability that is the key priority.
- There may be an opportunity to provide access to additional tennis courts by promoting pay and play usage at Furness Academy.
- Although there is no existing tennis provision in the remainder of Barrow Borough, there is also no clear evidence of latent demand at this time.

Table 5.7 – Tennis Courts in Former Barrow Borough

Sub Area	Site Name	Total Courts	Total Floodlit Courts	Quality Comment	Access Arrangements	Quality Rating
Barrow and Walney	Furness Academy	5	0	Courts in good condition, clear markings and even surface.	N/a	Good
Barrow and Walney	Hawcoat Park Sports Club	9	3	Courts with variety of surface offered. Acrylic courts good and recently refurbished, grass courts of lower standard with faint markings. Part of wider sports club and large pavilion shared with other sports.	Online booking available for members and non-members. Lack of clear promotion of opportunities. Spare capacity.	Mix of good and standard
Barrow and Walney	West Mount LTC	3	0	Well maintained courts. Access challenging and uninviting	Members only. No online promotion. Spare capacity for additional members	Standard

Former South Lakeland Local Authority

- 5.110 South Lakeland contains the highest number of tennis courts. All clubs demonstrate that there is spare capacity and there is understood to be scope to increase usage in all areas. As in other areas, there are issues with the customer journey at the wide range of sites that are on offer
- 5.111 The quality of facilities in South Lakeland is higher than in the other areas, however there remain opportunities to improve. Retention of existing quality and increasing participation will be key to ensuring that the infrastructure for tennis remains sustainable, particularly in the smaller settlements.
- 5.112 To inform the action planning process, Table 5.8 sets out the key issues at each site, it reveals that:
- In addition to the lack of pay and play facilities identified in Cartmel itself earlier, it is noted that two of the three facilities in this part of Westmorland and Furness are poor quality.
 - The quality of provision in Kendal is good, the key issue is the lack of pay and play / opportunities for grass roots tennis. It should also be noted that Burneside TC is located on land allocated for housing. A replacement site has been identified.
 - Lunesdale Sports Centre / School / Kirkby Lonsdale TC is a vital part of the tennis infrastructure in this area.
 - The quality of facilities in the LDNP is largely good, although sites are small. Tennis facilities in this part of Westmorland and Furness offer particular opportunity to harness the tourist market, but this brings challenges, with issues around sustainability generated by the declining number of residents, as well as parking issues etc caused by tourists. There is provision for tennis in most key settlements, although qualitative improvements required. Sustainability is however a key issue in this area, with particular pressures on the courts in Bowness, which have only a 4% occupancy rate. The issues with customer journey are most prevalent in this area, with poor promotion and lack of online booking contributing to the lack of use in Bowness, and a lack of clarity on the booking of other sites.
 - Whilst quality in Milnthorpe is good, again there are two poor quality facilities and issues with sustainability on some of the smaller sites. In addition, there is also a need to improve pay and play opportunities within Milnthorpe itself.
 - In Ulverston, facilities at Ulverston Leisure Centre provide an important pay and play opportunity as well as club use. The location of Ulverston in close proximity to the outer areas of the former Barrow Borough area, where there are no other facilities, increases the importance of sites in this area. There are some concerns about the quality of this site and a clear need to invest in this, however again improvements to the customer journey alongside promotion should see participation improve. There are also two good quality facilities outside of Ulverston Town which provide important local facilities.
 - Sedbergh LTC is an important venue in NYDP offering both informal access and pay and play.

Table 5.8 – Site-Specific Issues on Tennis Courts in South Lakeland

Sub Area	Site Name	Total Courts	Total Floodlit Courts	Quality Comment	Access Arrangements	Quality Rating
Cartmel Peninsula	Allithwaite Playing Fields	1	0	Court surface very poor and loose. Lines fading. Part of multisport site and only poor facility. Requires immediate refurbishment.	Appears open access. No clear booking opportunities	Poor
Cartmel Peninsula	Grange over Sands Promenade	1	0	Some moss, loose tarmac and slippery surface. Court of limited quality with fading markings but functional.	Pay and play (small pavilion / hut)	Poor
Cartmel Peninsula	North Lonsdale Tennis Club	3	2	Carpet wearing in places, courts recently deep cleaned. Issues with leaves / seedlings. Small pavilion but no water. Spare capacity for additional members	Online booking for members	Mix of good and standard
Kendal	Burneside TC	2	0	Standard quality facility with good line markings, recently repainted. Small pavilion / clubhouse. Note these courts are located on land allocated for housing. A replacement site has been allocated in the current South Lakeland Local Plan.	Bookings by both members and pay and play taken by village shop. Courts locked but keys in shop.	Standard
Kendal	Kendal LTC	4	4	Courts in good condition, all floodlit. Refurbished in 2021	Online booking available for members	Good
Kirkby Lonsdale	Kirkby Lonsdale Tennis Club	3	3	Multisport courts provided on AGP during summer months for use by club. Portable tennis nets. Astroturf surface adequate. Access also to indoor tennis courts in sports hall.	Booking through Lunesdale Sports Centre	Standard
LDNP	Coniston & District Tennis Club	2	2	Nice site with well-maintained courts with nets on wheels. Camping club using facilities (not for tennis) at time of visit.	Website with e mail address to book courts. Small cost	Good
LDNP	Coniston Tennis Courts	2	0	Courts have faint lines which are not straight. Grass is too long.	Pay and play. Tourist website suggests payment in local shop. No clear advertising and courts locked at time of site visit.	Poor

Sub Area	Site Name	Total Courts	Total Floodlit Courts	Quality Comment	Access Arrangements	Quality Rating
LDNP	Crosthwaite & Lyth TC	1	0	Court in good condition, resurfaced June 2023. Pavilion shared with bowling green.	Online booking for members and non-members. Non-members can book courts off peak only. Code shared.	Good
LDNP	Hawkshead Tennis Courts	2	0	Overmarked with basketball but clear markings and playable courts.	Unclear	Standard
LDNP	The Glebe Park	3	0	Synthetic tennis courts hosting public market at time of site visit in very busy central, tourist location. Lack of use of site raised as key issue by provider.	Pay and Play	Standard
LDNP	White Platts Recreation Ground	3	0	Tennis courts in recreation area in centre of town. Courts have debris on them and lines are faint. Parking locally problematic.	Pay and play - tickets booth on site	Standard
LDNP	Windermere LTC	2	0	Good tennis courts with clear markings. Locked	Online booking for members. Online contact for non-members who wish to pay and play.	Good
Milnthorpe	Arnside TC	2	1	Located on recreation ground, well fenced and clear markings. Clubhouse poor condition. No onsite toilet facilities.	Online booking available for members and non-members	Good
Milnthorpe	Burton in Kendal	2	2	Recently refurbished sand based surface. Clear line markings, but multipurpose as used for football at time of site visit.	Online booking for members. Online contact for non-members who wish to pay and play.	Good
Milnthorpe	Endmoor & District LTC	2	0	Courts in good condition, appear newly resurfaced.	Gate access codes for members	Good
Milnthorpe	Heversham With Milnthorpe TC	4	4	Courts in good condition, floodlit	Online booking available for members. Courts accessible throughout the day despite location at school site.	Good

Sub Area	Site Name	Total Courts	Total Floodlit Courts	Quality Comment	Access Arrangements	Quality Rating
Milnthorpe	Holme Sports and Community Centre	1	1	Tennis court in corner of field between football and archery. Good surface but the lines are faint, loose chips at edges and uninviting entrance, with debris and mess generally.	Unclear	Poor
Milnthorpe	Levens Playing Field	2	0	Some loose material and faint lines. Requires refurbishment. Valuable facility being used at time of site visit.	Honesty box provided at tennis court entrance.	Poor
Ulverston and surrounding area	Broughton-In-Furness Tennis Club	2	0	Tennis courts on lane corner steps down and through gate. Chainlink fence and courts green on red. Portaloo in position. Line markings clear.	Online booking available for members and non-members	Good
Ulverston and surrounding area	Kirkby-in-Furness Community Centre Tennis Court	2	0	Courts in good condition, clear markings. Located adjacent to community centre.	Free of charge. Paper booking system in box by courts.	Good
Ulverston and surrounding area	Ulverston Leisure Centre / Ulverston Tennis Club / Wanderers Tennis Club	2	2	Part of larger complex which includes indoor tennis courts. Courts now have ageing surface (20 years) and require refurbishment. Condensation impacting use of indoor facilities.	Casual hire available and online booking. Outdoor courts April to October only.	Standard
YDNP	Sedbergh TC	2	2	Newly refurbished courts, good clear marking and even surface.	Free access (honesty box) and club use.	Good

Former Eden Local Authority

- 5.113 The quality of tennis courts in Eden is lower than in other areas of Westmorland and Furness, with a higher number of courts ranked as poor. This means that investment into quality will be a key component of any future strategy.
- 5.114 To support action planning, Table 5.9 summarises the sites that are provided and the key issues that are identified. It reports that similar issues are evident as in the former Barrow Borough and South Lakeland authorities. Visibility on sites is poor and there is spare capacity to increase participation. The geographical nature of the area however means that spare capacity is inevitable if local facilities are to be provided.
- 5.115 The majority of provision is located in Penrith and in this area, there is a mix of pay and play and club facilities. There are uncertainties over the future role of the former Penrith LTC site, with investment recently having taken place at Castle Park and the club now relocated. Whilst

there is now no clear role of this site in meeting demand, there remains a need to improve the other facilities in the area in order to compensate for this loss.

- 5.116 In other parts of Eden, it is clear that pay and play opportunities are more limited. In Appleby, there are no clear opportunities for informal tennis in the town, and whilst the courts at Kirkby Stephen are available for pay and play, again there is no promotion of this and therefore limited awareness of the opportunities that are available.

Table 5.9 – Site-Specific Issues on Tennis Courts in Eden

Sub Area	Site Name	Total Courts	Total Floodlit Courts	Quality Comment	Access Arrangements	Quality Rating
Alston	Nenthead Village Hall Tennis Court	1	0	Poor court with loose material. Line markings sprayed and loose material on fence.	Free access	Poor
Appleby	Appleby TC	2	2	Courts located on edge of school site as part of school centre. Two courts of adequate standard. Access difficult and unwelcoming	Club use	Standard
Appleby	Culgaith Recreation Ground	1	0	Tennis court in small recreation area next to netball/basketball court. Loose material on court surface and faint lines.		Poor
Appleby	Morland Tennis Court	1	0	Single court at village hall location. Fading lines but functional court. Fenced off.	Open at time of visit, but understood to be small pay and play charge.	Standard
Kirkby Stephen	Church Brough Tennis Court	1	0	Refurbished 2023. Markings and surface good. Fence is low, meaning that balls can easily go into adjacent multigames facility.	Open access	Good
Kirkby Stephen	Kirkby Stephen LTC (Kirkby Stephen School). Small club / user group.	3	3	Tennis courts in school grounds.	Booked through school, no information available and not actively promoted	Standard
LDNP	Patterdale Tennis & Croquet Club	2	0	Tennis courts in corner of cricket/ football field. Includes a small pavilion. Overmarked with basketball but only one set of goals. Line markings are clear.	Online booking (including non members)	Good
Penrith and M6 Corridor	Langwathby Village Hall	1	0	Tennis court adjacent to village hall. Some loose debris on surface and lines fading, but court is functional. Fencing tired	Unclear	Poor
Penrith and M6 Corridor	Lowther Village Hall	1	0	Faint lines and no equipment. Refurbishment required if to remain fit for purpose.	Free access	Poor
Penrith and M6 Corridor	Memorial Park, Shap	1	1	Single court appears newly refurbished. In good condition.	Free access	Good

Sub Area	Site Name	Total Courts	Total Floodlit Courts	Quality Comment	Access Arrangements	Quality Rating
Penrith and M6 Corridor	Penrith Castle Park	4	4	Courts fully refurbished in 2023. New hard surfaces, nets, post and fencing and automated gate access installed. Floodlit. New home for club. Work still required on pavilion to ensure that both tennis and bowls can be accommodated.	Online booking (including non-members)	Good
Penrith and M6 Corridor	Penrith LTC	2	2	Tennis courts part of rackets club in the grounds of the rugby club, site looks tired and courts almost derelict. Former home of Penrith Tennis Club. Future now unclear.	Previously club use. Role now unclear	Poor
Penrith and M6 Corridor	Tebay Recreation Ground	1	0	Single court in recreation area. Functional but playing surface has loose areas. Line markings clear.	Free access	Standard
Penrith and M6 Corridor	Ullswater & Eden Junior Tennis Club	2	0	School courts (Ullswater Community College) used by club. Standard condition. School note aspiration for additional courts as part of school refurbishment programme.	Online booking through club	Standard
YDNP	Ravenstonedale Tennis Courts	1	0	Basic tarmac tennis court, faint line markings and some loose material.	Open access, honesty box and annual membership available	Poor

Summary

5.117 To support the planning process, the key issues in each current local plan area are summarised.

Former Barrow Borough area

Key Issue	Description
Supply	12 courts on two sites - Additional provision available at Furness Academy - All facilities located in Barrow and Walney – no facilities in Remainder of Barrow sub area 25% of courts are good and the remainder standard - All courts are club based – there are no public courts.
Demand	- Demand not clearly monitored – levels of usage not fully understood - Providers report scope to increase usage of existing provision - LTA insight highlights importance of mix between club base and pay and play to promote grass roots tennis. - Insight suggests that demand exists equivalent to at least 2089 players, although a large proportion of residents are not traditionally of a profile suited to tennis. Engagement with grassroots tennis is likely to be particularly popular - Clubs highlight challenges attracting new members despite proactive attempts to engage and to encourage junior players.

Key Issue	Description
Adequacy of Provision	- Club courts good condition and have adequate capacity to meet current and projected future need - Modelling shows that if potential demand is realised, there will not be enough courts in the former Barrow Borough area to meet this demand - Lack of availability of courts outside of Barrow and Walney, however no known latent demand at present - Furness Academy courts offer potential to provide additional pay and play access.
Key Issues to Address	- Sustainability of existing courts and ongoing investment where required - Need to maximise pay and play / grassroots tennis in Barrow Town - Lack of access to tennis courts in remainder of Barrow area and potential long-term supply is insufficient to meet demand if participation potential is realised.

Former Eden area

Key Issue	Description
Supply	22 courts on 14 sites in a variety of settings – park and club - Disused sites in Kirkby Thore and Tebay - Higher proportion of poor courts than in other areas. These poor courts are dispersed across the area - Ravenstonedale (YDNP), Nenthead Village Hall (Alston), Langwathby Village Hall (Penrith) - All sub areas have at least one court and all larger settlements offer facilities for tennis.
Demand	- Demand not clearly monitored – levels of usage not fully understood - Providers report scope to increase usage of existing provision - LTA insight highlights importance of mix between club base and pay and play to promote grass roots tennis - Insight suggests that demand exists equivalent to at least 1348 players - Clubs highlight the importance of providing high quality facilities if members are to be retained.
Adequacy of Provision	- Number of courts sufficient to meet current and projected future demand - Capacity to accommodate additional play at club bases - Some quality / sustainability issues on smaller sites – some sites already disused and others have limited lifespan due to their poor quality - Lack of clarity around use of some facilities – opportunity to improve the customer journey. Underuse of venues primarily associated with this issue - LTA insight suggests that most tennis players are playing local to their home – retention of the facilities in more rural areas is critical if these players are to continue - Lack of pay and play opportunities / poor promotion of opportunities in Appleby and Kirkby Stephen.
Key Issues to Address	- Quality and sustainability issues on some sites - Need to improve customer journey - Need to improve participation in order to ensure sustainability - Opportunities to improve visibility and promotion of tennis.

Former South Lakeland area

Key Issue	Description
Supply	50 courts on 23 sites - Highest provision of former authority areas - Provision highest in Milnthorpe, LDNP - Disused site in Staveley - Evidence of diversification on some courts – multi use sports and / or non-sporting activity 55% of courts are good. There are however some courts of poor quality – these are Grange over Sands Promenade (Cartmel), Coniston Tennis Courts (LDNP), Holme Sports and Community Centre and Levens Playing Field (Milnthorpe).

Key Issue	Description
Demand	• Demand not clearly monitored – levels of usage not fully understood. Usage at GLL managed sites reported to be well under capacity • Clubs highlight challenges attracting new members – ageing population / holiday lets / facility quality considered to be particularly impact • Providers report scope to increase usage of existing provision • LTA insight highlights importance of mix between club base and pay and play to promote grass roots tennis • Insight suggests that demand exists equivalent to at least 2426 players.
Adequacy of Provision	• Number of courts sufficient to meet current and projected future demand • Capacity to accommodate additional play at club bases • Some quality / sustainability issues on smaller sites – some sites already disused and others have limited lifespan due to their poor quality • Lack of clarity around use of many facilities – opportunity to improve the customer journey. Underuse of venues primarily associated with this issue • LTA insight suggests that most tennis players are playing local to their home – retention of the facilities in more rural areas is critical if these players are to continue • Lack of pay and play opportunities / poor promotion of opportunities in Kendal and Milnthorpe.
Key Issues to Address	• Retention of good quality facilities • Some qualitative improvements required on club sites • Quality and sustainability issues • Opportunity to improve customer journey • Need to improve participation in order to ensure sustainability • Opportunities to improve visibility and promotion of tennis • Lack of accessible pay and play opportunities in Kendal and Milnthorpe.

Lake District National Park

Key Issue	Description
Supply	• Number of facilities higher than in most other areas • Disused courts in Staveley • Small sites but providing important local facilities • Coniston courts are the only poor facilities • Lack of floodlit courts.
Demand	• Demand not clearly monitored – levels of usage not fully understood. • Some concerns around future of courts in Windermere / Bowness-on-Windermere– perceived lack of demand, but clear impact of lack of promotion and poor customer journey • Providers report scope to increase usage of existing provision • LTA insight highlights importance of mix between club base and pay and play to promote grass roots tennis • Clubs highlight issues with reducing residential population in this area, coupled with impact of tourism. More pay and play demand generated from tourism than local residents.
Adequacy of Provision	• No requirement for additional provision • Adequate facilities available to meet current and projected future growth • Some qualitative improvements required • Focus on increasing participation to maximise sustainability of existing venues • Lack of clarity on booking / customer journey.
Key Issues to Address	• Retention of spread of facilities • Some qualitative improvements required on club sites • Quality and sustainability issues • Need to improve customer journey • Need to improve participation in order to ensure sustainability • Opportunities to improve visibility and promotion of tennis.

Yorkshire Dales National Park

Key Issue	Description
Supply	- Limited facilities, Sedbergh TC is an important venue - Site offers pay and play as well as club usage.
Demand	Spare capacity to accommodate growth in participation.
Adequacy of Provision	- No requirement for additional provision - Some qualitative improvements required - Focus on increasing participation to maximise sustainability of existing venues.
Key Issues to Address	- Retention of good quality facility - Some qualitative improvements required.

6.0 Bowls

Introduction

- 6.1 This section evaluates the key issues for bowling in Westmorland and Furness. It sets out the supply and demand for facilities and determines the adequacy of provision both at the current time and in future years.

Supply

- 6.2 There are 61 active bowling greens in Westmorland and Furness. Over 50% of these greens are located in the former South Lakeland authority area, but all areas of Westmorland and Furness contain at least one green:
- In the former Barrow Borough area, provision is high in Barrow town, with 16 greens. There are just two greens in the Remainder of Barrow Borough (although these are located within the two main urban areas of Askam and Dalton)
 - In the former South Lakeland area, provision is highest in the Lake District National Park where there are 11 greens. There are 8 greens in Milnthorpe, 6 in Ulverston and 5 in Kendal. There are greens in most major settlements
 - In the former Eden area, the number of greens is highest in Penrith and M6 corridor. There are three greens in Appleby area, and just one green in each of the other sub areas (located in the main settlements).
- 6.3 Supplementing the provision in the main towns, it is clear that there are more facilities in rural areas for bowling than for many other sports.
- 6.4 In addition to the active greens, there are five sites where bowling greens have recently been provided but are now disused. Four of these are located in South Lakeland – Grange-over-Sands, Ulverston Sports Club, Ulverston Lightburn Park and Ulverston Leisure Centre. There are also 2 disused greens at Barrow Park. A former green in Barrow at Abbotsvale Community Centre has also been recently reprovided as a classroom for a nursery.
- 6.5 Table 6.1 provides a summary of the active greens that are available in each area.

Table 6.1 – Bowling Greens Across Westmorland and Furness

Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Number of Greens	Sites Available
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	14	Police Bowls Club, Roose Bowling Club (2), Salthouse Bowling Club, Barrow Island Bowling Green, King Alfred Crown Green Bowling, Walney Park Bowling Club, North Scale Bowling Club, West Shore Bowling Green, Coop Sports & Social Club, Hawcoat Park Sports Club Bowling Club (2), West Mount LTC (2), Barrow Park (2)
Barrow Borough	Remainder of Barrow Borough	2	Askam Bowling Green, Dalton Bowling Green
Eden	Kirkby Stephen	1	Kirkby Stephen Bowls Green
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	5	Lazonby Bowling Club, Memorial Park, Shap, Penrith Castle Park Bowls Club, Penrith Friars Bowling Club, Skelton Bowls Club
Eden	Appleby	3	Appleby Bowls Club, Temple Sowerby Bowling Club (2),
Eden	Alston	1	Alston Bowls Club
South Lakeland	Kendal	5	Kendal Victoria Bowling Club, Kendal Subscription Bowling Club, Abbot Hall Bowling Club, Burneside Bowling Club, Netherfield Bowling Club
South Lakeland	Milnthorpe	8	Arnside Bowling Club, Burton-In-Kendal Crown Green Bowling, Holme Bowling Club, Hale Bowls Club / Kings Arms Bowls Club, Heversham Bowling Club, Milnthorpe Bowling Club, Endmoor Crown Green Bowls Club, Levens Bowling Club
South Lakeland	Kirkby Lonsdale	1	Kirkby Lonsdale Bowling Club
South Lakeland	Cartmel Peninsula	2	Lower Holker Village Hall & Bowling Club, Allithwaite Bowling Club
South Lakeland	Ulverston and surrounding area	5	Lindal Bowling Club, Kings Head Bowling Club, Ulverston Cons Bowls Club, Glaxo SC Bowling Club, Kirkby Bowling Club
South Lakeland	LDNP	11	Lindale Bowls Club, Ambleside Bowling Club, White Platts Recreation Ground, Hawkshead Bowls Club, Langdale Bowling Club, Queen's Park Bowling Club, Bowness Bowling Club, Crosthwaite & Lyth Bowling Club, Staveley Bowling Club, Coniston Bowls, Leven Valley Bowling Club,
South Lakeland	YDNP	1	Sedbergh Bowls Club

6.6 Just three sites offer two greens - Temple Sowerby (Eden), Roose Bowling Club and Hawcoat Park Sports Club (both in Barrow town). Two greens enables the creation of larger clubs as well as providing effective facilities for competition hosting and developmental activities.

6.7 Ownership of bowling greens is more varied than any other type of facility considered in this assessment. Several greens are provided by private sports clubs / organisations, whilst Parish / Town Councils are also key providers. Regardless of ownership, the majority of greens are maintained by the clubs that use the sites.

Green Quality

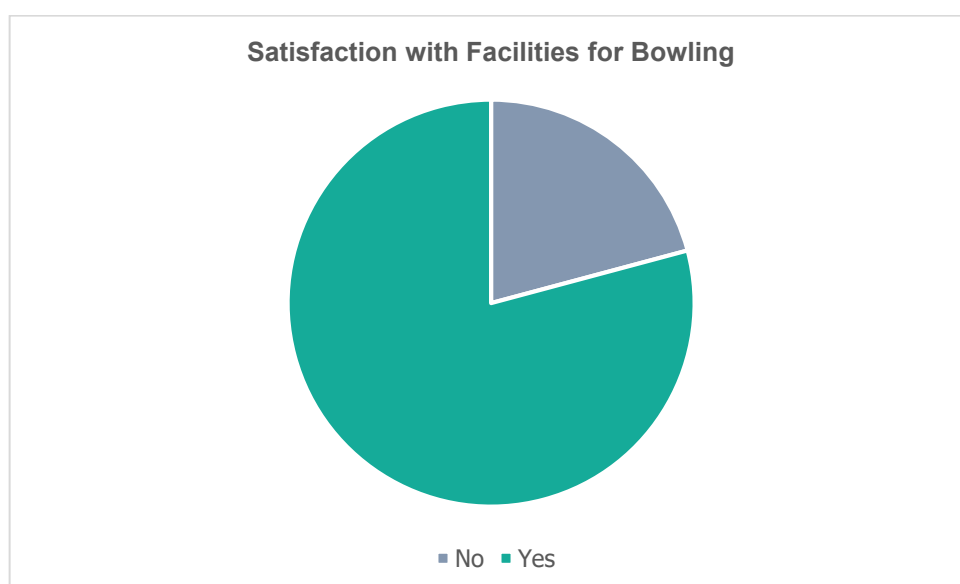
6.8 The quality of bowling greens was explored through non-technical site visits and consultation.

- 6.9 Site visits were carried out in order to provide an overview of the quality of facilities during the bowling season (summer).
- 6.10 At the time of visits, all greens were functioning and ready for use. While many sites would benefit from improvement, only four greens were reported to be in poor condition and it was clear that significant effort had been made with green preparation. Indeed, many greens were rated as good. Site visits reported that:
- Efforts to maintain the green to a high standard were evident on almost all sites.
 - Irrigation was a key concern, with many greens exhibiting signs of water stress (lack of / inappropriate watering schedules). Several of the greens were scorched and / or brown.
 - Some greens suffered from weeds / bumpy surfaces and bare patches.
 - The same issues arose in all parts of Westmorland and Furness.
- 6.11 It was highlighted that a focus on winter maintenance could address many of the issues identified.
- 6.12 Site visits also revealed that numerous greens are poorly advertised and promoted, with little visibility to the local community. In a similar vein, there is also a poor online presence for bowls clubs in Westmorland and Furness, with few having any digital presence. This may impact upon bowls development and participation rates.
- 6.13 Site-specific issues identified will be explored later in this section.

Views of the Bowling Community

- 6.14 To supplement the findings of site visits, consultation was undertaken with representatives of bowling clubs in order to understand the key issues relating to quality.
- 6.15 Overall, there was a positive perception of facilities. As exhibited in Chart 6.1, just 21% of representatives of clubs are dissatisfied with their current green. The proportion of clubs that are satisfied in each part of Westmorland and Furness is almost identical.

Chart 6.1 – Overall Satisfaction with Bowling Greens



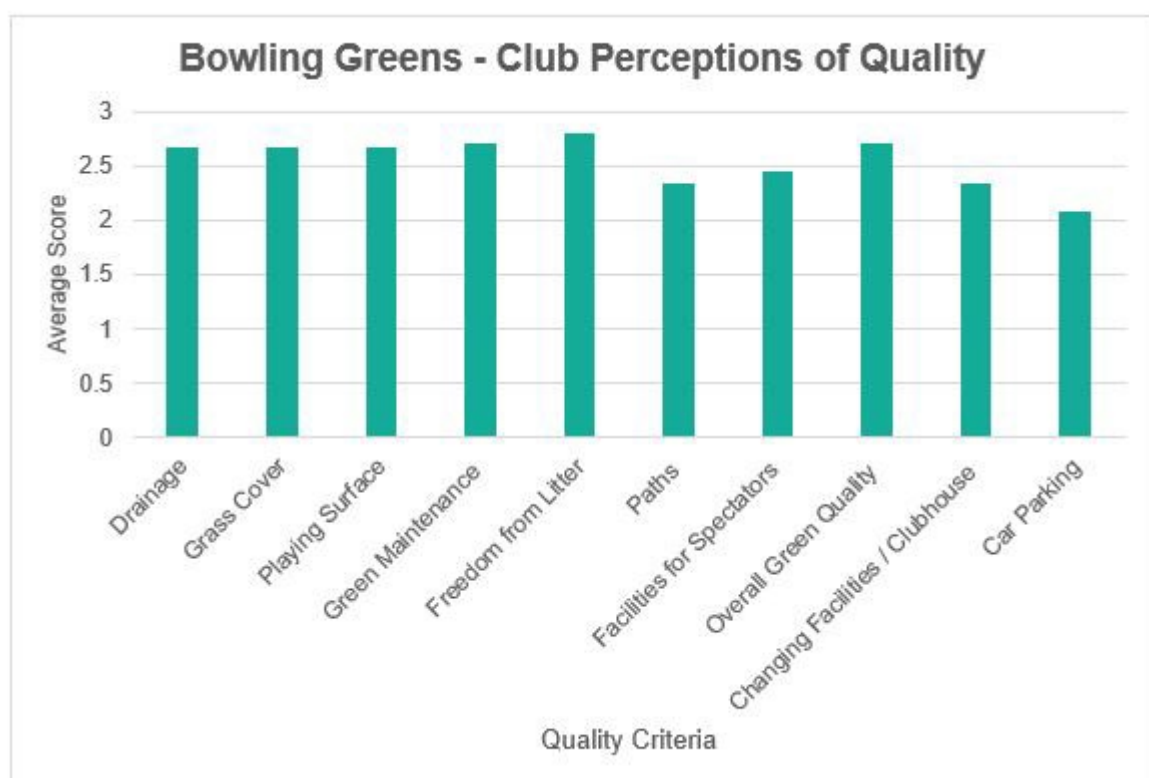
- 6.16 Whilst overall there is strong satisfaction, some important issues were raised. In particular:

- Maintenance skills – on a third of sites clubs felt that they did not have the skills to maintain the green properly (and that this compromised green quality).
- The cost of maintenance – many clubs report struggling with the cost of maintenance, particularly where they must get in contractors to carry out some maintenance tasks.
- Some clubs believe that they do not have appropriate machinery, but that the cost of purchasing what is required is too high.
- Reducing volunteers places greater pressure on a small number of individuals.

6.17 Figure 6.2 illustrates the views that were gathered through consultation with clubs. Users were asked to rate the quality of greens, with 1 being poor, greens of average quality awarded a score of 2 and a good quality achieving a rating of 3.

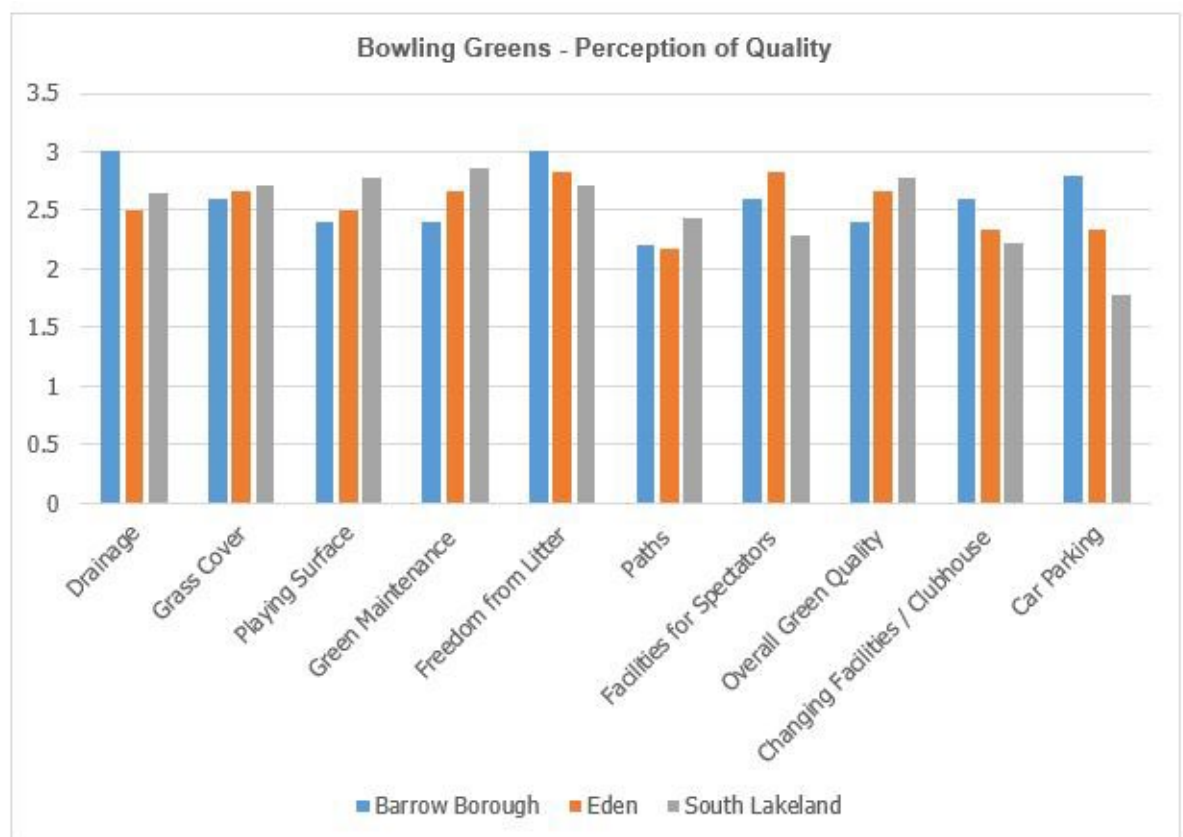
6.18 Looking at the views on green quality, it demonstrates that the quality of greens is considered acceptable overall. Paths, car parking and the condition of the clubhouse were highlighted as the key issues.

Figure 6.2 – Club Perception of Quality Issues



6.19 Figure 6.2 demonstrates how these views are similar in all parts of Westmorland and Furness. It demonstrates that views are typically more positive in the former South Lakeland area than in the former Barrow Borough and Eden areas in relation to the playing surface, but more negative in relation to ancillary facilities and car parking. Bowlers in the former Barrow Borough area highlight particular issues with the playing surface and paths.

Figure 6.3 – Comparison of views in different parts of Westmorland and Furness



6.20 Tables later in this section summarises the key quality issues on each site.

Accessibility

6.21 Bowling greens have a local catchment and this is illustrated in Figure 6.4. It demonstrates that around 75% of current members travel less than 3 miles, with just over 45% of all players travelling less than 1 mile.

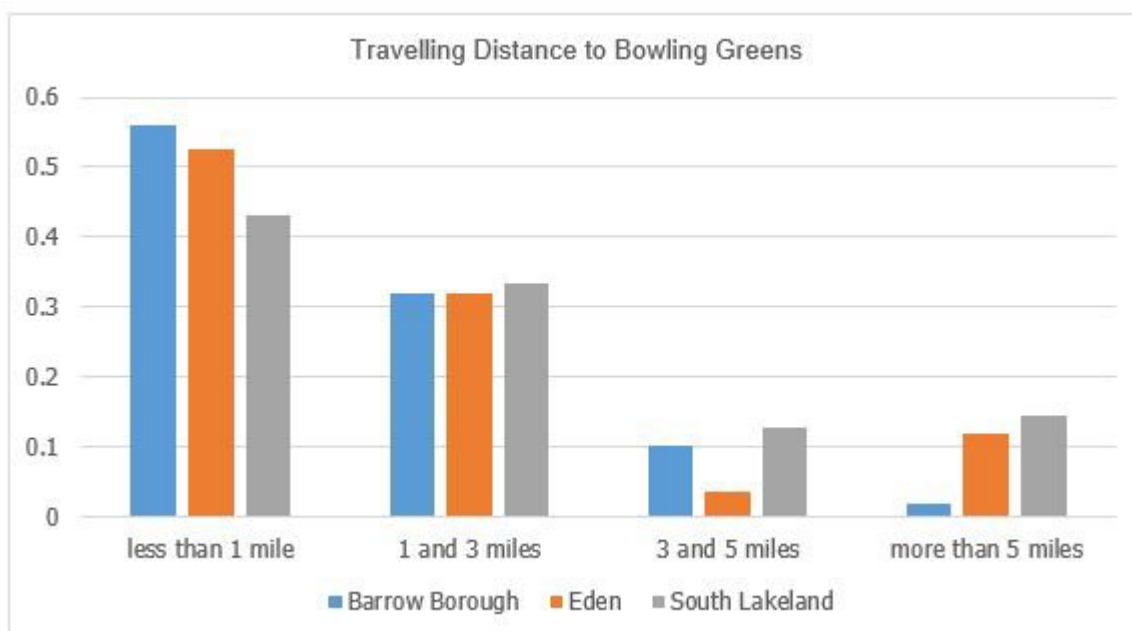
6.22 This means that members predominantly choose to play at greens local to their home and the provision of greens close to the home is therefore important if participation is to be retained and new players are to be attracted.

Figure 6.4 – Travel Distance to Bowling Greens



6.23 Figure 6.5 demonstrates that this pattern exists across all three former authority areas. Perhaps unsurprisingly given the geography, more residents in the former South Lakeland and Eden areas travel over 5 miles than those in the former Barrow Borough area.

Figure 6.5 – Travelling Distance to Bowling Greens



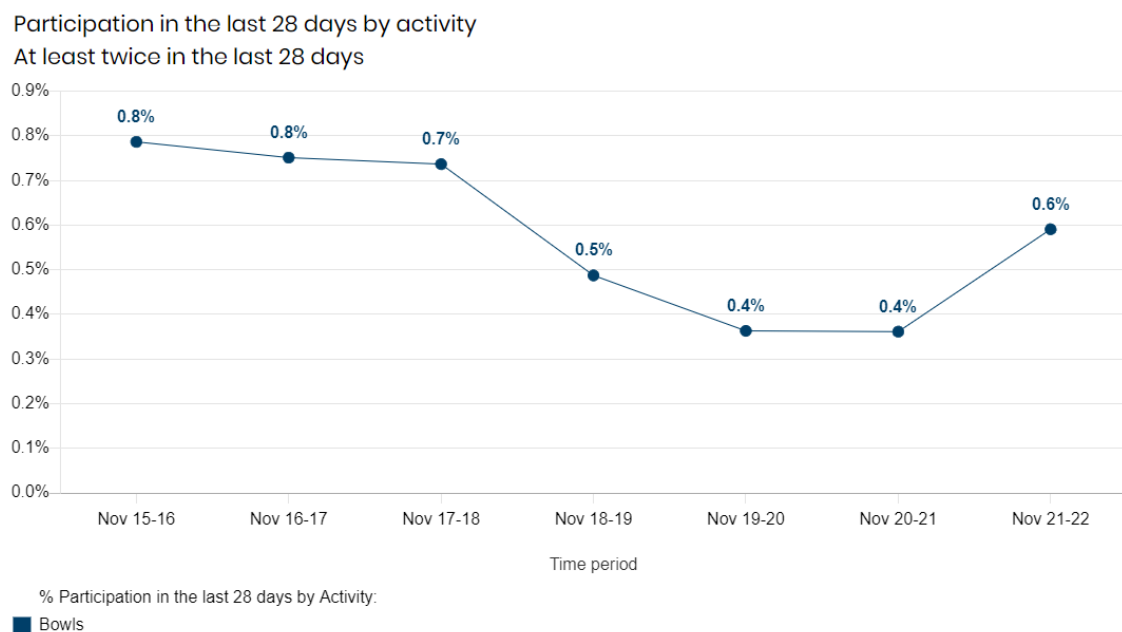
Demand

6.24 Nationally, the Sport England Active People survey indicated that participation in outdoor bowls declined over the 2005 - 2016 period. In 2005 0.83% of the adult population played outdoor bowls at least once a week. By 2016 this dropped to 0.51%.

6.25 The Active Lives Survey records activity from 2017 up to the present day. It reveals that up to 0.4% of the population now participate in bowls or boules, based on figures released in May 2023 (for the November 2021 – November 2022 period). There has been an increase in participation since 2021, the end of the COVID-19 pandemic. There has however been a long-term downward trend, suggesting that participation in bowls continues to struggle but that the pandemic exacerbated the issue. Participation has however now reached levels above those seen in 2018 – 2019, providing some hope for the sport.

6.26 Figure 6.6 demonstrates the decline in bowls recorded by the Active Lives Surveys.

Figure 6.6 – Participation in Bowls (provided by Sport England Active Lives Survey)



Actual Participation

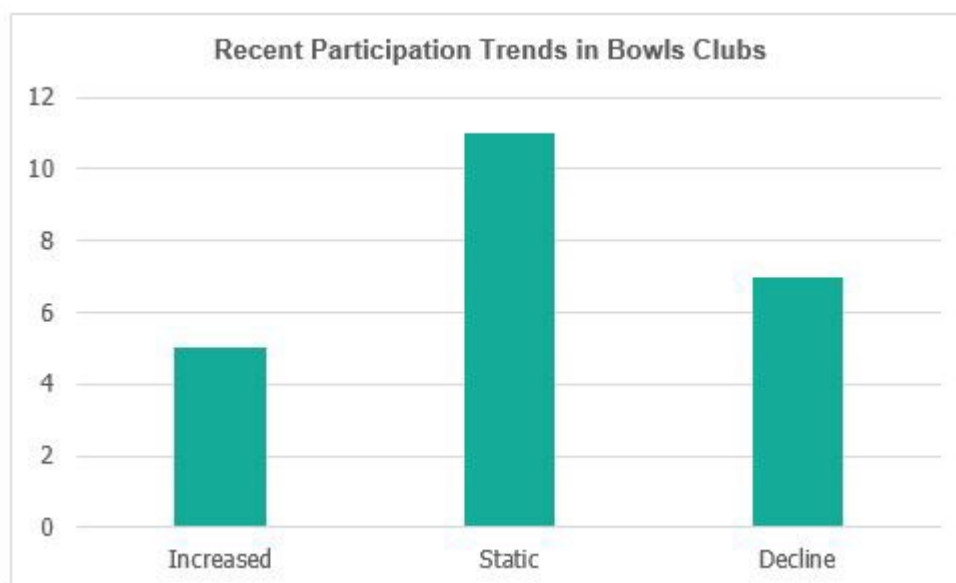
6.27 Despite the national trends in bowling, participation in bowls across Westmorland and Furness is strong and consultation presents a positive picture overall. Several schemes have been introduced in Cumbria to reinvigorate bowls in Cumbria and there are multiple leagues operating. Clubs predominantly participate in crown green bowls in:

- Furness and District Leagues
- Kendal Bowls League
- South Lakeland Rural League
- South Westmorland League
- Ulverston League
- Walney Bowls League.

6.28 The leagues are all operating competitively, with good numbers of clubs engaged and opportunities for participation are strong.

6.29 At an individual club level, consultation shows mixed trends. Whilst some clubs are experiencing decline, some have evidenced recent growth. Half of all clubs have seen membership remain static. This is summarised in Figure 6.7.

Figure 6.7 – Trends in Participation in Clubs



6.30 Chart 6.7 however disguises some different patterns:

- All clubs experiencing an increase in participation are located in the former South Lakeland area.
- In contrast, the majority of clubs in the former Eden area have recently declined in membership numbers.
- In the former Barrow Borough area, participation is primarily static.

6.31 Whilst there are different experiences in terms of the number of members, the challenges highlighted for clubs in relation to participation were consistent:

- Those clubs that are proactively seeking new members are experiencing growth.
- Lack of interest amongst young people is viewed as one of the key barriers to club development.
- Age and health are the main reasons for declining numbers of members.

6.32 Consultation demonstrates that there has been some initiative taken to try and increase levels of participation, including open days and adverts in newspapers and magazines. Several clubs however concede that they are struggling for ideas to increase visibility and awareness especially amongst younger demographics that access advertisements and information through different means.

6.33 Regardless of recent trends, all clubs across Westmorland and Furness report that they have capacity to accommodate additional members and indeed, many indicate that they are proactively looking to increase the number of members, recognising the correlation between membership numbers and income (which can then be used to improve maintenance procedures).

National Governing Body Perspective

6.34 The majority of bowls in Westmorland and Furness is played under the Crown Green Bowls Association.

- 6.35 Representatives of the Crown Green Bowls Association present a positive picture of existing participation, but emphasise that several schemes are underway to reinvigorate the sport after COVID-19 pandemic. Key priorities include:
- Introduction of juniors to the game
 - Delivery of Bowls for Health projects
 - Research on the social benefits of bowls.
- 6.36 A small number of clubs to the north of Westmorland and Furness are part of the Cumbria Bowls Association, which is affiliated to Bowls England. Bowls England is the main NGB for Flat Green Lawn Bowls in England. The organisation's strategy (Fit for the Future – August 2021) identifies five key priorities:
- Improve the brand - Ensure bowls is relevant, visible, reach target audiences
 - Make bowls accessible – introductory forms of the game, modernise digital platforms, break down barriers, diversity and inclusion strategy, building new partnerships
 - Positive playing experiences – support mixed memberships and pay and play, broadening involvement, performance pathways and providing annual structured programme of competition
 - Support volunteers – support club management teams, arrest the decline in facilities, support volunteering programme, ensuring appropriate quality and quantity of officials.
- 6.37 There is limited direct reference to facilities within the strategy document, although clearly facilities are an important component of retaining and increasing participation and the Governing Body will seek to support clubs and county boards through the provision of a variety of online resources. Specifically, the strategy prioritises:
- 'Working at a local and national level to arrest the decline in facilities to ensure places to play bowls are accessible, inclusive and sustainable.'*
- 6.38 A research report (October 2016) undertaken by Sport England into the issues facing the sustainability of bowls reflected many of the concerns raised during consultation, indicating that there is:
- Falling membership and high age profile of existing members
 - Reduction in the number of new members
 - Members are very sensitive to increases in fees, but that increase in membership fees has been necessary to offset declining numbers
 - Increasing maintenance / green upkeep fees.
- 6.39 It concludes that:
- Recruitment of new members is key to ongoing sustainability
 - There is a need to implement sound financial management practices. This includes a need to explore alternative methods of income generation (a bar / social facilities etc are key to financial sustainability). There is also a need to maximise secondary income streams (hire out facilities / sponsorship etc) to ensure that income can be ring fenced for a sinking fund
 - Maintenance costs and machinery are the highest financial burdens - there may be opportunities to think creatively about how this can be improved (maintenance hubs etc)
 - The 40 - 55 age group is crucial to reduce the overall age profile and to drive club activities (but there is a struggle to engage with these groups)
 - There is often a reliance on one individual and development business plans need to be put in place.
- 6.40 The above provides important context for current bowling provision across Westmorland and Furness.

Adequacy of Provision

- 6.41 The key components determining the adequacy of provision are discussed in the section that follows. There are no formal demand models for bowls or methods of calculating unmet demand and so instead a combination of quality, quantity and accessibility must be considered.
- 6.42 The adequacy of bowling greens is evaluated by drawing together the data collated and determining the key issues impacting current and projected future participation.

Green Quality

- 6.43 Whilst assessments demonstrate that most greens are functional, there are qualitative improvements required at many sites, including irrigation, and maintenance is highlighted as perhaps the key ongoing challenge for local clubs. This relates not just to the work carried out, but also the processes, workforce and machinery.
- 6.44 The area specific information later in this section will highlight the key issues identified on each of the bowling greens.

Accessibility

- 6.45 Alongside quality issues (which remains the biggest priority), the importance of access to greens should be noted. The existing distribution of greens is well spread and there is good access for most residents in the majority of locations. A high number of smaller settlements have bowling greens, reflecting the expectations set out in figure 6.4 that bowling greens will be provided local to the home.

Amount of Greens

- 6.46 The historic Sports Council standard recommended 10 greens per 60,000 people (Planning for Sport 1970). Application of this standard would give a requirement 38 greens across Westmorland and Furness as a whole. To provide an idea of the required spatial distribution of these facilities, application of this standard to the three former local authorities would suggest that:
- There is a requirement for 11 greens in the former Barrow Borough area.
 - There is a need for 9 greens in the former Eden area.
 - Demand equates to 18 greens in the former South Lakeland area.
- 6.47 All three areas have provision above these minimum standards.
- 6.48 This is however a dated measure which does not take into account demand or the sparsely distributed population that is evident in parts of Westmorland and Furness. That said, there are no alternative standards although Bowls England does provide some additional measures that can be used to understand the adequacy of current provision and the challenges that are faced in relation to the quantity of facilities.
- 6.49 Bowls England suggests that 80-100 members is considered a very healthy membership for a bowling green, while an average club will have 50 - 60 members. The lower the membership numbers, the more a club struggles to put out teams, but equally, the lower income also impacts upon the maintenance that can be carried out.
- 6.50 At any one time, a good quality green can accommodate circa 48 players and the number of club members that can therefore be sustained is significantly higher. While there are some sources that suggest that clubs accommodating a higher number of players than this become overplayed, to maximise sustainability, clubs should instead be encouraged to promote a spread of play across different time slots in order to maximise the number of people that are involved in the club.

- 6.51 Bowls England guidance suggests that where a club membership reduces to 20 players or below, there are likely to be sustainability issues and a need to increase participation to secure the future of the club.
- 6.52 As part of the consultation programme carried out with bowls clubs, we have therefore sought to understand the number of members at each bowls club. For those clubs that responded to consultation (and provided their membership numbers), the average membership across Westmorland and Furness as a whole was 56 members. This creates a positive picture of participation, suggesting that clubs are sustainable and indeed have membership broadly in line with national averages. Analysis of how this picture varies geographically suggests that:
- Bowls is strongest in the former Barrow Borough area – clubs have an average membership of 85 members. This excludes greens in Barrow Park which have recreational use only
 - Participation in the former South Lakeland area is broadly in line with the Westmorland and Furness average (52 members)
 - The average number of members is lowest in the former Eden area (32 members).
- 6.53 This suggests that participation in bowls is particularly healthy in the former Barrow Borough, but that there may be sustainability concerns in the former Eden area. This also links with the qualitative information presented earlier in this section, which reported that there are higher numbers of poor-quality facilities in the former Eden area.
- 6.54 The next section therefore considers the site-specific issues for bowls, using the three former authority areas to present the information.

Former Barrow Borough

- 6.55 With 18 bowling greens situated in the former Barrow Borough area, provision is above the minimum Sports Council standard and the average club membership (85) suggests that participation is strong (and indeed clubs are approaching capacity). All clubs confirm that they are still proactively seeking new members.
- 6.56 Consultation data however revealed that satisfaction levels are marginally lower in the former Barrow Borough area than in the former South Lakeland and Eden areas, and participation is now static. Some clubs highlight challenges undertaking the maintenance that is required and clubs in the former Barrow Borough area raise particular concerns about the lack of volunteers and / or reliance on elderly club members.
- 6.57 Table 6.2 below sets out the key issues at each club site and the membership numbers (where known). It demonstrates that:
- The key quality issues identified relate to challenges with maintenance – many greens have problems with disease, thatching and moss.
 - There is evidence of heavy use on most sites, with bare patches on several greens.
 - Clubs are most concerned about the cost of maintenance and as a consequence, prioritise ongoing and improved maintenance.
 - Where known, the membership of all greens is healthy and there are no greens where sustainability appears to be a risk.

Table 6.2 – Bowling Greens in Former Barrow Borough

Sub Area	Club Name	Number of Greens	Members Per Green	Issues Identified
Barrow and Walney	Police Bowls Club	1	Not known	Green in reasonable condition, well sand dressed but with bare patches and areas of unevenness. Sand gutters and artificial grass surrounds the green.
Barrow and Walney	Roose Bowling Club	2	70	2 greens including one that is floodlit.
Barrow and Walney	Barrow Park (no club)	2	N/a	Greens maintained for recreational use only. Pay and play.
Barrow and Walney	Salthouse Bowling Club	1	Not known	Bowling club in residential area, located behind a wall and locked. Green appeared well maintained but facilities would benefit from updating.
Barrow and Walney	Barrow Island Bowling Green	1	76	Part of community centre complex with football and rugby league. Nice green, areas well maintained but some moss and bare patches, gutters need updating. Club highlight that maintenance remains their key priority. Club currently impacted by shortage of coaches and volunteers.
Barrow and Walney	King Alfred Crown Green Bowling	1	118	Adjacent to public house. Well maintained and looked after, playing surface good. Recently established maintenance committee. Some moss and thatching evident at time of site visit. Clubhouse facilities now require upgrade – new pavilion is key club priority.
Barrow and Walney	Walney Park Bowling Club	1	75	In public park near play area. Nice and tidy site well maintained. Floodlit, but with some bare patches, moss and thatching. Some areas uneven, but plenty of seating.
Barrow and Walney	North Scale Bowling Club	1	47	Nice tidy site next to the community centre and playground. Club highlight maintenance requirements as a key issue, noting that financial pressures limit the works that can be done. Some bare patches and thatching evident at time of site visit.
Barrow and Walney	West Shore Bowling Green - Post Office Bowls / South End Crown Green	1	69	Green as part of social club. Maintenance is a particular challenge for club and improvement remains priority. Club have issues controlling disease and problems with weed control on the green which impacts playing surface.
Barrow and Walney	Coop Sports & Social Club	1	95	Green in residential area, nice aspect and well maintained if a little tired. Grass coverage is however poor and club highlight issues with a leatherjack infestation. Club also concerned about lack of younger membership.
Barrow and Walney	Hawcoat Park Sports Club	2	Not known	The greens are tidy and well-kept but the site could do with some updating. Gutters for example. Both greens in similar condition, but with some bare patches and thatching. Site benefits from good clubhouse and social facilities. Multi-sport venue. One green is floodlit.
Barrow and Walney	West Mount LTC	2	Not known	No access at time of visit. Bowling green hidden from view, low visibility and no signage.
Remainder of Barrow Borough	Dalton Cricket Club	1	Not known	Limited visibility, located adjacent to Dalton CC.
Remainder of Barrow Borough	Askam Bowling Green	1	65	Nice green, evidence of good maintenance at time of site visit (Verti cutting in progress). Walled in and surrounded by small buildings / spectator areas. No issues identified by club.

- 6.58 Whilst the greens are all close to capacity, there is no information to suggest that there is currently any latent or unmet demand in the former Barrow Borough area or a requirement for additional greens to meet current need.
- 6.59 The above information all applies to both sub areas within the former Barrow Borough.

Former South Lakeland Local Authority

- 6.60 South Lakeland contains the highest number of bowling greens of the former authorities and provision is above the target Sports Council standard. With Chart 6.4 demonstrating the importance of providing local facilities for bowling however, more facilities are required to meet the needs of residents, given the vast distances between settlements in this part of Westmorland and Furness.
- 6.61 The average membership in South Lakeland varies slightly across the sub areas, with the average number of members lowest in LDNP and highest in Cartmel Peninsula and Kendal.
- 6.62 Participation trends are more varied in South Lakeland than in other parts of Westmorland and Furness. There are several clubs that demonstrate proactivity in terms of increasing their membership, with open days, links with schools etc. Some clubs also highlight that their numbers are declining. In addition to health and age, in the South Lakeland area this is also attributed to the challenges that tourism brings, with the local resident population declining and the number of holiday lets increasing – it is thought that this reduces the pool of people from which residents can be drawn.
- 6.63 Table 6.3 sets out the key issues at each club site and the membership numbers (where known). It demonstrates that:
- The key quality issues identified primarily relate to challenges with maintenance – many greens have problems with disease, thatching and moss.
 - There is evidence of heavy use on most sites, with bare patches on several greens.
 - Clubs are most concerned about the cost of maintenance and as a consequence, prioritise ongoing and improved maintenance.
 - Parking also arises as a key issue for many clubs. The lack of close parking and / or requirement to pay for parking is highlighted as a deterrent for potential members.
 - On the majority of sites, the club membership is healthy.

Table 6.3 – Site-Specific Issues on Bowling Greens in South Lakeland

Sub Area	Club Name	Number of Greens	Membership Per Green	Issues Identified
Cartmel Peninsula	Allithwaite Bowling Club	1	82	Tidy site, appeared well maintained although some moss and bare patches. Club struggle with maintenance, issue in preceding year meant green was unplayable. Uneven in parts. Bowls pavilion would benefit from upgrade.
Cartmel Peninsula	Lower Holker Village Hall & Bowling Club	1	Not known	Green with village hall, steps a bit messy although paths tidy. Green in relatively poor condition – large bare patches and uneven. Requires enhanced maintenance regime.
Kendal	Abbot Hall Bowling Club	1	Not known	Nice green in public park, gated. Seating around the green, bare patches and some thatching.
Kendal	Burneside Bowling Club	1	Not known	Nice green located by the railway station. Roadside parking. Pavilion and several gazebos on site. Grass had been cut, appeared a tidy site but with some small patches of moss and thatching.

Sub Area	Club Name	Number of Greens	Membership Per Green	Issues Identified
Kendal	Kendal Subscription Bowling Club	1	80	Lack of access for large equipment other than through the clubhouse. The green suffers from damage by crows and worms. Car parking also poor.
Kendal	Kendal Victoria Bowling Club	1	89	Location in centre of town , no parking nearby. Nice tidy well maintained green but lacks irrigation. Timber and soil gutters with oxalis growing. Poorly irrigated.
Kendal	Netherfield Bowling Club	1	64	Floodlit green. Some improvements to maintenance could further enhance site, good ancillary facilities.
Kirkby Lonsdale	Kirkby Lonsdale Bowling Club	1	53	Well-presented green. Artificial grass gutters. Pavilion building. Parking on roadside can be problematic for club.
LDNP	Ambleside Bowling Club	1	45	Stand-alone green, well maintained although small amount of moss. Club indicate that green requires reseeding as part of winter maintenance programme. Nice tidy site. Car parking poor. Floodlighting no longer viable, pavilion requires improvement works. Club struggle with funding.
LDNP	Ambleside Bowling Green (White Platts Recreation Ground)	1	Not known	Bowling green on busy recreation area in the centre of town, bare patches and thatching. Hanging baskets and well maintained, tourist site.
LDNP	Bowness Bowling Club	1	39	Nice green at the back of the main street close to Windermere Rugby Club. In reasonable condition and tidy site. Roadside parking is a key issue for club, particularly as the area is very busy with tourists. Floodlit. Club highlight rising financial costs and the reducing number of residents (compared to holiday lets).
LDNP	Coniston Bowls	1	Not known	A well-presented site, the bowling green however needs attention – evidence of thatching, moss and bare patches.
LDNP	Crosthwaite & Lyth Bowling Club	1	40	Nice location for green but the green needs attention as it is bare in places. Some rabbit droppings.
LDNP	Hawkshead Bowls Club	1	21	Nice green well maintained, tidy site (although club do not have skills and therefore pay external contractor). Small amount of seating. Limited moss on green. Parking in pay and display car park across the road – impacts on members and visitors.
LDNP	Langdale Bowling Club	1	Not known	Nice green in busy location, tidy site. Edges required cutting at time of site visit.
LDNP	Lindale Bowls Club	1	Not known	Off main road, small area for car parking, tidy site well kept. Some moss and thatching.
LDNP	Queen's Park Bowling Club	1	Not known	Nice green well presented (despite some moss and thatching) and looks well supported. Floodlit. Timber pavilion.
LDNP	Staveley Bowling Club	1	Not known	Nice location, nice site and tidy. The green will need attention – uneven with bare patches.
LDNP	Leven Valley Bowling Club	1	11	Tired site with weeds and rabbit damage, playing surface uneven and with moss. Needs investment. Clubhouse and visitor facilities require repairs. Club struggle with funding for maintenance works.

Sub Area	Club Name	Number of Greens	Membership Per Green	Issues Identified
Milnthorpe	Arnside Bowling Club	1	Not known	Nicely located green, the green itself needs some attention with moss and significant bare patches. Will require strong winter maintenance programme to bring it back. Paths would also benefit from improvement. Floodlit.
Milnthorpe	Burton-In-Kendal Crown Green Bowling	1	Not known	Nice green well presented, tidy. Green is floodlit with medium sized rendered pavilion.
Milnthorpe	Endmoor Crown Green Bowls Club	1	40	Nice green pleasant location, grass cut but evidence of moss, bare patches and thatching. Clear efforts to maintain green.
Milnthorpe	Hale Bowls Club / Kings Arms Bowls Club	1	20	Nice green although some bare patches evident. Surroundings and pavilion need updating but funding is a key issue for club. Lease understood to be linked to adjacent pub.
Milnthorpe	Heversham Bowling Club	1	40	Nice green in pleasant location. Well-presented and maintained, some very small bare patches only.
Milnthorpe	Holme Bowling Club	1	57	Nice green well presented. Evidence of good maintenance programme – verticutting at time of site visit. Seating around green.
Milnthorpe	Levens Bowling Club	1	Not known	Nice location in busy recreation area. Hedge cutting at time of visit. Nice tidy site with some steps. The green will need some attention as there are large sections of moss and bare patches. Requires improved maintenance regime. Partial floodlighting.
Milnthorpe	Milnthorpe Bowling Club	1	50	Green located in nice position in residential area, roadside parking. Moss, thatching and large bare patches mean green needs some attention. Requires scarification and slitting - strong winter maintenance required to ensure full reinstatement for next season. Clubhouse also requires refurbishment.
Ulverston and surrounding area	Glaxo SC Bowling Club	1	46	Green in large sports club. Tidy green with bare patches, although evidence of maintenance works as green had been spiked at time of site visit. Club highlight that the green requires improved irrigation. Changing facilities are poor. Future of green unclear due to closure of site.
Ulverston and surrounding area	Kings Head Bowling Club	1	Not known	No access to green
Ulverston and surrounding area	Kirkby Bowling Club	1	82	Nice green well maintained, in fabulous position nice views with pleasant surrounds. Stone pavilion and green is floodlit. Seating around green.
Ulverston and surrounding area	Lindal Bowling Club	1	Not known	Tidy site with stone gutters but the green has areas of bare patches – appears to be lack of irrigation. These are making the green uneven.
Ulverston and surrounding area	Ulverston Cons Bowls Club	1	68	Green well maintained and good playing surface. Poor parking and disability access.

Sub Area	Club Name	Number of Greens	Membership Per Green	Issues Identified
YDNP	Sedbergh Bowling Club	1	41	Green behind residential street in outside village location, fabulous view and nice green well maintained but with some bare patches (opportunities to improve grass coverage). Well supported club. Clubhouse is in need of repair. Poorly signed and so awareness is a key issue for club.

6.64 It is the individual club membership numbers that represent the best guide to sustainability. There are just three clubs in the South Lakeland area where membership is below 30, specifically:

- Leven Valley Bowls Club (11)
- Hale / Kings Arms Bowls Club (20)
- Hawkshead Bowls Club (21).

6.65 Increasing membership at these sites will be crucial if the greens are to remain sustainable.

6.66 Importantly, the green at GSK Sports Club is also reasonably well used. Whilst there is capacity at other sites in Ulverston, the membership of the existing club suggests that this is an important green (and consequently that any closure should see the green replaced).

Former Eden Local Authority

6.67 Provision in Eden is also above the target Sports Council standard. Like South Lakeland however, more facilities are required to meet the expectation that facilities are local to the home, given the vast distances between settlements in this part of Westmorland and Furness.

6.68 Most greens in Eden are however focused in the Penrith and M6 corridor area, with just one bowling green in each of other sub areas.

6.69 Table 6.4 summarises the key issues identified at each site. It is notable however that more clubs in Eden are experiencing challenges with the maintenance of greens, with both the reliance on a small number of volunteers, a lack of training / qualified groundsman and the cost of maintenance all very real concerns for clubs. The quality of greens in Eden is also slightly lower than in other areas. This may in part be a result of the lower membership numbers (which results in lower income) but may also be a cause of the lower membership numbers.

Table 6.4 – Site-Specific Issues on Bowling Greens in Eden

Sub Area	Club Name	Number of Greens	Membership Per Green	Issues Identified
Penrith and M6 Corridor	Lazonby Bowling Club	1	Not known	Intimidating entrance with barbed wire. Worms, bare patches and moss weeds evident in addition to thatching, playing surface is uneven. Green would benefit from additional maintenance. Surrounds are tidy and well fenced.
Penrith and M6 Corridor	Memorial Park, Shap	1	23	Nice green well maintained and well presented. Evidence of usage with some bare patches and small patches of thatch. Cost of maintenance can be prohibitive and club reliant on small workforce.
Penrith and M6 Corridor	Penrith Castle Park Bowls Club	1	22	Green in public park, open, the grass needs edging but otherwise a tidy site. Some bare patches. Seats around the green and access to large pavilion. Club consider car parking to be poor. Construction works to the tennis courts adjacent.

Sub Area	Club Name	Number of Greens	Membership Per Green	Issues Identified
Penrith and M6 Corridor	Penrith Friars Bowling Club	1	62	Floodlit green with high walls. Club indicate that maintenance requires improvement – they have no qualified greenkeeper. Ditches also need updating.
Penrith and M6 Corridor	Skelton Bowls Club	1	20	No access at time of visit, tidy well-presented site but the green would benefit from specific reinstatement work to the bare patches and thatching.
Appleby	Temple Sowerby Bowling Club	2	24	Two greens, with thatching, worm casts and bare patches. Uneven in parts. Would benefit from improved maintenance. Club highlight that drainage is also an issue and that the path requires improvement. Buildings would benefit from upgrade.
Appleby	Appleby Bowling Club	1	45	Well-presented green in good surroundings. Small amount of weeds. Flooding is a major issue, with significant floods in 2010 meaning that the club cannot now secure insurance.
Kirkby Stephen	Kirkby Stephen Bowling Green, Mill Lane	1	30	A tidy site but the green needs attention. Green is very bare in parts and grass coverage is minimal. Bowling hut small and requires updating. Parking challenging.
Alston	Alston Bowls Club	1	Not known	Green in recreation area, tidy site but a bit tired, green needs attention due to bare patches and thatching.

6.70 With lower average membership numbers, it is clear that bowling in Eden is less stable than in the other parts of Westmorland and Furness. This is emphasised by consultation with clubs, with many highlighting the small catchment area that their club has and the challenges that they have experienced in recruiting members. Whilst membership of all clubs is above the target minimum threshold of 20, for several clubs it is only just above:

- Skelton Bowls Club (20)
- Penrith Castle Park (22)
- Memorial Park Shap (23)
- Temple Sowerby Bowls Club (24 and the club have two greens).

6.71 Increasing membership at these sites will be crucial if the greens are to remain sustainable.

Future Requirements for Bowls

6.72 Proportionally, the largest growth in the population is expected in the 65 years and over population and the total increase in this sector of the population is therefore larger than the overall increase that will take place. The profile of current participants in bowls means that the ageing population is likely to influence participation more so than for most other sports.

6.73 Analysis indicates that the number of residents aged 65+ is likely to increase from 61,577 now (2023) to 75,786 by 2040 (an increase of 14,210). The propensity to participate in bowls is therefore likely to grow. This is likely to stimulate additional demand for bowling and place additional pressures on the existing infrastructure.

6.74 With full membership numbers not available for all greens, it is necessary to make some assumptions to project demand forward. If all greens are assumed to have an average membership (56) this would suggest that circa 5% of residents in Westmorland and Furness play bowls. Demand would therefore generate an additional 710 residents playing bowls across Westmorland and Furness. This would increase the average green membership to 68 members.

- 6.75 This level of membership is still sustainable within the existing stock and indeed, continues to offer spare capacity, suggesting that there are enough greens to meet current and future demand and there is scope for growth within the facility stock.
- 6.76 For the majority of greens, the additional members will provide welcome increased income and will improve sustainability of bowls across Westmorland and Furness.
- 6.77 With the location of long term housing growth unknown (other than five year housing land supply which will be considered in the strategy document), it must be assumed that some increase will be experienced at each club. The impact on a site-by-site basis will however need to be taken into account through preparation of future Local Plans for Westmorland and Furness, the LDNP and the adoption of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Plan.

Summary and Key Issues by former Local Planning Authority Area

Former Barrow Borough

Key Issue	Description
Supply	16 greens in the former Barrow Borough area, 14 of which are in Barrow Town itself - Quality generally good - Key issues relate to challenges with maintenance – many greens have problems with disease, thatching and moss - There is evidence of heavy use on most sites, with bare patches on several greens - Parking also arises as a key issue for many clubs. The lack of close parking and / or requirement to pay for parking is highlighted as a deterrent for potential members.
Demand	- All greens provided are currently used - Average club membership is 85 – this represents a strong level of demand - Membership consistent across both sub areas - No evidence of latent / unmet demand.
Adequacy of Provision	- Provision above baseline standards - All clubs operating at sustainable levels - All clubs have capacity for additional members - Indeed, additional members will increase income which in turn will support maintenance - No clear requirement for additional provision, although all existing facilities are valuable.
Key Issues to Address	- Improvement works at clubs – focus on improved maintenance - Protection of existing facilities.

Former South Lakeland District Planning Area

Key Issue	Description
Supply	33 greens across South Lakeland – highest of all former authorities. 21 excluding LDNP and YDNP - Quality generally good - Key issues relate to challenges with maintenance – many greens have problems with disease, thatching and moss - There is evidence of heavy use on most sites, with bare patches on several greens - Clubs are most concerned about the cost of maintenance and as a consequence, prioritise ongoing and improved maintenance.

Key Issue	Description
Demand	- All greens provided are currently used - Average club membership is 56 – this represents a strong level of demand - Membership varies slightly across the sub areas, with the average number of members lowest in LDNP and highest in Cartmel Peninsula and Kendal.
Adequacy of Provision	- Most clubs operating at sustainable levels - All clubs have capacity for additional members - Indeed, additional members will increase income which in turn will support maintenance - Sustainability issues evident at a small number of greens - Leven Valley Bowls Club, Hale / Kings Arms Bowls Club, Hawkshead Bowls Club. - No clear requirement for additional provision, although all existing facilities are valuable.
Key Issues to Address	- Work to improve sustainability of sites with low existing membership numbers - Improvement works at clubs – focus on improved maintenance - Protection of existing facilities.

Former Eden District Planning Area

Key Issue	Description
Supply	10 greens 70% of greens located in the Penrith and M6 corridor sub area - Greens of lower quality than in other parts of Westmorland and Furness - Key issues relate to challenges with maintenance – many greens have problems with disease, thatching and moss - Clubs are most concerned about the cost of maintenance and as a consequence, prioritise ongoing and improved maintenance. Several clubs raise concerns about their ability to carry out the relevant maintenance and the issues that they have with a lack of volunteers and the cost.
Demand	- All greens provided are currently used - Average club membership is 32 – this is much lower than other parts of Westmorland and Furness and is only just above the minimum levels where greens are considered to be sustainable.
Adequacy of Provision	- Clubs in Eden less sustainable than other clubs - Four clubs have memberships which are at very low levels – Skelton, Penrith Castle, Memorial Park and Temple Sowerby Bowls Clubs. Increases in members are required if these greens are to remain sustainable - Quality of facilities is lower than in other areas - No clear requirement for additional provision, although all existing facilities are valuable.
Key Issues to Address	- Work to improve sustainability of sites with low existing membership numbers - Improvement works at clubs – focus on improved maintenance - Protection of existing facilities.

LDNP

Key Issue	Description
Supply	11 greens – highest of all sub areas of South Lakeland - Lower quality than many other parts of South Lakeland - No greens in former Eden area
Demand	- All greens provided are currently used - Average club lowest of all areas of South Lakeland - Hawkshead Bowls Club and Leven Valley low membership in particular.

Key Issue	Description
Adequacy of Provision	• Most clubs operating at sustainable levels (outside those with low members) • All clubs have capacity for additional members • Indeed, additional members will increase income which in turn will support maintenance • No clear requirement for additional provision, although all existing facilities are valuable.
Key Issues to Address	• Work to improve sustainability of sites with low existing membership numbers • Improvement works at clubs – focus on improved maintenance • Protection of existing facilities.

YDNP

Key Issue	Description
Supply	• Sedbergh Bowling Green only facility provided • Adequate quality
Demand	• Average membership numbers (41)
Adequacy of Provision	• Club operating at sustainable levels, capacity for additional members • additional members will increase income which in turn will support maintenance • No clear requirement for additional provision • Awareness of site low due to poor signage
Key Issues to Address	• Protection of existing facility • Increased awareness of opportunities provided

7.0 Hockey

Introduction

7.1 This section evaluates the adequacy of pitches for hockey and provides:

- An overview of hockey across Westmorland and Furness
- An understanding of the current stock of facilities
- An outline of demand for hockey pitches
- A picture of the adequacy of current provision
- The future picture for hockey
- A summary of the key issues for hockey in each geographical area.

Pitch Supply

7.2 England Hockey Policy Guidance on AGPs (Artificial Grass Pitch Surface Policy 2016) confirms that the following pitches are suitable for hockey:

- Category 1 - Water Based (suitable for high level hockey)
- Category 2- Sand Dressed (acceptable surface for hockey)
- Category 3 - Sand Filled (preferred surface for hockey)
- Category 4 – Long Pile 3g (acceptable surface introductory Level Hockey but not competitive match play hockey).

7.3 A new surface (Gen 2 multi sports area) has also been developed for hockey since publication of the 2016 document and is approved for use by England Hockey. This multi-sport surface seeks to maximise sustainability in that as well as meeting needs for hockey, it is also approved for use for tennis and netball (and therefore widening the potential uses of the facility). Gen 2 surfaces can also be used for futsal, lacrosse, softball, korfbal and athletics training.

7.4 Table 7.1 summarises the full sized AGPs (AGP is sometimes referred to as a synthetic turf pitch) that are suitable for hockey in Westmorland and Furness. It reveals that:

- There are ten full sized AGPs suitable for hockey
- There are no AGPs of a suitable surface in the town of Barrow
- Two sand based AGPs are provided in the former Eden area (Kirkby Stephen and Penrith). There are no pitches in the Appleby / Alston areas of Eden
- Most of the pitches are located in the former South Lakeland area. There are two pitches in Kendal (Queen Katherine School and Kirkbie Kendal) and one pitch in Kirkby Lonsdale (Queen Elizabeth). The pitch at Ulverston Leisure Centre services the Ulverston area, but also provides a facility within driving distance of the majority of residents of the former Barrow Borough. There are also two pitches in Windermere (Lake District National Park) and one in Sedbergh (Yorkshire Dales National Park)
- The pitch at Windermere School is the only site where no community use is permitted. This suggests that overall, availability is good across the pitch stock.

7.5 Provision is therefore well distributed. Whilst there are some gaps, hockey traditionally has a wider catchment than some other sports, where pitches are expected to be more local to the home. The lack of facilities in the former Barrow Borough area however means that geographically, the pitch in Ulverston is particularly important in meeting the needs of residents in this area.

Table 7.1 –AGPs Suitable for Hockey across Westmorland and Furness

Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Site Name	Surface Type	Hours Available	Provision
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	N/a	N/a	N/a	-
Barrow Borough	Remainder of Barrow Borough	N/a	N/a	N/a	-
Total Provision					0
Eden	Kirkby Stephen	Kirkby Stephen Grammar School	Sand Filled	Monday-Friday 18:00 - 22:00 Weekend 09:00 - 22:00	1
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Penrith Leisure Centre	Sand Dressed	Monday 06:30 - 20:00, Tuesday, Thursday 10:00 - 20:00, Wednesday 06:30 - 21:00, Friday 06:30 - 19:00, Saturday 07:30 - 15:00, Sunday 10:00 - 16:30	1
Eden	Appleby	N/a	N/a	N/a	-
Eden	Alston	N/a	N/a	N/a	-
Total Provision					2
South Lakeland	Kendal	Queen Katherine School	Sand Dressed	Monday-Friday 17:30 - 22:00 Weekend 10:00 - 17:00	1
South Lakeland	Kendal	Kirkbie Kendal School	Sand Filled	Monday-Friday 17:30 - 21:30 Weekend 12:00 - 16:00	1
South Lakeland	Milnthorpe	N/a	N/a	N/a	-
South Lakeland	Kirkby Lonsdale	Queen Elizabeth School	Sand Filled	Monday-Friday 17:30 - 21:00 Weekend 09:00 - 17:00	1
South Lakeland	Cartmel Peninsula	N/a	N/a	N/a	-
South Lakeland	Ulverston and surrounding area	Ulverston Leisure Centre	Sand Filled	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 06:30 - 21:30 Weekend 06:30 - 16:00	1
South Lakeland	LDNP	The Lakes School	Sand Filled	Monday-Friday 17:00 - 22:00 Saturday 09:00 - 21:00, Sunday 09:00 - 17:00	1
South Lakeland	LDNP	Windermere School	Sand Dressed	Not available to the community	1
South Lakeland	YDNP	Sedbergh School	Sand Filled	Weekend 09:00 - 17:00	1
South Lakeland	YDNP	Casterton Sedbergh Preparatory School	Sand Filled	Monday-Friday 17:00 - 22:00	1
Total Provision					8

- 7.6 Since the assessment was undertaken a further pitch has been provided at Sedbergh School. This pitch has a water-based surface and is therefore suitable for high quality hockey.

Quality

- 7.7 Table 7.2 summarises the quality of the sand based AGPs. It reveals that there is strong variation in the quality of AGPs for hockey with most facilities newly laid / recently refurbished but three pitches (Penrith Leisure Centre, Ulverston Leisure Centre, Kirkby Lonsdale) that are poor. This means that whilst some facilities offer high quality opportunities for hockey clubs, others are at risk of becoming unplayable if improvements are not prioritised.

Table 7.2 – Quality of AGPs across Westmorland and Furness

Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Site Name	Quality Rating	Quality Comments
Eden	Kirkby Stephen	Kirkby Stephen Grammar School	Good	Recently refurbished (2019) and in good condition. Good pitch surface.
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Penrith Leisure Centre	Poor	Pitch compacted and worn with significant drainage issues. Regular cancellations for flooding. Overly sandy, issues with lighting. Requires short term resurface to ensure that pitch remains fit for purpose.
South Lakeland	Ulverston and surrounding area	Ulverston Leisure Centre	Poor	Ageing pitch (20 years), shock pads no longer functioning or providing cushioning. Silt is rising to surface when it rains, significant drainage issues and lots of match cancellations. Some rips in surface and pitch is starting to dip in parts. Carpet compacted and slippery. Dugouts are poor and the floodlights fail regularly. Changing facilities of limited quality.
South Lakeland	Kendal	Queen Katherine School	Good	Pitch in good condition, built 2018. Even surface and good grip underfoot. Dugouts small. No clubhouse on site but site includes adequate changing / toilet facilities.
South Lakeland	Kendal	Kirkbie Kendal School	Good	Recently refurbished (2018), in good condition. No issues identified. Changing facilities available and of standard quality (school site)
South Lakeland	Kirkby Lonsdale	Queen Elizabeth School	Poor	Floodlights consistently poor, tennis lines now painted on. Some issues with grip underfoot, holes in surface and damage to the surface. Some litter issues. Last refurbished 2005
South Lakeland	LDNP	The Lakes School	Good	Refurbished 2020. Pitch surface improving due to enhanced maintenance. Some moss but grip and linemarking good. Floodlighting poor - only 6 out of 8 masts are working. Match day dugouts makeshift only. Changing facilities of basic quality, separate pitch pavilion.
South Lakeland	YDNP	Sedbergh School	Good	Pitch understood to be in good condition, with clear line markings.
South Lakeland	YDNP	Casterton Sedbergh Preparatory School	Unknown	Condition unknown

Demand

7.8 Table 7.3 summarises the hockey clubs that are currently playing in Westmorland and Furness and the teams that they are running. It confirms that all of the sand based AGPs except for Sedbergh School are regularly used by community hockey clubs. It also demonstrates that:

- Reflecting the distribution of facilities, participation in hockey is highest in the South Lakeland part of Westmorland and Furness . There are no hockey teams in the former Barrow Borough area.
- With the exception of Ambleside Hockey Club (HC), all clubs are running both senior and junior teams. This means that there are strong pathways for hockey development.
- Despite good pathways between junior and senior hockey, clubs in the area are generally small (1 – 3 senior teams and a small junior section).
- There is just one club at each venue, with the exception of Ulverston Leisure Centre which is home to two clubs (South Lakes Hockey Club and Ulverston Hockey Club).
- Hockey is particularly important in offering opportunities for female sport, with the number of senior female teams higher than the number of male teams across Westmorland and Furness as a whole. Whilst participation between male and females is even in South Lakeland, in Eden it is heavily skewed towards female hockey.

Table 7.3 – Hockey Clubs in Westmorland and Furness

Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Site Name	Club	Hockey Male Senior Teams	Hockey Female Senior Teams	Hockey Junior
Eden	Kirkby Stephen	Kirkby Stephen Grammar School	Kirkby Stephen HC	0	3	U10, U12, U14
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Penrith Leisure Centre	Penrith HC, Cumbria Hockey Association, QEGS School, Ullswater School (midweek days).	0	2	U10, U12, U16
South Lakeland	Kendal	Queen Katherine School	Kendal HC	1 (2 entered for new season)	2	Mini, U10, U12, U14
South Lakeland	Kendal	Kirkbie Kendal School	Ambleside Hockey Club	0	1	0
South Lakeland	Kirkby Lonsdale	Queen Elizabeth School	Kirkby Lonsdale HC	2	1	Juniors play at Sedbergh Prep School

Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Site Name	Club	Hockey Male Senior Teams	Hockey Female Senior Teams	Hockey Junior
South Lakeland	Ulverston and surrounding area	Ulverston Leisure Centre	South Lakes HC, Ulverston HC	1 (South Lakes)	1 (South Lakes), 1 (Ulverston)	Mixed Juniors (South Lakes), U15, U12 x 2 and U10 x 2 Ulverston
South Lakeland	LDNP	The Lakes School	Windermere HC	2	1	U10/U14 mixed
South Lakeland	YDNP	Casterton Sedbergh Preparatory School	Kirkby Lonsdale HC (juniors)	No teams. Large school hockey programme (including weekend fixtures)	Large school hockey programme (including weekend fixtures)	3 junior teams (training and ad hoc Sunday festivals)
South Lakeland	YDNP	Sedbergh School	School use only, ad hoc overspill	No teams. Large school hockey programme (including weekend fixtures).	Large school hockey programme (including weekend fixtures).	Large school hockey programme (including weekend fixtures).

7.9 Consultation with clubs demonstrates that trends relating to recent participation are consistent across the whole Westmorland and Furness area, specifically:

- Participation in adult hockey is relatively static. It is reported that since the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a higher reluctance for people to participate in games. Whilst clubs have not necessarily reduced the number of teams that they are running, it is becoming more challenging to put out teams every week
- Demand for junior hockey is increasing, particularly at those clubs who are proactively running developmental sessions and liaising with schools.

7.10 None of the clubs in Westmorland and Furness reported declining participation. All clubs playing at the poor quality facilities however noted the potential impact of this on participation, with existing players less likely to play due to regular cancellations and a poor player experience. A lack of social facilities was also highlighted as a barrier to participation growth at some clubs.

Educational Demand

7.11 Frequently, education use of AGPs takes place outside of peak hours and there is therefore no impact on the availability of the facilities for community hockey (as the artificial surface means that AGPs are not impacted upon by levels of use in the same way that grass pitches are). At both Sedbergh School and Casterton Sedbergh Preparatory School however, there are school hockey fixtures on weekends, which limits the availability of these pitches for community use.

7.12 School participation can also have a knock-on impact on demand for hockey by generating new players that subsequently transition into the club.

- 7.13 The majority of secondary schools who have a sand based AGP indicate that they play hockey as part of their curriculum, and hockey is particularly strong at Sedbergh School. Almost all clubs identify advertising in secondary schools, as well as existing links with schools as one of their key vehicles for attracting new players. Most clubs however also identify the lack of interest in hockey in schools as one of the key barriers to growing participation within their clubs. There is also some participation at primary school level and some inter school hockey competitions are run by Active Cumbria.

Assessment of Supply and Demand Information and Views

- 7.14 The assessment of the adequacy of facilities to meet demand for hockey takes in to account both the requirements for competitive play and training demand.
- 7.15 Supply and demand of AGPs is measured by considering:
- The amount of play that a site is able to sustain (based upon the number of hours that the pitch is accessible to the community during peak periods up to a maximum of 34 hours per week). Peak periods have been deemed to be Monday to Thursday 18:00 to 21:00: Friday 17:00 to 19:00 and Saturday and Sunday 09:00 to 17:00
 - The amount of play that takes place (measured in hours)
 - Whether there is any spare capacity at the site based upon a comparison between the capacity of the site and the actual usage; and
 - Any other key issues relating to the site which have arisen through consultation.
- 7.16 Table 7.4 therefore summarises the availability of each pitch and the total spare capacity that is available. It is based upon estimations of typical usage and spare capacity gained from discussions with both providers and users. It demonstrates that:
- There is a small amount of spare capacity on most sites midweek
 - Hockey usage represents only a proportion of the total use on almost all sites, with most pitches also used by football clubs for training. Sand based AGPs are not an approved surface for football match play, and there is therefore limited use of these facilities at weekends outside of hockey.
- 7.17 Feedback from providers demonstrates that spare capacity typically occurs earlier / later in the evening and on Fridays (times which clubs do not wish to hold their training sessions).
- 7.18 Whilst table 7.4 only provides detail of the amount of hockey usage, the spare capacity midweek column takes into account both football and hockey usage. Further detail on football usage is provided in the football section relating to AGPs.

Table 7.4 – Capacity at Sand Based AGPs

Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Site Name	Midwk. Availability (Hrs)	Wknd. Availability (Hrs)	Midwk. Hockey Usage	Wknd. Hockey Usage	Spare Capacity (Midweek)	Comment
Eden	Kirkby Stephen	Kirkby Stephen Grammar School	15	8	4	5	3	Well used for hockey at weekend, used for both hockey and football midweek. Club have adequate slots to meet need.

Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Site Name	Midwk. Availability (Hrs)	Wknd. Availability (Hrs)	Midwk. Hockey Usage	Wknd. Hockey Usage	Spare Capacity (Midweek)	Comment
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Penrith Leisure Centre	10	12.5	5	7.5	1	Important venue for football and hockey, impacted by quality. Potential reduction of football users following construction of new 3G AGP
South Lakeland	Kendal	Queen Katherine School	15	14	8	4	1	Well used for hockey at weekend, used for hockey and football midweek. Some scheduling issues for club midweek, although overall good access.
South Lakeland	Kendal	Kirkbie Kendal School	15	8	1	2.5	2	Well used for hockey at weekend, used for both hockey and football midweek.
South Lakeland	Kirkby Lonsdale	Queen Elizabeth School	15	16	1.5	3	5.5	Used for hockey and football midweek.
South Lakeland	Ulverston and surrounding area	Ulverston Leisure Centre	15	14	4.5	4	5.5	Important hockey venue for two clubs, also serves football teams for midweek training. Spare capacity typically earlier in evening / Friday
South Lakeland	LDNP	The Lakes School	15	16	5	4	2	Important base for hockey club and also accommodates football
South Lakeland	YDNP	Sedburgh School	0	16	0	8	0	Usage for hockey primarily from school users
South Lakeland	YDNP	Casterton Sedburgh Prep School	15	0	3	0	12	Pitch dedicated to hockey usage only.

Peak Time Capacity

- 7.19 To ensure that issues for hockey are fully taken into account, as well as evaluating usage over the week, capacity at peak time should also be considered using Match Equivalent Sessions (MES). England Hockey indicates that an AGP should be considered able to sustain a maximum of four to five games per day, however this is dependent on factors such as floodlighting, warm up areas and local league structures.
- 7.20 Table 7.5 summarises the supply and demand at peak time for each AGP. For clarity, it measures usage in terms of Match Equivalent sessions that can be accommodated on a peak day.
- 7.21 It demonstrates that there is spare capacity at peak time for hockey on every pitch. Whilst in theory this could be used to suggest that there are more facilities than are required for hockey, it is important to recognise that the hockey clubs in Westmorland and Furness are geographically dispersed, and clubs need access to local facilities if the club is to be retained and participation is to continue to develop.
- 7.22 With hockey clubs at all sites, and Kendal being the only sub area that has more than one sand based AGP that is fully available to the community, this means that all other pitches are valuable to hockey despite not being at full capacity. Across the pitches in Kendal, there is significant capacity at peak time for hockey (suggesting there may be an opportunity to concentrate use

on one site). Capacity is however more limited across the week due to the use of the sand based pitches for football.

- 7.23 Whilst the spare capacity evident at each site means that all clubs have capacity to grow, it must be acknowledged that this creates challenges around the sustainability of facilities, with almost all hockey venues reliant on football to fill the midweek training slots (and therefore reliant on football to sustain the income required to run the facility).
- 7.24 This represents a particular risk, and one which must be carefully considered over this strategy period. This assessment identifies gaps in 3G pitch provision for football (see Section 9) and this is currently causing football clubs to gravitate towards sand based pitches due to a lack of alternative options. As these needs are addressed, demand from football clubs is likely to fall on sand based pitches, and growth in participation of hockey will therefore be critical to offset this, and ensure that facilities are sustainable.

Table 7.5 – Peak Time Capacity

Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Site Name	Peak Time Available Supply (MES)	Peak Time Demand (MES)	Capacity Position at Peak Time
Eden	Kirkby Stephen	Kirkby Stephen Grammar School	4	1.5	2.5
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Penrith Leisure Centre	3	1	2
South Lakeland	Kendal	Queen Katherine School	4	1.5	2.5
South Lakeland	Kendal	Kirkbie Kendal School	2	0.5	1.5
South Lakeland	Kirkby Lonsdale	Queen Elizabeth School	4	1.5	2.5
South Lakeland	Ulverston and surrounding area	Ulverston Leisure Centre	4	1.5	2.5
South Lakeland	LDNP	The Lakes School	4	1.5	2.5
South Lakeland	YDNP	Sedbergh School	4	2	2
South Lakeland	YDNP	Casterton Sedbergh Preparatory School	0	0	0

England Hockey Perspective

- 7.25 England Hockey have a vision for England to be a ‘Nation Where Hockey Matters’.

- 7.26 They indicate that:

‘Delivering success on the international stage stimulates the nation’s pride in their hockey team and, with the right events in place, we will attract interest from spectators, sponsors and broadcasters alike. The visibility that comes from our success and our occasions will inspire young people and adults to follow in the footsteps of their heroes and, if the right opportunities are there to meet their needs, they will play hockey and enjoy wonderful experiences.

Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes our sport function. We know the importance of our volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational our people can be, the more progressive we can be and the more befitting our facilities can be, the more we will achieve for our sport. England Hockey will enable this to happen and we are

passionate about our role within the sport. We will lead, support, counsel, focus and motivate the Hockey Nation and work tirelessly towards our vision’.

7.27 The core objectives of England Hockey are as follows:

1. Grow our Participation
2. Deliver International Success
3. Increase our Visibility
4. Enhance our Infrastructure
5. For England Hockey to be proud and respected custodians of the sport.

7.28 The England Hockey Facility Strategy is currently being updated. Until a new document is released, the existing document provides guidance on the facilities that are required. The key features of the strategy are:

- **Vision:** For every hockey club in England to have appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players
- **Mission:** More, Better, Happier Players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities.

7.29 The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

- **PROTECT:** To conserve the existing hockey provision - There are over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities.) There is a need to retain the current provision where appropriate to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country
- **IMPROVE:** To improve the existing facilities stock (physically and administratively) - The current facilities stock is ageing and there needs to be strategic investment into refurbishing the pitches and ancillary facilities. There needs to more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset
- **DEVELOP:** To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain. This might include consolidating hockey provision in a local area where appropriate.

7.30 With reference to the England Hockey Facility Strategy, the key priorities across Westmorland and Furness are likely to be protect and improve. Table 7.3 has already identified that all pitches in the authority are important venues for hockey clubs, and retention of these facilities is therefore crucial if hockey participation is to be preserved. Improvements to some pitches are also required (particularly Ulverston Leisure Centre, Queen Elizabeth School and Penrith Leisure Centre) if they are to remain as functional hockey venues.

7.31 The commercial viability of these venues is however increasingly questioned and England Hockey have recently worked alongside England Netball / The LTA to develop a Gen2 surface suitable for all three sports. The creation of a pitch of this surface could be considered as an alternative in order to improve the commercial viability of the site and the function of the pitch. However, addressed sustainability will need to be a key focus of the strategy.

7.32 It should be noted that the recent creation of a new 3G AGP in Penrith is likely to see a reduction in football usage of the Penrith Leisure Centre site, increasing the reliance on hockey for income.

Future Picture of Provision

Population Change

- 7.33 Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. By applying TGRs to population projections, we can project the theoretical number of teams that would be generated from population growth and gain an understanding of future demand.
- 7.34 Table 7.6 summarises the TGRs for hockey. It considers only adult hockey teams, as membership numbers are used to forecast growth in junior participation. It considers the likely number of teams that will be generated in each of the former local authority areas and demonstrates that the number of adult teams in hockey is likely to remain constant in all parts of Westmorland and Furness.

Table 7.6– TGRs for Hockey

Former Authority Area	Sport and Age Groups	Number of Teams	Current TGR	Population Change in Age Group up to 2031	Population Change in Age Group up to 2040	Potential Change in Team Numbers in Age Group by 2031	Potential Change in Team Numbers in Age Group by 2040
Barrow Borough	Senior Women (16-55yrs)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barrow Borough	Senior Men (16-55yrs)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eden	Senior Women (16-55yrs)	5	2191	2181	-572	-669	-0.3
Eden	Senior Men (16-55yrs)	0	0	0	-442	-499	0
South Lakeland	Senior Women (16-55yrs)	7	3150	-637	-471	-0.2	-0.1
South Lakeland	Senior Men (16-55yrs)	6	3612	-312	62	-0.1	0.0

- 7.35 While team generation rates can be to an extent used to predict the growth of adult participation in hockey, junior participation is primarily projected by membership levels.

Participation Growth Aspirations

- 7.36 With all existing hockey clubs having spare capacity, there is a significant opportunity for growth in hockey.
- 7.37 Consultation with clubs across Westmorland and Furness reveals aspirations to both retain existing participation, but also to increase the number of players. Table 7.7 therefore evaluates whether growth aspirations can be met on each site.
- 7.38 It demonstrates that there is enough capacity on all existing sites to sustain both current and projected future demand for hockey.
- 7.39 Recent targets of England Hockey sought to double the playing market (in terms of number of players) through a 7% growth year on year where clubs have capacity to deliver this). Even if this was achieved, there would remain adequate pitches in Westmorland and Furness to meet current and projected future demand (on the assumption that all pitches currently accommodating community activity remain functional).

7.40 This level of growth would be of benefit from a sustainability perspective.

Table 7.7 – Meeting Projected Future Demand for Hockey

Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Site Name	Current Spare Capacity (MES) - Peak Time	Current Spare Capacity (MES) - Midweek	Future Spare Capacity (MES) - Club Aspirations	Future Spare Capacity (MES) - Future Position	Comments
Eden	Kirkby Stephen	Kirkby Stephen Grammar School	2.5	3	None identified	No change. Potential for 5 more teams at peak time	- Spare capacity remains - Pitch in good condition, recently renovated - Important venue for hockey in the area - No issues identified and some scope for growth Important venue for football
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Penrith Leisure Centre	2	1	Junior development (outside of peak time)	No change at peak time. Potential for 4 more teams. More use outside peak time.	- Spare capacity remains - Pitch surface now poor – requires immediate refurbishment - Changing facilities would also benefit from improvement - Issues with communication between club and leisure centre Football use to reduce season 2024
South Lakeland	Kendal	Queen Katherine School	2.5	1	Additional Male team (0.5 MES)	2 MES at peak time (4 teams). Growth in midweek usage.	- Pitch in good condition – recently refurbished - Club seeking additional training hours Club have aspirations for clubhouse to improve social element of hockey
South Lakeland	Kendal	Kirkbie Kendal School	1.5	2	None identified	No change. Spare capacity 1.5 at peak time (3 teams)	Pitch recently provided, in good condition Significant scope to increase hockey usage. Currently key venue for football
South Lakeland	Kirkby Lonsdale	Queen Elizabeth School	2.5	5.5	None identified	No change. Spare capacity 2.5 at peak time (5 teams)	- Pitch at end of lifespan and requires upgrade - Floodlights and dugouts also of limited quality and require investment Club seeking development of clubhouse to provide social facilities
South Lakeland	Ulverston and surrounding area	Ulverston Leisure Centre	2.5	3	2 senior teams (1 MES) 2 junior teams (outside peak time)	Spare capacity 1.5 MES (3 teams)	- Pitch surface now poor – requires immediate refurbishment - Changing facilities would also benefit from improvement - Club engaging with residents of former Barrow Borough area to attract new players Location of pitch important given lack of provision in Barrow Borough area

Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Site Name	Current Spare Capacity (MES) - Peak Time	Current Spare Capacity (MES) - Midweek	Future Spare Capacity (MES) - Club Aspirations	Future Spare Capacity (MES) - Future Position	Comments
South Lakeland	LDNP	The Lakes School	2.5	2	Additional Female team (0.5 MES)	Spare capacity 2 MES (4 teams).	- Recently resurfaced hence high quality facility - Requires upgrade of floodlighting - Club also have on site storage, social facilities etc - Capacity to accommodate small amount of growth peak time Club indicate that they would like additional capacity midweek, but that they have to complete with football for this
Eden	Kirkby Stephen	Kirkby Stephen Grammar School	2.5	3	None identified	No change. Potential for 5 more teams at peak time	- Spare capacity remains - Pitch in good condition, recently renovated - Important venue for hockey in the area - No issues identified and some scope for growth Important venue for football
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Penrith Leisure Centre	2	1	Junior development (outside of peak time)	No change at peak time. Potential for 4 more teams More use outside peak time.	- Spare capacity remains - Pitch surface now poor – requires immediate refurbishment - Changing facilities would also benefit from improvement - Issues with communication between club and leisure centre Football use to reduce season 2024

- 7.41 England Hockey are seeking to build participation in hockey, with a particular focus placed upon retention of existing players as well as an increase in the number of players aged 14+. In addition to the traditional form of the game, new forms of hockey have also been introduced, including small-sided hockey and Back to Hockey, as well as Flyerz, a form of hockey suitable for disabled participants. These forms do not require formal facilities and can be played on any facility (including the small sand-based AGPs).

Key Issues by former/existing Local Planning Authority Area

- 7.42 This section briefly summarises the key issues for hockey by former/existing Planning Local Authority area.

Former Barrow Borough

Key Issue	Description
Supply	There are no AGPs suitable for hockey.
Demand	There is no evident demand for hockey, although both clubs based at Ulverston Leisure Centre (South Lakes HC and Ulverston HC) are currently working to introduce hockey to schools in the former Barrow Borough area.
Adequacy of Provision	No evidence of unmet demand.
Key Issues to Address	Ongoing need to monitor demand for hockey in the former Borough area.

Former Eden

Key Issue	Description
Supply	- Two AGPs: - Penrith Leisure Centre – pitch in poor condition – Penrith and M6 Corridor Sub Area - Kirkby Stephen Grammar School – pitch in good condition – Kirkby Stephen Sub Area - No provision in Appleby or Alston.
Demand	- All senior participation is female, growing junior sections - Concerns about pitch quality at Penrith and impact of this on club development. Club are small but growing and have significant aspirations for further development (junior). Pitch also used by Cumbria Hockey Association - Kirkby Stephen HC based at Grammar School.
Adequacy of Provision	- Both pitches function as a club home base - Penrith HC – 2 MES spare capacity at peak time, pitch well used midweek. Current dual role for football and hockey – role for football is likely to diminish now new 3G AGP is built at Penrith FC - Kirkby Stephen Grammar School – 2.5 MES available at peak time, pitch busy midweek.
Key Issues to Address	- Protection of existing hockey facilities - Immediate refurbishment of pitch at Penrith LC - Sustainability of pitch at Penrith LC - Opportunity to grow male hockey.

Former South Lakeland

Key Issue	Description
Supply	Four facilities in the former South Lakeland District Planning Area: - Two in Kendal – Queen Katherine School and Kirkbie Kendal School, both in good condition - Ulverston Leisure Centre – in poor condition - Queen Elizabeth School – Kirkby Lonsdale – in standard to poor condition (and deteriorating).
Demand	5 senior male and 6 teams - Equal demand across three sites, small amount of demand at Kirkbie Kendal School due to use by smaller club - Ambleside HC travelling some distance to use facility at Kirkby Kendal (rather than pitch at The Lakes School which is closer) - Clubs with significant development aspirations.
Adequacy of Provision	- Spare capacity at peak time at all sites - Total demand at peak time in Kendal equates to 2 MES – this could be met by one AGP - Good use of all facilities midweek, with all pitches also used heavily for football - Pitch at Ulverston restricted by poor quality surface which causes multiple cancellations and drainage issues.
Key Issues to Address	- Protection of existing hockey facilities - Immediate refurbishment of pitch at Ulverston Leisure Centre - Refurbishment also required at Kirkby Lonsdale HC - Remaining pitches in good condition, but with scope to increase capacity - Sustainability of any new hockey pitches should be given consideration if new 3G AGP was to be developed.

Lake District National Park

Key Issue	Description
Supply	- Only one site – The Lakes School - Pitch recently refurbished and in good condition.
Demand	Home venue for key club which has 3 senior teams, mixed team and junior section.
Adequacy of Provision	- Spare capacity at peak time (2.5) means scope for additional play - Pitch well used across the week as it also serves football clubs - Hockey club highlight that they would like additional training night but unavailable due to football usage.
Key Issues to Address	- Protection of existing pitch - Investment into floodlighting - Balance between hockey and football.

Yorkshire Dales National Park

Key Issue	Description
Supply	- Two school sites – Casterton Sedbergh Preparatory School and Sedbergh School - Both sites in good condition - Additional water based pitch shortly also now provided.
Demand	One site used by Kirkby Lonsdale Junior, club keen to maintain relationship with school and therefore comfortable with travel arrangements.
Adequacy of Provision	- Limited availability at weekends due to school use - Scope to expand usage of facilities by community.
Key Issues to Address	Protection of existing pitches.

8.0 Rugby Union

Introduction

8.1 This section evaluates the adequacy of facilities for rugby union. It provides:

- An overview of rugby union across Westmorland and Furness
- An understanding of the current stock of facilities
- An outline of demand for pitches
- A picture of the adequacy of current provision
- The future picture for rugby union.

Pitch Supply

8.2 Table 8.1 summarises the rugby union pitches provided across Westmorland and Furness. It identifies 35 formal rugby grass pitches, of which 19 are secured for community use. The pitch at Ullswater Community College is unsecured, meaning that community use is available for there is no long term agreement.

8.3 It demonstrates that rugby union pitches are geographically well distributed, with pitches in each of the three former local authority areas.

Table 8.1 - Rugby Union Pitches in Westmorland and Furness

Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Site Name	Club relevant (where relevant)	Community Use	Pitch Details
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Hawcoat Park Sports Club	Hawcoat Park RUFC	Secured	2, training area
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	The Strawberry Grounds	Furness RUFC	Secured	1, training area
Barrow Borough	Remainder of Barrow Borough	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
Eden	Appleby	Appleby Grammar School	N/a	Not available	2
Eden	Kirkby Stephen	Kirkby Stephen Grammar School	N/a	Not available	1
Eden	Kirkby Stephen	Pennine Park	Upper Eden RUFC	Secured	2, mini training areas
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Frenchfield Sports Centre	Penrith RUFC	Secured	1
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Newton Rigg College	N/a	Not available	1
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Penrith Rugby Union Football Club	Penrith RUFC	Secured	1 AGP, 2

Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Site Name	Club relevant (where relevant)	Community Use	Pitch Details
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Queen Elizabeth Grammar School	N/a	Not available	1, mini rugby area
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Ullswater Community College	N/a	Unsecured	2
Eden	Alston	n/a	N/a	n/a	n/a
South Lakeland	Cartmel Peninsula	n/a	N/a	n/a	n/a
South Lakeland	Kendal	Kirkbie Kendal School	N/a	Secured	1
South Lakeland	Kendal	Mintbridge	Kendal RUFC	Secured	1 AGP, 2 pitches (1 of which is small). Also contains training area.
South Lakeland	Kendal	Queen Katherine School	N/a	Not available	1
South Lakeland	Kirkby Lonsdale	Underley Park	Kirkby Lonsdale RUFC	Secured	4 plus training areas
South Lakeland	Ulverston and surrounding area	n/a	N/a	n/a	n/a
South Lakeland	Milnthorpe	Dallam School Playing Fields	N/a	Secured	2
South Lakeland	LDNP	Ambleside RUFC	Ambleside RUFC	Secured	1
South Lakeland	LDNP	The Lakes School	N/a	Unsecured	1
South Lakeland	LDNP	Windermere RUFC	Windermere RUFC	Secured	1 (and training area)
South Lakeland	YDNP	Sedbergh School	N/a	Not available	7

8.4 Table 8.2 summarises the provision by former authority area.

Table 8.2 – Provision of Rugby Union Pitches by Sub Area

Former Authority Area	Total Rugby Pitches	Total Pitches (Secured)
Barrow Borough	3 senior pitches	3 senior pitches
Eden	1 AGP 12 senior 3 mini rugby areas	1 AGP 5 senior 2 mini rugby areas

Former Authority Area	Total Rugby Pitches	Total Pitches (Secured)
South Lakeland	1 AGP 20 grass pitches, training areas	1 AGP 11 grass pitches

8.5 Tables 8.1 and 8.2 demonstrates that:

- The highest number of pitches is found in the former South Lakeland area, whilst the lowest is in the former Barrow Borough area (3).
- Several rugby union pitches are not available for community use. These are all at school sites (recorded as not available in Table 8.1 above).
- In addition to the grass pitches, there are two WR 22 Compliant 3G AGPs located in Penrith and Kendal. 3G AGPs offer much higher capacity than grass pitches.
- The majority of sub areas offer at least one rugby union pitch. Only Alston (Eden), Cartmel Peninsula and Ulverston and surrounding area (South Lakeland) and the Remainder of Barrow Borough sub area don't have any pitches.

8.6 In addition to the above sites, there are several playing fields that have previously been used for rugby union but are not currently active rugby union pitches:

- Tyne Willows Playing Field (Alston) – now used for football due to lack of demand for rugby union
- Kirkbie Kendal School – second pitch no longer used as drains have collapsed
- Hawcoat Park Sports Club – areas previously used for rugby union now used for football (due to lack of demand)
- The Strawberry Ground (Barrow and Walney sub-area) – playing fields previously used for rugby union no longer marked or maintained (lack of demand).

Pitch Quality

8.7 Pitch quality is assessed through the triangulation of non-technical site visits, technical pitch assessments (PQA) and club and RFU feedback. This is particularly important to ensure that all issues experienced are taken into account. PitchPower reports, (which is one of the Football Foundation's tools for assessing quality and will be explored in more detail later in this section) have also recently been undertaken on several sites and these have been used to inform qualitative assessments.

8.8 Club feedback suggests that views on the current quality of facilities are mixed. While most clubs evidence recent improvements to the maintenance of their pitches, (following advice given in the PitchPower reports which is tailored to their individual pitches), consultation suggests that most clubs continue to struggle with drainage issues and further investment is required to bring pitches up to the desired standard. Additionally, some sites are perceived (by clubs) to be overplayed, which places further pressures on the maintenance procedures.

8.9 The quality of pitches at education sites is also limited, with most pitches receiving little maintenance outside of a basic cut and mow regime. The key quality issues identified at each community use site are summarised in Table 8.2.

8.10 In line with the PPS guidance (Sport England 2013) for rugby union, Table 8.3 also includes maintenance and drainage ratings achieved at each site. These ratings record the level of maintenance that is undertaken (M0/M1/M2 where M2 is highest) (reported by Clubs / Providers) as well as the adequacy of drainage on each pitch (D0/D1/D2 where D2 confirms an effective drainage system is installed). These will be used to determine the capacity of the facilities later in this section.

Westmorland and Furness Council Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Assessment



Table 8.3 – Quality of Rugby Pitches at Community Sites

Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Site Name	Club Name	Floodlights	Pitch Number	Maintenance / Drainage Rating	Quality Comments	Pavilion / Changing
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Hawcoat Park Sports Club	Hawcoat Park RUFC	No	1	D1/M1	Good rating. Pitch quality improving due to increased machinery and volunteer work. First team pitch has strong grass coverage and no clear issues. Full time groundsman means focused maintenance. PitchPower report recommends increased aeration / decompaction.	2 communal changing rooms and 1 officials changing room. Owned by BAE systems but maintained by club. Insufficient changing facilities overall. Showers and changing require upgrade now outdated
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Hawcoat Park Sports Club	Hawcoat Park RUFC	No	2	D0/M0	PitchPower Basic. Reduced grass coverage, unstable drainage and grass sward. Perched water table and requires full drainage survey. Pitch suffers from unofficial use as not fenced off	As above
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Hawcoat Park Sports Club	Hawcoat Park RUFC	yes	3	D1/M0	Lights need upgrading on training pitch	As above
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	The Strawberry Grounds (Furness Rugby Club)	Furness RUFC	No	1	M0/D0	Pitch quality basic PitchPower rating. Quality declining due to ongoing drainage issues. Patches of poor drainage across the pitch and surface is soft and retaining moisture. Requires increased aeration and decompaction. Posts starting to rust and some issues with unofficial use. Training area also suffers from significant drainage issues. Floodlighting upgraded this season.	Includes changing facilities and clubhouse. Now ageing and therefore requires regular repairs. Changing and toilets in particular require improvement. Bar and clubhouse element received investment following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Westmorland and Furness Council Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Assessment



Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Site Name	Club Name	Floodlights	Pitch Number	Maintenance / Drainage Rating	Quality Comments	Pavilion / Changing
Eden	Kirkby Stephen	Pennine Park	Upper Eden RUFC	No	1	D1/M1	Both pitches achieve Basic PitchPower rating. Quality declining and the training pitch in particular is struggling with drainage. Both pitches suffer with dog fouling as public access is available to the pitches. Site also includes mini / training area. Both pitches require increase in aeration and decompaction, as well as infilling and seeding.	3 changing rooms served by one communal shower. Looking to extend facilities and social space (in particular to enable growth of youth and female participation).
Eden	Kirkby Stephen	Pennine Park	Upper Eden RUFC	Yes	2	D1/M1	As above	As above
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Frenchfield Sports Centre	Penrith RUFC	No	1	M1/D1	Pitch in standard condition, benefits from limited ad hoc usage.	Changing pavilion available
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Penrith RUFC	Penrith RUFC	yes	1	AGP	AGP in good condition	5 changing rooms - inadequate for number of pitches / teams (particularly when taking into account different ages / genders). Owned by club and in adequate condition. Clubhouse / function room facilities are key income generator and are good.
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Penrith RUFC	Penrith RUFC	yes	2	D2/M0	Both pitches achieve basic PitchPower Rating. Wear and tear in patches from heavy usage, some areas of limited grass cover. Adequate drainage. Pitch requires aeration / decompaction sand dressing and overseeding.	As above

Westmorland and Furness Council Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Assessment



Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Site Name	Club Name	Floodlights	Pitch Number	Maintenance / Drainage Rating	Quality Comments	Pavilion / Changing
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Penrith RUFC	Penrith RUFC	yes	3	D2/M0	Small in size, does not meet full specifications. Some areas of damage to the surface. Adequate drainage. Pitch requires aeration / decompaction sand dressing and overseeding.	As above
South Lakeland	Kendal	Kirkbie Kendal School	N/a	No	1	M0/D0	Poor, pitch suffers from waterlogging. Playing surface also poor. Restricted by limited maintenance regime and barely usable.	Basic school changing accommodation
South Lakeland	Kendal	Mintbridge	Kendal RUFC	yes	1	D3/M1	Site also contains additional mini playing field area. PitchPower assessment records all pitches as basic. Quality deteriorating on grass due to heavy usage. Main pitch suffers from poor grass coverage and heavy wear and tear. Requires irrigation system and aeration	5 changing rooms plus male and female gym changing rooms. Full clubhouse with function rooms. Owned by Kendal Rugby Charity and in excellent condition.
South Lakeland	Kendal	Mintbridge	Kendal RUFC	yes	2	AGP	Excellent AGP. Recently provided.	As above
South Lakeland	Kendal	Mintbridge	Kendal RUFC	yes	3	D3/M1	Grass coverage limited. Debris on surface. Well drained but requires aeration and decompaction. This is a small sized pitch. Site also contains small training area.	As above
South Lakeland	Kirkby Lonsdale	Underley Park	(Kirkby Lonsdale RUFC)	No	1	M0/D2	Area also contains mini rugby union playing field area (M0/D1). Quality strong, with pitches 1 and 2 having drains installed. Stand on the first team pitch condemned and cannot currently be used.	Recently refurbished, 8 rooms but renovation still to be completed. Clubhouse requires upgrade.

Westmorland and Furness Council Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Assessment



Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Site Name	Club Name	Floodlights	Pitch Number	Maintenance / Drainage Rating	Quality Comments	Pavilion / Changing
South Lakeland	Kirkby Lonsdale	Underley Park	(Kirkby Lonsdale RUFC)	Yes	2	M0/D2	Quality strong, with pitches 1 and 2 having drains installed. Lights on training pitch (2) need replacing	As above
South Lakeland	Kirkby Lonsdale	Underley Park	(Kirkby Lonsdale RUFC)	No	3	M0/D1	Basic pitch, drainage natural only.	As above
South Lakeland	Kirkby Lonsdale	Underley Park	(Kirkby Lonsdale RUFC)	No	4	M0/D0	Poor drainage on pitch 4	As above
South Lakeland	Milnthorpe	Dallam School Playing Fields	N/a	No	1 and 2	M0/D0	Basic pitches in adequate condition. Not marked out at the time of site visits - pitches typically used for tournaments etc	New good quality pavilion available for hire
South Lakeland	LDNP	Ambleside Rugby Club	Ambleside Rugby Club	Yes	1	M0/D0	Single pitch rugby club site.	Includes changing accommodation / clubhouse. Details unknown
South Lakeland	LDNP	Windermere RUFC	Windermere RUFC	No	1	M1/D1	PitchPower basic. Improving slightly but inappropriate maintenance equipment. Pitch suffers from waterlogging at the bottom (standing water) and grass coverage is poor. Some damage to playing surface. Thatch levels. Pitch requires aeration / decompaction sand dressing and overseeding. Also includes training / mini area (M0/D0). This area suffers from waterlogging and the soil is too shallow for any maintenance other than mowing.	3 rooms including officials room. In reasonable condition although showers are poor. Limited kitchen space and clubhouse area. Building is badly insulated and energy is therefore costly. Poor access to medical room. Would like to expand clubhouse, kitchen and increase changing accommodation.

8.11 It is clear from Table 8.3 that there is scope to improve quality at almost all rugby club sites. Notably, limited maintenance programmes influence pitch quality. There are only 2 pitches (Kendal RUFC and Hawcoat Park Sports Club RUFC) where maintenance regimes are good (M2) and several club sites have pitches receiving very limited maintenance (M0). This impacts on the drainage of these sites, as will levels of use (which can cause compaction).

8.12 In addition to potential improvements that could be made to pitch quality, there are concerns with the quality of ancillary facilities. Windermere RUFC, Kirkby Lonsdale RUFC, Upper Eden RUFC, Penrith RUFC, Furness RUFC and Hawcoat Park Sports Club RUFC all identify the need for improvements in ancillary facilities. Both Penrith RUFC and Upper Eden RUFC indicate that their facilities are not suitable to meet the needs of teams of different genders and age groups and are now at a barrier to increasing participation amongst women and girls and youth participation. On the other side of the coin, the facilities available at Kendal RUFC are excellent, and the facilities represent one of the key means of attracting new players to the game.

8.13 As with other sports in this assessment, appropriate ancillary facilities will be essential if female rugby is to prosper alongside male rugby.

Demand

8.14 There are 8 rugby union clubs across Westmorland and Furness as a whole, with two clubs in both former Barrow Borough and Eden areas and the remaining half located in South Lakeland.

8.15 Table 8.4 summarises the distribution of clubs, as well as the teams affiliated at each of these clubs. It identifies 67 teams in total, of which:

- 13 teams are senior male and an additional 4 are colts teams
- 17 age grade boys and 23 mini teams
- 5 are senior female teams (1 at five different clubs) and 5 are age grade female teams.

8.16 Consultation with clubs demonstrates that:

- Senior male rugby is static or declining, with some clubs struggling to reenergise players after the COVID- 19 pandemic, and clubs requiring larger squads to put out teams.
- Participation in mini and age grade rugby is varying, but on the whole clubs are seeing either static or increasing participation.
- There is evident growth in the female game, with all clubs seeing an increase in players. The number of clubs now fielding female teams is testament to the growth that has been experienced.

8.17 RFU data suggests that this mirrors the pattern across the country. In particular, there is growing interest at a mini / junior rugby level. One of the biggest challenges for the RFU therefore is how to ensure that the increased number of players at younger levels are retained. A healthy membership is essential not just to ensure that the club remains sustainable in playing terms, but also in order to maximise the income, which is essential to fund pitch maintenance procedures.

8.18 The growth in female rugby currently generates the most significant increases in participation. This however brings with it challenges of its own. In addition to the pressures created on match and training pitches by the additional usage, many clubs do not have the ancillary facilities to accommodate female players, alongside age grade and senior male teams. With the development of women and girls rugby being a key priority, this means that improvement of ancillary facilities to accommodate this moving forwards will be a critical issue to address. As recorded in Table 8.4, several clubs in the Westmorland and Furness area believe that issues with their ancillary facilities will inhibit growth of the female game.

Table 8.4 – Participation in Rugby Union – Clubs

Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Club	Adult Male	Adult Female	Colts	Age grade Boys	Age grade Girls	Mini	Other Participation	Trends
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Furness RUFC	1			1				Senior teams declining, age grade teams increasing
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Hawcoat Park Sports Club RUFC	1						Football	Declining
Eden	Kirkby Stephen	Upper Eden RUFC	2	1		3		4		Static, but women and girls rugby increasing
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Penrith RUFC	3	1	2	4	3	7		Static senior participation, but all other sections growing
South Lakeland	Kendal	Kendal RUFC	2	2	1	4	1	6	Social, Auld Greys, School use, Cumbria Colts Rugby teams, Stingers / Touch	Increasing senior and age grade age groups, static in the younger age groups. Women and girls increasing
South Lakeland	Kirkby Lonsdale	Kirkby Lonsdale RUFC	2	1	1	5	1	6	Touch	Senior rugby declining, age grade and mini static. Growth in women and girls rugby
South Lakeland	LDNP	Ambleside RUFC	1						None	Static. Note club do not affiliate to RFU
South Lakeland	LDNP	Windermere RUFC	1						Touch, Kendal and County Colts, friendlies and junior festivals.	Static

8.19 Importantly, Table 8.4 demonstrates that four of the eight rugby union clubs run just one or two teams, specifically:

- Windermere RUFC
- Ambleside RUFC
- Furness RUFC
- Hawcoat Park Sports Club RUFC.

- 8.20 Clubs with just one or two teams tend to be less sustainable (although not always the case), as there are no juniors coming through into the senior teams to boost playing numbers, and income is also compromised as a result. Both teams in the Lake District National Park area are single team clubs, and the two clubs in the town of Barrow are also small.
- 8.21 Whilst neither of the clubs within the Lake District National Park identify their size or sustainability as an issue of concern, both clubs in Barrow town highlight ongoing issues with sustainability. Critically, both of these clubs also have more than one pitch at their club base, which as a consequence of the limited demand are receiving limited use. Both clubs identify challenges of competing sports (football and rugby league are particularly strong in Barrow and Walney) as well as the shiftwork patterns of BAE which means employees cannot commit to regular matchplay. Both clubs are however looking at examples of how other clubs in Cumbria have grown to try and guide their own future development, but at this point in time, sustainability is a key concern for both clubs.
- 8.22 With Table 8.4 outlining the clubs that play in Westmorland and Furness , it is clear that several sites do not currently accommodate any community activity, despite availability for community use. These include:
- Dallam School – Milnthorpe area. There is no club based in this area, and therefore no clear use for the facilities outside of curricular use. These pitches may present an opportunity to create a new club should demand arise.
 - Kirkbie Kendal School – Kendal area. With a large club in the Kendal area, this pitch could present the opportunity to accommodate satellite play should the need arise.
 - The Lakes School – Windermere. Provides an opportunity to accommodate overspill activity from Windermere RUFC should the need arise. Links with this school may help to bring younger participants into the club.

Club Security of Tenure

- 8.23 Security of tenure for the eight rugby clubs is good, with seven out of eight clubs owning their own rugby grounds. Hawcoat Park Sports Club RUFC are the only club not to own their site. They have a 30 year lease (expiring 2045) , meaning that overall, facilities for rugby are secure for the foreseeable future.

Training Needs

- 8.24 As is common with rugby clubs nationwide, training for clubs primarily takes place at the club bases. Training patterns vary on a weekly basis, and are measured in Match Equivalent Sessions (MES). Table 8.5 sets out the approximate levels of training activity at each club.

Table 8.5 – Training activity at each club (MES)

Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Club	Adult Male	Adult Female	Colts	Other Participation
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Furness RUFC	One training session per week	n/a	n/a	Training takes place on floodlit training area
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Hawcoat Park Sports Club RUFC	One training session per week	n/a	n/a	Training takes place on floodlit pitch
Eden	Kirkby Stephen	Upper Eden RUFC	Senior male and female train twice per week (3 MES)	3 age grade teams train weekly (1.5 MES)	4 mini teams train midweek	Training mostly on pitch 2, but some on the mini playing field area
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Penrith RUFC	2 senior teams x 3 sessions, ladies 1 session, 2x colts teams 2 sessions. Total (5.5) adults.	4 age grade teams (2 MES) one per week, 3 age grade girls 1 per week (1.5 MES)	3 mini 1 per week (0.5).	1 MES takes place at Frenchfield, whilst the rest is split between the 3G AGP and pitch 2
South Lakeland	Kendal	Kendal RUFC	AGP 2 x senior male train twice (AGP) 2 MES, Social x 1, 0.5 MES, Colts x 1 twice (1 MES), senior ladies train twice (1 MES)	6 age grade and mini teams train x 1 midweek on floodlit grass (3 MES)	n/a	Training is split between AGP and floodlit grass, training on Tues / Thurs is on AGP. Football usage other nights on the AGP.
South Lakeland	Kirkby Lonsdale	Kirkby Lonsdale RUFC	- Senior 1, 2 colts and ladies x 2 per week	Age grade x 1 per week.	n/a	Activity mainly focused on the floodlit pitch (5.5 MES on this pitch)
South Lakeland	LDNP	Ambleside RUFC	No regular training	n/a	n/a	N/a
South Lakeland	LDNP	Windermere RUFC	2 sessions per week	n/a	n/a	Training on training area

8.25 Where teams either train or play friendlies on a Sunday morning, this has been counted as competitive activity and the impact is not therefore duplicated in the above training figures.

8.26 The above training requirements will be taken into account when considering the adequacy of provision later in this section.

Educational Demand

8.27 There is some rugby union taught as part of the curriculum in most secondary schools in South Lakeland and Eden, but there is a greater focus on rugby league in the former Barrow Borough

area and more limited rugby union in schools. This lack of engagement is highlighted as a key challenge by the clubs.

- 8.28 Several of the clubs have developed links with local schools but there is scope to increase this in future years with a view to transitioning new players into the club environment.
- 8.29 The majority of primary schools indicate that they engage with Tag rugby during the school year, creating early interest in rugby union.

Adequacy of Provision

- 8.30 The capacity of pitch provision for rugby union is measured through the use of match equivalent sessions. The ability of the pitch stock to service both training needs and competitive requirements is taken into account. To fully understand activity on a site, consideration is given to both:

- The capacity of pitch provision over the course of a week
- Capacity of a site to meet demand at peak time.

Capacity over the course of a week.

- 8.31 The RFU sets a standard number of match equivalent sessions that natural grass pitches should be able to sustain without adversely affecting their quality (pitch carrying capacity). This is based upon the drainage system installed at the site and the maintenance programme used to prepare the pitches. The guideline theoretical capacity for rugby pitches is summarised in Table 8.6.
- 8.32 As set out in Table 8.3, there is significant scope to improve the quality of rugby union pitches across Westmorland and Furness, in particular the maintenance procedures. If pitch quality was higher, capacity would increase. As a consequence, the number of games that could be sustained would increase.

Table 8.6 - Theoretical Pitch Capacity Ratings (RFU)

Drainage	Maintenance - Poor (M0)	Maintenance - Standard (M1)	Maintenance - Good (M2)
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 Silt Drained (D3)	2	3	3.5

- 8.33 Demand is converted into match equivalent sessions. This takes into account of both the requirement of pitches to accommodate competitive fixtures, and also the impact that training sessions will have on the capacity of pitches.

Peak Time Demand

- 8.34 To identify spare capacity at peak time, the number of match equivalent sessions at peak time is measured against the number of match equivalent sessions available. Peak time is considered to be as follows:
- Senior men's rugby union - Saturday PM
 - Junior rugby union - Sunday AM
 - Mini rugby union - Sunday AM and

- Mens colts, women and girls rugby union - Sunday PM.
- 8.35 Table 8.7 draws on these principles and considers the adequacy of supply to meet the needs of each of the clubs.
- 8.36 Training adds additional usage on the grass pitches. Even where clubs have access to a 3G AGP, clubs report that some training still takes place on grass. The impact of the additional training is considered in Table 8.8.
- 8.37 It should be noted that Tables 8.7 and 8.8 also include other demand that is evident at the clubs. This primarily arises from clubs hosting representative rugby, as well as school use of club sites.

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Table 8.7 – Adequacy of Provision at Club Bases (match play)

Former Local Authority	Sub Area	Site	Pitch Type	Pitch Capacity Rating	Pitch Capacity (MES)	Community Rugby Demand (Match Play) MES	Total Match Play Demand	Shortfall / Surplus
South Lakeland	Kendal	Mintbridge (Kendal RUFC)*	Grass	M1/D3	3	2.75	3.25	-0.25
South Lakeland	Kendal	Mintbridge (Kendal RUFC)*	3G AGP (rugby)	AGP		2.75	4.25	
South Lakeland	Kendal	Mintbridge (Kendal RUFC)*	Grass	M1/D3	3	1	1.5	1.5
South Lakeland	Kirkby Lonsdale	Kirkby Lonsdale RUFC	Grass	M0/D2	1.75	1	1	0.75
South Lakeland	Kirkby Lonsdale	Kirkby Lonsdale RUFC	Grass	M0/D2	1.75	1.5	1.5	0.25
South Lakeland	Kirkby Lonsdale	Kirkby Lonsdale RUFC	Grass	M0/D1	1.5	1.5	1.5	0
South Lakeland	Kirkby Lonsdale	Kirkby Lonsdale RUFC	Grass	M0/D0	0.5	1	1	-0.5
South Lakeland	LDNP	Ambleside RUFC	Grass	M0/D0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0
South Lakeland	LDNP	Windermere RUFC	Grass	M1/D1	2	0.5	1	0.5
Eden	Kirkby Stephen	Pennine Park (Upper Eden RUFC)	Grass	M1/D1	2	1.5	1.5	0.5
Eden	Kirkby Stephen	Pennine Park (Upper Eden RUFC)	Grass	M1/D0	1.5	1.5	1.5	0
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Frenchfield Sports Centre	Grass	M1/D1	2	0	0	1
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Penrith RUFC	3G AGP	AGP		3.5	4	
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Penrith RUFC	Grass	M0/D2	1.75	2	2.5	-0.75
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Penrith RUFC	Grass	M0/D2	1.75	2.75	2.75	-1

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Former Local Authority	Sub Area	Site	Pitch Type	Pitch Capacity Rating	Pitch Capacity (MES)	Community Rugby Demand (Match Play) MES	Total Match Play Demand	Shortfall / Surplus
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Hawcoat Park Sports Club	Grass	M1/D1	2	0.5	1	1
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Hawcoat Park Sports Club	Grass	M0/D0	0.5	0	2	-1.5
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	The Strawberry Grounds (Furness RUFC)*	Grass	M0/D0	0.5	1	1	-0.5

*An additional area accommodating mini rugby is available at Kendal RUFC. This accommodates 1 MES age grade rugby demand

*Two mini areas are available at Upper Eden RUFC. These accommodate 2 MES age grade rugby

* training area and disused land available at Furness RUFC.

Table 8.8 – Impact of Training on Pitch Capacity

Former Local Authority	Sub Area	Site	Pitch Type	Pitch Capacity Rating	Pitch Capacity (MES)	Match Play Demand (MES)	Training Demand (MES)	Shortfall / Surplus	Impact of Training	Peak Time
South Lakeland	Kendal	Mintbridge (Kendal RUFC)	Grass Rugby	M1/D3	3	3.25	3.5	-0.25	-3.75	0
South Lakeland	Kendal	Mintbridge (Kendal RUFC)	3G AGP (rugby)	AGP	N/a	4.25	2	-4.25	-6.25	0
South Lakeland	Kendal	Mintbridge (Kendal RUFC)	Grass Rugby	M1/D3	3	1.5	1.5	1.5	0	0
South Lakeland	Kirkby Lonsdale	Kirkby Lonsdale RUFC	Grass Rugby	M0/D2	1.75	1	0	0.75	0.75	0.75
South Lakeland	Kirkby Lonsdale	Kirkby Lonsdale RUFC	Grass Rugby	M0/D2	1.75	1.5	5.5	0.25	-5.25	0
South Lakeland	Kirkby Lonsdale	Kirkby Lonsdale RUFC	Grass Rugby	M0/D1	1.5	1.5	0	0	0	0
South Lakeland	Kirkby Lonsdale	Kirkby Lonsdale RUFC	Grass Rugby	M0/D0	0.5	1	0	-0.5	-0.5	0
South Lakeland	LDNP	Ambleside RUFC	Grass Rugby	M0/D0	0.5	0.5	0	0	0	0
South Lakeland	LDNP	Windermere RUFC	Grass Rugby	M1/D1	2	1	0	0.5	0.5	0.5
Eden	Kirkby Stephen	Pennine Park (Upper Eden RUFC)	Grass Rugby	M1/D1	2	1.5	0	0.5	0.5	0
Eden	Kirkby Stephen	Pennine Park (Upper Eden RUFC)	Grass Rugby	M1/D0	1.5	1.5	4.5	0	-4.5	0
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Frenchfield Sports Centre	Grass Rugby	M1/D1	2	0	1	2	1	0
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Penrith RUFC	3G AGP (rugby)	AGP	N/a	4	7.5	-4	-11.5	0
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Penrith RUFC	Grass Rugby	M0/D2	1.75	2.5	2	-0.75	-2.75	0
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Penrith RUFC	Grass Rugby	M0/D2	1.75	2.75	0	-1	-1	0
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Hawcoat Park Sports Club	Grass Rugby	M1/D1	2	1	0	1	1	0

Westmorland and Furness Council Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Assessment



Former Local Authority	Sub Area	Site	Pitch Type	Pitch Capacity Rating	Pitch Capacity (MES)	Match Play Demand (MES)	Training Demand (MES)	Shortfall / Surplus	Impact of Training	Peak Time
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Hawcoat Park Sports Club	Grass Rugby	M0/D0	0.5	2	0	-1.5	-1.5	0
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	The Strawberry Grounds (Furness Rugby Union Football Club)	Grass Rugby	M0/D0	0.5	1	0	-0.5	-0.5	0

**Playing field areas at the side of pitches at Kendal RUFC and Upper Eden RUFC accommodate additional MES for match play and training.*

8.38 Tables 8.7 and 8.8 demonstrate that:

Former Barrow Borough

- At **Hawcoat Park Sports Club**, with only 1 team, supply (2 pitches) is more than adequate to meet competitive rugby union demand. The strong maintenance procedures on Pitch 1 mean that spare capacity equates to 1 MES. There is no use of the second pitch for rugby union, but this is overmarked for football (and used by football). The limited maintenance that is carried out means that it is overplayed as a result
- Training takes place on the training area. When taking into account the use by football, this area is also overplayed (1 MES). There is no further impact of training on the main rugby pitches. These pitches have capacity when taking into account just rugby union activity (although are overplayed when also considering football demand)
- At **Furness RUFC**, there is limited demand (1 MES) arising from match play. With restricted maintenance procedures (M0) coupled with drainage issues (D0) however, even this limited demand results in overplay. No training takes place on the main match pitch (which is overplayed from competitive activity alone), instead, this is focused on the training area. The low capacity of this training area however means that this land is also overplayed. There is currently therefore insufficient capacity at the club base. This arises as a result of the poor maintenance of existing pitches however, rather than a lack of capacity. The site also contains disused pitches, which could be reinstated (although qualitative improvements to the existing pitches would also improve capacity).

Former Eden area

- At **Pennine Park, home of Upper Eden RUFC**, pitch 1 has spare capacity (0.5 MES) when taking into account just competitive demand, whilst supply equals demand on Pitch 2. Mini rugby primarily takes place on the adjacent playing field areas (mini pitches marked out).
- Almost all training session takes place on Pitch 2, the only floodlit pitch. Whilst this pitch was able to accommodate competitive demand, once training is taken into account, overplay equivalent to 4.5 MES is evident. The main pitch, which is not floodlit (and therefore can't accommodate training) has a small amount of capacity remaining. The small amount of training that takes place on the adjacent playing field (mini rugby area) also means that part of this field is overplayed (0.5 MES).
- At **Penrith RUFC**, use of the grass pitches is balanced with the AGP. Capacity of an AGP is not restricted in the same way as grass pitches and the pitch can be used more frequently without detrimental impact. Analysis of the current balance of play however shows that despite the use of the AGP, both grass pitches are overplayed. The capacity of both pitches is restricted by the relatively limited maintenance procedures.
- The majority of training takes place on the AGP, but some play takes place on the floodlit pitch (Pitch 2). Whilst this pitch demonstrated spare capacity accommodating just competitive activity, the use of the pitch for training generates overplay (1 MES).

Former South Lakeland area

- At Kirkby Lonsdale, there is spare capacity on three of the four pitches when considering just match play. Pitch 4 is overplayed by 0.5 MES. The capacity of this pitch is severely limited by the drainage issues experienced, as well as the limited maintenance procedures. Some mini rugby union activity takes place on the adjacent playing field area, and this land is used to capacity.

- The majority of training is focused on one pitch (which now has poor quality lighting). As a consequence, overplay equivalent to 5.25 MES is evident. Use of the adjacent playing field area for some training also creates overplay. When looking at the adequacy of provision as a whole across the whole site, therefore it is a picture of overplay. Capacity is however restricted by limited maintenance practices (M0) and there is scope to increase the amount of pitches on the site.
- Activity at **Kendal RUFC** is spread across an AGP, a full size pitch and a small rugby pitch (which functions as a floodlit training area). There is also an additional playing field area which accommodates 1 MES of age grade rugby. The AGP is used for football as well as rugby, with the majority of match play for rugby taking place on grass. The AGP is also used for Cumbria representative games, as well as school rugby matches. The focus of club activity on the grass pitches however, means that the main rugby pitch is overplayed (0.25 MES) even when just considering match play.
- Whilst some training at Kendal RUFC does take place on the AGP (Tuesday and Thursday) there is also further use of the grass pitches for training. This generates overplay on the main pitch equivalent to 3.75 MES. Looking across the site as a whole, this means that there is currently insufficient capacity within the grass pitch stock at the club to accommodate all activity. Whilst the club report aspirations for additional grass pitches, there is however a need to consider whether better use could be made of the AGP for rugby (although this would have a knock-on impact for football).
- At Windermere RUFC there is spare capacity on the main pitch (0.5 MES) when taking into account just match play. The training area is however overplayed.
- The pitch at Ambleside RUFC is used for ad hoc friendlies and is played to capacity, based upon the limited maintenance that is undertaken. There is no known training at the site and no overplay is therefore generated.

8.39 The above therefore suggests that at most sites, while competitive activity can be accommodated without overplay, there are shortfalls in capacity once training activity is taken into account. This primarily arises from the limited capacity that pitches have (due to restricted maintenance procedures) rather than an overall lack of pitches. It is clear however that in some instances (Kirkby Lonsdale RUFC, Upper Eden RUFC in particular), the focus of all training activity on the only floodlit pitch generates particular issues on these pitches.

Peak Time Demand

- 8.40 Whilst the above analysis in Tables 8.7 and 8.8 considers demand across the week, analysis of demand at peak time is also essential, as it provides an understanding of the challenges experienced with scheduling competitive fixtures.
- 8.41 With the majority of pitches demonstrating overplay once training is taken into account, there is almost no spare capacity at peak time (because a pitch cannot have spare capacity if it is overplayed). There is some spare capacity at Windermere RUFC, and spare capacity on one pitch at Kendal RUFC and Kirkby Lonsdale RUFC, but pressures elsewhere on these sites mean that this does not necessarily represent real spare capacity.

Other Rugby Union Pitches

- 8.42 The drainage issues on the majority of school sites, coupled with the limited maintenance regimes (cut only) mean that once school activity is taken into account, there is no remaining capacity for community use, with just 1 MES available (at Ullswater Community College and The Lakes School).

- 8.43 It should be noted however that whilst school pitches do represent potential spare capacity, the ethos of rugby union clubs means that while pitches at school sites are important in ensuring that schools are able to continue to play rugby union, their potential role in providing for the club is limited, as clubs would prefer to accommodate all activity at their own base as this is viewed as improving sustainability, due to the increased income that use of the home base brings. The cost of pitch hire at external sites (both AGP and grass) is highlighted as a key barrier to usage of pitches at other sites by clubs. In addition the pitches at school sites, unless a CUA is in place, are not considered secure.

Future Picture

Population Change

- 8.44 Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. By applying TGRs to population projections, we can project the theoretical number of teams that would be generated from population growth and gain an understanding of future demand.
- 8.45 Table 8.9 summarises the current TGRs for rugby union and uses them to evaluate the potential impact of projected changes to the population on demand. It presents the total number of additional teams that will be generated by 2040.
- 8.46 It reveals that population growth will have almost no impact and there will be no full team of any type generated. Instead, it is likely that the additional growth that will be experienced will generate a small number of additional players who may boost squad numbers within existing teams.

Table 8.9 - Impact of Changes to the Population Profile

Former Authority Area	Sport and Age Groups	Number Teams of	Current population in age group within the area	Current TGR	Population Change in Age Group up to 2031	Population Change in Age Group up to 2040	Potential Change in Team Numbers in Age Group by 2031	Potential Change in Team Numbers in Age Group by 2040
Barrow Borough	Adult Women (19-45yrs)	0	9929	0	-73	-353	0	0
Barrow Borough	Adult Men (19-45yrs)	2	10173	5087	-21	-330	0.0	-0.1
Barrow Borough	Age grade Girls (12-18yrs)	0	2116	0	-45	-259	0	0
Barrow Borough	Age grade Boys (12-18yrs)	1	2287	2287	-119	-301	-0.1	-0.1
Barrow Borough	Primary (7-11) Mixed	0	4403	0	-671	-560	0	0
Eden	Adult Women (19-45yrs)	2	6355	3178	-167	-363	-0.1	-0.1
Eden	Adult Men (19-45yrs)	5	6644	1329	-36	-267	0.0	-0.2

Former Authority Area	Sport and Age Groups	Number of Teams	Current population in age group within the area	Current TGR	Population Change in Age Group up to 2031	Population Change in Age Group up to 2040	Potential Change in Team Numbers in Age Group by 2031	Potential Change in Team Numbers in Age Group by 2040
Eden	Age grade Girls (12-18yrs)	3	1633	544	27	-152	0.0	-0.3
Eden	Age grade Boys (12-18yrs)	9	1785	198	-68	-279	-0.3	-1.4
Eden	Primary (7-11) Mixed	11	3418	311	-572	-432	-1.8	-1.4
South Lakeland	Adult Women (19-45yrs)	3	12911	4304	131.3	44	0.0	0.0
South Lakeland	Adult Men (19-45yrs)	6	13171	2195	339.5	456	0.2	0.2
South Lakeland	Age grade Girls (12-18yrs)	2	3364	1682	-113.5	-296	-0.1	-0.2
South Lakeland	Age grade Boys (12-18yrs)	11	3691	336	62.6	-212	0.2	-0.6
South Lakeland	Primary (7-11) Mixed	12	7055	588	-311.8	-508	-0.5	-0.9

- 8.47 Table 8.9 therefore suggests that demand for rugby union, based on population growth alone, will remain consistent or lower than levels that are currently experienced.

National Governing Body and Club Aspirations

- 8.48 With no change to participation likely to arise from population change, club development initiatives are the most likely cause of changing participation patterns.
- 8.49 The RFU Strategy (2021) focuses upon retaining existing players and attracting new players to the game. In the first instance, the retention of the existing teams will be a key priority.
- 8.50 The Women's Rugby World Cup will be hosted by England in 2025, and the RFU have identified this as a chance to boost interest and participation amongst women in rugby. A legacy programme will be delivered in parallel to the tournament from 2022 to 2025 and growth in women and girls rugby is a key priority of the RFU.
- 8.51 Consultation with clubs across Westmorland and Furness suggests that most clubs are proactively working on club development, with particular aspirations for growth in women and girls rugby. Facilities that are currently available represent barriers to this.
- 8.52 Stated growth aspirations of clubs are set out in Table 8.8. Where clubs have indicated that they are seeking general growth, this has been considered most likely to take place in age groups that the club is currently missing. These aspirations have been agreed with the RFU as realistic.

8.53 Table 8.10 summarises the growth aspirations of each club (in MES).

Table 8.10 – Club Growth Aspirations

Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Club	Senior Male	Senior Female	Age Grade Male	Age Grade Female	Mini	Total MES	Other
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Furness RUFC	0	0	1	0	0	1	
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Hawcoat Park Sports Club RUFC	0	0	1	0	0	1	
Eden	Kirkby Stephen	Upper Eden RUFC	0	0	0	0	2	2	
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Penrith RUFC	0	0	0	0	0	0	
South Lakeland	Kendal	Kendal RUFC	0	0	0	3	0	1.5	Growth across club
South Lakeland	Kirkby Lonsdale	Kirkby Lonsdale RUFC	0	0	0	0	0	0	Retaining existing senior playing team
South Lakeland	LDNP	Ambleside RUFC	0	0	0	0	0	0	
South Lakeland	LDNP	Windermere RUFC	1	0	1	0	0	0	

8.54 Table 8.11 summarises the impact that the projected growth will have on the adequacy of provision. It takes into account the impact of both training and match play.

Table 8.11 – Adequacy of Provision to Meet Current and Projected Future Provision

Club	Current Position across all pitches	Growth Aspirations	Future Picture	Key Issues
Kendal RUFC	-3.75	1.5	-5.25	Requires irrigation system and additional maintenance
Kirkby Lonsdale	-5	0	-5	Stand on first pitch condemned, drainage issues on pitch 4, lights on training pitch. Clubhouse requires upgrade
Ambleside	0.5	0	0.5	No issues identified

Club	Current Position across all pitches	Growth Aspirations	Future Picture	Key Issues
Windermere	-0.5	0	-0.5	Maintenance regime limited, waterlogging
Upper Eden RUFC	-4	2	-6	Drainage on training pitches, scope to improve maintenance. Club looking to extend ancillary facilities to facilitate female development
Penrith RUFC	-2.75	0	-2.75	Restricted maintenance regime, changing rooms inadequate
Hawcoat Park Sports Club	-1.5	1	-2.5	Club sustainability, ancillary facilities require refurbishment, lights require upgrading, scope to increase maintenance rating
Furness RUFC	-1	1	-2	Club sustainability, limited maintenance and poor drainage, ageing changing facilities

Key Issues by former/existing Local Planning Authority Area

8.55 To support the planning process, this section briefly summarises the key issues for rugby union in each of the former/existing Local planning authority areas.

Former Barrow Borough

Key Issue	Description
Supply	- Two rugby club bases – Hawcoat Park Sports Club (2 pitches and training area) and The Strawberry Grounds (Furness RUFC) again with 2 pitches. Further pitch available on this site that is disused. - No provision outside of Barrow Town. - Quality at Hawcoat Park Sports Club is good on first team pitch, but lower focus on maintenance on other pitches. Drainage unstable on second pitch and requires investigation, and lighting also requires upgrade. Increased aeration and decompaction required on site. - Limited maintenance programme and drainage issues at Furness Rugby Club – drainage issues impact overall quality of site and aeration and decompaction required. - Both sites offer changing facilities and clubhouse, whilst both have good facilities, the changing rooms within both buildings require upgrade.
Demand	- Two small clubs – Hawcoat Park Sports Club and Furness RUFC. - Both have experienced recent decline - Just 2 senior teams and 1 age grade team remain. - Both clubs highlight declining participation. Both are seeking to grow their numbers in order to remain sustainable – sustainability is a key priority. - Challenges competing with rugby league and football clubs. - No female rugby.

Key Issue	Description
Adequacy of Provision	- At Hawcoat Park Sports Club, with only 1 team, supply (2 pitches) is more than adequate to meet rugby union demand. The strong maintenance procedures on Pitch 1 mean that spare capacity equates to 2 MES. There is no use of the second pitch for rugby union, but this is overmarked for football (and used by football). The limited maintenance that is carried out means that it is overplayed as a result. Separate training area means training activity can be accommodated. - At Furness RUFC, there is limited demand (1 MES and 1 MES training). With restricted maintenance procedures (M0) coupled with drainage issues (D0) however, even this limited demand means that the pitches are overplayed. There is however additional land that could be used, it is however the quality that restricts the capacity of pitches at this site.
Key Issues to Address	- Sustainability of clubs. - Improvement to maintenance at Hawcoat Park Sports Club (second pitch) as well as work on drainage issues and decompaction. - Improvement to maintenance and drainage at Furness RUFC. - Spare capacity on existing club bases.

Former Eden Area

Key Issue	Description
Supply	Two club bases: - Penrith RUFC has 2 grass pitches, as well as WR Compliant 3G AGP. Drainage adequate but patchy in parts. Scope to enhance maintenance procedures (currently M0). Site requires aeration / decompaction sand dressing and overseeding. - Upper Eden has 2 grass pitches as well as a mini rugby area. Pitch quality is perceived to be declining and the training pitch in particular is suffering from drainage issues. The club are looking to extend changing facilities and social space to continue growth in women and girls rugby. Maintenance equivalent to M1, but pitches require aeration and decompaction as well as infilling and seeding. - Penrith RUFC also have access to grass pitch at Frenchfield which functions as overspill for training activity. This pitch is in basic condition. - Additional provision available in Penrith Area at Ullswater College (unsecured community use) and pitches also at Newton Rigg College and Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, although these are not available for community use (primarily due to quality). - Pitch at Kirkby Stephen Grammar (close to Upper Eden Rugby Club) not available for community use, second pitch disused due to quality. - No club base in Appleby, although there is one grass pitch at Appleby Grammar (no community use). - No existing facilities in Alston, although rugby pitch was previously provided at Tyne Willows (no rugby pitch now on site due to lack of demand). - Quality of school facilities limited. This is influenced by restricted maintenance programmes and most pitches also suffer with drainage issues.
Demand	- Two clubs – Upper Eden RUFC and Penrith RUFC. - Both clubs offer pathways all the way from mini through to senior play. - Both clubs also have female teams. - Participation static in senior male teams, but increasing in other areas. Particular increasing demand in women and girls rugby, which places extra pressure on playing and ancillary facilities.

Key Issue	Description
Adequacy of Provision	- Upper Eden Rugby Club, pitch 1 has spare capacity (0.5 MES) when taking into account just competitive demand, whilst supply equals demand on Pitch 2 (competitive demand only). Mini rugby primarily takes place on the adjacent playing field area (mini pitches marked out). This area has capacity to accommodate further play. All training however is focused on Pitch 2, creating large shortfalls in capacity on this pitch. Overall therefore there is a picture of overplay. Increased capacity could be created through maintenance improvements. - At Penrith RUFC there is overplay evident when taking into account both training and match play. Grass pitch capacity is however restricted by limited maintenance procedures.
Key Issues to Address	- Protection of existing pitches for curricular use. - Required improvements to maintenance at both sites. - Improvement to changing facilities to facilitate women and girls rugby. - Overplay of training areas at Upper Eden.

Former South Lakeland Area

Key Issue	Description
Supply	- Largest stock of facilities – 10 grass pitches and 1 3G WR compliant AGP almost all of which are available for community use. - Kendal RUFC is one of two key club sites. The club have 3G AGP, and 2 grass pitches as well as mini training area. The pitches suffer from high wear and tear and all pitches are basic. The main pitch requires an irrigation system and aeration, whilst the second pitch requires decompaction. Scope to improve maintenance. - There are further rugby pitches in Kendal at Kirkbie Kendal School and Queen Katherine School. The pitch at Kirkbie Kendal School is of limited quality, whilst the pitch at Queen Katherine School is not available for community use. There is a further pitch at Kirkbie Kendal School which is disused as a result of the failure of the drainage system. - Kirkby Lonsdale RUFC have a large site, with 4 grass pitches as well as a training area. There is also additional land at this site but there are no other rugby union pitches in the Kirkby Lonsdale area. There is scope to improve maintenance procedures, and a requirement for improved drainage on Pitch 4. Lights also need replacing on Pitch 2 and there are issues with the main stand which has been condemned. - Dallam School offers the only rugby union pitches in the Milnthorpe sub area. This site is available for community use. - There are no facilities for rugby union in the Ulverston and surrounding area or Cartmel Peninsula sub areas.
Demand	- Two clubs – Kendal RUFC and Kirkby Lonsdale RUFC. - Both clubs offer pathways all the way from mini through to senior play. - Both clubs also have female teams. - Participation declining in senior male teams at Kirkby Lonsdale and demand for age grade rugby static at both clubs. Both clubs experiencing increasing demand in women and girls rugby, which places extra pressure on playing and ancillary facilities.

Key Issue	Description
Adequacy of Provision	- At Kirkby Lonsdale, there is spare capacity on three of the four pitches when taking into account just competitive play, although Pitch 4 is overplayed by 0.5 MES. The capacity of this pitch is severely limited by the drainage issues experienced, as well as the limited maintenance procedures. With training focused on just one pitch, there is significant overplay on this pitch however. Some mini rugby union activity takes place on the adjacent playing field area, and this land is used to capacity, as are pitches across the site as a whole. There is however significant scope for the provision of additional pitches on this site as well as opportunity to improve the capacity of the existing pitches through enhanced maintenance and drainage. - Activity at Kendal RUFC is spread across an AGP and two rugby pitches (one of which functions as a floodlit training area). The AGP is used for football as well as rugby, with the majority of match play for rugby taking place on grass. As a consequence, the main rugby pitch is overplayed (0.25 MES). Use of grass pitches for some training exacerbates this, and there is a degree of overplay across the site as a whole.
Key Issues to Address	- Protection of existing pitches for curricular use. - Quality issues at Kirkby Lonsdale RUFC (pitch drainage / stand / lighting). - Capacity issues at Kendal RUFC and future role of the AGP. - Requirement for improved maintenance.

Lake District National Park

Key Issue	Description
Supply	- There are two small rugby club sites in this area – Windermere Rugby Club (1 pitch and a training area) and Ambleside Rugby Club (1 pitch). - The Lakes School also offers a rugby union pitch, which is available for community use. - Pitch quality at Windermere is basic with some waterlogging issues. The pitch requires aeration / decompaction, sand dressing and overseeding. The training area has shallow soil and no scope for maintenance other than mowing. - The pitch quality at Ambleside RUFC is also basic, but the pitch benefits from limited playing activity.
Demand	- Windermere RUFC run one single team. - Ambleside RUFC are not affiliated to the RFU and play friendlies only. - Windermere RUFC report static participation but would like to grow in future years. - Sustainability of clubs more challenging with small playing numbers.
Adequacy of Provision	- At Windermere RUFC there is spare capacity on the main pitch (0.5 MES) however the training area is overplayed (due to its restricted capacity). - The pitch at Ambleside RUFC is used for ad hoc friendlies and is played to capacity.
Key Issues to Address	- Protection of existing pitches for curricular use. - Improved maintenance to increase capacity.

Yorkshire Dales National Park

Key Issue	Description
Supply	Sedbergh School offers 7 rugby union pitches. These grass pitches are of good quality, but are not available for community use.
Demand	There is no evidence of community demand for rugby union in this area, the pitches at Sedbergh School are used for the school's extensive rugby union activity.
Adequacy of Provision	Provision adequate for curricular use.
Key Issues to Address	Protection of existing pitches for curricular use.

9.0 Football

Introduction

- 9.1 This section assesses the adequacy of pitches for football across Westmorland and Furness. It includes:
- A brief overview of the supply and demand for football
 - An understanding of activity at individual sites
 - A picture of the adequacy of current provision; and
 - The future picture of provision for football.
- 9.2 It considers the provision of both grass football pitches and 3G pitches.
- 9.3 Due to the size and scale of the football activity within the Westmorland and Furness area, this section provides an overview across the whole area and then analyses provision in detail within the former local authority areas to provide a more localised understanding of football needs.

Supply

- 9.4 Football requires a spread of different pitch sizes, with pitches increasing in size as players get older.
- 9.5 There are 243 formal pitches across Westmorland and Furness as a whole. Of these 180 (75%) are available for community use. A further 32 sites contain general playing fields (where pitches are not marked) but could potentially be provided (these are typically small size).
- 9.6 These pitches include:
- 90 senior 11v11 pitches
 - 32 youth 11v11 pitches
 - 37 9v9 pitches
 - 65 7v7 pitches and 19 5v5 pitches.
- 9.7 Table 9.1 summarises the breakdown of pitch sizes across Westmorland and Furness for pitches that are available to the community.
- 9.8 Table 9.1 shows that 42% of pitches are senior 11v11 pitches, while 30% of pitches are for 7v7 or 5v5 teams. Just under 30% of pitches are sized for youth football (11v11 youth or 9v9). There are 181 pitches available for community use across the area as a whole.

Table 9.1 – Football Pitches across Westmorland and Furness

Former Authority Areas	Sub Areas	Adult 11v11	Youth 11v11	9v9	7v7	5v5	TOTAL PITCHES	Proportion of Westmorland Pitches
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	20	2	6	10	5	43	23.8%
Barrow Borough	Remainder of Barrow Borough	3	4	1	5	2	15	8.3%
Barrow Borough	Barrow Total	23	6	7	15	7	58	32.0%
South Lakeland	Kendal	6	5	6	6	0	23	12.8%
South Lakeland	Milnthorpe	6	3	1	4	1	15	8.3%
South Lakeland	Kirkby Lonsdale	2	0	0	0	0	2	1.1%
South Lakeland	Cartmel Peninsula	3	2	1	1	1	8	4.4%
South Lakeland	Ulverston and surrounding area	5	2	3	3	1	14	7.8%
South Lakeland	LDNP	8	2	1	0	0	11	6.1%
South Lakeland	YDNP	3	1	1	0	0	5	2.8%
South Lakeland	South Lakeland Total	34	15	13	14	3	79	43.9%
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	14	2	6	5	4	31	17.1%
Eden	Appleby	2	0	0	0	0	2	1.1%
Eden	Kirkby Stephen	2	2	1	2	2	9	5.0%
Eden	Alston	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.6%
Eden	LDNP (Eden)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Eden	YDNP (Eden)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Eden	Eden Total	19	4	7	7	6	43	23.8%

- 9.9 The pitches that are not available for community use (excluded from Table 9.1 above) are primarily at school sites. Consultation demonstrates that the main reasons that these pitches are not available are:
- At secondary school sites – the poor quality of the pitches and the limited maintenance programmes restricts the activity that can be sustained to curricular use. Many of the schools indicate that the quality of pitches is so poor that they cannot be properly used for curricular activity, let alone support community use in addition.
 - A higher proportion of primary school sites report that they are concerned about site security. Primary schools also cite a lack of demand, given that they typically have limited small playing fields and a lack of ancillary provision.
- 9.10 The key sites that offer future potential for community use (i.e. larger sites with higher numbers of pitches) are Queen Katherine School (Kendal), St Bernards School, Appleby Grammar, Queen Elizabeth School.
- 9.11 Pitches identified in Table 9.1 are all formal, active and marked out playing fields. Supplementing these, there are several sites that are defined as general recreational playing fields. They currently offer informal recreation opportunities (for example kickabout goals) but could potentially provide formal facilities should demand arise.
- 9.12 In all cases, pitch totals should also be considered approximate only, as on many sites, layouts change weekly in response to league fixtures. In addition, the layout of pitches at school sites often changes from week (school use) to weekend, as clubs lay out pitches to meet their own needs.

- 9.13 It should be noted that pitches and teams within this section are categorised according to pitch size requirements (i.e. teams in U17 and U18 age groups use adult pitches). This differs slightly from the categorisation methods used in FA affiliation data, which considers U17 and U18 teams to be juniors.
- 9.14 All pitches listed in Table 9.1 are available for community use and the remainder of this section refers to pitches that are secured for community use.
- 9.15 The majority of pitches are secured for long term community use. Pitches are deemed to offer secured community use when they have:
- A formal community use agreement
 - A leasing or management agreement requiring pitches to be available to the community/ a community club
 - A formal policy for community use adopted by the owner and or educational establishment
 - Written confirmation from the owner and or educational establishment
 - Freehold by lead user
 - Owned / managed by public bodies.

Which suggest that use is likely to continue for at least three years.

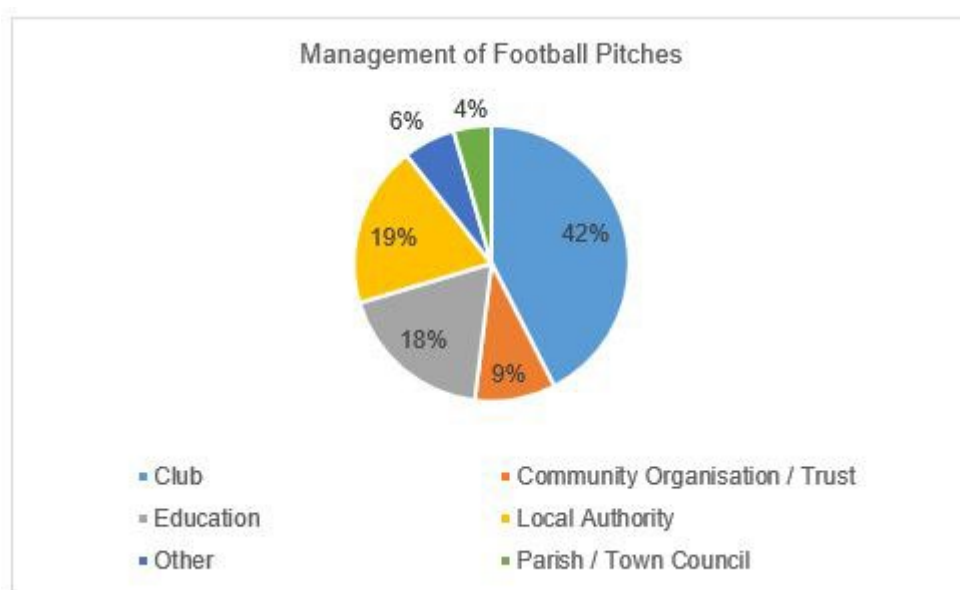
- 9.16 16% of the pitches available in Westmorland and Furness are currently considered to offer unsecured community use. These are largely at school sites where is no formal agreement available. Dowdales School, Cartmel Priory School and GSK Sports Ground are the key sites where the lack of long term security may cause an issue, as these sites all sustain a significant amount of community activity. The majority of other unsecured sites host limited community activity.
- 9.17 Looking geographically, Table 9.1 reveals that 32% of active pitches are in the former Barrow Borough area, 24% in the former Eden area and the remainder are located in former South Lakeland areas. The proportion of pitches of each size is broadly even across each part, meaning that there are opportunities to participate in all forms of the game in all parts of Westmorland and Furness .
- 9.18 In all areas, the majority of pitch provision is situated in the main towns. There is no formal football provision in the Eden areas of YDNP and LDNP. These areas will therefore be excluded from further tables.
- 9.19 It is notable however, that some parts of Westmorland and Furness have a much higher reliance on unsecured sites than others. Those areas where unsecured sites represent a higher proportion of the overall pitch stock are:
- Remainder of Barrow Borough (sub area)
 - Cartmel Peninsula (sub area)
 - Ulverston and surrounding area (sub area)
 - LDNP (South Lakeland area)
 - YDNP (South Lakeland area).

Ownership and Management

- 9.20 Figure 9.1 illustrates that more playing fields are managed / maintained by clubs than any other providers in Westmorland and Furness, with 42% of all pitches in the control of clubs. The Council (19%) and education establishments (18%) also remain important providers. Many pitches across Westmorland and Furness are owned by other organisations, but are leased to clubs, or clubs take control of the management and maintenance in exchange for reduced rates.

- 9.21 The proportion of pitches controlled by clubs is highest in the former Barrow Borough area, where there are almost no public playing fields. It should be noted however that several of the sites are still accessible to the public which can present challenges regarding management and maintenance.
- 9.22 The FA National Strategy seeks to increase the number of asset owning and managing clubs and the engagement of clubs in Westmorland and Furness with the management and maintenance of facilities is therefore very positive.

Figure 9.1 - Management of Pitches

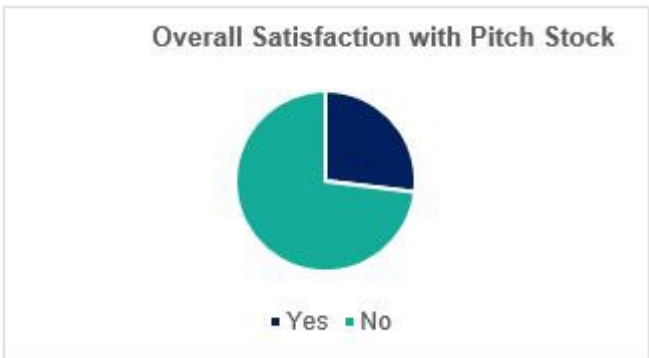


- 9.23 There are similar patterns across all three former local authority areas, however it should be noted that there is now little Council involvement with the management and maintenance of football pitches in the former Barrow Borough area, as all public pitches are leased to clubs.

Views on the Pitch Stock

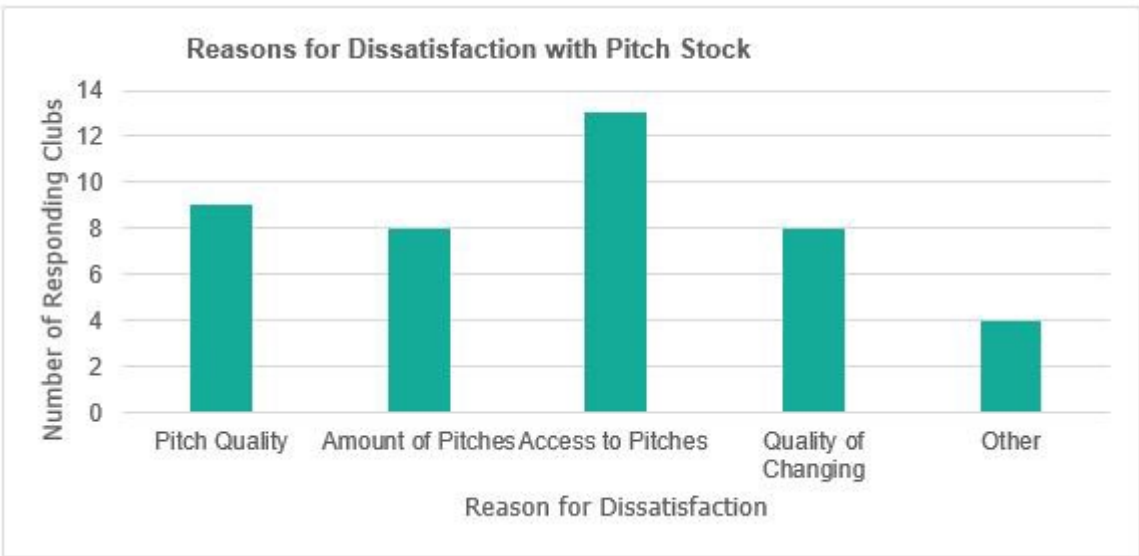
- 9.24 Figure 9.2 indicates that more clubs in Westmorland and Furness are dissatisfied with football pitches than are satisfied. Just 27% of clubs are currently happy with provision. This suggests that there are some issues with the pitch stock that this strategy needs to address.

Figure 9.2 - Satisfaction with Pitch Provision



- 9.25 These views are consistent in each of the three former authority areas, with more clubs dissatisfied than satisfied in each. Satisfaction is highest in the former Eden area, and lowest in the former Barrow Borough areas, where all clubs are currently unhappy with the facilities available for football.
- 9.26 Multiple reasons were identified for the dissatisfaction that is evident. Figure 9.3 provides a general overview of the key issues that were raised.

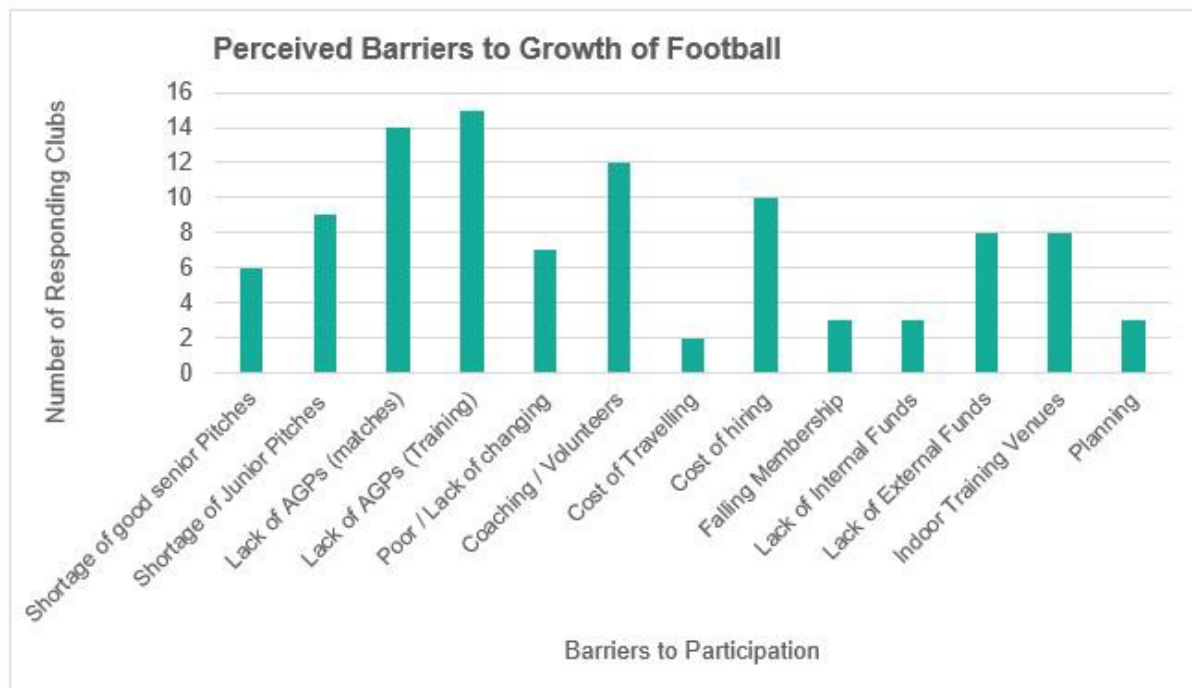
Figure 9.3 – Reasons for Dissatisfaction with Pitch Provision



- 9.27 Chart 9.3 demonstrates that clubs have varying concerns, with no clear consensus on the challenges that are faced. Further analysis demonstrates that:
- Issues raised are broadly similar across all areas of Westmorland and Furness.
 - A higher proportion of clubs that are concerned about quality are based in the former Barrow Borough and South Lakeland areas than in former Eden areas.
 - Concerns about access to pitches appear to be concentrated in specific locations - particularly in Kendal (former South Lakeland area) and the town of Barrow (former Barrow Borough area).

- 9.28 Figure 9.4 builds on the above and provides further insight into the perceived issues with the pitch stock. It demonstrates that a shortage of high quality FA registered 3G AGPs for both training and matchplay are considered to be the key barriers to growth. The cost of hiring facilities is also reported to be problematic for many clubs, while a lack of grass pitches of all types is reported to be impacting participation increases.

Figure 9.4 - Barriers to Growth of Football



- 9.29 Figure 9.4 demonstrates that in addition to the lack of facilities, challenges securing appropriate coaches and volunteers are currently also impacting clubs. If there are not enough volunteers, then additional teams cannot be created, even if there are enough players.

- 9.30 The same issues were raised in all parts of Westmorland and Furness.

Pitch Quality and Changing Accommodation

- 9.31 Pitch quality emerged as one of the key issues for clubs during consultation, particularly in the former South Lakeland and Barrow Borough areas.
- 9.32 All local leagues require (within their rules) clubs to keep their grounds in playable condition (and deemed suitable by the Management Committee). Quality directly impacts on the capacity of a pitch, and therefore has significant impact on how well facilities meet demand.
- 9.33 The presence and quality of changing facilities can also impact the suitability of pitches and a lack of facilities can impact on the desirability of grounds for clubs, particularly where there is a lack of toilets. Whilst recently, there are lower levels of demand for changing facilities from junior and mini teams, access to toilets and sinks is considered essential. Inadequate ancillary facilities can also create pressures relating to safeguarding.
- 9.34 The growth of the women's game also places extra pressures on the ancillary facilities, with a need to ensure that there are appropriate facilities available to support all players. Consultation

highlighted the lack of appropriate ancillary facilities as being one of the key barriers to the growth of the women's game.

9.35 Pitch quality and changing accommodation is therefore as important as the number of pitches.

9.36 Pitch quality has been assessed through a variety of methods, specifically:

- Non-technical site assessments
- Football Foundation PitchPower Assessment Reports
- Consultations with Clubs
- Consultation with Schools, Parish and Town Councils and Westmorland Council representatives
- Consultation with other key providers.

9.37 Final views on the quality of each site have been reached through the triangulation of data and quality ratings have been agreed with representatives of the Local Football Associations and Football Foundation. The key issues identified are explored in the sections that follow.

Site Assessments

9.38 Site visits were undertaken to all sites offering community access using the non-technical site assessment matrix provided alongside the Playing Pitch Guidance. Site assessments were conducted during January and February 2023, as such the results are reflective of usage for pitches that are halfway through the winter season. There was a period of inclement weather immediately before and during site visits, meaning that any underlying quality issues were particularly apparent.

9.39 In general terms, site visits reveal that:

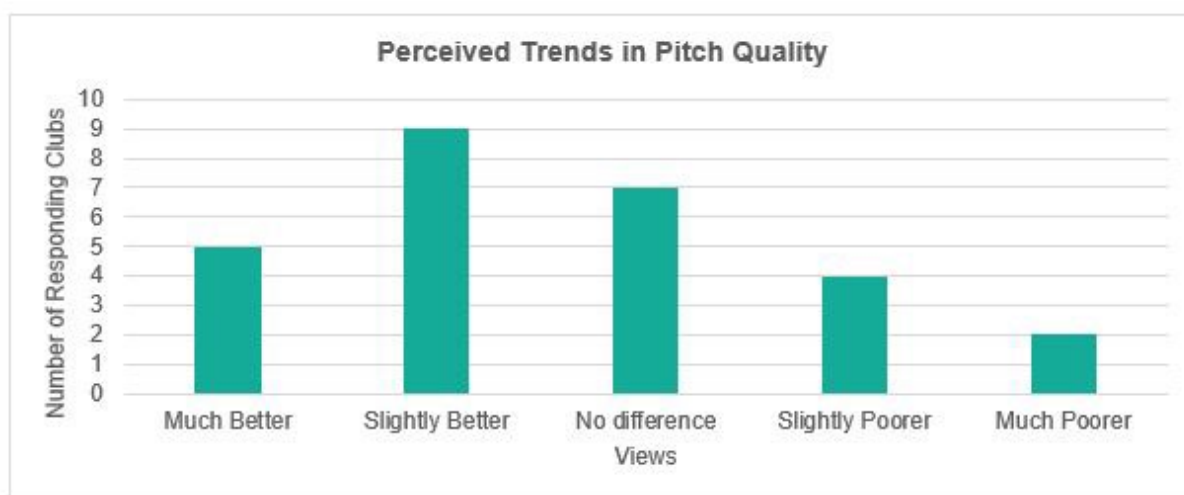
- Waterlogging and compaction is the main concern across Westmorland and Furness. Many sites had standing water at the time of site visit.
- Compaction was evident on the majority of sites – this negatively impacted the effectiveness of drainage on pitches. Compaction was attributed to heavy usage, but also a lack of appropriate maintenance.
- Some sites also had poor grass coverage, and there was evidence of weeds and thatching.
- Many sites were suffering from skid marks and messy goal mouths. Again this is linked to the drainage issues that are experienced.
- The poorest facilities were evident in South Lakeland – compaction and drainage is a particular concern in this area. In contrast, there are some good facilities in Eden.
- Maintenance appeared to be insufficient to keep up with the level of usage on many sites.
- The openness of many sites, which encourages recreational use as well as competitive activity, poses a problem for some users – with sites suffering from dog foul etc.
- The condition of associated ancillary facilities varies but there are many sites where facilities need improvement. Particularly in Barrow and Walney, some football sites have good basic infrastructure (social facilities etc) although they require updating.

9.40 The time passed between site visits and the production of this assessment means that there is potential that quality will have changed in the interim. The use of PitchPower reports to supplement site visits ensures that information relating to quality is as current as possible.

Club Consultation

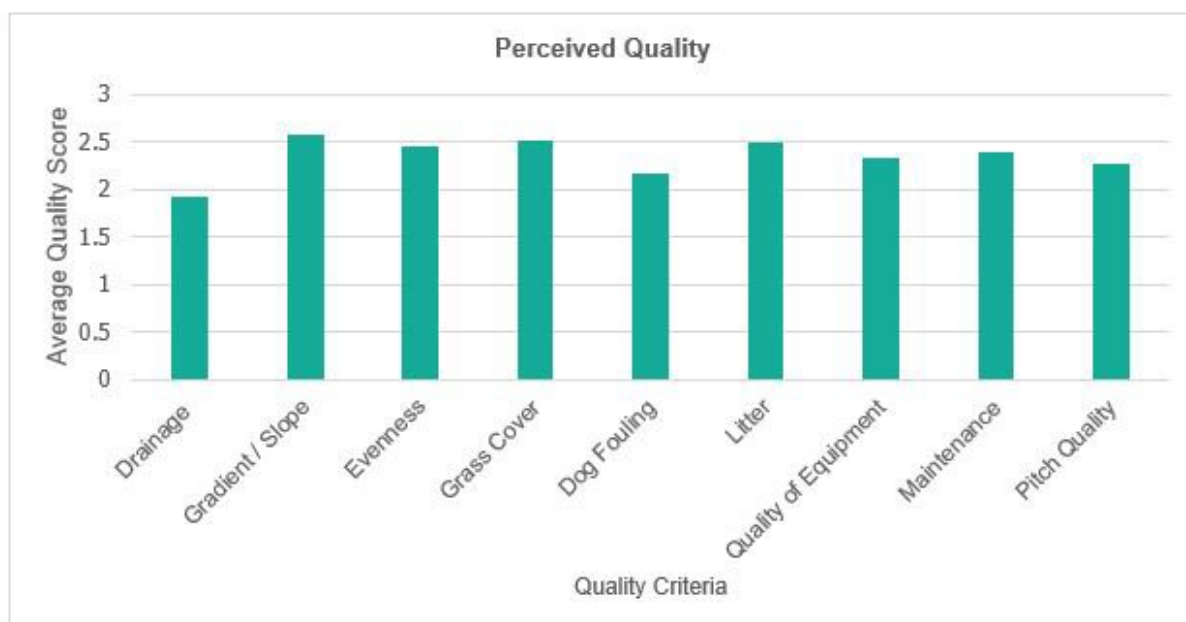
- 9.41 Many clubs have already received funding from the Football Foundation Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund and many more indicate that they are looking to access to this fund in the coming years. Consultation with NGB representatives reports that one of the key barriers to accessing this fund is the requirement for match funding (circa 33% over a 6 year period on a poor / basic quality pitch). Access to this capital frequently presents a barrier to clubs that needs to be overcome.
- 9.42 Reflecting the increasing focus on improvements to maintenance and the investment that has recently taken place at some sites, Figure 9.5 demonstrates that more clubs consider pitch quality to have improved than deteriorated. On a positive note, this pattern is reflected in each area of Westmorland and Furness .

Figure 9.5 – Views on Trends in Pitch Quality



- 9.43 For clubs where quality was perceived to have improved, this was noted to be a direct result of increased investment in maintenance, through either new machinery, increased volunteer work and / or the receipt of grants.
- 9.44 For those that reported a decline, this was typically attributed to drainage and overuse. Again, this could be linked to the challenges with maintenance, as compacted pitches by nature will drain poorly. Poor quality pitches are also able to sustain fewer games without becoming compacted (which then leads to drainage issues).
- 9.45 To provide a further understanding of the areas where clubs feel improvement is required, Figure 9.6 summarises the average quality ratings attributed by clubs to a variety of pitch quality criteria (an average score of 1 equates to poor, 2 to standard and 3 to good). Reflecting the findings of the site visits, it is the drainage on pitches that is of greatest concern.
- 9.46 These views were consistent across the former Barrow Borough and South Lakeland areas– in both areas drainage and dog fouling are the main concerns. Fewer clubs highlight these concerns in the former Eden area, with more clubs raising issues with evenness and undulation of the pitch surface. These are issues that have a less fundamental impact on the overall quality of pitches, again reflecting the findings of site visits, which demonstrate that quality is highest in this area.

Figure 9.6 – Overall Views on Pitch Quality



PitchPower Reports

- 9.47 To provide further insight into pitch quality, the issues arising in recently completed PitchPower assessment reports have also been considered. There have been numerous PitchPower reports undertaken since the non-technical assessments were undertaken. The assessment report takes into account PitchPower assessments that were undertaken during the 2023 season.
- 9.48 PitchPower is a Football Foundations tool for assessing quality. PitchPower assessments provide a Performance Quality Standard (PQS) rating for each pitch on a scale of poor / basic / good / advanced / high). The tool has now been extended to rugby union, rugby league and cricket.
- 9.49 PitchPower is viewed as the key vehicle for the achievement of Football Foundation targets to improve 20,000 pitches to good quality by 2030 and is now the gateway to and a requirement of funding from the Football Foundation towards grass pitches and associated with other major capital grant awards. Funding is available to eligible organisations only (although it should be noted that match funding is required).
- 9.50 In addition to understanding any quality issues that are experienced and providing clear guidance to clubs on how to tailor the maintenance programme for their pitch, PitchPower assessments also identify where new and improved machinery is needed. Funding is available for users of PitchPower from the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund and several clubs highlight the benefits that this has already brought for them.
- 9.51 Funding streams are available on club sites, Education, Parish and Town Council sites (where grass roots clubs are using the facilities) as well as Charities and league owned sites. An SLA is also accepted where clubs are the lead applicant supported by a local authority / school etc.
- 9.52 The proportion of sites in Westmorland and Furness that have been evaluated by at least one PitchPower assessment is high and is increasing rapidly. This is particularly positive as it could open the door to funding for improved maintenance procedures across Westmorland and

Furness. It also demonstrates the levels of engagement that clubs are showing with regards the maintenance of their grass pitches.

- 9.53 PitchPower assessments classify pitches into four standards for community football relating to their playability, with high pertaining mostly to professionally used pitches. The remaining categories are illustrated in Figure 9.7.

Figure 9.7 – Categories of PitchPower Rating



- 9.54 PitchPower ratings across Westmorland and Furness demonstrate significant variation in pitch quality, with a wide range of assessment results from poor to good. The key issues on sites that did not achieve good ratings are:
- Compaction was identified on the majority of sites and the proportion of weeds in the grass sward was also highlighted as a key concern.
 - Decompaction / weed control / maintenance regimes were key areas for improvement.
 - Drainage issues also identified across multiple sites.
- 9.55 On the whole, with a small number of exceptions, pitches that have received more than one assessment have improved in the time between the first and second.
- 9.56 The proportion of pitch ratings received in each former local authority area varies slightly, as set out in Table 9.2. It should be noted that this refers only to pitches with PitchPower assessments. The overall spread of quality (including pitches that have not been assessed using PitchPower) will be discussed in later tables.

Table 9.2 – Summary PitchPower Ratings

PitchPower Rating	Former Borough	Barrow	Former Eden	Former Lakeland	South
Advanced /Good	32%		60%	32%	
Basic	24%		31%	42%	
Poor	44%		9%	26%	

- 9.57 Table 9.2 therefore confirms that the PitchPower assessments demonstrate that quality in the former Eden area is significantly better than in other parts of Westmorland and Furness for those sites which have received a PitchPower assessment.

9.58 The ratings achieved in PitchPower assessments can be used to inform the overall pitch capacity ratings in this PPOSS. Broadly speaking, PitchPower assessments correlate with PPS quality ratings as follows:

- PitchPower rating poor – poor quality
- PitchPower rating basic – standard quality
- PitchPower rating good and advanced – good quality.

9.59 Where up to date PitchPower assessments exist, these ratings directly link with the capacity rating in the PPOSS. A cross referencing exercise demonstrates that the PitchPower assessments reflect the findings of the non-technical site visits, and therefore represent a robust understanding of current quality. Where no PitchPower assessments have been undertaken, site quality ratings have been determined by the non-technical assessments and consultation.

Consultation with Schools / Key Providers

9.60 The findings of other consultations generally reflect the views already highlighted. It is clear that on school sites in particular, very little maintenance (over and above grass cutting) is carried out. Drainage and playing surface are considered to be the biggest challenges, and on some school sites, pitches are unusable for part of the year as a result of the issues experienced. The majority of schools indicate that they are unable to improve their pitches further due to financial constraints.

9.61 Other providers highlight the level of use of pitches as a key challenge, with maintenance procedures unable to keep up with the amount of use that needs to be sustained.

Quality Summary

9.62 In line with guidance set out in Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy guidance, the above combination of consultation, site visits and analysis of PitchPower Assessments have therefore been used to determine a quality rating for each of the grass pitches across Westmorland and Furness as either good, standard or poor.

9.63 Table 9.3 provides an overall summary of the quality ratings achieved.

Table 9.3 – Quality of Grass Pitches across Westmorland and Furness

Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Good	Standard	Poor
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	11.6%	53.5%	34.9%
Barrow Borough	Remainder of Barrow Borough	46.7%	53.3%	0.0%
Barrow Borough	Barrow Borough Total	20.7%	53.4%	25.9%
South Lakeland	Kendal	20.8%	37.5%	41.7%
South Lakeland	Milnthorpe	13.3%	66.7%	20.0%
South Lakeland	Kirkby Lonsdale	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%
South Lakeland	Cartmel Peninsula	0.0%	75.0%	25.0%
South Lakeland	Ulverston and surrounding area	35.7%	57.1%	7.2%
South Lakeland	LDNP	0.0%	36.4%	63.6%
South Lakeland	YDNP	20.0%	20.0%	60.0%

Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Good	Standard	Poor
South Lakeland	South Lakeland Total	17.5%	50.0%	32.5%
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	61.3%	32.3%	6.5%
Eden	Appleby	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%
Eden	Kirkby Stephen	0.0%	77.8%	22.2%
Eden	Alston	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Eden	Eden Total	44.2%	44.2%	11.6%
	Westmorland and Furness Total	21.4%	50.4%	28.2%

9.64 Site specific ratings, as well as issues specific to each site are outlined later in this section. The key messages arising from Table 9.3 in relation to pitches that are available to the community are:

- Across Westmorland and Furness as a whole, 50.5% of pitches are rated as standard, 21% good and 28% poor. This means that there is significant scope to improve pitch quality, and with it, pitch capacity.
- The former South Lakeland area contains the highest proportion of poor pitches (33%), whilst in the former Eden area, only 11% of pitches are poor. This means that quality is particularly compromised in the former South Lakeland area and there is opportunity to increase capacity through qualitative improvement.
- Reflecting the findings of the PitchPower assessments, quality in the former Eden area is much higher than in other parts of Westmorland and Furness. 44% of pitches in the former Eden area are good, compared to 21% in the former Barrow Borough area and 18% in the former South Lakeland area.
- Looking at a more local level, more than 30% of pitches are poor in Barrow and Walney, Kendal, LDNP, YDNP and Alston suggesting that these areas represent the focus for improvement in the first instance. Quality is notably poor on adult pitches in the LDNP.

Changing Provision / Ancillary Facilities

9.65 Changing facilities are considered by the FA to be critical in meeting the needs of senior football, whilst toilet and wash facilities are essential in providing for youth football. Where girls football is also accommodated, segregated and appropriate facilities are required.

9.66 Site specific ratings for changing provision are provided later in this section. Site visits demonstrated that the quality of changing facilities varies significantly, with some sites having no provision, and others having excellent facilities. Site specific detail will be provided in the sub area sections, however the key issues arising were:

- In the former Barrow Borough area, all sites offer at least some ancillary provision, and many of these include social facilities. The quality of facilities varies significantly however, with many sites now containing ageing and dated facilities. Ormsgill Recreation Ground, Furness Rovers and Biggar Bank are all in particular need of improvement (although it should be noted that a recent assessment for Biggar Bank has shown some improvements, with quality now a mix of good, basic and poor). The availability and offering of ancillary facilities in Barrow, with most sites also offering social facilities is particularly important in attracting and

retaining players. Good ancillary provision also helps support club sustainability, particularly where this can be used to generate income (for example operating a small kitchen to provide teas). Ancillary provision (albeit updated) is a key strength of this area

- In the former South Lakeland area, there are more sites with no / poor changing facilities and the majority of the remaining facilities are of limited quality. There are only three sites with good changing accommodation. In particular there are some key sites where participation is high but ancillary provision is poor / non existent
- Most sites in the former Eden area contain changing accommodation, but the majority are basic, with limited kitchen / social facilities. There is no changing accommodation at Wetheriggs Country Park, The Millenium Field and Tyne Willows, but all other sites have some functional facilities.

9.67 The availability of changing / ancillary facilities is particularly crucial at large sites accommodating lots of activity. Key larger multi-pitch sites where changing is currently poor includes Biggar Bank and Kendal Millenium Playing Fields.

9.68 Where girls football is also played, segregated facilities are required. The adequacy of facilities that currently serve female teams (as well as male) is briefly summarised below:

Former Barrow Borough

- Cavendish Park – site includes community hub as well as changing accommodation. New female changing facilities recently provided
- Crooklands Casuals – last refurbished 20 years ago. Basic facilities provided but would benefit from upgrade to ensure suitability for all
- Furness Cavaliers – changing facilities in portacabin, associated clubhouse. Limited facilities for female play
- Hawcoat Park – facilities dated but changing facilities provided. Require upgrade to modernise
- Barrow Celtic – recently renovated to include kitchen and clubhouse on club main site, but changing facilities at Ormsgill (the club's satellite site) are in poor condition. In their current form they are unsuitable for youth or female play.

Former South Lakeland

- Kendal RUFC – excellent facilities and clubhouse
- Kendal United JFC – funded by FF, quality reported to be adequate
- Jubilee Playing Fields and Millenium Fields – poor facilities that require improvement if the site is to remain fit for purpose
- Dallam School – facilities in good condition, mix of changing accommodation provided
- Priory Road Sports Ground – facilities require upgrade to ensure that they meet necessary standards
- Cartmel Priory C of E School
- Yew Tree Playing Fields – dated small facilities.

Former Eden

- Frenchfields – includes 10 changing rooms with showers as well as toilet and wash facilities
- Fellview- in good condition
- Parrots Park – facilities adequate, although club seeking to develop clubhouse to support changing accommodation.

9.69 It is clear therefore that there are many sites that would benefit from improvement if the growth potential of women's football is to be maximised. The key priorities are however:

- Ormsgill (former Barrow Borough area)
- Jubilee Fields / Millenium Fields, Wattsfield Pavilion (former South Lakeland area).

Demand

9.70 Football is the biggest sport in terms of the number of teams that are playing in Westmorland and Furness . The geographical scale of the authority means that Westmorland and Furness is covered by four different County FA's, specifically:

- Lancashire FA
- Westmorland FA
- Cumberland FA
- West Riding FA.

9.71 These FAs seek to work together to deliver football across the area, alongside the Football Foundation and prior to the merge of the former local authority areas, had each forged individual relationships with representative of each Council. Moving forwards, strong partnership working will be essential if a consistent picture is to be presented for football.

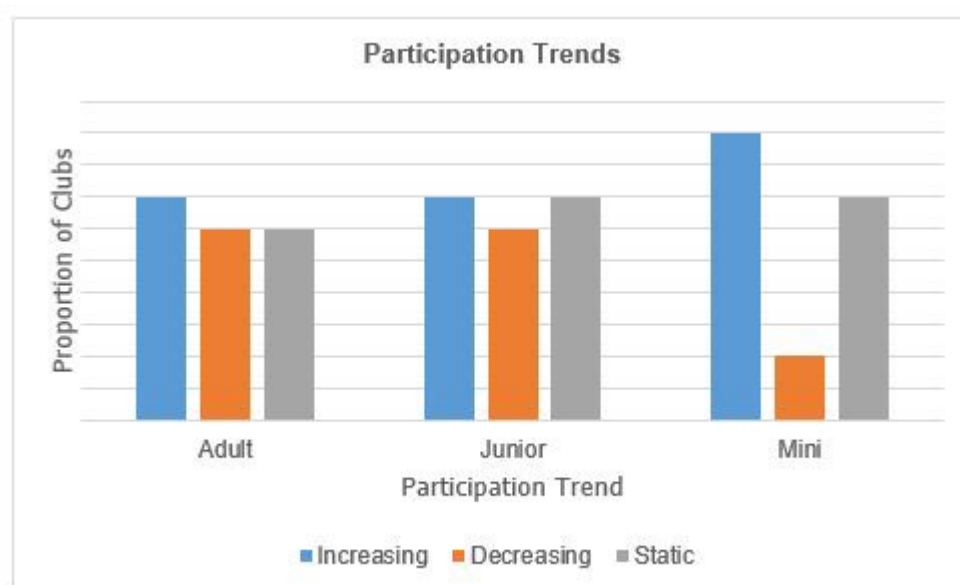
9.72 The picture for football is therefore complex, with multiple leagues operating in the authority area and play taking place at different times across the weekend.

9.73 In recent years football in Cumbria has experienced significant increase, with mini football in particular growing rapidly. Consultation demonstrates that more clubs have experienced growth than decline in each form of the game. This is a particularly positive sign in adult football, where there is a picture of national decline.

9.74 There is also evidence that female football is now starting to experience rapid growth, with participation escalating in recent years, particularly at 9v9 level. This suggests that growth in demand for 11v11 pitches from female teams is likely to be experienced over the course of this strategy period.

9.75 Figure 9.8 demonstrates the trends in participation experienced by responding clubs.

Figure 9.8 – Participation Trends in Last Three Years



9.76 Table 9.4 provides a breakdown of the teams that played during the 2022- 2023 season across Westmorland and Furness. Team information is based upon affiliation data supplied by the FA and has been refined through consultation where appropriate.

9.77 It is acknowledged that the number of teams playing changes weekly, however this represents an accurate representation at a point in time.

Table 9.4 – Demand for Football across Westmorland and Furness

Sub- Area	Adult - Male	Adult - Female	Youth - Male	Youth - Female	9v9 - Male	9v9 - Female	7v7 - Mixed	5v5 - Mixed	Total
Barrow and Walney	25	1	20	3	20	3	18	18	108
Remainder of Barrow Borough	6	0	8	0	4	5	10	11	44
Former Barrow Borough Area Total	31	1	28	3	24	8	28	29	152
Kendal	12	2	16	4	10	7	16	12	79
Milnthorpe	7	0	2	2	3	1	3	1	19
Kirkby Lonsdale	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Cartmel Peninsula	4	0	2	1	1	1	3	4	16
Ulverston and surrounding area	7	0	3	1	3	0	4	3	21

Sub- Area	Adult - Male	Adult - Female	Youth - Male	Youth - Female	9v9 - Male	9v9 - Female	7v7 - Mixed	5v5 - Mixed	Total
LDNP	8	0	7	0	3	0	6	2	26
YDNP	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	1	6
Former South Lakeland Area Total	42	2	32	8	21	9	33	23	170
Penrith and M6 Corridor	26	4	20	0	15	5	20	10	100
Appleby	2	0	2	0	2	0	2	1	9
Kirkby Stephen	2	0	2	0	1	1	2	2	10
Alston	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Former Eden Area Total	31	4	24	0	18	6	24	13	120

9.78 Table 9.4 reports that:

- There are 442 teams playing across Westmorland and Furness as a whole. Participation is relatively evenly spread;
 - 38% of teams are based in the former South Lakeland area. 46% of these teams are based in Kendal, demonstrating that Kendal is perhaps the football hub in this area. The next highest levels of participation are in the LDNP and Ulverston and surroundings sub area
 - 34% of teams are in the former Barrow Borough area, the majority of which are based in the town of Barrow itself
 - With the lowest population of the three former authority areas, the former Eden area also has the lowest number of football teams
- The majority of teams are located in the more urban parts of Westmorland and Furness . Opportunities to play football are more limited in the rural areas
- 25% of football teams are senior teams. 34% of teams require small pitches for either 5v5 or 7v7, whilst the remainder play 9v9 or youth football. This illustrates the good spread of teams in all age groups in each of the former and current authorities.

9.79 Comparison of demand with the amount and type of pitches provided draws some interesting conclusions. It demonstrates that there is a slight imbalance in the proportion of pitches to teams – pitches in the former Eden area and Barrow Borough area are required to sustain more games and work harder than in the former South Lakeland area. Specifically:

- 44% of pitches are found in the former South Lakeland area, but only 38% of teams play there
- 23% of pitches are based in the former Eden area, but 27% of teams in Westmorland and Furness are based in Eden
- There is a similar picture in the former Barrow Borough area – 34% of teams but 31% of pitches.

- 9.80 At a local level, there are higher proportions of teams to pitches in Kendal, Penrith and M6 corridor, Barrow and Walney and the Remainder of Barrow Borough sub-areas – this suggests that pitches in these areas will need to sustain more matches if demand is to be met.
- 9.81 Equally, comparison of demand with the pitches that are available suggests that there may be more that can be done to better tailor pitches sizes to meet demand. Across Westmorland and Furness as a whole, 42% of pitches are adult 11v11 pitches, whilst only 25% of teams require adult 11v11 football pitches. In contrast, just under 30% of pitches are sized for youth football (11v11 youth or 9v9), but 40% of teams require pitches of these sizes.

Disability Football

- 9.82 There are no disability football teams currently affiliated in Westmorland and Furness, although some activity is known to take place indoors and on 3G AGPs.
- 9.83 Just under 20% of the population however, almost one in five, have a long standing limiting disability, illness or condition. The FA believe that football playing opportunities should be flexible, inclusive and accessible for everyone, whatever their level of ability. This could entail inclusion in mainstream activity or teams / sessions specifically for people with a disability.
- 9.84 It is a priority of all of the County FAs working in Westmorland and Furness to grow opportunities for disability groups. This will rely on access to appropriate facilities, which is currently a key barrier to increasing participation in Westmorland and Furness (particularly given the lack of 3G AGPs that is identified later in this section).

Imported and Exported Demand

- 9.85 There is little evidence of imported / exported demand across Westmorland and Furness. There is a very small amount of imported demand from the former Carlisle City authority area (now within Cumberland local authority area) into the Penrith area, but in general terms, pitches in Westmorland and Furness are meeting demand from teams that are derived from Westmorland and Furness. The vast majority of teams are playing football very local to where they are based.
- 9.86 The geographical scale of the area and the travel distances that this creates means that on the whole there is little movement between the sub areas. There is however a small amount of movement between Ulverston and surrounding area, Remainder of Barrow Borough and Barrow and Walney sub areas.
- 9.87 Similarly, there is no evidence of exported demand, with most football taking place in Westmorland and Furness.

Other Demand

Curricular Use

- 9.88 All of the secondary schools in Westmorland and Furness have their own playing fields although these are of varying quality. Feedback received suggests that at the majority of school sites, the quality of facilities inhibits usage and that pitches are not fit for purpose for curricular use. Most suffer from drainage issues, but it is also clear that the level of maintenance undertaken on school sites is low, with budget restrictions impacting the work that is done.
- 9.89 On many sites therefore, pitches are not available because of the quality constraints. Where pitches are available, the online presence outlining which facilities can be hired and which cannot varies. In addition, during the course of the preparation of this strategy, changes have taken place to the availability of school grounds, with clubs displaced due to quality of facilities

and the impact the additional activity has on them. This serves to highlight the risks that are associated with use of sites that are not secured for long term community use.

- 9.90 Fewer primary school sites are open to the community, but their playing fields represent important facilities for curricular use, and almost all schools indicate that they participate in football as part of their curriculum.
- 9.91 Whilst curricular and extracurricular use typically does not take place at peak time for community bookings, this usage does reduce the amount of community use that can be sustained without creating overplay. Where community use does take place therefore, this is crucial and it means that there needs to be greater emphasis on the quality of the facilities.

Casual Use

- 9.92 Casual use is also a feature of some of the playing fields and an issue that was raised by several clubs. With some sites also functioning as public recreational areas, this impacts on pitch quality, particularly with regards dog fouling and litter. The use is not however sufficiently extensive to reduce capacity of pitches, although it is important that the overall impact on player experience is taken into account. Clubs identify issues with dog fouling, litter and misuse / vandalism amongst the more prevalent concerns relating to pitch quality in Westmorland and Furness.

Professional Clubs and the National League System

- 9.93 Barrow AFC is the highest ranked football club in Westmorland and Furness, with the first team playing in the English Football League Two (professional) at the time of publication of this report. This equates to Level 4 of the English Pyramid system.
- 9.94 Three teams also play in leagues in the National League System (NLS) and have aspirations to progress.
- 9.95 Teams playing within the NLS must adhere to specific requirements in relation to the facilities provided at the home ground. If a club continues to progress up the pyramid, requirements and regulations for facilities will become more onerous and a club may lose the opportunity to be promoted if their facilities do not meet the required standards. The grade required for each of the clubs playing in the NLS and any known issues relating to the existing facilities meeting this grade are summarised in Table 9.5.
- 9.96 It should be noted that where there are two teams from a club, assuming that they use the same pitch, the specification for the team playing at a higher level will need to be met.

Table 9.5 – Requirements of Teams Playing in the NLS or Women's NLS

Club	Ground	League	NLS Level	Comments
Holker Old Boys	Rakesmoor Lane (Holker Old Boys Fc)	NWCFL	STEP 6	Small stand and dugouts. Pitch walled off, in good condition and no clear issues identified.
Penrith AFC First	Frenchfield Sports Centre	Northern League	STEP 5	Good quality playing field part of wider hub site.
Penrith AFC Ladies	Frenchfield Sports Centre	North West Women's Regional League	Tier 5 Women's Regional Leagues Premier Divisions	Good quality playing field part of wider hub site.

9.97 Table 9.5 reveals that the basic infrastructure of the playing fields to meet the needs of clubs playing in the NLS is mostly adequate.

9.98 Several clubs are also playing in regional feeder leagues in varying divisions. Teams progressing from these leagues will become NLS teams and will then be subject to Ground Grading requirements. The key issues experienced by these teams are therefore set out below.

Club	Ground	League	Comments
Crooklands Casuals	Longlands Park	West Lancashire Football League	Advanced quality pitch, with improved maintenance procedures leading to significant drainage improvements in recent years. Car park requires resurface.
Dalton United	Railway Meadow	West Lancashire Football League	Good quality pitch, advanced PitchPower rating. Changing accommodation / clubhouse also good. Well maintained facility although limited parking
Furness Rovers	Furness Rovers	West Lancashire Football League	Club have only annual rolling lease (relatively secure, but unable to benefit from funding). Pitch compacted but in good condition, but changing facilities are poor.
Hawcoat Park Sports Club	Hawcoat Park Sports Club	West Lancashire Football League	Pitch quality advanced on PitchPower although decompaction works are required. Changing facilities would benefit from upgrade.
Ulverston Rangers	Gsk Sports Complex	West Lancashire Football League	Pitch in standard to good condition, but unsecured access to site due to closure.
Vickerstown First	Park Vale Sports Stadium	West Lancashire Football League	Pitch well maintained. Basic ancillary provision
Walney Island First	Tummerhill	West Lancashire Football League	Pitch recently improved due to substantial efforts with maintenance, although new maintenance equipment is required. Some issues remain with drainage, and ancillary facilities would benefit from investment.
Kendal Town	Kendal Town	Northern League	Well maintained good pitch with barriers. Ancillary provision also in good condition.

9.99 It is clear that some improvements are required, predominantly relating to ancillary facilities and ongoing improvements to maintenance procedures. For some clubs, there is a need to use the pitch for younger teams and in some instances, training. There is also a need to retain the recent focus on maintenance to ensure that pitch quality remains adequate.

9.100 It should also be noted that league secretaries indicated during consultation (Lancashire FA) that some clubs had recently moved leagues in order to move away from facility quality requirements due to ongoing pitch quality issues and budgetary pressures. This emphasises the challenges of providing facilities of sufficient quality to meet league expectations relating to grounds and the support that is required for clubs needing to achieve this.

Adequacy of Pitch Provision – Assessing Supply and Demand

- 9.101 The Sport England Guidance enables evaluation of the adequacy of provision, taking into account both the quality and number of pitches provided. Adequacy is measured both over the course of a week and at peak time using the concept of match equivalent sessions (MES)¹. There is a strong interrelationship between the quality of a pitch and the amount of use that it can sustain.
- 9.102 It should be noted that at some sites, pitch provision changes weekly to ensure that supply is matched with demand that weekend. Pitch totals and associated capacity ratings used in this assessment are therefore indicative only. The pitches deemed to be provided are based on what was seen at the time of site visit, as well as feedback received from clubs.
- 9.103 In addition to pitch totals changing weekly, patterns of play also change weekly. Several clubs have access to different venues and rotate their teams across these venues according to availability / fixtures / condition of pitches / attempts to avoid overplay on grass pitches etc. We have therefore allocated teams to pitches to represent an approximate breakdown of demand.

Weekly Capacity

- 9.104 The quality of the pitch has a greater influence on weekly capacity - this directly impacts the number of MES per week that can be sustained. Table 9.6 summarises the guidelines used with regards pitch capacity (extracted from Sport England Guidance on the Production of a Playing Pitch Strategy, prepared by the FA).

Table 9.6 - Capacity based upon Pitch Quality (Number of match equivalent sessions a week)

Agreed pitch quality rating	Adult Football	Youth Football	Mini Soccer
Good	3	4	6
Standard	2	2	4
Poor	1	1	2

- 9.105 It is known that many of the pitches considered to be of standard quality are confirmed to be in the lower echelons of this range by non-technical site visits and / or FF PitchPower assessments, and it should be noted that if sites are not appropriately maintained for the level of use that they receive, there is potential that some of the lower scoring sites could become poor. This assessment and associated strategy will therefore explore the impact of pitch quality deterioration.

Peak Time Demand

- 9.106 Peak time demand is determined by evaluating the number of match equivalent sessions at peak time and comparing it to the number of pitches available. Peak time is deemed to be the period in which the most play on that pitch type takes place.
- 9.107 A pitch can only be considered to have spare capacity at peak time when they are not already utilised to their full capacity over the course of a week and is not overplayed. A standard quality

¹ A match equivalent session refers to the number of matches that a team will play weekly on a pitch. For example, one football team will usually play at home fortnightly. Demand from this team will therefore equate to 0.5 match equivalent sessions weekly. If the team also trains on a grass pitch, this too will be measured and recorded in match equivalent sessions.

9v9 pitch that is not used on a Saturday morning (assuming that this is peak time), but is used more than twice per week at other times (Sunday morning, Saturday afternoon and Sunday afternoon for example) would not be considered able to sustain additional play either at peak time, or at other times, even though no one would be using the facility then, as this would be detrimental to the quality of the pitch and this use would exceed its recommended carrying capacity.

- 9.108 In general, junior leagues have greater flexibility than adult leagues with regards to kick off times, with matches able to be staggered to ensure that all games can be accommodated. All adult leagues have definitive start times. 3G pitches can therefore be used particularly effectively for games involving younger teams, as games can be staged consecutively and without detrimental impact on quality.
- 9.109 Peak time for each form of the game varies slightly across Westmorland and Furness. This is caused by the influence of different leagues in different parts of the authority. Peak time has therefore been calculated on the basis of the peak time for each sport in each of the former local authority areas. This is because the geographical distance means that it is important to understand the local position to ensure that pitches are available when they are required.
- 9.110 Table 9.7 sets out the peak time for each type of play in each of the former authority areas. It shows that peak time for all forms of the game is Saturday in the former Barrow Borough area. Similarly in the former South Lakeland area, most play takes place on a Saturday, with only peak time on youth 11v11 pitches being a Sunday. In the former Eden area, peak time for 9v9, 7v7 and 5v5 play is a Sunday morning.

Table 9.7 – Peak Time

Former Authority Area	Adult 11v11	Youth 11v11	9v9	7v7	5v5
Barrow Borough	Sat PM	Sat AM	Sat AM	Sat AM	Sat AM
Eden	Sat PM	Sat AM	Sun AM	Sun AM	Sun AM
South Lakeland	Sat PM	Sun AM	Sat AM	Sat AM	Sat AM

- 9.111 The high demand at peak time impacts demand for facilities, as it means that more pitches are required to meet demand which occurs all at once, than would be needed if demand was better spread.
- 9.112 The increasing demand from women and girls is starting to place greater pressures on the pitch stock and it is likely that this will increase in future years. Female football typically takes place outside of the peak time for male football. Whilst this might mean that pitches are available, they have often already been played on during the weekend by male football teams, rendering the quality of the pitch poor. The lack of ancillary facilities also rules out several sites from use.
- 9.113 As demand for female football increases, it will be essential that pitches are able to sustain games across at least two timeslots without detrimental impact on quality. This emphasises the importance of providing quality facilities that can meet this need.

Competitive Demand on 3G pitches

- 9.114 3G AGPs listed on the FA 3G Pitch Register are approved for match play and can therefore be used by teams to take the pressures off the grass pitches. Analysis of existing patterns of play however suggests that there is scope to increase the amount of competitive activity that is sustained on 3G pitches. Not all pitches are at capacity at peak time.

- 9.115 Where teams are known to play on 3G AGPs, this assessment calculates this demand against the 3G AGP. A table is provided later in this section as part of the analysis on 3G AGPs, which illustrates where there are opportunities to increase match play on 3G AGPs.

Grass Pitches – Situation at Individual Sites

- 9.116 The Playing Pitch Guidance requires the calculation of the adequacy of provision on an individual site basis. This is then amalgamed up to present the picture at a sub area, former authority and overall across Westmorland and Furness. Adequacy of provision is measured in Match Equivalent Sessions (MES).
- 9.117 Overplay is demonstrated by minus figures (i.e. demand exceeds supply).
- 9.118 The scale of the geographic area means that whilst an overview of provision across Westmorland and Furness as a whole is important, it is essential to understand the issues that are evident on a more local level.
- 9.119 As a consequence, the remainder of this section provides an overview of the adequacy of provision as an overview across Westmorland and Furness as a whole, and then more specifically within each of the three former local authority areas and at a sub area level. Site-specific detail is provided within the former local authority area-based sections.

Key Issues across Westmorland and Furness

- 9.120 Table 9.8 sets out the overall picture across Westmorland and Furness as a whole. It demonstrates that Eden is the only one of the three former authorities where there are no shortfalls of provision for football.
- 9.121 It considers three different positions:
- The amount of spare capacity that is available across the week and at peak time taking into account all provision that is currently available to the community
 - The position at peak time when any spare capacity that is unsecured is excluded
 - The position at peak time when spare capacity at both poor quality sites and unsecured sites are excluded.
- 9.122 It shows that there is limited overplay evident, but equally very little remaining spare capacity. Some overplay occurs as a result of the use of school sites which are of limited quality but must sustain curricular and extracurricular activity. The remainder of overplay generally arises due to the poor quality of pitches, and / or high demand at specific sites.
- 9.123 It is important to note that the quality of pitches impacts across the area. In the former South Lakeland and Barrow Borough areas, the proportion of poor quality pitches reduces the amount of spare capacity available and creates overplay. In the former Eden area, pitches are of higher quality and are therefore able to sustain additional play as a result (hence fewer quantitative issues are identified).
- 9.124 Across Westmorland and Furness as a whole and when including all pitches that are available to the community:
- All three areas have a large amount of spare capacity across the adult pitch stock (ranging from 28.75 match equivalent sessions (MES) in South Lakeland to 18.75 MES in Eden). The heavy lean towards play at peak time however means that availability at peak time on adult pitches is much lower. There is however enough spare capacity in all areas, with 6.5

MES spare capacity in the former Barrow Borough area and 8 MES in the former South Lakeland area.

- The greatest pressures exist on youth and 9v9 pitches. There is adequate spare capacity on 11v11 youth pitches across the week. Spare capacity is greatest in the former South Lakeland area (10 MES), but is fairly closely matched with demand in the former Eden area (5 MES) and the former Barrow Borough area (3.5 MES). At peak time however, the picture is different. In the former Barrow Borough area, there is inadequate supply (-0.5 MES) and only 4 MES spare capacity in the former South Lakeland area and 1 MES in the former Eden area. This means that at peak time, supply is closely matched with demand and is starting to constrain participation.
- A similar picture exists on 9v9 pitches. There is very limited spare capacity available in the former South Lakeland and former Eden areas (just 1 MES in each area at peak time) and in the former Barrow Borough area there are deficiencies (5 MES at peak time). This suggests that increasing capacity for 9v9 play is crucial.
- Supply of 7v7 and 5v5 pitches is adequate at peak time in all areas, with over 10 MES spare capacity across the week on 5v5 pitches and more than 5 MES in all areas on 7v7 pitches. Again at peak time, spare capacity is lower but there remains scope to accommodate more play. Capacity pressures at peak time on 7v7 and 5v5 pitches is of lower significance than on larger size pitches, as the short length of games means that they can be played consecutively more easily.

9.125 Whilst the majority of pitches that are available are secure, there are a small number of pitches where long term access is not guaranteed by formal agreement. If any spare capacity at any unsecured sites is excluded:

- The stock of adult pitches remains adequate both at peak time and across the week in all areas. There will be a slight reduction in the amount of spare capacity at peak time in both the former South Lakeland and Eden areas
- The capacity shortfall for youth 11v11 pitches increases in the former Barrow Borough area, and there is no spare capacity available in the former South Lakeland area. The position in the former Eden area however remains consistent
- Similar to youth pitches, the loss of spare capacity at unsecured venues results in overplay in the former South Lakeland area. There is no further impact in the former Barrow Borough or Eden areas
- There is significant impact on the spare capacity on 7v7 and 5v5 pitches when spare capacity at unsecured venues is excluded. This is because there are several smaller primary school sites which are unused and unsecured. There remains enough pitches, but the amount of unused pitches reduces significantly.

9.126 Although quality issues are prevalent across the pitch stock, there is little spare capacity on poor quality pitches. If spare capacity on poor quality pitches is also eliminated (in addition to unsecured sites), this generates a significant reduction on spare capacity in adult pitches in both former Barrow Borough and South Lakeland areas – this suggests that qualitative improvements in these areas may be important. It also suggests that there may be scope to improve and then reconfigure adult pitches to meet youth demand.

9.127 Whilst the pressures on peak time are critical, as this is when the highest amounts of demand are evident, it is important that the position across the week is not ignored. With female football typically taking place outside peak time, if capacity across the week is inadequate, participation will be inhibited. If pitch quality is not good enough to sustain games outside peak time (as well as at peak time), then female football will not be able to take place.

Table 9.8 – Overview of Adequacy of Provision across Westmorland and Furness (MES)

Pitch Type	Scenario	Former Barrow Borough area (MES)	Former South Lakeland area (MES)	Former Eden area (MES)
Adult Pitches	Weekly Position	22	28.75	18.75
Adult Pitches	Peak Time	6.5	10.5	8
Adult Pitches	Peak Time (Secured only)	6.5	8	7
Adult Pitches	Peak Time (Secured and appropriate quality)	3.5	5.5	5
Youth Pitches	Weekly Position	5.5	10	5
Youth Pitches	Peak Time	-0.5	4	1
Youth Pitches	Peak Time (Secured only)	-1.5	0	1
Youth Pitches	Peak Time (Secured and appropriate quality)	-1.5	-1	1
9v9	Weekly Position	-4.5	5.25	8
9v9	Peak Time	-5	1.25	1
9v9	Peak Time (Secured only)	-5	-0.75	1
9v9	Peak Time (Secured and appropriate quality)	-5	-0.75	1
7v7	Weekly Position	30	33	28
7v7	Peak Time	7.5	6	3.5
7v7	Peak Time (Secured only)	3.5	3.5	3.5
7v7	Peak Time (Secured and appropriate quality)	2.5	3.5	3.5
5v5	Weekly Position	14.5	11	22.5
5v5	Peak Time	0.5	2.5	3.5
5v5	Peak Time (Secured only)	0.5	1.5	3.5
5v5	Peak Time (Secured and appropriate quality)	0	1	3.5

- 9.128 The position across Westmorland and Furness in relation to the quantity of provision can therefore be summarised as:

Former Barrow Borough area

- Adequate supply of adult pitches, although limited by the quality of facilities. Spare capacity is low when quality of facilities is taken into account
- Inadequate facilities for youth 11v11 at peak time
- Provision for 9v9 football also inadequate
- Small amount of spare capacity for 7v7 and 5v5.

Former South Lakeland area

- Adequate supply of adult pitches, although limited by the quality of facilities. Spare capacity is low when quality of facilities is taken into account
- Inadequate facilities for youth 11v11, with supply almost equivalent to demand.
- Provision for 9v9 football also inadequate
- Small amount of spare capacity for 7v7 and 5v5.

Former Eden area

- Adequate supply of adult pitches
- Supply of 9v9 and youth pitches closely balanced with demand
- Small amount of spare capacity for 7v7 and 5v5.

- 9.129 The next section explores the key issues relating to grass football pitches at a more local level, using the former authority areas as a basis for analysis. It evaluates the adequacy of supply and demand at a site specific level and by sub area and concludes with a summary overview of the key issues that need to be addressed across Westmorland and Furness as a whole.

Adequacy of Provision – Former Barrow Borough

- 9.130 Table 9.8 demonstrated that there are some challenges relating to the quantity of provision in the former Barrow Borough area, particularly for 9v9 and youth football. These pressures are exacerbated by quality constraints on some sites.
- 9.131 Table 9.9 provides an overview of activity at each site, outlining the current supply and demand. It provides a picture of whether each site is being overplayed, played to the appropriate level or is able to sustain additional fixtures. Adequacy of provision is measured in Match Equivalent Sessions (MES), either per week or at peak time. It also includes the quality ratings assigned to each site. Overplay is demonstrated by minus figures (i.e. demand exceeds supply).
- 9.132 Sites that offer only unsecured access are denoted by a ** in the Site Name Column. The unsecured sites in Barrow are Dowdales School, George Romney School and Parkside Academy. The definition of unsecured access is defined in the methodology section of this report.
- 9.133 It should be noted that pitch ratings for Biggar Bank are listed as poor. PitchPower reports completed after this assessment show that quality has improved (mixture of poor, basic and good).

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Table 9.9 – Site Overviews – Former Barrow Borough area

Site Name	Sub Area	Final Pitch Details	Number of Pitches	Pitch Quality Rating	Changing Rating	Total Community Demand	All Demand	Capacity balance (all demand)	Peak Time	Overplay occurring at peak time
Askam United Football Club	Remainder of Barrow Borough	Adult 11v11	1	Good	Good	1	1	2	0	0
Askam United Football Club	Remainder of Barrow Borough	7v7 (training area)	1	Standard (mid)	Good	1	3	1	0	0
Barrow Celtic Football Club	Barrow and Walney	Adult 11v11	1	High Standard to good	Good	1	1	1	0	0
Barrow Wanderers	Barrow and Walney	Adult 11v11	2	Low standard	Standard	1	1	3	1	0
Barrow Wanderers	Barrow and Walney	7v7 / training	1	standard	Standard	1.5	2.5	1.5	1	
Biggar Bank Playing Fields	Barrow and Walney	Adult 11v11	2	Poor	Poor	0.5	0.5	1.5	1.5	0
Biggar Bank Playing Fields	Barrow and Walney	9v9	1	Poor	Poor	2	2	-1	0	1
Biggar Bank Playing Fields	Barrow and Walney	7v7	1	Poor	Poor	1	1	1	0	
Cavendish Park	Barrow and Walney	Adult 11v11	2	standard	Good	1	1	3	1	0
Cavendish Park	Barrow and Walney	7v7 football	1	standard	Good	2	2	2	1	
Cavendish Park	Barrow and Walney	9v9	1	standard	Good	3.5	3.5	-1.5	0	1
Dowdales School**	Remainder of Barrow Borough	Youth 11v11	2	Low standard	Standard	1	3	1	1	
Dowdales School**	Remainder of Barrow Borough	9v9	1	Low standard	Standard	1.5	2.5	-0.5	0	0.5

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Site Name	Sub Area	Final Pitch Details	Number of Pitches	Pitch Quality Rating	Changing Rating	Total Community Demand	All Demand	Capacity balance (all demand)	Peak Time	Overplay occurring at peak time
Dowdales School**	Remainder of Barrow Borough	7v7	1	Low standard	Standard	2	3	1	0	
Dowdales School**	Remainder of Barrow Borough	5v5	1	Low standard	Standard	1.5	2.5	1.5	0	
Duddon Sports And Social Club	Remainder of Barrow Borough	Youth 11v11	1	standard	Standard	0.5	0.5	1.5	0.5	
Duddon Sports And Social Club	Remainder of Barrow Borough	5v5	1	standard	Standard	1	1	3	0	
Furness Academy	Barrow and Walney	Adult 11v11	1	Poor (low standard)	Standard	2	3	-2	0	0
Furness Academy	Barrow and Walney	7v7	1	Poor (low standard)	Standard	0	1	1	1	
Furness Cavaliers	Barrow and Walney	Adult 11v11	1	Standard	Standard	2	2	0	0	0
Furness Cavaliers	Barrow and Walney	9v9	1	Poor	Standard	3	3	-2	0	2
Furness Rovers	Barrow and Walney	Adult 11v11	1	High standard	Poor	2	2	0	0	0
Furness Rovers	Barrow and Walney	5v5	1	High standard	Poor	1	1	3	0	
George Romney Junior School**	Remainder of Barrow Borough	7v7	2	Standard	N/a	0	3	5	2	
Hawcoat Park Sports Club	Barrow and Walney	Adult 11v11	2	Good	Standard	1.5	1.5	4.5	0.5	0

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Site Name	Sub Area	Final Pitch Details	Number of Pitches	Pitch Quality Rating	Changing Rating	Total Community Demand	All Demand	Capacity balance (all demand)	Peak Time	Overplay occurring at peak time
Hawcoat Park Sports Club	Barrow and Walney	Youth 11v11	1	Good	Standard	1	1	3	0	
Hawcoat Park Sports Club	Barrow and Walney	9v9	1	Standard	Standard	1.5	1.5	0.5	0	
Hawcoat Park Sports Club	Barrow and Walney	7v7	1	Standard	Standard	1	1	3	0	
Hawcoat Park Sports Club	Barrow and Walney	5v5	1	Standard	Standard	1	1	3	0	
Longlands Park	Remainder of Barrow Borough	Adult 11v11	1	Good	Standard	1	1	2	0	0
Longlands Park	Remainder of Barrow Borough	Youth 11v11	1	Good	Standard	4	4	0	0	-2
Longlands Park	Remainder of Barrow Borough	7v7	1	Good	Standard	3	3	3	0	
Ormsgill Lane Recreation Ground	Barrow and Walney	Adult 11v11	2	Poor	Poor	0.5	0.5	1.5	1.5	0
Ormsgill Lane Recreation Ground	Barrow and Walney	Youth 11v11	1	Poor	Poor	1	1	0	0	
Ormsgill Lane Recreation Ground	Barrow and Walney	9v9	1	Poor	Poor	2	2	-1	0	0.5
Ormsgill Lane Recreation Ground	Barrow and Walney	7v7	2	Poor	Poor	2	2	2	0	

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Site Name	Sub Area	Final Pitch Details	Number of Pitches	Pitch Quality Rating	Changing Rating	Total Community Demand	All Demand	Capacity balance (all demand)	Peak Time	Overplay occurring at peak time
Ormsgill Lane Recreation Ground	Barrow and Walney	5v5	1	Poor	Poor	1.5	1.5	0.5	0	
Parkside Academy**	Barrow and Walney	7v7	2	Standard	N/a	0	2	6	2	
Park Vale Sports Stadium	Barrow and Walney	Adult 11v11	1	Good / high standard	Standard	3	3	0	0	0
Railway Meadow	Remainder of Barrow Borough	Adult 11v11	1	Good (high standard)	Good	1	1	2	0	0
Rakesmoor Lane (Holker Old Boys FC)	Barrow and Walney	Adult 11v11	1	Good	Standard	1	1	2	0	0
Rakesmoor Lane (Holker Old Boys FC)	Barrow and Walney	Adult 11v11	1	Standard (medium)	Standard	1.5	1.5	0.5	0.5	0
Rakesmoor Lane (Holker Old Boys FC)	Barrow and Walney	9v9	1	Standard (medium to low)	Standard	1	1	1	0	0
Rakesmoor Lane (Holker Old Boys FC)	Barrow and Walney	7v7	1	Standard (medium to low)	Standard	0.5	0.5	3.5	0.5	
Rakesmoor Lane (Holker Old Boys FC)	Barrow and Walney	5v5	1	Poor	Standard	0.5	0.5	1.5	0.5	
Roose Pioneers ARLFC	Barrow and Walney	Adult 11v11	1	Standard	Standard	1.5	1.5	0.5	0.5	0
Tummerhill	Barrow and Walney	Adult 11v11	1	Standard	Standard	1	1	1	0	0
Tummerhill	Barrow and Walney	Adult 11v11	1	Standard	Standard	2.5	2.5	-0.5	0	0
Tummerhill	Barrow and Walney	5v5	1	Standard	Standard	2	2	2	0	

9.134 The key issues emerging from site overviews are as follows:

- There are few sites exhibiting overplay. Where overplay is identified, this is attributed to high demand on the site from a large club, the quality of the pitch and / or the requirement for the pitch to accommodate curricular use as well as community-based activity. Sites where overplay is evident on at least one pitch (and the reasons contributing to this overplay) are:
 - Biggar Bank Playing Fields – poor quality (although a PitchPower assessment undertaken since this assessment demonstrates that one pitch is now good)
 - Cavendish Park – high demand (site functions as overspill venue for several clubs)
 - Dowdales School – high demand and requirement to accommodate curricular activity
 - Furness Academy – poor quality, requirement to accommodate curricular activity, high demand (site functions as overspill venue for several clubs)
 - Furness Cavaliers FC – poor quality
 - Ormsgill Lane Recreation Ground – poor quality
 - Tummerhill – high demand.
- Although there is minimal overplay, reflecting the capacity pressures that are evident, only a small number of pitches have spare capacity at peak time. Accommodating play at peak time is particularly difficult for larger clubs, who have a limited number of pitches on which to accommodate all of their teams in the same time slot. The only sites that have pitches with any spare capacity at peak time are:
 - Cavendish Park
 - Dowdales School
 - Duddon Sports and Social Club
 - Furness Academy
 - George Romney Junior School
 - Hawcoat Park Sports Club
 - Ormsgill Lane Recreation Ground
 - Parkside Academy
 - Rakesmoor Lane (Holker Old Boys FC)
 - Roose Pioneers ARLFC.

9.135 Notably, some of the above pitches are the same sites that also exhibit overplay. In almost all cases, the overplay is evident on 9v9 pitches, and there is a degree of spare capacity on other pitch types.

9.136 It is clear therefore that overall, there are pressures at some key sites and in particular challenges meeting the needs of large clubs. Whilst there is spare capacity in the adult pitch stock, this is largely offset by the pressures that are evident on junior and 9v9 pitches. The quality of pitches heavily influences the adequacy of provision, with compaction and drainage being a key concern.

9.137 Other key issues also arising relating to the former Barrow Borough area are:

- The majority of clubs now have their own venues (leased) and most activity is based there. There are however almost no venues that are publicly available to rent (for either single

teams / as overspill sites). This places great pressures on the pitches that can be used like this (Furness Academy in particular).

- Consultation revealed greater challenges with maintenance (and the cost of maintenance) in Barrow Borough than in any other area. Despite this, improved maintenance will be the main vehicle in the drive to improve capacity.
- The lack of security of tenure at Dowdales School is also crucial. There is almost no remaining spare capacity at the site and it accommodates a large club (Dalton JFC). Closure of the facility to the community would therefore exacerbate existing deficiencies further (and the club would be forced to relocate). Whilst there are other schools with unsecured access, it is the loss of access to Dowdales Academy that would have the biggest impact.

9.138 In addition to issues relating to the grass pitch stock above, it should also be noted that the deficiency in 3G AGPs (which will be explored later in this section) further exacerbates the current position in relation to grass pitches. 3G AGPs can be used for match play (providing that they are listed on the FA 3G Pitch Register). With no 11v11 3G AGP in the area and an overall deficiency, opportunities to reduce pressures on the grass pitches are minimised.

9.139 Table 9.10 amalgamates the findings of the site overviews and outlines how the position varies across the former Barrow Borough area.

Table 9.10 – Adequacy of Provision in Sub Areas of former Barrow Borough area

Type of Football	Position	Barrow and Walney(MES)	Remainder of Barrow Borough (MES)	Barrow Total (MES)
Adult	Weekly Position accounting for overplay	16	6	22
Adult	Overplay	-3	0	-3
Adult	Peak Time	6.5	0	6.5
Adult	Overplay at Peak Time			0
Adult I	Remove Any Spare Capacity at Unsecured Sites	6.5	0	6.5
Adult	Remove any Spare Capacity at Poor Sites	3.5	0	3.5
Youth	Youth Football (Weekly Position accounting for overplay)	3	2.5	5.5
Youth	Overplay	0	0	0
Youth	Peak Time	0	1.5	1.5
Youth	Overplay at Peak Time	0	2	2
Youth	Peak Time Position Taking into account overplay	0	-0.5	-0.5
Youth	Remove Any Spare Capacity at Unsecured Sites	0	-1.5	-1.5
Youth	Remove any Spare Capacity at Poor Sites	0	-1.5	-1.5
9v9	9v9 Football (Weekly Position accounting for overplay)	-4	-0.5	-4.5
9v9	Overplay	-5.5	0.5	-5
9v9	Peak Time	0	0	0
9v9	Overplay at Peak Time	4.5	0.5	5

Type of Football	Position	Barrow and Walney(MES)	Remainder of Barrow Borough (MES)	Barrow Total (MES)
9v9	Peak Time Position Taking into account overplay	-4.5	-0.5	-5
9v9	Remove Any Spare Capacity at Unsecured Sites	-4.5	-0.5	-5
9v9	Remove any Spare Capacity at Poor Sites	-4.5	-0.5	-5
7v7	Weekly Position accounting for overplay	20	10	30
7v7	Weekly Overplay	0	0	0
7v7	Peak Time	3.5	0	3.5
7v7	Overplay at Peak Time	0	0	0
7v7	Peak Time Position taking into account overplay	5.5	2	7.5
7v7	Peak Time (Excluding Spare Capacity at Unsecured Sites)	3.5	0	3.5
7v7	Peak Time (excluding Spare Capacity at Poor Sites)	2.5	0	2.5
5v5	5v5 Football (Weekly Position accounting for overplay)	10	4.5	14.5
5v5	Overplay	0	0	0
5v5	Peak Time	0.5	0	0.5
5v5	Overplay at Peak Time	0	0	0
5v5	Peak Time Position Taking into account overplay	0.5	0	0.5
5v5	Remove Any Spare Capacity at Unsecured Sites	0.5	0	0.5
5v5	Remove any Spare Capacity at Poor Sites	0	0	0

9.140 Table 9.10 demonstrates that:

- The issues relating to inadequate provision in quantitative terms are experienced in both Barrow and Walney and remainder of Barrow Borough sub areas. There are insufficient pitches for 9v9 and youth football in both areas
- Quality issues are more prevalent in Barrow Town, with several sites rated as poor. This inhibits the ability of the pitch stock to meet demand and impacts adult football as well as 9v9 and youth.

9.141 Table 9.11 summarises the issues and opportunities in the former Barrow Borough area. This will feed directly into the action plan.

Table 9.11 – Site-Specific Summary in the former Barrow Borough area

Issue	Details
Sites overplayed	• Biggar Bank Playing Fields – poor quality • Cavendish Park – high demand (site functions as overspill venue for several clubs) • Dowdales School – high demand and requirement to accommodate curricular activity • Furness Academy – poor quality, requirement to accommodate curricular activity, high demand (site functions as overspill venue for several clubs) • Furness Cavaliers FC – poor quality • Ormsgill Lane Recreation Ground – poor quality • Tummerhill – high demand.
Sites not used	• George Romney Junior School • Yarlside Academy • Parkside Academy.
Key Unsecured Sites	• Dowdales School.
Sites impacted by poor quality	• Biggar Bank • Furness Cavaliers • Ormsgill Recreation Ground • Rakesmoor Lane.

Former South Lakeland Area

- 9.142 Rural areas by their nature often result in larger amounts of spare capacity, as the geographic spread of the population means that more pitches are needed to ensure that residents have access to local facilities, but the lower population numbers often mean pitches are used less. This is not the case in South Lakeland.
- 9.143 Supply is closely matched with demand in the South Lakeland area with only a small amount of spare capacity on adult pitches (6 MES), no spare capacity on youth pitches and inadequate capacity on youth pitches once quality and security of tenure are taken into account. This was demonstrated in Table 9.8.
- 9.144 To provide a detailed understanding of how sites are functioning, Table 9.12 provides an overview of activity at each site and sets out the current supply and demand. It outlines whether the pitch is being overplayed, played to the appropriate level or is able to sustain additional fixtures. Adequacy of provision is measured in Match Equivalent Sessions (MES), either per week or at peak time. Overplay is demonstrated by minus figures (i.e. demand exceeds supply).
- 9.145 Sites that offer only unsecured access are denoted by a ** in the Site Name Column. The unsecured sites are Cartmel C of E Priory School, Ghyllside Primary School, GSK Sports Complex, Heron Hill School, Sedbergh School, Settlebeck School, St Marys Catholic Primary School, The John Ruskin School, The Lakes School and University of Cumbria.
- 9.146 It should also be noted that University of Cumbria is defined in Table 9.12 as a 9v9 pitch. At the time of assessment, the pitch contained a 9v9 pitch and was used by 9v9 teams. This site is however capable of sustaining an 11v11 pitch.
- 9.147 The pitch at Holme Community Centre was also unused at the time of assessment. A team has since affiliated and is now using this pitch.

Table 9.12 – Site Overviews in Former South Lakeland area

Site Name	Sub Area	Pitch Type	Number of Pitches	Quality	Changing Rating	All Demand	Capacity balance (all demand)	Peak Time	Peak Time Overplay
		Youth 11v11	2	Low standard	None	3.5	4.5	2	0
Allithwaite Playing Fields	Cartmel Peninsula	Adult 11v11	1	Low standard	Standard	0.5	1.5	0.5	0
Allithwaite Playing Fields	Cartmel Peninsula	7v7	1	Low standard	Standard	1	3	0	0
Ayland Recreation Ground, Staveley	LDNP	Adult 11v11	1	Poor	Poor	1	0	0	0
Willink Field /Burnside Tennis Club	Kendal	Adult 11v11	1	Poor	None	0	1	1	0
Cartmel Park	Cartmel Peninsula	Adult 11v11	1	Low standard to poor	Unable to determine	2	0	0	0
Cartmel Priory C Of E School**	Cartmel Peninsula	Adult 11v11	1	Standard	Standard	2.5	-0.5	0	0
Cartmel Priory C Of E School**	Cartmel Peninsula	Youth 11v11	1	Standard	Standard	2	0	0	0
Cartmel Priory C Of E School**	Cartmel Peninsula	9v9	1	Standard	Standard	1.5	0.5	0.5	0
Church Bridge Playing Field, Dent	YDNP	Adult 11v11	1	Standard	Standard	0.5	1.5	0.5	0
Coniston Sports And Social Centre	LDNP	Adult 11v11	1	Poor	Good	0.5	0.5	0.5	0
Croftlands Recreation Ground	Ulverston and surrounding area	Adult 11v11	1	Low standard	None	0	2	1	0
Curwen Woods	Milnthorpe	Adult 11v11	1	Standard	None	0.5	1.5	0.5	0

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Site Name	Sub Area	Pitch Type	Number of Pitches	Quality	Changing Rating	All Demand	Capacity balance (all demand)	Peak Time	Peak Time Overplay
Dallam School	Milnthorpe	Adult 11v11	1	Standard	Standard	1.5	0.5	0.5	0
Dallam School	Milnthorpe	Youth 11v11	1	Standard	Standard	2	0	0	0
Dallam School	Milnthorpe	9v9	1	Standard	Standard	2.5	-0.5	0	0.5
Dallam School	Milnthorpe	7v7	2	Standard	Standard	2	6	2	0
Dean Gibson Playing Field	Kendal	Youth 11v11	1	Standard	None	0.5	1.5	1	0
Ghyllside Primary School**	Kendal	7v7	1	Standard	None	1	3	1	0
Gsk Sports Complex**	Ulverston and surrounding area	Adult 11v11	1	Good (high standard)	Good	1	2	0	0
Gsk Sports Complex**	Ulverston and surrounding area	Youth 11v11	1	Good (high standard)	Good	0.5	3.5	1	0
Gsk Sports Complex**	Ulverston and surrounding area	9v9	1	Good (high standard)	Good	0.5	3.5	0.5	0
Gsk Sports Complex**	Ulverston and surrounding area	7v7	1	Good (high standard)	Good	0.5	5.5	0.5	0
Gsk Sports Complex**	Ulverston and surrounding area	5v5	1	Good (high standard)	Good	0	6	1	0
Heron Hill School**	Kendal	9v9	1	Poor	N/a	1	0	0	0
Hillard Park (Ambleside Football Club)	LDNP	Adult 11v11	1	Poor	Standard	1	0	0	0
Hollins Lane Playing Fields, Burneside	Kendal	Adult 11v11	1	Poor	Standard	1	0	0	0

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Site Name	Sub Area	Pitch Type	Number of Pitches	Quality	Changing Rating	All Demand	Capacity balance (all demand)	Peak Time	Peak Time Overplay
Holme Sports And Community Centre	Milnthorpe	Adult 11v11	1	Poor	None	0	1	1	0
Holme Sports And Community Centre	Milnthorpe	Youth 11v11	1	Poor	None	0	1	1	0
Howgill Lane Playing Fields (People's Hall Playing Field), Sedbergh	YDNP	Adult 11v11	1	Poor	Standard	1	0	0	0
Kendal County Football Pitches / Netherfield Cc	Kendal	Adult 11v11	1	Good	Standard to good	2	1	0	0
Kendal County Football Pitches / Netherfield Cc	Kendal	9v9	1	Good	Standard to good	1.5	2.5	1	0
Kendal Jubilee Playing Fields	Kendal	Adult 11v11	1	Low standard to poor	Poor	1	1	0	0
Kendal Jubilee Playing Fields	Kendal	Youth 11v11	2	Low standard to poor	Poor	4	0	0	0
Kendal Jubilee Playing Fields	Kendal	9v9	1	Low standard to poor	Poor	1.5	0.5	0.5	0
Kendal Millennium Playing Field	Kendal	9v9	2	Poor	Poor	2.5	-0.5	0	0
Kendal Millennium Playing Field	Kendal	7v7	3	Poor	Poor	3	3	0	0
Kendal Town Football Club	Kendal	Adult 11v11	1	Good	Standard	1	2	0.5	0
Kendal United JFC	Kendal	Adult 11v11	1	Good	Standard	1.5	1.5	0	0
Kendal United JFC	Kendal	9v9	1	Good	Standard	4.25	-0.25	0	0.25
Kirkby In Furness Community Centre	Ulverston and surrounding area	Adult 11v11	1	Poor	Standard	1	0	0	0
Levens Playing Field	Milnthorpe	7v7	1	Low standard	N/a	0	4	1	0
Lunesdale Park	Kirkby Lonsdale	Adult 11v11	2	Good and Standard	Standard to good	1.5	3.5	1	0

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Site Name	Sub Area	Pitch Type	Number of Pitches	Quality	Changing Rating	All Demand	Capacity balance (all demand)	Peak Time	Peak Time Overplay
Memorial Playing Field, Arnside	Milnthorpe	Adult 11v11	1	Good	Standard	0.5	2.5	0.5	0
Park Road Recreation Ground	Milnthorpe	Adult 11v11	1	Good	Standard	1	2	0	0
Park Road Recreation Ground	Milnthorpe	7v7	1	low standard	Standard	1	3	0.5	0
Park Road Recreation Ground	Milnthorpe	5v5	1	low standard	Standard	0.5	3.5	1	0
Phoenix Field	LDNP	Youth 11v11	1	standard	Standard	3.25	-1.25	0	-1
Priory Road Sports Ground / Dragley Beck	Ulverston and surrounding area	Adult 11v11	1	Standard	Standard to poor	1	1	0.5	0
Priory Road Sports Ground / Dragley Beck	Ulverston and surrounding area	9v9	1	Standard	Standard to poor	1	1	0	0
Queens Park (Windermere)	LDNP	Adult 11v11	1	Poor	Standard	1	0	0	0
Rayrigg Meadow Pitch, Windermere	LDNP	Adult 11v11	1	poor	N/a	1	0	0	0
Rothay Park, Ambleside	LDNP	Adult 11v11	1	Poor	N/a	0.5	0.5	0.5	0
Sedbergh School	YDNP	Youth 11v11	1	Good	Good	1.5	2.5	0.5	0
Settlebeck School**	YDNP	Adult 11v11	1	Poor	None available	1.25	-0.25	0	0
Settlebeck School**	YDNP	9v9	1	Poor	None available	2	-1	0	0.5
St Marys Catholic Primary School**	Ulverston and surrounding area	7v7	1	Standard	None available	1	3	1	0
St Marys Catholic Primary School**	Ulverston and surrounding area	9v9	1	Standard	None available	1	1	1	0

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Site Name	Sub Area	Pitch Type	Number of Pitches	Quality	Changing Rating	All Demand	Capacity balance (all demand)	Peak Time	Peak Time Overplay
Swarthmoor Football Club	Ulverston and surrounding area	Adult 11v11	1	Medium to high standard	Standard	1	1	0	0
Swarthmoor Football Club	Ulverston and surrounding area	Youth 11v11	1	Low standard	Standard	1	1	0.5	0
The John Ruskin School, Coniston**	LDNP	Adult 11v11	1	Standard	Standard	1	1	1	0
The Lakes School, Windermere**	LDNP	Adult 11v11	1	Standard	Standard	1	1	1	0
The Lakes School, Windermere**	LDNP	Youth 11v11	1	Standard	Standard	1	1	1	0
University Of Cumbria (Ambleside Campus) **	LDNP	9v9	1	Poor	Unknown	2.5	-1.5	0	1.5
Wattsfield Playing Field	Kendal	7v7	2	Poor	Poor	3.5	0.5	0	0
Woodside Road Playing Field, Endmoor	Milnthorpe	Adult 11v11	1	Poor	Standard	1	0	0	0
Yew Tree Playing Fields, Grange Over Sands	Cartmel Peninsula	Youth 11v11	1	Poor	Standard	2	-1	0	0
Yew Tree Playing Fields, Grange Over Sands	Cartmel Peninsula	5v5	1	Poor	Standard	0.5	1.5	0.5	0

9.148 The key issues emerging from Table 9.12 are:

- There are relatively few sites exhibiting overplay. On some sites, there is overplay on the 9v9 and / or youth pitches, but supply matches demand (or there is a small amount of spare capacity) on other pitch sizes. It is clear that like other parts of the Westmorland and Furness, the greatest pressures are on 9v9 and youth pitches.
- Where overplay is identified, this is attributed to high demand on the site due to accommodating a large club, the quality of the pitch and / or the requirement for the pitch to accommodate curricular use as well as community based activity. Sites where overplay is evident on at least one pitch are:
 - Cartmel Priory C of E School (curricular and community demand)
 - Dallam School (curricular and community demand)
 - Kendal Millenium Playing Field – high demand and poor quality
 - Kendal United JFC – high demand
 - Kirkbie Kendal School – curricular activity and high demand
 - Phoenix Field – high demand
 - Settlebeck School - poor quality pitches, community demand and curricular activity
 - University of Cumbria - poor quality pitch
 - Yew Tree Playing Fields – poor quality pitches.
- The above demonstrates that poor quality is a particular contributor to overplay. The quality of pitches is particularly compromised in the former South Lakeland area, with Table 9.12 demonstrating that 17 sites have poor pitches. The amount of poor pitches that are available highlights the limitations of the infrastructure in this part of Westmorland and Furness. It should be noted that a further pitch (Levens Playing Field) has also recently received a PitchPower rating of poor.
- Just over 50% of pitches in the former South Lakeland area do not have any spare capacity at peak time. Most pitches with spare capacity are adult football pitches.

9.149 Table 9.13 outlines how the position varies across the former South Lakeland Area, by dividing the analysis of the adequacy of provision into sub areas. It presents the quantitative picture only.

Table 9.13 – Adequacy of Provision in Sub Areas of the former South Lakeland Area

Type of Football	Position	Kendal	Milnthorpe	Kirkby Lonsdale	Cartmel Peninsula	Ulverston and surrounding area	LDNP	YDNP	South Lakeland Total
Adult	Weekly Position accounting for overplay	6.5	7.5	3.5	1	6	3	1.25	28.75
Adult	Overplay	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	-1
Adult	Peak Time	1.5	2.5	1	0.5	1.5	3	0.5	10.5
Adult	Overplay at Peak Time	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adult	Remove Any Spare Capacity at Unsecured Sites	1.5	2	1	0.5	1.5	1	0.5	8
Adult	Remove any Spare Capacity at Poor Sites	0.5	1.5	1	0.5	1.5	0	0.5	5.5
Youth	Youth Football (Weekly Position accounting for overplay)	2	1	0	-1	4.5	1	2.5	10
Youth	Overplay	0	0	0	1	0	-1.25	0	-0.25
Youth	Peak Time	3	1	0	0	1.5	1	0.5	7
Youth	Overplay at Peak Time	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
Youth	Peak Time Position Taking into account overplay	1	1	0	0	1.5	0	0.5	4
Youth	Remove Any Spare Capacity at Unsecured Sites	-1	1	0	0	0.5	-1	0.5	0
Youth	Remove any Spare Capacity at Poor Sites	-1	0	0	0	0.5	-1	0.5	-1

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Type of Football	Position	Kendal	Milnthorpe	Kirkby Lonsdale	Cartmel Peninsula	Ulverston and surrounding area	LDNP	YDNP	South Lakeland Total
9v9	9v9 Football (Weekly Position accounting for overplay)	2.25	-0.5	0	0.5	5.5	-1.5	-1	5.25
9v9	Overplay	0.75	-0.5	0	0	0	-1.5	1	-0.25
9v9	Peak Time	1.5	0	0	0.5	1.5	0	0	3.5
9v9	Overplay at Peak Time	0.25	0.5	0	0	0	-1.5	0	-0.75
9v9	Peak Time Position Taking into account overplay	1.25	-0.5	0	0.5	1.5	-1.5	0	1.25
9v9	Remove Any Spare Capacity at Unsecured Sites	1.25	-0.5	0	0	0	-1.5	0	-0.75
9v9	Remove any Spare Capacity at Poor Sites	1.25	-0.5	0	0	0	-1.5	0	-0.75
7v7	Weekly Position accounting for overplay	6.5	13	0	3	10.5	0	0	33
7v7	Weekly Overplay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7v7	Peak Time	1	3.5	0	0	1.5	0	0	6
7v7	Overplay at Peak Time	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7v7	Peak Time Position taking into account overplay	1	3.5	0	0	1.5	0	0	6
7v7	Peak Time (Excluding Spare Capacity at Unsecured Sites)	0	3.5	0	0	0	0	0	3.5
7v7	Peak Time (excluding Spare Capacity at Poor Sites)	0	3.5	0	0	0	0	0	3.5

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Type of Football	Position	Kendal	Milnthorpe	Kirkby Lonsdale	Cartmel Peninsula	Ulverston and surrounding area	LDNP	YDNP	South Lakeland Total
5v5	5v5 Football (Weekly Position accounting for overplay)	0	3.5	0	1.5	6	0	0	11
5v5	Overplay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5v5	Peak Time	0	1	0	0.5	1	0	0	2.5
5v5	Overplay at Peak Time	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5v5	Peak Time Position Taking into account overplay	0	1	0	0.5	1	0	0	2.5
5v5	Remove Any Spare Capacity at Unsecured Sites		1		0.5	0	0	0	1.5
5v5	Remove any Spare Capacity at Poor Sites	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1

9.150 Table 9.13 demonstrates that:

- There are quantitative pressures relating to at least one pitch type in Kendal, Milnthorpe, Cartmel Peninsula, LDNP and YDNP.
- There is adequate provision for adult football in all parts of the former South Lakeland area in quantitative terms both across the week and at peak time, although there is little spare capacity. Cartmel Peninsula sub area is the only area where any overplay on adult pitches exists
- Issues with supply of youth football pitches arise particularly once spare capacity and unsecured sites are removed and are particularly prevalent in Kendal, LDNP and YDNP. In Kendal, this is primarily due to the high demand, whilst in the other areas the quality of facilities has significant impact
- The quantitative pressures for 9v9 are particularly evident in the LDNP and in Milnthorpe. There is however almost no spare capacity in any of the sub areas, with no area having more than 1.5 MES available at peak time. Consultation suggested that there is perceived to be a particular lack of pitch provision in Kendal, and this is demonstrated in the figures, which suggest that there is almost no spare capacity.
- There is spare capacity for 7v7 and 5v5 in Milnthorpe and Cartmel Peninsula and excluding Kendal, there is limited provision in the other sub areas. There is no remaining spare capacity on 7v7 or 5v5 in Kendal at peak time.

9.151 The key issues for each of the sub areas can therefore be summarised as:

Kendal

- This is the area of highest demand. Modelling demonstrates that there are just adequate adult football pitches at peak time, but spare capacity equates to just 0.5 MES once spare capacity at unsecure and poor quality sites is removed, suggesting that there is limited room for growth.
- There is very limited capacity for youth football and 9v9 play. With no spare capacity on 7v7 or 5v5 pitches either, modelling paints the picture that the facilities for football in Kendal are compromised and will inhibit growth if additional capacity is not provided.
- There is particularly high demand at Aikrigg Meadow (curricular and club) and Kendal United and numerous other sites are accommodating large playing numbers, with clubs sharing facilities. Whilst some pitches are good quality, the capacity of other sites is restricted (Millenium Field, Wattsfield Playing Field, Kendal Jubilee Playing Fields, Hollins Lane in particular). The ratio of pitches to teams in Kendal means that facilities in this area must accommodate more games than in any other part of Westmorland and Furness which places greater pressure on the quality of pitches. There is therefore a need to both improve pitch quality, but also to increase the amount of pitches / capacity for match play that is available. This message came through in consultation more strongly than for any other area.

Milnthorpe

- There are limited playing fields in the Milnthorpe area and as a consequence, there is a particular reliance on Dallam School, which is subjected to some overplay. The majority of other pitches are 11v11 pitches and are of poor quality
- Modelling suggests that there is just 1 MES spare capacity on adult pitches, but no capacity on youth pitches and a small amount of overplay on 9v9 pitches (0.5 MES). There is a comparatively good amount of spare capacity on 7v7 and 5v5 pitches, particularly when the role that the 3G AGP at Dallam School can also play in meeting this demand is taken into account

Kirkby Lonsdale

- There is very limited available provision in Kirkby Lonsdale, with only adult 11v11 pitches available (and there is a small amount of spare capacity)
- The lack of variety of pitch provision means it will be important to maintain existing facilities to a high standard and to monitor demand for other types of facility.

LDNP

- Modelling identified that there are some pressures on youth (-1) and 9v9 (-1.5) pitches. These arise once the security of tenure and quality of pitches are taken into account. There is overplay on Phoenix Field and at the University of Cumbria.
- There is also no remaining spare capacity on adult football pitches once capacity at poor pitches and unsecure sites is excluded
- The LDNP has the highest proportion of poor quality pitches – this creates limitations on capacity. The travel distances involved however mean that teams continue to play on the poor quality facilities, which include University of Cumbria, Rothay Park, Rayrigg Meadow, Queens Park, Hillard Park, Coniston and Ayland Recreation Ground
- Quality is therefore the greatest issue in this part of Westmorland and Furness, although as in all other areas, there is also limited spare capacity available.

Cartmel Peninsula

- There is limited spare capacity on adult pitches. This area is also the only area to experience overplay on adult pitches (Cartmel Priory School). There is less than 1 MES spare capacity and the majority of adult pitches are of poor quality.
- There is no remaining spare capacity on youth 11v11 pitches or 9v9 pitches once spare capacity at unsecured sites is excluded. Cartmel Priory School is an important venue for younger age football in the area but offers unsecure tenure.
- There is also no remaining spare capacity on 7v7 or 5v5 pitches, with again unsecured provision at Cartmel Priory School being critical in this area.

Ulverston and surrounding area

- Modelling suggests that there is a very small amount of spare capacity currently (1.5 MES at peak time on adult pitches and 0.5 MES on youth 11v11 pitches) but no remaining capacity on 9v9, 7v7 or 5v5 pitches once any spare capacity at unsecured / poor sites is excluded. Even when counting these facilities, supply is very closely matched with demand
- There is limited provision in the Ulverston and surrounding area sub area, - Priory Road Sports Ground is an important facility for several clubs, and Swarthmoor FC also accommodates a large number of teams. Modelling demonstrates that supply is tightly matched with demand if GSK, an unsecured venue is excluded, and it is likely that scenario testing will demonstrate that if teams currently playing at this site had to be relocated (without replacement), there will be deficiencies. Consultation demonstrated that the amount of facilities available in this area is a concern to clubs and this is evidenced by the modelling.

YDNP

- Provision in the YDNP is largely of poor quality and this influences capacity significantly. There is less than 1 MES spare capacity on adult pitches and almost no spare capacity on youth football pitches
- Provision at Howgill Lane is poor, and Settlebeck School facilities are of limited quality, but must sustain community use as well as curricular activity

- 9.152 Supply is therefore very closely balanced in each of the sub areas, with almost no spare capacity in any part of the former South Lakeland area. There are particular pressures on the capacity in Kendal, and quality issues impact across the board.
- 9.153 Table 9.14 provides a summary of the key issues and opportunities in the former South Lakeland Area. This will support the development of the action plan.

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Table 9.14 – Site Specific Summary in the former South Lakeland area

Issue	Kendal	Milnthorpe	Kirkby Lonsdale	Cartmel Peninsula	Ulverston and surrounding area	LDNP	YDNP
Sites overplayed	- Kendal Millenium Field - Kendal United	Dallam School	N/a	Cartmel Priory C of E School	N/a	- Phoenix Field - University of Cumbria	Settlebeck School
Sites not used	- Willink Field - Ghyllside Primary	- Holme Sports (new team since established) - Levens Playing Field	N/a	N/a	Croftlands Recreation Ground	- John Ruskin School - The Lakes School	N/a
Key Unsecured Sites	N/a	N/a	N/a	Cartmel Priory C of E School	GSK Sports Complex	- University of Cumbria - John Ruskin School - The Lakes School	- Settlebeck School - Sedbergh School
Sites impacted by poor quality	- Wattsfield Playing Field - Millenium Playing Field - Kendal Jubilee - Heron Hill School - Hollins Lane - Willink Field	- Holme Sports and Community Centre - Woodside Road Playing Field	N/a	Yew Tree Playing Fields	Kirkby in Furness Community Centre	- Ayland Recreation Ground - Coniston Sports And Social Centre - Hillard Park (Ambleside Football Club) - Queens Park (Windermere) - Rayrigg Meadow Pitch - Rothay Park - University Of Cumbria "	- Howgill Playing Fields - Settlebeck School

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Issue	Kendal	Milnthorpe	Kirkby Lonsdale	Cartmel Peninsula	Ulverston and surrounding area	LDNP	YDNP
Facility types where capacity is insufficient	- Youth football - No remaining capacity for 9v9 / 7v7 / 5v5	9v9	N/a	- Youth and 9v9 football - No remaining capacity for 7v7 / 5v5	N/a	- Youth 11v11 9v9	Youth 11v11

Former Eden Area

- 9.154 Eden is the only one of the former local authority areas that exhibits no overall shortfalls in provision. Across the week, there is therefore a good level of capacity available on most pitch types. At peak time, supply is more constrained. There is adequate capacity for adult football at peak time (8 MES reducing to 7 when excluding spare capacity at poor quality sites) and there is also some limited spare capacity on 7v7 (3.5 MES) and 5v5 pitches (2.5 MES).
- 9.155 Although there are no shortfalls in provision, like the remainder of Westmorland and Furness, supply of 9v9 and youth 11v11 pitches is more closely matched with demand with just 1 MES of each pitch type available at peak time.
- 9.156 Although there is a small amount of spare capacity evident at peak time, this is very limited. It is important to acknowledge however that recent investment has had a significant impact in this area. Table 9.2 demonstrated that the quality of pitches is much better in Eden than in other parts of Westmorland and Furness and it is this that generates the more positive position.
- 9.157 The quality of pitches is particularly important in ensuring that pitches can sustain girls football as well as usage by the traditional male teams. With many girls teams playing outside the peak time for male play, female football does not increase demand at peak time, but instead generates a requirement for capacity at other times of the weekend. With pitches able to sustain higher play in Eden than in the other areas, this means that pitches in Eden are more able to meet the rising demand for female football (and ancillary facilities now need to be adapted to ensure the same).
- 9.158 To provide a detailed understanding of how sites are functioning, Table 9.15 provides an overview of activity at each site and sets out the current supply and demand and outlines whether the pitch is being overplayed, played to the appropriate level or is able to sustain additional fixtures. Adequacy of provision is measured in Match Equivalent Sessions (MES), either per week or at peak time. Overplay is demonstrated by minus figures (i.e. demand exceeds supply).
- 9.159 It should be noted that the adult 11v11 pitch at Penrith FC (stadium pitch) has been converted to a 3G pitch since this assessment was completed. The strategy document will run a scenario considering the likely impact that this new 3G AGP will have on the supply and demand for grass pitches (and 3G pitches).

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Table 9.15 – Site Overviews in the former Eden area

Site Name	Sub Area	Pitch Type	Number of Pitches	Quality	Changing Rating	All Demand	Capacity Balance (all demand)	Peak Time	Peak Time Overlay
Appleby Football And Squash Club	Appleby	Adult 11v11	1	Standard	Standard	3.75	-1.75	0	0
Brough Football Club (Colts Ford Common)	Kirkby Stephen	Youth 11v11	1	Poor	Standard	1	0	0	0
Castletown Recreation Field (Penrith)	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Adult 11v11	1	Good	Standard	1	2	0	0
Castletown Recreation Field (Penrith)	Penrith and M6 Corridor	7v7	1	Good	Standard	4	2	0	0
Church Field (Penrith)	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Youth 11v11	1	Standard	Standard	0.5	1.5	1	0
Church Field (Penrith)	Penrith and M6 Corridor	9v9	1	Standard	Standard	1.5	0.5	0	0
Church Field (Penrith)	Penrith and M6 Corridor	7v7	1	Low standard	Standard	0.5	3.5	1	0
Church Field (Penrith)	Penrith and M6 Corridor	5v5	2	Low standard	Standard	1	7	1.5	0
Culgaith Recreation Ground	Appleby	Adult 11v11	1	Standard	Standard	0	2	1	0
Edenhall Cricket Club (Penrith)	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Adult 11v11	1	Good	Standard to poor	2	1	0.5	0
Edenhall Cricket Club (Penrith)	Penrith and M6 Corridor	9v9	1	Good	Standard to poor	1	3	0	0
Edenhall Cricket Club (Penrith)	Penrith and M6 Corridor	7v7	1	Good	Standard to poor	0.5	3.5	0.5	0
Fell View (Penrith)	Penrith and M6 Corridor	9v9	1	Good	Good	1.5	2.5	1	0
Fell View (Penrith)	Penrith and M6 Corridor	7v7	1	Good	Good	1.5	4.5	1	0
Fell View (Penrith)	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Youth 11v11	1	Good	Good	2	2	0	-1

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Site Name	Sub Area	Pitch Type	Number of Pitches	Quality	Changing Rating	All Demand	Capacity Balance (all demand)	Peak Time	Peak Time Overplay
Fell View (Penrith)	Penrith and M6 Corridor	5v5	1	Good	Good	0.5	5.5	1	0
Frenchfield Sports Centre - Penrith FC Stadium Pitch	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Adult 11v11	1	Good	Standard to good	1.5	1.5	0	0
Frenchfield Sports Centre	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Adult 11v11	5	3 good, 2 standard	Standard	10.5	2.5	2.5	0
Frenchfield Sports Centre	Penrith and M6 Corridor	9v9	2	One standard, one good	Standard	6.5	-0.5	0	0.5
Frenchfield Sports Centre	Penrith and M6 Corridor	7v7	2	Good	Standard	4.5	7.5	0	0
Frenchfield Sports Centre	Penrith and M6 Corridor	5v5	1	Standard	Standard	1	3	0	0
Greystoke And District Sports Association	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Adult 11v11	1	Good	Standard	1	2	0	0
King George V Playing Fields (Penrith)	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Adult 11v11	1	Good	Good	0.5	2.5	0.5	0
Maurice Park (Penrith)	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Adult 11v11	1	Poor	Standard	1.5	-0.5	0	0
Parrots Park	Kirkby Stephen	Adult 11v11	1	Standard	Standard	0.5	1.5	0.5	0
Parrots Park	Kirkby Stephen	Youth 11v11	1	Standard	Standard	0.5	1.5	1	0
Parrots Park	Kirkby Stephen	9v9	1	Standard	Standard	1	1	0	0
Parrots Park	Kirkby Stephen	7v7	2	Standard	Standard	1	7	1	0
Parrots Park	Kirkby Stephen	5v5	2	Standard	Standard	1	7	1	0
The Memorial Park (Penrith)	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Adult 11v11	1	Low standard	Standard to Poor	0.5	1.5	0.5	0
The Millennium Field	Kirkby Stephen	Adult 11v11	1	Poor	N/a	0	1	1	0

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Site Name	Sub Area	Pitch Type	Number of Pitches	Quality	Changing Rating	All Demand	Capacity Balance (all demand)	Peak Time	Peak Time Overplay
The Old Show Field (Penrith)	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Adult 11v11	1	Good	Standard	1	2	0	0
Tyne Willows Playing Fields	Alston	Adult 11v11	1	Poor (low standard)	Poor	0.5	0.5	0.5	0
Wetheriggs Country Park (The Crescent)	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Adult 11v11	1	Poor	Poor	0	1	1	0
Penrith Leisure Centre	Penrith and M6 Corridor	9v9	1	Good	Standard	0.5	1.5	0.5	0

9.160 The key issues emerging from site overviews are as follows:

- There is almost no overplay identified in Eden. This is primarily because of the high quality of facilities (which enable a greater number of games to be played). The only overplay that is evident is at Maurice Park and at Appleby Sports Club. Appleby Sports Club contains just one adult pitch, but is used by a large club with several teams (pitch overmarked) and hence overplay is a product of this demand. It is important however to also highlight that there are quality issues on this site which impact capacity. Conversely, the high levels of demand which must be accommodated on the pitch also contribute to the quality issues that are being experienced. Overplay at Maurice Park is a direct consequence of poor quality.
- There are few other poor quality facilities. The only sites achieving ratings of poor are Brough Football Club, Maurice Park, The Millennium Field, Tyne Willows Playing Fields and Wetheriggs Country Park.
- There are 17 pitches that have no remaining spare capacity at all. With the exception of Castletown Recreation Ground and The Old Show Field however (where there is no spare capacity at peak time on any pitch) all sites are able to sustain additional play on at least one pitch at peak time. Most of the pitches with spare capacity are adult football pitches.
- There are only three pitches identified that do not have regular usage – these are Wetheriggs Country Park (poor quality during the winter months, but used in summer for preseason training), Millennium Field (lack of demand) and Culgaith Recreation Ground (club currently reviewing potential for football).

9.161 It is clear therefore that overall, the pitch stock in Eden is better tailored to demand than in the other parts of Westmorland and Furness. The higher quality facilities improves the capacity of the infrastructure and consequently reduces the overall deficits.

9.162 Table 9.16 outlines how the site-specific detail can be accumulated to present a picture of adequacy of provision across the different sub areas in Eden. It presents the quantitative picture only.

Table 9.16 – Adequacy of Provision in Sub Areas of the former Eden area

Type of Football	Position	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Appleby	Kirkby Stephen	Alston	Eden Total
Adult	Weekly Position accounting for overplay	15.5	0.25	2.5	0.5	18.75
Adult	Overplay	-1	-2	0	0	-3
Adult	Peak Time	5	1	1.5	0.5	8
Adult	Overplay at Peak Time	0	0	0	0	0
Adult	Remove Any Spare Capacity at Unsecured Sites	5	0	1.5	0.5	7
Adult	Remove any Spare Capacity at Poor Sites	4	0	0.5	0.5	5
Youth 11v11	Youth Football (Weekly Position accounting for overplay)	3.5	0	1.5	0	5
Youth 11v11	Overplay	0	0	0	0	5
Youth 11v11	Peak Time	1	0	1	0	0
Youth 11v11	Overplay at Peak Time	1	0	0	0	2
Youth 11v11	Peak Time Position Taking into account overplay	0	0	1	0	1
Youth 11v11	Remove Any Spare Capacity at Unsecured Sites	0	0	1	0	1
Youth 11v11	Remove any Spare Capacity at Poor Sites	0	0	1	0	1
9v9	9v9 Football (Weekly Position accounting for overplay)	7	0	1	0	8
9v9	Overplay	0.5	0	0	0	0.5
9v9	Peak Time	1.5	0	0	0	1.5
9v9	Overplay at Peak Time	0.5	0	0	0	0.5
9v9	Peak Time Position Taking into account overplay	1	0	0	0	1
9v9	Remove Any Spare Capacity at Unsecured Sites	1	0	0	0	1
9v9	Remove any Spare Capacity at Poor Sites	1	0	0	0	1
7v7	Weekly Position accounting for overplay	21	0	7	0	28
7v7	Weekly Overplay	0	0	0	0	0
7v7	Peak Time	2.5	0	1	0	3.5

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Type of Football	Position	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Appleby	Kirkby Stephen	Alston	Eden Total
7v7	Overplay at Peak Time	0	0	0	0	0
7v7	Peak Time Position taking into account overplay	2.5	0	1	0	3.5
7v7	Peak Time (Excluding Spare Capacity at Unsecured Sites)	2.5	0	1	0	3.5
7v7	Peak Time (excluding Spare Capacity at Poor Sites)	2.5	0	1	0	3.5
5v5	5v5 Football (Weekly Position accounting for overplay)	15.5	0	7	0	22.5
5v5	Overplay	0	0	0	0	0
5v5	Peak Time	2.5	0	1	0	3.5
5v5	Overplay at Peak Time	0	0	0	0	0
5v5	Peak Time Position Taking into account overplay	2.5	0	0	0	2.5
5v5	Remove Any Spare Capacity at Unsecured Sites	2.5	0	1	0	3.5
5v5	Remove any Spare Capacity at Poor Sites	2.5	0	1	0	3.5

9.163 Table 9.16 demonstrates that:

- For adult football, the majority of spare capacity is found in Penrith and M6 corridor sub area. Whilst there is spare capacity equivalent to 0.5 MES in Alston and Kirkby Stephen, there is no option to increase pitch usage in Appleby.
- For youth football, whilst there is a small amount of spare capacity across the week, there is very little at peak time. The only spare capacity is available in Kirkby Stephen.
- Almost all 9v9 provision is located in Penrith and M6 corridor sub area. Despite good availability across the week, again there is minimal remaining spare capacity at peak time (1 MES) and this is located in Penrith.
- Outside of Penrith and M6 corridor sub area and Kirkby Stephen sub areas, there is no spare capacity for 7v7 or 5v5 football.

9.164 The key issues for each of the sub areas can therefore be summarised as:

Penrith and M6 Corridor

- This is the area of highest demand and the area where the bulk of pitch provision in Eden is located. Modelling demonstrates that there is a good amount of capacity available across the week (primarily due to the quality of pitches) but that pitch provision is more constrained at peak time. There are 4 MES available at peak time on adult pitches, but all pitches except Wetheriggs Country Park (which is poor) have at least some use on them already.
- There are just two sites providing dedicated youth 11v11 pitches (Church Field and Fell View). Together, there is a small amount of spare capacity across the week (3.5) but no remaining capacity at peak time.
- As with youth football pitches, despite good capacity across the week, availability is restricted at peak time on 9v9 pitches. A new pitch at Penrith Leisure Centre has recently been provided to improve the capacity for 9v9, as a consequence of feedback providing in relation to the ongoing challenge of finding appropriate pitches.
- The supply of 5v5 and 7v7 pitches is also constrained at peak time, these matches are typically scheduled consecutively. There is good overall capacity.
- Pitch supply in Penrith and M6 corridor sub area is therefore currently meeting demand effectively, with little evidence of unmet or latent demand. Quality is good, and there is some scope to increase activity outside of peak time.

Kirkby Stephen

- There are limited playing fields in the Kirkby Stephen area, with Parrots Park being the main site. There are two other small sites available, and Kirkby Stephen Grammar School is also available for community use.
- Modelling suggests that there is just 0.5 MES spare capacity on adult pitches and 1 MES on youth pitches. There is small amount of capacity on 5v5 pitches and 7v7 at peak time but no spare capacity on 9v9 pitches. Improvements to capacity may therefore be required if demand was to increase.

Appleby

- There is very limited available provision in Appleby, with the main site being Appleby Football and Squash Club. This site is a single pitch facility which is heavily used and as a consequence, overplayed. There is no unused capacity in Appleby at all except for a 7v7 pitch at the primary school (unavailable). There is therefore little opportunity for growth in this area.

Alston

- With only an adult pitch provided in Alston, there is limited opportunity for football in this part of Westmorland and Furness. There is a small amount of spare capacity, but the site is poor quality which restricts opportunities for increased usage. It is thought that there is also further space at the site should additional pitches be required.

9.165 Supply is therefore very closely balanced with the majority of supply and demand located in Penrith and M6 corridor sub area.

9.166 Table 9.17 provides a summary of the key issues and opportunities in the former Eden Area.

Table 9.17 – Site-Specific Summary in the former Eden Area

Issue	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Appleby	Kirkby Stephen	Alston
Sites overplayed	• Penrith Leisure Centre • Frenchfields	• Appleby Football Club not overplayed, but very heavily used	• N/a	• N/a
Sites not used	• Melmerby Village Green • Stainton Recreation Ground • Tebay Recreation Ground • Threlkeld Recreation Field • Wetheriggs Country Park (The Crescent)	• Morland Area C of E School	• N/a	• N/a
Key Unsecured Sites	• Opportunities at Penrith QEGs / Ullswater Community College (but would require qualitative improvement)		• N/a	• N/a
Sites impacted by poor quality	• Threlkeld Recreation Field • Wetheriggs Country Park	• Appleby Football Club – requires ongoing improvement works	• Brough Park	• Tyne Willows Playing Fields
Facility types where capacity is insufficient	• N/a	N/a	• N/a	• N/a

Future Demand

- 9.167 The future requirement for playing pitches (grass and 3G AGP) will be impacted by several factors, including:
- Population growth or change to the demographic profile of the population
 - Changes in participation trends
 - Club specific development plans and aspirations
 - Amendments to the current facility stock.
- 9.168 Future demand may also be influenced by changes in the way the game is played, for example the increasing use of 3G pitches over grass.
- 9.169 The impact of changes to the population are considered below. The strategy document will consider the specific impact of changes that will arise from delivery of the five year housing land supply.

Population Change

- 9.170 Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. They are used to project the theoretical number of teams that would be generated from population growth up to 2040.
- 9.171 Table 9.18 summarises the current TGRs for football and uses them to evaluate the potential impact of projected population change on demand for football in Westmorland and Furness.

Table 9.18 - TGRs for Football in Westmorland and Furness

Former Authority Area	Sport and Age Groups	Number of Teams	Current Population	TGR	Population Change up to 2031	Population Change up to 2040	Team Numbers by 2031	Team Numbers by 2040
Barrow Borough	Adult Women (16-45yrs)	1	11003	11003	-128	-505	0.0	0.0
Barrow Borough	Adult Men (16-45yrs)	31	11314	365	-64	-478	-0.2	-1.3
Barrow Borough	Youth Girls (12-15yrs)	3	11003	3668	-128	-505	0.0	-0.1
Barrow Borough	Youth Boys (12-15yrs)	28	11314	404	-64	-478	-0.2	-1.2
Barrow Borough	9v9 Girls (10 and 11 years)	8	719	90	-76	-101	-0.8	-1.1
Barrow Borough	9v9 Boys (10 and 11 years)	24	730	30	-56	-81	-1.8	-2.7
Barrow Borough	7v7 (8 and 9 years)	28	1460	52	-144	-169	-2.8	-3.2

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Former Authority Area	Sport and Age Groups	Number of Teams	Current Population	TGR	Population Change up to 2031	Population Change up to 2040	Team Numbers by 2031	Team Numbers by 2040
Barrow Borough	5v5 (6 and 7 years)	29	1493	51	-176	-187	-3.4	-3.6
Eden	Adult Women (16-45yrs)	4	7151	1788	-131	-414	-0.1	-0.2
Eden	I Adult Men (16-45yrs)	31	7523	243	-6	-387	0.0	-1.6
Eden	Youth Girls (12-15yrs)	0	7151	0	-131	-414	0	0
Eden	Youth Boys (12-15yrs)	24	7523	313	-6	-387	0.0	-1.2
Eden	9v9 Girls (10 and 11 years)	6	531	89	-54	-74	-0.6	-0.8
Eden	9v9 Boys (10 and 11 years)	18	597	33	-109	-129	-3.3	-3.9
Eden	7v7 (8 and 9 years)	24	1023	43	-113	-138	-2.6	-3.2
Eden	5v5 (6 and 7 years)	13	979	75	-102	-116	-1.4	-1.5
South Lakeland	Adult Women (16-45yrs)	2	14629	7315	78.099	-115	0.0	0.0
South Lakeland	I Adult Men (16-45yrs)	42	14972	356	491.9	428	1.4	1.2
South Lakeland	Youth Girls (12-15yrs)	8	14629	1829	78.099	-115	0.0	-0.1
South Lakeland	Youth Boys (12-15yrs)	32	14972	468	491.9	428	1.1	0.9
South Lakeland	9v9 Girls (10 and 11 years)	9	1020	113	-111.014	-108	-1.0	-1.0
South Lakeland	9v9 Boys (10 and 11 years)	21	1097	52	-71.65	-68	-1.4	-1.3
South Lakeland	7v7 (8 and 9 years)	33	1943	59	-148.082	-119	-2.5	-2.0
South Lakeland	5v5 (6 and 7 years)	23	1874	81	-137.585	-103	-1.7	-1.3

- 9.172 Table 9.18 indicates that the small population growth will generate few increases in participation. Changes to this position may also arise from housing development (once locations are known).
- 9.173 Whilst population growth alone therefore will generate little growth for football, it is clear that significant increases have and continue to take place. These can primarily be attributed to sports development initiatives to increase participation. This is discussed below.

Increasing Participation

- 9.174 The number of people playing football has seen significant growth in recent years and clubs report ongoing increases in participation. The recent explosion of participation in girls and womens football in particular is placing great pressures on the existing infrastructure and it is predicted that the upward trajectory in the number of teams will continue.
- 9.175 All County FAs that support teams playing in Westmorland and Furness predict that demand will continue to grow exponentially.
- 9.176 Much of this growth is anticipated to be in girls and womens football, as well as ongoing increases in junior and mini football. Participation in adult football is typically considered stable.
- 9.177 Increases in female and girls football add different challenges to the pitch stock because:
- Matches are often played outside peak time – this means that the growth in female football does not necessarily impact on peak time demand
 - If pitches are not of sufficient quality to sustain multiple games in the weekend therefore, there is a need to provide additional pitches to meet the needs of women and girls teams
 - The growth of the female game places additional (and different pressures) on changing and ancillary facilities, with segregated facilities also needed if games are taking place at the same time.
- 9.178 The work of the County FA's focuses on the growth of participation . Crucially however, there is almost no capacity in the current supply to accommodate increasing numbers in youth 11v11 and 9v9 football with existing levels of participation already resulting in unmet demand.
- 9.179 Consultation demonstrated that clubs are already concerned about the amount of grass pitches that are available in Westmorland and Furness, but also suggested that mirroring the expectations of the County FAs, there are significant aspirations (and expectations of growth). It is therefore likely that this growth will offset any reductions in participation caused by population changes and that over the strategy period, the number of teams will increase from the position today.
- 9.180 With much of the participation increases expected in the female game, the challenges that this bring need to be taken into account. There needs to be enough football pitches available that are of adequate quality at the time when girls leagues wish to play.
- 9.181 Analysis of consultation responses suggests that club growth expectations are similar in each part of Westmorland and Furness, with around 20% growth expected in youth / 9v9 participation. Expectations around 7v7 and 5v5 vary more, with lower growth expectations amongst responding teams in the former Barrow Borough area.
- 9.182 Between 20% and 40% of growth is anticipated to be in girls / female football. This is set out in Table 9.19.

Table 9.19 – Projected Participation Growth

Former authority area	Adult	Youth and 9v9	7v7 and 5v5	Proportion of Growth attributed to women and girls
Former Barrow Borough	9% (3 teams)	19% (6 youth, 6 9v9)	2% (6 7v7, 6 5v5)	43%
Former Eden	0%	19% 5 youth teams, 5 9v9 teams)	16% (4 7v7, 2 5v5)	20%
Former South Lakeland	5%	21% (8 youth, 6 9v9)	20% (7 youth, 5 5v5)	30%

- 9.183 Table 9.20 explores the implications of the above growth being achieved on the adequacy of provision in each of the former authority areas. To ensure that the modelling is realistic, we have assumed that growth in 7v7 and 5v5 football will take place in Barrow Borough (10%).
- 9.184 Table 9.20 demonstrates that with the main growth anticipated to take place in youth and 9v9 football, the deficiencies that were identified based on current provision are exacerbated.
- 9.185 It demonstrates that even if a proportion of play is considered to take place outside of peak time (growth in female football), there are still gaps in youth and 9v9 football in all areas. As demand for female football grows, the quality of pitches will become more important, and is likely to result in narrowing the gap between the amount of activity that takes place at peak time and on other days.

Table 9.20 – Impact of Growth on Adequacy of Provision

Type of Football	Position	Former Barrow Borough - Current	Former Barrow Borough - Future	Former South Lakeland - Current	Former South Lakeland - Future	Former Eden - Current	Former Eden - Future
Adult	Weekly Position accounting for overplay	22	20.5	28.75	27.75	18.75	17.75
Adult	Peak Time	6.5	5	10.5	9.5	8	7
Adult	Peak Time Position Taking into account overplay	6.5	5	10.5	9.5	7	7
Adult	Remove Any Spare Capacity at Unsecured Sites	6.5	5	8	7		6
Adult	Remove any Spare Capacity at Poor Sites	3.5	2	5.5	4.5	5	4
Adult	Final Peak Time (If Girls Football is outside Peak Time)	n/a	2.6	n/a	4.9	n/a	4.4
Youth 11v11	Youth Football (Weekly Position accounting for overplay)	5.5	2.5	10	6	5	2.5
Youth 11v11	Peak Time	1.5	-1.5	7	3	2	-2.5
Youth 11v11	Peak Time Position Taking into account overplay	-0.5	-3.5	3	0	1	-1.5
Youth 11v11	Remove Any Spare Capacity at Unsecured Sites	-1.5	-4.5	0	-4	1	-1.5
Youth 11v11	Remove any Spare Capacity at Poor Sites	-1.5	-4.5	-1	-5	1	-1.5

Type of Football	Position	Former Barrow Borough - Current	Former Barrow Borough - Future	Former South Lakeland - Current	Former South Lakeland - Future	Former Eden - Current	Former Eden - Future
Youth 11v11	Final Peak Time (If Girls Football is outside Peak Time)	n/a	-3.3	n/a	-3.4	n/a	-0.5
9v9	9v9 Football (Weekly Position accounting for overplay)	-4.5	-7.5	5.25	2.25	8	7.5
9v9	Peak Time	0	-3	3.5	0.5	1.5	-1
9v9	Peak Time Position Taking into account overplay	-5	-8	1.25	-1.75	1	-1.5
9v9	Remove Any Spare Capacity at Unsecured Sites	-5	-8	-0.75	-3.75	1	-1.5
9v9	Remove any Spare Capacity at Poor Sites	-5	-8	-0.75	-3.75	1	-1.5
9v9	Final Peak Time (If Girls Football is outside Peak Time)	n/a	-6.8	n/a	-2.55	n/a	-0.5
7v7	Weekly Position accounting for overplay	30	27	33	29.5	28	26
7v7	Peak Time	3.5	0.5	6	2.5	3.5	1.5
7v7	Peak Time Position taking into account overplay	7.5	4.5	6	2.5	3.5	1.5
7v7	Peak Time (Excluding Spare Capacity at Unsecured Sites)	3.5	0.5	3.5	0	3.5	1.5
7v7	Peak Time (excluding Spare Capacity at Poor Sites)	2.5	-0.5	3.5	0	3.5	1.5
7v7	Final Peak Time (If Girls Football is outside Peak Time)	n/a	0.7	n/a	1.4	n/a	2.3
5v5	5v5 Football (Weekly Position accounting for overplay)	14.5	11.5	11	8.5	22.5	21.5
5v5	Peak Time	0.5	-2.5	2.5	0	3.5	2.5
5v5	Peak Time Position Taking into account overplay	0.5	-2.5	2.5	0	3.5	2.5
5v5	Remove Any Spare Capacity at Unsecured Sites	0.5	-2.5	1.5	-1	3.5	2.5
5v5	Remove any Spare Capacity at Poor Sites	0	-3	1	-1.5	3.5	2.5
5v5	Final Peak Time (If Girls Football is outside Peak Time)	n/a	-1.8	n/a	-0.5	n/a	2.9

9.186 Table 9.21 provides further information on the adequacy of provision by sub area. It demonstrates that participation growth will exacerbate the existing pressures in Barrow and Walney and the Remainder of Barrow Borough, Kendal, Cartmel Peninsula and Penrith and M6 Corridor sub-areas. It should be noted that as highlighted, since the assessment was undertaken, a new 3G AGP has been provided in Penrith which will absorb the majority of pressures identified in the Penrith and M6 corridor sub area.

9.187 Table 9.21 therefore indicates that there will be a need to increase capacity in order to meet future demand (as well as potentially tailor the infrastructure to ensure all needs are met) in several parts of Westmorland and Furness. Opportunities to increase capacity will be considered as part of the strategy document.

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Table 9.21 – Future Adequacy of Pitch Provision by Sub Area (MES)

Type of Football	Position	Barrow and Walney	Remainder of Barrow Borough	Kendal	Milnthorpe	Kirkby Lonsdale	Cartmel Peninsula	Ulverston	LDNP	YDNP	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Appleby	Kirkby Stephen	Alston
Adult	Weekly Position accounting for overplay	14.5	5.5	6	7.5	3.5	1	6	3	1.25	14.5	0.25	2.5	0.5
Adult	Peak Time	5	-0.5	1	2.5	1	0.5	1.5	3	0.5	4	1	1.5	0.5
Adult	Peak Time Position Taking into account overplay	5	-0.5	1	2.5	1	0.5	1.5	3	0.5	4	1	1.5	0.5
Adult	Remove Any Spare Capacity at Unsecured Sites	5	-0.5	1	2	1	0.5	1.5	1	0.5	4	0	1.5	0.5
Adult	Remove any Spare Capacity at Poor Sites	2	-0.5	0	1.5	1	0.5	1.5	0	0.5	3	0	0.5	0.5
Adult	Final Peak Time (If Girls Football is outside Peak Time)	2.6	-0.3	0.2	1.5	1	0.5	1.5	0	0.5	3.4	0	0.5	0.5
Youth 11v11	Youth Football (Weekly Position accounting for overplay)	0.5	1.5	0	0.5	0	-1.5	4	0.5	2.5	1.5	0	1.5	0
Youth 11v11	Peak Time	-2.5	0.5	1	0.5	0	-0.5	1	0.5	0.5	-1	0	1	0
Youth 11v11	Peak Time Position Taking into account overplay	-2.5	-1.5	-1	0.5	0	-0.5	1	-0.5	0.5	-2	0	1	0

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Type of Football	Position	Barrow and Walney	Remainder of Barrow Borough	Kendal	Milnthorpe	Kirkby Lonsdale	Cartmel Peninsula	Ulverston	LDNP	YDNP	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Appleby	Kirkby Stephen	Alston
Youth 11v11	Remove Any Spare Capacity at Unsecured Sites	-2.5	-2.5	-3	0.5	0	-0.5	0	-1.5	0.5	-2	0	1	0
Youth 11v11	Remove any Spare Capacity at Poor Sites	-2.5	-2.5	-3	-0.5	0	-0.5	0	-1.5	0.5	-2	0	1	0
Youth 11v11	Final Peak Time (If Girls Football is outside Peak Time)	-1.5	-2.1	-2.2	-0.3	0	-0.3	0.2	-1.3	0.5	-1.2	0	1	0
9v9	9v9 Football (Weekly Position accounting for overplay)	-6.5	-1.5	0.75	-1	0	0.5	5	-2	-1	5	0	1	0
9v9	Peak Time	-2.5	-1	0	-0.5	0	0.5	1	-0.5	0	-0.5	0	0	0
9v9	Peak Time Position Taking into account overplay	-7	-1.5	-0.25	-1	0	0.5	1	-2	0	-1	0	0	0
9v9	Remove Any Spare Capacity at Unsecured Sites	-7	-1.5	-0.25	-1	0	0	-0.5	-2	0	-1	0	0	0
9v9	Remove any Spare Capacity at Poor Sites	-7	-1.5	-0.25	-1	0	0	-0.5	-2	0	-1	0	0	0
9v9	Final Peak Time (If Girls Football is outside Peak Time)	-6	-1.1	0.35	-0.8	0	0	-0.3	-1.8	0	-0.2	0	0	0

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Type of Football	Position	Barrow and Walney	Remainder of Barrow Borough	Kendal	Milnthorpe	Kirkby Lonsdale	Cartmel Peninsula	Ulverston	LDNP	YDNP	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Appleby	Kirkby Stephen	Alston
7v7	Weekly Position accounting for overplay	19	9	5	12.5	0	2.5	10	-0.5	0	21	0	5.5	0
7v7	Peak Time	2.5	-1	-0.5	3	0	-0.5	1	-0.5	0	2.5	0	-0.5	0
7v7	Peak Time Position taking into account overplay	4.5	1	-0.5	3	0	-0.5	1	-0.5	0	2.5	0	-0.5	0
7v7	Peak Time (Excluding Spare Capacity at Unsecured Sites)	2.5	-1	-1.5	3	0	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	0	2.5	0	-0.5	0
7v7	Peak Time (excluding Spare Capacity at Poor Sites)	1.5	-1	-1.5	3	0	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	0	2.5	0	-0.5	0
7v7	Final Peak Time (If Girls Football is outside Peak Time)	1.9	-0.6	-0.9	3.2	0	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	0	2.5	0	0.1	0
5v5	5v5 Football (Weekly Position accounting for overplay)	9	3.5	-1	3.5	0	1	5.5	0	0	14.5	0	6	0
5v5	Peak Time	-0.5	-1	-1	1	0	0	0.5	0	0	1.5	0	1	0
5v5	Peak Time Position Taking into account overplay	-0.5	-1	-1	1	0	0	0.5	0	0	1.5	0	1	0

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Type of Football	Position	Barrow and Walney	Remainder of Barrow Borough	Kendal	Milnthorpe	Kirkby Lonsdale	Cartmel Peninsula	Ulverston	LDNP	YDNP	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Appleby	Kirkby Stephen	Alston
5v5	Remove Any Spare Capacity at Unsecured Sites	-0.5	-1	-1	1	0	0	-0.5	0	0	1.5	0	1	0
5v5	Remove any Spare Capacity at Poor Sites	-1	-1	-1	1	0	-0.5	-0.5	0	0	1.5	0	1	0
5v5	Final Peak Time (If Girls Football is outside Peak Time)	-0.6	-0.6	-0.6	1	0	-0.3	-0.3	0	0	1.9	0	1	0

Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs)

3G AGP Analysis

- 9.188 3G AGPs (sometimes referred to as synthetic turf pitches) are becoming increasingly important for football and the FA National Football Facilities Strategy seeks to shift football usage away from sand based AGPs to 3G pitches and to increase the amount of match play that takes place on 3G pitches (rather than grass).
- 9.189 In particular, the FA cites the additional capacity that 3G AGPs offer compared to grass and their ability to sustain play during periods of inclement weather, resulting in a reduced number of cancellations. 3G AGPs could therefore have a particularly important role to play in Westmorland and Furness, with drainage being one of the key issues experienced in all parts of Westmorland and Furness. The existing stock of facilities is however relatively limited given the geographical expanse that the area covers.
- 9.190 The FA approves certain types of 3G AGP for use in competitive fixtures (those listed on the FA 3G Pitch register²) and the FA National Football Facilities Strategy recognises the role that these facilities play in the provision of facilities for football. Pitches of appropriate surface are suitable for football training, regardless of whether they are on the FA 3G Pitch Register.
- 9.191 There are currently four 11v11 size 3G pitches across Westmorland and Furness, specifically:
- Newton Rigg College (Eden)
 - Penrith Rugby Club (Eden)
 - Dallam School (South Lakeland)
 - Kendal RUFC (South Lakeland).
- 9.192 There are also smaller (but almost 11v11 sized) 3G AGPs at Furness Academy and Furness College (both former Barrow Borough area). Since the calculations were undertaken, a further 11v11 size 3G stadia AGP at has been provided at Penrith AFC (former Eden).
- 9.193 All of these pitches are on the FA 3G Pitch Register and are therefore able to sustain competitive activity as well as training.
- 9.194 The recommended dimensions for a full size 3G artificial grass pitch for football are 100 x 64 metres. This extends to an area of 106 x 70 metres with the recommended minimum three metre run off area included. These dimensions allow for all age group match play to take place including adults, youth under 17/18 and younger age groups via overmarked pitches, e.g. the marking out of two 9v9 pitches for under 11/12s.
- 9.195 If a new pitch is proposed to measure below the recommended dimensions, then justification must be provided for this in relation to the identified needs it will provide for and/or site constraints. In doing so, the impacts of a reduced pitch size in meeting current and future needs must be considered, e.g. a pitch not providing the recommended dimensions for adult match play and/or only being able to accommodate one rather than two overmarked 9v9 pitches. This justification needs to be included in the planning application details submitted to the relevant Local Planning Authority for the new pitch.
- 9.196 Unless otherwise stated and justified for an individual pitch, proposals in this PPS for any new 3G artificial grass pitches are based on providing them to the recommended dimensions.

² https://footballfoundation.org.uk/3g-pitch-register?gclid=EAlalQobChMli8qxgu_q9glVzbTtCh2CsQPwEAAAYASABEgKhHfD_BwE

- 9.197 In addition to the above stock of 3G AGPs, there are 10 sand based AGPs. There are no sand based AGPs in the former Barrow Borough area, two are located in the former Eden area and the remainder are all situated in the former South Lakeland area.
- 9.198 Table 9.22 summarises all of the AGPs that are provided across Westmorland and Furness, and their suitability for football.

Table 9.22 – 3G AGPs

Former Local Authority Area	Sub Area	Site Name	AGP Surface Type	Quality Comments	Pitch Quality Rating	3G Register Pitch	Supported Surface for Football
Eden	Kirkby Stephen	Kirkby Stephen Grammar School	Sand Filled	Recently refurbished (2019) and in good condition. Good pitch surface.	Good	N/a	No
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Newton Rigg College	3G	New pitch, well maintained and in good condition	Good	Yes - expiry 31/05/2026	Yes
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Penrith Leisure Centre	Sand Dressed	Pitch compacted and worn with significant drainage issues. Regular cancellations for flooding. Overly sandy, issues with lighting. Changing facilities and toilets in leisure centre.	Poor	N/a	No
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Penrith Rugby Union Football Club	3G	Some wear in patches	Standard	Yes - expiry 31/05/2023	Yes
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	AFC Penrith	3G	New pitch provided since calculations were undertaken. Replaced grass pitch that was included in assessment calculations	Good	Yes	Yes
South Lakeland	YDNP	Casterton Sedbergh Preparatory School	Sand Filled	Condition unknown	Standard	N/a	No
South Lakeland	Milnthorpe	Dallam School (Milnthorpe)	3G	Maintained half termly by external company. Current meets FA pitch requirements	Standard	Yes - expiry 31/05/2027	Yes
South Lakeland	Kendal	Kirkbie Kendal School	Sand Filled	Recently refurbished (2018), in good condition. No issues identified. Changing facilities available and of standard quality (school site)	Good	N/a	No
South Lakeland	Kendal	Mintbridge (Kendal Ruc)	3G	Pitch in excellent condition, no quality issues identified.	Good	Yes - expiry 31/05/2025	Yes

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Former Local Authority Area	Sub Area	Site Name	AGP Surface Type	Quality Comments	Pitch Quality Rating	3G Pitch Register	Supported Surface for Football
South Lakeland	Kirkby Lonsdale	Queen Elizabeth School	Sand Filled	Floodlights consistently poor, tennis lines now painted on. Some issues with grip underfoot, holes in surface and damage to the surface. Some litter issues. Last refurbished 2005	Poor	N/a	No
South Lakeland	Kendal	Queen Katherine School	Sand Dressed	Pitch in good condition, built 2018. Even surface and good grip underfoot. Dugouts small. No clubhouse on site but site includes adequate changing / toilet facilities.	Good	N/a	No
South Lakeland	YDNP	Sedbergh School	Sand Filled	Pitch understood to be in good condition, with clear line markings.	Good	N/a	No
South Lakeland	LDNP	The Lakes School	Sand Filled	Refurbished circa 2020. Pitch surface improving due to enhanced maintenance. Some moss but grip and linemarking good. Floodlighting poor - only 6 out of 8 masts are working. Match day dugouts makeshift only. Changing facilities of basic quality, separate pitch pavilion.	Good	N/a	No
South Lakeland	Ulverston and surrounding area	Ulverston Leisure Centre	Sand Filled	Ageing pitch (20 years), shock pads no longer functioning or providing cushioning. Silt is rising to surface when it rains, drainage issues and lots of match cancellations. Some rips in surface and pitch is starting to dip in parts. Carpet compacted and slippery. Dugouts are poor and the floodlights fail regularly. Some works recently completed to pitch but requires refurbishment	Poor	N/a	No
South Lakeland	LDNP	Windermere School	Sand Dressed	Functioning sand based pitch. Detailed quality information not available due to lack of community use.	Standard	N/a	No
South Lakeland	LDNP	Coniston Sports and Social Centre	Sand dressed (x2) (Small)	Small functional sand based AGPs	Standard	N/A	No

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Former Local Authority Area	Sub Area	Site Name	AGP Surface Type	Quality Comments	Pitch Quality Rating	3G Register	Supported Surface for Football
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Furness Academy	3G (Small)	Functional pitch, well maintained with significant investment by school to ensure FA certificate is maintained	Standard	yes - expiry 31/05/2025	Yes
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Furness College Campus	3G (Small)	Functional small sized pitch	Standard	yes - expiry 31/05/2024	Yes
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Pulse Soccer	3G (Multiple small pitches)	Poor quality, rips in surface and require renovation. Active at time of assessment preparation, but repairs now underway and site closed.	Poor	No	Yes
South Lakeland	Ulverston and surrounding area	Ulverston Leisure Centre	3G (Small)	Recently refurbished, popular facility	Standard	No	Yes
Barrow Borough	Remainder of Barrow Borough	Dowdales School	3G (Small)	Good, newly laid surface.	Good	No	Yes

9.199 Demand for AGPs can take three different forms:

- Competitive Use – 3G AGPs can be used for competitive activity when they are listed on the FA 3G Pitch Register which requires regular testing and quality control.
- Informal Use - Recreational football (including formal leagues and informal pay and play) is a key part of football participation, and one that playing pitch strategies do not currently quantify. 3G pitch provision is however an important means of providing opportunities for recreational play. Indeed, the promotion of recreational football is seen as one of the key means of boosting participation in the sport in the coming years. Small sided football is identified in the National Game Strategy as one of The FA's key growth targets for adult football and the FA is increasingly interested in the use of MUGAs and small sided pitches, as well as full sided facilities to support the more informal game. Whilst 3G AGPs remain the preferred surface for informal use, sand based surfaces are often used too.
- Training by competitive football teams – the FA seeks to ensure that all football teams have access to a 3G AGP for training for at least one hour per week.

Use of the existing 3G AGPs

Training Needs

- 9.200 Consultation demonstrates that clubs primarily use AGPs for training during the winter months. A lot of this usage is however on sand based AGPs, which is not considered by the FA to be an appropriate surface for competitive football. There is also some use of indoor venues.
- 9.201 Figure 9.9 suggests that across Westmorland and Furness as a whole, clubs are divided as to the adequacy of training facilities.

Figure 9.9 – Satisfaction with Training Facilities



9.202 It is clear however that views on the adequacy of provision differ slightly across Westmorland and Furness, with views in the former Barrow Borough area being the most negative, and the highest satisfaction in the former South Lakeland area. This is illustrated in Figure 9.10

Figure 9.10 – Satisfaction with Training Facilities in each of the former authorities



- 9.203 Whilst levels of satisfaction therefore vary slightly, the reasons behind the views for those that are dissatisfied are the same, specifically:
- Lack of access to facilities
 - Cost of facilities
 - Requirement to use sand based facilities due to lack of 3G
 - Competing demands with hockey and other football clubs
 - Desire for small onsite training facility.
- 9.204 The Sport England guidance indicates that the capacity of AGPs is measured through:
- The amount of play that a site is able to sustain (based upon the number of hours that the pitch is accessible to the community during peak periods up to a maximum of 34 hours per week). Peak periods have been deemed to be Monday to Thursday 18:00 to 21:00, Friday 17:00 to 19:00 and Saturday and Sunday 09:00 to 17:00
 - The amount of play that takes place (measured in hours)
 - Whether there is any spare capacity at the site based upon a comparison between the capacity of the site and the actual usage; and
 - Any other key issues relating to the site which have arisen through consultation.
- 9.205 Analysis of the use of the existing 3G AGPs is summarised in Tables 9.23 and 9.24. Table 9.23 considers the general usage of each pitch, whilst Table 9.24 amalgamates this information to provide a geographical picture.
- 9.206 The tables demonstrate that there is very little spare capacity on 3G pitches.
- 9.207 Crucially, almost all slots on pitches are taken between 6pm and 8pm, which is the most popular time for training. Several of the venues have numerous clubs wishing to train at this time. Where there is availability, this is typically between 5pm and 6pm or after 8pm, or on a Friday evening. This reflects the views of clubs, who highlight access to desirable time slots as the key issue.

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Former Local Authority Area	Sub Area	Site Name	Pitch Quality Rating	Opening Times	Football and Rugby users	Capacity (Hours) - Midweek	Capacity (Hours) - Weekend	Usage (Hours) - Midweek	Usage (Hours) - Weekend	Spare Capacity (Hours) - Midweek	Spare Capacity (Hours) - Sports Used	Weekend Usage
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Newton Rigg College	Good	Monday to Friday 17:00 - 21:00, weekends 10:00 - 18:00	Penrith FC, Calthwaite JFC, Cumbria Football Academy, Eden, Langwathby United. Over 30 teams registered	15	14	14	14	1	100% Football	Spare capacity in most timeslots
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Penrith Rugby Union Football Club	Standard	Every day 08:00 - 22:00	Penrith RUFC, Rugby 365 users Cumberland FA,	15	16	8	2	5	Rugby 90%, Cumberland FA	Small amount of spare capacity outside peak rugby times
South Lakeland	Milnthorpe	Dallam School (Milnthorpe)	Standard	Monday-Friday 17:00 - 22:00 Weekend 09:00 - 17:00	Milnthorpe Town, Milnthorpe and District, WCFA Emerging Talent Centre, Westmorland County FA, Grange and District JFC, Corinthians FC. Regular users circa 38 teams	15	16	13	13	2	100% football	Usage more adhoc at weekends (weather dependent and prioritise grass)

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Former Local Authority Area	Sub Area	Site Name	Pitch Quality Rating	Opening Times	Football and Rugby users	Capacity (Hours) - Midweek	Capacity (Hours) - Weekend	Usage (Hours) - Midweek	Usage (Hours) - Weekend	Spare Capacity (Hours) - Midweek	Spare Capacity (Hours) - Sports Used	Weekend Usage
South Lakeland	Kendal	Mintbridge (Kendal Ruc)	Good	Every day 08:00 - 22:00	GT7, Ibis Youth, Endmoor FC. 31 football teams, Kendal RUFC (2 evenings)	15	16	6 (for football), 15 hours in total	9	0	30% rugby, 70% football	No spare capacity at weekend (GT7 football, ladies rugby, community activities)
South Lakeland	Ulverston and surrounding area	Ulverston Leisure Centre	Standard	Monday-Friday 06:30 - 20:45 Saturday 07:45 - 19:00 Sunday 09:00 - 21:00	Swarthmoor FC, Ulverston Rangers FC, recreational. 18 teams registered	15	16	13	13	2	100% football	Very limited remaining spare capacity.
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Furness Academy	Standard	Monday-Friday 17:30 - 21:30	50 teams registered - Crooklands Casuals, Hawcoat Park Sports Club, Vickerstown, Onside Sports, Barrow Island ARLFC,	15	16	15	13	0	90% football, 10% RFL	Used Sat AM, spare capacity in other time slots

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Former Local Authority Area	Sub Area	Site Name	Pitch Quality Rating	Opening Times	Football and Rugby users	Capacity (Hours) - Midweek	Capacity (Hours) - Weekend	Usage (Hours) - Midweek	Usage (Hours) - Weekend	Spare Capacity (Hours) - Midweek	Spare Capacity (Hours) - Sports Used	Weekend Usage
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Furness College Campus	Standard	Monday-Friday 17:00 - 21:00 Weekend 09:00 - 16:00	Holker Old Boys, plus above users of Furness Academy, ad hoc rugby league use	15	16	2	13	0	90% football, 10% RFL	Used Sat AM, spare capacity in other time slots
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Pulse Soccer	Poor	Monday-Friday, Sunday 10:00 - 22:00 Saturday 09:00 - 17:00	Barrow Celtic, Barrow Wanderers, Recreational	15	16	14	10		100% football	Not used or approved for match play
Barrow Borough	Remainder of Barrow Borough	Dowdales School	Good	Monday-Friday 17:30 - 21:00 Weekend 09:00 - 17:00	Dalton Juniors / Girls / Ladies. 22 teams registered	15	16	13	14	2	90% football, 10% RFL	Not used or approved for match play

Table 9.24 – Geographical Picture of 3G AGP Usage

Former Authority Area	Sub Area	3G Pitches Available	Approximate Spare Capacity Midweek (Hours)	Spare Capacity Weekend
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	No 11v11 size Furness Academy, Furness College, Pulse Soccer	0	Spare capacity outside Sat AM (but not 11v11)
Barrow Borough	Remainder of Barrow Borough	No 11v11 size Dowdales School	2	Not approved for match play
Eden	Appleby	N/a	N/a	N/a
Eden	Kirkby Stephen	N/a	N/a	N/a
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Newton Rigg College, Penrith RUFC	6	Most timeslots (Newton Rigg)
Eden	Alston	N/a	N/a	N/a
South Lakeland	Cartmel Peninsula	N/a	N/a	N/a
South Lakeland	Kendal	Kendal RUFC	0	None
South Lakeland	Ulverston and surrounding area	No 11v11 size Ulverston Leisure Centre	2	Not approved for match play
South Lakeland	Milnthorpe	Dallam School	2	Some spare capacity
South Lakeland	LDNP	N/a	N/a	N/a
South Lakeland	YDNP	N/a	N/a	N/a
Total	N/a	N/a	12	Some spare capacity on pitches that could be used.

9.208 Table 9.24 above therefore demonstrates that there is only 12 hours spare capacity across Westmorland and Furness as a whole, and spare capacity is minimal in each area where AGPs are provided. The largest amount of spare capacity exists in the Penrith and M6 Corridor sub area – this is because there is spare capacity on the 3G AGP at Penrith RUFC. This pitch was provided through the rugby 365 programme and therefore primarily serves rugby clubs. It is available to football clubs, but at a higher cost to some other pitches and therefore demand has currently proved lower.

9.209 With an absence of 3G pitches in some areas, and limited spare capacity where pitches are provided, it is clear that sand based AGPs also play an important role in meeting demand for football across Westmorland and Furness. Table 9.25 therefore sets out the football usage of

each sand based AGP. It demonstrates that the following sand based AGPs are crucial in meeting demand for football:

- Kirkby Stephen - Kirkby Stephen Grammar School – used due to lack of 3G AGP in area
- Penrith and M6 Corridor - Penrith Leisure Centre – used due to lack of capacity in Penrith at 3G sites
- Kendal - Kirkbie Kendal School/ Queen Katherine School
- Kirkby Lonsdale - Queen Elizabeth School - used due to lack of 3G AGP in area
- LDNP - The Lakes School - used due to lack of 3G AGP in area
- Ulverston and surrounding area - Ulverston Leisure Centre - used due to lack of 3G AGP in area.

9.210 All of these pitches are also important for hockey.

Table 9.25 – Role of Sand Based AGPs in meeting football demand

Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Site Name	Key Football users	Hockey Usage Midweek	Hockey Usage Weekend	Rugby Football Usage (Hours)	Estimated Midweek Spare Capacity	Hockey / Rugby Approximate Balance
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Barrow Borough	Remainder of Barrow Borough	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Eden	Alston	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Eden	Appleby	N/a	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Eden	Kirkby Stephen	Kirkby Stephen Grammar School	Kirkby Stephen FC, recreational bookings	4	5	8	3	50% hockey 50% football
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Penrith Leisure Centre	Castletown Juniors, recreational use	5	7.5	4	1	60% hockey, 40% football
South Lakeland	Kendal	Kirkbie Kendal School	Kendal United (Ladies, Youth and FC), Kendal Colts, Wattsfield. Over 40 teams registered (shared with Queen Katherine)	1	2.5	14	0	10% hockey, 90% football
South Lakeland	Kendal	Queen Katherine School	Kendal United Ladies / Youth	8	4	6	1	60% hockey, 40% football
South Lakeland	Kirkby Lonsdale	Queen Elizabeth School	Kirkby Lonsdale FC, recreational bookings	1.5	3	6	7.5	70% football
South Lakeland	LDNP	The Lakes School	Heathwaite United, recreational use	5	4	3	7	65% hockey 35% football

Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Site Name	Key Football users	Hockey Usage Midweek	Hockey Usage Weekend	Rugby Football Usage (Hours)	Estimated Midweek Spare Capacity	Hockey Football Rugby Approximate Balance
South Lakeland	LDNP	Windermere School	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/a
South Lakeland	Milnthorpe	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
South Lakeland	Ulverston and surrounding area	Ulverston Leisure Centre	N/A	4.5	4	5	5.5	50% hockey 50% football
South Lakeland	YDNP	Casterton Sedbergh Prep School	N/A	3	N/A	N/A	12	
South Lakeland	YDNP	Sedbergh School	N/A	N/A	8	N/A	0	School use only

FA Data Modelling

- 9.211 The FA has devised a theoretical model to evaluate the demand for 3G AGPs in given area and the amount of facilities that are required. With clear evidence presented above given the capacity constraints and the use of sand based AGPs that more facilities are required, the model provides a way of determining how many facilities are needed.
- 9.212 It should be noted that the model considers only demand for football. With 3G AGPs also being important for both rugby league and rugby union, it is essential that these needs are also taken into account. These needs will be brought into this analysis later in this section.
- 9.213 The modelling evaluates the baseline requirement for 3G pitches taking into account the training requirements of football teams. It assumes that one 3G pitch is required per 38 teams and that based on FA policy, all football training should take place on 3G pitches (as opposed to sand based or otherwise).
- 9.214 This calculation provides a headline overview for requirements in Westmorland and Furness. It is important that the geographical nature of the area, including travelling distance, is then taken into account in decision making relating to where new facilities may be required.
- 9.215 The current position with regards grass pitches in an area is also an important consideration in relation to demand for artificial pitches. Where supply of grass pitches is constrained, AGPs can play a greater role in supporting the overall infrastructure.
- 9.216 Table 9.3 documented that there are currently 442 affiliated teams playing football across Westmorland and Furness as a whole. At an overall level, this would therefore equate to a requirement for 11.6 3G AGPs. With just four 11v11 size 3G pitches, this would suggest that there is a significant deficiency.
- 9.217 It is important however that the potential role that small sized pitches can play in meeting demand, particularly for training, but where dimensions allow, also for match play. 3G pitches will also have an important role to play in the development of disability football across the borough.
- 9.218 It has been agreed with the Football Foundation (FF) that the following assumptions will be made in the analysis of AGPs in Westmorland and Furness:

- Furness Academy – to be included as 1 pitch as adequate space, although not 11v11 size
- Furness College Campus – equivalent to 0.75 3G AGPs as can be split into thirds
- Penrith RUFC – to be excluded from model for football, as predominantly rugby use
- Kendal RUFC – to be included in model for football due to high proportion of football use.

9.219 Table 9.26 therefore provides an evaluation of the requirements for 3G AGPs based upon the number of teams playing in each sub area. It demonstrates that there are shortfalls in provision in all areas of Westmorland and Furness and that there is a need for several new facilities.

9.220 The need for new facilities will need to be carefully considered in the context of the cost of living and other challenges that clubs face, ensuring that there are enough facilities to meet need but not so many that the market becomes saturated and facilities are not used.

9.221 It is important to note that since the assessment was undertaken, an additional pitch has been provided at Penrith FC. This will be taken into account in the strategy document.

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Table 9.26 – Demand based on Modelling

Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Capacity of 3G AGPs	Pitches on FA Register	Additional pitches (not on register)	Pitches on Register	Spare Capacity	Number of Teams	Number of Pitches Required	Capacity – 11v11 3G equivalents
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	1.75	2	Pulse Soccer	Furness College, Furness Academy	0	108	2.8	-1.1
Barrow Borough	Remainder of Barrow Borough	0.5	0	Dowdales School (60x30)		0	44	1.2	-0.7
Barrow Borough Total		1.75	2			0	152	4.0	-2.3
South Lakeland	Kendal	1	1		Kendal RUFC	0	79	2.1	-1.1
South Lakeland	Milnthorpe	1	1		Dallam School	2	19	0.5	0.5
South Lakeland	Kirkby Lonsdale	0	0			0	3	0.1	-0.1
South Lakeland	Cartmel Peninsula	0	0			0	16	0.4	-0.4
South Lakeland	Ulverston and surrounding area	0	0	Ulverston Leisure Centre		0	21	0.6	-0.6
South Lakeland	LDNP	0				0	26	0.7	-0.7
South Lakeland	YDNP	0				0	6	0.2	-0.2
South Lakeland Total		2	2			2	170	4.5	-2.5
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	1	2	Penrith Rugby Club is 90% rugby so excluded from modelling	Newton Rigg, Penrith RUFC	1	100	2.6	-1.6
Eden	Appleby	0				0	9	0.2	-0.2
Eden	Kirkby Stephen	0				0	10	0.3	-0.3
Eden	Alston	0				0	1	0.0	0.0
Eden Total		1	2			1	120	3.2	-2.2

- 9.222 It is important that the location of new 3G AGPs are carefully planned, taking into account both the existing provision and demand for new, but also the impact on viability of sand based surfaces. In some areas, the sand based pitches are heavily used for football and demand is likely to be displaced from these pitches where new 3G AGPs are provided.
- 9.223 Consideration has already been given to the potential issues / demand in each sub area. To inform the strategy document, the key issues / opportunities in each sub area are therefore set out below. The strategy development process will enable these opportunities to be further refined.

Table 9.27 – AGP Requirements by Sub Area

Former Authority Area	Sub Area	FA Position	Comments / Opportunities for Consideration
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	-1.1	Grass pitch issues and quality concerns, coupled with lack of AGP and issues accessing training facilities mean a minimum of 1 additional 3G AGP required in short term. Football demand is exacerbated by Rugby League teams in this area, who generate demand for an additional 0.5 – 1 pitch. Demand therefore is sufficient to sustain at least 2 3G AGPs
Barrow Borough	Remainder of Barrow Borough	-0.7	Pitch at Dowdales School provides important facility. Unmet demand for rugby league creates sufficient demand in addition to that for football to justify requirement for an additional 3G pitch to serve this area and Ulverston (South Lakeland area)
	Barrow Borough Total	-2.3	At least 2 additional 3G AGPs required based on levels of football demand, as many as 3 could potentially be sustained when accounting for demand for rugby league.
South Lakeland	Kendal	-1.1	At least one 3G AGP required short term in Kendal. Second required medium term. Consideration also to be given as to future role of 3G AGP at Kendal RUFC (potential need to increase rugby usage, which will have a knock on to football)
South Lakeland	Milnthorpe	0.5	No requirement for additional provision
South Lakeland	Kirkby Lonsdale	-0.1	Insufficient to demand to warrant additional provision. Shared use of sand based surface with hockey important.
South Lakeland	Cartmel Peninsula	-0.4	Demand insufficient to justify 11v11 pitch. Pressures on grass pitches, alongside unmet demand sufficient however to warrant consideration of 3G provision.
South Lakeland	Ulverston and surrounding area	-0.6	Additional 3G is required to serve this area and can be sustained in conjunction with rugby league given the levels of demand for rugby league.
South Lakeland	LDNP	-0.7	Pressures on grass pitch stock mean opportunity to consider potential 3G AGP in this area
South Lakeland	YDNP	-0.2	No requirement for provision
	South Lakeland Total	-2.5	At least 2 additional 3G AGPs required based on levels of football demand, as many as 3 more could potentially be sustained when accounting for demand for rugby league in Ulverston specifically.
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	-1.6	New pitch recently provided at Penrith FC will reduce this deficit Sufficient football demand exists for one additional 3G AGP.
Eden	Appleby	-0.2	Pressures on grass pitch stock but insufficient demand to warrant 11v11 3G AGP. Opportunities to access 3G or alternative solutions to be explored.
Eden	Kirkby Stephen	-0.3	Pressures on grass pitch stock but insufficient demand to warrant 11v11 3G AGP. Alternative solutions to be explored.

Former Authority Area	Sub Area	FA Position	Comments / Opportunities for Consideration
Eden	Alston	0.0	No requirement for provision
	Eden Total	-2.2	Two additional 3G AGPs required in the Penrith and M6 Corridor based on existing levels of football demand. Note that this has since been reduced by the new pitch that is provided at Penrith AFC. This will be considered in the strategy document.

Summary Issues by Sub area

9.224 This section briefly summarises the key issues for football by sub area

Former Barrow Borough

Key Issue	Description
Adequacy of Provision – Overall Barrow Borough	- Adequate supply of adult pitches, although limited by the quality of facilities. Spare capacity is low when quality of facilities is taken into account - Inadequate facilities for youth 11v11 at peak time - Provision for 9v9 football also inadequate - Small amount of spare capacity for 7v7 and 5v5 - Significant quality issues.
Barrow and Walney	- Adequate supply of adult pitches, although limited by the quality of facilities. Spare capacity is low when quality of facilities is taken into account - Inadequate facilities for youth 11v11 at peak time - Provision for 9v9 football also inadequate - Small amount of spare capacity for 7v7 and 5v5 - Requirement for up to two additional 3G AGP.
Remainder of Barrow Borough	- Adequate supply of adult pitches, although limited by the quality of facilities. Spare capacity is low when quality of facilities is taken into account - Inadequate facilities for youth 11v11 at peak time - Provision for 9v9 football also inadequate - Small amount of spare capacity for 7v7 and 5v5 - Requirement for at further 3G AGP, linking with rugby league - Reliance on unsecured site at Dowdales School.
Key Issues to address	- Protection of existing facilities - Qualitative improvement - Creation of additional capacity - New 3G provision - Role of unsecured sites.

Former Eden Area

Key Issue	Description
Eden area	• Adequate supply of adult pitches • Supply of 9v9 and youth pitches closely balanced with demand • Small amount of spare capacity for 7v7 and 5v5 • Majority of provision good, but some gaps remain.
Penrith and M6 Corridor	• This is the area of highest demand and the area where the bulk of pitch provision in Eden is located. Modelling demonstrates that there is a good amount of capacity available across the week (primarily due to the quality of pitches) but that pitch provision is more constrained at peak time. There are 4 MES available at peak time on adult pitches, but all pitches except Wetheriggs Country Park (which is poor) have at least some use on them already). • There are just two sites providing dedicated youth 11v11 pitches (Church Field and Fell View). Together, there is a small amount of spare capacity across the week (3.5) but no remaining capacity at peak time. • As with youth football pitches, despite good capacity across the week, availability is restricted at peak time on 9v9 pitches. A new pitch at Penrith Leisure Centre has recently been provided to improve the capacity for 9v9, as a consequence of feedback providing in relation to the ongoing challenge of finding appropriate pitches. • The supply of 5v5 and 7v7 pitches is also constrained, these matches are typically scheduled consecutively. • Pitch supply in Penrith is therefore currently meeting demand effectively, with little evidence of unmet or latent demand. Quality is good, and there is some scope to increase activity outside of peak time.
Kirkby Stephen	• There are limited playing fields in the Kirkby Stephen area, with Parrots Park being the main site. There are two other small sites available, and Kirkby Stephen Grammar School is also available for community use. • Modelling suggests that there is just 0.5 MES spare capacity on adult pitches and 1 MES on youth pitches, but no capacity on any other pitch types at peak time. Improvements to capacity may be required if demand was to increase therefore. • Deficiencies in provision of 3G pitches insufficient to warrant 11v11 pitch. Alternative solutions may be required.
Appleby	• There is very limited available provision in Appleby, with the main site being Appleby Football and Squash Club. This site is a single pitch facility which is heavily used and as a consequence, overplayed. There is no unused capacity in Appleby at all except for a 7v7 pitch at the primary school. There is therefore little opportunity for growth in this area. • Deficiencies in provision of 3G pitches insufficient to warrant 11v11 3G pitch. Alternative solutions may be required, including potential for small size 3G.
Alston	• With only an adult pitch provided in Alston, there is limited opportunity for football in this part of Westmorland and Furness. There is a small amount spare capacity, but the site is poor quality which restricts opportunities for increased usage. It is thought that there is also further space at the site should additional pitches be required.
Key Issues to address	• Protection of existing facilities • Qualitative improvement works • Creation of additional capacity • Requirement for AGP provision – Long term in Penrith, alternative solutions to meet needs in Kirkby Stephen and Appleby.

Former South Lakeland Area

Key Issue	Description
Adequacy of Provision	• Adequate supply of adult pitches • Supply of 9v9 and youth pitches closely balanced with demand • Small amount of spare capacity for 7v7 and 5v5 • Majority of provision good, but some gaps remain.
Kendal	• This is the area of highest demand. Modelling demonstrates that there are just adequate adult football pitches at peak time, but spare capacity equates to just 1.5 MES once spare capacity at unsecure and poor quality sites is removed, suggesting that there is limited room for growth. • There is inadequate capacity for youth football (-1) excluding poor / unsecured sites and very limited capacity for 9v9 play. With no spare capacity on 7v7 or 5v5 pitches either, modelling paints the picture that the facilities for football in Kendal are compromised and will inhibit growth if additional capacity is not provided. • There is particularly high demand at Kirkbie Kendal School (curricular and club) and Kendal United and numerous other sites are accommodating large playing numbers, with clubs sharing facilities. Whilst some pitches are good quality, the capacity of other sites is restricted (Millenium Field, Wattsfield Playing Field, Kendal Jubilee Playing Fields, Hollins Lane in particular). The ratio of pitches to teams in Kendal means that facilities in this area must accommodate more games than in any other part of Westmorland and Furness which places greater pressure on the quality of pitches. There is therefore a need to both improve pitch quality, but also to increase the amount of pitches / capacity for match play that is available. This message came through in consultation more strongly than for any other area. • Requirement for two 3G AGPs.
Milnthorpe	• There are limited playing fields in the Milnthorpe area and as a consequence, there is a particular reliance on Dallam School, which is subjected to some overplay. The majority of other pitches are 11v11 pitches and are of poor quality. • Modelling suggests that there is just 1 MES spare capacity on adult pitches, but no capacity on youth pitches and a small amount of overplay on 9v9 pitches (0.5 MES). There is a comparatively good amount of spare capacity on 7v7 and 5v5 pitches, particularly when the role that the AGP at Dallam School can also play in meeting this demand is taken into account.
Kirkby Lonsdale	• There is very limited available provision in Kirkby Lonsdale, with only adult 11v11 pitches available (and there is a small amount of spare capacity). • The lack of variety of pitch provision means it will be important to maintain existing facilities to a high standard and to monitor demand for other types of facility.
Cartmel Peninsula	• There is limited spare capacity on adult pitches. This area is also the only area to experience overplay on adult pitches (Cartmel Priory School). There is less than 1 MES spare capacity and the majority of senior pitches are of poor quality. • There is no remaining spare capacity on youth 11v11 pitches or 9v9 pitches once spare capacity at unsecured sites is excluded. Cartmel Priory School is an important venue for younger age football in the area but is unsecured. • There is also no remaining spare capacity on 7v7 or 5v5 pitches, with again unsecured provision at Cartmel Priory School being critical in this area.

Key Issue	Description
Ulverston and surrounding area	- Modelling suggests that there is a very small amount of spare capacity currently (1.5 MES at peak time on adult pitches and 0.5 MES on youth 11v11 pitches) but no remaining capacity on 9v9, 7v7 or 5v5 pitches once any spare capacity at unsecured / poor sites is excluded. Even when counting these facilities, supply is very closely matched with demand. - There is limited provision in the Ulverston and surrounding area, - Priory Road Sports Ground is an important facility for several clubs, and Swarthmoor FC also accommodates a large number of teams. Modelling demonstrates that supply is tightly matched with demand if GSK, an unsecured venue is excluded, and it is likely that scenario testing will demonstrate that if teams currently playing at this site had to be relocated (without replacement), there will be deficiencies. Consultation demonstrated that the amount of facilities available in this area is a concern to clubs and this is evidenced by the modelling. 3G AGP required to address unmet demand for football as well as rugby league.
Key Issues to address	- Protection of existing facilities - Qualitative improvement works - Creation of additional capacity, particularly in Kendal - Requirement for AGP provision – Kendal (2), Cartmel Peninsula, Ulverston and surrounding area.

Lake District National Park

Key Issue	Description
LDNP	- Modelling identified that there are some pressures on youth (-1) and 9v9 (-1.5) pitches. These arise once the security of tenure and quality of pitches are taken into account. There is overplay on Phoenix Field and at the University of Cumbria. - There is also no remaining spare capacity on adult football pitches once capacity at poor pitches and unsecured sites is excluded - The LDNP has the highest proportion of poor quality pitches – this creates limitations on capacity. The travel distances involved however mean that teams continue to play on the poor quality facilities, which include University of Cumbria, Rothay Park, Rayrigg Meadow, Queens Park, Hillard Park, Coniston and Ayland Recreation Ground - Quality is therefore the greatest issue in this part of Westmorland and Furness, although as in all other areas, there is also limited spare capacity available.
Key Issues to Address	- Protection of existing facilities - Qualitative improvements required - Creation of additional capacity - Identified need for 3G provision.

Yorkshire Dales National Park

Key Issues	Description
YDNP	• Provision in the YDNP is largely of poor quality and this influences capacity significantly. There is less than 1 MES spare capacity on adult pitches and this is offset by a deficit of youth football pitches • Provision at Howgill Lane is poor, and Settlebeck School facilities are of limited quality, but must sustain community use as well as curricular activity.
Key Issues to address	• Protection of existing facilities • Qualitative improvements required • Creation of additional capacity.

10. Rugby League

Introduction

10.1 This section evaluates the adequacy of pitches for rugby league across Westmorland and Furness. It provides:

- An overview of the supply and demand for pitches
- An understanding of activity at individual sites
- A picture of the adequacy of current provision to meet current and projected future demand.

Pitch Supply

10.2 Table 10.1 summarises the rugby league pitches that are provided across the Westmorland Furness Council area. It reveals that there are 20 pitches in total.

10.3 These are focused almost exclusively in the former Barrow Borough area, with Ulverston and surrounding area (former South Lakeland area) the only other area outside this area to contain rugby league pitches.

10.4 Of the pitches provided, 16 are full size. The remainder are junior pitches and / or training areas. In addition to this, some schools mark out rugby league pitches on an ad hoc basis during the summer months.

Table 10.1 – Rugby League Pitches in Westmorland and Furness

Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Site Name	Pitches provided	Ownership / Access arrangements
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Ostley Bank - Barrow Island ARLFC	2 senior rugby league pitches, 1 training area / junior pitch	Leased (Council) – 50 years
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Craven Park – Barrow Raiders	1 senior rugby league pitch (stadium)	Owned by Club
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Brisbane Park (Hindpool Tigers)	1 senior rugby league pitch	Leased from County Council (expires 2048)
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Roose Park (Roose Pioneers ARLFC)	1 senior rugby league pitch	Leased from Barrow BC (15 years)
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Roose Primary School	1 rugby league training area	Education (available for use)
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	St Bernard's School	2 senior rugby league (shared with football)	Education (not available for use)
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Central Drive (Walney ARLFC)	1 senior and 1 primary rugby league pitch	Owned by Club
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Furness Academy	1 senior rugby league pitch (further pitch shared with football)	Education (available for use)
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Walney School	2 senior rugby league pitches	School use only
Barrow Borough	Remainder of Barrow	Fallowfield Park - Askam ARLFC	1 senior rugby league	Unused
Barrow Borough	Remainder of Barrow	Dalton ARLFC	1 senior rugby league pitch	Owned by Club
Barrow Borough	Remainder of Barrow	Dowdales School	1 senior rugby league pitch (2 further pitches shared with football)	Available for use, but access arrangements unsecured

Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Site Name	Pitches provided	Ownership / Access arrangements
South Lakeland	Ulverston and surrounding area	Dragley Beck / Priors Road (Ulverston ARLFC)	2 senior pitches, 1 junior pitch	One junior pitch leased, remainder rented

10.5 Table 10.1 demonstrates that the majority of pitches are in secured community use, with most clubs leasing or owning their facilities. Ulverston ARLFC are the only rugby league club that do not have security of tenure on their home ground.

10.6 Table 10.2 summarises the quality of rugby league pitches that are available in Westmorland and Furness. This summary draws upon non-technical site assessments which are based on guidance produced by the RFL and Sport England, as well as consultation with clubs. It also takes into account the detailed technical assessments that have been produced as part of the PitchPower programme for rugby league. There has been a strong level of engagement with this programme, and consequently, there is a good understanding of the quality issues experienced and the key areas for improvement.

Table 10.2 Quality of Rugby League Pitches

Site Name	Pitch Quality Rating	Pitch Quality	Ancillary Provision Quality
Ostley Bank - Barrow Island ARLFC	Poor	Pitch not fit for purpose - undersized, drainage installed but ineffective. Grass coverage of limited quality. Assessment concludes significant investment required to bring pitch back up to standard. Other pitches suffer from significant flooding. Potential additional grassed area that is unused that could be brought into use.	4 changing rooms. Require updating inside.
Craven Park – Barrow Raiders	Standard	Grass coverage is poor, uneven in parts. Influenced by level of use that it receives.	2 changing rooms and officials changing rooms. Ageing and would benefit from refurbishment. Lack of facilities to host girls and women's rugby effectively. .
Brisbane Park (Hindpool Tigers)	Basic (standard)	PitchPower assessment identifies long grass, weeds and requirement for decompaction. Club comment that there are issues with unofficial use and geese fouling. Grass coverage moderate.	2 changing rooms, no separate toilets or showers. Officials room. Club seeking extra changing rooms, improved toilets, social bar for club and community to ensure that current activity can be supported, as well as growth in women and girls rugby.

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Site Name	Pitch Quality Rating	Pitch Quality	Ancillary Provision Quality
Roose Park (Roose Pioneers ARLFC)	Basic (standard)	PitchPower report notes requirement for decompaction, scarification, weed control and boosting density. Club report pitch to be undersize and report issues with moles.	3 changing rooms, no separate junior and female, but 1 officials room. Includes showers. Club seeking extra changing rooms with dedicated facilities instead of communal showers and of appropriate standard to also support women and girls rugby.
Roose Primary School	Basic (standard)	Basic playing field at primary school site	N/a
St Bernards School	Poor	Poorly drained pitches, very limited maintenance programme	Changing available inside building
Central Drive (Walney ARLFC)	Basic (standard)	Maintenance, decompaction, weed control. Site very compacted. Slow draining and some issues with surface evenness	2 changing rooms, no separate toilets or showers. Officials room. Club highlight that there are not enough changing rooms and toilets for the teams that they run. Facilities also inhibit club growth aspirations.
Furness Academy	Poor	Pitch is shared with football and becomes very easily waterlogged. Drainage installed but no longer effective.	Changing rooms inside school building.
Walney School	Poor	Limited quality grass pitches, functional	Basic school changing accommodation
Fallowfield Park - Askam ARLFC	Basic (standard)	PitchPower report identifies requirement for decompaction, weed control, boost grass density	No comments received

Site Name	Pitch Quality Rating	Pitch Quality	Ancillary Provision Quality
Dalton ARLFC	Basic (standard)	Poor grass cover, decompaction, weed elimination and grass density. Pitch sloping and requires levelling as currently uneven. Pitch quality suffers as a result of heavy use.	Separate junior changing rooms, showers and kitchen. Creation of new clubhouse is one of key priorities of club. This would support girls and female rugby as well as existing activity.
Dowdales School	Basic	One pitch specific to rugby league, others shared with football. Heavy usage, would benefit from increased maintenance	Limited facilities available on site, toilets now accessible since provision of AGP
Dragley Beck / Priory Road (Ulverston ARLFC)	Basic / Good	Maintenance, decompaction, weed control. Site very compacted. Junior pitch good, although compacted and with debris. Club note that the U12 / U14 pitch is undersized. The U10 pitch is overmarked on the cricket outfield. Grass coverage is good, some areas of unevenness.	3 changing rooms but also used by football and cricket. Two also available for hire at leisure centre. No clubhouse with integrated changing facilities. Club seeking provision of new changing accommodation to ensure they have dedicated space.

- 10.7 Table 10.2 therefore demonstrates that the quality of facilities available to rugby league clubs is limited. There are issues with both the quality of pitches and the ancillary facilities that are provided.
- 10.8 No community pitches achieve good quality ratings, and almost all pitches demonstrate compaction, poor grass coverage and weeds within the grass sward. There are also drainage issues on some sites. This means that there is significant scope to increase the capacity of rugby league pitches by enhancing quality.
- 10.9 Even Craven Park, which is the stadium facility owned by Barrow Raiders, a professional club playing in the 2nd tier of rugby league has quality issues. This pitch is uneven in parts and suffers from poor grass coverage. For Barrow Raiders, as well as for several of the other rugby league clubs, the high usage that the pitch receives is considered to contribute to the quality issues that are experienced. This high usage arises from a lack of facilities for rugby league (as evidenced later in this section).
- 10.10 Whilst all clubs do have access to changing facilities and social facilities, again there are improvements that can be made and are required. Many of the clubs have only communal facilities, and there are insufficient changing rooms / toilets for the number of teams that they are running. Appropriate ancillary facilities are a key component of a successful rugby club, and ongoing improvement is therefore identified as a priority. This will be particularly critical as demand for women and girls rugby increases. Several clubs identify a need to improve their facilities if they are to continue growth in the junior game, as well as to provide facilities for women and girls.

- 10.11 The quality of the ancillary facilities at Craven Park are significantly below the recommended standard and prohibit the club from running the number of evens and programmes that they would like. With almost all foundation and professional activity run from this venue, the creation of adequate changing facilities that meet the needs of males, females and people with disabilities would maximise the increases in participation that could be delivered.

Demand

- 10.12 Barrow Raiders is the highest performing club in Westmorland and Furness, playing in the Betfred Championship at the time of preparation of this report.
- 10.13 In addition to Barrow Raiders, who are a professional club, there are seven community clubs in Westmorland and Furness. Reflecting the distribution of pitches, seven of these are located within the former Barrow Borough Area, with Ulverston ARLFC the only club in the former South Lakeland area.
- 10.14 These community clubs play at a variety of levels at the time of preparation of this report. Barrow Island play in the National Conference league (just one level below the professional game) at the time of the publication of this report. The majority of other clubs play in the Barrow and District Open League and the Barrow and District Junior League.
- 10.15 Table 10.3 summarises the current demand from each club. It records a total of 69 community teams, in addition to 7 teams run by Barrow Raiders (5 senior male and 2 senior female). It should be noted that team numbers are indicative only, as they change regularly and indeed, team numbers are often underreported by clubs. RFL data suggests that some of the clubs may be running two teams within the age groups that are documented.
- 10.16 Table 10.3 therefore demonstrates that the clubs in Westmorland and Furness are strong and sustainable– all have multiple teams, and offer the opportunity to progress from primary rugby all the way through to senior rugby. With 33 primary rugby teams, this suggests that there are strong foundations for the growth of the sport in years to come.
- 10.17 Clubs report that demand is increasing within primary age groups, with all but one club having experienced growing numbers over the last three years. Senior rugby league is static, and there are mixed trends at a junior level, with some clubs experiencing decline, whilst others are experiencing growth. This reflects the national picture.
- 10.18 Growth in rugby league (and in other sports) in the area is supported by the Advantage! Barrow Raiders Community Foundation. The charity seeks to use rugby league (as well as other sports) to improve the lives of people in the former Barrow Borough area. The club run a variety of programmes targeting different groups of residents and also work with local schools delivering activities focused around physical activity. This has a positive knock-on impact to rugby league in the area as it raises awareness and introduces new players to the game. Significant growth has already been seen in the women's game as a result of the activities of Barrow Raiders, and the strong interest at a primary age group is also attributed to this activity.
- 10.19 Whilst the growth experienced in rugby league is positive, most clubs note that a lack of facilities for both matches and training is now inhibiting further club development. Key issues raised include:
- With several clubs having access to only one or two pitches, but running multiple teams, there are perceived to be scheduling issues for matches and overuse of grass pitches
 - Clubs struggle to access adequate alternative training facilities. It is noted that in addition to the pressures identified on 3G pitches in the Barrow and Walney and Remainder of Barrow sub areas, rugby league clubs struggle to gain access to these facilities. These clubs typically wish to hire the facility for a shorter period than football clubs and as a

consequence, the needs of football clubs are typically prioritised for commercial reasons. Almost all clubs expressed aspirations to gain access to 3G AGPs and / or additional grass pitches

- The above lack of training facilities, coupled with increasing participation, means that clubs are instead using match pitches to accommodate training. This is placing greater pressures on the match pitches, which then subsequently impacts on the quality and increase the risk of postponements caused by quality issues (such as waterlogging or surface hardness, both of which are due to compaction as a result of overplay and a lack of enhanced maintenance). This issue arises at most grounds, but in particular at Craven Park, where almost all match play, training and community foundation work takes place on the match pitch. The RFL recommend that pitches used for match play in the professional structure are protected as much as possible from other activity
- The condition of ancillary facilities is also inhibiting the growth of the game, with Hindpool, Dalton, Walney, Barrow Island and Ulverston ARLFC in particular inhibited by existing ancillary facilities, particularly if the clubs are to run women and girls activities. As documented earlier, the poor quality of facilities at Barrow Raiders is also perceived to inhibit participation.

10.20 This will be considered in the next section, where the adequacy of provision is evaluated.

Table 10.3 – Rugby League Demand

Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Club Name	Senior (19-45)	Ladies	Youth (12-18)	Primary	Participation Trends
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Barrow Island	2		4	5	Increasing in younger age groups.
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Hindpool	3		2	7	Static primary participation, decline in remainder of age groups
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Roose Pioneers	1		3	5	Increasing primary teams. Youth declining and senior participation static
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Walney	1		2	3	Declining senior and youth participation, but interest in primary rugby is increasing
Barrow Borough	Remainder of Barrow Borough	Askam	2		3	5	No comments received
Barrow Borough	Remainder of Barrow Borough	Dalton	2	1	5	3	Static senior participation, but increasing in all other age groups
Barrow Borough	Professional Club	Barrow Raiders	5	2	0	0	Increasing participation in all areas

Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Club Name	Senior (19-45)	Ladies	Youth (12-18)	Primary	Participation Trends
South Lakeland	Ulverston and surrounding area	Ulverston	2		3	5	Increasing primary teams. Youth declining and senior participation static
Total (Community Teams)			13	1	22	33	

Assessing the Supply and Demand Information and Views

- 10.21 The adequacy of pitch provision for rugby league is measured through the use of match equivalent sessions and the ability of the pitch stock to service both training needs and competitive requirements is taken into account.
- 10.22 To fully understand activity on a site, consideration is given to both:
- the adequacy of pitch provision over the course of a week: and
 - capacity of a site to meet additional demand at peak time.
- 10.23 Demand from the rugby league clubs is measured in match equivalent sessions. Table 11.4 sets out the demand in match equivalent sessions at each rugby club, including demand for both training and match play. Rugby league is a summer sport and matchplay therefore takes place in the summer months (most activity March – September). It is clear that for the majority of clubs, during the summer months, training typically takes place on site. During the winter months however, clubs travel off site to use AGPs or other indoor venues.
- 10.24 The demand generated by training activity is very similar to the amount of competitive activity. Many of the rugby league teams are training twice per week during the rugby season.

Table 10.4 – Demand at Each Community Rugby League Club

Rugby League Club	Competitive Activity - Venue	Competitive Activity - Senior Match Play Equivalents	Competitive Activity - Primary Match Play Equivalents	Training Activity - Venue	Training Activity - Need	Primary Training Need
Roose Pioneers	Redwaters	2	2.5	Redwaters (some Holebeck)	3.5	0.5
Roose Pioneers	Roose School	0	0	Overspill venue (from Redwaters)	0	2.5
Hindpool	Brisbane Park	2.5	3.5	Home ground (off site winter)	4.5	1
Dalton	Dalton ArLFC	3.5	1.5	Home ground	4.5	2 primary MES training
Walney	Walney ARFLC	1.5	1.5	Home ground	3	2

Rugby League Club	Competitive Activity - Venue	Competitive Activity - Senior Match Play Equivalents	Competitive Activity - Primary Match Play Equivalents	Training Activity - Venue	Training Activity - Need	Primary Training Need
Ulverston	Priory Road / Dragley Beck	1.5	2.5	Dragley Beck	4	3
Barrow Island	Ostley Bank	3	2.5	Home ground	4.5	
Askam	Askam RLFC	2.5	2.5	Home ground	2.5	2.5

10.25 For rugby league, the analysis of the adequacy of provision is based upon the following principles.

Capacity over the course of a week

10.26 The RFL sets 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). For pitches used in higher standard leagues, pitch requirements are stricter.

10.27 Demand from the rugby clubs is converted into match equivalent sessions (see Table 10.4) and compared to the amount of activity that can be sustained on the pitches. This analysis takes into account both the requirement of pitches to accommodate competitive fixtures, and also the impact that training sessions will have on the capacity of pitches.

10.28 The guideline theoretical capacity for rugby pitches is summarised in Table 10.5.

Table 10.5 – Pitch Capacity Ratings

Pitch Quality Rating	Match Equivalent Sessions - Senior Rugby League Pitches	Match Equivalent Sessions - Tier 3 Conference League Matches
Good	3	2
Standard	2	1
Poor	1	Unsuitable

Peak Time Demand

10.29 To identify spare capacity at peak time, the number of match equivalent sessions taking place at peak time is measured against the number of match equivalent sessions available.

10.30 Table 10.6 therefore summarises the adequacy of provision for community clubs, considering demand for match play only. It considers all of the sites that are available for community use.

10.31 It demonstrates that:

- The majority of rugby league clubs demonstrate overplay – this arises from the limited pitch availability, with most clubs having access to only one pitch. It is however also influenced

by the limited quality of pitches, which reduces the amount of games that they are able to sustain.

- Only Ulverston ARLFC and Walney Central ARLFC have adequate capacity to accommodate match play. There is however very little remaining spare capacity at these facilities.
- The lack of spare capacity across the week means that there is no scope for additional play at peak time. When looking at the programming of fixtures, as well as the use across the week, Walney Central and Roose Primary School are the only site where additional play could be scheduled at peak time. Table 10.7 however will demonstrate that even this spare capacity will be eliminated once the impact of training is taken into account.
- Once school use is taken into account, there is limited opportunity for any further play at the school sites. There is no community use of any school facilities for match play.

10.32 With training also taking place on the grass pitches during the playing season, the wear and tear that pitches are subjected to increases further. Table 10.7 therefore takes into account the impact of training on grass pitches as well as match play. It demonstrates that all sites have inadequate capacity. It should be noted that where primary rugby takes place on senior pitches, match equivalent sessions have been reduced to take account of this.

10.33 Table 10.7 assumes that all training takes place on the pitches (or on the smaller pitches / training areas). In reality, this may over exaggerate the amount of activity that takes place on the pitches, as some play takes place on pitch surrounds. It serves however to emphasise the constraints that rugby league clubs are currently experiencing with regards pitch availability.

Table 10.6 – Adequacy of Provision for Community Clubs (Match Play Only)

Site Name	Pitch Type	Number	Quality Rating	Capacity Multiplier	Senior Demand (Match Play)	Primary Demand (Match Play)	Other Activity	Supply Balance (Match Play Only)	Demand (Match Play Only)	Peak Spare Capacity	Time Capacity
Barrow Island Arlfc	Senior	2	Poor	1	3	2.5	0	-2.25		0	
Barrow Island Arlfc	Training area / Junior Pitch	1	Poor	1	0	0	0	1		0	
Brisbane Park	Senior	1	Standard	2	2.5	3.5	0	-2.25		0	
Dalton Amateur Rugby League Football Club	Senior	1	Standard	2	3.5	1.5	0	-2.25		0	
Fallowfield Park	Senior	1	Standard	2	2.5	2.5	0	-1.75		0	
Roose Pioneers Arlfc	Senior	1	Standard	2	3	2.5	0	-2.25		0	
Roose School	Training area	1	Standard	2	0	0	1	1		1	
Walney Central Amateur Rugby League Football Club	Primary	1	Standard	2	0	1.5	0	0.5		0.5	
Walney Central Amateur Rugby League Football Club	Senior	1	Standard	2	1.5	0	0	0.5		0	
Walney School	Senior	2	Poor	1	0	0	1	1		0	
Dowdales School	Senior	1	Standard	2	0	0	1	1		0	

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Site Name	Pitch Type	Number	Quality Rating	Capacity Multiplier	Senior Demand (Match Play)	Primary Demand (Match Play)	Other Activity	Supply Balance (Match Play Only)	Demand (Match Play)	Peak Spare Capacity	Time
Furness Academy	Senior	1	Poor	1	0	0	1	0		0	
Ulverston Dragley Beck / Priory Road	Senior	1	Basic	2	1.5	0	0	0.5		0	
Ulverston Dragley Beck / Priory Road	Junior	2	Good	3	0	2.5	0	3.5		0	

Table 10.7 – Adequacy of Provision for Community Clubs taking into account the impact of training

Site Name	Number of RL pitches	Number	Quality Rating	Capacity Multiplier	Supply Balance (Match Play Only)	Demand (Match Play)	Senior Demand (training)	Primary Demand (Training)	Demand	Supply Demand Balance including Training
Barrow Island Arlfc	Senior	2	Poor	1	-2.25		0	0		-2.25
Barrow Island Arlfc	Training area / Junior Pitch	1	Poor	1	1		4.5	0		-3.5
Brisbane Park	Senior	1	Standard	2	-2.25		4.4	1		-7.15
Dalton Amateur Rugby League Football Club	Senior	1	Standard	2	-2.25		4.5	2		-7.75
Fallowfield Park	Senior	1	Standard	2	-1.75		2.5	2.5		-5.5
Roose Pioneers Arlfc	Senior	1	Standard	2	-2.25		3.5	0.5		-6
Roose School	Training area	1	Standard	2	1		0	2.5		-1.5

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Site Name	Number of RL pitches	Number	Quality Rating	Capacity Multiplier	Supply Balance (Play Only)	Demand (Match)	Senior Demand (training)	Primary (Training)	Demand	Supply Demand Balance including Training
Walney Central Amateur Rugby League Football Club	Primary	1	Standard	2	0.5			2		-1.5
Walney Central Amateur Rugby League Football Club	Senior	1	Standard	2	0.5		3	0		-2.5
Walney School	Senior	2	Poor	1	1		0	0		1
Dowdales School	Senior	1	Standard	2	1		0	0		1
Furness Academy	Senior	1	Poor	1	0		0	0		0
Ulverston Dragley Beck / Priory Road	Senior	1	Basic	2	0.5		4	0		-3.5
Ulverston Dragley Beck / Priory Road	Junior	2	Good	3	3.5		0	3		0.5

- 10.34 The above therefore demonstrates that the existing rugby league infrastructure is not able to meet the current levels of demand. There are interrelated issues with both the quality and amount of grass pitches. The level of overplay on pitches influences the quality of these facilities, and the quality of the facilities impacts the number of matches that can be sustained.
- 10.35 Added to this, consultation highlighted that the development of rugby league is also constrained by the changing and ancillary facilities.
- 10.36 It demonstrates that there is limited spare capacity at sites that are not currently used by the community, given their limited quality and requirement to also sustain curricular use. Whilst there are 3G pitches that could be used for training, Section 9 identifies that these are in short supply and are fully at capacity. There is therefore little or no rugby league that currently takes place on these facilities.
- 10.37 Table 10.8 brings together the analysis set out in Tables 10.6 and 10.7 and provides an overview of provision across each geographical area. It confirms that whilst there is no supply in Eden and the majority of South Lakeland for rugby league, there is also no demand.

Table 10.8 – Adequacy of Provision for Rugby League By Sub Area

Former Area	Authority	Sub Area	Supply Demand Balance (Match Play Only)	Supply Demand Balance including Training
Barrow Borough		Barrow and Walney	-2.75	-23.4
Barrow Borough		Remainder of Barrow Borough	-3	-12.25
Eden		Kirkby Stephen	0	0
Eden		Penrith and M6 Corridor	0	0
Eden		Appleby	0	0
Eden		Alston	0	0
Eden		LDNP	0	0
Eden		YDNP	0	0
South Lakeland		Kendal	0	0
South Lakeland		Milnthorpe	0	0
South Lakeland		Kirkby Lonsdale	0	0
South Lakeland		Cartmel Peninsula	0	0
South Lakeland		Ulverston and surrounding area	4	-3
South Lakeland		LDNP	0	0
South Lakeland		YDNP	0	0

- 10.38 The scale of deficiencies at the rugby league sites suggest however that use of 3G pitches may be required to reduce the overplay on grass pitches. Use for contact rugby league requires an RFL approved surface, which includes a shockpad.
- 10.39 Section 9 identified that there are shortfalls of 3G pitches in the former Barrow Borough area equating to 1 – 2 pitches for football, as well as an additional AGP in Ulverston.

- 10.40 There are no formal demand models to determine requirements for 3G AGPs for rugby league. Application of the FA model would suggest that demand from rugby league clubs would approach two pitches. Whilst this is potentially high given the typical training patterns of rugby league clubs, the scale of rugby league grass pitch deficiencies means that the requirements for 3G AGPs are likely to reach the higher levels identified - 2 in the former Barrow Borough area and one in Ulverston and surrounding area sub area. This level of supply would ensure that needs for both football and rugby are met.

Future Picture

- 10.41 The future requirement for rugby league pitches will be impacted upon by changes to the population profile, as well as the aspirations of the club and National Governing Body.
- 10.42 The RFL facility strategy was released in May 2024. Challenges identified in this strategy reflect many of those experienced in Westmorland and Furness, including lack of security of tenure, deteriorating or inadequate playing surfaces and concerns of sustainability. This document provides a vision for the future development of rugby league and includes £100m of proposed investment to transform facilities.

Impact of Population Change

- 10.43 Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. The application of TGRs to population projections enables the projection of the theoretical number of teams that would be generated from population growth and provides an understanding of future demand.
- 10.44 Table 10.9 summarises the application of TGRs for rugby league across Westmorland and Furness and demonstrates that population change alone is unlikely to generate additional demand for rugby league in either the former Barrow Borough area or former South Lakeland area. The changes to the population profile may even see a decline in participation in younger age groups.

Table 10.9 Impact of Changes to the Population Profile

Former Local Authority Area	Sport and Age Groups	Number of Teams	Current population in age group within the area	Current TGR	Population Change in Age Group up to 2031	Population Change in Age Group up to 2040	Potential Change in Team Numbers in Age Group by 2031	Potential Change in Team Numbers in Age Group by 2040
Barrow Borough	Adult Women (19-45yrs)	3	9929	3310	-73	-353	0.0	-0.1
Barrow Borough	Adult Men (19-45yrs)	16	10173	636	-21	-330	0.0	-0.5
Barrow Borough	Youth & Junior Girls (12-18yrs)	0	2468	0	-81	-305	0	0
Barrow Borough	Junior Boys (12-18yrs)	19	5110	269	-216	-631	-0.8	-2.3
Barrow Borough	Primary Mixed (7-11)	33	3656	111	-367	-450	-3.3	-4.1
Eden	Adult Women (19-45yrs)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Former Local Authority Area	Sport and Age Groups	Number of Teams	Current population in age group within the area	Current TGR	Population Change in Age Group up to 2031	Population Change in Age Group up to 2040	Potential Change in Team Numbers in Age Group by 2031	Potential Change in Team Numbers in Age Group by 2040
Eden	Adult Men (19-45yrs)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eden	Youth & Junior Girls (12-18yrs)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eden	Junior Boys (12-18yrs)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eden	Primary (7-11) Mixed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Lakeland	Adult Women (19-45yrs)	0	12911	0	131	44	0	0
South Lakeland	Adult Men (19-45yrs)	2	13171	6585	339	456	0.1	0.1
South Lakeland	Youth & Junior Girls (12-18yrs)	0	3900	0	-179	-357	0	0
South Lakeland	Junior Boys (12-18yrs)	3	8180	2727	-169	-618	-0.1	-0.2
South Lakeland	Primary (7-11) Mixed	5	5012	1002	-408	-355	-0.4	-0.4

Club Growth Aspirations and Impact on the Adequacy of Provision

- 10.45 Whilst changes to the population profile will have limited impact on demand, it is likely that proactive initiatives to stimulate further growth in participation will have greater impact on future demand.
- 10.46 Advantage! Barrow Raiders Community Foundation are already successfully driving participation across the local area, introducing new players to rugby league through engagement with schools and in community settings. It is likely to stimulate further growth as their programme widens.
- 10.47 Added to this, several clubs are actively looking to grow membership and are building relationships with the local community in order to this. Table 10.10 therefore summarises the aspirations of the clubs and the likely impact that they will have on the adequacy of provision. The aspirations detailed are those provided directly to us as part of the data collection process for this assessment.

Table 10.10 – Club Growth Aspirations

Site Name	Current Supply Demand Position (including training)	Club Growth Aspirations	Potential Additional MES Generated	Impact on Adequacy of Provision	Other Key Issues to Address
Barrow Island ARLFC	-2.25 and -3.5	Masters team and U13	2 MES including training	Unmet demand increases. -3.25 MES on match pitch, -4.5 on training pitch	- Grass pitch improvements, potential additional capacity - Upgrade of changing accommodation
Brisbane Park	-7.25	3 youth teams	3 MES including training	Unmet demand increases -10.25	- Changing facilities / clubhouse require refurbishment and extension - Insufficient training facilities
Dalton ARLFC	-7.75	U13 boys, U12 girls	2 MES including training	Unmet demand increases -9.75	- Club have aspiration to purchase land on adjacent site to extend grass pitch provision - Changing facilities require refurbishment and extension
Fallowfield Park	-5.5	No growth aspirations recorded	N/a	Position remains constant	
Roose Pioneers ARLFC	-6	1 senior male, 1 youth	2 MES including training	-8 MES on match pitch. Overplay remains at school site	- Require extra changing accommodation to support current and future club activity - Pitch improvement works
Roose School	-1.5	See above – Roose Pioneers	See above – Roose Pioneers	See above – Roose Pioneers	See above – Roose Pioneers
Walney Central ARLFC	-1.5 and -2.5	Senior team, ladies tag and U15	2 MES including training. Tag rugby will create additional wear and tear	Unmet demand increases on main pitch to -4.5	- Pitch improvement works - Drainage key issue on site - Clubhouse requires refurbishment

Site Name	Current Supply Demand Position (including training)	Club Growth Aspirations	Potential Additional MES Generated	Impact on Adequacy of Provision	Other Key Issues to Address
Ulverston ARLFC	-3.5	Senior team, U18 team, U11	3 MES (2 MES on full size pitch)	Unmet demand increases on main pitch to -5.5	- Lack of lease / security of tenure for two pitches - Additional changing facilities / appropriate clubhouse with secured tenure required

10.48 Consultation with the RFL suggests that whilst the above aspirations are realistic, it is expected that further growth over and above levels documented in Table 10.10 are likely to take place in women and girls rugby, particularly if some of the barriers to access (e.g. ancillary facilities) are overcome. This means that the above projections potentially demonstrate a conservative picture of unmet demand.

10.49 Table 10.10 therefore demonstrates that there are significant additional works required if provision for rugby league is to become adequate. All works required are focused in the former Barrow Borough and Ulverston areas. The key issues to address are:

- The quality of existing pitches is poor and impacts capacity as well as player experience.
- The amount of pitches that are available for both matches and training is insufficient. There is a requirement for additional capacity on grass pitches as well as access to 3G AGP.
- There is a need to improve existing ancillary facilities if current and projected future demand is to be adequately accommodated and participation is not to be inhibited.

Summary - Key Issues by former/existing Planning Authority Area

10.50 To support the development of the Local Plan, as well the application of existing policy, this section briefly summarises the key issues for rugby league in each of the Local Plan areas.

Former Barrow Borough

Key Issue	Description
Supply	- Almost all rugby league clubs located in this area 17 grass pitches provided in total - Pitch quality generally basic, with significant scope for improvement - Most pitches on club sites, but only one or two pitches provided per club.
Demand	6 community clubs (Barrow Island, Hindpool Tigers, Roose Pioneers, Walney Central, Askam ARFLC and Barrow Raiders, who are a professional club 66 teams in total including professional teams at Barrow Raiders – this means 87% of all demand for rugby league in Westmorland and Furness is in the former Barrow Borough area - Advantage Barrow Raiders has important role in increasing participation - Existing community clubs are strong and sustainable – all offer transition from primary to senior rugby league - Training typically off site in winter but most train on site in summer months - Demand growing at primary age and increasing demand also evident for women and girls rugby league.

Key Issue	Description
Adequacy of Provision	Barrow and Walney - All clubs have inadequate provision to meet demand - Current unmet demand equates to 7.25 MES (Hindpool), -2.25 MES on the main pitch at Barrow Island, -6 MES at Roose Pioneers, -2.5 MES at Walney Central. Unmet demand will increase if participation grows further - Pitch quality inhibits the capacity of pitches, however high demand is the key contributor to the deficiencies identified. Pitches are overused (which impacts the quality), but there are not enough pitches to meet demand regardless of the quality - Lack of access to off-site AGP training exacerbates deficiencies further - Changing / ancillary provision also deemed to inhibit club growth .
Adequacy of Provision	Remainder of Barrow Borough - Unmet demand equivalent to 12.25 MES – both Askam and Dalton ARLFC have insufficient provision to meet demand - Dalton RFC have identified additional land adjacent to their existing site - Lack of access to off-site AGP training exacerbates deficiencies further - Changing / ancillary provision also deemed to inhibit club growth.
Key Issues to Address	- Protection of existing pitches (all) - Additional capacity required to meet club needs - Improved grass pitches - Additional grass pitches - At least one AGP with rugby shockpad required - Requirement for improved ancillary provision.

Former Eden Area

Key Issue	Description
Supply	No identified supply
Demand	No identified demand
Adequacy of Provision	N/a
Key Issues to Address	N/a

Former South Lakeland Area

Key Issue	Description
Supply	- Only one club in the area – Ulverston ARLFC - Club have access to small pitches and one senior pitch - Lack of security of tenure on two pitches represents a key issue - Changing facilities / clubhouse are also inadequate and the club do not have secure tenure - The senior pitch is basic, but the small sized pitches are now in good condition, meaning that their capacity has improved.
Demand	- Rugby club with 10 teams - Teams span from primary age group up to senior teams.
Adequacy of Provision	Ulverston and surrounding area - Existing stock of facilities sufficient to sustain required levels of match play. Once training is also taken into account however there are deficiencies in provision equating to -3.5 MES on the senior match pitch - Capacity pressures are exacerbated by the challenges created by the poor ancillary facilities, which offer insufficient changing accommodation for current or projected future needs.
Adequacy of Provision	All other sub areas No evidence of demand

Key Issue	Description
Key Issues to Address	• Protection of existing pitches • Additional capacity on grass pitches required to meet club needs • Access to 3G AGP for rugby league clubs – pitch required in Ulverston (in combination with football, see section 9, to serve needs of Ulverston and remainder of Barrow Borough) • Lack of security of tenure for club • Requirement for improved ancillary provision.

Lake District National Park

Key Issue	Description
Supply	• No identified supply
Demand	• No identified demand
Adequacy of Provision	• N/a
Key Issues to Address	• N/a

Yorkshire Dales National Park

Key Issue	Description
Supply	• No identified supply
Demand	• No identified demand
Adequacy of Provision	• N/a
Key Issues to Address	• N/a

11. Athletics

Introduction

- 11.1 This section evaluates the key issues for athletics across Westmorland and Furness. It sets out the supply and demand for facilities and determines the adequacy of provision both at the current time and in future years.

Supply

Quantity

- 11.2 Table 11.1 summarises the supply of formal athletics tracks across Westmorland and Furness as a whole. It demonstrates that there is only fully functioning synthetic outdoor athletics facility in Westmorland and Furness, located in the former Barrow Borough area at Furness Academy. There is also one aged synthetic track at Vickerstown FC which is no longer fully functional. There are no synthetic tracks in the former Eden or South Lakeland local authority areas.
- 11.3 The only other formal athletics facilities are gravel perimeter running tracks:
- Around the edge of Frenchfields Sports Centre in Penrith. This is a single lane gravel track suitable for recreational running only. The total length of the track is circa 1 mile
 - Around Phoenix Field in Windermere– This is a single lane gravel track suitable for recreational running only. The total length of the track is 300m.

Table 11.1 – Facilities for Athletics in Westmorland and Furness

Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Athletics Facilities
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Furness Academy (synthetic track)
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Vickerstown FC (former synthetic track)
Barrow Borough	Remainder of Barrow	N/A
Eden	Alston	N/A
Eden	Appleby	N/A
Eden	Kirkby Stephen	N/A
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Frenchfields (gravel track)
South Lakeland	Kendal	N/A
South Lakeland	Kendal	N/A
South Lakeland	Kirkby Lonsdale	N/A
South Lakeland	LDNP	Phoenix Field (gravel track)
South Lakeland	Milnthorpe	N/A
South Lakeland	Ulverston and surrounding area	N/A
South Lakeland	YDNP	N/A

- 11.4 The track at Furness Academy is a 400m floodlit 6 lane track which also offers a full range of facilities for field events (horizontal jumps, high jump, shot put, discus, hammer and javelin). Facilities are supported by changing rooms. The athletics facilities at Furness Academy are part of a wider multi-sport offering, which includes a sports hall, grass football and rugby pitches,

a 3G all-weather pitch, 5 hard-standing tennis courts, a multi-use games area, and activity suite and a dance studio.

- 11.5 The facility is owned and managed by Furness Academy School and is open for public use outside of school hours.
- 11.6 The track at Frenchfields is managed by Westmorland and Furness Council. This track is free to access and is available all year-round during daylight hours (there is no floodlighting).
- 11.7 The facility at Phoenix Field is managed by Bowness and Windermere Community Care Trust. It is understood that this is available for bookings only.
- 11.8 There are no indoor athletics facilities in Westmorland and Furness. Cumbria in general is poorly served by indoor athletics provision, with no such facilities in the area.

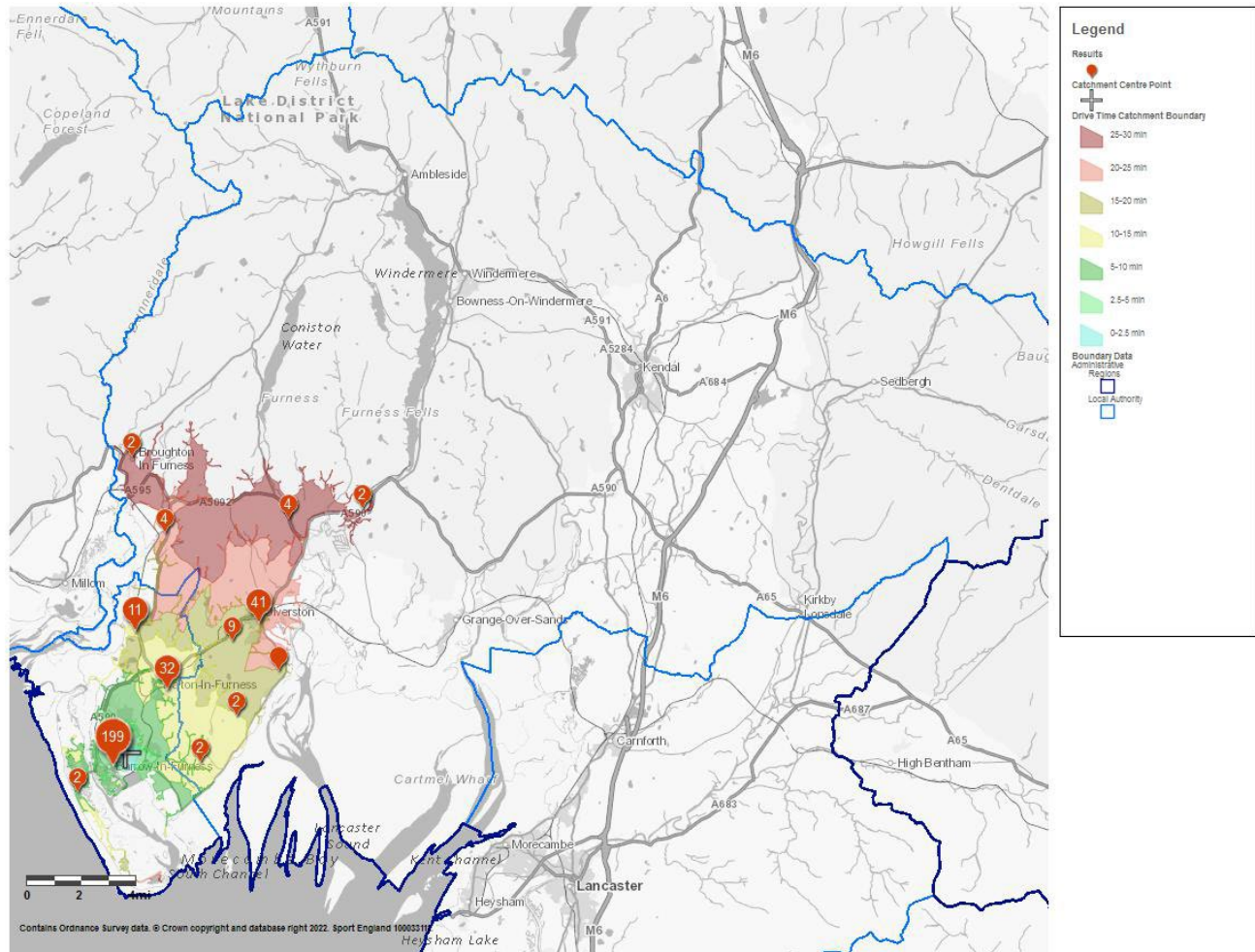
Quality

- 11.9 Track Mark is England Athletics' quality assurance scheme. This scheme is used to assess the quality of facilities against the facility and equipment standards required by UK Athletics. From 2021, venues that are not engaging with the TrackMark accreditation will not be eligible to apply for competition licence at any level. There are six components to this assessment, specifically:
- Unit 1 Track
 - Unit 2 Field
 - Unit 3 Ancillary
 - Unit 4 Operations
 - Unit 5 Floodlighting
 - Unit 6 Competition.
- 11.10 Furness Academy has recently been assessed against this criteria and has achieved accreditation (to be reassessed in June 2026). This means that the quality of facilities is sufficient for the track to hold a competition license.
- 11.11 It is noted however by England Athletics that whilst Track Mark Accreditation has been achieved, the track surface is likely to require refurbishment during 2025. Added to this, there is no spectator seating at the site, which limits the functionality of the facility for both training and events. Like some other facilities in Barrow town, the track is also reported to suffer from issues with goose droppings.
- 11.12 Frenchfield Sports Centre and Phoenix Centre provide gravel tracks. The TrackMark programme does not extend to these facilities. The surface at Frenchfields is now poor and the lack of floodlighting means that the facilities have limited usage during the winter months.
- 11.13 The quality of the facility at Phoenix Centre is also limited, making the track primarily suitable for informal / low level recreational activity.
- 11.14 The quality of the former track at Vickerstown FC is also poor and the surface will require upgrade if it is to function as an athletics facility.

Accessibility

- 11.15 Map 11.1 (provided by England Athletics) illustrates the 20 minute drivetime catchment area served by Furness Academy. It reveals that this extends across the majority of Barrow Borough. Modelling by England Athletics suggests that 73,890 people live within a 20 minute drivetime of the track. Comparison with the catchment of other facilities shows that this is low, emphasising the importance of athletics development initiatives in order to stimulate participation.

Map 11.1 – Catchment Area Served by Furness Academy

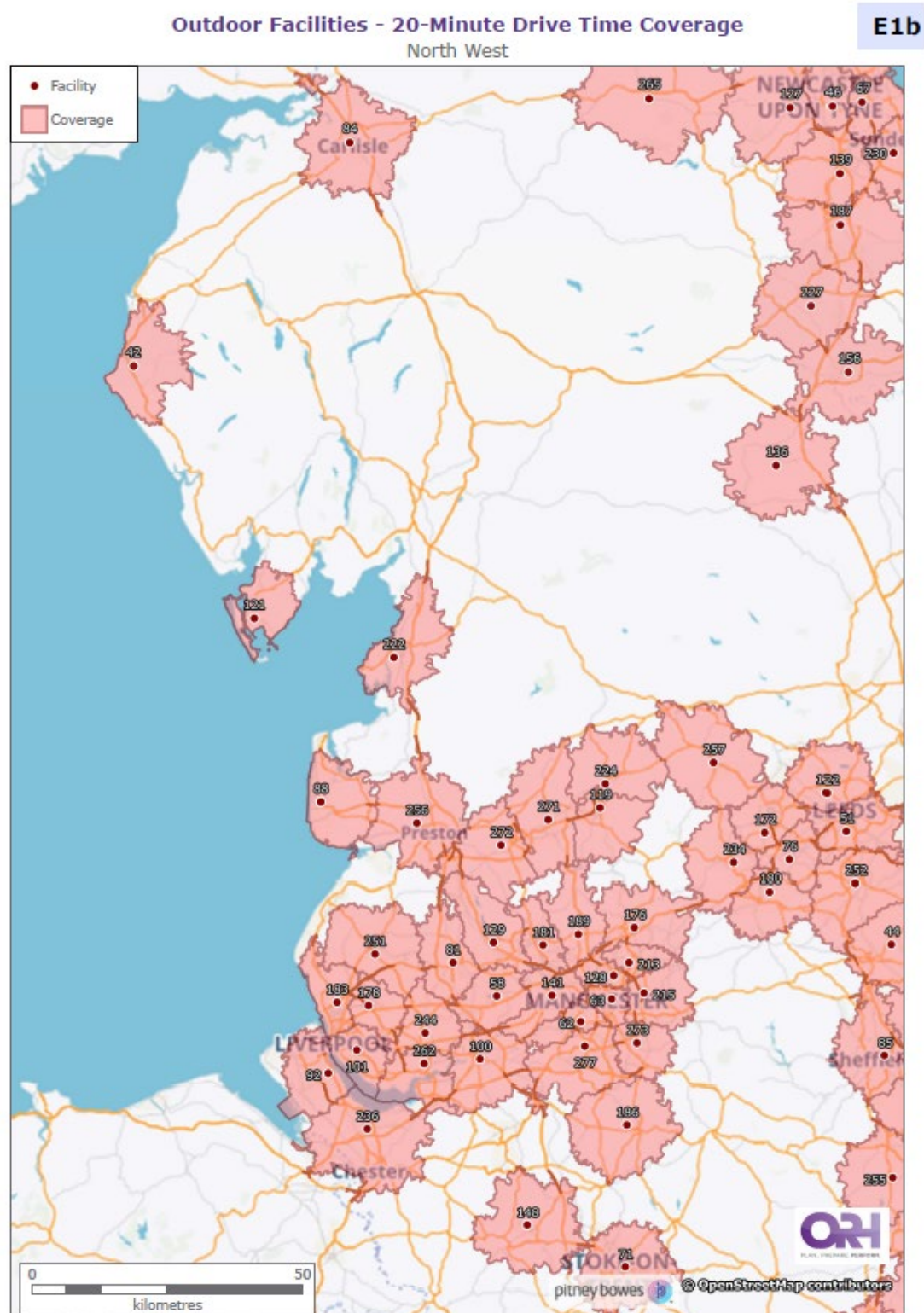


Sport England assumes no responsibility for the completeness, accuracy and currency of the information contained on this map/report. This information is taken from the Active Places Power website and its terms and conditions apply.

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- 11.16 Map 11.2 illustrates that whilst residents in former Barrow Borough area are well served by Furness Academy, there is no access to synthetic athletics tracks for the remainder of residents of Westmorland and Furness. Even taking into account that the majority of the area is classified as rural (and therefore England Athletics Drivetime catchments extend to 30 minutes), residents must still travel significantly further to reach a facility, suggesting that there is a need for additional provision.
- 11.17 For residents in the former Eden area, the nearest facilities are both located in Cumberland (Sheepmount Athletics in Carlisle and Cumbria Athletics Academy in Whitehaven). For some residents of the former South Lakeland area, the Furness Academy track will represent the closest facility, whilst others will need to travel to Lancaster Salt Ayre Centre or the sites in Whitehaven/ Carlisle.

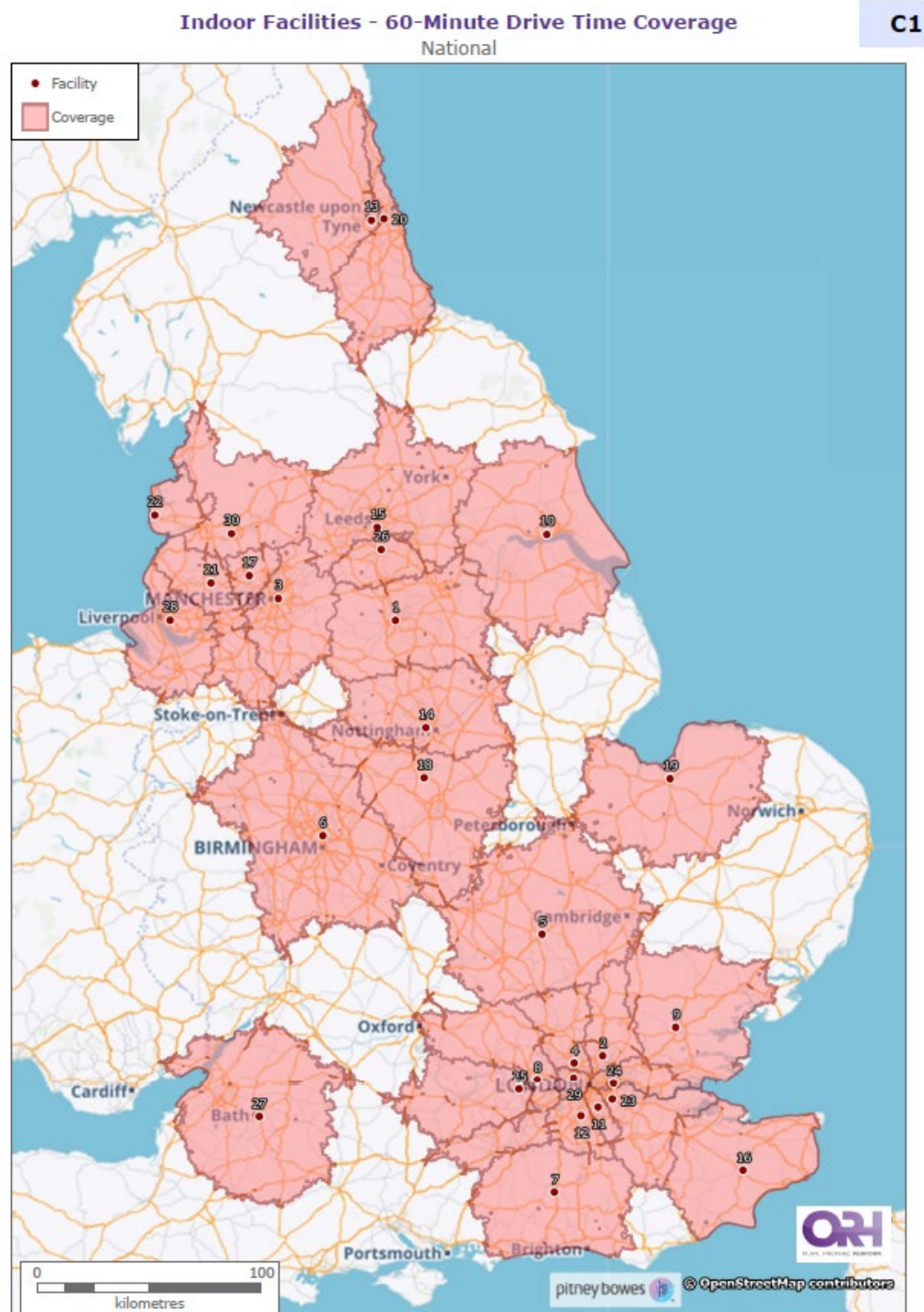
Map 11.2 – Lack of Access to Athletics Tracks for Residents of Westmorland and Furness



- 11.18 Similarly, most residents of Westmorland and Furness are also outside of the catchment for an indoor facility. Indoor athletics training facilities are considered to have a 60 minute catchment. The closest indoor training facility is however found at Stanley Park, Blackpool, falling within a

range of 30 minutes to 2 hours drivetime, with EA's recommended catchment for indoor athletics being 1 hour. Map 11.3 illustrates this.

Figure 11.3 – Lack of Indoor Facilities



Availability

- 11.19 The athletics track at Furness Academy is hired out by the Academy and is available for public use outside of school hours. The Club have their own keys and access the facility on their own training nights. The facility is also always available outside of formal training nights if they wish to use it on an ad hoc basis.
- 11.20 Outside of these times, the facility can be used by individual users / community groups.

- 11.21 The facilities at both Frenchfields and Phoenix Field are open access throughout the day and can be used free of charge.

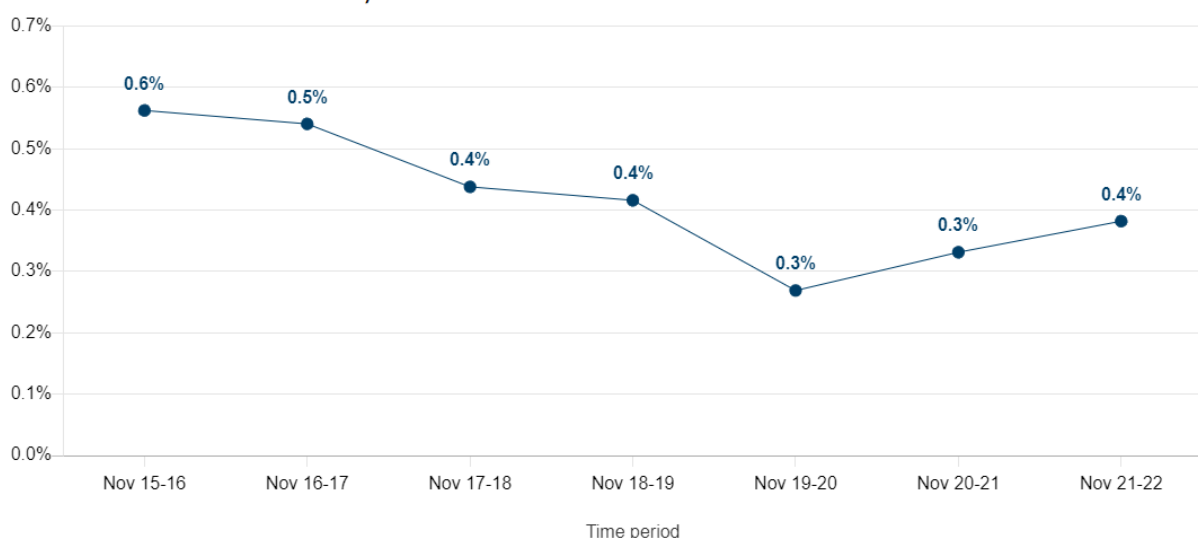
Demand

Participation Trends

- 11.22 The Active Lives England wide data for adult participation in track and field at least once every 28 days demonstrates a decline in the number of people who are participating. Since the start of the Active Lives survey, adult track and field athletics participation had declined by 0.2%. This is illustrated in Figure 11.1
- 11.23 The closure of outdoor athletic facilities for nine months from March 2020 to the end of the Active Lives survey in November 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic contributed to this decline, but it can be seen that participation is now starting to increase again.

Chart 11.1 - Active Lives track and field athletics participation England wide 2015 – 16 to 2021 – 2022

Participation in the last 28 days by activity
At least twice in the last 28 days



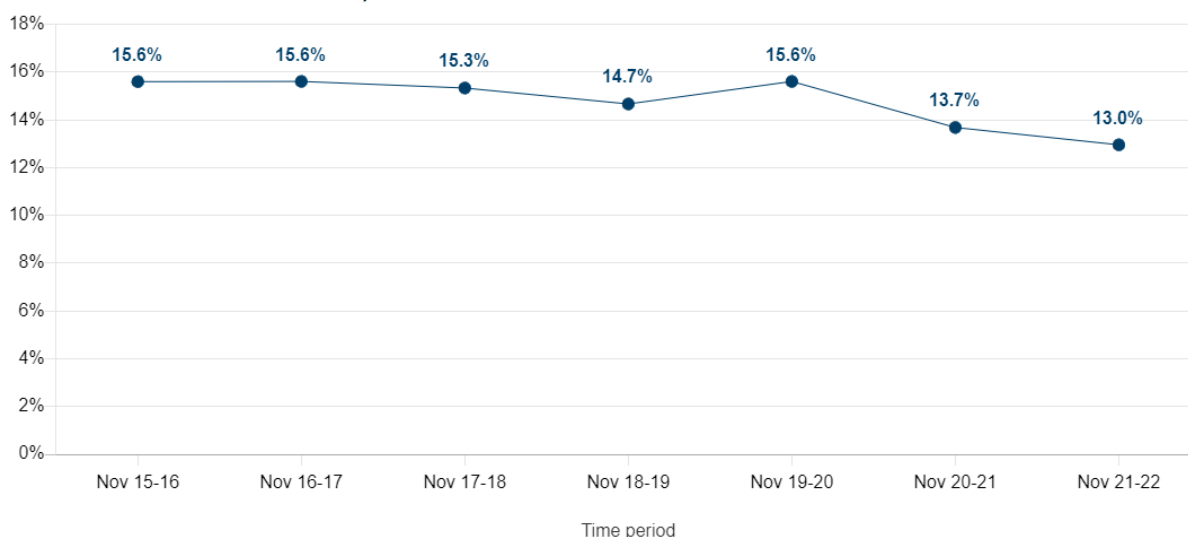
% Participation in the last 28 days by Activity:

■ Track and field athletics

- 11.24 When considering those that indicated that they participate in “running or track and field athletics”, participation rates become significantly higher. This is illustrated in Figure 11.2. It is clear however that despite increased participation rates, demand continues to fluctuate. It is clear however that there is strong demand for running.

Figure 11.2 - Active Lives Running and track and field athletics participation England wide 2015 – 16 to 2020 – 2021

Participation in the last 28 days by activity
At least twice in the last 28 days



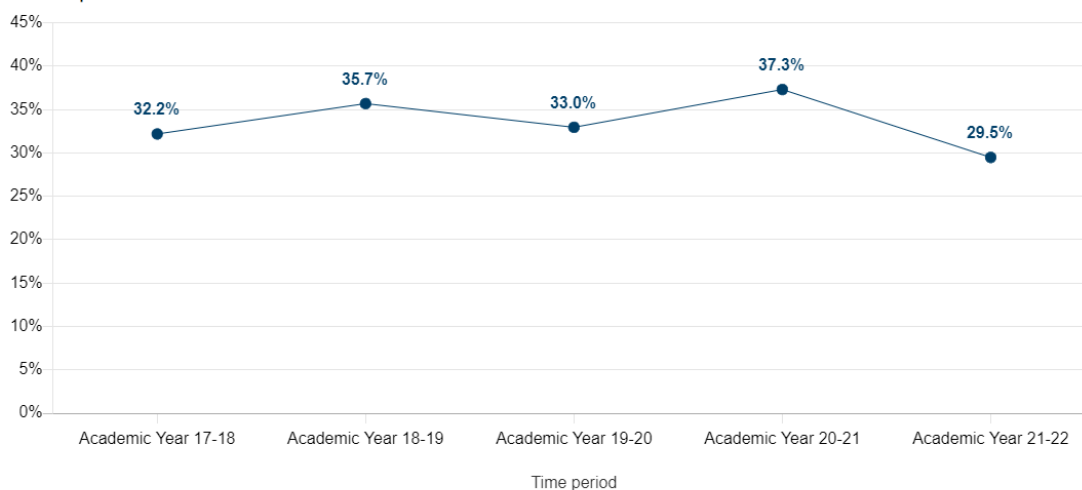
% Participation in the last 28 days by Activity:

■ Running or track and field athletics

11.25 The Active Lives Survey for young people groups participation in athletics and running with engagement in multi sports. It demonstrates fluctuating participation (from 32% in 2017 – 2018) as illustrated in figure 11.3. Academic year 2021 – 2022 however demonstrates a particular decline and levels of activity have now fallen below pre pandemic limits. The accompanying analysis by Sport England demonstrates that this is a statistically significant decline.

Chart 11.3 - Active Lives activity levels for track and field, running and multi sports for young people aged 5 – 16

Participation in the last week by activity
Participated once a week or more

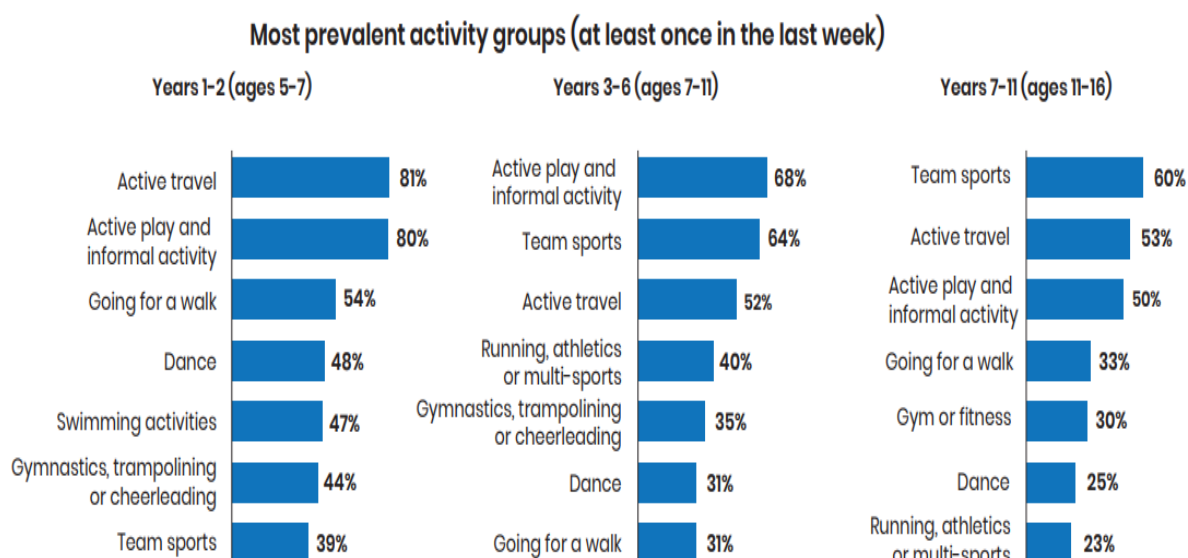


% Participation in the last week by Activity:

■ Running, athletics or multi-sports

11.26 What is clear however, despite fluctuating participation, is that running, athletics and multi sports is one of the most frequently engaged with types of activities amongst young people aged 5 and above as illustrated in Figure 11.4 (extracted from Active Lives, Children and Young People Survey 2021 – 2022 report, Sport England). Effective provision of opportunities to participate will therefore play a key role in promoting ongoing physical activity.

Figure 11.4 – Importance of Athletics, Running and Multi Sports in engaging Children and Young People in Physical Activity



National Governing Body (NGB) Priorities

11.27 England Athletics (EA) set out three facilities priorities, specifically:

Key Facilities Priority	Description
Key Facilities Priority 1 Ensure that the allocation of resources to new and existing track and field facilities is prioritised to those that have the greatest potential to impact positively on general participation, club membership growth and retention, and improved personal performance	To support this priority England Athletics will: • Encourage all tracks to seek accreditation through TrackMark. • Help venues to identify the level in the Hierarchy of Facilities that is most appropriate for them and support clubs and operators seeking to raise funding to maintain facilities at that level. • Prioritise new track and field facilities within multi-sport hubs. • Seek to be actively involved in the development of local planning policies wherever possible. • Support new 200m indoor tracks and indoor athletics training facilities where there is a proven demand and a clear geographical gap in supply.

Key Facilities Priority	Description
Key Facilities Priority 2 Actively encourage athletics and running facilities to be used to their fullest possible extent by the sport and by all sections of the community in order to maximise viability	To support this priority England Athletics will: • Support athletics clubs in discussions with facility operators and local authorities over the use of the track infield for other pitch sports and collate examples of good practice and design guidance. • Support clubs and groups to ensure the facilities they use for athletics activity are accessible to all. • Help clubs to develop a strong partnership with facility owners/operators and will share examples of good practice. • Provide advice and guidance to clubs actively pursuing an asset transfer. • Help athletics and running clubs to become more professional and sustainable in how they operate. • Encourage new partnerships between athletics clubs and schools that have available indoor facilities.
Key Facilities Priority 3 Encourage innovative approaches to the location and design of facilities for individual components of the sport in order to increase reach and create sustainability and viability	To support this priority England Athletics will: • Expect all new and refurbished floodlight schemes to deliver a minimum of 100lux across the whole of the track and the infield. • Support clubs in exploring options for improved environmental sustainability and will share examples of good practice. • Support the development of MiniTracks / Compact athletics facilities where there is a viable business case based. • Consider supporting facility innovations involving non-standard track shapes, designs and uses providing they are backed by a sound business case. • Continue to lobby bodies with an influence over urban design, to ensure that the needs of runners are considered alongside those of cyclists and pedestrians. • Continue to lobby for the free use of public parks and open spaces by runners and voluntary running groups. • Assist road running clubs that are looking for somewhere to meet, by introducing them to sports clubs in their area that have suitable facilities.

11.28 To support the delivery of the above objectives, England Athletics highlight that delivery of a NEWGEN development track is a strategic priority for them in both the former South Lakeland and Eden authority areas. England Athletics confirm that demand is not sufficient to warrant a full size athletics track, but that smaller innovative facilities in the more urban areas will deliver significant benefits for the local clubs. NEWGEN tracks are designed to be affordable, accessible, innovative and inspiring and are designed flexibly to meet local need. Examples that may be relevant in Westmorland and Furness include compact tracks and mini tracks. Further guidance is available at <https://www.englandathletics.org/clubs-and-facilities/facilities/newgen-tracks/>.

Local Demand

11.29 Despite the identified gap in the provision of formal track and field facilities, running is particularly popular in Cumbria and the characteristics of the local area mean that there are several fell running clubs in Westmorland and Furness. In addition to activity by local residents, the area is a frequent destination for visiting clubs and there are numerous events organised each year in the area. These events are important in bringing tourists to the area.

11.30 Table 11.2 summarises the distribution of running clubs that are affiliated to England Athletics and the type of athletics that they participate in. It demonstrates that while many of the clubs focus on fell running / cross country, there is some track and field activity, specifically:

- Barrow and Furness Striders use the synthetic track at Furness Academy
- Eden Runners use the facility at Frenchfields
- Glaxo Hoad Hill Harriers also participate in some track and field (often travelling outside of Westmorland and Furness)
- Strava suggests there is some ad hoc use of the track at Vickerstown FC.

Table 11.2 – Running Clubs affiliated to England Athletics in Westmorland and Furness

Former Authority	Sub Area	Club Name	Club Type	Affiliated Members	Venue
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Barrow & Furness Striders AC	Track & Field & Off Track	26	Furness Academy
South Lakeland	Kendal	Kendal Athletics Club	Track & Field and Off track	Not provided	Fell running, track and field training in sports hall (Queen Katherine School / Salt Ayre track, Lancaster)
South Lakeland	Kendal	Helm Hill Runners	Off Track	63	Fell running
South Lakeland	Milnthorpe	Dallam Running Club	Off Track	21	Off road
South Lakeland	LDNP	Ambleside AC	Off Track	16	Fell Running, Phoenix track
South Lakeland	Ulverston and surrounding area	Glaxo Hoad Hill Harriers	Off track, some track and field	133	Fell / Road Running, cross country. Based at Glaxo Club house
South Lakeland	Ulverston and surrounding area	Black Combe Runners	Off Track	16	Road Running
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Eden Runners	Track and Field / Off Track	350 adult and 90 U18 members	Frenchfields / Road Running
Eden	Kirkby Stephen	Howgill Harriers	Off track, fell running	Not provided	Fell running and road running, leave from Kirkby Stephen Grammar School

11.31 The above distribution of running clubs, and the type of facilities that they offer suggests that the key areas of demand for track and field facilities are:

- Former Eden area – Penrith and M6 Corridor
- Former South Lakeland area – Kendal (or Ulverston).

11.32 To understand the key issues arising in each area in relation to facilities, consultations were undertaken with key clubs. The key messages arising were

Former Barrow Borough area – Barrow and Furness Striders AC

- Membership is increasing weekly. Post covid, membership declined, however the number of junior members is now at the highest levels for several years.
- Many new members join the club through referrals, the club also work proactively to develop athletics, delivering workshops in local schools and working closely with Barrow Raiders Community Programme.
- The club has capacity to accommodate new members. The only barrier to additional members is the need to ensure a coach – athlete ratio.
- The club recognise the quality of the track at Furness Academy, although highlight that it will need refurbishing in future years. They highlight the lack of seating / spectating area as a key issue, particularly when they host competitions.
- Geese on the track are also identified as an issue.
- There is scope to further increase participation in athletics but this requires improved promotion and visibility. There are many competing sports.

Former South Lakeland area– Kendal Athletics Club

- Membership has recently been relatively static, but the club are approaching maximum capacity for the number of coaches that the club has. The number of members competing however has reduced.
- The number of qualified coaches is a key barrier to the Club's development. The club believe that the lack of volunteers is, in part, due to the lack of facilities available to the club.
- The club are based on the field at The Queen Katherine School, one of two local secondary schools – they use the field and the sports halls for training sessions.
- The club do not have appropriate facilities – athletes and coaches travel to Lancaster for track training on a Thursday (an average journey of 26 miles each way). The Club pay Lancaster & Morecambe AC for the use of the toilets in their club house.
- If the club are hosting a Track and Field meeting they use Preston or Blackburn.
- The club are seeking new facilities for athletics within Kendal – ideally a facility that would enable the club to host athletics competitions.

Former Eden area – Eden Runners

- Eden Runners is a large club with members ranging from 8 – 80. Current disciplines include roads, trails, cross country and fells.
- During summer months the club run on trails and hills around Penrith, as well as making use of Frenchfield sports centre.
- In the winter, the club mainly run on the streets around Penrith as well as making use of Frenchfield for kids running.
- Frenchfield perimeter track and open grass areas are an important resource for the club.
- The key priority for the club would be floodlighting the mile long perimeter track around Frenchfields for winter evenings – both for Eden Runners and recreational runners who also use the facility – the use of timer operated solar powered downlighting has previously been discussed with Eden Council.
- Alternatively, the club would also benefit from a synthetic running facility for faster all year round running drills, ideally floodlit.
- It would be beneficial to have access to the pavilion at Frenchfield for kids pick up / drop off, particularly for dark winter evenings.

11.33 Consultation therefore demonstrates that:

- Participation in athletics and more specifically track and field appears to be increasing.
- There is demand for additional facilities from key clubs in Kendal and the former Eden area to support the growth and development of track and field athletics.

Adequacy of Provision

11.34 The adequacy of athletics tracks is evaluated by drawing together the data collated and determining the key issues impacting current and projected future participation. There are no demand models for athletics.

11.35 Drawing together the supply and demand analysis, across Westmorland and Furness as a whole it can be seen that:

- Participation in athletics / track and field running is strong, with fell running taking advantages of the natural characteristics of the area being particularly popular.
- Track and field participation is lower, as it is inhibited by the facilities that are available.

- Catchment mapping demonstrates that there are gaps in access to athletics tracks. Whilst the Furness Academy track is effective in meeting the needs of residents of Barrow town and the immediate surrounding area, there are gaps in access to tracks across both former Eden and South Lakeland areas, with clubs needing to travel either to Carlisle or Whitehaven (Eden) or Lancaster (South Lakeland).
- Consultation highlights demand specifically for athletics tracks in Kendal and Penrith, reflecting the location of the two clubs that participate in track and field training but do not have formal synthetic facilities within the recommended drivetime distance.
- England Athletics identify the provision of two new facilities to meet the needs of these clubs as a priority, but confirm that neither generates sufficient demand to sustain a full 400m synthetic tracks, instead recommending NEWGEN compact athletics facilities.
- In addition to the need for track and field facilities, Eden Runners also highlight the potential to floodlight the existing track at Frenchfields to support both club activity but also recreational running.
- Although the former Barrow Borough area is well served for athletics tracks and Furness Academy track is currently accredited with the TrackMark Status (a mark of quality and licence to host competition), it should be noted that this facility is likely to require refurbishment during 2025 / 2026.
- A lack of availability of spectator seating is also highlighted as a key issue at this site.

11.36 It is clear therefore that there is a need both for investment in existing facilities, but also for the creation of additional facilities for athletics to support the requirements of clubs in Penrith and Kendal.

Summary - Key Issues by Former Authority Area and Sub Area

11.37 This section provides a short summary by former/existing Planning Authority Area.

Former Barrow Borough

Key Issue	Description
Supply	• Furness Academy 400m synthetic track is important facility for athletics authority wide • Vickerstown FC of very low quality • No facilities within Remainder of Barrow sub area • Site is TrackMark Accredited, but will require refurbishment 2025 / 2026 • Lack of spectator seating also a key issue.
Demand	• Barrow and Furness Striders AC are the only club in the area – the club are based at the track at Furness Academy and are predominantly a track and field club • Participation is now increasing. Club are proactively seeking to increase the number of members through engagement with Schools and Barrow Raiders Community programmes • No known other demand within the former Barrow Borough or surrounding area.
Adequacy of Provision	Barrow and Walney • The facility at Furness Academy effectively serves the former Barrow Borough area in terms of quantity of formal facilities • The quality of the facility is good, but the track will require refurbishment shortly • No gaps in provision identified • England Athletics highlight importance of retaining and maintaining existing track • England Athletics would also like to see refurbishment of track at Vickerstown FC to create a community facility.
Adequacy of Provision	Remainder of Barrow Borough • No evidence of a requirement for provision in remainder of Barrow Borough.

Key Issue	Description
Key Issues to Address	- Retention and maintenance of existing track - Refurbishment of track at Furness Academy (2025 / 2026) - Requirement for spectator seating at Furness Academy - Ongoing desire to increase participation in athletics.

Former South Lakeland

Key Issue	Description
Supply	- No formal synthetic track and field facilities in any sub area of South Lakeland - Gravel track around perimeter of Phoenix Field is the only track in this part of Westmorland and Furness (LDNP). This facility is a 300m track - No formal facilities in Kendal, but club do participate in track and field athletics.
Demand	- Six athletics clubs based within the former South Lakeland area, geographically spread - Clubs predominantly focus on fell running. Ambleside AC use track at Phoenix Field as part of their training programme - Kendal AC participate in fell running, cross country etc, but also use local sports halls and a track in Lancaster for track and field training - Participation is increasing, with a focus on growing junior activity - Club highlight a lack of facility in Kendal as key barrier to club development.
Adequacy of Provision	- Lack of track and field facility highlighted as key issue in South Lakeland through catchment mapping - Club consultation highlights desire for new facility in Kendal - England Athletics identify strategic priority for NEWGEN facility in Kendal to club development.
Key Issues to Address	Requirement for NEWGEN facility in Kendal.

Former Eden

Key Issue	Description
Supply	- No formal synthetic track and field facilities in any sub area of Eden - Gravel track around perimeter of Frenchfields is the only track in Eden (Penrith and M6 Corridor sub area) This facility was built for parkrun and is approximately a mile long.
Demand	- Eden Runners are key club in the area. The club participate in a wide variety of disciplines - Howgill Harriers participate in fell / road running - Participation is increasing, with a focus on growing junior activity - Club have aspirations for a synthetic facility and / or floodlighting of the gravel track at Frenchfields to facilitate winter training.
Adequacy of Provision	- Lack of track and field facility highlighted as key issue in Eden through catchment mapping - Club consultation highlights desire for new facility in Penrith - England Athletics identify strategic priority for NEWGEN facility in Penrith to club development.
Key Issues to Address	Requirement for NEWGEN facility in Penrith. Alternative option would be to floodlight track at Frenchfields. Even if compact track was provided, this would still be of benefit to support recreational runners.

LDNP

Key Issue	Description
Supply	- No formal synthetic track and field facilities - Gravel track around perimeter of Phoenix Field is the only track in this area and in Westmorland and Furness as a whole. This facility is a 300m track.
Demand	- Clubs predominantly focus on fell running. Ambleside AC use track at Phoenix Field as part of their training programme - Participation is increasing, with a focus on growing junior activity.

Key Issue	Description
Adequacy of Provision	• Lack of track and field facility highlighted as key issue in South Lakeland through catchment mapping • No issues identified however specific to LDNP authority in terms of requirement for track.
Key Issues to Address	• Retention of facility at Phoenix Field and maintenance of facility to ensure it remains functional.

12. Archery

Introduction

- 12.1 This section evaluates the key issues for archery across Westmorland and Furness. It sets out the supply and demand and evaluates the adequacy of provision.

Supply

- 12.2 There are five disciplines of archery that all require different facilities - clubs therefore often use more than one venue in order to accommodate all of their activity. Table 12.1 explains the four main disciplines and the facilities that are required to deliver each.

Table 12.1 – Types of Archery

Type of Archery	Description and Facilities Required
Target	Target archery consists of shooting at stationary circular targets set at specific distances. Targets are typically set at 70m distance, but can be up to 90m in some competitions
Field	Field archery is the discipline of shooting at stationary circular targets of different sizes set at varying distances, heights and angles around a course of natural terrain.
Flight	In flight shooting, participants aim to shoot as far as possible, with less emphasis on accuracy of provision
Clout	Archers shoot arrows at a flag from a long distance. This distance may be up to 160m (men) and 130m (ladies).
Para Archery	Archery is a highly accessible sport and para archery was one of the original Paralympic sports. Para archery is one of the sports with the most similarity to its able-bodied counterpart and para archers can compete in both the Olympics and Paralympics as long as they meet the qualification criteria. Para archers may use their assistive devices to level the playing field against their able bodied competitors. Para archery consists of competition categories for archers with certain classifications: W1, compound open and recurve open.

- 12.3 Table 12.2 considers the opportunities for archery across Westmorland and Furness and the discipline that can be accommodated at each site.
- 12.4 Some of the facilities are indoor facilities. This is because archery operates on a year-round season, with indoor archery taking place between October to April and clubs moving outdoors from April to September. For completeness therefore, although this PPS focuses on outdoor sports facilities, indoor venues that have a role to play in the delivery of archery are also listed.
- 12.5 Table 12.2 reveals that the majority of facilities are focused on target archery. There is a good geographical distribution of facilities, with at least one archery site in each of the former authorities. There are seven sites in the former South Lakeland area that can accommodate archery meaning that the highest provision is in this area. Ulverston and surrounds, Kendal, Milnthorpe and Kirkby Lonsdale all contain at least one site.
- 12.6 With two facilities in Barrow and Walney itself and one in the Remainder of Barrow Borough sub area, the former Barrow Borough area is also well provided for.
- 12.7 Although there are five facilities in Eden, all are focused in Penrith and the M6 corridor. There are no facilities for archery in Alston, Appleby or Kirkby Stephen.
- 12.8 There are no facilities in the LDNP or YDNP, or Cartmel Peninsula (South Lakeland).

Table 12.2 – Facilities for Archery across Westmorland and Furness

Former Authority Area	Sub Area	Venue	Indoor / Outdoor	Disciplines offered	Club Security of Tenure
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Hawcoat Park Sports Club	Outdoor	Target	Leased
Barrow Borough	Barrow and Walney	Furness College	Outdoor	Target	Rented
Barrow Borough	Remainder of Barrow Borough	Dowdales School	Outdoor	Target	Rented
Eden	Alston	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Eden	Appleby	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Eden	Kirkby Stephen	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Penrith Leisure Centre / Village Hall	Indoor	Target	Rented
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Eamont Bridge Village Hall	Indoor	Target	Rented
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Hunter Hall School	Outdoor	Target	Rented
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Frenchfields	Outdoor	Flight	Rented
Eden	Penrith and M6 Corridor	Edenhall and Langwathby Sports Field	Outdoor	Target, Clout	Rented
South Lakeland	LDNP	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
South Lakeland	YNDP	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
South Lakeland	Ulverston and surrounding area	Birkrigg Archery Range	Indoor and Outdoor	Target	Owned
South Lakeland	Kirkby Lonsdale	Queen Elizabeth School	Indoor and Outdoor	Target	Rented
South Lakeland	Kendal	Kendal Cricket Club	Outdoor	Target	Rented
South Lakeland	Kendal	Kendal Church Hall	Indoor	Target	Rented
South Lakeland	Kendal	Hutton Park Plantation, New Hutton	Outdoor	Field	Rented
South Lakeland	Milnthorpe	Holme Community Sports Field	Outdoor	Target	Rented
South Lakeland	Milnthorpe	County Showfield, Crooklands	Outdoor	Clout	Rented

12.9 Table 12.2 reveals that:

- With the majority of venues offering opportunities for target archery, there are no options for any discipline of archery other than target archery in the former Barrow Borough area. In the former Eden and South Lakeland areas, clubs have access to both target archery and flight venues. There is only one venue for clout archery within the Westmorland and Furness area, and one for field archery. Both of these are in former South Lakeland.
- Education sites are an important provider of sites. There is use of at least one school in each of the former local authority areas.
- Almost all venues used for archery are rented by clubs. This means that there is almost no security of tenure across Westmorland and Furness. As well as impacting on the availability

of venues, this can also have a knock on impact to quality, with clubs reluctant to invest in something that they do not own or have long term guarantee of usage. To secure the future of the sport, this will be a key issue moving forwards.

- The majority of venues are shared with other sports. The only purpose-built archery venue is at Birkrigg Archery Range, which is a new indoor and outdoor facility in Ulverston granted planning permission in 2021. This is still under construction (although it is functional).

Quality

- 12.10 All clubs affiliated with Archery GB must register the ranges that they wish to use and ranges should be accredited prior to use. The Archery GB rules of shooting includes clear guidelines on the range layout, which includes the standards to be met depending on the distance being shot and/or the bow being used. The range guidelines also include overshoot and side safety areas to account for arrows that may go beyond the targets (either missing or deflections).
- 12.11 Archery GB has a range assessment process for any range that does not meet the Rules of Shooting compliance to ensure required standards are met and followed at all times. Dispensations are only given where safety expectations can be successfully met.
- 12.12 Archery GB note that:
- 'A range may comply with the rules, but not meet all of the Minimum Standards. Better facilities will lead to better archer satisfaction with their sporting experience, and top quality clubs. Therefore Minimum Standards are not compulsory: some clubs may exceed them, while others will struggle to feature them. We are striving for an ever improving situation over the years.'*
- 12.13 Where minimum standards are not met, a Range Assessor from Archery GB will visit the site and will work with the Club to ensure that any risks are mitigated. Registration will then be granted for 3 years.
- 12.14 This process seeks to ensure that all archery sites meet minimum quality standards. By working with local venues to mitigate risk where areas of a facility do not meet requirements, Archery GB also seek to remove as many barriers to participation in archery as possible.
- 12.15 As a consequence of the venue registration process, consultations with Clubs reveals few issues with the quality of facilities that they currently use across Westmorland and Furness. There is a strong view that the quality of facilities is good, and maintaining access to these facilities is the big challenge.
- 12.16 All responding clubs raised concerns about the lack of security of tenure, as well as the impact that sharing facilities with other sports has on the availability of facilities for archery.
- 12.17 Improvements to quality of facilities were therefore considered to be of lower priority than securing tenure. As a consequence, few quality issues were raised, with the only concerns evident being:
- There is no heating at Green Lane for the indoor range.
 - Indoor space at Kendal Church Hall is limited – hire sports hall at Queen Katherine School for competition as facilities are insufficient.
 - Whilst the space at Hutton Park Plantation is excellent, the site was devastated by flooding in Storm Arwen. This resulted in the loss of equipment and destruction of ancillary facilities.
 - Crooklands Showground – the lack of toilets on site means that users must hire portable toilets.

- 12.18 The majority of other facility related issues raised involved the need to improve equipment (i.e., bows / targets etc) rather than the facilities themselves. Improved equipment was however a key priority for almost all responding clubs.
- 12.19 Storage was also highlighted as a key component of a successful archery venue. Most clubs indicate that they currently have access to adequate storage facilities.

Accessibility

- 12.20 Table 12.2 demonstrated that there is at least one facility for archery in each of the three former authority areas. The requirement for different facility types according to the discipline of archery however means that there is a need for clubs to travel to reach different facilities.
- 12.21 Figure 12.1, extracted from Cumbria County Archery Association website, demonstrates the location of the clubs in the area. It clearly illustrates the geographical gap evidenced in Table 12.2, highlighting that there is a lack of facilities for archery in the LDNP.

The map shows the county of Cumbria with its major towns and geographical features. Red dots indicate the locations of the following sports facilities:

- Edenhall and Langwathby Sports Field
- Hunter Hall School
- Frenchfields
- Penrith Leisure Centre
- Eamont Bridge Village Hall
- Kendal Church Hall
- Kendal Cricket Club
- Hutton Park Plantation, New Hutton
- County Showfield, Crooklands
- Queen Elizabeth School
- Holme Community Sports Field
- Birkrigg Archery Range
- Hawcoat Park Sports Club
- Dowdales School
- Furness College

- 12.22 Consultation with archery clubs as part of this assessment notes that unlike other facility types covered as part of this assessment, members of archery clubs travel more than 3 miles to reach facilities, with many travelling 20 miles. This is illustrated in Figure 12.2.

Chart 12.2 – Travel Distance of Club Members



- 12.23 To some extent, these travel distances are enforced by the distribution of facilities. It is clear however that archery has a much wider catchment than that identified for many other sports considered in this assessment.
- 12.24 The travel distances highlighted during consultation are reinforced by membership data held by Archery GB. This demonstrates that while club members predominantly reside within the Westmorland and Furness boundaries, there is some cross boundary movement into other areas. Although the catchment of clubs in the former Barrow Borough area is local, there are members of Lonsdale Archers in Lancaster, and the catchment of Kendal Bowmen extends up to Carlisle.

Availability

- 12.25 Alongside security of tenure, availability of venues arose as perhaps the other key issue from consultation. Whilst clubs are able to access the facilities that they require, gaining access at the times they would like can be challenging due to:
- Exams on school sites
 - Competition with other clubs / sports for use of same venues.
- 12.26 Although clubs may not have access as frequently as they would like, most do have the facilities that they require. Bowmen of Furness however are currently struggling to find a suitable indoor venue for their target archery.
- 12.27 Kendal Bowmen are looking to purchase their own land to create a facility for target archery and clout, alongside a large area for field archery, again because the club are struggling to find available sites, and also because the club are keen to own their own facility that they can then invest in and improve.

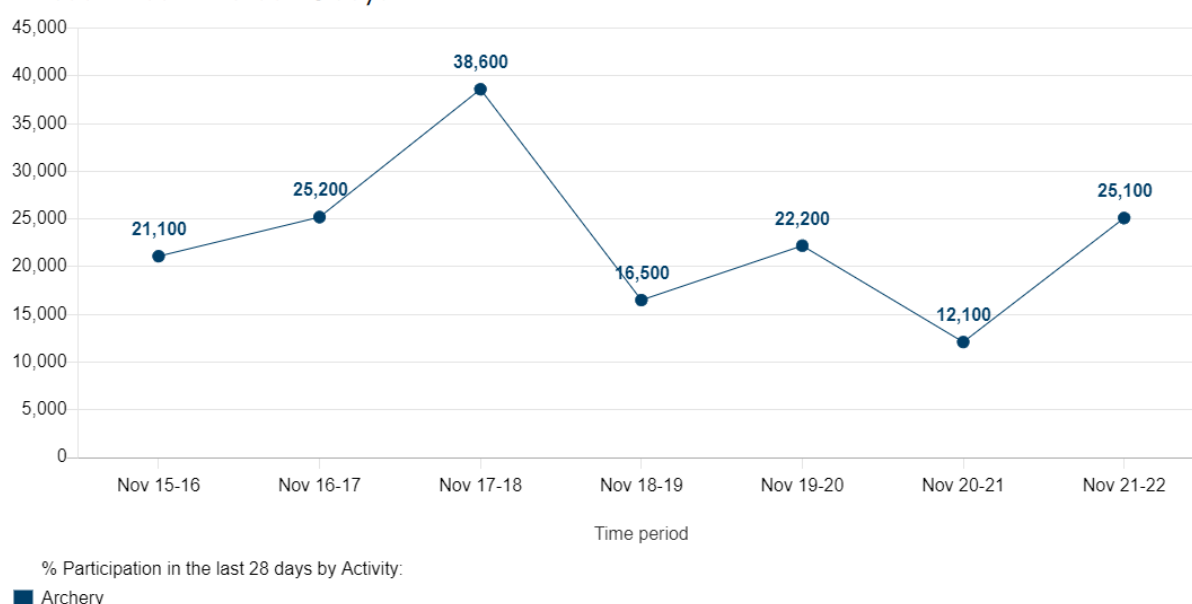
Demand

Participation Trends

- 12.28 Nationally, Archery GB membership figures suggest that demand is starting to pick up for archery, with an increase in participation since the COVID-19 pandemic. Driving participation further is one of the key priorities of the Governing Body.
- 12.29 The Active Lives England wide data for adult participation in archery at least once every 28 days however demonstrates that demand is fluctuating. Participation is now higher than at the time of the start of the Active Lives Survey (2015 – 2016) but is lower than the peak in 2017 – 2018. This is illustrated in Figure 12.3.

Chart 12.3 - Active Lives Archery participation England wide 2015 – 16 to 2021 – 2022

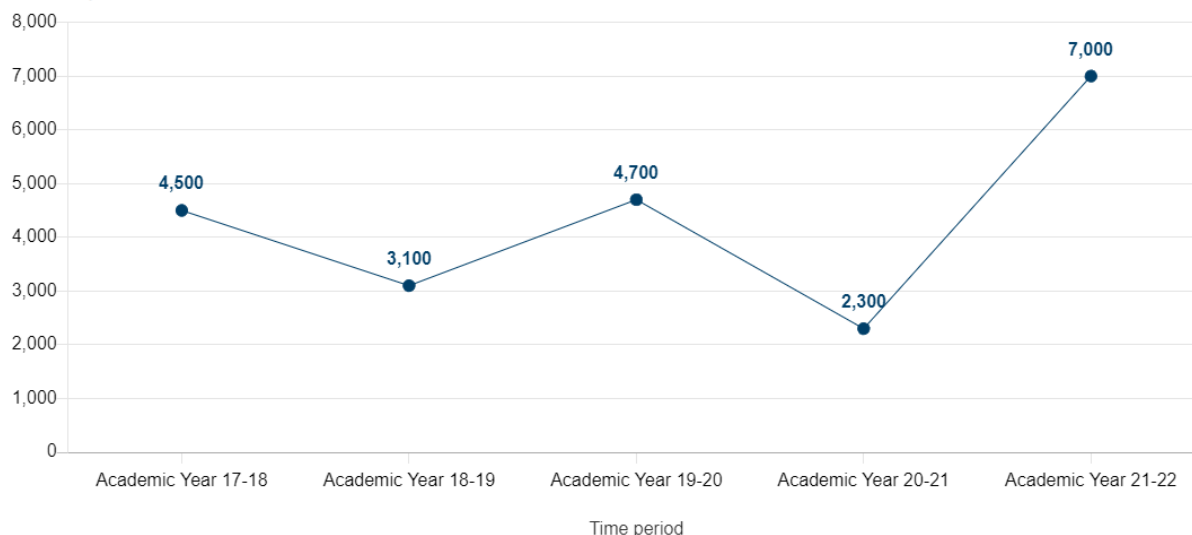
Participation in the last 28 days by activity
At least twice in the last 28 days



- 12.30 Similarly, the Active Lives Survey for young people also demonstrates fluctuating participation. It suggests however that nationally, participation in archery by young people has never been higher.

Chart 12.4 - Active Lives activity levels for archery for young people aged 5 – 16

Participation in the last week by activity
Participated once a week or more



% Participation in the last week by Activity:

■ Archery

Local Demand

- 12.31 Despite the reasonably positive picture presented at a national level, 60% of responding clubs indicate that they have experienced recent decline, with all attributing this to the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 12.32 Archery GB comment that clubs in Cumbria were harder hit than the national average in the immediate aftermath of the pandemic and therefore the return to normality will be a steeper climb.
- 12.33 Whilst for many other sports, participation has now returned to normal levels, it should be noted that this is more challenging for archery. Introduction to archery must take place as part of a formal (paid for) beginners course, which can only be run by clubs who have appropriate volunteers as well as time and a venue to do so. These courses are scheduled well in advance and it is only after completion of this course that interested people can become new members of clubs. Vickers Archery Club report that they have experienced an increase in participation as a direct result of running a beginners archery course and it is therefore hoped that more clubs will grow shortly as things move towards normality.
- 12.34 Analysis of current membership suggests that increasing participation will be important. The average membership across Westmorland and Furness is 41 members and participation ranges from 50 members at the largest club (Kendal Bowmen) to 17 at Vickers Archery Club. There is therefore significant scope to grow the game. With growth however comes greater facility challenges (particularly indoor).
- 12.35 Notably, analysis of current club membership profiles suggests that there is a skew towards male participants, with 70% of senior participants being male. Added to this, less than 20% of archery players fall into junior age groups. This suggests that there is scope to target particularly female and junior potential members who are currently underrepresented.
- 12.36 Table 12.3 sets out the archery clubs that operate within Westmorland and Furness, the venues that they use and types of archery that they participate in. All available venues for archery are used by at least one of the clubs.

12.37 Table 12.3 also includes the key facility issues raised by the clubs and emphasises that access and a lack of security of tenure are the key concerns that need to be addressed. Alongside this, continued growth in participation, as well as the number of volunteers are key priorities.

Table 12.3 – Archery Clubs across Westmorland and Furness

Club	Venue	Type of Archery	Discipline and Members	Issues Identified
Vickers Archery Club	Hawcoat Park Sports Club	Indoor and Outdoor	Target (17)	None, facilities of good quality
Bowmen of Furness	Dowdales School	Outdoor	Target (20+ and waiting list for beginners course)	Seeking indoor and outdoor venue
Lakeland Archery Club	Birkrigg Archery Range	Indoor and Outdoor	Target (50)	Purpose built facility. Work still underway to complete both indoor and outdoor ranges. Good quality and includes clubhouse.
Eagle Bowmen	Eamont Bridge Village Hall	Indoor	Target (42)	Fit for purpose and in good condition – but no long term security of tenure. Rented only
Eagle Bowmen	Hunter Hall School	Outdoor	Target (42)	Fit for purpose and in good condition – but no long term security of tenure. Rented only
Eagle Bowmen	Frenchfields	Flight	Flight (10)	Fit for purpose and in good condition – but no long term security of tenure. Rented only
Beacon Archers	Edenhall Cricket Club	Outdoor	Target (25)	Limited access to facility. No long term security of tenure
Beacon Archers	Green Lane, Penrith	Indoor	Target (25)	Indoor venue has no access to toilets and poor heating. No long term security of tenure.
Kendal Bowmen	Kendal Cricket Club	Outdoor	Target (40)	No security of tenure, shared use with other users limits access.
Kendal Bowmen	Hutton Park Plantation	Outdoor	Field (20)	No security of tenure, shared use with other users limits access. Lack of toilets, impact of Storm Arwen. Note that since this assessment was undertaken, access to this site is no longer available
Kendal Bowmen	Kendal Church Hall	Indoor	Target (40)	No security of tenure, shared use with other users limits access. Size limitations at indoor venue
Kendal Bowmen	Frenchfields	Outdoor	Flight (10)	No security of tenure, shared use with other users limits access.
Kendal Bowmen	County Showfield, Crooklands	Outdoor	Clout (20)	No security of tenure, shared use with other users limits access. Lack of toilets.
Lonsdale Archery Club	Queen Elizabeth School	Indoor and Outdoor	Target (28)	Restricted use of facilities on occasion due to exams
Bowmen of Holme	Holme Community Sports Field	Outdoor	Target (11)	High quality 100 yard range. No issues identified.

National Governing Body (NGB) Priorities – Archery GB Strategic Plan (2021 – 2026).

- 12.38 Archery GB do not have a facilities strategy. The strategic plan for archery however guides the delivery of the sport across the UK and the effective provision of facilities is an integral part of this.
- 12.39 The strategic plan sets out a key aim of AGB to facilitate safe and effective participation for current archers at all levels and to develop the accessibility of archery to anyone who wants to get involved.
- 12.40 It sets out a series of strategic ambitions:
- Membership structure – effective and efficient governance
 - Empowering workforce – creating connections that engage and support the thousands of people that enable archery to happen
 - Diversity – inclusive and diverse organisation
 - Archer recruitment – supporting and revitalising clubs to build from the damage of the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Digital first – using technology to modernise systems and sources
 - Pathway and podium – redefining performance archery.
- 12.41 Successful delivery of the above strategy would see increasing diverse participation, supported by a strong network of coaches and volunteers. Access to available facilities will be crucial if these aims and objectives are therefore to be delivered.
- 12.42 This strategy therefore emphasises the importance of the volunteer network, a key issue arising through local consultation.

Adequacy of Provision

- 12.43 The adequacy of facilities for archery is evaluated by drawing together the data collated and determining the key issues impacting current and projected future participation. There are no formal demand models for archery.
- 12.44 Drawing together the supply and demand analysis, across Westmorland and Furness as a whole it can be seen that:
- Participation in archery was hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, but is now starting to increase. Clubs are looking to put on new beginner courses which is likely to stimulate growth in membership. Improving membership of clubs is essential for sustainability across all clubs
 - Club members travel significant distances to reach venues for archery, but this is not highlighted as a key issue
 - There are a variety of facilities offered for archery and the quality of facilities is generally perceived to be good
 - Whilst quality is good, consultation highlighted that the main concerns of clubs relate to a lack of long term security of tenure at sites that are used. This creates instability around venues, but also inhibits investment into qualitative improvements. The lack of specialist venues also means that archery clubs must compete with other users of sites. Storage also becomes an issue for clubs

- Archery GB confirm that securing tenure for clubs at key sites across Westmorland and Furness is a significant priority, and essential if the future of the sport is to be secured
- Aspirations for a new purpose-built facility are also highlighted in Kendal, and Furness Bowmen are currently seeking a new indoor venue.

12.45 It is clear therefore that work to secure the long term future of archery facilities at existing sites is the key priority. There may also be opportunity for the creation of additional facilities should the opportunity arise.

Summary - Key Issues by Former Authority Area and Sub Area

12.46 The key issues for archery are therefore summarised by the former/existing Local Planning Authority Areas.

Former Barrow Borough

Key Issue	Description
Supply	• Hawcoat Park Sports Club key facility for both indoor and outdoor archery in Barrow and Walney Town. • Dowdales school now providing opportunities in the remainder of Barrow Borough sub area. • Furness College has also previously been used for archery by club. • No quality issues raised at either site. • Lack of security of tenure at Dowdales School.
Demand	• Vickers Archery Club are a small club but with increasing participation – key priority is growth of club. Hawcoat Park Sports Club provides high quality facilities. • Bowmen of Furness growing, but more nomadic. • Opportunities for archery in clubs in the former Barrow Borough area is limited to target archery.
Adequacy of Provision	• Venues fit for purpose for outdoor archery. • Challenges accessing appropriate indoor facilities for Bowmen of Furness. • Lack of security of tenure for Bowmen of Furness.
Key Issues to Address	• Protection and maintenance of existing facilities. • Security of tenure for Bowmen of Furness (to include defining access to sites for archery clubs). • Indoor venue for Bowmen of Furness. • Ongoing maintenance and improvement of both venues. • Drive for participation increases.

Former South Lakeland Area

Key Issue	Description
Supply	• Dedicated venue for target archery at Birkrigg Archery Range (Ulverston). • Queen Elizabeth School provides important facilities indoor and outdoor in Kirkby Lonsdale. • Outdoor venue also provided at Holme Community Sports Field. • All of the above offer target archery. • Wider variety of provision in Kendal area, with venues for target, flight and clout. • Facilities of good quality with few issues identified. • Lack of security of tenure at any site however impacts club activity as well as investment into qualitative improvements.

Key Issue	Description
Demand	- Kendal Bowmen are largest and most diverse club in Westmorland and Furness area. The club participate in a variety of disciplines and are the hub of archery. This club is now looking for new indoor and outdoor facilities. - Remaining clubs provide opportunities for target archery in the settlements in which they are based, but also extending to a wider catchment. - Recently clubs have experienced decline in participation.
Adequacy of Provision	- Some quality issues evident – lack of ancillary facilities at Hutton Park / Showfield - Hutton Park no longer available for club use (since assessment was undertaken). - Issues competing with other clubs reduces availability. - Facilities at Holme and Birkrigg considered good. - Lack of security of tenure represents key issue for clubs.
Key Issues to Address	- Retention and maintenance of existing facilities. - Security of tenure at all sites (to include defining access to sites for archery clubs). - Qualitative improvements at identified sites. - Potential long term aspiration of Kendal Bowmen to secure own venue. - Need for participation increases.

Former Eden Area

Key Issue	Description
Supply	- All archery activity focused in Penrith area. - Opportunities for target and flight archery spread across variety of venues. - Indoor venue at Green Lane requires improvement (heating and toilets), remainder of facilities fit for purpose. - Lack of security of tenure at any site however impacts club activity as well as investment into qualitative improvements.
Demand	- Two clubs both Penrith-based. - Both focus on target shooting. - Recently both clubs have experienced decline in participation – priority for clubs is therefore to increase membership through running beginners courses.
Adequacy of Provision	- Some quality issues evident – lack of ancillary facilities at Green Lane. - Issues competing with other clubs reduces availability. - Lack of security of tenure at all sites.
Key Issues to Address	- Retention and maintenance of existing facilities. - Security of tenure at all sites. (to include defining access to sites for archery clubs). - Qualitative improvements at identified sites. - Participation increases required.

13. Golf

Introduction

- 13.1 This section should be considered in conjunction with the individual reports for the three previous local authority areas (provided as an appendix). All the relevant detailed data is contained in these three reports, and included in this summary where appropriate and aggregated for the new authority (Westmorland and Furness authority). In some cases assumptions have had to be made with the aggregated data, as tools such as Active Places Power (APP) and other sources are unable to produce information for the new authority.

Supply

- 13.2 The supply of golf courses is based on Active Places Power (APP) data. This is supplemented by website and other checks, and may exclude some facilities, although no further courses have been identified in the area and the supply data has been cross-checked with England Golf (EG).

Quantity

- 13.3 The following golf facilities are identified in APP within Westmorland and Furness (all the data derives from 2022-23) and are set out in Table 13.1 – 13.3. The description of access type is in line with all golf data in APP (see individual reports), and a more accurate description of accessibility to courses is set out in those reports and is based on additional information on local courses. All of the courses are not strictly *pay and play*, as indicated most are commercial or members clubs that may have restricted tee times for members only at weekends for example.

Standard Courses

Table 13.1 – All standard course across Westmorland and Furness

Site name and no on map	Holes	Length	Access	Ownership /management	Year built	Former LA
ALSTON MOOR GOLF CLUB	10	2242.11	Pay and Play	Members	1970	Eden
APPLEBY GOLF CLUB 16	18	5483	Pay and Play	Members	1903	Eden
BARROW GOLF CLUB 12	18	6184	Pay and Play	Members	1922	Barrow Borough
BECKSIDE GOLF CLUB 1	9	2025.4	Pay and Play	Commercial	1991	South Lakeland
CARUS GREEN GOLF CLUB 2	18	6100	Pay and Play	Commercial	1994	South Lakeland
CASTERTON GOLF COURSE 3	9	2901	Pay and Play	Commercial	1954/2015	South Lakeland
DUNNERHOLME GOLF CLUB 13	10	5605.27	Pay and Play	Members	1905	Barrow Borough
FURNESS GOLF CLUB 14	18	6564	Pay and Play	Members	1872	Barrow Borough
GRANGE FELL GOLF CLUB 4	9	2419.5	Pay and Play	Members	1952	South Lakeland
GRANGE-OVER-SANDS GOLF CLUB 5	18	6065	Pay and Play	Members	1921	South Lakeland
KENDAL GOLF CLUB 6	18	5792	Registered Membership use	Members	1891	South Lakeland
KESWICK GOLF CLUB 17	18	6225	Pay and Play	Members	1977	Eden

Site name and no on map	Holes	Length	Access	Ownership /management	Year built	Former LA
KIRKBY LONSDALE GOLF CLUB 7	18	6594	Registered Membership use	Members	1906	South Lakeland
PENRITH GOLF CLUB 18	18	6148	Pay and Play	Members	1890	Eden
SEDBERGH GOLF CLUB 8	10	2745.03	Pay and Play	Commercial	1991	South Lakeland
ULVERSTON GOLF CLUB 9	18	5661.05	Sports Club / Community Association	Members	1910	South Lakeland
WINDERMERE GOLF CLUB 10	18	5122	Pay and Play	Members	1891	South Lakeland
Total 17 courses	255					

Table 13.2 - Par 3 Courses

Site name	Holes	Length	Access	Ownership /management	Year built	Former LA
CASTERTON GOLF COURSE	9	1230	Pay and Play	Commercial	2000	South Lakeland
PENRITH GOLF HUB 19	9	Not known	Pay and Play	Commercial	Not known	Eden
Total 2 courses	18					

Table 13.3 - Golf Driving Ranges (GDRs)

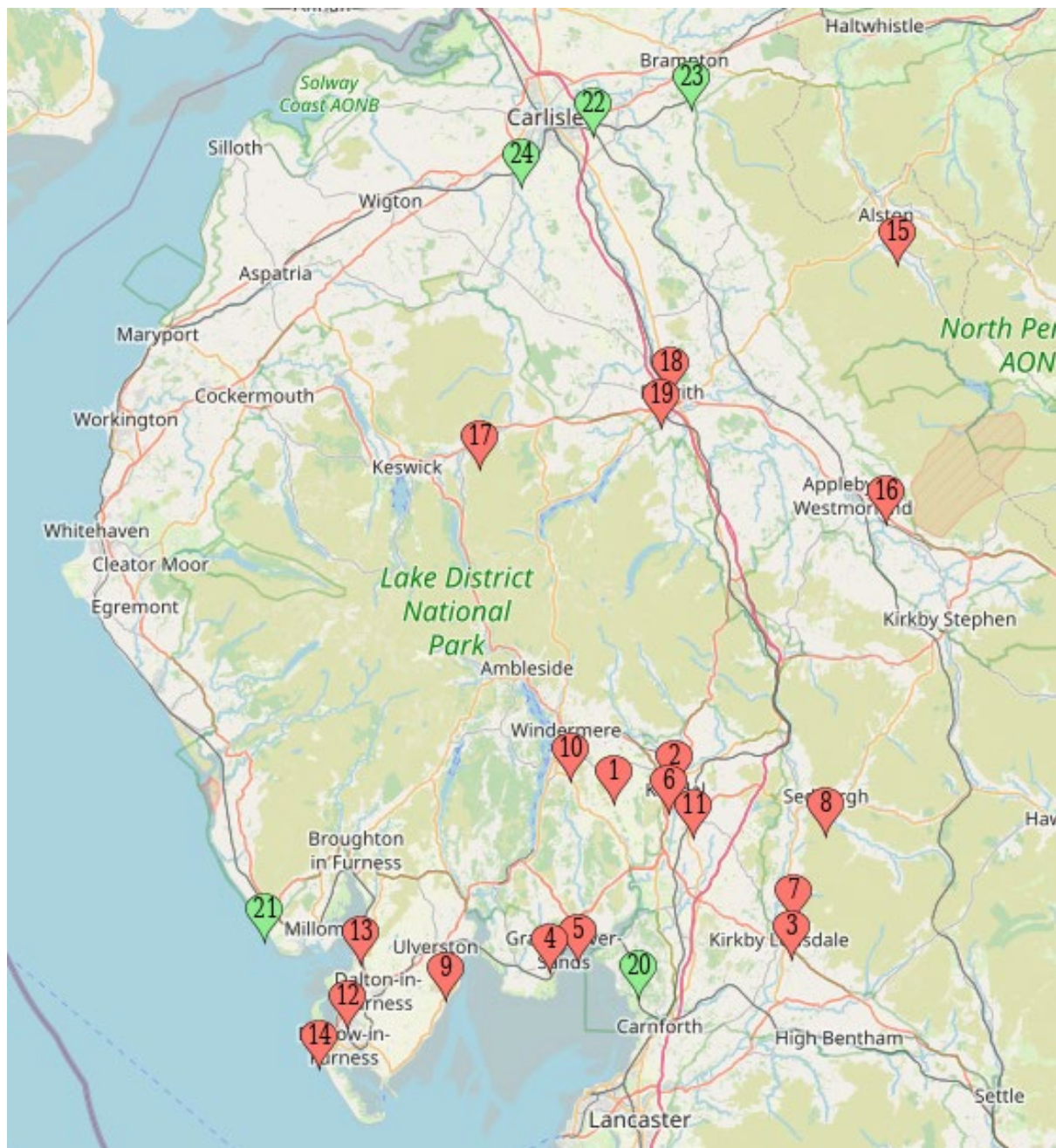
Site name	Bays	Floodlit	Length	Access	Ownership/management	Year built	Former LA
Site Name	Bays	Floodlit	Length	Access	Ownership/management	Year Built/refurb	Former LA
CARUS GREEN GOLF CLUB	18	Yes	320.04	Pay and Play	Commercial	2003	South Lakeland
CASTERTON GOLF COURSE	8	No	400	Pay and Play	Commercial	2011/2015	South Lakeland
KENDAL GOLF DRIVING RANGE 11	10	Yes	228.6	Pay and Play	Commercial	1991	South Lakeland
KIRKBY LONSDALE GOLF CLUB	12	No	250	Registered Membership use	Members	2015/2020	South Lakeland
PENRITH GOLF CLUB	6	No	250	Pay and Play	Members	2000	Eden
PENRITH GOLF HUB	14	Yes	Not known	Pay and Play	Commercial	Not known	Eden
Total 6 ranges	68						

13.4 APP and other sources identified that there are 17 standard golf courses in Westmorland and Furness, comprising 255 holes, two par 3 courses with 18 holes in total and 6 GDRs (Golf Driving Ranges) with 68 bays (42 floodlit). The main golf facilities are distributed widely throughout the new LA area, mainly outside the Lake District National Park, and in close proximity to the area's main settlements (see map 13.1 below). These sites are identified on map 13.1 by the numbers in the table.

13.5 APP describes most of these facilities as pay and play facilities. As suggested above, it is assumed that most/all of the standard golf courses also allow some casual play on payment of a visitors' green fee. However some courses are still run as members' clubs and in reality fewer

clubs/courses than suggested in the table are fully pay and play - i.e., do offer facilities that are always available to full community access at all times on demand. A categorisation of the local facilities within the area is set out below, as a means of identifying the roles that all facilities play in meeting demand in the area for golf.

Map 13.1 –Location of golf facilities in and around Westmorland and Furness



Categorisation of Courses

- 13.6 The existing courses/facilities in Westmorland and Furness can be categorised as follows, to highlight their main function and usage/availability (there may be some overlap between some categories).

Well established (old style) member clubs where the main use is by members but with green fees available for visitors

Grange Fell GC	Keswick GC
Grange over Sands GC	Penrith GC
Kendal GC	Windermere GC
Kirkby Lonsdale GC	Furness GC
Ulverston GC	Barrow GC
Alston Moor GC	Dunnerholme
Appleby GC	

Proprietary/commercial courses (i.e. newer courses), including hotel resorts, where membership is available, but casual/pay and play access through payment of green fees are equally acceptable

Carus Green GC	Sedbergh GC
Casterton GC	

Public/municipal pay and play courses

None

Starter clubs, with shorter courses, academy courses, practice facilities, flexible and low-cost membership and beginner friendly culture

Beckside GC

Free standing pitch and putt/par 3 and 9-hole facilities, ideal for beginner and social golf

None

Free standing Golf Driving Ranges, valuable for practice, coaching and teaching and for golfers without the time to play a full round, and supplementing GDRs at facilities

Kendal GDR

Penrith Hub

- 13.7 Most of the standard courses in the new authority area are therefore traditional well established members' courses, mainly 18 hole, with few ancillary facilities, but good access for casual players in payment of a green fee. There is a particular lack of other golf facilities, including par 3 courses and GDRs.

Golfer Journey Classification

- 13.8 England Golf's classification of facilities makes it possible to represent the various types of golfer and the different stages a participant is likely go through before coming an established and retained club member. It is unlikely that the majority of golfers will start their journey as a regular golfer, so it is important that suitable opportunities exist to enable access for potential participants in the first three stages.

Diagram 13.1 – Stages of the Golfer Journey



Definition of stages:

The Leisure Golfer

- Not a golf club member and don't consider themselves to be golfers. Have played adventure/crazy golf or Topgolf in the last 12 months, but not played any other form of the game in that time.

The Recreational Golfer

- Not a golf club member and don't consider themselves to be golfers. Have played some form of the game other than, or in addition to, adventure/crazy golf or Topgolf in the last 12 months.

The Golfer

- Not a golf club member, but do consider themselves to be golfers. In the last 12 months, they've played a form of golf less than twice a month during the peak season. Some have played on a full-length course in that time.

The Regular Golfer

- Not a golf club member, but do consider themselves to be golfers. In the last 12 months, they've played a form of golf twice a month or more often during the peak season. At least once a month on a course.

The New Club Member

- A golf club member who has joined in the last three years.

The Retained Club Member

- A golf club member who has been in membership for more than three years.

Table 13.4 – Golf Clubs in Westmorland and Furness

Club	Leisure	Recreation	Golfer	Regular golfer	New club member	Retained member
Alston Moor GC		x	x	x	x	x
Appleby GC			x	x	x	x
Barrow GC				x	x	x
Beckside		x	x	x		
Carus Green			x	x	x	x
Casterton		x	x	x	x	
Dunnerholme			x	x	x	x
Furness GC				x	x	x
Grange Fell			x	x	x	x
Grange over Sands			x	x	x	x
Kendal			x	x	x	x
Keswick GC		x	x	x	x	x
Kirkby Lonsdale				x	x	x
Penrith GC			x	x	x	x
Sedbergh		x	x	x	x	
Ulverston					x	x
Windermere					x	x

13.9 In relation to the golfer journey, the provision within Westmorland and Furness is very heavily weighted towards catering for more established golfers and those who choose to become members of clubs.

13.10 Only five from seventeen clubs and courses are likely to be appealing for golfers who are infrequent or new to the game, in particular Beckside and Casterton. There is a gap in the leisure and recreational market which provides a stepping stone into more regular golf participation and transition to golf on standard courses. Facilities that cater for those in the first three stages of the journey are important to the future of the sport as they are normally offering a more entry level provision which appears more accessible and offer a variety of different playing opportunities.

Facilities in the Wider Catchment

13.11 In addition to courses within Westmorland and Furness, there are a number of other operational golf facilities in a wider catchment, which are very likely to offer other opportunities for some residents on the edge of Westmorland and Furness to play golf in its various forms. The table highlights all other facilities within a 20-minute driving catchment of some part of the new authority area, and is derived from the accessibility assessment undertaken in connection with this study (see below). All but one of these facilities are standard golf courses. These courses are identified with a green tag in map 13.1 previously, and identified by the numbers alongside each facility in the table.

Table 13.5 – Golf Clubs further afield

Site Name	Facility Sub Type	Holes/bays	Length m	Access	Ownership /mgmt	Year Built	Local Authority
SILVERDALE GOLF CLUB 20	Standard	18	5113.32	Pay and Play	Members	1906	Lancaster City
SILECROFT GOLF CLUB 21	Standard	9	2687.42	Pay and Play	Members	1903	Cumberland (Former Copeland)
CARLISLE GOLF CLUB 22	Standard	18	6249	Pay and Play	Members	1938	Cumberland (Former Carlisle City)

Site Name	Facility Sub Type	Holes/bays	Length m	Access	Ownership /mgmt	Year Built	Local Authority
BRAMPTON GOLF CLUB 23	Standard	18	5858	Pay and Play	Members	1920	Cumberland (Former Carlisle City)
DALSTON HALL GOLF CLUB 24	Standard	6	2420	Private	Commercial	1989	Cumberland (Former Carlisle City)
TOTAL	5 courses	69					
BRAMPTON GOLF CLUB	GDR	8	219	Pay and Play	Members	2017	Cumberland (Former Carlisle City)
TOTAL	1 range	8					

- 13.12 A number of other facilities have been identified outside the area but within a 20-30 minute catchment of the main centres of population in Westmorland and Furness, including Bentham GC, Settle and Giggleswick GC, Lancaster GC, Ashton GC and Lansil GC, which would normally be considered too far away from Westmorland and Furness residents to offer a reasonable opportunity to play golf, and are not considered to form part of the core supply.

Closed Courses

- 13.13 There is no knowledge or evidence of any courses or other facilities in Westmorland and Furness that have permanently closed in the recent past.

Summary of Existing Facility Provision

- 13.14 In summary, the supply of golf facilities in Westmorland and Furness and adjacent areas within a 20-minute drive of parts of the authority area is as follows:

Table 13. 6 – Golf courses within a 20-minute drive

Catchment	Standard Courses	Holes	Par 3 courses	Holes	GDRs	Bays
Facilities within Westmorland and Furness	17	255	2	18	6	68
Additional facilities within 20 min catchment	5	69	0	0	1	8
Total facilities	22	324	2	18	7	76

Relative Supply

- 13.15 Relative provision of courses is a useful indicator of how well an area is doing for facilities, but again is only a benchmark against which to judge supply. It provides a starting point and only one indicator. Relative provision of golf facilities in the local and wider area, regionally and nationally is set out in the tables below.
- 13.16 This section makes no comments at this stage on the local (or wider) need for golf, which can only be dealt with after an assessment of demand.

All Standard Courses

- 13.17 This first assessment below is given as context to allow comparison of the main golf courses in the area.

Table 13.7 – Golf Holes per 1000 population

Area	Courses	Holes	2021 population	Holes per 1000 population
Westmorland and Furness	17	255	227,006	1.12
Cumbria	34	495	500,821	0.99
NW	264	4177	7,422,295	0.56
England	1931	30286	56,536,419	0.54

- 13.18 Relative provision for all standard courses in Westmorland and Furness is more than twice the regional and national average, and well above the average for Cumbria. Local relative supply in the area is therefore very high, and maybe even higher taking into account other facilities set out above, normally considered to be outside a reasonable 20 minute catchment, and people's propensity to travel longer journey times in a rural setting. This relatively good supply must however be qualified by the area's role as a major tourist centre, which attracts golfers to local facilities on holiday, in addition to local members and casual golfers.

Table 13. 8 Holes per 1000 population on Par 3 Courses

Area	Courses	Holes	2021 population	Holes per 1000 population
Westmorland and Furness	2	18	227,006	0.08
Cumbria	2	18	500,821	0.04
NW	14	144	7,422,295	0.02
England	225	2238	56,536,419	0.04

- 13.19 By virtue of having the only two par 3 courses in Cumbria, Westmorland and Furness's relative provision is twice the national average, and provision is therefore good.

Table 13.9 – Bays per 1000 population on GDRs

Area	Ranges	Bays	2021 population	Bays per 1000 population
Westmorland and Furness	6	68	227,006	0.30
Cumbria	10	116	500,821	0.23
NW	69	1303	7,422,295	0.18
England	647	11316	56,286.961	0.20

- 13.20 Provision of GDRs in Westmorland and Furness is 1.5 times the national, regional and county average. GDR provision is therefore good, although facilities are mainly concentrated in the eastern part of the local authority area.

Quality

- 13.21 When assessing quality, it is necessary to review both condition and fitness for purpose, and take into account course quality and ancillary facilities.
- 13.22 There are no official or standard measurements to assess course quality in golf, therefore making it difficult to establish benchmarks. In general terms, facilities which charge a higher amount for both membership and green fees are likely to offer a better-quality course and more extensive ancillary facilities. If any facilities host county, regional or national championships, this is also a strong indicator of the quality of their course. There are also various rankings created through golf publications which can also give a steer as to how well regarded a course is.
- 13.23 Golfshake is an active online community of regular golfers and group organisers. Their site has a popular course section, which is a good resource in the UK for golf course information and reviews, featuring every golf course in the world and over 280,000 independent golf course

reviews. The course section is accessed by over 125,000 golfers every month who can read in depth course information & reviews from the Golfshake community. An analysis of the scores given by subscribers to all the standard courses in Westmorland and Furness is set out in the table below (maximum score 5).

Table 13.10 – Quality of Golf Courses

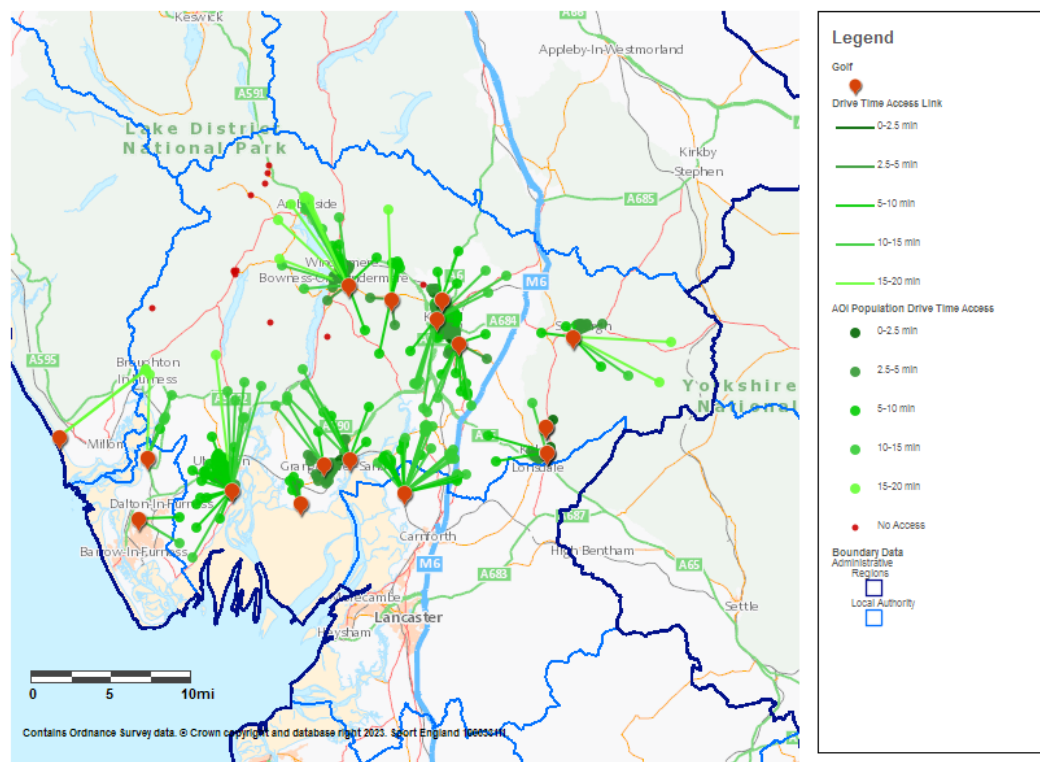
Facility Name	Overall Rating	Course Rating	No. of Reviews
Alston Moor GC	4.13	4	9
Appleby GC	4.52	4.5	54
Barrow GC	4	3.4	9
Beckside GC	4.53	4.4	45
Carus Green GC	4.32	4	65
Casterton GC	4.19	4.4	19
Dunnerholme GC	3.91	3.9	11
Furness GC	4.2	4.4	9
Grange Fell GC	4.01	4.4	8
Grange over Sands GC	3.65	3.8	36
Kendal GC	3.71	4	47
Keswick GC	3.57	3.6	39
Kirkby Lonsdale GC	4.64	4.2	76
Penrith GC	4.34	4.3	55
Sedbergh GC	4.62	4.5	23
Ulverston GC	4.11	4.3	28
Windermere GC	4.42	4.4	98

- 13.24 The general feeling is that because of the nature of golf, the predominance of clubs in managing their own facilities, the demands of users and the levels of annual subscriptions and daily green fees, the standard courses in Westmorland and Furness are of acceptable or high quality or in good condition. Reviews of courses and other facilities on websites (including Golfshake) and similar broadly confirm that golf courses, and in particular the main standard courses on site, are of good quality.
- 13.25 In terms of fitness for purpose, it may be necessary to look at quality from a wider perspective and consider the need for (say) good quality entry-level golf in line with strategic priorities of the NGB and the needs in the catchment. The aspirations of beginners to the game will be different from those who have played golf at a members' club for years. In this way quality would be linked to purpose, and the criteria would differ between golf course needs of different types.
- 13.26 This information is also not currently available in any detail, and while website research and EG evidence suggests that some main standard courses do have some development programmes for juniors and new players, there is no indication of the fitness for purpose of some of the facilities for this developmental purpose.

Accessibility

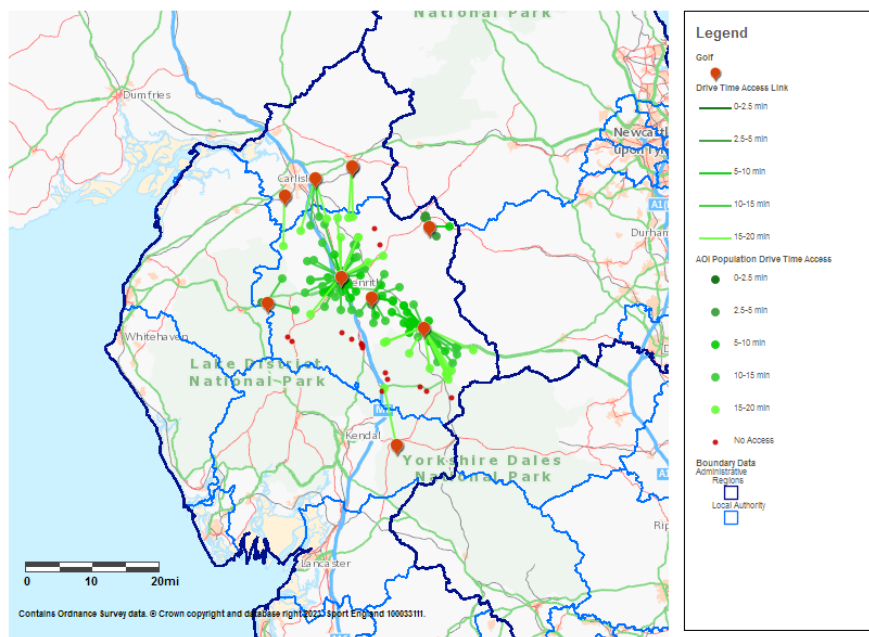
- 13.27 Sport England's accessibility tool on Active Places provides the opportunity to estimate the population profile within a given catchment area of a (new or existing) facility, or the competing facilities within a given catchment area of a (new or existing) facility. In addition, the population within an area of interest served/able to access facilities, based upon given catchment parameters can be identified. However, it is not possible at present to produce an accessibility map and table for the new authority, as the APP database is not yet enabled.
- 13.28 Instead, the assessment of accessibility to golf in the former LA areas must be used. The maps and analysis for the former local authority areas demonstrate that:

- 13.29 Despite the rural nature of much of the former South Lakeland District area, 85% of local residents can gain access to a golf facility within a 20-minute drive, and the majority within 10 minutes. There is a choice of facility in the areas where golf facilities are concentrated – Kendal, Grange-over-Sands, Kirkby Lonsdale, though other more rural parts of the former District have a limited choice of facility, these are indicated by the small red points.



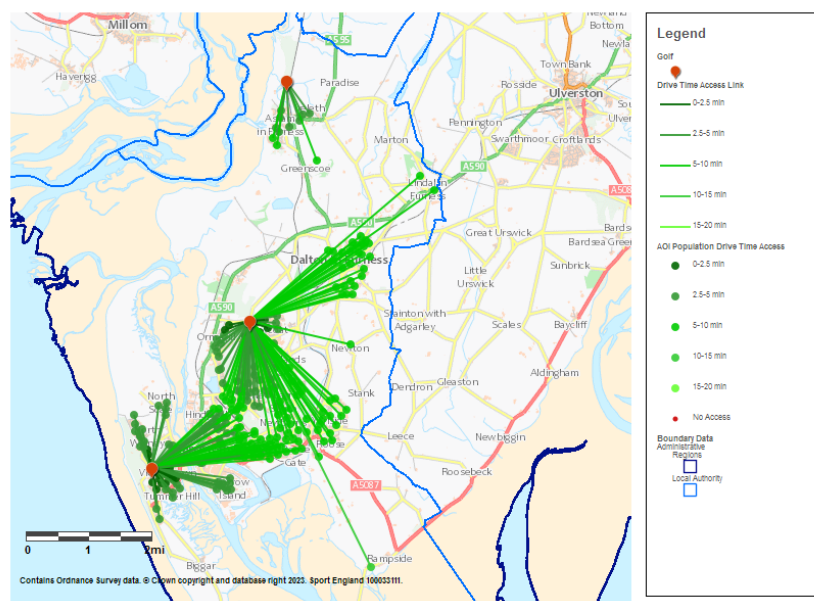
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- 13.30 Similarly in the former Eden area (map overleaf), 85% can gain access to a golf facility within a 20-minute drive within the former District, and well over half within 10 minutes. Some 7000 residents are outside a 20-minute range, while 2500 are within 20 minutes of a facility outside Eden, in the former Carlisle City authority area of Cumberland authority and the former South Lakeland area. Because of the dispersed nature of all facilities, the only real choice of facility is in the A66 corridor.



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- 13.31 In the former Barrow Borough area the whole population can access a golf course within a 15-minute drive, and almost all within 10 minutes. All such facilities are within Westmorland and Furness itself, and there is no reliance on other courses outside. A good choice of courses within Westmorland and Furness is available to all, owing to the relatively dense nature of the population in Barrow town. Ulverston GC remains an option for golfers from the Dalton area, but the assessment indicates that the existing courses in Barrow town remain the closest to travel to for Barrow residents, and that most golfers in Barrow would be likely to choose local clubs in the former authority area.



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13.32 Accessibility is therefore good across the local authority area.

Availability

13.33 Availability needs to consider the following (see ANOG):

- How much existing courses are actually used, how full they are
- How much they could be used
- What scope is there for increasing their availability.

13.34 These are in turn influenced by a number of factors, including:

- The management and ownership
- A programming and sports development policy
- The cost of use
- Patterns of use
- Hours of use
- Facility design.

13.35 In terms of the broad availability of all courses in the area, and any overall spare capacity.

- There is above average supply of standard courses in Westmorland and Furness and the wider area including adjacent LAs. Analysis suggests that all existing courses in the area currently welcome new members or casual users to varying degrees, there are no (or limited) joining fees and membership offers are widely available across the different categories. All courses in the area operate on a visitor/green fee as well as offering membership, so it can be said that the casual/non-attached golfers can be accommodated relatively easily throughout the whole area, albeit at different green fee rates.
- There are only two par 3 courses in Westmorland and Furness, and none in the former Barrow Borough area, and availability for this type of facility which encourages beginners and those requiring a shorter commitment to the game is therefore limited. GDR provision is good in the former Eden and South Lakeland areas, and there is no evidence of lack of capacity at the four ranges identified, but provision in the former Barrow Borough area is non-existent.
- Clearly every club/course is different however, and this analysis only provides a benchmark with which to 'assess' the capacity/availability issue. However it is evident from this assessment and membership data gleaned from websites that there is some spare capacity overall and at most if not all existing courses.
- According to England Golf, average membership numbers in the area fall below the national average of 407, but are still strong given the level of demand and provision in the area. Average membership across South Lakeland courses in 2022 was 383, in the former Barrow Borough area the figure was 390 and 314 in the former Eden area. It is significant that average club membership in the whole area grew by 22% between 2018 and 2022, potentially illustrating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Summary Supply

- 13.36 There is a good number of golf facilities in Westmorland and Furness to serve the area's population, comprising 17 standard courses, 11 of which are 18 holes, two par 3 course and 6 GDRs. The range of facilities however may be more limited. Standard golf course provision mainly comprises established private members' clubs, with three newer commercial members clubs, and a shorter commercial course on former fell land. The main golf facilities are distributed widely throughout the new LA area, mainly outside the Lake District National Park, and in close proximity to the area's main settlements.
- 13.37 There are no 'municipal'/public pay and play courses, but all clubs in the area welcome visitors on a casual pay and play basis, with varying green fees which reflect the tradition and status of the clubs. There are two par 3 courses which are considered to cater for recreational use as well as the development of relative newcomers to the sport, or those with less time to play, and 6 GDRs.
- 13.38 The distribution and range of facilities differs throughout the area – South Lakeland is best provided for, mainly in the southern half of the former District, where the main centres of population live, while there is a limited range of golf facilities in the former Barrow Borough area to serve the former authority's population, limited to three private members' courses. There are no ancillary golf facilities such as par 3 or GDR, and the nearest such facilities are over an hour's drive away in neighbouring districts. There is a good range of golf facilities in the former Eden area to serve the population of the former Eden area. As elsewhere, standard golf course provision entirely comprises established private members' clubs, but there are two facilities in Penrith which offer more than the standard golf offer. Most golf facilities in this part of the new authority are located in the A66 corridor around Penrith, Appleby and Keswick, the main towns. At the edges of Westmorland and Furness, local residents can gain access to a number of clubs outside the area, but within a 20 minute drive.
- 13.39 Relative supply is a useful indicator in terms of benchmarking local provision alongside other similar areas. Relative provision for all standard courses in Westmorland and Furness is more than twice the regional and national average, and well above the average for Cumbria. Local relative supply in the area is therefore very high, and maybe even higher taking into account other facilities set out above, normally considered to be outside a reasonable 20 minute catchment, and people's propensity to travel longer journey times in a rural setting. This relatively good supply must however be qualified by the area's role as a major tourist centre, which attracts golfers to local facilities on holiday, in addition to local members and casual golfers. By virtue of having the only two par 3 courses in Cumbria, Westmorland and Furness's relative provision is twice the national average, and provision is therefore good. Provision of GDRs in Westmorland and Furness is 1.5 times the national, regional and county average. GDR provision is therefore good, although facilities are mainly concentrated in the eastern part of the area. Overall, the relative supply of golf courses and ancillary facilities in Westmorland and Furness is well above the average, although the area's role as a holiday destination may qualify this to some extent.
- 13.40 Standard golf course provision in Westmorland and Furness and within the slightly larger 20-minute drive catchment is nearly three times the regional or national average, although the area's role as a holiday destination qualifies this to some extent. Par 3 provision is above average, but this is restricted to one course in the far east part of Westmorland and Furness and the opportunity to start the sport and develop skills on a shorter course is therefore restricted. GDR provision is also above average, though as suggested above restricted to the east of the authority area.
- 13.41 Despite the rural nature of much of the new authority area, 85% of local residents can gain access to a golf facility within a 20-minute drive, and the majority within 10 minutes in the former South Lakeland and Eden areas. The choice of facility in the areas varies - in Kendal, Grange, Windermere and Kirkby Lonsdale, this is good, though other more rural parts of the area have a limited choice of facility. The only real option in the former Eden area is along the A66 corridor. In the former Barrow Borough area the whole population can access a golf course within a 15-

minute drive, and almost all within 10 minutes. All such facilities are within the former Borough itself, and there is no reliance on other courses outside. A good choice of courses within the former Borough is available to all, owing to the relatively dense nature of the population in the former Barrow Borough area, and facilities at Ulverston GC remains an option for golfers from say the Dalton area, but the assessment indicates that the existing courses in the former Barrow Borough area remain the closest to travel to for residents of the former Barrow Borough area, and that most golfers here in Barrow would be likely to choose local clubs in the former Borough area.

- 13.42 Although the standard golf facilities are mainly located at private members' clubs, all types of golfer can currently be accommodated – pay and play is available, with varying daily green fees, as well as membership at a variety of membership fees. Given the apparent lack of waiting lists and joining fees at Westmorland and Furness's existing private standard courses, it is likely that there are sufficient standard courses in the authority, and further afield, to meet current demand.
- 13.43 According to England Golf, average membership numbers in the area fall below the national average of 407, but are still strong given the level of demand and provision in the area. Average membership across South Lakeland courses in 2022 was 383, in the former Barrow Borough area the figure was 390 and 314 in former Eden area. It is significant that average club membership in the whole area grew by 22% between 2018 and 2022, potentially illustrating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 13.44 Opportunities specifically for coaching/practice and the development of skills for new and improving players may well exist in the area at the private clubs, but are considered secondary to the needs of established golfers and club members. However EG suggests that most clubs are proactively targeting new audiences through coaching programmes and a wider range of membership and introductory options, which EG will continue to support and encourage.
- 13.45 There are no 'municipal'/pay and play facilities, or any course that currently meets the precise criteria of an academy specifically to cater for new golfers, where, say a short 9 hole standard course together with a par 3 course and good practice facilities, including a floodlit GDR, would offer the opportunity for coaching, teaching and development in accordance with EG priorities. The nearest 'public' pay and play course is in Carlisle at Stony Hole GC. However, Casterton does offer a progression for beginners and enable skills developed and taught on the former to be tested on the main course. This might be considered in the future as a specialist academy or learning facility, which would obviate the need for a purpose-built new academy course, which would meet EG's priorities. This might be considered in association with an overall coaching and development initiative by EG with existing affiliated clubs in the authority. The 9 hole course at Beckside is also clearly a beginners' course, albeit challenging, and there is evidence that golfers who start playing here often graduate to more established courses in the area.
- 13.46 There are no driving ranges in the former Barrow Borough area, and a lack of nine-hole facilities, par 3 or alternative playing options could be a negative for beginner or casual players. Further work is required to establish whether a new 'academy' course is feasible in the former Barrow Borough area, or whether such ancillary features could be provided at one of the existing clubs. Consideration might also be given in the former Eden area to the development of the Penrith Hub, where coaching expertise already exists, if feasible, or collaborative working with one of the established private clubs, as a specialist academy or learning facility. Such initiatives might be considered in association with an overall coaching and development initiative by EG with existing affiliated clubs in the new authority area.

Demand

National Trends

- 13.47 Golf is the fifth largest participation sport in the country, with around 730,000 members belonging to one of 1,750 affiliated clubs. Research led by the R&A in 2020 together with the home nation golf unions found that there were 5.2 million on-course adult golfers, playing full-length courses (either 9 or 18-holes) in Great Britain.
- 13.48 The number of on-course golfers has risen from 2.5 million in 2017 to 3.0 million in 2019 and the COVID peak of 5.2 million in 2020. The latest figures showed that 4.8 million people played in 2021. Additional research by Sports Marketing Surveys in 2021 also found that 4.8 million adults had played golf, again down from the COVID peak. Of this the report found that 339,000 were avid golfers, playing more than 52 times.
- 13.49 Up until the mid-1980s, the demand to play golf in the UK comfortably exceeded the supply of golf courses. This meant that most membership-based golf courses had long waiting lists for membership, and 'pay and play' municipal courses were very busy. In the 1990s the UK had a golf course construction boom. By around the year 2000, the UK's supply of golf courses had increased by over 30%. This reversed the mid-1980s supply/demand position to one where, on a national basis, there was generally supply/demand equilibrium but edging towards golf course oversupply.
- 13.50 From around the year 2003, the UK experienced a steady decline in golf club membership numbers. There were several reasons for this. In the expanding digital age, generally people have much busier lives, and a significant proportion felt that they did not have the time to play golf on a regular basis. An 18-hole round of golf typically take around 4 hours. Also, the rise in popularity in cycling and general health and fitness, which can be done in shorter time slots, put extra pressure on the golf sector. As set out future growth will not occur in the traditional 18-hole market.
- 13.51 Furthermore, there has been an increase in the popularity of just paying a visitor green fee to play golf, as opposed to paying a full annual membership subscription at one course. If people do not have the time to justify paying a full annual subscription, then there is 'value for money' appeal in paying daily green fees in line with the level of play, and an added benefit of not being a member means the ability to play a variety of courses.
- 13.52 With an increased demand for more casual 'pay and play' golf, and with the emergence of third-party online tee time sellers, visitor green fee prices started to fall, as venues competed for this expanding market. As green fees started to fall, they made full annual membership subscriptions look even less value for money – unless one had the time to play a lot of golf.
- 13.53 Another structural shift then came with the onset of COVID. This time, it was a positive shift for the golf sector. Whilst COVID has been very damaging for many parts of the UK economy, it was positive to the golf sector. When many businesses and sporting pastimes were forced to shut, golf was one of the few activities allowed. This artificially stimulated golfer demand to levels not seen for 30 or so years. The strong golfer demand has continued for a while despite the effects of COVID on the economy tailing off.
- 13.54 Sporting Insights, the golf research specialists, reported that the number of rounds of golf played in Great Britain in 2022 was up 24% on the pre-Covid position in 2019. Generous Covid rescue packages from the Government aimed to protect the retail, leisure and hospitality sectors helped fuel prosperity in the golf sector. This support came in various forms: income support such as furlough money and grants, reduced VAT on food, guaranteed loans (the 'business bounce-back scheme'), and unprecedented levels of business rates relief. Realistically, these artificial positive drivers from the Government for the golf sector could not continue. With artificial support removed, this is highly likely to have an adverse effect on the sector in the coming years regarding the three fundamental variables of prices charged for golf, the volume of play per year and greenkeeping maintenance costs.

- 13.55 Tell-tale structural signs are evident that the UK golf sector is heading towards another structural downturn. This will then put pressure again on the underlying profitability of the sector. The Members' and Proprietary Golf Clubs Survey 2022/23 Report prepared by Hillier Hopkins LLP, chartered accountants and tax advisers, confirms the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has now receded. The report produced in association with The Golf Club Secretary monthly journal and the UK Golf Federation, warns that the 'cost of living crisis' is now resulting in a downturn in golfer demand.
- 13.56 Against this backdrop England Golf is focused on sustainability and consolidating current clubs rather than expanding the market but also developing clubs to be more viable. Clubs who are proactive and keen to adapt to make themselves attractive to new markets and initiatives should survive and flourish.
- 13.57 The Course Planner sets out the strategic direction for England Golf (2021-25) and aims to re-focus priorities, energy and passion on key areas to help widen golf's appeal, highlighting the sport as more inclusive and accessible than ever.
- 13.58 Within the market it is therefore important to consider the distinct roles that clubs play, it is not a case of 'one size fits all'. In any balanced golf market there will be a need for 'starter clubs' to contrast with improver and more traditional courses. Former US Open champion, Graeme McDowell, summed up the current state of the game when he said that golf needs to be 'quicker, sexier and less elitist.' Future demand is therefore difficult to assess accurately but the nature of demand is likely to evolve.
- 13.59 There is undoubtedly a lot of good work and promotion around golf being done at the moment. Whether these initiatives can arrest the social and structural trends in the longer-term remains to be seen.

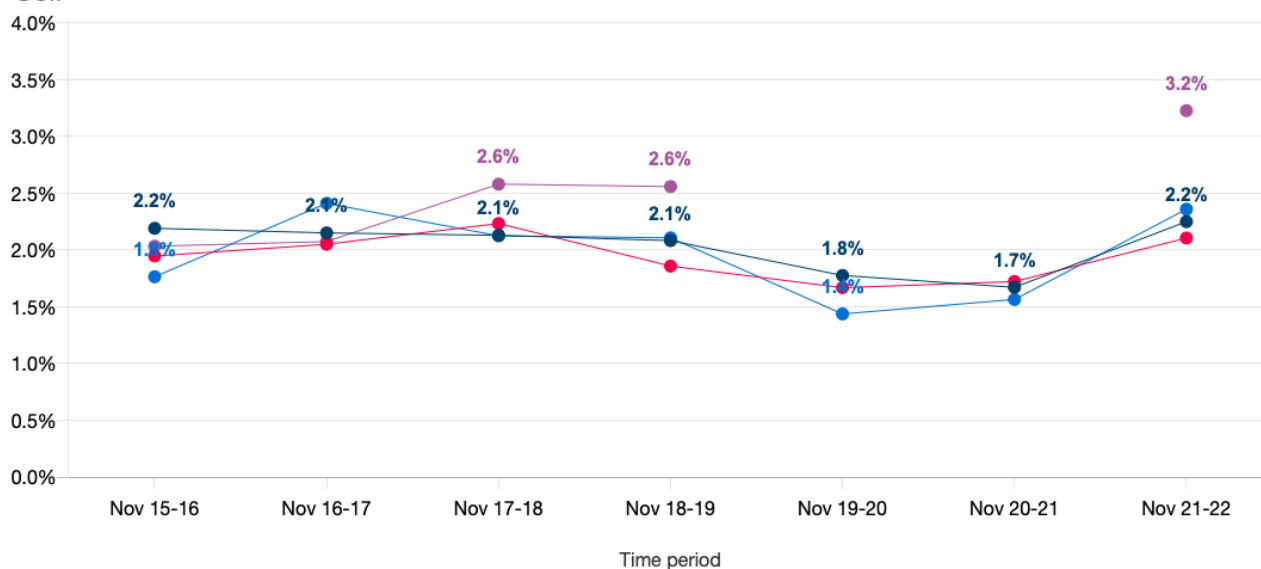
Demand Data

- 13.60 There are numerous different ways in which demand for golf can be analysed, using data from various sources to help present an overall picture of how many people are participating in the sport. There is a good deal of data available on current and likely future levels of demand for golf, from Sport England, England Golf, clubs and various commentators on the game in the UK, and in recent years in studies such as this, it has been refined and adapted to allow levels of demand for golf to be applied to existing supply to estimate current and future need for facilities. The assessment below considers the main sources of data.
- 13.61 Active Lives - Sport England's Active Lives Survey is a relatively new way of measuring sport and activity across England and replaced the previous Active People Survey, with data collection beginning in 2015, and last reviewed in 2021/22. Various frequencies of activity can be analysed, but the data below refers to participation at least twice in the last 28 days, which is said to provide an entry level view of participation overall, a useful measure of engagement in different sports and physical activities and an understanding of the contribution of activities to achievement of 150+ minutes of activity per week (which Sport England defines as being active). This is the measure of participation which is used in this assessment.
- 13.62 The data below refers to national, regional and countywide participation for golf, at least twice in the last twenty days. This is in line with the Active Lives definition, which states that, 'we count sport and leisure activity if it is done.....at least twice in 28 days.' Furthermore Sport England Facilities Planning Model (FPM) for swimming also uses 2 x 28 as the participation benchmark for driving the FPM model and swimming pool need. There is therefore a clear logic to use this parameter for assessing golf course demand.
- 13.63 The data below refers to national, regional and countywide participation, and at the most local level to participation in the newly established local authority of Westmorland and Furness.

Chart 13.1 - Participation 2 x 28 days

Participation in the last 28 days : At least twice in the last 28 days by activity

Golf



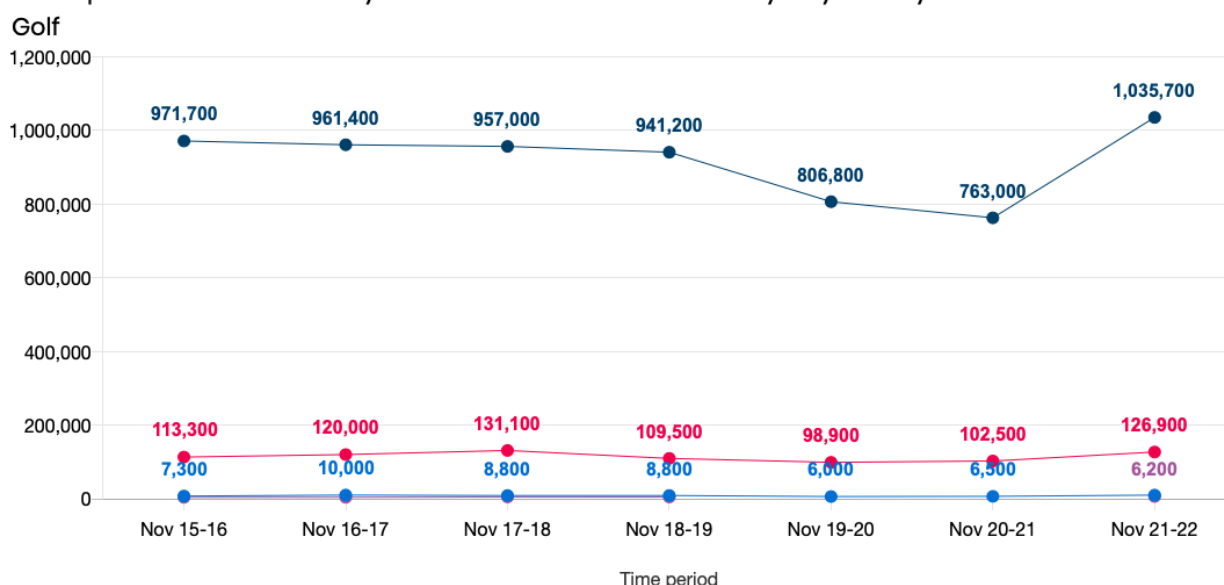
% Participation in the last 28 days by Where:

■ England (Nation) ■ North West Region ■ Cumbria AP ■ Westmorland and Furness LA

Table 13.11 - Participation in the last 28 days: At least twice in the last 28 days by activity

Area	Nov 15-16	Nov 16-17	Nov 17-18	Nov 18-19	Nov 19-20	Nov 20-21	Nov 21-22
England (Nation)	2.20%	2.10%	2.10%	2.10%	1.80%	1.70%	2.20%
North West Region	1.90%	2.00%	2.20%	1.90%	1.70%	1.70%	2.10%
Cumbria AP	1.80%	2.40%	2.10%	2.10%	1.40%	1.60%	2.40%
Westmorland and Furness LA	2.00%	2.10%	2.60%	2.60%	-	-	3.20%

Participation in the last 28 days : At least twice in the last 28 days by activity



% Participation in the last 28 days by Where:

■ England (Nation) ■ North West Region ■ Cumbria AP ■ Westmorland and Furness LA

Table 13.12 – Participation in the last 28 days: At least twice in the last 28 days by activity

Area	Nov 15-16	Nov 16-17	Nov 17-18	Nov 18-19	Nov 19-20	Nov 20-21	Nov 21-22
England (Nation)	971,700	961,400	957,000	941,200	806,800	763,000	1,035,700
North West Region	113,300	120,000	131,100	109,500	98,900	102,500	126,900
Cumbria AP	7,300	10,000	8,800	8,800	6,000	6,500	9,900
Westmorland and Furness LA	3,800	3,900	4,900	4,800	-	-	6,200

- 13.64 Participation in 21/22 at all levels is back to the same percentage rates as in 15/16, having suffered a significant reduction over the last 10 years, and particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, although actual numbers differ slightly (maybe due to population increase). The main exception is the figure for the Westmorland and Furness, where participation is significantly higher than the national average although figures for the latter were unavailable for two years in 2019-21. The latest data suggest that at this level of activity, participation rates in the new LA are about one third higher than in England, and there may be 1.035m golfers playing twice monthly in England, and 6200 in Westmorland and Furness.
- 13.65 Using Active Lives England Golf (EG) has created a Regular Golfer Demand (RGD) index - a series of calculations used to determine an index indicating how the golfer demand per facility in a local authority compares to the national benchmark of demand per facility. Within the formula, EG calculates the participation number in an authority by establishing what proportion of the population are likely to be golfers, which can then be used to determine the number of participants per facility within the authority. Using this number and comparing to the national average of participants per facility, an index can be created.
- 13.66 The RGD index, provides a more balanced assessment of supply against demand and provides an understanding of the number of courses required to meet the estimated need for golf facilities within a locality. With 100 as the average, any index lower than this suggests an area that potentially has either low demand, or a high facility count, or both. A number above 100 suggests an area as having a high demand and/or a low provision, or both.

- 13.67 Participation twice in the previous 12 months is the criterion that England Golf (EG) uses to highlight regular demand.
- 13.68 The data above refers to national, regional and countywide participation for golf, at least twice in the last twenty days. This is in line with the Sport England Active Lives (AL) definition, which states that, 'we count sport and leisure activity if it is done.....at least twice in 28 days.' This is the definition for all sports covered by AL, including golf. Furthermore, Sport England Facilities Planning Model (FPM) for swimming, which is a supply and demand tool, also uses 2 x 28 as the participation benchmark for driving the FPM model and swimming pool need. Someone who plays 2 rounds of golf a month, could be classed as regular rather than somebody who plays golf twice a year, they are unlikely to class themselves as a regular golfer and planning golf needs on such infrequent participation is arguable.

Table 13.12 – Regular Golfer Demand (RGD)

- 13.69 Based on the rationale set out above, and using the 'principles', the England Golf RGD methodology has been adapted, to demonstrate a scenario, to reflect the different measure of regular participation (2 x previous 28 days, consistent with the Active Lives data).
- 13.70 As set out in the table above on this basis, Westmorland and Furness is calculated to have an

Existing/ former Local Authority	No of GCs (equivalents)	2x28 days participation (no's of regular golfers)	= ratio	Divided participation England 1,035,700/1,673	by in	=	x100 ratio	=
Westmorland & Furness	17	6200	364	619		0.59	59	
Former Barrow Borough	3	1850	617	619		0.99	99	
Former Eden	4	1500	375	619		0.61	61	
Former South Lakeland	10	2850	285	619		0.46	46	

index of well below 100, which suggests there is a good supply, which considerably exceeds demand. The RGD ratio for the former Barrow Borough area reflects the level of provision in the area, compared to the remaining local authority area and illustrates a position where supply and demand is more in balance.

- 13.71 Obviously, accessibility will largely depend on the facilities on offer and an individual's personal circumstances, so not all facilities will necessarily be viable options, but this is a useful index to compare demand with the national average. The RGD formula allows for different scenarios to be forecast by amending the number of facilities servicing a catchment. In general Westmorland and Furness currently has more than adequate facilities to meet anticipated demand both now and in the future.

Other Demand Issues

- 13.72 **Local participation** – in the absence of detailed information on actual usage of golf facilities, numbers of rounds played and other data from clubs and courses, it is not possible to give any more than an estimate of local demand throughout Westmorland and Furness, to supplement the national, regional and other data available above from Active Lives and other sources and indices above. However EG has supplied the latest information on membership of clubs in the area affiliated to the governing body set out in the table below.

Table 13.13 – Club Membership

Affiliated Club Name	2015 Average	2016 Average	2017 Average	2018 Average	2022 Average (05/07/22)
Furness GC	352	365	364	371	390 (5% increase since 2018)
Barrow GC					
Keswick GC					
Penrith GC	328	317	320	300	314 (5% increase since 2018)
Alston Moor GC					
Grange Fell GC					
Grange-over-Sands GC					
Kirkby Lonsdale GC					
Windermere GC					
Kendal GC	314	285	288	281	383 (36% increase since 2018)
Ulverston GC					
Carus Green GC					
Casterton GC					
Sedbergh GC					
Estimated total membership in affiliated clubs	4842	4563	4600	4471	5483 (22% overall in the whole area)

13.73 There are average membership figures for the whole of Westmorland and Furness which may hide differences between the club numbers. However the data does suggest that membership of affiliated clubs has increased significantly since the pandemic, and is higher than at any time since 2015, and 22% higher in 2022 than in 2018 (and much higher in the former South Lakeland District where most clubs are located). Membership levels are however still below the average in England (407 members). Total membership of the 14 affiliated clubs currently (2022) stands at about 5500. This figure is broadly compatible with the 6200 golfers which are estimated in Active Lives to play golf (not necessarily as members) regularly in Westmorland and Furness.

13.74 **Latent demand** – There is no other evidence of latent/displaced or unmet demand currently available from local intelligence. An allowance should be made to accommodate some potential latent demand in the area. A number of scenarios are considered in the following section.

13.75 **Population change** - population projections have been sourced from the ONS website of subnational projections for England, 2018 based, the latest data available. The basis for these projections is the former LA figures, for which information is available from ONS. The projected changes in population of Westmorland and Furness up to 2038 are as follows:

Table 13.14 – Population Projections

Year	Estimated population	Increase over 2023/pa increase
2023	225,904	
2028	226,616	+0.3%/0.06% pa
2033	226,865	+0.4%/0.04%pa
2038	227,042	+0.5%/0.03%pa

- 13.76 The broad data suggests that the overall population in Westmorland and Furness may well increase by only about 0.03-0.06% pa over the whole period up to 2038, or 0.3-0.5% in total.
- 13.77 This overall minor increase will also mask changes in the age structure of the area, but in common with many areas, this is likely to result in a larger increase in the population over 65, smaller increases among 0-15, and relative stagnation in the main 16-64 age band. The population normally active in sport are those between 5 and 54, which is likely to remain fairly steady, but golf is popular among older people and the retired, where population increases are higher. The estimated increases in population suggest that demand for golf in general could increase by less than 0.1% pa over the next few years, without other initiatives. On the basis of the limited population information available, and current participation data for the area, there is likely to be a negligible increase in participation in golf in Westmorland and Furness in the period to 2033/8, as the result of population change alone, but these and other scenarios are considered overleaf.
- 13.78 **Development initiatives** Future growth in participation arising from NGB and other initiatives is essentially crystal ball gazing, but these recent trends need to be taken into account in planning for future provision, and confirm the priority groups that might be expected to be catered for. As with the other elements of future demand, some scenarios are considered in the following section.
- 13.79 **Summary** – it is reasonable to conclude that in accordance with the existing character of the area, likely limited population change and the existing participation levels in golf, there will at best be only a small increase in demand for golf. A number of scenarios regarding future demand are tested in the last section.

Summary Demand

- 13.80 Recent trends in participation – Active Lives data from Sport England suggests that participation levels in golf are currently back to the same levels as in 2015/16 (adopting a definition of twice in the last 28 days – regular golfers). The steady fall in participation from 2006 onwards bottomed out in the years of the COVID-19 pandemic, but has been reversed since as the result of changing social and recreational habits.
- 13.81 At the national level, current participation rates are 2.2% for regular golfers, 10.4% for occasional golfers, meaning there are about 1.04m regular golfers or 4.79m occasional golfers in England. The trends are similar in the NW region, Cumbria AP, and Westmorland and Furness, with the exception that participation in the latter is 3.2%, which is 50% higher than the average in England and elsewhere. It is estimated that there are 6200 regular golfers in Westmorland and Furness.
- 13.82 Local EG membership data includes average membership figures for the whole area, and may hide differences between the club numbers. However, the data does suggest that membership of affiliated clubs has increased significantly since the pandemic, and is higher than at any time since 2015, and 22% higher in 2022 than in 2018. Membership levels are below the average in England (407 members), but only slightly). Total membership of the 14 affiliated clubs stands at about 5500. This figure is broadly compatible with the 6200 golfers which are estimated in Active Lives to play golf (not necessarily as members) with various frequencies in Westmorland and Furness. Local club membership trends are confirmed by discussions with clubs where possible, and information on club websites.

- 13.83 Adapting EG's methodology, Westmorland and Furness has an RGD index of well under 100, which suggests there are more than adequate facilities to meet anticipated demand from the data available, and the loss of any course would mean supply continued to exceed demand, although this is not the position in former Barrow Borough area.
- 13.84 Using an adapted version of the EG's methodology, Westmorland and Furness has an RGD index of well under 100, which suggests there are more than adequate facilities to meet anticipated demand both now and in the future.
- 13.85 Future demand is made up of latent demand, population change and development initiatives undertaken by the NGB and other bodies. Latent demand is difficult to measure, and requires additional research based on the factors which prevent current participation. Population increase is anticipated by the ONS to be 0.03-0.06% pa (0.3-0.5% overall), up to 2038. but this could be affected by additional housing allocations in the area (long term allocations are as of yet unknown). Any increase in population might well be mitigated by an ageing of the population, resulting in fewer people in the 'active' age groups, though this might include more golfers, as it is a sport of appeal to older people. Future growth in participation arising from NGB and other initiatives is essentially crystal ball gazing, but these recent trends need to be taken into account in planning for future provision, and confirm the priority groups that might be expected to be catered for. As with the other elements of future demand, some scenarios are considered in the following section.
- 13.86 In accordance with the existing character of the area, likely limited population change and the existing participation levels in golf, there might well be only a small increase in demand for golf. A number of scenarios regarding future demand are tested in the last section.

Key Issues

- 13.87 The main headline conclusions that have arisen from the assessment can be summarised as follows:
- There is a very good supply of all types of golf facilities in general in Westmorland and Furness, up to twice the national, regional and county average, dependent on facility type
 - There is a range of different types of management and usage of facilities, with the exception that no municipal 'public' pay and play facilities exist, and facilities are generally considered to be of high quality and attractiveness
 - There is a lack of facilities particularly suited to attracting new players to the game at the start of the golfer journey, of the type which are currently the priority for EG.
 - Demand for golf in general, among regular golfers playing twice a month, is increasing and 50% higher than the average. Nonetheless there is no evidence of golfers unable to join clubs, play casually or join waiting lists, and this suggests that the good supply outweighs the relatively high demand
 - Although there is no readily available information on participation by golfers on holiday, it is likely that any increase in this activity can more than likely be absorbed by existing courses and other facilities
 - Future increases in demand will be limited, because of demographic, environmental, locational and other factors.
- 13.88 On an area basis:

Former South Lakeland District Council Area Assessment Summary

- There is a good range of golf facilities in the former South Lakeland area to serve the area's population, comprising 10 standard courses, six of which are 18 holes, one par 3 course and 4 GDRs. Standard golf course provision mainly comprises established private members' clubs, with three newer commercial members clubs. There are no 'municipal'/public pay and play courses, but all clubs in the former District area welcome visitors on a casual pay and play basis, with varying green fees which reflect the tradition and status of the clubs. There is one par 3 course which is considered to cater for recreational use as well as the development of relative newcomers to the sport, or those with less time to play. There are 4 GDRs in South Lakeland, one of which is free standing, but all are located in the east part of South Lakeland. Inevitably golf facilities are located mainly in the southern half of South Lakeland, where the main centres of population live.
- Relative supply is a useful indicator in terms of benchmarking local provision alongside other similar areas. Standard golf course provision in South Lakeland and within the slightly larger 20-minute drive catchment is nearly three times the regional or national average, although the area's role as a holiday destination qualifies this to some extent. Par 3 provision is above average, but this is restricted to one course in the far east of the area, and the opportunity to start the sport and develop skills on a shorter course is therefore restricted. GDR provision is also above average, though as suggested above restricted to the east of South Lakeland.
- Most residents in the former South Lakeland authority can access a golf facility within a 20-minute drive, and most of these are within South Lakeland itself, though facilities just over the boundary also have a role to play in meeting demand. Choice of facility is available in the southern part of former South Lakeland near the main towns and facilities.
- The range of types of courses suggests that all types of golfer can currently be accommodated – pay and play is available, with varying daily green fees, as well as membership at a variety of membership fees. Given the lack of waiting lists and joining fees at the former District's area existing private and commercial standard courses, it may well be that there are sufficient standard courses in South Lakeland and further afield, to meet current demand.
- Local EG membership data includes average membership figures for the whole of South Lakeland, and may hide differences between the club numbers. However the data does suggest that membership of affiliated clubs has increased significantly since the pandemic, and is higher than at any time since 2015, and 36% higher in 2022 than in 2018. Membership levels are below the average in England (407 members), but only slightly. Total membership of the 9 affiliated clubs stands at about 3500. This figure is broadly within the range of 2850 to 8280 golfers which are estimated in Active Lives to play golf with various frequencies in the South Lakeland part of Westmorland and Furness. Local club membership trends are confirmed by discussions with clubs where possible, and information on club websites.
- South Lakeland has an adapted RGD index of well under 100, which suggests there are more than adequate facilities to meet anticipated demand both now and in the future.

Former Eden Authority Assessment Summary

- There is a good range of golf facilities in the former Eden area to serve the former authority's population, comprising 4 standard courses, three of which are 18 holes, with one other having 10 holes but 18 tees. In addition there are one par 3 course and 2 GDRs. Standard golf course provision entirely comprises established private members' clubs. There are no 'municipal'/public pay and play courses, the nearest being in Carlisle at Stony Hole GC, which is outside the 20 minute catchment from the middle of the area. All private clubs in the former Eden area welcome visitors on a casual pay and play basis, with varying green

fees which reflect the tradition and status of the clubs. There is one par 3 course, at Penrith Hub, which is a coaching and practice facility that caters for recreational use as well as the development of relative newcomers to the sport, or those with less time to play. There are 2 GDRs in the former Eden area one of which is free standing, both located in the Penrith area. Most golf facilities are located in the A66 corridor around Penrith, Appleby and Keswick, the main towns in the area.

- There are also four locations outside the former Eden area where the accessibility assessment attributes usage by the former authority residents because they are the closest facilities to residents living on the edge of the former District, mainly in the far south and north of the former Eden area. These comprise 4 standard courses in the former South Lakeland authority area and the former Carlisle City authority area, and a GDR attached to one of the clubs. It is likely that they play an important but limited part in meeting demand from Eden.
- Relative supply is a useful indicator in terms of benchmarking local provision alongside other similar areas. Standard golf course provision in the former Eden area and within the 20-minute drive catchment including facilities over the former Eden area boundary, is twice the regional or national average, although the area's role as a holiday destination may qualify this to some extent. Par 3 provision is above average, but this is restricted to one course in Penrith, and the opportunity to start the sport and develop skills on a shorter course is therefore restricted. GDR provision is also above average, but again restricted to the Penrith area.
- Most residents in the former Eden area can access a golf facility within a 20-minute drive, and most of these are within the Eden area itself, though facilities just over the boundary in the former Carlisle City authority area and the former South Lakeland authority area also have a role to play in meeting demand. Choice of facility is available in the central part of the former Eden area near the A66 and the main towns and facilities.
- Although the standard golf facilities are mainly located at private members' clubs, all types of golfer can currently be accommodated – pay and play is available, with varying daily green fees, as well as membership at a variety of membership fees. Given the apparent lack of waiting lists and joining fees at the former District's existing private standard courses, it is likely that there are sufficient standard courses in the former Eden area, and further afield, to meet current demand.
- Local EG membership data includes average membership figures for the whole of former Eden area, and may hide differences between the club numbers. However, the data does suggest that membership of affiliated clubs has remained relatively steady over the past decade, although there has been a small increase since 2018. Total membership of the 4 affiliated clubs stands at about 1300. This figure is below the range of 1850 to 4350 golfers which are estimated in Active Lives to play golf with various frequencies in the Eden part of the new LA, but these latter figures are based on participation rather than regular club membership.
- The former Eden area has an adapted RGD index of well under 100, which suggests there are more than adequate facilities to meet anticipated demand both now and in the future.

Former Barrow Borough Assessment Summary

- There is a limited range of golf facilities in the former Barrow Borough area to serve the former Borough's population, limited to three private members' courses. There are no ancillary golf facilities such as par 3 or GDR, and the nearest such facilities are over an hour's drive away in neighbouring districts. There are no 'municipal'/public pay and play courses, but all three clubs in the former Barrow Borough area welcome visitors on a casual pay and play basis, with varying green fees which reflect the tradition and status of the clubs.

- Relative supply is a useful indicator in terms of benchmarking local provision alongside other similar areas. Standard golf course provision in the former Borough is slightly above average, and twice as high if Ulverston GC is considered a reasonable local venue. There are other courses more than the usual distance away from Barrow Borough, which may be attractive to local residents, given people's propensity to drive further in remote or rural areas, but this is mitigated by Barrow's location, which may well attract golfers who are visiting the Lake District.
- The former Barrow Borough area is small, and almost all local residents of the former Borough area can access a course within 10 minutes' drive, as the existing courses are located close to main population centres. Similarly, the compact nature of the former Borough means that most residents have a choice of course on which to play, and actual location will depend on the nature of the course and club rather than distance travelled.
- Despite the limited range of types of courses available, most types of golfer can currently be accommodated – pay and play is available, with varying daily green fees, as well as membership at a variety of membership fees. Given the apparent lack of waiting lists and joining fees at the former Borough's existing private standard courses, it may well be that there are sufficient standard courses in this area, and further afield, to meet current demand.
- Local EG membership data includes average membership figures for the whole of the former Borough, and may hide differences between the club numbers. However, the data does suggest that membership of affiliated clubs has increased slightly since the pandemic, and is higher than at any time since 2015, and 5% higher in 2022 than in 2018. Membership levels are below the average in England (407 members), but only slightly. Total membership of the 2 affiliated clubs stands at about 800, but this does not include the unaffiliated club at Dunnerholme. This figure is well below the range of 1850 to 5350 golfers which are estimated in Active Lives to play golf with various frequencies in the Barrow part of the new LA, but these latter figures are based on participation rather than regular club membership.
- The former Barrow Borough area has an RGD index of just below 100, which suggests there is a broad balance of supply and demand, equal to the national average. In general, the former Barrow Borough area currently has broadly adequate facilities to meet anticipated demand, but the loss of just one course would mean demand exceeded supply. On this basis all course should be protected.

13.89 The following issues are therefore considered the most appropriate to be considered in forming the future strategy and action plan.

- Supply is high across the area, demand also high, but there is no evidence of lack of spare capacity at existing courses. In this case it is considered that there are enough facilities to meet anticipated demand in now and in the future, including usage by golfers on holiday in the area. The loss of even one course in the former Barrow Borough area however would result in a shortfall of standard courses in this part of the authority.
- Most standard courses are conventional private members clubs, but each course allows and encourages casual access by payment of a green fee, so there is likely a facility for experienced golfers to play in the area. The nearest pay and play/municipal course is well outside the new LA, and there is no facility which currently provides 'golf for all' as a priority. Beckside and Casterton do fulfil this need, but these are concentrated in the South Lakeland area. There is above average relative provision of par 3 courses and GDRs, but the numbers of each are low, and concentrated in Kendal, Kirkby Lonsdale and Penrith. There are no such facilities in the former Barrow Borough area and also Ulverston and surrounding area.

- Although overall provision is good in Westmorland and Furness for the established golfer, there is a particular need for good quality entry-level golf in line with strategic priorities of the NGB and the needs in the catchment. The aspirations of beginners to the game and youngsters will be different from those who have played golf at a members' club for years. The trends set out also point to the future need for this type of provision.
 - Casterton (and possibly Beckside, which is unaffiliated to the CGU) could possibly be developed for this in the former South Lakeland area, if considered a priority by the governing body, and agreement could be reached with the operators. In the former Eden area, it may be feasible to develop Penrith Golf Hub with the addition of a short standard course, subject to space, or for the CGU to work collaboratively with one of the centrally located clubs to provide suitable opportunities. The lack of a new facility aimed specifically at the needs of young people and those who do not wish to join clubs in former Barrow Borough area is unlikely to be rectified, and in this area it is more likely that cooperation between the LA, EG and the existing clubs, with enhanced coaching and development proposals, is the best way to fulfil the need for 'golf for all', which might lead to the development of a floodlit, covered GDR and a small par 3 course at or near one of the existing clubs, where space and ground permits. Provide entry level opportunities.
 - Future demand can be difficult to estimate with any certainty, but might be considered and acted upon in line with three scenarios.
 1. Declining demand for golf as the result of a drop in population, failure of development initiatives and latent demand not occurring - sufficient facilities available, long term prospect of some sites being relinquished/rationalised
 2. Increasing demand for golf arising from the most optimistic changes in circumstances – need to consider additional facilities in appropriate locations
 3. Continuing levels of existing demand resulting from limited population growth and some success with NGB initiatives – maintenance of existing levels of provision. This is considered to be the most likely scenario in the Westmorland and Furness area over the next 15 years, to protect provision. This will need reviewing to take account of potential increased levels of projected population growth taking account of future housing allocations within future Local Plans.
- 13.90 The quality of all golf courses and other facilities is considered to be high, as reflected in various review sites and on observation, and is a reflection of the predominance of long-established privately owned clubs, the scenic nature of the area, the relative affluence of the local area and other contributory factors.

