



## **BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT**

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QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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## ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
BCGBA	British Crown Green Bowling Association
BDC	Bassetlaw District Council
BE	Bowls England
BPL	Barnsley Premier Leisure
CFA	County Football Association
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
CISWO	Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation
CSP	County Sports Partnership
EA	England Athletics
ECB	England & Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FF	Football Foundation
FE	Further Education
FIT	Fields in Trust
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HE	Higher Education
HPA	The Hurlingham Polo Association
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
NFA	Nottinghamshire County Football Association
NCCC	Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106
SHFA	Sheffield & Hallamshire County Football Association
SE	Sport England
TGR	Team Generation Rate
UKA	UK Athletics
WR	World Rugby

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## PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Assessment Report prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) for Bassetlaw District Council (BDC) and its partners. This report presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch facilities in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy. It has been followed to develop a clear picture of the balance between the local supply of, and demand for, playing pitches and other outdoor sports facilities.

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

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

Stages A to C are covered in this report.

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

The primary purpose of the PPS is to provide a strategic framework which ensures that the provision of outdoor playing pitches and sports facilities meet the local needs of existing and future residents across Bassetlaw. The Strategy will be produced in accordance with Sport England Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance (October 2013 as updated in March 2014) and the national planning guidance and provide robust and objective justification for future playing pitch provision throughout the District.

One of the core planning principles of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. Section 8 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities. Paragraph 96 discusses the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

The Bassetlaw Local Plan<sup>1</sup> needs to be based upon a robust evidence base. Paragraphs 96 and 97 of the NPPF discuss assessments and the protection of "existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields".

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

Planning Policy and other relevant sport related corporate strategies must be based upon a robust evidence base in order to ensure planning and sports development policy can be implemented efficiently and effectively.

The Council is currently developing a new Local Plan. A key element of the new evidence base is to support and update policy on open space, sport and recreation and local standards and allocation where appropriate. The PPS will cover the period up to 2037, aligned to the period of the emerging Local Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/media/1542/bassetlaw-plan-initial-draft.pdf>

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### Corporate and strategic:

- It ensures a strategic approach to playing pitch provision. The PPS will act as a tool for BDC and partner organisations to guide resource allocation and set priorities for pitch sports in the future.
- It provides robust evidence for capital funding. As well as proving the need for developer contributions towards pitches and facilities a playing pitch strategy can provide evidence of need for a range of capital grants. Current funding examples include the Sport England Funding Programmes, Heritage Lottery Fund (for park improvements), the Football Foundation and the Big Lottery. The site-specific action plan that will form an integral part of this PPS will identify and prioritise sites that require improvements and where the funding should be secured from.

### Planning:

- The PPS will provide important evidence to support the Bassetlaw Local Plan, presently under development.
- It will support strategic policies on green infrastructure, leisure, outdoor sports and recreational facilities and health and well-being in the emerging Bassetlaw Local Plan.
- Evidence for Community Infrastructure Levy and Developer Contributions

### Operational:

- It can help improve management of assets, which should result in more efficient use of resources and reduced overheads.
- The Action Plan will identify sites where quality of provision can be enhanced.
- An assessment of all pitches (in use and lapsed) will be undertaken to understand how pitches are used and whether the current maintenance and management regimes are appropriate or require change.

### Sports development:

- It helps identify which sites have community use and whether that use is secure or not.
- It helps identify where community use of school sports pitches is most needed to address any identified deficits in pitch provision.
- It provides better information to residents and other users of sports pitches available for use. This includes information about both pitches and sports teams/user groups.
- It promotes sports development and can help unlock latent demand by identifying where the lack of facilities might be suppressing the formation of teams/community needs. This is deemed a key aspect of the strategy by Bassetlaw District Council's Active Communities.
- It helps inform and support the delivery of initiatives and programmes led by Bassetlaw Council and partners.

### *FA Local Football Facility Plans*

To support in delivery of the National Football Facilities Strategy, The FA has commissioned a national project. Over the next two years to 2020, a Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) will be produced for every local authority across England. Each plan will be unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation, including currently underrepresented communities.

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Identifying strategic priorities for football facilities across the formal, recreational and informal game, LFFPs will establish a ten-year vision for football facilities that aims to transform the playing pitch stock in a sustainable way. They will identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all will be identified via LFFPs.

LFFPs will guide the allocation of 90% of national football investment (The FA, Premier League and DCMS) and forge stronger partnerships with local stakeholders to develop key sites. This, together with local match-funding will deliver over one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next 10-years.

A LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment - it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. The PPS will, however, provide this evidence base and one of the drivers for the PPS is for it to run alongside production of the LFFP in order to provide robust detail regarding quality and supply and demand to develop a well-informed plan.

## ***Aims and objectives***

The key drivers for developing the PPS include:

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

The objectives of the project will be to:

- ◀ Provide a carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs for playing pitches;
- ◀ Provide information to assist performance management and asset management,
- ◀ Provide information to underpin:
  - ◀ the protection, enhancement and improvement of the existing pitch stock,
  - ◀ improvements in community access to educational and non-local authority pitches;
- ◀ To provide a basis for establishing new pitch requirements arising from new housing developments or improvements to existing where demand can be satisfied by increasing capacity.
- ◀ To provide a framework for delivering government policies for social inclusion, environmental protection, community involvement and healthy living;
- ◀ To provide good-quality information and evidence of need for funding bids for new and improved provision;
- ◀ To ensure that the Bassetlaw PPS has strong links to all NGB facilities strategies;

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- ◀ To provide the context for sports development of pitch sports which aims to develop the range of opportunities available.

## ***Agreed scope***

The Assessment Report provides detail in respect of what exists in the District, its condition, distribution and overall quality. It also considers the demand for facilities based on population distribution and planned growth. The full list of sports facilities covered is set out below.

Pitch sports will be assessed using the guidance set out in Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy (2014).

### *Pitch sports:*

- ◀ Football pitches
- ◀ Rugby union pitches
- ◀ Rugby league pitches
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Third generation artificial grass (3G) pitches
- ◀ Artificial grass pitches (AGPs - including use for hockey)

Outdoor sports will be assessed using Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (2014). Non-pitch outdoor sports require a different methodology to assess demand and supply to that used for pitch sports.

### *Outdoor sports:*

- ◀ Outdoor bowling greens
- ◀ Outdoor tennis courts
- ◀ Athletics tracks
- ◀ Polo fields

Robin Hood Polo Club is the only polo club in Bassetlaw, located at Highwood Farm in Misson, Bawtry. The Club and polo field should be considered within the scope of the PPS throughout its future lifespan, however, in this instance the Club was not responsive to consultation and whilst its inclusion should be acknowledged within the scope of the strategy, polo facilities are not included as part of this assessment herein due to a lack of known information about the club and facilities.

## ***Management arrangements***

A Project Team from the Council has worked with KKP to ensure that all relevant information is readily available and to support the consultants as necessary to ensure that project stages and milestones are delivered on time.

A steering group has and will continue to lead and drive this PPS forward during its development and also to ensure the delivery of its recommendations and actions.

The membership of the group is balanced and representative of the different parties and key drivers behind the work and the providers and users of playing pitches in the study area.

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The Steering Group is and has been responsible for the direction of the PPS from a strategic perspective and for supporting, checking and challenging the work of the project team. The Steering Group is made up of representatives from Bassetlaw District Council, Sport England, Active Partners Trust (the single entity trust bringing together the county sports partnerships in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire; Active Derbyshire and Active Notts) and National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs). Please see Appendix 2 for a list of Steering Group contacts.

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

- ✦ Be a champion for playing pitch provision in the area and promote the value and importance of the PPS.
- ✦ Ensure implementation of the PPS's recommendations and action plan.
- ✦ Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the PPS.
- ✦ Ensure that the PPS is kept up to date and refreshed.

## **Study area**

Bassetlaw is located in Nottinghamshire of which it is one of ten constituent Local Authorities, located on the northernmost border of the County. It is bordered by seven neighbouring Local Authorities including within three County Council areas. These include Lincolnshire County to the East (North Lincolnshire, West Lindsey), other Nottinghamshire districts of Mansfield and Newark & Sherwood to the South, the Derbyshire County district of Bolsover to the West, and to the north lie the South Yorkshire districts of Rotherham and Doncaster.

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

Bassetlaw has two, more densely populated key centres, Worksop and Retford. The 2010 Bassetlaw PPS applied five analysis areas, however, this study will instead assimilate Tuxford within the Rural analysis area rather than presented as an exclusive analysis area itself. Therefore, for the purpose of this assessment Bassetlaw has been broken down into four analysis areas which align with those used by the Council for strategic planning. They are (with current population<sup>2</sup>):

- ✦ Harworth (8,134)
- ✦ Retford (23,535)
- ✦ Rural (38,908)
- ✦ Worksop (45,727)

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<sup>2</sup> ONS Mid-2017 Population Estimates for Wards in England and Wales by Single Year of Age and Sex



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## *What makes Bassetlaw different?*

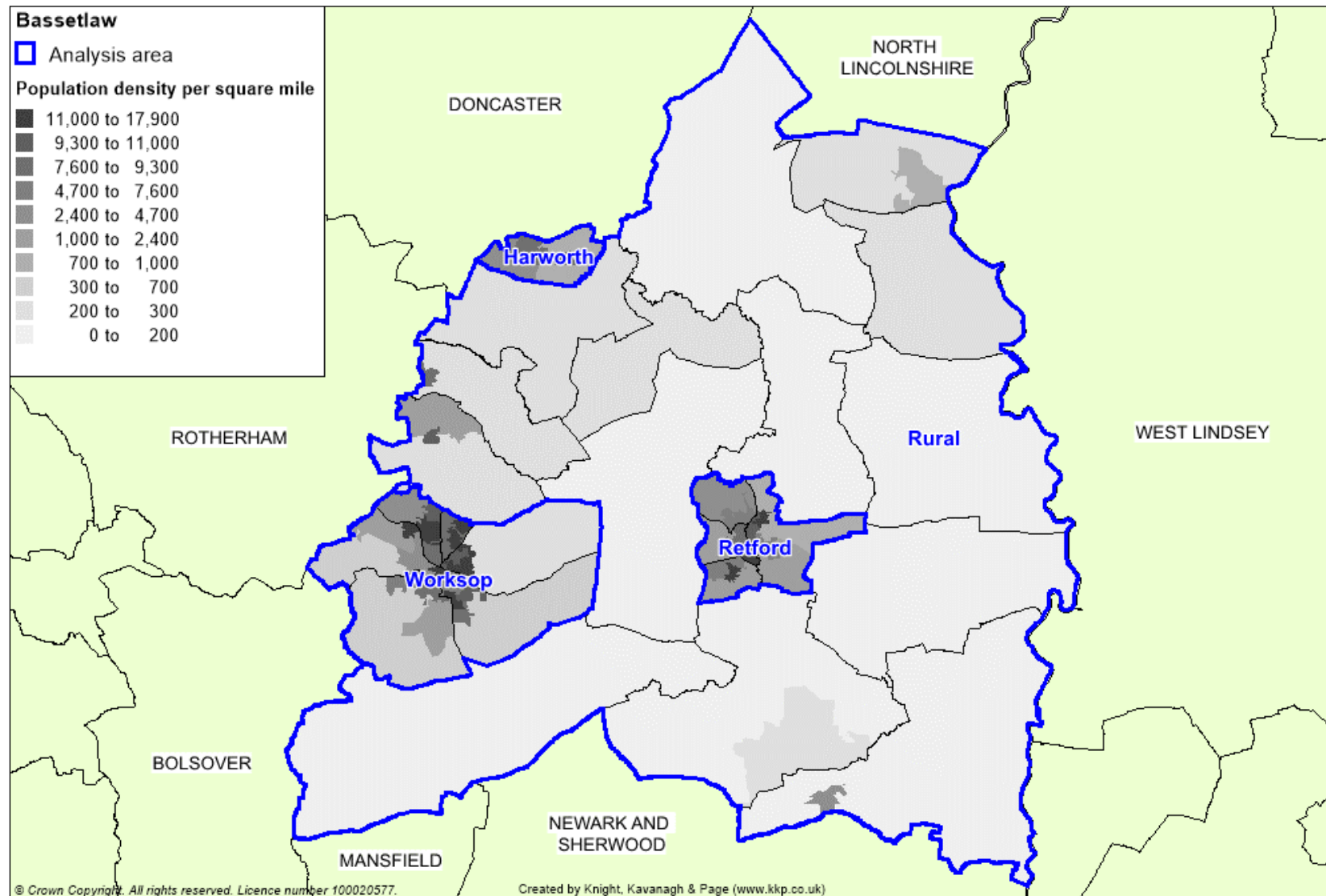
There is just one local football league based in Bassetlaw (The Worksop Senior Sunday League) which means that the majority of teams from the District associate with league structures in other neighbouring areas including Mansfield & Newark Junior Football League and Mid Lincs Football League. Whilst this may not necessarily mean that teams seek access to pitch provision in surrounding Districts, it is important to note that teams typically play in South Yorkshire (Rotherham) or Nottinghamshire based leagues and consequently regularly travel outside of Bassetlaw for away fixtures. Consequently, teams are split in affiliation to both Sheffield & Hallamshire FA and Nottinghamshire FA. Similarly, there are some Rotherham, Mansfield and Newark & Sherwood based cricket teams which play in the Bassetlaw & District Cricket League.

As a former coal mining region like several of its surrounding Districts, three sites in Bassetlaw remain under the ownership of the Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation (CISWO). These sites contribute notably to the stock of outdoor playing pitches in the District and whilst their previous industry use has since wound down, they continue to service community sport. Consequently, CISWO is positioned as a key stakeholder with regards to playing field sites in Bassetlaw and it is important to understand the position around access, tenure and aspirations for development at these sites.

Much of the secondary education provision in Bassetlaw is delivered via a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) provider which (via commercial management company Barnsley Premier Leisure – BPL) contributes towards much of the accessible stock of outdoor sports facilities in the District and their refurbishments through sinking funds. This was part of a £129 million project which saw the new build of five secondary schools, a Special Educational Needs (SEN) school, two new Post 16 Centres and two leisure Centres across Retford, Worksop and Tuxford, completed in 2007. The nature of this arrangement means that the District has a range of relatively new sports facilities at education sites, available for external community use. However, it does potentially present challenges where there might be strategically identified need to improve facilities, with much of the obligations around repair and replacement linked and incorporated within the respective contracted management agreements for each site.

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Figure 1.1: Map of Bassetlaw with PPS analysis areas



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

It is essential that a PPS is based on the most accurate and up-to-date information available for the supply of and demand for playing pitches. This section provides details about how this information has been gathered in Bassetlaw.

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

PPS guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field. These definitions are set out by the Government in the 2015 'Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order'<sup>3</sup>. It should be noted that the reference to five years within the Order is purely in relation to whether Sport England should be consulted in a statutory capacity. The fact that a playing field may not have been marked out for pitch sport in the last five years does not mean that it is no longer a playing field. That remains its lawful planning use whether marked out or not.

- ▶ **Playing pitch** – a delineated area of 0.2ha or more which is used for association football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, rounders, baseball, softball, American football, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo.
- ▶ **Playing field** – the whole of a site which encompasses at least one playing pitch.

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

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

### *Quantity*

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

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

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<sup>3</sup>. <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-applications/>

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## Accessibility

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

- ✦ **Community use** - pitches in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams playing in community leagues.
- ✦ **Available but unused** - pitches that are available for hire but are not currently used by teams which play in community leagues; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire.
- ✦ **No community use** - pitches which as a matter of policy or practice are not available for hire or used by teams playing in community leagues. This should include professional club pitches along with some semi-professional club pitches, where play is restricted to the first or second team.
- ✦ **Disused** – sites that are not being used at all by any users and are not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as ‘lapsed sites’.
- ✦ **Lapsed** - last known use was as a playing field more than five years ago. These fall outside of Sport England’s statutory remit but still have to be assessed using the criteria in paragraph 97 of the National Planning Policy Framework and Sport England would nonetheless challenge a proposed loss of playing pitches/playing field which fails to meet such criteria. It should be emphasised that the lawful planning use of a lapsed site is still that of a playing field.

In addition, there should be a good degree of certainty that the pitch will be available to the community for at least the following three years. A judgement is made based on the information gathered and a record of secured or unsecured community use put against each site.

Table 1.1: Disused and lapsed sites in Bassetlaw

Site name	Analysis area	Sport(s)	Status (last used)	Comments
Jamia Al Karam Secondary School (Previously known as Eton Hall)	Retford	Cricket Football	<b>Disused (2015)</b>	Former independent school playing fields now lie disused behind the retained building, the school having since closed. The site hosted a youth 9v9 and youth 11v11 football pitch in addition to an NTP.
Tiln Lane	Rural	Football	<b>Disused (2015)</b>	Site previously hosted one adult football pitch which is no longer being marked due to reduced levels of demand.

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Site name	Analysis area	Sport(s)	Status (last used)	Comments
Shireoaks Cricket Ground (Steetley Works Ground)	Worksop	Cricket Bowls Tennis	<b>Lapsed (2010)</b>	Site had a natural turf cricket pitch with non-turf wicket, bowling green and two tarmac tennis courts. Facilities now lies disused since acquisition and conversion of the pavilion building to residential use, with facilities retained within the private grounds. Cricket pitch previously used by Woodsetts Community CC, now playing in Rotherham since losing access.
Bevercotes Sports Ground	Rural	Cricket Football/ Rugby union	<b>Lapsed (2004)</b>	Former sports ground now unmaintained and existing as green space. Ownership/management not known. Previously accommodated a natural turf cricket square and as many as two adult football pitches marked onto the outfield. Main football pitch was re-marked for rugby union based on 2004 aerial imagery, when the cricket square is last shown prepared and rugby union goalposts are in place.
Manton Sports Club	Worksop	Cricket	<b>Lapsed (2004)</b>	Site previously hosted an eight wicket natural grass square circa 2004. It still currently operates actively as a football hub site.
Bothamsall Cricket Pitch	Rural	Cricket Football	<b>Lapsed (2010)</b>	Site previously hosted a four wicket natural grass square and one youth 11v11 pitch.

Furthermore, there are some sites where playing pitches are no longer marked, however, the sites as a whole remain operational as they are either protected or serve a wider function such as a public park.

*Table 1.2: Unmarked playing fields in Bassetlaw*

Site name	Analysis area	Sport(s)	Comments
Worksop Rugby Union Football Club	Worksop	Football	Site previously hosted one adult pitch which is unused. Worksop RUFC is in dialogue with Worksop Boys Club JFC to potential create a selection of mini and youth pitches onsite.

In addition to the above, there are a number of existing sites containing pitches which are presently marked but unused. These are listed within the relevant sport section.

Any sites omitted from the PPS having been overlooked, whether used, disused or lapsed, are subject to the same conditions as those detailed herein. Any such site is not to be considered as not required or surplus as part of the planning process.

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Some sites in Bassetlaw are protected for community use through additional status, for example the playing field site at The Green (Worksop) is protected as King George Playing Field through the Fields in Trust programme of the same name. Furthermore, a number of other recreation sites are legally protected for sporting use by FIT through covenant. They are:

- ◀ Ranskill Village Park Recreation Ground (Rural Area)
- ◀ Bracebridge Recreation Ground (Worksop Area)
- ◀ Sandy Lane Playing Field (Worksop Area)
- ◀ Kings Park (Retford Area)
- ◀ Elkesley Sports Field (Rural Area)
- ◀ Rayners Field (Rural Area)

### *Quality*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

For data analysis purposes, an online survey was utilised. This was sent to all clubs not covered by face to face consultation.

Local sports development officers, county associations and regional governing body officers advised which of the clubs to include in the face to face consultation (Appendix 2). Sport England was also included within the consultation process prior to the project commencing. Issues identified by clubs returning questionnaires were followed up by telephone or face to face interviews.

The response rates of such consultation are as follows:

Sport	Total number	Number responding	Response rate	Methods of consultation
Football clubs	47	28	60%	Face to face
Football teams	147	121	82%	Online survey Telephone
Rugby union clubs	2	2	100%	Face to face
Hockey clubs	2	2	100%	Face to face
Cricket clubs	16	10	63%	Face to face Online survey Telephone
Rugby league clubs	1	1	100%	Telephone
Tennis clubs	3	3	100%	Online survey Telephone
Bowling clubs	16	5	31%	Online survey Telephone
Athletics clubs	3	3	100%	Telephone
Polo clubs	1	0	0%	Telephone
Secondary schools/colleges	8	7	88%	Online survey Telephone
Parish & Town Councils	45	9	20%	Online survey Telephone

The consultation process sought to capture demand information and associated issues relating to all affiliated sports clubs using playing pitches in Bassetlaw.

For face to face consultation, key clubs were identified by NGBs and the Council and were selected based on sporting issues most pertinent to the study, for example, for having high levels of demand, specific facility issues including quality, threat of loss of access or related issues to playing pitch provision.

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## ***Future demand***

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

### ***Population growth***

The current resident population in Bassetlaw is 116,304<sup>4</sup>. By 2037 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand, in line with the draft Bassetlaw Local Plan period) the District's population is projected to increase to 121,198<sup>5</sup> representing an increase of 4,894 (or equivalent to a percentage increase of 4.2%) according to ONS data.

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

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

Other information sources that were used to help identify future demand include:

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

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

Supply and demand information gathered within Section B was used to assess the adequacy of playing pitch provision in Bassetlaw. It focused on how much use each site could potentially accommodate (on an area by area basis) compared to how much use is currently taking place.

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

Qualitative pitch ratings are linked to a pitch capacity rating derived from NGB guidance and tailored to suit a local area. The quality and use of each pitch is assessed against the recommended pitch capacity to indicate how many match equivalent sessions<sup>6</sup> per week (per season for cricket) a pitch could accommodate.

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

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

<sup>4</sup>Source: ONS Mid-2017 Population Estimates for Lower Layer Super Output Areas in England and Wales by Single Year of Age and Sex

<sup>5</sup> ONS 2016-based projections 2016-41

<sup>6</sup> A match equivalent session (MES) can be either a match or a training session



# **BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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## PART 2: FOOTBALL

### 2.1: Introduction

The organisations primarily responsible for the development of football in Bassetlaw are Nottinghamshire FA and Sheffield and Hallamshire FA. They are also responsible for the administration, in terms of discipline, rules and regulations, cup competitions and representative matches, development of clubs and facilities, volunteers, referees, coaching courses and delivering national football schemes. All clubs in the area affiliate to one of the two County Football Associations (CFA).

This section of the report focuses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches. Part 7 captures supply and demand for third generation pitches (3G pitches) which are the preferred AGP (artificial grass pitch) surface type for football. In future, it is anticipated that there will be a growing demand for the use of 3G pitches for competitive football fixtures, especially to accommodate mini and youth football.

#### ***Local Football Facility Plans (LFFPs)***

To support in delivery of both the current and superseding FA National Games Strategy (NGS), the FA has commissioned a nationwide consultancy project. Over the course of the next two years to spring 2020, a Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) will be produced for every local authority across England. Each plan will be unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation.

The LFFP is strategically aligned to the National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS); a 10-year plan to change the landscape of football facilities in England. The NFFS represents a major funding commitment from the national funding partners (The FA, Premier League, DCMS, Football Foundation) to inform and direct an estimated one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next ten years.

Each LFFP will build upon PPS findings (where present and current) regarding the formal and affiliated game, to also include strategic priorities for investment across small sided football (recreational and informal including indoors). The LFFP will also incorporate consultation with groups outside of formal football, as well as underrepresented communities. This could include those which may be key partners with regards to football for behavioural change and groups which may be key drivers of FA NGS priorities around participation in the likes of women and girls football, disability football and futsal.

LFFPs will identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all national football investment through the funding partners will be identified via LFFPs.

It is important to recognise that a LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment - it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of a PPS and is not an accepted evidence base for site change of use or disposal. A LFFP will however build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans and may adopt relevant actions from a PPS and/or complement these with additional investment priorities.

The Bassetlaw LFFP is currently being produced aligned to the PPS and it is therefore important that the findings of the PPS inform priority projects within it and that it is updated alongside the PPS through the Stage E process to ensure that both have the same focuses.

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## Consultation

In addition to face to face consultation with key clubs, an electronic survey was sent to all football clubs playing in Bassetlaw with contact details having been provided by the two CFAs. Consultation (either by survey, telephone or face to face interview) represents a 60% club response rate and 82% team response rate. The results are used to inform key issues within this section of the report. The following clubs were met with face to face as part of the consultation process:

- ✦ Bawtry JFC (Sheffield & Hallamshire FA)
- ✦ Blyth Bombers JFC (Sheffield & Hallamshire FA)
- ✦ Misterton United JFC (Nottinghamshire FA)
- ✦ Retford FC (Nottinghamshire FA)
- ✦ Retford JFC (Nottinghamshire FA)
- ✦ Worksop Town FC (Sheffield & Hallamshire FA)

## 2.2: Supply

The audit identifies a total of 122 grass football pitches across 66 sites in Bassetlaw. There are 100 pitches across 47 sites identified as being available for community use on some level<sup>7</sup>, whilst 22 pitches across 19 sites are unavailable for community use.

Table 2.1: Summary of grass pitches available for community use

Analysis area	Pitch type					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Harworth	2	1	1	1	1	6
Retford	6	3	4	1	2	16
Rural	19	6	8	8	5	46
Worksop	12	6	6	6	2	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100</b>

Most available pitches in Bassetlaw (39%) are adult size which is, in part, due to youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches. This is not ideal for youth players at U13-U16 and is not in line with the recent FA Youth Review. Just 16 available pitches are youth 11v11 size representing 16% of the available supply in Bassetlaw which is low in relation to the proportion of youth teams (33 teams – 23% of all teams) which should be playing matches on this size pitch.

In accordance with the FA Youth Review, U17 and U18 teams can play on adult pitches. The FA's recommended pitch size for adult football is 100x64 metres. Please refer to the table below for more detail:

<sup>7</sup> During the 2018/19 season

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 2.2: FA recommended grass/3G pitch sizes

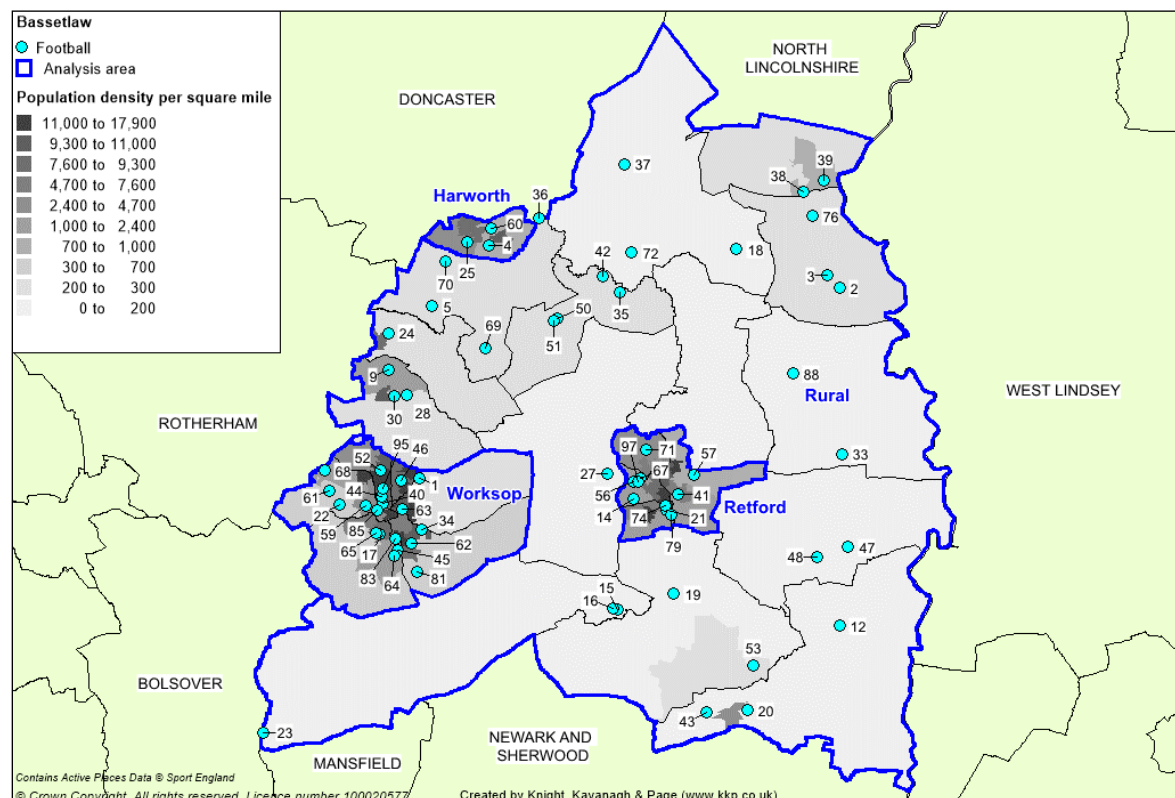
Age group	Playing format	Recommended pitch dimensions (metres excluding run offs)	Recommended pitch dimensions (metres including run offs)
Mini-Soccer U7/U8	5v5	37x27	43x33
Mini-Soccer U9/U10	7v7	55x37	61x43
Youth U11/U12	9v9	73x46	79x52
Youth U13/U14	11v11	82x50	88x56
Youth U15/U16	11v11	91x55	97x61
Youth U17/U18	11v11	100x64	106x70
Over 18/Adult	11v11	100x64	106x70

## Disused sites/lapsed sites

There are two lapsed playing field sites which previously accommodated football pitch provision; Bevercotes Sports Ground and Bothamsall Cricket Pitch. The former site accommodated as many as two adult pitches at one point, however, the site is now no longer maintained for formal sport and instead stands as open space. The latter site accommodated one youth 11v11 pitch and similarly is no longer maintained.

In addition, there is one disused playing field site which accommodated one adult football pitch. Tiln Lane was last marked circa 2015, however, due to reduced levels of demand the Council stopped maintaining the site.

Figure 2.1: Map of sites with football pitch provision within Bassetlaw



# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## *Future provision*

Worksop RUFC reports ambitions to create football pitches at its home ground. The Club is in initial dialogue with Worksop Boys JFC to potentially create youth and mini pitch provision on an area of land which is currently not utilised for sport, but on which was previously marked (circa 2008) both a senior rugby union and an adult football pitch. It wants to maximise use of its land for the development of sport within Worksop and is open to a variety of sports to access the site as long as rugby union provision is protected. The area of land is located adjacent to the River Ryton and would require increased levels of maintenance to bring back into use.

Retford JFC reports it will need to mark at least one dedicated mini 7v7 pitch at Elizabethan Playing Fields for the start of the 2019 season to accommodate additional teams. The Club indicates the site has the available playing field land to do so with no requirement for overmarking or net reduction in number of pitches.

Bawtry Town FC and Bawtry JFC report aspirations to acquire or secure long-term lease of land neighbouring current home venue Memorial Sports Ground. Bawtry Town Council owns the site and leases it on a long-term agreement to charitable organisation Bawtry Action for Recreation and Sport (BARS). Members from the onsite sports clubs, including Bawtry Town FC and Bawtry JFC, are part of a User Group Board below the main BARS Board where they can discuss relevant topics and voice their opinions.

The two clubs in association with BARS would like to acquire the privately owned adjacent land which is currently in agricultural use, to develop additional grass football pitches and a full size floodlit 3G pitch. It intends that the potential new area of land can be used to relocate current football pitches presently overmarked onto a cricket outfield at Memorial Sports Ground to exclusive areas, as well as allowing for the creation of a Step 7 compliant pitch for Bawtry Town FC adult teams to progress into the National League System. Furthermore, it believes that development of a full size 3G pitch would allow for centralising all training demand to one site and reduce expenditure costs at other sites. Both clubs currently report having to travel outside of Bassetlaw to Doncaster to access suitable training provision. It should be noted that the majority of the demand from the clubs is not based within Bassetlaw and instead, due to its location, comes from the neighbouring authority of Doncaster.

## ***Security of tenure***

In total, 36 teams from 11 clubs are currently considered to have unsecure tenure at sites across Bassetlaw at sites which are not Council owned or managed. These are summarised in the table below. A team is not considered to have secure tenure if it's written agreement is less than 25 years. It should be noted that all teams renting pitches at Council (whether District, town or parish) managed sites also have unsecure tenure, despite the pitches being secure; due to the short-term nature of the rental agreements.

*Table 2.3: Summary of clubs with unsecure tenure across Bassetlaw at non-Council managed sites*

Site ID	Site name	Club name	Number of teams
5	Blyth Bombers FC	Blyth Bombers JFC	One youth 11v11, two youth 9v9, two mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 team.

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Site ID	Site name	Club name	Number of teams
30	Kingston Park Academy	Carlton Knights FC	One youth 9v9 team.
44	Outwood Academy Valley	Worksop Boys JFC	Four youth 11v11, three youth 9v9, two mini 7v7 and four mini 5v5 teams.
43	Ollerton Road (Tuxford YFC)	Tuxford YFC	One mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 teams.
45	Outwood Academy Portland	St Joseph's FC	Two adult teams.
		Worksop Borough FC	
48	Rampton Secure Hospital	AFC Ordsall	Two adult teams.
		Leverton United	
56	Retford Oaks Academy	Bridon AFC	Two adult teams.
64	Sparken Hill Academy	Worksop Boys JFC	Two youth 11v11 teams.
85	Worksop Town Football Ground	Handsworth Parramore FC	Three adult and two youth 11v11 teams.
		Worksop Town FC	
		Worksop Town JFC	

Carlton Knights FC, Worksop Boys JFC, St Joseph's FC, Worksop Borough, Bridon AFC have an accumulative total of 20 teams using facilities at education sites. Schools and academies generally state their own hire policies and are more likely to restrict or alter levels of community use and are therefore classified as unsecure.

Blyth Bombers FC, Rampton Secure Hospital, Ollerton Road and Worksop Town Football Ground are privately owned with the resident clubs using the pitches with short-term agreements in place.

Blyth Bombers JFC accesses Blyth Bombers FC and reports it does not have any immediate issues with its current arrangement with the private landowner having used the site for 12 years. However, the Club is open to relocating to another site within the locality if it were to offer long-term security of tenure as well as suitable pitch and ancillary provision.

Conversely, Worksop Town FC indicates aspiration to formalise long-term security of tenure at Worksop Town Football Ground through either leasehold or purchasing freehold of the site. The Club currently rents the site on an annual basis from private ownership.

Tuxford YFC has aspirations to formalise a long-term lease for Gilbert Avenue Playing Field. The Club is going to use the site from the start of the 2019/20 season for youth matches. Its current site Ollerton Road is not large enough to host a dedicated youth 9v9 pitch. It reports wanting to use the site for its mini teams which will progress to youth football at the start of the 2019/20 season. Once tenure has been secured, the Club indicates it intends to apply for potential grant funding in order to make improvements to onsite ancillary facilities.

All remaining clubs are considered to have secure tenure and do not report any issues with their current arrangements. Clubs to note with long term arrangements are Retford FC Juniors with a 25 year lease from Nottinghamshire County Council at Elizabethan Playing Fields and Retford United Juniors which has lease expiring in 2042 from Nottinghamshire County Council and King Edward Trust at Oaklands Playing Fields.



# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## Pitch quality

The quality of football pitches in Bassetlaw has been rated via a combination of non-technical assessment (as determined by The FA) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed quality rating.

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

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

Table 2.4: Summary of football pitch quality (community use pitches)

Analysis area	Adult pitches			Youth pitches			Mini pitches		
	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
Harworth	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	2
Retford	1	3	5	-	6	1	-	2	1
Rural	-	11	5	-	9	5	-	8	5
Worksop	2	6	4	-	4	8	-	1	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>15</b>

The pitch quality ratings determined through a combination of non-technical assessments and user feedback show just over half of pitches (51%) available for community use are rated as standard quality, with 46% rated as poor and only three pitches as good, equating to just 3% of available supply. There is one good quality adult pitch at each of the following three sites; Worksop College, Worksop Town Football Ground and The Rail – Retford FC.

In addition, there are two District Council sites which are currently disused and not available for community use; Goosemore Recreation Ground and Farr Park can each host one adult pitch. However, they are not used due to poor quality as both pitches have issues with moles causing damage to the surface. Although the sites are still available to hire, they are not attractive to potential users and will provide a poor quality playing experience unless the playing surface is improved and problem resolved.

Specific comments from clubs relating to the pitch conditions at individual sites can be seen in the table below:

Table 2.5: Summary of pitch quality comments from consultation

Site ID	Site name	Club name	Comments
4	Bircotes and Harworth Sports and Social Club	Harworth Colliery FC	Issues with dog fouling and litter on the pitches.
5	Blyth Bombers FC	Blyth Bombers JFC	Pitches are used for car parking to accommodate the local farmers market.

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Club name	Comments
9	Costhorpe Sports Field	Shireoaks Inn FC	Clubs report issues with unauthorised access from vehicles and damage caused to the playing surfaces.
		Sherwood Rangers FC	
24	Harrison Drive Recreation Ground	Langold JFC	Club reports issues with unauthorised access from vehicles and damage caused to the playing surfaces.
34	Manton Sports Club	Workshop Town JFC	Pitches regularly need reconfiguring to allow for remedial and maintenance works.
36	Memorial Sports Ground	Bawtry JFC	Unauthorised access on pitches leading to issues with dog fouling and littering.
		Bawtry Town FC	
85	Workshop Town Football Ground	Workshop Town FC	The current pitch orientation leaves certain areas susceptible to frost leading to fixture postponements in the winter.

Of the clubs which responded to consultation, 64% (18 clubs) suggest pitch quality has remained the same since the previous season. Only one Club, Retford FC, reports pitch quality improving within this time period. The Club indicates this is due to the fact it has taken over maintenance of the site and can therefore carry out dedicated regime of pitch enhancements.

## ***FA Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP)***

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

Following a PIP report, clubs can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified in order to improve the quality of their pitches. Clubs can also utilise the report as an evidence base to acquire potential funding streams to obtain the relevant maintenance equipment.

Five sites in Bassetlaw have received an assessment as part of the PIP process as follows:

### *Bircotes and Harworth Sports and Social Club (28th November 2018)*

- ✦ Main summary; a better in season and end of season maintenance and renovation programme is needed to improve pitch quality.
- ✦ Performance quality is lower basic (Poor quality).
- ✦ An intensive maintenance schedule is required with the correct machinery and equipment managed by trained and motivated ground staff including decompaction, fertiliser application, weed treatment and seeding.

### *Costhorpe Sports Field (27th November 2018)*

- ✦ Main summary; the site is well used with a clear programme of basic maintenance able to bring pitch quality to a reasonable standard.
- ✦ Pitches are bare, with a loss of grass due to use for training.
- ✦ Performance quality is lower basic (Poor quality).



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- ◀ An in season weekly maintenance regime throughout the year of decompaction, regular mowing, surface slitting and feeding is required.

### *Memorial Sports Ground (28th November 2018)*

- ◀ Main summary; there is a need for decompaction of the outfield area to improve the quality for both football and cricket.
- ◀ Pitches are in decent condition with typical levels of wear and tear.
- ◀ Performance quality is upper basic (Standard quality).
- ◀ Throughout the year when conditions permit supplement decompaction and mowing operations with regular surface slitting and grooming to reduce surface compaction, improve ingress of water, air and nutrients.

### *Rockware Sports Ground (12th December 2018)*

- ◀ Main summary; rotation of pitches is essential to allow the surface to recover as well as undertaking a programme to relieve compaction, weed infestation and seeding.
- ◀ Each pitch suffered overuse and bare patches from high levels of wear. Current machinery stock is inadequate and unsuitable to provide the maintenance required.
- ◀ Performance quality is lower basic (Poor quality)
- ◀ An intensive maintenance schedule is required with the correct machinery and equipment managed by trained and motivated ground staff including decompaction, fertiliser application, weed treatment and seeding.

### *Outwood Academy Valley (23rd November 2018)*

- ◀ Main issues on the site are compaction of the surface, extensive weed infestation and large percentage of worm activity.
- ◀ Each pitch suffered overuse and bare patches from high levels of wear.
- ◀ Performance quality is lower basic (Poor quality)
- ◀ An intensive maintenance schedule is required with the correct machinery and equipment managed by trained and motivated ground staff including decompaction, fertiliser application, weed treatment, seeding and management of worm population.

### **Over marked pitches**

Over marking of pitches is an issue at some sites in Bassetlaw. There are some football pitches in the District which are marked onto or overlapping cricket outfields, which can create availability issues at multi-sport sites as the cricket season begins in April when the football season is still ongoing and the football season begins in August as cricket fixtures are still being played. This can also result in minimal time for dedicated maintenance and remedial work to be carried out which can affect pitch quality. The following sites have football pitches over marked onto cricket outfield:

- |                            |                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ◀ East Drayton Sports Club | ◀ Rockware Sports Ground      |
| ◀ Memorial Sports Ground   | ◀ The Metcalfe Ground         |
| ◀ Misterton Sports Field   | ◀ South Wheatley Village Hall |
| ◀ Rayners Field            |                               |

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## Ancillary facilities

Similar to football pitches, the quality of ancillary facilities across Bassetlaw has been assessed via a combination of site visits and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ▶ Good
- ▶ Standard
- ▶ Poor

Ancillary facility rating is primarily influenced by the type of amenities which are available on a site accompanied by their quality, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, showering provision, car parking, dedicated official and spectator facilities and boundary fencing. The table below identifies the findings for local authority managed football sites across Bassetlaw.

*Table 2.6: Summary of ancillary facility quality at available Council managed sites*

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Ancillary facility quality
1	27 Acre Field	Worksop	Poor
9	Costhorpe Sports Field	Rural	No changing rooms
17	Farr Park	Worksop	No changing rooms
21	Goosemoor Recreation Ground	Retford	Good
24	Harrison Drive Recreation Ground	Rural	Standard
42	Old School Ground	Rural	No changing rooms
52	Raymouth Lane Playing Field	Worksop	No changing rooms
62	Shrewsbury Road Recreation Ground	Worksop	No changing rooms

The majority of Council sites (63%) are not serviced by any form of onsite changing provision, whilst one site (27 Acre Field) has poor quality facilities.

It should be noted that even though there are no current ancillary facilities at Costhorpe Sports Field, clubs which use the site can access changing rooms at adjacent site Costhorpe Cricket Ground. There are only two sites which have facilities which are at least standard quality, these being Goosemoor Recreation Ground and Harrison Drive Recreation Ground. Facilities at Harrison Drive Recreation Ground are maintained and co-ordinated by Langold JFC but the pitches are let by the Council which manages the site as a whole.

Specific comments put forward by clubs during consultation relating to the condition of ancillary facilities can be seen in the table below:

*Table 2.7: Summary of ancillary facilities quality comments*

Site ID	Site name	Club name	Comments
9	Costhorpe Sports Field	Shireoaks Inn FC	Clubs report aspirations for onsite changing rooms, storage and toilets.
		Sherwood Rangers FC	

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Club name	Comments
14	Elizabethan Playing Fields	Retford JFC	Club reports changing provision is poor quality and in need of modernisation. It has aspirations to improve quality and potentially develop a clubhouse onsite. In addition, it plans to submit a planning application for a storage container onsite.
20	Gilbert Avenue Playing Field	Tuxford YFC	Club reports aspirations to formalise long-term tenure on the site. Once secure it intends to apply for grant funding to make ancillary improvements including installation of utilities and replacement of current generator.
53	Rayners Field	East Markham FC	Club aspires to work collectively with other sports clubs which use the site to source funding to create purpose built ancillary facilities.
59	Rockware Sports Ground	Workshop Town JFC Greendale Oak FC	Clubs report ancillary facilities to be poor quality and in need of refurbishment. Facilities are too small and not suitable for the number of teams accessing them.
85	Workshop Town Football Ground	Workshop Town FC	Generally ancillary facilities are good quality, however, changing rooms require some modernising.
97	The Rail – Retford FC	Retford FC	Club reports even after recent investment ancillary provision is basic and in need of modernisation.

All remaining clubs which responded to consultation requests indicate the ancillary facilities they access to be either standard or good quality with no immediate issues.

## *Car parking*

Through consultation, several clubs indicate the following sites do not have adequacy sized and/or suitable quality car parking facilities for the number of teams accessing them:

- ❖ Costhorpe Sports Field
- ❖ Harrison Drive Recreation Ground
- ❖ Manton Sports Club
- ❖ Memorial Sports Ground
- ❖ The Rail – Retford FC
- ❖ Workshop Town Football Ground

## *FA's Safeguarding Operating Standards*

Both Nottinghamshire and Sheffield & Hallamshire FA are now required to comply with FA safeguarding operating standards. As part of this, they each recognise and advocate all football pitches require, as a minimum, access to toilet facilities for players for safeguarding and health & safety purposes. Furthermore, they expect that pitch providers work in partnership with site users to ensure that the associated changing room and toilet requirements are accessible.

## BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Though both FA's strive to obtain this as a minimum requirement across its administrative areas, it is key to acknowledge that they do not have ownership or influence over all sites used for affiliated football and whilst it is able to influence and support site provision through partnership working (especially with local authorities), it is not directly able to do so at all sites such as those which may be privately operated.

It should be noted that any partnership with a local authority is dependent on subsidies available at any given moment in time. Often any potential funding from a local authority is limited due to restrictions in available finances from budget constraints.

### 2.3: Demand

In total there are 147 teams identified as playing competitive football matches within Bassetlaw. This is made up of 33 men's, three women's, 55 youth boys', eight youth girls' and 48 mini soccer teams.

*Table 2.8: Summary of competitive teams currently based in Bassetlaw*

Analysis area	Number of teams					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Harworth	4	2	4	3	2	15
Retford	10	11	4	4	6	35
Rural	9	11	7	9	8	44
Worksop	13	17	7	7	9	53
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>147</b>

All teams identified as playing matches in Bassetlaw are recorded as consistently playing home matches on grass pitches during 2018/19 season. This is understandable due to the fact there are no full size 3G pitches within the District.

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

*Table 2.9: Reported change in the number of teams over the previous three years*

Team type	Clubs response		
	Increased	Decreased	Stayed the same
Adult	20%	10%	70%
Youth	20%	30%	50%
Mini	35%	10%	55%

The highest increase in teams is reported at mini soccer, with 35% of clubs reporting an increase over the last three years, whereas 20% of clubs report an increase in youth and adult teams. In comparison the largest decrease is at a youth age group with 30% of clubs responding to consultation indicating a reduction. This contradicts national trends which show an overall reduction in adult participation. It must be noted, however, that these figures do not include adult only clubs that have folded during this time frame.

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## ***National League System***

The National League System is a series of interconnected leagues for adult men's football clubs in England. It begins below the football league (the National League) and comprises of seven steps, with various leagues at each level and more leagues lower down the pyramid than at the top. The system has a hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the levels, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top of the system.

Clubs within the step system must adhere to ground requirements set out by the FA. The higher the level of football being played the higher the requirements. Clubs cannot progress into the league above if the ground requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Ground grading assesses grounds from A to H, with 'A' being the requirements for Step 1 clubs.

There are no professional clubs in Bassetlaw playing above the National League System, however, there are five teams from five clubs which play within it, as seen below.

*Table 2.10: Summary of teams playing within the football pyramid structure*

Team	League	Level
Worksop Town FC	Northern Counties East Football League - Premier	Step 5
Handsworth Parramore FC <sup>8</sup>	Northern Counties East Football League - Premier	Step 5
Harworth Colliery FC	Northern Counties East Football League – Division One	Step 6
Retford FC	Central Midlands League – Division North	Step 7
Retford United FC	Central Midlands League – Division North	Step 7

Worksop Town FC and Handsworth Parramore FC currently groundshare at Worksop Town Football Ground. This arrangement is discussed in greater detail later in the section under imported demand.

A common issue for clubs entering the pyramid is changing facilities. For Step 7 football (ground grading H), changing rooms must be a minimum size of 18 square metres, exclusive of shower and toilet areas. The general principle for clubs in the football pyramid is that they have to achieve the appropriate grade by March 31<sup>st</sup> of their first season after promotion, which therefore allows a short grace period for facilities to be brought up to standard. This, however, does not apply to clubs being promoted to Step 7 (as they must meet requirements immediately).

All clubs are currently able to meet their league requirements, although improvements may be needed in some instances for clubs to progress. Ancillary facilities at The Rail – Retford FC are, however, basic and in need of modernisation. The Club, through volunteers and self-investment, has managed to improve the condition of a derelict building to meet Step 7 requirements, however, investment is needed for further improvement including official changing rooms and spectator toilets.

## ***Women's National League System***

Correspondingly there is a Women's National League System similar to the adult men's which provide structure to the women's game. This ranges from Step 1 to Step 6 with each step requiring differing ground grading requirements.

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<sup>8</sup> Demand imported

# **BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT**

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Although women's clubs are still required to meet ground requirements set out by the FA, these differ from the men's National League System. Ratings range from grade A to C, each with differing minimum requirements. Step 1 and 2 in the Women's National League System is akin to Step 3 and 4 of the men's National League System, although not exactly the same.

In 2017, the FA announced plans to restructure the women's league for the highest performers in the football pyramid. The changes were implemented from the start of the 2018-19 season and saw the top league, FA WSL 1, expand from ten clubs to 14 and the creation of a new national league established at tier two for a maximum of 12 teams.

Three teams in Bassetlaw, Haworth Colliery Ladies, Worksop Town Ladies and Retford United Ladies all play in the Women's National League System. These teams currently play at Bircotes and Harworth Sports and Social Club, Worksop Town Football Club and Retford United Football Club respectively. Each of these sites have suitable facilities as they all share sites with NLS men's teams with similar facility requirements.

## ***Training***

Access to affordable floodlit training facilities is a significant issue for most clubs in Bassetlaw, particularly those with a large number of youth and mini teams. Of the 28 clubs that responded to consultation requests and state a demand for additional training facilities, all specifically stated a need for increased use of 3G pitches.

There are currently no full size 3G pitches in Bassetlaw. As a result, clubs access the small size 3G pitch at Bircotes and Harworth Sports and Social Club for training in addition to full size hockey suitable AGPs at Academy sites. Several clubs also indicate that they train outside of Bassetlaw to access suitable full size 3G pitches at the following sites:

- ◀ Rossington All Saints Academy (Doncaster)
- ◀ Goals Soccer Centre Doncaster (Doncaster)

Some teams report occasionally training on match pitches on Saturday and Sunday mornings, particularly junior teams, as daylight allows. However, with most junior matches taking place at the same time there are a limited number of available pitches for teams to use. Training at this time eliminates the need to access floodlit training provision.

In Bassetlaw there are a number of clubs which have feeder teams. These teams consist of children under the age of seven who are not old enough to participate in formalised league matches and instead train on a regular basis. Clubs with feeder teams have aspirations for them to eventually progress to compete in competitive fixtures once they have reached the required age. Retford JFC, Worksop Town JFC, Blyth Bombers JFC, Harworth Colliery JFC, Tuxford JFC, Misterton United JFC and Bawtry JFC all have feeder teams which train on a regular basis.

## ***Walking football***

Walking football is a slower paced version of football, primarily aimed at people over 50 years of age. The rules are adapted so not to permit running, allow very little contact and for example throw-ins are replaced by kick-ins. Walking football forms part of the FA Just Play! Initiative which aims to give the casual participant a chance to just turn up to a venue and play football on a less formal basis, as opposed to the regular commitment of club training and fixtures. The rules of Walking football were formally agreed and launched by the FA in February 2017 and participation across the Country is reported to be growing.



## BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Walking football is generally played on 3G pitches or in sports halls, whilst matches are permitted to be held on grass pitches though considered less preferable. Walking football may also offer participation opportunities for disabled players, though disability formats of football exist exclusively and is generally played in sports halls.

Walking football sessions in Bassetlaw are held on the hockey suitable AGPs on Thursdays at the Elizabethan Academy 19:00 – 20:00 and Mondays at Outwood Academy Valley 18:00 – 19:00.

### ***Latent demand***

Latent demand refers to potential demand; individuals who would like to participate within the sport but do not do so. This can be for a variety of reasons including a lack pitches or appropriate facilities. Clubs that report latent demand and the reasons provided for this latent demand can be seen in the table below.

*Table 2.11: Clubs that report latent demand and the reasons provided*

<b>Club</b>	<b>Need for more match pitches</b>	<b>Need for more/better training facilities</b>	<b>Need for better/ more appropriate changing provision</b>
Bawtry JFC	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bawtry Town FC	Yes	Yes	Yes
East Markham FC	-	-	Yes
Harworth Colliery FC	-	-	Yes
Misterton United JFC	-	Yes	Yes
Retford FC	Yes	-	Yes
Retford JFC	Yes	-	Yes
Retford United FC	-	Yes	-
Sherwood Rangers FC	-	-	Yes
Shireoaks Inn FC	-	-	Yes
Worksop Town FC	-	Yes	-
Worksop Town JFC	-	Yes	Yes

Ten clubs expressing latent demand in Bassetlaw indicate that they would be able to field additional teams if they had access to more or better quality ancillary provision. Six clubs suggest that they would be able to increase in participation if they had access to more or better quality training facilities, whereas, only four clubs indicated they could field additional teams if they had access to more match pitches. Although 12 clubs expressed varied reports of perceived latent demand, none were specific in quantifying the amount of demand which could be generated.

### ***Unmet demand***

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

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## ***Displaced/exported demand***

Displaced or exported demand refers to Bassetlaw based teams that are currently accessing pitches outside of the local authority for their home fixtures, normally because their pitch requirements cannot be met, which is usually because of pitch supply, in some cases quality issues or stipulated league requirements for access to certain facilities. There is no known exported demand for pitches for match play, however, some teams export demand outside of Bassetlaw to access 3G pitch provision in other districts for training, due to the lack of a full size 3G pitch in Bassetlaw itself.

## ***Imported demand***

Imported demand refers to any demand from neighbouring local authorities that accesses facilities within the Bassetlaw study area due to a lack of available facilities in other local authorities where such team or club is based. Based on 2018/19 affiliation data there are five teams from two clubs which are currently importing demand into the Authority.

Handsworth Parramore FC imports one adult men's team into Bassetlaw to play at Worksop Town Football Club in order to access a venue which meets NLS Step 5 requirements. It's home site Olive Mount (Sheffield) does not meet the facility requirements needed for this level of play and is currently undergoing the necessary improvements in order for the team to return to play in Sheffield, however, an exact time frame for completion of the works is not known. As the Club already has access to a site in Sheffield and importing of demand is driven by non-compliant facilities rather than a complete lack of access to a pitch, this import of demand should be considered temporary and is driven by specific facility requirements of the league rather than supply and demand balance.

The remaining teams are from Sheffield United Girls Regional Talent Club (RTC) which currently use provision at Manton Sports Club. RTC's have replaced the former Centre of Excellence modal and deliver enhanced coaching and support to improve the development of elite female players through the FA Girls England Talent pathway.

## ***Future demand***

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and using population forecasts. Team generation rates (TGRs) are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth up to 2037<sup>9</sup>.

*Table 2.12: Team generation rates (District wide level)*

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population <sup>10</sup>
Senior Men's (16-45)	19,707	42	1:469	19,410	41.4	0
Senior Women (16-45)	18,968	3	1:6,323	18,327	2.9	0
Youth Boys (12-15)	2,467	27	1:91	2,673	29.3	2
Youth Girls (12-15)	2,415	5	1:483	2,582	5.3	0

<sup>9</sup> TGRs are based on population forecasts to 2037 which is in line with the Bassetlaw Local Plan timeframe.

<sup>10</sup> Additional teams generated from TGRs are rounded down to the nearest whole number in order to represent the creation of an entire full team.



## BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population <sup>10</sup>
Youth Boys (10-11)	1,293	19	1:68	1,301	19.1	0
Youth Girls (10-11)	1,247	3	1:416	1,241	3	0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (8-9)	2,601	23	1:113	2,489	22	0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-7)	2,715	25	1:109	2,471	22.8	0

Population increases are likely to result in two additional teams in Bassetlaw; however, this is when TGRs are applied District wide. Once TGRs are applied to individual analysis areas a more detailed representation of where exactly the predicated growth will occur emerges.

It is indicated that the Worksop Area will have the only growth in the authority with a projected increase of one youth boys (12-15) team. The remaining growth is split between the Retford and Rural areas; however, this is not significant enough to create a team.

It is important to note that there has been a recent decrease nationally in participation at adult level and that the number of FA affiliated adult teams playing competitive football has dropped. Similarly, there has been a decline in the number of youth players making the transition from youth football to adult leagues.

### *Participation increases*

A number of teams shown below highlight clear plans to increase the number of teams for next season, totalling a requirement for a further 17 match equivalent sessions across different pitch types. The subsequent Strategy & Action Plan report will contain a Housing Growth Scenario that will estimate the additional demand for football arising from housing development.

*Table 2.13: Summary of future demand aspirations reported by clubs*

Club	Analysis area	Future demand	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions <sup>11</sup>
Bawtry Town FC	Rural	2 x Adult men's	Adult	1
		1 x Adult women's	Adult	0.5
Blyth Bombers JFC	Rural	2 x Mini 5v5	(5v5)	1
East Markham FC	Rural	1 x Mini 5v5	(5v5)	0.5
Harworth Colliery FC	Harworth	1 x Youth 9v9 Boys	(9v9)	0.5
		1 x Youth 9v9 Girls	(9v9)	0.5
		1 x Mini 5v5	(5v5)	0.5
Langold JFC	Rural	1 x Mini 5v5	(5v5)	0.5
Misterton JFC	Rural	1 x Mini 5v5	(5v5)	0.5
Retford FC	Retford	1 x Youth 11v11 Boys	(11v11)	0.5
		1 x Youth 9v9 Boys	(9v9)	0.5
		1 x Youth 9v9 Girls	(9v9)	0.5

<sup>11</sup> Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, 0.5 pitches can therefore be seen in the table where there is latent demand for one team.

## BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Club	Analysis area	Future demand	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions <sup>11</sup>
Retford JFC	Retford	2 x Mini 5v5	(5v5)	1
		1 x Mini 7v7	(7v7)	0.5
		1 x Youth 11v11 Boys	(11v11)	1
Retford United FC	Retford	1 x Adult men's	Adult	0.5
		1 x Adult women's	Adult	0.5
		1 x Youth 11v11 Boys	(11v11)	0.5
		1 x Youth 11v11 Girls	(11v11)	0.5
		2 x Youth 9v9 Boys	(9v9)	1
		1 x Youth 9v9 Girls	(9v9)	0.5
		5 x Mini 5v5	(5v5)	2.5
Tuxford Youth FC	Rural	1 x Mini 5v5	(5v5)	0.5
Worksop Town FC	Worksop	2 x Mini 5v5	(5v5)	1
<b>Total</b>				<b>17</b>

The table below summarises the total amount of future demand expressed by club in Bassetlaw by analysis area and pitch type. The majority of clubs in Bassetlaw report a desire to establish mini 5v5 teams to form a bottom up pathway approach. The Council indicates it will work with Clubs to provide more mini and youth pitches at its sites to assist in actualising future demand.

*Table 2.14: Summary of future demand by Analysis Area in match equivalent sessions*

Analysis area	Pitch type					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Harworth	-	-	1	-	0.5	<b>1.5</b>
Retford	1	2.5	2.5	0.5	3.5	<b>10</b>
Rural	1.5	-	-	-	3	<b>4.5</b>
Worksop	-	-	-	-	1	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>17</b>

The Retford Area accounts for the majority of aspiration for participation increases with ten match equivalent sessions across the various pitch types. In comparison, the Worksop Area evidences the lowest level of aspired growth, just one mini 5v5 match equivalent session.

Most demand aspiration is for mini 5v5 pitches, equating to eight additional match equivalent sessions per week at this format. Clubs report aspirations to create five teams each on adult and youth 11v11, meaning an additional 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week would be required for each pitch type. Whereas, clubs report aspiration for seven youth 9v9 teams equating to 3.5 match equivalent sessions. Additionally, clubs state aspirations for just one mini 7v7 team (0.5 match equivalent sessions).

It is important to note that TGRs are based on population figures and cannot account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives or coaching within schools. For example, the FA has committed to doubling women's and girl's football participation by 2020. 2019 will see the continuation of the SSE Wildcats programme to assist in achieving this goal, with SSE Wildcats Centres across the District focusing on the development of girls participation.

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## SSE Wildcats Centres

SSE Wildcats Centres work with County FA qualified coaches to deliver local weekly sessions, which provide opportunities for girls aged five to 11 to develop fundamental skills and experience football in a safe and fun environment. There are already 200 established centres which delivered the SSE Wildcats pilot in 2017, with a further 800 centres added for 2018. As part of the expansion process, organisations extending beyond affiliated clubs to include other providers or community groups were invited to apply in late 2017 to become one of the new centres, with one in Bassetlaw held at Worksop College in association with Worksop Town FC. All organisations delivering Wildcats centres receive a £900 start-up grant and 30 branded footballs in their first year of running the programme to help develop and increase girl's participation.

In light of both FA aspirations to double female participation in football through its Game Changer strategy and the establishment and foreseen future effect of the SSE Wildcats programme, it is likely that the growth in affiliated women's and girl teams may exceed that shown through TGRs, however at present to what extent is not quantifiable.

## 2.4: Capacity analysis

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

As a guide, The FA has set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its current quality (pitch capacity). Taking into consideration the guidelines on capacity the following was concluded in Bassetlaw:

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

Table 2.15 applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play recorded to determine a capacity rating as follows:

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

The level of pitch usage is recorded in match equivalent sessions per week (MES). For football, pitches relate to a typical week within the season and one match per week equates to one match equivalent session per week if it occurs every week or more typically 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week if it occurs every other week (i.e. reflecting home and away fixtures).

# **BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT**

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## ***Informal use***

Where information is known, informal and unofficial use of pitches has been factored into current play. It must be noted, however, that informal use of these sites is not recorded and it is therefore difficult to quantify on a site-by-site basis. Instead, it is recommended that open access sites be supported by an improved maintenance regime and through retaining some spare capacity to protect quality.

## ***Education sites***

To account for curricular/extra-curricular use of education pitches it is likely that use additional to recorded community use will need to be factored into the total current weekly usage. The only time this would not happen is when a school does not use its pitches at all and the sole use is community use. The extent of use added is typically dependent on the level of play, the number of pitches onsite and whether there is access to an AGP elsewhere onsite allowing rotation and protection of impact on grass pitches.

Table 2.15 shows community usage of available pitches. Where not overplayed as a result of community use, school sites are considered to have no spare capacity to accommodate further community use based on assumed curricular and extracurricular activity beyond the level of community use shown in Table 2.15. School sites which are available for community use but currently do not have any external use have been accredited one match equivalent session per week, per pitch, to indicate use for curricular and extracurricular activity as opposed to being completely unused.

Tenure at school sites is generally considered to be unsecure given the nature of rental unless a formal community use or service level agreement (SLA) exists.

## ***Peak time***

Spare capacity can only be considered as actual spare capacity if pitches are available at peak time. In Bassetlaw, peak time is considered to be Sunday mornings for all pitches, as the majority of teams across all age groups play at this time. It should be noted however that there is still a percentage of junior and mini teams (21) which play on a Saturday morning which are in the Mansfield Junior Football League.

Peak time demand for all pitch types is Sunday mornings, this could cause potential issues, such as kick-off time clashes on adult pitches which are over marked for junior and mini football, or child welfare issues at sites where there are not sufficient changing facilities to service all pitches, as junior and mini teams require exclusive changing and shower areas which need to be carefully coordinated and managed.

Blyth Bombers JFC should play at peak time (Sunday morning), however, the site that it accesses (Blyth Bombers FC) is utilised for car parking by the local farmers market at this time. The Club has special dispensation from the League and opposition clubs to play its fixtures on Saturday mornings instead. If this is not allowed, it has to find alternative venues, however, the Club indicates opposition clubs and the League are accommodating with no reported issues.

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 2.15: Football pitch capacity analysis

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use availability	Management	Security of tenure <sup>12</sup>	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play (MES)	Site capacity <sup>13</sup> (MES)	Capacity balance <sup>14</sup>	Comments
<b>Harworth Area</b>													
4	Bircotes and Harworth Sports and Social Club <sup>15</sup>	Harworth	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
4	Bircotes and Harworth Sports and Social Club	Harworth	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	1	1		Pitch is played to capacity.
4	Bircotes and Harworth Sports and Social Club	Harworth	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
4	Bircotes and Harworth Sports and Social Club	Harworth	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1.5	2	0.5	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
4	Bircotes and Harworth Sports and Social Club	Harworth	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	1	1		Pitch is played to capacity.
4	Bircotes and Harworth Sports and Social Club	Harworth	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	2	1	-1	Pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session per week.
25	Harworth Church of England Academy	Harworth	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
60	Serlby Park Academy	Harworth	No	Education	Unsecure	Adult		1	Standard	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
60	Serlby Park Academy	Harworth	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
<b>Retford Area</b>													
14	Elizabethan Playing Fields	Retford	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
14	Elizabethan Playing Fields	Retford	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
14	Elizabethan Playing Fields	Retford	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	0.5	2	1	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
21	Goosemoor Recreation Ground	Retford	No - disused	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	0	1	1	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
41	Oaklands Playing Fields	Retford	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	2	4	2	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
41	Oaklands Playing Fields	Retford	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Standard	3.5	4	0.5	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
41	Oaklands Playing Fields	Retford	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Standard	2.5	4	2.5	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
56	Retford Oaks Academy	Retford	Yes	Academy / Commercial	Unsecure	Adult		1	Standard	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
57	Retford United Football Club	Retford	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	2	2		Pitch is played to capacity.
57	Retford United Football Club	Retford	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	2	4	2	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
57	Retford United Football Club	Retford	Yes - unused	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	0	2	2	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
67	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	Retford	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Poor	2	4	2	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
71	The Elizabethan Academy	Retford	Yes - unused	Academy / Commercial	Unsecure	Adult		2	Poor	2	2		Pitches are played to capacity.
74	Thrumpton Primary School	Retford	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
79	Whitehouses Road	Retford	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
97	The Rail - Retford FC	Retford	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Good	1.5	3	1.5	Potential spare capacity at peak time.

<sup>12</sup> Unless local information suggests otherwise it can be assumed that the availability of all pitches in Council, town and parish Council and sports club ownership will be secure.

<sup>13</sup> Based on pitch quality The FA recommends a maximum number of match equivalent sessions to be accommodate per pitch type. Please refer to Section 2.4 for the full breakdown.

<sup>14</sup> Red indicates overplay, green indicates potential spare capacity and amber indicates at capacity.

<sup>15</sup> Asset of Community Value (ACV)



## BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use availability	Management	Security of tenure <sup>16</sup>	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play (MES)	Site capacity <sup>17</sup> (MES)	Capacity balance <sup>18</sup>	Comments
<b>Rural Area</b>													
2	Beckingham Playing Field	Rural	Yes - unused	Community Organisation	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	0	2	2	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
3	Beckingham Primary School	Rural	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	1	1		Pitch is played to capacity.
5	Blyth Bombers FC	Rural	Yes	Private	Unsecure	Adult		1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
5	Blyth Bombers FC	Rural	Yes	Private	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	0.5	2	1.5	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
5	Blyth Bombers FC	Rural	Yes	Private	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
5	Blyth Bombers FC	Rural	Yes	Private	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	1	1		Pitch is played to capacity.
9	Costhorpe Sports Field	Rural	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		3	Poor	2.5	3	0.5	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
9	Costhorpe Sports Field	Rural	Yes - unused	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	0	1	1	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
12	East Drayton Sports Club	Rural	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	0	2	2	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
15	Elkesley Playing Field	Rural	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	0	2	2	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
16	Elkesley Primary and Nursery School	Rural	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
18	Finkell Street Playing Field	Rural	Yes - unused	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	0	2	2	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
19	Gamston C of E Primary School	Rural	Yes - unused	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
20	Gilbert Avenue Playing Field	Rural	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
23	Hardwick Street Football Field	Rural	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	0	1	1	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
24	Harrison Drive Recreation Ground	Rural	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		2	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
24	Harrison Drive Recreation Ground	Rural	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
27	Home Farm Sports Field	Rural	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
27	Home Farm Sports Field	Rural	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Standard	2	4	2	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
28	King George Playing Field	Rural	Yes	Trust	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
30	Kingston Park Academy	Rural	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
33	Leverton Church of England Academy	Rural	Yes - unused	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
35	Mattersey Primary School	Rural	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	1	2	2	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
36	Memorial Sports Ground	Rural	Yes	Charity	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
36	Memorial Sports Ground	Rural	Yes	Charity	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
36	Memorial Sports Ground	Rural	Yes	Charity	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Standard	2	8	6	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
36	Memorial Sports Ground	Rural	Yes	Charity	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
36	Memorial Sports Ground	Rural	Yes	Charity	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
37	Misson Primary School	Rural	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
38	Misterton Primary School	Rural	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Poor	2	4	2	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
39	Misterton Sports Field	Rural	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	1	4	3	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
39	Misterton Sports Field	Rural	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
39	Misterton Sports Field	Rural	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
39	Misterton Sports Field	Rural	Yes - unused	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	0	2	2	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
42	Old School Ground (Mattersey FC)	Rural	Yes - unused	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	0	1	1	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
43	Ollerton Road (Tuxford YFC)	Rural	Yes	Private	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
43	Ollerton Road (Tuxford YFC)	Rural	Yes	Private	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	1	4	3	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
47	Rampton Primary School	Rural	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
48	Rampton Secure Hospital	Rural	Yes	Private	Unsecure	Adult		1	Standard	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity at peak time.

<sup>16</sup> Unless local information suggests otherwise it can be assumed that the availability of all pitches in Council, town and parish Council and sports club ownership will be secure.

<sup>17</sup> Based on pitch quality The FA recommends a maximum number of match equivalent sessions to be accommodate per pitch type. Please refer to Section 2.4 for the full breakdown.

<sup>18</sup> Red indicates overplay, green indicates potential spare capacity and amber indicates at capacity.

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use availability	Management	Security of tenure <sup>16</sup>	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play (MES)	Site capacity <sup>17</sup> (MES)	Capacity balance <sup>18</sup>	Comments
50	Ranskill Primary School	Rural	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
51	Ranskill Village Park Recreation Ground	Rural	Yes - unused	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	0	1	1	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
53	Rayners Field	Rural	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
53	Rayners Field	Rural	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	0	1	1	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
69	St Mary and St Martin School	Rural	Yes - unused	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	0	1	1	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
70	Styrrup Playing Field	Rural	Yes - unused	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	0	2	2	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
72	The Metcalfe Ground	Rural	Yes - unused	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	0	2	2	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
76	Village Playing Fields	Rural	Yes - unused	Community Organisation	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	0	2	2	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
88	South Wheatley Village Hall	Rural	Yes - unused	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	0	2	2	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
<b>Workshop Area</b>													
1	27 Acre Field	Workshop	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		2	Poor	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
1	27 Acre Field	Workshop	Yes - unused	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	0	2	2	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
17	Farr Park	Workshop	No - disused	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	0	1	1	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
22	Haggonfields Primary and Nursery School	Workshop	Yes - unused	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
34	Manton Sports Club	Workshop	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		2	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
34	Manton Sports Club	Workshop	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	3	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
34	Manton Sports Club	Workshop	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	3	2	-1	Pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session per week.
34	Manton Sports Club	Workshop	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Standard	1	4	3	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
40	Norbridge Academy	Workshop	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	1	1		Pitch is played to capacity.
44	Outwood Academy Valley	Workshop	Yes	Academy / Commercial	Unsecure	Adult		1	Poor	1	1		Pitch is played to capacity.
44	Outwood Academy Valley	Workshop	Yes	Academy / Commercial	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	2	2		Pitch is played to capacity.
44	Outwood Academy Valley	Workshop	Yes	Academy / Commercial	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
44	Outwood Academy Valley	Workshop	Yes	Academy / Commercial	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	2	1	-1	Pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session per week.
44	Outwood Academy Valley	Workshop	Yes	Academy / Commercial	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	1.5	1	-0.5	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent session per week.
44	Outwood Academy Valley	Workshop	Yes - unused	Academy / Commercial	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	0	1	1	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
45	Outwood Academy Portland	Workshop	Yes	Academy / Commercial	Unsecure	Adult		2	Standard	1	4	3	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
45	Outwood Academy Portland	Workshop	Yes - unused	Academy / Commercial	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
45	Outwood Academy Portland	Workshop	Yes - unused	Academy / Commercial	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	1	1		Pitch is played to capacity.
46	Prospect Hill Junior School	Workshop	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
52	Raymoth Lane Playing Field	Workshop	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
59	Rockware Sports Ground	Workshop	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	1.5	1	-0.5	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent session per week.
59	Rockware Sports Ground	Workshop	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	2.5	2	-0.5	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent session per week.
59	Rockware Sports Ground	Workshop	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1.5	2	0.5	Potential spare capacity at peak time.

## BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use availability	Management	Security of tenure <sup>16</sup>	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play (MES)	Site capacity <sup>17</sup> (MES)	Capacity balance <sup>18</sup>	Comments
59	Rockware Sports Ground	Worksop	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	1	1		Pitch is played to capacity.
61	Shireoaks Miners Welfare Sports and Social Club	Worksop	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
62	Shrewsbury Road Recreation Ground	Worksop	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
63	Sir Edmund Hillary Primary & Nursery School	Worksop	No	Education	<b>Unsecure</b>	Youth	(9v9)		Poor	1	1		Pitch is played to capacity.
64	Sparken Hill Academy	Worksop	Yes	Education	<b>Unsecure</b>	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
64	Sparken Hill Academy	Worksop	Yes	Education	<b>Unsecure</b>	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	1	1		Pitch is played to capacity.
65	St Anne's C E Primary School	Worksop	No	Education	<b>Unsecure</b>	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	1	1		Pitch is played to capacity.
68	St Luke's CE Primary School	Worksop	No	Education	<b>Unsecure</b>	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
81	Worksop College	Worksop	Yes	Education	<b>Unsecure</b>	Adult		1	Standard	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
81	Worksop College	Worksop	Yes	Education	<b>Unsecure</b>	Adult		1	Good	1	3	2	Potential spare capacity at peak time.
83	Worksop Priory C of E Primary Academy	Worksop	No	Education	<b>Unsecure</b>	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	1	1		Pitch is played to capacity.
85	Worksop Town Football Ground	Worksop	Yes	Private	<b>Unsecure</b>	Adult		1	Good	2.5	3	0.5	Potential spare capacity at peak time.



# **BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT**

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## ***Spare capacity***

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

Overmarked pitches which are used and exhibit potential spare capacity have not been considered available to accommodate further play in order to protect pitch quality, given the nature of repeated and sustained use over a short period of time.

Where there is potential spare capacity exhibited at school sites beyond current community use, this has not been included due to the significant additional use during the week by schools for curricular, extracurricular and competitive sport.

## ***Match equivalent sessions***

Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected. As the main usage of pitches is likely to be for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions but may for example include training sessions and informal use.

At this stage, match equivalent sessions do not equate to a number of pitches. This is because an analysis area might show three match equivalent sessions of spare capacity, however, this is likely to be spread across a number of sites. Further to this, minimal spare capacity on one site may be required to accommodate strategic reserve and as such retained. If the spare capacity is on one pitch then it might indicate a need to create a different type of pitch to address a deficiency. This will be fully determined and recommendations will be made accordingly within the Strategy and Action Plan.

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 2.16: Actual spare capacity

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use availability	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Security of tenure	Agreed quality rating	Site capacity (MES)	Capacity balance	Match equivalent sessions available in peak period	Comments
<b>Harworth Area</b>												
4	Bircotes and Harworth Sports and Social Club	Harworth	Yes	Adult		1	Secure	Standard	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
4	Bircotes and Harworth Sports and Social Club	Harworth	Yes	Mini	(5v5)	1	Secure	Poor	2	1	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
4	Bircotes and Harworth Sports and Social Club	Harworth	Yes	Mini	(7v7)	1	Secure	Poor	2	0.5	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
25	Harworth Church of England Academy	Harworth	No	Mini	(7v7)	1	Unsecure	Poor	2	1	1	Not available for community use.
60	Serlby Park Academy	Harworth	No	Adult		1	Unsecure	Standard	2	1	1	Not available for community use.
60	Serlby Park Academy	Harworth	No	Youth	(11v11)	1	Unsecure	Standard	2	1	1	Not available for community use.
<b>Retford Area</b>												
14	Elizabethan Playing Fields	Retford	Yes	Mini	(5v5)	1	Secure	Poor	2	1	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
14	Elizabethan Playing Fields	Retford	Yes	Youth	(11v11)	1	Secure	Standard	2	1	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
14	Elizabethan Playing Fields	Retford	Yes	Youth	(9v9)	1	Secure	Standard	2	1	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
21	Goosemoor Recreation Ground	Retford	No-disused	Adult		1	Secure	Poor	1	1	1	Not available for community use.
41	Oaklands Playing Fields	Retford	Yes	Mini	(5v5)	1	Secure	Standard	4	2	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
41	Oaklands Playing Fields	Retford	Yes	Youth	(11v11)	2	Secure	Standard	4	0.5	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
41	Oaklands Playing Fields	Retford	Yes	Youth	(9v9)	2	Secure	Standard	4	2.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
56	Retford Oaks Academy	Retford	Yes	Adult		1	Unsecure	Standard	2	1	0.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
57	Retford United Football Club	Retford	Yes	Mini	(7v7)	1	Secure	Standard	4	2	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
57	Retford United Football Club	Retford	Yes-unused	Youth	(9v9)	1	Secure	Standard	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
67	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	Retford	No	Mini	(7v7)	2	Unsecure	Poor	4	2	2	Not available for community use.
74	Thrumpton Primary School	Retford	No	Mini	(7v7)	1	Unsecure	Poor	2	1	1	Not available for community use.
79	Whitehouses Road	Retford	Yes	Adult		1	Secure	Standard	2	0.5	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
97	The Rail - Retford FC	Retford	Yes	Adult		1	Secure	Good	3	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
<b>Rural Area</b>												
2	Beckingham Playing Field	Rural	Yes-unused	Adult		1	Secure	Standard	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
5	Blyth Bombers FC	Rural	Yes	Adult		1	Unsecure	Poor	1	0.5	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
5	Blyth Bombers FC	Rural	Yes	Mini	(5v5)	1	Unsecure	Poor	2	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
5	Blyth Bombers FC	Rural	Yes	Mini	(7v7)	1	Unsecure	Poor	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
9	Costhorpe Sports Field	Rural	Yes	Adult		3	Secure	Poor	3	0.5	1	Actual spare capacity retained due to poor pitch quality.
9	Costhorpe Sports Field	Rural	Yes-unused	Youth	(9v9)	1	Secure	Poor	1	1	1	Actual spare capacity retained due to poor pitch quality.
12	East Drayton Sports Club	Rural	Yes	Adult		1	Secure	Standard	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
15	Elkesley Playing Field	Rural	Yes	Adult		1	Secure	Standard	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use availability	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Security of tenure	Agreed quality rating	Site capacity (MES)	Capacity balance	Match equivalent sessions available in peak period	Comments
16	Elkesley Primary and Nursery School	Rural	No	Mini	(7v7)	1	Unsecure	Poor	2	1	1	Not available for community use.
18	Finkell Street Playing Field	Rural	Yes-unused	Adult		1	Secure	Standard	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
19	Gamston C of E Primary School	Rural	Yes-unused	Mini	(7v7)	1	Unsecure	Poor	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
20	Gilbert Avenue Playing Field	Rural	Yes	Adult		1	Secure	Poor	1	0.5	1	Actual spare capacity retained due to poor pitch quality.
23	Hardwick Street Football Field	Rural	Yes	Adult		1	Secure	Poor	1	1	1	Actual spare capacity retained due to poor pitch quality.
24	Harrison Drive Recreation Ground	Rural	Yes	Adult		2	Secure	Standard	4	2.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
24	Harrison Drive Recreation Ground	Rural	Yes	Youth	(9v9)	1	Secure	Standard	2	1	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
27	Home Farm Sports Field	Rural	Yes	Mini	(7v7)	1	Secure	Standard	4	3.5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
27	Home Farm Sports Field	Rural	Yes	Youth	(11v11)	2	Secure	Standard	4	2	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
28	King George Playing Field	Rural	Yes	Youth	(11v11)	1	Secure	Poor	1	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity retained due to poor pitch quality.
30	Kingston Park Academy	Rural	Yes	Youth	(9v9)	1	Unsecure	Poor	1	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
33	Leverton Church of England Academy	Rural	Yes-unused	Mini	(5v5)	1	Unsecure	Poor	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
35	Mattersey Primary School	Rural	No	Mini	(5v5)	1	Unsecure	Poor	2	2	1	Not available for community use.
36	Memorial Sports Ground	Rural	Yes	Adult		1	Secure	Standard	2	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
36	Memorial Sports Ground	Rural	Yes	Mini	(5v5)	1	Secure	Standard	4	2.5	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
36	Memorial Sports Ground	Rural	Yes	Mini	(7v7)	2	Secure	Standard	8	6	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
36	Memorial Sports Ground	Rural	Yes	Youth	(11v11)	1	Secure	Standard	2	1	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
36	Memorial Sports Ground	Rural	Yes	Youth	(9v9)	1	Secure	Standard	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
37	Misson Primary School	Rural	No	Mini	(5v5)	1	Unsecure	Poor	2	1	1	Not available for community use.
38	Misterton Primary School	Rural	No	Mini	(7v7)	2	Unsecure	Poor	4	2	2	Not available for community use.
39	Misterton Sports Field	Rural	Yes	Mini	(5v5)	1	Secure	Standard	4	3	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
39	Misterton Sports Field	Rural	Yes	Mini	(7v7)	1	Secure	Standard	4	3.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
39	Misterton Sports Field	Rural	Yes	Youth	(11v11)	1	Secure	Standard	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
39	Misterton Sports Field	Rural	Yes-unused	Youth	(9v9)	1	Secure	Standard	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
42	Old School Ground (Mattersey FC)	Rural	Yes-unused	Adult		1	Secure	Poor	1	1	1	Actual spare capacity retained due to poor pitch quality.
43	Ollerton Road (Tuxford YFC)	Rural	Yes	Mini	(7v7)	1	Unsecure	Standard	4	3.5	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
43	Ollerton Road (Tuxford YFC)	Rural	Yes	Mini	(5v5)	1	Unsecure	Standard	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
47	Rampton Primary School	Rural	No	Mini	(7v7)	1	Unsecure	Poor	2	1	1	Not available for community use.
48	Rampton Secure Hospital	Rural	Yes	Adult		1	Unsecure	Standard	2	1	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
50	Ranskill Primary School	Rural	No	Mini	(7v7)	1	Unsecure	Poor	2	1	1	Not available for community use.
51	Ranskill Village Park Recreation Ground	Rural	Yes-unused	Mini	(7v7)	1	Secure	Poor	1	1	1	Actual spare capacity retained due to poor pitch quality.
53	Rayners Field	Rural	Yes	Adult		1	Secure	Poor	1	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity retained due to poor pitch quality.

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use availability	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Security of tenure	Agreed quality rating	Site capacity (MES)	Capacity balance	Match equivalent sessions available in peak period	Comments
53	Rayners Field	Rural	Yes	Youth	(9v9)	1	Secure	Poor	1	1	1	Actual spare capacity retained due to poor pitch quality.
69	St Mary and St Martin School	Rural	Yes-unused	Youth	(9v9)	1	Unsecure	Poor	1	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
70	Styrrup Playing Field	Rural	Yes-unused	Youth	(11v11)	1	Secure	Standard	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
72	The Metcalfe Ground	Rural	Yes-unused	Adult		1	Secure	Standard	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
76	Village Playing Fields	Rural	Yes-unused	Adult		1	Secure	Standard	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
88	South Wheatley Village Hall	Rural	Yes-unused	Adult		1	Secure	Standard	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
<b>Workshop Area</b>												
1	27 Acre Field	Workshop	Yes	Adult		2	Secure	Poor	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity retained due to poor pitch quality.
1	27 Acre Field	Workshop	Yes-unused	Mini	(7v7)	1	Secure	Poor	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity retained due to poor pitch quality.
17	Farr Park	Workshop	No-disused	Adult		1	Secure	Poor	1	1	1	Not available for community use.
22	Haggonfields Primary and Nursery School	Workshop	Yes-unused	Mini	(7v7)	1	Unsecure	Poor	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
34	Manton Sports Club	Workshop	Yes	Adult		2	Secure	Standard	4	2.5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
34	Manton Sports Club	Workshop	Yes	Mini	(7v7)	1	Secure	Standard	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
34	Manton Sports Club	Workshop	Yes	Youth	(9v9)	2	Secure	Standard	4	3	1.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
44	Outwood Academy Valley	Workshop	Yes	Mini	(7v7)	1	Unsecure	Poor	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
44	Outwood Academy Valley	Workshop	Yes-unused	Youth	(11v11)	1	Unsecure	Poor	1	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
45	Outwood Academy Portland	Workshop	Yes	Adult		2	Unsecure	Standard	4	3	1.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
45	Outwood Academy Portland	Workshop	Yes-unused	Youth	(11v11)	1	Unsecure	Standard	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
46	Prospect Hill Junior School	Workshop	No	Mini	(7v7)	1	Unsecure	Poor	2	1	1	Not available for community use.
52	Raymoth Lane Playing Field	Workshop	Yes	Adult		1	Secure	Standard	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
59	Rockware Sports Ground	Workshop	Yes	Mini	(7v7)	1	Secure	Poor	2	0.5	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
61	Shireoaks Miners Welfare Sports and Social Club	Workshop	Yes	Youth	(11v11)	1	Secure	Poor	1	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity retained due to poor pitch quality.
62	Shrewsbury Road Recreation Ground	Workshop	Yes	Youth	(11v11)	1	Secure	Poor	1	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity retained due to poor pitch quality.
64	Sparken Hill Academy	Workshop	Yes	Mini	(7v7)	1	Unsecure	Poor	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
68	St Luke's CE Primary School	Workshop	No	Mini	(7v7)	1	Unsecure	Poor	2	1	1	Not available for community use.
81	Workshop College	Workshop	Yes	Adult		1	Unsecure	Standard	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
81	Workshop College	Workshop	Yes	Adult		1	Unsecure	Good	3	2	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
85	Workshop Town Football Ground	Workshop	Yes	Adult		1	Unsecure	Good	3	0.5	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.

## BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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

Table 2.17: Actual Spare capacity summary

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions per week)				
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
Harworth	1	-	-	-	-
Retford	0.5	0.5	2	-	-
Rural	8.5	2.5	1.5	1.5	0.5
Worksop	1.5	-	1.5	1	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>

There are 22.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity across 19 sites and 32 pitches. The majority (51%) of this is on adult pitch types whereas the least amount (2%) is on mini 5v5 pitches. The Rural Area has the most spare capacity with a total of 14.5 match equivalent sessions per week across various pitch types.

In total, 18.5 match equivalent sessions per week across multiple pitch types have been discounted from the analysis due to unsecure tenure, whereas, 10.5 match equivalent sessions per week have been retained to protect poor pitch quality. Any actual spare capacity at unsecured sites has been discounted from any totals as long-term access to those pitches cannot be relied upon in the future.

### Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it is able to sustain (which can often be due to the low carrying capacity of the pitches). Only sites which are overplayed and have current community use have been included in the overplay summary, therefore school sites which do not currently have any community use but may be overplayed due to curriculum use and school fixtures have not been included.

Table 2.18: Overplay on football pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Match equivalent sessions per week
4	Bircotes and Harworth Sports and Social Club	Harworth	Youth	(9v9)	1	-1
34	Manton Sports Club	Worksop	Youth	(11v11)	1	-1
44	Outwood Academy Valley	Worksop	Youth	(11v11)	1	-1
44	Outwood Academy Valley	Worksop	Youth	(9v9)	1	-0.5
59	Rockware Sports Ground	Worksop	Adult		1	-0.5
59	Rockware Sports Ground	Worksop	Mini	(5v5)	1	-0.5
<b>Total</b>					<b>6</b>	<b>-4.5</b>

Overplay on football pitches in Bassetlaw amounts to 4.5 match equivalent sessions per week over six pitches across four sites. As seen in the table above, overplay is derived from two analysis areas with the Worksop Area overplayed the most, amounting to 3.5 match equivalent

## **BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT**

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sessions per week. The remaining one match equivalent session of overplay is located in the Harworth Area at Bircotes and Harworth Sports and Social Club.



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## 2.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify the overall spare capacity in each of the analysis areas for the different pitch types, based on match equivalent sessions. Future demand is based on Team Generation Rates (TGRs) which are driven by population increases as well as club development plans.

Table 2.19: Supply/demand balance of adult pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity <sup>19</sup>	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Harworth	1	-	1	-	1
Retford	0.5	-	0.5	1	-0.5
Rural	8.5	-	8.5	1.5	7
Worksop	1.5	0.5	1	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>8.5</b>

The table above shows that currently there is spare capacity amounting to 11 match equivalent sessions per week. When considering reported future growth of club and TGRs this spare capacity is reduced to 8.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 2.20: Supply/demand balance of youth 11v11 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Harworth	-	-	-	-	-
Retford	0.5	-	0.5	2.5	-2
Rural	2.5	-	2.5	-	2.5
Worksop	-	2	-2	0.5	-2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-2</b>

The table above shows minimal spare capacity of one match equivalent sessions per week in Bassetlaw on youth 11v11 pitches. The need to accommodate anticipated club aspirational future demand and TGRs results in overplay being established of two match equivalent sessions per week.

The current shortfalls are likely to be greater given the number of youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches. In reality, it is likely that a proportion of future demand will also play on adult pitches like many teams currently do in Bassetlaw, though this is contrary to guidance in the FA Youth Review. As such, there is a clear need for an increase in youth 11v11 provision in order for this play to be transferred on to the correct pitch size.

Table 2.21: Supply/demand balance of youth 9v9 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Harworth	-	1	-1	1	-2
Retford	2	-	2	2.5	-0.5
Rural	1.5	-	1.5	-	1.5

<sup>19</sup> In match equivalent sessions per week



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Worksop	1.5	0.5	1	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>-</b>

Overall, the current picture shows spare capacity on youth 9v9 pitches amounting to 3.5 match equivalent sessions. When accounting for future demand youth 9v9 pitches across Bassetlaw are at capacity.

Table 2.22: Supply/demand balance of mini 7v7 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity <sup>22</sup>	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Harworth	-	-	-	-	-
Retford	-	-	-	0.5	-0.5
Rural	1.5	-	1.5	-	1.5
Worksop	1	-	1	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>2</b>

Across Bassetlaw there is currently minimal spare capacity of 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week on mini 7v7 pitches. Future demand from clubs is less for mini 7v7 pitches with most clubs planning to add mini teams at the lowest age group (U7) each year (mini 5v5). This spare capacity remains; however, it is reduced to two match equivalents session per week when factoring in future demand. This spare capacity can be accounted for given the preference for mini football play to be based 3G pitches.

Table 2.23: Supply/demand balance of mini 5v5 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity <sup>22</sup>	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Harworth	-	-	-	0.5	-0.5
Retford	-	-	-	3.5	-3.5
Rural	0.5	-	0.5	3	-2.5
Worksop	-	0.5	-0.5	1	-1.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-8</b>

Currently, mini 5v5 pitches are at capacity. However, when accounting for substantial amounts of future demand there will be an overall shortfall of eight match equivalent sessions. Similarly, given the preference for play on 3G pitches, it is likely that this future requirement will be accommodated across both grass and 3G pitches.

### 2.6: Conclusions

Using the supply and demand analysis tables, it is determined that there is current spare capacity across all pitch types in Bassetlaw apart from on mini 5v5 pitches which are at capacity. After factoring in future demand, shortfalls become evident on youth 11v11 and mini 5v5 pitch types with youth 9v9 pitches being at capacity.

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Table 2.24: Summary of supply and demand

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity <sup>20</sup>	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Adult	11.5	0.5	11	2.5	8.5
Youth 11v11	3	2	1	3	-2
Youth 9v9	5	1.5	3.5	3.5	-
Mini 7v7	2.5	-	2.5	0.5	2
Mini 5v5	0.5	0.5	-	8	-8

## Football – grass pitch summary

- ✦ In conclusion there is current spare capacity across all pitch types in Bassetlaw apart from on mini 5v5 pitches which are at capacity.
- ✦ After factoring in future demand, shortfalls become evident on youth 11v11 and mini 5v5 pitch types with youth 9v9 pitches being at capacity.
- ✦ The audit identifies a total of 122 grass football pitches across 66 sites in Bassetlaw. There are 100 pitches across 47 sites identified as being available for community use on some level, whilst 22 pitches across 19 sites are unavailable for community use.
- ✦ Most available pitches in Bassetlaw (39%) are adult size which is, in part, due to youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches.
- ✦ Worksop RUFC, Retford JFC and Bawtry Town FC reports ambitions to create football pitches across Bassetlaw.
- ✦ In total 36 teams from 11 clubs are currently considered to have unsecure tenure at sites across Bassetlaw at sites which are not Councils owned or managed.
- ✦ Worksop Town FC indicates aspirations to formalise long-term security of tenure at Worksop Town Football Ground through either leasehold or purchasing freehold of the site.
- ✦ Tuxford YFC has aspirations to formalise a long-term lease for Gilbert Avenue Playing Field.
- ✦ In total 51% of community available pitches are rated as standard quality, with 46% rated as poor and only three pitches as good, equating to just 3% of available supply.
- ✦ In addition there are two District Council sites which are currently disused and not available for community use., one each at Goosemore Recreation Ground and Farr Park.
- ✦ The majority of Council sites (63%) are not serviced by any form of onsite changing provision, whilst one site (27 Acre Field) has poor quality facilities.
- ✦ In total there are 147 teams identified as playing competitive football matches within Bassetlaw. This is made up of 33 men's, three women's, 55 youth boys', eight youth girls' and 48 mini soccer teams.
- ✦ There are 12 clubs which express differing levels of latent demand.
- ✦ Handsworth Parramore FC imports one adult men's team into Bassetlaw to play at Worksop Town Football Club in order to access a venue which meets NLS Step 5 requirements.
- ✦ Team generation rates indicate that the Worksop Area will have the only growth in the authority with a projected increase of one youth boys (12-15) team.
- ✦ A total of 11 clubs express 17 match equivalent sessions across different pitch types of aspirational future demand.
- ✦ There are 22.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity across 19 sites and 32 pitches. The majority (51%) of this is on adult pitch types whereas the least amount (2%) is on mini 5v5 pitches.
- ✦ Overplay on football pitches in Bassetlaw amounts to 4.5 match equivalent sessions per week over six pitches across four sites.

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

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## PART 3: CRICKET

### 3.1: Introduction

Nottinghamshire Cricket Board (NCB) serves as the governing and representative body for cricket within Bassetlaw. Its aim is to promote the game at all levels through partnerships with professional and recreational cricketing clubs, and other appropriate agencies.

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

There is also some crossover with Yorkshire Cricket Board (YCB) which performs the same function in South Yorkshire which borders Bassetlaw. Some YCB affiliated clubs from the likes of Rotherham and Doncaster play within Bassetlaw leagues and at times may have used facilities in Bassetlaw for home matches.

### Consultation

With contact information supplied by NCB, consultation (either through face to face consultation or an online survey) was undertaken with ten of the 16 identified clubs based in Bassetlaw, representing a club response rate of 62.5%. The non-responding clubs were:

- ◆ Blyth CC
- ◆ Milton CC
- ◆ East Drayton Sports CC
- ◆ Everton CC
- ◆ Woodsetts Community CC
- ◆ East Markham & Ollerton CC

### 3.2: Supply

In total there are 24 grass cricket squares in Bassetlaw across 18 sites, all of which, are available for community use. One of the two grass cricket squares at Ranby House Preparatory School is only suitable for junior cricket as the outfield does not meet dimension required for senior cricket.

*Table 3.1: Summary of grass cricket squares available for community use*

Analysis area	Squares available for community use
Harworth	-
Retford	2
Rural	16
Worksop	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>

The grass cricket squares available for community use are located mainly in the Rural Area which has 16 squares (67% of supply). There are no grass cricket squares within the Harworth Area.

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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

The ECB highlights that NTPs which follow its TS6 guidance on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play and are considered able to take 60 matches per season although this may include training sessions where on occasions mobile nets may be used as a practice facility.

Whilst access to a non-turf wicket for the management of fixtures would alleviate capacity issues affecting natural turf squares, use of non-turf pitches for match play is subject to league rules and minimum pitch specifications (the overall ground size is 115m which can accommodate a nine strip square – see ECB S9 pitch layout). Where possible, the addition of a non-turf wicket could be considered for junior cricket (up to U15s) and potentially lower level senior cricket, in order to take the pressure from grass wickets experiencing intense use. Addition of an NTPs to aid capacity issues should be explored on a site by site basis.

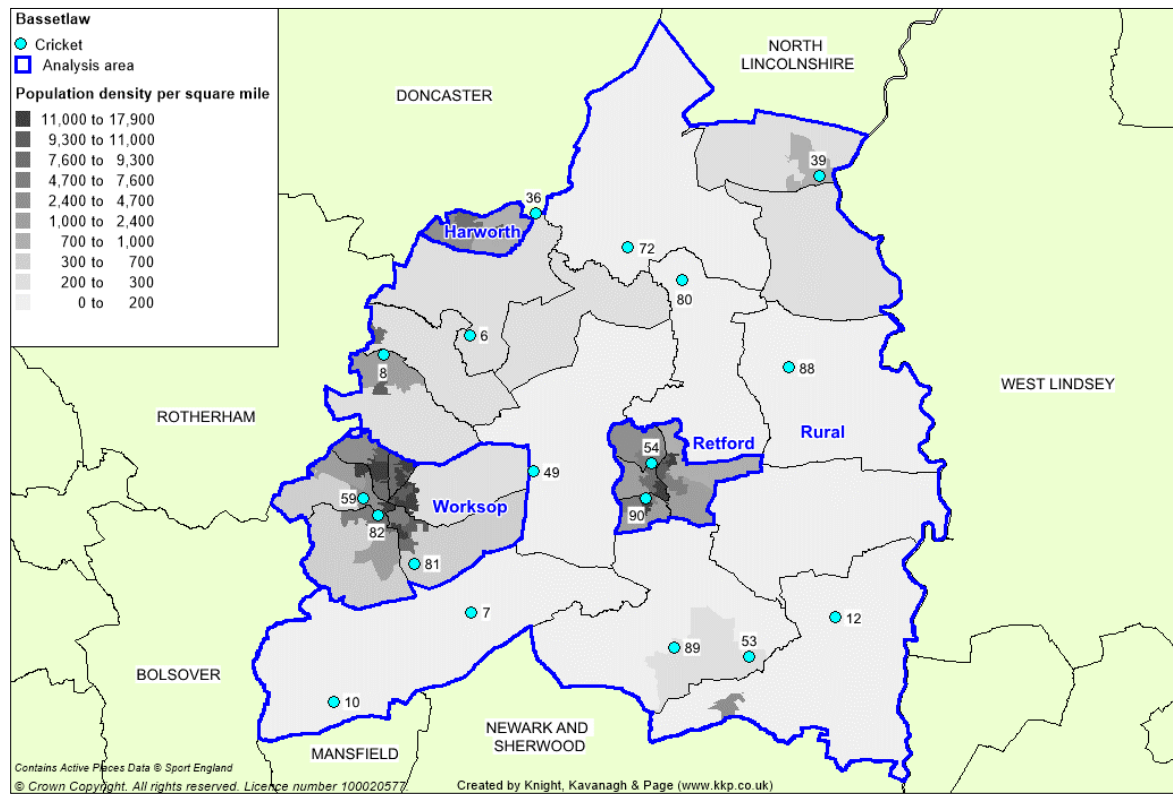
*Table 3.2: Summary of NTPs in Bassetlaw*

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Number of NTPs	Position
6	Blyth Cricket Club	Rural	1	Square
7	Clumber Park Cricket Club	Rural	2	Square
8	Costhorpe Cricket Ground	Rural	1	Square
10	Cuckney Cricket Club	Rural	1	Square
12	East Drayton Sports Club	Rural	1	Square
36	Memorial Sports Ground	Rural	1	Square
39	Misterton Sports Field	Rural	1	Square
45	Outwood Academy Portland	Worksop	2	Standalone
53	Rayners Field	Rural	1	Square
71	The Elizabethan Academy	Retford	1	Standalone
72	The Metcalfe Ground	Rural	1	Square
75	Tuxford Academy	Rural	1	Standalone
80	Wiseton Cricket Club	Rural	1	Square
88	South Wheatley Village Hall	Rural	1	Square
89	Milton Cricket Club	Rural	1	Square
90	Ordsall Bridon Cricket Club	Retford	1	Square

Clumber Park CC reports that the quality of the NTP surface on its main square at Clumber Park Cricket Club is poor and is in need of resurfacing. Similarly, Bawtry CC indicates that the NTP which accompanies the square at Memorial Sports Ground is poor quality and in need of renovation. These reports correspond with non-technical assessment of the sites which highlight issues with rips and moss on the surfaces as well as damage in high traffic areas. All remaining NTPs show evidence of worn surface areas, however, no clubs or schools report this to be problematic when using them.

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Figure 3.1: Map of cricket pitch provision within Bassetlaw



## BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 3.3: Summary of cricket provision in Bassetlaw

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Number of squares	Community use?	Number of wickets	
					Grass	Non-turf
6	Blyth Cricket Club	Rural	1	Yes	10	1
7	Clumber Park Cricket Club	Rural	2	Yes	12	1
					8	1
8	Costhorpe Cricket Ground	Rural	1	Yes	12	1
10	Cuckney Cricket Club	Rural	2	Yes	11	1
					10	-
12	East Drayton Sports Club	Rural	1	Yes	6	1
36	Memorial Sports Ground	Rural	1	Yes	9	1
39	Misterton Sports Field	Rural	1	Yes	7	1
45	Outwood Academy Portland	Worksop	2	Yes	-	1
					-	1
49	Ranby House Preparatory School	Rural	2	Yes	5	-
					5	-
53	Rayners Field	Rural	1	Yes	3	1
54	Retford Cricket Club	Retford	1	Yes	8	-
59	Rockware Sports Ground	Worksop	1	Yes	8	-
71	The Elizabethan Academy	Retford	1	Yes	-	1
72	The Metcalfe Ground	Rural	1	Yes	12	1
75	Tuxford Academy	Rural	1	Yes	-	1
80	Wiseton Cricket Club	Rural	1	Yes	6	1
81	Worksop College	Worksop	4	Yes	14	-
					6	-
					4	-
					2	-
82	Worksop Cricket and Sports Club	Worksop	1	Yes	10	-
88	South Wheatley Village Hall	Rural	1	Yes	10	1
89	Milton Cricket Club	Rural	1	Yes	7	1
90	Ordsall Bridon Cricket Club	Retford	1	Yes	7	1

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## ***Lapsed/disused provision***

Playing fields which have previously hosted formal pitch provision are categorised as either disused or lapsed. A disused site is a playing field which is not being used at all and is not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as 'lapsed sites'.

### ***Disused provision***

Bircotes and Harworth Sports and Social Club located in the Harworth Area previously accommodated a six wicket grass cricket square, however, following a site visit it was evident that the square is no longer being maintained. It is not known when the site was last formally used for cricket, although aerial imagery shows it prepared in 2015, with portable covers still onsite in 2016. The pitch area still remains with the former outfield now marked as football pitches by Harworth Colliery FC. The last known club to use the provision was from Harworth CC, however, it has since merged with Wadworth CC to form Wadworth & Harworth CC which plays outside of Bassetlaw.

There is also a disused NTP located at Jamia Al Karam Secondary School (Rural Analysis Area). If this provision were to be re-established it would be able to host competitive cricket, however, only at a junior level due to limitation on boundary size which is approximately only 30 metres. The boundary for senior cricket should be a minimum of 45.72m (50 yards) from the centre of the pitch in use although the ideal planning size should be a minimum of 50 yards from the centre stump of any designated pitch (wicket) to be used on each side of the square to allow for League and Premier legislation ruling.

### ***Lapsed provision***

Shireoaks Cricket Ground (Worksop Analysis Area) had a grass cricket square accompanied by an NTP. The site was last accessed by Woodsetts Community CC circa 2010, however, the Club lost access to the site after it was privately purchased and the pavilion building converted for residential use. Though not presently accessible for community use, the Council reports maintained dialogue with the site owner and tenant and hopes to explore options to reinstate the site for use, though likely not for hard ball cricket.

The former sports ground at Bevercotes near to Lound Hall now lies unmaintained and exists as green space. The site previously accommodated a natural turf cricket square and as many as two adult football pitches marked onto the outfield. The main football pitch was re-marked for rugby union based on 2004 aerial imagery, when the cricket square is last shown prepared and rugby union goalposts are in place.

Furthermore, there are two further lapsed cricket pitches at Manton Sports Club (Worksop Analysis Area) and Bothamsall Cricket Pitch (Rural Analysis Area). The former site previously hosted an eight wicket square however this was removed after investment from the Football Foundation. The latter site hosted a four wicket grass square with its last known formal usage unknown.

## ***Security of tenure***

In total, seven clubs are considered to have secure tenure at their home grounds in Bassetlaw, through either freehold or long-term leasehold. Tenure for the remaining clubs is considered unsecure or unknown where non-responsive to consultation.



## BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 3.4: Summary of security of tenure for Bassetlaw cricket clubs

Club	Site ID	Site	Tenure
Bawtry CC	36	Memorial Sports Ground	Rented from Bawtry Action for Recreation and Sport (BARS)
Blyth CC	6	Blyth CC	Freehold
Clumber Park CC	7	Clumber Park Cricket Club (main square)	Six year lease from National Trust
		Clumber Park Cricket Club (second square)	Ten year lease from National Trust
Cuckney CC	10	Cuckney Cricket Club	Leased from Welbeck Estates which expires in 2038
East Drayton Sports CC	12	East Drayton Sports Club	25 year lease from private landowner
East Markham & Ollerton CC	53	Rayners Field	Rented from East Markham Playing Association
Everton CC	72	The Metcalfe Ground	Unknown
Milton CC	89	Milton Cricket Club	Unknown
Misterton CC	39	Misterton Sports Field	Rented from Misterton Parish Council
North Wheatley with Leverton CC	88	South Wheatley Village Hall	Rented from North and South Wheatley Parish Council
Ordsall Bridon CC	90	Ordsall Bridon Cricket Club	Leased from Bassetlaw District Council which expires in 2040
Retford CC	54	Retford Cricket Club	Lease from Trinity Hospital which has 22 years remaining
Rockware CC	59	Rockware Sports Ground	Lease from MBA Polymers which has less than 30 years remaining
Wiseton CC	80	Wiseton Cricket Club	Rented from private landowner on an annual basis
Woodsetts Community CC	N/A	Woodsetts Recreation Ground (Rotherham)	Displaced into Rotherham - rented from Woodsetts Parish Council
Worksop CC	82	Worksop Cricket and Sports Club	Freehold
	8	Costhorpe Cricket Ground	Rented from Worksop Cricket and Sports Club

Bawtry, Misterton, North Wheatley with Leverton and Wiseton cricket clubs all rent use of their facilities and are all considered to have unsecure tenure, however, none of the clubs through consultation report an issue with their current arrangements or threat of loss of access.

In comparison, Clumber Park CC has separate short term leases for both squares at its home ground. The main square has six years leasehold remaining whereas the second square has ten years remaining. The Club reports it has aspirations to renew both leases in the near future to ensure its continued tenure onsite.

Memorial Sports Ground is located within the administrative boundary of Bassetlaw District. However, it is owned by Bawtry Town Council which falls within the Borough of Doncaster, with the site located on the boundary between the two authorities. Bawtry Town Council owns the site and leases it on a long-term agreement to charitable organisation Bawtry Action for Recreation and Sport (BARS). Members from the onsite sports clubs, including Bawtry CC, sit on a User Group Board which is below the main BARS Board where they can discuss relevant topics and voice their opinions. This gives the Club security of tenure when compared to solely renting provision.

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## Quality

As part of the PPS guidance, there are three levels to assessing the quality of cricket pitches: good, standard and poor. Maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of cricket; if the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and can, in some instances, become dangerous.

The non-technical assessments carried out on grass wicket squares in Bassetlaw, assesses 15 as good quality and nine as standard quality. There are no poor quality grass cricket squares within the District.

*Table 3.5: Quality ratings for grass wicket squares (site by site)*

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of squares	Square quality
6	Blyth Cricket Club	Rural	1	Standard
7	Clumber Park Cricket Club	Rural	2	Good
8	Costhorpe Cricket Ground	Rural	1	Standard
10	Cuckney Cricket Club	Rural	2	Good
12	East Drayton Sports Club	Rural	1	Good
36	Memorial Sports Ground	Rural	1	Good
39	Misterton Sports Field	Rural	1	Standard
49	Ranby House Preparatory School	Rural	2	Good
53	Rayners Field	Rural	1	Standard
54	Retford Cricket Club	Retford	1	Good
59	Rockware Sports Ground	Worksop	1	Standard
72	The Metcalfe Ground	Rural	1	Standard
80	Wiseton Cricket Club	Rural	1	Good
81	Worksop College	Worksop	4	Good
82	Worksop Cricket and Sports Club	Worksop	1	Standard
88	South Wheatley Village Hall	Rural	1	Standard
89	Milton Cricket Club	Rural	1	Standard
90	Ordsall Bridon Cricket Club	Retford	1	Good

Most of the grass cricket squares in Bassetlaw (63%) are good quality, with Bawtry, Wiseton and Cuckney cricket clubs indicating their squares at Memorial Sports Ground, Wiseton Cricket Club and Cuckney Cricket Club respectively have improved in quality since last season. Each club reports this is due to enhanced levels of maintenance carried out by dedicated volunteers.

To obtain a full technical assessment of wicket and pitches, the ECB recommends a Performance Quality Standard (PQS) assessment. The PQS looks at a cricket square to ascertain whether the pitch meets the Performance Quality Standards, which are benchmarked by the Institute of Groundsman.

*Table 3.6: Performance Quality Standard Ratings*

Quality Rating	Details
Premier (High)	Where the surface is intended for Premier League play, with those within the top quartile capable of holding minor county and 1st class one day matches. May include some of the better schools and university pitches
Club (Standard)	A Club pitch suitable for league, school and junior cricket

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Quality Rating	Details
Basic	An acceptable level suitable for recreational cricket and where the surface is designed and maintained within tight financial limitations such as local authorities
Unsuitable	This is where the surface is deemed unfit or unsafe for play

Clubs can contact the ECB to arrange for a pitch advisor to complete three different reports (comprehensive/mini/verbal) that vary in cost. A fully comprehensive report includes soil testing and guidance on machinery and corrective procedures, a mini report includes guidance on machinery and corrective procedures and a verbal report is a spoken version of a mini report.

## ***Overmarking of pitches***

There are some football pitches in Bassetlaw which are marked onto or overlapping cricket outfield, which can create availability issues at multi-sport sites as the cricket season begins in April when the football season is still ongoing and the football season begins in August as cricket fixtures are still being played. The following sites have football pitches overmarked onto cricket outfield:

- ✦ East Drayton Sports Club
- ✦ Memorial Sports Ground
- ✦ Misterton Sports Field
- ✦ Rayners Field
- ✦ Rockware Sports Ground
- ✦ The Metcalfe Ground
- ✦ South Wheatley Village Hall

Of the above sites, Rockware CC reports the overmarking of football pitches on the outfield area at Rockware Sports Ground has led to overuse, meaning quality has slightly worsened since last season.

Where football and cricket pitches share the same playing field land, a robust and regular maintenance regime is required not only to sustain the year round impact of play, but also to co-ordinate the maintenance and grass cutting between the optimum levels required for each sport.

## ***Ancillary facilities***

Quality and access to required match day ancillary facilities varies between clubs in Bassetlaw. The extent of ancillary facilities required also differs between times of play; for example, senior teams playing at weekends typically need to access clubhouse and kitchen facilities to provide teas, whereas for junior and senior matches played midweek this is often not required and more emphasis is on access to suitable changing facilities.

Through consultation, clubs were asked to rate the quality of their ancillary facilities. The table below highlights the responses.

*Table 3.7: Ancillary facilities quality as rated by clubs*

Good	Standard	Poor
Bawtry CC Cuckney CC North Wheatley with Leverton CC	Retford CC Wiseton CC Worksop CC Wiseton CC	Clumber Park CC Ordsall Bridon CC Rockware CC

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Of clubs which responded to consultation, four report provision to be standard quality whereas three indicate facilities to be good quality. Similarly, three are also of the opinion that facilities are poor quality.

Cuckney CC indicates provision at Cuckney Cricket Club are good quality with no immediate issues. This being said, it wants more assistance with funding to refurbish the facilities when they begin to deteriorate.

Retford CC and Wiseton CC report ancillary facilities at their respective home grounds are standard quality, with both clubs indicating their clubhouses are dated and in need of modernisation.

Rockware CC, which uses ancillary provision at Rockware Sports Ground, states facilities are poor quality and suffer from a lack of showers, kitchen and dedicated social area. Facilities are basic brick building which only have changing rooms and limited amounts of storage.

Clumber Park CC currently accesses poor quality ancillary provision at its home ground. It uses a basic building as changing rooms located beside the main square. The building is listed and falls under ownership of the National Trust, meaning any alterations would require listed building consent which would come at a prohibitive cost to the Club. Therefore, it is in initial discussions with the National Trust to establish a new, separate building which meets ECB guidelines. The Club is aware that in order for it to be eligible for large scale capital funding, it would require a longer term lease agreement, which it is in the process of negotiating.

Non-technical assessment of the ancillary facilities at Ordsall Bridon Cricket Club found them to be poor quality and subject to several issues such as collapsed floors, leaking roof and vandalism. The Club concurs with this and is in the process of trying to obtain funding to replace them, however, it reports that due to the compact nature of the site finding a suitable replacement at an affordable cost which will also achieve planning permission is proving problematic.

Furthermore, the Club reports that since substantial amounts of housing has surrounded the ground over the last ten years it has had several ball strike incidents. It only has limited netting to prevent incidents however after a recent ball strike assessment it requires additional netting which it cannot afford to install.

## *Ball strike/site development*

It should be noted that the ECB states that where there is either new cricket provision being put in place or more commonly development which may prejudice the use of the sporting facility there would be a requirement for a full ball strike risk assessment to be undertaken and appropriate mitigation put in place as part of the development. As such the ECB recommends that the clubs/organisations seek to have a ball strike risk assessment undertaken. Further information can be provided by the ECB.

## ***Training facilities***

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training. Only five sites used by affiliated cricket clubs in Bassetlaw are not serviced by fixed bay practice nets, these are:

- ◆ Blyth Cricket Club
- ◆ Costhorpe Cricket Ground
- ◆ Misterton Sports Field

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- ✦ Rockware Sports Ground
- ✦ South Wheatley Village Hall

Although the majority of clubs are serviced by practice facilities, four clubs indicate through aspirations for additional training facilities through consultation. These are summarised in table below.

*Table 3.8: Summary of demand for additional training facilities*

Site ID	Site	Club	Comments
7	Clumber Park Cricket Club	Clumber Park CC	Fixed bay practice nets need resurfacing.
10	Cuckney Cricket Club	Cuckney CC	Refurbishment of current practice facilities.
36	Memorial Sports Ground	Bawtry CC	Additional NTP practice nets.
54	Retford Cricket Club	Retford CC	Fixed bay practice nets need resurfacing.

## 3.3: Demand

Demand at cricket clubs which play within Bassetlaw equates to 37 senior men's teams and 24 junior teams. This includes imported demand of one senior men's team from Killamarsh Junior CC, detailed later in the section. There are no women's hardball cricket teams.

*Table 3.9: Summary of affiliated team demand in Bassetlaw*

Club name	Analysis area	Number of competitive teams		
		Senior men	Senior women	Junior
Bawtry CC	Rural	3	-	5
Blyth CC	Rural	2	-	1
Clumber Park CC	Rural	5	-	4
Cuckney CC	Rural	6	-	3
East Drayton Sports CC	Rural	1	-	-
East Markham & Ollerton CC	Rural	1	-	-
Everton CC	Rural	2	-	-
Milton CC	Rural	2	-	2
Misterton CC	Rural	1	-	-
North Wheatley with Leverton CC	Rural	2	-	-
Ordsall Bridon CC	Retford	2	-	4
Retford CC	Retford	2	-	2
Rockware CC	Worksop	1	-	-
Wiseton CC	Rural	2	-	-
Worksop CC	Worksop	4	-	3
Killamarsh Juniors CC <sup>21</sup>	Worksop	1	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>37</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>24</b>

<sup>21</sup> Demand imported from North East Derbyshire

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The Rural Area accounts for most demand in Bassetlaw with a total of 42 teams (68% of team demand). It is also home to the two largest clubs in the District, Clumber Park CC and Cuckney CC, which each field nine teams.

Women and girls' cricket are a national priority and there is a target to establish two girls' and one women's team in every local authority over the next five years. 8-10% of the Whole Sport Plan funding is focused around women and girls and talent ID.

There are no dedicated women's teams in Bassetlaw although there is some mixed girls' participation in the junior age groups. Clumber Park CC reports it is in the process of trying to establish women's participation at Clumber Park Cricket Club, however, this is in its infancy. The section is to be named Clumber Storm and is expected to play softball cricket in 2019.

## ***Participation trends***

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

This trend of decline has been experienced in Bassetlaw as there is evidence of decreasing levels of growth for men's cricket, however, Clumber Park, Bawtry and Retford cricket clubs all indicate an increase in men's teams. In comparison there is respectable growth at junior age groups with Clumber Park, Bawtry, Retford and Ordsall Bridon all indicating an increase in demand. All of these clubs report anecdotally that the All Stars Cricket initiative has helped with this rise.

*Table 3.10: Change in the number of teams over the previous three years*

Team type	Clubs response		
	Increased	Decreased	Stayed the same
Men's senior	30%	50%	20%
Women's senior	-	-	100%
Junior	40%	10%	50%

Cuckney, Clumber Park and Ordsall Bridon cricket clubs are seen as key clubs within Bassetlaw to assist in cricket development. Consideration should be given to the clubs playing provision and ancillary facilities to ensure they are good quality in order to increase growth.

## ***Last man stands (LMS)***

Last Man Stands (LMS) is a short format of cricket operated on a franchise basis but affiliated to the ECB, where matches are typically played midweek on NTPs. There is no LMS league in Bassetlaw, with the nearest leagues running in Nottingham and Sheffield.

## ***Future demand***

Team generation rates (TGRs) are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based only on population trends. TGRs do not forecast the creation of any whole new teams at any age group to 2037 based on population change alone. However, it is important to note that TGRs are based on population figures and cannot account



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for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives or coaching within schools.

*Table 3.11: Team generation rates (applied District wide)*

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team generation rate	Future population within age group (2037)	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Men's (18-55)	27,325	37	1:739	25,485	34.5	0
Senior Women's (18-55)	26,843	0	0	24,525	0	0
Junior Boys (7-18)	7,754	24	1:323	7,902	24.5	0
Junior Girls (7-18)	7,508	0	0	7,617	0	0 <sup>22</sup>

It is important to acknowledge that whilst TGRs project team growth as a factor of population and existing teams, there are plans and strategies to increase the number of teams at some formats beyond what current trends suggest, due to a desire to change such trends. For example, female growth at women's and girls' age groups is relatively small, however, there are planned increases in activity around female participation through both Allstars Cricket (aimed at juniors aged between five and eight years of age) and a programme of women and girls softball festivals in 2018 which are likely to reflect in growth above levels shown through TGRs.

The table below shows a summary of quantified club aspirations for future demand. The subsequent PPS Strategy & Action Plan Report will contain a housing growth scenario which will estimate the additional demand for cricket arising from anticipated housing development across the District.

*Table 3.12: Summary of future demand (club aspirations)*

Club	Analysis area	Future demand			
		Senior men	Senior women	Junior	Total
Bawtry CC	Rural	1	-	-	1
Retford CC	Retford	-	1	1	2
Rockware CC	Workshop	1	-	-	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>

In total across Bassetlaw three clubs report aspirations to increase the number of teams. Both Bawtry CC and Rockware CC indicate plans to increase by one senior men's team each, whereas Retford CC wishes to increase by one women's and one junior team.

Although only three clubs quantify their future demand aspirations, Clumber Park CC and Ordsall Bridon CC also report plans to increase their women and girl's participation but do not quantify this demand.

<sup>22</sup> Although TGRs predict no future growth at Junior Girls (7-18) age group through populations increases there is anticipated growth at this age group through ECB and NCB initiatives. Therefore, future growth of four matches a season will be brought forward for all teams which currently host at least one junior team to recognised this potential demand increase.



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In addition, Retford, Clumber Park, Worksop, Cuckney and Ordsall Bridon cricket clubs all partake in ECB All Stars Cricket which is expected to have a direct increase in the participation of junior activity at each of the clubs.

### *All Stars Cricket*

In partnership with the ECB and Chance to Shine cricket clubs in Bassetlaw can register to become an ECB All Stars Cricket Centre. Once registered, a club can deliver the programme which aims to introduce cricket to children aged from five to eight. Subsequently, this may lead to increased interest and demand for junior cricket at clubs. The programme seeks to achieve the following aims:

- ◆ Increase cricket activity for 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

### *Softball cricket*

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.

Each match consists of two teams of six to eight people, with everyone having an opportunity to bat and bowl. Each team bats once, with a pair of batters facing two or three overs. Batters are dismissed in traditional ways, but bowling can be either overarm or underarm, depending on the bowler's preference. Each batting team starts with a score of 200 runs, with runs added to this total by running between the wickets or by hitting the ball to a boundary. Two runs are added to the total for each wide ball; whilst five runs are removed when a batter is out.

The highest score at the conclusion of play wins. Playing equipment is supplied by festival organisers, with all participants provided with a t-shirt for taking part.

NCB reports it has recently appointed a Cluster Manager which will potentially impact on the number of clubs with Bassetlaw driving forward for girls and women's cricket. Therefore

### ***Exported demand***

Displaced or exported demand refers to Bassetlaw based teams that are currently accessing pitches outside of the local authority for their home fixtures, normally because their pitch requirements cannot be met, which is usually because of pitch supply, in some cases quality issues or stipulated league requirements for access to certain facilities. In the same manner, it also refers to demand imported from other local authorities into the District based on the same reasoning.

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Woodsetts Community CC is Bassetlaw based and affiliates to NCB, however, it exports its two senior men's and two junior teams into neighbouring Rotherham to access cricket pitch provision. It plays at Woodsetts Recreation Ground, still within the locality of Woodsetts in Worksop (one of Bassetlaw's most densely populated towns) but within the Rotherham Borough Council administrative boundary.

The Club was historically based at aforementioned lapsed site, Shireoaks Cricket Ground which is located just over three miles from Woodsetts Recreation Ground. The Shireoaks site was acquired by a private landowner and access for sport was lost. Consequently, though demand is exported to another local authority it is not technically outside of the Club's local community and should not as such be treated as exported demand.

Bassetlaw District Council is hopeful of securing some level of community use at the Shireoaks site again in the future and whilst this may not be for hardball cricket, Woodsetts Community CC may be able to access the site for some cricket activity.

## ***Imported demand***

Imported demand refers to any demand from neighbouring local authorities that accesses facilities within the Bassetlaw study area due to a lack of available facilities in other local authorities where such team or club is based.

Killamarsh Junior CC currently imports its third Saturday team from North East Derbyshire to play in Bassetlaw at Worksop College. It is unknown if the Club wants to accommodate this demand back in North East Derbyshire, however, its home venue is located 12.2 miles away from Worksop College and it is therefore anticipated it would prefer a closer venue.

## ***Latent demand***

Latent demand refers to potential demand; individuals who would like to participate within the sport but do not do so. This can be for a variety of reasons including a lack pitches or appropriate facilities.

Clumber Park CC reports the lack of suitable ancillary at Clumber Park is affecting growth. The Club believes that if it had access to better quality changing rooms and clubhouse facilities it would be able to generate increased demand, especially for women's and girls' cricket. Furthermore, it finds it difficult to retain players due to the lack of facilities such as a dedicated social room, independent changing rooms and showering facilities and kitchen / bar area.

Ordsall Bridon, Rockware and Wiseton cricket clubs all report similar problems. Each club states that the quality of ancillary provision is affecting ability to grow. If facilities were to improve in quality and size each club reports, they would be able to attract more demand especially at a junior and female age groups.

It should be noted that these are the beliefs of the individual clubs. Improving the quality of ancillary provision does not necessarily correlate to an increase in participation.

## **3.4: Capacity analysis**

Capacity analysis for cricket is measured on a seasonal rather than a weekly basis. This is due to playability (as only one match is generally played per pitch per day at weekends or weekday evening) and because wickets are rotated throughout the season to reduce wear and tear and to allow for repair.

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The capacity of a square to accommodate matches is driven by the number and quality of wickets. This section of the report presents the current pitch stock available for cricket and illustrates the number of competitive matches per season per square. Capacity is considered to be five match equivalent sessions per wicket per season for good quality pitches and four for standard quality pitches. For poor quality squares, no capacity is considered to exist as such provision is not safe for play.

The number of matches played by each team has been derived from consultation with the clubs. Where consultation was not possible, the assumption has been made that all senior teams play between ten home matches per year and all junior teams play between four and eight matches per year depending on their age and level of competition.

The above is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

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

Please note that non-turf wickets have been discounted from the table overleaf. No non-turf wicket squares are recorded as accommodating more than 60 matches per season, therefore, all non-turf wickets are considered to have spare capacity. This translates to actual spare capacity for junior cricket as peak time is midweek, whereby non-turf wickets are more commonly used and matches can be played on a variety of days.

### ***Peak period***

An analysis of match play identifies peak time demand for senior cricket as Saturdays, with 31 senior teams (86%) playing on this day. There is a level of demand for Sunday cricket, with four teams (11%) and midweek cricket with two teams (3%), however, this is minimal.

For junior cricket, peak time demand is considered to be midweek. It should therefore be noted that midweek cricket has the potential to be spread across numerous days Monday to Friday (though some time will be required for square preparation/repair and training) and as a result squares have greater capacity to carry junior demand providing the pitches are not overplayed.

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Table 3.13: Grass cricket square capacity

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Security of tenure	Available for community use?	Teams/groups accommodated	Quality rating <sup>23</sup>	Number of pitches	Number of natural turf wickets	Actual play (match equivalent sessions per season)	Capacity (match equivalent sessions per season) <sup>24</sup>	Capacity rating (sessions per season)
6	Blyth Cricket Club	Rural	Unsecure	Yes	Blyth CC	Standard	1	10	31	40	9
7	Clumber Park Cricket Club	Rural	Unsecure	Yes	Clumber Park CC	Good	2	12	50	60	10
				Yes		Good		8	29	40	11
8	Costhorpe Cricket Ground	Rural	Unsecure	Yes	Worksop CC 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Standard	1	12	10	48	38
10	Cuckney Cricket Club	Rural	Secure	Yes	Cuckney CC	Good	2	11	44	55	11
				Yes		Good		10	34	55	21
12	East Drayton Sports Club	Rural	Secure	Yes	East Drayton Sports CC	Good	1	6	12	30	18
36	Memorial Sports Ground	Rural	Unsecure	Yes	Bawtry CC	Good	1	9	46	45	-1
39	Misterton Sports Field	Rural	Unsecure	Yes	Misterton CC	Standard	1	7	11	28	17
49	Ranby House Preparatory School	Retford	Unsecure	Yes	-	Good	2	5	-	25	25
				Yes		Good		5 <sup>25</sup>		25	25
53	Rayners Field	Rural	Unsecure	Yes	East Markham & Ollerton CC	Standard	1	3	6	12	6
54	Retford Cricket Club	Retford	Secure	Yes	Retford CC	Good	1	8	38	40	2
59	Rockware Sports Ground	Worksop	Secure	Yes	Rockware CC	Standard	1	8	12	32	20
72	The Metcalfe Ground	Rural	Unsecure	Yes	Everton CC	Standard	1	12	23	48	25
80	Wiseton Cricket Club	Rural	Unsecure	Yes	Wiseton CC	Good	1	6	20	30	10
81	Worksop College	Worksop	Unsecure	Yes	Killamarsh Juniors CC (Imported demand)	Good	4	14	10	70	60
				Yes		Good		6	-	30	30
				Yes		Good		4		20	20
				Yes		Good		2		10	10
82	Worksop Cricket and Sports Club	Worksop	Secure	Yes	Worksop CC	Standard	1	10	50	40	-10
88	South Wheatley Village Hall	Rural	Unsecure	Yes	North Wheatley with Leverton CC	Standard	1	10	22	40	18
89	Milton Cricket Club	Rural	Unsecure	Yes	Milton CC	Standard	1	7	42	28	-14
90	Ordsall Bridon Cricket Club	Retford	Secure	Yes	Ordsall Bridon CC	Good	1	7	54	35	-19

<sup>23</sup> As derived from non-technical site assessment and user consultation

<sup>24</sup> Some squares may have wickets which cannot accommodate adult cricket due to distance from the boundaries, therefore junior use of end wickets is advocated where this may be a restrictive issue.

<sup>25</sup> The outfield is not suitable for senior cricket.

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## ***Spare capacity***

The next step is to ascertain whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be deemed 'actual spare capacity' by which it is available at peak time. There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular training sessions, or to protect the quality of the site.

In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established. An analysis of match play identifies that peak time demand for grass cricket squares for senior cricket is Saturday (31 teams).

Those sites which display potential capacity of less than 10 matches per season have been excluded from the capacity analysis on the basis that they do not exhibit enough spare capacity to accommodate another senior club team, based on an average of 10 home matches per team each season.

Of those sites with existing community use, there are 11 sites which show potential spare capacity on senior grass cricket squares in Bassetlaw, totalling 369 match sessions per season. However, in practice there is only available capacity at senior peak time (Saturday) of two match equivalent sessions across five sites. This is equivalent to a total of four senior men's teams.

*Table 3.14: Actual square capacity on grass cricket squares at senior peak time*

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Number of squares	Capacity rating (sessions per season)	Match equivalent sessions available (Saturday)	Comment
7	Clumber Park Cricket Club	Rural	2	10	-	No actual spare capacity at senior peak time.
				11	-	No actual spare capacity at senior peak time.
8	Costhorpe Cricket Ground	Rural	1	38	0.5	Actual spare capacity at senior peak time to accommodate one additional senior team.
10	Cuckney Cricket Club	Rural	2	11	-	No actual spare capacity at senior peak time.
				21	-	No actual spare capacity at senior peak time.
12	East Drayton Sports Club	Rural	1	18	0.5	Actual spare capacity at senior peak time to accommodate one additional senior team.

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Number of squares	Capacity rating (sessions per season)	Match equivalent sessions available (Saturday)	Comment
39	Misterton Sports Field	Rural	1	17	0.5	Actual spare capacity at senior peak time to accommodate one additional senior team.
49	Ranby House Preparatory School	Rural	2	25	1	Each square has actual spare capacity due to unsecure tenure.
				25	1	
59	Rockware Sports Ground	Worksop	1	20	0.5	Actual spare capacity at senior peak time to accommodate one additional senior team.
72	The Metcalfe Ground	Rural	1	25	-	No actual spare capacity at senior peak time.
80	Wiseton Cricket Club	Rural	1	10	-	No actual spare capacity at senior peak time.
81	Worksop College	Worksop	4	60	0.5	There is actual spare capacity on each square to accommodate additional senior teams, however, due to the private nature of the site this has been discounted.
				30	1	
				20	1	
				10	1	
88	South Wheatley Village Hall	Rural	1	18	-	No actual spare capacity at senior peak time.
					<b>2</b>	<b>Total</b>

### Overplay

There are three sites in Bassetlaw considered to be overplayed by a total of 43 match equivalent sessions per season. It should be noted that at sites with minimal levels of overplay, such as Memorial Sports Ground, overplay can be managed as long as the site is maintained to a good quality level.

Table 3.15: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Number of squares	Overplay (matches per season)
82	Worksop Cricket and Sports Club	Worksop	1	-10
89	Milton Cricket Club	Rural	1	-14
90	Ordsall Bridon Cricket Club	Retford	1	-19
<b>Total</b>			<b>3</b>	<b>-43</b>



## BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Overplay on grass cricket squares in Bassetlaw derives from three analysis areas. Retford, which has a total of 19 match sessions per season, Rural, which has a total of 14 match sessions per season and Worksop, which has a total of ten match sessions per season.

As a large proportion of club use comes from junior cricket, installation of an NTP in situ on the square would allow junior matches to be transferred from the grass cricket squares, thus alleviating overplay. Of the four overplayed sites only Worksop Cricket Club is not serviced by an NTP. The addition of an NTP could be considered for junior cricket (up to U15s) and potentially lower league cricket, however, would be subject to league rules and minimum pitch specifications (the overall ground size is 115m which can accommodate a nine strip square – see ECB S9 pitch layout).

Given this preference for use of grass cricket square provision as opposed to NTPs, alternative solutions to alleviate overplay include use of a secondary site with spare capacity to alleviate overplay at the main home site, increasing natural turf capacity at the main home site through creation of additional natural turf wickets if the site is feasibly able to accommodate expansion of the square or improving the quality of the grass cricket square where not already rated as good.

### 3.5: Supply and demand analysis

The table below explores total available spare capacity over the season, considered against total overplay and future demand identified and quantified through consultation and TGRs.

Match equivalent sessions per season for future demand has been calculated using the average number of matches played per season by the respective team type (10 matches for senior men, seven matches for senior women and four matches for junior girls). As previously mentioned, junior teams generally play midweek across a variety of days; consequently, spare capacity is considered to exist for junior matches both now and in the future and should be judged on a site by site basis where clubs have particular aspirations to increase the number of junior teams.

Table 3.16: Capacity of grass cricket squares in Bassetlaw

Analysis area	Total spare capacity (match sessions)	Demand (match sessions per season)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand (senior) <sup>26</sup>	Total
Harworth	-	-	-	-	-
Retford	-	19	-19	16	-35
Rural	73	14	59	32	27
Worksop	20	10	10	16	-6
<b>Total</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>-14</b>

Analysis suggests there is insufficient capacity at present to cater for current demand in the Retford Area. When accounting for future demand this overplay is exacerbated whilst a further shortfall is created in the Worksop Area, though this is minimal and considered able to be sustained.

<sup>26</sup> Future demand includes future growth of four matches a season for all clubs which currently host at least one junior team to recognise potential demand increase at a junior girls age group.

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## **3.6: Conclusion**

In summary, there is sufficient supply of cricket provision to cater for current demand across Bassetlaw; however, there is a shortfall of capacity both at present and in the anticipated future in the Retford Area. When accounting for anticipated future demand there is a minimal overall shortfall. It should be noted that the majority of this future demand is derived through predicted increases at a junior girls age group which can potentially be played on NTPs if in situ which would alleviate overplay.

There are three sites in the Retford Area, all rated as good quality, therefore additional capacity cannot be achieved through qualitative improvement of grass wickets and the solution must come through increased use of additional grass wickets or greater use of NTPs. The shortfall in the area is derived from overplay at Ordsall Bridon Cricket Club.

Current midweek demand can be sufficiently accommodated though there is a need to address overplay at specific sites which may be best achieved through a transfer of some junior play to capacity elsewhere. This could include NTPs on or offsite, or midweek capacity available at other club grounds which have no or less junior teams.

Given the potential shortfalls on Saturdays there is a clear need to address overplay whilst retaining the current number of grass wicket squares. Of the four overplayed sites, only Worksop Cricket and Sports Club does not have an NTP onsite. As the remaining sites already have an NTP in situ there may be a need for the Club to utilise capacity available elsewhere offsite as a second venue, or to increase dedicated levels of maintenance to improve square quality where not rated as good quality already.

As well as reducing overplay, focus for cricket should be on supporting clubs to develop facilities to promote growth in participation. Of particular importance is the need to support clubs with tenure arrangements as many have unsecure tenure through rental from the likes of parish councils or private landowners. Consequently, there is a need to work with clubs where required to help achieve greater security and to work with partners such as landowners, so that clubs and partners are able to access capital funding to improve facilities for future years.

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## Cricket summary

- ◀ In summary, there is sufficient supply of cricket provision to cater for current demand across Bassetlaw; however, there is a shortfall of capacity both at present and in the anticipated future in the Retford Area. When accounting for anticipated future demand there is a minimal overall shortfall.
- ◀ As well as reducing overplay, there is a need to work with clubs where required to help achieve greater security and to work with partners such as landowners, so that clubs and partners are able to access capital funding to improve facilities for future years.
- ◀ In total there are 24 grass cricket squares in Bassetlaw across 18 sites, all of which are available for community use. One of the two grass cricket squares at Ranby House Preparatory School is only suitable for junior cricket as the outfield does not meet dimension required for senior cricket.
- ◀ The grass cricket squares available for community use are located mainly in the Rural Area which has 16 squares (67% of supply). There are no grass cricket squares within the Harworth Area.
- ◀ In total, seven clubs are considered to have secure tenure at their home grounds in Bassetlaw, through either freehold or long-term leasehold. Tenure for the remaining clubs is considered unsecure or unknown where non-responsive to consultation.
- ◀ Clumber Park CC reports it has aspirations to renew leases for both squares at Clumber Park Cricket Club in the near future to ensure its continued tenure onsite.
- ◀ The non-technical assessment of grass wicket squares in Bassetlaw rates 15 as good quality and nine as standard quality. There are no poor quality grass cricket squares within the District.
- ◀ There are seven sites which have football provision overmarked on their outfields.
- ◀ Of clubs which responded to consultation, four clubs report provision to be standard quality whereas as three clubs indicate facilities to be good quality. Similarly, three clubs are also of the opinion that facilities are poor quality.
- ◀ Clumber Park Cricket Club, Ordsall Bridon Cricket Club and Rockware Sports Ground are all serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities.
- ◀ Demand at cricket clubs which play within Bassetlaw equates to 37 senior men's teams and 24 junior teams.
- ◀ Clumber Park CC reports it is in the process of trying to establish women's participation at Clumber Park Cricket Club, however, this is in its infancy. The section is to be named Clumber Storm and is expected to play softball cricket in 2019.
- ◀ Team generation rates do not anticipate any future growth from cricket across Bassetlaw, whereas three clubs report aspirations to increase their number of teams. Both Bawtry CC and Rockware CC indicate plans to increase by one senior men's team each, whereas Retford CC wishes to increase by one women's and one junior team.
- ◀ Woodsetts Community CC is identified as exporting demand of two senior men's teams and two junior teams into the neighbouring of Rotherham to access cricket pitch provision.
- ◀ Killamarsh Junior CC currently imports its third Saturday team from North East Derbyshire to Worksop College for competitive demand.
- ◀ Clumber Park, Ordsall Bridon, Rockware and Wiseton cricket clubs all report latent demand generating for the quality of their ancillary facilities.
- ◀ In practice there is only available spare capacity at senior peak time (Saturday) of two match equivalent sessions across four sites. This is equivalent to a total of four senior men's teams
- ◀ There are three sites in Bassetlaw considered to be overplayed by a total of 43 match equivalent sessions per season.

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## PART 4: RUGBY LEAGUE

### 4.1 Introduction

The Rugby Football League (RFL) is the governing body for rugby league in Britain and Ireland. It administers the England national rugby league team, the Challenge Cup, Super League and the championships which form the professional and semi-professional structure of the game in the UK. The RFL also administers the amateur and junior game across the country in association with the British Amateur Rugby League Association (BARLA).

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

Senior rugby league is played on a field measuring 100 x 68 metres (although a minimum of 92 x 55 metres is accepted). The preferred pitch size for u7s, u8s and u9s is 60 x 40 metres (although a minimum of 50 x 30 metres is accepted), whereas for u10s and u11s it is 80 x 30 metres. U12s and above generally play on senior pitches.

### Consultation

Bassetlaw Bulldogs RLFC is the only rugby league club based in Bassetlaw. Consultation was carried out with the Club via telephone to inform this section of the report.

### 4.2 Supply

There is one senior and one mini rugby league pitch, both located at Rayners Field in the Rural Area. The senior pitch is overmarked with an adult football pitch which is used throughout the winter.

### Pitch quality

A non-technical site assessment was carried out at Rayners Field in order to assess the quality of the grass pitch used for rugby league as one of three ratings: 'good', 'standard' or 'poor'.

The carrying capacity of a pitch is dependent upon quality, as outlined below.

*Table 4.1: Carrying capacity of a rugby league pitch based on quality*

Category	Capacity
Good	3 match equivalent sessions per week
Standard	2 match equivalent sessions per week
Poor	1 match equivalent session per week

Rayners Field is rated as standard quality and thus it is considered able to accommodate up to two match sessions per week. The pitch is adjudged to be maintained to a moderate level and the natural drainage is considered to be adequate.

# **BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT**

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Pitch maintenance is carried out where possible by the Club, however, most of the routine upkeep is carried out by the East Markham Playing Field Association which operates the site. The Club is of the opinion that the pitch is of standard quality and drains effectively, with the only issue being dog foul on the pitches as the site is publicly accessible land. It should be noted that the site also services both football and cricket provision throughout the year. This means time for dedicated remedial work is limited pre and post season. The Club does not indicate this to be an issue as it does not have an adverse effect on quality. The only direct impact for rugby league is that the pitches grass length is shorter as they are based on the cricket outfield.

## ***Security of tenure***

Bassetlaw Bulldogs RLFC rents use of the pitches at Rayners Field from East Markham Playing Field Association on an annual basis. The Club reports it has aspirations to acquire long-term security of tenure on the site and suggests the potential to collectively achieve this in conjunction with other sport clubs (East Markham FC and East Markham & Ollerton CC) which use the site.

## ***Ancillary facilities***

Changing facilities are available and used at Rayners Field, however, Bassetlaw Bulldogs RLFC reports these to be of poor quality and in need for modernisation. The Club states that the current provision is three portacabins which have been converted into basic changing areas but which are not connected to any form of utilities. As mentioned, it wants to obtain long-term security of tenure onsite in order to access potential grant funding opportunities to improve the poor quality ancillary facilities.

## **4.3: Demand**

Bassetlaw Bulldogs RLFC has a total of three teams consisting of U7s, U9s and U12s teams. These teams use Rayners Field on Saturday mornings for a mixture of training and any fixtures.

### ***Future demand***

Team generation rates (TGRs) can be used as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (to 2037) based on population growth. However, given the relatively low participation no additional whole teams are forecast to be generated.

The Club reports it is developing a touch rugby team which will play on the senior pitch next season. In addition, it has aspirations to continue to grow and develop levels of participation.

## **4.4: Supply and demand analysis**

The recommended capacity of the pitch at Rayners Field is two match equivalent sessions per week (standard quality) each on the senior and mini pitch. Taking account of rugby league demand only, the senior pitch is currently used for 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week and the mini pitch for one match equivalent session per week. Consequently, there is capacity available to accommodate further use on both pitches, even when considering the proposed addition of one touch rugby team in future.

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 4.3: Supply / demand balance of senior rugby league pitches

Site ID	Site Name	Analysis area	Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
				Current use (MES per week)	Site capacity (MES per week)	Current total	Future demand	Future total
53	Rayners Field	Rural	Senior	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	1
			Mini	1	2	1	-	1

## 4.5: Conclusion

In conclusion, current supply of rugby league pitches in Bassetlaw is sufficient to accommodate both current and anticipated future demand. However, growth beyond what is reported will require access to increased rugby league pitch provision as development of a touch rugby team will mean that both pitches are likely to be in use on Sunday mornings. There is sufficient space on the remainder of the field to mark another mini rugby/soccer pitch which could help to cater for further growth at mini rugby level. Key priority for rugby league should be to secure long-term tenure onsite.

### Rugby league summary

- ✦ **Current supply of rugby league pitches in Bassetlaw is sufficient to accommodate both current and anticipated future demand.**
- ✦ **Key priority for rugby league should be to secure long-term tenure onsite.**
- ✦ There is one senior rugby league pitch and one mini rugby pitch, both located at Rayners Field in the Rural area. The senior pitch is overmarked with an adult football pitch used throughout the winter.
- ✦ Rayners Field is rated standard quality and thus it is considered able to accommodate up to two match sessions per week.
- ✦ Bassetlaw Bulldogs RLFC reports it has aspirations to acquire long-term security of tenure on the site and suggests the potential to collectively achieve this in conjunction with other sport clubs (East Markham FC and East Markham & Ollerton CC) which use the site.
- ✦ Changing facilities are available and used at Rayners Field, however, Bassetlaw Bulldogs RLFC reports these to be of poor quality and in need for modernisation.
- ✦ Bassetlaw Bulldogs RLFC wants to obtain long-term security of tenure onsite in order to access potential grant funding opportunities to improve the poor quality ancillary facilities.
- ✦ Bassetlaw Bulldogs RLFC has a total of three teams consisting of U7s, U9s and U12s teams.
- ✦ Team generation rates predict no future growth, however, Bassetlaw Bulldogs RLFC reports it is developing a touch rugby team which will play on the senior pitch next season. In addition, it has aspirations to continue to grow and develop levels of participation.



# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## PART 5: RUGBY UNION

### 5.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is split into six areas across the country with a workforce team that covers development, coaching, governance and competitions. Bassetlaw falls within Area Four which covers Norfolk, Suffolk, Leicestershire, East Midlands and Warwickshire. A Rugby Development Officer (RDO) and a team of Community Rugby Coaches (CRC) deliver core programmes in schools and club within this area.

Its variety of programmes, which include 15 aside, 10 aside, 7 aside, Tag and the O2 Touch programme, all aim to increase and retain participation within the game. In order to sustain and increase participation in the game facilities need to be appropriate, affordable and accessible.

#### ***Club consultation***

There are two rugby union clubs based in Bassetlaw; East Retford RUFC and Worksop RUFC. The former was consulted with in person, whereas the latter club was consulted by telephone, with contact details were provided by the RFU. The findings are used to inform key issues within this section of the report together with additional information provided by the RDO for the area.

### 5.2: Supply

In total, there are 25 rugby union pitches in Bassetlaw across seven sites, all of which, are available for community use. Most pitches (16 pitches - 64% of supply) are senior size, with four junior pitches (16%) and five dedicated mini pitches (20%).

Worksop College is a key provider of rugby union provision and has 11 pitches (seven senior and four junior) which makes it the largest site for the sport within Bassetlaw. The College's feeder school, Ranby House Preparatory, is the sole location of all mini pitches within the District.

The audit only identifies dedicated, line marked pitches. For rugby union pitch dimension sizes please refer to Table 5.1 below.

*Table 5.1: Summary of RFU recommended pitch sizes by age group*

Age	Pitch type	Maximum Pitch Dimensions (Metres)
U7	Mini	20x12
U8	Mini	45x22
U9	Mini	60x30
U10	Mini	60x35
U11	Mini	60x43
U12	Mini	60x43
U13	Junior	90x60 (Girls 60x43)
14-U18	Senior	100x70
Senior	Senior	Recommended run off area 5m. Minimum in-goal length 6m.

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 5.2: Supply of rugby union pitches in Bassetlaw

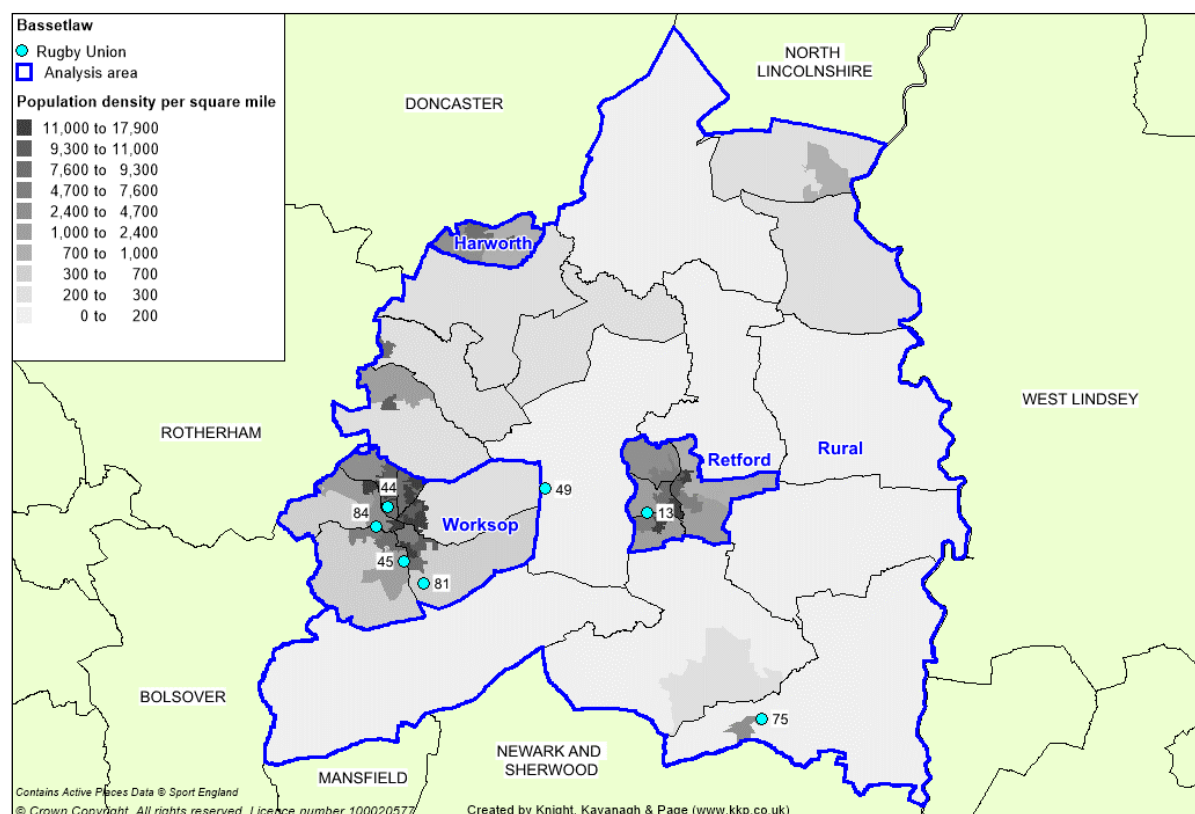
Analysis area	Availability			Total
	Yes	Yes - unused	No	
Harworth	-	-	-	-
Retford	3	-	-	3
Rural	-	6	-	6
Worksop	2	14	-	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>25</b>

Most (64%) of all rugby union provision is located in the Worksop Area where there are 16 pitches, mainly due to the aforementioned Worksop College located here. The Rural Area has six pitches and the Retford Area has three pitches. There is no natural turf rugby union provision located in the Harworth Area.

At present, there are no World Rugby (WR) compliant 3G pitches in Bassetlaw, with the nearest located at Olympic Legacy Park (Sheffield), University of Nottingham Jubilee Campus (Nottingham) and Doncaster Knights RFC (Doncaster).

All 3G pitches are covered in greater detail in Part 7: Third Generation Artificial Grass Pitches, as well as later in this section.

Figure 5.1: Map of rugby union pitch provision within Bassetlaw



# **BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT**

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## ***Future provision***

East Retford RUFC has recently completed a land swap with Anglian Water Group (AWG) at its home ground. The Club previously had freehold of three senior pitches, one of which, is partially floodlit, as well as a clubhouse beside Ordsall Road. However, the agreement has seen the Club swap the area of land nearest the road which hosts the partially floodlit pitch and clubhouse, for a wooded area and large grass field located to the rear of the site.

According to the Club, AWP has agreed to the deal as it aspires to develop the area for housing. The Club aspires to utilise the wooded area and large grass field to create a new clubhouse at the end of the access road and additional pitches. Potential options include a fully floodlit pitch for training and accompanying mini pitches as full floodlighting is not achievable on the existing or retained pitches due to planning constraints. However, this new part of the site is not serviced by existing utility works and despite the need to undertake these works to develop the new clubhouse, the Club has concerns that this would increase project costs and final configuration is still under discussion.

Worksop RUFC reports ambitions to create football pitches at its home ground. The Club is in initial dialogue with Worksop Boys JFC to potentially create youth and mini pitch provision on an area of land which is currently not utilised for sport. However, it has previously hosted (circa 2008) a senior rugby union pitch and an adult football pitch.

It indicates wanting to maximise the usage of its land for the development of sport within Worksop and is open for a variety of sports to access the site as long as rugby union provision is protected. The area of land in question is located adjacent to the River Ryton and would require dedicated levels of maintenance and potential drainage to bring back into use.

## ***Ownership/management***

Worksop RUFC owns its home ground and is therefore considered to have secure tenure. In comparison, tenure for East Retford RUFC at its home ground has mixed tenure arrangements.

East Retford RUFC has recently completed a land swap with AWG in order to develop new ancillary facilities and additional pitches. As part of the deal, the Club has swapped an area of land which currently hosts its partially floodlit training pitch. As a result, its training pitch is now considered to be unsecure as it is now owned by AWG, whereas its remaining two senior pitches are still under freehold by the Club and therefore considered secure. This is not considered to be a concern in the short-term as development of new facilities in future as part of the swap will see all rugby union provision onsite fall under the freehold.

## ***Pitch quality***

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

## BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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

*Table 5.3: Definition of maintenance categories*

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

*Table 5.4: Definition of drainage categories*

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

*Table 5.5: Quality ratings based on maintenance and drainage scores*

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

Most available pitches in Bassetlaw (17 pitches - 68%) are rated as good quality with the remaining eight pitches poor quality. There are no standard quality pitches in the authority.

*Table 5.6: Summary of rugby union pitch quality in Bassetlaw*

Analysis area	Pitch quality		
	Good	Standard	Poor
Harworth	-	-	-
Retford	-	-	3
Rural	6	-	-
Worksop	11	-	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8</b>

The table overleaf shows quality ratings for each of the sites in the District based on non-technical site assessment scores and club feedback.

## BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 5.7: Rugby union pitch quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Ownership/management	Community use?	Pitch type	Floodlighting?	Non-technical assessment rating	Quality rating	Number of pitches	Comments
13	East Retford Rugby Union Football Club	Retford	Sports Club	Yes	Senior	Partial	M0 / D1	Poor	1	Three poor quality senior pitches, one of which is partially floodlit and accommodates East Retford RUFC training demand. The remaining two pitches, which are not floodlit, accommodate the Clubs competitive demand. All pitches receive basic levels of maintenance.
						No			2	
44	Outwood Academy Valley	Worksop	Education / Commercial	Yes-unused	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor	1	Poor quality senior pitch which receives basic levels of maintenance. Pitch is reportedly available for community use but is currently unused except for curricular and extracurricular use.
45	Outwood Academy Portland	Worksop	Education / Commercial	Yes-unused	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor	2	Two poor quality senior pitches which receive basic levels of maintenance. Pitches are reportedly available for community use but are currently unused except for curricular and extracurricular use.
49	Ranby House Preparatory School	Rural	Education	Yes-unused	Mini	No	M2 / D1	Good	5	Five good quality dedicated mini pitches which receive regular maintenance. Pitches are located on a private education site and are reportedly available for community use, however, are currently unused except for curricular and extracurricular use.
75	Tuxford Academy	Rural	Education / Commercial	Yes-unused	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor	1	Poor quality senior pitch which receives basic levels of maintenance. Pitch is reportedly available for community use but is currently unused except for curricular and extracurricular use.
81	Worksop College	Worksop	Education	Yes-unused	Junior	No	M2 / D1	Good	4	Four good quality junior pitches which receive regular maintenance. Pitches are located on a private education site and are reportedly available for community use, however, are currently unused except for curricular and extracurricular use.
					Senior	No	M2 / D1	Good	7	Seven good quality senior pitches which receive regular maintenance. Pitches are located on a private education site and are reportedly available for community use, however, are currently unused. Pitches are used except for curricular and extracurricular use.
84	Worksop Rugby Union Football Club	Worksop	Sports Club	Yes	Senior	Yes	M0 / D0	Poor	1	Poor quality floodlit senior pitch used for training and competitive matches by Worksop RUFC. Pitch suffers from waterlogging and drains poorly in part due to its proximity to the River Ryton. The pitch receives basic levels of maintenance as the Club reportedly struggles for volunteer groundsman.
						No	M0 / D1	Poor	1	Poor quality senior pitch used for competitive matches by Worksop RUFC. The pitch receives basic levels of maintenance as the Club reportedly struggles for volunteer groundsman. There is no purpose built drainage system in place however the pitch drains adequately due to its location away from the River Ryton.

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## ***Ancillary facilities***

Rugby union in Bassetlaw is solely club driven at club owned or managed sites, both of which, have access to changing facilities. Although each club has access to ancillary facilities, quality varies between the two sites.

As previously stated, East Retford RUFC is pursuing development of a new clubhouse at its home ground as part of a land swap agreement with AWG. The current clubhouse which is situated on what is now AWG owned land is poor quality and unsuitable which is reportedly affecting participation levels, especially amongst women and girls. The building's interior and exterior is tired, dated and in need of modernisation.

The Club is in the process of applying for planning permission to create a new building on the recently obtained woodland area of land it received in the land swap. The proposed building is to be RFU compliant with six changing rooms, a social room, function room and community room. It reports wanting the development to benefit the surrounding community and serve as many user groups as possible, not just rugby union. However, until planning permission for the clubhouse and AWG development is secured, it will continue to access the poor quality facilities.

Ancillary facilities at Worksop Rugby Union Football Club are of standard quality. The Club reports that three of its five changing rooms have recently been modernised, however, it still aspires to refurbish the remaining two rooms. It wants to continue to improve facilities in order to grow mini rugby and junior participation. In addition, it reports actively searching for potential funding streams to upgrade the water heating system.

## **5.3: Demand**

### ***Competitive play***

There are two community rugby union clubs based in Bassetlaw, providing a total of 15 teams. There are four senior men's, five junior boys and six mixed sex mini teams. Community club demand for rugby union in Bassetlaw is based between two analysis areas; Retford and Worksop, the two more densely populated areas of the District and reflecting where the clubs are based.

*Table 5.8: Summary of club demand*

Club	Analysis area	Number of rugby union teams			
		Senior men (19+)	Colts (18-19 men)	Junior boys (13-17)	Mini (6-12)
East Retford RUFC	Retford	2	-	4	6
Worksop RUFC	Worksop	2	-	1	-
Total		4	-	5	6

### ***Training***

East Retford RUFC uses a partially floodlit training pitch for all training at its home ground. The training pitch has floodlighting along only one side-line due to planning constraints as a result of the parallel railway line. Consequently, evening training is focused on specific areas of the pitch.

Worksop RUFC uses one floodlit pitch at its home ground to accommodate all training.



## BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 5.9: Summary of club training provision (floodlit)<sup>27</sup>

Club	Site ID	Site name	Floodlit training provision	Hours (MES) <sup>28</sup>
East Retford RUFC	13	East Retford Rugby Union Football Club	Partially floodlit senior training pitch	4 hrs (2.5 MES)
Worksop RUFC	84	Worksop Rugby Union Football Club	Floodlit senior pitch	3 hrs (2 MES)

Both clubs report issues regarding floodlighting at their sites. As stated, the training pitch at East Retford Rugby Union Football Club is only partially floodlit. The Club reports that if the pitch were to be lost due to development by AWG, it can potentially relocate it to the recently acquired piece of land to the rear of the site. If the pitch were to be moved to this parcel of land then it would open up the option to fully floodlight it, as the present planning constraints would not impact that area of the site.

Worksop RUFC also identifies issues with floodlighting on its pitch and states that the quality of lighting is in need of upgrade.

### ***Use of artificial pitches***

Nationally, clubs identify the use of 3G pitches for training as a method of protecting the match pitches and providing a high quality surface for full contact practice. Competitive play continues to take place on grass pitches for the most part, with ad hoc use of 3G pitches for fixtures in the case of unsuitable pitches due to waterlogging or frost. Further detail on use of 3G pitches can be found in Part 7: Third Generation Artificial Grass Pitches.

In December 2015, the RFU announced plans to increase the supply of available World Rugby (WR) certified pitches across the country as part of its Investment Strategy. This is to be made up of 60 pitches on rugby club sites, with a further 40 pitches on other community based sites with usage agreements securing capacity for use by local rugby clubs and groups. The RFU believes increased investment into 3G pitches will allow it to sustain and grow participation in the game given increasing pressure on grass pitches, changing player expectations, competition from other sports investing in artificial pitches and changing weather conditions.

There are currently no WR compliant 3G pitches located in Bassetlaw, however, both clubs report demand to access such provision for training purposes. If all training demand were to be transferred onto an artificial 3G pitch there would be a need to accommodate a total of 4.5 match equivalent sessions per week; 2.5 from East Retford RUFC and two from Worksop RUFC.

### ***Future demand***

Team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth up to 2037. As shown below, there is no anticipated growth in whole rugby union teams within Bassetlaw based on population change alone.

<sup>27</sup> Shows only midweek demand for floodlit training provision. Some mini and junior training takes place on Sunday mornings when there is no fixture and there isn't a requirement for floodlighting.

<sup>28</sup> Match equivalent session (MES)

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 5.10: Team generation rates (District wide)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group (2037)	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Men's (19-45)	17,674	4	1:4,419	17,371	3.9	0
Senior Women's (19-45)	17,078	0	0	16,367	0	0
Junior Boys' (13-18)	3,842	5	1:768	4,046	5.3	0
Junior Girls' (13-18)	3,734	0	0	3,905	0	0
Mini rugby mixed (7-12)	7,686	7	1:1,098	7,566	6.9	0

It is important to note that TGRs are based exclusively on population figures and do not account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as CRC coaching activity within schools linking to local clubs or NGB aims as part of the Whole Sport Plan.

The RFU is focused on developing junior participation within Bassetlaw, based on a model of coaching sessions delivered in schools and local communities. Intentions are to form junior teams from these training groups which are linked to local schools and will use pitches at school sites, in some cases also linking to existing clubs to provide a performance pathway.

This is not the sole focus of the RFU, which is actively exploring opportunities to assist with the transition between late junior years and senior rugby. This area has a strategic focus from the RFU and is being facilitated by encouraging casual play and midweek senior matches. The RFU recognises the traditional reduction in participation numbers at this time and it is hoped that by addressing the decrease and offering alternative match times then clubs may be able to retain a larger number of players.

## Participation increases

Future demand aspirations reported by clubs total the creation of two mini teams, one junior and one senior team equating to a requirement for an additional 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week on senior rugby union pitches. This is spread between the Retford Area (one match equivalent session) and the Worksop Area (0.5 match equivalent sessions).

Table 5.11: Summary of future demand reported by clubs (based on senior pitches)

Club	Future demand aspirations	Analysis area	Match equivalent sessions per week on a senior pitch
East Retford RUFC	One senior men's (Vets) team One men's Colts team	Retford	1
Worksop RUFC	Two mini rugby teams	Worksop	0.5

## Unmet, latent and displaced demand

Unmet demand is existing demand at clubs which is not able to access sufficient supply of pitches for match play or training. It is usually expressed, for example, where a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch or where a league or club operates a waiting list.

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Displaced demand refers to existing demand which is exported outside of the study area and any imported demand from neighbouring districts that accesses facilities within Bassetlaw. This is often due to a lack of available facilities in other local authorities where such team or club is based.

Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision.

There is no unmet or displaced demand identified by either East Retford RUFC or Worksop RUFC, however, the former indicates perceived latent demand for growth at its home ground.

## ***RFU priorities***

The RFU actively works with all affiliated clubs to support growth and development of both participation and facilities. Within Bassetlaw, both clubs are supported by an area RDO. The RFU identifies the following priorities for future development of the respective clubs.

*Table 5.12: Summary of RFU club priorities*

Club	RFU priority
East Retford RUFC	Key facilities development in the construction of a new clubhouse as part of the land swap arrangement with Anglian Water Group. Establishment of dedicated Colts teams and the progression from mini through to senior teams.
Worksop RUFC	Look to refurbish existing floodlighting. Further improvement to clubhouse facilities in order to pursue the delivery of additional mini and junior teams.

In all instances where support for mini, junior and colts rugby union teams has been identified, the RFU and the respective clubs are exploring options to provide sessions and fixtures within local schools and community organisations to further aid development.

## ***Infrequent play***

The RFU has plans to encourage participants which have previously played rugby union to re-engage through participation as part of a more casual sporting offer. There will be opportunities for teams and players which are unable to play weekly or frequently for various reasons and will operate on an occasional basis. It will also act as an entry point for newly created clubs and provide competitive opportunities.

## **5.4: Capacity analysis**

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

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

All sites that are used for competitive rugby matches (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included within the capacity analysis.

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

All competitive play is on senior pitches (except for where dedicated junior mini pitches are provided). From U14 upwards, teams play 15v15 and use a full pitch. Where mini pitches are not provided, mini (U7-12) teams play or train on half or modified size of a senior pitch i.e. two teams per senior pitch.

For senior and junior teams, the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 match equivalent sessions (MES) per week for each match played, based on teams operating on a traditional home and away basis (assumes half of matches will be played away). For mini teams, play per week is set at 0.25 for each match played across half of one senior pitch, based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis. This is the case in Bassetlaw, with both club sites having only senior pitches, though East Retford RUFC has aspirations to create dedicated mini pitches in the future.

All male senior league rugby takes place on a Saturday afternoons. U13-18 rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings. Training that takes place on club pitches is reflected by the addition of match equivalent sessions per week. These have been calculated on the basis that 30 players (two teams) train on the pitch for 90 minutes (team equivalent of one) per night.

As a guide, the RFU has set a standard number of matches that each pitch should be able to accommodate. Capacity is based upon a basic assessment of the drainage system and maintenance programme ascertained through a combination of the quality assessment and the club survey as follows:

*Table 5.13: Pitch capacity (match equivalent sessions per week) based on quality ratings*

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

This guide should only be used as a general measure of potential pitch capacity and does not account for specific circumstances at time of use and assumes average rainfall and an appropriate end of season rest and renovation programme.

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

### ***The peak period***

In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established. Peak time for senior rugby union matches is Saturday afternoons and is considered such within the subsequent analysis, although junior and mini teams play on senior pitches on Sunday mornings.

## BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 5.14: Rugby union provision and level of current use within Bassetlaw

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Available for community use?	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Quality rating	Number of pitches	Floodlighting?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Site capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
13	East Retford Rugby Union Football Club	Retford	Yes	Secure	Senior	Poor (M0/D1)	1	No	2.5	1.5	-1	Poor quality senior pitch overplayed by one match equivalent session per week. Pitch used for matches by East Retford RUFC and overplayed.
				1			No	0.5	1.5	1	Poor quality senior pitch which has potential spare capacity of one match equivalent session per week. Pitch used for matches East Retford RUFC.	
				Unsecure			1	Partially	4	1.5	-2.5	Partially floodlit poor quality senior pitch which is overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Pitch used for training by East Retford RUFC mini demand on a Sunday morning.
44	Outwood Academy Valley	Worksop	Yes-unused	Unsecure	Senior	Poor (M0/D1)	1	No	-	1.5	-	Poor quality senior pitch considered to be played to capacity by school use.
45	Outwood Academy Portland	Worksop	Yes-unused	Unsecure	Senior	Poor (M0/D1)	2	No	-	3	-	Two poor quality senior pitches considered to be played to capacity by school use.
49	Ranby House Preparatory School	Rural	Yes-unused	Unsecure	Mini	Good (M2/D1)	5	No	15	15	-	Five good quality senior pitches which are used for curricular and extracurricular school sport and are considered to be played to capacity.
75	Tuxford Academy	Rural	Yes-unused	Unsecure	Senior	Poor (M0/D1)	1	No	-	1.5	-	Poor quality senior pitch considered to be played to capacity by school use.
81	Worksop College	Worksop	Yes-unused	Unsecure	Senior	Good (M2/D1)	7	No	21	21	-	Seven good quality senior pitches which are used for curricular and extracurricular school sport and are considered to be played to capacity.
					Junior	Good (M2/D1)	4		12	12	-	Four good quality senior pitches which are used for curricular and extracurricular school sport and are considered to be played to capacity.
84	Worksop Rugby Union Football Club	Worksop	Yes	Secure	Senior	Poor M0/D1	1	No	1.25	1.5	0.25	Poor quality senior pitch which has potential spare capacity of 0.25 match equivalent sessions per week. Pitch is used by Worksop RUFC.
						Poor M0/D0	1	Yes	2.5	0.5	-2	Poor quality floodlit senior pitch overplayed by two match equivalent sessions per week. Used for training and matches by Worksop RUFC.

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## Actual spare capacity

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

There are two sites which have secured tenure for use and display potential spare capacity to accommodate additional play, totalling 1.25 match equivalent sessions per week. However, in practice there is no actual spare capacity on senior pitches at peak time for senior play because they are already in use.

Table 5.15: Summary of actual spare capacity on senior pitches (Saturday PM)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	Potential capacity	Actual spare capacity	Comments
13	East Retford Rugby Union Football Club	Retford	Senior	1	-	Minimal spare capacity retained to protect poor pitch quality.
84	Worksop Rugby Union Football Club	Worksop	Senior	0.25	-	Minimal spare capacity retained to protect poor pitch quality.

The programming of mini/junior rugby matches can fluctuate with regards to ascertaining spare capacity, especially at peak time as it varies from week to week. Mini/junior rugby sections do not play regular matches as part of a league format, rather clubs organise for a number of their mini age groups to play those from another club once either at home or away. Teams will generally hold training sessions instead on the weeks that mini / junior sections do not have a fixture event arranged. This means that mini / junior sections require use of all home pitches for two or three mornings a month but may play an away fixture one week meaning none of the pitches are used that particular morning.

Mini/junior pitches are consequently considered to have no actual spare capacity as they are used most weeks but it is acknowledged there are some Sundays when the pitches are not in use as most age groups are all playing away.

## Overplay

There are three pitches across two sites which are overplayed, totalling 5.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 5.16: Overplay summary (pitches used by community teams)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Number of pitches	Overplay (match equivalent sessions per week)
13	East Retford Rugby Union Football Club	Retford	2	-3.5
84	Worksop Rugby Union Football Club	Worksop	1	-2
Total			3	5.5



# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

The majority of overplay in Bassetlaw is located at East Retford Rugby Union Football Club on the two pitches which accommodate substantial amounts of competitive and training demand. This is similarly the case on the training pitch Worksop Rugby Union Football Club.

## 5.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the table below identifies the overall capacity balance in each of the analysis areas for senior rugby union pitches based on match equivalent sessions per week. Future demand is based on both team generation rates (TGRs) which are driven by population increases, as well as reported club development plans.

*Table 5.17: Summary of supply and demand balance on senior rugby union pitches*

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity <sup>29</sup>	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Harworth	-	-	-	-	-
Retford	-	3.5	-3.5	1	-4.5
Rural	-	-	-	-	-
Worksop	-	2	-2	0.5	-2.5
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>5.5</b>	<b>-5.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>-7</b>

Overall there is a requirement for 5.5 additional match equivalent sessions per week on senior rugby union pitches to meet current demand. This is further exacerbated when considering future demand aspirations from existing clubs, creating a requirement for additional capacity of seven match equivalent sessions per week.

## 5.6: Conclusion

In summary, current supply of rugby union provision is insufficient to accommodate current demand. Furthermore, future increases in demand (for both matches and training) exacerbate this shortfall meaning that current supply cannot sufficiently service anticipated future demand.

The requirement for additional match equivalent sessions per week and accumulated overplay on senior pitches can be attributed to just the two presently used club sites.

Pitches used at both sites are rated as poor quality with limited maintenance regimes, subsequently limiting capacity available. To increase carrying capacity of pitches in Bassetlaw, better quality and more regular maintenance and remedial works should be undertaken, accompanied by increases in floodlit provision to allow greater use of grass pitches and dispersion of demand.

Better management of training demand could be achieved through use of off-pitch floodlit areas, or increased provision of floodlighting on other match pitches to better distribute demand; the latter requiring supplemented qualitative and maintenance improvements to increase capacity to sustain increased training use. There are also a number of available rugby union pitches at schools which though offering unsecure tenure, may be able to function as secondary sites to better manage club site usage.

<sup>29</sup> In match equivalent sessions per week

## BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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### Rugby union summary

- ◀ **Current supply of rugby union provision is insufficient to accommodate current demand. Furthermore, future increases in demand (for both matches and training) exacerbate this shortfall meaning that current supply cannot sufficiently service anticipated future demand.**
- ◀ **Pitches at both club sites are rated as poor quality.**
- ◀ In total, there are 25 rugby union pitches in Bassetlaw across seven sites, all of which are available for community use. Most pitches (16 pitches - 64% of supply) are senior size, with four junior pitches (16%) and five dedicated mini pitches (20%).
- ◀ East Retford RUFC has recently completed a land swap with Anglian Water Group (AWG) at East Retford Rugby Union Football Club. The Club identifies AWG has agreed to the deal as it has aspirations to develop its newly obtained area for housing. The Club aspires to utilise the wooded area and large grass field to create a new clubhouse at the end of the access road and additional pitches.
- ◀ Most available pitches in Bassetlaw (17 pitches - 68%) are rated as good quality with the remaining eight pitches poor quality. There are no standard quality pitches in the authority.
- ◀ East Retford RUFC is pursuing development of a new clubhouse at East Retford Rugby Union Football Club as part of a land swap agreement with AWG.
- ◀ Ancillary facilities at Worksop Rugby Union Football Club are of standard quality. Worksop RUFC reports that three of its five changing rooms have recently been modernised, however, it still has aspirations to refurbish the remaining two rooms.
- ◀ There are two community rugby union clubs based in Bassetlaw, providing a total of 15 teams. There are four senior men's teams, five junior boys teams and six mixed sex mini teams.
- ◀ There is no anticipated growth in whole rugby union teams within Bassetlaw based on population change alone.
- ◀ Future demand aspirations reported by clubs total the creation of two mini teams, one junior and one senior team equating to a requirement for an additional 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week on senior rugby union pitches.
- ◀ There is no actual spare capacity on senior pitches at peak time for senior play because they are already in use.
- ◀ There are three pitches across two sites which are overplayed, totalling 5.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
- ◀ Overall there is a requirement for 5.5 additional match equivalent sessions per week on senior rugby union pitches to meet current demand.

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## PART 6: HOCKEY

### 6.1: Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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

## Club consultation

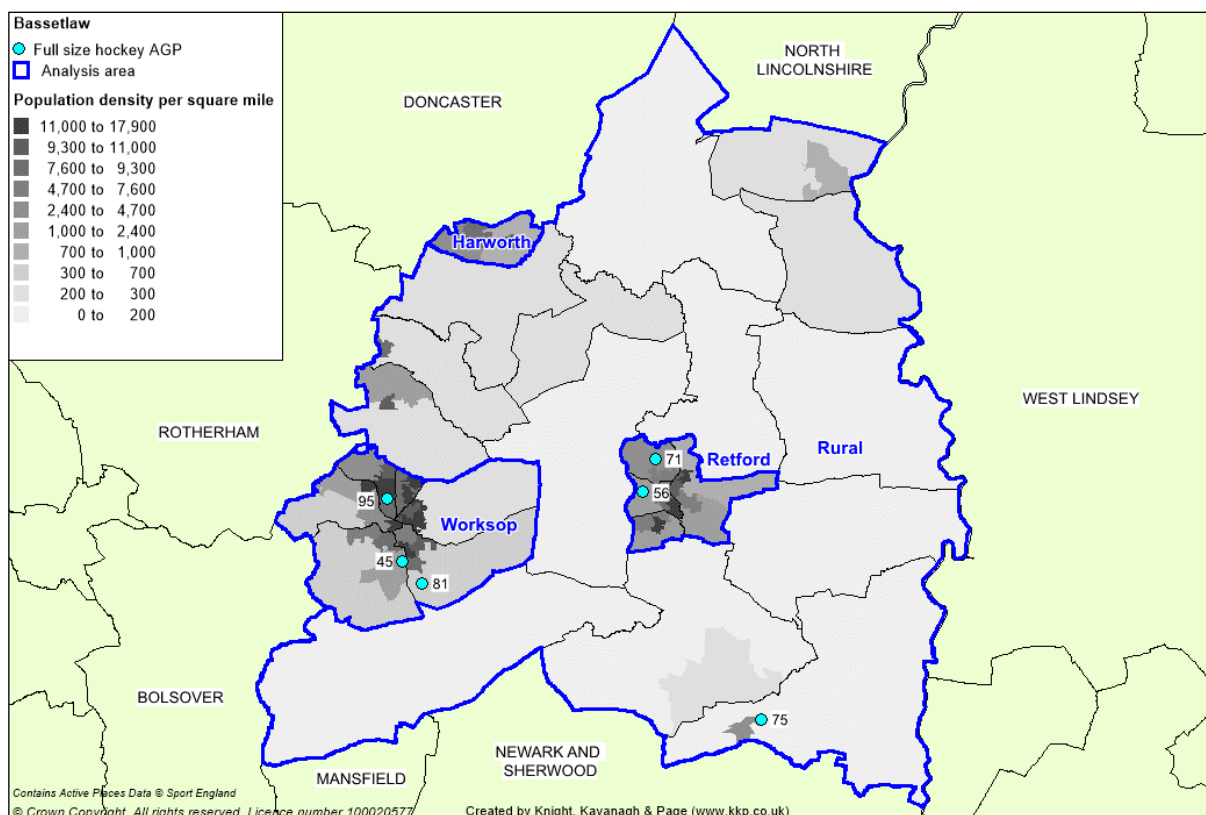
There are two hockey clubs based in Bassetlaw; Worksop HC and Worksop Ladies HC. The former was consulted with in person, whilst the latter completed an online survey, representing a 100% response rate.

## 6.2: Supply

There are seven full size hockey suitable AGPs, all of which, have floodlighting and are available for community use. Most of the supply (four pitches - 57%) is located in the Worksop Analysis Area. The remaining provision is split between the Retford Analysis Area with two and the Rural Analysis Area with one pitch. There is no full size hockey suitable AGP within the Harworth Area.

In addition, there are three smaller size floodlit hockey suitable AGPs in Bassetlaw, one each in the Rural, Harworth and Worksop Analysis Areas. None of these pitches are available for community use and all are at education sites (Langold Dyscarr Community School, Serlby Park Academy and St John's Church of England Academy).

Figure 6.1: Map of full size hockey suitable AGPs within Bassetlaw



## BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

*Table 6.2: Full size hockey suitable AGPs in Bassetlaw*

Site ID	Site name	Ownership/management	Analysis area	Number of pitches	Floodlighting	Surface type	Dimensions <sup>13</sup> (metres)	Available for community use?
45	Outwood Academy Portland	Academy / Commercial	Worksop	1	Yes	Sand filled	90 x 55	Yes - unused
56	Retford Oaks Academy	Academy / Commercial	Retford	1	Yes	Sand filled	90 x 55	Yes - unused
71	The Elizabethan Academy	Academy / Commercial	Retford	1	Yes	Sand filled	92 x 55	Yes - unused
75	Tuxford Academy	Academy / Commercial	Rural	1	Yes	Sand filled	90 x 55	Yes - unused
81	Worksop College	Education	Worksop	2	Yes	Sand dressed	90 x 55 90 x 55	Yes
95	Outwood Academy Valley	Academy / Commercial	Worksop	1	Yes	Sand dressed	91 x 55	Yes

*Table 6.3: Smaller size hockey suitable AGPs in Bassetlaw*

Site ID	Site name	Ownership/management	Analysis area	Number of pitches	Floodlighting	Surface type	Dimensions <sup>13</sup> (metres)	Available for community use?
32	Langold Dyscarr Community School	Education	Rural	1	No	Sand filled	32 x 16	No
60	Serlby Park Academy	Education	Harworth	1	Yes	Sand dressed	40 x 35	No
66	St John's Church of England Academy	Education	Worksop	1	Yes	Sand filled	40 x 35	No

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## Ownership/management

The hockey suitable AGPs at Worksop College are owned and managed internally by the College, whereas other pitches are managed for community lettings by Barnsley Premier Leisure (BPL). BPL is a charitable company which has a contract with the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) which operates most education sites in Bassetlaw. The contract runs until 2020, however, it has aspirations to renew this contract in the immediate future. Through this arrangement the provision at the schools are regularly maintained and will be resurfaced as part of their contract agreement.

## Quality

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

The following table indicates when each full size hockey suitable AGP was installed or last resurfaced, together with an agreed quality rating determined by non-technical assessment and user/provider consultation.

*Table 6.4: Summary of full size hockey suitable AGP quality*

Site ID	Site name	Number of pitches	Surface type	Year built (refurbished)	Quality
45	Outwood Academy Portland	1	Sand filled	2008	Standard
56	Retford Oaks Academy	1	Sand filled	2008	Standard
71	The Elizabethan Academy	1	Sand filled	2008	Standard
75	Tuxford Academy	1	Sand filled	2008	Standard
81	Worksop College	2	Sand dressed	2012	Good
				2014	
95	Outwood Academy Valley	1	Sand dressed	2010	Standard

Five of the seven full size AGPs are rated as standard quality even though they are approaching or exceed their recommended lifespan. This is due to the regular maintenance they receive since installation as set out within the obligations of the respective PFI agreements. However, it is likely these surfaces will require resurfacing within the next few years due their relative age and natural rate of deterioration.

In comparison, the two full size hockey suitable pitches at Worksop College are good quality with no significant issues raised through non-technical assessment or consultation. The College reports that the newer of the two pitches is solely used for hockey, whereas the older pitch is used for both hockey and football.

It should be noted that floodlights for hockey requires high lux levels for usage throughout the winter. Schools do not tend to use these facilities within this time period and are therefore not regularly monitored. Therefore, floodlights at school sites should be checked for deterioration with relevant investment implemented when required.

All three smaller size hockey suitable pitches are standard quality with no issues indicated through consultation.

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## ***Ancillary provision***

Access to ancillary facilities at school sites can often be restricted or limited for security reasons where changing rooms may be located in the main school building or where there is a lack of staffing to open and manage access. Schools also often have limited budget amongst other competing requirements for investment to make any qualitative improvements to changing provision, consequently they are often tired, dated and in need of modernisation. Worksop HC reports changing rooms at Outwood Academy Valley to be of standard quality. This is because they are also accessed by the School (Outwood Academy Valley) throughout the week and as a result are somewhat worn and tired.

Worksop Ladies HC reports ancillary facilities at Worksop College to be poor quality. The Club only has access to changing rooms onsite, however, it aspires to have its own clubhouse facility for pre and post match socialising. This considered, it understands the limitations of using a private education site and has no immediate plans to pursue development of a club building.

## **6.3: Demand**

There are two clubs currently based in Bassetlaw; Worksop HC and Worksop Ladies HC. In total the clubs field two senior men's, four senior women's and four mixed junior teams.

*Table 6.5: Summary of community hockey teams*

Name of club	Number of teams			Members			
	Men's	Women's	Juniors	Men's	Women's	Juniors	Total
Worksop HC	2	-	-	28	-	7	35
Worksop Ladies HC	-	4	4	-	68	67	135

Worksop Ladies HC is largest club within Bassetlaw, accommodating 79% of all affiliated demand with strong women's and junior participation. In comparison, Worksop HC only has seven current junior members which are under 16 years of age.

## ***Worksop HC***

Worksop HC fields two senior men's team which play competitive fixtures on Saturdays at Outwood Academy Valley, whereas training takes place on the older pitch at Worksop College for two hours midweek. The Club reports participation has decreased within the last three seasons due to a reduction in available volunteers. It states that it has previously engaged with England Hockey with regard to a potential merger with Worksop Ladies HC, however, this has not come to fruition.

## ***Worksop Ladies HC***

The Club fields four senior women's teams on Saturdays and four mixed junior teams on Sundays. It uses the newer (hockey only) pitch at Worksop College for matches as well as two hours midweek training on Wednesday evenings. It reports participation has increased over the last three seasons due in part to it operating Back to Hockey sessions every summer.



# **BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT**

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## ***Displaced demand***

Displaced or exported demand refers to Bassetlaw registered teams that are currently accessing pitches outside of the local authority for home fixtures, normally because their pitch requirements cannot be met. This is usually because of pitch supply, in some cases quality issues or stipulated league requirements for access to certain facilities. Similarly, demand may be imported into Bassetlaw from other neighbouring districts for the same reasons. There are no identified instances of demand being imported into, or exported out of the District on a regular basis.

## ***Unmet demand***

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not presently able to access pitches. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a league has a waiting list due to a lack of pitch provision, which in turn is hindering the growth of the league.

Worksop Ladies HC reports there is current demand to increase the number of teams at the Club, however, it is unable to do so due to limitations on when it can access the hockey suitable pitch at Worksop College. It indicates if it could access the pitch for an additional two hours per week at the weekends it would be able to field another female senior team and another junior team.

## ***Latent demand***

Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. Neither Worksop HC or Worksop Ladies HC explicitly identify any latent demand within Bassetlaw.

## ***Future demand***

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and by using population forecasts:

### ***Participation increases***

Worksop HC reports no immediate plans to increase levels of participation. Instead the Club's main priority is to sustain its two men's teams.

As aforementioned, Worksop Ladies HC indicates no plans to increase team numbers until it can increase the level of access it has to the AGPs at Worksop College, however, demand exists to be able to increase the number of teams in the short-term should this be achieved.

### ***Population increases***

Team generation rates (TGRs) are used to calculate the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2037) based on population growth. There is no anticipated growth in whole team numbers in hockey within Bassetlaw.

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 6.6: Team generation rates (2037)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams (2037)	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Men's (16-55)	28,663	2	1:14,332	26,866	1.9	0
Senior Women's (16-55)	28,053	4	1:7,013	25,847	3.7	0
Junior Boys (11-15)	3,127	4 <sup>30</sup>	1:782	3,330	4.3	0
Junior Girls (11-15)	3,011	0	0	3,201	0	0

It is important to note that TGRs are based on population figures and cannot account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives or coaching within schools.

Growing participation is the number one aim within EH's strategic plan and key drivers include working with clubs, universities and schools, regional and local leagues, developing opportunities for over 40s and delivering a quality programme of competition. Growth in participation will not only come from the traditional 11 aside game but from the informal, recreational ways to play hockey such as small sided hockey, which can be played at any time during the week or at weekends.

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

Though there remains a desire from EH to increase participation within the club/league based game, not all future demand may be realised entirely as new formalised teams playing at peak time. Some clubs may decide to offer pay and play opportunities to participants or offer small sided formats such in a bid to increase participation and club memberships by providing a different hockey offer.

Increased demand from new participants will lead to a requirement for increased capacity on available AGPs at peak time, but also midweek and on Sundays to deliver other formats of hockey activity. At present, it is not necessarily clear as to what format this may take or when it is likely to take place, however, it is clear that there will be a requirement for access to increased capacity on AGPs across the District. This should be considered when assessing demand for AGPs in the future, as not only will they be needed for peak match play times and midweek training to accommodate increased participation within the formalised hockey environment, but also throughout the week and at non-peak times to offer wider opportunities for play.

## **Back to Hockey**

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

<sup>30</sup> Junior teams include a mixture of boys and girls, however, for the purpose of the report they have gone through as junior boys to calculate an accurate team generation rate.

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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- ◀ More members
- ◀ More casual players
- ◀ Additional income
- ◀ Extra publicity
- ◀ New volunteers

Back to Hockey sessions are currently available in Bassetlaw, with Worksop Ladies HC running sessions at Worksop College.

## ***EH Player Pathway***

The Player Pathway (PP) is the junior talent development pathway. It encompasses the whole of the hockey landscape which includes club and school activity as well as the PP Development Centres (DCs). The purpose of the PP is to provide development opportunities for young people, which is fair, equitable and consistent. It is to ensure that a suitable level of coaching and competition is offered for people at the appropriate stage of their development and to maximise the chance they have of fulfilling their potential whether that potential is as a club or International player, coach or official. The PP can be accessed by playing at school, a local club or attending one of the local centres.

There is one entry point into the PP centres which is at DC level. The first time a player accesses the player pathway they must enter at DC level.

## ***Peak time demand***

For matches, all senior hockey activity in Bassetlaw takes place on a Saturday, whereas all junior activity occurs on a Sunday. For training, peak time is considered to be any midweek evening, although preference is generally for Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

## **6.4: Supply and demand analysis**

The following table summarises the availability of full size AGPs for community use in Bassetlaw. In addition, it records the availability of provision within the peak period. Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours a week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00).

All six pitches are available for community use midweek from at 6pm as all are situated at school sites and are used by schools for extracurricular sport until this time. Furthermore, pitches at Worksop College are not available for the full 16 hours within the weekend peak period due to extracurricular usage.

## BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 6.7: Summary of availability and usage of full size hockey suitable AGPs in Bassetlaw

Site ID	Site name	Surface type	No. of pitches	Floodlighting?	Quality <sup>31</sup>	Total number of hours available for community use during peak period	Hockey usage	Football usage (where known through consultation)	Spare capacity
45	Outwood Academy Portland	Sand Filled	1	Yes	Standard	Weekdays: 13 hours Weekends: 16 hours Total: 29 hours	No recorded community hockey usage.	3 hours (10%) - Innings FC, Worksop FC, Worksop JFC	Pitch has spare capacity to accommodate additional hockey and football demand.
56	Retford Oaks Academy	Sand Filled	1	Yes	Standard	Weekdays: 13 hours Weekends: 16 hours Total: 29 hours	No recorded community hockey usage.	4 hours (14%) - Retford FC, Retford Juniors FC, Retford United FC	Pitch has spare capacity to accommodate additional hockey and football demand.
71	The Elizabethan Academy	Sand Filled	1	Yes	Standard	Weekdays: 13 hours Weekends: 16 hours Total: 29 hours	No recorded community hockey usage.	1 hours (3%) - Retford United FC 3 hours (10%) - Football League	Pitch has spare capacity to accommodate additional hockey and football demand.
75	Tuxford Academy	Sand Dressed	1	Yes	Standard	Weekdays: 13 hours Weekends: 16 hours Total: 29 hours	No recorded community hockey usage.	1 hours (3%) - Tuxford Academy	Pitch has spare capacity to accommodate additional hockey and football demand.
81	Worksop College	Sand Dressed	2	Yes	Good	Weekdays: 13 hours Weekends: 12 hours Total: 25 hours	2 hours (8%) – Worksop HC 8 hours (32%) – Worksop Ladies HC	2 hours (8%) - Worksop FC, Worksop JFC	Pitches have spare capacity to accommodate additional hockey and football demand.

<sup>31</sup> Quality is assessed via a combination of non-technical assessments carried out by KKP but also take account of user views and opinions.

## BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Surface type	No. of pitches	Floodlighting?	Quality <sup>31</sup>	Total number of hours available for community use during peak period	Hockey usage	Football usage (where known through consultation)	Spare capacity
95	Outwood Academy Valley	Sand Dressed	1	Yes	Standard	Weekdays: 13 hours Weekends: 16 hours Total: 29 hours	4 hours (14%) - Worksop HC	1 hours (3%) - Shireoaks Inn FC 3 hours (10%) - Football League	Pitch has spare capacity to accommodate additional hockey and football demand.

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## Match play

The PPS guidance considers a floodlit pitch as able to accommodate a maximum of four match equivalent sessions (MES) on a Saturday with teams playing in a home and away format, as such this equates to one AGP being able to cater for eight “home” teams. Teams play matches on home v away formats and therefore one team requires 0.5 match sessions per week on its ‘home’ AGP. This being said, the hockey suitable AGP at Worksop College is only available for a maximum of two match equivalent sessions (four home teams) on a Saturday as it is used for curricular and extracurricular activities in the afternoons.

*Table 6.8: Capacity analysis for senior hockey matches at peak time (Saturdays)*

Analysis area	Match equivalent sessions per week				
	Capacity	Current demand	Future demand	Unmet demand	Capacity balance
Harworth	-	-	-	-	-
Retford	8	-	-	-	8
Rural	4	-	-	-	4
Worksop	12	3	-	1	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20</b>

Worksop HC fields two senior teams whereas Worksop Ladies HC provide four senior teams. In total this is six senior teams playing at peak time (Saturday) across the District, equivalent to a requirement for three match equivalent sessions per week on Saturdays. There is a need for one full size hockey suitable AGP to accommodate this existing and unmet demand on the basis that all teams from both clubs were to utilise a single pitch with full availability at peak time over the course of the day.

One AGP is also able to sufficiently accommodate junior match play demand on Sunday mornings. Some of the younger age groups require only half of a pitch, meaning multiple matches can be played at the same time and reducing requirement for pitch space and capacity in relation to senior play.

All other hockey suitable AGPs in Bassetlaw are unused for hockey at weekends and have spare capacity to accommodate additional demand for hockey, whether it be junior training or senior or junior matches.

## Training

All training demand is currently accommodated at Worksop College which is considered sufficiently able to accommodate both current and future hockey demand, aided by the exclusive use of the pitch for hockey and therefore eliminating competition with football teams for training capacity.

### *Conversion of sand based AGPs to 3G surfaces*

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

## **BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT**

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

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

Four of the seven full size sand based AGPs (Outwood Academy Portland, Retford Oaks Academy, The Elizabethan Academy and Tuxford Academy) are unused for community hockey. Provided that the multi-sport function they serve is not required by the respective schools for school use, these pitches could be considered for conversion to 3G surfaces to address 3G pitch shortfalls. All are well used by football teams for training and conversion to 3G would have no foreseen impact on community hockey. This, however, is the obligation of BPL as part of its management agreement and the associated timescales may not fit with the requirement for additional full size 3G pitch provision for football identified as required in the short-term.

### **6.5: Conclusion**

In conclusion, there is a requirement for capacity amounting to one hockey suitable AGP in Bassetlaw to sufficiently cater for both match play and training demand. However, with capacity for community hockey at Worksop College reduced on Saturdays due to retention of afternoon hours for college use when required, there is a need to retain both pitches onsite for hockey to deliver the total capacity required for senior match play. A third AGP should be retained for hockey to allow for possible future senior growth, this should be in the Worksop area where all community club hockey demand is based; either Outwood Academy Valley or Outwood Academy Portland.

There are no issues in terms of access to AGPs for hockey training or junior matches and with retained levels and arrangements for access, present supply can sufficiently cater for hockey both now and in the future. Focus for hockey should be on ensuring pitches are of the required quality for match play and that repair or eventual resurfacing is undertaken when required.



## BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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### Hockey summary

- ◀ **There is a need to retain three hockey suitable AGPs in Bassetlaw to accommodate current demand (Worksop College x two AGPs and Outwood Academy Valley x one AGP). This will also provide capacity for potential future growth opportunities (at Outwood Academy Valley).**
- ◀ **All remaining full size hockey suitable pitches, whether full size or smaller size, offer potential for surface conversion to 3G to reduce 3G shortfalls without impacting on current or future ability to cater for community hockey demand.**
- ◀ There are seven full size hockey suitable AGPs, all of which, have floodlighting and are available for community use. Most supply (four) is located in the Worksop Analysis Area.
- ◀ In addition, there are three smaller size floodlit hockey suitable AGPs in Bassetlaw, one each in the Rural, Harworth and Worksop analysis areas. None of these pitches are available for community use and all are at education sites.
- ◀ Worksop Ladies HC reports ancillary facilities at Worksop College to be poor quality. The Club only has access to changing rooms onsite, however, it aspires to have its own clubhouse facility for pre and post match socialising.
- ◀ Worksop HC reports changing rooms at Outwood Academy Valley to be of standard quality.
- ◀ The hockey suitable AGPs at Worksop College are owned and managed internally by the College, whereas other pitches are managed for community lettings by Barnsley Premier Leisure (BPL).
- ◀ Five of the seven full size AGPs are rated as standard quality even though they are approaching or exceed their recommended lifespan with the remaining pitches good quality.
- ◀ There are two clubs currently based in Bassetlaw; Worksop HC and Worksop Ladies HC. In total, the club's field two senior men's, four senior women's and four mixed junior teams.
- ◀ Worksop Ladies HC reports there is current demand to increase the number of teams at the Club, however, it is unable to do so due to limitations on when it can access AGPs at Worksop College (due to college demand).
- ◀ There is no identified future growth of teams through ONS population projections or club aspiration demand.
- ◀ All full size hockey suitable pitches have spare capacity to accommodate additional hockey and football demand.

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## PART 7: THIRD GENERATION ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES (AGPS)

### 7.1: Introduction

There are several surface types that fall into the category of artificial grass pitch (AGP). The three main groups are rubber crumb (also known as third generation turf or 3G), sand based (filled or dressed) and water based.

*Table 7.1: AGP type and sport suitability*

Surface	Category	Comments
Rubber crumb	Long Pile 3G (60mm with shock pad)	Rugby surface – must comply with World Rugby type 22 and/or RFL Community Standard, requires a minimum of 60mm pile.
Rubber crumb	Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)	Preferred football surface. Suitable for non-contact rugby union/league practice or play.
Rubber crumb	Short Pile 3G (40mm)	Acceptable surface for some competitive football.
Sand	Sand Filled	Competitive hockey and football training.
Sand	Sand Dressed	Preferred hockey surface and suitable for football training.
Water	Water based	Preferred hockey surface and suitable for football training if irrigated.

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

Competitive football can take place on 3G surfaces that have been FA or FIFA certified and a growing number of 3G pitches are now used for competitive match play at mini soccer and youth level. The recommended FA dimensions for a full size 3G pitch are 100x64 metres with additional run off areas of three metres required on each side. Minimum playing area dimensions to meet performance standard criteria for competitive football are 90x45 metres (or 100x64 metres for FIFA sanctioned international matches), with additional run off areas of three metres required on each side. FIFA 3G pitch certification is required to host competitive adult match play at Step 3 and below, whilst for teams playing at Steps 1 or 2 pitches are required to have FIFA Pro standard certification, further information on which is included later in the section. Football training can take place on sand and water based surfaces but is not the preferred option.

World Rugby produced the 'Performance Specification for Artificial Grass Pitches for Rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22' that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby. The artificial surface standards identified in Regulation 22 allows matches to be played on surfaces that meet the standard. Full contact activity, including tackling, rucking, mauling and lineouts can take place. All full size World Rugby compliant 3G pitches feature on the RFU register, including expiry dates of certification<sup>32</sup>. Upon registration, World Rugby compliancy is valid for two years before renewal and retesting is required.

<sup>32</sup><http://www.englandrugby.com/governance/club-support/facilities-kit-and-equipment/artificial-surfaces/artificial-grass-pitches>

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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

Many test contractors are able to offer reduced rates through efficiency savings to carry out multiple performance tests in the same session, therefore providers seeking 3G pitch compliancy for a number of sports would be recommended to consider this opportunity.

## 7.2: Supply

For the purposes of this PPS, full size 3G pitches are defined as those which meet FA minimum dimension criteria for adult football (90x45 metres). It should be noted that within other external documentation, The FA typically refers to 3G pitches as '3G Football Turf Pitches' (FTPs).

There are no full size 3G pitches in Bassetlaw. The only 3G pitch provision anywhere in the District is a small size pitch (60x38m) at Bircotes and Harworth Sports and Social Club.

The spread of full size 3G pitch provision is not evenly distributed across the District. The small size pitch is located in the Harworth Area and there are no 3G pitches of any size in any of the other three analysis areas.

The pitch is not on the FA register for certified pitches, meaning there are no artificial turf surfaces on which competitive football is sanctioned to take place and thus all football match play should take place on grass. There is no 3G pitch provision on the RFU register<sup>33</sup> of World Rugby compliant 3G pitches for contact activity or match play.

*Table 7.2: Small size 3G pitches in Bassetlaw*

Site ID	Site name	Ownership/management	Analysis area	Availability for community use	Floodlighting	Dimensions <sup>34</sup> (metres)
4	Bircotes and Harworth Sports and Social Club	Sports Club	Harworth	Yes	Yes	60x38

### ***Future plans for provision***

Though full size 3G pitches are considered those which meet FA minimum pitch dimensions, it is recommended that any new 3G pitches built in future should meet FA recommended pitch dimensions so to ensure suitability for all formats of football and maximise opportunities for use.

<sup>33</sup><http://www.englandrugby.com/governance/club-support/facilities-kit-and-equipment/artificial-surfaces/artificial-grass-pitches>

<sup>34</sup> Excluding run off areas. FA/FIFA Performance Standard Testing Criteria requires 3m run off areas in each direction. Some pitches of or close to minimum dimensions though compliant may not be considered to be of sufficient size to accommodate adult football matches.

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 7.3: FA recommended 3G pitch sizes

Age group	Playing format	Recommended pitch dimensions (metres excluding run offs)	Recommended pitch dimensions (metres including run offs)
Mini-Soccer U7/U8	5v5	37x27	43x33
Mini-Soccer U9/U10	7v7	55x37	61x43
Youth U11/U12	9v9	73x46	79x52
Youth U13/U14	11v11	82x50	88x56
Youth U15/U16	11v11	91x55	97x61
Youth U17/U18	11v11	100x64	106x70
Over 18/Adult	11v11	100x64	106x70

Bawtry Town FC and Bawtry JFC report aspirations to acquire or secure long-term lease of land neighbouring current home venue Memorial Sports Ground. Bawtry Town Council owns the site and leases it on a long-term agreement to charitable organisation Bawtry Action for Recreation and Sport (BARS). Members from the onsite sports clubs, including Bawtry Town FC and Bawtry JFC, are part of a User Group Board below the main BARS Board where they can discuss relevant topics and voice their opinions.

The two clubs in association with BARS would like to acquire the privately owned adjacent land which is currently in agricultural use, in order to develop additional grass football pitches and a full size floodlit 3G pitch. It intends that the potential new area of land can be used to relocate current football pitches presently overmarked onto a cricket outfield at Memorial Sports Ground to exclusive areas, as well as allowing for the creation of a Step 7 compliant pitch for Bawtry Town FC adult teams to progress into the National League System. Furthermore, it believes that development of a full size 3G pitch would allow for centralising all training demand to one site and reduce expenditure costs at other sites. Both clubs currently report having to travel outside of Bassetlaw to Doncaster to access suitable training provision.

## **Conversion to 3G surfaces**

Since the introduction of 3G pitches and given their popularity for football, providers have seen this as a way to replace a worn sand or water based carpet and generate increased revenue from hiring out a 3G pitch to football and rugby clubs and commercial football providers. This has often come at the expense of hockey, with players now travelling further distances to gain access to a suitable pitch and many teams consequently displaced from their preferred local authority.

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

It should also be noted that, if the surface type is changed, it could require the existing floodlighting to be changed and in some instances noise attenuation measures may need to be put in place. Conversion to a 3G surface will likely require a size increase; along with floodlighting improvements, the addition of a shock pad, fencing and noise attenuation.

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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A 3G surface is limited in the range of sport that can be played or taught on it. Providers proposing a conversion should take advice from the appropriate sports' governing bodies or refer to Sport England guidance: <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/artificial-sports-surfaces/>

## ***Future demand***

Population increases anticipated within the District are expected to generate additional demand for sports facilities, particularly 3G pitches which are used by a number of different sports for both matches and training. The PPS findings should be used to guide the development of any new sporting provision which may include the creation of additional pitches, new ancillary facilities or new sites to best accommodate both the newly generated demand and current requirements. Increases in population as a result of proposed housing growth and the subsequent equivalent demand generated for playing pitch provision are explored through scenario testing in the Stage D Strategy & Action Plan document.

It is key to note that the capacity a new 3G pitch creates is not considered double that of a grass pitch in land use terms. This is the case for sports provision set out in BB103 Guidelines for Mainstream Schools which exclusively applies to school sites and refers to the number of pupils a 3G can accommodate and is a separate issue to the land use issue which looks at the physical area of a pitch not its capacity.

Future strategic planning should consider key areas in which 3G pitches can best meet demand for a number of sports where possible and appropriate and should in turn consider the optimal surface type for any potential new development in conjunction with NGBs as part of a joined-up approach.

## **7.3: Quality**

The small size pitch at Bircotes and Harworth Sports and Social Club is rated as standard quality. It is maintained on a regular basis through the Bircotes and Harworth Sports and Social Club with no reported issues with holes or rips in the surface.

The carpet of a 3G pitch is considered to have a surface life of approximately 10 years with assumed maintenance of the required standard, though its lifespan can be prolonged in some cases where maintenance is of particularly high quality and rigor.

The pitch at Bircotes and Harworth Sports and Social Club was developed in 2007 and is not known to have been resurfaced since. Consequently, the pitch is considered to be in excess of the recommended surface lifespan and should be monitored in the short to medium term and resurfaced when rate of deterioration begins to have a qualitative impact on condition and performance.

### *Performance standard testing for football*

In order for competitive matches to be played on 3G pitches, the pitch should be FA or FIFA tested and approved and added to the FA pitch register, which can be found at: <http://3g.thefa.me.uk/?countyfa=Nottinghamshire>.

# **BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT**

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

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

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

## ***Management***

The pitch at Bircotes and Harworth Sports and Social Club is managed by the sports clubs itself. The site as a whole is leased on a long term arrangement from Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation (CISWO).

## ***Availability and usage***

Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs (including 3G pitches) of 34 hours a week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00).

The pitch at Bircotes and Harworth Sports and Social Club is available for the full 34 hours within the peak period, however, midweek the pitch is used by Harworth Colliery FC, Harworth Colliery JFC, Bawtry Town FC and Bawtry JFC and therefore there is little capacity for further use beyond current team training and recreational football. Whilst the pitch is available for use at weekends, it is not FA registered for competitive match play and so is used less by community teams at weekends when they are playing matches on grass, but is still available for casual or recreational football.

## ***Local demand***

### ***Football***

No teams in Bassetlaw play matches on 3G pitches because there are none in the District certified and FA registered to accommodate matches. Through consultation there are no clubs identified as accessing 3Gs outside of Bassetlaw for competitive demand.



# **BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT**

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Access to affordable floodlit training facilities is a key issue for most clubs in the District, particularly those with a large number of youth and mini teams. Access to affordable 3G provision is also a priority for the FA as many multi team junior clubs have various teams training across various venues. Sand based AGPs heavily used for football training also operate commercial small sided football leagues which limit availability for club training, whilst some teams export demand to neighbouring authorities to access full size 3G pitch provision, detailed later in this section. Of the 28 clubs that responded to consultation requests and state a demand for additional training facilities, all specifically stated a need for increased use of 3G pitches.

## *Rugby union*

There are currently no WR compliant 3G pitches located in Bassetlaw, however, both clubs report demand to access such provision for training purposes. Between the two rugby union clubs in Bassetlaw, training amounts to 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week by East Retford RUFC and two by Worksop RUFC.

## *Rugby league*

Rugby league is mainly played on grass pitches in Bassetlaw, with no recorded use of 3G provision. Rugby league clubs are likely to seek use of 3G pitches particularly throughout the winter pre-season period and into the early stages of the season through February, March and April until daylight hours mean a lesser need for requirement to floodlit provision. There are no RFL Community Standard registered 3G pitches in the District.

## ***Imported/exported demand***

Displaced or exported demand refers to Bassetlaw District registered teams that are currently accessing pitches outside of the local authority for home fixtures, normally because their pitch requirements cannot be met. This is usually because of pitch supply, in some cases quality issues or stipulated league requirements for access to certain facilities. In the same manner, imported demand refers to that displaced from other local authorities into Bassetlaw District based on the same reasoning. As mentioned, there are no known clubs imported or exporting competitive demand onto 3G pitches, however, several clubs indicate that they train outside of Bassetlaw to access suitable full size 3G pitches at the following sites:

- ◆ Rossington All Saints Academy (Doncaster)
- ◆ Goals Doncaster (Doncaster)

## ***Key trends and changes in demand for pitches***

### *Football*

Demand from football for 3G pitches has increased in recent years due to demand from clubs for training but also due to a growing acceptance by local leagues of use for competitive matches, where play on 3G pitches is now included within the FA Standard Code of Rule. This considered, the general condition of local authority pitches and increasingly limited budget for regular and adequate maintenance may lead more teams to consider AGPs as a possible alternative should it be financially viable.

# **BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT**

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A number of leagues around the country now use 3G pitches as central venues where all play takes place. Mini soccer leagues especially are increasingly adopting this approach either for whole seasons or a number of months throughout the winter because they can continually offer a high quality playing experience, in many cases beyond that of grass pitches which are generally of comparatively poorer quality. It also allows leagues to continue to run throughout the winter, largely unaffected by poor weather which has disrupted the football season over recent years, causing it to run into summer and clash more often with summer sports. This trend is likely to increase in the future and more mini soccer, flexi and vets' leagues could be played exclusively on 3G pitches.

## *Rugby union*

Given the inclement weather often experienced throughout the winter months of the rugby union season, more clubs are becoming increasingly receptive towards training on artificial pitches. Clubs traditionally train on match pitches where floodlights are in place or one pitch designated for all training in particular, unless there is a separate floodlight grass training area. It often results in deterioration in pitch quality coupled with decreasing maintenance budgets.

The recent RFU strategy on investment in 3G pitches both at club and community based sites is indicative of the growing acceptance of 3G pitches amongst clubs nationally. Nationally clubs identify the use of 3G pitches for training as a method of protecting the match pitches and providing a high quality surface for full contact practice. Competitive play continues to take place on grass pitches for the most part, with ad hoc use of 3G pitches for fixtures in the case of unsuitable pitches due to waterlogging or frost.

## *Rugby league*

Since rugby league switched from the winter to summer season in March 2012, the majority of teams have moved towards playing in summer. The improved weather and longer daylight hours throughout the summer mean that clubs tend to train on grass pitches or areas in order to reduce additional costs of hiring facilities because they require less access to floodlighting. This often leads to overuse of match pitches by clubs which consistently train on them, especially those which have several teams and train twice a week.

Use of 3G pitches for rugby league typically extends to pre-season or early season training when weather is often still poor and floodlights are required. It is likely that nationally demand for 3G pitches for training will increase in future but that teams will continue to prefer grass training provision during most months of the season when weather is forgiving. Rugby league is still played throughout the winter in schools, colleges and universities where 3G pitches are used often for both training and matches where certified.

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

### ***FA training scenario***

The FA considers high quality third generation artificial grass pitches as an essential tool in promoting coach and player development. The FA can support intensive use and as such are great assets for both playing and training. Primarily such facilities have been installed for community use and training, however, are increasingly used for competition which The FA wholly supports.

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

The FA's long-term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on floodlit 3G surface, together with priority access for every Charter Standard Community Club through a partnership agreement. The FA standard is calculated by using the latest Sport England research "AGPs State of the Nation March 2012" assuming that 51% of AGP usage is by sports clubs when factoring in the number of training slots available per pitch at peak times. It is estimated that one full size AGP can service 38 teams.

The table below considers the number of full size 3G pitches required if every team was to remain training within the analysis area in which they play. The 3G requirement is rounded down to the nearest whole number.

The model assumes that all pitches are fully available for club use at peak time when in practice a number of pitches operate commercial small sided leagues which reduce capacity available. It also projects all football teams as training on full size 3G pitches when in practice a proportion of football training demand should be retained on sand based AGPs in order to maintain financial and commercial sustainability of these pitches.

## Analysis findings

It is considered that there are 147 teams which require access to train once per week on floodlit 3G surface. When applied on an analysis area level, this equates to the need for four full size 3G pitches to service this level of training demand. At present, there are no full size 3G pitches across the District.

There is just one small size 3G pitch located at Bircotes and Harworth Sports and Social Club. The pitch is used mainly for midweek training by Harworth Colliery FC, Harworth Colliery JFC, Bawtry Town FC and Bawtry JFC.

*Table 7.7: Current demand for 3G pitches in Bassetlaw for affiliated football team training (38 teams per pitch)*

Analysis area	Current number of teams	Current requirement <sup>35</sup>	Current number of available full size 3G pitches	Current shortfall	Future number of teams <sup>36</sup>	Future requirement
Harworth	15	0.39 – 0	-	0	18	0.47 - 0
Retford	35	0.92 - 1	-	1	55	1.44 – 1
Rural	44	1.16 - 1	-	1	53	1.39 – 1
Worksop	53	1.39 - 1	-	1	56	1.47 – 1
<b>Total</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>3</b>

The Harworth Area does not require additional 3G pitch provision and all 15 teams (Harworth Colliery FC – adults, girls, juniors) in the analysis area are based at Bircotes and Harworth Sports and Social Club where the small size 3G pitch can sufficiently accommodate all training demand if resurfaced in future when required.

<sup>35</sup> Figures have been rounded down where there is existing small size 3G pitches or full size sand based pitches which can accommodate football training.

<sup>36</sup> Based on increased demand forecasted from team generation rates and club aspirational demand, both re-applied to the Area where the club is based for training purposes

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The Retford Area is serviced by two full size AGPs at Retford Oaks Academy and The Elizabethan Academy, neither of which is recorded as being used for community hockey, nor is there demand for community hockey in the analysis area. There is requirement for a full size 3G pitch in the Retford Area and conversion of one of these AGPs would be a way to deliver this.

The Rural Area is serviced by a full size AGP at Tuxford Academy which again is not used for community hockey, nor is there evident demand for such. Like the Retford Area, conversion of this pitch to 3G could meet this requirement, however given the rurality of the villages and centres within the catchment and the travel times, there may be case to investigate instead the delivery of two small size 3G pitches to ensure spread of provision offers better accessibility to teams within the analysis area.

The Worksop Area has the greatest level of team demand as a more densely populated area of the District and requires one full size 3G pitch. It is serviced by four full size AGPs, however, Outwood Academy Valley and Worksop College (x2) are required for community hockey and should be protected. The remaining pitch at Outwood Academy Portland may, however, offer scope for conversion to 3G.

### **7.5: Conclusion**

In conclusion, there is insufficient supply of full size 3G pitches to meet current and anticipated future demand based on the FA training model for football. When calculated by analysis area, there is a present and future shortfall of three full size 3G pitches with floodlighting; one each in the Retford, Rural and Worksop areas.

There may be opportunities for the conversion of full size sand based AGPs in each of these three analysis areas to meet the 3G shortfall without impacting on provision required to sufficiently accommodate and growth participation in community hockey. Outwood Academy Portland, Retford Oaks Academy, Tuxford Academy and The Elizabethan Academy all offer this potential to explore and all have exceeded their recommended ten year lifespans having built concurrently in 2008. With surface replacement the responsibility of the PFI provider as a condition of the management agreements at Academy sites, the timelines linked to resurfacing commitment means that now is very timely to explore these options.

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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## 3G pitches summary

- ◀ **There is insufficient supply of full size 3G pitches to meet current and anticipated future demand based on the FA training model for football.**
- ◀ **When calculated by analysis area, there is a present and future shortfall of three full size 3G pitches with floodlighting; one each in the Retford, Rural and Worksop areas.**
- ◀ There are no full size 3G pitches in Bassetlaw.
- ◀ The only 3G pitch provision anywhere in the District is a small size pitch (60x38m) at Bircotes and Harworth Sports and Social Club.
- ◀ There are no 3G pitches certified or registered for either football match play or contact rugby union activity or match play.
- ◀ The small size pitch at Bircotes and Harworth Sports and Social Club is rated as standard quality. Built in 2007, the surface now exceeds the ten year recommended surface lifespan and rate of deterioration should be monitored.
- ◀ Most football training presently takes place on second generation sand based AGPs, most of which are located at Academy sites. Whilst these surfaces can accommodate football training and should continue to do so in some capacity to ensure they remain viable and sustainable, they are not the preferred surface choice for football.
- ◀ Bawtry Town and Bawtry JFC together aspire to develop a new full size 3G pitch in the Rural Area.
- ◀ The FA training model estimates that there is a need for three full size 3G pitches to service football training needs in the District. When considered at Analysis Area level there is a requirement for one in the Retford, Rural and Worksop areas.
- ◀ There are opportunities to convert sand based AGPs not required for community hockey to 3G surfaces to reduce the full size 3G pitch shortfall. Consultation and agreement of England Hockey should be undertaken ahead of any proposed conversion to 3G.
- ◀ These sand based AGPs are located at Academy sites and resurfacing is linked within site management agreements and capital commitments associated with the PFI arrangements. The timing aligns well with these considerations for potential conversion to 3G and should be explored with the PFI provider in the short-term.

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## PART 8: BOWLING GREENS

### 8.1: Introduction

The majority of bowling greens in Bassetlaw are flat greens and Bowls England (BE) is the governing body responsible for ensuring effective governance of the sport across the Country. However, there are also some crown greens with the British Crown Green Bowling Association (BCGBA) responsible for the national governance. The season for both crown and flat green bowling generally runs from April to September.

#### **Consultation**

There are 16 clubs using bowling greens in Bassetlaw, five of which, responded to consultation via online survey, representing a 31% response rate.

### 8.2: Supply

In total there are 22 bowling greens in Bassetlaw. This is made up of four crown greens across four sites and 18 flat greens across 16 sites, with two double green sites located at Worksop Cricket and Sports Club and Newgate Street.

*Table 8.1: Summary of bowling green provision*

Analysis area	Flat greens available for community use	Crown greens available for community use
Haworth	0	0
Retford	3	1
Rural	6	2
Worksop	9	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4</b>

The crown greens are located mainly in the Rural Area which accommodates two (50%), followed by the Retford and Worksop areas with one (25%) green each.

Exactly half of flat bowling greens (nine greens) in Bassetlaw are situated in the Worksop Area. This is followed by six (33%) greens in the Rural Area and three (17%) greens in the Retford Area.

There are no bowling greens at all in the Haworth Area, crown or flat green.

In addition to outdoor provision there are also seven good quality indoor bowling rinks at North Notts Community Arena (Worksop Analysis Area). This site is used by bowling clubs throughout Bassetlaw for winter training demand.

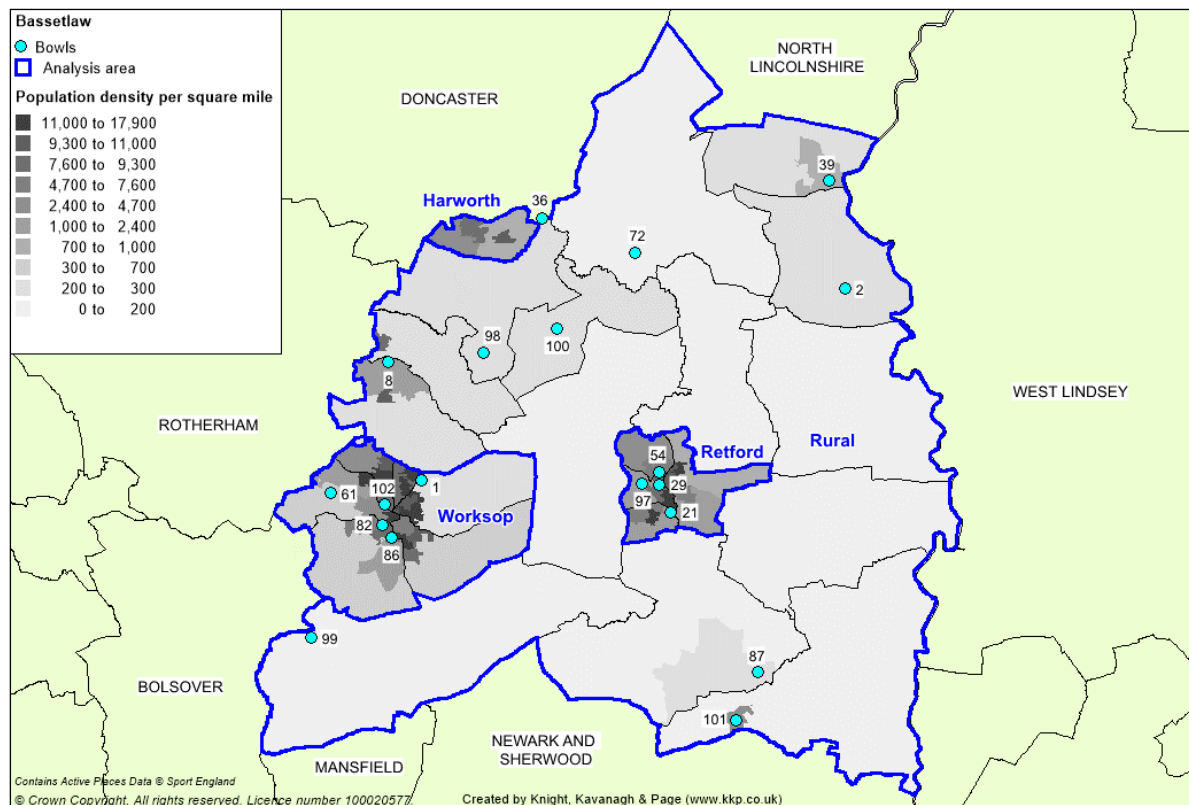
#### **Lapsed/disused provision**

One disused green has been identified in Bassetlaw, located at The Canch (Worksop Area). While the green remains on site, it is no longer maintained as a functioning green.



# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Figure 8.1: Distribution of bowling greens across Bassetlaw



## Quality

Non-technical site assessments and club feedback indicate that most greens in Bassetlaw are good quality (11 greens), including the two double green sites at Worksop Cricket and Sports Club and Newgate Street, whilst eight greens are standard quality. There are two poor quality bowling greens in the District, located at High Street Bowling Green and Kilton Forest (27 Acre Field).

Table 8.2: Quality of outdoor bowling greens in Bassetlaw

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Number of greens	Quality <sup>37</sup>	Management
1	Kilton Forest (27 Acre Field)	Worksop	1	Poor	District Council
2	Beckingham Playing Field	Rural	1	Good	Community
8	Costhorpe Cricket Ground	Rural	1	Good	District Council
21	Goosemoor Recreation Ground	Retford	1	Good	District Council
29	Kings Park	Retford	1	Good	District Council
36	Memorial Sports Ground	Rural	1	Good	Sport Club
39	Misterton Sports Field	Rural	1	Good	Parish Council
54	Retford Cricket Club	Retford	1	Standard	Sport Club
61	Shireoaks Miners Welfare Sports and Social Club	Worksop	1	Standard	Sport Club
72	The Metcalfe Ground	Rural	1	Good	Sport Club
82	Worksop Cricket and Sports Club	Worksop	2	Good	Sport Club

<sup>37</sup> Determined by non-technical assessment and user feedback

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Number of greens	Quality <sup>37</sup>	Management
86	Newgate Street	Workshop	2	Good	Unknown
87	Quakefield Road	Rural	1	Standard	Unknown
97	The Rail – Retford FC	Retford	1	Standard	Sports Club
98	High Street Bowling Green	Workshop	1	Poor	Council
99	Welbeck Bowling Green	Workshop	1	Standard	Sports Club
100	Station Road Bowling Green	Rural	1	Standard	Unknown
101	Lexington Court Bowling Green	Rural	1	Standard	Unknown
102	Stanley Street Sports & Social Club	Workshop	1	Standard	Sports Club

The High Street Bowling Green was assessed as poor quality due to significant wear and tear as well as leaf fall on the green. Green quality at Kilton Forest (27 Acre Field) is considered to be of poor quality due to an uneven surface. The site has also been subject to vandalism.

The green at Retford Cricket Club has deteriorated over the last season due to maintenance issues. Conversely, green quality at Welbeck Bowling Green is reported to be much better than the previous season thanks to an improved maintenance regime undertaken by the Club's members.

A consistent issue recorded regarding green maintenance is the perceived high cost of purchasing machinery required to undertake continued green works. One way of resolving this issue may be for clubs to share equipment, enabling all clubs and greens to benefit from more regular maintenance and a greater range of equipment, provided that club volunteers are available and trained to undertake the work.

## ***Ancillary facilities***

No responding clubs in Bassetlaw report ancillary facilities to be of poor quality. Most clubs (60%) report ancillary facilities to be of standard quality (three clubs) with the remaining two clubs (40%) rating ancillary facilities as good quality.

All clubs report ancillary facility maintenance either being the responsibility of the respective club or a combination of Council, club and third party maintenance.

No significant issues were highlighted by clubs regarding ancillary provision in Bassetlaw. Goosemoor BC notes that ancillary provision at Goosemoor Recreation Ground was of good quality although the scoreboard may be in need of replacement.

## ***Ownership and management***

Of the responding clubs, the majority of club used greens in Bassetlaw are managed by their respective sports clubs through rental agreements. Only Retford and Welbeck Abbey bowling clubs own their respective sites.

No clubs that responded to consultation express concerns with regard to security of tenure. In principle, all clubs are happy with the agreements currently in place, whether that is through ownership, an annual rental agreement or a long-term lease arrangement. However, for the purposes of the PPS, though there is no perceived threat of losing access, tenure for these clubs must be considered unsecured as they do not have formal confirmation of long-term use of these sites, meaning they also are not in a position to seek and secure external capital funding from most sources.

## BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

### 8.3: Demand

Due to its geographical location between South Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire, in addition to having a mixture of crown and flat green bowls participation, clubs in Bassetlaw play within a variety of leagues.

*Table 8.3: League participation of responding clubs*

Name of club	Analysis area	Flat Green League(s)	Crown Green League(s)
Retford BC	Retford	Mansfield & District League, EBF League, Notts EBA League, Retford & District Bowls League, Babworth League	None
Welbeck Abbey BC	Worksop	None	None
Cannon BC	Worksop	Retford & District League, Hi Point Bowls League, Bassetlaw Saturday Bowls League	None
Firbeck BC	Worksop	None	Maltby & District Bowls League, Rotherham Bowls League.
Goosemoor BC	Retford	None	Goosemoor Afternoon League, Retford League.

There are 16 bowling clubs in Bassetlaw, each with multiple teams playing various evenings and afternoons throughout the week. Demand amongst youth players in Bassetlaw is low with just two identified junior members. The table below shows a full membership breakdown of the five responding clubs.

*Table 8.4: Membership breakdown of responding clubs*

Club name	Site name	Total membership		
		Senior male	Senior female	Junior
Cannon BC	Kilton Forest (27 Acre Field)	12	4	-
		16		
Firbeck BC	Costhorpe Cricket Ground	33	4	1
		38		
Goosemoor BC	Goosemoor Recreation Ground	24	5	-
		29		
Retford BC	Retford Cricket Club	60	40	1
		101		
Welbeck Abbey BC	Welbeck Bowling Green	27	29	-
		56		

Generally, clubs and leagues in Bassetlaw report that membership levels have remained static over the last three years and no clubs have a waiting list for new members. Only Cannon BC reports a decline in senior members; whilst no clubs report an increase in either junior or senior membership.

## BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Nationally the sport has experienced an overall decline in participation which may be due to access to facilities in some cases; however, most clubs acknowledge a lack of interest in the sport amongst the local community, with few new bowlers taking up the sport. This adds to what is a generally an aged player base and in most cases the fall in numbers has been attributed to aging players, with a lack of younger or newer players coming into the sport to sustain demand.

### ***Future demand***

Club consultation suggests that three clubs currently operating in Bassetlaw aspire to grow membership, however, this may not be achievable without change in some cases given membership has been static over recent years. The table below provides a breakdown of future demand aspirations from clubs, where quantified.

*Table 8.5: Future demand aspirations reported by responding clubs*

Club name	Analysis area	Seniors	Juniors (U18)
Cannon BC	Worksop	3	-
Retford BC	Retford	10	10
Welbeck Abbey BC	Worksop	15	10

### ***Latent demand***

No clubs suggest that an additional bowling green at their ground or in their area would lead to an increase in club membership. Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in bowls but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 199 people who would like to participate in the sport within Bassetlaw. The most dominant segment is 'Elsie & Arnold' – Retirement Home Singles (19.1%).

As seen in the table overleaf, this is the fourth lowest amount of latent demand for the sport when compared to Bassetlaw's neighbouring local authorities.

*Table 8.6: Comparison of neighbouring local authorities latent demand*

Neighboring local authorities	Latent demand of adults like to participate in bowls but are not currently doing so
Bassetlaw	199
Bolsover	157
Doncaster	<b>559</b>
Mansfield	197
Newark & Sherwood	204
North Lincolnshire	335
Rotherham	486
West Lindsey	176

## **8.4: Capacity analysis**

Capacity is very much dependent on the leagues and the day that they operate. A green may have no spare capacity on an afternoon or evening when a popular league operates but may be unused for the rest of the week. However, in many cases greens are used in the afternoons by club members which bowl socially.

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Bowls England advises that a flat green accommodating less than 60 playing members is considered to have spare capacity for further play and those accommodating more than 60 is considered to be over played. Consideration should also be given to the sustainability of flat greens which operate with a playing membership of less than 20. The same figures were also used to analyse crown green capacity.

*Table 8.7: Current and future capacity analysis of bowling greens for responding clubs*

Site ID	Site name	Number of greens	Clubs	No. of members	Capacity rating	Future demand	Future capacity
1	Kilton Forset (27 Acre Field)	1	Cannon BC	16	44	3	41
8	Costhorpe Cricket Ground	1	Firbeck BC	38	22	-	22
21	Goosemoor Recreation Ground	1	Goosemoor BC	29	31	-	31
54	Retford Cricket Club	1	Retford BC	101	41	20	61
99	Welbeck Bowling Green	1	Welbeck Abbey BC	56	4	25	21

Capacity analysis suggests that the green at Retford Cricket Club is significantly overplayed by Retford BC. It should be noted that demand from Retford BC is expected to be a total membership figure and not just playing members, therefore levels of overplay is anticipated to be lower. Welbeck Bowling Green is also played close to capacity with little capacity to accommodate moderate growth.

After accounting for aspirational future demand, the overplay at Retford Cricket Club would be exacerbated and Welbeck Bowling Green would become overplayed. However, there is enough capacity at other greens in the Worksop and Retford Areas to accommodate this demand without the creation of another green, though capacity of these greens is not known due to non-responding user clubs at these sites. This being said, no clubs through consultation reported aspirations to access additional greens.

In contrast, consideration should be given to the sustainability of the green located at Kilton Forest (27 Acre Field), currently used by Cannon BC which has a low membership of just 13 players. Consideration should be given to the future viability of this green in relation to the current level of usage and the Club should be supported to ensure the operation of this green is sustainable in the long-term.

## 8.5: Conclusions

In conclusion, the current supply of bowling greens is considered sufficiently able to accommodate demand for both crown and flat green bowling across the District. This remains the case in future as growth in participation is anticipated to be modest given reports that participation has been static for a number of years.

Based on the Guidance, and known membership figures from club consultation feedback, Retford Cricket Club is considered to be significantly overplayed to 68% over the recommended green capacity.

## BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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The green at Welbeck Bowling Green is also played close to capacity and requires effective maintenance regimes to continue to sustain this use. There is a clear requirement to work with all clubs to ensure quality of each bowling green does not deteriorate and that they are supported to ensure green quality can be sustained and improved.

In contrast, Cannon BC has a low-level membership base and as such consideration should be given to the future sustainability of the Club and support which could be offered. The Club currently uses the bowling green at Kilton Forest (27 Acre Field). Due to its low membership and the fact it is Council managed the green has available capacity to accommodate additional demand.

### **Bowls summary**

- ◀ **Current supply of bowling greens is sufficient to accommodate both current and anticipated future demand.**
- ◀ There is a total of 22 bowling greens in Bassetlaw, made up of four crown greens and 18 flat greens.
- ◀ There are two double green sites, located at Worksop Cricket and Sports Club and Newgate Street.
- ◀ Non-technical site assessments and club feedback indicate that 11 greens in Bassetlaw are rated as good quality, eight greens as standard quality and two as poor quality at Kilton Forest (27 Acre Field) and High Street Bowling Green.
- ◀ No significant issues were highlighted by clubs regarding ancillary provision in Bassetlaw.
- ◀ No clubs responding to consultation express concerns with regards to security of tenure, however, although there is no perceived threat to continued access, most clubs do not have formally secured long-term tenure and rent from other landowners/managers.
- ◀ The green at Retford Cricket Club is considered to be overplayed and as such green quality should be improved from standard to good to sustain the levels of overplay at least in the short-term. In the longer-term, the potential of utilising a secondary site should be explored to maintain the quality of the current green through better distribution of play across available provision
- ◀ Future demand expressed by Welbeck Abbey BC may lead to their current site becoming overplayed. However, this growth is aspirational given the recent static nature of participation over recent years and if realised, overplay could be accommodated by alternate greens in Bassetlaw.
- ◀ Cannon BC has a low-level membership base (16 members) and as such consideration should be given to the future sustainability of the Club, the green it uses and support which could be offered.

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## PART 9: TENNIS COURTS

### 9.1: Introduction

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the organisation responsible for the governance of tennis. It also supports the delivery of the sport locally across Bassetlaw. The LTA is currently delivering its 2015 – 2018 British Tennis Strategic Plan which has a participation focus, seeking to build partnerships in the community, deliver great service to clubs and grow participation among children and young people.

#### **Consultation**

There are three tennis clubs based in Bassetlaw; Retford TC, Welbeck TC and Wheatley TC. All clubs completed an online survey as a means of consultation, representing in a 100% response rate.

### 9.2: Supply

#### **Quantity**

There is a total of 66 tennis courts identified in Bassetlaw located across 18 sites including sports clubs, commercial and schools. Of these, 64 courts (97%) are considered to be available for community use across 17 sites.

The only site which is not classified as available for community use is Shireoaks Cricket Ground as it was privately purchased circa 2010. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the private owner of the site is in dialogue with the Council to re-establish community access for sport onsite, however, it is unavailable at present and is considered disused for the purposes of the audit.

Most available courts are in the Rural Area where there are 24 courts (38%), closely followed by the Worksop Area with 21 courts (33%). In comparison, the Harworth Area has the least provision with only five courts (6%), however, it is the smallest of the four Analysis areas.

*Table 9.1: Summary of the number of courts by Analysis area*

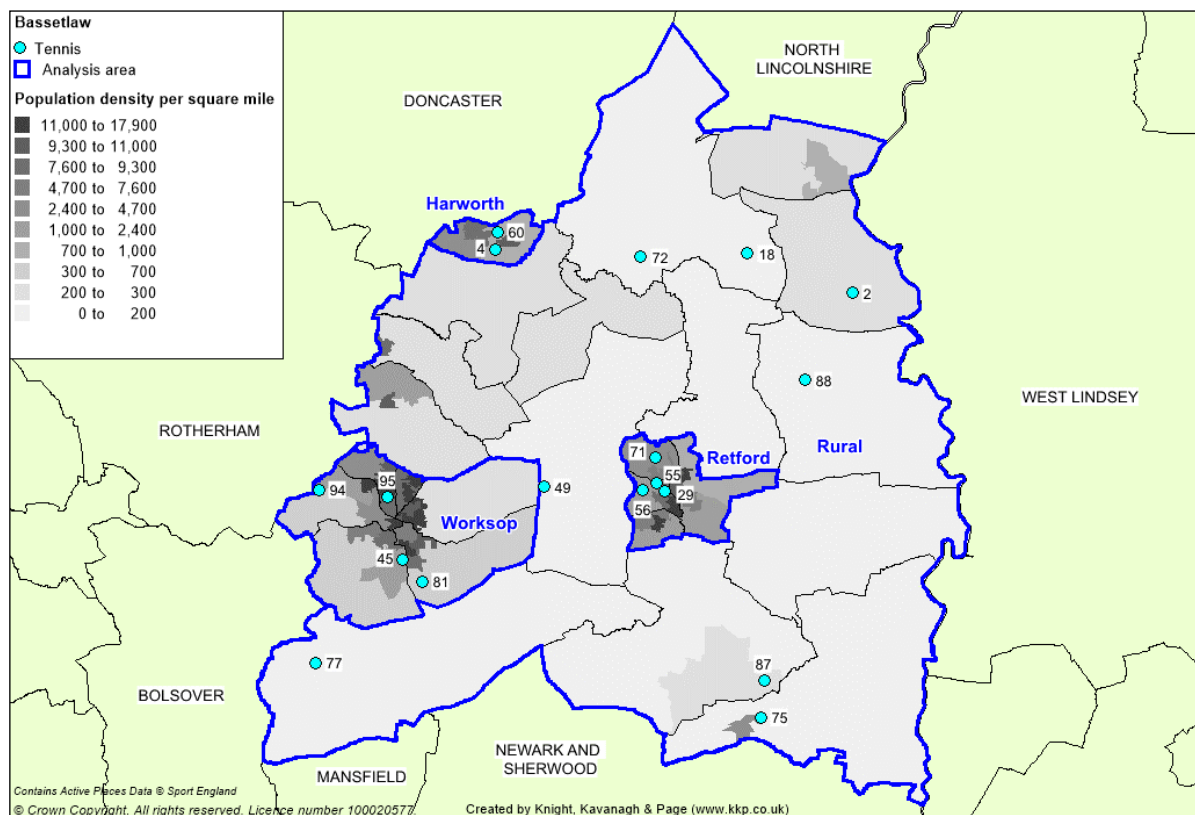
Analysis area	Courts (sites) available for community use
Harworth	5 (2)
Retford	14 (4)
Rural	24 (8)
Worksop	21 (3)
<b>Total</b>	<b>64 (17)</b>

In addition to outdoor provision there are also two good quality indoor courts at North Notts Community Arena (Worksop Analysis Area).



# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Figure 9.1: Distribution of tennis courts across Bassetlaw



## BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 9.2: Summary of tennis court provision in Bassetlaw

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Availability for community use	Number of courts	Floodlit	Court type	Court quality <sup>38</sup>
2	Beckingham Playing Field	Rural	Parish Council	Yes	1	No	Macadam	Poor
4	Bircotes and Harworth Sports and Social Club	Harworth	Sports Club	Yes	1	Yes	Macadam	Standard
18	Finkell Street Playing Field	Rural	Parish Council	Yes	1	No	Macadam	Poor
29	Kings Park	Retford	Council	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Good
44 / 95	Outwood Academy Valley	Worksop	Education	Yes	6	No	Macadam	Good
45	Outwood Academy Portland	Worksop	Education	Yes	6	No	Macadam	Good
49	Ranby House Preparatory School	Rural	Education	Yes	4	No	Macadam	Good
55	Retford Lawn Tennis Club	Retford	Sports Club	Yes	4	Yes - partially	Macadam	Standard
56	Retford Oaks Academy	Retford	Education	Yes	4	No	Macadam	Good
60	Serlby Park Academy	Harworth	Education	Yes	4	No	Macadam	Good
71	The Elizabethan Academy	Retford	Education	Yes	4	No	Macadam	Good
72	The Metcalfe Ground	Rural	Parish Council	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Standard
75	Tuxford Academy	Rural	Education	Yes	8	No	Macadam	Good
77	Welbeck Tennis Club	Rural	Sports Club	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam	Good
87	Quakefield Road	Rural	Parish Council	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Poor
88	South Wheatley Village Hall	Rural	Parish Council	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Good
81	Worksop College	Worksop	Education	Yes	9	No	Macadam	Good
94	Shireoaks Cricket Ground	Worksop	Private	No - disused	2	No	Macadam	Poor

<sup>38</sup> Determined by non-technical site assessment and user feedback

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## ***Future provision***

Retford TC reports it has aspirations to develop an area of grass land located at Retford Lawn Tennis Club into a dedicated mini hard court area for its junior members. The area of land was previously utilised as grass courts; however, it has not been used for formal sports provision for several years. The Club is actively searching for potential funding streams to pursue this development.

## ***Quality***

Of provision that is available for community use, 53 courts (83%) are rated as good quality, seven courts (11%) are rated as standard quality and four courts (6%) are rated as poor quality. The Worksop Analysis Area is serviced by only good quality courts.

*Table 9.3: Quality of community available courts by Analysis area*

<b>Analysis area</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Standard</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Total</b>
Harworth	4	1	-	<b>5</b>
Retford	10	4	-	<b>14</b>
Rural	18	2	4	<b>24</b>
Worksop	21	-	-	<b>21</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>64</b>

The courts assessed as good quality are located at the following sites:

- ✦ Outwood Academy Portland
- ✦ Ranby House Preparatory School
- ✦ Retford Oaks Academy
- ✦ Serlby Park Academy
- ✦ The Elizabethan Academy
- ✦ Tuxford Academy
- ✦ South Wheatley Village Hall
- ✦ Welbeck Tennis Club
- ✦ Worksop College
- ✦ Outwood Academy Valley

The majority of good quality courts across Bassetlaw are located at education sites. This is due to most of the school sites in the authority being under the management of PFI contracts meaning sporting facilities have recently been created or they are being maintained to a higher levels due to stipulations within respective management agreements.

Wheatley TC reports the courts at South Wheatley Village Hall have improved in quality within the last five years as they were resurfaced. Similarly, Welbeck TC indicates its courts have also improved in quality as they have recently been repaired and repainted in 2018.

In comparison, Retford TC indicates court quality at Retford Lawn Tennis Club has declined within the same time period. The Club states the surface of one of its four courts has begun to crack and break apart. This is an issue as this court, due to its good level of access, is utilised for wheelchair tennis. Consequently, it currently cannot be used to coach wheelchair tennis as a direct result of the reported quality issues.

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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Poor quality courts in Bassetlaw are predominantly assessed as such due to poor grip underfoot, loose gravel and evidence of litter, glass and moss. The maintenance of these courts is also considered to be basic and infrequent, as opposed to club maintained courts which tend to receive more specialised and dedicated work.

Improving park courts is a national priority for the LTA; however, it reports that unless tennis courts are supported by changing facilities, floodlighting and in some cases a café, it becomes more difficult to operate a sustainable tennis programme, which therefore makes it more difficult to generate external investment. The LTA also advocates that sites with a minimum of four courts are likely to be more sustainable.

## ***Transforming British Tennis Together (TBTT)***

In 2017 the LTA introduced its largest funding initiative, Transforming British Tennis Together, to make courts across the country more usable and accessible to everyone in the next ten years. It has committed £125 million to improve community facilities and plans to unlock a further £125 million through match funding. The funding will ensure barriers such as floodlighting; access systems (Clubspark) and covering courts so they are more accessible throughout the year are overcome. Investment from the TBTT will transform facilities by working with clubs, parks, community venues and education sites.

## ***Ownership/management***

The table below highlights the nature of management for available courts. As shown, the majority of courts (70%) across the District are at education sites. The remaining courts are split between parish councils (14%), sports clubs (12%) and the District Council (4%) management.

*Table 9.4: Courts available for community use by ownership*

Sports club courts	Council courts	Parish Council	Education courts	Total
8	2	9	45	64

## ***Security of tenure***

No clubs express concerns in regard to security of tenure. Wheatley TC currently rents the use of South Wheatley Village Hall from the Parish Council, whereas, Retford TC has a 25 year lease from Trinity Estates for Retford Lawn Tennis Club. Welbeck TC hires the uses of Welbeck Tennis Club and Ranby House Preparatory School.

## ***Floodlighting***

Floodlit courts enable use throughout the year and are identified by the LTA as being particularly key for club development. There are only seven floodlit courts in Bassetlaw, all of which, are located at two sports clubs sites; Retford Lawn Tennis Club (four courts) and Welbeck Tennis Club (three courts). This considered, Retford TC reports that the courts at Retford Tennis Club are only partially floodlit.

Wheatley TC reports development plans to install floodlighting on the courts at South Wheatley Village Hall, however, funding for this has yet to be identified. The Club reports it will be able to increase participation once courts are floodlit as it is currently limited by the number of hours it can access the courts for play, especially throughout the winter.

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## ***Court type***

All available courts in Bassetlaw have a macadam surface. The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels. To ensure courts can continue to be used beyond this time frame, it is recommended that a sinking fund is put into place for eventual refurbishment. The LTA reports that this should cost approximately £1,200 a year per macadam court (which includes on-going maintenance costs). In comparison the LTA indicates courts which have a sand based artificial surface or floodlit macadam base an approximate annual sinking fund of £1,800 per court.

Refurbishment and repair of Council macadam courts is often limited due to budget limitations. Therefore, establishing sinking funds may not be feasible and a more strategic approach for the refurbishment of Council courts may be needed, such as the implementation of the LTA Clubspark system which is detailed further later in this section.

## ***Ancillary provision***

Welbeck TC rates its changing provision servicing its site as standard quality. The Club plans to renovate its clubhouse with its own funds in the near future. The two remaining clubs, Wheatley TC and Retford TC, both report their clubhouse facilities to be good quality.

The ancillary provision servicing non-club courts is generally considered to be poor quality, particularly at Council sites. Sites either do not provide changing facilities or they are inaccessible for use in support of the courts. Often, the facilities predominately service football and cricket pitch users and therefore are not readily available or specifically suited to tennis users.

## **9.3: Demand**

### ***Competitive tennis***

In total, across Bassetlaw, there are collectively 189 senior members and 140 junior members, as shown in the table below.

*Table 9.5: Summary of club membership*

Name of club	Number of members		Total
	Seniors	Juniors	
Retford TC	47	45	92
Welbeck TC	92	60	152
Wheatley TC	50	35	85
<b>Total</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>329</b>

Welbeck TC is the largest club as it services 92 senior and 60 junior members. In comparison, the smallest club is Wheatley TC which caters for 85 members with a total of 50 senior and 35 junior members.

### ***Future demand***

Both Retford TC and Wheatley TC indicate plans to increase membership, equating to an additional 40 junior and 65 senior members. Welbeck TC reports it has no specific plans to increase membership, however, it aspires to maintain current levels of participation.

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 9.6: Growth aspirations identified by clubs

Club	Senior future demand	Junior future demand	Total future demand
Retford TC	10	20	30
Welbeck TC	<i>No plans to increase membership</i>		
Wheatley TC	30	45	75
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>105</b>

## **Latent demand**

Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool enables an analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in tennis within Bassetlaw but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 1,828 people, 249 (14%) of which are within the segment 'Tim – settling down males'.

Latent demand across the District of Bassetlaw is actually higher than current levels of active participation. This suggests that there is a large body of players that would like to play if a number of barriers were addressed. LTA insight suggests that 18% of the five million players that pick up a racket nationally each year would play more often if key barriers such as poor promotion of opportunities to get on court, unclear booking journeys (especially those that are 'off line') and low quality facilities were addressed. Therefore, there is a potential opportunity to work with the Council to address these barriers at council operated sites, whilst also bettering understanding of court usage at these sites.

Notwithstanding the above, none of the tennis clubs in Bassetlaw report that they are at capacity, with all clubs willing to accept new members. As such, it is considered that anyone within the District that would like to start participating could do so at the clubs already in existence, although clubs do not necessarily wholly cater for those wanting casual, pay and play access.

## **Parks tennis**

Parks tennis leagues are less formal in comparison to established club play, offering greater flexibility and an opportunity for all abilities to engage in competition at local venues. The leagues are run by Local Tennis Leagues which affiliates to the LTA and are available to all aged 18 years and above, with administration and support based online. Players are organised into mixed sex leagues of eight based on similar ability levels, with matches arranged between the two players at whatever time and court is agreed. The flexibility of play is conducive to the use of park sites which are typically more easily accessible.

The LTA reports that it has capacity to explore the opportunity of launching Park Tennis Leagues with each individual local authority. Whilst not essential, Park Tennis Leagues has been found to work well alongside an online booking system, enabling players to reserve their courts to ensure fixtures can regularly occur. There are no park leagues currently in operation in Bassetlaw.

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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## ***Tennis for Kids***

Tennis for Kids<sup>39</sup> is a six week coaching offer for children that have never played tennis before and is identified as a priority by the LTA. For £25, kids get six weeks coaching by an LTA Accredited coach, along with a free racket, pack of balls and personalised t-shirt so that they can continue playing. To date nearly 25,000 kids have participated in the Tennis for Kids programme this year.

## ***Tennis for Free***

Tennis for Free<sup>40</sup> is a community sports charity that work in partnership with the LTA. The charity delivers free, fully inclusive weekly coaching sessions for all ages and abilities in local communities across the UK, especially those in low income areas. Tennis For Free offer a package for local authorities and court operators that includes financial support for local LTA Accredited coaches to deliver the sessions, tennis equipment for attendees and coaches and promotional support. Sessions are typically delivered across three courts, although the charity have recently launched 'Tennis for Free Lite', to unlock the large number of two court community venues that could benefit from the offer. Through its offer it aims to:

- ❖ Reinvigorate under-used public facilities
- ❖ Make tennis a sport for all
- ❖ Make tennis more financially accessible in the UK
- ❖ Improve the physical and mental wellbeing of local communities through tennis.

## ***Great British Tennis Weekend***

The Great British Tennis Weekend (GBTW)<sup>41</sup> is an LTA initiative which all registered venues can access. Clubs have the ability to sign up to host a GBTW open day, which are free of charge, and create a relaxed and welcoming environment for those new to tennis to participate. This in turn can potentially lead to the clubs attracting new members.

The LTA hosts two dedicated GBTWs a year which are the UK's biggest public tennis event. Venues are able to run additional events outside these dates and will benefit from their events being promoted on the national LTA campaign website. All clubs running a GBTW Open Day are asked to promote a follow on offer to all attendees, such as a reduced rate introductory membership or a number of free coaching sessions, to encourage people to continue playing after the event.

## ***Informal tennis***

It is considered that all courts in Bassetlaw that are not accessed by clubs have spare capacity for a growth in demand, although this is difficult to quantify as use is not recorded at every site due to many being open access. The venue management software Clubspark, developed by Sportslabs in partnership with the LTA, could be explored at education and park times in order to track court usage.

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<sup>39</sup> <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/tennisforkids>

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.tennisforfree.com/index.php>

<sup>41</sup> [www.lta.org.uk/gbtw](http://www.lta.org.uk/gbtw).



# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## *LTA Clubspark Programme*

LTA insight has identified unclear, lengthy or analogue booking journeys to be a significant barrier to people getting on court more often. As a result it has recently developed a venue management system called Clubspark in order to improve the customer journey for people wanting to get on court at a club, community and education sites.

Instead of providing open access, an online booking system (Clubspark) allows members and Pay & Play users (where relevant) access through the use of a fob or access code system via electronic gates. Not only does this deter misuse use of courts but it also allows genuine tennis participation to be more effectively tracked and monitored, thus providing data on how well and how often courts are being accessed and used. This online booking system sends an automated email as evidence as part of a self-policing system for managing court bookings.

Nationally, the LTA reports that over 2,000 hours of court time were booked in 2016 by a database of over 2,000 people held on Clubspark. Another advantage of securing access is to make tennis courts revenue generating rather than open access, with the income generation forming a sinking fund for the repair and eventual resurfacing of the courts at each site, thus making courts more sustainable in the long-term.

## *Pay and play*

All clubs are asked to provide information in regard to whether it is available for pay and play when they register with the LTA which takes place on an annual basis as summarised below.

*Table 9.7: Summary of Bassetlaw tennis club pay and play offering*

Name of club	Pay and play offer
Retford TC	Yes
Welbeck TC	No
Wheatley TC	Yes

The pay and play information is based on the information provided by each club annually at the point of LTA Registration. It is featured on the LTA's Find a Court Tool, typically used by non-club members to identify local opportunities to play. The LTA strongly encourage tennis clubs to ensure that this information is kept up to date.

It should be noted that clubs which offer pay and play tennis can generate additional income and usage of its courts.

## **9.4: Supply and demand analysis**

The LTA advises that a non-floodlit hard court can accommodate a maximum of 40 members, whereas a floodlit hard court can accommodate 60 members. Indoor courts can accommodate 200 members with air domed courts being able to host 100. As grass courts are only available for 12 weeks of the year they are not included in membership numbers. Club membership, where known and club home site capacity is summarised in the table below.

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Table 9.8: Summary of supply and demand

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Current demand	Future demand	Site capacity	Capacity rating
55	Retford Lawn Tennis Club	Retford	92	30	160	38
77	Welbeck Tennis Club	Rural	152	-	180	28
88	South Wheatley Village Hall	Rural	85	75	120	-40

As seen both Retford Lawn Tennis Club and Welbeck Tennis Club have sufficient capacity to accommodate current and future levels of demand. In comparison, South Wheatley Village Hall has capacity to accommodate current levels of demand, however, the site operates over capacity when factoring future demand. This overplay could be accommodated if two of the three courts became floodlit. However, the expressed level of future demand from Wheatley TC is more aspirational than feasible given current growth trends. Therefore, anticipated levels of overplay is expected to be lower.

### 9.4: Conclusion

In conclusion, there is sufficient club court supply in Bassetlaw to accommodate current and aspirational future demand, however, there is a need to increase the capacity of the courts at South Wheatley Village Hall to facilitate future growth aspirations which could be achieved through the installation of floodlights.

All remaining publicly available non-club courts are deemed to have spare capacity. When this is considered alongside latent demand there is a clear need to drive further usage of these courts and participation in tennis. Therefore, focus should also be to improve court quality at key public sites where tennis participation could be developed, as well as possibly exploring implementation of the Clubspark operating system model. LTA initiatives such as Tennis for Kids, Tennis for Free and the Great British Tennis Weekend can also be delivered at these sites to encourage increased tennis participation.

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## Tennis summary

- ◆ **In conclusion, there is sufficient club court supply in Bassetlaw to accommodate current and aspirational future demand, however, there is a need to increase the capacity of the courts at South Wheatley Village Hall to facilitate future growth aspirations which could be achieved through the installation of floodlights.**
- ◆ There is a total of 66 tennis courts identified in Bassetlaw located across 18 sites including sports clubs, commercial and schools. Of these, 64 courts (97%) are considered to be available for community use across 17 sites.
- ◆ The only site which is not classified as available for community use is Shireoaks Cricket Ground as it was privately purchased circa 2010.
- ◆ Retford TC reports it has aspirations to develop an area of grass land located at Retford Lawn Tennis Club into a dedicated mini hard court area for its junior members.
- ◆ Of provision that is available for community use, 53 courts (83%) are rated as good quality, seven courts (11%) are rated as standard quality and four courts (6%) are rated as poor quality. The Harworth and Worksop Analysis areas are both serviced by only good quality courts.
- ◆ The majority of courts (70%) across the District are at education sites. The remaining courts are split between Parish Council (14%), sports club (12%) and District Council (4%) management.
- ◆ No clubs express concerns in regard to security of tenure.
- ◆ Wheatley TC reports development plans to install floodlighting on the courts at South Wheatley Village Hall however funding for this has yet to be identified.
- ◆ All available courts in Bassetlaw have a macadam surface.
- ◆ Welbeck TC rates its changing provision servicing its site as standard quality. The Club plans to renovate its clubhouse with its own funds in the near future. The two remaining clubs, Wheatley TC and Retford TC, both report their clubhouse facilities to be good quality.
- ◆ In total, across Bassetlaw there are collectively 189 senior members and 140 junior members.
- ◆ Both Retford TC and Wheatley TC indicate plans to increase membership, equating to an additional 40 junior and 65 senior members.
- ◆ Retford Lawn Tennis Club and Welbeck Tennis Club have sufficient capacity to accommodate current and future levels of demand.
- ◆ South Wheatley Village Hall has capacity to accommodate current levels of demand, however, the site operates over capacity when factoring future demand. This being said the expressed levels of future demand from Wheatley TC are more aspirational than feasible given current growth trends. Therefore, anticipated levels of overplay is expected to be lower.

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## PART 10: ATHLETICS

### 10.1: Introduction

Athletics is administered across the United Kingdom by UK Athletics (UKA), including responsibility for developing and implementing the rules and regulations of the sport, anti-doping protocol, health and safety, facilities and welfare, training and coach education and permitting and licensing.

Locally, the sport is currently governed through England Athletics (EA) and many of the functions EA delivers to support clubs locally is through the Club Support Manager (CSM) network. The role of the CSM is to work strategically as part of a local team to provide high-quality support and guidance to a number of affiliated clubs and groups in the area. This work is to support clubs in building long-term sustainable structures and high-quality environments for current and new members and the wider local community.

There are 12 CSMs, each responsible for a large geographical area that contains around 100 clubs. The CSM for Bassetlaw covers the regions of North Yorkshire, Humber and Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire.

#### ***Consultation***

There are two prominent EA affiliated athletics clubs in Bassetlaw which are Worksop Harriers & AC and Retford AC. Both clubs completed an electronic survey with the findings helping to inform this section of the report. In addition, telephone consultation was also completed with Bassetlaw Athletics Sports Club which is not affiliated to EA and operates a satellite club linked to Doncaster AC but which operates within the Authority. Overall, consultation represents 100% response rate amongst clubs.

### 10.2: Supply

There is one dedicated athletics facility within Bassetlaw which is located at Oaklands Playing Fields in the Retford Analysis Area. The track is a basic six-lane, 400 metre cinder track without floodlighting. The facility also hosts an adult football pitch on the grass area inside the track throughout the winter.

In addition, there is a two-lane grass track at Manton Sports Club (Worksop Area). The track is only available for five months of the year throughout the summer period until it is used for football pitches in the winter. As the facility is not permanent, it does not factor into the overall supply and demand analysis for athletics in Bassetlaw.

Although there is a dedicated cinder track in Bassetlaw, the District does not host a purpose built synthetic floodlit athletics track which is suitable to host competitions. The nearest suitable facility is located in neighbouring Doncaster at Doncaster Athletics Club.

In addition to the above there are semi-permanent grass athletics at educational sites across the Authority. These are marked in the summer to cater for curricular and extracurricular athletics demand. The most prominent of these are located at Worksop College and Ranby Preparatory School.

#### ***Loss of provision***

A basic 400-metre cinder track previously existed at both Outwood Academy Portland and Outwood Academy Valley before the schools was constructed circa 2008. The tracks were

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removed when the schools were developed. The area of playing field which was at Outwood Academy Portland is now utilised as a grass athletics track to meet curricular and extracurricular demand, whereas, the track at Outwood Academy Valley was built upon during construction. The latter site was the previous home to Worksop Harriers & AC.

## ***Quality***

The cinder track at Oaklands Playing Fields is rated as good quality as it was recently (2016) renovated by resident club Retford AC. The Club reports that track quality is relatively good for a grass track, and that it maintained on a regular basis. This being said, the Club would prefer to utilise a synthetic facility.

Other facilities onsite are of standard quality, with the Club reporting that the high jump, long jump and two shotput areas are adequate. It believes there is a lack of all-weather training surfaces and floodlighting onsite which creates limitations on when it can be utilised.

Although not considered to be within the regularly available supply, Worksop Harriers & AC report the two lane grass track at Manton Sports Club to be of poor quality.

## ***Ancillary provision***

Retford AC has access to a good quality clubhouse at Oaklands Playing Fields which includes changing rooms, toilets, kitchen and social area. The Club reports it recently received funding from various stakeholders, including Bassetlaw District Council and local benefactors, to renovate the clubhouse facilities.

Worksop Harriers & AC has access to similar ancillary facilities at Manton Sports Club. Neither club indicates an issue with the facilities they access.

## ***Ownership/management***

Retford AC has a 25 year lease for the facilities at Oaklands Playing Fields which expires in 2042. The agreement in place is jointly with Nottingham County Council and the King Edward Trust. Consequently, the Club is considered to have long-term security of tenure via leasehold.

In comparison, Worksop Harriers & AC rents use of grass track at Manton Sports Club on an annual basis. Therefore, tenure for the Club is considered unsecure.

### **10.3: Demand**

Bassetlaw has two track and field athletics clubs; Worksop Harriers & AC and Retford AC. In addition, there is a satellite club of Doncaster AC based within Bassetlaw known as Bassetlaw Athletics Sports Club.

#### ***Worksop Harriers & AC***

Worksop Harriers and AC currently has a total of 185 members, made up of 56 male, 46 female and 83 juniors. The Club accesses the grass track at Manton Colliery Athletic Club every Tuesday and Thursday evening for training.

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The Club reports it has grown at senior and junior age groups within the last three years and has aspirations to continue this increase in participation, however, it believes its development is limited by the current facilities it accesses.

As discussed, the Club only has access to a grass track at Manton Sports Club and has to travel outside of the District to the floodlit synthetic track at Doncaster Athletics Club (Doncaster) for competition events. As a result, it reports that higher performing members often leave to join Doncaster AC in order to access better facilities more regularly and further their progression. It is of the opinion that it will be able to retain this demand and increase levels of participation and ability if a purpose built synthetic floodlit track and accompanying ancillary facilities were to be created in Bassetlaw. It previously applied for Lottery funding in 2012 to develop such provision at Manton Sports Club, however, it was unsuccessful.

It still has aspirations to create a floodlit synthetic track and accompanying ancillary facilities within Bassetlaw and is exploring potential sites and options on how this could be achieved.

Worksop Harriers & AC also organises annual race events within Worksop and the surrounding areas such as the Osberton Chase 10K and the Worksop Half Marathon & Fun Run.

The Club also utilised provision at Worksop College throughout the summer and North Notts Community Arena for winter training.

### ***Retford AC***

Retford AC has a total of 163 members made up of 34 males, 27 female and 102 juniors. The Club reports membership has slightly increased within the previous three years at the senior age group. Junior membership has remained static in the same time period as the Club actively decided to not to increase levels of participation as it does not have enough coaching capacity. As a result, it has a waiting list of approximately 12 juniors and reports if more coaches were available they all would be able to join.

The Club uses the cinder track and ancillary facilities at Oaklands Playing Fields, however, as mentioned, would prefer to access a synthetic facility. Similar to Worksop Harriers & AC, the Club has to export its competitive demand outside of Bassetlaw to access suitable provision.

It indicates its main focus is to concentrate on maintenance and repair across the site after recent investment and infrastructure improvements on both the track and ancillary facilities over the past seven years.

### ***Bassetlaw Athletics Sports Club***

Bassetlaw Athletics Sports Club is a satellite club of Doncaster AC which has 24 members. The Club access indoor provision at The Elizabethan Academy for strength and conditioning and uses the track at Doncaster Athletics Club when required. It has aspirations to develop a strong link with the School in order to increase levels of engagement and participation with Bassetlaw.

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## ***Parkrun***

Parkrun is a series of weekly five kilometre (k) runs held on Saturday mornings in areas of parks and open space across 850 locations in 12 countries including the UK. They are open to all, free, and are safe and easy to take part in. Parkrun events are all ability runs open to all aged 14 years and older, whilst there are shorter 2k Junior Parkrun events available on Sunday mornings for runners aged four to fourteen years old. In order to take part, runners must first register online in order to receive a printed barcode which gives them access to all Parkrun events.

Parkrun actively promotes local clubs as part of its weekly events in order to advertise them to runners who may potentially be interested in joining a club, whilst approximately 10% of current Parkrun participants are already associated to running clubs. It is common for local clubs to also support Parkrun events through volunteering.

There is a senior Parkrun event within Bassetlaw located at Clumber Park. The event has taken place 276 times since its inception, attracting a total number of 9,253 runners. Its largest attendance to date is 447.

Worksop College reports it is currently in discussions to create a Junior Parkrun event around the grounds of the site. It indicates it is close to finalising this and will have the event operating within the next 12 months.

## ***Couch to 5k***

Couch to 5k is a national health initiative promoted by the National Health Service (NHS) to encourage absolute beginners get into running as part of establishing and maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle including regular exercise.

The plan consists of three runs per week and a day of rest in between, with a different schedule for each of the nine weeks to completion. It starts with a mix of running and walking, to gradually build up fitness and stamina, in order to create realistic expectations and a sense of achievability to encourage participants to stick with it. The end goal of the plan is for the participant to be able to run 5k.

Through the Couch to 5k plan the NHS particularly promotes the health benefits of running and regular exercise which underpin the initiative, such as improved heart and lung health, weight loss and possible increases in bone density which can help protect against bone diseases such as osteoporosis. This also includes mental benefits of running through goal setting and challenge setting, which can help boost confidence and self-belief. Furthermore, running regularly has been linked to combating depression.

It is believed that an increase in people running through the Couch to 5k plan may increase interest and possibly have a knock-on effect leading to increased demand at running groups and clubs as people may wish to continue develop their running further.

## ***RunTogether***

RunTogether is an official England Athletics recreational running project which aims to get the whole nation running. The role of RunTogether is to provide enjoyable, supportive and inclusive running opportunities across England in the form of set routes, running groups and access to programmes such as Find a Guide and #RunandTalk. In Bassetlaw, Worksop Harriers and AC is a registered RunTogether group.



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## ***Future demand***

England Athletics reports that there is generally current growth being experienced in relation to athletics and running nationally.

In addition to future demand expressed by the two athletic clubs, it is to be expected that the popularity of the Parkrun events and local events, as well as demand for RunTogether groups, will increase in the future following national trends.

Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool<sup>42</sup> enables an analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in athletics within Bassetlaw but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies demand of 2,445 people, of which the largest amount, 290 (11.9%), within the segment is 'Tim – settling down males'.

As seen in the table overleaf, this is the fifth highest amount of latent demand for the sport when compared to Bassetlaw's neighbouring local authorities.

*Table 10.1: Comparison of neighbouring local authorities latent demand*

Neighboring local authorities	Latent demand of adults like to participate in athletics but are not currently doing so
Bassetlaw	2,445
Bolsover	1,550
Doncaster	<b>6,010</b>
Mansfield	2,113
Newark & Sherwood	2,504
North Lincolnshire	3,324
Rotherham	5,347
West Lindsey	1,907

## **10.4: Supply and demand analysis**

It is considered that in order for an athletics track to be sustainable, a club membership of 200 is required; however, a number of other factors should also be considered. Retford AC is operating below this threshold with 163 members, however, as the Club utilises a cinder track, which requires lower levels of maintenance to sustain quality when compared to a synthetic track, this level of participation is adequate.

In addition, there is significant demand (185 members) generated from Worksop Harriers & AC which is not serviced by any form of dedicated athletics track within Bassetlaw. The Club currently is being catered for by accessing the synthetic track at Doncaster Athletics Club in Doncaster and by utilising a basic grass track at Manton Sports Club (Worksop). Based on current levels of current and potential future demand, there is a case for the potential development of a synthetic athletics surface in Bassetlaw predominantly for training so that the Club is able to access a facility which is more usable throughout the course of the year, rather than the limited period of time the current grass track allows for.

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<sup>42</sup> See Appendix 2

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## 10.5: Conclusion

Current supply of athletics track provision at Oaklands Playing Fields is considered sufficient to cater for track and field athletics demand in Bassetlaw. The existing cinder track is considered to be both well used and sustainable in light of levels of regular demand. The nature and regularity of competitive events requiring a competition standard track are less frequent and given the relative size of the District, is most appropriately met in Doncaster as is the case at present.

However, whilst the quantity of provision when supplemented by the grass track at Manton Sports Club can sufficiently service demand for regular weekly training during the peak summer season, there is a case for the improvement of quality of provision in order to increase the capacity available for Worksop Harriers & AC, which is presently limited to summer use because of the grass surface and lack of floodlighting.

It should be noted that England Athletics is not directly pursuing the development of whole new synthetic track facilities, however, there is a case for exploration of potential to develop some form of synthetic track facility for training such as a compact track or adapted provision in light of levels of club demand.

In addition to the tracks, focus should be placed on sustaining and increasing the popularity of the wider running market and multi-discipline running clubs including driving participation in running events taking place within Bassetlaw as well as the growth of initiatives such as RunTogether groups.

### Athletics summary

- ◆ **Current supply of athletics track provision at Oaklands Playing Fields is considered sufficient to cater for track and field athletics demand in Bassetlaw.**
- ◆ **However, there is a case for the improvement of quality of provision in order to increase the capacity available for Worksop Harriers & AC.**
- ◆ There is one dedicated cinder track within Bassetlaw which is located at Oaklands Playing Fields in the Retford Analysis Area. In addition, there is a two-lane grass track at Manton Sports Club (Worksop Area) which available for five months of the year.
- ◆ The cinder track at Oaklands Playing Fields is rated as good quality as it was recently (2016) renovated by resident club Retford AC.
- ◆ Although not considered to be within the regularly available supply, Worksop Harriers & AC report the two lane grass track at Manton Sports Club to be of poor quality.
- ◆ Both Retford AC and Worksop Harriers & AC have access to good quality ancillary facilities at their respective venues.
- ◆ Retford AC has a 25 year lease for the facilities at Oaklands Playing Fields which expires in 2042. Worksop Harriers & AC rents use of grass track at Manton Sports Club on an annual basis. Therefore, tenure for the Club is considered unsecure.
- ◆ Worksop Harriers and AC currently has a total of 185 members, made up of 56 male, 46 female and 83 juniors.
- ◆ Retford AC has a total of 163 members made up of 34 males, 27 female and 102 juniors. The Club reports membership has slightly increased within the previous three years at the senior age group.
- ◆ Worksop Harriers & AC has aspirations to create a floodlit synthetic track and accompanying ancillary facilities within Bassetlaw.
- ◆ There is a case for exploration of potential to develop some form of synthetic track facility for training such as a compact track or adapted provision in light of levels of club demand.

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## APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT

The following section outlines a series of national, regional and local policies pertaining to the study and which will have an important influence on the Strategy.

A number of NGB strategies are approaching or beyond their indicated lifespans but should be considered incumbent and applicable until publication of superseding strategies.

### National context

The provision of high quality and accessible community outdoor sports facilities at a local level is a key requirement for achieving the targets set out by the Government and Sport England. It is vital that this strategy is cognisant of and works towards these targets in addition to local priorities and plans.

#### ***Department of Media Culture and Sport Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation (2015)***

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

- ▶
- ▶ More people taking part in sport and physical activity.
- ▶ More people volunteering in sport.
- ▶ More people experiencing live sport.
- ▶ Maximising international sporting success.
- ▶ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ▶ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ▶ A more productive sport sector.
- ▶ A more financially and organisationally sustainable sport sector.
- ▶ A more responsible sport sector.

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

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

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

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

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

## ***National Planning Policy Framework***

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It also provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

The NPPF states the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It identifies that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

The 'promoting healthy communities' theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficiencies or surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

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

In order for planning policies to be 'sound' local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities.

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## ***The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)***

The Football Association's (FA) National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS) provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a ten-year period. The Strategy is presently in draft and is due for publication in 2018.

The Strategy sets out shared aims and objectives it aims to deliver on in conjunction with The Premier League, Sport England and the Government, to be delivered with support of the Football Foundation.

These stakeholders have clearly identified the aspirations for football to contribute directly to nationally important social and health priorities. Alongside this, the strategy is clear that traditional, affiliated football remains an important priority and a core component of the game, whilst recognising and supporting the more informal environments used for the community and recreational game.

Its vision is: *"Within 10 years we aim to deliver great football facilities, wherever they are needed"*

£1.3 billion has been spent by football and Government since 2000 to enhance existing football facilities and build new ones. However, more is needed if football and Government's shared objectives for participation, individual well-being and community cohesion are to be achieved. Nationally, direct investment will be increased – initially to £69 million per annum from football and Government (a 15% increase on recent years).

The NFFS investment priorities can be broadly grouped into six areas, recognising the need to grow the game, support existing players and better understand the different football environments:

- ◀ **Improve 20,000 Natural Turf pitches**, with a focus on addressing drop off due to a poor playing experience;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 3G AGP 'equivalents'** (mix of full size and small sided provision, including MUGAs - small sided facilities are likely to have a key role in smaller / rural communities and encouraging multi-sport offers), enhancing the quality of playing experience and supporting a sustainable approach to grass roots provision;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 changing pavilions/clubhouses**, linked to multi-pitch or hub sites, supporting growth (particularly in women and girls football), sustainability and providing a facility infrastructure to underpin investment in coaching, officials and football development;  
**Support access to flexible indoor spaces**, including equipment and court markings, to support growth in futsal, walking football and to support the education and skills outcomes, exploiting opportunities for football to positively impact on personal and social outcomes for young people in particular;
- ◀ **Refurbish existing stock to maintain current provision**, recognising the need to address historic under-investment and issues with refurbishment of existing facilities;
- ◀ **Support testing of technology and innovation**, building on customer insight to deliver hubs for innovation, testing and development of the game.

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## *Local Football Facility Plans*

To support in delivery of the NFFS, The FA has commissioned a national project. Over the next two years to 2020, a Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) will be produced for every local authority across England. Each plan will be unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation, including currently underrepresented communities.

Identifying strategic priorities for football facilities across the formal, recreational and informal game, LFFPs will establish a ten-year vision for football facilities that aims to transform the playing pitch stock in a sustainable way. They will identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all will be identified via LFFPs. LFFPs will guide the allocation of 90% of national football investment (The FA, Premier League and DCMS) and forge stronger partnerships with local stakeholders to develop key sites. This, together with local match-funding will deliver over one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next 10-years.

It is important to recognise that a LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment - it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Therefore, it cannot be used as a replacement for a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and it will not be accepted as an evidence base for site change of use or disposal.

A LFFP will; however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans and may adopt relevant actions from a PPS and/or complement these with additional investment priorities.

## ***The FA: National Game Strategy (2018-2021)***

The FA launched its new National Game Strategy in July 2018 which aims to inspire a life-long journey in football for all. To achieve this, the strategy will focus on five key aspects of the game:

- ◆ A high quality introduction to football
- ◆ Developing clubs and leagues
- ◆ Embrace all formats of football and engage all participants
- ◆ Recruit, develop and support the workforce
- ◆ Develop sustainable facilities

Through these five pillars, The FA's objectives are to:

- ◆ Increase the number of male affiliated and recreational players by 10%.
- ◆ Double the number of female affiliated and recreational players via a growth of 75%.
- ◆ Increase the number of disability affiliated and recreational players by 30%.
- ◆ Ensure affiliated Futsal is available across the country in order to increase the number of Futsal affiliated and recreational players.

The sustainable football facilities should provide support to an agreed portfolio of priority projects that meet National Football Facility Strategy (NFFS) investment priorities.

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## ***England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Inspiring Generations (2020-2024)***

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic plan in 2019. The strategic plan aims to connect communities and improve lives by inspiring people to discover and share their passion for cricket.

The plan sets out six important priorities and activities, these are:

### ***Grow and nurture the core***

- ◀ Create an infrastructure investment fund for First Class County Clubs (FCCs)
- ◀ Introduce a new Community Investment Funding for FCCs and County Cricket Boards (CCBs)
- ◀ Invest in club facilities
- ◀ Develop the role of National Counties Cricket
- ◀ Further invest in County Competitions

### ***Inspire through elite teams***

- ◀ Increase investment in the county talent pathway
- ◀ Incentivise the counties to develop England Players
- ◀ Drive the performance system through technology and innovation
- ◀ Create heroes and connect them with a new generation of fans

### ***Make cricket accessible***

- ◀ Broaden cricket's appeal through the New Competition
- ◀ Create a new digital community for cricket
- ◀ Install non-traditional playing facilities in urban areas
- ◀ Continue to deliver South Asian Action Plans
- ◀ Launch a new participation product, linked to the New Competition

### ***Engage children and young people***

- ◀ Double cricket participation in primary schools
- ◀ Deliver a compelling and coordinated recreational playing offer from age five upwards
- ◀ Develop our safeguarding to promote safe spaces for children and young people

### ***Transform women's and girls' cricket***

- ◀ Grow the base through participation and facilities investment
- ◀ Launch centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure
- ◀ Invest in girls' county age group cricket
- ◀ Deliver a girls' secondary school programme

### ***Support our communities***

- ◀ Double the number of volunteers in the game
- ◀ Create a game-wide approach to Trust and Foundations through the cricket network
- ◀ Develop a new wave of officials and community coaches
- ◀ Increase participation in disability cricket



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

Although expired, the RFU National Facility Strategy 2013-2017 continues to provide a framework for development of high-quality, well-managed facilities that will help to strengthen member clubs and grow the game in communities around them. In conjunction with partners, this strategy will assist and support clubs and other organisations, so that they can continue to provide quality opportunities for all sections of the community to enjoy the game. It sets out the broad facility needs of the sport and identifies investment priorities to the game and its key partners. It identifies that with 470 grass root clubs and 1500 players there is a continuing need to invest in community club facilities in order to:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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

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

## ***Rugby League World Cup 'Inspired by 2021' Legacy Programme***

The Rugby League World Cup 2021 will develop a £10 million legacy programme with funds driven into local clubs and community projects. The government investment, delivered by Sport England, is part of RLWC 2021's ambitious plan to grow the sport and make it more visible, engaging and welcoming to current and potential participants.

The funding will be split into large transformational community projects, such as changing room improvements and new artificial grass pitches with the remaining funding used for smaller scale initiatives such as supplying new kit and equipment to promote club and community development. The investment will focus on the following four key areas:

- ◀ Creating welcoming environments
- ◀ Encouraging participation growth
- ◀ Building community engagement
- ◀ Cultivating further investment

## ***England Hockey Strategy***

*Our vision is for England to be a 'Nation Where Hockey Matters'.*

We know 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.

As a governing body, we want to have a recognisable presence to participants of the game, be that through club or association website or their communications, or through the work of the many outstanding coaches in our game, so that players understand that their club is part of a wider team working together to a common goal.

Our core objectives 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

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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## Club Participation

Our club market is well structured and clubs are required to affiliate to England Hockey to play in community leagues. As a result only relatively few occasional teams lie outside our affiliation structure. Schools and Universities are the other two areas where significant hockey is played.

Hockey is clearly benefiting from a double Olympic legacy. After Great Britain's women won bronze in front of a home crowd in London in 2012 the numbers of young girls playing the sport doubled and a historic gold in Rio 2016 saw more than 10,000 players promptly joining clubs. These triumphs have inspired the nation to get active and play hockey. Thanks to the outstanding work of the network of clubs across the country, England Hockey has seen unprecedented growth at both ends of the age range. There has been an 80% increase in the number of boys and girls in clubs, as well as a 54% increase in players over the age of 46.

Hockey clubs have reaped the rewards of the improved profile of the sport, focussing on a link with schools to provide excellent opportunities for young players. Programmes such as Quick sticks – a small-sided version of hockey for 7-11 year olds – in Primary Schools have been hugely successful in allowing new players to take part in the sport from an early age. The growth in the sport since the eve of London 2012 has been seen across the country, examples being a 110% increase in under 16s club participation in London, and a 111% growth in the North West in the same age bracket.

## England Hockey Facilities Strategy

England Hockey's Facilities Strategy can be found [here](#).

**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

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

### 1. PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision

- ◀ There are currently over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities) across the country. It is important to retain the current provision where appropriate to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country.

### 2. 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. England Hockey works to provide more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset.

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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### 3. **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.**

- ◀ England Hockey has identified key areas across the country where there is a lack of suitable hockey provision and there is a need for additional pitches, suitable for hockey. There is an identified demand for multi pitches in the right places to consolidate hockey and allow clubs to have all of their provision catered for at one site.

#### ***British Tennis Strategy 2019***

The new LTA Strategy includes seven strategies relating to three objectives which are built around the following vision and mission:

**Vision:** tennis opened up

**Mission:** to grow tennis by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable

#### **Objectives:**

- ◀ Increase the number of fans on our database from [623,602] to [1,000,000] by 2023.
- ◀ More people playing more often;
  - ◀ Increase the number of adults playing tennis each year from [7.7% (4,018,600)] of the population to [8.5% (4,420,460)], and the frequency of adults playing tennis twice a month from [1.9% (858,700)] of the population to [2.2% (1,000,000)] by 2023.
  - ◀ The number of children playing tennis from [x] to [y] by 2023 (to be finalised December 2018 on publication of Sport England's new Child Participation Survey).
- ◀ Enable 5 new players to break into the top 100 by 2023 and inspire the tennis audience.

#### **Strategies:**

1. Visibility - Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players.
2. Innovation - Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal.
3. Investment - Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunities to play
4. Accessibility - Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone
5. Engagement - Engage and collaborate with everyone involved in delivering tennis in Britain, particularly coaches and volunteers to attract and maintain more people in the game.
6. Performance - Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.
7. Leadership - Lead tennis in Britain to the highest standard so it is a safe, welcoming, well-run sport.

#### ***British Crown Green Bowling Association***

Please note there is no current facility guidance provided by British Crown Green Bowling Association responsible for crown green bowls in England.

<http://bcgba.org.uk/index.html>

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## ***Bowls England: Strategic Plan 2014-2017***

Bowls England will provide strong leadership and work with its stakeholders to support the development of the sport of bowls in England for this and future generations.

The overall vision of Bowls England is to:

- ◀ Promote the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- ◀ Recruit new participants to the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- ◀ Retain current and future participants within the sport of flat green bowls.

In order to ensure that this vision is achieved, ten key performance targets have been created, which will underpin the work of Bowls England up until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

- ◀ 115,000 individual affiliated members.
- ◀ 1,500 registered coaches.
- ◀ Increase total National Championship entries by 10%.
- ◀ Increase total national competition entries by 10%.
- ◀ Medal places achieved in 50% of events at the 2016 World Championships.
- ◀ 35 county development plans in place and operational.
- ◀ County development officer appointed by each county association.
- ◀ National membership scheme implemented with 100% uptake by county associations.
- ◀ Secure administrative base for 1st April 2017.
- ◀ Commercial income to increase by 20%.

Despite a recent fall in affiliated members, and a decline in entries into National Championships over the last five years, Bowls England believes that these aims will be attained by following core values. The intention is to:

- ◀ Be progressive.
- ◀ Offer opportunities to participate at national and international level.
- ◀ Work to raise the profile of the sport in support of recruitment and retention.
- ◀ Lead the sport.
- ◀ Support clubs and county associations.

## ***UK Athletics Facilities Strategy (2014-2019)***

Facilities are essential to attracting, retaining and developing athletes of the future. Having the right facilities in the right place will be crucial in meeting growing demand, increasing participation in physical activity and athletics, improving the health of the nation and supporting a new generation of athletes in clubs and schools through to national and world class level.

UKA and the Home Country Athletics Federations (HCAFs) recognise the challenges faced by facility owners and venue operators, and the 5-year Facility Strategy (2014-2019) uses a Track & Field facility model designed to support a sustainable UK network of development, training and competition venues that meet Home Country needs aligned to UKA's Athlete/Participant Development Model. In addition to Track and Field provision, UKA recognises the huge amount of club activity that takes place on roads, paths and trails and the strategy also maps out a plan for future "running" facilities.

# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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The strategy does not seek to identify priority facilities, clubs or geographical areas. Instead, it provides the direction and guidance that will enable the four Home Country Athletics Federations (England Athletics, Athletics Northern Ireland, Scottish Athletics and Welsh Athletics) to establish their own priorities and deliver the principles of the UKA Facilities Strategy within their own national context.

## **UKA's 2014-19 Facilities Strategy key outcomes:**

- ✦ Increased participation across all athletics disciplines
- ✦ Increased club membership by providing facilities that support a participation pathway from novice through to club member
- ✦ Increased talent pool
- ✦ Long term improvement in the development of athletes of all ages and abilities
- ✦ Securing the long-term future of existing facilities
- ✦ More attractive and inspiring facilities for existing and potential athletes
- ✦ Improving the athletics experience for all participants
- ✦ Improved relationships and interactions between stakeholders, particularly clubs and facility operators

## ***England Athletics Strategic Plan – Athletics & Running: for everyone, forever (2017 and beyond)***

This plan sets out England Athletics' mission, vision and strategic priorities that will direct how they work as an organisation during the coming years: what they do and how they will do it.

**Vision:** Make athletics and running the most inclusive and popular sport in England, led by a network of progressive clubs and organisations and supported by a sustainable, respected and trusted governing body.

For England Athletics to achieve this vision, they will focus on three values:

- ✦ Pride – taking pride in their work and demonstrating to athletes that they recognise the importance of their role in bettering athletics.
- ✦ Integrity – demonstrate integrity to earn respect and to build effective partnerships.
- ✦ Inclusivity – promote inclusivity in all their actions.

**Mission:** To grow opportunities for everyone to experience athletics and running, to enable them to reach their full potential.

In order to achieve their mission, England Athletics will have three strategic priorities.

1. To expand the capacity of the sport by supporting and developing its volunteers and other workforce. The target is to achieve a 6% increase every year of licensed leaders, coaches and officials.
2. To sustain and increase participation and performance levels in our sport. To achieve this, England Athletics' current targets are to increase the number of club registered athletes from (149,000 to 172,000), engage 135,000 people through the RunTogether programme and to increase athlete performance levels across all events and disciplines by 1% every year.
3. To influence participation in the wider athletics market. Their target here is to increase the number of regular athletes or runners by at least one million.

# **BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT**

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## ***England Athletics Facility Strategy (2018 – 2025)***

The purpose of this document is to set out our long term vision for athletics facilities in England. Facilities form a vital component of the overall England Athletics strategy.

The development, protection and enhancement of facilities will support our strategic plan and help England Athletics contribute to the delivery of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's Sporting Futures: A New Strategy for Sport and Sport England's strategy Towards an Active Nation. Appropriate facilities help to attract and inspire new participants and provide the foundation and focus for a significant proportion of the England Athletics family.

The England Athletics Strategic Plan notes that the sport increasingly needs to become financially sustainable and that a business-like and innovative approach is a vital component of its future success. Facilities are fundamental, but they are also expensive to create and to maintain. The sport therefore faces a significant challenge to develop, improve and maintain facilities, most of which are currently operated and funded by third parties.

This strategy sets out a challenge to all those involved with the delivery of the sport to be innovative and business like in the operation and development of facilities at a time of financial challenge, as it aims "To create an innovative and inspiring network of sustainable athletic facilities, with the capacity to meet both current and future demand across England".



# BASSETLAW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## APPENDIX 2: STEERING GROUP CONTACTS

The Steering Group will be responsible for the vision and direction of the PPS from a strategic perspective and supporting, checking and challenging the work of the project team. The Steering Group will be the client for any consultancy support required. The group will consist of the following officers and stakeholders:

<b>Bassetlaw District Council:</b>		
<b>Name</b>		<b>Role</b>
Peter Clarke		Leisure & Cultural Services Manager
John Foster		Parks Development Officer
Tim Dawson		Planning Officer
Tony Wright		Sports Development Team Leader
<b>External stakeholders:</b>		
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>
Sport England	Steve Beard	Planning Manager
Active Partners Trust	James Cook	Strategic Lead
Football Foundation	Greg Hardman	Engagement Manager
Nottingham County Football Association	Leanne Woodhead	Business Development Manager
Sheffield & Hallamshire County Football Association	Mark Wozniak	Facilities & Investments Manager
Rugby Football Union	Peter Shaw	Area Facilities Manager
England & Wales Cricket Board	Sue Redfern	Regional Club & Facilities Manager (East Midlands)
Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club	Josh Scully	Cricket Development Officer – Teams & Leagues
Rugby Football League	John McMullen	Development: North Manager
England Hockey	Simon Dowdy	Facilities Relationship Officer
England Athletics	Heidi Bradley	Club Support Manager (North Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and the Humber)