

# Stroud Playing Pitch Strategy

## Stage C: FINAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT

for

**Stroud District Council**



### **Section 3      Football**

The Set of Needs Assessment documents comprises:

- Stage B Database
- Stage C Sections 1 and 2: Introduction and Strategic Context
- Stage C Section 3: Football
- Stage C Section 4: Cricket
- Stage C Section 5: Rugby
- Stage C Section 6: Hockey
- Stage C: Section 7: Tennis and Bowls
- Stage C: Section 8: Key Findings and Issues Report

**May 2019**

### **3 FOOTBALL**

3.1 This section assesses the adequacy of pitches for football in Stroud by presenting the following:

- An overview of pitch supply:
- An overview of demand for football
- The pattern of play of football
- A review of the capacity and adequacy of current provision across Stroud, including an understanding of activity at individual sites
- The future picture of provision for football in Stroud

#### **OVERVIEW OF PITCH SUPPLY**

##### **Quantity and quality**

3.2 Table 3.1 below sets out the known football pitches identified by this Study. The letters in the 'Community Use' column signify the following, as set out in Sport England's latest Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance, October 2013.

- A Available for community use and used
- B Available for community use and unused
- C Not available for community use, as matter of policy and practice
- D Not available as disused. Any sites where pitches were once, but are no longer marked out and remain undeveloped.

3.3 Table 3.1 includes all known football pitch facilities at educational establishments in the Stroud Study area where community use has been recorded. There are some state and private schools that have sports pitches that are not available for secured community use. Guidance states that "as a guide there should be a good degree of certainty that the pitch will be available to the community for at least the following three years...arrangements which may suggest such certainty could include:

- a formal community use agreement;
- a leasing or management agreement requiring pitches to be available to the community/a community club;
- a formal policy for community use adopted by the owner and or educational establishment; and
- written confirmation from the owner and or educational establishment".

3.4 As regards quality, the ratings – 'good', 'standard' and 'poor' - given to both the pitch quality and built facilities are based upon Sport England's playing pitch strategy guidance. The VQA (Visual Quality Assessment) pitch quality score is based upon the amalgamation of a score for the playing surface (grass length/cover, size/slope/evenness of pitch and any problem areas) with a score for the pitch maintenance programme (frequency and adequacy of grass cutting, seeding and application of remedial dressings). Below is a summary from site visits and from consultation with clubs and other users.

- 3.5 Each site has been given a unique reference number, according to the cluster it is located in and Table 3.1 has also been subdivided on a cluster basis.

SD Stroud District

Table 3.1A	SDBE	Berkeley
Table 3.1B	SDCD	Cam/Dursley
Table 3.1C	SDCF	Cotswold Fringe
Table 3.1D	SDGF	Gloucester Fringe
Table 3.1E	SDSE	Severn Vale
Table 3.1F	SDST	Stonehouse
Table 3.1G	SDSV	Stroud Valleys
Table 3.1H	SDWO	Wotton

**Table 3.1: List of Grass Football Pitches with community use in Stroud 2018/19 season**

*This includes sites where there is evidence of football pitches from previous seasons and where the site operator intends to encourage future football use.*

**Table 3.1A : List of Football Pitches with Community Use – Berkeley Cluster**

Table 3.1A Berkeley Cluster Ref No	Parish	Owner/ Manager	Name	Adult football	Junior 11V11	Junior 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Community Use	VQA Pitch Quality Rating	VQA Changing Quality Rating	Club/teams playing
<b>SDBE.08</b>	Berkeley	Sports Club/Trust	<b>Hamfields Leisure Centre, Berkeley</b>	1		1	2		A	VQA good for adult pitch; standard for junior and minis. Club rate as good	Good – new facilities nearing completion	Home to Sharpness AFC 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> and Severnside Nuclear Jnrs. Football only
<b>SDBE.71</b>	Hinton	Parish Council	<b>Sharpness Recreation Ground</b>	1					A	VQA standard. No club comments	No changing; Change in village hall	Home to Sharpness AFC 3rds. Football only
<b>SDBE.29</b>	Slimbridge	Parish Council	<b>Slimbridge Recreation Ground</b>	1			1		A	VQA and club rate pitches as good; adult one of best in area; vulnerable in wet weather	Changing acceptable, but club say could be updated	Home to Bridgeway FC 1 <sup>st</sup> XI; Cam Bulldogs FC 3 <sup>rd</sup> XI & Slimbridge Youth FC. Shared with cricket
<b>SDBE.72</b>	Berkeley	Parish Council	<b>Station Road Berkeley</b>	1					A	VQA good; club not commenting	VQA good	Home to Berkeley Town FC. Football only

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<b>Table 3.1A Berkeley Cluster Ref No</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Owner/ Manager</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Adult football</b>	<b>Junior 11V11</b>	<b>Junior 9v9</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	<b>Community Use</b>	<b>VQA Pitch Rating</b>	<b>Quality</b>	<b>VQA Changing Quality Rating</b>	<b>Club/teams playing</b>
<b>SDBE.77</b>	Slimbridge	Sports Club	<b>Thornhill Park</b>	1					A	VQA rated good stadium pitch. Club say good. Good access; restricted site		VQA and club good.	Slimbridge AFC 1 <sup>st</sup> & u18s and Forest Green Rovers Ladies. Football only
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>						

**Table 3.1B: List of Football Pitches with Community Use – Cam/Dursley Cluster**

<b>Table 3.1B Cam/ Dursley Cluster Ref No</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Owner/ Manager</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Adult football</b>	<b>Junior 11V11</b>	<b>Junior 9v9</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	<b>Community Use</b>	<b>VQA Pitch Rating</b>	<b>Quality</b>	<b>VQA Changing Quality Rating</b>	<b>Club/teams playing</b>
<b>SDCD.55</b>	Dursley	Town Council	<b>Coaley Recreation Ground</b>						D	Disused adult football pitch but could be reinstated.			
<b>SDCD.07</b>	Cam	Sports Club	<b>Everlands Ground</b>	1					A	VQA good; club say acceptable – bit bumpy		Changing recorded as standard but club say in very poor state – unsafe and	Home to Cam Bulldogs FC. Shared with cricket

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Table 3.1B Cam/ Dursley Cluster Ref No	Parish	Owner/ Manager	Name	Adult football	Junior 11V11	Junior 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Community Use	VQA		VQA Changing Quality Rating	Club/teams playing
										Pitch Rating	Quality		
												not meeting FA requirements	
<b>SDCD.61</b>	Cam	Parish Council	<b>Jubilee Playing Fields</b>	1		2	2	1	A	All rated standard by VQA; some surface damage Club rate as acceptable.		Club and VQA rate as good	Cam Everside Wanderers and Cam Everside Youth (17 teams). Football only.
<b>SDCD.11</b>	Nympsfield	Comm Org	<b>King George V Playing Fields, Nympsfield</b>	1					A	1 adult football pitch rated standard.; Club rate as good. Offsite parking difficult.		Quaint changing, rated as standard. Club said good, but capacity is poor.	Rodborough & Cainscross 1 <sup>st</sup> XI & Uley 3 <sup>rd</sup> XI Shared with cricket
<b>SDCD.42</b>	Dursley	School	<b>Rednock School</b>	1					B	1 minimum size adult football; rated standard		FF funded changing facilities2011, rated good	No recorded community use of grass pitch.
<b>SDCD.39</b>	Uley	Comm Org	<b>Uley Playing Fields (Shadwell Playing Fields)</b>	1					A	VQA rated standard			Home to Uley FC. Shared with cricket.
<b>SDCD.80</b>	Dursley	Town Council	<b>War Memorial Recreation Ground</b>	2		1			A	VQA rated good; large undulating site with room for additional mini pitch		VQA rated good	Home to Dursley Town FC, Dursley Ladies FC and Girls Football only

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Table 3.1B Cam/ Dursley Cluster Ref No	Parish	Owner/ Manager	Name	Adult football	Junior 11V11	Junior 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Community Use	VQA		Club/teams playing
										Pitch Rating	Quality	
										Subject of IOG Inspection Dec '18		
			<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>				

**Table 3.1C: List of Football Pitches with Community Use – Cotswold Fringe Cluster**

Table 3.1C Cotswold Fringe Cluster Ref No	Parish	Owner/ Manager	Name	Adult football	Junior 11V11	Junior 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Community Use	VQA		Club/teams playing
										Pitch Rating	Quality	
<b>SDCF.12</b>	Bisley with Lippiat	Parish Council	<b>King George V Playing Fields, Bisley</b>	1					A	Pitch standard. Grass patchy (fungal infection). Not rated highly by clubs (poor	Adequate/poor	Chalford AFC 4ths. Football only. Does not appear to have sustained much recent use.

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<b>Table 3.1C Cotswold Fringe Cluster Ref No</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Owner/ Manager</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Adult football</b>	<b>Junior 11V11</b>	<b>Junior 9v9</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	<b>Community Use</b>	<b>VQA Pitch Rating</b>	<b>Quality</b>	<b>VQA Changing Quality Rating</b>	<b>Club/teams playing</b>
										maintenance & changing).			Shared with cricket, although no use at present
<b>SDCF.23</b>	Painswick	Parish Council	<b>Painswick Recreation Ground</b>	1					A	1 adult pitch rated standard, sideways slope. Club rate acceptable, Parking difficult.		Changing facilities good in recreation ground pavilion although no separate changing for refs.	Painswick FC. Football only
			<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>									



Table 3.1D: List of Football Pitches with Community Use – Gloucester Fringe Cluster

Table 3.1D: Gloucester Fringe ClusterRef No	Parish	Owner/Manager	Name	Adult football	Junior 11V11	Junior 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Community Use	VQA Pitch Quality Rating	VQA Changing Quality Rating	Club/teams playing
SDGF.09	Hardwicke	Parish Council	Hardwicke Village Hall Playing Fields	1			2		A	1 adult and 2 minis pitches 7v7 (60 x 33m); rated standard. Club - pitches are generally poor (club invest in maintenance); public recreation ground issues.	VQA changing rated as good. Club say overall quality is poor/adequate.	Hardwicke Rangers 3 adult teams and 4 minis Football only
SDGF.38	Upton St Leonards	Parish Council	Upton Recreation Ground	1					A	Pitch rated standard. VQA noted good grass although recent drainage channel installed. Club: other than drainage, ground is good and meets Northern League Div 1 requirements.	Changing VQA rated good, shared with cricket and tennis. Club rate changing rooms good – club upgraded with extra 2 showers when team was promoted.	Upton St Leonards FC. Shared with cricket
SDGF.69	Hardwicke	Sports Club	Rob Dawe Memorial Close	1		1			A	1 adult and 1 junior pitch 9v9 rated standard,	Changing rooms, shower block, kit store rooms,	Hardwicke Rangers Youth & AFC 3 <sup>rd</sup> XI

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<b>Table 3.1D: Gloucester Fringe ClusterRef No</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Owner/ Manager</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Adult football</b>	<b>Junior 11V11</b>	<b>Junior 9v9</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	<b>Community Use</b>	<b>VQA Pitch Rating</b>	<b>Quality</b>	<b>VQA Changing Quality Rating</b>	<b>Club/teams playing</b>
										grass area.	training area.	toilets and a meeting room - either portacabins or an old Marley building	Football only
<b>SDGF.58</b>	Hardwicke	Education	<b>Hardwicke Primary Academy</b>			1	1		A	1 junior 9v9 and 1 mini pitch 7v7, rated standard			Hardwicke Rangers Youth – 2 x u9s, u11, u12. All play Saturday
			<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>A</b>				

Table 3.1E : List of Football Pitches with Community Use – Severn Vale Cluster

Severn Vale ClusterRef No	Parish	Owner/ Manager	Name	Adult football	Junior 11V11	Junior 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Community Use	VQA Pitch Quality Rating	VQA Changing Quality Rating	Club/teams playing
SDSE.40	Whitminster	Parish Council	Whitminster Pavilion	1				1	A	Adult pitch VQA rated good (good grass cover; goalmouths worn); Grass very thin on half of mini soccer pitch). Club rated pitches as good.	Changing is substantial but very dated (marked as standard). Club said good.	Cotswold Rangers 3 adult teams and 4 youth/mini. Shared with cricket
SDSE.49	Frampton on Severn	Private/ Sports Club	Bellfield (Frampton FC)	1					A	Attractive single pitch site, fenced with barrier, rated good. Club rate as good but public recreation ground issues.	VQA rating and club say changing facilities are good. VQA - would expect pitch to be floodlit	Frampton Utd Football only
SDSE.68	Frampton on Severn	Private/ Sports Club	Reg Davies Memorial Field	1		2	1	2	A	All standard by VQA. Good grass. Club say ground good but adult pitch	QA rated changing as good. Club say cesspit needs upgrading,	Frampton Utd 3 <sup>rd</sup> Xi and Frampton Youth (6 junior upgrading,

Severn Vale ClusterRef No	Parish	Owner/ Manager	Name	Adult football	Junior 11V11	Junior 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Community Use	VQA Pitch Quality Rating	VQA Changing Quality Rating	Club/teams playing
										would benefit from improved drainage.	otherwise clubhouse good	and 5 mini teams) Football only
			<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>				

Table 3.1F : List of Football Pitches with Community Use – Stonehouse Cluster

Table 3.1F Stone-house Cluster Ref No	Parish	Owner/ Manager	Name	Adult football	Junior 11V11	Junior 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Community Use	VQA Pitch Quality Rating	VQA Changing Quality Rating	Club/teams playing
<b>SDST.13</b>	Kings Stanley	Sports Club	<b>Kings Stanley Playing Field</b>	1					A	1 adult football pitch, rated standard. Floodlit training area with 1 goal. Club say good.	Changing facilities rated good.	Kings Stanley AFC 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI and King Stanley Youth u16s. Shared with cricket

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<b>Table 3.1F Stone-house Cluster Ref No</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Owner/ Manager</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Adult football</b>	<b>Junior 11V11</b>	<b>Junior 9v9</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	<b>Community Use</b>	<b>VQA Pitch Rating</b>	<b>Quality</b>	<b>VQA Changing Quality Rating</b>	<b>Club/teams playing</b>
<b>SDST.15</b>	Leonard Stanley	Parish Council	<b>Leonard Stanley Playing Fields</b>	1		1	1	2	A	All pitches standard apart from one mini soccer, rated good. Club say acceptable; drainage could be better		Changing rated as VQA standard; acceptable by the club	Leonard Stanley FC & Leonard Stanley Sharks Football only
<b>SDST.22</b>	Eastington	Comm Org	<b>Owen Harris Memorial Ground</b>	2					A	2 adult pitches rated good by VQA and club. Ball fencing between site and motorway being erected at time of visit. Some evidence of rabbit damage.		Changing within very smart Eastington Community Centre. Taverners FC have own changing separate (portacabins)	Alkerton Rangers FC 1 <sup>st</sup> XI, Taverners FC 1 <sup>st</sup> XI and WBA Academy FC u17s. Cotswold Rangers Youth 4 mini teams Shared with cricket
<b>SDST.31</b>	Frocester	Sports Club	<b>St Peter's Frocester</b>	1					B	1 adult pitch rated standard, faint line markings and rusty posts.		Changing in wooden pavilion, rated standard	No recorded use Shared with cricket
<b>SDST.66</b>	Stonehouse	Town Council	<b>Oldends Lane (Stadium pitch)</b>	1					A	Stadium pitch – rated good by VQA and club. Enclosed, floodlit.		Changing, rated standard by VQA acceptable by the club; soon to be redeveloped	Stonehouse TC 1 <sup>st</sup> XI Football only

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<b>Table 3.1F Stonehouse Cluster Ref No</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Owner/ Manager</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Adult football</b>	<b>Junior 11V11</b>	<b>Junior 9v9</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	<b>Community Use</b>	<b>VQA Pitch Rating</b>	<b>Quality</b>	<b>VQA Changing Quality Rating</b>	<b>Club/teams playing</b>
<b>SDST.66</b>	Stonehouse	Town Council	<b>Oldends Lane Playing Field</b>	2		1	1	1	A	2 adult pitches & mini pitches rated standard and junior 9v9 rated good. Well marked; good ground cover but high weed content. Subject of IOG Inspection Dec '18		Relatively new changing block, rated good	Stonehouse Town FC 5 adult teams  & Stonehouse Town Youth  Football only
<b>SDST.41</b>	Stonehouse	Education	<b>Wycliffe College</b>						C	Many pitches off-site but no recorded community use and not available			
<b>SDST.43</b>	Stonehouse	Education	<b>Maidenhill School</b>	2					B	2 adult football rated as standard.		In sports centre	No community use or requests to use
<b>SDST.84</b>	Eastington	Education	<b>Eastington Primary School</b>				2		A	2 mini soccer, rated standard		Not known	Cotswold Rangers Youth 1 x u9 and 3 x u10s
<b>SDST.85</b>	Stonehouse	Education	<b>Park School Junior School</b>				2		A	2 mini soccer, rated standard		Not known	Cotswold Rangers u12

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Table 3.1F Stonehouse Cluster Ref No	Parish	Owner/ Manager	Name	Adult football	Junior 11V11	Junior 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Community Use	VQA Pitch Rating	Quality	VQA Changing Quality Rating	Club/teams playing
SDST.90	Stonehouse	Town Council	Stagholt Playing Field						D	Site recorded, but no pitches marked or used			
			<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>					

**Table 3.1G : List of Football Pitches with Community Use – Stroud Valleys Cluster**

Table 3.1G StroudValleysCluster Ref No	Parish	Owner/ Manager	Name	Adult football	Junior 11V11	Junior 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Community Use	VQA Pitch Rating	Quality	VQA Changing Quality Rating	Club/teams playing
SDSV.01	Stroud	Education	Archway School	1		1			A	VQA rated as standard. No club comments		Changing in school	Randwick FC 1 <sup>st</sup> XI and Rodborough Youth U18s
SDSV.51	Rodborough	Parish Council	Butterow West	1					A	Flat tiered pitch of minimum adult size 84m x 7m.		Changing within Rodborough	Rodborough Youth u16 Football only

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<b>Table 3.1G StroudValleysCluster Ref No</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Owner/ Manag er</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Adult football</b>	<b>Junior 11V11</b>	<b>Junior 9v9</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	<b>Community Use</b>	<b>VQA Pitch Quality Rating</b>	<b>VQA Changing Quality Rating</b>	<b>Club/teams playing</b>
											Communit y Hall.	
<b>SDSV.52</b>	Cainscross	District Council	<b>Elm Road Playing Field, Cashes Green</b>	1					A	VQA rates as standard; club says acceptable, but poor gradient, open access to road	No changing on site; small facilities available in nearby communit y building	Used by Cashes Green FC 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Football only
<b>SDSV.53</b>	Chalford	Educatio n	<b>Chalford Hill Primary School</b>	1			1		A	Adult pitch o/m with 9v9 rated as good by VQA. Mini pitch good. Club rate pitches as good/acceptabl e:	Use adjacent Chalford Sports & Social Club changing if required.	GVR Chalford
<b>SDSV.03</b>	Chalford	Sports Club	<b>Chalford Hill Sports &amp; Social Club</b>	2			1		A	1 adult football and 1 mini soccer rated good; other adult rated standard. Small floodlit grass training area; good	VQA and club rate changing as good. Club has pp for upgrade of facilities to	Home to Chalford FC& overflow for GVR Chalford Shared with cricket



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<b>Table 3.1G StroudValleysCluster Ref No</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Owner/ Manag er</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Adult football</b>	<b>Junior 11V11</b>	<b>Junior 9v9</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	<b>Community Use</b>	<b>VQA Pitch Quality Rating</b>	<b>VQA Changing Quality Rating</b>	<b>Club/teams playing</b>
										grass. Club rated pitches as good/acceptable.	pyramid tier 6.	
<b>SDSV.54</b>	Chalford	Private	<b>Cirencester Park Polo Club</b>	1					A	Adult pitch rated standard. On edge of polo field. .	No apparent changing	Minchinhampton u16 and u17s
<b>SDSV.06</b>	Chalford	Parish Council	<b>Eastcombe Playing Field</b>	1					A	One adult pitch, rated as standard by VQA and club.	Changing facilities – very good – managed & maintained by club.	Eastcombe FC Shared with cricket
SDSV.56	Chalford	Comm Org	<b>Eastcombe Scout Hut Pitch</b>	1					A	Rated as standard by VQA & club	No changing	Eastcome Youth – u13s Football only
SDSV.60	Horsley	Parish Council	<b>Horsley Playing Field</b>	1					A	1 adult pitch; rated standard; spoilt by vehicle tracks running whole length.	Changing facilities within adjacent community shop/café.	Horsley Utd FC Football only

Table 3.1G StroudValleysCluster Ref No	Parish	Owner/ Manag er	Name	Adult football	Junior 11V11	Junior 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Community Use	VQA Pitch Quality Rating	VQA Changing Quality Rating	Club/teams playing
SDSV.10	Randwick & Westripp	Parish Council	<b>Jubilee Fields, Randwick</b>	1		1		1	A	Adult o/m with 9v9 and 9v9 o/m with 7v7. VQA rated standard; club say acceptable, but severely sloping site and also problems with rabbits	Changing facilities good – shared with cricket.	Randwick FC 2nd & 3rd XI and Randwick Wasps. Shared with cricket
SDSV.62	Nailsworth	Town Council	<b>King George V Playing Fields, Nailsworth</b>	1					A	1 adult football pitch rated standard (constructed on hillside with unprotected, ball run off on one side). Club rate ground highly but not big enough for Glos. North league.	VQA rated standard; Only changing, no social facilities (i.e. not suitable for higher grade teams). Unmarked kickabout area with 2 goals on site	Taverners 2nd XI Football only

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<b>Table 3.1G StroudValleysCluster Ref No</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Owner/ Manag er</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Adult football</b>	<b>Junior 11V11</b>	<b>Junior 9v9</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	<b>Community Use</b>	<b>VQA Pitch Quality Rating</b>	<b>VQA Changing Quality Rating</b>	<b>Club/teams playing</b>
SDSV.63	Stroud	District Council	<b>Mason Road Recreation Ground</b>	1					A	Standalone adult pitch rated standard. Constrained pitch of minimum adult size 85m x 56m.	Substantial , old style, changing pavilion (Army cadets), poorly sited; facilities inadequate.	Stroud Harriers FC home ground; also Rodborough and Cainscross Old Boys FC Football only
SDSV.64	Nailsworth	Sports Club	<b>Meadowbank Ground</b>	1					A	VQA rated good from VQA. Club say ground is superb.	Good facilities but slightly too small for Southern league level.	Shortwood Utd FC Football only
SDSV.65	Nailsworth	Educatio n	<b>Nailsworth Primary school</b>	1					B	Very good full size adult pitch on school site next to Forest Green Rovers	Within school	No known community use at present
SDSV.33	Stroud	District Council	<b>Stratford Court Playing Fields</b>	1		1	3		A	2 of the 7v7 pitches are o/m – one with 1 x 5v5 and one	Standard. Club said overall changing	Stroud Utd 1st X1, Rodborough & Cainscross Old

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<b>Table 3.1G StroudValleysCluster Ref No</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Owner/ Manag er</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Adult football</b>	<b>Junior 11V11</b>	<b>Junior 9v9</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	<b>Community Use</b>	<b>VQA Pitch Quality Rating</b>	<b>VQA Changing Quality Rating</b>	<b>Club/teams playing</b>
										with 2 x 5v5. Generally rated as standard. One club said pitch quality overall good; maintenance overall acceptable. Subject of IOG Inspection Dec '18	was good; no officials changing.	Boys 2nd XI, Minchinhampt on Youth (2 x U12s); Rodborough Youth (7 junior and mini teams, girls and boys) Shared with cricket
<b>SDSV.46</b>	Stroud	Educatio n	<b>Stroud High School</b>	2					B	Rated as standard		No recorded community use
<b>SDSV.35</b>	Minchin- hampton	Comm Org	<b>Stuart Playing Field</b>	1		1		2	A	Pleasant, flat, open site; all pitches rated VQA good. Clubs say good/acceptabl e.	Separate changing (from cricket) for football separate rated good.	Minchinhamtp on FC and M. Rangers FC. Shared with cricket
<b>SDSV.75</b>	Brimsc ombe & Thrupp	Sports Club	<b>The Meadow</b>	1					A	VQA rated good;. Club say pitch acceptable– winter	Changing good	Home to Brimscombe and Thrupp FC Football only

**Stroud Playing Pitch Strategy Stage C Needs Assessment Report/Final/Section 3/Football**

<b>Table 3.1G StroudValleysCluster Ref No</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Owner/ Manag er</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Adult football</b>	<b>Junior 11V11</b>	<b>Junior 9v9</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	<b>Community Use</b>	<b>VQA Pitch Quality Rating</b>	<b>VQA Changing Quality Rating</b>	<b>Club/teams playing</b>
										problems with drainage.		
<b>SDSV.76</b>	Nailsworth	Private/ Sports Club	<b>The New Lawn</b>	1					C	Stadium pitch rated good	Rated good	Forest Green Rovers EFL 2. Football only
<b>SDSV.44</b>	Chalford	Educatio n	<b>Thomas Keble School</b>	2					B	Rated standard	Changing in sports hall	No recorded community use but used in past
<b>SDSV.78</b>	Stroud	Town Council	<b>Uplands Playing Field</b>						D	Large level site. No pitches marked out – room for 1 adult	No changing	Disused but could be reinstated?
<b>Sdsv.79</b>	Cainscross	Parish Council	<b>Victory Park</b>	1					A	Pitch rated as standard by both clubs using	New changing facilities being built	Home to teams of Ebley Youth and usually 2 teams of Rodborough and Cainscross FC. Shared with rugby
<b>SDSV.81</b>	Whiteshill & Ruscombe	Parish Council	<b>Whiteshill &amp; Ruscombe Playing Fields</b>	1					A	VQA rated standard. Tiered pitch with steep	No changing	Rodborough Youth u15s Football only

**Stroud Playing Pitch Strategy Stage C Needs Assessment Report/Final/Section 3/Football**

<b>Table 3.1G StroudValleysCluster Ref No</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Owner/ Manag er</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Adult football</b>	<b>Junior 11V11</b>	<b>Junior 9v9</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	<b>Community Use</b>	<b>VQA Pitch Quality Rating</b>	<b>VQA Changing Quality Rating</b>	<b>Club/teams playing</b>
										access in very hilly village. Clubs generally have not rated pitch highly.		
<b>SDSV.82</b>	Woodchester	Sports Club	<b>Woodchester FC (Villa Park)</b>	1					A	VQA rated standard, on slight slope. Rusty goalposts. Access poor. Club say pitch acceptable (find managing maintenance etc very onerous)	Really poor portacabin , according to club, very small. Has been vandalised .	Woodchester FC Football only
<b>SDSV.87</b>	Rodborough	Parish Council	<b>Bownham Park</b>			1			A	VQA rated as standard; no rating by club	Not known	Rodborough Youth – 3 teams Football only
<b>SDSV.16</b>	Stroud	Education	<b>Marling School</b>		1				A	Football: 1 large junior/small adult, rated standard.	School changing – club commented that overall	3 x u13/u14 youth teams. M'hampton Rangers & Stroud Youth

**Stroud Playing Pitch Strategy Stage C Needs Assessment Report/Final/Section 3/Football**

<b>Table 3.1G StroudValleysCluster Ref No</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Owner/ Manag er</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Adult football</b>	<b>Junior 11V11</b>	<b>Junior 9v9</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	<b>Community Use</b>	<b>VQA Pitch Quality Rating</b>	<b>VQA Changing Quality Rating</b>	<b>Club/teams playing</b>
											facility is poor.	
<b>SDSV.83</b>	Minchinhampton	Educatio n	<b>Minchinhampton Primary Academy</b>				2		A	Rated standard	Within school	Minchinhampton Rangers Youth – 2 u9s and 2 u10s
<b>SDSV.67</b>	Cainscross	Parish Council	<b>Queen Elizabeth II Fields</b>					1	A	Small mini pitch in public recreation area	No changing	Stroud Town Youth mini team Football only
<b>SDSV.86</b>	Stroud	Educatio n	<b>Severn View Primary Academy</b>				2		A	Rated standard	Not known	Rodborough Youth – 4 jnr/mini teams0
			<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>				

Table 3.1H: List of Football Pitches with Community Use – Wotton Cluster

Table 3.1H Wotton ClusterRef No	Parish	Owner/ Manager	Name	Adult football	Junior 11V11	Junior 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Community Use	VQA Pitch Quality Rating	VQA Changing Quality Rating	Club/teams playing
SDWO.14	Kingswood	Parish Council	Kingswood Playing Fields	1					A	VQA rated standard; has dug outs & open barrier around it. Floodlit grass training area and set of junior goals on unmarked pitch.	Very good – in modern village hall on site	Kingswood AFC XI Shared with cricket
SDWO.19	North Nibley	Parish Council	North Jubilee Nibley Playing Field	1				1	A	VQA pitch rated good. Club say pitch is good but that use as playing field has resultant issues (fouling by dogs, litter)	VQA: Adequate, good standard but not very big.	North Nibley 1 <sup>st</sup> XI. Mini pitch and training grid, both used by adjacent primary school. Shared with cricket
SDWO.48	Hillesley	Parish Council	Jubilee Fields Hillesley Recreation Ground	1					B	One adult football pitch, rated standard	Changing in village hall on site rated standard.	No community use recorded Shared with cricket
SDWO.73	Wotton under Edge	Parish Council	Synwell Playing Fields	1					A	VQA rated standard. Lower end appears	Dated changing, VQA. Club said has small officials	Wotton Rovers FC Football only



**Stroud Playing Pitch Strategy Stage C Needs Assessment Report/Final/Section 3/Football**

<b>Table 3.1H Wotton ClusterRef No</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Owner/ Manager</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Adult football</b>	<b>Junior 11V11</b>	<b>Junior 9v9</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	<b>Community Use</b>	<b>VQA Pitch Rating</b>	<b>Quality</b>	<b>VQA Changing Quality Rating</b>	<b>Club/teams playing</b>
										vulnerable to waterlogging. Club say pitch acceptable but issues from use as public playing field.		changing and needs updating.	
<b>SDWO.45</b>	Wotton under Edge	Community Trust/ Education	<b>Wotton Sports Centre/Katharine Lady Berkeley School</b>	2		2			A	Large open plateau of pitches on school site. VQA rate pitches as standard. Well used and maintained; club raised no issues		Within school; acceptable, as insufficient capacity when site is busy.	Wotton Rovers Junior teams
			<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>2</b>		<b>1</b>					

3.6 A summary of pitches with current community use (either A or B) listed above by cluster is as follows:

<b>Name of cluster</b>	<b>Sites</b>	<b>Adult football</b>	<b>Junior 11V11</b>	<b>Junior 9v9</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>
Berkeley	5	5		1	3	
<b>Cam/Dursley</b>	6	7		3	2	1
Cotswold Fringe	2	2				
Gloucester Fringe	4	3		2	3	
Severn Vale	3	3		2	1	3
Stonehouse	8	10		2	6	3
Stroud	28	25	1	4	8	3
Wotton	5	6		2		1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>11</b>

3.7 Almost all pitches are listed as A (Available for Community Use and Used, the exceptions being):

*B Available for community use and unused*

- SDCD.42 Rednock School on site (1 min size adult football)
- SDST.31 St Peter’s Frocester (1 adult pitch)
- SDST.43 Maidenhill School
- SDSV.65 Nailsworth Primary Academy
- SDSV.46 Stroud High School
- SDSV.44 Thomas Keble School
- SDWO.48 Jubilee Fields, Hillesley

*C Not available for community use, as matter of policy and practice*

- SDST.41 Wycliffe College (grass pitches only)
- SDSV.76 The New Lawn (Forest Green Rovers FC)

*D Not available as disused*

- SDCD.55 Coaley Recreation Ground
- SDST.90 Stagholt Playing Field
- SDSV.78 Uplands Playing Field

3.8 Ownership/Management of the sites by cluster is as follows:

Name of cluster	Berkeley	Cam/Dursley	Cotswold Fringe	Gloucester Fringe	Severn Vale	Sonehouse	Stroud	Wotton	Total	
Local Authority							3		3	5%
Town/Parish Council	3	3	2	2	1	2	10	4	27	44%
Private/Sports Club	2	1		1	2	2	5		13	21%
School				1		3	8		12	20%
Community Org.		2				1	2	1	6	10%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>61</b>	

3.9 **Berkeley Cluster** - Key points are:

- 5 adult pitches, 2 on sites with junior/mini pitches
- 4 out of 5 adult pitches rated good (Sharpness Recreation Ground rated standard)
- 1 ground shared with cricket (Slimbridge Recreation Ground)
- Thornhill Park is a stadium pitch for Slimbridge AFC
- Sharpness Recreation Ground does not have on-site changing facilities

3.10 **Cam/Dursley Cluster** - Key points are:

- 4 sites: 4 adult pitches, 1 with junior/mini pitches (War Memorial Recreation Ground)
- 1 adult pitch rated good (Everlands Ground); rest as standard
- 2 grounds shared with cricket (Cam Everlands and KGV Nymphsfield)
- 1 ground has disused football pitch (but could be reinstated) (Coaley Recreation Ground)
- 1 school pitch, available for community use but not used. (Rednock school on site)
- Changing facilities require upgrading/replacement at Cam Everlands ground.
- Highfields Play Area Dursley (SDCD.59) – not listed as pitch site; kickabout area

3.11 **Cotswold Fringe Cluster** - Key points are:

- 2 adult pitches, both on public recreation grounds. Football pitches only, although there has been a cricket pitch previously at Painswick and one not in use at Bisley.
- Both grounds rated standard
- Both sites are public recreation grounds - some issues around public use.

3.12 **Gloucester Fringe Cluster** - Key points are:

- 4 sites with 3 adult pitches, 2 junior and 3 mini pitches. 1 non-education multi football pitch site (Hardwicke Village Recreation Ground)

- All pitches rated standard. All with A community access
- 1 ground shared with cricket.(Upton St Leonards)
- 2 public recreation ground sites – some issues around public use.
- 1 site – Upton St Leonards Playing Fields - has had major problems with drainage (hopefully now addressed)
- Hardwicke Village Recreation Ground is not appropriate setting for range, standard and intensity of use by local club
- 1 primary school site with junior and mini pitch and community use

**3.13 Severn Vale Cluster** - Key points are:

- 3 adult pitches, 2 junior 9v9, 2 mini pitches on 3 sites, all A community use
- 1 single pitch site, with barrier around pitch (Bellfield for Frampton FC)
- Multi pitch site at Reg Dawe Memorial Ground, range of adult, junior and mini pitches
- 2 adult pitches rated good (Whitminster & Bellfield)
- Changing facilities require updating at Whitminster pavilion site
- 1 site shared with cricket (Whitminster)
- SDSE.57 Frampton Recreation Field and SDSE.70 Saul Playing Field recorded as kickabout areas

**3.14 Stonehouse Cluster** - Key points are:

- 9 sites with marked out pitches comprising - 10 adult; 2 x 9v9; 6 x 7v7 and 3 x 5v5. 2 are single adult pitch sites
- 2 sites have range of pitch sizes: Leonard Stanley Playing Fields and Oldends Lane Playing Field
- 4 adult pitches rated good, 6 as standard. All junior and mini pitches rated standard except 1 mini pitch at Leonard Stanley and 1 junior pitch at Oldends Lane (good).
- 2 sites shared with cricket (Kings Stanley Playing Field and Owen Harris Memorial Ground)
- Major developments ongoing at Oldends Lane (Stonehouse FC stadium pitch) regarding changing and plans for upgrading floodlights. Pitch quality rated good.
- All A community use, apart from Maidenhill School and 1 unused ground for football (St Peter's Frocester) – recorded as B as no community use.
- 2 primary schools used for junior/mini pitches.
- Wycliffe School is listed as it has extensive grass playing fields but these are not available for community use
- Stagholt Playing Field also listed but no drainage, not marked out. Only used for touch rugby in past.

**3.15 Stroud cluster** - Key points are:

- 27 sites (excludes The New Lawn) - 25 adult pitches; 1 junior 11v11; four x 9v9 pitches; eight x 7v7 pitches and three x 5v5 pitches. Out of 25 adult pitches; 18 rated standard and 7 rated good; 0 poor.

- All junior and mini pitches rated standard except mini pitches at Chalford Primary School and Chalford Sports & Social Club and junior and mini pitches at Stuart Playing Field, Minchinhampton (good)
- All sites marked as A Community Access other than Nailsworth Primary School, Stroud High School, Thomas Keble School (B) and The New Lawn (Forest Green Rovers (C))
- Excluding schools, 14 of the adult pitches are single pitch sites (includes stadiums at Meadowbank (Shortwood FC), The Meadow (Brimscome & Thrupp FC) and The New Lawn (Forest Green Rovers FC)
- 5 sites shared with cricket...Chalford Sports & Social Club, Eastcombe Playing Field, Jubilee Fields Randwick; Stuart Playing Field Minchinhampton and Stratford Park. Victory Park Stroud also accommodates rugby.
- Schools Archway, 1 junior and 1 adult pitch; Chalford Hill important – 1 adult & 1 mini, Nailsworth Primary School (B – no use at present), Stroud High School – no recorded community use, Thomas Keble School – no recorded community use; Marling School – 1 large junior pitch– hosting 3 youth teams; Severn View Primary Academy in Stroud and Minchinhampton Primary Academy – both have two 7v7 mini pitches with community use.
- Some grounds too small for next stage of football hierarchy: Mason Road Recreation Ground or inadequate changing facilities – The Meadowbank Stadium, Mason Road Recreation Ground, Cirencester Polo Club (none)
- Multi pitch sites –Chalford Sports & Social Club; Jubilee Fields Randwick, Stratford Court, Stuart Playing Field Minchinhampton
- Main site at Stratford Court - 2 of the 7v7 pitches are overmarked – one with 1 x 5v5 and one with 2 x 5v5. Generally rated as standard. One club said pitch quality overall good; maintenance overall acceptable.
- Two local authority grounds with just one mini or junior pitch – Bownham Park and Queen Elizabeth II Fields – no changing
- SDSV.50 Bussage Playing Field and SDSV.74 The Leazes Playing Field recorded as kickabout areas
- SDSV.78 Uplands Playing Field large enough for adult pitch but no changing facilities. Nothing marked out.

**3.16 Wotton Cluster - - Key points are:**

- 6 adult pitches, 2 junior 9v9 and 1 mini 5v5 on 5 sites.
- 3 sites shared with cricket: Kingswood, North Nibley and Hillesley Playing Fields
- All recorded as A community use except Jubilee Field, Hillesley where no community use recorded
- Main site is Wotton Sports Centre/KLB School with 2 adult and 2 junior 9v9 pitches.
- All pitches rated as standard other than North Nibley Playing Fields, which are rated good
- Public recreation field sites experience issues of litter and some fouling by dogs
- Maintenance generally acceptable
- Synwell pitch prone to waterlogging and changing facilities would benefit from upgrading.

**3.17 A summary of general Issues arising:**

*Public recreation grounds*

- Clubs using pitches on public recreation grounds frequently mention problems arising from this, notably fouling by dogs e.g. Painswick Rereation Ground, Hardwicke Village Recreation Ground, Bellfield (Frampton FC), North Nibley Playing Fields, Nympsfield Playing Field

*Maintenance*

- Maintenance was usually rated as standard/acceptable by clubs, although rarely as good. A number of grounds – including in Stroud town - were highlighted for maintenance requiring improvement (particularly those maintained by town/parish councils)
- Problems with (or required improvements to) drainage were mentioned in relation to a few specific grounds. Upton St Leonards hopefully rectified. Slimbridge Recreation Ground can be vulnerable. Adult pitch at Reg Davies Memorial Field and pitch at Leonard Stanley Playing Field– could be better. But the deteriorating quality of grounds throughout the season as pitches become waterlogged has not emerged as a particular issue across the district.

*Sloping pitches*

- Painswick Recreation Ground, Cashes Green, Jubilee Fields, Randwick, Villa Park (Woodchester FC), Synwell Playing Fields

*Inappropriate, unsuitable facilities (including to meet promotion requirements) e.g.*

- King George V Nailsworth – club rate pitch as best in area, but on tiered site with unprotected slope one side. And not Club quite big enough for Gloucester North league – would have to excavate bank to enlarge
- Mason Road Recreation Ground - Stroud Harriers has been located here for many years and has much community support. However, the club cannot progress as pitch is too small and changing facilities do not meet requirements of next league step. Substantial, old style, changing pavilion (Army cadets), poorly sited. Inadequate facilities
- Meadowbank Stadium (Shortwood FC): Good changing facilities but slightly too small for Southern league level.
- Hardwicke Village Hall Playing Fields The pitches are on a public recreation ground and dog fouling and litter is an issue. Maintenance – club has to spend money itself. Pitch side barrier has to be removed at end of season. Separate changing facilities required.
- Chalford Sports & Social Club – improvements to changing facilities to meet promotion requirements

*Improved changing*

- Whitminster Pavilion: old style, requires enhancement

- Villa Park (Woodchester FC): Really poor portacabin, according to club, very small. Has been vandalised.
- Rob Dawe Memorial Ground, Hardwicke – permanent changing/clubhouse facilities being sought by Hardwicke Rangers Youth FC. Support of FA and Parish Council. Ongoing discussions over remaining lease.
- Cam Everlands Playing Field: changing facilities are very poor and unsuitable.
- Synwell Playing Field: possible upgrade of changing facilities

3.18 Comment from ladies playing football that ‘Changing facilities vary dramatically. Many have not been updated or refurbished for many years and do not cater for women. Perhaps this is because money and sponsorship tends to be related to the men’s game, not women’s’,

### **General Standard of Pitches**

3.19 There are Site Overview sheets for all sites covered in this Playing Pitch Strategy which contain in more detail the comments made by clubs and others regarding the quality of the facilities. In addition, the Master Database – Appendix 1E – also records all comments made. A balance has been sought between those sites on which clubs have commented and those where no user feedback is available. In the latter cases, the assessments rely mainly on the Visual Quality Assessment (VQA) carried out by the consultants.

3.20 Some clubs noted their aspirations for particular improvements at their home ground:

**Table 3.4: Responding clubs from Stroud who are seeking particular improvements at their home ground or who state that there are particular factors that make it difficult for them to accommodate all their home matches, expand their activities or progress to a higher division or league:**

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<b>Ref</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>Ground</b>	<b>Desired Improvements</b>	<b>Other factors restricting club's development</b>
SDSV.52	Several clubs	Elm Road Playing Field (Cashes Green Playing Fields)	Changing room next to pitch	Can't increase number of teams adult or youth as only have one pitch available Therefore maximum is two teams playing home and away on the same weekend. Playing on alternative days would compromise pitch quality
SDSV.03	Chalford AFC	Chalford Sports and Social Club (Highfield Sports Ground)	Pitch side barriers. New changing facilities. All weather training area	We plan to install barriers and improve changing facilities to allow promotion but need to raise funds.
SDCD.07	Cam Bulldogs FC	Everlands Ground	New changing pavilion	Careful management is required to keep both cricket and football clubs happy.
SDGF.09	Hardwicke AFC	Hardwicke Village Hall Playing Fields	Funding to improve both changing facilities as well as pitches.	Unable to progress into next league as unable to meet ground grading for Hellenic league. Won't be able to get flood lights as this is a council pitch so won't be allowed. Our perimeter fencing is PVC Plastic so is constantly damaged - we also have to remove the barriers each summer as agreed with Hardwicke Parish council as this was the only way we could progress to the County League. Only way to progress would be to move to another facility as we have the capability with players that the club attracts.
SDGF.69	Hardwicke Rangers Youth	Rob Dawe Memorial Ground		We have to rely on local schools for use of 9v9 pitches for ages U11 and U12, the pitches we use are not full size but we have no capacity to have these pitches on our home grounds.



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<b>Ref</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>Ground</b>	<b>Desired Improvements</b>	<b>Other factors restricting club's development</b>
SDSV.10	Randwick FC	Jubilee Fields Randwick (Chapel Fields)	To cut and fill areas of Randwick playing fields to provide pitches with less of a gradient.	We are bursting at the seams with our juniors and need more pitches.
SDCD.61	Cam Everside Wanderers	Jubilee Playing Fields (Cam)	Provision of fences to stop losing match balls.	
SDST.15	Leonard Stanley FC	Leonard Stanley Playing Field	Replacement of club house/changing rooms	
SDSV.63	Stroud Harriers FC	Mason Road Recreation Ground	Enlarged pitch and better changing facilities.	We can't progress because the pitch is too small and the changing rooms do not meet requirements to the next league.
SDSV.64	Shortwood Utd FC	Meadowbank Ground	Improved/enlarged changing facilities.	
SDST.66	Stonehouse Town Youth	Oldends Lane Playing Field	To have on-site catering facilities to provide hot drinks on match days.	
SDST.66	Stonehouse Town FC	Oldend Lane stadium – changing facilities	Oldend Lane stadium – new clubhouse/changing facilities as part of redevelopment of ground.	Currently no working floodlights on main pitch.
SDSV.35	Minchinhampton FC	Stuart Playing Field		Size of pitch constricted by tennis club and tree for progression, lack of floodlights prevent mid week/evening fixtures/training in winter months

<b>Ref</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>Ground</b>	<b>Desired Improvements</b>	<b>Other factors restricting club's development</b>
SDSV.35	Minchinhampton Youth FC	Stuart Playing Field		Insufficient grass pitches to accommodate all of our desired teams. This has caused some age groups to reduce from two teams to one.
SDSE.40	Cotswold Rangers Youth FC	Whitminster Playing Fields	To revamp the changing facilities and club house	Over use of pitches and fixture clashes means that matches and training frequently need to be re arranged
SDWO.45	Wotton FC	Wotton Sports Centre	To provide a club house and full size 3G pitch	
SDSE.49	Frampton Utd FC	The Bellfield		Lack of floodlights. Restricted parking.
SDST.31	King Stanley FC	King Stanley Playing Fields		Pitch cannot be developed as it is held in perpetuity as a playing facility for the village by the Marling Trust.
SDCD.39	Uley FC	Uley Playing Fields		No perimeter fencing or pitch floodlights.
SDW).73`	Wotton FC	Synwell Playing Fields		Synwell Playing Field is a public park used for multiple activities, festivals events general use and has no flood lights or fencing.

3.21 Additional comments:

- Rodborough Youth FC: As our club grows the training facilities are limited in Stroud, so are the pitches for matches.
- Stroud Town Youth FC: We share Marling pitch with Minchinhampton FC so it is used every week as well as by Marling School in the week. This causes overuse and deterioration in the winter months, Lack of floodlit grass or 3G pitches means training is limited.

3.22 Clubs were also asked: are you satisfied with the overall provision of football pitches and ancillary provision within Stroud?

**Table 3.6: Dissatisfaction with overall provision of pitches in Stroud District**

<b>Club commenting</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Bridgeway FC	Poor pitch quality, especially Woodchester, Horsley, Cotswold Rangers
Cam Everside Wanderers FC	Poor pitches at Woodchester and Randwick. Access to pitches. Pitch quality. Quality of changing rooms
Cashes Green FC	Too few quality pitches with adequate facilities
Chalford AFC	Pitch quality. Quality of changing rooms. Lack of affordable training pitches
Cotswold Rangers FC	Generally there are enough pitches but the quality of them varies so much as it's up to local parish councils to maintain and some don't commit to them as much as others. Pitch quality
Eastcombe FC	Probably enough pitches in district, but so many are on a slope or have poor changing.
Ebley Youth FC	Small clubs find it difficult to grow as no spare pitches. All pitches taken by larger clubs such as Rodborough. Not enough floodlit training areas/3G
Forest Green Rovers FC	Need more pitches so we can move the youth team and 1st team training facilities closer to FGR. Access to pitches. Amount of pitches of the right size. Pitch quality
Frampton United FC	Access to pitches
Hardwicke AFC	A lot of pitches are very bad in the area. Access to pitches. Pitch quality. Quality of changing rooms
Hardwicke Rangers Youth FC	There are not enough pitches currently available in Hardwicke to meet our current and future needs. If we lose access to school pitches we will not be able to run certain age groups.
Leonard Stanley FC	Lack of artificial grass pitches
Minchinhampton Rangers Youth FC	Insufficient grass, astro and 3G pitches. Amount of pitches of the right size
North Nibley FC	Can always look to improve. Pitch quality. Quality of changing rooms
Randwick FC	Lack of 3G pitches
Rodborough Youth FC	Unfortunately there is not a lot of flat land, if there it is either in the flood plain or houses are built on it.

<b>Club commenting</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Shortwood Youth FC	Lack of pitches. Amount of pitches of the right size. Pitch quality. Quality of changing rooms
Stonehouse FC	Not enough access to 3G type pitches. Access to pitches. Amount of pitches of the right size
Stroud Harriers FC	Many of the pitches are of a poor standard. Amount of pitches of the right size. Pitch quality. Quality of changing rooms.
Stroud Town Youth FC	There aren't enough pitches for the expanding boom in youth football. There are fewer pitches in Stroud than 20 years ago. Access to pitches. Amount of pitches of the right size.
Wotton Rangers FC	Access to pitches. Pitch quality. Quality of changing rooms. Shared pitches with either public playing field and school.

3.23 The following general points were also made by a number of clubs:

- There is considerable pressure on clubs to meet ground gradings which are sometimes unrealistic for the level of play and size of crowd and finance available from the clubs concerned. It may not always be feasible on restricted sites to meet the size of internal rooms and separate areas required. Even though grants may be available, smaller clubs may struggle to match funding.
- There needs to be focused investment towards smaller grounds and clubs, to really support teams playing at grassroots level, otherwise these clubs will continue to lose members.
- Investment in better changing facilities – particularly for youth teams (if they're required) -and sites used by women's football teams is essential if players are going to be retained and new ones attracted in to football on 11v11 pitches. Football for girls is improving – more opportunities – but investment in facilities must keep pace with this.

## **OVERVIEW OF DEMAND**

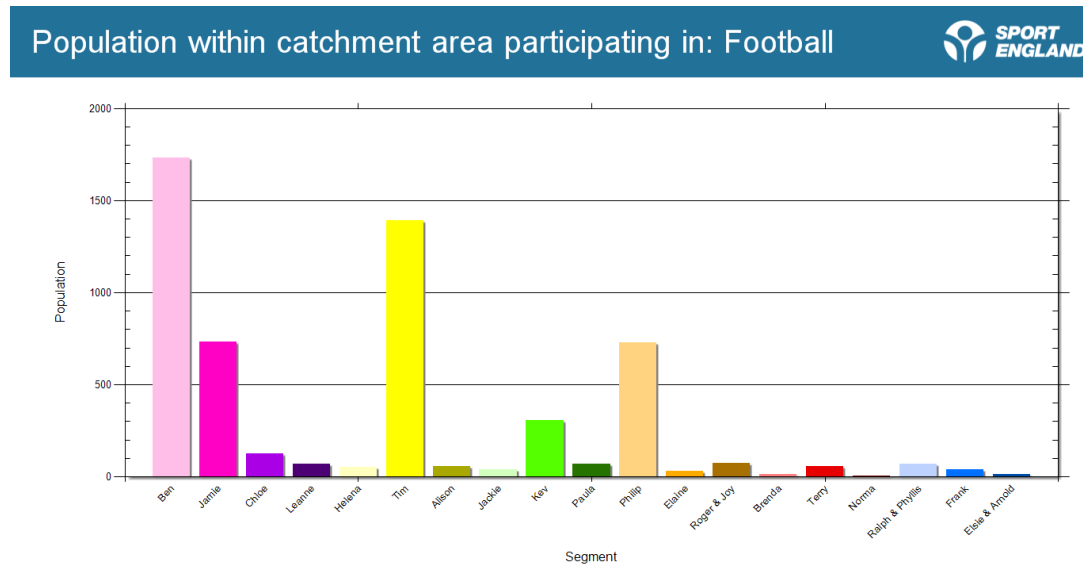
### **Demand and Latent Demand for Football**

3.24 From the Active People Survey and Market Segmentation data it is possible to estimate:

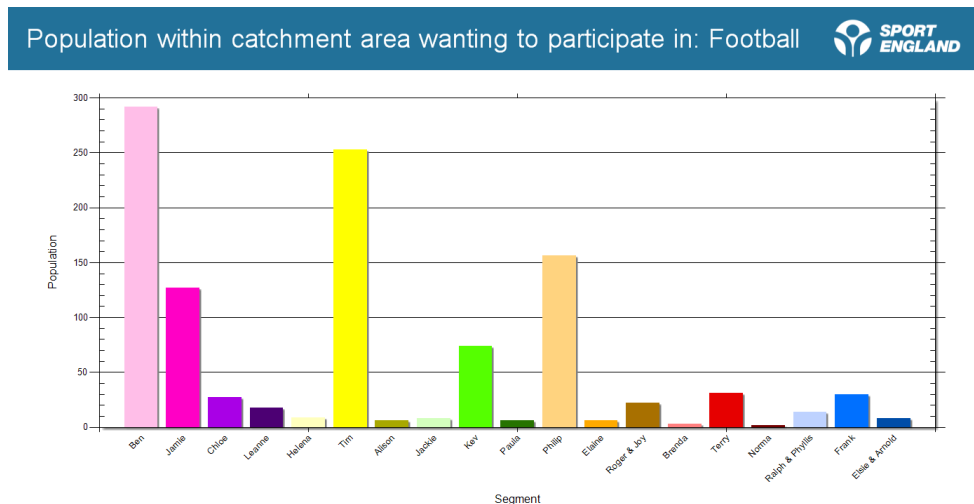
- the proportion of the local adult population within each market segment group that **currently** participate in football (5606)

- how many adults **would like** to participate (or participate more) in football, i.e. latent demand (1092). The following figures present this information pictorially.

**Figure 1** Market segments participating in Football in Stroud



**Figure 2** Market segments wanting to participate Football in Stroud



3.25 The key participants in football in Stroud come from those market segments groups that are most likely to play football nationally. However, the relative proportion of the population that participates from each group differs from national rates due to the make-up of the local population. For football, the main market segmentation groups in Stroud are:

- **Ben:** competitive male urbanite, mainly aged 18-25, single, graduate professional.
- **Tim:** settling down male, mainly aged 26-45, married or single, may have children, professional.
- **Philip:** comfortable mid-life male, mainly aged 46-55, married with children, full time employment and owner occupier.
- **Jamie:** sports team lad, mainly aged 18-25, single, vocational student
- **Kev:** pub league team mate, mainly aged 36-45, married or single, may have children, vocational job.

3.26 The main female segment participating in football in Stroud is:

- **Chloe:** Young image-conscious females keeping fit and trim.

### Clubs and Teams Playing in Stroud

3.27 The following table sets out clubs and teams playing in Stroud

**Table 3.7 List of Football Teams and Clubs in Stroud**

Table 3.7		Junior teams											Mini teams					GRAND TOTAL
Main Cluster	Club	Adult Men	Adult Ladies	Junior Teams Total	U18	U17	U16	U15	U14	U13	U12	U11	Mini Teams Total	U10	U9	U8	U7	
ST	Alkerton Rangers FC	1																1
BE	Berkeley Town FC	2																2
BE	Bridgeway FC	1																1
SV	Brimscombe & Thrupp FC	2																2
CD	Cam Bulldogs	3																3
CD	Cam Everside Wanderers	1																1
CD	Cam Everside Youth FC			9			1	1	1	2	1	3	8	2	2	2	2	17
SV	Cashes Green FC	2																2
SV	Chalford AFC	4																4
SE	Cotswold Rangers FC	2	1															3
ST	Cotswold Rangers Youth FC			3						1	1	1	6	3	1	1	1	9
CD	Dursley Town FC	2																2
CD	Dursley Town Girls FC						1G		1G		1G			1G				4
CD	Dursley Town Ladies FC		1															1
SV	Eastcombe FC	2																2
SV	Eastcombe Youth FC			1						1								1
SV	Ebley Youth FC			2	1		1											2
SV	Forest Green Rovers	1		7	1*		1*	1*	1*	1*	1*	1*	2	1*	1*			10
BE	Forest Green Ladies		1															1

**Stroud Playing Pitch Strategy Stage C Needs Assessment Report/Final/Section 3/Football**

Table 3.7				Junior teams									Mini teams					
Main Cluster	Club	Adult Men	Adult Ladies	Junior Teams Total	U18	U17	U16	U15	U14	U13	U12	U11	Mini Teams Total	U10	U9	U8	U7	GRAND TOTAL
SE	Frampton Utd	3																3
SE	Frampton Youth FC			6			1		1	1	2	1	5	2	1	1	1	11
SV	GVR Chalford Youth FC			5			1	1		1		2	3	2		1		8
GF	Hardwicke AFC	3																3
GF	Hardwicke Rangers FC			12	1	1	1	1		2	1G, 2	2G, 1	6	2	3	1		18
SV	Horsley Utd FC	2																2
ST	Kings Stanley FC	2																2
ST	Kings Stanley Youth FC			1			1											1
WO	Kingswood AFC	1																1
ST	Leonard Stanley FC	3																3
ST	Leonard Stanley Sharks FC			3						1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	7
SV	Minchinhampton FC	2																2
SV	Minchampton Rangers Youth FC			8		1	1		1	1	2	2	7	2	2	2	1	15
WO	North Nibley FC	1																1
CF	Painswick FC	1																1
SV	Randwick FC	3																3
SV	Randwick Wasps FC			2						1		1	3	1	1		1	5
SV	Rodborough & Cainscross Old Boys FC	3																3
SV	Rodborough Youth FC			14	1		1, 1G	2	1	2	2, 2G	2	5	2	1	1	1	19
BE	Sevenside Nuclear Juniors			2						1		1	2	1		1		4



Stroud Playing Pitch Strategy Stage C Needs Assessment Report/Final/Section 3/Football

Table 3.7		Junior teams											Mini teams					GRAND TOTAL
Main Cluster	Club	Adult Men	Adult Ladies	Junior Teams Total	U18	U17	U16	U15	U14	U13	U12	U11	Mini Teams Total	U10	U9	U8	U7	
BE	Sharpness AFC	3																3
SV	Shortwood Utd FC	1																1
SV	Shortwood Youth FC			2					1		1*							2
BE	Slimbridge AFC	2																2
BE	Slimbridge Youth FC			2			1			1			1		1			3
ST	Stonehouse Town FC	5																5
ST	Stonehouse Youth FC			3	1*				1		1		3	1	1	1		6
SV	Stroud Harriers FC	1																1
SV	Stroud Town Youth FC			1						1			1				1	2
SV	Stroud Utd FC	1																1
ST	Taverners FC	2																2
CD	Uley AFC	3																3
GF	Upton St Leonards AFC	2		1					1									3
ST	WBA Academy FC	1																1
SV	Woodchester FC	1																1
WO	Wotton Rovers FC	2		13			2	1	1, 1G	2	2, 1G	3	5	2	1	2		20
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100</b>									<b>62</b>					<b>236</b>

3.28 Salient points are:

- 236 teams have been identified as playing for clubs based in Stroud District: 71 adult teams, 3 Ladies teams, 100 junior teams and 62 mini teams.
- 1 x u18 for Stonehouse Youth; 1 x u12 for Shortwood Youth and all Youth and 7 youth teams and 2 mini teams for Forest Green Rovers FC play outside the area
- There are 16 teams who are based in Berkeley cluster; 31 teams in Cam/Dursley; 1 team in Cotswold Fringe; 24 teams in Gloucester Fringe; 17 teams in Severn Vale; 37 teams in Stonehouse; 89 teams in Stroud and 22 teams in Wotton.
- The highest ranked club in the football hierarchy is Forest Green Rovers FC who are the only professional club in the district playing in EFL Division 2.
- Beneath them in seniority is Slimbridge AFC, who play in the Southern League, followed by Brimscombe and Thrupp FC and Shortwood FC playing in the Hellenic League and Western Football League respectively. Both these leagues are considered to be of equal standing.
- Next down is the Gloucester County League which has Frampton United, Stonehouse Town and Hardwicke AFC as its Stroud representatives. Beneath them is the Gloucester Northern Senior League which includes: Berkeley Town, Cam Bulldogs, Chalford AFC, Sharpness, Stroud Harriers, Taveners FC, Upton St Leonards and Leonard Stanley FC in its Divisions 1 and 2.
- The successful and well run Stroud and District League, with 6 divisions is one of the biggest leagues in the county and includes 50 teams from the Stroud area playing adult men's football on a Saturday afternoon. Many of the senior clubs have other teams playing in the lower divisions.
- 3 Ladies teams – Forest Green Rovers Ladies, Cotswold Rangers Ladies and Dursley Ladies and 11 junior girls teams (Dursley town Girls, Hardwicke Rangers, Rodborough Youth & Wotton Rovers Youth) and 1 mini girls team (Dursley Town Ladies). There is one SSE Wildcat's Girls Football Centre in Stroud hosted by Rodborough Youth FC at Inside Football on Brimscombe Industrial Estate.
- Other than Women's football and occasional vets, there is very little adult play on Sundays. There has been a national decline in Sunday play for adults and the only recorded Sunday team is Leonard Stanley FC who play in the Gloucester and District Sunday Football League.

3.29 The vast majority of junior and mini match play is on a Saturday and the younger leagues tend to be more geographically located. The main leagues catering for the younger Stroud footballers are: Severn Valley Youth League – junior and minis – with 47 teams, Mid Gloucester Mini Soccer League – junior and mini – 39 teams, and Cotswold Youth League – mainly mini teams, with 17 from Stroud.

*Trends in membership*

3.30 Out of 21 clubs responding when asked whether the number of their teams had increased, decreased or stayed the same over the last 3 years, 14 said increased, 7 said decreased (some clubs experienced different changes in certain age groups)

**Table 3.8: Clubs where playing membership, or numbers of teams, has changed over the past 3 years and reasons for change.**

<b>Club</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Reason (where given)</b>
Cashes Green FC	Increased	U17 squad became senior reserves.
Chalford AFC	Increased	
Cotswold Rangers Youth FC	Increased	We are having almost daily contact regarding young people aged between 7 – 10 joining our club. I believe our reputation of allowing children of all abilities to play football and take part in competitive football is really getting round.
Forest Green Rovers FC	Increased (Juniors)	
Frampton Youth FC	Increased	More girls. Club used to run U20 and U18.
Hardwicke AFC	Decreased	Numbers of players available each week seems to be on the decline and struggling to field 3 teams some weeks. Whilst we can sign a lot of players on, the commitment each week isn't always there. Seems like some youth of today want to pick and choose when they play as opposed to this being a commitment each week.
Hardwicke Rangers Youth FC	Increased	More teams at U7 and U8 which have carried on through mini-soccer into youth soccer. More teams carrying on after U16 into U17 and U18
Kings Stanley Youth FC	Decreased	Lack of youth volunteers
Leonard Stanley FC	Decreased	Sunday team has virtually disbanded due to lack of players.
Leonard Stanley Sharks FC	Increased	Only established as youth football in 2013 so club has gradually expanded with a new age group each year.
Minchinhampton Rangers Youth FC	Increased	
Painswick FC	Decreased	Had youth team playing last season (17/18) but disbanded mainly due to lack of coaches.
Randwick Wasps FC	Increased	We restarted junior mini soccer training 3 ½ years ago and try to back fill each year, we are quickly becoming over subscribed and need more facilities and qualified coaches. We are working hard to find solutions.
Rodborough Youth FC	Increased (Girls)	We have a consistent level of players within the club. We introduced an U16s Girls this season, which is why we saw an increase in the female category.
Shortwood Youth FC	Increased	New teams set up
Slimbridge AFC	Decreased	Folded our reserve team due to shortage of players and the fact that the Stroud League was too far away from Southern League for it to have been an advantage to us.

<b>Club</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Reason (where given)</b>
Stonehouse Town Youth	Increased (Minis), Decreased (Juniors)	Dynamics of teams and local clubs rules around allowing 'academy' players to play in the local community.
Stroud Town Youth FC	Increased	Started an under 7's team this season.
Stroud United FC	Decreased	Lack of player commitment and funding caused us to fold one team.
Upton St Leonards AFC	Decreased (Adult)	Used to run 3 adult teams but now easier with 2 teams. This year is first running an u14s youth side.
Wotton Rovers FC	Increased	New Girls team has been formed. Large participation from kids born in 2007/8 have moved from U7-U10 category to U11-U16 group.

### *Youth football*

3.31 There are 92 youth football teams playing in Stroud district, across 21 clubs. Numbers of teams/age groups ebbs and flows from season to season within each club as, to some extent, does the relative popularity of each club. But generally, youth football in Stroud is buoyant. The issue in meeting demand is that there are not enough coaches and volunteers to run the teams and not enough pitches of the right size in one location.

3.32 A number of clubs are based at one or two grounds:

**Table 3.9 Youth football clubs whose teams are based mainly at one ground**

<b>Name of club (total teams)</b>	<b>Junior</b>	<b>Mini</b>	<b>Ground</b>
Cam Everside Youth (17)	3 x u11, u12, 2 x u13, u14, u15, u16	2 x u7, 2 x u8, 2 x u9, 2 x u10	Jubilee Playing Fields, Cam
Dursley Town Girls FC (4)	u12, u14, u16	u10	War Memorial ground, Dursley
Eastcombe Youth (1)	U13		Eastcombe Scout Hut
Ebley Youth (1)	U16		Victory Park, Stroud
Forest Green Rovers FC (8)	U11, u12, u13, u14, u15, u16	U9, u10	Cirencester College (outside area)
Frampton Youth FC (11)	U11, 2 x u12, u13, u14, u16	U7, u8, u9, 2 x u10	Reg Davies Memorial Field, Frampton
GVR Chalford Youth FC (8)	2 x u11, u13, u15, 16	U8, 2 x u10	Chalford Hill primary school with any overflow if required for u15 and u16 on adjacent Chalford Sports & Social Club ground

<b>Name of club (total teams)</b>	<b>Junior</b>	<b>Mini</b>	<b>Ground</b>
Kings Stanley Youth FC (1)	U16		King Stanley Playing Field
Leonard Stanley Youth FC (8)	U11, u12, u13,	U6, u7, u8, u9, u10	Leonard Stanley Playing Field
Randwick Wasps (5)	U11, u13	U7, u9, u10	Jubilee Playing Fields, Randwick (Chapel Fields)
Sevenside Nuclear Jnrs (4)	U11, u13	U8, u10	Hamfields Leisure Centre
Slimbridge Youth (3)	U13, u16	U9	Slimbridge Recreation Ground
Stonehouse Town Youth (5)	U12, u14	U8, u9, u10	Oldend Lane, Stonehouse
Upton St Leonards Youth FC (1)	U14		Upton St Leonards Playing Field

3.33 In addition:

- Shortwood Youth – Meadowbank Ground – u14 with their u12 playing outside the area at Sir William Romleys School, Tetbury (OA)
- Stroud Town Youth play at two sites in Stroud – u13s at Marling School and u7 at Queen Elizabeth II Field
- Wotton Rovers play their 2 x u16s at Synwell Playing Fields and all their other teams at Wotton Sports Centre 2 x u8, u9, 2 x u10, 3 x u11, 2 x u12, u12G, 2 x u13, u14, u14G, u15

3.34 But 4 clubs are spread across 3 or more venues, as set out in Table 3.10 below:

- Cotswold Rangers Youth FC – 9 teams across 3 venues:
- Hardwicke Rangers Youth FC - 16 teams across 4 venues
- Minchinhampton Rangers Youth FC - 15 teams across 5 venues
- Rodborough Youth – 19 teams across 6 venues

Table 3.10: Youth football clubs whose teams play across multiple pitches

	Park Jnr School, Sonehouse	Whitminster Playing Fields	Eastington Playing Fields	Fieldcourt Junior School, Quedgeley (OA)	Hardwicke Parochial Primary School	Hardwocke Village Hall Playing Fields	Rob Dawe Memorial Close	Stuart Playing Field, Minchinhampton	Minchinhampton primary Academy	Stratford Court Playing Fields	Marling School	Cirenceter Park Polo Club, aston Down	Severn View Academy Primary School, Stroud	Archway School	Bownham Park	Whiteshill & Ruscombe Playing Fields	Butterow West
<b>Cotswold Rangers Youth FC (9)</b>	u12	u7, u8, u11 & u13	u9, 3 x u10s,														
<b>Hardwicke Rangers Youth FC (16)</b>				2 x u11, u12	2 x u9, u11, u12	u8, u9, 2 x u10	u12, 2 x u13, u15, u16										
<b>Minchinhampton Rangers Youth FC (15)</b>							u6, u7, 2 x u8, 2 x u11	2 x u9, 2 x u10	2 x u12	u13, u14	u16						
<b>Rodborough Youth (18)</b>									u7, u8, u9, u10G, 2 x u12, u12G, u14			2 x u10, 2 x u11	U18s	2 x u13, u15	u15	u16, u16G	

3.35 This undoubtedly causes problems for the clubs, in particular as shown in Table below.

**Table 3.11: Restrictive factors preventing clubs from expanding their activities**

<b>Club</b>	<b>Factors restricting club's development</b>
Cotswold Rangers Youth FC	Over use of pitches and fixture clashes means that matches and training frequently need to be re arranged.
Hardwicke Rangers Youth FC	We have to rely on local schools for use of 9v9 pitches for ages U11 and U12, the pitches we use are not full size but we have no capacity to have these pitches on our home grounds.
Minchinhampton Rangers Youth FC	Insufficient grass pitches to accommodate all of our desired teams. This has caused some age groups to reduce from two teams to one.
Rodborough Youth FC	As our club grows the training facilities are limited in Stroud, so are the pitches for matches.
Stroud Town Youth FC	We share Marling pitch with Minchinhampton FC so it is used every week as well as by Marling School in the week. This causes overuse and deterioration in the winter months, Lack of floodlit grass or 3G pitches means training is limited.

## **PATTERN OF PLAY AND ASSESSMENT OF CAPACITY**

### **PATTERN OF PLAY**

#### **Matchplay**

3.36 In assessing whether there is sufficient capacity to accommodate footballing activity at existing playing fields, it is necessary to understand the pattern of play and the training that takes place. The pattern of play across Stroud is shown below.

**Table 3.12: Pattern of play for football in Stroud**

	<b>Sat am</b>	<b>Sat pm</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>Midweek</b>	<b>Total number of teams</b>
<b>Senior Football</b>		<b>68 (87%)</b>	<b>8 (10%)</b>	<b>2 (3%)</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Ladies</b>			<b>3 (100%)</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>Youth</b>	<b>55 (60%)</b>		<b>37 (40%)</b>		<b>92</b>
<b>Minis</b>	<b>61 (97%)</b>		<b>2 (3%)</b>		<b>63</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>116 (49%)</b>	<b>68 (29%)</b>	<b>50 (21%)</b>	<b>2 (1%)</b>	<b>236</b>

### **CAPACITY**

3.37 Supply and demand is measured through the use of match equivalents to ensure that a comparison is possible. Both the adequacy of pitch provision to meet demand over the course of a week; and the capacity of a pitch to meet demand at peak time are measured. To measure demand, a team playing home fixtures every other week would generate the equivalent of 0.5 match equivalents per week (one fixture every other

week). Match equivalent values are also used to measure the use of pitches by educational establishments and the impact of casual access and training.

**Peak Time Demand**

3.38 The ability of a pitch to accommodate demand at peak time is as important as the overall capacity of the site over a week. The local leagues currently have specific kick off times and it is important that there are enough pitches available when teams are scheduled to play.

3.39 Based on the information presented in Table 3.7 above, peak time in football is as follows:

- Senior Football                      Saturday afternoon
- Youth football                         Saturday morning
- Mini football                           Saturday morning (almost all)

3.40 It should be noted that pitches can only be considered to have spare capacity at peak time when they are not already utilised to their full capacity over the course of a week. An adult pitch that is not used on a Saturday afternoon (district wide peak time), but is used three times per week at other times (Sunday morning, Sunday afternoon and midweek for example) would not be considered able to sustain additional play at peak time, even though no one would be using the facility then, as this would be detrimental to the quality of the pitch.

**Capacity scores**

3.41 FA guidelines on playing pitch capacity are used to measure supply – pitch capacity is based upon the quality of the pitch and the consequential number of matches that it can sustain per week. The assumptions used are set out in the Table below. This means that a ‘good’ adult football pitch can sustain the equivalent of 3 matches a week; a ‘standard’ mini pitch can sustain the equivalent of 4 mini soccer matches a week.

**Table 3.13: Capacity Scores based upon Pitch Quality**

Agreed pitch quality rating	Number of match equivalent sessions a week		
	Adult football pitch	Youth football pitch	Mini soccer pitch
<b>Good</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Standard</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Poor</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

**Situation at Individual Sites**

3.42 Table 3.14 below presents an analysis of activity on a site specific basis and considers;

- the amount of play that a site is able to sustain (based upon its quality and the facilities and pitches available);
- how much play takes place at each site, as well as the impact of educational and informal or casual use;
- whether there is any spare capacity at the site based upon a comparison between the capacity of the site and the actual usage; and



- the key issues relating to the site.
- Further information to support this table is contained within the individual Site Overviews and in Appendix 1E.

3.43 The Sport England Playing Pitch methodology has 3 pre-determined descriptions for the assessment of capacity at pitch sport sites (with abbreviations in table below):

- Potentially able to sustain more play Potential
- Being played to the level the site can sustain Sustainable
- Being overplayed Overplayed
- We have added an additional category - Potentially able to sustain more play outside peak times Potential outside peak times

Table 3.14: Capacity at Football Pitch Sites in Stroud

3.14A Berkeley Cluster

Table 3.14A Berkeley Site Ref	Site Name	Comm. Use Type	Pitch Type	No. of pitches	Current Carrying Capacity for Community Use	Current Use	Difference	Extent of any spare capacity for community use during the peak period	Summary of Capacity
SDBE.08	Hamfields Leisure Centre	A	Adult	1	3	1	2	0	Potential outside peak time
SDBE.71	Sharpness Recreation Ground	A	Adult	1	2	0.5	1.5	0.5	Potential
SDBE.29	Slimbridge Recreation Ground	A	Adult	1	3	2	1	0	Potential outside peak time
SDBE.72	Station Road, Berkeley	A	Adult	1	3	1	2	0	Potential outside peak time
SDBE.77	Thornhill Park (Slimbridge AFC)	A	Adult	1	3	1.5	1.5	0.5	Potential
			<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	
SDBE.08	Hamfields Leisure Centre	A	Junior	1	2	1	1	0.5	Potential
			<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.5</b>	
SDBE.08	Hamfields Leisure Centre	A	Mini	2	8	1	7	7	Potential
SDBE.29	Slimbridge Recreation Ground	A	Mini	1	6	0.5	5.5	3	Potential
			<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>10</b>	

3.42 Berkeley Cluster – Commentary on Capacity

- 5 adult pitches on 5 separate sites in Berkeley; all rated good apart from Sharpness Recreation ground (standard).
- All grounds have some spare capacity but only 2 have spare capacity at peak time (Saturday afternoon) – one spare slot at Sharpness Recreation Ground and one spare slot at Slimbridge AFC. However, there are no changing facilities at Sharpness Recreation Ground which restricts its capacity.

- There is a junior pitch at Hamfields Leisure Centre, used by Severnside Nuclear Juniors, which has some spare capacity.
- Considerable spare capacity on the mini pitches at Hamfields Leisure Centre and Slimbridge Recreation Ground.

### 3.14B Cam/Dursley Cluster

Table 3.14B Cam/ Dursley Site Ref	Site Name	Comm. Use Type	Pitch Type	No. of pitches	Current Carrying Capacity for Community Use	Current Use	Difference	Extent of any spare capacity for community use during the peak period	Summary of Capacity
SDCD.07	Everlands Ground	A	Adult	1	3	1	2	0	Potential outside peak time
SDCD.61	Jubilee Playing Fields (Cam)	A	Adult	1	2	1.5	0.5	0.5	Potential
SDCD.11	King George V Playing Fields, Nympsfield	A	Adult	1	2	1	1	0	Potential outside peak time
SDCD.42	Rednock School	B	Adult	1					No demand expressed; not used
SDCD.39	Uley Playing Fields (Shadwell Playing Fields)	A	Adult	1	2	1	1	0	Potential outside peak time
SDCD.80	War Memorial Recreation Ground	A	Adult	2	4	3	1	1	Potential
			<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	
SDCD.61	Jubilee Playing Fields (Cam)	A	Junior	2	4	4	0	0	Sustainable
SDCD.80	War Memorial Recreation Ground	A	Junior	1	2	1.5	0.5	0	Sustainable
			<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0</b>	
SDCD.61	Jubilee Playing Fields (Cam)	A	Mini	3	12	4	8	4	Potential
			<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	

**3.43 Cam/Dursley Cluster – Commentary on Capacity**

- 7 adult pitches on 6 sites in Cam/Dursley; 1 not used on Rednock school site and not further included in calculations as uncertain as to whether could be available.
- Of the 6 remaining pitches, all rated standard apart from Everlands Ground (rated good). Whilst all pitches have capacity to accommodate some additional play, the only pitch with spare capacity (one slot) at peak time on a Saturday afternoon is the adult pitch at Jubilee Playing Fields.
- The junior pitches at Jubilee Playing Fields Cam are essentially fully used as is the 9v9 pitch at the War Memorial Ground in Dursley. There is some spare capacity at the mini pitches at Jubilee Playing fields,

**3.14C Cotswold Fringe**

3.14C Cotswold Fringe Site Ref	Site Name	Comm. Use Type	Pitch Type	No. of pitches	Current Carrying Capacity for Community Use	Current Use	Difference	Extent of any spare capacity for community use during the peak period	Summary of Capacity
SDCF.12	King George V Playing Fields, Bisley	B	Adult	1	2	0.5	1.5	0.5	Potential
SDCF.23	Painswick Recreation Ground	A	Adult	1	2	1	1	0.5	Potential
	<b>Total</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>1</b>	

**3.44 Cotswold Fringe Cluster – Commentary on Capacity**

- Just two adult pitches recorded here, both rated standard and both able to accommodate additional play. 2 spare slots at peak time (Saturday afternoon)

3.14D Gloucester Fringe

3.14D Glos Fringe Site Ref	Site Name	Comm. Use Type	Pitch Type	No. of pitches	Current Carrying Capacity for Community Use	Current Use	Difference	Extent of any spare capacity for community use during the peak period	Summary of Capacity
SDGF.09	Hardwicke Village Hall Playing Fields	A	Adult	1	2	2	0	0	Sustainable
SDGF.69	Rob Dawe Memorial Close	A	Adult	1	2	2	0	0	Sustainable
SDGF.38	Upton Recreation Ground	A	Adult	1	2	1.5	0.5	0	Potential outside peak time
			<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0</b>	
SDGF.58	Hardwicke Primary Academy	A	Junior	1	2	2	0	0	Sustainable
SDGF.69	Rob Dawe Memorial Close	A	Junior	1	2	1.5	0.5	0	Potential outside peak time
			<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0</b>	
SDGF.58	Hardwicke Primary Academy	A	Mini	1	4	3.5	0.5	0	Potential outside peak time
SDGF.09	Hardwicke Village Hall Playing Fields	A	Mini	2	8	2	6	6	Potential outside peak time
			<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>6</b>	

3.45 Gloucester Fringe Cluster – Commentary on Capacity

- 3 adult pitches on 3 sites all rated as standard.
- Upton Recreation Ground has some spare capacity outside of peak times but the adult pitches at Hardwicke Village Hall and Rob Dawe Memorial Close are fully used with no spare capacity.
- There are 2 junior pitches recorded, with only minimal spare capacity on the one at Rob Dawe Memorial Close.
- There is a little spare capacity at the mini pitch at Hardwicke Primary School and more on the two mini pitches at Hardwicke Village Hall Playing Fields.

3.14E Severn Vale

£.14E Severn Vale Site Ref	Site Name	Comm. Use Type	Pitch Type	No. of pitches	Current Carrying Capacity for Community Use	Current Use	Difference	Extent of any spare capacity for community use during the peak period	Summary of Capacity
SDSE.49	Bellfield, Frampton	A	Adult	1	3	1	2	0	Potential outside peak time
SDSE.68	Reg Davis Memorial Football Field	A	Adult	1	2	1.5	0.5	0.5	Potential
SDSE.40	Whitminster Pavilion	A	Adult	1	3	2.5	1	0	Potential outside peak time
			<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>0.5</b>	
SDSE.68	Reg Davis Memorial Football Field	A	Junior	2	4	3.5	0.5	0.5	Potential
			<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	
SDSE.68	Reg Davis Memorial Football Field	A	Mini	3	12	4	8	4	Potential
SDSE.40	Whitminster Pavilion	A	Mini	1	4	2.0	2.0	1	Potential
			<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	

3.46 Severn Vale Cluster – Commentary on Capacity

- 3 adult pitches on 3 sites; 2 rated good (Bellfield and Whitminster Pavilion; Reg Davis Memorial Field adult pitch rated as standard). All can accommodate some additional play but only Reg Davies Memorial Field has a spare slot at peak time on Saturday afternoons.
- The junior pitch could accommodate additional play including one team at peak time. The 4 mini pitches (3 at Reg Davies Memorial Field and 1 at Whitminster) all have spare capacity.

**3.14F Stonehouse Cluster**

3.14F Stone-House Site Ref	Site Name	Comm. Use Type	Pitch Type	No. of pitches	Current Carrying Capacity for Community Use	Current Use	Difference	Extent of any spare capacity for community use during the peak period	Summary of Capacity
SDST.13	Kings Stanley Playing Fields	A	Adult	1	2	1.5	0.5	0	Potential outside peak time
SDST.15	Leonard Stanley Playing Field	A	Adult	1	2	1.5	0.5	0	Potential outside peak time
SDST.43	Maidenhill School	B	Adult	2					Potential
SDST.66	Oldends Lane - stadium pitch	A	Adult	1	3	1	2	0	Potential outside peak time
SDST.66	Oldends Lane Playing Field	A	Adult	2	4	3	4	1	Potential
SDST.22	Owen Harris Memorial Ground	A	Adult	2	6	3.5	2.5	0.5	Potential
SDST.31	St Peters Field, Frocester	B	Adult	1	2	0	2	1	Potential
			<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	
SDST.15	Leonard Stanley Playing Field	A	Junior	1	2	1.5	0.5	0	Potential outside peak time
SDST.66	Oldends Lane Playing Field	A	Junior	1	4	1	3	0	Potential outside peak time
			<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>0</b>	
SDST.15	Leonard Stanley Playing Field	A	Mini	3	14	2	12	4	Potential
SDST.66	Oldends Lane Playing Field	A	Mini	2	8	1.5	6.5	4	Potential
SDST.85	Park Junior School	A	Mini	2	8	4.5	3.5	2	Potential
SDST.84	Eastington Primary School		Mini	2	8	4	4	2	
			<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>12</b>	

**3.47 Stonehouse Cluster – Commentary on Capacity**

- 10 adult pitches recorded on 7 sites. The 2 adult pitches at Maidenhill School do not have any recorded community use but could potentially be available for overflow matches, but have been excluded from the calculations as a regular home ground.

- All pitches recorded as standard apart from the stadium pitch at Oldends Lane (rated as good) and pitches at Owen Harris Memorial Ground. All pitches able to accommodate additional play, but Kings Stanley Playing Fields, Leonard Stanley Playing Fields and Oldends Lane Stadium pitch have no spare capacity at peak time. There is room for another 5 adult Saturday sides in this cluster: at Oldends Lane (2), the Owen Harris Memorial Ground (1) and St Peter’s Frocester (which has an adult pitch which is currently unused).
- Two junior pitches are recorded, - one rated standard (Leonard Stanley) and one as good (Oldends Lane). Both could accommodate additional use but neither at peak time.
- There is spare capacity at the 3 sites which have 7 mini pitches between them.

**3.14G Stroud Valleys**

3.14G Stroud Valleys Site Ref	Site Name	Comm. Use Type	Pitch Type	No. of pitches	Current Carrying Capacity for Community Use	Current Use	Difference	Extent of any spare capacity for community use during the peak period	Summary of Capacity
SDSV.01	Archway School	A	Adult	1	2	2	0	0	Sustainable
SDSV.02	Beaudesert Park School	C	Adult	1					
SDSV.51	Butterow West	A	Adult	1	2	1	1	0.5	Potential
SDSV.52	Cashes Green	A	Adult	1	2	1.5	0.5	0	
SDSV.53	Chalford Hill Primary School	A	Adult	1	3	3.0	0.0	0.0	Sustainable
SDSV.03	Chalford Sports and Social Club (Highfield Sports Ground)	A	Adult	2	5	3	2	0.5	Potential
SDSV.54	Cirencester Park Polo Club (Aston Down)	A	Adult	1	2	1	1	1	Potential
SDSV.06	Eastcombe Playing Field	A	Adult	1	2	1.5	0.5	0	Potential outside peak time
SDSV.56	Eastcombe Scout Hut Pitch	A	Adult	1	2	1	1	1	Potential



**Stroud Playing Pitch Strategy Stage C Needs Assessment Report/Final/Section 3/Football**

3.14G Stroud Valleys Site Ref	Site Name	Comm. Use Type	Pitch Type	No. of pitches	Current Carrying Capacity for Community Use	Current Use	Difference	Extent of any spare capacity for community use during the peak period	Summary of Capacity
SDSV.60	Horsley Playing Field	A	Adult	1	2	1.5	0.5	0	Potential outside peak time
SDSV.10	Jubilee Fields Randwick (Chapel Fields)	A	Adult	1	2	1	1	0	Potential outside peak time
SDSV.62	King George V Playing Fields, Nailsworth	A	Adult	1	2	0.5	1.5	0.5	Potential
SDSV.63	Mason Road Recreation Ground	A	Adult	1	2	1	1	0	Potential outside peak time
SDSV.64	Meadowbank Ground	A	Adult	1	3	1	2	0.5	Potential
SDSV.65	Nailsworth CofE Primary School	C	Adult	1					
SDSV.33	Stratford Court Playing Fields	A	Adult	1	2	2.0	0	0	Sustainable
SDSV.46	Stroud High School	B	Adult	2					
SDSV.35	Stuart Playing Field	A	Adult	1	3	1	2	0	Potential outside peak time
SDSV.75	The Meadow	A	Adult	1	3	1.5	1.5	0	Potential outside peak time
SDSV.76	The New Lawn	C	Adult	1					Not available
SDSV.44	Thomas Keble School	B	Adult	2					Potential
SDSV.79	Victory Park	A	Adult	1	2	1.5	0.5	0.5	Potential
SDSV.81	Whiteshill & Ruscombe Playing Fields	A	Adult	1	2	0.5	1.5	1	Potential
SDSV.82	Woodchester FC (Villa Park)	A	Adult	1	2	0.5	1.5	0.5	Potential
			<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>6.0</b>	
SDSV.01	Archway School	A	Junior	1	2	2	0	0	Sustainable
SDSV.87	Bownham Park	A	Junior	1	2	1.5	0.5	0	
SDSV.10	Jubilee Fields Randwick (Chapel Fields)	A	Junior	1	2	1.5	0.5	0	Potential outside peak time

3.14G Stroud Valleys Site Ref	Site Name	Comm. Use Type	Pitch Type	No. of pitches	Current Carrying Capacity for Community Use	Current Use	Difference	Extent of any spare capacity for community use during the peak period	Summary of Capacity
SDSV.16	Marling School	A	Junior	1	2	2	0	0	Sustainable
SDSV.33	Stratford Court Playing Fields	A	Junior	1	2	2.5	-0.5	0	Being overplayed
SDSV.35	Stuart Playing Field	A	Junior	1	4	0.5	3.5	0.5	Potential
			<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>0.5</b>	
SDSV.53	Chalford Hill Primary School	A	Mini	1	6	4	2	0.5	Potential
SDSV.03	Chalford Sports and Social Club (Highfield Sports Ground)	A	Mini	1	6	1	5	4	Potential
SDSV.10	Jubilee Fields Randwick (Chapel Fields)	A	Mini	1	4	2.5	1.5	0	Potential outside peak time
SDSV.83	Minchinhampton Primary Academy	A	Mini	2	8	5	3	2	Potential
SDSV.67	Queen Elizabeth II Field	A	Mini	1	4	1	3	2	Potential
SDSV.86	Severn View Academy Primary School	A	Mini	2	8	5	3	2	Potential
SDSV.33	Stratford Court Playing Fields	A	Mini	3	12	2.5	9.5	4	Potential
SDSV.35	Stuart Playing Field	A	Mini	2	12	2	10	4	Potential
			<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>18.5</b>	

3.48 *Stroud Valleys Cluster – Commentary on Capacity*

- 27 adult pitches are recorded on 24 sites. 8 are on 6 school sites as follows:
  - Archway School – 1

- Beaudesert Park School - 1
  - Chalford Hill Primary School - 1
  - Nailsworth CofE Primary School - 1
  - Stroud High School - 2
  - Thomas Keble School - 2
- 
- The pitches at Archway School and Chalford Hill Primary School have community use; Chalford Hill has a little spare capacity. The other school pitches have no community use and it is not clear whether they could accommodate regular community use, so they have not been included in the totals. New Lawn, the home of Forest Green Rovers FC only accommodates the professional club team so likewise is not included in the totals for community use.
  - There is spare capacity at peak time across the 21 adult pitches which are available for community use and used. Out of a potential of 45 slots, 26 are in use, leaving 19 slots spare throughout the week. There are 6 slots spare at peak times, able to accommodate 12 teams. 6 teams could currently be accommodated at the following 6 grounds (one team each); Butterow West ; Chalford Sports and Social Club; King George V Playing Fields, Nailsworth; Meadowbank Ground; Victory Park and Woodchester FC (Villa Park). However Victory Park will be back to hosting Rodborough and Cainscross FC next year once the changing rooms are completed. Shortwood FC may prefer to maintain their pitch for their senior side and one youth team only (Meadowbank)
  - Three grounds have 2 spare slots on Saturdays because, although they are adult pitches, the teams they currently accommodate are junior teams playing either on Saturday mornings or Sundays. This applies to the Eastcombe Scout Hut pitch, Cirencester Polo Park (although there is no changing and Whiteshill and Ruscombe, although the latter two grounds have no changing facilities
  - There is an interesting distribution of single site adult pitches in Stroud town, the development of which appears allied to interwar housing estates along ridge or valley lines. Discounting the schools there are 5 adult pitches on 5 sites: Butterow West; Mason Road Recreation Ground; Cashes Green; Victory Park, Whiteshill and Ruscombe, Villa Park and Stratford Court (the only site with more than one pitch).. Cashes Green, Mason Road and Stratford Court are full at peak times; and Victory Park only has a spare slot at the moment because Rodborough and Cainscross Old Boys FC are playing away whilst the new changing rooms are constructed. There is a spare slot at Butterow West and at Villa Park and 2 spare slots at Whiteshill and Ruscombe. Once Rodborough & Cainscross returns to Victory Park this will free up a slot at Stratford Court..
  - However, the large majority of clubs we spoke to in Stroud were unhappy about the lack of good quality provision in the town and wider area as per the following
    - Butterow West – minimum adult size
    - Cashes Green – sloping pitch, no changing
    - Jubilee Fields, Randwick – sloping site

- Mason Road – not large enough for next step of league, changing inadequate and unsuitable
  - Whiteshill & Ruscombe – no changing, very steep access
  - Victory Park: pitch too small for Northern Senior league
  - Villa Park (Woodchester FC) : Issues around difficulties for club in maintaining ground; Poor access and changing facilities. .
  - Bownham Park and Queen Elizabeth II Fields – just single junior or mini pitch sites – no changing.
  - King George V Bisley – poor quality pitch
- 
- Other issues concern the lack of any capacity or room for growth for youth teams. There are youth pitches in use at Bownham Park; Jubilee Fields Randwick (Chapel Fields); Marling School; Stratford Court Playing Fields, and Stuart Playing Field, Minchinhampton – just 5 sites, all fully used (the junior pitch at Archway school does not have regular community use at present although the adult pitch does). The Stratford Court junior pitch is overplayed. There is no spare capacity at any of the junior pitches at peak time, except possibly at Stuart Playing Fields in Minchinhampton.
- 
- Assessing usage and capacity for mini teams is not as straightforward as for adult and older age group junior teams. The length of matches depends on the age group; often matches are friendly or training sessions; many games are played consecutively – up to 4 in a row on a Saturday morning, depending on age groups. Also depends on quality of the pitch – standard rated mini pitch can accommodate 4 match equivalent sessions a week and a good pitch can accommodate, 6. There is clearly spare capacity for mini teams, but those youth football clubs running many mini sides may still find it difficult to accommodate them. The 18 or so spare slots are spread over 8 grounds in Stroud town. Mini pitches at Jubilee Fields Randwick are full and the nominal spare capacity at Severn View and Minchinhampton Primary schools may well be negated by school use. There is a little spare capacity at Stratford Court (where mini pitches are overmarked on junior pitches), at Chalford Sports & Social Club and Stuart Playing Fields, Minchinhampton.

**3.14H Wotton Cluster**

3.14H Wotton Site Ref	Site Name	Comm. Use Type	Pitch Type	No. of pitches	Current Carrying Capacity for Community Use	Current Use	Difference	Extent of any spare capacity for community use during the peak period	Summary of Capacity
SDWO.14	Kingswood Playing Fields	A	Adult	1	2	0.5	1.5	0.5	Potential
SDWO.19	North Nibley Jubilee Playing Fields	A	Adult	1	3	1.0	2.0	0.5	Potential
SDWO.73	Synwell Playing Fields	A	Adult	1	2	2	0	0	Sustainable
SDWO.45	Wotton Sports Centre	A	Adult	2	4	4	0	0	Potential outside peak time
			<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>1</b>	
SDWO.45	Wotton Sports Centre	A	Junior	2	4	4	0	0	Potential outside peak time
SDWO.19	North Nibley Jubilee Playing Fields	A	Mini	1	4	2	2	2	Potential

*3.49 Wotton Cluster – Commentary on Capacity*

- 5 adult pitches on 4 sites all rated as standard apart from a good pitch at North Nibley Jubilee Fields.
- Pitches in Wotton are fully used but there a little spare capacity for Saturday play at Kingswood and North Nibley Playing Fields
- Junior pitch at Wotton Sports Centre is fully used; a little spare capacity on the mini pitch at North Nibley.

Summary of Spare Capacity by Type of Pitch

Table 3.15: Summary of Capacity for football in Stroud by Sub Area

ADULT PITCHES		Match equivalents			
Sub Area	Number	Current Carrying Capacity for Community Use	Current Community Use	Difference	Extent of any spare capacity for community use during the peak period
Berkeley	5	14	6	8	1
Cam/Dursley	7	13	7.5	5.5	0.5
Cotswold Fringe	2	4	1.5	2.5	1
Gloucester Fringe	3	6	5.5	0.5	0
Severn Vale	3	8	5.0	3.0	0.5
Stonehouse	10	19	9	10	2
Stroud Valleys	27	45	26	19	6
Wotton	5	11	7.5	3.5	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>12</b>

JUNIOR		Match equivalents			
Sub Area	Number	Current Carrying Capacity for Community Use	Current Community Use	Difference	Extent of any spare capacity for community use during the peak period
Berkeley	1	2	1	1	0.5
Cam/Dursley	3	6	5.5	0.5	0
Cotswold Fringe					
Gloucester Fringe	2	4	3.5	0.5	0
Severn Vale	2	4	3.5	0.5	0.5
Stonehouse	2	6	2.5	3.5	0
Stroud Valleys	6	14	10	4.0	0.5
Wotton	2	4	4	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1.5</b>

MINI PITCHES		Match equivalents			
Sub Area	Number	Current Carrying Capacity for Community Use	Current Community Use	Difference	Extent of any spare capacity for community use during the peak period
Berkeley	3	14	1.5	12.5	10
Cam/Dursley	3	12	4	8	4
Cotswold Fringe					
Gloucester Fringe	3	12	5.5	6.5	6
Severn Vale	4	16	6	10	5
Stonehouse	7	38	12	26	12

<b>Stroud Valleys</b>	13	60	23	37	18.5
<b>Wotton</b>	1	4	2	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>57.5</b>

**Other Factors to take into account in consideration of capacity**

3.50 There are a number of other factors to take into account in a discussion of capacity

*Preferred Pitches*

3.51 Most clubs are playing on their preferred pitches, with the following comments:

- Rodborough and Cainscross playing on other sites whilst changing rooms being completed at Victory Park
- Rodborough Youth – would like to play more games at Stratford Court
- Minchinhampton Rangers – no ground big enough to accommodate all age groups
- Randwick FC – love location but would like level playing field for juniors to play on
- Taverners FC – Nailsworth club and trying to keep links with town but 1<sup>st</sup> team plays at Owen Harris Memorial ground to meet league requirements
- Wotton Rovers – ideally all games to be played at the community park with some at Synwell.
- Cotswold Rangers – simply a district wide Stroud based club but would like ability for all teams to play at same site.

*Spare room*

3.52 Pitches can be fitted in at existing sites – see future situation below

*Junior Football Pitch Sizes*

3.53 National pitch sizes for mini soccer, 9v9, youth football and adult football are as follows:

**Table 3.15: FA recommended pitch sizes**

Age	Type	Length x width (m)		Maximum size of goalposts	
				Height (feet)	width (feet)
Mini soccer U7/U8	5v5	37	27	12	6
Mini soccer U9/U10	7v7	55	37	12	6
Youth U11/U12	9v9	73	46	21	7
Youth U13/U14	11v11	82	50	24	8
Youth U15/U16	11v11	91	55	24	8

Youth u17/U18	11v11	100	64	24	8
Over 18 (senior ages)	11v11	100	64	24	8

- 3.54 Most junior teams are playing on appropriate size pitches. The most notable exception is that several u16s playing on adult pitches (e.g. Kings Stanley Playing Fields; Shortwood FC Youth u14s; Synwell Playing Fields – u15 & u16, Whitminster u13s). However, despite the fact that technically, these teams are playing on the wrong size pitches, this was not highlighted in any way as an issue.
- 3.55 Generally u12s and u11s are playing on 9v9 pitches and again this has not emerged as a problem, although 9v9 pitches do sometimes have to be over marked on adult pitches or large youth pitches e.g. at Chalford Primary School, Whitminster Playing Fields and Jubilee Playing Field, Cam.
- 3.56 Mini pitches are over marked on junior pitches at a few sites: Chalford Primary School, Jubilee Playing Fields, Cam and Stratford Court (which at first sight on the latter site looks confusing, but appears to work).

### Details of Training

- 3.57 Football teams train on a variety of surfaces, on their pitches, on grass areas alongside (either floodlit or not) and artificial surfaces, sand based and 3G. The picture is very mixed and we have sought to use information from clubs and booking records of AGPs etc to put it together.
- 3.58 All the clubs responding in the survey said that their teams train regularly, during the week. The general tendency is for a club to train at its home ground during the lighter evenings and use a sports hall or artificial surface through the winter. Where clubs actually train on their pitch, as opposed to training areas elsewhere on the ground, this has been taken into account in the assessment of capacity.
- 3.59 The following table shows the artificial surfaces used by clubs for winter training for which information is available. Usage of indoor facilities (other than the small AGPs at Inside Football is minimal).

**Table 3.16: Off site training venues for Stroud Clubs**

	Rednock	Stratford	Wotton 3G	Wotton Sand	Wycliffe	Inside Football
ABB FC		X				
Berkeley Town FC	X					
Bridgeway FC	X					
Brimcombe Thrupp						X
Cam Bulldogs FC	X					
Cam Everside	X					
Cashes Green AFC		X				
Chalford FC		X				
Charfield Jns (OOA)				X		
Cotswold Rangers FC		X				
Cotswold Rangers Youth FC						X



	<b>Rednock</b>	<b>Stratford</b>	<b>Wotton 3G</b>	<b>Wotton Sand</b>	<b>Wycliffe</b>	<b>Inside Football</b>
Dursley RFC	X					
Dursley Town FC for Girls	X					
Eastcombe FC		X				
Eastcombe Youth						X
Ebley Youth FC		X				
Forest Green Ladies	X					
Frampton Youth FC	X				X	
Glos School FA	X					
Horsley Utd						X
Kingswood AFC			X			
King Stanley FC	X					X
King Stanley Youth FC						X
Leonard Stanley FC						X
Minchinhampton U14s		X				
North Nibley FC			X			
Painswick FC		X				
Randwick FC	X					
Randwick Wasps		X				
Rodborough & Cainscross Old Boys					X	
Rodborough Youth					X	X
Severn Valley Youth League	X					
Severnside Nuclear Junior FC	X					
Sharpness AFC	X					
Shortwood Utd FC	X					
Slimbridge Youth FC	X					
Stonehouse FC	X				X	
Stroud Utd		X				
Taverners FC						X
Uley FC	X					
Wickwar Youth FC (OA)				X		
Wotton Rovers			X			
Wotton Rovers Youth FC			X	X		
All Sorts Disability Football						X
Swindon Town FC Development Centre						X
	<b>18</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>

3.60 50 clubs in total appear to train on AGPs in the area: 18 or so at Rednock School, 10 at Stratford Leisure Centre, 4 on the smaller 3G FTP at Wotton Sports Centre, 3 on the sand based AGP at Wotton and 11 at Inside Football. Upton St Leonards FC trains outside the area on the 3G FTP at St Peter’s School, Tuffley in Gloucester. The very poor quality sand based pitch at Severn Vale School in Gloucester is used for training by Frampton Utd and Hardwicke Rangers – the latter club use it extensively on weekday evenings.

- 3.61 The section on Artificial Grass Pitches below explores the capacity of the AGPs in greater detail. It is noted that a substantial and growing number use – or would like to use – 3G artificial turf pitches.
- 3.62 Challenges in obtaining pitches for matchplay and training:
- Three clubs expressed difficulties in obtaining facilities for home matches: Cashes Green FC looked into 2nd pitch for reserve team but none available; Chalford Sports & Social Club – cricket overlap; Leonard Stanley when pitches become overly muddy; Minchinhampton – capacity issues when minis and juniors at home.
  - So there are pinchpoints at busy times and when pitches muddy.
  - However, many clubs mentioned problems in obtaining affordable 3G facilities for training at appropriate times. Many were playing at unsatisfactory times (e.g. 9-10pm). They mentioned how difficult it was to keep a slot – if it is lost it's very difficult to get it back!

### **3G FOOTBALL TURF PITCHES**

#### **Quantity, Quality and Accessibility**

- 3.63 During the last decade 3G FTPs have played an increasing role within the national game and they are regarded by the FA as the optimum facility for training by clubs. They also provide opportunities for casual, small sided football and in recent seasons have become more popular for competitive matches. This section discusses 3G football turf pitches as part of the analysis before a consideration of future provision, which covers both grass and football turf pitches.
- 3.64 The FA changed the standard code of rules regarding the use of 3G football turf pitches from the 2014/15 season. Provided a football turf pitch has been tested and appears on the FA Register (i.e. it is FA accredited) it will be allowed to be used for match play in all competitions outside the National League System (NLS) i.e. Step 7 and below including women's and youth football. The test is based on the British Standard for synthetic turf sports surfaces – BS EN 15330-1 and must be carried out by a recognized test house accredited by FIFA and/or having ISO 17025 accreditation by UKAS . The facility operator should commission and pay for the cost of this. Once the pitch has been tested and subsequently registered by the FA it must be retested every three years for grassroots football and every year for football in the National league system. This registration enables such pitches to be used to their maximum potential.
- 3.65 In order for league football matches to be played on 3G FTP surfaces, the pitch must also be large enough to meet the FA's and relevant league's requirements on pitch dimensions.
- 3.66 There are a variety of different surfaces of AGPs and their suitability for football is as follows:
- Long pile 3G with shock pad – suitable
  - Long pile 3G – preferred surface for football
  - Short pile 3G – acceptable surface for some competitive football and football training

- 3.67 Of particular relevance here is the use of sand-based AGPs for training by local football teams. Current relevant guidance produced by Sport England, in association with the NGBS 'Selecting the Right Surface for Hockey, Football, Rugby League suggests that such surfaces are suitable for modified forms of training/matches, but not for serious training and matches.<sup>1</sup> It would therefore be wrong to ignore this type of surface, given de facto use by local football clubs in Stroud of sand based facilities. However, they do not form part of the analysis in respect of determining the existing and future needs for serious training and matchplay later in this section.
- 3.68 The following table lists all known artificial grass pitches in Stroud and those recorded as being used by Study area teams in neighbouring districts. (The sand based pitches are considered further under hockey in Section 6). The overall pitch quality score (right hand column) gives the total of all the characteristics scored, using the template VQA (visual quality assessment) in Sport England's playing pitch strategy guidance. (A score of <=50 is a 'poor' rating; 51-79 points is a 'standard' rating and a score of 80+ is considered 'good').

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<sup>1</sup> 'Selecting the Right Surface for Hockey, Football, Rugby League and Rugby Union'. (Sport England 2010). See Appendix 1.

Table 3.16: Artificial Grass Pitches in Stroud

Ref No.	Name	Town	AGP type	Ownership/ Management Type	Lighting	AGP Length	AGP Width	Year built/ refurb	Secure Community Use	Overall Quality /Rating	Pitch Score	FA Register	3G
<b>Full size floodlit artificial grass pitches, currently with community use</b>													
SDCD.42	Rednock School	Dursley	Rubber crumb pile (3G)	Foundation School	Yes	104	63	2009	Yes	Good			
SDSV.91	Stratford Park Leisure Centre	Stroud	Sand Dressed	Local Authority	Yes	97	61	2011R	Yes	Good			
SDWO.45	Wotton Sports Centre	Wotton under Edge	Sand Dressed	Community Organisation	Yes	97	59	2013	Yes	Good			
SDST.41	Wycliffe College	Stonehouse	Sand Filled	Independent School	Yes	100	60	1999	No	Good			
<b>Other Provision (not full size)</b>													
SDWO.45	Wotton Sports Centre	Wotton under Edge	Rubber crumb pile (3G)	Community Organisation	Yes	59	40	2013	Yes	Good			
	Wycliffe College Prep.School	Stonehouse	Sand Filled	Independent School	No	80	40	n/a	No	Not assessed			
SDSV.103	Inside Football	Brimscombe Port Business Park, Stroud	Rubber crumb pile (3G)	Commercial	No	27	20	n/a	Yes	Good			
			As above	Commercial	No	27	20	n/a	Yes	Good			

**Stroud Playing Pitch Strategy Stage C Needs Assessment Report/Final/Section 3/Football**

Ref No.	Name	Town	AGP type	Ownership/ Management Type	Light- ing	AGP Lengt h	AGP Width	Year built/ refurb	Secure Community Use	Overall Quality /Rating	Pitch Score	FA Register	3G
			As above	Commercial	No	27	20	n/a	Yes	Good			
<b>SDSV.02</b>	Beaudesert Park School	Minchinhampton	Sand Filled	Independent School	Yes	70	35	2011R	No	Not rated;			
<b>Out of Area</b>													
Ref No.	Name	Town	AGP type	Ownership/ Management Type	Light- ing	AGP Lengt h	AGP Width	Year built/ refurb	Secure Community Use	Overall Quality /Rating	Pitch Score	FA Register	3G
	St Peter's High School	Tuffley, Gloucester	Sand dressed	Education (in house)	Yes	98	60	2003/ 2017	Yes	Not known			
	St Peter's High School	Tuffley, Gloucester	Rubber crumb pile (3G)	Education (in house)	Yes	101	62	2018	Yes	Good		Yes	
	Severn Vale School	Quedgeley, Gloucester	Sand Filled	Education (in house)	Yes	100	61	1994	Yes	Needs replacement			
	Waterwells Sports Centre	Quedgeley, Gloucester	Sand Filled	Local Authority	Yes	60	40	2009	Yes	Not known			

- 3.69 The key points with regard to the quantity and quality of artificial grass pitch provision in Stroud district are:
- There are 4 full size floodlit artificial grass pitches within Stroud District, currently with community use, all rated good. There are 3 sand based pitches – one at Wotton Sports Centre Community Parc (Community Trust), one at Stratford Park Leisure Centre (local authority) and one at Wycliffe College (which does not have secured community use and no community use at weekends). There is only one full size floodlit 3G FTP in the district and it has community use – this is the 3G FTP at Rednock School in Dursley.
  - The pitches at Wotton Sports Centre, Stratford Leisure Centre and Rednock School Dursley can be considered as having secure community use. However, the 3G FTP at Rednock School is not on the FA Register of 3G FTPs, so cannot host matchplay and in fact there are no regular teams playing matches there at weekends (the pitch is occasionally used to accommodate postponed matches)
  - Wycliffe College is an independent School and whilst the College is happy to accommodate community use on weekday evenings on its sand based pitch (and it seems likely that this will continue for the foreseeable future), this use is not secured. Moreover the pitch is not available at weekends, due to the needs of the College.
  - There is an undersize 3G FTP at Wotton Sports Centre which has secure community use. Other demand for football training is met by the 3 small indoor artificial grass pitches at Inside Football on the Brimscombe Industrial Estate in Stroud.
  - There is occasional use of AGPs to the south of the district but not enough to merit them being considered as forming part of the pattern of provision for Stroud teams. 3 clubs in the north Gloucester Fringe cluster, use of pitches at St Peter's High School and Severn Vale School.

### **ASSESSMENT OF USE AND CAPACITY FOR ARTIFICIAL TURF PITCHES**

- 3.70 The adequacy of AGPs in Stroud (both sand based and 3G FTPs) to accommodate demand for football, taking into account both training and competitive fixtures is an important issue. It is useful at this stage of the analysis to show the capacity and usage of all AGPs in Stroud as the sand based surfaces are used for football training and 5v5. Demand for hockey is considered specifically in Section 6.
- 3.71 Supply and demand has been measured on a site-specific basis according to the Sport England Playing Pitch Guidance which considers peak time capacity and usage by comparing: -
- The amount of play that a site is able to sustain, based upon the number of hours that the pitch is accessible to the community during peak periods (up to a maximum of 34 hours per week). Peak periods have been deemed to be Monday to Thursday 17.00 to 21.00; Friday 17.00 to 19.00 and Saturday and Sunday 9.00 to 17.00, although individual sites differ according to their own policy, planning restrictions etc
  - The amount of play that takes place (measured in hours) and
  - Whether there is any spare capacity at the site based upon a comparison between the capacity of the site and the actual usage.

- 3.72 Pitch bookings and conversations with pitch operators has been used to compile usage for AGPs. Whilst the analysis seeks to represent the regular weekly usage it is clear that there is significant variation in usage from season to season and even from week to week. The peak time capacity for AGPs is midweek evenings.
- 3.73 The following table presents the number of hours that each of the AGPs with community use are accessible to the community during peak periods and then an estimation of the number of hours during that time they are in use. Sport England defines the peak period as between 5pm and 9pm on weekday evenings (7-9pm on Fridays) and 9am – 5pm at weekends (thus 18 hours during the week and 16 hours at weekends)
- 3.74 It can be misleading in that often pitches on school sites are not available for community use til 6pm, whereas under the PPS methodology, peak time is deemed to be from 5pm, therefore they will not appear as fully used. The table also shows whether there is significant capacity either during the week or at weekends, together with accompanying notes on the breakdown between football and hockey use.

Table 3.19: Usage of AGPs in Stroud

	Name	AGP type	Estimated hrs available for community use during 'peak times'	Estimated community use (hours)	Significant availability on weekday evenings (8 hours +)?	Significant availability on weekends (8 hours +)?	Notes
SDCD.42	Rednock School	Full size floodlit 3G	14 hrs weekday eve (from 6 most nights)  In theory available at weekends	<u>Football Use</u> 13 hrs weekday eves + 1 vets Sun am 9v9	No	Yes	Used by 19 local football and rugby clubs. Maybe 1 spare 1/3 <sup>rd</sup> of pitch only during weekday evenings  Occasionally used for one-off matches at end of season but not currently approved by FA
SDSV.103	Inside Football	Indoor 3 small AGPs; each 27m x 20	18 hrs weekday eves; 16 hrs weekends	<u>Football use</u> 15 hrs weekday eves  12 hrs weekend min	No	No	Mainly football use, some rugby. No hockey. This facility is almost fully booked, with only the odd one third of a pitch free during weekday evenings and slot 8-9pm free on Friday evenings. Hosts 5v5 & training for variety of local clubs, individuals and groups plus In House 5 a side adult league on Friday eves.  Booked sessions on weekend mornings for 2 hours, and a variety of birthday parties and other events during the rest of the day
SDWO.45	Wotton Sports Centre	Undersized floodlit 3G : 59m x 40m	18hrs; 16 hrs	<u>Football</u> 16 hrs; Sat 3 hrs in am; Sunday mornings no Sunday	No	Yes	Football use  1 hr spare Wed & Thurs eves 5-6pm; Busy with youth football Saturday ams. Sat pms and Sunday usage very light



**Stroud Playing Pitch Strategy Stage C Needs Assessment Report/Final/Section 3/Football**

	Name	AGP type	Estimated hrs available for community use during 'peak times'	Estimated community use (hours)	Significant availability on weekday evenings (8 hours +)?	Significant availability on weekends (8 hours +)?	Notes
<b>SDSV.91</b>	<b>Stratford Park Leisure Centre</b>	Full size floodlit sand	18 hrs weekday eves; 14 hrs weekends	<u>Non hockey use:</u> 13 hrs weekday eves; 2 hrs weekends <u>Hockey use:</u> 3 hrs weekday evenings; 9.5 hrs weekends	No	No	Pitch is used solely by hockey 6-9pm Tues evenings and for 6.5 hours on Saturdays and up to 3 hrs on Sundays.  Weekday evenings are fully booked for football (with occasional 1/3 <sup>rd</sup> of pitch free Mon- Thurs) and whole pitch free for 1 hr Friday evens (8pm – 9pm)
<b>SDWO.45</b>	<b>Wotton Sports Centre</b>	Full size floodlit sand	18 hrs weekday eves; 14 hrs weekends	<u>Non hockey use:</u> 3 hrs weekday eves; 2 hrs weekend eves <u>Hockey Use</u> 11.5 hrs weekday eves; 9 hrs Sat; 3 hrs Sun plus tournaments 1x month	No	No	No spare capacity weekday evenings, other than the 5-6pm slot and half a pitch 6-7pm on Mon, Tues & Fri, and Friday night 1 hr  Saturdays fully booked with regular hockey matches and average of 3hrs Sundays plus monthly Sunday tournaments
<b>SDST.41</b>	<b>Wycliffe College</b>	Full size floodlit sand	12.5 hrs weekdays; Not available weekends	<u>Hockey Use</u> 3 hrs <u>Non hockey use</u> 8 hrs	No	Not available	1.5 hrs spare on Friday nights

- 3.75 As far as football training is concerned:
- Football training takes part almost exclusively on weekday evenings (with maybe some youth training at weekends).
  - All artificial grass pitches with community use in Stroud (i.e. both sand based and 3G FTP and Inside Football) have hardly any spare slots during weekday evenings (other than an occasional one-third of a pitch for an hour and later slots on Friday evenings, traditionally always very difficult to fill).
- 3.76 As far as matchplay is concerned:
- There is currently no FA registered pitch available for weekend matches in Stroud. This is the first year Rednock School has not re-applied for accreditation due partly to the cost and the fact that there has been no demand expressed for its use as a regular home pitch by any local teams (this may be related to the cost of hiring it for matches, although this has not been fully established).
  - Inside Football is not appropriate for match play. Wotton Sports Centre undersize 3G AGP is not FA accredited; it does host youth matches on Saturday but not any regular bookings on Sundays as this use does not align with the fixtures schedules.
- 3.77 Demand for 3G AGPs
- Throughout the research for this report, there were constant references to not only the absolute lack of 3G FTPs for training, but also to the lack of affordable training facilities. Clubs find the cost of hiring a pitch for matchplay prohibitive when compared to the cost for a grass pitch (cost examples to be given).

### **Scenario: Increasing the use of 3G Football Turf Pitches (FTP)s**

- 3.78 With this in mind, the following questions are posed by the FA to help understand what demand there may be for full size<sup>2</sup> floodlit 3G FTPs in Stroud

#### **Training Needs**

*How many full size floodlit 3G FTPs may be required to meet demand within Stroud if all teams playing competitive football had access to a full size floodlit 3G FTP to train on once a week?*

- 3.79 The calculations set out below are based on full sized floodlit 3G FTPs which have full community use during peak periods<sup>3</sup>. What the answers may mean for the Stroud area, taking into account the wider findings from the Assessment stage of developing the PPS, is then presented. These details have been used to help inform the presentation of key issues and findings and will be used in the development of the PPS's recommendations and action plan.
- 3.80 The modelling is based on that used by the FA and the number of full sized 3G FTPs based on 38 teams per pitch.

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<sup>2</sup> A full size 3G FTP measuring 106m x 70m including run off/safety margins.

<sup>3</sup> Weekdays 17:00 - 21:00 (or 19:00 on Fridays) and 09:00 - 17:00 on weekends.

Table 3.20

			Affiliated demand		Approx. recreation demand		Highest demand	Current supply	New FTPs
	Population	Playing Population (5-44 yrs)	No of affiliated teams in LA	No of full sized 3G pitches required	Approx structured recreational pop	No of recreational 3G FTPs required	Highest required no of 3G FTPs (affiliated or recreational)	No of full size FTP equivalents (built & under construction)	No of full size FTPs required
<b>FA (2014 pop)</b>	115,093	50,706	243	6.4	5,983	3.8	6.4	2.3	4.1
<b>Consultants (2018 pop)</b>	119,074	51,068	236	6.2			6.2	2.3	3.9

3.81 The number of 3G FTPs required under this study’s modeling is slightly less than the FA’s modeling as the number of teams now is slightly less (236 compared to 243). However, the above suggests that the equivalent of four 3G FTPs are required to meet demand for training for football teams in Stroud District.

### Matchplay requirements

*If all matches for teams playing competitive football on local authority managed natural grass pitches were played on full size floodlit 3G FTPs.*

- 3.82 The FA is keen to work with LAs to understand the potential demand for full size floodlit 3G FTPs should all competitive matches, currently played on LA managed natural grass pitches, be transferred to one. Calculating the number of teams playing on public sector managed natural grass pitches (not including school sites or sites leased to clubs (Meadowbank, Slimbridge, Bellfield, Oldend Lane stadium and The Meadow) in the relevant peak periods shows the following requirement for matchplay on 3G FTPs.

**Table 3.21: Number of 3G FTPs that may be required in Stroud for matchplay**

	Format	No. of teams per time	No. matches at PEAK TIME	3G units per match	Total units required formats	3G pitches required
		(x)	(y) = x/2	(z)	(A) = (y)*(z)	B = (A)/64
A	5v5	21	10.5 (Sat am)	4	42	0.66
B	7v7	24	12 (Sat am)	8	96	1.5
C	9v9	19	9.5 (Sat am)	10	95	1.5
D	11v11 (Y)	19	9.5 (Sat am)	32	304	4.75
D	11v11 (Y)	16	8 (Sun am)	32	256	4
E	11v11 (A)	58	29 (Sat pm)	32	928	14.5

- 3.83 The period when there is the maximum demand for 3G pitches for matchplay is Saturday afternoons. (Transferring all matches for teams currently playing competitive football on Stroud local authority/publicly managed natural grass pitches therefore may equate to a demand for 14.5 full size floodlit 3G FTPs for all the different formats of the game). A previous target for the FA was to achieve 50% of youth and mini play on 3G football turf pitches by 2020. This would equate to 4.2 full size pitches or equivalent as long as they were of the requisite size for youth matchplay (sum of rows A-D for Saturday mornings x 50%).

### Extent of demand from clubs for 3G football turf pitches for matches and training

- 3.84 Many local clubs have expressed a desire for access to AGP (3Gs) to satisfy at least some of their training needs. Clubs were asked whether they would use approved 3rd Generation rubber crumb pitches for matches and there was an enthusiastic response. 26 clubs responded; 21 said yes (some with reservations around cost in particular) and 5 said no.
- 3.85 Clubs were asked: would your club be prepared to be flexible in principle for kick off times to allow use for matches. There was the same split. One club commented: No! Players revolve their weekends around a 2pm/2.30pm kick off and changing this may lose players.

### **Where will additional 3G FTPs be situated?**

3.86 There are a number of proposals being discussed with regard to future 3G FTP within Stroud. These will be discussed further as the Strategy progresses, but the following sets out some of the considerations by cluster. There are 16 teams who are based in Berkeley cluster; 31 teams in Cam/Dursley; 1 team in Cotswold Fringe; 24 teams in Gloucester Fringe; 17 teams in Severn Vale; 37 teams in Stonehouse; 89 teams in Stroud and 22 teams in Wotton.

#### *Berkeley*

- The Hamfields site (now managed by a charitable trust) is a possible long term location for a 3G FTP. SGS College and Berkeley UIC are located here and numbers of students are expected to grow to around 1000 in the next 3-5 years. SGS has an arrangement whereby it uses some areas of the playing fields and is hoping this will increase as numbers grow. Pitches are used by Sharpness AFC and Severnside Nuclear Juniors at the weekend. A 3G FTP on site remains an aspiration of SGS which it would look to develop in partnership with the Community Trust, local clubs and community.
- Thornhill Park, Slimbridge AFC is a good rated stadium pitch, with good access via A38 and M5. The club have expressed desire for 3G training area as no area off-pitch for warm up for visiting teams etc This site is identified by the FA and SDC as having potential as key football site and additional training facilities would fit with this, although the site is enclosed and very restricted.

#### *Cam/Dursley*

- At present, the only 3G FTP in Stroud district – at Rednock School in Dursley – is fully used by local clubs on weekday evenings but does not have Matchplay at the weekends. The reasons behind this may be complex but in the interests of making the best use of this facility need to be resolved.

#### *Gloucester Fringe:*

- The recently published Local Football Facilities Plan for Stroud refers to the 3G FTP potential project for Gloucester to be located at Waterwells Sports Centre, which borders onto Hardwicke and could impact on the north of Stroud District. Part of the supporting evidence for this site mentions potential users including 22 teams from Quedgeley Wanderers and Q.W Youth.
- Hardwicke AFC and Hardwicke Rangers Youth FC train extensively at Severn Vale School and it would be possible that if a new full size 3G FTP was provided (at Waterwells Sports Centre) the club might relocate their training there if affordable, convenient and available. Hardwicke Rangers Youth run 12 junior and 6 mini teams and Hardwicke AFC runs 3 senior teams – 21 teams in total. Frampton FC (3 senior teams) also train at Severn Vale School and may move (although if 3G FTPs are provided in Stroud, or even a smaller one in Frampton itself (see below), the club may use those venues.
- The only evidence of cross boundary issues to the eastern side of the Gloucester Fringe - in the Upton St Leonards/Brockworth area – is Upton St Leonards FC training on the 3G pitch at St Peter's School Tuffley (FA Accredited). There appeared no demand expressed for additional 3G provision in this area.

### *Severn Vale*

- There are longstanding proposals, for a small (mini pitch size) 3G indoor training area to be located on the home ground of Frampton Youth FC (Reg Dawe Memorial Ground in Frampton). The club run upwards of 12 junior and mini teams and an adult and U18 side also use the multi football pitch site, which hosts a range of training, coaching, competitive and festival events. The siting of such a facility has considerable support and some funding is in place; it will not involve the loss of any grass pitches. The club say that an indoor facility is more preferable for their age groups than outdoor provision which is still subject to weather conditions. Such a facility would also be available to other clubs for training.

### *Stonehouse*

- Football teams in Stonehouse use a variety of artificial grass pitches for training in both Stroud and Dursley. There does not appear to be a suitable site for 3G FTP provision in Stonehouse – Oldends Lane Playing Field does not have on-site management and a pitch located here would impact on the existing grass pitches. Another possible site is Maidenhill school, although no proposals have come from the school and there is no community use of their existing football and rugby pitches at the moment.

### *Stroud Valleys*

- The findings from this PPS would support 3G FTP provision in Stroud. The only full size floodlit provision is provided by two sand based AGPs – at Stratford Park (local authority) and Wycliffe College (independent school without secure community use). If a 3G FTP is provided in Stroud it seems likely that, if the cost and access is convenient, football teams will transfer across, thus freeing up spaces for hockey training during weekday evenings.
- The following sites are in use for pitch sports at present; the development of the Strategy can consider other sites.
  - Stratford Court Playing Fields: this site has a history of many proposals for both grass and artificial grass pitch provision. It is used extensively by SGS College during the week and the College are generally supportive of additional 3G FTP provision in the town. However, it is concluded that this site is not suitable for such provision – it is the premier public grass playing field site in the town which lends itself to maintaining its open aspect as a hub site for grass pitch sports (see Section 8; Key Findings and Issues)
  - Archway School: Archway School has extensive community use both indoors and of its football and rugby pitches. There is room for a 3G FTP on site and a 3G FTP here has been identified as a priority project within the Stroud LFFP. This site is one of a number of potential sites within Stroud.
  - Marling School: Marling School also has community use of its indoor facilities and its football pitches (but not rugby pitches). It too has expressed its aspiration for a 3G FTP on site (the space available needs to be checked for size) As with any provision on a school site, community use of such a facility both during the week and at weekends needs to be secured and the facility affordable for local community clubs and groups.
  - Stroud High school: the school have not expressed any aspiration for a 3G FTP at this time.

- There are a number of single pitch sport sites around Stroud, but there are restricting factors at many as regards conversion to 3G FTPs – either from a topographical viewpoint, or floodlighting concerns or lack of on-site management.
- Inside Football at Brimscombe Industrial Estate caters for many local clubs. If the future of the Industrial Estate is not secure, these teams will require alternative facilities.

#### *Wotton*

- The 3G FTP at Wotton Sports Centre Community Parc is undersize (59m x 40m); there has been discussion around providing a full size 3G FTP on site. It would not seem possible to enlarge the existing pitch as this would encroach on the rugby pitch. Whilst such a facility would benefit local clubs (mainly Wotton FC and other surrounding village teams) it is not established whether there would be sufficient demand to support such a facility.,
- Artificial grass pitches on school sites are often more complicated and expensive to book than local authority leisure facilities (they often have to be block booked in advance and there is more administrative paperwork to comply with).

## **FUTURE PICTURE OF PROVISION**

3.78 The future requirement for football pitches will be impacted by several factors, including;

- A General changes in participation trends and in how pitch sports are played;
- B Changes to the number of people living in the area and / or to the demographic profile of the population;
- C Consideration of latent, unmet and displaced demand
- D Local trends in participation and club specific development plans and aspirations;  
and
- E Amendments to the current facility stock either through the provision of new pitches or the loss of current pitches.

### **A General changes in participation trends and how sport is played**

3.79 Although population growth will influence demand, changes in participation may perhaps have the most significant impact on demand for playing pitches. As demonstrated earlier in this section, it appears that demand from both mini soccer and junior football is buoyant in Stroud. The FA indicate that the introductions of these new formats have seen an increase in the number of teams playing. However, several clubs mentioned a drop off in the older teenage age groups.

3.80 Although there is a general long term trend of reduction in Saturday league play, the Stroud & District league in particular is holding up well and numbers of teams have remained fairly constant for the last three years.

3.81 The FA have agreed three objectives with Sport England against which it will use SE funding to deliver interventions to address:

- Maintaining the overall number of Affiliated Football participants, managing the decline of male adult players and offsetting this with growth in female adult and youth players. This will include a significant focus on the creation of more female adult and youth teams, disability teams and youth male teams.
- Growing the proportion of Affiliated Football participants who are members of Charter Standard clubs and leagues with a focus on more diverse playing opportunities, increased player retention and more sustainable environments.
- Providing participants with transition programmes, pathways and interventions at the appropriate points in their sporting lives with a focus on formats that are less frequent, require less people, require less commitment or require less physical exertion both inside and outside of affiliated football.

3.82 Gloucestershire FA are also rolling out the SSE Wildcat's Centres in the county, which are aimed at girls between 5 and 11 years with the target of doubling participation in girls football. There is currently one such centre in Stroud. There are a few well established ladies football teams in Stroud,.

3.83 The FA therefore believe that there will be an increase in the overall number of teams (and participants) in future years as a result of the youth review and that higher levels of demand will occur as a result. In this event:

- The existing stock of 5v5, 7v7 and 9v9 pitches would need to be retained;
- As these teams age they will require larger pitches and therefore it is beneficial if sites with 9v9, 7v7 and 5v5 pitches have the capacity to enlarge or accommodate larger pitches if necessary.

## **B Population changes – Stroud District**

3.84 It can be seen from the analysis of ONS population projections for Stroud from 2016 - 2040 that:

- Whilst the overall population of Stroud District is predicted to increase by 16,355 (13.7%) over the 22 year period 2018-2040, the number of people in the overall 'active participation' age group (5-69 years) is also projected to increase, but at a lower rate (i.e. by 3,954 or 4.2%).
- The age group within the 'active participation' group that are projected to see the greatest increase in numbers in the period to 2040 is the 10-19 years age group (youth/junior pitch sports), which is projected to increase by 12.2%.
- The main age band for adult pitch sports (20 – 34 years) is predicted to show an increase of 5%.
- The age group predicted to see a decline in numbers in the period to 2040 is the 46-54 years age group (adult and vets pitch sports) by -3.8%.

### *Team Generation Rates*

3.85 Team Generation Rates for football have been used to assess the potential impact of projected changes to the population profile from the proposed future housing provision allocations by cluster area.



**Table 3.22:**

<b>FOOTBALL</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Berkeley</b>	<b>Cam/ Dursley</b>	<b>Cotswold</b>	<b>Glos Fringe</b>	<b>Severn Vale</b>	<b>Stone- house</b>	<b>Stroud Valleys</b>	<b>Wotton</b>
Senior football (16-45 male)	15.6	5.0	2.2	0.1	2.5	0.1	2.8	2.5	0.3
Senior football (16-45 female)	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0
Junior football (10-15 male)	17.2	5.6	2.5	0.2	2.7	0.1	3.1	2.8	0.3
Junior football (10-15 female)	1.2	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0
Mini-soccer (6-9 mixed gender)	12.6	4.1	1.8	0.1	2.0	0.0	2.2	2.0	0.2

3.86 On this basis and rounding teams to whole numbers; by 2040 it can be expected that through population growth from new housing there will be an additional 16 men’s, 1 ladies, 19 junior and 13 mini teams across the district as a whole. These figures directly reflect the housing growth allocations which is why Berkeley demonstrates the greatest increase

**C Consideration of latent, unmet and displaced demand**

3.87 As well as being used to estimate the numbers of people in Stroud who currently play football, Sport England Market Segmentation data can also be used to estimate the number of people who would like to play (or play more). This data suggests that there is potential to increase adult football participation by up to 19% in Stroud. Around 5,606 adults currently play football and around 1,092 residents indicate that they would like to play (or play more) football. This potential rate of increase is similar to county and national figures. Most of this latent demand is from residents in the main market segments that currently play.

3.88 The segments of the 1,092 adults who would like to play football is proportionately split into roughly 92% male, this would suggest around 1004 adult males wanting to play more football. It is not possible to say whether these would be drawn more to playing 11v11 on grass, or small sided soccer on artificial surfaces, but if we assume grass, 1004 adult males is equivalent to just over 4 teams ( TGR = 239). The number of women wishing to play more football is not large enough to generate a team. (There are no figures available for juniors)

3.89 One of the characteristics of TGRs is that if there are no teams or a very low number of teams currently playing (so that the number required to generate one team is very high) increases in population in the relevant age playing range may not ‘trigger’ an extra team. The TGR for women’s football is currently very high, but there is evidence that more women’s and girls teams may develop in the future in Stroud

3.90 However, a note of caution was sounded in our research in that, although interest may still be increasing, it is slight, and too far spread. Instead of investing in the existing teams around the area, new ones are created, making it harder and harder to keep the team numbers up for competitive leagues. Gloucester County Womens FL have 12

teams in division 2 this year, 4 of which were newly formed (also, another established team had folded before the season began) and apparently at least 3-4 of these 12 teams struggle to field a full squad each week.

#### *Displaced demand*

3.91 The study found some evidence of cross-boundary activity:

- Frampton FC and Hardwicke AFC and Hardwicke Rangers Youth FC (c.23 teams) currently train outside the area at Severn Vale School in Gloucester. Upton St Leonards FC train at St Peter's School 3G FTP in Tuffley. These teams from the Gloucester Fringe area training in Gloucester itself may impact on the demand for 3G FTPs there
- All Forest Green Rovers youth and u18s (9 teams) play their matches and train at Cirencester 3G. Cirencester 3G is also used for training by Shortwood FC and 2 youth teams. This is indicative of the lack of suitable youth pitch provision in the area – FGR in particular would like to find a venue for its youth teams to play in the district
- Shortwood FC u12s currently play at Sir William Romleys School Tetbury and Stonehouse Town Youth u18s play at Gloucester FA, Almondsbury – again probably indicative of the lack of appropriate quality and size pitches for these teams.

#### **D Local trends in participation and club specific development plans and aspirations**

3.92 Several football clubs have aspirations to grow and this will impact both on demand across Stroud Study area but also more locally at a site specific level. Club aspirations are set out below. These aspirations are considered conservatively; some of them are dependent upon access to more/better pitches and changing facilities, but others will depend on the availability of support personnel. On the basis of past studies and views expressed here, together with initiatives proposed by the FA, we suggested an aspirational target amongst clubs of 5% growth in junior and mini teams and 2.5% in adult teams. (And of course an element of aspirational demand will be included in latent demand above).

3.93 One element of demand not so far considered is growth in demand for small-sided football (although most likely to take place in sports halls and on 3G FTPs and other initiatives such as walking football. We would welcome the FA's views on how the growing popularity of these types of football might translate into increased demand for 3G FTPs (it seems unlikely that demand for 11v11 matches on grass pitches will increase as a result). We know anecdotally that there is a considerable amount of indoor 5v5 football training and casual play going on in sports halls in Stroud; what degree this might move outside to full size 3G FTPs is not really known yet. There is certainly a demand for indoor provision from some sectors; notably youth and mini as evidenced by Frampton FC's plans for an indoor training area for its youth and mini teams.

3.94 The cost of taking part in football is an important consideration and several clubs have referred to increasing difficulties in meeting this (particularly the cost of hiring facilities for training), the difficulties in finding enough coaches and volunteers to run more teams and the shortage of all weather pitches for training.

**Table 3.23:**

<b>Club</b>	<b>Type of team</b>	<b>Reasons preventing development</b>
Cashes Green FC	Adult men's teams Youth boys' team	Falling membership/shortage of members. Lack of external funding (grants, loans). Lack of internal financing (subs/fund raising)
Chalford AFC	Adult women's teams. Vets	Lack of external funding (grants, loans)
Cotswold Rangers Youth FC	Youth boys' teams (U11-U16). Mini soccer teams (U7-U10)	Shortage of coaches or volunteers. Shortage of good quality junior grass pitches. Shortage of suitable indoor training facilities.
Hardwicke AFC	Adult men's teams	Cost of hiring/using facilities. Cost of travelling to compete and train. Shortage of coaches or volunteers. Shortage of good quality senior grass pitches. Shortage of, or poor quality, changing facilities
Hardwicke Rangers Youth FC	Youth girls' teams (U11-U16) Mini soccer teams (U7-U10)	Shortage of 3G football turf pitches for matches. Shortage of coaches or volunteers. Shortage of good quality junior grass pitches. Shortage of suitable indoor training facilities.
Leonard Stanley Sharks FC	Youth boys' teams (U11-U16)	Cost of facilities, travel and lack of funding
Minchinhampton Rangers Youth FC	Youth boys' teams (U11-U16), Mini soccer teams (U7-U10)	Shortage of 3G football turf pitches for matches. Shortage of good quality junior grass pitches
North Nibley FC	Adult men's teams	Shortage of coaches or volunteers. Shortage of good quality senior grass pitches
Randwick FC	Adult men's teams Youth boys' teams (U11-U16). Youth girls' teams (U11-U16). Mini soccer teams (U7-U10)	Cost of hiring/using facilities. Lack of external funding (grants, loans). Shortage of 3G football turf pitches for matches. Shortage of artificial turf pitches for training. Shortage of coaches or volunteers. Shortage of good quality junior grass pitches. Shortage of suitable indoor training facilities.
Rodborough Youth FC	Youth boys' teams (U11-U16) Youth girls' teams (U11-U16)Mini soccer teams (U7-U10)	Shortage of good quality junior grass pitches. Shortage of suitable indoor training facilities
Shortwood Youth FC	Youth boys' teams (U11-U16) Mini soccer teams (U7-U10)	Cost of hiring/using facilities. Lack of external funding (grants, loans). Shortage of good quality senior grass pitches.
Slimbridge Youth FC	More youth teams	Fluctuating competition with other youth clubs, especially Cam Everside.
Stonehouse Town Youth FC	Adult women's teams. Youth boys' teams (U11-U16). Youth girls' teams (U11-U16). Mini soccer teams (U7-U10)	Falling membership/shortage of members. Lack of external funding (grants, loans). Shortage of 3G football turf pitches for matches. Shortage of artificial turf pitches for training. Shortage of coaches or volunteers
Stroud Harriers FC	Adult men's teams	Falling membership/shortage of members. Lack of external funding (grants, loans). Shortage of good quality senior grass pitches. Shortage of, or poor quality, changing facilities.

<b>Club</b>	<b>Type of team</b>	<b>Reasons preventing development</b>
Stroud Town Youth FC	Youth boys' teams (U11-U16), Mini soccer teams (U7-U10)	Cost of hiring/using facilities. Lack of external funding (grants, loans). Lack of internal financing (subs/fund raising). Shortage of artificial turf pitches for training. Shortage of good quality junior grass pitches. Shortage of, or poor quality, changing facilities.
Uley AFC	Mini soccer teams (U7-U10)	Shortage of artificial turf pitches for training, Shortage of coaches or volunteers, shortage of suitable indoor training facilities
Wotton Rovers FC	All age groups	Lack of external funding (grants, loans). Shortage of 3G football turf pitches for matches. Shortage of artificial turf pitches for training.

**SUMMARY – WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FOOTBALL IN STROUD**

**Table 3.24: Summary of Latent, Displaced and Future Demand**

<b>Reason for more teams</b>	<b>Men's teams</b>	<b>Ladies' teams</b>	<b>Youth teams 11v11</b>	<b>Youth teams 9v9</b>	<b>Minis</b>
Population growth to 2040	16	1	9	10	13
Latent demand	4		5	6	
Aspirations/unmet demand	2	1	2	3	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Match/Slot equivalents</b>	<b>11</b>		<b>12</b>		<b>16</b>

\*Teams rounded to nearest whole number

3.95 There is no direct correlation between number of future teams and numbers of pitches as much depends on the pattern of play. It can be assumed that the increase of 22 men's teams would be Saturday teams, in which case 22 slots (11 pitches if all new provision) are required. But only 60% of youth play is currently at peak times, so the 35 youth teams could be accommodated on 12 pitches if pattern of play is similar (but size of the pitch would be important). 16 mini teams could be accommodated on 3 good quality mini pitches.

3.96 The above table analyses requirements from the point of view of teams generated (demand). It does not take into account the situation regarding the pitches themselves (supply) which may also result in a requirement for additional provision for example:

- Pitches which are being overplayed where it would be of benefit to have additional provision
- Pitches required to meet demand from specific clubs as their team numbers increase

- Teams which are not able to play at their preferred venue/settlement because of lack of pitch space
- Pitches where issues of quality mean that replacement provision would be beneficial.
- Pitches required for rest and recovery, to address backlogs and to meet demand when pitches are temporarily out of use

3.9 The need for pitch space does not just have to be met through new provision. There are various other ways of providing increased capacity and various scenarios can also be tested by considering what will happen if certain changes to supply or demand occur; these are now considered in turn.:

*A Current spare capacity at existing pitches*

- The analysis of spare capacity suggested that there are 12 spare Saturday pm slots which could accommodate in theory 24 adult men's football teams (home and away basis) but they are scattered across many grounds throughout the district and would mean fitting in with other well established teams' use. Moreover, some spare slots should be retained, for rest and recovery of pitches, for fixture backlogs and other reasons when other pitches are temporarily out of use.
- Spare capacity for youth teams is much more limited as only spaces for around 3 teams on existing pitches across the district as a whole.
- Given that several matches can be played consecutively on a Sunday morning, the situation is not so acute for mini teams..
- Encouraging new teams to play on pitches where there is currently spare capacity (this may mean teams playing away from their club's 'home ground') may prove difficult.

*B Reinstating pitches at sites where pitches have existed in the past and/or creating new pitches where there is room on existing sites. These include:*

- Painswick . Enough flat grass for a junior pitch.
- An adult pitch could be reinstated at Coaley Recreation ground
- Some spare land at Reg Davies Memorial Ground, although club are working to provide an indoor training 3G here
- King George V Nympsfield - Site consists of just one pitch at present; previously there were 2 pitches but this area now unmarked.
- War Memorial Ground, Dursley – room for mini pitch
- Kingswood Playing Fields - and set of junior goals on unmarked pitch.
- Possibility of ground levelling and extension of pitch plateau at King George V Nailsworth
- Uplands Recreation Area Stroud – room for an adult pitch but no changing

*C Improving the quality of pitches and/or ancillary facilities to increase their capacity (although this rarely solves the problem of peak time demand).*

- No football sites have been rated as 'poor' quality. There are no grounds where upgrading the ground from standard to good would enable any more slots to become available at peak times – i.e. Saturday afternoons for adult play. There

may be certain junior pitches where raising the quality to good might enable more matches to be played, which depending on the split of Saturday/Sunday play, may enable more teams to be based there.

- There are certain identified grounds where improvements or the provision of changing facilities would enable the ground to meet league requirements and/or increase their attractiveness as a home venue – these enhancements are very important to sustain interest in the game

*D Securing or increasing community use of pitches on school sites*

- There aren't many options for this – possible gaining community access to 3 or 4 adult pitches at schools in the area –but our research has indicated that schools who do not have community use have not had requests to use their facilities and so have not pursued this on their sites. We feel that use of school facilities is probably at a maximum and that schools are unlikely to be persuaded to increase/embrace community use. The main exception to this might be Maidenhill and Thomas Keble Schools but we have been unable, despite many attempts, to establish what the current position is at each school. We do know that there are currently no football or rugby teams based at either school there for matchplay (or training), but precisely why this is has not been established.

*E Transference of activity from grass to 3G FTP provision*

- Moving training off marked out formal pitches to increase their capacity for matchplay.
- The transference of play between grass and 3G FTP provision for matchplay still needs further research and much will depend on the cost of using 3G FTPs.

*F Providing sites large enough to accommodate a range of youth football teams in one place*

- An important need to meet is that for junior football clubs to be based at one site; ideally incorporating land for a range of mini and junior pitch sizes and appropriate changing facilities. This is particularly an issue in Stroud and Minchinhampton.

*G What if further sports development initiatives or alternative forms of football grow in popularity?*

- Within football, two important considerations are the growth of junior football and the growth in 5-a-side teams and leagues. Generally in the study area, junior football is played on pitches which are the appropriate size, albeit with smaller 7v7 and 5v5 pitches marked out with cones or overmarked on 9v9 and small youth pitches. However, going forward the key will be for new provision to be flexible, enabling different configurations of pitch sizes i.e. there should be a significant amount of land surrounding the adult pitches.
- It could be an option to put smaller goals on underused adult pitches but there are very few sites where the adult pitches are underused and where they are located to meet demand for junior provision.
- A growth in 5-a-side teams may require additional surfaces. At present a considerable amount of small sided soccer is played in sports halls,
- However, certainly any growth in female teams – girls and women – across the sports of football and rugby will require additional, dedicated changing facilities to

meet their requirements and this is currently restricting such development at some sites.

*H What if all pitches on private grounds and/or without security of tenure were no longer available ?*

- Similarly, loss of such grounds would have a serious effect on the ability of teams to keep playing.

*I What if any pitches are likely to be lost in the near future ?*

- We are not aware of any pitches which may be lost to development in the near future.

### *Stroud Town Area*

#### *Issues:*

- There is a patchwork of provision in Stroud for football with several teams playing on more than one site.
- There is no 3G FTP provision in the town.
- There are a very high number of single pitch sites in Stroud, many with constraining factors – size of pitch, sloping pitch, no/inadequate changing facilities. In order to retain players, improvements would be very desirable but it is often difficult to justify investment on such sites. For example, changing facilities at Mason Road require enhancement, but the pitch itself is on a restricted area and of minimum adult size and would not support the club's promotion.
- Stratford Court is the prime playing field site in Stroud and a potential premier sporting venue:
- It has hosted cricket in the recent past and the main cricket square is still evident but not cut. There is a redundant artificial strip to the cricket square.
- The site currently accommodates 1 adult pitch, 1 9v9 and 3 x 7v7 pitches, with various overmarkings for 5v5 pitches and this season is hosting Stroud Utd 1st XI (who have been here for many years), Rodborough & Cainscross Old Boys 2nd XI, Minchinhampton Youth (2 x U12s) and Rodborough Youth (7 junior and mini teams, girls and boys)
- Adult pitch is being played to the level it can sustain; junior pitch is being overplayed slightly and there is a little spare capacity on mini pitches.
- Changing facility is acceptable; but any intensification of use would benefit from enhanced facilities including officials' changing.
- Pitch alignments could be changed and configurations could vary – but positioning of redundant artificial wicket restricts possibilities.

*Possible options:* developed without speaking to Rodborough Youth FC or reference to the LFFP for Stroud)

- Suggest removal of derelict non turf wicket to west of Stratford Park, but maintain cricket square on site for any upsurge in demand for informal cricket or from an established club

- Move Rodborough Youth FC to Stratford Park – currently fielding 8 teams here and a further 11 teams across 5 venues: Severn View Primary School - 2 x u10, 2 x u11; Bownham Park - 2 x u13, u15; Butterow West - u16, u16G; Whiteshill & Ruscombe – u15 and Archway School – u18)
- Estimate these teams could be accommodated on 2 x mini 7v7; 1 x 9v9 and 2 x adult pitches, plus room for another adult pitch for Stroud Town 1st XI? (Important to retain this club on this ground)
- Invest in changing facilities/community health/football hub
- Transfer of Rodborough Youth will free up single junior pitch at Bownham Park (move Minchinhampton Rovers 2 x u12s here?) and minimum adult size pitch at Butterow West and pitch at Whiteshill & Ruscombe (although no changing). Rodborough & Cainscross Old Boys FC will be going back to Victory Park next season...
- Install 3G FTP at Archway School and see how demand redistributes itself within the town, particularly if clubs can be attracted to the facility for matchplay. Then consider additional 3G FTPs in the town.....and investment in single pitch sites on a phased basis.

## **Summary**

### *Grass pitches*

3.97 It can be seen that given the various areas of land and possible permutations, it is very difficult to put a figure on the needs for new provision. Much will depend on the progress made with installing 3G FTPs in the district and whether clubs are happy to take up spare slots on existing pitches.

3.98 However, in an attempt at this stage to give a figure, it is suggested that in addition to existing stock the minimum number of additional pitches required to 2040 is as follows (some of which could be accommodated at existing playing fields as listed above if in the right location):

- 3-4 x adult pitches
- 6-8 x junior pitches (of varying pitch size)
- 4 x mini pitches (7x7 and 5v5).

As set out above, the need for pitch space does not just have to be met through new provision and there are various other ways of providing increased capacity which will be further discussed as part of Stage D.

### **3G FTPs**

3.99 As far as 3Gs are concerned, based on the FA's analysis, a minimum of four additional 3G FTPs are required in the Stroud Study area to meet current requirements for training. Requirements for matchplay are more difficult to predict, but if the FA target of 50% of youth and mini play currently taking place on public sector pitches (i.e. excluding education pitches) is adhered to; this means 4.2 x 3G FTPs required in total – an addition of 2.



3.100 The FA suggest a number of factors to be considered to guide the discussion around future levels of provision locally; using these as a basis, this Study finds:

- The 3G FTP at Rednock School could accommodate at least 2 and possibly 4 Saturday league teams on Saturday for matchplay and junior and mini matchplay on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Further discussion needs to take place, potentially between the FA and the school, to see how this might be actioned.
- There are proposals/strong aspirations for additional 3G provision in the district, notably from Frampton Utd to provide an indoor mini pitch size training area particularly for youth and mini sides at the Reg Davies Memorial Ground. This would appear from the study's research to be a welcome facility addition.
- There is strong demand for outdoor 3G FTP provision in Stroud; there is none at present. Marling School and Archway School have been suggested as possible sites. Both have community use of their facilities and there is an old redgra base at Archway School. Stroud and South Gloucester College have for many years expressed support – including financial – for such a facility in the town

### **Local Football Facility Plan**

The LFFP for Stroud has been completed.

<https://lffp-prod.ff-apps.dh.bytemark.co.uk/local-authorities-index/stroud/stroud-local-football-facility-plan/>

It recommends that the future football development priorities for Stroud are:

1. Increase Women & Girl's Participation
2. Sustain & Increase Adult Male 11v11 Football
3. Increase Disability participation
4. Increase Recreational playing opportunities
5. Retain youth and Mini-Soccer participation

The facilities required to assist this are set out in the Assets and Opportunities section. Each priority project that progresses to a funding application via the Football Foundation will produce a detailed 'site development plan' specifying all football development activity, usage and key partner engagement. While each investment priority is reviewed individually, it is understood that they can be inter-reliant; account is, thus, taken of these potential connections.

Investment priorities are identified under 4 categories:

1. 3G FTPs
2. Improved grass pitches
3. Changing room pavilions / clubhouses
4. Small-sided facilities

Some of the priority projects require clarifications. However, at present the list of priority projects is as follows:

**Priority projects – 3G FTPs**

- 1 - Archway School - 11v11 3G FTP
- 2 - Marling School - 11v11 3G FTP
- 3 - Frampton Football Club - Indoor 5v5 3G FTP

**Priority projects – Improved grass pitches**

- 4 - Reg Davis Memorial Field - natural grass pitch improvements
- 2 - Wotton Sports Centre - natural grass pitch improvements

**Priority projects – Changing room pavilions/clubhouses**

- 1 - Stratford Court Playing Fields - refurbish changing pavilion
- 2 - Hardwicke Village Hall Playing Fields- refurbish changing pavilion
- 3 - Wotton Rovers FC - new clubhouse

**Priority projects – small sided facilities**

- 1 - Frampton Football Club - Indoor 5v5 3G FTP

The Local Football Facilities Plan has also been completed for Gloucester and other authorities within Gloucestershire.

***3.100 For list of priority issues and sites for football and summaries of key issues by each site, please see Section 8.***