



CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

ASSESSMENT REPORT FEBRUARY 2023

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

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GLOSSARY

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
BC	Bowls Club
CC	Cricket Club
DCMS	Department for Culture, Media and Sport
ECB	England & Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GMA	Grounds Maintenance Association
HC	Hockey Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LFFP	Local Football Facility Plan
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
MoD	Ministry of Defence
NFFS	National Football Facilities Strategy
NGB(s)	National Governing Body (of sport)
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PPOSS	Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
TC	Tennis Club
U	Under

PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

1.1: Introduction

Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) has been commissioned by Cherwell District Council to undertake a Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS). This report, known as the Assessment Report, presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities in the area. It is delivered in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Guidance (for playing pitch sports) and Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (for "non-pitch" sports).

Sport England's PPS Guidance details a stepped approach, separated into five distinct sections:

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

Stages A to C are covered in this report, with stage D covered in the proceeding strategy document and Stage E ongoing once the work has been approved.

The PPOSS is being undertaken in conjunction with an Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy. The inter-relationship between the two needs to be recognised as some sports covered by the PPOSS also use indoor facilities for matches or training as well as informally.

1.2: Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach

Why the Strategy is being developed

The PPOSS replaces the previous study for Cherwell, which was produced in 2018. As part of this, several key priorities have been identified by the District Council, including:

- 3 To inform the development and implementation of planning policy and infrastructure planning work.
- 3 To provide a robust and up to date evidence base to assist the District Council in the preparation of the Cherwell Local Plan Review and the determination of planning applications, including those which may impact provision or loss of playing pitches.
- 3 To develop a strategy and deliverable action plan for playing pitch and outdoor sports provision.
- 3 To provide information to assist with the provision of new outdoor sports space or improvements, including new types of pitches required or facilities such as changing rooms and pavilion buildings to allow increased use of a site.
- 3 To identify potential changes to the supply of provision due to capital programmes, for example at educational sites.
- 3 To provide justification and an evidence base for developer contributions and external funding bids involving playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities.
- 3 To prioritise internal capital and revenue investment and inform development of a priority list of deliverable projects which will help to meet any current deficiencies, provide for future demands and feed into wider infrastructure planning work.
- 3 To identify opportunities for improving access to leisure facilities, whilst supporting the delivery of the District Council's plan and partner objectives.
- 3 To provide evidence to help secure internal and external funding for facilities and infrastructure.

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- 3 To provide information to assist with asset management of Council owned provision and associated facilities, which will ensure the most efficient management and maintenance of playing pitch provision.
- 3 To help meet aims and objectives established for improving health and wellbeing and increasing participation in sport

The PPOSS will inform the preparation of the Cherwell Local Plan Review 2040, which will replace the adopted Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 (2015) and the Cherwell Local Plan Partial Review: Oxford's Unmet Housing Need (2020) when it is adopted. The Oxfordshire Plan will provide the strategic planning framework and evidence base to support sustainable growth across the County to 2050, setting out the overall development requirement and identifying broad areas for growth. The Cherwell Local Plan Review 2040 will then establish detailed planning policies and site allocations for the District.

In addition, the PPOSS will also meet the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). One of the core planning principles of the NPPF is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. Section 8 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities, with paragraph 98 discussing the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

Paragraph 99 discusses assessments and the protection of "existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields". Paragraphs 101 and 102 also promote the identification of important green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities. Such spaces may include playing fields and outdoor sport facilities.

Management arrangements

A project team from the District Council has worked with KKP to ensure that all relevant information is readily available and to support the consultants as necessary to ensure that project stages and milestones are delivered on time, within the cost envelope and to the required standard to meet Sport England guidance.

Further to this, a Steering Group is and has been responsible for the direction of the PPOSS from a strategic perspective and for supporting, checking and challenging the work of the project team. The Steering Group is made up of representatives from the District Council, Sport England and the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs).

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

- 3 Be a champion for playing pitch provision in the area and promote the value and importance of the PPOSS.
- 3 Ensure implementation of the recommendations and action plan.
- 3 Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the study.
- 3 Ensure that the PPOSS is kept up to date.

The lifespan of a PPOSS is considered to be three years, although this can be increased if it is kept up to date.

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Agreed scope

The following types of outdoor sports facilities have been agreed for inclusion in the Assessment Report and Strategy:

- 3 Football pitches (including 3G pitches)
- 3 Cricket pitches
- 3 Rugby union pitches (including 3G pitches)
- 3 Hockey pitches (sand/water based AGPs)
- 3 Lacrosse pitches
- 3 Golf courses
- 3 Bowling greens
- 3 Tennis courts
- 3 Netball courts
- 3 Athletics tracks
- 3 Cycling facilities

Other grass pitch sports are also included within the general scope of a PPOSS; however, they are not referenced within this study as no formal presence has been identified within the District. This includes sports such as rugby league, American football, Gaelic football and baseball/softball, although them being discounted is not to say that they are not played informally or that pockets of demand do not travel to play for clubs outside of Cherwell.

Sport England's PPS guidance applies to football, rugby union, cricket and hockey as well as any other grass pitch sports identified for inclusion. The ANOG guidance applies to the remaining sports (as these are "non-pitch").

Study area

The study area comprises the whole of Cherwell District Council's administrative area. Moreover, to allow for a more localised assessment of provision, analysis areas (or sub areas) have been established, although it has been agreed that these should vary by sport based on how they are played and the travel patterns of users.

For football and cricket, six analysis areas have been created, with these broadly aligning with other sub areas that are used for planning purposes. These are based on grouping wards and parishes together, as detailed in the following table and figure.

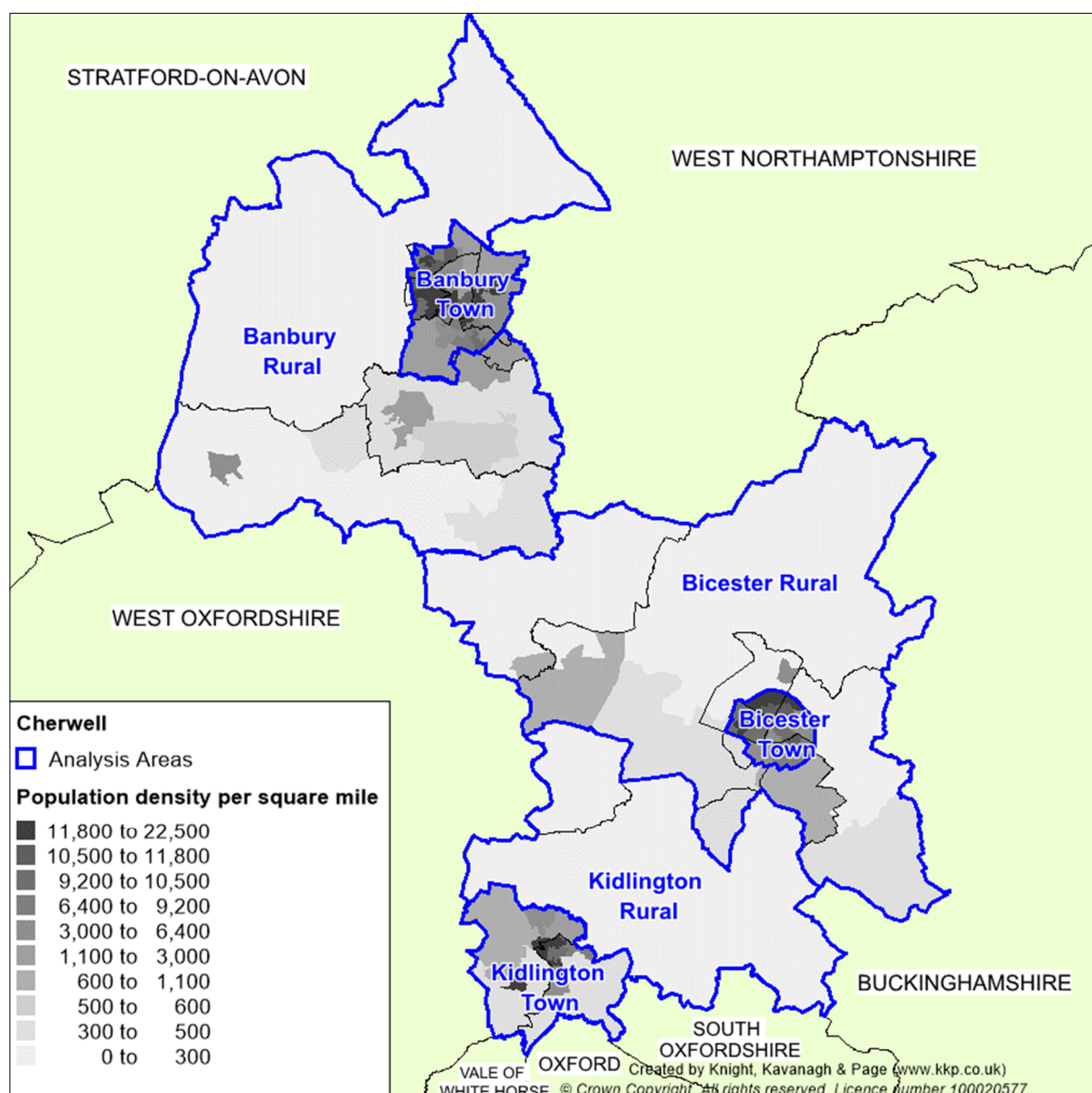
Table 1.1: Analysis areas for football and cricket

Analysis area	Ward/Parish
Banbury Rural	Adderbury, Banbury, Barford St. John & St. Michael, Bloxham, Bodicote, Bourton, Broughton, Claydon with Clattercote, Cropredy, Deddington, Drayton, Epwell, Hanwell, Hook Norton, Horley, Hornton, Milcombe, Milton, Mollington, North Newington, Prescote, Shenington with Alkterton, Shutford, Sibford Ferris, Sibford Gower, South Newington, Swalcliffe, Tadmarton, Wardington, Wigginton, Wroxton
Banbury Town	Adderbury, Banbury Calthorpe, Banbury Easington, Banbury Grimsbury & Castle, Banbury Hardwick, Banbury Neithrop, Banbury Ruscote, Bloxham and Bodicote, Cropredy, Deddington, Hook Norton, Sibford, Wroxton
Bicester Rural	Ambrosden, Ardley, Arncott, Bicester, Blackthorn, Bucknell, Caversfield, Chesterton, Cottisford, Duns Tew, Fimmere, Fringford, Fritwell, Godington, Hardwick with Tusmore, Hethe, Heyford Park, Launton, Lower Heyford, Middle Aston, Middleton Stoney, Mixbury, Newton Purcell with Shelswell, North Aston, Piddington, Somerton, Souldern, Steeple Aston, Stoke Lyne, Stratton Audley, Upper Heyford, Wendlebury

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Analysis area	Ward/Parish
Bicester Town	Ambrosden & Chesterton, Bicester East, Bicester North, Bicester South, Bicester Town, Bicester West, Caversfield, Fringford, Launton, The Astons & Heyfords
Kidlington Rural	Begbroke, Bletchingdon, Charlton-on-Otmoor, Fencott and Murcott, Gosford & Water Eaton, Hampton Gay & Poyle, Horton-cum-Studley, Islip, Kidlington, Kirtlington, Merton, Noke, Oddington, Shipton-on-Cherwell & Thrupp, Weston-on-Green, Yarnton
Kidlington Town	Kidlington North, Kidlington South, Kirtlington, Otmoor, Yarnton, Gosford & Water Eaton

Figure 1.1: Analysis areas for football and cricket

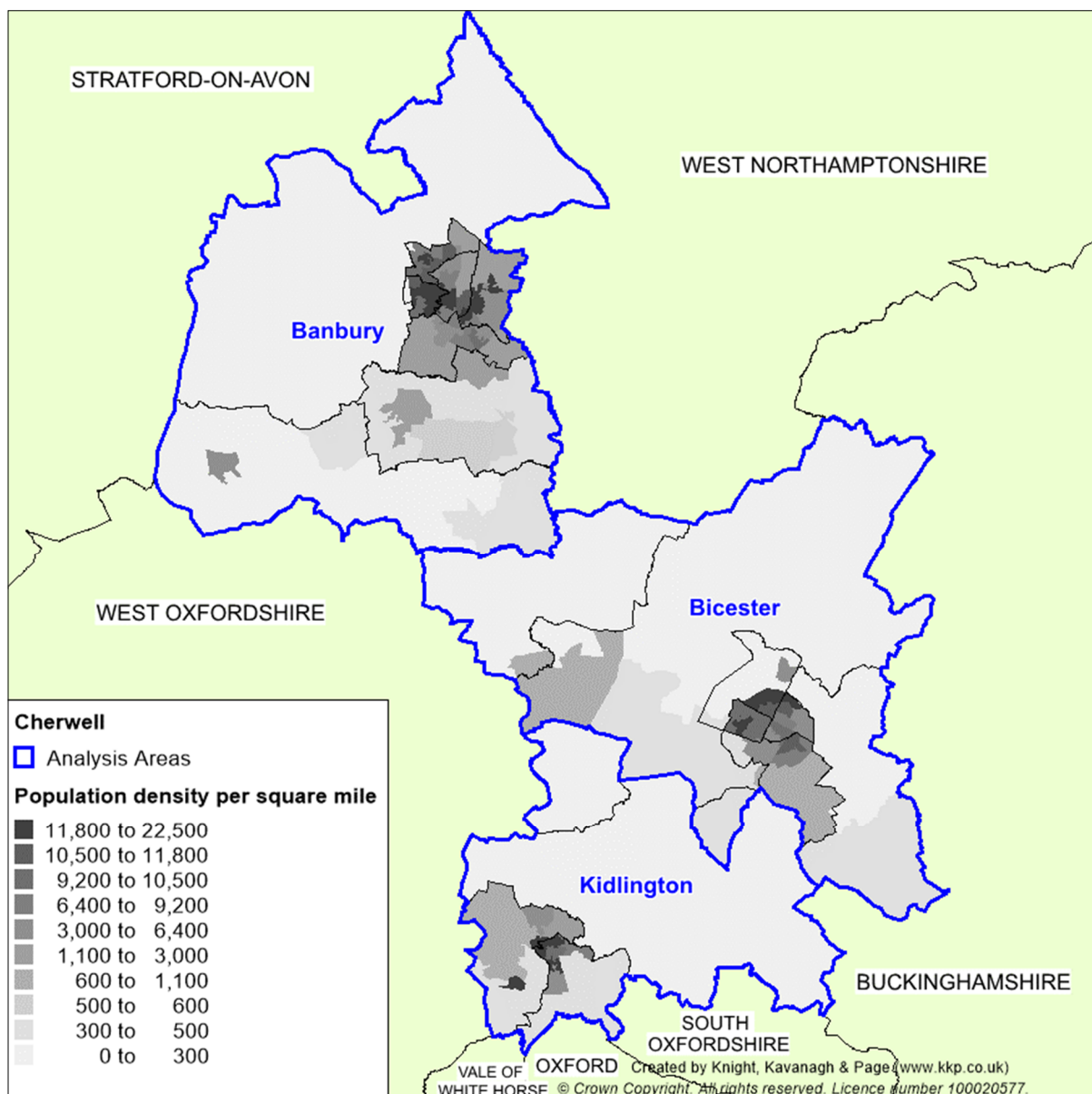


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For the remaining sports, only three analysis areas will be used, with Banbury Rural and Banbury Town areas combined as well as the Bicester Rural and Bicester Town areas and the Kidlington Rural and Kidlington Town areas. The areas, shown in the figure below, are referred to as:

- 3 Banbury
- 3 Bicester
- 3 Kidlington

Figure 1.2: Analysis areas for remaining sports



In addition, cross-boundary migration to and from neighbouring authorities is also accounted for. Some demand from within Cherwell is recognised as exporting out of the District and, vice versa, some demand from outside of Cherwell is recognised as importing into the District.

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1.3: Gather information and views on supply of and demand for provision (Stage B)

A clear picture of the supply of and demand for playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities in Cherwell is required to enable an accurate assessment of quantity, quality and usage. This is achieved through site assessments and consultation with key stakeholders.

Gather supply information and views – an audit of provision

Sport England's guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field. These definitions are set out by the Government in the 2021 'Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order'.

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

Although the statutory definition of a playing field sets out a minimum size, the PPOSS takes account of smaller sized pitches that contribute to the supply side. For example, a site containing a mini 5v5 football pitch is included despite it potentially being smaller than 0.2ha. The study counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply, with the definition of a playing pitch also including artificial grass pitches (AGPs).

As far as possible, this report aims to capture all of the playing pitches and relevant outdoor sport facilities within Cherwell; however, there may be instances that have led to omissions, such as unused school sites where access was not possible (although facilities at sites not accessed are still included within the study where provision is known to exist from other sources e.g. affiliation data or club/league consultation). Where provision has not been recorded within the report, it is still considered to exist for planning purposes and will continue to do so. Furthermore, any exclusion does not mean that the provision is not required from a supply and demand point of view.

Quantity

Where known, all outdoor sports facilities are included within the PPOSS, irrespective of ownership, management and use. Sites were initially identified using Sport England's Active Places web-based database, with the District Council and NGBs supporting this process by checking and updating this initial data as well as by supplying their own affiliation data and booking information.

For each site, the following details are recorded in the project database:

- 3 Site name, address (including postcode) and location
- 3 Ownership and management type
- 3 Security of tenure
- 3 Community availability
- 3 Total number, type and quality of provision
- 3 Usage levels

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Accessibility

Not all outdoor sports facilities offer the same level of access to the community. The ownership and accessibility of also influences their actual availability for community use. As such, each site included in the PPOSS is assigned a level of community use as follows:

- 3 **Community use** - provision in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams playing in community leagues.
- 3 **Available but unused** - provision that is available for hire but are not currently used by teams which play in community leagues; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire.
- 3 **No community use** - provision which as a matter of policy or practice is not available for hire or used by teams playing in community leagues. This should include professional club sites along with some semi-professional club sites where play is restricted to the first or second team.
- 3 **Disused** – provision that is not being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as lapsed sites.
- 3 **Lapsed** - last known use was more than five years ago (these fall outside of Sport England's statutory remit but still have to be assessed using the criteria in paragraph 99 of the NPPF and Sport England would still challenge any proposal that does not).

In addition, there should be a good degree of certainty that provision will be available to the community for at least the following three years. If this is not the case, the provision is still included within the assessment but is noted as having unsecure tenure. A judgement is made based on the information gathered and a record of secured or unsecured community use is put against each site.

Quality

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

The quality of all provision identified in the audit and the ancillary facilities supporting them are assessed as part of a PPOSS, regardless of ownership, management and availability. Along with capturing any details specific to the individual facilities and sites, a quality rating is also recorded within the audit for each pitch/facility. These ratings are then used to help estimate the capacity (aligned to NGB guidance) to accommodate competitive and other play within the supply and demand assessment.

For the purposes of quality assessments, the PPOSS refers to playing facilities and ancillary facilities separately as being of 'good', 'standard' or 'poor' quality. However, some good quality sites may have poor quality elements and vice versa (e.g., a good quality pitch may be serviced by poor quality changing facilities).

Good quality refers to facilities with, for example, good grass cover, even surfaces and that are free from vandalism and litter. For ancillary facilities, it refers to access for disabled people, sufficient provision for referees, juniors/women/girls and appropriate showers, toilets and car parking. The age of the facilities can also have a significant bearing on the overall quality rating.

Standard quality refers to playing provision that have, for example, adequate grass cover, minimal signs of wear and tear and goalposts that may be secure but in need of minor repair.

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In terms of ancillary facilities, standard quality refers to adequately sized changing rooms, storage provision and the provision of toilets, although some level of improvement/modernisation may be required.

Poor quality refers to playing provision with, for example, inadequate grass cover, uneven surfaces and poor drainage, whilst for ancillary facilities it may relate to changing rooms, no showers, no running water and old, dated interiors. They are often unsuitable for mixed gender use.

To ensure accurate findings, site assessments for each sport are carried out during the playing season for that sport. As such, the site assessments for sports played in the winter are conducted between November and February, whilst the sports played in the summer have assessments carried out between July and August.

In addition to undertaking non-technical assessments (using the templates provided within the guidance), users and providers have also been consulted on the quality as well as the District Council and relevant NGBs. In some instances, the quality rating has been adjusted to reflect this (thus establishing an “agreed quality rating”).

Gather demand information and views

Presenting an accurate picture of current demand for playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities (i.e., recording how and when provision is used) is important when undertaking a supply and demand assessment. To that end, demand for provision in Cherwell tends to fall within the following categories:

- 3 Organised competitive play
- 3 Organised training
- 3 Informal play

Current and future demand for provision is presented on a sport-by-sport basis within the relevant sections of this report. In addition, unmet, latent, imported and exported demand for provision is also identified within each section (unless no such demand has been identified).

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

In comparison, latent demand is defined as the number of additional teams (or members) that could be accommodated if access to a sufficient number of outdoor sports facilities (and ancillary provision) was available. Exported and imported demand refers to those that are playing outside of their local authority area of choice.

A variety of consultation methods have been used to collate demand information. Firstly, face-to-face consultation (normally via video call) has been carried out with key clubs and leagues from each sport (as identified by the District Council and NGBs), thus allowing for the collection of detailed demand information and further interrogation of key issues. For all remaining clubs, telephone consultation or an online survey (converted to postal if required) has been utilised.

Key providers and other users of provision have also been contacted, including all parish and town councils as well as schools and further/higher education establishments. This involves face-to-face meetings with secondary schools, colleges and universities and an online survey being sent to primary schools, special schools and independent schools.

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Future demand

Alongside current demand, it is important for a PPOSS to assess whether the future demand for provision can be met. Using Office of National Statistics (ONS) population projections and proposed housing growth, as well as likely participation growth informed through consultation, an estimate can be made of the likely future demand for the relevant facilities. Assumptions can then be made as to whether existing provision can cater for such growth.

Team generation rates are used to provide an indication as to how many people it may take to generate a team (by gender and age group). This ratio can then be applied to predicted population and housing growth to help estimate the change in demand for each sport that may arise in the future. Other information sources that were used to help identify future demand include:

- 3 Recent trends in the participation.
- 3 The nature of the current and likely future population and their propensity to participate.
- 3 Feedback from clubs on plans to develop additional teams / attract additional members.
- 3 Any local and NGB specific sports development targets e.g., women's and girls activity.

All future demand projections across the PPOSS for Cherwell cover the period up until 2040, in line with the District Council's Local Plan Review.

1.4: Assess the supply and demand information and views (Stage C)

Supply and demand information gathered is used to assess the adequacy of playing pitch and outdoor sport provision in Cherwell and to identify key issues, challenges and aspirations. This forms the basis of this report.

Understanding the situation at individual sites

Qualitative ratings are linked to a capacity rating derived from NGB guidance and tailored to suit a local area. For playing pitch sports, the quality and use of each pitch is assessed against recommended capacity to indicate how many match equivalent sessions provision could accommodate.

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

As a guide, the NGBs for football, cricket, rugby union and hockey have set a standard number of matches that each pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its quality. Given how the sports operate, this is per week for football and rugby union, per day for hockey and per season for cricket.

This is further detailed in the table below.

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Table 1.2: Capacity of playing pitches

Sport	Pitch type	No. of match equivalent sessions		
		Good	Standard	Poor
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season	60 per season	60 per season
Hockey	One AGP	4 matches per day	4 matches per day	0 matches per day

For non-pitch sports, capacity is not linked to the number of matches taking place but rather the number of members (and other users) attracted to a site. For example, for tennis, a sports lit hard court is said to have capacity for 60 members, whereas a non-lit has court has capacity for 40 members (this varies for grass courts). Other sport specific capacity guidance is detailed within the relevant sections of this report.

Develop the current and future picture of provision

Once capacity is determined on a site-by-site basis, actual spare capacity is calculated on a District-wide and an area-by-area basis via further interrogation of peak time demand (i.e., the day/time demand is most likely to exist). This then identifies whether there is overall spare capacity on provision or whether there is a shortfall.

Although spare capacity may be identified at some sites and in some areas, it does not necessarily mean that there is surplus provision. For example, spare capacity may not be available when it is needed (actual spare capacity), or a site may be retained in a 'strategic reserve' to enable rotation and to reduce wear and tear. There may also be a need to discount some capacity, for example at poor quality sites that should not be used until they are improved or at unsecure sites where long-term access cannot be guaranteed.

Once current capacity has been determined, future capacity can also be calculated via incorporating the future demand that has been identified as well as any unmet, latent and exported demand.

Identify the key findings and issues

By completing the above steps, it is possible to identify several findings and issues relating to the supply, demand and adequacy of outdoor sports provision in Cherwell. This report seeks to identify and present the key findings and issues prior to developing the Strategy.

The following sections summarise the local administration of the included playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities. Each provides a summary of the supply of and demand for provision, with key issues identified and an overall supply and demand analysis undertaken.

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PART 2: FOOTBALL

2.1: Introduction

Oxfordshire FA are the primary organisation overseeing the development and governance of football in Cherwell. It is responsible for sustaining and growing the game across Oxfordshire including participation, promoting diversity, regulating the sport for everyone to enjoy and the protection and development of facilities.

Working alongside Oxfordshire FA in supporting the development of facilities in the county is the Football Foundation, which is a charity, linked to the Premier League, the FA and the Government, that helps communities improve their local football facilities through grant funding. It is committed to improving the experience of playing football for everyone involved in the game.

This section of the report focuses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches, where formal demand is generally defined through five formats of play and five pitch types, linked to the age of teams and players. Please refer to the table below for more detail relating to this.

Table 2.1: Football grass pitch formats

Format/pitch type	Age range	Recommended pitch size (metres)	Recommended pitch size including runoff (metres)
Adult	U17s+	100 x 64	106 x 70
Youth 11v11	U15s-U16s	91 x 55	97 x 61
	U13s-U14s	82 x 50	88 x 56
Youth 9v9	U11s-U12s	73 x 46	79 x 52
Mini 7v7	U9s-U10s	55 x 37	61 x 43
Mini 5v5	U7s-U8s	37 x 27	43 x 33

Part 4 of this report captures supply and demand for third generation pitches (3G pitches), which is the preferred artificial surface type for football. There is a growing demand for the use of 3G pitches for competitive football fixtures, in addition to training needs, especially to accommodate mini and youth football.

Local Football Facility Plans (LFFPs)

To support in delivery of both the current and superseding FA National Games Strategy, the FA commissioned a nationwide consultancy project which has now been completed. As part of this, a LFFP has been produced for every local authority across England, with each plan being unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation.

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

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Each LFFP builds upon PPOSS findings (where present and current) regarding the formal and affiliated game as well as including strategic priorities for investment across small-sided football (including recreational and indoor activity). The LFFP also incorporates consultation with groups outside of formal football, as well as under-represented communities. This includes those which may be key partners with regards to using football for behavioural change, plus groups which may be key drivers of FA priorities around participation in the likes of women and girls' football, disability football and futsal.

The LFFP for Cherwell was produced in 2019. As it is a 'live' document it should be updated following the completion of a PPOSS as an up-to-date supply and demand assessment may present findings and recommendations that need to be incorporated for investment purposes. LFFPs identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all national football investment will be identified via LFFPs.

Notwithstanding the above, it is important to recognise that the LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment; it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of a PPOSS and is not an accepted evidence base for site change of use or disposal. A LFFP does, however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans.

Consultation

A total of 64 football clubs play in Cherwell, with 43 responding to consultation requests. This equates to a club response rate of 67% and a team response rate of 89%. All clubs that have not responded are small clubs fielding just one or two teams.

Emphasis has been placed on larger clubs that are considered key by Oxfordshire FA, with face-to-face consultation taking place with these (an online survey has been sent to all others). The responsive clubs therefore include:

- 3 Bure Park FC
- 3 Banbury United FC
- 3 Easington Sports FC
- 3 Kidlington Youth FC
- 3 Launton FC
- 3 Oxford United FC
- 3 Woodstock Town FC

2.2: Supply

The audit identifies a total of 155 football pitches across 68 sites in Cherwell. Of these, 140 pitches are available at some level for community use (although not necessarily used) across 64 sites. This means that only four sites are fully unavailable for community use, with these all being schools (Bardwell School, The Cooper School, The Warriner School and Whitelands Academy).

The table below shows the breakdown of the pitches available for community use.

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Table 2.2: Summary of pitches available for community use

Analysis area	Pitch type					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Banbury Rural	15	3	3	3	5	29
Banbury Town	14	4	7	4	1	30
Bicester Rural	13	3	5	7	4	32
Bicester Town	6	2	3	5	5	21
Kidlington Rural	3	3	1	-	-	7
Kidlington Town	4	3	4	4	6	21
Cherwell	55	18	23	24	20	140

The Bicester Rural Analysis Area has the most pitches (32), closely followed by the Banbury Town (30) and Banbury Rural (29) analysis areas. The Kidlington Rural Analysis Area has the fewest pitches (seven).

There are a large number of adult pitches (55) identified when compared to other pitch sizes, which reflects high demand for adult football. However, it should be noted that youth 11v11 demand is higher, despite there being considerably less youth 11v11 pitches. This is common nationally, with many youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches, although this can be due to a lack of dedicated provision rather than through preference.

There are 19 more pitches identified currently when compared to the previous PPS, adopted in 2018. This is predominately a consequence of more pitches being marked out at club and school sites, with there being an increase in youth and mini pitches compared to a slight decrease in adult pitches.

Additional provision

Oxford Road Sports Ground is no longer useable following the closure of the site. When accessible, it provided one adult step pitch, in addition to rugby union pitches, although more recently it has been a rugby-only site. Discussions are ongoing to determine appropriate mitigation measures.

Lapsed provision is identified at MOD Garrison, where up to seven football pitches were previously in place but have been derelict for several years. Launton FC is currently working to bring the site back into use, with a PitchPower assessment taking place to identify appropriate work. The Club has a one-year rolling contract for access to the provision but is exploring a longer term agreement, and it is expected that the pitches will be ready for the 2022/2023 season.

Figures 2.1 and 2.2 below identify all grass football pitches currently servicing Cherwell, regardless of community use. For a key to the maps, see Table 2.15. For ease of reference, this table also identifies the specific towns/settlements that each site is located in.

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Figure 2.1: Location of football pitches in Cherwell (North)

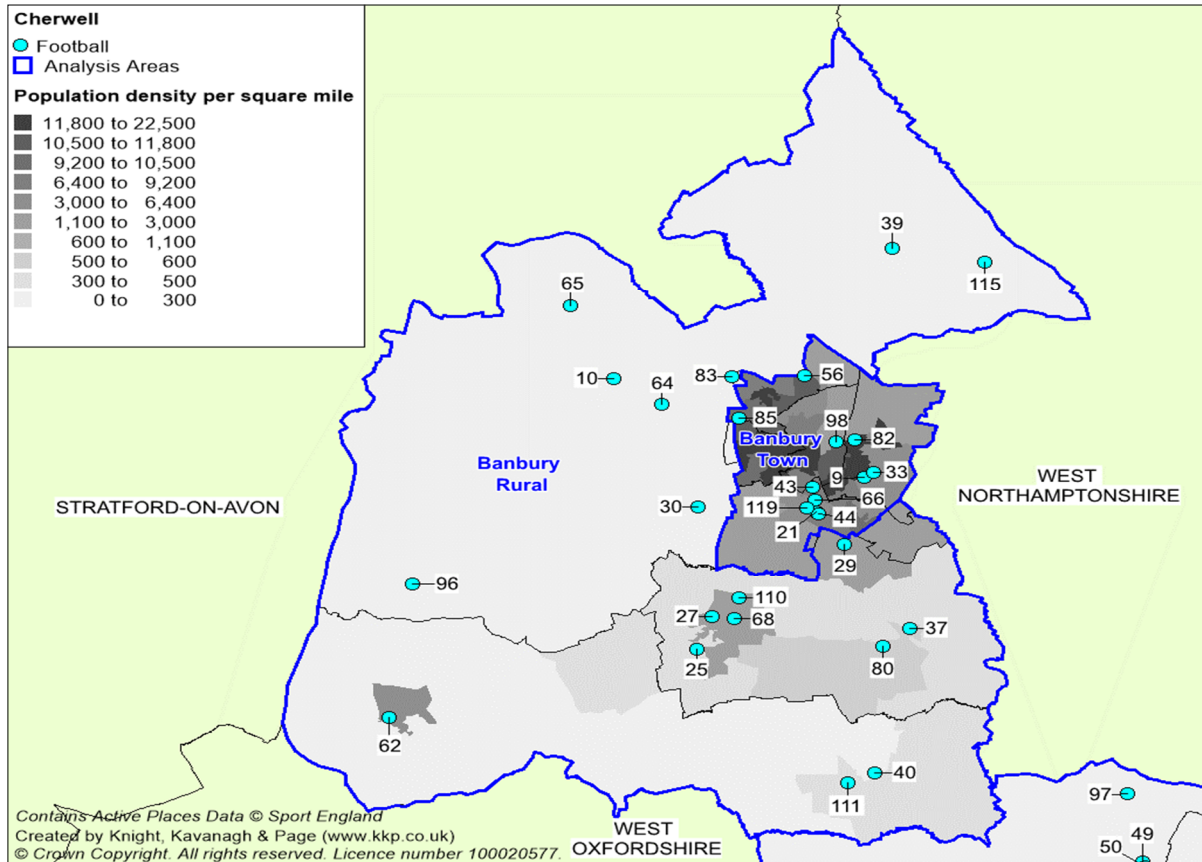
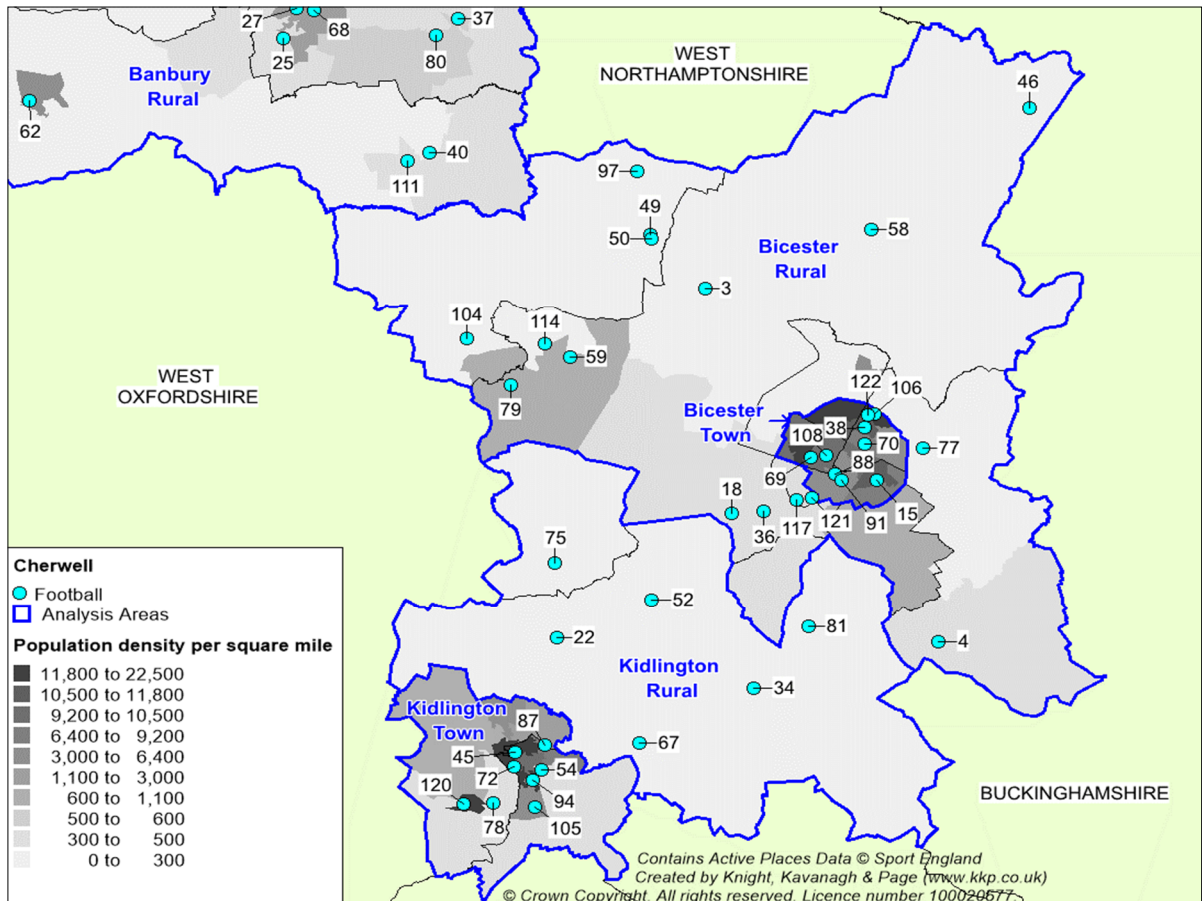


Figure 2.1: Location of football pitches in Cherwell (South)



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Future provision

There are several development plans in Cherwell that could impact on grass football provision, in addition to the proposals at the abovementioned Bicester Sports Association and MOD Garrison sites. Due to this, it is important to note that any proposed loss of provision will require mitigation to an equal or better quantity and quality, unless other planning policy exceptions are met, as per the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Field Policy.

For ease of reference, the future proposals are separated out by sub area.

Banbury Rural

Two football pitches are being established at Milton Road as part of a proposal for a wider sports development. Adderbury Park FC reports that it will utilise the provision once it has bedded in.

Banbury Town

Banbury United FC's home site (Spencer Stadium) is allocated in Cherwell's Local Plan for mixed use development, although there is a requirement to re-provide the provision as part of this. The Club has just over one year remaining on its current lease, although the Club reports that there is an option for this to be extended by two years. Land at Oxford Road is allocated for the mitigation.

Similarly, Easington Sports FC is looking to relocate from its stadia site, with several site options being explored. The Club has 38 teams, providing a pathway from junior through to adult participation, and is considered to have outgrown its existing site, both in terms of pitch space and ancillary provision, and is therefore seeking a larger space to operate from. This may be facilitated by sale of its existing site, with equal or better provision to be provided as a result, as per national planning policy requirements. It is anticipated this would need to include a grass stadia pitch, suitable ancillary provision, and additional training pitches, potentially supplemented by 3G pitch if it could be supported by a suitable business plan and an up-to-date assessment of local need at the time of the relocation.

Blessed George Napier School has submitted a planning application to rotate and resurface its sand-based AGP, which will result in the loss of a mini 7v7 pitch. Discussion had taken place around converting the AGP to 3G, although it is now believed that a sand-based pitch is to be retained. Planning permission has been granted for an AGP, rather than a 3G.

Hanwell Fields Recreation Ground has been identified as a possible site for the development of a tennis centre. If this was to go ahead, it could entail the removal of one of the two grass football pitches on site, with the creation of a full size 3G pitch being discussed to potentially mitigate the loss.

Bicester Rural

There is an obligation for a developer to establish pitches in Graven Hill, with the creation of two adult and two youth pitches proposed.

Whitelands Academy reports that it is to allow community usage of its pitches once the newly established provision has bedded in, which it expects to be the case ahead of the 2022/2023 season. That being said, no formal community use agreement is in place, although the creation of one is reported as being a distinct possibility.

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Bicester Town

No future development proposals relate specifically to sites within the Bicester Town Analysis Area, although both Graven Hill and Whitelands Academy are in close proximity.

Kidlington Rural

Woodstock Town FC is exploring the possibility of relocating into Cherwell due to development pressures in relation to its existing site, in West Oxfordshire, where it has only six years remaining on its lease from Blenheim Estate. Aspirations exist for replacement provision being provided on land to the east of The Marlborough Church of England School, although this will be subject to planning approval.

Kidlington Town

Professional club Oxford United FC is pursuing plans to relocate from Oxford into Cherwell, with its lease agreement to use its current site, Kassam Stadium, due to expire in 2026. It is exploring the development of a stadium in addition to creating a fanzone, hotel and shops on a parcel of land known as “The Triangle”, which is adjacent to Stratfield Brake. Oxfordshire County Council has recently agreed to proceed with negotiations.

In addition to the above, there are six development sites in Kidlington that have been allocated for housing and the District Council has identified, from the previous PPS, that new football pitches and a pavilion are required to support these. It has therefore identified land at South East Kidlington, close to Stratfield Brake, with Kidlington Youth FC identified as a user and with the Club looking to move to a central base and being supportive of the plans.

Oxfordshire FA is looking to relocate to a playing pitch site and is therefore exploring the option of this being incorporated into the wider plans for the area.

Security of tenure

Tenure of sites in Cherwell is generally secure, although that does not apply to any of the sites with development pressures or where lease arrangements are coming to an end as there is no guarantee that they will continue to be provided in the future. A site is only thought to have secure tenure if it has a long-term lease agreement in place or a guarantee that pitches will continue to be provided over the next three years.

As well as those linked to the future development proposals reference above, several other clubs in Cherwell report an interest in acquiring provision through asset transfer or a lease arrangement. This includes Bure Park FC and Garden City FC, with the latter previously looking to take on the management of Park Hill Recreation Ground, which is currently without pitch provision. However, it was decided that it was not large enough and did not have sufficient ancillary provision.

In addition to the lease issues expressed by Banbury United FC at its Spencer Stadium site, the Club reports that it only has a 10-year agreement for use of its Ironstone site and that it can be given six-months notice to vacate the venue at any point. It leases the provision from Trinity College.

Most local authority sites in Cherwell provide security of tenure as continued community use is ensured through an ongoing commitment for sports and leisure facilities to be provided. The majority of these are leased to town or parish councils, with Whitelands Farm Sports Ground one of the only exceptions but with operation soon to be transferred to Bicester Town Council.

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The same does not apply to school sites where there is no community use agreement as there is no assurance that community use will continue to be offered. In fact, the majority of schools in Cherwell do not have a community use agreement in place and thus do not provide security of tenure. The only exception to this is at North Oxfordshire Academy, where the provision is operated by the District Council outside of school hours.

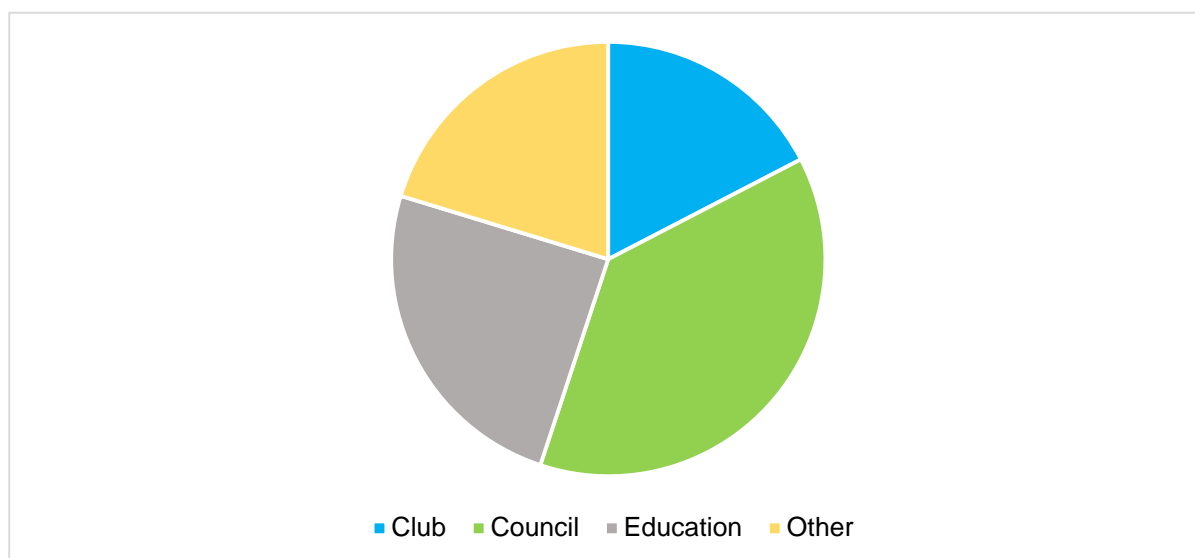
The table below details the management of all football sites in Cherwell, with the main operators being councils, followed by schools. Those managed by “other” entities are most commonly operated by community groups or trusts, often via lease agreements from parish or town councils.

Table 2.3: Football pitch sites by management type

Club	Number of football pitch sites		
	Council	Education	Other
12	26	17	14

As seen, 26 sites are operated by the Council or town/parish councils, 17 by schools, 12 by clubs and 14 by other entities.

Figure 2.3: Breakdown of football pitch sites by management type



Pitch quality

The quality of football pitches across Cherwell has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by the FA), PitchPower reports (see below), and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- 3 Good
- 3 Standard
- 3 Poor

For the full site assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

Pitch quality primarily influences the carrying capacity of a site; often pitches lack the drainage and maintenance necessary to sustain use. Pitches that receive little to no ongoing repair or post-season remedial work are likely to be assessed as poor, therefore limiting the number of games they can accommodate each week without it having a detrimental effect on quality.

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Conversely, well maintained pitches are likely to be of a higher standard and capable of taking a number of matches without a significant reduction in surface quality.

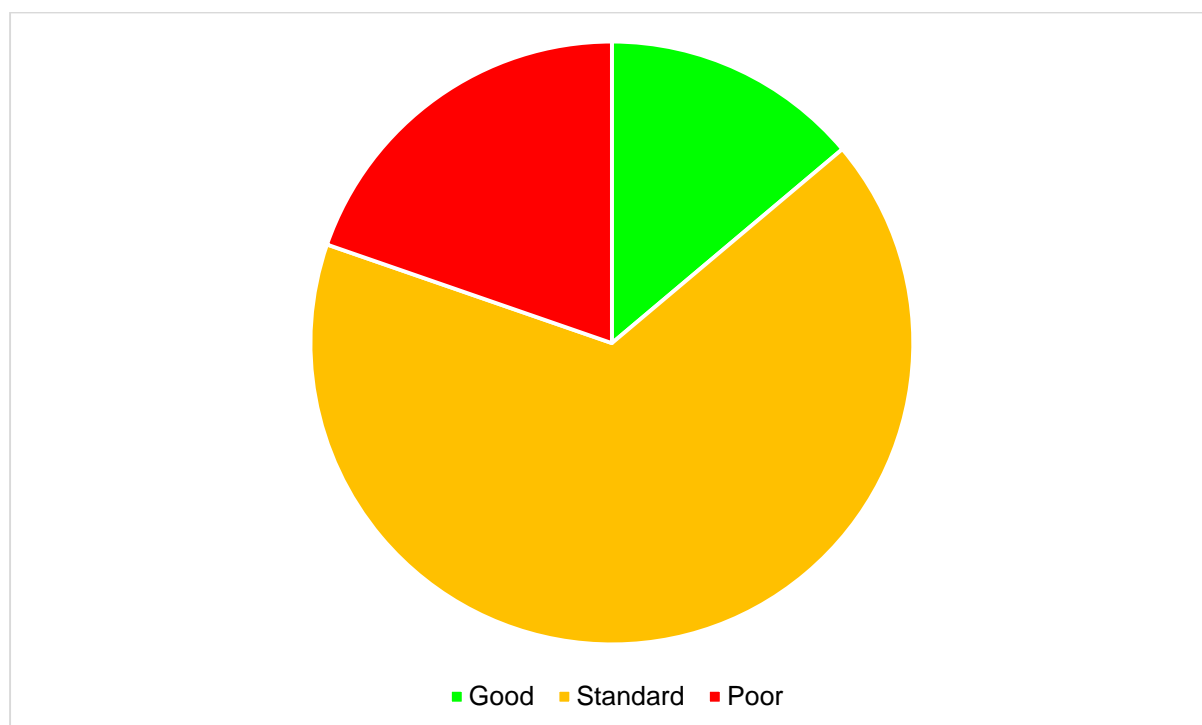
The table below summarises the quality of community available pitches in Cherwell. Most pitches are assessed as standard, with 94 being rated as such, compared to 19 that are good quality and 27 that are poor.

Table 2.4: Pitch quality assessments (community use pitches)

Pitch type	Good	Standard	Poor
Adult	7	37	11
Youth 11v11	4	6	8
Youth 9v9	1	18	4
Mini 7v7	5	16	2
Mini 5v5	2	17	2
Total	19	94	27

In percentage terms, 67% of the community available pitches are assessed as standard quality, with 19% considered to be poor and 14% considered to be good. This is visualised below.

Figure 2.4: Pitch quality ratings (community use pitches)



The good quality pitches are located at the following sites:

- 3 Banbury United Football Club
- 3 Chesterton Playing Fields
- 3 Heyford Park Free School
- 3 Orchard Recreation Ground, Kidlington
- 3 Whitelands Farm Sports Ground, Bicester
- 3 Bicester Sports Association, Chesterton
- 3 Easington Sport Football Club, Banbury
- 3 Hook Norton Sports & Social Club
- 3 The Windmill Centre, Deddington

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Of these, Chesterton Playing Fields, Easington Sports Football Club, Orchard Recreation Ground and The Windmill Centre have all undergone PitchPower assessments, with users of these sites noting improvements since. For example, Deddington Town Colts reports that quality at The Windmill Centre has been enhanced following the associated Football Foundation funding. However, at Easington Sports Football Club, drainage is still reported as being problematic.

Conversely, the poor quality pitches are located at:

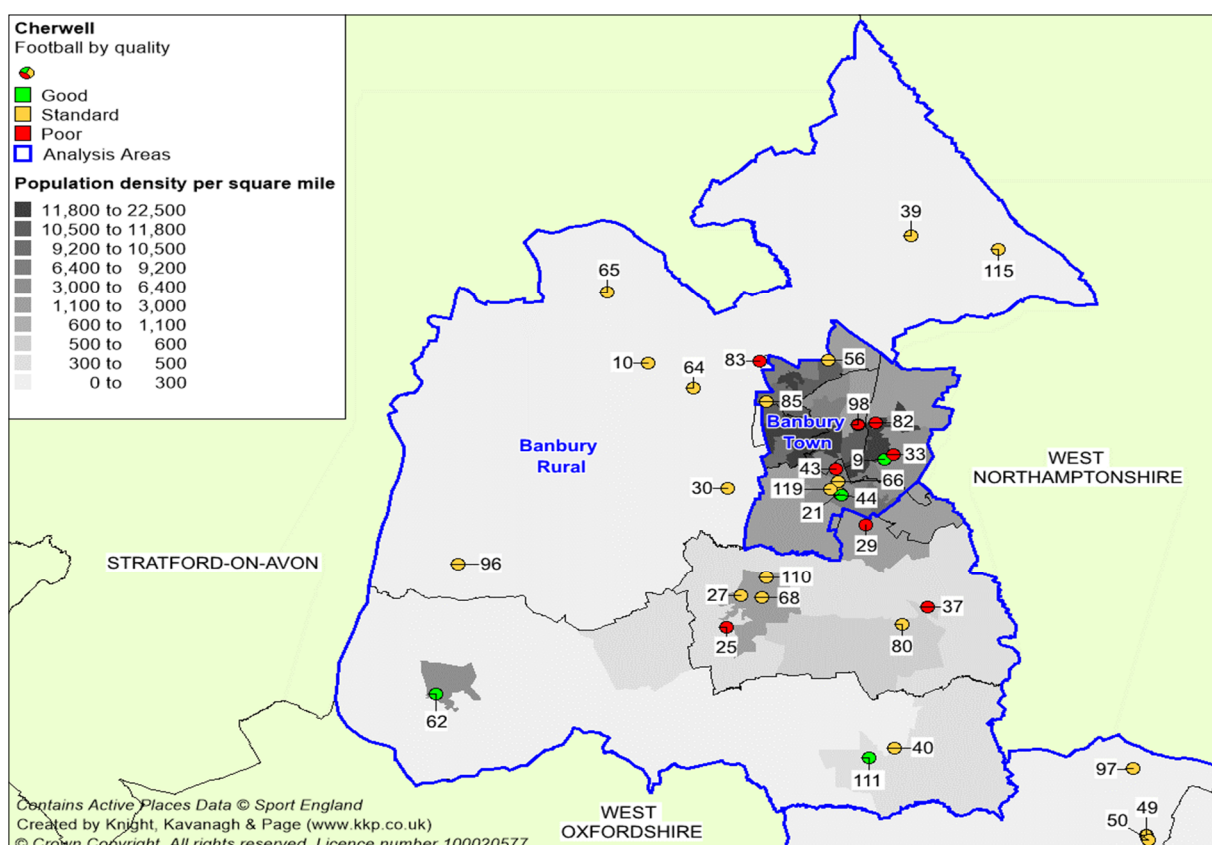
- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 3 Bicester Fields | 3 Bloxham Recreation Ground |
| 3 Chandos Cattle Market, Banbury | 3 Christopher Rawlins School, Adderbury |
| 3 Church Lane (The Rise), Islip | 3 Easington Recreation Ground, Banbury |
| 3 Exeter Close, Kidlington | 3 Finmere Playing Fields |
| 3 Hethe Recreation Ground, Herthe | 3 Merton Village Playing Fields |
| 3 Moorfields Park, Banbury | 3 Nickling Road Playing Field, Kidlington |
| 3 Pingle Field, Bicester | 3 Spiceball Country Park, Banbury |
| 3 Sunderland Drive, Bicester | |

The main reasons for the poor quality ratings at the sites relates to drainage issues, uneven playing surfaces, signs of and wear and tear and unofficial use. Furthermore, most users of the sites report that quality has worsened in recent years, with the majority of these stating that maintenance is insufficient and/or infrequent.

Some sites assessed as standard quality also have identified quality issues, such as Ardley Playing Fields, where the pitches are on a noticeable slope, Lower Heyford Playing Fields, where there are visible signs of waterlogging, and Bodicote Sports Ground, where the goalposts need replacing.

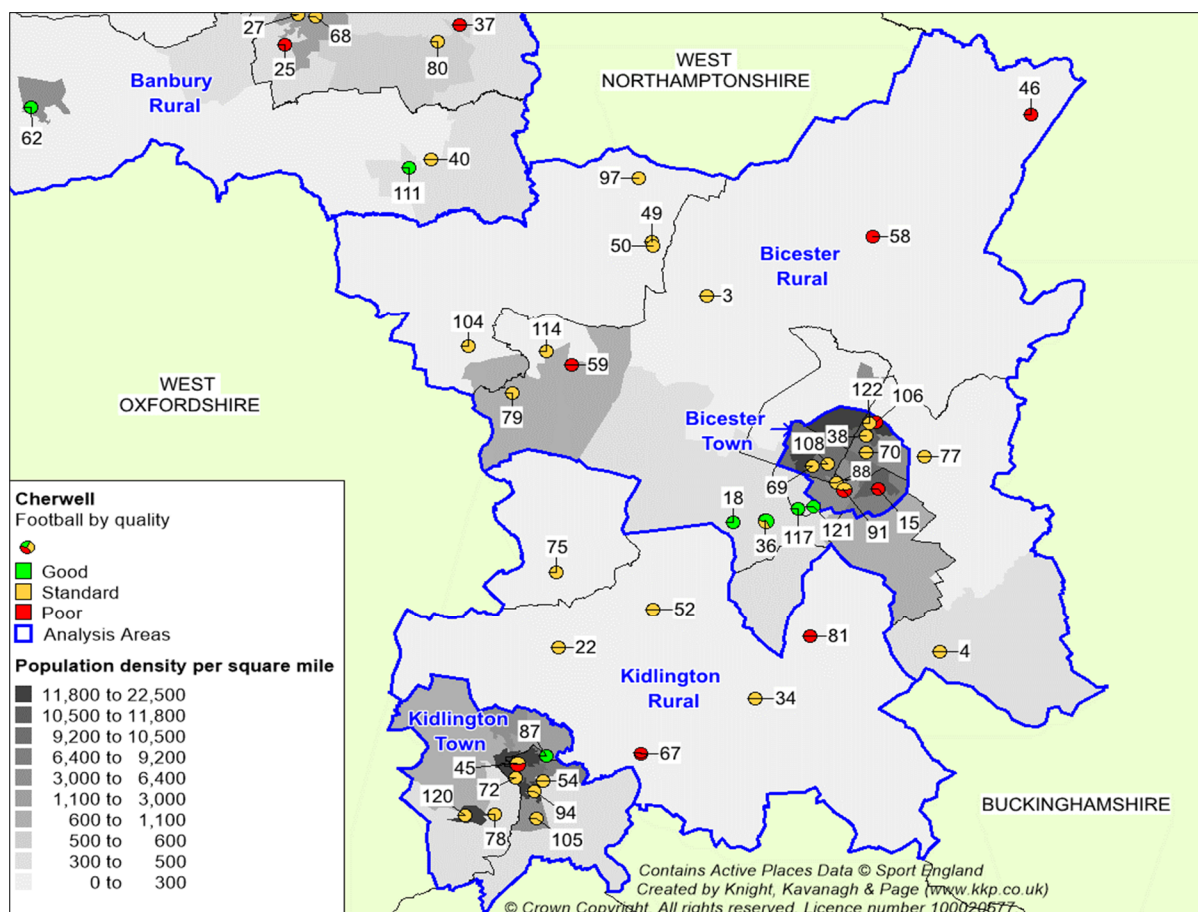
The spatial distribution of the pitches, by quality, can be seen in the figures below.

Figure 2.5: Location of football pitches by quality (North)



CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Figure 2.6: Location of football pitches by quality (South)



Pitch improvement

The FA has a Pitch Improvement Programme aimed at improving grass pitches across the Country. For provision included in the programme, clubs can utilise the services of the Football Foundation’s PitchPower app to carry out a free on-site assessment of their pitches. This then provides the Grounds Management Association (GMA) with the detail needed to create a personalised, informative report to advise on how improvements can be made. Clubs then receive bespoke advice and support to help with any actions, funding applications and equipment.

The tool across mobile app and desktop is open to access for all providers, including clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches. Applicants are required to submit a PitchPower assessment for each of their pitches as a condition of a grant funding application for Football Foundation grass pitch investment, such as the Grass Pitch Maintenance fund (detailed later in this section).

PitchPower is less restricted by the seasonal window of in-season play than the non-technical assessments for the PPOSS, instead being able to be undertaken within a 10-month period, with assessments completed and submitted within one of three windows: September- October, November–March or April–June. As well as the completion of other supporting information such as detail of volunteer training and what maintenance equipment is available, the assessment requires the taking of images and a single soil sample at each assessment site. There are three assessment sites for adult and youth pitches at each goal area and the centre circle, whilst for mini pitches there are two sites at the centre circle and one goal area.

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The PitchPower assessments use a new five step Performance Quality Standard (PQS) rating system developed by the GMA, with the Football Foundation and Sport England agreeing alignment with the existing PPOSS guidance. This alignment is shown in the table below.

Table 2.5: Agreed equivalent PPOSS quality rating for PQS ratings

PQS Rating	PPPOS Quality Rating
Poor	Poor
Basic	Standard
Good	Good
Advanced	Good
High	Good

In Cherwell, 11 sites have received a PitchPower assessment, with the findings of these feeding into the quality ratings of the PPOSS. The sites that have received an assessment are:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 3 Banbury United Youth Football Club | 3 Bicester Field |
| 3 Chesterton Playing Fields | 3 Cropredy Sports Field |
| 3 Easington Sports Football Club, Banbury | 3 Hook Norton Sports & Social Club |
| 3 Launton Playing Field | 3 Orchard Recreation Ground, Kidlington |
| 3 Pingle Field, Bicester | 3 Sunderland Drive, Bicester |
| 3 The Windmill Centre, Deddington | |

In addition to PitchPower, the FA has a general pitch improvement strategy, in partnership with the GMA. As part of this, it has a grass pitch maintenance service that can be utilised by clubs with the aim of improving knowledge, skills and therefore the quality of pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide clubs with advice and practical solutions in a range of areas, with the simple aim of improving playing surfaces. This is designed to help clubs on sites that they themselves manage and maintain but can also be used to advise local authority-maintained sites.

The Football Foundation and the FA have also recently developed a new Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund that allows clubs and sports organisations to apply for funding for maintenance assistance, consumables and/or equipment. Whilst local authorities are currently ineligible applicants through this fund, clubs, leagues and/or charitable organisations using local authority sites can apply provided they have security of tenure.

Funding is awarded over a ten-year period for up to 66% of the total cost required to bring the pitches up to an appropriate standard, following a site assessment. The level of funding then decreases year on year, with the expectation that the Club is able to take on the works independently by the end of the term.

Over marked pitches

Over marking of pitches can cause notable damage to the surface quality and lead to overuse beyond recommended capacity. In some cases, mini pitches may be marked onto senior pitches or mini matches may be played widthways across adult or youth pitches. This can lead to targeted areas of surface damage due to a large amount of play focused on high traffic areas, particularly the middle third of the pitch.

Over marking of pitches not only influences available capacity, it may also cause logistical issues regarding kick off times; for example, when two teams of differing age formats are due to play at the same site at the same time.

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There are also a number of football pitches in Cherwell which are marked onto or overlapping cricket outfield, which can create availability issues at multi-sport sites as the cricket season begins in April when the football season is still ongoing, and the football season begins in August as cricket fixtures are still being played.

The table below highlights all sites containing over marked pitches.

Table 2.6: Sites containing over marked pitches

Site ID	Site	Comments
10	Banbury United Youth Football Club (Ironstone)	Two mini 7v7 pitches over mark a youth 11v11 pitch and a mini 7v7 and a mini 5v5 pitch over mark a youth 9v9 pitch
18	Bicester Sports Association	A youth 9v9 pitch is over marked on a youth 11v11 pitch and a mini 5v5 pitch is over marked on an adult pitch; all pitches over mark cricket outfield
22	Bletchington Sports Club	The youth 9v9 pitch encroaches onto the adult pitch and all pitches overmark cricket outfield
24	Bloxham School (Courtington Lane)	Mini pitches overmark the adult pitch
29	Bodicote Sports Ground	Pitches over mark cricket outfield
36	Chesterton Playing Field	Pitches over mark cricket outfield
50	Fritwell Playing Fields	Pitches are dual use with rugby union
62	Hook Norton Sports & Social Club	A youth 9v9 pitch over marks a youth 11v11 pitch and all pitches over mark cricket outfield
80	Lucy Plackett Playing Field, Adderbury	The mini 5v5 pitch encroaches onto the adult pitch
94	Ron Groves Park, Kidlington	A mini 7v7 pitch over marks a youth 9v9 pitch
108	The Bicester School	A youth 9v9 pitch over marks an adult pitch
119	Wykham Park Academy, Banbury	An adult pitch is a dual use rugby union pitch
120	Yarnton Park	A youth 9v9 pitch over marks a youth 11v11 pitch

Where football pitches are over marked by other football pitches, only the larger pitch type is considered as part of the supply (as the over marked pitches cannot be used when it is in use).

Ancillary facilities

As with pitch quality, the quality of ancillary facilities servicing football sites across Cherwell has been assessed on the basis of identifying good, standard and poor quality provision. To that end, ancillary facility ratings are primarily influenced by the type and quality of amenities which are available on a site, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, car parking and boundary fencing.

In regard to clubhouse and changing facilities, the following sites are considered to have poor quality provision:

- 3 Arcott Village Playing Fields
- 3 Bicester Fields
- 3 Bletchington Sports Club
- 3 Bodicote Sports Ground
- 3 Easington Sports Football Club, Banbury
- 3 Lucy Plackett Playing Field, Adderbury

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Most of these sites are serviced by dated facilities and/or facilities that are too small to accommodate the demand received. For example, Adderbury Park FC reports that it has outgrown the facilities at Lucy Plackett Playing Field and requires more space, whilst Bure Park FC states that the provision at Bicester Fields is in need of modernisation. Easington Sports FC notes that its facilities are dated having been built in the 1950s, with the provision therefore no longer fit for purpose.

In addition to the list above, Banbury United Youth Football Club (Ironside) is not serviced by any changing facilities, with just toilets and storage units provided. This is against the requirements of some leagues, although the Club report that it has been given special dispensation.

All remaining sites are accompanied by good or standard quality provision, although issues are still identified at some sites. For example, Ardley United FC reports that it requires an extension to the clubhouse provision at Ardley Playing Field due to its growing number of teams, whilst the kitchen also needs renovating.

Charlton United FC states that disabled access to the first floor of the clubhouse at Charlton-on-Otmoor Playing Fields is needed, whilst Orchard Recreation Ground does not have any showers. Similarly, the showers at both Chesterton Playing Fields and Stratfield Brake reportedly require replacing.

The better quality facilities without any reported issues are identified at sites such as Whitelands Farm Sports Ground and Pingle Field, as well as Exeter Park where recent refurbishment has taken place.

Away from the clubhouse provision, car parking is reported as a particular issue at both Bicester Playing Field and Hook Norton Sports & Social Club. The former is too small to accommodate demand, which leads to users parking on nearby streets, whilst the latter has numerous potholes and suffers from flooding.

Football pyramid facilities

The football pyramid is a series of interconnected leagues for adult men's football clubs in England. It begins below the football league (the National League) and comprises of six steps, with various leagues at each level and more leagues lower down the pyramid than at the top. These are then supported by regional feeder leagues, which were previously at Step 7 of the pyramid but are now not included.

The system has a hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the levels, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top. Clubs within the step system must adhere to ground requirements set out by the FA. The higher the level of football being played the higher the requirements.

Clubs cannot progress into the league above if the ground requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Ground grading assesses grounds from A to H, with 'A' being the requirement for Step 1 clubs and H being the requirement for Step 6 clubs. The general principle for clubs in the football pyramid is that they have to achieve the appropriate grade by March 31st of their first season after promotion, which therefore allows a short grace period for facilities to be brought up to standard. This, however, does not apply to clubs being promoted to Step 6 (as they must meet requirements immediately).

In Cherwell, there are five teams operating within the pyramid, with Banbury United FC at Step 2, Ardley United FC and Easington Sports FC at Step 5 and Kidlington FC having a team at Step 4 and a team at Step 6.

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Table 2.7: Cherwell-based clubs in the football pyramid

Team	Level
Banbury United FC	Step 2
Kidlington FC	Step 4
Ardley United FC	Step 5
Easington Sports FC	Step 5
Kidlington FC (reserves)	Step 6

Furthermore, there are six teams in Cherwell playing in regional feeder leagues, meaning they are just one promotion away from joining the pyramid and having more advanced ground grading requirements. These represent Bicester Hallions, Bure Park, Charlton United, Cropredy, Launton Sports and Yarnton football clubs.

Banbury United FC has only recently been promoted to Step 2 and it has been given a 12-month grace period (the 2022/2023 season) to get its provision up to standard as it currently fails to meet the criteria. All remaining clubs currently meet requirements, although special consideration needs to be given to Easington Sports FC, as well as Banbury United FC, given that both clubs may potentially be relocating in the future. This is not only to ensure that they remain provided for at the level that they currently play at, but that they can progress should they achieve promotion.

In addition, given its relocation plans, it must be noted that Oxford United FC operates above the football pyramid, playing professional football in League One, whilst Woodstock Town FC plays in a regional feeder league. The Club previously played within the football pyramid but was demoted due to its ground not being serviced by sports lighting, despite various attempts to gain planning permission. It would expect to be able to re-join the pyramid following a move.

Women's National League System

In addition to the men's football pyramid, there is a Women's National League System which provides structure to the women's game. This ranges from Step 1 to Step 6, with each step requiring differing ground grading requirements.

Although women's teams are still required to meet the ground requirements set out by the FA, these differ from the men's structure. Ratings range from grade A to C, each with differing minimum requirements. Step 1 and 2 in the Women's National League System is akin to Step 3 and four of the men's National League System, although not exactly the same. The system is also hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the levels, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top of the system.

In Cherwell, no clubs play within the system, although Easington Sports FC has a team just one promotion short. It would be able to progress at its current venue but, as with the Club's men's team, would need to continue to be provided for as part of any relocation.

2.3: Demand

Through the audit and assessment, a total of 328 teams across 64 clubs are identified as playing regular, competitive matches on football pitches within Cherwell. This consists of 82 senior men's, six senior women's, 130 youth boys', 24 youth girls' and 88 mini soccer teams. This shown by playing format in the table below.

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Table 2.8: Summary of competitive teams currently playing in Cherwell

Analysis area	No. of teams playing					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Banbury Rural	22	12	12	14	12	72
Banbury Town	18	25	7	6	6	62
Bicester Rural	23	38	16	7	10	94
Bicester Town	11	4	8	8	7	38
Kidlington Rural	3	1	3	1	1	9
Kidlington Town	11	15	11	7	9	53
Cherwell	88	95	57	43	45	328

The Bicester Rural Analysis Area has the highest number of teams with 94, whilst the Kidlington Rural Analysis Area has the fewest with nine. This is reflective of the former having the largest supply of pitches and the latter having the fewest.

There are more youth 11v11 teams (95) when compared to other formats of play, with mini 7v7 teams (43) being the least represented.

Participation trends

There are 70 more teams currently affiliated to Cherwell when compared to the previous study, which was based on data from the 2016/2017 season. This represents a significant increase in demand.

In correlation with the above, eight out of the 43 clubs that responded to consultation report an increase in their number of adult teams over the previous three seasons, whilst 11 clubs report a growth in youth demand and 15 clubs report a growth in mini demand. This is compared to only seven clubs that report a reduction in any of the formats of play.

The clubs that report any form of reduction in demand are Ardley United, Banbury Irish, Bicester Hallions, Chesterton, Hook Norton Junior, Steeple Aston and Yarnton Blues football clubs. Reasons given for the losses include issues relating to Covid-19, poor management, poor results, the loss of players to University and the loss of players to another club.

Imported/exported demand

Three clubs that are otherwise based in Cherwell express exported demand; Banbury Irish FC, Banbury United FC and Longford Park FC.

Banbury Irish FC utilises provision at Greystones, in West Oxfordshire, for some of its youth teams, whilst Banbury United FC does likewise at Syresham Sports & Social Club, in West Northamptonshire. Both clubs report that this is due to a lack of capacity within the Banbury area.

Longford Park FC currently fields its two adult teams at Wheelers Rise, Croughton, in West Northamptonshire. That being, it reports that it will soon return to Cherwell when pitches are established at Longford Park.

In addition to exported match play demand, numerous clubs export training demand to a lack of capacity on artificial pitches. This is further explored in Part 4 of this report.

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In regard to imported demand, no affiliated teams playing in Cherwell are currently identified as coming from outside of the District. However, should the relocation of Oxford United FC and Woodstock Town FC take place, this will result in both clubs being exported into Cherwell.

Furthermore, Oxfordshire Skill Acquisition FC, which is otherwise based in West Oxfordshire, runs many of its coaching sessions in Cherwell, primarily at Stratfield Brake and Wykham Park Academy. It states that this is due to a lack of capacity more locally.

Latent/unmet demand

Of clubs that responded to consultation, 14 indicate that they could field more teams if they had access to more pitches, which represents high levels of latent demand. Further details of this can be seen in the table below.

Table 2.9: Summary of latent demand

Club	Comments
Adderbury Park FC	The Club reports that it could field an additional mini 5v5 team and two additional mini 7v7 teams if it had access to more pitches
Ardley United FC	The Club reports that it could field an additional adult women's team, an additional youth 9v9 girls' team, an additional youth 11v11 girls' team and three mini teams if it had access to more pitches
Arncott AFC	The Club reports that it could field two additional adult men's team if it had access to more pitches
Banbury United FC	The Club reports that it is operating at capacity on its current supply of pitches despite having demand to grow
Bodicote Sports FC	The Club reports that it could field an additional adult men's and youth 11v11 boys' team if it had access to more pitches
Bure Park FC	The Club reports that it is operating at capacity on its current supply of pitches despite having demand to grow
Charlton United FC	The Club reports that it could field an additional adult men's team if it had access to more pitches
Chesterton FC	The Club reports that it has demand to grow but cannot field any more teams at its current sites
Heyford Park FC	The Club reports that it could double its demand if it had access to more pitches
Hook Norton Junior FC	The Club reports that it could field two additional mini 5v5 teams and one additional mini 7v7 team if it had access to more pitches
Ivy FC	The Club reports that it could field an additional adult men's team if it had access to more pitches
Kidlington Youth FC	The Club reports that it cannot grow until any relocation takes place on its current supply of pitches
Longford Park FC	The Club reports that it could field one additional adult men's, one adult women's and two youth 11v11 boys' teams if it had access to more pitches
SWIS FC	The Club reports that it could field two additional youth 9v9 boy's teams if it had access to more pitches

Additionally, the same number of clubs indicate that they could field further teams if they had access to more or better ancillary provision. These are:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3 Adderbury Park FC | 3 Ardley United FC |
| 3 Arncott AFC | 3 Banbury United Youth FC |
| 3 Bicester Hallions FC | 3 Bicester Town Colts FC |
| 3 Bodicote Sports FC | 3 Charlton United FC |

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- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 3 Garden City FC | 3 Heyford Park FC |
| 3 Kidlington Youth FC | 3 Longford Park FC |
| 3 SWIS FC | 3 Yarnton Blues FC |

Some latent and unmet demand is also reported as a consequence of a lack of training capacity. This is explored within Part 4 of this report.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined through multiple ways, including through participation increases and by using population forecasts, which are explored below. In addition, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate the additional demand for football arising from housing developments within Cherwell.

Population increases

Team generation rates are used to calculate the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2040) based on population growth.

Table 2.10: Team generation rates (by 2040)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams (by 2040) ¹	Teams that may be generated from the increased population
Adult Mens (18-45)	25,188	82	307	26,417	86	4.0
Adult Womens (18-45)	25,429	6	4238	25,438	6	0.0
Youth Boys (12-17)	5,425	83	65	5,552	84	1.0
Youth Girls (12-17)	5,509	12	459	5,354	11	0.0
Youth Boys (10-11)	2,043	31	66	1,882	28	0.0
Youth Girls (10-11)	1,842	12	154	1,710	11	0.0
Mini Mixed (8-9)	4,010	43	93	3,589	38	0.0
Mini Mixed (6-7)	3,763	45	84	3,636	43	0.0

As seen, growth of four adult men's and one youth 11v11 boys' team is predicted. There is no predicted future demand for the remaining formats of play due to declining population figures within the appropriate age brackets.

Notwithstanding the above, team generation rates do not account for societal factors or changes in the way people may wish to play sport. Similarly, they cannot account for specific development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives. For example, there is current a focus on developing women's and girls' football nationally which is likely to lead to more female teams in the future and therefore further increased pitch demand. Such targeted work is not captured through population projections.

Participation increases

From consultation respondents, 15 clubs' report aspirations to increase the number of teams that they provide. This equates to a predicted growth of 42 teams.

¹ Figures rounded down.

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Table 2.11: Potential team increases identified by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch size	Gender	Number of teams
Adderbury Park FC	Banbury Rural	Youth	(11v11)	Boys	1
				Girls	1
		Youth	(9v9)	Boys	2
				Girls	1
Mini	(5v5)	Mixed	1		
Ardley United FC	Bicester Rural	Adult		Men's	1
				Women's	1
		Youth	(11v11)	Boys	1
				Girls	1
		Youth	(9v9)	Boys	1
				Girls	1
Mini	(5v5)	Mixed	1		
Arncott AFC	Bicester Rural	Adult		Men's	1
				Women's	1
		Youth	(11v11)	Boys	1
		Youth	(9v9)	Boys	1
Banbury Irish FC	Banbury Town	Youth	(11v11)	Girls	1
		Mini	(5v5)	Mixed	1
Banbury United Youth FC	Banbury Rural	Mini	(7v7)	Mixed	1
		Mini	(5v5)	Mixed	2
Bicester Town Colts FC	Bicester Rural	Youth	(11v11)	Boys	1
		Youth	(9v9)	Boys	1
Chesterton FC	Bicester Rural	Mini	(5v5)	Mixed	1
Easington Sports FC	Banbury Town	Mini	(5v5)	Mixed	2
Garden City FC	Kidlington Town	Youth	(11v11)	Girls	1
		Youth	(9v9)	Girls	2
		Mini	(7v7)	Mixed	2
Heyford Park FC	Bicester Rural	Mini	(5v5)	Mixed	2
Hook Norton FC	Banbury Rural	Youth	(9v9)	Girls	1
		Mini	(7v7)	Mixed	1
Launton FC	Bicester Rural	Mini	(5v5)	Mixed	2
Ivy FC	Bicester Town	Adult		Men's	1
Steeple Aston FC	Bicester Rural	Adult		Men's	1
SWIS FC	Banbury Town	Youth	(11v11)	Boys	2
Total					42

In terms of playing format, the largest amount of future demand is expressed for mini 5v5 football (12 teams), whilst the least is expressed for mini 7v7 football (four teams). However, it would be expected that a large growth of mini 5v5 football would eventually lead to a further growth of mini 7v7 football as the teams progress through the age groups.

Most of the future demand is identified in the Bicester Rural Analysis Area (19 teams), whereas there is no identified future demand in the Kidlington Rural Analysis Area.

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Table 2.12: Summary of future demand expressed by clubs

Analysis area	Future demand (teams)					
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Banbury Rural	-	2	4	2	5	13
Banbury Town	-	3	-	-	1	4
Bicester Rural	5	4	4	-	6	19
Bicester Town	1	-	-	-	-	1
Kidlington Rural	-	-	-	-	-	0
Kidlington Town	-	1	2	2	-	5
Cherwell	6	10	10	4	12	42

Future demand summary

In the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section of the report, it is considered unfeasible for all future demand to be factored in. This is because it is likely that club aspirations will absorb the future demand identified through population growth, rather than them being judged separately and therefore double counted. As such, only demand expressed by clubs is taken forward.

2.4: Capacity analysis

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

As a guide, the FA has set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without it adversely affecting its current quality. Taking into consideration the guidelines on capacity, the following ratings were used in Cherwell:

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

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

Potential capacity	Play is below the level the site could sustain
At capacity	Play matches the level the site can sustain
Overused	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

Education sites

To account for curricular/extra-curricular use of education pitches, the current usage of such sites needs to be adjusted. The only time this would not happen is when a school does not use its pitches at all and the sole use is community use. The adjustment is typically dependent on the amount of play carried out, the number of pitches on site and whether there is access to an on-site AGP (as this can result in less grass pitch use).

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In some cases, where there is no identified community use, there is little capacity to accommodate further play. Internal usage often exceeds recommended pitch capacity, which is further exacerbated by basic maintenance regimes that may not extend beyond grass cutting and line marking. As such, where not overplayed as a result of community use, many school sites are considered to have no spare capacity to accommodate further usage based on assumed curricular and extra-curricular activity.

For school sites which are available for community use, current play has been increased on a site-by-site basis following consultation with the providers. Generally, usage is increased by one match equivalent session per pitch; however, in some cases, further use is added when it is known that a particular provider uses a particular pitch heavily.

Informal use

A number of football pitches in Cherwell on open access sites, especially those managed by parish and town councils, resulting in informal use in the form of, for example, dog walkers, unorganised sport (including football) and exercise groups. However, this usage is not recorded and it is therefore difficult to quantify on a site-by-site basis. Instead, it is recommended that open access sites be protected through an improved maintenance regime and reduced capacity.

Match equivalent sessions

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

One team accessing one pitch is considered to use the pitch for 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. This is based on them playing home and away fixtures on an alternate basis (therefore only requiring access to their home pitch every two weeks).

Peak time

Spare capacity can only be considered as actual spare capacity if pitches are available at peak time, which can differ for each pitch type depending on when leagues operate for each format of play. In Cherwell, peak time varies by playing format, as shown in the table below.

Table 2.13: Summary of peak time for playing formats

Playing format	Peak time
Adult	Saturday PM
Youth 11v11	Sunday AM
Youth 9v9	Saturday AM
Mini 7v7	Saturday AM
Mini 5v5	Saturday AM

On occasion, spare capacity in the peak period is identified despite the pitch being played to capacity or overplayed, or more spare capacity is identified in the peak period than the overall spare capacity that exists. This is because most or all of the use on those particular pitches occurs outside of the peak period. Where this is the case, given that peak time usage should not be utilised over and above overall capacity, adjustments have been made.

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A pitch is only said to have ‘actual spare capacity’ if it is available for community use and available at the peak time for that format of play. Any pitch not meeting this criterion is therefore not considered to have additional capacity, although it may have capacity outside of peak time. There may also be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as actual spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

Pitches that are of a poor quality are not deemed to have actual spare capacity due to the already low carrying capacity of the pitches. Any identified spare capacity should be retained in order to relieve the pitches of use, which in turn will aid quality improvements. Furthermore, any pitches with unsecure tenure are not considered to have actual spare capacity as no further play should be encouraged on the sites given that future access cannot be guaranteed. The table below identifies the way actual spare capacity is represented in Table 2.15.

Table 2.14: Spare capacity examples

Spare capacity in peak period (examples)	Explanation of spare capacity
1	If the cell is highlighted in green with a number, it means that the pitches have actual spare capacity at peak time.
-	If the cell has a dash in it, this means that the pitch is unavailable at peak time. If it was available, actual spare capacity could exist.
0	If the cell has a 0 in it, this means that the pitch is played to capacity, either overall or during the peak period.
1	If the cell has a number in it but is not highlighted, it means the pitch has spare capacity in the peak period; however, this is discounted. This is most commonly due to unsecure tenure and/or poor pitch quality.

Please see the table overleaf for the capacity analysis.

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Table 2.15: Football pitch capacity analysis

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Town/settlement	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	Available for community use?	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)	Comments
3	Ardley Playing Fields	OX27 7PA	Bicester	Bicester Rural	Community	Secure	Adult		Yes	Standard	1	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
							Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Standard	1	0.5	4	3.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
							Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Standard	1	0.5	4	3.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
4	Arcott Village Playing Fields	OX25 1PL	Bicester	Bicester Rural	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		Yes	Standard	1	1	2	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time
9	Banbury United Football Club	OX16 5AB	Banbury	Banbury Town	Sports Club	Unsecure	Adult		Yes	Good	1	1.5	3	1.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time
10	Banbury United Youth Football Club (Ironstone)	OX15 6ED	Wroxton	Banbury Rural	Sports Club	Unsecure	Adult		Yes	Standard	1	1.5	2	0.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time
							Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	1	4	2	2	0	Overplayed
							Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Standard	1	1	4	3	0	Played to capacity at peak time
15	Bicester Fields	OX26 6UU	Bicester	Bicester Town	Town Council	Secure	Adult		Yes	Poor	1	2	1	1	0	Overplayed
							Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Poor	1	2	1	1	0	Overplayed
18	Bicester Sports Association	OX26 1TH	Chesterton	Bicester Rural	Community	Secure	Adult		Yes	Good	2	4.5	6	1.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time
							Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Good	1	3	4	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time
							Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Good	3	3	18	15	1	Actual spare capacity
21	Blessed George Napier School	OX16 9DG	Banbury	Banbury Town	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Standard	1	3	2	1	0	Overplayed
							Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	1	3	2	1	0	Overplayed
							Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Standard	1	3	4	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time
							Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Standard	1	3	4	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time
22	Bletchingdon Sports Club	OX5 3BS	Bletchingdon	Kidlington Rural	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		Yes	Standard	1	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
							Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	1	1.5	2	0.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time
25	Bloxham Recreation Ground	OX15 4HJ	Bloxham	Banbury Rural	Trust	Secure	Adult		Yes	Poor	1	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
							Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Poor	1	1.5	1	0.5	0	Overplayed
27	Bloxham School (Courtington Lane)	OX15 4PQ	Bloxham	Banbury Rural	School	Unsecure	Adult		Yes	Standard	1	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity at peak time
29	Bodicote Sports Ground	OX15 4BN	Bodicote	Banbury Rural	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		Yes	Standard	1	1	2	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time
							Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	1	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
30	Broughton & North Newington Sports Club	OX15 6AA	North Newington	Banbury Rural	Community	Secure	Adult		Yes	Standard	1	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
33	Chandos Cattle Market Ground	OX15 4TL	Banbury	Banbury Town	Town Council	Secure	Adult		Yes	Poor	1	1	1	0	0	Played to capacity
							Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Poor	1	1	1	0	0	Played to capacity
34	Charlton-on-Otmoor Playing Fields	OX5 2UL	Charlton-on-Otmoor	Kidlington Rural	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		Yes	Standard	1	1	2	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time
36	Chesterton Playing Fields	OX26 1BJ	Chesterton	Bicester Rural	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		Yes	Good	1	1.5	3	1.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time
							Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Standard	1	1.5	4	2.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time
							Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Good	1	1	6	5	0	Played to capacity at peak time

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Town/settlement	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	Available for community use?	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)	Comments
37	Christopher Rawlins C of E Primary School	OX17 3NH	Adderbury	Banbury Rural	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Poor	1	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
38	Cooper School	OX26 4RS	Bicester	Bicester Town	School	Unsecure	Adult		No	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for use
39	Cropredy Sports Field	OX17 1PG	Cropredy	Banbury Rural	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		Yes	Standard	1	1	2	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time
40	Deddington C of E Primary School	OX15 0TJ	Deddington	Banbury Rural	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Standard	1	1.5	4	2.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
43	Easington Recreation Ground	OX16 9JP	Banbury	Banbury Town	Town Council	Secure	Adult		Yes	Poor	2	3	2	1	0	Overplayed
44	Easington Sports Football Club	OX16 9DH	Banbury	Banbury Town	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		Yes	Good	1	2.5	3	0.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time
45	Exeter Close	OX5 1AB	Kidlington	Kidlington Town	Trust	Secure	Adult		Yes	Poor	1	2	1	1	0	Played to capacity
							Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Standard	1	2	4	2	0	Played to capacity at peak time
46	Finmere Playing Fields	MK18 4AT	Finmere	Bicester Rural	Community	Secure	Adult		Yes	Poor	1	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
49	Fritwell C of E Primary School	OX27 7PX	Fritwell	Bicester Rural	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	1	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
50	Fritwell Playing Fields	OX27 7QA	Fritwell	Bicester Rural	Community	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	1	3	2	1	0	Pitch is overplayed (partly due to rugby union use)
							Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Standard	1	3	4	1	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to rugby union use
52	Gallos Brook Playing Field	OX25 3GW	Bicester	Kidlington Rural	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Standard	1	1	2	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time
54	Gosford Hill School	OX5 2NT	Kidlington	Kidlington Town	School	Unsecure	Adult		Yes	Standard	1	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
56	Hanwell Fields Recreation Ground	OX16 1EL	Banbury	Banbury Town	Town Council	Secure	Adult		Yes	Standard	1	1	2	1	0.5	Actual spare capacity
							Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	1	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
58	Hethe Recreation Ground	OX27 8EY	Hethe	Bicester Rural	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		Yes	Poor	1	0.5	1	0.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
59	Heyford Park Free School	OX25 5AB	Heyford Park	Bicester Rural	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Poor	1	2	1	1	0	Overplayed
							Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Poor	2	3	2	1	0	Overplayed
							Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Poor	1	4	4	0	0	Played to capacity
62	Hook Norton Sports & Social Club	OX15 5PB	Hook Norton	Banbury Rural	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Good	1	3	8	5	0	Played to capacity at peak time
							Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Good	1	3.5	6	2.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time
64	Horley Path Playing Fields	OX15 6QD	Wroxton	Banbury Rural	Community	Secure	Adult		Yes	Standard	1	1	2	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time
							Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	1	1	2	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time
							Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Standard	1	1.5	4	2.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time
65	Hornton Playing Field	OX15 6BD	Hornton	Banbury Rural	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		Yes	Standard	1	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
66	Horton View Sports Ground	OX15 4NJ	Banbury	Banbury Town	Town Council	Secure	Adult		Yes	Standard	1	0.5	2	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Town/settlement	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	Available for community use?	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)	Comments
67	Church Lane (The Rise)	OX5 2TA	Islip	Kidlington Rural	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes-unused	Poor	1	-	1	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time
68	Jubilee Park Village Hall	OX15 4NJ	Bloxham	Banbury Rural	Community	Secure	Adult		Yes	Standard	2	2.5	4	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity
							Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Standard	1	3.5	4	0.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time
69	Kata Sports Ground	OX26 2BH	Bicester	Bicester Town	Town Council	Secure	Adult		Yes	Standard	1	1.5	2	0.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time
							Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	1	1.5	2	0.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time
							Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Standard	1	1	4	3	0	Played to capacity at peak time
70	Keble Road	OX26 4TP	Bicester	Bicester Town	Town Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Standard	1	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
72	Kidlington Football Club	OX5 1AT	Kidlington	Kidlington Town	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		Yes	Standard	1	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity
75	Kirtlington Sports Field	OX5 3HJ	Kirtlington	Kidlington Rural	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		Yes	Standard	1	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
77	Launton Playing Field Association	OX26 5DP	Launton	Bicester Rural	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		Yes	Standard	1	3	2	1	0	Overplayed
							Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	1	3	2	1	0	Overplayed
78	Little Marsh Sports Ground	OX5 1QE	Kidlington	Kidlington Town	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Standard	1	1.5	2	0.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time
							Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	1	1	2	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time
79	Lower Heyford Playing Field	OX25 5PG	Lower Heyford	Bicester Rural	Community	Secure	Adult		Yes	Standard	1	1	2	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time
80	Lucy Plackett Playing Field	OX17 3EE	Adderbury	Banbury Rural	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		Yes	Standard	1	1	2	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time
							Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Standard	1	1	4	3	0	Played to capacity at peak time
81	Merton Village Playing Fields	OX25 2NL	Merton	Kidlington Rural	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes-unused	Poor	1	-	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
82	Moorfields Park	OX16 3NE	Banbury	Banbury Town	Town Council	Secure	Adult		Yes	Poor	1	1.5	1	0.5	0	Overplayed
83	Nickling Road Playing Field	OX16 1AR	Banbury	Banbury Rural	Community	Secure	Adult		Yes-unused	Poor	1	-	1	1	1	Capacity discounted due to poor quality
85	North Oxfordshire Academy	OX16 0UD	Banbury	Banbury Town	School / Council	Secure	Adult		Yes	Standard	2	5	4	1	0	Overplayed
							Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Standard	1	3	2	1	0	Overplayed
							Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	2	4	4	0	0	Played to capacity
							Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Standard	1	3	4	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time
87	Orchard Recreation Ground	OX5 2HX	Kidlington	Kidlington Town	Trust	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Good	1	3	4	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time
							Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Good	1	3	4	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time
91	Pingle Field	OX26 6WB	Bicester	Bicester Town	Town Council	Secure	Adult		Yes	Poor	1	2	1	1	0	Overplayed
							Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Poor	1	2	1	1	0	Overplayed
							Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Standard	2	4	8	4	0	Played to capacity at peak time
										Poor	1	1	2	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time
							Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Standard	4	4	16	12	0	Played to capacity at peak time
			Poor	1	1	2	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time							

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Town/settlement	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	Available for community use?	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)	Comments	
94	Ron Groves Park	OX5 1ES	Kidlington	Kidlington Town	Trust	Secure	Adult		Yes	Standard	1	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity	
							Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	1	1	2	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time	
							Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Standard	1	1.5	4	2.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time	
							Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Standard	1	1	4	3	0	Played to capacity at peak time	
96	Sibford School	OX15 5QL	Sibford Ferris	Banbury Rural	School	Unsecure	Adult		Yes	Standard	1	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity	
							Mini	(7v7)	No	Standard	2	-	-	-	0	Unavailable for community use	
97	Souldern Playing Fields	OX27 7JB	Souldern	Bicester Rural	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		Yes-unused	Standard	1	-	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity	
98	Spiceball Country Park	OX16 2RD	Banbury	Banbury Town	Town Council	Secure	Adult		Yes-unused	Poor	1	-	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality	
104	Steeple Aston Sport & Recreation Ground	OX25 4SF	Steeple Aston	Bicester Rural	Trust	Secure	Adult		Yes	Standard	1	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity	
105	Stratfield Brake	OX5 1UP	Kidlington	Kidlington Town	District Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Standard	1	2	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity
							Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	1	2.5	2	0.5	0	Overplayed	
							Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Standard	1	2	4	2	0	Played to capacity at peak time	
							Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Standard	2	2.5	8	5.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time	
106	Sunderland Drive	OX26 4FJ	Bicester	Bicester Town	Town Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Poor	1	2	1	1	0	Played to capacity	
							Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Poor	1	2	1	1	0	Played to capacity	
							Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Poor	1	1	2	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time	
108	The Bicester School	OX26 2NS	Bicester	Bicester Town	School	Unsecure	Adult		Yes	Standard	2	2	4	2	2	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure	
110	The Warriner School	OX15 4LJ	Bloxham	Banbury Rural	School	Unsecure	Adult		No	Standard	2	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for use	
							Youth	(11v11)	No	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for use	
							Youth	(9v9)	No	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for use	
							Mini	(5v5)	No	Standard	4	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for use	
111	The Windmill Centre	OX15 0QH	Deddington	Banbury Rural	Community	Secure	Adult		Yes	Good	1	1.5	3	1.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time	
							Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Good	1	1.5	4	2.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time	
							Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Good	1	1	6	5	0.5	Actual spare capacity	
114	Upper Heyford Playing Field	OX25 5LB	Upper Heyford	Bicester Rural	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	Yes-unused	Standard	1	-	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity	
							Mini	(7v7)	Yes-unused	Standard	2	-	8	8	2	Actual spare capacity	
115	Wardington Cricket Club	OX17 1SL	Wardington	Banbury Rural	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		Yes	Standard	1	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity	
117	Whitelands Farm Sports Ground	OX26 1AJ	Bicester	Bicester Rural	District Council	Secure	Adult		Yes	Good	1	3	3	0	0	Played to capacity	
118	Bardwell School	OX26 4RZ	Bicester	Bicester Town	School	Unsecure	Adult		No	Standard	2	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for use	
119	Wykham Park Academy	OX16 9HY	Banbury	Banbury Town	School	Unsecure	Adult		Yes	Standard	3	8	6	2	0	Overplayed	
							Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	3	8	6	2	0	Overplayed	
							Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Standard	2	7.5	8	0.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time	
120	Yarnton Park	OX5 1NG	Yarnton	Kidlington Town	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Standard	1	1.5	2	0.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time	

**CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL
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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Town/settlement	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	Available for community use?	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)	Comments
							Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Standard	2	1.5	8	7	0	Played to capacity at peak time
121	Whitelands Academy	OX26 1AY	Bicester	Bicester Rural	School	Unsecure	Adult		No	Good	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for use
							Youth	(9v9)	No	Good	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for use

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Actual spare capacity

The table below identifies actual spare capacity by site and pitch type across Cherwell. It totals 14 match equivalent sessions and is identified across 34 pitches at 16 sites.

Table 2.16: Actual (peak time) spare capacity site by site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)
3	Ardley Playing Fields	Bicester Rural	Adult	1	0.5
			Mini (7v7)	1	0.5
			Mini (5v5)	1	0.5
18	Bicester Sports Association	Bicester Rural	Mini (7v7)	3	1
22	Bletchingdon Sports Club	Kidlington Rural	Adult	1	0.5
29	Bodicote Sports Ground	Banbury Rural	Youth (9v9)	1	0.5
30	Broughton & North Newington Sports Club	Banbury Rural	Adult	1	0.5
56	Hanwell Fields Recreation Ground	Banbury Town	Adult	1	0.5
			Youth (9v9)	1	0.5
65	Hornton Playing Field	Banbury Rural	Adult	1	0.5
66	Horton View Ground	Banbury Town	Adult	1	1
68	Jubilee Park Village Hall	Banbury Rural	Adult	2	1
70	Keble Road	Bicester Town	Youth (11v11)	1	0.5
75	Kirtlington Sports Field	Kidlington Rural	Adult	1	0.5
97	Souldern Playing Fields	Bicester Rural	Adult	1	1
104	Steeple Aston Sport & Recreation Ground	Bicester Rural	Adult	1	0.5
111	The Windmill Centre	Banbury Rural	Mini (7v7)	1	0.5
114	Upper Heyford Playing Field	Bicester Rural	Youth (9v9)	1	1
			Mini (7v7)	2	2
115	Wardington Cricket Club	Banbury Rural	Adult	1	0.5
Total					15

Actual spare capacity is broken down by analysis area and pitch type in the table below. As seen, the most actual spare capacity is identified on adult pitches. The Bicester Rural Analysis contains the largest level of actual spare capacity (nine match equivalent sessions), whilst none is evidence in the Kidlington Town Analysis Area).

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 2.17: Actual spare capacity summary

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions per week)					
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Banbury Rural	2	-	0.5	0.5	-	3
Banbury Town	0.5	-	0.5	-	-	1
Bicester Rural	2.5	-	1	3.5	0.5	9
Bicester Town	1	0.5	-	-	-	1.5
Kidlington Rural	1	-	-	-	-	1
Kidlington Town	-	-	-	-	-	0
Cherwell	7	0.5	0	4	0.5	14

Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it can sustain (based on its quality rating), which can often be due to the low carrying capacity of pitches. In Cherwell, 30 pitches across 15 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 24.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 2.18: Overplay site-by-site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating
10	Banbury United Youth Football Club (Ironstone)	Banbury Rural	Youth (9v9)	1	2
15	Bicester Fields	Bicester Town	Adult	1	1
			Youth (11v11)	1	1
21	Blessed George Napier School	Banbury Town	Youth (11v11)	1	1
			Youth (9v9)	1	1
25	Bloxham Recreation Ground	Banbury Rural	Youth (11v11)	1	0.5
43	Easington Recreation Ground	Banbury Town	Adult	2	1
45	Exeter Close	Kidlington Town	Adult	1	1
50	Fritwell Playing Fields	Bicester Rural	Youth (9v9)	1	1
59	Heyford Park Free School	Bicester Rural	Youth (11v11)	1	1
			Youth (9v9)	2	1
77	Launton Playing Field Association	Bicester Rural	Adult	1	1
			Youth (9v9)	1	1
82	Moorfields Park	Banbury Town	Adult	1	0.5
85	North Oxfordshire Academy	Banbury Town	Adult	2	1
			Youth (11v11)	1	1
91	Pingle Field	Bicester Town	Adult	1	1
			Youth (9v9)	1	1
105	Stratfield Brake	Kidlington Town	Youth (9v9)	1	0.5
106	Sunderland Drive	Bicester Town	Youth (11v11)	1	1
			Youth (9v9)	1	1
119	Wykham Park Academy	Banbury Town	Adult	3	2
			Youth (9v9)	3	2
Total					24.5

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The highest level of overplay is identified on youth 9v9 pitches (10.5 match equivalent sessions), followed by adult pitches (8.5 match equivalent sessions). There is no identified overplay on mini 5v5 or mini 7v7 pitches.

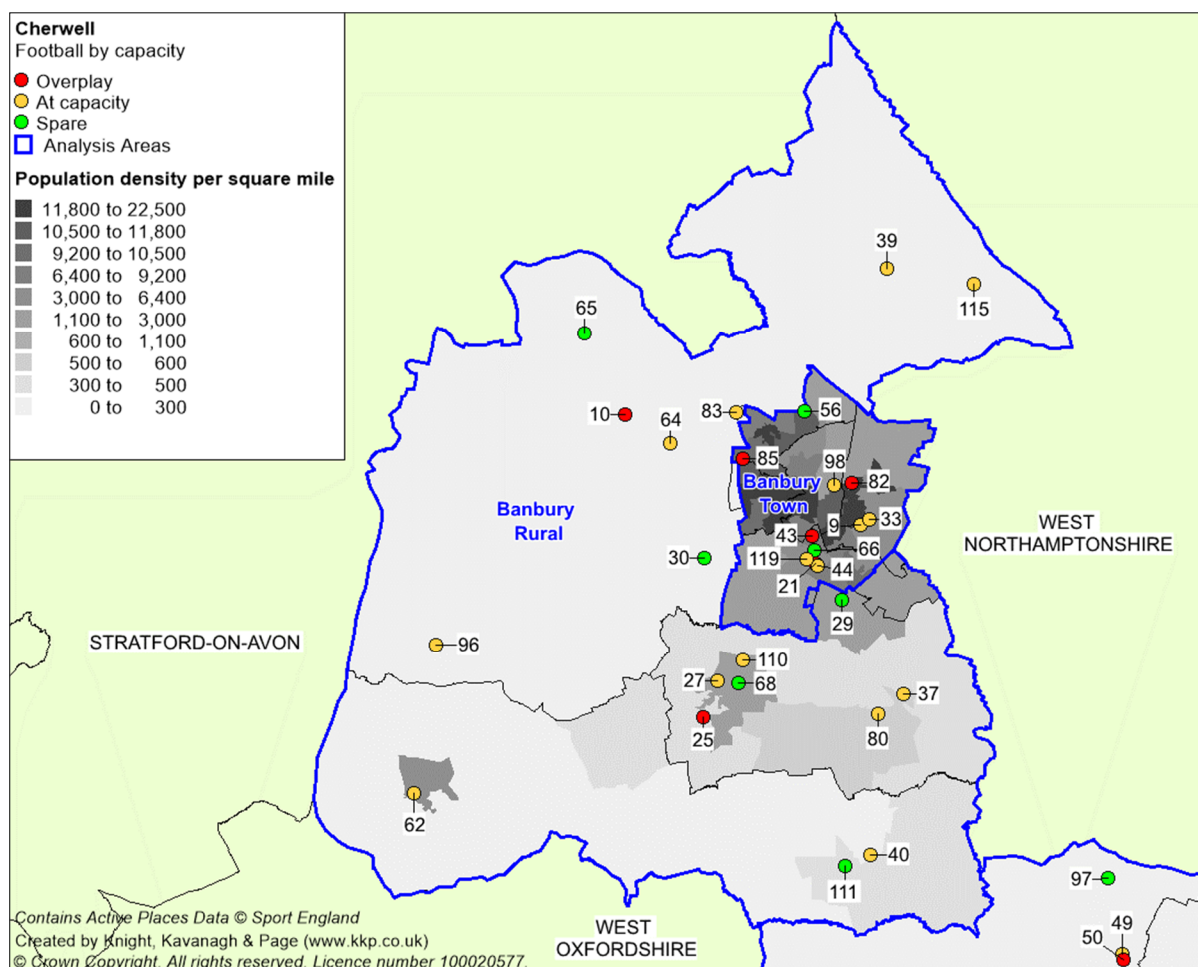
The Banbury Town Analysis Area contains the highest amount of overplay (9.5 match equivalent sessions), whereas none is evidenced in the Kidlington Rural Analysis Area.

Table 2.19: Overplay summary

Analysis area	Overplay (match equivalent sessions per week)					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Banbury Rural	-	1.5	1	-	-	2.5
Banbury Town	4.5	2	3	-	-	9.5
Bicester Rural	1	-	4	-	-	5
Bicester Town	2	2	2	-	-	6
Kidlington Rural	-	-	-	-	-	0
Kidlington Town	2	-	0.5	-	-	2.5
Cherwell	8.5	5.5	10.5	0	0	24.5

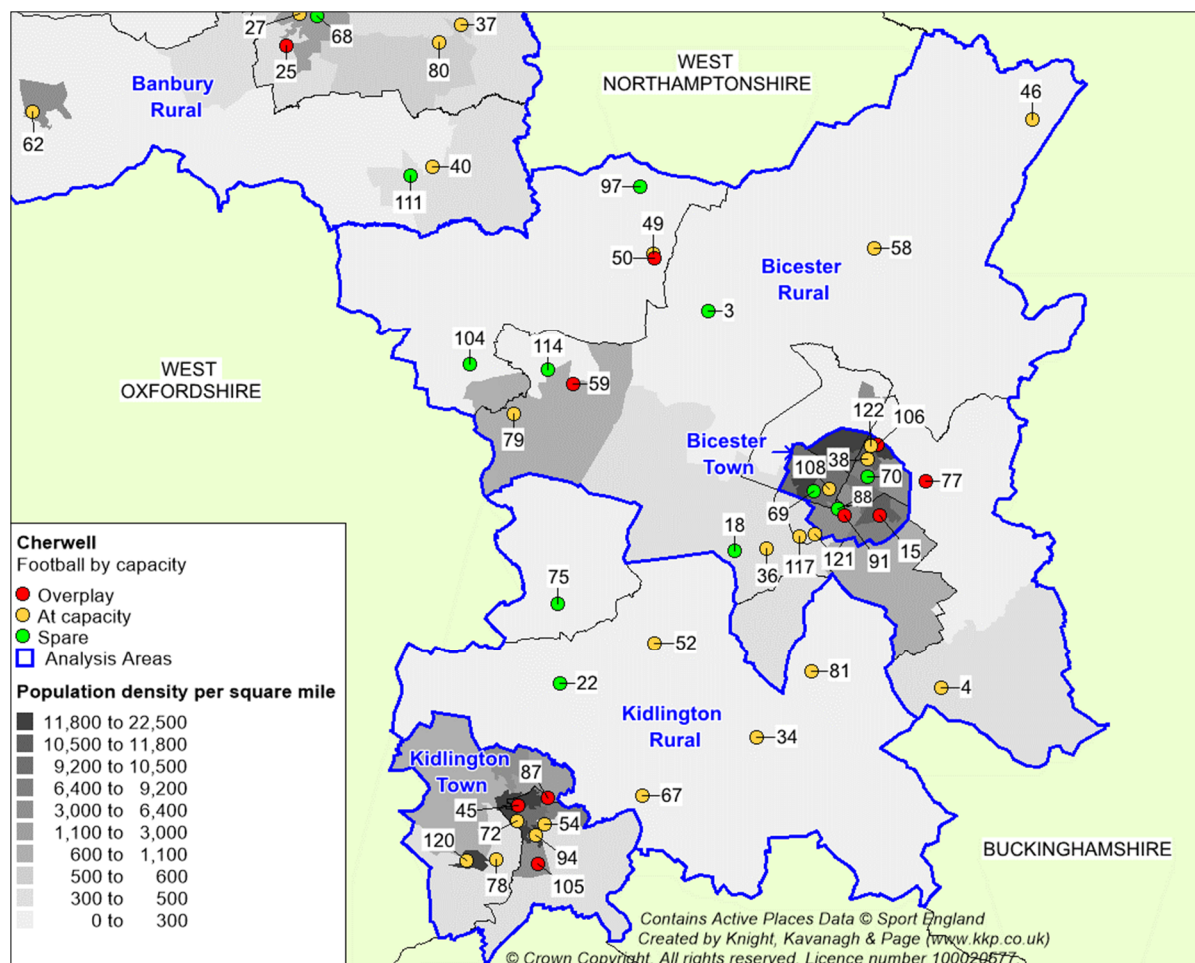
The distribution of the pitches by their capacity rating can be seen in the figures below. This helps to identify where spare capacity exists in relation to overplay, which may be able to assist with the transfer of demand, where it is possible and required.

Figure 2.7: Distribution of pitches by capacity rating (North)



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Figure 2.8: Distribution of pitches by capacity rating (South)



2.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify current demand (i.e. spare capacity taking away overplay) in each of the analysis areas for each pitch type, based on match equivalent sessions. As stated earlier, future demand is derived solely from club aspirations as it is considered that this will absorb increases from population growth.

Adult pitch capacity

Table 2.20: Supply and demand balance of adult pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Banbury Rural	2	-	2	-	2
Banbury Town	0.5	4.5	4	-	4
Bicester Rural	2.5	1	1.5	2.5	1
Bicester Town	1	2	1	0.5	1.5
Kidlington Rural	1	-	1	-	1
Kidlington Town	-	1	1	-	1
Cherwell	7	8.5	1.5	3	4.5

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The table above shows a current shortfall of adult pitches, equating to 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week. The shortfalls are evident in the Banbury Town, Bicester Town and Kidlington Town analysis areas, offsetting spare capacity in the Banbury Rural, Bicester Rural and Kidlington Rural analysis areas.

After considering future demand, a shortfall of 4.5 match equivalent sessions per week is created. This a result of shortfalls in four of the analysis areas (Banbury Town, Bicester Rural, Bicester Town and Kidlington Town).

Youth 11v11 pitch capacity

Table 2.21: Supply and demand balance of youth 11v11 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Banbury Rural	-	0.5	0.5	1	1.5
Banbury Town	-	2	2	1.5	2.5
Bicester Rural	-	1	1	2	3
Bicester Town	0.5	2	1.5	-	1.5
Kidlington Rural	-	-	0	-	0
Kidlington Town	-	-	0	0.5	0.5
Cherwell	0.5	5.5	5	5	10

There is a current shortfall of youth 11v11 pitch capacity amounting to five match equivalent sessions per week, with no analysis areas containing overall spare capacity. When considering future demand, the overall shortfall is exacerbated to 10 match equivalent sessions per week.

The shortfall of youth 11v11 pitches is a particular issue as it is likely to be greater in actuality given the number of youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches. As such, there is a clear need for an increase in youth 11v11 provision in order for this play to be transferred on to the correct pitch size and to alleviate the increased shortfalls that this would create.

Youth 9v9 pitch capacity

Table 2.22: Supply and demand balance of youth 9v9 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Banbury Rural	0.5	-	0.5	2	1.5
Banbury Town	0.5	3	2.5	-	2.5
Bicester Rural	1	5	4	2	6
Bicester Town	-	2	2	-	2
Kidlington Rural	-	-	0	-	0
Kidlington Town	-	0.5	0.5	1	1.5
Cherwell	2	10.5	8.5	5	13.5

Overall, there is a current shortfall of youth 9v9 pitch capacity amounting to 8.5 match equivalent sessions per week. This is despite overall spare capacity existing in the Banbury Rural Analysis Area.

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When factoring in future demand, the shortfall worsens to 13.5 match equivalent sessions, and no analysis area contains spare capacity. The largest shortfall is identified in the Bicester Rural Analysis Area (six match equivalent sessions).

Mini 7v7 pitch capacity

Table 2.23: Supply and demand balance of mini 7v7 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Banbury Rural	0.5	-	0.5	1	0.5
Banbury Town	-	-	0	-	0
Bicester Rural	3.5	-	3.5	-	3.5
Bicester Town	-	-	0	-	0
Kidlington Rural	-	-	0	-	0
Kidlington Town	-	-	0	1	1
Cherwell	4	0	4	2	2

Across Cherwell there is current spare capacity amounting to four match equivalent sessions per week on mini 7v7 pitches, with no overplay identified. The overall spare capacity can be attributed to the Banbury Rural and Bicester Rural analysis areas, with the remaining four being at capacity.

After factoring in future demand, the overall spare capacity reduces to two match equivalent sessions per week, with small shortfalls becoming evident in the Banbury Rural and Kidlington Town analysis areas.

Mini 5v5 pitch capacity

Table 2.24: Supply and demand balance of mini 5v5 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Banbury Rural	-	-	0	2.5	2.5
Banbury Town	-	-	0	0.5	0.5
Bicester Rural	0.5	-	0.5	3	2.5
Bicester Town	-	-	0	-	0
Kidlington Rural	-	-	0	-	0
Kidlington Town	-	-	0	-	0
Cherwell	0.5	0	0.5	6	5.5

There is currently minimal spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week on mini 5v5 pitches, with no overplay identified. The overall spare capacity can be attributed to the Bicester Rural Analysis Area, with the remaining five being at capacity.

When factoring in future demand, an overall capacity shortfall is established, equating to 5.5 match equivalent sessions per week. The shortfall is attributed to the Banbury Rural, Banbury Town and Bicester Rural analysis areas.

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2.5: Conclusion

Using the supply and demand tables above, the table below summarises the overall Cherwell supply and demand balance by pitch type. Overall, it is determined that there is currently a shortfall of adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 match equivalent sessions and spare capacity on mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches. After factoring in future demand, the shortfall worsens on the adult and youth pitches and is also created on mini 5v5 pitches. Only mini 7v7 pitches have remaining spare capacity.

Table 2.25: Summary of supply and demand

Pitch type	Match equivalent sessions per week				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult	7	8.5	1.5	3	4.5
Youth 11v11	0.5	5.5	5	5	10
Youth 9v9	2	10.5	8.5	5	13.5
Mini 7v7	4	0	4	2	2
Mini 5v5	0.5	0	0.5	6	5.5

The following tables summarise the supply and demand balance by pitch type for each analysis area. Where shortfalls are present, these could be alleviated through providing new pitches, with one pitch generally required to overcome a shortfall of one match equivalent session (based on peak time capacity). However, there are also alternatives to overcoming the deficits, for example via improving the existing stock and improving access to unsecure and unavailable provision. These will be further explored in the proceeding strategy document.

Banbury Rural

In the Banbury Rural Analysis Area, there is current spare capacity on adult, youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches, whilst there is a small shortfall of youth 11v11 provision (mini 5v5 pitches are at capacity). When accounting for future demand, spare capacity only exists on adult provision, with a shortfall identified on all remaining pitch types.

Table 2.26: Summary of supply and demand (Banbury Rural)

Pitch type	Match equivalent sessions per week				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult	2	-	2	-	2
Youth 11v11	-	0.5	0.5	1	1.5
Youth 9v9	0.5	-	0.5	2	1.5
Mini 7v7	0.5	-	0.5	1	0.5
Mini 5v5	-	-	0	2.5	2.5

Banbury Town

There is currently a shortfall of adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitch capacity in the Banbury Town Analysis Area, with mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches played to capacity. When incorporating future demand, the shortfall worsens in relation to youth 11v11 pitches and a shortfall is created on mini 5v5 pitches.

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Table 2.27: Summary of supply and demand (Banbury Town)

Pitch type	Match equivalent sessions per week				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult	0.5	4.5	4	-	4
Youth 11v11	-	2	2	1.5	2.5
Youth 9v9	0.5	3	2.5	-	2.5
Mini 7v7	-	-	0	-	0
Mini 5v5	-	-	0	0.5	0.5

Bicester Rural

In the Bicester Rural Analysis Area, there is current spare capacity on adult, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches, whilst there is a shortfall of youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 provision. When accounting for future demand, a shortfall is also created on adult pitches, with only mini 7v7 provision having remaining spare capacity.

Table 2.28: Summary of supply and demand (Bicester Rural)

Pitch type	Match equivalent sessions per week				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult	2.5	1	1.5	2.5	1
Youth 11v11	-	1	1	2	3
Youth 9v9	1	5	4	2	6
Mini 7v7	3.5	-	3.5	-	3.5
Mini 5v5	0.5	-	0.5	3	2.5

Bicester Town

There is currently a shortfall of adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitch capacity in the Bicester Town Analysis Area, with the remaining pitch types played to capacity. When incorporating future demand, the shortfall of adult pitch capacity worsens.

Table 2.29: Summary of supply and demand (Bicester Town)

Pitch type	Match equivalent sessions per week				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult	1	2	1	0.5	1.5
Youth 11v11	0.5	2	1.5	-	1.5
Youth 9v9	-	2	2	-	2
Mini 7v7	-	-	0	-	0
Mini 5v5	-	-	0	-	0

Kidlington Rural

In the Kidlington Rural Analysis Area, there is current and future spare capacity on adult pitches, whilst the remaining pitch types are played to capacity.

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Table 2.30: Summary of supply and demand (Kidlington Rural)

Pitch type	Match equivalent sessions per week				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult	1	-	1	-	1
Youth 11v11	-	-	0	-	0
Youth 9v9	-	-	0	-	0
Mini 7v7	-	-	0	-	0
Mini 5v5	-	-	0	-	0

Kidlington Town

In the Kidlington Rural Analysis Area, there is a current and future shortfall of adult and youth 11v11 capacity, whilst the remaining pitch types are played to capacity. Based on future demand, a shortfall is to be created on youth 11v11 and mini 7v7 pitches and existing shortfalls are projected to worsen on youth 9v9 pitches.

Table 2.31: Summary of supply and demand (Kidlington Town)

Pitch type	Match equivalent sessions per week				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult	-	1	1	-	1
Youth 11v11	-	-	0	0.5	0.5
Youth 9v9	-	0.5	0.5	1	1.5
Mini 7v7	-	-	0	1	1
Mini 5v5	-	-	0	-	0

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Football summary

- 3 The audit identifies a total of 155 football pitches across 68 sites in Cherwell, with 140 pitches available at some level for community use across 64 sites.
- 3 Oxford Road Sports Ground is now closed, whilst lapsed pitches are identified at MOD Garrison albeit Launton FC is working to re-establish these.
- 3 Oxford United FC and Woodstock Town FC are pursuing plans to relocate into Cherwell due to development pressures at their sites outside of the District.
- 3 The need for new football pitches and a pavilion has been identified in Kidlington, with land at South East Kidlington, close to Stratfield Brake, allocated for new pitch provision in the adopted local plan.
- 3 Other proposals in Cherwell could impact on provision at Banbury United Football Club (Spencer Stadium), Easington Sports Football Club, Hanwell Fields Recreation Ground and Blessed George Napier School as well as in Graven Hill.
- 3 The main operators of football pitches in Cherwell are parish/town councils, followed by schools.
- 3 Most pitches are assessed as standard, with 94 being rated as such, compared to 19 that are good quality and 27 that are poor.
- 3 Arcott Village Playing Fields, Banbury United Youth Football Club (Ironsides), Bicester Fields, Bletchindon Sports Ground, Bodicote Sports Ground, Easington Sports Football Club and Lucy Plackett Field are sites identified as being serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.
- 3 A total of 328 teams across 64 clubs are identified within Cherwell, consisting of 82 senior men's, six senior women's, 130 youth boys', 24 youth girls' and 88 mini soccer teams.
- 3 Participation has seemingly increased in recent years with 70 more teams identified currently compared to 2016/2017 data.
- 3 Three clubs currently export demand outside of Cherwell (Banbury Irish FC, Banbury United FC and Longford Park FC), whilst no affiliated teams are imported.
- 3 14 clubs report latent demand in that they could field more teams if more pitches were available to them, whilst the same number report latent demand linked to ancillary provision.
- 3 Team generation rates predict an increase amounting to four adult and one youth 11v11 team, whereas future demand expressed by clubs equates to six adult, 10 youth 11v11, 10 youth 9v9, four mini 7v7 and 12 mini 5v5 teams.
- 3 **In total, 34 pitches display some level of actual spare capacity across 16 sites, equating to 14 match equivalent sessions.**
- 3 **There are 30 overplayed pitches across 15 sites, with total overplay equating to 24.5 match equivalent sessions.**
- 3 **There is current spare capacity on mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches but a shortfall of adult, 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitch capacity.**
- 3 **After factoring in future demand, the shortfall worsens on adult and youth pitches and a shortfall is also created on mini 5v5 pitches, with only mini 7v7 pitches having spare capacity.**

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

PART 3: RUGBY UNION

3.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) governs rugby union in England. It is split into four areas across the Country with a workforce team that covers development, coaching, governance and competitions. As part of this, Club Developers and a team of community rugby coaches deliver core programmes for clubs across Cherwell.

The RFU oversees a variety of formats and programmes, including 15-a-side, 10-a-side, 7-a-side and Tag rugby as well as the O2 Touch programme. Its aim is to increase and retain participation within the game, with facilities needing to be appropriate, affordable and accessible in order to enable this.

Consultation

There are four rugby union clubs in Cherwell and four responded to consultation requests, resulting in a response rate of 100%.

Table 3.1: Summary of rugby club consultation

Club	Responded?
Alchester RUFC	Yes
Bicester RUFC	Yes
Banbury RUFC	Yes
Gosford All Blacks RUFC	Yes

3.2: Supply

There are 28 grass rugby union pitches identified in Cherwell across 15 unique sites, with 21 pitches available for community use across 12 sites. The pitches that are unavailable for community use are located at education sites (Cooper School, Sibford School and Whitelands Academy).

The majority of the community available pitches are located in the Banbury Analysis Area (12), whilst the fewest are in the Bicester Analysis Area. This is further summarised below.

Table 3.2: Summary of grass rugby union pitches available for community use

Analysis area	No. senior pitches	No. of junior pitches	No. mini pitches
Banbury	12	-	-
Bicester	4	-	-
Kidlington	5	-	-
Cherwell	21	-	-

As seen, all the community available pitches are senior pitches. Whilst dedicated junior and mini pitches are provided at some venues across the Country, junior and mini play often takes place on over marked senior pitches, which is the case across Cherwell. As such, the lack of standalone junior and mini provision is not considered to be uncommon or problematic.

For rugby union pitch dimensions, please refer to the table overleaf.

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Table 3.3: Rugby union pitch dimensions

Age	Pitch type	Maximum pitch dimensions (metres) ²
U7	Mini	20 x 12
U8	Mini	45 x 22
U9	Mini	60 x 30
U10	Mini	60 x 35
U11	Mini	60 x 43
U12	Mini	60 x 43
U13	Junior	90 x 60 (60 x 43 for girls)
U14 +	Senior	100 x 70 ³

In addition to the grass provision, there is one full size World Rugby compliant 3G pitch in Cherwell that is in use for rugby union. This is at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground and is detailed later on in this section of the report as well as in Part 4: Third Generation Turf (3G) Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs).

Additional provision

Oxford Road Sports Ground is no longer accessible following closure of the site, with two senior pitches previously accessed by Bicester RUFC. Discussions are ongoing to determine appropriate mitigation measures.

Future provision

Banbury RUFC reports an aspiration to purchase the land at its site that is currently in the Council's ownership.

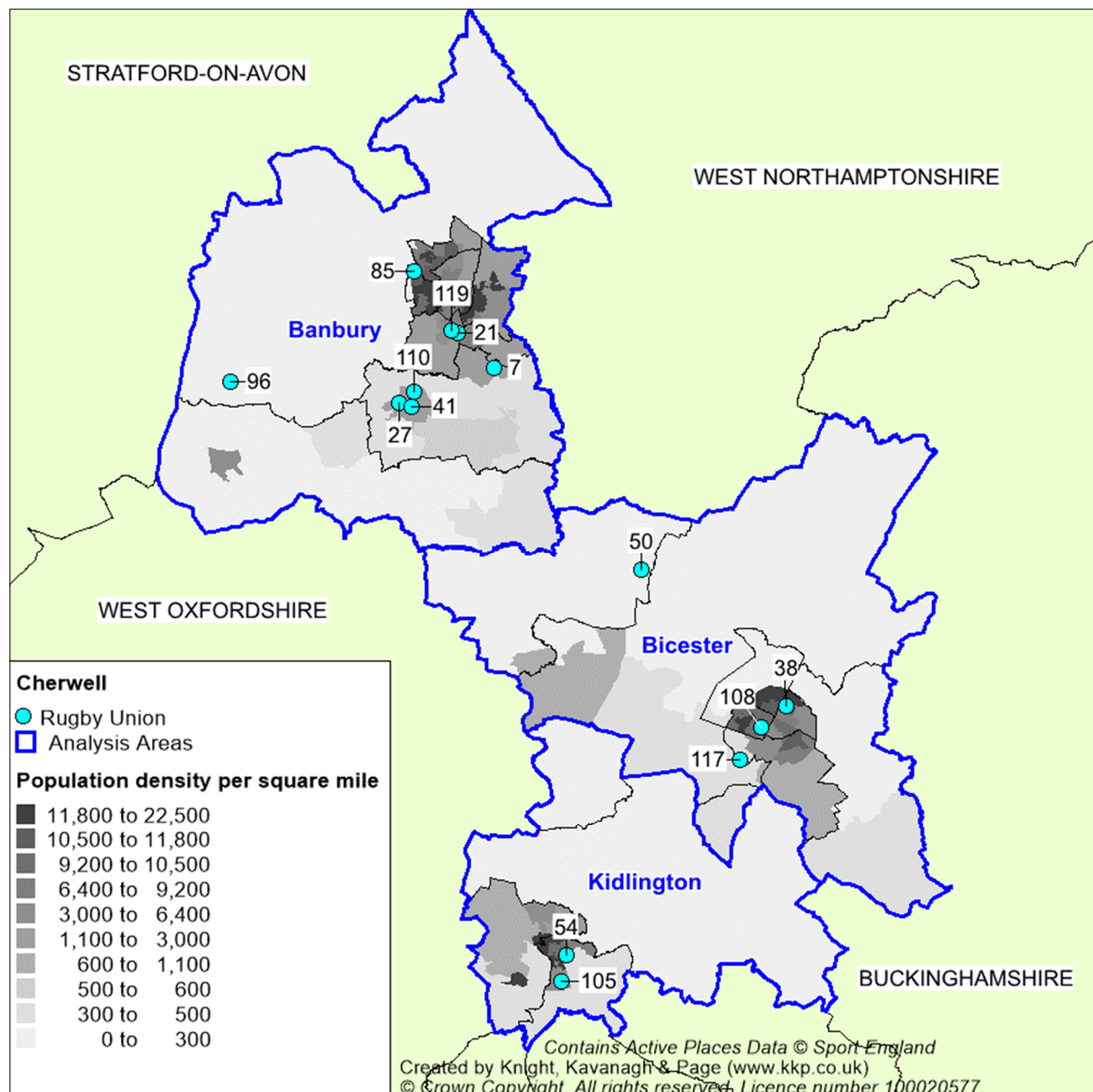
The figure below identifies all grass rugby union pitches currently servicing Cherwell. For a key to the map, see Table 3.7.

² Recommended run off area for all pitch types requires five-metres each way and a minimum in-goal length of six metres.

³ Minimum dimensions of 94 x 68 metres are accepted.

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Figure 3.1: Location of rugby union pitches within Cherwell



Ownership/management

Tenure is considered to be secure for Banbury RUFC, which has freehold of the majority of its site (Banbury Rugby Club). The rest (approximately one third) is owned by the District Council and licensed to the Club.

Similarly, tenure is secure for Gosford All Blacks RUFC as it has a lease agreement for use of Stratfield Brake, with approximately 80 years remaining on a 100-year arrangement. However, as referenced above, this may be impacted upon by wider plans for the site.

Bicester RUFC has a licence to use Whitelands Farm Sports Ground until 2024 from the Council, although operation of the site is soon to be transferred to Bicester Town Council. It is recommended that the agreement should be further formalised into a long term lease for the Club, if it is to remain at the site for the long-term.

Alchester RUFC rents the provision at Fritwell Playing Fields from a community organisation and it reports that it is happy with this arrangement given that it operates just a single team.

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All remaining pitches that are not in use by clubs are operated in-house by schools. None of these are recorded as having a community use agreement in place, meaning no security of tenure would be provided if a club accessed the provision.

Pitch quality

The assessment of rugby union pitch quality looks at two key elements; the maintenance programme and the level of drainage on each pitch. For maintenance, each pitch is given a maintenance rating of M0, M1 or M2, based on the regime that is usually undertaken, with the definitions of these shown in the table below.

Table 3.4: Definition of maintenance categories

Category	Definition
M0	Minimal or no maintenance is undertaken
M1	Regular maintenance is undertaken that extends beyond a basic regime
M2	A sophisticated, regular and dedicated maintenance regime is undertaken

For drainage, a rating of D0, D1, D2 or D3 is assigned to each pitch. This is based on whether or not drainage is adequate and considers the presence of an operational system. The figures are based upon a pipe drained system at 5m centres that has been installed in the last eight years and a slit drained system at 1m centres that has been installed in the last five years.

Table 3.5: Definition of drainage categories

Category	Definition
D0	Drainage is natural but inadequate
D1	Drainage is natural and adequate
D2	A pipe drainage system is installed (at 5-metre centres and within the last eight years)
D3	A pipe and slit drainage system is installed (at 1-metre centres in the last five years)

An overall quality based on both drainage and maintenance can then be generated on a scale of good, standard and poor as shown below.

Table 3.6: Quality ratings based on maintenance and drainage scores

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

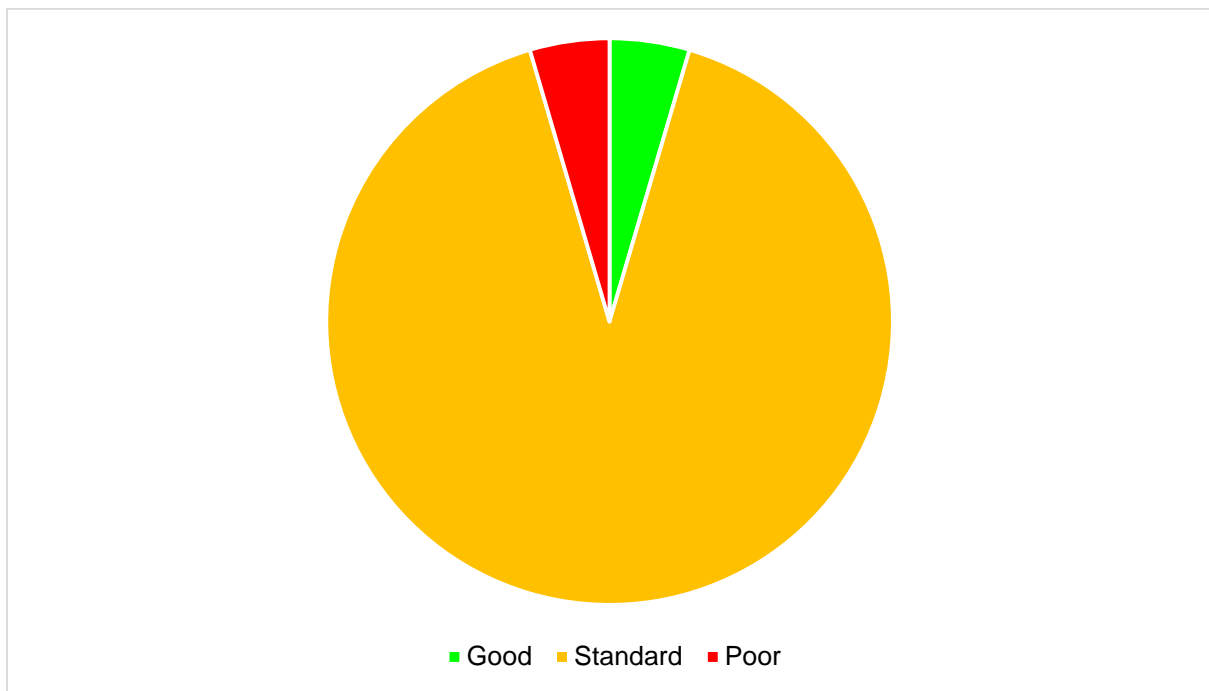
The above was calculated for each pitch within Cherwell following site assessments, with findings then checked and challenged against consultation and through access to PQS assessments undertaken by the RFU (at Banbury Rugby Club, Stratfield Brake and Whitelands Farm Sports Ground). These then allowed an 'agreed quality rating' to be established.

For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

Of the pitches that are available for community use in Cherwell, two are good quality, eight are standard quality and 11 are poor quality. Most unavailable pitches are also assessed as standard quality, although a poor quality pitch is found at Cooper School.

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Figure 3.2: Quality of community available rugby union pitches



A pitch-by-pitch breakdown can be seen in the table overleaf.

**CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT**

Table 3.7: Site quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Town/ Settlement	Analysis area	Tenure	Management	Community use?	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Sports lighting?	Non-technical assessment score	Quality rating
7	Banbury Rugby Club	OX15 4AF	Banbury	Banbury	Secure	Sports Club	Yes	6	Senior	Yes	M0 / D0	Poor
									Senior	Yes	M0 / D0	Poor
									Senior	Yes	M0 / D0	Poor
									Senior	No	M0 / D0	Poor
									Senior	No	M0 / D0	Poor
									Senior	No	M0 / D0	Poor
21	Blessed George Napier School	OX16 9DG	Banbury	Banbury	Unsecure	Education	Yes-unused	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
27	Bloxham School (Courtington Lane)	OX15 4PQ	Bloxham	Banbury	Unsecure	Education	Yes-unused	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
38	Cooper School	OX26 4RS	Bicester	Bicester	Unsecure	Education	No	1	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
41	Dewey Sports Centre (Bloxham School)	OX15 4NJ	Bloxham	Banbury	Unsecure	Education	Yes-unused	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
50	Fritwell Playing Fields	OX27 7QA	Fritwell	Bicester	Secure	Council	Yes	1	Senior	Partially	M1 / D1	Standard
54	Gosford Hill School	OX5 2NT	Kidlington	Kidlington	Unsecure	Education	Yes-unused	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
85	North Oxfordshire Academy	OX16 0UD	Banbury	Banbury	Unsecure	Education	Yes-unused	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
96	Sibford School	OX15 5QL	Sibford	Banbury	Unsecure	Education	No	5	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
									Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
									Junior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
									Junior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
									Junior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
105	Stratfield Brake	OX5 1UP	Kidlington	Kidlington	Secure	Council	Yes	4	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
									Senior	Yes	M0 / D1	Poor
									Senior	Yes	M0 / D1	Poor
									Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
108	The Bicester School	OX26 2NS	Bicester	Bicester	Unsecure	Education	Yes-unused	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
110	The Warriner School	OX15 4LJ	Bloxham	Banbury	Unsecure	Education	Yes-unused	1	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
117	Whitelands Farm Sports Ground	OX26 1AJ	Bicester	Bicester	Secure	Council	Yes	2	Senior	No	M1 / D3	Good
									Senior	No	M1 / D3	Good
119	Wykham Park Academy	OX16 9HY	Banbury	Banbury	Unsecure	Education	Yes-unused	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
121	Whitelands Academy	OX26 1AY	Bicester	Bicester	Unsecure	Education	No	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard