

MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

PART 13: OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES METHODOLOGY AND BACKGROUND

Introduction

Playing pitch strategy methodology

- 13.1 The assessment and analysis in this report are based on Sport England's (SE) playing pitch strategy methodology, 'Towards A Level Playing Field' (2003). This document outlines specific criteria for assessing the quantity, quality, capacity and accessibility of playing pitches and ancillary facilities. These criteria and the principles of the assessment have also been applied to outdoor sports facilities other than pitches.
- 13.2 'Towards A Level Playing Field' provides clear guidance on the assessment of supply and demand for sports pitches and the types and levels of analysis, which need to be carried out in order for the local authority to plan effectively to meet local needs. These include:
- ❑ The playing pitch model (PPM).
 - ❑ Team generation rates (TGRs).
 - ❑ Local standards for provision.

Playing Pitch Model (PPM)

- 13.3 The PPM is a temporal supply and demand analysis and is largely used as a numerical, model. There are three main ways in which the model is used:
- ❑ To reflect the existing situation using data on existing teams and pitches.
 - ❑ To test the adequacy of current provision by manipulating the variables in the model.
 - ❑ To predict future requirements for pitches, by incorporating planned pitches and projected changes in population and participation.
- 13.3 An eight-stage process is outlined to produce the PPM:
- Stage 1: Identify teams/team equivalents.
 - Stage 2: Calculating home games per team per week.
 - Stage 3: Assessing total home games per week.
 - Stage 4: Establishing temporal demand for games.
 - Stage 5: Defining pitches used/required on each day.
 - Stage 6: Establishing pitches available.
 - Stage 7: Assessing the findings.
 - Stage 8: Identifying policy options and solutions.

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- 13.4 The 'electronic toolkit', which accompanies 'Towards A Level Playing Field', provides tools for collecting some of the information above.
- 13.5 Identifying teams has been undertaken through consultation with leagues, local authority officers (pitch booking records), as well as with governing bodies and clubs.
- 13.6 'Team equivalents' refers to use of pitches by groups other than those playing formal matches. This includes school games lessons, club and school training sessions, sports development sessions etc. By including these in the 'demand equation' a more accurate picture is presented. Information from schools and clubs is collected using the electronic toolkit school and club questionnaires.
- 13.7 Establishing how many pitches are available is largely done through site visits. All local authority playing pitch sites have been visited by KKP accompanied by local area grounds maintenance managers. All secondary schools in the District have also been visited. Audit information for private and voluntary sector clubs was gathered in a variety of ways:
- Face to face consultation/site visit.
 - Postal questionnaire.
 - Telephone questionnaire.

Team generation rates (TGRs)

- 13.8 TGRs indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team based on current population and participation. TGRs for each pitch sport and each age group have been calculated.
- 13.9 TGRs can be used with the PPM for modelling purposes, e.g., by looking at population projections, future TGRs can be estimated. If these are entered into the PPM, it is possible to predict whether current supply would meet future demand.

Local standard calculation

- 13.10 Local authorities have previously used the NPFA 'Six Acre Standard' to define local minimum standards for provision of outdoor sports facilities. It is now recognised that this standard does not take into account the quality and accessibility of facilities or indeed any local expressions of unmet demand.
- 13.11 In order that this report sits within the wider context of open spaces and PPG17 requirements, KKP has provided locally derived standards. The Government believes that open space standards are best set locally. National standards cannot cater for local circumstances, such as differing demographic profiles and the extent of existing built development in an area. This is particularly the case in Malvern Hills District where the authority has both rural and urban areas.

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13.12 Within this report local standards or 'local aspirations targets for provision' in hectares per 1,000 population are derived as follows:

Existing provision (within this a recognition of 'poor quality' provision)	+	Additional provision to meet current unmet demand	+	Additional provision to meet future demand	=	Local aspirational target for provision
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Pitch quality information

13.13 It should be noted that the club and school questionnaires and the non-technical pitch assessment sheet in the electronic toolkit all have different scales for rating the quality of pitches and ancillary facilities. On this basis, KKP uses the 'non-technical pitch assessment sheet' to assess **all** pitches in order that consistent information is presented.

13.14 The pitch assessment sheet is a 'tick box' assessment, which rates various elements of pitch quality with a separate assessment sheet for changing accommodation. This information is scored, converted into a percentage (of the highest score possible) and also into a qualitative rating. The qualitative ratings for pitch quality are:

90% +	An excellent pitch
64-90%	A good pitch
55-64%	An average pitch
30-54%	A below average pitch
Less than 30%	A poor pitch

13.15 For ease of analysis KKP has reduced this to a three-point scale. In this report pitches are rated as:

- An excellent pitch or good pitch = **good quality**.
- An average pitch = **adequate quality**.
- A below average pitch or poor pitch = **poor quality**.

13.16 The qualitative ratings for changing accommodation quality are listed as:

90% +	Excellent
60-89%	Good
40-59%	Average
30-39%	Poor
Less than 30%	Very poor

13.17 Copies of the assessment sheets can be found in the appendices.

Consultation

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13.18 A variety of consultation methods have been used to collate information about leagues, clubs, county associations and national/regional governing bodies. They are generally as follows:

Consultee	Method of consultation
Local authority officers	Face to face interview
League/county association representatives	Telephone interview
Football clubs	Face to face, postal questionnaire, telephone interview
Cricket/rugby/hockey/tennis/ clubs	Face to face/ telephone interview
Bowls clubs	Face to face, telephone interview
Golf clubs	Face to face/ telephone interview
Secondary schools	Face to face interview
Primary and junior schools	Email questionnaire
Regional governing body officers	Face to face, telephone interview

13.19 Local sports development officers, county associations and regional governing body officers advised which of the clubs should be included in the face-to-face consultation. Issues identified by football clubs returning questionnaires were also followed up by telephone or face-to-face interviews.

Sports specific summary

13.20 The following sections summarise the local administration of the main outdoor sports within Malvern Hills District.

13.21 It provides a quantitative summary of provision and a map showing the distribution of facilities. It also provides information about the availability of facilities to the local community and, the governing body of each sport and regional strategic plans (where they exist). Details of local leagues are provided in order to outline the competitive structure for each sport. The findings of club consultation and key issues for each sport are summarised. The sports covered are as follows:

- Football.
- Cricket.
- Rugby union.
- Hockey.
- Bowls.
- Tennis.
- Athletics.
- Golf.