

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

PART 16: RUGBY UNION

Rugby union provision in Malvern Hills District

Table 16.1: Summary of pitch and team information in rugby union

Analysis area	No. of available pitches			No. of teams				
	Senior	Junior	Mini	Senior mens	Senior womens	Junior boys	Junior girls	Mini rugby
Malvern Town area	4	1	-	3	1	11	-	-
Rural areas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tenbury Town area	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Upton and Hanley areas	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT	8	1	-	5	1	11	-	-

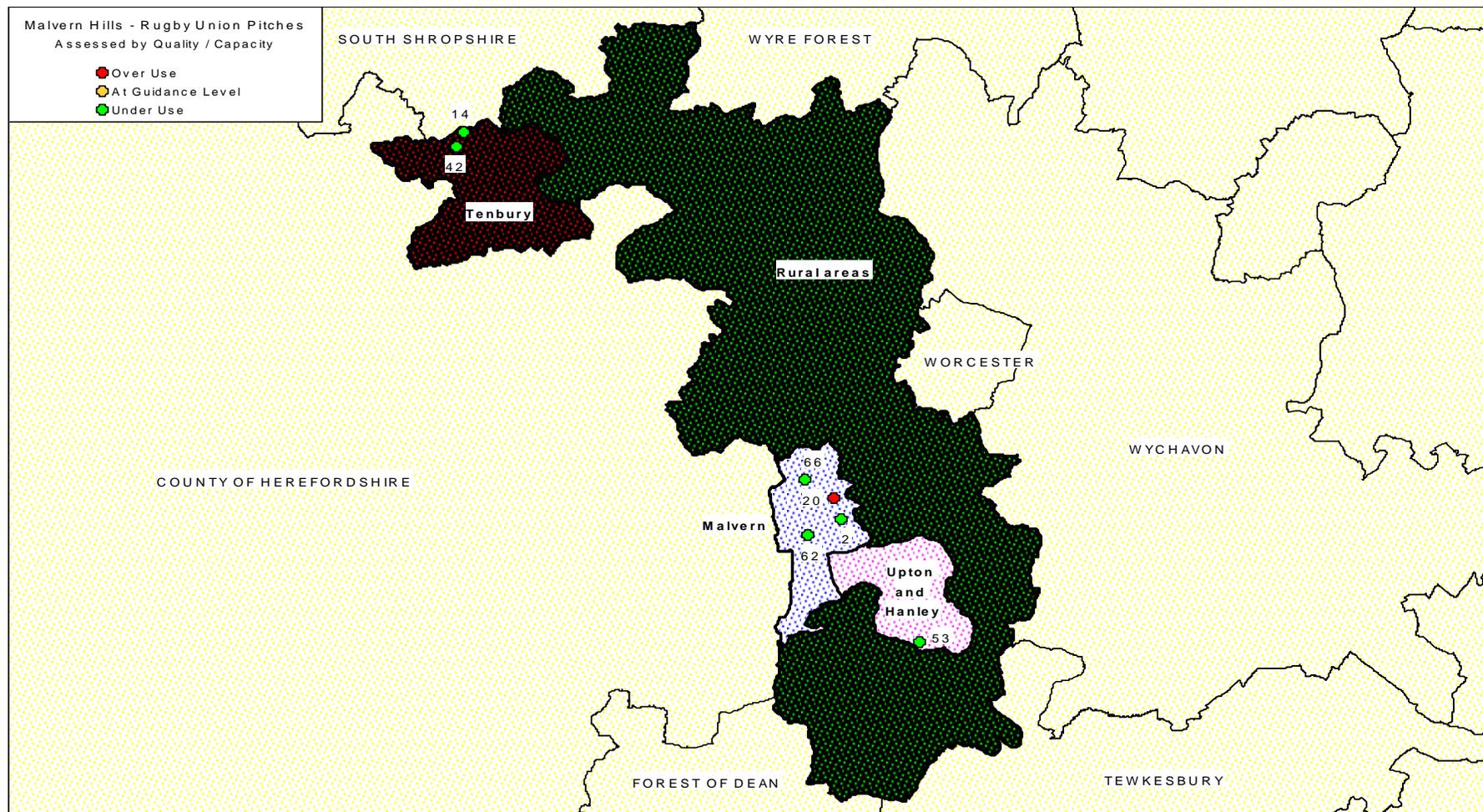
Table 16.2: Key to map of rugby union sites (see next page)

KKP ref	Site name
2	Dukes Meadow
66	Dyson Perrins High School
62	Malvern College
20	Malvern Rugby Club
14	Palmers Meadow
42	Tenbury High School Oldwood Road
53	Upton Sports Club



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Figure 16.1: Location of rugby union pitches in Malvern Hills District



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Key issues for rugby union

Malvern Rugby Club

- 16.1 Malvern Rugby Club has three pitches on its site at Spring Lane. At present, these pitches are good quality and therefore have a high weekly carrying capacity, which accommodates current levels of demand. There are no plans to improve or increase the formal pitch stock on the site. The Club has taken a season long lease on the rugby pitch at Dukes Meadow, which it will use if required (see below).
- 16.2 The Club does have plans to upgrade two aspects of its site, as follows:
- The Club has outline planning permission to extend the clubhouse by 8m to increase the capacity to hire out the facility for social events etc. It is not anticipated that this development will significantly enhance the Club in a sports development context. Indeed, it will actually reduce the size of the informal floodlit training area.
 - The Club is considering the upgrade of its grass training area to a floodlit STP, which it would make available for other sports to hire.

Tenbury Rugby Club

- 16.3 Tenbury Rugby Club is part of the Tenbury Sports Club, which includes the Cricket Club and both hockey clubs. It has access to one full-size pitch at the Palmers Meadow site. However, the Club does not consider it sufficient to accommodate current levels of demand. It currently has two senior teams. There are no changing facilities at the site, so teams change at the Penlu Sports Club before travelling the one-mile to the pitch. The current changing facility is shared with the Cricket Club and is too small for two rugby teams. As referenced in the football section, outline planning permission for a new changing facility has been granted on the Palmers Meadow site, but the annual lease renewal prevents the clubs from applying for funding.
- 16.4 The Club currently has no junior teams. However, anecdotal evidence suggests that a number of young people travel to outlying towns to play for other clubs, particularly Ludlow and Bromyard. In 2006 the Club arranged an exhibition match in liaison with the High School. It managed to field one U14 team and one U16 team. This suggests that there is latent demand for junior rugby in the town. Currently, several junior players train with the senior teams. A junior section sub-committee is putting into place plans to field an U14 team from 2007, which would play on Sundays at the Palmers Meadow. This is with a view to working towards achieving the RFU Seal of Approval and would establish a strong case for improved facilities by demonstrating additional demand that does not currently exist.



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Dukes Meadow rugby pitch

- 16.5 There is a rugby union pitch at Dukes Meadow. Although KKP's site visit has rated the pitch as good quality (73%) consultation reports that the pitch was constructed on a land-fill site. As a result, glass and other objects occasionally protrude through the surface. Whilst significant work has been undertaken to solve this problem by applying a new layer of topsoil, there is still a perception that the problem has not yet been rectified and the remedial work is only seen as a temporary measure. This led to a poor level of demand for the facility, which is why a change of provision from football to rugby was sanctioned. As stated above, Malvern Rugby Club has not played a competitive match on the pitch this season, despite taking out a season-long lease.

Spring Lane (Morgans) site

- 16.6 There are two junior rugby pitches located on the Spring Lane (Morgans) site. There is currently no formal play on these pitches and they are therefore not marked and no posts are currently on the site. Consultation suggests that there is little demand for them at present. In the past they have been used to accommodate overplay from the junior sections of Malvern Rugby Club but the Club currently hires the pitch on Dukes Meadow on a season-long lease. There have been no matches played on the site this season, as all matches have been accommodated at Malvern Rugby Club on Spring Lane.



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Provision of rugby union pitch sites assessed by quality and capacity

Table 16.3: Rugby union provision and level of community use

Site name	Analysis area	Senior			Junior			Mini			Matches per week			Consultation comments	
		G	A	P	G	A	P	G	A	P	play	cap	rating		
Dukes Meadow	Malvern Town area	1										-	2.0		Malvern Rugby Club has leased the site for the season, yet, to date, has not played any matches on it. The pitch is good quality and has had remedial work undertaken on it in the past.
Malvern Rugby Club	Malvern Town area	2			1							7.5	6.0		Malvern Rugby Club owns and maintains its own site on Spring Lane. Whilst it appears that the site is overplayed, in reality a number of junior teams play away on alternate weekends. To date, good timetabling has allowed all the teams to use the site. However, Dukes Meadow is available to the Club should the demand require it.
Dyson Perrins High School	Malvern Town area		1									-	1.0		Site is not currently used for formal matches.
Palmer's Meadow	Tenbury Town area			1								1.0	0.5		Senior teams at Tenbury Rugby Club use the site. There are plans to establish junior teams in the future, with an U14 team to be established in 2007.
Tenbury High School Oldwood Road	Tenbury Town area			1								-	0.5		Site is not currently used for formal matches.



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Site name	Analysis area	Senior			Junior			Mini			Matches per week			Consultation comments	
		G	A	P	G	A	P	G	A	P	play	cap	rating		
Upton Sports Club	Upton and Hanley areas	2										3.0	4.0		Site is well used by Upton Rugby Club, which has recently introduced a junior section, which has grown. There are no capacity issues at the site and the pitches are all in good condition.
Malvern College	Malvern Town area	2			2							0.0	8.0		Site is not currently used by the community.



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‘SHORTFALL, ADEQUACY AND REQUIREMENT ’

Summary of current demand

16.7 The table below summaries the sites in each area, which are currently being played beyond their capacity.

Table 16.4: Summary of pitch overplay by analysis area

Site	Analysis area	Weekly overplay of matches
Malvern Rugby Club	Malvern Town area	3 matches
Palmers Meadow	Tenbury Town area	1 match
Total		4 matches

16.8 The PPM analysis indicates that there is overplay on two sites across the District. Two teams from Tenbury Rugby Club use the Palmers Meadow site. However, in practice, only one team will play a match on the site per week as the second team travels to play an away match against the same opponent.

Summary of future/latent demand

16.9 The table below summarises specific demand expressed by clubs/groups for additional pitches. This may steer/prioritise facility improvement projects as and when they arise.

Table 16.5: Summary of latent demand expressed by clubs

Club	Site	Analysis area	Level of latent demand	Pitch requirement
Tenbury Rugby Club	Palmers Meadow	Tenbury Town area	One U14 team	1 pitch
Total				1 pitch

16.10 Tenbury Rugby Club plans to establish a junior section, beginning with an U14 team in 2007. Junior matches will be played on Sundays and, as current play on the site is limited to Saturdays, the site can accommodate the extra matches required.

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Temporal supply and demand analysis of rugby union pitches by analysis area

16.11 The following temporal supply and demand and the potential impact of overplay and latent demand is calculated for each analysis area with rugby union pitches:

Malvern Town analysis area

Table 16.6: Temporal supply/demand for rugby union pitches in Malvern analysis area

	Total pitches available for community use	Pitches required to meet demand on peak days	Shortfall (-)/surplus (+) of pitches
Senior	4	0.5	+3.5
Junior	1	4.5	-3.5

16.12 Although it appears there is a shortage of pitches, consultation shows that junior matches are played on senior pitches, which addresses the shortfall. However, there is currently no spare capacity in the pitch stock at peak times (Sunday am) when senior pitches are used for junior matches.

Rural areas analysis area

16.13 There are currently no pitches available in the Rural areas analysis area.

Tenbury Town analysis area

Table 16.7: Temporal supply/demand for rugby union pitches in Tenbury Town analysis area

	Total pitches available for community use	Pitches required to meet demand on peak days	Shortfall (-)/surplus (+) of pitches
Senior	2	2	0
Junior	0	0	-

16.14 There is neither a surplus nor a deficit of rugby union pitches on peak days (Sunday) in Tenbury Town analysis area. The potential to increase the pitch stock in this area should be considered.

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Upton and Hanley analysis area

Table 16.8: Temporal supply/demand for rugby union pitches in Upton and Hanley analysis area

	Total pitches available for community use	Pitches required to meet demand on peak days	Shortfall (-)/surplus (+) of pitches
Senior	2	0	+2
Junior	0	2	-2

16.15 Consultation shows that junior matches are played on senior pitches at peak times (Sunday). There is therefore no shortfall or deficit of pitches in the analysis area. The potential to increase the pitch stock in this area should be considered.

Team generation rates (TGRs)

16.16 The following TGRs have been calculated for each analysis area in Malvern Hills District. Where no TGR is shown this indicates that no teams operate at that age group, for that sport, in that area.

Malvern Town analysis area TGRs

Table 16.9: Rugby union TGRs in Malvern Town analysis area

RUGBY UNION TEAMS	Senior (18-45) Mens	Senior (18-45) Womens	Junior (13-17) Boys	Junior (16-17) Girls	Mini-rugby (8-12) Mixed
	3	1	11	0	0
POPULATION 2001 Census	18-45 Men	18-45 Women	13-17 Boys	16-17 Girls	8-12 Mixed
	5,477	4,386	1,171	494	2,132
TGRs	Senior (18-45) Mens	Senior (18-45) Womens	Junior (13-17) Boys	Junior (16-17) Girls	Mini-rugby (8-12) Mixed
	1:1,826	1:4,386	1:106		
MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT	1:1,611	1:8,829	1:158		

16.17 The TGRs for senior rugby union in the Malvern Town analysis area are only slightly worse than the District average. However, both the junior and senior women's calculations are better than the District average.

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Rural areas analysis area

16.18 There is no recorded participation in Rural analysis area.

Tenbury Town analysis area

Table 16.10: Rugby union TGRs in Tenbury Town analysis area

RUGBY UNION TEAMS	Senior (18-45) Mens	Senior (18-45) Womens	Junior (13-17) Boys	Junior (16-17) Girls	Mini-rugby (8-12) Mixed
	2				
POPULATION 2001 Census	18-45 Men	18-45 Women	13-17 Boys	16-17 Girls	8-12 Mixed
	607	445	119	47	210
TGRs	Senior (18-45) Mens	Senior (18-45) Womens	Junior (13-17) Boys	Junior (16-17) Girls	Mini-rugby (8-12) Mixed
	1:304				
MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT	1:1,611	1:8,829	1:158		

16.19 The TGRs for the Tenbury Town analysis area show that per percentage of the population, the level of participation in senior rugby union significantly higher than the District average. There is currently no formal participation in other categories.

Upton and Hanley analysis area

Table 16.11: Rugby union TGRs in Upton and Hanley analysis area

RUGBY UNION TEAMS	Senior (18-45) Mens	Senior (18-45) Womens	Junior (13-17) Boys	Junior (16-17) Girls	Mini-rugby (8-12) Mixed
	2		4		
POPULATION 2001 Census	18-45 Men	18-45 Women	13-17 Boys	16-17 Girls	8-12 Mixed
	668	501	102	35	215
TGRs	Senior (18-45) Mens	Senior (18-45) Womens	Junior (13-17) Boys	Junior (16-17) Girls	Mini-rugby (8-12) Mixed
	1:334		1:25		
MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT	1:1,611	1:8,829	1:158		

16.20 The TGRs for the Upton and Hanley analysis area show that per percentage of the population, the level of participation in both senior rugby union and junior rugby union is significantly higher than the District average. In the junior boys sections it takes 25 boys (11-17) to form one rugby team. There is currently no formal participation in other categories.

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Future TGRs and demand projections

16.21 The following future TGRs (based on estimated population projects to 2017) have been calculated for each area of Malvern Hills. Where no TGR is shown this indicates that no teams operate at that age group, for rugby, in that area.

Table 16.12: Future rugby TGRs

Analysis areas	Senior men (18-45)	Senior women (18-45)	Junior boys (13-17)	Junior girls (16-17)	Mini-rugby (8-12)
Malvern	1:1,826	1:4,386	1:106	-	-
Rural areas	-	-	-	-	-
Tenbury	1:304	-	-	-	-
Upton & Hanley	1:334	-	1:25	-	-
MALVERN HILLS	1:1,611	1:8,829	1:158	-	-

16.22 The junior TGRs reflect the high levels of participation at two clubs in the District, Upton Rugby Club and Malvern Rugby Club. There are currently not mini rugby teams playing competitive matches, although Malvern Rugby Club has a significant minis section which plays ad-hoc friendly matches and participates in structured training sessions.

16.23 TGRs should be maintained, as they are higher in all cases when compared to the District. For example, it is recommended that as a target, the junior TGRs from Malvern and Upton & Hanley are applied to Rural areas and Tenbury. The TGRs (figures in blue) are applied below to give an indication as to how many additional rugby teams (figures in bold) will be generated in 2017 if these TGRs are maintained.

Table 16.13: Additional rugby teams required

Analysis areas	Senior men (16-45)	Senior women (16-45)	Junior boys (10-15)	Junior girls (10-15)	Mini soccer (6-9) mixed
Malvern	1:1,611	1:4,386	1:25	-	-
	0.6	0.1	39.1	-	-
Rural areas	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Tenbury	1:304	-	-	-	-
	0.1	-	-	-	-
Upton & Hanley	1:304	-	1:25	-	-
	0.3	-	0.3	-	-

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Future PPM summary

16.24 Sport England's PPM (playing pitch model) is used to assess whether supply of pitches will be sufficient at peak times in the future (up to 2017). A summary of surpluses and deficiencies is shown below and takes account of the additional teams estimated to require pitches if TGR targets are achieved.

Table 16.14: PPM Summary

Analysis area	Rugby union		
	Senior rugby union	Junior rugby union	Mini pitches
Malvern	4.2	-17.5	0
Rural areas	0	0	0
Tenbury	0.9	0	0
Upton and Hanley	0.8	-2.2	0
MALVERN HILLS	6.0	-19.7	0

16.25 Although there is likely to be a fairly significant deficiency of junior rugby pitches across Malvern Hills in 2017, there will be a surplus of senior pitches. However, the senior pitches will not be able to accommodate the junior deficit. Where possible, consideration should be given to securing extra sites to provide for rugby union in the long-term.

Rugby union summary

Current provision

- There are eight senior and one junior rugby union pitches in Malvern Hills District. There are five senior men's, one senior women's and 11 junior boys' teams.

Future provision

- There is a deficiency of 19.7 rugby union pitches. Whilst there will be a surplus of senior pitches in 2017, it will not accommodate all the demand for junior play and more junior pitches need to be provided.

Other issues

See below.

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Table 16.15: Summary of key issues and recommendations

Key issue	Proposed outcome objective	Recommended action
Malvern Rugby Club	Ensure Malvern Rugby Club has sufficient access to pitches to sustain, and increase, current levels of junior and senior development	Investigate the feasibility of purchasing the Spring Lane (Marstons) site to provide additional rugby pitches for Malvern Rugby Club. Ensure that Dukes Meadow is leased to Malvern Rugby Club as long as demand is clearly evident.
Tenbury Rugby Club	Establish a strong junior section, which provides opportunity for young people in Tenbury and the surrounding area, with sufficient facilities in which to develop	A strong junior section at the Club would emphasise the need for improved facilities. A competent and sustainable structure, in terms of coaching and volunteers, as well as a strong formal link with Tenbury High School, should be put in place.