

## 2 INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

---

**See also supporting documents:**

Appendix01	BSF Sport England Readiness to Deliver document
Appendix02	Original BSF Proposals
Appendix03	Statement of Methodology
Appendix04	List of Consultees
Appendix05	National and Local Participation Profiles
Appendix06	Lists of and Notes to Accompany Maps
Appendix07	Lists of and Notes to Accompany excel spreadsheets
Map 4	Mid Devon Bus Routes

---

### 2.1 Introduction

This is the '**Playing Fields Strategy**' for Mid Devon. Originally, this was commissioned – alongside strategies for North Devon, South Hams and Torridge – by Devon County Council, as a 'readiness to deliver requirement' by Sport England of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme within the county (see **Appendix 1**). The study area – encompassing the above mentioned four authorities – was chosen because these authorities contained the five schools in Phase 1 of the Devon County Council BSF programme: Tiverton High School (Mid Devon); Ilfracombe Arts College and Chulmleigh Community College (North Devon); Marland School (Torridge); and Dartmouth Community College (South Hams).

The BSF programme in its then format was withdrawn in early July 2010 by the incoming coalition government, and planning for the first four schools in the above list was stopped. The fifth school – Dartmouth Community College in South Hams – has since become an Academy. Discussions and procedures are continuing as to how and which schools will be eligible for increased funding under any further schemes. In the interests of completeness and relevance to the original brief, **Appendix 2** sets out details pertaining to each of the five schools in the original Devon County Council Phase 1.

With the demise of BSF, the decision was taken by Devon County Council to produce four separate, standalone playing field strategies, one for each authority. Notwithstanding the fact that the original *raison d'être* of the playing fields strategy has changed, there will continue to be capital expenditure on new schools and improvements to existing schools. It is still of paramount importance that provision for the pitch sports and other outdoor sports is considered within proposals for new replacement schools and improvements to existing schools. This study of the supply of, and demand for, local playing pitches and other outdoor sports opportunities can help to inform the planning and design of new schools, and create better sports and recreation opportunities for both pupils and the wider community so

leading to increased community cohesion. Moreover, there are other strategic benefits to carrying out such a study, detailed below.

## **2.2 What are the benefits of a playing fields strategy?**

Playing fields strategies are now an established part of the repertoire of assessment techniques available to local authorities and others, when complying with government guidance to undertake local assessments of need for sport and recreation as set out in *Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Open Space, Sport and Recreation*. A new planning policy statement, 'Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment' is currently being drafted and this will set out streamlined and consolidated planning policy relating to PPG17, as well as other existing planning policy statements; it seems likely that the new guidance will still place emphasis upon locally based needs assessments. Sport England has also recognised the need for the playing pitch methodology itself to be updated in the near future.

A playing fields strategy typically comprises a carefully quantified and documented assessment of the current and future needs for playing field land within an agreed geographical area. This assessment covers the quantity, quality, capacity and accessibility of all relevant playing pitch and non playing pitch provision. 'Non playing pitch sports' are defined in this context as those relevant to the study area; for the Devon strategy, the additional sports included are tennis, netball and basketball. The strategy then uses the information gained from the assessment to develop recommendations and an action plan which seeks to address any identified deficiencies.

This new Mid Devon playing fields strategy provides:

- a comprehensive assessment of the supply, quality and distribution of, and demand for, outdoor playing pitches, artificial grass pitches and court and multi use games area provision
- recommendations for local standards of provision and other guidance offered for planning purposes, including strategic recommendations relating to deficiencies, existing provision to be protected, opportunities for relocation, and proposals for improved facilities and new provision
- an assessment of future needs based on anticipated development levels

The benefits of a playing fields strategy are well documented; a summary suffices here:

### **Corporate and Strategic**

- Ensuring a strategic approach to facility provision and ensuring dovetailing with other corporate and strategic documents
- Providing robust evidence for a range of capital funding and contributions from developers (the government is currently preparing new policy on the use of planning obligations<sup>(2)</sup>)

- Helping to deliver government policies on, for example, social inclusion, environmental protection, community involvement and healthy living
- Demonstrating the value of leisure related services during times of increasing scrutiny for non-statutory services
- Demonstrating commitment to community cohesion and engagement, through widespread consultation.

**Planning related:**

- Providing a basis for establishing new facility requirements arising from new housing developments
- It is one of the best “tools” for the protection of facilities threatened by development
- It links closely with work being undertaken on open spaces (through PPG17 assessments) to provide an holistic approach to open space improvement and protection

**Operational:**

- Improving the local authority’s asset management by providing detailed audit information and facility user views.
- Highlighting locations and specific sites where quality can be enhanced and/or alternative sport, recreation or open space uses may be of benefit

**Sports development:**

- Helping to identify where community use of school pitches and courts is most needed and supporting the case for greater community use of school sites
- Providing better information to residents and other users of facilities
- Helping to unlock latent demand through identifying where facilities are lacking and might be suppressing the formation and further development of teams

## **2.3 Summary of Methodology**

The preparation of the strategy has employed various techniques, sources of information and analytical tools recommended by the government, Sport England and other relevant national agencies and bodies (including appropriate governing bodies of sport). (See **Appendix 3** for detailed discussion of the methodologies employed.)

For playing pitches (grass and artificial grass) the strategy follows Sport England’s adopted methodologies, in particular ‘*Towards a Level Playing Field: A Guide to the Production of Playing Strategies*’ (TaLPF) (2003) which includes the application of the eight step Playing Pitch Model. This model, in its simplest form, essentially measures the supply of pitches and the demand for pitches at the peak period (typically either Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning). Various refinements and modifications can be made (incorporating the quality and capacity of pitches, the inclusion/exclusion of pitches which do not have secure community use, team equivalents for junior and mini teams etc) so that various scenarios can be modelled and hypotheses tested. For additional notes on the playing pitch methodology, please see **Appendix 26**).

Sport England has recently undertaken an assessment of the supply and demand of synthetic turf pitches (now known as ‘artificial grass pitches’) across the country, through the application of its Facilities Planning Model. An assessment has very recently been undertaken for Devon (August 2010) and preliminary draft findings were made available at the final stage of preparing this strategy. Reference has been made where appropriate.

As far as they are relevant, the principles of the ‘Towards a Level Playing Field’ methodology are also followed for non playing pitch provision (e.g. multi-use games areas including tennis and netball courts). This includes an assessment of supply and demand within appropriate catchments, along with consultation with all relevant users, sports clubs and the National Governing Bodies of Sport.

The assessment methodology has included considerable **consultation** with local sports clubs, schools and stakeholders. Please see **Appendix 4: List of Consultees**.

## **2.4 Profile**

Mid Devon is a rural district lying in the heart of Devon, equidistant between the Somerset and Devon coasts with a population of around 78,700<sup>1</sup>. There are three market towns – Tiverton, Cullompton and Crediton – each of which plays a significant role in serving the surrounding rural areas, where over half the population lives in scattered villages. The population has grown at a rate of 20% in the last twenty years, and is expected to increase to over 86,000 by 2026. Much of the increase is due to inward migration from other parts of the UK. The largest increase is in those of retirement age. This is compounded by the fact that a significant proportion of young people move out of the area due to a lack of educational and employment opportunities.

Average earnings are 19% lower than the national average - and this gap is increasing. Over a third of the resident population commutes out of the district for work, often to better paid, more highly skilled jobs in Exeter or Taunton. The rate of increase of unemployment is greater than the national average and the number of Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) claimants per vacancy available is high compared to national and regional figures. There is a high proportion of part-time and self-employed workers. There is also a growing number of older people dependent on benefits and pension income. This is particularly important in a rural district such as Mid Devon, as access to vital services can be a significant problem for some people, particularly those on low income. 62% of the district experiences rural access problems according to government statistics; over half of rural parishes do not have a Post Office, and accessibility for those without access to a private car is poor for some areas<sup>2</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> Based on FHSA estimates:

[http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/councildemocracy/improving\\_our\\_services/facts\\_figures\\_and\\_statistics/factsandfigures/thepople/peoplestandproj/peoplepoestimate/peoplefhsadevon.htm](http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/councildemocracy/improving_our_services/facts_figures_and_statistics/factsandfigures/thepople/peoplestandproj/peoplepoestimate/peoplefhsadevon.htm)

<sup>2</sup> Devon County Council Local Transport Plan 2006-2011 ‘Devon on the Move’ - Chapter three.

## 2.5 Definition of Sub Areas

People playing sport of all kinds will travel across local authority boundaries so the proximity of adjacent areas has been considered. The fact that school catchments can overlap local authority boundaries emphasises that each local authority should not be treated in isolation in undertaking the overall study. The catchments of the relevant schools are, for the record, shown in **Map 1**.

Ideally, sports and recreation provision should be close to where users live. With this in mind, Mid Devon has been split up into sub areas, which are themselves based on the notion of Devon County Council's 'market town catchments'. A fuller description of how this was achieved is contained in **Appendix 3** and the defined areas are shown in **Map 2**.

The sub areas used for the analysis of playing field provision in Mid Devon are:

Sub Area Name	Parishes covered
<b>Crediton Sub Area</b>	Bow Brushford, Chawleigh, Cheriton Bishop, Clannaborough, Coldridge, Colebrooke, Copplestone, Crediton, Crediton Hamlets, (Yeoford), Down St Mary, Eggesford, Hittisleigh, Kennerleigh, Lapford, Morchard Bishop, Newton St Cyres, Nymet Rowland, Sandford, Shobrooke, Stockleigh English, Stockleigh Pomeroy, Upton Hellions, Wembworthy, Woolfardisworthy, Zeal Monachorum
<b>Cullompton Sub Area</b>	Bradninch, <i>Broadhembury</i> , Clayhidon, <i>Clyst Hydon</i> , Cullompton, Culmstock, Hemyock, Kentisbeare, <i>Plymtree</i> , <i>Sheldon</i> , Uffculme, Willand
<b>Tiverton Sub Area</b>	Bampton, Bickleigh, Burlescombe, Butterleigh, Cadbury, Cadeleigh, Cheriton, Fitzpaine, Clayhanger, Cruwys Morchard, Halberton, Hockworthy, Holcombe Rogus, Huntsham, Loxbeare, Morebath, Oakford Poughill, Puddington, <i>Rackenford</i> , Sampford Peverell, Silverton, Stoodleigh, Templeton, Thelbridge, Thorverton, Tiverton, Uplowman, Washfield, Washford Pyne, <i>Witheridge</i>

(parishes in *italics* are outside the local authority area)

A common problem affecting all four authorities is access to services and facilities within and from rural areas. This issue affects the accessibility of outdoor sports opportunities. These access issues tend to mostly affect young people and those on low income, who may be reliant on patchy public transport. **Map 4** illustrates this point well. Some rural settlements are not served by a scheduled bus route, and many routes which do exist are not even on a daily basis.

## 2.6 Development Context

The Mid Devon Local Development Framework is relatively far advanced in terms of the plans and policies that have been successfully prepared and adopted through the forward plan-making process<sup>3</sup>. The 2006 adopted Mid Devon Core Strategy sets out the vision and spatial strategy for the area up to the year 2026. The allocation of new development has been updated through the production of the emerging Allocations and Infrastructure DPD, and the amount of new homes to be provided between 2006 - 2026 are expected to be confirmed as presented in the table below<sup>4</sup>. Further background to the population figures used in the strategy are given in **Appendix 3**.

Location	Completions	Commitments	Allocations	Total	Percent above RSS
Tiverton	384	346	2810	3540	10%
Cullompton	226	399	1665	2290	9%
Crediton	120	258	413	791	0%
Bampton	62	38	110	210	5%
Elsewhere	448	541	136	1125	2%
Totals	1240	1582	5134	7956	7%

New development will require supporting infrastructure, including for sport and recreation. The provision of infrastructure and development should, so far as possible, go hand in hand in order to minimise the adverse impacts of new development and promote the most sustainable form of growth. In order to achieve this, Mid Devon District Council proposes the following measures and policies in their emerging Allocations and Infrastructure DPD:

## 2.7 Sport Related Planning Policies

- Community Infrastructure Levy AL/IN/1: A charge of about £10,000 per market dwelling will be introduced which will contribute to transport, green infrastructure, education and other infrastructure provision in Mid Devon. The need for infrastructure arising from population and other growth has been assessed, and there is likely to be a shortage of public funds to provide it. The plan therefore proposes to introduce the Community Infrastructure Levy, by which all new market housing development will contribute to wider infrastructure needs.
- Infrastructure Levy AL/IN/2: Developments not subject to the Community Infrastructure Levy will be required to meet their infrastructure requirements

---

<sup>3</sup> For more information on the national plan-making process, visit:

<http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/ldf/ldfguide.html> for more information about the Mid Devon Local Development Framework, visit <http://www.middevon.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=1885>

<sup>4</sup> Taken from the Examination in Public webpage of the Mid Devon Allocations and Infrastructure Development Plan Document: <http://www.middevon.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=13207&p=0>

through Planning Obligations and Conditions. Developments to which the Community Infrastructure Levy do not apply will be subject to planning obligations as at present. Further policies related to sports provision include:

- Public Open Space AL/IN/3: New housing developments will provide at least 60 square metres of equipped and landscaped public open space, with safe and convenient access on foot or cycle. Alternatively, particularly on smaller housing sites, developers may pay for provision elsewhere to meet this need. The provision of open space is necessary for new housing, and the policy continues the current approach until the Community Infrastructure Levy is implemented.
- Green Infrastructure AL/IN/4: The Council will prepare a Green Infrastructure Strategy, to promote a network of multifunctional open space with recreational, visual and biodiversity value. The provision of green infrastructure, meaning open space, wildlife areas and cycling and walking networks is supported by national policy as part of the creation of sustainable communities. By considering these issues together, a strategic and local network of green infrastructure can be provided to promote health, visual, wildlife and leisure benefits in a holistic manner.

**A Playing Fields Strategy for Mid Devon – October 2010**  
**Main Report: Sections 2 to 8**

---

## 3 OVERVIEW OF PLAYING PITCH PROVISION

---

### 3.1 Numbers and Access

85 playing pitches in total have been recorded in Mid Devon: 38 adult football, 14 junior football, 20 cricket and 13 rugby pitches.

Sport England promotes the classification of playing pitches (along with other facilities) according to ownership and whether they are: able to be used by the community under 'secure' arrangements (A1, A2, A3) ; able to be used but this use is not 'secure' (B); not open for community use (C – this would include school only pitches). (see **Appendix 3** for detailed definitions). A summary of Mid Devon's pitches on this basis is shown below.

<i>Access</i>	<i>Adult Football</i>	<i>Junior Football</i>	<i>Cricket</i>	<i>Adult Rugby</i>	<i>Junior Rugby</i>	<i>TOTAL GRASS</i>
A1	18	3	5	8		34
A2	13	2	12			27
A3	2	3	2	2	2	11
<b>Total SCU*</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>72</b>
B	3	1	1		1	6
C	2	5				7
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>85</b>
Non School	31	5	17	7		60
School	7	9	3	3	3	25

72 of these pitches (85%) are in secured community use (A1, A2, A3), and an additional 6 are used by the community without formal agreements. 7 pitches are used solely by schools (this information relates to secondary schools; facilities at primary schools have been recorded on databases but are not included in this analysis).

The total number of senior pitches in Mid Devon district is 68, which equates to one pitch per 1,151 people (senior pitches only to allow comparison with other studies). Other studies have shown a range of between 1 senior pitch per 365 people (Kennet) to 1 senior pitch per 2842 people (Southwark). The average of these studies, and the figures for other Devon local authorities covered in this Strategy are:

**A Playing Fields Strategy for Mid Devon – October 2010**  
**Main Report: Sections 2 to 8**

<b>Senior pitches per number of people – comparison with other areas</b>	
<i>Local Authority</i>	<i>Ratio</i>
North Devon	1:1428
South Hams	1:1218
Torrige	1:1247
MID DEVON	1:1151
Average (from range of studies nationwide)	1:1102

The figures cover a range of areas from rural to heavily urbanised, but pitch provision in Mid Devon thus appears just below the average for the sample available.

The number of pitches equates to around 78 hectares of pitches in secured community use or 88.5 hectares if all pitches are included.

<i>Access Category</i>	<i>No. adult football</i>	<i>Total hectarage (x 0.9ha)</i>	<i>No. of junior &amp; mini football</i>	<i>Total Hectarage (x 0.6ha)</i>	<i>No. of cricket pitches</i>	<i>Total hectarage (x1.6ha)</i>	<i>No. rugby</i>	<i>Total hectarage (rugby)</i>	<i>GRAND TOTAL (has.)</i>
<b>A1</b>	18	16.2	3	1.8	5	8.0			26.0
<b>A2</b>	13	11.7	2	1.2	12	19.2	8	9.6	41.7
<b>A3</b>	2	1.8	3	1.8	2	3.2	4	3.6	10.4
<b>Total SCU*</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>29.7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>30.4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>78.1</b>
<b>B</b>	3	2.7	1	0.6	1	1.6	1	0.6	5.5
<b>C</b>	2	1.8	5	3.0					4.8
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>34.2</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>32.0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>88.4</b>
<b>Non School</b>	31	27.9	5	3.0	17	27.2	7	8.4	66.5
<b>School</b>	7	6.3	9	5.4	3	4.8	6	5.4	21.9

### **3.2 Ownership**

The pattern of ownership for all pitches in the District is set out below

<b>Pitch ownership</b>		
<i>Sector</i>	<i>Number of pitches</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Local authority	26	31%
Private/club	35	41%
Education	24	28%

**A Playing Fields Strategy for Mid Devon – October 2010**  
**Main Report: Sections 2 to 8**

The following is noted:

- 31% of all pitches are owned by either TDC or parish or town councils (or their playing field associations): this figure is lower than the national average of 43%.
- The proportion of pitches on school sites is about one quarter. Around a half of these have secure community use.
- The proportion of pitches on club or private sites is fairly high – particularly cricket pitches.

### 3.3 Pitch Quality

The quality of pitches and courts across the district varies considerably. Sites were visited and assessed using the Pitch Quality Assessment (PQA) set out in 'Towards a Level Playing Field'. Out of 71 football, cricket and rugby pitches, 8% (6) were assessed as very good and the same percentage as poor; 41% (29) were satisfactory and 42% (30) as good. Comparative figures for pitch quality across the four authorities in the study are shown below:

		<55% Poor			55-69% Satisfactory			70-74% Good			>75% Very good			Total pitches assessed
		Football	Cricket	Rugby	Football	Cricket	Rugby	Football	Cricket	Rugby	Football	Cricket	Rugby	
<b>Mid Devon</b>	No. pitches	4		2	15	12	2	21	5	4	6			71
	<b>Overall %</b>	<b>8%</b>			<b>41%</b>			<b>42%</b>			<b>8%</b>			
<b>North Devon</b>	No. pitches	4	3	2	18	5	5	11	3	2	12	3	2	70
	<b>Overall %</b>	<b>13%</b>			<b>40%</b>			<b>23%</b>			<b>24%</b>			
<b>South Hams</b>	No. pitches	2	2		28	7	3	15	2	10	5	3		77
	<b>Overall %</b>	<b>5%</b>			<b>49%</b>			<b>35%</b>			<b>10%</b>			
<b>Torrige</b>	No. pitches	3	1		12	4	2	11	2	2	4	1		42
	<b>Overall %</b>	<b>10%</b>			<b>43%</b>			<b>36%</b>			<b>12%</b>			

Sport England's Pitch Quality Assessment (PQA) takes into account pitch slope, evenness, grass cover and other factors. These assessments do not include many of the criteria that are apparent to pitch users, i.e. pitch drainage, bounce of ball, 'play' of a wicket. Users' responses were compiled from the clubs themselves. The views and comments on particular pitches by league secretaries and sports governing bodies were also considered in the overall assessment.

### **Football pitches**

The highest scoring football pitches were the two club-owned grounds in Tiverton, at Ladysmead (Tiverton FC) and Horsdon (Elmore FC). As often happens, clubs with security of tenure and control over the management and maintenance of their own grounds tend to have the best pitches. The same is the case with cricket.

The following football pitches also were considered to be above average: Happy Meadow (Bickleigh FC), Cheriton Fitzpaine, Crediton United, Cullompton Rangers, Longmead (Hemyock FC), Newton St Cyres, Magelake Meadow (Uffculme FC) and Silver Street (Willand Rovers).

The lowest scoring football pitches were at Yeoford and Silverton, neither of whom had on-site changing accommodation, (Yeoford also had a confusing pitch configuration and Silverton had poor grass cover on a sloping pitch). Two clubs commenting on Amory Park, (Tiverton) considered the pitch maintenance, overall pitch quality and value for money to be poor. Both clubs's commented that the overuse of Amory Park contributed to its condition.

Newton St Cyres FC and Willand Rovers considered their home pitches to be 'good' on all indices. However, other comments were made that mentioned the pitches would be greatly improved if they did not have to sustain so much play.

### **Cricket pitches**

The cricket pitches at Kentisbeare and Sampford Peverell scored highest in Mid Devon. These were both flat, even pitches with protected wickets (just the omission of one of the scoring criteria – protected wicket, for example – can change the overall mark from 'very good' to 'good').

The pitches at Sandford and Shobrooke Park were considered above average by both pitch assessment and user surveys. These two marking methods again coincided with the cricket pitch at Happy Meadow (Bickleigh CC) being rated as poor. The cricket square (as opposed to the outfield) overlaps the football pitch and the poor drainage and playing surface go to explain why first team cricket is no longer played on this pitch.

Bradinch CC's pitch is short, square of the wicket and the club have mentioned possibly purchasing extra land to extend the boundary size. The pitch at Sandford has areas of the outfield that are prone to waterlogging after wet weather.

### **Rugby pitches**

All the Mid Devon rugby clubs (Crediton, Tiverton and Cullompton RFC's) scored well on all indices of pitch quality at their main pitches. Tiverton have particular issues related to drainage at their Bolham Road pitch and Crediton have proposals to relocate the club to a dedicated site.

### 3.4 Standards of Provision

The number of pitches equates to around 78 hectares of pitches in secured community use or 88.4 hectares if all pitches are included.

<i>Access Category</i>	<i>No. adult football</i>	<i>Total hectarage (x 0.9ha)</i>	<i>No. of junior &amp; mini football</i>	<i>Total Hectarage (x 0.6ha)</i>	<i>No. of cricket pitches</i>	<i>Total hectarage (x1.6ha)</i>	<i>No. rugby</i>	<i>Total hectarage (rugby)</i>	<i>GRAND TOTAL (has.)</i>
<b>A1</b>	18	16.2	3	1.8	5	8.0			26.0
<b>A2</b>	13	11.7	2	1.2	12	19.2	8	9.6	41.7
<b>A3</b>	2	1.8	3	1.8	2	3.2	4	3.6	10.4
<b>Total SCU*</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>29.7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>30.4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>78.1</b>
<b>B</b>	3	2.7	1	0.6	1	1.6	1	0.6	5.5
<b>C</b>	2	1.8	5	3.0					4.8
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>34.2</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>32.0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>88.4</b>
<b>Non School</b>	31	27.9	5	3.0	17	27.2	7	8.4	66.5
<b>School</b>	7	6.3	9	5.4	3	4.8	6	5.4	21.9

This Study has taken Team Generation Rates into account (see **Appendix 3, 10, 12 and 14**) in its assessment of latent demand, and has also brought together information on latent and future demand from clubs, sports development officers and local knowledge and knowledge of future population growth – especially the geographical areas where this growth will be concentrated - to formulate recommendations for additional pitch provision to the year 2026.

These additional pitch recommendations are set out in **Figure 1: Summary of New Pitch Recommendations**. The hectarage of land (grass) which this represents has been added to the existing hectarage of land in playing pitch use in **Figure 3: Standards of Provision**. Population figures for 2026 have been used to show the target standard of provision for that year.

**A Playing Fields Strategy for Mid Devon – October 2010**  
**Main Report: Sections 2 to 8**

---

**This is summarised below for Mid Devon.**

Sub Area	Existing population (FHSA estimates 2009)	Existing hectarage of land in playing pitch use		Existing level of provision (hectares per thousand pop: ha/000)		Projected future population 2026 (RSS 2026 estimates)	Additional hectarage of land required	Future standard of provision 2026 (ha/000 with SCU)
		With SCU*	All	With SCU*	All			
Crediton Sub Area	20,202	20.2	25.3	1.00	1.25	21,506	4.3	1.38
Cullompton Sub Area	21,637	21.5	25.1	0.99	1.16	23,593	6.0	1.32
Tiverton Sub Area	36,454	36.4	38.0	1.00	1.04	40,921	8.2	1.13
<b>Mid Devon Total</b>	<b>78,293</b>	<b>78.1</b>	<b>88.4</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>1.13</b>	<b>86,020</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>1.24</b>

At present, the number of pitches equates to around 78 hectares of pitches in secured community use or 1.00 ha. per 1000 people (based on FHSA estimate of 78,293 for the population of Mid Devon in 2009). There are a further 10 hectares of pitches without secure community use within the district, which takes the overall total to 88.4 hectares or the equivalent of 1.13 ha/000.

The strategy estimates that another 18.5 hectares of land in pitch use are required to meet demand to 2026 i.e. giving a district wide standard of 1.24 ha/000 (but note sub area variations). Some of this could be met by bringing some non-SCU pitches into community use. However, it is assumed, for ease for this example, that most pitches which could be subject to SCU are already under such arrangements and therefore the additional pitches required will need to come predominantly from new provision.

It is estimated that around 0.04 ha/000 land would be required to service this playing pitch provision, including changing rooms/pavilions and car parking and access:

- Changing rooms pavilion (provision of around 200m – 0.02 ha) would provide sufficient space for a small multi functional pavilion with four changing rooms, match officials space, showers, toilets, circulation space and a small kitchen.
- Other service requirements would be parking and access (0.025 ha would provide sufficient for a parking area of 10m x 25m.)

## 4 FOOTBALL IN MID DEVON BY SUB AREA

---

### See also supporting documents:

- Appendix08 Mid Devon PPM Football Teams
  - Appendix09 PPM Summary for Football
  - Appendix10 Demand and Team Generation Rates for Football
  - Map 5 Mid Devon Football Pitch Quality
  - Map 6 Mid Devon Football Matches played per ground
  - See also Appendix 18 : 'Key Findings for BSF Tiverton'
  - See also Appendix 19 : 'Report on Rugby and Football in Crediton';
- 

## A CREDITON SUB AREA

### 4.1 CREDITON

#### 4.1.1 Provision for Football

Football in Crediton takes place at Lord's Meadow and the pitches belonging to Queen Elizabeth's Community College.

There are 3 pitches at Lord's Meadow:

- Crediton United FC's pitch which is fully floodlit and enclosed. They field 2 Saturday sides playing in the South West Peninsula and the Devon & Exeter League.
- Two adult pitches, leased from MDDC by Crediton Youth FC, and there is also room to include a junior pitch at the far end of this site which has been established since the site visit. These pitches host around 7 junior and 4 mini teams for Crediton Youth, including 2 girls' teams.

The Queen Elizabeth's Community College pitches are at various locations in the town:

- Forches Cross, Gypsy Hill where there are 2 adult pitches of minimum dimensions, one with smaller goals where two Crediton Saints Youth teams play– U13s and U12s.
- Lower School site at Barnfield. 2 junior pitches home to Crediton Saints Youth U11s and U10s.
- Lord's Meadow (between leisure centre and rugby club, known locally as the 'Rec'). As well as the rugby pitches, there were faint markings for a junior football pitch. Previously used by Crediton Saints – but not this season.
- Alexandra Road. There is a junior pitch with no community use recorded,

#### **4.1.2 Issues and Considerations**

- No amenity ground in Crediton for a kickabout; only formal, fenced off pitches and school grounds.
- Shortage of pitches in Crediton unless education contribution is included. 2 out of 5 adult football pitches, 3 out of 4 junior pitches and 2 out of 4 rugby pitches are on school land i.e. 54% of provision on school sites – 50% of rugby; 40% of adult football and 75% of junior football. Without pitches on school sites, rugby pitches are under great pressure particularly, and youth football would struggle to be accommodated.
- Fencing of Lord's Meadow pitches due to problems associated with dog walkers.
- Training was an issue expressed by Crediton clubs. The floodlit, hardstanding area at Lord's Meadow is well used for football training (especially by Crediton Youth FC) but the surface is far from ideal.
- Teams recorded travelling out of area for all weather training facilities, especially to Exeter and Waie Inn MUGA at Zeal Monachorum.
- Pitch drainage at Lord's Meadow is considered poor.
- Two thriving youth football clubs in town but no girls' teams.
- Whilst not an issue exclusive to Crediton, all clubs responded by mentioning the difficulties they have in attracting and retaining enough coaches, volunteers and managers.
- Current provision in Crediton is just about adequate if community use of QECC pitches is retained, giving a total of 5 adult and 4 junior pitches and 4 adult and one training pitch for rugby.
- The Crediton sub area is due to increase by up to 400 dwellings by 2026 (800+ people plus). This will exert some additional use and demand for pitches, especially junior and has been taken into account in futures modelling.
- Demand for floodlit, all weather training provision in Crediton. Exeter considered too far for juniors to travel.
- The Town Council feels that the town is outgrowing existing facilities, with pitches often un-usable through poor drainage and overuse.
- Shortage of available indoor training mentioned as a restricting factor.

#### **4.1.3 Football Assessment- Crediton**

For the purposes of the PPM, the pitches owned by QECC at Forches Cross, Lower School site and Alexandra Road are excluded, but not the teams that play on them.

There are thus 3 pitches hosting 2 adult, 10 junior and 5 mini teams.

##### ***Current Situation***

*Saturday morning:* Shortage of pitches on Saturday morning

*Saturday afternoon:* sufficient pitches

*Sunday morning:* shortage of junior pitches, but enough senior pitches to compensate.

However, if remodelled to include QECC pitches there is sufficient provision and some of these pitches are of appropriate size for the junior teams playing on them.

*Other times:* sufficient provision

*Mini pitches:* No dedicated mini pitches for the five teams recorded so the playing pitch methodology shows a shortfall. However, teams play across adult pitches. With the inclusion of pitches at QECC, provision is sufficient.

### **Future Situation**

The population of the CREDITON sub area is projected to increase to by about 6% to around 21,500. CREDITON itself is projected to increase by 800 people plus. With this population, there will be a shortfall of around four to five public (i.e. non school pitches) junior football pitches. Outside CREDITON the shortfall will be met by the use of adult pitches, but within CREDITON there will be an absolute shortage. If provision and access at QECC remains the same this demand could be met, but it is recommended that an additional public pitch be provided within CREDITON within the next 5 – 10 years to safeguard growth in the sport. This should be of adult size.

**See also Appendix 19: Report on Rugby and Football in CREDITON**

## **4.2 REMAINDER OF CREDITON SUB AREA**

### **4.2.1 Provision for Football**

There are a further 6 pitches in the CREDITON Sub Area:

- Bow Village Playing Field. Home to 2 Saturday sides for Bow AA FC; minimum size pitch
- Morchard Bishop. Home to 2 Saturday teams for Morchard Bishop FC
- Sandford. Home to 2 Saturday teams for Sandford FC
- Lapford, Edgerley Cross. Home to 2 Saturday sides for Lapford FC
- Newton St Cyres Recreation Ground has 2 pitches and plays 2 Saturday sides and 3 junior teams (on a Sunday morning). Two other Devon & Exeter Saturday teams also play here – Newton FC and Beacon Knights FC.
- Junior team at Coplestone uses school pitch; no public provision; growth in population forecast.

There is also a pitch at Yeoford, with no club recorded playing there.

### **4.2.2 Issues and Considerations**

- Demand for Newton St Cyres pitches from senior Exeter teams have resulted in the visiting teams having priority in choice of pitch. In turn, local club have difficulty in attracting new players.
- Overuse of pitches at Newton St Cyres and need for more rest and recovery: more pitches (2 senior) required in Exeter catchment area to meet demand from Exeter teams.

### **4.2.3 Football Assessment – Remainder of Crediton Sub Area**

#### ***Current Situation***

The PPM shows a shortfall of junior pitches on Saturday and Sunday mornings, but this is met by playing on adult pitches.

For a sub area where there are several pitches, the situation is tight on a Saturday afternoon, with only half a pitch spare throughout the area.

#### ***Future Situation***

As stated above, the population of the Crediton sub area is projected to increase to by about 6% to around 21,500. Outside Crediton the projected shortfall in junior pitches will be met by the use of adult pitches.

## **B CULLOMPTON SUB AREA**

### **4.3 CULLOMPTON**

#### **4.3.1 Provision for Football**

There are 3 pitches at Speed Meadow in Cullompton – home to 4 adult sides for Cullompton Rangers – 3 Saturday teams and Cullompton Ladies who play on Sunday afternoons. The club also has 3 youth and 2 mini teams playing in the Exeter and District Youth League and 2 other youth teams in the Juventus League and Taunton Youth League.

There are two areas of pitches at Cullompton Community College. One site has a junior football pitch just beyond the STP, the other area across the road from the Sports centre with a site large enough for two adult pitches (only marked out for one); but low lying and frequently waterlogged. These are poorly drained and not used by the community.

#### **4.3.2 Issues and Considerations**

- Cullompton FC struggles for sufficient pitches for youth teams some Saturday mornings.
- Proposed Cullompton Ring Road would go right through the middle of CCA Fields.
- The low lying nature of all these pitches in the Culm Valley mean they are particularly prone to waterlogging.
- Moles are a problem at the school's junior pitch. Community use of larger pitch site would be viable if drainage were sorted.

### **4.3.3 Football Assessment- Cullompton**

#### ***Current Situation***

The PPM records a shortfall of junior pitches on Saturday mornings and Sunday mornings, but demand is met by junior teams playing on adult pitches. However, it is recommended that 2 dedicated junior teams be provided to specifically cater for junior teams. There are no dedicated mini pitches for the two teams recorded.

#### ***Future Situation***

The population of the Cullompton sub area is projected to increase to by about 9% to around 23,500. Crediton itself is projected to increase by up to 3340 people. Even with the addition of two junior pitches there will still be a shortfall of one junior pitch at peak times but demand will be met by use of adult pitches. However, the growth in population in Cullompton will increase pressure on the existing senior pitch stock and an additional senior pitch should be provided to meet this demand.

## **4.4 REMAINDER OF CULLOMPTON SUB AREA**

### **4.4.1 Provision for Football**

There are a further 6 adult pitches and 1 junior pitch follows:

- Bradninch, Kensham Park. Home to Bradninch FC with two Saturday XI and 2 youth on Saturday mornings and 2 minis on Sunday mornings.
- Hemyock, Longmead. Home to Hemyock FC with two Saturday teams, 2 juniors and 2 minis. MUGA on site
- Kentisbeare, Rectory Park. Home to Kentisbeare FC Saturday XI and 2 youth sides
- Uffculme, Magelake Meadows with 2 adult pitches, home of Culm Utd. The club run two Saturday XIs, 3 youth and 2 junior sides. MUGA on site. Culm Utd play one team at Sampford Peverell.
- Willand, Silver Street. Home to Willand Rovers FC with 2 Saturday XIs and 1 youth team.

### **4.4.2 Issues and Considerations**

#### ***Club specific***

- Culm Utd FC need larger changing accommodation. They can currently only cater for 2 teams playing on their 2 pitches.
- Both Willand FC and Culm Utd would like to run more youth teams and are restricted through lack of pitches. Willand Rovers FC: looking into FA funding for possible extension to grandstand, shower and changing room facilities. Club wishes to expand – needs facilities to join higher league– more changing facilities for youth and women’s football; also requires pitches for youth teams.
- Kentisbeare FC have been given notice to move from Rectory Park and are seeking alternative sites to secure their future.

#### **4.4.3 Football Assessment- Cullompton Sub Area**

##### ***Current Situation***

In total, with 8 adult, 10 junior and 6 mini teams playing on 6 adult pitches and 1 junior pitch, the PPM records a shortage of junior pitches on Saturday morning. In reality, junior teams use adult pitches.

##### ***Future Situation***

When the population of the Cullompton Sub Area as a whole reaches around 23500, there will be a slight increase in the shortfall of dedicated public junior football pitches (5.0 pitches in total). Outside Cullompton itself, these teams can be accommodated on adult pitches and the overall level of pitches will be sufficient to meet demand.

## **C TIVERTON SUB AREA**

### **4.5 TIVERTON TOWN**

**See also Appendix 18: ‘Key Findings for BSF Tiverton’**

#### **4.5.1 Provision for Football**

There are seven football pitch sites in Tiverton with established community use:

- Westexe. One adult pitch, home to Westexe Rovers with 2 Saturday sides and also used by Moors Youth U11s on Saturday mornings.
- Amory Park. This is the main football site in the town with 2 adult pitches and 1 junior pitch and accommodates 2 adult teams and 24 youth and mini teams. Most of the 15 youth teams (run by Twyford Spartans and Moors Youth) play on Sunday mornings in the Taunton Youth League. The 9 mini teams are split between play on Saturday and Sunday mornings.
- Petroc (East Devon) College. One adult and one junior pitch, where 3 youth (including 1 girls’ team) and 2 mini teams play for Tiverton Town Youth FC.
- Tiverton High School. On School side of Bolham Road: 2 junior football pitches plus other pitches and courts. Across Bolham Road: 1 football pitch which has dual use with Tiverton Town FC on split maintenance basis.
- Horsdon Park. Elmore FC’s ground, who field 2 Saturday sides and an U18 XI.
- Ladysmead. Tiverton Town FC’s home ground (the most senior club in the area) who also field 2 junior teams and an U18 XI.
- Moorhayes A relatively new site with 2 junior pitches; main base of Moors Youth where they play one U12s girls team and 11 mini teams.

There are also a considerable number of football pitches at Blundell’s, but these pitches are for the exclusive use of their students.

#### **4.5.2 Issues and Considerations**

- Only three dedicated junior football pitches in Tiverton with full community use.
- Tiverton is home to three large, thriving youth football clubs – Moors Youth, Tiverton Town Youth and Twyford Spartans.
- Very vibrant footballing town. Much youth football in area – 34 junior football teams. Wide perception that insufficient pitches to meet existing demand, particularly after bad weather.
- League secretaries testify to buoyant growth in junior teams
- Absolute shortage of junior pitches impacts upon development of senior clubs wishing to run more teams.
- Tiverton High School has requests for use of its facilities from the community which it cannot meet.
- Several football clubs expressing desire to run more teams, particularly youth and girls/ladies, which is currently frustrated by lack of pitches.
- The commendable addition in recent years of two junior pitches at Moorhayes has generated its own momentum as demand now outstrips supply even more.
- Overuse of pitches and poor drainage (especially at Amory Park) gives no scope for rest and recuperation.
- Popularity of Exe Valley STP equates to an overall shortage of training provision and results in further pitch wear.
- Surface at Amory Park hard court area is not considered suitable for football training.
- Identified need for 3G pitch in the town.
- Tiverton's population is projected to increase by some 2180 dwellings (4360 people) by 2026. This will exert additional demand for pitches.

#### **4.5.3 Football Assessment- Tiverton**

##### ***Current Situation***

If education pitches (i.e. the pitches at Petroc College and Tiverton High School) are removed from the modelling, this means that in total the demand is from 9 adult, 22 youth and 22 mini teams and there 5 adult and 3 junior pitches available. This shows a shortfall in junior pitch provision on Saturday mornings which can only just be met by using adult pitches; it also shows a deficit of junior and mini pitches on Sunday mornings. Bringing the education pitches into the equation does alleviate some of the shortfalls but not all.

On Saturday afternoons there is less than one pitch surplus to requirements, which does not allow enough space for rest and recovery. It is thus recommended that one adult, two junior and two mini pitches be provided to meet latent demand.

##### ***Future Situation***

Tiverton Sub Area population is scheduled to rise by up to 4,000 by the allocation of some 2180 dwellings in the period to 2026. This will increase demand for pitches. Additional pitches are required to meet existing demand; at least one further senior pitch to be provided in the future. The majority of this increase will be within Tiverton itself.

## **4.6 REMAINDER OF TIVERTON SUB AREA**

### **4.6.1 Provision for Football**

There are 7 further adult pitches and 1 mini pitch in the remainder of the Tiverton Sub Area:

- Bampton, Morebath Road. Home to Bampton FC 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Saturday teams.
- Bickleigh, Happy Meadow. Home to Bickleigh FC, 2 Saturday teams; also used by Bickleigh Primary school.
- Sampford Peverell, Whitnage Road – adult and mini pitch. Home to Sampford Peverell FC, Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> XI and 2 mini teams. Also home pitch to Culm Utd U11s.
- Silverton Recreation ground. Home to Silverton FC, Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> XI
- Thorverton Recreation Field. Home to 2 Saturday XIs for Thorverton FC plus U11s on Saturday mornings.
- Uplowman Cross. Home to 2 Saturday XIs for Uplowman FC.
- Cheriton Fitzpaine. Home to 2 Saturday teams for Cheriton Fitzpaine FC

### **4.6.2 Issues and Considerations**

No particular issues identified, other than those referred to under **excel table 'Mid Devon Pitch and Court Action Points' (Figure 2)** for detailed action points relating to existing pitches.

### **4.6.3 Football Assessment- Remainder of Tiverton Sub Area**

The PPM shows adequate provision when mini and junior play is catered for by adult pitches. This is far from ideal and it is advocated that there should be dedicated junior and mini pitches wherever possible.

## 5 CRICKET IN MID DEVON BY SUB AREA

---

### See also supporting documents:

- Appendix11 Mid Devon PPM Cricket Teams
  - Appendix12 Demand and Team Generation Rates for Cricket
  - Map 7 Mid Devon Cricket Pitch Quality
  - See also Appendix 18: 'Key Findings for BSF Tiverton'
  - See also Appendix 19: 'Report on Rugby and Football in Crediton'
- 

The Playing Pitch Methodology for cricket in Mid Devon shows the following:

	Number of pitches	Shortfall/Surplus Saturday pm	Shortfall/Surplus Sunday pm
Total Crediton Sub Area Now	3	-1.2	0.6
Total Crediton Sub Area 2026	3	-0.4	1.1
Total Cullompton Sub Area Now	5	1.2	2.8
Total Cullompton Sub Area 2026	5	1.2	2.8
Total Tiverton Sub Area Now	9	1.9	4.9
Total Tiverton Sub Area 2026	9	2.9	5.5
Overall Mid Devon Sub Area Now	17	1.9	8.4
Overall Mid Devon District 2026	17	3.7	9.4

### 5.1 CREDITON SUB AREA

#### 5.1.1 Provision for Cricket

There are no cricket facilities in Crediton itself; the town is served by facilities at Shobrooke and Sandford CCs. Sandford CC are a focus club (one of two in Mid Devon, the other being Bradninch CC). They run 4 adult teams, two of which play in the Devon league on Saturdays, two in the Sunday North Devon League. Also run three juniors and 2 minis, which all play in the East Devon Youth League.

Shobrooke Park CC run 4 adult teams – 2 Devon League teams and a North Devon league team and a midweek team – as well as an U11 mini team in the North Devon Youth league on a Sunday morning.

In the rest of the Sub Area there are 3 pitches, at Newton St Cyres Recreation ground, Creedy park in Sandford and Shobrooke Park. Newton St Cyres CC runs one team in the Devon league, but it is understood they also have a midweek team (and in the past Quicke's cricket team was based there but this cannot now be traced).

### **5.1.2 Issues and Considerations**

To enable the Devon Cricket Board to 1) host effective festivals at a site with x2 pitches in close proximity and 2) increase the overall number of grounds to cope with increases in participation following the 2009 World 20/20 and Ashes, as a priority there need to be additional grounds created in North Devon, Mid-Devon, West Devon & South Devon. Sandford has been identified as such a site.

### **5.1.3 Cricket Assessment – Crediton Sub Area**

PPM is based on 3 pitches, and 10 adult and 3 junior teams. Within the Crediton sub area, Saturday is peak time for senior cricket and the model shows overall a shortage of 1.2 pitches. This is because the pitches are accommodating several teams, notably at Sandford CC. Owing to the overall decline in the number of people in the cricket age playing ranges to 2026, this shortage actually declines to 0.4 of a pitch by 2026. The Strategy concludes that an additional cricket pitch is required at Sandford.

## **5.2 CULLOMPTON SUB AREA**

### **5.2.1 Provision for Cricket**

There is one cricket pitch in Cullompton, at Speeds Meadow. Cullompton CC field two senior teams, and two junior teams. The teams play in the Devon league and the East Devon Youth League. They would like to run Ladies and Sunday sides in the future.

There are four pitches elsewhere in the sub area:

#### Bradninch

Bradninch CC field 3 adult teams, two of which play Saturdays in the Devon league. One plays Sundays in the North Devon league. One junior and one mini team.

#### Culmstock

Culmstock CC have one adult team in the Devon league which plays on Saturdays. 2 junior teams and 4 minis in the East Devon Youth League.

#### Hemyock

Hemyock CC have one Saturday team playing in the Devon league.

#### Kentisbeare

Kentisbeare CC field two teams playing in the Devon league, 3 junior and one mini side in the EDYL.

### **5.2.2 Issues and Considerations**

- The pitch at Speeds Meadow is small, but cannot really be enlarged.
- Cullompton CC would like to run Ladies and Sunday sides in the future.

### **5.2.3 Cricket Assessment- Remainder of Cullompton Sub Area**

Within Cullompton, based on two adult, two junior teams playing on one pitch, the PPM shows a slight shortfall on Sundays within Cullompton. Peak time for junior cricket in Cullompton is Sunday PM, where parish and sub area currently show a shortage of .4 and .2 of a pitch respectively. No junior cricket pitches were recorded and play occurs on senior pitches where there is adequate cover. This deficit changes to an overall surplus of .2 of a pitch by 2026.

Looking at the sub area as a whole, with 7 adult and 6 junior teams playing on 4 pitches the PPM shows sufficient provision at the moment and this remains the case to 2026. The Strategy concludes that there are sufficient pitches within the Cullompton Area to meet current and future demand.

## **5.3 TIVERTON SUB AREA**

**See also Appendix 18: ‘Key Findings for BSF Tiverton’**

### **5.3.1 Provision for Cricket**

There are currently two pitches in Tiverton that enjoy community use; at Knightshayes and Blundell’s School.

#### Kingtshayes Court, Bolham

The premier pitch in Tiverton is Kingtshayes Court, owned by the National Trust. Tiverton Heathcoat CC are based here and field five adult teams, two of which play on Saturdays in the Devon League, 2 play in the North Devon league on Sundays and midweek friendly XI. They also run two junior and two mini teams in the EDYL. They used to play at East Devon College pitch but that pitch has been redeveloped for housing.

#### Blundell’s

Tiverton & Bickleigh play their 1<sup>st</sup> XI at Blundell’s and their 2<sup>nd</sup> XI at Happy Meadow, Bickleigh. The arrangement at Blundell’s may not be secure. Old Blundellian CC play friendlies on Sundays.

There are seven pitches outside Tiverton:

*Bickleigh Recreation Ground, Happy Meadow:* Shared ground football and cricket, the square goes across football pitch, Tiverton & Bickleigh CC 2<sup>nd</sup> XI play here and because of football league requirements, pitch has to be fenced off across the square; priority is with football.

*Butterleigh Oval:*, Butterleigh CC plays friendlies on Sundays.

*Hayne Park:* Cheriton Fitzpaine CC fields two adult teams playing Saturday Devon league and North Devon league Sundays.

*Morebath:* Morebath CC field one team, in the North Devon league on Sundays.

*Whitnage Road, Sampford Peverell:* Sampford Peverell field Saturday and Sunday league teams

*Stoodleigh:* Stoodleigh CC play friendlies only (Sunday).

*Thorverton CC* at Station Road fields two senior sides, playing Devon league on Saturdays, 3 juniors and 2 minis in the EDYL

Artificial strip recorded at Uplowman, but no teams registered.

### **5.3.2 Issues and Considerations**

- Tiverton and Bickleigh CC's ability to continue playing home matches in Tiverton (at Blundell's) is dependent upon the school's continuation of its community use policy.
- To assist Tiverton & Bickleigh CC in their quest for a permanent home ground.

### **5.3.3 Cricket Assessment**

If we consider 7 adult teams and 2 junior teams playing on 2 pitches, the PPM records a slight shortfall for cricket provision on Saturday afternoons (0.9 pitch); the situation is eased by Tiverton & Bickleigh CC 2<sup>nd</sup> XI playing outside the town at Happy Meadow, Bickleigh.

Within the wider sub area, 7 pitches supporting 10 adult and 3 junior teams which shows adequate provision at the moment, and because of the profile of the future population (less people in the cricket playing age ranges), the nominal surplus increases to from 1.9 pitches currently to 3.1 pitches by 2026.

The Strategy concludes that an additional pitch should be provided within Tiverton, to meet demand from Tiverton & Bickleigh CC; one option would be to provide an artificial wicket on the rebuild of Tiverton High School/Petroc site.

Please see **Figure 2: Mid Devon Pitch and Court Action Points'** also for detailed action points relating to existing pitches.

Whatever method of assessment or analysis is used, it must always be understood that the mere existence of the cricket team and the cricket pitch, especially in rural areas, is part of England's social fabric. For this reason, cricket pitches need to be protected.

## 6 RUGBY IN MID DEVON

---

**See also supporting documents:**

- Appendix13 Mid Devon PPM Rugby Teams
  - Appendix14 Demand and Team Generation Rates for Rugby
  - Map 8 Mid Devon Rugby Pitch Quality
  - See also Appendix 18: 'Key Findings for BSF Tiverton'
  - See also Appendix 19: 'Report on Rugby and Football in CREDITON'
- 

Rugby clubs in Mid Devon have a large membership. There are three: CREDITON RFC, CULLOMPTON RFC and TIVERTON RFC. Each of the clubs has a registered playing membership in the region of 500. Over one third of CULLOMPTON and TIVERTON'S membership is made up from junior players aged between 7 and 12 years (CREDITON'S percentage of junior membership is 21%). It is believed that these 3 clubs are the largest sporting organisations in the district.

A separate analysis under the PPM has been carried out for rugby. For this, the Strategy has adopted the revised method of counting rugby teams as promoted by the RFU. This states that all ages U13 and above are counted as senior teams and 4 mini teams are the equivalent, in pitch usage terms, of one senior team. On this basis, number of teams are as follows:

- CREDITON 8 senior teams plus 1 equivalent senior team (4 minis) = 9 senior teams
- CULLOMPTON 11 senior teams (9 men and 2 ladies) plus 1 equivalent senior team (5 minis) = 12 senior teams
- TIVERTON 7 senior teams plus 1 equivalent senior teams (4 minis) = 8 senior teams.

The Playing Pitch Methodology for rugby shows the following:

<b>RUGBY MID DEVON CURRENT AND 2026</b>	<b>Number of pitches</b>	<b>Shortfall/Surplus Saturday pm</b>	<b>Shortfall/Surplus Sunday am</b>
Total CREDITON	2	0.1	-0.2
Total CREDITON 2026	2	0.5	0.3
Total CULLOMPTON	4	1.5	1.1
Total CULLOMPTON 2026	4	2.3	2.0
Total TIVERTON	2	0.3	0.1
Total TIVERTON 2026	2	-0.8	-1.2
Overall Mid Devon District Current	8	1.9	1.0
Overall Mid Devon District 2026	8	2.0	1.2

## **6.1 TIVERTON RFC**

**See also Appendix 18: ‘Key Findings for BSF Tiverton’**

Tiverton RFC run 7 adult (3 Men’s XV and U13, U14, U15 and U16) and around 4 midi/mini teams. They are based at Coronation Field, Bolham Road in Tiverton, where they have 2 adult pitches and a small training area. They also make occasional use of the neighbouring Tiverton High School pitch and STP for training.

When training, occasional midweek matches and midi/mini teams are included in the calculations a shortfall of pitches for matches and specifically training is evident.

### **6.1.1 Issues and Considerations**

- The overuse and poor drainage of the rugby pitches at Coronation Field constrict club’s development.
- Conflict with relationship with school and demand for football
- The club would like to run a ladies and veterans team and more youth sides.
- Not enough rugby pitches to meet the demand from junior and midi/mini teams.

### **6.1.2 PPM Assessment – Tiverton**

This shows sufficient pitches if Tiverton High School pitch is included for current level of teams but no room for expansion. The PPM does not take into account demand from mini teams.

If all teams included (including midi/mini as team equivalents) there are 8 adult teams on 2 pitches and with the split of play: 42% Saturday afternoon; 48% Sunday morning and 10% Midweek, there is only 0.1 pitch ‘spare’ on a Sunday morning.

For 2026, the revised PPM modelling shows a shortfall of pitches on both Saturday afternoons and Sunday morning.

The Strategy concludes that an additional pitch is required in Tiverton to meet existing and latent demand, plus secure community use of the existing pitch at Tiverton High School

## **6.2 CREDITON RFC**

**See also Appendix 19: ‘Report on Rugby and Football in Crediton’**

Crediton RFC run 8 adult teams (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> XV and Colts and U13, U14, U15 and U16) and 4 midi/mini teams (U9-U12s). Their clubhouse is at Blagdon, Crediton where they have one

adult pitch and a training pitch. They also lease one adult pitch at Creedy Bridge and make use of 2 of QECC's pitches at Lords Meadow.

### **6.2.1 Issues and Considerations**

- RFU advises that main pitch at Blagdon is in a poor state and over used.
- The club say they have outgrown their current facilities and would ideally like to move to a purpose built, dedicated rugby site within the town. The club has presented a robust plan for their development and its progress is dependent upon the planning authority's designation of land and proposed location for educational or residential development.
- The club would like to run a ladies and a veteran's team, and mention the reasons preventing them from doing so is because of the overuse of existing facilities for both playing and changing requirements. The town is outgrowing existing facilities, with pitches often un-usable through poor drainage and overuse.

### **6.2.2 PPM Assessment – Crediton**

The PPM shows sufficient pitches if all 4 pitches included i.e. QECC pitches. However, if the 2 school pitches are removed from the calculations, the equivalent of 9 teams are playing on 2 pitches and with a pattern of play split of 42% Saturday afternoon; 48% Sunday morning and 10% Midweek, this demonstrates underprovision of 0.2 of a pitch at peak demand time of Sunday morning.

4 pitches would be sufficient for the club if drainage was good and the pitches were in secure community use. However, poor drainage is resulting in overuse of other pitches. In any new situation in Crediton, the club should have access to 4 full size pitches with good drainage, including those on school sites.

## **6.3 CULLOMPTON RFC**

Cullompton RFC run 11 adult teams: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> XV, a Ladies XV, Colts, and U13, U14, U15 and U16 and a U16 Girls team. There are 5 mini/midi teams (U8-U12). They play at Knowle, Cullompton where there are 4 pitches and a training pitch. They are considered to be a particularly well run club and have recently built a new, four-team, changing room facility.

### **6.3.1 Issues and Considerations**

The club owns the freehold to the main pitch and training area, clubhouse and car park but rents the other pitches. There is thus no long term security of tenure. Recent there have

been speculative enquiries as to purchasing the land for housing, meaning there are long term concerns for the club.

### **6.3.2 PPM Assessment – Cullompton**

Running the PPM with 12 adult teams/team equivalents (11 adult and 5 midi/mini) with a pattern of play split of 42% Saturday afternoon; 48% Sunday morning and 10% Midweek shows that there is sufficient provision, at the peak demand time of Sunday morning.

However, the long term security of tenure of the site needs to be assured, and the club requires four pitches to continue meeting the needs of its large number of teams.

## 7 THE PROVISION OF ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES

---

### See also supporting documents:

Appendix15	List of Devon Artificial Grass Pitches
Appendix16	Mid Devon Hockey Teams
Appendix17	Artificial Grass Pitch Usage
Map 9	Devon Artificial Grass Pitches

---

The whole issue of new artificial surfaces for hockey, football, rugby and other sports – whether as full size pitches, multi use games areas and specialist five-a-side facilities - will require close review during the life of this playing field strategy. However, this still leaves an immediate issue in terms of how this study should reflect such facilities in assessments of supply.

Because of their catchment areas, which are frequently cross boundary, and the relatively few AGPs in Devon, this section commences with a review overall of AGPs in Devon.

### 7.1 Overview of Situation in Devon

In the four districts covered (Torridge, Mid Devon, North Devon and South Hams), there are 13 full and half size AGPs with secure community use. (There are a further six full size without secure community use – at Blundell’s School (Mid Devon x 2), Shebbear College (Torridge), West Buckland (North Devon), Bickleigh Barracks and Dartmouth BRNC (South Hams) (all sand).

Of these 13, only one is local authority owned and managed - Exe Valley Leisure Centre (used by Tiverton High School in the day - and one is owned by a club (half size 3G at Sandymere – Bideford Blues and Appledore FC).

A full size artificial grass pitch is proposed for Bideford College; this will be the first full size AGP in Torridge. It is understood to be of a 3G surface suitable for hockey (polytan monotex), with dimensions of 101.5 x 63m. This new pitch at Bideford College will be an addition to the above totals.

The other existing 11 AGPs are on school sites and subject to some sort of dual use arrangement:

- Five full size –Ivybridge (the only 3G) (South Hams); rest sand based – at Culm Valley Leisure Centre (Mid Devon), Park School Barnstaple (North Devon), KEVICCs (South Hams) and Kingsbridge Community College (South Hams) (not floodlit).

- The remainder are half size, 4 of which are 3G and 2 sand based– Braunton CC (3G), Pilton CC (sand) and South Molton (3G) (all North Devon); Holsworthy CC (sand) and Great Torrington (3G) (Torrige) and Ivybridge CC (3G – one third size) (South Hams).

The accompanying map (**Map 9**) shows all full and half size AGPs in Devon. The catchment areas shown are for 15 minutes drivetime from each AGP in Devon which is:

- full size
- available with secure community use
- floodlit.

It is recognised that hockey clubs will travel further to use a pitch for matches, but possibly not for training.

**Map 9** shows:

- concentration of full size facilities in south of the county, especially in major urban areas of Exeter, Plymouth and Torbay. Most of coastal stretch covered from Lyme Regis to Brixham.
- Northern Devon is poorly served
- Exeter, Plymouth and Torbay have mix of surfaces (sand and 3G); Exeter has a water based pitch
- Predominance of sand based pitches in east and south of the county.

## **7.2 Preliminary Findings from the Facilities Planning Model for AGPs in Devon (excluding Plymouth and Torbay)**

The Facilities Planning Model (FPM) is a computer based supply/demand model, which has been developed by Edinburgh University in conjunction with sportscotland and Sport England since the 1980s. The FPM works by converting both demand (in terms of people) and supply (facilities) into a single comparable unit. This unit is 'visits per week in the peak period' (VPWPP). Once converted, demand and supply can be compared.

The model includes:

- AGPs with minimum pitch dimensions of 75m x 45m. Non floodlit pitches are included, but are excluded from runs after 1700 hours.
- All pitches with community use are included, whether or not this community use is secured (e.g. it includes MoD facilities).

The Facilities Planning Model has recently been run in Devon and a Draft Profile Report recently prepared on AGP provision for hockey. Two other runs have been done – for AGPs catering for rugby and football, and a combined run for hockey, rugby and football. Some amendments need to be made to the supply situation, which may change the findings within South Hams and Torrige/North Devon especially. In particular, the inclusion of MoD facilities which do not have secure community use and the recent addition of the 3G AGP at Bideford College (the first full size AGP in that district).

**A Playing Fields Strategy for Mid Devon – October 2010**  
**Main Report: Sections 2 to 8**

---

Comparing supply with demand, the model suggests that, in overall terms, Devon County has sufficient pitches to meet current demand. However, this only provides a 'global' view of provision and does not take account of the location, nature and quality of facilities in relation to demand; how accessible facilities are to the resident population (by car and on foot); nor does it take account of facilities in adjoining boroughs. These are covered in the more detailed modeling set out in following sections.

Main provisional findings are:

- Satisfied Demand: 83% of demand in Devon County is being satisfied by supply. This compares to 88% for the South West region and 83% for England. (This figures takes into account 'cross-boundary' movements')
- 95% of visits to AGPs are made by car; 4% by foot and 1% by public transport.
- About 89% of demand from Devon County residents is 'retained' (i.e. residents use facilities within Devon County) whilst 11% is exported (i.e. residents use facilities outside Devon County)
- Unmet demand: Thus, the model estimates that 17% of demand in Devon County is not being met by supply (compared to 12% for the South West region and 17% for England). The majority of this unmet demand (51%) is due to lack of capacity at existing AGP sites.
- Commentary on Used Capacity: the model estimates that 65% of AGP capacity in Devon County is being used at peak times.

Findings of relevance to Mid Devon, North Devon, South Hams and Torridge:

Index	England Total	SW Region	Devon County	Mid Devon	North Devon	South Hams	Torridge
Pitches per 000 population	0.23	0.28	0.28	0.25	0.11	0.24	0
Unmet demand as % of total demand	17%	11.9%	17%	6.9%	53.8%	24.1%	46.6%
% of overall capacity of pitches used	89.2%	70%	64.8%	54%	100%	68.4%	0%

### **7.3 Review of Usage of AGPs in Mid Devon**

#### **A Culm Valley Sports Centre/Full size**

*School:* until 5.00pm

*Termtime weekdays:* Pitch used pretty much to capacity on 4 nights week for up to 4.5 hours for football seniors and juniors and Tuesday for hockey. Not much space at the moment, only spare slots on Fridays.

*Termtime weekends:* hockey most of Saturday. Spare capacity on Sundays.

*Holidays:* Availability increases from April. Can also be used for netball tournaments and activities

#### **B Exe Valley Leisure Centre/Full size**

*School:* until 6.00pm (not many bookings between 4 and 6pm?)

*Termtime weekdays:* Tiverton White Eagles hockey training for 2 hours on Wed. night, balance of time between 6 and 9 each evening is predominantly football 7-a-side and training; generally not used after 9pm

**A Playing Fields Strategy for Mid Devon – October 2010**  
**Main Report: Sections 2 to 8**

---

*Termtime weekends:* TWE hockey on Saturdays; some spare slots. Youth football training early evening. Sundays – occasionally five a side tournaments, otherwise spare capacity  
*Holidays:*

**C     **Blundell's/Full size (x2)****

Tiverton RFC training on Monday and youth football early Friday evenings.  
Many requests to hire out but very busy use by school and try to protect for the future.

## **7.4     Hockey in Mid Devon**

Tiverton White Eagles HC play at Exe Valley Leisure Centre, Tiverton and Exeter & Culm Vale Hornets HC play some of their teams at Culm Valley Sports Centre, Cullompton.

TWE HC field a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> XI (ladies) and 4 junior girls teams. The recently resurfaced pitch at Tiverton (August 09) has improved playing conditions for the club considerably.

ECVH HC are a large club of approximately 125 playing members, fielding a total of 13 teams, 9 of whom play at Cullompton. Their men's senior teams play at St Peter's School, Exeter, whilst ladies and junior teams play at Cullompton. The home location of their players is an approximate 60:40 split between Cullompton and Exeter. The pitch at Cullompton is rather worn and due for refurbishment within the next few years.

There are also two full size ATP's at Blundell's School which do not have any community use for hockey.

## **7.5     Patterns of usage**

General points to emerge from the research for this Strategy on AGPs are::

- Termtime weekdays: Most seem full with football training and five a side during the week. Full size pitches have hockey training also
- AGPs start to generate own use and become very busy at certain times
- Used by School Sports Partnerships very heavily.
- Frequently underused slots between close of school day/handover time – varies from 4.30 – 5.30/6.00, but often late afternoon not used.
- Termtime weekends: Quieter times at weekends. If full size pitch, hockey matches on Saturdays,
- Smaller AGPs - frequently football training, girls football on Saturday mornings and perhaps slot for juniors early Sunday evenings. However, frequently spare capacity on Saturday afternoons and Sundays.
- Holidays: Easter and half-terms being shorter holidays often activities arranged.
- Not well used in the summer – unless for holiday schemes

From the research the following points emerge:

- Demand for hockey is growing and clubs are constrained in development because of the lack of training time during the week.
-

- Clay soils within Devon bring drainage problems for pitches which, together with the declining quality and lower levels of maintenance on some public pitches, are leading to a lower carrying capacity. Grass pitches increasingly cannot cope with training demands as well and the opportunity to access AGPs is essential.
- It is imperative that all new AGPs should be floodlit, in order to maximise their use for community and competitive needs throughout the year and to ensure maximum recoup on investment.
- The development of initiatives within school sport and 'PE and Sport for Young People' is fuelling demand for more all weather surfaces which can accommodate a range of sports for training and competition venues, particularly hockey, rugby, netball and basketball.. It is an advantage if artificial surfaces can be located adjacent to appropriate indoor provision.
- All year round floodlit training facilities are required for sports such as rugby, which currently cease training in the autumn, due to the lack of such all year round provision.
- Demand for training facilities for football is high. Nearly half of all football clubs responding said that they had difficulties in finding areas for training, either because of the cost of hiring artificial surfaces, the lack of grass (non-pitch) areas which are floodlit and/or because existing well priced, floodlit areas are fully booked.
- Over the past few years, the emergence of 3G pitches has often been at the expense of the traditional sand filled surfaces. The EHA estimates that there are 1000 pitches in England more than 100 of which have been replaced by 3G turf in the last two years and that working at the current rate of attrition, there will be approximately 50% or more of existing hockey facility stock at risk by 2013. Although it is much harder to execute modern hockey skills on this surface the English Hockey Association is now permitting the use of long pile (3G) surfaces for local and regional league competition, providing the surface has been assessed in situ as complying with full FIH standard.
- However, a number of pitches which are currently suitable for hockey in Devon are under consideration for, or have changed to, surfaces which are not so suitable. It is imperative that there is no reduction in the current level of provision for hockey within the county, and that any AGPs which are 'lost' to hockey are replaced.

## **7.6 Quality**

Most recent guidance on recommended AGP pitch sizes is as follows:

### **Football**

Senior (>U17): 100m (l) x 65m (w) + 3m run offs at ends and sides. Total area = 106m x 71m  
(*The FA Guide to Artificial Grass Pitches; 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed – January 2010*)

### **Rugby**

Full size pitches same dimensions as senior football, but with 5m touch-in goal line and 5m run offs and ends and sides. Total area = 120m x 75m

Training pitches (and mini football): 55m (l) x 36.5m (w), plus 3m run offs. Total area = 61m x 42.5m

(*RFU Artificial Grass Pitches for Rugby and Association Football – January 2007*)

## **Hockey**

Full size: 91.4m (l) x 55m (w). Recommended run offs of 4m sides and 5m back lines

Mini hockey 55m (l) x 43m (w)

*(EHB Pitch Specifications; October 2009)*

In July 2010, Sport England in association with the EHB, the FA, the Football Foundation, the RFL and the RFU, published 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface for Hockey, Football, Rugby League and Rugby Union). Although the document was published after the research underpinning this strategy had been completed, efforts have been made to incorporate its findings in developing a way forward for the distribution and provision of new artificial grass pitches (AGPs) within Devon.

As set out in **Appendix 3: Methodology**, the above report presents three main types of surface (water, sand and rubber crumb) and six ratings within these ranging from 'not suitable for use' to 'surface for high level competition/training (inter/national)'. It states that the following surfaces are 'acceptable surfaces for competition and training' in the respective sports:

### *For hockey:*

- Suitable: Sand filled, sand dressed and water based.
- Water based is the preferred surface.
- Hockey also considers short pile 3G suitable for training and for some competition as long as the surface complies with FIH standard.

### *For football*

- Rubber crumb: short pile 3G (40mm);
- Long pile (55-65mm) 3G with or without shock pad)
- Preferred surfaces are long pile 3G with or without shock pad)

### *For rugby:*

- Rubber crumb: long pile 3G (65mm) with shock pad.
- Preferred surface is long pile 3G with shock pad; (the RFU is currently evaluating the surface standard for long pile 3G without shock pad)

However, the report emphasises that: **'There is no simple mathematical formula that will provide the answer as to which is the priority sport. However, in most cases the answer can be arrived at by using common sense and discussing the case for each sport at a working group consisting of the relevant governing bodies and key stakeholders.'**

## **7.7 Assessment and Action Points**

The Sport England recommended standard of provision for AGPs is currently being revised; the standard is currently set at 1 floodlit AGP per 40,000 - 60,000 within a 20 minute radius. This simplistic standard does not take allowance of the need for differing surfaces to

accommodate football, rugby and hockey; or for different size provision; or to promote and encourage community use. It was set originally when AGPs were only available for hockey.

In reaching decisions about possible options for provision within Mid Devon, the research for this study has taken into account:

- Existing distribution of AGPs and different surfaces and sizes
- Existing and latent demand as expressed by clubs
- Population growth, especially new settlement provision
- Levels of activity in certain sports and proximity of existing AGPs for training
- Catchment area populations
- Size of schools

In summary, Mid Devon appears fairly well served in the east with sand based pitches at Tiverton and Cullompton and in the south west with proximity to Exeter. However, there are no 3G surfaces which are better suited for football and rugby training and competition. Because of this, there is high usage of the sand based pitches for football training and five-a-side matches.

However, a number of pitches which are currently suitable for hockey in Devon are under consideration for, or have changed to, surfaces which are not so suitable. It is imperative that there is no reduction in the current level of provision for hockey within the county, and that any AGPs which are 'lost' to hockey are immediately replaced.

It is thus recommended that consideration be given to the following as a minimum level of additional AGP provision within Mid Devon:

**Mid Devon**

- 1 Crediton – full size surface suitable for competition and training in rugby and football
- 2 Tiverton – full size surface suitable for competition and training in rugby and football (depending also on resurfacing of Amory Park courts)
- 3 Refurbishment of pitch at Culm Valley Sports Centre

The district should work towards a hierarchy of provision as suggested within the above Sport England report: The district should work towards a hierarchy of provision as suggested within the new Sport England report 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface'.

An AGP can be accommodated on land of 0.637ha. (pitch, safety margins etc); with associated clubhouse land, car parking etc would require a site of around 1 ha.

**A Playing Fields Strategy for Mid Devon – October 2010**  
**Main Report: Sections 2 to 8**

---

## **8 OUTDOOR COURTS AND MULTI USE GAMES AREAS IN MID DEVON**

---

### **See also supporting documents:**

Map 10      Mid Devon Courts and MUGAs

---

### **8.1 Introduction**

The issues facing the sports of tennis, netball and the use of MUGAs throughout Torridge, North Devon, South Hams and Mid Devon are similar, and are worthy of an introductory section.

Surfaces for tennis courts range from all weather tarmac to basic tarmac and grass courts. There is wide variation in the standard of court surfaces, fencing and floodlighting and the quality of changing accommodation and clubhouses across the four authorities. A number of facilities require upgrading and/or their outdoor clubhouses improved. The provision of floodlights are a priority for the LTA as they give more court hours and are cheaper than the provision of indoor courts.

Whilst dedicated tennis facilities are easy to identify and the demand for tennis relatively straightforward to establish, provision for outdoor netball is usually on non-dedicated courts (multi use games areas). MUGAs also have an important role in providing the casual needs of various sports including: tennis/mini tennis, basketball, soccer/five a side soccer, hockey, rugby/tag rugby, rounders, athletics practice, tri-golf, roller hockey and volleyball etc. Moreover, well designed and located MUGAs provide not only for casual kickabout (to be encouraged in its own right) but can also reduce pressure on existing grass pitches from casual use and training.

### **8.2 Overview of Demand**

#### **Tennis**

It is said that, in Britain, a million people a year play tennis once; there is thus considerable potential for further expansion and development. Compared with national levels of participation, there is a low number of clubs and low numbers of junior players coming through to represent Devon at tennis and a generally low level of participation compared with the national average of 2% of the population (this figure includes casual participants as well as club members). However, there is understood to be considerable unrecorded and unmonitored use of the public tennis courts in Devon authorities, particularly in the summer. Clubs are generally small, although frequently active within local tennis leagues.

The regional governing body (the LTA) has identified the potential for many more participants, supported by coaching staff. There is a need to increase coaching on public courts and a need to increase the number of LTA qualified coaches operating in the county generally. A priority is to train more coaches to underpin development of satellite centres for tennis around the county, possibly radiating out from central points in each district. In theory, it would be beneficial to have a school site in each authority which focuses on tennis, where a coach could be based and the sport could develop further.

Nationally, the LTA's whole sport plan for tennis is concentrating on increasing participation and through its 'Places to Play' strategy (funded via the 2012 Whole Sport Plan budget and 'Wimbledon surplus') giving priority to more junior participation. This is to be achieved particularly through developing closer links between schools, parks and community tennis, which then link into a local tennis centre. The Tennis Foundation is continuing to develop a network of 'Beacon sites' throughout the country (sites with a minimum of six courts and a catchment area within a 10 mile radius of a minimum of 200,000 people). At present, in the South West, potential Beacon sites are Exe (Heavitree) in Exeter and at Exmouth (Phere Park); thus none in either South Hams, Torridge, Mid Devon or North Devon, although the principle of raising use of public courts is still applicable. The whole sport plan also emphasises Sport England's continuum of 'grow-sustain-excel', leading in to high performance centres such as, in the south west, Bath University. Within the LTA, there is also increasing emphasis on competition; however, in order to run competitions and to promote participation, coaches and ideally a club structure are required.

### **Netball**

There are strong netball leagues in North Devon and in Plymouth (with clubs in the South Hams), but netball activity also appears to have potential for development within Torridge, Mid Devon and South Hams. No figures are available on overall numbers of participants; each league is dealt with under individual authorities.

Mapping of Sport England's market segmentation data shows certain areas where there are concentrations of people who have been identified as particularly likely to play tennis and netball (where the market segment population is at least 10% of the total population). Within the four authorities, these can be summarised as:

- **North Devon:** Barnstaple; Ilfracombe; Chulmleigh; Braunton
- **Mid Devon:** Tiverton; Cullompton; Crediton
- **Torridge:** Bideford; Woolsery; Holsworthy; Bradworthy
- **South Hams:** South Brent; Cornworthy/Dittisham; Harbertonford; Modbury; Kingsbridge/Salcombe; Wembury

**A Playing Fields Strategy for Mid Devon – October 2010**  
**Main Report: Sections 2 to 8**

### 8.3 Summary of Facilities in Mid Devon

Parish	Site Name	Access	Tennis				Club
			No. courts	Floodlights	Netball	MUGAs	
<b>CREDITON SUB AREA</b>							
Crediton	Crediton, Lord's Meadow, hardcourt	A1	4	4		2	Crediton TC
Morchard Bishop	Morchard Bishop Playing Field & Sports Club	A1	1				
Newton St Cyres	Newton St Cyres Recreation Ground	A1	2	2			Newton St Cyres TC
Sandford	Sandford court	A1	1				
<b>CULLOMPTON SUB AREA</b>							
Bradninch	Bradninch tennis courts	A2	2	2			Bradninch TC
Hemyock	Hemyock courts	A1	2				
Hemyock	Hemyock MUGA	A1		1		1	
Hemyock	Hemyock Tennis Club	A2	3	3			Hemyock TC
Uffculme	Uffculme, Magelake Meadow MUGA	A1	2	2		2	
Willand	Willand tennis courts, Gables Road	A2	4	4			Willand TC
<b>TIVERTON SUB AREA</b>							
Sampford Peverell	Sampford Peverell,	A2	2	2			Sampford Peverell TC
Sampford Peverell	Sampford Peverell, Whitnage Road	A2	1	1			Sampford Peverell TC
Silverton	Silverton , Coach Road courts	A1	2			1	
Tiverton	Tiverton Youth Centre court	A1		1		1	
Tiverton	Tiverton, Amory Park - courts	A1	6	6		3	
Tiverton	Tiverton, Exe Vale Leisure Centre	A1	4	4			Tiverton Lawn TC
Tiverton	Tiverton, Moorhayes - courts	A1				1	*PP granted for lighting
	<b>TOTAL (excl. schools)</b>		<b>36</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	
Crediton	Crediton, QECC Lower School, Barnfield	C	3				
Crediton	Crediton, QECC Upper School -	C	5				
Cullompton	Cullompton, Culm Valley Sports Centre (Community College)	C	5				
Uffculme	Uffculme School - courts	C	3				
Tiverton	Tiverton High School - courts	C	9				
Tiverton	Tiverton, Blundells School courts	C	6				
	<b>SECONDARY SCHOOL TOTAL</b>		<b>31</b>				
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			<b>67</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	

### **Outdoor Courts and MUGAs in Crediton Sub Area**

*Crediton Lord's Meadow hardcourt area:* Large, fenced area. Tarmac surface. Floodlit. 4x tennis courts plus open area =c.2x 5-a-side pitches. Home to small Crediton LTC

*Queen Elizabeth Community College:* 5 non floodlit courts on upper site and 3 non floodlit courts on lower site.

*Morchard Bishop:* 1 fenced tennis court. Tarmac surface. Not floodlit.

*Newton St Cyres:* Floodlit, 2 tennis courts. Coloured tarmac. Fenced and locked. Newton St Cyres Tennis Club.

*Sandford:* Single tennis court, AW surface, good fencing. Not lit.

### **Outdoor Courts and MUGAs in Cullompton Sub Area**

*Bradnich Tennis Courts:* 2 coloured tarmac, floodlit tennis courts. Fenced and locked, contact phone number.

*Hemyock: 3 sites:*

- Parish Council: 2x tarmac, tennis courts. Below average fencing and surface. Not lit.
- Parish Council: AW 5-a-side court/MUGA. Rebound boards. Good quality fencing. Floodlit.
- Hemyock LTC: 3x AW tennis courts. Good quality fencing. Floodlit.

*Uffculme Magelake Meadow:* New, floodlit, fenced STP. 2x5-a-side pitches with netting in between. Sand based. Very nice.

*Willand:* 4x AW floodlit tennis courts. Good fencing and surface. Home of Willand LTC which runs several teams including winter league teams.

*Cullompton Community College:* Tarmac tennis courts, faintly marked, also used as playground

*Uffculme School:* 3 tarmac courts

### **Outdoor Courts and MUGAs in Tiverton Sub Area**

*Sampford Peverell:* Club has use of **3** floodlit tarmac courts.

- 2 in centre of village reserved for club use
- Parish Council court: Floodlit, coloured tarmac tennis court. Fencing in poor condition. Public use; key from post office

*Silverton, Coach Road:* 2 enclosed tarmac courts. 1 tennis, 1 tennis/b ball. Fair surface, rusty fencing. Some vandalism. Not lit.

*Amory Park Tiverton:* Large, tarmac area. 6x tennis courts plus netball, or 3x 5-a-side pitches. Average surface and fencing. Open access. Floodlit.

*Tiverton Moorhayes:* 1x basketball court. New facility. Tarmac surface. Good fencing. Not lit. Planning permission granted

*Tiverton Exe Vale:* 4 floodlit courts 4x AW tennis courts. Good fencing. Floodlit. Home of Tiverton LTC which runs a full programme on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays on either 4 or 2 courts.

*Tiverton High School:* 2 separate areas: 6x tennis courts and 3x tennis courts. Both tarmac surfaces, good fencing. Not lit.

*Tiverton Youth Centre:* 1x basketball court. Average, tarmac surface. Good fencing. Floodlit.

## **8.4 Assessment of Facility Provision – Tennis Courts**

Considering evidence provided by clubs, schools, parish and town councils, sports development officers and others and analysis of levels of current provision, there would be appear to be latent demand for both tennis courts and multi use games areas in Devon. However, it is very difficult to demonstrate exactly where more courts are required.

**A Playing Fields Strategy for Mid Devon – October 2010**  
**Main Report: Sections 2 to 8**

---

**Tennis**

	Total Number of Courts for tennis	Total Number Floodlit	Percentage of Courts which are Floodlit
<b>Mid Devon Non School</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>89%</b>
Mid Devon School	31		0%
Mid Devon Total	67	32	48%
<b>North Devon Non School</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>53%</b>
North Devon School	40	28	78%
North Devon Total	72	45	63%
<b>South Hams Non School</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>31%</b>
South Hams School	25	8	32%
South Hams Total	76	24	32%
<b>Torrige Non School</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>57%</b>
Torrige School	14	3	21%
<b>Torrige Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>43%</b>

There is no methodology similar to the Playing Pitch Methodology for assessing the need for courts. The LTA has in the past proposed a standard for the provision of floodlit courts (population within 30 minutes (preferably 15-20 minutes) x 2%, divided by 60) and this has been employed within each sub area to give an overview of the level of provision, as shown in the calculations and table below.

**Within Tiverton Sub Area:**

$36454 \times 2\% = 731$  divided by 60 = 12 floodlit courts (15 are recorded, 13 of which are floodlit)

If courts at Tiverton High School included, add another 9 courts (not floodlit)

**Within Cullompton Sub Area:**

$21,637 \times 2\% = 433$  divided by 60 = 8 (7.21) floodlit courts (13 are recorded, 11 of which are floodlit)

If courts at Uffculme and Cullompton Schools included, add another 8 courts (not floodlit).

**Within Crediton Sub Area:**

$20,202 \times 2\% = 404$  divided by 60 = 7 (6.7) floodlit courts (8 are recorded, 6 of which are floodlit)

The inclusion of QECC would add another 8 courts (not floodlit)

All school courts – although there are many – are not floodlit and therefore do not contribute towards the level of provision.

**Summary Table**

Mid Devon	Existing Number	Existing No. Floodlit	Recommended
Crediton Sub Area	8	6	7
Cullompton Sub Area	13	11	8
Tiverton Sub Area	15	13	12
School sites (District)	31		
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>27</b>

On this basis, Mid Devon appears to have a good level of floodlit outdoor court provision and no additional tennis courts are recommended.

**8.5 Assessment of Facility Provision - MUGAs**

The role of MUGAs should be recognised in terms of provision for informal/ casual use and all weather training for football. Whilst it would be difficult (and probably inappropriate) to embrace MUGAs and other small-sided artificial surfaces in quantitative assessments of capacity, their role should be recognised in a wider sense, such as through recognising the value of casual/informal facilities in developing a desired local hierarchy of pitches for different sports (as discussed elsewhere in this report).

There are no universally recognised and accepted categories of provision of multi use games areas. It is understood that Sport England is currently revising its guidance, but the most recent published guidance (A Guide to the Design, Specification and Construction of Multi Use Games Areas: Sport England;) sets out 4 main types (as set out in **Appendix 3**), As a general rule, any facility surfaced with macadam or polymeric surfacing is considered to be a MUGA, as are synthetic turf areas of less than 3000 sq. m. The minimum recommended size for multi-use games areas is 20m x 40m which can be accommodated on a site of 0.15 hectares.

As a guide to dimensions/sizes (although this may be superceded by forthcoming reports):

	Preferred minimum size	Area
Tennis Court	36.6m x 18.3m	670 sq. m
MUGA	40m x 20m	800 sq. m
Netball Court	36.6m x 23.4m	857 sq. m
MASA or half size AGP	60m x 40m	2400 sq. m

There are no accepted standards of provision for MUGAs; demand often arises through the need for training facilities for the pitch sports and to provide a multi-use facility in rural areas. Larger MUGAs (often referred to as half size AGPs (60m x 40m) are sometimes located so as to be able to develop sports development outreach work from the existing

(and once provided, new) AGPs. It is an objective of the Football Association's National Facilities Strategy to develop a network of floodlit, intensive, all weather sports areas, particularly for children and where there is limited access to adequate grass playing fields). The English Hockey Association (EHA) will support the development of MASAs as a support facility where they meet certain requirements including minimum dimensions for 6-a-side hockey and floodlights.

### **Other Sports**

It has been difficult to obtain an overall sense of priorities for netball within the county. It would appear that the main need is for outdoor courts (minimum of 6) allied to indoor court provision. This is currently achieved within Barnstaple at The Park School and also at Ivybridge Community College, and could possibly be developed in Mid Devon at Crediton, at Lord's Meadow.

No information has been forthcoming from governing bodies regarding provision for basketball within the four authorities. Demand for basketball locally is met predominantly through the provision of multi use games areas.

## **8.6 Action Points**

### **Outdoor Courts/Tennis**

In the current economic climate and with existing levels of participation it is inefficient to provide new tennis courts without coaching support and the development of proactive clubs, and this needs to be in place to underpin the provision of new facilities. New tennis courts should thus only be provided where there is a strong indication of local demand (this does apply to some rural settlements which have identified the need for such provision in parish plans etc)

The viability of tennis courts on new build school sites also needs to be considered carefully. In sports development terms, it is most valuable if these can be linked to nearby clubs and public courts. However, it may be that, unless the school can demonstrate latent demand for dedicated tennis provision, a better solution is to provide a multi-use surface.

The role of public tennis courts also needs to be reassessed. There is wide variation in the standard of court surfaces, fencing and floodlighting and the quality of changing accommodation and clubhouses in Mid Devon. A number of facilities require upgrading and/or their outdoor clubhouses improved.

Although outside the scope of this report, it should be noted that the LTA views indoor tennis courts as being vital in sustaining the development of tennis participation as they provide significant increased playing opportunities. The cost of indoor courts is often prohibitive (around £1m for 2 courts), so there is now an increasing emphasis on frame fabric, domes, air halls and other structures, often to cover existing courts.

In summary, there is a hierarchy of tennis court provision, and the following recommendations are made:

#### *District wide*

It is recommended that there should be identified principal sites – each with a minimum of 4 floodlit courts, with the possibility of courts capable of being covered seasonally (air structures). These sites to be developed as a coaching centre; in Mid Devon, the courts at Exe Valley Leisure Centre could fulfil this function.

#### *Community Facilities*

Below this level there is a need for tennis courts to meet casual demand from the community and for coaching and sports development work; ideally through an identified network of club, school and public courts which support each other through a strong coaching and club structure to sustain participation. In particular there may be further possibilities for developing links between Tiverton High School courts (ideally to be floodlit) and Tiverton LTC, currently based at Exe Valley Leisure Centre

It is recommended that this basic community level of provision of tennis facilities to be provided via existing clubs and schools:

- There are a considerable number of courts in schools in Mid Devon and it would be very welcome if these could be developed more for community use.
- To try to secure greater community use of courts currently with restricted access

#### *Floodlit courts*

It is strongly recommended that any area provided for intensive use (AGPs, MUGAs and outdoor courts) should be floodlit. The advantages of floodlights are:

**Increased use of facilities:** floodlighting facilities enables them to be used on winter evenings, giving substantially higher usage rates than equivalent non-floodlit facilities and increasing choice and flexibility of playing times for users.

**Programming flexibility:** longer operating hours give facility managers and users more freedom in programming and in initiating sports development programmes.

**Additional income:** increased use means greater potential to generate additional income – essential with the high capital cost of providing a MUGA or STP, although there will be increased wear and tear of the surfaces reducing its service life.

**Usage options:** a floodlit MUGA adjoining a sports hall can accommodate activities such as football, netball and tennis, releasing more expensive indoor space for other activities.

The provision of floodlights are a priority for the LTA as they give more court hours and are cheaper than the provision of indoor courts.

Both a maintenance fund and a 'sinking' fund should be established as soon as the new facility is in use, in order to ensure that sufficient funds are available to replace the surface when necessary. Consideration of the cost of maintaining and, eventually, replacing the surface of the facility should be reflected in the business plan and charges for use of the facility by the wider community.

## **MUGAs**

MUGAs can be marked for tennis and can also cater for a wider market than dedicated tennis courts. Such facilities are a valuable addition to sporting stock, since they can be used as training facilities for the pitch sports (thus taking pressure off grass pitches), a facility for netball and basketball also and provide a facility for children and young people in rural areas which are underprovided for with such facilities. The strategy has identified many rural playing fields sites – home to small village clubs – with adjacent poor quality unlit tennis courts which could be upgraded to floodlit MUGAs, thus providing a useful multi purpose surface.

Multi-sports surfaces offer a cost-effective solution for schools and other facilities with a wide range of sporting demands. Whilst a multi-sports area is often seen as a “safe option”, it must be recognised that there will almost always be a need to compromise, primarily in terms of dimensions and the performance of the playing surface. Each facility must be carefully planned according to specific demands and priorities.

MUGAs require positive management and promotion, and ongoing maintenance to deter and prevent vandalism, and should be placed in locations where there is a management presence and, in effect, a booked programme of activities. The role of the local sports development officer can often be crucial in ensuring their proper use.

As a starting point, it is suggested that all settlements of a cohesive nature with populations of around 2000 and above within Mid Devon should aim to have at least one MUGA, if possible located near playing field provision and for use as full dual use facilities by local primary schools, especially in the rural settlements.

- Additional MUGAs recommended for Cullompton, Bampton, Willand, Burlescombe/Westleigh, Cheriton Fitzpaine, Halberton, Holcombe Rogus to meet existing expressed demand/need and in Tiverton to cater for future growth.
- Courts at Amory Park Tiverton: there have been various proposals for redevelopment as MUGA/training surface which this strategy would support. Ideally the surface should also be able to cater for tennis, but if tennis provision is removed from this site, it should be replaced elsewhere, perhaps by securing community use to courts at Tiverton High School.

**A Playing Fields Strategy for Mid Devon – October 2010**  
**Main Report: Sections 2 to 8**

---

## **Section 9 BSF Schools and Other Documents**

### ***Supporting Documents only:***

- Appendix18 Key Findings BSF Tiverton
- Appendix19 Report on Rugby and Football in Crediton
- Map 11 Tiverton Sub Area and Learning Community

## **Section 10 Main Database and Playing Pitch Methodology Spreadsheets**

### ***Supporting Documents only:***

- Appendix20 Mid Devon PPM Pitch & Court Database (Master)
- Appendix21 PPMCurrentSituation (On request)
- Appendix22 PPMFutureModel (On request)
- Appendix23 PPM Revised for Rugby (On request)
- Appendix24 Team Generation Rates from Playing Pitch Methodology
- Appendix25 Summary of Facility Provision by Settlement Size
- Appendix26 Notes to accompany the PPM spreadsheets