

Appendices

Appendix 3: STATEMENT ON METHODOLOGY

The study method employed accepted techniques, sources and analytical tools recommended by the Government, Sport England and other relevant national agencies and bodies (including appropriate Governing Bodies of Sport). This paper sets out background to the research undertaken and some of the issues considered.

3.1 The Playing Pitch Methodology (see also Appendix 26)

The method employed for this part of the study was based upon the approach endorsed by Sport England where a local assessment of supply and demand is undertaken based upon the following series of tasks:-

Task 1 - Identifying Teams and Team Generation Rates

Task 2 - Home Games per Team per Week

Task 3 - Total Home Games per Week

Task 4 - Temporal Demand for Games

Task 5 - Pitches Used/Required on Each Day

Task 6 - Pitches Available

TGRs, teams and 'team equivalents'

The basic units of demand upon which the Playing Pitch Methodology are based are the 'Team' and 'Team Generation Rates' (TGRs). The latter are factors reflecting the number of teams generated by a given population. Essentially, TGRs can be derived in two ways - either by 'borrowing' such rates from studies undertaken elsewhere; or, from 'direct counts' and surveys of existing teams within the study area. The latter approach was adopted to produce TGRs far more representative of existing local participation in the four authorities. League records and governing body websites were interrogated. The FA has recently produced local profiles for all LAs in the region, and these have been used to supplement and verify the information collected.

Under the PPM, TGRs can be calculated for different age groups and different sub-divisions of sports, as shown in the following table.

Sport – sub groups	Age group:
<i>Football:</i>	
Mini-soccer	6-9 years
Junior football – boys	10-15 years
Junior football – girls	10-15 years
Adult men's football	16 – 45 years
Five-a-side football	16 and over
Women's football	16 – 45 years
<i>Cricket:</i>	
Junior cricket - boys	11- 17 years
Junior cricket - girls	11 – 17 years
Men's cricket	18 – 55 years
Women's cricket	18 – 55 years
<i>Hockey:</i>	
Junior hockey – boys	11 – 15 years
Junior hockey – girls	11 – 15 years
Men's hockey	16 – 45 years
Women's hockey	16 – 45 years
<i>Rugby:</i>	

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Mini-rugby – mixed	8 – 12 years
Junior rugby – boys	13 -17 years
Junior rugby – girls	13 – 17 years
Men’s rugby	18 – 45 years
Women’s rugby	18 – 45 years

On the basis of recent advice from the RFU, the PPM has also been calibrated for rugby in the following way:

- All rugby club teams (male and female) – all rugby teams U13 and upwards recorded in the PPM as a senior team as they play 15 a side rugby and use a full pitch.
- All male adult club rugby takes place on a Saturday afternoon principally. All U13-18 and minis rugby principally on Sunday mornings
- All rugby club mini/midi teams (U7-12) entered as an adult team equivalent (as the PPM does not recognise mini/midi team data). 4 mini/midi teams (U7-U12) = 1 adult

3.2 Identification of Sub Areas

Ideally, sports provision should be close to where users live. With this in mind the local authority has been split up into sub areas. The basis for the sub areas is the series of market town catchments determined and published by Devon County Council. In establishing these catchments the County Council examined the main factors that decide why a town’s hinterland looks to that town in order to provide 'essentials'. Analysis of the following services and other relevant factors have therefore been taken into account:

Local Travel Plans – which are based on public consultation and map local travel patterns, the majority of which are short ones in and around local communities as part of people’s daily lives.

Shopping catchment areas – which are the service most frequently accessed by people.

Learning Community catchment areas – which have a major influence on where people look to for services. Learning Community catchments do not always follow district or even county boundaries, but are based on a collection of feeder primary schools.

Market and Coastal Towns Initiative areas - The Market and Coastal Towns Initiative was started after recognition that the health of a market town is vital to the well being of its hinterland, and that many of Devon’s market towns were in need of regeneration. It is a Central Government initiative, and over half of Devon is included in the Market and Coastal Towns Initiative.

Parishes - The boundary definitions are shown in terms of parishes, as they are traditionally the smallest area used for ‘clustering’.

The catchments for different types of sports provision will obviously vary depending on the scale of that provision. However, for the range of opportunities covered by this study the market town catchments are a useful basis for local analyses- some opportunities will be expected to be provided in the immediate locality, but for others local people will accept the need to travel to a settlement of a size that will support such facilities.

The sub area (market town catchment) boundaries, collectively, are generally consistent with local authority boundaries included in this playing pitch study. There are some exceptions where a small number of parish councils have been assigned to sub areas falling largely within neighbouring local authorities. People will not usually consider administrative boundaries in deciding where they play, and a 'cross border' approach to determining sub areas is a valid principle. Information about every parish covered by the overall study will be available if local authorities or others wish to analyse provision in relation to conventional administrative boundaries. Parishes in *italics* below lie outside the local authority area.

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MID DEVON

Sub Area Name	Parishes covered
Crediton Sub Area	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
Cullompton Sub Area	Bradninch, <i>Broadhembury</i> , Clayhidon, <i>Clyst Hydon</i> , Cullompton, Culmstock, Hemyock, Kentisbeare, <i>Plymtree</i> , <i>Sheldon</i> , Uffculme, Willand
Tiverton Sub Area	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>

North Devon

Sub Area Name	Parishes covered
Barnstaple Sub Area	Arlington, Ashford, Atherington, Barnstaple, Bishop's Tawton, Bratton Flemming, East & West Buckland, East Down, Fremington, Goodleigh, Horwood, Lovacote & Newton Tracey, Landkey, Loxhore, Marwood, Pilton West, Shirwell, Stoke Rivers, Swimbridge, Tawstock
Braunton Sub Area	Braunton, Georgeham, Heanton Punchardon
Ilfracombe Sub Area	Berrynarbor, Bittadon, Combe Martin, Ilfracombe, Kentisbury, Morteheo, West Down
Lynnton & Lynmouth Sub Area	Brendon, Challacombe, Countisbury, Lynmouth & Lynmouth, Martinhoe, Paracombe, Trentishoe
South Molton Sub Area	Bishop's Nympton, Brayford, Burrington, Chittlehamholt, Chittlehampton, Chulmleigh, East Anstey, East Worlington, Filleigh, George Nympton, King's Nympton, Knowstone, Mariansleigh, Meshaw, Molland, North Molton, Queen's Nympton, Romansleigh, Rose Ash, Satterleigh & Walkleigh, South Molton, Twitchen, West Anstey.

South Hams

Sub Area Name	Parishes covered
Buckfastleigh affinity Sub Area	Dean Prior, Holne, West Buckfastleigh
Dartmouth Sub Area	Blackawton, Kingswear, Dartmouth, Stoke Flemming, Dittisham, Strete
Ivybridge Sub Area	Aveton Gifford, Bickleigh (population centre), Bigbury, Brixton, Cornwood, Ermington, Harford, Holbeton, Ivybridge, Kingston, Modbury, Newton and Noss, North Huish, Ringmore, Shaugh Prior, Sparkwell, Ugborough, Wembury, Yealmpton
Kingsbridge Sub Area	Buckland-Tout-Saints, East Portlemouth, Salcombe, Stokenham, Charleton, Frogmore & Sherford, Slapton, Thurlestone, Chivelstone, Kingsbridge, South Huish, West Alvington, Churchstow, Loddiswell, South Milton, Woodleigh, East Allington, Malborough, South Pool.
Totnes	Ashprington, Berry Pomeroy, Cornworthy, Dartington, Diptford, Halwell &

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Sub Area Name	Parishes covered
	Moreleigh, Halberton, Littlehempston, Marldon, Rattery, South Brent, Staverton, Stoke Gabriel, Tones

Torrige

Sub Area Name	Parishes covered
Bideford and Northam Sub Area	Abbotsham, Alverdiscott, Alwington, Bideford, Buckland Brewer, Clovelly, Hartland, Huntshaw, <i>Instow</i> , Landcross, Littleham, Monkleigh, Northam, Parkham, Weare Giffard, Welcombe, <i>Westleigh</i> , Woolfardisworthy.
Great Torrington Sub Area	Ashreigney, Frithelstock, Little Torrington, St. Giles in the Wood, Beaford, Great Torrington, Merton, Yarnscombe, Buckland Filleigh, High Bickington, Peters Marland, Dolton, Huish, Petrockstow, Dowland, Langtree, Roborough
Holsworthy Sub Area	Abbots Bickington, Broadwoodwidge, Hollacombe, Northcott, Sutcombe, Ashwater, Bulkworthy, Holsworthy, Pancrasweek, Tetcott, Black Torrington, Clawton, Holworthy Hamlets, Pyworthy, Thornbury, Bradford, Cookbury, Luffincott, Shebbear, Virginstow, Bradworthy, East Putford, Milton Damerel, Sheepwash, West Putford, Bridgerule, Halwill, Newton St. Petrock, St. Giles on the Heath.

(Parishes in *italics* lie outside the local authority area)

3.3 The importance of appropriate consultation

Existing local consultation was reviewed for relevant findings and also to ensure no duplication of work already done. For the study to reflect local concerns and issues, it was necessary to have a dialogue with local clubs. A questionnaire survey of clubs affiliated to recognised leagues covering the study area was conducted.

Other dialogue with users

Although questionnaire surveys offer a useful means of securing information in a systematic way, we find that face-to-face dialogue with those representing the interests of users (league secretaries, representatives of clubs were also conducted with interested parties. See **Appendix 4** for a list of consultees.

Future and 'latent' demand

As well as looking at the 'present' situation, it was essential for the study to examine what demand might be in the future. It was also necessary to consider 'latent demand' for sports pitches.

Latent demand as a factor was established through discussions with:

- club and governing body representatives; and,
- leisure officers and sports development officers.

Demand to take part in sport fluctuates for a variety of reasons, other than changes in the population. These may include:

- the influence of sports development campaigns;
- the influence of new facilities in encouraging new teams to form; and,
- media exposure of individual sports.

The following table summarises the various factors that may influence 'latent demand' and suggests practical ways of taking them into account.

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Factor	How to take it into account
Current frustrated demand	Speak to league secretaries to gauge how many potential teams are waiting for home pitches so that they can join a league.
Influence of sports development campaigns*	Take into account any numerical targets set in local sports development campaigns. Ensure that such targets are set and monitored in future sports development strategies.
National sporting success, and its influence in increasing participation*	Examine any long-term trend evidence that may exist (at the national and local level) to assess the impact that national sporting success has on increasing participation, as well as the extent to which any increased levels are maintained. Sources of such time sequence data might include GHS, affiliation records of local leagues (where they exist), national governing body data.
Sport in the school curriculum*	If the profile of school sport is increased it may impact upon after-school clubs, inter-school matches and ultimately, more people playing team sports beyond school hours and school years.
Impact of mini sports in engendering long-term increases in adult play*	In the next few years it will be possible to establish the extent to which those playing mini-soccer/ rugby will move through into junior and adult football/ rugby.
Lifestyle changes and other activities competing for leisure time/spend, including other forms of sport.*	The effect of these other competing demands <u>may</u> be to reduce overall demand for formal pitch sports. For example, small-sided soccer at commercial venues may lead to fewer teams playing on Sunday mornings. <u>On the other hand</u> , people who start playing indoor small-sided football for fun and/or to get fit may in turn be encouraged to move onto the 11-a-side game.

(* denotes that this will also influence future demand)

Assessment of *future* demand was examined through relating TGRs identified earlier in the study to population forecasts by age, gender and area (where such information is available). Some latitude was built into these forecasts to allow for factors influencing *latent demand*. The forecasts also take into account increased demand arising from successful sports development campaigns and 'build-in' a safety margin of additional pitch space to accommodate unanticipated increases in demand.

3.4 Explanatory Note on Population Figures Used

Access to up-to-date data on the size and composition of the local population, broken down into by age, gender and area was necessary. Various different categories of population data are required to run the playing pitch methodology (PPM) and to compute standards of provision. Calculations for the existing situation under the PPM have used a combination of the Registrar General's 2008 Mid Year Estimates (for age and gender breakdown) and FHSA 2009 estimates (for age and sub area breakdown).

Population projections have been provided by Devon County Council which inform the assessment of future playing pitch requirement. These are based on long term demographic trends to assess the level of population change that is likely to occur, and also take into account proposed new development. However, the way in which housing levels are determined is changing and this has been taken into consideration within this assessment to ensure that these projections, and the resulting pitch requirements for the future, are still valid.

Previously, the Secretary of State's proposed changes to the South West Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) allocated housing numbers to individual district council areas that had to be built between 2006-2026. These housing numbers were then distributed to towns and areas throughout those districts in the Local Development Framework, prepared by the district councils. However, since these projections were produced, the new coalition

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government has sent a letter to all Local Authorities informing them of the intention to abolish the Regional Spatial Strategies and the district-wide housing allocations therein.

The projections used to inform the future requirement for pitches in this playing pitch strategy for Mid Devon and South Hams are based on the level of housing required to 2026 in the RSS, and how these district councils had considered they would be distributed between settlements. These districts have already incorporated the RSS figures into their core strategies and have set out their allocations at a local level. Given this context, the projected future requirements for playing pitches should be delivered by about 2026.

However, for North Devon and Torridge, the RSS figures were not embedded in their core strategies. The projected levels of housing up to 2026 in these two authorities are still being reviewed and the results unknown as yet. For this reason, population projections produced post-RRS by Devon County Council in July 2010 have been used in this Strategy and allocations agreed with the local authorities concerned.

Given this uncertainty within North Devon and Torridge, projections for certain towns can be regarded as a phasing issue. If the review of housing numbers for a town means that the number reduces from that in the projections used in this report, it is likely that in the future post 2026, there will be further development and therefore the amount in the projections will be reached eventually, at some later date. Alternatively, if the number of houses for a town is reviewed and increases, it simply means that the pitch provision will be required sooner than 2026.

As such, this strategy sets out the requirements for the future provision of playing pitches based on a set number of new people in each parish, leaving the timing of when these levels are reached flexible.

To summarise, the origin for figures used for each district are as follows:

Mid Devon and South Hams District Councils

Playing Pitch Methodology Current Situation

The figures on Sheet 1 'Active Participation Information' are taken from:

- Devon CC: Registrar General's Mid Year Estimates 2008; age and gender breakdown.

Playing Pitch Methodology Future Modelling

The figures on Sheet 2 'Ward Details' (Total Future Active Population 6-55 years) are taken from:

- DCC Age Projections by Market Town Areas for 2026. These are based on the RSS (with building) figures, published in July 08.

In Mid Devon, adjustments have been made to allow for the slightly different configurations of the sub areas identified in this Strategy from the Market Town Areas.

Standards of Provision Tables

- *Existing Population*: FHSA 2009 Mid Year Estimates
- *Future 2026 population*: RSS 'with building' figures for 2026.

Changes in Population for Team Generation Rates:

- 2008: Devon CC: Registrar General's Mid Year Estimates 2008; age and gender breakdown.
- 2026: RSS 'with building' figures for 2026.

Recommendations/focus for new building

(Dwellings; for population x 2 approx)

Mid Devon

Bampton 110

South Hams

Modbury 100

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Crediton	413	Salcombe	100
Cullompton	1,665	Yealmpton	100
Tiverton	2,180	Stokenham	150
		Ivybridge	425
		Kingsbridge	485
		Dartmouth	545
		Totnes	658
		Sherford	c12,000

North Devon and Torridge District Councils

Playing Pitch Methodology Current Situation

The figures on Sheet 1 'Active Participation Information' are taken from:

- Devon CC: Registrar General's Mid Year Estimates 2008; age and gender breakdown.

Playing Pitch Methodology Future Modelling

The figures on Sheet 2 'Ward Details' (Total Future Active Population 6-55 years) are taken from Devon County Council July 2010 projections

In Torridge, adjustments have been made to allow for the slightly different configurations of the sub areas identified in this Strategy from the Market Town Areas.

Standards of Provision Tables

- *Existing Population:* FHSA 2009 Mid Year Estimates
- *Future 2026 population:* Devon County Council July 2010 projections

Changes in Population for Team Generation Rates:

- 2008: Devon CC: Registrar General's Mid Year Estimates 2008; age and gender breakdown.
- 2026: Devon County Council July 2010 projections

Recommendations/focus for new building

(Dwellings; for population x 2 approx)

North Devon

South Molton	1,200	-222
Ilfracombe	1,750	-311
Barnstaple/Fremington	6,000	-453
Mortehoe		130 (104 existing commitments)
Marwood		25 (21 existing)
East Anstey		15 (7 existing)

Torridge

7,700 new dwellings apportioned as under RSS allocations to 3 areas:

Great Torrington	1,000
Holsworthy	1,000
Bideford/Northam	5,700

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3.5 How are pitches to be counted?

Statutory Instrument 1817 defines a playing field as 'the whole of a site which encompasses at least one playing pitch'. It defines a pitch as 'a delineated area which, together with any run off area, is of 0.4 hectares (1 acre) or more, and which is used for association football, American football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, rounders, baseball, softball, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo (grass or artificial surface)'. The area of 0.4 hectares equates to the recommended minimum size of a junior football pitch, including run-offs.

Education Guidance defines a minimum pitch size of 0.2 hectares and in order to maintain conformity with current legislation the following definition is proposed:

a pitch is a grass or artificial surface which is marked out as a pitch for at least part of the year and on which a match can be played and has a minimum size of 0.2 hectares, including run-off areas.

Establishing precisely how many pitches there are within a given study area can sometimes prove difficult for several reasons:

- the number of pitches at a given site can fluctuate over short periods of time for reasons of management and husbandry. This means that the findings of a count conducted in one season may differ from the results of a similar exercise conducted the following season;
- site inspections may occasionally fail to identify existing pitches because goals may only be erected on match days, and markings may be poor;
- the time at which site surveys are conducted will greatly influence the number of pitches identified through site investigation;
- football matches involving younger children may use portable goals and small-sided pitches, and these may be difficult to identify through site inspection. Counts of junior football pitches may therefore need to be restricted to those that are marked out, (with goals in place) and of sufficient size to host games between older children's teams.
- the above definition of 'a pitch' does not include single pitches for some small sided/mini games. For example, the minimum size of an U7s /U8s mini soccer pitch is only 18.3m x 27.45m, which equates to just 502m² or 0.05 hectares.

Because of these problems, it was important for the studies not to become a rigid counting exercise. The aim instead has been to establish 'pitch capacity' given what is known about current and estimated future needs.

3.6 Assessing the capacity for football, rugby and cricket

Grass pitches are a natural resource and their capacity to accommodate games over the given period of time is determined by their physical quality and not just their size. At the minimum, capacity affects the quality of the playing experience and, in the extreme, can result in the inability of the pitch to cater for play at certain crucial times or by certain groups.

Moreover, it is not just the quality of the pitch itself (drainage, type of soil, grass cover, wear and tear, slope, quality of maintenance and markings), but also the quality, standard and range of ancillary facilities (changing, floodlights, spectator facilities, car parking, social provision, practice areas etc) which determine whether they can contribute to meeting the demand from various groups and for different levels of play.

The following table summarises those factors that may influence the quality (and therefore capacity) of pitches and ancillary facilities.

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Item	Comment
Slope	These factors will have a major impact on the number of games that can be played on a pitch over a given period, and hence the overall pitch capacity. Factors such as drainage and soil type will also greatly influence the extent to which matches may be lost during periods of wet weather.
Exposure	
Soil type	
Drainage	
Grass cover or surface type	This will impact upon the number of games that can be played but also the types of game. For example, artificial turf is not currently an acceptable medium for most competitive football
Type and quality of changing (if available)	Good quality changing accommodation is desirable for most levels of play and essential for many. Changing accommodation to a reasonable specification is usually a league requirement for adult football, and the level of specification increases with higher standards of play. The lack of female changing accommodation is a potential constraint on the further development of girls' and women's football.
Floodlighting	Floodlighting is often required for clubs/teams playing above a certain standard. Floodlighting also allows greater use of a pitch for both training and competition, such as winter mid-week evenings. Provision of floodlighting can therefore help to spread demand over the week.
Car parking	Off street dedicated car parking for both players and spectators is desirable for all facilities and essential for many due to the requirements of leagues and relevant governing bodies.
Spectator and social facilities	Formal spectator facilities will only be a requirement beyond a given standard of play and will be determined by the requirements of relevant leagues and governing bodies. The provision of these facilities can frustrate the development of aspiring clubs especially where there are planning issues, or where there is lack of security of tenure (see below).
Practice areas	Practice areas are desirable at all levels of competitive play. They also serve an important role in reducing wear and tear on conventional pitches.
Security of tenure	This can prove a fundamental constraint to clubs developing the quality and capacity of their home facilities. Many clubs will not be able to take an active involvement in the maintenance and improvement of their facilities due to a lack of security of tenure. For example, where clubs play on council pitches, or on school sites.

Assessing the quality of pitches, although a time consuming task, is important for several reasons:

- it helps identify pitches that are being over-used
- it helps explain why some pitches are being under-used
- it helps prioritisation for investment when developing an action plan

The number of 'community' matches a grass pitch can absorb is a function of the needs of other users and quality. For example, a school with an active dual use policy may only be able to allow one community game each weekend, whilst a comparable council pitch may be able to accommodate two matches.

Whilst the Playing Pitch Methodology can give an indication of demand for pitches at peak times, it does not always reflect the total amount of use, or 'capacity' that a site is accommodating. There is no all encompassing formula for calculating the carrying capacity of pitches as it is dependent on a wide range of factors eg weather conditions, age/ weight of users, quality of players etc. However, within the Devon Playing Fields Strategy, further calculations

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have been made to better demonstrate site usage. A number of values, assumptions and variables are used in these calculations:

A	Match Factor	Length of matches in hours. For adult play 1.5, less for junior and minis. Thus depending upon the split of usage at a site, the value could be between 0.5 and 1.5.
B	Training Factor	Length of on-pitch training sessions in hours. Again a variable, with an average of 1.5. Only entered when training is known to take place on a pitch.
C	Home/away Factor	Traditionally 0.5 for senior teams, but could reduce depending upon amount of junior play.
D	Training team equivalent	The number of team equivalents known to train on the match pitches. NB. 'Towards a Level Playing Field' gives a team equivalent of 28 mini soccer teams for 1 adult team for matches. For training purposes, this figure has been reduced depending upon the mix of junior and mini teams training on the same site.
E	Training hours	B x D
F	Total full size teams	Number of teams: whether adult, junior or mini
G	Total full size games played	F x C
H	Match hours	G x A
I	Total full size team equivalent hours	Thus giving an overall figure in number of hours that a club uses its venue. This is the value for demand.

The required criteria for assessing the supply are:

i	Total number of pitches	Whether they are adult, junior or mini.
ii	Full size match capacity factor	The number of matches that a pitch might safely be expected to host per week. TaLP quotes, for example, that a school with an active dual-use policy may only be able to allow one community game each weekend, while a comparable council pitch may be able to accommodate two matches.
iii	Site match capacity	I x ii
iv	Site football match equivalent hours	iii x 1.5 hours. This gives an approximate figure for the number of hours a venue can technically absorb, and this is the value for supply

All of the above is a fairly rudimentary attempt at establishing how 'busy' a site is and can help us identify particular hot spots that were not necessarily that apparent when solely using the PPM. There are, as always, caveats and considerations to be borne in mind when using the above calculations, for example the amount of casual/unauthorised play that a site receives is almost impossible to put a value to, although the amount of curricular use a school pitch receives is a figure that can, at worst, be estimated. Factors that reduce the demand value for a site is when it is in proximity to an all weather training area, or when there is a dedicated training pitch.

The above calculations have been undertaken with the data that has been collected concerning some of the 'busiest' football venues in the districts, with the results as contained within the text.

3.7 Assessment of pitches available

The assessment of pitches and other facilities available was based principally upon the following information sources:

- Previous playing pitch studies.

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- Information gathered from comprehensive site visits and consultants' personal knowledge;
- the Sport England Register of Recreation Land, and the results of the REFF audit of football facilities and Sport England's Active Places database,
- LA information on their own pitches.

Collectively, the above provided information on:

- number of pitches by type and size;
- pitch/facility quality (basically an estimate of the number of games per week a pitch can accommodate and an assessment of the standard of the playing surface);
- 'availability' (this will be important in assessing the supply of education and institutional pitches for community use); and,
- ancillary facilities (such as the availability of changing facilities and club houses, in addition to those other items identified in the study brief).

The study utilised as far as appropriate the Pitch Quality Assessment (PQA) set out in 'Towards a Level Playing Field'. Sport England's Pitch Quality Assessment (PQA), as part of the Playing Pitch Methodology, 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.

On the pitch scoring template provided by Sport England, the following categories apply:

- 90%+ - Excellent pitch
- 64% - 90% - Good pitch
- 55% - 64% - Average pitch
- 30% - 54% - Below average
- < 30% - Poor pitch:

However, after the site audits were carried out, the scoring for pitches in Mid Devon and the other Devon authorities covered - Torridge, North Devon and South Hams - showed no pitches in the highest (90%+) and lowest (<30%) categories. In order to give a more relevant picture of pitch quality, this Study therefore amended the categories as follows:

- 75%+ - Very good pitch
- 70% - 75% - Good pitch
- 55% - 70% - Satisfactory
- < 55% - Poor pitch

It was important to undertake a site by site survey, in order to confirm or otherwise the existence of pitches. The survey required use of the PQAs set out above and all comments pertaining to the sites, together with the scores made, are contained within the Master databases.

3.8 Community Use

Factors such as ownership, management, pitch quality and the availability of ancillary facilities will all influence the number of games that can be supported by pitches at a given standard of play. However, the ownership and availability of pitches will also influence their actual availability for community use.

A central component of analysis was therefore an examination of the extent to which pitches identified are actually available for use by 'the community'. The following categorisation was adopted to reflect the extent of availability; these are similar to definitions outlined in 'Towards a Level Playing Field'.

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Category	Definition	Supplementary information
A(i)	Secured community pitches	Pitches in local authority or other public ownership or management
A(ii)		Pitches in the voluntary, private or commercial sector which are open to members of the public
A(iii)		Pitches at education sites which are available for use by the public through formal community use arrangements*
B	Used by community, but not secured	Pitches not included above, that are nevertheless available for community use, eg school/college pitches without formal user agreements
C	Not open for community use	Pitches at establishments which are not, as a matter of policy or practice, available for hire by the public

3.9 Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) also known as STPs (synthetic turf pitches)

The development of AGPs has fundamentally changed the way in which some sports are played and matches are programmed. For competitive hockey, for example, it has meant that games can be accommodated by sequential programming on match days. In time, the development of ‘third’ generation (3G) AGPs for football may have a profound effect on this sport too. It would be theoretically possible to programme football matches in the same way as hockey. However, this may be more problematic for football, given that most clubs tend to have only one or two teams, which would require similar timed slots. Hockey does not tend to have this problem given the multi-team structure of most clubs, allowing for better co-ordination.

The actual number of matches (hockey or football) that can be played on an AGP over a given period is a function of the length of match, dimensions required (i.e. allowing in some cases more than one match to be played at a given time), and overall availability of the facility (which will be influenced by usage policies, the demand of other sports, and whether or not there is floodlighting).

Therefore the assessment of demand for AGPs and the adequacy of supply within Devon has been based in part on the detailed programming requirements of existing potential users. It is something that cannot be modelled without local knowledge, as each circumstance may be different. In this respect, one of the key issues affecting hockey is not so much access to pitches for competitive play over the weekend, but access for training during the week. With regards to the latter there is often intense competition for access with five-a-side football. Mapping work has also been undertaken to analyse the current distribution of AGPs in Devon.

Two recently published documents have also informed the AGP assessment.

‘Selecting the Right Artificial Surface for Hockey, Football, Rugby League and Rugby Union’

In July 2010, Sport England in association with the EHB, the FA, the Football Foundation, the RFL and the RFU, published the above report, which sets out how the provision of AGPs has to be considered in relation to the type of surface provided. 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)’. The six categories of pitch surface are as follows:

1 Water type – Water based	High level competitive hockey and suitable for football training if pitch irrigated
Hockey	Surface for high level competition/training (inter/national)
Rugby Union	Surface for modified games/training but not serious training &/or competition

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Football	Surface for modified games/training but not serious training &/or competition
2 Sand type – Sand Dressed	Preferred surface for competitive hockey and suitable for football training
Hockey	Surface for high level competition/training (regional/national)
Rugby Union	Surface for modified games/training but not serious training &/or competition
Football	Surface for modified games/training but not serious training &/or competition
3 Sand type – Sand Filled	Acceptable surface for competitive hockey and suitable for football training
Hockey	Surface for competition and training
Rugby Union	Surface for modified games/training but not serious training &/or competition
Football	Surface for modified games/training but not serious training &/or competition
4 Rubber crumb type - short pile 3G (40mm)	Acceptable surface for some competitive football and hockey
Hockey	Surface for training and for some competition
Rugby Union	Surface for modified games/training but not serious training &/or competition
Football	Surface for competition and training
5 Rubber crumb type - long pile 3G (55-60mm)	Preferred football surface
Hockey	Not suitable for use
Rugby Union	Surface for training/recreational use
Football	Surface for high level competition/training (inter/national)
6 Rubber crumb type - long pile 3G (65mm with shock pad)	Rugby surface
Hockey	Not suitable for use
Rugby Union	Surface for high level competition/training (inter/national)
Football	Surface for high level competition/training (inter/national)

The document aims to provide a framework whereby stakeholders (local authorities, the community, clubs and NGBs) can get together and research, check, challenge and be certain that the surface they choose is right for the sport and for the community. It looks to a future of the right sustainable facilities in the right places for the right reasons. The methodology within the report sets out a 4 step process for deciding which surface is the most appropriate:

- STEP 1 Supply and Demand Issues
- STEP 2 Strategic considerations: has the site been identified as a priority for a specific sport?
- STEP 3 What type and standard/level of use within each sport is proposed ? (most important i.e. a sport played at a higher competitive level will have more specific requirements for the playing surface.
- STEP 4 How much use will there be for each 'type' and 'standard' of play for each sport?

Once all of the 4 steps have been completed and information gathered, it is necessary to analyse the information and to identify which sport is the priority in terms of influencing the surface category. The report states 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.'

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accommodate a range of other 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.

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 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. 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 four main types which provide a useful basic categorisation (although given advances in surface technology, these are increasingly being superceded by 3G provision):

- Open textured porous macadam areas used for ball rebound sports (tennis priority; sports e.g. mini-tennis, netball, and basketball as secondary users).
- Open textured porous macadam areas used for ball rebound sports (netball priority; sports e.g. tennis, mini-tennis, and basketball as secondary users).
- Polymeric surfaced areas used for ball rebound sports (netball priority; sports e.g. tennis, mini-tennis, and basketball as secondary users. Suitable for wheelchair sports).
- Polymeric surfaced areas used for five-a-side football, basketball and general sports and recreational training and play. Due to greater shock absorbency and lower surface friction, not recommended for tennis or netball).

It is readily apparent that there is no simple assessment technique or formula to establish standards of provision for MUGAs, given the widely varying requirements for dimensions and playing surfaces for different sports. Inevitably, if a number of sports are to use the one facility – even for casual and informal recreational play and training - compromises will have to be made. Each facility needs to be carefully planned according to specific local demands and needs.

Whilst it has not been appropriate to undertake quantitative assessments of capacity, the provision and role of MUGAs within the four authorities has been recognised in terms of provision for informal/ casual recreational play and training for the sports mentioned above and all weather training for football, and recommendations for new and improved provision made on this basis.

3.11 Overview of recommendations and action points

Action points embrace the following:

- development of local standards of provision;
- circumstances where the redevelopment of pitches and other outdoor facilities may be justified and how management policies, encouragement of dual use and other initiatives can help to meet these needs;
- the potential role of artificial grass pitches and Multi Use Games Areas;
- the prospects for upgrading/improving facilities in areas of qualitative deficiency;
- investment in and optimum use of the Councils' playing pitch/open space;
- the development of relevant outdoor sports
- policy with regard to planning and leisure issues surrounding playing pitches within the study area
- protection of existing provision

The strategy makes recommendations on a sports specific and geographic basis. The strategy can serve as a concise and cogent statement of evidence in bids for external funding. Where it is envisaged that new provision should be linked to developer contributions, guidance on the calculation of appropriate levels of contribution for on and off-site payments can be calculated as necessary.