

CONTINUUM
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Ealing Playing Pitch Strategy 2022
Appendix B – Assessment of Need Report
Football

Appendix B: Football - Assessment of Needs (Stages B & C)

1. Introduction

The findings of the assessment of football facilities in the London Borough of Ealing are summarised in this appendix to the Playing Pitch Strategy. FA affiliated football clubs registered to Ealing representing more than half of the teams playing home fixtures in the borough have contributed to this assessment by submitting an online club survey return to the consultant or to the Council's Leisure Service. Further in person consultation took place with representatives of football clubs and/or site operators during site visits.

Since the last assessment was carried out in 2015/16 there have been significant changes in both the supply of football pitches in the borough and in football demand. On the supply side, the new developments with the greatest impact on football are the two new football hubs at Rectory Park and Gunnersbury Park, both have 2 floodlit artificial grass pitches, the latter also includes a sports hall which caters for Futsal as one of a range of indoor sports. With combined investment of £18.5m, the Rectory Park Football Hub was funded by Ealing council, the Football Foundation and London Marathon Charitable Trust; Middlesex FA's new Headquarters is co located in the same building, allowing the MFA to operate the Football Hub as well as administer county football matters on site. The new indoor and outdoor sports facilities at Gunnersbury Park Sports Hub, were funded by both Ealing and Hounslow council's, the Football Foundation, London Marathon Charitable Trust, Sport England, the Lawn Tennis Association and England Cricket Board, as well as the University of West London, Brentford Football Club and Community Trust and the International School of London.

Key trends in football demand identified in 2016 have continued to impact. These include continued growth in the recreational game (both small sided and in 11 a side fortnightly Flexi Leagues) and in youth football and mini-soccer with increasing numbers of girls playing particularly in mixed mini-soccer teams. From a low base there has been also growth in women's football and in disability football and walking football at the two new hub sites. At the same time there is a gradual fall in demand for traditional men's Saturday league football due largely to increasing pressures of time for work, family and other commitments. The Covid 19 pandemic and the resulting restrictions also impacted very significantly towards the end of season 2019/20 and throughout 2020/21. However, football demand has largely recovered to pre-pandemic levels in 2021/22.

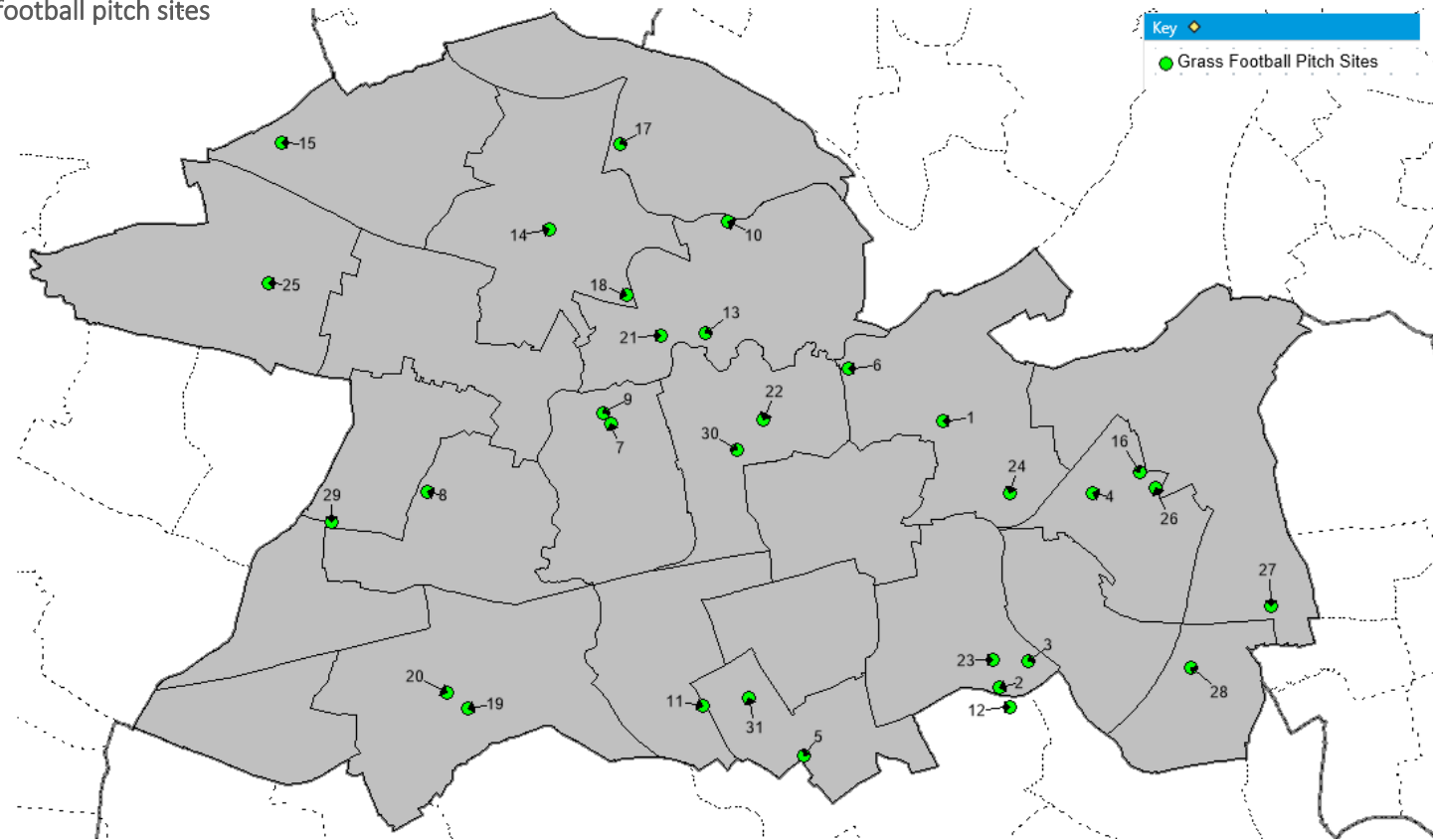
2. Football Supply (Step 2)

The findings of the assessment of supply of football facilities in Ealing are summarised in this section and detailed by site both for grass pitches (in the supporting additional appendices) and for artificial grass pitches. The supply side information is generated through standard facility audits based on the visual assessment, grading and playing capacity guidance (as set out by Sport England and the FA in the national guidance for the development of playing pitch needs assessments) augmented by consultation with the Council's Sports Team, Middlesex FA and user clubs. In the case of a number of key football sites, more detailed pitch quality assessments were undertaken using the Football Foundation's 'Pitch Power' methodology. At these sites, the estimates of playing capacity are informed by the results of the Pitch Power assessments and Performance Quality Standards (PQS) ratings provided by the Grounds Maintenance Association (GMA).

2.1 Distribution of Football Supply

Figure 2.1 shows the distribution of football sites across Ealing. This shows that residents from all parts of the borough will be within a reasonable journey time (20min drive time / 30min public transport) of a football pitch, either a community club pitch (restricted to club members and guests) or a park-based pitch available on a play and play basis.

Figure 2.1 - Distribution of grass football pitch sites



Ealing - Grass Football pitch sites			
Fig 2.1 Key	Name	Address	Postcode
1	Acton Ealing Whistlers, Fox Wood	Hillcrest Road, Ealing	W5 1HW
2	Actonians Sports Ground	Gunnersbury Drive, Ealing	W5 4LL
3	Actonians @ Boddington Gardens	Boddingtons, Garden Acton, London	W3 9AP
4	Acton Gardens Village Social Club	Alwyn Gardens, off Noel Road, Acton	W3 0JH
5	Blondin Park (<i>currently informal only</i>)	Windmill Road, Ealing	W5 4UQ
6	Brentham Club	Meadvale Road, Ealing	W5 1NP
7	Brentside High School	Greenford Avenue, Hanwell	W7 1JJ
8	Dormers Wells Leisure Centre pitches	Dormers Wells Lane, Southall,	UB1 3HZ
9	Drayton Manor High School	Greenford Avenue	W7 3DD
10	Ealing Central Sports Ground	Horsenden Lane South, Perivale,	UB6 7NU
11	Elthorne Waterside Pitches	Westlea Road, Hanwell	W7 2AD
12	Gunnersbury Park Sports Hub	Popes Lane, Acton	W3 8LQ
13	Hanwell Town FC	Perivale Lane. Perivale Middlesex	UB6 8UT
14	London Playing Fields (Greenford)	Birkbeck Avenue, Greenford	UB6 8LS
15	Larkspur Rovers Lord Halsbury Playing Fields	Priors Farm Lane, North Holt	UB5 5TD
16	North Acton Playing Fields	Noel Road, Acton London	W3 0JF
17	North Greenford United FC	Berkeley Fields, Berkeley Avenue, Greenford	UB6 0NX
18	Northolt Rugby Football Club	Cayton Road, Greenford, (also for rugby)	UB6 8BJ
19	Osterley Cricket Club	Tentelow Lane, Southall Middlesex	UB2 4LW
20	Osterley Sports Ground	Tentelow Lane, Southall Middlesex	UB2 4LW
21	Perivale Park	Leaver Gardens, Greenford,	UB6 8TJ
22	Pitshanger Park (Scotch Common)	Scotch Common, West Ealing	W13 8DL

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Ealing - Grass Football pitch sites			
23	Popesfield Sports Ground	Gunnersbury Avenue	W5 4LP
24	Queens Drive Playing Fields (Japanese school)	Queens Drive, Acton	W3 0HT
25	Rectory Park	Parkfield Drive (off church road), Northolt	UB5 5NR
26	Shamrock Sports & Social Club	Horn Lane, Acton London	W3 0BP
27	Shepherds Bush Cricket Club	Bromyard Avenue, Acton	W3 7AU
28	Southfields Recreation Ground	Southfield Road, Acton,	W4 5LD
29	Spikes Bridge Park	West Avenue, Southall	UB1 2AR
30	Uni of West London Sports Ground	Argyle Road, West Ealing,	W13 0DA
31	West Ealing Bowls Club	Mervyn Road, West Acton	W13 9UN

Figure 2.2 below shows the distribution of AGPs across Ealing. The supply of AGPs is broadly evenly distributed with no one area outside the catchment area of a football facility.

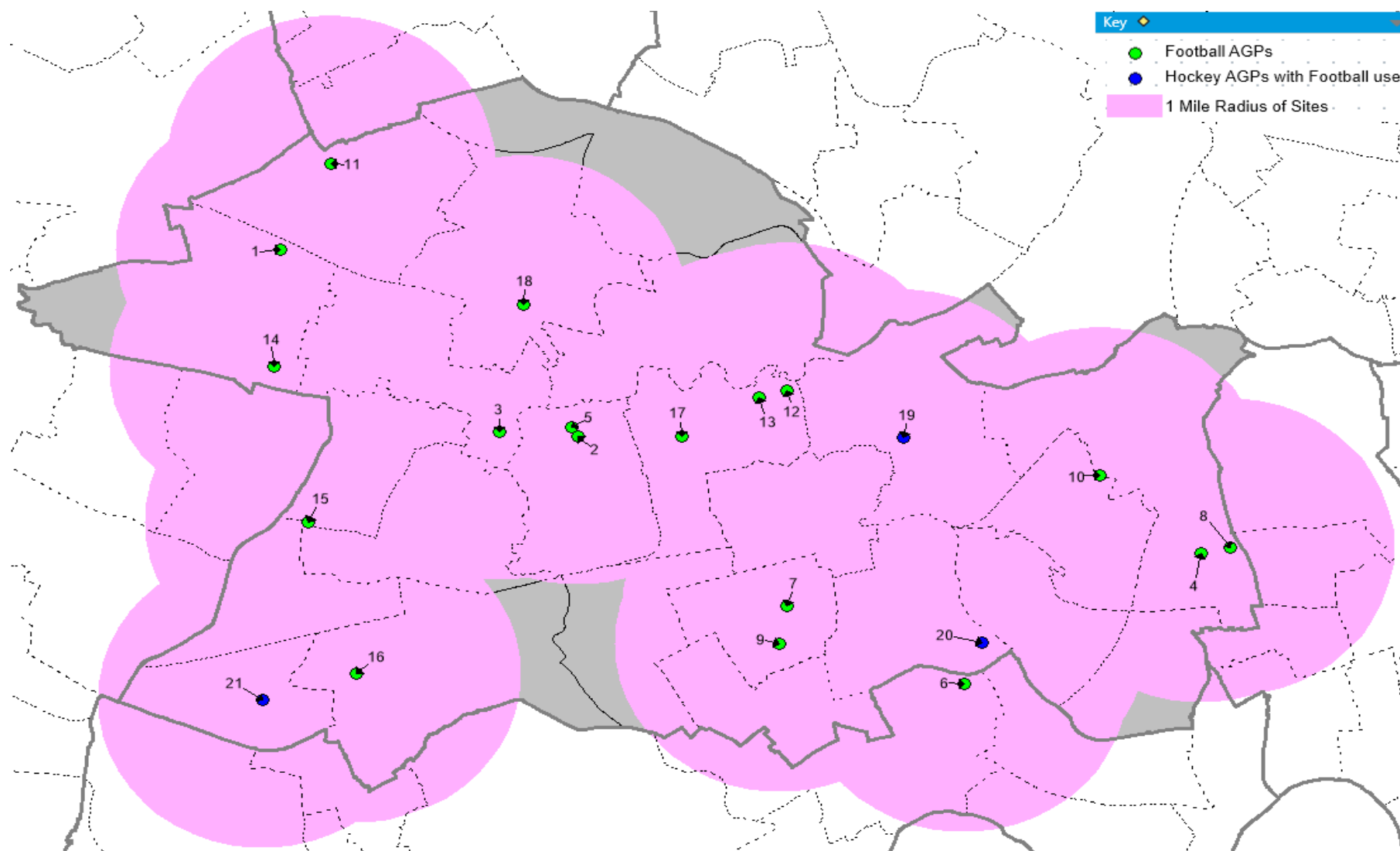


Figure 2.2 - Distribution of Artificial Grass Pitch sites used for football

Artificial Grass Pitch sites used for football			
Figure 2.2 Key	Name - 3G AGPs with football use	Address	Postcode
1	Alec Reed Academy	Bengarth Road, Northolt	UB5 5LQ
2	Brentside High School	Greenford Avenue, Hanwell	W7 1JJ
3	Cardinal Wiseman High School	Greenford Road, Greenford	UB6 9AW
4	Club des Sports (<i>rugby compliant</i>)	East Acton Lane	W3 7HB
5	Drayton Manor High School	Greenford Avenue/Drayton Bridge Rd	W7 3DD
6	Featherstone High School	Montague Way, Southall	W3 8LQ
7	Gunnersbury Park Sports Hub	Popes Lane, Acton	W13 9NJ
8	King Fahad Academy	Bromyard Avenue, Acton	W3 7HD
9	Lammas Park	Culmington Road, Ealing	W13 9QD
10	Larkspur Rovers Lord Halsbury	Arnold Road, Northolt	W3 0JE
11	North Acton Playing Field	Noel Road	UB5 4HP
12	Northolt High School	Eastcote Lane, Northolt	W5 1NR
13	Pitshanger Park	Meadvale Road	W5 1LS
14	Rectory Park	Rectory Park Avenue, Northolt	UB5 6BB
15	Spikes Bridge Sports Ground	Spikes Bridge Road, Southall	UB1 2AR
16	Swift Road Outdoor Sports Centre	Swift Road, Southall	UB2 4RP
17	Trailfinders Sports Club (<i>rugby compliant</i>)	Vallis Way West, Ealing	W13 0DD
18	William Perkin High School	Oldfield Lane North, Greenford	UB6 8PR
	Name - Hockey AGPs with football use		
19	St Augustine's Priory School	Hillcrest Road	W5 2JL
20	Actonians Boddington Gardens	Boddington Gardens, Acton	W3 9AP
21	St Benedicts School	Eaton Rise	UB2 5HF

2.2 Grass Football Pitches in the London Borough of Ealing

99 grass pitches are identified as available for community football in 2022 across Ealing, on 30 operational playing pitch sites. This compares to 96 over 32 sites in 2016. Just under a fifth of the available pitches are over-marked to accommodate smaller sided games (e.g. 9v9 on 11v11 or 5v5 on 7v7). In addition, the pitches used for football at Northolt rugby club are also marked for rugby.

A further site, Ealing Central Sports Ground, is temporarily closed for improvement works; on reopening there will be the equivalent of a minimum of 4 adult football pitches on site plus a deep cleaned pavilion. From 2023/24, there will therefore be 103 pitches available to community teams across 31 playing pitch sites.

The Council's Gurnell Leisure Centre is currently closed pending redevelopment; when operational, it provided changing rooms for users of the two natural turf football pitches adjacent to the centre, which are now out of use.

There are further pitches on school playing fields in the borough that are not currently available for community use as and there is no clear potential to open in the future. In the case of the high schools, for the most part, pitches do not conform to any league size. The schools mark out what they can fit on their school playing field. For example, Greenford High School and Acton High School both have thin long pitches used mainly for curriculum delivery and the occasional inter-school fixture.

Marnhams Field in Greenford, owned by the Council (close to the Dormers Wells Leisure Centre which is scheduled to close for redevelopment in 2025 or 2026 (pending funding and planning) is identified as offering a potential opportunity for shared (school and community) use (subject to the provision of suitable ancillary facilities).

In addition, there are several closed playing field sites in the borough where community football used to be played that may present opportunities for reinstatement. By far the largest is Warren Farm Sports Ground in Southall which, in 2010, accommodated 16 football pitches. The closed sites formerly used for community football are summarised below:

1	Ealing Central Sports Ground, Perivale	Scheduled to reopen with enhanced provision in 2023/24
2	Gurnell Leisure Centre, West Ealing	Former pitches unlikely to reopen following proposed redevelopment of leisure centre
3	Warren Farm Sports Ground, Southall	Closed in 2010
4	Norwood Hall Playing Fields	
5	King George V Playing Fields	
6	Avenue Park Greenford	Former stadium pitch likely to reopen following redevelopment
7	Former Eversheds Sports Ground, Boston Manor, Hanwell	Closed in 2007
8	Former Barclays Sports Ground, Ealing	Closed in 2000

Figure 2.3 shows the number of pitches currently available compared with the number of FA affiliated teams by age group in January 2022 and the changes since the last assessment in 2016. This comparison indicates there has been a significant fall in the number of affiliated adult teams over the last six years. This fall is more than offset by very large growth over recent years in both youth football (over 25% increase in the number of teams) and in mini-soccer (nearly a 30% increase). The fall in affiliated teams in the adult age groups will be partly offset by growth in non-affiliated and recreational

play, which takes place predominantly on artificial grass pitches (AGPs) as opposed to natural turf.

Comparison of current team numbers with the available supply of natural turf pitches shows that the growth in youth and mini-soccer teams has greatly outstripped the increase in the number of available pitches. Currently, there are three affiliated football teams for every available grass pitch. In the case of youth 11v11 and 9v9 pitches there are nearly four affiliated teams for every available pitch. The picture is similar for mini soccer (7v7 or 5v5) with over four teams per grass pitch.

Small-sided pitches have greater capacity for play than senior pitches (due to lower wear and tear by mini-soccer and youth players compared to heavier adult players). It is also the case that more small-sided affiliated football is played on FA accredited football turf pitches (FTPs) than affiliated adult football. The table shows that good progress has been made since the last strategy in shifting the balance of grass pitch supply from senior to youth and mini-soccer and moving more junior and youth games to AGPs in line with the FA's policy, leaving the grass pitches for adults and youth 11 use. However, it is clear that the trend identified in the last PPS has continued and further reallocation of the available supply towards youth football in particular may be needed.

Figure 2.3: Pitch Size / Team Comparison

	Available Pitch Supply		Teams playing in Ealing**	
11v11 (Open Age, Veterans, U19, U18, U17)	46* (51)	44% (53%)	65 (94)	21% (33%)
Youth 11v11 & 9v9 (u11 - u16)	29 (27)	29% (28%)	116 (91)	38% (32%)
Mini 7v7 & 5v5 (u5 - u10)	28 (18)	26% (19%)	126 (97)	41% (34%)
Total	103 (96)		307 (282)	

* Includes Ealing Central SG pitches scheduled to reopen in 2023

** Source: Middlesex FA affiliation data (Jan 22)

Figures in brackets are from the 2016 PPS

2.3 Council Owned Sites with Grass Football Pitches for Hire:

Since the last PPS, the Council has negotiated asset transfers of several playing fields to community football clubs or other community organisations to manage and maintain under leasehold agreements. Currently, the Council retains the following sites with grass football pitches available to community clubs to book and hire (through Playfinder):

- Dormers Wells Leisure Centre – 2 pitches
- Ealing Central Sports Ground temporarily closed for drainage improvement works, reopening 2023/24 – 4 pitches
- Elthorne Waterside – 2 pitches
- Gunnersbury Park (owned jointly with LB Hounslow and booked via Better at the Gunnersbury Park Sports hub) – 8 pitches
- North Acton Playing Fields – 5 pitches
- Perivale Park – 5 pitches
- Rectory Park , MFA manage the FTPs & Pavilion on the site – 9 pitches
- Southfield Recreation Ground – 2 pitches

These playing fields offer a total of 37 pitches of various sizes for clubs to hire. As stated above, Hub football sites at Rectory Park and Gunnersbury Park have been developed in partnership since the last PPS and offer multiple pitches (both 3G and natural turf of all sizes) and good quality new build pavilions.

2.4 Council Owned Playing Fields Formerly Used as Football Pitches:

As identified above, in Southall, the Council owns the boroughs biggest sports ground at Warren Farm in Southall which is currently closed pending future plans for redevelopment as an outdoor sports venue and jointly owns Norwood Hall Playing Field, with Ealing, Hammersmith & West London College. Proposals at the time of the last PPS for reinstatement of both these key sites for community sport (including football) have not yet progressed.

Similarly, the Council used to mark out, maintain and hire pitches (2 senior, 1 junior) on King George V Playing Fields in Lady Margaret Road in Southall. This former playing field is now an open access informal park with a nature park at the south end. However, as identified in the previous PPS, subject to establishing a need and the outcome of a detailed feasibility assessment, there may be potential for pitches to be reinstated at the north end, possibly with shared use of adjacent new pavilion facilities at Durdans Cricket Club.

2.5 Council Owned Grass Pitches with Leases or Management Agreements:

The Council plays an enabling role in developing better quality facilities by engaging and enabling community organisations through the asset transfer process to independently manage and operate existing and new facilities. At the very top level, professional sports clubs based in the borough provide facilities catering for elite sport. The following playing field sites owned by

the London Borough of Ealing are leased to other organisations (or occupied by sports clubs under the terms of management agreements):

These sites are leased by the Council to individual community football clubs or community/education organisations to manage and maintain:

- **Fox Wood Nature Reserve/Hangar Hill Park** Playing Field - Acton Ealing Whistlers FC;
- **Lord Halsbury Memorial Playing Field** - Larkspur Rovers FC;
- **Berkeley Fields stadia pitch** - North Greenford United FC;
- **Pitshanger Park, Scotch Common** - Pitshanger FC (part of site)
- **Blondin Park** – Blondin Consortia, who hire pitch space to Northfields United FC (previously informal, cone-marked pitches only. Asset transfer to the Consortia and provision of better maintained pitches in 2022, but still a public park with multiple uses)
- **London Bunga Yochien School, Acton** - London Japanese Juniors (LJJ FC).

These sites with grass football pitches in season are leased by the Council to cricket or rugby clubs or to multi-sport and sport and social clubs - i.e.

- **Actonians Sports Ground** Gunnersbury Drive (off Pope's Lane) - Actonians Sports Club;
- **Actonians @ Boddington Gardens** - Actonians Sports Club;
- **Durdans Park Cricket Ground** - Ramgarhia Sports and Social Club
- **Spike's Bridge Park, Southall** - London Tigers;
- **West Ealing Bowls Club** - the bowls club hire a small playing field and clubhouse to Ealing United FC;
- **Northolt Rugby Club, Cayton Park** - the rugby club hire pitches for football;
- **Osterley Cricket Club Ground** - the cricket club hire football pitches on outfield to Cademy FC;

- **Popesfield Sports Ground** - Ealing Cricket Club hire football pitches on outfield;
- **Shepherds Bush Cricket Ground** - cricket club with small-sided pitches on the outfield hired out by the cricket club to Foxes FC.

2.6 Sports Association/Charity Owned Grass Football Pitches:

The following sites in the borough in sports association or recreation charity ownership have pitches that are used extensively by community football clubs:

- **The Brentham Club** and **Acton Garden Village Sports Club** (sport and social clubs) own the home sites of their respective football club sections.
- The **London Marathon Playing Field** in Birkbeck Avenue in Greenford adjacent to William Perkin School has four adult football pitches and a rugby pitch. The football pitches are hired from the London Playing Fields Foundation (LPPF) by a wide range of clubs for league matches. This key site is held by the LPPF on a long lease from the City Parochial Foundation. The Avenue Park former stadia facility is also operated by LPPF and is to the south of the main sports ground towards the A40.

2.7 Privately Owned Sites with Grass Football Pitches:

The following sites in private ownership provide playing pitches that are currently used by community football clubs:

- The **Osterley Sports Ground** in Tentelow Lane in Southall is owned by a Gurdwara faith organisation and currently occupied on a short (12 month) lease by Concorde Rangers Youth Football Club. Osterley Rangers (two mini-soccer teams) and Hounslow FC (men open age friendly side) also play home matches on this ground.
- **Reynolds Field** in Greenford - Hanwell Town FC;

- **Trailfinders Sports Club** in Vallis Way West in Ealing is privately owned and, while predominantly a rugby site, the Sports Club also runs youth and men's football teams and has two grass pitches.

Two closed former company sports grounds in private ownership last used for community football were identified in the borough in the last PPS and remain closed and largely undeveloped. These are the former Eversheds Sports Ground at Wyke Gardens, Southdown Avenue W7 and the former Barclays Bank Sports Ground in Park View Road in Ealing. Whilst the potential for reinstatement of the pavilion and grass pitches at the Eversheds site was identified as a potential project in the Ealing Local Football Facilities Plan in 2019, there are no current proposals for either site. The former Eversheds site is one of a number identified to accommodate the need for more school spaces in the borough.

2.8 Football Pitches on Education Sites:

Ealing based community football clubs currently play on pitches on the following education sites in Ealing:

- **Brentside High School** managed by Kajima as a PFI site - Celtic FC junior teams
- **Drayton Manor High School** - Phoenicians FC and Hanwell Town youth football teams
- **University of West London Argyle Road Sports Pitches** - leased by UWL to Pitshanger Dynamo FC.

The clubs using pitches on the **two** school sites have little security of access as continued access from one season to the next depends on the consent of the schools' management (head teacher, board of governors, PFI management company and/or governing trust). Whilst none of these education providers has indicated any intention to stop allowing access in future, without agreements in place for longer than a single season, security

of access for football clubs at these sites must be considered a risk. In contrast, Pitshanger Dynamo FC - playing home matches at Step 7 in the National League System at the University of West London Sports Ground in Argyle Road - has its access secured through a lease agreement with the university.

As stated above, further youth, mini-soccer pitches and senior pitches (or space to accommodate pitches) exist in the borough on playing fields at other school sites across the borough. Whilst there may be potential to negotiate some access at weekends to some of these playing fields, the majority are primary schools able to offer little or no access to ancillary facilities. Arranging future access to these pitches at weekends at reasonable cost while safeguarding the security of the schools' buildings would be difficult to achieve in most cases. In the case of the high schools, for the most part, their pitches do not conform to any league size. The schools mark out what they can fit on their school playing field. For example Greenford High School and Acton High School both have thin long pitches used mainly for curriculum delivery and the occasional inter-school fixture. Ellen Wilkinson School for Girls, has a school field but does not mark it for winter sports, preferring to use an old redgra pitch for most activities.

2.9 Facilities for Informal Football

Most of the borough's parks and larger open spaces provide flat grass areas suitable for casual recreational games of football and kick-about. In a number of the parks, a casual football pitch (not available for booking or hire) or, in some cases, a single set of goal posts is provided in order to encourage play in the most suitable area. Examples include:

- Churchfield Recreation Grounds, Hanwell
- Cuckoo Park, Hanwell
- Drayton Green, West Ealing

Many of the borough's parks and open spaces also offer a fenced but open access multi use games area (MUGA) and/or a smaller ball court (for football/basketball/skate activities). Many more free-to-access MUGAs and ball courts are available to the community at other sites throughout the borough.

2.10 Commercial Football Centres

There are currently no commercial football centres located in the borough. However, there is extensive provision in neighbour boroughs readily accessible from all parts of Ealing. The nearest centres, each with up to ten 3G floodlit pitches for small-sided games (5v5 or 7v7) are the Goals centres at Gillette Corner in Hounslow, Alperton in Brent, Ruislip and Hayes in Hillingdon.

2.11 Quality

The table below (figure 2.4) summarises the standard of the pitches assessed. The ratings attributed to each pitch are detailed in the audit spreadsheet appended. These were informed by a combination of visual assessment on site visits and findings of Pitch Power assessment reports. A small number of sites were not included in the list identified at the Inception Meeting for a visit or Pitch Power assessment. Ratings for the pitches on these sites were informed by feedback from consultation with user clubs and the Council's Leisure Team. The audit ratings were also subject to a check and challenge process with the Middlesex FA.

In consultation with the Football Foundation, the three rating categories in the Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance (2013) - i.e. poor, standard, good - have been augmented as shown in figure 2.4 to enable alignment with the five Pitch Quality Standards (PQS) used in the Foundation's Pitch Power methodology - i.e. poor, basic, good, advanced, high.

Figure 2.4 – Ealing football pitch quality

PPS Guide ratings/ PP PQS ratings	Number	Percentage
Good / High	1	1.2%
Standard to Good / Advanced	3	3.5%
Standard / Good	58	67.4%
Poor to Standard / Basic	21	24.4%
Poor / Poor	3	3.5%
Total	86 (this final number will vary due to overmarking and pitches closed / being improved at time of audit)	

28% of 86 pitches in the borough that have been visited (approximately 85% of the total number of pitches) are of poor or PQS basic (poor to standard) quality. Over two thirds of the stock of grass football pitches accessible for community use in Ealing are rated as ‘standard’ (PQS good) providing a playing capacity for up to two match equivalent sessions a week on average for adults.

All of the football pitches rated standard to good or good (PQS advanced or high) are either in the process of upgrading (Ealing Central SG), recently upgraded (Gunnersbury Park Sports Hub) or located on grounds that are closed to the general public and maintained by ground staff with specialist sports turf expertise.

Poor natural drainage and compaction of the ground are issues at a high proportion of the football pitch sites. These are common issues in this part of London with heavy London Clay and few local authorities or their contractors have the resources or trained staff and specialist equipment necessary to carry out drilling at the frequencies required to aerate the ground and de-compact the playing surface. Approximately 30 pitches at key football sites in the borough have been assessed by the Grounds Maintenance Association this season using the Football Foundation's Pitch Power assessment and reporting tool. The Pitch Power report findings for these sites identify enhanced maintenance needs and additional training and equipment resources required together with budget costs.

2.12 Un-Booked Use of Formal Pitches by Teams

Unauthorised use of the maintained pay and play pitches in Ealing's parks as well as of pitches in parks intended for informal recreational use is a growing challenge for the Council's Parks Service. There has been a number of complaints made by clubs that regularly hire Council pitches that pitches are being used by clubs and schools without booking. A number of clubs take advantage of these sites especially for early and late season training when there is sufficient daylight on weekday evenings. This is especially a challenge at North Acton Playing Fields and leads to reduced pitch quality for those that do book and pay for using the pitch. The Council's Park Guard Service strives to address this whether it is by FA/AFA affiliated football teams, private soccer schools or independent schools by aiming to monitor the situation and also by the Council directing people to use other open spaces and not the formal pitch spaces.

2.13 Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) in Ealing

In total, there are 22 sites in Ealing with artificial grass sports pitches with a total of 32 artificial grass surfaces used for football play at some level (i.e.

either 3G preferred football surface, a rugby compliant surface or a sand-based hockey compliant playing surface), as summarised in figure 2.5. The full size sand-based AGPs at The St Augustine's Priory and St Benedicts independent schools and at Actonians Boddington Gardens site are used almost exclusively for hockey with minimal community football use. The sites marked by an asterisk are on the FA register (or shortly to be added when upgrade works are completed) as suitable for affiliated football league match play (either adult or youth as indicated).

Six of 12 FA compliant 3G pitches have been delivered as priority projects in the last PPS. These include the two full size pitches and new pavilion at Rectory Park, the two full size pitches and new pavilion at The Gunnersbury Park Sports Hub (counted as 1 in the supply for LB Ealing), the Wasps FC pitch (primarily rugby use) and the pitch at William Perkin High School where, through the planning process, a Community Use Agreement has been secured ensuring that school facilities are available to local sports groups at an affordable price out of school hours. In addition, the sand-based pitches at Alec Reed Academy and Brentside High School were resurfaced as football 3Gs since the last assessment.

Note, the Trailfinders Sports Club stadia 3G pitch has not been included in table 2.5 as it is used for professional rugby. Club des Sport has two pitches which are included in the supply however it is noted that community use on the older pitch remains limited as this is operated on a commercial basis.

For the FA Training Scenario for 3G AGP Assessments of Need analysis in section 4.5 later in the document, other pitches included in table 2.5, but discounted from the equation include the Wasps rugby club pitch which is used primarily for rugby by the host club, one of the two pitches at Gunnersbury Park Sports Hub, to reflect the partnership with Hounslow and the Cardinal Wiseman AGP as it only has limited community use.

Figure 2.5 - Artificial Grass Pitches with Football Use in Ealing

AGP Type	AGP sites in Ealing	AGPs
Full sized 3G – Floodlit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Alec Reed Academy* o Cardinal Wiseman High School* (available for limited community use) o Club des Sport (2)* o Featherstone High School (shortpile) o Gunnersbury Park Sports Hub (2)* o Northolt High School* o Rectory Park (2)* o Spike's Bridge Park* o Trailfinders Sports Club* o Wasps FC o William Perkin High School* 	14
Full sized Sand - Floodlit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Actonians Boddington Gardens Ground o St Benedicts School o St Augustine's Priory School 	3
Small sided (9v9) 3G - Floodlit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Brentside High School o Club des Sport o Swift Road Outdoor Sports Centre* 	3
Small sided (7v7) 3G - Floodlit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Larkspur Rovers Lord Halsbury Playing Fields 	1
Small sided (5v5) 3G - Floodlit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Club des Sport (2) o Drayton Manor High School o King Fahad Academy (3) o Lammas Park (2) (Will to Win) o North Acton Playing Field (FC Samurai) o Pitshanger Park (Will to Win) o Trailfinders Sport Club 	11
Total	22 sites	32 AGPs

Note *: pitches on FA compliance register

The nearest alternative full size 3G FTPs in neighbouring boroughs that fall within a 15-20 minute drive time based on application of the Active Places Power area access analysis mapping tool are as follows:

- LB Hillingdon (to west) - Hayes & Yeading FC; RAF Northolt (close to Rectory Park); Brunel University Sports Centre;
- LB Brent (to north east) - Hyde Hillside (Stonebridge Recreation Ground); Capital City Academy, Vale Farm Leisure Centre; Hendon FC (Silver Jubilee Park, Kingsbury)
- LB Harrow (to north) - Whitmore High School (Watford FC link), Harrow School, The Hive Centre x2 (Edgware, Barnet FC link)
- LB Hounslow (to south) - King's House School (Chiswick)
- LB Hammersmith & Fulham (to east) - Westway Sports Centre

2.14 AGPs at risk

None of the existing AGPs in Ealing are identified as at risk of closure at the present time post the covid period when some school sites were closed for community use. Some schools could however, do more to promote and openly advertise facilities for community hire, ideally all schools with facilities available after school should provide availability and booking policies on the school website. This promotes equality of access and results in the best use of available assets rather than relying on word of mouth to secure bookings on school sites.

2.15 Proposed New AGPs

There are no committed projects for further provision of 3G pitches currently although a number of schools in the borough have indicated to the Council's Leisure Team that they would like to install a 3G pitch in future subject to feasibility and the necessary consents and funding including Ada Lovelace High School in Ealing working with Acton Ealing Whistlers FC located close by at Fox Wood Sports Ground to develop a floodlit 7 v 7 AGP.

3. Football Demand (Step 3)

The findings relating to football pitch demand in Ealing are summarised in this section of the report.

3.1 Clubs and Teams

In January 2022, Ealing had a total of 70 affiliated clubs (including separately constituted youth sections of adult clubs) registered to the borough by Middlesex FA with a total of 307 teams all playing home fixtures on pitches in the borough. This is an increase of 25 teams - nearly 9% - since the previous audit in 2015 when 282 affiliated teams were registered to Ealing.

Of the 307 MFA affiliated teams playing in Ealing, 57 are adult men's teams (including veterans), 8 women's teams, 100 youth boys' teams, 16 youth girls' teams and 126 are mini-soccer teams (comprising 60 boys' teams, 4 girls' teams and 62 mixed teams).

21% are adult teams (down from 31% in 2015), 38% are youth teams (up from 32%) 41% are mini-soccer teams (up from 34%).

21 of the 70 affiliated clubs (30%) currently have achieved an FA Charter Standard.

In addition to Middlesex FA affiliated clubs, a small number of adult teams playing their home league matches in the borough affiliate to the London FA or to the Amateur Football Alliance and the league structures of these organisations. Three London FA men's teams from London Tigers and five AFA men's teams from Old Vaughnians (2) and Actonians (3) respectively are based in the borough with other LFA and AFA affiliated teams hiring

Council pitches on an occasional basis, mainly at North Acton Playing Fields or Gunnersbury Park.

Two women's football teams from clubs based in LB Hounslow outside the borough also play and train at Gunnersbury Park Sports Hub - Brentford FC Women and Sporting Duet FC Women.

3.2 Active Lives Survey

Adults: The most recently published findings of the national Active Lives Adult Survey¹ (May 2021) showed that self reported regular participation (i.e. taken part at least twice in the last 28 days) in football in England by adults (aged 16+) fell - 1.9% from 4.1% between May 2019 - May 2020 to 2.2% between May 2020 and May 2021.

If football participation in the borough were at the pre-pandemic national average (i.e. 4.1%), this would indicate around 10,800 adults (aged 16+) living in the borough play football out of a 16+ adult population of approximately 265,000. At the 2020/21 national 16+ football penetration rate of 2.2%, this would suggest circa 5,830 over 16-year-olds in Ealing play football.

With approximately 65 adult teams currently, plus seven affiliated u18 sides, the 'adult' football club playing membership in the borough is close to 1,080 players (assuming an average of 15 squad players per team). Assuming adult football participation in Ealing is in line with the current national average of 2.2%, this suggests that as much as four fifths (80%) of all regular adult football played in the borough is unaffiliated football within small-sided leagues, friendly games or park kick-about.

3.3 Expressed Demand

Expressed demand in the borough for all levels and types of football is summarised in this section. Sources of demand information include FA databases, club and league websites, club survey returns, and information gathered from site visits and meetings.

Open Age Men's Football - One club based in Ealing - Hanwell Town - plays at Step 4 in the National League System (NLS) and therefore needs to comply with the FA's Step 4 Minimum Ground Grading Guidelines to maintain their league status. Two clubs play at Step 5 (of which one, Southall FC, no longer has a home ground in the borough playing and training in Stanwell having previously ground shared with Hanwell Town in Perivale) and three clubs play at Step 7 level. Progression in the NLS is dependent on a club's home ground meeting the ground grading requirements at each 'Step'.

Figure 3.1: Senior Adult Football League Clubs

Senior Football Clubs	League	Home Ground	Training Ground
NLS Step 4			
Hanwell Town FC Firsts	Isthmian League South Central	Reynolds Fields	Reynolds Fields
NLS Step 5			
North Greenford United Firsts	Combined Counties Premier North	North Greenford United Ground	William Perkins High School

¹ Active Lives Adult Survey May 2020/21, Sport England, (October 2021)

Southall FC Firsts	Combined Counties Premier North	Ashford Town (ground share the Robert Parker Stadium)	Ashford Town (ground share the Robert Parker Stadium)
NLS Step 7			
Pitshanger Dynamo FC Firsts	Middlesex County Premier Division	Berkeley Fields	William Perkins High School
Brentham FC Firsts	Middlesex County Premier Division	Brentham Sports Club	Brentham Sports Club
Larkspur Rovers FC Firsts	Middlesex County Premier Division	Lord Halsbury Playing Field	Lord Halsbury Playing Field

AEK London (playing at London Tigers Spikes Bridge Park ground) withdrew from the Middlesex County Premier Division partway through the 2021/22 season and will enter the Saturday league first division in the 2022/23 season.

Other adult clubs based in the borough and playing within the FA affiliated leagues below the NLS that have been identified are:

Figure 3.2: Men's Adult League Clubs

Other Adult Men's League Clubs	League(S)	Home Ground	Training Ground
Abbey FC	Middlesex County Sunday	North Acton Playing Field	North Acton Playing Field
Actonians AFC	Amateur Football Combination	Actonians Sports Ground	Gunnersbury Park
Acton Ealing Whistlers FC	Middlesex County Saturday	Shamrock Sports Club	Shamrock Sports Club

Other Adult Men's League Clubs	League(S)	Home Ground	Training Ground
AFC Hanwell & Hayes	Middlesex County Saturday	London Marathon Playing Field	
AFC Southall	Middlesex County Saturday	Spikes Bridge Park	Spikes Bridge Park
Bessingby Park Rangers RC	Middlesex County Saturday	London Marathon Playing Field	Field End Recreation Ground, Ruislip (Hillingdon)
Brentford St George's FC	Middlesex County Sunday	Spikes Bridge Park	
Brentham FC Reserves	Middlesex County Saturday	Brentham Sports Club	Brentham Sports Club
Ealing Trailfinders FC	Middlesex County Saturday	Trailfinders Sports Club	Trailfinders Sports Club
FC Phoenix (Middlesex)	Chiswick & District Sunday	Dormers Wells LC Pitches	Dormers Wells LC Pitches
FC Willesden	Middlesex County Sunday	Shamrock Sports Club	Shamrock Sports Club
Hammersmith FC	Middlesex County Saturday	London Marathon Playing Field	London Marathon Playing Field
Hare & Hounds	Middlesex County Sunday	Dormers Wells LC Pitches	Alec Reed Academy
Inter London FC	Middlesex County Saturday	North Acton Playing Field	The Pavilion, Stonebridge (Brent)

Other Adult Men's League Clubs	League(S)	Home Ground	Training Ground
In3ventive FC	Middlesex County Saturday	Rectory Park	Rectory Park
Larkspur Rovers FC (Sunday Firsts, Res, 2nd Res, Saturday Res)	Middlesex County Saturday Middlesex County Sunday	Lord Halsbury Playing Field	Lord Halsbury Playing Field
London Samurai Rovers FC	Middlesex County Sunday	North Acton Playing Field	North Acton Playing Field
London Tigers	Spartan South Midlands League	Spikes Bridge Park	Spikes Bridge Park
Middlesex Arms FC	Middlesex County Sunday	Spikes Bridge Park	Spikes Bridge Park
Newton City FC	Chiswick & District Sunday	Dormers Wells LC Pitches	Dormers Wells LC Pitches
Old Hat FC	Middlesex County Saturday	Perivale Park	Perivale Park
Old Vaughanians	Amateur Football Combination	Club des Sports, Acton	Club des Sports, Acton
Pitshanger Dynamo FC Reserves	Middlesex County Saturday	Uni of WL Argyle Road Pitches	William Perkin High School
S2P FC (Firsts, Res)	Middlesex County Saturday	Spikes Bridge Park	
ShoTime FC	Middlesex County Sunday	Rectory Park	Rectory Park
Southall Athletic FC	Middlesex County Saturday	Swift Road Outdoor Sports Centre	Swift Road Outdoor Sports Centre

Other Adult Men's League Clubs	League(S)	Home Ground	Training Ground
Speedy United FC	Middlesex County Saturday	London Marathon Playing Field	<i>London Marathon Playing Field (Redbridge)</i>
St Dominic's V1th Form College	ECFA Men's	London Marathon Playing Field	<i>Harrow School Sports Complex</i>
University of West London Res	BUCS Men's	Trailfinders Sports Club	
Valhalla Sports & Social Club	Middlesex County Saturday	Rectory Park	Rectory Park
Western Ballers FC (Firsts, Res)	Islington Midweek Chiswick & District Sunday	North Acton Playing Field	Club des Sports
Woodlands United FC	Harrow Sunday Challenge	Rectory Park	

Outside the affiliated club structure there are currently eleven MFA affiliated teams competing fortnightly in the Middlesex Open Age Flexi League on the MFA managed 3G pitches at Rectory Park.

Youth football - There are 12 youth football clubs in Ealing with 10 or more teams playing in affiliated leagues. The two largest clubs - FC Starz and Hanwell Town regularly put out between 25 and 30 age grade teams.

Figure 3.3: Youth and Mini Soccer Clubs

Youth & Minisoccer Football Clubs (Teams)	League(S)	Home Ground(S)	Training Ground(S)
Acton Ealing Whistlers (16)	Harrow Youth Harrow Soccer Combination Capital Girls	Fox Wood Nature Reserve	Fox Wood Nature Reserve
Actonians Girls (9)	Capital Girls	Shamrock Sports Club	Old Actonians Sports Ground
AP All Stars (3)	Harrow Youth Harrow Soccer Combination	Northolt RFC Cayton Green Park	<i>Barnhill Community High School, Hayes (Hillingdon)</i>
Bessingby Park Rangers (4)	Harrow Youth	London Marathon Playing Field	<i>Field End Recreation Ground, Ruislip (Hillingdon)</i>
Brentham Colts (5)	Harrow Youth	Brentham Sports Club	Brentham Sports Club
Burghley Park (2)	Middlesex Youth	Club des Sports	Club des Sports
Cademy (13)	Harrow Youth Harrow Soccer Combination	Osterley Cricket Club	Osterley Cricket Club
Celtic (17)	Harrow Youth Harrow Soccer Combination	Brentside High School Playing Field	Brentside High School Playing Field

Youth & Minisoccer Football Clubs (Teams)	League(S)	Home Ground(S)	Training Ground(S)
Challenger Youth (1)	Harrow Youth	London Marathon Playing Fields	Swift Road Outdoor Sports Centre
Concorde Rangers (5)	Middlesex Youth Harrow Youth	Osterley Sports Ground	Osterley Sports Ground
Cre8tive Football (4)	Junior Premier	Rectory Park	Rectory Park
CS Rangers (7)	Harrow Soccer Combination	Northolt RFC Cayton Green Park	<i>Holland Park (Kensington & Chelsea)</i>
Ealing Trailfinders (4)	Harrow Youth Harrow Soccer Combination	Trailfinders Sports Club	Trailfinders Sports Club
Ealing United (13)	Middlesex Youth	West Ealing Bowls Club Northolt RFC Cayton Green Park	Lammas Park (Will to Win)
Elite London (2)	Junior Premier Harrow Youth	London Marathon Playing Fields	
FC Starz (30)	Harrow Youth Harrow Soccer Combination Middlesex Youth Capital Girls	Club des Sports	Club des Sports

Youth & Minisoccer Football Clubs (Teams)	League(S)	Home Ground(S)	Training Ground(S)
Football Future Stars (3)	Junior Premier	London Marathon Playing Fields	<i>Tithe Farm Sports & Social Club (Harrow)</i>
Football Samurai (10)	Harrow Youth Harrow Soccer Combination	North Acton Playing Fields	North Acton Playing Fields
Foots UK (2)	Junior Premier	Rectory Park	Rectory Park
FWD Football (1)		Rectory Park	<i>Goals Soccer Centre, Ruislip (Hillingdon)</i>
Hanwell Town Youth (28)	Harrow Youth Harrow Soccer Combination Capital Girls	Reynolds Playing Fields Popesfield Sports Ground Drayton Manor High School	Elthorne Park William Perkin High School
Inv3ntive (13)	Middlesex Youth	Rectory Park	Rectory Park
JD (1)	Middlesex Youth	Fox Wood Nature Reserve	<i>Paddington Recreation Ground (Westminster)</i>
Larkspur Rovers Youth (13)	Harrow Youth Harrow Soccer Combination	Lord Halsbury Playing Fields	Lord Halsbury Playing Fields
Little Tigers (6)	Harrow Soccer Combination	Rectory Park	Rectory Park

Youth & Minisoccer Football Clubs (Teams)	League(S)	Home Ground(S)	Training Ground(S)
London Japanese Juniors (LJJ) Frontiers (6)	Harrow Youth Harrow Soccer Combination	Queens Drive Playing Fields	Queens Drive Playing Fields
London Eagles (10)	Harrow Youth Harrow Soccer Combination	Rectory Park	Rectory Park
London Elite (3)	Junior Premier	Rectory Park	Rectory Park
North Greenford United (1)	Allied Counties Youth	Berkeley Fields	William Perkin High School
Northfields United (17)	Middlesex Youth Harrow Soccer Combination	Blondin Park Fielding Primary School <i>Isleworth & Syon School (Hounslow)</i>	Blondin Park
Old Actonians (10)	Harrow Youth Harrow Soccer Combination	Old Actonians Sports Ground	Old Actonians Sports Ground
Osterley Rangers (2)	Middlesex Youth	Osterley Sports Ground	Osterley Sports Ground
Pitshanger (14)	Harrow Youth Harrow Soccer Combination Capital Girls	Pitshanger Park Uni of WL Argyle Road Pitches	Pitshanger Park
Queens Park Rangers Women (4)	Middlesex Youth Junior Premier	London Marathon Playing Field	<i>Harlington Sports Ground & Botwell Green Sports Centre, Hayes (Hillingdon)</i>

Youth & Minisoccer Football Clubs (Teams)	League(S)	Home Ground(S)	Training Ground(S)
Total Futbol (4)	Harrow Youth Harrow Soccer Combination Junior Premier	Rectory Park	Rectory Park
Wisla Krakow UK (3)	Middlesex Youth	Fox Wood Nature Reserve	<i>Tithe Farm Sports & Social Club (Harrow)</i>

Women and Girls Football - Women and girls' football in Ealing has developed greatly since the last PPS with 12 clubs in the borough now running at least one exclusively female team compared to just three clubs in 2016. These are listed below. Two of the clubs - Acton Ealing Whistlers and Actonians - are FA accredited 'Wildcats' centres offering sessions of non-competitive football for girls aged 5-11 delivered by FA qualified coaches. In addition, Brentford FC Women and Sporting Duet FC Women (both Hounslow based clubs) play and train at Gunnersbury Park Sports Hub. Also Women's & Girls' Football; Larkspur, Featherstone, Inv3ntive, QPR Community Trust, FC Starz all deliver the Weetabix Wildcats programme. The Capital Girls League also run their central venue U9 division at Rectory Park.

Figure 3.4: Clubs with Women and Girl's Teams

Women And Girls Teams	Leagues	Home Ground	Training Grounds
Acton Ealing Whistlers	Capital Girls	Fox Wood Nature Reserve	Fox Wood Nature Reserve

Women And Girls Teams	Leagues	Home Ground	Training Grounds
Actonians Girls (9)	FA Women's Premier League Capital Girls League	Shamrock Sports & Social Club	Actonians Sports Ground
Actonians Women (3)	FA Women's National Greater London Women's	Actonians Sports Ground Berkeley Fields	Gunnersbury Park
FC Starz (1)	Capital Girls	Club des Sports	
Hanwell Youth (1)	Capital Girls	Reynolds Fields (Hanwell Town FC)	
Hounslow Women	Greater London Women's	London Marathon Playing Field	<i>Harrow School (Harrow)</i>
Larkspur Rovers (1)	Thames Valley Counties	Lord Halsbury Playing Fields	Lord Halsbury Playing Fields
Pitshanger (2)	Capital Girls	Uni of WL Argyle Road Pitches	Pitshanger Park
QPR College (1)	National Football Youth	Rectory Park	Rectory Park
Queens Park Ranger Women (4)	Middlesex Youth Junior Premier	London Marathon Playing Field	<i>Harlington Sports Ground & Botwell Green Sports Centre (Hillingdon)</i>
Southall Athletic (1)	Super 5 (small sided)	Swift Road Outdoor Sports Centre	Swift Road Outdoor Sports Centre

Women And Girls Teams	Leagues	Home Ground	Training Grounds
Sport London E Benfica (1)	London & SE Regional	Rectory Park	Borehamwood FC (Hertsmere)

Disability Football - Pan Disability football sessions, hosted by QPR Soccer Schools, for all ages are programmed every Wednesday evening on the artificial turf pitches in Rectory Park in Northolt. Ealing also enters a team in the Middlesex Pan Disability League and Cup 7 a side competitions. Brentford FC Penguins football programme runs a weekly session on Sunday mornings on the artificial turf pitches in Gunnersbury Park. The programme is open to people aged eight and over with Down's syndrome and their parents and siblings. Sessions for adults with a disability are also run by Brentford FC Community Sports Trust on a Monday from 4-5pm on the Gunnersbury Park artificial pitches. Middlesex FA continue to run the SEN Schools League every Wednesday at Rectory Park for local SEN pupils to take part in regular, non-competitive matches at Rectory Park.

3.4 Soccer Schools

Demand for playing space for children's football coaching is substantial in Ealing, whether from commercial soccer schools or coaching schools organised by local community football clubs. Examples of commercial schools operating at pitch sites in the borough include:

- Little Foxes (West and Central London and in Pitshanger Park in Ealing)
- Park Club soccer school (Acton Park Club)
- Shooting Starz (Club des Sports)
- All Stars Soccer (Brentside High School),
- We Make Footballers (Trailfinders Sports Club, Brentside High School, Southall Park)
- Footy Fun for Kids - Blondin Park/Northfields United FC)
- First Steps Sports Club (Argyle Road (Uni of WL/Pitshanger FC)

Several youth football clubs based in the borough run development sessions for u5s and u6s and/or soccer schools in the school holidays to generate income for their clubs.

The operators of the Council owned park and leisure centre-based pitches in the borough - e.g. Will to Win - also run soccer courses (e.g. at Elthorne and Lamma Park). Middlesex FA also run coaching schools at the new artificial grass pitches in Rectory Park. Brentford FC Community Sports Trust also introduced in January 2022 a course of five 3v3 football sessions (3Play) for boys and girls aged u8 to u11 at Gunnersbury Park Sports Hub.

3.5 Casual Demand

Casual football play among groups of children and adults, using free to use open access grass and non-turf facilities in public parks continues to be a major feature of football demand. Indeed, the Active Lives Survey data suggests that as much four fifths (80%) of all regular adult football played in the borough is unaffiliated football within small-sided leagues, friendly games or park kick-about.

As identified in the supply section of the report, Ealing Council provides for this demand by maintaining to a basic standard a number of designated informal pitches as well as open areas of grass in parks and open spaces some equipped with small goals, open access MUGAs or single sets of small size goalposts. Where these informal play facilities are provided in parks alongside formal pitches designated for match play, they help to reduce wear of the formal pitches. However, these pitches can be subject to abuse from unauthorised use by organised teams and soccer schools for training and coaching.

3.6 Unmet Demand

Figure 3.5 summarises the self-reported plans of clubs for growing the number of teams they run to meet perceived unmet demand. This information is drawn from the club consultation surveys carried out in May and December 2021 and therefore only includes those clubs that completed a questionnaire. Conversion of this perceived unmet demand into new teams will depend on these clubs engaging sufficient volunteer team managers and coaches as well as securing suitable pitches to play and train on in the peak period.

It is apparent from the consultation with clubs and the number that are planning for growth, that clubs consider there is unmet demand in the borough for mini and youth football in particular. There is also unmet demand for more girls' teams to cater for the progression from mixed mini football.

Figure 3.5: Ealing Football Clubs - Self-Reported Team Growth Plans

Club	Growth Aspirations
Abbey FC	The club aspires to field a second open age men's team.
Acton Ealing Whistlers	The club identifies a need to update the clubhouse and provide a refreshment offer to raise income for investment in volunteer training and pitch hire to enable further growth particularly for girl's football.
Actonians Women	Subject to securing affordable access to more pitch capacity and, ideally, a stadium pitch, the club aspires to double the number of senior teams from 3 to 6 (including a vets team and introduction of recreational side) and to increase the number of girls teams by 2.
Brentham	Non-specific growth aspirations.

Club	Growth Aspirations
Cademy	The club aspires to grow by + 2 team per season (youth or minis).
Football Samurai	Non-specific growth aspirations.
Larkspur Rovers	The club aspires to develop more female teams in all age groups.
London Tigers	The club aspires to develop a further 3 football teams.
Northfields United	The club aspires to grow from 23 to 40 teams eventually.
Southall Athletic	The club aspires to develop a junior team as well as a veterans site and to introduce disability football opportunities subject to pitch access and hire costs.

3.7 Displaced Demand

The research and consultation show that as far as match play is concerned, there is minimal displaced demand of adult football - i.e. adult teams of clubs based in Ealing having to travel outside the borough to find pitches to play home fixtures. At senior NLS level, the notable exception is **Southall FC** firsts currently playing at Ashford Town's ground. At youth and mini soccer level there is some displacement to other boroughs to accommodate all teams, for example Northfields United who hire mini soccer pitches at a primary school in Hounslow. Midweek evening training on floodlit pitches is the area where there is most displaced demand. As shown (in italics) in Figures 3.1 to 3.4, there are as many as 14 Ealing-based clubs that regularly hire training slots on artificial grass pitches outside the borough. In the club survey, a number of clubs stated they wanted more capacity for training locally.

4. The Situation at Individual Football Sites (Step 4)

4.1 Grass Pitch Sites

The grass football pitches were assessed in December of the 2021/22 season. Most of the sites were assessed using the methodology established by Sport England and the FA in the published Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance and Appendices (2013) - i.e. a non-technical visual site assessment. Informed by the LFFP for Ealing (June 2019), eight of the grass pitch football sites were identified by the Steering Group for more in-depth assessment using the Football Foundation's Pitch Power methodology and reporting. Middlesex FA have reviewed the findings of these site-specific assessments (as set out in the appended dataset to this report) and agreed the quality ratings as a basis for comparison of the amount of play each site can accommodate (i.e. 'carrying capacity') against the amount of play that takes place. Carrying capacity is a measure of the number of match equivalent sessions per season for community use each pitch can take without adversely affecting its quality and use. The following pitch carrying capacities have been used consistent with the PPS Guidance methodology, informed (where applicable) by the Performance Quality Standard ratings in the eight Pitch Power Assessment Reports.

Figure 4.1: Grass Football Pitch Carrying Capacity

PPS Guide ratings/ PP PQS ratings	Adult Football	Youth Football (9v9, 11v11)	Mini Soccer (5v5, 7v7)
Number of match equivalent sessions a week			
Good / High	3	4	6
Standard to Good / Advanced	2.5	3	5
Standard / Good	2	2	4
Poor to Standard / Basic	1.5	1.5	3
Poor / Poor	1	1	2

The full grass pitch audit (separately appended), details the situation at each individual football site with regard to:

1. *Pitch supply* (including the quality ratings) and conclusions reached as to the amount of play a site can accommodate (i.e. its carrying capacity for community use **in the peak period**);
2. *The amount of play that takes place at each site* (i.e. the expressed demand where known) adjusted to reflect any casual or education use in addition to club use for matches and training;
3. *The comparison* (shown as a RAG rating) as to whether, for each pitch type it contains, a site is:
 - o **RED** - Being overplayed (current use exceeds the carrying capacity)
 - o **AMBER** - Being played to the level the site can sustain (current use matches the carrying capacity), or
 - o **GREEN** - Potentially able to accommodate some additional play (current use falls below the carrying capacity)

The following 7 sites are highlighted here from the site audit data as RED rated sites where the majority of the available natural turf football pitches are overplayed.

- Acton Ealing Whistlers FC Fox Wood Nature Reserve
- Brentside High School Playing Field (Celtic FC)
- Hanwell Town FC Reynolds Field
- London Marathon Playing Field
- Lord Halsbury Memorial Playing Field (Larkspur Rovers)
- North Greenford United
- Northolt RFC Cayton Green Park

A further 7 sites from the full site audit data are **AMBER** rated indicating that the majority of the available natural turf pitches are played at (or very close to) their playing capacity:

- Actonians Sports Ground
- Actonians Boddington Gardens
- Alwyn Gardens (FC Samurai)
- Drayton Manor High School Playing Field (Hanwell Town FC)
- Pitshanger Park Scotch Common (Pitshanger FC)
- University of West London Argyle Road (Pitshanger Dynamo FC)
- West Ealing Bowls Club (Ealing United)

4.2 Artificial Grass Pitch Sites

The current site-specific situation with regard to the 3G artificial grass pitches in the borough is detailed in Figure 4.2.

Figure 4.2: 3G AGPs - Situation at Individual Sites

Site	AGP Size & Type	Date Built (Last Refurbished)	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security Of Access	Peak Hours Available	Peak Use Commentary	RAG	Comments/Assumptions
Alec Reed Academy, Community Sports Centre Bengarth Road Northolt, UB5 5LQ	Full size, floodlit, 3G On FA Register for affiliated league play	Built 2006 (sand based), refurbished in 2020 and resurfaced as 3G.	5	School dual use sports hall changing rooms	Secured - School with CUA	6-10pm Weekdays, 9am-6pm Weekends. Peak = 38hrs/wk	Availability in peak period		Very good condition - little used as closed for the majority of the pandemic. The school have started (since April 2021) to bring in bookings from clubs etc. There is still a number of free slots (Monday and Friday evening/Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 9-10). Lots of free hours on the weekend for people to usage. Looking at promoting with off-peak rates.
Brentside High School, Greenford Avenue Hanwell, W7 1JJ	9v9 (85m x 45m), floodlit, 3G	Built 2017	4	School dual use sports hall changing rooms	Secured - PFI Kajima Community Management	6-10pm Weekdays, 9am-10pm Sat, 9am-6pm Sun. Peak = 38hrs/wk	Regularly used by local football clubs and organisations. Some availability in peak period		Floodlights were changed to LED in 2020. Brentham FC Colts train on this pitch midweek.
Cardinal Wiseman School, Greenford	Full size, floodlit, 3G On FA Register	Not stated on Active Places		School changing rooms	Unsecured - School (no CUA attached to BSF funding)	n/a	No lettings policy		Opportunity to explore with the school opportunities to increase community access currently not readily available (as identified in

Site	AGP Size & Type	Date Built (Last Refurbished)	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security Of Access	Peak Hours Available	Peak Use Commentary	RAG	Comments/Assumptions
Road, UB6 9AW									the Local Football Facilities Plan 2019).
Club Des Sports, East Acton Lane, London, W3 7HB	P1 - Full size, floodlit, compliant 3G On FA Register Pitch in SW corner	Built 2020, floodlights added 2021	5	Current users have access to changing facilities adjacent to P2, until new pavilion servicing P1 and cricket pitch is built	Secured - CUA with Club des Sport	Community use after 6pm weekdays and Weekends 8am - 10.30pm. Peak = 38hrs/wk	Very limited availability in peak hours (hirepitch booking site)		MFA data shows use as match pitch by Burghley Park FC u10 (7v7) and u14 (11v11) plus FC Starz U12 Girls (9v9) all on Sundays plus midweek training for these teams and Western Bailers FC (2 adult teams). Also used by Old Vaughnanians FC and Sporting Duet Academy men's teams for training and affiliated matches.
	P2 - Full size, floodlit, Rugby compliant 3G On FA Register			High quality changing and social facilities	Unsecured - Commercial Hireapitch		Unused capacity in peak times throughout the week (hirepitch site)		As a commercial operator, hire fees for the Club des Sports AGPs are high in comparison to other similar pitch facilities in the borough.
	P3 - 9v9 floodlit 3G			High quality changing and social facilities	Unsecured - Commercial Hireapitch	Weekdays 9am - 5pm	as P2		
	P4 - 5v5 floodlit 3G			High quality changing and social facilities	Unsecured - Commercial Hireapitch	Weekdays 9am - 5pm	as P2		

Site	AGP Size & Type	Date Built (Last Refurbished)	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security Of Access	Peak Hours Available	Peak Use Commentary	RAG	Comments/Assumptions
	P5 - 5v5 floodlit 3G			High quality changing and social facilities	Unsecured - Commercial Hireapitch	Weekdays 9am - 5pm	as P2		
Drayton Manor, W7 3DD	Small sided floodlit 3G	Built 2018			Unsecured - school	None on Active Places (private use)	Available for community hires		School lettings policy includes the MUGA.
Gunnery Park Sports Hub Popes Lane, Acton, W3 8LQ	P1 - Full size, floodlit, 3G pitch on FIFA & FA Register	Built 2018	5	Changing rooms in sports centre, opened 2021	Secured - operated by Better on behalf of LBE, LBH and the Gunnery Park CIC	Weekdays 6.30am-10pm Weekends 8am - 8pm. Peak = 38hrs/wk	Training pitch for: Actonians - Ladies & Girls FC, mens and vets plus youth and juniors, Foxes FC, extensive Brentford FC CST year-round programme, Sporting Duet & UWL. Very limited availability		Planned maintenance of both FTPs by S&C Slatter Ltd (6 visits per annum, budget expenditure £3,600).
	P2 - Full size, floodlit, 3G pitch on FIFA & FA Register		5						
Lammas Park, Culmington Rd W13 9NJ	5v5 floodlit 3Gs x 2 (34x19m)	Built 2010		Good quality changing and cafe with terrace area (shared with tennis)	Secured - Will to Win Tennis (for Council)	9am-9pm Mon to Thurs, 9am-8pm Fri, 9am-6pm Weekend. Peak = 38hrs	No junior training bookings in 2019/20.		MFA data (Jan 22): Ealing United minisoccer teams train on these pitches

Site	AGP Size & Type	Date Built (Last Refurbished)	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security Of Access	Peak Hours Available	Peak Use Commentary	RAG	Comments/Assumptions
Larkspur Rovers FC Lord Halsbury Memorial Playing Fields, Arnold Road, Northolt, UB5 5TD	Small sided 7v7 floodlit 3G	Built 2013	4	Excellent new pavilion in 2013 (rated 5/5 by club). The building has 4 team changing rooms and 2 officials changing rooms. The club do not have enough storage space even after adding two containers. There is the space to add more subject to planning permission and funding.	Secured - Sports Club (lease from Council)		Used for mini soccer training and matches. No unused capacity midweek in the peak period. Some club teams displaced for training.		The pitch is well maintained and has a sinking fund attached (6k per annum). The club get external maintenance to brush the pitch 1x a month. There may be sufficient space adjacent to extend into a full size 3G if required in future although this is not identified as a priority project in the current LFFP. The site benefited from £1.62m investment in Dec 2012 including £495k from Council. FA Register approval has expired. The pitch should be re-tested as a priority. MFA has advised the club to expedite.
North Acton Playing Fields, Noel Road, London, W3 0JE	Small sided 5v5 3G		3		Secured - lease from Council)		Football Samurai Academy use mainly, not clear if available for other clubs to hire		Football Samurai Academy home ground, extensive use by junior club, U7 to U18 teams train and play, weekday evenings and weekends

Site	AGP Size & Type	Date Built (Last Refurbished)	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security Of Access	Peak Hours Available	Peak Use Commentary	RAG	Comments/Assumptions
Northolt High School Sports Centre Eastcote Lane Northolt, UB5 4HP	Full size, floodlit, 3G On FA Register for affiliated league play	Built 2002, refurbished in 2015		School dual use sports hall changing rooms	Secured - School CUA	6-9pm Weekdays, 9am-4pm Weekends = 29hrs/wk	Brentford FC Community Sports Trust also operate several sessions including the Kickz football project. <i>Limited availability in peak period</i>		The AGP playing surface was replaced with funding from the Football Foundation, and is subject to a 21-year agreement, signed in 2015 running until 2036, which details community use of the facilities, subject to the Football Foundation Conditions of Grant
Pitshanger Park Meadvale Rd, W5 1NR	5v5 floodlit 3G (30m x 20m)	Built 2013	4	Well presented if small changing rooms (designed for tennis) and a cafe with terrace area.	Secured - Will to Win Tennis (for Council)	9am-9pm Mon to Thurs, 9am-8pm Fri, 9am-6pm Weekend. Peak = 38hrs	A Soccer School operates on this small sided pitch on Saturdays. Recreational small sided games at other times.		The 3G playing surface is in good condition. The goal nets will need replacing soon. Litter was evident on the pitch but otherwise the facility appears well maintained. Clear line markings with ball retention netting across the top of the pitch. Access is controlled via a locked gate to prevent unofficial use. £626k investment in April 2013 including £108k from Council.

Site	AGP Size & Type	Date Built (Last Refurbished)	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security Of Access	Peak Hours Available	Peak Use Commentary	RAG	Comments/Assumptions
Rectory Park, Rectory Park Avenue, Northolt UB5 6GR	P1 (Left) - Full size, floodlit, 3G pitches on FIFA & FA Register for affiliated league play	Built 2018	5	The pavilion built in 2018 is in excellent condition and includes 6 x fully accessible changing rooms, 2 x official changing rooms and 1 x first aid room. There is also a bar area, café and classrooms/conf erence rooms within pavilion.	Secured - Council (MFA manage FTP and pavilion)	9am-10pm daily. Peak = 38hrs/wk	152/160 peak slots in 2021/22 = 95%	Red	The main pitch (on the left when exiting the pavilion) has a stand for spectators. Both pitches have full maintenance schedules which includes 2 x weekly maintenance and specialist maintenance carried out every 3 months. Line markings and booking slots available for 4 x 5 v 5 pitches, 2 x 7 v 7 pitches and 2 x 9 v 9 pitches. The far side of the main pitch occasionally floods in torrential rain but to date no games have been called off. Users range from community clubs (e.g. London Eagles, Deportivo Galicia, The Eight FC, Southall Athletic FC, Celtic, Ruislip Rangers, Actonians Ladies), junior coaching groups (e.g. Little Tigers, Inv3ntive, Total Futbol), central leagues (e.g. The Nerf Junior Premier League on Saturday mornings, The Capital Girl's League on Sunday mornings) an FA Flexi League on Monday evenings and recreational small sided games, to bookings by pro club academies (Chelsea, Brentford, QPR). £4.65m investment in Dec 2017 including £250k from Council.
	P2 (right) - Full size, floodlit, 3G pitches on FIFA & FA Register for affiliated league play						125/144 peak slots in 2021/22 = 87%		

Site	AGP Size & Type	Date Built (Last Refurbished)	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security Of Access	Peak Hours Available	Peak Use Commentary	RAG	Comments/Assumptions
Spikes Bridge Sports Ground (London Tigers), Spikes Bridge Road, Southall UB1 2AS	Full size, floodlit, 3G On FA Register for affiliated league play	Built 2014	2	The pavilion has 4 team changing rooms (and 2 officials). The club maintain there is a need for 2 further team changing rooms. Lack of adequate lighting in the park is a safety perception issue for some users. There is also a pond located behind the goal which also creates safety issues. Car parking is insufficient. Currently considering option to create a temporary overspill car parking area behind the 3G pitch.	Secured Sports Club (lease from Council)	- 9am -9pm daily. Peak = 38hrs/wk	There is no unused capacity midweek or at weekends. Only spare capacity in the peak is on Monday and Friday evenings.		The playing surface has both 7 aside and 11 a side markings, is heavily used and, at 9 years old, is showing signs of wear and needs replacement. This is a priority for the club along with improvements to the main grass pitch quality. The club also aspires to build a small sided 3G and additional changing rooms behind the pitch and a small spectator stand (semi pro first team). Planning consent is in place and fund raising underway. However, accommodating the first team on site will impact on the number of community hours. MFA data (Jan 22): AEK London, AFC Southall (Saturday), Brentford St Georges First (Sunday). The site is an FA designated Wildcats centre for girl's football development. £2.055m investment in Dec 2012 including £870k from the Council. The 2019 LFFP identifies the addition of a small sided 7v7 floodlit FTP and additional changing as a priority project to complement the full-size FTP. This project remains a high priority in the June 2021 refresh of the LFFP.

Site	AGP Size & Type	Date Built (Last Refurbished)	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security Access	Of	Peak Hours Available	Peak Use Commentary	RAG	Comments/Assumptions
Swift Road Outdoor Sports Centre Swift Road Southall, UB2 4RP	9v9 floodlit 3G On FA Register for affiliated league play 2021	Built 2009	4 (see FA Register Field Test comments)	Changing rooms refurbished in 2015	Secured Everyone Active (for Council)	- (for Council)	6-10pm Weekdays, 8am-8pm Weekends = Peak 38hrs/wk	There are currently no weekend bookings. Regular block bookings in winter from Southall Old Boys FC (Tues P3 5.30-7.30pm and Thurs 6-8pm P1&P2; Southall Athletics Full Pitch Tues 7.30-9pm; Brentford CST Weds & Thurs 5.30-7pm Full Pitch. MFA Jan 22 data: Southall Athletics Firsts (Saturday matches), and Women (Sunday matches).		Divided into 3 small sided pitches. The facility was built with funding from the Football Foundation, and is subject to a 21-year agreement, signed in 2009 and running until 2030, which details community use of the facilities, subject to the Football Foundation Conditions of Grant. Since local parking restrictions (yellow lines) were introduced, this pitch will struggle to remain viable as a pay and play operation.

Site	AGP Size & Type	Date Built (Last Refurbished)	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security Of Access	Peak Hours Available	Peak Use Commentary	RAG	Comments/Assumptions
Trailfinders Sports Club, Vallis Way West, Ealing, W13 0DD	Full size, floodlit 3G	Built 2017	4	A large pavilion with changing areas, communal spaces, canteen, fitness centre, hospitality suites and bar area.	Secured Sports Club	- 8am-10pm Mon to Sat, 8am-8pm Sun. Peak = 38hrs/wk	75/80 hours a week in total. Limited availability in peak		High quality rubber crumb AGP with floodlights around perimeter of pitch. Carpet was laid approx. 5 years ago but still in good condition and regular maintenance schedule which includes sweeping, brushing a replacement of rubber crumb. AGP is currently used for approx. 75/80hrs per week with limited unused capacity. Lots of community use including schools, football and rugby teams. The new indoor 3G training pitch opened in December 2021, should help meet demand for football training.
	60x35m small sided, floodlit 3G	Built 2014	4				40/50 hours a week in total. Limited availability in peak.		Small sided 5/7 a side floodlit 3G pitch, in good condition with no reported issues. Pitch used for approx. 40 - 50 per week by local community organisations. Limited capacity outside of peak hours.
William Perkin High School Community Sports Hub, Oldfield Lane North,	Full size, floodlit, 3G On FA Register & 5v5 floodlit 3G (30m x18m)	Built 2017	5	School dual use sports hall changing rooms	Secured School with CUA	- 6-10pm Weekdays, 8am-8pm Weekends = Peak 38hrs/wk	Used to capacity on Tuesday to Friday evenings. Some available slots on Monday		Investment of £2.25m in Dec 2016 including £1.42m from Council. Training ground for Pitshanger FC Dynamo Firsts and Reserves, North Greenford Utd Firsts and u18s. Also used extensively by Hanwell Town YFC (previously at Elthorne Sports Centre small sided 3G until this reverted to hard court

Site	AGP Size & Type	Date Built (Last Refurbished)	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security Of Access	Peak Hours Available	Peak Use Commentary	RAG	Comments/Assumptions
Greenford UB6 8PR							evenings and at weekends.		macadam). Regular steering group meetings with MFA support to get more women and girls football on site.

There are also three artificial grass pitches in the borough with sand-based playing surfaces designed for hockey as the main sport, but which also accommodate some demand for small side football and club training.

Figure 4.3: Hockey AGPs also used for football - Situation at Individual Sites

Site	AGP Size & Type	Date Built (Last Refurbished)	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security Of Access	Peak Hours Available	Peak Use Commentary	RAG	Comments/Assumptions
St Augustine's Priory School, Hillcrest Rd, W5 2JL	Full size floodlit sand based	Built 2005, last refurbished in 2014	3	School changing rooms	Unsecured - Independent School	5-9pm Weekdays only = 20hrs/wk	Ealing Hockey Club Acton Ealing Whistlers Football Club Hanwell Town Youth Football Club Brentham Colts Football Club Pitshanger Football Club c. 95% - Very limited availability for other hires.		The pitch is in fair condition and is mostly used for netball and hockey (both marked out). The pitch is also used for cricket during summer. There are some patch repairs in the areas of heaviest use. Ealing Hockey Club use the pitch extensively in the evenings as well as the football clubs listed. The school noted there is a little unused capacity outside the most popular times. However, the school does not accept further bookings in order to maintain pitch quality. Concerns have been raised relating to the wearing of inappropriate footwear by some players. There is two portacabins located next to the pitch which can be used by community organisations.

Site	AGP Size & Type	Date Built (Last Refurbished)	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security Of Access	Peak Hours Available	Peak Use Commentary	RAG	Comments/Assumptions
Actonians Boddington Gardens, W3 9AP	Full size, floodlit sand based	Built 2007, last refurbished in 2014	4	The main building at Boddington is in good condition and has 4 changing rooms. This was built in 2014 and is well used by the club and also the local school. There is sufficient changing for the clubs.	Secured - Leased by Council to club	Open: 11am-2pm & 5-11pm Weekdays, 10am-11pm Weekends. Peak = 36hrs/wk	Some football training and small sided games but used to full capacity midweek and weekends for hockey.		Main user is PHC Chiswick Hockey Club with 280 adult league playing members in 2019/20 season across 6 men's and 6 women's team squads, plus 25 junior boys and 50 junior girls. Pavilion - £1.2m of external investment in Nov 2013. Only a few slots available for football in the peak mainly on Mondays and Fridays.
Featherstone High School Sports Centre Montague Way Southall, UB2 5HF	Full size, floodlit sand based	Built 2003, last refurbished in 2011	4	2x changing rooms available for the community and 2 for the school (which open to the community after 5.30). Last refurbished in 2009.	Unsecured - School would like to convert to 3G for income generation	9am-4pm Sat 9am-1pm Sun 5.30-9.30pm weekdays = 31hrs/wk	Extensive hockey club hires historically but has reduced substantially since pandemic.		The floodlit AGP is in good condition and is used for football and hockey. There is some spare capacity. Not popular for football hires as not 3G and no small sided pitch divider netting.

4.3 The FA National Football Facilities Strategy

In 2018, in partnership with the Football Foundation and Sport England, the Football Association developed a ten-year investment plan in facilities for grass roots football - *The National Football Facilities Strategy 2018-2028*. The facilities strategy aims to ensure that by 2028:

- Every FA-affiliated club has access to a 3G artificial pitch for training and potentially matches.
- Accelerated improvements are made to the key grass pitch sites across England to reduce fixture cancellations.

To support delivery of the National Game Strategy aims, Middlesex FA - in partnership with the Football Foundation and the county local authorities - is focused on:

- Supporting the development of *Football Hubs*² in strategic locations
- Supporting an agreed portfolio of priority projects for new and improved facilities in each local authority area that will have a significant impact on participation and provide capacity for growth, activated through new *Local Football Facility Plans* (LFFPs), a ten-year vision for football facilities.

4.4 Ealing Local Football Facilities Plan

A Local Football Facilities Plan (LFFP) for Ealing was published by the Football Foundation in June 2019 informed by consultation with the Council, Middlesex FA and the large community football clubs based in the borough. The Ealing LFFP was subsequently refreshed by the LFFP Steering Group in June 2021 and is due to be rewritten in full in early 2023. Following the success of the 2016 PPS in delivering new full size artificial football turf pitches, the current top priorities for investment identified in the Ealing

² Football Hubs serve major towns and cities with multiple pitches and modern pavilion facilities based around a minimum of 2 full size artificial grass football pitches (FTPs). Ealing currently has two Football Hubs - Gunnersbury Park and Rectory Park

LFFP will be for enhanced provision of FA compliant small-sided 3G pitches suitable for recreational football, team training and youth and/or mini-soccer match at London Tigers (Spikes Bridge Park) and, possibly, at Hanwell Town plus improvements to the grass pitch quality and ancillary facilities at various sites across the borough.

Exploring future options for reinstatement of playing pitches at Warren Farm Sports Ground in Southall (identified in the PPS in 2016 and the LFFP in 2019) continues to be a high priority for the Council alongside a desire to use adjacent land for rewilding.

The Playing Pitch Strategy methodology is more detailed than that used to inform the LFFP investment priorities. Accordingly, whilst in most instances there is a good deal of commonality between the PPS and LFFP in terms of the conclusions reached, this is not always the case. In terms of use as an evidence base to inform development planning process, the PPS should take precedence over a LFFP.

4.5 FA Training Scenario for 3G AGP Assessments of Need

The FA has designed a model scenario to help with understanding what demand there may be for full size³ equivalent floodlit 3G AGPs if increased amounts of play were to take place on them. The scenario question tested is: *How many full size floodlit 3G AGPs may be required to meet demand within the borough if all teams playing competitive football had access to a full size floodlit 3G FTP to train on once a week?*

The answer to this scenario question for Ealing is set out below based on **11** full size (or near full size) floodlit 3G FTPs on the FA Register which have full

³ A full size 3G FTP measures 106m x 70m including run off/safety margins.

community use for football during peak periods⁴. Although there are 14 full size AGPs in total, one of the two at Gunnersbury Park Sports Hub has been discounted to reflect the partnership with Hounslow; the Wasps full size pitch has been excluded as its used almost primarily for rugby and the AGP at The Cardinal Wiseman School has also been excluded as there is limited availability for community use. Club des Sport has two pitches which are included in the supply however it is noted that community use on the older pitch remains limited as this is operated on a commercial basis.

As a guide the FA suggest that one full size floodlit 3G FTP could potentially accommodate the training demand from 38 teams. The information from the assessment indicates that there are 307 teams playing competitive football in Ealing. The 1:38 ratio suggests that 8 full size equivalent floodlit 3G FTPs would be required to meet 100% of team football training on 3G within the borough. However, this takes no account of other demand in the peak for small-sided leagues, recreational play and targeted community football development programmes outside the affiliated league structure. These are large and growing demand sectors in all urban locations and Ealing is no exception. The club training scenario calculation also takes no account of the accessibility of the available AGPs to the clubs nor cost / affordability issues, an access barrier raised as an issue by a number of the Ealing based youth football clubs in the survey.

However, notwithstanding these factors, with nine accessible full size AGPs plus several accessible small-sided pitches - e.g. Brentside High School and Swift Road Outdoor Sports Centre (9v9), Lord Halsbury (7v7) and 5v5 AGPs at Lammas Park (2), Pitshanger Park and North Acton Playing Fields - it is apparent that Ealing is relatively well provided in terms of football AGPs in relation to current demand.

⁴ Weekdays 17:00 - 21:00 (or 19:00 on Fridays) and 09:00 - 17:00 on weekends.

5. The Current and Future Picture of Provision for Football (Step 5)

5.1 Current Grass Pitches

Whilst a significant number of playing field sites in the borough are being played to capacity or overplayed, in the main, they are sites that are the home ground for youth/mini soccer football clubs with multiple teams. Most are either leased to a community football club - e.g. Scotch Common (Pitshanger FC), North Greenford United Ground, Lord Halsbury Playing Fields (Larkspur Rovers), Fox Reservoir Playing Fields (Acton Ealing Whistlers), Actonians Sports Ground, Ealing FC (West Ealing Bowls Club) and Concorde Rangers (Osterley Sports Ground) - or on education sites. Of these sites, Fox Reservoir does not have sufficient unused capacity to cope with the rapid growth of the Acton Ealing Whistlers club. This club is using AGPs in the local area to increase capacity and is currently working with Ada Lovelace High School on a project to develop a 7 v 7 floodlit AGP for training and match play purposes. Ealing United FC, playing at West Ealing Bowls Club, and Concorde Rangers, playing at Osterley Sports Ground, are just two clubs applying to the Football Foundation for funding to improve playing pitches.

Of the sites in the Council's direct control, booking records show that most pay and play adult natural turf pitches have some spare capacity - e.g. Dormers Wells Leisure Centre, the newly upgraded Gunnersbury Park Sports Hub pitches, North Acton Playing Fields, Perivale Park and Rectory Park. In addition, upgraded pitches at Ealing Central Sports Ground will return to the supply in 2023/24. The Pitch Power report findings for a number of these Council sites - plus Osterley Sports Ground (recently rented by Concorde Rangers FC from the Gurdwara owner) and the adjacent Osterley Cricket Club used extensively by Cademy FC for youth football -

identify potential for enhanced quality and playing capacity at these sites if the ongoing pitch maintenance can be improved.

Whilst demand has still to fully recover from the Covid 19 pandemic and restrictions in season 2021/22, it appears that, for affiliated adult football, aside from the lack of a suitable stadium pitch to accommodate Southall FC and Actonians Women, there is sufficient overall available supply of adult natural turf football pitches in the borough to meet current demand from adult teams and to accommodate some growth. Delivery of the pitch maintenance improvements recommended by the GMA in the recent Pitch Power Assessment Reports will further improve the future position for both adult and youth football.

The continuing priority will therefore be to address the unmet demand of the youth football clubs. Much has been achieved since 2016 to improve the supply of 3G pitches in the borough for use by youth football clubs (e.g. at William Perkin High School, Alec Reed Academy, Brentside, Gunnersbury Park and Rectory Park) reflecting the FA's strategic drive towards the transfer of junior and youth league play and training on to 3G pitches. There have also been new 3G pitches installed at privately owned sports grounds - Trailfinders, Club des Sport and Wasps - providing some availability for football hirers. However, pinch points of demand for youth and mini-soccer pitches for home fixtures and training continue to be experienced by several clubs, particularly on Sunday mornings and midweek early evenings, which constrains the growth aspirations of these clubs and contributes to unmet demand, particularly for women and girl's football. Grass pitch maintenance improvements - aligned with the Pitch Power assessment report recommendations and supported by the Football Foundation through its Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund - will go some way to achieving the priority football development aims of the clubs and the FA.

AGPs

In the context of the recent addition of eight (GPSH x 2, Rectory x 2, William Perkin, Wasps, Club des Sport, Trailfinders 2nd pitch) new full size football compliant AGPs in the borough, albeit one pitch at Gunnersbury Park Sports Hub being allocated to Hounslow and the Trailfinders and Wasps pitches being used primarily for rugby and given that the demand trends point to continuing growth in the recreational game among adults and, among the affiliated clubs, for more small sided football teams among the younger age groups (particularly girls football), the priority for further provision of artificial grass pitches for football during the next strategy period will be for small sided football AGPs ideally located on or near club sites with clear unmet demand and for 3G MUGAs located in or close to areas of high density social housing with the greatest need, as opposed to provision of more full size pitches. As identified in Figure 4.2 previously, current priorities are to provide additional 3G capacity at Spike's Bridge Park (London Tigers) and to renew FA registration of the existing 7v7 3G pitch at Lord Halsbury Playing Fields (Larkspur Rovers).

5.2 Future

To estimate the potential impact of population growth over the strategy period to 2031 on the need for football pitch capacity in the peak period, Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) tool has been used. To meet football demand from 38,306 additional borough residents (as currently forecast⁵) and assuming current levels of football demand by age group for matches and training in the peak period, the PPC indicates that the equivalent capacity of +6.71 mini soccer pitches, +6.16 youth football pitches and +3.46 adult football pitches will be needed in the borough

(totaling just over +16 natural turf pitches) as well as +0.86 additional 3G pitches.

Potential effect of demand trends (how pitch sports are played) – Among adults, national trends show a reduction in interest in taking part in sports that demand a commitment to regular attendance, in favour of a more casual involvement. This national picture is reflected in Ealing where MFA adult team affiliations have fallen by nearly a third (from 95 in 2015 to 64 in 2022) and the number of men's teams affiliated to the traditional London-wide AFA and London FA leagues has also reduced. In recognition of this change, the FA has introduced 'Flexi Leagues' offering opportunities to play social competitive games fortnightly on AGPs. In Ealing a successful Flexi League with 11 teams is currently running at Rectory Park Sports Hub.

At the same time, demand for informal football is growing. Locally in Ealing, this is seen by the growth in bookings of the small sided 5v5 3G AGPs (e.g. at Lammas Park and Pitshanger Park) for regular weekly games between groups of friends or work mates. Local football clubs report in the survey returns that mini soccer and younger youth age groups continue to show a growth trend but that this growth is hard to sustain through the older youth age groups from age 15yrs when exams and other interests tend to impact. In light of these trends, the clubs' aspirations for team growth and development initiatives with regard to women and girls and disability football, the balance of future need is likely to be greater than indicated by the PPC for 3G and lower than indicated for natural turf pitches. Taking these factors into account, it is estimated that there will be a need for

⁵ GLA 2018-based housing-led population projections (Released February 2020)

between one and two full size equivalent additional 3G AGPs in the borough by 2031.

6. Key findings and Issues for Football (Step 6)

Figure 6.1: Football Key Findings and Issues

	Football
<p>The main characteristics of the <u>current</u> supply of and demand for provision</p>	<p>There has been significant investment in facilities for football in Ealing since the last facility review in 2016, most notably the addition of two new football hubs each with two new 3G pitches, grass pitches and pavilions at Gunnersbury Park and Rectory Park, the development of a new 3G pitch with a community use agreement at William Perkin High School, new 3G pitches at Club des Sport and Wasps FC and a change of surface of existing AGPs from sand based for hockey to football 3G at Alec Reed Academy and Brentside High School.</p> <p>The Gunnersbury Park Sports Hub also provides a large new sports hall suitable for the development of futsal and the Trailfinders Sports Club has developed a 3G indoor training facility, primarily for rugby but also suitable for football training.</p> <p>Several clubs have secured a regular home ground since 2016 including Cademy FC at Osterley Cricket Club Ground and Concorde Rangers FC at the adjacent Osterley Sports Ground.</p> <p>A new pavilion cafe with toilet facilities has been built in Blondin Park supporting intensive use of the unmarked playing field area for minisoccer by Northfields FC and Footy for Fun, a commercial coaching organisation. Changing facilities have been upgraded at Hanwell Town's Reynolds Field stadium and ground improvements made at North Greenford United's Berkeley Fields home ground and Acton Ealing Whistlers home ground.</p> <p>99 grass pitches are identified as available for community football in 2022 across Ealing, on 30 operational playing pitch sites. This compares to 96 over 31 sites in 2016. Just under a fifth of the available pitches are over-marked to accommodate smaller sided games (e.g. 9v9 on 11v11 or 5v5 on 7v7). A further site, Ealing Central Sports Ground, is temporarily closed for improvement works which will re-provide the equivalent of four senior pitches and pavilion</p>

Football

deep clean. From 2023/24, there will therefore be 103 pitches available to community teams across 31 playing pitch sites.

There are further pitches on school playing fields in the borough. At most of these school sites, there is no clear potential to open them for community use. In the case of the high schools, for the most part, pitches do not conform to any league size. The schools mark out what they can fit on their school playing field. For example Greenford High School and Acton High School both have thin long pitches used mainly for curriculum delivery and the occasional inter-school fixture. Ellen Wilkinson School for Girls, has a school field but does not mark it for winter sports, preferring to use an old redgra pitch for most activities.

In addition, there are several closed playing field sites in the borough where community football used to be played that present opportunities for reinstatement. By far the largest is Warren Farm Sports Ground in Southall which, in 2010, accommodated 16 football pitches. Similarly, Norwood Hall Playing Fields - a much smaller site in Southall close to Osterley Sports Club and the northern part of King George V Playing Fields - adjacent to Durdans Park Cricket Ground - offer potential for reinstatement of former playing pitches if required.

Key trends in football demand identified in 2016 have continued to impact. These include sustained growth in the recreational game (both small sided and in 11 a side fortnightly Flexi Leagues) and in youth football and mini-soccer with increasing numbers of girls playing particularly in mixed mini-soccer teams. From a low base there has been also growth in women's football and in disability football at the two new hub sites. At the same time there is a gradual fall in demand for traditional men's Saturday league football due largely to increasing pressures of time for work, family and other commitments. The Covid 19 pandemic and the resulting restrictions also impacted very significantly towards the end of season 2019/20 and throughout 2020/21. However, football demand has largely recovered to pre-pandemic levels in 2021/22.

In January 2022, Ealing had a total of 70 affiliated clubs (including separately constituted youth sections of adult clubs) registered to the borough by Middlesex FA with a total of 307 teams all playing home fixtures on pitches in the borough. This is an increase of 25 teams - nearly 9% - since the previous audit in 2015 when 282 MFA affiliated

	Football
	<p>teams were registered to Ealing borough. In addition there are a further 8-10 men's teams playing and training in the borough affiliated to the London-wide Amateur Football Alliance or London FA.</p>
<p>Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet <u>current</u> demand?</p>	<p>Whilst demand has still to fully recover from the Covid 19 pandemic and restrictions in season 2021/22, it appears that, for affiliated adult football, aside from the lack of a suitable stadium pitch in the west of the borough to accommodate Southall FC (and, potentially, in the east to meet the aspirations of Actonians Women), there is sufficient overall available supply of adult natural turf pitches to meet current demand.</p> <p>However, for youth/minisoccer football and training, although the investments made in new and enhanced provision have reduced the deficiency identified in 2016 very substantially, some shortfalls remain. Pinch points continue to be experienced by several clubs, particularly on Sunday mornings for match play and midweek early evenings for squad training, which constrains the growth aspirations of these clubs and contributes to unmet demand, particularly for girl's football. Several clubs have teams that are displaced playing home fixtures and/or training on pitches outside the borough. To meet the shortfall in current supply will require completion of ongoing upgrade works at The Ealing Central Sports Ground (potentially as a junior football centre as opposed to adult pitches) and, as identified in the Local Football Facilities Plan for Ealing in 2019, some further investment in providing a small number of additional small-sided 3G pitches at key sites (e.g. Spikes Bridge Park) suitable for both match play and training.</p>
<p>Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?</p>	<p>Most of the grass pitches are of standard or good quality, and most of the football AGPs are good quality, many with newly laid playing surfaces.</p> <p>However, poor natural drainage and compaction of the ground are issues at several of the grass football pitch sites in Ealing that are rated as either poor or standard, thereby limiting the playing capacity of these pitches. These are common issues in this part of London with heavy London Clay soil. To address this issue on a large scale would require significant additional investment for maintenance works at the frequencies required to effectively aerate and de-compact the playing surface.</p> <p>Installation of formal pitches with a sports pitch maintenance schedule at Blondin Park as currently proposed together with delivery of the grass pitch improvements recommended by the Grounds Maintenance Association through the Football Foundation's Pitch Power pitch assessment reports would go a long way to improving the</p>

	Football
	<p>playing capacity at key sites. In most cases, this will necessitate increased revenue investment in enhanced pitch maintenance regimes supported by grant funding from the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Improvement Fund.</p> <p>New, upgraded, or extended pavilions are required at a number of sites to accommodate existing demand and better cater for growth in women and girls' football. These include: Actonians Sports Ground, Elthorne Waterside, Shamrock Sports Club, Southfields Recreation Ground, Spikes Bridge Park and Hanwell Town's Reynolds Fields facility provided formal football pitches continue to be maintained at these sites and not just relocated to reinstated playing field sites such as Warren Farm Sports Ground or Norwood Hall Playing Fields.</p>
<p>What are the main characteristics of the <u>future</u> supply and demand for provision?</p>	<p>Future demand for football facilities is likely to grow substantially to 2031 increasing pressure on the existing supply. By 2031, assuming current levels of participation per capita and the forecast population growth, application of Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator tool indicates there will be a requirement to accommodate approximately 15 more match equivalent sessions a week in season plus around 33 additional weekly training slots.</p> <p>The growth plans of the borough-based football clubs will also place further pressure on pitch supply. At least 10 clubs responding to surveys in 2021 indicated they have aspirations to increase the number of teams they run over the coming seasons provided the necessary volunteer time and pitches for matches and training can be secured.</p>
<p>Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet <u>future</u> demand?</p>	<p>No, a minimum of 2 additional full size or equivalent FA compliant football AGPs, will be needed over the plan period; to meet future demand, new AGPs should ideally be located at or near club sites with clear identified unmet demand and small sided 3G MUGAs should be located so they serve areas of high-density social housing with the greatest need.</p> <p>No, a minimum of 16 full size pitches or equivalent additional natural turf pitches will be required for match play by 2031 if the scale of forecast population growth and the limits on the potential for increasing the capacity in the peak period of the existing secured supply by improvements to quality remain as stated.</p> <p>The number and size of AGP and grass pitches needed over the period of the plan should be checked regularly against the forecast growth of the number of teams playing in the borough, adult, junior, male, female, etc, the utilisation of existing and new AGPs and should also take account of the FA's grass pitch and AGP playing guidance at the time the calculations are reviewed.</p>