



# LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## ASSESSMENT REPORT JULY 2023

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

**Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd**

Company No: 9145032 (England)

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Registered Office: 1 -2 Frecheville Court, off Knowsley Street, Bury BL9 0UF

T: 0161 764 7040 E: [mail@kcp.co.uk](mailto:mail@kcp.co.uk) [www.kcp.co.uk](http://www.kcp.co.uk)



Cert Num: 6543-QMS-001

# LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

---

## CONTENTS

GLOSSARY .....	1
PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY .....	2
PART 2: FOOTBALL.....	12
PART 3: THIRD GENERATION TURF (3G) ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES (AGPS) .....	38
PART 4: RUGBY UNION .....	49
PART 5: HOCKEY .....	68
PART 6: CRICKET.....	79
PART 7: TENNIS .....	108
PART 8: BOWLS .....	129
PART 9: GOLF.....	139
PART 10: ATHLETICS.....	150
PART 11: OUTDOOR WATER SPORTS .....	159
PART 12: OTHER SPORTS .....	167
APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT .....	174
APPENDIX 2: NON TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT SHEETS.....	182

# LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

---

## GLOSSARY

3G	Third Generation Turf
AGP	Artificial grass pitch
ANOG	Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide
BC	Bowls club
BUCS	British Universities Colleges Sport
CC	Cricket club
DCMS	Department of Culture, Media and Sport
ECB	England & Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GMA	Grounds Maintenance Association
HC	Hockey Club
LFFP	Local Football Facility Plan
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LBRuT	London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames
LMS	Last Man Stands
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
LTC	Lawn tennis club
NFFS	National Football Facilities Strategy
NGB(s)	National governing body (of sport)
NHS	National Health Service
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NTP	Non-turf pitch
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PPS	Playing pitch strategy
PPOSS	Playing pitch and outdoor sport strategy
PQS	Performance quality standard
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
TC	Tennis club
U	Under (related to participating age groups)

# LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

---

## PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

### 1.1: Introduction

Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) has been commissioned to deliver a playing pitch & outdoor sport strategy (PPOSS) for the London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames (LBRuT) Council. This will provide the necessary robustness and direction to inform decisions affecting relevant provision within the local authority area.

This report presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities in the area. For playing pitch sports, it is delivered in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Guidance. This details five stages for the developing the study:

- ◀ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach (1).
- ◀ Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision (2 & 3).
- ◀ Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views (4, 5 & 6) .
- ◀ Stage D: Develop the strategy (7 & 8).
- ◀ Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date (9 & 10).

Stages A to C are covered in this report, with stage D covered in the ensuing strategy document and Stage E referencing the ongoing work to be done once the PPOSS has been approved.

For "non -pitch" sports, Sport England's 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG)' is followed. This has a similar staged approach:

- ◀ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach.
- ◀ Stage B: Gather information on supply and demand.
- ◀ Stage C: Assessment – bringing the information together.
- ◀ Application: Application of an assessment.

The PPOSS will replace the existing study for LBRuT, which was completed in 2015 and updated in 2018. It is being completed in conjunction with an Open Spaces Strategy, whilst and Indoor Built Facilities Strategy is also being delivered separately. The inter-relationship between the studies needs to be recognised due to the crossovers that occur e.g., sports clubs using both outdoor and indoor facilities.

### 1.1: Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach

#### *Why the Strategy is being developed*

The aim is to have an up-to-date PPOSS that reflects the current position and aspirations for LBRuT and that provides the necessary robustness and direction to inform decisions affecting the provision of outdoor sports facilities and to support sports development objectives. It will inform the Council's emerging Local Plan and help the Council meet its vision for its arts, libraries, parks and sport and fitness services, as set out in Culture Richmond (2021-2031).

The PPOSS will assess all relevant outdoor sport and recreation facilities and will:

- ◀ Identify the current and projected local need (supply and demand against population projections) for outdoor sports facilities, playing pitches, and playing fields.
- ◀ Assess the quantitative and qualitative deficits and/or surpluses of outdoor sports facilities and playing pitches and options for dealing with them both now and in the future.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

---

- ◀ Provide a robust and comprehensive evidence base to inform the Council's decision-making processes in planning applications and public inquiries, particularly with regard to mitigation and off-setting any potential losses.
- ◀ Provide information on different management models to help remove access barriers to outdoor sports facilities.
- ◀ Reflect consultation undertaken with national governing bodies of sport (NGBs) as well as site visits as a means of gathering supply and demand information and views with regard to the current quality and amount of use of the sites.
- ◀ Comply with the "Duty to Cooperate" through actively engaging neighbouring boroughs and any other relevant organisations during the preparation of the study, particularly in relation to any cross-boundary facilities and/or where adjacent boroughs rely on provision within LBRuT.

The PPOSS will also meet the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). A NPPF core planning principle is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.

Section 8 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities, with paragraph 98 discussing the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

Paragraph 99 discusses assessments and the protection of "existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields". Paragraphs 101 and 102 also promote the identification of important green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities. Such spaces may include playing fields and outdoor sport facilities.

### ***The New Local Plan***

In line with national planning policies, the Local Plan should be kept up-to-date. In the last few years there have been a number of changes to national planning policy, including the revised NPPF (2021) and the London Plan 2021, which has been adopted with new housing targets for LBRuT to meet. The Council has also adopted a Climate Emergency Strategy with a range of actions, some of which have a direct bearing on Local Plan policies, as will other changes to the environment and economy post Brexit and Covid-19.

Between February 2020 and April 2020, the Council undertook a consultation on what its vision for growth and future development should be. The Direction of Travel document was the first stage in the engagement process with residents, business and other stakeholders engaged.

Alongside this, there was a 'call for sites' consultation, to identify what land may become available during the Local Plan period. This was an additional stage of consultation by the Council to provide an opportunity for early engagement with interested parties.

The Council has analysed all the responses received to the Direction of Travel and 'call for sites' consultation and has conducted a number of evidence-based studies to inform the first draft of its Local Plan. The findings and results of these studies, together with national and regional policy and guidance changes, have informed the new draft policies for the Local Plan.

The Council is now considering the responses received on the Regulation 18 Local Plan. In addition, it is commissioning further studies to support the development, including, amongst others, a Whole Plan Viability Assessment. This will assess the cumulative impact of all the emerging Local Plan policies, proposals and requirements.

# LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

---

Submission of the emerging Local Plan is earmarked for Summer 2023, with adoption planned for Winter 2024. The PPOSS will inform Policy 37: Public Open Space, Play, Sport and Recreation.

### ***Management arrangements***

A project team from the Council has worked with KKP to ensure that all relevant information is readily available and to support the consultants as necessary to ensure that project stages and milestones are delivered on time, within the cost envelope and to the required standard to meet Sport England guidance.

Further to this, a Steering Group is and has been responsible for the direction of the PPOSS from a strategic perspective. Its role is also to support, check and challenge the work of the project team. The Steering Group comprises representatives from the Council, Sport England and the relevant national governing bodies of sport (NGBs).

It will be important for the Steering Group to continue to meet once the PPOSS has been finalised for several reasons, including a continuing responsibility to:

- ◀ Be a champion for playing pitch provision in the area and promote the value and importance of the PPOSS.
- ◀ Ensure implementation of the recommendations and action plan.
- ◀ Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the study.
- ◀ Ensure that the PPOSS is kept up to date.

The lifespan of a PPOSS is considered to be three years, although this can be increased if it is kept up to date.

### ***Scope***

The geographic scope of the PPOSS is on all local provision, regardless of ownership and management arrangements. Sports included within the study are as follows:

- ◀ Football (including 3G pitches)
- ◀ Rugby union (including 3G pitches)
- ◀ Cricket
- ◀ Hockey (sand/water based pitches)
- ◀ Bowls
- ◀ Tennis
- ◀ Athletics
- ◀ Golf
- ◀ Water sports.

Other grass pitch sports are included where supply and/or demand has been identified. Rugby league, for example, normally forms part of the scope of a PPOSS; however, its presence has not been evidenced within LBRuT. That being said, the fact that no activity has been identified does not rule out the eventuality that the sports are not played informally.

Sport England's PPS guidance applies to football, rugby union, cricket and hockey as well as the other grass pitch sports identified. ANOG guidance applies to the remaining 'non-pitch' sports.

# LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

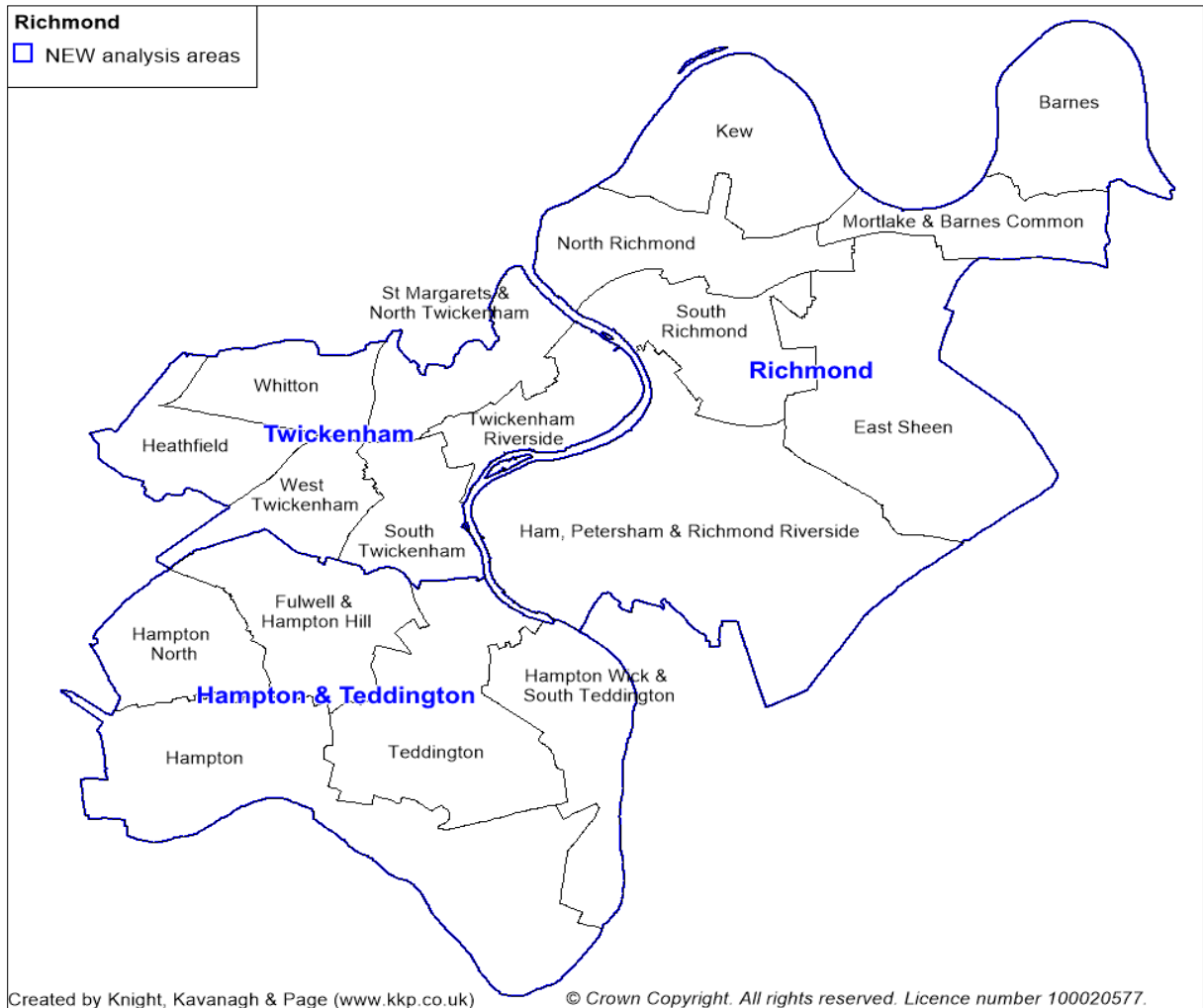
## Study area

The study area is the entire local authority area, with analysis areas (or sub areas) also used to allow for more localised analysis in addition to the analysis for LBRuT as a whole. The three sub-areas, split via the grouping of wards boundaries, are shown in the following table and figure.

Table 1.1: Analysis area breakdown

Analysis area	Wards
Hampton & Teddington	Fulwell & Hampton, Hampton, Hampton North, Hampton Wick and Teddington
Richmond	Barnes, East Sheen, Ham Petersham & Richmond Riverside, Kew, Mortlake & Barnes, North Richmond and South Richmond
Twickenham	Heathfield, South Twickenham, St Margaret's & North Twickenham, Twickenham Riverside, West Twickenham and Whitton

Figure 1.1: LBRuT and its analysis areas



# LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

---

In addition, cross-boundary considerations are recognised with regard to neighbouring local authorities. They are the London boroughs of Hounslow, Hammersmith & Fulham, Wandsworth and Kingston-upon-Thames plus Elmbridge and Spelthorne borough councils. This includes reference to imported and exported demand into and from LBRuT as well as key sites and developments that sit close to boundary lines.

### 1.2: Gather information and views on supply of and demand for provision (Stage B)

A clear picture of the supply of and demand for playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities in LBRuT is required to enable an accurate assessment of quantity, quality and usage. This has been achieved through site assessments and consultation with key stakeholders.

#### ***Gather supply information and views – an audit of provision***

##### *Quantity*

Where known, all outdoor sports facilities are included within the PPOSS, irrespective of ownership, management and use. Sites were initially identified using Sport England's Active Places web-based database, with the Council and NGBs supporting this process by checking and updating this initial data as well as by supplying their own affiliation data and booking information. For each site, the following details are recorded in the project database:

- ◀ Site name, address (including postcode) and location
- ◀ Ownership and management type
- ◀ Security of tenure
- ◀ Community availability
- ◀ Total number, type and quality of provision
- ◀ Usage levels.

For playing pitch sports, Sport England's guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field. These definitions are set out by the Government in the 2021 'Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order'.

- ◀ **Playing pitch** – a delineated area which is used for association football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, rounders, baseball, softball, American football, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo.
- ◀ **Playing field** – the whole of a site that encompasses at least one playing pitch.

Although the statutory definition of a playing field sets out a minimum size, the PPOSS takes account of smaller sized pitches that contribute to the supply side. For example, a site containing a mini 5v5 football pitch is included despite it potentially being smaller than 0.2ha. The study counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply, with the definition of a playing pitch also including artificial grass pitches (AGPs).

As far as possible, this report aims to capture all of the playing pitches and relevant outdoor sport facilities within LBRuT; however, there may be instances that have led to omissions, such as unused school sites where access was not possible (although facilities at sites not accessed are still included where provision is identified via other sources e.g. affiliation data or club/league consultation). Where provision is not recorded within the report, it is still considered to exist for planning purposes and will continue to do so. Furthermore, any exclusion does not mean that the provision is not required from a supply and demand point of view.



## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

---

### *Accessibility*

Not all outdoor sports facilities offer the same level of access to the community. The ownership and accessibility of also influences their actual availability for community use. Each site included in the PPOSS is assigned a level of community use as follows:

- ◀ **Community use** - provision in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams playing in community leagues.
- ◀ **Available but unused** - provision that is available for hire but are not currently used by teams which play in community leagues; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire.
- ◀ **No community use** - provision which as a matter of policy or practice is not available for hire or used by teams playing in community leagues. This often includes professional club sites along with some semi-professional club sites where play is restricted to the first or second team.
- ◀ **Disused** – provision that is not being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either. Once such sites have been disused for five or more years they are categorised as lapsed sites.
- ◀ **Lapsed** – provision where the last known use was more than five years ago (these fall outside Sport England's statutory remit but must still be assessed using the criteria in paragraph 99 of the NPPF. (Sport England would still challenge any proposal that does not).

In addition, there should be a good degree of certainty that provision will be available to the community for at least the following three years. If this is not the case, the provision is still included within the assessment but is noted as having unsecure tenure. A judgement is made based on the information gathered and a record of secured or unsecured community use is put against each site.

### *Quality*

The capacity of provision to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of provision affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of a sport. In extreme circumstances, it can result in a facility being unable to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times.

The quality of all provision identified in the audit and the ancillary facilities supporting them are assessed as part of a PPOSS, regardless of ownership, management and availability. Along with capturing any detail specific to the individual facilities and sites, a quality rating is also recorded within the audit for each pitch/facility. These ratings are then used to help estimate the capacity (aligned to NGB guidance) to accommodate competitive and other play within the supply and demand assessment.

For the purposes of quality assessments, the PPOSS refers to playing facilities and ancillary facilities separately as being of 'good', 'standard' or 'poor' quality. However, some good quality sites may have poor quality elements and vice versa (e.g., a good quality pitch may be serviced by poor quality changing facilities).

Good quality refers to facilities with, for example, good grass cover, even surfaces and that are free from vandalism and litter. For ancillary facilities, it refers to access for disabled people, sufficient provision for referees, juniors/women/girls and appropriate showers, toilets and car parking. Facility age can also have a significant bearing on the overall quality rating.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

---

Standard quality refers to playing provision that has, for example, adequate grass cover, minimal signs of wear and tear and goalposts that may be secure but in need of minor repair. In terms of ancillary facilities, standard quality refers to adequately sized changing rooms, storage provision and the provision of toilets, although some level of improvement/modernisation may be required.

Poor quality refers to playing provision with, for example, inadequate grass cover, uneven surfaces and poor drainage, whilst for ancillary facilities it may relate to changing rooms, no showers, no running water and old, dated interiors. They are often unsuitable for mixed gender use.

To ensure accurate findings, site assessments for each sport are carried out during the playing season for that sport. As such, site assessments for sports played in the winter are conducted between November and February, whilst the sports played in the summer are assessed between July and August.

In addition to undertaking non-technical assessments (using the templates provided within the guidance), users and providers have also been consulted on the quality as well as the Council and relevant NGBs. In some instances, the quality rating has been adjusted to reflect this (thus establishing an “agreed quality rating”).

### ***Gather demand information and views***

#### *Current demand*

Presenting an accurate picture of current demand for playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities (i.e., recording how and when provision is used) is important when undertaking a supply and demand assessment. To that end, demand for provision in LBRuT tends to fall within the following categories:

- ◀ Organised competitive play
- ◀ Organised training
- ◀ Informal play
- ◀ Unofficial use.

Current and future demand for provision is presented on a sport-by-sport basis within the relevant sections of this report. In addition, unmet, latent, imported and exported demand for provision is also identified within each section (unless no such demand has been identified).

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to provision. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is in training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a league has a waiting list due to a lack of provision, which in turn is hindering the growth of the competition.

In comparison, latent demand is defined as the number of additional teams (or members) that could be accommodated if access to a sufficient number of outdoor sports facilities (and ancillary provision) was available. Exported and imported demand refers to those that are playing outside of their local authority area of choice.

A variety of consultation methods has been used to collate demand information. Firstly, face-to-face consultation (normally via video call) has been carried out with key clubs and leagues from each sport (as identified by the Council and the relevant NGBs). This enables the collection of detailed demand information and further interrogation of key issues. For all remaining clubs, telephone consultation or an online survey (postal if required) was utilised.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Key providers and other users of provision have also been contacted. These include playing field associations and “friends of” groups, schools and further/higher education establishments. This involves face-to-face meetings with secondary schools, colleges and universities and an online survey which was sent to primary schools, special schools and independent schools.

### *Future demand*

Alongside current demand, it is important for a PPOSS to assess whether the future demand for provision can be met. Using Office of National Statistics (ONS) population projections and proposed housing growth, as well as likely participation growth informed through consultation, an estimate can be made of the likely future demand for the relevant facilities. Assumptions can then be made as to whether existing provision can cater for such growth.

Team generation rates are used to provide an indication as to how many people it may take to generate a team (by gender and age group). This ratio can then be applied to predicted population and housing growth to help estimate the change in demand for each sport that may arise in the future. Other information sources used to help identify future demand include:

- ◀ Recent trends in the participation.
- ◀ The nature of the current and likely future population and their propensity to participate.
- ◀ Feedback from clubs on plans to develop additional teams / attract additional members.
- ◀ Any local and NGB specific sports development targets e.g., women’s and girls activity.

All future demand projections across the PPOSS for LBRuT cover the period up until 2039, in line with the Council’s emerging Local Plan.

### **1.3: Assess the supply and demand information and views (Stage C)**

Supply and demand information gathered is used to assess the adequacy of playing pitch and outdoor sport provision in LBRuT and to identify key issues, challenges and aspirations. This forms the basis of this report.

#### ***Understanding the situation at individual sites***

Qualitative ratings are linked to a capacity rating derived from NGB guidance and tailored to suit a local area. For playing pitch sports, the quality and use of each pitch is assessed against recommended capacity to indicate how many match equivalent sessions provision could accommodate.

Potential spare capacity: Play is below the level the site could sustain.	
At capacity: Play is at a level the site can sustain.	
Overused: Play exceeds the level the site can sustain.	

As a guide, the NGBs for football, cricket, rugby union and hockey have set a standard number of matches that each pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its quality. Given how the sports operate, this is per week for football and rugby union, per day for hockey and per season for cricket.

The above is further detailed in the table below.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 1.2: Capacity of playing pitches

Sport	Pitch type	No. of match equivalent sessions		
		Good	Standard	Poor
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union	Natural inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and slit drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season	60 per season	60 per season
Hockey	One AGP	4 matches per day	4 matches per day	0 matches per day

For non-pitch sports, capacity is not linked to the number of matches taking place but rather the number of members (and other users) attracted to a site. For example, for tennis, a sports-lit hard court is said to have capacity for 60 members, whereas a non-lit has court has capacity for 40 members (this varies for grass courts).

Other sport specific capacity guidance is detailed within the relevant sections of this report.

### ***Develop the current and future picture of provision***

Once capacity is determined on a site-by-site basis, actual spare capacity is calculated on a borough-wide and an area-by-area basis via further interrogation of peak time demand (i.e., the day/time demand is most likely to exist). This then identifies whether there is overall spare capacity or whether there is a shortfall of capacity.

Although spare capacity may be identified at some sites and in some areas, it does not necessarily mean that there is surplus provision. For example, spare capacity may not be available when it is needed (actual spare capacity) or a site may be retained in a 'strategic reserve' to enable rotation and to reduce wear and tear. There may also be a need to discount some capacity, for example at poor quality sites that should not be used until they are improved or at unsecure sites where long-term access cannot be guaranteed.

Conversely, where a shortfall of capacity is identified, this does not necessarily mean there is a need for increased provision via new facilities. Instead, it may be possible for deficits to be overcome through better utilisation of the existing stock, via quality improvements or through improving community access.

Once current capacity is determined, future capacity can be calculated via incorporating the future demand identified plus any unmet, latent and exported demand.

### ***Identify the key findings and issues***

The Assessment Report, which is this document, is drafted and presented on a sport-by-sport basis, with data analysis undertaken on both a Council-wide and sub-area basis. This focuses on reporting research findings, consultation, site audit information and data analysis supported by detailed GIS mapping. It is agreed and 'signed off' prior to moving on to the strategy and action plan development stages.

# LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

---

Each included section (from Part 2 onwards) summarises the local administration of the included playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities. Each provides a summary of the supply of and demand for provision, with key issues identified and an overall supply and demand analysis undertaken.

### **1.4: Develop the strategy (Stage D)**

The Strategy follows the production of this Assessment Report, once it has been finalised and signed off by the Steering Group. It will feature:

- ◀ Headline findings.
- ◀ An overall vision and associated aims for the PPOSS.
- ◀ Sport-by-sport recommendations and scenarios.
- ◀ Strategic recommendations.
- ◀ A site-by-site and area-by-area action plan.
- ◀ Housing growth scenarios.

Additionally, it will provide detail as to how to deliver the PPOSS and keep it robust and up-to-date (Stage E).

# LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

### PART 2: FOOTBALL

Responsibility for the development of football in LBRuT is relatively evenly split across Middlesex FA and Surrey FA with clubs and teams usually affiliating to one or the other, although some also affiliate to the London FA. All three are responsible for sustaining and growing the game across the region including participation, promoting diversity, regulating the sport for everyone to enjoy and the protection and development of facilities.

Working alongside the county FAs in supporting the development of facilities is the Football Foundation, which is a charity, linked to the Premier League, the FA and the Government, that helps communities improve their local football facilities through grant funding. It is committed to improving the experience of playing football for everyone involved in the game.

This section of the report focuses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches, where formal demand is generally defined through five formats of play and five pitch types, linked to the age of teams and players. Please refer to the table below for more detail relating to this.

*Table 2.1: Football grass pitch formats*

Format/pitch type	Age range	Recommended pitch size (metres)	Recommended pitch size including runoff (metres)
Adult	U17s+	100 x 64	106 x 70
Youth 11v11	U15s-U16s	91 x 55	97 x 61
	U13s-U14s	82 x 50	88 x 56
Youth 9v9	U11s-U12s	73 x 46	79 x 52
Mini 7v7	U9s-U10s	55 x 37	61 x 43
Mini 5v5	U7s-U8s	37 x 27	43 x 33

Part 3 of this report captures supply and demand for third generation pitches (3G pitches), the preferred artificial surface type for football. There is a growing demand for the use of 3G pitches to accommodate competitive football fixtures and training especially for mini and youth football.

#### **Local football facility plans (LFFPs)**

To support delivery of both the current FA National Games Strategy and any future iteration, the FA commissioned a nationwide consultancy project which has now been completed. As part of this, a LFFP has been produced for every local authority in England, each plan is unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation.

LFFPs are strategically aligned to the National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS); a 10-year plan to change the landscape of football facilities in England. The NFFS represents a major funding commitment from the national funding partners (the FA, Premier League and Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and is delivered through the Football Foundation to inform and direct an estimated £1billion investment in football facilities over the strategy period.

Each LFFP builds upon PPOSS findings (where present and current) with regard to the formal and affiliated game as well as including strategic priorities for investment across small-sided football (including recreational and indoor activity). The LFFP draws upon consultation with groups outside of formal football, as well as under-represented communities. This includes those which may be key partners in respect of using football to support behavioural change, plus groups which may be key drivers of FA priorities around participation in women and girls' football, disability football and futsal.



## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

The LFFP for LBRuT was produced in 2019. As it is a 'live' document, any future revision will consider the findings of this study as an up-to-date supply and demand assessment to inform priorities. LFFPs identify key projects to be delivered and set out an investment portfolio for projects that require funding.

Linked to the above, it is important to recognise that the LFFP is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of this study and is not an accepted evidence base for site change of use or disposal. A LFFP does, however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans.

### Consultation

There are 33 affiliated football clubs based in LBRuT. Of these, 23 responded to consultation requests, which represents a club response rate of 70% and a team response rate of 84% (352 out of 419 teams). The majority of unresponsive clubs are small generally fielding just one or two teams.

### 2.2: Supply

The audit identifies a total of 155 football pitches across 46 sites in LBRuT. Of these, 131 pitches (at 35 sites) are available at some level for community use (although not necessarily used). There are, thus, 11 sites which have pitches that are unavailable for community use:

- ◀ Chase Bridge Primary School
- ◀ Meadlands Primary School
- ◀ St Catherine's School
- ◀ St Richards C of E Primary School
- ◀ The German School
- ◀ The Vineyard School
- ◀ Heathfield Junior School
- ◀ Richmond-upon-Thames College
- ◀ St John the Baptist C of E Junior School
- ◀ St Paul's School
- ◀ The Swedish School

The table below shows the breakdown of the pitches which are available for community use. The Richmond Analysis Area has the most (53), followed by the Hampton & Teddington Analysis Area (49 pitches). The Twickenham Analysis Area has the fewest pitches (29).

Table 2.2: Summary of pitches available for community use

Analysis area	Pitch type					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Hampton & Teddington	14	9	6	13	7	49
Richmond	18	7	13	7	8	53
Twickenham	10	4	4	8	3	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>131</b>

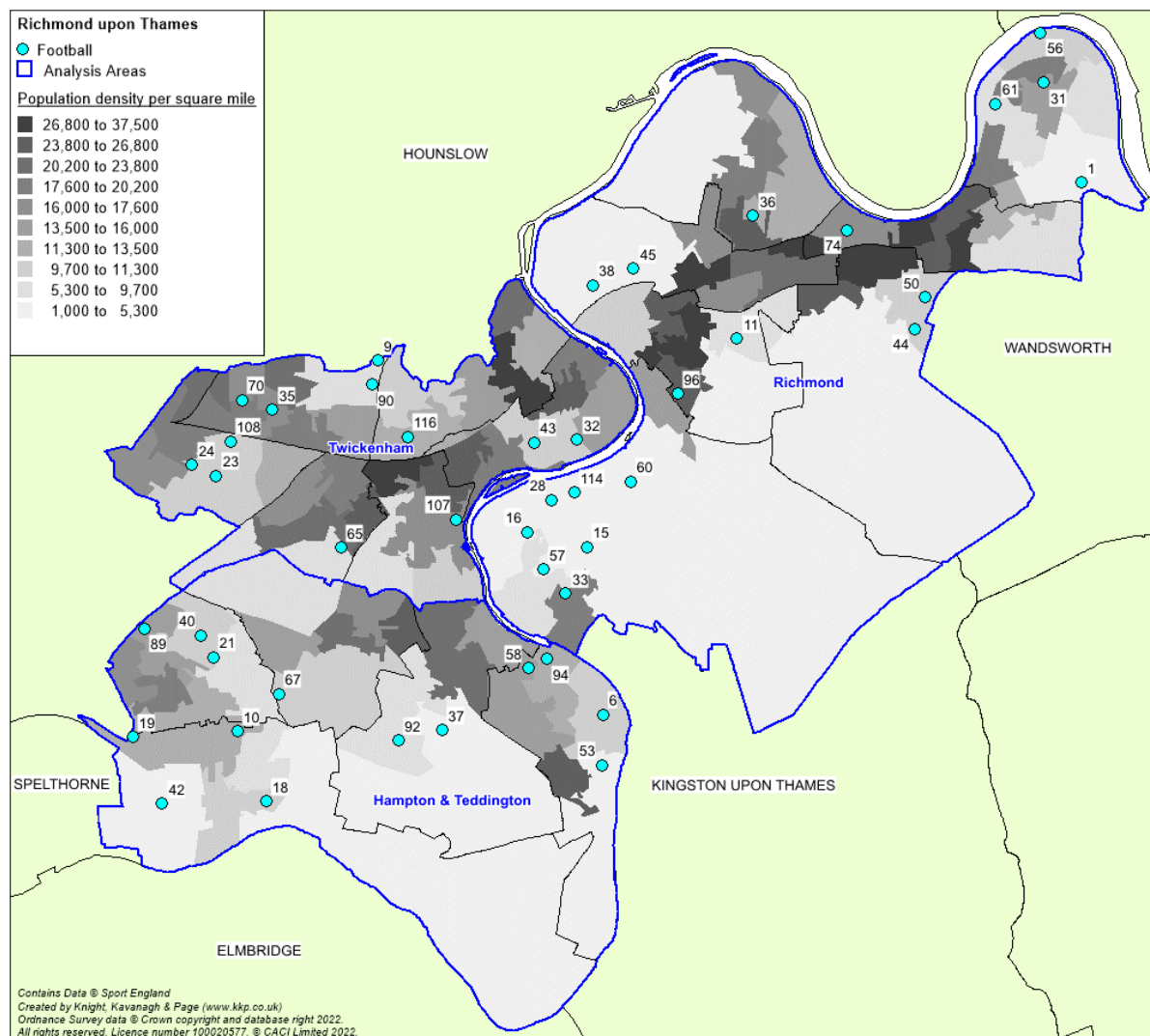
As also shown in the table above, a large number of adult pitches (42) is identified when compared to pitches of other sizes. By contrast, mini 5v5 provision is the least represented (18 pitches), followed by youth 11v11 provision (20 pitches). Nationally, many youth 11v11 teams play on adult pitches.

The audit for this needs assessment identifies 26 more pitches than the 2018 study. This is predominantly a consequence of more pitches being marked out at club and school sites, creating an increased number of youth and mini pitches and a slight decrease in the number of adult pitches. Nevertheless, in comparison with the 2018 report, only six additional pitches are actually available for community use, as less schools are now allowing community access despite the overall increase in provision.

# LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Figure 2.1 below identifies all grass football pitches currently servicing LBRuT, regardless of community use. For a key to the maps, see Table 2.15.

Figure 2.1: Location of football pitches in LBRuT



### Additional provision

In addition to the pitches identified above, some sites in LBRuT also have space for pitches despite these not currently being marked out. This is generally because they are only marked when hired, with no such demand presently existing. These are summarised in the table below.

Table 2.3: Summary of additional pitches that can be provided

Site ID	Site	Comments
4	Barnes Common West	A youth 11v11 pitch is marked out when hired.
29	Kneller Gardens	A mini 7v7 can be provided if demand exists
34	Moormead Recreation Ground	Currently booked as open space (with no markings), but pitches could be formally marked if required.

Additionally, a second pitch is currently being marked out at Hampton Common on a trial basis.



## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

### ***Disused/lapsed provision***

Udney Park Playing Fields contains two adult football pitches which are now unused and unmaintained having previously been used by Hearts of Teddlothian FC. The site was sold by Imperial College to Quantum Group and was subject to development proposals that were unsuccessful. However, as of Autumn 2022, and following marketing in late 2021, it is now reported to be in new private ownership and there continues to be significant uncertainty about its future and any development proposals that the new owner will bring forward. Any permanent loss of provision will need to be mitigated in line with national planning policy requirements.

Elsewhere, consultation with Twickenham School and Whitton Sport & Fitness Centre reports that an adult pitch was previously in place at a site known as Lincoln Fields. However, this is no longer provided and significant work would be required to bring it back into use, with this not currently considered cost effective in relation to the demand that would be received.

### ***Future provision***

At East Sheen Common, the Council's grounds maintenance contractor is currently carrying out improvements to the surface of a youth 9v9 pitch. This will therefore be re-instated once the Parks Team are satisfied.

Kneller Hall (formerly Royal Military School of Music) has been acquired by Radnor House and plans are in place in respect of developing sports provision on site and establishing a community use agreement, subject to planning approval. For football, the development of an adult pitch overmarked by two youth pitch is proposed. It is aiming to be open from September 2024.

Richmond & Kew FC reports having received a grant from the Football Foundation to install an additional youth 11v11 pitch at Kew & Ham Association Playing Fields. Hampton & Richmond Borough FC has received approval for the conversion of its grass stadia pitch to 3G (see Part 3 for further detail).

### ***Management and security of tenure***

The table below details the management of all football sites in LBRuT, with the main operators being education providers (22 sites), followed by the Council (14 sites). The remaining sites are managed by clubs (six) and or by other entities (four).

*Table 2.4: Football pitch sites by management type*

Club	Number of football pitch sites		
	Council	Education	Other
6	14	22	4

A site is considered to have secure tenure if it has a long-term lease agreement in place or a guarantee exists that pitches will continue to be provided over the next three years. As such, all local authority sites in LBRuT are considered to provide this as continued community use is ensured through an ongoing commitment to provision of sports and leisure facilities. This includes dual use sites such as Twickenham School (Whitton Sports & Fitness Centre).

In addition, several sites are owned or operated by sport associations. These are considered to provide security of tenure as part of this arrangement and this includes Barn Elms Playing Fields, which is managed by Barn Elms Sports Trust.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Security of tenure is also provided at Bushy Park, Marble Hill Park and Old Deer Park. Bushy Park is managed by The Royal Parks, whereas Marble Hill Park is owned and managed by English Heritage. Old Deer Park is owned by The Crown Estate and managed by the Council.

In contrast, security of tenure is not offered by sites which face development pressures or where existing arrangements are coming to an end as there is no guarantee that they will continue to be accessible in the future. Based on this, most education sites are not deemed to provide secure use, unless a robust community use agreement is in place. This applies even to school sites which are currently well used such as Grey Court School, Orleans Park School and Waldegrave School because access can be terminated at any point beyond the term covered by existing rental agreements.

An exception to the above is St Mary's University, where a binding community use agreement is in place with the sports clubs which use its facilities at both its Main Campus (Twickenham) and Teddington Lock sites. Tenure at these is considered to be secure.

### ***Pitch quality***

The quality of football pitches across LBRuT has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by the FA), PitchPower reports (see below), and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good.
- ◀ Standard.
- ◀ Poor.

For the full site assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

Pitch quality primarily influences the carrying capacity of a site; often pitches lack the drainage and do not receive the level of maintenance necessary to sustain use. Pitches that receive little to no ongoing repair or post-season remedial work are likely to be assessed as poor, thus limiting the number of games they can accommodate each week without having a detrimental effect on quality. Conversely, well maintained pitches are likely to be of a higher standard and capable of taking a number of matches without a significant reduction in surface quality.

The table below summarises the quality of community available pitches in LBRuT. Most (83) are assessed as standard with 17 rated good quality and the remainder (31) considered poor. In percentage terms, 63% of community available pitches are assessed as being of standard quality, compared to 13% good quality and 24% poor quality.

*Table 2.5: Pitch quality assessments (community use pitches)*

Pitch type	Good	Standard	Poor
Adult	10	22	10
Youth 11v11	4	13	3
Youth 9v9	2	15	6
Mini 7v7	-	20	8
Mini 5v5	1	13	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>31</b>

Despite there being several poor quality pitches, it must be noted that this is not unusual compared to most other authorities. In fact, the percentage of poor quality provision is generally lower in LBRuT than elsewhere, particularly at council sites. The maintenance programme being carried out on such pitches is currently over and above standard contract obligations.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

---

Eight sites contain poor quality pitches, with this including the following sites that are managed by the Council:

- ◀ Broom Road Recreation Ground
- ◀ Ham Riverside
- ◀ King George's Field (Ham)
- ◀ Palewell Common
- ◀ North Sheen Recreation Ground
- ◀ Old Deer Park

The remaining poor-quality pitches are located at:

- ◀ Barn Elms Playing Fields
- ◀ Marble Hill Park
- ◀ Teddington Cricket Club

The main reasons for the poor-quality ratings at these sites are waterlogging, uneven playing surfaces, general wear and tear, and unofficial use. Furthermore, most site users report that quality has worsened in recent years.

In contrast, there are good quality pitches located at the following sites:

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| ◀ Grey Court School    | ◀ Hampton & Richmond Borough Football Club |
| ◀ Hampton School       | ◀ Kew & Ham Association Playing Fields     |
| ◀ Marble Hill Park     | ◀ Palewell Common                          |
| ◀ The Harrodian School |  |

At Marble Hill Park and Palewell Common, the quality of pitches differs from good to poor quality. This is due to the poor quality pitches at both site having waterlogging issues as well as line markings being quite faint, whilst the good quality pitches suffer from no such issues.

In comparison to the 2018 PPS, substantially fewer good quality pitches are now recorded. The majority of pitches that were, at that point, assessed as good quality are now rated as standard, whilst some standard quality pitches have deteriorated and are now rated as poor quality. This clearly indicates an overall decline in pitch condition.

### *Pitch improvement*

The aim of the FA Pitch Improvement Programme is to improve grass pitches across the Country. For provision included in the programme, clubs can utilise the services of the Football Foundation's PitchPower app to carry out a free on-site assessment of their pitches. This provides the Grounds Management Association (GMA) with the detail needed to create a personalised, informative report to advise on how improvements can be made. Clubs then receive bespoke advice and support to assist with any actions, funding applications and equipment.

The tool across mobile app and desktop is open to access for all providers, including clubs, schools and local authorities. Following receipt of their PitchPower report, organisations are invited to deliver the recommended dedicated maintenance regime to improve the quality of their pitches. Applicants are required to submit a PitchPower assessment for each of their pitches as a condition of a grant funding application for Football Foundation grass pitch investment, such as the Grass Pitch Maintenance fund (detailed below).

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

PitchPower assessments are less restricted than the non-technical PPOSS evaluations. They can be undertaken and completed/submitted within one of three windows: September–October, November–March or April–June. As well as the completion of other supporting information such as detail about volunteer training and maintenance equipment available, they must be accompanied by images and soil samples from each site.

The three assessment points for adult and youth pitches are in each goal area and the centre circle, whilst for mini pitches there are two; the centre circle and in one goal area.

The PitchPower assessments use a new five step Performance Quality Standard (PQS) rating system developed by the GMA, with the Football Foundation and Sport England agreeing alignment with the existing PPOSS guidance. This alignment is shown in the table below.

*Table 2.6: Agreed equivalent PPOSS quality rating for PQS ratings*

PQS Rating	PPPOS Quality Rating
Poor	Poor
Basic	Standard
Good	Good
Advanced	Good
High	Good

Three sites (Barn Elms Playing Fields, King George’s Field and Teddington Cricket Club) have all received a PitchPower assessment, with the findings fed into the quality ratings included in this study.

In addition to PitchPower, the FA has a general pitch improvement strategy in partnership with the GMA. As part of this, it has a grass pitch maintenance service that can be utilised by clubs with the aim of improving knowledge, skills and therefore the quality of pitches. The key principles of this service are to provide clubs with advice and practical solutions with the simple aim of improving playing surfaces. This is designed to help clubs on sites that they themselves manage and maintain but can also be used to advise local authority-maintained sites.

The Football Foundation and the FA Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund allows clubs and sports organisations to apply for funding for maintenance assistance, consumables and/or equipment. Whilst local authorities are currently ineligible to apply for this fund, clubs, leagues and/or charitable organisations using local authority sites can apply provided they have security of tenure.

Funding is awarded over a ten-year period for up to 66% of the total cost required to bring the pitches up to an appropriate standard, following a site assessment. The level of funding then decreases year on year, based upon an expectation that the club will be able to take on the work independently by the end of the term.

### ***Over marked pitches***

Over marking of pitches can cause notable damage to surface quality and lead to overuse beyond recommended capacity. In some cases, mini pitches are marked on senior pitches or mini matches played widthways across adult or youth pitches. This can lead to targeted areas of surface damage due to a large amount of play focused on high traffic areas, particularly the middle third of the pitch.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Pitch over marking not only influences available capacity but create logistical issues with regard to kick off times; for example, when two teams of differing age formats are due to play at the same site at the same time. The table below highlights all sites containing over marked pitches in LBRuT.

*Table 2.7: Sites containing over marked pitches*

Site ID	Site	Comments
1	Barn Elms Playing Fields	One mini 7v7 pitch overmarks a mini 5v5 pitch
32	Marble Hill Park	One adult pitch overmarks a youth 9v9 pitch and two pitches are dual use rugby union pitches
36	North Sheen Recreation Ground	Three youth 9v9 pitches overmark a mini 7v7 pitch and a mini 7v7 pitch is overmarked by a mini 5v5 pitch
41	Orleans Park School	Two pitches are dual use rugby union pitches.
47	Richmond-upon-Thames College	An adult pitch which is a dual use rugby union pitch
56	St Paul's School	Pitches over mark rugby union provision
65	Waldegrave School	The youth 11v11 pitch is overmarked by mini provision

### **Ancillary facilities**

In common with the process for pitch assessments, the quality of ancillary facilities servicing football sites across LBRuT has been undertaken on the basis of identifying good, standard and poor-quality provision. Ancillary facility ratings are primarily influenced by the type and quality of amenities available on a site, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, car parking and boundary fencing.

With specific reference to clubhouse/changing facilities, the following sites are considered to have poor quality provision:

- ◀ King George's Field (Ham)
- ◀ Old Deer Park
- ◀ Teddington Lock Playing Fields

In addition, the provision at Moormead Recreation Ground is also assessed as poor quality, albeit no pitches are currently marked out at the site. The clubhouse building has been condemned.

The clubhouse at King George's Field (Ham) is currently poor quality in part due to the fact that it is used by a large number of groups including dog walkers. Richmond Park FC reports that Continental Landscapes also uses the provision. Moreover, Barnslake FC reports that the general décor (internal and external) could be improved, whilst also noting that the shower provision is inadequate when all three pitches are in use.

The clubhouse at Teddington Lock Playing Fields is reported by the University to be in poor condition due to the age of the building. It has been modified and improvement work has been carried out in recent years, but aspirations remain for a new clubhouse to be provided in order to establish good quality facilities.

Furthermore, Hampton Common, Ham Riverside (provision at King George's Field is instead accessed), Holly Road Recreation Ground and Stag Brewery are currently not serviced by any ancillary provision, with no changing or toilet facilities provided on site. At Hampton Common, aspirations exist to convert an old building on site to a toilet block.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

---

Twickenham Saints FC also reports that clubs do not have access to the changing facilities at Orleans Park School.

Elsewhere, Sheen Lions FC notes that the facilities at Palewell Common are inadequate, stating that the provision can be unclean. Its view is that the existing building is a waste of what could be a valuable space, noting that areas could be used for training and the storage of match day equipment. The clubhouse is assessed as standard quality.

Richmond & Kew FC reports that the changing rooms at Kew & Ham Association Playing Fields may need improvement over the next few years to maintain the existing good quality. Good quality ancillary provision has also been identified at North Sheen Recreation Ground, where recent refurbishment has taken place.

Away from clubhouse provision, car parking is reported as being a particular issue at King George's Field (Ham) with clubs citing it as a problem especially on match days.

### ***Football pyramid facilities***

The football pyramid is a series of interconnected leagues for adult men's football clubs in England. It sits below the football league (the National League) and comprises six steps, with various leagues at each level and more leagues lower down the pyramid than at the top. These are then supported by regional feeder leagues, which were previously at Step 7 of the pyramid but are now not included.

The system has a hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the levels, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top. Clubs within the step system must adhere to ground requirements set out by the FA. The higher the level of football being played the more onerous the requirements.

A club cannot progress into the league above if its ground does not meet the correct specifications. Ground grading assesses grounds from A to H, with 'A' being the requirement for Step 1 clubs and H the standard for Step 6 clubs. The general principle for clubs in the football pyramid is that they have to achieve the appropriate grade by March 31<sup>st</sup> of their first season after promotion. This, in effect, allows a short grace period for facilities to be brought up to standard. This does not apply to clubs being promoted to Step 6 (as they must meet FA requirements from the outset).

In LBRuT, one club is operating within the pyramid. Hampton & Richmond Borough FC. It is at Step 2, playing in the National League South.

Professional clubs Chelsea FC, Fulham FC, Brentford FC and AFC Wimbledon do not play within LBRuT; however, they do have some presence in the Borough as part of their community and outreach work. As an example, Chelsea FC uses provision at St Mary's University.

### ***Women's National League System***

In addition to the men's football pyramid, there is a Women's National League System ranging from Tier 1 to Tier 6, each with differing ground grading requirements. Although women's teams must meet FA ground requirements, these differ from the men's structure. Ratings range from grade A to C, each with differing minimum requirements. Steps 1 and 2 in the Women's National League System are similar but not identical to Steps 3 and 4 of the men's National League System. It is also a hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the levels, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top of the system.



## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

In LBRuT, Richmond Park FC competes in the London and South East Women's Regional Football League Division One North, which is one of the regional feeder leagues. It plays at Hampton & Richmond Borough Football Club.

### 2.3: Demand

There are 419 affiliated teams across 33 clubs based in LBRuT. Of these, 247 teams from within 14 clubs affiliate to Middlesex FA, 171 teams from 17 clubs affiliate to Surrey FA and three teams from two clubs affiliate to the London FA. A proportion of this demand currently plays outside of the Borough (see exported demand section).

The audit and assessment confirms that 347 affiliated teams from 27 clubs play regular, competitive matches on pitches within LBRuT. This comprises 43 senior men's, seven senior women's, 176 youth teams (including 45 dedicated girls' teams) and 121 mini soccer teams – as shown below.

*Table 2.8: Summary of competitive teams currently playing in LBRuT*

Analysis area	No. of teams playing					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Hampton & Teddington	20	29	14	17	14	94
Richmond	17	43	28	27	17	132
Twickenham	13	30	32	30	16	121
<b>LBRuT</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>347</b>

The Richmond Analysis Area has the highest number (132) and the Hampton & Teddington Analysis Area the fewest (94). This reflects the fact that the former has the largest supply of pitches.

There are more youth 11v11 teams (102) when compared to other formats of play, with mini 5v5 teams (47) being the least well provided for.

#### **Additional demand**

In addition to the demand identified above, St Mary's University fields several teams which play in the Borough, including female teams. These include seven BUCS teams (five male and two female) plus two futsal teams (one male, one female). Furthermore, the University has a strong inter-mural programme that creates extra demand for pitch provision.

Whitton Wanderers Youth fields one futsal team, whilst Hampton & Richmond Borough Youth FC fields one U6 development team and one pan-disability team.

#### **Participation trends**

Across the clubs based in LBRuT, there are currently 35 more teams currently affiliated when compared to the 2018 study, which was based on data collected during the 2017/2018 season. Although this represents an overall growth in demand, fewer teams now actually play within the Borough than was the case previously because of an increase in the level of exported demand to neighbouring authorities.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

---

In terms of consultation, ten responding clubs report an increase in their number of youth teams over the previous three seasons, whilst eight report a growth in mini demand and four clubs report growth in adult demand. By contrast, only two (Kew Park Rangers FC and Richmond & Kew FC) report an overall decrease in their number of teams. Both state that they have seen a loss of adult men's teams due a general decline in demand for this playing format.

### ***Imported/exported demand***

As discussed above, some clubs otherwise based in LBRuT export match play demand to outside of the Borough. The majority state that this is due to a lack of capacity on existing pitches, although some also cite quality issues at sites formerly accessed.

In total, demand from 74 affiliated teams is exported to other local authorities. This is from the following 11 clubs:

- ◀ Barnes FC
- ◀ Hampton & Richmond Borough Youth FC
- ◀ Kew Park Rangers FC
- ◀ Magpie Recruitment FC
- ◀ South West Rangers FC
- ◀ Thames River Plate FC
- ◀ Barnes Eagles FC
- ◀ Hampton Terriers FC
- ◀ M.M.B FC
- ◀ Pro FA Hammersmith FC
- ◀ Teddington Athletic FC

Sites accessed outside the Borough include:

- ◀ Barn Elms Sports Centre (in Wandsworth)
- ◀ Elmbridge Xcel Leisure Complex (in Elmbridge)
- ◀ Goals Tolworth (in Kingston-upon-Thames)
- ◀ Hanworth Villa Football Club (in Hounslow)
- ◀ Imber Court Sports Club (in Elmbridge)
- ◀ Kempton Cricket Club (in Spelthorne)
- ◀ Kings House Sports Ground (in Hounslow)
- ◀ Old Meadonians Football Club (in Hounslow)
- ◀ Quintin Hogg Memorial Sports Ground (in Hounslow)
- ◀ Springwest Academy (in Hounslow)
- ◀ St Paul's School (in Spelthorne)
- ◀ YMCA Hawker Centre (in Kingston-upon-Thames)

Hampton & Richmond Borough Youth FC currently uses Hanworth Villa Football Club, in Hounslow. It would ideally like to play in LBRuT but indicates that there is a lack of suitable pitches in the Borough. This is a particular issue as it believes that Hanworth Villa FC will be terminating the shared use agreement for next season, meaning that it will be without a home ground. The 3G installation at Hampton & Richmond Borough Football Club could offer a means to satisfying some of its demand.

Barnes FC is currently based temporarily at several sites outside of LBRuT, most prominently the Quintin Hogg Memorial Sports Ground, also in Hounslow. The Club reports that this is not ideal as it would like to be permanently based back at Barn Elms Playing Fields; however, the site currently has no capacity to accommodate the required level of demand.

Demand that is exported to Barn Elms Sports Centre is considered to be less problematic due its location in relation to LBRuT, with clubs using the site reporting no issues as only minimal travel is involved. This includes the aforementioned Barnes FC as well as Hampton Terriers FC. The site is managed by Enable, on behalf of Wandsworth Borough Council.



## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

In respect of imported demand, there is little in comparison. The largest amount is expressed by Richmond Park FC, which is a women's and girls' club that reports wishing to be based in Kingston-upon-Thames. However, due to lack of capacity, it currently uses several sites in LBRuT (including Grey Court School, King George's Field (Ham) and Hampton & Richmond Borough Football Club) for matches. It currently fields 14 teams from mini to adult level and also runs large Wildcats and Just Play programmes.

AFC Kingston Youth, The Prince and Timothy FC also currently play in LBRuT, despite otherwise being based in Kingston-upon-Thames.

### ***Latent/unmet demand***

Of the clubs that responded to consultation, 11 indicated that they could field more teams if they had access to more pitches. This represents a relatively high level of latent demand. Further details of this can be seen in the table below.

*Table 2.9: Summary of latent demand*

<b>Club</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Barnes Eagles FC	Could field an additional mini 7v7 and 5v5 team if it had access to more pitches.
Hampton Rangers Juniors FC	Could field additional teams across all its age groups.
Kew Park Rangers FC	Could field a further five additional youth 9v9 and 11v11 teams.
Moormead FC	Could field additional mini 5v5 and 7v7 teams if it had access to additional pitches
NPL Youth FC	Could field an additional youth 9v9 and youth 11v11 team if it had access to more pitches
Richmond Park FC	Could field an additional 14 teams across all its age groups.
Sheen Lions FC	Could field an additional adult men's and mini 5 v5 teams if it had access to more pitches.
Teddington Athletic FC	Could field an additional five teams if it had access to more pitches.
Twickenham Cygnets FC	Could field two additional youth 9v9 and one adult men's team if it had access to additional pitches.
Twickenham Saints FC	Could field an additional junior 11v11 team if it had access to a suitable pitch.
Twickenham Tigers FC	Would have additional teams across all age groups if it had access to more training facilities as well as suitable female provision.

Five of the responding clubs (Barnes, Hampton Rangers Juniors, Kew Park Rangers, NPL Youth and Richmond Park) indicate that they could field more teams give access to more or better ancillary provision. Some latent and unmet demand is also reported as a consequence of a lack of training capacity. This is further explored within Part 3 of this report.

Many providers of pitches also report high levels of unmet and latent demand in that they have waiting lists in place for access or because they are turning down usage enquiries due to a lack of capacity. This applies particularly to Teddington Lock Playing Fields, where St Mary's University states that its pitches are fully booked. It has long waiting lists in place for clubs who wish to use the pitches, specifically at weekends. Grey Court School, Orleans Park School and Waldegrave School also report operating at capacity for both internal and external use.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

### ***Future demand***

Future demand can be defined in multiple ways, including via participation increases and by using population forecasts, which are explored below.

#### *Population growth*

For population projections, Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for football pitches that will arise from forecasted growth. This uses the current population within each relevant age group together with current participation levels to establish team generation rates that are applied to future population projections.

The table below then shows the number of new teams projected to be created by population increases. This is up to 2039, in line with the Council's emerging Local Plan.

*Table 2.10: Authority wide team generation rates*

Age group	Team generation rate	Number of new teams generated by the new population <sup>1</sup>
Adult Mens (18-45)	1:634	3
Adult Womens (18-45)	1:5,238	-
Youth Boys (12-17)	1:63	5
Youth Girls (12-17)	1:194	2
Youth Boys (10-11)	1:38	4
Youth Girls (10-11)	1:145	1
Mini Mixed (8-9)	1:57	5
Mini Mixed (6-7)	1:82	4

Growth of three adult, seven youth 11v11, five youth 9v9, five mini 7v7 and 4 mini 5v5 teams is predicted. This represents quite substantial future demand.

Notwithstanding the above, it must also be noted that team generation rates do not account for societal factors or changes in the way people may wish to play sport. Similarly, they cannot account for specific development work within certain areas or focused on certain groups, such as NGB initiatives. For example, the current focus on developing women's and girls' football nationally is likely to lead to there being more female teams in the future and, thus, further increased pitch demand. Such targeted work is not captured via population projections so minimal increases in female football are currently forecast.

#### *Participation increases*

Based upon consultation respondents, 16 clubs' report aspirations to increase the number of teams that they provide. This equates to a predicted growth of 102 teams, broken down as ten adult teams, 23 youth 11v11 teams, 26 youth 9v9 teams, 21 mini 7v7 teams and 22 mini 5v5 teams. Again, this represents substantial potential growth.

*Table 2.11: Potential team increases identified by clubs*

Club	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch size	Gender	Number of teams
Barnes FC	Richmond	Adult		Men's	1
		Adult		Women's	1

<sup>1</sup> Rounded to the nearest whole number

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Club	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch size	Gender	Number of teams
		Youth	(9v9)	Girls	1
		Youth	(11v11)	Girls	1
		Mini	(7v7)	Mixed	1
Barnes Eagles FC	Richmond	Youth	(11v11)	Girls	2
		Youth	(9v9)	Girls	4
		Mini	(7v7)	Mixed	4
Hampton Rangers Juniors FC	Hampton & Teddington	Youth	(11v11)	Girls	2
		Youth	(9v9)	Girls	2
		Mini	(7v7)	Mixed	2
Hampton & Richmond Borough FC	Hampton & Teddington	Adult		Women's	1
Hampton & Richmond Borough Youth FC	Hampton & Teddington	Youth	(11v11)	Boys	3
		Youth	(9v9)	Boys	1
		Youth	(11v11)	Girls	1
		Youth	(9v9)	Girls	2
		Mini	(7v7)	Mixed	2
Kew Park Rangers FC	Richmond	Adult		Women's	1
		Youth	(11v11)	Girls	1
		Youth	(9v9)	Girls	1
		Mini	(7v7)	Mixed	1
Moormead FC	Twickenham	Youth	(11v11)	Boys	2
		Youth	(9v9)	Boys	2
		Mini	(7v7)	Mixed	2
		Mini	(5v5)	Mixed	2
NPL Youth FC	Hampton & Teddington	Adult		Men's	1
		Adult		Women's	1
		Youth	(9v9)	Girls	2
		Mini	(7v7)	Mixed	2
		Mini	(5v5)	Mixed	2
Richmond & Kew Youth FC	Hampton & Teddington	Adult		Men's	2
		Youth	(11v11)	Girls	2
		Youth	(9v9)	Girls	2
		Mini	(7v7)	Mixed	2
Richmond Park FC	Hampton & Teddington	Adult		Women's	1
		Youth	(11v11)	Girls	1
		Youth	(9v9)	Girls	1
		Mini	(5v5)	Mixed	2
Rocks Lane FC	Richmond	Mini	(5v5)	Mixed	2
Sheen Lions FC	Richmond	Youth	(9v9)	Boys	1
		Youth	(11v11)	Girls	1
		Youth	(9v9)	Girls	1
		Mini	(5v5)	Mixed	4
Teddington Athletic FC	Hampton & Teddington	Youth	(11v11)	Boys	2
		Youth	(9v9)	Boys	2
		Youth	(11v11)	Girls	2
		Youth	(9v9)	Girls	2
		Mini	(5v5)	Mixed	2

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Club	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch size	Gender	Number of teams
Twickenham Cygnets FC	Twickenham	Adult		Women's	1
		Youth	(11v11)	Girls	2
		Mini	(7v7)	Mixed	4
Twickenham Saints FC	Twickenham	Youth	(11v11)	Boys	1
		Mini	(7v7)	Mixed	1
Twickenham Tigers FC	Twickenham	Youth	(9v9)	Girls	2
		Mini	(5v5)	Mixed	8
<b>Total</b>					<b>102</b>

Most future demand is expressed for youth 9v9 pitches (26), whilst there is expressed adult demand for just 10 teams. By analysis area, most future demand is expressed in Hampton & Teddington, although a fair proportion exists for all three.

Table 2.12: Summary of future demand expressed by clubs

Analysis area	Future demand (teams)					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Hampton & Teddington	6	13	14	8	6	<b>47</b>
Richmond	3	5	8	6	6	<b>28</b>
Twickenham	1	5	4	7	10	<b>27</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>102</b>

### Future demand summary

In the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section, it is considered impractical for all future demand to be factored in. This is because should club aspirations be realised, this would absorb the future demand identified via population growth, rather than it being judged separately and therefore double counted. Furthermore, given the volume of demand expressed by clubs, it is unclear as to how viable such increases are. This is, thus, considered aspirational compared to the potential growth identified linked to population increases.

Based on the above, only demand identified as a consequence of population growth is factored into demand calculations. Predicted club future demand is dealt with via the incorporation of a scenario that considers the impact on existing pitch stock were stated aspirations to be realised. The housing growth scenario will estimate additional need for football arising from proposed developments as this could further increase demand in the relevant areas.

## 2.4: Capacity analysis

The capacity for pitches to regularly cater for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment. In extreme circumstances, it can result in a pitch being unable to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times. The FA has set a guide as to the standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting current quality.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Taking these guidelines on capacity into consideration the following has been used in LBRuT:

Adult pitches		Youth pitches		Mini pitches	
Pitch quality	Matches per week	Pitch quality	Matches per week	Pitch quality	Matches per week
Good	3	Good	4	Good	6
Standard	2	Standard	2	Standard	4
Poor	1	Poor	1	Poor	2

Table 2.15 applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play recorded to determine a capacity rating as follows:

<b>Potential capacity</b>	Play is below the level the site could sustain
<b>At capacity</b>	Play matches the level the site can sustain
<b>Overused</b>	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

### ***Education sites***

To account for curricular/extra-curricular use of education pitches, the current usage of such sites needs to be adjusted. The only time this would not happen is when a school does not use its pitches at all and the sole use is that by the community. The adjustment is typically dependent on the amount of play, the number of pitches on site and whether there is access to an on-site AGP (as this can result in reduced grass pitch use).

In some cases, where there is no identified community use, there is little capacity to accommodate further play. Internal usage often exceeds recommended pitch capacity and can be further exacerbated by basic maintenance regimes that may not extend beyond grass cutting and line marking. As such, where not overplayed as a result of community use, many school sites are considered to have no spare capacity to accommodate further usage based on assumed curricular and extra-curricular activity.

For school sites available for community use, current play has been increased on a site-by-site basis following consultation with the providers. Generally, usage is increased by one match equivalent session per pitch; however, in some cases, further use is added when it is known that a particular provider uses a particular pitch heavily.

### ***Informal use***

A number of football pitches in LBRuT are on open access sites, especially those managed by the Council. This often results in informal use in the form of, for example, unorganised sport (including football) and exercise groups. However, such use is not recorded and is difficult to quantify. It is, thus, simply recommended that open access sites be protected via improved maintenance regimes and reduced capacity.

### ***Match equivalent sessions***

Pitches have a limit in respect of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected. As main pitch usage is likely to be for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions although this may include training sessions and informal use.

One team accessing one pitch is considered to use the pitch for 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. This is based on it playing home and away fixtures on an alternate basis (therefore only requiring access to the home pitch on one in every two weeks).

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

### Peak time

Spare capacity can only be considered as such if pitches are available at peak time. This can differ for each pitch type depending on when leagues operate for each format of play. In LBRuT, peak time varies by playing format, as shown in the table below.

Table 2.13: Summary of peak time for playing formats

Playing format	Peak time
Adult	Saturday PM
Youth 11v11	Sunday AM
Youth 9v9	Sunday AM
Mini 7v7	Saturday AM
Mini 5v5	Sunday AM

On occasion, spare capacity in the peak period is identified despite the pitch being played to capacity or overplayed, or more spare capacity is identified in the peak period than the overall spare capacity that exists. This is because most or all use on those pitches occurs outside the peak period. Where this is the case, given that peak time usage should not be utilised over and above overall capacity, adjustments have been made.

A pitch is only said to have 'actual spare capacity' if it is available for community use and available at the peak time for that format of play. Any pitch not meeting this criterion is therefore not considered to have additional capacity, although it may have capacity outside of the peak period.

There can be situations where, although a site is potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as actual spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis. Such instances have been accounted for within the analysis.

Pitches that are of poor quality are not deemed to have actual spare capacity due to their already low carrying capacity. Any identified spare capacity should be retained in order to relieve the pitches of use, which in turn will aid quality improvements. Furthermore, any pitches with unsecure tenure are not considered to have actual spare capacity as no further play should be encouraged on them given that future access cannot be guaranteed. Table 2.14 below identifies how actual spare capacity is represented in Table 2.15 overleaf.

Table 2.14: Spare capacity examples

Spare capacity in peak period (examples)	Explanation of spare capacity
1	If the cell is highlighted in green with a number, it means that the pitches have actual spare capacity at peak time.
-	If the cell has a dash in it, this means that the pitch is unavailable at peak time. If it was available, actual spare capacity could exist.
0	If the cell has a 0 in it, this means that the pitch is played to capacity, either overall or during the peak period.
1	If the cell has a number in it but is not highlighted, it means the pitch has spare capacity in the peak period; however, this is discounted. This is most commonly due to unsecure tenure and/or poor pitch quality.



## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 2.15: Football pitch capacity analysis

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Available for community use?	Management	Tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity (match sessions)	Capacity balance (match sessions)	Spare capacity in peak period (match sessions)	Comments
1	Barn Elms Playing Fields	SW13 9SA	Richmond	Yes	Trust (Council)	Secure	Adult		Standard	2	4	4	0	0	Played to capacity at peak time
							Adult		Poor	3	3	3	0	0	Played to capacity at peak time
							Youth	(9v9)	Poor	2	5.5	2	3.5	0	Overplayed
							Mini	(7v7)	Standard	2	6.5	4	2.5	-	Played to capacity at peak time
							Mini	(5v5)	Standard	1	3.5	4	0.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time
							Mini	(5v5)	Poor	2	2	4	2	2	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality
6	Broom Road Recreation Ground	SW13 9QL	Hampton & Teddington	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		Poor	2	5	2	3	0	Overplayed
8	Bushy Park	TW11 0EP	Hampton & Teddington	Yes	Royal Parks	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
							Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	0.5	4	3.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
8a	Bushy Park (Teddington Cricket Club)	TW11 0EP	Hampton & Teddington	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	3	2	1	0	Overplayed
							Youth	(11v11)	Poor	2	3	2	1	0	Overplayed
							Mini	(7v7)	Poor	3	3	6	3	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
							Mini	(5v5)	Poor	2	2.5	4	1.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
10	Carlisle Park	TW12 2LU	Hampton & Teddington	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		Standard	1	1	2	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time
							Youth	(9v9)	Standard	2	2.5	4	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
							Mini	(7v7)	Standard	2	1.5	8	6.5	2	Actual spare capacity
11	Christ's School	TW10 6HW	Richmond	Yes	School	Secure	Adult		Standard	1	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity
							Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity
15	Grey Court School	TW10 7HN	Richmond	Yes	School	Secure	Adult		Good	3	7	9	2	0	Played to capacity
							Youth	(9v9)	Standard	2	4	4	0	0	Played to capacity
							Mini	(5v5)	Good	1	3	6	3	0	Played to capacity at peak time
16	Kew & Ham Association Playing Fields	TW10 7RX	Richmond	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		Good	2	4	6	2	0	Played to capacity at peak time
							Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	4	2	2	0	Overplayed
							Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	4.5	2	2.5	0	Overplayed
							Mini	(7v7)	Standard	2	8.5	8	0.5	0	Overplayed
18	Hampton & Richmond Borough Football Club	TW12 2BX	Hampton & Teddington	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		Good	1	3	3	0	0	Played to capacity
19	Hatherop Park	TW12 2RG	Hampton & Teddington	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		Standard	2	3.5	4	0.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time
							Youth	(9v9)	Standard	2	1.5	4	2.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time
							Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	2	4	2	0	Played to capacity at peak time
21	Hampton School (Old Hamptonians Sports Ground)	TW12 3HD	Hampton & Teddington	Yes	School	Unsecure	Adult		Good	2	6	6	0	0	Played to capacity
							Youth	(11v11)	Good	1	4	4	0	0	Played to capacity
23	Heathfield Junior School	TW2 6EN	Twickenham	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	Good	2	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use
24	Heathfield Recreation Ground	TW2 6EG	Twickenham	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		Standard	1	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
							Youth	(9v9)	Standard	2	4	4	0	9	Played to capacity
							Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	0	4	4	1	Actual spare capacity
28	King George's Field (Ham)	TW10 7RT	Richmond	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		Poor	3	4.5	3	1.5	0	Overplayed
31	Lowther Primary School	SW13 9AE	Richmond	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	Standard	1	1	4	3	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
32	Marble Hill Park	TW1 2NL	Twickenham	Yes	English Heritage	Secure	Adult		Good	1	1.5	3	1.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time
							Adult		Standard	3	6	6	0	0	Played to capacity
							Adult		Poor	2	3	2	1	0	Overplayed
							Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	3	2	1	0	Overplayed
							Mini	(7v7)	Poor	1	2.5	2	0.5	0	Overplayed

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Available for community use?	Management	Tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity (match sessions)	Capacity balance (match sessions)	Spare capacity in peak period (match sessions)	Comments
33	Meadlands Primary School	TW10 7TS	Richmond	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	2	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use
35	Nelson Primary School	TW2 7BW	Twickenham	Yes	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
							Mini	(5v5)	Standard	2	2.5	8	5.5	1.5	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
36	North Sheen Recreation Ground	TW9 4LB	Richmond	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	Poor	3	6	3	3	0	Overplayed
							Mini	(7v7)	Poor	1	3.5	2	1.5	0	Overplayed
37	Bushy Park Sports Club	TW11 0LW	Hampton & Teddington	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		Standard	2	2.5	4	1.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time
							Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	3.5	2	1.5	0	Overplayed
							Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	4	2	2	0	Overplayed
							Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	6	4	2	0	Overplayed
							Mini	(5v5)	Standard	2	4	8	4	0	Played to capacity at peak time
38	Old Deer Park	TW9 2SL	Richmond	Yes	Crown Estates / Council	Secure	Adult		Standard	3	6.5	6	0.5	0	Overplayed
							Youth	(11v11)	Poor	1	2	1	1	0	Overplayed
42	St Mary's Hampton C of E Primary School	TW12 2HP	Hampton & Teddington	Yes	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	1.5	4	2.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
43	Orleans Park School	TW1 3BB	Twickenham	Yes	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity
							Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	3	4	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time
44	Palewell Common	SW14 8RF	Richmond	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	2	4	4	0	0	Played to capacity
							Youth	(9v9)	Good	2	2.5	6	3.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time
							Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	1	1	0	0	Played to capacity
							Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	2.5	4	1.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time
							Mini	(5v5)	Standard	3	5.5	12	6.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time
45	Richmond Athletic Ground	TW9 2SF	Richmond	Yes	School	Secure	Adult		Standard	1	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
47	Richmond-upon-Thames College	TW2 7SJ	Twickenham	No	College	Unsecure	Adult		Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use
50	Richmond Park Academy (Shene Sports & Fitness Centre)	SW14 8AT	Richmond	Yes	School (Council)	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity
53	St John the Baptist C of E Junior School	KT1 4HQ	Hampton & Teddington	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use
56	St Paul's School	SW13 9JT	Richmond	No	School	Unsecure	Adult		Good	4	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use
							Youth	(11v11)	Standard	2	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use
57	St Richards C of E Primary School	TW10 7NL	Richmond	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	2	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use
58	Teddington Lock Playing Fields	TW11 9BE	Hampton & Teddington	Yes	University	Secure	Adult		Standard	2	10.5	4	6.5	0	Overplayed
							Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	3	2	1	0	Overplayed
							Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity
							Mini	(5v5)	Standard	1	3.5	4	0.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time
60	The German School	TW10 7AH	Richmond	No	School	Unsecure	Adult		Good	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use
61	The Harroddian School	SW13 9QN	Richmond	Yes	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Good	1	1	4	3	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
63	The Swedish School	SW13 9JS	Richmond	No	School	Unsecure	Adult		Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use
							Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use
65	Waldegrave School	TW2 5LH	Twickenham	Yes	School	Unsecure	Adult		Standard	1	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity
							Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity
							Mini	(7v7)	Standard	2	4	8	4	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
							Mini	(5v5)	Standard	1	3	4	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure



## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Available for community use?	Management	Tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity (match sessions)	Capacity balance (match sessions)	Spare capacity in peak period (match sessions)	Comments
67	Holly Road Recreation Ground	TW12 1QJ	Hampton & Teddington	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	2	0	4	4	2	Actual spare capacity
70	Whitton Sports Association Ground	TW3 2JD	Twickenham	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		Standard	2	6	4	2	0	Overplayed
							Mini	(7v7)	Standard	4	12	16	4	0	Played to capacity at peak time
74	Stag Brewery	SW14 7EZ	Richmond	Yes	Private	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	2	1	4	3	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
89	Hampton Common	TW12 3LQ	Hampton & Teddington	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		Standard	1	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
90	Chase Bridge Primary School	TW2 7DE	Twickenham	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use
							Mini	(5v5)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use
94	Lensbury at Teddington Lock	TW11 9NU	Hampton & Teddington	No	Private	Unsecure	Adult		Standard	2	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use
96	The Vineyard School	TW10 6NE	Richmond	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use
107	St Catherine's School	TW1 4QJ	Twickenham	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	Poor	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use
108	Turing House School	TW2 6LH	Twickenham	Yes	School	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity
113	Langdon Park	TW11 9PQ	Hampton & Teddington	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	1.5	4	2.5	0	Used to capacity at peak time
114	Ham Riverside	TW10 7RS	Richmond	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	1	2	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time
							Mini	(7v7)	Poor	1	1	2	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

### Actual spare capacity

The table below identifies actual spare capacity by site and pitch type across LBRuT. It totals 7.5 match equivalent sessions and is identified across 11 pitches at five sites.

Table 2.16: Actual (peak time) spare capacity site by site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)
8	Bushy Park	Hampton & Teddington	Youth (9v9)	1	0.5
			Mini (7v7)	1	0.5
10	Carlisle Park	Hampton & Teddington	Youth (9v9)	2	0.5
			Mini (7v7)	2	2
24	Heathfield Recreation Ground	Twickenham	Adult	1	0.5
			Mini (7v7)	1	1
67	Holly Road Recreation Ground	Hampton & Teddington	Mini (7v7)	2	2
89	Hampton Common	Hampton & Teddington	Adult	1	0.5
<b>Total</b>					<b>7.5</b>

Actual spare capacity is broken down by analysis area and pitch type in the table below. As seen, most actual spare capacity is on mini 7v7 pitches (5.5 match equivalent sessions) and the Hampton & Teddington Analysis Area has the most (six match equivalent sessions).

No actual spare capacity is identified on youth 11v11 or mini 5v5 pitches or in the Richmond Analysis Area.

Table 2.17: Actual spare capacity summary

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions per week)					
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Hampton & Teddington	0.5	-	1	4.5	-	6
Richmond	-	-	-	-	-	-
Twickenham	0.5	-	-	1	-	1.5
<b>LBRuT</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7.5</b>

Compared to the previous study, there are now two fewer match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity. This is likely to be a consequence of worsening pitch quality.

### Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it can sustain (based on its quality rating). This is often due to the low carrying capacity of pitches. In LBRuT, 36 pitches across 11 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 41 match equivalent sessions per week.

The majority of overplay is on adult pitches (14.5 match equivalent sessions) whereas there is none on mini 5v5 pitches. On an analysis area basis, the Hampton & Teddington Analysis Area has the largest level of overplay (18 match equivalent sessions) whereas the Twickenham Analysis Area has the least (4.5 match equivalent sessions).

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 2.18: Summary of overplay site-by-site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating
1	Barn Elms Playing Fields	Richmond	Youth (9v9)	2	3.5
			Mini (7v7)	2	2.5
6	Broom Road Recreation Ground	Hampton & Teddington	Adult	2	3
8a	Bushy Park (Teddington Cricket Club)	Hampton & Teddington	Youth (11v11)	3	2
16	Kew & Ham Association Playing Fields	Richmond	Youth (11v11)	1	2
			Youth (9v9)	1	2.5
			Mini (7v7)	2	0.5
28	King George's Field (Ham)	Richmond	Adult	3	1.5
32	Marble Hill Park	Twickenham	Adult	2	1
			Youth (9v9)	1	1
			Mini (7v7)	1	0.5
36	North Sheen Recreation Ground	Richmond	Youth (9v9)	3	3
			Mini (7v7)	1	1.5
37	Bushy Park Sports Club	Hampton & Teddington	Youth (11v11)	1	1.5
			Youth (9v9)	1	2
			Mini (7v7)	1	2
38	Old Deer Park	Richmond	Adult	3	0.5
			Youth (11v11)	1	1
58	Teddington Lock Playing Fields	Hampton & Teddington	Adult	2	6.5
			Youth (11v11)	1	1
70	Whitton Sports Association Ground	Twickenham	Adult	2	2
<b>Total</b>					<b>41</b>

Table 2.19: Overplay summary

Analysis area	Overplay (match equivalent sessions per week)					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Hampton & Teddington	9.5	4.5	2	2	-	<b>18</b>
Richmond	2	3	9	4.5	-	<b>18.5</b>
Twickenham	3	-	1	0.5	-	<b>4.5</b>
<b>LBRuT</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>41</b>

Of the overplayed pitches, 16 are assessed as poor quality, with the remainder assessed as standard. This means that capacity is lower than it could be. Compared to the 2008 PPS, total overplay has increased by 23.5 match equivalent sessions. As with the reduction in spare capacity, this is likely to be down to deteriorating quality across the Borough.

### 2.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify current demand (i.e., spare capacity taking away overplay) in each of the analysis areas for each pitch type, based on match equivalent sessions. Future demand is then also considered based on team generation rates, which are driven by population increases (club aspirations are not factored in at this stage).

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

### Adult pitch capacity

There is a current shortfall of adult pitch capacity equating to 13.5 match equivalent sessions per week. This is due to deficits in each analysis area, with the largest found in the Hampton & Teddington Analysis Area (nine match equivalent sessions).

Table 2.20: Supply and demand balance of adult pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match equivalent sessions)	
		Overplay	Current total
Hampton & Teddington	0.5	9.5	9
Richmond	-	2	2
Twickenham	0.5	3	2.5
<b>LBRuT</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>13.5</b>

Future demand increases the overall shortfall to 13.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 2.21: Future supply and demand balance of adult pitches

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)		
	Current total	Future demand	Future total
<b>LBRuT</b>	<b>13.5</b>	1.5	<b>15</b>

### Youth 11v11 pitch capacity

There is a current shortfall of youth 11v11 pitch capacity amounting to 7.5 match equivalent sessions per week. The Hampton & Teddington and Richmond analysis areas have deficits, whilst the Twickenham Analysis Area is operating at capacity.

Table 2.21: Supply and demand balance of youth 11v11 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match equivalent sessions)	
		Overplay	Current total
Hampton & Teddington	-	4.5	4.5
Richmond	-	3	3
Twickenham	-	-	0
<b>LBRuT</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>7.5</b>

Future demand increases the overall shortfall to 11 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 2.23: Future supply and demand balance of youth 11v11 pitches

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)		
	Current total	Future demand	Future total
<b>LBRuT</b>	<b>7.5</b>	3.5	<b>11</b>

### Youth 9v9 pitch capacity

There is a current shortfall of youth 9v9 pitch capacity amounting to 11 match equivalent sessions per week, with a shortfall identified in each analysis area. The Richmond Analysis Area contains the largest deficit.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 2.24: Supply and demand balance of youth 9v9 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match equivalent sessions)	
		Overplay	Current total
Hampton & Teddington	1	2	1
Richmond	-	9	9
Twickenham	-	1	1
<b>LBRuT</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>

Future demand increases the overall shortfall to 13.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 2.25: Future supply and demand balance of youth 9v9 pitches

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)		
	Current total	Future demand	Future total
<b>LBRuT</b>	<b>11</b>	2.5	<b>13.5</b>

### Mini 7v7 pitch capacity

There is a current shortfall of mini 7v7 pitches equating to 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Overall spare capacity is identified in Hampton & Teddington and Twickenham.

Table 2.26: Supply and demand balance of mini 7v7 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match equivalent sessions)	
		Overplay	Current total
Hampton & Teddington	4.5	2	2.5
Richmond	-	4.5	4.5
Twickenham	1	0.5	0.5
<b>LBRuT</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1.5</b>

Future demand increases the overall shortfall to 4.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 2.27: Future supply and demand balance of mini 7v7 pitches

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)		
	Current total	Future demand	Future total
<b>LBRuT</b>	<b>1.5</b>	2.5	<b>4</b>

### Mini 5v5 pitch capacity

Mini 5v5 pitches across LBRuT are currently operating at capacity, with no actual spare capacity or overplayed identified in the Borough.

Table 2.28: Supply and demand balance of mini 5v5 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match equivalent sessions)	
		Overplay	Current total
Hampton & Teddington	-	-	0
Richmond	-	-	0
Twickenham	-	-	0
<b>LBRuT</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

When considering future demand, an overall shortfall is expected to be created. This totals two match equivalent sessions.

Table 2.29: Future supply and demand balance of mini 5v5 pitches

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)		
	Current total	Future demand	Future total
LBRuT	0	2	2

### 2.5: Conclusion

Using the supply and demand tables above, the table below summarises the overall supply and demand balance by pitch type in LBRuT.

Table 2.30: Summary of supply and demand

Pitch type	Match equivalent sessions per week				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult	1	14.5	13.5	1.5	15
Youth 11v11	0	7.5	7.5	3.5	11
Youth 9v9	1	12	11	2.5	13.5
Mini 7v7	5.5	7	1.5	2.5	4
Mini 5v5	-	-	0	2	2

Overall, there is a current shortfall of adult, youth 11v11, youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 match equivalent sessions, with mini 5v5 pitches at capacity. After factoring in future demand, the existing shortfalls worsen and a deficit for mini 5v5 provision is also created.

When comparing the findings of this report to the 2018 PPS, there are increased shortfalls for adult, youth 11v11, youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitch types, with only a small reduction in the future shortfall identified for mini 5v5 provision. This correlates with there now being less actual spare capacity and an increase in overplay.

In addition to the above, it must also be recognised that a large amount of exported demand is identified, in addition to latent/unmet demand expressed by clubs. If the exported demand were to return to the Borough, this would significantly worsen the picture for all pitch types, as would the latent/unmet demand if fully realised. The impact of this will be further explored in the subsequent Strategy document.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

### Football- supply and demand summary

- ◀ In total, 11 pitches display some level of actual spare capacity across five sites, totalling 7.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There are 36 overplayed pitches across 11 sites, with total overplay amounting to 41 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is a current shortfall of adult, youth 11v11, youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 match equivalent sessions, with mini 5v5 pitches at capacity.
- ◀ When factoring in future demand, the existing shortfalls worsen and a deficit for mini 5v5 provision is also created.

### Football- supply summary

- ◀ There are 155 football pitches across 46 sites in LBRuT.
- ◀ 131 pitches (across 35 sites) are available at some level for community use.
- ◀ Additional pitches could be marked out at Barnes Common West, Moormead Recreation Ground and Kneller Gardens, whilst a second pitch is currently being provided at Hampton Common on a trial basis.
- ◀ Disused pitches are identified at Udney Park Playing Fields and Lincoln Fields.
- ◀ A youth 9v9 pitch at East Sheen Common will be reinstated once ground improvements are completed, whilst Kneller Hall has an aspiration to develop an adult pitch.
- ◀ Richmond & Kew FC reports having received a grant from the Football Foundation to install an additional youth 11v11 pitch at Kew & Ham Association Playing Fields.
- ◀ Most sites (22) are operated by education providers followed by the Council with 14 sites.
- ◀ The majority (86) of community available pitches are assessed as standard, with 17 of good quality and 28 of poor quality.
- ◀ Poor quality pitches are provided at Broom Road Recreation Ground, Marble Hill Park, North Sheen Recreational Ground, Old Deer Park, Palewell Common and St Catherine's School.
- ◀ King George's Field, Old Deer Park and Teddington Lock Playing Fields are serviced by poor quality ancillary provision, as is Moormead Recreation Ground despite no pitches currently being marked out.

### Football- demand summary

- ◀ There are 419 affiliated teams from 33 clubs based in LBRuT.
- ◀ Only 347 teams from 27 clubs currently play matches in the Borough due to exported demand.
- ◀ Teams playing in LBRuT comprise 43 senior men's, seven senior women's, 176 youth teams (including 45 dedicated girls' teams) and 121 mini soccer teams.
- ◀ 35 more teams are currently affiliated when compared with data collected during the 2017/2018 season, although fewer teams now play in the Borough, with more demand being exported.
- ◀ 74 LBRuT teams currently play outside the Borough due either to lack of capacity or quality issues.
- ◀ 11 clubs report latent demand in that they could field more teams if more pitches were available, whilst five report that they could field additional demand should ancillary provision improve.
- ◀ Team generation rates based on population growth (to 2039) are predicted to generate an increase in demand amounting to three adult, seven youth 11v11, five youth 9v9, five mini 7v7 and four mini 5v5 teams.
- ◀ Future demand expressed by clubs is substantial, equating to ten adult, 23 youth 11v11, 26 youth 9v9, 21 mini 7v7 and 22 mini 5v5 teams.



# LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

---

### PART 3: THIRD GENERATION TURF (3G) ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES (AGPS)

#### 3.1: Introduction

Competitive football can take place on 3G surfaces that have been FIFA or International Matchball Standard tested and approved by the FA for inclusion on the FA pitch register. As such, in addition to training demand, a growing number of them are now used for competitive match play, providing that the performance standard meets FIFA quality requirements.

World Rugby's 'Performance Specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby union, more commonly known as 'Regulation 22', provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for the sport. The artificial surface standards identified allow matches and full contact training to be played on surfaces that meet the required standard, meaning full contact activity, including tackling, rucking, mauling and lineouts, can take place.

Competitive rugby league play and contact practice is permitted to take place on 3G pitches which are deemed by the Rugby Football League (RFL) to meet its Performance Standard. Pitches fall under two categories; community club pitches which require retesting every two years and elite stadia pitches which require an annual retest. Much of the criteria within the RFL performance standard test also forms part of the World Rugby test, meaning World Rugby certified 3G pitches are considered by the RFL to be able to meet rugby league requirements, subject to passing an additional RFL performance standard test.

Other sports that suitable to be accommodated on 3G pitches for training and match play include American football and lacrosse. Many test contractors offer reduced rates through efficiency savings to carry out multiple performance tests in the same session. Providers seeking 3G pitch compliance for several sports are encouraged to consider this option.

England Hockey's Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy (June 2016) advises that 3G pitches should not be used for hockey matches or training and that they can only be used for lower level hockey (introductory level) as a last resort when no sand-based or water-based AGPs are available.

#### 3.2: Current provision

The recommended dimensions for a full size 3G artificial grass pitch for football are 100 x 64 metres. This extends to an area of 106 x 70 metres with the recommended minimum three metre run off area included. These dimensions allow for all age group match play to take place including adults, youth under 17/18 and younger age groups via overmarked pitches, e.g. the marking out of two 9v9 pitches for under 11/12s.

If a new pitch is proposed to measure below the recommended dimensions, then justification must be provided for this in relation to the identified needs it will provide for and/or site constraints. In doing so, the impacts of a reduced pitch size in meeting current and future needs must be considered, e.g. a pitch not providing the recommended dimensions for adult match play and/or only being able to accommodate one rather than two overmarked 9v9 pitches. This justification needs to be included in the planning application details submitted to the relevant Local Planning Authority for the new pitch.

Unless otherwise stated and justified for an individual pitch, proposals in this PPOSS for any new 3G artificial grass pitches are based on providing them to the recommended dimensions.



## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Based on the above specification, there are four full-sized 3G pitches in LBRuT. Of these, two (at Hampton High School (Hampton Sport & Fitness Centre) and Twickenham School (Whitton Sports & Fitness Centre) are available to the community and serviced by sports lighting, whilst one (at The Swedish School) does not have sports lighting despite technically being available. The remaining pitch (at Hampton School) is neither available nor sports-lit.

As summarised below, two pitches are located in the Hampton & Teddington Analysis Area (one of which is available to the community with one in Richmond Analysis Area and one in the Twickenham Analysis Area.

*Table 3.1: Full size 3G pitches in LBRuT*

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Size (metres)
21	Hampton School (Old Hamptonians Sports Ground)	TW12 3HD	Hampton & Teddington	No	No	150 x 80
22	Hampton High School (Hampton Sport & Fitness Centre)	TW12 3HB	Hampton & Teddington	Yes	Yes	105 x 65
63	The Swedish School	SW13 9JT	Richmond	Yes	No	97 x 67
66	Twickenham School (Whitton Sports & Fitness Centre)	TW2 6JW	Twickenham	Yes	Yes	104 x 70

In addition, there are nine small-sized 3G pitches located at six sites in LBRuT. Seven of these have sports lighting and are available for community use, whilst the pitch at Queen's C of E Primary School is available for community use but no serviced by sports lighting.

The pitches at East Sheen Primary School and Richmond Athletic Ground (Falcon Prep School) are unavailable for community use and without sports lighting. The pitch located at Richmond Athletic Ground is owned and managed by Falcons Prep School.

*Table 3.2: Additional supply of 3G provision*

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Size (metres)
16	Kew & Ham Association Playing Fields	TW10 7RX	Hampton & Teddington	Yes	Yes	25 x 20
						25 x 15
						25 x 15
45	Richmond Athletic Ground	TW9 2SF	Richmond	No	No	35 x 25
48	Rock Lane Multi Sports Centre	SW13 0DG	Richmond	Yes	Yes	60 x 40
						37 x 18
93	East Sheen Primary School	SW14 8ED	Richmond	No	No	42 x 21
112	Heatham House Youth Centre	TW1 2BH	Twickenham	Yes	Yes	36 x 18
117	Queen's C of E Primary School	TW9 3HJ	Richmond	Yes	No	50 x 35

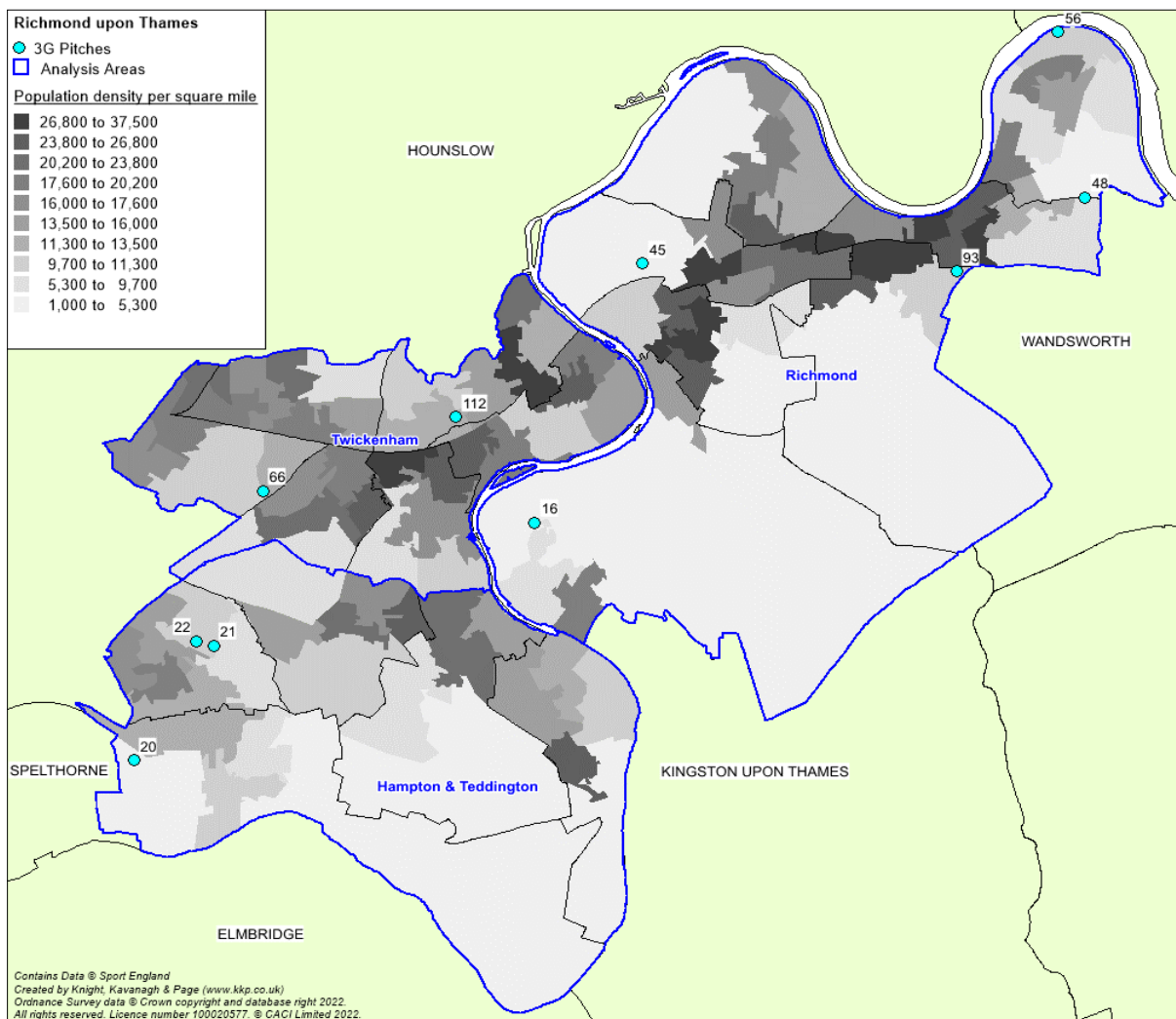
# LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Where community availability is offered, whilst not large enough to accommodate adult match play, smaller sized 3G provision can be used to accommodate youth and mini football matches on the proviso that they are FA approved, of an adequate size and with appropriate run-off areas.

Notwithstanding the above, smaller pitches are more commonly used to accommodate training and recreational activity. However, even for training many are too small for purposeful activity or too tight if pitch barriers are in place. This is the case at sites in LBRuT such as Kew & Ham Association Playing Fields and Heatham House Youth Centre.

Figure 3.1 below identifies the location of all 3G pitches in LBRuT, regardless of size.

*Figure 3.1: Location of 3G AGPs in LBRuT*



## **Future provision**

Several agencies in LBRuT have plans and aspirations for potential future development of 3G provision. However, a key aspect that has prevented proposals in the past is difficulty securing planning permission; sports lighting is a specific problem.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

---

Hampton & Richmond Borough FC has received approval for the conversion of its grass stadia pitch to 3G. Due to the level the Club plays at, this will be a FIFA Quality Pro pitch, which somewhat limits usage although not to the same extent as grass pitch capacity (see FA pitch register section below).

Orleans Park School is in discussions about its existing sand-based pitch. It is contemplating either resurfacing it as a sand-based pitch or converting it to 3G for football and rugby union use.

St Mary's University has a longstanding aspiration to develop a 3G pitch at its Teddington Lock campus. Grey Court School also harbours an aspiration to have a 3G pitch installed, although no formal plans are in place.

NPL Youth FC has aspirations for access to a hybrid pitch to help alleviate some training demand from its grass pitches at Bushy Park Sports Club.

### *Hybrid pitches*

Sport England recently piloted the utilisation of hybrid pitches with projects currently operating at elsewhere in the region, such as at Regents Park in Westminster and at Bisham Abbey in Windsor & Maidenhead. Each site has one natural grass football pitch with hybrid matting buried under the natural turf, allowing grass to grow whilst helping to maintain pitch quality. The concept is to create additional capacity whilst ensuring accessibility in various conditions. Current grass pitches can handle one to three matches per week based on quality, whereas a hybrid pitch should be able to support approximately 20 hours of usage whilst maintaining reasonable quality in various playing conditions.

### **FA pitch register**

In order for competitive matches to be played on 3G, the pitch should be FIFA or IMS tested and approved and added to the FA pitch register - at: <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/3g-pitch-register>.

Pitches undergo testing to become a FIFA Quality pitch or a FIFA Quality Pro pitch, with provision commonly constructed, installed and tested *in-situ* to achieve accreditation. The differences between the accreditations are that FIFA quality pitches are designed to accommodate substantial levels of regular usage, whereas FIFA Quality Pro pitches are more for high level performance, with usage levels therefore more limited to protect the standard.

Typically, FIFA Quality pitches can be used for 60-85 hours per week, whereas FIFA Quality Pro pitches accommodate 20-30 hours. To remain accredited, pitches must be re-assessed every three years to ensure that quality has not deteriorated beyond acceptable levels. (This is required annually for clubs using 3G pitches within the football pyramid (steps 1-6).

In LBRuT, the full-sized 3G pitches at Hampton High School (Hampton Sport & Fitness Centre) and Twickenham School (Whitton Sports & Fitness Centre) are FA approved and can therefore be used to host competitive matches. The accreditation at the former is due to expire in 2025, whilst at the latter is due to expire in 2024. At this point, re-testing will be required to ensure that this remains the case.

The full-sized 3G pitches at Hampton School and The Swedish School are not FA approved and neither are any of the smaller sized pitches.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

### ***World Rugby compliant pitches***

To enable 3G pitches to accommodate competitive rugby union matches, World Rugby has developed the Rugby Turf Performance Specification. This ensures that surfaces can replicate the playing qualities of good quality grass pitches, provide a playing environment that will not increase the risk of injury and are of an adequate durability.

The specification includes a rigorous test programme that assesses ball/surface interaction and player/surface interaction and has been modified to align the standard with that of FIFA. Any 3G pitch used for any form of competitive rugby and contact training must comply with this specification and must be tested every two years to retain compliance.

In LBRuT, the pitches at Hampton High School (Hampton Sport & Fitness Centre), Hampton School (Old Hamptonians Sports Ground) and The Swedish School are all World Rugby compliant. The accreditation for all three runs until 2024.

Whilst no other pitches are World Rugby compliant, Thamesians RFC uses the 3G pitch at Whitton Sport & Fitness Centre on Thursday evenings for training purposes. As it is not World Rugby compliant, this needs to be limited to non-contact based activity.

### ***Management***

The full-sized pitches at Hampton High School (Hampton Sport & Fitness Centre) and Twickenham School (Whitton Sports & Fitness Centre) are both on dual use education sites, with the Council managing the external booking process. The 3G pitches at Hampton School (Old Hamptonians Sports Ground) and The Swedish School are managed internally by the schools themselves.

Of the smaller sized pitches, seven are managed by the Council and two by schools.

### ***Availability***

Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00). Using this, the table below identifies the availability of the full size 3G pitch stock across LBRuT.

*Table 3.3 Summary of 3G pitch availability*

Site ID	Site	Availability
21	Hampton School (Old Hamptonians Sports Ground)	Unavailable for community use.
22	Hampton High School (Hampton Sport & Fitness Centre)	Reserved for school use until 16:00 on weekdays then available until 22:30. Available 08:00- 18:00 on Saturdays and 09:00-18:00 on Sundays.
63	The Swedish School	Reserved for school use until 17:00 on weekdays. Then available from 17:00 until 20:00. Weekend availability is between 9:00 and 12:00.
66	Twickenham School (Whitton Sports & Fitness Centre)	Reserved for school use until 17:00 on weekdays, then available until 22:00. Available 09:00-18:00 on Saturday and Sunday.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

3G pitches at Hampton High School (Hampton Sport & Fitness Centre) and Twickenham School (Whitton Sports & Fitness Centre) have full availability, whereas the pitch at Hampton School is unavailable. The 3G pitch at The Swedish School is theoretically available during midweek evenings; however, access is, in reality, limited due to the lack of sports lighting, especially outside of summer months. Weekend access is only allowed until noon, further limiting actual capacity.

For the smaller sized pitches, the non-school pitches are generally available throughout each day, whereas school-based pitches have good availability outside curricular times (apart from the two which are unavailable for community use).

*Table 3.4 Summary of smaller sized 3G pitch availability*

ID	Site	Availability
16	Kew & Ham Association Playing Fields	Available on Tuesdays 17:00-22:00, Saturdays 14:00-22:00 and Sundays 11:00-14:00.
45	Richmond Athletic Ground	Unavailable for community use.
48	Rock Lane Multi Sports Centre	Monday-Friday 10:00-20:00 and weekends 09:00-17:00.
		Monday-Friday 10:00-20:00 and weekends 09:00-17:00
93	East Sheen Primary School	Unavailable for community use
112	Heatham House Youth Centre	Every day 09:15-17:00
117	Queen's C of E Primary School	Monday-Friday 10:00-20:00 and weekends 09:00-17:00.

### Quality

Depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of a 3G pitch usually lasts for approximately ten years. It is the age of the surface, combined with maintenance levels, which most commonly affects quality. It is therefore recommended that sinking funds be put into place by providers to enable long-term sustainability, ongoing repairs and future refurbishment beyond this period.

For the PPOSS, each 3G pitch has been assigned a quality rating of good, standard or poor following site assessments. This is linked to the condition and age of the playing surface, plus surrounding hard areas and the maintenance undertaken. For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

As seen in the table below, the full-sized pitch at Whitton Sport & Fitness Centre is assessed as good quality (it was resurfaced in 2022), as is the pitch at Hampton High School (Hampton Sport & Fitness Centre), despite its age (2015 install). The remaining two are assessed as standard quality and are within their recommended lifespan, although the carpet at Hampton School (Old Hamptonians Sports Ground) is nearing expiry.

*Table 3.5: Age and quality of full size 3G pitches*

Site ID	Site	Analysis Area	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
21	Hampton School (Old Hamptonians Sports Ground)	Hampton & Teddington	2013	Standard
22	Hampton High School (Hampton Sport & Fitness Centre)	Hampton & Teddington	2015	Good
63	The Swedish School	Richmond	2018	Standard
66	Whitton Sport & Fitness Centre	Twickenham	2022	Good



## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

The pitch at Hampton High School (Hampton Sport & Fitness Centre) is scheduled to be resurfaced in 2025, as per guidelines and to ensure its good quality is sustained.

Seven of the smaller sized pitches are assessed as poor quality and have exceeded their recommended lifespans. The only non-poor quality pitches re supplied at Rock Lane Multi Sports Centre and Queen's C of E Primary School.

*Table 3.6 Age and quality of smaller size 3G pitches*

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
16	Kew & Ham Association Playing Fields	Hampton & Teddington	2010	Poor
			2010	Poor
			2010	Poor
45	Richmond Athletic Ground	Richmond	2011	Poor
48	Rock Lane Multi Sports Centre	Richmond	2010	Poor
			2018	Good
93	East Sheen Primary School	Richmond	2010	Poor
112	Heatham House Youth Centre	Twickenham	2007	Poor
117	Queen's C of E Primary School	Richmond	2017	Standard

### **Ancillary facilities**

Changing provision at Hampton High School (Hampton Sport & Fitness Centre) is reported as being in relatively poor condition, with some form of refurbishment required in the upcoming years.

At the remaining 3G provision sites, no significant issues are identified with regard to ancillary facilities, although as many pitches are located at school sites, provision is generally not dedicated to the supply. Nevertheless, this is not considered to be a major issue given that most use is for training and recreational football, with users therefore tending to show up ready to play rather than relying on good access to changing rooms.

### **3.3: Demand**

Where availability is offered, 3G pitches in LBRuT are reported to be operating at or close to capacity at peak times, especially during winter months when grass pitches cannot be used for training or recreational demand (due to a lack of sports lighting). This applies not only to midweek capacity but also to weekend capacity on account of the two community available pitches being FA approved to host competitive matches.

Whitton Sport & Fitness Centre (Twickenham School) notes a particular issue with capacity on its full-sized pitch, particularly on weekday evenings. It reports that sports clubs and other user groups are having to be turned down.

Hampton High School (Hampton Sport & Fitness Centre) is commonly used by football clubs for training activity; nine responding clubs report using it for this purpose. 3G pitches at Heatham House Youth Centre, Rock Lane Multi Sports Centre and Kew & Ham Association Playing Fields are also reportedly accessed by multiple clubs.

Currently, the majority of community-based activity on 3G pitches is football related, although some rugby union activity is identified at Whitton Sport & Fitness Centre (Twickenham School). For football, the majority of capacity is taken up by clubs for training and match play purposes, although there is also a good level of recreational football activity (i.e., via unaffiliated groups).



## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

No community rugby union activity is identified on the pitches at Hampton High School (Hampton Sport & Fitness Centre), Hampton School (Old Hamptonians Sports Ground) or The Swedish School, despite them being World Rugby compliant.

### ***Unmet/latent demand***

Significant unmet demand for 3G provision is expressed in LBRuT; 12 responding football clubs state that additional pitches are required to meet training requirements. They are:

- ◀ Barnes FC (four teams).
- ◀ Hampton & Richmond Borough FC (8 teams).
- ◀ Moormead FC (17 teams).
- ◀ NPL Youth FC (40 teams).
- ◀ Sheen Lions FC (24 teams).
- ◀ Twickenham Cygnets FC (19 teams).
- ◀ Barnes Eagles FC (36 teams).
- ◀ Hampton Rangers FC (14 teams).
- ◀ Kew Park Rangers (54 teams).
- ◀ Richmond Park FC (14 teams).
- ◀ Teddington Athletic FC (16 teams).
- ◀ Twickenham Tigers FC (28 teams).

Nine of the above state a specific need for access to 3G pitches, with only four (Hampton & Richmond Borough, Moormead, Teddington Athletic and Twickenham Tigers football clubs) currently accessing such provision within the Borough in any form. In addition, some clubs' report that access to existing sites is not ideal due to a lack of capacity, leading to teams having to train on undesirable days and/or at undesirable times.

For the remaining clubs expressing unmet/latent demand, most currently utilise sand-based pitches or grass pitches or go out of Borough to access 3G provision. They include Barnes FC, Kew Park Rangers FC and Sheen Lions FC which use grass pitches at their home grounds and Moormead FC, Teddington Athletic FC and Twickenham Saints FC which use sand-based AGPs at, for example, Teddington Lock Playing Fields and Orleans Park School.

For rugby union, five clubs report a need for access to a 3G pitch with sufficient capacity and compliance. London Scottish RFC and London Welsh Amateurs RFC both report that access to a 3G pitch specific for rugby union would help to alleviate grass pitch overuse.

### ***Exported/imported demand***

As indicated above, several football clubs currently export some training demand outside of LBRuT, primarily due to a lack of capacity on the 3G pitches within Richmond. The following sites are reportedly accessed:

- ◀ Bedfont Recreation Ground (in Hounslow).
- ◀ Esher Sixth Form College (in Elmbridge).
- ◀ Matthew Arnold Sports Centre (in Spelthorne).
- ◀ Powerleague Sunbury (in Hounslow).
- ◀ Springwest Academy (in Hounslow).
- ◀ Tiffin Girls School (in Kingston-upon-Thames).
- ◀ The Heathland School (in Hounslow).
- ◀ Weir Archer Athletics & Fitness Centre (in Kingston-upon-Thames).

No 3G demand is identified as being imported.

### ***Future demand***

As set out in Part 2 of this report, 16 football clubs report future demand equating to 102 teams to 2039 and growth of 24 teams is predicted based upon population increases. If this growth is realised and all additional teams wish to train on 3G provision, it would further increase the number of 3G pitches required.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Away from football, five rugby union clubs (Harlequin Amateurs, London Welsh Amateurs, London Scottish, Richmond and Teddington rugby clubs) also express future demand to increase their team numbers by 27 teams, as identified in Part 4 of this report. As these clubs all specifically identify the need for a 3G pitch, this is likely to further increase such demand.

### 3.4: Supply and demand analysis

#### Football

To quantify demand, the FA's training model suggests that one full-sized 3G pitch can accommodate 38 affiliated teams (with capacity built in for other forms of demand). Its aim is that all teams will train at least once per week on a 3G pitch, although it is recognised that nationally some activity may need to be retained on sand-based artificial; grass pitches and smaller sized 3G pitches to ensure their sustainability. Based upon this, with 419 teams currently based in LBRuT (including exported demand), at least 11 full-sized 3G pitches are required, meaning that there is a current shortfall of nine. (This discounts provision at The Swedish School and Hampton School (Old Hamptonians Sports Ground) due to no community use being offered and/or no sports lighting being provided).

Table 3.7: Current shortfall of 3G pitches to meet football training demand

Current demand (number of teams)	3G full-sized pitch requirement <sup>2</sup>	Current number of full-sized 3G pitches	Current shortfall
419	11	2	9

To further this analysis, the table below explores where 3G pitch shortfalls exist, by analysis area, on the presumption that all demand will relate to the area in which matches are played. The shortfall equates to a deficit of four full-sized 3G pitches in the Richmond Analysis Area, three in the Twickenham Analysis Area and two in the Hampton & Teddington Analysis Area.

Table 3.8: Current shortfall for 3G pitches by analysis area for training demand

Analysis area	Current demand	Current 3G requirement <sup>3</sup>	Current number of pitches	Current shortfall
Hampton & Teddington	106	3	1	2
Richmond	162	4	-	4
Twickenham	151	4	1	3
<b>LBRuT</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>

When factoring in future demand from population growth, the overall requirement increases to the need for 12 full-sized 3G pitches and a shortfall of 10.

Table 3.9: Future shortfall of 3G pitches to meet football training demand

Unmet demand (number of teams)	3G full size pitch requirement <sup>4</sup>	Current number of full size 3G pitches	Future shortfall
443	12	2	10

<sup>2</sup> Rounded to the nearest whole number

<sup>3</sup> Rounded to the nearest whole number

<sup>4</sup> Rounded to the nearest whole number

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

---

Based on the above, there is a need for additional full-sized 3G pitches in LBRuT. Whilst existing smaller sized pitches can accommodate some demand, they should be seen as secondary supply as the size and nature of most is not ideal to service the majority of demand.

### ***Rugby union***

For rugby union, there is evidence to warrant the need for increased access to existing compliant 3G pitch provision and the creation of additional pitches given the grass pitch shortfalls evident in Part 4 of this report. Whilst other solutions to alleviate these deficits may be possible, they could be difficult to achieve and would not be as impactful.

The grass pitch shortfalls are particularly prominent in the Hampton & Teddington and Richmond analysis areas for clubs such as Barnes, Harlequin Amateurs, London Scottish, London Welsh Amateurs, Richmond and Teddington rugby clubs. The creation of 3G pitches to alleviate the overuse of grass pitches for these clubs could be complete in conjunction with reducing 3G shortfalls for football, although this may increase the total number of pitches required given the dual usage. Alternatively, if sufficient demand exists, additional 3G provision could be provided that is primarily for rugby union access, with this therefore not impacting on the need for footballs.

### ***Other sports***

No demand for access to 3G pitches has been identified for any other sports in LBRuT and therefore, at this moment in time, no further consideration is required.

### **3.5: Conclusion**

There is a clear shortfall of 3G provision in LBRuT to meet requirements, as evidenced through the significant levels of unmet demand identified, particularly in respect of football. As there are no other means of alleviating these shortfalls, as can be the case with grass pitches (e.g., through improving quality), new provision is required. The strategy document that will follow on from this report will identify areas and sites that should be prioritised, although it is recognised that new developments can be difficult from a planning perspective.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

### 3G- supply and demand summary

- ◀ With 419 football teams currently based in LBRuT, there is a potential shortfall of nine full size pitches required to meet the demand identified, increasing to 10 with future demand.
- ◀ For football, there is a clear shortfall of provision and priority should be placed on the creation of new 3G pitches in areas where it is required.
- ◀ For rugby union, there is sufficient demand to warrant increased access to existing compliant provision and the creation of additional pitches given the grass pitch shortfalls identified.

### 3G- supply summary

- ◀ There are four full size 3G pitches in LBRuT.
- ◀ The pitches at Hampton High School (Hampton Sport & Fitness Centre) and Twickenham School (Whitton Sports & Fitness Centre) are available to the community and serviced by sports lighting, whilst the at The Swedish School does not have sports lighting despite being available and the pitch at Hampton School (Old Hamptonians Sports Ground) is neither available nor sports-lit.
- ◀ There are also nine smaller sized 3G pitches across six sites, with seven available for community use and six sports lit.
- ◀ Hampton & Borough Youth FC has received approval for the conversion of its grass stadia pitch to 3G.
- ◀ Orleans Park School, St Mary's University, Grey Court School and NPL Youth FC all have 3G and/or hybrid pitch development aspirations.
- ◀ The full size pitches at Hampton High School (Hampton Sport & Fitness Centre) and Twickenham School (Whitton Sports & Fitness Centre) are FA approved and can therefore be used to host complete matches.
- ◀ The pitches at both Hampton High School (Hampton Sport & Fitness Centre), Hampton School (Old Hamptonians Sports Ground) and The Swedish School are World Rugby compliant
- ◀ The pitches at Hampton High School (Hampton Sport & Fitness Centre) and Whitton Sport & Fitness Centre are assessed as good quality, whereas the remaining full size pitches are standard quality.
- ◀ Eight out of the 10 smaller sized pitches have exceeded their recommended lifespans and have been assessed as poor quality.

### 3G- demand summary

- ◀ Where availability is offered, the 3G pitches currently servicing LBRuT are reported to be operating at or close to capacity at peak times.
- ◀ It is considered that the majority of community activity is football related, although some rugby union use has been identified.
- ◀ Thamesians RFC report its men's first team train at Whitton Sport & Fitness Centre on Thursday evenings for training purposes.
- ◀ Significant unmet demand for 3G provision is expressed, with 12 football clubs and five rugby union clubs identifying that their training requirements are not currently being met.
- ◀ Several football clubs currently export some training demand outside of LBRuT, primarily due to a lack of capacity on the 3G pitches within the Borough.

# LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

## PART 4: RUGBY UNION

### 4.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) governs rugby union in England. It is split into four areas across the Country with a workforce team that covers development, coaching, governance and competitions. As part of this, Club Developers and a team of community rugby coaches deliver core programmes for clubs across LBRuT.

The RFU oversees a variety of formats and programmes, including 15-a-side, 10-a-side, 7-a-side and Tag rugby as well as the O2 Touch programme. Its aim is to increase and retain participation within the game, with facilities needing to be appropriate, affordable and accessible in order to enable this.

#### Consultation

There are 13 rugby union clubs in LBRuT and 10 clubs have responded to consultation requests, resulting in a response rate of 77%. The unresponsive clubs are Kew Occasionals RFC, London Exiles RFC and Whitton Lions RFC.

*Table 4.1: Summary of rugby club consultation*

Club	Responded?
Barnes RFC	Yes
Harlequin Amateurs RFC	Yes
Kew Occasionals RFC	No
London Exiles RFC	No
London French RFC	Yes
London Scottish RFC	Yes
London Welsh Amateur RFC	Yes
Old Hamptonians RFC	Yes
Richmond RFC	Yes
Rosslyn Park FC	Yes
Teddington RFC	Yes
Thamesians RFC	Yes
Whitton Lions RFC	No

### 4.2: Supply

Within LBRuT, there are 47 grass rugby union pitches identified across 21 sites, with 45 pitches available for community use across 19 sites. The unavailable pitches are provided at Richmond-upon-Thames College and Waldegrave School.

Of the pitches available for community use, 40 are senior pitches and five are junior (age grade) pitches.

*Table 4.2: Summary of grass rugby union pitches available for community use*

Analysis area	No. senior pitches	No. of junior pitches
Hampton & Teddington	11	4
Richmond	21	1
Twickenham	8	-
<b>LBRuT</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>5</b>

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

As shown in the table above, The Richmond Analysis Area provides the most community available pitches (22), whereas the Twickenham Analysis Area has the fewest (eight).

Compared to data collected in 2017/2018 for the previous study, there has been a growth of five rugby union pitches. Most increases have been identified at school sites.

The audit only identifies dedicated, line marked pitches, with recommended dimensions shown in the table below. However, it is common for age grade matches to be played on senior pitches via the use of cones, particularly at sites used by clubs. This is the case across club sites in LBRuT, even at sites with standalone junior pitches.

For rugby union pitch dimensions, please refer to the table below.

*Table 4.3: Rugby union pitch dimensions*

Age	Pitch type	Maximum pitch dimensions (metres) <sup>5</sup>
U7	Age grade mixed (mini)	20 x 12
U8	Age grade mixed (mini)	45 x 22
U9	Age grade mixed (mini)	60 x 30
U10	Age grade mixed (mini)	60 x 35
U11	Age grade mixed (mini)	60 x 43
U12	Age grade mixed (mini)	60 x 43
U13	Age grade boys/girls (junior)	90 x 60 (60 x 43 for girls)
U14 +	Senior	100 x 70 <sup>6</sup>

Please note that pitches at Twickenham and Twickenham Stoop Stadium are excluded from this study due to the professional nature of the venues. They are therefore not available for wider community use.

In addition to the grass provision, there are also World Rugby compliant 3G pitches in LBRuT at Hampton High School (Hampton Sport & Fitness Centre), Hampton School (Old Hamptonians Sports Ground) and The Swedish School. These are detailed later on in this section of the report as well as in Part 3: Third Generation Turf (3G) Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs).

### **Future provision**

The grass rugby union pitch and training area at Udney Park Playing Fields has previously been subject to development proposals that have so far been unsuccessful. The site had previously been sold by Imperial College to Quantum Group and was subject to development proposals that were unsuccessful. However, as of Autumn 2022, and following marketing in late 2021, it is now reported to be in new private ownership, and there continues to be significant uncertainty about future use and any development proposals that the new owner will bring forward. The site is currently being rented out to Teddington RFC and the Club uses the site for training demand due to the presence of sports lighting.

Additionally, Thamesians RFC reports that it is heavily invested in the efforts to bring back Udney Park Playing Fields into wider community use in order to enable the club to have a permanent home.

<sup>5</sup> Recommended run off area for all pitch types requires five-metres each way and a minimum in-goal length of six metres.

<sup>6</sup> Minimum dimensions of 94 x 68 metres are accepted.

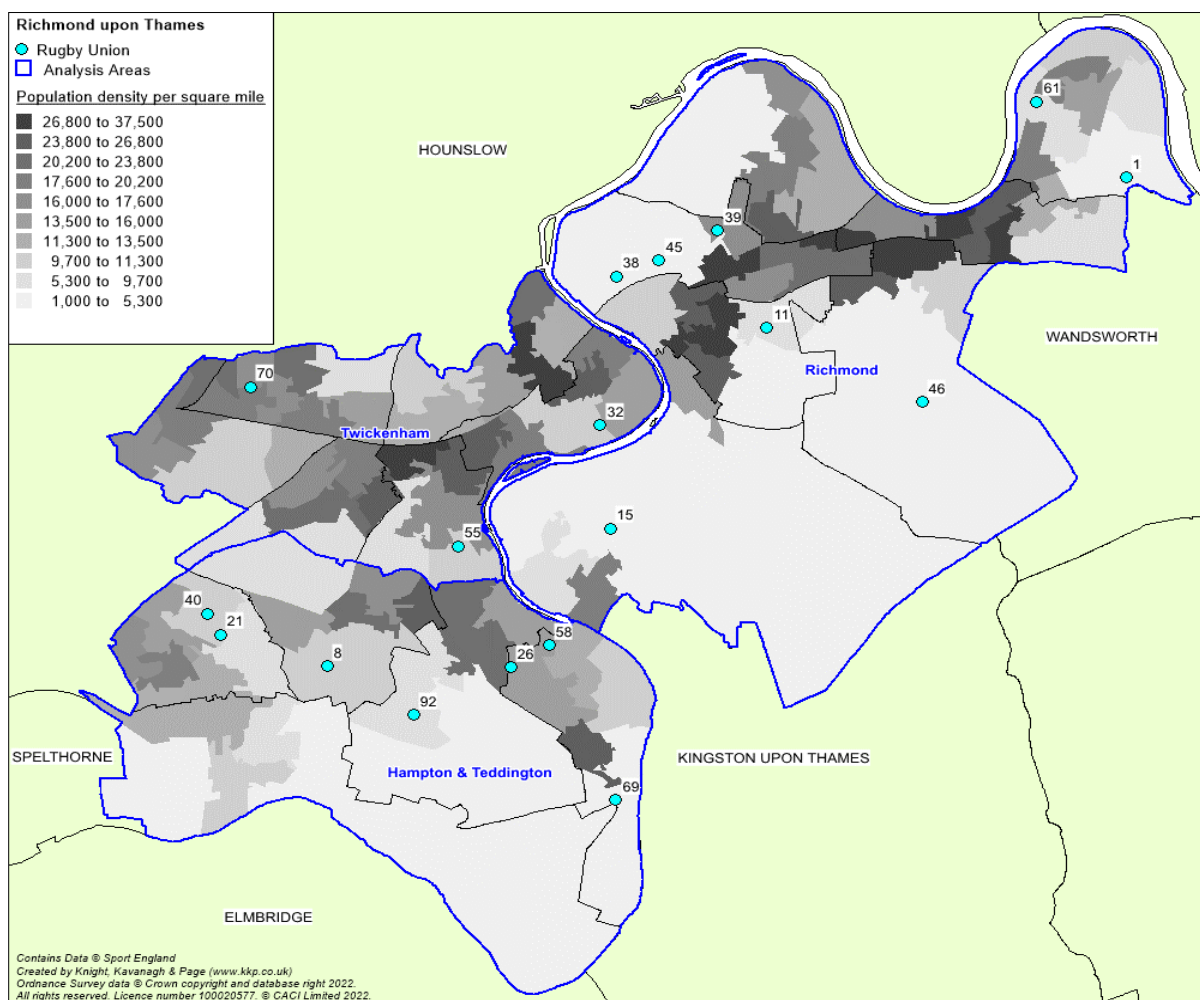


# LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Elsewhere, Kneller Hall (formerly Royal Military School of Music) has been acquired by Radnor House and discussions are now ongoing in respect of developing the sports provision and establishing a community use agreement, subject to a planning application. As part of this, an aspiration exists to develop a grass rugby union pitch. It is aiming to be open from September 2024.

The figure below identifies all grass rugby union pitches currently servicing LBRuT. For a key to the map, see Table 4.9

Figure 4.1: Location of rugby union pitches within LBRuT



## Management and security of tenure

Of the 47 pitches provided, 22 are operated by private management providers (including Crown Estates, Royal Parks and English Heritage), 16 by education providers, seven by clubs and the remaining two by the Council. This is summarised in the table below.

Table 4.4: Rugby union pitches by management type

Community use	Number of pitches			
	Club	Council	Education	Other
Available	7	2	14	22
Unavailable	-	-	2	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>22</b>

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Most rugby union clubs in LBRuT have secure tenure of their sites, either via direct ownership or via forming part of a wider entity that has ownership or a long-term lease agreement in place. The arrangements are summarised in the table below.

*Table 4.5: Summary of security of tenure for LBRuT rugby union clubs*

Club name	Site ID	Site used	Arrangement	Tenure
Barnes RFC	1	Barn Elms Playing Fields	Long term lease agreement from Barn Elms Sports Trust	Secure
Harlequin Amateurs RFC	8	Bushy Park (Hampton Wick Royal CC)	Leased from Royal Parks; one year rolling agreement	Unsecure
	69	Kings Field	Sub-leased from cricket club	Secure
Kew Occasionals RFC	45	Richmond Athletic Ground	Rent via the Association	Unsecure
London French RFC	1	Barn Elms Playing Fields	25-year lease agreement from Barn Elms Sports Trust	Secure
London Scottish RFC	45	Richmond Athletic Ground	Leased from the Crown Estate; three year rolling agreement	Secure
London Welsh Amateurs RFC	39	Old Deer Park Partnership	Long term lease agreement via the Partnership	Secure
Old Hamptonians RFC	21	Hampton School (Old Hamptonians Sports Ground)	Lease agreement from Hampton School: unknown length	Secure
Richmond RFC	45	Richmond Athletic Ground	21-year licence agreement from the Crown Estate.	Secure
Rosslyn Park RFC	46	Richmond Park	Rented off Royal Parks	Unsecure
Teddington RFC	26	Udney Park Playing Fields	One year rent agreement with private owner	Unsecure
	92	Teddington Cricket Club	20-year lease agreement from Royal Parks	Secure
Thamesians RFC	55	St Mary's University	Leased on a one year rolling agreement from the University	Unsecure
Whitton Lions RFC	55	St Mary's University	Leased on a one year rolling agreement from the University	Unsecure
	70	Whitton Park Sports Association Ground	Long term lease via the Sports Association	Secure

Harlequin Amateurs RFC leases the ground at Bushy Park (Hampton Wick Royal CC) from Royals Parks; however, this is via a rolling one year commitment. As such, no long term security of tenure is provided.

London Welsh Amateurs RFC's home ground is owned by Crown Land and the Club is in partnership with Richmond CC. It believes that it is significantly overpaying on rent and grounds cost, identifying that if relocation was an option that the Club would pursue this.

London Exiles RFC is not included in the above table as it currently exports all its match play and training demand to Barn Elms Sports Centre, in Wandsworth. This is discussed further in the exported demand section.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

### *Pitch quality*

The assessment of rugby union pitch quality looks at two key elements; the maintenance programme and the level of drainage on each pitch. For maintenance, each pitch is given a maintenance rating of M0, M1 or M2, based on the regime that is usually undertaken.

*Table 4.6: Definition of maintenance categories*

Category	Definition
M0	Minimal or no maintenance is undertaken
M1	Regular maintenance is undertaken that extends beyond a basic regime
M2	A sophisticated, regular and dedicated maintenance regime is undertaken

For drainage, a rating of D0, D1, D2 or D3 is assigned to each pitch. This is based on whether or not drainage is adequate and considers the presence of an operational system. The figures are based upon a pipe drained system at 5m centres that has been installed in the last eight years and a slit drained system at 1m centres that has been installed in the last five years.

*Table 4.7: Definition of drainage categories*

Category	Definition
D0	Drainage is natural but inadequate
D1	Drainage is natural and adequate
D2	A pipe drainage system is installed (at 5-metre centres and within the last eight years)
D3	A pipe and slit drainage system is installed (at 1-metre centres in the last five years)

An overall quality based on both drainage and maintenance can then be generated on a scale of good, standard and poor as shown below.

*Table 4.8: Quality ratings based on maintenance and drainage scores*

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)	Poor	Poor	Standard
	Natural Adequate (D1)	Poor	Standard	Good
	Pipe Drained (D2)	Standard	Standard	Good
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	Standard	Good	Good

For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

Of the pitches that are available for community use in LBRuT, ten are assessed as good quality and the remaining 35 as standard quality. The unavailable pitches at Richmond-upon-Thames College and Waldegrave School are assessed as standard quality.

All pitches in use by clubs are assessed as good or standard quality. A pitch-by-pitch breakdown can be seen in the table overleaf.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 3.9 Site quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	Community use?	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Sports lighting?	Quality	Quality rating
1	Barn Elms Playing Fields <sup>7</sup>	SW13 9SA	Richmond	Trust (Council)	Yes	2	Senior	No	M1/D1	Standard
8a	Bushy Park (Teddington Cricket Club)	TW11 0EP	Hampton & Teddington	Sports Club	Yes	2	Senior	No	M2/D2	Good
8d	Bushy Park (Hampton Wick Royal CC)	KT1 4AZ	Hampton & Teddington	Royal Parks	Yes	1	Senior	No	M2/D1	Good
						1	Senior		M1/D1	Standard
						3	Junior		M1/D1	Standard
11	Christ's School	TW10 6HW	Richmond	School	Yes	1	Senior	No	M1/D1	Standard
15	Grey Court School	TW10 7HN	Richmond	School	Yes	1	Senior	No	M1/D1	Standard
21	Hampton School (Old Hamptonians Sports Ground)	TW12 3HD	Hampton & Teddington	School	Yes	1	Senior	No	M1/D1	Standard
						1	Junior		M1/D1	Standard
26	Udney Park Playing Fields	TW11 9BG	Hampton & Teddington	Private	Yes	1	Senior	Yes	M1/D1	Standard
32	Marble Hill Park <sup>8</sup>	TW1 2NL	Twickenham	English Heritage	Yes	1	Senior	No	M1/D1	Standard
						1	Senior		M1/D1	Standard
38	Old Deer Park	TW9 2SL	Richmond	Crown Estates	Yes	2	Senior	No	M1/D1	Standard
39	Old Deer Park Partnership	TW9 2AZ	Richmond	Sports Club	Yes	1	Senior	Yes	M2/D1	Good
						1	Senior	No	M1/D1	Standard
41	Orleans Park School	TW1 4BB	Twickenham	School	Yes	3	Senior	No	M1/D1	Standard
45	Richmond Athletic Ground	TW9 2SF	Richmond	Crown Estates	Yes	1	Senior	Yes	M2/D2	Good
						3	Senior	Yes	M1/D2	Standard
						3	Senior	No	M1/D2	Standard
46	Richmond Park	SW15 5JU	Richmond	Royal Parks	Yes	4	Senior	No	M1/D1	Standard
47	Richmond-upon-Thames College	TW2 7SJ	Twickenham	College	No	1	Senior	No	M1/D1	Standard
55	St Mary's University	TW1 4SX	Twickenham	University	Yes	1	Senior	No	M2/D1	Good
58	Teddington Lock Playing Fields	TW11 9BE	Hampton & Teddington	University	Yes	1	Senior	No	M2/D1	Good
61	The Harrodian School	SW13 9QN	Richmond	School	No	2	Senior	Yes	M1/D1	Standard
						1	Junior		M1/D1	Standard
65	Waldegrave School	TW2 5LH	Twickenham	School	No	1	Senior	No	M1/D1	Standard
69	King's Field	KT1 4AE	Hampton & Teddington	Council	Yes	2	Senior	No	M1/D1	Standard
70	Whitton Park Sports Association Ground	TW3 2JD	Twickenham	Sports Club	Yes	1	Senior	No	M1/D1	Standard
92	Teddington Cricket Club	TW11 0EP	Hampton & Teddington	Sports Club	Yes	2	Senior	No	M2/D2	Good
108	Turing House School	TW2 6LH	Twickenham	School	Yes	1	Senior	No	M2/D1	Good

<sup>7</sup> An additional six pitches are located at the site; however, these are operated as Wandsworth pitches (Barn Elms Sports Centre).

<sup>8</sup> Unmarked training area also on site.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

---

The good quality pitches are located at the following:

- ◀ Bushy Park (Hampton Wick Royal CC)
- ◀ Old Deer Park Partnership
- ◀ Richmond Athletic Ground
- ◀ St Mary's University
- ◀ Teddington Cricket Club
- ◀ Teddington Lock Playing Fields
- ◀ Turing House School

A pitch with sports lighting at Richmond Athletic Ground has been assessed as good quality, primarily due to the presence of a drainage system in place. However, the pitches are heavily used and both Richmond RFC and London Scottish RFC report a need for a solution to this in order to maintain their good quality.

The two senior pitches located at St Mary's University and at Teddington Lock Playing Fields have been assessed as good quality due to the frequent and sophisticated maintenance regimes that take place.

Similarly, the senior pitches at Teddington Cricket Club have been assessed as good quality due to the sophisticated maintenance regime that takes place, as reported by Teddington RFC. Additionally, the Club reports that it invested in a pipe drainage system four years ago, which has resulted in the pitches becoming of a higher quality rating.

The pitch at Turing House School is a good quality pitch following recent establishment.

The remaining pitches have all been assessed as standard quality. However, it should be noted that the two pitches at Marble Hill Park are dual use football pitches, with rugby union markings faded upon the site assessment. The unavailable pitch at Richmond-upon-Thames College is also a dual use football pitch, as are two pitches at Orleans Park School.

Overall, quality has seemingly increased slightly since the previous study was updated in 2018. Back then, there were only three good quality pitches identified in addition to three poor quality pitches.

### ***Ancillary facilities***

All clubs have access to some form of ancillary provision at their respective home grounds, but their quality varies from club to club.

Barnes RFC reports that the ancillary facilities at Barn Elms Playing Fields are not fit for purpose as they are primarily meant to service football teams and not rugby-based demand. Nevertheless, the Club does state that the facilities are in good condition.

Harlequin Amateurs RFC reports that it has plans to refurbish the clubhouse facility at Bushy Park (Hampton Wick Royal CC). The plans include building more changing rooms and enlarging the upstairs bar area.

London Welsh Amateurs RFC reports that the facilities at Old Deer Park Partnership are outdated and in urgent need of a refurbishment. However, securing funding is proving to be difficult.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Rosslyn Park FC reports that there are no ancillary facilities available at Richmond Park, which prevents the Club from wanting to access the pitches on a regular basis. Their home ground at Rosslyn Park FC in Wandsworth (see exported demand section) operates at full capacity, especially on weekends, so the Club has to rent additional pitches.

Thamesians RFC also has its own clubhouse at Twickenham Green, which it shares with Twickenham CC. The Club expresses some issues with the management of the building, which it states could be resolved if it had the freehold of the provision. The Club also indicates a shortage of car parking at St Mary's University for both match days and training during the week.

London Scottish RFC and Teddington RFC both report that their ancillary facilities are of good quality, with Teddington RFC stating that the clubhouse at Teddington Cricket Club underwent a major refurbishment in 2014. Similarly, the facilities at Richmond Athletic Ground are good quality for Richmond RFC; however, the Club reports that it could be problematic in the future as the clubhouse is a listed building. This will make improvements difficult to undertake.

### 4.3: Demand

Demand for rugby pitches in LBRuT tends to fall within the categories of organised competitive play and organised training.

#### **Competitive demand**

There are 13 rugby clubs based in LBRuT, collectively providing a total of 199 teams. As a breakdown, this consists of 36 senior men's, eight senior women's, 68 age grade boys', 18 age grade girls', and 69 age grade mixed teams.

The make-up of the clubs is mixed. Clubs such as Barnes, Harlequin Amateurs, London Welsh Amateur, Richmond, Rosslyn Park and Teddington are all large and provide several teams across the playing formats, whereas Old Hamptonians RFC and Whitton Lions RFC both only field one senior men's team each.

Table 4.10: Summary of demand

Club	Analysis area	No. of rugby union teams				
		Men's	Women's	Boys' (U12-U18)	Girls' (U12-U18)	Mixed (U6-U11)
Barnes RFC	Richmond	4	1	15	6	21
Harlequin Amateurs RFC	Hampton & Teddington	2	1	3	4	8
Kew Occasionals RFC	Hampton & Teddington	1	-	-	-	-
London Exiles RFC	Richmond	3	-	-	-	-
London French RFC	Richmond	2	-	-	-	-
London Scottish RFC	Richmond	1	-	-	-	-
London Scottish Lions RFC	Richmond	2	-	4	-	7
London Welsh Amateur RFC	Richmond	3	1	8	3	3
Old Hamptonians RFC	Hampton & Teddington	1	-	-	-	-
Richmond FC	Richmond	5	2	6	3	7
Rosslyn Park FC	Richmond	5	1	11	-	17



## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Club	Analysis area	No. of rugby union teams				
		Men's	Women's	Boys' (U12-U18)	Girls' (U12-U18)	Mixed (U6-U11)
Teddington RFC	Hampton & Teddington	4	1	21	2	6
Thamesians RFC	Twickenham	2	1	-	-	-
Whitton Lions RFC	Twickenham	1	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>36</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>69</b>

Out of the all the teams in the Borough, age grade mixed teams are the most represented (69 teams) whilst senior women's are the least represented (eight teams). The majority play in the Richmond Analysis Area (141 teams), whilst only four teams are fielded in the Twickenham Analysis Area.

Table 4.11: Summary of demand by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of teams playing					Total
	Men's	Women's	Boys'	Girls'	Mini	
Hampton & Teddington	8	2	24	6	14	<b>54</b>
Richmond	25	5	44	12	55	<b>141</b>
Twickenham	3	1	-	-	-	<b>4</b>
<b>LBRuT</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>199</b>

### Participation trends

Participation in LBRuT has seemingly increased substantially since previous data was collected in 2017/2018. In total, 54 additional teams are now registered across the clubs, with a particular increase at youth and mini level. There are 31 additional age grade boys' teams, 13 additional age grade girls' teams and 10 additional age grade mixed teams now affiliated.

Notwithstanding the above, Barnes, Harlequin Amateurs, London Welsh Amateurs, Richmond and Teddington rugby clubs all reporting a decrease in the number of their senior teams, with six fewer teams now registered across LBRuT. Specifically, London Welsh Amateurs RFC, Richmond FC, Thamesians RFC all report they are only just starting to recover its teams lost during Covid.

### Training demand

Throughout the Country, many rugby teams train at their home ground on match pitches. As a result, usage is concentrated which reduces the capacity for match play on these pitches and means they are more likely to be overplayed. A key factor in determining the extent of training on match pitches is the presence of sports lighting.

The large majority of clubs in LBRuT currently access their home grounds and pitches for training demand. Additionally, Teddington RFC, Thamesians RFC and Whitton Lions RFC also access the pitches at St Mary's University for some training demand, whilst Harlequins Amateurs RFC uses King's Field as an overspill venue.

Thamesians RFC reports that the training area at St Mary's University is not properly maintained due to funding restrictions. The Club also therefore accesses a 3G pitch at Whitton Sport & Fitness Centre, although this is not World Rugby compliant and as such cannot (or should not) be used for full contact activity.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

---

Teddington RFC accesses Udney Park Playing Fields for its training demand as it is serviced by sports lighting, whereas its match pitches at Teddington Cricket Club are not. It primarily uses an unmarked training area on site, but also utilises the marked senior pitch.

### *Use of artificial pitches*

The alternative to training on grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches. World Rugby produced the 'Performance Specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22' that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. A World Rugby compliant pitch also enables the transfer of match demand from grass pitches onto 3G pitches, which alleviates overplay of grass pitches and as a result protects quality.

Nationally, clubs with access to 3G pitches for training utilise them as a method of protecting grass pitches for matches and providing a high quality surface for full contact practice. Competitive play generally continues to take place on grass pitches, although there is occasional use of 3G pitches for fixtures in the case of grass pitch quality or capacity issues (especially during bad weather spells).

As mentioned previously, there are currently three full size World Rugby compliant 3G pitches in LBRuT, although no clubs currently report accessing these. That being said, Harlequin Amateurs, London French, London Welsh Amateur, Old Hamptonians and Richmond rugby clubs all report a need for 3G pitch access for training activity, which is explored further in Part 3 of this report.

### ***Additional demand***

In addition to the above, London Scottish RFC and Teddington RFC both field touch teams, with friendly matches and tournaments played on an ad hoc basis.

St Mary's University also fields two senior men's and one senior women's team, with these playing in BUCS leagues outside of the affiliated formats. All teams play across the pitches at its main campus and at Teddington Lock Playing Fields. In addition, it must also be noted that there will be additional inter-mural demand that can vary week-by-week.

### *Halfbacks*

Halfbacks' rugby is a fun and exciting new concept designed to teach children between the ages of 2-6 the values of rugby and providing a fun and engaging environment to encourage early years development through rugby union. The sessions are based at three sites in LBRuT, those being at Bushy Park (Teddington and Hampton Wick Royal cricket clubs), Marble Hill Park and Twickenham Green.

### ***Exported/imported demand***

Barnes RFC exports its senior demand for both match play and training demand to the pitches at Barn Elms Sports Centre that are located in Wandsworth. The Club reports that this is because of a lack of pitch capacity on the pitches based in LBRuT, as well as the ancillary facilities not being fit for purpose, specifically for its senior teams.

Similarly, London Exiles RFC also exports all of its demand to Barn Elms Sports Centre, despite considering itself to be a club based in LBRuT.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

London Scottish RFC also exports its junior and mini teams outside of the Borough for both training and match activity, with Kings House Sports Ground, Quintin Hogg Memorial Ground and Grasshoppers Rugby Club (all in Hounslow) used due to a lack of pitch capacity in LBRuT. The Club suggests that it would ideally like to acquire its own site so that all of its demand could be accommodated from one venue.

Rosslyn Park FC accesses Rosslyn Park Football Club in Wandsworth as its main home ground for matches and training for its senior teams, and as previously mentioned. Whilst this is outside of the Borough, the Club has no intentions of relocating due to its tenure and because of its close proximity. It uses Richmond Park as an overspill venue for its junior and mini teams.

### ***Unmet/latent demand***

Five of the responding clubs report they could potentially field additional teams, if the clubs had access to more pitches. Further details of this can be seen in the table below:

*Table 4.12 Summary of latent demand*

<b>Club</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Barnes RFC	The Club reports that it could field additional teams if the pitches at Barn Elms Playing Fields provided sports lighting or if pitch capacity increased.
London Scottish RFC	The Club reports that it could field an additional three senior men's teams if it had access to additional pitches along with its own permanent home ground.
London Welsh Amateurs RFC	The Club reports that if it had access to more pitches, it could increase the number of its women's teams.
Teddington RFC	The Club reports that it could field more teams if it had access to a 3G pitch for both match and training demand.
Thamesians RFC	The Club reports that if it had access to additional pitches, it could field an additional women's and two men's teams.

### ***Future demand***

Future demand can be defined through multiple ways, including through participation increases and by using population forecasts.

#### *Participation increases*

Nine clubs report future demand. This equates to a predicted growth of 13 senior men's, seven senior women's, eight age grade boys, 11 age grade girls and six age grade mixed teams.

*Table 4.13: Summary of future demand expressed by clubs*

<b>Club</b>	<b>Analysis Area</b>	<b>No. of rugby union teams</b>				
		<b>Men's</b>	<b>Women's</b>	<b>Boys'</b>	<b>Girls'</b>	<b>Mixed</b>
Harlequin Amateurs RFC	Hampton & Teddington	3	1	2	1	3
London French RFC	Richmond	1	-	-	-	-
London Scottish RFC	Richmond	2	-	-	-	-
London Scottish Lions RFC	Richmond	1	-	3	1	-
London Welsh Amateurs RFC	Richmond	1	1	-	2	-
Old Hamptonians RFC	Hampton & Teddington	1	-	-	-	-

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Club	Analysis Area	No. of rugby union teams				
		Men's	Women's	Boys'	Girls'	Mixed
Richmond RFC	Richmond	1	1	3	1	2
Rosslyn Park FC	Richmond	1	2	-	3	-
Teddington RFC	Hampton & Teddington	1	1	-	2	-
Thamesians RFC	Twickenham	1	1	-	1	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>

Barnes RFC does not report any future demand, stating that it will continue with the current number of teams for the foreseeable.

Most future demand is expressed in the Richmond Analysis Area and for senior men's teams, whilst the least is expressed in the Twickenham Analysis Area and for mini rugby.

Table 4.14 Summary of future demand by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of teams playing					Total
	Men's	Women's	Boys'	Girls'	Mixed	
Hampton & Teddington	5	2	2	3	3	<b>15</b>
Richmond	7	4	6	7	2	<b>26</b>
Twickenham	1	1	-	1	1	<b>4</b>
<b>LBRuT</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>45</b>

### Population growth

Based on population projections to 2039 (in line with the Council's emerging Local Plan), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for grass rugby pitches that will arise from any growth. Using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers, team generation rates have been established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team.

The table below shows the number of new teams generated by forecasted growth and the match equivalent sessions that this will create. As seen, an increase of two senior men's, four youth boys, one youth girls and four mixed teams is projected.

Table 4.15: Borough-wide team generation rates

Age group	Team generation rate	Number of new teams generated by the new population	Number of new teams generated by the new population-rounded figure	Match equivalent sessions <sup>9</sup>
Men (19-45yrs)	1:851	2.19	2	1
Women (19-45yrs)	1:4,149	0.49	0	0
Boys (13-18yrs)	1:113	4.11	4	2
Girls (13-18yrs)	1:409	1.10	1	0.5
Mixed (7-12yrs)	1:229	4.18	4	2

<sup>9</sup> Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, one team accounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on their relevant pitch type.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

---

Notwithstanding the above, team generation rates do not account for specific development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives. As such, future growth could exceed what is otherwise predicted, especially in regards to the growth in women and girls' rugby given current RFU aspirations. A more general growth is also expected, linked to the upcoming 2025 Rugby World Cup and its likely impact and related development work.

### *Future demand summary*

In the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section of the report, it is considered unfeasible for all future demand to be factored in. This is because it is likely that club aspirations, if realised, will absorb the future demand identified through population growth, rather than them being judged separately and therefore double counted. Furthermore, given the volume of demand expressed by clubs, it is unclear as to how viable such increases are, with this therefore considered more aspirational compared to the potential growth identified through population increases.

Based on the above, only demand identified through population growth is to be taken forward. For the remaining increases, the Strategy that proceeds this document will contain a scenario that will consider the impact on the existing pitch stock if the aspirations are realised. In addition, a housing growth scenario will estimate the additional demand for football arising from proposed developments as this could entail further increases in demand in the relevant areas.

### ***The peak period***

In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established for all types of rugby. For senior teams in LBRuT, it is considered to be Saturday PM as all senior teams play at this time. Peak time for mini and junior rugby is Sunday AM.

## **4.4: Capacity analysis**

The capacity for pitches to regularly accommodate competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of playing rugby. In extreme circumstances, it can result in the inability of a pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times.

To enable an accurate supply and demand assessment of rugby union pitches, the following assumptions are applied to the site-by-site and pitch-by-pitch analysis:

- ◀ All sites that are or could be used for competitive rugby matches (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included on the supply side.
- ◀ All competitive play is on senior sized pitches, with junior and mini teams playing on overmarked pitches.
- ◀ From U13s upwards, teams play 15v15 and use a full pitch.
- ◀ Mini teams (U6s-U12s) play on half of a senior pitch, meaning two matches and four teams can be accommodated at any one time
- ◀ For senior and youth teams, the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 match equivalent sessions for each match played based on all teams operating on a home and away basis.
- ◀ Senior men's rugby generally takes place on Saturday afternoons.
- ◀ Senior women's rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ◀ Junior rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ◀ Mini rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ◀ Play per week for mini teams is set at 0.25 match equivalent sessions for each match played based on teams operating on a home and away basis.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

- ▶ Training that takes place on marked pitches is reflected by the addition of match equivalent sessions to current usage levels (one training session is one match equivalent session).
- ▶ Internal use of school pitches is added to current play, as determined on a site-by-site basis depending on levels of activity.

As a guide, the RFU has set a standard number of matches that each pitch should be able to accommodate, based on quality, as set out below.

*Table 4.16: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments*

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)	0.5	1.5	2
	Natural Adequate or Pipe Drained (D1)	1.5	2	3
	Pipe Drained (D2)	1.75	2.5	3.25
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	2	3	3.5

*Table 4.17: Spare capacity examples*

Spare capacity in peak period (examples)	Explanation of spare capacity
1	If the cell is highlighted in green with a number, it means that the pitch(es) have actual spare capacity at peak time.
0	If the cell has a 0 in it, this means that the pitch(es) is/are played to capacity, either overall or during the peak period.
1	If the cell has a number in it but is not highlighted, it means the pitch has spare capacity in the peak period; however, this is discounted. This is most commonly due to unsecure tenure and/or poor pitch quality but can also be due to the site being unavailable to the community.
1	If the cell is highlighted in red with a number, it means that the pitch(es) are overplayed.

### **Actual spare capacity**

There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate additional play, this should not be recorded as actual spare capacity on that pitch or at that site. For example, pitch(es) may be managed to regularly operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it/they can cater for friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

Furthermore, several rugby pitches in LBRuT are on education sites that are unused by clubs despite being reported as available. Whilst these theoretically provide additional capacity, it would not be reasonable to equate this to actual spare capacity as school use itself is likely to limit what supplementary play could take place. Moreover, the nature of club rugby means that clubs are generally reluctant to utilise secondary venues, making community use unlikely.

In addition, any pitches used by clubs to capacity at peak time, that are poor quality or that provide unsecure tenure are not considered to have actual spare capacity. Table 4.18 overleaf thus ascertains whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be used to accommodate an increase in play, firstly for senior demand, on a site-by-site and pitch-by-pitch basis. This is followed by Table 4.19 which sets out actual spare capacity.



## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 4.18: Capacity table for rugby pitches in LBRuT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Quality rating	Sports lighting?	Non-technical assessment score	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Training equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch Capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
1	Barn Elms Playing Fields	Richmond	Yes	2	Senior	Standard	No	M1/D1	2.5	5.25	4	3.75	Used by Barnes, London Exiles and London French rugby clubs
8a	Bushy Park (Teddington Cricket Club)	Hampton & Teddington	Yes	2	Senior	Standard	No	M2/D2	14	1.5	6.5	9.5	Used for match and training demand by Teddington RFC.
8d	Bushy Park (Hampton Wick Royal CC)	Hampton & Teddington	Yes	1	Senior	Good	No	M2/D1	1	-	3	2	Used for match and training demand by Harlequin Amateurs RFC
				1	Senior	Standard		M1/D1	0.5	-	2	1.5	Used for match and training demand by Harlequin Amateurs RFC
				3	Junior	Standard		M1/D1	5.5	3.5	6	2	Used for match and training demand by Harlequin Amateurs RFC
11	Christ's School	Richmond	Yes-unused	1	Senior	Standard	No	M1/D1	-	-	2	2	Unused by the community
15	Grey Court School	Richmond	Yes-unused	1	Senior	Good	No	M1/D1	-	-	2	2	Unused by the community
21	Hampton School (Old Hamptonians Sports Ground)	Hampton & Teddington	Yes	1	Senior	Good	No	M2/D1	2	-	3	1	Used for match and training demand by Old Hamptonians RFC
				1	Junior	Good		M2/D1	-	-	3	3	Unused by the community
26	Udney Park Playing Fields	Hampton & Teddington	Yes	1	Senior	Standard	Yes	M2/D1	1	3	3	1	Used for training by Teddington RFC and occasional match play, although most takes place via an unmarked area on site.
32	Marble Hill Park	Twickenham	Yes	1	Senior	Standard	No	M2/D1	-	-	3	3	Unused by the community
				1	Senior	Poor		M0/D0	-	-	0.5	0.5	Unused by the community
38	Old Deer Park	Richmond	Yes	2	Senior	Standard	No	M1/D1	-	1	4	3	Used for pre-season training sessions by Richmond RFC.
39	Old Deer Park Partnership	Richmond	Yes	1	Senior	Good	Yes	M2/D1	1.5	1.5	3	0	Used for match and training demand by London Welsh Amateurs RFC
				1	Senior	Standard	No	M1/D1	0.5	5.5	2	4	Used for match and training demand by London Welsh Amateurs RFC
41	Orleans Park School	Twickenham	Yes-unused	3	Senior	Standard	No	M1/D1	-	-	6	6	Unused by the community
45	Richmond Athletic Ground	Richmond	Yes	1	Senior	Good	Yes	M2/D2	1.5	2.5	3.25	0.75	Used for match and training demand by London Scottish and Richmond rugby clubs
				3	Senior	Standard	Yes	M1/D2	5	5	7.5	2.5	Used for match and training demand by London Scottish and Richmond rugby clubs
				3	Senior	Standard	No	M1/D2	6.25	2	7.5	0.75	Used for match and training demand by Richmond RFC
46	Richmond Park	Richmond	Yes	4	Senior	Standard	No	M1/D1	-	8.75	8	0.75	Used for training by Rosslyn Park RFC
47	Richmond-upon-Thames College	Twickenham	No	1	Senior	Standard	No	M1/D1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use
55	St Mary's University	Twickenham	Yes	1	Senior	Good	No	M2/D1	2.5	2	3	1.5	Used for match and training demand by Thamesians RFC and university teams
58	Teddington Lock Playing Fields	Hampton & Teddington	Yes	1	Senior	Standard	No	M2/D1	3	1.5	3	1.5	Used for training by Harlequin Amateurs RFC, Thamesians RFC and the University.
61	The Harrodian School	Richmond	No	2	Senior	Standard	Yes	M1/D1	-	-	4	4	Unused by the community
				1	Junior	Standard	Yes	M1/D1	-	-	2	4	Unused by the community
65	Waldegrave School	Twickenham	No	1	Senior	Standard	No	M1/D1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use
69	Kings Field	Hampton & Teddington	Yes	2	Senior	Standard	No	M1/D1	1	3	4	0	Used for match and training demand by Harlequin Amateurs RFC

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Quality rating	Sports lighting?	Non-technical assessment score	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Training equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch Capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
70	Whitton Park Sports Association Ground	Twickenham	Yes	1	Senior	Good	No	M2/D1	0.5	0.5	3	2	Used for match and training demand by Whitton Lions RFC.
108	Turing House School	Twickenham	Yes-unused	1	Senior	Good	No	M2/D1	-	-	3	3	Unused by the community.

### Actual spare capacity

The table below explores what potential spare capacity (taken from the capacity rating column) can be considered actual spare capacity based on peak time usage and other factors such as quality and security of tenure.

Table 4.19: Actual spare capacity table

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Potential spare capacity	Actual spare capacity (peak period)	Comments
8	Bushy Park (Hampton Wick Royal CC)	Hampton & Teddington	Senior	2	3.5	-	Pitches are played to capacity at peak time
11	Christ's School	Richmond	Senior	1	2	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure, with school usage also likely to limit capacity.
15	Grey Court School	Richmond	Senior	1	2	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure, with school usage also likely to limit capacity.
21	Hampton School (Old Hamptonians Sports Ground)	Hampton & Teddington	Senior	1	1	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure, with school usage also likely to limit capacity
			Junior	1	3	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure, with school usage also likely to limit capacity.
26	Udney Park Playing Fields	Hampton & Teddington	Senior	1	2	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure and private ownership.
32	Marble Hill Park	Twickenham	Senior	1	3	3	Actual spare capacity
				1	0.5	-	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality
38	Old Deer Park	Richmond	Senior	2	3	3	Actual spare capacity
41	Orleans Park School	Twickenham	Senior	3	6	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure, with school usage also likely to limit capacity.
61	The Harrodian School	Richmond	Senior	2	4	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure, with school usage also likely to limit capacity
			Junior	1	2	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure, with school usage also likely to limit capacity
70	Whitton Park Sports Association Ground	Twickenham	Senior	1	2	1	Actual spare capacity
108	Turing House School	Twickenham	Senior	1	3	-	Newly established pitch, with capacity discounted due to this.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

As seen, of the 19 pitches which have potential spare capacity in LBRuT only four are considered to offer actual spare capacity at peak time which could cater for an increase in demand. The remainder are either over capacity or discounted due to poor pitch quality or unsecure tenure.

Total actual spare capacity amounts to seven match equivalent sessions, with some identified in the Richmond and Twickenham analysis areas.

*Table 4.20: Summary of actual spare by analysis area*

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions)
Hampton & Teddington	-
Richmond	3
Twickenham	4
<b>LBRuT</b>	<b>7</b>

### Overlay

22 senior pitches at nine sites in LBRuT are overplayed by a total of 30 match equivalent sessions per week. This is a substantial level of overplay.

*Table 4.21: Summary of overplay*

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of over-played pitches	Pitch type	Overplay
1	Barn Elms Playing Fields	Richmond	2	Senior	3.75
	Bushy Park (Teddington Cricket Club)	Hampton & Teddington	2	Senior	9.5
8d	Bushy Park (Hampton Wick Royal CC)	Hampton & Teddington	3	Junior	2
26	Udney Park Playing Fields	Hampton & Teddington	1	Junior	1
39	Old Deer Park Partnership	Richmond	1	Senior	4
45	Richmond Athletic Ground	Richmond	1	Senior	0.75
			6	Senior	3.25
46	Richmond Park	Richmond	4	Senior	0.75
55	St Mary's University	Twickenham	1	Senior	1.5
58	Teddington Lock Playing Fields	Hampton & Teddington	1	Senior	3.5
<b>Total</b>					<b>30</b>

Both pitches at Barn Elms Playing Fields are overplayed due to the numerous clubs which access them for training activity and match play. In addition, there is only a basic maintenance regime and a natural drainage system in place.

Overplay is significantly high at Udney Park Playing Fields as Teddington RFC's senior and junior teams train at the site due to the presence of sports lighting. All Teddington RFC's home games are played at Teddington CC and overplay at the venue is therefore also high due to the substantial number of teams it fields.

The majority of overplay occurs in the Hampton & Teddington Analysis Area (16 match equivalent sessions per week), although there is some in each analysis area.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 4.22: Summary of overplay by analysis area

Analysis area	Overplay (match equivalent sessions)
Hampton & Teddington	16
Richmond	12.5
Twickenham	1.5
<b>LBRuT</b>	<b>30</b>

### 4.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the table below identifies overall spare capacity and overplay on rugby union pitches in LBRuT based on match equivalent sessions. Future demand is based on club development plans, which are considered likely to absorb the future demand created via population increases.

There is a current shortfall of 23 match equivalent senior sessions per week. This is most prominent in the Hampton & Teddington Analysis Area (16 match equivalent sessions per week). The Richmond Analysis Area has a current shortfall of 9.5 while Twickenham has current actual spare capacity of 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 4.23: Current supply and demand balance

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match equivalent sessions)	
		Overplay	Current total
Hampton & Teddington	-	16	16
Richmond	3	12.5	9.5
Twickenham	4	1.5	2.5
<b>LBRuT</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>23</b>

When factoring in future demand from population projections, the shortfall increases to 28.5 match equivalent sessions.

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)		
	Current total	Future demand	Future total
<b>LBRuT</b>	<b>23</b>	5.5	<b>28.5</b>

When compared to the previous PPS study, the current shortfall remains similar, with capacity improvements offset by an overall increase in demand. The future shortfall is, however, slightly reduced (from 31 match equivalent sessions).

### 4.6: Conclusion

There is a clear shortfall of rugby union provision to meet demand in LBRuT, with a significant deficit identified and with most clubs accessing overplayed pitches. Shortfalls could be alleviated via the provision of new pitches, although the number required is dependent on the quality of what is provided and whether they can accommodate training need or not. There are alternative ways to reduce the shortfall, for example via improving the quality of the existing stock and increasing the number of pitches which benefit from sports lighting. These will be further explored in the ensuing strategy.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

### Rugby union- supply and demand summary

- ◀ 19 pitches have potential spare capacity but only four have actual spare capacity (amounting to seven match equivalent sessions).
- ◀ 22 pitches at nine sites are overplayed by a combined total of 30 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is a current overall shortfall of 23 match equivalent sessions per week on grass rugby union pitches, with future demand taking this up to 28.5 match equivalent sessions.

### Rugby union- supply summary

- ◀ There are 47 grass rugby union pitches identified at 21 sites, with 45 pitches available for community use across 19 sites.
- ◀ Of the 47 pitches provided, 22 are operated by private management providers, 16 by education providers, seven by clubs and the remaining two by the Council.
- ◀ Most rugby union clubs in LBRuT have secure site tenure either via direct ownership or being part of a wider entity that has ownership or a long-term lease agreement.
- ◀ Of the pitches available for community use, ten are good quality and 35 are standard quality (none are poor quality).
- ◀ Barnes RFC, Harlequin Amateurs RFC and London Welsh Amateurs RFC all report a need for ancillary provision improvements.
- ◀ Rosslyn Park RFC is not serviced by any ancillary facilities at Richmond Park.

### Rugby union- demand summary

- ◀ There are 13 rugby clubs based in LBRuT, collectively providing a total of 199 teams (36 senior men's, eight senior women's, 68 junior boys and 14 junior girls' and 69 mini teams).
- ◀ Participation appears to have increased substantially since previous data was collected in 2017/2018. There are 54 additional teams now registered across the clubs.
- ◀ The majority of clubs currently access their home grounds and pitches to service training demand.
- ◀ Barnes, London Exiles, London Scottish and Rosslyn Park rugby clubs all export some level of demand to venues outside of the Borough.
- ◀ Five responding clubs report having potential to field additional teams, if they had access to more pitches (latent/unmet demand).
- ◀ Nine clubs express future demand equating to a total of 45 teams, whilst team generation rates predict a growth of two senior men's, four youth boys, one youth girls and four mini teams linked to population growth (to 2039).

# LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

### PART 5: HOCKEY

#### 5.1: Introduction

Hockey in England is governed by England Hockey (EH).

Competitive league hockey matches and training can only be played on sand filled, sand dressed or water based artificial grass pitches (AGPs). Although competitive, adult and junior club training cannot take place on 3G pitches, 40mm pitches may be suitable to cater for the sport at an introductory level, such as school curriculum low level hockey. The EH Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy details suitability of surface type for varying levels of hockey, as set out below.

*Table 5.1: England Hockey guidelines on artificial surface types suitable for hockey*

Category	Surface	Playing level	Playing level
England Hockey Category 1	Water surface approved within the FIH Global/National Parameters	<b>Essential</b> International Hockey - Training and matches	<b>Desirable</b> Domestic National Premier competition Higher levels of EH player pathway Performance centres and upwards
England Hockey Category 2	Sand dressed surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	<b>Essential</b> Domestic National Premier competition Higher levels of player pathway: academy centres and upwards	<b>Desirable</b> All adult and junior League Hockey Intermediate or advanced School Hockey EH competitions for clubs and schools (excluding domestic national league)
England Hockey Category 3	Sand based surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	<b>Essential</b> All adult/junior club training and league hockey EH competitions for clubs and schools. Intermediate or advanced schools hockey	
England Hockey Category 4	All 3G surfaces	<b>Essential</b> None	<b>Desirable</b> Lower level hockey (Introductory level) when no category 1-3 surface is available.

In addition to the above pitch types, EH is currently trialling a multi-sport pitch surface which will better accommodate lower levels of hockey demand and be suitable for other sports such as netball and tennis. Known as Gen 2, it will be a sand dressed synthetic turf with a compatible shock pad designed to provide agencies, including schools, with a dynamic surface which reduces spatial requirements and enables provision to be utilised to its full potential.

For senior teams, a full-size hockey pitch for competitive matches must measure at least 91.4 x 55 metres excluding surrounding run-off areas, which must be a minimum of two metres at the sides and three metres at the ends. EH's preference is for four-metre side and five-metre end run offs, with a preferred overall area of 101.4 x 63 metres, though a minimum overall area of 97.4 x 59 metres is accepted.



## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

A hockey pitch can accommodate a maximum of four matches on one day (peak time) provided that it has sports lighting. Training generally takes place midweek and also requires access to a pitch with lights.

### Consultation

Four hockey clubs currently play in LBRuT; Barnes, NPL, Sheen and Teddington hockey clubs. All four clubs responded to consultation requests resulting in a 100% response rate. Richmond HC has also been consulted, despite now being based outside the Borough.

### 5.2: Supply

The four full-sized hockey suitable pitches in LBRuT are located at three sites (Teddington School has two). All are available for community use, and three are serviced by sports lighting (one of the pitches at Teddington Sports Centre is not). Three are located in the Hampton & Teddington Analysis Area with one in Richmond. There is no full-sized pitch in the Twickenham Analysis Area.

Table 5.2: Summary of full-sized hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Sports lighting	Size (metres)
50	Richmond Park Academy (Shene Sports & Fitness Centre)	SW14 8AT	Richmond	Yes	Yes	100 x 63
58	Teddington Lock Playing Fields	TW11 9BE	Hampton & Teddington	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
59	Teddington School (Teddington Sports Centre)	TW11 9PJ	Hampton & Teddington	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
					No	100 x 60

### Smaller size provision

In addition to the full size AGPs, Orleans Park School provides a hockey AGP that is only slightly too small to host competitive matches although it can be used to accommodate training demand if required. However, it is also without sports lighting and reportedly not ideally located for any of the clubs. It is one of five smaller sized sand-based AGPs in LBRuT. The AGPs at Holy Trinity C of E Primary School and Rocks Lane Multi Sports Centre are also available for community use, although only the former is serviced by sports lighting.

Table 5.3: Smaller size AGPs in LBRuT

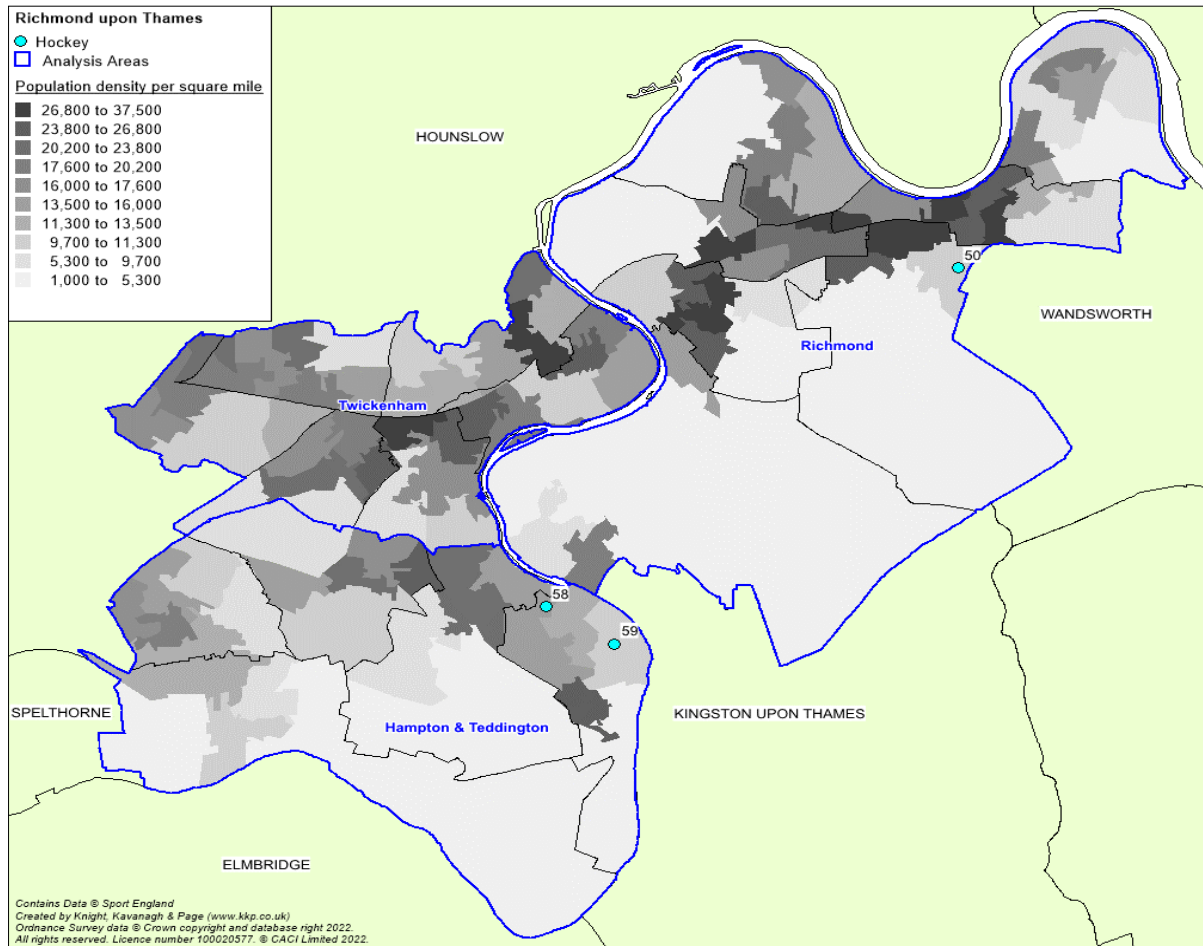
Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Size (metres)
25	Holy Trinity C of E Primary School	TW10 5AA	Hampton & Teddington	Yes	No	29 x 43
43	Orleans Park School	TW1 3BB	Twickenham	Yes	No	90 x 50
48	Rocks Lane Multi Sports Centre	SW13 0DG	Richmond	Yes	Yes	16 x 33
61	The Harrodian School	SW13 9QN	Richmond	No	No	60 x 37
63	The Swedish School	SW13 9JS	Richmond	No	No	43.5 x 24

# LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Due to most pitches being without sports lighting and the scale of the provision, none of the above are currently considered suitable for purposeful hockey demand. As, they are all discounted from this point forward. Nevertheless, it is recognised that they can be valuable assets for accommodating curricular and extra-curricular demand as well as recreational community activity where availability is offered.

For the location of the full-size pitches, please see Figure 5.1 below.

*Figure 5.1 Location of full size hockey suitable AGP's*



## **Future provision**

NPL HC reports that St Mary’s University has aspirations for a new category II pitch to be installed at Teddington Lock Playing Fields. A new hockey pitch is also proposed at Kneller Hall although currently the plans do not include the provision of sports lighting. It is aiming to be open from September 2024.

Elsewhere, there are ongoing discussions with regard to the future of the smaller sized pitch at Orleans Park School, specifically as to whether to resurface this as a sand based surface or to convert it to 3G for football and rugby use.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

### **Management**

Three of the full-sized pitches (those at Richmond Park Academy (Shene Sports & Fitness Centre) and Teddington School (Teddington Sports Centre)) are located at and operated as dual use sites, split between the schools and the Council and/or leisure centre operator. The pitch at Teddington Lock Playing Fields is managed in house by the University.

### **Security of tenure**

The table below summarises the LBRuT-based pitches used by each club. It is important to note that some clubs also use venues outside of LBRuT (see exported demand section).

*Table 5.4 Summary of venues used*

<b>Club</b>	<b>Site/s used</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Barnes HC	Richmond Park Academy (Shene Sports & Fitness Centre)	Secondary venue
NPL HC	Teddington Lock Playing Fields	Only LBRuT-based venue
Sheen HC	Richmond Park Academy (Shene Sports & Fitness Centre)	Only LBRuT based venue
Teddington HC	Teddington School (Teddington Sports Centre)	Primary venue
	Teddington Lock Playing Fields	Secondary venue

Given that all four are located at education sites, security of tenure can be an issue for users, with no guarantee that they will be available in the long-term unless a formal community use agreement is in place. This is an issue, to some extent for each hockey club in LBRuT.

NPL HC hires the pitch at Teddington Lock Playing Fields on a seasonal basis without any guarantee that longer term access will be allowed. Whilst this is not ideal, the Club reports no major issues with the University and has a good working relationship with it.

Both Teddington HC at Teddington School (Teddington Sports Centre) and Sheen HC at Richmond Park Academy (Shene Sports & Fitness Centre) hire pitches on a seasonal basis. Although long term agreements are not in place, these arrangements are considered to be more secure due to the Council's involvement.

### **Availability**

Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00).

Availability in LBRuT is compared against this in the following table.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 5.5: Availability of full-size hockey suitable AGPs within the peak period

Site ID	Site	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Comments
43	Orleans Park School	29	Reserved for school use on weekdays until 18:00 then available until 21:30. Weekend availability is between 09:00 and 18:00.
50	Richmond Park Academy (Shene Sports & Fitness Centre)	34	Reserved for school use until 18:00 then available until 22:00 on weekdays. Available 09:00-18:00 on weekends.
58	Teddington Lock Playing Fields	34	Reserved for internal use during the day up until 17:30 then available until 21:30. Weekend availability is 08:00 until 18:00.
59	Teddington School (Teddington Sports Centre)	34	Reserved for school use during the day until 17:00 then available until 21:00. Weekend availability is 09:00 until 18:00, both Saturday and Sunday.

In LBRuT, each full-sized pitch has good availability during the peak period, although as all are located at education sites some capacity is reserved for internal school/university usage.

### Quality

Depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately ten years and it is the age of the surface, together with maintenance levels, that most commonly affects quality. An issue for hockey nationally is that some providers did not financially plan to replace the carpet when first installed, leading to many now being poor.

For the PPOSS, each AGP is assigned a quality rating of good, standard or poor following site assessments. This is based upon the condition and age of the playing surface and surrounding hard areas and the maintenance undertaken. For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2. The following table indicates when each of the full-size pitches were installed or last resurfaced within LBRuT, together with the agreed quality rating.

Table 5.6: Age and quality of full-sized hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site	No. of pitches	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
50	Richmond Park Academy (Shene Sports & Fitness Centre)	1	2022	Good
58	Teddington Lock Playing Fields	1	2007	Poor
59	Teddington School (Teddington Sports Centre)	2	2015	Standard
			2015	Good

The pitch at Teddington Lock Playing Fields is rated poor quality as it has reached the end of its recommended lifespan; significant signs of wear and tear are reported. Therefore, imminent resurfacing is recommended at both sites to ensure that the provision can remain useable.

One pitch at Teddington School (Teddington Sports Centre) is assessed as standard quality due to reported wear and tear issues. This is the pitch which accommodates greater levels of use due to it having sports lighting. The other pitch is assessed as good quality.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

The pitch at Richmond Park Academy (Shene Sports & Fitness Centre) is good quality having been resurfaced in 2022.

### ***Ancillary provision***

Because the hockey pitches in LBRuT are located at education sites, ancillary facilities are generally not dedicated to the AGPs. Nationally, this can cause logistical issues as it can result in some facilities being located a fair distance from the playing areas, although this is not noted as an issue in LBRuT.

NPL HC reports that ancillary facilities at Teddington Lock Playing Fields are in poor condition and in need of refurbishment. St Mary's University supports this and states that the pavilion is dated and needs improvement.

Teddington HC reports ancillary facilities at Teddington School (Teddington Sports Centre) to be difficult to access.

Sheen HC does not report any issues at Richmond Park Academy (Shene Sports & Fitness Centre).

### **5.3: Demand**

The four hockey clubs playing in LBRuT collectively run 14 senior men's, 15 senior women's, 19 junior teams, one mixed and one veteran's team. Barnes and Teddington hockey clubs are both large clubs with significant senior and junior sections, whereas Sheen HC does not field any teams as such and is focused on developing the technical ability of juniors until they are able to join a team at age 12.

*Table 5.7: Summary of demand*

Name of club	Analysis area	No. of competitive teams			
		Senior men	Senior women	Juniors	Other
Barnes HC	Richmond	5	7	9	1
NPL HC	Twickenham	2	1	-	-
Sheen HC	Richmond	-	-	-	-
Teddington HC	Hampton & Teddington	7	7	10	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1</b>

Comprising 14 senior and 12 junior teams, Teddington HC uses the pitches at Teddington School (Teddington Sports Centre) for training and most of its match play. It also uses Teddington Lock Playing Fields as an additional training venue. It uses the pitch at Teddington School (Teddington Sports Centre) all day on Saturdays and Sundays for matches and some junior training sessions, whilst training there from 19:45-21:30 on Tuesdays, 19:30-21:30 on Wednesdays and 19:30-21:00 on Thursdays.

NPL HC fields two senior men and one senior women's team and uses the pitch at Teddington Lock Playing Fields. Each of its three teams train at the site on Wednesday evenings between 18:30 and 20:00. It also utilises the pitch for matches on Saturday mornings 10:30-13:00.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

---

Barnes HC fields five senior men, seven senior women's plus six junior teams and uses the pitch at Shene Sport & Fitness Centre for some of its men's 3<sup>rd</sup> team matches. However, its main home ground is Duke's Meadow, in Hounslow. In addition to facilities at Duke's Meadow being in better condition than those in LBRuT, the pitch there is water-based.

Shene HC utilises the pitch at Richmond Park Academy (Shene Sports & Fitness Centre) for all activity. This involves hire on Saturdays and Sundays for matches and a handful of midweek training sessions.

### ***Additional demand***

St Mary's University fields one woman's and one men's team, both play in BUCS leagues and host regular weekday fixtures. All activity takes place at Teddington Lock Playing Fields. In addition to club-based hockey activity, various hockey initiatives are promoted by EH, as detailed below. These can add to the level of demand in a local authority and also create need for further pitch capacity.

#### *Back to Hockey*

These are aimed at people who either have not played for several years or who are looking to play for the first time. They are generally hosted by clubs, with EH providing guidance on how to deliver programmes. Currently, no Back to Hockey sessions are running in LBRuT.

#### *Walking hockey*

This is designed for players looking for a less physically demanding version of the game but who still enjoy utilising their skills and being involved in team and social aspects. Currently no walking hockey takes place in LBRuT. The nearest provider is Epsom HC.

#### *Flyerz Hockey*

This is inclusive grassroots disability hockey for disabled people and there are 50+ Flyerz sections in clubs in England, Wales, and Scotland. At present, no Flyerz activity is identified as taking place in or around LBRuT.

#### *Hockey Heroes*

Hockey Heroes is a six-week hockey programme aimed at beginners (children aged five to eight) that not only focuses on helping children develop some physical hockey skills such as dribbling, passing and goal scoring, but also places as much emphasis on character development including teamwork, communication, perseverance, and respect. There are currently no Hockey Heroes courses operating in LBRuT.

### ***Participation trends***

Since the 2018 study, there has been a small reduction in the number of senior teams across the Borough, with 14 fewer men's and six fewer women's teams now identified. There has also been significant reduction in the number of junior teams, although overall membership remains similar.

### ***Exported/imported demand***

Richmond HC, the largest club in the Borough, uses provision outside of LBRuT at the Quentin Hogg Memorial Ground in Hounslow. This is operated by the University of Westminster and offers water-based and sand-based AGPs. The Club reports is happy playing at this venue.



## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

---

Similarly, as referenced earlier, Barnes HC exports the majority of its demand to the water-based pitch at Duke's Meadow for training and match activity. This is due to the enhanced quality of the provision. It only uses the pitch at Richmond Park Academy (Shene Sports & Fitness Centre) for occasional matches for its men's third team.

Teddington HC's men's first team accesses a pitch at King's House School Sports Ground, in Hounslow, for one training session per week - on Tuesday evenings between 20:30-22:00. This is reportedly due to lack of capacity at Teddington School (Teddington Sports Centre) at this time.

### ***Latent/unmet demand***

Both NPL and Teddington hockey clubs report that they could field more teams and accommodate more members if they had access to increased pitch capacity. Both currently use their primary venues to capacity at weekends for matches, meaning no more teams can be fielded at peak times. Similarly, no further training slots exist at any venues used.

### ***Future demand***

Growing participation is a key aim within EH's Strategic Plan and key drivers include working with clubs, universities, schools and regional and local leagues as well as developing opportunities for over 40s and delivering a quality programme of competition. Overall, EH's aims is to double participation over the next ten years; this means that it does not consider team generation rates to provide an accurate representation of potential growth.

In relation to club aspirations in LBRuT, Barnes and Teddington hockey clubs report aspirations to field additional teams in the future. One senior women's and men's team for Barnes and one additional junior boys' and junior girls team for Teddington. However, increased access to pitch provision will be required to enable this growth.

Sheen HC reports no formal demand for teams as such but is looking to coach additional juniors and would like to run more adult sessions. It is currently unable to do this due to limited evening availability at Richmond Park Academy (Shene Sports & Fitness Centre).

### ***Peak time demand***

Peak time demand for senior hockey is Saturdays. The majority of matches played on this day. Training activity generally takes place on midweek evenings, with preference often given to Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays as teams are reluctant to train in close proximity to weekend matches.

Junior hockey mainly takes place on Sundays in the form of organised training, friendlies or tournaments.

### ***Pitch usage***

When assessing the capacity of full size AGPs, all pitch usage needs to be taken into account, rather than solely hockey demand. Whilst each pitch is accessed by at least one hockey club, there is also heavy football usage on provision, particularly at Richmond Park Academy (Shene Sports & Fitness Centre) where the majority of capacity is taken by football users, either for formal training or informal recreational use. This detracts from the capacity available to hockey clubs.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

The table below details usage at sites providing full size hockey suitable pitches, comparing availability against hockey use and other activity as well as taking into consideration any remaining spare capacity. Spare capacity is considered to exist for matches if there are currently less than eight teams assigned to a pitch on a Saturday or Sunday (and if the remaining capacity is not being utilised for other purposes). It exists for training if at least a section of a pitch is available for at least an hour on a midweek evening (Tuesday-Thursday).

*Table 5.8: Usage of full size hockey suitable AGPs*

Site ID	Site name	Midweek usage comments	Midweek capacity for hockey	Weekend usage comments	Weekend capacity for hockey
50	Richmond Park Academy (Shene Sports & Fitness Centre)	Used by Shene HC and mainly by football clubs for weekday training activity. Minimal capacity remains outside of this demand.	Minimal spare capacity Monday-Friday.	Used by Barnes HC and Shene HC for matches on Saturdays and Sundays as well as some recreational football activity.	Spare capacity exists for matches on Sunday afternoons.
58	Teddington Lock Playing Fields	Used by NPL HC, Teddington HC and Moorhead FC for weekday training activity as well internally by university teams.	At capacity Tuesday-Thursday for training demand.	Used by NPL HC for matches on Saturdays and by Teddington HC for matches on Sundays.	At capacity for match play.
59	Teddington School (Teddington Sports Centre)	Used for all training activity by Teddington HC and some football activity. The lack of sports lighting on one of the pitches further reduces capacity.	At capacity for training demand	Used by Teddington HC for matches on Saturdays and Sundays.	At capacity for match play.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

---

### 5.4: Supply and demand analysis

It is suggested that a full size, sports lit pitch is able to accommodate four match equivalent sessions on one day. With teams playing on a home and away basis, this means that one AGP can cater for eight 'home' teams at peak time (one team requires 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week on its 'home' AGP).

On this basis, given that there are four full size AGPs in LBRuT, there is theoretical capacity to accommodate up to 32 hockey teams in the Borough. However, the absence of sports lighting on one of the AGPs at Teddington School (meaning it is generally only able to accommodate two matches rather than four) results in the overall capacity in LBRuT being reduced to 28 teams and 14 match equivalent sessions.

With 29 senior teams currently requiring AGP access in LBRuT plus the demand from Shene HC, there is a currently a clear provision shortfall. This correlates with the latent and unmet demand expressed by some of the clubs.

There is less need for AGPs for junior hockey matches than is the case for senior hockey because younger age groups can play on half a pitch (meaning two fixtures can take place at one time) and because there are fewer junior teams in LBRuT than senior teams. A level of provision adequate to cater for senior demand should also accommodate junior demand, although there are likely to be added pressures when it comes to training.

### *Training analysis*

In terms of capacity for training, there is only minimal spare capacity for an increase in demand; at Richmond Park Academy (Shene Sports & Fitness Centre). No capacity is evident at the remaining sites. There is clearly pressure in respect of midweek training accessibility for hockey at all three floodlit AGP venues, as many football clubs also use this provision for training purposes. This is exacerbated by the fact that one of the pitches at Teddington School (Teddington Sports Centre) cannot contribute to meeting midweek evening training demand due to the absence of sports lighting.

### 5.5: Conclusion

There is currently a shortfall in the capacity of hockey suitable pitches within LBRuT. All existing pitches are operating at or close to capacity and with high levels of latent and unmet demand expressed. Quality is an issue at Teddington Lock Playing Fields, whilst security of tenure is a concern across the Borough as none of the hockey clubs have long-term usage agreements in place.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

### Hockey- supply and demand summary

- ◀ There is a provision shortfall in LBRuT to accommodate current and future match-play demand.
- ◀ There is limited capacity to cater for any increase in training demand, with only the pitch at Richmond Park Academy (Shene Sports & Fitness Centre) not currently at capacity.
- ◀ All existing hockey suitable full-sized pitches in LBRuT are operating at or close to capacity.
- ◀ High levels of latent and unmet demand are expressed.

### Hockey- supply summary

- ◀ The four full-sized AGPs suitable for competitive hockey in LBRuT are located at three sites.
- ◀ Three of the four AGPs are serviced by sports lighting (one of the pitches at Teddington School is not).
- ◀ There are five smaller-sized AGPs located across the Borough. None of these are suitable for purposeful hockey demand due to a lack of sports lighting or their size.
- ◀ St Mary's University is considering installing a category II AGP at Teddington Lock Playing Fields.
- ◀ The smaller sized AGP at Orleans Park School is subject to potential 3G conversion.
- ◀ Limited security of tenure is provided, with all clubs reporting a rental agreement on a seasonal basis with no guarantee of long term access.
- ◀ Based on the guidance of a ten-year carpet life, the pitch at Teddington Lock Playing Fields is of poor quality and is in imminent need of refurbishment.
- ◀ The other full-sized AGPs are good or standard quality and within their recommended lifespans.
- ◀ The clubhouse at Teddington Lock Playing Fields is reported by club users to be in need of a refurbishment – this perspective is shared/supported by St Mary's University.

### Hockey- demand summary

- ◀ There are four hockey clubs in LBRuT (Barnes HC, NPL HC, Sheen HC and Teddington HC).
- ◀ They collectively run 14 senior men's, 15 senior women's, 19 junior plus one mixed and one veteran team.
- ◀ St Mary's University runs two senior hockey teams (one male/one female) and plays in BUCS leagues.
- ◀ There has been a reduction in senior and junior demand across the Borough since the last PPS (2018) although membership remains relatively stable.
- ◀ Barnes HC exports the majority of its demand to Hounslow and Richmond HC, the largest club in LBRuT, also exports all of its demand.
- ◀ Both NPL HC and Teddington HC report that they could field more teams and accommodate more members if they had access to increased pitch capacity (latent/unmet demand).
- ◀ Most of the hockey suitable pitches are commonly used for other activity (mainly football) for both informal/social activity and formal training sessions.

# LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

### PART 6: CRICKET

#### 6.1: Introduction

Cricket in LBRuT is governed by two representative bodies. The primary representative is Middlesex Cricket; however, a number of clubs affiliate to Surrey Cricket on the basis of how the counties are split. The aim of both counties is to promote the game of cricket at all levels via partnerships with professional and recreational cricket clubs as well as other appropriate agencies.

For senior cricket in LBRuT there are three main offerings (Saturday, Sunday and midweek cricket), whilst the youth league structure tends to comprise club-based matches generally played mid-week (Monday-Friday), although Sunday activity is also identified. Recreational and unaffiliated cricket also takes place.

#### County facilities strategies

Both Middlesex Cricket and Surrey Cricket are currently undertaking a county facilities strategy. These are produced by individual county cricket boards across the Country, are unique to their geographic areas and are based upon inputs from diverse representation. They are viewed as long-term plans and involve engagement with key stakeholders, including clubs, leagues, active partnerships, county pitch advisors and Sport England.

To inform the strategies, the ECB sets guidelines to ensure that the following facilities are considered in strategies' development:

- ✦ Traditional facilities (pitches, outfield, pavilions, practice areas).
- ✦ Non-traditional facilities (multi-use games areas, tapeball/softball spaces, courts/cages).
- ✦ Indoor facilities (multi use halls, cricket specific halls, match play venues).

They will be used to shape investment priorities ensuring that decision-making processes are clearly explained before a list of priority projects is produced. To inform this process, each strategy utilises PPOSS findings, where in place, as a 'high quality' evidence base.

#### Consultation

Seventeen affiliated cricket clubs are identified as playing with LBRuT, all of which responded to consultation requests; a response rate of 100%.

*Table 6.1: List of affiliated clubs with analysis area*

Club	Analysis area	Responded
Barnes CC	Richmond	Yes
Barnes Common CC	Richmond	Yes
Bushy Park CC	Hampton & Teddington	Yes
Bushy Park Girls CC	Hampton & Teddington	Yes
Hampton Hill CC	Hampton & Teddington	Yes
Hampton Wick Royal CC	Hampton & Teddington	Yes
Ham & Petersham CC	Richmond	Yes
Hounslow & Whitton CC	Twickenham	Yes
Kew CC	Richmond	Yes
Moor Mead CC	Twickenham	Yes
Marble Hill CC	Twickenham	Yes

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Club	Analysis area	Responded
Old Hamptonians CC	Hampton & Teddington	Yes
Richmond CC	Richmond	Yes
Sheen Park CC	Richmond	Yes
Teddington CC	Hampton & Teddington	Yes
Teddington Town CC	Hampton & Teddington	Yes
Twickenham CC	Twickenham	Yes

### 6.2: Supply

There are 35 grass wicket squares in LBRuT across 20 sites. Of these, 29 are available for community use across 19 sites.

The unavailable squares are located at Hampton School (four) and Teddington Lock Playing Fields (two). At Teddington Lock Playing Fields, the squares are no longer maintained.

The Hampton & Teddington Analysis Area accommodates the largest number of community available grass wicket squares (14), whereas the Twickenham Analysis Area provides the least (two). This is further summarised in the table below.

Table 6.2: Summary of grass wicket squares available for community use

Analysis area	Squares available for community use
Hampton & Teddington	14
Richmond	13
Twickenham	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>

### Non-turf pitches (NTPs)

Across LBRuT, there are NTPs on/adjacent to 15 grass wicket squares at the following sites:

- ◀ Barn Elms Playing Fields (x2)
- ◀ Bushy Park Sports Club (x2)
- ◀ Christ's School
- ◀ King George's Field (Ham) (x2)
- ◀ Sheen Common
- ◀ Bushy Park (x3)
- ◀ Carlisle Park
- ◀ Ham Common
- ◀ Twickenham Green
- ◀ Whitton Park Sports Association Ground

Most of the NTPs at these sites are located next to the grass wickets, although an exception to this is found at Ham Common. The wicket is instead situated on the general outfield, close to where the boundary would be.

There are also 11 standalone NTPs located at 10 sites. These are at:

- ◀ Barn Elms Playing Fields (x2)
- ◀ The Harrodian School
- ◀ Marble Hill Park
- ◀ Old Deer Park (x2)
- ◀ Suffolk Road Recreation Ground
- ◀ Hampton School (Old Hamptonians)
- ◀ Kneller Hall
- ◀ Moormead Recreation Ground
- ◀ Orleans Park School
- ◀ Teddington Lock Playing Fields

Of these, only the NTPs at Hampton School (Old Hamptonians Sports Ground), Kneller Hall and Teddington Lock Playing Fields are not available for community use.



## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

---

NTPs, particularly at club sites, aid with training and practice and can help reduce overplay on grass wickets when used for matches. The ECB highlights that NTPs which follow its TS6 guidance on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play. Additionally, NTPs can be used for junior matches.

### ***Disused provision***

Udney Park Playing Fields contains two grass wicket squares which are now unused and unmaintained. The site had previously been sold by Imperial College to Quantum Group and was subject to development proposals that were unsuccessful. However, as of Autumn 2022, and following marketing in late 2021, it is now reported to be in new private ownership, and there continues to be significant uncertainty about future use and any development proposals that the new owner will bring forward.

Watney Sports Ground (Stag Brewery) also previously provided a cricket square, with aerial imagery suggesting that this was last in place around 2003 (making it lapsed). The site is still in use for football but has been subject to development proposals for several years, with two planning applications currently existing for the site (22/0902/FUL and 22/0900/OUT). Neither include provision for cricket.

### ***Future provision***

Turing House School opened on their new permanent site in Whitton in April 2022. The site will provide a cricket square that will be available to the community via a community use agreement.

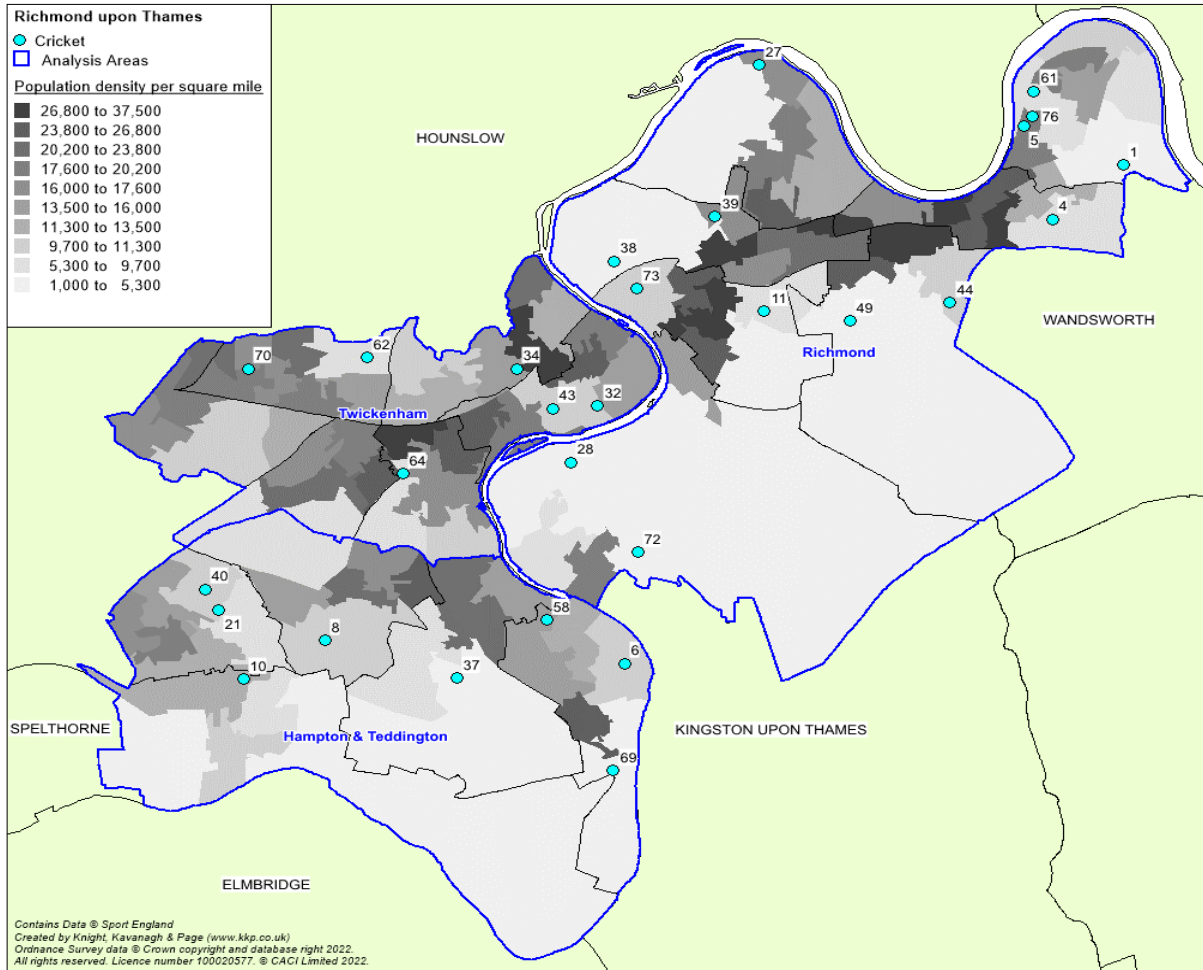
Kneller Hall (formerly the Royal Military School of Music) has been acquired by Radnor House Independent School and discussion is now ongoing in respect of developing the sports provision and establishing a community use agreement, subject to a planning application. As part of this, an aspiration exists to develop a six wicket cricket square, supported by a cricket suitable pavilion. Both Hounslow & Whitton CC and Twickenham CC report an aspiration to utilise the site if the proposals come to fruition. It is aiming to be open from September 2024.

Both Palewell Common and Heathfield Recreation Ground has been earmarked for the development of an NTP.

The map overleaf shows the location of all cricket squares currently servicing LBRuT. For a key to the map, see Table 6.3

# LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Figure 6.1: Location of cricket squares within LBRuT



## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 6.3: Key to map of cricket squares

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	No. of grass wicket squares	Available for community use?	No. of wickets		
							Grass	Non-turf	
1	Barn Elms Playing Fields	SW13 9SA	Richmond	Trust (Council)	2	Yes	-	1	
							-	1	
							8	1	
							8	1	
4	Barnes Common West	SW13 0NE	Richmond	Council	1	Yes	8	-	
5	Barnes Sports Club	SW13 9QL	Richmond	Sports Club	1	Yes	14	-	
6	Broom Road Recreation Ground	TW11 9QY	Hampton & Teddington	Council	1	Yes	6	-	
8a	Bushy Park (Teddington Cricket Club)	TW12 1PA	Hampton & Teddington	Sports Club	2	Yes	16	-	
	Yes					12	1		
8b	Bushy Park (Hampton Hill Cricket Club)					1	Yes	10	1
8c	Bushy Park (Teddington Town Cricket Club)					1	Yes	10	1
8d	Bushy Park (Hampton Wick Royal Cricket Club)				1	Yes	11	-	
10	Carlisle Park	TW12 2LU	Hampton & Teddington	Council	1	Yes	8	1	
11	Christ's School	TW10 6HW	Richmond	School	1	Yes	12	1	
21	Hampton School (Old Hamptonians Sports Ground)	TW12 3HD	Hampton & Teddington	School	6	Yes	12	-	
						No	7	-	
						No	7	-	
						Yes	5	-	
						No	5	-	
						No	4	-	
	No	-	1						

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	No. of grass wicket squares	Available for community use?	No. of wickets	
							Grass	Non-turf
27	Kew Green (Kew Cricket Club)	TW9 3AH	Richmond	Sports Club	1	Yes	14	-
28	King George's Field (Ham)	TW10 7RS	Hampton & Teddington	Council	2	Yes	6	1
							6	1
32	Marble Hill Park	TW1 2NL	Twickenham	Trust	-	Yes	-	1
34	Moormead Recreation Ground	TW1 1JS	Twickenham	Council	-	Yes	-	1
37	Bushy Park Sports Club	TW11 0LW	Hampton & Teddington	Sports Club	2	Yes	6	1
							6	1
38	Old Deer Park	TW9 2GB	Richmond	Council	-	Yes	-	1
							-	1
39	Old Deer Park Partnership	TW9 2AZ	Richmond	Sports Club	1	Yes	17	-
43	Orleans Park School	TW1 3BB	Twickenham	School	-	Yes-unused	-	1
44	Palewell Common	SW14 8RF	Richmond	Council	1	Yes	6	-
49	Sheen Common	SW14 7EL	Richmond	Council	1	Yes	11	1
58	Teddington Lock Playing Fields <sup>10</sup>	TW11 9BE	Hampton & Teddington	University	2	No	8	-
							8	-
							-	1
61	The Harrodian School	SW13 9QN	Richmond	School	-	Yes	-	1
62	Kneller Hall	TW2 7DU	Twickenham	School	-	No	-	1
64	Twickenham Green (Twickenham Cricket Club)	TW2 5TU	Twickenham	Sports Club	1	Yes	17	1
69	King's Field	KT1 4AE	Richmond	Council	2	Yes	8	-
							7	-
70	Whitton Park Sports Association Ground	TW3 2JD	Twickenham	Sports Club	1	Yes	12	1

<sup>10</sup> Grass wicket squares are no longer being maintained.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	No. of grass wicket squares	Available for community use?	No. of wickets	
							Grass	Non-turf
72	Ham Common	TW10 5LA	Richmond	Council	1	Yes	8	1
73	Richmond Green	TW9 1LX	Richmond	Council	1	Yes	10	-
76	Suffolk Road Recreation Ground	SW13 9NR	Richmond	Council	-	Yes	-	1

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

### **Management and security of tenure**

The majority of clubs in LBRuT have security of tenure at their primary venue, mainly via long-term arrangements. The table below identifies tenure arrangements for all the affiliated clubs.

*Table 6.4: Summary of security of tenure for LBRuT cricket clubs*

Site ID	Site	Club	Arrangement	Tenure
4	Barnes Common West	Barnes Common CC	Annual lease: LBRuT	Secure
5	Barnes Sports Club	Barnes CC	The Club owns the freehold	Secure
8	Bushy Park	Hampton Hill CC	Rented from Royal Parks	Unsecure
		Hampton Wick Royal CC	Leased from Royal Parks; one-year rolling agreement.	Unsecure
		Teddington CC	20-year licence agreement from Royal Parks	Secure
		Teddington Town CC	Leased: 10-year agreement from Royal Parks	Secure
21	Hampton School (Old Hamptonians Sports Ground)	Old Hamptonians CC	25-year lease agreement from Hampton School	Secure
27	Kew Green (Kew Cricket Club)	Kew CC	Leased: ongoing agreement with the Council	Secure
32	Marble Hill Park	Marble Hill CC	Rented (English Heritage)	Unsecure
34	Moormead Recreation Ground	Moor Mead CC	Rented (Continental Landscapes)	Unsecure
37	Bushy Park Sports Club	Bushy Park CC	25-year lease agreement via the wider club	Secure
		Bushy Park Girls CC	25-year lease agreement via the wider club	Secure
39	Old Deer Park Partnership	Richmond CC	Long term lease agreement via the Partnership	Secure
49	Sheen Common	Sheen Park CC	Five-year lease:: LBRuT	Secure
64	Twickenham Green (Twickenham Cricket Club)	Twickenham CC	10-year lease:: LBRuT	Secure
72	Ham Common	Ham & Petersham CC	Lease agreement: LBRuT	Secure
70	Whitton Sports Association Ground	Hounslow & Whitton CC	Long term lease agreement via the Sports Association	Secure

Of concern are the agreements in place for Hampton Hill CC, Hampton Wick Royal CC, Marble Hill CC and Moor Mead CC. For Hampton Hill CC and Hampton Wick Royal CC, this is because it uses Crown Land via a one-year rolling agreement, with no guarantee of access beyond this period.

Marble Hill CC and Moor Mead CC also only have yearly rental agreements for their sites, with the former renting from English Heritage and the latter from Continental Landscapes.



## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

All other clubs have longer-term agreements in place or have arrangements with the Council, where future access is more secure. It should, however, be noted that the agreements for many clubs are relatively close to expiry. This can be problematic particularly if clubs are looking to develop their sites or apply for external funding. Many funding bodies require lease agreements of over 25 years in order for applicants to be successful.

In addition, many clubs in LBRuT also access secondary venues, most commonly through short-term rental agreements where tenure is inevitably less secure. That being said, no clubs report an issue with this as they do not always want to be tied into longer term arrangements when their requirements may not always necessitate access to these sites.

The following table identifies clubs that use secondary venues and the sites accessed. Some use several secondary venues. Richmond CC accesses up to nine other sites.

*Table 6.5: Summary of secondary venues*

<b>Club</b>	<b>Site/s accessed</b>
Barnes CC	Barn Elms Playing Fields
	Suffolk Road Recreation Ground
Hampton Hill CC	Carlisle Park
	St James Senior School (boys)
Ham & Petersham CC	King George's Field (Ham)
Hampton Wick Royal CC	King's Field
Kew CC	Barn Elms Playing Fields
	Kings House Sports Ground
Richmond CC	Barn Elms Playing Fields
	Carlisle Park
	Chiswick House Cricket Grounds
	Christ's School
	King George's Field (Ham)
	Kings House Sports Ground
	Marble Hill Park
	Moormead Recreation Ground
Old Deer Park	
Sheen Park CC	Palewell Common
Teddington CC	Carlisle Park
Teddington Town CC	Bushy Park Sports Club
	Carlisle Park
Twickenham CC	Broom Road Recreation Ground

Some of the above sites are outside LBRuT. See exported demand section for further information.

### ***Pitch quality***

Cricket pitch quality has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by the ECB) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Notwithstanding the above, it must be noted that the site assessments took place during unprecedented summer weather and an exceptional heatwave which resulted in localised droughts and water shortages. As such, findings may differ from what would ordinarily be expected, although the check and challenge process has looked to ensure that this is not the case.

For the full assessment criteria, please see Appendix 2.

Maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of cricket; if the wicket is poor, it can negatively affect the game and, in some instances, become dangerous. As an example, if a square is poor, a ball can bounce erratically on a wicket and become a hazard to players.

The audit of community available grass wicket squares in LBRuT found 12 to be good quality, 12 to be standard quality and the remaining five to be poor quality.

*Table 6.6: Summary of quality of grass wicket squares*

Good	Standard	Poor
12	12	5

This is summarised site-by-site in the following table.

*Table 6.7: Quality ratings community available grass wickets (site by site)*

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of squares	Square quality
1	Barn Elms Playing Fields	Richmond	2	Good
				Good
4	Barnes Common West	Richmond	1	Standard
5	Barnes Sports Club	Richmond	1	Good
6	Broom Road Recreation Ground	Hampton & Teddington	1	Poor
8a	Bushy Park (Teddington Cricket Club)	Hampton & Teddington	2	Good
8b	Bushy Park (Hampton Hill Cricket Club)		1	Good
8c	Bushy Park (Teddington Town Cricket Club)		1	Good
8d	Bushy Park (Hampton Wick Royal Cricket Club)		1	Standard
10	Carlisle Park	Hampton & Teddington	1	Standard
11	Christ's School	Richmond	1	Good
21	Hampton School (Old Hamptonians Sports Ground)	Hampton & Teddington	2	Good
				Standard
27	Kew Green (Kew Cricket Club)	Richmond	1	Standard
28	King George's Field (Ham)	Richmond	2	Poor
				Poor
37	Bushy Park Sports Club	Hampton & Teddington	2	Good
				Good
39	Old Deer Park Partnership	Richmond	1	Good
44	Palewell Common	Richmond	1	Poor

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of squares	Square quality
49	Sheen Common	Richmond	1	Standard
64	Twickenham Green (Twickenham Cricket Club)	Twickenham	1	Standard
69	King's Field	Richmond	2	Standard
				Standard
70	Whitton Park Sports Association Ground	Twickenham	1	Standard
72	Ham Common	Richmond	1	Standard
73	Richmond Green	Richmond	1	Poor

As illustrated, the good quality squares are located at:

- ◀ Barn Elms Playing Fields (x2)
- ◀ Barnes Sports Club
- ◀ Bushy Park (x4)
- ◀ Bushy Park Sports Club (x2)
- ◀ Christ's School
- ◀ Hampton School (Old Hamptonians Sports Ground)
- ◀ Old Deer Park Partnership

Despite four of the five squares being assessed as good quality, clubs at Bushy Park (Teddington, Teddington Town, Hampton Hill and Hampton Wick Royal cricket clubs) all report issues related to deer fouling. The standard quality square at the site is used by Hampton Wick Royal CC.

The poor quality squares are at:

- ◀ Broom Road Recreation Ground
- ◀ King George's Field (x2)
- ◀ Palewell Common
- ◀ Richmond Green

In addition, the two squares at Teddington Lock Playing Fields are currently unavailable for community use due to quality issues. As mentioned, they are not currently being maintained.

The ground at King George's Field is in poor condition due to it being too dry as well as reportedly being covered in litter and weeds. Hounslow & Whitton CC also reports that maintenance (carried out by the Council) is infrequent and that the ground received multiple complaints from opposing teams in the Thames County League. As a result, its third and fourth Saturday teams no longer have a ground to play on.

Pitches at Broom Road Recreation Ground, Palewell Common and Richmond Green are all assessed as poor quality due to worn or overgrown wickets, poor grass coverage on the squares and undulating outfields. All three are open access sites which would appear to exacerbate these issues.

Many of the standard quality squares also report such issues. These include Kew Green, where significant bare patches are present on the outfield. Kew CC reports that this is exacerbated by the site being public open space and used for other sports such as football. It also claims that there are several wasp nests under the surface.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Barnes Common West is subject to wider public use. Barnes Common CC reports that this impacts on quality as informal football and golf activity takes place at the site.

Ham & Petersham CC reports that the outfield at Ham Common is worn due to very thin topsoil, whilst Richmond CC reports having had to increase maintenance at Old Deer Park Partnership to prevent quality deterioration.

Sheen Park CC reports that the square at Sheen Common has worsened in quality since last season as there is low water pressure making adequate watering difficult. This has been exacerbated by the unusually dry summer.

To obtain a full technical assessment of wicket and pitches, the ECB recommends application of its Performance Quality Standard (PQS) assessment. This assesses cricket squares to ascertain whether pitches meet the required standards, which are benchmarked by the Ground Maintenance Association (GMA).

Clubs can contact the ECB to arrange for a pitch advisor to complete three different reports (comprehensive, mini or verbal) that vary in cost. A comprehensive report includes soil testing and guidance on machinery and corrective procedures, a mini report includes guidance on machinery and corrective procedures and a verbal report is a spoken version of a mini report.

*Table 6.8: Performance Quality Standard assessment ratings*

Quality rating	Details
Premier (High)	Where the surface is intended for Premier League play, with those within the top quartile capable of holding minor county and 1st class one day matches. May include some of the better schools and university pitches.
Club (Standard)	A club pitch suitable for league, school and junior cricket.
Basic	An acceptable level suitable for recreational cricket and where the surface is designed and maintained within financial limitations such as local authorities.
Unsuitable	This is where the surface is deemed unfit or unsafe for play.

NTP provision is generally of a good or standard quality rating, with very few issues reported. However, Teddington CC states that its NTP at Bushy Park needs to be replaced and moved to a more appropriate location.

### **Ancillary facilities**

Most community available grass wicket squares in LBRuT are serviced by pavilions although this is not the case at Richmond Common. At the remaining sites, the clubhouses and/or changing facilities servicing 14 squares are assessed as good quality. There are then nine squares serviced by standard quality provision and five by poor quality provision. This is summarised site-by-site below.

*Table 6.9: Quality ratings for ancillary facilities servicing community available squares*

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Available for community use?	No. of squares	Ancillary facility quality
1	Barn Elms Playing Fields	Richmond	Yes	2	Good
					Good
4	Barnes Common West	Richmond	Yes	1	Poor
5	Barnes Sports Club	Richmond	Yes	1	Good
6	Broom Road Recreation Ground	Hampton & Teddington	Yes	1	Poor

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Available for community use?	No. of squares	Ancillary facility quality
8a	Bushy Park (Teddington Cricket Club)	Hampton & Teddington	Yes	2	Good
8b	Bushy Park (Hampton Hill Cricket Club)			1	Good
8c	Bushy Park (Teddington Town Cricket Club)			1	Good
8d	Bushy Park (Hampton Wick Royal Cricket Club)			1	Standard
10	Carlisle Park	Hampton & Teddington	Yes	1	Standard
11	Christ's School	Richmond	Yes	1	Good
21	Hampton School (Old Hamptonians Sports Ground)	Hampton & Teddington	Yes	2	Good
27	Kew Green (Kew Cricket Club)	Richmond	Yes	1	Standard
28	King George's Field (Ham)	Richmond	Yes	2	Poor
					Poor
37	Bushy Park Sports Club	Hampton & Teddington	Yes	2	Good
					Good
39	Old Deer Park Partnership	Richmond	Yes	1	Standard
44	Palewell Common	Richmond	Yes	1	Standard
49	Sheen Common	Richmond	Yes	1	Poor
64	Twickenham Green (Twickenham Cricket Club)	Twickenham	Yes	1	Good
69	King's Field	Richmond	Yes	2	Standard
					Standard
70	Whitton Park Sports Association Ground	Twickenham	Yes	1	Standard
72	Ham Common	Richmond	Yes	1	Standard
73	Richmond Green	Richmon	Yes	1	N/A

The facilities at Barnes Common West, Broom Road Recreation Ground, King George's Field (Ham) and Sheen Common are classified as poor. At Barnes Common West and Broom Road Recreation Ground, this is because only basic toilet and changing facilities are provided.

The provision at Sheen Park is limited. Sheen Park CC considers the changing rooms to be insufficiently large to accommodate two teams. Refurbishment is also required due to the general condition of the building, although it is suggested that this is soon to take place.

At King George's Field (Ham), Hounslow & Whitton CC reports that the changing provision has been locked every Saturday over the last year. This has meant that that the Club could not access it on matchdays. The Club also reports that its clubhouse at its primary home ground (Whitton Sports Association) needs to be updated, despite its standard quality rating. This is considered to be primarily due to the age of the provision.

Of the five squares at Bushy Park, four are serviced by good quality ancillary provision, although Teddington Town CC reports that it has experienced issues with vandalism in the last year with damage to covers and site screens. The provision servicing Hampton Wick Royal CC is rated as standard quality.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Richmond CC is serviced by standard quality facilities at Old Deer Park Partnership, although the clubhouse/pavilion is showing signs of age and is outdated. In addition, there are only a couple of toilets in each changing room, which can be an issue on weekends when multiple teams are playing, or when a function is taking place. If the Club can secure funding, it reports that it would look to refurbish the whole building.

Away from clubhouse provision, Old Hamptonians CC reports that there is damage to the portable covers at Hampton School (Old Hamptonians Sports Ground) and that the site suffers from vandalism.

### **Training facilities**

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training. Clubs access both indoor and outdoor provision before the season commences, whilst during the season, outdoor training provision supplies the majority of use.

In LBRuT, the table below summarises the sites that currently contain fixed practice nets. In total, there are 10 sites supplying 35 bays.

*Table 6.10: Summary of practice nets in LBRuT*

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Available for community use?	No. of nets/bays
1	Barn Elms Playing Fields	Richmond	Yes	4
5	Barnes Sports Club	Richmond	Yes	1
8a	Bushy Park (Teddington Cricket Club)	Hampton & Teddington	Yes	4
8b	Bushy Park (Hampton Hill Cricket Club)			1
8d	Bushy Park (Hampton Wick Royal Cricket Club)			3
10	Carlisle Park	Hampton & Teddington	Yes	2
21	Hampton School (Old Hamptonians Sports Ground)	Hampton & Teddington	No	6
27	Kew Green (Kew Cricket Club)	Richmond	Yes	2
37	Bushy Park Sports Club	Hampton & Teddington	Yes	2
39	Old Deer Park Partnership	Richmond	Yes	5
43	Orleans Park School	Twickenham	Yes-unused	3
49	Sheen Common	Richmond	Yes	2

At Carlisle Park, it must be noted that the nets have significant quality issues and, as a result, are currently condemned.



## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Whilst 10 sites providing practice nets represents a relatively large supply, 11 clubs report demand for new, improved and/or additional training facilities. These are:

- ◀ Bushy Park CC
- ◀ Hampton Hill CC
- ◀ Ham & Petersham CC
- ◀ Moormead CC
- ◀ Sheen Park CC
- ◀ Twickenham CC
- ◀ Bushy Park Girls CC
- ◀ Hampton Wick Royal CC
- ◀ Kew CC
- ◀ Old Hamptonians CC
- ◀ Teddington CC.

Specific aspirations relating to the above are detailed in the table below.

*Table 6.11: Summary of demand for additional training facilities*

Site ID	Site name	Club	Comments
8	Bushy Park	Hampton Wick Royal CC	The Club wants more practice nets and/or an NTP with a mobile cage.
		Teddington CC	The Club wishes to extend the main square to create an additional grass practice wicket. It plans to add more wickets to the net area.
10	Carlisle Park	Hampton Hill CC	The Club has aspirations to improve the non-turf net facilities and to place them in a safer area as they are currently condemned.
21	Hampton School (Old Hamptonians Sports Ground)	Old Hamptonians CC	The Club aspires to have a mobile cage.
27	Kew Green (Kew Cricket Club)	Kew CC	The Club wishes to replace the existing nets.
34	Moormead Recreation Ground	Moormead CC	The Club reports needing practice nets.
37	Bushy Park Sports Club	Bushy Park CC	The Club aspires to install more practice nets on site.
		Bushy Park Girls CC	The Club would like more net facilities and a new NTP.
49	Sheen Common	Sheen Park CC	The Club needs an extra non turf practice net
64	Twickenham Green (Twickenham Cricket Club)	Twickenham CC	The Club wants permanent nets as this would help it to train more safely and conveniently.
72	Ham Common	Ham & Petersham CC	The Club reports that it requires practice nets.

All other responsive clubs report that they are satisfied with their current practice provision, although several report a need for access or improved access to indoor facilities for winter training purposes. Whilst this falls outside the remit of this study, it is something that should be considered moving forward, with many clubs reporting that they do not have access to sports halls or must access them at undesirable times. This is generally due to year-round block bookings being given priority.

### 6.3: Demand

The 17 affiliated clubs in LBRuT collectively run 234 cricket teams. This equates to 75 senior men's, four senior women's and 155 junior teams.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Club makeup is mixed. Most, like Hampton Hill, Hampton Wick Royal and Richmond, are large providing a significant number of teams within several formats. Some are small and run only one or two teams. This is summarised club-by-club in the following table.

Table 6.12: Summary of teams by club

Club	Analysis area	No. of teams		
		Senior male	Senior female	Junior
Barnes CC	Richmond	6	-	9
Barnes Common CC	Richmond	1	-	-
Bushy Park CC	Hampton & Teddington	3	-	-
Bushy Parks Girls CC	Hampton & Teddington	-	1	5
Ham & Petersham CC	Richmond	2	-	14
Hampton Hill CC	Hampton & Teddington	10	-	15
Hampton Wick Royal CC	Hampton & Teddington	12	-	12
Hounslow & Whitton CC	Twickenham	5	-	6
Kew CC	Richmond	5	-	9
Marble Hill CC	Twickenham	2	-	-
Moormead CC	Twickenham	1	-	4
Old Hamptonians CC	Hampton & Teddington	6	-	1
Richmond CC	Richmond	5	2	44
Sheen Park CC	Richmond	3	-	10
Teddington CC	Hampton & Teddington	4	-	12
Teddington Town CC	Hampton & Teddington	4	-	5
Twickenham CC	Twickenham	6	1	9
<b>Total</b>		<b>75</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>155</b>

As illustrated, the highest number of teams (108) is based in the Richmond Analysis Area, followed closely by Hampton & Teddington (91). There are 37 teams in the Twickenham Analysis Area; this correlates with it providing the fewest number of squares.

Table 6.13: Summary of teams by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of competitive teams		
	Senior men	Senior women	Junior
Hampton & Teddington	39	1	50
Richmond	22	2	86
Twickenham	14	1	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>155</b>

### Participation trends

Cricket demand in LBRuT has significantly increased in recent years. There are 93 more teams now compared to data collected in 2018. This includes an increase of nine senior men's teams, one senior women's team and 83 junior teams.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

---

The above correlates with the fact that 10 clubs report having increased the number of teams in recent years. These are:

- ◀ Barnes CC
- ◀ Ham & Petersham CC
- ◀ Hampton Wick Royal CC
- ◀ Moormead CC
- ◀ Richmond CC
- ◀ Bushy Park Girls CC
- ◀ Hampton Hill CC
- ◀ Kew CC
- ◀ Old Hamptonians CC
- ◀ Sheen Park CC

Most clubs attribute their growth to an increase in junior demand, with many stating that this has been driven by the All Stars and Dynamos initiatives.

Only Marble Hill CC reports an overall decrease in demand, noting that it has seen a reduction in senior demand. It states that this occurred during the Covid-19 pandemic, with some players not returning to play once matches were able to resume. It only plays friendly matches and does not complete in a league format.

### ***ECB Initiatives***

The ECB is currently running several initiatives across the Country designed to generate additional cricket demand and use of cricket facilities. Whilst these do not generally utilise grass wickets, they can impact upon availability when sessions are being held due to use of cricket outfield, making squares unusable during these periods

### ***All Stars Cricket***

In partnership with the ECB and Chance to Shine, clubs in LBRuT can register to become an ECB All Stars cricket centre. Once registered, they can deliver the programme which aims to introduce cricket to children aged from five to eight. Subsequently, this may lead to increased interest and demand for junior cricket at clubs. The programme has the following aims:

- ◀ Increase cricket activity for five- to eight-year-olds in the school and club environment
- ◀ Develop consistency of message in both settings to aid transition
- ◀ Improve generic movement skills for children, using cricket as the vehicle
- ◀ Make it easier for new volunteers to support and deliver in the club environment
- ◀ Use fun small-sided games to enthuse new children and volunteers to follow/play the game.

For the 2022 season, the following clubs were signed up to deliver All Stars in LBRuT:

- ◀ Bushy Park CC
- ◀ Hampton Hill CC
- ◀ Hampton Wick Royal CC
- ◀ Old Hamptonians CC
- ◀ Teddington Town CC
- ◀ Twickenham CC
- ◀ Bushy Park Girls CC
- ◀ Ham & Petersham CC
- ◀ Moormead CC
- ◀ Richmond CC
- ◀ Teddington CC

Across the 11 clubs, 284 participants are registered. The highest levels are noted at Moormead CC – it has 150 participants.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

---

### *Dynamos cricket*

Dynamos provides the next step for all those graduating from All Stars cricket, thus developing a pathway to retain juniors who progress, as well as being an introduction for all 8-11 year olds new to the sport. Where All Stars seeks to engage children in cricket activity and learning the skills, Dynamos seeks to engage children in learning how to play, introducing a modified softball format as competitive progression with a view to transition through to hardball cricket. In LBRuT, the following three clubs are signed up to the initiative:

- ◀ Hampton Hill CC
- ◀ Hampton Wick Royal CC
- ◀ Moormead CC

There are a total of 196 participants across these three clubs.

### *Softball cricket*

Softball cricket is an ECB initiative aimed at women and girls to increase female participation in cricket as a sport. The is enjoyment and participation, without pads, a hardball, a heavy bat and limited rules. Sessions are generally played on the outfield of a square and follow a festival format with each session running for a maximum of two and half hours, shorter than traditional formats.

In LBRuT, four clubs are currently operating women's softball teams:

- ◀ Hampton Hill CC
- ◀ Ham & Petersham CC
- ◀ Richmond CC
- ◀ Twickenham CC

Twickenham CC does not quantify its total number of participants. Between the other three clubs, there are a combined total of 29 players currently registered.

### ***Additional demand***

In addition to the affiliated cricket clubs in LBRuT, a number of unaffiliated teams play in the Borough. These generally take part in friendly or social matches or compete in shorter forms of the game. Those unearthed/recorded as part of this audit are listed below, together with the home grounds they most commonly use:

- ◀ Crossbats CC (Marble Hill Park)
- ◀ Cricketers CC (Richmond Green)
- ◀ Hampton Woodlawn CC (Bushy Park)
- ◀ London Itinerants CC (Barnes Common West)
- ◀ Princes Head CC (Richmond Green)
- ◀ Punjab Royal XI CC (Old Deer Park)
- ◀ Roehampton Bats CC (Barnes Common West)
- ◀ Time Team CC (Orleans Park School).

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

---

### *Surrey Slam*

Surrey Slam is a form of recreational, short form cricket, which was founded in 2018 and takes place in four counties in the South of England: Hampshire, Kent, Surrey and Sussex. It works directly with the relevant county cricket foundations to provide cricket that more people can and want to play. The aim is to increase recreational cricket participation both in the men's and women's game.

In LBRuT, 10 clubs/teams are participating in the Surrey Slam:

- ◀ Hampton Hill CC
- ◀ Hampton Wick Royal CC
- ◀ Old Hamptonians CC
- ◀ Richmond CC
- ◀ Teddington Town CC
- ◀ Ham & Petersham CC
- ◀ Kew CC
- ◀ Punjab Royal XI CC
- ◀ Roehampton Bats CC
- ◀ Twickenham CC

### *Last Man Stands*

Last Man Stands (LMS) was founded in 2005. The social outdoor eight-a-side T20 cricket game is played midweek, lasts approximately two hours and is generally played on non-turf wickets. All eight wickets are required to bowl a team out so when the seventh wicket falls, the 'Last Man Stands' on his own. This shorter format of the game has encouraged more people to participate in the sport and is increasing in popularity.

LMS exists within LBRuT and the pitches at Old Deer Park and Marble Hill Park are used for the midweek evening matches. Eight teams are currently participating.

### ***Imported/exported demand***

Four clubs in LBRuT currently export some demand outside the Borough to be able to field all of their teams. These are:

- ◀ Hampton Hill CC
- ◀ Kew CC
- ◀ Richmond CC
- ◀ Twickenham CC

Both Kew CC and Richmond CC utilise Kings House Sports Ground, in Hounslow, whilst the latter also uses Chiswick House Cricket Grounds - also in Hounslow. For Kew CC, this is to ensure all of its senior teams can play, whereas Richmond CC uses the venues for cater for both senior and junior demand due to the size of the Club

Hampton Hill CC utilises St James Senior School, in Spelthorne, for one senior match each weekend.

Twickenham CC exports two senior matches each weekend, but notes that this is not to a dedicated venue. Instead, various sites across various authorities are used, depending on where availability exists

### ***Latent/unmet demand***

Two clubs report unmet and latent demand in that they state that they cannot field any additional teams due to a lack of capacity at venues currently used. These are Kew CC and Richmond CC.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Richmond CC reports that it has no capacity to cater for further increases in demand following recent growth in junior's and women's participation. It notes that it has exhausted all options with regard to accessing alternative venues and is now turning potential players away.

Similarly, Kew CC reports that it could field additional women's and junior teams if more pitches were available either on site or within the Borough. It reports having enquired about other sites but states that no capacity exists when required.

### ***Future demand***

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and by using population forecasts.

#### *Population forecasts*

For population projections, Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for grass wicket cricket squares that will arise from forecasted growth. This uses the current population within each relevant age group together with current participation levels to establish team generation rates that are applied to future population projections.

Using the above, it is predicted in LBRuT that there will be a growth of four senior men's and eight junior team to 2039 – the date selected to align the PPOSS with the Council's emerging Local Plan. This is shown in the table below.

*Table 6.14: Future demand via population growth (2039)*

<b>Age group</b>	<b>Team generation rate (TGR)</b>	<b>Number of new teams generated by the new population</b>	<b>Number of new teams generated by the new population<sup>11</sup></b>
Men (18-55yrs)	1:657	4.32	<b>4</b>
Women (18-55yrs)	1:12,997	0.23	-
Junior (7-18yrs)	1:196	8.92	<b>9</b>

Notwithstanding the above, it is important to acknowledged that there are plans and strategies in place to increase the number of teams at some formats beyond what current trends and population changes would suggest. For example, consultation with the ECB suggests that further development of women and girl's participation in cricket in LBRuT is likely as it is currently a national priority. This also applies to potential increased growth in junior cricket, linked to the abovementioned All Stars and Dynamos initiatives.

In addition, the ECB's five-year media rights deal, from 2020-2024, includes a continuation of its relationship with Sky Sports. This now extends beyond broadcasting and is a partnership which will secure significant investment and a commitment to increase participation and drive engagement. This could therefore boost demand to levels in excess of those anticipated through the PPOSS, meaning the impact should be reviewed over coming years.

#### *Participation increases*

Of the clubs in LBRuT, 10 indicate aspirations to increase levels of participation in the future. This amounts to a total predicted growth of 18 teams; one senior men's, three senior women's and 15 junior teams.

<sup>11</sup> Rounded to the nearest whole number



## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 6.15: Future demand expressed by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior
Barnes CC	Richmond	-	1	-
Barnes Common CC	Richmond	-	-	-
Bushy Park CC	Hampton & Teddington	-	-	4
Bushy Park Girls CC	Hampton & Teddington	-	-	1
Ham & Petersham CC	Richmond	-	-	3
Hampton Hill CC	Hampton & Teddington	-	-	-
Hampton Wick Royal CC	Hampton & Teddington	-	-	-
Hounslow & Whitton CC	Twickenham	1	-	-
Kew CC	Richmond	-	1	2
Marble Hill CC	Twickenham	-	-	-
Moormead CC	Twickenham	-	-	3
Old Hamptonians CC	Hampton & Teddington	-	-	1
Richmond CC	Richmond	-	1	-
Sheen Park CC	Richmond	-	-	-
Teddington CC	Hampton & Teddington	-	-	1
Teddington Town CC	Hampton & Teddington	-	-	-
Twickenham CC	Twickenham	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>

This is summarised by analysis area below. The largest proportion of future demand (all junior) is expressed in the Hampton & Teddington Analysis Area.

Table 6.16: Summary of future demand aspirations by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of competitive teams		
	Senior men	Senior women	Junior
Hampton & Teddington	-	-	7
Richmond	-	3	5
Twickenham	1	-	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>

### 6.4: Capacity analysis

Capacity analysis for cricket is measured on a seasonal rather than a weekly basis. This is due to playability (as only one match is generally played per square per day at weekends or weekday evening) and because wickets are rotated throughout the season to reduce wear and tear and to allow for repair.

The capacity of a square to accommodate matches is driven by the number and quality of wickets. This section of the report therefore presents the current pitch stock available for cricket and illustrates the number of match equivalent sessions per season that is available and that currently takes place on each square.

For good quality squares, capacity is considered to be five matches per grass wicket per season, whilst for a standard quality square, it is four matches per wicket per season. For poor quality squares, no capacity is considered to exist as such provision is not deemed safe for play. This is summarised in the table below.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 6.17: Grass wicket capacity

Wicket quality	Matches equivalent sessions (per season)
Good	5
Standard	4
Poor	0

In addition to grass wickets, NTPs are considered to have capacity for 60 match equivalent sessions per season providing that they are not poor quality (in which instance no capacity is provided). However, this capacity is only relevant for junior play, where the provision is more commonly used and where matches can be played on a variety of days, rather than for senior cricket due to league requirements generally not allowing usage. The capacity of such provision is therefore judged separately to the capacity of grass wickets when a square has both.

The number of matches played by each team has been derived from consultation with the clubs. Where consultation was not possible, or where the level of play was not made clear, an assumption has been made that all senior teams play between ten and 12 home matches per year and all junior teams play between four and eight matches per year, depending on their age and level of competition.

The above is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

Potential capacity	Play is below the level the site could sustain
At capacity	Play matches the level the site can sustain
Overused	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

The capacity analysis assumes that all clubs rotate their wickets evenly. However, this may not be the case at all sites, with central wickets often used more commonly than outer wickets that are closer to the boundary. The idea of this is to showcase what the capacity is, or could be, if best practice was followed for the whole square, rather than doing it on a wicket-by-wicket basis.

### **Peak time demand**

An analysis of match play identifies that peak time demand for senior cricket in LBRuT is Saturday, although a good proportion of teams are also fielded on a Sunday, including senior women's teams, as well as midweek in shorter formats of the game. In addition, peak time is midweek for junior cricket, albeit that some Sunday cricket is also recorded.

Based on the above, capacity across Saturday's, Sunday's and midweek requires consideration, which the following analysis looks to provide. This involves factoring in the overall capacity level at each site and current usage levels across each relevant period.

### **Education usage**

Whilst only a few squares based at schools and university sites currently have any recorded community use, it must be recognised that the majority do cater for curricular and extra-curricular use of their provision. This is especially the case at those with a relatively strong cricket programme, such as at Christ's School and Hampton School (Old Hamptonians Sports Ground), where internal usage leaves little capacity remaining for any external access. This demand has therefore been built into the below analysis.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 6.18: Capacity analysis of cricket squares in LBRuT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of grass wicket squares	Square quality	No. of wickets		Capacity (match sessions per season)		Actual play (match sessions per season)		Capacity rating (match sessions per season)		Potential spare capacity for Saturday cricket?	Potential spare capacity for Sunday cricket?	Potential spare capacity for midweek cricket?
						Grass	NTP	Grass	NTP	Grass	NTP	Grass	NTP			
1	Barn Elms Playing Fields	Richmond	Yes	2	Good	-	1	-	60	-	20	-	40	No	No	Yes
					Good	-	1	-	60	-	20	-	40	No	No	Yes
					Good	8	-	40	-	53	-	13	-	No	No	No
					Good	8	-	40	-	53	-	13	-	No	No	No
4	Barnes Common West	Richmond	Yes	1	Standard	8	-	32	-	32	-	0	-	No	No	No
5	Barnes Sports Club	Richmond	Yes	1	Good	14	-	70	-	76	-	6	-	No	No	No
6	Broom Road Recreation Ground	Hampton & Teddington	Yes	1	Poor	6	-	0	-	34	-	34	-	No	No	No
8a	Bushy Park (Teddington Cricket Club)	Hampton & Teddington	Yes	2	Good	16	-	80	-	90	-	10	-	No	No	No
					Good	12	1	60	60	74	20	14	40	No	No	No
8b	Bushy Park (Hampton Hill Cricket Club)	Hampton & Teddington	Yes	1	Good	10	1	50	60	74	10	24	50	No	No	No
8c	Bushy Park (Teddington Town Cricket Club)			1	Good	10	1	50	60	78	10	28	50	No	No	No
8d	Bushy Park (Hampton Wick Royal Cricket Club)			1	Standard	11	-	44	-	54	-	14	-	No	No	No
10	Carlisle Park			Hampton & Teddington	Yes	1	Standard	6	1	24	60	60	12	0	48	No
11	Christ's School	Richmond	Yes	1	Good	12	1	60	60	70	40	10	20	No	No	No
21	Hampton School (Old Hamptonians Sports Club)	Hampton & Teddington	Yes	7	Good	12	-	60	-	58	-	2	48	No	No	No
			No		Good	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	No	No	
			No		Good	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	No	No	
			No		Good	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	No	No	
			Yes		Standard	5	-	20	-	28	-	8	-	No	No	No
			No		Standard	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	No	No
			No		Standard	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	No	No
			No		Good	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	No	No
27	Kew Green (Kew Cricket Club)	Richmond	Yes	1	Standard	14	-	56	-	66	-	10	-	No	No	No
28	King George's Field (Ham)	Hampton & Teddington	Yes	2	Poor	6	1	0	0	36	-	36	-	No	No	No
						6	1	0	0	32	-	32	-	No	No	No
32	Marble Hill Park	Twickenham	Yes	-	Good	-	1	-	60	-	58	-	2	No	No	No
34	Moormead Recreation Ground	Twickenham	Yes	-	Standard	-	1	-	60	-	56	-	4	No	No	No
37	Bushy Park Sports Club	Hampton & Teddington	Yes	2	Good	6	1	30	60	58	10	28	50	No	No	No
						6	1	30	60	52	10	22	50	No	No	No
38	Old Deer Park	Richmond	Yes	-	Good	-	1	-	60	-	56	4	-	No	No	No
						-	1	-	60	-	56	4	-	No	No	No
39	Old Deer Park Partnership	Richmond	Yes	1	Good	17	-	85	-	110	-	25	-	No	No	No
43	Orleans Park School	Twickenham	Yes- unused	-	Good	-	1	-	60	-	30	-	30	No	No	No
44	Palewell Common	Richmond	Yes	1	Poor	6	-	0	-	24	-	24	-	No	No	No

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of grass wicket squares	Square quality	No. of wickets		Capacity (match sessions per season)		Actual play (match sessions per season)		Capacity rating (match sessions per season)		Potential spare capacity for Saturday cricket?	Potential spare capacity for Sunday cricket?	Potential spare capacity for midweek cricket?
						Grass	NTP	Grass	NTP	Grass	NTP	Grass	NTP			
49	Sheen Common	Richmond	Yes	1	Standard	11	1	44	60	68	12	24	48	No	No	No
58	Teddington Lock Playing Fields	Hampton & Teddington	No	2	Standard	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	No	No
						8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	No	No
						-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	No	No
61	The Harrodian School	Richmond	Yes	-	Good	-	1	-	60	-	0	-	60	No	No	No
64	Twickenham Green (Twickenham Cricket Club)	Twickenham	Yes	1	Standard	17	1	68	60	82	24	14	36	No	No	No
69	King's Field	Richmond	Yes	2	Standard	8	-	32	-	36	-	4	-	No	No	No
						7	-	28	-	32	-	4	-	No	No	No
70	Whitton Park Sports Association Ground	Twickenham	Yes	1	Standard	12	1	48	60	74	0	14	60	No	No	No
72	Ham Common	Richmond	Yes	1	Standard	8	1	32	60	70	0	10	60	No	No	No
73	Richmond Green	Richmond	Yes	1	Poor	10	-	0	-	12	-	12	-	No	No	No
76	Suffolk Road Recreation Ground	Richmond	Yes	-	Standard	-	1	-	60	-	28	-	32	No	No	Yes

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### *Actual spare capacity*

Using the capacity analysis, this section considers the level of actual spare capacity available for each playing format.

#### *Saturday cricket*

Although some spare capacity is identified at some sites, no provision is considered to have actual spare capacity for an increase in Saturday cricket. This is because all squares are used to capacity at this time, either because two teams are already assigned to them as a home venue or because the level of spare capacity is insufficient to accommodate an additional team without overplay being created. All remaining spare capacity is identified on NTPs which are generally not suitable for senior play.

#### *Sunday cricket*

As with Saturday cricket, despite some squares having overall spare capacity, none are suitable for additional Sunday play. This is because they are either already fully utilised, or because additional demand will result in overplay over the course of a league season.

#### *Midweek cricket*

Generally, midweek capacity is higher than the capacity for weekend cricket, especially on Saturdays. This is because fixtures can be split across numerous days, meaning more than two home teams can be assigned to a square, whilst junior teams and adult midweek teams can also utilise NTPs where they are provided. As such, it is considered that squares can accommodate up to six junior teams during midweek (although some do accommodate more), which then also leaves capacity for other activities, such as the All Stars and Dynamos initiatives.

Notwithstanding the above, in LBRuT, no grass wickets are considered to provide additional spare capacity for junior cricket. This is because of current levels of overplay, or because the capacity that exists is insufficient to accommodate an increase in play without overplay being created. The only actual spare capacity that exists is on NTPs.

In total, three NTPs are adjudged to provide actual spare capacity for an increase in junior play. This applies to the two standalone NTPs at Barn Elms Playing Fields and the accompanying NTP at Carlisle Park. Whilst other NTPs also theoretically provide additional capacity, these are all located on sites with overplayed grass wickets and therefore should first and foremost be used as a resource to reduce this before increased usage is considered.

*Table 6.19: Summary of actual spare capacity for midweek cricket by site*

Site ID	Site name	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)
1	Barn Elms Playing Fields	40
		40
10	Carlisle Park	48
<b>Total</b>		128

Actual spare capacity is predominately in the Richmond Analysis Area (80 match equivalent sessions), whilst none is found in the Twickenham Analysis Area. This is summarised overleaf.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 6.20: Actual spare capacity for midweek cricket by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)
Hampton & Teddington	48
Richmond	80
Twickenham	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>128</b>

### Overplay

Overplay translates to a site accommodating more demand than it can sustain based on the number of wickets provided and the quality of the square. On this basis, overplay in LBRuT is extremely high, with 25 squares overplayed across 17 sites by a total of 433 match equivalent sessions. This is summarised in the table below.

Table 6.21: Summary of overplay by site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Overplay (matches per season)
1	Barn Elms Playing Fields	Richmond	13
			13
5	Barnes Sports Club	Richmond	6
6	Broom Road Recreation Ground	Hampton & Teddington	34
8a	Bushy Park (Teddington Cricket Club)	Hampton & Teddington	10
8b	Bushy Park (Hampton Hill Cricket Club)		14
8c	Bushy Park (Teddington Town Cricket Club)		24
8d	Bushy Park (Hampton Wick Royal Cricket Club)		28
11	Christ's School	Richmond	14
21	Hampton School (Old Hamptonians Sports Ground)	Hampton & Teddington	10
27	Kew Green (Kew Cricket Club)	Richmond	8
28	King George's Field (Ham)	Hampton & Teddington	10
			36
37	Bushy Park Sports Club	Hampton & Teddington	32
			28
39	Old Deer Park Partnership	Richmond	22
44	Palewell Common	Richmond	25
49	Sheen Common	Richmond	24
64	Twickenham Green (Twickenham Cricket Club)	Twickenham	24
69	King's Field	Richmond	14
			4
70	Whitton Park Sports Association Ground	Twickenham	4
72	Ham Common	Richmond	14
73	Richmond Green	Richmond	10
<b>Total</b>			<b>433</b>



## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

The highest level of overplay is seen in the Hampton & Teddington Analysis Area (250 match equivalent sessions per season), whilst the lowest is in the Twickenham Analysis Area (28 match equivalent sessions).

Table 6.22: Summary of overplay by analysis area

Analysis area	Overplay (sessions per season)
Hampton & Teddington	250
Richmond	155
Twickenham	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>433</b>

Of the overplayed squares, five are assessed as poor quality and therefore provide no capacity to meet existing demand. These are located at Broom Road Recreation Ground, King George's Field (Ham), Palwell Common and Richmond Green.

In addition, one overplayed square at Bushy Park plus the squares at Ham Common, Kew Green, King's Field, Hampton School (Old Hamptonians Sports Ground), Sheen Common, Twickenham Green and Whitton Park Sports Association Ground are assessed as standard quality. As such, quality improvements could reduce capacity issues.

All remaining overplayed squares are assessed as good quality. Although it is possible to sustain certain, minimal levels of overplay at such sites, a reduction in play is recommended to ensure that there is no detrimental effect on quality over time.

### 6.5: Supply and demand analysis

Consideration must be given to the extent to which current provision can accommodate current and future demand for both senior and junior cricket. This section therefore looks at actual spare capacity on grass wicket squares considered against overplay and identified exported, latent and future demand. Match equivalent sessions for future demand are calculated using the average number of matches played per season (12 matches for senior teams and between four and eight matches for junior teams, depending on age).

#### **Saturday supply and demand analysis**

The table below looks at the supply and demand balance during the peak period for senior men's cricket (Saturday).

Table 6.23: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for senior cricket (Saturday)

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Exported / latent / future demand	Total
Hampton & Teddington	-	250	250	12	262
Richmond	-	155	155	24	179
Twickenham	-	28	28	36	64
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>505</b>

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

As seen in the table above, there is a significant overall shortfall of grass wicket squares in LBRuT on Saturdays amounting to 433 match equivalent sessions currently and 505 match equivalent sessions when accounting for future demand. The shortfall is most prominent in the Hampton & Teddington Analysis Area but exists across the Borough.

### ***Sunday cricket supply and demand analysis***

The table below looks at the supply and demand balance for Sunday cricket, which is peak time for senior women's demand but also relevant to some senior men's and junior teams.

*Table 6.24: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for Sunday cricket*

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Exported / latent / future demand	Total
Hampton & Teddington	-	250	250	-	250
Richmond	-	155	155	36	191
Twickenham	-	28	28	-	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>469</b>

Similar to Saturday cricket, there is a large current shortfall for Sunday cricket in LBRuT amounting to 433 match equivalent sessions per season. When incorporating future demand aspirations, this increases to 469 match equivalent sessions, with a shortfall evident in each analysis area.

### ***Midweek cricket supply and demand analysis***

The table below looks at the supply and demand balance for midweek cricket, which is peak time for junior demand and is also relevant to some senior men's teams, especially those which are unaffiliated.

*Table 6.25: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for midweek cricket*

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Hampton & Teddington	40	250	210	42	252
Richmond	40	175	135	60	195
Twickenham	48	28	20	18	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>445</b>

There is a current overall shortfall for midweek cricket amounting to 325 match equivalent sessions, although some spare capacity exists in the Twickenham Analysis Area. This spare capacity in Twickenham remains when incorporating future demand, even though the overall shortfall increases to 445 match equivalent sessions.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### Conclusion

There are significant capacity shortfalls for cricket in LBRuT. These are evident for all formats of play, within each potential playing period and within each analysis area. This is primarily due to the considerable growth in demand that has recently been experienced, causing substantial levels of overplay as well as latent and exported demand.

#### Cricket – supply and demand summary

- ◀ No squares have actual spare capacity for an increase in Saturday or Sunday cricket, whilst three NTPs have capacity for an increase in midweek demand.
- ◀ Overplay is identified on 25 squares amounting to 433 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There are significant overall capacity shortfalls, with these evident for all formats of play, within each potential playing period and within each analysis area.

#### Cricket – supply summary

- ◀ In total, there are 35 grass cricket squares located across 20 sites, with 29 squares available for community use.
- ◀ There are NTPs accompanying 16 grass wicket squares and 11 standalone NTPs are provided.
- ◀ Udney Park Playing Fields contains two grass wicket squares which are now disused, whilst Watney Sports Ground (Stag Brewery) also previously provided cricket provision.
- ◀ Security of tenure concerns are evident for Hampton Hill, Hampton Wick Royal, Marble Hill CC and Moor Mead cricket clubs.
- ◀ The audit of community available grass wicket cricket squares found 12 to be good quality, 12 to be standard quality and the remaining five to be poor quality.
- ◀ The poor quality squares are found at Broom Road Recreation Ground, King George's Field (x2), Palewell Common and Richmond Green.
- ◀ Poor quality ancillary facilities are identified at Barnes Common West, Broom Road Recreation Ground, King George's Field (Ham) and Sheen Common.
- ◀ A total of 10 sites are currently serviced by practice nets, whilst 11 clubs report demand for new, improved and/or additional training facilities.

#### Cricket – demand summary

- ◀ There are 17 affiliated cricket clubs which collectively provide 234 cricket teams, equating to 75 senior men's, four senior women's and 155 junior teams.
- ◀ Demand has significantly increased in recent years, with 93 more teams existing now than when compared to data collected in 2018.
- ◀ A total of 11 clubs form part of the All Stars initiative, whilst three clubs are running Dynamo's and four clubs are running women's softball sessions.
- ◀ In addition to affiliated cricket clubs, a number of unaffiliated teams play across the Borough as well as Surrey Slam and LMS activity.
- ◀ Hampton Hill, Kew, Richmond and Twickenham cricket clubs export some demand outside of LBRuT for the purposing of accessing additional pitches.
- ◀ Richmond CC and Kew CC report unmet and latent demand meaning that they could field more teams if pitch capacity/availability improved.
- ◀ Additional, unaffiliated demand is noted via Last Man Stands (LMS), using the pitches at Old Deer Park and Marble Hill Park. Nine teams are currently involved in the league with around 40 games in total across the summer period.
- ◀ Future demand of four senior men's and nine junior teams is predicted via population growth, whilst nine clubs indicate aspirations to increase levels of participation amounting to a total predicted growth of 19 teams.

# LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### PART 7: TENNIS

#### 7.1: Introduction

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the organisation responsible for the governance of tennis and administers the sport locally across LBRuT. The LTA's Strategy is Tennis Opened up and its mission is to grow tennis by making it more relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable.

The recent joint LTA and UK Government Parks Tennis Project investment (£30 million) is designed to open up tennis to people of all backgrounds, improve access to tennis across the nation, and provide greater opportunities for children and adults to be active. Park tennis courts are particularly important in providing affordable, engaging and accessible opportunities for more female players and those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, as well as being the most popular venue for women to play after they have left education.

#### **Consultation**

There are 12 tennis clubs in LBRuT. Of these, nine responded to consultation requests, as summarised in the table below. The overall response rate is 75%.

*Table 7.1: Summary of consultation responses*

Club name	Analysis Area	Responded?
Barnes TC	Richmond	Yes
Bushy Park TC	Hampton & Teddington	No
Ham & Petersham LTC	Richmond	Yes
Lensbury TC	Hampton & Teddington	Yes
Priory Park TC	Richmond	Yes
Pensford TC	Richmond	Yes
Richmond LTC	Richmond	Yes
River Lane TC	Richmond	No
Sheen LTC	Richmond	Yes
Teddington LTC	Hampton & Teddington	Yes
Thameside TC	Richmond	No
Twickenham LTC	Twickenham	Yes

#### 7.2: Supply

There are 215 traditional tennis courts identified in LBRuT across 48 sites. Of these courts, 179 are categorised as being available for community access across 39 sites compared to 36 that are unavailable at nine sites.

The Richmond Analysis Area has the largest number of available courts (77), whilst the Twickenham Analysis Area has the lowest number (40). This still represents a substantial number.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 7.2: Summary of the number of courts by analysis area

Analysis area	Courts available for community use	Courts unavailable for community use
Hampton & Teddington	62	16
Richmond	77	6
Twickenham	40	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>36</b>

Please note that courts are classified as being available for community use provided that they are deemed to be easily accessible to the general population, either via pay and play or through a membership at a club (or a mixture of both). This is, however, not applicable when the price of membership is significant enough to prevent inclusive access, as is considered to be the case at David Lloyd Club (Hampton).

In full, the unavailable courts in LBRuT are located at:

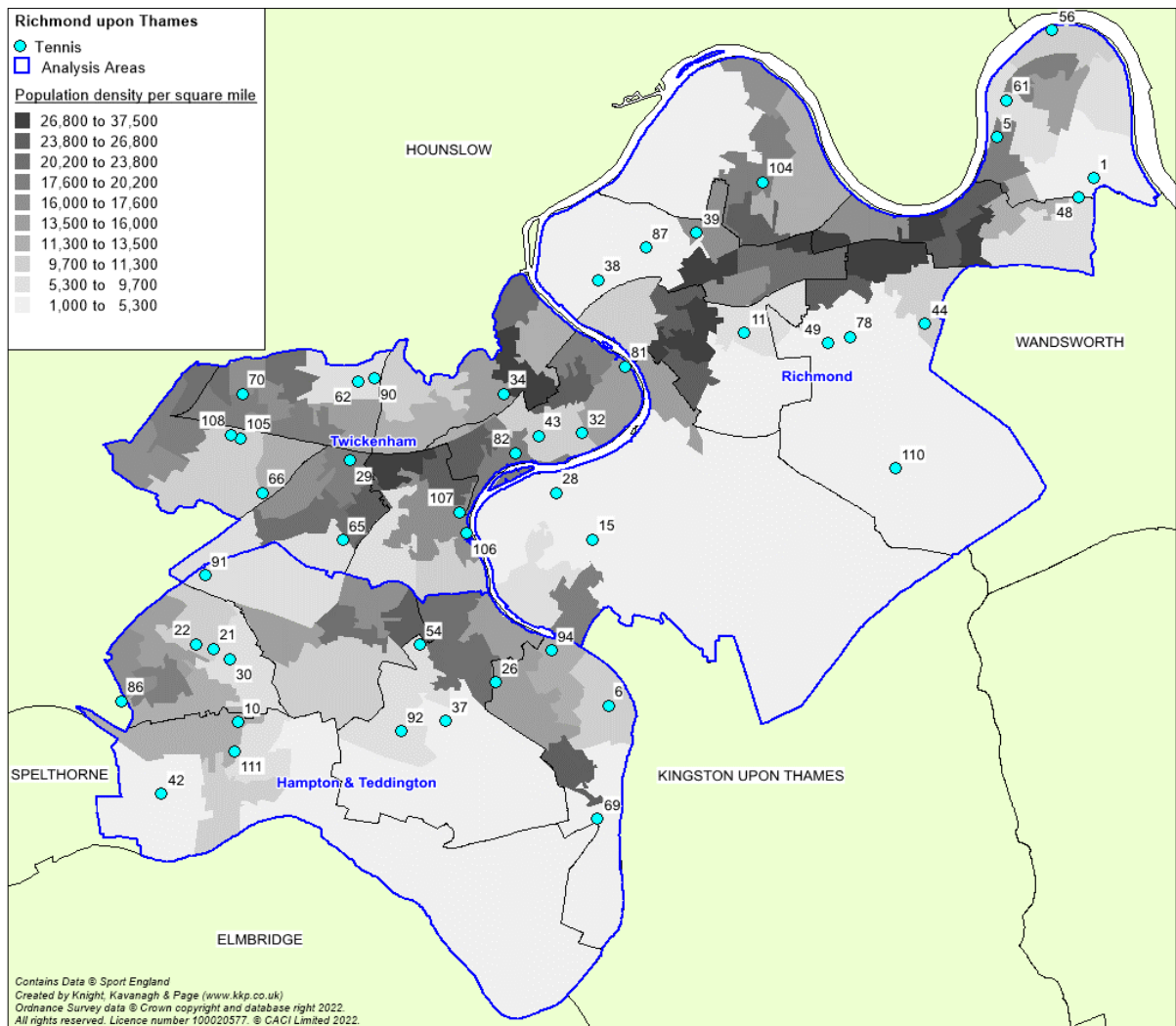
- ◀ David Lloyd Club (Hampton)
- ◀ Grey Court School
- ◀ Hampton Prep School
- ◀ Radnor House Independent School
- ◀ The Royal Ballet School (White Lodge)
- ◀ Hampton School
- ◀ Lady Eleanor Holles School
- ◀ Kneller Hall
- ◀ St Catherines School

In addition, a number of private courts in LBRuT are not considered as part of this study. This is because the nature of them means that they are not and never will be widely available for community use, although it is recognised that they are able to meet demand from specific residents. Examples of such courts are found at Montrose House and Richmond Hill Court.

Figure 7.1 shows the location of courts servicing LBRuT that are included within the study. For a key to the map, see Table 7.3.

# LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Figure 7.1: Location of tennis courts in LBRuT





## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 7.3: Outdoor tennis courts in LBRuT.

Site ID	Site Name	Postcode	Analysis Area	Ownership	Community use?	Club user?	No. of courts	Sports lighting?	Court type	Court quality
1	Barn Elms Playing Fields	SW13 9SA	Richmond	Trust (Council)	Yes	-	6	No	Macadam	Good
5	Barnes Sports Club	SW13 9QL	Richmond	Sports Club	Yes	Barnes TC	3	No	Artificial	Good
10	Carlisle Park	TW12 2LU	Hampton & Teddington	Council	Yes	-	7	No	Macadam	Good
11	Christ's School	TW10 6HW	Richmond	Education	Yes	-	4	No	Macadam	Poor
15	Grey Court School	TW10 7HN	Richmond	Education	No	-	1	No	Macadam	Standard
				Sports Club	Yes	Ham & Petersham LTC	4	No	Macadam	Standard
				Education	No	-	3	No	Macadam	Good
21	Hampton School (Old Hamptonians Sports Ground)	TW12 3HD	Hampton & Teddington	Education	No	-	3	No	Macadam	Good
22	Hampton High School (Hampton Sport & Fitness Centre)	TW12 3HB	Hampton & Teddington	Council	Yes	-	3	Yes	Macadam	Good
26	Udney Park Playing Fields	TW11 9EB	Hampton & Teddington	Private	Yes	-	3	No	Macadam	Poor
28	King George's Field (Ham)	TW10 7RS	Richmond	Council	Yes	-	4	No	Macadam	Good
29	Kneller Gardens	TW2 6PH	Twickenham	Council	Yes	-	3	No	Macadam	Good
30	Lady Eleanor Holles School	TW12 3HF	Hampton & Teddington	Education	No	-	6	Yes	Macadam	Good
							6	No	Grass	Standard
32	Marble Hill Park	TW1 2NL	Twickenham	English Heritage	Yes	-	2	No	Macadam	Good
34	Moormead Recreation Ground	TW1 1EB	Twickenham	Council	Yes	-	4	No	Macadam	Good
37	Bushy Park Sports Club	TW11 0LW	Hampton & Teddington	Sports Club	Yes	Bushy Park TC	5	No	Grass	Good
							4	No	Artificial	Good
38	Old Deer Park	TW9 2GB	Richmond	Council	Yes	-	5	No	Macadam	Good
39	Old Deer Park Partnership	TW9 2AZ	Richmond	Sports Club	Yes	Richmond LTC	4	No	Macadam	Good
							3	Yes	Artificial	Good
							6	No	Grass	Good
42	St Mary's Hampton C of E Primary School	TW12 2HP	Hampton & Teddington	Education	Yes	-	2	Yes	Macadam	Standard
43	Orleans Park School	TW1 3BB	Twickenham	Education	Yes	-	3	No	Macadam	Poor
44	Palewell Common	SW14 8RF	Richmond	Council	Yes	-	4	No	Macadam	Good
48	Rocks Lane Multi Sports Centre	SW13 0DG	Richmond	Trust (Council)	Yes	-	6	Yes	Artificial	Standard
49	Sheen Common	SW14 7EL	Richmond	Council	Yes	-	4	No	Macadam	Standard
54	St Mary's & St Peter's Primary School	TW11 8RX	Hampton & Teddington	Education	Yes	-	1	No	Macadam	Standard
56	St Paul's School	SW13 9JT	Richmond	Education	Yes	Thameside TC	6	No	Artificial	Good
							4	No	Macadam	Standard
59	Teddington Sports Centre (Teddington School)	TW11 9PJ	Hampton & Teddington	Council	Yes	-	3	No	Macadam	Standard
61	The Harrodian School	SW13 9QN	Richmond	Education	Yes	-	4	No	Artificial	Good
62	Kneller Hall	TW2 7DU	Twickenham	Education	No	-	2	No	Macadam	Poor
65	Waldegrave School	TW2 5LH	Twickenham	Education	Yes	-	3	No	Macadam	Standard
66	Twickenham School (Whitton Sports & Fitness Centre)	TW2 6JW	Twickenham	Council	Yes	-	3	Yes	Macadam	Standard
69	King's Field	KT1 4ET	Hampton & Teddington	Council	Yes	-	2	No	Macadam	Standard
70	Whitton Park Sports Association Ground	TW3 2JD	Twickenham	Sports Club	Yes	-	3	No	Grass	Standard
							2	No	Clay	Poor
78	Sheen Lawn Tennis & Squash Club	SW14 7EH	Richmond	Sports Club	Yes	Sheen LTC	3	No	Macadam	Good
							2	Yes	Clay	Good
							3	No	Clay	Good

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site Name	Postcode	Analysis Area	Ownership	Community use?	Club user?	No. of courts	Sports lighting?	Court type	Court quality
81	Cambridge Gardens	TW1 2TA	Twickenham	Council	Yes	-	4	No	Macadam	Good
82	York House Gardens	TW1 3DD	Twickenham	Council	Yes	-	4	No	Macadam	Good
94	Lensbury at Teddington Lock <sup>12</sup>	TW11 9NU	Hampton & Teddington	Private	Yes	Lensbury TC	8	Yes	Macadam	Good
							4	No	Clay	Good
							4	No	Artificial	Good
							3	No	Grass	Good
104	Pensford Tennis Club	TW9 4HR	Richmond	Sports Club	Yes	Pensford TC	3	Yes	Artificial	Good
							3	Yes	Clay	Good
106	Radnor House Independent School	TW1 4QG	Twickenham	Education	No	-	1	No	Macadam	Standard
107	St Catherine's School	TW1 4QJ	Twickenham	Education	No	-	2	No	Macadam	Standard
108	Turing House School	TW2 6LH	Twickenham	Education	Yes	-	3	No	Macadam	Good
109	The Garden Court	TW1 2DF	Twickenham	Private	Yes	-	1	No	Macadam	Good
110	The Royal Ballet School (White Lodge)	TW10 5HR	Richmond	Education	No	-	1	No	Artificial	Good
111	Hampton Prep School	TW12 2UQ	Hampton & Teddington	Education	No	-	1	No	Macadam	Poor
118	Westerley Ware	TW9 3AP	Richmond	Council	Yes	-	3	No	Macadam	Standard
119	Twickenham Lawn Tennis Club	TW1 3DG	Twickenham	Sports Club	Yes	Twickenham LTC	5	No	Macadam	Good
120	David Lloyd Club (Hampton)	TW2 5JD	Twickenham	Commercial	No	-	2	Yes	Artificial	Standard
							4	No	Artificial	Standard
							3	Yes	Macadam	Good
121	Teddington Lawn Tennis Club	TW11 8EZ	Hampton & Teddington	Sports Club	Yes	Teddington LTC	2	Yes	Clay	Good
							1	No	Clay	Good
							3	Yes	Artificial	Good
122	River Lane Tennis Club	TW10 7AB	Richmond	Sports Club	Yes	River Lane TC	1	No	Macadam	Good
123	Priory Park Tennis Club	TW9 3BZ	Richmond	Sports Club	Yes	Priory Park TC	3	No	Macadam	Standard

<sup>12</sup> Due to their commercial nature, these courts would ordinarily be considered unavailable for community use; however, the presence of Lensbury TC at the site means they are instead listed as available.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

### ***LTA Youth provision***

LTA Youth provides children with an opportunity to learn the fundamentals of tennis at an early age. It utilises smaller courts, nets and rackets as well as lower-bouncing tennis balls to develop vital tennis skills and techniques. This has five levels, with the LTA stating that each stage has key aims and goals as follows:

- ◀ Blue: Learn the Basics – tennis lessons for ages 4-6
- ◀ Red: Serve, Rally and Score – tennis lessons for ages 6-8
- ◀ Orange: Develop a Rounded Game - tennis lessons for ages 8-9
- ◀ Green: Test your Skills - tennis lessons for ages 9-10
- ◀ Yellow: Take your Skills Further – tennis lessons for ages 10+

Four smaller courts have been identified in LBRuT that are suitable for the above (as well as all full size courts). Three are located at Lensbury at Teddington Lock and one at Rocks Lane Multi Sports Centre.

### ***Padel provision***

Padel tennis is relatively new to Great Britain and is growing in popularity, particularly since its recognition as a sport and integration within the LTA.

Padel is played mainly in a doubles format on an enclosed court about a third of the size of a tennis court and can be played in groups of mixed ages and abilities, as it is not power dominant. The rules are broadly the same as tennis, although you serve under-arm and the walls are used as part of the game with the ball allowed to bounce off them.

In order to grow the sport, the LTA is focused on improving the infrastructure and the coach education pathway. At the end of 2020, there were 87 courts, whereas there are now 275, with a projected growth to 450 in 2023. It is therefore envisaged that the infrastructure and participation in padel will increase significantly in the next five years.

The padel court in LBRuT at Montrose House is on a private site but the provision is bookable and also used by a club known as Montrose Padel Club.

The LTA states that padel court development at leisure centre sites can be particularly beneficial as provision can be tied into other sports facilities and profit from an already established operating model. Furthermore, it identifies that they can benefit clubs and particularly those that may be otherwise struggling due to the additional revenue that they can provide.

Notwithstanding the above, the LTA also states that it is not encouraging clubs to convert existing tennis courts to padel courts, unless it can be shown that they have the capacity to support this. This is to ensure that the provision of tennis courts remains sufficient.

### ***Indoor provision***

There are three indoor tennis courts provided at St Mary's University. Whilst not included within the scope of this study, it must be referenced that these exist as they can provide additional capacity for tennis demand within the Borough, especially outside of summer months.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### *Future provision*

There are no known plans to develop new traditional tennis court provision in LBRuT, although Priory Park TC reports that it has space for two additional courts at its site via using the now disused bowling green.

Kneller Hall (formerly the Royal Military School of Music) has been acquired by Radnor House Independent School and discussions are ongoing with regard to establishing a community use agreement, subject to a planning application. This will enable access to the onsite sports provision, including the tennis courts, subsequently increasing the stock of available courts in the Borough (it is aiming to be open from September 2024). In addition, aspirations exist to improve the provision and to install sports lighting and smart gate access, with Whitton TC noted as potential users (which currently resides in the London Borough of Hounslow).

The three courts at Udney Park Playing Fields have previously been subject to development proposals that have so far been unsuccessful. The site had previously been sold by Imperial College to Quantum Group and was subject to development proposals that were unsuccessful. However, as of Autumn 2022, and following marketing in late 2021, it is now reported to be in new private ownership, and there continues to be significant uncertainty about future use and any development proposals that the new owner will bring forward.

Barn Elms Sports Trust is considering seeking planning permission to develop padel courts at Barn Elms Playing Fields, whilst The Lensbury Club reports that it has plans to install padel courts at its Teddington Lock site. This is in addition to aspirations to install an air dome over some of its traditional courts in order to provide indoor provision.

Rocks Lane Multi Sports Centre and Thameside TC, via St Paul's School, also report intentions to develop padel courts in the future. The former has padel provision at its site in Chiswick (Hounslow).

### *Ownership/management*

The table below highlights the management/ownership of tennis courts within LBRuT. In total, 63 are provided at club sites and 65 are provided at local authority sites, with all of these available for community use. There are 53 provided at education sites, although only 26 of these are community available, and 34 are provided by other entities, with 25 of these available to the community.

*Table 7.4: Outdoor tennis courts by management type*

Community use	Number of courts			
	Sports Club	Council	Education	Other
Available	63	65	26	25
Unavailable	-	-	27	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>34</b>

Of the local authority sites, three are dual use education sites, with the Council managing external bookings. These are Hampton, Teddington and Twickenham schools.

Courts classified as 'other' include those at Marble Hill Park, which is managed by English Heritage. The remaining 'sites are David Lloyd Club (Hampton), Lensbury at Teddington Lock, The Garden Couty and Udney Park Playing Fields. These are run privately or commercially.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### Security of tenure

Security of tenure is provided to all tennis clubs in LBRuT, with all clubs either owning their sites or leasing them on a long-term basis. As such, no clubs report any issues in this regard.

Venues used by each club are summarised in the following table.

Table 7.4: Summary of club venues and tenure

Club name	Site used	Type of tenure
Barnes TC	Barnes Sports Club	Freehold
Bushy Park TC	Bushy Park Sports Club	Freehold
Ham & Petersham LTC	Grey Court School	Lease
Lensbury TC	Lensbury at Teddington Lock	Lease
Priory Park TC	Priory Park Tennis Club	Freehold
Pensford TC	Pensford Tennis Club	Lease
Richmond LTC	Old Deer Park Partnership	Lease
River Lane TC	River Lane Tennis Club	Freehold
Sheen LTC	Sheen Lawn Tennis & Squash Club	Freehold
Teddington LTC	Teddington Lawn Tennis Club	Lease
Thameside TC	St Paul's School	Lease
Twickenham LTC	Twickenham Lawn Tennis Club	Freehold

One point to note is that Ham & Petersham LTC shares its provision with Grey Court School, which has exclusive access during school hours, thus limiting club use. The courts are leased from the Council.

### Court type

Most outdoor tennis courts have a macadam surface, with 129 of the 215 courts being of this type and 110 of these being available for community use. The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels. To ensure courts can continue to be used beyond this time frame, it is recommended that a sinking fund is put into place for eventual refurbishment.

Of the remaining courts, 43 have an artificial surface, 26 have a grass surface and 17 have a clay surface. This is summarised below.

Table 7.5: Summary of tennis court types across LBRuT

Court type	Available for community use	Unavailable for community use	Total number of courts
Artificial turf	32	11	43
Clay	17	-	17
Grass	20	6	26
Macadam	110	19	132
<b>Total</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>218</b>

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

Whilst artificial courts have a similar lifespan to macadam courts, grass and clay courts are generally much harder and more expensive to maintain, especially during bad weather spells. This can also impact on their capacity. The grass courts in LBRuT are supplied at Lady Eleanor Holles School, Lensbury at Teddington Lock, Busy Park Sports Club, Old Deer Park Partnership and Whitton Park Sports Association Ground, whilst the clay courts are found at Lensbury at Teddington Lock, Pensford Tennis Club, Sheen Lawn Tennis & Squash Club and Teddington Lawn Tennis Club.

### ***Sports lighting***

Sports lit courts enable use throughout the year and are identified by the LTA as being a key priority for growing participation. The LTA reports that courts with sports lighting allow for a 35% increase in available court time on an annual basis relative to those which are not lit.

In LBRuT, 49 out of the 215 tennis courts are serviced by sports lighting, representing just 23% of the provision. Of these, 38 are available for community use across the following sites:

- ◀ Hampton High School
- ◀ Old Deer Park Partnership
- ◀ Rocks Lane Multi Sports Centre
- ◀ St Mary's Hampton C of E Primary School
- ◀ Twickenham School
- ◀ Lensbury at Teddington Lock
- ◀ Pensford Tennis Club
- ◀ Sheen Lawn Tennis & Squash Club
- ◀ Teddington Lawn Tennis Club

The sports lit courts unavailable for community use are located at David Lloyd Club (Hampton) and Lady Eleanor Holles School.

Access to courts with sports lighting is considered particularly key for clubs as it allows for greater use of provision, which in turn can help accommodate more members. To that end, it must be noted that in LBRuT, only Lensbury, Pensford, Richmond, Sheen and Teddington tennis clubs are currently serviced by lighting. Barnes, Bushy Park, Ham & Petersham, Priory Park, River Lane, Thameside and Twickenham tennis clubs are not.

Barnes TC and Priory Park TC both report that they are looking to install sports lighting at their sites. Both note that they are currently limited in terms of capacity, especially during winter. Meanwhile, Ham & Petersham TC reports that it has also previously looked into installing sports lighting at Grey Court School but has since withdrawn an application.

Sheen LTC expresses an aspiration to increase its number of sports lit courts to increase its playing hours as currently, only two of its eight courts are serviced. However, the Club reports that numerous planning applications have been unsuccessful due to resident objections.

Teddington LTC reports that it has aspirations to improve its lighting. It is looking to replace the existing lights with an LED alternative.

Away from clubs, aspirations also exist to install sports lighting at Barn Elms Playing Fields, Udney Park Playing Field and, as previously mentioned, Kneller Hall.

Increasing the number of local authority courts with sports lighting is also a strategic aim for the LTA due to the additional recreational demand and tennis programmes such provision can help accommodate. Of the local authority courts in LBRuT, only three are currently serviced by sports lighting, all at Hampton High School (Hampton Sport & Fitness Centre).



## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

### *LTA Quick Access Loan Scheme<sup>13</sup>*

The LTA's mission is to grow tennis and padel by making them accessible, welcoming, and enjoyable. Ensuring local communities have access to quality facilities is critical to attracting and retaining more players. As such, the LTA's Quick Access Loan Scheme aims to provide interest-free loans to support venues investment in facilities, prioritising the installation and construction of covered courts.

The objectives of the fund are to:

- ◀ Provide covered or sports-lit playing facilities to encourage community accessible play all year.
- ◀ Retain and increase the number of participants at the venue.
- ◀ Offer and increase both non-members pay and play usage and coaching opportunities.
- ◀ Grow the numbers of adults and juniors on the coaching programme.
- ◀ Provide seamless booking of tennis courts and lessons through an [online booking system](#).

As part of the fund, the LTA will fund:

- ◀ Lighting upgrades to LED (outdoor and indoor)
- ◀ New sports lights
- ◀ New court provision
- ◀ Outdoor padel courts
- ◀ Covered padel (courts and cover)
- ◀ Covered tennis courts

### **Overmarking of courts**

Tennis courts, particularly within schools, are often overmarked by netball, basketball and/or football courts as shared use spaces. Overmarked courts tend to receive higher levels of use which can be detrimental to quality over time, as well as creating capacity issues if there is community demand from more than one sport.

In LBRuT, 36 courts are overmarked by netball or football provision across 13 sites. These are located at:

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| ◀ Christ's School                         | ◀ King George's Field (Ham)         |
| ◀ Hampton High School                     | ◀ Lady Eleanor Holles School        |
| ◀ Kneller Hall                            | ◀ Radnor House                      |
| ◀ Old Deer Park                           | ◀ St Catherine's School, Twickenham |
| ◀ St Mary's Hampton C of E Primary School | ◀ Udney Park Playing Fields         |
| ◀ Teddington School                       | ◀ Westerley Ware                    |
| ◀ Waldegrave School                       |                                     |

Only 19% of tennis courts in LBRuT are overmarked, which is a small number. LBRuT has a high percentage of dedicated courts compared to most local authorities nationally.

---

<sup>13</sup> [Quick Access Loan Scheme for tennis facilities \(lta.org.uk\)](#)

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### Quality

The quality of tennis courts has been informed through non-technical site assessments and consultation with providers to assign each court a rating of good, standard or poor. Key aspects informing the findings include surface quality, grip underfoot, line marking quality, evenness and evidence of inappropriate use (e.g. vandalism and/or littering).

For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

Maintaining high court quality is an important aspect of tennis and therefore the non-technical assessment assesses several factors are used to determine court quality. The criterion for the non-technical assessment include assessing grip underfoot, damage to the surface, line markings, evidence of moss/lichen, slope of courts, disability access, fencing and courts being of an appropriate size for competitive tennis.

Of the courts in LBRuT, 143 are assessed as good quality (126 of which are available for community use). There are 57 courts assessed as standard quality (41 available for community use) and 15 assessed as poor quality (12 available for community use). Having such a percentage of good quality courts within an authority is extremely rare.

Quality across LBRuT is summarised in the following table. For site-by-site findings, see Table 7.3.

Table 7.6: Quality of community available outdoor tennis courts

Community use	Court quality		
	Good	Standard	Poor
Available	126	41	12
Unavailable	17	16	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>15</b>

The poor quality courts are at the following sites:

- ◀ Christ's School
- ◀ Kneller Hall
- ◀ Udney Park Playing Fields
- ◀ Hampton Prep School
- ◀ Orleans Park School
- ◀ Whitton Park Sports Association Ground

The majority of these suffer from common problems such as worn line markings, loose gravel, waterlogging and poor grip underfoot. At Udney Park Playing Fields, aspirations exist to improve the quality via resurfacing in the near future.

None of the poor quality courts are accessed by clubs, although provision at Whitton Park Sports Association Ground was previously. The clay courts at the site are assessed as poor, whilst the grass courts are assessed as standard.

The majority of club-based provision is assessed as good quality, although the exceptions are Ham & Petersham, Priory Park and Thameside tennis clubs which have standard quality courts. Of these, Ham & Petersham LTC notes that it wishes to resurface its provision at Grey Court School in the near future.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

Despite being assessed as good quality, Richmond LTC also reports that it is planning to resurface its courts over the coming years, with a particular focus on its artificial grass provision. Lensbury TC also reports that plans are in place to resurface some of the courts at Lensbury at Teddington Lock, as does Sheen LTC at Sheen Lawn Tennis & Squash Club. This is to ensure that good quality is sustained.

None of the sites containing poor quality courts are operated by the Council. Improving local authority courts is currently a national priority for the LTA, with recent improvements taking place in LBRuT as part of this. There is a focus on suitable sites that cater for high levels of recreational demand or that have the potential to do so, especially if the provision is serviced (or could be serviced) by changing facilities and sports lighting.

### *Renovation fund<sup>14</sup>*

The LTA has secured a £22 million investment fund to be put into public tennis courts across Britain, together with an £8.5 million investment from the LTA. This will see thousands of public park tennis courts that are in poor or unplayable condition improved for the benefit of local communities.

The LTA's ambition is to drive participation across park tennis sites, as well as ensuring the future sustainability of these facilities. As well as paying for the refurbishment of public park courts, the new investment will also pay for the implementation of sustainable operating models for the facilities, with specialist programmes and support to ensure courts are both affordable and utilised.

### **Ancillary provision**

Consultation evidence suggests that most clubs are serviced by good or standard quality ancillary facilities. However, Barnes TC, Pensford LTC and Richmond LTC report that their changing facilities are of poor quality and in need of improvement. Pensford LTC and Richmond LTC also report issues with car parking and a lack of capacity.

Twickenham LTC has aspirations to erect a permanent gazebo within its grounds and to completely refurbish the clubhouse with a new design. It rates its current provision as adequate but also states that it has car parking capacity issues.

For non-club courts, clubhouses and changing rooms are generally considered to be problematic, although adequate facilities are provided at Carlisle Park, King's Field, Old Deer Park, Palewell Common and Sheen Common. Whilst most of the other sites do provide changing facilities and/or toilets, they are not specific for tennis and are generally too far away from the courts to be realistically used. Often, the facilities predominately service football/cricket pitch users and tend not to be readily available or suited to tennis court users. In some instances, quality is also poor.

Insight from the LTA indicates good quality ancillary facilities such as toilets, changing rooms and cafes encourage players to visit community available provision and stay for extended periods of time. One potential way to increase usage of such provision is, thus, to invest in suitable ancillary amenities, which can then also provide a source of income.

---

<sup>14</sup><https://www.gov.uk/government/news/30-million-package-to-refurbish-4500-public-tennis-courts-in-deprived-parts-of-uk-announced>

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### 7.3: Demand

#### **Competitive tennis**

There are 12 tennis clubs in LBRuT. Across the clubs, there is an overall membership of 3,948, which broken down amounts to 2,785 senior members and 1,163 junior members. The average club membership is 329, which represents substantial demand.

*Table 7.7: Summary of tennis club membership*

Name of club	Sites used	Number of members		
		Seniors	Juniors	Total
Barnes TC	Barnes Sports & Social Club	193	83	276
Bushy Park TC	Bushy Park Sports Club	80	30	110
Ham & Petersham LTC	Ham Common	283	194	477
Lensbury TC	Lensbury at Teddington Lock	308	107	415
Priory Park TC	Priory Park Club	88	8	96
Pensford TC	Pensford Tennis Club	279	189	468
Richmond LTC	Old Deer Park Partnership	336	110	446
River Lane TC	River Lane Tennis Club	42	3	45
Sheen LTC	Sheen Lawn Tennis & Squash Club	557	221	778
Teddington LTC	Teddington Lawn Tennis Club	460	160	620
Thameside TC	St Paul's School	40	8	48
Twickenham LTC	Twickenham Lawn Tennis Club	119	50	169
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,785</b>	<b>1,163</b>	<b>3,948</b>

Many of the clubs are large, such as Sheen LTC and Teddington TC which have 778 and 620 members, respectively. At the other end of the scale is River Lane TC is a small club with just 45 members.

#### **Participation trends**

Nationally, the LTA has announced participation figures for 2022 showing sustained success in getting more people playing tennis more often, with growth across all demographics, regions and nations of Great Britain. This is particularly amongst 16-34 year-olds and those from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

The number of adults reporting that they had played tennis during the year increased 43% compared to the previous year (2021), rising from 3.3 million to 4.7 million from January through to December. This is the highest total recorded since 2017 and has continued the growth seen in 2018-19 before being interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

In addition, more than two million adults play monthly, and this is the highest level recorded since the LTA started tracking this measure seven years ago. This means that the LTA has achieved the targets set out in its five-year 2018-23 strategy for adult annual and monthly participation one year ahead of schedule.

Finally, children's weekly participation in tennis has seen positive growth in the past year with over three and a half million children playing tennis and with an extra 328,000 children playing tennis in schools.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

The recent growth is reflected at clubs in LBRuT, with 2,512 more members now attached to clubs compared to data collected in 2018. This evidences a considerable growth in demand.

In correlation with the above, only Pensford TC reports that it has experienced any sort of decline in membership, stating that its junior section has decreased by 60 members due to the high turnover of young members and many not returning to tennis after the pandemic. However, over the same time period, it has seen an increase of 50 senior members.

Lensbury, Richmond, Sheen, Teddington and Twickenham tennis clubs all report that demand has increased at both senior and junior level, particularly Sheen LTC, which states that it now has 300 additional senior and 150 additional junior members. Collectively, the clubs report that improved coaching as well as increased court and ancillary facility quality has resulted in the increases, in addition to the general rise in demand following Covid-19.

All remaining clubs report that demand has remained relatively static.

### ***Informal and parks tennis***

The LTA has recently developed a support package for local authorities to grow use of tennis courts by removing key barriers to participation; products known as ClubSpark, Play (previously Rally) and Gate Access have been established. These represent what the LTA calls a major improvement to the customer journey and provide a clear revenue stream to reinvest into court provision.

LBRuT was one of the first local authorities to benefit from the initiative and it has since been expanded to cover all local authority and park sites. The full list of sites covered is as follows:

- ◀ Barns Elms Playing Fields
- ◀ Cambridge Gardens
- ◀ King's Field
- ◀ Moormead Recreation Ground
- ◀ Palewell Common
- ◀ St Paul's School (via Thameside TC)
- ◀ Westerley Ware
- ◀ Carlisle Park
- ◀ King George's Field (Ham)
- ◀ Kneller Gardens
- ◀ Old Deer Park
- ◀ Sheen Common
- ◀ Udney Park Playing Fields
- ◀ York House Gardens

Clubspark and Play are utilised at each and the use of the products at the sites allows official use of the courts to be tracked, thus providing data on how often provision is being accessed and by who. Demand is considered to be high, although a general lack of sports lighting across the Borough is likely to be limiting activity, especially outside of summer months.

The LTA products are further summarised below.

### ***ClubSpark – Improving the booking process***

ClubSpark is a flexible and simple venue management platform with multiple products and applications to help venues, local authorities and coaches manage their sport. ClubSpark is a tool that is offered for free as part of LTA venue registration and allows administrators to manage all functions at their venue(s), including:

- ◀ Managed website - create and manage a mobile friendly website tailored to LA/club requirements to promote events and activities.
- ◀ Managed coaching – set up coaching lessons and courses online.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

- ◀ Membership management - improve membership engagement by making it easier for the venue and for members to pay, renew and keep in touch (includes online payments, direct debits and the monitoring of revenue streams; membership modules can also be used to take season ticket payments for venues operating a non-traditional annual facility fee).
- ◀ Organise payments - set the way payments are taken, whether it's immediate pay and play, or bookable as part of a membership package
- ◀ Court bookings – reduced administration for bookings; give staff, coaches, members and the general public access to book and pay for courts, classes or other resources online.
- ◀ Scheduling - set unique booking and price rules to suit the venue and enable lights to switch on/off automatically when linked to the LTA Premium Gate Access system.
- ◀ Book and pay remotely - customers can make bookings and payments for a venue anytime, anywhere via the real-time booking app.
- ◀ Reporting - ClubSpark allows administrators to view reports highlighting income, court usage, revenue and number of members; this allows for identification of trends and patterns and evidence to demonstrate participation levels and impact.

### *LTA Play*

Play is an aggregator that collects all booking and coaching information via ClubSpark pages and displays it for participants in one easy to view page. It allows players to search for venues close to them and provides booking options, removing the barriers of not knowing where courts are or how to book.

Play provides a helpful customer journey, with a personal profile to review and manage bookings, and helpful reminders. Courts can be set to book for free of charge or at a fee agreed by the provider.

### *Gate access*

The LTA has developed two gate access systems that work in association with ClubSpark to secure courts and to allow access to booked customers only. Members of the public can book a court online (making payment if required) and receive a four-digit access code via email to enter using a courtside keypad. The gate access system then allows entry for the time booked if a correct code is entered.

Two gate options are available; SmartAccess Premium and SmartAccess Lite. The demands and needs of users plus the setup of the venue determines the most appropriate system for each site.

Nationally, the LTA report that in the last three years, sites with a gate access system installed have attracted 64,841 unique players, leading to 609,671 courts being booked. This has generated income of over £1 million.

### *Local tennis leagues*

Recreational tennis leagues are less formal than established club play, offering greater flexibility and an opportunity for people of all abilities to engage in competition at local venues. They are available to all aged 18 years and above and are run by an organisation called Local Tennis Leagues, which affiliates to the LTA. Players are organised into mixed sex leagues of eight based on similar ability levels, with matches arranged between the two players at whatever time and court is agreed. The flexibility of play is conducive to the use of park sites which are typically more easily accessible.



## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

Leagues operating LBRuT consists of the Richmond Parks Tennis League, the Barnes & Sheen Tennis League and the Richmond Park's Women's Doubles League. Courts for these are utilised at:

- ◀ Barn Elms Playing Fields
- ◀ Cambridge Gardens
- ◀ King's Field
- ◀ Kneller Gardens
- ◀ Palewell Common
- ◀ Sheen Common
- ◀ York House Gardens
- ◀ Barnes Sports Club
- ◀ Hampton High School
- ◀ King George's Field
- ◀ Moormead Recreation Ground
- ◀ Old Deer Park
- ◀ Westerley Ware

### *LTA Youth Start*

This is a six-week coaching offer for children who have never played tennis and is identified as a priority by the LTA. For £25, young people get coaching from an LTA accredited coach, a free racket, a pack of balls and personalised t-shirt so that they can continue playing.

In LBRuT, LTA Youth Start is known to be in operation at Kneller Gardens delivered by TW tennis, which is a coaching company utilising this site as well as Carlisle Park. Sessions run every Saturday morning.

### *LTA Big Tennis Weekend*

The LTA Big Tennis Weekend is an LTA initiative which all registered venues can access. Clubs and venues can sign up to host open days, which are free of charge, and create a relaxed and welcoming environment for those new to tennis to participate. This in turn can potentially lead to the clubs attracting new members.

The LTA hosts three dedicated weekends a year (in May, July and October). These are the UK's biggest public tennis events. Furthermore, venues are able to run additional events outside these dates and will benefit from their events being promoted on the national LTA campaign website. All clubs running an open day are asked to promote a follow-on offer to all attendees, such as a reduced rate introductory membership or a number of free coaching sessions, to encourage people to continue playing after the event. No sites in LBRuT currently host Big Tennis weekends.

### *Free Parks Tennis*

The LTA is due to launch the LTA Free Parks Tennis offer. This is due to the following needs:

- ◀ Player Trends:
  - ◀ 35% of people who play tennis once per year or more do so in a park.
  - ◀ The most common type of play for park players is socially with friends or family.
- ◀ Barriers:
  - ◀ 25% of players cite not having anyone to play with as a barrier to playing more tennis.
  - ◀ 24% of players cite having nowhere to play or difficulty in accessing local courts as reasons why they do not play tennis more often
  - ◀ 32% of these players say local courts are not affordable.
  - ◀ 75% of parks players consider themselves to be of beginner (41%) or improver (36%) standard, which is significantly lower than club players
  - ◀ 22% of players state that a lack of equipment prevents them from playing tennis.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

The key points of a free park tennis session are:

- ◀ Free for all players to book and attend
- ◀ Run by a minimum of two trained and DBS checked Activators
- ◀ Sessions should run all year round (weather depending)
- ◀ Run on a Saturday or Sunday morning at 10.00-11.00am

Court requirements are for three courts minimum in parks that have this many, or two courts at two court sites – a three court site can have up to 34 players attending. The sessions are designed for those aged eight and over, but under eights can attend when accompanied by a parent.

Future consideration should be given to offer Free Parks Tennis in Parks across LBRuT.

### ***Padel demand***

Currently 90,000 people reportedly play padel more than once a year in England - a 493% year on year increase compared to 2021 (15,000). This exemplifies the continued growth of the sport and the need to ensure that such demand is being adequately catered for.

There is only one publicly accessible padel court in LBRuT so only minimal activity is taking place within the Borough. However, given the growing popularity of the format, that is not to say that there is no demand as it is likely that take-up would be considerable were provision to be established. This is a key reason as to why Barn Elms Sports Trust, The Lensbury Club, Rocks Lane Multi Sports Centre and Thameside TC are looking to establish provision.

### ***Latent/unmet demand***

Latent demand for tennis nationally is reported to be high by the LTA, which has an insight tool that suggests that 18% of the five million players that pick up a racket each year would play more often if key barriers such as poor promotion of opportunities to get on court, unclear booking journeys (especially those that are 'offline') and low-quality facilities were addressed.

In LBRuT, the above is considered to be less of an issue given the number of local authority and park sites that have undergone recent refurbishment and that are part of ClubSpark/Play. However, whilst this is unable to be tracked, there is likely to be unmet demand as a consequence of many accessible courts not being serviced by sports lighting, especially outside of summer months.

In relation to clubs, five report having latent demand due to a lack of court capacity. These are:

- ◀ Ham & Petersham LTC
- ◀ Priors Park TC
- ◀ Sheen LTC
- ◀ Teddington LTC
- ◀ Twickenham LTC

Ham & Petersham LTC reports that if it had access to more courts, it would be able to accommodate increased demand. However, this is not currently possible due to the fact that it shares the site with Grey Court School.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Priory Park, Sheen, Teddington, and Twickenham tennis clubs all report that their current demand is sufficient to necessitate increased use of their facilities, if this was possible. Priory Park TC and Sheen LTC also attribute this to their previously referenced need for sports lighting or additional sports lighting to be installed.

Within its latent demand, Teddington LTC notes that if it had more court space available, it would be able to field 10 more men's teams, four more women's teams and several more junior teams. Comparably, Twickenham LTC reports that it would be able to field two additional senior teams and two additional junior teams.

### **Future demand**

Only four clubs in LBRuT report plans to increase their membership numbers. These are Lensbury, Priory Park, Pensford and Twickenham tennis clubs. However, the lack of future demand from other clubs is linked to the latent demand identified above and the fact that no capacity exists to cater for potential growth. The total future demand expressed equates to 90 senior and 145 junior members, as shown in the table below.

*Table 7.8 Summary of future tennis club demand (responsive clubs)*

Club	Future demand (members)	
	Senior	Junior
Barnes TC	-	-
Bushy Park TC	Unknown	Unknown
Ham & Petersham LTC	-	-
Lensbury TC	50	100
Priory Park TC	20	5
Pensford TC	-	30
Richmond LTC	-	-
River Lane TC	Unknown	Unknown
Sheen LTC	-	-
Teddington LTC	-	-
Thameside TC	Unknown	Unknown
Twickenham LTC	20	10

In addition, the LTA also expects future growth via its insight tools, with much of this demand likely to include participation outside of the club environment. To that extent, it is key that the local authority and park sites in LBRuT are part of the ClubSpark initiative as this will allow growth in demand that occurs to be monitored.

### **7.4: Supply and demand analysis**

#### **Club tennis**

The LTA suggests that a non-floodlit court can accommodate 40 members, whereas a floodlit court can accommodate 60 members. However, it must be noted that this should only be used as a guide as capacity can, in reality, vary from site to site depending on how the demand operates and the programmes of use in place. Some clubs can comfortably operate over capacity guidance, whilst others may have pressures without theoretically being over capacity. Using the guide, the table overleaf identifies the capacity balance at all sites currently used by clubs in LBRuT, taking into account both current and future demand.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 7.8 Capacity analysis (club courts)

Site ID	Site	Club users	Current demand (members)	Future demand (members)	No of courts	Sports lighting?	Capacity (members)	Current capacity balance	Future capacity balance
5	Barnes Sports Club	Barnes TC	276	-	3	No	120	156	156
15	Grey Court School	Ham & Petersham TC	477	-	4	No	160	317	317
37	Bushy Park Sports Club	Bushy Park TC	110	-	9	No	320	210	210
39	Old Deer Park Partnership	Richmond LTC	446	-	4	No	580	134	134
					3	Yes			
					6	No			
56	St Paul's School	Thameside TC	48	-	6	No	600	552	552
					4	No			
78	Sheen Lawn Tennis & Squash Club	Sheen LTC	778	-	3	No	360	418	418
					2	Yes			
					3	No			
94	Lensbury at Teddington Lock	Lensbury Club	415	150	8	Yes	920	505	355
					4	No			
					4	No			
					3	No			
104	Pensford Tennis Club	Pensford TC	468	30	6	Yes	360	108	138
119	Twickenham Lawn Tennis Club	Twickenham LTC	169	30	5	No	200	31	1
121	Teddington Lawn Tennis Club	Teddington LTC	620	-	3	Yes (2)	340	280	280
					3	Yes			
122	River Lane Tennis Club	River Lane TC	45	-	1	No	40	5	5
123	Priory Park Tennis Club	Priory Park TC	96	25	3	No	120	24	1

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

As evidenced in the table above, there is a theoretical shortfall of provision for club-based tennis in LBRuT, with six clubs currently operating over the capacity guide. These are:

- ◀ Barnes TC (at Barnes Sports Club)
- ◀ Ham & Petersham LTC (at Grey Court School)
- ◀ Pensford TC (at Pensford Tennis Club)
- ◀ River Lane TC (at River Lane Tennis Club)
- ◀ Sheen LTC (at Sheen Lawn Tennis & Squash Club)
- ◀ Teddington LTC (at Teddington Lawn Tennis Club)

In addition, future demand aspirations for Priory Park TC (at Priory Park Club) will also take it over the capacity guide, if realised, although only marginally. The total current shortfall across the sites adds up to 1,284 members whilst the future shortfall equates to 1,315 members. This represents a significant deficit.

The remaining clubs all have both current and future spare capacity.

### ***Non-club tennis***

For non-club courts, analysing supply and demand is difficult in LBRuT as full usage figures are not known. However, it is considered likely that most courts are being well utilised given the use of LTA products such as ClubSpark at most local authority and park venues. Nevertheless, no issues have been identified and it is therefore considered that all sites have capacity for additional growth.

### ***Conclusion***

For club-based tennis, there is a clear shortfall of provision in LBRuT which is leading many clubs to express capacity issues in addition to identifying high levels of latent and unmet demand. Resolutions are therefore required to alleviate pressures, first and foremost on a club-by-club basis.

For non-club activity, LBRuT is seemingly well placed given the quality of most of its courts and the supporting infrastructure and technology that is in place. However, a lack of sports lighting presents a clear problem as this will be limiting demand, especially outside of summer months.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### Tennis – supply and demand summary

- ◀ There is a shortfall of provision for club-based tennis, with six clubs currently operating over capacity and a further one expected to be over capacity through future demand.
- ◀ For non-club courts, the Borough is seemingly well placed given the quality of most of its courts and the supporting infrastructure and technology that is in place, although a lack of sports-lit provision is problematic.

### Tennis – supply summary

- ◀ A total of 215 tennis courts are identified across 48 sites.
- ◀ Of these, 179 are categorised as being available for community use at 39 sites compared to 36 that are unavailable at nine sites.
- ◀ Mini tennis courts are provided at Lensbury at Teddington Lock and Rocks Lane Multi Sports Centre, whilst there are no publicly accesible padel courts although aspirations are in place at Barn Elms Playing Fields and Lensbury at Teddington Lock.
- ◀ Of the courts, 63 are operated by sports clubs, 65 by the Council, 53 by education providers and 34 by other entities (such as trusts and commercial operators).
- ◀ All clubs have security of tenure, either via freehold for their sites or long term lease agreements.
- ◀ Most courts have a macadam surface. There are 129 of this type compared to 43 artificial courts, 26 grass courts and 17 clay courts.
- ◀ Only 49 courts are serviced by sports lighting, with 38 of these are available for community use.
- ◀ Of the clubs, only Lensbury, Pensford, Richmond, Sheen and Teddington tennis clubs are currently serviced by lighting; Barnes TC and Priory Park TC have aspirations for lighting to be installed, whilst Sheen LTC wants to increase its provision.
- ◀ 143 courts are assessed as good quality, 57 are standard quality and 15 are poor quality.

### Tennis – demand summary

- ◀ There are 12 tennis clubs.
- ◀ The clubs have an overall membership of 3,948, which broken down amounts to 2,785 senior members and 1,163 junior members.
- ◀ The average club membership is 329; this represents substantial demand.
- ◀ In correlation with national demand increases, there are 2,512 more members now attached to clubs compared to 2018 data and the majority of clubs report recent growth.
- ◀ Informal and recreational tennis demand is relatively high and participation is aided through the implementation of LTA products (e.g., ClubSpark) at most local authority and park sites.
- ◀ A Local Tennis League is in operation, with 13 sites commonly utilised.
- ◀ Five clubs report latent demand in that they could increase their membership if they had more court capacity, whilst four clubs report future demand amounting to 235 potential additional members (90 senior and 145 junior).
- ◀ The LTA also predicts future growth via its insight tools, with much of this demand likely to include participation outside of the club-environment.



# LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### PART 8: BOWLS

#### 8.1: Introduction

All bowling greens in LBRuT are flat green bowls (as opposed to crown greens). Bowls England is the NGB responsible for ensuring effective governance of flat green bowls across the Country. More locally, the sport is run and administered by the Middlesex Bowling Association and Bowls Surrey.

#### **Consultation**

There are eight bowling clubs in LBRuT. Of these, seven have responded to consultation requests; a response rate of 88%. Cambridge Park BC did not wish to participate.

*Table 8.1: Summary of consultation responses*

Club name	Analysis area	Responded?
Barnes BC	Richmond	Yes
Cambridge Park BC	Twickenham	No
Hampton BC	Hampton & Teddington	Yes
Mid-Surrey BC	Richmond	Yes
North Sheen BC	Richmond	Yes
Sheen Common BC	Richmond	Yes
Strawberry Hill BC	Twickenham	Yes
Teddington BC	Hampton & Teddington	Yes

#### 8.2: Supply

There are eight flat bowling greens in LBRuT located across the same number of sites. All are available for community use.

*Table 8.2: Summary of available greens by analysis area*

Analysis area	Number of flat greens
Richmond	4
Hampton & Teddington	2
Twickenham	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>

As shown above, the Richmond Analysis Area provides four greens, whilst there are two greens in each of the Hampton & Teddington and Twickenham analysis areas.

#### **Disused provision**

Disused outdoor bowling greens are identified at Bushy Park Sports Club and Priory Park Club, with both greens overgrown due to a lack of maintenance. The clubs that previously used this provision folded in recent years.

Priory Park TC reports an aspiration to convert the disused bowling green at Priory Park Club into additional tennis courts.

# LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 8.3: Summary of disused bowling greens

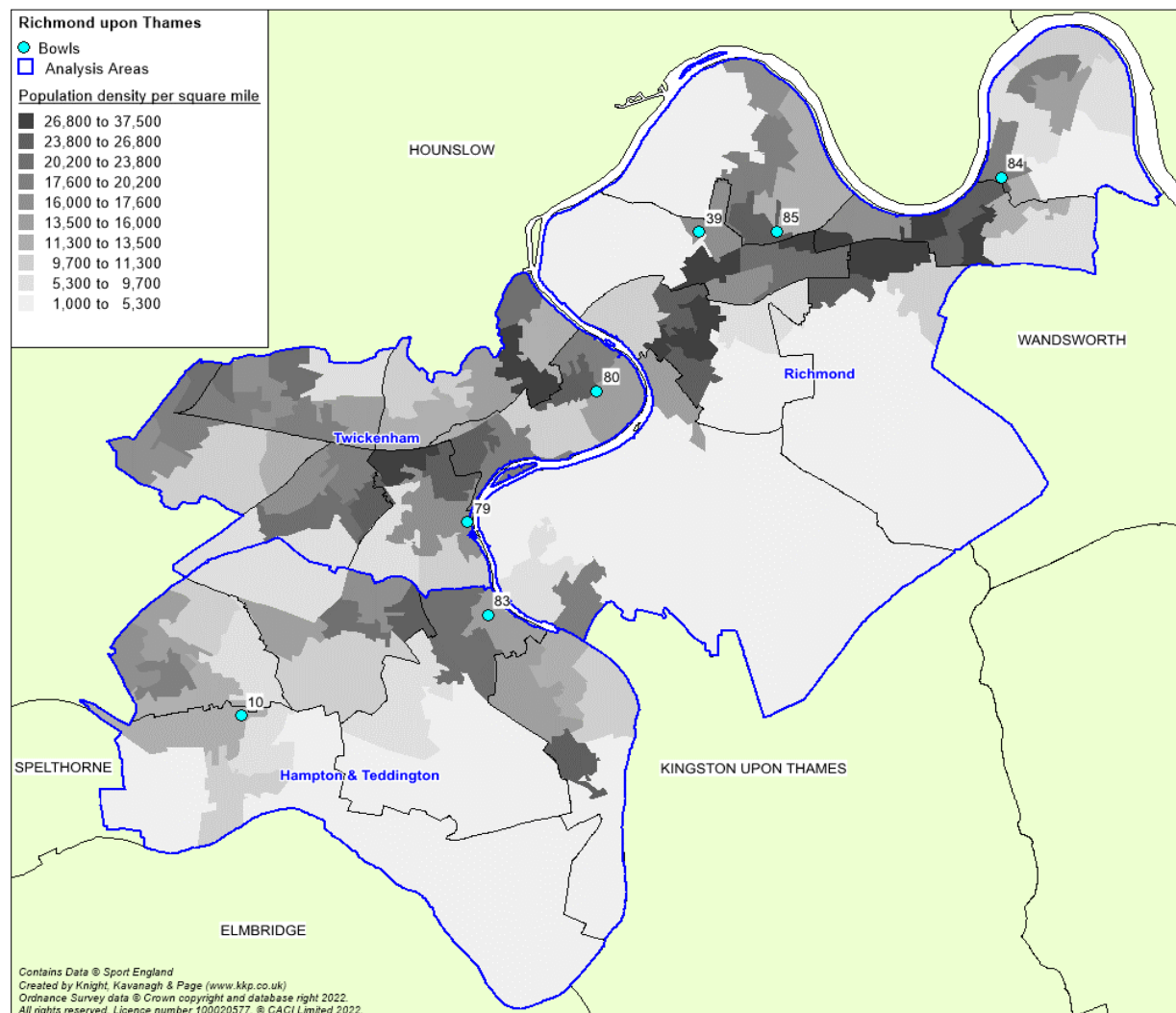
Site ID	Site name	Post code	Number of greens
37	Bushy Park Sports Club	TW11 0LW	1
86	Priory Park Club	TW9 3BZ	1
<b>Total</b>			<b>2</b>

### Indoor bowls

Whilst this report only considers outdoor bowling greens, it must be referenced that there are two indoor bowling greens in LBRuT. These are Cambridge Indoor Bowls Clubs and Richmond Indoor Bowls Club. They add to the capacity to accommodate bowls within the Borough, especially during winter months, with five of the six responding clubs reporting that some of its members utilise the provision. The indoor green at Cambridge Indoor Bowls Club accompanies the outdoor green at Cambridge Park Bowling Club, with membership across the two shared.

Figure 8.1 below highlights the location of all outdoor bowling greens currently servicing LBRuT. For a key to the map see Table 8.3.

Figure 8.1: Location of bowling greens in LBRuT



## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 8.4: Key to map

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Users	Management
10	Carlisle Park	TW12 2UL	Hampton & Teddington	Hampton BC	Council
39	Old Deer Park Partnership	TW9 2AZ	Richmond	Mid-Surrey BC	Sports Club
49	Sheen Common	SW14 7EL	Richmond	Sheen Common BC	Council
79	Radnor Gardens	TW1 4QG	Twickenham	Strawberry Hill BC	Council
80	Cambridge Park Bowling Club	TW1 2PG	Twickenham	Cambridge Park BC	Sports Club
83	Grove Gardens	TW11 8AS	Twickenham	Teddington BC	Council
84	Barnes Bowling Club	SW13 9HE	Richmond	Barnes BC	Sports Club
85	North Sheen Bowling Club	TW9 4JA	Richmond	North Sheen BC	Sports Club

### Ownership/management

Detail about the ownership and management arrangements for bowls clubs in LBRuT are provided below.

Table 8.5: Ownership/management arrangements for bowling clubs in LBRuT

Name of club	Ownership/management details
Barnes BC	Leases the green at Barnes Bowling Club from Mitchell's & Butler Brewery via a 10-year agreement which expires in 2028.
Cambridge Park BC	Owns the freehold to the green at Cambridge Park Bowling Club.
Hampton BC	Rents the green at Carlisle Park from the Council via a yearly season ticket purchase.
Mid-Surrey BC	Leases the green at Old Deer Park Partnership from Richmond Cricket Club and is current negotiating a new, extended agreement.
North Sheen BC	Has the freehold of the green at North Sheen Bowling Club.
Sheen Common BC	Rents the green from the Council.
Strawberry Hill BC	Leases the green at Radnor Gardens from the Council and is in talks regarding an extension.
Teddington BC	Leases the green at Grove Gardens from the Council on a long-term basis.

Generally, any clubs with lease agreements with fewer than 25 years remaining (unless recently entered into) are considered to have unsecure tenure as this can, amongst other things, prevent site development and limit their capacity to make external funding applications. In LBRuT, this applies to Barnes BC, Mid-Surrey BC and Strawberry Hill BC, although the latter two report that they are in discussion over potential extensions of their arrangements.

Both North Sheen BC and Cambridge Park BC have freehold of their sites, whilst Teddington BC has a long-term agreement in place. As such, none of these clubs have any security of tenure concerns.

Conversely, neither Hampton BC nor Sheen Common BC have freehold of their sites or a lease agreement in place, instead renting greens from the Council.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### Quality

The quality of bowling greens across LBRuT has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

For bowling greens, the non-technical assessment considers several attributes of the site including the surrounding hard surfaces to the green, disability access, evenness, grass coverage and signs off unofficial use. For further detail regarding the criteria, please see Appendix 2.

Across LBRuT, five greens are assessed as good quality and three are assessed as standard quality, with none assessed as poor. This is summarised site-by-site in the table below.

*Table 8.6: Summary of bowling green quality*

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Green quality
10	Carlisle Park	Hampton & Teddington	Standard
39	Old Deer Park Partnership	Richmond	Good
49	Sheen Common	Richmond	Good
79	Radnor Gardens	Twickenham	Good
80	Cambridge Park Bowling Club	Twickenham	Good
83	Grove Gardens	Twickenham	Standard
84	Barnes Bowling Club	Richmond	Good
85	North Sheen Bowling Club	Richmond	Standard

The good quality greens are located at Old Deer Park Partnership, Radnor Gardens, Sheen Common, Cambridge Park Bowling Club and Barnes Bowling Club, whilst the standard quality greens are located at Carlisle Park, Grove Gardens and North Sheen Bowling Club.

At both Grove Gardens and North Sheen Bowling Club, that host clubs report that quality has deteriorated in recent years. North Sheen BC reports that it is looking to make improvements to its green, particularly relating the edges, whilst Teddington BC notes that there are worsening undulations on the green at Grove Gardens.

At Carlisle Park, there is a current issue with drainage and underground leakage that means one of its six rinks is unusable. Hampton BC reports that it is waiting for the Council's maintenance contractor to resolve the problem.

Despite being assessed as good quality, Barnes BC notes that its green has some undulations and some slight rises into the side banks that it is looking to correct. In addition, the green is considered to be too small for standard lawn bowls with rinks, with only two games able to be played at one time, diagonally from corner to corner.

Notwithstanding the above, in addition to their greens being assessed as good, Barnes, Mid-Surrey, Sheen Common and Strawberry Hill bowls clubs all state that quality has improved in recent years. They all attribute this to enhanced maintenance regimes.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### ***Ancillary provision***

All eight clubs in LBRuT have access to some form of clubhouse/pavilion on site or through an adjoining public house, although the quality varies, with most clubs reporting issues. As seen in the table below, one green is serviced by good quality provision, six by standard quality provision and one by poor quality provision.

*Table 8.7: Summary of club ancillary facilities comments through consultation*

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality
10	Carlisle Park	Hampton & Teddington	Standard
39	Old Deer Park Partnership	Richmond	Standard
49	Sheen Common	Richmond	Standard
79	Radnor Gardens	Twickenham	Standard
80	Cambridge Park Bowling Club	Twickenham	Standard
83	Grove Gardens	Twickenham	Standard
84	Barnes Bowling Club	Richmond	Poor
85	North Sheen Bowling Club	Richmond	Good

The clubhouse at Barnes Bowling Club is poor quality primarily due to the age and size of the facilities. The roof is currently leaking and in need of repair. The Club reports that it has plans to refurbish the facilities in the near future.

The clubhouse at Carlisle Park is also small, with Hampton BC reporting that it is exploring a possible expansion whilst stating that it is unsure whether the funding is available. It states that the current provision is extremely cramped during peak time hours.

The clubhouse at Sheen Common is without shower facilities.

No other clubs report any significant problems with their clubhouse facilities, although both North Sheen BC and Teddington BC suggest that there are issues with car parking. The former identifies that its provision is limited due to being located on a residential road, whilst the latter hopes that the Council's plan to create a morning only controlled parking zone will improve availability at Grove Gardens in the afternoons when demand is at its highest.

### ***Sports lighting***

Bowling greens that are serviced by sports lighting can enable increased usage, especially during evenings outside of summer months. In LBRuT, only the green at Barnes BC is serviced by sports lighting, although such greens are somewhat rare across the Country and this is therefore comparable with the national picture. The indoor provision at Richmond Indoor Bowls Club and Cambridge Park Indoor Bowls Club provides a suitable alternative for the remaining demand.

## **8.3: Demand**

### ***Current demand***

There are eight clubs using bowling greens in LBRuT. Across the clubs, there are a total of 581 members equating to 346 senior men, 224 senior women and 11 juniors. This is summarised club-by-club in the table below.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

The largest club by far is Cambridge Park BC, with 273 members. However, it must be noted that this is in part due to it also having access to an indoor facility. Because of this, many of its members will also be members of the other clubs.

The largest club without an indoor facility is Barnes BC, with 91 members, whilst the smallest is Sheen Common BC, with only seven members. Average club membership is 73 members if Cambridge Park BC is included in the calculation and 44 members when it is discounted.

*Table 8.8: Membership for bowls clubs across LBRuT*

Club name	Current membership			
	Senior males	Senior females	Juniors	Total
Barnes BC	59	32	-	91
Cambridge Park BC	153	110	10	273
Hampton BC	29	22	-	51
Mid-Surrey BC	20	23	-	43
North Sheen BC	34	14	-	48
Sheen Common BC	4	3	-	7
Strawberry Hill BC	26	16	1	43
Teddington BC	21	4	-	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>581</b>

Barnes, Mid Surrey, North Sheen and Sheen Common bowls clubs all affiliate to Bowls Surrey, whilst Cambridge Park, Hampton, Strawberry Hill and Teddington bowls clubs affiliate to the Middlesex Bowling Association.

### **Participation trends**

Correlating with the national trend of declining membership, there are currently four fewer members identified across LBRuT when compared to data gathered in 2018. However, the average per club is now higher as 2018 figures included both North Sheen BC and NPL Ladies BC, both of which have since folded.

Only two of the remaining clubs reports a decrease in participation numbers in recent years, with these being North Sheen BC and Sheen Common BC. The former states that it has had to stop fielding three of its teams due to a shortage of members, whilst the latter attributes the decrease to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

No clubs report an increase in membership, with each remaining club stating that participation levels have remained static. That being said, due to the nature of the sport, even clubs with static membership need to continuously attract new members to replace existing users who can no longer play.

### **Additional demand**

Four clubs report that their greens are also available for pay and play, in addition for use by members. These are:

- ◀ Hampton BC (at Carlisle Park)
- ◀ Mid-Surrey BC (at Old Deer Park Partnership)
- ◀ Strawberry Hill BC (at Radnor Gardens)
- ◀ Teddington BC (at Grove Gardens)



## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

None report significant take up and that most pay and play users are accompanied by members. The remaining clubs report not offering pay and play due to them not having the resources to manage it as the facilities would need to be staffed outside of current hours.

Mid Surrey BC reports that its green at Old Deer Park Partnership is also used by London Welsh Bowls Association. This is a group for bowlers across the UK that were born in Wales, of Welsh descent, or with a Welsh affiliation. It regularly tours and uses a variety of sites to enable this.

### *Play Bowls*

Play Bowls is a new product designed to assist clubs in attracting more casual, pay and play participants. Clubs are now able to sign up to the scheme, with booking slots for access then able to be secured and paid for via the Play Bowls website. The aim is for this to help the sport become much more accessible whilst making it easy for clubs to evolve and manage the demand from the casual audience.

### ***Latent/unmet demand***

All but one of the clubs in LBRuT report that existing membership can be accommodated on the current level of provision available to them and that no potential members are being turned away due to capacity issues. As such, it is considered that anyone within LBRuT that would like to start participating could do so at the clubs and greens already in existence.

The only club unable to take on new members due to capacity is Barnes BC. It states that this is due to an already high membership, exacerbated by it being serviced by a smaller than normal green. As such, a waiting list is in place, with five people currently on this.

### ***Future demand***

Bowls England is actively working to negate the stereotype that bowls is a sport is for the older generation. As such, it is taking active steps at county and national level to encourage younger players to participate. The future growth for the sport is therefore in a state of flux due to the growing professionalism of the NGB.

Furthermore, ONS projections suggest that the number of persons aged 65 and over is likely to significantly increase for the period up to 2039 in LBRuT (and across the UK). Due to this age band accounting for a high proportion of bowls players, demand for greens could increase as a result.

Of the responding clubs, six highlight aspirations to increase membership, with only Barnes BC reporting no future demand due to its existing capacity issues. This is summarised in the table below.

*Table 8.9: Summary of future demand expressed by clubs*

Club Name	Future demand (members)	
	Senior	Junior
Barnes BC	-	-
Cambridge Park BC	Unknown	Unknown
Hampton BC	10	1
North Sheen BC	5	-



## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Club Name	Future demand (members)	
	Senior	Junior
Mid-Surrey BC	5	-
Sheen Common BC	15	8
Strawberry Hill BC	10	5
Teddington BC	4	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>14</b>

As seen, total future demand equates to 49 senior and 14 junior members. Clubs report aiming to achieve these aspirations through a variety of means including increased advertising, hosting open days and, for those with future demand for juniors, linking with local schools.

### *Bowls Bash*

To increase participation, Bowls England has recently launched a product known as Bowls Bash. This is an exciting, new form of lawn bowls that is easy to play, shortened and fun for all ages and abilities. The aim is to roll the ball at the Jack; the closer you get, the more points you earn for your team, and bonus points are given for kissing the target. It is normally played in teams of two, with players delivering 30 bowls each per match, and generally lasts an hour.

### 8.4: Supply and demand analysis

The capacity of a bowling green is very much dependent on the leagues and the day that they operate. A green may have no spare capacity on an afternoon or evening when a popular league operates but may be unused for the rest of the week. However, in many cases, greens are used during the afternoons by club members who bowl socially, with access a potential issue during peak times if membership is particularly high.

Bowls England does not have any specific guidance on bowling green capacity, stating that it can vary from site-to-site and from club-to-club. However, as a guide, it states that any green used by at least 20 members is generally considered to be sustainable, whilst any green operating with a membership of over 60 may need additional resource to ensure that it is meeting its required level of demand.

Based on the above, capacity ratings for bowling greens in LBRuT are classified as follows:

<b>Within capacity range</b>	Membership ensures green is sustainable without capacity issues
<b>At capacity range</b>	Membership is at the capacity limit of the green
<b>Outside capacity range</b>	Membership is below or above the recommended capacity range

Following this, the table below highlights the level of usage each green in LBRuT receives based on current membership numbers.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 8.10: Supply and demand balance of bowling greens in LBRuT

Site ID	Site	Club user	Current members	Future demand
10	Carlisle Park	Hampton BC	51	62
39	Old Deer Park Partnership	Mid-Surrey BC	43	48
49	Sheen Common	Sheen Common BC	7	30
79	Radnor Gardens	Strawberry Hill BC	43	58
80	Cambridge Park Bowling Club	Cambridge Park BC	273	273
83	Grove Gardens	Teddington BC	25	29
84	Barnes Bowling Club	Barnes BC	91	91
85	North Sheen Bowling Club	North Sheen BC	48	53

As can be seen, two of the greens are currently operating above the recommended capacity limit, with these being at Barnes Bowling Club and Cambridge Park Bowling Club. When accounting for future demand, the green at Carlisle Park is also predicted to be operating above the capacity threshold.

At Cambridge Park Bowling Club, the supply and demand picture is distorted due to the presence of an indoor facility. This adds significant capacity to the site that is likely to be sufficient to cater for the demand that is being received.

Conversely, the capacity issue identified at Barnes Bowling Club ties into the Club reporting that it cannot grow its membership, with a waiting list currently in place.

At Hampton BC, capacity may only be a problem if it achieves its future growth aspirations, and even then, it will only be marginally over recommended limits. Whilst this should be monitored, the Club reports that it will be able to accommodate the increases without any issues and there is no clear reason to doubt this.

At the other end of the scale, the green at Sheen Common is operating below the recommended capacity threshold, with Sheen Common BC currently having only seven members. The future sustainability of the Club is therefore questionable.

All remaining greens are operating within the recommended range, with more than 20 members but fewer than 60. As such, Mid-Surrey, North Sheen, Strawberry Hill and Teddington bowls clubs are not considered to have any capacity or sustainability issues.

### Conclusion

With seven of the eight bowls clubs in LBRuT considered able to accommodate their usage via the existing number of greens provided, supply is generally sufficient to meet demand. However, this is not the case for Barnes BC, which requires access to additional green space in order to adequately cater for all of its demand.

Furthermore, with most in use green receiving relatively high levels of demand, it is also clear that each green warrants protection and that any further losses in addition to the disused provision identified is unlikely to be sustainable. The only exception to this is at Sheen Common, where Sheen Common BC should be supported to ensure that it can meet its future growth aspirations and become a more viable entity.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

### **Bowls – supply and demand summary**

- ◀ With seven of the eight bowls clubs considered able to accommodate their usage via the existing number of greens provided, supply is generally sufficient to meet demand, although Barnes BC requires access to additional green space.
- ◀ Most greens have relatively high levels of demand and each therefore warrants protection.

### **Bowls – supply summary**

- ◀ There are eight flat greens provided across the same number of sites.
- ◀ There are two disused greens (at Bushy Park Sports Club and Priory Park Club).
- ◀ Of the current greens, five rated as good quality and three are rated as standard quality (none are poor quality).
- ◀ In terms of clubhouse facilities, one green is serviced by good quality provision, six by standard quality provision and one by poor quality provision (Barnes Bowling Club).
- ◀ The green at Barnes Bowling Club is serviced by sports lighting which allows for increased usage, especially outside of summer months.

### **Bowls – demand summary**

- ◀ There are eight clubs, with membership totalling 581 members and equating to 346 senior men, 224 senior women and 11 juniors.
- ◀ Demand is highest at Cambridge Park BC, although this is likely to be linked to it also having access to an indoor facility, and lowest at Sheen Common BC, which has only seven members.
- ◀ Four fewer members are identified across LBRuT compared to 2018 but average membership per club is now higher as some clubs have folded.
- ◀ Four greens are available for pay and play usage, although take-up is reportedly minimal.
- ◀ Barnes BC has a waiting list (unmet demand), whereas no other clubs report any capacity issues.
- ◀ Six clubs highlight aspirations to increase membership, with total predicted growth based on this amounting to 49 senior members and 14 junior members.

# LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### PART 9: GOLF

#### 9.1: Introduction

Golf is the fifth largest participation sport in England, with around 730,000 members belonging to 1,800 affiliated clubs and a further two million people playing independently outside of club membership. There are an estimated 3,000 golf courses across the Country, with approximately 90 designated as sites of special scientific interest because apart from the intensively managed trees and greens they have other habitats with high wildlife value. Many other courses also exist within designated heritage coast sites, areas of outstanding natural beauty, or listed historic parklands.

Nationally, the sport is governed by England Golf. Its role includes providing competitions for players of all ages and abilities, identifying and developing the most talented golfers, maintaining a uniform system of handicapping, administering and applying the rules, and introducing new golfers via its initiatives such as 'Get into Golf'.

#### Consultation

This section has been informed via consultation with England Golf, which provided information relating to all facilities and clubs in LBRuT.

#### 9.2: Supply

The three different types of golf facilities recognised by Sport England and governed by England Golf are defined in the table below. Pitch and putt courses (such as that provided at Palewell Common) and miniature/crazy golf courses are not included as these are not considered to be traditional formats of the game and are not comparable offerings.

*Table 9.1: Definitions of golf facilities*

Facility type	Description
Standard	A standard par course, with a minimum of 9 holes but normally associated with 18-hole courses; many 9-hole courses have different tee boxes which allow the provision to be played as an 18-hole course. Some courses provide 27 holes, with any two loops of 9-holes played to make up an 18-hole round.
Par 3	Shorter length of holes than a standard course, with no hole longer than Par 3. Most likely to be a 9-hole course although 18-hole offerings do exist. Does not include pitch and putt courses, which are even shorter offerings and are not considered to be a traditional version of the sport.
Driving Range	Includes covered and uncovered driving range bays but not practice areas within golf courses; ranges are based on the hiring of balls, with users not required to retrieve, whereas practice areas are generally for members to use with their own balls (although a growing number have dispensers). Does not include 'entertainment' ranges or virtual offerings, although some driving ranges have expanded to also provide these features.

In LBRuT, seven golf sites provide facilities conforming with the above definitions. These are identified in Table 9.2 and Figure 9.1 below. Three are in each of the Hampton & Teddington and the Richmond analysis areas and one is in the Twickenham Analysis Area.

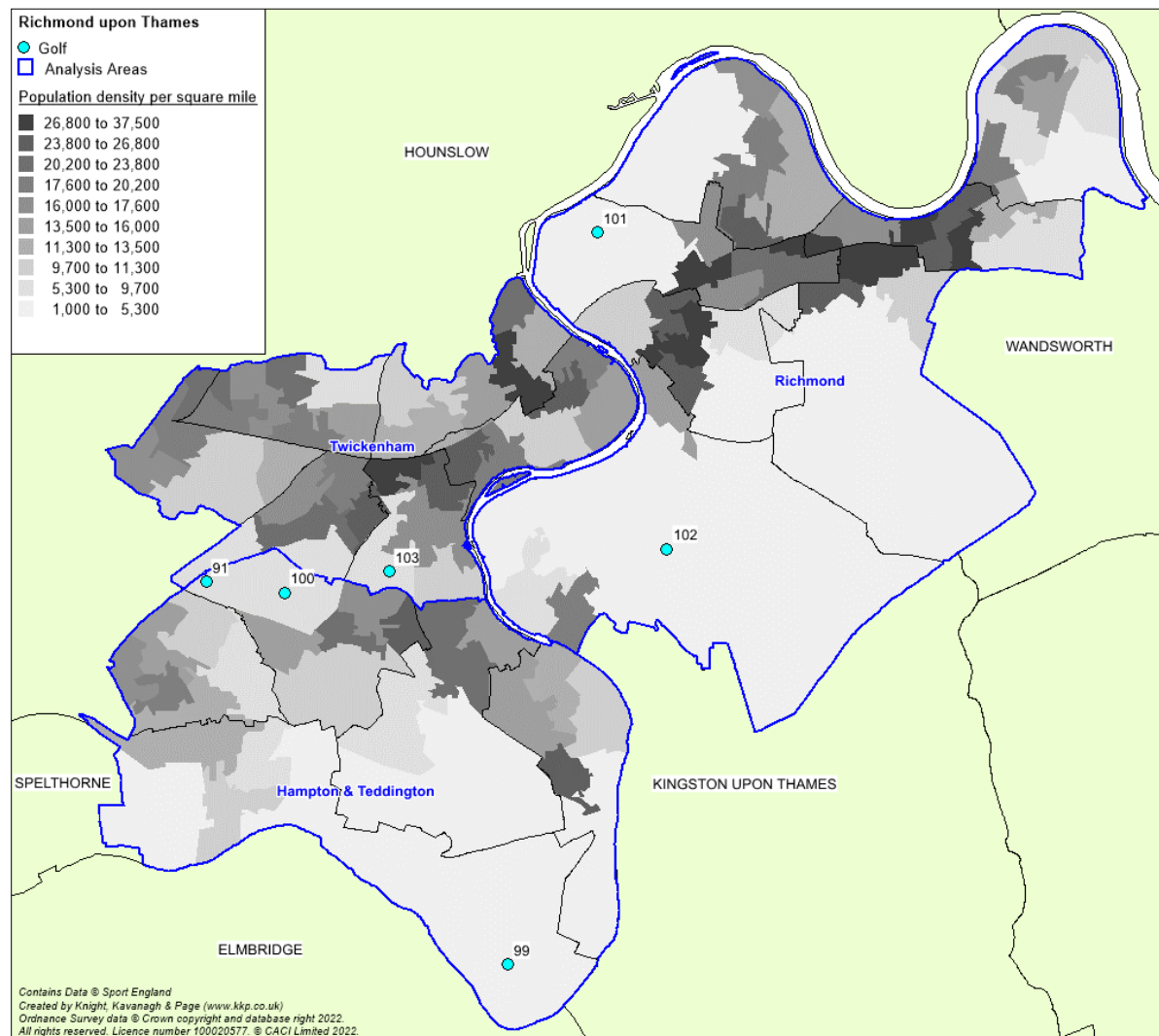
## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Please note that the postcode for Richmond Park Golf Course technically falls outside of LBRuT’s administrative boundary. However, the large majority of the site is within the Borough and it has therefore been included within the study as a LBRuT-based facility.

Table 9.2: Golf facilities within LBRuT

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area
91	David Lloyd Hampton Golf Club	TW2 5JD	Hampton & Teddington
99	Hampton Court Palace Golf Club	KT1 4AD	Hampton & Teddington
100	Fulwell Golf Club	TW12 1JY	Hampton & Teddington
101	Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club	TW9 2SB	Richmond
102	Richmond Golf Club	TW10 7AS	Richmond
103	Strawberry Hill Golf Club	TW2 5SD	Twickenham
117	Richmond Park Golf Course	SW15 3SA	Richmond

Figure 9.1: Location of golf courses in LBRuT



## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### Standard hole golf courses

Each of the seven golf sites in LBRuT provide at least one standard hole course. Fulwell, Hampton Court and Richmond golf clubs provide one 18-hole course, Richmond Park Golf Course and Royal Mid-Surrey provides two 18-hole courses and Strawberry Hill Golf Club and David Lloyd Hampton Golf Club provide one 9-hole course. These are summarised by site in following table.

Table 9.3: Summary of standard hole provision

Site ID	Site name	Holes	Par	Yardage <sup>15</sup>			Slope rating
91	David Lloyd Hampton Golf Club	9	35	2,716	2,716	2,549	125-130
99	Hampton Court Palace Golf Club	18	71	6,514	6,208	5,529	125-128
100	Fulwell Golf Club	18	71	6,475	6,218	5,685	124-142
101	Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club	18	69	6,360	6,082	5,723	100-133
		18	68	5,521	5,379	4,120	105-132
102	Richmond Golf Club	18	70	6,091	5,864	5,368	121-134
103	Strawberry Hill Golf Club	9	31	2,338	2,133	2,045	111-132
117	Richmond Park Golf Course	18	71	6,359	5,870	5,645	116-127
		18	68	5,487	5,204	4,963	98-120

Most of the 18-hole courses are relatively similar in length and are within the range of what you would expect from traditional provision. The longest course is found at Hampton Court Palace Golf Club (6,514 yards), whilst the shortest is the second course at Richmond Park Golf Course (5,487 yards).

Nationally, many 9-hole courses are shorter than the front or back nine of an 18-hole course, primarily to attract and cater for a different userbase. In LBRuT, this is the case at both David Lloyd Hampton Golf Club and particularly Strawberry Hill Golf Club.

### Slope ratings

Slope ratings are new to golf across the World. The intention is for them to allow the handicap system to reflect course difficulty and the difference in difficulty for all players compared to scratch golfers. In effect, this enables each player to have a handicap that will vary from course-to-course, depending on difficulty, as well as a general handicap.

The maximum slope rating is 155, whereas the minimum is 55. The standard difficulty is considered to be 113, which means that the courses in LBRuT are generally considered to be more difficult than the mean, with them collectively ranging from 98-142 (the slope rating varies depending on which tee is used).

### Par 3 golf holes

Most commonly, Par 3 provision is used by beginner and casual players, although they are also frequented by more traditional golfers wanting to practice their short game, particularly when accompanying a standard hole course.

<sup>15</sup> White denotes Championship tees, yellow denotes men's tees and red denotes ladies' tees.



## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

There are no Par 3 courses in LBRuT.

### ***Driving range bays***

Three of the seven golf sites in LBRuT supply a traditional driving range, in addition to their standard hole courses, with 20 bays provided at Richmond Park Golf Course (although only 12 are covered) , 12 bays provided at Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club and eight bays provided at Richmond Golf Club. However, only the provision at Richmond Park Golf Course is available for play and pay, with access at the other two venues generally reserved for members.

In addition, the driving ranges at Richmond Golf Club and Richmond Park Golf Course are not serviced by sports lighting. Where lighting is not provided, this can impact on usage, particularly during winter months when demand for such provision is generally at its highest.

*Table 9.4: Summary of driving range bays within LBRuT*

Site ID	Site name	No. of bays	Sports lighting?	Pay and play?
101	Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club	12	Yes	No
102	Richmond Golf Club	8	No	No
117	Richmond Park Golf Course	20	No	Yes

With only 20 driving range bays provided in LBRuT to the wider public, this represents a low amount for the size and population base of the Borough.

Notwithstanding the above, Hampton Court Palace Golf Club also advertises that it has a driving range, although this is not via covered bays but rather through a dedicated grass area. Whilst this means that it is not a traditional driving range, it does offer pay and play usage in contrast to the provision at Richmond Golf Club and Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club.

Whilst not in place at any sites in LBRuT, many driving range providers across the Country are updating their facilities with modern technology in a bid to increase demand, such as through the installation of automatic tees or via entertainment systems such as TopTracer and FlightScope. Such provision allows for users to simulate playing on courses across the world and provides ball tracking and statistical feedback.

### ***Management and ownership***

There are three main types of ownership and management models of golf facilities in England; members clubs, proprietary clubs, and municipal facilities, as summarised in the table below.

*Table 9.5: Types of ownership and management of golf facilities*

Management type	Description
<b>Members</b>	Traditionally owned by members and run by committees. They are likely to hire caterers and green staff. Most members' clubs offer some level of pay and play and encourage golf societies but are mostly focused on membership numbers.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Management type	Description
<b>Proprietary</b>	Owned or managed by businesses or individuals, these can include country club type facilities at the high end of the golfing market alongside more localised facilities. Many have clubs operating within them but can also take a much more relaxed attitude to dress and traditions of golf. Pay and play opportunities tend to be a key feature of the business plan.
<b>Municipal</b>	These are generally owned by a local authority, although in a growing number of instances, management has been contracted and externalised to private companies. Due to a lack of financial viability, many have closed across the Country in recent years and many that remain are under threat.

It is recognised that members clubs and visitors to such clubs are normally expected to dress appropriately, have a registered handicap certificate (a certificate issued by the Council of National Golf Unions (CONGU)) and be familiar with the rules and etiquette of the game. This is not uncommon at some proprietary clubs, but municipal courses tend to be more relaxed and do not require people to have handicaps, making golf much more accessible.

Consequently, municipal courses are, in many instances, seen as entry level facilities, with players using them before having the confidence to move on to a members' or high-end proprietary club (although many people can and do stay attached to a particular course). They also tend to offer a more affordable golfing experience.

The business model for members clubs tends to rely heavily on income through membership subscriptions and use of ancillary facilities, rather than from pay and play usage, although attention has somewhat switched at many sites in recent years due to demand falling. The same can be said for some proprietary clubs, although, in general, more emphasis is placed on supplementing regular activity with green fee sales. Conversely, municipal sites have always been heavily reliant on visitors even though membership packages are normally available (often in the shape of season tickets). On occasion, these can be linked to access to other local authority operated sports facilities, such as leisure centres and swimming pools.

Despite the above generalisations, each golf facility, regardless of management type, will have its own processes in terms of how much focus is placed on membership and pay and play usage, or whether it equally encourages both. There is no correct way to run a site. A club that focuses on members has guaranteed income, but this can often deter more casual players or nomadic golfers through, for example, a lack of peak time availability. In contrast, a site that depends on visitors can struggle to be viable if there are spells of inclement weather during summer months and can discourage people that want to be part of a club environment. On the other hand, more income can be brought in through regular users compared to what would be the case had they been part of a membership scheme.

In LBRuT, there are four members clubs and two proprietary venues and one municipal site. This is Richmond Park Golf Course, which is currently operated by Glendale Golf on behalf of the Council.

The management for each venue is summarised in the table below.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 9.6: Summary of management in LBRuT.

Site ID	Site name	Management type
91	David Lloyd Hampton Golf Club	Proprietary
99	Hampton Court Palace Golf Club	Proprietary
100	Fulwell Golf Club	Members
101	Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club	Members
102	Richmond Golf Club	Members
103	Strawberry Hill Golf Club	Members
117	Richmond Park Golf Course	Municipal

In addition, it must be noted that Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club, in addition to having its own membership base, also has a secondary club operating from the site known as Royal Mid-Surrey Artisans Golf Club. Artisan clubs generally have restricted rights but at a lower cost and affiliate to the Artisan Golfers' Association, which in turn affiliates to England Golf. The aim of the Association is to unite various artisan golf clubs across the Country and to encourage the formation of such clubs.

### **Pricing**

A key issue for the wider golf population is whether golf courses are available to the general population at a price point which is accessible to the majority of residents. Better quality courses tend to cost more to use, whilst 18-hole provision is generally more expensive to access than 9-hole provision.

Nationally, over the past decade, many facilities have altered their pricing structure to allow for discounts following a previous decline in golf membership. England Golf positively encouraged this and continues to do so as its view is that clubs are more likely to experience growth when flexible packages are available. For instance, five and/or six day memberships are now common (whereby members can access a course on specific days but not on one or both weekend days), whilst discounts are regularly in place that are no longer limited solely to junior players (e.g. discounts for those aged 18-21 and 21-30 or for those aged 65 and over).

In the past, it was very common for many clubs to have waiting lists in place for membership, but this has become rarer in the present day. That being said, a rise in demand following the Covid-19 pandemic has tested this and resulted in capacity pressures, with a third of clubs now thought to have waiting times before new members can join.

England Golf reports that the average cost of a full adult membership across the Country is currently £901.00 per year. In LBRuT, Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club operates significantly above this, with full membership costing £2,708 annually. In addition, there is a fee of £9,000 payable upon joining, although 95% of this can reportedly be recouped upon leaving the Club.

Fulwell Golf Club, Hampton Court Palace Golf Club and Richmond Park Golf Course also operate above the national average for membership. Additionally, whilst costs at Richmond Golf Club are not currently disclosed, it is expected to be similar to this given other costs at the site and the high-end nature of the provision.

Conversely, David Lloyd Hampton Golf Club operates below the national average, with a membership cost of £799. However, this is representative of it providing a 9-hole facility rather than an 18-hole course.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Strawberry Hill Golf Club also provides a 9-hole facility, although its membership costs are still above the national average with a full membership currently priced at £925 per annum. This is high when compared to most other 9-hole venues.

In addition to membership, green fees for pay and play users are available at each site within LBRuT. For this, the cheapest sites are David Lloyd Hampton Golf Club and Richmond Park Golf Course, whereas Richmond Golf Club is the most expensive (£100 on weekdays and £130 at weekends). These costs are again high, with fees as low as £10 available at lower end sites across the Country.

Table 9.7: Pricing structures at golf facilities in LBRuT.

Site ID	Site name	Joining fee	Full membership (per year)	Green fee (per round)	
				Weekday	Weekend
91	David Lloyd Hampton Golf Club	-	£799	£25	£30
99	Hampton Court Palace Golf Club	-	£1,980	£40	£50
100	Fulwell Golf Club	-	£1,915	£70	£80
101	Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club	£9,000	£2,708	£65	£65
102	Richmond Golf Club	Unknown	Unknown	£100	£130
103	Strawberry Hill Golf Club	-	£925	£35	£40
117	Richmond Park Golf Course	-	£1,344	£20	£35

### Quality

There are no official national or county golf facility rankings. Generally, the better course quality and supporting infrastructure is, the higher the joining/membership and green fees are likely to be. Some sites gain status through hosting county, national and international golf events and some tend to feature in ranking articles put together by golf magazines.

In terms of quality of the golf courses within LBRuT, it is good across the Borough with no significant issues identified through site assessments and with all sites having dedicated green keeping staff which provide maintenance regimes that operate all-year round. These programmes are frequent and sophisticated, which links to the high-end price point of the venues.

Hampton Court Palace Golf Club is currently undergoing major refurbishment, with all bunkers being renovated and new fairway irrigation systems being put into place. This is to improve the offer, increase the challenge of the course and to offset damage caused by deer roaming the site.

Ancillary facilities are also for the most part good across LBRuT, with most venues being serviced by all-encompassing facilities that feature bars, kitchens and function rooms. Golf clubs generally need multiple revenue sources to operate effectively and the provision of a good quality, well equipped clubhouse is a key opportunity to provide a secondary income stream. This emanates from a variety of sources including bar and catering income from members and visitors as well as venue hire for special occasions including weddings, christenings and funerals. From a golfing perspective, given the current emphasis on increasing levels of female and junior golf membership across the Country, it is also imperative that ancillary provision can adequately cater for all types of members e.g., by providing gender specific changing facilities.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### 9.3: Demand

Golf participation considerably increased across the Country following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions, both initially in 2020 and again following the later lockdown period in 2021. As one of the first sports to be allowed on both occasions, people were able to play whilst maintaining social distancing and England Golf provided very clear guidance as to how this should manifest itself (e.g., by not allowing the flag to be taken out or rakes to be used). Some courses have reported a near doubling of demand, highlighting that a significant opportunity now exists to increase participation in the long-term.

The following section examines current demand for golf in LBRuT as well as recent trends and potential future demand.

#### **Membership**

England Golf reports that the average membership of a golf club nationally is 386, with this being based on its central national handicap platform. In LBRuT, the current average membership across the sites is 906, suggesting that demand is substantially higher than national rates.

#### **Membership trends**

In line with a national trend of increasing membership, demand across LBRuT has increased significantly since 2015, despite yearly reductions between 2015 and 2018 (no data was collected by England Golf from 2018 until 2022).

*Table 9.8: Changes in demand since 2015*

Membership average across LBRuT				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2022
706	659	534	411	906

#### **Pay and play**

Whilst pay and play usage has generally increased across England in recent years, usage figures at the sites within LBRuT is not known as it is not something that is tracked by England Golf or disclosed by operators due to commercial sensitivity. However, it would be expected that demand would be higher at Richmond Park Golf Course and the propriety courses (Hampton Court Palace Golf Club and David Lloyd Hampton Golf Club) due to other on-site amenities and the operational structures in place. In contrast, it will be lower at sites such as Richmond, Fulwell and Royal Mid-Surrey golf clubs given that they are more exclusive and predominately focused on members.

If facilities with low membership numbers do not have high green fee demand, long-term viability is questionable. Attracting pay and play usage is key to the business model and sustainability of such sites.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

### ***Unmet demand***

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to golf facilities. This could be reflected via a waiting list at a club, although it is likely that people on a waiting list are still playing golf elsewhere due to quantity of facilities in the area, either via membership of another club or through pay and play access. As a result, such unmet demand in LBRuT is considered to be relatively minimal.

Notwithstanding the above, both Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club and Richmond Golf Club report that they are not currently accepting new members, with waiting lists instead in place. Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club reports that its waiting list equates to three years for some categories (e.g., full adult men's membership), whilst Richmond Golf Club is only placing people on the waiting list if they are endorsed by an existing member due to high levels of interest. Strawberry Hill Golf Club also reports that it only has space for three more members before a waiting list will be created.

Unmet demand could also be expressed if there is a lack of provision to meet a particular golfing market. This is also likely to be the case in LBRuT, with most sites currently providing relatively lengthy standard hole courses and at a high price point. This may be leaving those wanting or needing shorter provision or cheaper access without anywhere to play (although some may leave the Borough to do so).

### ***Latent demand***

Latent demand is demand for golf that is not currently being realised. This could be for numerous reasons, such as time constraints, financial reasons and a lack of suitable, available provision.

England Golf has a mapping tool that enables an assessment of potential demand within a 20-minute drive time of each golf facility, with the population broken down into nine golfing segments. These segments are defined to help provide an indication as to what type of golfing offer each would be most likely to access. They are:

- ◀ Relaxed members
- ◀ Older traditionalists
- ◀ Younger traditionalists
- ◀ Younger fanatics
- ◀ Younger actives
- ◀ Late enthusiasts
- ◀ Occasional time pressed
- ◀ Social couples
- ◀ Casual fun

Across LBRuT, Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club is identified as having the largest potential demand, with 193,466 potential players within its catchment area, whilst Richmond Golf Club is identified as having the smallest potential demand, equating to 144,355 people. This, however, is still substantial.

The demand for each of the sites is relatively evenly split across the nine segments; the highest demand is from "casual fun" (21,813 people), whilst the lowest is from "younger traditionalists" (17,781 people).

Whilst the reasoning for the latent demand is unknown and is likely to be varied, the data does show relatively high demand which would significantly increase membership and/or pay and play usage across facilities if realised. England Golf is supportive of clubs that proactively target new audiences in an attempt to tap into such demand i.e., through developing a variety of golfing offers, coaching programmes and a range of membership options.



## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

### ***Exported/imported demand***

Exported and imported demand for golf is difficult to track as users are more likely to travel when compared to most other sports in order to gain access to facilities that best suit their needs (e.g., in terms of quality or cost). However, levels in and out of LBRuT are expected to be higher than what would ordinarily be expected given the number of sites that are within the Borough but in close proximity to others and the number of sites that are outside of the Borough but that are in close proximity to it. This especially relates to sites such as Richmond Park Golf Course just inside LBRuT and Roehampton Club just outside of LBRuT.

In addition, with no Par 3 courses or traditional driving ranges within LBRuT, any demand for such provision will be travelling outside of the Borough in order to access appropriate facilities (or would be unmet demand). This is likely to further add to the levels of exported demand.

### ***Future demand***

England Golf has an aim to increase membership of clubs nationally; however, after reaching its previous target, it no longer has a fixed goal in terms of growth. Nationally, many clubs, especially the most established ones, will be happy to retain current demand levels, whilst others will be open to growing and some considerably so. In that regard, England Golf reports that many providers are proactively targeting new audiences through coaching programmes and a wider range of membership and playing options.

In LBRuT, each facility will have different aspirations in terms of future levels of demand. Nevertheless, with membership across the Borough already significantly higher than the national average, capacity to accommodate significant growth could be questionable, as is reported to be the case at Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club, Richmond Golf Club and Strawberry Hill Golf Club.

### **9.4: Supply and demand analysis**

With seven golf facilities currently provided in LBRuT, supply is seemingly good in quantitative terms. However, with significant levels of demand also recorded, especially when compared to national averages, the level of provision is servicing a clear need. No sites can therefore be deemed surplus to requirements as it is clear that any loss could not be sustained, meaning all provision requires protection. This is further evidenced through two sites having waiting lists in place and a third site being close to establishing one.

Furthermore, despite the number of facilities provided in the Borough, there is also a distinct lack of variety in that every site currently provides standard hole provision and most do so at a relatively high price point. There is a lack of cheaper offerings that would appeal more so to less affluent residents, meaning that any such demand will likely need to travel outside of LBRuT for suitable access, or they will be unable to play.

Similarly, there are no Par 3 courses or dedicated driving ranges in operation, the provision of which would offer further forms of variety. As these are the types of facilities most likely to appeal to, as examples, beginners and casual players, it again shows that there are facility gaps that will be leading to unmet and exported demand being expressed.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### Conclusion

Given high levels of demand, the current stock of golf provision within LBRuT needs protection. Furthermore, avenues to improve the variety of facilities should be explored in order to ensure that all types of golfers have somewhere suitable to play.

#### Golf – supply and demand summary

- ◀ With seven golf facilities provided, supply is seemingly good in quantitative terms; however, with high levels of demand, the provision is servicing a clear need and any loss could therefore not be sustained, meaning all remaining sites require protection.
- ◀ Despite the number of facilities provided in the Borough, there is a lack of variety in what is offered and therefore segments of the golfing market are not being suitably catered for.

#### Golf – supply summary

- ◀ There are currently seven golf sites in operation.
- ◀ Fulwell, Hampton Court and Richmond golf clubs provide one 18-hole course, Royal Mid-Surrey and Richmond Park Golf Course provide two 18-hole courses and Strawberry Hill Golf Club and David Lloyd Hampton Golf Club provide one 9-hole course.
- ◀ There are no Par 3 courses provided.
- ◀ Driving ranges are supplied at Richmond Park Golf Course, Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club and Richmond Golf Club, although only the provision at Richmond Park Golf Course is available for pay and play access.
- ◀ Of the sites within LBRuT, one is a municipal facility (Richmond Park Golf Course) four are members clubs and two are proprietary facilities.
- ◀ Membership costs at David Lloyd Hampton Golf Club is below the national average, although this is representative of it providing a 9-hole facility, whilst pricing at the remaining sites is higher and significantly so in some cases.
- ◀ Quality across the sites is good, with no issues reported and with renovation work ongoing at Hampton Court Palace Golf Club.

#### Golf – demand summary

- ◀ The current average membership across the sites is 906, suggesting that demand is substantially higher than national rates (the average is 386).
- ◀ Membership has increased significantly since 2015, despite a year-on-year reduction from between 2015 and 2018.
- ◀ Whilst pay and play usage is not known, it would be expected that demand would be higher at the municipal and propriety courses due to other on-site amenities and the operational structures in place.
- ◀ Cross-boundary demand is likely to be high given the location of some sites both in and out of LBRuT, whilst the lack of variety of the sites within the Borough is also likely to leader to higher than normal levels of exported demand.
- ◀ Unmet demand could also be high given the lack of variety in what is provided, particularly from those wanting or needing shorter provision or cheaper access.
- ◀ Unmet demand is also expressed by Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club and Richmond Golf Club, which both have a waiting list in place, whilst Strawberry Hill Golf Club reports that it only has capacity for three more members.
- ◀ An England Golf mapping tool identifies significant potential demand for access to golf provision in the Borough.

# LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### PART 10: ATHLETICS

#### 10.1: Introduction

As a Governing Body, UK Athletics is responsible for developing and implementing the rules and regulations of athletics, including everything from anti-doping, health and safety, facilities and welfare, to training and education for coaches and officials as well as permitting and licensing.

Locally, the sport is governed through England Athletics, which is the development and membership body for athletics and running clubs in England. It has a National Head of Clubs and Participation as well as a team of five club support managers across the Country.

#### Consultation

Various clubs have been consulted via telephone to inform the section of the report. In total, seven of eight have responded, representing an 88% response rate. The unresponsive club is West 4 Harriers.

##### 10.1: Summary of athletics response rate

Name of Club	Responded?
Optima Racing Team	Yes
Ranelagh Harriers	Yes
Richmond Running Club	Yes
SHAEF Shifters Running Club	Yes
Sheen Shufflers	Yes
St Mary's Richmond Athletics Club	Yes
The Stragglers Running Club	Yes
West 4 Harriers	No

#### 10.2: Supply

There are two full size purpose-built outdoor athletics tracks in LBRuT, located at Barn Elms Playing Fields and St Mary's University College. Both provide synthetic 400-metre tracks, with an eight lane track provided at Barn Elms Playing Fields and a six lane track provided at St Mary's University. The latter is also serviced by sports lighting.

In addition to its track, St Mary's University College also provides for the full complement of field events (e.g., throwing cages and jumping pits), whereas Barn Elms Playing Fields offers both a long and triple jump pit and a shot-put circle.

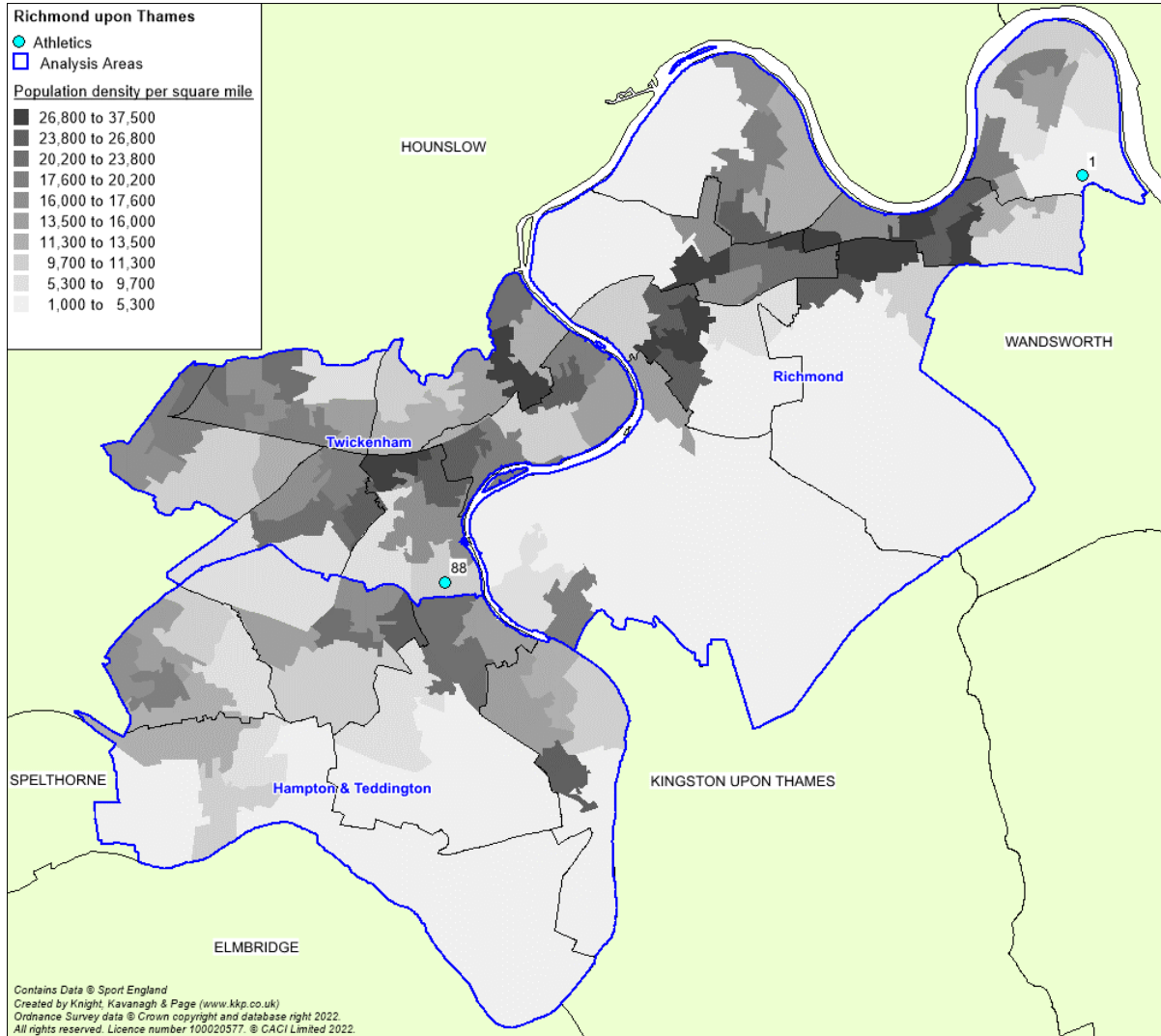
Table 10.2: Summary of outdoor athletics tracks in LBRuT

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	Length	Surface type	No. of lanes	Sports lighting ?
1	Barn Elms Playing Fields	SW13 9SA	Richmond	400m	Synthetic	8	No
88	St Mary's University College	TW1 4SX	Twickenham	400m	Synthetic	6	Yes

# LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

As seen in the table above, St Mary’s University College is in the Twickenham Analysis Area and Barn Elms Playing Fields is in the Richmond Analysis Area. For specific locations of the facilities, please see Figure 10.1 below

Figure 10.1: Location of athletics tracks in LBRuT



## Management

The facility at Barn Elms Playing Fields is owned by the Council but is managed by Barn Elms Sports Trust. The Trust is engaged in a rolling management contract which has recently been renewed until 2025.

The track at St Mary’s University College is owned and managed in house by the University.

Both facilities are available for community use.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

### **Quality**

The quality of the athletics tracks at Barn Elms Playing Fields and St Mary's University, Twickenham has been assessed via a combination of site visits using non-technical assessments and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed quality rating. Key factors which impact on the quality rating include the condition and age of the track surface, prominence of line markings and any signs of wear and tear or unofficial use. For the full site assessment criteria, please see Appendix 2.

The provision at Barn Elms Playing Fields is assessed as poor quality, primarily due to the age of the surface and significant signs of wear and tear. The Trust reports that plans were in place to resurface the track in July 2022 but the deadline for tender was missed. It is now planning for refurbishment to take place in 2023.

In addition, the lack of sports lighting is noted as an issue at Barn Elms Playing Fields, with this limiting activity levels, especially outside of summer months. There is an aspiration for sports lighting to be installed, although it is acknowledged that this may be unlikely due to site constraints and planning issues.

Conversely, the track at St Mary's University College is assessed as good quality following recent renovation. However, it is reported that the field facilities require some improvement, with the jumping pit boards, shot putt board and throwing cage lines either damaged or incorrectly positioned.

### **TrackMark**

TrackMark is UK Athletics' quality assurance scheme for outdoor track and field athletics facilities. A venue that achieves TrackMark is recognised by UK Athletics as having well managed, compliant facilities that are accessible to participants of all abilities. From 2021, venues that actively choose not to pursue accreditation are not eligible to apply for a competition licence at any level.

Neither St Mary's University College nor Barn Elms Playing Fields are currently TrackMark compliant, although the former is currently working towards gaining accreditation. The latter is not going to start the process until its track has been resurfaced.

### **Ancillary provision**

Barn Elms Sports Trust has good quality ancillary facilities that provide multiple changing rooms and toilets. It is serviced by a relatively new pavilion following a build in 2012. Furthermore, through consultation, several clubs report no issues with the provision and all rate it as good quality. That being said, some do suggest that parking provision is limited due to the site not having a dedicated car park.

The ancillary facilities provided at St Mary's University have been assessed as standard quality. However, the University has aspirations to improve and modernise the provision in order to better accommodate demand, stating the facilities are currently inadequate for changing, showering, social interaction and teaching, which leads to low levels of utilisation.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

### ***Future provision***

Consultation with England Athletics reveals that, nationally, no new standard 400-metre athletics tracks are planned to be constructed. Focus is instead on the retention of existing 400-metre facilities and the development of new, innovative, entry level facilities such as mini tracks and endurance loops, particularly if they can be provided as part of floodlit, multi-sport developments.

Linked to the above, England Athletics is currently exploring three alternative approaches in designing new athletics provision. These three designs, outlined below, present alternative approaches to athletics provision as to offer more affordable and feasible means of creating athletics tracks.

#### ***Compact Track***

The first of the three alternative designs is a 'compact track' featuring a 60m sprint straight with an accompanying jump lane and shot put space. This provision is the smallest of the three and is installed at sites with limited available land.

#### ***Mini Track***

A 'mini track' features a 140m four lane oval track with a six lane 60m sprint, as well as accompanying shot put and jumping provision. An advantage to a mini track design is it leaves a large space in the centre of the oval track to be used for either various field events such as long jump/ triple jump, or alternatively it can be used for other sports such as football pitches or an outdoor gym.

Mini track sites also feature a new design of shot-put practice areas in which it flattens a natural slope and athletes throw into a hill allowing for the put to roll back to the participant thus reducing time spent retrieving the put after each throw.

#### ***Active Track***

Finally, an 'active track' is a synthetic loop with no fixed shape or distance (similar to a formula one circuit), in which a track is drawn to fit its natural surroundings such as an existing park or school field. This is installed at sites where a 400m oval would not be feasible as it allows for adaptations to the shape in order to suit land in its current state.

### **10.3: Demand**

#### ***Club demand***

For the purposes of this study, athletics demand is considered to come in various forms, rather than just the traditional track and field activity. As such, running clubs are considered, as are organised running events and various running initiatives, some of which are governed by England Athletics. It is also acknowledged that recreational running forms a large part of demand, although this is difficult to measure.



## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

### ***St Mary's Richmond Athletics Club***

St Mary's Richmond Athletics Club is a large athletics club based at St Mary's University College. It reports that it currently caters for around 300 members, with a 50/50 split between males and females but with more junior members than senior. It accesses the site every Tuesday and Thursday evening as well as on Sundays via a rental agreement which is secured on an annual basis.

The Club is open to anyone above the age of eight and has teams in the Southern Athletics League, National Young Development League and the Rosenheim League, whilst also competing in cross-country competitions during the winter. In addition, it has close ties to both Ranelagh Harriers and Stragglers Running Club, creating a path for members of these that want to progress into track and field activity.

In addition to aforementioned issues in relation to the field provision and the ancillary facilities at St Mary's University College, the Club also expresses that its main concern is in relation to member retention, especially when its athletes reach late teenage years.

### ***Stragglers Running Club***

The Stragglers Running Club is a road running club which accommodates both men and women of all ages and abilities. It has regular training sessions virtually every night dependent on what individuals want to do, although its main club session is on Thursday evenings, beginning at Bushy Park Sports Club. This site is used as its home base.

The Club is particularly large, currently catering for 347 members. It also accommodates some cycling activity, via a group known as The Stagglists, and triathlon activity, via a group known as Straggtri. These are linked branches of the Club.

### ***SHAEF Shifters Running Club***

SHAEF Shifters Running Club is a road running club located in Teddington. It currently has 32 members, covering a wide range of age and abilities, but does not at present provide a junior section.

The Club runs sessions every Wednesday and Thursday evening as well as on Sunday mornings, with Bushy Park used as a starting point and local paths and roads utilised. However, it reports that its members also regularly access the track at St Mary's University College for ad hoc and informal training sessions.

### ***Richmond Running Club***

Richmond Running Club specialises in road and cross-country running. The Club reports that it has approximately 36 members in total, with 18 female and 18 male members, all of which are senior. Its main meeting point is outside the gates of Richmond Park, where it begins sessions on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

### ***Ranelagh Harriers***

Ranelagh Harriers is a cross-country and road running club. It reports that it has around 300 members, with approximately 200 male members and 100 female members. It is also in the process of launching its junior programme this Autumn through advertising on social media and redeveloping its website.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

The Club has a clubhouse situated on Petersham Road in Ham, which it uses as a meeting point. It has sessions on Tuesdays and Thursday's evenings.

### ***Sheen Shufflers***

Sheen Shufflers is a cross country club made up of runners who race competitively and those who run for social and recreational reasons. It currently has around 100 members with 50 female and 50 male members.

Generally, the Clubs meets on Monday and Wednesday evenings at Richmond Park, although during summer months it also utilises the track facilities at Barn Elms Playing Fields.

### ***West 4 Harriers***

West 4 Harriers currently has 100 members. It uses Chiswick Cricket Club as a base, which is outside of LBRuT in the London Borough of Hounslow, but also uses Richmond Park for cross-country sessions and Barn Elms Playing Fields for track sessions.

In addition, the Club also occasionally accesses a track at Osterley Sports & Athletic Centre, which is also in the London Borough of Hounslow.

### ***Optima Racing Team***

Although a triathlon club that is a member of the British Triathlon Federation, Optima Racing Team is also a member of England Athletics and holds many running sessions that that are similar to those held by the various athletics and running clubs in the Borough. It currently has 50 senior members, with 15 female and 35 males, as well as a junior section with around 20 members.

The Club holds running sessions on Monday and Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings, predominately using either Kew Green or Richmond Park during the winter. However, in the summer, it also uses Barn Elms Playing Fields for track sessions.

### ***Run Together***

Run Together is an official England Athletics recreational running project which aims to get the whole nation running. Its aim is to provide fun, friendly, supportive, and inclusive running opportunities for everyone, regardless of ability and availability. It believes that running is more fun and easier to become part of a lifestyle when shared with others.

There are currently no Run Together groups in LBRuT, with the nearest based at YMCA Hawker Centre (in the Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames). A key focus for England Athletics is increasing demand for participation programmes such as Run Together, meaning this could be targeted moving forward, especially given the large number of clubs in Richmond that could be involved.

### ***Parkrun***

Parkrun is a series of 5k runs held on Saturday mornings in areas of open space around the UK, with 1,063 events now operating across the Country. They are open to all, free, and are safe and easy to take part in. Runners must first register online to access a printed barcode which gives them access to all Parkrun events.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

There are currently four Parkrun events held weekly in LBRuT, which is a significant number as most authorities host only one or two. These are held at Bushy Park (which was the first Parkrun nationally), Crane Park, Old Deer Park and Richmond Park.

Across the venues, there have been 2,610 events. The Parkrun at Bushy Park has been held the most times, with 910 events, and it is also the most popular, with an average attendance of 768 runners. The average attendance at Richmond Park is 292 runners, whilst it is 142 runners at Crane Park and 83 runners at Old Deer Park.

In addition, there is also a Junior Parkrun in LBRuT for participants aged between four and 14. This has been held 283 times at Moormead Recreation Ground and averages 70 runners.

### ***Other events***

Other running events are held in LBRuT across the year, normally on an annual basis. This includes the Richmond Park Half Marathon, which is organised by a running community known as RunThrough that hosts several social and competitive events across London.

Additionally, Richmond Runfest takes place annually. This is a series of six different events over six different distances, from a Marathon to the “Family Mile”, with over 10,000 participants attracted.

### ***Couch to 5k***

Couch to 5k is a national health initiative promoted by the National Health Service (NHS) to encourage absolute beginners get into running as part of establishing and maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle including regular exercise.

The plan consists of three runs per week and a day of rest in between, with a different schedule for each of the nine weeks to completion. It starts with a mix of running and walking, to gradually build up fitness and stamina, to create realistic expectations and a sense of achievability to encourage participants to stick with it. The end goal of the plan is for the participant to be able to run 5k.

Through the Couch to 5k plan the NHS particularly promotes the health benefits of running and regular exercise which underpin the initiative, such as improved heart and lung health, weight loss and possible increases in bone density which can help protect against bone diseases such as osteoporosis. This also includes mental benefits of running through goal setting and challenge setting, which can help boost confidence and self-belief. Furthermore, running regularly has been linked to combating depression.

It is believed that an increase in people running through the Couch to 5k plan may increase interest and possibly have a knock-on effect of leading to increased demand at running groups and clubs as people may wish to continue develop their running further.

Whilst no data is available in relation to take up of the Couch to 5k initiative in LBRuT, anecdotal evidence suggests that it is popular and also growing in popularity. It is also championed by several clubs in the Borough.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

### ***Exported/imported demand***

As previously referenced, West 4 Harriers is based outside of LBRuT in the London Borough of Hounslow and also occasionally accesses a track at Osterley Sports & Athletic Centre in the same authority. Whilst this represents exported demand, as the Club did not respond to consultation requests, the reasoning behind it is not known.

No other clubs identify any exported or imported demand, although it is likely that some members will come from outside of the Borough just as nearby clubs from outside of the Borough will likely attract some members from within LBRuT. Similarly, many events in the region will likely accommodate significant levels of cross-border demand.

### ***Latent/unmet demand***

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in athletics but that 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies significant latent demand amounting to 4,927 people in LBRuT, which works out at around 2.4% of the population compared to a national average of 1.9%.

Notwithstanding the above, no clubs currently based in LBRuT express latent or unmet demand, with no waiting lists in place and each club open to new members, suggesting that anyone wanting to participate can do so via the clubs and facilities that are in place. It is therefore likely that other barriers are preventing participation, rather than provision or a lack of capacity.

### ***Future demand***

Of the clubs consulted, all identify and have aspirations to grow membership, with SHAEF Shifters Running Club and Richmond Running Club in particular expressing that this is a focus area for them.

St Mary's Richmond Athletics Club also expresses an aspiration to grow, particularly in relation to its adult section which it reports that it has previously struggled to increase. It states that this is because running clubs in the area have larger adult sections, meaning that demand tends to gravitate towards them.

England Athletics also believes that demand for initiatives such as Park Run is likely to increase in the future, although to what extent is difficult to quantify. LBRuT is relatively well set up in this regard given the number of events/programmes servicing the Borough, although the Hampton & Teddington Analysis Area may be under provided for as most activity currently takes place within the Richmond and Twickenham analysis areas.

## **10.4: Supply and demand analysis**

There is considerable demand for athletics and in particular running in LBRuT, as evidenced by the numerous clubs in existence and the variety of events held across the Borough as well as the latent, unmet and future demand identified. However, with only one club currently requiring regular access to purpose a built facility (St Mary's Richmond Athletics Club), the current supply of provision is considered to be sufficient. Other clubs with track-based demand such as Optima Racing Team, Sheen Shufflers and SHAEF Shifters are able to access provision when required, with ample capacity existing to enable this.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### Conclusion

To ensure that demand can continue to be met, it is imperative that activity can continue to be accommodated at St Mary's University College and at Barn Elms Playing Fields. As such, improvements should be seen as a priority given current quality issues and refurbishment plans. There may be an opportunity to explore England Athletics' current focus on developing innovative facilities as part of this.

Away from the formal track and field facilities, emphasis should also be placed on supporting the other activities taking place in LBRuT, with a focus on retaining and increasing participation and growing the various initiatives that exist. This, however, does not require dedicated provision.

#### **Athletics – supply and demand summary**

- ◀ There is a high demand of athletics and running within LBRuT, although this is being met by a good supply of facilities.
- ◀ To ensure that demand can continue to be met, priority should be placed on protecting and improving provision, with a particular focus on the track at Barn Elms Playing Fields and the ancillary and field provision at St Mary's University College given current quality issues.
- ◀ Away from the formal track and field facilities, emphasis should also be placed on supporting the other activities taking place in LBRuT, although this does not require dedicated provision.

#### **Athletics – supply summary**

- ◀ There are two full size purpose-built outdoor athletic tracks provided in LBRuT, located at Barn Elms Playing Fields and St Mary's University College.
- ◀ St Mary's University College is serviced by sports lighting, whereas Barn Elms Playing Fields is not, which can limit activity especially outside of summer months. A
- ◀ The facility at Barn Elms Playing Fields is owned by the Council but managed by Barn Elms Sports Trust, whereas the track at St Mary's University College is owned and managed in house by the University.
- ◀ The provision at St Mary's University College is assessed as good quality, whilst the provision at Barn Elms Playing Fields is poor quality, with significant signs of wear and tear evident.
- ◀ Plans are in place to refurbish the track at Barn Elms Playing Fields in 2023.
- ◀ The ancillary provision servicing Barnes Elms Playing Field is assessed as good quality, whilst the facilities at St Mary's University College are standard quality, with aspirations existing for improvements.

#### **Athletics – demand summary**

- ◀ Eight clubs have been identified in LBRuT that have a focus on athletics and/or running activity.
- ◀ St Mary's Richmond Athletics Club is the only dedicated track and field club within the Borough, utilising the facilities at St Mary's University College as its home base.
- ◀ Additionally, members of SHAEF Shifters Running Club utilise the facilities at St Mary's University College, whilst Sheen Shufflers, West 4 Harriers and Optima Racing Team utilise the facilities at Barn Elms Playing Fields during summer months in addition to their road running and cross-country activity.
- ◀ Other running events are held in LBRuT every year including Richmond Run Fest and the Richmond Half Marathon.
- ◀ Three different Parkrun events are held weekly across LBRuT, with one in Hampton & Teddington (at Bushy Park), one in Twickenham (at Crane Park) and the other two in Richmond (at Old Deer Park & Richmond Park).
- ◀ A junior Park Run event is held weekly at Moorhead Recreation Ground.
- ◀ Sport England's Segmentation Tool identified significant latent demand for athletics in LBRuT; however, as no clubs express any unmet demand, it is considered that other barriers are preventing participation, rather than provision or a lack of capacity.
- ◀ All consulted clubs have aspirations to grow membership, suggesting that significant future demand exists, whilst England Athletics also believes that demand for initiatives such as Park Run is likely to increase.

# LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### PART 11: OUTDOOR WATER SPORTS

#### 11.1: Introduction

Water sports in England are governed by various bodies, including:

- ✦ British Canoe Union
- ✦ British Dragon Boat Racing Association
- ✦ British Kite Surfing Association
- ✦ British Rowing
- ✦ British Sub-Aqua Club
- ✦ British Swimming
- ✦ British Water Ski
- ✦ Royal Yachting Association
- ✦ Skiff Racing Association
- ✦ Surfing Great Britain
- ✦ Thames Punting Club

The River Thames and Thames Young Mariners offer various opportunities to participate in water sports within LBRuT and represent key venues across the Borough.

#### **Consultation**

There are 20 outdoor water sports club and centres identified as being based in LBRuT. Of these, 14 have responded to consultation requests, equating to a response rate of 70%. This is summarised in the table below.

#### *11.1: Summary of club response rate for outdoor water sports*

<b>Name of club/centre</b>	<b>Responded?</b>
Aquarius Sailing Club	Yes
Barn Elms Boathouse	Yes
Hampton Canoe Club	Yes
Hampton Sailing Club	No
Kingston Royals Dragon Boat Club	No
Lensbury Water Sports Centre	Yes
London Cornish Pilot Gig Club	No
Mortlake Anglian & Alpha Boat Club	Yes
Putney Bridge Canoe Club	Yes
Putney Town Rowing Club	Yes
Richmond Bridge Boat Club	Yes
Richmond Canoe Club	No
Royal Canoe Club	Yes
Royal Outrigger Canoe Club	Yes
Tamesis Sailing Club	No
Thames Young Mariners	Yes
The Skiff Club	Yes
Twickenham Rowing Club	No
Twickenham Yacht Club	Yes
Walbrook Rowing Club	Yes



## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### 11.2: Supply

The River Thames is a key feature throughout LBRuT and as such provides a large area for a wide range of water sports. Canoeing, dragon-boating, motor-boating, paddle boarding, punting, rowing, sailing and skiffing all have at least one club/centre that utilise the river for activity and some are represented by multiple providers offering competitive, recreational and learning opportunities. The activities offered by each club is summarised in the following table.

*Table 11.2: Summary of activities utilising the River Thames*

<b>Name of club/centre</b>	<b>Sports/activities offered</b>
Aquarius Sailing Club	Canoeing, sailing
Barn Elms Boathouse	Rowing
Hampton Canoe Club	Canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding
Hampton Sailing Club	Sailing
Kingston Royals Dragon Boat Club	Dragon boating
Lensbury Water Sports Centre	Canoeing, kayaking, sailing
London Cornish Pilot Gig Club	Rowing
Mortlake Anglian & Alpha Boat Club	Rowing
Putney Bridge Canoe Club	Canoeing
Putney Town Rowing Club	Rowing
Richmond Bridge Boat Club	Rowing
Richmond Canoe Club	Canoeing
Royal Canoe Club	Canoeing, kayaking
Royal Outrigger Canoe Club	Canoeing, kayaking, rowing, stand up paddle boarding
Tamesis Sailing Club	Sailing
The Skiff Club	Skiffing and punting
Twickenham Rowing Club	Rowing
Twickenham Yacht Club	Paddle boarding, motor boating, sailing
Walbrook Rowing Club	Rowing

In addition, Thames Young Mariners provides a 10-acre lake, alongside the River Thames. This provides space for bell boating, canoeing, kayaking, sailing and stand-up paddle boarding. It is owned by Surrey County Council and operated by Surrey Outdoor Learning & Development.

### **Quality**

The quality of the provision for water sports cannot be assessed in the same way that it can be for other sports as natural spaces and features are generally used for activity where little can be done for enhancement. Instead, it is considered that the ancillary provision available to providers is of more importance in terms of the facilities offered, the quality of the facilities and the size of the space available.

The table below identifies the quality of the ancillary facilities servicing clubs and centres using the River Thames for activity.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 11.3: Summary of ancillary facility quality for clubs/centres using the River Thames

Name of club/centre	Ancillary facility quality
Aquarius Sailing Club	Standard
Barn Elms Boathouse	Poor
Hampton Canoe Club	Poor
Hampton Sailing Club	Standard
Kingston Royals Dragon Boat Club	Good
Lensbury Water Sports Centre	Good
London Cornish Pilot Gig Club	Standard
Mortlake Anglian & Alpha Boat Club	Good
Putney Bridge Canoe Club	Poor
Putney Town Rowing Club	Poor
Richmond Bridge Boat Club	Standard
Richmond Canoe Club	Standard
Royal Canoe Club	Good
Royal Outrigger Canoe Club	Good
	Poor
Tamesis Sailing Club	Standard
The Skiff Club	Good
Twickenham Rowing Club	Standard
Twickenham Yacht Club	Standard
Walbrook Rowing Club	Good

As seen, Barn Elms Boathouse, Hampton Canoe Club, Putney Bridge Canoe Club and Putney Town Rowing Club are serviced by poor quality facilities, whilst Royal Outrigger Canoe Club is serviced by two clubhouses, one of which is good quality and one of which is poor quality. Its building on Trowlock Island is in good condition and has a gym, ergo room and good changing and shower facilities, whilst its building on the mainland is in poor condition due to the age of the provision and with its showers and heating not working. The Club also reports an issue with a lack of storage space at the site, noting that it requires additional boat racks in order to increase its capacity.

The clubhouse at Barn Elms Boathouse services both the centre and Putney Bridge Canoe Club. However, due to the poor nature of the provision, the Club reports that it has aspirations for its own permanent facility. It notes that the facilities at Barn Elms Boathouse are dated and poorly maintained.

Similarly, the facilities servicing both Hampton Canoe Club and Putney Town Rowing Club are noted as being dated, which is the main contributing factor to their poor quality rating. Both clubs have aspirations in place to address this.

Conversely, six clubs/centres are serviced by good quality provision (in addition to Royal Outrigger Canoe Club). This includes Kingston Royals Dragon Boating Club, Royal Canoe Club, The Skiff Club and Walbrook Rowing Club, all of which have use of Teddington School (Teddington Sports Centre) via a joint agreement. This was established in 2018 and provides a wide range of all-encompassing facilities, including changing rooms, toilets, social areas, an ergo room and a gym.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

Similarly, Lensbury Water Sports Centre provides an all-encompassing range of good quality facilities as part of a wider complex, although the provider reports a future aspiration to upgrade the equipment.

The remaining club with good quality facilities is Royal Canoe Club, which upgraded its clubhouse with substantial investment in 2008. The building includes a gym, ergo room and changing facilities and the Club also access to an additional clubhouse on the mainland which consists of a kitchen, bar and clubroom.

Of the clubs/centres serviced by standard quality facilities, the majority do not report any significant issues outside of a general requirement to update the provision. However, an exception to this is Twickenham Yacht Club, which states that its base provides a lack of capacity, both in terms of clubhouse space and storage space. It is looking to obtain planning permission to expand.

Aquarius Sailing Club reports that some damp patches are forming in its clubhouse, whilst it also notes that car parking is limited, with only 15 spaces servicing the site. This places limitations on its membership and activity.

Away from the River Thames, the operators of Thames Young Mariners has recently applied for planning permission to refurbish its centre at a significant cost. Currently, its built facilities are in poor condition and it is believed that renovation will help increase capacity and attract new users.

### ***Security of tenure***

Most clubs/centres report that they have security of tenure of their facilities, either through freehold or a long-term agreement. However, Hampton Canoe Club has expressed issues with its facilities as its lease is due to run out in the next couple of years. It wants to carry out maintenance work to its facilities but cannot go ahead with this until its future is secured.

Similarly, Putney Town Rowing Club has a rental arrangement in place with the Council but reports that it ideally wants a lease agreement to provide additional security. It suggests that this will also enable it to carry out site upgrades.

Aquarius Sailing Club also has a rental agreement in place for its facility, secured via Thames Water. However, it reports no issues with this as the arrangement has been the same for a long time and the relationship is good.

Richmond Bridge Boat Club has a five year lease agreement in place for use of its facility via Richmond Bridge Boat Hire, but notes that an option exists to extend this to 10 years. Nevertheless, it notes that it ideally wants freehold of its own premises.

At Teddington School (Teddington Sports Centre), all resident clubs report that they are supposed to have a seat on the board, although some issues are expressed as it is suggested that Royal Canoe Club is the Club with primary involvement.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### 11.3: Demand

There are currently 20 water sport clubs/centres in LBRuT:

- ◀ Aquarius Sailing Club
- ◀ Barn Elms Boathouse
- ◀ Hampton Canoe Club
- ◀ Hampton Sailing Club
- ◀ Kingston Royals Dragon Boat Club
- ◀ Lensbury Water Sports Centre
- ◀ London Cornish Pilot Gig Club
- ◀ Mortlake Anglian & Alpha Boat Club
- ◀ Putney Bridge Canoe Club
- ◀ Putney Town Rowing Club
- ◀ Richmond Bridge Boat Club
- ◀ Richmond Canoe Club
- ◀ Royal Canoe Club
- ◀ Royal Outrigger Canoe Club
- ◀ Tamesis Sailing Club
- ◀ Thames Young Mariners
- ◀ The Skiff Club
- ◀ Twickenham Rowing Club
- ◀ Twickenham Yacht Club
- ◀ Walbrook Rowing Club

Of these, 19 use the River Thames, whilst Thames Young Mariners has its own facility in close proximity.

Membership and usage across the clubs/centres varies, with details, where known, summarised in the table below. Where costs are included, this equates to the price of a full adult membership, although it is recognised that discounts are usually in place for younger and older participants.

*Table 11.3: Summary of membership for outdoor water sport clubs/centres*

<b>Name of club/centre</b>	<b>Summary of membership</b>
Aquarius Sailing Club	120 members, made up of approximately 84 males and 36 females, including a small number of juniors. Membership is available for £55 per year.
Barn Elms Boathouse	Membership numbers are not disclosed but is open to anyone over the age of 11. Full membership is £34 per month.
Hampton Canoe Club	120 members aged between 10-80. Adult membership is £50 per year.
Hampton Sailing Club	Membership numbers are unknown, but full membership is £110 per year.
Kingston Royals Dragon Boat Club	The Club has 35 members and costs equated to £195 per annum.
Lensbury Water Sports Centre	Membership numbers are not disclosed, whilst costs incorporate being a member of the wider Lensbury site.
London Cornish Pilot Gig Club	Details are unknown.
Mortlake Anglian & Alpha Boat Club	150 members, ranging from 18-64 years of age (no junior section is provided). Full membership is £470 per year.
Putney Bridge Canoe Club	120 members made up of 84 males and 36 females. Costs equate to £45 per year.
Putney Town Rowing Club	337 members, made up of approximately 235 men and 102 women, with no junior section in place (although it has been previously). Full membership is £420 annually.
Richmond Bridge Boat Club	An adult only club with just over 100 members. Annual membership is £195.
Richmond Canoe Club	Over 400 members with costs equating to £185 per year.
Royal Canoe Club	Approximately 200 members of all ages and abilities, with costs undisclosed.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Name of club/centre	Summary of membership
Royal Outrigger Canoe Club	50 members, with 25 male and 25 female. Costs are undisclosed.
Tamesis Sailing Club	Whilst current membership levels are unknown, costs have been identified at £227 per year.
Thames Young Marriners	No membership scheme in place, with pay and play usage instead offered in addition to school activity and clubs.
The Skiff Club	Details are unknown.
Twickenham Rowing Club	Membership levels are unknown, but the yearly cost equates to £385.
Twickenham Yacht Club	246 members with 151 male and 95 female. Costs equate to £110 per year.
Walbrook Rowing Club	140 members, ranging from 12-80 years of age. Full membership costs £330 per year.

### ***Unmet/latent demand***

The majority of clubs/centres report that they are open to new members and have the capacity to accommodate any increases in demand. However, this does not apply to Royal Outrigger Canoe Club or Twickenham Yacht Club, both of which state that they do not have capacity to grow. Both primarily attribute this to a lack of space at their sites, particularly relating to boat storage.

### ***Exported/imported demand***

The location of LBRuT along the River Thames likely means that a substantial level of imported demand is received at clubs and centres, particularly from London boroughs and other nearby authorities that are not serviced by water space.

Conversely, some exported demand may be experienced due to the close proximity of other clubs and centres, most prominently in the London Borough of Kingston. This includes Albany Outdoors, which is an outdoor water activity centre close to the LBRuT boundary.

### ***Future demand***

The majority of clubs/centres express an aspiration to increase their membership and usage in the future, although most state that this is difficult to quantify. This is because many are always looking to recruit, primarily to replace members that are leaving or that become of an age whereby they can no longer participate. As such, new members do not always equate to an overall growth in membership, but rather contribute to the status quo being maintained.

As an example of the above, Aquarius Sailing Club notes that it will soon need to replace a group of core members that are aging, whilst Mortlake Anglian & Alpha Boat Club reports that it is focusing on attracting younger members to avoid immediate issues. It states that it wants to operate with 200 members, which will represent an increase of 50 people.

Importantly, most clubs with future demand suggest that they can accommodate their aspirations within the provision that is currently available to them, with the only exceptions being Royal Outrigger Canoe Club or Twickenham Yacht Club. This is linked to their current capacity issues and the unmet/latent demand identified previously.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

Putney Town Rowing Club is the only other club to identify that future demand may be problematic in terms of capacity. Its demand is therefore expressed towards increasing activity outside of peak time hours, which it reports can be sustained.

### **11.3: Supply and demand analysis**

LBRuT is extremely well provided for when it comes to outdoor water sport facilities given its location along the River Thames. This enables the Borough to cater for a wide range of activities, which it does so via numerous clubs and centres, whilst Thames Young Mariners also provides an alternative offer.

Notwithstanding the above, whilst most usage is seemingly being catered for, some of the clubs/centres report capacity issues, most commonly relating to storage, whereas others have problems with other ancillary facilities and/or security of tenure. These should be overcome to ensure that all providers remain sustainable and to enable all demand to be adequately accommodated.

### ***Conclusion***

The provision for outdoor water sports in LBRuT is broadly sufficient to meet the demand that exists, although there are some ancillary facility and security of tenure issues for some clubs and centres that need be resolved.



## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### Outdoor water sports – supply and demand summary

- ◀ LBRuT is extremely well provided for when it comes to outdoor water sport facilities given its location along the River Thames and the presence of Thames Young Mariners.
- ◀ Whilst most usage is being catered for, there are some capacity, ancillary facility and security of tenure issues which should be overcome to ensure that all providers remain sustainable and to enable all demand to be adequately accommodated.

### Outdoor water sports – supply summary

- ◀ The River Thames provides a large area for a wide range of water sports, including canoeing, dragon-boating, motor-boating, paddle boarding, punting, rowing, sailing and skiffing, all of which have at least one club/centre that utilise the river for activity.
- ◀ In addition, Thames Young Mariners provides a 10-acre lake, alongside the River Thames, which provides space for bell boating, canoeing, kayaking, sailing and stand-up paddle boarding.
- ◀ Of the clubs/centres utilising the River Thames, Barn Elms Boathouse, Hampton Canoe Club, Putney Bridge Canoe Club and Putney Town Rowing Club are serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities
- ◀ Although assessed as standard quality, Twickenham Yacht Club states that its base provides a lack of capacity, both in terms of clubhouse space and storage space.
- ◀ Royal Outrigger Canoe Club also reports an issue with a lack of storage space, noting that it requires additional boat racks in order to increase its capacity.
- ◀ The operators of Thames Young Mariners has recently applied for planning permission to refurbish its centre at a significant cost as its current built facilities are in poor condition.
- ◀ Hampton Canoe Club, Putney Town Rowing Club and Richmond Bridge Boat Club report issues with their current tenure arrangements.

### Outdoor water sports – demand summary

- ◀ There are currently 20 water sport clubs/centres, with 19 using the River Thames and with Thames Young Mariners having its own facility in close proximity.
- ◀ Membership and usage across the clubs/centres varies, with one having as few as 35 members and with one having as many as 400 members.
- ◀ The majority report that they are open to new members and have the capacity to increase demand, although this does not apply to Royal Outrigger Canoe Club or Twickenham Yacht Club, both of which state that they cannot grow due to a lack of storage space.
- ◀ The location of the Borough along the River Thames likely means that a substantial level of imported demand is received, whilst some exported demand is also likely given the proximity of other clubs/centres in neighbouring authorities (e.g. Albany Outdoors).
- ◀ In addition to Royal Outrigger Canoe Club or Twickenham Yacht Club, Putney Town Rowing Club is the only other club to identify that future demand may be problematic in terms of capacity.

# LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

### PART 12: OTHER SPORTS

#### 12.1: Beach Volleyball

##### *Introduction*

Volleyball England is the recognised NGB for Volleyball, Beach Volleyball and Sitting Volleyball in England. It is responsible for the development, promotion and delivery of the sport across the Country.

In World terms, Volleyball is a highly popular non-contact team sport and has been part of the Olympic Games since 1964. According to the Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB), 500-800 million people participate in either indoor or beach volleyball games and competitions worldwide; about 10% of the world population. However, although is the second most played team sport in the world, it has fewer participants in England and its sustainability and growth is highly reliant upon its clubs having affordable access to appropriate sport facilities and venues.

##### *Consultation*

Richmond Volleyball Club is the only volleyball club within LBRuT and was consulted to inform this section of the report.

##### *Supply*

Richmond Volleyball Club currently operates from one outdoor venue in LBRuT; Teddington School (Teddington Sports Centre), where it has access to three outdoor beach courts. It also accesses indoor courts at Christ's School, German School London, Grey Court School and Richmond College plus Kingston Arena in Kingston-upon-Thames (exported demand).

Teddington School (Teddington Sports Centre) has a service level agreement with the Council, which is up for renewal next year. It is keen to secure a longer-term arrangement as this will enhance its security of tenure and improve any site development related external funding opportunities.

Richmond Volleyball Club reports that the courts are of standard quality and reports that it provides significant assistance with maintenance particularly during the summer months. During the summer holidays, quality can be affected as it is often used unofficially.

In part because of existing capacity issues, Richmond Volleyball Club aspires to develop either an additional facility with four beach volleyball courts and a pavilion on site or develop provision at Teddington School (Teddington Sports Centre) to extend the number of hours it can use. Installation of sports lighting would increase capacity and, in turn, enable more demand to be accommodated.

It would also like to develop an inflatable dome with lighting to make the provision available for longer in both summer and winter, irrespective of the weather. If realised this would be the only available indoor beach volleyball venue in the UK.

At present, the next nearest beach volleyball venue is at Barn Elms Sports Centre, in Wandsworth which has four courts. However, Richmond Volleyball Club notes that Barn Elms is unwilling/unable to cater for the large number of members and sessions that it would wish

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

to run. The Club has also looked to utilise the (two) beach courts at Wimbledon Park, in Merton but again this venue does not have the capacity to accommodate all its activity.

### ***Demand***

Established 30 years ago, Richmond Volleyball Club is, by national standards, a large Volleyball club with 268 registered members. It runs men's, women's and junior teams that compete in the National Volleyball League. It has also nurtured players who compete at international level.

In recent years, Club membership has increased significantly and it aspires to maintain and further increase this going forward but reports being limited by the lack of court availability in the Borough and neighbouring authorities.

It currently runs 21 junior and 12 adult sessions per week during the peak period between April and September at Teddington School (Teddington Sports Centre).

### ***Supply and demand analysis***

There is a significant and growing demand for beach volleyball in LBRuT. Current supply is unable to meet demand. The feasibility and potential to either enhance provision at Teddington School (Teddington Sports Centre) or develop an alternative facility should be explored.

## **12.2: Baseball and Softball**

### ***Introduction***

Baseball and softball are both governed by Baseball and Softball UK (BSUK). Its aims is to build the number of teams playing regularly throughout the Country. Baseball is played between two teams of nine players, which take turns batting and fielding across nine innings, whilst softball has two varieties: slow-pitch softball and fast-pitch softball. Both sports in England operate from April until September.

### ***Consultation***

Richmond Baseball Club is the one affiliated baseball club in LBRuT is. It has been contacted on several occasions but has not responded to consultation requests. Cheetahs Softball Club, the only affiliated softball club in LBRuT, was consulted.

### ***Supply***

The one dedicated baseball pitch in the borough is at Kew & Ham Association Playing Fields, known as Connare Field. It is used by Richmond Baseball Club. It was refurbished in 2014 (this included levelling of the playing area, installation of a new dirt infield and a site wide automatic sprinkler system plus new dugouts). The clubhouse on site includes changing and shower facilities plus a club lounge with bar. There is ample road parking. Cheetahs Softball Club plays its home matches at Old Deer Park. There are on-site ancillary facilities but these are in poor condition so are, reportedly, not accessed by the Cheetahs Club.

### ***Demand***

Richmond Baseball Club currently runs three senior teams. It plays in the British Baseball Federation League structure and runs youth camps during the school summer holidays. It is

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

also thought to cater for imported demand from neighbouring boroughs including Kingston-Upon-Thames, which has a large South Korean population base. The one senior team of Cheetahs Softball Club competes in Division Two of the London Softball League.

### ***Supply and demand analysis***

With dedicated provision meeting demand from both Richmond Baseball Club and Cheetahs Softball Club, supply is considered to be sufficient to meet demand. However, quality improvements are required, particularly in respect of the ancillary facilities at Old Deer Park.

### **12.3: Ultimate frisbee (Ultimate)**

#### ***Introduction***

UK Ultimate is the NGB for Ultimate. Its role is to assist and encourage both players and teams at all levels of the sport. The sport can be played both indoor (winter) and outdoor (summer).

The rules of Ultimate are a combination of two sports: American football and basketball. A non-contact sport, two teams of seven compete to score points in the opponents 'end zone', located at either side of the pitch. Players cannot run with the disk or allow it to hit the ground and must throw it to a teammate located in the opposing end zone to score. It is played on a narrow pitch 100x37 metres in size, with competitive outdoor matches occurring between the months of April and August. Match duration is approximately one hour.

#### ***Consultation***

Richmond Ultimate was consulted to inform this section of the report.

#### ***Supply***

There is no dedicated Ultimate dedicated pitch in LBRuT. Richmond Ultimate uses the grass space available at Old Deer Park.

#### ***Demand***

Richmond Ultimate represents the primary demand for the sport in the Borough. Its games and/or training sessions take place at Old Deer Park on Sunday mornings from 10:30. St Mary's University runs one senior men's, one senior women's and one mixed ultimate frisbee teams. Its women's team recently entered the BUCS league. University teams play both indoor and outdoor matches; outdoor training and matches take place on the grass pitches at Teddington Lock Playing Fields.

### ***Supply and demand analysis***

With the demand from Richmond Ultimate and St Mary's University being met via provision at Old Deer Park and Teddington Lock Playing Fields, it is considered that supply is sufficient. Long-term access to the sites for Ultimate should be ensured so that this remains the case.

### **12.4: American Football**

#### ***Introduction***

American football in the UK is governed and administered by the British American Football Association (BAFA). This covers both contact and flag activity. Adult contact teams play within

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

the BAFA National League or the BAFA Women's National League and play home and away fixtures per the regular season with a playoff system to follow for those which qualify.

Junior contact football is played as a full 11v11 format league season for U19s, whilst U16s contact football is played as a 5v5 format with full equipment and tackling based across a series of day tournaments as part of a festival structure.

Flag football is the fastest growing format of the game not only in Great Britain, but also across the world, with professional leagues such as the American Flag Football League and the newly established NFL Flag starting to spring up. It is a high-octane, non-contact version of American football, where tackles are made by pulling off flags which all players wear on their hips. There are multiple formats and variations globally, but in Great Britain the predominant format is 5v5 aligning with the current International Federation of American Football competition format.

### ***Supply***

No dedicated American Football pitches have been identified within LBRuT. The nearest is located in Kingston-upon-Thames at Tolworth Court Ground, home of Kingston University.

### ***Demand***

No demand for American Football is identified in LBRuT. In effect, any residual need is unlikely to be sufficient for a club to be created, with individuals instead likely to travel to play for 'London Warriors'.

### ***Supply and demand analysis***

With no dedicated facilities or substantial demand for the sport identified, American football is not considered to be a sport that the Council should prioritise. Any demand that does exist should be directed to clubs in neighbouring boroughs (e.g., via London Warriors).

## **12.5: Lacrosse**

### ***Introduction***

English Lacrosse is responsible for the governance and administration of lacrosse nationwide, with men's lacrosse governed locally by the South of England Men's Lacrosse Association and women's lacrosse governed by the Southwest Women's Lacrosse Association. The playing season runs from September to March.

Match play is permitted to take place on grass, sand based and 3G pitches, though most club play across the region takes place on grass pitches. It should be noted that men's and women's lacrosse are played on different pitches with different field dimensions.

### ***Supply***

There is no permanent dedicated lacrosse pitch in LBRuT. The nearest is located at Tolworth Court Ground in Kingston-upon-Thames, home of Kingston University.

Notwithstanding the above, Lady Eleanor Holles School marks out lacrosse pitches on occasion to accommodate some curricular activity.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

### ***Demand***

St Mary's University fields three teams (one men's, one women's and one mixed). Its teams train and play competitive matches (in BUCS leagues) on Wednesday afternoons on grass provision at Teddington Lock Playing Fields or if unavailable use the sand-based pitch on site. Training takes place on Monday and Thursday evenings 19:00-20:00.

### ***Supply and demand analysis***

With only St Mary's University expressing existing lacrosse demand, supply is deemed to be sufficient, with no clear action required.

## **12.6: Rugby League**

### ***Introduction***

The Rugby Football League (RFL) is the governing body for rugby league in England. It administers the England national rugby league team, the Challenge Cup, Super League and the championships which form the professional and semi-professional structure of the game in the UK.

Most community club rugby league is played during the RFL summer season (from February to October). However, rugby league is still considered to be a winter season sport in schools, colleges and universities and therefore pitch provision for matches and training is also required throughout winter months.

### ***Supply***

There is no rugby league pitch in LBRuT. The nearest is located in Merton at Cherry Red Records Stadium, home of London Broncos RLFC.

### ***Demand***

St Mary's Spartans (Rugby League) fields one senior men's team, which plays in the BUCS League at its main campus site. The University has also recently formed a partnership with London Broncos to offer a Women's Rugby League team. The men's club trains once a week on Friday evenings, with home fixtures taking place on Wednesday afternoons.

### ***Supply and demand analysis***

With only St Mary's University expressing existing rugby league demand, supply is deemed to be sufficient, with no clear action required.

## **12.7: Aussie Rules**

### ***Introduction***

AFL England is the governing body for Australian Rules Football in England. It was formed in 2012 to succeed AFL Britain with the aim to be more effective in governing the game in England as both Scotland and Wales had developed their own autonomous bodies.



## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

Competition in London is run by AFL London, first formed in 1989 and formerly known as the British Australian Rules Football League. It is one of the oldest competitions outside Australia and currently comprises nine clubs across three levels of competition (Premiership, Conference and Social). It runs yearly from April to August.

The sport in London is played on full ovals with fixed upright goal posts and full 18-side teams. This contrasts with the rest of England where mainly a modified nine a side version of the game is played on smaller pitches, largely due to playing numbers.

### ***Supply***

There is no dedicated Aussie Rule football pitch in LBRuT. The nearest, which is home to a club known as Wandsworth Demons, is in Clapham in Lambeth..

### ***Demand***

There is no identified demand for Aussie Rules in LBRuT. In effect, any residual need is unlikely to be sufficient to create a club. Individuals are, instead, likely to travel to play for 'Wandsworth Demons'.

### ***Supply and demand analysis***

With no dedicated facilities or substantial demand for the sport identified, Aussie Rules should not be considered a priority for the Council. Any demand that does exist should be directed to clubs in neighbouring boroughs to ensure that it is catered for (e.g., Wandsworth Demons).

## **12.8: Gaelic football**

### ***Introduction***

Britain GAA is the Provincial Council of Gaelic football and hurling outside of Ireland. It comprises seven counties, with Kingston-upon-Thames falling into the London region. The playing season runs from May until August.

### ***Supply***

There are no Gaelic football pitches in LBRuT. There is provision in Sutton via Round Towers Gaelic Football Club, which trains and plays at Mitcham Rugby Club on pitches that are otherwise used for rugby union.

### ***Demand***

No demand for Gaelic football is identified in the Borough, with no clubs in existence either currently or historically.

### ***Supply and demand analysis***

With no dedicated facilities or substantial demand for the sport identified, Gaelic football should not be considered a priority for the Council. However, any demand should be directed to clubs in other London boroughs to ensure that it is catered for (e.g., Round Towers Gaelic Football Club).

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

### **Other sports – supply and demand summary**

- ◀ There is insufficient provision to cater for current (high) levels of beach volleyball demand.
- ◀ Supply for the remaining sports is adequate to meet current – or there is no identifiable local demand.
- ◀ Where sports are not currently catered for, it is imperative that any localised demand is signposted to neighbouring authorities to ensure that it can be accommodated.

### **Other sports - supply summary**

- ◀ There are three outdoor beach volleyball courts in LBRuT, at Teddington School (Teddington Sports Centre).
- ◀ There is one dedicated baseball pitch at Kew & Ham Association Playing Fields (Connare Field). Softball is catered for at Old Deer Park.
- ◀ Old Deer Park and Teddington Lock Playing Fields accommodate Ultimate frisbee.
- ◀ There are no rugby league, Aussie rules, Gaelic football or lacrosse pitches in the Borough. Provision for these sports is made in neighbouring London boroughs.

### **Other sports - demand summary**

- ◀ Richmond Volleyball Club has 268 registered members and runs men's, women's and junior teams that compete in the National Volleyball League.
- ◀ Richmond Baseball Club fields three senior teams which play in the British Baseball Federation League. It also runs youth camps during the school summer holidays.
- ◀ Cheetahs Softball Club fields one senior team and competes in Division Two of the London Softball League.
- ◀ Ultimate Frisbee has one friendly team which plays on Sunday mornings at Old Deer Park. Teams from St Mary's University play at Teddington Lock Playing Fields.
- ◀ Lacrosse demand is expressed by St Mary's University, which fields teams in the BUCS league.
- ◀ St Mary's Spartans, part of St Mary's University, fields one senior men's rugby league team which plays in BUCS league – match play and training takes place at its main campus.
- ◀ There is no American football, Aussie rules or Gaelic football taking place in the Borough. Some residents are likely to be being accommodated in neighbouring authorities where clubs are present.

# LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

### APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT

The following section outlines a series of national, regional and local policies pertaining to the study and which will have an important influence on the Strategy.

#### National context

The provision of high quality and accessible community outdoor sports facilities at a local level is a key requirement for achieving the targets set out by the Government and Sport England. It is vital that this strategy is cognisant of and works towards these targets in addition to local priorities and plans.

#### ***Department of Media Culture and Sport Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation (2015)***

The Government published its strategy for sport in December 2015. This strategy confirms the recognition and understanding that sport makes a positive difference through broader means and that it will help the sector to deliver five simple but fundamental outcomes: physical health, mental health, individual development, social and community development and economic development. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of 23 performance indicators under nine key headings, as follows:

- ◀ More people taking part in sport and physical activity.
- ◀ More people volunteering in sport.
- ◀ More people experiencing live sport.
- ◀ Maximising international sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ A more productive sport sector.
- ◀ A more financially and organisationally sustainable sport sector.
- ◀ A more responsible sport sector.

#### ***Sport England: Uniting the Movement (2021)***

Sport and physical activity has a big role to play in improving the physical and mental health of the nation, supporting the economy, reconnecting communities and rebuilding a stronger society for all. From this notion, Sport England has recently released its new strategy, Uniting the Movement, its 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity.

It seeks to tackle the inequalities long seen in sport and physical activity. Providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity, has never been more important.

There are three key objectives to the Strategy:

- ◀ Advocating for movement, sport and physical activity.
- ◀ Joining forces on five big issues
- ◀ Creating the catalyst for change

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

In particular, the five big issues are identified where the greatest potential is seen for preventing and tackling inequalities in sport and physical activity. Each one is a building block that, on its own, would make a difference, but together, could change things profoundly:

**Recover and reinvent:** Recovering from the biggest crisis in a generation and reinventing as a vibrant, relevant and sustainable network of organisations providing sport and physical activity opportunities that meet the needs of different people.

**Connecting communities:** Focusing on sport and physical activity's ability to make better places to live and bring people together.

**Positive experiences for children and young people:** Unrelenting focus on positive experiences for all children and young people as the foundations for a long and healthy life.

**Connecting with health and wellbeing:** Strengthening the connections between sport, physical activity, health and wellbeing, so more people can feel the benefits of, and advocate for, an active life.

**Active environments:** Creating and protecting the places and spaces that make it easier for people to be active.

The specific impact of the Strategy will be captured through programmes funded, interventions made, and partnerships forged. For each specific area of action, a set of key performance indicators will be developed. This hybrid approach will help evidence the overall progress being made by all those involved in supporting sport and physical activity.

### **National Planning Policy Framework (2021)**

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It also provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

The NPPF states the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It identifies that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

The 'promoting healthy communities' theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficiencies or surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown that the open space, buildings or land is surplus to requirements.
- ◀ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

In order for planning policies to be 'sound' local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities.

### ***The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)***

The Football Association's (FA) National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS) provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a ten-year period.

The Strategy sets out shared aims and objectives it aims to deliver on in conjunction with The Premier League, Sport England and the Government, to be delivered with support of the Football Foundation.

These stakeholders have clearly identified the aspirations for football to contribute directly to nationally important social and health priorities. Alongside this, the strategy is clear that traditional, affiliated football remains an important priority and a core component of the game, whilst recognising and supporting the more informal environments used for the community and recreational game.

Its vision is: *"Within 10 years we aim to deliver great football facilities, wherever they are needed"*

£1.3 billion has been spent by football and Government since 2000 to enhance existing football facilities and build new ones. However, more is needed if football and Government's shared objectives for participation, individual well-being and community cohesion are to be achieved. Nationally, direct investment will be increased – initially to £69 million per annum from football and Government (a 15% increase on recent years).

The NFFS investment priorities can be broadly grouped into six areas, recognising the need to grow the game, support existing players and better understand the different football environments:

- ◀ Improve 20,000 Natural Turf pitches, with a focus on addressing drop off due to a poor playing experience;
- ◀ Deliver 1,000 3G AGP 'equivalents' (mix of full size and small sided provision, including MUGAs - small sided facilities are likely to have a key role in smaller / rural communities and encouraging multi-sport offers), enhancing the quality of playing experience and supporting a sustainable approach to grass roots provision;
- ◀ Deliver 1,000 changing pavilions/clubhouses, linked to multi-pitch or hub sites, supporting growth (particularly in women and girls football), sustainability and providing a facility infrastructure to underpin investment in coaching, officials and football development;
- ◀ Support access to flexible indoor spaces, including equipment and court markings, to support growth in futsal, walking football and to support the education and skills outcomes, exploiting opportunities for football to positively impact on personal and social outcomes for young people in particular;
- ◀ Refurbish existing stock to maintain current provision, recognising the need to address historic under-investment and issues with refurbishment of existing facilities;
- ◀ Support testing of technology and innovation, building on customer insight to deliver hubs for innovation, testing and development of the game.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

### ***England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Inspiring Generations (2020-2024)***

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic plan in 2019. The strategic plan aims to connect communities and improve lives by inspiring people to discover and share their passion for cricket

The plan sets out six important priorities and activities, these are:

- ◀ Grow and nurture the core
- ◀ Create an infrastructure investment fund for First Class County Clubs
- ◀ Introduce a new Community Investment Funding for Counties and County Cricket Boards
- ◀ Invest in club facilities
- ◀ Develop the role of National Counties Cricket
- ◀ Further invest in County Competitions
- ◀ Inspire through elite teams
- ◀ Increase investment in the county talent pathway
- ◀ Incentivise the counties to develop England Players
- ◀ Drive the performance system through technology and innovation
- ◀ Create heroes and connect them with a new generation of fans
- ◀ Make cricket accessible
- ◀ Broaden crickets appeal through the New Competition
- ◀ Create a new digital community for cricket
- ◀ Install non-traditional playing facilities in urban areas
- ◀ Continue to deliver South Asian Action Plans
- ◀ Launch a new participation product, linked to the New Competition
- ◀ Engage children and young people
- ◀ Double cricket participation in primary schools
- ◀ Deliver a compelling and coordinated recreational playing offer from age five upwards
- ◀ Develop our safeguarding to promote safe spaces for children and young people
- ◀ Transform women's and girls' cricket
- ◀ Grow the base through participation and facilities investment
- ◀ Launch centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure
- ◀ Invest in girls' county age group cricket
- ◀ Deliver a girls' secondary school programme
- ◀ Support our communities
- ◀ Double the number of volunteers in the game
- ◀ Create a game-wide approach to Trust and Foundations through the cricket network
- ◀ Develop a new wave of officials and community coaches
- ◀ Increase participation in disability cricket

### ***The Rugby Football Union Strategy (2021 Onwards)***

Through the strategy, the RFU aims to enrich lives, introduce more people to rugby union and develop the sport for future generations. The goal is to achieve this by strengthening and uniting rugby union in England and producing consistently winning England teams.

Eight key strategic priorities are identified with all investment decisions aligned to these. The strategy also outlines the RFU's core activities which form the backbone of its business operations and services to the game.

The priorities include four 'Game Objectives' and four 'Driving Objectives' as detailed below.



## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

### Game Objectives:

- ◀ Enjoyment – enable positive player experiences on and off the field
- ◀ Winning England – create the best possible high-performance system for England Rugby
- ◀ Welfare – enhance player welfare to protect and support the wellbeing of players
- ◀ Flourishing rugby communities – support clubs to sustain and grow themselves and to reflect society

### Driving Objectives:

- ◀ Diversity & Inclusion – drive rugby union in England to reflect the diversity of society
- ◀ Understand – build a deep understanding of players, volunteers and fans to shape the future of the game
- ◀ Connect – connect with and grow the rugby community and create exceptional experiences
- ◀ Commercial and operational excellence – ensure a sustainable and efficient business model delivered by an inspired workforce

### ***England Hockey (EH) - A Nation Where Hockey Matters (2013)***

The vision is for England to be a 'Nation Where Hockey Matters'.

EH knows that delivering success on the international stage stimulates the nation's pride in their hockey team and, with the right events in place, it will attract interest from spectators, sponsors and broadcasters alike. The visibility that comes from its success and its occasions will inspire young people and adults to follow in the footsteps of their heroes and, if the right opportunities are there to meet their needs, they will play hockey and enjoy wonderful experiences.

Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes the sport function. EH knows the importance of its volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational our people can be, the more progressive we can be and the more befitting our facilities can be, the more we will achieve for our sport. England Hockey will enable this to happen and it is passionate about its role within the sport. It will lead, support, counsel, focus and motivate the Hockey Nation and work tirelessly towards its vision.

As a governing body, EH wants to have a recognisable presence to participants of the game, be that through club or association website or their communications, or through the work of the many outstanding coaches in the game, so that players understand that their club is part of a wider team working together to a common goal.

The core objectives are as follows:

- ◀ Grow our participation
- ◀ Deliver international success
- ◀ Increase our visibility
- ◀ Enhance our infrastructure
- ◀ For England Hockey to be proud and respected custodians of the sport

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

### *Club participation*

The club market is well structured and clubs are required to affiliate to EH to play in community leagues. As a result only relatively few occasional teams lie outside our affiliation structure. Schools and Universities are the other two areas where significant hockey is played.

Hockey is clearly benefiting from a double Olympic legacy. After Great Britain's women won bronze in front of a home crowd in London in 2012 the numbers of young girls playing the sport doubled and a historic gold in Rio 2016 saw more than 10,000 players promptly joining clubs. These triumphs have inspired the nation to get active and play hockey.

Thanks to the outstanding work of the network of clubs across the country, EH has seen unprecedented growth at both ends of the age range. There has been an 80% increase in the number of boys and girls in clubs, as well as a 54% increase in players over the age of 46.

Hockey clubs have reaped the rewards of the improved profile of the sport, focussing on a link with schools to provide excellent opportunities for young players. Programmes such as Quick sticks – a small-sided version of hockey for 7-11 year olds – in primary schools have been hugely successful in allowing new players to take part in the sport from an early age. The growth in the sport since the eve of London 2012 has been seen across the country, examples being a 110% increase in under 16s club participation in London, and a 111% growth in the North West in the same age bracket.

### ***England Hockey Strategy***

The vision of the Strategy is for “every hockey club in England to have appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players”, whilst its missions is for “More, Better, Happier Players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities.”

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

#### ◀ **PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision**

There are currently over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities) across the country. It is important to retain the current provision where appropriate to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country.

#### ◀ **IMPROVE: To improve the existing facilities stock (physically and administratively)**

The current facilities stock is ageing and there needs to be strategic investment into refurbishing the pitches and ancillary facilities. EH works to provide more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset.

#### ◀ **DEVELOP: To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain. This might include consolidating hockey provision in a local area where appropriate.**

EH has identified key areas across the country where there is a lack of suitable hockey provision and there is a need for additional pitches, suitable for hockey. There is an identified demand for multi pitches in the right places to consolidate hockey and allow clubs to have all of their provision catered for at one site.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

### ***LTA Facilities Investment Strategy – Vision for the 2020 and beyond***

The LTA has developed a programme of action based on seven core strategies. These are:

- ◀ Visibility – Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players.
- ◀ Innovation – Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal.
- ◀ Investment – Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunities to play.
- ◀ Accessibility – Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone.
- ◀ Engagement – Engage and collaborate with everyone involved in delivering tennis in Britain, particularly coaches and volunteers, to attract and maintain more people in the game.
- ◀ Performance – Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.
- ◀ Leadership – Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.

The LTA Facilities Investment Framework sets out how it intends to deliver the investment to support community accessible tennis facilities. The focus will be on:

- ◀ New and existing indoor tennis centres
- ◀ Park tennis
- ◀ Tennis clubs
- ◀ Schools and other educational establishments

The key principles of the framework are to:

- ◀ Help fund projects through interest free loans.
- ◀ Invest in venues that have a proven record of increasing participation.
- ◀ Invest where there is thorough community engagement.
- ◀ Support venues that encourage participation growth.
- ◀ Targeted investment that is demand-led.
- ◀ Support venues that have successfully sourced partnership funding.

### ***Bowls England: Strategic Plan (2014)***

Bowls England will provide strong leadership and work with its stakeholders to support the development of the sport of bowls in England for this and future generations.

The overall vision of Bowls England is to:

- ◀ Promote the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- ◀ Recruit new participants to the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- ◀ Retain current and future participants within the sport of flat green bowls.

In order to ensure that this vision is achieved, ten key performance targets have been created, which will underpin the work of Bowls England up until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

- ◀ 115,000 individual affiliated members.
- ◀ 1,500 registered coaches.
- ◀ Increase total National Championship entries by 10%.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

- ◀ Increase total national competition entries by 10%.
- ◀ Medal places achieved in 50% of events at the 2016 World Championships.
- ◀ 35 county development plans in place and operational.
- ◀ County development officer appointed by each county association.
- ◀ National membership scheme implemented with 100% uptake by county associations.
- ◀ Secure administrative base for 1st April 2017.
- ◀ Commercial income to increase by 20%.

Despite a recent fall in affiliated members, and a decline in entries into National Championships over the last five years, Bowls England believes that these aims will be attained by following core values. The intention is to:

- ◀ Be progressive.
- ◀ Offer opportunities to participate at national and international level.
- ◀ Work to raise the profile of the sport in support of recruitment and retention.
- ◀ Lead the sport.
- ◀ Support clubs and county associations.

### **England Golf Course Planner – Strategic Direction (2021-2025)**

England Golf has always had a mission to lead, support, inspire and deliver for its community of golfers, golf clubs and counties. To help enable this, its Course Planner forms the core of its strategy, with 18 guiding principles established that are designed to best position growth in the game:

- ◀ Strengthen governance in all aspects of the sport
- ◀ Deliver safeguarding throughout the golfing community
- ◀ Utilise data and technology to enhance decision making
- ◀ Drive equality and equity in everything it does
- ◀ Support golf clubs with member recruitment and retention
- ◀ Connect and engage with all golfers
- ◀ Inspire and educate golf's network of volunteers
- ◀ Increase golf's influence
- ◀ Advocate and inform on all elements of sustainability
- ◀ Drive diversity at all levels of golf
- ◀ Create more opportunities for junior and young adults
- ◀ Promote the health and wellbeing of golf
- ◀ Inspire more women and girls to play golf
- ◀ Develop greater access for disabled people
- ◀ Enthuse all golfers through relatable role models
- ◀ Communicate a positive perception change for golf
- ◀ Deliver an excellent talent development pathway
- ◀ Host best-in-class competitions for all golfers

# LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

## APPENDIX 2: NON TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT SHEETS

### Grass football pitch non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Football							
Please complete one form per pitch							
Site reference:	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>		Site Name:	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>			
6 figure grid reference	<input style="width: 50%;" type="text"/>		Pitch ID(s):	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>			
Number of football pitches on site:	<input style="width: 50%;" type="text"/>		Pitch size:	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/> (Adult 11v11, Youth 11v11, 9v9, 7v7 Mini, 5v5, 7v7)			
Availability	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>		Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?	<input style="width: 50%;" type="text"/>			
<small>If yes, please indicate what pitches are overmarked? (i.e. one youth pitch is overmarked on a adult pitch) in Pitch Issues</small>							
Weather at time of visit & date of visit	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>						
Pitch Issues:	<input style="width: 100%; height: 40px;" type="text"/>						
<b>Assessment Criteria</b> (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)							
Element (Gathered via a non technical site assessment)	Rating			Guidance notes	Comments		
Playing surface							
Grass Cover	Good >80%	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate 60-80%	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor <60%	<input type="checkbox"/>	Advice is to walk through the middle of the pitch
Does the pitch meet The FA minimum size?	Yes - as per the FA recommended size	<input type="checkbox"/>	Within FA recommended guidelines	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	See size chart below for recommended dimensions
Slope of pitch (gradient and cross fall)	Flat	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Severe	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Length of grass	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Too long	<input type="checkbox"/>	Too short	<input type="checkbox"/>	Good 30mm-50mm, Too long 51mm plus, Too short 29mm less
Evenness of pitch	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Problem Areas: Evidence of dog fouling/glass/litter/vehicle tracks	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - some	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - lots	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Problem Areas: Evidence of unofficial use/damage to the surface	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - some	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - lots	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Problem Areas: Evidence of poor drainage	No evidence of standing water or poor drainage	<input type="checkbox"/>	Some evidence of poor drainage	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, poor drainage	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Maintenance programme (information from maintenance schedule/grounds team/club survey)						Section total	
Grass cutting	Yes, as required	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, but not frequent enough	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Seeded	Yes, as required	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not known	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Aerated (per year)	Three or more times	<input type="checkbox"/>	Once/ twice	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sand dressed	Within the last 12 months	<input type="checkbox"/>	Within the last 2 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Fertilised	Within the last 12 months	<input type="checkbox"/>	Within the last 2 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Weed killed	Within the last 12 months	<input type="checkbox"/>	Within the last 2 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
						Section total	
<b>NB</b> If none of this information is provided you should assume that only the grass is being cut and the rest of the maintenance items should be marked with the lowest score option.							
<b>PITCH SCORE</b>			<b>0.0%</b>	<b>RATING</b>		<b>Poor</b>	

# LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

## Cricket pitch non-technical assessment

Element	Rating			Guidance notes	Comments (use the guidance notes to help complete)
<b>About the cricket outfield</b>					
Grass coverage	Good	Acceptable	Poor	<B>B> Falls below the ECP basic standard	
Length of grass	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Ideally 42mm - 25mm	
Evenness	Even		Uneven	Ball should run without deviation or ramp	
Evidence of Dog fouling/glass/stones/litter?	None	Yes	Immediate action required	Play also wish to refer to user survey. If yes, refer to maintenance/ site manager	
Evidence of Unofficial use?	None	Yes	Immediate action required	eg informal, casual use, unauthorised use, kids kick about etc. Play also wish to refer to user survey. If yes, refer to maintenance/ site manager	
Evidence of Damage to surface?	None	Yes	Immediate action required	eg from animals/ vehicles - rakkil, gulle and faeces etc may also wish to refer to user survey	
<b>Artificial wickets</b>					
Is the wicket and surrounds married in	Yes		No	There should be no trip points	
Evenness of wicket	Even		Uneven	There should be no contours in surface levels	
Stump holes	Yes		No	Should be no wider than a standard cricket ball	
Moss or materials in the surface	Yes		No	There should be none	
Rips or surface lifting	Yes		No	If "yes" contact site manager	
Surface worn in high traffic areas - creases	Yes		No	If "yes" contact site manager	
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down?	Yes		No		
<b>Grass wickets</b>					
Presence of line markings	Yes		No		
Evidence of rolling - is wicket smooth and uniform	Yes		No		
Evidence of straight cut and height	Yes		No	3mm on wicket wicket/12mm rest of square	
Evidence of repair work on old wickets	Yes		No		
Grass coverage (square and wickets)	Yes		No	<B>B> Falls below the ECP basic standard	
Hardness - does a cricket ball thrown straight down into the surface rebound?	Yes		No		
<b>Changing/ Pavilion</b>					
Umpires provision	Yes		No		
Toilets	Yes		No		
Hot/cold water	Yes		No		
Heating	Yes		No		
Condition of building	Good	Acceptable	Requires attention		
<b>NTP</b>					
Is the wicket and surrounds married in (no trip points)	Yes		No		
Evenness of wicket (no contours in surface levels)	Even		Uneven		
Stump holes (no wider than a standard cricket ball)	Yes		No		
Moss or materials in the surface (should be none)	Yes		No		
No rips or surface lifting	Yes		No		
Surface worn in high traffic areas - crease	Yes		No		
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down	Yes		No		
Is the steel frame/posts upright?	Yes		No		
Are steel cross members detached?	Yes		No		
Are all posts and net fixings in place?	Yes		No		
Can a ball pass through any part of the netting?	Yes		No		
Is appropriate safety/supervisory signage present?	Yes		No		



# LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

## Rugby pitch non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Rugby Union									
Please complete one form per pitch									
Site reference				Site Name					
6 figure grid reference				Pitch ID(s)					
Date of assessment				Pitch size	(Senior, Mini/Midi)				
Number of pitches on site				Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?					
Availability				<i>If yes, please indicate what pitches are overmarked? (i.e. one mini/ midi pitch is overmarked on a senior pitch) in Pitch Issues</i>					
<small>Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused</small>									
Weather at time of visit									
General comments/observations									
<b>Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)</b>									
Qualitative information (gathered on site)	Rating					Guidance notes	Comments		
Grass Coverage	Good		Adequate		Poor		>90% = good. <80% = poor		
Size of pitch	Acceptable (between recommended minimum and maximum sizes)		Flag for further investigation (below recommended minimum size)		Unacceptable (above maximum size)		Maximum size = width 70m, goal line to goal line 100m, in goal area 22m, run offs 5m where practical. Recommended minimum size = width 68m, goal line to goal line 94m, in goal area 6m, run offs 5m where practical.		
Length of grass	Too Long		Good		Too short		Too long = >75mm. Too short = <50mm		
Problem Areas: Evidence of glass/litter/vehicle tracks/dog fouling	None		Yes - some		Yes lots				
<b>GOALPOSTS</b>									
Are goalposts installed?	Yes		No						
Is there any obvious danger on posts?	Yes		No						
Are the posts stable in the ground?	Yes		No						
Is the crossbar fixed securely?	Yes		No						
Is there evidence of rust on the posts?	Yes		No						
<b>ANCILLARY</b>									
Is the pitch floodlit?	Yes		No						
Is there changing accommodation for the pitch?	Yes		No						
Is an appropriate level of car parking available?	Yes		No						
<b>Pitch maintenance (information gathered via club survey/ pitch provider consultation) - refer to the guidance notes below</b>									
Aerated (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never		
Sand dressed (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never		
Fertilised (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never		
Weed killed (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never		
Chain harrowed	every week		fortnightly		monthly		never		
<b>Drainage</b>									
	Natural (inadequate) SCORE D0		Natural (adequate) SCORE D1		Pipe drained SCORE D2		Pipe and slit drained SCORE D3		Unknown SCORE D0
<b>Natural (adequate)</b> = 3 or less training/match cancellations per season <b>Natural (inadequate)</b> = 4 or more training match cancellations per season *Based on a <b>pipe drained</b> system at 5m centres that has been installed in the previous eight years **Based on a <b>slit drained</b> system at 1m centres completed in the previous five years.									
									<b>Pitch Maintenance Score</b>

# LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

## Artificial grass pitches non-technical assessment (including third generation turf pitches)

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Artificial grass pitches										
Site reference			Site Name							
6 figure grid reference			Pitch ID							
Number of AGPs on site			Pitch size	Full (i.e., 100m x 60m)		Half (i.e., 60m x 40m)				
Availability			Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused							
Type of pitch	{	Long Pile 3G (65mm with shock pad)		Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)		Short Pile 3G (40mm)				
		Sand Dressed		Sand Filled		Water based				
<b>Assessment Criteria</b> (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)										
Element	Rating					Guidance notes	Site comments			
Age of Surface	less than 2 years		2-5 years		5-10 years		over 10 years			
Evidence of moss/lichen (all surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots					
Loose gravel (macadam surface)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots					
Holes or rips in surface (macadam, art. grass or polymeric surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots					
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate		Poor					
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor					
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots					
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots					
Problem Areas: Evidence of damage to surface	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots		If no evidence, assume none.			
Access for disabled players. i.e.: ramps onto courts, width of gates	Good		Adequate		Poor					
Condition of posts/ nets/ goals	Good		Adequate		Poor					
Surrounding fencing	Good		Adequate		Poor					
Adequate safety margins (w here appropriate)	Yes - fully		No- but adequate		No - not adequate					
Is the AGP floodlit?	Yes		No							
Is the AGP left open at all times?	Yes		No							
Are there dug outs?	Yes		No							
Are there youth shelters/spectator seating around AGP?	Yes		No							
Is there changing accommodation for the AGP?	Yes		No							
<b>Maximum score</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>Scoring:</b>	Poor <=50	Standard 51-79	Good 80+	<b>Total Score</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Potential Rating</b>	<b>Poor</b>	

# LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Court non-technical assessment

## Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Tennis/ Netball/ Basketball Courts

KKPref										
Site name:										
Number of courts -	Tennis		Netball		Basketball		Five-a-side			
General Playground or specific sports court area?										
Court surface					Management				Community Use?	
	Artificial turf, Clay, Grass, Macadam, Polymeric, Shale					Club, LA - Parks, Parish Council, Public, School				

**Assessment Criteria** (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)

Element	Rating						Comments				
<b>About the courts</b>											
Evidence of moss/lichen (all surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots						
Loose gravel (macadam surface)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots						
Holes or rips in surface (macadam, art. grass or polymeric surface)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots						
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate		Poor						
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor						
Surrounding fencing	Good		Adequate		Poor						
Size of courts	Yes - fully		No - but adequate		No - not adequate						
Adequate safety margins	Yes - fully		No - but adequate		No - not adequate						
Slope of courts	Flat		Slight		Gentle		Moderate		Severe		
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots						
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots						
Access for disabled players - ie: ramps onto courts, width of gates	Good		Adequate		Poor						
<b>Changing Accomodation</b>											
Changing Accomodation	Yes		No								
<b>About the equipment</b>											
Posts and net	Good		Adequate		Poor						
Are the courts locked when not in use?	Yes		No								
Practice wall	Yes		No								

# LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Bowling green non-technical assessment

## Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Bowling green

<b>KKPref</b>																				
<b>Site name:</b>																				
<b>Number of greens</b>																				
<b>Flat/crown</b>		<b>Community Use?</b>																		

**Assessment Criteria** (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)

Element	Rating					Comments
<b>About the greens</b>						
Grass cover	Over 70%		40-69%		less than 40%	
Evenness of surface	Good		Adequate		Poor	
Signs of wear and tear	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots	
Condition of ditches/boarding	Good		Adequate		Poor	
Surface of surrounding hard areas	Good		Adequate		Poor	
Is the green and surrounding area fenced?	Yes			No		
Fencing around the green and ancillaries	Good		Adequate		Poor	
Problem areas: litter, glass, fouling, leaf fall on the green	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots	
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use on the green	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots	
Access for disabled players/spectators - ie: ramps onto greens, width of gates	Good		Adequate		Poor	
<b>Ancillary facilities</b>						
Changing Accomodation	Yes		No			
Toilets	Yes		No			
Car parking	Yes		No			

**General comments about the site:**

# LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

## Athletics track non-technical assessment

### Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Athletics Tracks

KKPref:   
 Site name:   
 Track surface:  Grass, polymeric, cinder, other specify  Specify If 'Other'   
 No. of Lanes:  Length of track:  Community Use:

Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each track with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)

Element	Rating						Comments
<b>About the track facilities</b>							
Damage to the track surface	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - some	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - lots	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Grip underfoot	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Line markings - quality	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Track edging	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Disabled access	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - some	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - lots	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Floodlighting	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Is the track fenced?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>			
<b>Surface of run ups - long/triple jump, high jump</b>							
Surface of run ups - long/triple jump, high jump	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Adequate landing areas - jumps	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Adequate safety margins	Yes - fully	<input type="checkbox"/>	No-but adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	No-not adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Take off boards	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Landing mats	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>			
<b>Surface of throwing areas - shot, discuss, hammer</b>							
Surface of throwing areas - shot, discuss, hammer	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Adequate safety margins - throws	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Throwing cages	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>			
<b>Access to facilities</b>							
Access to toilets	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Changing accommodation	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Changing accommodation - quality	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Club room	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Car parking	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	

General Comments:

ENTER Athletics

Please make sure there is no filter on in sheet At\_db!