



Metropolitan
Borough of Wirral

Wirral Metropolitan Borough
Playing Pitch Assessment

Assessment Report

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

1. Structure

This is the Assessment Report considering supply and demand issues for playing pitches and ancillary facilities in the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral (WMBC). It covers the predominant issues for pitch sport provision that services football, rugby, cricket and hockey.

Part 1: '*Introduction*' provides the background to the research and analysis sections of the report.

- ❑ *Section 1* provides a breakdown of the format and structure of the report.
- ❑ *Section 2* summarises the role of playing pitch assessments in meeting the Government's strategies and policies for the provision of sports facilities.
- ❑ *Section 3* defines the geographical area covered within the research and summarises the local catchment areas identified for measuring the adequacy of pitch provision.

Part 2: '*Research Methodology*' provides a summary of how the research was carried out.

- ❑ *Section 4* provides an introduction into the two main approaches used to assess the adequacy of pitch provision.
- ❑ *Section 5* summarises the quantitative assessment approach based on the NPFA's 'Six-Acre Standard'.
- ❑ *Section 6* summarises the approach based on a local demand and qualitative assessment which uses the methodology within the 'Playing Pitch Strategy' published by the NPFA, Sports Council and the Central Council for Physical Recreation.
- ❑ *Section 7* highlights and defines the terminology used within the 'assessment'.

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Part 3: *'Sport Specific Summary'* provides background to local sports administration and provision within the Borough for the four main pitch sports. This part of the report includes detail about the principal local leagues covering senior, junior, women's and girls participation and a summary of clubs and pitch sites in each of the following sports:

- ❑ *Section 8* - Introduction
- ❑ *Section 9* - Football
- ❑ *Section 10* - Cricket
- ❑ *Section 11* - Hockey
- ❑ *Section 12* - Rugby Union
- ❑ *Section 13* - Lacrosse
- ❑ *Section 14* - American Football

Part 4: *'Area Based Assessment and Analysis'* provides a detailed assessment of each identified available pitch site within WMBC which is either local authority or privately owned. Schools and other education sites (including fee-paying schools) are separately detailed in Part 5.

Section 15 provides a summary in tabular form of pitch provision within each catchment area showing the total provision of playing pitches. This is then subdivided into provision available for community use, total provision at schools and that which is available for community use at schools.

The assessment of pitch sites includes, where available, the following details:

- ❑ Location
- ❑ Number and type of pitches
- ❑ Provision of ancillary facilities
- ❑ Usage including name of club, the League they play in and when they play
- ❑ Qualitative information from pitch managers
- ❑ Analysis of Council booking records

Pitch sites are grouped together within their respective catchment areas:

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- ❑ *Section 17* – A41 Corridor
- ❑ *Section 18* – Heswall
- ❑ *Section 19* – Hoylake
- ❑ *Section 20* – Leasowe
- ❑ *Section 21* – Mid Wirral
- ❑ *Section 22* – Wallasey
- ❑ *Section 23* – West Kirby
- ❑ *Section 24* – Rural Area

Part 5: '*Education Provision*' provides an assessment of school and college pitch provision and availability. For each of the seven catchment areas, Sections 24-31, the report includes the following:

- ❑ A map identifying the location of each school or college indicating whether or not it is available for community use.
- ❑ Details of the provision and quality of pitches and facilities at high schools and colleges. This section also details clubs that either use, or have shown an interest in using, these pitches.
- ❑ A table providing a summary of provision at primary schools with commentary where relevant.
- ❑ A table showing the number and type of pitches on each school and college site.

Part 6: '*Pitch Shortfall and Requirement*' provides an analysis of the adequacy of provision to meet local demand. This takes into account whether existing provision is meeting the needs of users and where, according to league and club representatives, there appears to be an absolute shortfall of pitches. This part of the report includes a section on how the research identified, measured and evaluated the adequacy of and the need for pitch provision.

Those pitches that have been identified as inadequate and the required additional pitches required to meet demand are, again, listed within each of the seven catchment areas:

- ❑ *Section 25* – A41 Corridor

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- ❑ *Section 26* – Heswall
- ❑ *Section 27* – Hoylake
- ❑ *Section 28* – Leasowe
- ❑ *Section 29* – Mid Wirral
- ❑ *Section 30* – Wallasey
- ❑ *Section 31* – West Kirby

The final section provides a summary of the shortfall and requirement for playing pitches within the whole of Wirral.

This report does not include strategic recommendations and policy objectives. These are included within the Strategy and Action Plan document.

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2. Context

The Government views playing field strategies as an essential element underpinning its strategy for the protection and provision of outdoor playing space. In its strategy for sport, 'A Sporting Future for All' (1999), it highlights the need for, and importance of, local authorities carrying out playing pitch assessments. They are also seen as pivotal in the Government's approach to protect and provide playing pitches for schools and the wider community.

National context

The Government, recognising the continued loss and risk to playing fields, has tightened up some aspects of legislation and policy with regard to these facilities. In 1996, it introduced the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) (Amendment) Order. This made provisions for Sport England to be a statutory consultee on proposals that affect playing fields. A playing field, for the purposes of the Order, is defined as the whole of a site that encompasses at least one playing pitch¹.

In 1998, the Department of the Environment, Transport & the Regions introduced new legislation in the form of the Town & Country Planning (Playing Fields) (England) Direction. This states that where a local planning authority is approving development on playing fields within local authority ownership and those used by educational institutions, and where Sport England has objected, the planning application must be referred to the Secretary of State.

Further legislation, within the Schools Standards and Framework Act (SSFA) 1998, was introduced by the Government requiring all state schools to seek approval from the Secretary of State for Education and Employment

¹ A delineated area, which together with any run-off area, is of 0.4ha or more, and which is used for association football, American football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, rounders, baseball, softball, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo.

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(Education and Skills since July 2001) for the sale of playing fields. Section 77 of the SSFA seeks to protect school playing fields by requiring the prior consent of the Secretary of State before disposal or change of use may take place. The Department for Education and Employment produced guidance on section 77 of the SSFA within Circular 3/99 'The Protection of School Playing Fields' in June 1999.

Circular 3/99 has recently been replaced by guidance from the Department for Education and Skills entitled 'The Protection of School Playing Fields and Land for City Academies'. The guidance aims to strengthen the existing measures for protecting school playing fields.

In particular, the guidance intends to support the development and improvement of sporting and play provision for the benefit of schools and their local communities, and to provide wider access to these facilities. Applications for disposal or change of use of playing fields will not only have to take account of existing community use but the potential use of the facilities for the local community.

The Government re-affirmed its policies in 'A Sporting Future for All' published by the Department of Media, Culture and Sport in 2000. Paragraph 8.6 refers to its intention to continue to protect sports pitches through planning and education requirements. It also looks to further strengthen or extend protection of playing fields by; revising PPG17 to tighten the categories of possible exception², better monitoring of applications affecting playing fields and the establishment of a National Advisory Panel to monitor school playing field disposal.

The Action Plan for 'A Sporting Future for All' published in December 2000 looks to local authorities to establish databases of playing pitch provision over the next five years as part of the local plan process. Local authorities are also required to produce a playing fields audit and strategy linked to sports development objectives over the same period.

² In March 2001 the Government issued a public consultation draft 'Revision of Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 Sport, Open Space and Recreation'.

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Since 1996, Sport England has published a number of documents reflecting current issues and guidance relative to playing fields. Its policy on planning applications for development on playing fields is included in the planning policy statement 'A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England' (1998).

The policy states that it 'will oppose the granting of planning permission for any development that would lead to the loss of, or would prejudice the use of, all or any part of a playing field, or land last used as playing field or land allocated for use as a playing field in an adopted or draft deposit local plan unless, in the judgement of Sport England, one of the specific circumstances applies. Those specific circumstances are:

E1: A carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated to the satisfaction of Sport England that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport.

E2: The proposed development is ancillary to the principal use of the site as a playing field or playing fields, and does not affect the quantity or quality of pitches or adversely affect their use.

E3: The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming, or forming part of, a playing pitch and does not result in the loss of or inability to make use of any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins), a reduction in the size of the playing area of any playing pitch or the loss of any other sporting/ancillary facilities on site.

E4: The playing field or playing fields that would be lost as a result of the proposed development would be replaced by a playing field or playing fields of an equivalent or better quality and of equivalent or greater quantity, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements, prior to the commencement of development.

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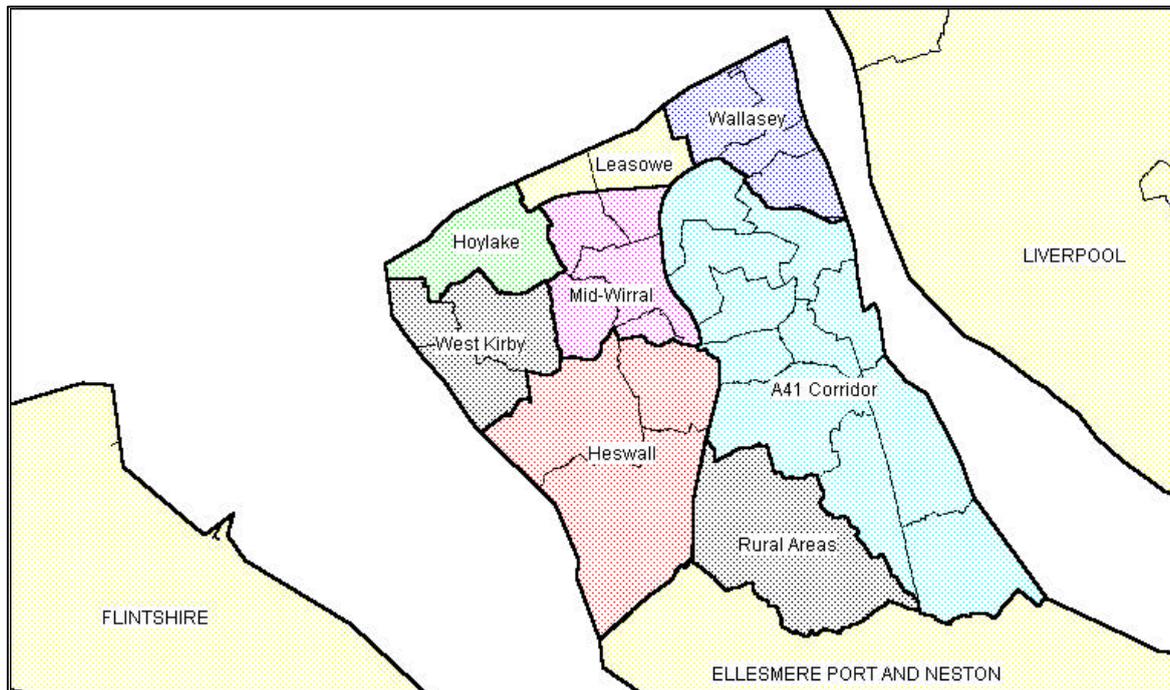
E5: The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor sports facility, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss of the playing field or playing fields'.

The policy statement includes a set of circumstances applicable to each of the above exceptions that are taken into account by Sport England when assessing planning applications.

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3. Local Catchments



The research and findings are based on supply and demand in the context of the whole of Wirral. It is important to note that catchment areas for individuals, teams, clubs and leagues involved in sport do not necessarily coincide with local authority administrative boundaries.

The study identifies clubs and teams, whether from inside or outside of Wirral, that use pitch facilities for competitive matches within the local authority boundary. For example Liverpool Ladies FC currently plays all its home matches at Poulton Victoria AFC ground.

A number of football clubs located in Ellesmere Port are keen to hire Wirral MBC pitches because the sites in Wirral are seen to be generally of a higher standard, especially in terms of access to changing facilities. Unfortunately this demand is not met due to poor pitch quality on sites nearing the Ellesmere Port boundary.

Where possible, the study has also identified clubs or teams that have their base in Wirral but play home fixtures on pitches within a neighbouring authority. For example it has been identified that in hockey,

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Bebington HC play a number of its matches in Neston, Ellesmere Port due to its large junior section not being accommodated in Bebington.

For the purposes of identifying local standards of provision the study uses seven catchment areas within Wirral:

- ❑ A41 Corridor
- ❑ Heswall
- ❑ Hoylake
- ❑ Leasowe
- ❑ Mid Wirral
- ❑ Rural Areas
- ❑ Wallasey
- ❑ West Kirby

Below is a summary of the demographic and topographical make up of each catchment area.

Analysis Area	Population	Total Hectares
A41 Corridor	139,868	5, 523
Heswall	31,260	2, 767
Hoylake	11,077	830
Leasowe	7,112	588
Mid Wirral	46,733	1, 385
Rural Area	1,746	1, 915
Wallasey	59,383	1, 177
West Kirby	15,197	1, 172

Wirral (as a whole)

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The Metropolitan Borough of Wirral comprises the northern part of the Wirral peninsula. It is situated between the Dee and Mersey estuaries, to the north of Ellesmere Port and Neston and is part of the Greater Merseyside area.

The eastern side of the Borough, overlooking Liverpool, contains major areas of high-density urban housing and the main centres of commerce and industry developed around the port activities and chemical industries located along the Mersey shore.

The western side of the Borough, overlooking North Wales, comprises a series of dormitory settlements for workers in Birkenhead, Liverpool, Ellesmere Port and Chester surrounded by predominantly agricultural land.

The Borough is currently home to 312,376 people³. The population has declined from a peak of 360,000 during the 1960's and is predicted to decline further to 293,000 by 2021⁴.

National Indices of Deprivation indicate that the Electoral Wards of Bidston, Birkenhead, Tranmere, Seacombe and Leasowe are in the worst 5% of deprived English Wards. Bidston, Birkenhead and Tranmere are within the worst 1%. Egerton Ward also falls within the worst 10%. All these Wards are located in the east of the Borough.

Only the Electoral Wards of Royden, Clatterbridge and Heswall come within the least deprived half of English Wards and Heswall is within the least deprived 20%. Heswall and Royden are in west Wirral.

A41 Corridor

The A41 Corridor Catchment Area comprises the extensive, densely developed urban conurbation that runs along the western bank of the

³ ONS 2001 Census

⁴ OPCS 1996-based projection

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River Mersey to the east of the M53 Motorway. The catchment area runs from Birkenhead and Tranmere in the north, including the districts of Bidston, Claughton, Noctorum, Oxton and Prenton, towards Bebington to include Bromborough and Eastham in the south.

There has been little expansion in this area since the large-scale house building of the 1960's and 1970's in outlying areas such as Beechwood, Noctorum, Oxton and Poulton-Spital and Brookhurst. The older urban core, comprising Bidston, Birkenhead, Tranmere, Rock Ferry and New Ferry, has been a major focus for urban regeneration funding since the late 1970's.

The catchment population of the A41 Corridor is currently estimated at 139,868 people⁵. There is a higher than average representation of young children and young adults and a lower than average representation among the mature and older age groups.

Heswall

The Heswall Catchment Area contains the linked suburban commuter settlements of Thingwall, Irby, Pensby, Heswall and Gayton towards the south-west corner of the Borough. Development within this area has been restrained since the identification of a Green Belt in late-1950s.

The population within the Heswall catchment is currently estimated at 31,260 people⁶. The area has a lower than average representation of children and young adults and a higher than average representation within the more mature age groups of 45 years old and above.

Hoylake

⁵ ONS 2001 Census

⁶ ONS 2001 Census

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The Hoylake Catchment Area contains the linked coastal settlements of Hoylake and Meols lying between the Liverpool to West Kirby railway line and the coastal promenade overlooking the Irish Sea.

The population of Hoylake is currently estimated at 11,077 people⁷ and contains a higher than average representation of mature and elderly age groups.

Leasowe

The Leasowe Catchment Area is based around an outlying 1950's Council housing estate located along the north Wirral coast to the west of Wallasey. The whole estate was subject to a stock transfer agreement during 2000 and the surrounding area has been the main focus for large-scale private sector house building since the mid-1990's.

The current population of Leasowe is estimated at 7,112 people⁸ and there is a higher than average representation of children, youth and young adults.

Mid-Wirral

The Mid-Wirral Catchment Area comprises the settlements of Moreton, Upton, Greasby and Woodchurch to the immediate west of the M53 Motorway. Moreton, Upton and Greasby were focus for extensive private sector housing built during the 1980's and 1990's.

The current population of Mid-Wirral is estimated at 46,733 people⁹. There is a lower than average representation of young children and a higher than average representation of mature and elderly age groups

Rural Areas

⁷ ONS 2001 Census

⁸ ONS 2001 Census

⁹ ONS 2001 Census

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The Rural Areas Catchment Area contains the central rural heartland of Wirral, comprising small, scattered settlements set amongst high-grade agricultural land with little direct relationship with the major urban areas nearby.

The population of the Rural Areas is currently estimated at 1,746 people¹⁰.

Wallasey

The Wallasey Catchment Area comprises the Electoral Wards of New Brighton, Liscard, Seacombe and Wallasey within the densely developed older urban area towards the northeast corner of the peninsula.

The older urban areas in Seacombe, Egerton and the coastal resort of New Brighton have been a major focus for urban regeneration funding since the late 1970's.

The population of the Wallasey catchment area is currently estimated at 59,383 people¹¹. There is a higher than average representation of children and a lower than average representation of mature and elderly age groups.

West Kirby

The West Kirby Catchment Area centres around the residential coastal settlement situated overlooking the Dee Estuary in the west of the Borough.

It contains the core of the older Edwardian coastal resort and the outlying suburb of Caldy, characterised by large, executive housing set in extensive landscaped grounds. The catchment has seen little large-scale expansion since the estates of Council housing built during the 1950s.

The population of West Kirby is currently estimated at 15,197 people¹². There is a lower than average representation among children, youth and

¹⁰ ONS 2001 Census

¹¹ ONS 2001 Census

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young adults and a higher than average representation of more mature and elderly age groups.

¹² ONS 2001 Census

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PART 2: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

4. Introduction

This report uses established, recognised quantitative and qualitative methodologies for assessing the supply of and demand for pitch sports.

5. Quantitative methodology

The quantitative method used is based on the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) minimum national standard for outdoor sport and recreational play space of 2.43 hectares (six acres) per 1000 population¹³. Within this standard, the NPFA states that between 1.6 and 1.8 ha of sport and recreational space should be provided for youth and adult use. Of this 1.21 ha should be for the provision of formal playing pitches.

This study has attempted to identify the total provision of formal playing pitches within Wirral. The actual dimensions of each identified pitch have not however been measured as part of this study. Instead, maximum pitch dimensions using the 'Handbook of Sports & Recreational Design Vol. 1: Outdoor Sports', Second Edition, Sports Council, 1993, have been applied to each identified pitch. The total playing pitch area is the sum of the dimensions of all identified pitches.

In some cases the study, through consultation with site managers, will have identified senior, junior and mini pitches. In other cases it is assumed that a pitch used by a senior team is a senior sized pitch and, therefore, is of the maximum dimensions for such a pitch. This assumption is, similarly, applied to junior and mini-soccer pitches. It is acknowledged that the size of pitches in all age groups will vary.

Where the study has identified playing fields or sports grounds where pitches are over marked, for example a football pitch covering the same

¹³ The Six Acre Standard, NPFA, 2001

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area as a rugby pitch, the number of pitches has been highlighted and the dimensions of the largest pitch applied.

With each identified pitch area an additional 50% has been added to make allowance for side movement, safe playing margins and the need for ancillary facilities such as pavilions, changing rooms, training areas and seasonal movement. This is in accordance with the recommendations in the 'Six Acre Standard' and the Sports England's 'Handbook of Sports & Recreational Design Vol. 1: Outdoor Sports'. This calculation has been applied to all identified pitches, with the exception of cricket and artificial turf pitches (ATPs).

6. Qualitative methodology

The 'Playing Pitch Strategy' document published by the Sports Council, NPFA and Central Council for Physical Recreation in 1991, outlines a complimentary assessment process based on a local qualitative evaluation. This method was devised to enable policy makers to review playing pitch requirements and provision at a local level. It should be seen as complementary to the quantitative approach recommended in the Six-Acre Standard.

The method, whilst recognising the NPFA Six Acre standard, uses sport 'teams' as the basic unit of demand. Sports are evaluated separately and a demand equation, that compares the number of matches to be accommodated with the number of pitches available, is assessed. In this study, a team-based analysis is used based on use of pitches at individual sites.

The primary method of research involves detailed consultation with representatives from the following groups:

- ❑ Regional governing bodies of sport (NGBs).
- ❑ Sports leagues.
- ❑ Sports clubs.
- ❑ Site managers.

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- ❑ Local authority officers – Leisure, Planning, LEA.
- ❑ Schools.

In this case, research into the adequacy of football pitch and facility provision was supplemented by the distribution of a club-based questionnaire. The questionnaire sought qualitative information about pitch quality, changing accommodation and parking. Furthermore, it also attempts to ascertain what facilities are required at specific sites and how those facilities may assist the development of the Club.

It is important to note that this approach, in accordance with the 'Playing Pitch Strategy', is designed to cater only for competitive activity and voluntary participation by adults and young people playing pitch sports. It excludes participation by young people in school and by anyone in a casual manner.

7. References to supply and demand

In this report there are a number of specific issues relating to supply and demand which are considered pertinent in determining the adequacy of provision of pitches. Some of these references and the terminology used to describe them are outlined below.

Supply

Pitches identified as being accessible at a particular time will be included in the supply side of the equation. It is not sufficient to identify the overall number of pitches. In order to be recognised as part of the supply calculation pitches should be:

- ❑ In an acceptable playing condition for league requirements.
- ❑ Of the correct (or acceptable) size and layout.
- ❑ Be available for use at the appropriate time.

Furthermore, the study has, where relevant, considered other issues which impact on a pitch's overall desirability. These include access to, and the

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quality of, changing accommodation, pitch location and hire costs. These factors can restrict, or even prohibit, access to pitches that may otherwise be considered to be available. They may be particularly relevant to junior boys and girls and women's participation in football.

This study provides an assessment based on those pitches that are currently available and an assessment of those pitches that are acceptable in terms of meeting the needs and aspirations of users, managers and organisations involved in promoting the provision of good quality sporting facilities.

Nevertheless, for comparative purposes the study has attempted to identify all pitches within the area whether available or not and those used on a casual basis or on a formal basis in the past. This should not be seen as representative of the accessible pitch stock but may be used to identify potential additional pitch space given that specific management, maintenance and quality issues are addressed.

Capacity

The term capacity is used in this context to refer to the level of use a pitch can satisfactorily accommodate without causing long-term damage throughout a season. The study has not involved a detailed soil substructure and drainage inspection. However, a judgement is made according to the following:

- ❑ The timetabling of demand for the pitch. Is it available when in demand?
- ❑ The overall physical ability of the surface of the pitch to support regular matches before the quality is damaged making it unfit for competitive play or causing damage that cannot be rectified during the closed season.

Pitch capacity varies dependent upon drainage, soil substructure and make up, maintenance, weather conditions, location (e.g., floodplain), type of sport and age of user.

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'Factfile 2 - Planning and Provision for Sport: the selection, maintenance, usage and cost effectiveness of natural turf pitches' English Sports Council, 1994 provides guidance on pitch capacity. Sport England suggests that in most instances a well-drained football pitch, maintained in accordance with local authority specifications, should be able to accommodate two to three matches per week.

However, it would appear that a combination of factors including lack of investment, poor initial ground conditions and overplay may have led to a number of pitches in Wirral only having a capacity of one match per week.

It is accepted that junior players cause far less damage than adults. One estimate is that players under the age of 15 years cause about half the damage of those over the age of 15. However, this does not negate the fact that, on the whole, junior players use the same goalmouths and penalty areas as the adult players where wear and tear is more intense and damage may be compounded.

Sand carpet and suspended water table pitches (which are normally expensive to install and maintain) should accommodate around four to five matches per week. As a general rule, and for the purposes of this report, it is, however, assumed that well installed and maintained public football pitches should on average be able to accommodate up to three matches per week.

WMBC have provided a pitch survey carried out on all LA managed sites. In terms of pitch grading 5 is classed as 'best' and grading 1 as 'worst'. This is a subjective view collated from a number of council officers. Assumptions have been made regarding the capacity of the grades of pitches to accommodate a certain number of matches per week throughout the season. These assumptions are based on evidence from pitch managers and users. Pitches with a grade 4 or 5 are assumed to have a capacity to accommodate three matches per week, grade 3, two matches per week and grade 1 or 2, one match per week.

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It is generally accepted that privately owned and managed pitches have more restricted access than publicly owned and managed pitches. Similarly, those accommodating senior league teams are normally used for no more than one and occasionally two matches per week throughout the season. In both cases, these pitches are likely to be the subject to more stringent cancellation criteria than publicly owned pitches.

Temporal demand

Temporal demand is the analysis of the fluctuation of demand across relevant periods. The crucial issue is the identification of peak demand. This involves assessing on which days and times demand for pitches is greatest. For pitch sports the majority of participation is organised through leagues which require clubs or teams to play on certain days and at specific times. It should therefore be relatively easy to assess when demand for pitches reaches its peak.

Latent demand

Latent demand refers to unfulfilled demand and broadly takes two forms:

- ❑ Suppressed demand – those who wish to play but for whatever reason cannot.
- ❑ Potential demand – those who do not wish to play but who may, under the right circumstances, be persuaded to do so.

Suppressed and potential demand is taken into account where it can be realistically quantified and where the provision and quality of pitches is likely to be a significant factor in any change. Reference is also made to the impact of the quality of ancillary facilities such as changing accommodation, floodlighting, parking, etc on the demand for participation in sport and quality pitch space.

The lack of satisfactory facilities at certain pitches may prevent a club from joining a certain league and therefore be suppressing demand at that club and in that league. The impact of the quality of provision on local demand

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is an important issue in terms of developing local standards for current and future requirements.

Future demand

Reference is also made to the anticipated future demand for pitches. This includes, at a basic level, using population projections to assess future pitch space requirements over a ten to 15 year period. At another level the projected impact of sports development initiatives, at both the national and local level, currently being delivered by NGBs, schools and local voluntary sector sports clubs will also be estimated.

The impact of mini-soccer on participation profiles is still being assessed by the Football Association and by many local administrators. Since its introduction, the number of U10s playing football has increased significantly. Girls football is also one of the fastest growing sports in the country and the study assesses issues affecting the development or otherwise of girls football within Wirral.

There are also similar initiatives in other sports such as Tag Rugby and Kwik Cricket. These may have an impact on facility requirements in the future.

The extent to which the rate of growth of mini and junior sport participation will continue in the future is still uncertain. However, this study has tried to gauge the development of football and the other sports through dialogue with NGBs, local league secretaries and club managers.

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PART 3: SPORT SPECIFIC SUMMARY

8. Introduction

The following sections summarise the local administration of the main pitch sports within Wirral. Details of the main leagues servicing each sport are included along with issues relating to the number and quality of facilities needed to accommodate competitive requirements. The section on each sport also includes summary tables of the respective clubs and pitches within Wirral and each of the catchment areas.

Section 9 covers football in Wirral providing a summary of the main leagues that provide structured competitive opportunity for all age groups in the area.

Section 10 deals with cricket in Wirral detailing principal leagues providing opportunities for competitive cricket in the area and providing a summary of cricket clubs and cricket pitch provision.

Section 11 deals with hockey in Wirral identifying the principal league, artificial turf pitch venues for matches and training and detailing profiles of the clubs located within Wirral.

Section 12 covers rugby union in Wirral providing club profiles and detailing of facility provision.

Section 13 deals with lacrosse in Wirral providing club profiles and detailing facility provision.

Section 14 looks at American Football in Wirral providing club profiles and detailing facility provision.

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9. Football

Wirral has over 300 clubs competing within ten affiliated senior leagues and five affiliated junior leagues. A small number, mainly semi-professional clubs, compete in two leagues within the national pyramid structure. Tranmere Rovers is the only professional club with a home ground in Wirral. It plays within the Nationwide League.

The majority of Saturday football is played in one of three leagues:

- ❑ West Cheshire League
- ❑ Birkenhead & Wirral League
- ❑ South Wirral League.

The West Cheshire League (the headquarters of which is based outside the Borough) has recently expanded to three divisions and three local league competitions.

The majority of Sunday football is played in three local leagues:

- ❑ Wirral League.
- ❑ Birkenhead League.
- ❑ Wallasey League.

It is these leagues that are the principal users of Council-owned pitch sites. The table below provides a summary of the number of pitches and teams servicing competitive football for clubs based in and around Wirral.

Figure: Number of available football pitches and teams in each catchment area:

Analysis Area	No. of available pitches			No. of teams					
	Senior	Junior	Mini	Senior	Youth	Junior	Mini	Ladies	Girls

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A41 Corridor	48	13	11	98	7	82	36	-	-
Heswall	5	6	-	5	5	15	6	1	-
Hoylelake	2	4	-	1	-	5	2	-	-
Leasowe	2	5	5	-	1	15	6	-	-
Mid-Wirral	25	7	-	33	9	31	6	-	-
Rural Areas	3	3	-	3	1	6	1	-	-
Wallasey	16	5	6	33	3	31	21	1	-
West Kirby	4	3	1	6	-	6	5	1	-
WIRRAL	105	46	23	179	26	191	83	3	-

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Saturday senior football

According to local sources there has been a significant decrease in grass roots, local league Saturday football in the Borough over the last five years. In particular, the South Wirral League and the Birkenhead & Wirral League are both reportedly down to minimum membership numbers. The West Cheshire League though reports an increase in membership within Wirral, this borough now being its biggest provider of clubs. West Cheshire League's catchment area covers from Widnes to Chester. There has been more of a shift of membership between the leagues but there is a lack of youth teams feeding into the senior leagues at a grass roots level.

Saturday senior football league matrix:

League	Kick Off	No of Divisions
Birkenhead & Wirral League	Saturday pm	3
Zingari Combination League	Saturday pm	4
Liverpool Old Boys	Saturday pm	5
Merseyside Inter Church League	Saturday am	1
Nationwide League	Saturday pm	4
South Wirral League	Saturday pm	2
West Cheshire League	Saturday pm	3

Birkenhead and Wirral Football League (BWL)

Founded in 1919, it presently operates in three divisions. According to a League representative, it was, at one point, the largest league in Wirral but over the last 20 years it has experienced a continual decline in membership. 2002 membership is 30 teams across its three divisions. All teams have home grounds in Wirral.

The main reasons for the decline are considered to be the overall costs of hiring poor quality facilities and a lack of youth football feeding into the

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League. The secretary expressed concern about the absence of leagues for 16–18 year olds.

Lack of control is also cited as an issue. It reports that pitch allocation processes are directly affecting its capacity to protect membership levels. It did, in the past, manage its own pitch allocations, but this is now controlled by WMBC. There is thought to be a direct correlation between the increased number of teams playing in the divisions of the West Cheshire League and the general decline being experienced by the Wirral based leagues. The method of pitch allocation has enabled clubs to transfer to other leagues without forfeiting their home pitches. The League is, thus, understandably, keen to regain control of pitch allocations from the Council.

The League secretary reports that, what he described as the only two good quality facilities: Leverhulme Playing Field and Plymyard Playing Fields are now predominantly used by West Cheshire League teams and good quality sites are not being offered to the clubs playing in Wirral based leagues.

Izingari Combination League (ICL)

Established in 1904 this league has 41 clubs in membership. Its catchment area covers North and South Liverpool and the Wirral. Over the last five years it has increased the number of divisions is operates from two to four. This year, it has set up a 'vets' division. This has six teams playing in it. It operates as a reserve team feeder league from a number of other leagues including Zingari League, Liverpool Combination and West Cheshire. Kick off is 2.30pm Saturday.

One team, Rockville FC from Wirral plays in the League. According to the League secretary, the Club encountered problems finding a pitch of a suitable standard due to poor drainage on a number of sites in Wirral.

Liverpool Old Boys League (LOBL)

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This, well-established, old boys league was founded in 1923. It has 60 teams in membership for the 2002/2003 season, playing across five divisions. According to the League secretary this is a slight decrease from the previous year's membership numbers. Its main catchment area is North Liverpool but it does attract teams from Wirral on a regular basis. Two teams, Old Instonians FC and Rockville FC from Wirral play in the League.

To become a member of the League, the Club must have a recognised educational link with either a school or college.

According to the League secretary, Old Instonians is unhappy with the quality of pitches it plays on because of the limited number of adequate quality pitches available for peak time Saturday football in Wirral. The Club has apparently applied to be affiliated to the Merseyside FA and hire a pitch in Liverpool.

Merseyside Inter Church League (MICL)

The league was established in 1995 and is still in its infancy. It is made up of just one division. Membership has, therefore, been on the increase with each new season. It currently has eight clubs, each with one team playing in the League. From the Wirral catchment area, six clubs play in the League.

According to the League secretary there are insufficient pitches in Wirral to meet current demand, even though, given the number of teams, its demand is relatively low in comparison with other leagues. Pitch quality reportedly varies considerably across the Borough.

Nationwide League Division Two

This division of the Nationwide League consists of 24 teams drawn from across the country. All clubs playing in the League employ players on a professional basis. The League works on a promotion and relegation basis with three teams each season being promoted to Division One, while three

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teams are relegated into Division Three. Tranmere Rovers FC plays within the Premier League structure.

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South Wirral League (SWL)

The League originated as the Davenport Sunday League but changed its title in 1940 to become the South Wirral League playing on a Saturday. Kick off is at 3.00pm.

Membership in 2001/2002, stood at sixteen teams over two divisions. This is a decrease from five years ago when it was 30 teams. The League secretary reports that this coincides with the expansion of the West Cheshire League for which South Wirral has become a key catchment area. Currently, membership levels are at a minimum and the secretary indicated that if the decrease continues it will not be operational within five years. For next season three teams from the South Wirral League have applied to join the West Cheshire League and only one new application has been received.

The League also reports a lack of good quality pitch sites in Wirral. Teams from Wallasey and Moreton in particular struggle to find suitable accommodation due to the poor drainage of local sites. It reports that most teams travel out of the area to play matches.

There is a concern that the West Cheshire League will eventually take control of Wirral's best pitch site; Leverhulme Playing Field because of the standard of facilities required to become a member of the league. South Wirral League is of the view that the standard of its football is being impeded because of lack of good quality facilities.

West Cheshire League (WCL)

The Carlsberg West Cheshire League was established in 1892. Its primary affiliation as with all of its member clubs is with the Cheshire FA. The League operates a three-division structure, with 16 teams in each division. Kick off is at 2.00pm Saturday.

The League is part of the English football pyramid (grade 4) with clubs feeding into the Northwest Counties League. A minimum standard of

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facilities is required for all its clubs based upon the following factors: ground enclosure, changing facilities and dugouts.

Over the last five years the League has expanded by one division to accommodate the increased demand. This is not representative of an increased demand to play Saturday football in general simply a shift away from local Saturday football leagues to county based leagues. For the Wirral based clubs making this transition it is creating an increased demand for a higher standard of pitch and associated facilities.

During the 2001/2002 season 13 Wirral based clubs, producing 22 teams, played in the League. This is the largest number of teams from within any one borough in the County.

Sunday senior football

There is a strong structure of Sunday football leagues in Wirral. There are three specific Wirral Leagues and one further league that include the Wirral within its catchment area. According to a local source there are insufficient good quality facilities to accommodate Wirral teams. A number of teams also travel from Ellesmere Port to use Wirral pitches on a Sunday.

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Sunday football league matrix

League	Kick Off	No of Divisions
Birkenhead Sunday League	Sunday am	5
Ellesmere Port Sunday League	Sunday am	4
Wallasey Sunday League	Sunday am	3
Wirral Sunday League	Sunday am	3

Birkenhead Sunday League (BSL)

Established in 1964, the League was the first Sunday league in Wirral. It started with one division and has, since its inception, expanded. According to a league representative, it is now on a par with the West Cheshire League - playing Sunday football.

League rules state that clubs must have access to a good quality pitch and ancillary facilities. A league representative reports that in Wirral, Council owned changing accommodation is often poorer than the pitches. Therefore the majority of clubs in the League use private facilities that belong to clubs playing in the WCL on a Saturday.

It has five divisions and a U18's youth division (developed since 1987) - the only one of its kind in the Northwest. This is certainly due to a lack of good quality facilities to tempt them away from other distractions at that age. There are 12 teams per open age division. Membership is on the increase and has been steadily growing. At least seven new applications to join the League are rejected every season.

Ellesmere Port Sunday League

Founded in 1968 with two divisions, it has expanded over the years and had four divisions at its peak. For the 2002/2003 season it will have three divisions with ten teams in each. Its main catchment area is Ellesmere Port, although due to a relaxation of league boundary restrictions two years ago it can now attract teams from South Wirral. It currently only has one Club

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producing two teams from Wirral (MSC Eastham Rake FC), but anticipates that this may increase over the next few years.

According to the league secretary the poor quality of Ellesmere Port Borough Council pitches and in particular the lack of changing room accommodation, could begin to have a significant impact on Wirral pitch bookings. Already teams from the League are enquiring about Wirral pitches. FC Merebrook, for example, wishes to play in Wirral but can only be accommodated at Arrowe Park. However, it does not consider Arrowe Park to be of a good enough standard. The secretary predicts a change in the composition of the League with a decrease in the number of teams from Ellesmere Port and an increase in those from Wirral.

Wallasey and District Sunday League (WDSL)

Established in 1963, this was the first Sunday League in the Wirral. It comprises a first division of ten teams and three other divisions containing 48 clubs. A youth division began two years ago and now contains 14 clubs. Membership of this division remains constant.

According to the secretary, however, the general trend is one of decline since the 1980's. It is suggested that this is due to poor quality (and often unplayable) pitches and inadequate facilities. It was also suggested that there is a geographical bias because Wallasey is perceived to be a more affluent area and that, as a result, more resource is invested in clubs and grounds elsewhere.

It is, reportedly, the only league servicing Wirral teams that has cancelled games because of pitch 'wear and tear'. The secretary indicated that this is the result of playing matches on pitches when they should have been cancelled.

The view is that Council owned football pitches have deteriorated in quality over the last few years. This is thought to be primarily due to a lack of appropriate maintenance. Pitches are often so wet that grass cutting

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cannot be carried out, for example. Some clubs now hire other private club grounds to alleviate this problem.

League requirements are that facilities must have separate changing rooms for referees.

The League structure in Wirral allows successful teams to join a new league and to continue to use its designated pitch. According to the WDSL secretary, this further depletes the number of good pitches available to WDSL teams. Trying to get the three leagues to co-operate is proving difficult. WDSL believes there is a need for a specific process to encourage the Wirral leagues to work together to raise the standard of football and protect its teams from leaving.

Although Saturday games are based within the FA pyramid there is no promotion between the three Sunday Wirral Leagues. The difference in standard and 'pitch taking' has, as a result, become a problem. The standard of refereeing is also considered to be getting poorer and it was suggested that insufficient resources are being allocated to the recruitment and training of referees.

The League secretary identified Leasowe Road Recreation Ground as a potential site for investment for new pitches, as drainage at these is considered to be of adequate quality.

Wirral Sunday League (WSL)

Founded in 1969 the League presently operates three divisions. There is a current (2002) membership of 30 teams.

Although the League reports that membership is steady, it states that poor facilities directly affect standards. It is also stated that there is a need for better quality Council pitches to improve the standard of grass roots football in this league.

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League rules state that clubs must have access to a good quality pitch and ancillary facilities. These rules are not adhered to because there are insufficient good quality facilities in Wirral. For example, according to the Secretary, Green Lane Playing Field has 'rock-based' pitches, which are of poor quality, but to accommodate all fixtures it must be played on.

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A lack of junior and youth leagues in the area is also thought to be affecting membership of the League and the standard of football being played. The Wirral Junior League, which used to feed into the WSL, disbanded fifteen years ago. Reasons for the League folding are not known, although this may have been related to administration problems and a lack of volunteer support.

Junior football and mini soccer

Junior age football clubs within Wirral compete within three affiliated leagues:

- ❑ Wallasey Junior/Mini League.
- ❑ Eastham Junior League.
- ❑ Ellesmere Port Junior League.

All the junior leagues have mini soccer sections. In addition, there are three specific mini soccer leagues:

- ❑ Wirral Mini Soccer Friendly League.
- ❑ Wallasey Junior/Mini League.
- ❑ Ellesmere Port Mini League.

Matches take place on Sunday afternoons.

A number of league secretaries suggest that there is a considerable gap in provision for youth football, especially for U17 and U18 age groups. This is considered to be directly affecting membership levels because of the lack of feeder leagues. Although the Birkenhead Sunday League has a youth division it tends to comprise open age clubs with one youth team rather than junior clubs providing youth teams as a natural progression through the age groups.

Junior football league matrix

League	Kick Off	No of Divisions
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Eastham Junior League	Sunday pm	6
Ellesmere Port Junior League	Sunday pm	6
Ellesmere Port Mini League	Sunday pm	5
Wallasey Junior League	Sunday pm	6
Wirral Mini Soccer Friendly League	Sunday pm	3

Eastham and District Junior League (EDJL)

Founded in 1964, the Eastham and District Junior League is well established and has a strong infrastructure. It comprises six divisions from U11 through to U16, with divisions at U14 to U16 having 'A' and 'B' teams. Membership for the season 2001/2002 stood at over 100 teams, which represents an increase over the last three years. A league representative suggests that, ideally, it should have lower membership, as administratively it is getting difficult to deal with such a large number of teams. He believes there is enough demand to create another junior league in Wirral.

The 11-a-side League plays all its matches on a home and away basis. Kick off is at 2.30pm Sunday. The majority of matches are played on or across senior pitches. This is due to a lack of good quality junior sized pitches. Additional play on or across senior pitches could be leading to over-play.

The League also operates a mini soccer section with one U10 friendly division. This 7-a-side division plays on Saturday mornings at a central venue site; Plymyard Playing Fields. Eight mini soccer pitches are marked on a separate area of the field to the main senior pitches. A league representative reports that the facilities at Plymyard Playing Fields are of good quality although use of the changing facility is limited due to player choice.

Ellesmere Port Junior League (EPJL)

Formed in 1967 this League provides divisions from U11 to U16, in two divisions to cope with the increased demand for U11 and U12 age groups.

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Each division has 14 teams. Membership for the 2002/2003 season stands at 23 clubs and 73 teams.

Four clubs from Wirral provide a total of five teams to the Ellesmere Port Junior League. (Wirral Eagles, Eastham Blades, Wirral Panthers and Woodward Boys). As with the Ellesmere Port Senior League, catchment boundaries have been relaxed and the League now attracts teams from Wirral and Chester.

All matches are played on a home and away basis. The League has found it difficult to accommodate matches at a central venue site, although this would be preferred, particularly for younger age groups. U11 and U12 age groups are encouraged to find and play on school-based or private pitches rather than Council pitches, which the League considers to be generally sub-standard, especially for junior players.

This League because of the reportedly poor facilities in Ellesmere Port places extra demand on Wirral pitches. Fixture congestion linked to this is at its highest in cup competitions when Ellesmere Port based teams are forced to play all matches away from home due to a lack of changing accommodation.

It is a rule of the League that matches must be played on marked out pitches with goal posts. According to the League secretary, the lack of junior pitches in both Wirral and Ellesmere Port often means that matches must be played on full size senior pitches.

Ellesmere Port Mini League (EPML)

Five teams from the League play on pitches in Wirral. Matches take place Sunday afternoon.

KKP has been unable to contact a representative from the League.

Wallasey Junior/Mini Football League (WJFL)

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The WJFL was founded over 40 years ago. Over the last few years it has experienced a steady level of membership with loss of teams balanced by new teams joining. To accommodate the growth of mini soccer, specific mini soccer divisions were created. Its catchment area is North Wirral with the core of teams coming from Wallasey. It is the only junior league in Wallasey.

The junior divisions provide football for U11 through to U16 age groups. It has a 2002/2003-season membership of 28 clubs (87 teams). All fixtures are played on a home and away basis, with pitch allocations arranged directly between clubs and WMBC. Kick off times varies throughout a Sunday, often starting at around 11.00am.

It uses a number of school pitches to accommodate junior football. The secretary considers school sites as ideal for junior football because of the environment provided. This usually incorporates fenced playing fields with adequate car parking and teams are not normally required to share the site with open age teams. The only reported problem is the lack of school sites that can provide changing/toilet facilities. There is a greater demand for changing facilities for teams at U13 level and above.

The League secretary reports that the majority of council owned sites are poorly drained during the winter months. Wallasey in particular, due to the fact that the land lies below sea level, has poor drainage on most sites. It is highlighted that the worst sites in this context are Central Park, Wallacre Playing Fields and Arrowe Park (at the bottom end).

Mini soccer opportunities are provided through three divisions of U8, U9 and U10's. 34 teams from Wirral play in these mini soccer divisions. All matches are played on central venue sites at Leasowe Recreation Centre, The Delph and School Lane. Kicks off times are Saturdays from 9.30am onwards.

WJFL has a 2002/2003-season membership of over 500 players, boys and girls. Over the last two years there has been a substantial increase in

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membership. It is anticipated that growing demand will underpin the need for more central venue sites as mini soccer develops further.

Leasowe Recreation Centre is highlighted as the most significant venue for the League due to its location in its main catchment area of Wallasey. The site has been highlighted as being at significant risk from development. Compensatory provision would be transferred to nearby Wallasey School. This would reportedly be of a lower standard.

Sport England funding of £50,000 for the development of four new mini pitches was secured last autumn. The actual development produced five new mini pitches. These are due to be played on September 2002. The pitches replace one senior football pitch let through the Recreation Centre for one off matches.

It believes that mini soccer is on the increase, especially in Leasowe where there is presently perceived to be a lack of playing pitches/sports facilities with changing accommodation. It plans to develop more pitches at the site in the future. U9 and U10 age groups play at this site and the league secretary reports that the playing area is in good condition with access to changing in the Recreation Centre.

The Delph is used for U8's and is also, reportedly, a good site. School Lane is used when needed by U9 and U10's but is, according to the secretary, poor. It has no changing facility, drainage is particularly poor and maintenance (linked to drainage problems) is lacking.

The League secretary reports a gap of provision for youth teams. This is thought to be due to a lack of promotion of the current small youth league and because of the shortage of peak time playing pitch space available in Wirral.

Wirral Mini Soccer Friendly League (WMSFL)

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This League is played on various central venue sites throughout Wirral. Matches are played Sunday mornings. There are 44 teams playing within Wirral. KKP has been unable to contact a representative from the League.

Women's and girls football

Women's football is strong within Wirral and large well established clubs have been attracted from neighbouring boroughs to play on Wirral pitches, including Liverpool Ladies Reserves FC who begin the 2002/2003 playing at Poulton Victoria's home ground. Wirral is also home to Tranmere Ladies FC, which plays at Gayton Park. Wirral Ladies FC has recently moved to its new home ground at West Kirby FC in the hope of securing a place in the Premier division of the Northwest Women's League.

In the shadow of the successful women's football clubs playing in Wirral, girls football does not have the same opportunity to thrive. Wirral FA does not provide a girls league and teams must belong to either the Liverpool Girls League or the Cheshire Girls League. Both have major travel implications for Wirral based clubs.

The Wirral Girls League was operational for two seasons but folded in 2001 because of what were termed 'administrative problems'. According to one club representative, there was a lack of interest from local clubs in running girls teams, but the League representative suggests that its failure was also due to a lack of support from the County FA and limited funding opportunities. It was also suggested that the lack of available school facilities all added to the League's demise.

A number of the teams have now folded. Members have either gone to Tranmere Rovers youth section or are now not playing. Around five teams still play, but they must travel considerable distances to access appropriate competition. For example, the Cheshire Girls League teams play at the central venue site at Moss Farm, Northwich. Irby JFC reports that there is demand to create junior girls teams. It is hoping to create two or three teams that will play in the Cheshire Girls League. An 'Awards for All' application will be entered to fund the set up process.

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League matrix

League	Kick Off	No of Divisions
AXA Women's Premier League	Sun	3
Northwest Women's League	Sun	5
Cheshire Girls League	Sat	6
Liverpool Girls League	Sat	3

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AXA Women's Premier League:

The Women's Premier League has been running since 1992. The top 34 women's football teams in the country compete in the AXA Women's Premier League.

The National Division is the female equivalent of the Barclaycard Premiership; the top ten teams compete for the title. The two lower divisions, the Northern and the Southern, each with 12 teams, feed into the National Division. One team is promoted from each at the end of the season. Wirral has two ladies teams competing at this level - Tranmere Rovers Ladies FC and Liverpool Ladies FC.

Northwest Women's League

Wirral Ladies FC plays within this league. KKP has not been able to contact a representative from the League.

Cheshire Girls League

Wirral Hawks FC plays within this league which is based at a central venue site at Moss Farm, Northwich. KKP has not been able to contact a representative from the League.

Liverpool Girls League

Tranmere Rovers Girls FC plays within this league. KKP has not been able to contact a representative from the League.

Wirral Hawks FC

This, nomadic, girls football club was founded in March 2001. It is not affiliated to a boys club as girls teams tend to be. It runs three teams (U10, U12, U14). The U12 and U14's play within the Cheshire Girls League. (This, as is mentioned above, operates at a central venue site in

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Northwich). The U10's age group plays through a local primary school league on a friendly basis only.

The necessity to find a home ground in Wirral, because all matches are played at a central venue, is less acute. However, in terms of attracting new members and creating a social base for the Club the absence of such a base has made certain aspects of club operation and development difficult. The Club has been unsuccessful in its quest to secure a permanent home ground or a social base and implied that more active support from WMBC would have been welcomed.

It currently trains at Woodchurch Leisure Centre and has, in the past, used the indoor Barn facility. This has now been taken out of commission. According to its representative, there is a significant lack of indoor and artificial turf based training venues in Wirral available for community use. Many secondary school ATP's are not available for use.

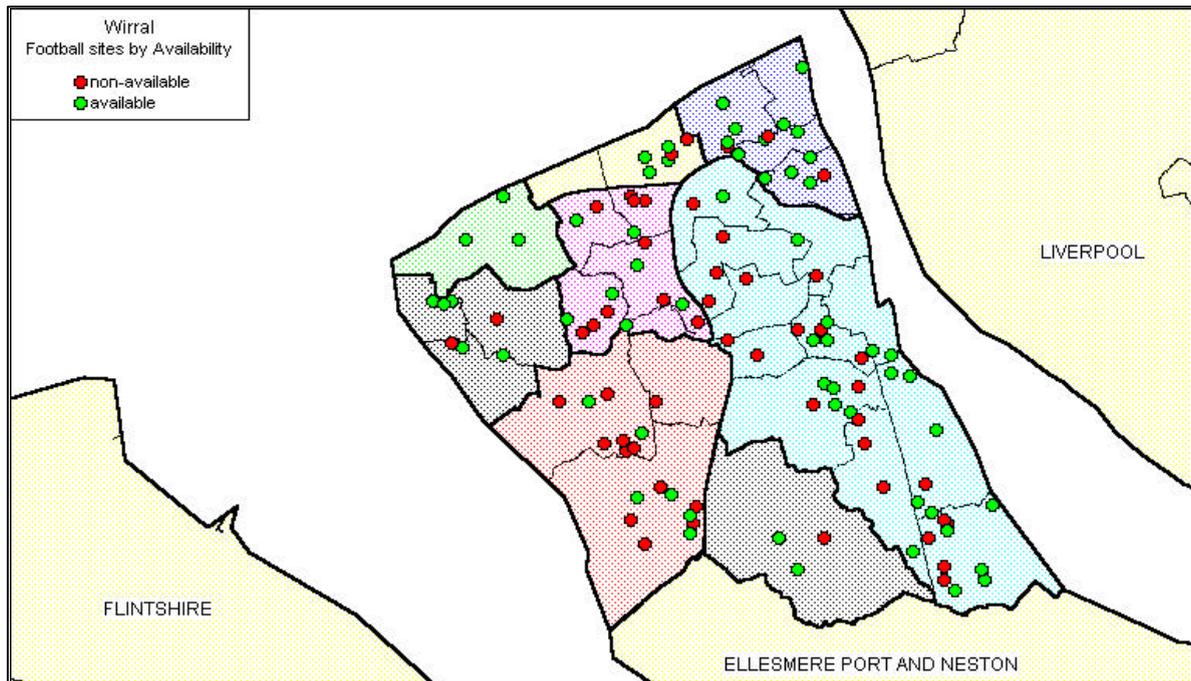
The Club would like to feed its players into a ladies club on the Wirral but is finding it difficult to initiate a productive relationship in this context. Its relationship with the Borough's sports development unit would also appear to be relatively limited.

Membership numbers are increasing each season as the Club develops further. Already it reports interest from number of girls for opportunities at U6 and U7 age groups. However, without access to a league more locally, the Club will struggle to run any more teams.

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Football sites in Wirral:



Site name	KKP reference	Analysis Area	Comm Use	Sf	Jf	Mf
Acre Lane Playing Fields	99	A41 Corridor	Yes	2		
Bebington High School	163	A41 Corridor	No	1	4	
Bedford Drive Primary School	55	A41 Corridor	Yes		1	
Birkenhead Park	122	A41 Corridor	Yes	3		
Birkenhead School (Noctorum Sports Ground)	63	A41 Corridor	No		1	
Birkenhead Scout Association (Solly Recreation Ground)	197	A41 Corridor	No	2		
Borough Road Playing Field	59	A41 Corridor	Yes	1	2	
Boundary Road Playing Field	40	A41 Corridor	No		1	
Brackenwood Junior School	77	A41 Corridor	No		1	
Bromborough Recreation Ground	102	A41 Corridor	Yes	1		
Brookhurst Primary School	98	A41 Corridor	No		1	
Cammell Lairds AFC	193	A41 Corridor	Yes	1		
Christ The King RC Primary School	101	A41 Corridor	No		1	
Conway Park	156	A41 Corridor	Yes		2	
Dell Primary School	210	A41 Corridor	Yes			1
Eastham Locks Sports Ground	88	A41 Corridor	Yes	1		
Green Lane Playing Fields	86	A41 Corridor	Yes	4		
Heygarth Primary School	94	A41 Corridor	No		1	
Higher Bebington Junior School	76	A41 Corridor	No		2	

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Site name	KKP reference	Analysis Area	Comm Use	Sf	Jf	Mf
Higher Bebington Recreation Ground	74	A41 Corridor	Yes	2		
King's Lane Playing Fields	72	A41 Corridor	Yes	1	2	2
Leverhulme Sports Ground	85	A41 Corridor	Yes	6		
Manor Primary School	39	A41 Corridor	No		2	
Mayfields	78	A41 Corridor	Yes	2		
McAllister Memorial Sports Ground (Birkenhead School)	126	A41 Corridor	No		2	
Mendell Primary School	100	A41 Corridor	No		2	
Millfields Primary School	92	A41 Corridor	Yes		1	
New Ferry Park	79	A41 Corridor	Yes	1		
Octel Sports Ground	96	A41 Corridor	Yes	2		
Old Parkonians Association	60	A41 Corridor	Yes		1	
Plymyard Playing Fields	95	A41 Corridor	Yes	9		8
Poulton Lancelyn Primary	103	A41 Corridor	No		1	
Prenton Primary School	137	A41 Corridor	No		1	
Prices Sports Ground	82	A41 Corridor	Yes	1		
Raeburn Primary School	97	A41 Corridor	No		1	
Ridgeway High School	161	A41 Corridor	No	4		
Rock Ferry High	154	A41 Corridor	No	1	1	
Shaftesbury Memorial Field	56	A41 Corridor	Yes	2		
South Wirral High School	23	A41 Corridor	No	2		
St Mary's CE Primary School Field	91	A41 Corridor	Yes		1	
St Werburgh's RC Primary School	180	A41 Corridor	No		1	1
Stanton Road Primary School	164	A41 Corridor	No		1	
The Glen (Woodchurch Road)	70	A41 Corridor	Yes	1	1	
The Oval Sports Centre	5	A41 Corridor	Yes	6		
The Oval Sports Centre (Education Pitch)	260	A41 Corridor	No		1	
Tranmere Rovers Ingleborough Road	58	A41 Corridor	No	2		
Tranmere Rovers Prenton Park	57	A41 Corridor	No	1		
Victoria Park	54	A41 Corridor	Yes		2	
Vyner Primary School	178	A41 Corridor	No			1
Wirral Sports Centre	41	A41 Corridor	Yes	2		
Woodslee Primary School	83	A41 Corridor	No		1	
Barnston Dale Camp	135	Heswall	No		1	
Barnston Primary School	134	Heswall	No		1	
Chester Road Playing Fields	264	Heswall	Yes		1	
Dawpool CE Primary School	206	Heswall	No		1	

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site name	KKP reference	Analysis Area	Comm Use	Sf	Jf	Mf
Gayton Park (Heswall AFC)	133	Heswall	Yes	1		
Gayton Park Playing Field	132	Heswall	Yes		1	
Gayton Primary School	130	Heswall	No		1	
Heswall Primary School	118	Heswall	No		1	
Irby Primary School	112	Heswall	No		1	
Irby Recreation Ground	113	Heswall	Yes		3	
Ladymount RC Primary School	116	Heswall	No		1	
Pensby High School	115	Heswall	No		1	
Pensby Infant & Junior School	215	Heswall	No		2	
Pensby Park Primary School	117	Heswall	No		2	
Puddy Dale Playing Field	128	Heswall	Yes	1		
Ridgewood Park	114	Heswall	Yes	2	1	
St Peter's CE Primary School	129	Heswall	No		1	
Thingwall Primary School	208	Heswall	No			1
Whitfield Common Playing Field	119	Heswall	Yes	1		
Acres Road Playing Field	170	Hoylake	Yes		2	
Elm Grove	263	Hoylake	Yes	1		
Great Meols Primary School	169	Hoylake	Yes		1	
Sandringham Avenue Playing Field	168	Hoylake	Yes	1	1	
Castleway Primary School	147	Leasowe	Yes		1	
Leasowe Leisure Centre	6	Leasowe	Yes			5
Leasowe Primary School	146	Leasowe	No		1	
Leasowe Road Recreation Ground (Brickfields)	8	Leasowe	Yes	1	2	
Solar Campus Playing Field	13	Leasowe	No	4		
Wallasey School	21	Leasowe	Yes	1	2	
Arrowe Park	10	Mid-Wirral	Yes	12	4	
Brookdale Primary School	29	Mid-Wirral	No		1	
Carr Bridge Road (St Benedict's RC High)	65	Mid-Wirral	No	1		
Claremount Special School	175	Mid-Wirral	No	1		
Coronation Park	108	Mid-Wirral	Yes	3		
Eastway Primary School	171	Mid-Wirral	No		1	
Greasby Junior & Infants School	110	Mid-Wirral	No		1	1
Hayfield Special School	27	Mid-Wirral	No		1	
Hayfield Special School (rear)	26	Mid-Wirral	Yes	1		
Lingham Park	142	Mid-Wirral	Yes	4		
Lingham Primary School	144	Mid-Wirral	No		1	
Millcroft Sports Ground (Newton FC)	30	Mid-Wirral	Yes	1		

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site name	KKP reference	Analysis Area	Comm Use	Sf	Jf	Mf
Our Lady of Pity RC Primary School	109	Mid-Wirral	No		1	
Overchurch Primary School	139	Mid-Wirral	Yes		2	
Sacred Heart RC Primary School	172	Mid-Wirral	No		1	
Upton Park	24	Mid-Wirral	Yes	2		
Woodchurch High School	69	Mid-Wirral	No	1	2	
Woodchurch Leisure Centre Playing Fields	67	Mid-Wirral	Yes	3		
St Michael & All Angels RC Primary	182	Mid-Wirral	No		1	
Thornton Hough Recreation Ground	106	Rural Areas	Yes	1		
Tranmere Rovers Raby Vale	105	Rural Areas	No	1		
Wirral Club (The Foxes)	104	Rural Areas	Yes	2	3	
Ashville FC (Villa Park)	16	Wallasey	Yes	1		
Belvidere Recreation Ground	1	Wallasey	Yes	1		
Central Park	120	Wallasey	Yes	3		
Harrison Park	51	Wallasey	Yes	2		
Liscard Primary School	45	Wallasey	Yes		1	
Mosslands School	148	Wallasey	No		1	
Oldershaw High School	47	Wallasey	No		1	
Oxton Road	186	Wallasey	Yes			2
Poultton Victoria AFC	20	Wallasey	Yes	1		
Rycroft Road Playing Field	44	Wallasey	Yes	2		
School Lane Recreation Ground	149	Wallasey	Yes	3		2
St George's Primary School	152	Wallasey	Yes		1	
St Joseph's RC Primary School	176	Wallasey	No		1	
The Delph Recreation Ground	46	Wallasey	Yes		2	2
Tower Grounds Playing Field	19	Wallasey	Yes		1	
Wallacre Recreation Ground	7	Wallasey	Yes	3		
Anglesey Road Playing Field	32	West Kirby	Yes	1	1	1
Blackhorse Hill Primary	181	West Kirby	No			1
Devonshire Road Playing Field	34	West Kirby	Yes		1	
Greenbank Road Playing Fields	18	West Kirby	Yes	1		
Hilbre High School	173	West Kirby	No	1	1	
Newton Park	38	West Kirby	Yes	1	1	
St Bridget's CE Primary Field	35	West Kirby	No		1	
West Kirby AFC (Marine Park)	31	West Kirby	Yes	1		

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Football pitches in Wirral that are currently (2002/03 season) unused or have been lost over the last few years:

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Area	Site name	No. and type of pitches	Comment
Leasowe	Premier Brands (Pasture Road)	1 senior football	Compensatory provision to be given at Ditton Lane due to developments by the company.
Leasowe	Premier Brands (Reeds Lane)	1 senior football	Compensatory provision to be given at Ditton Lane due to developments by the company.
A41 Corridor	Carlett Park – Wirral Metropolitan College	1 senior football	Playing field retained but no further maintenance of any previous pitches.
A41 Corridor	Gautby Road	1 senior football	Previously leased to Mersey Royal AFC who moved to Leverhulme Playing Fields due to quality and vandalism. Objections from residents about senior football. Recreation development site in UDP. Could only now accommodate mini soccer due to a link road development.
A41 Corridor	Valley Road	1 senior football	Used to be private ground for Tranmere Rovers. Land swap to Ingleborough Road with council carried out in 1995. Recreation development site in UDP. Industrial development was considered during 1998 with the pitch relocated but this was not pursued.
A41 Corridor	Storeton Road	NK	Formerly detached school playing fields. Part of wider parkland and still undeveloped. No changing but has small car park shared with the allotments

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Area	Site name	No. and type of pitches	Comment
			adjacent. Road congestion around site problematic.
A41 Corridor	Brotherton Park	1 senior football	Was available for public lettings. Situated in open park. Taken out of use after loss of changing facility in 1994.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

10. Cricket

Figure: Number of available cricket pitches and teams in each catchment area: vicinity

Catchment Area	No. of available pitches			No. of teams				
	Senior	Junior	Mini	Senior	Youth	Junior	Ladies	Girls
A41 Corridor	18	-	-	32	2	23	2	-
Heswall	2	-	-	4	-	3	-	-
Hoylake	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leasowe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mid-Wirral	2	-	-	7	1	5	-	-
Rural Areas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wallasey	4	-	-	8	-	8	-	-
West Kirby	2	-	-	5	-	5	-	-
WIRRAL	29	-	-	56	3	44	2	-

Cricket

In general the last five years has seen an increase in the number of teams being produced within the majority of Wirral based cricket clubs. Also school cricket participation has increased, with far more schools putting teams forward for LA organised cricket tournaments, even though the cricket SDO reports that inner city schools lack access to cricket facilities. One girls team played in the school tournaments last year, but with Active Sports in place for this year the hope is that this number will increase. The Council's Sports Development Unit would like to see further developments of club-school links in order for school teams to feed more effectively into the clubs.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Within Wirral there is a specific geographical divide of cricket clubs, carved by the location of the motorway. The more affluent catchment areas of West Kirby, Upton and Irby to the East of the motorway provide the greater number of clubs and often have the better quality facilities. In comparison the catchment areas to the West of the motorway provide a smaller number of clubs often with facilities that need improvements. In the opinion of the cricket SDO the areas of Wallasey and New Brighton have low demand for cricket facilities because demand for football is so high.

In particular three clubs are struggling to provide junior teams: Tranmere Victoria CC, Birkenhead St Mary's CC and Liscard Central CC. The Sports Development Unit has highlighted these as the priority clubs to work with in order to provide more club development support. Tranmere Victoria CC has also been highlighted as a priority club to support in improvements to pitch quality.

According to the cricket SDO, the new ECB regulation that top-flight clubs will need to provide a second pitch will not have a major effect on Wirral based clubs. It is felt that there are enough cricket pitches to withstand this increased demand. The issue will be the cost to maintain and manage those pitches. Many third team pitches are not to the appropriate standard and for example do not have covers.

Cricket leagues

Seven cricket leagues service club competition in Wirral. Most of the senior leagues also have junior divisions. One independent league runs cricket solely for youth and junior competition in Wirral. This section contains a summary of the principal leagues:

League	Start times	No. of divisions
Bromborough Paints Merseyside Competition	Sat. pm/Sun. pm	5 senior
Chester Midweek League	Wed. pm	NK
Jacobs and Co. Cheshire Women's	Sun. pm	1 senior

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Cricket League		
Liverpool and District Cricket Competition	Sat. pm/Sun. pm	7 senior
Mellor Braggins Cheshire County League	Sat. pm/Sun. pm	6 senior
Murray Smith Cheshire County League	Sat. pm/Sun. pm	11 senior, 1 vets, 4 junior
Shammah Nicholls Cheshire Cricket Alliance	Sat. pm	6 senior
Wirral Junior Cricket League	Various	5 junior

Bromborough Paints Merseyside Cricket Competition (MCC)

MCC was established 1937. Although it is known as the Merseyside Cricket Competition, clubs from Cheshire, Liverpool, Southport, St Helens, North Wales and Wirral play in the five leagues that form the Competition. It does not offer promotion into another league.

23 clubs, providing a number of teams playing in the whole league, six of which are from Wirral. This number of clubs from the Wirral area is considered to have been the norm for the last few years.

League matches are played in the summer (April to September) on Saturday afternoons at 2pm. Cup knockout games are played on Sunday afternoons at 2pm and on weekday evenings starting at 6pm.

In 2003 an Alliance of the Merseyside Competition and the Southport and District Cricket League will act as feeder leagues for the Liverpool and District League. There will be a single 'Alliance League' of 24 clubs (12 from Merseyside) to split them into two 'Alliance Divisions' for 2004. This will offer promotion from 'Alliance 1' into the L&DC from 2005. The Merseyside Competition will continue to operate below this as feeders to the Alliance League.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Club	Venue	Ownership/management
Birkenhead St. Mary's CC	Birkenhead Park	Council
Tranmere Victoria CC	Victoria Park	Council
Eastham Bromborough CC	Torr Park	Council
Parkfield Wallasey CC	Central Park	Council
Liscard Central CC	Central Park	Council
Bromborough Merebrook CC	Leverhulme Playing Field	Council

Chester Midweek League

There are seven teams in the League but only team from Wirral playing in it. KKP has not been able to contact a representative from the league.

Jacobs and Co. Cheshire Women's Cricket League (WCL)

There are two women's cricket clubs with their home grounds in Wirral playing in this league. Each produces one team. KKP has not been able to contact a representative from the league.

Club	Venue	Ownership/management
Oxton LCC	Oxton Cricket Ground	Private
Birkenhead Park LCC	Birkenhead Park	Council

Liverpool and District Cricket League (LDCL)

This, accredited, ECB premier league was established over 100 years ago. Until 1985 there were 16 clubs, this has now expanded to a current (2002) membership of 26 clubs. The League is keen to maintain this number in order to deal effectively with administration. It operates with six divisions

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

including a 3^d team Sunday division. Four of the 26 clubs have home grounds in Wirral.

In 2003 an Alliance of the Merseyside Competition and the Southport and District Cricket League will act as feeder leagues for the Liverpool and District League. There will be a single 'Alliance League' of 24 clubs (12 from Merseyside) to split them into two 'Alliance Divisions' for 2004. This will offer promotion from 'Alliance 1' into the L&DC from 2005. The Merseyside Competition will continue to operate below this as feeders to the Alliance League.

In order to maintain the high standards of the LDCL, clubs must meet certain regulations set by the League. For instance Birkenhead St Mary's has won its league on a number of occasions but would not be promoted due to the current standard of its facilities.

Club	Venue	Ownership/management
Caldy CC	Caldy Cricket Ground	Private
New Brighton CC	New Brighton Cricket Ground	Private
Wallasey CC	Wallasey CC	Private
Oxton CC	Oxton Cricket Ground	Private

Murray Smith Cheshire County League (MSCCL)

This accredited ECB premier league consists of 36 full member clubs (2002). These play 1st and 2nd team Saturday league cricket in three divisions of 12 teams. Four clubs from Wirral play in all divisions of this league. In 1999, it was one of the first in England to be granted the status of Accredited Premier League for its top division of twelve teams. It has since retained this. The League forms the top three divisions of the newly formed Cheshire integrated league system. The system was formed by the amalgamation of the Cheshire County League, Cheshire Cricket League and Cheshire Alliance.

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A further eight clubs take part in the League's 3rd Sunday Championship as associate members. It also runs knockout cup competitions for 1st, 2nd and 3rd teams, plus an over 40s league offering mid-week fixtures. Thirty member clubs took part in the junior competitions for 2002. A newly formed U9's section will play from the start of the 2002 season and will play pairs cricket. From Wirral, Oxton CC will field an U15 team and Upton CC will field U15 and U17 teams.

Club	Venue	Ownership/management
Oxton CC	Oxton Cricket Ground	Private
Upton CC	Upton Cricket Ground	Private
Irby CC	Irby Cricket Ground	Private
Birkenhead Park CC	Birkenhead Park	Council

Meller Braggins Cheshire County League (CCL)

Established in 1974 this county league has three divisions of 36 teams in each. It has a membership of 36 clubs, all of which must run 1st and 2nd teams. Membership has increased over the last few years from a former average membership of around 24. The League has three member clubs with home grounds in Wirral. Over the last few years the number from Wirral has been constant. Promotion from this league leads into the ECB Premier League and relegation is into the Cheshire Alliance League.

Club	Venue	Ownership/management
Old Parkonians CC	Old Parkonians Cricket Ground	Private
Port Sunlight CC	Leverhulme Playing Fields	Council
Wirral CC	Leverhulme Playing Fields	Council

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Shammah Nicholls Cheshire Cricket Alliance (CCA)

The League was established in December 1997 and is still in its infancy. The two leagues that merged to form it were both founded in 1977. It expanded further in November 1999 to allow clubs from the former Cheshire Association and the Wirral & District League to become part of the commitment to Cricket's integrated league structure, which started in the 2000 season. The League now forms the bottom rung of the Cheshire Cricket Pyramid. Clubs can play cricket at a higher standard by gaining promotion (as long as they can offer appropriate facilities). The next rung of the ladder is Division 3 of the Meller Braggins League.

The Alliance has three divisions and each club must have a 1st and a 2nd team. Two divisions have 12 teams the other has eight. The League aspires to increasing the membership to 12 teams in all divisions. Although external advertising/marketing of the League has been tried this has not created more demand. Three clubs from Wirral play within the League providing various teams.

Club	Venue	Ownership/management
Port Sunlight CC	Leverhulme Playing Fields	Council
Old Parkonians CC	Old Parkonians Cricket Ground	Private
Liscard Central CC	Central Park	Council

Wirral Junior Cricket League (WJCL)

Ten clubs from Wirral play in this league running a number of teams in various age groups. KKP has not been able to contact a representative from the league.

Club	Venue	Ownership/management
Birkenhead Park JCC	Birkenhead Park	Council
Bromborough Eastham CC	Torr Park	Council

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Caldy JCC	Caldy Cricket Ground	Private
Irby JCC	Irby Cricket Ground	Private
New Brighton JCC	New Brighton Cricket Ground	Private
Old Parkonians JCC	Old Parkonians Cricket Ground	Private
Oxton JCC	Oxton Cricket Ground	Private
Parkfield Wallasey JCC	Central Park	Council
Tranmere Victoria JCC	Victoria Park	Council
Wallasey JCC	Wallasey Cricket Ground	Private
Wirral JCC	Wirral Grammar School	Education

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Cricket club summary

Below is a summary of club provision. Further information on clubs, including facilities at their grounds, numbers of teams and development needs is incorporated in Part 4: Area based Assessment and Analysis.

Summary of club provision within Wirral:

Club Name	Ground	Teams	Leagues
Birkenhead Park CC	Birkenhead Park (Park Drive)	4 senior 1 U21 1 ladies 5 junior	MSCCL, WCL WJCL
Birkenhead St Mary's CC	Birkenhead Park (Ashville Road)	2 senior	MCC
Bromborough Merebrook CC	Leverhulme Playing Field	1 senior	MCC
Caldy CC	Caldy CC (Paton Field)	5 senior 5 junior	LDCL, WJCL
Irby CC	Irby CC (Mill Hill Rd)	4 senior 3 junior	MSCCL, WJCL
Liscard Central CC	Central Park, Liscard	1 senior	CCA
New Brighton CC	New Brighton CC and Wayfarers Cricket Ground	5 senior 6 junior	MSCCL, LDCL WCL, WJCL
Old Parkonians CC	Old Parkonians & The Oval	4 senior 2 junior	CCL, CCA WJCL
Oxton CC	Oxton CC, Townfield Lane	3 senior, 1 U21 1 ladies 5 junior	MSCCL, WCL WJCL
Parkfield Wallasey CC	Central Park, Liscard	2 senior 2 junior	MCC, WJCL
Port Sunlight CC	Leverhulme Playing Field	3 senior 3 junior	CCL, CCA, MCC
Tranmere Victoria CC	Victoria Park, Tranmere	2 senior	MCC

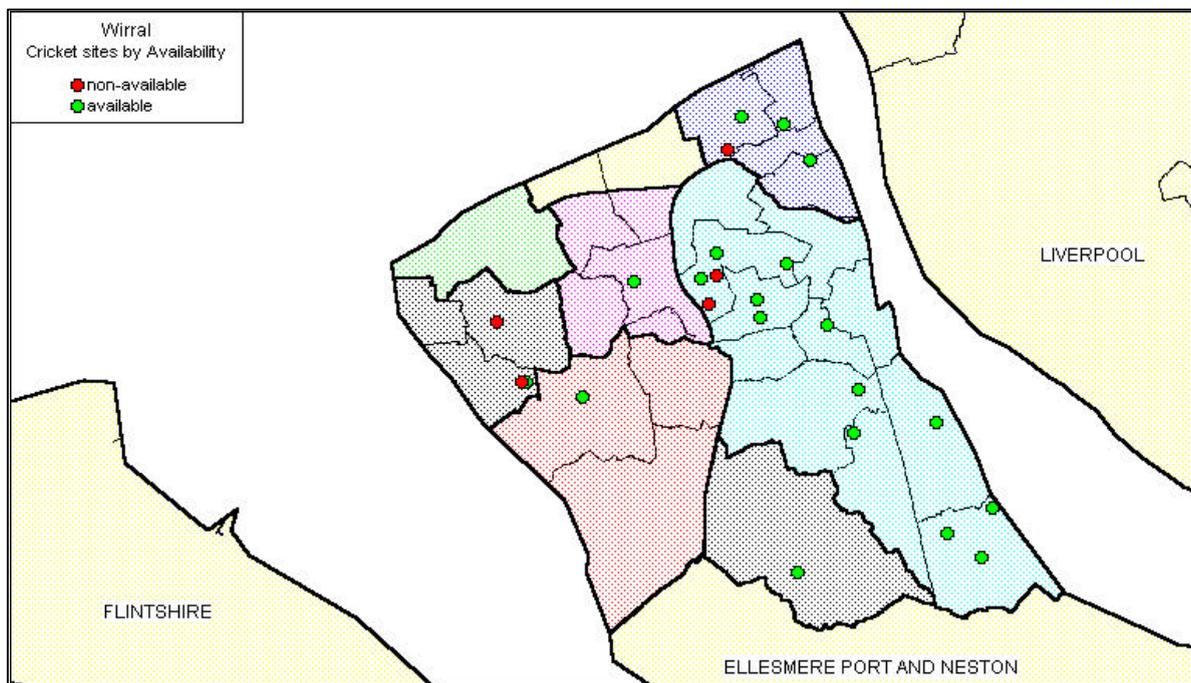
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Upton CC	Upton CC, Old Greasby Road	5 senior 1 U21 7 junior	MSCCL, CCL
Wallasey CC	Wallasey CC (The Oval) and The Green, York Street	4 senior 1 U21 5 junior	LDCL, WJCL
Wirral CC	Leverhulme Playing Field & Wirral Grammar School	5 senior 4 junior	CCL, WJCL, CCA, CML

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Cricket pitch provision



Site name	KKP ref	Analysis Area	Community Use	No. of cricket pitches
Birkenhead Park CC	123	A41 Corridor	Yes	2
Birkenhead St. Mary's CC	123	A41 Corridor	Yes	1
Birkenhead School	265	A41 Corridor	No	1
Birkenhead School (Noctorum Sports Ground)	63	A41 Corridor	No	1
Leverhulme Sports Ground	85	A41 Corridor	Yes	3
Octel Sports Ground	96	A41 Corridor	Yes	1
Old Parkonians Association (N)	60	A41 Corridor	Yes	1
Oxton CC	62	A41 Corridor	Yes	2
Ridgeway High School	161	A41 Corridor	No	1
St Anslem's RC College	262	A41 Corridor	Yes	1
The Green	81	A41 Corridor	Yes	1
The Oval Sports Centre	5	A41 Corridor	Yes	1
Torr Park (Eastham CC)	89	A41 Corridor	Yes	1

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Site name	KKP ref	Analysis Area	Community Use	No. of cricket pitches
Victoria Park	54	A41 Corridor	Yes	1
Wayfarers Cricket Ground	177	A41 Corridor	Yes	1
Wirral Grammar School	261	A41 Corridor	Yes	2
Irby CC	111	Heswall	Yes	2
Upton CC	107	Mid-Wirral	Yes	2
Thornton Hough Recreation Ground	106	Rural Areas	Yes	1
Central Park (Liscard CC)	121	Wallasey	Yes	2
Mosslands School	148	Wallasey	No	1
New Brighton CC	153	Wallasey	Yes	1
Wallasey CC	3	Wallasey	Yes	1
Caldy Club	37	West Kirby	Yes	1
Caldy Grammar School	36	West Kirby	No	1
Caldy Grammar School (Telegraph)	36	West Kirby	Yes	1
Hilbre High School	173	West Kirby	No	1

In recent years a number of cricket pitches has been lost to development or are now disused or vandalised due to a lack of use/demand for parks based cricket pitches. In addition, a number of clubs have merged forming new clubs that currently only need one home ground. The table below summarises 'lost' cricket pitches. A small number of these pitches currently have no community use but may still be suitable to be brought back into use in the future if demand increases.

Cricket pitches in Wirral that are currently (2002/03 season) unused or have been lost over the last few years:

Lost sites/disused Sites	No. of pitches lost	Catchment area	Ownership/management
Mersey Park Cricket Ground	1	A41 Corridor	Council
Wirral Metropolitan	1	A41 Corridor	Private

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College (Carlett Park)			
Shaftsbury Youth Club	1	A41 Corridor	Private
Irby Recreation Ground	1	Heswall	Council
Ellerman Lines	1	Hoylake	Private
Premier Brands	1	Leasowe	Private
Lingham Park	1	Mid Wirral	Council
Wirral Club	1	Rural Areas	Private

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11. Hockey

Figure: Number of available ATP's and hockey teams in each catchment area:

Catchment area	No. of available full size ATPs			No. of teams					
	Public	Private	Schools	Senior	Youth	Junior	Mini	Ladies	Girls
A41 Corridor	2	2	-	10	-	4	-	3	-
Heswall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hoylake	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leasowe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mid Wirral	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rural Areas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wallasey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Kirby	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wirral	2	2	2	10	-	4	-	3	-

Hockey

Hockey is part of phase two of the Active Sports Development Programme in Wirral. Consequently, a number of issues have emerged that the programme hopes to address. The hockey activator reports that a number of schools now have access to ATP facilities but there are a number of issues surrounding the usage of these ATP's. Many school ATP's are underused both in terms of curricular use and community use, for example West Kirby Grammar School and Upton Hall Convent School. If managed more effectively the ATP's could provide more schools with a facility. The current stocks of school ATP's are very much used in isolation of each other. For example Park High School travel to Wirral Sports Centre to use the ATP when Birkenhead High School ATP is only five minutes away.

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It is also reported that the school ATP's are not utilised enough for community use. This is often due to limiting factors such as no floodlights and the need to accommodate the schools own fixtures at the weekend. Nevertheless, the ATP's are not hired out in the holidays either to the community or to the Sports Development Unit.

The Active Sports programme will focus on club development. In particular Bebington HC are due to set up a women's section in light of the high demand to join the Oxton HC women's section which has been in existence for around five years. Both clubs have junior sections but due to a lack of leagues within a suitable catchment area the Clubs only provide friendly matches. For example, for the U13 age level the nearest league is based in Macclesfield.

It has been highlighted that the Wallasey area does not have an accessible ATP facility. The hockey SDO would like to see the development of an ATP for school and community access in order to develop a club in this area.

There is a large and well-established hockey club that has its home base just over the Wirral MBC boundary. Neston HC attracts a number of its players from West Wirral and takes a significant part of Wirral's hockey demand.

Hockey leagues

Senior men's hockey clubs within Wirral compete in the North West Men's Hockey League structure. This includes the Northern Counties Men's Hockey League. Junior hockey is played on a non-league basis with matches arranged on an informal basis between the clubs. Senior women's hockey clubs compete within the Cheshire Women's Hockey League. The principal leagues are described below:

League	Kick Off	No of Divisions
Northern Counties Men's Hockey League	Sat. pm	4

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North West Men's Hockey League	Sat. pm	15
Cheshire Women's Hockey League	Sat. pm	7

Northern Counties Men's Hockey League

Established in 1989 this is one of five regional hockey leagues that feed into the National League. The Northern Counties Men's Hockey League has four divisions. It has a (2002) membership of 44 clubs producing 48 teams.

Two clubs with teams in this league are from Wirral: Oxton HC 1st team and Bebington HC 1st team, although Bebington HC 1st team plays in Ellesmere Port not Wirral. Each is required to play on an ATP that has been inspected by the League.

According to the League secretary the ATPs in Wirral are of average quality.

North West Men's Hockey League

The North West Men's Hockey League was established around 25 years ago and feeds into the Northern Counties Men's Hockey League. It has a membership of over 70 clubs. This represents an increase, over the last few years, of four clubs. The League has 15 divisions, including those catering for juniors.

Two Wirral based clubs have teams in this league; Oxton HC 2nd to 6th teams and Bebington HC 2nd to 6th teams, although Bebington HC 2nd team plays in Ellesmere Port, not Wirral.

According to the League secretary problems with the quality and intensity of floodlighting have been encountered at a number of grounds including the ATP's in Wirral.

Cheshire Women's Hockey League

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KKP has not been able to contact a representative from the League.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL

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Schools Hockey

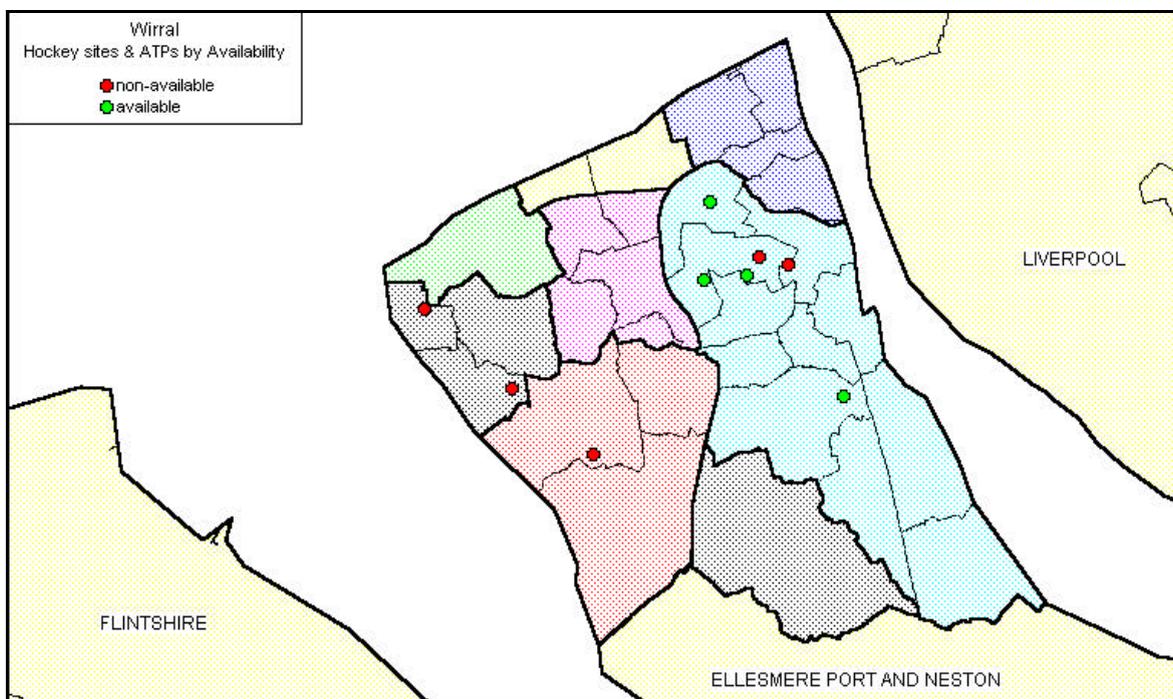
There is a strong schools hockey base in Wirral and a number of schools have ATP facilities. School hockey teams compete within two leagues run by the Cheshire Schools Youth Hockey Association and the Wirral Schools Hockey Association. According to the Wirral Schools Hockey Association representative although it would appear that there is a large number of ATP's in Wirral, many school-owned facilities are not used to capacity and some offer no community use at all.

The HA representative reports that, due to the strong schools league and school ATP facilities either current or planned through NOF3, there is a sufficient number of ATP facilities across Wirral to meet the demand for the sport in terms of curricular use. There are also enough facilities theoretically to support more clubs in other areas of Wirral where there is currently no clubs, that is, if education ATP's are made more widely available for community use.

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Hockey Pitches:



Site name	KKP ref	Analysis Area	Community Use	Senior Grass hockey	Junior Grass hockey	ATP's
Park High School (Ashville Road)	160	A41 Corridor	No	1		
Park High School (Park Road East)	267	A41 Corridor	No	1		
Birkenhead School McAllister Memorial Playing Fields	126	A41 Corridor	Yes			1
Wirral Sports Centre	41	A41 Corridor	Yes			1
The Oval Sports Centre	5	A41 Corridor	Yes			1
Birkenhead GPDST	189	A41 Corridor	Yes			1
Pensby High School	115	Heswall	No	1	2	

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Caldy Grammar School (Grammar School Lane)	36	West Kirby	No	1		
Caldy Grammar School (Telegraph Road)	36	West Kirby	No	1		1
West Kirby Grammar School	33	West Kirby	No			1

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Below is a summary of club provision. Further information on each club, including the facilities at the ground, number of teams and development needs is incorporated in Part 4:

Club	Teams	Location
Oxton HC	6 men's	Birkenhead High School
	3 ladies	McAllister Memorial Playing Fields
	2 Junior 'Badgers'	McAllister Memorial Playing Fields
Bebington HC	6 men's	The Oval & Sutton High School
	Junior 'Badgers'	The Oval

Two Wirral based hockey clubs; Oxton HC and Bebington HC play on WMBC and school ATPs. Bebington also uses facilities in Neston (Ellesmere Port) for matches and training because according to representatives there is insufficient facility availability in the Bebington area. Both are well established with junior 'Badgers' sections. Oxton HC also runs ladies teams and Ellesmere Port Ladies HC is due to join Bebington HC in the near future. Port Sunlight Ladies HC folded a number of years ago due to administrative problems.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

12. Rugby Union

Figure: Number of available rugby pitches and teams in each catchment area:

Catchment area	No. of available pitches			No. of teams				
	Senior	Junior	Mini	Senior	Youth	Junior	Women	Girls
A41 Corridor	14	-	-	17	5	12	1	-
Heswall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hoylake	3	-	-	3	1	9	-	-
Leasowe	3	1	-	4	1	-	1	-
Mid-Wirral	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rural Areas	3	-	2	5	-	10	-	-
Wallasey	4	-	-	7	2	13	-	-
West Kirby	3	-	-	4	1	10	-	-
WIRRAL	30	1	2	40	10	54	2	-

There are ten men's clubs and one ladies club in the Wirral providing opportunities for senior and junior participation. Senior men play competitive rugby either in North West Two or the South Lancashire/Cheshire League. New Brighton RUFC plays in National Division Three North. Some junior teams play matches within a non-affiliated league structure.

According to the rugby SDO the number of teams per club has reduced over the last three years in Wirral. Rugby is currently at stage two of the Active Sports Programme with the aim of getting funds to the clubs to

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

improve child protection and management. This will be achieved through running ten-week programmes at individual clubs across the borough.

Wirral Rugby Academy is currently based at New Brighton RUFC and has been very successful according to the rugby SDO, in terms of its coaching and club development and by providing exit routes for players into clubs. The academy has recently applied for SRB3 funding to develop more sports in the same way. Liverpool John Moores University RUFC travel from outside the borough to use the facilities at Birkenhead Park RUFC.

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Figure: Rugby clubs within Wirral:

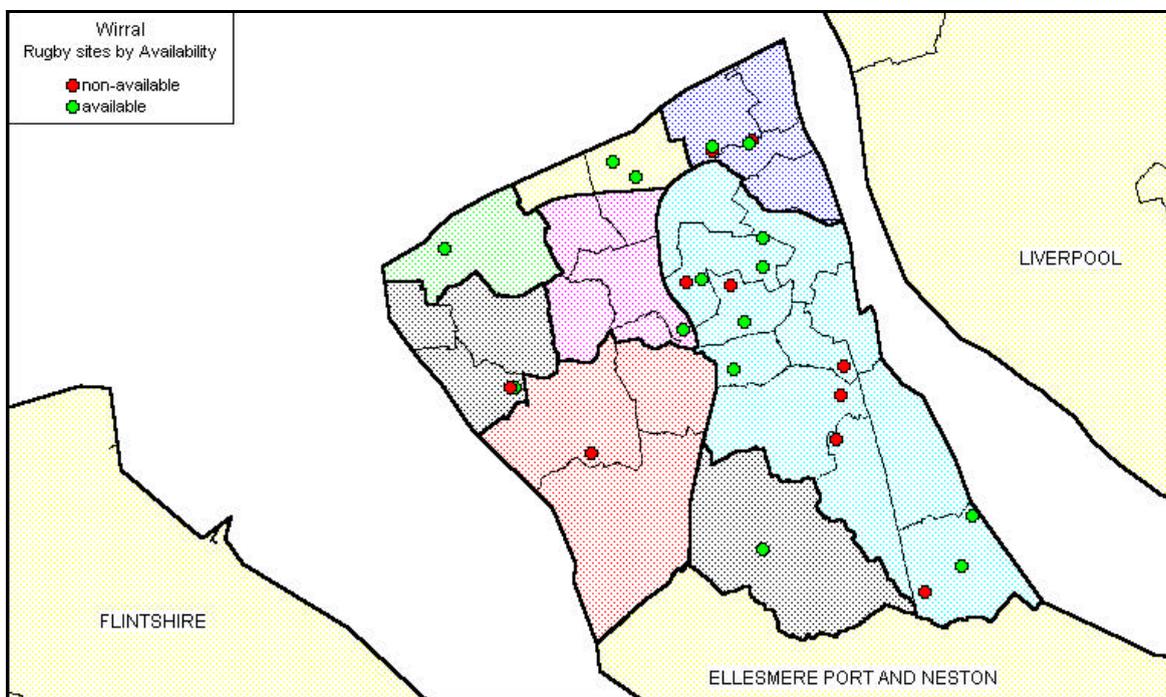
Club	Teams	Venue/Town
Birkenhead Park RUFC	4 senior, 1 colts, 3 junior	Birkenhead Park, Park Road North
Caldy RUFC	3 senior, 1 vets, 1 colts, 10 junior/mini	Caldy Sports Club, Paton Field, Caldly
Hoylake RUFC	3 senior, 1 colts, 9 junior/mini	Hoylake RUFC, Hoylake
Liverpool John Moores University	2 senior, 1 ladies	Birkenhead Park RUFC
New Brighton RUFC	3 senior, 1 colts	New Brighton RUFC, New Brighton
New Brighton Bluebirds LRUFC	1 senior ladies	New Brighton RUFC, New Brighton
Old Anselmians RUFC	4 senior, 1 colts, 5 junior/mini	Old Anselmians RUFC, Malone Field, Eastham
Oldershaw RUFC	3 senior, 1 colts, 1 vets, six junior	Oldershaw RUFC, Belvidere Recreation Ground, Wallasey
Old Parkonians RUFC	2 senior	Curphey Memorial Ground, Oxton
Port Sunlight RUFC	3 senior, 1 colts, 1 vets, four junior	Leverhulme Playing Fields, Eastham
Prenton RUFC	2 senior, 1 vets	Prenton RUFC, Birkenhead
Wallasey RUFC	3 senior, 1 colts, 7 junior/mini	Wallasey RUFC, Wallasey
Wirral Rugby Academy	1 senior	New Brighton RUFC
Wirral RUFC	4 senior, 9 junior/mini, 1 vets, 1 colts	Wirral Club

Further information on each of the above clubs, including the facilities at the ground, number of teams and development needs is incorporated in Part 4:

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Rugby Pitches:



Site name	KKP ref	Analysis Area	Comm. Use	Sr	Jr	Mr
Birkenhead Park RUFC	11	A41 Corridor	Yes	2		
Birkenhead School (Noctorum Sports Ground)	63	A41 Corridor	No		1	
Leverhulme Sports Ground	85	A41 Corridor	Yes	3		
Malone Field (Old Anselmians)	90	A41 Corridor	Yes	3		
McAllister Memorial Sports Ground (Birkenhead School)	126	A41 Corridor	No	4		
Old Parkonians Association (N)	60	A41 Corridor	Yes	2		
Park High School (Park Drive)	266	A41 Corridor	Yes	1		
Plessington RC High School	157	A41 Corridor	No	1		
Prenton RUFC	136	A41 Corridor	Yes	3		
Rock Ferry High	154	A41 Corridor	No	1	1	
South Wirral High School	23	A41 Corridor	No		1	
St Anselm's RC College	64	A41 Corridor	No	3	1	
Wirral Grammar School	75	A41 Corridor	No	4	2	
Pensby High School	115	Heswall	No		2	
Hoylake RUFC	167	Hoylake	Yes	2		
Hoylake RUFC (McDermott's)	166	Hoylake	Yes	1		

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Site name	KKP ref	Analysis Area	Comm. Use	Sr	Jr	Mr
New Brighton RUFC	22	Leasowe	Yes	2		
Wallasey School	21	Leasowe	Yes	1	1	
Woodchurch High School	69	Mid-Wirral	No	1		
Wirral Club (Crossroads)	165	Rural Areas	Yes	3		2
Mosslands School	148	Wallasey	No		1	
Oldershaw High School	47	Wallasey	No		1	
Oldershaw RUFC	2	Wallasey	Yes	2		
Wallasey RUFC	4	Wallasey	Yes	2		
Caldy Club	37	West Kirby	Yes	3		
Caldy Grammar School	36	West Kirby	No	3		

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13. Lacrosse

There is one Lacrosse club in Wirral. It plays in the North Lacrosse League. Pitch requirements for a lacrosse pitch stand at 100m long by 60 wide with two goal areas. It is played in football boots and the female game is a non-contact sport. The majority of clubs play at private cricket grounds.

Wirral Lacrosse Club

This was founded in 1883 and formed from a private girls school team. It has one senior team playing in the North Lacrosse League, although it has a large youth section, which produces teams that play friendly fixtures.

The Club has shifted location on a number of occasions in its history, especially over the last 30 years. It has struggled to find a suitable home and considers its efforts to secure a base to have been largely unsupported. Its most recent move was last season from Park High School to Oxton CC because the pitch was lost to a temporary car park.

It appears to be happy with the current arrangement playing on the outfield of the cricket pitch, which is reportedly of good quality and well maintained. It also has access to an ATP for training and the clubhouse as a social outlet for the members.

It has around 80 members. 60 are junior girls in the U12, U13 and U14 age groups. However, it appears to have difficulty securing access to local school sites and faces high hire charges when seeking to use school-based facilities.

Current membership subscription is £60 per year for adults and £30 for juniors.

According to a club representative there is some pressure from Manchester based clubs (where Lacrosse is particularly strong) to start running boys/men's teams at the club. In Lacrosse men's and women's clubs are usually separate. The Club would struggle to accommodate more

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matches on its current pitch and would need to find more pitches. There is currently no men's team in the area but the Club believes that the demand is there.

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14. American Football

Nighthawks American Football Club

The club was established in 1986 and has played at a number of Council sites, including Leverhulme Playing Fields. It currently plays all its home matches at Wallasey RUFC. Nighthawks AFC is the only team in Wirral.

It has around 40 members. The senior team has a squad of 26 players. It plays in the British Senior League of the British American Football Association. The league is split into two divisions within each of its north and south 'conferences'. Nighthawks play in Division Two North.

Five home matches are played per season on Sunday afternoons. The best placed teams go through to playoffs between the two 'conferences' at Don Valley Stadium (Sheffield) in the first week in September.

Players travel from a wide geographical area to play and each player contributes towards referee, travel and ambulance costs. Each player also pays £20 to register to the League. The financial cost of playing is therefore considerable.

American Football pitches are 100 yards in length with gain lines exactly every ten yards. There would appear to some ill feeling between the rugby club, the present site owner and Nighthawks because of the rugby club's view that the playing of American football adversely affects the quality of the pitch. Nighthawks are looking for a new home ground in Wirral for next season.

Being a minority sport, publicity and fundraising is important to raise the profile of the sport and attracts new players both junior and senior to the Club. The Club plans to develop junior teams in the future.

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PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

PART 4: AREA BASED ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

15. Introduction

This following section (Section 14) provides a summary of pitch provision within each of the eight catchment areas. Pitch provision was identified through a variety of means including; Council records, league handbooks, interviews with key stakeholders and site visits. The tables below illustrate pitch provision under the following categories:

- ❑ Type and total number of pitches.
- ❑ Pitches that are either used or are available for community use.
- ❑ School pitches that are available and those that are not.
- ❑ Pitches that have secured community use.

The remaining sections within this part of the report (Sections 15-23) provide an analysis of the use and an assessment of the quality of the majority pitch sites within Wirral that are available for community use. The assessment of quality is taken from the perspective of pitch managers and users of the pitch sites. This was gauged through interview research and an analysis of Council records.

Each pitch site that has been identified as offering community use is included and the following details are, where available, provided:

- ❑ Location.
- ❑ Number and type of pitches.
- ❑ Provision of ancillary facilities.
- ❑ Usage including name of club, the League they play in and when they play.
- ❑ Qualitative information from pitch managers and users.
- ❑ Analysis of Council booking records.

Pitch sites are grouped together within their respective catchment areas and are listed in alphabetical order.

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- ❑ Section 17 - includes a summary of pitch sites within the A41 Corridor.
- ❑ Section 18 - includes a summary of pitch sites within Heswall.
- ❑ Section 19 - includes a summary of pitch sites within Hoylake.
- ❑ Section 20 - includes a summary of pitch sites within Leasowe.
- ❑ Section 21 - includes a summary of pitch sites within Mid Wirral.
- ❑ Section 22 - includes a summary of pitch sites within the Rural Areas.
- ❑ Section 23 - includes a summary of pitch sites within Wallasey.
- ❑ Section 24 - includes a summary of pitch sites within West Kirby.

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16. Pitch provision

Figure: Total number of pitches and no. of pitches available for community use (public, private, voluntary and education owned)

Catchment area	Total no. of pitches							No. of pitches available for community use						
	SF	JF	MS	SR	C	GH	ATP	SF	JF	MS	SR	C	GH	ATP
A41 Corridor	61	39	13	27	21	2	4	48	13	11	14	18	-	4
Heswall	5	18	1	-	2	1	-	5	6	-	-	2	-	-
Hoylake	2	4	-	3	-	-	-	2	4	-	3	-	-	-
Leasowe	6	6	5	3	-	-	-	2	5	5	3	-	-	-
Mid-Wirral	28	16	1	1	2	-	-	25	7	-	-	2	-	-
Rural Areas	4	3	-	3	1	-	-	3	3	-	3	1	-	-
Wallasey	16	8	6	4	5	-	-	16	5	6	4	4	-	-
West Kirby	5	5	2	6	4	2	2	4	3	1	3	2	-	-
WIRRAL	127	99	28	47	35	5	6	105	46	23	30	29	-	4

Legend – SF: senior football, JF: junior football, MS: mini soccer, SR: senior rugby, C: cricket, GH: grass hockey and ATP: artificial turf pitch

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Figure: Total number of pitches (public, private, voluntary and education owned), total no. of education pitches and education pitches available for community use

Catchment Area	Total no. of pitches							Total no. of education pitches							Education pitches available for community use						
	SF	JF	MS	SR	C	GH	ATP	SF	JF	MS	SR	C	GH	ATP	SF	JF	MS	SR	C	GH	ATP
A41 Corridor	61	39	13	27	21	2	4	8	28	3	14	6	2	2	-	3	1	1	3	-	2
Heswall	5	18	1	-	2	1	-	-	11	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hoylake	2	4	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Leasowe	6	6	5	3	-	-	-	5	4	-	1	-	-	-	1	3	-	1	-	-	-
Mid-Wirral	28	16	1	1	2	-	-	3	12	1	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Rural Areas	4	3	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wallasey	16	8	6	4	5	-	-	-	5	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
West Kirby	5	5	2	6	4	2	2	1	2	1	3	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WIRRAL	127	99	28	47	35	5	6	17	63	6	19	9	5	4	1	12	1	2	3	-	2

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Legend – SF: senior football, JF: junior football, MS: mini soccer, SR: senior rugby, C: cricket, GH: grass hockey and ATP: artificial turf pitch

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17. A41 Corridor

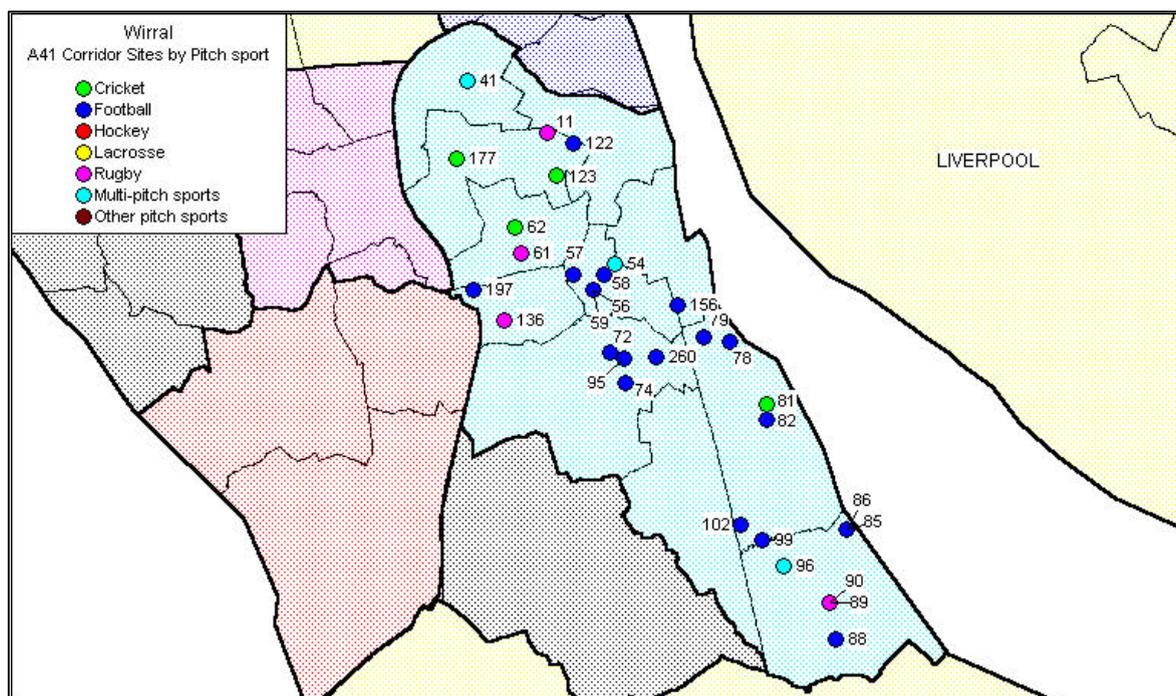


Figure showing available and unavailable pitches in the A41 corridor:

Site Ref.	Site name	Number of pitches	Available Community use
123	Birkenhead St Mary's CC	1 cricket	Yes
81	The Green	1 cricket	Yes
89	Torr Park (Eastham CC)	1 cricket	Yes
123	Birkenhead Park CC	2 cricket	Yes
96	Octel Sports & Social Club	1 cricket	Yes
60	Old Parkonians Association	1 cricket	Yes
62	Oxton CC	2 cricket	Yes
54	Victoria Park	1 cricket	Yes
85	Leverhulme Playing Field	3 cricket	Yes
5	The Oval Sports Centre	1 cricket	Yes

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177	Wayfarers	1 cricket	Yes
Total No. of cricket pitches available for community use and excluding education sites		15 cricket	

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Site Ref.	Site name	Number of pitches	Available Community use
59	Borough Road Playing Field	1 senior football 2 junior football	Yes
102	Bromborough Recreation Ground	1 senior football	Yes
193	Cammell Lairds	1 senior football	Yes
88	Eastham Locks Sports Ground	1 senior football	Yes
72	King's Lane Playing Fields	1 senior football 2 junior football 2 mini football	Yes
79	New Ferry Park	1 senior football	Yes
96	Octel Sports & Social Club	2 senior football	Yes
60	Old Parkonians Association	1 junior football	Yes
82	Prices Sports Ground	1 senior football	Yes
70	The Glen (Woodchurch Road)	1 senior football 1 junior football	Yes
156	Conway Playing Fields	2 junior football	Yes
54	Victoria Park	2 junior football	Yes
99	Acre Lane Playing Fields	2 senior football	Yes
74	Higher Bebington Recreation Ground	2 senior football	Yes
78	Mayfields	2 senior football	Yes
56	Shaftesbury Memorial Field	2 senior football	Yes
197	Solly Recreation Ground	2 senior football	No

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58	Tranmere Rovers Ingleborough Road	2 senior football	No
41	Wirral Sports Centre	2 senior football	Yes
122	Birkenhead Park	3 senior football	Yes
85	Leverhulme Playing Field	6 senior football	Yes

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Site Ref.	Site name	Number of pitches	Available Community use
86	Green Lane Playing Fields	4 senior football	Yes
95	Plymyard Playing Fields	9 senior football 8 mini football	Yes
5	The Oval Sports Centre	6 senior football	Yes
57	Tranmere Rovers Prenton Park	1 senior football	No
Total No. of football pitches available for community use and excluding education sites		48 senior football 10 junior football 10 mini soccer	
Site Ref.	Site name	Number of pitches	Available Community use
5	The Oval Sports Centre	1 ATP	Yes
41	Wirral Sports Centre	1 ATP	Yes
Total No. of ATP's available for community use and excluding education sites		2 ATP's	
Site Ref.	Site name	Number of pitches	Available Community use
11	Birkenhead Park RUFC	2 senior rugby	Yes
90	Malone Field (Old Anselmians)	3 senior rugby	Yes
60	Old Parkonians Association	2 senior rugby	Yes
136	Prenton RUFC	3 senior rugby	Yes
85	Leverhulme Playing Field	3 senior rugby	Yes
Total No. of rugby pitches available for community use and excluding education sites		13 senior rugby	

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Site by Site Analysis

Figure: WMBC owned pitch and changing facility grading

Site	No. of pitches	Pitch drainage grading	Pitch levels grading	Overall pitch quality grading	Changing facility grading
Acre Lane	2 sf	1	4	1	N/A
Birkenhead Park	3sf	1	2	1	2
Borough Road	1 sf 2jf	3	2	2	4
Bromborough Recreation	1 sf	2	5	3	4
Conway Park	2jf	2	2	2	3
Green Lane	3 sf	4	2	3	N/A
Higher Bebington Recreation	2 sf	2	5	3	3
Kings Lane	1 sf 2 jf 2mf	2	1	1	2
Leverhulme Playing Field	6 sf	5	5	5	5
Mayfields	2 sf	3	3	3	4
New Ferry Park	1 sf	3	1	2	3
The Oval	5 sf	3	5	4	5
Plymyard	9 sf 8 mf	4	5	4	5
Victoria Park	2jf	2	2	2	N/A
Wirral Sports Centre	2 sf	5	5	5	5

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WMBC have provided a pitch survey carried out on all LA managed sites. In terms of pitch grading 5 is classed as 'best' and grading 1 as 'worst'. A combined figure has been calculated from the drainage grade and the pitch level grade to produce an overall grade.

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Acre Lane Playing Fields (ref: 99)

This Council owned site, situated in Eastham on Acre Lane Resource Unit site, contains two senior football pitches.

Neither is presently available for community use due to poor drainage. A previous license to Shore Villa JFC has now been abandoned due to the poor drainage and fixtures not being fulfilled. There is demand to use this site if major drainage work was carried out and scope for more pitch development is also a possibility.

Birkenhead Park CC (ref: 123)

This privately owned club is located within Birkenhead Park and the site is leased from WMBC. It contains two cricket pitches. One has 16 wickets and the other - ten. According to a representative, the pitch is of a high standard with good grass cover and good levels. The only stated need is for improved pitch covers. Other facilities at the site include four indoor training nets, clubhouse, bar and changing accommodation. It has three changing rooms, one large and two of smaller size, a referee's room and showers. Ancillary facilities are in good condition and, reportedly, adequate for current and foreseeable usage.

It has a large number of teams. Four senior men's teams play in the Cheshire County League, one senior men's team playing friendly fixtures, one U21 team, one ladies team in the Cheshire Women's League and five junior teams in the Wirral Junior League (U9, U11, U13, U15, U17). Junior membership has increased by 30% over the last two years. All teams are accommodated at the ground at Birkenhead Park and although it plans to increase the junior teams at U9 and U11, more pitches are not required to achieve this.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
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1 (cricket)	Birkenhead Park CC 1 Birkenhead Park CC 2 Birkenhead Park Ladies Birkenhead Park U21 Birkenhead Park U17	Sat. pm Sat. pm Sat. am Sun. am Wed. pm	Cheshire County Cheshire County Cheshire Women's Cheshire County Wirral Junior
2 (cricket)	Birkenhead Park CC 3 Birkenhead Park CC 4 Birkenhead Park U9 Birkenhead Park U11 Birkenhead Park U13	Sat. pm Sat. pm Sun. am Sun. am Sun. am	Cheshire County Cheshire County Wirral Junior Wirral Junior Wirral Junior

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Birkenhead St Mary's CC (ref: 123)

KKP has not been able to contact a representative from the club.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (cricket)	Birkenhead St. Mary's CC 1 st team	Sat. pm	Merseyside Cricket Comp.
	Birkenhead St. Mary's CC 2 nd team	Sat. pm	Merseyside Cricket Comp.

Birkenhead Park (ref: 122)

This WMBC owned and managed site is located within the main, large formal Park area. It contains three senior football pitches. Each one is located in a separate area of the Park. A number of private clubs and school pitches are also located within the Park.

The Park has grade 1 status within the English Heritage Register of Historic Parks and Gardens.

WMBC has received a Heritage Lottery grant to support landscape restoration within the Park. This money will not, however, be spent on pitch improvements, although the location and number of pitches may change within the context of wider changes to the Park.

According to Council staff, the football pitches are of poor quality due to poor drainage and grass coverage. Pacific FC reports that maintenance of the site in general is lacking, including infrequent pitch markings and unclean changing accommodation. Overall quality of its pitch is rated as acceptable, although located on a slope.

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The changing accommodation is in need of refurbishment and is reportedly in average condition. There are home and away changing rooms with communal showers and toilets.

One of the pitches is situated some distance away the changing facility.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior football)	Mallaby FC	Sat. pm	West Cheshire
	Pacific FC	Sat. pm	Birkenhead & Wirral
	Houlihan's Variety Club	Sun. pm	Birkenhead Sunday
	Brow FC	Sun. pm	Birkenhead Sunday
2 (senior football)	The Exmouth FC	Sat. pm	Birkenhead & Wirral
	Oxton FC	Sun.	Birkenhead Sunday
3 (senior football)	Mersey Park JFC	Sat. pm	Wallasey Junior
	Blu FC	Sat. pm	Wallasey Junior

Birkenhead Park RUFC (ref: 11)

This WMBC owned site is leased to Birkenhead Park RUFC and is located on the outskirts of Birkenhead Park. There are two senior rugby pitches at the site. Further development of the site is constrained by the Park's heritage and conservation status.

The Club also has access to a third senior rugby pitch located in the Park, but Park High designates this for education use during the week. (The Club's 2nd team uses it at weekends).

Pitch 1 at the Club is of maximum size with match floodlighting. It has in the past been used for international games and also has a spectator stand. Pitch 2 has training floodlights. Both pitches need substantial upgrading to maintain the high pitch standard; ideally the Club would like to install a new drainage system. Both pitches have been recently been verti-drained.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL

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John Moores University RUFC uses the site as its home venue. It travels three miles each week to use the facility. It has done this for the past ten years. According to a club representative, the pitches are over-used and need drainage improvements.

The clubhouse is in average condition, but needs major refurbishment work. It contains two squash courts, gym, committee and function rooms and bar. Changing accommodation in the first section is modern and contains two rooms. Four more self-contained rooms are located behind this section. These are, according to the club representative, of inadequate size and quality.

Established in 1871, the Club has been on its present site since 1885. It runs four senior teams, with 1st and 2nd teams playing in the North West League system. (1st team – level 5 nationally). Other teams only play on a social basis.

The junior section now has three teams and one colts, a reduction from, at its peak, six. It now runs U12, U14, and U16. The U16 and colts play in the Lancashire & Cheshire League, the U12 and U14 teams play friendly fixtures only. If more pitches were made available, it would, according to the Club representative be in a position to produce one senior, one ladies, two youth and mini teams from U8 – U11 in addition to its current number of teams. To enable this it would require one senior and one junior pitch.

According to a club representative, there is demand to develop a floodlit MUGA for training, this would also reduce wear and tear on the main pitches. A Lottery bid for major improvements to the site will be ready for submission in Autumn 2002.

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Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior rugby)	Birkenhead Park 1 st team	Sat. pm	North West 2
	Birkenhead Park Colts	Sun. pm	Lancs. & Ches. Colts
	John Moores 1 st team	Wed. pm	BUSA
	John Moores 2 nd team	Wed. pm	BUSA
2 (senior rugby)	John Moores Ladies	Sat. pm	BUSA
	Birkenhead Park 3 rd team	Sat. pm	Friendlies
	Birkenhead Park U16	Sun. am	Lancs. & Ches.
3 (senior rugby) (school pitch)	Birkenhead Park 2 nd team	Sat. pm	Friendlies
	Birkenhead Park 4 th team	Sat. pm	Friendlies
	Birkenhead Park U12 & U14	Sun. am	Friendlies

Birkenhead Scout Association (ref: 197)

This private site is also known as Solly Recreation Ground and is located in Oxton. It contains two senior football pitches and three training areas. There is no community use other than that of the Birkenhead Scout Association. There is substantial potential to increase use of this site working in conjunction with the Association.

Borough Road Playing Field (ref: 59)

This WMBC owned site is located in Birkenhead next to Prenton Park (Tranmere Rovers) and the Shaftesbury Youth Club. It has one senior and two junior football pitches.

The pitches are situated on a severe slope and are quite undulating, although pitch drainage is reportedly adequate. It has the potential to be a good quality site, and does not suffer unduly from vandalism. Changing accommodation is in poor condition. There are home and away rooms with

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free standing benches, separate showers and toilets, but no referee's room. According to Council staff, the whole block is in a general state of disrepair.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (junior football)	Birkenhead Youth U14	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
	Birkenhead Youth U14	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
2 (senior football)	Birkenhead Youth U16	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
	Victoria Colts	Sun. am	Wallasey Sunday
3 (junior football)	Birkenhead Youth U11	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
	Birkenhead Youth U13	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior

Bromborough Recreation Ground (ref: 102)

This WMBC owned and maintained site, situated on Hadley Avenue, contains one senior football pitch, although its dimensions are of minimum size. There is also a bowling green and a small five-a-side kick about area.

According to Council staff, the site is overused. This is putting added pressure on the drainage system, which is already in a poor condition. Major investment is needed to improve the quality to a high standard. Users report that this situation is not helped by a lack of maintenance to the pitches including infrequent line marking and grass cutting and littered pitches.

Changing accommodation is basic. It contains two rooms with showers in each and a referee's room. Lever FC report that changing accommodation is of an unacceptable level due to poor quality rooms and showers.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

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Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior football)	Levers FC	Sat. pm	Birkenhead & Wirral
	Stork Youth	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior

Cammell Lairds AFC (ref: 193)

This privately owned football ground is located on St Peters Road, Rock Ferry. It contains one senior floodlit, fenced football pitch with dugouts and spectator shelters. The ground is also known as Kirkland's Sports Ground. Due to the uncertain future of the Cammell Lairds Company, it has sold the sports ground to the members, after it was able to show its commitment to making a profit at the Club.

The site complies with FA Vase Cup Competition regulations and is therefore of a high standard. Floodlights were erected last season and can be used until 9.30pm. This improvement has raised the profile of the Club.

According to a representative, the pitch is in need of major drainage work. Improvements have been made in patches, but the drains are broken. The residential areas at either end of the pitch, behind the goal areas cause problems - with balls being lost over fences.

Inquiries, from several local leagues, have been made about the possibility of using the pitch as a representative venue for cup competitions. The Club has been unable to fulfill this demand due to the poor drainage but is keen to develop this relationship and is looking to apply for funding in conjunction with the leagues to improve pitch drainage.

The changing facility is located next to the pitch and contains two basic rooms each with a shower room with five heads and one referee's room. According to the club, it is of adequate quality. The Club would like to develop more changing to accommodate female players.

A social base for the site is located opposite the pitch at the Lairds Sports and Social Club. It provides a bar and function room, it is in adequate condition. There is also a bowling green on site.

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Cammell Lairds FC has two senior teams playing within the West Cheshire League. A local football team called Queens Park FC also uses the pitch for its home matches on a Sunday. There is no plan to develop more senior teams.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior football)	Cammell Lairds FC	Sat. pm	West Cheshire
	Cammell Lairds Reserves	Sat. pm	West Cheshire
	Queens Park FC	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday

Conway Playing Field (ref: 156)

This WMBC owned and maintained site contains two junior football pitches. It is located close to Cammell Lairds FC. The site and facilities are reportedly in poor condition. Vandalism is a regular occurrence and this is exacerbated by the fact that the site is not fenced. Residential estates surround all sides of the site. Both pitches have poor drainage.

Additional teams from Shore Villa FC have been transferred from the Acre Lane site to Conway Playing Field, where it already had a number of teams playing. Although drainage is no better at this site, it is the sole user of the pitches, thus there are less matches played per week.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (junior football)	Shore Villa JFC U11	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
2 (junior football)	Shore Villa JFC U12	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior

Eastham Locks Sports Ground (ref: 88)

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This private site, located in Bromborough, contains one senior football pitch. It is also known as Manchester Ship Canal Company Playing Field, as the company owns it.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior football)	Stork FC U13	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
	MSC Eastham Rake	Sun. am	Ellesmere Sunday
	MSC Eastham Rake Reserves	Sun. am	Ellesmere Sunday

Green Lane Playing Fields (ref: 86)

This Council owned and maintained site contains four senior football pitches. All the pitches are small sized and three are in average condition according to Council staff.

According to the Wirral Sunday League representative the pitches are 'rock based' and of poor quality, but it is forced to use the site to fulfill fixtures. Black Horse FC reports that its pitch quality is good with only a small number of match cancellations last season.

The pitches are mainly used by junior clubs because of their small dimensions. There is no changing facility at this site. Car parking is adequate.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
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Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior football)	Eastham Blades U13	Sun. pm	Ellesmere Port Junior
	Tranmere Victoria FC	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
	Mersey Blades	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
2 (senior football)	Port Sunlight	Sun. am	Wirral Sunday
	Allport Hawks U11	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
3 (senior football)	Eastham Juniors	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
	Eastham Juniors	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
4 (senior football)	Black Horse Hornets	Sat. pm	South Wirral
	Shore Villa FC	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
	Eastham Juniors	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
	Eastham Juniors	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior

Higher Bebington Recreation Ground (ref: 74)

This Council owned site contains two senior football pitches. According to Council staff both pitches have good contours and a flat playing surface, but drainage is poor. WMBC has plans to make further improvements to this site, which has the potential to become a high quality site given appropriate investment. Bebington Hawks FC reports that there is a general lack of maintenance of pitches at this site, including poor grass cutting. This has probably resulted from poor drainage and being unable to cut the grass. It rates the pitch quality as unacceptable.

Changing accommodation is adequate but of average condition. Refurbishment is needed if the site is to be utilised to its full potential. Users report that it is of acceptable quality. There are four changing rooms, one referee's room and one shower room.

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Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior football)	Cavendish FC	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
	Crusaders Juniors U15	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
	Bebington Hawks FC	Sat. pm	Birkenhead & Wirral
	Lever FC	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
	Acorn FC	Sat. pm	South Wirral
2 (senior football)	Stork U12	Sun pm	Eastham Junior
	Parkview FC	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
	Woodhey Athletic FC	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday

Kings Lane Playing Fields (ref: 72)

This WMBC owned and managed site contains one senior, two junior and two mini football pitches.

According to Council staff, the site generally has poor contours and drainage on all pitches. This large site has the potential to become a central venue site for junior or mini soccer; there is scope to develop more pitches if re-leveling work was carried out. Pitch numbers change from season to season to rest pitches, the senior football pitch was not in use for 2001/2002 season.

Changing accommodation is limited and there are no showers. It is in poor condition and in need of refurbishment.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior football)	Bebington Rovers U16	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
2 (junior football)	Lion Kings U11	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior

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3 (junior football)	Lion Kings U12	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
4 (mini soccer)	Lion King Jets U7	Sat. pm	Wirral Mini League
	Lion King Colts U7	Sat. pm	Wirral Mini League
5 (mini soccer)	Lion King U8	Sat. pm	Wirral Mini League

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Leverhulme Playing Field (ref: 85)

This Council owned and managed site, situated in Eastham along the main A41, includes six senior football pitches, three senior rugby pitches and three cricket pitches.

According to Council staff, this is probably the best quality WMBC managed site. Once run by Lever Brothers Ltd. as a sports and social club, it has always been a well-maintained and managed site. It was leased by the Council from UML Ltd for 99 years during 1989 but now has a freehold agreement. It has a dedicated groundsman on site.

Three of the football pitches are fenced and used by teams in the West Cheshire League. All football pitches are of a high quality. A number of users report that pitch quality is of a good standard. Trafalgar FC report that pitch maintenance is of a high standard but that the pitch occasionally gets waterlogged in the centre circle and goal mouths. It rates pitch quality as acceptable.

The rugby and cricket pitches are of a high standard. A number of private clubs have private clubhouse facilities on the site, including Port Sunlight CC, but hire pitches from WMBC.

There is scope to develop a further two winter sport pitches at the site if demand can be proven and the site has accommodated both hockey and lacrosse in the past.

It has ten changing rooms with showers and toilets located on the site. These are of a high standard, although there are not enough to accommodate all teams when all pitches are being used. There is a need to develop separate changing for juniors/female users.

Clubs accommodated include Manor Athletic FC; a growing club with aspirations to own its own facility and develop further. Its teams also play at Octel Sports Club – the Club's social base. It now runs three senior teams and an U15 junior team. Facilities are considered to be of a good

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standard but the Club is keen to see more maintenance. It believes it could run more teams given access to more pitches.

Bromborough Merebrook CC hires a cricket pitch as its home ground in Leverhulme Playing Field and has one senior team playing in the Merseyside Competition. Its designated pitch contains ten wickets and is, according to the Club's representative, in acceptable to poor condition due to lack of grass cover.

Wirral CC also hires a cricket pitch at the site for its 1st and 2nd teams. It vacated Mersey Park Cricket Ground in 1994 in favour of Leverhulme Playing Fields. The Club produces in total four senior teams playing in the Cheshire Alliance and the County Cricket League and two junior teams playing in the Cheshire Junior League. The square has an unacceptable playing surface, but the representative rates the overall quality of the pitch as acceptable. Its 3^d and 4th team pitch is located at Wirral Grammar School.

Port Sunlight CC hires a cricket pitch as its home ground on the site. The Club has access to changing accommodation but not an on-site clubhouse. It rates the changing accommodation as unacceptable without an umpire's room, showers or toilets. It contends that, without additional pitch space, but with improved facilities and dedicated junior changing, it could run a midweek senior team and develop more junior teams.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior football)	Mersey Ferries FC	Sat. pm	South Wirral
	Kelma FC	Sat. pm	Birkenhead & Wirral
	Ship FC	Sun. am	Wirral Sunday
	Dingwall FC	Sun. am	Wirral Sunday
2 (senior football)	Rangers Breaks FC	Sat. pm	South Wirral
	Delta Amateur	Sat. pm	Birkenhead & Wirral
	ADS Graphics	Sun. am	Wirral Sunday

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Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
	Stirrup S&S FC	Sun. am	Wirral Sunday
3 (senior football)	Royal Liver FC	Sat. pm	Birkenhead & Wirral
	Trafalgar FC	Sat. pm	Birkenhead & Wirral
	Manor Athletic Youth	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
	Archers Social FC	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
	KEL FC	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
4 (senior football)	Stork FC	Sat. pm	West Cheshire
	Argyll FC	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
5 (senior football)	Bronze Social FC	Sat. pm	South Wirral
	Rock Ferry Abbey Social	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
	Manor Athletic	Sat. pm	West Cheshire
	Parkside FC	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
	Hornby Higher Bebington	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
6 (senior football)	Mersey Royal FC	Sat. pm	West Cheshire
	Mersey Royal Reserves	Sat. pm	West Cheshire
	Nova FC	Sun. am	Wirral Sunday
	Lancelyn FC	Sun am	Wirral Sunday
7 (cricket)	Port Sunlight CC 1 st team	Sat. pm	Cheshire County
	Port Sunlight CC 2 nd team	Sat. pm	Cheshire County
	Port Sunlight CC U11	Sun. pm	Wirral Junior
	Port Sunlight CC U13	Sun. pm	Wirral Junior
8 (cricket)	Port Sunlight CC 3 rd team	Sat. pm	Cheshire Alliance
	Port Sunlight CC U15	Sun. pm	Wirral Junior
	Wirral CC 2 nd team	Sat. pm	Cheshire County
9 (cricket)	Wirral CC 1 st team	Sat. pm	Cheshire County
	Bromborough Merebrook CC	Sat. pm	Merseyside Comp.
10 (senior rugby)	Port Sunlight RUFC 1 st team	Sat. pm	Lancs. & Cheshire
		Sat. pm	Friendlies
	Port Sunlight RUFC 2 nd team	Sun. pm	Friendlies
		Sun. pm	Friendlies
	Port Sunlight RUFC U16		

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Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
11 (senior rugby)	Port Sunlight RUFC 3 rd team	Sat. pm	Friendlies
		Sat. pm	Lancs. & Cheshire
	Port Sunlight RUFC colts	Sun. pm	Friendlies
	Port Sunlight RUFC U15		
12 (senior rugby)	Port Sunlight RUFC vets	Sat. pm	Friendlies
	Port Sunlight RUFC U14	Sun. pm	Friendlies
	Port Sunlight RUFC U13	Sun. pm	Friendlies

Malone Field (Old Anselmians RUFC) (ref: 90)

The site has three senior rugby pitches one of which is floodlit and a small clubhouse with limited on-site parking. A public right of way crosses the site with implications for security. The Club is currently investigating plans to expand its junior facilities by providing for mini-rugby on an adjacent piece of land.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior rugby)	Old Anselmians 1 st team	Sat. pm	Lancs. & Cheshire
	Old Anselmians 2 nd team	Sat. pm	Friendlies
2 (senior rugby)	Old Anselmians 3 rd team	Sat. pm	Friendlies
	Old Anselmians colts	Sat. pm	Lancs. & Cheshire
	Old Anselmians U16	Sun. pm	Friendlies
3 (senior rugby)	Old Anselmians 4 th team	Sat. pm	Friendlies
	Old Anselmians U7	Sun. pm	Friendlies
	Old Anselmians U8	Sun. pm	Friendlies
	Old Anselmians U9	Sun. pm	Friendlies
	Old Anselmians U10	Sun. pm	Friendlies

Mayfields Playing Fields (Ref: 78)

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This Council owned and managed site, located in New Ferry, contains two senior football pitches. Both have adequate surface levels and according to grounds maintenance the pitch drainage is of average standard, although high maintenance is required to keep it at this level. There is scope at this site to develop further pitches subject to re-levelling work being carried out.

Parkfield JFC reports that pitch quality is good, but due to the constant use of pitches in bad weather the general condition is deteriorating. Although changing accommodation is located on site, the Club does not have access to it.

There are two changing rooms with access to one shower room at the site. Car parking is limited for up to 30 cars, which can be difficult if both pitches are being used at the same time.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior football)	The Cush FC	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
	Graylands Villa	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
	Liscard Panthers U14	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
2 (senior football)	Parkdale U14	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
	Wirral Hotel FC	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
	St John's Celtic	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday

New Ferry Park (ref: 79)

This WMBC owned and maintained site, situated in New Ferry contains one senior football pitch. It has adequate drainage but during heavy rain it can become unplayable. It is generally reported to be a good quality site by Council staff, although pitch levels are of poor quality. Changing accommodation contains one changing room and one referee's room. There are no showers. Refurbishment work is needed in the near future in order to keep the facility in adequate condition.

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Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior football)	Park Rangers FC	Sun. am	Wirral Sunday
	Victoria Colts	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior

Octel Sports & Social Club (ref: 96)

This privately owned industrial sports and social club site contains two senior football pitches and one cricket pitch amongst other outdoor facilities including tennis courts.

A clubhouse is located on site containing adequate changing accommodation and other amenities.

According to Manor Athletic FC, the senior pitch it plays on is of a high standard, but waterlogging occurs in winter with heavy rain. The only issue that the Club has is the need for the development of more pitches at the site to accommodate the demand for more junior teams. Allport Hawks JFC reports that it plays on a good standard pitch.

Octel CC did not field a team during the 2002 season. Previous to this the Club produced one senior team playing in the Shammah Nichols Cricket League.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior football)	Manor Athletic FC 2 nd team	Sat. pm	Birkenhead & Wirral
	Manor Athletic Reserves	Sat. pm	Birkenhead & Wirral
	Octel Club FC	Sun am	Wirral Sunday
	Allport Hawks U12	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
	Allport Hawks U13	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior

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2 (senior football)	Octel Ellesmere	Sun. pm	Ellesmere Sunday
	Octel Ellesmere Reserves	Sun. pm	Ellesmere Sunday
	Allport Hawks U14	Sat. pm	Eastham Junior
	Allport Hawks U15	Sat. pm	Eastham Junior

Old Parkonians Association (ref: 60)

This privately owned site contains three senior rugby pitches and one cricket pitch. It is split into two grassed areas, one containing a premier senior rugby pitch, located in front of the clubhouse. The other area contains two senior rugby pitches with one cricket pitch overmarked. The premier rugby pitch is fenced but has no floodlighting, although this is not an issue for the Club. It is in good condition and well maintained. The other two rugby pitches are of adequate condition for current demand. One pitch is being used as a football pitch by a local team, which have now taken on the name Parkonians JFC.

The cricket square contains 14 good quality wickets, including one junior wicket. The outfield is of adequate, but not good, quality due to over marking of the rugby pitches. The land gets no rest throughout the year.

Rugby has always been the main sport at the Club, until recently when from having five senior teams plus juniors, demand to play has been significantly reduced and there are now only two senior teams. According to a club representative, it struggles to put together a 2nd team at times.

Cricket is now the stronger of the two sports with four senior teams plus U13 and U15 junior teams. The cricket section is forced to hire more facilities from WMBC at the Oval Sports Centre for its 3^d and 4th teams. The Club is looking to develop further land at its own site.

According to the Club representative, discussions are in progress over a piece of land adjoining the site, which belongs to Oxton Sports Club. It is an old grass hockey pitch.

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The clubhouse is of a good quality, although refurbishment is needed. It contains a bar and four basic style changing rooms to service the pitches. Plans are in place to refurbish the changing facility. Long-term aspirations include developing further changing rooms to accommodate ladies teams.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior rugby)	Old Parkonians RUFC 1 st team	Sat. pm	Lancs. & Ches.
2 (senior rugby)	Old Parkonians RUFC 2 nd team	Sat. pm	Lancs. & Ches.
3 (junior football)	Parkonians JFC U12	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
	Parkonians JFC U13	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
4 (cricket)	Old Parkonians CC 1 st team	Sat. pm	Mellor Braggins
	Old Parkonians CC 2 nd team	Sat. pm	Mellor Braggins
	Parkonians CC U13	Sun. pm	Wirral Junior
	Parkonians CC U15	Sun. pm	Wirral Junior

The Oval Sports Centre (ref: 5)

This WMBC owned and managed site contains six senior football pitches, one cricket pitch and one ATP. It is staffed due to its size. Bookings for the ATP are managed directly through the Centre. There is also an all weather shale floodlit training area which is well utilised.

One junior football pitch, which is located on the site is dedicated education use for St Johns Primary School and has no further community use. This is covered in more detail under the education section of the report.

The football pitches are split into two areas. There are five located towards the rear of the site and one (premier) pitch in the centre of the athletics track. This floodlit pitch is only available for occasional lettings and

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provided for school use only. There are restrictions on its usage due to damage caused by football boots on the athletics track to reach the pitch. According to Council staff the pitches at the rear are poorly drained, but the site generally has a good flat surface.

Wirral Liberal FC reports that its pitch is of acceptable quality only by the poor standards of the other pitches in Wirral and many improvements could be made to increase the quality to a good standard.

North Wirral Churches FC reports that this is not its preferred home ground but due to a lack of peak time availability at sites with a changing facility, it had to play at The Oval. It reports that overall pitch quality is unacceptable due to lack of grass coverage and uneven playing surface.

Changing facilities are of an adequate standard and service all the pitches at the site. The facility is located under the main spectator stand at the athletics track. There is an issue of the safety of the wooden stand for spectators, but this doesn't effect the safety of the changing facility.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior football)	Wirral Liberal FC	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
	FC Railway	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
	Old Instonians FC	Sat. pm	Liverpool Old Boys
	Shillings Café Bar FC	Sat. pm	Birkenhead & Wirral
	North Wirral Churches	Sat. am	Merseyside Churches
	Lion Kings U14	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
2 (senior football)	Clipper Rangers	Sun. am	Wirral Sunday
	Tranmere Supporters FC	Sun. am	Wirral Sunday
	Toll Bar FC	Sat. pm	Birkenhead & Wirral
3 (senior football)	FC Prenton	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
4 (senior football)			

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5 (senior football)	Riverside Town FC	Sun. am	Wirral Sunday
6 (senior football – centre of track)	Used for representative Matches	Various	Various
7 (ATP)	Bebington HC 3 rd – 6 th teams	Sat. am Sat. pm	North West Men's
8 (cricket)	Old Parkonians CC 3 rd team Old Parkonians CC 4 th team	Sat. pm Sat. pm	Shammah Nicholls Merseyside Competition

Bebington HC has two home grounds due to the size of the Club. It currently runs six senior men's teams. 1st and 2nd teams play at Sutton High School in Ellesmere Port. The 3rd – 6th teams play at The Oval Sports Centre, Bebington. The 1st team plays in the North Hockey League and the other teams play in the North West Hockey League.

It has no junior or ladies teams. According to a Club representative, the Club intends to increase its number of junior teams by at least two. Technically, there are sufficient ATP's in Wirral to accommodate the planned expansion of the Club, but some school ATP's are not widely used for community use.

The ATP at the Oval is used to capacity and although the Club was originally based in Bebington it is using the facility in Ellesmere Port more frequently. It also trains at the Ellesmere Port site and uses a local hotel as its social base. The Club describes the quality of the ATP in Ellesmere Port as higher than The Oval and is, hence, using it for 1st and 2nd team matches.

According to a hockey representative there is a regular problem with the ATP with leaves on the pitch falling from the surrounding trees, which can be dangerous when wet. New floodlights were erected on the ATP four years ago.

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Oxton Cricket and Hockey Club (ref: 62)

This privately owned cricket and hockey club site contains two cricket pitches. There are also six tennis courts and a bowling green on the site. Oxton HC does not have a facility/pitch on site, but have sole use as a private club at the ATP's at Birkenhead High School and Birkenhead School. The Club and the School jointly funded the ATP at Birkenhead School.

An employed groundsman maintains the site. The whole facility is well maintained and of a high standard. Cricket pitch 1, nearest to the clubhouse; needs minor improvements to the square. Pitch 2 is of better quality and the outfield on both pitches drains well.

The clubhouse, located on two floors, contains four changing rooms, two shower rooms (one in cubicles for ladies), toilets with disabled access, kitchen, bar and balcony. The changing accommodation is of a good standard. According to Club representative the only main facility development need is disabled access into the clubhouse and disabled changing accommodation. Car parking on site is limited and a small car park; belonging to Birkenhead School is used.

Oxton Cricket Club runs three senior men's teams plus an U21 team, one senior ladies team and five junior teams. According to the Club representative there is sufficient demand for a disabled team if the correct facilities were provided. It has in the past, accommodated disabled members playing on a friendly basis.

Oxton HC is the largest hockey club in Wirral. It runs six men's teams playing in Northern Counties HL and North West HL, three ladies teams playing in Cheshire HL and two junior teams playing friendly games. Oxton Club is used as its social base and it plays matches at Birkenhead High School and Birkenhead School (see education section for further details). The former grass hockey field adjacent to the Old Parkonians Rugby Club is vacant and has not been used since the ATP was built at Birkenhead School in 1988.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (cricket)	Oxton CC 1 st team	Sat. pm	Murray Smith
	Oxton CC 2 nd team	Sat. pm	Murray Smith
	Oxton Ladies CC	Sun. am	Ladies Cheshire league
	Oxton CC U15	Sun. pm	Cheshire County Cricket League
	Oxton CC U17	Sun. pm	Wirral Junior League
2 (cricket)	Oxton CC 3 rd team	Sat. pm	Murray Smith
	Oxton CC U21	Sat. am	Liverpool Cricket Competition
	Oxton CC U9	Sun. pm	Wirral Junior League
	Oxton CC U11	Sun. pm	Wirral Junior League
	Oxton CC U13	Sun. pm	Wirral Junior League

Plymyard Playing Fields (ref: 95)

This WMBC owned and maintained site contains nine senior football pitches and eight mini soccer pitches. According to Council staff, this is probably the second best WMBC managed site after Leverhulme Playing Field in terms of pitch quality, although there are issues concerning ancillary facilities.

Bridle Lane splits the site. All pitches are of a good standard, although due to the sites popularity and reputation it is becoming overused. Beehive FC reports that its pitch is of acceptable quality, although too many teams play on the one pitch. Maintenance will need to be stepped up if it is to continue to be regarded as one the Council's best sites.

Changing accommodation is of good quality and all rooms have access to showers. The main issue for this site is car parking. A limited car park is provided but it does not service all the pitches. There have been a number of disputes concerning the large amount of traffic congestion on match

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
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days. A proposal for a car park extension was drawn up but was not implemented.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior football)	Swan FC	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
	Shore Villa U13 & U14	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
	Graylands Youth	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
2 (senior football)	Rangers Breaks	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
	Eastham Blades U13 & U15	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
	Heygarth FC	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
3 (senior football)	Old Rockferrians FC	Sat. pm	Birkenhead & Wirral
	Old House at Home FC	Sun. am	Wirral Sunday
	PSI FC	Sun. am	Wirral Sunday
	Heygarth U12 & U13	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
4 (senior football)	Abbotsford FC	Sat. pm	Birkenhead & Wirral
	Bromborough Hotel FC	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
	New Southend FC	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
	Heygarth U14 & U15	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
5 (senior football)	Little Sutton FC	Sat. pm	South Wirral
	Halfway House FC	Sun. am	Wirral Sunday
	Allport FC	Sun. am	Wirral Sunday
	Rossway Utd U15 & U16	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
6 (senior football)	Port Sunlight RBL FC	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
	Oxton Athletic	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
	Prenton Athletic U13	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
	Eastham Blades U16	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
7 (senior football)	Vanser FC	Sat. pm	South Wirral
	Tudor Rose FC	Sat. pm	South Wirral
	Wellington FC	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday

**METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
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Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
	Royal Sun Alliance Alliance FC U14 & U15	Sun. am Sun. pm	Birkenhead Sunday Eastham Junior
8 (senior football)	Wirral Veterans Vaults FC Lord Napier FC Shore Villa U15 & U16	Sat. pm Sun. am Sun. am Sun. pm	Friendlies Birkenhead Sunday Birkenhead Sunday Eastham Junior
9 (senior football)	Abbottsford Youth Shaftsbury Youth Club U12 Shelbourne & Evans FC Warwick FC	Sat. pm Sun. pm Sun. am Sun. am	Birkenhead & Wirral Eastham Junior Birkenhead Sunday Birkenhead Sunday

Prenton RUFC (ref: 136)

This privately owned site, located on Prenton Dell Road and contains three senior rugby pitches. One premier pitch has floodlighting. It is home to Prenton RUFC, which is an amalgamation of Old Rockferrians RUFC and Old Instonians RUFC.

The Club currently operates two senior teams and one vets. Each team has its own designated pitch. Each pitch is, thus, rested frequently and not overplayed. It describes the quality of pitches as good with over 60% grass cover and minimal wear and tear.

Over the past few years the Club has seen a decline in membership and has reduced the number of senior teams by one. This is put down to a lack of player availability. It receives RFU support to organise TAG competitions to attract new junior members to the Club and is keen to develop this further, although there are no plans to increase the number of teams.

Changing accommodation is located in the clubhouse, where six rooms are available, a referee's room, showers and toilets. The facility is rated as

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

good quality, with minor refurbishment needed. Car parking is available for 100 cars to adequately service all pitches.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior rugby)	Prenton RUFC 1 st team	Sat. pm	Lancs. & Cheshire
2 (senior rugby)	Prenton RUFC 2 nd team	Sat. pm	Friendlies
3 (senior rugby)	Prenton RUFC vets	Sat. pm	Friendlies

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Prices Sports Ground (ref: 82)

This privately owned site is owned by Riverside Housing Association. It is located at South View, Bromborough and contains one senior football pitch and one training area.

It is the former home ground of Bromborough Pool AFC and is now let to Tranmere Rovers Youth. The football pitch is in good condition and has dugouts. There is also a large clubhouse on site with a bowling green – Prices Sports & Social Club. Changing accommodation is located in the clubhouse. The pitch falls in and out of use over the years. KKP has been unable to gather information on pitch use during the 2001/2002 season.

Shaftesbury Memorial Ground (ref: 56)

This privately owned site is situated on Mendip Road, Prenton and is the home ground to Shaftesbury Youth Club and contains two senior football pitches. Both were realigned during 2000 to allow development of a floodlit MUGA. One more MUGA of similar size is also proposed.

The site used to contain a full size cricket pitch last used by a Tranmere Victoria CC 3rd XI, which was overmarked on the football pitches. A small cricket strip has been retained following realignment but it is currently unused for competitive use.

The football pitches are used to capacity. Due to the large number of teams other pitches are hired because not all teams can be accommodated at the Memorial Ground. Hired amenities include for example Green Lane Playing Fields and Plymyard Playing Field.

Changing accommodation is located in the Youth Club. The sports hall is utilised for football training.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
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METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
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1 (senior football)	Shaftesbury FC	Sat. pm	West Cheshire
	Shaftesbury FC team	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
	Shaftesbury Youth U15 & U16	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
2 (senior football)	Shaftesbury Seniors	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
	Shaftesbury Boys	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
	Shaftesbury Youth U13 & U14	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior

The Glen (Woodchurch Road) (ref: 70)

This WMBC owned site, located on Woodchurch Road, Oxton contains one senior and one junior football pitch. The site was a former home ground to Old Instonians RUFC and vacated in 1992 and reused under license in 1994. The rugby club folded and the pavilion was demolished after fire damage. Players of the Club moved to Prenton RUFC.

Glenavon JFC has now taken over a three-year license at the site. This fast expanding junior club (made up of Glenavon Eagles and Glenavon Hawks) produces teams from U11 through to U16 age groups. It also hires pitches from Arrowe Park on a temporary basis to accommodate all teams. It rates the pitches at The Glen as good quality.

Changing accommodation is located in portacabin style blocks but there is no running water. A club representative reports that it would like to develop the facilities at the site further. However, it is finding it difficult without a long-term lease and because the site is designated as a future Park and Ride Park within the UDP and Merseyside Travel Plan. Relocation to St Michael's & All Angels Primary School may be a possible option in the future for the Club.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
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1 (senior football)	Glenavon Hawks U14	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
	Glenavon Hawks U15	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
	Glenavon Eagles U15	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
	Glenavon Hawks U16	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
2 (junior football)	Glenavon Eagles U11	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
	Glenavon Hawks U11	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
	Glenavon Hawks U12	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
	Glenavon Hawks U13	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior

The Green (ref: 198)

This privately owned site, located in Bromborough Pool contains one cricket pitch. This former Bromborough Pool CC home ground is now leased to Wallasey CC for its 3rd team matches. Bromborough Pool CC and Eastham CC played their first combined season during summer 1997 and now use Torr Park for fixtures. According to a representative from Wallasey CC, the pitch outfield is of average quality and the square is of good quality. For further information on Wallasey CC see site by site analysis for Wallasey catchment.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (cricket)	Wallasey CC 3 rd team	Sat. pm	Liverpool & District
	Wallasey CC Sunday	Sun. pm	Murray Smith
	Wallasey CC U21	Various	Knockout Competition
	Wallasey CC U15	Sun. am	Wirral Junior
	Wallasey CC U17	Sun. pm	Wirral Junior

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Torr Park (Eastham CC) (ref: 89)

This LA owned site, situated on Eastham Village Road, contains one cricket pitch with ten wickets. The site is located in the green belt and Eastham Village Conservation Area. It is leased to Eastham Bromborough CC as its home ground.

According to a Club representative, the pitch is of general good quality with good grass cover. Public access onto the pitch can lead to damage to the square. Practice nets are available off the pitch.

The main issue is vandalism. The pavilion recently burnt down and is being rebuilt. No showers will be available in the new building and toilets are located in a portacabin. The club regards this as a significant hindrance to attracting junior members. Its view is that with improved ancillary facilities and separate junior changing rooms it could run at least two junior teams. There is no car park located near to the cricket pitch and pavilion.

Eastham Bromborough CC is an amalgamation of two cricket clubs during the late 90's and provides two senior teams playing in the Merseyside Cricket Competition. The Club is keen to improve its facilities and develop further teams.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (cricket)	Eastham Bromborough CC 1 st team	Sat. pm	Merseyside Competition
	Eastham Bromborough CC 2 nd team	Sat. pm	Merseyside Competition

Tranmere Rovers Ingleborough Road (ref: 58)

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

This privately owned site contains two senior football pitches and two training areas not suitable for competitive football. Tranmere Rovers FC own the land and leases the site to Tranmere Rovers JFC. Pitches were re-levelled and drained in 1997. There are no floodlights. Council staff report that this is the best quality site in Wirral.

This site has been utilised in the past by Tranmere Youth Academy teams but due to increased league requirements, including access to an ATP for training it doesn't use the site. Therefore the future of the site is in question.

Basic changing accommodation is accessible but according to a club representative needs refurbishment.

Tranmere Rovers JFC runs teams from U9 through to U19. A number of the junior teams play at Ingleborough Road including its U19s. The Club also uses Raby Vale (on a short term lease) to fulfill its fixtures. The majority of junior teams play either friendly games or in the Academy Youth League. The U19's team plays in the North West Conference League.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Tranmere Rovers (Prenton Park) (ref: 57)

This privately owned site is home to Tranmere Rovers FC. It contains one senior football pitch of maximum size. The stadium is of a high standard compared to the other sites in Wirral, although the Club reports a number of safety concerns with the stand. It has spectator seating for approximately 16,000.

The Club has two senior teams (1st and reserves). Both play at Prenton Park and train at Raby Vale. In poor weather conditions Liverpool Academy is used as a training venue because it has an artificial turf facility.

The future of the Club at Prenton Park is uncertain and it is reportedly looking for a new home ground.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior football)	Tranmere Rovers FC	Sat. pm	Nationwide Division 2
	Tranmere Reserves	Wed. pm	Avon Premier

Victoria Park (ref: 54)

This WMBC owned and managed site, located in Tranmere contains two junior football pitches and one cricket pitch, which is leased to Tranmere Victoria CC as its home ground.

The cricket pitch is in poor condition. There is a small wooden clubhouse in poor condition. Planning permission has been granted for a new clubhouse and community facility with multi use hall to be built. Tranmere Victoria CC is now seeking funding.

According to Council staff the football pitches are in poor condition; drainage and pitch levels are poor. There is exclusive use of this site by

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Victoria Colts FC that plays in the Wallasey Junior League. It reports that pitch quality is below average and there have been instances of cancellations due to waterlogging and dangerous pitch conditions. Shared changing accommodation is located in Tranmere Victoria CC clubhouse. Off road car parking is available.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (junior football)	Victoria Colts U13	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
	Victoria Colts U14	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
	Victoria Colts U15	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
2 (junior football)	Victoria Colts U11 a	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
	Victoria Colts U11 b	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
	Victoria Colts U12 a	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
	Victoria Colts U12 b	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
3 (cricket)	Tranmere Victoria CC U13	Sat. pm	Merseyside Cricket League
	Tranmere Victoria CC	Sat. pm	Merseyside Cricket League

Wayfarer's Cricket Ground (ref: 177)

This WMBC owned site, located on Upton Road, Bidston, contains one cricket pitch. The site is leased to New Brighton CC. It used to be the home ground of Birkenhead Wayfarers FC that vacated the ground after folding in 1996. The use of the site was quickly turned around due to a high demand for cricket pitches at the time and re-used the following season in 1997.

The square contains seven wickets and is according to New Brighton CC in adequate condition for its current usage.

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Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (cricket)	New Brighton CC 3 rd team	Sat. pm	Liverpool Competition
	New Brighton CC 4 th team	Sat. pm	Liverpool Competition
	New Brighton CC U13	Sun. pm	Wirral Junior League
	New Brighton CC U15	Sun. pm	Wirral Junior League
	New Brighton CC U17	Sun. pm	Wirral Junior League

Wirral Sports Centre (ref: 41)

This WMBC owned and managed site is also known as Wirral Sports Centre and contains two senior football pitches and one floodlit, full size ATP (105m x 69m). The ATP was laid down in 1993 and re-laid in 1999. It is available for public lettings and is not used as a home ground for a hockey team. Main bookings are for football training.

According to Council grounds maintenance staff there is an opportunity to provide greater access to the football pitches.

Changing accommodation is located in the main tennis centre building. It has four changing rooms with separate shower rooms and two referee's rooms. The changing rooms are in good condition.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior football)	Bronze Social FC	Sat. pm	South Wirral
	Poulton Victoria Youth	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
	Glenavon Youth	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
2 (senior football)	North Star FC	Sat. pm	South Wirral
	Bidston Hill FC	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
	Comet Inn FC	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
3 (ATP)	NK	NK	NK

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Summary of playing pitch provision in the A41 catchment area:

Site	No. of Pitches	Overall pitch quality grading	Capacity (matches per week)	Actual use	Summary of Key Issues
Acre Lane	2sf	1	1	0	No current community use due to poor drainage, although there is demand. Scope for more pitches to be developed.
Birkenhead Park CC	2sc	N/A	N/A	2.5	High quality pitch and site. No demand to develop further pitches.
Birkenhead St. Mary's CC	1sc	N/A	N/A	1	No issues
Birkenhead Park	1sf 1sf 1sf	1 1 1	1 1 1	2 1 1	Two pitches are being used to capacity and one is over used for its current pitch grading. Changing accommodation located some distance from pitches.
Birkenhead Park RUFC	2sr	N/A	N/A	Average of 1.5	Users suggest need for pitch upgrade to maintain its current high quality in the future. Demand to develop a MUGA for training purposes highlighted.

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PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

Site	No. of Pitches	Overall pitch quality grading	Capacity (matches per week)	Actual use	Summary of Key Issues
Borough Road Playing Field	1sf	2	1	1	All pitches being used to capacity. Pitches located on a severe slope and are undulating, potential to develop into a good quality site.
	1jf	2	1	1	
	1jf	2	1	1	
Bromborough Recreation Ground	1sf	3	2	1	The pitch is available at peak senior time.
Cammell Lairds FC	1sf	N/A	N/A	1.5	Users report need for drainage improvements, recent investment to upgrade floodlighting rather than pitch improvements.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
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Site	No. of Pitches	Overall pitch quality grading	Capacity (matches per week)	Actual use	Summary of Key Issues
Conway Playing Fields	1jf	2	1	0.5	Used to capacity at peak times.
	1jf	2	1	0.5	
Eastham Locks Sports Ground	1sf	N/A	N/A	1.5	No information gathered on pitch quality. Not being used at peak time on Saturday.
Green Lane Playing Fields	1sf	3	2	1.5	Two pitches have the potential for further community use. Pitch use could be spread more evenly over the four pitches. Small sized pitches with no access to changing.
	1sf	3	2	1	
	1sf	3	2	1	
	1sf	3	2	2	
Higher Bebington Rec. Ground	1sf	3	2	2.5	Although pitches have a flat surface drainage on all pitches is poor. Pitch 1 is being overused which is speeding up the deterioration of pitch quality.
	1sf	3	2	1.5	
Kings Lane Playing Fields	1sf	1	1	0.5	Although all pitches have poor drainage

**METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

Site	No. of Pitches	Overall pitch quality grading	Capacity (matches per week)	Actual use	Summary of Key Issues
	1jf	1	1	0.5	<p>none are being used to capacity. Space at peak times.</p> <p>Scope to develop more pitches, users suggest potential site for central venue site.</p>
	1jf	1	1	0.5	

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site	No. of Pitches	Overall pitch quality grading	Capacity (matches per week)	Actual use	Summary of Key Issues
Leverhulme Playing Fields	1sf	5	3	2	All football pitches are good quality and there is potential for further community use, although this is limited space. Good quality site.
	1sf	5	3	2	
	1sf	5	3	2.5	
	1sf	5	3	1	
	1sf	5	3	2.5	
	1sf	5	3	2	
Malone Field (Old Anselmians)	3sr	N/A	N/A	Average of 2	No information has been gathered on this site.
Mayfields	1sf	3	2	1.5	Limited space for further matches. Available peak time Saturday. Average quality pitches. Scope to develop further pitches subject to re-levelling work.
	1sf	3	2	1.5	
New Ferry Park	1sf	2	1	1	Generally good quality but poor pitch levels reduces its capacity.
Octel Sports & Social Club	1sf	N/A	N/A	2.5	Waterlogging occurs during winter. Pitches used to capacity. All Manor Athletic FC
	1sf	N/A	N/A	2	

**METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

Site	No. of Pitches	Overall pitch quality grading	Capacity (matches per week)	Actual use	Summary of Key Issues
	1sc	N/A	N/A	N/A	teams not accommodated here as wanted.
Old Parkonians Association	2sr	N/A	N/A	0.5	Rugby pitches not being used to capacity due to decreasing demand, one now being used as a football pitch. The Club is looking to buy land for further cricket pitch development.
	1jf	N/A	N/A	0.5	
	1sc	N/A	N/A	2	

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site	No. of Pitches	Overall pitch quality grading	Capacity (matches per week)	Actual use	Summary of Key Issues
The Oval Sports Centre	1sf	4	2	3	Pitch 1 is used above capacity reflecting its better quality, but all other pitches are not used to capacity. There is peak time availability. A floodlit pitch with running track is only available for occasional lettings. Junior pitch is provided for school use only.
	1sf	4	2	1.5	
	1sf	4	2	0.5	
	1sf	4	2	0	
	1sf	4	2	0.5	
	1sf	4	2	N/A	
	1jf	4	2	N/A	
	1sc	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	ATP	N/A	N/A	2	
Oxton CC & HC	2sc	N/A	N/A	2	Good quality site. No plans for further pitch development. Grass hockey field vacant and disused.
Plymyard Playing Fields	1sf	4	2	2	Good pitch site. Fully booked at peak times.
	1sf	4	2	2	
	1sf	4	2	2.5	
	1sf	4	2	2.5	

**METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

Site	No. of Pitches	Overall pitch quality grading	Capacity (matches per week)	Actual use	Summary of Key Issues
	1sf	4	2	2.5	
	1sf	4	2	2	
	1sf	4	2	2	
	1sf	4	2	3	
	1sf	4	2	2	
	8mf	4	2	N/A	
Prices Sports Ground	1sf	N/A	N/A	0.5	Used by Tranmere Rovers FC. Good quality site.
Prenton RUFC	3sr	N/A	N/A	0.5	Decline in membership has resulted in pitches not being used to capacity.
Shaftesbury Memorial Field	2sf	N/A	N/A	2	Pitches are used to capacity. Club would like to develop further pitches to avoid hiring other pitches.
Solly Rec. Ground	2sf	N/A	N/A	N/A	No community use other than that of the Scout Association Group.
The Glen (Woodchurch	1sf	N/A	N/A	2	No information gathered on pitch

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site	No. of Pitches	Overall pitch quality grading	Capacity (matches per week)	Actual use	Summary of Key Issues
Road)	1jf	N/A	N/A	2	quality.
The Green	1sc	N/A	N/A	2	Average quality outfield and good quality square.
Torr Park (Eastham CC)	1sc	N/A	N/A	1	Main issue is vandalism. Old pavilion burnt down. Generally good quality site.
Tranmere Rovers – Prenton Park	1sf	N/A	N/A	1	Premier quality pitch. Issues surrounding the future of the Club at Prenton Park.
Tranmere Rovers – Ingleborough Road	2sf	N/A	N/A	2	Pitches re-levelled and drained 1997. Good quality pitches.
Victoria Park	1jf	2	1	2	Both pitches are being overused.
	1jf	2	1	1.5	Drainage and pitch levels are poor. No changing and limited car parking.
Wayfarers Cricket Ground	1sc	N/A	N/A	2	Adequate condition for current usage.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site	No. of Pitches	Overall pitch quality grading	Capacity (matches per week)	Actual use	Summary of Key Issues
Wirral Sports Centre	1sf	5	3	1.5	Pitches not being used to capacity, although considered to be a good quality site.
	1sf	5	3	1.5	

The capacity of pitches to accommodate a certain number of matches per week throughout a playing season is based on the combined grade for drainage and levels provided by Wirral Borough Council, confirmed by evidence from pitch managers and users. Pitches with grades 1 and 2 are assumed to have a capacity to accommodate only one match per week, grades 3 and 4, two matches per week and grade 5, three matches per week.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

18. Heswall

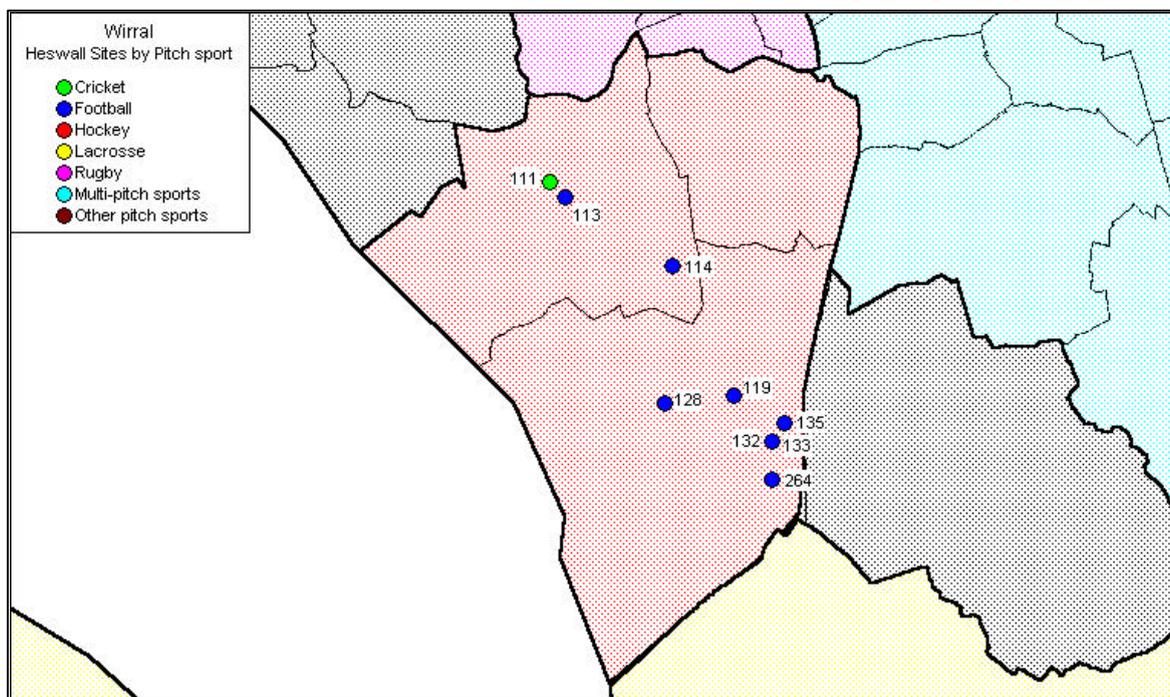


Figure showing available and unavailable pitches in Heswall:

Site Ref.	Site name	Number of pitches	Community use
135	Barnston Dale Camp	1 junior football	No
264	Chester Road Playing Field	1 junior football	Yes
133	Gayton Park (Heswall AFC)	1 senior football	Yes
132	Gayton Playing Field	1 junior football	Yes
113	Irby Recreation Ground	3 junior football	Yes
128	Puddy Dale Playing Field	1 senior football	Yes
114	Ridgewood Park	2 senior football 1 junior football	Yes
119	Whitfield Common Playing Field	1 senior football	Yes
Total number of football pitches available for community use but excluding education sites		5 senior football 6 junior football	

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Site Ref.	Site name	Number of pitches	Community use
111	Irby CC	2 cricket	Yes
Total number of cricket pitches available for community use but excluding education sites		2 cricket	

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PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site by site analysis

Figure: WMBC owned pitch and changing facility grading

Site	No. of pitches	Pitch drainage grading	Pitch levels grading	Average pitch quality grading	Changing facility grading
Chester Road Playing Field	1 jf	2	4	3	N/A
Irby Recreation Ground	3 jf	3	4	3	1
Puddy Dale Playing Field	1 sf	4	4	4	N/A
Ridgewood Park	2 sf 1 jf	1	4	2	4
Whitfield Common Playing Field	1 sf	4	4	4	2

WMBC have provided a pitch survey carried out on all LA managed sites. In terms of pitch grading 5 is classed as 'best' and grading 1 as 'worst'. A combined figure has been calculated from the drainage grade and the pitch level grade to produce an overall grade.

Barnston Dale Camp (ref: 135)

This privately owned site contains one junior football pitch. The football pitch is three-quarter sized and is reportedly in poor condition. There is no community use. Campers and visitors to the Youth Centre attached to the site often use it.

Chester Road Playing Fields

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

This WMBC owned and managed site contains one junior football pitch. According to Council staff drainage is poor although the pitch levels are good. There is no changing facility on site.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (junior football)	First Barnston Cub Pack	Sat. am	West Wirral Cub Scout
	First Barnston Cub Pack	Sat. am	West Wirral Cub Scout
	Heswall JFC U11	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
	Heswall JFC U12	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Heswall AFC – Gayton Park (ref: 133)

This WMBC owned site contains one senior football pitch. It is on a long-term lease to Heswall AFC. It also known as Gayton Park located on Brimstage Road, Heswall.

The Club uses two pitch sites. It's two senior teams (which compete in the West Cheshire League) and Tranmere ladies two teams play at Gayton Park. Its U18's youth team (which competes in the Birkenhead Sunday Youth League) plays at Ridgewood Park, Pensby. The large number of junior teams it also produces through the age groups play at neighbouring Gayton Playing Fields.

Tranmere Ladies FC uses this site as its main home ground. Its two senior teams play in the National Premier League and its three girls teams (U10, U12, U14) play in the Liverpool Girls League at a central venue site in Liverpool. Due to the growing needs of the ladies team, the reserve team travels to Mold, Wales to hire a facility suitable as its home ground. The club cannot find an appropriate facility in Wirral. The Club travels to Ellesmere Port for training.

Gayton Park has two dugouts, a fenced pitch, covered enclosure and a clubhouse. It does not have pitch floodlighting. Due to the leasing arrangement and possible residential restrictions, planning permission for floodlights is unlikely. This is limiting the Club's aspirations and it is unable to enter some larger cup competitions.

The pitch has according to a club representative improved in quality due to a major cash injection for drainage improvements. Only three games were cancelled last season due to poor weather conditions.

There is car parking for approximately 30 cars, although the adjoining squash club car park is also used. Two changing rooms of adequate condition are located in the clubhouse.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

If further improvements were made to changing facilities the Club believes it could develop more teams including one U16's, one additional ladies team and a veterans teams. In order to achieve this more pitches would be required.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior football)	Heswall AFC 1 st team	Sat. pm	West Cheshire
	Heswall AFC 2 nd team	Sat. pm	West Cheshire
	Tranmere Ladies FC	Sun. pm	National Premier League

Gayton Park Playing Field (ref: 132)

This WMBC owned site is used by Heswall JFC, who also leases the adjacent site. It contains one junior football pitch. According to Council staff, the site is in poor condition.

Irby CC (ref: 111)

This privately owned cricket club on Mill Hill Road, Irby contains two cricket pitches. The site is located in the green belt and one extra pitch was developed on farmland in 1993 to accommodate its growing number of teams. According to club representatives, the quality of both pitches is good in terms of grass coverage and firmness of surface. The pitches are well maintained by voluntary groundsman. Both matches and training takes place at the ground.

A clubhouse is located on the site containing a bar area and four changing rooms with showers and an umpires room. The users rate the quality as good. A grant was received to build an extension on the clubhouse to service the newly developed pitch some years ago. Car parking is adequate for both pitches, holding approximately 60 cars.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

The Club runs four senior teams all playing in the Cheshire County League and three junior teams (U11, U13 and U15) all playing in the Wirral Cricket League. The U15 team only plays during school holidays. It has no further plans to develop more teams. Membership has been steady for the last three years at least. More junior teams or a ladies team could be accommodated at the ground if demand increases in the future.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (cricket)	Irby CC 1 st team	Sat. pm	Cheshire County League
	Irby CC 2 nd team	Sat. pm	Cheshire County League
2 (cricket)	Irby CC 3 rd team	Sat. pm	Cheshire County League
	Irby CC 4 th team	Sat. pm	Cheshire County League
	Irby CC U11	Sun. am	Wirral Junior League
	Irby CC U13	Sun. am	Wirral Junior League
	Irby CC U15	Holidays Only	Wirral Junior League

Irby Recreation Ground (ref: 113)

This WMBC owned and managed site contains three junior football pitches. It is also known as Mill Hill Recreation Ground. The site has adequate pitch levels but further improvements to the drainage could be made. It has three changing rooms, which are in need of general refurbishment. It contains showers and toilets. The main user of the site is Irby JFC.

The site used to have a cricket pitch, but last season it was replaced with one junior football pitch. The cricket pitch was in poor condition and lacked maintenance due to lack of demand.

Irby JFC currently runs seven junior football teams (U9, U10, U12, U13, U14, U16 and one girls team). All play at Irby Recreation Ground. The U9 and U10's play friendly games and the other junior boys teams play in the Eastham Junior League. According to a club representative it is beginning

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

to outgrow its facilities. Club 'ownership' of the site is lacking, it feels due to the rent agreement with WMBC. The site is located on a natural slope and has poor grass coverage. Accommodating the growing number of junior teams is becoming a problem. In order to expand further it requires additional pitches, at least two in the near future.

In the last six months the Club has expanded to offer a girls team. It attracts around 30 girls for training sessions. The Club would like to enter the girls in a League and continue to produce more teams, as it believes there is further demand in the area to do so. It is reluctant to join a league in Cheshire due to the travel implications. It would require at least one additional junior pitch to achieve this.

It is interested in buying land from Leverhulme Estates to develop six pitches and to build changing accommodation. The Club would need to attract Football Foundation funding or Lottery support to go ahead.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (junior football)	Irby Juniors U9	Sun. pm	Friendlies
	Irby Juniors U10	Sun. pm	Friendlies
2 (junior football)	Irby Juniors U11	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
	Irby Juniors U12	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
3 (junior football)	Irby Juniors U13	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
	Irby Juniors U14	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior

Puddy Dale Playing Field (ref: 128)

This WMBC owned and managed site contains one senior football pitch. There is no changing room accommodation on site. The pitch is in poor condition due to poor drainage and pitch levels, according to Council officers. However, it is rated as having good drainage by council records.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Longcroft FC reports that pitch quality is good but the lack of changing is unacceptable.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior football)	Longcroft FC	Sat. am	Merseyside Churches
	St Saviour's Oxton	Sat. .am	Merseyside Churches
	Heswall Juniors U13	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
	West Kirby Wasps U11	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Ridgewood Park (ref: 114)

This WMBC owned and managed site, located on Ridgewood Drive, contains two senior and one junior football pitch. One senior pitch is fenced and used by teams in the West Cheshire League and is in good condition. The other pitch has poor drainage and according to Heswall FC is not in good condition.

FC Pensby reports that the overall quality of its pitch is acceptable. The Club received a grant to improve site quality as it was in danger of being thrown out of the League due to unacceptable facilities. A number of other users report the quality of pitches as acceptable.

Changing provision is not adequate in terms of size. Most club players do not use them because this would necessitate juniors and seniors using them at the same time. Ridgewood Rangers JFC rate pitch quality as average but improved since usage was decreased last season (2001/2002).

There are two changing rooms in good condition. This is not adequate to service all the pitches. Car parking is available for around 30 cars; this is not adequate when all pitches are in use.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior football)	FC Pensby 1 st team	Sat. pm	West Cheshire
	FC Pensby 2 nd team	Sat. pm	Birkenhead & Wirral
	St. Mary's Upton	Sat. am	Merseyside Churches
	Hotel Victoria Heswall	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
	Pensby Falcons FC U15	Sun pm	Wallasey Junior
2 (senior football)	Pensby Falcons FC U13	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
	Pensby Falcons FC U14	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
	Heswall FC Youth	Sun am	Birkenhead Sunday
	Upton JFC Youth	Sun am	Birkenhead Sunday

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

3 (junior football)	Ridgewood Rangers JFC	Sun. am	Wirral Mini Soccer
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Whitfield Common Playing Field (ref: 119)

This LA owned and managed site contains one senior football pitch.

The pitch remains dry for most of the season, but according to Council staff, it needs additional topsoil. 150 Old Boys FC reports poor drainage and a stony and uneven playing surface. Pitch quality has deteriorated over the last few years. There is also an issue concerning thick woodland/bushes surrounding the pitch, which needs to be more frequently maintained. Loss of footballs is regular.

Changing accommodation is rated as poor; there are two changing rooms to adequately service the pitch. Users report that the changing facility is unacceptable, due to a lack of lighting in the rooms and no toilets.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior football)	Heswall Juniors U14, U15	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
	150 Old Boys FC	Sat. am	Friendlies

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Summary of playing pitch provision in the Heswall catchment area:

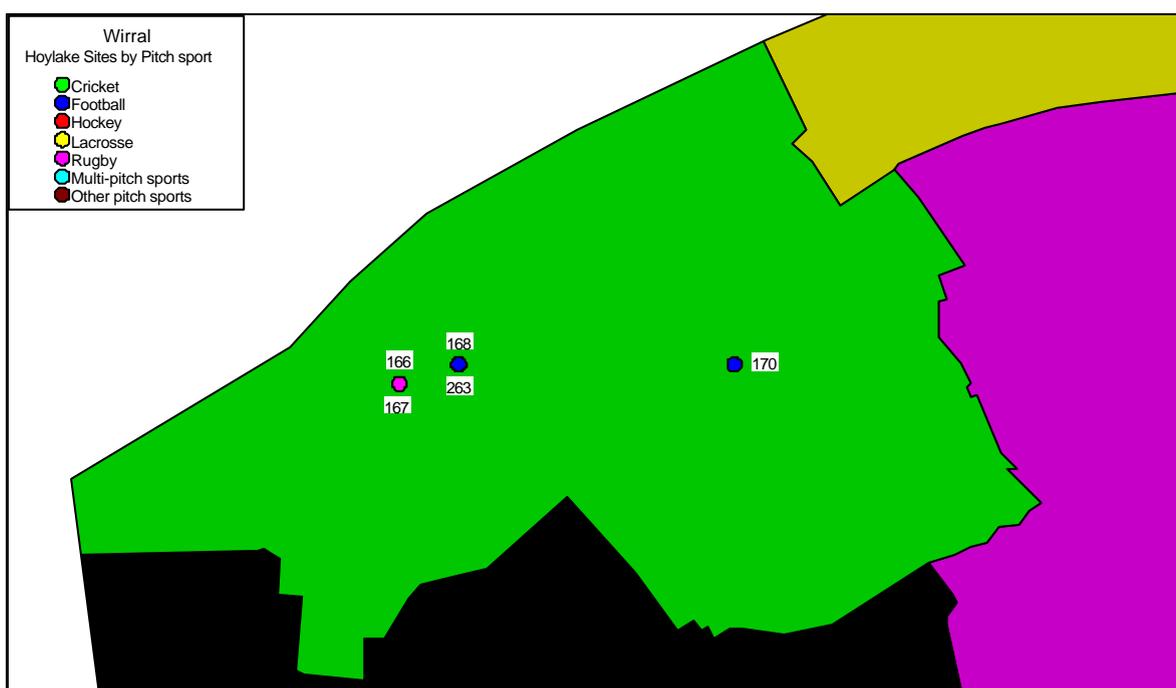
Site	No. of Pitches	Overall pitch quality grading	Capacity (matches per week)	Actual use	Summary of Key Issues
Barnston Dale Camp	1jf	N/A	N/A	N/A	¾ sized pitch of poor condition.
Gayton Park - Heswall AFC	1sf	N/A	N/A	1.5	Good quality pitch used to capacity. Clubs junior teams must hire pitches on other sites.
Gayton Playing Fields	1jf	N/A	N/A	N/A	Leased by Heswall JFC. Site in poor condition.
Chester Road Playing Field	1jf	3	2	2	Pitch is not booked to capacity although the site is in poor condition and has no changing.
Irby CC	2sc	N/A	N/A	1.5	Both pitches used to capacity. Users rate the pitches as good quality.
Irby Recreation Ground	1jf	3	2	1	All the pitches are used to capacity at peak times. Further improvements needed to drainage. Irby JFC uses the site but feel it has outgrown the facilities.
	1jf	3	2	1	
	1jf	3	2	1	
Puddy Dale Playing Field	1sf	4	2	2	The pitch is used to capacity. No changing but Council records suggest good drainage.
Ridgewood Park	1sf	3	2	2.5	Pitch 1 is in better condition than the other pitches.
	1sf	2	1	2	

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site	No. of Pitches	Overall pitch quality grading	Capacity (matches per week)	Actual use	Summary of Key Issues
	1jf	2	1	0.5	Other pitches have poor drainage.
Whitfield Common Playing Field	1sf	4	2	1	This pitch is not used to capacity and is available at peak times. Changing is poor, pitch quality is good but topsoil is needed.

The capacity of pitches to accommodate a certain number of matches per week throughout a playing season is based on the combined grade for drainage and levels provided by Wirral Borough Council, confirmed by evidence from pitch managers and users. Pitches with grades 1 and 2 are assumed to have a capacity to accommodate only one match per week, grades 3 and 4, two matches per week and grade 5, three matches per week.

19. Hoylake



METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure showing available and unavailable pitches within Hoylake:

Site Ref.	Site name	Number of pitches	Community use
170	Acres Road Playing Field	2 junior football	Yes
263	Elm Grove	1 senior football	Yes
168	Sandringham Avenue Playing Field	1 senior football 1 junior football	Yes
Total number of football pitches available for community use but excluding education sites		2 senior football 3 junior football	
Site Ref.	Site name	Number of pitches	Community use
166/167	Hoylake RUFC	3 senior rugby	Yes
Total number of rugby pitches available for community use but excluding education sites		3 senior rugby	

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site by site analysis

Figure: WMBC owned pitch and changing facility grading

Site	No. of pitches	Pitch drainage grading	Pitch levels grading	Overall pitch quality grading	Changing facility grading
Acres Road Playing Field	2 junior	1	4	2	1
Sandringham Avenue Playing Field	1 senior 1 junior	1	4	2	N/A

WMBC have provided a pitch survey carried out on all LA managed sites. In terms of pitch grading 5 is classed as 'best' and grading 1 as 'worst'. A combined figure has been calculated from the drainage grade and the pitch level grade to produce an overall grade.

Acres Road Playing Field (ref: 170)

This WMBC owned and managed site, located in Meols, contains two junior football pitches. Both have poor drainage and poor pitch levels. It is prone to flooding.

Wirral Panthers JFC report that poor drainage has resulted in a lack of maintenance being carried out including grass cutting. It reports a decrease in the pitch quality over the last few years.

There are four changing rooms, all of which are in need of refurbishment. The changing facility is currently not in use. AC Brookley is renovating the changing facility, as it is currently the only user.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

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Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (junior football)	Wirral Panthers JFC U13	Sun pm	Wallasey Junior
	Wirral Panthers JFC U15	Sun pm	Wallasey Junior
	AC Brookley	Sat. pm	Birkenhead & Wirral
2 (junior football)	West Kirby Wasps (Pre League)	Sat. am	Cheshire League
	West Kirby Wasps (Pre League)	Sat. am	Cheshire League
	West Kirby Wasps (Pre League)	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
	Wirral Panthers JFC U11	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
	Wirral Panthers JFC U12		

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Elm Grove (ref: 263)

This WMBC owned site is leased to Ship Inn FC and is the former home ground to Hoylake AFC. It contains one senior football pitch. No questionnaire was returned from the Club. The site has not been used competitively since the changing rooms burnt down and the Club is currently seeking funding to replace them.

Hoylake RUFC (ref: 166/167)

This privately owned site situated on Melrose Avenue contains three senior rugby pitches; according to the Club secretary these are sufficient for expected growth. One is leased from McDermott's Ltd. and the Club owns the others. The site is located in the green belt.

The users rate the pitches as in excellent condition; there are no specific issues with drainage.

The Club has had a large youth section in the past. It currently runs junior teams from U7 through to U15 and is hoping that this is again on the increase. It expects that it will fill the age groups up to U17 in the near future. These teams often play across the senior pitches.

The clubhouse is dated and in need of refurbishment. It contains five changing rooms, two shower areas, two lounges, disabled toilets and shower. Ideally the Club would like to build a new clubhouse but feel unable to take on the challenge. It will continue with the refurbishment set out. Car parking is adequate with 50 spaces to service the pitches.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior rugby)	Hoylake RUFC 1 st team	Sat. pm	Lancs. & Cheshire
	Hoylake RUFC 2 nd team	Sat. pm	Friendlies
	Hoylake RUFC U14	Sun. pm	Friendlies

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	Hoylake RUFC U15	Sun. pm	Friendlies
2 (senior rugby)	Hoylake RUFC 3 rd team	Sat. pm	Friendlies
	Hoylake RUFC colts	Sat. pm	Lancs. & Cheshire
	Hoylake RUFC U12	Sun. pm	Friendlies
	Hoylake RUFC U13	Sun. pm	Friendlies
3 (senior rugby)	Hoylake RUFC U7	Sun. pm	Friendlies
	Hoylake RUFC U8	Sun. pm	Friendlies
	Hoylake RUFC U9	Sun. pm	Friendlies
	Hoylake RUFC U10	Sun. pm	Friendlies
	Hoylake RUFC U11	Sun. pm	Friendlies

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Sandringham Avenue Playing Field (ref: 168)

This WMBC owned and managed site contains one senior and one junior football pitch. According to Council staff the pitches have poor drainage and the site is generally wet in patches, although the playing surface is good and flat. The senior pitch is not used due to the poor drainage. It is prone to flooding. There is no changing accommodation on site.

Holy Trinity Primary School has use of the site during school hours.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior football)	N/A	N/A	N/A
2 (junior football)	West Kirby Wasps	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior

Summary of playing pitch provision in the Hoylake catchment area:

Site	No. of Pitches	Overall pitch quality grading	Capacity (matches per week)	Actual use	Summary
Acres Road Playing Field	1jf	2	1	1.5	All pitches have poor drainage and poor pitch levels.
	1jf	2	1	1	
Elm Grove	1sf	N/A	N/A	0.5	Leased to Ship Inn FC. No changing facility available at this site. Liable to flooding
Hoylake RUFC	3sr	N/A	N/A	2	No information gathered about this site.
Sandringham	1sf	2	1	0	Both pitches have poor

**METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
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Site	No. of Pitches	Overall pitch quality grading	Capacity (matches per week)	Actual use	Summary
Avenue Playing Field	1jf	2	1	0.5	drainage and this is reflected in the lack of bookings. Peak time availability.

The capacity of pitches to accommodate a certain number of matches per week throughout a playing season is based on the combined grade for drainage and levels provided by Wirral Borough Council, confirmed by evidence from pitch managers and users. Pitches with grades 1 and 2 are assumed to have a capacity to accommodate only one match per week, grades 3 and 4, two matches per week and grade 5, three matches per week.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

20. Leasowe

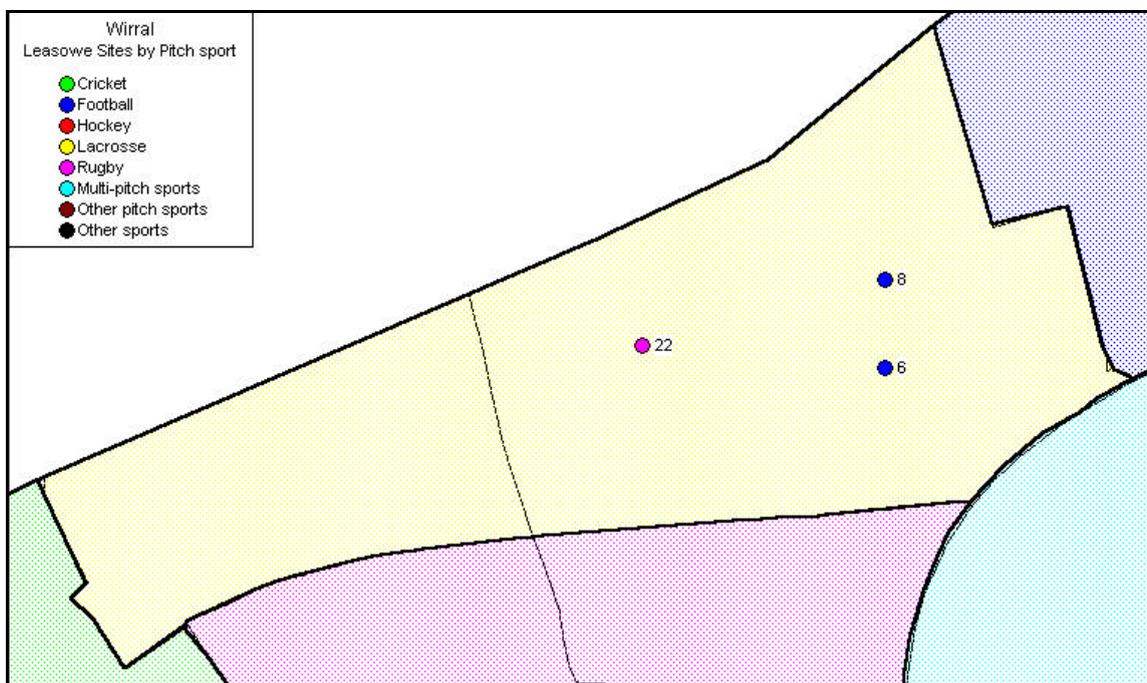


Figure showing available and unavailable pitches within Leasowe:

Site Ref.	Site name	Number of pitches	Community use
6	Leasowe Recreation Centre	5 mini soccer	Yes
8	Leasowe Road Recreation Ground	1 senior football 2 junior football	Yes
Total number of football pitches available for community use but excluding education sites		1 senior football 2 junior football 5 mini soccer	
Site Ref.	Site name	Number of pitches	Community use
22	New Brighton RUFC	2 senior rugby	Yes
Total number of rugby pitches available for community use but excluding education sites		2 senior rugby	

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site by site analysis

Figure: WMBC owned pitch and changing facility grading

Site	No. of pitches	Pitch drainage grading	Pitch levels grading	Overall pitch quality grading	Changing facility grading
Leasowe Road Recreation Ground	1 sf, 2 jf	3	3	3	N/A

WMBC have provided a pitch survey carried out on all LA managed sites. In terms of pitch grading 5 is classed as 'best' and grading 1 as 'worst'. A combined figure has been calculated from the drainage grade and the pitch level grade to produce an overall grade.

Leasowe Leisure Centre (Ref: 6)

This WMBC owned and managed site contains five mini soccer pitches grassed areas at the front of the Leisure Centre. The pitches were developed last season. There is space for further expansion onto another grassed area.

Wallasey Junior League is the main user of the pitches and according to a league representative there is some concern over possible re-development of the site and the loss of the pitches. It believes that mini soccer is on the increase, especially in Leasowe where there is presently perceived to be a lack of playing pitches/sports facilities with changing accommodation. It plans to develop more pitches at the site in the future.

Leasowe Recreation Centre is highlighted as the most significant venue for the League due to its location in its main catchment area of Wallasey. The site has been highlighted as being at significant risk from development. According to Council sources, compensatory provision would be

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

transferred to nearby Wallasey School. This replacement facility would according to the league representation be of a lower standard.

Sport England funding of £50,000 for the development of four new mini pitches was secured last autumn. The actual development produced five new mini pitches. These are due to be played on September 2002. The pitches replace one senior football pitch, let through the Recreation Centre for one off matches.

Leasowe Road Recreation Ground (ref: 8)

This WMBC owned and managed site contains one senior and two junior football pitches. It is situated in the Green Belt.

The senior pitch is of average pitch quality and the junior pitches have poor drainage. According to FC Phoenix, the pitch quality is unacceptable and nearly one third of matches were cancelled last season due to poor drainage The Club reports that with better quality pitches to offer it could produce two more junior teams.

There is no changing facility on the site, which is limiting use and the further development of pitches. There is scope for more pitch use, subject to re-leveling and drainage work being carried out.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior football)	Greenleas Celtic U15	Sun pm	Wallasey Junior
	Greenleas JFC U16	Sun pm	Wallasey Junior
	FC Phoenix U15	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
2 (junior football)	Greenleas JFC U13	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
	Greenleas JFC U15	Sun pm	Wallasey Junior
3 (junior football)	Squibb JFC U11	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
	Squibb JFC U12	Sun pm	Eastham Junior

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	Squibb JFC U13	Sun pm	Eastham Junior
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New Brighton RUFC (Ref: 22)

This privately owned site, also known as Hartsfield, situated on Reeds Lane, contains two senior rugby pitches one of which is floodlit. The site is currently home to New Brighton RUFC, the Wirral Rugby Academy and the New Brighton Bluebirds LRUFC.

KKP has not been able to contact a representative from the Club.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (rugby)	New Brighton RUFC 1 st team	Sat. pm	National 3 North
	New Brighton RUFC 2 nd team	Sat. pm	Friendlies
	Wirral Academy	Various	Friendlies
2 (rugby)	New Brighton RUFC 3 rd team	Sat. pm	Friendlies
	New Brighton RUFC colts	Sat. pm	Lancs. & Cheshire
	New Brighton Bluebirds	Sun. pm	NW Ladies

Premier Brands (ref: 194)

Premier Brands previously operated two pitch sites in Wirral. One is located on Pasture Road and the other on Reeds Lane, both in Moreton. Each site contained one senior football pitch. Both sites have been identified for redevelopment and it is planned to provide compensatory provision at Ditton Lane, at a site allocated for this purpose in the Wirral Unitary Development Plan.

This private site will provide two senior football pitches as compensatory provision for the loss of two industrial sites at Pasture Road (one senior

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pitch) and Reeds Lane (one senior pitch). Outline planning consent has already been granted for the new sports facility but work on site has not yet begun.

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Summary of playing pitch provision in the Leasowe catchment area:

Site	No. of Pitches	Overall pitch quality grading	Capacity (matches per week)	Actual use	Summary
Leasowe Leisure Centre	5mf	N/A	N/A	N/A	Concern over the redevelopment of this site. Good quality site, used by Wallasey mini league.
Leasowe Road Rec.	1sf	3	2	1.5	This site is not used to capacity. Space is available at peak times. The senior pitch is average quality and the junior pitches have poor drainage. Scope for development of more pitches. No changing.
	1jf	3	2	1	
	1jf	3	2	1.5	
New Brighton RUFC	2sr	N/A	N/A	1.5	No information gathered on site quality.

The capacity of pitches to accommodate a certain number of matches per week throughout a playing season is based on the combined grade for drainage and levels provided by Wirral Borough Council, confirmed by evidence from pitch managers and users. Pitches with grades 1 and 2 are assumed to have a capacity to accommodate only one match per week, grades 3 and 4, two matches per week and grade 5, three matches per week.

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21. Mid Wirral

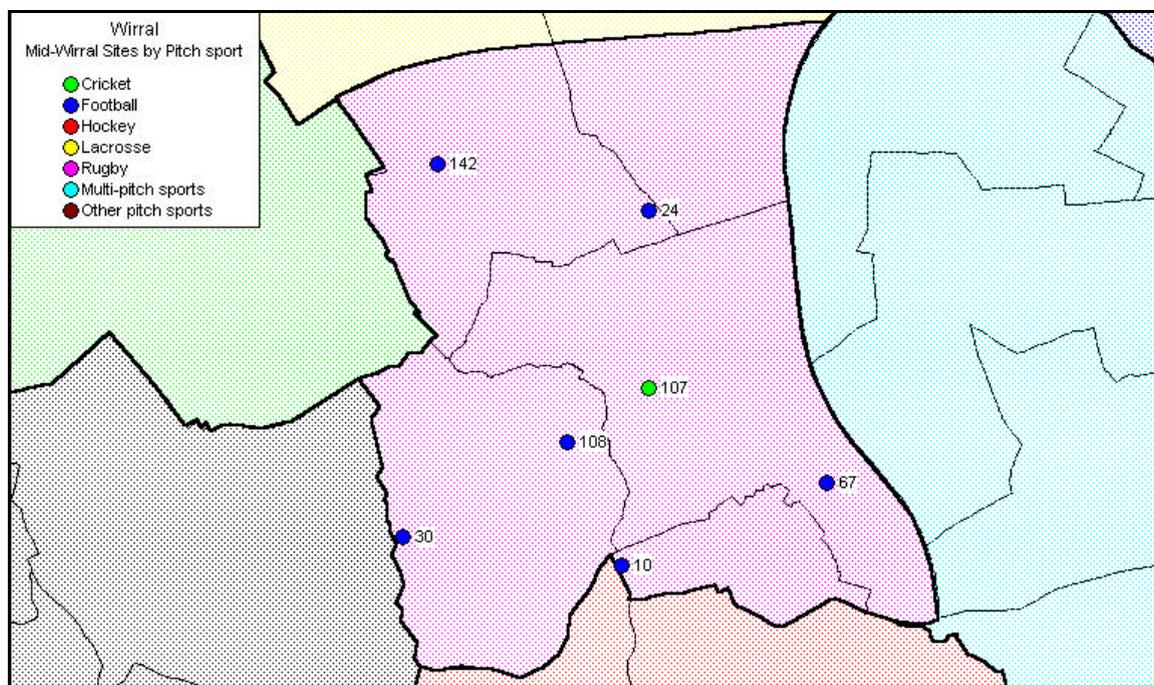


Figure showing available and unavailable pitches within Mid Wirral:

Site Ref.	Site name	Number of pitches	Community use
10	Arrowe Park	12 senior football 4 junior football	Yes
108	Coronation Park	3 senior football	Yes
142	Lingham Park	4 senior football	Yes
24	Upton Park	2 senior football	Yes
67	Woodchurch Leisure Centre Playing Fields	3 senior football	Yes
30	Millcroft Sports Ground (Newton AFC)	1 senior football	Yes
Total number of football pitches available for community use but excluding education sites		25 senior football 4 junior football	
Site Ref.	Site name	Number of pitches	Community use
107	Upton CC	2 cricket	Yes
Total number of cricket pitches available for community use but excluding education sites		2 cricket	

**METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site by site analysis (numbers in brackets refer to site ref. no. on the above map)

Figure: WMBC owned pitch and changing facility grading

Site	No. of pitches	Pitch drainage grading	Pitch levels grading	Overall pitch quality grading	Changing facility grading
Arrowe Park	12 sf 4 jf	2	3	2	3
Coronation Park	3 sf	1	4	2	4
Lingham Park	4 sf	1	4	2	3
Woodchurch Leisure Centre Playing Fields	3 sf	1	4	2	5

WMBC have provided a pitch survey carried out on all LA managed sites. In terms of pitch grading 5 is classed as 'best' and grading 1 as 'worst'. A combined figure has been calculated from the drainage grade and the pitch level grade to produce an overall grade.

Arrowe Park (ref: 10)

This WMBC owned and managed site contains 12 senior football pitches and four junior pitches. The site is located in the Green Belt. It is the largest pitch site on the Wirral but is underused due to poor drainage and general poor pitch quality. These are not of a high standard and need constant work to keep them playable.

Pitch quality varies and the better pitches are being currently being used by a number of teams (2001/2002 season).

According to Newton FC, the quality of the surface here is poor with a significant slope across the site. Drainage is poor on the bottom pitches. It

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

was also indicated that Arrowe Park although popular for junior use on Sundays hardly gets used on Saturdays. Changing accommodation is of average condition and services all of the pitches on the site.

Phoenix Youth report that half of its matches were cancelled last season due to poor drainage. Waterlogging is a regular occurrence during winter. A number of users rate the whole site as unacceptable quality. Pitch maintenance was also highlighted as lacking.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior football)	The Arthur FC	Sun. am	Wallasey Sunday
	Deeside Youth	Sun. am	Wallasey Sunday
2 (senior football)	Greenleas Youth	Sun. am	Wallasey Sunday
	Glenavon Hawks FC	Sun. am	Wallasey Sunday
3 (senior football)	Parkgate Youth	Sun. am	Wallasey Sunday
	Phoenix Youth	Sun. am	Wallasey Sunday
	Irby JFC U16	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
4 (senior football)	Victoria Lodge FC	Sun. am	Wirral Sunday
	Poultton Athletic	Sun. am	Wallasey Sunday
5 (senior football)	Wirral Heath	Sun. am	Wirral Sunday
	Premier Social	Sun. am	Wirral Sunday
6 (senior football)	The Big House FC	Sun. am	Wirral Sunday
	Punch Bowl FC	Sun. am	Wirral Sunday
	Liscard Panthers U15	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
7 (senior football)	Farmers Arms FC	Sun. am	Wirral Sunday
	Wellington Hotel FC	Sun. am	Wirral Sunday
8 (junior football)	Wirral Scorpions U11	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
	Wirral Scorpions U12	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
9 (senior football)	N/A	N/A	N/A
10 (junior)	Bidston Village U16	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior

**METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

football)			
11 (junior football)	Wirral Scorpions U13 Wirral Scorpions U15	Sun pm Sun pm	Wallasey Junior Wallasey Junior
12 (senior football)	N/A	N/A	N/A
13 (senior football)	N/A	N/A	N/A
14 (junior football)	Upton Manor U16	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
15 (senior football)	Blu Youth Townfield Newton AFC U11	Sun. am Sun. am Sun. pm	Wallasey Sunday Wallasey Sunday Eastham Junior
16 (senior football)	Newton AFC U12 Newton AFC U13 Birkenhead Youth	Sun pm Sun. pm Sun. am	Eastham Junior Eastham Junior Birkenhead Sunday

Coronation Park (ref: 108)

This WMBC owned and managed site, on Greasby Road, has three senior football pitches. Council staff considers all to be poor quality due to drainage and pitch levels.

Civic Way FC reports that overall pitch quality is acceptable, although there are several potholes, which are of concern. The Club feels that there is a general lack of maintenance of the pitches including unacceptable length of grass and poor line markings. Old Market FC reports that its pitch is of unacceptable quality due to drainage and grass coverage.

There are six, good condition, changing rooms. Car parking is adequate. Users report that changing is of acceptable quality.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior football)	Twelfth Man FC	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
	Saughall FC	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
2 (senior football)	Civic Way FC	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
	CAT FC	Sun. am	Wirral Sunday
	Ashville Youth U11	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
	Ashville Youth U12	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
3 (senior football)	Old Market FC	Sun. am	Wallasey Sunday

Lingham Park (ref: 142)

This WMBC owned and managed site, situated in Moreton, contains four senior football pitches. According to Council staff the whole site suffers from poor drainage resulting in very wet pitches.

A number of users report that pitch quality is below average for the Wirral and that the facilities are dated. Shepherds Rest FC report that pitch quality is deteriorating with each season when the required improvement/maintenance is not implemented.

Millhouse AFC have played at Lingham Park since 1996, but due to the deterioration of pitch quality the Club took it upon themselves to find an improved site where less fixtures would be cancelled. It now plays at Newton AFC, Greasby.

The Park has eight changing rooms with showers to service all pitches adequately. The facility is considered to be in need of general refurbishment.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
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**METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
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1 (senior football)	Seaview FC The Pilot Boat FC Hearts FC U14 Hearts FC U15	Sun. am Sun. am Sun. pm Sun. pm	Wallasey Sunday Wallasey Sunday Wallasey Junior Wallasey Junior
2 (senior football)	FC Clipper Bird in Hand FC Overchurch FC U16 Grange FC	Sat. pm Sun. am Sun. pm Sun. am	Birkenhead & Wirral Wallasey Sunday Wallasey Junior Wallasey Sunday
3 (senior football)	Plough FC St. Domingo FC Hearts FC U11 Hearts FC U13	Sun. am Sun. am Sun. pm Sun. pm	Wallasey Sunday Wallasey Sunday Wallasey Junior Wallasey Junior

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

4 (senior football)	Lingham FC	Sat. pm	Birkenhead & Wirral
	Nelson FC	Sun. am	Wallasey Sunday
	St Mary's FC	Sun am	Wallasey Sunday
	Squibb Junior U14	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
	Saughall Athletic U14	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior

Millcroft Sports Ground (ref: 30)

This WMBC owned site contains one senior football pitch. It is of a high standard and is the home ground of Newton AFC which leases the site on a 28 year lease. Although there is currently 13 years left to run on this it is considering re-negotiating. This has been the Club's home ground location since 1953.

It fields two senior teams playing in the West Cheshire League. The U16 team plays in the Birkenhead and Wirral League. It also provides a number of junior teams from U8 through to U15's.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior football)	Newton AFC 1 st team	Sat. pm	West Cheshire
	Newton AFC 2 nd team	Sat. pm	West Cheshire
	Dock FC	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
	Newton AFC U16	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior

The U14 and U15's occasionally use the senior pitch if Arrowe Park has waterlogging problems. The U8 and U9's play in the Ellesmere Port Junior League and the others play in the Eastham Junior League. It cannot accommodate all the junior teams at Millcroft at peak match time and some play at Arrowe Park.

Millhouse AFC also use Millcroft Sports Ground as its home ground. It produces one senior team playing in the Wallasey Sunday League. It moved

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from its previous home ground at Lingham Park last season (2001/02) due to poor pitch drainage. The Club believes there is demand to develop a junior section although the teams could not currently be accommodated at this site.

Newton FC has, in recent years, been successful in gaining a number of grants for ground improvements including drainage work, fencing around the site to prevent trespassing from local residential estates and a new grandstand. Further improvements to this site have now begun in conjunction with Millhouse AFC.

The Club has seen a significant increase in the number of juniors joining it over last ten years for training sessions resulting in an increase in the number of playing members over the last three or four years.

Upton CC (ref: 107)

This private cricket club site contains two cricket pitches. It is the home ground of Upton CC, which leases the site from Leverhulme Estates. With less than 20 years to run on its lease, the Club is seeking to relocate from this site.

The two cricket squares each contains seven wickets and according to a club representative the squares are of acceptable quality and grass coverage is good. Practice nets are also available on site, although the Club uses Birkenhead Park during the winter.

Changing accommodation is located in the clubhouse, there are four players' changing rooms and one umpires room all with showers. The Club rates the facility as of acceptable quality with some refurbishment needed. Car parking is available for around 40 cars.

This well-established club and provides a large number of teams including, five senior teams, one U21 team and seven junior teams playing in the Wirral Junior League. There is no plan to develop any more pitches or teams.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
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Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (cricket)	Upton CC 1 st team	Sat. pm	Cheshire County League
	Upton CC 2 nd team	Sat. pm	Cheshire County League
	Upton CC U21	Various	Cheshire County League
	Upton CC U13	Sun. pm	Knockout Competition
	Upton CC U15	Sun. pm	Knockout Competition
	Upton CC U17	Sun. pm	Wirral Junior League Wirral Junior League Wirral Junior League
2 (cricket)	Upton CC 3 rd team	Sat. pm	Cheshire County League
	Upton CC 4 th team	Sat. pm	Cheshire County League
	Upton CC Sunday	Sun. pm	Cheshire County League
	Upton CC U9	Sun. pm	Cheshire County League
	Upton CC U11	Sun. pm	Cheshire County League
	Upton CC U15 2 nd team	Various	Wirral Junior League
	Upton CC U17 2 nd team	Various	Wirral Junior League Cheshire County League Cheshire County League

Upton Park (ref: 24)

This WMBC owned and managed site contains two senior football pitches and will be available to be played on from September 2002. It is already booked to its capacity. The new changing facility contains four rooms with showers. It is according to Council officers, a high quality site.

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Woodchurch Leisure Centre Playing Fields (ref: 67)

This WMBC owned and managed site contains three senior football pitches. There is a total of four pitches altogether but one is on the adjoining RC High School site and is designated education use. The School scheduled to close in July 2002 and it is unclear as to what will happen to this pitch.

According to Council staff, all pitches are poorly drained and remain wet for most of the season. Each pitch could accommodate more usage if drainage was improved. Fender Youth FC report that pitch quality is poor with half of its matches being cancelled last season.

Changing accommodation is located in the Leisure Centre - in the general changing rooms for the Centre. Most teams do not use the facility due to its location and its small size although it is in good condition. Fender Youth FC reports that there is a lack of access to a changing facility.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior football)	Clipper	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
	Mersey Clipper FC	Sat. pm	Birkenhead & Wirral
	Fender Youth U12	Sun. pm	Eastham Juniors
	Pelican FC	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
2 (senior football)	Fender Youth U13	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
	Upton Villa FC	Sat. pm	Birkenhead & Wirral
	Woodchurch FC	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
	Beechwood FC	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
3 (senior football)	Seven Stiles Youth	Sun. am	Friendlies
	Wirral Eagles U11	Sun. pm	Ellesmere Junior

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Summary of playing pitch provision in the Mid Wirral catchment area:

Site	No. of Pitches	Overall pitch quality grading	Capacity (matches per week)	Actual use	Summary
Arrowe Park	1sf	2	1	1	Poor drainage is reported from users and Council officers. Changing is in need of refurbishment.
	1sf	2	1	1	
	1sf	2	1	1.5	
	1sf	2	1	1	
	1sf	2	1	1	
	1sf	2	1	1.5	
	1sf	2	1	1	
	1sf	2	1	0	
	1sf	2	1	0	
	1sf	2	1	0	
	1sf	2	1	1.5	
	1sf	2	1	1.5	
	1jf	2	1	1	
	1jf	2	1	0.5	

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site	No. of Pitches	Overall pitch quality grading	Capacity (matches per week)	Actual use	Summary
	1jf	2	1	1	
	1jf	2	1	0.5	
Coronation Park	1sf	2	1	1	All pitches are generally poor quality.
	1sf	2	1	2	
	1sf	2	1	0.5	
Lingham Park	1sf	2	1	2	All pitches are over-booked. Users and council officers report that the whole site has poor drainage.
	1sf	2	1	2	
	1sf	2	1	2	
	1sf	2	1	2.5	
Millcroft Sports Ground	1sf	N/A	N/A	2	Site leased to Newton AFC. Users report that the site is in good condition.
Upton CC	2sc	N/A	N/A	3	Squares are of acceptable quality with good grass coverage.
Upton Park	2sf	N/A	N/A	N/A	New site available from September 2002, already booked to capacity.
Woodchurch Leisure Centre Playing Fields	1sf	2	1	2	Poorly drained site remaining wet for most of the season. Changing located in the Leisure Centre.
	1sf	2	1	2	

**METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

Site	No. of Pitches	Overall pitch quality grading	Capacity (matches per week)	Actual use	Summary
	1sf	2	1	1	

The capacity of pitches to accommodate a certain number of matches per week throughout a playing season is based on the combined grade for drainage and levels provided by Wirral Borough Council, confirmed by evidence from pitch managers and users. Pitches with grades 1 and 2 are assumed to have a capacity to accommodate only one match per week, grades 3 and 4, two matches per week and grade 5, three matches per week.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

22. Rural Area

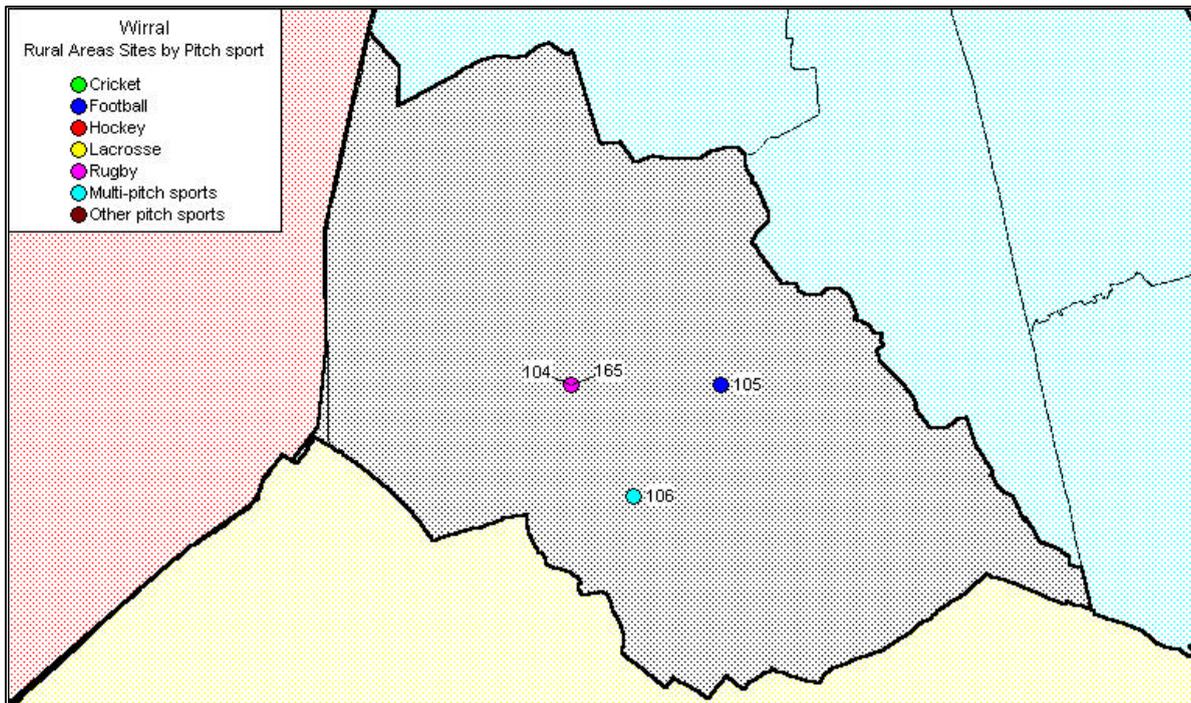


Figure showing available and unavailable pitches within the Rural Area catchment:

Site Ref.	Site name	Number of pitches	Community use
106	Thornton Hough Recreation Ground	1 senior football	Yes
105	Tranmere Rovers Raby Vale	1 senior football	No
165	Wirral Club	2 senior football 3 junior football	Yes
Total number of football pitches available for community use but excluding education sites		3 senior football 3 junior football	
Site Ref.	Site name	Number of pitches	Community use
106	Thornton Hough Recreation Ground	1 cricket	Yes
Total number of cricket pitches available for community use but excluding education sites		1 cricket	

**METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

Site Ref.	Site name	Number of pitches	Community use
165	Wirral Club	3 senior rugby 2 mini rugby	Yes
Total number of rugby pitches available for community use but excluding education sites		3 senior rugby 2 mini rugby	

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site by site analysis

Figure: WMBC owned pitch and changing facility grading

Site	No. of pitches	Pitch drainage grading	Pitch levels grading	Overall pitch quality grading	Changing facility grading
Thornton Hough Recreation Ground	1 sf	2	3	2	4

WMBC have provided a pitch survey carried out on all LA managed sites. In terms of pitch grading 5 is classed as 'best' and grading 1 as 'worst'. A combined figure has been calculated from the drainage grade and the pitch level grade to produce an overall grade.

Thornton Hough Recreation Ground (ref: 106)

This WMBC owned and managed site contains one cricket pitch and one senior football pitch. It is located in the Green Belt. The senior football pitch is let as normal but the cricket pitch, which currently only has an ATW, is available for occasional bookings only. Therefore no single club regularly uses the cricket pitch as its home ground.

According to Council staff, the senior pitch is poorly drained and offers only an adequate playing surface. With improved drainage this site has the potential to cater for increased usage. Changing accommodation is of good condition.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior football)	Thornton Hough FC	Sun. am	Friendlies
	Heswall FC U16	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
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	Malt Shovel	Sat. pm	Birkenhead & Wirral
	Young Lions Youth	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday

Tranmere Rovers Raby Vale (ref: 105)

This privately owned site contains one senior football pitch and one training area. It is located in the Green Belt. The site is leased by Tranmere Rovers FC to fulfill its junior fixtures and training sessions. Tranmere Rovers 1st team and reserves both train at this site. It is the former site of Wellington School Playing Fields.

Wirral Club (ref: 165)

This privately owned multi-sports club site includes a number of football and rugby pitches. The site is split into two areas: the Foxes and the Crossroads.

The Crossroads site is located on six acres of land leased by Wirral Club from Lancelyn Green Estates. It contains one senior and two mini rugby pitches. The rugby pitches are of poor quality due to drainage issues and the Club has been unable to use the site. The cricket pitch is currently disused because Wirral CC moved to another site following a disagreement over rental fees. This site also contains the clubhouse and changing accommodation. There are five changing rooms with communal showers, referees room, bar, lounge and kitchen. The facility is in good condition and is well maintained. However, there are not enough changing rooms to serve all the pitches on both of the sites.

The Foxes site is situated along Thornton Common Road and is located on 26 acres of land leased by Wirral Club from Leverhulme Estates. It now contains three senior rugby pitches used by Wirral RUFC, two senior and three junior football pitches and one training area, which are hired out for community use. Changing accommodation is located back at The Crossroads site.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Up until last season the Foxes contained another two football pitches. The number of football pitches was reduced due to a number of reasons including pitch maintenance and in particular local resident complaints concerning traffic congestion on Sundays. There is one small informal car park on the site so cars park along the main road.

Although the Club is approached on a regular basis about pitch hire it keeps community use to a minimum due to resident complaints. Young Lions FC hired pitches last season (2001/02) but has since relocated to another unknown site due to the disputes over traffic congestion.

A floodlighting application has been rejected on the training area located at The Foxes site because it is situated in the green belt.

The Club is seeking to gain funding to reinstate the rugby pitches at the Crossroads site in order to alleviate congestion at The Foxes site.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior football)	Bebington Athletic	Sat. pm	South Wirral
	Wirral Masters Vets	NK	Friendlies
2 (senior football)	Young Lions FC	Sun. pm	Birkenhead Sunday
3 (junior football)	Young Lions U11	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
	Young Lions U12	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
4 (junior football)	Young Lions U13	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
	Young Lions U14	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
5 (junior football)	Young Lions U16	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Wirral RUFC

The Club's home ground is at The Wirral Club as described above. Club representatives describe the two pitches used by the first and second teams as of adequate quality (pitches currently used on The Foxes). However, it is currently in the process of reviewing funding options for the renovation of the drainage structure on its main pitch (The Crossroads), which has not been used for the last three seasons.

Wirral RUFC produces four senior teams. The Club also has a strong junior section from U8 through to U16 and competitive rugby is provided by through the Cheshire Festival League. From U12 to U16 the majority of matches are friendly fixtures. It also has one colts and one vets team.

In terms of club development, it has strong links with local schools through the Active Sports Programme and the RFU development officers. The club has received an 'Awards for All' grant to continue maintaining the links created through the summer training camps. It hopes to start an U13 girls rugby team as a result of these links to play in the local schools competition.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior rugby)	Wirral RUFC 1 st team	Sat. pm	South Lancashire & Cheshire League
	Wirral RUFC 2 nd team	Sat. pm	South Lancashire & Cheshire League
	Wirral RUFC colts	Sun. pm	South Lancashire & Cheshire League
	Wirral RUFC U14	Sun. pm	South Lancashire & Cheshire League
	Wirral RUFC U15	Sun. pm	South Lancashire & Cheshire League
			Friendlies

**METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
2 (senior rugby)	Wirral RUFC 3 rd team	Sat. pm	Friendlies
	Wirral RUFC 4 th team	Sat. pm	Friendlies
	Wirral RUFC vets	Sat. am	Friendlies
	Wirral RUFC U12	Sun. pm	Friendlies
	Wirral RUFC U13	Sun. pm	Friendlies
3 (senior rugby)	Wirral RUFC U8	Sun. pm	Cheshire Festival League
	Wirral RUFC U9	Sun. pm	Cheshire Festival League
	Wirral RUFC U10	Sun. pm	Cheshire Festival League
	Wirral RUFC U11	Sun. pm	Cheshire Festival League
	Wirral RUFC U16	Sun. am	Friendlies

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Summary of playing pitch provision in the Rural catchment area:

Site	No. of Pitches	Pitch Drainage Grading	Capacity (matches per week)	Actual use	Summary
Thornton Hough Rec. Ground	1sf	2	1	1	Football pitch is used to capacity. There is no community use of the cricket pitch and the junior football pitch is education use only. Poorly drained pitches.
	1sc	N/A	N/A	0	
Raby Vale	1sf	N/A	N/A	N/A	Leased by Tranmere Rovers for junior matches and training.
Wirral Club	2sf	N/A	N/A	0.5	Level of football use is leading to complaints Number of pitches is due to be reduced, even though there is demand to use them.
	3jf	N/A	N/A	1	
	1sc	N/A	N/A	0	
	3sr	N/A	N/A	2.5	

The capacity of pitches to accommodate a certain number of matches per week throughout a playing season is based on the combined grade for drainage and levels provided by Wirral Borough Council, confirmed by evidence from pitch managers and users. Pitches with grades 1 and 2 are assumed to have a capacity to accommodate only one match per week, grades 3 and 4, two matches per week and grade 5, three matches per week.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

23. Wallasey

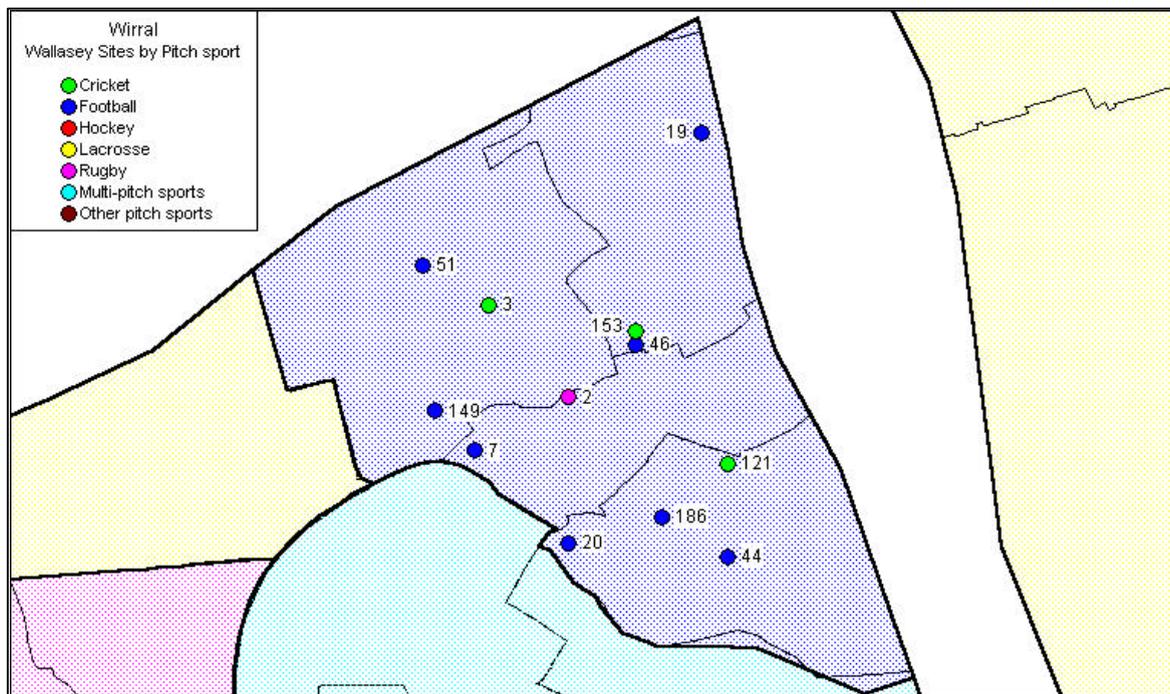


Figure showing available and unavailable pitches within Wallasey:

Site Ref.	Site name	Number of pitches	Community use
1	Belvidere Recreation Ground	1 senior football	Yes
121	Central Park	3 senior football	Yes
46	The Delph Recreation Ground	2 junior football 2 mini soccer	Yes
51	Harrison Park	2 senior football	Yes
186	Oxton Road	2 mini soccer	Yes
44	Rycroft Road Playing Field	2 senior football	Yes
149	School Lane Recreation Ground	3 senior football 2 mini soccer	Yes
19	Tower Grounds Playing Field	1 junior football	Yes
20	Poulton Victoria AFC	1 senior football	Yes
16	Ashville FC (Villa Park)	1 senior football	Yes
7	Wallacre Recreation Ground	3 senior football	Yes

**METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

Total number of football pitches available for community use but excluding education sites	16 senior football 3 junior football 6 mini soccer	
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**METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

Site Ref.	Site name	Number of pitches	Community use
3	Wallasey CC	1 cricket	Yes
153	New Brighton CC	1 cricket	Yes
121	Central Park	2 cricket	Yes
Total number of cricket pitches available for community use but excluding education sites		4 cricket	
Site Ref.	Site name	Number of pitches	Community use
4	Wallasey RUFC	2 senior rugby	Yes
2	Oldershaw RUFC	2 senior rugby	Yes
Total number of rugby pitches available for community use but excluding education sites		4 senior rugby	

Site by site analysis

Figure: WMBC owned football pitch and changing facility grading

Site	No. of pitches	Pitch drainage grading	Pitch levels grading	Overall pitch quality grading	Changing facility grading
Belvidere Recreation Ground	1 sf	3	3	3	3
Central Park	3 sf	1	4	2	3
The Delph Rec. Ground	2 jf, 2 mf	3	2	2	4
Harrison Park	2 sf	4	4	4	4
School Lane Rec. Ground	3 sf, 2 mf	5	5	5	N/A

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Rycroft Playing Fields	2 sf	3	3	3	2
Wallacre Rec. Ground	3 sf	1	3	2	4

WMBC have provided a pitch survey carried out on all LA managed sites. In terms of pitch grading 5 is classed as 'best' and grading 1 as 'worst'. A combined figure has been calculated from the drainage grade and the pitch level grade to produce an overall grade.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Belvidere Recreation Ground (ref: 1)

This WMBC owned and managed site contains one senior football pitch. It is located next to Oldershaw RUFC. According to Council staff, the pitch has poor drainage but the playing surface is of average quality. The goalmouths are very worn indicating overuse of the site. It is quite open to public access so unauthorised use of the site is thought to be common.

According to representative from Rockville FC the pitch is waterlogged and uneven. Approximately ten of its matches were cancelled last season (2001/2002) due to poor drainage. Greenleas JFC reports that the drainage system is none existent resulting in minimum use of the pitch in winter months.

There is a small brick pavilion located on site containing home and away changing rooms, referees room with separate showers and toilets for each. Its condition is poor and it is in need of general refurbishment.

Car parking is along Belvidere Road and is shared with the rugby club, it is not adequate to service both amenities and parking occurs on residential roads on the surrounding estates.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior football)	Rockville FC	Sat. pm	Zingari & Combination
	Rockville FC	Sat. pm	Zingari & Combination
	The Queens FC	Sun. am	Wallasey Sunday
	Windsor FC	Sun. am	Wallasey Sunday

Central Park (ref: 121)

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

This WMBC owned site is located on Liscard Road. It contains three senior football pitches and two cricket pitches (outfield shared). The football pitches are located close together.

The two cricket squares are leased to two private cricket clubs: Parkfield CC and Liscard CC. Although the formal park facilities are of adequate quality, the drainage and general pitch quality is actually poor, especially on the football pitches. Vandalism is a major problem but the site is relatively secure. The changing facility contains six team rooms and two referees' rooms. There are communal showers for the whole facility and toilets are available.

According to a representative from Wallasey Wanderers JFC, the overall pitch quality here is acceptable, although it feels that the lack of quality is due to uneven ground collecting puddles of water and then senior teams playing before junior matches. Stanley's Cask FC reports that its pitch is small sized and has no drainage. It rates the pitch and changing accommodation as unacceptable quality. Parkfield FC also suggests that the pitch is too small and rates the pitch levels as unacceptable.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior football)	Stanley's Cask FC	Sun. am	Wallasey Sunday
	Rose & Crown FC	Sun. am	Wallasey Sunday
	Olympic FC U13	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
	Parkfield Junior FC U15	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
	Parkfield BA	Sat. pm	Birkenhead & Wirral
	27 Club	Sat. pm	Birkenhead & Wirral
2 (senior football)	Wallasey Wanderers U14	Sun. pm	Wallasey junior
	Wallasey Wanderers U15	Sun. pm	Wallasey junior
	Parkfield BA Reserves	Sat. pm	Birkenhead & Wirral
	Albion Hotel	Sat. pm	Birkenhead & Wirral
3 (senior football)	Kings Arms Wallasey	Sun. am	Wallasey Sunday
	Parkfield FC	Sun. am	Wallasey Sunday
	Wallasey Wanderers U12	Sun. pm	Wallasey junior
	Wallasey Wanderers U13	Sun. pm	Wallasey junior
4 (cricket)	Liscard CC	Sat. pm	CCA
5 (cricket)	Parkfield CC 1 st team	Sat. pm	MCC
	Parkfield CC 2 nd team	Sun. pm	MCC
	Parkfield U13	Sun. am	Wirral Junior
	Parkfield U15	Sun. am	Wirral Junior

Liscard CC

This private club leases one cricket square in Central Park and shares the outfield with Parkfield CC. It pays a groundsman to maintain the square (which has ten wickets) and the Council maintains the outfield. According to a club representative, the square is of average quality and could be improved, but this is difficult in such a public area. It experiences problems with vandalism and football being played on the square and would like to see the Park supervised by WMBC on a permanent basis.

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PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Liscard CC provides one senior cricket team playing in the Cheshire Cricket Alliance. It has no further plans to increase membership or the number of teams. It relies solely on membership fees to run successfully.

Parkfield CC

This private club leases one cricket square in Central Park and shares the outfield with Liscard CC. It pays a groundsman to maintain the square. WMBC maintains the outfield. The Club considers the square to be of good quality, although the site is regularly vandalised.

The club owns an on-site clubhouse, which contains a bar. This is let to local community groups to generate income. There are two changing rooms and an umpire's room. Showers are located in a communal shower block with four showerheads. The clubhouse is of adequate quality for current usage.

Two senior teams play in the Merseyside Competition, one senior team playing in the Sunday Cup Competition and two junior teams (U13, U15) playing in the Wirral Junior League. Membership numbers have generally been consistent over the last five years, junior numbers have fluctuated and it is currently below the average number of teams. The Club trains at Birkenhead Park, but would like to develop practice nets on site to cut the cost of traveling for members.

The Delph Recreation Ground (ref: 46)

This WMBC owned and maintained site contains two junior and two mini football pitches. According to Council staff, the pitch surface is uneven but the drainage is adequate. Reinstatement work was recently carried out on the existing junior pitches.

Changing accommodation has home and away rooms with separate showers and toilets. The building is not old but it is of poor quality and in disrepair. Flagging is breaking up outside the block. This may become

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dangerous in the near future. Entry to the site is via a locked gate. The main road outside the site becomes congested and parking can be a problem on match days.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (junior football)	Olympic FC Colts U11	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
	Olympic FC U11	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
2 (junior football)	Wallasey Wanderers Colts U11	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
	Wallasey Wanderers U11	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
	Wallasey Wanderers United U11	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
3 (mini football)	Olympic FC Mini	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
	Olympic FC Mini	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
4 (mini football)	Parkfield Mini	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
	Parkfield Mini	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior

Harrison Park (ref: 51)

This WMBC owned and managed site contains two senior football pitches, one is fenced for teams in the West Cheshire League. The latter is solely used by New Brighton AFC. According to Council staff, this site is of good quality. Both pitches have adequate natural drainage although there is no drainage system in place and both have good pitch levels. New Brighton Saints JFC rates the overall pitch quality as acceptable but suggest a need for further maintenance to clear up litter and dog fouling each week. The changing facility on site is used mainly by New Brighton FC. Car parking is along the access road into the Park; this can get congested at peak times.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

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Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior football)	St Josephs	Sun. am	Wallasey Sunday
	Great Float Social	Sun. am	Wallasey Sunday
	New Brighton Saints U14	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
	New Brighton Saints U15	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
	New Brighton Saints U16	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
2 (senior football)	New Brighton AFC Res.	Sat. pm	West Cheshire
	New Brighton AFC	Sat. pm	West Cheshire
	New Brighton AFC U16	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
	Rockville FC	Sun. am	Wirral Sunday

New Brighton AFC

Although the Club lets the pitch at Harrison Park from WMBC, it also uses a basic WMBC owned clubhouse facility on site. According to a club representative the facility is of acceptable quality. It has a social room, kitchen, two home and two away rooms, two referee's rooms and toilets. Vandalism is a major problem; the building is covered in graffiti and external damage caused.

A groundsman is employed to maintain the pitch. The Club finds it difficult to take real 'ownership' of the site because it is shared with other clubs and because of its location in a public park. Some aspects of the pitch quality are described as unacceptable, including evenness and drainage. There are water mains under the pitch, which leak and cause flooding. It would prefer to have a home ground in Wallasey or New Brighton and is actively seeking to buy or lease land in this area from the Council. The Club owns portable floodlights for training purposes.

New Brighton AFC currently has two senior teams playing in the West Cheshire League and one youth team playing in the Birkenhead Sunday League. It considers itself to be restricted by the lack of pitch space and

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believes that there is sufficient demand to enable it to run at least four to six junior teams right through the age groups if it had more land.

New Brighton CC (ref: 153)

This privately owned cricket ground has one cricket pitch and is home to New Brighton CC. The square has 17 grassed strips and one artificial turf wicket. According to a club representative it is of good quality. However, the ATW is in need of refurbishment. The outfield is currently being re-laid. The Club is submitting a lottery bid to fund a four-lane practice facility. The clubhouse contains a lounge, bar and two changing rooms. The function suite, which is used by a local table tennis club, needs to be rebuilt.

This is a well-established club providing a large number of teams across the age groups. It has five senior teams playing Saturday and Sunday cricket and six junior teams, all playing in the Wirral Junior League. The large number of teams cannot all be accommodated at the home ground and some play at Birkenhead Wayfarers. It has around 60 playing members.

The ladies team has now folded and there are no plans to develop any more teams. Although it is not involved with the Active Sports programme it has strong links with local schools including Mosslands, which plays at the site during the week.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (cricket)	New Brighton CC 1 st team	Sat. pm	Liverpool Competition
	New Brighton CC 2 nd team	Sat. pm	Liverpool Competition
	New Brighton CC	Sun. pm	Liverpool Competition
	New Brighton CC U9	Sun. pm	Cheshire County League
	New Brighton CC U11	Sun. pm	Cheshire County League
	New Brighton CC U11 2 nd	Sun. pm	Cheshire County League

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PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

	team		Wirral Junior League Wirral Junior League Wirral Junior League
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Oldershaw RUFC (ref: 2)

This WMBC owned site is leased to Oldershaw RUFC. It is located on the site of Belvidere Recreation Ground and contains two senior rugby pitches. It has a narrow entrance road, which doubles as car parking space. This is not adequate to service all pitches. The Club operates three senior teams, one vets, one colts and six junior teams, at U11 through to U16, often playing across the senior pitches.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (rugby)	Oldershaw 1 st team	Sat. pm	Lancs. & Cheshire
	Oldershaw 2 nd team	Sat. pm	Friendlies
	Oldershaw U15	Sun. pm	Friendlies
	Oldershaw U16	Sun. pm	Friendlies
2 (rugby)	Oldershaw 3 rd team	Sat. pm	Friendlies
	Oldershaw colts	Sat. pm	Lancs. & Cheshire
	Oldershaw vets	Sat. am	Friendlies
	Oldershaw U12	Sun. pm	Friendlies
	Oldershaw U13	Sun. pm	Friendlies
	Oldershaw U14	Sun. pm	Friendlies

Oxton Road (ref: 186)

This WMBC owned and managed site, located in Liscard, has two mini soccer pitches. There is no changing facility on site. Liscard Panthers JFC has sole use of the facility.

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Poulton Victoria AFC (ref: 20)

This privately owned football ground contains one senior football pitch and is located on Rankin Street, Poulton. It is leased to Poulton Victoria AFC. It is situated just off the motorway link road, with access through a residential estate. The pitch is of a high standard to comply with West Cheshire and the pyramid structure regulations. The pitch is fenced with dugouts and floodlighting.

The Club's social base Poulton Victoria Sports and Social Club is located a short car journey from the pitch site. It was built on the back of a successful football team established in 1935. This contains bar, lounge and function suite. It is used throughout the week for community projects to raise money for the facility development.

The 99-year lease that the Club has secured has allowed it to apply for planning permission to build a new changing facility. Its current facility located at the far end of the pitch is old and run down, it contains two changing rooms with no ventilation, referees room, physiotherapy room, shower room with six heads and a bath. The building does not comply with health and safety. A Football Foundation application to help fund the development is in its early stages.

According to a club representative the pitch is of maximum size and good quality, it has been re-seeded for the start of the 2002/03 season, but it 'hasn't taken' in parts. There is limited car parking at the entrance to the site, which is through a residential road.

The Club runs two senior teams and one U18 team playing in the Birkenhead Sunday League at Valley Road, Bidston. The site is also used as representative pitch for school competitions.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
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METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
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1 (senior football)	Poulton Victoria	Sat. pm	West Cheshire
	Poulton Victoria	Sat. pm	West Cheshire
	Reserves	Sun. pm	National Premier
	Liverpool Ladies FC		League

Rycroft Road Playing Field (ref: 44)

This WMBC owned and managed site has two senior football pitches. According to Council officers, the general standard is poor, although the pitches have acceptable drainage. It will need to be refurbished in the near future. This site is due to receive Sport England funding for pitch improvements.

Poulton Royal FC reports that too many teams use the same pitch, which reduces the amount of ownership it feels towards the pitch and the facilities. It also highlights a lack of appropriate maintenance especially in winter months.

The changing facility contains home and away rooms with individual showers and toilets. There is also a referee's room and storage area. It is in general disrepair and the roof is corroding significantly. There is no car park at the site. At peak times on road parking is the only solution. This can cause traffic congestion.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior football)	Stanley's Vaults FC	Sun. am	Wallasey Sunday
	Poulton Royal FC	Sun. am	Wallasey Sunday
	Poulton Athletic FC U11	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
2 (senior football)	Poulton Athletic FC U13	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
	Poulton Athletic FC	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

	U16		
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School Lane Recreation Ground (ref: 149)

This WMBC owned and maintained site contains three senior and two mini football pitches. It is located next to Ashville FC and Wallasey RUFC. Drainage improvements were carried out five years ago and, since then, pitch drainage has improved slightly. The drainage systems for the pitches outfalls into the adjacent ditch, where the water level is influenced by the River Birkett into which the ditch feeds.

The site has no changing facility. According to a representative of the Wallasey Junior League, which uses the mini soccer pitches, the poor drainage and lack of changing accommodation has resulted in the League paying for pitch hire but not using the site and fulfilling its fixtures elsewhere.

According to Upton JFC, which uses the mini pitches at the site, a lack of changing rooms directly affects the number of teams that it produces because it can't offer this facility. It also reports that a third of last season's matches (2001/02) were cancelled due to waterlogging and rates the pitch quality as poor. Senior teams have a similar response about changing facilities although rate the pitches generally as acceptable quality.

There is no designated car park for the site. Complaints have been received from the rugby club, which does have a car park. Some wasteland between the two private clubs could possibly be developed, although a taxi company is now utilising part of it.

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Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior football)	Hebron Wallasey Youth	Sat. am	Merseyside Churches
2 (senior football)	Leasowe Athletic	Sun. am	Wallasey Sunday
	Leasowe Castle	Sun. am	Wallasey Sunday
	Ashville Youth U13	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
	Ashville Youth U14	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
3 (senior football)	Ashville Youth	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
	Ashville Youth Colts	Sun. am	Birkenhead Sunday
	Ashville Youth U15	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
	Ashville Youth U16	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior

Tower Grounds Playing Field (ref: 19)

New Brighton Community Association manages this WMBC owned site on Egerton Street. It has a junior football pitch and small pavilion with changing accommodation. The site is fenced.

The long-term future of the football pitch at Tower Grounds is currently uncertain and may be affected by wider proposals for the regeneration of the New Brighton area.

New Brighton Saints JFC is the sole user of the site. The Club is actively seeking more pitches to accommodate its current number of teams. It does not have plans to increase the number of teams. It produces teams from U7 through to U16 and currently uses three sites across Wirral. It rates the overall pitch quality as acceptable.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
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METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
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1 (junior football)	New Brighton Saints Rangers FC U11	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
	New Brighton Saints Rangers FC U12	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
	New Brighton Saints Rangers FC U13	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
	New Brighton Saints Rovers FC U11	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
	New Brighton Saints Rovers FC U12	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
	New Brighton Saints Rovers FC U12	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior

Villa Park (Ashville FC) (ref: 16)

This privately owned and managed site contains one senior football pitch. It is located next to Wallasey RUFC and School Lane Playing Fields. The pitch is of a good standard, it is floodlit with dug outs and a small spectator stand. The club moved to its current site, then leased from the Council, in 1951. It now has a freehold agreement. There is a clubhouse on site with a flat above it, it contains a bar and function room. Changing accommodation is provided in three portacabins in the car park because this allows the Club to develop more rooms as it develops more teams in a cost effective way. It is considered to be basic but adequate.

Ashville FC provides two senior teams playing in the West Cheshire League, U17 and U18 teams playing in the Birkenhead Sunday League and five junior teams (U12 – U16) playing in the Eastham Junior League and five teams (U7 – U11) playing friendly mini soccer. All the junior teams play on School Lane because it is most convenient to the Club. It has a current (2002) membership of around 370. It has experienced a significant increase in junior membership in the last three years and now provides football for young people in all age groups. There are no plans to increase the number of teams.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

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Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (Senior football)	Ashville FC 1 st team	Sat. pm	West Cheshire
	Ashville FC 2 nd team	Sat. pm	West Cheshire

Discussion has taken place about development of a (club owned) piece of land at the rear of the pitch into a training area and MUGA. This would reduce dependence upon the main pitch for training and the pressure on School Lane, which according to a club representative is poorly drained due to overuse. Supplementary funding would need to be applied for to support this project.

Wallacre Recreation Ground (ref: 7)

This WMBC owned and managed site, located next to Mosslands High School, has three senior football pitches. Two senior pitches were lost on this site to accommodate the reorganisation of the adjacent Mosslands High School and this is putting added pressure onto the remaining pitches, which are either overused or used to capacity. According to Council staff, pitch drainage is poor. Goalmouths are worn on all pitches due to overuse. The School uses the site during term time because its pitches flood through the winter.

Vineyard FC reports problems with drainage and uneven playing surface. Overall pitch quality is rated as unacceptable. A representative from Sandbank FC reports that eight out of their ten matches were cancelled last season (2001/02) due to waterlogging. Delta JFC suggest that pitches are 'cut up' by senior teams before junior teams play. It therefore rates the overall quality of the pitches as unacceptable.

There is a need to rest these pitches but due to a shortage of pitches in the immediate area demand is too high to allow this to happen. This site reportedly has the best changing accommodation in Wallasey. A brick building provides ten changing rooms, two referee's rooms and two communal shower blocks. It is well secured to protect against vandalism.

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Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior football)	Telegraph FC	Sun. am	Wallasey Sunday
	Boot Inn FC	Sun. am	Wallasey Sunday
	Parkfield JFC U12	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
	Vanser FC	Sat. pm	South Wirral
	Wirral Rangers FC U14	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
2 (senior football)	Sandbank FC	Sun. am	Wallasey Sunday
	Black Horse FC	Sun. am	Wallasey Sunday
	Delta Colts U13	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
	Delta Colts U14	Sun. pm	Wallasey Junior
3 (senior football)	Royal Oak FC	Sun. am	Wallasey Sunday
	Brackenwood FC	Sun. am	Wallasey Sunday
	FC Coburg	Sat. pm	Birkenhead & Wirral

Wallasey CC (ref: 3)

This private cricket club plays at The Oval, Wallasey. It contains one cricket pitch. It is leased from WMBC. The Club is keen to purchase the land although, at present, the Council is not keen to sell. It has, as a result, just signed another 99-year lease on the site. The site is completely surrounded by a residential estate and requires high fencing.

The Club runs four senior teams, one U21 team and five junior teams. All teams can't be accommodated at this home ground so some use The Green in Bromborough.

The Club has a membership of around 40 playing members, 150 social, 30-40 ladies and 100 juniors. Membership levels have stayed constant over the past few years.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

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Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (cricket)	Wallasey CC 1 st team	Sat. pm	Liverpool & District
	Wallasey CC 2 nd team	Sat. pm	Liverpool & District
	Wallasey CC U9	Sun. pm	Wirral Junior League
	Wallasey CC U11	Sun. pm	Wirral Junior League
	Wallasey CC U13	Sun. pm	Wirral Junior League

An extension to the clubhouse is eventually planned but the section 106 agreement, originally drawn up in 1998, has still not yet been signed.

The Club representative considers this to be one of the best pitches in the League and it pays a groundsman to maintain the whole site. Due to the number of teams it now runs a second pitch at The Green, Bromborough for its third team.

There is limited car parking on site. On match days the road becomes 'one way' because of all the parked cars. This often generates complaints from the neighbours.

Wallasey RUFC (ref: 4)

This privately owned rugby club site contains two senior rugby pitches. It is located next to Ashville FC. It became the home ground of Wallasey RUFC in 1944 and the Club purchased the freehold ten years ago. The site is located in 6.5 acres of land. Pitches are clay based and drain well, although conversely it is now quite a hard playing surface and, according to the Club representative, it needs to be aerated. Seven years ago it received funding to improve drainage.

The clubhouse contains a referees room, five double sided changing rooms and three single changing rooms, function room, two baths and six showers, bar and a lounge. It is in good condition, although the baths need replacing with showers.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

For the 2002 season the Club produced one senior and one colts team playing in the Lancashire & Cheshire League, two senior teams play friendly fixtures and the U8's to U14's play mini rugby, which is played across the two senior pitches on Sundays.

Playing membership has decreased over the last few years and two full squads have been lost over the last 18 months. It is actively trying to increase the numbers again. The Club is keen to run two more senior teams to play competitive rugby on the current pitch stock.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior rugby)	Wallasey RUFC 1 st	Sat. pm	Lancashire & Cheshire
	Wallasey RUFC Colts	Sat. pm Sun. pm	Lancashire & Cheshire Colts
	Wallasey RUFC U14	Sun. pm	Friendlies
	Wallasey RUFC U13	Sun. pm	Friendlies
2 (senior rugby)	Wallasey RUFC 2 nd	Sat. pm	Friendlies
	Wallasey RUFC 3 rd	Sat. pm	Friendlies
	Wallasey RUFC U12	Sun. pm Sun. pm	Friendlies Friendlies
	Wallasey RUFC U11	Sun. pm	Friendlies
	Wallasey RUFC U10	Sun. pm	Friendlies
	Wallasey RUFC U9	Sun. pm	Friendlies
	Wallasey RUFC U8	Sun. pm	Friendlies

Associate members of the Club include Knight Hawks American Football Club and Wirral Archers (which uses the site three to four days per week).

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

The large car park needs resurfacing and can become congested at peak times.

Summary of playing pitch provision in the Wallasey catchment area:

Site	No. of Pitches	Overall pitch quality grading	Capacity (matches per week)	Actual use	Summary
Ashville FC	1sf	N/A	N/A	1	Good quality pitch with fencing, floodlights and dugouts. Limited car parking on site. Potential development of spare land to a MUGA.
Belvidere Rec.	1sf	3	2	2	Fully booked at peak times. Goalmouths are well worn. Poor condition changing facility and car parking is limited.
Central Park	1sf	2	1	3	Overuse is further deteriorating pitch quality. Vandalism is a major problem, especially on the cricket pitches, which are leased by private clubs.
	1sf	2	1	2	
	1sf	2	1	2	
	2sc	N/A	N/A	2.5	
The Delph Rec. Ground	1jf	2	1	1	Fully booked at peak times. Changing is in a temporary building. Traffic congestion is a problem.
	1jf	2	1	1.5	
	2mf	N/A	N/A	N/A	

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Site	No. of Pitches	Overall pitch quality grading	Capacity (matches per week)	Actual use	Summary
Harrison Park	1sf	4	2	2.5	Booked to capacity at peak times Users report it to be a good quality site. The pitches have good drainage.
	1sf	4	2	2	
New Brighton CC	1sc	N/A	N/A	3	Users rate the square as good quality. Good facilities. Ladies team folded, no plans to develop further.
Oldershaw RUFC	2sr	N/A	N/A	2.5	No information gathered on pitch quality.
Oxton Road	2mf	N/A	N/A	N/A	No changing facility on site. No information gathered on pitch quality.
Poulton Victoria AFC	1sf	N/A	N/A	1.5	High standard pitch quality. Fencing, floodlights, dugouts. Poor quality changing facility, due to be rebuilt.
Rycroft Road Playing Field	1sf	3	2	1.5	Site is poor, although pitches are of acceptable quality. No car park on site.
	1sf	3	2	1	
School Lane Rec. Ground	1sf	5	3	0.5	According to Council officers the pitches are good quality and have been re-drained. Users report poor quality No changing facility.
	1sf	5	3	2	
	1sf	5	3	2	
	2mf	5	N/A	N/A	

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site	No. of Pitches	Overall pitch quality grading	Capacity (matches per week)	Actual use	Summary
Tower Grounds Playing Field	1jf	N/A	N/A	2.5	Small pavilion with changing on site. No information gathered on pitch quality.
Wallacre Rec. Ground	1sf	2	1	2.5	Overuse is further eroding pitch quality Mosslands School also uses pitches during the week. Popular site due to its location and shortage of other pitches in the area.
	1sf	2	1	2	
	1sf	2	1	1.5	
Wallasey CC	1sc	N/A	N/A	2.5	Good quality pitch. Surrounded by residential estate causing traffic congestion and parking issues.
Wallasey RUFC	2sr	N/A	N/A	2.5	Clay based pitches that drain well, although hard playing surface. Car park needs resurfacing and the area can be congested on match days.

The capacity of pitches to accommodate a certain number of matches per week throughout a playing season is based on the combined grade for drainage and levels provided by Wirral Borough Council, confirmed by evidence from pitch managers and users. Pitches with grades 1 and 2 are assumed to have a capacity to accommodate only one match per week, grades 3 and 4, two matches per week and grade 5, three matches per week.

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PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

24. West Kirby

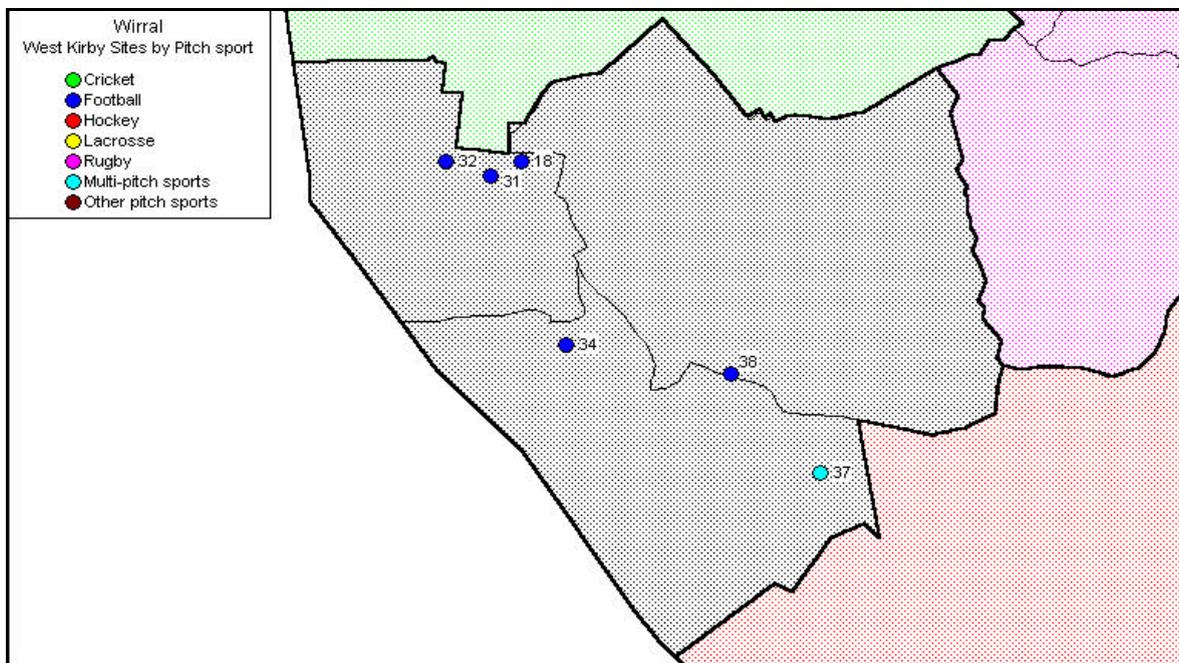


Figure showing available and unavailable pitches within West Kirby:

Site Ref.	Site name	Number of pitches	Community use
32	Anglesey Road Playing Field	1 senior football 1 junior football 1 mini football	Yes
34	Devonshire Road Playing Field	1 junior football	Yes
18	Greenbank Road Playing Fields	1 senior football	Yes
31	West Kirby AFC (Marine Park)	1 senior football	Yes
38	Newton Park	1 senior football 1 junior football	Yes
Total number of football pitches available for community use but excluding education sites		4 senior football 3 junior football 1 mini soccer	
Site Ref.	Site name	Number of pitches	Community use

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37	Paton Field (Caldy Club)	3 senior rugby	Yes
Total number of rugby pitches available for community use but excluding education sites		3 senior rugby	

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site Ref.	Site name	Number of pitches	Community use
37	Paton Field (Caldy Club)	2 cricket	Yes
Total number of cricket pitches available for community use but excluding education sites		2 cricket	

Site by site analysis

Figure: WMBC owned pitch and changing facility grading

Site	No. of pitches	Pitch drainage grading	Pitch levels grading	Overall pitch quality grading	Changing facility grading
Anglesey Road Playing Field	1 sf, 1 jf, 1 mf	4	4	4	4
Devonshire Road Playing Field	1 jf	4	4	4	N/A
Greenbank Road Playing Fields	1 sf	1	2	1	4
Newton Park	1 sf, 1 jf	1	3	2	N/A

WMBC have provided a pitch survey carried out on all LA managed sites. In terms of pitch grading 5 is classed as 'best' and grading 1 as 'worst'. A combined figure has been calculated from the drainage grade and the pitch level grade to produce an overall grade.

Anglesey Road Playing Field (ref: 32)

This WMBC owned and managed site contains one senior, one junior and one mini football pitch. It is located in the Green Belt.

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Last season (2001/02) the site was split and re-leveled to incorporate the one junior and one mini pitch. The junior and mini pitches are due to come into use in September 2002. Half of the site was lost to the development of the ATP and running track at adjoining West Kirby Grammar School.

According to Council staff, the pitches are all of a good quality and drainage is good. Clubs using this site have access to the changing facilities at the adjacent Greenbank Road Playing Fields, which are in a good condition. A number of clubs report that due to the inconvenience of not being on-site the facility is not used.

West Kirby Wasps report that there is a lack of mini pitches in the locality available for peak time use. It rates the pitch here as of acceptable quality in terms of drainage and levels, although reports that maintenance such as grass cutting is unacceptable.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior football)	The Ridger	Sun am	Birkenhead Sunday
2 (junior football)	West Kirby Wasps U15	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
	West Kirby Wasps U16	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
3 (mini soccer)	West Kirby Wasps U6	Sun. pm	Ellesmere Mini
	West Kirby Wasps U7	Sun. pm	Ellesmere Mini
	West Kirby Wasps U8	Sun. pm	Ellesmere Mini
	West Kirby Wasps U9	Sun. pm	Ellesmere Mini
	West Kirby Wasps U10	Sun. pm	Ellesmere Mini

Caldy Sports Club (ref: 37)

This privately owned site is leased to Caldly Sports Club and contains three senior rugby pitches and two cricket pitches. It is an old schoolboys club, with strong links to Caldly Grammar School. The land is owned by the National Trust, which carries out inspections twice yearly. One rugby pitch is floodlit. All pitches have good drainage and are well maintained.

The clubhouse contains one large and four smaller changing rooms. There is also a separate referee's and physiotherapy room. The facilities are in an acceptable condition but needs refurbishment work. For instance Women cannot play due to the absence of secure and suitable changing. Parking is adequate to service all the pitches.

Caldy RUFC produces three senior teams, one vets and a strong junior section running from U7's to the U16. The mini and juniors play friendly competitions across the senior pitches.

Junior membership is on the increase. Sunday sees all the juniors play and of the Club's 500 members 300 are juniors. Due to the size of the pitches and facilities competitions (e.g. The U7's festival) are often held there. The

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Club is heavily dependent upon volunteer support and contributions. It needs new maintenance equipment and is still paying for the installation of the floodlights.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior rugby)	Caldy RUFC 1 st team	Sat. pm	NW League
	Caldy RUFC colts	Sat. pm	Lancs. Colts League
	Caldy RUFC U13	Sun. pm	Friendlies
	Caldy RUFC U14	Sun. pm	Friendlies
	Caldy RUFC U15	Sun. pm	Friendlies
	Caldy RUFC U16	Sun. pm	Friendlies
2 (senior rugby)	Caldy RUFC 2 nd team	Sat. pm	NW League
	Caldy RUFC U7	Sun. am	Friendlies
	Caldy RUFC U8	Sun. am	Friendlies
	Caldy RUFC U9	Sun. am	Friendlies
3 (senior rugby)	Caldy RUFC 3 rd team	Sat. pm	Friendlies
	Caldy RUFC vets	Sat. pm	Friendlies
	Caldy RUFC U10	Sun. am	Friendlies
	Caldy RUFC U11	Sun. pm	Friendlies
	Caldy RUFC U12	Sun. pm	Friendlies

Caldy CC was started in the 1950's. It fields four senior Saturday teams and one Sunday team and five junior teams. There are no plans to produce further teams. It has three artificial practice nets located on site. Ten wickets make up the main square including one non-turf wicket. There is a similar number on the other square.

There is a separate site at Telegraph Road. It is part funded by the CC and the School, which is now used as the 1st team cricket pitch. The use of this pitch is included within the education section.

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Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (cricket pitch)	Caldy CC 1 st XI	Sat. pm	LDCL
	Caldy CC 2 nd XI	Sat. pm	LDCL
	Caldy CC Sunday X1	Sun. pm	LDCL
	Caldy CC U15	Sun. pm	WJCL
	Caldy CC U17	Sun. pm	WJCL
2 (cricket pitch)	Caldy CC 3 rd XI	Sat. pm	LDCL
	Caldy CC 4 th XI	Sat. pm	LDCL
	Caldy CC U9	Sun. am	WJCL
	Caldy CC U11	Sun. pm	WJCL
	Caldy CC U13	Sun. pm	WJCL

Devonshire Road Playing Field (ref: 34)

This WMBC owned and managed site contains one junior football pitch. There is no changing facility located on site. According to Council staff, pitch drainage and levels are of good quality.

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Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (junior football)	West Kirby Panthers	Sun. pm	Eastham Juniors

Greenbank Road Playing Fields (ref: 18)

This WMBC owned and managed site contains one senior football pitch. It is situated in the Green Belt. Two other pitches have been taken out of commission due to brick rubble rising to the surface and poor land settlement. The site is located on a reclaimed municipal waste tip. The remaining senior pitch is in poor condition and has no drainage system. Vandalism is a problem and the condition of the changing facility reflects this. The car park is of adequate size to service the pitch.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior football)	Blue Anchor FC	Sun. am	Wirral Sunday
	West Kirby JFC U14	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior

Newton Park (ref: 38)

This WMBC owned and managed site, situated on Grange Cross Lane, contains one senior and one junior football pitch. Pitch drainage is particularly poor and pitch levels are adequate. There is no changing accommodation to service the pitches. The junior pitch is available for community use but there is no demand due to the poor drainage.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior football)	Millhouse FC	Sun. am	Wallasey Sunday

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	West Kirby Wasps U13	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior
	West Kirby Wasps U14	Sun. pm	Eastham Junior

West Kirby AFC (ref: 31)

This WMBC owned site is leased to West Kirby AFC on a 28-year lease. It is also known as Marine Park. It contains one senior football pitch and one training area - formerly a competitive pitch. The pitch is of a good standard with good drainage. It has dug outs and is fenced. According to the users it is uneven in places but has good grass coverage. It is able to take more matches per week than most on the Wirral. The 2nd team pitch did not conform to league standards and was re-designated as a training pitch but plans are in place to improve the pitch and field junior teams from it.

The Club is one of the oldest in Wirral (at approximately 115 years old). It has two senior teams playing in the West Cheshire League. It has recently applied for a FA grant to make a number of facility improvements.

There is a small social club containing bar and social room. There are two portacabin-style changing rooms, each with two showers, located next to the pitch. Although not ideal it is in adequate condition for current pitch usage. There is no fencing around the site and it suffers from theft and vandalism. Wirral Ladies FC will play at the ground from the new season 2002/03.

Wirral Ladies FC was established around 15 years ago as Bromborough Archers Ladies FC. At this stage it played only as a social/casual team from a local pub, renting pitches at Leverhulme Playing Field. A five-year plan was written last year as the Club had now established itself in the North West Women's League. Renamed Wirral Ladies FC last season (2001/02) it has now agreed a deal with West Kirby AFC to use its facilities for £350 per season. Looking into the future the ladies team would like to become full members of the Club.

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As stated above, it plays in the North West Women's League. It aims to build more teams slowly and is not yet seeking to run junior teams, although it would welcome a relationship with a junior club that has developed an U16 team to feed into its senior team.

Club representatives firmly believe that there is a significant gap in girls football in Wirral. Few clubs provide opportunities for the U16 and above age groups and there is no Wirral specific league. It is considered to be a major commitment to provide junior teams when the travel implications are presently so significant.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (senior football)	Ship Inn FC (temporary)	Sun am	Birkenhead Sunday
	West Kirby AFC	Sat. pm	West Cheshire
	West Kirby AFC	Sat. pm	West Cheshire
	West Kirby AFC Reserves	Sun. pm	North West Women's
	Wirral Ladies FC		

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Summary of playing pitch provision in the West Kirby catchment area:

Site	No. of Pitches	Overall pitch quality grading	Capacity (matches per week)	Actual use	Summary
Anglesey Road Playing Fields	1sf	4	2	0.5	All pitches underused during 2001/02 season. Re-designation of pitches for the new season to increase usage. Good quality site in general.
	1jf	4	2	1	
	1mf	4	2	N/A	
Paton Field (Caldy Club)	3sr	N/A	N/A	2.5	Users report that all pitches have good drainage and are well maintained. The facilities are in reasonable condition but need refurbishment.
	2sc			2.5	
Devonshire Road Playing Field	1jf	4	2	0.5	Pitch levels and drainage is good. No changing facility on site.
Greenbank Road Playing Field	1sf	1	1	0.5	Site located on old waste tip. Poor quality site. Two other pitches out of commission. Limited car park. Vandalism is a major problem.
West Kirby AFC (Marine Park)	1sf	N/A	N/A	1.5	Good quality pitch with fencing and dugouts. Users report uneven in places. One training pitch which may be converted to a pitch for junior use.

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Site	No. of Pitches	Overall pitch quality grading	Capacity (matches per week)	Actual use	Summary
					Small social club. Changing located in portacabins.
Newton Park	1sf	2	1	1.5	Senior pitch is used to capacity and booked at peak times. Junior pitch is not in use because of poor drainage. No changing accommodation on site.
	1jf	2	1	0	

The capacity of pitches to accommodate a certain number of matches per week throughout a playing season is based on the combined grade for drainage and levels provided by Wirral Borough Council, confirmed by evidence from pitch managers and users. Pitches with grades 1 and 2 are assumed to have a capacity to accommodate only one match per week, grades 3 and 4, two matches per week and grade 5, three matches per week.

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PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

PART 5: EDUCATION PROVISION – AREA-BY-AREA ANALYSIS

25. Introduction

As stated earlier in this document, legislation, within the Schools Standards and Framework Act (SSFA) 1998, was introduced by the Government requiring all state schools to seek approval from the Secretary of State for Education and Employment (Education and Skills since July 2001) for the sale of their playing fields. Section 77 of the SSFA seeks to protect school playing fields against disposal or change of use by requiring the prior consent of the Secretary of State before disposal or change of use may take place. The Department for Education and Employment produced guidance on section 77 of the SSFA within Circular 3/99 'The Protection of School Playing Fields' in June 1999.

Circular 3/99 has recently been replaced by guidance from the Department for Education and Skills entitled 'The Protection of School Playing Fields and Land for City Academies'. The guidance aims to strengthen the existing measures for protecting school playing fields. In particular, the guidance intends to support the development and improvement of sporting and play provision for the benefit of schools and their local communities, and to provide wider access to these facilities. Applications for disposal or change of use of playing fields will not only have to take account of existing community use but the potential use of the facilities for the local community.

The provision of pitches at schools and colleges can make an important contribution to the overall stock of playing pitches within a particular catchment area. It is important, therefore, for WMBC and its partners to have accurate information about the number, type, quality and availability of pitches within the education sector.

The following sections detail playing pitch and associated facility provision within the education sector. The structure under each catchment area is as follows:

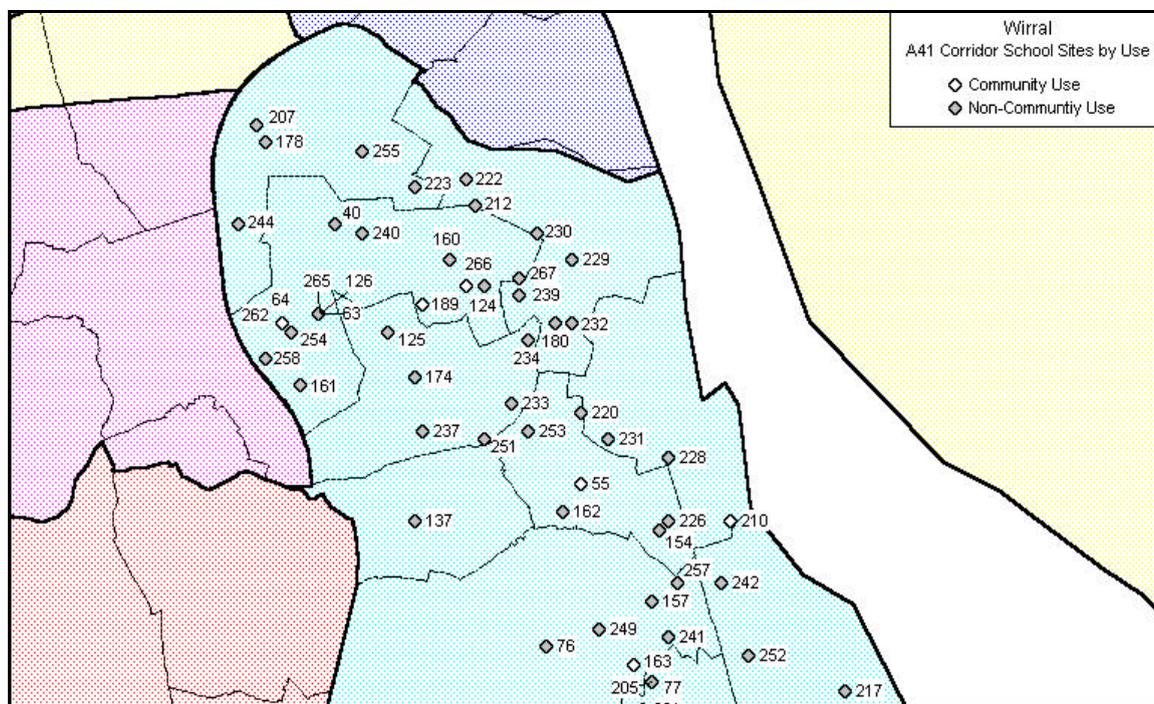
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

- ❑ A map identifying the location of each school and college and indicating whether or not it is available for community use (to be included in the next draft).
- ❑ Details of the provision and quality of pitches and facilities at high schools and colleges. This section also details those clubs that either use, or have shown an interest in using, these pitches.
- ❑ A table providing a summary of provision at primary schools with some commentary where relevant.
- ❑ A table showing the number and type of pitches on each school and college site.

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PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

26. A41 Corridor



High school summary

Bebington High School (ref: 163)

Located near to the Oval Sports Centre this school site contains one senior football pitch and one all weather pitch. It has access to a number of other pitches managed through the Oval. There is scope to develop an additional two junior pitches if work is carried out to re-level the area. The School was awarded Sports College Status in September 2001.

There is no community use of the school pitches although Jarvis is taking over the sports facilities as part of a PFI (private finance initiative) arrangement.

A representative from the school reports that the pitches are of poor quality due to drainage problems. The pitches are reportedly cut but not rolled, which adds to the poor quality. The fenced pitch is of better quality.

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The all weather pitch is too dangerous to play on and now lies disused. Water from the pitches runs off onto the all weather pitch.

The school is closely associated to the Active Sports programmes and has created links with a number of local private sports clubs including: Bebington HC, Port Sunlight CC, Tranmere Ladies FC and Young Lions JFC.

Birkenhead High School for Girls (GPDST) (ref: 189)

This private school is located in Oxton and is owned by a trust. It has one full size, sand based ATP (99m x 62m) constructed two years ago. There are no other grass pitches on the site. The area where the ATP is located used to be a grass hockey pitch.

The ATP is not floodlit. It can only be used until 6pm due to the close proximity of housing. This is restrictive in terms of community use, especially training for the hockey club that uses the pitch as its home ground (Oxton HC) and in the context of seeking to increase levels of use for football training. Currently, the main users of the pitch are Birkenhead High School and Oxton LHC on Saturday for matches, although Oxton HC men's and badgers also use the pitch when its available.

There is no changing accommodation or car park available for community use. The School is happy not to attract any further community use as parking issues often erupt with the local residents.

Pitch use during the 2001/2002 season

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1 (ATP)	Oxton LHC 1 st to	Sat. pm	Cheshire League
	3 rd	Sat. pm	North West League
	Oxton HC 6 th	Various	Non-League
	Oxton Badgers		

Birkenhead School (Beresford Road) (ref: 265)

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This privately owned boys school playing pitches are located on three different sites both on and off site. Beresford Road is the main school building site and contains one cricket pitch. There is no community use of this pitch, although Wallasey CC used it last season for its 3rd team home matches. The other sites are covered below.

Birkenhead School (Noctorum Sports Ground) (ref: 63)

This detached school playing field contains one junior football pitch, one senior rugby pitch and one cricket pitch overmarked. It also has a pavilion on-site with changing facilities. There is no community use of this site.

According to a school representative, this playing field is low-lying and therefore prone to flooding. There is only occasional use of these pitches and the School has no plans to invest further in this site.

Birkenhead School (McAllister Memorial Ground) (ref: 126)

This private site is located on a detached playing field owned by Birkenhead School. The site contains one full size, floodlit ATP (98m x 63m), the floodlights can be kept on until 9pm, two junior football pitches and four senior rugby pitches. According to a school representative there is scope to develop more grass pitches. The School has received an enquiry to mark out a Lacrosse pitch.

The grass pitches are not currently used for community use, although the School would consider further community use if approached. Changing could be accessed in the Sports Hall, which is already heavily used at weekends.

Oxton HC is the only community user of the ATP. The Club is a joint owner and also help in the management and maintenance of the ATP. It is reportedly in good condition. The hockey club uses its own clubhouse adjacent to the site. There may be capacity to expand the community use for football training in the evenings.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Use during the 2001/2002 season was as follows:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
1	Oxton HC 1 st to 5 th	Sat. pm	North West League

Boundary Road Playing Field (ref: 40)

This WMBC owned site contains one junior football pitch. It is designated education use only. The site is not suitable for competition matches due to a telegraph pole situated in the field.

Park High School (ref: 167)

Awarded Sports College Status in September 2001, this school site is located on the outskirts of Birkenhead Park. Its pitches are located within the Birkenhead Park Conservation Area. The School has opted for the PFI by contractors Jarvis.

The Lower School site, located one mile from the main building, contains one small grassed area and is not adequate in quality or size for the number of pupils at this site. It is unusable in winter due to poor drainage. Part of the playing field was lost due to a temporary car park. Wirral Lacrosse Club used the site as its home ground for matches and training but it has been forced to relocate due to the car park expansion.

The School uses the ATP and pitches at Wirral Sports Centre occasionally but travel is time consuming and expensive. A partnership with Birkenhead RUFC has also been created and it provides coaching courses at the school.

Park High School (Park Road East) (ref: 166)

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A short walk from the main school building into the Park is an area of land designated for education use. It contains one senior rugby pitch. According to a school representative the pitch has good drainage, the only problem being that it is open to public access causing problems with dog fouling and litter. There is community use of this pitch on Saturday afternoons by Birkenhead Park RUFC 3rd team.

Park High School (Ashville Road) (ref: 160)

An area of the Park at Ashville Road is also designated for education use. It is now run down and not maintained to any level. The area is split into two, divided by a footpath. One area contains old tennis courts and the other an overgrown hockey pitch. The school representative reports that this area is dangerous and there have been reported incidents with drug users as it is an isolated area. A NOF 3 bid was been applied for to develop an ATP on this site.

Plessington High School (ref: 157)

This school site contains one senior rugby pitch. The School is adjacent to the facilities at the Oval Sports Centre. There is no community use. KKP has not been able to contact a representative from the school.

Prenton High School for Girls (ref: 162)

This school site contains one playing field. It contains three all weather grass areas and an athletics track. The School has opted for the PFI through contractors Jarvis.

The sports hall is currently being extended and part of the playing field will be lost, a small grassed recreation area will be left but it will be too small to mark pitches on. The PE department is currently looking to secure access to a nearby playing field.

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PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Ridgeway Community High School (ref: 161)

This school site contains four junior football pitches and one cricket pitch. One football pitch is rested each year to maintain the high quality. Although the School reports good quality pitches there is an issue with dog fouling and litter across the pitches. The site has been fenced in the past but is difficult to secure.

According to a school representative unauthorised use of the football pitches occurs on a regular basis for competitive matches. It seems clubs are allocated the facility as their home grounds but pay no fee to the School. Up to seven junior teams have used this site as their home ground in the past. Enquires have been made to hire the pitches but as policy the School refuses for insurance purposes. The School has received complaints about weekend parking from the local residents.

There are two other grassed areas adjoining the site where pitches have previously been marked including one hockey pitch and one rugby pitch. Due to littering and dog fouling maintenance costs became too high and the areas are now used as a playground.

Rock Ferry High School (ref: 154)

This school site contains three grassed areas. Two are split from the school by a public footpath and from each other by woodland and contain one junior football pitch and one senior and one junior rugby pitch. The footpath can cause problems with dog fouling and litter due to the public right of way. The third is a grassed area at the opposite end of the school building containing a senior football pitch. According to a school representative, all the pitches are of poor quality due to drainage problems and unevenness of playing surface. They are effectively unusable in winter.

The school is keen to develop cricket but is restricted by the quality of facilities. A cricket pitch could be overmarked on one of the football pitches but the uneven surface would make it dangerous.

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PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

There is no community use of the pitches. The changing facility is small and basic and is regularly vandalised. There are currently two boys and two girls changing rooms. With improved drainage and facilities the School would consider community use.

South Wirral High School (ref: 23)

This school site contains two senior football pitches, one junior rugby pitch, one all weather pitch and one grassed cricket wicket. Drainage is the main problem; both pitches have bald patches, and severe rutting on the playing surface. There is currently no community use, although there has been in the past. Two junior football teams used the site during 1999/2000 and by a senior team during 2000/2001.

The school has opted for the PFI through contractors Jarvis. The developments attached to this will involve moving the junior rugby pitch to accommodate the expansion of the sports hall and the replacement of the cricket wicket with an ATW surface. The all weather pitch will stay in place but will be widened to fit floodlights if planning permission can be obtained.

The current changing facility is annexed to a temporary building, but the new sports hall will contain four new changing rooms.

St Anselm's College (ref; 64)

The College has a detached ten-acre site in Noctorum, which contains one cricket pitch with a non-turf wicket, three senior and one junior rugby pitches. It is held in trust for the College's use. Mole drainage has been completed on the site. There is no community use of rugby pitches due to its Saturday fixtures, but Birkenhead St Mary's 3rd team uses the cricket pitch on a Saturday morning. The changing facilities at the School are considered to be in good condition. Vandalism is a problem at the site, as it is not fully fenced off.

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Wirral Grammar School (ref; 75)

This site contains two separate grammar schools. The main playing field is shared between the boys and the girls school, each school manages the pitches on its side. The Girls School has opted for the PFI through contractors Jarvis. In total there are two cricket pitches, four senior and two junior rugby pitches. It also has four cricket practice nets. The pitches are clay based and although water eventually drains well it tends to pool after heavy rain.

Three rugby pitches are located on Peter Prices Lane. All other pitches are located directly behind the main school building on the main field. Drainage is a particular problem on the rugby pitches on the main field. Work was carried out to improve this but it has not worked effectively. Some subsidence to the pitches has occurred leaving areas of unevenness and patchy grass cover. Part of the playing field located on the girls site has been lost due to a temporary car park.

Community use of the pitches is limited to the cricket pitches due to school rugby fixtures on a Saturday. Wirral CC uses two cricket pitches on the main field. It hires and maintains the school cricket. It has fixtures on Saturday afternoon. Training for juniors takes place on Friday evenings. A representative from Wirral CC rates the overall pitch quality as acceptable although it reports that discussions with the school are underway to improve the quality further. Wirral RUFC occasionally uses the junior pitches for training sessions, but not on a regular basis.

There is changing accommodation located in the boys sports hall, separate from the main school building for community use. It is five years old and contains two rooms of good quality. There are a number of changing rooms in the main school building. These are not available for community use. A new sports hall is being built on the girls site through the PFI, which will be available for community use.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

The two schools often travel to The Oval to use the ATP, which is within walking distance but it is time consuming and expensive. In the long term, the two schools are keen to fund an ATP between them.

Wirral CC

The Club moved this season (2002) from its original home ground at the Wirral Club due to a management disagreement to Wirral Grammar School. Its junior section went to play at Port Sunlight CC due to problems accommodating the juniors at Wirral Grammar School. The Club currently produces five senior teams and four junior teams.

Use during the 2001/2002 season was as follows:

Pitch No.	Team	Match Time	League
Cricket	Wirral CC 3 rd team	Sat. pm	Mellor Braggins
	Wirral CC 4 th team	Sat. pm	Shammah Nicholls
	Wirral CC U11	Sun. pm	Wirral Junior
	Wirral CC U15	Sun. pm	Wirral Junior

Wirral Metropolitan College (ref: 196)

This college site now contains no sports pitches on its playing fields, also known as Carlett Park. There used to be one senior football pitch but it is now not maintained or marked out. One senior team and one junior team last used it during 1999/2000. There is a disused cricket pitch, which has never been available for community use.

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Summary of high school playing pitch provision in the A41 Corridor catchment area:

Site	No. of Pitches	Summary
Bebington High School – Sports College	1sf	Scope to develop addition pitches on-site subject to re-levelling work. Pitches are of poor quality. No community use.
Birkenhead High School for Girls	1 ATP	No floodlighting on ATP. Available for community use but restrictive due to the floodlights. Used to capacity at weekends for hockey matches.
Birkenhead School – Beresford Road	1c	No community use, although it was used last season by Wallasey CC.
Birkenhead School – Noctorum Sports Ground	1jf 1sr 1c	Rugby and cricket pitches are over marked. No community use of site.
Birkenhead School – McAllister Memorial Ground	1 ATP 2jf 4sr	The ATP is used for community use although there is a lack of access to changing on site. Capacity to expand the community use to football training slots in the evening.
Boundary Road playing Fields	1jf	Designated education use. Community use of the site is not viable due to a telegraph pole located in the field.
Park High School	N/A	No pitches on site, all located within Birkenhead Park.
Park High School – Park Road East	1sr	Good quality, although problems with dog fouling and litter. The pitch is available for community use.
Park High School – Ashville Road	1gh	This area is run down and unusable in its current state.
Plessington High School	1sr	No community use of the site.
Ridgeway Community High	4jf 1c	According to Council staff there is community use of the site but no further information has been gathered.
Rock Ferry High	1jf	Poor quality pitches with uneven playing surfaces. No community use, although

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Site	No. of Pitches	Summary
	1sr, 1jr	there has in the past.
South Wirral High School	2sf 1jr	Poor quality pitches with all pitches having bald patches. No community use.
St. Anselm's College, Noctorum	1c 3sr, 1jr	No community use of the rugby pitches. Cricket pitch is used for matches at weekends. Vandalism is a problem at the site.
Wirral Grammar School	2c 4sr, 2jr	Drainage problems on rugby pitches resulting from works carried out last year. Community use is limited to the cricket pitch due to school fixtures on the rugby pitches.
Wirral Metropolitan College	N/A	No pitches now marked out on site.

Primary schools summary

Below is a summary of provision at primary schools with details of community availability and use.

Primary School	No. of pitches	Comment
Bedford Drive Primary	1 junior football	Community use on Sunday am and for training by Victoria Colts JFC.
Bidston Avenue Primary	No pitches	No pitches
Brackenwood Junior School	1 junior football	No community use due to a previous bad experience.
Brookhurst Primary School	1 junior football	No community use due to school policy.
Bromborough Pool Primary	No pitches	No pitches
Christ Church Primary	No pitches	No pitches
Christ The King RC Primary School	1 junior football	No comment made
Church Drive Primary	NK	No questionnaire returned

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
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Cole Street Primary	No pitches	No pitches
Dell Primary School	1 mini football	No competitive community use, although school is willing to hire its facilities.
Devonshire Park Primary	NK	No questionnaire returned
Grove Street Primary	No pitches	One grassed area with no pitch markings. It has an uneven surface.
Heygarth Primary School	1 junior football	No community use but no reason given.
Higher Bebington Junior School	2 junior football	No community use but no reason given.
Hillside Primary	NK	No questionnaire returned
Holy Cross Primary	NK	No questionnaire returned
Kilgarth Special School	No pitches	No questionnaire returned
Mendell Primary School	2 junior football	No community use due to a previous bad experience.
Millfields Primary School	1 junior football	Used by Heygarth United for training and matches.
Mersey Park Primary	No pitches	No pitches
Oxton St. Saviour's	No pitches	Grassed area with no marked pitches. Area is poorly drained.
Our Lady's & St. Edwards RC Primary	No pitches	No pitches
Poulton Lancelyn Primary	1 junior football	No community use because pitch unusable due to vandalism.
Primary School	No. of pitches	Comment
Portland Primary	No pitches	No pitches
Prenton Primary School	1 junior football	No comment made
The Priory Parish Primary	No pitches	No pitches
Raeburn Primary School	1 junior football	No comment made
Rock Ferry Primary	No pitches	No pitches
St. Anne's Primary	No pitches	No pitches
St. Andrew's Primary	No pitches	No pitches

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St. Joseph's RC Primary, Birkenhead	No pitches	Grassed area with no marked pitches that is in poor condition.
St. Johns Junior School	No pitches	Designated education use of one junior football pitch at the Oval.
St. Laurence's Primary	No pitches	No pitches
St. Mary's CE Primary School	1 junior football	Used by Eastham Rangers for matches.
St. Oswald's Primary School	No pitches	One grassed area.
St. Paul's Catholic Primary	No pitches	No pitches
St. Peters RC Primary	NK	No questionnaire returned
St Werburgh's RC Primary School	1 junior, 1 mini football	Newly laid pitches. Used by the YMCA in holiday time, but no regular community use, wants to offer further community use in the future.
Stanton Road Primary School	1 junior football	No comment made
Town Lane Primary	No pitches	One grassed area with no pitch markings
Townfield Primary	No pitches	One grassed area marked when needed
Vyner Primary School	1 mini soccer	No comment made
Well Lane Primary	No pitches	No pitches
Woodlands Primary	No pitches	No pitches
Woodchurch Road Primary	No pitches	No pitches
Woodslee Primary	1 junior football	No comment made

Primary Schools with Community Use

Bedford Drive Primary School

This school site contains one junior football pitch. It is used by Victoria Colts JFC for matches on Sunday and for training on Wednesday evenings. The School reports that the pitch is of poor quality due to its drainage and

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PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

unevenness. Community use may have to be stopped temporarily due to building work.

The playing field adjoins Prenton High School for Girls and a new boundary line will be drawn up when Jarvis take over the facilities at the High School. The School employs a private company to maintain the grounds. There is no access to changing facilities for community users, as the school does not employ a caretaker.

The Dell Primary School

The school has one mini football pitch; according to a school representative it is poorly drained and can only be used by the school in summer terms. Tranmere Rovers Football in the Community uses the playing fields during the holidays. It is also used for training, by the NightHawks American Football Club, on mid-week evenings.

Although the school does not receive many enquires about the use of the pitch for competitive community use, it is willing to let out its facilities if approached. The changing facilities at the school are rated as poor.

Millfields Primary School

The school has one junior football pitch, considered to be in generally poor condition. Half the pitch has good drainage and the other half is boggy. Heygarth United U8, U7 and U6 age groups use it for matches on Sunday afternoons and for training on Friday evenings. The school does not have any changing rooms and reports that it would cost too much to open up anyway.

The school has had no other enquires about community use. It reports some unauthorised use of the playing pitches by local youths.

St Mary's CE Primary School

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The school has one junior football pitch, reported to be in good condition, although public access and vandalism on the pitch can be a major problem. Eastham Rangers JFC uses it for matches on Saturday. Enquires about further community are not often received by the school, but it is willing to further the community use of its pitch. There are no changing rooms located at the school and car parking is limited.

St Werburgh's RC Primary School

This school site contains one junior and one mini football pitch with re-laid grass (1999). The drainage is considered to be poor but has a flat surface. Community use is currently limited. The YMCA uses it during holiday time for coaching courses, but there is no regular competitive use of the pitches. If approached the school would be willing to have further community use of its pitches.

Changing rooms are located in a converted container located outside the main school building. There is car parking for around 25 cars.

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Figure: Summary of sites in the A41 Corridor

Site ref.	Site name	Comm. use	SF	JF	MS	SR	JR	C	GH	ATP
163	Bebington High School	No	1							
55	Bedford Primary	Yes		1						
240	Bidston Avenue	No								
189	Birkenhead High School for Girls	Yes								1
265	Birkenhead School (Beresford Rd)	No						1		
63	Birkenhead School (Noctorum)	No		1		1		1		
126	Birkenhead School (McAllister)	Yes		2		4				1
40	Boundary Road Playing Fields	No		1						
77	Brackenwood Junior School	No		1						
98	Brookhurst Primary School	No		1						
217	Bromborough Pool Primary	No								
234	Christ Church Primary	No								
101	Christ The King RC Primary School	No		1						
239	Cole Street Primary	No								
210	Dell Primary School	Yes			1					
253	Devonshire Park Primary	NK								
242	Grove Street Primary	No								
76	Higher Bebington Junior School	No		2						
94	Heygarth Primary School	No		1						

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254	Hillside Primary	NK								
255	Holy Cross Primary	NK								
212	Kilgarth Special School	No								
39	Manor Primary School	No		2						
100	Mendell Primary School	No		2						
92	Millfields Primary School	Yes		1						
220	Mersey Park Primary	No								
237	Oxton St. Saviour's	No								
222	Our Lady's & St. Edwards RC Primary	No								
166	Park High School (Park Rd East)	Yes				1				
160	Park High School (Ashville Rd)	No							1	
223	Portland Primary	No								
157	Plessington RC High School	No				1				
Site ref.	Site name	Comm. use	SF	JF	MS	SR	JR	C	GH	ATP
103	Poulton Lancelyn Primary	No		1						
162	Prenton High School	No								
137	Prenton Primary School	No		1						
230	The Priory Parish Primary	No								
97	Raeburn Primary School	No								
97	Raeburn Primary School	No		1						
161	Ridgeway High School	No	4					1		
154	Rock Ferry High	No	1	1		1	1			
228	Rock Ferry Primary	No								
23	South Wirral High School	No	2				1			
64	St Anselm's RC College	Yes						1		
262	St Anselm's RC College	No				3	1			
226	St. Anne's Primary	No								

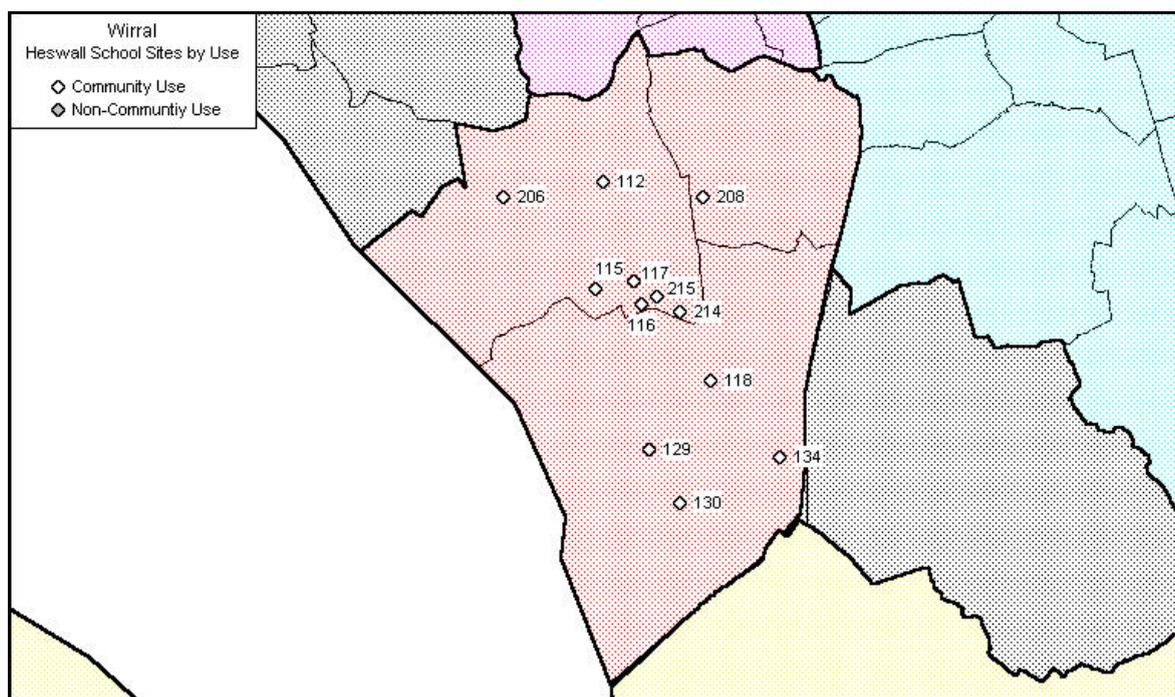
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
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241	St. Andrews Primary	No								
251	St. Josephs RC Primary	No								
257	St. Johns Junior School (The Oval)	No		1						
229	St Laurence's Primary	No								
91	St Mary's CE Primary School	Yes		1						
207	St Oswald's Primary School	No								
244	St. Paul's Catholic Primary	No								
258	St. Peters RC Primary	No								
209	St Saviour's CE Primary School	No								
180	St Werburgh's RC Primary School	No		1	1					
164	Stanton Road Primary School	No		1						
249	Town Lane Primary	No								
174	Townfield Primary	No								
178	Vyner Primary School	No			1					
231	Well Lane Primary	No								
261	Wirral Grammar School	Yes						2		
75	Wirral Grammar School	No				4	2			
196	Wirral Metropolitan College	No	1							
232	Woodlands Primary	No								
233	Woodchurch Road Primary	No								
83	Woodslee Primary School	No		1						

27. Heswall

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High school summary

Pensby High School (ref: 115)

This site has a boys and a girls school. The playing fields are joined but each school is in charge of its own stock. The Girls School site has one full size and two junior size grass hockey pitches and five rounders pitches. There is no community use. The Boys School has two junior football and two junior rugby pitches. There is no community use.

The whole playing field is of unacceptable quality. According to the school, it is unusable in winter due to waterlogging. Part of the hockey pitch is particularly poor and floods during winter. There is no community use, reportedly because the costs of opening up the school for car parking and changing facilities would be prohibitive. Neither school has, as yet, been approached.

A lottery bid for a new sports hall, seven floodlit short-sided courts and four floodlit netball courts were originally submitted at this site but the

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

scheme has now been amended, to replace the short-sided courts with a full sized floodlit ATP.

Summary of high school playing pitch provision in the Heswall catchment area:

Site	No. of Pitches	Summary
Pensby High School	2jf, 2jr	No community use of pitches. Playing field is unusable in winter due to waterlogging.

Primary schools

Primary school provision with details of community availability and use is outlined below.

Primary School	No. of pitches	Comment
Barnston Primary School	1 junior football	No questionnaire returned
Dawpool CE Primary School	1 junior football	Molehill problems, no community use - school policy.
Gayton Primary School	1 junior football	No questionnaire returned
Heswall Primary School	1 junior football	No questionnaire returned
Irby Primary School	1 junior football	No questionnaire returned
Ladymount RC Primary School	1 junior football	No questionnaire returned
Pensby Park Primary School	1 junior football	No community use due to a previous bad experience
Pensby Infant & Junior School	2 junior football	Average condition. Used by Newton FC on Sunday am.
St Peters Primary	1 junior football	No community use.
Thingwall Primary School	1 mini soccer	No comment made.

Primary Schools with Community Use

Heswall Primary

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This school site contains one junior football pitch. According to Council staff there is community use of the pitch. The School returned no questionnaire so no further information has been gathered.

Pensby Infants & Junior School

This school site contains two junior football pitches. According to a school representative the pitches are of average condition. Pensby Junior School also uses the pitches at this site. Newton FC uses the site on Sunday mornings. The site is utilised for football training by West Kirby Wasps on Wednesday evenings. There is no access to changing accommodation for community users.

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PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure: School pitches in Heswall

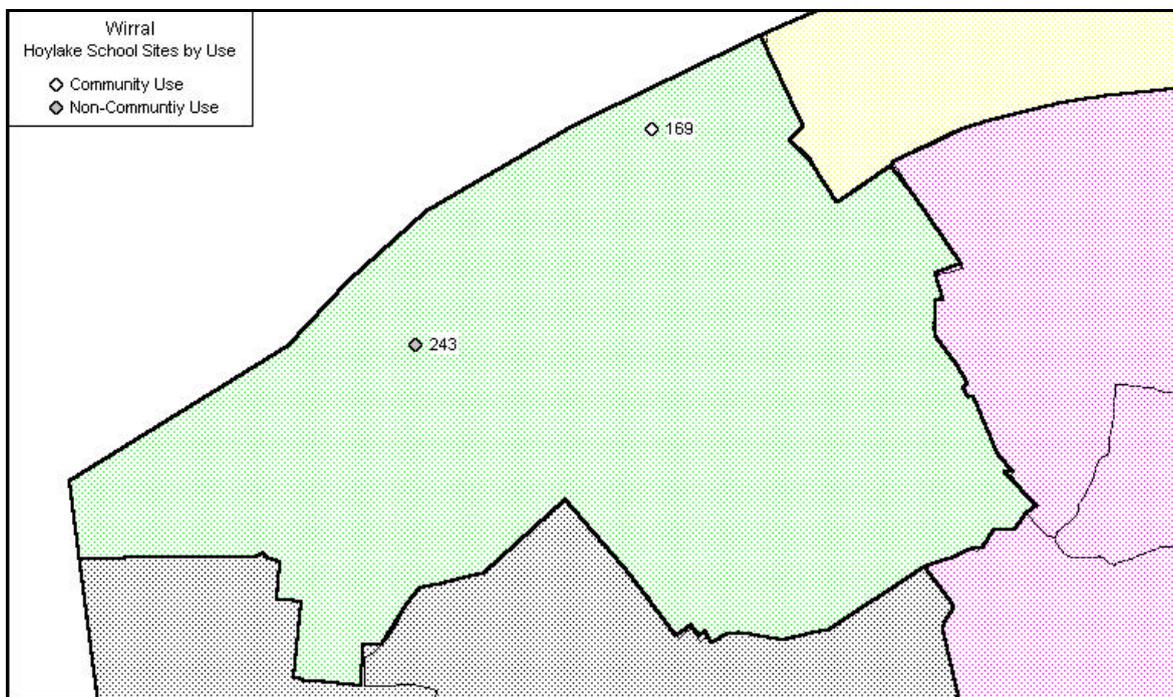
Site ref.	Site name	Comm. use	SF	JF	MS	SR	C	GH
134	Barnston Primary School	No		1				
206	Dawpool CE Primary School	No		1				
130	Gayton Primary School	No		1				
118	Heswall Primary School	No		1				
112	Irby Primary School	No		1				
116	Ladymount RC Primary School	No		1				
115	Pensby High School	No		1		1		3
215	Pensby Infants & Junior School	Yes		2				
117	Pensby Park Primary School	No		1				
129	St Peters Primary	No		1				
208	Thingwall Primary School	No			1			

Legend: Comm. Use – Currently available for community use, SF – Senior Football, JF – Junior Football, MS – Mini Soccer, SR – Senior Rugby, C – Cricket, GH – Grass Hockey

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

28. Hoylake



KKP Ref.	Site name	Community use
169	Great Meols Primary School	Yes
243	Holy Trinity Primary	No

There are no High Schools within the Hoylake catchment area.

Primary schools

Below is a summary of provision at primary schools with details of community availability and use.

Primary School	No. of pitches	Comment
Great Meols Primary School	1 junior football	Good quality pitch
Holy Trinity Primary	None	Uses Sandringham Avenue Playing Fields

Primary Schools with Community Use

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Great Meols Primary School

This school site contains one junior football pitch and one kwik cricket strip. According to a school representative, pitch quality is good. The pitch is available for community use and will be used from the start of the 2002/03 season by a local junior league. The school did not provide the name, but it will be used on Saturday afternoons. School policy dictates that the caretakers must supervise any use of the playing field.

Figure: School pitches in Hoylake

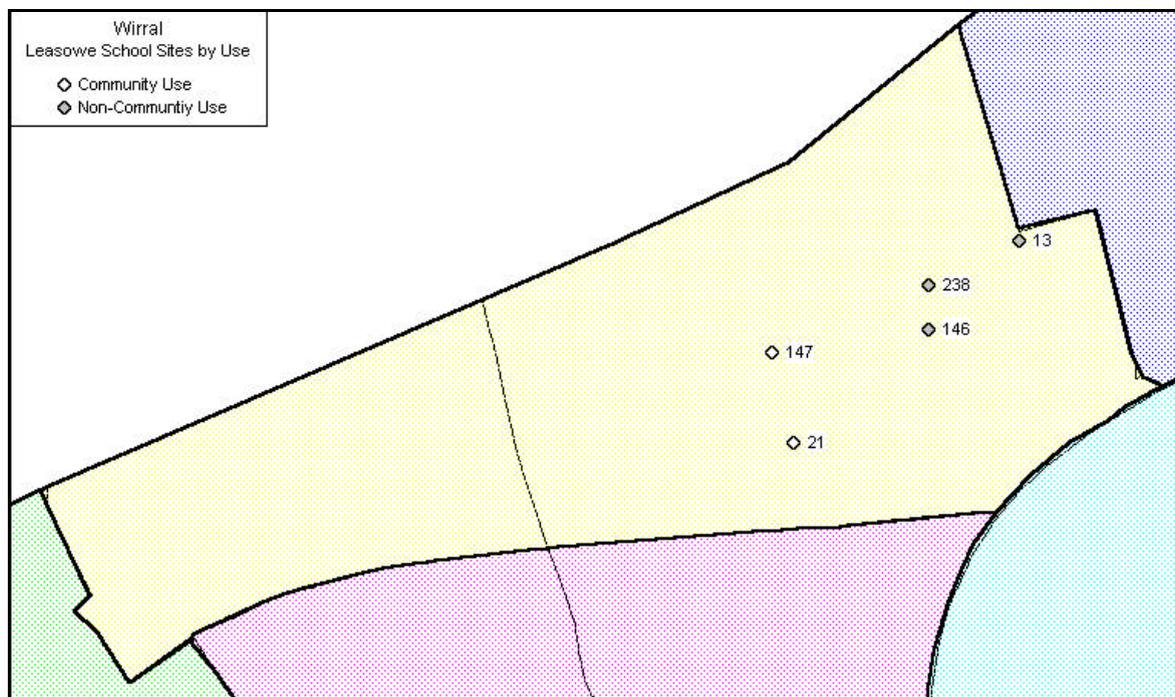
Site ref.	Site name	Community use	SF	JF	MS	SR	C	GH	ATP
169	Great Meols Primary School	Yes		1					

Legend: Comm. Use – Currently available for community use, SF – Senior Football, JF – Junior Football, MS – Mini Soccer, SR – Senior Rugby, C – Cricket, GH – Grass Hockey, ATP – Artificial Turf Pitch

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

29. Leasowe



High school summary

Solar Campus Playing Field – St Mary's College (ref: 13)

This off-site education playing field is located one mile away from the main school site on the site of St Mary's College old lower school. It has four senior football pitches and two rounders pitches. In 1986 the College moved to its current site, in Wallasey Village which does not have any playing pitch space. The school now pays to hire the pitches on a daily basis. Pupils are bussed to the field for lessons, which only last up to 30 minutes.

According to a school representative, pitch quality is average and there are problems with general public access. A major situation has occurred linked to a breakdown in communications with the neighbouring Community Link Centre. There seems to be conflict of interests in terms of who should use the field and when. Complaints have been received from both groups complaining about the behaviour of the pupils.

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There is no formal community use of the pitches. Last season (2001/02) one of the football pitches was let to Tranmere Supporters FC.

Wallasey School (ref: 21)

This school site contains one senior and two junior football pitches and one senior and one junior rugby pitch. Remedial work was carried out to stop the field flooding four years ago. However, the school still only describes the pitch having average pitch drainage. There used to be two cricket pitches on the site but due to a lack of demand to play cricket in the school both were removed. The School has opted for the PFI through contractors Jarvis.

All the pitches are available for community use, although the rugby is limited due to Saturday school fixtures. Olympic FC and Greenleas FC use the football pitches on Sunday afternoons. According to a representative from the club the pitches have deteriorated in quality over the last few years due to drainage failure. It rates the overall pitch quality as unacceptable.

Changing accommodation with two rooms is located in portacabins for use by the community teams. A new sports hall is being built as part of the PFI scheme. This will provide new changing accommodation when completed and Jarvis will take over all community lettings for a fixed period.

Summary of high school playing pitch provision in the Leasowe catchment area:

Site	No. of Pitches	Summary
Solar Campus – St Mary’s College	4sf	Acceptable pitch quality. Problems with public access across pitches. No community use.
Wallasey School	1sf, 2jf 1sr, 1jr	Acceptable pitch quality rated by the school. All pitches available for community use, only football pitches hired. Clubs

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site	No. of Pitches	Summary
		report unacceptable pitch quality.

Primary schools

Below is a summary of provision at primary schools with details of community availability and use.

Primary School	No. of pitches	Comment
Castleway Primary School	1 junior football	Good quality pitch in summer.
Leasowe Primary School	1 junior football	No community use, the school will soon be moving site.
Our Lady of Lourdes Primary	Small grassed area	Not big enough to mark a pitch. School use Leasowe Road Playing Fields.

Primary schools with community use

Castleway Primary School

This school site is split into two areas, one contains one junior football pitch and the other has a small grassed area. Pitch quality is rated as good in summer, but both areas suffer from drainage problems in winter. The football pitch is available for community use and is used by Greenleas FC on Sunday for matches and Wednesday evening for training. According to a club representative work has been carried out to improve the pitch quality including re-surfacing. Now the pitches are rated as good quality, although in particularly poor weather one area of the pitches is liable to flood.

Problems occur with public access onto the pitch including littering. Youths gather in the evening on the site. The school has not received any more enquires than it can accommodate, although it would welcome more community use.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure: School pitches in Leasowe

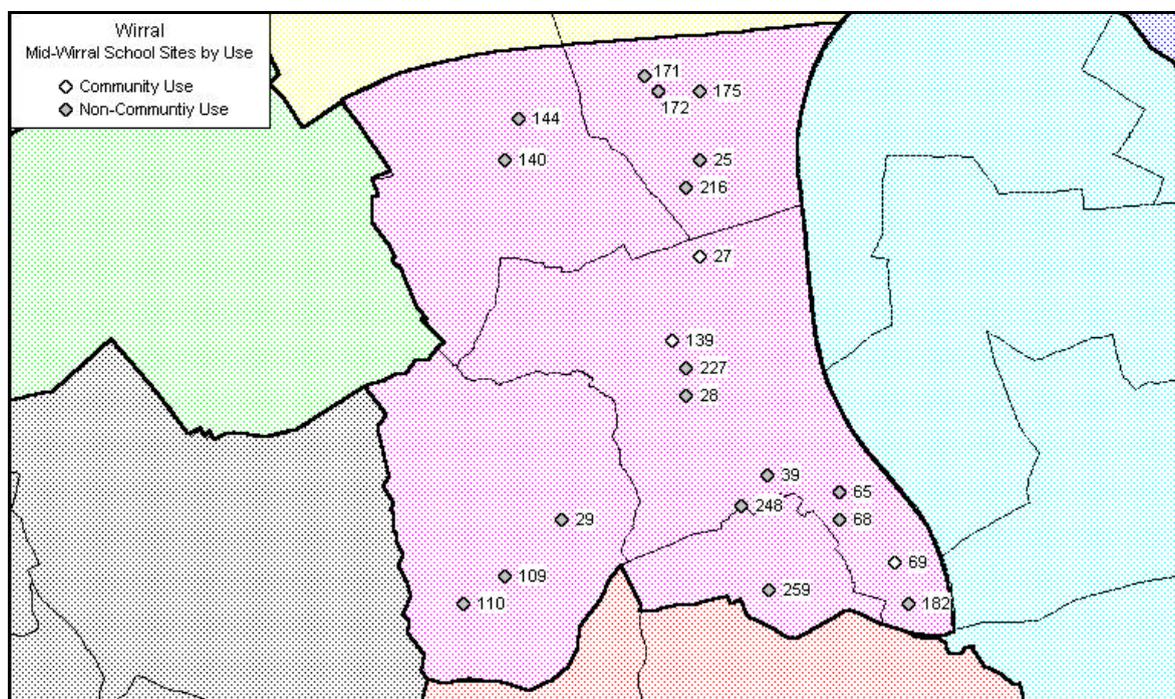
Site ref.	Site name	Comm. use	SF	JF	MS	SR	JR	GH	ATP
147	Castleway Primary School	Yes		1					
146	Leasowe Primary School	No		1					
238	Our Lady of Lourdes RC Primary	No							
13	Solar Campus Playing Field	No	4						
21	Wallasey School	Yes	1	2		1	1		

Legend: Comm. Use – Currently available for community use, SF – Senior Football, JF – Junior Football, MS – Mini Soccer, SR – Senior Rugby, C – Cricket, GH – Grass Hockey, ATP – Artificial Turf Pitch

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30. Mid Wirral



High school summary

Carr Bridge Road Playing Fields (St. Benedict's RC High School) (ref: 65)

This school site contains one senior football pitch. The school is due to close in July 2002 and the future of pitch is currently uncertain.

Upton Hall Convent School (ref; 28)

This school site contains at one three-quarter sized ATP. KKP has not been able to contact a representative from the school.

Woodchurch High School (ref: 69)

This school site contains one senior rugby and one senior football pitch on a grassed area outside the school grounds. It is completely fenced for security and to protect the field against non-sports based public access. There are also two junior football pitches located near to the school

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building with high fencing to protect the site from the motorway. The site also used to contain two cricket pitches but since demand within the School has decreased both was removed.

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According to a school representative, the external playing field poorly drains and has an uneven playing surface. One area was flooded due to a burst sewer drain in October 2001. There has been no clarification of its safety since then, but the site continues to be used. The other pitches drain poorly and also suffer from problems associated with the loss of footballs over the motorway fencing.

Changing accommodation is located in the main school building, but it is of poor condition. There is no community use of the pitches due to its poor condition. The site is unusable in winter.

Summary of high school playing pitch provision in the Mid Wirral catchment area:

Site	No. of Pitches	Summary
St. Benedict's RC High School	1sf	Future of the pitches uncertain due to closure of the School.
Upton Hall Covent School	1 MUGA	No further information has been gathered
Woodchurch High School	1sr 1sf, 2jf	Pitches are poorly drained and have uneven surface. Issue of safety of external field. No community use due to the poor quality.

Primary schools

Primary school provision summary with details of community availability and use:

Primary School	No. of pitches	Comment
Arrowe Hill Primary	None	N/A
Brookdale Primary School	1 junior football	Good pitch quality. No community use.
Claremount Special School	1 senior football	£44,000 of drainage completed. No questionnaire returned
Eastway Primary School	1 junior football	Poor pitch quality, would consider

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		community use if pitches were improved.
Fender Primary	One kwik cricket pitch	Poor quality and uneven surface. Scope for more pitches to be developed.
Foxfield Special School	Grassed area only	Good quality site that was recently re-grassed. No questionnaire returned
Greasby Junior School	1 junior football	Waterlogged in winter, space to develop one extra pitch. Community use
Greasby Infants School	1 mini soccer	No questionnaire returned.
Hayfield Special School	1 senior & 1 junior football	The site is split into two. The senior pitch is located at the rear site and has community use (Upton JFC).
Primary School	No. of pitches	Comment
Lingham Primary School	1 junior football	No community use (bad experience). Land next to school - possible pitch development.
Manor Primary School	1 junior football	Variable - winter/summer, but generally wet. No community use. Tranmere Rovers Summer Camp 2002. Space to mark two pitches.
Our Lady of Pity RC Primary School	1 junior football	No questionnaire returned
Overchurch Primary School	2 junior football	No comment made on quality. Pitches used by Liscard Panthers FC.
Sacred Heart RC Primary School	1 junior football	No questionnaire returned
Sandbrook Primary	One redgra pitch on site for 7-a-side football.	No comment
St Michael and All Angels RC Primary School	1 junior football	No comment

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New Hey playing Fields	None	No longer in use as a school playing field, formerly two junior pitches. No community use.
St Joseph's Primary, Upton	None	N/A

Primary schools with community use

Hayfield Special School

This school site is split into two playing field areas. The area located at the rear of the school contains one senior football pitch and is used by Upton JFC for weekend matches. The other area contains one junior football pitch and has no community use. There is a lack of access to changing accommodation at the site.

According to a club representative from Upton JFC, the pitch is of poor quality due to lack of grass coverage and poor levels. One quarter of matches were cancelled last season (2001/02) due to waterlogging. The club believes pitch maintenance could be improved and this added to improved changing accommodation would directly increase the number of teams it produced.

Overchurch Primary

Although a questionnaire was returned from the School, no comments were given on the quality of the pitches. Liscard Panthers JFC used the site during the 2001/02 season.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure: School pitches in Mid Wirral:

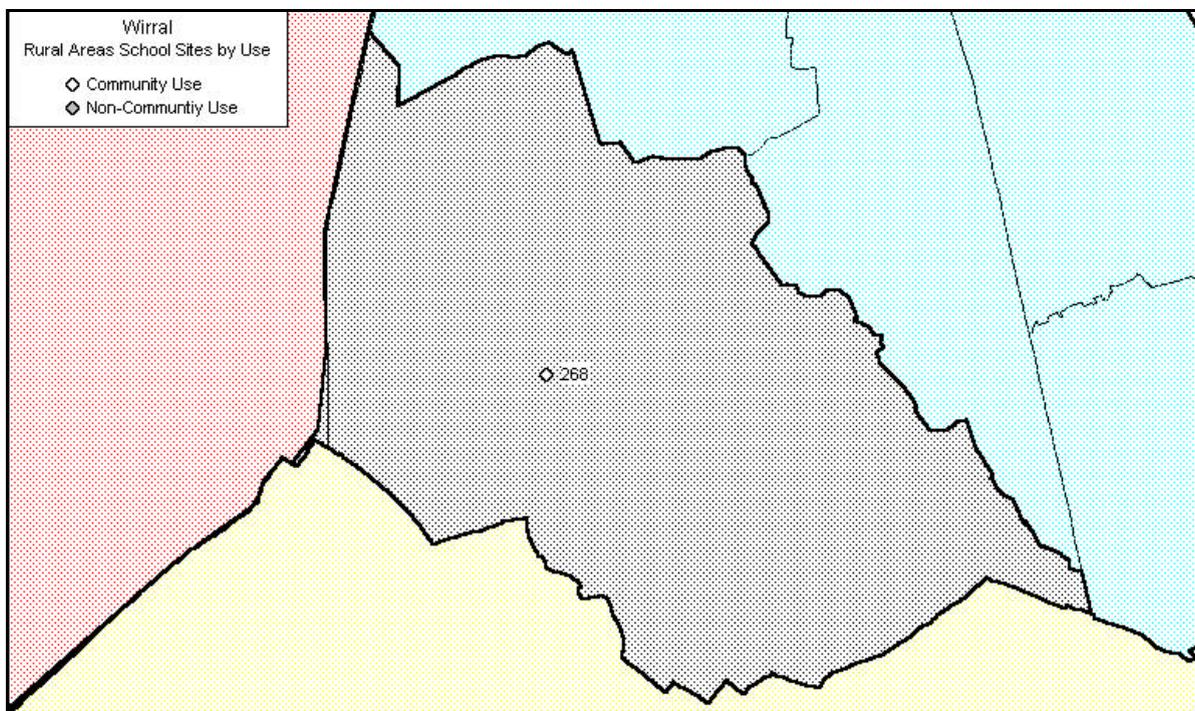
Site ref.	Site name	Comm. use	SF	JF	MS	SR	C	GH	ATP
248	Arrowe Hill Primary	No							
29	Brookdale Primary School	No		1					
65	Carr Bridge Road Playing Fields (St. Benedicts RC High)	No	1						
175	Claremount Special School	No	1						
171	Eastway Primary School	No		1					
68	Fender Primary	No							
140	Foxfield Special School	No							
110	Greasby Junior School	No		1					
110	Greasby Infants School	No			1				
27	Hayfield Special School	No		1					
26	Hayfield Special School (rear)	Yes	1						
144	Lingham Primary School	No		1					
109	Our Lady of Pity RC Primary School	No		1					
139	Overchurch Primary School	Yes		2					
172	Sacred Heart RC Primary School	No		1					
25	Sandbrook Primary	No							
182	St Michael and All Angels RC Primary School New Hey Playing Fields	No		1					
227	St Joseph's Primary	No							
28	Upton Hall Covent School	No							
69	Woodchurch High School	No	1	2		1			

Legend: Comm. Use – Currently available for community use, SF – Senior Football, JF – Junior Football, MS – Mini Soccer, SR – Senior Rugby, C – Cricket, GH – Grass Hockey, ATP – Artificial Turf Pitch

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL

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31. Rural Area



High School Summary

There are no High Schools located within the Rural catchment area.

Primary schools

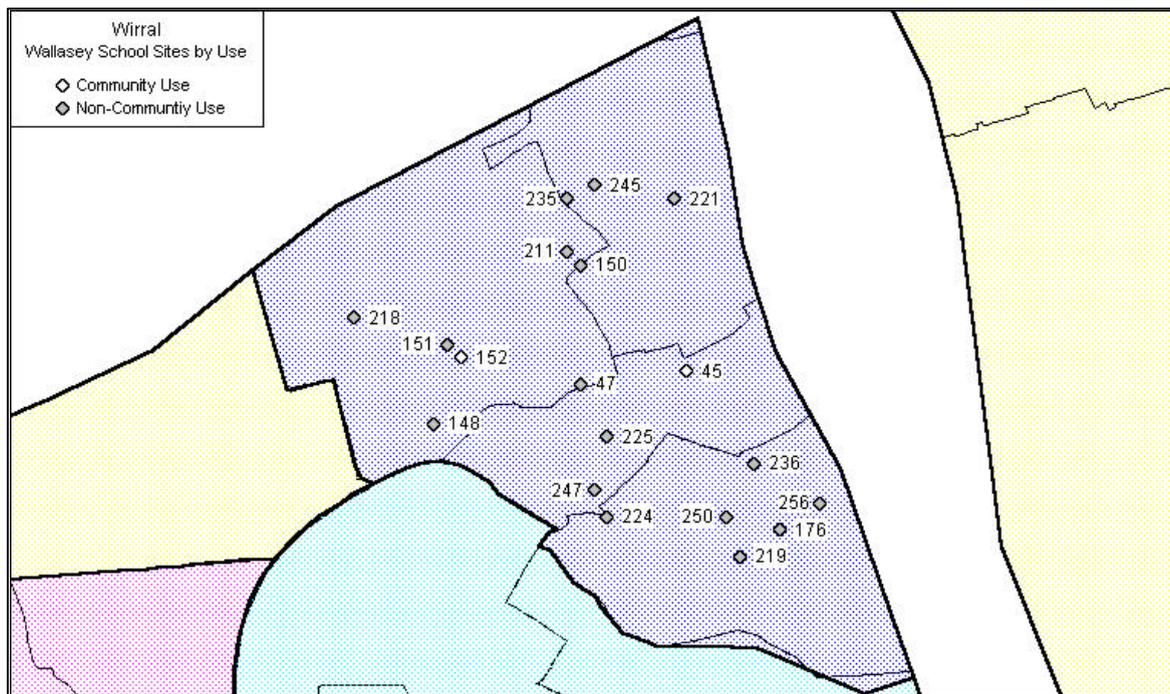
Primary school provision summary with details of community availability and use:

Primary School	No. of pitches	Comment
Thornton Hough Primary	None	No questionnaire was returned. School uses Thornton Hough Recreation Ground.

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PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

32. Wallasey



High school summary

Mosslands High School (ref: 148)

This Boys School site, located next to School Lane Playing Fields, contains one junior rugby, one junior football pitch and one cricket pitch. The playing field is separated from the school by a railway line and access is gained via a tunnel. A school representative classifies the pitches as the 'worst in Wirral' in the winter as they lie below sea level. There is no regular community use of the pitches due to their poor quality. The School would let pitches if drainage were improved. This site would work well as an extension to School Lane Recreation Ground with improved quality.

Wallasey RUFC uses the junior rugby pitch on an occasional, casual basis. A link has been created with New Brighton CC which has a pitch. The School uses New Brighton's pitches for home matches.

Oldershaw High School (ref: 47)

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This school site has one junior football, one junior rugby pitch and an ATW (which needs refurbishment). The drainage on all pitches is poor, a problem exacerbated by a lack of maintenance. It runs five boys and two girls football teams and five rugby teams, which it cannot accommodate, on its own pitches. The school has approached WMBC about the use of Belvidere but its request was refused due to site overuse at weekends.

St Mary's College (ref: 151)

This school site contains no grass playing pitches but has one all weather pitch of poor quality. The School hires pitches from its old campus on Leasowe Road, Solar Campus. For further information see section 29. Leasowe.

Weatherhead High School (ref: 150)

The School is moving to a new site on Breck Road in Wallasey. The former upper school site did have a senior grass hockey pitch but this has been out of commission since 1989. It organises its curriculum around non-pitch sports. The new site will have a grass senior hockey pitch. It is also hoping to secure a NOF3 bid for development of an ATP.

Summary of high school playing pitch provision in the Wallasey catchment area:

Site	No. of Pitches	Summary
Mosslands High School	1jr, 1jf 1c	Unacceptable quality of pitches. Field lies below sea level. No regular community use due to the unreliable quality of the pitches.
Oldershaw High School	1jf, 1jr	Unacceptable quality of pitches for curricular use and therefore no community use of the site. School actively seeking an alternative site to hire.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site	No. of Pitches	Summary
St Mary's College	None	No pitches on-site. School travel to Solar Campus for lessons and matches.
Weatherhead High School	None	School moving to a new site. NOF3 bid for ATP at new site.

Primary schools

Primary school provision, detailing community availability and use is summarised below.

Primary School	No. of pitches	Comment
Elleray Park Special School	NK	No questionnaire returned
Egremont Primary	No pitches	No pitches
Liscard Primary School	1 junior football	Fair condition, available for further community use.
Park Primary	No pitches	No pitches
Poulton Primary	NK	No questionnaire returned
Mount Primary	No pitches	No pitches
Riverside Primary	NK	No questionnaire returned
Sommerville Primary	No pitches	No pitches
St Albans Primary	No pitches	No pitches

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Primary School	No. of pitches	Comment
St George's Primary School	1 junior football	Good condition, available for further community use.
St Joseph's Primary	1 junior football	No questionnaire returned
St Peter & St Paul's Primary	No pitches	No pitches

Primary schools with community use

Liscard Primary School

This school site contains one junior football pitch. This is rated as of average quality. As from this season (2002/03) the school has started to let its facilities due to the high number of enquires received. Delta Colts will use the pitch each Saturday afternoon for matches and training. Changing accommodation is unavailable for use because it is located in the school building and the costs incurred to open the school are too high.

St George's Primary School

This school site contains one junior football pitch rated as of good quality. It has plans to increase outdoor sports provision on the lower site where there is currently no pitch. Greenleas FC uses the pitch on both Saturdays and Sundays for matches and training. A number of holiday coaching courses are also run from the site during holidays. Changing accommodation is unavailable for use because it is located in the school building and the costs incurred to open the school are too high. Car parking for 12 cars is available.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
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Figure: School pitches in Wallasey

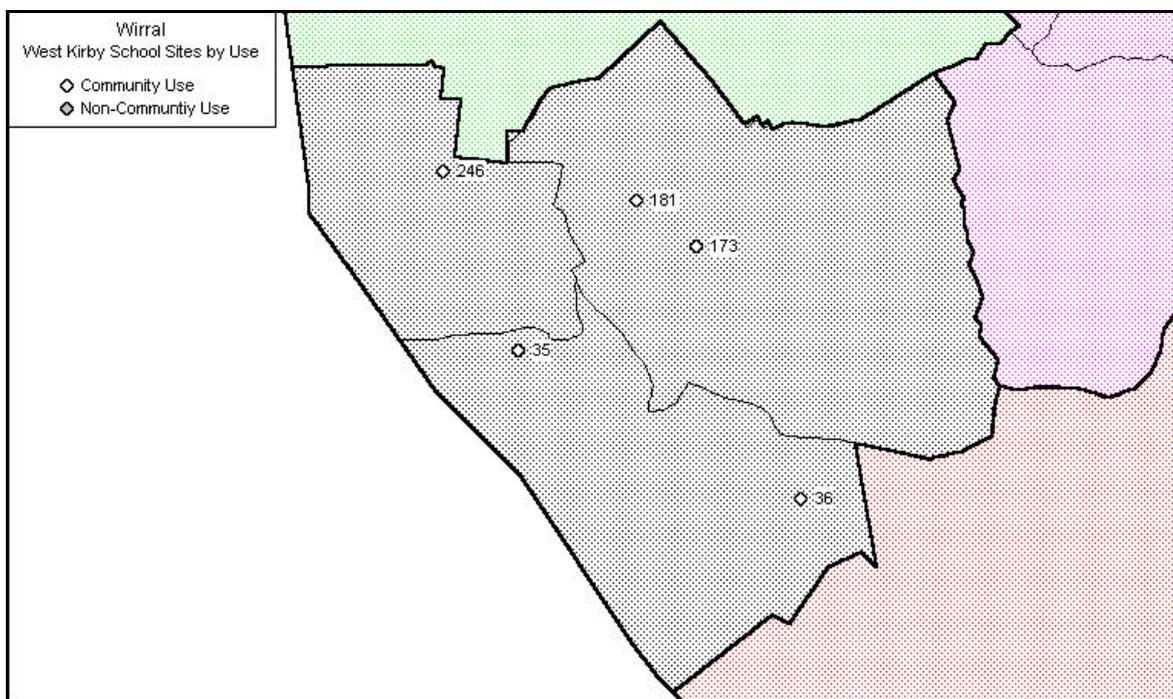
Site ref.	Site name	Comm. use	SF	JF	MS	SR	JR	C	ATP
211	Elleray Park Special School	No							
236	Egremont Primary	No							
218	Greenleas Primary	No							
219	Kingsway Primary	No							
45	Liscard Primary School	Yes		1					
148	Mosslands School	No		1			1	1	
221	New Brighton Primary	No							
47	Oldershaw High School	No		1			1		
247	Park Primary	No							
224	Poulton Primary	NK							
235	Mount Primary	No							
256	Riverside Primary	NK							
250	Somerville Primary	No							
225	St Albans Primary	No							
152	St George's Primary School	Yes		1					
176	St Joseph's Primary	No		1					
151	St Mary's College	No							
245	St Peter & St Paul's Primary	No							
150	Weatherhead High School	No							

Legend: Comm. Use – Currently available for community use, SF – Senior Football, JF – Junior Football, MS – Mini Soccer, SR – Senior Rugby, C – Cricket, ATP – Artificial Turf Pitch

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

33. West Kirby



High school summary

Caldy Grammar School (ref: 36)

The school playing fields are split over two sites, the Telegraph Road site is a detached playing field, which contains one ATP, three senior rugby pitches, one cricket pitch and one grass hockey pitch. The second site, located on the main school site, contains one cricket and one grass hockey. One rugby pitch was lost due to a playground extension.

The cricket pitch on Telegraph Road, which is detached from the main campus, has dual use with Caldy CC. It was part funded by the school and part funded by Caldy CC. It has been accounted for within the write up of Caldy Sports Club. Caldy RUFC uses one of the rugby pitches on an occasional basis. The school has strong links with both the cricket and rugby club in Caldy. The cricket club in particular holds coaching courses at the school.

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The ATP is sand based with no floodlighting. It is of good quality. There is no arrangement for community use of this facility because of the need to accommodate the schools own weekend fixtures.

Hilbre High School (ref: 173)

The site contains one senior and one junior football pitch and one cricket pitch. The school has opted for PFI development through contractors Jarvis and developments will include a dance hall and a community block. The quality of its senior pitch is poor but generally the surface is of a good standard although the site lies on a slight slope. The junior pitch is considered to be of poor quality.

The school has experienced problems with vandalism. Its policy of retaining the goalposts has reduced the problem as it has given the local children somewhere to play. Car parking provision is limited.

There is no community use of the pitches although there has been in the past, but Jarvis will be building a community use foyer in the hope of re-starting community use of the pitches. The extent to which this will support community access to outdoor pitches is uncertain.

The School's bid for an ATP was rejected (NOF 3) because there is one nearby at Anglesey Road Playing Fields (West Kirby Grammar School). An application to the ECB to become a cricket centre of excellence was also rejected due to a lack of clubs in the area. The school has applied for 'Awards for All' funding for a rugby scrummaging machine and coaching.

West Kirby Grammar School for Girls (ref: 33)

This girls school operates two playing field sites: a grassed area at Graham Road adjacent to the main school complex and a detached school playing field at Anglesey Road. There is no community use at either of these sites.

Anglesey Road Playing Field has recently been developed to provide an ATP, with changing rooms and car park, and to provide a re-laid grassed

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area capable of accommodating a running track and an additional grassed hockey pitch if required. The ATP is in the Green Belt and is not floodlit. The remaining portion of the playing field was set aside for community use (Anglesey Road Playing Field (ref: 32).

The grassed area at Graham Road was formerly used as a grass hockey pitch but following the development of the ATP the surface was re-laid to provide for other grass based games. There is an additional games field within the main complex at Meols Drive but this is too small to provide for pitch sports.

Summary of high school playing pitch provision in the West Kirby catchment area:

Site	No. of Pitches	Summary
Caldy Grammar School	1 ATP, 3sr, 2c, 2gh	Two sites containing pitches. One cricket pitch used for community use as part funded by Caldby CC. The ATP has no community use, which would be restrictive anyway due to no floodlighting.
Hilbre High School	1sf, 1jf 1c	Pitches lie on a slope. Problems with vandalism. No current community use but will hopefully re-start through PFI scheme.
West Kirby Grammar School	1 ATP	No community use of the ATP

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Primary schools

Primary school provision, detailing of community availability and use is summarised below.

Primary School	No. of pitches	Comment
St Bridget's CE Primary Field	1 junior football	No questionnaire returned
West Kirby Primary	No pitches	No pitches

Figure: School pitches in West Kirby:

Site ref.	Site name	Comm. use	SF	JF	MS	SR	C	GH	ATP
181	Black Horse Hill Primary School	No			1				
36	Caldy Grammar School (Telegraph Road)	Yes				3	1	1	1
36	Caldy Grammar School (Grammar School Lane)	No					1	1	
173	Hilbre High School	No	1	1			1		
35	St Bridget's CE Primary Field	No		1					
246	West Kirby Primary	No							
33	West Kirby Grammar School	No							1

Legend: Comm. Use – Currently available for community use, SF – Senior Football, JF – Junior Football, MS – Mini Soccer, SR – Senior Rugby, C – Cricket, GH – Grass Hockey, ATP – Artificial Turf Pitch

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PART 6 'SHORTFALL, INADEQUACY AND REQUIREMENT '

34. Introduction

The following sections provide an analysis in tabular form, for each of the Catchment Areas and for the Borough as a whole, on the following basis:

- Hectares and hectares per 1,000 population of the total provision of pitches (the area figures are calculated using the dimensions in Appendix 9)
- Hectares and hectares per 1,000 population of the provision of pitches available for community use (the area figures are calculated using the dimensions in Appendix 9)
- Hectares and hectares per 1,000 population of adequate and inadequate provision available for community use. The number of inadequate pitches is identified within each of the Catchment Areas in sections 26 - 33.
- Hectares and hectares per 1,000 population of pitches to meet latent and future demand identified through consultation and research. Details of the pitch requirements are identified under each of the Catchment Areas in sections 26 - 33. For the purposes of calculating the number of pitches required, where latent demand has been identified for an odd number of teams and thus requires a half share in a pitch (e.g. A41 Corridor requires 0.5 senior football pitches), this has been rounded up to the nearest whole number.

35. Measuring the adequacy and requirement

Playing pitch provision

Through consultation with representatives from sports governing bodies, local leagues and clubs the research has found evidence of a need for some additional pitches based on current levels of demand. A number of

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clubs have indicated a need for additional pitches either because they do not currently have access to one or the quality of the facility is limiting/preventing use. This latent demand shows that a lack of facility/pitch development is, to some extent, inhibiting the further development of clubs (especially junior football clubs) and therefore the club's local catchment area and opportunity to participate.

A more significant issue arising out of the research is that of the impact of the quality of pitches and ancillary facilities, particularly for football, which is suppressing the demand for its further growth within Wirral. League Secretaries believe that years of under investment in the infrastructure and maintenance of many football pitches and their ancillary facilities has been a contributory factor to a decline in football participation.

Again, under investment in the pitch infrastructure on school sites has led to a reduction in the quality of some pitches, which often have difficulty meeting curricular requirements. With improved pitch quality school playing pitches could offer a significant resource for junior and senior football teams. However in many cases schools do not allow access to changing facilities, which, for senior leagues operating in the Wirral area would be an essential requirement.

These qualitative issues are creating an artificially low level of use and demand for certain sports. Some clubs have indicated, within the users survey and through consultation, that if the quality of facilities were improved they would be able to produce additional teams. The study found that because of the poor quality of facilities there is at present a low rate of manifested demand for facilities and therefore little requirement for additional pitches.

The issue of quality therefore needs to be taken into account in the analysis of the adequacy of provision. In terms of this study the approach has been to identify those sites or pitches that are inadequate for the following reasons:

- ❑ Poor playing surface due to drainage, waterlogging, unevenness.

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- ❑ No changing facilities or an inadequate number of changing facilities relative to the number of pitches
- ❑ No or limited off-street parking provision
- ❑ Lack of access to changing facilities particularly at school sites but also through cost
- ❑ In the case of junior teams from U15 age level down which have to play on senior sized pitches rather than junior pitches which would be more appropriate to their level.

WMBC have provided a pitch survey carried out on all LA managed sites. In terms of pitch grading 5 is classed as 'best' and grading 1 as 'worst'. An average has been calculated from the drainage grade and the pitch level grade to produce an overall grade. This will be used to assist our judgement as to whether a pitch is deemed inadequate. Pitches with a grade 1 to 2 will be deemed inadequate. Pitches with a grade 2.5 to 3.5 will require a wider judgement according to users and other information gathered.

A formula for the provision of enhancements to existing facilities should assist WMBC in reducing the number of inadequate pitches identified in this study. This could be done by either providing investment into existing facilities or providing new facilities of the appropriate standard. In the longer term, the improvements to facility provision should increase use and demand for pitch provision within the Borough. WMBC should review the adequacy of provision as part of a rolling programme every three to five years to identify inadequacies in provision and revise priorities as applicable.

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36. A41 Corridor - shortfall, inadequacy and requirement

Figure: Summary of available pitches and teams in the A41 catchment area:

Sport	No. of available pitches			No. of teams				
	Senior	Junior	Mini	Senior men	Senior women	Junior boys	Junior girls	Mini
Football	48	13	11	97	2	87	3	36
Cricket	18	-	-	29	2	18	-	-
Hockey	4	-	-	12	3	4	-	-
Rugby Union	14	-	-	17	-	9	-	6
Lacrosse	1	-	-	-	1	-	3	-

Summary of identified latent/future demand in the A41 catchment area:

Club	Site	Level of latent demand	Pitch Requirement
Birkenhead Park RUFC	Birkenhead Park	one senior, mini U8 – U11, one ladies, two youth teams	1 senior rugby 1 junior rugby
Blu FC	Birkenhead Park	Could expand its number of teams significantly if more pitches were available, including U15 and U12, two girls teams and one open age team.	2 junior football 0.5 senior football
Manor Athletic	Octel Sports & Social Club	Club reports demand to develop a number of junior teams through the age groups. None can be accommodated currently at the site.	2 junior football
Old Parkonians	Old Parkonians New Development	CC currently hires a pitch off site to accommodate two senior teams. It is now becoming too costly to maintain this.	1 cricket
Allport Hawks	Octel Sports Club	At least two junior teams. Limited number of junior pitches available at the Club compared to	1 junior football

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Club	Site	Level of latent demand	Pitch Requirement
		demand.	
Total			0.5 senior football 5 junior football 1 cricket 1 senior rugby 1 junior rugby

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Summary of identified inadequate pitch sites in the A41 catchment area:

Site	Inadequacies/Comment	Type & No. of pitches
Acre Lane	Previous license to Shore Villa JFC abandoned due to poor drainage and fixtures not being fulfilled. No changing facility. No independent parking	2 senior football
Birkenhead Park	Poor drainage on all pitches and poor pitch levels. Can only withstand one match per week. Changing some distance from pitches.	3 senior football
Bromborough Rec.	Poor drainage reducing its capacity and users report unacceptable changing accommodation. No off-road parking.	1 senior football
Conway Park	Site is generally in poor condition. Poor drainage and can only withstand one match per week. No off-road parking.	2 junior football
Green Lane	This site is let down by having no changing facility. Good pitch quality.	4 senior football
King's Lane	Poor contours and pitch drainage. Changing is limited and with no showers. It is in poor condition. Limited parking.	1 senior football 2 junior football 2 mini football
New Ferry Park	Although drainage is acceptable, the pitch levels are unacceptable, making it unplayable at times.	1 senior football
The Oval	Drainage is rated as unacceptable.	1 senior football
Torr Park	No showers will be available in the new changing facility. Limited parking is located some distance from the pitch. With improved ancillary facilities Eastham CC could produce two junior teams.	1 cricket
Victoria Park	Drainage and levels are poor on the football pitches. A number of users report unacceptable quality. The cricket pitch is in poor condition.	2 junior football 1 cricket
Total		13 senior football 6 junior football

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Site	Inadequacies/Comment	Type & No. of pitches
		2 mini football 2 cricket

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Table showing calculations of the local standard in the A41 catchment area:

A41 Corridor					
Population (2001 Census) 139,868	Total number of pitches	Pitches available for community use	No. of adequate pitches available for community use	No. of inadequate pitches available for community use	No. of pitches required to meet latent demand
Senior football	61	48	35	13	1
Junior football	39	13	7	6	5
Mini football	13	11	9	2	0
Senior rugby union	27	14	14	0	1
Junior rugby union	6	0	0	0	1
Mini rugby union	0	0	0	0	0
Senior cricket	21	18	16	2	1
Junior cricket	0	0	0	0	0
Senior grass hockey	2	0	0	0	0
ATP	4	4	4	0	0
Lacrosse	1	1	1	0	0
Total estimated playing pitch space (ha)	199.54	133.63	106.71		
Total estimated pitch playing space (ha per 1,000)	1.43	0.96	0.76		
Required improvements to existing playing pitch space (ha)				26.92	
Required improvements to existing playing pitch space (ha per 1,000)				0.19	
Required additional playing pitch space (ha)					9.00
Required additional pitch playing space (ha per 1,000)					0.06
Playing pitch local standard (ha per 1,000)					1.02

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37. Heswall - shortfall, inadequacy and requirement

Figure: Summary of available pitches and teams in the Heswall catchment area:

Sport	No. of available pitches			No. of teams				
	Senior	Junior	Mini	Senior men	Senior women	Junior boys	Junior girls	Mini
Football	5	6	-	6	-	18	-	6
Cricket	2	-	-	4	-	3	-	-
Hockey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rugby Union	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Summary of identified latent/future demand in the Heswall catchment area:

Club	Site	Level of latent demand	Pitch Requirement
Longcroft FC	Puddy Dale	Could produce an additional one senior team if more pitches were available.	0.5 senior football
Heswall AFC	Gayton Park	Could produce one U16 team, one ladies team and a veteran team if further improvements were made to changing and more pitches were developed.	1 senior football
Irby JFC	Irby Rec.	Have outgrown the current facilities. Teams on the increase and could expand further if more pitches were available. The Club believes that at least two junior pitches are required in the near future. One additional junior pitch to accommodate more girls teams is also required.	3 junior football
Total			3 junior football 1.5 senior football

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Summary of identified inadequate pitch sites in the Heswall catchment area:

Site	Inadequacies/Comment	Type & No. of pitches
Chester Road PF	No changing facility on site. Poor drainage, although pitch levels are good.	1 junior football
Gayton Park PF	Site in poor condition according to council staff. No changing provision.	1 junior football
Puddy Dale	No changing facility on site	1 senior football
Ridgewood Park	Two pitches have poor drainage. Changing facility cannot accommodate all teams especially junior players. Parking area over-marked with basketball court causes conflict and shared with local play area and community hall.	1 senior football 1 junior football
Whitfield Common	Poor quality changing facility with no toilets and a lack of lighting this reflects pitch not being used to capacity or fully at peak times.	1 senior football
Total		3 junior football 3 senior football

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Table showing calculations of the local standard in the Heswall catchment area:

Heswall					
Population (2001 Census) 31,260	Total number of pitches	Pitches available for community use	No. of adequate pitches available for community use	No. of inadequate pitches available for community use	No. of pitches required to meet latent demand
Senior football	5	5	2	3	2
Junior football	18	6	3	3	3
Mini football	1	0	0	0	0
Senior rugby union	0	0	0	0	0
Junior rugby union	2	0	0	0	0
Mini rugby union	0	0	0	0	0
Senior cricket	2	2	2	0	0
Junior cricket	0	0	0	0	0
Senior grass hockey	1	0	0	0	0
Junior grass hockey	2	0	0	0	0
ATP	0	0	0	0	0
Lacrosse	0	0	0	0	0
Total estimated playing pitch space (ha)	27.55	15.12	8.46		
Total estimated pitch playing space (ha per 1,000)	0.88	0.48	0.27		
Required improvements to existing playing pitch space (ha)				6.66	
Required improvements to existing playing pitch space (ha per 1,000)				0.21	
Required additional playing pitch space (ha)					5.26
Required additional pitch playing space (ha per 1,000)					0.17
Playing pitch local standard (ha per 1,000)					0.65

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38. Hoylake - shortfall, inadequacy and requirement

Figure: Summary of available pitches and teams in the Hoylake catchment area:

Sport	No. of available pitches			No. of teams				
	Senior	Junior	Mini	Senior men	Senior women	Junior boys	Junior girls	Mini
Football	2	4	-	4	-	5	-	2
Cricket	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hockey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rugby Union	3	-	-	3	-	3	-	7

Summary of identified latent/future demand in the Hoylake catchment area:

No latent demand has been identified in this catchment area.

Summary of identified inadequate pitch sites in the Hoylake catchment area:

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Site	Inadequacies/Comment	Type & No. of pitches
Acres Road	Poor drainage on both pitches which has deteriorated over the last few years. Current state of changing facility is unacceptable, although work is being carried out by one team – this may limited its use to other teams.	2 junior football
Elm Grove	Liable to flooding and match cancellations and has only temporary changing provision following a fire.	1 senior football
Sandringham Avenue	Site prone to flooding. Poor drainage on both pitches although the senior pitch has not been hired due to its poor quality. No changing rooms and limited parking.	1 junior football 1 senior football
Total		3 junior football 2 senior football

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Table showing calculations of the local standard in the Hoylake catchment area:

Hoylake					
Population (2001 Census) 11,077	Total number of pitches	Pitches available for community use	No. of adequate pitches available for community use	No. of inadequate pitches available for community use	No. of pitches required to meet latent demand
Senior football	2	2	0	2	0
Junior football	4	4	1	3	0
Mini football	0	0	0	0	0
Senior rugby union	3	3	3	0	0
Junior rugby union	0	0	0	0	0
Mini rugby union	0	0	0	0	0
Senior cricket	0	0	0	0	0
Junior cricket	0	0	0	0	0
Senior grass hockey	0	0	0	0	0
ATP	0	0	0	0	0
Total estimated playing pitch space (ha)	9.68	9.68	4.42		
Total estimated pitch playing space (ha per 1,000)	0.87	0.87	0.40		
Required improvements to existing playing pitch space (ha)				5.26	
Required improvements to existing playing pitch space (ha per 1,000)				0.47	
Required additional playing pitch space (ha)					0.00
Required additional pitch playing space (ha per 1,000)					0.00
Playing pitch local standard (ha per 1,000)					0.87

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39. Leasowe - shortfall, inadequacy and requirement

Figure: Summary of available pitches and teams in the Leasowe catchment area:

Sport	No. of available pitches			No. of teams				
	Senior	Junior	Mini	Senior men	Senior women	Junior boys	Junior girls	Mini
Football	2	5	5	2	-	7	-	6
Cricket	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hockey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rugby Union	3	1	-	4	1	1	-	-

Summary of identified latent/future demand in the Leasowe catchment area:

Club	Site	Level of latent demand	Pitch Requirement
Olympic FC	Leasowe Road Rec.	Could produce two more junior teams possibly U14 and U16 if more pitches were available.	1 junior football
Total			1 junior football

Summary of identified inadequate pitch sites in the Leasowe catchment area:

Site	Inadequacies/Comment	Type & No. of pitches
Leasowe Road Rec.	No changing facility or car park. FC Phoenix could produce U12 and U13 teams if pitch quality was improved on the junior pitches. Worn goalmouths.	1 senior football 2 junior football
Total		2 junior football 1 senior football

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Table showing calculations of the local standard in the Leasowe catchment area:

Leasowe					
Population (2001 Census) 7,112	Total number of pitches	Pitches available for community use	No. of adequate pitches available for community use	No. of inadequate pitches available for community use	No. of pitches required to meet latent demand
Senior football	6	2	1	1	0
Junior football	6	5	3	2	1
Mini football	5	5	5	0	0
Senior rugby union	3	3	3	0	0
Junior rugby union	1	1	1	0	0
Mini rugby union	0	0	0	0	0
Senior cricket	0	0	0	0	0
Junior cricket	0	0	0	0	0
Senior grass hockey	0	0	0	0	0
ATP	0	0	0	0	0
Total estimated playing pitch space (ha)	19.12	12.70	9.66		
Total estimated pitch playing space (ha per 1,000)	2.69	1.79	1.36		
Required improvements to existing playing pitch space (ha)				3.04	
Required improvements to existing playing pitch space (ha per 1,000)				0.43	
Required additional playing pitch space (ha)					0.82
Required additional pitch playing space (ha per 1,000)					0.12
Playing pitch local standard (ha per 1,000)					1.90

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40. Mid Wirral - shortfall, inadequacy and requirement

Figure: Summary of available pitches and teams in the Mid Wirral catchment area:

Sport	No. of available pitches			No. of teams				
	Senior	Junior	Mini	Senior men	Senior women	Junior boys	Junior girls	Mini
Football	25	7	-	20	-	31	-	6
Cricket	2	-	-	8	-	5	-	-
Hockey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rugby Union	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Summary of identified latent/future demand in the Mid Wirral catchment area:

Club	Site	Level of latent demand	Pitch Requirement
Saughall FC	Coronation Park	Could produce two more senior teams if more pitches were available.	1 senior football
Millhouse AFC	Millcroft Sports Ground	Could produce a small number of junior teams if more pitches were available at the home ground.	1 junior football
Total			1 senior football 1 junior football

Summary of identified inadequate pitch sites in the Mid Wirral catchment area:

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Site	Inadequacies/Comment	Type & No. of pitches
Arrowe Park	This site is not utilised to its capacity due to the poor quality of a number of pitches. All users report that the whole site is unacceptable in terms of pitch quality. Limited off-road parking.	12 senior football 4 junior football
Coronation Park	Poor quality drainage on all pitches as reported by council officers and some users.	3 senior football
Lingham Park	Whole site suffers from poor drainage. Teams have moved from the site due to its poor quality. No off-road parking available.	4 senior football
Woodchurch Leisure Centre	Poor drainage on all pitches. Fender FC had half of its matches cancelled last season.	3 senior football
Total		22 senior football 4 junior football

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Table showing calculations of the local standard in the Mid Wirral catchment area:

Mid-Wirral					
Population (2001 Census) 46,733	Total number of pitches	Pitches available for community use	No. of adequate pitches available for community use	No. of inadequate pitches available for community use	No. of pitches required to meet latent demand
Senior football	28	25	3	22	1
Junior football	16	7	3	4	1
Mini football	1	0	0	0	0
Senior rugby union	1	0	0	0	0
Junior rugby union	0	0	0	0	0
Mini rugby union	0	0	0	0	0
Senior cricket	2	2	2	0	0
Junior cricket	0	0	0	0	0
Senior grass hockey	0	0	0	0	0
Junior grass hockey	0	0	0	0	0
ATP	0	0	0	0	0
Total estimated playing pitch space (ha)	57.02	43.94	9.86		
Total estimated pitch playing space (ha per 1,000)	1.22	0.94	0.21		
Required improvements to existing playing pitch space (ha)				34.08	
Required improvements to existing playing pitch space (ha per 1,000)				0.73	
Required additional playing pitch space (ha)					2.22
Required additional pitch playing space (ha per 1,000)					0.05
Playing pitch local standard (ha per 1,000)					0.99

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41. Rural Areas - shortfall, inadequacy and requirement

Figure: Summary of available pitches and teams in the Rural Areas catchment area:

Sport	No. of available pitches			No. of teams				
	Senior	Junior	Mini	Senior men	Senior women	Junior boys	Junior girls	Mini
Football	3	3	-	1	-	6	-	1
Cricket	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hockey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rugby Union	3	-	2	5	-	4	-	6

Summary of identified latent/future demand in the Rural Areas catchment area:

No latent demand was identified in the Rural Areas catchment area.

Summary of identified inadequate pitch sites in the Rural Areas catchment area:

Site	Inadequacies/Comment	No. of pitches
Wirral Club	Wirral RUFC has a number of pitches at the site. Pitches located on the Crossroads are out of commission due to waterlogging. Lack of parking has meant that football use has had to be scaled down on the Foxes site.	1 senior rugby 2 mini rugby
Total		1 senior rugby 2 mini rugby

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Table showing calculations of the local standard in the Rural catchment area:

Rural Areas					
Population (2001 Census) 1,746	Total number of pitches	Pitches available for community use	No. of adequate pitches available for community use	No. of inadequate pitches available for community use	No. of pitches required to meet latent demand
Senior football	4	3	3	0	0
Junior football	3	3	3	0	0
Mini football	0	0	0	0	0
Senior rugby union	3	3	2	1	0
Junior rugby union	0	0	0	0	0
Mini rugby union	2	2	0	2	0
Senior cricket	1	1	1	0	0
Junior cricket	0	0	0	0	0
Senior grass hockey	0	0	0	0	0
Junior grass hockey	0	0	0	0	0
ATP	0	0	0	0	0
Total estimated playing pitch space (ha)	13.86	12.46	10.66		
Total estimated pitch playing space (ha per 1,000)	7.94	7.14	6.11		
Required improvements to existing playing pitch space (ha)				1.80	
Required improvements to existing playing pitch space (ha per 1,000)				1.03	
Required additional playing pitch space (ha)					0.00
Required additional pitch playing space (ha per 1,000)					0.00
Playing pitch local standard (ha per 1,000)					7.14

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42. Wallasey - shortfall, inadequacy and requirement

Figure: Summary of available pitches and teams in the Wallasey catchment area:

Sport	No. of available pitches			No. of teams				
	Senior	Junior	Mini	Senior men	Senior women	Junior boys	Junior girls	Mini
Football	16	5	6	43	-	49	-	21
Cricket	4	-	-	13	-	13	-	-
Hockey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rugby Union	4	-	-	7	-	6	-	9
US football	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-

Summary of identified latent/future demand in the Wallasey catchment area:

Club	Site	Level of latent demand	Pitch Requirement
Delta Colts JFC	Wallacre	Could produce three more junior teams if more junior pitches were available at the site.	1.5 junior
Vanser FC	Wallacre	Could produce one open age reserves team if high standard, fenced pitches were available in the Wallasey area.	0.5 senior football
Rose and Crown FC	Central Park	Could produce one more senior team if additional pitches were provided at this site.	0.5 senior football
New Brighton AFC	Harrison Park	Believes it could produce at least 4 – 6 more junior teams if more land was available for it to develop pitches.	3 junior football
Total			1 senior football 4.5 junior football

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Summary of identified inadequate pitch sites in the Wallasey catchment area:

Site	Inadequacies/Comment	Type & No. of pitches
Belvidere Rec.	Although Council staff rate this site as adequate, users report waterlogging and a high number of match cancellations.	1 senior football
Central Park	Users suggest that two of three football pitches are unacceptable to play on. All teams report the size of the pitches as an issue.	2 senior football
Oxton Road	No changing facility available on site. No parking.	2 mini soccer
School Lane	No changing facility on site. No specific car park. Teams playing here report this as directly effecting the number of teams it can produce.	3 senior football 2 mini soccer
Wallacre	Council staff report poor drainage on the whole site. It is overused. Users report unacceptable quality. Limited parking available.	3 senior football
Total		9 senior football 4 mini soccer

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Table showing calculations of the local standard in the Wallasey catchment area:

Wallasey					
Population (2001 Census) 59,383	Total number of pitches	Pitches available for community use	No. of adequate pitches available for community use	No. of inadequate pitches available for community use	No. of pitches required to meet latent demand
Senior football	16	16	7	9	1
Junior football	8	5	5	0	5
Mini football	6	6	2	4	0
Senior rugby union	4	4	4	0	0
Junior rugby union	2	0	0	0	0
Mini rugby union	0	0	0	0	0
Senior rugby league	0	0	0	0	0
Junior rugby league	0	0	0	0	0
US football	1	1	1	0	0
Senior cricket	5	4	4	0	0
Junior cricket	0	0	0	0	0
Senior grass hockey	0	0	0	0	0
Junior grass hockey	0	0	0	0	0
ATP	0	0	0	0	0
Total estimated playing pitch space (ha)	45.83	40.37	26.57		
Total estimated pitch playing space (ha per 1,000)	0.77	0.68	0.45		
Required improvements to existing playing pitch space (ha)				13.80	
Required improvements to existing playing pitch space (ha per 1,000)				0.23	
Required additional playing pitch space (ha)					5.50
Required additional pitch playing space (ha per 1,000)					0.09
Playing pitch local standard (ha per 1,000)					0.77

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43. West Kirby - shortfall, inadequacy and requirement

Figure: Summary of available pitches and teams in the West Kirby catchment area:

Sport	No. of available pitches			No. of teams				
	Senior	Junior	Mini	Senior men	Senior women	Junior boys	Junior girls	Mini
Football	4	3	1	4	-	9	2	5
Cricket	2	-	-	5	-	5	-	-
Hockey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rugby Union	3	-	-	4	-	4	-	7

Summary of identified latent/future demand in the West Kirby catchment area:

Club	Site	Level of latent demand	Pitch Requirement
West Kirby Wasps Pre League	Anglesey Road	Could increase all age groups to two teams each (4 teams currently) if more land was available to mark out mini soccer pitches.	2 mini soccer
Total			2 mini soccer

Summary of identified inadequate pitch sites in the West Kirby catchment area:

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Site	Inadequacies/Comment	Type & No. of pitches
Anglesey Road	No changing facility located on this site. Users are offered changing at the adjacent site but users report this is unacceptable and do not use it. No off-road parking.	1 senior football 1 junior football 1 mini soccer
Devonshire Road	No changing facility available on site or off-road parking.	1 junior football
Greenbank Road	Council staff report poor drainage. Old waste tip site. Vandalism is a major issue here.	1 senior football
Newton Park	No changing facility available on site. Limited parking shared with the adjacent park.	1 senior football 1 junior football
Total		3 senior football 3 junior football 1 mini soccer

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Table showing calculations of the local standard in the West Kirby catchment area:

West Kirby					
Population (2001 Census) 15,197	Total number of pitches	Pitches available for community use	No. of adequate pitches available for community use	No. of inadequate pitches available for community use	No. of pitches required to meet latent demand
Senior football	5	4	1	3	0
Junior football	5	3	0	3	0
Mini football	2	1	0	1	2
Senior rugby union	6	3	3	0	0
Junior rugby union	0	0	0	0	0
Mini rugby union	0	0	0	0	0
Senior cricket	4	2	2	0	0
Junior cricket	0	0	0	0	0
Senior grass hockey	2	0	0	0	0
Junior grass hockey	0	0	0	0	0
ATP	2	0	0	0	0
Lacrosse	0	0	0	0	0
Total estimated playing pitch space (ha)	29.44	15.16	8.20		
Total estimated pitch playing space (ha per 1,000)	1.94	1.00	0.54		
Required improvements to existing playing pitch space (ha)				6.96	
Required improvements to existing playing pitch space (ha per 1,000)				0.46	
Required additional playing pitch space (ha)					0.60
Required additional pitch playing space (ha per 1,000)					0.04
Playing pitch local standard (ha per 1,000)					1.04

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44. Wirral - shortfall, inadequacy and requirement

Table showing calculations of the local standard for the whole of Wirral

WIRRAL					
Population (2001 Census) 312,376	Total number of pitches	Pitches available for community use	No. of adequate pitches available for community use	No. of inadequate pitches available for community use	No. of pitches required to meet latent demand
Senior football	127	105	52	53	5
Junior football	99	46	25	21	15
Mini football	28	23	16	7	2
Senior rugby union	47	30	29	1	1
Junior rugby union	11	1	1	0	1
Mini rugby union	2	2	0	2	0
US football	1	1	1	0	0
Senior cricket	35	29	27	2	1
Junior cricket	0	0	0	0	0
Senior grass hockey	5	0	0	0	0
Junior grass hockey	2	0	0	0	0
ATP	6	4	4	0	0
Lacrosse	1	1	1	0	0
Total estimated playing pitch space (ha)	402.04	283.06	184.54		
Total estimated pitch playing space (ha per 1,000)	1.29	0.91	0.59		
Required improvements to existing playing pitch space (ha)				98.52	
Required improvements to existing playing pitch space (ha per 1,000)				0.32	
Required additional playing pitch space (ha)					23.40
Required additional pitch playing space (ha per 1,000)					0.07
Playing pitch local standard (ha per 1,000)					0.98

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL
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