

# North Devon Playing Pitch Strategy Update FINAL STRATEGY DOCUMENT

## CONTENTS

<b>JOINT STRATEGY INTRODUCTION FOR NORTH DEVON AND TORRIDGE</b>		<b>2</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>STRATEGIC THEMES</b>	<b>3</b>
	A PROTECT: Protecting the Opportunities	
	B ENHANCE: High quality, appropriate facilities, affordable for all	
	C PROVIDE: The Changing Sporting Context	
<b>3</b>	<b>PLANNING CONTEXT</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>POPULATION TRENDS</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>MONITORING AND DELIVERY</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>FINAL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY FOR NORTH DEVON</b>		<b>12</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>SUMMARY OF PRIORITIES AND KEY PROPOSALS</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>CRICKET IN NORTH DEVON</b>	<b>14</b>
	2A Demand, supply and capacity	
	2B Future situation to 2033	
	2C Recommendations for new provision	
<b>3</b>	<b>RUGBY IN NORTH DEVON</b>	<b>16</b>
	3A Demand, supply and capacity	
	3B Future situation to 2033	
	3C Recommendations for new provision	
<b>4</b>	<b>HOCKEY IN NORTH DEVON</b>	<b>22</b>
	4A Demand, supply and capacity	
	4B Future situation to 2033 and recommendations	
<b>5</b>	<b>FOOTBALL IN NORTH DEVON</b>	<b>24</b>
	5A Demand, supply and capacity	
	5B Future situation to 2033	
	5C Recommendations for grass pitch provision	
<b>6</b>	<b>ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCH PROVISION</b>	<b>29</b>
	6A List of AGPs in North Devon and Torridge	
	6B Usage of and demand for 3G AGPs in North Devon	
	6C Future situation to 2033	
	6D Future sites for 3G AGPs in North Devon	
<b>7</b>	<b>SCENARIO TESTING</b>	<b>38</b>

## **JOINT STRATEGY INTRODUCTION FOR NORTH DEVON & TORRIDGE**

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

The previous Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for North Devon Council and Torrridge District Council (then described as a PPS for Northern Devon) was adopted in 2017 and covered the period to 2031. The two councils worked together in partnership with Sport England and the National Governing Bodies for football, rugby union, cricket and hockey to develop the strategy and original data collection on supply and demand was undertaken during the 2016/17 winter and 2017 summer season.

By the early 2020s this data was out of date and an update was commissioned in late 2023 with the purpose of:

- Extending the period covered to 2033 rather than 2031 to give a forward steer to the future revised local plan
- ensuring that all data on the supply of playing pitches and the demand for them was as current and robust as possible
- ensuring that the PPS was fully compliant with S106, Sport England guidance and the Local Plan to ensure robustness in defence of any challenges at public inquiries
- establishing precisely the type – surface and size - of both grass and artificial grass provision that needs to be delivered in the future to meet the needs of all players of the pitch sports
- informing accurately where to direct off-site contributions towards new or enhanced facilities where on-site provision is not applicable or appropriate

It is encouraging that many priority projects from both local authorities have either been fully addressed or have made substantial progress since 2017. However, a number remain to be implemented and new priorities now require addressing if enough appropriate, high quality provision is to be provided in accordance with the needs of the growing populations in both authorities. The context for the pitch sports has also changed considerably, not least because patterns of participation were interrupted by the covid pandemic, whilst documented trends include a discernible rise in participation rates amongst women and girls, the continuing gradual decline in village sport with some concentration of activity within the market towns and the increasing demand for artificial grass surfaces for both training and matchplay in football and rugby.

The Strategy is supported by a detailed Needs Assessment document and an excel spreadsheet with salient details of all the pitch sports sites and teams. When the Update commenced, the two authorities were considered together as ‘Northern Devon’ but it was felt more appropriate to present the findings, issues and action plans from the updated Strategy separately for North Devon and Torrridge. Many of the strategic themes are the same and so this Introductory section considers both authorities together, before it proceeds to separate reports.

## What the Strategy does

The research underpinning the Strategy has analysed and recorded the quantity and quality of the current stock of playing pitches and ancillary facilities and trends in participation in the pitch sports across North Devon and Torridge. This has been in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance (October 2013) under the auspices of a Steering Group comprising representatives from Sport England, NGBs and local authority officers. It provides a framework and recommendations to protect the current network of playing field provision and to ensure the development of sustainable and cost-effective facilities to meet current and future demand and to underpin funding bids and the securing of developer contributions.

Planning for and installing new facilities can take several years and it is important to be mindful of this when trying to suggest the priority recommendations going forward. The strategy can thus give a direction of travel, but should not be too prescriptive and should remain open to flexible interpretation, so that those responsible for implementing it will be able to take advantages of opportunities as they arise.

The Updated Vision for both the North Devon and Torridge Playing Pitch Strategies is:

'To fully understand the quantity and quality of the current stock of playing pitches and demand for them now and in the future in order:

- To protect all the facilities that are used and valued by the current population
- To enhance facilities so that quality meets twenty-first century expectations and to attract new and retain existing users
- To provide appropriate and accessible facilities in the right locations to cater for increased demand from the growth in population and to encourage participation by all sectors of the community
- To help to create a more biodiverse and healthy sporting environment to support the goal of both councils to work towards net-zero carbon emissions and ensure a cleaner, greener future.'

## 2 STRATEGIC THEMES

Based on the Needs Assessments and identification of key issues and findings, this framework for future delivery embodies a number of concepts and comments which reflect Sport England's priority themes of PROTECT, ENHANCE AND PROVIDE and are loosely grouped under these headings below.

### A PROTECT:

Protecting existing playing field sites and ensuring all playing field land is used effectively and sustainably, whilst recognising the value of playing fields for public informal open space. Working in partnership to enable effective and greater use of existing playing field sites and the sharing of skills, expertise, resources and facilities.

**B ENHANCE:**

Enhancing existing facilities to ensure they are fit for purpose and of high quality in order to retain existing levels of participation, improve the playing experience and encourage growth in participation. Facilities should be affordable and open at times which can encourage participation by all sectors of the community.

**C PROVIDE:**

Ensuring that enhanced and new facilities are provided to meet existing demand and projected demand from increases in population and participation and located at sites which are accessible within rural areas. Providing a range of appropriate facilities for both competition and training which enable pitch sport participants to improve and progress.

**A PROTECT: Protecting the Opportunities**

This Strategy is for grass and artificial grass pitches and the main sports which are played on them – football, cricket, rugby and hockey. There are many other pitch sports which use these facilities such as American football, archery, athletics, baseball, Gaelic football, lacrosse and rugby league. With the exception of athletics, these sports are not currently well represented on playing fields in North Devon and Torridge, but it is important that playing field spaces are protected so that they are available to meet future demand for all these sports and to accommodate other opportunities.

There are other aspects to playing pitches and the land on which they lie. Many playing fields are valuable in their own right as public open space sites for informal recreation and a wealth of informal activities – kite flying, picnics, play, environmental studies, dog walking and so on.

Playing fields can offer a wonderful environment for sport for people with disabilities, being free of the restrictions of indoor facilities. They often include bowling greens, skateparks and tennis courts and of course changing rooms, pavilions and cafes, and these elements need to be planned for in harmony with the needs of the pitch based sports.

As sporting behaviours change, some playing fields may experience less use for formal sport and there is evidence of this in North Devon and Torridge – around ten playing field sites at least have been identified since the last Strategy as being no longer used for formal sport e.g. Chittlehampton Playing Field in North Devon and St Giles in the Wood Cricket Club in Torridge. Sustaining pitch sites which may not currently be fully used for sport, but provide local informal opportunities for sports participation and contribute towards people's good health and well being and may meet future demand, is critical. If a playing field is no longer used for formal sport it should be protected and any proposals for change of use or development adhere to Sport England's Playing Fields Policy<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/planning-sport?section=playing\\_fields\\_policy](https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/planning-sport?section=playing_fields_policy)

**This is particularly important as the Strategy has identified a shortage of both grass and artificial grass pitches to meet current and future demand for football, cricket, rugby and hockey across both North Devon and Torridge.**

## **B      ENHANCE: High quality, appropriate facilities, affordable for all**

It is becoming increasingly obvious that in order to both attract and retain players and the vast army of volunteers who maintain many facilities and administer and coach the teams that facilities must be of a high quality and affordable and accessible to all.

Some of the measures that are required include: ensuring that the requirements of younger players (both girls and boys) are fully catered for, by providing, for example: a range of age-appropriate pitch sizes at hub sites for football; suitable non turf wickets for cricket if required; sufficient access for training and matchplay for junior/mini rugby; the development of training and matchplay opportunities for junior hockey players, which may involve more, appropriate sports lighting of facilities.

Attracting new participants into pitch sports, including people with disabilities and women and girls, are key foci of all NGBs but ancillary facilities must keep pace with these aspirations. There should be appropriate age and gender specific changing facilities, which are safe and secure, with appropriate lighting of access areas and paths.

North Devon and Torridge each have particular areas of high deprivation and for participation to grow and develop, facilities and opportunities must be affordable and accessible at convenient times.

It is critical for the ongoing sustainability of new provision that: pitch and ancillary facilities adhere to appropriate NGB and Sport England standards and facilities are modern and well maintained. Suitable management is required to maximise usage and manage finances responsibly to ensure sustainability, including ring-fencing funds for maintenance and sinking funds for replacement where required. There should be sufficient funds for the purchase and upkeep of maintenance machinery and support for volunteers to undertake pitch power assessments.

Rain soaked pitches are becoming more and more of an issue each winter, with consequently an increasing demand for artificial grass pitch provision which is not so subject to the vagaries of the weather. Following an EU Directive around the cessation of the use of microplastics in the EU from 2031, there is growing concern about the environmental impact of the microplastics contained within the construction of 3G AGPs and how this can be contained and reduced in the future. There are various containment measures which can be introduced (retrofitted if necessary) which can help to keep microplastics on the pitch (up to 98% according to some independent studies<sup>2</sup>); alternative infills such as cork, Norwegian birch and corn husks etc, are also being considered and trialled on small sided pitches in Sheffield. Research is also being carried out into the social value of 3G AGPs when

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.estc.info/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Ecoloop-Report-Effectiveness-RMMs.pdf>

measured against their cost and impact on the environment. Provision of AGPs must not be at the cost of losing or not providing additional grass pitches.

The Government has been exploring whether carbon assessments for developments could be brought in (which seem likely to be introduced anyway by many local authorities) whilst impact assessments for health, travel and transport and the environment already exist. Net gain biodiversity for development has been introduced through the Environment Act and many Local Plans have already introduced such requirements through policy. Sport England's Every Move Strategy considers the application of carbon reduction measures in sport<sup>3</sup>.

## **C PROVIDE: The changing Sporting Context**

Sports participation and patterns of behaviour do not stand still. Since the original PPS was published, we have experienced the Covid pandemic which not only severely impacted upon patterns of sports participation (and for some sports the drop off has not been overcome) but it has also engendered a renewed interest and focus upon the importance of spaces for outdoor activity in particular. It is arguably even more important now to protect and enhance our outdoor spaces to cater for a range of activities, not just formal sport.

Social change is continuing to have an impact on the time and resources available for formal sport by way of: different working shifts and patterns; more calls on people's time; additional, new leisure pursuits and activities; rising expectations around the quality of the sporting experience, and for some sectors of the population, considerably less disposable income to spend on sport.

In North Devon, there are particular deficiencies in grass provision for football, cricket and rugby in Barnstaple, Ilfracombe, Chulmleigh and South Molton and for artificial grass pitch provision in the Barnstaple, Braunton areas and Chulmleigh areas. In Torrington, there are particular deficiencies for football, cricket and rugby in Bideford, East the Water, Northam and Holsworthy and for artificial grass pitch provision in the Bideford/Northam area and the rural areas of Holsworthy and Great Torrington.

The playing pitch resource needs to be managed flexibly in order to respond to changing patterns of participation and sustainably accommodating new forms of the pitch sports, such as small sided football and T20 cricket, and adapting to changing patterns of demand. Whilst youth activity in football, cricket and rugby is showing encouraging growth, particularly amongst women and girls, which it is hoped will translate into the full sided games, there has been a decline in football and cricket activity in some of the smaller settlements.

There is anecdotal evidence that adult football activity is transferring away from the 11v11 league game to small sided football on 3G AGP facilities and the Strategy has identified robust and growing demand for these facilities for both training and matchplay in football

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/sustainability> and Appendix 2 for a brief summary.

and rugby (maybe less so for matchplay in rugby). Any new AGP provision should be on sites where access for the community can be fully secured and guaranteed at all times. Addressing the deficiencies in artificial grass pitch provision, particularly the requirement for additional WR22 3G provision on non education sites in Barnstaple and Bideford is a key theme of the Strategies.

Pitches on secondary school sites still form an important part of the stock but there has been a decline in community usage of grass pitches on school sites since the 2017 PPS. In almost all areas where there are deficiencies, school pitches – if they have investment and support to ensure good quality playing surfaces and ancillary facilities and appropriate maintenance – could help meet identified shortfalls.

Balancing the distribution of facilities so that there are enough to serve rural areas without too much travelling, but sufficient activity to ensure sustainability, is always going to be challenging. North Devon and Torridge are overwhelmingly rural areas and, as already mentioned, there has been a drop off in sports played in some of the more rural settlements (although with some encouraging exceptions), with more activity becoming focused at ‘hub sites’ in the larger market towns. This may enable greater opportunities in larger settlements but means that more rural areas are less well served and those living there will require transport if they are to partake in sport. Active travel, including facilities for cycling, must be part of the solution to not only improving health, but also reducing reliance on the private car, especially for local journeys.

### **3 PLANNING CONTEXT**

At a national level, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) clearly establishes the requirement that local plans ensure that there is proper provision of community and cultural facilities to meet local needs. Paragraphs 103 and 104 require there to be a sound (i.e. up-to-date and verifiable) evidence base underpinning policy and its application. Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications affecting playing pitches and has a long established policy of retention, which is the precursor to the National Planning Policy Framework guidance above. Sport England’s ‘Every Move Strategy’, Playing Fields Policy and Uniting the Movement Strategy <sup>4</sup> all underpin this playing pitch assessment.

National Governing Body Facility Strategies set out strategies guiding the provision of facilities for their sport, including:

- Football Association ‘Time for Change 2020-24’ and Local Football Facility Plans
- Devon FA Strategy 2021-2024
- Devon Cricket Facilities Strategy 2023 – 2033
- England Hockey Facilities Strategy 2017-2033
- Rugby Football Union National Facilities Strategy

Locally there are several key policy documents that will inform the direction of the Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan in addition to the Local Plan. These include:

- Green Infrastructure Study for North Devon and Torridge Councils 2013-2031

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<sup>4</sup> [www.sportengland.org/about-us/uniting-movement](http://www.sportengland.org/about-us/uniting-movement)

- One Northern Devon for Health and Wellbeing
- The Northern Devon Culture Strategy: 2022-2027
- Neighbourhood Plans
- Active Design (Sport England, Office for Health Improvement and Disparities and Active Travel England)

The adopted local plan for the two authorities is the North Devon and Torridge Local Plan 2011-2031 (adopted 2018)<sup>5</sup>. No new sites will be allocated through the Local Plan in the next five years although some additional sites that come forward and other outstanding sites may be added in. A review of 5-year Land supply has just been completed. There is likely to be a partial review of the Local Plan up to 2031 to give a degree of certainty, and so it was agreed to consider in this Update possible growth to 2033 to give a forward steer.

The North Devon and Torridge area comprises about 1,903 square kilometres and has a population of around 157,500 (Census 2011) people living in a network of historic market towns, rural settlements and coastal resorts. The sea and the moors define the limits of the area, and the pattern of development shows the maritime influence and the rurality of the area. Approximately half of the population of North Devon & Torridge live in the main settlements around the Taw/Torridge estuary.

Barnstaple is the sub regional centre for northern Devon. It provides a range of strategic services and facilities, including further and higher education, the District General Hospital and comparatively major shopping facilities. Bideford has a significant complementary role and is linked to Barnstaple by the A39. These settlements together provide the economic, commercial and administrative focus for many of the strategic service needs of the wider rural area. The market and coastal towns of: Braunton, Ilfracombe, South Molton and Chulmleigh in North Devon and Northam (including Appledore and Westward Ho!), Holsworthy and Great Torrington in Torridge have a range of facilities that collectively serve wider rural populations across the rest of northern Devon.

## **4 POPULATION TRENDS**

### ***Population growth from new housing***

Analysis of the population profile provides a context for the interpretation of participation in pitch sports. Population figures in the 2017 study were based on the ONS 2014-based Sub National Population Projections (published May 2016). To give some idea of accuracy, the 2021 Census count showed 98,618 people in North Devon and 68,114 people in Torridge. This compared to population projections for 2021 (based on the ONS 2014 based subnational population projections) of 98,480 people in North Devon (a close match) and 69,942 people in Torridge (actual population slightly lower). It is concluded that the projections used to model future demand in 2031 in the original 2017 PPS remain robust. There will be some projected increase in population between 2031 and 2033 based on the ONS projections. This has been allowed for through using the population which will be generated from new housing growth (see below).

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<sup>5</sup> [/www.northdevon.gov.uk/council/strategies-plans-and-policies/environment-and-planning-policies/local-plan/north-devon-and-torridge-local-plan](http://www.northdevon.gov.uk/council/strategies-plans-and-policies/environment-and-planning-policies/local-plan/north-devon-and-torridge-local-plan)



The adopted local plan set out a minimum housing delivery requirement for northern Devon of 861 dwellings per annum over the plan period 2011-2031 with much of the new housing growth in and around Barnstaple and Bideford and to a lesser extent to smaller settlements.

There has been no updated Strategic Housing Market Assessment nor substantive work on a New Local Plan which would cover the period 2031 to 2033. Consequently it would be reasonable to expect that housing growth will continue roughly at the current rate so basic demographic models will remain mostly robust and can be calculated for the sub areas on a pro rata basis.

The projected population from allocated housing growth in North Devon and Torridge for the period 2011 – 2031 has been broadly based on the trajectory in the North Devon and Torridge Authority Monitoring Report 2018-2019, published in June 2020. Using information on planned and completed dwellings and ONS 2021 Census household density, the projected population change 2031- 2033 for the two local authority areas can be estimated. On this basis it is estimated that, through new housing, there are an additional **3010** people to take into account in North Devon who were not considered in the original 2017 PPS (to 2031) and an additional **1080** people to take into account in Torridge who were not considered in the original 2017 PPS (to 2031).

The Adopted Local Plan makes provision for new sports pitches to be delivered at several large scale housing development sites and there are also other proposals in the pipeline or which have been reconsidered. These are referred to later in this report. A review of the Councils’ Infrastructure Funding Statements also shows that several contributions have been collected for sports pitch maintenance and improvements. Wherever possible, provision from strategic housing allocations must be maximised either on-site or through off-site contributions

### ***Pitch sport playing age ranges***

It is helpful to look at longer term trends in the demographic structure. For the following we have to use the most recent ONS data as this is the only source data which robustly splits the population by age and gender. As stated, this is the 2018-based subnational population projections, published in March 2020.

Ultimately the mix of housing (family housing vs retirement etc) will have a significant impact on demographics. In the 2030s we will be entering a period of greater mortality as the baby boom enters their 80s & 90s which may effect total populations. Also it is recognised that new homes tend to attract younger demographics in particular families with dependent children (which are likely to generate more pitch sport teams than the general population. Therefore the following trends should be regarded with caution as it is apparent that it will be new housing which will drive population growth.

From 2024 – 2033 it is expected to see:

- a predicted slight decline in the minis and junior age ranges between 5-19 years

- a slight growth amongst adults in both the younger and older age ranges (as below).

‘Compressing’ the pitch sport playing age ranges shows the following:

**Table 1: Projected Change in Pitch Sport Age Playing Ranges - 2024-2033: Summary**

	Change in population 2024-2033		Change in population 2024-2033	
	North Devon		Torridge	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
<b>Mini/Youth (5-19 years)</b>	-503	-3.0%	-404	-3.7%
<b>Adult pitch sports (20-45 years)</b>	725	2.8%	535	3.2%
<b>Adult pitch sports (46-69 years)</b>	936	2.8%	520	2.0%
<b>Overall ‘active participation’(5-69 years)</b>	1,159	1.5%	651	1.2%

The Update has considered and analysed much of the data on a sub area basis within the two authorities as follows:

**North Devon**

- Barnstaple
- Braunton
- Ilfracombe
- South Molton

**Torridge**

- Bideford
- Torrington
- Holsworthy

**5 MONITORING AND DELIVERY**

The evolving context of participation in sport and active recreation means that monitoring and review of the strategy is as important as the initial preparation of the document to ensure it remains sufficiently robust to fulfil the above roles. Reflecting the importance of this phase of work, monitoring of the strategy represents Step 10 of the approach to the production of a playing pitch strategy set out in the guidance for the delivery of a playing pitch Strategy (Sport England 2013).

The ongoing monitoring of the strategy could be undertaken jointly and be led by North Devon Council and Torridge District Council and it is anticipated that it will constitute:

- Establishing a working group that meets annually to review progress by all key partners on the strategy delivery and to discuss any issues arising; and
- Setting up some method of electronic forum which will enable issues to be fed in to a central database. Local authority officers/NGBs can review and disseminate these issues to the steering group and/or discuss with key partners as appropriate;
- A full annual steering group meeting, or individual annual meetings with National Governing Bodies of Sport to inform and discuss the annual progress summary and agree next steps.

The Working Group will be committed to keeping the strategy alive through:

- Monitoring the delivery of the recommendations and actions and identifying any changes that are required to the priority afforded to each action.

- Recording changes to the pitch stock in the area and evaluating the impact of this on the supply and demand information.
- Assessing the impact of changes to participation, including changing trends and the development of new formats of the game as well as affiliation data for each of the National Governing Bodies of Sport.
- Assessing the impact of demographic changes and new population estimates / housing growth.
- Ongoing consultation to understand the evolving needs of clubs and governing bodies, and any requirements for major facilities in the area.
- Analysis of funding sources and new funding opportunities for the provision/improvement of sports facilities.
- Reviewing growth of emerging sports, their participation rates, facilities available for them and likely facilities necessary for their support and development.

The Working Group should initially (within three months) meet to agree which of the actions should be taken forward in the short term (1-2 years); medium term (3-5 years) and longer term (5-10 years), and also agree who the main partners should be in taking the relevant actions forward. It is recommended that the Group should meet annually thereafter to review progress by all key partners on the strategy delivery and to discuss any issues arising.

#### Funding

The expectation is that some of the potential initiatives identified in this strategy and action plan will be funded wholly or partly by ‘developer contributions’ in the form of Section 106 agreements and/or the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). It is recognised that maintenance of new pitches can be costly and any developer contributions should include a sum for ongoing maintenance over a period of years. Projects involving education sites might also be funded through separate national capital funds.

Other potential funding sources can be identified as appropriate at the Stage E meetings. Active Devon, Sport England and various NGB county and regional offices can advise on specific funding opportunities available specifically for pitch sports locally.

**The remainder of this document is presented for North Devon only.**

# FINAL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY FOR NORTH DEVON

## 1 SUMMARY OF PRIORITIES AND KEY PROPOSALS

### 1A PRIORITIES – NORTH DEVON *(Not in priority order)* *(Not in priority order)*

- Provision of proposed grass pitches:
  - Southern Extension, Ilfracombe: two adult pitches (delivery c.2027): one adult 11v11 football and one adult rugby pitch, with changing rooms, community hall and MUGA.
  - Limers Lane, South Molton: replacement of existing 11v11 adult pitch site plus additional 11v11 adult pitch and two youth pitches and clubhouse (changing facilities).
  - Westacott, East of Barnstaple: adult 11v11 football with changing facilities and MUGA.
- Tews Lane Football Pitches, Roundswell, Barnstaple: extension of changing pavilion and improvements to pitch drainage.
- The Park School, Barnstaple:
  - Develop secure community use of the cricket pitch.
  - Protection of a hockey appropriate surface on the artificial grass pitch (currently sand based). Possible refurbishment with 'Gen 2' surface to support hockey continuing on a secure community accessible site within North Devon and Torridge.
- Filleigh Cricket Club: improvement of changing facilities.
- Brimlands Playing Fields, Ilfracombe: major upgrade of changing room and clubhouse facilities for Ilfracombe Rugby Football Club and Ilfracombe Cricket Club.
- Equivalent of full size WR22 3G AGP with full community use to serve Barnstaple and Braunton. Feasibility required re: possible sites and appropriate sizes for rugby and football. New sports lighting to existing rugby pitches may also need to be considered.
- Chulmleigh: further investigation of opportunities to deliver small sided 3G AGP with full community access.
- All existing grass and artificial grass playing pitches to be protected, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (paras. 103 & 104) and Sport England's 'Policy and associated guidance on planning applications affecting playing fields' (last updated December 2021). The Strategy has identified a shortage of both grass and artificial grass pitches to meet current, latent and future demand for the sports of football, cricket, rugby and hockey across North Devon.

## 1B SUMMARY OF KEY PROPOSALS – NORTH DEVON

(for further detail see following sections on each sport, especially B: Future situation to 2033 and C: Recommendations for grass pitch provision).

Sub Area	Cricket	Rugby	Football Grass	3G/WR22 compliant Artificial Grass Pitches	Hockey Appropriate/Sand Artificial Grass Pitches
<b>Barnstaple/ Braunton</b>	Additional ground (minimum 8 wickets)	Access to training facilities (this could be through peak access to new WR22 3G AGP and/or new sports lighting to existing pitches). Bridge Field Pitches owned by DCC do not have security of tenure. A contingency plan is required if these were ever lost.	Recommendations for new pitches from 2017 PPS to be fulfilled: one full size 11v11 grass pitch at Westacott.	At least equivalent full size WR22 compliant floodlit 3G AGP with secured community use to serve Barnstaple and Braunton and meet some demand from Ilfracombe for both football and rugby training.	Protection and maintenance of sustainable, high quality, appropriate and securely accessible facilities for hockey to serve North Devon and Torrington.
<b>Ilfracombe</b>	Enhancement of ground facilities	Access to training facilities (through peak access to new WR22 3G AGP and/or new sports lighting to existing pitches subject to planning constraints).	Additional pitch at Southern Extension to be fulfilled. Keep watching brief on community availability of two adult pitches at Killacleave (Ilfracombe Academy).		
<b>South Molton</b>	Filleigh CC may grow in the future but has the capacity to cut more wickets.	Gaining secured access to additional pitch at the school and new sports lighting to clubs existing grass pitches	Limers Lane development to address South Molton issues Youth pitches for Chulmleigh YFC		

## 2 CRICKET IN NORTH DEVON

### 2A Demand, supply and capacity

#### Teams

- 56 cricket teams are now recorded in North Devon, 32 of which are adult (including 2 Ladies’ teams). There are eleven functioning clubs as follows:
  - Barnstaple Sub Area: Barnstaple & Pilton CC; Bratton Fleming Sports Club; Newton Tracey CC; North Devon CC; Westleigh CC
  - Braunton Sub Area: Braunton CC
  - Ilfracombe Sub Area: Brimlands (Ilfracombe CC)
  - South Molton Sub Area: Chittlehampton CC; Chulmleigh CC; Filleigh CC; North Molton CC
- Comparing with 2017 is difficult to do precisely, as the North Devon Pub and Club league contains 12 teams, some of which are affiliated to more established club. In 2017, 69 cricket teams were recorded in North Devon: 40 adult men, 2 ladies, 24 boys and 3 girls’ teams.

#### Pitches

The key points regarding the supply of cricket pitches are:

- In 2017 in North Devon: 12 grass cricket pitch sites were recorded, 4 of which had non turf wickets (NTWs) in addition.
- Whilst no sites have been lost to development, there have been changes in cricket pitch supply in North Devon since 2017, with cricket no longer played at 4 previously listed sites. There is no recorded wider community use of any non turf wickets at secondary schools, although there is a maintained cricket square at The Park School, Barnstaple.
- Cricket pitches throughout the area are generally of acceptable quality and appropriately maintained. The good quality of the grounds is reflected in the standard of play, such as at North Devon CC and Filleigh CC.

#### Update on capacity

**Table 2: Summary of cricket pitch capacity by sub area: North Devon**

Area/Rating of ground	Number of grounds	Number of wickets	Match equivalent capacity	Match equivalent played	Comparison: Theoretical – Estimated Use (match equivalents)
Barnstaple Sub Area	5	49	245	207	38
Braunton Sub Area	1	19	95	59	36
Ilfracombe Sub Area	NTW only		60	30	30
South Molton Sub Area	4	27	135	70	65

The situation is a little changed from 2017. Fewer games played in the Barnstaple Sub Area means that there is some spare capacity here now. Quite a lot less games are now played in the South Molton Sub Area. Ilfracombe Brimlands is a busier site due to the improved NTW.

- In the Barnstaple sub areas four out of the five grounds (Barnstaple & Pilton CC (grass wicket), Newton Tracey CC. North Devon CC and Westleigh CC) are operating at the level the sites can sustain; Bratton Fleming CC has spare capacity but has no secured community usage.
- There is a cricket ground at The Park School in Barnstaple which has accommodated cricket teams in the past but is currently not being used by a community team.
- West Buckland School cricket pitches are available for community use, subject to the requirements of the school. ·
- The one cricket ground in the Braunton sub area (Braunton CC) is a well-used ground, but because of the high number of wickets has spare capacity midweek and on Sundays ·
- In the Ilfracombe sub area, the only accessible ground is the non turf wicket at Brimlands. The NTW is much improved and is now accommodating a variety of teams. ·
- There is spare capacity at peak time at all 4 sites in the South Molton sub area, other than Filleigh CC (which has tailored the number of its wickets for fewer adult matches)

## **2B Future situation to 2033**

### *Considerations*

- The longer-term trend, from this study, suggests a static situation or slow decline in adult play but an increase in youth play (through All Stars and Dynamos) and a growth in women's cricket which will hopefully feed through into the adult game.
- Other things to take into consideration are there is some evidence of the merging of clubs and bigger clubs starting to adopt satellite rural grounds. For example, there are strong links now between training, play and coaching between Westleigh CC and North Devon CC. Braunton Youth cricketers play in Ilfracombe.
- A significant number of clubs would like to run more teams – this is often youth teams – but often lack of volunteers is cited as a reason for not. Westleigh would like to run more seniors and Filleigh may run another (3<sup>rd</sup>) adult team next year.
- Devon Cricket Board are focusing upon a strategy of retaining existing players and supporting increased participation where opportunities arise, particularly through growing more informal formats of the game and T20. They are seeking to address many of the issues currently facing cricket, including the ageing volunteer base and to support clubs to become more sustainable.

### *Future Numbers of Teams*

It appears that numbers of adult teams may increase slightly whilst youth teams will continue to show encouraging growth:

- An increase of 2-3 adult teams (including Ladies)
- An increase of 4-5 youth teams (including girls)

## **2C Recommendations for new provision**

- 3-4 additional wickets across North Devon to be required as a minimum

### *Barnstaple and Braunton Sub Areas*

It is likely that new teams will form in the Barnstaple Sub Area – both youth and adult (from new housing growth). To some extent, youth play may be able to be accommodated on NTWs or on the outfield. However, four of the five grass cricket grounds are at capacity and the PPS assessment would suggest the need for another ground, of at least 8 wickets, in the Barnstaple Area.

In the 2017 PPS it was suggested that this need could be met by enhancing the existing cricket pitch at The Park School, which may also involve installing a grass square and upgrading the changing pavilion. However, community use would need to be secured at this site and a completely new site to serve Barnstaple would be preferable.

The one cricket ground in Braunton has spare capacity midweek and on Sundays and it is unlikely that an additional ground would be required in this area.

#### *Ilfracombe Sub Area*

The non-turf wicket at Brimlands is much improved and sustains a number of teams. If the clubhouse and ancillary facilities could be enhanced this site could accommodate growth in cricketing activity.

#### *South Molton Sub Area*

The more rural grounds are now most likely to be sustaining just one adult team with considerable spare capacity. Filleigh CC may grow in the future but has the capacity to cut more wickets.

### **3 RUGBY IN NORTH DEVON**

#### **3A Demand, supply and capacity**

##### *Teams*

Currently, 35 rugby teams are recorded in North Devon (6 senior, 12 age grade boys and girls and 17 age grade mixed). The trend since the previous study shows a decrease in the number of senior teams but an increase in youth teams, much of which is attributed to the increased popularity of rugby with girls. (Note: Type of teams has evolved since the last study into the following: Adult Male; Adult Female; Age Grade Boys (U12s – U18s); Age Grade Girls (U12s – U18s) and Age Grade Mixed (U7s – U11s)

There are 3 rugby clubs in North Devon which run the following teams:

All clubs run juniors. Barnstaple are hoping to run a ladies team and say that completion of the refurbishment of the old cricket pavilion will provide much needed additional changing facilities which will enhance club's ability to grow Women's and Girls rugby. South Molton RFC would like to run an adult women's team. Ilfracombe RFC mention that their small changing spaces mean they cannot run the girls or women's programmes that they'd like to.



### *Pitches*

Classification of rugby pitches has also changed since the last PPS. Only those ‘marked pitches with posts at both ends’ are included within the Stage B sheet and these are all classified as ‘Senior Rugby’ Pitches. Ages from u13s and upwards need posted pitches.

- Barnstaple RFC have 2 adult, 1 full size junior and 1 floodlit training pitch (all technically classified as 4 full size pitches) and two other pitch areas marked out for minis on Bridge Field (which is not in secured use).
- South Molton RFC have 2 adult pitches on private land which they own and also use a rugby pitch at South Molton Community College. In the past they have used an additional pitch on farmer’s land elsewhere.
- Ilfracombe RFC uses one pitch at Brimlands, Ilfracombe and uses the adjacent former football pitch, coned, for junior play and training.
- Issues with drainage of pitches have been identified at all club sites: at Barnstaple (Mill Road), South Molton (Station Road pitch) and at Brimlands, Ilfracombe.

### *Update on capacity*

The assessment process for rugby pitches has changed since the 2017 PPS (when the analysis was principally based around ratings for maintenance and drainage – now changed to PQS scores). At present PQS scores exist for Barnstaple RFC (North Devon) only; formal Pitch Power assessments for Ilfracombe and South Molton RFCs in North Devon have yet to be completed.

To note:

- Only senior pitches which have to be posted at both ends and marked and 94m x 68m in dimensions are recorded for the purposes of assessing capacity.
- Full sports lighting (floodlights) are between 100 and 200 lux both sides.
- A ‘basic’, well drained PQS pitch is capable of supporting 4 hours use per week. (A poor pitch typically would sustain 3 hours use per week and a good pitch, 5 hours use).

The RFU has supplied numbers of Match Equivalent Sessions taking place at each site in order to assess capacity and requirements for additional pitches. A ‘Match Equivalent Session’ (MES) is defined as 2 teams playing for 90 minutes.

As regards pattern of usage:

- Training: Rugby union has a strong culture of training on floodlit natural grass pitches on weekday evenings and thus assessment of capacity for training is dependent on floodlit pitches. These pitches are also used for matches at weekends.
- Matchplay: Peak time for adult men’s rugby is Saturday afternoon, whilst minis and midis tend to play on Sunday mornings.

**Table 3: Match Equivalent Sessions for Training and Matchplay: Rugby Clubs in North Devon**

Club	Midweek/ Training Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions MES)	Floodlit Pitches	Midweek Surplus / Deficit (MES)	Full Size Pitches (Total No. on site including floodlit)	Weekend Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions MES)	Weekend Surplus / Deficit (Match Equivalent Sessions MES)	Overall Site Capacity (Match Equivalent Sessions)
Barnstaple RFC	5.75	1	-3.1	4	4.9	5.8	0.0
Ilfracombe RFC	2	0	-2.0	1	2.1	0.5	-1.5
South Molton RFC	4.75	1	-2.1	2	4.4	1.0	-3.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-7.2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>-5.3</b>

The above table shows the following:

- All clubs have midweek deficit for training, notably South Molton RFC .
- Overall, other than Barnstaple RFC (which has more pitches than the other two clubs) all clubs have an overall deficit of Match Equivalent Sessions.

If the above is analysed according to the amount of hours required for overcoming deficiencies, the following pertains:

**Table 4: Analysis of Additional Rugby Pitches Required in North Devon to Overcome Deficiencies for Training and Matchplay**

Club	Midweek/ Training Demand (MES)	Floodlit Pitches	Midweek Surplus / Deficit (MES)	Shortfall/Surplus in hours & pitches + options	Full Size Pitches (Total No. on site incl. floodlit)	Weekend Demand (MES)	Weekend Surplus / Deficit (MES)	Shortfall/Surplus in hours & pitches + options
Barnstaple RFC	5.75	1	-3.1	279 mins = 4.65 hours = 1+ pitch (rounded). Options: Floodlight another pitch &/or additional pitch(es) & access to WR22 3G & enhanced pitch maintenance	4	4.9	5.8	522 mins = 8.7 hrs
Ilfracombe RFC	2	0	-2.0	180 mins = 3 hrs = 1 pitch (rounded) Options: Floodlight existing pitch & access to WR22 3G & enhanced pitch maintenance.	1	2.1	0.5	45 mins = 0.75 hr
South Molton RFC	4.75	0	-2.1	189 mins = 3.2 hrs = 1 pitches (rounded). Options: Floodlight one pitch (also has option to use school pitch) & access to WR22 3G & enhanced pitch maintenance	2	4.4	1.0	90 mins = 1.5 hrs

All of the above midweek training shortfalls could also be addressed by securing access to appropriate WR22 floodlit 3G training facilities. At present, usage by North Devon rugby clubs of the following 3G AGPs in North Devon and Torridge has been recorded through the survey:

Ilfracombe Sharks	Ilfracombe Academy 3G Half	Not WR22 compliant	Casual Rugby
Barnstaple RFC	Pilton Comm. College 3G Half	Not WR22 compliant	Club Rugby
Barnstaple RFC	Park School Sand AGP	Not WR22 compliant	Club Rugby
South Molton RFC	South Molton Comm. Coll. 3G Half	WR22 compliant	Club Rugby

As is apparent, only one of the 3G AGPs currently used for training by North Devon rugby clubs is WR22 compliant. There are other WR22 3G AGPs in North Devon and Torridge at Braunton Community College (small size) and at RMC Chivenor (full size; not available for secure community use). Kingsley College in Bideford is under full size; it has now converted to 3G but is not yet WR22 compliant.

### ***Review of individual rugby clubs***

The principal issues at each club are:

#### ***Barnstaple RFC***

Barnstaple RFC's first Pitch Power report graded the second pitch as 'good' and the other three pitches as 'basic'. The pitches often get waterlogged after prolonged period of heavy rain; this and the amount of games they have to sustain that usage has to be prioritised which means the junior rugby and training is the first to suffer. The club say they would benefit enormously from enhanced drainage but cannot hope to fund this.

- Bridge Field has areas marked out for u8s and u13s and a senior rugby pitch with posts. The club do not own this field; it is on a short lease (15 years) and has poor drainage. Sports lighting suitable for training juniors and Colts but not good enough for seniors.
- Senior training pitch floodlit: On Sat and Sun have up to 300 youth here and on Bridge Field; Tuesday and Thursday have seniors training
- Second team pitch: 3rds, u16s, U13s/U14s. Used Tues, Wed and Thurs and possibly Fri u14sm 2<sup>nd</sup>/3rds and Colts/U16s on Sats. Also used by girls and ladies.
- Main pitch: rated as basic pitch because of 30% bare patches and weeds.

Taster sessions for girls are very popular and club is looking to link further with secondary schools over this. The club is currently refurbishing the old cricket pavilion to provide additional changing facilities to support the growth of women's and girls' rugby.

The main issue for the club is the lack of facilities for training. Currently a range of facilities are used – principally grass at Roch Park, tarmac netball courts at The Park School and Pilton School 3G. Obtaining block bookings for training is almost impossible at short notice, so it often ends up having to do fitness training. The cost of hiring facilities is also considerable in comparison with using their own grass pitches. The club wishes to have easy access to WR22 3G AGP training facilities, preferably on site.

Facilities are old and maintenance is becoming increasingly difficult. The main stand, which also houses the current changing facilities is suffering from metal fatigue and will need urgent attention within the medium term (although professionally surveyed for safety which will continue). The aspiration would be to replace the whole structure with a modern facility which incorporates upgraded changing rooms and better energy efficient systems.

#### *Ilfracombe RFC*

Apparently Ilfracombe Rugby Club is the club in England that has been based the longest at one site – it has been at Brimlands since 1877. All adult training and matchplay and junior matchplay (and most training) takes place on the match pitch, and for large parts of this season it is unplayable (often from Christmas to April). Overall, pitch quality and drainage is poor and many home games are postponed. The club does not have the funds or volunteers to maintain the pitches to the standard required.

Pitch quality and lack of sports lighting means that training in the winter months is almost impossible. There are difficulties in obtaining convenient slots at the 3G AGP at Ilfracombe Academy; moreover the pitch is small size and not WR22 compliant. The priority for the club is to be able to access appropriate 3G training facilities (rather than have use of another grass pitch).

Changing facilities are old and run down, with leaking roof; shower facilities are in a poor state of repair. The small amount of changing facilities greatly restricts the club’s ability to host girls’ rugby alongside boys and it is becoming harder to attract both players and volunteers to the club. There have been plans over many years to upgrade or even replace these facilities. There is a perception that facilities generally across the study areas are not appropriate for rugby to thrive and that more training facilities are desperately needed.

#### *South Molton RFC*

The junior section has increased hugely over the last 3 years. The club trains at South Molton Community College small size 3G when possible and on the school pitches. However, it wishes to improve its own training facilities to avoid spending a considerable sum of money on hiring the school’s facilities. Otherwise, the club is happy with provision.

### **3B Future situation to 2033**

#### *Considerations*

- There may be a slight growth in rugby teams from population growth and the growth in girls and women’s teams.
- The main characteristics for rugby in North Devon is a steady demand, with established clubs looking to maintain their adult sides and introduce more juniors and female teams.

#### *Teams*

- It appears that numbers of adult teams will remain constant and may increase slightly and youth teams will continue to show steady increases:
  - An increase of 1-2 adult teams (including Ladies)
  - An increase of 3 age grade teams (one each in age grade mixed; age grade boys & age grade girls)

### 3C Recommendations for new provision

- A minimum 2 additional XV-a-side pitches required. Additional measures which are to be continually monitored include enhancing capacity of clubs existing pitches through new sports lighting to existing pitches, peak access to WR22 3G pitches and enhanced pitch maintenance.
- The 2017 report did not consider 3G AGPs for rugby training when making recommendations with regard to additional grass pitches. As analysis in this report shows, much of the deficit in midweek training capacity could be made up by securing access to appropriate WR22 3G AGP facilities.
- In Barnstaple, if access can be secured to appropriate WR22 3G facilities and/or additional sports lighting etc (as detailed in Table 4 above) so that the pressure to accommodate training on grass pitches is reduced, pitches at Barnstaple RFC may be able to sustain the amount of matchplay currently (although drainage improvements may still be required).
- A related issue concerns the future of Bridge Field pitches for Barnstaple RFC. These are owned by Devon County Council and do not have security of tenure. Should these pitches come under threat, the mitigation would need to be as per NPPF para 104. and meet Sport England’s Playing Field Policy Exception 4. The RFU would expect to see the replacement pitches delivered prior to any loss.
- Ilfracombe ideally requires an additional pitch/access to WR22 3G training facilities to overcome the shortfalls (access to the latter is preferable to the club).
- This assessment would suggest the need for additional grass pitches with sports lighting if access to suitable WR22 3G AGPs cannot be provided – one in Barnstaple and one in Ilfracombe.
- The lack of capacity for training at South Molton RFC is likely to be addressed by the securing of access to another rugby pitch at the school.

## 4 HOCKEY IN NORTH DEVON AND TORRIDGE

### 4A Demand, Supply and Capacity

#### Teams

**Table 5: Changes in Numbers of Hockey Teams 2017- 2024**

	2017 Total Northern Devon	2024 Total North Devon & Torridge	North Devon 2024	Torridge 2024
<b>HOCKEY</b>				
<b>Men</b>	2	2	2	0
<b>Women</b>	2	2	2	0
<b>Boys 11-15 yrs</b>	0	2	2	0
<b>Girls 11-15 yrs</b>	1	2	2	0
<b>Total HOCKEY</b>	5	8	8	0

North Devon HC and Taw Valley HC have recently merged and will be playing as North Devon Hockey Club from next season. The new club will be fielding 2 adult men, 2 adult ladies, 2 boys U16 and 2 girls U16 teams for the start of the 2024 season. They currently have 35 men, 44 women, and in the region of 80 girl and boy members (5-17 years).

The number of adult teams are thus the same as recorded in 2017, but the junior section shows an increase in number of teams by two and in playing members in the region of 15%. (The 2017 PPS predicted an increase of 7 teams to 2031)

### *Pitches*

Key points with regard to hockey AGPs in North Devon and Torridge are:

- There is only one full size floodlit sand AGP now available for community use, at The Park Community School in Barnstaple. This is the home of North Devon Hockey Club and is rated as a standard pitch.
- The Kingsley School pitch (although never used for community hockey) has now been converted from a sand based to a 3G AGP surface.
- There are two other full size floodlit sand based AGPs on independent schools in North Devon and Torridge. However, AGPs at Shebbear College (Torridge) and West Buckland School (North Devon) are not known to be generally available for community use and are considered on a case by case basis, subject to the schools' requirements. There is no security of tenure.
- The nearest floodlit full size sand based AGPs to North Devon and Torridge are Exe Valley Leisure Centre, Tiverton and Budehaven Community College in Cornwall and the Ashbury Golf Hotel sand based surface near Okehampton.

### *Capacity*

The Park Community School in Barnstaple is North Devon Hockey Club's home venue for all matches and training requirements. The club state they have a good relationship with the school and have no issues concerning access to the pitch.

However, the quality of the pitch is an issue; 'There are many rips in the pitch that have been inappropriately repaired lowering the overall quality of the pitch' and 'hockey goals are used instead of the football goals which ruin the nets and frame.'

The club is aware that this is the only accessible, appropriate surface in the whole of North Devon and are concerned of the future of hockey in the area for their growing club with the deteriorating pitch.

## **4B Future situation to 2033 and recommendations**

At the moment it is difficult to predict the future growth at North Devon Hockey Club. It may take a little time for the two clubs to merge successfully; new committees and personnel are in place. It appears that numbers of teams may increase slightly (1adult; 2 youth).

Population increase through new housing growth in North Devon and Torrridge is predicted to bring forward demand for 0.02 of a sand based pitch in North Devon and 0.01 of a sand based pitch in Torrridge.

The needs of North Devon Hockey Club, even if it were to grow considerably, could be accommodated on one sand AGP. This additional use could be accommodated on the existing sand based pitch at Park School and it is thus vital for the continuation of hockey in North Devon and Torrridge that this pitch is retained with a surface suitable for hockey. However, as detailed above, the pitch at Park School requires upgrading for which there are no funds available.

England Hockey is involved in discussions with local clubs and The Park School regarding the condition of the pitch and options for its future refurbishment and maintenance, for which funding is required. One option may be to replace the sand based AGP at Park School Barnstaple with a Gen2 surface.

## **5 FOOTBALL IN NORTH DEVON**

### **5A Demand, supply and capacity**

#### *Teams*

The following teams are recorded in 2024:

- 114 teams recorded in North Devon – 32 adult (including 3 ladies), 56 youth (11 girls) and 26 mini.

The situation in 2017 was as follows:

- 108 teams recorded in North Devon (in 2017: 34 men, 2 women, 23 boys (12-15 years); 3 girls (12-15 years); 15 boys (10-11 years); 4 girls (10-11 years); 14 mixed (8-9 years) 13 mixed (6-7 years).
- The reduction in adult teams in North Devon mainly due to established clubs running fewer teams, rather than clubs' demise. Youth football continues to thrive, especially with girls' teams and greater proportion of girls playing in mixed sides.
- Previously, 54/58 teams in the North Devon League were based in the area, this past season it was 39 out of the 41 teams that are based in the area; youth football is covered by the North Devon Youth League.
- Trends are a static situation in senior football at best, following demise of Sunday football; some growth apparent in youth and mini football. Strong youth football clubs.
- No cross boundary movement between authorities outside of Northern Devon.

#### *Education pitches*

School pitches are considered to be an essential part of the stock even if they are not currently used or available for use by the community. In most cases, usage of school pitches is very low, due to waterlogging and maintenance issues. Scenario 2 at the end of this Report sets out the current use of education pitches at secondary schools in North Devon and how



supply can be added to if community access to them could be secured. Further updates are contained within the Action Guide.

### *Grass pitches*

There have been a few changes in the numbers of grass football pitches since 2017:

- There is no longer a functioning adult and youth pitch at Petroc College, as both pitches have been encroached upon by buildings for college requirements. These pitches must be protected and development resisted based upon the assessment of current and future needs as detailed in this Strategy, as there is a shortfall of grass pitch provision in Barnstaple for all sports.
- Landkey, Tanners Road pitch in Barnstaple is not marked for sport.
- There has also been a reduction in junior and mini pitches: Meadow Playing Field, Woolacombe, junior pitch is no longer marked out; South Molton FC, mini pitch no longer marked out; Old Ammies Pitch (Boca Seniors), mini pitch no longer marked out.
- A new 9v9 pitch has been provided at Riverside Park, Fremington.
- A new 9v9 pitch has been provided at Parklands, Swimbridge.

### *Quality of pitches in North Devon*

Pitches have been rated either through site visits or from Pitch Power.

- There are 21 pitches on Pitch Power; 13 of which are rated as good or advanced: Bratton Fleming, Putford, Combe Martin FC, Lobb Field, Braunton (2 pitches), Ilfracombe FC, North Molton FC (4 pitches), South Molton FC and Witheridge FC.
- PitchPower rates the following pitches as being either poor or basic: Barnstaple Town FC (poor), Killacleave Playing Fields (2 pitches – 1 basic, 1 poor)), Lobb Field, Braunton (2 pitches), Meadow Playing Field, Woolacombe, North Molton Sports Centre and Tews Lane, Roundwell. In addition, the adult pitch at Severn Brethren and junior pitches at Pilton Community College were rated as poor.
- Poor drainage was recorded as being the single most restrictive problem with grass pitches, noted by clubs at several sites: Tews Lane, Tarka Leisure Centre, Woolacombe, and Combe Martin in North Devon
- Pitches as part of public open space frequently record problems with dog fouling, notably: Mill Road and Rock Park in Barnstaple; Hollands Park, Combe Martin This tally has reduced from previous studies, so perhaps the issue is improving?
- 24 out of 31 clubs responding to the survey said they were not satisfied by the level of provision for football in the North Devon/Torridge area. 17 said the main issue was pitch quality, 15 said access to pitches and 14 said amount of pitches the right size and quality of changing rooms.
- Maintenance of pitches, which in such a large rural study area is by a variety of different parish councils and other organisations, is generally recorded and regarded as satisfactory.
- North Devon sites that are currently accessing the Football Foundation Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund include: North Molton FC (5 pitches) and Braunton Lobb Field (5 pitches).

*Update on capacity*

In terms of pattern of play, peak day for adult football in North Devon is Saturday afternoon and for youth, Sunday morning. The table below summarises the spare capacity for football matches during the peak period, expressed as match equivalents.

**Table 6: Summary of Capacity for football in North Devon by Sub Area**

Sub Area	Match equivalents				
	Number	Current Carrying Capacity for Community Use	Current Community Use	Difference	Extent of any spare capacity for community use during the peak period
<b>ADULT PITCHES</b>					
Barnstaple	7	13	9.5	3.5	1
Braunton	5	12	6.5	5.5	3
Ilfracombe	3	8	5	3	0
South Molton	6	14	9	5	1.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5.5</b>
<b>JUNIOR PITCHES</b>					
Barnstaple	3	6	5	1	1
Braunton	1	4	3	1	0
Ilfracombe	2	3	2.5	0.5	0
South Molton	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>1</b>

An assessment of capacity is as follows:

*Barnstaple Sub Area*

Based on the capacity analysis, there is spare capacity for a further two Saturday adult teams in Barnstaple but the Severn Brethren pitch is poor quality and overplayed with a mix of formal and informal use as an open public site. There is a new adult pitch planned at Westacott which could meet the needs of a Barnstaple club.

Youth provision is almost at capacity but there is spare provision at Riverside Park Fremington and if the quality of the pitches at Tews Lane was improved, these pitches could sustain additional play (equivalent to up to 2 youth teams). Barnstaple Youth FC seem happy with provision here. There could also be an additional youth pitch provided in Rock Park and further provision made at Landkey (one pitch there is no longer in use).

It is likely that more youth teams will form and that more provision for youth football is required. The type of provision depends on whether teams may play on grass pitches if available or on (new) 3G provision if they can gain access and pay for it. This is difficult to assess but it is recommended that further youth pitches be provided in Barnstaple.

*Braunton Sub Area*

There is sufficient capacity within grass pitches in Braunton to meet the needs of local teams for grass pitches currently and for the foreseeable future (this includes the school

pitch at Tweedies). The provision of additional 3G provision could also address any potential shortfalls.

*Ilfracombe Sub Area*

There is no spare capacity at peak times within the Ilfracombe Sub Area. There is insufficient provision to meet need for adult matchplay on grass pitches in Ilfracombe, which the new proposed adult football pitch at the Southern Extension will ease (delivery c2027). The upgrade and registration with the FA of the small size 3G Pitch at Ilfracombe Academy is now complete and a steering group made up of FA and partner club representatives needs reforming to monitor the management of the site against the Football Foundation T&Cs.

The sports pitches at Killacleave have no secured community access and may be vulnerable in the long term. If lost then replacement youth pitches would then be required (in addition to the adult pitch at the Southern Extension).

*South Molton Sub Area*

There is sufficient capacity in the South Molton area given South Molton FC’s proposals for relocation to Limers Lane and additional pitch provision. There is actual considerable spare capacity at North Molton Sports and Social Club which could accommodate growing demand.

There is a shortfall in the Chulmleigh Area to meet the needs of Chulmleigh Youth FC, which could either be addressed through secured access to grass pitches at the Community College school and/or the provision of new football pitches (e.g. the provision of a new 3G facility at the College or elsewhere or completely new grass pitches).

**5B Future situation to 2033**

*Teams*

Future growth in the number of affiliated football teams will arise from:

- Housing growth
- Increasing rates of participation
- Latent demand

*Housing growth*

- Adding increase in population from housing growth 2031-2033 would in theory require one more (because of rounding up) adult, one more youth and one more mini grass pitch.

<b>NORTH DEVON</b> <b>Increase of 3010 people through housing growth 2031-2033</b>	<b>No of Football pitches</b>	<b>Sand AGPs</b>	<b>3G AGPs</b>
<b>Men</b>	0.47	0.02	0.1
<b>Women</b>	Included	Included	Included
<b>Junior</b>	0.91	Included	Included
<b>Mini</b>	0.41	Included	Included

*Participation trends*

- Longer term trends (borne out by changes since the 2017 PPS) suggest a slow decline in adult play but an increase in youth and mini play (particularly among girls) and a growth in women’s football, all of which are expected to continue.
- The growth in youth and mini play may transfer forward to an increase in 11v11 adult play.
- There is a perception in Barnstaple that there is a huge youth following and open age following, plus vet’s football and small sided football.

*Latent demand/unmet demand*

- When asked: Would you like to run more teams? around three quarters of responding clubs replied in the affirmative. Various options were given for factors which may prevent them doing so, and frequently cited reasons include a shortage of volunteers to run the teams and even a shortage of playing members.
- 5 clubs in North Devon mentioned the shortage of all weather pitches for matches and 6 clubs mentioned the shortage of all weather pitches for training...9 different clubs in all: 4 in Barnstaple and 1 each in Chulmleigh, Ilfracombe, Combe Martin and South Molton.
- No clubs responding in the survey said they had definite plans to increase the number of teams, but an allowance has been taken into account.

The growth in the number of affiliated teams for football in North Devon to 2023 has been assessed as follows:

	Adult	Youth	Mini	Total Teams
<b>Affiliated football teams</b>				
Through population/housing growth	2	4	2	8
Increase in participation rates		2	2	4
Latent/unmet demand	2	2	1	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>17</b>

**5C Recommendations for grass pitch provision**

Spare capacity on existing grass pitches – as summarised above - has been taken into account. In addition it is estimated that the following is required.

- One adult pitch at Westcott (already in pipeline)
- Access to the equivalent of two additional youth pitches in Barnstaple – either through access to pitches on school sites or through new provision
- Parklands, Swimbridge 9v9 – already delivered
- One adult pitch in Ilfracombe (already in pipeline) + possible replacement for two adult pitches at Killacleave (Ilfracombe Academy ) if reduced access to pitches and facilities grows further.
- Additional adult pitch at Limers Lane, South Molton (already in pipeline)
- Access to the equivalent of two additional youth pitches in Chulmleigh – either through access to pitches on school sites or through new provision

## 6 ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCH PROVISION

This Section begins with a number of tables which set out current information on artificial grass pitches across North Devon and Torridge to show the range of facilities there are which some teams migrate around. .

For the purposes of definitions as to full size and small size AGPs, these are in accordance with Sport England’s Active Places Database where all AGPs larger than 88m x 53m are categorised as full size and all AGPs this size and under are categorised as small size.

### 6A List of AGPs in North Devon and Torridge

**Table 7: List of Artificial Grass Pitches in North Devon**

NORTH DEVON/ Sub Area	Name	Built/ Refurbished (R)	AGP type	Size (according to Active Places)	FA/FIFA Reg. for Matchplay	WR22 Rugby	Ownership/ Managemt	Floodlit	AGP Length	AGP Width	Indicative playing size (Football)	Community Use	Overall Pitch Quality Rating
Barnstaple	Tarka Leisure Centre	2019	3G	Full size	Yes	No	Local Authority	Yes	107	70	Senior	A	Good
Braunton	RMB Chivenor	2014	3G	Full Size	Yes	Yes but not on RFU list	MOD		120	74	Senior	C	n/a
Barnstaple	Pilton Community College	Original 2003 (2020R); new carpet 2024	3G	Small size	Yes – to be applied for	No	Education Academy	Yes	60	50	7v7	A	Good
Braunton	Braunton Academy	2006; 2021R	3G	Small size	Yes	Yes	Education Academy	Yes	66	46	7v7	A	Good
Ilfracombe	Ilfracombe Academy	2014/Refurbished 2024	3G	Small size	Yes	No	Education Academy	Yes	60	40	7v7	A	Good
South Molton	South Molton Comm. College	2023/Refurbished 2023	3G	Small size	Yes	No	Education Academy	Yes	60	50	7v7	A	Good

NORTH DEVON/ Sub Area	Name	Built/ Refurbished (R)	AGP type	Size (according to Active Places)	FA/FIFA Reg. for Matchplay	WR22 Rugby	Ownership/ Managemt	Floodlit	AGP Length	AGP Width	Indicative playing size (Football)	Community Use	Overall Pitch Quality Rating
Barnstaple	Park School	2007R	Sand dressed	Full size	No	No	Education Academy	Yes	100	60		A	Good
South Molton	West Buckland School	2004	Sand filled	Full size	No	No	Indep. Education	Yes	100	60		C	n/a
South Molton	Chulmleigh Sports Centre	2006	Sand filled	Small size	No	No	Education Academy	Yes	36	18		A	Good

**Table 8: List of Artificial Grass Pitches in Torrridge**

TORRIDGE / Sub Area	Name	Built/ Refurbished	AGP type	Size (according to Active Places)	FA/FIFA Reg. for Matchplay	WR22 (Rugby)	Ownership/ Managemt	Floodlit	AGP Length	AGP Width	Indicative playing size (Football)	Community Use	Overall Pitch Quality Rating
Bideford	<b>Bideford College</b>	2011; R 2024; shorter pile	3G	Full size	Yes	No	Education Academy	Yes	91.4	55	9v9	A	Good
Torrington	<b>Great Torrington School</b>	2005; 2021R?	3G	Small size	Yes	No	Education Academy	Yes	60	40	7v7	A	Good
Bideford	<b>Sandymere Sports Centre</b>	2010R; patched	3G	Small size	Expired May 24	No	Sports Club	Yes	60	40	7v7	A	Poor
Holsworthy	<b>Shebbear College</b>	2010	Sand	Full size	No	No	Indep. Educ.	Yes	100	60		C	Good
Bideford	<b>Kingsley School</b>	2016	Changed to 3G	Small size	Not yet.	Yes?	Indep. Educ.	Yes	84	51		C	n/a
Holsworthy	<b>Holsworthy Comm. College</b>	2006	Sand	Small size	No	No	Education Academy	Yes	61	50		A	Poor
Torrington	<b>Clinton Hall Merton</b>	1999	Sand filled	Small size	No	No	Community Org.	Yes	36	18		C	Standard

**Table 9: List of nearest AGPs outside North Devon and Torridge**

LA	Name	Built/ Refurbished	AGP Type	FA Reg. for Matchplay	WR22	Ownership/ Managemnt	Floodlit	AGP Length	AGP Width	Indicative playing size (Football)	Community Use	Overall Pitch Quality Rating
West Devon	Ashbury Golf Hotel	2017	Full size 3G	Yes	Yes	Commercial	No	120	71	11v11	A	
Mid Devon	Exe Valley Leisure Centre, Tiverton	(2009R)	Full size sand filled			Local Authority	Yes	97	60		A	n/a
Cornwall	Budehaven Community School	(2009R)	Full size sand dressed			Education Academy	Yes	100	60		A	n/a
West Devon	Ashbury Golf Hotel	2013	Full size sand			Commercial	No	101	60		A	n/a

## **6B Usage of and demand for 3G AGPs in North Devon**

In order to assess the situation with regard to 3G AGPs going forward to 2033 we need to consider demand and usage now and what demand and usage is likely to be in 2033.

A 9v9 pitch is equivalent to 0.5 of an 11v11 pitch and a 5v5 or 7v7 pitch is equivalent to = 0.25 of an 11v11 pitch. There are currently the equivalent of two full size 3G AGPs in North Devon, as follows:

- One full size 11v11 registered at Tarka;
- Small size 7v7, FA registered at Ilfracombe Academy;
- Small size 7v7, FA registered at Pilton Community College;
- Small size 7v7, WR22, FA registered at Braunton Academy
- Small size 7v7, WR22, FA registered at South Molton Community College.

### *Existing Usage*

This is made up of a huge variety of activities and is a mixture of NGB affiliated and unaffiliated use. A suggested typology may be:

- Affiliated Play – formal clubs and teams (as set out above)
- Other Football Groups (mostly affiliated/sports development):
  - Sports Governing Body sessions
  - youth football academies
  - football club outreach/community Trust led activity
  - Disability sessions
  - Central venue play
  - Small sided leagues
- Casual bookings for football
- Recreational Play:
  - Holiday activities
  - Health and Fitness sessions including Walking Football and Rugby
- Other sports (rugby)

The usage of AGPs where data is available has been analysed. In North Devon, 70 different users groups/teams were recorded: of these, 15 were using sand based AGPs (1 a hockey club which can only use sand) and 55 were using 3G AGPs. Discounting the hockey club, the split according to type of user was:

- 29 (42%) are affiliated football clubs/teams (men's, ladies & youth & disability)
- 10 (15%) are 'Other Football' (Exeter CCT; NGB booking; Football/Youth Academies; football leagues or small sided football)
- 21 (31%) are casual football bookings
- 3 (4%) are recreational play bookings
- 5 (7%) are rugby bookings
- 1 (1%) school

This is not the same as the percentage of play on 3G AGPs by each 'type' of user as one individual 'user' may book a third of a full size pitch for half an hour whilst another 'user'



may book a whole pitch for an hour. The information obtained from booking records and site operators does not enable an analysis at this level of detail.

*Current occupancy rate and spare capacity*

*Training:* There is hardly any spare capacity on existing 3G AGPs in North Devon for training in football and rugby. Tarka is fully booked and cannot accommodate all demand. Community usage of Park School is fairly low although it does still host football training, including Barnstaple Youth FC; this may change depending on what happens to the Park School pitch (it cannot be used for football matchplay). Pilton Community College is effectively full for training in football and rugby. Braunton Academy 3G (WR22 compliant) is also full. Some teams may move from Tarka to Kingsley School in Bideford now the sand AGP has been resurfaced as a 3G AGP which may free up some capacity at Tarka. Ilfracombe Academy has very limited spare slots for training (at unpopular times). South Molton Community College is apparently not very accessible and has limited spare slots.

*Matchplay:* Tarka has very little spare capacity for matchplay. Pilton Community College is planning to host youth matches this season, once it becomes FA registered. Braunton Academy 3G (WR22 compliant) is also full for matchplay. Ilfracombe Academy is full on Saturdays til 13.30 when it closes; it is not open on Sundays. South Molton Community College is apparently not very accessible with limited spare slots.

The desire for more 3G AGP facilities and difficulties in obtaining facilities for training especially referred to earlier was supported by other comments made by responding clubs, representing c12 teams. In particular:

- Tarka 3G AGP perceived as being full (comments from clubs both within Barnstaple and further afield in Ilfracombe. Demand grows during bad weather when grass pitches are unplayable).
- Ilfracombe 3G AGP perceived as being effectively full.
- Nowhere accessible for Chulmleigh Youth FC to train
- South Molton 3G AGP effectively full and cost perceived as high

These comments are borne out by an analysis of the availability and capacity as shown by booking records and conversations with site operators above.

Almost all clubs responding to the direct question said they would use approved 3G football turf pitches for matches but there was no follow up question relating to whether this would be dependent on cost, times of usage etc.

## **6C Future situation to 2033**

### *Scenario Testing*

The FA recommends testing scenarios for the future provision of 3G AGPs on the basis of 38 teams for training per 3G AGP. Note that this is a starting point for analysis for the future situation and not intended to be used for the current situation as there are many other local conditions and characteristics to take on board. At present there are 114 teams which would equate to three (2.8 rounded up) 3G AGPs in North Devon. However, it is apparent that this level of provision cannot meet current demand.

### *Growth in demand for AGPs*

As well as taking into account the estimated growth in the number of affiliated teams (as set out above before the recommendations for grass provision), the estimated growth in demand for AGPs needs to take into account increases in activity in the other categories as set out in the preceding typology i.e. Other Football (mostly affiliated/sports development); Casual bookings for football; Recreational Play and Other sports (predominantly rugby although demand from other sports could develop e.g. quidditch, lacrosse). Research for the Update has revealed much anecdotal evidence of increasing demand for training slots for rugby clubs/teams and a growing market for football academies, talent development squads etc ('Other Football'), casual football and recreational play.

### *Other Categories*

According to the analysis of 'user groups' of 3G AGPs in North Devon, at least one half are made up of categories other than affiliated clubs and teams. Therefore, it is felt reasonable to assume that the increase in these other 'user groups' will at least equal, or maybe even slightly exceed, the increase in the numbers of affiliated teams. The caveat of course is that this is numbers of 'user groups' and not the amount of usage of 3G AGPs by these user groups, but it is at least comparing like with like ('user groups').

### *Demand from rugby*

There is also expressed demand now for training facilities from Barnstaple and Ilfracombe RFCs, neither of which have easy access to WR22 compliant facilities (the nearest exist at the small size 3G at Braunton Academy but this has no spare capacity). All teams from U12s upwards will train midweek and therefore this demand informs the midweek capacity analysis.

### *Scenario Testing*

The FA also recommends scenario testing for the number of 3G AGPs which would be required if all matchplay was to be transferred to that surface. This shows the need for a considerable number of 3G AGPs as adult men's games for example will require a full size pitch and most will require to be played at the same peak time.

In the Barnstaple/Braunton Sub Area, it is estimated that up to the equivalent of 5.79 (6) full size 3G AGPs would be required to accommodate all matchplay.

**Summary assessment of future growth in teams/’user groups’ using 3G AGPs**

The assessment for future number of teams/user groups for football, rugby and for recreational play for 3G AGP surfaces for training and matchplay has been carried out conservatively and the following is regarded as a minimum level of growth. This is in addition to current use.

Type of User Group	Increase in numbers of teams/’user groups’
Growth in number of affiliated football teams to 2033	17
Estimated no. of existing football teams wishing to access 3G AGPs	8
’Other Categories’ (mainly football)	c 12
No. of rugby teams for which peak time access to WR22 3G AGP could provide solution for training	20*
<b>Total increase</b>	<b>57</b>

The following table summarises the situation:

NORTH DEVON No. of current Teams	Additional teams / groups	No. of current 11v11 3Gs	(Total potential no. of teams /groups in 2033)	Required equivalent 11v11 3Gs	Shortfall
114	57	2	(171)	4-4.5* (Min of 4)	2-2.5 (Min of 2)

The above methodology takes into account the 1:38 ratio of football teams to a full size 3G AGP, but also allows for demand from other football users (casual, recreational and informal) plus rugby training (not matchplay) during weekday evenings. Weekly access to 12 peak midweek/floodlit hours on a WR22 3G AGP is required to help part solve the existing midweek/floodlit pitch deficit for rugby in North Devon. The methodology also takes into account latent demand for 3G AGP provision which exists in both authorities; research has shown that all existing 3G AGPs are virtually at capacity for weekday training.

The analysis demonstrates that there are hardly any spare slots for training on any of the five existing 3G AGPs; there may be a little spare capacity for matchplay if all sites are FA registered. The spatial dimension of demand, existing catchment areas and the settlement pattern has also to be taken into account. It is also recognised that some ‘user groups’ currently using sand based AGPs may continue to use these and not transfer to 3G AGPs.

On the basis of the above analysis, the research demonstrates that over the period to 2033 there will be sufficient demand for a minimum of 2 (and up to 2.5) full size 3G AGPs in North Devon, giving rise to the following recommendations:

- Recommendation for the equivalent of at least one full size 11v11 3G AGP to serve the Barnstaple/Braunton Sub Areas
- Recommendation for the equivalent of at least one full size 3G AGP to serve other areas in North Devon.

New provision should be capable of meeting the requirement for a minimum of 12 peak midweek/floodlit hours on a WR22 compliant pitch for rugby training and therefore the option for WR22 compliancy should be considered in all proposals for 3G AGP provision.

### **Options**

***The following options are proposed for further consideration as the PPS progresses at Stage E:***

- Feasibility required to ascertain possible size and locations for WR22 3G AGP to serve both football and rugby in Barnstaple and Braunton. This may include club sites in these areas, as well as at Tarka Leisure Centre on the existing grass pitch at Severn Brethren. Other sites which have merited consideration but face challenges in delivery include Braunton Academy (inadequate space and poor access) and Barnstaple RFC (poor drainage and waterlogging problems).
- Further investigation of opportunities to deliver small sided 3G AGP with full community access in Chulmleigh.

## **6D Future sites for 3G AGPs in North Devon**

The full Needs Assessment Report sets out some of the issues with regard to sites for 3G AGPs, to help inform a discussion of what may be required, options and priorities.

### *Barnstaple and Braunton Sub Areas*

Given the current spatial distribution of 3G AGP provision and known shortfalls or issues in grass pitch provision (waterlogged pitches etc), the analysis for the study concludes that there will be sufficient demand for the equivalent of at least one full size 3G AGP which is WR22 compliant to serve the Barnstaple and Braunton Sub Areas going through to 2033. As above, this could include provision at Tarka Leisure Centre – based on updated dimensions (91x55 plus 3m run-off on each perimeter) a full size 3G AGP might be viable on the grass pitch.

### *Ilfracombe Sub Area*

Some additional capacity is required to meet demand from the Ilfracombe Sub Area, whether through improving access for matchplay at Ilfracombe Academy (now registered with the FA following its upgrade) or a new site. Combe Martin FC have achieved planning permission for a small sided sand filled AGP at Hollands Park; if funding can be achieved this facility would assist with local training needs.

### *South Molton Sub Area*

If access to the South Molton Community College small size 3G could be improved, there could be increased capacity here for both football (and rugby as the surface is apparently WR22 compliant). Conversion of sand/concrete outdoor facilities at Chulmleigh College to a 3G AGP could provide additional capacity for football in the South Molton Sub Area.

### *Playzones*

The location of Playzone sites may also have an impact.

- Site to be identified in Central Ilfracombe for MUGA. Potential location in between Ilfracombe Swimming Pool and Brimlands Playing Fields, just outside AONB boundary.

- Possible location for Playzone in Rock Park, Barnstaple alongside children’s play area. This is Newport Ward and S106 Funding is sparse due to limited remaining sites for housing development.

## **7 SCENARIO TESTING**

### **7A Scenario 1: Taking AGPs on non public sites (i.e. on educational sites) out of use**

In North Devon, at least 65% of the use of 3G and sand AGPs is accommodated on school sites (according to the data from 71 clubs/teams/groups). Thus there would be enormous displacement if these education facilities were to be lost. Up to three full size 3G facilities would be required to meet the displaced demand from football from both 3G and sand based AGPs.

Both sand based AGPs are on school sites – one state school and one independent school, so there will be no facilities for hockey should these AGPs be lost.

### **7B Scenario 2: Use of School Pitches**

*See next page*

**7B Scenario 2: Use of Grass Pitches on Secondary School sites**

Type of School / North Devon	Name	Adult football	Junior 11V11	Junior 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Rugby	Cricket	Community Use	Notes
Secondary	The Park School, Barnstaple		1					1 NTW	B	Potentially available if quality improved?
Secondary	The Park School – Pill Lane				1				B	Potentially available if quality improved?
Secondary	Pilton Community College		2				1		C	Severe waterlogging. Unlikely to be available.
Primary	Sticklepath Community School				2				B	Were used by community in the past; could be available
College	Petroc College, Barnstaple	1		1					C	Up to 2; sizes lost due to building; can no longer be used.
Secondary	Braunton Academy		2						B	Apparently used (no evidence) but available for use by community
Secondary	Ilfracombe Academy: Killacleave	2							A	Potentially vulnerable to changes in school management but are currently used by the community
Secondary	Chulmleigh College: School site			1			1		B	No community use but could be used?
Secondary	Chulmleigh College: Langley Lane						1		B	As above
Secondary	South Molton Community College			2			1		A	Rugby pitch used by local club; no recorded community use of football
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>		
<b>Available for community use &amp; used (A)</b>		<b>2</b>				<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>			
<b>Available for community use &amp; not used (B)</b>			<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>		
<b>Loss of pitches if schools restrict access further</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>4</b>			
<b>Potential additional pitches if schools allow/encourage access</b>			<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>		