



ROYAL BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STRATEGY

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT MARCH 2023

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

CONTENTS

GLOSSARY	1
PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY	2
PART 2: TENNIS	10
PART 3: NETBALL	30
PART 4: BOWLS	41
PART 5: CROQUET.....	50
PART 6: GOLF.....	53
PART 7: ATHLETICS.....	63
PART 8: CYCLING	72
PART 9: ORIENTEERING	78
PART 10: ARCHERY	80
PART 11: PETANQUE	83
PART 12: OUTDOOR WATER SPORTS	85
PART 13: RECREATIONAL SPACES	90
PART 14: EDUCATION	105
APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT	110
APPENDIX 2: NON TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT SHEETS.....	117

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

GLOSSARY

3G	Third Generation
ANOG	Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide
BC	Bowls Club
BOF	British Orienteering Federation
CONGU	Council of National Golf Unions
DCMS	Department for Culture, Media and Sport
FC	Football Club
FiT	Fields in Trust
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LFFP	Local Football Facility Plan
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
LTC	Lawn Tennis Club
MUGA	Multi-use games area
NC	Netball Club
NFFS	National Football Facilities Strategy
NGB(s)	National Governing Body (of sport)
NHS	National Health Service
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ONS	Office for National Statistics
OSFS	Outdoor Sport Facilities Strategy
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
TC	Tennis Club

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

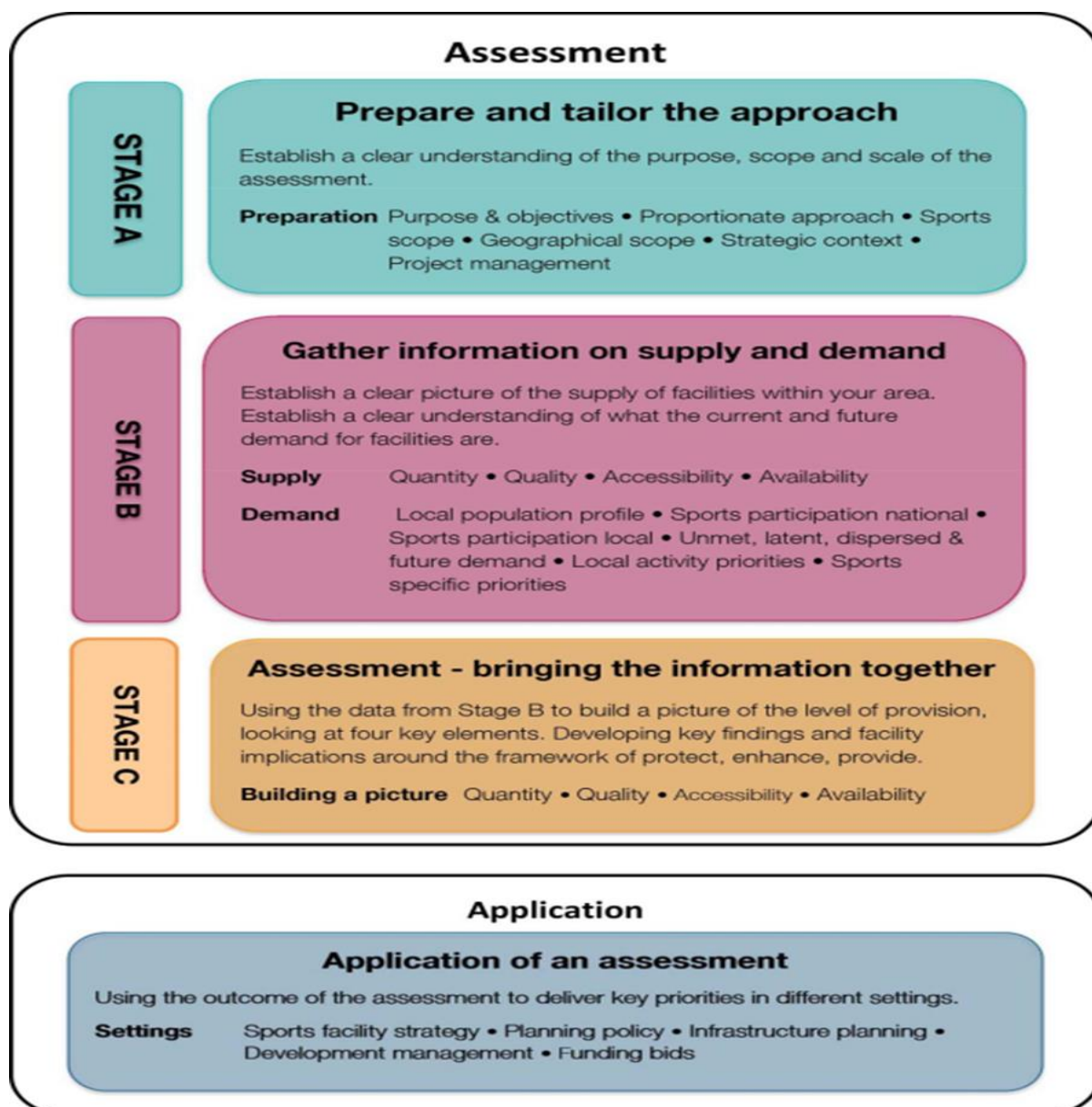
PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

1.1: Introduction

Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) has been commissioned by Kingston Council to undertake an Outdoor Leisure Facilities Strategy for the Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames. This will provide the necessary robustness and direction to inform decisions affecting relevant provision across the local authority area.

The Outdoor Leisure Facilities Strategy will consist of two elements: a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) covering all pitch sports, and an Outdoor Sport Facilities Strategy (OSFS) covering all “non-pitch” sports. This document (known as the Assessment Report) forms part of the OSFS, presenting a supply and demand assessment of outdoor sport provision in the area. It is delivered in accordance with Sport England’s Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (ANOG), as visualised below.

Figure 1.1: Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance stages



LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Stages A to C are covered in this report, with the application phase covered in the proceeding strategy document and ongoing once the work has been approved.

1.2: Prepare and tailor the approach (Stage A)

Why the Strategy is being developed

The overall aim of Outdoor Leisure Facilities Strategy is to:

- ◀ Produce an updated PPS and establish an appropriate steering group.
- ◀ Produce an outdoor leisure facilities strategy for the Council which assesses the current and future outdoor leisure needs with input (using consultation) from residents, leisure services, sports clubs, educational establishments, National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) and operators of facilities, both now and in the future.
- ◀ Establish the need for high quality outdoor sports facilities in a growing and vibrant borough.
- ◀ Create a cohesive new environment with outstanding urban design.
- ◀ Assess the requirements of those stakeholders likely to commission sport and outdoor leisure services, such as Adult Social Care, Public Health, Clinical Commissioning Group and Education Services, to support and promote active lifestyles to allow residents to live longer, healthier, happier lives.
- ◀ Review national trends and the market for outdoor sport and leisure, assessing the likely impact of trends on the Borough over the next ten years.
- ◀ Work with partners to ensure that facilities and infrastructure are provided to support sustainable communities in Kingston.
- ◀ Provide the Council with evidenced analysis, using facility modelling, use of consultation and use of strategic planning tools to support prioritisation of resources, partnerships and focus on meeting current and future outdoor sport and leisure needs in Kingston.
- ◀ Focus on the River Thames to understand what physical activity opportunities it can bring in the future.

In addition, the following key drivers are identified:

- ◀ To inform planning policy relating to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and provide an evidence base for responding to planning applications affecting outdoor space and playing fields.
- ◀ To establish a clear strategic pathway for improvement, investment and protection of outdoor sports facilities and playing pitches.
- ◀ To have a robust evidence base upon which to be able to apply for external funding.
- ◀ To inform development of new schools being planned for the future that will have outdoor sport and pitch provision.
- ◀ To improve the quality and capacity of existing provision, regardless of ownership or management and to drive participation.
- ◀ To assess supply and demand issues with cross-boundary usage of sites in neighbouring local authorities.
- ◀ To ensure links with the Borough's Health Needs Assessment and to recognise the sport and physical activity benefits related to outdoor sports facilities.

Another purpose of the Outdoor Leisure Facilities Strategy is to look to address a range of fundamental challenges and assess how sports facilities can be used to meet the needs of:

- ◀ A growing Kingston population, which is relatively prosperous whilst also catering for areas of high deprivation which may have different requirements.
- ◀ Health partners in addressing the cost of physical inactivity and obesity levels.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

- ◀ Increased demand for facilities given the projected increase in population.
- ◀ A growing and active 'grey market' which is time rich, especially during the day.

The Outdoor Leisure Facilities Strategy will also link to the development of the Borough's Asset Strategy, the Indoor Built Facilities Strategy and support/inform the refresh of the Council's Green Spaces Strategy. The key strategic themes regarding sport and leisure in Kingston emanating from these main strategies are considered to be:

- ◀ Creating a genuinely attractive place that people enjoy visiting and using.
- ◀ Creating a cohesive new environment with outstanding urban design.
- ◀ Working with partners to ensure that facilities and infrastructure are provided to support sustainable communities in Kingston.
- ◀ Offering facilities and programmes which contribute to reducing health inequalities, improving education and skills development, and improving local economic development.
- ◀ Working in partnership with other agencies to tackle health issues.
- ◀ Supporting and promoting active lifestyles and increasing participation in sport and physical activity to allow residents to live longer, healthier, happier lives.

Management arrangements

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

Further to this, a Steering Group is and has been responsible for the direction of the study from a strategic perspective and for supporting, checking and challenging the work of the project team. The Steering Group is made up of representatives from the Council, Sport England and the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs).

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

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

Scope

The scope of the OSFS focuses geographically on all local provision, regardless of ownership and management arrangements. Sports included within this aspect of the study are as follows:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| ◀ Athletics (including triathlon/biathlon) | ◀ Multi-use games areas (MUGAS) |
| ◀ Archery | ◀ Netball |
| ◀ Basketball | ◀ Orienteering |
| ◀ Bowls | ◀ Outdoor gyms |
| ◀ Croquet | ◀ Skateparks |
| ◀ Cycling | ◀ Tennis (including Padel) |
| ◀ Golf | ◀ Water sports |

In addition, an education section is also included to pull out the key supply and demand findings relating to schools, colleges and universities, although such information is also included within each relevant section.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

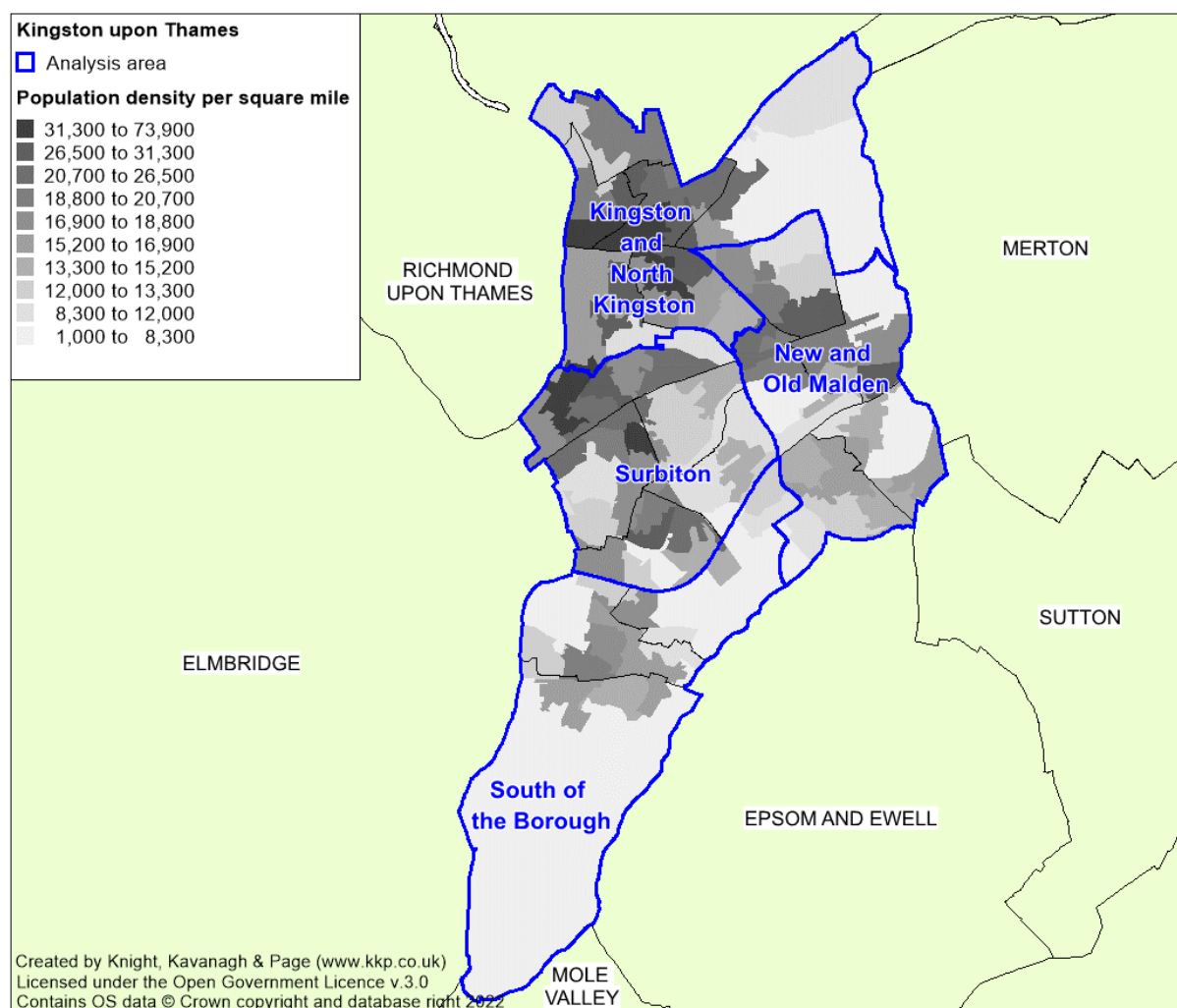
Study area

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

Table 1.1: Analysis area breakdown

Analysis area	Wards
Kingston & North Kingston	Tudor, Canbury, Grove, Norbiton, Grove
New & Old Malden	Coombe Hill, Coombe Vale, Beverley, St James, Old Malden
South of the Borough	Tolworth & Hook Rise, Chessington North & Hook, Chessington South
Surbiton	St Marks, Berrylands, Surbiton Hill, Alexandra

Figure 1.2: Map of Kingston-upon-Thames and its analysis areas



In addition, cross-boundary aspects are also recognised in regard to neighbouring local authorities including Richmond-upon-Thames, Elmbridge, Epsom & Ewell, Sutton and Merton. This will include reference to imported and exported demand into and from Kingston-upon-Thames as well as key sites and developments that sit close to boundary lines.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

1.3: Gather information on supply of and demand for provision (Stage B)

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

Gather supply information and views – an audit of provision

Quantity

Where known, all outdoor sport facilities are included within the OSFS, irrespective of ownership, management and use. Sites were initially identified using Sport England's Active Places web-based database, with the Council and NGBs supporting this process by checking and updating this initial data as well as by supplying their own affiliation data and booking information.

For each site, the following details are recorded in the project database:

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

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

Accessibility

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

- ◀ **Community use** - provision in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams playing in community leagues.
- ◀ **Available but unused** - provision that is available for hire but are not currently used by teams which play in community leagues; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire.
- ◀ **No community use** - provision which as a matter of policy or practice is not available for hire or used by teams playing in community leagues. This should include professional club sites along with some semi-professional club sites where play is restricted to the first or second team.
- ◀ **Disused** – provision that is not being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as lapsed sites.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

- ◀ **Lapsed** - last known use was more than five years ago (these fall outside of Sport England's statutory remit but still have to be assessed using the criteria in paragraph 99 of the NPPF and Sport England would still challenge any proposal that does not).

In addition, there should be a good degree of certainty that provision will be available to the community for at least the following three years. If this is not the case, the provision is still included within the assessment but is noted as having unsecure tenure.

Quality

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

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

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

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

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

Gather demand information and views

Current demand

Presenting an accurate picture of current demand for outdoor sport facilities (i.e., recording how and when provision is used) is important when undertaking a supply and demand assessment.

To that end, demand for provision in Kingston-upon-Thames tends to fall within the following categories:

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

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

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

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to provision, whereas latent demand is defined as the number of additional teams (or members) that could be accommodated if access to a sufficient number of outdoor sports facilities (and ancillary provision) was available. Exported and imported demand refers to those that are playing outside of their local authority area of choice.

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

Key providers and other users of provision have also been contacted, including leisure providers and charities as well as schools and further/higher education establishments. This involves face-to-face meetings with secondary schools, colleges and universities and an online survey being sent to primary schools, special schools and independent schools.

Future demand

Alongside current demand, it is important for a OSFS to assess whether the future demand for provision can be met. Sources that were used to help identify future demand include:

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

All future demand projections across the OSFS cover the period up until 2041, in line with the Council's emerging Local Plan.

1.4: Assessment – bringing the information together (Stage C)

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

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

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

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

1.5: Application

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

- ◀ Headline findings
- ◀ An overall vision and associated aims for the OSFS
- ◀ Sport-by-sport recommendations and scenarios
- ◀ Strategic recommendations
- ◀ A site-by-site and area-by-area Action Plan

Additionally, it will provide detail as to how to deliver the OSFS and keep it robust and up-to-date.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

PART 2: TENNIS

2.1: Introduction

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the organisation responsible for the governance of tennis and administers the sport locally across Kingston-upon-Thames. The LTA's Strategy is Tennis Opened up and its mission is to grow tennis by making it more relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable.

The recent joint LTA and UK Government Parks Tennis Project investment (£30 million) is designed to open up tennis to people of all backgrounds, improve access to tennis across the nation, and provide greater opportunities for children and adults to be active. Park tennis courts are particularly important in providing affordable, engaging and accessible opportunities for more female players and those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, as well as being the most popular venue for women to play after they have left education.

Consultation

There are six tennis clubs in Kingston-upon-Thames. All six responded to consultation requests, as summarised in the table below. The overall response rate is therefore 100%.

Table 2.1: Summary of consultation responses

Name of club	Analysis area	Responded?
Coombe Wood LTC	Kingston & North Kingston	Yes
Kingston Riverside Club	Kingston & North Kingston	Yes
New Malden TC	New & Old Malden	Yes
Surbiton Methodist Church TC	Surbiton	Yes
Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club	Surbiton	Yes
YMCA Hawker TC	Kingston & North Kingston	Yes

2.2: Supply

There are 112 traditional tennis courts identified in Kingston-upon-Thames, across 30 sites. Of these, 106 courts are categorised as being available for community use at 26 sites compared to six that are unavailable at four sites. The unavailable courts are located at Coombe Boys School, King Athelstan Primary School, Marymount International School and Surbiton High School.

The Surbiton Analysis Area contains the largest number of available courts (37), whilst the South of the Borough Analysis Area has the fewest (seven).

Table 2.2: Summary of the number of courts by analysis area

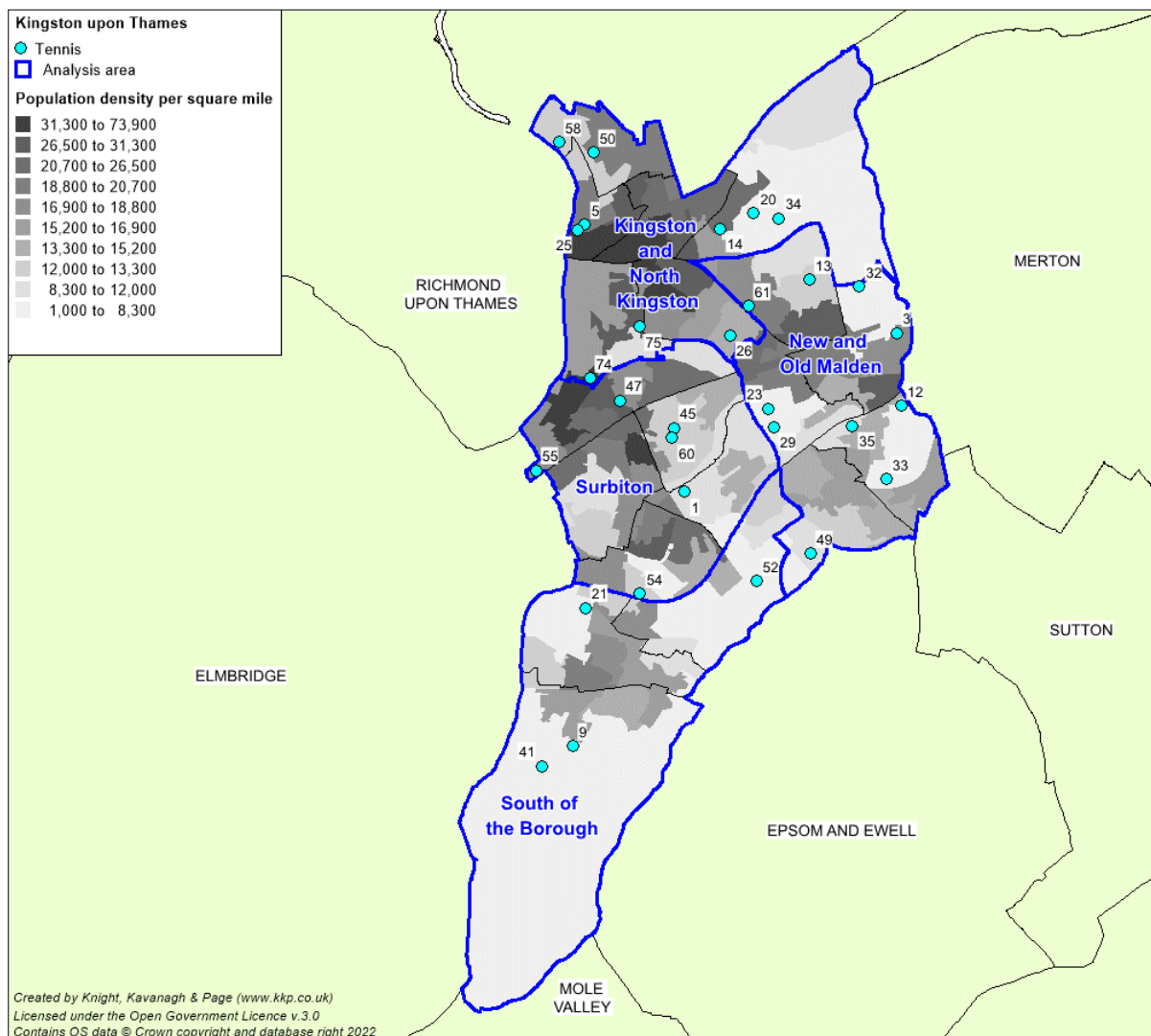
Analysis area	No. of courts available for community use	No. of courts unavailable for community use
Kingston & North Kingston	33	3
New & Old Malden	29	3
South of the Borough	7	-
Surbiton	37	-
Total	106	6

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Please note that courts are classified as being available for community use provided that they are deemed to be easily accessible to the general population, either via pay and play or through a membership at a club (or a mixture of both). It is also recognised that some courts are found within residential properties; however, these are not included within the scope of this report.

Figure 2.1 shows the location of courts servicing Kingston-upon-Thames that are included within the study. For a key to the map, see Table 2.3

Figure 2.1: Location of tennis courts in Kingston-upon-Thames



LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 2.3 Outdoor tennis courts in Kingston-upon-Thames

Site ID	Site name	Club user	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	Community use?	No. of courts	Sports lighting?	Court type	Court quality
1	Alexandra Recreation Ground	-	KT5 9BE	Surbiton	Sports club	Yes	4	No	Macadam	Good
3	Beverley Park	-	KT3 4LL	New & Old Malden	Sports club	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Good
5	Canbury Gardens	-	KT2 5AJ	Kingston & North Kingston	Sports club	Yes	4	No	Macadam	Poor
9	Chessington Sports Centre	-	KT9 2JS	South of the Borough	Council	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Standard
12	Coombe Boys School	-	KT3 6NU	New & Old Malden	School	No	3	No	Clay	Poor
13	Coombe Girls' School	-	KT3 3TU	New & Old Malden	School	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Standard
14	Coombe Wood Lawn Tennis Club	Coombe Wood LTC	KT2 7BS	Kingston & North Kingston	Sports club	Yes	3	Yes	Artificial Turf	Good
							4	Yes	Clay	Good
20	Holy Cross Prep School	-	KT2 7NU	Kingston & North Kingston	School	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Good
21	King Edwards Recreation Ground	-	KT9 1DW	South of the Borough	Council	Yes	1	No	Macadam	Poor
23	Kings College Sports Ground	-	KT3 5HA	New & Old Malden	University	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Standard
							1	No	Macadam	Poor
25	Kingston Riverside Club	Kingston Riverside Club	KT2 5AJ	Kingston & North Kingston	Sports club	Yes	2 ¹	No	Macadam	Good
							4	Yes	Clay	Good
26	Kingston Road Recreation Ground	-	KT3 3RX	Kingston & North Kingston	Sports club	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Good
29	London School of Economics Sports Ground	-	KT3 5HB	New & Old Malden	University	Yes	2	Yes	Macadam	Standard
32	Malden Wanderers Cricket Club & Lawn Tennis Club	-	KT3 4LE	New & Old Malden	Sports club	Yes	1	No	Macadam	Good
33	Manor Park	-	KT3 6AU	New & Old Malden	Commercial	Yes	8	Yes	Macadam	Good
34	Marymount International School	-	KT2 7PE	Kingston & North Kingston	School	No	1	No	Macadam	Good
35	New Malden Tennis, Squash & Badminton Club	New Malden TC	KT3 5RG	New & Old Malden	Sports club	Yes	4	Yes	Artificial Turf	Standard
							2	Yes	Macadam	Standard
41	Sir Francis Barker Recreation Ground	-	KT9 2NB	South of the Borough	Sports club	Yes	1	No	Macadam	Poor
45	Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club	Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club	KT5 8JT	Surbiton	Sports club	Yes	10	No	Grass	Good
							5 ²	Yes	Macadam	Good
							3	Yes	Clay	Good
47	The Hollyfield School & Sixth Form Centre	-	KT6 4TU	Surbiton	School	Yes	2	Yes	Macadam	Poor
49	The River Club	-	KT4 7PX	New & Old Malden	Sports club	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Standard
50	The Tiffin Girls' School	-	KT2 5PL	Kingston & North Kingston	School	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Standard
							2	Yes	Macadam	Standard
52	Tolworth Court Ground	-	KT4 7QH	South of the Borough	University	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam	Good
54	Tolworth Girls School	-	KT6 7LQ	Surbiton	School	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam	Good
55	Victoria Recreation Ground	-	KT6 5DN	Surbiton	Council	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Poor
58	YMCA Hawker	YMCA Hawker TC	KT2 5BH	Kingston & North Kingston	Sports club	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam	Good
60	Surbiton Methodist Church Tennis Club	Surbiton Methodist Church TC	KT5 8NE	Surbiton	Sports club	Yes	6	No	Macadam	Standard
61	Dickerage Sports & Community Centre	-	KT3 3EQ	New & Old Malden	Community	Yes	1	No	Macadam	Poor
74	Surbiton High School	-	KT1 2JT	Kingston & North Kingston	School	No	1	No	Macadam	Standard
75	King Athelstan Primary School	-	KT1 3AR	Kingston & North Kingston	School	No	1	No	Macadam	Standard

¹ Covered outside of summer months.

² Two are covered outside of summer months.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

LTA Youth provision

LTA Youth provides children with an opportunity to learn the fundamentals of tennis at an early age. It utilises smaller courts, nets and rackets as well as lower-bouncing tennis balls to develop vital tennis skills and techniques. This has five levels, with the LTA stating that each stage has key aims and goals as follows:

- ◀ Blue: Learn the Basics – tennis lessons for ages 4-6
- ◀ Red: Serve, Rally and Score – tennis lessons for ages 6-8
- ◀ Orange: Develop a Rounded Game - tennis lessons for ages 8-9
- ◀ Green: Test your Skills - tennis lessons for ages 9-10
- ◀ Yellow: Take your Skills Further – tennis lessons for ages 10+

Five smaller courts have been identified in Kingston-upon-Thames that are suitable for the above (as well as all full size courts), with four located at Rokeby Prep School and the remaining one located at Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club.

Padel provision

Padel tennis is relatively new to Great Britain and is growing in popularity, particularly since its recognition as a sport and integration within the LTA. It is played mainly in a doubles format on an enclosed court about a third of the size of a tennis court and can be played in groups of mixed ages and abilities. The rules are broadly the same as tennis, although you serve under-arm and the walls are used as part of the game with the ball allowed to bounce off them.

In order to grow the sport, the LTA is focused on improving the infrastructure and the coach education pathway. At the end of 2020, there were 87 courts, whereas there are now 275, with a projected growth to 450 in 2023. It is therefore envisaged that the infrastructure and participation in padel will increase significantly in the next five years.

Two padel courts have been identified within Kingston-upon-Thames, both of which, are located at Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club. In addition, the Council reports that it has been contacted by several commercial operators regarding potentially establishing further provision.

The LTA states that padel court development at leisure centre sites can be particularly beneficial as provision can be tied into other sports facilities and profit from an already established operating model. Furthermore, it identifies that they can benefit clubs and particularly those that may be otherwise struggling due to the additional revenue that they can provide.

Notwithstanding the above, the LTA also states that it is not encouraging clubs to convert existing tennis courts to padel courts, unless it can be shown that they have the capacity to support this. This is to ensure that the provision of tennis courts remains sufficient.

Indoor provision

Two of the macadam tennis courts provided at Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club are covered by a dome facility (from October until March). Whilst not a permanent indoor structure, this provides the site with additional capacity for tennis demand, especially outside of summer months.

In addition, two courts at Kingston Riverside Club are also covered during winter months with a dome facility.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Elsewhere, Kingston University is exploring the possibility of covering its courts at Tolworth Court Ground, as are the leaseholders at Canbury Gardens in relation to one of its four courts.

Disused provision

Southborough High School reports that there used to be up to four tennis courts provided at its sports ground but that the area has since been tarmacked over and has trees growing on it. It has not been used in the last 10 years.

Ownership/management

The table below highlights the management of tennis courts within Kingston-upon-Thames. In total, 65 are provided at club sites and six are provided at local authority sites, with all available for community use. There are then 32 provided at education sites, although six of these as previously mentioned are unavailable to the community.

Of the 'other' providers, the court at Dickerage Sports & Community Centre is managed by a community organisation, whilst the remaining eight courts are operated commercially at Manor Park. This is via Tennis Avenue Academy, which manages the courts and also runs a private tennis school from the site.

Table 2.4: Outdoor tennis courts by management type

Community use	Number of courts			
	Club	Council	Education	Other
Available	65	6	26	9
Unavailable	-	-	6	-
Total	65	6	32	9

The sports club courts include those at Alexandra Recreation Ground, Beverley Park and Kingston Road Recreation Ground, all of which are leased to Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club via the Council. It also includes the courts at Canbury Gardens, which is leased to Kingston Riverside Club, and the court at Sir Frances Barker Recreation Ground, which is leased to Chessington CC.

Of the local authority sites that remain in-house, one is a dual use education site, with the Council managing external bookings. This is located at Chessington Sports Centre (Chessington School).

Security of tenure

Security of tenure is provided to all tennis clubs in Kingston-upon-Thames, with all either owning their sites or leasing them on a long-term basis. As such, no clubs report any issues in this regard.

Venues primarily used by each club and the tenure arrangements are summarised in the following table.

Table 2.5: Summary of club venues and tenure

Club name	Site used	Type of tenure
Coombe Wood LTC	Coombe Wood Lawn Tennis Club	Freehold
Kingston Riverside Club	Kingston Riverside Club	Lease

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Club name	Site used	Type of tenure
New Malden TC	New Malden Tennis, Squash and Badminton Club	Freehold
Surbiton Methodist Church TC	Surbiton Methodist Church Tennis Club	Lease
Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club	Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club	Lease
YMCA Hawker	YMCA Hawker	Lease

As seen, lease arrangements are in place for Kingston Riverside Club (from the Council), Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club (from the Council), Surbiton Methodist Church TC (from Surbiton Methodist Church) and YMCA Hawker (from the Council), whilst the remaining clubs have freehold.

Court type

Most outdoor tennis courts in Kingston-upon-Thames have a macadam surface, with 81 of the 112 being of this type and 78 of these being available for community use. The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels. To ensure courts can continued to be used beyond this time frame, it is recommended that a sinking fund is put into place for eventual refurbishment.

Of the remaining courts, 10 have a grass surface, 14 have a clay surface and seven have an artificial turf surface. This is summarised below.

Table 2.6: Summary of tennis court types across Kingston-upon-Thames

Court type	No. of courts available for community use	No. of courts unavailable for community use	Total number of courts
Artificial turf	7	-	7
Clay	11	3	14
Grass	10	-	10
Macadam	78	3	80
Total	106	6	112

Whilst artificial courts have a similar lifespan to macadam courts, grass and clay courts are generally much harder and more expensive to maintain, especially during bad weather spells. This can also impact on their capacity.

The grass courts in Kingston-upon-Thames are supplied at Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club, whilst the clay courts are also found at Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club as well as Coombe Boys School, Coombe Wood Lawn Tennis Club and Kingston Riverside Club.

The artificial courts are located at Coombe Wood Lawn Tennis Club and New Malden Tennis, Squash & Badminton Club.

Sports lighting

Sports lit courts enable use throughout the year and are identified by the LTA as being a key priority for growing participation. The LTA reports that courts with sports lighting allow for a 35% increase in available court time on an annual basis relative to those which are not lit.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

In Kingston-upon-Thames, 49 of the 112 tennis courts are serviced by sports lighting representing 44% of the provision. All of these courts are available for community use and are located at the following sites:

- ◀ Coombe Wood Lawn Tennis Club
- ◀ London School of Economics Sports Ground
- ◀ New Malden Tennis, Squash & Badminton Club
- ◀ The Hollyfield School & Sixth Form Centre
- ◀ Tolworth Court Ground
- ◀ YMCA Hawker
- ◀ Kingston Riverside Club
- ◀ Manor Park
- ◀ Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club
- ◀ The Tiffin Girls' School
- ◀ Tolworth Girls School

Access to courts with sports lighting is considered particularly key for clubs as it allows for greater use of provision, which in turn can help accommodate more members. Kingston-upon-Thames is therefore relatively well off in this regard, with five of the six clubs currently serviced to some degree. This relates to Coombe Wood, Kingston Riverside, New Malden, Surbiton Racket and YMCA Hawker tennis clubs.

Conversely, Surbiton Methodist Church TC is not currently serviced, although it states that it is putting together an application for sports lighting. It reports that this will better accommodate demand, especially outside of summer months.

In addition, Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club states that it has plans to change its current lighting to an LED alternative and it also reports that it eventually wants all its courts to be lit (the grass courts are not currently serviced). The Club also has an application in place for lighting to be provided at Alexandra Recreation Ground.

Similarly, Coombe Wood LTC has plans to convert its current lights to LED lights, which it says it has secured funding for.

Away from clubs, increasing the number of local authority courts with sports lighting is also a strategic aim for the LTA due to the additional recreational demand and tennis programmes such provision can help accommodate. Of the local authority courts in Kingston-upon-Thames, none are currently serviced by sports lighting.

LTA Quick Access Loan Scheme³

The LTA's mission is to grow tennis and padel by making them accessible, welcoming, and enjoyable. Ensuring local communities have access to quality facilities is critical to attracting and retaining more players. As such, the LTA's Quick Access Loan Scheme aims to provide interest-free loans to support venues investment in facilities, prioritising the installation and construction of covered courts.

The objectives of the fund are to:

- ◀ Provide covered or sports-lit playing facilities to encourage community accessible play all year.
- ◀ Retain and increase the number of participants at the venue.
- ◀ Offer and increase both non-members pay and play usage and coaching opportunities.
- ◀ Grow the numbers of adults and juniors on the coaching programme.
- ◀ Provide seamless booking of tennis courts and lessons through an [online booking system](#).

³ [Quick Access Loan Scheme for tennis facilities \(lta.org.uk\)](#)

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

As part of the fund, the LTA will fund:

- ◀ Lighting upgrades to LED (outdoor and indoor)
- ◀ New sports lights
- ◀ New court provision
- ◀ Outdoor padel courts
- ◀ Covered padel (courts and cover)
- ◀ Covered tennis courts

Overmarking of courts

Tennis courts, particularly within schools, are often over marked by netball, basketball and/or football courts as shared use spaces. However, overmarked courts tend to receive higher levels of use which can be detrimental to quality over time, as well as creating capacity issues if there is community demand from more than one sport.

In Kingston-upon-Thames, 25 courts are over marked by netball or football provision at nine sites, with the majority of these located at schools where curriculum activity makes this necessary. For more information, see Part 3 of this report.

Quality

The quality of tennis courts has been informed through non-technical site assessments and consultation with providers to assign each court a rating of good, standard or poor. Key aspects informing the findings include surface quality, grip underfoot, line marking quality, evenness and evidence of inappropriate use (e.g. vandalism and/or littering).

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

Maintaining high court quality is an important aspect of tennis and therefore the non-technical assessment assesses several factors are used to determine court quality. The criterion for the non-technical assessment include assessing grip underfoot, damage to the surface, line markings, evidence of moss/lichen, slope of courts, disability access, fencing and courts being of an appropriate size for competitive tennis.

Of the courts in Kingston-upon-Thames, 63 courts are assessed as good quality (62 of which are available for community use), with 33 courts assessed as standard quality (32 available for community use) and 16 assessed as poor quality (13 available for community use). This is a high proportion of good quality courts compared to the national picture.

The table below provides a summary of quality across Kingston-upon-Thames. Please refer to Table 2.3 for court quality at individual sites.

Table 2.7: Quality of community available tennis courts

Community use	Number of courts		
	Good	Standard	Poor
Available	62	32	13
Unavailable	1	1	3
Total	63	33	16

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

The poor quality courts are all located at school and council sites. The full list of sites containing poor quality courts is as follows:

- ◀ Canbury Gardens
- ◀ Dickerage Sport and Community Centre
- ◀ Kings College Sports Ground
- ◀ Sir Francis Barker Recreation Ground
- ◀ Coombe Boys School
- ◀ The Hollyfield School & Sixth Form Centre
- ◀ King Edwards Recreation Ground
- ◀ Victoria Recreation Ground

These all suffer from common problems such as worn line markings, loose gravel, waterlogging and poor grip underfoot. The provision at King Edwards Recreation Ground and Sir Francis Barker Recreation Ground are noted as being particularly poor quality to the point of being unsafe for use.

At King College Sports Ground, only one of the three courts is assessed as poor due to differences in the age of the surface (the other two courts are assessed as standard).

None of the poor-quality courts are accessed by clubs. Instead, most of the club-based provision is assessed as good quality, although an exception is New Malden TC which has standard quality courts. It reports it has plans to resurface its courts to improve the provision. Despite being assessed as good quality, Kingston Riverside Club also reports plans to resurface its courts, with a particular focus on its macadam court provision. This is to ensure that the quality is sustained before the surface begins to deteriorate.

Similarly, Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club has noted that its clay courts will need resurfacing to improve its standard. Additionally, the Club has plans to convert some of its grass courts to an all-weather surface to increase capacity and lessen maintenance requirements. It is currently trying to raise funds to do this.

Surbiton Methodist Church TC has plans to resurface two of its six courts in the near future.

Recent improvements have taken place at Alexandra Park, Beverley Park and Kingston Road Recreation Ground, with courts at all three sites assessed as good quality as a result.

LTA's Parks Tennis Investment Fund⁴

Improving local authority courts is currently a national priority for the LTA. There is a focus on suitable sites that cater for high levels of recreational demand or that have the potential to do so, especially if the provision is serviced (or could be serviced) by changing facilities and sports lighting.

Linked to the above, the LTA has secured a £22 million investment fund to be put into public tennis courts across Britain, together with an £8.5 million investment from the LTA. This will see thousands of public park tennis courts that are in poor or unplayable condition improved for the benefit of the local communities.

The LTA's ambition is to drive participation across park tennis sites, as well as ensuring the future sustainability of these facilities. As well as paying for the refurbishment of public park courts, the new investment will also pay for the implementation of sustainable operating models for the facilities, with specialist programmes and support to ensure courts are both affordable and utilised.

⁴[Link to LTA investment plans](#)

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Ancillary provision

Site assessments and consultation suggests that most clubs in Kingston-upon-Thames are serviced by good or standard quality ancillary facilities, although many cite an aspiration to for improvements. However, Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club reports that its changing facilities are of a poor quality and in need of a refurbishment, which the Club has plans to undertake.

Coombe Wood LTC identifies that it has a five-year rolling plan for its court and facility improvements. As part of this, it currently has a focus on refurbishing its entrance lane footpath and improving the clubhouse terrace.

New Malden TC has several ancillary-related plans, including an aspiration to replace the fencing around the courts and to refurbish its clubhouse. The current provision is assessed as standard quality.

Kingston Riverside Club has a written sports development plan in which it states that it wishes to improve its facilities, although it does not provide information as to what exactly this relates to.

For non-club courts, ancillary provision is generally considered to be problematic, although adequate quality facilities are provided at Canbury Gardens and Kingston Road Recreation Ground. Whilst most of the other sites do provide changing facilities and/or toilets, they are not specific for tennis and are generally too far away from the courts to be realistically used. Often, the facilities predominately service football/cricket pitch users and therefore are not readily available or suited to tennis court users.

In some instances, quality is also poor. An example of this is found at Victoria Recreation Ground, which has a small clubhouse that is in poor condition and currently unusable. Manor Park also has a poor quality facility.

Insight from the LTA indicates good quality ancillary facilities such as toilets, changing rooms and cafes encourage players to visit community available provision and stay for extended periods of time. Therefore, a potential way to increase usage of appropriate sites would be to invest in suitable ancillary amenities, which can then also provide a source of secondary income.

Building conditions survey

The Council has undertaken a building conditions survey to identify improvements required at 12 of its sites and the level of investment needed to enable this. For tennis, the survey covers the following sites:

- ◀ Alexandra Recreation Ground
- ◀ Beverley Park
- ◀ Canbury Gardens
- ◀ King Edwards Recreation Ground
- ◀ Manor Park
- ◀ Sir Frances Barker Recreation Ground
- ◀ Victoria Recreation Ground

Each of these sites is assessed as having provision in need of improvement within this study, with the exception of Canbury Gardens. However, relatively minimal investment is identified as being required at this site via the survey.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

2.3: Demand

Competitive tennis

There are six tennis clubs in Kingston-upon-Thames. Across the clubs, there is an overall membership of 3,160, which broken down amounts to 2,197 senior members and 963 junior members. The average club membership is 526, which represents substantial demand.

Membership by club is summarised in the table below.

Table 2.8: Summary of tennis club demand

Club	Number of members		
	Senior	Junior	Total
Coombe Wood LTC	400	350	750
Kingston Riverside Club	170	100	270
New Malden TC	140	20	160
Surbiton Methodist Church TC	123	30	153
Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club	1,314	283	1,597
YMCA Hawker TC	50	180	240
Total	2,197	963	3,160

As seen, the largest club Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club, catering for 1,597 members followed by Coombe Wood LTC with 750 members and Kingston Riverside Club with 270 members. The smallest club is Surbiton Methodist Church TC with 153 members, although this still makes it a comparatively large club.

Participation trends

Nationally, the LTA has announced participation figures for 2022 showing sustained success in getting more people playing tennis more often, with growth across all demographics, regions and nations of Great Britain. This is particularly amongst 16-34 year-olds and those from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

The number of adults reporting that they had played tennis during the year increased 43% compared to the previous year (2021), rising from 3.3 million to 4.7 million from January through to December. This is the highest total recorded since 2017 and has continued the growth seen in 2018-19 before being interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

In addition, more than two million adults play monthly, and this is the highest level recorded since the LTA started tracking this measure seven years ago. This means that the LTA has achieved the targets set out in its five-year 2018-23 strategy for adult annual and monthly participation one year ahead of schedule.

Finally, children's weekly participation in tennis has seen positive growth in the past year with over three and a half million children playing tennis and with an extra 328,000 children playing tennis in schools.

In Kingston-upon-Thames, five of the six clubs report that demand has increased over recent years. Collectively, the clubs report that improved coaching as well as increased court and ancillary facility quality and marketing efforts has contributed to the increases, whilst four also specifically relate their growth to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

The identified growth has been particularly substantial for Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club, which states that it now has 150 additional senior members. Surbiton Methodist Church TC does not quantify its growth but identifies that Covid-19 has been the key factor.

Coombe Wood LTC reports that its senior membership has increased by 30 members and notes that it has now had to establish a waiting list due to the large number of applications it received during the Covid-19 pandemic. It has also increased its junior membership by 50, which it attributes to the success and popularity of its junior training programme.

Similarly, Kingston Riverside Club states that its membership has increased by an additional 70 members, with a long waiting list now in place. It is only able to offer new membership availability when someone leaves.

YMCA Hawker reports an increase in its junior members, referencing a post-lockdown surge in demand. As a result, it states that its junior programme is now operating at full capacity, although it notes that its adult membership has stayed the same.

The only club that does not report a recent growth in demand is New Malden TC. It states that its membership has remained static at both senior and junior level.

Informal and parks tennis

The LTA has recently developed a support package for local authorities to grow use of tennis courts by removing key barriers to participation; products known as ClubSpark, Play (previously Rally) and Gate Access have been established. These represent what the LTA calls a major improvement to the customer journey and provide a clear revenue stream to reinvest into court provision.

The use of the LTA products at these sites allows official use of the courts to be tracked, thus providing data on how often provision is being accessed and by who. In Kingston-upon-Thames, they have recently been implemented at the following local authority sites:

- ◀ Alexandra Park
- ◀ Beverley Park
- ◀ Kingston Road Recreation Ground

In addition, products are also implemented at Coombe Wood Lawn Tennis Club, New Malden Tennis, Squash & Badminton Club, Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club and YMCA Hawker as well as at Manor Park.

The products are summarised below.

ClubSpark – Improving the booking process

ClubSpark is a flexible and simple venue management platform with multiple products and applications to help venues, local authorities and coaches manage their sport. It is a tool that is offered for free as part of LTA venue registration and allows administrators to manage all functions at their venue(s), including:

- ◀ Managed website - create and manage a mobile friendly website tailored to LA/club requirements to promote events and activities.
- ◀ Managed coaching – set up coaching lessons and courses online.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

- ◀ Membership management - improve membership engagement by making it easier for the venue and for members to pay, renew and keep in touch (includes online payments, direct debits and the monitoring of revenue streams; membership modules can also be used to take season ticket payments for venues operating a non-traditional annual facility fee).
- ◀ Organise payments - set the way payments are taken, whether it's immediate pay and play, or bookable as part of a membership package
- ◀ Court bookings – reduced administration for bookings; give staff, coaches, members and the general public access to book and pay for courts, classes or other resources online.
- ◀ Scheduling - set unique booking and price rules to suit the venue and enable lights to switch on/off automatically when linked to the LTA Premium Gate Access system.
- ◀ Book and pay remotely - customers can make bookings and payments for a venue anytime, anywhere via the real-time booking app.
- ◀ Reporting - ClubSpark allows administrators to view reports highlighting income, court usage, revenue and number of members; this allows for identification of trends and patterns and evidence to demonstrate participation levels and impact.

Play

LTA Play is an aggregator that collects all booking and coaching information via ClubSpark pages and displays it for participants in one easy to view page, with this recently integrated to the LTA website. It allows players to search for venues close to them and provides booking options, removing the barriers of not knowing where courts are or how to book.

Rally provides a helpful customer journey, with a personal profile to review and manage bookings, and helpful reminders. Courts can be set to book for free of charge or at a fee agreed by the provider.

Gate access

The LTA has developed two gate access systems that work in association with ClubSpark to secure courts and to allow access to booked customers only, with this being proven to increase usage. Members of the public can book a court online (making payment if required) and receive a four-digit access code via email to enter using a courtside keypad. The gate access system then allows entry for the time booked if a correct code is entered.

Two gate options are available; SmartAccess Premium and SmartAccess Lite. The demands and needs of users plus the setup of the venue determines the most appropriate system for each site.

Nationally, the LTA report that in the last three years, sites with a gate access system installed have attracted 64,841 unique players, leading to 609,671 courts being booked. This has generated income of over £1 million.

Local Tennis leagues

Recreational tennis leagues are less formal than established club play, offering greater flexibility and an opportunity for people of all abilities to engage in competition at local venues. They are available to all aged 18 years and above and are run by an organisation called Local Tennis Leagues, which affiliates to the LTA. Players are organised into mixed sex leagues of eight based on similar ability levels, with matches arranged between the two players at whatever time and court is agreed. The flexibility of play is conducive to the use of park sites which are typically more easily accessible.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

There is one league operating in Kingston-upon-Thames, known as the Kingston Parks Tennis League. The primary venues the League uses are Alexandra Recreation Ground, Beverley Park and Kingston Road Recreation Ground.

LTA Youth Start

This is a six-week coaching offer for children that have never played tennis and is identified as a priority by the LTA. For £25, kids get coaching by an LTA Accredited coach, along with a free racket, pack of balls and personalised t-shirt so that they can continue playing.

LTA Youth Start currently has no presence in Kingston-upon-Thames.

LTA Big Tennis Weekend

The LTA Big Tennis Weekend is an LTA initiative which all registered venues can access. Clubs and venues have the ability to sign up to host open days, which are free of charge, and create a relaxed and welcoming environment for those new to tennis to participate. This in turn can potentially lead to the clubs attracting new members.

All clubs running an open day are asked to promote a follow-on offer to all attendees, such as a reduced rate introductory membership or a number of free coaching sessions, to encourage people to continue playing after the event. However, no sites in Kingston-upon-Thames currently host a Big Tennis Weekends.

Free Parks Tennis

The LTA are due to launch the LTA Free Parks Tennis offer. This is due to the following needs:

- ◀ Player Trends:
 - ◀ 35% of people who play tennis once per year or more do so in a park.
 - ◀ The most common type of play for park players is socially with friends or family.
- ◀ Barriers:
 - ◀ 25% of players cite not having anyone to play with as a barrier to playing more tennis.
 - ◀ 24% of players cite having nowhere to play or difficulty in accessing local courts as reasons why they do not play tennis more often
 - ◀ 32% of these players say local courts are not affordable.
 - ◀ 75% of parks players consider themselves to be of beginner (41%) or improver (36%) standard, which is significantly lower than club players
 - ◀ 22% of players state that a lack of equipment prevents them from playing tennis.

The key points of a free park tennis session are:

- ◀ Free for all players to book and attend
- ◀ Run by a minimum of two trained and DBS checked Activators
- ◀ Sessions should run all year round (weather depending)
- ◀ Run on a Saturday or Sunday morning at 10.00-11.00am

Court requirements are for three courts minimum in parks that have this many, or two courts at two court sites – a three court site can have up to 34 players attending. The sessions are designed for those aged eight and over, but under eights can attend when accompanied by a parent.

Future consideration should be given to offer Free Parks Tennis in Parks across Kingston-upon-Thames.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

University demand

University tennis demand in Kingston-upon-Thames is perceived to be relatively high, with courts provided at Kings College Sports Ground, London School of Economics Sports Ground and Tolworth Court Ground. All three sites are open to students, as well as to the wider community outside of internal access requirements.

Kingston University, which operates Tolworth Court Ground receives tier one support from the LTA. This is part of three tier system, with tier one including a core, non-financial package that involves the recruitment of a University Tennis Ambassador. Their role is to take on responsibilities for the development of tennis, particularly focusing on increasing student participation and competition.

Tennis coaching/sessions

Tennis Avenue Academy manages the courts at Manor Park and operates several high performance, academy and community tennis programmes from the site for both adults and juniors. Across summer weeks, sessions will run on weekends and most weekday evenings and incorporate the following:

- ◀ Adult cardio tennis sessions
- ◀ High Performance sessions
- ◀ Holiday camps
- ◀ Junior Academy sessions (for 10-16 year olds)
- ◀ Mini Academy sessions (for 5-10 year olds)
- ◀ Mini tennis red sessions
- ◀ Mini tennis orange sessions
- ◀ Mini tennis green sessions

Other coaching companies also operate in Kingston-upon-Thames, including MZ Tennis, which utilises the courts at Canbury Gardens, and Paul Stow Tennis, which utilises the courts at YMCA Hawker. Ollie Lloyd Tennis operates from Coombe Wood Lawn Tennis Club.

In addition, Achieving for Children has tennis activators which operate in Kingston-upon-Thames as part of its work across the Borough as well as in Richmond-upon-Thames and Windsor & Maidenhead. The organisation holds inclusive sessions for youth people at Chessington Sports Centre and Kingsnympton Park, the latter of which is via a MUGA rather than a tennis court (see Part 12 of this report).

The above forms part of the LTA's SERVES programme, which is an initiative aimed towards helping young people in under-served communities get active and experience the physical, social and mental benefits of tennis. It is aimed at 4-18 year olds, with over 1,500 activators equipped across the Country.

Ten Project

Ten Project is a new initiative aimed at getting families to spend more time together while being active. It is aimed at providing children aged 4-10 with high quality, fun, game-based tennis coaching that also involves the whole family and is free and affordable. It involves 10 weeks of 'in school' tennis coaching is supplemented with a free parent/child session at the weekends on public owned local community tennis courts across London boroughs.

In Kingston-upon-Thames, the programme is active at Chessington Sports Centre (Chessington School).

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Padel demand

Currently 90,000 people reportedly play padel more than once a year in England - a 493% year on year increase compared to 2021 (15,000). This exemplifies the continued growth of the sport and the need to ensure that such demand is being adequately catered for. Furthermore, the LTA reports that Surrey is one of the biggest growing counties in terms of padel demand and development.

There are two padel courts which are available for community use in Kingston-upon-Thames, both located at Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club. However, given the growing popularity of the format, that is not to say that there is no further demand as it is likely that take-up would be considerable were additional provision to be established.

Latent/unmet demand

Latent demand for tennis nationally is reported to be high by the LTA, which has an insight tool that suggests that 18% of the five million players that pick up a racket each year would play more often if key barriers such as poor promotion of opportunities to get on court, unclear booking journeys (especially those that are 'offline') and low-quality facilities were addressed.

In Kingston-upon-Thames, the above is considered to be less of an issue given the local authority and park sites that have undergone recent refurbishment and that are part of ClubSpark/Play. However, whilst this is unable to be tracked, there is likely to be unmet demand as a consequence of many accessible courts not being serviced by sports lighting, especially outside of summer months. There are also additional local authority sites that could undergo similar refurbishment/investment to further encourage and accommodate usage.

In relation to clubs, five report having unmet and/or latent demand due to a lack of court capacity. These are:

- ◀ Coombe Wood LTC
- ◀ Kingston Riverside Club
- ◀ Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club
- ◀ Surbiton Methodist Church TC
- ◀ YMCA Hawker

YMCA Hawker TC suggests that it is having to turn new players away due to its courts operating at full capacity.

As mentioned previously, Coombe Wood LTC now has a waiting list in place for membership. It states that it could accommodate this demand if had access to more courts, but notes that, this is not possible at its existing site due to it not having the space to expand.

Kingston Riverside Club also has as a waiting list in place and again identifies that expansion would enable this demand to be accommodated. However, it reports that any application for additional courts would likely be rejected due to its green belt location.

Surbiton Methodist Church reports that it requires the addition of sports lighting to ensure that all of its potential demand can be accommodated as this will provide increased capacity.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Future demand

Only two clubs in Kingston-upon-Thames report plans to increase their membership numbers, with these being New Malden and Surbiton Methodist Church tennis clubs. However, the lack of future demand from other clubs is linked to the latent demand identified above and the fact that no capacity exists to cater for potential growth.

The total future demand expressed equates to 70 senior and 30 junior members.

Table 2.9: Summary of future tennis club demand

Club	Number of future members	
	Senior	Junior
Coombe Wood LTC	-	-
Kingston Riverside Club	-	-
Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club	-	-
New Malden TC	50	10
Surbiton Methodist Church TC	20	20
YMCA Hawker	-	-
Total	70	30

In addition, the LTA also expects future growth via its insight tools, with much of this demand likely to include participation outside of the club environment.

2.4: Supply and demand analysis

Club tennis

The LTA suggests that a non-floodlit hard court can accommodate 40 members whereas a floodlit hard court can accommodate 60 members. The same also applies where courts are seasonal (e.g., grass and clay), although additional capacity issues may exist during inclement weather spells. For air domed courts, membership of 100 is considered applicable.

Using the guide, the table overleaf identifies the capacity balance at all sites currently used by clubs in Kingston-upon-Thames, taking into account both current and future demand. However, it must be noted that the figures should only be used as a guide as capacity can, in reality, vary from site to site depending on how the demand operates and the programmes of use in place. Some clubs can comfortably operate over the capacity guidance, whilst others may have pressures without theoretically being over capacity.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

Table 2.10: Capacity analysis (club courts)

Site ID	Site	Club users	Current demand (members)	Future demand (members)	No of courts	Sports lighting?	Capacity (members)	Current capacity balance	Future capacity balance
14	Coombe Wood Lawn Tennis Club	Coombe Wood LTC	750	-	7	Yes	420	330	330
25	Kingston Riverside Club	Kingston Riverside Club	270	-	2	No	320	50	50
					4	Yes			
35	New Malden Tennis Squash & Badminton Club	New Malden TC	160	60	2	Yes	360	200	140
					4	Yes			
45	Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club	Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club	1,597	-	10	Yes	960	637	637
					8	No			
60	Surbiton Methodist Church Tennis Club	Surbiton Methodist Church TC	153	20	6	No	240	87	67
58	YMCA Hawker	YMCA Hawker TC	240	-	3	Yes	180	60	60

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

As evidenced in the table above, there is a theoretical shortfall of provision for club-based tennis in Kingston-upon-Thames, with three clubs currently operating over the capacity guide. These are:

- ◀ Coombe Wood LTC (at Coombe Wood Lawn Tennis Club)
- ◀ Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club (at Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club)
- ◀ YMCA Hawker TC (at YMCA Hawker)

Across the clubs, there is an identified shortfall of 1,027 members. However, it must be noted that Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club also has access to two indoor courts, which is likely to result in its demand being more efficiently accommodated than the above calculations suggest. Anecdotal evidence indicates that an indoor court can cater for up to 200 members without capacity issues.

The remaining clubs all have potential spare capacity, with this collectively amounting to 337 members currently and 257 members when accounting for future demand. However, this totals less than the identified shortfalls, suggesting that an overall deficit exists for club-based tennis.

Furthermore, the modelling suggests that Kingston Riverside Club and Surbiton Methodist Church TC have existing spare capacity, whereas both clubs report having current capacity issues. This suggests that the shortfalls may be greater than what the guidance portrays.

Non-club tennis

For non-club courts, analysing supply and demand is difficult in Kingston-upon-Thames as full usage figures are not known. However, it is considered likely that most courts are being well utilised given the use of LTA products such as ClubSpark at some local authority and park venues. Nevertheless, no issues have been identified and it is therefore considered that all sites have capacity for additional growth.

Conclusion

For club-based tennis, there is a clear shortfall of provision in Kingston-upon-Thames which is leading to some clubs expressing capacity issues as well as clubs reporting latent and unmet demand. Resolutions are therefore required to alleviate pressures, first and foremost on a club-by-club basis.

For non-club activity, Kingston-upon-Thames is relatively well placed given the implementation of LTA products at some local authority and park venues. However, there is scope to incorporate more sites into this to ensure a greater range of people can be accommodated and to improve the quality at more sites and ensure future sustainability of those park venues. In addition, a lack of sports lighting and covered courts at venues presents a clear problem as this will be limiting demand, especially outside of summer months.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Tennis – supply summary

- ◀ A total of 112 tennis courts are identified in Kingston-upon-Thames across 30 sites.
- ◀ Of the courts, 106 are categorised as being available for community use at 26 sites.
- ◀ LTA Youth tennis courts are provided at Rokeby Prep School and Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club, whereas padel courts are in place at Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club.
- ◀ Two courts at Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club are covered by a dome facility.
- ◀ Of the existing courts, 65 are provided at club sites, 32 at education sites and six at local authority sites, whilst nine are operated commercially or by a community group.
- ◀ All clubs have security of tenure, either via freehold or long term lease agreements.
- ◀ Most courts have a macadam surface, with there being 81 of this type compared to 14 clay courts, 10 grass courts and seven artificial courts.
- ◀ 49 courts are serviced by sports lighting, all of which are available for community use.
- ◀ No courts operated by the Council are serviced by sports lighting, whilst five of the six clubs are (Surbiton Methodist Church TC is not).
- ◀ 63 courts are assessed as good quality, 33 are standard quality and 16 are poor quality.
- ◀ Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club, Coombe Wood LTC, New Malden TC and Kingston Riverside Club all have aspirations to improve the ancillary facilities servicing their courts, whereas facilities servicing council sites also generally require improvement.

Tennis – demand summary

- ◀ There are six tennis clubs with an overall membership of 3,160, which broken down amounts to 2,197 senior members and 963 junior members.
- ◀ Club demand has grown in recent years, with five clubs reporting increased membership.
- ◀ Informal and recreational tennis demand is relatively high and participation is aided through the implementation of LTA products (e.g., ClubSpark) at several sites.
- ◀ A Local Tennis League is in operation, with courts at Alexandra Recreation Ground, Beverley Park and Kingston Road Recreation Ground commonly utilised.
- ◀ Coombe Wood LTC, Kingston Riverside Club, Surbiton Methodist Church TC and YMCA Hawker report latent demand.
- ◀ There is also likely to be unmet demand for recreational tennis due to many accessible courts not being serviced by sports lighting, whilst there are also additional local authority sites that could undergo refurbishment/investment to further encourage and accommodate usage.
- ◀ New Malden TC and Surbiton Methodist TC report future demand amounting to 100 potential members (70 senior and 30 junior) whilst the LTA also predicts future growth via its insight tools, with much of this demand likely to include participation outside of the club-environment.

Tennis – supply and demand summary

- ◀ There is a shortfall of provision for club-based tennis, with three clubs currently operating over capacity and a further two clubs reporting pressures despite being under guidance thresholds.
- ◀ For non-club activity, the Borough is relatively well placed given the implementation of LTA products at some local authority venues; however, there is scope to incorporate more sites and to improve quality to further increase usage.
- ◀ A lack of sports lighting and covered courts at venues also presents a clear problem as this will be limiting demand, especially outside of summer months.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

PART 3: NETBALL

3.1: Introduction

England Netball is the governing body with overall responsibility for ensuring the effective governance of the sport.

Whilst often played indoors, there are far more outdoor courts provided and in use by the netball community than there are indoor. Nationally, England Netball reports that the challenge is that the supply of outdoor netball courts is generally not of a good enough standard for use by the community, whilst accessibility can also be problematic.

Consultation

There are seven netball clubs based in Kingston-upon-Thames. Of these, three responded to consultation requests, resulting in a response rate of 43%. This is summarised in the table below.

Table 3.1 Summary of consultation

Name of club	Responded?
Claygate NC	No
Gems NC	Yes
Richmond Ravers NC	No
Saints NC	Yes
Tiffin Junior NC	No
Tiffin NC	Yes
Worcester Park Lions NC	No

3.2: Supply

There are 38 outdoor netball courts identified in Kingston-upon-Thames across 21 sites. Of these, 25 courts at 10 sites are available for community use, whilst 13 courts at 11 sites are unavailable. All the courts that are unavailable for community use are located at education sites.

Most of the community available provision is located in the New & Old Malden Analysis Area and the Kingston & North Kingston Analysis Area (seven courts each). The fewest are located in the Surbiton Analysis Area (five courts)

Table 3.2: Summary of the number of courts by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of courts available for community use	No. of courts unavailable for community use
Kingston & North Kingston	7	6
New & Old Malden	7	3
South of the Borough	6	2
Surbiton	5	2
Total	25	13

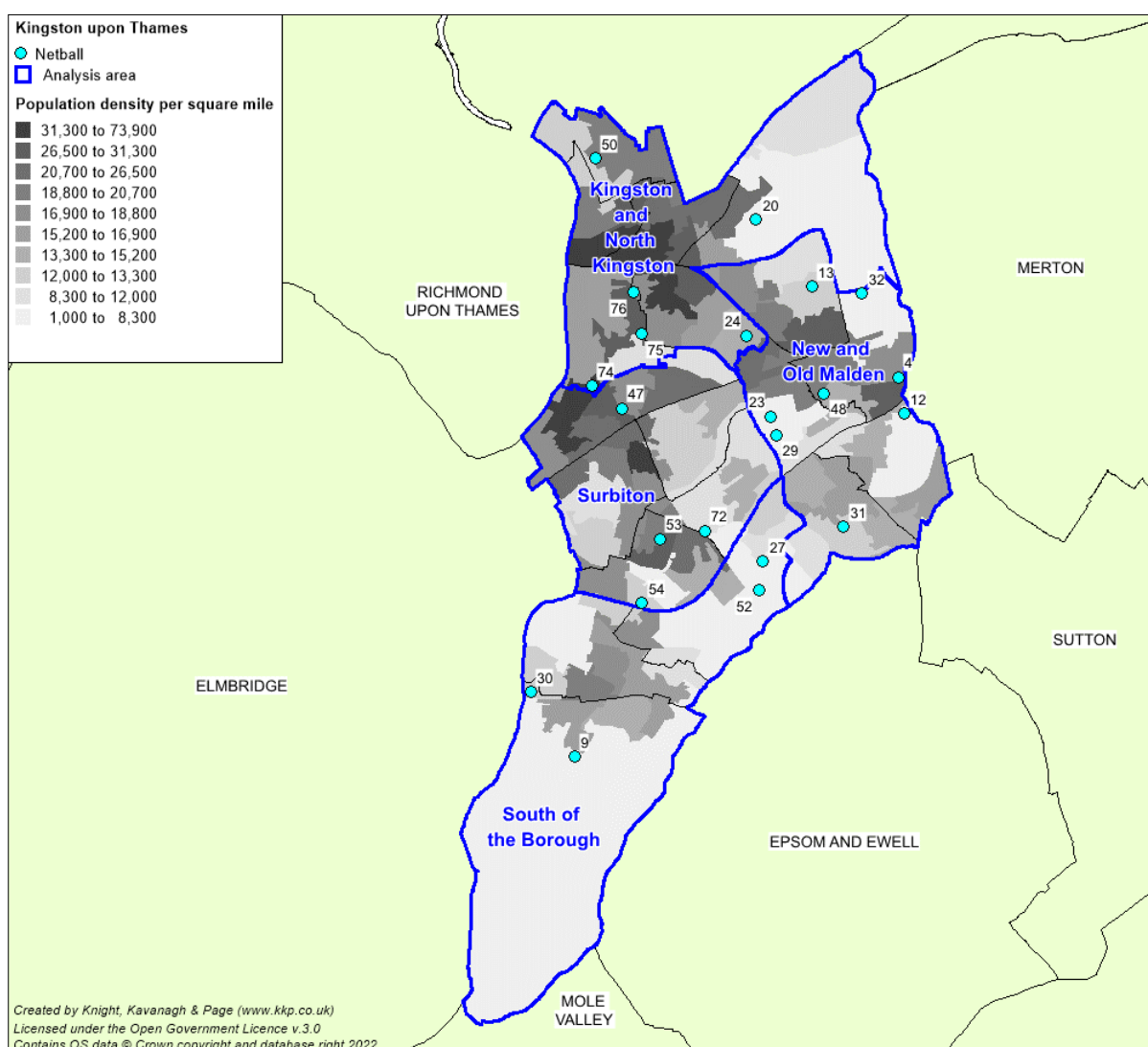
LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Please note that some additional courts located at primary schools are not included in the above figures due to them being undersized. Such courts are generally marked out on generic playgrounds and are not considered to be permanent or conducive for formal play. It is, however, recognised that the provision can meet a curricular and extra-curricular needs.

A traditional netball court is 30.5 metres long and 15.25 metres wide. Examples of undersized courts are found at Fern Hill Primary School, St Agatha's Catholic Primary School, St John's C of E Primary School and St Joseph's Catholic Nursery School.

Please see Figure 3.1 below for the location of the netball courts in Kingston-upon-Thames. For a key to the map and for a site-by-site breakdown of the provision, see Table 3.3.

Figure 3.1 Location of netball courts in Kingston-upon-Thames



LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 3.3: Netball courts in Kingston-upon-Thames

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	Community use?	No. of courts	Sports lighting?	Court type	Over marked?	Court quality
4	Burlington Junior School	KT3 4LT	New & Old Malden	School	No	1	No	Macadam	Yes	Standard
9	Chessington Sports Centre (Chessington School)	KT9 2JS	South of the Borough	Council	Yes	1	Yes	Macadam	Yes	Standard
						3	Yes	Artificial	No	Standard
13	Coombe Girls' School	KT3 3TU	New & Old Malden	School	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Yes	Standard
20	Holy Cross Prep School	KT2 7NU	Kingston & North Kingston	School	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Yes	Good
						1	No	Macadam	No	Standard
23	Kings College Sports Ground	KT3 5HA	New & Old Malden	University	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Yes	Standard
24	Kings Oak Primary School	KT3 3RZ	Kingston & North Kingston	School	No	1	No	Macadam	No	Good
27	Knollmead Primary School	KT5 9QP	South of the Borough	School	No	1	No	Macadam	No	Standard
29	London School of Economics Sports Ground	KT3 5HB	New & Old Malden	University	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Yes	Standard
30	Lovelace Primary School	KT9 2RN	South of the Borough	School	No	1	No	Macadam	No	Standard
31	Malden Parochial C of E Primary School	KT4 7LW	New & Old Malden	School	No	1	No	Macadam	Yes	Standard
32	Malden Wanderers Cricket Club & Lawn Tennis Club	KT3 4LE	New & Old Malden	Sports Club	Yes	1	No	Macadam	Yes	Good
47	The Hollyfield School & Sixth Form	KT6 4TU	Surbiton	School	Yes	1	Yes	Macadam	Yes	Poor
48	The Holy Cross School	KT3 5AR	New & Old Malden	School	No	1	No	Macadam	No	Good
50	The Tiffin Girls School	KT2 5PL	Kingston & North Kingston	School	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam	Yes	Standard
52	Tolworth Court Ground	KT4 7QH	South of the Borough	University	Yes	2	Yes	Macadam	Yes	Good
53	Tolworth Junior School	KT6 7SA	Surbiton	School	No	1	No	Macadam	Yes	Poor

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	Community use?	No. of courts	Sports lighting?	Court type	Over marked?	Court quality
54	Tolworth Girls School	KT6 7LQ	Surbiton	School	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam	Yes	Good
72	Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School	KT6 7DG	Surbiton	School	No	1	No	Artificial	No	Standard
74	Surbiton High School	KT1 2JT	Kingston & North Kingston	School	No	2	No	Macadam	Yes	Standard
75	King Athelstan Primary School	KT1 3AR	Kingston & North Kingston	School	No	1	No	Macadam	Yes	Standard
76	Kingston Grammar School	KT2 6PY	Kingston & North Kingston	School	No	2	No	Macadam	No	Good
							No	Artificial	No	Standard

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Indoor provision

This report only considers the supply of outdoor netball courts; however, it is recognised that a substantial amount of netball activity also takes place indoors via the use of courts that are marked out in sports halls, especially during winter months.

Disused provision

Southborough High School reports that there used to be up to four netball courts provided at its sports ground but that the area has since been tarmacked over and has trees growing on it. It has not been used in the last 10 years.

Management and security of tenure

Most outdoor netball courts in Kingston-upon-Thames are operated by education providers, with 33 courts falling under this management type. However, only 20 of these are available to the community.

Of the remaining courts, four are managed by the Council (at Chessington Sports Centre), whilst the remaining one is managed by a sports club (at Malden Wanderers Cricket & Lawn Tennis Club).

Table 3.4: Courts by management type

Community use	Number of courts			
	Club	Council	Education	Other
Available	1	4	20	-
Unavailable	-	-	13	-
Kingston-upon-Thames	1	4	33	-

The courts at Chessington Sports Centre (Chessington School), Coombe Girls School, Holy Cross Prep School, Hollyfield School & Sixth Form Centre, Malden Wanderers Cricket & Lawn Tennis Club, The Tiffin Girls School and Tolworth Girls School are used by the community for netball. However, from the responsive users, none have a long-term lease agreement in place for access the provision, with annual hire agreements instead in place. This means that only a limited security of tenure is provided across the Borough.

As an example of the above, the courts at Tolworth Girls School are reportedly only available for limited periods, which impacts on the usage that is received. The site is a dual use site with other provision falling under the Council's leisure contract; however, the courts remain under school control.

Court type

All but five of the outdoor netball courts in Kingston-upon-Thames have a macadam surface, with 33 being of this type and 22 of these being available for community use. The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels.

The five remaining courts have an artificial surface, with three available for community use at Chessington Sports Centre (Chessington School) and two unavailable at Kingston Grammar School and Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School. Artificial courts have a similar lifespan to that of macadam courts but are generally more expensive to replace.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Sports lighting

Despite 38 outdoor netball courts being provided in Kingston-upon-Thames, only 15 are serviced by sports lighting across five sites. These are located at:

- ◀ Chessington Sports Centre
- ◀ The Hollyfield School & Sixth Form
- ◀ The Tiffin Girls School
- ◀ Tolworth Court Ground
- ◀ Tolworth Girls School

All these courts are available to the community. A lack of sports lighting at the remaining sites presents a key reason as to why many are unavailable for community use, with many providers of non-lit courts stating that they are not financially viable without lighting because usage is significantly limited. In total, 100% of courts with sports lighting are available externally, compared to 43% of the non-lit courts.

An absence of sports lighting on courts is an issue nationwide, with England Netball's national database (updated in 2020) identifying that only 1,941 of 5,108 outdoor netball courts are with sports lighting throughout the Country (38%). This closely correlates to the number that are with sports lighting in Kingston-upon-Thames (39%).

Over markings

Netball courts, particularly at school sites, are often over marked, predominately by tennis courts but also on occasion by basketball and/or football courts. Provision that is over marked tends to receive higher levels of use which can be detrimental to quality over time, as well as potentially causing capacity issues when there is external netball demand.

In Kingston-upon-Thames, all but 11 of the courts are over marked. The only standalone courts are at:

- ◀ Chessington Sports Centre (Chessington School)
- ◀ Holy Cross Prep School
- ◀ King Oak Primary School
- ◀ Kingston Grammar School
- ◀ Knollmead Primary School
- ◀ Lovelace Primary School
- ◀ Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School
- ◀ The Holy Cross School

Most of these sites are primary schools that provide a solitary court, with the only exceptions being at Chessington Sports Centre (Chessington School) and Kingston Grammar School. At the former, its three artificial courts are standalone netball courts, whereas its macadam court is a dual use tennis court.

Quality

The quality of netball courts has been informed through non-technical site assessments and consultation with providers to assign each court a rating of good, standard, or poor. Key aspects informing the findings include surface quality, grip underfoot, line marking quality, evenness, and evidence of inappropriate use (e.g., vandalism and/or littering).

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

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Of the courts in Kingston-upon-Thames, 12 are assessed as good quality, 24 as standard quality and two as poor quality. Nine of the good quality courts are available for community use, compared to 15 of the standard quality courts and one of the poor quality courts.

Table 3.5: Quality of community available courts by analysis area

Community use	Number of courts		
	Good	Standard	Poor
Available	9	15	1
Unavailable	3	9	1
Total	12	24	2

The good quality courts are located at Holy Cross School, Holy Cross Prep School, Kings Oak Primary School, Kingston Grammar School, Malden Wanderers Cricket Club & Lawn Tennis Club, Tolworth Court Ground and Tolworth Girls School. However, Holy Cross Prep School and Kingston Grammar School also have standard quality courts.

In contrast, the poor-quality courts are supplied at Hollyfield School & Sixth Form Centre and Tolworth Junior School. At both sites, the surface is highly worn and in need of refurbishment. This is a particular problem at Hollyfield School & Sixth Form Centre given that it current accommodates community use.

Ancillary provision

Ancillary provision is generally considered to be problematic. Whilst most sites provide changing facilities and/or toilets, they are not specific for netball and are generally too far away from the courts to be realistically used. Moreover, given that most courts are located at schools, the facilities predominately service sports halls or grass pitches and are therefore not readily available or suited to netball court users. Access can also be limited even at sites that allow for community use as this may entail opening the main school buildings.

In addition to the above, quality is particularly poor at Chessington Sports Centre (Chessington School) and Hollyfield School & Sixth Form Centre, which is an issue as both sites are in use by the community. The provision is very dated at both venues to the extent of not being fit for purpose.

3.3: Demand

Demand for outdoor netball tends to come in two forms; league and club-based netball that consists of matches and training, as well as various netball-based initiatives such as Back to Netball and walking netball.

Club demand

Netball clubs in Kingston-upon-Thames can compete in numerous league structures. At senior level, this includes:

- ◀ London Southeast Regional
- ◀ Kingston & District Netball League
- ◀ Surrey Netball League

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

London Southeast Regional is part of the competition pathway and feeds into the National Premier League. It has three adult divisions with a total of 22 teams playing in the structure, although only one of these is currently based in Kingston-upon-Thames, as well as an U16 division with eight teams. The Kingston-upon-Thames based demand comes from Tiffin NC, which has its first team playing in the third adult tier.

Currently, the Kingston & District League has 95 teams from 41 clubs, with over 1,000 players registered. While not all this demand is generated from Kingston-upon-Thames, a significant proportion is as several venues within the Borough are utilised for matches. As with the London Southeast Regional structure, matches are played on a home and away basis, meaning all teams have to provide their own venue.

Consultation with the Kingston District League reveals that it has issues with the current format, noting that a centralised venue system would be more beneficial. If it had this, it notes that it would help sustain current demand and provide more scope for growth, whilst also helping to bridge the gap between the junior and senior play.

The Surrey Netball League also operates on a home and away basis, with 88 teams representing 61 clubs currently playing within the structure across the County. It has over 1,000 players and officials registered.

At junior level, clubs access:

- ◀ Epsom Little League
- ◀ Mid Surrey League
- ◀ Nonsuch Junior League
- ◀ Surrey County Junior League

All of these use central venues outside of Kingston-upon-Thames. This results in any Kingston-upon-Thames demand exporting outside of the Borough.

The clubs identified as playing within the aforementioned senior and junior leagues whilst also having a presence in Kingston-upon-Thames are as follows:

- ◀ Claygate NC
- ◀ Richmond Ravers NC
- ◀ Tiffin NC
- ◀ Worcester Park Lions
- ◀ Gems NC
- ◀ Saints NC
- ◀ Tiffin Junior NC

Each club and its demand are further summarised in the table below.

Table 3.6: Summary of Kingston-upon-Thames based netball demand

Name of club	Demand details
Claygate NC	The Club has three teams playing in the Kingston & District League. The Club is based at Coombe Girls' School, with matches taking place at the site on Saturdays and training taking place on Monday evenings.
Gems NC	The Club has five teams, with two playing in the Surrey Netball League and the remainder playing in the Kingston & District League. It utilises courts at Chessington Sports Centre (Chessington School) for training activity but plays matches outside of Kingston-upon-Thames at Nonsuch High School (in Epsom & Ewell).
Richmond Ravers NC	The Club utilises The Tiffin Girls' School for matches on Saturdays and training on Tuesday evenings. It has one team playing in the Kingston & District League.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Name of club	Demand details
Saints NC	The Club, with 30 members, has two teams playing in the Surrey Netball League and the Kingston & District League. It utilises courts at both Chessington Sports Centre (Chessington School) and Tolworth Girls School for training whilst accessing Nonsuch High School for matches (in Epsom & Ewell).
Tiffin Junior NC	The Club fields eight teams, all of which use The Tiffin Girls' School for training. All matches are played outside of Kingston-upon-Thames via the use of central venues for the Epsom Little League, Surrey County Junior League (Guildford Sports Centre and Cranleigh School), the Nonsuch Junior League (Nonsuch High School) and the Mid-Surrey League (St John's School, Leatherhead).
Tiffin NC	The Club trains and plays predominately at The Tiffin Girls' School but also accesses Holy Cross Prep School during the winter. It has a team playing in London Southeast Regional League, with four teams in the Kingston & District League and three in the Surrey Netball League.
Worcester Park Lions NC	The Club trains and plays matches at Malden Wanderers Cricket & Lawn Tennis Club. It has three teams playing in the Kingston & District Netball League.

Additional demand

Back to Netball

Back to Netball is a scheme put into place by England Netball in 2010, with participation increasing ever since. Sessions are running weekly by qualified coaches across England with the aim of re-introducing female players over the age of 16 to the sport.

There are no Back to Netball sessions currently taking place in Kingston-upon-Thames. The nearest session is at Rainbow Leisure Centre, in Epsom & Ewell, taking place on Saturday afternoons.

Walking netball

Walking netball is a slower version of the sport, designed so that anyone can play regardless of age or fitness level. It can give those who are isolated an outlet, provide an activity for those who do not deem themselves fit enough and offer a stepping-stone for those looking for a pathway back into traditional netball.

There are currently no walking netball sessions in Kingston-upon-Thames. The nearest is in Epsom & Ewell at Rainbow Leisure Centre.

Netball Now

Netball Now is a simple, straight forward way to play netball. It is not a competition led by rules or scores but rather a simple session where players can play a variety of positions and even have a go at umpiring. There are no Netball Now sessions in Kingston-upon-Thames or in neighbouring authorities.

Bee Netball

A new initiative by England Netball, Bee Netball a programme for children all about friendship, inclusion, fair play and teamwork, with each session managed by an England Netball accredited coach. Although there are currently no sessions operating in Kingston-upon-Thames, it is still in its infancy so one may be established in the future.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Unaffiliated demand

Go Mammoth runs recreational netball leagues across the UK, with an aim of providing socially enjoyable provision.

Go Mammoth operates in two locations in Kingston-upon-Thames, at Hollyfield School & Sixth Form Centre and Tiffin Girls School. The former takes place on Monday evenings and the latter on Tuesday evenings.

Play Netball and Powerplay are similar ventures, providing commercial netball leagues. However, neither currently operate within Kingston-upon-Thames.

Exported/imported demand

Both Gems NC and Saints NC access provision at Nonsuch High School in Epsom and Ewell for matches.

In addition, as previously referenced, all junior match play demand from Kingston-upon-Thames is exported due to the use of central venues outside of the Borough. This most prominent impacts on Tiffin Juniors NC (eight teams).

Latent/unmet demand

As previously referenced, the Kingston & District League states that netball demand in the region would likely grow if a central venue was accessed. As such, it is suggested that the current playing structure provides a barrier to participation growth.

Gems, Saints and Tiffin netball clubs also report latent demand, with all three reporting that this is due to a lack of venues and in particular the lack of a central venue. Saints NC states that its future growth is limited without better facility access, whilst Tiffin NC reports that future growth is limited without access to additional courts for training. It notes that it could field an additional senior team if this was resolved.

Future demand

As indicated above, Gems, Saints and Tiffin netball clubs all report future demand aspirations whilst stating that this growth cannot be achieved without improve facility access. Furthermore, the Kingston & District League also has an ambition to grow, both through attracting teams from with Kingston-upon-Thames and from outside of the Borough.

3.4: Supply and demand analysis

With the presence of seven clubs in Kingston-upon-Thames and three formal senior league structures servicing the Borough, there is a relatively high level of demand for netball identified. In this regard, the current supply of provision is seemingly insufficient, with unmet and latent demand identified and with clubs and leagues reporting the need for improved facility access. There is also a strong indication that access to a central venue for matches would be of a considerable benefit to the demand that exists, as well as this potentially enabling the sport to grow.

The same also applies to junior netball, with all match play demand currently exporting outside of Kingston-upon-Thames due to relevant leagues utilising central venues outside of the Borough.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Conclusion

With supply not currently meeting demand, priority should be placed on improving the existing courts and access to them as well as on potentially developing or gaining access to a suitable central venue. This will need to provide enough courts (a minimum of six is recommended by England Netball), be of an adequate quality and provide security of tenure in order to ensure long-term access.

To further increase netball demand, focus should also be placed on supporting the various initiatives that are championed by England Netball and ensuring such programmes have suitable provision from which to be ran from.

Netball – supply summary

- ◀ There are 38 netball courts identified across 21 sites in Kingston-upon-Thames, with 28 courts at 11 sites available for community use.
- ◀ Most outdoor courts are operated by education providers, with 33 falling under this management type compared to four managed by the Council and one by a sports club.
- ◀ Chessington Sports Centre (Chessington School), Coombe Girls School, Holy Cross Prep School, Malden Wanderers Cricket & Lawn Tennis Club, The Tiffin Girls School and Tolworth Girls School are used for community netball, although no security of tenure is provided.
- ◀ 33 of the courts have a macadam surface, whilst five are artificial.
- ◀ Only 15 of the courts are serviced by sports lighting, although all of these are available.
- ◀ All but 11 of the courts are over marked by other provision, predominately tennis courts.
- ◀ 12 courts are assessed as good quality, 24 as standard quality and two as poor quality, with nine of the good quality courts available for community use, compared to 15 of the standard quality courts and one of the poor quality courts.
- ◀ Ancillary provision is a particular issue at Chessington Sports Centre (Chessington School) and Hollyfield School & Sixth Form Centre).

Netball – demand summary

- ◀ Senior teams in Kingston-upon-Thames play in the London Southeast Regional League, the Kingston & District Netball League or the Surrey Netball League, all of which arrange fixtures on a home and away basis (rather than using a central venue).
- ◀ Junior demand uses central venues for matches, although these are all currently outside of Kingston-upon-Thames.
- ◀ There are seven netball clubs with a presence in Kingston-upon-Thames.
- ◀ There are no Netball Now, Back to Netball, Bee Netball or Walking Netball sessions currently taking place in the Borough.
- ◀ Go Mammoth operates a recreational league at Hollyfield School & Sixth Form Centre and The Tiffin Girls' School.
- ◀ Both Gems NC and Saints NC access provision at Nonsuch High School in Epsom and Ewell for matches, whilst all junior match play demand is also exported due to the use of central venues outside of the Borough.
- ◀ Latent/unmet demand is identified by the Kingston & District League as well as Gems, Saints and Tiffin netball clubs, with each expressing an issue with facility access and the lack of a central venue.
- ◀ Future growth aspirations exist in the Borough, but this is again reportedly being inhibited by poor facility access and the lack of a central venue.

Netball – supply and demand summary

- ◀ There is a relatively high level of demand for netball identified and the current supply of provision is seemingly insufficient to meet this, with unmet and latent demand identified and with clubs and leagues reporting the need for improved facility access.
- ◀ Access to a central venue for matches would be of a considerable benefit to the demand that exists, as well as this potentially enabling the sport to grow.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

PART 4: BOWLS

4.1: Introduction

All bowling greens in Kingston-upon-Thames are flat greens (as opposed to crown greens). Bowls England is the NGB responsible for ensuring effective governance of flat green bowls across the Country.

Consultation

There are seven bowling clubs in Kingston-upon-Thames. Of these, six responded to consultation requests, resulting in a response rate of 86%.

Table 4.1: Summary of consultation responses

Club name	Analysis area	Responded to consultation?
Chessington BC	South of the Borough	No
Hook & Southborough BC	South of the Borough	Yes
Malden Lime Grove BC	New & Old Malden	Yes
Malden Manor BC	New & Old Malden	Yes
Supreme BC	New & Old Malden	Yes
Surbiton BC	Surbiton	Yes
Surbiton RBL BC	Surbiton	Yes

Chessington BC has been unresponsive to consultation requests despite being contacted several times.

4.2: Supply

There are seven flat bowling greens in Kingston-upon-Thames located across six sites (Alexandra Recreation Ground provides two greens). These are all available for community use.

Table 4.2: Summary of available greens by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of flat greens
Kingston & North Kingston	-
New & Old Malden	3
South of the Borough	2
Surbiton	2
Total	7

As seen in the table above, the New & Old Malden Analysis Area provides three greens, whereas the South of the Borough and Surbiton analysis areas provide two greens. There are no bowling greens situated in the Kingston & North Kingston Analysis Area.

Disused provision

YMCA Hawker has one disused bowling green which is overgrown due to a lack of maintenance. It was last used in around 2018.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Similarly, a disused bowling green is identified at King George’s Field, with this not used since circa 2019.

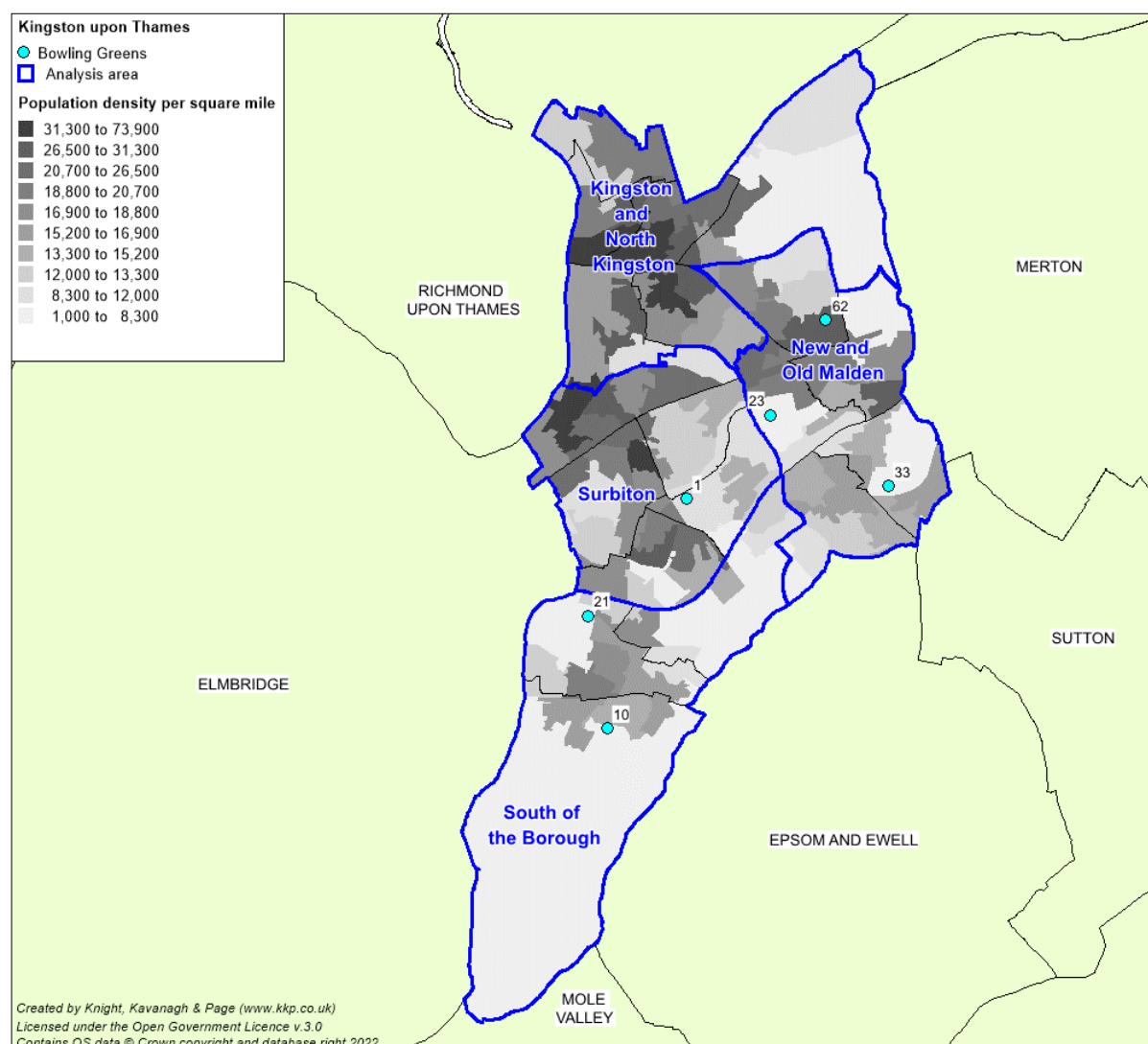
Indoor bowls

Whilst this report only considers outdoor bowling greens, it must be referenced that there is also an indoor bowling facility located at King George Field Indoor Bowls Club. This is pertinent to this study as many users and members of outdoor bowling greens also utilise and are members of indoor facilities, particularly during winter months.

From consultation, all the responsive clubs report that some of its members also utilise indoor provision, most commonly outside of the outdoor bowling season. This is done on an individual basis rather than any of the clubs having a formal arrangement in place.

Figure 4.1 below shows the location of all outdoor bowling greens currently servicing Kingston-upon-Thames. For a key to the map, see Table 4.3

Figure 4.1 Location of bowling greens within Kingston-upon-Thames



LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 4.3: Summary of bowling greens in Kingston-upon-Thames

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	No. of greens	Club users
1	Alexandra Recreation Ground	KT5 9BE	Surbiton	2	Surbiton BC Surbiton RBL BC
10	Churchfields Recreation Ground	KT9 2LA	South of the Borough	1	Chessington BC
21	King Edwards Recreation Ground	KT9 1DW	South of the Borough	1	Hook & Southborough BC
23	King College Sports Ground	KT3 5HA	New & Old Malden	1	Supreme BC
33	Manor Park	KT3 6AJ	New & Old Malden	1	Malden Manor BC
62	Malden Lime Grove Bowling Club	KT3 3TW	New & Old Malden	1	Malden Lime Grove BC

Ownership/management

Details around the ownership and management arrangements for bowls clubs in Kingston-upon-Thames are provided below. As seen, one club has a freehold arrangement, four clubs lease their greens and two clubs rent their greens.

Table 4.4: Management arrangements for bowls clubs in Kingston-upon-Thames

Name of club	Ownership/management details
Chessington BC	The Club leases the green at Churchfields Recreation Ground from the Council.
Hook & Southborough BC	The Club leases the green at King Edwards Recreation Ground from the Council.
Malden Lime Grove BC	The Club has the freehold of the green at Malden Lime Grove Bowling Club.
Malden Manor BC	The Club leases the green at Manor Park from the Council.
Supreme BC	The Club leases the green at Kings College Sports Ground from the University.
Surbiton BC	The Club rents a green at Alexandra Recreation Ground from the Council on a rolling annual basis.
Surbiton RBL BC	The Club leases a green at Alexandra Recreation Ground from the Council, with a new five-year deal recently entered into.

Both Surbiton BC and Surbiton RBL BC use a green each at Alexandra Recreation Ground. The former reports that its access is via a rolling annual agreement, whilst the latter states that it has recently entered into a five-year arrangement. Despite these not being long-term agreements (25 years is generally recommended), tenure is still considered to be secure as the site is operated by the Council. However, without a longer arrangement in place, this can, amongst other things, prevent external funding applications and site development.

Malden Lime Grove BC has freehold of its site, whilst Chessington and Hook & Southborough bowls clubs have long term agreements in place via the Council. Supreme BC leases its green from Kings College.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Quality

The quality of bowling greens across Kingston-upon-Thames have been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating on a scale of good, standard and poor. The non-technical assessment considers several attributes of the site including the surrounding hard surfaces to the green, disability access, evenness, grass coverage and signs of unofficial use. For further detail regarding the criteria, please see Appendix 2.

Across Kingston-upon-Thames, three greens are assessed as good quality and the remaining four are rated as standard. None are assessed as poor quality. This is summarised site-by-site in the table below.

Table 4.5 Summary of bowling green quality

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Green quality
1	Alexandra Recreation Ground	Surbiton	Standard
			Standard
10	Churchfields Recreation Ground	South of the Borough	Standard
21	King Edwards Recreation Ground	South of the Borough	Standard
23	King College Sports Ground	New & Old Malden	Good
33	Manor Park	New & Old Malden	Good
62	Malden Lime Grove Bowling Club	New & Old Malden	Good

The good quality greens are located at King College Sports Ground, Malden Lime Grove Bowling Club and Manor Park, whilst the standard quality greens are located at Alexandra Recreation Ground, Churchfields Recreation Ground and King Edwards Recreation Ground. Greater signs of wear and tear are present at the standard quality sites as well as some bare patches.

Notwithstanding the above, at Kings College Sports Ground, Supreme BC reports that the quality has worsened recently due to the weather making it harder to maintain the green.

Similarly, Surbiton RBL BC reports that its green at Alexandra Recreation Ground is standard quality as it is becoming more difficult and costly to maintain to appropriate levels. Surbiton BC also suggests that there is a lack of support at the site from external bodies regarding maintenance and disposal.

In contrast, Malden Lime Grove BC reports that the quality of its green has improved in recent years due to an enhanced maintenance regime. It states that it has engaged the services of a greenkeeper, which costs covered by existing funds and income from social events, membership fees and member donations.

Malden Manor BC also reports that quality has improved, noting that it pays an external contractor to undertake the maintenance programme.

Sports lighting

Bowling greens that are serviced by sports lighting can enable increased usage, especially during evenings outside of summer months. However, in Kingston-upon-Thames, no greens are currently serviced. That being said bowling greens with sports lighting is somewhat rare across the Country and this is therefore comparable with the national picture. The indoor provision at King George's Indoor Bowling Club provides a suitable alternative.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Ancillary provision

All seven clubs in Kingston-upon-Thames have access to some form of clubhouse/pavilion on site, although the quality varies. As seen in the table below, one green is serviced by good quality provision, five by standard quality provision and the remaining one by poor quality provision.

Table 4.6: Summary of clubhouse/pavilion quality

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Quality
1	Alexandra Recreation Ground	Surbiton	Standard
			Standard
10	Churchfields Recreation Ground	South of the Borough	Standard
21	King Edwards Recreation Ground	South of the Borough	Poor
23	King College Sports Ground	New & Old Malden	Standard
33	Manor Park	New & Old Malden	Good
61	Malden Lime Grove Bowling Club	New & Old Malden	Standard

The clubhouse at King Edwards Recreation Ground is poor quality primarily due to its age and size. Hook & Southborough BC also reports that no heating is provided.

The clubhouses at both Alexandra Recreation Ground and Churchfields Recreation Ground are also dated, having been built in the 1970s. Surbiton RBL BC reports that it would like to carry out refurbishment works at Alexandra Recreation Ground but that raising the necessary funds is proving to be an issue.

The good quality clubhouse is found at Manor Park, with the provision being particularly all-encompassing. It has been extended twice since being established and features changing rooms, toilets, a social room, a bar and a kitchen.

Away from clubhouse provision, Malden Lime Grove, Malden Manor and Supreme bowls clubs all report issues with car parking. For all three, the issue is with the lack of spaces, causing members to park a fair distance away. This can be particularly problematic for those with mobility issues.

Building conditions survey

The Council has undertaken a building conditions survey to identify improvements required at 12 of its sites and the level of investment needed to enable this. For bowls, the survey covers the following sites:

- ◀ Alexandra Recreation Ground
- ◀ Churchfields Recreation Ground
- ◀ King Edwards Recreation Ground
- ◀ Manor Park

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

4.3: Demand

Current demand

There are seven clubs using bowling greens in Kingston-upon-Thames. Across the clubs where membership is known (it is unknown at Chessington BC), there are a total of 281 members, equating to 174 senior men and 105 senior women. This is summarised on a club-by-club basis below.

Table 4.7: Membership for bowls clubs across Kingston-upon-Thames

Club name	Number of current members		
	Men	Women	Juniors
Chessington BC	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Hook & Southborough BC	30	8	-
Malden Lime Grove BC	28	9	-
Malden Manor BC	54	45	3
Supreme BC	29	22	-
Surbiton BC	23	13	-
Surbiton RBL BC	10	7	-
Total	174	104	3

Malden Manor BC is the largest club with 102 members, followed by Supreme BC with 51 members. The smallest club is Surbiton RBL BC with 17 members.

The average club membership is 47, which is a figure generally in line with the national picture and other London boroughs. To provide one example, the average membership in Richmond-upon-Thames is 44.

Participation trends

Correlating with the national trend of declining membership, both Malden Lime Grove and Surbiton RBL bowls clubs report a decrease in members over recent years. Both attribute this to existing members becoming unable to play.

In contrast, Surbiton BC reports an increase in members, noting that 10 additional players signed up for the 2022 season. It states that this is due to the success of advertising and hosting open days.

Hook & Southborough BC, Supreme BC and Malden Manor BC report that demand has remained static.

Additional demand

Hook & Southborough BC, Malden Manor BC and Surbiton RBL BC report that their greens are also available for pay and play. However, take-up is reportedly low. Malden Manor BC also states that allowing casual access used to be a condition of its lease arrangement, although this is no longer the case.

The remaining clubs report that they do not offer pay and play due to a perception that no demand exists in addition to them not having the staff or resources to manage the process.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Play Bowls

Play Bowls is a new product designed to assist clubs in attracting more casual, pay and play participants. Clubs are now able to sign up to the scheme, with booking slots for access then able to be secured and paid for via the Play Bowls website. The aim is for this to help the sport become much more accessible whilst making it easy for clubs to evolve and manage the demand from the casual audience.

No clubs in Kingston-upon-Thames are currently signed up the initiative, although it is in its infancy.

Unmet/latent demand

All clubs report that existing membership can be accommodated on the current level of provision available to them and that no potential members are being turned away due to capacity issues. As such, it is considered that anyone within Kingston-upon-Thames that would like to start participating could do so at the clubs and greens already in existence.

Future demand

Bowls England is actively working to negate the stereotype that bowls is a sport is for the older generation. As such, it is taking active steps at a county and national level to encourage younger players to participate. The future growth for the sport is therefore in a state of flux due to the growing professionalism of the NGB.

Furthermore, ONS projections suggest that the number of persons aged 65 and over is likely to significantly increase for the period up to 2041 in Kingston-upon-Thames (and across the UK). Due to this age band accommodating for a high proportion of bowls players, demand for greens could increase as a result.

Of the responding clubs, five highlight aspirations to increase membership, whilst Malden Manor BC reports that it is happy with its current membership numbers. This is summarised in the table below.

Table 4.8: Summary of future demand expressed by clubs

Club name	Number of future members	
	Senior	Junior
Chessington BC	Unknown	Unknown
Hook & Southborough BC	5	5
Malden Lime Grove BC	10	-
Malden Manor BC	-	-
Supreme BC	10	-
Surbiton BC	10	-
Surbiton RBL BC	34	5
Total	70	10

As seen, total future demand equates to 70 senior members and 10 junior members. Clubs report that they aim to achieve these aspirations through a variety of means including increased advertising, hosting open days, improved coaching and site investment.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Bowls Bash

To help increase participation, Bowls England has recently launched a new product known as Bowls Bash. This is an exciting form of lawn bowls that is easy to play, shortened and fun for all ages and abilities. The aim is to roll the ball at the Jack; the closer you get, the more points you earn for your team, and bonus points are given for kissing the target. It is normally played in teams of two, with players delivering 30 bowls each per match, and generally lasts an hour.

no clubs in Kingston-upon-Thames have currently taken up Bowls Bash as of yet.

Bowls Bash is also intrinsically linked to the aforementioned Play Bowls initiatives, with clubs able to add Bowls Bash sessions onto the platform.

4.4: Supply and demand analysis

The capacity of a bowling green is very much dependent on the leagues and the day that they operate. A green may have no spare capacity on an afternoon or evening when a popular league operates but may be unused for the rest of the week. However, in many cases, greens are used during the afternoons by club members who bowl socially, with access a potential issue during peak times if membership is particularly high.

Bowls England does not have any specific guidance on bowling green capacity, stating that it can vary from site-to-site and from club-to-club. However, it states that any green used by at least 20 members is generally considered to be sustainable, whilst any green operating with a membership of over 60 may need additional resource to ensure that it is meeting its required level of demand. In some instances, access to another green may be required.

Based on the above, capacity ratings for bowling greens in Kingston-upon-Thames are classified as follows:

Within capacity range	Membership ensures green is sustainable without capacity issues
At capacity range	Membership is at the capacity limit of the green
Outside capacity range	Membership is below or above the recommended capacity range

Following this, the table below highlights the level of usage each green in Kingston-upon-Thames receives based on current membership numbers, where known.

Table 4.9: Supply and demand balance of bowling greens in Kingston-upon-Thames

Site ID	Site	Club user	Current members	Future demand
1	Alexandra Recreation Ground	Surbiton BC	53	63
		Surbiton RBL BC	17	56
10	Churchfields Recreation Ground	Chessington BC	Unknown	Unknown
21	King Edwards Recreation Ground	Hook & Southborough BC	38	48
23	King College Sports Ground	Supreme BC	51	61
33	Manor Park	Malden Manor BC	99	99
61	Malden Lime Grove Bowling Club	Malden Lime Grove BC	37	47

As can be seen, the green at Manor Park (Malden Manor BC) is currently operating above the recommended capacity limit with a membership of 99, whereas Surbiton RBL BC is operating below the recommended threshold on its green at Alexandra Recreation Ground. This is due to a current membership of only 17.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

The remaining sites are presently within the capacity range, although when accounting for future demand, the green at King College Sports Ground and one of the greens at Alexandra Recreation are projected to become marginally oversubscribed. This is due to future demand expressed by Supreme BC and Surbiton BC.

Conclusion

With only one club currently operating above the recommended capacity range for a bowling green, and with no clubs reporting any existing capacity issues, supply is generally considered to be sufficient to meet demand. However, demand at Malden Manor BC as well as Supreme BC and Surbiton BC should continue to be monitored to ensure that this remains the case.

Notwithstanding the above, with each green receiving relatively high levels of demand, it is also clear that each green warrants protection. Any loss of provision is unlikely to be sustainable as demand could not be absorbed by other clubs without further capacity pressures being created.

Bowls – supply summary

- There are seven bowling greens in Kingston-upon-Thames provided across six sites (two greens are provided at Alexandra Recreation Ground).
- Disused bowling greens are located at YMCA Hawker and King George's Field.
- Security of tenure is provided across the provision, although longer term agreements would be beneficial at Alexandra Recreation Ground.
- Overall, three greens are rated as good quality and four as standard quality (none are poor quality).
- No greens in the Borough are serviced by sports lighting, although this is standard in most local authorities.
- In terms of clubhouse facilities, one green is serviced by good quality provision, five by standard quality provision and one by poor quality facilities (at King Edwards Recreation Ground).
- Malden Lime Grove, Malden Manor and Supreme bowls clubs all report issues with car parking.

Bowls – demand summary

- There are seven clubs using bowling greens in Kingston-upon-Thames.
- Of the five clubs that have responded to consultation requests, there are a total of 281 members, equating to 174 senior men, 104 senior women and three junior members.
- The average membership across the clubs is 47.
- In correlation to a national trend of declining membership, two clubs report a decrease in participation numbers over recent years, whereas only one reports an increase (Surbiton BC).
- Hook & Southborough BC, Malden Manor BC and Surbiton RBL BC report that their greens are also available for pay and play, although take up is low.
- Five clubs identify future demand aspirations, with aims to collectively grow by 70 senior and 10 junior members.

Bowls – supply and demand summary

- The green at Manor Park (Malden Manor BC) is currently operating above the recommended capacity limit, whereas Surbiton RBL BC is operating below the recommended threshold on its green at Alexandra Recreation Ground.
- The remaining sites are presently within the capacity range, although when accounting for future demand, the green at King College Sports Ground and one of the greens at Alexandra Recreation are projected to become marginally oversubscribed.
- With only one club currently operating above the recommended capacity range, and with no clubs reporting any existing capacity issues, supply is sufficient to meet demand.
- Notwithstanding the above, with each green receiving relatively high levels of demand, it is also clear that each green warrants protection.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

PART 5: CROQUET

5.1: Introduction

The Croquet Association is the NGB for the sport of Croquet in England. The sport is continuing to grow in popularity with over 200 clubs now registered with the Croquet Association. A full-size croquet lawn measures 32 x 28 metres.

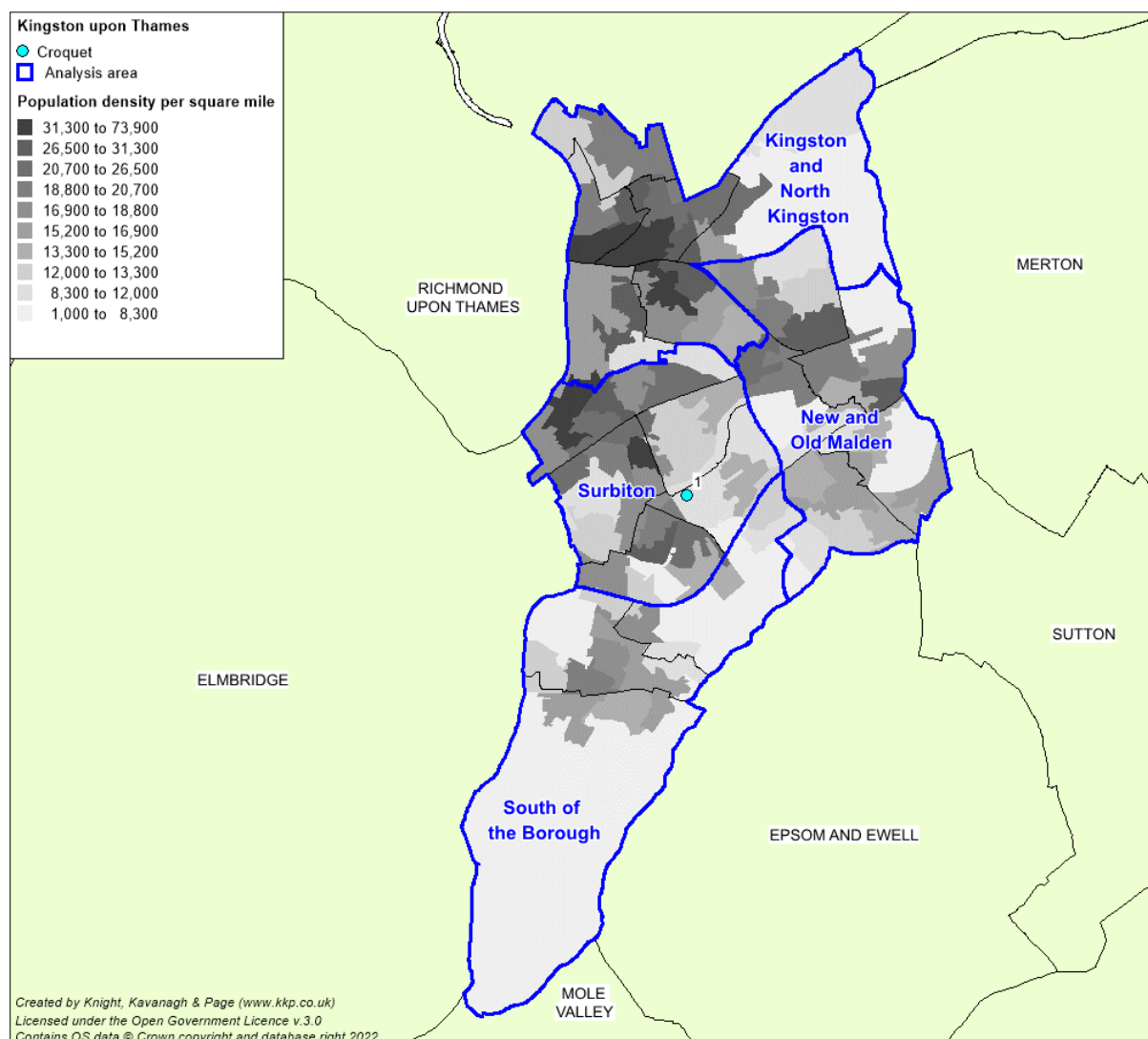
Consultation

There is one croquet club located in Kingston-upon-Thames known as Surbiton Croquet Club. The Club was consulted via telephone to inform this section of the report.

5.2: Supply

There are seven full sized croquet lawns in Kingston-upon-Thames, all of which are located at Alexandra Recreation Ground in the Surbiton Analysis Area. This means that the provision is centrally located, which will help meet demand from across the Borough.

Figure 5.1: Location of croquet supply in Kingston-upon-Thames



LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Management

Surbiton Croquet Club leases the lawns at Alexandra Recreation Ground from the Council. The lease has 30 years remaining on the agreement, meaning that it has secure tenure.

Quality

The lawns at Alexandra Recreation Ground are assessed as good quality, with Surbiton Croquet Club reporting that they are well maintained via a regular programme. Since forming in 1984, the Club reports that it has funded significant improvements, with a more sophisticated regime now taking place. This is also supported by more adequate machinery.

Every year, the lawns are closed for a six-week period during the autumn for thorough maintenance and repairs where necessary.

Ancillary facilities

Surbiton Croquet Club has its own clubhouse at Alexandra Recreation Ground, with several male/female changing facilities and toilets provided. It rates this provision as good quality.

Additionally, the clubhouse is serviced by a kitchen/bar area, although this is considered to be standard quality as the kitchen needs a refurbishment. The Club states that it has raised sufficient funds to carry this out in the near future.

5.3: Demand

Surbiton Croquet Club currently has 190 playing members, made up of roughly of 95 female members and 95 male members. The Club states that it is one of the biggest croquet clubs in the Country and that it is successful at both international and national level. Some of England's leading players are currently members.

The Club reports that it experienced an influx of new members in past year, which it attributes to word of mouth, post Covid-19 interest and improved advertising. It offers introductory sessions for anyone interested on learning more about croquet and trying out the sport. In addition, it runs regular roll up sessions every week on Mondays and Tuesdays at 10:30 and on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 10:00.

Imported/exported demand

Whilst Surbiton Croquet Club is the only club in Kingston-upon-Thames, it is considered to be large enough to accommodate any reasonable levels of demand from the Borough, especially given its central location. As such, it is thought to be unlikely that any residents would travel to any other authorities for croquet provision.

Conversely, whilst there are other clubs located in neighbouring authorities and across London, Surbiton Croquet Club is the largest, the most successful and has the greatest supply of provision. As such, it attracts users from further afield than Kingston-upon-Thames, leading to some level of imported demand.

Latent/unmet demand

Surbiton Croquet Club does not report any latent or unmet demand, meaning that anyone interested in joining the Club can currently do so. However, it does note that if it continues to receive interest, it may have to eventually turn members away due to issues with capacity. During peak time, all seven of its lawns are close to being full at present.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Future demand

Surbiton Croquet Club states that it is actively looking for new members via word of mouth from existing players and through advertising on its website. However, as noted above, its capacity for growth is becoming more and more limited.

5.4: Supply and demand analysis

The Croquet Association recommends an average of 25 participants per lawn as a capacity guideline. Given that Surbiton Croquet Club has access to seven lawns, this means that it has capacity for 175 members, suggesting that it is currently oversubscribed with a membership of 190. This links with the Club stating that it is close to being at capacity, despite some level of future demand being expressed.

No additional demand for croquet supply has been identified through the audit process, suggesting that there is no requirement for provision away from Surbiton Croquet Club and Alexandra Recreation Ground, especially given its central location.

Conclusion

Resolving any issues for Surbiton Croquet Club at Alexandra Recreation Ground and ensuring that the site can continue to accommodate to the Club's needs will be sufficient to adequately cater for Croquet within Kingston-upon-Thames.

Croquet – supply summary

- ◀ Alexandra Recreation Ground provides seven croquet lawns.
- ◀ The site is centrally located in Kingston-upon-Thames, which will help it meet demand from across the Borough.
- ◀ The lawns are leased by Surbiton Croquet Club on a long-term basis.
- ◀ The lawns are rated as good quality, with the Club reporting that they are frequently maintained to a high standard.
- ◀ The ancillary provision is also generally good quality, although kitchen improvements are required.

Croquet – demand summary

- ◀ Surbiton Croquet Club is the only club in the Borough, with 190 current playing members.
- ◀ It is a large, successful club and notes that participation has increased recently.
- ◀ The Club is currently available for new members, but it is reported that capacity for growth is becoming limited.
- ◀ Whilst it is the only club in Kingston-upon-Thames, it is considered to be large enough and well positioned to accommodate any reasonable levels of demand from the Borough, whilst also attracting demand from further afield.

Croquet – supply and demand summary

- ◀ Surbiton Croquet Club is currently oversubscribed by 15 members with its membership of 190, which links to it stating that it is close to being at capacity.
- ◀ There is no identified requirement for provision away from Surbiton Croquet Club and Alexandra Recreation Ground.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

PART 6: GOLF

6.1: Introduction

Golf is the fifth largest participation sport in England, with around 730,000 members belonging to 1,800 affiliated clubs and a further two million people playing independently outside of club membership. There are an estimated 3,000 golf courses across the Country, with approximately 90 designated as sites of special scientific interest because apart from the intensively managed trees and greens they have other habitats with high wildlife value. Many other courses also exist within designated heritage coast sites, areas of outstanding natural beauty, or listed historic parklands.

Nationally, the sport is governed by England Golf. Its role includes providing competitions for players of all ages and abilities, identifying and developing the most talented golfers, maintaining a uniform system of handicapping, administering and applying the rules, and introducing new golfers via its initiatives such as 'Get into Golf'.

Consultation

This section has been informed via consultation with England Golf, which provided information relating to all facilities and clubs in Kingston-upon-Thames.

6.2: Supply

The three different types of golf facilities recognised by Sport England and governed by England Golf are defined in the table below. Pitch and putt courses and miniature/crazy golf courses are not included as these are not considered to be traditional formats of the game and are not comparable offerings.

Table 6.1: Definitions of golf facilities

Facility type	Description
Standard	A standard par course, with a minimum of 9 holes but normally associated with 18-hole courses; many 9-hole courses have different tee boxes which allow the provision to be played as an 18-hole course. Some courses provide 27 holes, with any two loops of 9-holes played to make up an 18-hole round.
Par 3	Shorter length of holes than a standard course, with no hole longer than Par 3. Most likely to be a 9-hole course although 18-hole offerings do exist. Does not include pitch and putt courses, which are even shorter offerings and are not considered to be a traditional version of the sport.
Driving Range	Includes covered and uncovered driving range bays but not practice areas within golf courses; ranges are based on the hiring of balls, with users not required to retrieve, whereas practice areas are generally for members to use with their own balls (although a growing number have dispensers). Does not include 'entertainment' ranges or virtual offerings, although some driving ranges have expanded to also provide these features.

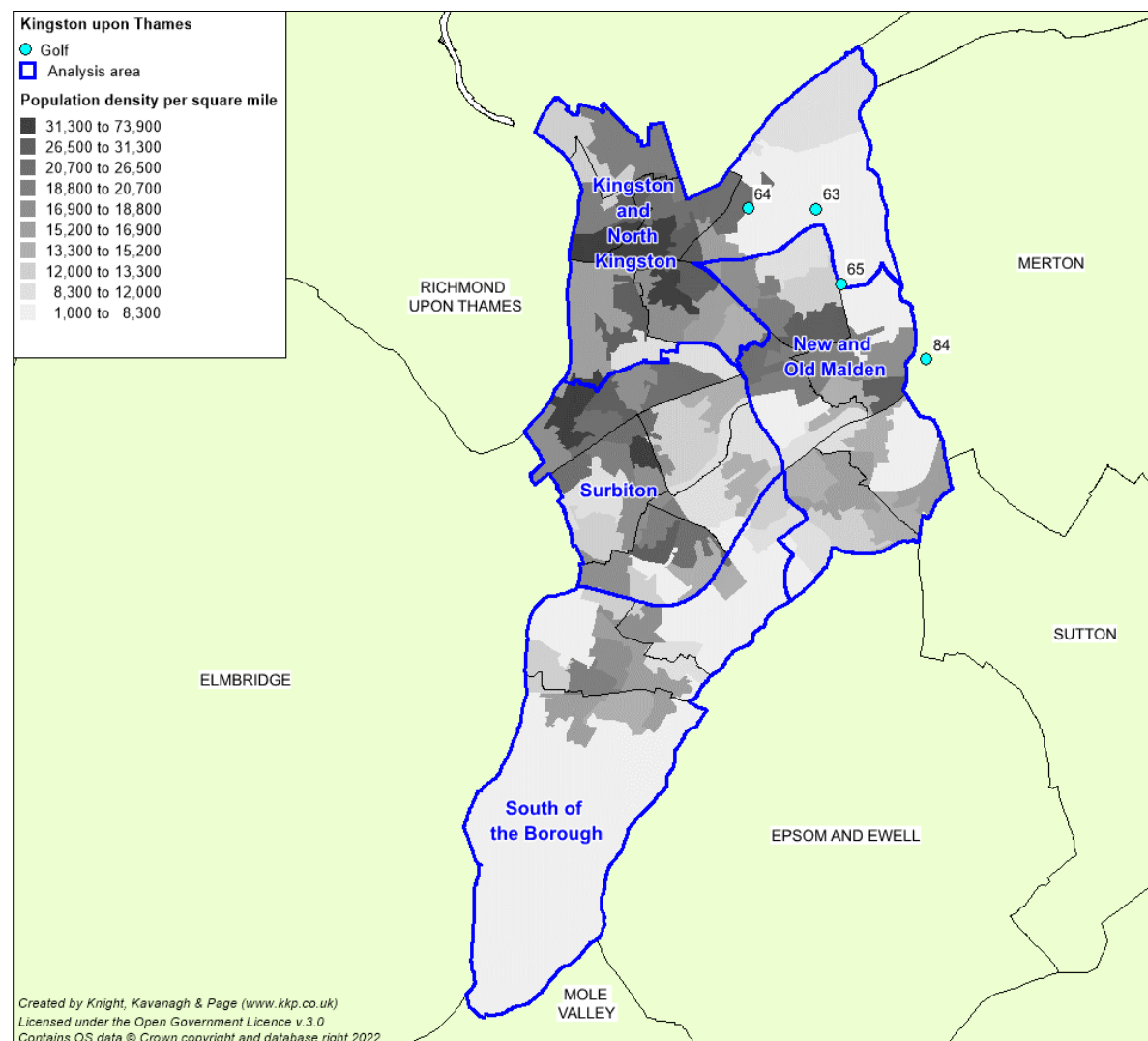
In Kingston-upon-Thames, three golf sites provide facilities conforming with the above definitions. These are identified in Table 6.2 and Figure 6.1 below. All three are in the Kingston & North Kingston Analysis Area (Coombe Hill Golf Club, Coombe Wood Golf Club and Malden Golf Club).

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 6.2: Golf facilities within Kingston-upon-Thames

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area
63	Coombe Hill Golf Club	KT2 7DF	Kingston & North Kingston
64	Coombe Wood Golf Club	KT2 7DS	Kingston & North Kingston
65	Malden Golf Club	KT3 4RS	Kingston & North Kingston

Figure 6.1: Location of golf courses in Kingston-upon-Thames



Standard hole golf courses

Coombe Hill, Coombe Wood and Malden golf clubs each provide one standard 18-hole course. Nationally, some 9-hole standard courses are provided, whilst some sites can provide 27 or 36 holes.

The standard hole provision across Kingston-upon-Thames is summarised in the following table.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 6.3: Summary of standard hole provision

Site ID	Site name	Holes	Par	Yardage ⁵			Slope rating
63	Coombe Hill Golf Club	18	71	6,277	5,965	5,615	124-138
64	Coombe Wood Golf Club	18	66	5,295	5,100	4,713	111-133
65	Malden Golf Club	18	71	6,295	5,963	5,637	126-131

The courses at Coombe Hill Golf Club and Malden Golf Club are similar in length and are within the range of what you would expect from traditional provision. Conversely, the course at Coombe Wood Golf Club is shorter, noting that the emphasis is on skilled shot making rather than long drives.

All three courses are in the Kingston & North Kingston Analysis Area, meaning that there is no supply elsewhere in the Borough.

Slope ratings

Slope ratings are new to golf across the World. The intention is for them to allow the handicap system to reflect course difficulty and the difference in difficulty for all players compared to scratch golfers. In effect, this enables each player to have a handicap that will vary from course-to-course, depending on difficulty, as well as a general handicap.

The maximum slope rating is 155, whereas the minimum is 55. The standard difficulty is considered to be 113, which means that the courses in Kingston-upon-Thames are generally considered to be more difficult than the mean, with them collectively ranging from 111-138 (the slope rating varies depending on which tee is used).

Par 3 golf holes

Most commonly, Par 3 provision is used by beginner and casual players, although they are also frequented by more traditional golfers wanting to practice their short game, particularly when accompanying a standard hole course.

There are no Par 3 courses in Kingston-upon-Thames. The nearest identified are Duke Meadows Golf Course, in Hounslow, and Foxhills Golf Club, in Runnymede.

Driving range bays

Driving ranges can come in two forms, either via accompanying a course (or courses), or through a standalone facility. In Kingston-upon-Thames, there are no driving range bays supplied. However, just outside of the Borough, World of Golf supplies a standalone driving range that has 60 bays over two tiers, making it one of the largest driving ranges in the Country. Furthermore, it is serviced by sports lighting, enabling late night usage all year round.

The driving range at World of Golf also utilises TopTracer technology, which allows users to simulate playing on courses across the world and provides ball tracking and statistical feedback. Automatic tees are also used and there are 10 golf coaches/professionals across the site, further evidencing its status as a premier driving range venue. Nationally, such technology has helped drive demand at driving ranges.

⁵ White denotes Championship tees, yellow denotes men's tees and red denotes ladies' tees.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Whilst technically located in Merton, World of Golf is in very close proximity to the Borough's boundary. As such, it is considered capable of accommodating some demand from the area, especially given the size of the site and the facilities on offer.

Additional golf provision

Jurassic Encounter Adventure Golf accompanies World of Golf, providing an 18-hole mini/crazy golf course that can be used as a recreational facility. As set out above, this sits outside of the scope of this study, although its presence as a leisure facility should still be noted. As it shares the site with World of Golf, it also provides a natural crossover to the traditional game.

Future provision

Whilst no plans are in place regarding golfing sites in Kingston-upon-Thames, it is important to reference the proposed imminent closure of Wimbledon Park Golf Club in the neighbouring borough of Merton. This will almost certainly have a knock-on effect within Kingston-upon-Thames and result in increased demand for course access in the area as users of the site will be displaced.

Management and ownership

There are three main types of ownership and management models of golf facilities in England; members clubs, proprietary clubs, and municipal facilities, as summarised in the table below.

Table 6.4: Types of ownership and management of golf facilities

Management type	Description
Members	Traditionally owned by members and run by committees. They are likely to hire caterers and green staff. Most members' clubs offer some level of pay and play and encourage golf societies but are mostly focused on membership numbers.
Proprietary	Owned or managed by businesses or individuals, these can include country club type facilities at the high end of the golfing market alongside more localised facilities. Many have clubs operating within them but can also take a much more relaxed attitude to dress and traditions of golf. Pay and play opportunities tend to be a key feature of the business plan.
Municipal	These are generally owned by a local authority, although in a growing number of instances, management has been contracted and externalised to private companies. Due to a lack of financial viability, many have closed across the Country in recent years and many that remain are under threat.

It is recognised that members clubs and visitors to such clubs are normally expected to dress appropriately, have a registered handicap certificate (a certificate issued by the Council of National Golf Unions (CONGU)) and be familiar with the rules and etiquette of the game. This is not uncommon at some proprietary clubs, but municipal courses tend to be more relaxed and do not require people to have handicaps, making golf much more accessible.

Consequently, municipal courses are, in many instances, seen as entry level facilities, with players using them before having the confidence to move on to a members' or high-end proprietary club (although many people can and do stay attached to a particular course). They also tend to offer a more affordable golfing experience.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

The business model for members clubs tends to rely heavily on income through membership subscriptions and use of ancillary facilities, rather than from pay and play usage, although attention has somewhat switched at many sites in recent years due to demand falling. The same can be said for some proprietary clubs, although, in general, more emphasis is placed on supplementing regular activity with green fee sales.

Conversely, municipal sites have always been heavily reliant on visitors even though membership packages are normally available (often in the shape of season tickets). On occasion, these can be linked to access to other local authority operated sports facilities, such as leisure centres and swimming pools.

Despite the above generalisations, each golf facility, regardless of management type, will have its own processes in terms of how much focus is placed on membership and pay and play usage, or whether it equally encourages both. There is no correct way to run a site. A club that focuses on members has guaranteed income, but this can often deter more casual players or nomadic golfers through, for example, a lack of peak time availability. In contrast, a site that depends on visitors can struggle to be viable if there are spells of inclement weather during summer months and can discourage people that want to be part of a club environment. On the other hand, more income can be brought in through regular users compared to what would be the case had they been part of a membership scheme.

In Kingston-upon-Thames, all three standard holes courses are members' clubs. This means that there are no municipal or proprietary sites provided. Each course is owned by the Council and leased to the clubs on a long-term basis.

Pricing

A key issue for the wider golf population is whether golf courses are available to the general population at a price point which is accessible to the majority of residents. Better quality courses tend to cost more to use, whilst 18-hole provision is generally more expensive to access than 9-hole provision.

Nationally, over the past decade, many facilities have altered their pricing structure to allow for discounts following a previous decline in golf membership. England Golf positively encouraged this and continues to do so as its view is that clubs are more likely to experience growth when flexible packages are available. For instance, five and/or six day memberships are now common (whereby members can access a course on specific days but not on one or both weekend days), whilst discounts are regularly in place that are no longer limited solely to junior players (e.g. discounts for those aged 18-21 and 21-30 or for those aged 65 and over).

In the past, it was very common for many clubs to have waiting lists in place for membership, but this has become rarer in the present day. That being said, a rise in demand following the Covid-19 pandemic has tested this and resulted in capacity pressures, with a third of clubs now thought to have waiting times before new members can join.

England Golf reports that the average cost of a full adult membership across the Country is currently £901.00 per year. In Kingston-upon-Thames, all three standard hole courses operate significantly above this, particularly Coombe Hill Golf Club which has a yearly fee of £4,915 in addition to a joining fee of £9,830. In comparison, the cost at Coombe Wood Golf Club equates to £1,610 per year, whilst it is £1,940 per year at Malden Golf Club.

The green fees at Coombe Wood Golf Club and Malden Golf Club range from £40 to £60 for single players, whilst weekday access to Coombe Hill Golf Club totals £150. Weekend green fees are not available at the site as all capacity is reserved for members as well as any arranged competitions.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 6.5: Pricing structures at golf courses in Kingston-upon-Thames

Site ID	Site name	Joining fee	Full membership (per year)	Green fee (per round)	
				Weekday	Weekend
63	Coombe Hill Golf Club	£9,830	£4,915	£150	N/A
64	Coombe Wood Golf Club	-	£1,610	£40	£45
65	Malden Golf Club	£1,800	£1,940	£45	£60

In general, costs at all three sites are high, evidencing that all three are considered to be high end facilities, with such provision generally able to charge a premium for access. However, this means that there are no low cost golf courses provided in the Borough.

Quality

There are no official national or county golf facility rankings. Generally, for golf courses, the better course quality and supporting infrastructure is, the higher joining/membership and green fees are likely to be. Some sites gain status through hosting county, national and international golf events and some tend to feature in ranking articles put together by golf magazines. However, quality can also be subjective and can be dependent on, amongst other aspects, golfer preference and ability.

In terms of quality of the golf courses in Kingston-upon-Thames, whilst no assessments have taken place to inform this study (due to the aforementioned subjectivity), it is reported to be good across the Borough as reflected by the high price point of the facilities. Few issues have been identified, with all three sites having dedicated green keeping staff which provide maintenance regimes that operate all-year round. These programmes are frequent and sophisticated, especially at Coombe Hill Golf Club.

Ancillary facilities are also for the most part good across Kingston-upon-Thames, with all three courses serviced by all-encompassing facilities that feature bars, kitchens and function rooms that are also available for external hire. Golf clubs generally need multiple revenue sources to operate effectively and the provision of a good quality, well equipped clubhouse is a key opportunity to provide a secondary income stream. This emanates from a variety of sources including bar and catering income from members and visitors as well as venue hire for special occasions including weddings, christenings and funerals. From a golfing perspective, given the current emphasis on increasing levels of female and junior golf membership across the Country, it is also imperative that ancillary provision can adequately cater for all types of members e.g., by providing gender specific changing facilities.

6.3: Demand

Golf participation considerably increased across the Country following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions, both initially in 2020 and again following the later lockdown period in 2021. As one of the first sports to be allowed on both occasions, people were able to play whilst maintaining social distancing and England Golf provided very clear guidance as to how this should manifest itself (e.g., by not allowing the flag to be taken out or rakes to be used). Some courses report a near doubling of demand, highlighting that a significant opportunity now exists to increase participation in the long-term. However, to what level this may apply remains unclear as retention may be challenging as more users return to normal working/ living conditions and with ongoing economic issues.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Prior to the recent growth in demand, participation in golf had generally been in decline, with only recent signs showing that the reduction may have been levelling off. The landscape of demand has also changed, with fewer users taking up membership packages and more golfers becoming nomadic and using a range of courses on a pay and play basis.

The following section examines current demand for golf in Kingston-upon-Thames as well as recent trends and potential future demand.

Membership

England Golf reports that the average membership of a golf club nationally is 386, with this being based on its central national handicap platform. In Kingston-upon-Thames, all three courses have a membership of above 600 and the current average across the sites is 741. This suggests that demand is substantially higher than national rates.

Membership trends

In line with a national trend of increasing membership, demand across Kingston-upon-Thames has increased significantly since 2015, despite yearly reductions between 2015 and 2017 (no data was collected by England Golf from 2018 until 2022).

In total, across the three clubs, membership has risen 77% since 2017, representing considerable growth.

Table 6.6: Changes in demand since 2015

Membership average across Kingston-upon-Thames			
2015	2016	2017	2022
461	428	419	741

Pay and play

Whilst pay and play usage has generally increased across England in recent years, usage figures at the sites within Kingston-upon-Thames is not known as it is not something that is tracked by England Golf or disclosed by operators due to commercial sensitivity. However, for the golf course sites, it would be expected that it would be higher at Coombe Wood Golf Club and Malden Golf Club given the cheaper price points and due to the sites being less exclusive than Coombe Hill Golf Club. That being said, all three have a focus on membership, so pay and play is likely to be lower than it would be at municipal and proprietary alternatives.

Exported/imported demand

Cross-boundary demand for golf is common nationally due to the nature of the sport. Golfers do not necessarily recognise local authority borders, and many will choose a facility for a whole range of reasons other than where it is located, with factors including quality, availability, cost and where friends/family play. This can be especially pronounced at venues located close to neighbouring authorities and if there is a comparative lack of provision within those authorities.

For Kingston-upon-Thames, exported demand out of the Borough is expected to be higher than what would ordinarily be considered given that only three golf courses are provided and given that all three sites provide a similar offer within the same area. With no low-cost sites or Par 3 courses, any demand for such provision will be travelling to other local authorities in order to access appropriate facilities (or would be unmet demand). This will also be especially pronounced to the south of the Borough given the location of the existing facilities.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

In addition, there will likely be significant exported demand to World of Golf given that there are no driving range bays within Kingston-upon-Thames and given the facilities on offer. However, given its proximity to the Borough, this is not considered to be an issue.

Conversely, there will be some imported demand from golfers in neighbouring authorities looking for a high end, good quality facility to access with a focus on membership. In particular, it is known that Coombe Hill Golf Club reaches a wide catchment given the status of the provision.

Unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to golf facilities. This could be reflected via a waiting list at a club, although it is likely that people on a waiting list are still playing golf elsewhere due to the nature of golf, either via membership of another club or through pay and play access. As a result, such unmet demand in Kingston-upon-Thames is considered to be relatively minimal.

Notwithstanding the above, Coombe Hill Golf Club reports that it is not currently accepting new members and that it is turning down any interest from potential members that would not be full adult members (over 35s). Moreover, even for full adult members looking to join, a waiting list is in place which is currently considered to be two to three years long. As such, there is clear unmet demand for this particular site.

Unmet demand could also be expressed if there is a lack of provision to meet a particular golfing market. This is much more likely to be the case in Kingston-upon-Thames, with all three courses having a focus on membership and only being available at a relatively high price point. This will be leaving those wanting or needing access to shorter provision or cheaper access without anywhere to play (although some may leave the Borough to do so).

Latent demand

Latent demand is demand for golf that is not currently being realised. This could be for numerous reasons, such as time constraints, financial reasons and a lack of suitable, available provision.

England Golf also has a mapping tool that enables an assessment of potential demand within a 20-minute drive time of each golf facility (which is considered to be a reasonable travel distance). This is based on research undertaken that identifies that 24% of adults in England are potential players, amounting to circa 9.6 million people and equating to 9% current players, 8% lapsed (former) players and 7% latent players. It can be used by providers to identify what demand may exist for their facilities, thus helping inform marketing, development and investment decisions.

Using the tool across Kingston-upon-Thames, Coombe Hill Golf is identified as having the largest potential demand, equating to 229,702 people, whilst Coombe Wood Golf Club is identified as having potential demand from 196,284 people and Malden Golf Club is identified as having potential demand from 191,731 people. These represent substantial figures.

Table 6.7: Potential demand by site as identified by England Golf

Site ID	Site name	Potential players within catchment area
63	Coombe Hill Golf Club	229,702
64	Coombe Wood Golf Club	196,284
65	Malden Golf Club	191,731

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

The tool also breaks the potential playing population down into nine golfing segments, with these defined to help provide an indication as to what type of golfing offer each would be most likely to access. They are:

- ◀ Relaxed members
- ◀ Older traditionalists
- ◀ Younger traditionalists
- ◀ Younger fanatics
- ◀ Younger actives
- ◀ Late enthusiasts
- ◀ Occasional time pressed
- ◀ Social couples
- ◀ Casual fun

In Kingston-upon-Thames, the demand for each of the sites is relatively evenly split across the nine segments, suggesting that a wide variety of provision is required. The highest demand is from “casual fun” (82,526 people), despite this group being one of the least likely to access members clubs and traditional 18-hole provision. However, World of Golf offers a nearby facility that would likely appeal to such a userbase.

The lowest demand is from “younger traditionalists” (61,248 people).

Whilst the reasoning for the latent demand is unknown and is likely to be varied, the data does show relatively high demand which would significantly increase membership and/or pay and play usage across facilities if realised. England Golf is supportive of clubs/sites that proactively target new audiences in an attempt to tap into such demand i.e., through developing a variety of golfing offers, coaching programmes and a range of membership options.

Future demand

England Golf has an aim to increase membership of clubs nationally; however, after reaching its previous target, it no longer has a fixed goal in terms of growth. Nationally, many clubs, especially the most established ones, will be happy to retain current demand levels, whilst others will be open to growing and some considerably so. In that regard, England Golf reports that many providers are proactively targeting new audiences through coaching programmes and a wider range of membership and playing options.

In Kingston-upon-Thames, each facility will have different aspirations in terms of future levels of demand. Nevertheless, with membership across the golf courses in the Borough already significantly higher than the national average, capacity to accommodate significant growth could be questionable, as is already known to be the case at Coombe Hill Golf Club.

6.4: Supply and demand analysis

With only three golf courses currently provided in Kingston-upon-Thames and with all three being in the same area, there is a low level of supply servicing the Borough. This is illustrated by all three sites having a particularly high membership, well in excess of average levels. Furthermore, there is also a distinct lack of variety in that every course currently provides standard hole provision at a relatively high price point, with no cheaper offerings available that would appeal more so to less affluent residents, and no shorter or less traditional offerings that would appeal more so to, for example, beginners, casual golfers and high handicappers.

The identified facility gaps mean that demand will likely be travelling outside of Kingston-upon-Thames for suitable access to golf provision, or they will be unable to play. This is especially going to be the case to the south of the Borough, with all existing provision located to the north.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Conclusion

Given a low supply levels of golf courses and high levels of demand, no existing sites can be deemed surplus to requirements as it is clear that any loss could not be sustained, meaning all provision requires protection. Furthermore, avenues to further improve the variety and spatial distribution of facilities should be explored in order to ensure that all types of golfers from across the Borough have somewhere suitable to play.

Golf – supply summary

- ◀ There are currently three golf sites in operation (Coombe Hill Golf Club, Coombe Wood Golf Club and Malden Golf Club), all of which are located in the Kingston & North Kingston Analysis Area.
- ◀ All three sites provide one 18-hole course.
- ◀ There are no Par 3 courses provided in the Borough.
- ◀ There are no drivign range bays, although World of Golf nearby provides a large, 60-bay driving range with sports lighting.
- ◀ Wimbledon Park Golf Club in the neighbouring borough of Merton is expected to close in the near future, which will almost certainly have a knock-on effect within Kingston-upon-Thames and result in increased demand for course access.
- ◀ Each golf course is operated as a members club, meaning no municipal or proprietary facilities are provided.
- ◀ Membership costs at each golf course site are consdierbaly above the national average, suggesting that they are all high-end facilities.
- ◀ Quality across the sites is good, with no issues reported and maintenance carried out to a high level.

Golf – demand summary

- ◀ The current average membership across the golf course site is 741 and all three clubs have over 600 members, meaning that demand is substantially higher than national rates (the average is 386).
- ◀ Membership has increased by 77% since 2017, despite a year-on-year reduction prior to this.
- ◀ Whilst pay and play usage is not known, it would be expected to be relatively low at the golf courses given that focus at each venue is on membership.
- ◀ Exported demand is likely to be high as any demand for low cost and/or shorter courses will need to leave the Borough for appropriate facilities, especially in the south of the Borough given the northern location of all the existing provision.
- ◀ Unmet demand is identified for Coombe Hill Golf Club, with a long waiting list in place for full adult membership and with no other membership categories currently available.
- ◀ Unmet demand could also be high more generally given the lack of variety in what is provided, particularly from those wanting or needing shorter provision or cheaper access.
- ◀ An England Golf mapping tool identifies significant potential demand for access to golf provision in the Borough, particularly in the catchment of Coombe Hill Golf Club and from markets that would not ordinarily want access to traditional provision.

Golf – supply and demand summary

- ◀ With only three golf courses provided, there is a low level of supply servicing the Borough, as illustrated by each site having particularly high demand.
- ◀ Furthermore, there is also a distinct lack of variety in that every course currently provides standard hole provision at a relatively high price point and in the same area, with no affordable or shorter, less traditional offerings and with no provision to the south.
- ◀ No existing sites can be deemed surplus to requirements and avenues to improve the variety and spatial distribution of facilities should be explored in order to ensure that all types of golfers from across the Borough have somewhere suitable to play.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

PART 7: ATHLETICS

7.1: Introduction

As a Governing Body, UK Athletics is responsible for developing and implementing the rules and regulations of athletics, including everything from anti-doping, health and safety, facilities and welfare, to training and education for coaches and officials as well as permitting and licensing.

Locally, the sport is governed through England Athletics, which is the development and membership body for athletics and running clubs in England. It has a National Head of Clubs and Participation and a team of five club support managers across the Country.

Consultation

There are five athletics clubs identified in Kingston-upon-Thames. All five responded to consultation requests, representing an 100% response rate.

Table 7.1 Summary of athletics response rate

Club	Responded
26.2 Road Runners Club	Yes
Chessington Unity Running Club	Yes
Kingston AC & Poly Harriers	Yes
Thames Hare & Hounds	Yes
Weir Archer Academy	Yes

7.2: Supply

There is one full size purpose-built outdoor athletics track in Kingston-upon-Thames, located at Weir Archer Athletics & Fitness Centre. The site provides an eight lane synthetic 400-metre track that is serviced by sports lighting. It also provides for the full complement of field events (e.g., throwing cages and jumping pits).

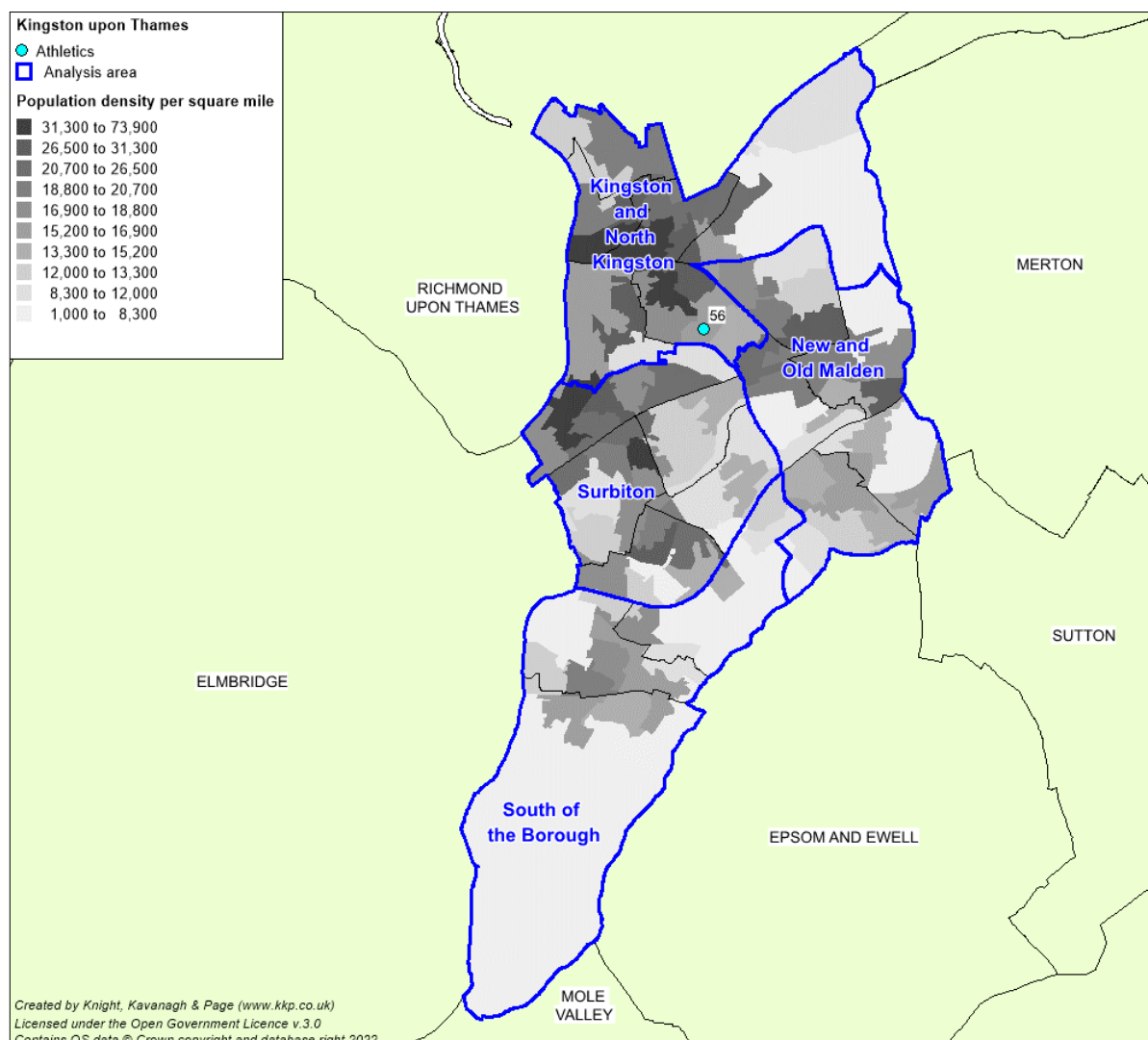
Table 7.2: Summary of athletics tracks in Kingston-upon-Thames

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Length	Surface type	No. of lanes	Sports lighting?
56	Weir Archer Athletics & Fitness Centre	Kingston & North Kingston	400m	Synthetic	8	Yes

As seen in the table above, Weir Archer Athletics & Fitness Centre is in the Kingston & North Kingston Analysis Area and therefore located to the north of the Borough, although relatively central. For specific location of this facility, please see Figure 7.1 below

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Figure 7.1: Location of athletics tracks in Kingston-upon-Thames



Additional provision

In addition to the full size track at Weir Archer Athletics & Fitness Centre, Shrewsbury House School marks out a four lane 80-metre straight on its 3G provision to accommodate some internal athletics activity.

Similarly, Tolworth Girls School has a three lane 200-metre track marked out on its clay-based surface that otherwise accommodates tennis and netball courts. This is also serviced by sports lighting.

Management

The track at Weir Archer Athletics & Fitness Centre is owned by the Council and operated on its behalf by Places Leisure. As such, it is fully available for community use.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Quality

The quality of the athletics track at Weir Archer Athletics & Fitness Centre has been assessed via a combination of a site visit using a non-technical assessment and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed quality rating. Key factors which impact on the quality rating of athletics provision includes the condition and age of the track surface, prominence of line markings and any signs of wear and tear or unofficial use. For further detail regarding the criteria, please see Appendix 2.

The provision is assessed as standard quality, predominately due to the age of the track surface. It has been earmarked for a refurbishment in 2027 by England Athletics, with more information to be provided as to what could be required as part of this likely to come from its TrackMark re-accreditation process later on in 2023.

In addition, England Athletics identifies that the provision could be enhanced through upgrading the sports lighting at the site to LED.

TrackMark

TrackMark is UK Athletics' quality assurance scheme for outdoor track and field athletics facilities. A venue that achieves TrackMark is recognised by UK Athletics as having well managed, compliant facilities that are accessible to participants of all abilities. From 2021, venues that actively choose not to pursue accreditation are not eligible to apply for a competition licence at any level.

Weir Archer Athletics & Fitness Centre is currently TrackMark compliant, after receiving the accreditation in 2019. As mentioned above, it is due re-accreditation later this year.

Ancillary provision

The clubhouse at Weir Archer Athletics & Fitness Centre provides changing and shower facilities, but it is quite dated and in need of modernisation. This is echoed by Kingston AC & Poly Harriers, which states that the ancillary facilities require updating or replacing, and Weir Archer Academy which reports that the facilities are not fit for purpose with only one disabled toilet on site.

Future provision

Consultation with England Athletics reveals that, nationally, no new standard 400-metre athletics tracks are planned to be constructed. Focus is instead on the retention of existing 400-metre facilities and the development of new, innovative, entry level facilities such as mini tracks and endurance loops, particularly if they can be provided as part of floodlit, multi-sport developments.

Linked to the above, England Athletics is currently exploring three alternative approaches in designing new athletics provision. These three designs, outlined below, present alternative approaches to athletics provision as to offer more affordable and feasible means of creating athletics tracks.

Compact Track

The first of the three alternative designs is a 'compact track' featuring a 60m sprint straight with an accompanying jump lane and shot put space. This provision is the smallest of the three and is installed at sites with limited available land.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Mini Track

A 'mini track' features a 140m four lane oval track with a six lane 60m sprint, as well as accompanying shot put and jumping provision. An advantage to a mini track design is it leaves a large space in the centre of the oval track to be used for either various field events such as long jump/ triple jump, or alternatively it can be used for other sports such as football pitches or an outdoor gym.

Mini track sites also feature a new design of shot-put practice areas in which it flattens a natural slope and athletes throw into a hill allowing for the shot to roll back to the participant thus reducing time spent retrieving the shot after each throw.

Active Track

Finally, an 'active track' is a synthetic loop with no fixed shape or distance (similar to a formula one circuit), in which a track is drawn to fit its natural surroundings such as an existing park or school field. This is installed at sites where a 400m oval would not be feasible as it allows for adaptations to the shape in order to suit land in its current state.

7.3: Demand

For the purposes of this study, athletics demand is considered to come in various forms, rather than just traditional track and field activity. As such, running clubs are also considered, as are organised running events and various running initiatives, some of which are governed by England Athletics. It is also acknowledged that recreational running forms a large part of demand, although this is difficult to measure.

The facility at Weir Archer Athletics & Fitness Centre is a key competition venue for the London and South East region. It holds an average of 17 events each year, making it the third most used site in the area. It also able to accommodate National League fixtures given that it has a separate throwing area.

Club demand

26.2 Road Runners Club

This is a road running club which accommodates runners of all ages and abilities. It runs sessions every Monday and Wednesday evening, with Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club used as a meeting point and local paths and roads utilised. Additionally, the Club holds track sessions once a month at the Harrier Centre in Epsom & Ewell.

Chessington Unity Running Club

The Club is a small road running club made of runners who race on a social and competitive basis. It currently has 172 active members, made up of approximately 86 male and 86 female members. It welcomes runners of all abilities and ages.

The Club generally meets at either Churchfields Recreation Ground on Tuesday and Saturday mornings or the North Star Public House on Thursday mornings and evenings. Additionally, it regular runs track days, which take place at the Harriers Centre in Epsom & Ewell and handicap runs and takes part in local races as well.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Kingston AC & Poly Harriers

Kingston AC & Poly Harriers is a large club based at Weir Archer Athletics & Fitness Centre. It currently caters for 120 senior and 280 junior members and notes that its junior section has increased quite significantly over the last few years. It states that it is always open to taking on new members and that there is not a waiting list in place.

The Club trains on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 17:00 until 21:00 and Saturday and Sunday mornings from 09:00 and utilises that track at Weir Archer Athletics & Fitness Centre for this activity. Furthermore, in addition to its track and field activity, the Club organises weekly cross-country and road running sessions on roads and open spaces across Kingston-upon-Thames.

Kingston AC & Poly Harriers has aspiration to have access to an indoor facility either on site at Weir Archer Athletics & Fitness Centre or located elsewhere in the Borough. The Club believes that this would help create and accommodate more demand for athletics in the area.

Thames Hare & Hounds

Thames Hare & Hounds is a cross country and road running club that has around 400 members (250 male and 150 female), although it suggests that only 150 members are actively and competing and training on a regular basis. All of its members are senior, with no junior section in place.

The Club is predominately a road running and cross-country running club, although it regularly organises training sessions on the track at Weir Archer Athletics & Fitness Centre. It generally accesses the site on a Tuesday evening when it is required.

For its non-track activity, the Club often utilises parks outside of Kingston-upon-Thames, including Richmond Park in Richmond-upon-Thames and Raines Park in Merton. It states that this through choice given where it is based and where its members are drawn from. Its clubhouse is based near to Wimbledon Common (in Merton).

Weir Archer Academy

Weir Archer Academy is for disability (wheelchair) athletics, aiming to provide athlete and coaching support and expertise across all levels of abilities. It utilises the facilities available at Weir Archer Athletics & Fitness Centre and accesses an indoor facility on the same site, mainly during the winter months.

Since inception in 2013, the Academy has developed from coaching and mentoring a handful of athletes in Kingston-upon-Thames to having competitors from across the Country and abroad. Many of these athletes succeed in not only local track meets but have also participated in the Paralympic Games.

There are currently 29 athletes at the Academy, broken down as approximately 60% male and 40% female. It also reports that it is constantly growing, but that this is limited by funds and the facilities on offer at Weir Archer Athletics & Fitness Centre as they are not fit for purpose for disabled athletes. It also states that it has to share the track on Monday and Wednesdays, with other runners as well as football clubs using the pitch in the middle of the track. This is a particular health and safety concern for the Club.

The Academy only has two years remaining on its agreement at Weir Archer Athletics & Fitness Centre and states that it needs the agreement extending. Otherwise, it may have to move elsewhere.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Kingfisher Triathletes

Although a triathlon club that is a member of the British Triathlon Federation, Kingfisher Triathletes is also a member of England Athletics and holds numerous running sessions similar to those held by various running clubs in the Borough. It currently has 50 active members, with 25 female and 25 males, but operates no junior section.

As part of its running activity, the Club holds track running sessions on Tuesday evenings at Weir Archer Athletics & Fitness Centre.

Additional demand

Run Together

Run Together is an official England Athletics recreational running project which aims to get the whole nation running. Its aim is to provide fun, friendly, supportive and inclusive running opportunities for everyone, regardless of ability and availability. It believes that running is more fun and easier to become part of a lifestyle when shared with others.

There is currently one Run Together group in Kingston-upon-Thames, based at the YMCA Hawker Centre. A key focus for England Athletics is increasing demand for participation programmes such as Run Together, meaning this could be something that is further targeted moving forward.

Park Run

Park Run is a series of 5k runs held on Saturday mornings in areas of open space around the UK. They are open to all, free, and are safe and easy to take part in. Runners must first register online in order to access a printed barcode which gives them access to all Park Run events.

In Kingston-upon-Thames, a Parkrun event takes place at Kingston Riverside. There have been 595 events held, making it a long-standing event, with an average of 166.7 runners taking part each week. An event also takes place at Richmond Park.

For those aged between four and 14, junior Park Run events are also available across the Country. In Kingston-upon-Thames, one is held at Alexandra Recreation Ground

In the future, the Council is exploring the creation of a Junior Parkrun event for children with special educational needs. It is focusing on primary school sites to enable this.

Other events

Other running events are held in Kingston-upon-Thames across the year, normally on an annual basis. This includes the Royal Borough of Kingston Half Marathon and Royal Borough of Kingston Spring Raceday, both of which are organised by a professional race organisation known as Quicksilver Running. There is also a Kingston 10k, which commences at YMCA Hawker.

Couch to 5k

Couch to 5k is a national health initiative promoted by the National Health Service (NHS) to encourage absolute beginners get into running as part of establishing and maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle including regular exercise.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

The plan consists of three runs per week and a day of rest in between, with a different schedule for each of the nine weeks to completion. It starts with a mix of running and walking, to gradually build up fitness and stamina, in order to create realistic expectations and a sense of achievability to encourage participants to stick with it. The end goal of the plan is for the participant to be able to run 5k.

Through the Couch to 5k plan the NHS particularly promotes the health benefits of running and regular exercise which underpin the initiative, such as improved heart and lung health, weight loss and possible increases in bone density which can help protect against bone diseases such as osteoporosis. This also includes mental benefits of running through goal setting and challenge setting, which can help boost confidence and self-belief. Furthermore, running regularly has been linked to combating depression.

It is believed that an increase in people running through the Couch to 5k plan may increase interest and possibly have a knock-on effect of leading to increased demand at running groups and clubs as people may wish to continue develop their running further.

Whilst no data is available in relation to take up of the Couch to 5k initiative in Kingston-upon-Thames, anecdotal evidence suggests that it is popular and also growing in popularity. It is also championed by several clubs in the Borough.

Exported/imported demand

As referenced previously, both 26.2 Road Runners Club and Chessington Unity Running Club access Harrier Centre in Epsom & Ewell for track sessions, which represents exported demand. Conversely, due to it being based in Merton, Thames Hare & Hounds is importing demand into Kingston-upon-Thames through its use of Weir Archer Athletics & Fitness Centre.

No other clubs identify any exported or imported demand, although it is likely that some members of Kingston-upon-Thames clubs will come from outside of the Borough just as nearby clubs from outside of the Borough will likely attract some members from within Kingston-upon-Thames. Similarly, many events in the region will likely accommodate significant levels of cross-border demand.

Latent/unmet demand

No clubs currently based in Kingston-upon-Thames explicitly express latent or unmet demand, with no waiting lists in place and each club open to new members. This suggests that anyone wanting to participate can do so via the clubs that are in place. It is therefore likely that any latent or unmet demand that does exist is due to other barriers preventing participation, rather than a lack of capacity.

Notwithstanding the above, Kingston AC & Poly Harriers reports that if Weir Archer Athletics & Fitness Centre was improved, it would likely see demand increase at both the Club and the facility itself. It links this to its indoor facility aspirations.

Similarly, Weir Archer Academy states that it would increase its chances of growing if the ancillary facilities at Weir Archer Athletics & Fitness Centre were improved and made more appropriate for disability access.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Future demand

All clubs identify aspirations to grow membership, with Kingston AC & Poly Harriers, Thames Hare & Hounds and Weir Archer Academy in particular expressing that this is a focus area for them. However, the growth is not quantified, with the majority of clubs reporting that they will not turn people away.

England Athletics also believes that demand for initiatives such as Park Run is likely to increase in the future, although again to what extent is difficult to measure.

7.4: Supply and demand analysis

There is considerable demand for athletics and in particular running in Kingston-upon-Thames, as evidenced by the numerous clubs in existence and the variety of events held across the Borough. However, with a track facility provided at Weir Archer Athletics & Fitness Centre, supply is generally considered sufficient to meet the demand in quantitative terms, although some level of qualitative improvement would be beneficial. This is especially the case in regards to the ancillary facilities and disability access.

Conclusion

To ensure that demand can continue to be met, it is imperative that activity can continue to be accommodated and increased at Weir Archer Athletics & Fitness Centre and that it is available to all clubs and competitions that require access.

Furthermore, there may also be an opportunity to explore the alternative forms of facilities currently being promoted by England Athletics given the level of demand that exists. This would be especially beneficial in southern parts of the Borough given the northern location of the current provision.

Away from the formal track and field facilities, emphasis should also be placed on supporting the other activities taking place in Kingston-upon-Thames, with a focus on retaining and increasing participation and growing the various initiatives that are in place. This, however, does not require dedicated provision.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Athletics – supply summary

- ◀ There is one size purpose-built outdoor athletic track provided in Kingston-upon-Thames, located at Weir Archer Athletics & Fitness Centre.
- ◀ The site provides an eight lane synthetic 400-metre track that is serviced by sports lighting.
- ◀ Both Tolworth Girls School and Shrewsbury House School mark out smaller athletics track on their artificial surfaces to cater for internal athletics demand.
- ◀ The facility at Weir Archer Athletics & Fitness Centre is owned and managed by the Council and is fully available for community use.
- ◀ The track is assessed as standard quality and it is TrackMark accredited, with refurbishment scheduled for 2027.
- ◀ England Athletics identifies that the provision could be enhanced through upgrading the sports lighting at the site to LED.
- ◀ The ancillary provision is problematic, with modernisation required as well as improved disability facilities.

Athletics – demand summary

- ◀ The facility at Weir Archer Athletics & Fitness Centre is a key competition venue for the London and South East region; it holds an average of 17 events each year, making it the third most used site in the area, and it also able to accommodate National League fixtures.
- ◀ Five clubs have been identified in Kingston-upon-Thames that have a focus on athletics and/or running activity.
- ◀ Kingston AC & Poly Harriers is a dedicated track and field club within the Borough, utilising the facilities at Weir Archer Athletics & Fitness Centre as its home base.
- ◀ Thames Hare & Hounds also uses the track at Weir Archer Athletics & Fitness Centre, importing from Merton, as does Weir Archer Academy and Kingfisher Triathletes.
- ◀ Weir Archer Academy is for disability (wheelchair) athletics.
- ◀ Chessington Unity Running Club and 26.2 Road Runners Club organises track sessions outside of Kingston-upon-Thames at the Harrier Centre in Epsom & Ewell (exported demand).
- ◀ There is currently one Run Together group in Kingston-upon-Thames, based at the YMCA Hawker Centre.
- ◀ A Parkrun event is held weekly at Kingston Riverside, whilst a junior Parkrun event takes place at Alexandra Recreation Ground.
- ◀ Other running events are held annually including the Kingston Half Marathon, Kingston Spring Raceday and a Kingston 10k.
- ◀ No clubs express latent or unmet demand, suggesting that any latent or unmet demand that does exist is due to other barriers preventing participation, rather than a lack of capacity.
- ◀ All clubs have aspirations to grow membership, whilst England Athletics also believes that demand for initiatives such as Park Run is likely to increase.

Athletics – supply and demand summary

- ◀ There is considerable demand for athletics and running within Kingston-upon-Thames, although via the track at Weir Archer Athletics & Fitness Centre, supply is generally considered sufficient to meet this.
- ◀ There may be an opportunity to explore the alternative forms of facilities currently being promoted by England Athletics, especially in the southern parts of the Borough given the northern location of the current provision.
- ◀ Away from the formal track and field facilities, emphasis should also be placed on supporting the other activities taking place, although this does not require dedicated provision.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

PART 8: CYCLING

8.1: Introduction

This section primarily focuses on cycling as a sport, where facilities are more likely to be required, rather than as a travel, recreational or fitness activity, where demand is more likely to be accommodated via infrastructure that is already in place (e.g., via gyms, roads and paths).

British Cycling is the NGB for all forms of cycling. It oversees six sporting disciplines, with each having a dedicated facility type:

- ◆ Track cycling – velodromes
- ◆ Road cycling – closed road circuits
- ◆ Mountain biking – trails
- ◆ BMX racing – race/pump tracks
- ◆ Cycle speedway – cycle speedway tracks
- ◆ Cyclocross – non-dedicated, non-permanent venues

The NGB aids in the development of all six formats, helping to safeguard those that wish to participate in a competitive and compelling environment. The popularity of cycling has increased since recent, elite sporting success in the Olympics and Paralympics as well as in other major championships.

The Kingston-upon-Thames Cycling Strategy

In March 2013, the Mayor of London launched a Vision for Cycling programme in London, highlighting an ambition to increase the level of cycling and with an aspiration to see cycling 'normalised' by encouraging a broader cross section of people to take it up. The Kingston Cycling Strategy sets out how the Council intends to help deliver the programme on a local level and takes into account the Borough's challenges.

Several objectives are set out, which are as follows:

- ◆ Provision of cycle friendly infrastructure on the highway network
- ◆ Securing adequate funding for improved cycling facilities on and off road
- ◆ Providing training and support for all members of the community to cycle safely.
- ◆ Promotion and publicity on the benefits of cycling.
- ◆ Seeking effective enforcement of road traffic laws for the benefits of all users of the highway

Consultation

Information for cycling was gathered via discussions with British Cycling and through consultation with the seven clubs in the Borough.

8.2: Supply

Across Kingston-upon-Thames, there are no dedicated or purpose-built facilities for cycling. The nearest facilities include the Lee Valley Velo Park in Newham or Hillingdon Cycle Circuit located in Hillingdon.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

With no facilities provided, existing cycling demand tends to use pre-established cycling routes as well as the general road network and open spaces. As part of this, the Council has produced a map which shows suggested cycling routes across the Borough, as well as proposed routes to be completed in the future (including those linked to the “Go Cycle” programme).

The existing cycling routes are able to be used for recreational cycling as well as club activity, and some of them are in close proximity to each other and can therefore be combined to provide longer distances. Many are located within and outside of the Borough, crossing boundaries with multiple boroughs such as Merton, Richmond-upon-Thames and Wandsworth.

Future supply

Friends of Manor Park has drawn up plans for the site that includes the provision of a path around the playing fields that could be used for recreational cycling (as well as other activities such as running and walking).

8.3: Demand

Club demand

There are seven affiliated cycling clubs operating within Kingston-upon-Thames. The clubs are:

- ◀ Chevaliers Cycling Club
- ◀ Forge London Cycling Club
- ◀ Kingston Junior Cycle Club
- ◀ Kingston Wheelers Cycling Club
- ◀ New Malden Velo
- ◀ Paceline RT
- ◀ The Njinga Collective

In addition, there is one triathlon club (Kingfisher Triathletes) which, due to the nature of the sport, also takes part in significant cycling activity.

Chevaliers Cycling Club

The Club is a road cycling club with around 100 current members, although some gravel rides are also organised. It meets in Kingston-upon-Thames for its sessions before heading out to Surrey Hills or Windsor & Maidenhead, or it uses Richmond Park in Richmond-upon-Thames. Most rides take place on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings.

It's meeting point for all activity is Kingston Bridge.

Forge London Cycling Club

Forge London Cycling Club is a new club in the Borough, with it only being formed nearly two years ago. It currently has 108 registered members consisting of 88 men and 20 women. It is predominately a road cycling club but has some occasional triathlete members.

Main club rides take place on Thursday evenings at 18:30 and on Saturdays and Sundays from 09:00. The Club utilises the road network in Kingston-upon-Thames for this, but also tends to use infrastructure outside of the Borough such as Richmond Park and Bushy Park. For longer routes, it ventures out towards Windsor & Maidenhead.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

All rides begin at Kingston Market Place.

Kingston Junior Cycle Club

Kingston Junior Cycle Club is dedicated to developing cycling talent in young people. It currently has around 100 active members and offers coaching sessions every Saturday morning at YMCA Hawker. The grass space at the site is utilised for this.

On a weekly basis, the Club coaches approximately 20 of its members, which it reports is its current capacity based on its number of coaches. As such, it states that it wants to have access to more qualified coaches in order to accommodate more demand.

Kingston Wheelers Cycling Club

Kingston Wheelers Cycling Club is a large club with 600 members, made up of approximately 350 males and 250 females. It is an off-road cycling club but offers mountain biking activity as well. It has access to and uses road facilities in Kingston-upon-Thames, using Portsmouth Road in Surbiton as a meeting point, but also uses Hillingdon Cycle Circuit outside of the Borough for most of its sessions.

The Club offers two social club runs a week, including a Saturday morning ride which can be up to 50km. As part of this, the group rides out as far as Surrey Hills.

New Malden Velo

New Malden Velo is a social road cycling club accommodating members of all levels and abilities. The Club meets at Woodies Freehouse in New & Old Malden, with most rides taking place on Sunday mornings via a cycle out to Surrey Hills. Additionally, there are ad hoc rides organised during the week, which can include use of Richmond Park in Richmond-upon-Thames.

The Club has started to introduce 'Women Only Introductory Rides' which take place on the second Saturday of every month. This features a cycle out towards Cobham in Elmbridge.

Paceline RT

Paceline RT is predominantly a competitive cycling club, offering activities for both road racing and mountain biking. The Club currently has 60 members (56 men and four women). It meets on Tuesdays and Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings, utilising Kingston Bridge as its main meeting point.

The Njinga Collective

The Njinga Collective is a road cycling club with 50 active members, comprising of 35 male and 15 female members. It reports that the dynamic of the Club changed dramatically following Covid-19, with the pandemic resulting in a loss of its junior section and a significant reduction in its women's section.

The Club hosts regular sessions, varying across Tuesday nights, Thursday mornings, Friday evenings and Saturdays and Sundays, predominately utilising the road network with Kingston-upon-Thames. However, it reports issues with the roads in the Borough, stating that they are generally unsafe and not fit for purpose for cyclists. It notes that dedicated paths and cycling routes would be more beneficial.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Kingfisher Triathletes

As a triathlon club, Kingfisher Triathletes participates in significant cycling activity in the Borough. It holds two cycling sessions a week; one virtual one on Tuesdays and the other on Sundays as a social club ride. For this, it meets at Kingston Gate, on the edge of Richmond Park at 09:00.

The Club currently has 50 members, split evenly between males and females.

Additional demand

Kingston-upon-Thames Cycling Campaign (Wheels for All)

The Kingston-upon-Thames Cycling Campaign aims to promote inclusive and adaptive cycling through a range of community engagement programmes across the Borough. The project has adaptive bikes ranging from four-wheel cycles to trikes, with these bikes offering various seating options and side cycling as well.

The project, known as Wheels for All, runs approximately five sessions every Monday, from 10:00 until 14:30, with each session lasting around 45 minutes. This takes place at Weir Archer Athletics & Fitness Centre and all equipment is provided to participants. It is available to all ages and abilities, with around 80 regular participants currently catered for.

HSBC UK Go-Ride

HSBC UK Go-Ride is a British Cycling's development programme for young people. It offers a fun and safe way to introduce young people to the sport and provides a platform to improve cycling skills. People can get involved through holiday coaching programmes or through their local accredited club which allows them to sample the various disciplines of the sport. Progression is obtainable with Go-Ride Racing, offering competition for riders to transition from school or club coaching to inter club and open regional competitions.

Kingston Junior Cycle Club is an accredited Go-Ride Cycling Club based in Kingston-upon-Thames.

HSBC UK Ready, Set, Ride

HSBC UK Ready, Set, Ride is a British Cycling's campaign to start children learning how to ride a bike through free, quick games. This can start at any age with British Cycling providing helpful information through online activities and tutorials.

No evidence of the initiative being implemented in Kingston-upon-Thames has been identified.

HSBC UK Breeze

HSBC UK Breeze is a British Cycling's development programme for women. It offers three categories known as easy going, steady and challenging, with these allowing females of all abilities to get involved. The programme offers exercise whilst also creating a comfortable environment to meet new people.

In Kingston-upon-Thames, there is an active group involved in the programme, known as Women on Wheels. As part of this, an event takes place on one Sunday morning each month, with various sites in Kingston-upon-Thames and neighbouring authorities used.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Imported/exported demand

There are high levels of exported demand identified from clubs in Kingston-upon-Thames. Whilst some of this is simply due to the nature of the sport, with long rides taking participants out of the Borough, there are also high levels of demand accessing particular sites in neighbouring authorities. This is seemingly due to a perception that there is no comparable provision within the Borough.

Examples of exported demand include New Malden Velo, Chevaliers Cycling Club, Forge London Cycling Club and Kingfisher Triathletes using parks in Richmond-upon-Thames, and Kingston Wheelers Cycling Club using Hillingdon Cycle Circuit.

Conversely, no imported demand of a similar variety is identified. There are, however, several clubs located near to Kingston-upon-Thames that likely draw some members from the Borough. This includes the Stragglists and London Dynamo Cycling Club (both based in Richmond-upon-Thames) as well as South Western Road Club (based in Elmbridge).

Unmet/latent demand

No clubs in Kingston-upon-Thames express unmet or latent demand linked to facilities. Instead, any such demand that is identified is attributed to a lack of coaches i.e., by Kingston Junior Cycle Club.

Future demand

Most clubs in Kingston-upon-Thames express an aspiration to increase membership, with most actively looking for growth. In addition, there is a focus by British Cycling to develop youth and female participation through the HSBC UK Go-Ride, HSBC UK Ready Set Ride and HSBC UK Breeze schemes, which may lead to further increases in demand.

Notwithstanding the above, the nature of cycling likely means that most latent and future demand will not require space with a club or at a dedicated facility. Instead, most new participants will likely take up cycling by themselves (or with friends) on a recreational basis and will utilise the local road network to fulfil this. As such, potential growth within clubs is not necessarily linked to the growth of cycling in general and cannot be used as an indicator in terms of participation levels.

8.4: Supply and demand analysis

Relatively high demand for cycling is identified within Kingston-upon-Thames, with seven cycling clubs running various forms of activity as well as one triathlon club. Whilst the majority of this is being satisfied without dedicated provision and can continue to be catered for without the need for any action, the level of exported demand that is expressed indicates that there is demand for the sport to be better accommodated.

Conclusion

Whilst most cycling need can be met via the existing infrastructure and without dedicated provision, improved cycling access to sites such as parks would be beneficial for accommodating demand. In addition, the creation of bespoke cycling spaces/areas could be sought.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Cycling - supply summary

- ◀ There are no dedicated cycling facilities in Kingston-upon-Thames.
- ◀ The nearest facilities include the Lee Valley Velo Park in Newham or Hillingdon Cycle Circuit located in Hillingdon.
- ◀ With no facilities provided, existing cycling demand tends to use pre-established cycling routes as well the general road network and open spaces.
- ◀ Friends of Manor Park has drawn up plans for the site that includes the provision of a path around the playing fields that could be used for recreational cycling.

Cycling - demand summary

- ◀ There are seven cycling clubs in Kingston-upon-Thames that affiliate to British Cycling, with these being Forge London, Kingston Juniors, Kingston Wheelers, New Malden Velo, Paceline RT and the Njinga Collective cycling clubs.
- ◀ Kingfisher Triathletes also participates in significant cycling activity in the Borough, regularly holding road cycling sessions.
- ◀ Kingston Juniors Cycle Club is a Go-Ride accredited club.
- ◀ There are high levels of exported demand identified, with examples including New Malden Velo, Chevaliers Cycling Club, Forge London Cycling Club and Kingfisher Triathletes using parks in Richmond-upon-Thames, and Kingston Wheelers Cycling Club using Hillingdon Cycle Circuit.
- ◀ Wheels for All promotes inclusive and adaptive cycling through a range of community engagement programmes across the Borough, utilising Weir Archer Athletics & Fitness Centre.
- ◀ No clubs express unmet or latent demand linked to facilities, with a lack of coaches instead considered to be an issue that inhibits activity.
- ◀ Most clubs express an aspiration to increase membership and British Cycling initiatives will also likely grow demand, although the nature of cycling means that most growth will take place away from these environments.

Cycling – supply and demand summary

- ◀ Whilst most cycling demand is being satisfied without dedicated provision and can continue to be catered for without the need for any action, the level of exported demand that is expressed indicates that there is demand for the sport to be better accommodated.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

PART 9: ORIENTEERING

9.1: Introduction

The British Orienteering Federation (BOF) is the NGB for the sport of orienteering in the United Kingdom. Within the structure provided, clubs in the Kingston-upon-Thames area are affiliated to both British Orienteering and the South East Orienteering Association.

The aim of orienteering is to navigate between checkpoints or controls marked on a special orienteering map, whilst in competitive orienteering, the challenge is to complete the course in the quickest time. It can take place anywhere, from streets and town centres to forests and parks.

Consultation

There is one orienteering club located in Kingston-upon-Thames called South London Orienteers. They have been consulted via telephone to inform this section of the report.

9.2: Supply

Across the UK, there are 977 permanent orienteering courses, as defined by the BOF. However, none of these are located in Kingston-upon-Thames. Nearby courses include Wimbledon Common in Merton, Richmond Park in the Richmond-upon-Thames and Horton Country Park in Epsom & Ewell.

In Kingston-upon-Thames, it has been identified by South London Orienteers that none of the open spaces and parks are currently suitable for many of its activities. The Club states that this is because it often encounters issues in obtaining permission for the use of sites for the events that it wants to run. This leads to it instead using provision within neighbouring London boroughs such as Wandsworth, Richmond-upon-Thames and Merton, noting that it has recently gained permission to use parks in Richmond-upon-Thames for some events next winter.

Notwithstanding the above, the Club does undertake some road events in Kingston-upon-Thames, particularly in Surbiton and also occasionally in New Malden. This also includes the use of some small parks in the areas.

For training sessions, the Club generally utilises the facilities at Richmond Park in Richmond-upon-Thames, with Bushy Park also previously accessed. In Kingston-upon-Thames, it has in the past used YMCA Hawker as a meeting point in order to utilise the road network around Surbiton. This is separate to its more formal orienteering activity/events.

9.3: Demand

South London Orienteers has around 100 members, with approximately 60 male and 40 female members (including a junior section). These range from complete novices to international level orienteers, although the Club notes that Covid-19 and subsequent lockdown periods had an impact on demand. This has resulted in a recent reduction in membership numbers.

Whilst its current members are based all over South London, the Club has a particular concentration of demand from Kingston-upon-Thames as well as from Richmond-upon-Thames. This is a key reason as to why it looks to hold events/sessions in the two boroughs.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

The Club currently has a focus on attracting new members and particularly juniors. It notes that orienteering is a family-oriented sport, so it is looking for people to bring children along to increase demand.

No other demand within Kingston-upon-Thames has been identified.

9.4: Supply/demand analysis and conclusion

With orienteering activity currently being limited in Kingston-upon-Thames, despite demand existing, it is clear that the sport is not being adequately catered for within the Borough. A resolution is therefore required to better accommodate South London Orienteers and its activities/events.

Orienteering – supply summary

- ◀ Across the UK, there are 977 permanent orienteering courses, as defined by the BOF; however, none of these are located in Kingston-upon-Thames.
- ◀ It has been identified by South London Orienteers that no sites in Kingston-upon-Thames are suitable for its activities, although it does undertake some events via roads, particularly in Surbiton and also occasionally in New Malden.
- ◀ The Club states that it often encounters issues in obtaining permission for the use of sites, leading to it instead using provision within neighbouring London boroughs.
- ◀ For training sessions, the Club generally utilises the facilities at Richmond Park in Richmond-upon-Thames as a meeting point, although it has in the past also used YMCA Hawker in Kingston-upon-Thames.

Orienteering – demand summary

- ◀ South London Orienteers has around 100 members, with approximately 60 male and 40 female members (including a junior section).
- ◀ There has been a recent reduction in membership numbers, primarily due to the impact of Covid-19.
- ◀ Whilst its current members are based all over South London, the Club has a particular concentration of demand from Kingston-upon-Thames as well as from Richmond-upon-Thames.
- ◀ The Club currently has a focus on attracting new members and particularly juniors.
- ◀ No other demand within Kingston-upon-Thames has been identified.

Orienteering – supply and demand summary

- ◀ With orienteering activity currently being limited in Kingston-upon-Thames, despite demand existing, it is clear that the sport is not being adequately catered for within the Borough.
- ◀ A resolution is required to better accommodate South London Orienteers and its activities/events.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

PART 10: ARCHERY

10.1: Introduction

Archery GB is the NGB for the sport of Archery in England. It is responsible for all levels of archery within the UK from grassroots to performance level. There are several disciplines of archery including target archery, indoor archery, field archery, para-archery, 3D archery, flight archery, ski archery and run archery.

Target archery, which is the discipline of shooting arrows at circular targets at a fixed distance, is the most widely known due to its inclusion on the programme of the Olympic Games, Paralympic Games and World Games. Para-archery is the discipline for athletes classified with a physical or visual impairment and follows the same rules as target archery.

Field archery is the discipline of shooting at stationary circular targets of different sizes set at varying distances, heights and angles around a course of natural terrain. 3D archery is the discipline of shooting at stationary foam targets in the shapes of different animals set at varying distances, heights and angles around a course.

Consultation

There are two affiliated archery clubs within Kingston-upon-Thames: Chessington Bowman and Malden Bowman. The former has responded to consultation requests, whilst the latter has not.

10.2: Supply

Chessington Bowman practices both target and field archery and used to primarily shoot at Kingston Rugby Football Club, where it was housed for around seven years. However, it recently lost access to the venue due to rugby club wanting to use the area for an additional pitch, with Chessington Bowman having no formal agreement for access. This has resulted in the Club instead using an outdoor shooting range at Imber Court in Elmbridge (exported demand).

The Club reports that it has suffered many issues over the years in obtaining a long-term agreement at sites due to operators wanting to re-develop. In addition to Kingston Rugby Football Club, it has previously hired sites off schools and cricket clubs but has never had security of tenure. As such, it has always been unable to apply for funding.

In addition to its outdoor activity, the Club also has access to an indoor archery facility at the King's Centre in the South of the Borough Analysis Area. Whilst this falls out of the remit of this study, it is worth noting that the Club reports that the site caters for its indoor needs.

Malden Bowman practices target archery, and the Club is situated at Kings College Sports Ground in the New & Old Malden Analysis Area. It accesses the provision every Sunday morning.

Away from the two clubs, Kingston University hosts an annual archery festival known as the Surrey Archery Weekend at its Tolworth Court Ground site. The University reports that this involves a significant line marking exercise, with 60 target areas created.

Achieving for Children operates an archery-based session in Kingston-upon-Thames as part of its work across the Borough as well as in Richmond-upon-Thames and Windsor & Maidenhead. The organisation holds an inclusive session every week at Kingsnympton Park, utilising the onsite MUGA.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Albany Outdoors provides a small archery range and offers sessions based on this.

No other sites are identified as currently providing for formal archery activity. However, it is worth noting that many playing field and park sites are likely capable of accommodating the sport if the operators are amenable to it and the demand exists. This is because no line markings are required, just large enough open space and the correct equipment.

10.3: Demand

Club demand

Chessington Bowman currently has 65 members, with 50 of these being senior members and 15 being junior members. The Club reports that its junior section is the smallest that it has been, but that it has recently begun running beginner courses in order to promote the sport to younger people. It is therefore actively looking to grow its membership base.

The Club also reports that its social side has declined since the Covid-19 pandemic. Improving this is therefore one of its focus areas.

Malden Bowman currently has only six members, making it a much smaller club.

Additional demand

In 2022, the Surrey Archery Weekend featured eight competitions across Saturday and Sunday, incorporating events for senior men, senior women and junior participants. A total of 167 competitors attended in addition to a large number of spectators. It is reported that the festival is growing in popularity, with attendees coming from across the Country, mostly representing clubs but also Archery GB at a national level.

The sessions hosted by Achieving for Children at Kingsnympton Park are for 16-25 year olds, although it is unknown how many currently attend.

Similarly, it is known that archery activity takes place at Albany Outdoors, but total demand is unclear.

10.4: Supply/demand analysis and conclusion

Given the exported demand identified by Chessington Bowman, it is clear that the sport of archery is not being adequately accommodated within Kingston-upon-Thames. A resolution to bring the Club back into the Borough should therefore be of focus.

No other issues have been identified, with Malden Bowman likely being adequately accommodated at Kings College Sports Ground due to its small membership base and with the Surrey Archery Weekend adequately accommodated at Tolworth Court Ground. No other formal archery demand has been uncovered across the Borough.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Archery – supply summary

- ◀ Chessington Bowman practices both target and field archery and used to primarily shoot at Kingston Rugby Football Club; however, it recently lost access, resulting in it now using Imber Court in Elmbridge (exported demand).
- ◀ The Club reports that it has suffered many issues over the years in obtaining a long-term agreement at sites due to the sites wanting to re-develop.
- ◀ Malden Bowman practices target archery, and the Club is situated at Kings College Sports Ground in the New & Old Malden Analysis Area.
- ◀ Kingston University hosts an annual archery festival known as the Surrey Archery Weekend at its Tolworth Court Ground site.
- ◀ Achieving for Children operates an archery-based session in Kingston-upon-Thames at Kingsnympton Park, utilising the onsite MUGA.
- ◀ Albany Outdoors provides a small archery range and offers sessions based on this.
- ◀ No other sites are identified as currently providing for archery, although many playing field sites are likely capable of accommodating the sport if the operators are amenable to it and the demand exists.

Archery – demand summary

- ◀ Chessington Bowman currently has 65 members, with 50 of these being senior members and 15 being junior members.
- ◀ The Club reports that its junior section is the smallest that it has been, whilst also noting that its social side has declined since the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ◀ Malden Bowman currently has only six members, making it a much smaller club.
- ◀ The Surrey Archery Weekend features eight competitions incorporating events for senior men, senior women and junior participants, with 167 competitors attending in 2022 from across the Country.
- ◀ The sessions hosted by Achieving for Children at Kingsnympton Park are for 16-25 year olds, although it is unknown how many currently attend.
- ◀ Similarly, it is known that archery activity takes place at Albany Outdoors, but total demand is unclear.

Archery – supply and demand summary

- ◀ Given the exported demand identified by Chessington Bowman, it is clear that the sport of archery is not being adequately accommodated within Kingston-upon-Thames.
- ◀ Malden Bowman is likely being adequately accommodated at Kings College Sports Ground due to its small membership base, whilst no other archery demand has been uncovered across the Borough.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

PART 11: PETANQUE

11.1: Introduction

Pétanque in England is governed by England Pétanque, which is a member of the World Governing Body, the Fédération Internationale de Pétanque et Jeu Provençal. The NGB splits the Country into 16 regions and identifies that there over 2,800 members of 177 clubs nationally.

Pétanque can be played on any surface, although for competition play, a marked and defined terrain is required with minimum dimensions of 15 metres by four metres (although 12 by three metres can be acceptable for lower-level play). The playing area can comprise of an indeterminate number of lanes, generally defined by strings.

Similar to bowls, the aim of pétanque is for players to play their boules/ball towards a smaller target ball (the Jack).

Consultation

A community group with an interest in establishing formal pétanque provision within Kingston-upon-Thames has been consulted with to inform this section of the report.

11.2: Supply

No formal pétanque terrains have been identified in Kingston-upon-Thames. The nearest permanent facility is provided in Elmbridge, located at Oxshott Sports Club.

From consultation, a community group report that they would like a formal boules piste to be established at Fairfield Recreation Ground. It currently uses a corner of the site for recreational play but notes that this is insufficient for competition-level. The surface becomes very muddy and can be unplayable.

Latchmere Park and Canbury Gardens have also been identified as potential sites for the creation of dedicated pétanque provision.

11.3: Demand

There are no formal pétanque clubs in Kingston-upon-Thames. However, some informal recreational demand has been identified at the abovementioned sites. If boules pistes could be established, it is suggested that demand for the sport may increase and in turn a club could form.

The nearest formal club is located in Elmbridge with Oxshott Pentaque Club running sessions on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday afternoons. Additionally, the community group in Kingston-upon-Thames identifies that Elmbridge Council has recently installed a competition standard boules piste at Hurst's Meadow and it is thought that this is likely to service some demand from Kingston-upon-Thames residents.

With recent national increases in demand for pétanque, it is considered likely that this will continue in the future; however, to what level is difficult to quantify.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Supply and demand analysis

Given the informal recreational demand identified in the Borough, provision of a formal pétanque facility (or facilities) should be explored. Demand should then be monitored to determine if further provision could be required in the future.

Pétanque – supply summary

- ◀ No formal pétanque terrains have been identified in Kingston-upon-Thames.
- ◀ A community group currently uses a corner of the site at Fairfield Recreation Ground for recreational play but notes that this is insufficient for competition-level.
- ◀ Latchmere Park and Canbury Gardens have also been identified as potential sites for the creation of dedicated pétanque provision.

Pétanque – demand summary

- ◀ There are no formal pétanque clubs identified in Kingston-upon-Thames.
- ◀ Informal recreational demand has been identified and it is reported that if dedicated provision could be established, a club could form.

Pétanque – supply and demand summary

- ◀ Given the informal recreational demand identified in the Borough, provision of a formal pétanque facility (or facilities) should be explored.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

PART 12: OUTDOOR WATER SPORTS

12.1: Introduction

Water sports in England are governed by various bodies, including:

- ◀ British Canoe Union
- ◀ British Kite Surfing Association
- ◀ British Rowing
- ◀ British Sub-Aqua Club
- ◀ British Swimming
- ◀ British Water Ski
- ◀ Royal Yachting Association
- ◀ Surfing Great Britain

The River Thames and Albany Outdoors offer numerous opportunities to participate in water sports in Kingston-upon-Thames and represent key venues across the Borough.

Consultation

There are four outdoor water sports clubs and centres identified as being based in Kingston-upon-Thames. Of these, all have responded to consultation requests, equating to a response rate of 100%. This is summarised in the table below.

12.1: Summary of club response rate for outdoor water sports

Name of club/centre	Responded?
Albany Outdoors	Yes
Kingston Rowing Club	Yes
Minima Yacht Club	Yes
Thames Sailing Club	Yes

12.2: Supply

The River Thames is a key feature throughout Kingston-upon-Thames and as such provides a large area for a wide range of water sports. Canoeing, dragon-boating, motor-boating, paddle boarding, punting, rowing, sailing and skiffing all have at least one club/centre that utilise the river for activity and some are represented by multiple providers offering competitive, recreational and learning opportunities.

The activities offered by each club in Kingston-upon-Thames are summarised in the following table. This covers canoeing, dragon boating, kayaking, motor boating, rowing, sailing and stand-up paddle boarding.

Table 12.2: Summary of club activities utilising the River Thames in Kingston-upon-Thames

Club	Sports/activities offered
Kingston Rowing Club	Rowing
Minima Yacht Club	Canoeing, kayaking, sailing
Thames Sailing Club	Motor boating, Sailing, stand up paddle boarding

In addition, Albany Outdoors provides an outdoor activity and water sports centre, also located by the River Thames. The centre provides for activities such as bell boating, canoeing, dragon boat racing, kayaking and stand-up paddle boarding.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

YMCA Hawker has a jetty that it reports a demand to begin utilising.

Quality

The quality of the provision for water sports cannot be assessed in the same way that it can be for other sports as natural spaces and features are generally used for activity where little can be done for enhancement. Instead, it is considered that the ancillary provision available to providers is of more importance in terms of the facilities offered, the quality of the facilities and the size of the space available.

Thames Sailing Club is serviced by a standard quality clubhouse; however, its boathouse is in very poor condition due to being dated, with the Club reporting that it plans on obtaining permission to refurbish the storage space and expand the area. It is the process of acquiring grants and donations from numerous sources to enable this. In addition, it has plans to invest in its changing facilities to make them more appropriate, especially for its junior members.

Kingston Rowing Club is serviced by a good quality clubhouse that includes changing facilities and a kitchen/bar area, whilst its storage areas are adequate albeit slightly dated. It reports no major issues.

Minima Yacht Club reports that its clubhouse and relevant ancillary facilities are in good condition, although it states that it would like to refurbish its kitchen and its male toilets in the near future. It has recently installed new showers and disabled changing facilities, alongside with new female toilets.

Albany Outdoors reports it has a standard quality clubhouse on site and caters for the site's needs. But its upstairs changing facilities are quite old and not fit for purpose. It states it would like to refurbish but would require investment.

Security of tenure

All clubs/centres report that they have security of tenure of their facilities, either through freehold or a long-term agreement. Thames Sailing Club owns the freehold of its provision, whilst Kingston Rowing Club and Minima Yacht Club have long-term lease agreements in place via the Council. The former has a 100-year arrangement, whilst the latter has a 50-year arrangement.

Notwithstanding the above, both Kingston Rowing Club and Minima Yacht Club report that they would potentially like to own the freehold of their premises in the future. There is a general feeling that this would make site upgrades easier.

Albany Outdoors is operated by Achieving for Children, which has a long-term lease agreement in place with the Council.

12.3: Demand

There are currently four clubs/centres in Kingston-upon-Thames providing for outdoor water sport activity. As previously referenced, these are:

- ◀ Albany Outdoors
- ◀ Kingston Rowing Club
- ◀ Minima Yacht Club
- ◀ Thames Sailing Club

All four utilise the River Thames.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Membership and usage across the clubs/centres varies, with details summarised in the table below. Where costs are included, this equates to the price of a full adult membership, although it is recognised that discounts are usually in place for younger and older participants.

Table 12.3 Summary of membership for outdoor water sport clubs/centres

Club/centre	Summary of membership
Albany Outdoors	No membership scheme in place, with pay and play usage instead offered in addition to school activity and clubs/courses.
Kingston Rowing Club	500 members, made up of approximately 250 juniors, 125 adult female and 125 adult males. Membership is available for £495 annually.
Minima Yacht Club	120 members, made up of approximately 50 adult male and 50 adult female members and the remaining 20 members forming a junior section. Membership is available for £160 annually.
Thames Sailing Club	300 members, made up of approximately 120 juniors, 99 adult male and 81 adult female members. Membership pricing is undisclosed.

As seen, across the three clubs that offer a membership scheme (Albany Outdoors does not), there are 920 members reportedly attached. There is also a good mix of adult male, adult female and junior members, showing that outdoor water sports are accessible to and attract a broad spectrum of users.

Kingston Regatta

The Kingston Regatta is an annual rowing event held over two days along the River Thames and on water space serving Kingston-upon-Thames. Over 300 races are included each year, with crews from across the region and from further afield participating, including several from Kingston Rowing Club and local schools.

School activity

A number of schools in Kingston-upon-Thames participate in water sport activity. As an example, Kingston Grammar School, Surbiton High School and Tiffin School all have boat houses next to the River Thames and have crews participating in the abovementioned Kingston Regatta. Other schools participate via a partnership with Albany Outdoors, or through booking the centre.

Unmet/latent demand

The majority of clubs/centres report that they are open to new members and have the capacity to accommodate any increases in demand. However, this does not apply to Kingston Rowing Club, which states that it does not currently have the capacity to expand. It states that this is primarily due to it being the only rowing club in the Borough, meaning it has to accommodate all demand.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Exported/imported demand

The location of Kingston-upon-Thames along the River Thames likely means that a substantial level of imported demand is received at the clubs and centres, particularly from other London boroughs and other nearby authorities that are not serviced by the same level of water space.

Conversely, a large amount of exported demand is also likely due to the close proximity of other clubs and centres. For example, Richmond-upon-Thames has access to a larger amount of water space and has 20 outdoor water sport clubs/centres covering a wider range of activities. This includes several rowing clubs that are capable of accommodating demand that Kingston Rowing Club reports that it cannot.

Future demand

Three of the four clubs/centres in Kingston-upon-Thames express an aspiration to increase their usage in the future. Albany Outdoors, Minima Yacht Club and Thames Sailing Club are always looking to attract new demand and all three suggest that they can accommodate their aspirations within the provision that is currently available to them.

In addition, the three clubs in the Borough (discounting Albany Outdoors) state that there is always a need to attract new members, in addition to growth aspirations, primarily to replace members that are leaving or that become of an age whereby they can no longer participate. As such, new members do not always equate to an overall growth, but rather contribute to the status quo being maintained.

As an example of the above, Minima Yacht Club notes that it will soon need to replace its committee members who are ageing. As such, it wants to focus on attracting younger by promoting and marketing the Club through the correct channels and via re-designing its website and social media pages.

Kingston Rowing Club does not report any future growth aspirations, however, this is linked to its aforementioned capacity issues.

Elsewhere, YMCA Hawker reports that it is interested in hosting water sport activity, potentially through a partnership with Albany Outdoors.

Kingfisher Triathletes

As a triathlon club, Kingfisher Triathletes undertakes significant swimming activity that could necessitate the need for outdoor water access in the Borough. However, all of its currently demand takes place either via an indoor facility or outside of Kingston-upon-Thames. It utilises Xcel Leisure Centre, in Elmbridge, for indoor sessions, whilst using Hampton Open Pool in Richmond-upon-Thames for outdoor activity. It expresses no requirement for such provision within Kingston-upon-Thames.

12.4: Supply/demand analysis and conclusion

Kingston-upon-Thames is well provided for when it comes to outdoor water sport facilities given its location along the River Thames. This enables the Borough to cater for a range of activities, which it does so via the four clubs and centres identified. Furthermore, whilst there are some water sports not being accommodated and some capacity issues, neighbouring borough Richmond-upon-Thames has a substantial number of clubs and more river space which can supply any demand not being otherwise met.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

To ensure that demand can continue to be met, some clubs report issues with ancillary facility quality which should be overcome. Furthermore, cross-boundary working with Richmond-upon-Thames may be required to ensure that all relevant activities and all demand can continue to be met across the two boroughs (as well as any other relevant, nearby authorities).

Outdoor water sports – supply summary

- ◀ The River Thames is a key feature throughout Kingston-upon-Thames and as such provides a large area for a wide range of water sports.
- ◀ Activities offered in the Borough includes bell boating, canoeing, dragon boating, kayaking, motor boating, rowing, sailing and stand-up paddle boarding.
- ◀ Thames Sailing Club reports that its boathouse is in poor condition, whilst it also has an aspiration to invest in its changing rooms.
- ◀ Minima Yacht Club reports that its clubhouse and relevant ancillary facilities are in good condition, although it states that it would like to refurbish its kitchen and its male toilets.
- ◀ No ancillary facility issues are identified at Minima Yacht Club and Albany Outdoors.
- ◀ All clubs/centres have security of tenure of their facilities, either through freehold or a long-term agreement, although both Kingston Rowing Club and Minima Yacht Club report that they would like to own the freehold of their premises (they currently lease).
- ◀ YMCA Hawker has a jetty that it reports a demand to begin utilising.

Outdoor water sports – demand summary

- ◀ There are currently four water sport clubs/centres in Kingston-upon-Thames, all of which use the River Thames (Albany Outdoors, Kingston Rowing Club, Minima Yacht Club and Thames Sailing Club).
- ◀ Albany Outdoors does not offer a membership scheme and is instead available for pay and play activity as well as school activity, clubs and courses.
- ◀ The remaining three clubs all have a relatively high membership, collectively amounting to 920 members and with a good mix of adult males, adult females and juniors.
- ◀ Kingston Rowing Club states that it does not currently have the capacity to expand, primarily due to it being the only rowing club in the Borough, meaning it has to accommodate all demand.
- ◀ Albany Outdoors, Minima Yacht Club and Thames Sailing Club report no capacity issues and state that they are all looking to grow demand in the future.
- ◀ The location of the Borough along the River Thames likely means that a substantial level of imported demand is received; however, exported demand is also going to be high due to the level of water space available and the number of clubs/centres in Richmond-upon-Thames.
- ◀ Kingfisher Triathletes has no demand for regular access to outdoor water space within the Borough.

Outdoor water sports – supply and demand summary

- ◀ Kingston-upon-Thames is well provided for when it comes to outdoor water sport facilities given its location, enabling the Borough to cater for a range of activities, which it does so via the four clubs and centres identified.
- ◀ Whilst there are some water sports not being accommodated and some capacity issues, neighbouring borough Richmond-upon-Thames has a substantial number of clubs and more river space which can supply any demand not being otherwise met.
- ◀ To ensure that demand can continue to be met, some clubs report issues with ancillary facility quality which should be overcome, and cross-boundary working with Richmond-upon-Thames may be required.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

PART 13: RECREATIONAL SPACES

This section of the report focuses on other facilities in Kingston-upon-Thames that are provided for and/or commonly used for outdoor sport and recreation purposes and that are not featured in the previous sections. Supply and demand information is identified for each included facility type before an overall supply and demand analysis.

13.1: Multi use games areas

Multi use games areas (MUGAs) are a reference to any sport or games areas which are often used for social and recreational sport in the community. They are generally enclosed (although not always) and categorised into five typologies, as seen in the table below.

Table 13.1: Types of MUGAs

Type	Surface	Characteristics	Preferred sport/s
Type One	Open textured porous macadam	Used for ball rebound sports and suitable for wheelchair sports.	Tennis, netball, basketball
Type Two	Open textured porous macadam		
Type Three	Polymeric surface over macadam base		
Type Four	Polymeric surface over macadam base	Greater shock absorbency and lower surface friction than types one, two and three.	Football (recreational), basketball
Type Five	Sand/water based or third generation turf (3G)	Artificial surface installed over a shock pad and either heavily doused with water before play or filled or dressed with sand or rubber crumb.	Hockey, football, American football, lacrosse and rugby (union and league).

Type one, two, three and four MUGAs are included within this section of the report, unless they are solely marked out for tennis and/or netball, where they are instead covered in Part 2: Tennis and/or Part 3: Netball. Type five MUGAs are not included as they are instead covered in relevant sections of the PPS Assessment Report which is being produced alongside this document.

Supply

Across Kingston-upon-Thames, 11 sites have been identified as providing MUGAs that conform with the requirements for being included in this section of the report, as detailed below. Each site provides one.

Table 13.2: Summary of MUGA provision

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	No. of courts	Surface type	Sports lighting	Sports marked
5	Canbury Gardens	KT2 5UL	Kingston & North Kingston	1	Type Four	No	Netball, football, basketball
10	Churchfields Recreation Ground	KT9 2LA	South of the Borough	1	Type One/Two	No	Football, basketball

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	No. of courts	Surface type	Sports lighting	Sports marked
21	King Edward's Recreation Ground	KT9 1DW	South of the Borough	1	Type One/Two	No	Football, basketball
61	Dickerage Lane Sport & Community Centre	KT1 3RU	New & Old Malden	1	Type One/Two	Yes	Football, basketball
66	Elm Road Recreation Ground	KT2 6HR	Kingston & North Kingston	1	Type One/Two	No	Football, basketball
67	Woodgate Avenue Playground	KT9 2QH	South of the Borough	1	Type One/Two	No	Netball, basketball
71	Cambridge Road Estate (Burritt Road)	KT1 3HW	Kingston & North Kingston	1	Type One/Two	No	Football, basketball
77	Alpha Road Estate	KT5 8SL	Surbiton	1	Type One/Two	No	Football, basketball
78	School Lane	KT6 7SA	Surbiton	1	Type One/Two	Yes	Football, basketball
79	Bramley House (Kingsnympton Park)	KT2 7TS	Kingston & North Kingston	1	Type One/Two	Yes	Football, basketball
80	Dale Court Playground	KT2 6HP	Kingston & North Kingston	1	Type One/Two	No	Football, basketball

As seen, five MUGAs are located in the Kingston & North Kingston Analysis Area, with three in the South of the Borough Analysis Area and two in the Surbiton Analysis Area. Only one is identified in the New & Old Malden Analysis Area.

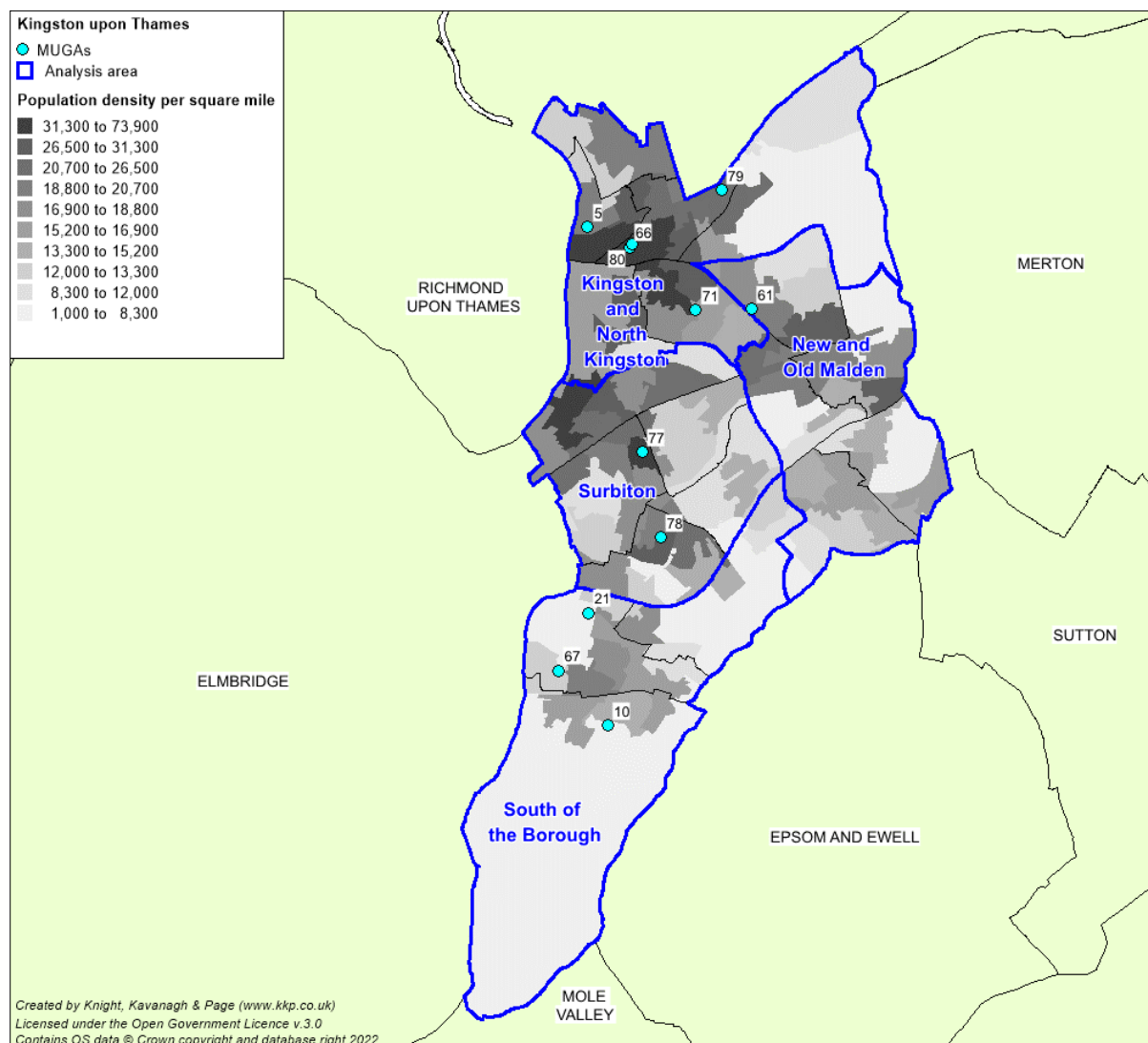
Table 13.3: Summary of MUGAs in Kingston-upon-Thames

Analysis area	Number of sites with MUGAs
Kingston & North Kingston	5
New & Old Malden	1
South of the Borough	3
Surbiton	2
Total	11

The map overleaf shows the location of the MUGAs identified.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Figure 13.1: MUGA supply



Future developments

The Football Foundation, using investment from the Premier League, the FA and the Government via Sport England has released a new capital investment programme called the PlayZones Programme. This aims to engage with local communities across the Country to create outstanding sports and activity spaces with a focus on tackling inequalities in participation. The priority groups for the funding are:

- ◀ Lower socio-economic groups
- ◀ Women and girls
- ◀ Disabled people with people with long term health conditions
- ◀ Ethnically diverse communities

Despite the investment being football-led, the Football Foundation wants other sports to benefit, including basketball, netball, rugby, hockey and cricket. The aim is therefore to deliver new or refurbished outdoor areas designed for multiple activities that will allow the priority groups to be more active. As such, whilst the facilities provided will likely be classified as MUGAs, they will be innovative in design and created bespoke to the areas in which they will be located.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

In total, the Football Foundation aims to deliver 330 PlayZones across the Country by 2025 via a phased approach over the next three years. Linked to this, in Kingston-upon-Thames, the Council is currently seeking to progress with an application to develop Playzone facilities, with an aim to establish a number of innovative areas through the programme. The following sites have been identified, at this stage, for potential development:

- ◀ Athlestan Recreation Ground
- ◀ Cambridge Road Estate
- ◀ Dickerage Lane Sport & Community Centre

Furthermore, in the Kingston-upon-Thames Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP), the following sites are identified for MUGA developments and could therefore also be considered:

- ◀ Kingston Road Recreation Ground
- ◀ Latchmere Park
- ◀ YMCA Hawker

Insight and findings from this study should be used to guide and progress the application process. However, additional work will also be required, most pertinently relating to further community consultation. The Football Foundation notes that community engagement is at the heart of the programme and is critical to successful delivery, with facilities to be designed around the unique needs identified. It has learnt that the best community sport and physical activity spaces are designed and delivered in partnership with local people; communities are more likely to use facilities if they have been included within their planning and development.

Management

Of the existing MUGA's across Kingston-upon-Thames, the large majority are managed and maintained as part of the Council's facility portfolio. As a result, they are all available as open access meaning that they do not need to be booked or hired.

An exception to the above is the provision at Dickerage Lane Sport & Community Centre. This is instead operated by Achieving for Children.

Quality

The quality of MUGAs across Kingston-upon-Thames has been assessed via a combination of site visits, undertaken in November 2022, using non-technical assessments to apply quality ratings as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

In summary, two MUGAs are assessed as good quality, six as standard quality and three as poor quality. This is summarised site-by-site below.

Table 13.4: Site-by-site MUGA quality in Kingston-upon-Thames

Site ID	Site	Quality
5	Canbury Gardens	Good
10	Churchfields Recreation Ground	Standard
21	King Edward's Recreation Ground	Poor
53	Tolworth Junior School	Standard

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site	Quality
61	Dickerage Lane Sport & Community Centre	Good
66	Elm Road Recreation Ground	Standard
67	Woodgate Avenue Playground	Standard
71	Cambridge Road Estate (Burrirt Road)	Poor
77	Alpha Road Estate	Standard
78	School Lane	Standard
79	Bramley House (Kingsnympton Park)	Standard
80	Dale Court Playground	Poor

The poor quality MUGAs are identified at Cambridge Road Estate (Burrirt Road), Dale Court Playground and King Edward's Recreation Ground. At all three sites, the surface and line markings are visibly worn, whilst litter and leaf fall is also prevalent. The quality at King Edward's Recreation Ground is particularly inadequate, with only mesh fencing provided behind the goal mouths and with one of the other sides bordered only by overhanging trees and bushes.

In contrast, the good quality MUGAs are located at Canbury Garden's and Dickerage Lane Sport & Community Centre. These both have surfaces that are clearly marked and with little sign of wear and tear present.

The lack of good quality ratings is in part due to the open access nature of the provision, with vandalism reportedly high across the sites. This is especially at the locations where the provision is more isolated such as at Churchfields Recreation Ground.

Sports lighting

The presence of sports lighting is considered to encourage more MUGA-based demand as it enables evening usage all year round. However, it is also acknowledged that it can encourage higher levels unofficial use, which can result in increased anti-social behaviour, vandalism and littering. It is therefore only considered suitable in areas that are more secure.

In Kingston-upon-Thames, only the MUGAs at Bramley House (Kingsnympton Park), Dickerage Lane Sport & Community Centre and School Lane are serviced by sports lighting.

Demand

Given the open access nature of the MUGAs provided within Kingston-upon-Thames, little usage is recorded, which means that demand levels are unknown. However, anecdotal evidence suggests that the majority of the provision is relatively well used, especially during summer months and predominately for recreational/informal football. Little usage is noted at King Edward's Recreation Ground although this is likely to be a consequence of its poor quality.

Most of the MUGAs share sites with other sport and recreational provision, including playing fields, play areas, outdoor gyms and skate parks, which can generally result in higher levels of usage. This particularly relates to provision at sites such as Canbury Gardens and Dickerage Lane Sport & Community Centre. The latter is also utilised by the Fulham FC Foundation for its Premier League Kicks programme.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Furthermore, the MUGA at Canbury Gardens is serviced by ancillary facilities including an onsite café and toilets which can again encourage usage, whilst others are located near youth/community centres and/or charities. Nationally, this can result in increased demand via partnership working if activities are undertaken by the organisations that can be accommodated via a MUGA and if a relationship is forged. Examples of this in Kingston-upon-Thames could include the MUGAs at Bramley House (located next to Kingsnympton Youth & Community Centre), School Lane (located adjacent to Tolworth Children's Centre) and Elm Road Recreation Ground (located near to Kingston Muslim Association).

MUGAs that are not accompanied by a significant number of other facility types are predominately located within large housing estates, which provides natural demand away from the park and recreation ground setting. This includes the MUGAs at Alpha Road Estate, Cambridge Road Estate (Burritt Road), Dale Court Playground and Woodgate Avenue Playground.

13.2: Basketball

Basketball England is the NGB for all basketball in England. Whilst competitive basketball is predominately played indoors, outdoor basketball is a popular recreational activity often played on dedicated courts and MUGAs. Courts come in a range of sizes including full size courts, half size courts and shooting areas (an area with hoops but no markings).

Furthermore, a small sided competitive outdoor format known as 3X3 is one of the fastest growing sports in the world. Whilst traditional basketball requires full court markings and two hoops, 3X3 only requires one hoop and is played by six players (three one each side) rather than 10. The official court size is 15 meters in width and 11 metres in length.

3X3 featured in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games. Competitions nationally are organised by Ball Out UK.

Supply

All MUGAs identified in Part: 12.1 of this report are able to accommodate basketball, with each providing suitable line markings for full court activity and two hoops. As such, all the of the supply and demand information evidenced is also applicable to this part of the report.

In addition, four additional basketball spaces have also been identified, with these being at Alexandra Recreation Ground, Blagdon Road, Dickerage Lane Adventure Playground and Cumberland House. At Dickerage Lane Sport & Community Centre, a dedicated basketball court is provided in addition to the onsite MUGA.

At Alexandra Recreation Ground, two full basketball courts are provided in addition to a separate smaller court, although this is without posts. Quality at the site is poor, with significant wear and tear identified in addition to faded line markings and the presence of leaf fall and litter.

At Blagdon Road, basketball hoops are in place on an otherwise unmarked macadam area, whilst at Cumberland House a shooting area is provided.

The location of all provision suitable for basketball (including MUGAs) can be seen in the figure below, with a key to the map shown in Table 13.4.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Figure 13.2: Location of basketball suitable provision

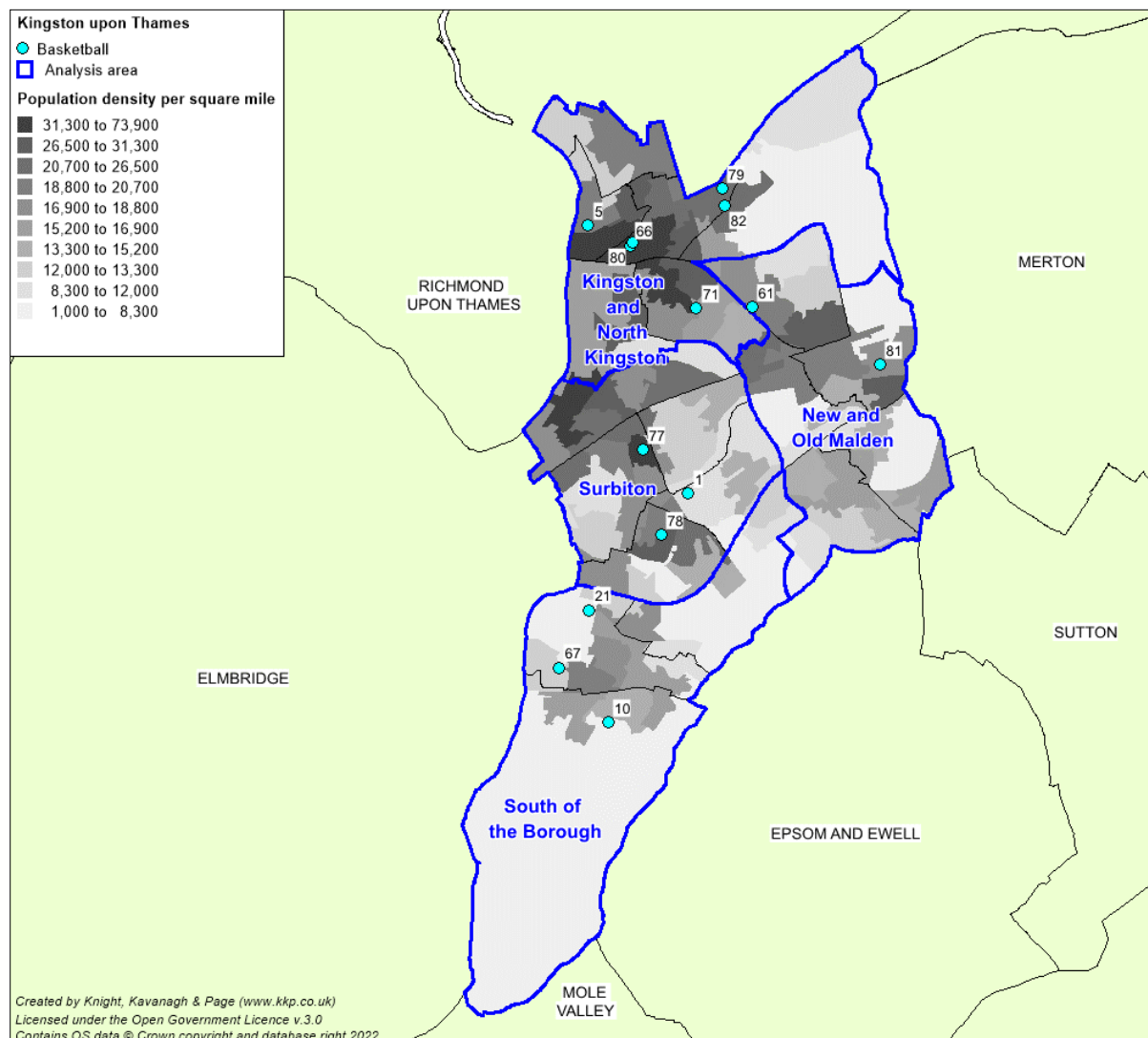


Table 13.5: Summary of basketball suitable provision

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	No. of courts	Court type
1	Alexandra Recreation Ground	KT5 9AA	Surbiton	3	Full
5	Canbury Gardens	KT2 5UL	Kingston & North Kingston	1	Full
10	Churchfields Recreation Ground	KT9 2LA	South of the Borough	1	Full
21	King Edward's Recreation Ground	KT9 1DW	South of the Borough	1	Full
61	Dickerage Lane Sport & Community Centre	KT1 3RU	New & Old Malden	2	Full
66	Elm Road Recreation Ground	KT2 6HR	Kingston & North Kingston	1	Full
67	Woodgate Avenue Playground	KT9 2QH	South of the Borough	1	Full
71	Cambridge Road Estate (Burritt Road)	KT1 3HW	Kingston & North Kingston	1	Full
77	Alpha Road Estate	KT5 8SL	Surbiton	1	Full

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	No. of courts	Court type
78	School Lane	KT6 7SA	Surbiton	1	Full
79	Bramley House (Kingsnympton Park)	KT2 7TS	Kingston & North Kingston	1	Full
80	Dale Court Playground	KT2 6HP	Kingston & North Kingston	1	Full
81	Blagdon Road	KT3 4TA	New & Old Malden	1	Full
82	Cumberland House	KT2 7NP	Kingston & North Kingston	1	Shooting

Demand

As detailed with MUGAs, demand for outdoor basketball activity is difficult to track as usage is not recorded due to the open access nature of the provision. In addition, as most courts are dual use, many if not all of the facilities are also used for other sports, predominately football. It is only provision at Alexandra Recreation Ground, Blagdon Road and Dickerage Lane Sport & Community Centre that does not provide line markings or goals/posts for other activities.

Away from casual access, Achieving for Children operates some basketball-based sessions in Kingston-upon-Thames as part of its work across the Borough as well as in Richmond-upon-Thames and Windsor & Maidenhead. It does this via the MUGA at Bramley House (Kingsnympton Park) in addition to also utilising the provision for other sports such as football and tennis.

3X3

Ball Out UK reports that demand for outdoor basketball is extensive, with courts (including MUGAs with hoops) regularly in use throughout the summer months, especially in London and other major cities. Nationally, courts in parks are identified as being particularly popular via use from community groups as well as groups of individuals all year round. It also states that facilities suitable for recreational basketball can be a pathway to users playing at a larger scale at 3X3 events.

The organisation also reports that a good quality and visibly appealing court is ideal for attracting demand, especially if it can be dedicated to basketball and promoted/marketed as such. As there are currently no such venues within Kingston-upon-Thames, as all courts are multi-use and/or have quality issues, this may therefore be limiting activity and the development of the sport. Whilst it is recognised that most supply will require alternative use options, potential basketball users can be reluctant to access provision if it is known that they will be competing with other activities for access.

For high level play, Ball Out UK states that an ideal venue for tournaments is six half courts, or the equivalent of three full size courts, in addition to access to toilets. It identifies examples at Ducketts Common, in Haringey, and Finsbury Park, in Islington, the latter of which is used for its national 3X3 championship finals. However, its priority is currently on securing competitive venues in other areas of the Country, meaning Kingston-upon-Thames is not currently a focus area in this regard.

Notwithstanding the above, anecdotal evidence in Kingston-upon-Thames suggests that demand for traditional basketball provision is higher than the 3X3 format.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

13.3: Skateparks

Skateboarding is an action sport which involves riding and performing tricks using a skateboard. Since the 1970s, skate parks have been constructed specifically for use for skateboarding as well as other action sports such as freestyle BMX, aggressive skating and, more recently, scooters.

The sport is governed nationally by Skateboard GB, which is a membership organisation with recognised NGB status. Its principal function is to provide support for individual skaters, clubs and skate schools and to provide structure and guidelines to ensure that skating is being practiced in a safe and fun environment.

Skateboarding made its Olympic debut at the 2020 Tokyo Games which has helped to significantly boost the profile of the sport. Skateboard GB secured UK Sport funding to aid its participation in this and has secured further funding for the upcoming 2024 Paris Olympics following its success.

Skateboard GB's other key roles are to:

- ◆ Support and improve performance to enable skaters to remain internationally competitive.
- ◆ To raise money and allocate funds.
- ◆ To inform and educate.
- ◆ To provide greater accessibility to the sport.

In October 2021, it launched its Strategic Plan (2021-2033) with a vision that by 2033 it “will celebrate and champion everything that is positive about skateboarding heritage and culture and work with the skateboarding community to develop more opportunities and better environments to skate”. Moreover, it states that it will “inspire future generations of skateboarders as a result of success on the world stage”.

Supply

There are approximately 1,700 skateparks in the UK, although the flexible nature of activity means that there are also thousands of street and informal spots catering for demand.

In Kingston-upon-Thames, there are two formal skatepark facilities currently provided. One at Dickerage Lane Sport & Community Centre is located in the New & Old Malden Analysis Area and the other at Tolworth Skatepark Bowl is located in the South of the Borough Analysis Area. The means that they are well distributed of, with both relatively centrally located but with one towards the north and one towards the south.

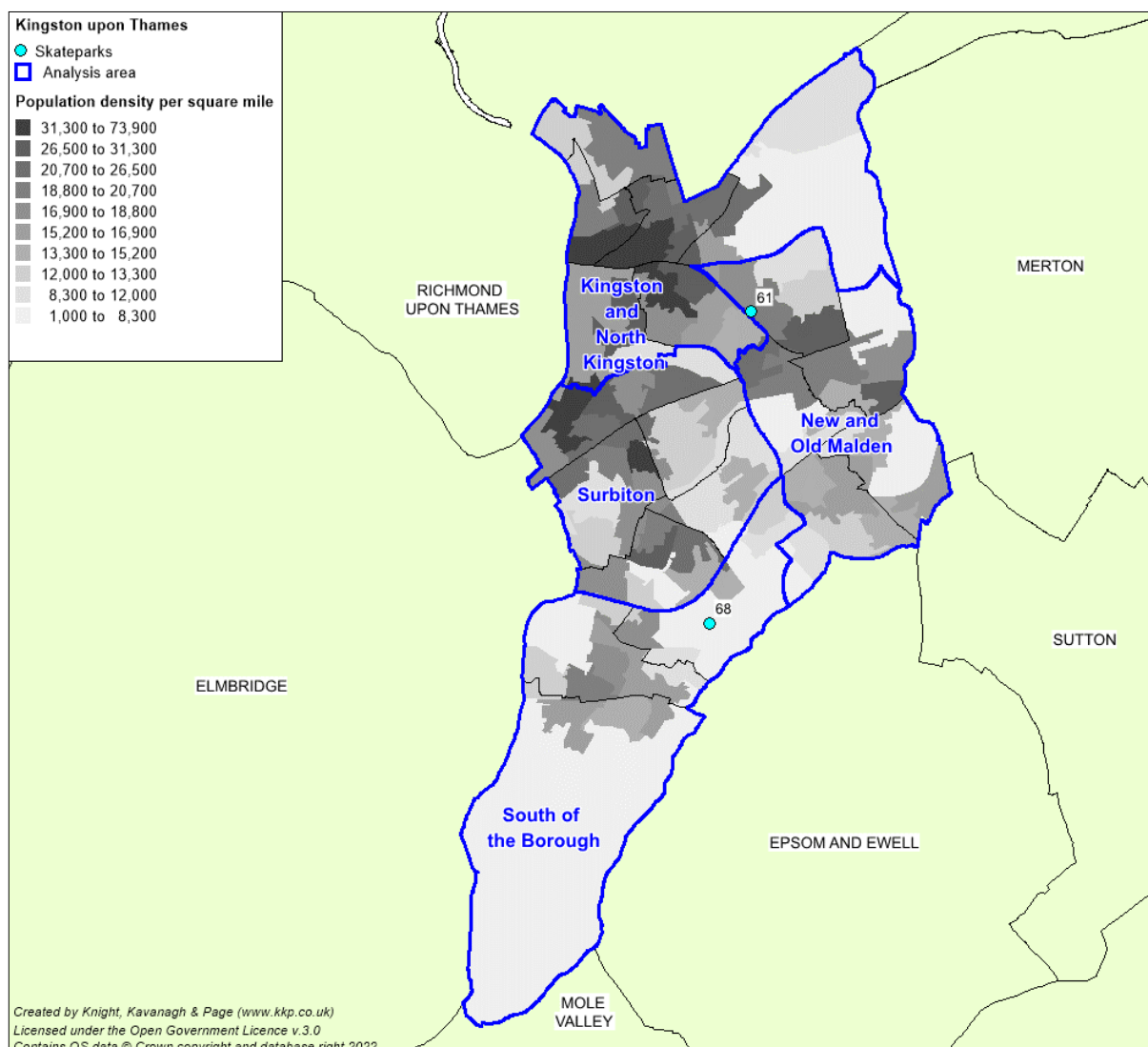
Table 13.6: Summary of skatepark provision

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Management
61	Dickerage Lane Sport & Community Centre	KT1 3RU	New & Old Malden	Community
68	Tolworth Skatepark Bowl	KT5 9PB	South of the Borough	Council

The location of the skateparks can be seen in Figure 13.3, overleaf.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Figure 13.3: Location of skatepark provision



The provision at Tolworth Skatepark Bowl is a concrete bowl consisting of two depths at four foot and six foot. The shallower bowl is longer and thinner with a rounded bottom and pool coping around the edge, whilst the deeper section is larger but with a flat bottom and metal coping all around it. There are also bumps and lines to pump along.

At Dickerage Lane Sport & Community Centre, the provision is made up of skatelite ramps on a concrete base. It features a small bowl, mini ramp, driveway and flat bank.

Management

The skatepark at Dickerage Lane Sport & Community Centre is operated by Achieving for Children, whilst the skatepark at Tolworth Skatepark Bowl is a council facility.

Quality

The provision at Dickerage Lane Sport & Community Centre is assessed as good quality, with no notable issues identified following refurbishment in 2020.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

The facilities at Tolworth Skatepark Bowl were established in 2008 and are assessed as standard quality. Some level of wear and tear and refurbishment will likely be required in the near future to prevent further deterioration.

Skateboard GB identified that the overall quality of skateparks nationally is generally poor, with the large majority being owned by local authorities and receiving little maintenance.

Future supply

In its Strategic Plan, Skateboard GB highlights an aspiration for sufficient accessible indoor and outdoor safe skateable spaces to meet the needs of the whole skateboarding community. As part of this, it has an aspiration to achieve the following space objectives by 2025:

- ◀ Support the provision of skateable spaces.
- ◀ Build insight and a strategic plan that reflects current skateboarding spaces, need and gaps and supports the provision of inclusive shareable skateable spaces in urban areas.
- ◀ Develop and build a National Centre to support grassroots and elite skateboarding and which can deliver national and international events.
- ◀ Contribute to the funding of skateable spaces.

SBGB estimates that as of 2021 there are approximately 750,000 skaters in the UK, this is based on equipment sales over a 12-month period and thus, is likely to be an under-estimate. A physical place to skate is a fundamental need for skateboarders, whether at home, in the street or at a skatepark. SBGB reports that there are insufficient indoor skateparks of a size and standard to support the talent pathway and world class performance programme.

Demand

Levels of demand for the skateparks in Kingston-upon-Thames is unknown, particularly at Tolworth Skatepark Bowl where there is open access, meaning that usage is unmonitored.

No formal sessions relating to the skatepark at Dickerage Lane Sport & Community Centre are currently hosted. Instead, the provision can be accessed for free from 09:00 until 17:00 on Mondays, from 10:00 until 17:00 on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 10:00 until 19:00 on Wednesdays and from 10:00 until 18:00 on Saturdays and Sundays.

Nationally, Skateboard GB reports that access to skatepark facilities particularly appeals to young males, with circa 95% of demand coming from those in the 14-30 age bracket. It is therefore important to note that skateboarding does not fit the traditional membership sports organisation model, with participants instead being individuals who want control and flexibility over their activities rather than structure and rules to follow.

13.4: Outdoor gyms

Similar to interior gyms found in leisure centres, outdoor gyms can be found in public spaces providing users with a selection of equipment that they can use to exercise for free. The types of equipment found at these sites often consists of a mixture of cardiovascular and strength-based equipment designed for ease of use and most potential users.

Supply

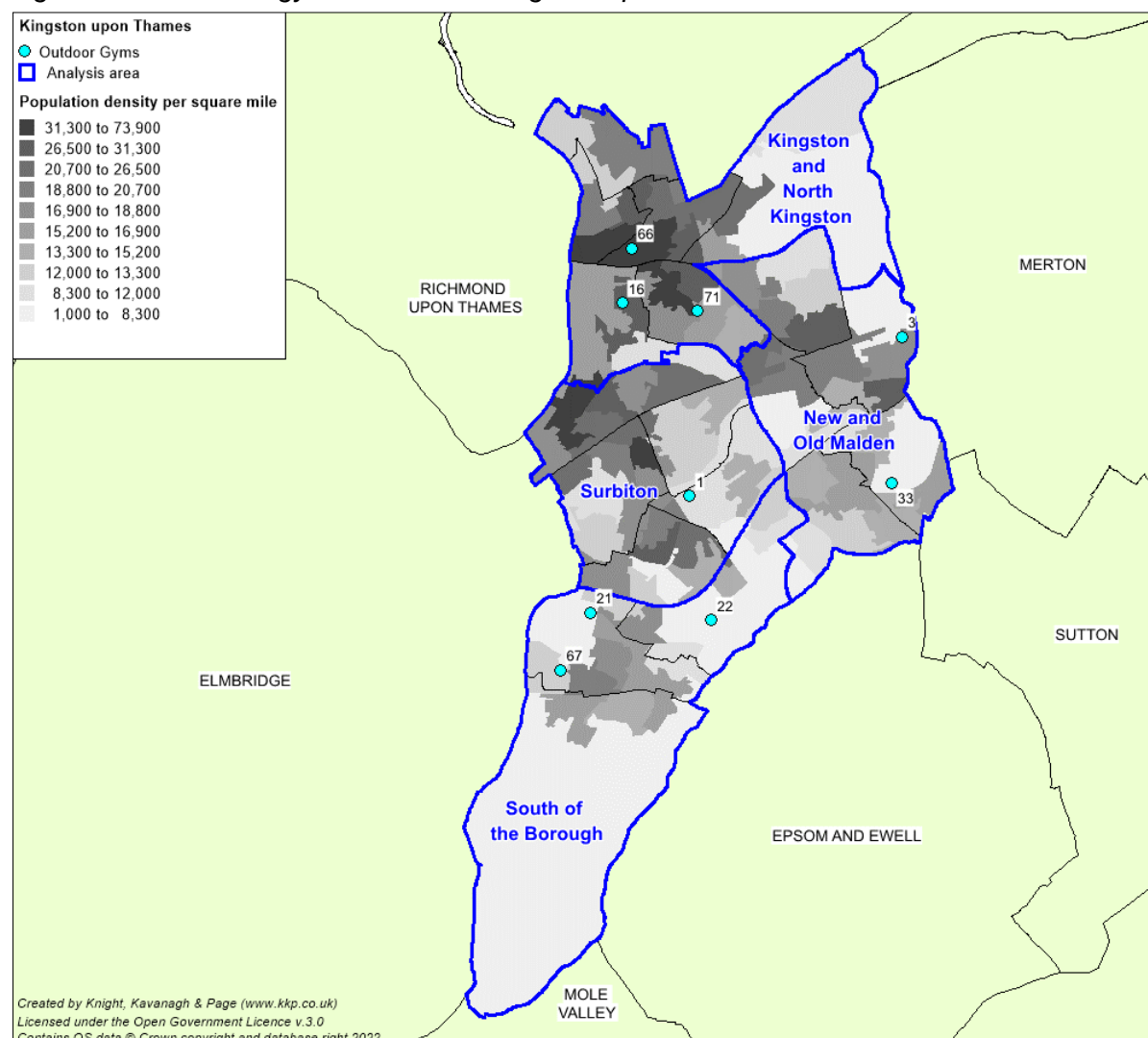
In total, 10 outdoor gym facilities are currently identified across Kingston-upon-Thames. The Kingston & North Kingston Analysis Area has the most provision with five, whilst the Surbiton Analysis Area has the fewest with one. All 10 are managed by the Council.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 13.7: Summary of outdoor gyms in Kingston-upon-Thames

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	Ownership
1	Alexandra Recreation Ground	KT5 9BE	Surbiton	Council
3	Beverley Park	KT3 4LL	New & Old Malden	Council
5	Canbury Gardens	KT2 5UL	Kingston & North Kingston	Council
16	Fairfield Recreation Ground	KT1 2PY	Kingston & North Kingston	Council
21	King Edwards Recreation Ground	KT9 1DW	South of the Borough	Council
22	King George's Field	KT9 1TR	South of the Borough	Council
66	Elm Road Recreation Ground	KT2 6HR	Kingston & North Kingston	Council
67	Woodgate Avenue Playground	KT9 2QH	South of the Borough	Council
70	Athelstan Recreation Ground	KT1 3BA	Kingston & North Kingston	Council
71	Cambridge Road Estate (Burritt Road)	KT1 3HW	Kingston & North Kingston	Council

Figure 13.4: Outdoor gym locations in Kingston-upon-Thames



LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Additional provision

In addition to the provision referenced above, Southborough High School also supplies some outdoor gym equipment at its main site. However, this is reserved for use by students and is therefore discounted from this study as it does not service wider community demand.

Future provision

An outdoor gym was previously provided at Manor Park; however, this was removed in June 2022 to facilitate the creation of a new playground. It will be reinstated in 2023 with new, state-of-the-art provision.

A new outdoor gym will be provided at Kingston Road Recreation Ground in 2023.

Quality

The majority of the outdoor gyms are considered to be good quality as most are relatively new having been installed or refurbished in recent years. The provision at Cambridge Road Estate (Burritt Road) is the oldest having been established in 2013.

Table 13.8: Quality of outdoor gym

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Year installed/refurbished	Quality
1	Alexandra Recreation Ground	Surbiton	2017	Good
3	Beverley Park	New & Old Malden	2020	Good
5	Canbury Gardens	Kingston & North Kingston	2018	Good
16	Fairfield Recreation Ground	Kingston & North Kingston	2018	Good
21	King Edwards Recreation Ground	South of the Borough	2019	Good
22	King George's Field	South of the Borough	2020	Good
66	Elm Road Recreation Ground	Kingston & North Kingston	2018	Good
67	Woodgate Avenue Playground	South of the Borough	2018	Good
70	Athelstan Recreation Ground	Kingston & North Kingston	2020	Good
71	Cambridge Road Estate (Burritt Road)	Kingston & North Kingston	2013	Standard

Demand

Due to the open access nature of all the outdoor gym supply, no usage information is known. Some are likely to be more popular than others, whilst some equipment is likely to be more well used than others. However, there is currently no feasible way of tracking this.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

13.5: Supply and demand analysis

Fields in Trust (FiT) recommends that there should be 0.30 hectares of “other outdoor provision” including MUGAs and skateparks for every 1,000 people within a local authority⁶. Based on Kingston-upon-Thames’ current population of 188,071, this means that there should be 56.4 hectares of such space within the Borough.

Totalling together the hectareage of all provision identified within the section of this report, there are currently 1.3 hectares provided. As such, whilst it is recognised that urban areas are more likely to experience provision deficits, particularly in cities and in London, it is clear that there are shortfalls to overcome, although other MUGA typologies also need to be factored in.

FiT also recommends that “other outdoor provision” should exist within 700 metres walking distance of all dwellings. Catchment mapping around existing facilities can therefore be used to identify specifically where shortfalls are most prevalent. This can also be used to examine suitable sites where provision can be established, such as at parks, recreation grounds, playing fields and other open space areas.

Looking at the included typologies separately, there are clear issues with the quality of the current supply of MUGAs, with only two good quality facilities identified. Furthermore, minimal provision is found particularly in the New & Old Malden Analysis Area. To that end, there is a potential opportunity to improve the quantity and quality of provision and to create bespoke, innovative facilities through the Football Foundation’s PlayZone programme.

For basketball, there is a greater level of supply given that the MUGAs can also be used; however, as with MUGAs, qualitative improvements to the existing supply would also be beneficial.

The catchment area for skateparks is considered to be wider as they are generally more unique facilities. Furthermore, with the distribution of the existing two facilities, it is considered that they can cater for a significant proportion of the Borough.

For outdoor gyms, with no demand information available, it is difficult to determine the need for more facilities. The spatial distribution of existing provision is more even and quality is higher, although there are areas particularly in the Surbiton Analysis Area that are likely to be unprovided for.

⁶ Other typologies are “all outdoor sports”, “playing pitches” and “equipped play areas”, meaning such provision is considered separate to the calculations.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Recreational spaces - supply summary

- ◀ Across Kingston-upon-Thames, there are 11 sites providing MUGAs.
- ◀ The Football Foundation has developed a PlayZones programme to create sports and activity spaces across the Country, with a focus on tackling participation inequality.
- ◀ Two MUGAs are assessed as good quality, six as standard and three as poor, whilst only three are serviced by sports lighting.
- ◀ All MUGAs are able to accommodate basketball, whilst four additional spaces have also been identified.
- ◀ There are two skateparks; one at Dickerage Lane Sport & Community Centre and one at Tolworth Skatepark Bowl.
- ◀ 10 outdoor gym facilities are identified, with quality good at nine sites and standard at one site.
- ◀ In 2023, an outdoor gym is to be re-establish at Manor Park, whilst new provision will be installed at Kingston Road Recreation Ground.

Recreational spaces - demand summary

- ◀ Demand data for use of recreational spaces is not tracked due to the open access nature of the facilities.
- ◀ Anecdotal evidence suggests that the majority of the MUGAs are relatively well used, especially during summer months and predominately for recreational/informal football.
- ◀ Ball Out UK, which organises 3X3 basketball, notes that good quality, visibly appealing courts help attract demand, whilst for high level play, six half or three full courts are needed, although anecdotal evidence indicates that demand for traditional basketball is higher in the Borough.
- ◀ Use of outdoor gyms is particularly unclear.

Recreational spaces – supply and demand summary

- ◀ Based on FiT guidance, there is a significant shortfall of relevant provision in Kingston-upon-Thames, with 56.4 hectares required based on the Borough's current population.
- ◀ Using 700-metre radius catchment mapping, areas without suitable facilities are identifiable.
- ◀ There is a clear MUGA deficiency in the New & Old Malden Analysis Area, whilst an increase in facilities and quality improvements could help drive basketball demand.
- ◀ The existing distribution of skatepark and outdoor gym facilities is likely to capture most demand.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

PART 14: EDUCATION

14.1: Introduction

Provision of sport and recreation facilities at schools, colleges and universities can make an important contribution to the overall outdoor sport facility stock, especially where community use is or could be offered. It is therefore important to have accurate information about the number, type, quality and availability of facilities and pitches within the education sector in Kingston-upon-Thames. As such, this section seeks to summarise the education findings featured within each other part of this document.

Key challenges

The key challenges for education in the context of this study is around capacity. Schools generally have a difficult task in being able to hire out facilities for community use as well as accommodating curricular and extra-curricular activity. Unlike clubs and teams, it can be difficult for schools to quantify usage each week as there are many varying factors, including the weather, the curriculum, interest from pupils, and quality issues, especially in winter. There may be some weeks where capacity exists for external usage, whereas during other periods, internal demand may already result in overuse.

Access is also a major challenge at education sites. From a user perspective, it can be difficult to engage with schools to gain access, especially at academies where management can lie with an external company. For schools, the associated costs attributed to opening up, staffing, and the additional wear and tear to facilities can affect community use procedures in place.

The Council is seeing less control over the supply of school facilities as more schools move to academy status, which means that influencing schools in terms of opening up facilities for community use is becoming much more difficult. Even when schools are available, there is often no long-term guarantee that this will remain the case, unless a robust community use agreement is in place. This means that access can be unsecure.

Consultation

Consultation has been carried out with all secondary schools within the Borough, as well as the universities; London School of Economics, Kings College London, and Kingston University. Online surveys have also been sent out to primary schools, with 63% responding.

14.2: Current provision

The following education sites within Kingston-upon-Thames contain outdoor sport facilities:

- ◀ Chessington Sports Centre
- ◀ Coombe Girls School
- ◀ Kings College London Sports Ground
- ◀ Kings Oak Primary School
- ◀ Knollmead Primary School
- ◀ Lovelace Primary School
- ◀ Marymount International School
- ◀ Shrewsbury House School
- ◀ Surbiton High School
- ◀ The Tiffin Girls' School
- ◀ Tolworth Court Ground (Kingston University)
- ◀ Tolworth Girls School
- ◀ Coombe Boys School
- ◀ Holy Cross Prep School
- ◀ King Athelstan Primary School
- ◀ Kingston Grammar School
- ◀ London School of Economics Sports Ground
- ◀ Malden Parochial C of E primary school
- ◀ Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School
- ◀ Southborough High School
- ◀ The Holy Cross School
- ◀ Tiffin School Sports Centre
- ◀ Tolworth Junior School

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

In total, there are 63 outdoor sport facilities at the education sites, with 43 of these available for community use, at some level.

The following table outlines the total number and type of outdoor sport facilities provided across the Borough at the sites. The majority provide tennis and/or netball courts (with these often being provided within the same space).

Table 14.1: Summary of all outdoor sport facilities at education sites

Analysis area	Number of outdoor sport facilities			
	Netball courts	Tennis courts	Bowling greens	MUGA's
Kingston & North Kingston	13	13	0	0
New & Old Malden	9	10	1	0
South of the Borough	4	3	0	0
Surbiton	3	6	0	1
Kingston-upon-Thames	29	32	1	1

This is summarised by analysis area in the table below. Most provision is identified in the Kingston & North Kingston Analysis Area, whereas the least is provided in the South of the Borough Analysis Area.

Table 14.2 Summary of community available outdoor sport facilities at education sites

Analysis area	Number of outdoor sport facilities			
	Netball courts	Tennis courts	Bowling greens	MUGA's
Kingston & North Kingston	7	10	0	0
New & Old Malden	6	7	1	0
South of the Borough	2	3	0	0
Surbiton	1	6	0	0
Kingston-upon-Thames	16	26	1	0

14.3: Primary schools

The results of the online survey to primary schools to ascertain the quality, quantity and availability of outdoor sports facilities are summarised below.

Quantity

Through consultation and research, 10 primary schools have access to some form of court space with line markings for tennis and/or netball. In addition, many other primary schools have additional netball markings; however, these are generally located within generic playground areas and are often undersized. As such, they are not included within the study.

Quality

Through consultation, the quality of outdoor facilities is raised as a concern at Tolworth Junior School, where the netball courts have been assessed as poor. This is due to the surface being highly worn and in need of a refurbishment.

All remaining courts are assessed as standard or good quality.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Availability

From the 10 primary schools which provide courts, only Holy Cross Prep School reports availability for community use, with its netball courts accessed by Tiffin NC during the winter months. Issues preventing other schools opening to the community include access/management arrangements, quality, lack of spare capacity beyond potential school use and a lack of perceived financial viability.

Ancillary provision

There are no responding primary schools which indicate that they have specific changing accommodation to service their sports facilities. They all have changing facilities which are generic to their school facilities, with much of this provision being inaccessible to community users. Quality and accessibility varies on a site-by-site basis.

Plans to develop or expand existing provision

Of responding primary schools, three report plans to develop or expand existing outdoor sport provision. Comments in relation to this can be seen in the table below.

Table 14.3: Primary school development plans

School	Summary
Burlington Junior School	The School reports a brand new sports hall is being built as well as a MUGA on site.
Castle Hill Primary School	The School would like to have an official sports field and MUGA that can be used all year round. However, it is currently unsure if this is possible due to a lack of space and funding.
Christ Church Primary School	The School is currently exploring funding opportunities to provide dedicated ancillary facilities on site.

14.4: Secondary schools

The table below provides a summary of the key issues and findings relating to the outdoor sports provision at secondary school sites identified via consultation and through research.

Table 14.4: Secondary school provision

School	Summary
Chessington Sports Centre (Chessington School)	The site has two tennis courts and four netball courts. The tennis courts have a macadam surface and are assessed as standard quality. Three of the netball courts have an artificial surface and operate as standalone netball courts. Whereas the remaining macadam netball court operates as a dual use tennis court. Gems NC and Saints NC both utilise the netball courts on a regular basis for training activity. Ancillary provision has been assessed as poor as the facility is dated and to some extent not fit for purpose. Achieving for Children holds tennis activations sessions for youth people at this site as well as the Ten Project taking place here as well.
Coombe Boys School	The School has three tennis courts, of which all have a clay surface. They are assessed as poor quality due to loose gravel and poor grip underfoot, as well as not being available for community use.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

School	Summary
Coombe Girls' School	The School has two tennis/ netball courts on site. The courts have a macadam surface and are assessed as standard quality. The facilities are available for community use, especially by Claygate NC who use the facilities for matches on Saturdays and training on Monday evenings.
Kingston Grammar School	The School has two netball courts on site, of which both are unavailable for community use. One has a macadam surface and is assessed as good quality and the other has an artificial surface and is assessed as standard quality. The School also has a boathouse, in which it regularly enters crews in local events such as the Kingston Regatta.
Marymount International School	The School has one tennis court and two netball courts on site. All of which have a macadam surface. The courts are assessed as standard quality but are unavailable for community use.
Shrewsbury House School	The School marks out a four lane 80-metre straight on its 3G provision in the summer months to cater for internal athletics demand
Southborough High School	The School supplies some outdoor gym equipment, however this is only available for internal use and does not service wider community demand.
Surbiton High School	The School has one tennis court and two netball courts on site. All of which have a macadam surface. The courts are assessed as standard quality but are unavailable for community use. Additionally, the school has its own boathouse next to the River, participating in watersport activity and enter crews each year in the Kingston Regatta.
The Holy Cross School	The School has one netball court on site, which is assessed as good quality, but unavailable for community use.
The Hollyfield School & Sixthform Centre	The School has two tennis courts and one netball court. All the courts have a macadam surface and are provided with sports lighting. But are assessed as poor quality. Go Mammoth also operates out of the school, with sessions taking place on Monday evenings.
The Tiffin Girls School	The School has eight tennis courts and four netball courts. All four of the netball courts and two of the tennis courts are provided with sports lighting, the remaining six tennis courts are not. All the courts are available for community use and are assessed as standard quality. The netball courts are utilised regularly for training and/or match play. These clubs are Richmond Ravers NC, Tiffin Junior NC and Tiffin NC. Additionally, Go Mammoth operates out of the School, with sessions taking place on Tuesday evenings.
Tolworth Girls School	The School has four tennis/netball courts, which are assessed as good quality and provided with sports lighting. The courts are utilised regularly by Saints NC for training sessions; however, no security of tenure is provided. Additionally, the School has a three lane 200m track marked out on its composite surface that otherwise accommodates tennis and netball courts.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

14.5: Universities and colleges

London School of Economics

The University is based elsewhere outside of the Borough but has its sports ground based in New Malden. The site contains two dual use tennis/netball courts, which both have a macadam surface. The courts are available for community use but not provided with sports lighting and have been assessed as standard quality.

Good ancillary facilities have been identified on site. The University reports no current development plans.

Kings College London

The University is based elsewhere outside of the Borough but has its sports ground based in New Malden. The site contains three tennis courts, of which two of the courts operate as dual use netball courts. The dual use courts are assessed as standard quality, whilst the standalone tennis court is of poor quality.

There is also a bowling green on site, which is accessed by Supreme BC and is assessed as good quality. However, its quality has worsened recently due to the weather making it harder to maintain the green.

Its ancillary provision is rated as standard and the University reports an aspiration to refurbish the facilities, with a particular focus on updating the interior.

Kingston University

The University is based at Tolworth Court Ground for its sports provision. The site contains three tennis courts, of which two operate as dual use tennis/netball courts.

All courts have a macadam surface, are available for community use and are serviced by sports lighting. The University has development plans to possibly cover one of its courts, which would help to provide additional capacity for tennis demand, particularly during the winter months.

Education summary

- ◀ There are 63 outdoor sports facilities located at education sites in Kingston-upon-Thames, with 43 offering some level of community access (although not necessarily used).
- ◀ 10 primary schools have access to some form of court space on site with line markings for tennis and/or netball; however, only one is readily available to the community.
- ◀ Quality of outdoor facilities is raised as a concern at Tolworth Junior School, as its netball courts are assessed as poor.
- ◀ Three primary schools report plans to develop or expand existing provision.
- ◀ Secondary schools in Kingston-upon-Thames also provide a range of outdoor facilities, particularly tennis and netball courts.
- ◀ The quality and quantity of outdoor sports facilities varies across secondary school sites, as does accessibility, although more are available and used when compared to primary school provision.
- ◀ The three universities in the Borough (London School of Economics, Kings College London and Kingston University) all provide outdoor sports facilities on site and are used regularly for community use as well as for internal demand.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT

The following section outlines a series of national, regional and local policies pertaining to the study and which will have an important influence on the Strategy.

National context

The provision of high quality and accessible community outdoor sports facilities at a local level is a key requirement for achieving the targets set out by the Government and Sport England. It is vital that this strategy is cognisant of and works towards these targets in addition to local priorities and plans.

Department of Media Culture and Sport Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation (2015)

The Government published its strategy for sport in December 2015. This strategy confirms the recognition and understanding that sport makes a positive difference through broader means and that it will help the sector to deliver five simple but fundamental outcomes: physical health, mental health, individual development, social and community development and economic development. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of 23 performance indicators under nine key headings, as follows:

- ◀ More people taking part in sport and physical activity.
- ◀ More people volunteering in sport.
- ◀ More people experiencing live sport.
- ◀ Maximising international sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ A more productive sport sector.
- ◀ A more financially and organisationally sustainable sport sector.
- ◀ A more responsible sport sector.

Sport England: Uniting the Movement 2021

Sport and physical activity has a big role to play in improving the physical and mental health of the nation, supporting the economy, reconnecting communities and rebuilding a stronger society for all. From this notion, Sport England has recently released its new strategy, Uniting the Movement, its 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity.

It seeks to tackle the inequalities long seen in sport and physical activity. Providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity, has never been more important.

There are three key objectives to the Strategy:

- ◀ Advocating for movement, sport and physical activity.
- ◀ Joining forces on five big issues
- ◀ Creating the catalyst for change

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

In particular, the five big issues are identified where the greatest potential is seen for preventing and tackling inequalities in sport and physical activity. Each one is a building block that, on its own, would make a difference, but together, could change things profoundly:

Recover and reinvent: Recovering from the biggest crisis in a generation and reinventing as a vibrant, relevant and sustainable network of organisations providing sport and physical activity opportunities that meet the needs of different people.

Connecting communities: Focusing on sport and physical activity's ability to make better places to live and bring people together.

Positive experiences for children and young people: Unrelenting focus on positive experiences for all children and young people as the foundations for a long and healthy life.

Connecting with health and wellbeing: Strengthening the connections between sport, physical activity, health and wellbeing, so more people can feel the benefits of, and advocate for, an active life.

Active environments: Creating and protecting the places and spaces that make it easier for people to be active.

The specific impact of the Strategy will be captured through programmes funded, interventions made, and partnerships forged. For each specific area of action, a set of key performance indicators will be developed. This hybrid approach will help evidence the overall progress being made by all those involved in supporting sport and physical activity.

National Planning Policy Framework (2021)

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It also provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

The NPPF states the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It identifies that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

The 'promoting healthy communities' theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficiencies or surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown that the open space, buildings or land is surplus to requirements.
- ◀ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location.
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

In order for planning policies to be 'sound' local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities.

The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)

The Football Association's (FA) National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS) provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a ten-year period.

The Strategy sets out shared aims and objectives it aims to deliver on in conjunction with The Premier League, Sport England and the Government, to be delivered with support of the Football Foundation.

These stakeholders have clearly identified the aspirations for football to contribute directly to nationally important social and health priorities. Alongside this, the strategy is clear that traditional, affiliated football remains an important priority and a core component of the game, whilst recognising and supporting the more informal environments used for the community and recreational game.

Its vision is: *"Within 10 years we aim to deliver great football facilities, wherever they are needed"*

£1.3 billion has been spent by football and Government since 2000 to enhance existing football facilities and build new ones. However, more is needed if football and Government's shared objectives for participation, individual well-being and community cohesion are to be achieved. Nationally, direct investment will be increased – initially to £69 million per annum from football and Government (a 15% increase on recent years).

The NFFS investment priorities can be broadly grouped into six areas, recognising the need to grow the game, support existing players and better understand the different football environments:

- ◀ Improve 20,000 Natural Turf pitches, with a focus on addressing drop off due to a poor playing experience;
- ◀ Deliver 1,000 3G AGP 'equivalents' (mix of full size and small sided provision, including MUGAs - small sided facilities are likely to have a key role in smaller / rural communities and encouraging multi-sport offers), enhancing the quality of playing experience and supporting a sustainable approach to grass roots provision;
- ◀ Deliver 1,000 changing pavilions/clubhouses, linked to multi-pitch or hub sites, supporting growth (particularly in women and girls football), sustainability and providing a facility infrastructure to underpin investment in coaching, officials and football development;
- ◀ Support access to flexible indoor spaces, including equipment and court markings, to support growth in futsal, walking football and to support the education and skills outcomes, exploiting opportunities for football to positively impact on personal and social outcomes for young people in particular;
- ◀ Refurbish existing stock to maintain current provision, recognising the need to address historic under-investment and issues with refurbishment of existing facilities;
- ◀ Support testing of technology and innovation, building on customer insight to deliver hubs for innovation, testing and development of the game.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

LTA Facilities Investment Strategy – Vision for the 2020 and beyond

The LTA has developed a programme of action based on seven core strategies. These are:

- ◀ Visibility – Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players.
- ◀ Innovation – Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal.
- ◀ Investment – Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunities to play.
- ◀ Accessibility – Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone.
- ◀ Engagement – Engage and collaborate with everyone involved in delivering tennis in Britain, particularly coaches and volunteers, to attract and maintain more people in the game.
- ◀ Performance – Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.
- ◀ Leadership – Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.

The LTA Facilities Investment Framework sets out how it intends to deliver the investment to support community accessible tennis facilities. The focus will be on:

- ◀ New and existing indoor tennis centres
- ◀ Park tennis
- ◀ Tennis clubs
- ◀ Schools and other educational establishments

The key principles of the framework are to:

- ◀ Help fund projects through interest free loans.
- ◀ Invest in venues that have a proven record of increasing participation.
- ◀ Invest where there is thorough community engagement.
- ◀ Support venues that encourage participation growth.
- ◀ Targeted investment that is demand-led.
- ◀ Support venues that have successfully sourced partnership funding.

Bowls England: Strategic Plan (2014)

Bowls England will provide strong leadership and work with its stakeholders to support the development of the sport of bowls in England for this and future generations.

The overall vision of Bowls England is to:

- ◀ Promote the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- ◀ Recruit new participants to the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- ◀ Retain current and future participants within the sport of flat green bowls.

In order to ensure that this vision is achieved, ten key performance targets have been created, which will underpin the work of Bowls England up until 31st March 2017.

- ◀ 115,000 individual affiliated members.
- ◀ 1,500 registered coaches.
- ◀ Increase total National Championship entries by 10%.
- ◀ Increase total national competition entries by 10%.
- ◀ Medal places achieved in 50% of events at the 2016 World Championships.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

- ◀ 35 county development plans in place and operational.
- ◀ County development officer appointed by each county association.
- ◀ National membership scheme implemented with 100% uptake by county associations.
- ◀ Secure administrative base for 1st April 2017.
- ◀ Commercial income to increase by 20%.

Despite a recent fall in affiliated members, and a decline in entries into National Championships over the last five years, Bowls England believes that these aims will be attained by following core values. The intention is to:

- ◀ Be progressive.
- ◀ Offer opportunities to participate at national and international level.
- ◀ Work to raise the profile of the sport in support of recruitment and retention.
- ◀ Lead the sport.
- ◀ Support clubs and county associations.

England Golf Course Planner – Strategic Direction (2021-2025)

England Golf has always had a mission to lead, support, inspire and deliver for its community of golfers, golf clubs and counties. To help enable this, its Course Planner forms the core of its strategy, with 18 guiding principles established that are designed to best position growth in the game:

- ◀ Strengthen governance in all aspects of the sport
- ◀ Deliver safeguarding throughout the golfing community
- ◀ Utilise data and technology to enhance decision making
- ◀ Drive equality and equity in everything it does
- ◀ Support golf clubs with member recruitment and retention
- ◀ Connect and engage with all golfers
- ◀ Inspire and educate golf's network of volunteers
- ◀ Increase golf's influence
- ◀ Advocate and inform on all elements of sustainability
- ◀ Drive diversity at all levels of golf
- ◀ Create more opportunities for junior and young adults
- ◀ Promote the health and wellbeing of golf
- ◀ Inspire more women and girls to play golf
- ◀ Develop greater access for disabled people
- ◀ Enthuse all golfers through relatable role models
- ◀ Communicate a positive perception change for golf
- ◀ Deliver an excellent talent development pathway
- ◀ Host best-in-class competitions for all golfers

England Netball - Your Game, Your Way 2013-17

Even though this Plan is out of date, England Netball remains committed to its '10-1-1' mission, vision and values that form the fundamentals for its strategic planning for the future for the sport and business.

To facilitate the successful achievement of Netball 10:1:1 and Goal 4, England Netball will:

- ◀ Accelerate the participation growth by extending our market penetration and reach through the activation of a range of existing and new participant-focused products and programmes that access new and targeted markets.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

- ◀ Increase the level of long-term participant retention through targeting programmes at known points of attrition and easy transition through the market segments, supported by an infrastructure that reflects the participant needs and improves their netball experience.
- ◀ Build a sustainable performance pathway and system built on the principles of purposeful practice and appropriate quality athlete coach contact time.
- ◀ Develop sustainable revenue streams through the commercialisation of a portfolio of products and programmes and increasing membership sales. This will also include the creation of cost efficiencies and improved value for money through innovative partnerships and collaborations in all aspects of the business.
- ◀ Establish high standards of leadership and governance that protect the game and its people and facilitates the on-going growth and transformation of the NGB and sport.

England Athletics Strategic Plan – Athletics & Running: for everyone, forever – 2017 and beyond

This plan sets out England Athletics' mission, vision and strategic priorities that will direct how they work as an organisation during the coming years: what they do and how they will do it.

Vision: Make athletics and running the most inclusive and popular sport in England, led by a network of progressive clubs and organisations and supported by a sustainable, respected and trusted governing body.

For England Athletics to achieve this vision, they will focus on three values:

- ◀ Pride – taking pride in their work and demonstrating to athletes that they recognise the importance of their role in bettering athletics.
- ◀ Integrity – demonstrate integrity to earn respect and to build effective partnerships.
- ◀ Inclusivity – promote inclusivity in all their actions.

Mission: To grow opportunities for everyone to experience athletics and running, to enable them to reach their full potential.

In order to achieve their mission, England Athletics will have three strategic priorities.

1. To expand the capacity of the sport by supporting and developing its volunteers and other workforce. The target is to achieve a 6% increase every year of licensed leaders, coaches and officials.
2. To sustain and increase participation and performance levels in our sport. To achieve this, England Athletics' current targets are to increase the number of club registered athletes from (149,000 to 172,000), engage 135,000 people through the RunTogether programme and to increase athlete performance levels across all events and disciplines by 1% every year.
3. To influence participation in the wider athletics market. Their target here is to increase the number of regular athletes or runners by at least one million.

England Athletics Facility Strategy (2018 – 2025)

The purpose of this document is to set out our long term vision for athletics facilities in England. Facilities form a vital component of the overall England Athletics strategy.

The development, protection and enhancement of facilities will support our strategic plan and help England Athletics contribute to the delivery of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's Sporting Futures: A New Strategy for Sport and Sport England's strategy Towards an Active Nation. Appropriate facilities help to attract and inspire new participants and provide the foundation and focus for a significant proportion of the England Athletics family.

LONDON BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

The England Athletics Strategic Plan notes that the sport increasingly needs to become financially sustainable and that a business-like and innovative approach is a vital component of its future success. Facilities are fundamental, but they are also expensive to create and to maintain. The sport therefore faces a significant challenge to develop, improve and maintain facilities, most of which are currently operated and funded by third parties.

This strategy sets out a challenge to all those involved with the delivery of the sport to be innovative and business like in the operation and development of facilities at a time of financial challenge, as it aims “To create an innovative and inspiring network of sustainable athletic facilities, with the capacity to meet both current and future demand across England”.

LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

APPENDIX 2: NON TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT SHEETS

Court non-technical assessment (netball, tennis and MUGAs)

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Tennis/ Netball/ Basketball Courts

KKPref																
Site name:																
Number of courts -	Tennis	Netball	Basketball	Five-a-side												
General Playground or specific sports court area?																
Court surface	Management			Community Use?												
Artificial turf, Clay, Grass, Macadam, Polymeric, Shale				Club, LA - Parks, Parish Council, Public, School												

Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)

Element	Rating					Comments
About the courts						
Evidence of moss/lichen (all surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots	
Loose gravel (macadam surface)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots	
Holes or rips in surface (macadam, art. grass or polymeric surface)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots	
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate		Poor	
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor	
Surrounding fencing	Good		Adequate		Poor	
Size of courts	Yes - fully		No- but adequate		No - not adequate	
Adequate safety margins	Yes - fully		No- but adequate		No - not adequate	
Slope of courts	Flat		Slight		Gentle	
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots	
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots	
Access for disabled players - ie: ramps onto courts, width of gate	Good		Adequate		Poor	
Changing Accomodation						
Changing Accomodation	Yes			No		
About the equipment						
Posts and net	Good		Adequate		Poor	
Are the courts locked when not in use?	Yes			No		
Practice wall	Yes			No		

LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Bowling green non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Bowling green

KKPref	
Site name:	
Number of greens	
Flat/crown	Community Use?

Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)

Element	Rating			Comments
About the greens				
Grass cover	Over 70%	40-69%	less than 40%	
Evenness of surface	Good	Adequate	Poor	
Signs of wear and tear	None	Yes - some	Yes - lots	
Condition of ditches/boardings	Good	Adequate	Poor	
Surface of surrounding hard areas	Good	Adequate	Poor	
Is the green and surrounding area fenced?	Yes	No		
Fencing around the green and ancillaries	Good	Adequate	Poor	
Problem areas: litter, glass, fouling, leaf fall on the green	None	Yes - some	Yes - lots	
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use on the green	None	Yes - some	Yes - lots	
Access for disabled players/spectators - ie: ramps onto greens, width of gates	Good	Adequate	Poor	
Ancillary facilities				
Changing Accomodation	Yes	No		
Toilets	Yes	No		
Car parking	Yes	No		
General comments about the site:				

LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Athletics tracks non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Athletics Tracks						
KKPref						
Site name:						
Track surface		Grass, polymeric, cinder, other specify		Specify If 'Other'		
No. of Lanes		Length of track:		Community Use:		
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each track with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)						
Element	Rating					Comments
About the track facilities						
Damage to the track surface	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots	
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate		Poor	
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor	
Track edging	Good		Adequate		Poor	
Disabled access	Good		Adequate		Poor	
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots	
Floodlighting	Yes			No		
Is the track fenced?	Yes			No		
Surface of run ups - long/triple jump, high jump						
Surface of run ups - long/triple jump, high jump	Good		Adequate		Poor	
Adequate landing areas - jumps	Good		Adequate		Poor	
Adequate safety margins	Yes - fully		No-but adequate		No-not adequate	
Take off boards	Good		Adequate		Poor	
Landing mats	Yes			No		
Surface of throw ing areas - shot, discuss, hammer						
Surface of throw ing areas - shot, discuss, hammer	Good		Adequate		Poor	
Adequate safety margins - throw s	Good		Adequate		Poor	
Throw ing cages	Yes			No		
Access to toilets						
Access to toilets	Yes			No		
Changing accomodation						
Changing accomodation	Yes			No		
Changing accomodation - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor	
Club room	Yes			No		
Car parking	Good		Adequate		Poor	
General Comments						
					ENTER Athletics	Please make sure there is no filter on in sheet At_db !