

South Oxfordshire District Council

Leisure Facilities Assessment Report

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Disclaimer

It is not possible to guarantee the fulfilment of any estimates or projections contained within this report, although they have been conscientiously prepared on the basis of our research and information made available to us at the time of the study. The author(s) will not be held liable to any party for any direct or indirect losses, financial or otherwise, associated with any contents of this report. We have relied on a number of areas of information provided by the client, and National Governing Bodies of Sport to provide verification of this data.

1. INTRODUCTION & METHODOLOGY

1.1 Introduction

South Oxfordshire District Council ('the Council') has commissioned Stuart Todd Associates to prepare a Leisure Facilities Assessment and Strategy (LFAS). The purpose of the assessment and strategy is to ensure that the district has an up-to-date framework for the prioritisation, provision and development of necessary facilities to support sport and physical activity across the public, private and independent sectors. This document is the assessment report – the strategy and action plan will be presented in separate documents.

These documents will support the implementation of the Council's current local plan policy relating to the protection, enhancement and provision of community sport and to support negotiations with developers who may be required to provide funding or other assistance to improve local provision. It will also inform the preparation of relevant policies in the Council's future Joint Local Plan 2041; with the Vale of White Horse District Council, which is also preparing an LFAS for its district.

The Council has commissioned the LFAS documents in response to the anticipated growth and change in population in the district and a desire to plan and deliver effective sport and recreation provision that will improve and maintain the health and wellbeing of residents, as well as promoting strong community cohesion within South Oxfordshire towns and villages, into the future.

As part of the LFAS, this needs assessment report provides an up-to-date analysis of the supply of, and demand for, sport and leisure facilities across the district. In doing so, the LFAS focuses on providing the following:

- A clear understanding of the current and future supply and demand issues for key sporting facilities in terms of quantity, quality, availability and accessibility.
- Identification of recommendations and priorities to assist the authority and key stakeholders in the delivery of sporting outcomes for the area.
- Development and delivery of a facility strategy that is capable of formal adoption by the Council to shape its investment and facility priorities to 2041.

The LFAS documents form the basis for the future planning for facilities, whether new provision, replacement or refurbishment. They are key documents, which contain robust and objective evidence to support requests for on-site provision and contributions from developers and justification of need, within the council, following the implementation of the Community Infrastructure Levy. These detailed strategies are important to secure the continued provision of valuable community assets as they can be used to support applications for grant funding for sport and leisure projects; not just by the council, but by others, such as sports clubs and schools.

Given the breadth of sports played in South Oxfordshire, as well as the intention of the Council to incorporate as many types of sports and physical activity as possible, the assessment will consider the following facility types (shown overleaf):

- Archery ranges
- Athletics 'track & field' facilities
- Basketball courts
- Badminton courts
- Bowling greens
- Boxing gyms
- Climbing walls
- Croquet lawns
- Cycling facilities
- Dance halls and studios
- Golf facilities
- Gymnastics halls
- Health and fitness suites (gyms & fitness studios)
- Martial arts halls and studios
- Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs)
- Netball courts
- Parkour provision
- Polo pitches and horse-riding centres
- Skate Parks
- Sports halls (including community and village halls with sports facilities)
- Squash courts
- Swimming pools
- Table tennis provision
- Tennis courts
- Volleyball courts
- Water sports (rowing, sailing and canoeing).

It should be noted that in parallel to the LFAS, the Council has also commissioned a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS), to provide a strategic analysis of grass and artificial pitch supply and demand across the district. In conjunction with the PPS, the LFAS will provide a holistic analysis of sports facilities across the study area, leading to a comprehensive set of recommendations for the future development of facilities, in line with the needs of local residents.

1.2 Report Structure

To provide the Council with a clear evidence base for future recommendations and development, the report is presented in the following sections:

- Section 1: Introduction & methodology;
- Section 2: Strategic context;
- Section 3: Swimming pools;
- Section 4: Sports halls including multi-use halls, dance studios, community centres and village halls;
- Section 5: Health and Fitness Suites (gyms);
- Section 6: Squash courts;
- Section 7: Gymnastics facilities;
- Section 8: Archery ranges;
- Section 9: Tennis courts;
- Section 10: Netball courts;
- Section 11: Cycling facilities;
- Section 12: Athletics facilities;
- Section 13: Bowls facilities;
- Section 14: Croquet lawns;
- Section 15: Water sports (rowing, sailing and canoeing);
- Section 16: Skateparks;
- Section 17: Parkour provision;
- Section 18: MUGAs;
- Section 19: Climbing walls;
- Section 20: Horse-riding centres;
- Section 21: Golf facilities.

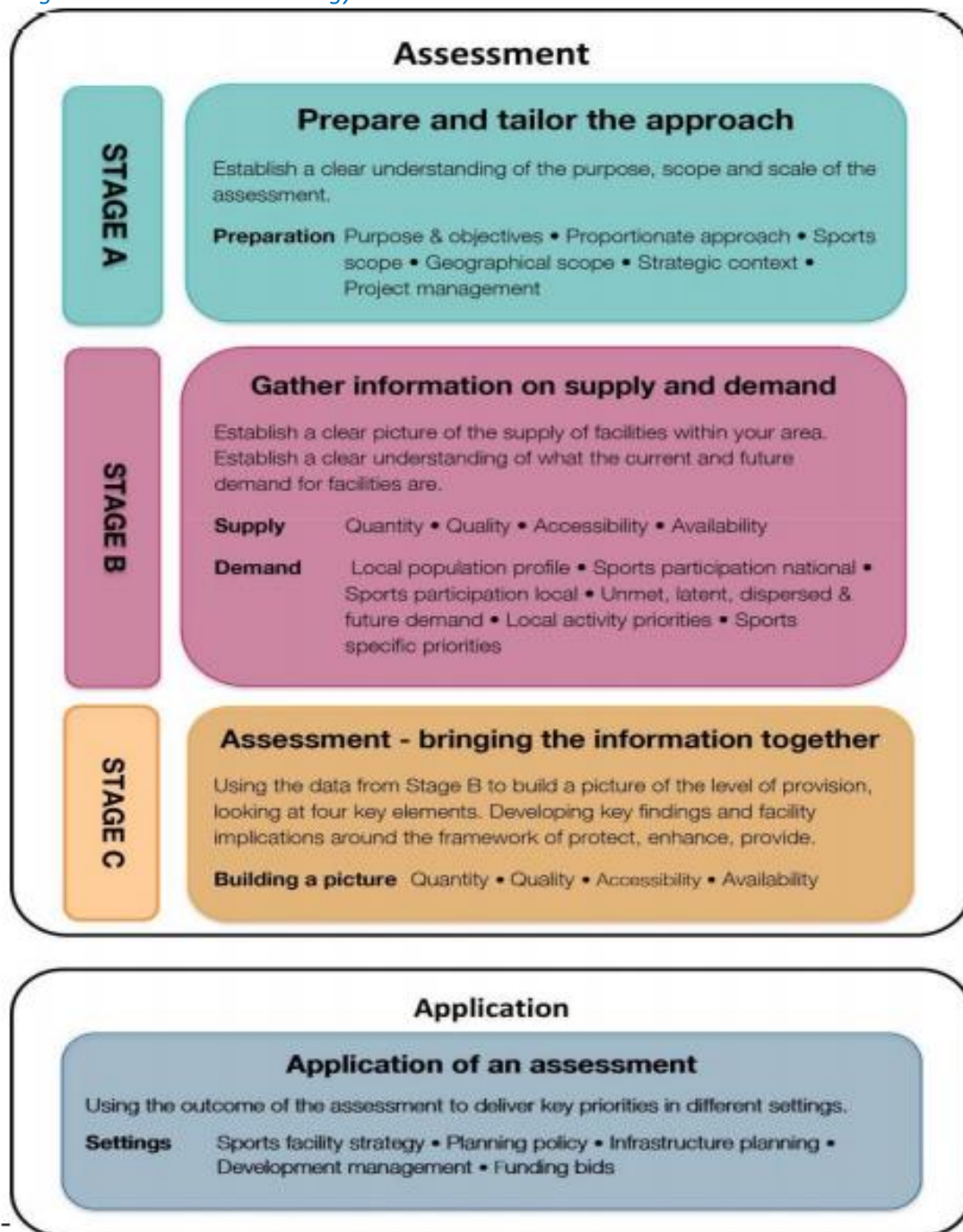
Further documentation will be included as appendices and referenced throughout:

- Appendix A – Club Survey Findings;
- Appendix B – Non-technical Assessment (Audit) Findings;
- Appendix C – Full list of facilities included within the study.

1.3 Methodology

Sport England, the Government’s agency for sport, aims to ensure positive planning for sport, enabling the right facilities to be provided in the right places, based on up-to-date assessment of needs for amateur levels of sport and all sectors of the community. This assessment report has been produced for the Council applying the principles and tools identified in the Sport England Guide Assessing Needs and Opportunities for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities (ANOG). In line with the ANOG guidance, a proven methodology has been used, as illustrated in Figure 1.1 overleaf:

Figure 1.1: ANOG Methodology



Sport England’s aim in working with the planning system is to help provide active environments that maximise opportunities for sport and physical activity for all, enabling the already active to be more so and the inactive to become active. This aim is supported by three objectives:

- **Protect:** Existing provision should be protected unless an assessment has demonstrated there is an excess of the provision and the specific buildings or land are surplus to requirements; or the loss would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the former or current use.
- **Enhance:** The use of existing provision should be optimised, for example through quality, access and management improvements supported by appropriate ancillary facilities.

- **Provide:** Appropriate new provision that meets needs and encourages people to play sport and be physically active should be provided by adapting existing places and through new development.

The leisure facilities strategy for South Oxfordshire will provide a clear set of recommendations and a prioritised sport, area and site-specific action plan. It will be a succinct and usable strategy document which is owned by all relevant parties and can be applied to a variety of areas and situations. It will clarify how the strategy can be applied and delivered, and advise on an approach to ensuring the strategy is kept robust and up-to-date.

The findings in this assessment report are based on data collected from many credible sources, including but not limited to:

- Local authority and public policy strategic documentation;
- Sport England tools, including the Facility Planning Model (FPM), Active Places Power and the Active Lives Survey.
- Stakeholder consultation, including Council Officers, Sport England, relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport and key user clubs; and
- Site visits, undertaken at all strategically important sites across the study area.

Assessment of provision encompasses analysis of the quality, quantity, accessibility and availability of identified facility types (e.g. sports halls and swimming pools). The differences between each facility are considered against others of the same facility type, to enable assessment of adequacy. Demand background, data and consultation varies dependent upon the level of consultation undertaken. In some instances, national data is available whilst in others, it has been possible to drill down and secure detailed local information.

1.4 Stakeholder Surveys

Sport clubs were surveyed using a standardised survey form (in accordance with ANOG) and tailored to each sport. Facility providers were also surveyed and an example of each survey is displayed in Appendix A along with the full survey results. Information from the surveys has been used throughout this report to supplement the other sources of information.

1.5 Site visits

Active Places Power is used to provide baseline data to identify facilities in the study area. Where possible, assessments are undertaken in the presence of facility staff.

Site visits to key facilities, those operated by other partners and the voluntary sector have been undertaken. Via the audit and via informal interviews with facility managers, the following information was gathered:

- Facility and scale;
- Usage/local market;
- Ownership, management and access arrangements (plus, where available, facility owner aspirations);
- Management, programming, catchments, user groups, gaps;
- Location, access and accessibility; and
- Condition, maintenance, existing improvement plans and facility investment.

The assessment data on a site-by-site basis is stored in the main database and the information has been utilised throughout this report. Ratings are based on non-technical visual assessments (using ANOG) in the following categories.

Table 1.1: Quality ratings of sports facilities using ANOG

Quality rating	Description
Good	Facility is assessed as being new or recently invested, up to date, well maintained, clean and well-presented and generally no older than ten years. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are new or relatively new with little if any wear and tear. The facility is well lit with a modern feel. Ancillary facilities are welcoming, new or well maintained, fit for purpose, modern and attractive to use.
Above average	Facility is in reasonable condition and is well maintained and presented. May be older but it is fit for purpose and safe. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are in an acceptable condition but may show some signs of wear and tear. Ancillary facilities are good quality, but potentially showing signs of age and some wear and tear.
Below average	Facility is older and showing signs of age and poor quality. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are showing signs of wear and tear. The facility is usable but quality could be improved. The facility is not as attractive to customers and does not meet current expectations. Ancillary facilities are deteriorating, reasonable quality, but usable.
Poor	The facility is old and outdated. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are aged, worn and/or damaged. The facility is barely usable and at times may have to be taken out of commission. The facility is unattractive to customers and does not meet basic expectations. Ancillary facilities are low quality and unattractive to use.

Site visits are conducted at all sites with main sports facilities, such as a swimming pool and a large sports hall. All the facilities were visited and audited by Stuart Todd Associates during December 2022 and January 2023 (winter sports) and May 2023 (summer sports).

1.6 Catchment areas

Catchment areas for different types of provision provide a tool for identifying areas currently not served by existing sports facilities. Strategic facilities such as large pools (at least 4 lane 25m) and large sports halls (at least four-badminton courts in size) are designed to cater for a wider catchment. Smaller pools and halls (such as village halls) might have a 15-minute catchment rather than 20-minutes as it is designed to serve a more local population. Also, the sports with smaller levels of demand are likely to have a smaller number of facilities serving a wider catchment, often due to simple viability and commercial reasons. This, coupled with our experience (and that of others) working with leisure facilities and consultation with the steering group on local trends and information, enables identification of catchment areas for facilities as follows:

Table 1.2: Facility catchment areas

Facility type	Identified catchment area (minimum distance)
Free-to-use skateparks and MUGAs	20-minute walk-time
Small sports halls (less than 4-courts) including community and village halls with sports facilities and dance studios	15-minute drive-time

<p>Large indoor swimming pools (at least 4 lane 25m) and large sports halls (at least four-badminton courts in size)</p> <p>Health & fitness suites (gyms), squash courts, climbing walls, boxing and martial arts gyms, gymnastics halls, archery ranges (indoor and outdoor) and ‘pay to play’ MUGAs.</p> <p>Bowling greens and croquet lawns.</p> <p>Outdoor courts for tennis and netball</p> <p>Indoor courts for basketball and volleyball</p> <p>Formal table tennis provision</p>	<p>20-minute drive-time</p>
<p>Indoor tennis courts and indoor bowling rinks</p> <p>Formal parkour provision</p> <p>Horse-riding centres</p> <p>Club locations for water sports (rowing, sailing and canoeing)</p> <p>Golf facilities</p>	<p>30-minute drive-time</p>
<p>Athletics ‘track and field’ facilities</p> <p>Cycling tracks (closed-road circuits)</p>	<p>40-minute drive-time</p>

The Council’s [Climate Action Plan \(2022-2024\)](#) includes a commitment to reducing carbon emissions at leisure centres. The Council’s Greenhouse Gas emissions report (2019-20) shows that the three leisure centres in South Oxfordshire account for 47% of the Council’s greenhouse gas emissions (waste collection is second with 41%). There may be ways of getting users to facilities like pools in particular via community or public transport.

The LFAS should be delivered to ensure that facility improvements and their use are planned, managed and promoted to ensure that they lie at the heart of their local communities and are easily accessible to all, thus reducing the need to travel, and / or work is progressed to help ensure that transport connectivity (while prioritising low carbon and active modes of travel first) are delivered in South Oxfordshire.

When planning for major new developments and links to sports facilities, planning officers should be considering the principles established by Sport England / Public Health England’s Active Design Guidance. Good design incorporating low carbon and carbon-reducing measures and innovations such as sustainable drainage systems, rainwater recycling, electric car and bike charging points, biomass boilers, the greater use of natural light / passivhaus design and underfloor heating, solar power for electricity generation should be considered wherever feasible.

1.7 Facilities planning model overview

For this study we have used Sport England’s Facilities Planning Model (FPM) data for swimming pools and sports halls in South Oxfordshire. The FPM is a computerised model which helps assess the strategic provision of community sports facilities. It has been developed as a means of assessing requirements for different types of community sports facilities on a local, regional or national scale; and helping local authorities determine an adequate level of sports facility provision to meet their local needs.

The FPM uses census information at output area level to help establish the profile of the population, including, age, gender, and Index of Multiple Deprivation scores. These are all used in the model to estimate the demand for sports facilities.

The FPM also uses the information on the road network (Ordnance Survey MasterMap Highways Network) to estimate how people are prepared to travel. This is essential in helping to understand whether the current supply of sports facilities are in the right place to meet the potential demand. An important feature of the FPM is that it's prescriptive and not predictive in that it does not provide precise estimates of the use of proposed facilities. Instead, it prescribes an appropriate level of provision for any defined area in relation to demand – this reflects national expectations and policies. The actual usage of a facility will be determined by a range of factors including management and promotional policies, programming and the quality or attractiveness of the facility concerned.

As the demand parameters are based on achieved levels of participation, Sport England believes this level of provision represents good practice rather than some unattainable ideal. This is because the levels of use/demand/throughput visits are what could be produced based on what has been observed at existing facilities. This makes the broad estimates of potential throughput generated by the FPM potentially useful when considering policy options.

The outputs from the FPM assessment provide a needs assessment and evidence base that contributes to securing inward investment for swimming pool and sports hall modernisation and possible further provision, and development of planning policies for the provision of indoor sports facilities. The main report (displayed in the Appendices) sets out the full set of findings under each of the assessment headings.

Within the following relevant sections of this LFAS Assessment Report are the headline strategic overviews, the key findings and interventions arising from the FPM study on supply, demand and accessibility. These interventions and suggested next steps are based on the FPM findings and should be considered as a key part of the all-round evidence base currently being developed to inform the South Oxfordshire LFAS. Combining the FPM assessment with the wider review of provision will lead to well considered options on the best ways to meet the projected demand for pools and halls up to 2041 and beyond.

2. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

2.1 National Planning Policy Framework (2021)

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires that planning policy making and decision taking should consider the role of health and wellbeing in planning and has stringent policies around the protection of playing fields, the disposal of which can only be considered if robust evidence can be provided to support alternative, equal and replacement provision. Particularly since county and district local authorities took on new public health responsibilities in 2013, an increasing range of statutory, corporate and planning documents, including Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), Sport England and National Governing Body (NGB) strategies, reiterate the importance of creating healthy environments which can support and benefit people's wellbeing – both physical and mental.

2.2 Public Health England Strategy (2020-25)

In 2019, Public Health England (PHE) produced its plan to address unhealthy behaviours by supporting people to adopt healthy behaviours that can help to prevent poor health. PHE has gone through an extended collaborative process to identify ten areas where it believes it can deliver the biggest impact for the public's health over the next five years. Among these areas are healthier diets and healthier weight. This can be achieved by supporting local authorities to create vibrant, health-promoting environments, including healthier high streets, which facilitate healthier food options and physical activity.

PHE will provide local planners, policy-makers and health professionals with a summary of the available evidence to guide good practice, showing how the design of sustainable environments can help provide the conditions for good health and reduce health inequalities by improving access to leisure and green spaces, public services and community facilities.

2.3 Sport England ('Uniting the Movement – Implementation Plan 2022-25')

Sport England's 'Uniting the Movement' is a collective effort with a focus on tackling inequalities because it believes every person should have an equal chance to benefit from living an active life. Covid-19 has further highlighted and intensified many of the long-term inequalities in sport and physical activity – the people who faced the most barriers to activity before the pandemic have struggled the most to be active.

Sport England will focus its work on the areas that will make the greatest difference, so that everyone has improved access to opportunities to be active in environments that are inclusive, safe and accessible, as well as enjoyable experiences and the confidence, motivation and capability to take part. The guiding principles are; investing most in those that need it most; finding the right blend of national and local action; and working in a way that's simple as standard.

Sport England has highlighted some clear inequalities in opportunities, accessibility and experiences of sport and physical activity, some of which have developed or been made worse since Covid-19, but most of which are long-term inequalities seen for years.

These are outlined below to provide national context:

- **Gender:** Men and boys are more likely to be active than women and girls. Men and boys saw larger disruptions to their activity levels during the severe Covid-19 restrictions due to a greater reliance on organised activity, with younger men less likely to return than older males.
- **Young adults:** People aged 16-34 have seen activity levels drop over the past few years and this has been exacerbated by the pandemic. More recently, those enjoying taking part has also fallen.
- **Older adults:** People aged 75+ have seen previous growth in activity levels halted and drop back during the pandemic, with no real sign of recovery. Perceived opportunity to be active and activity choice has reduced, with nearly two-thirds of this group currently reliant on walking for leisure. More recently, those enjoying taking part has also fallen.
- **Socio-economic deprivation:** Adults from the most deprived socio-economic groups are less likely to be active, as are children from less affluent families.
- **Ethnicity:** There's variation in levels of engagement in sport and physical activity by ethnic group. The Black ethnic group as a whole saw perceived capability to be active fall, and this remains. The pandemic has made it disproportionately harder for some ethnic minority groups.
- **Disability and long-term health conditions:** Both disabled adults and people with a long-term health condition are less likely to be active than those without, with activity levels decreasing sharply the more impairments an individual has. The return to activity as Covid restrictions have eased is slow.
- **Prejudice and discrimination:** People that experience prejudice or discrimination, such as (but not limited to) people from LGBTQ+ groups and ethnic minority groups, report that it can be a barrier to taking part in sport and physical activity.

2.4 Local context

South Oxfordshire District includes the largest town; Didcot (which has Garden Town status) and the three Market Towns of Henley-on-Thames, Thame and Wallingford. There is also a Garden Village at Berinsfield. The district boundary of South Oxfordshire reaches the edge of the City of Oxford in the north-west along the borders of Buckinghamshire and Berkshire to the outskirts of Reading in the south.

2.5 Health and Deprivation

The English Index of Multiple Deprivation (the IMD), produced as part of the broader Indices of Multiple Deprivation (the IoD or the Indices), is the official measure of relative deprivation at small-area level in England. The most recent iteration of the Indices was published in 2019 ([IoD2019](#)).

A summary of the IMD Ranking within South Oxfordshire is provided below:

- The overall IMD Ranking for South Oxfordshire is 302 out of 317 local authorities (where 1 most deprived and 317 is least deprived). Areas that score within the 10% most deprived within South Oxfordshire are in parts of Berinsfield, Didcot South, Didcot West and Haseley Brook. Parts of Berinsfield and Didcot West are amongst the 40% most deprived areas nationally. The least deprived areas in South Oxfordshire are located in parts of Didcot, Thame, Henley-on-Thames, Wallingford and Wheatley all within the 10% least deprived areas nationally.

- The Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) is the proportion of children age 0-15 living in income deprived families. The most deprived areas in the IDACI are in parts of Berinsfield and Wallingford in the 30% most deprived areas nationally. The least deprived areas are in Woodcote & Rotherfield, Sonning Common, Thame, Didcot and Cholsey all in the 10% least dep deprived areas nationally.
- The Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOPI) is the proportion of those age 60 or over who experience income deprivation. The most deprived areas in the IDAOPI in South Oxfordshire are located in parts of Didcot South and Henley-on-Thames in the 40% most deprived areas nationally. The least deprived areas are located in parts of Goring, Woodcote & Rotherfield, Wallingford and Wheatley all in the 10% least deprived areas nationally.

2.6 Sport England Active Lives Data (2021-22)

In 2016, Sport England launched the Active Lives monitoring system, to measure sport and physical activity in England with the objectives set out by the recent DCMS and Sport England strategies. The latest data (November 2021-22) has been analysed to show the average levels of inactivity in South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse, Oxfordshire, South-East England and England as a whole. Where data is available, Table 2.1 below compares physical activity participation rates of people in these areas that are ‘inactive: less than 30 minutes a week’.

Table 2.1: Percentage of inactive people: less than 30 minutes physical activity per week

Clear inequalities identified by Sport England	South Oxfordshire (District)	Vale of White Horse (District)	Oxfordshire (County)	South East (Region)	England (Nation)
Inactive girls (5-15)	36%	18%*	32%	30%	31%
Inactive women (16+)	23%	25%	22%	25%	28%
Inactive young adults (16-34)	Unavailable	Unavailable	15%	19%	22%
Inactive older adults (75+)	46%	56%	50%	47%	49%
Inactive socio-economic deprived adults (NS SEC 1-2)	15%	14%	13%	16%	18%
Inactive adult from ethnic minorities	Unavailable	Unavailable	Unavailable	35%	37%
Inactive adults with a disability and long-term health conditions	38%	42%*	37%	40%	42%
Inactive adults facing prejudice and discrimination	Unavailable	Unavailable	Unavailable	17-19%	21-25%

*The latest data for Vale of White Horse was captured in 2019-2020

Source: Sport England Active Lives Data (2022)

The key findings of the latest Active Lives data shown in Table 2.1 are:

- There were 6,000 (36%) **inactive girls** (5–16-year-olds) in South Oxfordshire. This is a higher average level of inactivity than in Oxfordshire (32%), the South East (30%) and England (31%).
- The latest data for Vale of White Horse was captured in 2019-20, when 5,100 (18%) of girls were inactive. Over the last three years, inactivity increased in South Oxfordshire by 11% and in Oxfordshire by 8%, and therefore it is likely that the percentage of inactive girls in Vale of White Horse will have increased by c.10%. This would result in 28% of girls being inactive in 21-22, which is still lower than all other comparators.

- There were 13,000 (23%) **inactive women** (16+ years old) in South Oxfordshire and 14,800 (25%) in Vale of White Horse. This inactivity is higher than the Oxfordshire average (22%), but lower than regional and national averages (25% and 28% respectively).
- Active Lives Data (for any previous years) was unavailable at a district level. Across Oxfordshire the percentage of **inactive young adults** (16–34-year-olds) was 15%, which is lower than the average of the South East Region (19%) and England (22%)
- There were 8,700 (46%) **inactive older people** in South Oxfordshire (aged 75+ doing less than 30 minutes physical activity per week). This is a lower percentage of inactive people than the county, regional and national averages (50%, 47% and 49% respectively). In the Vale of White Horse, there were 8,400 (56%) inactive people aged 75+, which is c.6% above the County average.
- The percentage of **inactive adults that are socio-economically deprived** (NS SEC 1-2) in South Oxfordshire is 15%, and in Vale of White Horse it is 14%, which is higher than the average of Oxfordshire (13%). However, the average levels of inactivity amongst the most deprived are higher across the Region (16%) and across the Country (18%).
- There was no data available at a District or County level for the **inactivity of 'White Other', 'Asian (excluding Chinese)', 'Black', 'Chinese', 'Mixed' or 'Other ethnic origin'**. Across the South East Region and England as a whole, Asian (excluding Chinese) people had the highest percentage of inactive people; at 35% and 37% respectively.
- The percentage of **inactive adults living with a disability or long-term health problem** in South Oxfordshire was 38%, which is higher than the average of Oxfordshire (37%), but lower than the South East (40%) and England (42%) averages. The latest data for Vale of White Horse was captured in 2019-20, which at 42%, is the same as the National average.
- There was no data available at a District or County level for the **inactivity of 'Gay or Lesbian', 'Bisexual' or 'other sexual orientation'**. The percentage of inactive adults that are 'Gay or Lesbian', 'Bisexual' or 'other sexual orientation' is lower in the South East Region than in England as a whole (c.18% and c.23% respectively).

To help understand the varying levels of physical activity in South Oxfordshire, the latest Active Lives data (shown in Table 2.2 below) provides the percentage of people inactive, fairly active and active. The data shows that the majority of people (69%) in South Oxfordshire are ‘active: at least 150 minutes physical activity per week’, which is higher than in the Vale of White Horse, County, Regional and National averages.

Table 2.2: Percentage of people inactive, fairly active and active

Levels of activity	South Oxfordshire (District)	Vale of White Horse (District)	Oxfordshire (County)	South East (Region)	England (Nation)
Inactive: less than 30 minutes per week	21%	24%	21%	24%	27%
Fairly active: 30-149 minutes per week	10%	10%	11%	11%	12%
Active: at least 150 minutes per week	69%	67%	68%	64%	61%

Source: Sport England Active Lives Data (2022)

For those people that are inactive, activities such as ‘walking for leisure’ and ‘cycling for leisure’ are the most accessible activities. The latest Active Lives data (displayed in Table 2.3 overleaf) shows there was an increase in people ‘cycling for leisure’ in South Oxfordshire of 5.3% between 2016 and 2022. This is a higher rate of change over the same time period when compared to County, Regional and National averages.

Active Lives data also shows an increase in people ‘walking for leisure’ in South Oxfordshire (7.2%) over the same time period, however there were higher increases in the Vale of White Horse, Oxfordshire, South East and in England.

Table 2.3 Participation change between 2016 and 2022 by activity

Activity	South Oxfordshire (District)	Vale of White Horse (District)	Oxfordshire (County)	South East (Region)	England (Nation)
Cycling for leisure	5.3%	-2.0%	3.2%	1.0%	0.8%
Walking for leisure	7.2%	13.8%	13.1%	12.8%	11.4%

Source: Sport England Active Lives Data (2016-22)

2.7 Literature Review

We have reviewed several documents to provide up-to-date context for the assessment and its recommendations. These have included:

- [Neighbourhood Development plans](#);
- [Emerging Joint Local Plan \(2041\)](#);
- [Oxfordshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(2022\)](#);
- South and Vale Strategic Outcomes Planning Guidance Report (2021);
- [South and Vale Active Communities Strategy \(2022\)](#);
- [South Oxfordshire Infrastructure Delivery Plan \(2020\)](#) and;
- [South Oxfordshire Corporate Plan \(2020-24\)](#).

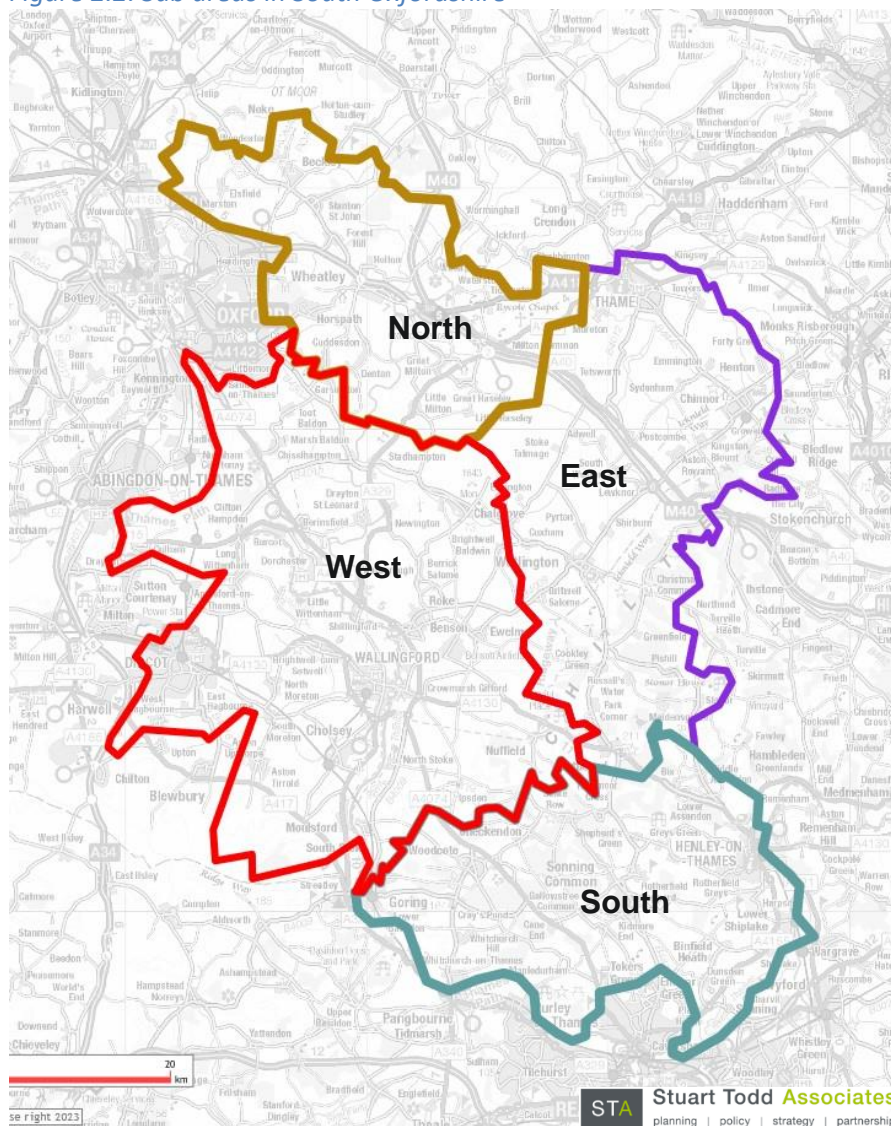
South Oxfordshire District Council has the following objectives in its Corporate Plan (2020-24) that are relevant to this commission:

- **Protect and restore our natural world:** work in partnership with the Earth Trust, Chilterns Conservation Board, North Wessex Downs AONB, the Environment Agency and others to improve access to green spaces in and around our towns, reinforcing access to nature as a priority for community wellbeing.
- **Action on climate emergency:** work with Oxfordshire County Council to build on our commitment to active travel including walking, public transport and cycling infrastructure. The Council also has an annually approved Climate emergency programme. In the emerging draft Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy, the Council has included provision for retrofitting to install Air Source Heat Pumps and Solar PV cells at Council leisure centres. The Council intends to become a carbon neutral council by 2030 and a carbon neutral district by 2045. At Thame Leisure Centre, there are plans for Solar PV and LED lighting upgrades. There are also plans for LED lighting upgrade in the sports hall at Park Sports Centre.
- **Improved economic and community well-being** - Projects include; launch of a new community well-being strategy to encourage and support culture, leisure and the arts. And using planning powers to preserve our valuable green spaces, particularly in urban areas is also included. The Council also intends to plan for communities connected by walking & cycling networks, with sustainable, accessible and affordable public transport. One of the measures of success is the measure of physical activity against nationally recommended targets.

2.8 Sub Areas

To aid the delivery of this LFAS, South Oxfordshire has been split into four sub-areas. This allows the supply and demand analysis for each facility type to be split into four areas that mirror how residents may typically travel to use facilities and the catchment areas of facilities. Figure 2.2 overlaid illustrates the sub areas in South Oxfordshire: East, North, West and South. the East Sub Area covers Thame and Chinnor; the North Sub Area includes Wheatley, Horspath and Holton; the West Sub Area includes Didcot and Wallingford; and the South Sub Area covers Henley.

Figure 2.2: Sub areas in South Oxfordshire



2.9 Population

According to the latest Census (2021) from the Office of National Statistics, South Oxfordshire has increased in population size by 11%, from around 134,300 in 2011 to 149,100 in 2021. This is higher than the overall increase for England (6.6%) and the South East (7.5%).

In South Oxfordshire, over the last decade, there has been an increase of 25.1% in people aged 65+ years old, an increase of 7.9% in people aged 15 to 64 years, and an increase of 6.7% in children aged under 15 years. The increases are higher than the England averages, which are 20.1%, 3.6% and 5.0% for the respective age groups. Yet South Oxfordshire is the seventh least densely populated of the South East's 64 local authority areas, with around two people living on each football pitch-sized area of land.

The population figures for this study have been provided by Oxfordshire County Council (May 2023). The current population across South Oxfordshire is 151,383 and by 2041 there is a projected population of 199,377. This is an increase of 24%, which is 13% higher than the population increase across the district between 2011 and 2021 (Census 2021).

To show the areas with the highest levels of projected population increase, Table 2.4 below presents a breakdown of ages groups by sub area. The projected population increase across the district by 2041 is 47,993, and the South sub area will have the highest projected population increase (mostly 46-75-year-olds). It is interesting to note that there is a projected population **decrease** in the South sub area of 5-45-year-olds.

Table 2.4 Projected population increase by age group and sub area between 2023 and 2041

Sub Area	5–15-year-olds	16–45-year-olds	46–75-year-olds	76–100-year-olds	0-100-year-olds (all ages)
East	379	2,503	3,227	1,422	7,694
North	484	1,450	1,374	837	4,297
South	-696	-181	340	879	297
West	3,194	9,957	17,741	3,380	35,705
District (Total)	3,361	13,729	22,683	6,518	47,993

(Source: Oxfordshire County Council, 2023)

The most significant increases in the population are due to large-scale housing development schemes at Valley Park (located between Harwell and Didcot); land at North East Didcot, Berinsfield, Chalgrove, Culham and on the edges of Oxford.

2.10 Berinsfield

The Local Plan proposes the village and an area of greenfield land to the east of the village is used to deliver approximately 1,700 dwellings, all within the plan period. Delivering growth and regeneration at Berinsfield promotes a sustainable pattern of development that will address key issues currently facing the village. The delivery of appropriate infrastructure will form an important element of delivering the masterplan in order to regenerate Berinsfield.

The delivery of appropriate infrastructure will form an important element of delivering the masterplan in order to regenerate Berinsfield. This includes the refurbishment and expansion of Abbey Sports centre and library to accommodate new community facilities in a Community Hub Building. This may include new premises for an expanded health centre or alternatively premises for a new health centre will be provide within the new development. There are also requirements for one primary school, expected to be 2 Form Entry, including early years provision, to meet the needs of the additional housing. Site area to allow for expansion to 3 Form Entry.

The expansion and enhancement of Abbey Woods Academy (subject to the approval of the Regional Schools Commissioner). Alternatively, a second primary school site to be protected to allow for the relocation of Abbey Woods Academy.

2.11 Chalgrove

Chalgrove Airfield adjacent to Chalgrove Village is allocated for 3,000 homes, with 2,105 expected to be delivered during the plan period. The key infrastructure requirements include two new 2 Form Entry primary schools including early years provision, and a new 1,500 place secondary school with sixth form (which will include a re-located Icknield Community College, subject to the approval of the Regional Schools Commissioner).

2.12 Culham

Land adjacent to Culham Science Centre has been allocated for delivery of approximately 3,500 dwellings, with 2,100 homes expected to be delivered during the plan period. It will require amendments to the Green Belt Boundary. The key infrastructure requirements include high quality walking and cycling infrastructure both on site and off site, specifically including a new pedestrian/cycle bridge over the Thames towards Abingdon. There are also two new 2 Form Entry primary schools including early years provision and a new 900 place secondary school with sixth form required.

2.13 Edges of Oxford

Land to the south of Grenoble Road is adjacent to the south of Oxford City will deliver approximately 3,000 dwellings in total, with 2,480 expected to be delivered during the plan period. It will require amendments to the Green Belt Boundary and key infrastructure requirements for Grenoble Road include: one new 3 Form Entry primary school, including early years provision, and a new 1,200 place secondary school with sixth form.

Land north of Bayswater Brook directly adjoins the eastern boundary of Oxford City. It is expected to deliver 1,100 dwellings, all within the plan period. It will require amendments to the Green Belt Boundary and infrastructure requirements include one 1.5 Form Entry primary school including early years provision, or a smaller school with expansion of an existing nearby school.

The site at Northfield is located on the edge of Oxford City's administrative boundary. The site relates well with the strategic allocation at Grenoble Road and an urban extension on the southern edge of Oxford will promote a sustainable form of development, including enabling links with sustainable transport. The site will deliver approximately 1,800 dwellings in total, with 1,750 expected to be delivered during the plan period. It will require amendments to the Green Belt Boundary and key infrastructure requirements include one 3 Form Entry primary school including early years provision.

Oxford Brookes University intends to relocate its existing uses at the Wheatley Campus to its Headington Campus in Oxford City, which would leave a vacant site in the Green Belt; the eastern part having been previously developed and the western part characterised as open and undeveloped. There is some scope for residential development on the eastern part of the site.

The South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2035 proposes to remove Wheatley Campus from the Green Belt and allocate the site for the delivery of at least 500 homes within the plan period (currently an appeal and associated Heads of Terms).

2.14 Valley Park

Located on north-west edge of Didcot, but within the Vale of White Horse is Valley Park. In February 2022 outline planning permission was granted for up to 4,254 dwellings including 35 per cent affordable housing, public open spaces, sports pitches / facilities, primary schools, and community facilities including new healthcare provision. A S106 legal agreement secures local infrastructure provision including road junction revisions, new roads, footway and cycleway provision, and financial contributions to improve and extend existing secondary schools and provide new bus services.

Since February 2022 developers have submitted planning applications seeking approval of details of the designs for the first phases of development in the north of the site. These applications include the provision of infrastructure to serve the first phases of development (application P22/V0604/RM) and applications for 161 dwellings (P22/V0907/RM), and 246 dwellings (P22/V0539/RM).

2.15 North East Didcot

This site has space allocated for 2,030 homes with a minimum of 25 per cent affordable housing. So far, the district council has granted outline planning permission for 1,880 homes and supporting infrastructure – the remaining 150 homes are the subject of current application (P19/S0021/O). There has also been permission granted on reserved matters, including the road infrastructure (in part), a neighbourhood park and 374 dwellings. Currently being considered is an application for the remaining road infrastructure, a further 168 dwellings and open space provision.

Didcot is becoming increasingly dominant as the main urban centre of South Oxfordshire. Within 10 years, some 25% of the district's population will live in Didcot.

2.16 Neighbouring Authorities

This assessment takes account of the imported / exported demand from residents of neighbouring authorities. It is important to identify any cross-boundary issues relating to facilities in South Oxfordshire so that the LFAS recommendations can help to address these issues.

Local authority officers at Oxford City, West Oxfordshire, Swindon, Reading and Wokingham councils were contacted for information on any facilities (or development plans) in their authority area that attracts users from South Oxfordshire, or whether residents from their authority area travel to South Oxfordshire to use facilities. Any relevant information has been included in the assessment of each sport and presented in later sections of this report.

2.17 Strategic Context Summary

Area of Analysis	Summary of key findings
Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to the latest Census (2021) from the Office of National Statistics, South Oxfordshire has increased in population size by 11%, from around 134,300 in 2011 to 149,100 in 2021. This is higher than the overall increase for England (6.6%) and the South East (7.5%). The population figures for this study have been provided by Oxfordshire County Council (May 2023). The current population across South Oxfordshire is 151,383 and by 2041 there is a projected population of 199,377. This is an increase of 24%, which is 13% higher than the population increase across the district between 2011 and 2021 (Census 2021). The projected population increase across the district by 2041 is 47,993, and the West sub area will have the highest projected population increase (mostly 46-75-year-olds). It is interesting to note that there is a projected population decrease in the South sub area of 5-45-year-olds. The most significant increases in the population are due to large-scale housing development schemes at Valley Park (in the Vale), land at North East Didcot, Berinsfield, Chalgrove, Culham and on the edges of Oxford. Didcot is becoming increasingly dominant as the main urban centre of South Oxfordshire. Within 10 years, some 25% of the district’s population will live in Didcot. The largest future housing development is located on north-west edge of Didcot (South Oxfordshire), but within the Vale of White Horse is Valley Park. In February 2022 outline planning permission was granted at Valley Park for up to 4,254 dwellings including affordable housing, public open spaces, sports pitches / facilities, primary schools, and community facilities including new healthcare provision.
Participation rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The latest Active Lives Data (Sport England, 2022) shows 36% inactive girls (5–16-year-olds) in South Oxfordshire, which is a higher average level of inactivity than in Oxfordshire (32%), the South East (30%) and England (31%). Active Lives data also shows 23% inactive women (16+ years old) in South Oxfordshire, which is higher than the Oxfordshire average (22%), but lower than regional and national averages (25% and 28% respectively). The largest increase in inactivity since 2016 is amongst Asian people (excluding Chinese) where there has been an increase of 7.5% in inactivity in the South East Region. The percentage of inactive adults living with a disability or long-term health problem in South Oxfordshire was 38%, which is higher than the average of Oxfordshire (37%), but lower than the South East (40%) and England (42%) averages.
Deprivation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas that score within the 10% most deprived within South Oxfordshire are in parts of Berinsfield, Didcot South, Didcot West and Haseley Brook. Parts of Berinsfield and Didcot West are amongst the 40% most deprived areas nationally.
Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to address high future demand for sports facilities at Valley Park, Berinsfield, Chalgrove, Culham and on the edges of Oxford. Need to lower the percentage of inactive girls in South Oxfordshire by at least 5%, and 1% for inactive women, to reach the Oxfordshire average.

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|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Need to lower the percentage of inactive Asian people, as well as adults living with a disability or long-term health condition; by at least 1.4% in South Oxfordshire to reach the Oxfordshire average.• Need to carefully consider facilities within the most deprived areas of the district (especially Berinsfield, Didcot South, Didcot West and Haseley Brook) to understand the type of sports provision and physical activities opportunities available to residents in these areas. |
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The Council and its partners are committed to the LFAS and its vision.

“Our vision for the Strategy is that South Oxfordshire should provide a good supply of well managed and maintained leisure and recreation facilities, which are fit for purpose, meet identified needs and encourage all residents to take part in sport and physical activity.”

There will be a positive reaction to the impacts of climate change through sports provision, seeking to contribute to opportunities for the community to access sports facilities and ancillary facilities without the need to use unsustainable forms of transport to access facilities and support access to the facilities through active travel means. The strategy will support the Councils’ vision to become carbon neutral by 2045 and to reduce emissions across the district.

The aims of the LFAS are:

- *To protect, enhance and provide leisure facilities across the public, private and independent sectors.*
- *To review the use of community buildings and other facilities owned or managed by the council to maximise usage and income.*
- *In the approach and preparation of the needs assessment and strategy, to consider and incorporate the councils’ duties under Equality Act 2010 in its recommendations.*
- *To help direct investment to where improvements can have the greatest impact.*
- *To encourage community access to the site by active travel means or more sustainable methods of transport.*
- *To include recommendations that take account of the need to achieve carbon neutral districts and have measures in place to help ensure that facilities can be managed sustainably*
- *The assessment will help to ensure that the planning policies in the Joint Local Plan are based on a robust and up-to-date assessment of the needs for sports facilities.*

3. SWIMMING POOLS

3.1 Introduction

This section contains a summary of the findings from the needs assessment for swimming pools. Swimming pool facilities are defined as an 'enclosed area of water, specifically maintained for all forms of water-based sport and recreation, covering indoor pools and specific diving tanks for swimming, teaching, training and diving (Sport England Active Places).

Training for competition, low-level synchronised swimming, and water polo can all take place in a 25m pool. With modest spectator seating, pools can also accommodate competitive events in these activities. Diving from boards, advanced synchronised swimming and more advanced sub-aqua training require deeper water. These can all be accommodated in one pool tank, which ideally should be in addition to the main pool.

Many small pools are used solely for recreational swimming and will not necessarily need to strictly follow the NGB recommendations. It is, however, generally recommended that standard dimensions are used to allow appropriate levels of competition and training and to help meet safety standards. Relatively few pools need to be designed to full competition standards or include spectator facilities.

3.2 Supply

This assessment is mostly concerned with indoor larger pools available for community use (no restrictions to accessing the pool as a result of membership criteria). This is because outdoor pools, and pools less than 160m² (i.e., less than 4 lanes x 20m in length) water space and/or located at private member clubs typically offer limited value in relation to community use and delivery of outcomes related to health and deprivation.

In South Oxfordshire there are large swimming pools located at three public leisure centres; in Didcot, Thame and Henley. There is also a smaller pool (3 lane 18m) at Abbey Sports Centre in Berinsfield, which has also been made part of the focus in the assessment. These leisure centres have extensive opening hours and are proactively managed to encourage and support participation and physical activity. Unlike commercial swimming pools, they do not require payment of a monthly membership fee and provide all the swimming activities for public use and sports club use.

Access to swimming pools for community use on educational sites will be determined by the policy of each educational provider. Some schools and colleges actively promote community use. At some venues there is little differentiation between educational and wider community use, with community access based on a membership system (classed as commercial). Other educational venues let out their swimming pools to sports clubs or community groups on a termly basis, or for shorter periods.

A swimming pool on an educational site that is only available for a few hours a week, and with an irregular pattern of use, is very different from a public leisure centre swimming pool with a full programme of use. Also, educational venues may not be available for recreational pay and play.

However, there are two large swimming pools at the Oratory Sports Centre and Oratory Prep School, which are used by local swimming clubs on a regular basis and have therefore been included in this study.

Table 3.1 below shows there are large community-accessible swimming pools located in three of the four sub areas in South Oxfordshire. There is no large swimming pool in the North Sub Area. A map to show the location of pools is displayed in the Appendices.

Table 3.1: Large swimming pools in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Sub Area	Pool width (no. of lanes) and length	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type
Thame Leisure Centre	East	4 x 25m	Public	Local Authority	Trust
Henley Leisure Centre	South	4 x 25m	Public	Local Authority	Trust
The Oratory Prep School	South	4 x 25m	Education	Education	Education
The Oratory Sports Centre	South	6 x 25m	Education	Education	Education
Abbey Sports Centre	West	3 x 18m	Public	Local Authority	Trust
Didcot Wave Leisure Pool	West	6 x 25m	Public	Local Authority	Trust

Commercial sites provide recreational participation through membership. The centres are not available for public pay and play or for club development. Therefore, they offer a more limited programme of use than public leisure centres and are less utilised. Table 3.2 below shows the lidos, small pools (less than 4 lanes x 20m), private membership clubs and school pools in South Oxfordshire.

There is a publicly-accessible Lido in South Oxfordshire; at Riverside Park in Wallingford. However, the pool is only open during the summer (14-weeks).

Table 3.2: Lidos, small and private membership pools in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Pool Type	Management Type
Cranford House School	Small Pool	School
Jeromes Leisure Club	Small Pool	Commercial
Moulsford School	Lido	School
Oxfordshire Hotel Golf and Spa	Small Pool	Commercial
Phyllis Court Club	Small Pool	Commercial
Riverside Park and Pools	Lido	Trust
Shiplake College	Lido	School
Sonning Common Primary School	Small Pool	School
St Andrews C E Primary School	Small Pool	School
Stadhampton Primary School	Lido	School
The Club at Mapledurham	Small Pool	Commercial
The Oratory Preparatory School	Small Pool	School
The Oxford Belfry Hotel	Small Pool	School

3.3 Security of Access, Ownership and Management

Four of the six pools have secured community use as they are owned by the Local Authority. There pools located at public leisure centre sites in Didcot and Berinsfield; the other two leisure centres are located on school sites in Henley and Thame. The pools that do not have secured community access are located at Oratory Sports Centre and Oratory Prep School. The Oratory pools are operated by in-house school management teams, whereas the four other leisure centres are managed by an external leisure operator.

There are Joint Use Agreements at Henley Leisure Centre, Thame Leisure Centre and Abbey Sports Centre to prioritise school use of the swimming pools during term-times.

Table 3.3 Opening hours, pricing and availability of swimming pools in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Sub Area	Sports Club User	Opening Hours, Pricing and Availability
Thame Leisure Centre	East	Thame Swimming Club	<p>Opening hours: Mon-Fri 6:00-22:00; Sat-Sun 07:00-17:00.</p> <p>Pricing: Non-member adult £5.05 per swim – juniors and seniors £3.10. Swimming club annual fees: £71 Swim England membership and £35 club membership, plus £42-£82 per month for training.</p> <p>Availability: Thame SC (9.5 hours per week); School Swimming twice a week (6 hours per week) and the remaining time is used for GLL sessions* including public swimming sessions on a 'pay and play' basis.</p>
Henley Leisure Centre	South	Henley Swimming Club; Henley Leisure Swimming Club	<p>Opening hours: Mon-Fri 06:30-22:00; Sat 07:30-17:00; Sun 08:00-17:00.</p> <p>Pricing: Non-member adult £5.35 per swim – juniors and seniors £3.30. £50 Swim England membership and £50 club membership, plus £20-£80 per month for training.</p> <p>Availability: Henley SC use the pool once a week (1.5 hours) and Henley Leisure SC use the pool once a week (0.5 hours). There are 8 hours of school swimming a week during term-time and the remaining time is used for GLL sessions* including public swimming sessions on a 'pay and play' basis.</p>
The Oratory Prep School	South	Woodcote Swim Club; Didcot Barramundi Swim Club; Henley Swimming Club	<p>Opening hours: No public access to pool - restricted hours for clubs only. Club also the pool to host a swim school (3 hours).</p> <p>Pricing: Club members only - £50 Swim England membership and £50 club membership, plus £20-£80 per month for training.</p> <p>Availability: Woodcote SC use the pool twice a week (5 hours), Henley SC use it once a week (1.5 hours) and Didcot BSC use it once a week (3 hours). Remaining use is taken up by school pupils.</p>
The Oratory Sports Centre	South	Woodcote Swimming Club; Henley Swimming Club	<p>Opening hours: (Term-time) Mon-Thurs 07:00-22:00; Fri 07:00-21:00; Sat 08:00-17:00; Sun 09:00-17:00.</p> <p>Pricing: Non-member adult £4.50 per swim – juniors and seniors £3.50. £50 Swim England membership and £50 club membership, plus £20-£80 per month for training.</p> <p>Availability: Woodcote SC use the pool four times a week (4.5 hours) and Henley SC use the pool once a week (1.5 hours). Remaining use is taken up by school pupils and public swimming sessions on a 'pay and play' basis.</p>
Abbey Sports Centre (Berinsfield)	West	N/A	<p>Opening hours: Mon-Fri 06:30-21:30; Sat 07:30-17:00 and Sun 08:00-17:00.</p> <p>Pricing: Non-member adult £5.05 per swim – juniors and seniors £3.10. Availability: There are 6 hours of school swimming a week during term-time GLL sessions* including public swimming sessions on a 'pay and play' basis.</p>
Didcot Wave Leisure Pool	West	Didcot Barramundi Swim Club	<p>Opening hours: Mon-Fri 6:30-22:00; Sat-Sun 07:00-17:00.</p> <p>Pricing: Non-member adult £5.35 per swim – juniors and seniors £3.30. £50 Swim England membership and £50 club membership, plus £20-£80 per month for training.</p>

			<p>Availability: Didcot BSC use the pool twice a week (2.5 hours); School Swimming three times a week (9.5 hours) and the remaining time is used for GLL sessions* including public swimming sessions on a ‘pay and play’ basis.</p>
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* Swim for All, Swim for Fitness, Better Swim School, Water Workout and Aqua Aerobics

A summary of the key findings is bulleted below:

- Thames LC opens half an hour earlier than Didcot Wave and Henley LC during the week – 6am rather than 6:30am. At the weekends, Henley LC opens half an hour later on Saturdays and an hour later on Sundays. Abbey Sports Centre opens the latest of all pools (7am) during the week and at weekends (9am to 3pm).
- The club membership fees are slightly higher at Thame SC and Henley SC than Didcot BSC, but only by £6 per year. There are no swimming clubs using Abbey Sports Centre. The non-member fees for casual use of the pools per session is lowest for adults at Oratory Sports Centre (£4.50 per swim) and highest at Didcot Wave and Henley LC (£5.35). Junior and senior swim sessions are the most expensive at Oratory Sports Centre (£3.50) and the cheapest at Thame LC and Abbey Sports Centre (£3.10).
- Thame SC use Thame LC more than Didcot BSC use Didcot Wave - 8.5 hours more per week. There are no swimming club users at Abbey Sports Centre as it is too small.
- There are more school swimming sessions at Didcot Wave than there is at Thame LC (3.5 hours more per week), whereas there are no school swimming sessions on the pool timetable at Henley LC; only ‘Better Swim School’ and other operator sessions
- The pool at Oratory Sports Centre is open for an extensive number of hours during term-time and is available for the public to use on a ‘pay and play’ basis during the majority of opening hours. The Oratory Prep School pool is only able to support local club use and does not allow public use.

Swimming clubs in South Oxfordshire report a lack of availability and that a lack of pool time is the first barrier to club expansion. Didcot BSC and Thame SC must use pools outside of the study area in order to access the provision they need. Didcot BSC use Radley College (Vale of White Horse), and Thame SC train at Aquavale (Aylesbury) and Risborough Springs (Princess Risborough).

Swimming clubs also report that rising costs are hindering club development. Didcot BSC and Henley SC have annual lane hire agreements at the pools they use, however costs are rising by at least 5% per year, which has left the clubs with no other option than to increase the membership costs. The clubs believe this will prohibit new members joining; Henley SC report that the drop in Under 16 members is related to expenses that parents are trying to balance due to the economy.

3.4 Age and Quality of facilities

As might be expected there is a clear correlation between the facility quality and age (since opening or the date of any major refurbishment) of swimming pools in South Oxfordshire. Table 3.4 below offers further detail with regard to the age and refurbishment dates of different facilities.

The pool stock within the district is mixed, with some either constructed or refurbished relatively recently (Didcot Wave Leisure Pool & Gym and Henley Leisure Centre were refurbished in 2017) while other stock is now more dated (Thame Leisure Centre was constructed in 2003 and has not been refurbished since).

Five of the six sites with swimming pools were subjected to a non-technical assessment. A summary of the findings from visual assessments (using Sport England’s ANOG guidance) has been provided below. The full audit data is presented in Appendix B.

Table 3.4: Quality, age and refurbishment detail of swimming pools in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Sub Area	Year Built (refurbished)	Audit / Quality rating
Thame Leisure Centre	East	2003	Above average: Facility is in reasonable condition and is well maintained and presented. It is older but it is fit for purpose and safe. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are in an acceptable condition but show some signs of wear and tear. Ancillary facilities are good quality, but showing signs of age and some wear and tear.
Henley Leisure Centre	South	1977 (2017)	Good: recently invested, up to date, well maintained, clean and well-presented. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are new or relatively new with little if any wear and tear. The facility is well lit with a modern feel. Ancillary facilities are welcoming, new or well maintained, fit for purpose, modern and attractive to use.
The Oratory Sports Centre	South	1970 (2014)	Above average: Facility is in reasonable condition and is well maintained and presented. It is older but it is fit for purpose and safe. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are in an acceptable condition but show some signs of wear and tear. Ancillary facilities are good quality, but showing signs of age and some wear and tear.
The Oratory Prep School	South	2008	No audit completed – School declined opportunity to be included in the study. However, Didcot BSC use run a ‘Swim School’ here and say it is ‘Above Average’ quality.
Abbey Sports Centre (Berinsfield)	West	1983 (2023)	Abbey Sports Centre in Berinsfield was also visited and rated ‘Poor’ quality at time of visit. The facility is old and outdated. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are aged, worn and/or damaged. The facility is unattractive to customers and does not meet basic expectations. The wet side changing rooms have been refurbished (Spring 2023) and are now ‘Good’ quality.
Didcot Wave Leisure Pool	West	1993 (2017)	Above average: Facility is in reasonable condition and is well maintained and presented. It is older but it is fit for purpose and safe. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are in an acceptable condition but show some signs of wear and tear. Ancillary facilities are good quality, but showing signs of age and some wear and tear.

3.5 Demand (NGB Consultation)

The NGB responsible for administering diving, swimming, synchronised swimming and water polo in England is Swim England. Working alongside key partners, Swim England has gathered the views on the long-standing barriers which prevent participation. The comprehensive data was collected during a month-long campaign throughout May 2022 and is being used to help shape Swim England’s next 10-year strategy.

In addition, it will enable the recognised national NGB and its partners across the sector to identify key projects and initiatives which will help diversify the swimming pool sports.

In relation to swimming in South Oxfordshire, Swim England commented that there is adequate provision for swimming in the district. Clubs have the opportunity to access the 8-lane pool with spectator seating at White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre for Galas. Although not within South Oxfordshire, it is deemed adequate coverage of competition provision for clubs in the North and West of the district. The swimming pool stock in South Oxfordshire is aging but compares well to the stock elsewhere in the region. Nevertheless, the quality of indoor water provision at public leisure centres should be maintained (or improved if needed) as clubs are using pools provided at education sites, which have limited hours for club use.

3.6 Demand (Active Lives Data)

The latest Sport England Active Lives Data (2022) shows a decrease in the number of adults (16+ year olds) swimming in the last year across the whole of England (between 2018 and 2022). Table 3.5 below shows that the number of adults swimming indoors decreased by nearly -20% in South Oxfordshire, which is a greater decrease than in the Vale of White Horse, Oxfordshire, South East and England. Adults swimming in outdoor pools and open water in South Oxfordshire also decreased over the same time period (-9.9% and -4.9% respectively), which is similar to the County averages but a greater decrease than seen across the Region and Country.

Table 3.5: Adults (16+ yrs) % change in participation in the last year between 2018 and 2022

Activity	South Oxfordshire	Vale of White Horse	Oxfordshire (County)	South East (Region)	England (Nation)
Swimming - Indoors	-19.9%	-16.40%	-16.00%	-14.90%	-13.80%
Swimming - Outdoor pool	-9.90%	-4.50%*	-10.00%	-8.80%	-7.50%
Swimming - Open water	-4.90%	-6.00%	-4.00%	-3.50%	-3.20%

*from 2019 to 2021

(Source: Sport England Active Lives 2018-22)

Table 3.6 below shows Active Lives Data (2018-22) for children and young people (5-to-15-year-olds) that participated in ‘swimming activities’ once or more per week, or said they ‘can swim’. There has been an increase in participation rates of both, which compares well to other areas, particularly the South East Region and National averages (where decreases were seen).

Table 3.6: Children and Young People (5-15 yrs) % change in once a week / ‘can swim’ between 2018 and 2022

Activity	South Oxfordshire	Vale of White Horse	Oxfordshire (County)	South East (Region)	England (Nation)
Swimming activities	11.20%	6.70%	0.90%	-1.30%	-3.20%
Can Swim	8.50%	-13.00%*	-1.00%	-4.60%	-5.30%

*from 2018 to 2021

(Source: Sport England Active Lives 2018-22)

3.7 Demand (Club Consultation)

There are five swimming clubs using swimming pools in South Oxfordshire; four of which responded to requests for information. Woodcote Swimming Club did not respond and therefore alternative sources of information have been used (i.e., operator booking sheet and club website) to supplement the club consultation findings shown in Table 3.7 overleaf.

Table 3.7: Club Consultation – swimming pools in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Sub Area	Sports Club User	Club Consultation Summary
Thame Leisure Centre	East	Thame Swimming Club	Thame Leisure Centre is used by Thame Swimming Club for 9.5 hours per week. The club’s membership numbers have remained the same of the last three years; it has 115 junior members and no adult members. The club is aiming to reach 130 members over the next few years. but its major concern is the potential increases in pool hire costs due to rising energy costs; and how this will impact the future sustainability of the club. School Swimming accounts for 6 hours per week and the remaining time is used for GLL sessions including public swimming sessions on a ‘pay and play’ basis, Swim for All, Swim for Fitness, Better Swim School, Water Workout and Aqua Aerobics.
Henley Leisure Centre	South	Henley Swimming Club Henley Leisure Swimming Club	<p>Henley Leisure Centre is used by Henley Swimming Club once a week (1.5 hours) and Henley Leisure Swimming Club use the pool once a week (0.5 hours). Local schools use the pool for 8 hours a week. GLL sessions including public swimming sessions on a ‘pay and play’ basis, Swim for All, Swim for Fitness, Better Swim School, Water Workout and Aqua Aerobics. Henley Swimming Club has 98 junior members (under 18s) and no adult members. The number of members at the club has decreased in the last three years due to under 18s leaving to go to university and parent of younger members having to reduce household expenses. The club is concerned that future costs of accessing pools will prohibit the development of the clubs, especially as there is a lack of pool space in the Henley area and Reading area.</p> <p>Henley Leisure Swimming Club also use Henley Leisure Centre, which has seven adult members (18+ year olds) that use the pool on Sundays for 30 minutes. The number of members has decreased at Henley Leisure SC (from 10 members in 2019). All members cite health reasons for ceasing membership. The club has difficulty recruiting new members, which it says is perhaps due to Covid fears but also due to the rising costs of memberships. The club has had coverage in the local press, flyers at the leisure centre and promotion on social media to try and increase membership numbers.</p>
The Oratory Prep School	South	Woodcote Swim Club; Didcot Barramundi Swim Club; Henley Swimming Club	The Oratory pools are used predominately by Woodcote Swimming Club – 5 hours a week at Oratory Prep School and 4.5 hours at Oratory Sports Centre. Other swimming club users of the Oratory Prep School pool are Henley SC use it once a week (1.5 hours) and Didcot BSC use it once a week (3 hours). The remaining use is taken up by school pupils as there is no public use of the pool. The Oratory Sports Centre pool is also used by Henley SC once a week (1.5 hours). The remaining use is taken up by school pupils and public swimming sessions on a ‘pay and play’ basis.
The Oratory Sports Centre	South	Woodcote Swimming Club; Henley Swimming Club	The Oratory Sports Centre pool is also used by Henley SC once a week (1.5 hours). The remaining use is taken up by school pupils and public swimming sessions on a ‘pay and play’ basis.

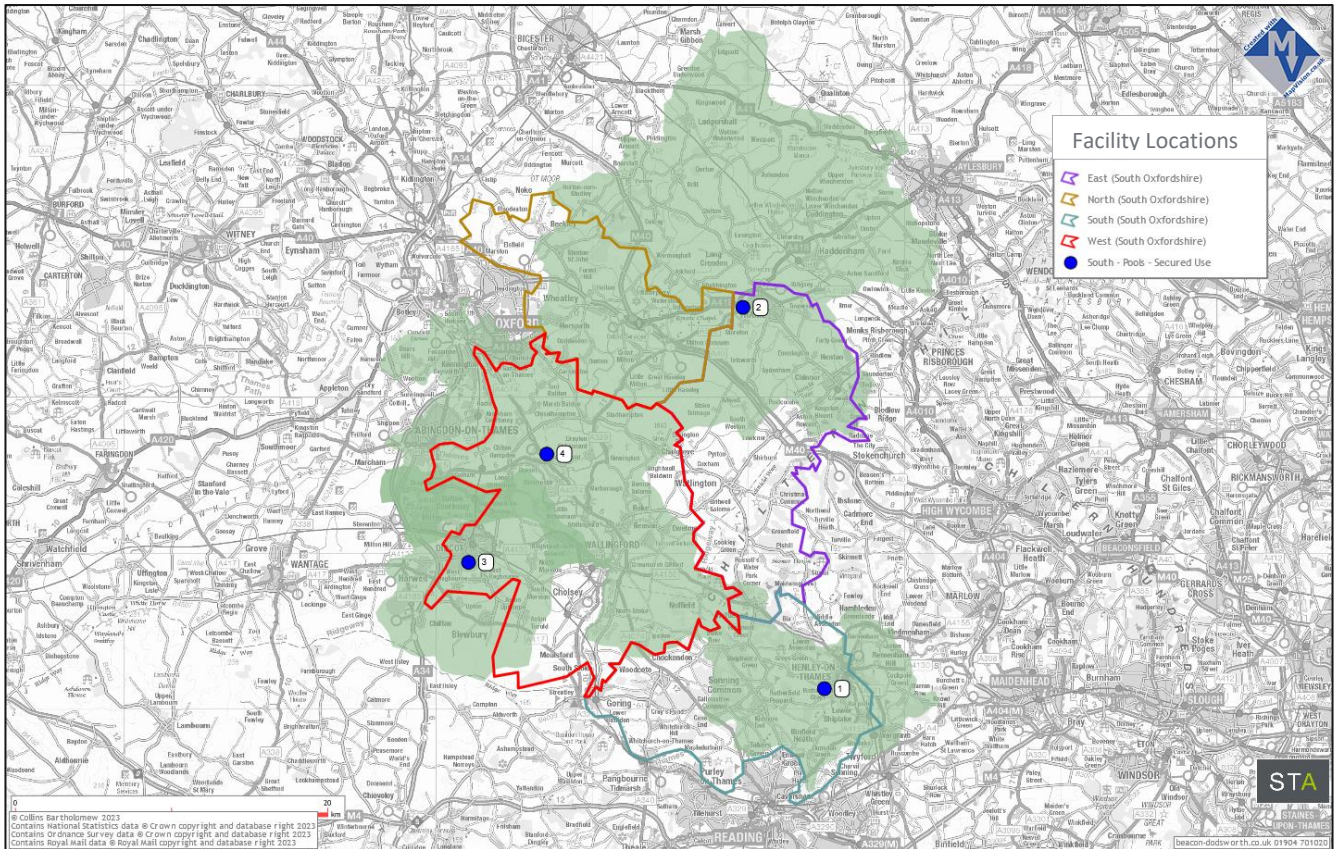
Abbey Sports Centre (Berinsfield)	West	N/A	There are no swimming clubs using Abbey Sports Centre (small pool) however there are school swimming sessions and GLL sessions including public swimming sessions on a 'pay and play' basis, Swim for All, Swim for Fitness, Better Swim School, Water Workout and Aqua Aerobics.
Didcot Wave Leisure Pool	West	Didcot Barramundi Swim Club	Didcot Wave Leisure Pool is used by Didcot Barramundi Swim Club twice a week (2.5 hours) and there is School Swimming three times a week (9.5 hours). The remaining time is used for GLL sessions including public swimming sessions on a 'pay and play' basis, Swim for All, Swim for Fitness, Better Swim School, Water Workout and Aqua Aerobics. Didcot Barramundi Swim Club has 76 junior members (under 18s) and 35 adult members (18+ years old). The number of juniors has decreased due to non-return after Covid and a lack of local facilities (pool time and staffing). The number of adult members has increased due to interest in a return to fitness after Covid. Approximately 90% of Swim School swimmers come from Wallingford (>1 mile from the Club Site - Didcot Wave Pool) but the club have to run the Swim School at The Oratory Prep School, Woodcote, due to a lack of availability in Didcot. The club feels a new pool in Didcot is required and that it should already have a new pool in the area following the expansion of housing developments. It also feels that the pool operators could better cater for competitive swimming by opening up much earlier for training and offer evening and weekend training slots for the club to be able to grow.

3.8 Accessibility

Swimming pool accessibility is influenced by how far people are willing and able to travel. Appropriate walk and drive-time catchments are applied to facilities to determine accessibility of facilities to different communities. The normal acceptable standard is a 20-minute drive-time for a rural area. This enables analysis of the adequacy of coverage and helps to identify areas currently not serviced by existing provision.

The percentage of the population without access to a car influences travel patterns to swimming pools. A low percentage, such as in South Oxfordshire, means that there is likely to be a larger number of journeys to swimming pools by car. For residents without access to a car, travel to swimming pools by public transport and on foot become the choices of travel mode. It should be noted, however, that while residents may have access to public transport, it does not mean they can reach a swimming pool within 20 minutes via a combination of walking and public transport. Also, in rural areas the service may not be regular.

Figure 3.1: Map to show 20-minute drive-time catchment areas for swimming pools with secured community access in South Oxfordshire



The map shows a gap in provision in the East sub area; however, these residents are within a 20-minute drive-time of swimming pools in Princes Risborough and High Wycombe. The residents in the North Sub Area of South Oxfordshire, where there are no swimming pools, are able to travel to Thame or outside of the study area to Leys Pool and Leisure Centre in Blackbird Leys (Oxford). Oxford City Swim Club (132 members) are based at the 8-lane 25m pool and have reported that c.10% of its members are residents of South Oxfordshire (including Didcot and Wallingford).

3.9 Peak Time Usage

Table 3.8 below shows the number of hours each swimming pool is available for community use during peak times. The peak period during weekdays is from 09:00 to 10:00, 12:00 to 13:00, 15:30 to 21:00; and at weekends from 08:00 to 15:30 for a total of 52.5 hours per week. As a guide, the external leisure operators of the three public leisure centres have provided information on the number of ‘block-bookings’ and ‘casual bookings’ each facility receives in a typical week.

Regular block-bookings include use by community swimming clubs, school swimming, Better Swim School, Water Workout and Aqua Aerobics. Casual bookings include Swim for All, Swim for Fitness and Family Fun Swim.

Table 3.8: Peak time usage of public swimming pools in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Sub Area	No. of hours open in peak period	Regular block-bookings in peak periods (hours)	Casual bookings in peak periods (hours)	Spare capacity in peak periods (hours)
Thame Leisure Centre	East	52.5	42.5	8	2 (4%)
Henley Leisure Centre	South	52.5	35	3.5	14 (27%)
Abbey Sports Centre	West	52.5	8.75	8.75	35 (44%)
Didcot Wave Leisure Pool	West	52.5	25	22	5.5 (10%)

As a guide, the Sport England suggests that when 70% of a pool’s capacity is used it indicates that pools are becoming uncomfortably busy. This should be seen only as a guide to help flag when facilities are becoming busier, rather than as a ‘hard threshold’.

Thame Leisure Centre is the busiest pool in South Oxfordshire – it is full-to-capacity during 96% of the hours open during peak periods. The second busiest pool is Didcot Wave Leisure Pool (full 90% of peak times). Henley Leisure Centre pool is full 73% of peak periods, whereas Abbey Sports Centre is only full 56% of the time.

3.10 Future Demand

To estimate the number of people likely to be regular swimmers in the future, the projected increase in population for each sub area (from 2023 to 2041) has been provided by Oxfordshire County Council (2023). Together with the latest Active Lives participation rates, the likely number of new swimmers across the district has been generated.

Active Lives data (2022) shows that 14% of adults (16+ year olds) in South Oxfordshire participated in ‘Swimming – indoors’ at least twice in the last 28 days. For children and young people (5-to-15-year-olds), 38% participated in ‘Swimming activities’ once or more per week. If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 7,325 new swimmers across South Oxfordshire by 2041. A breakdown of future demand by sub area and age group has been provided in Table 3.9 below.

Table 3.9: Future demand for swimming in South Oxfordshire

Age Group	East Sub Area	North Sub Area	South Sub Area	West Sub Area	Total (District)
5–15-year-olds	143	183	-263	1,207	1,270
16–45-year-olds	353	204	-25	1,404	1,936
46–75-year-olds	455	194	48	2,502	3,199
76–100-year-olds	201	118	124	477	920
Total (5-100-year-olds)	1,152	699	-116	5,590	7,325

Future demand projections suggest that future demand will be highest in the West sub area and the majority of this demand will be from people aged 46 to 75 years old.

3.11 Facilities Planning Model

Sport England’s Facilities Planning Model (FPM) study is a quantitative, accessibility and spatial assessment of the supply, demand and access to swimming pools. The main report (displayed in the Appendices) sets out the full set of findings under each of the assessment headings. Provided below are the headline strategic overview, the key findings and interventions arising from the FPM study on supply, demand and accessibility.

The FPM modelling runs are to provide:

- Run 1 – a baseline assessment of provision in 2023
- Run 2 – a forward assessment of demand for swimming pools and its distribution, based on the projected changes in population between 2023 and 2041 and the addition of a learner pool at Didcot Wave Leisure Centre, which is modelled to open in 2025.
- Run 3 – an assessment of the impact of the modelled option for change at Abbey Sports Centre has in meeting the demand for swimming pools and its distribution up to 2041. Existing Abbey Sports Centre swimming pool (3 lane 18m) replaced with a newer larger pool (4 lane 25m) is modelled to open in 2031.

Headline Strategic Overview

The headline strategic finding is that the current and future demand for swimming pools can be met by the available supply. There is a significant increase in South Oxfordshire’s population and demand for swimming pools to 2041. The percentage increase in demand is the second highest in the study area, after Vale of White Horse.

A high level of the demand for swimming pools is met in 2023 and 2041, with visits increasing significantly. Around two-thirds of the satisfied demand is met within South Oxfordshire. Unmet demand is low, with nearly all unmet demand located too far from a facility and not due to lack of swimming pool capacity.

In both runs in 2041 four sites are uncomfortably full, but two sites in the south of the district have low utilisation. Replacement of Abbey Sports Centre on the same site with a larger pool is included as an option in this assessment and is not a commitment. Its provision is supported by the FPM findings at the scale modelled in Run 3. It improves the quality of the public leisure centre offer and is located in an area where demand increases significantly to 2041.

Retention of all the other public leisure centres is important, as this will ensure that nearly all residents have access to swimming pools in all areas of the district. There is a reasonable level of modernisation of the four swimming pools that were built before 2000, with one public leisure centre and one educational site having been refurbished. There will be an increasing need for modernisation to 2041 in order to maintain the quality of the swimming offer and the attractiveness of the pools. The focus for investment is modernisation of the stock, and not further provision beyond that modelled.

Key Findings

The key findings that underpin the headline strategic overview are as follows:

1. The four public leisure centres provide 57% of South Oxfordshire’s swimming pool sites. There are two educational sites (providing 29%) and one commercial site (14%).
2. South Oxfordshire’s population is projected to increase by 32% between 2023 and 2041, resulting in a 30% increase in demand for swimming pools.

3. The west of the district has the largest increase in demand from 2023 to 2041 in the wards of Berinsfield, Garsington and Horspath, Sandford and the Wittenhams.
4. In 2023, 70% of the district's residents are within a 20-minute cycle ride of a swimming pool. In 2041 this increases slightly to 71%. Didcot Wave Leisure Centre has the most South Oxfordshire residents within a 20-minute cycle ride. Abbey Sports Centre has the fewest in 2023 but, due to the increase in population in 2041, it then has the second highest.
5. A high proportion of South Oxfordshire's demand is met, at 92% in all runs. The number of visits met in the weekly peak period increases from 9,079 in Run 1 to 11,794 visits in Run 2 and remains similar in Run 3 at 11,737 visits.
6. There is an increase in visits retained within the district with each run. In 2023, 67% of South Oxfordshire's satisfied demand is met at the district's swimming pools. In 2041 the proportion is lower because more visits are met overall, at 62% in Run 2 and 66% in Run 3.
7. Unmet demand is 8% of demand in all years, but in terms of water space is lowest in Run 1 at 125 sqm and highest in Run 3 at 168 sqm. Nearly all unmet demand is due to being too far from a facility. Unmet demand from lack of swimming pool capacity is less than 1 sqm of water in Run 1 and 19 sqm in Run 3.
8. In Run 3 the two locations where the most unmet demand can be met are Watlington and west Benson, at 49 sqm of water. In Watlington this will include unmet demand from the Wycombe area of Buckinghamshire. The reachable unmet demand at either location is an insufficient amount to consider provision of a new swimming pool to improve access for residents.
9. In all runs there is sufficient swimming pool capacity to meet demand. However, the distribution of demand means that some sites are uncomfortably full at peak times.

South Oxfordshire's findings related to Vale of White Horse

Runs 2 and 3 include a new learner pool at Wantage Leisure Centre in Vale of White Horse, due to open in 2025.

South Oxfordshire's demand is highest in Didcot on the border with Vale of White Horse, but demand along the rest of the boundary is low. The majority of South Oxfordshire's exported demand goes to Oxford. Vale of White Horse accounts for between 15% and 21% of all exported demand across the runs. The number of visits exported to Vale of White Horse is greatest in Run 2 when demand has increased in 2041, but lowest in Run 3 when the new pool at Abbey Sports Centre is included.

Unmet demand is very low in all runs along both sides of the boundary of South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse, although slightly higher in the Didcot area. In both runs in 2041 the most imported demand to South Oxfordshire comes from Vale of White of Horse due the attractiveness and increased capacity of Didcot Wave Leisure Centre in Run 2 and Abbey Sports Centre in Run 3.

South Oxfordshire exports more visits to Vale of White Horse than it imports in Runs 1 and 2, but imports more visits from Vale of White Horse than it exports in Run 3.

Interventions

These interventions and suggested next steps are based on the FPM findings and should be considered as a key part of the all-round evidence base currently being developed to inform the South Oxfordshire LFAS.

Combining the FPM assessment with the wider review of provision will lead to well considered options on the best ways to meet the projected demand for swimming pools up to 2041 and beyond.

Modernisation of the swimming pools is the key intervention. Four swimming pool sites opened before 2000 and two have been modernised. Two sites opened between 2003 and 2008 and neither has been modernised. In Runs 1 and 2 the average age of the public leisure centres is older than the other sites. In Run 2 (2041) the average age of all the sites is 48 years, and 52 years for the public leisure centres. If Abbey Sports Centre is replaced in 2031, the average age of the public leisure centres in 2041 reduces to 40 years, and the average age of all sites to 41 years.

Based on the FPM findings the centres for modernisation, in order, are:

- **Thame Leisure Centre:**
 - Opened in 2003 and unmodernised
 - Important site in terms of accessibility as it is the only public leisure centre in the northeast of the district
 - Good community swimming offer of a 25m pool, which provides all swimming activities in suitable pool, and a 'Fun Pool'
 - Estimated peak period utilisation of 67% in 2023, increasing to 71% in both runs in 2041 due to the increase in demand
- **Henley Leisure Centre:**
 - Opened in 1977 and unmodernised
 - Important site in terms of accessibility as it is the only public leisure centre in the southeast of the district
 - Smallest public leisure centre pool in Run 3, at 25m x 9m, but it has the third largest capacity in the district in the weekly peak period
 - Estimated peak period utilisation of 23% in all runs
 - Scale of site is suitable for demand in the area and could reduce the hours available in the weekly peak period to decrease the capacity if required

Based on the quantitative assessment there does not need to be further provision at either site. Requirements for modernisation should be based on condition surveys and be subject to a feasibility study focusing on modernisation that enhances the offer and provides a more cost-effective site.

Local Share of Facilities

Local share analysis helps show which areas have a better or worse share of facility provision. It considers the size, availability and quality of facilities, and travel modes. Local share is useful for looking at 'equity' of provision and is the available capacity that people want to visit in an area (considering deprivation), divided by the demand for that capacity in the area. Local share decreases as facilities age.

Overall, local share indicates that in 2023 there is sufficient provision that South Oxfordshire residents can access, but this is not the case in either run in 2041. However, local share varies across the district.

Local share shows how access and share of swimming pools differs across the local authority area, as follows:

- A value of 1 means that there is enough suitable supply reachable by the demand
- A value of less than 1 indicates a shortage of suitable supply that can be reached by the demand
- A value greater than 1 indicates a surplus of suitable supply that can be reached by the demand

Local share identifies the areas of the local authority where the share of swimming pools is better and worse. The intervention is to try and increase access for residents in the areas with the poorest access to swimming pools. In Run 1 when demand is lowest there is enough suitable provision that South Oxfordshire's residents can access, with local share of 1.30. However, in Runs 2 and 3 there is not enough suitable provision that the

district’s residents can access because demand is greater in 2041, and the facilities have aged and become less attractive. Local share is 0.66 in Run 2 and then higher in Run 3 at 0.71, because the new Abbey Sports Centre is larger and more attractive.

Geographical Distribution of Local Share

In Run 1 (2023) local share is best in the northwest of the district, on the southern border with Oxford at 2.8, and in Nuneham Courtenay and Marsh Baldon at 2.5. Residents in this area have more than enough suitable provision because demand is very low and three swimming pool sites in Oxford and four in Vale of White Horse are accessible. Local share is poorest near Lewknor at 0.5 due to the road network making facilities inaccessible within a suitable drive time. Local share is next poorest in southeast Didcot at 0.9.

In Run 2 (2041) local share is best on the southern border with Oxford at 1.2. Local share is good at between 1.0 and 1.1 southeast of Oxford, in Stadhampton and in Henley-on-Thames. Local share remains poorest near Lewknor at 0.3. It is also poor in Didcot, Wallingford and Berinsfield at 0.4 and Cholsey at 0.5.

In Run 3 (addition of new Abbey Sports Centre) local share improves in Berinsfield to 0.7. Local share is best north of Abbey Sports Centre on the southern border with Oxford at 1.4, and in Garsington and Horspath at 1.2. Local share remains poorest near Lewknor at 0.3 and Didcot at 0.4. There is small improvement in Wallingford at 0.5.

3.12 Planned Developments

South Oxfordshire District Council recognises the potential of developing a 20m x 10m teaching pool at the existing Didcot Wave Leisure Pool site.

3.13 Summary of swimming pools key facts and issues

Key Element (ANOG)	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
<p><u>Quantity</u> – Are there enough facilities with sufficient capacity to meet needs?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All clubs report a lack of available pool space at peak times. They are also having to rely on education-owned pools. Oratory Prep School (used by Woodcote SC, Didcot BSC and Henley SC) and Oratory Sports Centre (used by Woodcote SC and Henley SC). • Future population could generate 7,325 new swimmers across South Oxfordshire by 2041 (5,034 in West sub area). • The FPM study shows that local share of swimming pools, which considers deprivation, is poorest near Lewknor at due to the road network making facilities inaccessible within a suitable drive time. Local share is next poorest in southeast Didcot. 	<p>Additional space and time required for swim clubs at pools in Didcot, Henley and Thame.</p> <p>New provision needed to meet very high future demand for swimming in West sub area.</p>

<p><u>Quality</u> – Are the facilities fit for purpose for the users? Do the facilities provide the level of play needed, and does the quality meet the user’s expectations?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All large (at least 4 lane) swimming pools are ‘Above Average’ or ‘Good’ quality. • Abbey Sports Centre pool is old and outdated. The facility is barely usable and at times may have to be taken out of commission. The facility is unattractive to customers and does not meet basic expectations. Changing facilities have been recently refurbished and are ‘Good’ quality. 	<p>Improvement of pool quality at Abbey Sports Centre.</p> <p>Modernisation of Henley LC and Thame LC.</p>
<p><u>Accessibility</u> – Are the facilities in the right physical location for users? Does the cost of using facilities prohibit access?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents in the southern part of the East sub area are outside a 20-minute drive-time of a public leisure centre pool; however, these residents are within a 20-minute drive-time of swimming pools in Princes Risborough and High Wycombe. • Swimming clubs report that the rising costs to hire pools (c.5% per year) prohibit new members joining. • The non-member fees for casual use of the pools per session is lowest for adults at Oratory Sports Centre (£4.50 per swim) and highest at Didcot Wave and Henley LC (£5.35). Junior and senior swim sessions are the most expensive at Oratory Sports Centre (£3.50) and the cheapest at Thame LC and Abbey Sports Centre (£3.10). 	<p>Extension of Abbey Sports Centre pool could accommodate some residents in provision gap.</p> <p>Work with the public leisure centre operators at Didcot Wave and Henley LC to reduce the price of a ‘pay and play’ public swimming sessions – from £5.35 for adults to £4.50 per swim (in line with Oratory Sports Centre pool).</p>
<p><u>Availability</u> – Are the facilities available to users who want to use them?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swimming clubs in South Oxfordshire report a lack of availability and that a lack of pool time is the first barrier to club expansion. • Thame Leisure Centre is the busiest pool in South Oxfordshire – it is full-to-capacity during 96% of the hours open during peak periods. • The second busiest pool is Didcot Wave Leisure Pool (full 90% of peak times). Henley Leisure Centre pool is full 73% of peak periods, whereas Abbey Sports Centre is only full 56% of the time. 	<p>New pool provision in Didcot to alleviate Didcot Wave capacity issues.</p> <p>Work with operators of Didcot, Henley and Thame leisure centres to enable more use by clubs.</p>
<p><u>Summary</u> – What provision is required to meet needs and address issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to maintain the current level of provision and capacity for general community use to meet current and future needs of the district. Reduction of overall capacity will have an impact on meeting future population growth of the district. (PROTECT) • Swimming pool at Abbey Sports Centre needs to be improved to meet the expectations of users. (ENHANCE) • Improved availability needed at Didcot Wave, Henley LC and Thame LC for swim clubs to use them more at peak times. (ENHANCE) • Secure community use of pool at education sites through Community Use Agreements. Woodcote SC, Didcot BSC and Henley SC at the Oratory Prep School and Woodcote SC and Henley SC at Oratory Sports Centre. (ENAHNCE) • New provision is needed in Didcot and Berinsfield to improve the accessibility for both the existing and future population within the areas. (PROVIDE) 	

4. SPORTS HALLS

4.1 Introduction

This section contains a summary of the findings from the needs assessment work for sports halls. Sports halls are purpose built indoor facilities that can be used for numerous formal and informal sports, as well as a significant range of informal physical activity.

This assessment considered all sports hall facilities in South Oxfordshire; however, it focusses on ‘strategic’ facilities that are a minimum of three badminton courts. If design specification of floors and walls are suitable, larger sports halls provide far greater flexibility to operators and users as they can accommodate the majority of indoor sports such as football (5-a-side and training), volleyball, basketball and netball.

Many four court sports halls have a dividing net that allows them to be divided into several sub-areas, which can then be used for alternative sports and physical activities that do not require a large area, such as table tennis or martial arts. Sports halls with six or eight courts can accommodate higher level training and/or competition as well as meeting day-to-day need. They provide an option for more than one pitch/court increasing flexibility for both training and competition.

This section of the assessment report also considers smaller halls (3-courts or less), such as activity halls, village halls and community centres. These are important local facilities which can provide access to physical activity and sporting opportunity to people who may not be able to access leisure centres due to perceived or actual barriers. They are usually multi-functional, providing places for meetings, socialising and for sports and recreation clubs and activities.

Dance studios are also included in this section, as an important element of the wider health, fitness and conditioning market. They vary in size, shape, quality, access to sprung wooden floors and level of ancillary facilities. Activity types vary from low impact classes such as Pilates and Yoga to the more active Dance, Step, Boxercise and Zumba.

4.2 Supply of Large Sports Halls

The size that Sport England and the national governing bodies for hall sports recommend for a 4-court hall is 34.5m x 20m. These dimensions provide a sports hall that can cater for all hall sports at the community level of participation; and the scale also meets the requirements for hall sports club development. The district benefits from eight 4-court halls which meet the above court dimensions namely Willowbrook Leisure Centre, Europa School, Icknield Community College, Langtree School, Lord Williams’s School (Lower School), Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge School, Moulsoford School and Wallingford School.

However, there are seven 4-court halls; Abbey Sports Centre, Didcot Girls School, Didcot Leisure Centre, Henley Leisure Centre, Thame Leisure Centre, Shiplake College and Oratory Sports Centre. These sites have slightly smaller 4-court halls with dimensions of 33 x 18m which provides for hall sports at the community level but has less space between and behind individual courts.

There is a close correlation between the areas of highest demand for sports halls and the sports hall locations centred around the district larger settlements. In the periphery of the district, there is less demand for sports halls reflective of the rural nature of South Oxfordshire. In addition to the 15 four-court halls in the district, there is also a 5-court hall at Park Sports Centre in Wheatley, which is in close proximity to Oxford City.

4.3 Security of Access, Ownership and Management

Table 4.1 below provides details of the ownership and management types of the facilities at which the large sports halls (4+ courts) are located. There are four public leisure centres with large sports halls, plus Didcot Leisure Centre, which has limited operating hours, and Henley Leisure Centre, which has hours of operation in line with a public leisure centre. These two leisure centres are located on school sites but are owned by the Local Authority and run by the same operators as the public leisure centres and have secured community access.

There are also 10 other education-owned sites with large sports halls in the district and nine of the sites allow unsecured community access for sports clubs only. Moulsoford Prep. School has a sports hall that is for private (school) use only.

Table: 4.1: Sports Halls with 4+ courts in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Sub Area	No. of courts	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type
Icknield Community College	East	4	Sports Club	Education	Education
Lord Williams's School (Lower)	East	4	Sports Club	Education	Education
Thame Leisure Centre	East	4	Public	Local Authority	Trust
Europa School UK	North	4	Sports Club	Education	Education
Park Sports Centre	North	5	Public	Local Authority	Trust
Henley Leisure Centre	South	4	Public	Local Authority	Trust
Langtree School	South	4	Sports Club	Education	Education
Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge School	South	4	Sports Club	Education	Education
Shiplake College	South	4	Sports Club	Education	Education
The Oratory Sports Centre	South	4	Sports Club	Education	Education
Abbey Sports Centre (Berinsfield)	West	4	Public	Local Authority	Trust
Didcot Girls School	West	4	Sports Club	Education	Education
Didcot Leisure Centre	West	4	Public	Local Authority	Trust
Moulsoford School	West	4	Private	Education	Education
Wallingford School	West	4	Sports Club	Education	Education
Willowbrook Leisure Centre	West	4	Public	Local Authority	Trust

A map to show the location of sports halls is displayed in the Appendices.

4.4 Opening Hours, Pricing and Availability

Education sites play an important role in South Oxfordshire and should these sites become unavailable to the community, there would be insufficient supply to meet demand. Access to sports halls for community use will be determined by the policy of each educational provider. Some schools and colleges actively promote community use. At some venues there is little differentiation between educational and wider community use,

with community access based on a membership system (classed as commercial). Other educational venues let their sports halls to sports clubs or community groups on a termly basis, or for shorter periods.

In the East sub area, there are three 4-court sports halls with community access:

- Thame Leisure Centre which has opening hours on Monday to Friday from 06:00 to 22:00 and from 07:00- to 17:00 on Saturday and Sunday. The sports hall is available to book £55.40 for 40 mins during peak times, and £13.85 per badminton court for public sessions on a 'pay and play' basis.
- Ickneild Community College Bookings can be made 17:00 to 21:30, Mondays to Fridays during term time. On Saturdays and Sundays, and during school holidays, our spaces are available to book between 09:00 and 21:30 for £25 per hour for sports hall.
- Lord William's School (Lower Site) £40 per hour for whole hall 18:00 - 21:30 on weekdays and Saturdays 09:00 - 12:30 by negotiation after 12:30 and Sundays by negotiation only.

In the North sub area, there is one 5-court hall and one 4-court hall with community access:

- The Park Sports Centre (Wheatley) – the five-court sports halls is open Mon – Fri 07:00 - 22:00 on Sat 09:00 - 19:00 Sun 09:00 - 17:00. The courts are available for the public to hire on a 'pay and play' basis at a rate of £13.85 per court and £69.25 for the whole hall (for 40 minutes during peak times).
- Europa School UK is £40 per hour for the hire of the sports hall. Weekdays – 17:00 – 22:00; Weekends - 08:00 - 22:00.

The South sub area has five 4-court sports halls with community access:

- Henley Leisure Centre Opening hours: Mon-Fri 06:30-22:00; Sat 07:30-17:00; Sun 08:00-17:00. sessions on a 'pay and play' basis £13.85 (non-member) per court peak times for 40 minutes and £55.40 for the whole hall.
- The Oratory Sports Centre sports hall is available for hire by the public and clubs for £15 per court (£60 for the whole hall). Opening hours: (Term-time) Mon-Thurs 07:00-22:00; Fri 07:00-21:00; Sat 08:00-17:00; Sun 09:00-17:00. However, pupils use the sports hall during day-times and therefore limited access until 17:00.
- The 4-court sports halls at Langtree School, Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge School and Shiplake College and all available to hire by sports clubs for an average price of £45.50. However, facilities are heavily utilised by the schools. There are community lettings in the evenings, but these are to people who have links with the school. Primarily this is because the schools can't have members of the public on the school site because of safeguarding considerations.
- Moulsoford Prep. School has a four-court sports hall that is for private (school) use only.

In the West sub area, there are five 4-court sports halls with community access:

- Abbey Sports Centre (Berinsfield) Mon – Fri 07:00 - 22:00 Sat – Sun 09:00 - 15:00. The sports hall is available to book £55.40 for 40 mins during peak times, and £13.85 per badminton court for public sessions on a 'pay and play' basis.
- Didcot Leisure Centre Mon – Fri 17:00 - 22:00 Sat – Sun 09:00 - 12:00 The sports hall is available to book £55.40 for 40 mins during peak times, and £13.85 per badminton court for public sessions on a 'pay and play' basis.
- Willowbrook Leisure Centre Monday to Friday 12:00 to 21:00 and on Saturday and Sunday by negotiation.
- Didcot Girls School 17:00 to 21:30 on weekdays and at weekends 10:00 to 17:00 for sports club to hire at £40 per hour.
- Wallingford School sports hall is available for sports clubs to hire at £40 per hour; from 16:30 to 22:00 on weekdays and 09:00 to 16:00 at weekends.

4.5 Joint Use Agreements (JUAs)

Abbey Sports Centre (1980) and Didcot Leisure Centre (1984) both have a 60+ year JUA, which have expiry dates in 2044). The schools using the large sports halls at these sites is limited during term-time to 08:30 to 18:00 on weekdays and for two hours on a Saturday morning. Days in use should not exceed 190 per year.

Henley Leisure Centre has a 60-year JUA for the school’s use of the large sports hall, which began in 1974 (expiry 2034), exclusively for 40 weeks per year between 09:15-12:15 and 14:00-17:00 (except Thursday afternoons).

The Park Sports Centre has a 60-year JUA, which began in 1986 (expiry 2046), and allows priority use of the sports hall for no more than 190 days per year during term-time for school use 08:30-18:30 on weekdays and 09:00-12:00 on Saturdays.

Thame Leisure Centre has a 60-year JUA, which began in 1980 (expiry 2040), and allows priority use of the sports hall for 38 weeks of the year during term-time for school use 08:30-18:00 on weekdays.

4.6 Age and Quality of facilities

Eight of the sites with large sports halls were subjected to a non-technical assessment. Table 4.2 provides further detail with regard to the age and refurbishment dates of different facilities. The sports hall with the lowest quality ratings is at Park Sports Centre (‘Below Average’).

The sports hall stock within the district is quite dated. Of the public leisure centres Willowbrook Leisure Centre was the most recently constructed in 2002 whilst Thame Leisure Centre was refurbished in 2015 and Henley Leisure Centre was refurbished in 2011. Abbey Sports Centre (Berinsfield) new sports hall resurfacing planned by the Council.

Table 4.2: Quality, age and refurbishment detail of sports halls in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Sub Area	Year Built (refurbished)	Audit / Quality rating
Thame Leisure Centre	East	1982 (2015)	Above average: Facility is in reasonable condition and is well maintained and presented. It is older but it is fit for purpose and safe. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are in an acceptable condition but show some signs of wear and tear. Ancillary facilities are good quality, but showing signs of age and some wear and tear.
Park Sports Centre (Wheatley)	North	1985 (2007)	Below average: Facility is older and showing signs of age and poor quality. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are showing signs of wear and tear. The facility is usable but quality could be improved. The facility is not as attractive to customers and does not meet current expectations. Ancillary facilities are deteriorating, reasonable quality, but usable.

Henley Leisure Centre	South	1997 (2011)	Above average: Facility is in reasonable condition and is well maintained and presented. It is older but it is fit for purpose and safe. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are in an acceptable condition but show some signs of wear and tear. Ancillary facilities are good quality, but showing signs of age and some wear and tear.
Langtree School	South	1984 (2007)	Above average: Facility is in reasonable condition and is well maintained and presented. It is older but it is fit for purpose and safe. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are in an acceptable condition but show some signs of wear and tear. Ancillary facilities are good quality, but showing signs of age and some wear and tear.
The Oratory Sports Centre	South	1989 (2014)	Above average: Facility is in reasonable condition and is well maintained and presented. It is older but it is fit for purpose and safe. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are in an acceptable condition but show some signs of wear and tear. Ancillary facilities are good quality, but showing signs of age and some wear and tear.
Abbey Sports Centre (Berinsfield)	West	1983 (2010)	Abbey Sports Centre in Berinsfield was visited and rated 'Poor' quality at time of visit. However, the sports hall floor and the wet side changing rooms have been refurbished (Spring 2023) and are now 'Good' quality. The remaining ancillary facilities are low quality and unattractive to use.
Didcot Leisure Centre	West	1985 (2008)	Above average: Facility is in reasonable condition and is well maintained and presented. It is older but it is fit for purpose and safe. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are in an acceptable condition but show some signs of wear and tear. Ancillary facilities are good quality, but showing signs of age and some wear and tear.
Willowbrook Leisure Centre	West	2002	Above average: Facility is in reasonable condition and is well maintained and presented. It is older but it is fit for purpose and safe. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are in an acceptable condition but show some signs of wear and tear. Ancillary facilities are good quality, but showing signs of age and some wear and tear.

There are two sports halls in each sub that were not visited, but have been given assessment ratings based upon the age of the building / year refurbished:

In the East sub area:

- Icknield Community College – built in 1980 and refurbished in 2010 – 'Above Average' quality;
- Lord Williams's School (Lower School) – built in 1995 – 'Below Average'

In the South sub area:

- Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge School – built in 1960 and refurbished in 2009 – ‘Above Average’ quality
- Shiplake College – built in 1974 and refurbished in 2007 – ‘Above Average’ quality.

In the West sub area:

- Didcot Girls School – built in 2006 – ‘Above Average’ quality
- Wallingford School – built in 1999 and refurbished in 2015 – ‘Above Average’ quality

4.7 Supply of Activity Halls

The village halls and community centres have an important role enabling local people to access a range of local activities. They cater for older people as well as those living in more rural areas. Given the rural nature of the district, the importance of village halls and community centres cannot be underestimated. Activity programmes within facilities can contribute to getting the inactive active or retaining the already involved. These facilities can meet the needs of the ageing population and/or those suffering from rural isolation.

There is also a need to include dance studios as part of a community leisure centre or educational establishment. Many sports clubs that use dance studios will be doing so because there are no available large and small sports halls. Dance studios that are capable of accommodating sports club use is also considered in this section of the report.

4.8 Security of Access, Ownership and Management

The full list of activity halls, dance studios, village halls and community centres in South Oxfordshire is shown in Appendix C. Further details of sites with the largest provision (i.e., activity halls that are at least one badminton court in size / more than one dance studio) has been summarised below Table 4.3.

Table 4.3: Activity Halls & Dance Studios (including village halls & community centres) in South Oxfordshire

Sub Area	No. of halls & studios	Public (inc. ‘pay and play’) and sport club use	Secured community use
East	30	26	24
North	16	14	13
South	39	32	28
West	59	55	47
Total (South Oxfordshire)	144	127	112
Vale of White Horse	114	94	80

A map to show the location of halls and studios is displayed in the Appendices.

The summaries below highlight the educational-owned sites with activity halls / studios that have unsecured community use or private use only.

In the East sub area, there is an activity hall at Icknield Community College (Watlington) and a dance studio at Lord William’s School (Lower Site), which are available for hire by community sports clubs and organisations. The facilities at Icknield Community College and Lord William’s School are owned by the educational establishments and therefore have unsecured community use. There is also an activity hall at Barley Hill Primary School (Thame) and at Watlington Primary School, which are available for private use only.

In the North sub area, there are two sites with private use only; the activity hall at Great Milton C of E School and at Woodeaton Manor School. The activity hall at Wheatley CE Primary School is available for sports club use but has unsecured community use.

In the South sub area, the activity hall at Gillot’s School (Henley), at Langtree School (Reading), at Nettlebed Community School (Henley) and a dance studio at Maiden Erleigh Chiltern Edge School (Reading) are available for community use, but unsecured community use. Badgemore Park (Henley) has three dance studios and The Club at Mapledurham has two dance studios that are accessible with a membership and commercially owned.

In the West sub area, there are activity halls at Europa School and Didcot Girls School that have unsecured community access, as well as five activity halls with private access only; Cranford House School (two halls), South Moreton School, Willowcroft Community School and RAF Benson. The Barn Fitness Club (Wallingford) and The Exercise Lounge (Didcot) are available with a membership and commercially owned; and Wallingford School dance studio has unsecured community access.

4.9 Sports Activity at Village Halls and Community Centres

Although all village/community halls rely mainly on volunteers to operate, many offer facilities to local communities at the times needed i.e. morning, afternoon and evening. The majority of facilities are available 7 days a week for community use but must be pre-booked as they do not have extensive opening hours. Table 4.4 below shows there is a wide range of sports activities accommodated at village halls and community centres in the district. The data in the table below has been gathered using a range of sources of information; facility provider consultation (booking sheets where possible), sport club survey responses and online (website) research.

Table 4.4: Activities in village halls/community centres

Sub Area	Venue	Activity
East	Chinnor Village Hall	Pilates, dance, yoga, pickleball, zumba, jazzercise, badminton, tai chi, short mat bowls
	Kingston Blout Village Hall	Kettlebells
	Tetsworth Memorial Hall	Tai chi, children's ballet, yoga, bytomic
	Towersey Memorial Hall	Folk Dance
North	Beckley and Stowood Village Hall	Table tennis, pilates
	Great Milton Neighbours' Hall	Fitness and yoga
	Horspath Village Hall	Fight Klub
	Little Milton Pine Lodge	Yoga, keepfit, pilates
	Sandford On Thames Village Hall	Tae Kwondo, pilates, table tennis
	Wheatley Village Hall	Yoga, tapdancers, community exercise class
South	Eye and Dunsden Village Hall	Folk and Dance Club, dance and tone, yoga, pilates
	Goring-on-Thames Village Hall	Yoga, martial arts, Zumba, Ballroom dancing
	Harpsden Village Hall	Dance, yoga, little kickers
	Peppard War Memorial Hall	Fitsteps, Hulafit, senior ladies table tennis, pilates, table tennis
	Rotherfield Greys Village Hall	Short mat bowls, Zumba, mini warriors, pilates, jitsu
	Shiplake Memorial Hall	Pilates, Berkshire and Henley Dance, walking netball, gentle yoga, baby ballet, ballet Argentina tango

	Stoke Row Village Hall	Yoga, Clinical Pilates
	Whitchurch On Thames Village Hall	Hatha Yoga, tapdancers, community exercise class
	Woodcote Village Hall	Short mat bowls, yoga
West	Benson Parish Hall	Physical activity classes, including tai chi
	Cholsey Pavilion	Pilates, yoga, tai chi, Laura's exercise, martial arts, over 60's keep fit, balletfit, short mat bowls, short net tennis, yogabellies, adult beginners ballet, zumba, table tennis
	Clifton Hampden Village Hall	Archery
	Crowmarsh Village Hall	Zumba, pilates, BSWK Karate, SMAF
	Didcot Civic Hall	Didcot cricket club - mobile field nets to for training, BSWK Karate
	East Hagbourne Village Hall	Yoga, pilates, Barn dancing
	Garsington Village Hall	Yoga, dance, pilates
	Various locations in Wallingford	Dance Connection, Luna Yoga, Annette Martin Pilates, The body training studio, Wallingford Karate School, Wallingford shotokan karate, Kinecroft academy of dance
	Nuneham Courtenay Village Hall	Yoga
	South Stoke Village Hall	Pilates
	Stadhampton Village Hall	Pilates
	Stewart Village Hall, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell	Keep Fit
	Warborough Greet Hall	Pilates, Dancercise, Jujitsu, short mat bowls

4.10 NGB and Club Consultation

For each sport that use a sports hall, NGB consultation and club survey responses are shown in summary below. Full survey results are shown in Appendix A. Sport England Active Lives data has also been provided for context at a County, Regional and National level, however district-level data is not available.

4.11 Badminton

Sport England's Active Lives data shows an increase of 1.8% in Oxfordshire children and young people (5–15-year-olds) participating once a week in badminton between 2018 and 2022. This differs to the decreases over the same time period across the South East region (-0.5%) and England (-0.2%). Participation in badminton by Oxfordshire adults (16+ years) between 2016 and 2022 decreased by -3.8%, which is a slightly greater decrease than across the region (-3.6%) and the country (-3%).

Table 4.5: Change in % participation by activity, age and area

Activity and Age Group	Oxfordshire (County)	South East (Region)	England (Nation)
Badminton once a week - children and young people (5-15 years): percentage change between 2018 and 2022	1.80%	-0.50%	-0.20%
Badminton once in the last year - adults (16+ years): percentage change between 2016 and 2022.	-3.80%	-3.60%	-3.00%

Badminton England’s National Facilities Strategy (2021-2025) is fundamental to its broader strategy and its whole sport plan intentions for the next 5-10 years. The strategy applies a demand and supply analysis process that enables production of the national ‘Badminton Critical Court Index’ (BCCI). This model identifies when demand for courts (in this case those that are above a certain pre-defined level of quality) exceeds defined thresholds and directly relates current and latent demand to the number of available courts. Badminton England’s member database identifies 13 affiliated badminton clubs across South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse. The BCCI model shows there are an adequate number of sports halls within South Oxfordshire with an adequate number of badminton courts. It also shows that import and export participation is unlikely to be significant for the district. However, many of the facilities are within educational establishments and there are sometimes issues with the access of these facilities. Increasing participation at school and junior level means an increase demand for opportunities within the community. In South Oxfordshire there is limited ‘club’ provision for junior players and this is a key challenge and opportunity moving forward.

There are four affiliated badminton clubs, and Oxfordshire National Badminton, in South Oxfordshire. The venues where they train and play matches are shown in Table 4.6 below.

Table 4.6: Badminton Clubs in South Oxfordshire (affiliated clubs and venues)

Sub Area	Badminton Club	Venue
East	Thame Badminton	Thame Leisure Centre
	Mill Lane Badminton Club	Chinnor Village Hall
North	Oxfordshire National Badminton	Various Locations but county sessions at Europa School
West	Wallingford Badminton Club	Wallingford School
	The Park Badminton Club	The Park Sports Centre

Two of the clubs did not respond to requests for information. However, Badminton England’s member database shows Wallingford Badminton Club has between 21 and 49 members that are based at Wallingford School for weekly sessions; and The Park Badminton Club has between 9 and 20 members, and uses The Park Sports Centre. Summaries of the key findings from the clubs that have responded are below.

Oxfordshire National Badminton are the main junior badminton providers in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse. The organisation runs weekly county-level sessions for 100 junior (5-18-year-olds) at Europa School in Culham. The number of junior members has increased over the last three years due to increased social media marketing and managing the junior county coaching programme for Oxfordshire Badminton Association. There are four badminton courts at the school, which is sufficient provision rated as ‘Above Average’ quality by Oxfordshire National Badminton – the main issue is coaching as there is a lack of badminton coaches in Oxfordshire.

Thame Leisure Centre is used by Thame Badminton Club. The club has 57 adult members and 19 juniors (under 18-year-olds). The club runs three 2-hours badminton sessions with informal coaching per week. In the last three years the club’s membership has increased two-fold, particularly the number of young girls with parents also participating. It is also noticed that the club nights are male-dominated with the number of older males outnumbering the younger players. Overall, the club has seen an increase in members who want to play regularly but not necessarily play league matches.

The cost of hiring the sports hall at Thame Leisure Centre has increased by c.12% in the last three years. The booking arrangement has also changed; clubs are now required to make quarterly payments in advance for sports hall bookings. This has changed from the clubs being able to book the courts in arrears which helped clubs to flourish, but predicting numbers for each session is challenging for club committees to get right. Clubs also report issues with the double-booking of courts and have had difficult interactions with staff.

Mill Lane Badminton Club use Chinnor Village Hall once a week (2 hours) for club sessions. The club has seen its membership numbers decrease over the last three years, to 10 adult members only. The club reports this is due to injuries and long Covid, which has reduced numbers by 20%. The cost of hiring the hall has increased c.4% over the last year which has had a minimal impact on the club. The quality of the playing surface is described by the club as ‘Good’ quality and no issues with the quality or management of the village hall were raised by the club. However, there is only one badminton court at Chinnor Village Hall, which makes it difficult for the club to expand. Prospective players travel to Thame, Princes Risborough, Aylesbury or High Wycombe. These are large clubs at multi-courts venues, but before those venues existed Chinnor had two badminton clubs, two venues, many league entries, two coaches and a thriving junior section.

4.12 Basketball

Active Lives data shows no change in basketball participation by adults in Oxfordshire. Between 2016 and 2022 (16+ years old) the % change in participation in the last year between 2016 and 2022 saw no change (0%) in Oxfordshire, whereas there were decreases in South East (-0.6%) and in England as a whole (-0.8%). Basketball for 5-to-16-year-olds decreased by -1.3% in Oxfordshire, but increased 1.7% in the South East and 1.4% in England as a whole.

Table 4.7: Change in % participation by activity, age and area

Activity and Age Group	Oxfordshire (County)	South East (Region)	England (Nation)
Basketball once a week - children and young people (5-15 years): percentage change between 2018 and 2022	-1.30%	1.70%	1.40%
Basketball once in the last year - adults (16+ years): percentage change between 2016 and 2022.	0.00%	-0.60%	-0.80%

Source: Sport England: Active Lives (2018-22 & 2016-22)

To increase opportunities to play the game at every level, Basketball England (BBE) is in the process of producing a facilities strategy which will aim to create community hubs including, where appropriate, arenas that sit at the heart of communities and are homes for the leading British Basketball League, Women’s British Basketball League and community clubs. The stated intent is that as part of its facilities strategy implementation, BBE will regularly monitor provision in schools, colleges, universities, clubs and at local authority sites and identify any gaps, looking to improve connections between these organisations to increase the availability and affordability of facilities of the right quality.

As a relatively small NGB, BBE were unable to provide information to inform this study, however it is aware that there are five affiliated basketball clubs in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse. The largest basketball club in these areas is Abingdon Eagles Basketball Club, which has a total of 199 junior members and 60 adult members. The majority of the club’s players travel from Abingdon, Didcot, Wantage and Witney (West

Oxfordshire) to use sports halls at Abingdon and Witney College (Abingdon), King Alfred School (Wantage), Europa School (Culham) and Fitzharry's School (Abingdon).

In South Oxfordshire, there are two other affiliated basketball clubs; South Oxfordshire Heat Basketball Club based at Didcot Girls School and Thame Basketball Club are based at Lord Williams's Lower School. However, these clubs did not respond to requests for information.

Abingdon Eagles Basketball Club runs training sessions for 10 teams (U8s-U18s, a Men's team and Walking Basketball) totals c.25 hours per week., plus inter-club tournaments. Over the last three years, the demand for basketball has grown and membership numbers have spiked this season (2022/23) with 65 players on the club's waiting list which it has now closed. The basketball club is concerned about its security of tenure to use the courts at these schools, as the halls are hired on a weekly basis and their use could be terminated at any time. The cost to hire the sports halls has increased by c.25% over the last three years and the club has increased its membership fees accordingly. The lack of a dedicated facility for basketball places a huge financial burden on the club, as they are reliant on college and school facilities, which is prohibiting the growth of the club and the sport. A dedicated facility would not only ensure the legacy of the club but it would also enable the club to offer more basketball to the community including Wheelchair Basketball and a Special Olympics team.

4.13 Boxing and Martial Arts

England Boxing launched 2022-27 Strategic Plan, Inspiring and Transforming Lives through Boxing, recognises that boxing has the power to bring communities together with its uniquely powerful ability to engage people from different backgrounds and connect them. The strategic plan is built around four objectives of a thriving boxing community, inclusive diverse and accessible sport, an inspirational and aspirational talent pathway and a respected and valued NGB.

There are six disciplines of martial arts with NGBs recognised by Sport England:

- The British Judo Association (BJA) is a membership organisation that has expanded its network of clubs, qualified coaches and individual members throughout Britain providing access to the sport. It is a public company whose principal activity is the promotion and supervision of judo activities.
- British Ju-Jitsu Association Governing Body oversees all aspects of Ju-Jitsu in Great Britain such as, establishing codes of conduct, standard practises, competition formats and rules, arranging group insurance policies for clubs within the Association, and certification of teachers and competition referees as well as registration of new clubs.
- The United Kingdom Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Association is committed to promoting inclusion for all aspects of the sport across all areas of the UK.
- The British Kendo Association is the only organisation in the UK which is recognised for Kendo, Iaido and Jodo by the Zen Nippon Kendo Renmei (the foremost body in Japan for these martial arts), the International Kendo Federation and Sport England. It is also the only organisation in the UK which is empowered to award dan gradings (black belts) in Kendo, Iaido and Jodo recognised by these bodies.
- WAKO (World Association of Kickboxing Organisations) is the largest unified kickboxing organisation in the world and in 2022 became recognised by Sport England as the NGB for kickboxing.
- British Taekwondo is the National Governing Body for the Sport of Taekwondo in Great Britain and is the representative of World Taekwondo and the European Taekwondo Union. British Taekwondo is a membership organisation with over 600 clubs nationwide. It's Strategic Plan (2021-2031) aims to bring

together and grow the Taekwondo community, providing effective support to our clubs and coaches to deliver inclusive engagement opportunities and enable our members to reach their full potential.

Displayed in Table 4.8 below, Sport England’s Active Lives data shows an increase in the percentage of children and young people (5-16-year-olds) participating once a week in boxing in Oxfordshire (1.3%) between 2018 and 2022. There were small decreases in the regional and national average (-0.7% and -0.3% respectively). There was also an increase in martial arts activities in Oxfordshire for children and young people over the same time period; 5-15-year-olds participating in martial arts once a week increased by 1.3% in Oxfordshire but decreased by -2.4% across the South East. Active Lives data also shows increases in adults (16+ year olds) participating in boxing and martial arts activities, but these are small changes of less than 0.3%.

Table 4.8: Change in % participation by activity, age and area

Activity and Age Group	Oxfordshire (County)	South East (Region)	England (Nation)
Boxing once a week - children and young people (5-15 years): percentage change between 2018 and 2022	1.30%	-0.70%	-0.30%
Boxing (traditional) once in the last year - adults (16+ years): percentage change between 2016 and 2022.	0.30%	-0.50%	-0.30%
Judo, karate, taekwondo and other martial arts once a week - children and young people (5-15 years): percentage change between 2018 and 2022	1.30%	-2.40%	-1.20%
Martial arts once in the last year - adults (16+ years): percentage change between 2016 and 2022.	0.10%	-0.50%	-0.40%

Source: Sport England: Active Lives (2018-22 & 2016-22)

There are seven affiliated boxing and martial arts clubs in South Oxfordshire (shown in Table 4.9 below). However, these clubs did not respond to requests for information.

Table 4.9: Boxing and martial arts clubs in South Oxfordshire (affiliated clubs and venues)

Sub Area	Boxing / Martial Arts Club	Venue
East	Didcot Boxing Academy	Harrier Park, Didcot
	South Moreton Boxing Club	South Moreton Boxing Club, Hall Farm
	Didcot Taekwon-Do	UTC Oxfordshire, Didcot
	Didcot Old School Karate-Jutsu	Willowbrook Leisure Centre
	SMAF Oxford	Harrier Park, Didcot
South	Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Henley	RGA Henley
	Thames Valley Pro Taekwon-Do Henley	Henley Leisure Centre

4.14 Dance

The English Amateur Dance Association (EADA) is the only UK Dancesport Association recognised by Sport England as the NGB for English Amateur Dancers. As a relatively small NGB, EADA has not been able to provide information for this study. However, extensive online research has found a variety dance clubs, schools and academies in South Oxfordshire; all provide activities to promote the message dance for fun, fitness and wellbeing. Sport England funds EMDUK to support the training and development of group exercise instructors and coaches and to widen access to group exercise activities.

As a relatively small NGB, EADA was unable to provide information for this study, however online research and local council officer knowledge has identified the following dance clubs, schools and academies in South Oxfordshire. However, only one club (Betty Bloom Dance Clubs) responded to requests for information.

Table 4.10: Dance clubs, schools and academies in South Oxfordshire

Sub Area	Dance Club, School or Academy	Venue(s)
North	Betty Bloom Dance Clubs	All Saints Community Hall
	Perform Wallingford	Benson Youth Hall and Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Jubilee Pavilion
South	Alison Jayne School of Dance	Christ Church Centre, Henley-on-Thames
	Miles School of Dancing	Market Pl, Henley-on-Thames
West	Step-In-Time and Didcot Dance Club	Didcot Leisure Centre
	Stagecoach Performing Arts	Wallingford School
	Laura Powley School of Dance	Northern Neighbourhood Community Centre, Great Western Park
	Forbes theatre arts Oxford	Tamar Way Didcot
	Dance Connection	Bushells Business Park, Hithercroft Road, Wallingford
	Kinecroft Academy of Dance	Centre 70, Goldsmith's Ln, Wallingford

Betty Bloom Dance Clubs has 280 junior and 20 adult members using four venues across South Oxfordshire and the Vale; in Blewbury, Steventon, Abingdon and Didcot. All venues are community centres, village halls and school halls. The club reports that it is running at capacity but does not feel the need to expand. It is more important to maintain the current quality of support the club can provide to its customers. No facility issues were raised by the club, although mirrors on walls or mobile mirrors would help.

Sport England’s Active Lives data (Academic Year 2018 to 2022) shows a large increase in dance participation by children and young people in Oxfordshire. Over these four years, there was an increase of 4.4% in 5-to-15-year-olds taking part in dance classes once a week. Table 4.11 below shows the change in dance participation by age group and area. Dance participation by children and young people has increased at a greater rate than the regional and national averages. Dance participation by adults decreased in Oxfordshire between 2016 and 2022 (-1.5%), however this is a lesser decrease than the South East and England averages.

Table 4.11 Change in % participation by activity, age and area

Activity and Age Group	Oxfordshire (County)	South East (Region)	England (Nation)
Dance classes once a week - children and young people (5-15 years): percentage change between 2018 and 2022	4.40%	1.40%	0.90%
Dance class once in the last year - adults (16+ years): percentage change between 2016 and 2022.	-1.50%	-1.90%	-2.30%

Source: Sport England: Active Lives (2018-22 & 2016-22)

4.15 Table Tennis

Sport England’s Active Lives shows a decrease in table tennis participation over previous years for adults, children and young people in Oxfordshire, the South East and England. Table 4.12 below shows the number of children and young people (5-15-year-olds) playing table tennis once a week between 2018 and 2022 across the county decreased by 3.7%, which is considerably higher than the average decreases across the region and country. The number of adults (16+) playing table tennis also decreased at a greater rate in Oxfordshire (-4%) between 2016 and 2022 than the regional and national average, however the difference is less considerable.

Table 4.12: Change in % participation by activity, age and area

Activity and Age Group	Oxfordshire (County)	South East (Region)	England (Nation)
Table tennis once a week - children and young people (5-16 years): percentage change between 2018 and 2022	-3.70%	-0.30%	-0.20%
Table tennis once in the last year - adults (16+ years): percentage change between 2016 and 2022.	-4.00%	-3.30%	-2.70%

Source: Sport England: Active Lives (2018-22 & 2016-22)

Table Tennis England (TTE) has launched its Table Tennis United strategy which outlines the NGB’s vision to turn England into a ‘Table Tennis Nation’. Table Tennis United sets out a series of bold targets across the breadth of the sport – from delivering success on the Olympic stage to strengthening clubs and leagues, from getting more children playing table tennis in schools to creating a world-class coaching and officiating workforce. The key to delivering this are schools and young people. TTE recognises that getting schools and young people to embrace table tennis is paramount to its long-term growth.

As a relatively small NGB, TTE were unable to provide information for this study, however it is aware of 15 table tennis clubs across South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse. The only TTE Associate Club in South Oxfordshire is Sonning Common & Peppard Table Tennis Club. An Associate Club membership is free and is designed to support new/smaller clubs who are looking to develop and grow.

The Didcot & District Table Tennis Association promote the playing of table tennis in the Didcot area and organises an annual league competition containing affiliated teams from towns and villages across South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse, from Wantage through Abingdon and Didcot to Wallingford. In the current (2022-23) playing season there are 35 teams from 11 clubs competing in an annual league competition comprised of four divisions. Displayed in Table 4.13 overleaf are the eight league-registered table tennis clubs located in South Oxfordshire that play games and practice at the following venues.

Table 4.13: Table Tennis Clubs in South Oxfordshire (league registered clubs and venues)

Sub Area	Table Tennis Club	Venue
East	Watlington Table Tennis Club	Watlington Club
North	Holton Table Tennis Club	Holton Village Hall
South	Sonning Common & Peppard Table Tennis Club	Peppard Memorial Hall
West	Marlborough Table Tennis Club	The Marlborough Club, Didcot
	RAL Table Tennis Club	Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Harwell
	Sandford-on-Thames Table Tennis Club	Sandford Village Hall
	SOFEA Table Tennis Club	Trident Business Park, Didcot
	Wallingford Table Tennis Club	Stewart Hall, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell

Two of the table tennis clubs responded to requests for information and the key findings are summarised below. Six clubs did not respond to requests for information.

Sonning Common and Peppard Table Tennis Club has 36 adult members and two junior members. The number of junior members has decreased over the last three years but adult member numbers have stayed the same. The club practices and plays league matches at Peppard Memorial Hall (the club rates the facilities as ‘Good’ quality) and has space for five table tennis tables. The cost of hiring the facilities has not increased majorly and no issues were identified by the club.

Watlington Table Tennis Club has 37 adult members (mostly over 55-year-olds) and has seen an increase in member numbers over the last three years; and now runs four weekly sessions (three mid-week afternoons and one evening) but is soon to introduce a parent and child session. The club is based at The Watlington Club (‘Good’ quality according to the club) which has space for only three table tennis tables. The club expects to increase the number of members it has in the coming years, as growth is expected to continue as more people hear about the club. Although new members can currently be accommodated, there is likely to be insufficient space for new members in a few years time. A fourth table at the club would be too hazardous for the players.

Pangbourne Working Men’s Club is located just outside South Oxfordshire, however c.30% of its members live in the district. The club has a total of 910 members and offers weekly table tennis sessions to its members and member guests (unless a private hire is made). The number of members at the club has remained the same over the last three years and the club reports issues (‘Good’ quality facilities).

4.16 Volleyball

Sport England Active Places data for volleyball at a county-level data is unavailable, but there has been a small change in volleyball participation by children, young people and adult across the region and country.

Table 4.14: Change in % participation by activity, age and area

Activity and Age Group	Oxfordshire (County)	South East (Region)	England (Nation)
Volleyball once a week - children and young people (5-16 years): percentage change between 2018 and 2022	Unavailable	0.30%	0.40%
Volleyball once in the last year - adults (16+ years): percentage change between 2016 and 2022.	Unavailable	-0.30%	-0.30%

Source: Sport England: Active Lives (2018-22 & 2016-22)

Through its latest ‘Game Plan’ strategy (2020-2030), England Volleyball will aim to better understand, articulate and promote the opportunities that volleyball provides for anyone, at any stage of their life. It will look to strengthen the English volleyball club structure by working hand in hand with clubs to help them achieve their ambitions. It will work collaboratively to deliver and continuously improve the products and services that most benefit our clubs and the wider volleyball community, while also ensuring they provide healthy revenue streams that enable reinvestment in the sport.

Didcot Volleyball Club is the only Volleyball club in South Oxfordshire (and Vale of White Horse); there are volleyball clubs in Oxford, Newbury and Reading. Didcot Volleyball Club has 30 adult members which is an increase of 12 players over the last three years. The club uses the sports hall at Didcot Leisure Centre once a week for training sessions. The quality of the sports hall is described as ‘Below Average’ quality and the

ancillary facilities as ‘Good’ quality. However, the club has reached its capacity for members and requires additional hall space and hours for training to meet demand from prospective players.

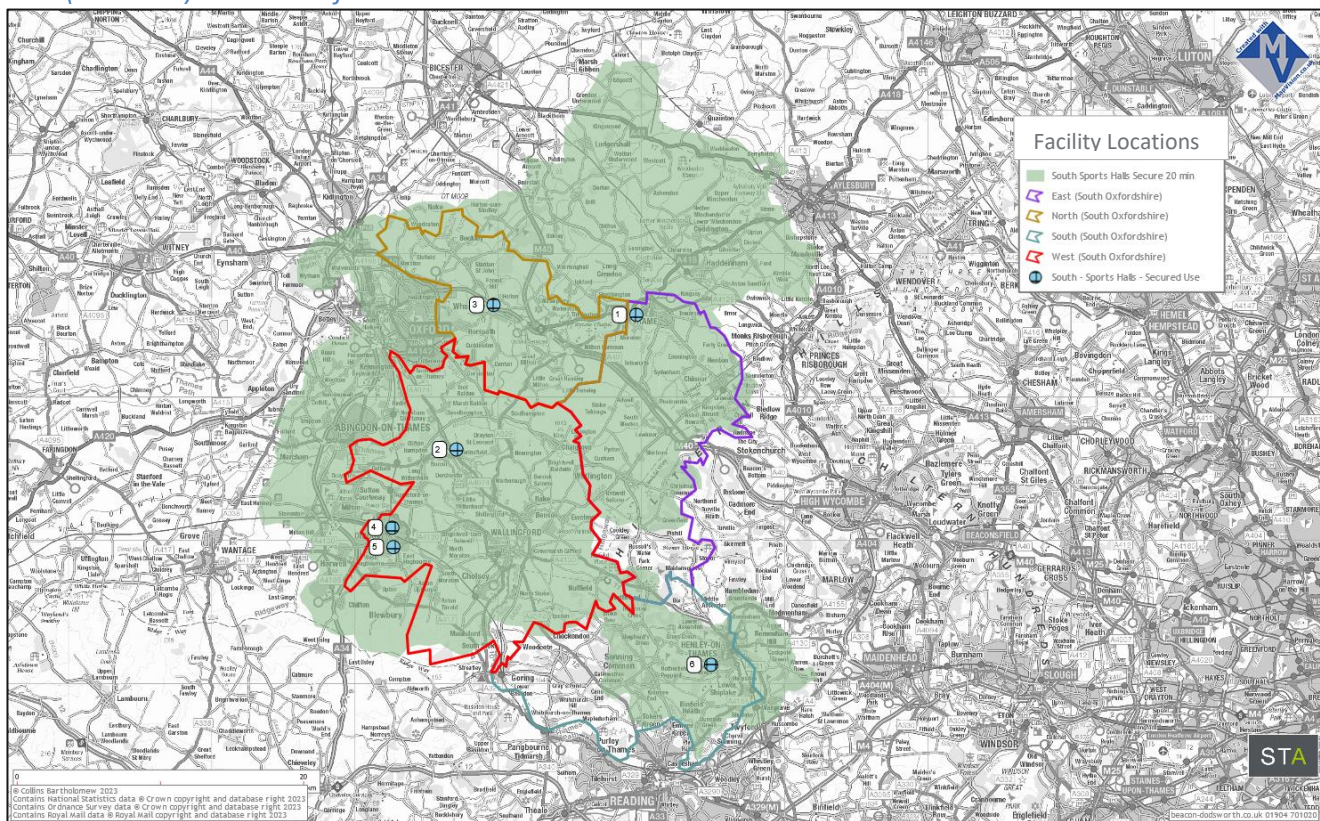
4.17 Accessibility

Large sports hall accessibility is influenced by how far people are willing and able to travel. Appropriate walk and drive-time catchments are applied to facilities to determine accessibility of facilities to different communities. The normal acceptable standard is a 20-minute drive-time. This enables analysis of the adequacy of coverage and helps to identify areas currently not serviced by existing provision.

Demand located too far away from a sports hall will always exist because it is not possible to achieve complete spatial coverage whereby all areas of a local authority are within walking distance of a sports halls and not everyone will want to drive the full distance. Given the rural nature of authority it is not uncommon to have a level of unmet demand not being able to access a sports hall due to residents being too far away from provision.

Figure 4.1 below shows that there are residents in the western part of the South sub area and in the southern part of the East sub area that are not within a 20-minute drive-time of a public leisure centre sports hall. However, the sports hall at Oratory Sports Centre are within a 20-minute drive-time of these residents.

Figure 4.1: Map to show the 20-minute drive-time catchment areas for public leisure centres with large sports halls (4+ courts) in South Oxfordshire



4.18 Peak Time Usage

Sport England’s facility planning models use the peak periods of during weekdays: 09:00 to 10:00, 17:00 to 22:00; and at weekends 08:00 to 16:00 for a total of 46 hours per week. As a guide, the external leisure operators of the public leisure centres have provided information on the number of ‘block-bookings’ and ‘casual bookings’ each facility receives in a typical week. Regular block-bookings include use by community sports clubs and schools. Casual bookings include ‘Pay and Play’ sessions.

The booking information for Abbey Sports Centre sports hall was unavailable at the time of this study, due to the hall being closed for refurbishment. Willowbrook Leisure Centre is only available for regular bookings as issues with staffing means the hall must be booked by clubs well in advance. At weekends, the sports hall is used solely for the ‘Bounce Park’.

Table 4.17: Peak time usage of public leisure centre sports halls in South Oxfordshire

Site Name (Sub Area)	Badmint on Court Number	No. of hours open in peak period	Regular block-bookings in peak periods (hours)	Casual bookings in peak periods (hours)	Spare capacity in peak periods (hours)
Thame Leisure Centre (East)	Court 1	46	20	11	15 (33%)
	Court 2	46	18	10	18 (45%)
	Court 3	46	16	9	21 (46%)
	Court 4	46	12	7	27 (59%)
Park Sports Centre (North)	Court 1	46	22	19	5 (24%)
	Court 2	46	24	18	4 (9%)
	Court 3	46	22	19	5 (24%)
	Court 4	46	17	23	6 (13%)
	Court 5	46	13	26	7 (15%)
Henley Leisure Centre (South)	Court 1	46	17	6	23 (51%)
	Court 2	46	18	6	22 (47%)
	Court 3	46	17	6	23 (51%)
	Court 4	46	18	6	22 (47%)
Abbey Sports Centre (West)	All courts	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Didcot Leisure Centre (West)	Court 1	39	15	5	19 (49%)
	Court 2	39	15	5	19 (49%)
	Court 3	39	17	4	18 (46%)
	Court 4	39	17	4	18 (46%)
Willowbrook Leisure Centre (West)	Court 1	44	24	0	20 (45%)
	Court 2	44	24	0	20 (45%)
	Court 3	44	22	0	22 (50%)
	Court 4	44	22	0	22 (50%)

As a guide, the Sport England suggests that when 80% of a hall’s capacity is used then this indicates that sports halls are becoming uncomfortably busy. This should be seen only as a guide to help flag when facilities are becoming busier, rather than as a ‘hard threshold.’

Park Sports Centre has the busiest sports hall in South Oxfordshire – it is full-to-capacity during 83% of the hours open during peak periods. The remaining four sports halls are full-to-capacity during c.50% of the hours available during peak periods; Thame Leisure Centre (54%), Didcot Leisure Centre (53%), Willowbrook Leisure Centre (53%) and Henley Leisure Centre (51%).

School sites vary in availability, which makes it difficult for clubs to make regular bookings at the same time and day of the week throughout the length of a season. It also makes it difficult to provide peak-time analysis for this study. However, consultation with school / college lettings teams (supplemented by online research i.e., school and college websites) shows that there is limited community availability during peak periods at Icknield Community College, Shiplake College, Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge School and Lord Williams’s School.

In contrast, Didcot Girls School, The Oratory Sports Centre, Langtree School and Wallingford School provide a significant proportion of hours within the peak period (39 hours each per week). However, Didcot Girls School and The Oratory Sports Centre have slightly smaller four-court halls with dimensions of 33 x 18m which provides for hall sports at the community level but has less space between and behind individual courts. Wallingford School and Langtree School are large enough and are reported to be at full capacity.

4.19 Future Demand

To estimate the number of people likely to be regular sports hall users in the future, the projected increase in population for each sub area (from 2023 to 2041) has been provided by Oxfordshire County Council (2023). Together with the latest Active Lives participation rates, the likely number of new sports hall users across the district has been generated.

The tables below show that If participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 5,053 new sports hall users across South Oxfordshire by 2041. The latest Active Lives data (2022) has been used for adults (16+ year-olds) participating in sports-hall sports activities at least twice in the last 28 days. For children and young people (5-to-15-year-olds), Active Lives data (2022) has been used for sports-hall sports activities done once or more per week. A breakdown of future demand by sub area, age group / sports activities has been provided in Table 4.18 and 4.19 below.

Table 4.18: Future demand for sports hall users (doing sports hall activities) in South Oxfordshire

Age Group	East Sub Area	North Sub Area	South Sub Area	West Sub Area	Total (District)
5–15-year-olds	241	307	-442	2,028	2,134
16–45-year-olds	170	99	-12	677	934
46–75-year-olds	219	93	23	1,206	1,541
76–100-year-olds	97	57	60	230	444
Total (5-100-year-olds)	727	556	-371	4,141	5,053

Future demand projections suggest that future demand will be highest in the West sub area and the majority of this demand will be from children and young people (5-15-year-olds).

Table 4.19 below shows the future demand of each sports hall activity by sub area.

Table 4.19: Future demand for sports-hall sports in South Oxfordshire

Sub Area	Badminton	Basketball	Boxing	Dance	Martial Arts	Table Tennis	Volleyball	Total Sports Hall Users
East	144	77	61	279	77	72	17	727
North	86	66	45	241	66	42	10	556
South	-10	-57	-26	-215	-57	-4	-2	-371
West	690	477	337	1,739	477	340	81	4,141
Total (District)	910	563	417	2,044	563	450	106	5,053

Future demand projections suggest that future demand will be highest for ‘Dance-based classes. Based on the latest participation rates, there could be 2,044 new dancers by 2041 (and 1,739 of them in the West sub area).

4.20 Facilities Planning Model

The Facilities Planning Model (FPM) study is a quantitative, accessibility and spatial assessment of the supply, demand and access to sports halls. The main report (displayed in the Appendices) sets out the full set of findings under each of the assessment headings. Provided below are the headline strategic overview, the key findings and interventions arising from the FPM study on supply, demand and accessibility.

The FPM modelling runs are to provide:

- Run 1 – a baseline assessment of provision in 2023
- Run 2 – a forward assessment of demand for sports halls and its distribution, based on the projected changes in population between 2023 and 2041 and changes in supply
- Run 3 – an assessment of the impact of the modelled options for changes in supply in South Oxfordshire (and Vale of White Horse) has in meeting the demand for sports halls and its distribution up to 2041.

The changes in supply in South Oxfordshire included in the modelling runs are:

- Runs 2 and 3 – Didcot North East Leisure Facility (4-courts) is modelled to open in 2028
- Run 3 – Abbey Sports Centre (4-courts) replaced with a newer larger sports hall (5-courts) is modelled to open in 2031

The changes in supply in Vale of White Horse also included in the modelling runs are:

- Runs 2 and 3 – St John’s Academy is modelled to open in 2025
- Run 3 – Potential Wantage Leisure Facility is modelled to open in 2028.

Headline Strategic Overview

The headline strategic overview is that South Oxfordshire’s sports halls can comfortably meet the current and future demand. However, five sites are uncomfortably busy in 2041 (more than 80% of capacity used).

Retention of all the public leisure centres is important, to ensure that there is access to sports halls for residents and sports clubs in all areas of the district. The educational sector is the largest provider and there is

a good level of commitment to community use. Protecting this supply for community use is important but not to become over reliant on it, simply because it is the main provision.

The scale of all the sports halls means they are suitable for community participation. The dimensions of nearly half the supply means they are also suitable for club development. There has been extensive modernisation, but the stock is ageing. There is an increasing need for modernisation as the more recent sports halls age to improve the attractiveness of the facilities. Undertaking planned maintenance together with dilapidation surveys can help to define the scope of refurbishment works.

South Oxfordshire's population and demand for sports halls increase significantly to 2041. A very high proportion of demand is met in all runs, with visits increasing significantly from 2023 to 2041. A large proportion of South Oxfordshire's satisfied demand is met at the district's sports halls, which are in the areas of highest demand. Unmet demand is very low with almost no change across the runs.

Provision of Didcot North East Leisure Facility and replacement of Abbey Sports Centre with a larger sports hall at the scale modelled is supported. Didcot has the greatest demand in the district in 2023 and 2041 but in each run only one sports hall in the town is uncomfortably full. There is a large increase in demand in Berinsfield between 2023 and 2041 but the new sports hall at Abbey Sports Centre will be the joint largest in the district.

There is no identified need to increase provision beyond that modelled. However, there is still a need to increase availability for community use in parts of the district. This will achieve a better overall balance between supply and demand. The educational supply offers the most scope.

Key Findings

The key findings that underpin the headline strategic overview are as follows:

1. In Runs 1 and 3, 23% of the total supply is unavailable for community use in the weekly peak period, in Run 2 it is 22%.
2. Of the 14 main sports halls that opened before 2000, 12 have or are due to be modernised. None of the sports halls built since 2000 have been refurbished.
3. South Oxfordshire's population is projected to increase by 32% between 2023 and 2041, which produces a 30% increase in demand for sports halls.
4. Demand in Berinsfield increases from 0.8 of a court in 2023 to 3.2 courts in 2041. The increase is the largest in one area of the district because the current geographical distribution of demand in the MSOA is concentrated in this area.
5. Of the district's residents, 90% are within a 20-minute cycle ride (maximum four miles) of a sports hall in all runs. Willowbrook Leisure Centre, Didcot, has the most South Oxfordshire residents within a 20-minute cycle ride as does Didcot North East Leisure Facility when it is included in Runs 2 and 3. Europa School UK, near Culham, has the fewest in both years.
6. Of South Oxfordshire's demand, 95% is met in Runs 1 and 3 and 96% is met in Run 2. The number of visits met in the weekly peak period increases significantly from 11,837 in Run 1 to 15,398 in Run 2 and 15,373 in Run 3.
7. Across the runs between 78% and 81% of South Oxfordshire's satisfied demand is met at the district's sports halls.

8. Unmet demand is 5% of demand in Runs 1 and 3, and 4% in Run 2. In terms of courts, it is lowest in Run 1 at 2.0 courts and highest in Run 3 at 2.5 courts. All the unmet demand is due to residents being too far from a facility, except in Run 3 where 0.2 of a court is due to lack of sports hall capacity.
9. In Run 3, the location where the most unmet demand can be met is northwest of Wheatley on the A40, at 0.8 of a court. This is an insufficient total to consider the provision of a new sports hall to improve accessibility for residents.
10. The overall estimated used capacity of sports halls in the district in the weekly peak period is 53% in Run 1, increasing to 62% in Runs 2 and 3 due to the increase in demand in 2041. The number of visits met at South Oxfordshire sports halls increases with each run.

South Oxfordshire's findings related to Vale of White Horse

The changes in supply in Vale of White Horse also included in the modelling runs are:

- Runs 2 and 3 – St John's Academy is modelled to open in 2025
- Run 3 – Potential Wantage Leisure Facility is modelled to open in 2028.

Demand is high in Abingdon, which is close to the South Oxfordshire border, but it also has an extensive supply of sports halls.

In all runs, the largest amount of South Oxfordshire's exported demand goes to Oxford, but the second highest amount goes to Vale of White Horse. Vale of White Horse accounts for 27% of all exported demand from South Oxfordshire in Run 1 and 30% in Runs 2 and 3. The number of visits to Vale of White Horse increases from Run 1 to Run 2 but decreases from Run 2 to Run 3.

Unmet demand is very low in all runs along both sides of the boundary of South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse, although it is slightly higher in Didcot and in Berinsfield in Runs 2 and 3.

The largest amount of imported demand to South Oxfordshire comes from Buckinghamshire in Run 1 but Vale of White Horse in Runs 2 and 3. The number of visits imported from Vale of White Horse increases from Run 1 to Run 2 and account for 29% of all South Oxfordshire's imported demand in Run 1 and 38% in Run 2. In Run 3 imported visits from Vale of White Horse reduce slightly but account for 37% of all imported demand.

Interventions and Next Steps

The quantitative findings identify that there is sufficient supply across the district to meet demand in 2023 and 2041. However, the distribution of demand and the hours the sports halls are available for community use, especially in the areas of highest demand in Didcot, mean that some sports halls are uncomfortably full at peak times. Therefore, the interventions in order are to:

1. Increase access for community use at key sites and provide a more balanced distribution of met demand across the district
2. Protect the educational sports hall supply for community use by provision of community use agreements (CUA).

First Intervention

Based on the FPM findings, there are four sites that are uncomfortably full and have scope to increase availability and, therefore, capacity at peak times. The sites are:

- New Abbey Sports Centre:
 - Five-court hall (40.6m x 21.4m), the joint largest sports hall in the district, which can provide for all sports at the recreational level and for club development
 - Modelled to open in 2031, it has the highest attractiveness in 2041
 - Demand in Berinsfield is high in 2041
 - Estimated to be full at peak times and meet the second most visits in Run 3
 - Scope to increase availability by five hours in the weekly peak period and accommodate 200 more visits
- Didcot Girls School:
 - Four-court hall (33m x 18m) and activity hall (18m x 10m), which allow flexibility in programming activities and maximises occupancy
 - Not been modernised, the main hall is currently 17 years old and the activity hall 43 years old
 - Located in the area of highest demand in the district
 - Estimated to be uncomfortably busy at peak times in Runs 2 and 3 and meet the fifth most visits at a site
 - Scope to increase availability by 21 hours in the weekly peak period to reduce the proportion of capacity used to a comfortable level
- Thame Leisure Centre:
 - Four-court hall (33m x 18m) and activity hall (18m x 10m), which allow flexibility in programming activities and maximises occupancy
 - Opened in 1982, main hall due to be modernised in 2025
 - Only public leisure centre in the north of the district and, therefore, very important in terms of accessibility
 - Estimated to be full in Runs 2 and 3 and meet the most visits at a site
 - Scope to increase availability by six hours in the weekly peak period and accommodate 305 more visits
 - Lord William’s School is nearby and less utilised, therefore, there is scope to manage demand across the two sites to achieve a more balanced level of community use in Thame
- Wallingford School:
 - Four-court hall (34.5m x 20m), which is the size supported by Sport England and National Governing Bodies for all hall sports and club development
 - Opened in 1999 and unmodernised
 - Only sports hall in Wallingford and, therefore, important in terms of accessibility
 - Estimated to be uncomfortably busy at peak times in Runs 2 and 3
 - Scope to increase availability by 13 hours in the weekly peak period to reduce the proportion of capacity used to a comfortable level

Second Intervention

The educational sector is the largest provider of sports halls in South Oxfordshire, at 11 sites in 2023 and 12 sites in 2041, they account for between 65% and 67% of the total sites across the runs. As evidenced by the first intervention, the schools are important in meeting demand.

While there is sufficient capacity to meet demand across the district, this will be jeopardised if access to educational sites is not protected and enhanced selectively. Therefore, it is important to protect the

educational sports hall supply for community use. If CUAs are not in place, these need to be negotiated and agreed.

If there are any new or replacement educational sports halls planned, then it will be important to negotiate a CUA as part of the planning process. Sport England will advise on the requirements as part of this. Beyond putting the CUA in place, it is essential that South Oxfordshire Council monitors the actual delivery of the CUA.

Next Steps

These interventions and suggested next steps are based on the FPM findings and should be considered as a key part of the all-round evidence base currently being developed to inform the South Oxfordshire LFAS.

Combining the FPM assessment with the wider review of provision will lead to well considered options on the best ways to meet the projected demand for sports halls up to 2041 and beyond.

Local Share of Facilities

Local share analysis helps show which areas have a better or worse share of facility provision. It considers the size, availability and quality of facilities, and travel modes. Local share is useful for looking at 'equity' of provision and is the available capacity that people want to visit in an area (considering deprivation), divided by the demand for that capacity in the area. Local share decreases as facilities age.

Local share in South Oxfordshire is good in 2023 but is poorer in 2041 due to the large increase in demand and the ageing of the facilities between the two years.

Local share shows how access and share of sports halls differs across the local authority area, as follows:

- A value of 1 means that there is enough suitable supply reachable by the demand
- A value of less than 1 indicates a shortage of suitable supply that can be reached by the demand
- A value greater than 1 indicates a surplus of suitable supply that can be reached by the demand

Local share identifies the areas of the local authority where the share of sports halls is better and worse. The intervention is to try and increase access for residents in the areas with the poorest access to sports halls. In Run 1 (2023) when demand is lowest there is sufficient suitable provision that South Oxfordshire residents can access, with local share of 1.03. In Runs 2 and 3 (both 2041) demand is greater. Supply has increased with the provision of Didcot North East Leisure Facility and there is also modernisation of three sports halls, but the facilities have aged. Local share is 0.56 in Run 2 and slightly better in Run 3, at 0.59, when Abbey Sports Centre is replaced with a newer larger sports hall.

Geographical Distribution of Local Share

In Run 1 (2023), local share is best at 1.4 around Berinsfield, where demand can access Abbey Sports Centre and sports halls in Vale of White Horse. Local share is also good in Woodcote and Checkendon where demand is low and there are two sports hall sites. However, local share is poorest at 0.6 and 0.7 in Dunsden Green and in Tokers Green, on the edge of Reading; and in Wallingford, where there is only one sports hall.

In Run 2 (2041) local share is best around Woodcote and Checkendon, at 0.9, where demand is still low. Local share is poorest in Berinsfield, Shillingford, Thame, Tokers Green and Wallingford, at 0.4. The biggest changes in local share from Run 1 to Run 2 are where demand has increased significantly.

In Run 3, local share improves by 0.1 in quite a few areas of the district due the impact of replacing Abbey Sports Centre. Local share remains best in Woodcote and Checkendon, at 1.0. Local share is poorest in Thame and Tokers Green, at 0.4.

4.21 Planned Developments

The Council is planning a sports hall floor replacement and gym refurbishment at Henley Leisure Centre.

4.22 Summary of sports halls key facts and issues

Key Element (ANOG)	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
<p><u>Quantity</u> – Are there enough facilities with sufficient capacity to meet needs?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The district does not have an 8-court facility available, which limits the development of some sports. • Sports clubs using sports halls report the main barrier to club expansion is a lack of space to accommodate more members. • Education sites play an important role in South Oxfordshire and should these sites be removed from the model there would be insufficient supply to meet demand. • This is particularly important in the South sub area where four 4-court sports halls with community access are located on educational-owned sites; Oratory Sports Centre, Langtree School, Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge School and Shiplake College. • Future demand could generate 5,053 new sports hall users across South Oxfordshire by 2041. • Highest demand in the West sub area and the majority of this demand will be from children and young people (5-15-year-olds). • Highest demand for ‘Dance-based classes; there could be 2,044 new dancers by 2041 (and 1,739 of them in the West sub area). • The FPM study shows that local share of sports halls, which considers deprivation, is poorest in Berinsfield, Shillingford, Thame, Dunsden Green, Tokers Green and Wallingford. • The FPM study recommends CUAs at Wallingford School and Didcot Girls School (both in West sub area) and at Lord William’s School (East sub area). 	<p>Additional space and time required for sports clubs using sports halls in all sub areas.</p> <p>Secure community use of sports halls at education sites through Community Use Agreements in all sub areas. Especially at schools in South sub area (Oratory Sports Centre, Langtree School, Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge School and Shiplake College); Wallingford School and Didcot Girls School (both in West sub area) and at Lord William’s School (East sub area).</p> <p>New provision needed to meet very high future demand for sports-hall sports activities in West sub area. New sports hall at Didcot North East Leisure Facility (4-courts).</p> <p>To improve ‘equity’ of provision across the district, new activity halls (i.e., 1-3-courts) should be considered in Berinsfield, Shillingford, Thame and Wallingford.</p>

<p><u>Quality</u> – Are the facilities fit for purpose for the users? Do the facilities provide the level of play needed, and does the quality meet the user’s expectations?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sports hall with the lowest quality ratings is at Park SC (‘Below Average’). • Abbey Sports Centre in Berinsfield was visited and rated ‘Poor’ quality at time of visit. However, the sports hall floor and the wet side changing rooms have been refurbished (Spring 2023) and are now ‘Good’ quality. The remaining ancillary facilities are low quality and unattractive to use. • There is a lack of halls with fully sprung hardwood flooring, which limits use for dancers. 	<p>Improvement of sports hall quality at Park SC.</p>
<p><u>Accessibility</u> – Are the facilities in the right physical location for users? Does the cost of using facilities prohibit access?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents in the southern part of the East sub area are outside a 20-minute drive-time of a public leisure centre sports hall; however, these residents are within a 20-minute drive-time of sports halls in Princes Risborough and High Wycombe. • Residents in the western part of the South sub area are not within a 20-minute drive-time of a public leisure centre sports hall. However, the sports hall at Oratory Sports Centre is within a 20-minute drive-time of these residents. • Sports clubs report that the rising costs to hire halls prohibit new members joining. The lack of a dedicated facility places a huge financial burden on clubs, as they are reliant on college and school facilities, which is prohibiting the growth of clubs and the sports. 	<p>Work with the operators of all sports halls to reduce the hire costs.</p>
<p><u>Availability</u> – Are the facilities available to users who want to use them?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vast majority of sports clubs in South Oxfordshire report a lack of availability and that a lack of sports hall time is the first barrier to club expansion. Second barrier is having enough coaches. • The use of education sites is restricted by pupils’ daytime use of the halls and studios; otherwise dance clubs could offer sessions throughout the day. • Park Sports Centre has the busiest sports hall in South Oxfordshire – it is full-to-capacity during 83% of the hours open during peak periods. • Thame Leisure Centre (54%), Didcot Leisure Centre (53%), Willowbrook 	<p>New sports hall provision in the North sub area to alleviate Park SC capacity issues.</p> <p>Work with operators of Didcot, Henley, Thame and Willowbrook leisure centres to enable more use by clubs.</p>

	<p>Leisure Centre (53%) and Henley Leisure Centre (51%).</p>	
<p><u>Summary</u> – What provision is required to meet needs and address issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to maintain the current level of provision and capacity for general community use to meet current and future needs of the district. Reduction of overall capacity will have an impact on meeting future population growth of the district. (PROTECT) • The quality of sport hall at Park SC needs to be improved to meet the expectations of users. (ENHANCE) • Improved availability needed at Didcot LC, Henley LC and Thame LC for sports clubs to use halls more at peak times. (ENHANCE) • Secure community use of sports halls at education sites through Community Use Agreements in all sub areas. Especially at schools in South sub area (Oratory Sports Centre, Langtree School, Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge School and Shiplake College); Wallingford School and Didcot Girls School (both in West sub area) and at Lord William’s School (East sub area). (ENHANCE) • New sports hall at Didcot North East Leisure Facility (4-courts) is recommended. (PROVIDE) • To improve ‘equity’ of provision across the district, new activity halls (i.e., 1-3-courts) should be considered in Berinsfield, Shillingford, Thame and Wallingford. (PROVIDE) 	

5. HEALTH AND FITNESS SUITES

5.1 Introduction

This section contains a summary of the findings from the needs assessment work for health and fitness suites in South Oxfordshire. For the purposes of assessment, health and fitness suites are normally defined as venues with 20 stations or more. A station is a piece of static fitness equipment; larger health and fitness centres with more stations are generally able to make a more attractive offer to both members and casual users.

The current state of the UK fitness industry is complex with a variety of providers including the private sector (ranging from low-cost operators to the high-end market), trusts, schools and local authority operators. In the past 10 years, the Health and Fitness industry has faced a significant change in the nature of its facility stock, through the growth of the commercial sector and the introduction of a low-cost gym to most urban areas.

5.2 Supply

This assessment is mostly concerned with larger health and fitness suites available for community use (no restrictions to accessing the gym as a result of membership criteria). Fitness facilities containing fewer than 20 stations are generally not considered within the assessment although they can be available and service small sections of the community; where they are considered to be important or service a very specific segment of the community they may be included. For the purpose of this report, however, they are discounted because of their scale.

In South Oxfordshire there are health and fitness suites (gyms) located at five public leisure centres; in Didcot, Thame, Henley, Wheatley and Berinsfield. These leisure centres have extensive opening hours and are proactively managed to encourage and support participation and physical activity. Unlike commercial gyms, they do not require payment of a monthly membership fee and provide all the health and fitness activities for public use.

Table 5.1 below shows there are community-accessible gyms located in all of the four sub areas in South Oxfordshire. A map to show the location of gyms is displayed in the Appendices.

Table 5.1: Community-Accessible Gyms in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Sub Area	Gym Size (no. of stations)	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type
Thame Leisure Centre	East	60	Public	Local Authority	Trust
Park Sports Centre	North	70	Public	Local Authority	Trust
Henley Leisure Centre	South	50	Public	Local Authority	Trust
Abbey Sports Centre	West	33	Public	Local Authority	Trust
Didcot Wave Gym	West	55	Public	Local Authority	Trust

The commercial-owned sites with gyms in South Oxfordshire have been presented in Table 5.2 below. These facilities require a registered membership to access provision. The largest gyms are both located in Didcot – Pure Gym has 170 stations and Snap Fitness has 150 stations.

Table 5.2: Commercial Gyms in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Sub Area	Gym Size (no. of stations)	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type
Oxfordshire Hotel Golf and Spa	East	27	Membership	Commercial	Commercial
Racquets Fitness Centre	East	39	Membership	Commercial	Commercial
The Club at Mapledurham	South	55	Membership	Commercial	Commercial
Badgemore Park	South	20	Membership	Commercial	Commercial
Love Fitness Henley	South	50	Membership	Commercial	Commercial
TG Gym And Wellness	South	30	Membership	Commercial	Commercial
The Fitness Space (Henley)	South	50	Membership	Commercial	Commercial
Pure Gym (Didcot)	West	170	Membership	Commercial	Commercial
Snap Fitness (Didcot)	West	150	Membership	Commercial	Commercial
The Exercise Lounge	West	30	Membership	Commercial	Commercial
The Barn Fitness Club	West	27	Membership	Commercial	Commercial
The Body Training Studio	West	25	Membership	Commercial	Commercial

Table 5.3 below shows the small gyms (less than 20 stations), private use only and school gyms in South Oxfordshire.

Table 5.3: Small gyms and private use gyms in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Sub Area	Gym Type	Management Type
The Oxford Belfry Hotel	East	Small Gym	Commercial
Jeromes Leisure Club	North	Small Gym	Commercial
Maiden Erleigh Chiltern Edge School	South	Small Gym	School
Phyllis Court Club	South	Small Gym	Commercial
Shiplake College	South	Private Use	College
The Henley College - Rotherfield Campus	South	Private Use	College
The Oratory Sports Centre	South	Small Gym	School
RAF Benson	West	Private Use	MOD

5.3 Security of Access, Ownership and Management

All five gyms located at public leisure centres have secured community use as they are owned by the Local Authority and managed by an external leisure operator. Three of these leisure centres (Park Sports Centre, Henley Leisure Centre and Thame Leisure Centre) are located on school-owned sites.

The opening hours of the five public leisure centres varies slightly. Thames Leisure Centre opens half an hour earlier than Didcot Wave Gym and Henley Leisure Centre during the week – 06:00 rather than 06:30. They all close at 22:00 during the week. At the weekends, Henley Leisure Centre opens half an hour later on Saturdays (07:30) and an hour later on Sundays (08:00) – all close at 17:00 during the weekends.

The Park Sports Centre (Wheatley) is open at a later time, Monday to Friday from 07:00 to 22:00, on Saturdays from 09:00 to 19:00, and on Sunday 09:00 to 17:00. Abbey Sports Centre (Berinsfield) has similar opening times Monday to Friday (07:00 to 22:00), but closes earlier on Saturdays and Sundays (09:00 to 15:00).

The non-member fees for casual use of the gym per session (40 minutes) is £13.75 for adults and £9.90 for juniors at all five of the Local Authority owned leisure centres.

Commercial gym providers are located at 12 sites in South Oxfordshire. The majority of these gyms are located in the South sub area (five sites) and the West sub area (five sites). These gyms are accessible to the community with a registered membership (monthly membership prices range from £19.99 per month at Pure Gym in Didcot to £75 per month at Oxfordshire Hotel Golf and Spa in Thame). There are extensive opening hours of commercially-owned gyms, including Pure Gym and Snap Gym (both in Didcot) that are open 24 hours on 7 days a week.

5.4 Age and Quality of facilities

As might be expected there is a clear correlation between the facility quality and age (since opening or the date of any major refurbishment) of gyms in South Oxfordshire. Table 5.4 below offers further detail with regard to the age and refurbishment dates of different facilities.

All five publicly-accessible gyms were subjected to a non-technical assessment. A summary of the findings from visual assessments (using Sport England’s ANOG guidance) has been provided below. The full audit data is presented in Appendix B.

Table 5.4: Quality, age and refurbishment detail of Gyms in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Sub Area	Year Built (refurbished)	Audit / Quality rating
Thame Leisure Centre	East	2003	Above average: Facility is in reasonable condition and is well maintained and presented. It is older but it is fit for purpose and safe. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are in an acceptable condition but show some signs of wear and tear. Ancillary facilities are good quality, but showing signs of age and some wear and tear.
Park Sports Centre	North	1985 (2007)	Above average: Facility is in reasonable condition and is well maintained and presented. It is older but it is fit for purpose and safe. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are in an acceptable condition but show some signs of wear and tear. Ancillary facilities are good quality, but showing signs of age and some wear and tear.
Henley Leisure Centre	South	1977 (2023)	Good: recently invested, up to date, well maintained, clean and well-presented. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are new or relatively new with little if any wear and tear. The facility is well lit with a modern feel. Ancillary facilities are welcoming, new or well maintained, fit for purpose, modern and attractive to use.
Abbey Sports Centre	West	1983 (2010)	Above average: Facility is in reasonable condition and is well maintained and presented. It is older but it is fit for purpose and safe. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are in an acceptable condition but show some signs of wear and tear. Ancillary facilities are good quality, but showing signs of age and some wear and tear.

Didcot Wave Gym	West	1993 (2017)	Above average: Facility is in reasonable condition and is well maintained and presented. It is older but it is fit for purpose and safe. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are in an acceptable condition but show some signs of wear and tear. Ancillary facilities are good quality, but showing signs of age and some wear and tear.
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5.5 Demand (Active Lives Data)

The latest Sport England Active Lives Data (2022) shows a decrease in the number of adults (16+ year olds) participating in ‘Gym Sessions’ in the last 28 days across the whole of England (between 2016 and 2022). Table 5.5 below shows that the number of adults doing Gym Sessions decreased by -3.3% in South Oxfordshire, which is a lesser decrease than in the Vale of White Horse, Oxfordshire, South East and England (ranging from -3.5 to -6.8%).

Table 5.5: Adults (16+ yrs) % change in participation in the last 28 days between 2016 and 2022

Activity	South Oxfordshire	Vale of White Horse	Oxfordshire (County)	South East (Region)	England (Nation)
Gym Sessions	-3.3%	-4.9%	-6.8%	-3.5%	-4.3%

(Source: Sport England Active Lives 2016-22)

Table 5.6 below shows Active Lives Data (2018-22) for children and young people (5-to-15-year-olds) that participated in ‘Gym or Fitness Sessions’ once or more per week. There has been an increase in participation rates in South Oxfordshire (8.5%) which is similar to the regional and national averages, but lower than the increases seen in Vale of White Horse and the county average.

Table 5.6: Children and Young People (5-15 yrs) % change in once a week gym/fitness between 2018 and 2022

Activity	South Oxfordshire	Vale of White Horse	Oxfordshire (County)	South East (Region)	England (Nation)
Gym or Fitness Sessions	8.5%	13.5%	10.4%	8.5%	8.9%

(Source: Sport England Active Lives 2018-22)

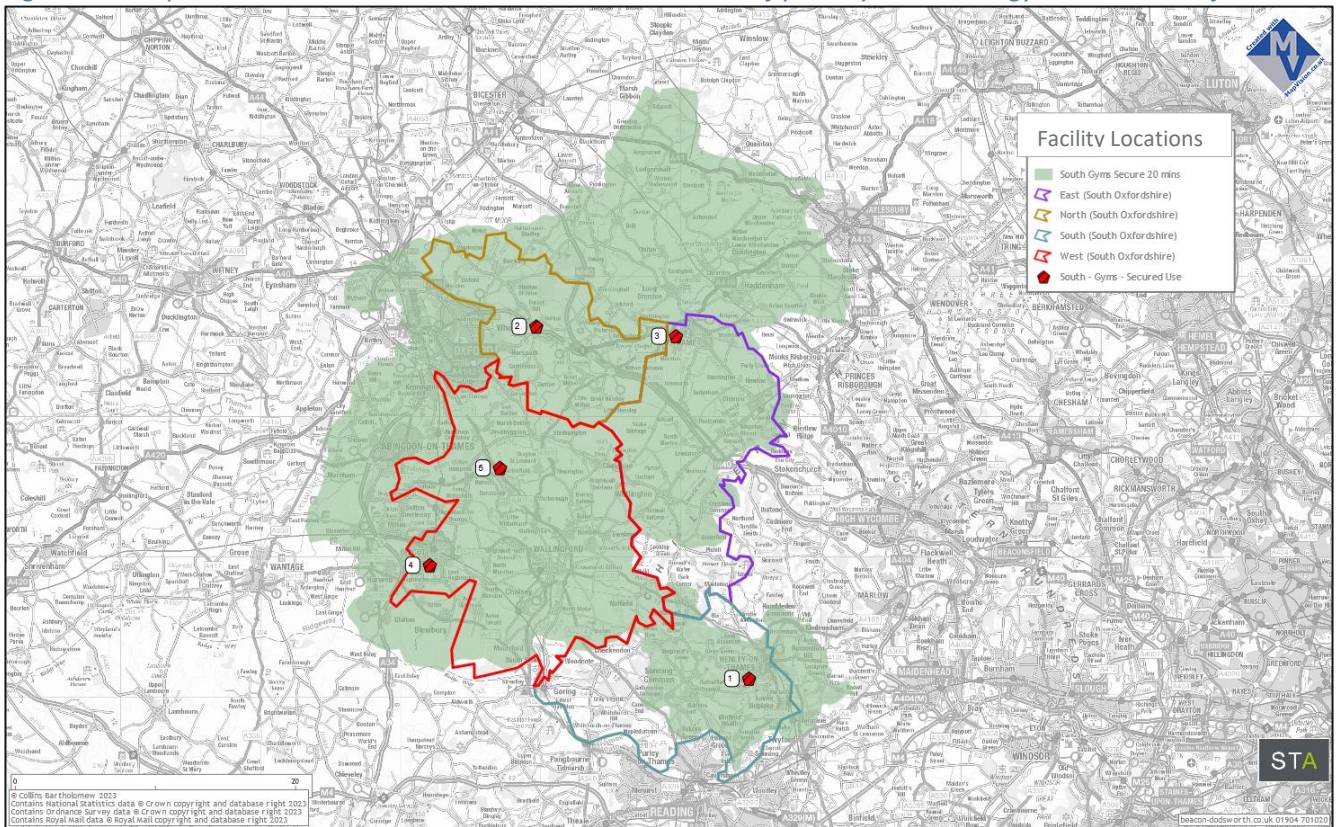
5.6 Accessibility

Gym accessibility is influenced by how far people are willing and able to travel. Appropriate walk and drive-time catchments are applied to facilities to determine accessibility of facilities to different communities. The normal acceptable standard is a 20-minute drive-time for a rural area. This enables analysis of the adequacy of coverage and helps to identify areas currently not serviced by existing provision.

The percentage of the population without access to a car influences travel patterns to gym. A low percentage, such as in South Oxfordshire, means that there is likely to be a larger number of journeys to gyms by car. For residents without access to a car, travel to gyms by public transport and on foot become the choices of travel mode. It should be noted, however, that while residents may have access to public transport, it does not mean they can reach a gym within 20 minutes via a combination of walking and public transport. Also, in rural areas the service may not be regular.

Figure 5.1 below shows that there are residents in the western part of the South sub area and in the southern part of the East sub area that are not within a 20-minute drive-time of a public leisure centre gym. However, the gym at Oratory Sports Centre is within a 20-minute drive-time of these residents.

Figure 5.1 Map to show 20-minute drive-time catchment areas of publicly-accessible gyms in South Oxfordshire



5.7 Peak Time Usage

Table 5.7 below shows the number of hours each gym facility is available for community use during peak times. The peak period during weekdays is from 17:00 to 21:00; and at weekends from 09:00 to 12:00 for a total of 26 hours per week. As a guide, the external leisure operators of the five public leisure centres have provided information on the number of ‘block-bookings’ and ‘casual bookings’ each facility receives on a typical week.

Table 5.7: Peak time usage of gyms at public leisure centres in South Oxfordshire

Site Name (Sub Area)	No. of hours open in peak period	Regular block-bookings in peak periods (hours)	Casual bookings in peak periods (hours)	Spare capacity in peak periods (hours)
Thame Leisure Centre (East)	26	0	19	7 (27%)
Park Sports Centre (North)	26	0	14	12 (46%)
Henley Leisure Centre (South)	26	0	12	14 (54%)
Abbey Sports Centre (West)	26	0	11	15 (58%)
Didcot Wave Gym (West)	26	0	12	14 (54%)

Thame Leisure Centre has the busiest gym in South Oxfordshire – on average the gym is 73% full during peak periods.

The remaining gyms are c.50% full during peak periods; Park Sport Centre (54%); Henley Leisure Centre (46%); Didcot Wave Gym (46%) and Abbey Sports Centre (42%). However, the user information provided by the operator shows all the gyms are ‘uncomfortably busy’ (ie, 80% or more full) during 17:00 to 21:00 on Monday to Friday.

5.8 Future Demand

To estimate the number of people likely to be regular gym-goers in the future, the projected increase in population for each sub area (from 2023 to 2041) has been provided by Oxfordshire County Council (2023). Together with the latest Active Lives participation rates, the likely number of new gym-goers across the district has been generated.

Active Lives data (2022) shows that 12% of adults (16+ year olds) in South Oxfordshire participated in ‘Gym Sessions’ at least twice in the last 28 days. For children and young people (5-to-15-year-olds), 17% participated in ‘Gym Sessions’ once or more per week. If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 5,752 new gym-goers across South Oxfordshire by 2041. A breakdown of future demand by sub area and age group has been provided in Table 5.8 below.

Table 5.8: Future demand for gym sessions in South Oxfordshire

Age Group	East Sub Area	North Sub Area	South Sub Area	West Sub Area	Total (District)
5–15-year-olds	63	80	-116	530	557
16–45-year-olds	303	175	-22	1,205	1,661
46–75-year-olds	390	166	41	2,147	2,744
76–100-year-olds	172	101	106	409	788
Total (5-100-year-olds)	928	523	10	4,291	5,752

Future demand projections suggest that future demand will be highest in the West sub area and the majority of this demand will be from people aged 46 to 75 years old.

It is not uncommon for the private sector to identify niche markets and fill them with a range of health and fitness stations. This can lead to the market looking congested. In Vale of White Horse, private sector gyms make up 71% of health and fitness stations. While some of these may be ‘budget operators’ it does not necessarily make them available to harder to reach groups and people from areas of (relative) disadvantage as cost is only one factor which hinders usage. Nonetheless, it is likely that budget operators will meet the future demand in the West sub area.

The second-largest growth area is in the East sub (928 new gym-goers by 2041). However, there are no budget operators in this sub area (Racquets Fitness Centre is £50 per month and Oxfordshire Hotel Golf and Spa is £75 per month), which highlights the importance of Thame Leisure Centre – currently 73% full during peak times – therefore future provision will be required to meet future demand.

Future demand for gyms is lowest in the North and the South sub areas – and Park Sport Centre and Henley Leisure Centre are only 46%-54% full during peak periods.

5.9 Planned Developments

There were no planned developments for gyms recorded as part of this study.

5.10 Summary of gyms - key facts and issues

Key Element (ANOG)	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
<p><u>Quantity</u> – Are there enough facilities with sufficient capacity to meet needs?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are health and fitness suites (gyms) located at five public leisure centres in all four sub areas. • Commercial gym providers are located at 12 sites in South Oxfordshire. The majority of these gyms are located in the South sub area (five sites) and the West sub area (five sites). • If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 5,752 new gym-goers across South Oxfordshire by 2041. • Highest future demand in the West sub area and the majority of this demand will be from people aged 46 to 75 years old. 	<p>New provision needed to meet very high future demand for gym sessions in West sub area.</p>
<p><u>Quality</u> – Are the facilities fit for purpose for the users? Do the facilities provide the level of play needed, and does the quality meet the user’s expectations?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All gyms at public leisure centres are ‘Good’ or ‘Above Average’ quality. 	<p>Maintain current levels of quality at public leisure centre gyms.</p>
<p><u>Accessibility</u> – Are the facilities in the right physical location for users? Does the cost of using facilities prohibit access?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents in the southern part of the East sub area are outside a 20-minute drive-time of a public leisure centre gym; however, these residents are within a 20-minute drive-time of gyms in Princes Risborough and High Wycombe. • Residents in the western part of the South sub area are not within a 20-minute drive-time of a public leisure centre sports hall. However, the gym at Oratory Sports Centre is within a 20-minute drive-time of these residents. • The non-member fees for casual use of the gym per session (40 minutes) is £13.75 for adults and £9.90 for juniors at all five of the Local Authority owned leisure centres. • Commercial gyms accessible to the community with a registered membership (monthly membership prices range from £19.99 per month at Pure Gym in Didcot to £75 per month at Oxfordshire Hotel Golf and Spa in Thame). • The second-highest future demand is in the East sub (928 new gym-goers by 2041). However, there are no budget operators in this sub area (Racquets Fitness Centre is £50 per month and Oxfordshire 	<p>Work with the operators of public leisure centre gyms to reduce the ‘pay and play’ cost to use the gym.</p> <p>Cheaper gym membership options needed in Thame as reliance on expensive membership clubs.</p>

	<p>Hotel Golf and Spa is £75 per month), which highlights the importance of Thame Leisure Centre – currently 73% full during peak times – therefore future provision will be required to meet future demand.</p>	
<p><u>Availability</u> – Are the facilities available to users who want to use them?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thame Leisure Centre has the busiest gym in South Oxfordshire – on average the gym is 73% full during peak periods. The user information provided by the operator shows the gym is uncomfortably busy (c.80% full during 17:00 to 21:00 on Monday to Friday). • The remaining four gyms are c.50% full during peak periods; Park Sport Centre (54%); Henley Leisure Centre (46%); Didcot Leisure Centre (46%) and Abbey Sports Centre (42%). 	<p>New gym provision in the East sub area to alleviate Thame LC capacity issues.</p>
<p><u>Summary</u> – What provision is required to meet needs and address issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to maintain the current level of provision and capacity for general community use to meet current and future needs of the district. Reduction of overall capacity will have an impact on meeting future population growth of the district. (PROTECT) • New commercial ‘budget’ operator gym is needed in Thame to improve the accessibility for both the existing and future population within the area. (PROVIDE) • Plan for additional gyms in the West sub area where there are likely to be 4,291 new gym-goers by 2041. (PROVIDE) 	

6. SQUASH COURTS

6.1 Introduction

This section contains a summary of the findings from the needs assessment work for squash courts in South Oxfordshire. England Squash (ES) is the NGB for the sport and its latest Strategy (2021 – 2025) ‘[Squash in a Changing World](#)’ aims to grow the game in England by working collaboratively with the whole squash community to drive increased participation in the game, with a radical advance in equality, diversity and inclusion.

6.2 Supply

In South Oxfordshire there are 21 squash courts located at seven sites. The largest number of courts are located at Racquets Fitness Centre (East sub area) and Didcot Leisure Centre (West sub area), which have four squash courts each. However, both of these centres have normal squash courts (i.e., not glass-backed). Glass-backed courts allow for better viewing of the squash players (for spectators / coaches) and are more appealing to all levels of players as they provide a less constricted atmosphere.

There are no glass-backed squash courts in the East sub area, however (shown in table 6.1 below) there are community-accessible squash courts located in the three other sub areas in South Oxfordshire. A map to show the location of squash courts is displayed in the Appendices.

Table 6.1: Community-Accessible Squash Courts in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Sub Area	No. of Courts	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type
Racquets Fitness Centre	East	4 normal	Membership	Commercial	Commercial Management
The Watlington Club	East	2 normal	Membership	Sports Club	Sports Club
Park Sports Centre	North	3 glass-backed	Public	Local Authority	Trust
Henley Leisure Centre	South	2 glass-backed	Public	Education	Trust
Oratory Sports Centre	South	2 normal 1 glass-backed	Public	Education	School
Didcot Leisure Centre	West	4 normal	Public	Education	Trust
Wallingford Sports Park	West	2 normal 1 glass-backed	Membership	Local Authority	Trust

There are also three sites in South Oxfordshire with squash courts that are for private use only. There is no community access of two squash courts at RAF Benson (West sub area), one court at Shiplake College (South) and one court at Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge School (South).

6.3 Security of Access, Ownership and Management

In the East sub area, the two sites are membership-only clubs. Racquets Fitness Centre is commercially owned, managed and accessible to the community with an annual or monthly membership. Squash memberships at this site cost £500 a year or £50 a month for adults and £250 or £25 for juniors.

The Watlington Club is owned and managed by the club – an annual squash membership is required to use the court, which is £155 for adults and £35 for juniors.

The one site in the North sub area with squash courts (Park Sports Centre) that has secured community access and extensive opening hours offering ‘pay and play’ sessions to non-members (£15.25 per court for 40 minutes).

In the South sub area, Henley Leisure Centre and Oratory School Sports Centre are located at education-owned sites but have extensive opening hours and offer ‘pay and play’ sessions to non-members. The cost to hire a court is £15.25 for 40 minutes at Henley Leisure Centre and £12 for an hour at Oratory School Sports Centre.

In the West sub area, Didcot Leisure Centre has squash courts available to ‘pay and play’ for non-members (£15.25 for 40 minutes). However, the courts are only open to the community from 17:00 to 22:00 on weekdays and from 09:00 to 12:00 at weekends. The other squash site in this sub area, Wallingford Sports Park is only available to club members of Hithercroft Squash Club with an annual membership of £100 for adults and £20 for juniors.

6.4 Age and Quality of facilities

Five of the seven community-accessible squash court sites in South Oxfordshire were subjected to a non-technical assessment. A summary of the findings from visual assessments (using Sport England’s ANOG guidance) has been provided below. The full audit data is presented in Appendix B. Racquets Fitness Centre and The Watlington Club were not assessed as part of this study.

Table 6.4 below offers further detail with regard to the age and refurbishment dates of different facilities. Park Sports Centre and Didcot Leisure Centre have the worst quality squash courts. The squash courts at these sites were deemed ‘Below Average’ quality.

Table 6.4: Quality, age and refurbishment detail of squash courts in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Sub Area	Year Built (refurbished)	Audit / Quality rating
Park Sports Centre	North	1985 (2012)	Below average: Facility is older and showing signs of age and poor quality. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are showing signs of wear and tear. The facility is usable but quality could be improved. The facility is not as attractive to customers and does not meet current expectations. Ancillary facilities are deteriorating, reasonable quality, but usable.
Henley Leisure Centre	South	1977 (2008)	Above average: Facility is in reasonable condition and is well maintained and presented. It is older but it is fit for purpose and safe. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are in an acceptable condition but show some signs of wear and tear. Ancillary facilities are good quality, but showing signs of age and some wear and tear.
Oratory Sports Centre	South	1985 (2014)	Above average: Facility is in reasonable condition and is well maintained and presented. It is older but it is fit for purpose and safe. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are in an acceptable condition but show some signs of wear and tear. Ancillary facilities are good quality, but showing signs of age and some wear and tear.

Didcot Leisure Centre	West	1985 (2009)	Below average: Facility is older and showing signs of age and poor quality. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are showing signs of wear and tear. The facility is usable but quality could be improved. The facility is not as attractive to customers and does not meet current expectations. Ancillary facilities are deteriorating, reasonable quality, but usable.
Wallingford Sports Park	West	1973 (2010)	Above average: Facility is in reasonable condition and is well maintained and presented. It is older but it is fit for purpose and safe. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are in an acceptable condition but show some signs of wear and tear. Ancillary facilities are good quality, but showing signs of age and some wear and tear.

6.5 Club Consultation

Racquets Fitness Centre and The Watlington Club did not respond to requests for information. However, the three ES affiliated clubs in South Oxfordshire have provided information for this study, which is summarised below.

Hithercroft Squash Club has 100 adult members based at Wallingford Sports Park. The three squash courts are deemed ‘Good’ quality by the club and the ancillary facilities are ‘adequate’. The club has weekly club nights, coaching sessions, internal tournaments and Oxfordshire Squash and Racketball league matches. The club raised no issues with squash provision at Wallingford Sports Park – it is focussed on ensuring there are good quality squash facilities for its club members.

Didcot Squash Club is also based at Wallingford Sports Park. The club moved from Didcot Leisure Centre at the end of 2021. The increase in prices at the Leisure Centre (to £30 per match) prohibited the club from using the squash courts. The ancillary facilities (including social space) were also inadequate for the clubs’ needs and the squash courts were poor quality. The club’s 18 adult members compete in the Oxfordshire Squash and Racketball league at Wallingford Sports Park, where Hithercroft Squash Club allow them to hire the courts at a reasonable rate (£15 per match).

Henley Squash and Racketball Club has 20 junior members and 74 adult members (16+ year olds). The club is based at Henley Leisure Centre where it offers weekly club nights, coaching sessions, league matches and internal tournaments. The club reports a slight decrease on pre-COVID numbers. Although there have been some new members, not enough to offset the number of pre-COVID members who haven't come back. The main issue for the club is that the squash courts are being used as polling stations, despite repeated requests that this should not happen.

6.6 NGB Consultation

England Squash (ES) is committed to supporting the traditional infrastructure of county associations, clubs, coaches and officials to grow the game through key programmes and campaigns. ES work across three facility types: education, leisure providers (commercial and public) and clubs to drive a player and coach centric approach to squash that enhances the squash experience for those involved in the game.

ES suggests that there is a good spread of squash court sites across South Oxfordshire. The geography of the area (rural) means that there needs to be a large spread of courts to meet the needs of the local population in

cluster towns and villages. As such it is imperative that squash court numbers are maintained as losing any courts would have a detrimental impact on being able to provide opportunities for the sports.

6.7 Demand (Active Lives Data)

The latest Sport England Active Lives Data (2022) shows a decrease in the number of adults (16+ year olds) participating in squash in the last year across the county, region and country (between 2016 and 2022). Data at a district-level is not available for squash, however Table 6.5 below shows a greater decrease in Oxfordshire than the South East and England averages.

Table 6.5: Adults (16+ yrs) % change in participation in the last year between 2016 and 2022

Activity	Oxfordshire (County)	South East (Region)	England (Nation)
Squash	-3.3%	-2.3%	-1.5%

(Source: Sport England Active Lives 2016-22)

Active Lives Data for children and young people (5–15-year-olds) is not available at a county or district level, and shows no change in participation rates at a regional and national level.

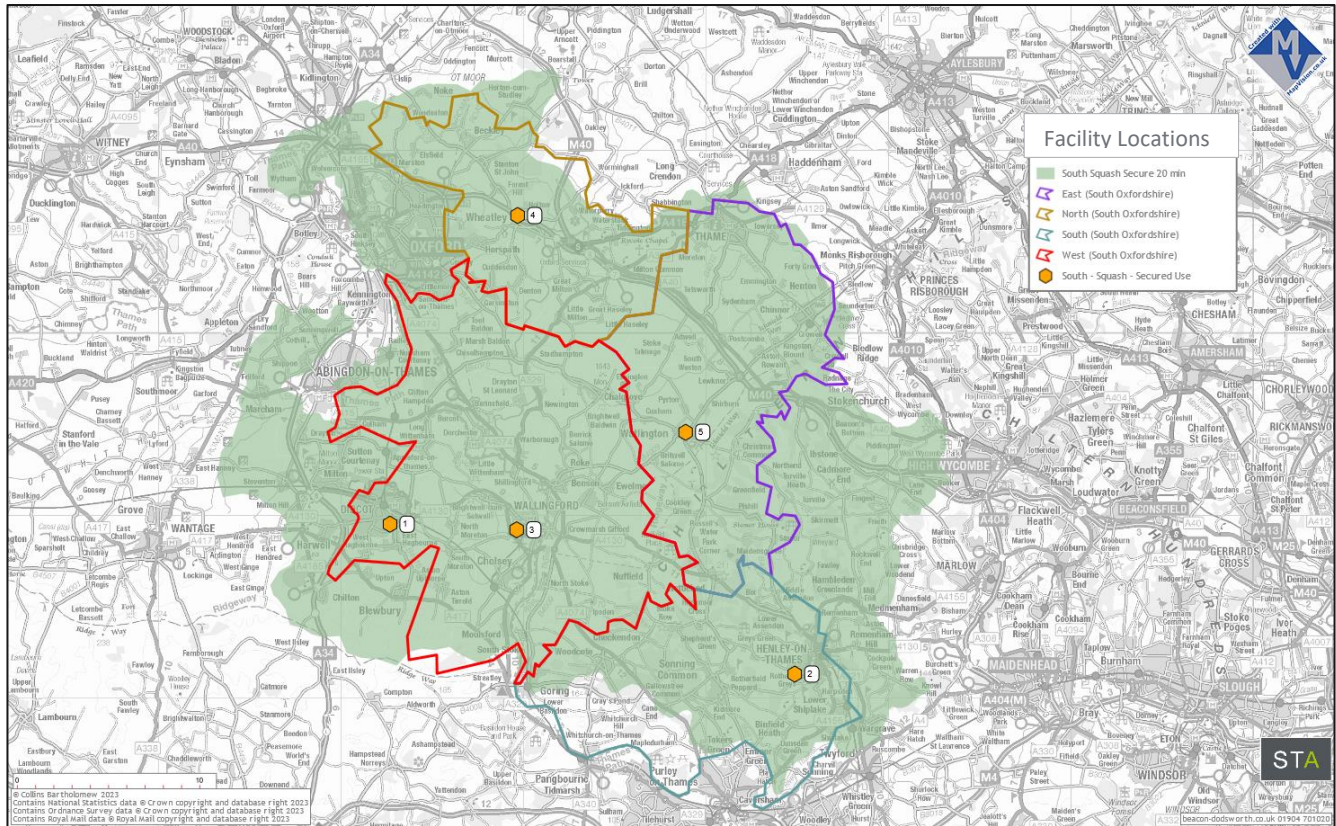
6.8 Accessibility

Accessibility is influenced by how far people are willing and able to travel. Appropriate walk and drive-time catchments are applied to facilities to determine accessibility of facilities to different communities. The normal acceptable standard is a 20-minute drive-time for a rural area. This enables analysis of the adequacy of coverage and helps to identify areas currently not serviced by existing provision.

The percentage of the population without access to a car influences travel patterns to squash courts. A low percentage means that there is likely to be a larger number of journeys to squash courts by car. For residents without access to a car, travel to squash courts by public transport and on foot become the choices of travel mode. It should be noted, however, that while residents may have access to public transport, it does not mean they can reach a squash court within 20 minutes via a combination of walking and public transport. Also, in rural areas the service may not be regular.

Figure 6.1 (overleaf) presents a map to show there is good coverage of squash courts across the district, with only a small gap in provision in the South sub area. However, residents in this area are within a 20-minute drive-time of squash courts at the Oratory Sports Centre.

Figure 6.1: Map to show 20-minute drive-time catchment areas of squash courts with secured access in South Oxfordshire



6.9 Peak Time Usage

Table 6.6 below shows the number of hours each squash facility is available for community use during peak times. The peak period during weekdays is from 17:00 to 21:00; and at weekends from 09:00 to 12:00 for a total of 26 hours per week. As a guide, the external leisure operators of the three public leisure centres have provided information on the number of ‘block-bookings’ each facility receives on a typical week.

There is considerable spare capacity for casual bookings during peak periods at the three public leisure centres with squash courts in South Oxfordshire. However, Court 3 at Park Sports Centre is used as a creche and not currently available for squash, and all four courts at Didcot Leisure Centre are booked by St. Birinus School from 09:00 to 17:00 on weekdays.

Table 6.6: Peak time usage of squash courts at public leisure centres in South Oxfordshire

Site Name (Sub Area)	Squash Court Number	No. of hours open in peak period	Regular block-bookings in peak periods (hours)	Casual bookings in peak periods (hours)	Spare capacity in peak periods (hours)
Park Sports Centre (North)	Court 1	26	4	7	15
	Court 2	26	2.5	9	14.5
	Court 3	26	Creche	n/a	n/a
Henley Leisure Centre (South)	Court 1	26	5	4	17
	Court 2	26	5	4	17

Didcot Leisure Centre (West)	Court 1	26	1.5	5	19.5
	Court 2	26	1.5	5	19.5
	Court 3	26	0	5	21
	Court 4	26	0	5	21

Park Sports Centre squash courts have the most used-capacity during weekly peak periods (43%), followed by Henley Leisure Centre (35%) and then Didcot Leisure Centre (22%).

6.10 Future Demand

To estimate the number of people likely to be regular squash players in the future, the projected increase in population for each sub area (from 2023 to 2041) has been provided by Oxfordshire County Council (2023). Together with the latest Active Lives participation rates, the likely number of new squash players across the district has been generated.

Active Lives data (2022) shows that 0.7% of adults (16+ year olds) in South Oxfordshire participated in ‘Squash’ at least twice in the last 28 days. For children and young people (5-to-15-year-olds), 0.3% participated in ‘Squash’ once or more per week. If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 310 new squash players across South Oxfordshire by 2041. A breakdown of future demand by sub area and age group has been provided in Table 6.8 below.

Table 6.8: Future demand for squash in South Oxfordshire

Age Group	East Sub Area	North Sub Area	South Sub Area	West Sub Area	Total (District)
5–15-year-olds	1	1	-2	10	10
16–45-year-olds	18	10	-1	70	97
46–75-year-olds	23	10	2	124	159
76–100-year-olds	10	6	6	24	46
Total (5-100-year-olds)	51	27	5	227	310

Future demand projections suggest that future demand will be highest in the West sub area and the majority of this demand will be from people aged 46 to 75 years old.

6.11 Planned Developments

There were no planned developments of squash courts recorded as part of this study.

6.12 Summary of squash provision - key facts and issues

Key Element (ANOG)	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
<u>Quantity</u> – Are there enough facilities with sufficient capacity to meet needs?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are 21 squash courts located at seven sites, but private-members clubs only in the East sub area. The largest number of courts are located at Racquets Fitness Centre (East sub area) and Didcot Leisure Centre (West sub area), which have four squash courts each. 	None.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • However, both of these centres have normal squash courts (i.e., not glass-backed). 	
<p><u>Quality</u> – Are the facilities fit for purpose for the users? Do the facilities provide the level of play needed, and does the quality meet the user’s expectations?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Squash courts at Park LC and Didcot LC are ‘Below Average’. The facility is older and showing signs of age and poor quality. The facility is not as attractive to customers and does not meet current expectations. 	<p>Improve quality of squash courts at Park LC and Didcot LC to meet customer expectations.</p>
<p><u>Accessibility</u> – Are the facilities in the right physical location for users? Does the cost of using facilities prohibit access?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents in the western part of the South sub area are not within a 20-minute drive-time of a public leisure centre squash court. However, the courts at Oratory Sports Centre are within a 20-minute drive-time of these residents. • There are no ‘pay and play’ opportunities in East sub area – membership only. Racquets Fitness Centre - squash memberships are £500 a year or £50 a month for adults and £250 or £25 for juniors. The Watlington Club - annual squash membership is required, which is £155 for adults and £35 for juniors. • Wallingford Sports Park is only available to club members of Hithercroft Squash Club with an annual membership of £100 for adults and £20 for juniors. • Public leisure centre sites offer ‘pay and play’ sessions to non-members (£15.25 per court for 40 minutes). Whereas Oratory School Sports Centre £12 for an hour. • Didcot Leisure Centre squash courts were unaffordable for Didcot Squash Club so the club moved to Wallingford Sports Park. 	<p>Work with the operators of public leisure centre squash court providers to reduce the ‘pay and play’ cost to use the squash courts.</p> <p>Cheaper squash membership options needed in East sub area as reliance on expensive membership clubs.</p>
<p><u>Availability</u> – Are the facilities available to users who want to use them?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of peak-time usage shows there is spare capacity at all of the public leisure centres with squash courts. • Park Sports Centre squash courts have the most used-capacity during weekly peak periods (43%), followed by Henley Leisure Centre (35%) and then Didcot Leisure Centre (22%). • No capacity issues raised by squash clubs at Wallingford Sports Park, Racquets Fitness Centre and The Watlington Club. 	<p>None.</p>
<p><u>Summary</u> – What provision is required to meet needs and address issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to maintain the current level of provision and capacity for general community use to meet current and future needs of the district. Reduction of overall capacity will have an impact on meeting future population growth of the district. (PROTECT) • Improve quality of squash courts at Park LC and Didcot LC to meet customer expectations. (ENHANCE) 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cheaper 'pay and play' costs in all sub areas and cheaper membership options needed in East sub area to improve the accessibility for both the existing and future population within the area. (ENHANCE)
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7. GYMNASTICS FACILITIES

7.1 Introduction

This section contains a summary of the findings from the needs assessment work for gymnastics facilities in South Oxfordshire. British Gymnastics (BG) supports clubs and partners with facility development projects via its in-house Facilities Team. BG has both a national strategy and a specific facilities strategy to guide planning and development of facilities with the overall goal of increasing participation in the sport (both are currently being updated covering the period 2022 – 2027).

The BG [Facilities Strategy](#) highlights the NGB will work towards to improving facilities for gymnastics particularly by supporting clubs with their plans for improvement of their spaces and to relocate to better and bigger spaces. By identifying and then removing bottlenecks, demand can be met, starting with addressing coaches and space limitations. Clubs moving into dedicated facilities will be able to increase their membership and diversify their range of activities including to the local community and by working with other organisations offering physical activity opportunities.

7.2 Supply

In South Oxfordshire there are gymnastics facilities located at eight sites. Seven of these sites are shared facilities (with other sports) – there are five sports halls, one community centre and one church hall. The only dedicated gymnastics venue is located at Abingdon Gymnastics Club (West sub area).

Table 7.1 below shows there are gymnastics facilities located in all of the four sub areas in South Oxfordshire. There are five gymnastics clubs affiliated to BG using six of the eight sites. Springbox Gymnastics Club (non-affiliated) uses the sports hall at Henley College. A Leisure Centre Scheme (LCS) is operated at Park Sports Centre (no gymnastics club is based here).

The Leisure Centre Scheme is designed to enable, encourage and actively support leisure centres to register their recreational gymnastic programmes with BG. The LCS is also available to other leisure providers such as fitness clubs and community centres. Working in partnership, BG aims to add significant value to the programmes of leisure providers through raising standards of provision (by promoting and recommending appropriate policies, procedures, guidelines and resources); and increasing participation (by offering and developing practical toolkits aimed at maximising resources such as time, space and coaches).

A map to show the location of gymnastics facilities is displayed in the Appendices.

Table 7.1: Gymnastics Facilities in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Sub Area	Provision Type	User Type / Club Name	Ownership Type	Management Type
Thame Leisure Centre	East	Sports Hall	Thame Valley School of Trampolineing	Local Authority	Trust
Park Sports Centre	North	Sports Hall	Leisure Centre Scheme	Local Authority	Trust
Henley College	South	Sports Hall	Springbox Gymnastics Club	Education	Education

Thames Valley Gym, Sonning Common	South	Community Centre	Kennylands Gymnastics	Local Authority	Local Authority
Christ Church Centre URC Henley	South	Church Hall	Vision Gymnastics	Local Authority	Local Authority
Oratory School Sports Centre	South	Sports Hall	Vision Gymnastics	Education	Education
Abingdon Gymnastics Club	West	Dedicated Unit	Abingdon Gymnastics Club	Commercial	Club
Didcot Leisure Centre	West	Sports Hall	Kinetics Gymnastics	Local Authority	Trust

7.3 Security of Access, Ownership and Management

Five of the eight sites with gymnastics facilities in South Oxfordshire have security of community access. These sites are owned by the Local Authority – Didcot Leisure Centre, Thame Leisure Centre, Park Sports Centre, Thames Valley Gym and Christ Church Centre – and they are managed by the Authority or a Trust.

There are two sites that are school-owned, Oratory School Sports Centre and Henley College, which have unsecured community use.

Abingdon Gymnastics Club has a short-term lease with the commercial owners of its dedicated (former warehouse) unit in Berinsfield. The club is currently working towards a funding package for the purchase of the freehold to its dedicated unit.

7.4 Age and Quality of facilities

Four sites with gymnastics facilities were subjected to a non-technical assessment. A summary of the findings from visual assessments (using Sport England’s ANOG guidance) has been provided below. The full audit data is presented in Appendix B.

Table 7.2: Quality, age and refurbishment detail of gymnastics facilities in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Sub Area	Year Built (refurbished)	Audit / Quality rating
Thame Leisure Centre	East	2003	Above average: Facility is in reasonable condition and is well maintained and presented. It is older but it is fit for purpose and safe. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are in an acceptable condition but show some signs of wear and tear. Ancillary facilities are good quality, but showing signs of age and some wear and tear.
Park Sports Centre	North	1985 (2007)	Below average: Facility is older and showing signs of age and poor quality. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are showing signs of wear and tear. The facility is usable but quality could be improved. The facility is not as attractive to customers and does not meet current expectations. Ancillary facilities are deteriorating, reasonable quality, but usable.
Oratory Sports Centre	South	1989 (2014)	Above average: Facility is in reasonable condition and is well maintained and presented. It is older but it is fit for purpose and safe. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are in an acceptable condition but show some signs of wear and tear. Ancillary facilities are good quality, but showing signs of age and some wear and tear.

Didcot Leisure Centre	West	1985 (2008)	Below average: Facility is older and showing signs of age and poor quality. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are showing signs of wear and tear. The facility is usable but quality could be improved. The facility is not as attractive to customers and does not meet current expectations. Ancillary facilities are deteriorating, reasonable quality, but usable.
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7.5 Demand (Club Consultation)

All five affiliated gymnastics club using facilities in South Oxfordshire responded to requests for information. For the three sites that were not assessed, club consultation (through online survey responses) suggests the quality of facilities varies but is consistent at these sites – the ancillary facilities are ‘Below Average’ or ‘Poor’ quality.

Abingdon Gymnastics Club reported that its gymnastics facilities are ‘Above Average’; the gymnastics equipment is ‘Good’ quality and the ancillary facilities are ‘Below Average’. Vision Gymnastics reported the same quality ratings for Christ Church Centre in Henley. Kennylands Gymnastics uses Thames Valley Gym in Sonning Common and reported that gymnastics facilities and equipment are ‘Good’ quality but the ancillary facilities are ‘Poor’ quality.

Kennylands Gymnastics has 990 members and reports that it has operated at full capacity and with a large waiting list for many years. In order to expand classes, it would need to increase the size of Thames Valley Gym, which the club would like to do. Currently, it is unable to provide some of its gymnasts with the facilities required for higher skill levels. These gymnasts are leaving the club in order to access appropriate gymnastics (mainly outside of Oxfordshire) to continue with their development at other gymnastics facilities.

Kinetic Gymnastics has 153 members (primarily women’s artistic gymnastics) offering recreational classes on six days a week across three venues. Kinetic Gymnastics uses Didcot Leisure Centre as well as Wantage Leisure Centre and Upton Village Hall (both in Vale of White Horse). The use of three venues is not preferred by the club and a dedicated single facility is a continual ambition for the club in order to offer time/space to meet demand.

Vision Gymnastics has 311 members and uses two venues on six days a week (Christ Church Centre URC Henley and Oratory School Sports Centre). The club is increasing in size every year but did not raise any capacity / availability issues. The main concern for the club is the increase in cost to hire the facilities (resulting in an increase in club membership prices). The club has a rental agreement with Oratory School and Sports Centre, but this only has a one-month notice period.

Thame Valley Trampolining has just 41 members – from 180 members three years ago. The club moved from Stoke Mandeville Stadium in Aylesbury, when the hire costs were tripled, to Thame Leisure Centre. The club lost the majority of its members who didn’t want to travel to Thame. The club feel that people in Thame are not interested in trampolining.

Abingdon Gymnastics Club has 746 members and operates Monday to Saturday all year round (with just a few weeks shut down over Christmas and the summer).

The club offers a wide selection of classes that are run all day with Preschool, Home Education and ‘Pay and Play’ sessions during school hours. Recreational and competitive training sessions are generally from 4pm onwards. The number of members has dropped slightly from pre-Covid levels, which is mainly due to losing employees/coaches and being unable to find replacements (particularly full-time coaching roles).

The club’s main focus in the short-term is to secure the tenure of its venue in Berinsfield. This a dedicated unit (two buildings – 5,000 sq. ft. and 6,000 sq. ft.) which the club leases from the owners (Jennings of Garsington). The club is currently working towards a funding package for the purchase of the freehold to its dedicated unit (both buildings). The long-term aim for the club is to re-model the buildings to provide better disability access (including disabled toilets) and to open up access for beginners (including a spectator viewing area).

7.6 Demand (NGB Consultation)

BG’s national target is to have 40 clubs per year moving into dedicated spaces. By working with the Local Authority in the early stages of assessing their sports facility strategy requirements, BG are able to advise where clubs have ongoing facility projects and promote the demand and benefits of these to the Local Authority.

BG is keen to work South and Vale District Councils to progress projects and work on joint projects. Integrating gymnastics facility requirements into the long-term sports facility planning process is the most effective way to ensure gymnastics is highlighted when leisure facility plans are being considered.

7.7 Demand (Active Lives Data)

The latest Sport England Active Lives Data (2022) shows a decrease in the number of adults (16+ year olds) participating in gymnastics or trampolining in the last year across the county, region and country (between 2016 and 2022). Data at a district-level is not available, however Table 7.3 below shows a greater decrease in Oxfordshire than the South East and England averages.

Table 7.3: Adults (16+ yrs) % change in participation in the last year between 2016 and 2022

Activity	Oxfordshire (County)	South East (Region)	England (Nation)
Gymnastics or Trampolining	-1.8%	-1.4%	-1.2%

(Source: Sport England Active Lives 2016-22)

Table 7.4 below shows Active Lives Data (2018-22) for children and young people (5-to-15-year-olds) that participated in ‘Gymnastics or Trampolining’ once or more per week. There has been an increase in participation rates in South Oxfordshire (2.4%), whereas the county, regional and national averages all decreased (by -3.9% to -4.1%) over the same time period.

Table 7.4: Children and Young People (5-15 yrs) % change in once a week gymnastics or trampolining between 2018 and 2022

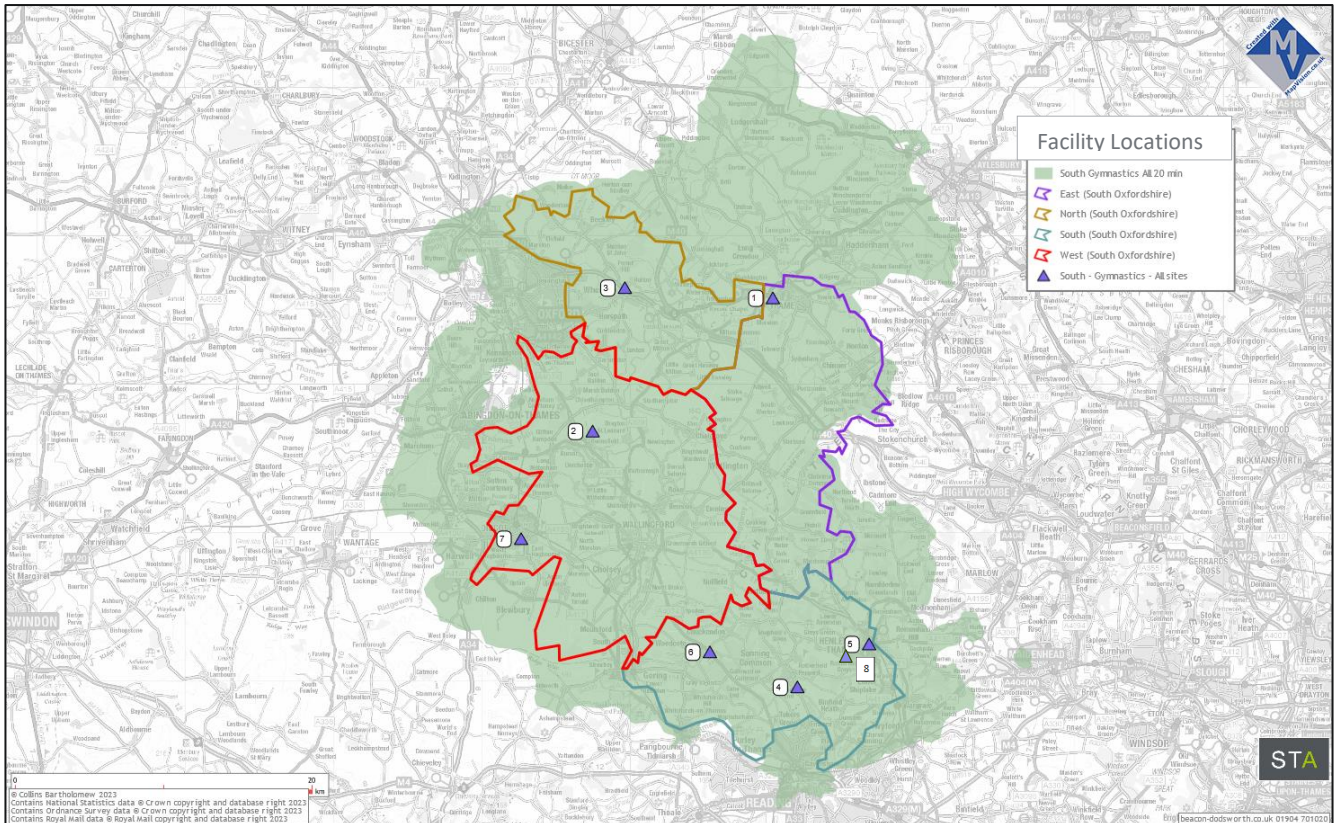
Activity	South Oxfordshire	Vale of White Horse	Oxfordshire (County)	South East (Region)	England (Nation)
Gymnastics or Trampolining	2.4%	6.3%	-4.1%	-4.0%	-3.9%

(Source: Sport England Active Lives 2018-22)

7.8 Accessibility

Accessibility is influenced by how far people are willing and able to travel. Appropriate drive-time catchments are applied to facilities to determine accessibility of facilities to different communities. The normal acceptable standard is a 20-minute drive-time for a rural area. This enables analysis of the adequacy of coverage and helps to identify areas currently not serviced by existing provision. Figure 7.1 below shows no geographical gaps in provision.

Figure 7.1: Map to show 20-minute drive-time catchment areas for gymnastics facilities in South Oxfordshire



7.9 Latent Demand (Waiting Lists)

Table 7.5 below shows the latest membership numbers (provided by BG) for 2022. Four of the five affiliated gymnastics clubs in South Oxfordshire have waiting lists for new members. Three of the five of the clubs that use shared spaces report a lack of time available prohibits them from accepting new members. Abingdon Gymnastics Club report that a lack of qualified coaches is the main factor preventing new members joining. Thame Valley School of Trampolining has no waiting list.

Table 7.5: No. of gymnastics club members and waiting lists in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Sub Area	Provision Type	User Type / Club Name	Membership Number	Waiting List Number
Thame Leisure Centre	East	Sports Hall	Thame Valley School of Trampolining	41	0
Park Sports Centre	North	Sports Hall	Leisure Centre Scheme	n/a	n/a
Henley College	South	Sports Hall	Springbox Gymnastics Club	Unknown	Unknown

Thames Valley Gym, Sonning Common	South	Community Centre	Kennylands Gymnastics	990	1,200
Christ Church Centre URC Henley	South	Church Hall	Vision Gymnastics	311	200
Oratory School Sports Centre	South	Sports Hall	Vision Gymnastics	As above	As above
Abingdon Gymnastics Club	West	Dedicated Unit	Abingdon Gymnastics Club	746	63
Didcot Leisure Centre	West	Sports Hall	Kinetics Gymnastics	153	100

7.8 Future Demand

To estimate the number of people likely to be regular gymnasts in the future, the projected increase in population for each sub area (from 2023 to 2041) has been provided by Oxfordshire County Council (2023). Together with the latest Active Lives participation rates, the likely number of new gymnasts across the district has been generated.

Active Lives data (2022) shows that 0.4% of adults (16+ year olds) in Oxfordshire participated in ‘Gymnastics’ at least twice in the last 28 days. For children and young people (5-to-15-year-olds), 21% participated in ‘Gymnastics’ once or more per week. If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 860 new gymnasts across South Oxfordshire by 2041. A breakdown of future demand by sub area and age group has been provided in Table 7.8 below.

Table 7.8: Future demand for gymnastics in South Oxfordshire

Age Group	East Sub Area	North Sub Area	South Sub Area	West Sub Area	Total (District)
5–15-year-olds	78	99	-143	655	689
16–45-year-olds	10	6	-1	40	55
46–75-year-olds	13	5	1	71	90
76–100-year-olds	6	3	4	14	27
Total (5-100-year-olds)	106	114	-139	779	860

Future demand projections suggest that future demand will be highest in the West sub area and the majority of this demand will be from people aged 5 to 15 years old.

7.9 Planned Developments

At Abingdon Gymnastics Centre, the club’s main focus in the short-term is to secure the tenure of its venue in Berinsfield. The long-term aim for the club is to re-model the buildings to provide better disability access (including disabled toilets) and to open up access for beginners (including a spectator viewing area).

7.10 Summary of gymnastics facilities - key facts and issues

Key Element (ANOG)	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
<p><u>Quantity</u> – Are there enough facilities with sufficient capacity to meet needs?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are gymnastics facilities located at eight sites across all four sub areas. • However, seven of these sites are shared facilities (with other sports) – there are five sports halls, one community centre and one church hall. • The only dedicated gymnastics venue is located at Abingdon Gymnastics Club (West sub area). • If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 860 new gymnasts across South Oxfordshire by 2041. • Highest future demand in the West sub area (779 gymnasts) and the majority of this demand will be from people aged 5 to 15 years old (655 gymnasts). 	<p>New dedicated gymnastics facilities in the South and the West sub areas.</p>
<p><u>Quality</u> – Are the facilities fit for purpose for the users? Do the facilities provide the level of play needed, and does the quality meet the user’s expectations?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are two facilities assessed as ‘Below Average’ quality – Park LC and Didcot LC. Only Abingdon Gymnastics Club are happy with the quality of its facilities (reported as ‘Good’ quality). 	<p>Improve quality of sports hall facilities at Park LC and Didcot LC to meet customer expectations.</p>
<p><u>Accessibility</u> – Are the facilities in the right physical location for users? Does the cost of using facilities prohibit access?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All residents are within a 20-minute drive-time of a gymnastics facility. • Vision Gymnastics and Kinetics Gymnastics have large waiting lists and are using multiple venues – a dedicated single facility is a continual ambition for the clubs in order to offer time/space to meet demand. 	<p>New dedicated provision for Kinetics Gymnastics in the West sub area and Vision Gymnastics in the South sub area.</p>
<p><u>Availability</u> – Are the facilities available to users who want to use them?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All but one club have waiting lists. Thame Valley Trampoline has just 41 members (no waiting list) but lost over 100 members when moving from Stoke Mandeville Stadium in Aylesbury, when the hire costs were tripled, to Thame Leisure Centre. The majority of members didn’t want to travel to Thame and the club feel that people in Thame are not interested in trampolining. 	<p>Support Thame Valley Trampoline to gain more members in Thame.</p>
<p><u>Summary</u> – What provision is required to meet needs and address issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to maintain the current level of provision and capacity for general community use to meet current and future needs of the district. Reduction of overall capacity will have an impact on meeting future population growth of the district. (PROTECT) • Improve quality of sports halls at Park LC and Didcot LC to meet customer expectations. (ENHANCE) • Support Kennylands Gymnastics to expand Thames Valley Gym to cater for latent demand – and highly skilled gymnasts. (ENHANCE) 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support Abingdon Gymnastics Club in working towards a funding package for the purchase of the freehold to its dedicated unit. (ENHANCE)• Support Vision Gymnastics with a Community Use Agreement at Oratory School and Sports Centre, as the club only has a one-month notice period. (ENHANCE)• New dedicated provision for Kinetics Gymnastics in the West sub area and Vision Gymnastics / Springbox Gymnastics Club in the South sub area. (PROVIDE)
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8. ARCHERY RANGES

8.1 Introduction

This section contains a summary of the findings from the needs assessment work for indoor and outdoor archery facilities in South Oxfordshire. Archery GB is the NGB for the sport. Its latest [Strategic Plan \(2021-2026\)](#) has a vision of enriching lives through archery by having an effective and efficient governance and delivery structure for the sports, with a member-centric membership offer. It has a strategic ambition to revitalise club networks by establishing new groups, partnerships and places that increase the breadth of archery communities.

8.2 Supply

There are two archery clubs in South Oxfordshire (shown in Table 8.1 below) and both are in the West sub area – Wallingford Castle Archers and RAF Benson Bowmen. There are no archery clubs based in the East, North or South sub areas. A map to show the archery facilities is displayed in the Appendices.

Table 8.1: Archery Ranges in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Sub Area	Provision Type	User Type / Club Name	Ownership Type	Management Type
RAF Benson	West	Sports hall and playing field	RAF Benson Bowmen	MoD	Club
Wallingford Sports Park	West	Playing field	Wallingford Castle Archers	Local Authority	Trust
Didcot Girls' School	West	Sports hall	Wallingford Castle Archers	Education	Education
Wallingford School	West	Sport hall	Wallingford Castle Archers	Education	Education

8.3 Security of Access, Ownership and Management

Archery is played throughout the year and clubs predominantly shoot at outdoor archery ranges during the Summer (May to September) and at indoor ranges in the Winter (October to April).

Wallingford Castle Archers are based at Wallingford Sports Park (unlimited length of tenure) in the Summer and use the sports halls (hired on an hourly basis) at Didcot Girls' School and Wallingford School in the Winter for indoor training sessions. Tournaments happen across all three venues and the club would like to have a single venue where everything can take place all year round.

RAF Benson Bowmen have not responded to requests for information. However, the club website states that it meets at its on-site Sports Hall on Tuesday evenings from 20:00 to 22:00 and Thursday evenings from 18:30 to 22:00.

8.4 Age and Quality of facilities

The sports halls used for indoor archery sessions were not assessed as part of this study. However, according to Sport England's Active Place Power) the sports hall at Didcot Girls School was built in 2006 and Wallingford School sports hall refurbished in 2015 – both are likely to be in 'Above Average' condition.

8.5 Demand (Club Consultation)

Wallingford Castle Archers has 112 junior members and 94 adult members (16+ year olds) and junior members have weekly training sessions (between 45 mins and 90 mins) – four minis' groups (beginner primary school age), two U12 team, two "arrows" (beginner teenagers) and four junior team sessions per week. In total almost all of the junior members are a part of at least one of the groups, and around 95% attend each week. Some members attend multiple sessions per week, plus the club has open practice time. The club host 4-5 home tournaments per year for juniors, but are also involved in school games. Sessions run around 48 weeks of the year. Adult members have weekly training sessions of 90 mins, of which there are seven different groups, covering two-thirds of the adult membership. Open practice is available at several times in the week and the club host c.12 tournaments per year, of which up to eight could be suitable for any individual participants. Sessions run around 48 weeks of the year.

The club has a small number of members with a range of disabilities and feels the school venues are quite accommodating (as much as possible) around access to the buildings. Outdoors provision for disabled people is harder as it is not possible to build any hard-standing for them to shoot from. Those who are wheelchair-bound cannot easily train during wetter months of the summer season.

Over the Covid period, the club dropped from c.150 members to c.100, but it had a significant bounce in new interest in the "covid summer". Some changes in how it integrated new members into the club (at both junior and senior levels) allowed growth to 220 members, and it is struggling to keep up with demand for new members due to space.

At Didcot Girls School and Wallingford School, the sports halls allow nine targets, which is just about big enough, but many sessions are fully booked. Outdoors sessions at Wallingford Sports Park accommodates up to 32 targets, which is enough for most events the club would like to host. A larger field would be helpful and allow the club to host top National level events, which it has discussed with Archery GB in the past. For reference, the club limit to two people per target for practice sessions, and four at competitions.

The club shoots over grass rugby pitches at the back of Wallingford Sports Park. The club reported sufficient space for outdoor sessions, but the general public consider the field to be publicly-accessible open space and regularly disrupt training and competitions. The requirements of the rugby club and public footpaths make it difficult to make the space more secure. Rugby also limits what can be done regarding grass condition, although the situation has improved in the last few years. The Sports Park does have issues with trespassing and vandalism, and is no longer able to insure the archery equipment, so the club is reliant on its own security endeavours. The lack of available sports halls for indoor training sessions is prohibiting the club from growing. The club currently has waiting lists for most age groups and this is mostly due to limited access to indoor facilities or limits in coaching availability. The club is planning on recruiting for a second full time coach in 2023 but more time at affordable facilities is required to achieve this.

8.6 Demand (NGB Consultation)

As a relatively small NGB, Archery GB cannot offer supporting information for this study.

8.7 Demand (Active Lives Data)

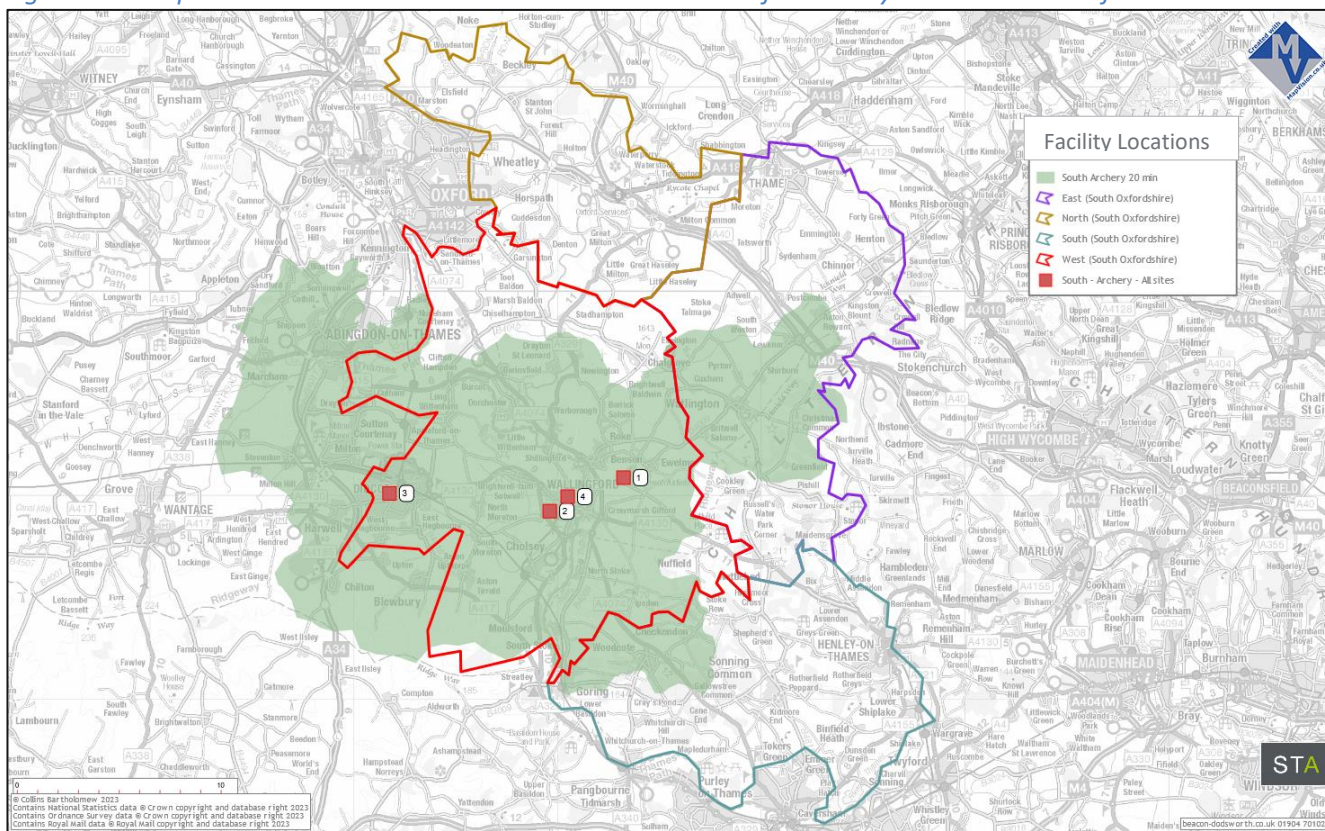
The latest Sport England Active Lives Data (2022) shows a decrease in the number of adults (16+ year olds) participating in archery in the last year across the county and region (between 2016 and 2022). Data at a county and district-level is not available, however participation rates across the South East decreased by 0.8% and across England by 0.6% on average.

Active Lives Data (2018-22) for children and young people (5-to-15-year-olds) that participated in ‘Archery’ once or more per week is only available at a national level. There was an increase of 0.1% seen across England.

8.8 Accessibility

Accessibility is influenced by how far people are willing and able to travel. Appropriate drive-time catchments are applied to facilities to determine accessibility of facilities to different communities. The normal acceptable standard is a 20-minute drive-time for a rural area. This enables analysis of the adequacy of coverage and helps to identify areas currently not serviced by existing provision. Figure 8.1 below shows that there are gaps in provision in all sub areas.

Figure 8.1: Map to show 20-minute drive-time catchment areas for archery clubs in South Oxfordshire



8.10 Future Demand

To estimate the number of people likely to be regular archers in the future, the projected increase in population for each sub area (from 2023 to 2041) has been provided by Oxfordshire County Council (2023). Together with the latest Active Lives participation rates, the likely number of new archers across the district has been generated.

Active Lives data (2022) shows that 0.1% of adults (16+ year olds) in the South East region of England participated in ‘Archery’ at least twice in the last 28 days. For children and young people (5-to-15-year-olds), 0.1% participated in ‘Archery’ once or more per week. If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 46 new archers across South Oxfordshire by 2041. A breakdown of future demand by sub area and age group has been provided in Table 8.2 below.

Table 8.2: Future demand for archery in South Oxfordshire

Age Group	East Sub Area	North Sub Area	South Sub Area	West Sub Area	Total (District)
5–15-year-olds	0	0	-1	3	2
16–45-year-olds	3	1	0	10	14
46–75-year-olds	3	1	0	18	22
76–100-year-olds	1	1	1	3	6
Total (5-100-year-olds)	8	4	0	34	46

Future demand projections suggest that future demand will be highest in the West sub area and the majority of this demand will be from people aged 46- to 75-year-olds.

8.11 Planned Developments

Wallingford Castle Archers have had discussions with Wallingford Sports Park about building a dedicated range before, but it would be relatively small and is low on their priorities.

8.12 Summary of archery facilities - key facts and issues

Key Element (ANOG)	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
<u>Quantity</u> – Are there enough facilities with sufficient capacity to meet needs?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are two archery clubs in South Oxfordshire and both are in the West sub area – Wallingford Castle Archers and RAF Benson Bowmen. There are no archery clubs based in the East, North or South sub areas. The lack of available sports halls for indoor training sessions is prohibiting Wallingford Castle Archers from growing. Future demand for archery is low (46 people across the district by 2041). 	<p>Provision for indoor sessions during the winter for Wallingford CA</p> <p>Support archery development in the East, North and South sub area.</p>
<u>Quality</u> – Are the facilities fit for purpose for the users? Do the facilities provide the level of play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were no quality issues raised by archery clubs and no issues found through the non-technical sites assessment completed as part of this study. 	None.

<p>needed, and does the quality meet the user’s expectations?</p>		
<p><u>Accessibility</u> – Are the facilities in the right physical location for users? Does the cost of using facilities prohibit access?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are residents in all sub areas that are outside a 20-minute drive-time of archery facilities. 	<p>Support archery development in the East, North and South sub area.</p>
<p><u>Availability</u> – Are the facilities available to users who want to use them?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wallingford Castle Archers has a waiting list. It has had discussions with Wallingford Sports Park about building a dedicated range before, but it would be relatively small and is low on their priorities. • The club would like to have a single venue where everything can take place all year round. Outdoor distances range from 37m to 91m, for seniors, and 9.1 m to 73m for juniors. 	<p>Support Wallingford Castle Archers in finding new facilities (indoor and outdoor ranges) on a single site.</p>
<p><u>Summary</u> – What provision is required to meet needs and address issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to maintain the current level of provision and capacity for general community use to meet current and future needs of the district. Reduction of overall capacity will have an impact on meeting future population growth of the district. (PROTECT) • Support archery development in the East, North and South sub area as there are no clubs. (ENHANCE) • Support Wallingford Castle Archers in finding a new facility for winter training. (ENHANCE) • Support Wallingford Castle Archers in finding new facilities (indoor and outdoor ranges) on a single site. (PROVIDE) 	

9. TENNIS COURTS

9.1 Introduction

This section contains a summary of the findings from the needs assessment work for indoor and outdoor tennis courts in South Oxfordshire. The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the NGB for the tennis and paddle tennis. The LTA define tennis court provision in three categories; Club sites, Park sites and Education sites.

9.2 Supply

There are 151 outdoor tennis court sites in South Oxfordshire. However, 130 of these sites are located at education sites (full list in Appendix B) and offer limited / no community access of the courts. There are 20 sites with community-accessible courts in the district. There are no indoor tennis courts in South Oxfordshire, and there are only poor quality outdoor tennis courts in the North sub area (Holton Playing Fields) and former courts at Oxford Brookes Wheatley Campus.

There are 16 LTA-registered Club sites (58 courts) in South Oxfordshire and the majority (seven clubs) are located in the South sub area (six clubs in West and three in East). There are four Park sites and all are located in the West sub area. Table 9.1 below contains the number of courts at each site and the ownership, management and community access type of each site.

Table 9.1: Club and Park tennis courts in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Sub Area	Community Access	Number of courts	Ownership Type	Management Type
Chinnor Tennis Club	East	Club	3	Local Authority	Club
Thame Tennis Club		Club	6	Local Authority	Club
Watlington Tennis Club		Club	3	Local Authority	Club
Holton Playing Fields	North	Park	9	Local Authority	Trust
Oxford Brookes Wheatley Campus		Former courts	6	Education	Education
Goring Tennis Club	South	Club	5	Local Authority	Club
Henley Tennis Club		Club	5	College	Club
Peppard Lawn Tennis Club		Club	6	Local Authority	Club
Phyllis Court		Club	4	Commercial	Club
Shiplake Tennis and Social Club		Club	3	Local Authority	Club
Sonning Common & District Tennis Club		Club	2	Local Authority	Club
Stoke Row Sports & Leisure Club Ltd		Club	2	Sports Club	Club
Benson Tennis Club		Club	4	Local Authority	Club
Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Kings Meadow TC	West	Club	2	Local Authority	Club
Cholsey Tennis Club		Club	4	Local Authority	Club
Dorchester Tennis Club		Club	2	Local Authority	Club
Portcullis Tennis Club		Club	5	Local Authority	Club
Shillingford Warborough Tennis Association		Club	2	Local Authority	Club
Bull Croft Park		Park	3	Local Authority	Local Authority

Crowmarsh Gifford Recreation Ground		Park	2	Local Authority	Local Authority
Edmonds Park		Park	2	Local Authority	Local Authority
Ladygrove Park		Park	3	Local Authority	Local Authority

9.3 Security of Access, Ownership and Management

The majority (17 out of 20) Club sites are owned by a Local Authority (Town or Parish Council) and there are long-term (over 15 years left) leases or rental agreements between the site owners and the clubs (i.e., secured use). The Henley Tennis Club site is owned by Henley College and the lease runs until 2032 (no issues were raised by the club); Phyllis Court and Stoke Row Sports & Leisure Club Ltd own the freehold to their sites.

Goring Tennis Club reported that the lack of a long-term lease is its biggest concern, as it limits the enthusiasm to invest in infrastructure projects (such as more sports-lighting and toilet facilities). The club is planning to invest in a new clubhouse with the Parish Council, but the progress is slow. The club’s current lease has less than one year left and negotiating an extension is proving difficult.

9.4 Quality Assessment of Tennis Courts

The quality of facilities (including playing surface, clubhouse, car park, signage, line markings, nets and sports-lights) has been determined by site visits (where undertaken) and supplemented by club survey responses. Where no site visit was undertaken, club survey information has been used. Additional information on the assessments is provided in the Technical Appendices. An overall quality rating for the facilities has been given to the sites and the courts.

Table 9.2: Quality of Park tennis courts in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Sub Area	Maintenance Provider	Facility Quality Rating
Holton Playing Fields	North	Parish Council	Poor
Bull Croft Park	West	Town Council	Poor
Crowmarsh Gifford Recreation Ground		Parish Council	Above Average
Edmonds Park		Town Council	Poor
Ladygrove Park		Town Council	Poor

The courts at Crowmarsh Gifford Recreation Ground are ‘Above Average’. However, the five other Park sites (all in the West sub area) are ‘Poor’ quality. In reality, these are former tennis courts that are no longer safe to use for tennis.

The quality of the Club sites is generally ‘Good’ and ‘Above Average’ quality. The worst quality courts (‘Below Average’) are all located in the West sub area (Dorchester Tennis Club and Shillingford Warborough Tennis Association), however both clubs have plans to resurface the courts. Clubs also reported clubhouses were in need of refurbished at Goring Tennis Club and Stoke Row Sports & Leisure Club.

Table 9.3: Quality of Club tennis courts in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Sub Area	Maintenance Provider	Facility Quality Rating
Chinnor Tennis Club	East	Tennis Club	Good
Thame Tennis Club		Tennis Club	Above Average
Watlington Tennis Club		Tennis Club	Above Average
Goring Tennis Club	South	Tennis Club	Above Average
Henley Tennis Club		Tennis Club	Good
Peppard Lawn Tennis Club		Tennis Club	Above Average
Phyllis Court		Tennis Club	Good
Shiplake Tennis and Social Club		Tennis Club	Above Average
Sonning Common & District Tennis Club		Tennis Club	Good
Stoke Row Sports & Leisure Club Ltd		Tennis Club	Good
Benson Tennis Club	West	Tennis Club	Good
Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Kings Meadow TC		Tennis Club	Above Average
Cholsey Tennis Club		Tennis Club	Good
Dorchester Tennis Club		Tennis Club	Below Average
Portcullis Tennis Club		Tennis Club	Above Average
Shillingford Warborough Tennis Association		Tennis Club	Below Average

9.5 Demand (Club Consultation)

The largest tennis clubs in South Oxfordshire are Henley Tennis Club and Peppard Lawn Tennis Club (both in South sub area). The clubs with the fewest members are Chinnor Tennis Club and Dorchester Tennis Club, however, these two clubs and five other clubs reported an increase in member numbers of the last five years – and a range of reasons were given for the increase, including; new sports-lights, coaches, improvement of court quality and new housing in the area.

Table 9.4: No. of members at Club sites in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Sub Area	No. of Members	Change in last 5 yrs	Reason(s) why
Chinnor Tennis Club	East	87	Increase	New sports-lights in 2021
Thame Tennis Club		264	Stayed the same	-
Watlington Tennis Club		208	-	-
Goring Tennis Club	South	275	Stayed the same	-
Henley Tennis Club		406	Increase	New coach
Peppard Lawn Tennis Club		464	-	-
Phyllis Court		172	Increase	Good quality courts
Shiplake Tennis and Social Club		194	Decrease	-
Sonning Common & District Tennis Club		238	Stayed the same	-
Stoke Row Sports & Leisure Club		145	Stayed the same	-
Benson Tennis Club	West	143	-	-
Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Kings Meadow TC		154	-	-
Cholsey Tennis Club		222	Increase	Club improvements

Dorchester Tennis Club		80	Increase	Junior coaching
Portcullis Tennis Club		250	Increase	New housing
Shillingford Warborough Tennis Assn.		180	Increase	Courts renewed and new housing

9.6 Capacity of tennis courts

The LTA sets out capacity of tennis courts according to court type as follows: (this takes no account of quality or management type at park sites).

Table 9.5: Capacity of Club and Park tennis courts

Court Type	Membership Capacity	No. of Users
Club - Non sports-lit	40	-
Club - Sports-lit	60	-
Club - Grass Outdoor	20	-
Park Court – Non sports-lit	-	170
Park Court – sports-lit	-	250

The capacity ratings of each Club site have been provided in Table 9.6 overleaf. The table shows that clubs are a total of 502 tennis players over-capacity across South Oxfordshire. The clubs in the South sub area are the most over-capacity (594 in total and 85 on average). However, there is spare capacity in the East sub area (for 121 new players – 40 per club on average).

Table 9.6: Capacity ratings of Club and Park tennis courts in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Sub Area	No. of Members	Capacity	Spare Capacity / Over-Capacity
Chinnor Tennis Club	East	87	160	73 spare capacity
Thame Tennis Club		264	360	96 spare capacity
Watlington Tennis Club		208	160	48 over-capacity
Goring Tennis Club	South	275	240	35 over-capacity
Henley Tennis Club		406	200	206 over-capacity
Peppard Lawn Tennis Club		464	320	144 over-capacity
Phyllis Court		172	200	28 spare capacity
Shiplake Tennis and Social Club		194	180	14 over-capacity
Sonning Common & District Tennis Club		238	80	158 over-capacity
Stoke Row Sports & Leisure Club Ltd		145	80	65 over-capacity
Benson Tennis Club	West	143	240	97 spare capacity
Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Kings Meadow TC		154	80	74 over-capacity
Cholsey Tennis Club		222	240	18 spare capacity
Dorchester Tennis Club		80	80	At capacity
Portcullis Tennis Club		250	280	30 spare capacity
Shillingford Warborough Tennis Association		180	80	100 over-capacity

9.7 Demand

To support this study, the LTA provided a report using mapping software and demographic data relating to South Oxfordshire and the LTA Registered venues and members within the catchment. It also includes information on population demographics, educational establishments and other sport and leisure sites taken from other sources.

The LTA have created six different profiles to show what people want from their tennis experience.

Table 9.7: LTA Tennis Profiles

Tennis Segment	Basic overview of Tennis Profiles
Tennis Titans	Frequent players & tennis club members for whom tennis is their main sport and key interest.
Tennis Troupers	Often club members, largely family-oriented, middle-aged players for whom tennis is a hobby; interested in playing with teams to partnering with their kids in the sunnier
Seasonal Spinners	Largely young women, they play sport in general for athletic reasons (often being gym-goers and joggers), and enjoy their tennis a lot, though tennis is very intertwined with friends and being social.
Wimbledon Warriors	Largely young men who are keen athletes, they like tennis and want to play more, though are often held back by factors outside of the summer.
Social Butterflies	Infrequent, younger and less experienced players for whom tennis is an occasional fun summer activity.
Senior Stalwarts	An older group of players for whom tennis is a social habit and they play with a regular group as a way of keeping social and enjoyable gentle exercise.
Non Profile	This is a term to identify certain demographics that do not match a tennis profile.

Table 9.8 LTA members by Tennis Profile within the geographic area

Tennis Segment	Total	Geographic area	Total %	Geographic area %
Tennis Titans	57,202	302	14%	9%
Tennis Troupers	105,508	187	25%	6%
Seasonal Spinners	22,965	144	5%	4%
Wimbledon Warriors	5,765	-	1%	0%
Social Butterflies	9,718	2	2%	0%
Senior Stalwarts	219,882	2,752	52%	81%
Non Profile	1,200	-	0%	0%
Total	422,240	3,387	100%	100%

9.8 Future Demand

To estimate the number of people likely to be regular tennis players in the future, the projected increase in population for each sub area (from 2023 to 2041) has been provided by Oxfordshire County Council (2023). Together with the latest Active Lives participation rates, the likely number of new tennis players across the district has been generated.

Active Lives data (2022) shows that 2.9% of adults (16+ year olds) in Oxfordshire participated in ‘Tennis’ at least twice in the last 28 days. For children and young people (5-to-15-year-olds), 8% participated in ‘Tennis’

once or more per week. If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 1,510 new tennis players across South Oxfordshire by 2041. A breakdown of future demand by sub area and age group has been provided in Table 9.9 below.

Table 9.9: Future demand for tennis in South Oxfordshire

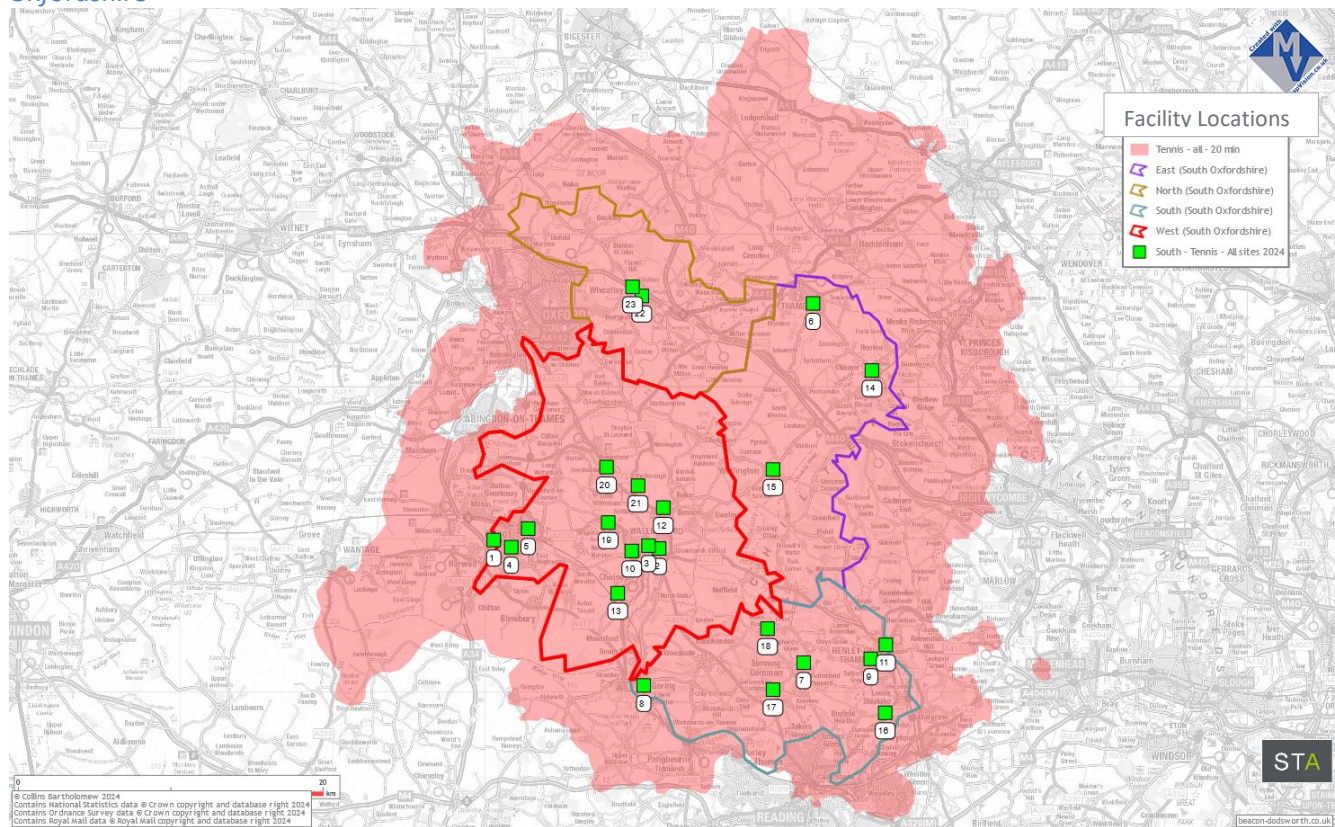
Age Group	East Sub Area	North Sub Area	South Sub Area	West Sub Area	Total (District)
5–15-year-olds	30	38	-55	252	265
16–45-year-olds	73	42	-5	289	399
46–75-year-olds	94	40	10	514	658
76–100-year-olds	41	24	25	98	188
Total (5-100-year-olds)	237	144	-25	1,154	1,510

Future demand projections suggest that future demand will be highest in the West sub area and the majority of this demand will be from people aged 46- to 75-year-olds.

9.9 Accessibility

Accessibility is influenced by how far people are willing and able to travel. Appropriate drive-time catchments are applied to facilities to determine accessibility of facilities to different communities. The normal acceptable standard is a 20-minute drive-time for a rural area. This enables analysis of the adequacy of coverage and helps to identify areas currently not serviced by existing provision. LTA confirms that a 20-minute drive time is realistic for this sport. The distribution of outdoor tennis courts means that the majority of people with access to a car can reach an affiliated site within about 20 minutes' drive.

Figure 9.1: Map to show 20-minute drive-time catchment areas for community-accessible tennis courts in South Oxfordshire



9.10 Planned Developments

- There is a large development site on land to the north of Bayswater Brook which is getting closer to finalising the S106 heads of terms. There will be some onsite leisure facilities including two outdoor tennis courts / Padel tennis courts, a MUGA, outdoor gym equipment, basketball goal, table tennis tables and mini bike track.
- Culham Science Centre - the previous PPS states that 3 tennis courts should be provided onsite.
- Dorchester Tennis Club, Shillingford Warborough Tennis Association and Thame Tennis Club all have plans to resurface the courts.
- Clubs also reported clubhouses were in need of refurbished at Goring Tennis Club and Stoke Row Sports & Leisure Club.
- Poor quality courts at Bull Croft Park, Edmonds Park and Lady Grove Park (all in the West sub area).
- Chinnor Tennis Club and Watlington Tennis Club - sports-lights for the third court.
- Portcullis Tennis Club - move to more sustainable lighting so may need loan/purchase support in the future.
- Goring Tennis Club - investigating in new clubhouse with the Parish Council, but the progress is slow.
- Stoke Row Sports & Leisure Club - pavilion is now over 20 years old and there are on-going maintenance costs. The flooring in the changing rooms, male and female toilets and kitchen areas are very poor. The outside is wooden clad and needs a lot of attention to keep it weatherproof.
- New Padel Tennis courts at the Oratory Sports Centre. The LTA advises that the courts should be for public use and recommend this is managed via online booking and ability to pay as you play (e.g. through use of ClubSpark).

9.11 Summary of tennis court provision

Key Element (ANOG)	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
<p><u>Quantity</u> – Are there enough facilities with sufficient capacity to meet needs?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no indoor tennis courts in South Oxfordshire, and there is only poor quality outdoor tennis courts in the North sub area (Holton Playing Fields) and former courts at Oxford Brookes Wheatley Campus. • Clubs are a total of 502 tennis players over-capacity across South Oxfordshire. • The clubs in the South sub area are the most over-capacity (594 in total and 85 on average). • However, there is spare capacity in the East sub area (for 121 new players – 40 per club on average). • Future demand could generate 1,510 new tennis players across South Oxfordshire by 2041. • Highest future demand in the West sub area (1,154 new players) and the majority of this demand will be from 46-75-year-olds (514 players). 	<p>New tennis courts in the North sub area (e.g., at Land North of Bayswater Brook) to meet current demand (no courts in sub area).</p> <p>New tennis courts in the West sub area to meet future demand (e.g., new courts at Culham Science Centre).</p> <p>Replacement of former tennis courts to meet current and future demand in the North sub area (e.g., re-development of tennis courts at Holton Playing Fields in Wheatley).</p>
<p><u>Quality</u> – Are the facilities fit for purpose for the users? Do the facilities provide the level of play needed, and does the quality meet the user’s expectations?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The quality of the Club sites is generally ‘Good’ and ‘Above Average’ quality. • The worst quality courts (‘Below Average’) are all located in the West sub area (Dorchester Tennis Club and Shillingford Warborough Tennis Association), however both clubs have plans to resurface the courts. Thame TC also has plans to resurface its four clay courts. • Clubs also reported clubhouses were in need of refurbished at Goring Tennis Club and Stoke Row Sports & Leisure Club. • Poor quality courts at Bull Croft Park, Edmonds Park and Ladygrove Park (all in the West sub area). 	<p>Support clubs with facility development plans.</p> <p>Improve the quality of courts at Bull Croft Park, Edmonds Park and Ladygrove Park (all in the West sub area).</p>
<p><u>Accessibility</u> – Are the facilities in the right physical location for users? Does the cost of using facilities prohibit access?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The distribution of outdoor tennis courts means that the majority of people with access to a car can reach an affiliated site within about 20 minutes’ drive. • All clubs reported that ‘Pay and Play’ sessions are available to new / non-members for training, but club memberships are required in order to play matches. 	<p>None.</p>
<p><u>Availability</u> – Are the facilities available to users who want to use them?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The majority (17 out of 20) Club sites are owned by a Local Authority (Town or Parish Council) and there are long-term (over 15 years left) leases or 	<p>Long-term lease for Goring Tennis Club from Parish Council.</p>

	<p>rental agreements between the site owners and the clubs (i.e., secured use).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Henley Tennis Club site is owned by Henley College and the lease runs until 2032 (no issues were raised by the club); Phyllis Court and Stoke Row Sports & Leisure Club Ltd own the freehold to their sites. • Goring Tennis Club reported that the lack of a long-term lease is its biggest concern, as it limits the enthusiasm to invest in infrastructure projects (such as more sports-lighting and toilet facilities). The club’s current lease has less than one year left and negotiating an extension is proving difficult. 	
<p><u>Summary</u> – What provision is required to meet needs and address issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to maintain the current level of provision and capacity for general community use to meet current and future needs of the district. Reduction of overall capacity will have an impact on meeting future population growth of the district. (PROTECT) • Support Goring Tennis Club with securing a long-term lease from the Parish Council. (ENHANCE) • Support Dorchester Tennis Club and Shillingford Warborough Tennis Association) with plans to resurface the courts; and Goring Tennis Club and Stoke Row Sports & Leisure Club with clubhouse refurbishments. (ENHANCE) • Future demand could be met by improving the quality of the tennis courts at Bull Croft Park, Edmonds Park and Ladygrove Park (all in West sub area. (ENHANCE) • Current and future demand for tennis (including Padel) could be met with new ‘pay and play’ courts at Culham Science Centre, at Land North of Bayswater Brook and by re-developing courts at Holton Playing Fields in Wheatley. (PROVIDE) • New Padel Tennis courts at the Oratory Sports Centre to be for public use and managed via online booking and ability to ‘pay as you play’ (e.g., through use of ClubSpark). (PROVIDE) 	

10.NETBALL COURTS

10.1 Introduction

This section contains a summary of the findings from the needs assessment work for indoor and outdoor netball courts in South Oxfordshire. England Netball is the NGB for the sport.

10.2 Supply

Table 10.1 below contains the number of netball courts at each site and the ownership, management, community access and provision type of each site. There are four sites that are used by the three netball clubs; including sports halls at Lord Williams (Lower School) and Henley College (Rotherfield Campus); and outdoor netball courts at Rupert House School and Crowmarsh Gifford Recreation Ground.

England Netball run ‘Back to Netball’ and ‘Walking Netball’ sessions at Holton Playing Fields (outdoor courts) and Thame Leisure Centre (sports hall). These are a series of sessions that introduces people back to the sport. It’s primarily for women who haven’t played for a long time or have never played at all and are complete beginners.

There are netball courts in South Oxfordshire that are not used by netball clubs. These outdoor netball courts are included in ‘Section 17: MUGAs’. There are also 11 sports halls in South Oxfordshire that are not currently used by netball clubs. These sports halls are included in ‘Section 4: Sports Halls’ of this report and relevant information (i.e., peak-time usage) has been included in this netball section.

Table 10.1: Community netball courts in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Sub Area	Provision Type	Community Access	No. of netball courts	Ownership Type	Management Type
Lord Williams (Lower School)	East	Sports Hall	Club	1	Education	Education
Thame Leisure Centre		Sports Hall	‘Back to Netball’	1	Local Authority	External Operator
Holton Playing Fields	North	Outdoor courts	‘Back to Netball’	2	Local Authority	Local Authority
Henley College (Rotherfield Campus)	South	Sports Hall	Club	1	Education	Education
Rupert House School		Outdoor courts	Club	2	Education	Education
Crowmarsh Gifford Recreation Ground	West	Outdoor courts	Club	2	Local Authority	Local Authority

10.3 Security of Access, Ownership and Management

There are three Local Authority owned sites used by netball clubs in South Oxfordshire. However, all clubs hire the courts they use through block-bookings throughout the season (i.e., no long-term lease agreements in place).

The three education-owned sites (Lord Williams, Henley College and Rupert Park School) do not have secured community access for the netball clubs that use them.

All clubs reported that ‘Pay and Play’ sessions are available to new / non-members for training, but club memberships are required in order to play matches. Only two outdoor netball courts are sports-lit; at Crowmarsh Gifford Recreation Ground.

10.4 Quality Assessment of Netball Courts

The quality of facilities (including playing surface, clubhouse, car park, signage, line markings, nets and sports-lights) has been determined by site visits (where undertaken) and supplemented by club survey responses. Where no site visit was undertaken, club survey information has been used. Additional information on the assessments is provided in the Technical Appendices. An overall quality rating for the facilities has been given to the sites and the courts.

Table 10.2: Quality of community netball courts in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Sub Area	Club / ‘Back to Netball’	Maintenance Provider	Facility Quality Rating
Lord Williams (Lower School)	East	Kites Netball Club	Education	Above Average
Thame Leisure Centre		‘Back to Netball’	External Operator	Above Average
Holton Playing Fields	North	‘Back to Netball’	Local Authority	Below Average
Henley College (Rotherfield Campus)	South	Henley Hawks Netball Club	Education	Good
Rupert House School		Henley Hawks Netball Club	Education	Above Average
Crowmarsh Gifford Recreation Ground	West	Wallingford Netball Club	Local Authority	Above Average

The quality of the facilities is generally ‘Above Average’ quality. The worst quality courts are located at Holton Playing Fields are usable but should be improved to meet user expectations.

Rupert House School recently resurfaced its outdoor netball courts (tarmac), but the sports-lights need upgrading. Henley Hawks Netball Club installed a low light solution so it could run sessions all year round but lighting is too low and not bright enough. The club report that new sports-lighting of these courts would mean it can host competitive matches, and increase offering and most importantly player safety.

10.5 Demand (Active Lives)

The latest Sport England Active Lives data shows an increase of 7% in Oxfordshire children and young people (5–15-year-olds) participating once a week in netball between 2018 and 2022. This differs to the small changes in participation over the same time period across the South East region (0.7%) and England (-1.0%). Participation changes in netball by Oxfordshire adults (16+ years) between 2016 and 2022 decreased by -0.8%, which is a similar to the averages across the region (-3.6%) and the country (-3%).

Table 10.3: Change in % participation by activity, age and area

Activity and Age Group	Oxfordshire (County)	South East (Region)	England (Nation)
Netball once a week - children and young people (5-15 years): percentage change between 2018 and 2022	7.0%	0.7%	-1.0%
Netball once in the last year - adults (16+ years): percentage change between 2016 and 2022.	-0.8%	-0.9%	-0.7%

Source: Sport England: Active Lives (2018-22 & 2016-22)

10.6 Demand (Club Consultation)

Table 10.4: No. of members at clubs and ‘Back to Netball’ in South Oxfordshire

Club Name	Sub Area	No. of Members	Change in last 5 yrs	Reason(s) why
Kites Netball Club	East	28	Stayed the same	No longer accepts junior members
Henley Hawks Netball Club	South	165	Increase	Juniors started Jan 2023 (already have waiting list)
Wallingford Netball Club	West	371	-	-

Henley Hawks Netball Club began a junior section of its club in January 2023 (already have a waiting list), which became possible when the club gained use of the two netball courts at Rupert House School and an indoor venue at Henley College (when available) meaning it could offer more sessions and accept more members.

England Netball has provided the latest participation rates for its ‘Back to Netball and ‘Walking Netball’ schemes. There were 450 participants last year (April 2022-23), which is up from 239 participants during the previous year (2021-22). England Netball say the key challenges and opportunities for netball in South Oxfordshire are the quality and availability of indoor netball courts at sports halls.

10.7 Peak Time Usage

Sport England’s facility planning models use the peak periods of during weekdays: 09:00 to 10:00, 17:00 to 22:00; and at weekends 08:00 to 16:00 for a total of 46 hours per week. As a guide, the external leisure operators of the public leisure centres have provided information on the number of ‘block-bookings’ and ‘casual bookings’ each facility receives in a typical week. Regular block-bookings include use by community sports clubs and schools. Casual bookings include ‘Pay and Play’ sessions.

As a guide, the Sport England suggests that when 80% of a hall’s capacity is used then this indicates that sports halls are becoming uncomfortably busy. This should be seen only as a guide to help flag when facilities are becoming busier, rather than as a ‘hard threshold.’

The booking information for Abbey Sports Centre sports hall was unavailable at the time of this study, due to the hall being closed for refurbishment. Park Sports Centre has the busiest sports hall in South Oxfordshire – it is full-to-capacity during 83% of the hours open during peak periods. The remaining three sports halls are full-to-capacity during c.50% of the hours available during peak periods; Thame Leisure Centre (54%), Didcot Leisure Centre (53%) and Henley Leisure Centre (51%).

School sites vary in availability, which makes it difficult for clubs to make regular bookings at the same time and day of the week throughout the length of a season. It also makes it difficult to provide peak-time analysis for this study. However, consultation with school / college lettings teams (supplemented by online research i.e., school and college websites) shows that there is limited community availability during peak periods at Icknield Community College, Shiplake College, Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge School and Lord Williams’s School.

In contrast, Didcot Girls School, The Oratory Sports Centre, Langtree School and Wallingford School provide a significant proportion of hours within the peak period (39 hours each per week). However, Didcot Girls School and The Oratory Sports Centre have slightly smaller four-court halls with dimensions of 33 x 18m which provides for hall sports at the community level but has less space between and behind individual courts. Wallingford School and Langtree School are large enough and are reported to be at full capacity.

The majority of the sports halls in South Oxfordshire do not have the required run off space around the perimeter of the court and therefore matches can't always be played in those halls (e.g, Abbey Sports Centre, Didcot Girls School, Didcot Leisure Centre, Henley Leisure Centre, Thame Leisure Centre, Shiplake College and The Oratory Sports Centre).

10.8 Future Demand

To estimate the number of people likely to be regular netball players in the future, the projected increase in population for each sub area (from 2023 to 2041) has been provided by Oxfordshire County Council (2023). Together with the latest Active Lives participation rates, the likely number of new netball players across the district has been generated.

Active Lives data (2022) shows that 0.7% of adults (16+ year olds) in Oxfordshire participated in ‘Netball’ at least twice in the last 28 days. For children and young people (5-to-15-year-olds), 14% participated in ‘Netball’ once or more per week. If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 781 new netball players across South Oxfordshire by 2041. A breakdown of future demand by sub area and age group has been provided in Table 9.10 below.

Table 10.5: Future demand for netball in South Oxfordshire

Age Group	East Sub Area	North Sub Area	South Sub Area	West Sub Area	Total (District)
5–15-year-olds	54	69	-100	457	480
16–45-year-olds	18	10	-1	70	97
46–75-year-olds	23	10	2	124	159
76–100-year-olds	10	6	6	24	46
Total (5-100-year-olds)	104	95	-92	674	781

Future demand projections suggest that future demand will be highest in the West sub area and the majority of this demand will be from children and young people (5-15-year-olds).

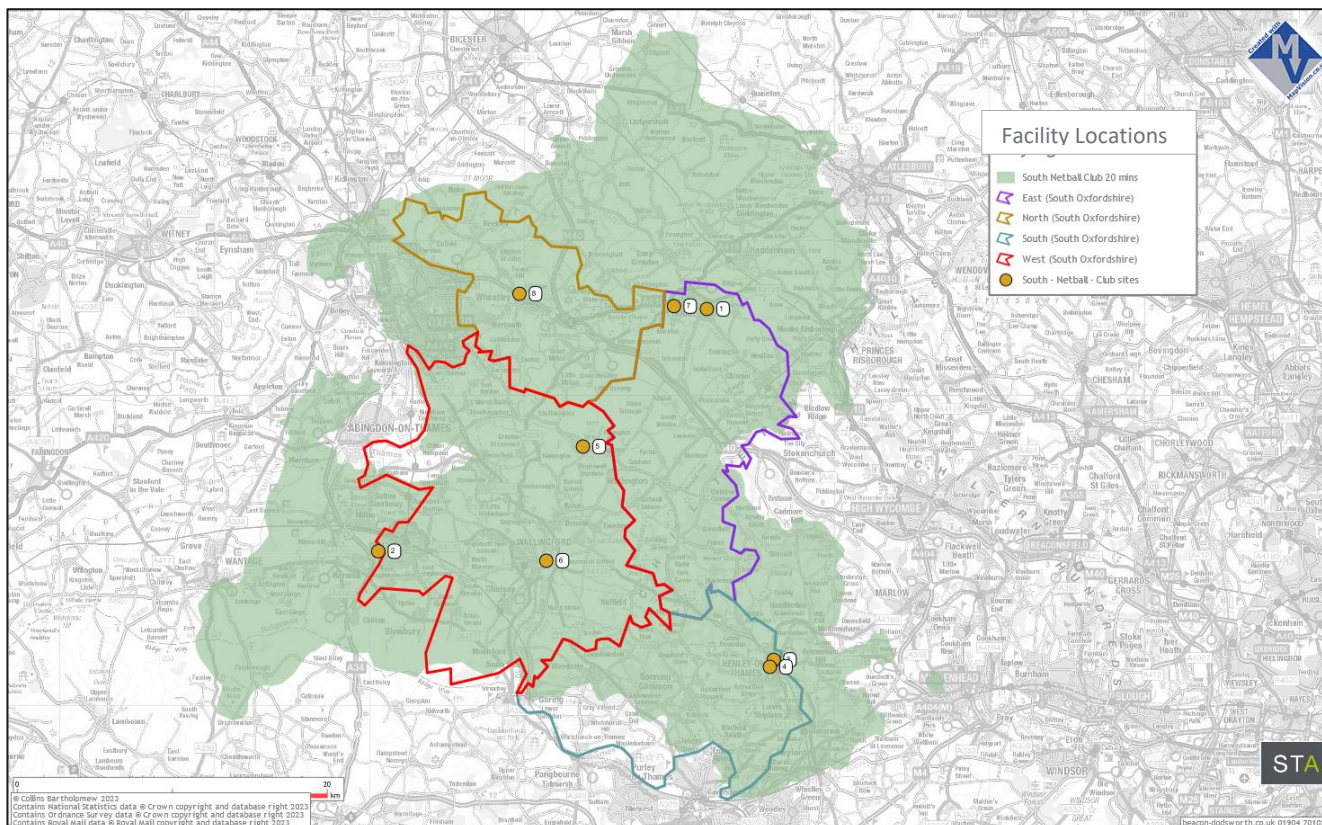
10.9 Accessibility

Accessibility is influenced by how far people are willing and able to travel. Appropriate drive-time catchments are applied to facilities to determine accessibility of facilities to different communities.

The normal acceptable standard is a 20-minute drive-time for a rural area. This enables analysis of the adequacy of coverage and helps to identify areas currently not serviced by existing provision. England Netball confirms that a 20-minute drive time is realistic for this sport.

The distribution of outdoor netball courts means that the majority of people with access to a car can reach an affiliated site within about 20 minutes’ drive.

Figure 10.1: Map to show 20-minute drive-time catchment areas for community-accessible netball courts in South Oxfordshire



10.10 Planned Developments

- Rupert House School – new sports-lights for Henely Hawks Netball Club so that training is made safer and competitive matches can be played.
- Culham Science Centre - the previous PPS states that 3 tennis courts should be provided onsite however these are not shown on the plan and there has not yet been a revised version. Sport England have pushed for them to wait until the new PPS/ LFAS is finished but Council is not sure on the current timelines for Culham Science Centre developments.

10.11 Summary of netball court provision

Key Element (ANOG)	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
<u>Quantity</u> – Are there enough facilities with sufficient capacity to meet needs?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • England Netball say the key challenges for netball in the district are the quality and availability of indoor netball courts in sports halls. The majority of the sports halls in South Oxfordshire do not have the required run off space around the 	Ensure future sports hall developments are large enough to accommodate netball matches.

	<p>perimeter of the court and therefore matches can't always be played in those halls.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future demand could generate 781 new netball players across South Oxfordshire by 2041. • Highest future demand in the West sub area (674 players) and the majority of this demand will be from children and young people (457 players). 	<p>New netball courts in the West sub area to meet future demand (e.g., new courts at Culham Science Centre).</p>
<p><u>Quality</u> – Are the facilities fit for purpose for the users? Do the facilities provide the level of play needed, and does the quality meet the user’s expectations?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The courts located at Holton Playing Fields are usable but should be improved to meet user expectations. • Rupert House School recently resurfaced its outdoor netball courts (tarmac), but the sports-lights need upgrading. 	<p>Improve the quality of courts at Holton Playing Fields.</p>
<p><u>Accessibility</u> – Are the facilities in the right physical location for users? Does the cost of using facilities prohibit access?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The distribution of outdoor netball courts means that the majority of people with access to a car can reach an affiliated site within about 20 minutes’ drive. • All clubs reported that ‘Pay and Play’ sessions are available to new / non-members for training, but club memberships are required in order to play matches. • One of the three sites with outdoor netball courts have sports-lights – Holton Playing Fields and Rupert House School courts do not. • Henley Hawks Netball Club reported that new sports-lighting of these courts would mean it can host competitive matches and player safety. 	<p>Provide sports-lighting of courts at Rupert House School and at Holton Playing Fields.</p>
<p><u>Availability</u> – Are the facilities available to users who want to use them?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henley Hawks Netball Club has a waiting list for new junior members and Didcot Netball Club reported that club member numbers are restricted by the number of coaches and court space. • Education sites are relied upon by clubs (Lord Williams, Henley College and Rupert Park School do not have secured community access for the netball clubs that use them). 	<p>Secure Community Use Agreements for the netball clubs using the education sites (Lord Williams, Henley College and Rupert Park School).</p>
<p><u>Summary</u> – What provision is required to meet needs and address issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to maintain the current level of provision and capacity for general community use to meet current and future needs of the district. Reduction of overall capacity will have an impact on meeting future population growth of the district. (PROTECT) • Secure Community Use Agreements for the netball clubs using the education sites (Lord Williams, Henley College and Rupert Park School). (ENHANCE) • New sports-lights are required at Rupert House School and Holton Playing Fields so that more netball can be played (ENHANCE) • The quality of courts at Holton Playing Fields needs to be improved to meet current user expectations. (ENHANCE) 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Future demand for netball could be met with new courts at Culham Science Centre (or elsewhere in the West sub area). (PROVIDE)
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11. CYCLING FACILITIES

11.1 Introduction

This section contains a summary of the findings from the needs assessment work for cycling facilities in South Oxfordshire. British Cycling oversees all forms of cycling in Britain, including six sporting disciplines (BMX, mountain bike, cyclo-cross, road, track and cycle speedway) and commuter or leisurely rides. A key initiative for British Cycling is to provide cycling facilities in safe, traffic-free environments for any cyclist of any ability to participate, train and compete.

There are also long-distance touring routes that traverse some parts of South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse. Several National Cycling Network (NCN) and National Trail routes pass through the districts and they include some substantial traffic-free sections. These routes are from Oxford to Abingdon and Didcot (NCN 5); from Didcot to Wantage and The Ridgeway (National Trail); and from Thame to Princes Risborough (NCN 57).

11.2 Supply

Table 11.1 below contains the number and type of provision in South Oxfordshire. There is one BMX pump track (in the West sub area) and one off-road circuit and one Mountain Bike Park (both in the North sub area).

Table 11.1: Community cycling facilities in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Sub Area	Provision Type	Community Access	Ownership Type	Management Type
Horspath Village Recreation Ground	North	Circuit	Public	Local Authority	Local Authority
Shotover Country Park		MTB	Public	Local Authority	Local Authority
Acklings Pump Track and Forest Area	West	BMX	Public	Local Authority	Local Authority

11.3 Security of Access, Ownership and Management

All cycling facilities are owned and managed by the local authority or a community organisation.

11.4 Quality of Cycling Facilities

The quality of cycling facilities has not been assessed as part of this study. Club survey information did not identify any issues with the quality of cycling facilities in the district.

11.5 Demand (Active Lives)

The latest Sport England Active Lives data shows a decrease of 5% in Oxfordshire for children and young people (5–15-year-olds) participating once a week or more in cycling between 2018 and 2022. This differs to the small changes in participation of adults (16+ years) that are Road Cycling or Racing between 2016 and 2022, which decreased by -0.6% in Oxfordshire. The changes in participation rates for Mountain Biking, BMX and Track Cycling are less than 0.1% and have therefore not been included in the table.

Table 11.3: Change in % participation by activity, age and area

Activity and Age Group	Oxfordshire (County)	South East (Region)	England (Nation)
Cycling once a week - children and young people (5-15 years): percentage change between 2018 and 2022	-5%	-4%	-2%
Road Cycling or Racing at least twice in the last 28 days - adults (16+ years): percentage change between 2016 and 2022.	-0.6%	-0.1%	-0.1%

Source: Sport England: Active Lives (2018-22 & 2016-22)

British Cycling latest Facilities Strategy aims and objectives are as follows:

- Everyone has an opportunity to learn to ride in a traffic free environment, within 15 minutes of their home or school;
- All of our clubs will have access to appropriate cycling facilities within 45 minutes of their club base;
- Within every population centre, strong local partnerships facilitate a network of provision covering road, MTB, cyclo-cross and BMX disciplines, maximising opportunities to ride recreationally;
- Long-term agreements are in place with key landowners to encourage cycling, with bike hire / ancillary provision / marked routes supporting regular participation;
- Every talented cyclist, whether male, female or disabled, will have the opportunity to take part in more advanced training and competition. No one has to travel more than 45 minutes to a cycle circuit.

Family-focused opportunity

It is clear from wider research on getting active outdoors that family-based activity is critical to developing opportunities that influence and encouraging life-long participation (cycling) habits. Cycling is both a key life skill and an activity which can be enjoyed by multiple generations. As such, it is perhaps one of a small number of sporting activities that can be enjoyed by families in the same place at the same time. However, research also tells us that having a safe place to ride with good quality ancillary facilities (toilets / café / showers / storage etc.) is vitally important to providing the appropriate environment to encourage participation.

Allied with key participation initiatives, such as the Go Ride programmes, a traffic-free facility environment can support a step change in family-based life-long participation. With careful design and programming, these locations will be able to offer a safe and welcoming recreational opportunity as well as catering for competitive users.

Talent pathway and club support

Whilst participation growth and in particular encouraging increases in cycling amongst women and girls and disabled persons are key targets for British Cycling, there is nevertheless a need to recognise the opportunities associated with developing sustainable clubs (those with a strong membership base, clear development plan, engaged volunteering base and sustainable financial position) and supporting the talent pathway. In this regard, facilities again have a critical role in providing bases for club activity and supporting talent development programmes / competitive activity, within a clear pyramid that supports the organisations’ elite performance plans.

A further benefit of facility-focused activity is the growth in volunteering, particularly associated with clubs and competitions. Existing statistics suggest that for every 10 participants there is 1 volunteer supporting delivery, with associated growth in volunteers as participation has grown in recent years. A more sustainable facilities

infrastructure will encourage existing club members and volunteers to continue to play an active part within the sport.

11.6 Future Demand

To estimate the number of people likely to be regular cyclists in the future, the projected increase in population for each sub area (from 2023 to 2041) has been provided by Oxfordshire County Council (2023). Together with the latest Active Lives participation rates, the likely number of new cyclists across the district has been generated.

Active Lives data (2022) for Oxfordshire shows the participation rates for MTB, BMX, Road cycling or racing, and Track cycling. The participation rate of adults (16+ year olds) ranging from 0.1% to 4.4% across these types of cycling at least twice in the last 28 days.

For children and young people (5-to-15-year-olds), 22% participated in ‘Cycling’ once or more per week in Oxfordshire in 2022. However, there is no data available on Active Lives for Mountain Biking, BMX, Road cycling or Track cycling.

If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 736 new young cyclists (aged 5 to 15 years old), and 1,920 new Road Cycling or Racing cyclists (aged 16+) across South Oxfordshire by 2041.

A breakdown of future demand by sub area and age group for Cycling and for Road Cycling or Racing has been provided in tables 11.4 and 11.5 below. The future demand for adults participating Mountain Biking, BMX and Track Cycling totalled only 30 new people each across the district up to 2041, and have therefore not been included in the tables.

Table 11.4: Future demand for new cyclists (5–15-year-olds) in South Oxfordshire

Age Group	East Sub Area	North Sub Area	South Sub Area	West Sub Area	Total (District)
5–15-year-olds	83	106	-152	699	736

Table 11.5 Future demand for Road Cycling or Racing in South Oxfordshire

Age Group	East Sub Area	North Sub Area	South Sub Area	West Sub Area	Total (District)
5–15-year-olds	Unavailable	Unavailable	Unavailable	Unavailable	n/a
16–45-year-olds	100	58	-7	398	549
46–75-year-olds	129	55	14	710	908
76–100-year-olds	57	33	35	135	260
Total (5-100-year-olds)	286	146	42	1,243	1,717

Future demand projections suggest that future demand for children and young cyclists will be highest in the West sub area. Future demand for Road Cycling and Racing will be highest from people aged 46 to 75 years old in the West sub area.

British Cycling advises that facilities in these population growth areas will need to be designed and programmed in such a way as to welcome a broad range of users and ensure that all cyclists, whether recreational or competitive, feel safe at all times. Guidance and information for installing cycling provision, pump tracks and skills areas in parks and leisure settings is shown in the Appendices.

The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs), as set out in the Government’s Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy, are a strategic approach to identifying cycling and walking improvements required at the local level.

The key outputs of LCWIPs are:

- a network plan for walking and cycling which identifies preferred routes and core zones for further development
- a prioritised programme of infrastructure improvements for future investment
- a report which sets out the underlying analysis carried out and provides a narrative which supports the identified improvements and network.

By taking a strategic approach to improving conditions for cycling and walking, LCWIPs will assist South Oxfordshire District Council to identify cycling and walking infrastructure improvements for future investment and ensure that consideration is given to cycling and walking within both local planning and transport policies and strategies. While the preparation of LCWIPs is non-mandatory, Local Authorities that have plans will be well placed to make the case for future funding for walking and cycling infrastructure.

11.7 Accessibility

British Cycling’s latest facility strategy that aims for all clubs to have access to appropriate cycling facilities within 40 minutes of their club base.

British Cycling’s latest facility strategy aims for no one to travel more than 40 minutes to an ‘off-road’ cycle circuit. The nearest outdoor cycle circuit / outdoor velodrome is beyond a 40-minute drive-time in the London Borough of Hillingdon.

11.8 Planned Developments

There were no planned developments recorded as part of this study.

11.9 Summary of cycling facilities

Key Element (ANOG)	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
<p><u>Quantity</u> – Are there enough facilities with sufficient capacity to meet needs?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is one BMX pump tracks (in the West sub area) and one off-road circuit and one Mountain Bike Park (both in the North sub area). • There are long-distance touring routes that traverse some parts of South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse. Several National Cycling Network (NCN) and National Trail routes pass through the districts and they include some substantial traffic-free sections. • These routes are from Oxford to Abingdon and Didcot (NCN 5); from Didcot to Wantage and The Ridgeway (National Trail); and from Thame to Princes Risborough (NCN 57). 	<p>None.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A key initiative for British Cycling is to provide cycling facilities in safe, traffic-free environments for any cyclist of any ability to participate, train and compete. • Future demand could generate 736 new young cyclists (aged 5 to 15 years old), and 1,920 new Road Cycling or Racing cyclists (aged 16+) across South Oxfordshire by 2041. • Highest future demand in the West sub area and the majority of this demand will be from children and young people (699 new cyclists) and 46-75-year-olds (710 new cyclists). 	
<p><u>Quality</u> – Are the facilities fit for purpose for the users? Do the facilities provide the level of play needed, and does the quality meet the user’s expectations?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No cycling facilities were assessed as part of this study. 	None.
<p><u>Accessibility</u> – Are the facilities in the right physical location for users? Does the cost of using facilities prohibit access?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • British Cycling’s latest facility strategy aims for no one to travel more than 40 minutes to an ‘off-road’ cycle circuit. • The nearest outdoor cycle circuit is beyond a 40-minute drive-time in the London Borough of Hillingdon. • It is recommended in the Vale LFAS that a new ‘road-road’ cycle circuit in the Vale is provided. Demand has been identified from three clubs in the Vale. 	None.
<p><u>Availability</u> – Are the facilities available to users who want to use them?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All cycling facilities are owned and managed by the local authority or a community organisation. 	None.
<p><u>Summary</u> – What provision is required to meet needs and address issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None (recommendation in the Vale LFAS that a new ‘off-road’ cycle circuit in the Vale is provided – demand has been identified from three clubs in the Vale). 	

12.ATHLETICS FACILITIES

12.1 Introduction

This section contains a summary of the findings from the need assessment work for athletics facilities in South Oxfordshire. Athletics tracks are defined as 400m synthetic surfaced tracks with full field events provision.

Across the country, there are also Compact Athletics Facilities that are designed to inspire a new generation of people to participate in Athletics. It takes the main elements of full-size athletics facilities and scales them down into affordable solutions for smaller sites and enables the essential athletic skills of Run, Jump and Throw to be taught.

Compact Athletics Facilities could be an addition for primary and secondary schools or colleges as they benefit both pupils, students and the wider community. The facilities can be a focus for both curriculum and after school activities and foster links with local athletics club(s).

12.2 Supply

There is one 400m synthetic surfaced track with full field events provision at Horspath Sports Ground (North sub area). There are no Compact Athletics Facilities in the district.

12.3 Security of Access, Ownership and Management

The facility at Horspath Sports Ground is used by Oxford City Athletics Club and the club has 25 years left on its 30-year lease of the facilities from Oxford City Council.

12.4 Quality of Athletics Facilities

The athletics track was not assessed as part of this study. However, Oxford City AC reported no significant issues with the quality of the facilities – although regular and expensive maintenance of the track is required to host county and regional competitions.

12.5 Demand (Active Lives)

The latest Sport England Active Lives data shows a decrease of 8% in Oxfordshire children and young people (5–15-year-olds) participating once a week in running or jogging between 2018 and 2022. This differs to the smaller decreases in participation over the same time period across the South East region (-3%) and England (-2%). Children and young people in Oxfordshire participating in 'Track and Field' once a week or more decreased by 1%, which is similar to the regional and national averages.

Participation changes in running or jogging by Oxfordshire adults (16+ years) between 2016 and 2022 decreased by -3.5%, which is much larger than the decrease seen in the South East and across England (-0.9% and 0.7% respectively). Adults participating in 'Track and Field' athletics increased by 0.4% in Oxfordshire, which is a greater increase than across the region (0.2%) and the country (0.1%).

Table 12.1: Change in % participation by activity, age and area

Activity and Age Group	Oxfordshire (County)	South East (Region)	England (Nation)
Running or jogging once a week or more - children and young people (5-15 years): percentage change between 2018 and 2022	-8%	-3%	-2%
Track and field athletics once a week or more - children and young people (5-15 years): percentage change between 2018 and 2022	-1%	-2%	-1%
Running or jogging at least twice in the last 28 days - adults (16+ years): percentage change between 2016 and 2022.	-3.5%	-0.9%	-0.7%
Track and field athletics at least twice in the last 28 days - adults (16+ years): percentage change between 2016 and 2022.	+0.4%	+0.2%	+0.1%

Source: Sport England: Active Lives (2018-22 & 2016-22)

12.6 Demand (Club Consultation)

Oxford City Athletics Club is based at Horspath Sports Ground. It currently has 390 members and has seen an increase of 10% in junior members over the last three years. The club invested in a new data management system, which enabled a better understanding of how its members were using the track. By offering new membership options to some members (e.g., off-peak use only), the club has been able to clear its waiting list.

Wallingford Triathlon Club has 57 members and membership has increased in last three years due to a new committee taking over in 2022 and assistance with local funding to train additional coaches. The club are reliant on Oratory Prep School Pool, The Barn (private gym) and Grace and Gravity yoga studio. It does not have its own facilities/location – it would like a clubhouse to have meetings and social events and to use for equipment storage.

Thame Runners has 181 members (all adults) and has seen an increase in membership due to Covid. The club does not have a base – it meets in a car park in Thame and run around local footpaths, pavements and bridleways. The club reported no issues with the quality or availability of facilities.

12.7 Future Demand

To estimate the number of people likely to be regular athletes in the future, the projected increase in population for each sub area (from 2023 to 2041) has been provided by Oxfordshire County Council (2023). Together with the latest Active Lives participation rates, the likely number of new athletes across the district has been generated.

Active Lives data (2022) for Oxfordshire shows that 15% of adults (16+ year olds) participated in ‘Running or Jogging’ at least twice in the last 28 days. For ‘Track and Field’ athletics, 0.6% of adults participated at least twice in the last 28 days.

For children and young people (5-to-15-year-olds), 29% participated in ‘Running or Jogging’ once or more per week in Oxfordshire in 2022. Whereas ‘Track and Field’ athletics was participated in by 3% of children and young people across the county.

If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 7,205 new joggers and runners (all ages) and 341 new 'Track and Field' athletes across South Oxfordshire by 2041.

A breakdown of future demand by sub area and age group for 'Jogging or Running' and 'Track and Field' athletics has been provided in tables 12.2 and 12.3 below.

Table 12.2: Future demand for 'Running or Jogging' in South Oxfordshire

Age Group	East Sub Area	North Sub Area	South Sub Area	West Sub Area	Total (District)
5–15-year-olds	111	141	-203	933	982
16–45-year-olds	363	210	-26	1,444	1,991
46–75-year-olds	468	199	49	2,572	3,288
76–100-year-olds	206	121	127	490	944
Total (5-100-year-olds)	1,148	671	-53	5,439	7,205

Table 12.3 Future demand 'Track and Field' in South Oxfordshire

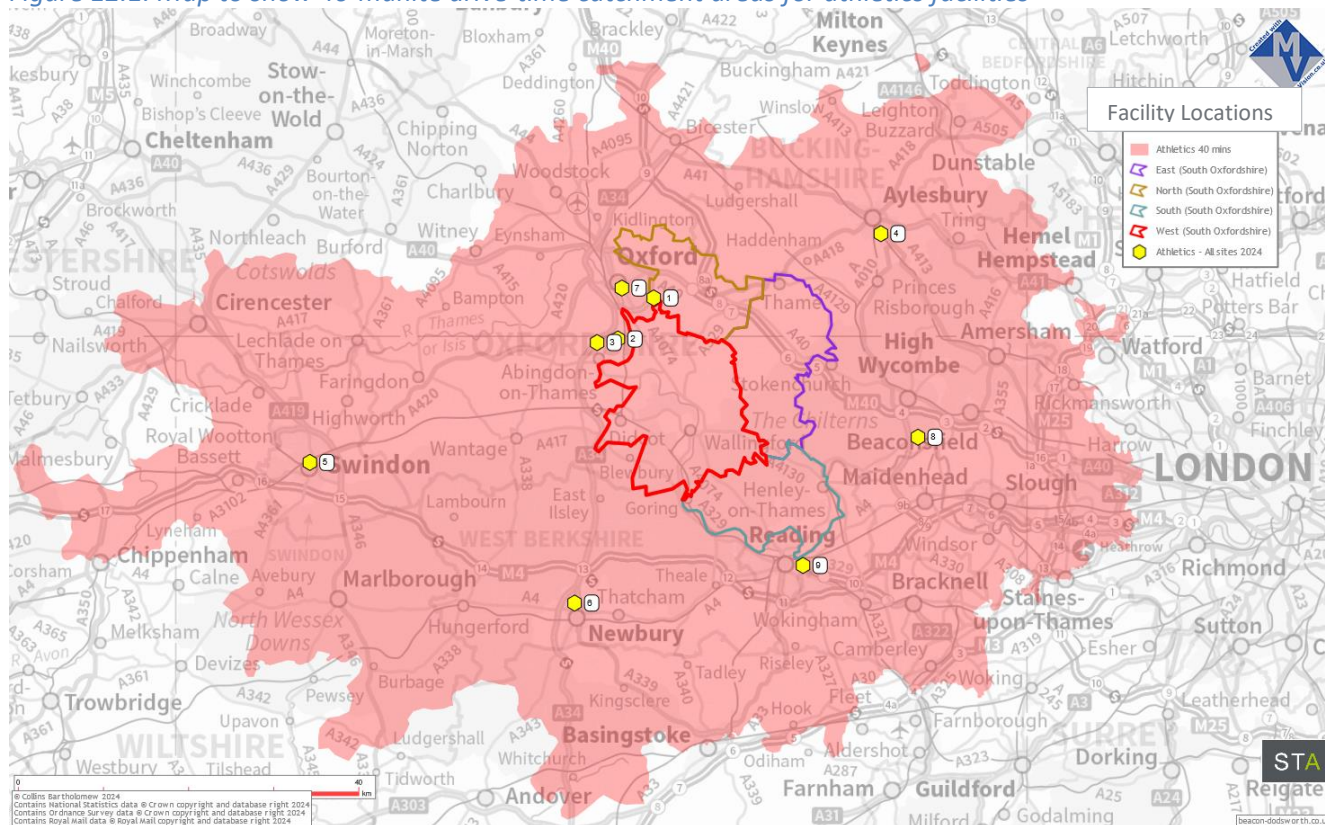
Age Group	East Sub Area	North Sub Area	South Sub Area	West Sub Area	Total (District)
5–15-year-olds	9	12	-17	80	84
16–45-year-olds	15	9	-1	60	83
46–75-year-olds	19	8	2	106	135
76–100-year-olds	9	5	5	20	39
Total (5-100-year-olds)	52	34	-11	266	341

Future demand projections suggest that future demand will be highest for 'Jogging and Running' in the West sub area, and demand will be highest from people aged 46 to 75 years old.

12.8 Accessibility

Accessibility is influenced by how far people are willing and able to travel. Appropriate drive-time catchments are applied to facilities to determine accessibility of facilities to different communities. The normal acceptable standard is a 40-minute drive-time for a rural area. This enables analysis of the adequacy of coverage and helps to identify areas currently not serviced by existing provision. England Athletics has confirmed that a 40-minute drive time is realistic for this sport and study area. There are no gaps in provision in South Oxfordshire.

Figure 12.1: Map to show 40-minute drive-time catchment areas for athletics facilities



12.9 Planned Developments

No planned developments were recorded as part of this study.

12.10 Summary of athletics facilities

Key Element (ANOG)	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
<p><u>Quantity</u> – Are there enough facilities with sufficient capacity to meet needs?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is one 400m synthetic surfaced track with full field events provision at Horspath Sports Ground (North sub area). No waiting list for Oxford City AC due to new membership management system. If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 7,205 new joggers and runners (all ages) and 341 new ‘Track and Field’ athletes across South Oxfordshire by 2041. Highest future demand is for ‘Jogging and Running’ in the West sub area (5,439 new joggers and runners), and demand will be highest from people aged 46 to 75 years old (2,572 new joggers and runners). 	<p>None.</p>
<p><u>Quality</u> – Are the facilities fit for purpose for the users?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oxford City AC reported no significant issues with the quality of the facilities – although regular and 	<p>Support clubs with facility development plans.</p>

<p>Do the facilities provide the level of play needed, and does the quality meet the user’s expectations?</p>	<p>expensive maintenance of the track is required to host county and regional competitions.</p>	
<p><u>Accessibility</u> – Are the facilities in the right physical location for users? Does the cost of using facilities prohibit access?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> England Athletics has confirmed that a 40-minute drive time is realistic for 400m synthetic surfaced track with full field events provision. 	<p>None.</p>
<p><u>Availability</u> – Are the facilities available to users who want to use them?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The facility at Horspath Sports Ground is used by Oxford City Athletics Club and the club has 25 years left on its 30-year lease of the facilities from Oxford City Council. 	<p>None.</p>
<p><u>Summary</u> – What provision is required to meet needs and address issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to maintain the current level of provision and capacity for general community use to meet current and future needs of the district. Reduction of overall capacity will have an impact on meeting future population growth of the district. (PROTECT) 	

13. BOWLS FACILITIES

13.1 Introduction

This section contains a summary of the findings from the needs assessment work for indoor bowls centres and outdoor bowling greens.

Indoor flat / level green bowls are purpose built indoor greens and require a flat area 31-40 metres long divided into playing areas called rinks. The number of rinks varies, depending on the width of the green.

For outdoor bowling greens, the length of a green in the direction of play will be between 31 metres and 40 metres. The green should have a suitable level playing surface made of grass or of an approved synthetic material.

13.2 Supply

There are no indoor bowls centres in South Oxfordshire. There are seven outdoor bowling greens used by seven outdoor bowls clubs and six village halls used by six short-mat bowls clubs.

The East and the West sub areas have outdoor bowling greens and short-mat bowls clubs using village halls. However, there are no outdoor greens or short-mat clubs in the North sub area. Table 13.1 below presents details of the bowls facilities. A map to show the location of these sites is displayed in the Appendices.

Table 13.1: Bowls Clubs in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Sub Area	Provision Type	Community Access	Ownership Type	Management Type
Chinnor Short Mat Bowls Club	East	Village Hall	Club	Local Authority	Local Authority
Thame Bowls Club		Outdoor green	Club	Local Authority	Club
Watlington Bowls Club		Outdoor green	Club	Local Authority	Club
Goring Bowls Club	South	Outdoor green	Club	Local Authority	Club
Henley-On-Thames Bowling Club		Outdoor green	Club	Local Authority	Club
Shiplake Village Bowling Club		Outdoor green	Club	Local Authority	Club
Sonning Common Short Mat Bowls Club		Village Hall	Club	Local Authority	Local Authority
Benson Short Mat Bowls Club	West	Village Hall	Club	Local Authority	Local Authority
Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Bowls Club		Village Hall	Club	Local Authority	Local Authority
Crowmarsh Short Mat Bowls Club		Village Hall	Club	Local Authority	Local Authority
Wallingford Short Mat Bowls Club		Village Hall	Club	Local Authority	Local Authority
Didcot Bowls Club		Outdoor green	Club	Local Authority	Club
Hagbourne Bowls Club		Outdoor green	Club	Local Authority	Club

13.3 Security of Access, Ownership and Management

All facilities used by bowls clubs in South Oxfordshire are owned by the local authority. The seven outdoor bowling greens are managed by the clubs that use them, whereas the village halls are managed by the local authority that owns them. There were no issues with the security of tenure raised by bowls clubs as part of this study.

13.4 Quality of bowls facilities

The quality of facilities (including playing surface, clubhouse, car park, signage etc) has been determined by site visits (where undertaken) and supplemented by club survey responses. Where no site visit was undertaken, club survey information has been used. Additional information on the assessments is provided in the Technical Appendices. An overall quality rating for the facilities has been given to the outdoor greens and village halls.

Table 13.2: Quality of bowls facilities in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Sub Area	Provision Type	Community Access	Maintenance Provider	Facility Quality Rating
Chinnor Short Mat Bowls Club	East	Village Hall	Club	Local Authority	Good
Thame Bowls Club		Outdoor green	Club	Club	Good
Watlington Bowls Club		Outdoor green	Club	Club	Good
Goring Bowls Club	South	Outdoor green	Club	Club	Good
Henley-On-Thames Bowling Club		Outdoor green	Club	Club	Good
Shiplake Village Bowling Club		Outdoor green	Club	Club	Good
Sonning Common Short Mat Bowls Club		Village Hall	Club	Local Authority	Above Average
Benson Short Mat Bowls Club	West	Village Hall	Club	Local Authority	Above Average
Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Bowls Club		Village Hall	Club	Local Authority	Above Average
Crowmarsh Short Mat Bowls Club		Village Hall	Club	Local Authority	Above Average
Wallingford Short Mat Bowls Club		Village Hall	Club	Local Authority	Above Average
Didcot Bowls Club		Outdoor green	Club	Club	Good
Hagbourne Bowls Club		Outdoor green	Club	Club	Good

The quality of the outdoor greens and village hall playing surfaces are generally ‘Good’ quality and ‘Above Average’ quality. However, Watlington Bowls Club clubhouse is ‘Poor’ quality.

13.5 Demand (Active Lives)

The latest Sport England Active Lives data shows a decrease of 0.2% in adults (16+ years) participating in ‘Bowls’ between 2016 and 2022, which is a similar to the averages across the country (-0.3%). There is no Active Lives data available for bowls at a district or county level, nor is there data available for children and young people (5-to-15-year-olds) participating in bowls.

13.6 Demand (Club Consultation)

Table 13.3: No. of members at clubs and ‘Back to Netball’ in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Sub Area	No. of Members	Change in last 5 yrs	Reason(s) why
Chinnor Short Mat Bowls Club	East	30	Decrease	Age of membership
Thame Bowls Club		-	-	-
Watlington Bowls Club		60	Decrease	Age of membership
Goring Bowls Club	South	-	-	-

Henley-On-Thames Bowling Club		55	Stayed the same	-
Shiplake Village Bowling Club		35	Decrease	Age of membership
Benson Short Mat Bowls Club	West	-	-	-
Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Bowls Club		-	-	-
Crowmarsh Short Mat Bowls Club		-	-	-
Wallingford Short Mat Bowls Club		-	-	-
Didcot Bowls Club		-	-	-
Hagbourne Bowls Club		-	-	-

13.7 Future Demand

To estimate the number of people likely to be regular bowls players in the future, the projected increase in population for each sub area (from 2023 to 2041) has been provided by Oxfordshire County Council (2023). Together with the latest Active Lives participation rates, the likely number of new bowls players across the district has been generated.

Active Lives data (2022) for Oxfordshire shows that 0.7% of adults (16+ year olds) participated in ‘Bowls’ at least twice in the last 28 days.

If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 336 new bowls players across South Oxfordshire by 2041. A breakdown of future demand by sub area and age group has been provided in Table 13.4 below.

Table 13.4: Future demand for ‘Bowls’ in South Oxfordshire

Age Group	East Sub Area	North Sub Area	South Sub Area	West Sub Area	Total (District)
5–15-year-olds	Unavailable	Unavailable	Unavailable	Unavailable	n/a
16–45-year-olds	18	10	-1	70	97
46–75-year-olds	23	10	2	124	159
76–100-year-olds	10	6	6	24	46
Total (5-100-year-olds)	54	30	2	250	336

Future demand projections suggest that future demand will be highest for ‘Bowls’ in the West sub area, and demand will be highest from people aged 46 to 75 years old.

13.8 Accessibility

Accessibility is influenced by how far people are willing and able to travel. Appropriate drive-time catchments are applied to facilities to determine accessibility of facilities to different communities. The normal acceptable standard is a 20-minute drive-time for a rural area. This enables analysis of the adequacy of coverage and helps to identify areas currently not serviced by existing provision. Bowls England and EIBA have confirmed that a 20-minute drive time is realistic for this sport and study area.

Figures 13.1 and 13.2 below show that there are gaps in provision of outdoor bowling greens in the North and the West sub areas. However, residents in these areas are within a 20-minute drive-time of outdoor bowling greens in Headington (Oxford), Abingdon, Milton and Harwell (Vale of White Horse).

Figure 13.1: Map to show 20-minute drive-time catchment areas for outdoor bowling greens

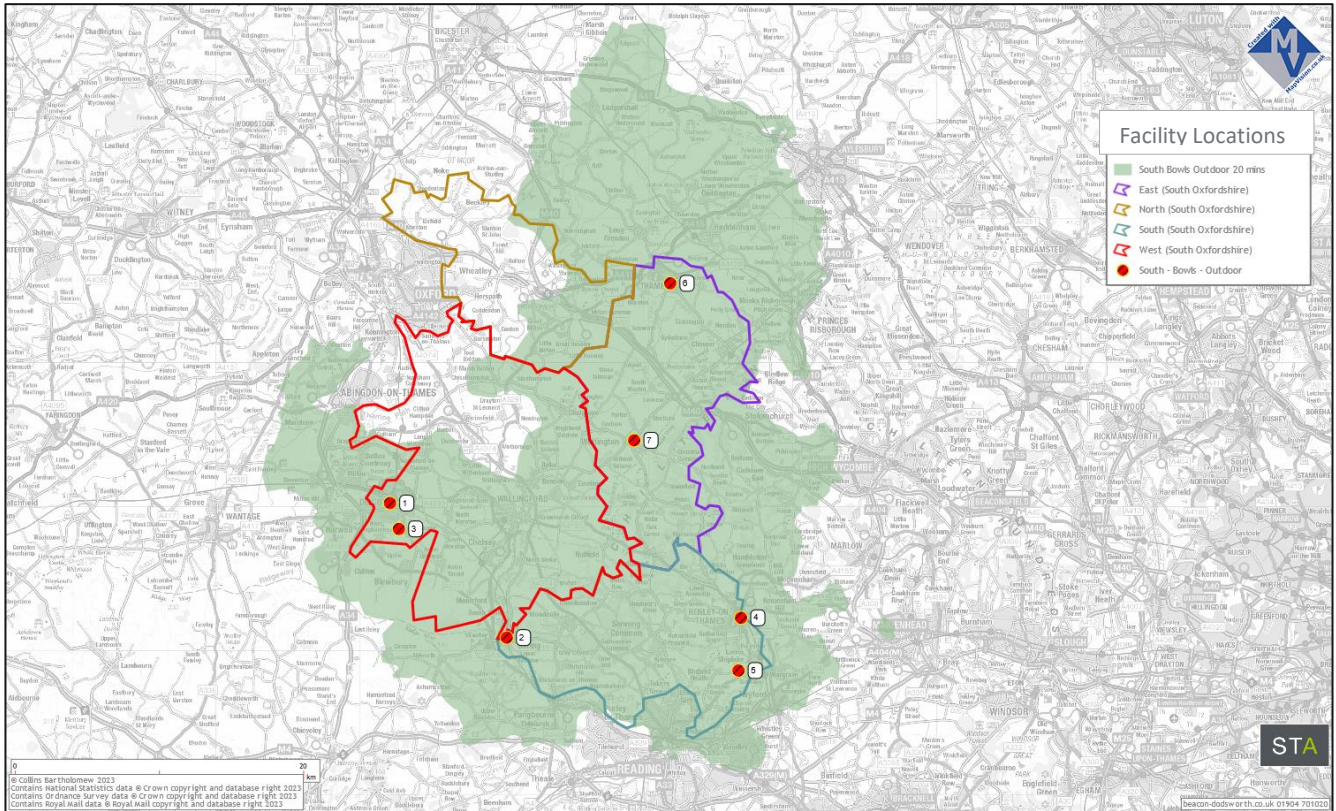
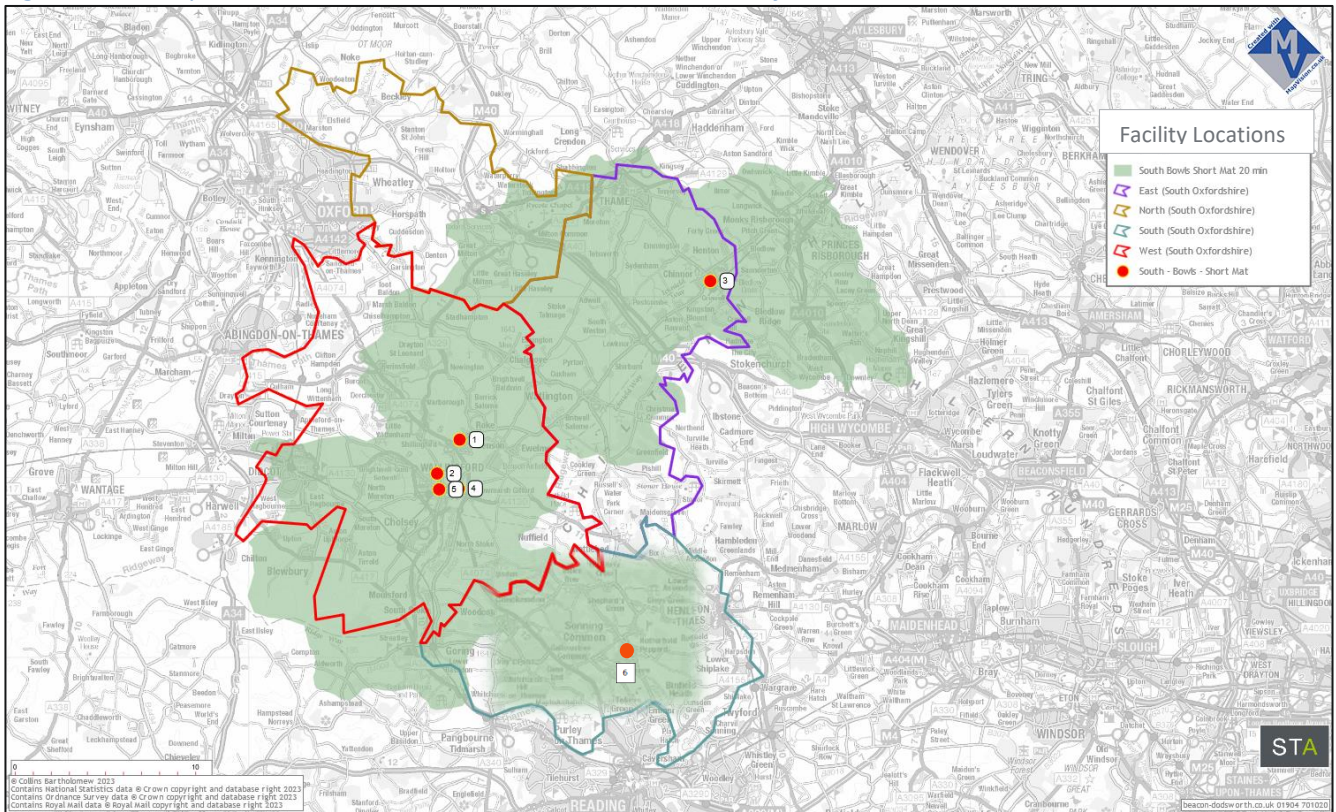


Figure 13.2: Map to show 20-minute drive-time catchment areas for short-mat bowls clubs



13.9 Planned Developments

There is outline planning consent for a new bowling green at Oxford Brookes Wheatley Campus (North sub area), which is expected to be completed by 2025. A residential development (500 homes) will also provide new community facilities including a sports pavilion, bowling green and cricket pitch.

13.10 Summary of Bowls Facilities

Key Element (ANOG)	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
<p><u>Quantity</u> – Are there enough facilities with sufficient capacity to meet needs?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no indoor bowls centres in South Oxfordshire. • The East and the West sub areas have outdoor bowling greens and short-mat bowls clubs using village halls. • However, there are no outdoor greens or short-mat clubs in the North sub area. • If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 336 new bowls players across South Oxfordshire by 2041. • Highest future demand is in the West sub area (250 new bowlers). 	<p>New short-mat bowls club to be encouraged in the North sub area.</p> <p>New bowling green at Oxford Brookes Wheatley Campus should be supported to meet current demand in the North sub area.</p> <p>Future demand can be met within existing club capacities.</p>
<p><u>Quality</u> – Are the facilities fit for purpose for the users? Do the facilities provide the level of play needed, and does the quality meet the user’s expectations?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The quality of the outdoor greens and village hall playing surfaces are generally ‘Good’ quality and ‘Above Average’ quality. However, Watlington Bowls Club clubhouse is ‘Poor’ quality. 	<p>Support clubs with facility development plans.</p>
<p><u>Accessibility</u> – Are the facilities in the right physical location for users? Does the cost of using facilities prohibit access?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are gaps in provision of outdoor bowling greens in the North and the West sub areas. • However, residents in these areas are within a 20-minute drive-time of outdoor bowling greens in Headington (Oxford), Abingdon, Milton and Harwell (Vale of White Horse). • Watlington Bowls Club reported a lack of funding and resources to increase member numbers. 	<p>New bowling green at Oxford Brookes Wheatley Campus should be supported to meet current demand in the North sub area.</p>
<p><u>Availability</u> – Are the facilities available to users who want to use them?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no issues with availability or the security of tenure raised by bowls clubs as part of this study. 	<p>None.</p>
<p><u>Summary</u> – What provision is required to meet needs and address issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to maintain the current level of provision and capacity for general community use to meet current and future needs of the district. Reduction of overall capacity will have an impact on meeting future population growth of the district. (PROTECT) • Support Watlington Bowls Club upgrade its clubhouse facilities. (ENHANCE) 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New bowling green at Oxford Brookes Wheatley Campus should be supported to meet current demand in the North sub area. (PROVIDE)
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14. CROQUET LAWNS

14.1 Introduction

This section contains a summary of the findings from the needs assessment work for croquet lawns and facilities. Croquet is played on a lawn of dimensions 35 x 28 yards. Almost all croquet is played on completely flat, closely-mown fine grass (similar to bowls). Artificial surfaces, such as 'Astro-turf' or cinder, and indoor carpets are rare.

14.2 Supply

There are eight croquet lawns (all outdoor) located at four sites in South Oxfordshire. These are located in two of the four sub areas – there are no croquet lawns located in the East and West sub areas. Table 14.1 below presents details of the croquet facilities. A map to show the location of these sites is displayed in the Appendices.

Table 14.1: Croquet Clubs in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Sub Area	Community Access	Number of lawns	Ownership Type	Management Type
Great Milton Village Croquet Club	North	Club	1	Local Authority	Club
Goring Gap Croquet Club	South	Club	2	Local Authority	Club
Phyllis Court Croquet Club		Club	4	Club	Club
Shiplake College Croquet Club		School	1	College	College

14.3 Security of Access, Ownership and Management

There is secured community access at three of the four croquet sites (i.e., clubs are open to new members from the community and facilities are owned by a local authority or the club. However, Shiplake College Croquet Club is located at Shiplake College and therefore the club members are comprised of college pupils (i.e., the lawn cannot be accessed by members from the wider community).

14.4 Quality of Croquet Facilities

The quality of facilities (including playing surface, clubhouse, car park, signage etc) has been determined by site visits (where undertaken) and supplemented by club survey responses. Where no site visit was undertaken, club survey information has been used.

Additional information on the assessments is provided in the Technical Appendices. An overall quality rating for the facilities has been given to the lawns in Table 14.2 below – all lawns are 'Good' quality (i.e., facilities are welcoming, new or well maintained, fit for purpose and attractive to use).

Table 14.2: Quality of croquet lawns in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Sub Area	Community Access	Number of lawns	Maintenance Provider	Facility Quality Rating
Great Milton Village Croquet Club	North	Club	1	Club	Good
Goring Gap Croquet Club	South	Club	2	Club	Good

Phyllis Court Croquet Club		Club	4	Club	Good
Shiplake College Croquet Club		School	1	College	Good

14.5 Demand (Active Lives)

The latest Sport England Active Lives data shows no change in adults (16+ years) participating in ‘Croquet’ in the South East region between 2016 and 2022. Just 0.1% of adults participated at least twice in the last month. There is no Active Lives data available for croquet at a district, county or national level, nor is there data available for children and young people (5-to-15-year-olds) participating in croquet.

14.6 Demand (Club Consultation)

One of the three community croquet clubs in South Oxfordshire responded to requests for information. Phyllis Court Croquet Club has capacity for new members, however under 18’s unable to access the site due to Phyllis Court Club rules and policy.

Table 14.4: No. of members at croquet clubs in South Oxfordshire

Club Name	Sub Area	No. of Members	Change in last 5 yrs	Reason(s) why
Great Milton Village Croquet Club	North	-	-	-
Goring Gap Croquet Club	South	-	-	-
Phyllis Court Croquet Club		237	Increase	Club promotion

14.7 Future Demand

To estimate the number of people likely to be regular croquet players in the future, the projected increase in population for each sub area (from 2023 to 2041) has been provided by Oxfordshire County Council (2023). Together with the latest Active Lives participation rates, the likely number of new croquet players across the district has been generated.

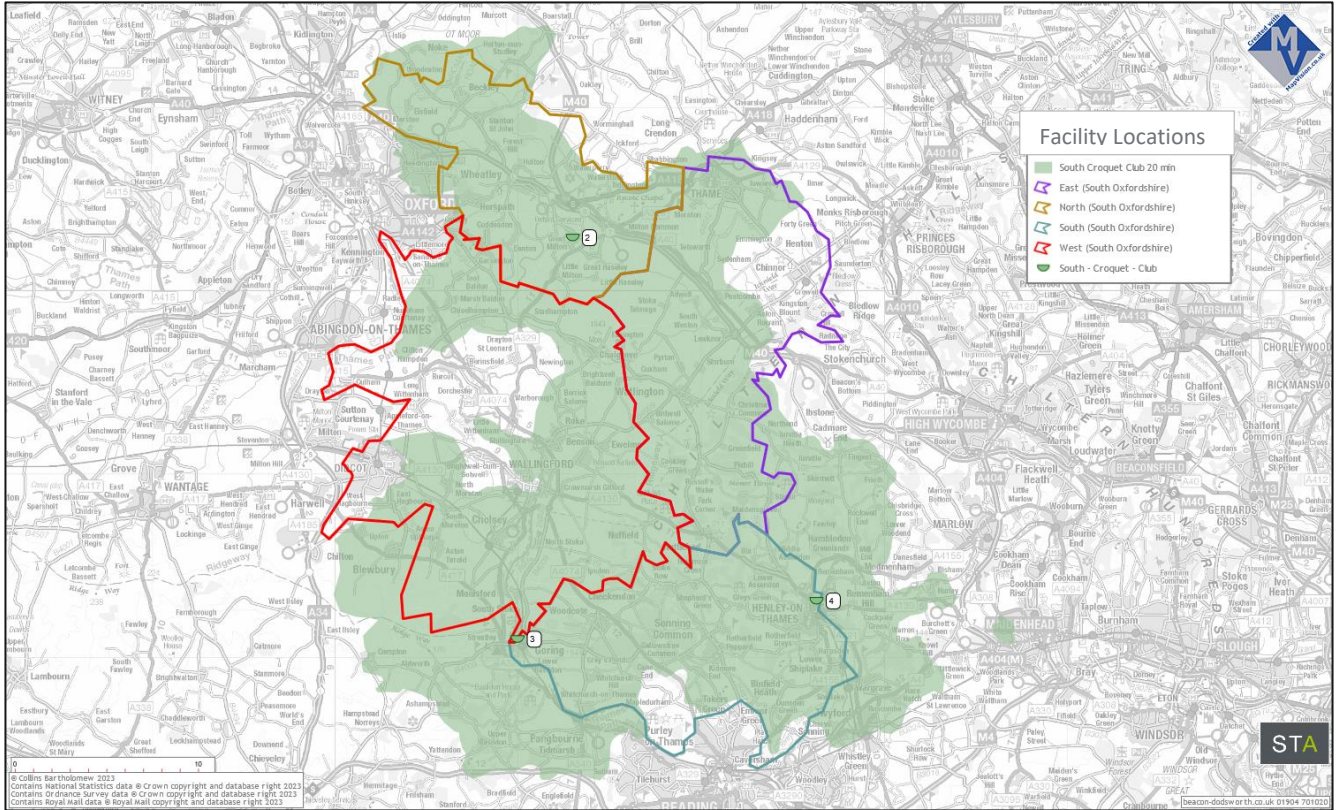
Active Lives data (2022) for Oxfordshire shows that 0.1% of adults (16+ year olds) participated in ‘Croquet’ at least twice in the last 28 days. If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 48 new croquet players across South Oxfordshire by 2041.

14.8 Accessibility

Accessibility is influenced by how far people are willing and able to travel. Appropriate drive-time catchments are applied to facilities to determine accessibility of facilities to different communities. The normal acceptable standard is a 20-minute drive-time for a rural area. This enables analysis of the adequacy of coverage and helps to identify areas currently not serviced by existing provision.

Figure 14.1 overleaf shows that there is a gap in community club croquet lawn provision in the East and in the West sub areas. However, residents in these areas are within a 20-minute drive-time of Thames Valley Croquet Club (Abingdon) and High Wycombe Croquet Club.

Figure 14.1: Map to show 20-minute drive-time catchment areas for community club croquet lawns



14.9 Planned Developments

There were no planned developments for croquet lawns recorded as part of this study.

14.10 Summary of Croquet Facilities

Key Element (ANOG)	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
<p><u>Quantity</u> – Are there enough facilities with sufficient capacity to meet needs?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no croquet lawns located in the East and West sub areas If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 48 new croquet players across South Oxfordshire by 2041. No capacity issues raised by clubs as part of this study. 	<p>New croquet clubs to be encouraged in the East and West sub areas.</p> <p>Future demand can be met within existing club capacities.</p>
<p><u>Quality</u> – Are the facilities fit for purpose for the users? Do the facilities provide the level of play needed, and does the quality meet the user’s expectations?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All lawns are ‘Good’ quality (i.e., facilities are welcoming, new or well maintained, fit for purpose and attractive to use). 	<p>None.</p>

<p><u>Accessibility</u> – Are the facilities in the right physical location for users? Does the cost of using facilities prohibit access?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a gap in community club croquet lawn provision in the East and in the West sub areas. • However, residents in these areas are within a 20-minute drive-time of Thames Valley Croquet Club (Abingdon) and High Wycombe Croquet Club. • There were no cost issues raised by clubs as part of this study. 	<p>None.</p>
<p><u>Availability</u> – Are the facilities available to users who want to use them?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no issues with availability or the security of tenure raised by croquet clubs as part of this study. 	<p>None.</p>
<p><u>Summary</u> – What provision is required to meet needs and address issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to maintain the current level of provision and capacity for general community use to meet current and future needs of the district. Reduction of overall capacity will have an impact on meeting future population growth of the district. (PROTECT) 	

15. WATER SPORTS FACILITIES

15.1 Introduction

This section contains a summary of the findings from the needs assessment work for water sports facilities in South Oxfordshire. People participate in water sports using both natural resources and man-made facilities, on inland waters, using their own strength (rowing and canoeing), harnessing the power of the wind (sailing and board sailing) and using modern technologies (jet skiing and water skiing).

15.2 Supply

There are 13 water sports clubs and three University clubs with boathouse facilities (changing rooms, storage etc) and formal access to the river or a lake in the South and in the West sub areas. Table 15.1 below shows details of the water sports facilities. A map to show the location of these sites is displayed in the Appendices.

The majority of clubs use the River Thames, however Dorchester Sailing Club is based at Orchid Lakes, and Oxford Wakeboard & Ski Club is based at Queenford Lakes (both lakes are in Dorchester). ISIS Waterski and Wakeboard Club are based at Caversham Lakes near Reading.

Table 15.1: Water Sports Clubs in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Sub Area	Community Access	Water Type	Ownership Type	Management Type
ISIS Waterski and Wakeboard Club	South	Club	Lake	Club	Club
Goring Gap Boat Club		Club	River	Commercial	Club
Henley Canoe Club		Club	River	Club	Club
Henley Rowing Club		Club	River	Club	Club
Henley Sailing Club		Club	River	Club	Club
Phyllis Court Rowing Club		Club	River	Club	Club
Upper Thames Rowing Club		Club	River	Club	Club
Dorchester Sailing Club	West	Club	Lake	Club	Club
Goring Thames Sailing Club		Club	River	Club	Club
Oxford University Lwt Rowing Club		University	River	University	University
Oxford University Womens Boat Club		University	River	University	University
Oxford University Women's Lwt Rowing Club		University	River	University	University
Oxford Wakeboard and Ski Club		Club	Lake	Club	Club
Thames Scullers		Club	River	Club	Club
Wallingford Accessible Boat Club		Club	River	n/a	Club
Wallingford Rowing Club	Club	River	Club	Club	

Wallingford Accessible Boat Club does not have a base but has advised that water sports facilities in the area should be more accessible to people with disabilities. For example, sufficient wheelchair access to boathouses.

15.3 Security of Access, Ownership and Management

The majority of facilities are owned by the club or University that use them. However, Goring Gap Boat Club is owned by the Yattendon Estate and the club has 10 years left on its lease of the facilities.

15.4 Quality of Water Sports Facilities

The quality of the boathouse and ancillary facilities (including changing rooms, car park, signage and storage) has been determined by site visits (where undertaken) and supplemented by club survey responses. Where no site visit was undertaken, club survey information has been used. Additional information on the assessments is provided in the Technical Appendices.

Table 15.2: Quality of Boathouses in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Sub Area	Community Access	Provision Type	Maintenance Provider	Facility Quality Rating
ISIS Waterski and Wakeboard Club	South	Club	Boathouse	Club	Above Average
Goring Gap Boat Club		Club	Boathouse	Club	Good
Henley Canoe Club		Club	Boathouse	Club	Good
Henley Rowing Club		Club	Boathouse	Club	Above Average
Henley Sailing Club		Club	Boathouse	Club	Good
Phyllis Court Rowing Club		Club	Boathouse	Club	Good
Upper Thames Rowing Club		Club	Boathouse	Club	Above Average
Dorchester Sailing Club	West	Club	Boathouse	Club	Good
Goring Thames Sailing Club		Club	Boathouse	Club	Below Average
Oxford University Lwt Rowing Club		University	Boathouse	University	Good
Oxford University Womens Boat Club		University	Boathouse	University	Good
Oxford University Women's Lwt Rowing Club		University	Boathouse	University	Good
Oxford Wakeboard and Ski Club		Club	Boathouse	Club	Good
Thames Scullers		Club	Boathouse	Club	Above Average
Wallingford Rowing Club	Club	Boathouse	Club	Below Average	

Goring Thames Sailing Club report that the lack of volunteer help restricts the maintenance of the club and facilities, however with increased membership the club has additional funds. The club is refurbishing the changing rooms, and planning on a refurbishment in the boathouse later this year. It is also planning to purchase two new boats to replace aging sailing boats.

Wallingford Rowing Club boathouse is severely restricted and this limits the club’s growth potential. It is a cramped, Grade 2 listed building and the club lack the finances to move.

15.5 Demand (Active Lives)

The latest Sport England Active Lives data shows an increase of 0.2% in Oxfordshire adults (16+ year olds) participating at least twice in the last 28 days between 2016 and 2022. However, participation of children and young people (5–15-year-olds) participating once or more a week in water sports decreased between 2018 and 2022 by 2.3%. There is no Active Lives data available at a regional and national level.

Table 15.3: Change in % participation by activity, age and area

Activity and Age Group	Oxfordshire (County)	South East (Region)	England (Nation)
Water sports once or more a week - children and young people (5-15 years): percentage change between 2018 and 2022	0.2%	Unavailable	Unavailable
Water sports at least twice in the last 28 days - adults (16+ years): percentage change between 2016 and 2022.	-2.3%	Unavailable	Unavailable

Source: Sport England: Active Lives (2018-22 & 2016-22)

15.6 Demand (Club Consultation)

Table 15.4: No. of members at Water Sports Clubs in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Sub Area	No. of Members	Change in last 5 yrs	Reason(s) why
ISIS Waterski & Wakeboard Club	South	-	-	-
Goring Gap Boat Club		221	Increased	New boathouse in 2018
Henley Canoe Club		-	-	-
Henley Rowing Club		-	-	-
Henley Sailing Club		217	Stayed the same	-
Phyllis Court Rowing Club		102	Stayed the same	-
Upper Thames Rowing Club		-	-	-
Dorchester Sailing Club	West	562	Decreased	Financial pressures on families
Goring Thames Sailing Club		422	Increased	Popularity in sailing (post-Covid)
Oxford Wakeboard & Ski Club		-	-	-
Thames Scullers		-	-	-
Wallingford Rowing Club		251	Increased	Investment in junior coaching

15.7 Demand (NGB Consultation)

As a method of good-practice, informal access to waterways in South Oxfordshire (ie River Thames) should follow the 'Paddlers Code', which advises how to protect, respect and enjoy the waterways. To improve access to sustainable recreational pursuits, it is recommended that the local authority joins the 'Clear Access Clear Waters' campaign.

15.8 Future Demand

To estimate the number of people likely to do water sports regularly in the future, the projected increase in population for each sub area (from 2023 to 2041) has been provided by Oxfordshire County Council (2023). Together with the latest Active Lives participation rates, the likely number of new people regularly doing water sports across the district has been generated.

Active Lives data (2022) for Oxfordshire shows that 2.5% of adults (16+ year olds) participated in water sports at least twice in the last 28 days. For children and young people (5-to-16-year-olds), 2% participated in water sports once or more in the last week (Active Lives, 2022).

If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 1,119 new people doing water sports across South Oxfordshire by 2041. A breakdown of future demand by sub area and age group has been provided in Table 13.4 below.

Table 13.4: Future demand for ‘Water Sports’ in South Oxfordshire

Age Group	East Sub Area	North Sub Area	South Sub Area	West Sub Area	Total (District)
5–15-year-olds	8	10	-14	64	68
16–45-year-olds	63	36	-5	249	343
46–75-year-olds	81	34	9	444	568
76–100-year-olds	36	21	22	85	164
Total (5-100-year-olds)	192	107	7	893	1,199

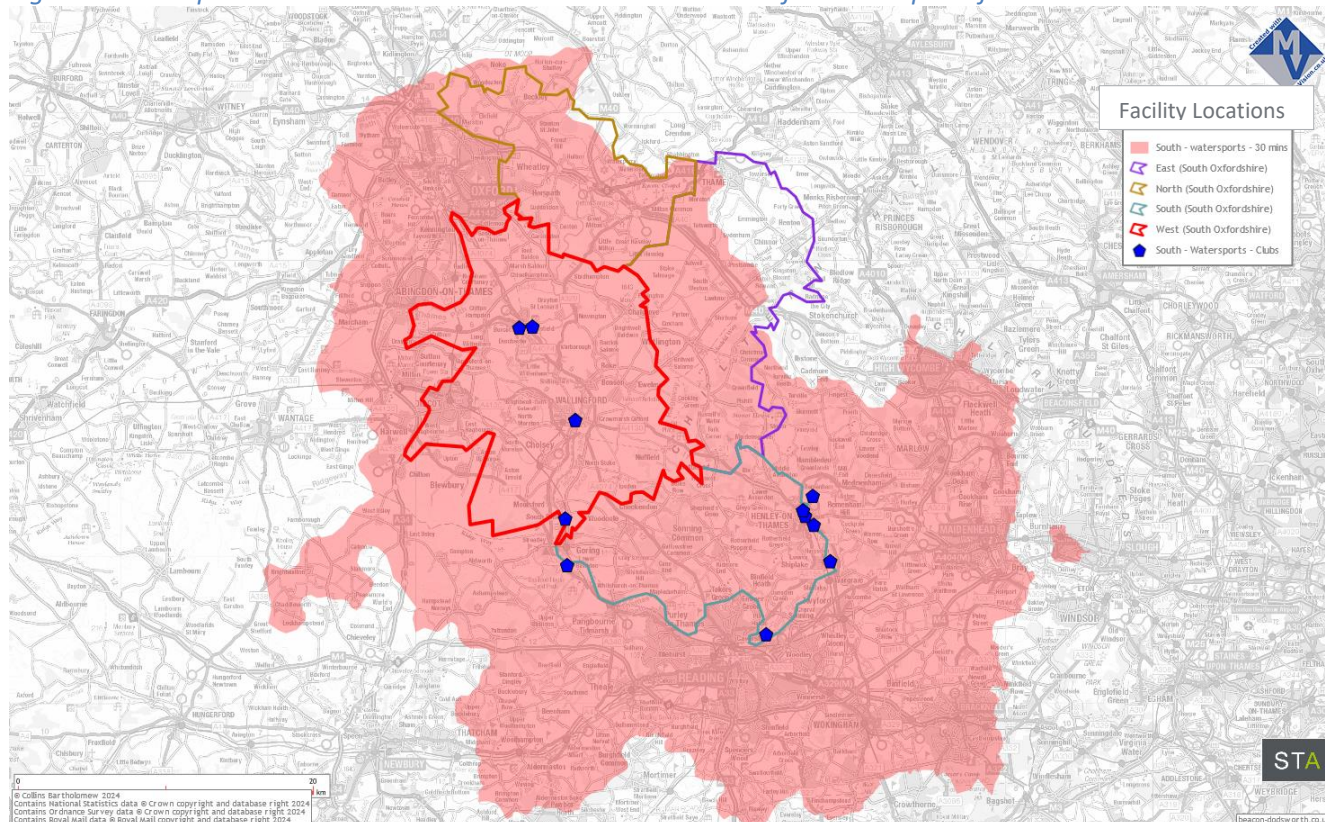
Future demand projections suggest that future demand will be highest for water sports in the West sub area, and demand will be highest from people aged 46 to 75 years old.

15.9 Accessibility

Accessibility is influenced by how far people are willing and able to travel. Appropriate drive-time catchments are applied to facilities to determine accessibility of facilities to different communities. The normal acceptable standard is a 30-minute drive-time for a rural area. This enables analysis of the adequacy of coverage and helps to identify areas currently not serviced by existing provision.

Figure 15.1 below shows that there are no geographical gaps in water sports provision.

Figure 15.1: Map to show 30-minute drive-time catchment areas for water sports facilities



15.10 Planned Developments

Goring Thames Sailing Club has plans to develop its boathouse this year (2023).

At Caversham Lakes (North Lakes), there is an [appeal enquiry](#) regarding planning permission for the material change of use of the Land from gravel extraction to water-based sport and recreational use. This unauthorised development includes ancillary facilities (changing rooms, storage etc), fences and gates, machinery and sport and recreational equipment.

There are plans for Wallingford Accessible Boat Club to have a base at Riverside Park in Wallingford. These facilities will be more accessible to people with disabilities. Flood waters permitting, the new facilities are planned to be developed in 2024.

15.11 Summary of Water Sports Facilities

Key Element (ANOG)	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
<p><u>Quantity</u> – Are there enough facilities with sufficient capacity to meet needs?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The majority of clubs use the River Thames, however Dorchester Sailing Club is at based at Orchid Lakes, and Oxford Wakeboard & Ski Club is based at Queenford Lakes (both lakes are in Dorchester). ISIS Waterski & Wakeboard Club is located at Caversham Lakes near Reading. Wallingford Rowing Club boathouse is severely restricted (It is a cramped, Grade 2 listed building) and this limits the club’s growth potential. The Club report a lack of finances to move into bigger premises. No clubs in the North or the East sub areas. If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 1,199 new people doing water sports across South Oxfordshire by 2041 Highest future demand in the West sub area (444 new regular participants) and from 46-75-year-olds (214 new participants). 	<p>Wallingford Rowing Club is limited by the size of its boathouse.</p> <p>To meet future demand, new angling or water-sports clubs to be encouraged in the West sub areas.</p>
<p><u>Quality</u> – Are the facilities fit for purpose for the users? Do the facilities provide the level of play needed, and does the quality meet the user’s expectations?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All boathouses are ‘Above Average’ or ‘Good’ quality and are meeting the expectations of users. There were no quality issues recorded as part of this study. Goring Thames Sailing Club has plans to develop its boathouse this year (2023). 	<p>None.</p>
<p><u>Accessibility</u> – Are the facilities in the right physical location for users?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no gaps in community watersports provision in South Oxfordshire (i.e. all residents are within a 30-minute drive-time of a site). 	<p>None.</p>

Does the cost of using facilities prohibit access?		
<u>Availability</u> – Are the facilities available to users who want to use them?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no issues with availability or the security of tenure raised by clubs as part of this study. 	None.
<u>Summary</u> – What provision is required to meet needs and address issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to maintain the current level of provision and capacity for general community use to meet current and future needs of the district. Reduction of overall capacity will have an impact on meeting future population growth of the district. (PROTECT) • Explore options for boathouse relocation at Wallingford Rowing Club. (ENHANCE) • Improve physical access to water sports facilities for people with disabilities by ensuring the layout / design of new facilities are accessible to all. (ENHANCE) 	

16.SKATEPARKS

16.1 Introduction

This section contains a summary of the findings from the needs assessment work for skateparks in South Oxfordshire. A skatepark is a purpose-built recreational environment made for skateboarding, BMX, scootering and inline skating. A skatepark may contain half-pipes, handrails, funboxes, vert ramps, stairsets, quarter pipes, ledges, full pipes, pools, bowls and any number of other objects.

16.2 Supply

There are 10 outdoor skateparks in South Oxfordshire – the majority are in the West sub area – but there are no skateparks in the North sub area. Table 16.1 below shows details of the skateparks. A map to show the location of these sites is displayed in the Appendices.

Table 16.1: Skateparks in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Sub Area	Community Access	Ownership Type	Management Type
Thame Skatepark	East	Free-to-use	Local Authority	Local Authority
Watlington Bowl		Free-to-use	Local Authority	Local Authority
Henley Skatepark	South	Free-to-use	Local Authority	Local Authority
Sonning Common Skatepark		Free-to-use	Local Authority	Local Authority
Berinsfield Skatepark	West	Free-to-use	Local Authority	Local Authority
Chalgrove Skatepark		Free-to-use	Local Authority	Local Authority
Cholsey Skatepark		Free-to-use	Local Authority	Local Authority
Didcot Skatepark		Free-to-use	Local Authority	Local Authority
Great Western Park Skatepark		Free-to-use	Local Authority	Local Authority
Ladygrove Skatepark		Free-to-use	Local Authority	Local Authority

There is also a former skatepark in Chinnor. It was removed over four years ago and is yet to be replaced by Chinnor Parish Council (date of replacement and new location are yet to be determined).

16.3 Security of Access, Ownership and Management

All skateparks are owned and managed by a local authority (Town and Parish councils) and therefore no issues with community access have been identified as part of this study.

16.4 Quality of Skateparks

The quality of the skateparks has been determined by site visits (where undertaken) and supplemented by Council officer knowledge. Additional information on the assessments is provided in the Technical Appendices.

Table 16.2: Quality of Skateparks in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Sub Area	Community Access	Maintenance Provider	Facility Quality Rating
Thame Skatepark	East	Free-to-use	Local Authority	Above Average
Watlington Bowl		Free-to-use	Local Authority	Above Average
Henley Skatepark	South	Free-to-use	Local Authority	Above Average
Sonning Common Skatepark		Free-to-use	Local Authority	Above Average
Berinsfield Skatepark	West	Free-to-use	Local Authority	Above Average
Chalgrove Skatepark		Free-to-use	Local Authority	Below Average
Cholsey Skatepark		Free-to-use	Local Authority	Good
Didcot Skatepark		Free-to-use	Local Authority	Above Average
Great Western Park Skatepark		Free-to-use	Local Authority	Above Average
Ladygrove Skatepark		Free-to-use	Local Authority	Above Average

Cholsey Skatepark was installed in 2021 and is therefore in a new condition. The remaining skateparks are ‘Above Average’ quality. The facilities are in a reasonable condition – may be older but are fit for purpose and safe.

16.5 Demand (Active Lives)

The latest Sport England Active Lives data shows an increase of 0.1% adults (16+ year olds) skateboarding at least twice in the last 28 days between 2016 and 2022 across England. Participation of children and young people (5–15-year-olds) participating once or more a week in skateboarding increased by 1% between 2018 and 2022. There is no Active Lives data available at a county and regional level.

Table 16.3: Change in % participation by activity, age and area

Activity and Age Group	Oxfordshire (County)	South East (Region)	England (Nation)
Skateboarding at least twice in the last 28 days - adults (16+ years): percentage change between 2016 and 2022.	Unavailable	Unavailable	0.1%
Skateboarding once or more a week - children and young people (5-15 years): percentage change between 2018 and 2022	Unavailable	Unavailable	1%

Source: Sport England: Active Lives (2018-22 & 2016-22)

16.6 Demand (NGB Consultation)

Skateboarding GB is the NGB for skateboarding. The sport does not have a formalised club or team structure, or anything that’s comparable to other sports. That is seen as a strength of skateboarding – an informal, spontaneous activity that does not require membership (to either a club or a team).

The NGB is not aware of any organised provision for talent development in South Oxfordshire or the Vale of White Horse. Historically the area has been a good skate scene, particularly in Abingdon and other areas around Oxford, with several sponsored and professional skateboarders from the area in the past.

Skateboarding GB highlighted a key issue for Oxfordshire in general is a current lack of skateboarding provision and capacity compared to other areas in England. However, with skateboarding tending to be most strongly represented (and organised) in the country's more disadvantaged urban areas (e.g., Manchester, Nottingham, Bristol, the North East, coastal towns like Southampton, Portsmouth and Folkestone and several London Boroughs), this may be due to the relative affluence of Oxfordshire.

16.7 Future Demand

To estimate the number of people likely to skateboard regularly in the future, the projected increase in population for each sub area (from 2023 to 2041) has been provided by Oxfordshire County Council (2023). Together with the latest Active Lives participation rates, the likely number of new people regularly skateboarding across the district has been generated.

Active Lives data (2022) for England shows that 0.2% of adults (16+ year olds) participated in skateboarding at least twice in the last 28 days. For children and young people (5-to-16-year-olds), 5% participated in skateboarding once or more in the last week (Active Lives, 2022).

If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 237 new skateboarders across South Oxfordshire by 2041. A breakdown of future demand by sub area and age group has been provided in Table 16.4 below.

Table 16.4: Future demand for Skateboarding in South Oxfordshire

Age Group	East Sub Area	North Sub Area	South Sub Area	West Sub Area	Total (District)
5–15-year-olds	17	22	-31	144	152
16–45-year-olds	5	3	0	20	28
46–75-year-olds	6	3	1	35	45
76–100-year-olds	3	2	2	7	14
Total (5-100-year-olds)	31	29	-29	206	237

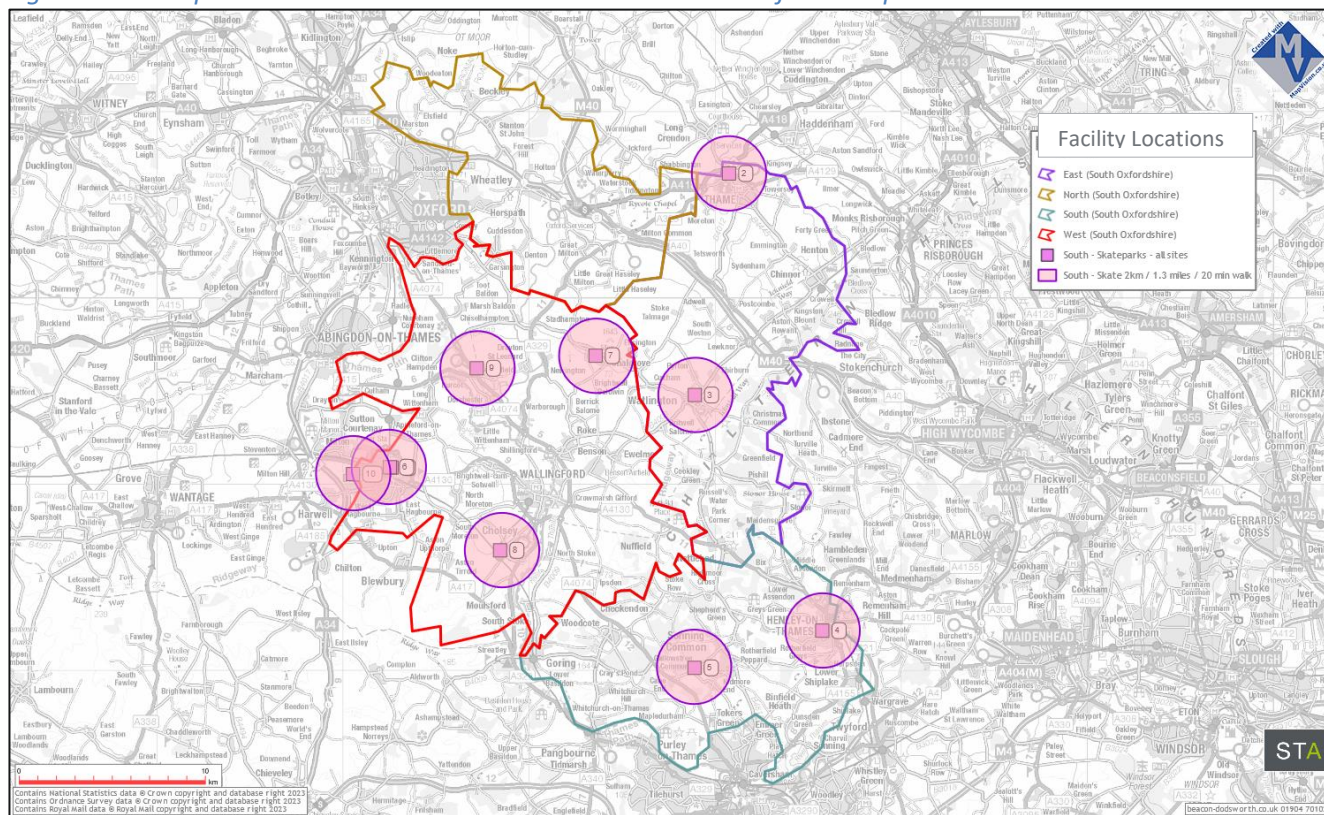
Future demand projections suggest that future demand will be highest for skateboarding in the West sub area, and demand will be highest from children and young people.

16.8 Accessibility

Accessibility is influenced by how far people are willing and able to travel. Appropriate drive or walk-time catchments are applied to facilities to determine accessibility of facilities to different communities. The normal acceptable standard is a 20-minute walk-time for skateboarding. This enables analysis of the adequacy of coverage and helps to identify areas currently not serviced by existing provision.

Figure 16.1 overleaf shows that existing skateparks are located in the largest villages and towns. However, there is no skatepark in Wallingford.

Figure 16.1: Map to show 20-minute walk-time catchment areas for Skateparks



16.9 Planned Developments

There were no planned developments for Skateboarding recorded as part of this study.

16.10 Summary of Skateparks

Key Element (ANOG)	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
<p><u>Quantity</u> – Are there enough facilities with sufficient capacity to meet needs?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are 10 outdoor skateparks in South Oxfordshire – the majority are in the West sub area – but there are no skateparks in the North sub area. Existing skateparks are located in the largest villages and towns. However, there are no skateparks in Wallingford or Chinnor. If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 237 new skateboarders across South Oxfordshire by 2041. Future demand will be highest for skateboarding in the West sub area (206 new skateboarders), and demand will be highest from children and young people (144 new skateboarders). 	<p>New provision in the North sub area, as well as in Chinnor and in Wallingford to meet current and future demand.</p>
<p><u>Quality</u> – Are the facilities fit for purpose for the users?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cholsey Skatepark was installed in 2021 and is therefore in a new condition. 	<p>None.</p>

<p>Do the facilities provide the level of play needed, and does the quality meet the user’s expectations?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The remaining skateparks are ‘Above Average’ quality. The facilities are in a reasonable condition and meet customer expectations; may be older but are fit for purpose and safe. 	
<p><u>Accessibility</u> – Are the facilities in the right physical location for users? Does the cost of using facilities prohibit access?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The normal acceptable standard is a 20-minute walk-time for skateparks in a rural area. • Existing skateparks are located in the largest villages and towns. However, there are no skateparks in the North sub area, in Chinnor or in Wallingford. • All skateparks in the district are free-to-use. 	<p>New provision in the North sub area, as well as in Chinnor and in Wallingford to meet current and future demand.</p>
<p><u>Availability</u> – Are the facilities available to users who want to use them?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skateparks in the district are available for use during daylight hours only. None of the skateparks have sports-lights. 	<p>Install sports-lights where appropriate to increase availability of skateparks.</p>
<p><u>Summary</u> – What provision is required to meet needs and address issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to maintain the current level of provision and capacity for general community use to meet current and future needs of the district. Reduction of overall capacity will have an impact on meeting future population growth of the district. (PROTECT) • To increase the number of hours available for use at existing skateparks, consider installing sports-lights where appropriate. (ENHANCE) • Need to provide new skateparks in the North sub area , in Chinnor and in Wallingford to meet current and future demand. (PROVIDE) 	

17.MULTI USE GAMES AREAS

17.1 Introduction

This section contains a summary of the findings from the needs assessment work for Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) in South Oxfordshire. A MUGA is a purpose-built recreational environment with a surface that is able to accommodate multiple activities, so it can be used by different teams or players without causing too much damage to the surface. The versatility of a MUGA allows people of all ages to enjoy a variety of disciplines, from children’s informal activity and play (such as throwing or catching a ball or play activities) to football, cricket, netball or basketball; this helps encourage more physical activity for those who have limited access to recreational areas.

17.2 Supply

There are 12 MUGAs in South Oxfordshire. The majority of MUGAs (seven) are located in the West sub area. There are two MUGAs in the East sub area and in the North sub area, and one MUGA located in the South sub area. Table 17.1 below shows details of the MUGAs. A map to show the location of these sites is displayed in the Appendices.

Table 17.1: MUGAs in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Sub Area	Community Access	Ownership Type	Management Type
Watlington Sports Ground	East	Open Access	Local Authority	Local Authority
Whites Field, Chinnor		Open Access	Local Authority	Local Authority
Holton Playing Fields	North	Open Access	Local Authority	Local Authority
Little Milton Recreation Ground		Open Access	Local Authority	Local Authority
Memorial Park, Sonning Common	South	Open Access	Local Authority	Local Authority
Bull Croft Park, Wallingford	West	Open Access	Local Authority	Local Authority
Chalgrove Recreation Ground		Open Access	Local Authority	Local Authority
Crowmarsh Gifford Recreation Ground		Open Access	Local Authority	Local Authority
Great Western Drive Park, Didcot		Open Access	Local Authority	Local Authority
Edmonds Park, Didcot		Open Access	Local Authority	Local Authority
Ladygrove Park, Didcot		Open Access	Local Authority	Local Authority
Southern Community Centre, Didcot		Open Access	Local Authority	Local Authority

17.3 Security of Access, Ownership and Management

Of the 12 MUGAs in South Oxfordshire, all 12 are owned and managed by a local authority (Town and Parish councils) and are free-to-use by the community. There are four MUGAs that are sports-lit (Watlington Sports Ground, Little Milton Recreation Ground, Memorial Park in Sonning Common and Crowmarsh Gifford Recreation Ground), but the remaining MUGAs are only available for use during daylight hours.

17.4 Quality of MUGAs

The quality of the MUGAs has been determined by site visits (where undertaken) and supplemented by Council officer knowledge. Table 17.2 below shows details of the maintenance provider and the facility quality rating of each MUGA. Additional information on the assessments is provided in the Technical Appendices.

There are three ‘Good’ quality MUGAs in South Oxfordshire, which are located at Southern Community Centre (Didcot), Memorial Park in Sonning Common and Watlington Sports Ground. These MUGAs are well maintained, clean and well-presented. There is one ‘Above Average’ quality MUGA in South Oxfordshire, at Crowmarsh Gifford Recreation Ground, which is in a reasonable condition, well maintained and fit for purpose.

There are eight MUGAs in South Oxfordshire that are ‘Below Average’ or ‘Poor’ quality. The worst quality MUGAs are located at Little Milton Recreation Ground, Bull Croft Park, Edmonds Park and Ladygrove Park. These MUGAs are worn and/or damaged, barely usable and do not meet basic expectations. The MUGAs at Whites Field, Holton Playing Fields, Chalgrove Recreation Ground and Great Western Drive Park are ‘Below Average’ quality. These facilities are showing signs of age and poor quality (e.g., surfaces are showing signs of wear and tear). The MUGAs are usable but quality could be improved, as they do not meet current expectations.

Table 17.2: Quality of MUGAs in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Sub Area	Community Access	Maintenance Provider	Facility Quality Rating
Watlington Sports Ground	East	Open Access	Local Authority	Good
Whites Field, Chinnor		Open Access	Local Authority	Below Average
Little Milton Recreation Ground	North	Open Access	Local Authority	Poor
Holton Playing Fields		Open Access	Local Authority	Below Average
Memorial Park, Sonning Common	South	Open Access	Local Authority	Good
Bull Croft Park, Wallingford	West	Open Access	Local Authority	Poor
Chalgrove Recreation Ground		Open Access	Local Authority	Below Average
Crowmarsh Gifford Recreation Ground		Open Access	Local Authority	Above Average
Great Western Drive Park, Didcot		Open Access	Community Org.	Below Average
Edmonds Park, Didcot		Open Access	Local Authority	Poor
Ladygrove Park, Didcot		Open Access	Local Authority	Poor
Southern Community Centre, Didcot		Open Access	Local Authority	Good

17.5 Demand (Active Lives)

Sport England Active Lives data does not provide data on specific users of MUGAs. However, it does show that 4.5% of adults (16+ years) in Oxfordshire did ‘Informal Activity and Active Play’ (such as throwing or catching a ball or play activities with children) at least twice in the last 28 days (2021-22).

This is a higher percentage than the county and national averages (4.1% and 3.6% respectively). There is no Active Lives data available at a district level, nor is there data prior to 2021.

17.6 Future Demand

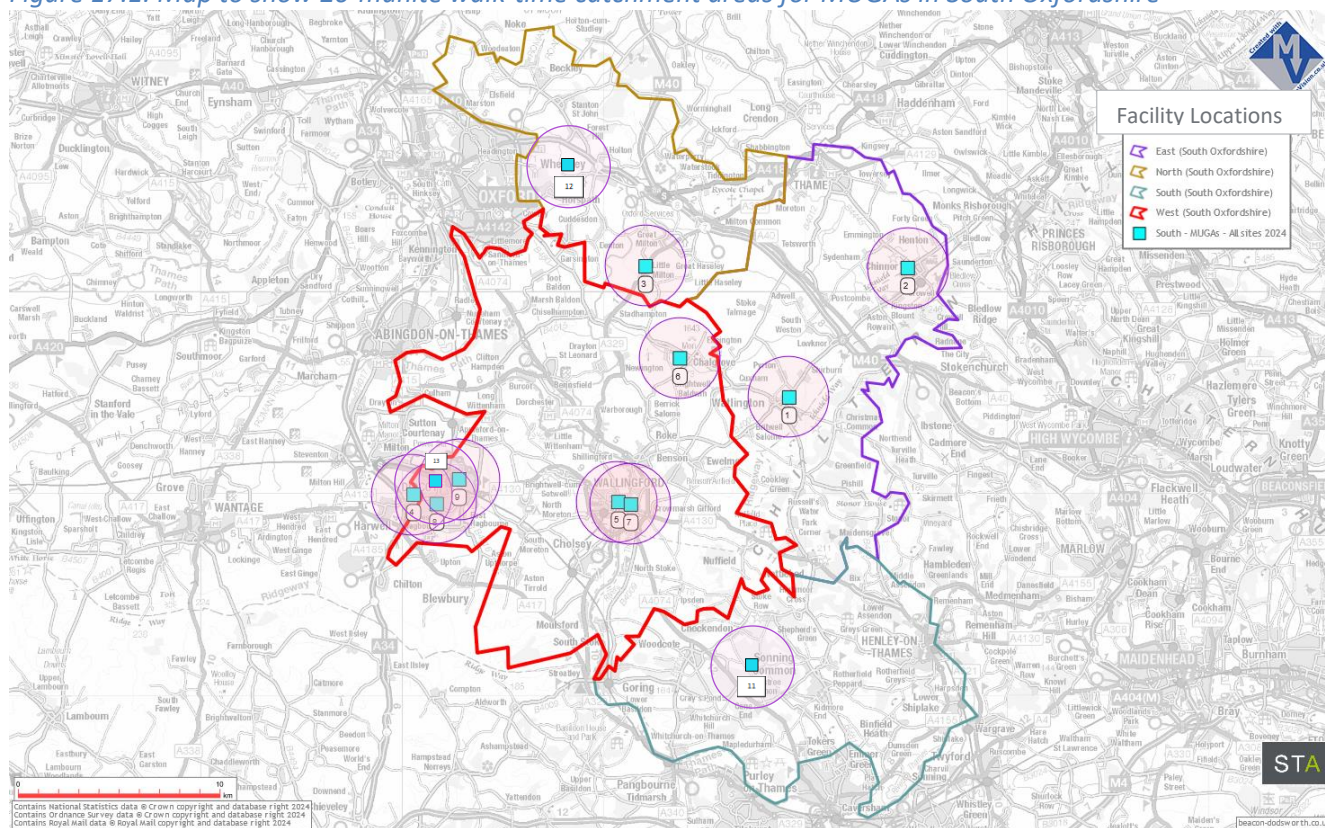
Due to the lack of data available on demand for MUGAs, it has not been possible to provide future demand projections for people using MUGAs in the district.

17.7 Accessibility

Accessibility is influenced by how far people are willing and able to travel. Appropriate drive or walk-time catchments are applied to facilities to determine accessibility of facilities to different communities. The normal acceptable standard is a 20-minute walk-time for a MUGA. This enables analysis of the adequacy of coverage and helps to identify areas currently not serviced by existing provision.

Figure 17.1 below show that there are no MUGAs located in Henley or in Thame.

Figure 17.1: Map to show 20-minute walk-time catchment areas for MUGAs in South Oxfordshire



17.8 Planned Developments

There is one MUGA proposed for developments at Land North of Bayswater Brook.

17.9 Summary of MUGAs

Key Element (ANOG)	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
<p><u>Quantity</u> – Are there enough facilities with sufficient capacity to meet needs?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 12 MUGAs in South Oxfordshire and all are available for the community to use (open-access). There are MUGAs located in all four sub areas. One MUGA proposed for developments at Land North of Bayswater Brook. • Sport England Active Lives data does not provide data on specific users of MUGAs. However, it does show that 4.5% of adults (16+ years) in Oxfordshire did ‘Informal Activity and Active Play’ with children (such as throwing or catching a ball or play activities) at least twice in the last 28 days (2021-22). This is a higher percentage than the county and national averages (4.1% and 3.6% respectively). 	<p>Retain and maintain existing provision to meet current and future demand.</p> <p>Support the MUGA proposed for developments at Land North of Bayswater Brook.</p>
<p><u>Quality</u> – Are the facilities fit for purpose for the users? Do the facilities provide the level of play needed, and does the quality meet the user’s expectations?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three of the MUGAs are ‘Good’ quality (Watlington Sports Ground, Memorial Park in Sonning Common and Southern Community Centre in Didcot) and one MUGA is ‘Above Average’ quality (Crowmarsh Gifford Recreation Ground). • The ‘Poor’ quality MUGAs located at Little Milton Recreation Ground, Bull Croft Park, Edmonds Park and Ladygrove Park. These MUGAs are worn and/or damaged, barely usable and do not meet basic expectations. • The MUGAs at Whites Field, Holton Playing Fields, Chalgrove Recreation Ground and Great Western Drive Park are ‘Below Average’ quality (i.e., usable but quality could be improved, as they do not meet current expectations). • Also consider increasing the number of hours available for use at existing MUGAs by installing sports-lights where appropriate, including; Southern Community Centre, Bull Croft Park, Edmonds Park, Ladygrove Park, Whites Field, Chalgrove Recreation Ground and Great Western Drive Park. 	<p>Improve the condition of MUGAs with open access that are ‘Poor’ or ‘Below Average’ quality. Once improve, consider sports-lighting MUGA at Southern Community Centre, Bull Croft Park, Edmonds Park, Ladygrove Park, Whites Field, Chalgrove Recreation Ground and Great Western Drive Park.</p>
<p><u>Accessibility</u> – Are the facilities in the right physical location for users? Does the cost of using facilities prohibit access?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The normal acceptable standard is a 20-minute walk-time for MUGAs in a rural area. • There are no MUGAs in Henley or Thame. 	<p>New provision in Henley and in Thame to meet current and future demand.</p>
<p><u>Availability</u> – Are the facilities available to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of the 12 open-access MUGAs in South Oxfordshire, there are four MUGAs that are sports-lit (Watlington Sports Ground, Little Milton 	<p>Install sports-lights where appropriate (i.e., demand identified) to</p>

<p>users who want to use them?</p>	<p>Recreation Ground, Memorial Park in Sonning Common and Crowmarsh Gifford Recreation Ground). The remaining MUGAs in the district are available for use during daylight hours only.</p>	<p>increase availability of MUGAs.</p>
<p><u>Summary</u> – What provision is required to meet needs and address issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to maintain the current level of provision and capacity for general community use to meet current and future needs of the district. Reduction of overall capacity will have an impact on meeting future population growth of the district. (PROTECT) • Consider improving the condition of MUGAs with open access that are ‘Poor’ or ‘Below Average’ quality, including; Little Milton Recreation Ground, Bull Croft Park, Edmonds Park, Ladygrove Park, Whites Field, Holton Playing Fields, Chalgrove Recreation Ground and Louie Memorial Playing Fields. (ENHANCE) • Consider increasing the number of hours available for use at existing MUGAs by installing sports-lights where appropriate, including; Southern Community Centre, Bull Croft Park, Edmonds Park, Ladygrove Park, Whites Field, Holton Playing Fields, Chalgrove Recreation Ground and Great Western Drive Park. (ENHANCE) • Provide new MUGAs in Henley and in Thame to address the gaps in provision. (PROVIDE) 	

18. PARKOUR PROVISION

18.1 Introduction

This section contains a summary of the findings from the needs assessment work for parkour provision in South Oxfordshire. Parkour UK are the NGB for the sport, which is primarily a non-competitive physical discipline of training to move freely over and through any terrain using only the abilities of the body, principally through running, jumping, climbing and quadrupedal movement.

Parkour provision may be indoor (with high ceilings and a part sprung floor, static bars and box equipment) or outdoor. Generally an outdoor training area would have a spongy floor (i.e., rubbery material – the same as in a children’s Play Area) and have posts, metal bars and concrete walls/ramps installed.

Both indoor and outdoor training areas have their own benefits. When indoors, the equipment is moveable and allows for teaching from a young age safely, altering the configuration of equipment to suit the age and ability of the students. When outdoors, the equipment is fixed yet this makes a student more creative. They can use the same three pieces of equipment over and over but have to change the way they get from A to B each time pushing their imagination, skill and ability.

18.2 Supply

There are no parkour facilities in South Oxfordshire. The closest indoor parkour provision is located at the Pump House in Faringdon (Vale of White Horse) and at Oxford Academy in Littlemore (Oxford City). There is also indoor parkour provision in Rickmansworth and Milton Keynes.

The closest outdoor parkour areas to residents of South Oxfordshire are located in Salisbury, Southampton, London and Cardiff. There is also an outdoor parkour area in Swindon, however it has been described by users of The Pump House in Faringdon as unsuitable for parkour due to poor design and configuration of the equipment.

18.3 Demand (Active Lives)

The latest Sport England Active Lives data for England and the South East region shows there was no change in the percentage of adults (16+ year olds) participating in parkour at least twice in the last 28 days between 2016 and 2022. There is no Active Lives data available for parkour at a county or district level, nor for children and young people (5–15-year-olds).

Table 18.1: Change in % participation by activity, age and area

Activity and Age Group	South East (Region)	England (Nation)
Parkour at least twice in the last 28 days - adults (16+ years): percentage change between 2016 and 2022.	No change	No change
Parkour once or more a week - children and young people (5-15 years): percentage change between 2018 and 2022	Unavailable	Unavailable

Source: Sport England: Active Lives (2016-22)

18.4 Demand (NGB Consultation)

Parkour UK is the NGB for Parkour/Freerunning in the UK. Since 2009, the organisation has existed to serve the wide spectrum of the parkour community. It aims to support and develop Parkour/Freerunning in the UK, and to make the benefits of the sport accessible to any and all who want to learn.

Parkour UK has a Strategic Plan ([‘Moving with Purpose’](#)), which shares the intentions of Parkour UK through 5 clear objectives designed to build a sustainable and resilient future for the sport:

- Grow our community – Increasing the number of qualified coaches, growing the number of communities and practitioners and sharing best practice and sustainable models.
- Communicate, educate and influence – Influence and advocacy, a media and communications strategy and Parkour parks and facility guidance.
- Maximise culture and commercial opportunities – Leveraging investment for social, health and wellbeing interventions, and working with the leisure operator, health & fitness sector.
- Build our capacity and resources – Securing continued capacity investment for a core team, working in partnership with other lifestyle sports and leveraging external investment through commercial and social partnerships.
- Insight and impact – Developing an efficient and effective way of capturing participation data and understanding the community (workforce and participants).

Parkour UK does not have a Club/Regional/National infrastructure to collate data on participants because it doesn’t reflect the inherent structure in the parkour community. The NGB has advised that support should be given to develop groups and coaches who live in South Oxfordshire. The NGB is unaware of any groups or coaches in the area.

18.5 Future Demand

To estimate the number of people likely to participate in parkour regularly in the future, the projected increase in population for each sub area (from 2023 to 2041) has been provided by Oxfordshire County Council (2023). Together with the latest Active Lives participation rates, the likely number of new parkour participants across the district has been generated.

Active Lives data (2022) for the South East region shows that 0.2% of adults (16+ year olds) participated in parkour at least twice in the last 28 days. There is no Active Lives data available for children and young people (5-to-16-year-olds) and therefore an assumption of 6.4% has been made for the purpose of the work, which is the participation rate for indoor climbing (once or more in the last week) in the South East region (Active Lives, 2022).

If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 302 new people participating in parkour across South Oxfordshire by 2041. A breakdown of future demand by sub area and age group has been provided in Table 18.2 overleaf.

Table 18.2: Future demand for Parkour in South Oxfordshire

Age Group	East Sub Area	North Sub Area	South Sub Area	West Sub Area	Total (District)
5–15-year-olds	24	31	-45	204	214
16–45-year-olds	5	3	0	20	28
46–75-year-olds	6	3	1	35	45
76–100-year-olds	3	2	2	7	14
Total (5-100-year-olds)	39	38	-42	267	302

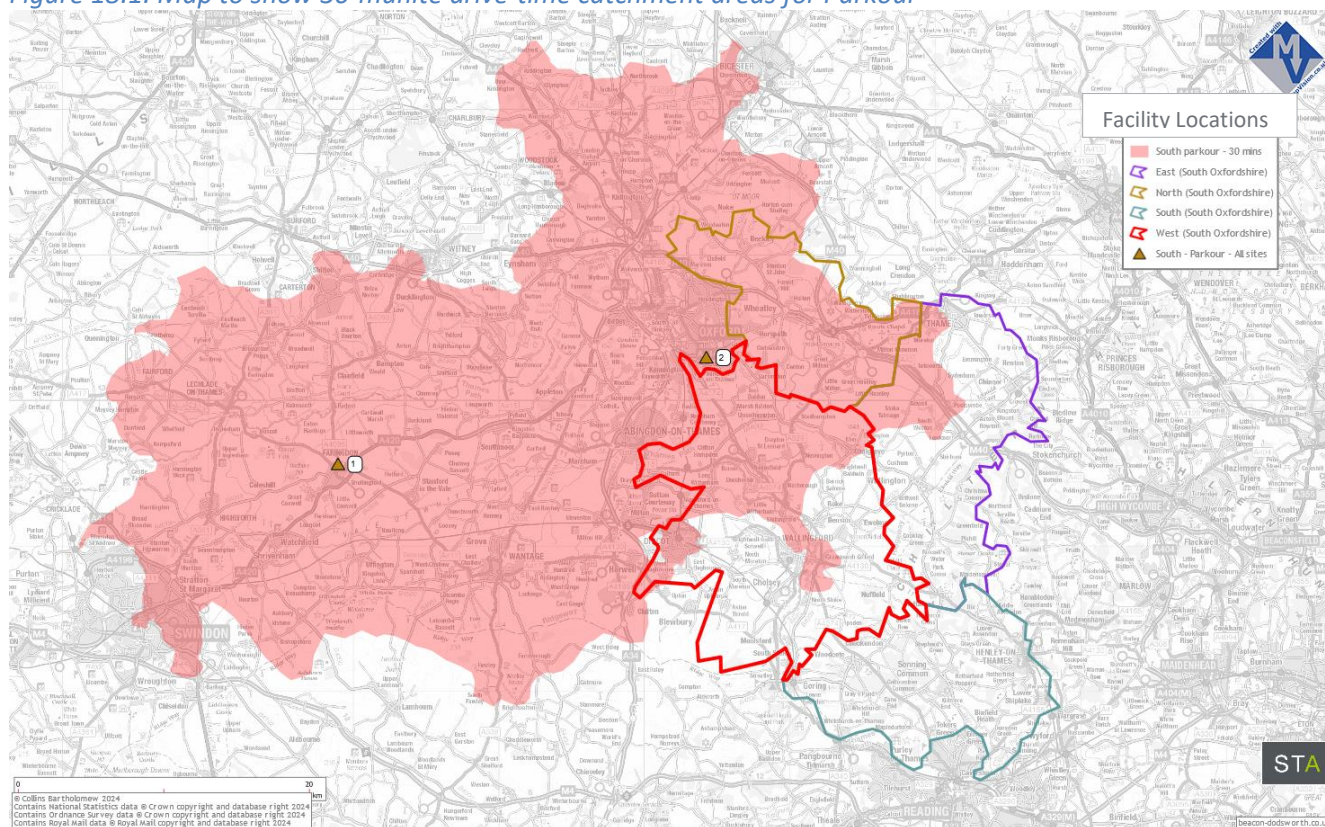
Future demand projections suggest that future demand will be highest for parkour in the West sub area, and demand will be highest from children and young people.

18.6 Accessibility

Accessibility is influenced by how far people are willing and able to travel. Appropriate drive or walk-time catchments are applied to facilities to determine accessibility of facilities to different communities. The normal acceptable standard is a 30-minute drive-time for parkour. This enables analysis of the adequacy of coverage and helps to identify areas currently not serviced by existing provision.

Figure 18.1 below shows that the majority of residents in the West and North sub areas are within a 30-minute drive-time of the existing parkour provision at Oxford Academy in Littlemore. However, the majority of residents in the East and South sub areas are more than a 30-minute drive-time from parkour provision in Faringdon, Rickmansworth and Milton Keynes.

Figure 18.1: Map to show 30-minute drive-time catchment areas for Parkour



18.7 Planned Developments

No planned developments for parkour in South Oxfordshire were identified as part of this study.

18.8 Summary of Parkour Provision

Key Element (ANOG)	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
<p><u>Quantity</u> – Are there enough facilities with sufficient capacity to meet needs?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no parkour facilities in South Oxfordshire. The closest facilities are located in Littlemore (Oxford City), Faringdon (Vale), Rickmansworth and Milton Keynes. If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 302 new parkour participants across South Oxfordshire by 2041. Future demand will be highest for parkour in the West sub area (267 new participants), and demand will be highest from children and young people (204 new participants). 	<p>Provide new provision to meet current and future demand.</p>
<p><u>Quality</u> – Are the facilities fit for purpose for the users? Do the facilities provide the level of play needed, and does the quality meet the user’s expectations?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no parkour facilities in South Oxfordshire. 	<p>None.</p>
<p><u>Accessibility</u> – Are the facilities in the right physical location for users? Does the cost of using facilities prohibit access?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The normal acceptable standard is a 30-minute drive-time for parkour provision in a rural area. The majority of residents in the West and North sub areas are within a 30-minute drive-time of the existing parkour provision at Oxford Academy in Littlemore. However, the majority of residents in the East and South sub areas are more than a 30-minute drive-time from parkour provision in Faringdon, Rickmansworth and Milton Keynes. 	<p>Provide new provision to meet current and future demand.</p>
<p><u>Availability</u> – Are the facilities available to users who want to use them?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no parkour facilities in South Oxfordshire. 	<p>New indoor / outdoor parkour provision to meet current and future demand.</p>
<p><u>Summary</u> – What provision is required to meet needs and address issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to support a parkour group in providing new parkour provision to meet current needs and future demand in South Oxfordshire. (PROVIDE) 	

19. CLIMBING WALLS

19.1 Introduction

This section contains a summary of the findings from the needs assessment work for climbing walls in South Oxfordshire. A climbing wall is an artificially constructed wall with grips for hands and feet, usually used for indoor climbing, but sometimes located outdoors. Some are brick or wooden constructions, but on most modern walls, the material most often used is a thick multiplex board with holes drilled into it. Recently, manufactured steel and aluminium have also been used. The wall may have places to attach belay ropes, but may also be used to practice lead climbing or bouldering.

19.2 Supply

There are no climbing walls (indoor or outdoor) in South Oxfordshire. However, there are four indoor climbing centres located in neighbouring authorities; Oxford, Reading (two centres), Newbury and High Wycombe.

Brookes Sport Climbing Wall in Headington is owned and managed by Oxford Brookes University. The climbing wall have been developed in former squash courts.

The Climbing Hangar and Partian Climbing Centre are both located in Reading on trading estates in warehouse units, which are leased by privately-owned companies specialising in the operation of climbing walls.

The Northway Climbing Centre in Newbury is located in a former residential building (Northway House) and also managed by a climbing specialist operator.

Wycombe Climbing Wall is located at Wycombe Leisure Centre, which is owned by the local authority and operated by Places Leisure Limited.

Table 19.1: Indoor Climbing Centres in neighbouring authorities

Site Name	Sub Area	Community Access	Ownership Type	Management Type
Oxford Brookes University	N/a	Public	Education	Education
The Climbing Hangar, Reading	N/a	Public	Commercial	Specialist Operator
Partian Climbing Centre, Reading	N/a	Public	Commercial	Specialist Operator
Northway Climbing Centre, Newbury	N/a	Public	Commercial	Specialist Operator
Wycombe Climbing Wall	N/a	Public	Commercial	Specialist Operator

There is also a climbing wall at Wallingford School, however; it is not used by the community and only used by the school.

19.3 Security of Access, Ownership and Management

All five of the neighbouring climbing centres have dedicated indoor facilities with permanent equipment set-up for climbing. All centres have climbing walls that are both dedicated to lead climbing (high, with ropes) and bouldering (shorter, with no ropes).

They also have extensive opening hours (typically 10:00-22:00 on weekdays and 09:00-18:00 at weekends) and offer ‘pay and play’ sessions (£11-£20) and monthly memberships (£22-£40). All centres offer public access with a range of introduction sessions to all ages of the community, and run skills and coaching sessions.

19.4 Quality of Climbing Walls

The quality of the neighbouring climbing walls has not been assessed as part of this study. However, the climbing centres in Reading and Newbury have opened in the last five years and are therefore likely to be of ‘Good’ quality (i.e., facilities are welcoming, new or well maintained, fit for purpose and attractive to use).

19.5 Demand (Active Lives)

The latest Sport England Active Lives data shows a decrease of 0.1% adults (16+ year olds) using a bouldering or climbing wall at least twice in the last 28 days between 2017 and 2022 across the South East region, which is equal to the average for England. Participation of children and young people (5–15-year-olds) participating once or more a week in indoor climbing decreased by 0.2% between 2018 and 2022 in the South East region. There is no Active Lives data available at a county or district level.

Table 19.2: Change in % participation by activity, age and area

Activity and Age Group	South East (Region)	England (Nation)
Use of a bouldering or climbing wall at least twice in the last 28 days - adults (16+ years): percentage change between 2017 and 2022.	-0.1	-0.1
Indoor climbing once or more a week - children and young people (5-15 years): percentage change between 2018 and 2022	-0.2	-0.4

Source: Sport England: Active Lives (2018-22 & 2016-22)

19.6 Demand (NGB Consultation)

The British Mountaineering Council (BMC) is the NGB that works with key partners to build a fully inclusive, participant-focussed network of opportunities that support the enjoyment of climbing activities by a broad and diverse demographic. The BMC’s latest [Strategic Plan](#) (2020-2024) is to provide indoor climbers with resources, events and training opportunities for climbers of all levels of skill and aspiration. It will work with delivery partners Mountain Training, Plas y Brenin, Association of British Climbing Walls (ABC) and ABC Training Trust to develop and promote training opportunities for climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers.

The ABC publishes and maintains a collection of guideline documents with the intention of ensuring an excellent and consistent level of operational safety across the climbing industry. The ABC guidelines outline a series of industry standards and make recommendations based on the experience of ABC members and relevant legislation and publications. ABC membership is open to all climbing walls that are able to commit to some simple safe operational procedures. There are three different types of membership available with the ABC:

- Associate – for organisations and companies with links to the climbing wall industry, who would like to work with us or our audience, or who would benefit from access to ABC updates and guidelines (e.g. Technical Advisors, Manufacturers).
- Aspirant – this is for new members and newly established walls. This membership type is limited to one year, after which you will need to fill in a self-audit in order to become an Approved member.
- Approved – full membership for commercial climbing and bouldering walls.

Of the five neighbouring climbing centres, Brookes Sport Climbing Centre and Partian Climbing Centre in Reading are members of ABC (both have Aspirant memberships).

19.7 Future Demand

To estimate the number of people likely to participant in indoor climbing regularly in the future, the projected increase in population for each sub area (from 2023 to 2041) has been provided by Oxfordshire County Council (2023). Together with the latest Active Lives participation rates, the likely number of new people regularly climbing across the district has been generated.

Active Lives data (2022) for the South East shows that 0.3% of adults (16+ year olds) used a bouldering or climbing wall at least twice in the last 28 days. For children and young people (5-to-16-year-olds), 6.4% participant in indoor climbing once or more in the last week (Active Lives, 2022).

If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 345 new climbers across South Oxfordshire by 2041. A breakdown of future demand by sub area and age group has been provided in Table 19.3 below.

Table 19.3: Future demand for using a bouldering or climbing wall in South Oxfordshire

Age Group	East Sub Area	North Sub Area	South Sub Area	West Sub Area	Total (District)
5–15-year-olds	24	31	-45	204	214
16–45-year-olds	8	4	-1	30	41
46–75-year-olds	10	4	1	53	68
76–100-year-olds	4	3	3	10	20
Total (5-100-year-olds)	46	42	-41	298	345

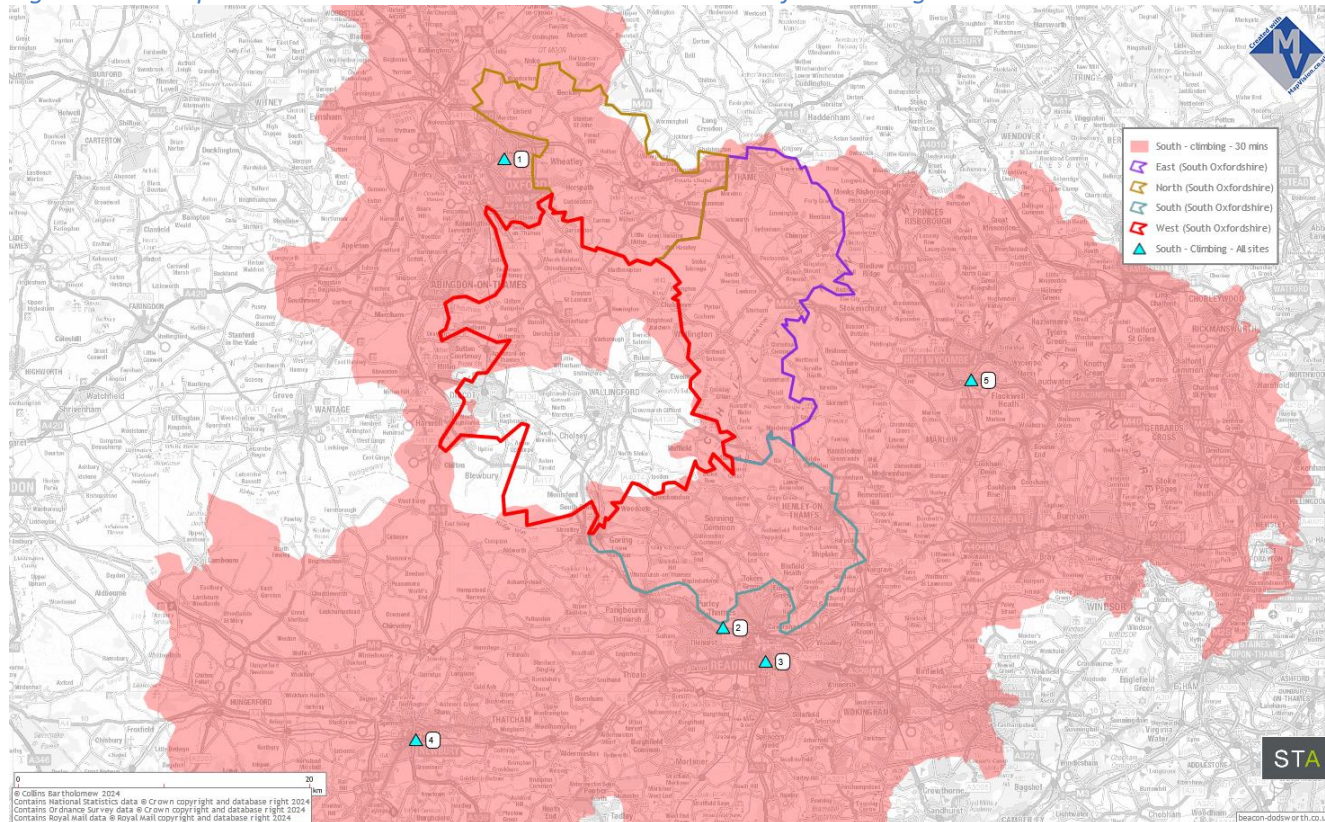
Future demand projections suggest that future demand will be highest for indoor climbing in the West sub area, and demand will be highest from children and young people.

19.8 Accessibility

Accessibility is influenced by how far people are willing and able to travel. Appropriate drive or walk-time catchments are applied to facilities to determine accessibility of facilities to different communities. The normal acceptable standard is a 30-minute drive-time for indoor climbing. This enables analysis of the adequacy of coverage and helps to identify areas currently not serviced by existing provision.

Figure 19.1 overleaf shows that the majority of residents in South Oxfordshire are within a 30-minute drive-time of the existing climbing walls in Oxford, Reading, Newbury and High Wycombe.

Figure 19.1: Map to show 30-minute drive-time catchment areas for Climbing Walls



19.9 Planned Developments

There is a new indoor climbing centre due to open in Oxford in late 2023. The Gallery on Marston Street will offer similar provision to that of the climbing centres in Reading and Newbury (i.e., dedicated indoor climbing walls, operated by a specialist climbing company; offering ‘pay and play’ public access and memberships).

19.10 Summary of Climbing Walls

Key Element (ANOG)	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
<p><u>Quantity</u> – Are there enough facilities with sufficient capacity to meet needs?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no climbing walls in South Oxfordshire. However, it is likely that residents of South Oxfordshire are using the five indoor climbing centres in neighbouring authorities; Oxford, Reading (two centres), Newbury and High Wycombe. There is also a new climbing centre due to open in Oxford in late 2023. • If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 345 new climbers across South Oxfordshire by 2041. • Future demand will be highest for climbing in the West sub area (298 new participants), and demand will be highest from children and young people (204 new participants). 	<p>New provision in the district to meet current and future demand.</p>

<p><u>Quality</u> – Are the facilities fit for purpose for the users? Do the facilities provide the level of play needed, and does the quality meet the user’s expectations?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No climbing walls were assessed as part of this study. However, the climbing centres in Newbury and Reading opened in the last five years and are therefore likely to be ‘Good’ quality (i.e., facilities are welcoming, new or well maintained, fit for purpose and attractive to use). 	<p>None.</p>
<p><u>Accessibility</u> – Are the facilities in the right physical location for users? Does the cost of using facilities prohibit access?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The normal acceptable standard is a 30-minute drive-time for climbing walls in a rural area. The majority of residents in South Oxfordshire are within a 30-minute drive-time of the existing climbing wall in Oxford, Reading, Newbury and High Wycombe. All neighbouring climbing centres offer ‘pay and play’ public access to entry-level sessions (£11-£20) and monthly memberships (£22-£40) for regular users. 	<p>New provision in the district to meet current demand (people are travelling outside of the district to access provision).</p>
<p><u>Availability</u> – Are the facilities available to users who want to use them?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All neighbouring centres have extensive opening hours (typically 10:00-22:00 on weekdays and 09:00-18:00 at weekends) with permanent equipment set-up for climbing. It is likely that facilities are available to users that want to use them. 	<p>None.</p>
<p><u>Summary</u> – What provision is required to meet needs and address issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to provide new climbing wall provision in the district to meet current demand (people are travelling outside of the district to access provision) and future demand (projected to be highest in the West sub area). (PROVIDE) 	

20. HORSE RIDING CENTRES

20.1 Introduction

This section contains a summary of the findings from the needs assessment work for horse-riding centres in South Oxfordshire. A horse-riding centre is an equestrian facility created and maintained for the purpose of accommodating, training or competing equids, especially horses. Based on their use, they may be known as a barn, stables, or riding hall and may include commercial operations described by terms such as a boarding stable, livery yard, or livery stable.

20.2 Supply

There are seven horse-riding centres in South Oxfordshire – at least one in each sub area. The majority (three centres) are located in the South sub area and two centres are in the West sub area.

Table 20.1: Horse-riding centres in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Sub Area	Community Access	Ownership Type	Management Type
Henton Stables	East	Public	Private	Commercial
Waterstock Training Centre	North	Public	Private	Commercial
Checkendon Equestrian	South	Public	Private	Commercial
Huntercombe End		Public	Private	Commercial
Wyfold Group		Public	Private	Commercial
Conway Equestrian	West	Public	Private	Commercial
Garsington Group		Public	Private	Commercial

20.3 Security of Access, Ownership and Management

There is public access to all seven horse-riding centres in South Oxfordshire. The centres are located on privately-owned land and are commercially operated to offer horse-riding lessons to the community.

The average cost of a private lesson in South Oxfordshire is £57 for a 45-minutes and for a group lesson it is £31 for 45-minutes.

20.4 Quality of Horse-Riding Centres

The quality of the horse-riding centres was not assessed as part of this study.

20.5 Demand (Active Lives)

The latest Sport England Active Lives data shows an increase of 0.1% adults (16+ year olds) horse-riding at least twice in the last 28 days between 2016 and 2022 across the South East region, whereas the national average remained the same. Participation of children and young people (5–15-year-olds) participating once or more a

week in horse-riding increased by 0.6% in the South East region between 2018 and 2022. There is no Active Lives data available at a county or district level.

Table 20.3: Change in % participation by activity, age and area

Activity and Age Group	South East (Region)	England (Nation)
Horse-riding at least twice in the last 28 days - adults (16+ years): percentage change between 2016 and 2022.	0.1	No change
Horse-riding once or more a week - children and young people (5-15 years): percentage change between 2018 and 2022	0.6	0.1

Source: Sport England: Active Lives (2018-22 & 2016-22)

20.6 Demand (NGB Consultation)

British Equestrian is the NGB for horse sports in the UK. It exists to provide leadership, vision and purpose in steering the direction of equestrianism. British Equestrian is responsible for distributing government funding to the equestrian sports. Funding from UK Sport and Sport England supports British Equestrian’s work, from developing elite riders aiming to win medals for Great Britain to encouraging complete beginners from a range of backgrounds to get involved.

British Equestrian’s latest [Strategy](#) (2020-24) aims to understand the benefits of equestrianism to people and use this to engage effectively with funders, partners and current and potential participants. By connecting people to riding centres, schools, clubs and equestrian sporting organisations, it will work to encourage new and continued involvement in equestrianism throughout people’s lives and to ensure a sustainable and thriving equestrian industry to support this.

In 2022, British Equestrian and its partners (including British Horse Society (BHS) and the Association of British Riding Schools) sent a comprehensive survey to nearly 1,700 riding centres in the UK to investigate capacity, facilities, staffing and activities provided, as well as the main challenges faced around viability, costs, marketing and profitability, and the impact of Covid on these factors. Responses were received from 311 centres across the UK, representing around 25% of member body affiliated centres.

The standout message from the centres was they are in the midst of a supply and demand predicament, which is both a positive and negative. Interest in riding remains buoyant, but over two thirds of centres are currently struggling to keep up with enquiries and take on new clients, creating a barrier to increasing participation.

Conversely, on average, centres are running at 75% capacity due to issues around workforce, both paid and volunteer, suitable and affordable horsepower, and skyrocketing costs. Over 70% reported that these issues have been further exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic, compounded by an average of 62% reduction of income since the lockdowns of 2020 and 2021 were in place.

Another challenge having an impact on some businesses is licensing requirements and processes. The costs, complexity and time involved are considerable, and this is a source of frustration for some of the centre proprietors who responded to the survey.

An update for 2023 is currently being run by British Equestrian, and although research data is only analysed at a national level, British Equestrian has confirmed that it is a fair reflection on the issues faced by horse-riding centres in South Oxfordshire.

20.7 Future Demand

To estimate the number of people likely to horse-ride regularly in the future, the projected increase in population for each sub area (from 2023 to 2041) has been provided by Oxfordshire County Council (2023). Together with the latest Active Lives participation rates, the likely number of new people regularly horse-riding across the district has been generated.

Active Lives data (2022) for the South East region shows that 0.3% of adults (16+ year olds) participated in horse-riding at least twice in the last 28 days. For children and young people (5-to-16-year-olds), 3.6% participated in horse-riding once or more in the last week (Active Lives, 2022).

If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 249 new horse-riders across South Oxfordshire by 2041. A breakdown of future demand by sub area and age group has been provided in Table 20.4 below.

Table 20.4: Future demand for Horse-Riding in South Oxfordshire

Age Group	East Sub Area	North Sub Area	South Sub Area	West Sub Area	Total (District)
5–15-year-olds	14	17	-25	115	121
16–45-year-olds	8	4	-1	30	41
46–75-year-olds	10	4	1	53	68
76–100-year-olds	4	3	3	10	20
Total (5-100-year-olds)	35	28	-22	208	249

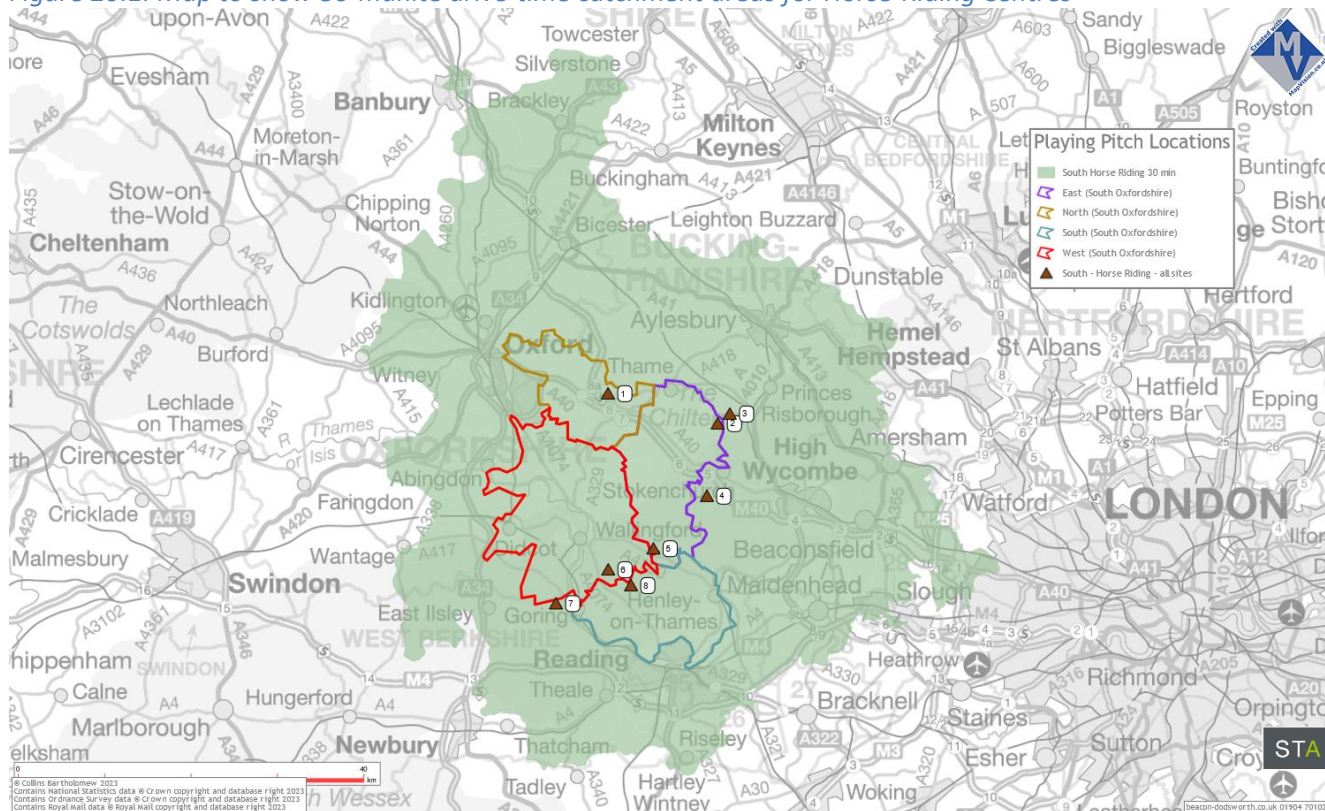
Future demand projections suggest that future demand will be highest for horse-riding in the West sub area, and demand will be highest from children and young people.

20.8 Accessibility

Accessibility is influenced by how far people are willing and able to travel. Appropriate drive or walk-time catchments are applied to facilities to determine accessibility of facilities to different communities. The normal acceptable standard is a 30-minute drive-time for horse-riding centres. This enables analysis of the adequacy of coverage and helps to identify areas currently not serviced by existing provision.

Figure 20.1 overleaf shows that the majority of residents in South Oxfordshire are within a 30-minute drive-time of existing horse-riding centres.

Figure 20.1: Map to show 30-minute drive-time catchment areas for Horse-Riding Centres



20.9 Planned Developments

There were no planned developments for horse-riding recorded as part of this study.

20.10 Summary of Horse-Riding Centres

Key Element (ANOG)	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
<p><u>Quantity</u> – Are there enough facilities with sufficient capacity to meet needs?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are seven horse-riding centres in South Oxfordshire – at least one in each sub area. The majority (three centres) are located in the South sub area and two centres are in the West sub area. • British Equestrian research data shows over two-thirds of centres are currently struggling to keep up with enquiries and take on new clients, creating a barrier to increasing participation. • If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 249 new horse-riders across South Oxfordshire by 2041. • Future demand will be highest for horse-riding in the West sub area (208 new participants), and demand will be highest from children and young people (115 new participants). 	<p>Retain and maintain existing provision to meet current and future demand.</p>

<p><u>Quality</u> – Are the facilities fit for purpose for the users? Do the facilities provide the level of play needed, and does the quality meet the user’s expectations?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The horse-riding facilities were not assessed as part of this study. 	<p>None.</p>
<p><u>Accessibility</u> – Are the facilities in the right physical location for users? Does the cost of using facilities prohibit access?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The normal acceptable standard is a 30-minute drive-time for horse-riding in a rural area. • The majority of residents in South Oxfordshire are within a 30-minute drive-time of the existing horse-riding centre. • The cost for a horse-riding lesson is on average £57 for a private lesson and £31 for a group riding session (45-minutes). 	<p>None.</p>
<p><u>Availability</u> – Are the facilities available to users who want to use them?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • British Equestrian research data shows over two-thirds of centres are currently struggling to keep up with enquiries and take on new clients, creating a barrier to increasing participation. • Conversely, on average, centres are running at 75% capacity due to issues around workforce, both paid and volunteer, suitable and affordable horsepower, and skyrocketing costs. 	<p>Support horse-riding centres in addressing capacity issues, particularly in the North and East sub areas (where there is only one horse-riding centre in each of these sub area) and in the West sub area (where future demand is highest).</p>
<p><u>Summary</u> – What provision is required to meet needs and address issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to maintain the current level of provision and capacity for general community use to meet current and future needs of the district. Reduction of overall capacity will have an impact on meeting future population growth of the district. (PROTECT) • Need to support existing horse-riding centres in addressing capacity issues caused by a lack of suitable workforce, horsepower and costs. Particularly in the West sub area where there are only two horse-riding centres and where future demand is highest. (ENHANCE) 	

21. GOLF FACILITIES

21.1 Introduction

This section contains a summary of the findings from the needs assessment work for golf provision in South Oxfordshire. This consists of 18-hole courses, driving ranges and Par-3 (practice / coaching) courses.

21.2 Supply

There are 12 golf courses in South Oxfordshire – at least one in each sub area. The South sub area has the most provision, including Greys Green Golf Course, which has an 18-hole golf course, 9-hole Par 3 and a driving range. The only other site in the district with all three types of provision is Hadden Hill Golf Course (West sub area).

There is only one golf site in each of the East and the North sub areas (Oxfordshire Hotel Golf & Spa and Waterstock Golf Club), which both have an 18-hole golf course and driving range but no Par 3 course.

Table 21.1: Golf courses in South Oxfordshire

Site Name	Sub Area	Facility Type	Community Access	Ownership Type	Management Type
Oxfordshire Hotel Golf & Spa	East	18-hole Course	Membership only	Commercial	Commercial Management
		Driving Range	Pay and Play	Commercial	Commercial Management
Waterstock Golf Club	North	18-hole Course	Pay and Play	Commercial	Commercial Management
		Driving Range	Pay and Play	Commercial	Commercial Management
Badgemore Park	South	18-hole Course	Pay and Play	Commercial	Commercial Management
Greys Green Golf Course		18-hole Course	Pay and Play	Commercial	Commercial Management
		18-hole Course	Pay and Play	Commercial	Commercial Management
		Par 3	Pay and Play	Commercial	Commercial Management
		Driving Range	Pay and Play	Commercial	Commercial Management
		Henley Golf Club	18-hole Course	Membership only	Golf Club
Huntercombe Golf Club		18-hole Course	Pay and Play	Golf Club	Golf Club
The Caversham (Reading Golf Club)		18-hole Course	Pay and Play	Golf Club	Golf Club
	Driving Range	Pay and Play	Golf Club	Golf Club	

The Club at Mapledurham		18-hole Course	Pay and Play	Commercial	Commercial Management
The Oratory School Sports Centre		Par 3	Pay and Play	Education	Education
Hadden Hill Golf Course	West	18-hole Course	Pay and Play	Golf Club	Golf Club
		Driving Range	Pay and Play	Golf Club	Golf Club
		Par 3	Pay and Play	Golf Club	Golf Club
RAF Benson Golf Course		18-hole Course	Membership only	MOD	MOD
The Springs Golf Club		18-hole Course	Pay and Play	Commercial	Commercial Management

21.3 Security of Access, Ownership and Management

There are four sites owned and managed by the golf club (Henley Golf Club, Huntercombe Golf Club, The Caversham (Reading Golf Club) and Hadden Hill Golf Course). All other golf provision in South Oxfordshire is located on privately-owned (education, MoD or commercial) land.

There is public access (ie, ‘pay and play’) to nine of the 12 golf sites in South Oxfordshire. These facilities have extensive opening hours (ie, daylight hours) and offer junior coaching programs, junior team play, Ladies team play, Golf Professional /shop, club and social activities, internal and external competitions (e.g., club medals, inter-club tournaments etc). The cost for a round of 18-holes at these three golf sites is £25-£35 per round for adults and £12-£16 for juniors (under 18s).

In the East sub area, the only golf site is at Oxfordshire Hotel Golf & Spa, which has an 18-hole course and driving range. This is one of three members-only clubs (ie, no ‘pay and play’) in the district; Henley Golf Club (South sub area) and RAF Benson Golf Course (West sub area) are the other two, which have 18-hole courses only.

21.4 Quality of Golf facilities

The quality of the golf courses was not assessed as part of this study.

21.5 Demand (Active Lives)

The latest Sport England Active Lives data shows an increase of 0.1% adults (16+ year olds) playing golf at least twice in the last 28 days between 2016 and 2022 across the South East region, whereas the national average remained the same. Participation of children and young people (5–15-year-olds) participating once or more a week in golf increased by 0.6% in the South East region between 2018 and 2022. There is no Active Lives data available at a county or district level.

Table 21.3: Change in % participation by activity, age and area

Activity and Age Group	South East (Region)	England (Nation)
Playing golf at least twice in the last 28 days - adults (16+ years): percentage change between 2016 and 2022.	0.1	No change
Playing golf once or more a week - children and young people (5-15 years): percentage change between 2018 and 2022	0.6	0.1

Source: Sport England: Active Lives (2018-22 & 2016-22)

21.6 Demand (NGB Consultation)

In 2022, England Golf published its [sustainability plan](#) and pledged to lead and inspire the golfing community in vital efforts to protect and preserve the environment. In line with the 2021-2025 [‘Course Planner’ strategy](#), building for a sustainable future lies at the very heart of England Golf’s operations and has been laid out in this clear, bold vision for the future.

Every sector of society, including the golf industry, is feeling the harmful effects of climate change, resource scarcity and tighter regulations. As the national governing body for the club and amateur game in this country, England Golf will take a leading role in engaging and educating golfers, clubs, counties and stakeholders on the benefits of embracing sustainable methods.

England Golf has developed a new ‘Mapping Tool’, which Identifies the size and make-up of the golfing market within selected drive times from a central point. The golf profiles explain the wants and needs of individuals, showing the demand levels within those catchments. By combining this information, it helps to build a case which demonstrates supply and demand within the local area. The analysis can be provided at local authority level and down to postcode sector, and can be used to support multiple types of planning enquiries.

21.7 Future Demand

To estimate the number of people likely to play golf regularly in the future, the projected increase in population for each sub area (from 2023 to 2041) has been provided by Oxfordshire County Council (2023). Together with the latest Active Lives participation rates, the likely number of new people regularly playing golf across the district has been generated.

Active Lives data shows that 2.9% of adults (16+ year olds) participated in golf at least twice in the last 28 days. For children and young people (5-to-16-year-olds), 0.5% participated in golf once or more in the last week.

If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 1,412 new golfers across South Oxfordshire by 2041. A breakdown of future demand by sub area and age group has been provided in Table 21.4 overleaf.

Table 21.4: Future demand for Golf in South Oxfordshire

Age Group	East Sub Area	North Sub Area	South Sub Area	West Sub Area	Total (District)
5–15-year-olds	19	24	-35	160	168
16–45-year-olds	73	42	-5	289	399
46–75-year-olds	94	40	10	514	658
76–100-year-olds	41	24	25	98	188
Total (5-100-year-olds)	226	130	-5	1061	1412

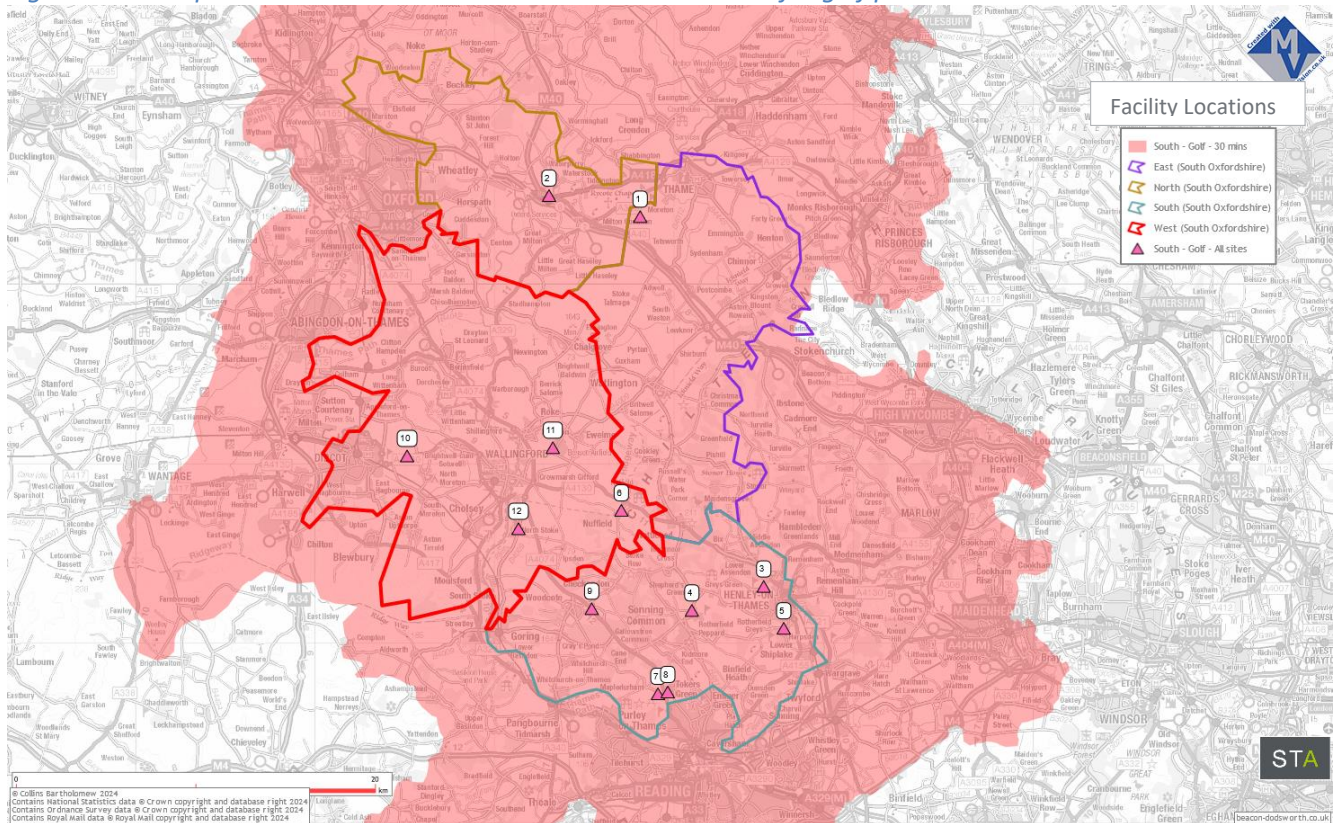
Future demand projections suggest that future demand will be highest for golf in the West sub area, and demand will be highest from 46–75-year-olds.

21.8 Accessibility

Accessibility is influenced by how far people are willing and able to travel. Appropriate drive or walk-time catchments are applied to facilities to determine accessibility of facilities to different communities. The normal acceptable standard is a 30-minute drive-time for golf courses. This enables analysis of the adequacy of coverage and helps to identify areas currently not serviced by existing provision.

Figure 21.1 below shows that all residents in South Oxfordshire are within a 30-minute drive-time of existing golf provision.

Figure 21.1: Map to show 30-minute drive-time catchment areas for golf provision



21.9 Planned Developments

There has been a proposal for outline planning permission at Waterstock golf course (North sub area). The demolition and clearance of existing buildings and structures to allow for the construction of up to 120,000sqm of Use Class E employment floorspace comprising Research and Development units, Light Industrial units, ancillary offices, ancillary amenity buildings (up to 2,400sqm), Creche (up to 600sqm), Forest School (up to 150sqm), along with new site accesses, internal roads and footpaths, surface and multi storey car parking and open space.

21.10 Summary of Golf facilities

Key Element (ANOG)	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
<p><u>Quantity</u> – Are there enough facilities with sufficient capacity to meet needs?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 12 golf courses in South Oxfordshire – at least one in each sub area. • The South sub area has the most provision, including Greys Green Golf Course, which has an 18-hole golf course, 9-hole Par 3 and a driving range. The only other site in the district with all three types of provision is Hadden Hill Golf Course (West sub area). • There is only one golf site in each of the East and the North sub areas (Oxfordshire Hotel Golf & Spa and Waterstock Golf Club), which both have an 18-hole golf course and driving range but no Par 3 course. • If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 1,412 new golfers across South Oxfordshire by 2041. • Future demand will be highest for golf in the West sub area (1,061 new participants), and demand will be highest from 46-75-year-olds people (514 new participants). 	<p>Retain and maintain existing provision to meet current and future demand.</p>
<p><u>Quality</u> – Are the facilities fit for purpose for the users? Do the facilities provide the level of play needed, and does the quality meet the user’s expectations?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The golf courses and facilities were not assessed as part of this study. 	<p>None.</p>
<p><u>Accessibility</u> – Are the facilities in the right physical location for users? Does the cost of using facilities prohibit access?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The normal acceptable standard is a 30-minute drive-time for a golf course a rural area. • All residents in South Oxfordshire are within a 30-minute drive-time of existing golf provision. • The cost for a round of 18-holes at these three golf sites is £25-£35 per round for adults and £12-£16 for juniors (under 18s). 	<p>None.</p>

<p><u>Availability</u> – Are the facilities available to users who want to use them?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is public access (ie, ‘pay and play’) to nine of the 12 golf sites in South Oxfordshire. These facilities have extensive opening hours (ie, daylight hours) and offer junior coaching programs, junior team play, Ladies team play, Golf Professional /shop, club and social activities, internal and external competitions (e.g., club medals, inter-club tournaments etc). • In the East sub area, the only golf site is at Oxfordshire Hotel Golf & Spa, which has an 18-hole course and driving range. This is one of three members-only clubs (ie, no ‘pay and play’) in the district; Henley Golf Club (South sub area) and RAF Benson Golf Course (West sub area) are the other two, which have 18-hole courses only. 	<p>None.</p>
<p><u>Summary</u> – What provision is required to meet needs and address issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to maintain the current level of provision and capacity for general community use to meet current and future needs of the district. Reduction of overall capacity will have an impact on meeting future population growth of the district. (PROTECT) 	