

**Vale of White Horse District Council**

**Leisure Facilities Assessment and Strategy**

**Assessment Report 2023 – 2041**

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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

Vale of White Horse 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 South Oxfordshire 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 Vale of White Horse 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.

Given the breadth of sports played in Vale of White Horse, 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 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
- 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.

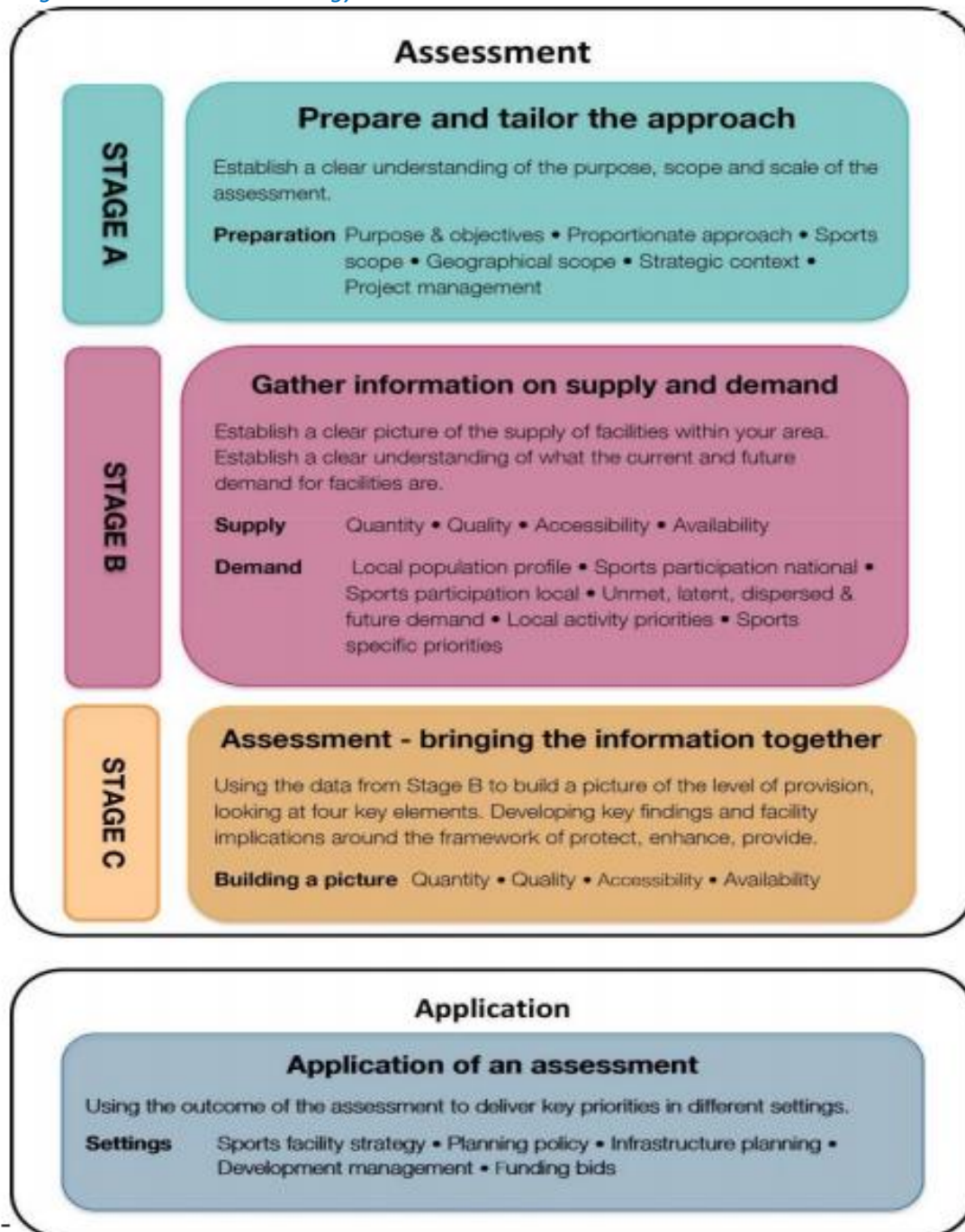
Further documentation will be included as appendices and referenced throughout:

- 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 Vale of White Horse 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, the Active Lives Survey and the Sports Facility Calculator;
- 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
<b>Good</b>	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.
<b>Above average</b>	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.
<b>Below average</b>	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.
<b>Poor</b>	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 &amp; 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 four leisure centres in Vale of White Horse account for 51% of the Council’s greenhouse gas emissions (waste collection is second with 35%). 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 the Vale of White Horse.

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 the Vale of White Horse. 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 Vale of White Horse 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

The Vale of White Horse District includes the Market Towns of Abingdon-on-Thames, Wantage and Faringdon. The district also includes Botley on the edge of Oxford and a Garden Village at Dalton Barracks. The district of Vale of White Horse stretches from Shrivenham to Abingdon; bordering Oxford and the Cotswolds.

## 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 Vale of White Horse is provided below:

- The overall IMD Ranking for Vale of White Horse is 305 out of 317 local authorities (where 1 most deprived and 317 is least deprived). Areas that score inside the 10% most deprived within Vale of White Horse are in parts of Abingdon Caldecott, Abingdon Northcourt, Faringdon & the Coxwells, and Wantage Charlton. Parts of Abingdon Abbey Northcourt, Grove North, Steventon & the Hanneys, Watchfield & Shrivenham are within the 20% most deprived areas in the district. In Abingdon, a part of Abingdon Caldecott is amongst the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods 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 on the IDACI in Vale of White Horse were in parts of Abingdon Caldecott in the 20% most deprived and an area in Faringdon & the Coxwells in the 30% most deprived areas. The least deprived areas are located in parts of Radley, St. Helen Without and Marcham.

- 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 on the IDAOPI in Vale of White Horse are in parts of Abingdon Caldecott in the 30% most deprived and Abingdon Abbey Northcourt in the 40% most deprived. The least deprived areas are in parts of Cumnor, Milton, and Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor.

## 2.6 Sport England Active Lives Data (2020-21)

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

- The latest data for Vale of White Horse was captured in 2019-20, when 5,100 (18%) of **girls were inactive**. This is a lower average level of inactivity than in Oxfordshire (32%), the South East (30%) and England (31%). 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 14,800 (25%) **inactive women** (16+ years old) 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 8,400 (56%) **inactive older people** in Vale of White Horse (aged 75+ doing less than 30 minutes physical activity per week). This is a higher percentage of inactive people than the county, regional and national averages (50%, 47% and 48% respectively).
- The percentage of **inactive adults that are socio-economically deprived** (NS SEC 1-2) 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 Vale of White Horse was 42%, which is higher than the average of Oxfordshire (37%) and the South East (40%), but the same as the England average (42%) 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 the Vale of White Horse, 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 percentage of people in Vale of White Horse that were ‘active: (66.6%) is lower than South Oxfordshire (69%) and Oxfordshire as a whole (67.9%); and the percentage of people ‘fairly’ active (9.7%) was higher than other areas except South Oxfordshire (9.6%). The majority of people (67%) in the Vale of White Horse are ‘active: at least 150 minutes physical activity per week’, which is higher than the Regional and National averages, but a lower percentage of people than in South Oxfordshire and Oxfordshire as a whole.

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

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

*Source: Sport England Active Lives Data (2021-22)*

Since 2016, the percentage of ‘inactive’ adults in Vale of White Horse has increase by 4.2%, whereas in South Oxfordshire ‘inactive’ adults decreased by -1% and the County average saw no change. 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 below) shows there was an increase of 13.8% people ‘walking for leisure’ in the Vale of White Horse between 2016 and 2022, which is a higher increase than in South Oxfordshire, Oxfordshire, South East and in England. However, there was a 2% decrease in people ‘cycling for leisure’ over the same time period – yet there were increases in participation averages across the County, Region and Country.



Table 2.3 Participation at least twice in the last 28 days by activity (2016 – 2022)

Activity	Vale of White Horse (District)	South Oxfordshire (District)	Oxfordshire (County)	South East (Region)	England (Nation)
Cycling for leisure	-2.0%	5.3%	3.2%	1.0%	0.8%
Walking for leisure	13.8%	7.2%	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 \(2022\)](#);
- [Vale of White Horse Infrastructure Delivery Plan \(2020\)](#) and;
- [Vale of White Horse Corporate Plan \(2020-24\)](#).

The Vale of White Horse District Council has the following objectives in its Corporate Plan (2020-24) that are relevant to this study;

- **Tackling the Climate Emergency:** The council intends to become a carbon neutral council by 2030 and a carbon neutral district by 2045. The Council were successful in securing a grant for Faringdon Leisure Centre under the government’s public sector carbonisation scheme and wishes to do the same for the council’s other leisure facilities. Solar PV and Air Source Heat Pumps (Decarbonisation projects) will be completed at Faringdon Leisure Centre, Wantage Leisure Centre and White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre.
- **Building healthy communities:** The Council wishes to build strong communities and connections with a sense of place and strong community identity. Projects include; working with others to promote Active Travel and support the development of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans to help shape new developments that link homes to work, recreation and social spaces within communities. Reviewing the use of community buildings and other facilities owned or managed by the council to maximise usage, income for the council and ensure communities have spaces in which to come together. One of the measures of this theme is number of visits to leisure centres/ classes attended and participation in volunteering/community groups.
- **Promoting use of the council’s public green spaces for exercise and activity:** The Council has produced an Active Communities Strategy setting out how the council will work with our communities and partners and enable everyone to participate in physical activities.

## 2.8 Wantage, Faringdon and Grove

In 2021 the Council commissioned needs assessment work to inform allocation of S106 monies in Wantage, Faringdon and Grove. The proposal to develop a new Wessex Leisure Centre in Wantage is no longer progressing, and as a result the S106 monies allocated to that project (£5.9m), need to be reviewed and re-allocated to other projects in the area that meet community needs whilst still being used in accordance with the S106 usage criteria. To ensure this money is invested appropriately, there was a need to understand the local need in the area for leisure and physical activity projects.

The needs assessment work in 2021 showed a need for a range of indoor and outdoor sports, but there was a clear need for increased water space to provide for increased populations in Grove and Faringdon. Given there are existing indoor leisure facilities in Wantage and Faringdon these should be priority sites for investment in water space now the Wessex leisure project has been cancelled. Providing a new learner pool as a minimum will increase the attractiveness of the leisure facility portfolio to an operator and would benefit the Council in terms of increased income generation and therefore a management fee. In reality there is an under-provision of water space given the population increase as a result of new housing development; ideally a learner pool is needed in both Faringdon and Wantage.

Many of the new homes will provide for young families; new schools are being built so there will be a clear need for additional swimming lessons – both individual and at Key Stage 2. Swimming lessons are the second biggest income generator in a leisure centre, so not providing these facilities is in reality a lost opportunity. Furthermore, the existing fitness suites at Wantage and Faringdon Leisure Centres are relatively small; Faringdon Leisure Centre is already operating at capacity. Increasing capacity will facilitate increased levels of physical activity, and generate increased revenue.

## 2.9 Neighbouring Authorities

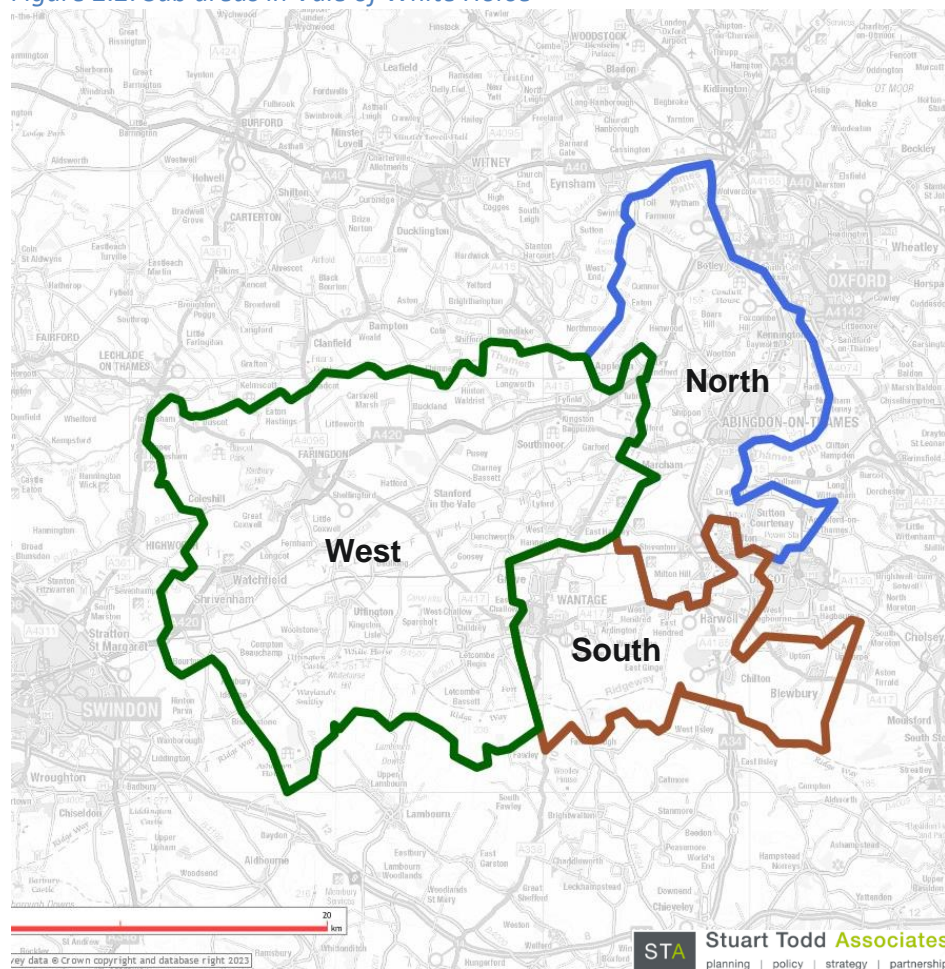
This LFAS takes account of the imported / exported demand from residents of neighbouring authorities. It is important to identify any cross-boundary issues relating to facilities in Vale of White Horse so that the strategy recommendations can help to address these issues.

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 Vale of White Horse, or whether residents from their authority area travel to Vale of White Horse to use facilities. Any relevant information has been included in the assessment of each sport and presented in later sections of this report.

## 2.10 Sub Areas

To aid the delivery of this LFAS, Vale of White Horse has been split into three sub-areas. This allows the supply and demand analysis for each facility type to be split into three areas that mirror how residents may typically travel to use facilities and the catchment areas of facilities. Figure 2.2 below illustrates the sub areas in the Vale of White Horse: North, South and West. The North Sub Area includes Abingdon; the South Sub Area covers Harwell village, western edge of Didcot, Wantage and Grove; and the West Sub Area includes Faringdon.

Figure 2.2: Sub areas in Vale of White Horse



## 2.11 Population

According to the latest Census (2021) from the Office of National Statistics, the Vale of White Horse has increased in population size by 14.8%, from around 121,000 in 2011 to 138,900 in 2021. This is higher than the overall increase for England (6.6%), and the South East (7.5%).

In the Vale of White Horse, over the last decade, there has been an increase of 26.4% in people aged 65+ years, an increase of 11.6% in people aged 15 to 64 years, and an increase of 15.3% 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 the Vale of White Horse is the 11<sup>th</sup> 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 the Vale of White Horse is 143,767 and by 2041 there is a projected population of 193,879. This is an increase of 25.8%, which is 11% 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 overleaf presents a breakdown of ages groups by sub area.

The projected population increase across the district by 2041 is 50,112, and the North 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 increase in the South sub area of 2,041 5-15-year-olds, which is higher than in the North sub area.

*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)
North	1,529	6,854	8,555	3,059	21,205
South	2,041	6,602	7,170	1,452	18,281
West	961	3,907	3,610	1,651	10,626
<b>District (Total)</b>	<b>4,531</b>	<b>17,363</b>	<b>19,335</b>	<b>6,162</b>	<b>50,112</b>

*(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); Grove Airfield; Dalton Barracks and land north of Abingdon.

## 2.12 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 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. 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).

The Council’s Infrastructure Delivery Plan (2020) identifies a total of 3,920 dwellings across Vale of White Horse and the largest housing allocations are:

- Dalton Barracks (Shippon) - 2,700;
- Harwell Campus – 1,000;
- East Kingston Bagpuize – 600;
- North West Grove – 400;
- South East Marcham – 90;
- North of East Hanney – 80;
- North East of East Hanney – 50.

In terms of specific plans for primary school provision in the Vale of White Horse area through to 2031, the reports note the following:

- Two new schools at the Valley Park strategic site;
- New school at North-West Abingdon;

- New school at Harwell Campus;
- New school at Crab Hill, Wantage; and
- Two new schools at Grove Airfield.

The reports also note the plans for secondary school provision in the Vale of White Horse area through to 2031, which include:

- A possible new secondary school at the former Grove Airfield site;
- Considerable proposed expansion to SEN facilities within Vale of White Horse (location to be determined);
- Expansion of further and adult education facilities at Faringdon Community.

## 2.13 Strategic Context Summary

Area of Analysis	Summary of key findings
<b>Population</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• According to the latest Census (2021) from the Office of National Statistics, the Vale of White Horse has increased in population size by 14.8%. This is higher than the overall increase for England (6.6%), and the South East (7.5%).</li> <li>• The population figures for this study have been provided by Oxfordshire County Council (May 2023). The projected population increase across the Vale of White Horse between 2023 and 2041 is 25.8%, which is 11% higher than the population increase across the district between 2011 and 2021 (Census 2021).</li> <li>• The projected population increase across the district by 2041 is 50,112, and the North 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 increase in the South sub area of 2,041 5-15-year-olds, which is higher than in the North sub area.</li> <li>• The most significant increases in the population are due to large-scale housing development schemes at Valley Park (located between Harwell and Didcot); Grove Airfield; Dalton Barracks and land north of Abingdon.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<b>Participation rates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The latest Active Lives Data (Sport England, 2022) shows a higher percentage of inactive women (16+ year olds) in Vale of the White Horse than in Oxfordshire as a whole, yet a lower percentage of inactive girls (5–16-year-olds) than in Oxfordshire, South East and England.</li> <li>• Active Places data also shows 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.</li> <li>• The percentage of inactive adults living with a disability or long-term health problem in Vale of White Horse was 42%, which is higher than the average of Oxfordshire (37%) and the South East (40%), but the same as the England average (42%) average.</li> </ul>
<b>Deprivation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas that score inside the 10% most deprived within Vale of White Horse are in parts of Abingdon Caldecott, Abingdon Northcourt, Faringdon &amp; the Coxwells, and Wantage Charlton.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parts of Abingdon Abbey Northcourt, Grove North, Steventon &amp; the Hanneys, Watchfield &amp; Shrivenham are within the 20% most deprived areas in the district.</li> <li>• In Abingdon, a part of Abingdon Caldecott is amongst the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods nationally.</li> </ul>
<b>Summary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to address high future demand for sports facilities at Valley Park, Grove Airfield, Dalton Barracks and land north of Abingdon.</li> <li>• Need to lower the percentage of inactive women in Vale of White Horse by at least 3% to reach the Oxfordshire average. Also need to lower the percentage of inactive older adults (75+ year olds) in the Vale of White Horse by at least 6.4% to reach the Oxfordshire average.</li> <li>• 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 5.3% in the Vale of White Horses to reach the Oxfordshire average.</li> <li>• Need to carefully consider facilities within the most deprived areas of the district (especially Abingdon Caldecott) to understand the type of sports provision and physical activities opportunities available to residents in these areas.</li> </ul>

The Council and its partners are committed to the LFAS and its vision.

*“Our vision for the Strategy is that the Vale of White Horse 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 160m<sup>2</sup> (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 the Vale of White Horse there are large swimming pools located at three public leisure centres; in Abingdon, Faringdon and Wantage. 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 four large swimming pools in the Vale of White Horse on educational sites; Abingdon School, Oxford Brookes University (Botley), Our Lady's School in Abingdon and Radley College. These pools are used by local swimming clubs on a regular basis and have therefore been included in this study.

Table 3.1 below shows the access, ownership and management type of the seven community-accessible large swimming pools in the district. There are five pools located in the North Sub Area; one in the South and one in the West sub area. A map to show the location of pools is displayed in the Appendices.

*Table 3.1: Large swimming pools with community access in Vale of White Horse*

Site Name	Sub Area	Pool width (no. of lanes) and length	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type
Abingdon School & Sports Centre	North	7 x 25m	Education	Education	Education
Brookes Sport Botley	North	4 x 25m	Education	Education	Education
Our Lady's Abingdon School	North	4 x 25m	Education	Education	Education
Radley College Sports Centre	North	5 x 25m	Education	Education	Education
White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre	North	8 x 25m	Public	Local Authority	Trust
Wantage Leisure Centre	South	6 x 25m	Public	Local Authority	Trust
Faringdon Leisure Centre	West	5 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 Vale of White Horse.

There is a publicly-accessible Lido in the Vale; at Abbey Meadows in Abingdon. However, the pool is only open during the summer holidays (6-weeks).

*Table 3.2: Lidos, small and private membership pools in Vale of White Horse*

Site Name	Pool Type	Management Type
Abbey Meadows Outdoor Pool	Lido	Trust
Abingdon Preparatory School	Private Use	School
Buckland Village Hall	Too Small	Private
Chandlings School	Private Use	School
Cothill House School	Private Use	School
Harwell Primary School	Too Small	School
Milton Hill Abingdon	Too Small	Commercial
Park Club Milton	Too Small	Commercial
Pinewood School	Lido	School
St Hugh's School	Lido	School
The Defence Academy (Shrivenham)	Lido	Private

### 3.3 Security of Access, Ownership and Management

Three of the seven large pools have secured community access and these are located at the three public leisure centre sites in Abingdon, Faringdon and Wantage. The leisure centres are owned by the Local Authority and the four remaining large pools in the district are all located on school-owned sites. The school-owned facilities are operated by in-house school management teams, whereas the three public leisure centres are managed by an external leisure operator.



There is secured community access at Faringdon Leisure Centre and Wantage Leisure Centre, through Joint Use Agreements (JUAs), which run until 2049. During term-time, the pools are used by local schools and colleges for up to 20 hours a week between 09:00 to 12:30 and 14:00 to 15:00. Table 3.3 below displays information on the opening hours, pricing and availability of the large swimming pools in the Vale of White Horse.

Table 3.3 Opening hours, pricing and availability of swimming pools in Vale of White Horse

Site Name	Sub Area	Sports Club User	Opening Hours, Pricing and Availability
Abingdon School and Sports Centre	North	Abingdon Vale Swimming Club	<p><b>Opening hours:</b> Restricted public access to pool - limited hours for clubs only.</p> <p><b>Pricing:</b> The School runs a Swim School on weekend mornings for £10 per child. Swimming Club members - £50 Swim England membership and £50 club membership, plus £20-£80 per month for training.</p> <p><b>Availability:</b> Restricted public access to swimming pool. Abingdon Vale Swimming Club use the pool on a regular basis for training.</p>
Brookes Sport Botley	North	University Swim Teams	<p><b>Opening hours:</b> Mon-Thurs 06:30-14:00 and 16:00-22:30; Fri 06:30-22:30; Sat-Sun 08:30-17:30.</p> <p><b>Pricing:</b> Non-member adult £4 per swim; juniors £2.50 and seniors £3.</p> <p><b>Availability:</b> Brookes Sport Swim School is at full capacity. Pool is used on a regular basis by University Swim Teams and public use for open swimming / lane swimming the remaining time.</p>
Our Lady's Abingdon School	North	Abingdon Swimming Club	<p><b>Opening hours:</b> No public access to pool - restricted hours for clubs only.</p> <p><b>Pricing:</b> Club members only - £50 Swim England membership and £50 club membership, plus £20-£80 per month for training.</p> <p><b>Availability:</b> Abingdon SC use the pool on a regular basis for swimming lessons and training. Remaining use is taken up by school pupils.</p>
Radley College Sports Centre	North	Abingdon Vale Swimming Club Didcot Barramundi Swim Club	<p><b>Opening hours:</b> 06:15- 13:00 &amp; 18:00-21:00 Tues, Thurs and Fri; 06:15-13:00 &amp; 16:00-21:00 Mon and Wed; 08:30-13:00 at Weekends.</p> <p><b>Pricing:</b> Membership only - £30 per month or £300 per year.</p> <p><b>Availability:</b> Abingdon VSC and Didcot BSC both use the pool on a regular basis for training. The remaining time is used by the leisure centre members, college pupils and the running of instructor and lifesaving courses.</p>
White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre	North	Competition Swimming (Galas)	<p><b>Opening hours:</b> Mon-Fri 6:00-22:00; Sat-Sun 07:00-17:00.</p> <p><b>Pricing:</b> Non-member adult £5.35 per swim – juniors and seniors £3.30.</p> <p><b>Availability:</b> Competition swimming (ie, Galas) are held at the pool; there is regular term-time use from local schools and the remaining time is used for GLL sessions*.</p>
Wantage Leisure Centre	South	Wantage White Horse	<p><b>Opening hours:</b> Mon-Fri 06:30-22:00; Sat-Sun 07:30-17:00.</p>

		Swimming Club	<b>Pricing:</b> 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. <b>Availability:</b> The pool is used on a regular basis for training by Wantage SC; regular term-time school and college use and a Swim School. The remaining time is used for GLL sessions*.
Faringdon Leisure Centre	West	Swindon Dolphins Swimming Club	<b>Opening hours:</b> Mon-Fri 6:30-22:00; Sat-Sun 07:30-17:00. <b>Pricing:</b> 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. <b>Availability:</b> local school swimming twice a week (3 hours per week) and the remaining time is used for GLL sessions* and Faringdon SC

\* Swim for All, Swim for Fitness, Better Swim School, Water Workout and Aqua Aerobics

The following key findings are found from the information presented in Table 3.3:

- During the week, White Horse LTC opens half an hour earlier than Faringdon LC and Wantage LC; at 06:00 rather than 06:30. At the weekend, White Horse LTC also opens half an hour earlier (07:00 rather than 07:30) than at Faringdon and Wantage leisure centres.
- The non-member fees for casual use of the pools per session is the same price at White Horse LTC, Faringdon LC and Wantage LC (£5.35 for adults and £3.30 juniors and seniors). The cheapest non-member public sessions are at Brookes Sport Botley where adult prices are £4 per swim; juniors £2.50 and seniors £3.
- The pools at Brookes Sports Botley and Radley College Sports Centre are open for an extensive number of hours during term-time and are available for the public to use during the majority of opening hours. Abingdon School and Our Lady’s School pools are only able to support local club use and do not allow public use.

Swimming clubs in Vale of White Horse report a lack of availability and that a lack of pool time is the first barrier to club expansion. Didcot BSC travel from outside the study area (South Oxfordshire) and into Vale of White Horse in order to access the provision at Radley College. However, there are no reports of swimming clubs travelling outside of Vale of White Horse to access provision (i.e., all swimming clubs in the district use pools in the district).

Swimming clubs report that rising costs are hindering club development. Abingdon Vale SC and Didcot BSC have annual lane hire agreements at the pools they use. However, costs are rising by at least 5% per year and these costs are passed onto the members. The clubs believe this will prohibit new members joining.

### 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 Vale of White Horse. Table 3.4 below offers further detail with regard to the age and refurbishment dates of different facilities.

Six of the seven sites with large swimming pools were subjected to a non-technical assessment. A full breakdown of the non-technical site assessment audits can be found in Appendix B. Four pools were rated as ‘Good’ quality; one site was ‘Above Average’ quality and one site ‘Below Average’.

The Council plans to refurbish the wet side changing rooms at Wantage Leisure Centre; and recognises that this site is a potential site for a new 18m x 10m teaching pool annexed to the current leisure centre building.

Table 3.4: Quality, age and refurbishment detail of swimming pools in Vale of White Horse

Site Name	Sub Area	Year Built (refurbished)	Audit / Quality rating
Abingdon School and Sports Centre	North	2008	<b>Good:</b> 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.
Brookes Sport Botley	North	1995	<b>Above average:</b> 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.
Our Lady's Abingdon School	North	1978 (2007)	No audit completed – School declined opportunity to be included in the study. However, due to the age of the facility, it is likely to be an 'Above Average' quality pool.
Radley College Sports Centre	North	1985 (2017)	<b>Good:</b> 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.
White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre	North	2002	<b>Good:</b> 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.
Wantage Leisure Centre	South	1976 (2001)	<b>Below average:</b> 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.
Faringdon Leisure Centre	West	1997 (2010)	<b>Good:</b> 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.

### 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 Vale of White Horse, 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 the overall stock of swimming pools is newer than the national average, it could still be considered that the swimming pool stock in the district is aging. The quality of indoor water provision at public leisure centres should be maintained (or improved if needed) due to a large amount of the water provision currently being provided by swimming pools at education sites, which have limited hours for club and public 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 -16.4% in the Vale of White Horse, which is a greater decrease than in Oxfordshire, South East and England. Adults swimming in outdoor pools and open water in the Vale of White Horse also decreased (-4.5% and -6% respectively).

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

Activity	Vale of White Horse	South Oxfordshire	Oxfordshire (County)	South East (Region)	England (Nation)
Swimming - Indoors	-16.40%	-19.90%	-16.00%	-14.90%	-13.80%
Swimming - Outdoor pool	-4.50%*	-9.90%	-10.00%	-8.80%	-7.50%
Swimming - Open water	-6.00%	-4.90%	-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 in ‘swimming activities’ of 6.7%, compares well to other areas, particularly the South East Region and National averages (where decreases were seen). However there was a decrease of -13% in children and young people that ‘can swim’ in the Vale of White Horse between 2018 and 2022, which is a considerably greater decrease than seen across the County, Region and Nation.

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

Activity	Vale of White Horse LA	South Oxfordshire LA	Oxfordshire (County)	South East (Region)	England (Nation)
Swimming activities	6.70%	11.20%	0.90%	-1.30%	-3.20%
Can Swim	-13.00%*	8.50%	-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 Vale of White Horse; three of which responded to requests for information. Swindon Dolphin Swimming Club and Abingdon 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 below.

Table 3.7: Club Consultation – swimming pools in Vale of White Horse

Site Name	Sub Area	Sports Club User	Club Consultation
Abingdon School and Sports Centre	North	Abingdon Vale Swimming Club	Abingdon Vale Swimming Club has the most members in the district with 5 adult (18+ year olds) and 180 junior (under 18s) members. The club uses pools at Radley College Sports Centre and Abingdon School and Sports Centre. The number of club members has increased by c10% in the last year, and most growth over the last three years has been in members aged 7-9-year-olds. The club would like to have more adult swimmers but it has run out of pool space and prioritises the school-aged swimmers. A constant focus for the club is to retain as many swimmers as possible until they leave for university. Abingdon Vale SC would like more pool time – ideally another pool to be built in the area that it could hire. The club estimates that the majority of its members (70%) live more than one mile from the pools in Abingdon and Radley but still live within the Vale of White Horse district area. Just 5% live within one mile and 25% live outside of the district area.
Brookes Sport Botley	North	University Swim Teams	Facility Manager at Brookes Sport reported that the Swim School is at full capacity. Pool is used on a regular basis by University Swim Teams and public use for open swimming / lane swimming the remaining time.
Our Lady's Abingdon School	North	Abingdon Swimming Club	The Club and the School websites show Abingdon SC use the pool on a regular basis for swimming lessons and training. Remaining use is taken up by school pupils.
Radley College Sports Centre	North	Abingdon Vale Swimming Club  Didcot Barramundi Swim Club	Didcot Barramundi Swim Club uses Radley College Sports Centre pool. The club has 76 junior members (under 18s) and 35 adult members (18+ years old). The number of members at the club has decreased in the last three years. 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. 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.
White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre	North	Competition Swimming (Galas)	White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre is a swimming competition (Gala) venue. 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.
Wantage Leisure Centre	South	Wantage White Horse Swimming Club	Wantage Leisure Centre is used by Wantage White Horse Swimming Club, which has 80 junior members, which train eight times a week (for 90-minute to 3-hour sessions); and 13 adult members that train three times per week (90-minute sessions). The number of junior and adult members has decreased over the last three years due to Covid, which are now slowly returning to pre-Covid levels, and a lack of pool time and lane capacity. Due to the size of the pool and lane capacity, the club's growth is prohibited as it needs more facilities to use or greater pool time at the pool they use.
Faringdon Leisure Centre	West	Swindon Dolphins Swimming Club	The club website and operator booking sheet show Faringdon Leisure Centre is used by the club (4.5 hours a week) and for local school swimming twice a week (3 hours per week). 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.

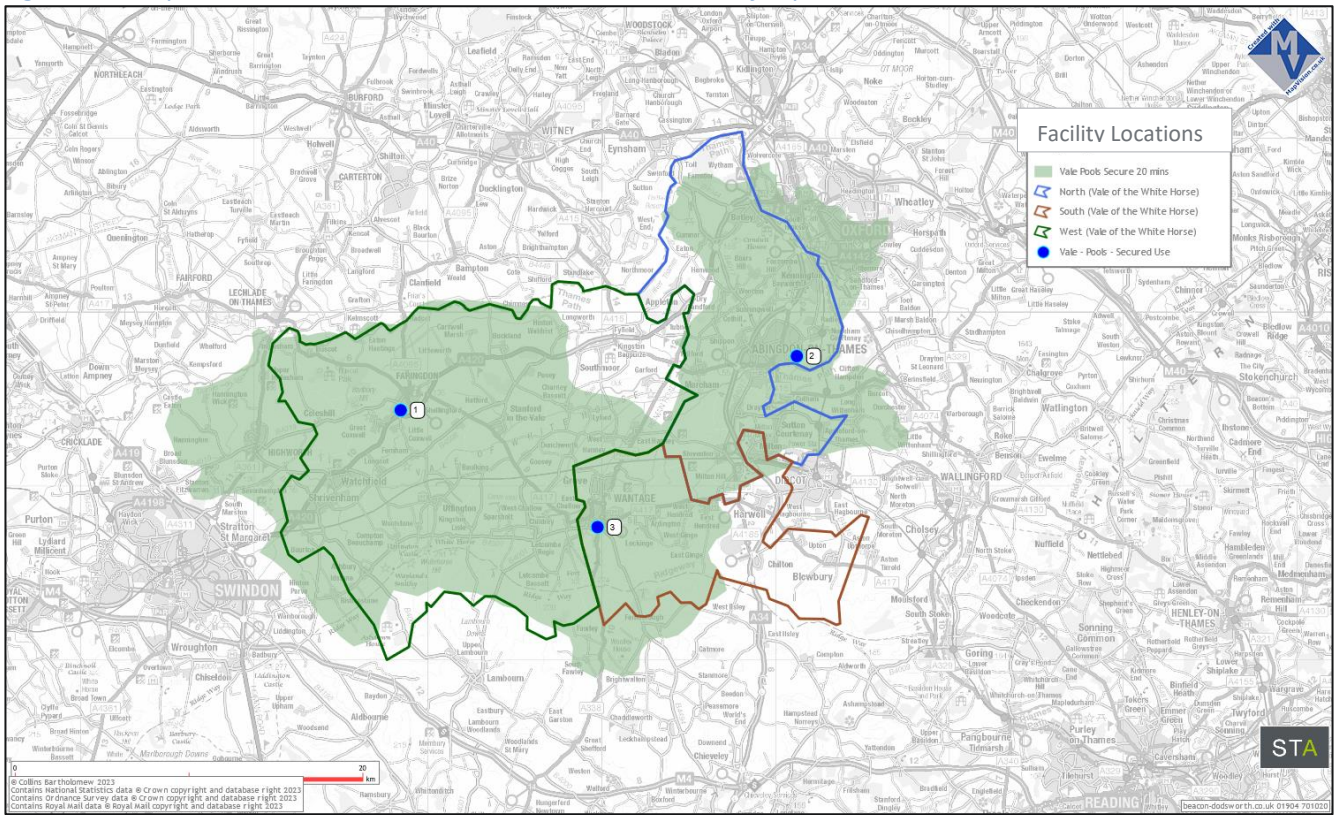
### 3.8 Accessibility

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 the Vale of White Horse, 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 below shows that there are residents in the West sub area are not within a 20-minute drive-time of a public leisure centre pool. The map also shows that some residents in the South sub area are not within a 20-minute drive-time, however these residents are within a 20-minute drive-time of Didcot Wave leisure pool in South Oxfordshire.

Figure 3.1 Map to show 20-minute drive-time catchment areas for pools with secured access in the Vale



### 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 swimming pools in Vale of White Horse

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)
White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre	North	52.5	26	21	5.5 (10%)
Wantage Leisure Centre	South	52.5	33	16	3.5 (7%)
Faringdon Leisure Centre	West	52.5	21.5	25	6 (11%)

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’.

Wantage Leisure Centre has the busiest pool in Vale of White Horse – it is full-to-capacity during 93% of the hours open during peak periods. The second busiest pool is White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre (full 90% of peak times) and then Faringdon Leisure Centre pool, which is full 89% of peak periods.

### 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 10% of adults (16+ year olds) in the Vale of White Horse 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 5,956 new swimmers across the Vale of White Horse 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 Vale of White Horse

Age Group	North Sub Area	South Sub Area	West Sub Area	Total (District)
5–15-year-olds	578	771	363	<b>1,712</b>
16–45-year-olds	679	654	387	<b>1,720</b>
46–75-year-olds	847	710	357	<b>1,914</b>
76–100-year-olds	303	144	163	<b>610</b>
<b>Total (5-100-year-olds)</b>	<b>2,407</b>	<b>2,279</b>	<b>1,270</b>	<b>5,956</b>

Future demand projections suggest that future demand will be highest in the North sub area and in the South sub area; and the majority of this demand will be from people aged 46 to 75 years old in the North sub area and from 5- to 15-year-olds in the South sub area.

### 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 Wantage Leisure Centre, which is modelled to open in 2025. Also in Run 2, a new learner pool at Didcot Wave Leisure Centre in South Oxfordshire is modelled to open in 2025.



- Run 3 – an assessment of the impact of the modelled option for change, which includes learner pool at Wantage Leisure Centre and Abbey Sports Centre in South Oxfordshire (modelled to be replaced with a larger 4 lane 25m pool 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, quite surprisingly given the significant increase in the population and demand for swimming pools to 2041. The district's provision in terms of a population measure is the second highest in the study area and is significantly higher than the South East Region and England-wide averages in both years.

A very high level of the demand for swimming pools is met in all three runs. The proportion is unchanged across the runs, but visits increase significantly from Run 1 (2023) to Run 2 (2041). Most satisfied demand is met within Vale of White Horse because all of the district's swimming pools are located in the areas of highest demand. Unmet demand is very low, and almost all is from residents located too far from a facility. Overall, the swimming pools are reasonably full at peak times, but two sites are uncomfortably full because of their attractiveness and the distribution of demand.

Provision of the learner pool at Wantage Leisure Centre, modelled in Runs 2 and 3, is supported by the FPM findings. It enhances the swimming offer, enabling all swimming activities to take place in suitable pools, and is the only site in the south of the district. Retention of the three public leisure centres is important to ensure access to swimming pools for all residents across the district.

The stock is ageing, with a limited history of modernisation at one public leisure centre and two educational sites. The quality of the swimming offer will decrease as the sites age and their attractiveness decreases to 2041. 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 three public leisure centres provide 33% of the district's swimming pool sites. There are four educational sites (providing 45%), one commercial site (11%) and one other provider (11%).
2. Vale of White Horse's population is projected to increase by 35% between 2023 and 2041, which produces a 34% increase in demand for swimming pools.
3. Of the District's residents, 87% are within a 20-minute cycle ride (approximately four miles) of a swimming pool in 2023 and 2041. The swimming pools in Abingdon have the most residents within a 20-minute cycle ride, and Faringdon Leisure Centre has the fewest residents.
4. A very large proportion of Vale of White Horse's demand is met, at 95% in all runs. The number of visits met in the weekly peak period increases from 8,943 in Run 1, to 12,036 in Run 2 and 12,039 in Run 3.
5. A large proportion of Vale of White Horse's satisfied demand is met at the district's swimming pools, at between 77% and 80% in all runs.
6. Unmet demand is 5% of demand in all runs, but in water space is lowest in Run 1 at 83 sqm and highest in Run 2 at 100 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 5 sqm of water.

7. In Run 3 the location where the most unmet demand can be met is in Shrivenham, at 32 sqm of water. This will include unmet demand from Swindon and is an insufficient amount to consider provision of a new swimming pool.
8. In Run 1 the overall estimated used capacity of swimming pools in the weekly peak period is 43%. In Run 2 it is 52% due to the increase in demand and the attractiveness of Wantage Leisure Centre, and in Run 3 it is 51% due to the change in supply in South Oxfordshire. There is sufficient swimming pool capacity to meet demand in all runs.

#### Vale of White Horse's findings related to South Oxfordshire

In South Oxfordshire:

- A new learner pool at Didcot Wave Leisure Centre is modelled to open in 2025 and is included in Runs 2 and 3
- Abbey Sports Centre is modelled to be replaced with a larger 25m four-lane pool to open in 2031 and is included in Run 3
- Demand in Vale of White Horse is highest in Abingdon in 2023 and 2041, on the border with South Oxfordshire. Most of Vale of White Horse's exported demand goes to Oxford, but the second largest amount goes to South Oxfordshire in all runs:
  - Run 1 – 399 visits in the weekly peak period, accounting for 23% of all exported demand
  - Run 2 – increases to 723 visits and 27% due to the increase in demand and the new learner pool at Didcot Leisure Pool and Gym
  - Run 3 – increases further to 813 visits and 29% due to the new larger Abbey Sports Centre
- Unmet demand in the southeast of Vale of White Horse along the boundary with South Oxfordshire is very low in both years.
- In all runs the greatest amount of imported demand to Vale of White Horse is from South Oxfordshire. However, the number of visits is low, at 623 in Run 3 and 780 in Run 2.

#### Interventions

Modernisation of the swimming pools is the key intervention. Of the six sites opened before 2000, three have been modernised. Three sites opened between 2002 and 2008 and none have been modernised. In 2023 the average age of all the sites is 30 years, and 34 years for the public sites. In 2041 the average age of all the sites is 48 years, and 52 years for the public sites.

Based on the FPM findings the sites for refurbishment, in order, are the two public leisure centres that have not been modernised:

- Farrington Leisure Centre:
  - Opened in 1997
  - An important site in terms of accessibility as it is the only pool site in the west of the district where residents have the least access to swimming pools
  - Estimated to be the third busiest site in the district across all runs, at between 61% and 62% at peak times
  - In 2024 it will be the only public leisure centre single pool site but, based on the quantitative assessment, modernisation of the site does not need to include further provision

- Currently all activities take place in the main pool and its dimensions of 25m x 10.5m may limit this to one activity at a time; also the pool depth of 1.6m may limit the water space suitable for learn to swim
- Provision of a learner pool should be considered to significantly enhance the offer of the site; a 15m x 10m learner pool with a movable floor would accommodate two learn to swim classes at the same time and also cater for aqua aerobics and other fitness activities
- White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre:
  - Opened in 2002
  - Largest swimming pool site in the district and flagship centre with the most extensive offer of a competition size pool (25m x 18m) and a learner pool (18m x 10m)
  - Estimated peak period utilisation of between 27% in Run 1 and 36% in Run 2
  - Low proportion of capacity used because it has the largest capacity in the district, but meets the second most visits in Runs 2 and 3
  - Near an area of high demand with a large increase from 2023 to 2041

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.

### 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 Vale of White Horse Built Facilities Strategy. 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.

### 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 indicates that there is sufficient provision for Vale of White Horse residents to access in Run 1 (2023), but this is not the case in Runs 2 and 3 (2041). However, there is significant variation across the district. Vale of White Horse has the second highest provision of water space per population across the study area in all runs. The district's provision is greater than the regional and national averages in both years.

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

In Run 1 when demand is lowest there is enough suitable provision that the district's residents can access, with local share of 1.53. In Runs 2 and 3 demand is greater, and there is a small increase in supply with the addition of the new learner pool at Wantage Leisure Centre, but overall, the pools have aged and become less attractive. Local share is 0.65 in Run 2 and slightly improves to 0.68 in Run 3 because of the new Abbey Sports Centre in South Oxfordshire.

Geographical Distribution of Local Share

In Run 1 local share is best north of Abingdon at the location of Radley College Sports Centre, at 3.8. Local share is very high in the northeast of the district, at more than 1.5. This is where demand has access to the most swimming pools in Vale of White Horse and Oxford. Local share is poorest in Wantage and southwest of Wantage, at 0.5.

In Run 2 local share is highest in the same areas as Run 1, but decreases to a maximum of 1.4. Local share is good between Brookes Sport Botley and White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre, at between 1.0 and 1.2. However, west of this area local share is poorer. In west Abingdon local share is 0.7. Local share is poorest around Wantage, at 0.3. There is a large increase in demand in this area in 2041. Wantage Leisure Centre has a new learner pool which increases the supply, but it is the only pool site in the area and the refurbishment of the main pool in 2024 will be 17 years old by 2041.

In Run 3 local share improves slightly in the east of Vale of White Horse because of the new Abbey Sports Centre in South Oxfordshire, but local share remains very poor in the south and west of the district.

**3.12 Planned Developments**

The Council also plans to refurbish the wet side changing rooms at Wantage Leisure Centre and recognises that this site is a potential site for a new 18m x 10m teaching pool annexed to the current leisure centre building.

**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"> <li>• There are no reports of swimming clubs travelling outside of Vale of White Horse to access provision (i.e., all swimming clubs in the district use pools in the district).</li> <li>• However, clubs are having to rely on education-owned pools (Abingdon School, Our Lady’s School and Radley College).</li> <li>• Future population could generate 6,767 new swimmers across the Vale by 2041 (c.2,300 in both the North and the South sub area).</li> <li>• The FPM study shows that local share of swimming pools, which considers deprivation, is poorest around Wantage. There is a large increase in demand in this area in 2041. Wantage Leisure Centre has a new learner pool which increases the supply, but it is the only pool site in the area and the refurbishment of the main pool in 2024 will be 17 years old by 2041.</li> </ul>	<p>Additional space and time required for swim clubs at pools in Abingdon, Faringdon and Wantage.</p> <p>New provision needed to meet very high future demand for swimming in North and South 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"> <li>• All but one large (at least 4 lane) swimming pools are ‘Above Average’ or ‘Good’ quality.</li> <li>• Wantage Leisure Centre pool is ‘Below Average’ quality. The facility is older and showing signs of age and poor quality. The facility is usable but does not meet current expectations.</li> </ul>	<p>Improvement of pool and ancillary facilities quality at Wantage Leisure Centre.</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"> <li>• Residents in the West sub area are not within a 20-minute drive-time of a public leisure centre pool. Also, some residents in the South sub area are not within a 20-minute drive-time, however these residents are within a 20-minute drive-time of Didcot Wave leisure pool in South Oxfordshire.</li> <li>• Swimming clubs report that the rising costs to hire pools (c.5% per year) prohibit new members joining.</li> <li>• The non-member fees for casual use of the pools per session is the same price at White Horse LTC, Faringdon LC and Wantage LC (£5.35 for adults and £3.30 juniors and seniors). The cheapest non-member public sessions are at Brookes Sport Botley where adult prices are £4 per swim; juniors £2.50 and seniors £3.</li> </ul>	<p>Work with the public leisure centre operators at White Horse LTC, Faringdon LC and Wantage LC to reduce the price of a ‘pay and play’ public swimming sessions – from £5.35 for adults to £4 per swim (in line with Brookes Sports Botley).</p>
<p><u>Availability</u> – Are the facilities available to users who want to use them?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swimming clubs in Vale of White Horse report a lack of availability and that a lack of pool time is the first barrier to club expansion.</li> <li>• Wantage Leisure Centre has the busiest pool in Vale of White Horse – it is full-to-capacity during 93% of the hours open during peak periods.</li> <li>• The second busiest pool is White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre (full 90% of peak times) and then Faringdon Leisure Centre pool, which is full 89% of peak periods.</li> </ul>	<p>New pool provision in Wantage to alleviate Wantage LC capacity issues. Work with operators of White Horse LTC, Faringdon and Wantage 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"> <li>• 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. <b>(PROTECT)</b></li> <li>• Swimming pool at Wantage Leisure Centre needs to be improved to meet the expectations of users. <b>(ENHANCE)</b></li> <li>• Improved availability needed at White Horse LTC, Faringdon LC and Wantage LC swim clubs to use them more at peak times. <b>(ENHANCE)</b></li> <li>• Secure peak time community use of pools at education sites through Community Use Agreements - Abingdon School (used by Abingdon Vale SC); Our Lady’s Abingdon School (used by Abingdon SC); and Radley College Sports Centre (used by Abingdon Vale SC). <b>(ENHANCE)</b></li> <li>• New provision is needed in Wantage to improve the accessibility for both the existing and future population within the area. <b>(PROVIDE)</b></li> </ul>	

## 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 Vale of White Horse; 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 four-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. The scale also meets the requirements for hall sports club development. The district benefits from 10 four-court halls which meet the above court dimensions, including Abingdon School and Sports Centre, John Mason School, King Alfred's Academy (West Site) and Our Lady's Abingdon School. However, Abingdon and Witney College (Abingdon Campus), Matthew Arnold School and Wantage Leisure Centre have slightly smaller four-court halls with dimensions of 33 x 18 m which provides for hall sports at the community level but has less space between and behind individual courts.

In addition to the 13 four-court halls, there is an 8-court sports hall at White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre; two six-court halls (Faringdon Leisure Centre and the St Helen and St Katharine School) and a five-court hall at Radley College.

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 Vale of White Horse. There is a particular concentration of large sports halls within Abingdon.

### 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 three public leisure centres with large sports halls (White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre, Wantage Leisure Centre and Faringdon Leisure Centre) which have hours of operation in line with a public leisure centre. White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre and Faringdon Leisure Centre are owned by the Local Authority, whereas Wantage Leisure Centre is an education-owned site. There are also large sports halls located on 14 educational sites and two of these sites (Abingdon Preparatory School and Pinewood School) have 4-court sports halls that are for private (school) use only. The remaining 12 sites are located on education-owned sites which have their own in-house management teams and unsecured community access.

Education sites play an important role in the Vale of White Horse and should these sites be removed from the supply there would be insufficient halls 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.

Table: 4.1: Sports Halls with 4+ courts in Vale of White Horse

Site Name	Sub Area	No. of courts	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type
Abingdon and Witney College	North	4	Sports Club	Education	Education
Abingdon Preparatory School	North	4	Private Use	Education	Education
Abingdon School & Sports Centre	North	4	Sports Club	Education	Education
Fitzharrys School	North	4	Sports Club	Education	Education
John Mason School	North	4	Sports Club	Education	Education
Larkmead School	North	4	Sports Club	Education	Education
Matthew Arnold School	North	4	Sports Club	Education	Education
Our Lady's Abingdon School	North	4	Sports Club	Education	Education
Radley College Sports Centre	North	5	Sports Club	Education	Education
St Helen & St Katharine School	North	6	Sports Club	Education	Education
The Manor Preparatory School	North	4	Sports Club	Education	Education
White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre	North	8	Public	Local Authority	Trust
King Alfred's Academy (West Site)	South	4	Sports Club	Education	Education
Wantage Leisure Centre	South	4	Public	Education	Trust
Faringdon Leisure Centre	West	6	Public	Local Authority	Trust
Pinewood School	West	4	Private Use	Education	Education
St Hugh's School	West	4	Sports Club	Education	Education

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

#### 4.4 Opening Hours, Pricing and Availability

In the North sub area there are 12 large sports halls (4+ courts) with community access:

- White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre has the largest number of badminton courts in the district (8-courts) and is open during the week from 06:00 to 22:00 and from 07:00 to 17:00 at weekends. The sports hall costs £13.85 per court (for 40 minutes during peak times).
- Radley College Sports Centre is open from 06:15 to 13:00 and 18:00 to 21:00 on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays; and from 06:15 to 13:00 and 16:00 to 21:00 on Mondays and Wednesdays. At weekends, the centre is open from 08:30 to 13:00. The sports hall is available to community sports club and to the public through a membership of £30 per month or £300 per year.
- Abingdon Prep School has a four-court sports hall that is for private (school) use only.
- There are nine sports halls in the sub area that are located on educational sites, which are available to hire. However the 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 sites because of safeguarding considerations.

In the West sub area there are two large sports halls (4+ courts) with community access:

- Faringdon Leisure Centre is open on weekends from 06:30 to 22:00 and at weekends from 07:30 and 17:00. The cost of the sports hall hire is £13.60 per court for a non-member (40 minutes during peak times). The sports hall at Faringdon Leisure Centre has a 60-year Joint Use Agreement, which began in 1999 (expiry 2059), and allows priority college use during term-time from 08:30 to 17:00 on weekdays and 09:00 to 12:00 on Saturdays.
- St Hugh's School said the main driver is the core business of the school, and although not at capacity, it has restrictions to reduce disruption to school operations as well as safeguarding considerations. There is no typical weekly hire pattern and community lettings are only available for clubs with links to the school.
- Pinewood School has a four-court sports hall that is for private (school) use only.

In the South sub area, there are two large sports halls (4+ courts) with community access:

- Wantage Leisure Centre is open on weekends from 06:30 to 22:00 and at weekends from 07:30 to 17:00. The cost of the sports hall hire is £13.85 per court for a non-member (40 minutes during peak times). The JUA applies for school to have use of the sports hall Monday - Friday (term time only) from 09:00 to 17:30.
- King Alfred's Academy (West Site) is available for community lettings in the evenings, but these are to people who have links with the school.

#### 4.5 Age and Quality of facilities

Five 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 rating is at Wantage Leisure Centre ('Below Average' quality).

The average year built for all the sports halls is 1987 the stock is therefore quite old. King Alfred's Academy (West Site) has the newest sports hall with it being built in 2018, closely followed by School of St Helen and St Katharine's built in 2016. Radley College Sports Centre was modernised in 2013 whilst the public leisure



centres at Faringdon Leisure Centre and Wantage Leisure Centre were modernised in 2010 and 2005 respectively.

The Council has plans for the improvement of leisure centres in the study area. Solar PV and Air Source Heat Pumps (Decarbonisation projects) will be completed at Faringdon Leisure Centre, Wantage Leisure Centre and White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre.

Table 4.2: Quality, age and refurbishment detail of sports halls in Vale of White Horse

Site Name	Sub Area	Year Built (refurbished)	Audit / Quality rating
Abingdon School and Sports Centre	North	1960 (2008)	<b>Good:</b> 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.
Radley College Sports Centre	North	1985 (2013)	<b>Above average:</b> 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.
White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre	North	2002	<b>Above average:</b> 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.
Wantage Leisure Centre	South	1976 (2005)	<b>Below average:</b> 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.
Faringdon Leisure Centre	West	1990 (2010)	<b>Above average:</b> 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.

In the North sub area, the following sports halls were not assessed, but based on the age of the building and that they have never been refurbished, are assumed to be ‘Below Average’ quality:

- John Mason School - built in 1960
- Larkmead School - built in 1975

- Matthew Arnold School - built in 1995
- Our Lady's Abingdon School - built in 1978

There are two sports halls in the North sub area assumed to be 'Above Average' quality, as they have been refurbished:

- Abingdon and Witney College – built in 1990 and refurbished in 2009
- Fitzharrys School - built in 1959 and refurbished in 2010

Also in the North sub area are two sports halls that are assumed to be 'Good' quality, as they have been built in the last seven years:

- The Manor Preparatory School – built in 2018
- School of St Helen and St Katharine – built in 2016.

King Alfred's Academy (West Site) in the South sub area built the sports hall in 2018 and St Hugh's School in the West sub area built a sports hall in 2019, and are assumed to be 'Good' quality.

#### 4.6 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.

#### 4.7 Security of Access, Ownership and Management

The full list of activity halls, dance studios, village halls and community centres in the Vale of White Horse is shown in Appendix C. 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. 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 (inc. village halls & community centres) in Vale of White Horse*

Sub Area	No. of halls & studios	Public (inc. 'pay and play') and sport club use	Secured community use
North	57	44	32
South	27	23	22
West	30	27	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>South Oxfordshire</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>112</b>

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

In the North sub area, there are 12 halls and studios that are available for community use (sport club or public access) but have unsecured community access because they are located on education sites.

- Abingdon and Witney College - two dance studios
- Abingdon School and Sports Centre - dance studio.
- Brookes Sport Botley - activity hall and dance studio.
- St Helens and St. Katharine School - activity hall and two dance studios.
- Activity halls at John Mason School, Larkmead School, Matthew Arnold School and UTC Oxfordshire.

There are also seven Activity halls in the North sub area that are for private (school) use only and Dalton Barracks 3-court activity halls is also for private use only. There are two commercially-owned health and dance centres; Park Club Milton and Results Health Club, where there are three dance studios at each centre, available to use with a membership.

In the South sub area, there is one activity hall that is available for unsecured community use (sport club only) at King Alfred’s Academy (West Site). There is private use only of the activity halls at Fitzwaryn School (Wantage) and Gems Didcot Primary Academy. The two dance studios at Aureus School in Didcot are also only for private use.

In the West sub area, there is an activity hall at Faringdon Community College that is available for community use but owned by the College and therefore has unsecured community access. There are three dance studios at TFD Health and Fitness in Wantage that are available for public use by membership and are commercially owned.

#### 4.8 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
North	All Saints Church, Appleford Drive	Yoga
	Appleton with Eaton Village Hall	Fit steps, zumba
	Cumnor Village Hall	Yoga, Fitsteps, pilates, keep fit, clubercise, ballet
	Dean Court Community Centre	Yoga, Strength and balance, Baby dance, baby ballet, Oxford Capoeira
	Drayton Village Hall	Short Mat bowls, Bouncefit, pilates, badminton, sequence dancing
	Kennington Village Hall	Pilates, Badminton, Youth club, Library, Kung Fu
	Longworth Village Hall	Yoga, pilates, circuits, zumba gold
	Marcham Centre	Pilates, WI, Zumba, Tennis, Zumba gold, martial arts, clubercise

	Old School Hall	Chess club
	Radley Village Hall	FunFit
	St Peter and St Paul Church Hall	Tai Chi
	St Swithun's church hall, Kennington	Yoga
	Steventon Village Hall	Tea dance, zumba gold, pilates,
	Sunningwell Village Hall	line dancing, seated exercise
	The Northcourt Centre (Abingdon)	Yoga
	Wootton Community Centre	Pilates, pickleball, Fitness class, zumba, Laugh and learn, table tennis, clubbercise
<b>South</b>	Blewbury Clubhouse	Flex and tone (pilates), Dance, senior keep fit,
	Blewbury Village Hall	zumba gold, pilates, Betty Bloom dance, table tennis, yoga
	Charney Bassett Village Hall	Pilates
	Chilton Village Hall	Pilates, Zumba Gold, Body Blitz fitness, short mat bowls, yoga
	East Challow Village Hall	Kickboxing, dance
	Grove Village Hall	Zumba Gold
	Harwell School Hall	Dance for fitness
	Harwell Village Hall	Irish dancing, 50+fitness class, boxing, trampoline, ballroom dancing, Bouncefit, karate, boxing,
	Old Mill Hall, Grove	Body Kongo (boxing + cardio), walking netball, clubbercise
	The Beacon (community centre), Wantage	Pilates, yoga, kickboxing, Ceroc, Core Progress
	Upton Village Hall	Yoga, gymnastics, karate
	West Hendred Village Hall	Yoga, Konga, Pilates
<b>West</b>	Ashbury Village Hall	Indoor bowls, karate
	Buckland Memorial Hall	Keep Fit
	Childrey Village Hall	Pilates
	Corn Exchange, Faringdon	Zumba Gold
	Hanney Sports and Social Club	RBL - darts, pool etc
	Hanney War Memorial Hall	Pilates, bowls, table tennis, badminton, zumba
	Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Village Hall	Clubbercise
	Letcombe Regis Village Hall	Pilates, Zumba Gold, Bounce class, Yoga
	Shellingford Community Hall	Pilates studio
	Shrivenham Memorial Hall	Zumba, tai chi, pilates, martial arts, yoga, ballet, table tennis,
	Snells Hall, East Hanney	Irish dance, tango, jazzercise, cardio tennis
	Stanford-in-the-Vale Village Hall	Zumba Gold, bowls, pilates, karate, Pickleball,
	The Pump House, Faringdon	Table tennis, other classes?
	Uffington Memorial Hall	Fitness class, tai chi, pilates
Watchfield Village Hall	Table tennis	

## 4.9 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.

### 4.10 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%

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

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 Vale of White Horse 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 eight affiliated badminton clubs in the Vale of White Horse. The venues where they train and play matches are shown in Table 4.6 overleaf.

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

Sub Area	Badminton Club	Venue
North	Abingdon Badminton Club	St Helen and St Katharine School and Larkmead School
	Evenlode Badminton Club	St Helens and St Katharines School
	Harwell Labs Badminton	Larkmead School
	North Abingdon Badminton Club	Abingdon School and Sports Centre
	Smash Badminton Club	St Helens and St Katharines School
South	Blewbury Badminton Club	Blewbury Village Hall
	Chilton School Badminton Club	Chilton Primary School
	Wantage Badminton Club	Wantage Leisure Centre

Four of the clubs did not respond to requests for information. However, Badminton England’s member database shows Harwell Labs Badminton Club has between 21 and 49 members based at Larkmead School; Evenlode Badminton Club (also between 21 and 49 members) based at St Helens and St Katharines School; North Abingdon Badminton Club at Abingdon School Sports Centre (21-49 members); and Chilton School Badminton Club has 21-49 members. Summaries of the key findings from the clubs that have responded are below.

North Abingdon Badminton Club are a friendly, sociable club in Abingdon. Our club night is held at Abingdon School on Wednesday (7.30pm) during the months of September to April. The club has seven teams in the Oxfordshire Badminton League. Matches are played on Monday night (8.00pm) at Abingdon School. Fees for new visitors are £7 for the first visit and £10 thereafter.

Wantage Badminton Club has 16 adult members that use Wantage Leisure Centre once a week for social sessions. The club intends to growth the club and to enter a league team next year, however the cost of hiring courts has increased in the last three years which is having a negative impact on the club. The quality of the sports halls and the ancillary facilities at Wantage Leisure Centre are described by the club as ‘Below Average’; and the condition of the equipment (nets, posts etc) are in an ‘Average’ condition.

Abingdon Badminton Club has 55 adult members that use St. Helen and St. Katharine School (six-court hall) in Abingdon for weekly training sessions. The club also plays matches at Larkmead School (four-court hall) in Abingdon on 1-2 times per week. The number of club members has increased in the last three years and the club moved from a four-court hall to a six-court hall in order to accommodate the demand. However, the club is now at capacity again and prospective players are being turned away. The club reports some difficulties with booking the sports hall at St. Helen and St. Katharine School, as the hall is unavailable for community use during certain weeks of the year, which results in club sessions being cancelled as there is no other six-court alternative in the area. The club would like to set up a junior club but it does not currently have a coach/volunteer to lead this and it foresees issues with the availability of courts required. The club rent the courts from the schools that own them. The costs of hiring courts have increased in the last three years but the club has increased its membership fees to cover these costs and has also been aided by the increase in number of club members. The quality of the majority of the facilities at St. Helen and St. Katharine School are described by the club as ‘Good’ quality. However, the lights are too bright for badminton and are positioned directly over the courts which causes issues with over-head shots. The facilities at Larkmead School are described by the club as ‘Above Average’ with similar lighting issues and the wall colouring not being ideal for badminton. However, the club is aware that these issues are common across multi-sport hall provision.

Smash Badminton Club has 52 junior members that use St. Helen and St. Katharine School in Abingdon. The club runs three one-hour long sessions per week and has seen a steady increase in the number of players in the last three years due to better advertising and organisation and people wishing to return to sport after Covid. The cost to hire the courts at the school has not increased in the last three years and therefore club membership fees have not increased. The club has additional space for 20 new junior members (8–12-year-olds), as the total court capacity for a six-court hall is 72 players across the three one-hour sessions, and the club is currently trying to fill those spaces. The club reports issues with the availability of the courts at St. Helen and St. Katharine School – members would like to continue playing after Easter but the hall isn’t available during the summer term.

Blewbury Badminton Club has 16 adult members that use Blewbury Village Hall for social session once a week. The club describes the playing surface in the hall as ‘Above Average’ quality and does actively encourage new members. However, there is only one badminton court in the hall and therefore in order to expand the club would need to run two sessions per week. Although the club welcomes new members, another weekly session may stretch the club’s resources too thin, and currently it is at a sustainable membership level.

#### 4.11 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 the Vale of White Horse, there are two other affiliated basketball clubs; Jets Basketball Club has one women's team that is also based at Abingdon & Witney College; and Wantage & Faringdon Basketball Club are based at Faringdon Leisure Centre. 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.

#### **4.12 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, an 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 11 affiliated boxing and martial arts clubs in the Vale of White Horse (shown in Table 4.9 below).

Table 4.9: Boxing and martial arts clubs in Vale of White Horse (affiliated clubs and venues)

Sub Area	Boxing / Martial Arts Club	Venue
North	Berinsfield Amateur Boxing Club	Fane Drive Berinsfield
	Abingdon Town Amateur Boxing Club	Abingdon United Football & Social Club
	Abingdon Judo Club	White Horse Leisure Centre
	4Real Freestyle Kickboxing Academy	
	Vale of the White Horse - School of Boxing	Fitzharrys School Abingdon
Tiska Abingdon Club	Abingdon School Sports Centre	
South	Grove Martial Arts (GMA)	Old Mill Hall, School Lane, Grove
	Oxfordshire Taekwon-Do (Wantage)	
	Mpowered Martial Arts	Wantage Leisure Centre
	Wantage & Vale Shotokan Karate Club	East Challow Village Hall and Stanford in the Vale Village Hall
West	Faringdon Judo Club	Tucker Hall

Four clubs responded to requests for information and summaries of the key findings are below. Six clubs did not respond to requests for information.

Abingdon Judo Club has 40 adult members and 40 junior members that train at the White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre in Abingdon twice a week (5 hours per week in total). There are two squash courts at the centre with a moveable wall that the club uses for its sessions.

The club reports that the squash courts are of ‘Average’ quality, but the cost of hiring the squash courts and lack of coaches is prohibitive to adding days onto the training schedule. If land and funding were available, the club could expand with a dojo for multiple martial arts alongside better changing and waiting facilities for members and their parents.

The Vale of White Horse School of Boxing has 52 junior members that train at Fitzharry’s School in Abingdon twice a week (2 hours per week in total). The club operates on a ‘pay and play’ subscription fee basis and do not charge junior membership fees. It also offers the option to block-book sessions at a cheaper rate and to offer flexibility to its juniors. The club sets up a boxing ring and eight punching bags in the sports hall before each session and removes them again after the session. The quality of the sports hall at Fitzharry’s School is described by the club as ‘Above Average’ and the ancillary facilities are ‘Good’ quality. The club plans to introduce senior boxing in the future and to expand the scope of its activities proportionate to the increase in volunteers and coaches.

Grove Martial Arts has 71 junior members and 48 adults using Old Mill Hall in Wantage and Aureus School sports hall in Didcot for 17 sessions a week. The club reported that the Old Mill Hall flooring is sub-standard for the needs of the club, despite being refurbished c.5 years ago. The refurbishment work carried out was of a poor standard initially. The club would like to offer more training sessions but this depends upon affordability as hire charges have increased. The club have had to pass this cost on to its members and continue to increase the membership costs each year.

Wantage & Vale Shotokan Karate Club has 70 junior and 30 adult members using village halls in East Challow and in Stanford-in-the-Vale for two sessions a week (2 hours each session). No quality issues were raised by the club and the hire charges have not increased significantly in the last three years. The number of club members continues to increase each year.

#### 4.13 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 the Vale of White Horse.

Table 4.10: Dance clubs, schools and academies in Vale of White Horse

Sub Area	Dance Club, School or Academy	Venue(s)
North	Betty Bloom Dance Clubs	Four locations: Blewbury, Steventon, Abingdon, Didcot
	Abingdon Dance & Fitness Studio	Coxeter House and Larkmead School
	Alpha Academy	Dalton Barracks, Shippon
	Amanda Alder Dance Academy	The Dance Studios, Abingdon & Witney College
	Attitude Dance School	Preston Road Community Centre, Abingdon
	Download Dance	Coxeter House, Abingdon and Dicot Girls School

	Swinburne Road Dance Club	Swinburne Road, Abingdon
	Stagecoach Performing Arts	Aureus School, Didcot & Thameside Primary School, Abingdon
<b>South</b>	Cheek2Cheek Dance	East Challow Village Hall and the Beacon, Wantage
	Cornucopia	Grove Methodist Church
	Karen Brind School of Dance	Old Mill Hall, Wantage
	Loreley Rice Belly Dancing	The Beacon, Wantage
	Vale Islanders	Charney Bassett Village Hall
	Wantage Folk Dance Club	Steventon Road, Wantage
	White Horse Ceilidhs Club	Village Hall, Grove, Wantage

Six dance clubs responded to requests for information and summaries of the key findings are below. Nine dance clubs did not respond to requests for information.

The largest dance club in Vale of White Horse is Amanda Alder Dance Academy in Abingdon. There are approximately 450 junior members and 50 adult members with 75 regular classes being taught per week at Abingdon and Witney College and Christchurch Hall in Abingdon (some daytime classes only). The College has a double portacabin with changing area in the middle for the club to use alongside the College’s Performing Arts course. The Academy described the studios as ‘Average’ quality and has a hire agreement with the College in place until 2025. The Academy would like to be able to offer a community arts space throughout the day but is restricted by college daytime use of the studios. The club had more members in 2021 (a total of 535 junior and adult members) than it does now (December 2022) which it believes is due to the cost of living. The majority of its members travel from Abingdon; however, it also has people travelling from Marcham, Sutton Courtaney, Didcot, Standlake, Wheatley and Headington.

Betty Bloom Dance Clubs has 280 junior and 20 adult members using four venues in Blewbury, Steventon, Abingdon, 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.

Abingdon Dance and Fitness Studios which has 130 junior and 60 adult members using Larkmead School (rated as ‘Good’ quality by the club) dance studio and performance studio on a weekly basis. The club has seen its membership numbers increase by 100 junior members and 80 adult members in the last three years. However, the club has noticed that people aged 70+ have not returned in many numbers since the Pandemic. The club is currently training teachers so that it can offer additional classes to existing and prospective members, however time and money are restricting factors.

Cornucopia is a dance club with 20 adult members that practices weekly at Grove Methodist Church (rated ‘Average’ by the club). The club dances at summer festivals around the South of England and at pubs in the local area. It has a special wooden floor that its transports around (donated by the Co-op a few years ago). Fully sprung hardwood flooring is the most suitable surface for dancing but few permanent floors at halls exist and non-hardwood floors are prone to the dancers' shoes damaging them. As a compromise, the club has a sectional "jigsaw" plastic floor at the church in Grove that it lays down every week before practice but it's not ideal for dancing on.

The Vale Islanders, Charney Bassett Village Hall dance club of 14 members (1 junior, 13 adults) at a small hall. Attitude Dance School has 60 junior members that practice once a week at Preston Community Centre in Abingdon. The centre is rated as ‘Good’ quality by the club and increasing the number of members is a priority.

Wantage Folk Dance Club use Steventon Village Hall and have 53 members. The club nearly went out of existence after the Charlton centre ceased having them as a regular booking. The club rebranded as" Friday Folk at Steventon" and moved both the day from Thursday and the location to Steventon. The club have a growing membership and our main events attract around 80-90 people. The facilities at the Village Hall are reported as ‘Good’ by the club, however affordable facilities were not available in Wantage.

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 4.1 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)

#### 4.14 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. There are two TTE Associate Clubs in the Vale of White Horse; Abingdon Riverside and Drayton table tennis clubs. 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 below are the seven league-registered table tennis clubs located in the Vale of White Horse that play games and practice at the following venues.

*Table 4.13: Table Tennis Clubs in Vale of White Horse (league registered clubs and venues)*

Sub Area	Table Tennis Club	Venue(s)
North	Abingdon Riverside Table Tennis Club	Thameside Primary School, Abingdon
	Drayton Table Tennis Club	Thameside Primary School, Abingdon
	Moreton Table Tennis Club	UTC Oxfordshire & Sutton Courtenay Village Hall
	Sutton Courtenay Table Tennis Club	Sutton Courtenay Village Hall
South	Grove Table Tennis Club	Grove Village Hall
	Letcombe Table Tennis Club	Letcombe Regis Village Hall
West	Faringdon Table Tennis Club	Faringdon Junior School

Six of the seven table tennis clubs responded to requests for information and summaries of the key findings are below.

Drayton Table Tennis Club has 23 adult members and 11 junior members which play at Thameside Primary School in Abingdon. The club was originally based at Drayton Village Hall but moved to Abingdon whilst awaiting the development of a new facility in Drayton. However, the development was delayed due to the Covid Pandemic and now is seeking additional funds in order to build to the minimum size required. Currently at Thameside Primary School, the club has three tables and there is space for an additional two table tennis tables but this would mean hiring an additional room and it is cost prohibitive at the moment. Due to the delays in developing a new facility in Drayton, the contractor cost increases have forced a reduction in building footprint, which only allows for three table tennis tables but the club needs space for five tables to thrive.

Abingdon Riverside Table Tennis Club has 15 league players and 10 practice players (all adults – number has remained the same over the last three years. Also based at Thameside Primary School in Abingdon, the club uses two table tennis tables for league games and four tables for practising – this is sufficient provision. The cost is £14 per hour to hire the school facilities and the club rates the facilities as ‘Good’ quality; although improved lighting in the activity hall would be welcomed.

Grove Table Tennis Club are based at Grove Village Hall (rated ‘Good’ quality by the club) has 16 adult members and two junior members that train once a week.

The club hires the hall from the management committee and has seen a slight increase in the hiring cost, yet this is no issue for the club. The main barrier to club expansion is a lack of space to accommodate many more members at the Village Hall.

Moreton Table Tennis Club has 10 junior members and 46 adult members that runs a weekly practice session at UTC Oxfordshire in Didcot and hosts league games at Sutton Courtenay Village Hall. The club spent the last 20 years based at South Moreton School but relocated following the arrival of a new Head Teacher who asked the club to leave. Ideally, the club would like to host all practice and league games at one venue but the facility at UTC Oxfordshire is not viable for league games as the college insists end of play by 21:45. The club cannot fit in league games between 19:00 and 21:45 as there is not enough time unless it plays on two tables which many teams do to want to do. Additionally, the cost of UTC is prohibitive for league games at £30 per hour whereas it is £35 for the whole evening at Sutton Village Hall. However, there is a lack of space at the village hall, for three table tennis tables, whereas up to eight tables could be used at UTC. The club currently has six tables and is looking to purchase a seventh table but there is a lack of storage space to accommodate this, or any more tables. Current number attending practice sessions at UTC mean players have to take turns on tables and cannot play all through a session. An extra table will help this but there is no storage space for any more tables. The club would look to expand the number of teams playing league table tennis but again cannot fit any more games in to Sutton Courtenay Village Hall, so would need a third venue for this to happen. Ideally, the club would like to have one venue to cut down on costs. It currently maintains six table tennis tables (hopefully seven soon) at UTC and three at the Village Hall which are shared with Sutton Courtenay Table Tennis Club with no room for further expansion.

Sutton Courtenay Table Tennis Club has eight adult members that play weekly league matches at Sutton Courtenay Village Hall. During the village hall refurbishments (including a new roof), the club found it difficult to secure use of other venues. The club has reduced in member numbers over the last three years, as its youth section caused issues with a Local Councillor. It is aware that many clubs in the league previously played at school facilities but are no longer allowed to play in them. This has resulted in shared premises – a dedicated venue where all the local clubs can play would be an ideal solution.

Letcombe Table Tennis Club has 15 adult members that have social sessions and play weekly league games at Letcombe Regis Village Hall. The club uses two table tennis tables for league games and three tables for social sessions. The village hall has been recently refurbished and according to the club is ‘Good’ quality; although a darker colour of paint on the walls would be better for seeing the white table tennis balls.

#### 4.15 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.

#### **4.16 Accessibility**

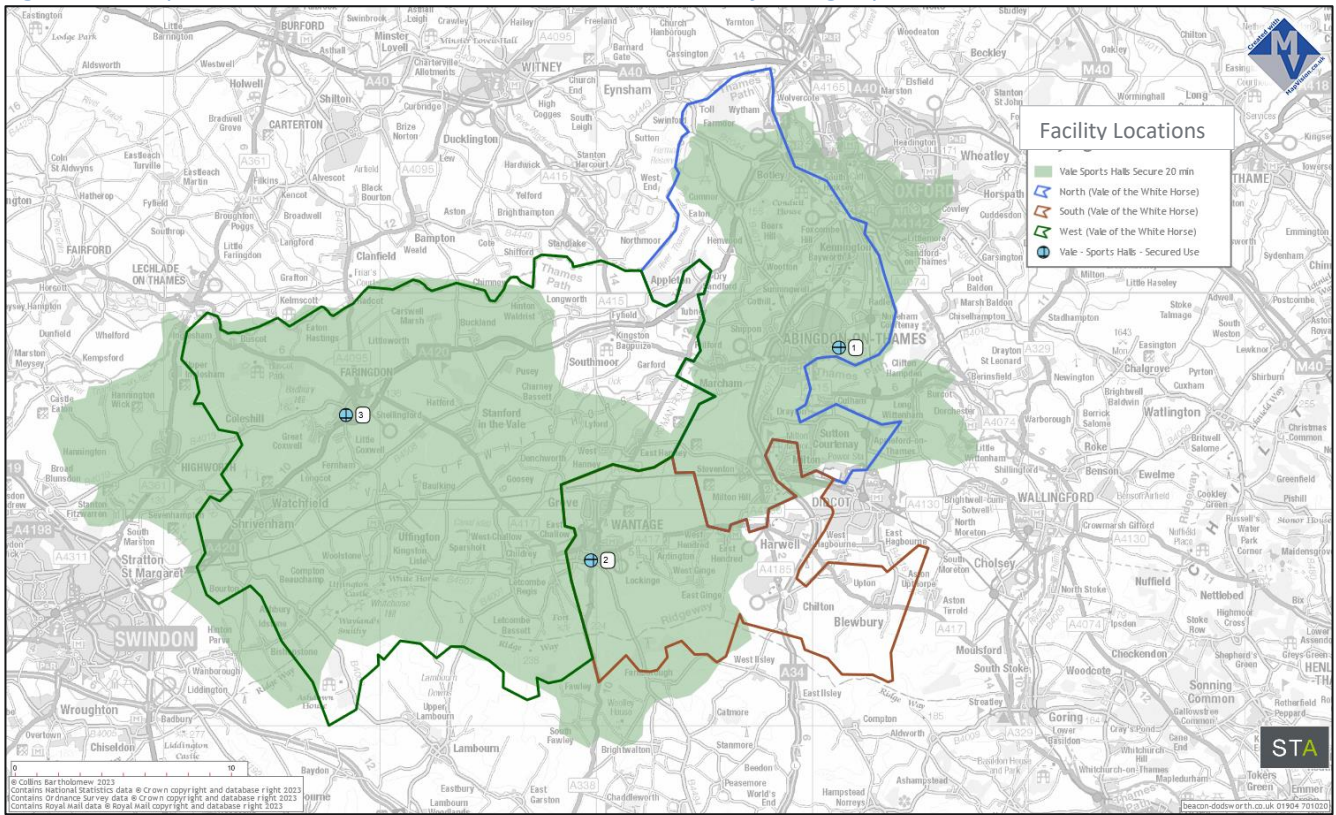
Large sports hall accessibility is influenced by how far people are willing and able to travel. Appropriate walk and drive-time catchments are applied to facilities to determine accessibility of facilities to different communities. The normal acceptable standard is a 20-minute drive-time. This enables 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.

The overall key point is not that unmet demand outside a catchment exists, but the scale of that unmet demand. Also, if this unmet demand is clustered in one location, further sports hall provision should be considered in order to improve accessibility for residents.

Figure 4.1 (overleaf) shows that there are some residents in the West sub area are not within a 20-minute drive-time of a public leisure centre hall. The map also shows that some residents in the South sub area are not within a 20-minute drive-time, however these residents are within a 20-minute drive-time of Didcot Leisure Centre in South Oxfordshire.

Figure 4.1 Map to show 20-minute drive-time catchment areas for large sports halls with secured access



### 4.17 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.

Table 4.17: Peak time usage of public leisure centre sports halls in Vale of White Horse

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)
White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre (North)	Court 1	46	22	19	5 (10%)
	Court 2	46	22	19	5 (10%)
	Court 3	46	25	17	4 (9%)
	Court 4	46	25	17	4 (9%)
	Court 5	46	18	22	6 (12%)
	Court 6	46	18	22	6 (12%)
	Court 7	46	25	17	4 (9%)
	Court 8	46	25	17	4 (9%)



Wantage Leisure Centre (South)	Court 1	46	31	12	3 (7%)
	Court 2	46	31	12	3 (7%)
	Court 3	46	34	10	2 (5%)
	Court 4	46	33	10	3 (6%)
Faringdon Leisure Centre (West)	Court 1	46	34	10	2 (4%)
	Court 2	46	32	11	3 (7%)
	Court 3	46	32	11	3 (7%)
	Court 4	46	14	26	6 (14%)
	Court 5	46	13	26	7 (14%)
	Court 6	46	13	26	7 (14%)

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.’

Wantage Leisure Centre has the busiest sports hall in Vale of White Horse – it is full-to-capacity during 94% of the hours open during peak periods. The remaining sports halls at White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre and Faringdon Leisure Centre are full-to-capacity during 90% of peak periods.

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 Abingdon and Witney College, Abingdon School and Sports Centre, Larkmead School, Our Lady’s Abingdon School and The Manor Preparatory School.

There is a strong commitment to community use at Fitzharrys School, John Mason School, King Alfred’s Academy, Radley College Sports Centre and St Helen and St Katharine School provide a significant proportion of hours within the peak period (39 hours each per week).

#### 4.18 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 5,792 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 overleaf.

Table 4.18: Future demand for sports hall users (doing sports hall activities) in the Vale of White Horse

Age Group	North Sub Area	South Sub Area	West Sub Area	Total (District)
5–15-year-olds	971	1,296	610	<b>2,877</b>
16–45-year-olds	466	449	266	<b>1,181</b>
46–75-year-olds	582	488	245	<b>1,315</b>
76–100-year-olds	208	99	112	<b>419</b>
<b>Total (5-100-year-olds)</b>	<b>2,227</b>	<b>2,332</b>	<b>1,233</b>	<b>5,792</b>

Future demand projections suggest that future demand will be highest in the South 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 the Vale of White Horse

Sub Area	Badminton	Basketball	Boxing	Dance	Martial Arts	Table Tennis	Volleyball	Total Sports Hall Users
North	395	250	183	908	250	195	46	2,227
South	358	277	187	1,014	277	176	43	2,331
West	204	142	100	519	142	101	24	1,234
<b>Total (District)</b>	<b>957</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>2,441</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>5,792</b>

Future demand projections suggest that future demand will be highest for 'Dance-based classes. Based on the latest participation rates, there could be 2,441 new dancers by 2041 (and 1,014 of them in the South 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 Vale of White Horse (and South Oxfordshire) has in meeting the demand for sports halls and its distribution up to 2041.

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.

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

### Headline Strategic Overview

The headline strategic overview is that Vale of White Horse’s sports halls can meet current and future demand. Both the population and demand for sports halls increase significantly to 2041. The public leisure centres are few in number, but extensive in scale. Retention of these sports halls is important, to ensure there is access to sports halls for all residents and sports clubs in all areas of the district.

The educational sector is the largest provider with most sports halls suitable for community participation and club development. Protecting this supply for community use is important but not to become over reliant on it, simply because it is the main provision. A very high proportion of demand is met, with visits increasing with each run. Most satisfied demand is met within the district. Unmet demand is very low. Overall, the sports halls are reasonably full at peak times. However, the distribution of demand means that some sites are very full. There is scope to increase the availability and capacity for community use at some educational sites. This will achieve a better overall balance between supply and demand.

The stock is ageing and modernisation is limited. There is an increasing need for refurbishment to improve the attractiveness of the sports halls. Undertaking planned maintenance together with dilapidation surveys can help to define the scope of refurbishment works.

Demand in Wantage is high and increases to 2041. Provision of St John’s Academy sports hall and Potential Wantage Leisure Facility means supply exceeds demand. There is scope to change this provision and still meet demand.

### Key Findings

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

1. In all runs between 29% and 30% of the total supply is unavailable for community use in the weekly peak period.
2. Of the 13 sports halls that opened before 2000, five have been modernised. None of the sports halls built since 2000 have been modernised.
3. Vale of White Horse’s population is projected to increase by 35% between 2023 and 2041, which produces a 34% increase in demand for sports halls. The district has the largest percentage increase in demand for sports halls in the study area.
4. Of the District’s residents, 94% are within a 20-minute cycle ride of a sports hall in 2023 increasing slightly to 95% in both runs in 2041. In all runs Fitzharrys School, in north Abingdon, has the most Vale of White Horse residents within a 20-minute cycle ride and Faringdon Leisure Centre the fewest.
5. There is sufficient sports hall capacity within a suitable travel time to meet 95% of the district’s demand in 2023, and 96% in both runs in 2041. The number of visits met in the weekly peak period increases significantly from 11,398 in Run 1 to 15,361 in Run 3.
6. Of the satisfied demand, 80% is met within the District in Runs 1 and 2 and 81% in Run 3. Most of the District’s sports halls are in the areas of highest demand and accessible to residents.

7. Unmet demand is 5% of demand in 2023 and 4% in both runs in 2041. It is the equivalent of between 1.9 courts in Run 1 and 2.4 courts in Run 2. All the unmet demand in all runs is due to residents being too far from a facility and none is due to lack of sports hall capacity.
8. In Run 3 the location where the most unmet demand can be met is in Botley, northeast of Matthew Arnold School. Unmet demand at this location is for 0.8 of a court and will include unmet demand from Oxford. This is an insufficient total to consider the provision of a new sports hall to improve accessibility for residents.
9. The overall estimated used capacity of sports halls in the district in the weekly peak period is between 40% in Run 1 and 52% in Run 2. However, three sites are estimated to be full at peak times in Run 2 and two sites in Run 3.

### Interventions and Next Steps

The quantitative findings identify that there is sufficient supply across the district to meet demand in 2023 and 2041. There are two interventions:

- Review and change the modelled provision in Wantage
- Protect the sports hall supply for community use in Abingdon

### *Wantage*

The supply in Wantage is modelled to increase:

- Run 1 – Wantage Leisure Centre four-court hall, which is available for the maximum 46 hours in the weekly peak period, and King Alfred’s Academy four-court hall and activity hall, which are available for 34 hours in the weekly peak period
- Run 2 – the addition of St John’s Academy four-court hall, which is a committed project and modelled to open in 2025 with 25 hours available for community use in the weekly peak period
- Run 3 – the addition of Potential Wantage Leisure Facility four-court hall, which is an option and modelled to open in 2028 with 45 hours available for community use in the weekly peak period

In Run 3 there is a total of 16.0 courts and one activity hall of 180 sqm. The available space in the weekly peak period is 13.0 courts and 133 sqm.

Demand in Wantage and Grove in the weekly peak period across 12 square kilometres is:

- 2023 – 7.4 courts
- 2041 – 11.2 courts

In Run 2 both the educational sports halls in Wantage are estimated to be 100% utilised in the weekly peak period.

In Run 3 provision of Potential Wantage Leisure Facility reduces the used capacity of the educational sports halls to below the Sport England comfort level of 80% utilisation in the weekly peak period:

- King Alfred’s Academy – 69%
- St John’s Academy – 68%

There is scope to increase the availability for community use at both educational sites to accommodate more demand. Therefore, the option to also provide Potential Wantage Leisure Facility is then not required because it leads to over provision.

Furthermore, the two educational sports halls are:

- The most recent to open in the district
- Have dimensions of 35m x 20m that is suitable for community recreation and club development

The alternative option is:

- Wantage Leisure Centre:
  - Only public leisure centre in Wantage, which provides access for all residents for full peak period
  - Estimated to be 76% utilised in Run 1 and 77% in Run 2, but when Potential Wantage Leisure Facility is included in Run 3, it decreases to 49%
  - Dimensions of 33m x 18m are not suitable for club development
  - Consider the need for further modernisation as last refurbished in 2005
- King Alfred’s Academy:
  - Negotiate a community use agreement, if one is not in place, to protect and retain the site for community use
  - Scope to increase availability in the weekly peak period by up to 12 hours and accommodate 609 more visits.
- St John’s Academy:
  - Negotiate a community use agreement with St John’s Academy Trust to provide for community use
  - Scope to increase availability in the weekly peak period by up to 21 hours and accommodate 672 more visits.

Overall, the option leads to a supply of a modern fit for purpose stock of sports halls in Wantage that can meet demand in 2041.

### *Abingdon*

The second intervention is to protect the sports hall supply for community use in Abingdon. Abingdon has ten sports hall sites but only one, White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre, is a public facility. Abingdon has a sufficient supply of sports halls to meet demand but is dependent on availability of the educational supply. If community use agreements are not in place, these need to be negotiated and agreed.

The key sites based on the FPM findings are:

- The School of St Helen and St Katherine:
  - Six-court hall and an activity hall, which has a ‘draw effect’ because of its suitability for all activities, appealing to sports clubs
  - Commitment to community use as it is currently available for 34 hours in the weekly peak period (independent schools can provide community use for school organisations and pupils’ families before wider community use)
  - Largest educational site capacity and the second largest in the district, at 2,716 visits in the weekly peak period
  - Opened in 2016, it is currently the third most recent sports hall to open
  - Demand around the site is high in 2023 and 2041
  - Estimated to be 42% utilised in Run 1, 60% in Run 2 and 58% in Run 3

- Scope to increase availability in the weekly peak period by up to 12 hours and accommodate 959 more visits
- Abingdon Preparatory School
  - Four-court hall (35m x 20m) and an activity hall, which are suitable for all activities, appealing to sports clubs
  - Commitment to community use as it is currently available for 25 hours in the weekly peak period (also an independent school)
  - Accommodates 1,269 visits in the weekly peak period
  - Opened in 2007, it may need modernisation
  - Estimated to be 50% utilised in Run 1, 63% in Run 2 and 57% in Run 3
  - Scope to increase availability in the weekly peak period by up to 21 hours and accommodate 1,066 more visits

### 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 Vale of White Horse Built Facilities Strategy. 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 the district is good in 2023 but worsens in 2041 due to the large increase in demand and the ageing of the facilities between the two years. Vale of White Horse has the highest provision of courts per population across the study area in all runs. The district's provision is greater than both the regional and national averages in both 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

Overall, 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 to sports halls in areas where residents have the lowest share of sports halls. In Run 1 when demand is lowest there is sufficient suitable provision that the district's residents can access, with local share at 1.15. In Run 2 local share is 0.63 meaning there is insufficient suitable provision that the district's residents can access. Demand is greater, and there is an increase in supply of one sports hall, but overall the facilities have aged and become less attractive. In Run 3 local share increases to 0.71. Demand is unchanged from Run 2, but supply has increased with one further sports hall that is more attractive.

Geographical Distribution of Local Share

In Run 1 local share is best in northwest Abingdon and Radley, at between 1.8 and 2.2. Local share is very good around Abingdon, at 1.2 and above. Demand in Abingdon is high, but it also has an extensive supply of sports halls. Local share is also very good around Faringdon, at between 1.5 and 1.7. Demand is low in this area, but has access to a large sports hall that was recently refurbished. Local share is poorest around Wantage, at 0.6 and 0.7. There are only two sports halls to meet the high demand in this area.

In Run 2 local share remains good in northwest Abingdon and Radley, but the values are lower at between 1.0 and 1.2. Demand has increased in the area; the sports halls have aged and there is no increase in supply in Abingdon. Local share remains poorest around Wantage, at 0.4. Local share is very poor from Uffington through to west Didcot, at 0.5. There is one new sports hall in Wantage, but demand has increased and the other facilities have aged.

In Run 3 local share remains the same across most of the district but improves around Wantage to 0.6 and 0.7. Demand is unchanged and supply has increased with the inclusion of Potential Wantage Leisure Facility.

**4.19 Planned Developments**

New schools with sports hall provision are planned for Crab Hill in Wantage and Grove Airfield.

**4.20 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"> <li>• Sports clubs using sports halls report the main barrier to club expansion is a lack of space to accommodate more members.</li> <li>• Education sites play an important role in the Vale of White Horse and should these sites be removed from the model there would be insufficient supply to meet demand.</li> <li>• This is particularly important in the West sub area where there are two large sports halls (4+ courts) with community access; Faringdon Leisure Centre and St Hugh’s School. There is also Pinewood School, which has a four-court sports hall that is for private (school) use only.</li> <li>• Future demand could generate 5,792 new sports hall users across the Vale of White Horse by 2041.</li> <li>• Highest demand in the South sub area and the majority of this demand will be from children and young people (5-15-year-olds).</li> <li>• Highest demand for ‘Dance-based classes; there could be 2,441 new dancers by 2041 (and 1,014 of them in the South sub area).</li> <li>• The FPM study shows that local share of sports halls, which considers deprivation, is poorest</li> </ul>	<p>Additional space and time required for sports clubs using sports halls in all sub areas. Provide new sports hall (4-courts) at St John’s Academy in Grove (South sub area).</p> <p>Secure community use of sports halls at education sites through Community Use Agreements in all sub areas. Especially at schools in Abingdon (Abingdon Preparatory School and School of St Helen &amp; St Katherine), in Wantage (St John’s Academy and King Alfred’s Academy) and in Faringdon (St Hugh’s School).</p> <p>To improve ‘equity’ of provision across the</p>

	<p>around Wantage. Local share is very poor from Uffington through to west Didcot.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The FPM study recommends CUAs at schools in Abingdon (Abingdon Preparatory School and School of St Helen &amp; St Katherine) and in Wantage (St John’s Academy and King Alfred’s Academy).</li> </ul>	<p>district, new activity halls (i.e., 1-3-courts) should be considered in areas around Wantage (Uffington through to west Didcot).</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"> <li>The sports hall with the lowest quality rating is at Wantage LC (‘Below Average’ quality). The facility is older and showing signs of age and poor quality. The facility is usable but does not meet current expectations.</li> <li>There is a lack of halls with fully sprung hardwood flooring, which limits use for dancers.</li> </ul>	<p>Improvement of sports hall quality at Wantage 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"> <li>Some residents in the West sub area are not within a 20-minute drive-time of a public leisure centre sports hall.</li> <li>Also, some residents in the South sub area are not within a 20-minute drive-time, however these residents are within a 20-minute drive-time of Didcot Leisure Centre in South Oxfordshire.</li> <li>Sports clubs report that the rising costs to hire halls prohibit new members joining.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<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"> <li>The vast majority of sports clubs in the Vale 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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Wantage LC has the busiest sports hall in Vale of White Horse – it is full-to-capacity during 94% of the hours open during peak periods.</li> <li>The remaining sports halls at White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre and Faringdon Leisure Centre are full-to-capacity during 90% of peak periods.</li> </ul>	<p>Work with operators of all sports halls 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"> <li>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. <b>(PROTECT)</b></li> <li>The quality of sport halls at Wantage LC needs to be improved to meet the expectations of users. <b>(ENHANCE)</b></li> <li>Improved availability needed at all sports halls for sports clubs to use halls more at peak times. <b>(ENHANCE)</b></li> </ul>	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To meet current and future demand, provide new sports hall (4-courts) at St John’s Academy in Grove <b>(PROVIDE)</b></li><li>• Secure community use of sports halls at education sites through Community Use Agreements in all sub areas. Especially at schools in Abingdon (Abingdon Preparatory School and School of St Helen &amp; St Katherine), in Wantage (St John’s Academy and King Alfred’s Academy) and in Faringdon (St Hugh’s School). <b>(ENHANCE)</b></li><li>• To improve ‘equity’ of provision across the district, new activity halls (i.e., 1-3-courts) should be considered in areas around Wantage (Uffington through to west Didcot). <b>(PROVIDE)</b></li></ul>
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## 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 Vale of White Horse. 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 the Vale of White Horse, there are health and fitness suites (gyms) located at three public leisure centres; in Abingdon, Faringdon and Wantage. 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 three of the sub areas in Vale of White Horse. A map to show the location of gyms courts is displayed in the Appendices.

*Table 5.1: Community-Accessible Gyms in Vale of White Horse*

Site Name	Sub Area	Gym Size (no. of stations)	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type
White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre	North	130	Public	Local Authority	Trust
Wantage Leisure Centre	South	33	Public	Local Authority	Trust
Faringdon Leisure Centre	West	35	Public	Local Authority	Trust

The commercially-owned and education- owned sites with gyms in Vale of White Horse have been presented in Table 5.2 overleaf. These facilities require a registered membership to access provision, and the education sites have limited community access during day-times. The largest gyms are both located in Abingdon – Anytime Fitness has 200 stations and The Gym Group has 170 stations.

Table 5.2: Commercial Gyms in Vale of White Horse

Site Name	Sub Area	Gym Size (no. of stations)	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type
Anytime Fitness	North	200	Membership	Commercial	Commercial
Brookes Sport Botley	North	70	Membership	Education	University
The Gym Group	North	170	Membership	Commercial	Commercial
Park Club Milton	North	120	Membership	Commercial	Commercial
Radley College Sports Centre	North	35	Membership	Education	College
Results Health Club	North	49	Membership	Commercial	Commercial
TFD Health and Fitness	South	90	Membership	Commercial	Commercial

Table 5.3 below shows the small gyms (less than 20 stations), private use only and school gyms in the Vale of White Horse.

Table 5.3: Small gyms and private use gyms in Vale of White Horse

Site Name	Sub Area	Gym Type	Management Type
Abingdon and Witney College	North	Small Gym	College
Abingdon School & Sports Centre	North	Small Gym	School
Dalton Barracks	North	Private Use	MOD
John Mason School	North	Small Gym	School
Milton Hill Abingdon	North	Small Gym	Commercial
Southern Bypass Ground	North	Small Gym	Sports Club
The School of St Helen and St Katharine	North	Private Use	School
UTC Oxfordshire	North	Small Gym	College
The Defence Academy (Shrivenham Station)	West	Private Use	MOD

### 5.3 Security of Access, Ownership and Management

The three gyms located at public leisure centres have secured community use as they are owned by the Local Authority and all gyms are managed by an external leisure operator. There are Joint Use Agreements at Faringdon Leisure Centre, however this agreement does not prioritise school use of the gym (sports hall and swimming pool only).

During the week, White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre opens half an hour earlier than Faringdon Leisure Centre and Wantage Leisure Centre; at 06:00 rather than 06:30. At the weekend, White Horse LTC also opens half an hour earlier (07:00 rather than 07:30) than at Faringdon and Wantage leisure centres. All centres close at 22:00 during the week and at 17:00 at weekends.

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 seven sites in Vale of White Horse. The majority of these gyms are located in the North sub area (six sites). These gyms are accessible to the community with a registered membership (monthly membership prices range from £24.99 per month at Gym Group in Abingdon to £70 per month at TFD Health and Fitness in Wantage). There are extensive opening hours of commercially-owned gyms, including Gym Group (Abingdon) that is 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 Vale of White Horse. Table 5.4 below offers further detail with regard to the age and refurbishment dates of different facilities. All three of the gym at public leisure centres were subjected to a non-technical assessment. A full breakdown of the non-technical site assessment audits can be found in Appendix B.

Table 5.4: Quality, age and refurbishment detail of Gyms in Vale of White Horse

Site Name	Sub Area	Year Built (refurbished)	Audit / Quality rating
White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre	North	2002 (2016)	<b>Good:</b> 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.
Wantage Leisure Centre	South	1976 (2001)	<b>Below average:</b> 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.
Faringdon Leisure Centre	West	1997 (2004)	<b>Above average:</b> 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.

## 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 -4.9% in Vale of White Horse, which is a greater decrease than in South Oxfordshire, and across the South East and England.

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

Activity	Vale of White Horse	South Oxfordshire	Oxfordshire (County)	South East (Region)	England (Nation)
Gym Sessions	-4.9%	-3.3%	-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 Vale of White Horse (13.5%) which is higher than in all other areas.

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

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

(Source: Sport England Active Lives 2018-22)

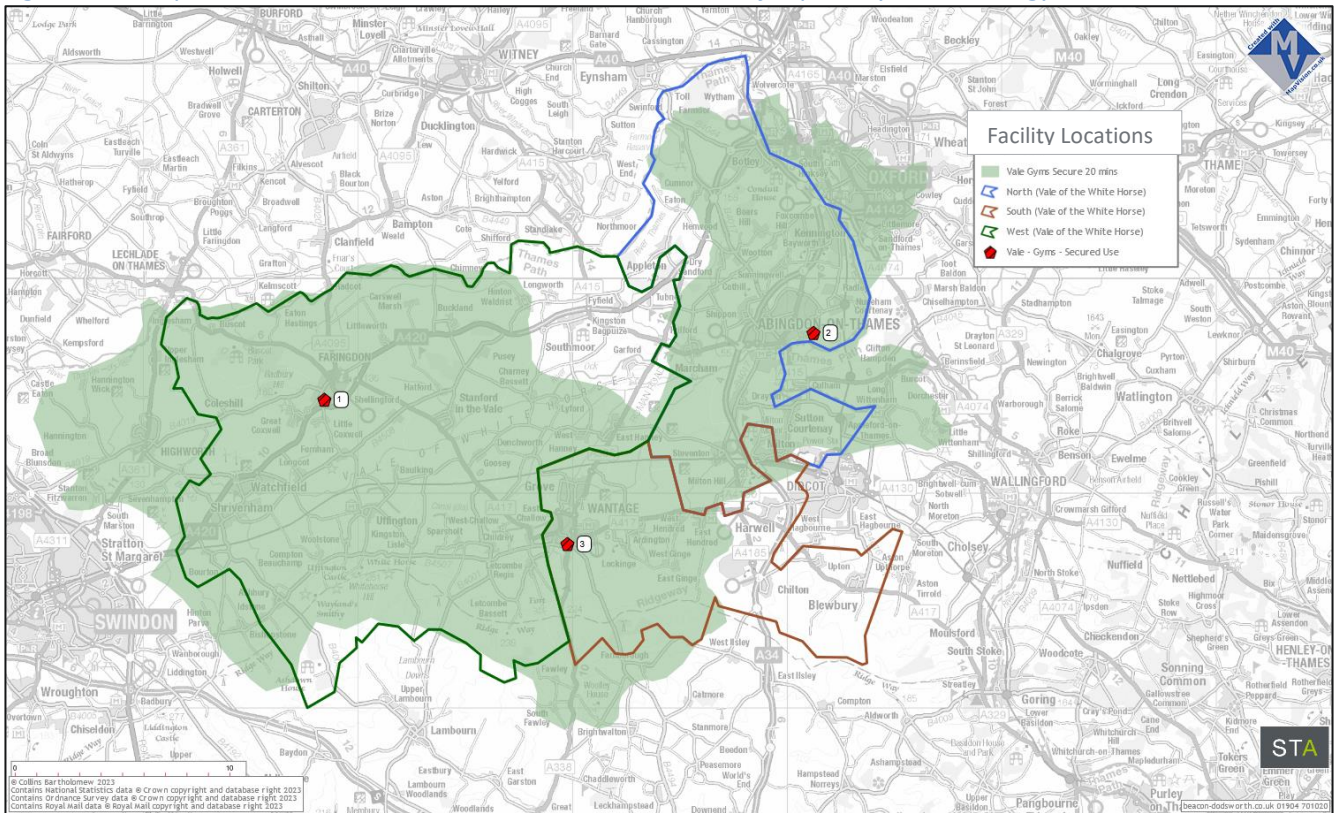
## 5.6 Accessibility

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 Vale of White Horse, 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 overleaf shows that there are some residents in the West sub area are not within a 20-minute drive-time of a public leisure centre gym. The map also shows that some residents in the South sub area are not within a 20-minute drive-time, however these residents are within a 20-minute drive-time of Didcot Wave gym Centre in South Oxfordshire.

Figure 5.1: Map to show 20-minute drive-time catchment areas for publicly-accessible gyms in the Vale



### 5.7 Peak Time Usage

Table 5.7 overleaf 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 three 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 Vale of White Horse

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)
White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre (North)	26	0	19	7 (27%)
Wantage Leisure Centre (South)	26	0	19	7 (27%)
Faringdon Leisure Centre (West)	26	0	14	12 (46%)

White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre and Wantage Leisure Centre have the busiest gyms in the Vale of White Horse – on average the gyms are 73% full during peak periods. The user information provided by the external operator shows both of the gyms are uncomfortably busy (c.80% full) during 17:00 to 21:00 on Monday to Friday. The gym Faringdon Leisure Centre is 54% full (on average) during peak periods – and its uncomfortably busy period (c.80% full) is an hour shorter than at the other centres; from 17:00 to 20:00 on Monday to Friday.

## 5.8 Future Demand

To estimate the number of people likely to be regular gym 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 gym users across the district has been generated.

Active Lives data (2022) shows that 12% of adults (16+ year olds) in the Vale of White Horse 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 6,016 new gym users across the Vale of White Horse 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 the Vale of White Horse*

Age Group	North Sub Area	South Sub Area	West Sub Area	Total (District)
5–15-year-olds	254	339	160	<b>753</b>
16–45-year-olds	829	799	473	<b>2,101</b>
46–75-year-olds	1,035	868	437	<b>2,340</b>
76–100-year-olds	370	176	200	<b>746</b>
<b>Total (5-100-year-olds)</b>	<b>2,566</b>	<b>2,181</b>	<b>1,269</b>	<b>6,016</b>

Future demand projections suggest that future demand will be highest in the North 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 70% 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 North sub area. There are no budget operators in the South and the West sub areas (only TFD Health and Fitness in Wantage that is £70 per month), which highlights the importance of the gyms at Wantage Leisure Centre and Faringdon Leisure Centre in accommodating future demand.

## 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"> <li>• There are health and fitness suites (gyms) located at three public leisure centres in all three sub areas.</li> <li>• Six commercial gyms are located in the North sub area – one in the South sub area. Abingdon has the three largest gyms; Anytime Fitness has 200 stations, The Gym Group (170 stations) and White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre (130 stations).</li> <li>• If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 6,016 new gym-users across the Vale by 2041.</li> <li>• Highest future demand in the North sub area and the majority of this demand will be from people aged 46 to 75 years old.</li> </ul>	<p>New provision needed to meet very high future demand for gym sessions in North 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"> <li>• The worst quality gym is located at Wantage LC. 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. Ancillary facilities are deteriorating, reasonable quality, but usable.</li> </ul>	<p>Improve the quality of the gym at Wantage 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"> <li>• Some residents in the West sub area are not within a 20-minute drive-time of a public leisure centre gym.</li> <li>• Also, some residents in the South sub area are not within a 20-minute drive-time, however these residents are within a 20-minute drive-time of Didcot Wave gym in South Oxfordshire.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Commercial gyms accessible to the community with a registered membership (monthly membership prices range from £24.99 per month at Gym Group in Abingdon to £70 per month at TFD Health and Fitness in Wantage).</li> <li>• The second-highest future demand is in the South sub (2,181 new gym-users by 2041). However, there are no budget operators in this sub area (only TFD Health and Fitness in Wantage), which highlights the importance of Wantage Leisure Centre – currently 73% full during peak times – therefore future provision will be required to meet future demand.</li> </ul>	<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 Wantage as reliance on expensive membership club.</p>



<p><u>Availability</u> – Are the facilities available to users who want to use them?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White Horse LTC and Wantage LC have the busiest gym in the Vale of White Horse – on average the gyms are 73% full during peak periods.</li> <li>• The user information provided by the external operator shows both of the gyms are uncomfortably busy (c.80% full) during 17:00 to 21:00 on Monday to Friday.</li> <li>• The gym Faringdon Leisure Centre is 54% full (on average) during peak periods – and its uncomfortably busy period (c.80% full) is an hour shorter than at the other centres; from 17:00 to 20:00 on Monday to Friday.</li> </ul>	<p>New gym provision in the North and South sub areas to alleviate White Horse LTC and Wantage 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"> <li>• 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. <b>(PROTECT)</b></li> <li>• Improvement to the quality of Wantage LC gym in order to meet customer expectations. <b>(ENHANCE)</b></li> <li>• New commercial ‘budget’ operator gym is needed in Wantage to improve the accessibility for both the existing and future population within the area. <b>(PROVIDE)</b></li> <li>• Plan for additional gyms in the North and the South sub area where there are likely to be c.2,300 new gym-users in each sub area by 2041. <b>(PROVIDE)</b></li> </ul>	

## 6 SQUASH COURTS

### 6.1 Introduction

This section contains a summary of the findings from the needs assessment work for squash courts in the Vale of White Horse. 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 Vale of White Horse there are 19 squash courts located at seven sites. The largest number of courts are located at Radley College (five courts) and Abingdon and Witney College (four courts), which are both in the North sub area.

There is at least one glass-backed squash court at four of the five sites in the North sub area (Brookes Sport Botley has 'normal' courts). 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 South or the West sub areas, however (shown in table 6.1 below) there are 'normal' squash courts (i.e., not glass-backed) located in these sub areas. A map to show the location of squash courts is displayed in the Appendices.

*Table 6.1: Community-Accessible Squash Courts in Vale of White Horse*

Site Name	Sub Area	No. of Courts	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type
Abingdon School and Sports Centre	North	2 glass-backed	Public	Education	School
Abingdon and Witney College (Abingdon Squash and Racketball Club)	North	3 normal and 1 glass-backed	Sports Club	Education	Sports Club
Brookes Sport Botley	North	2 normal	Membership	Education	University
Radley College Sports Centre	North	4 normal and 1 glass-backed	Membership	Education	College
White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre	North	2 glass-backed	Public	Local Authority	Trust
Wantage Leisure Centre	South	2 normal	Public	Local Authority	Trust
Faringdon Leisure Centre	West	2 normal	Public	Local Authority	Trust

There are also two sites in Vale of White Horse with squash courts that are for private use only. There is no community access of one squash court at Cothill House School (North sub area) and six courts at The Defence Academy Shrivenham Station (West sub area).

## 6.2 Security of Access, Ownership and Management

In the North sub area, the White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre is the only site owned by the Local Authority, which is managed by a Trust and has extensive operating hours, but no squash club is based here (Martial Arts club bookings only). The remaining four sites in this sub area are education-owned sites – Abingdon School, Radley College and Brookes Sport manage their facilities – whereas Abingdon Squash and Racketball Club have a lease agreement (expires in 2027) with Abingdon and Witney College. All of these education-owned squash courts are used by students during the day-time, but only Abingdon and Witney College have regular club use.

There are two sites in the North sub area with access to squash courts on a ‘Pay and Play’ basis - White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre (£15.25 for 40 minutes) and Abingdon School Sports Centre (£10 an hour). Although Abingdon School Sports Centre has limited opening hours (after 6pm on weekdays). Radley College Sports Centre squash courts are charged at £40 for eight 50-minute sessions a year. The courts at Brookes Sport are accessible with a centre membership of £39 a month or £390 a year. Abingdon Squash and Racketball Club membership is £165 for adults and £18.50 for juniors (under 18s); and court fees of £3.95 an hour are required for each booking.

In the South and the West sub areas, both squash court sites (Wantage Leisure Centre and Faringdon Leisure Centre) are accessible to the non-members on a ‘Pay and Play’ basis (£15.25 for 40 minutes). Wantage Leisure Centre is education-owned and Faringdon Leisure Centre is owned by the Local Authority - both sites are operated by a Trust and have extensive opening hours.

## 6.3 Age and Quality of facilities

Table 6.4 below offers further detail with regard to the age and refurbishment dates of different facilities. Six of the seven publicly-accessible squash courts 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. Abingdon and Witney College squash courts were not assessed as part of this study.

*Table 6.4: Quality, age and refurbishment detail of squash courts in Vale of White Horse*

Site Name	Sub Area	Year Built (refurbished)	Audit / Quality rating
Abingdon School and Sports Centre	North	2008	<b>Above average:</b> 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.
Brookes Sport Botley	North	1995 (2011)	<b>Above average:</b> 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.

Radley College Sports Centre	North	1985 (2011)	<b>Above average:</b> 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.
White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre	North	2002	<b>Above average:</b> 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.
Wantage Leisure Centre	South	1976 (2001)	<b>Below average:</b> 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.
Faringdon Leisure Centre	West	1990 (2010)	<b>Above average:</b> 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.

## 6.4 Club Consultation

There is one community squash club in the Vale of White Horse (Abingdon Squash & Racketball Club). There are school-based clubs (student and teacher members) located at Abingdon School and Sports Centre, Brookes Sport Botley and Radley College Sports Centre. There are no squash clubs using Wantage Leisure Centre or Faringdon Leisure Centre (no block-bookings reported by leisure centre operators).

Abingdon Squash & Racketball Club has 164 adult and 18 junior (under 18-year-olds) members using Abingdon and Witney College squash courts for coaching sessions (three a week), club nights (two a week), matches (five a week) and monthly box leagues. Member numbers have increased over the last three years and its aim to reach 200 adult members and 75 juniors, but this depends upon the enthusiasm of volunteers. The club has recovered well from the Covid Pandemic with revenue from courts and membership up 10% on pre-Covid levels. However, participation in social activities and general footfall in the clubroom has decreased (more people play and leave than they used to), despite having relatively new changing rooms and clubroom (built in 2018). The club raised no issues with the quality or availability of the squash courts and ancillary facilities; reporting them as 'Good' quality.

## 6.5 NGB Consultation

England Squash is committed to supporting the traditional infrastructure of county associations, clubs, coaches and officials to grow the game through key programmes and campaigns. England Squash 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.

England Squash Strategy (2021 – 2025) ‘Squash in a Changing World’ aims to grow the game in England by working collaboratively with the whole squash community so that together, it can realise the collective vision to create a thriving, diverse and growing community. At the heart of the strategy lie three key strategic priorities; to increase participation, enhance diversity and nurture talent.

England Squash suggests that there is a good spread of squash facilities across Vale of White Horse. 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.

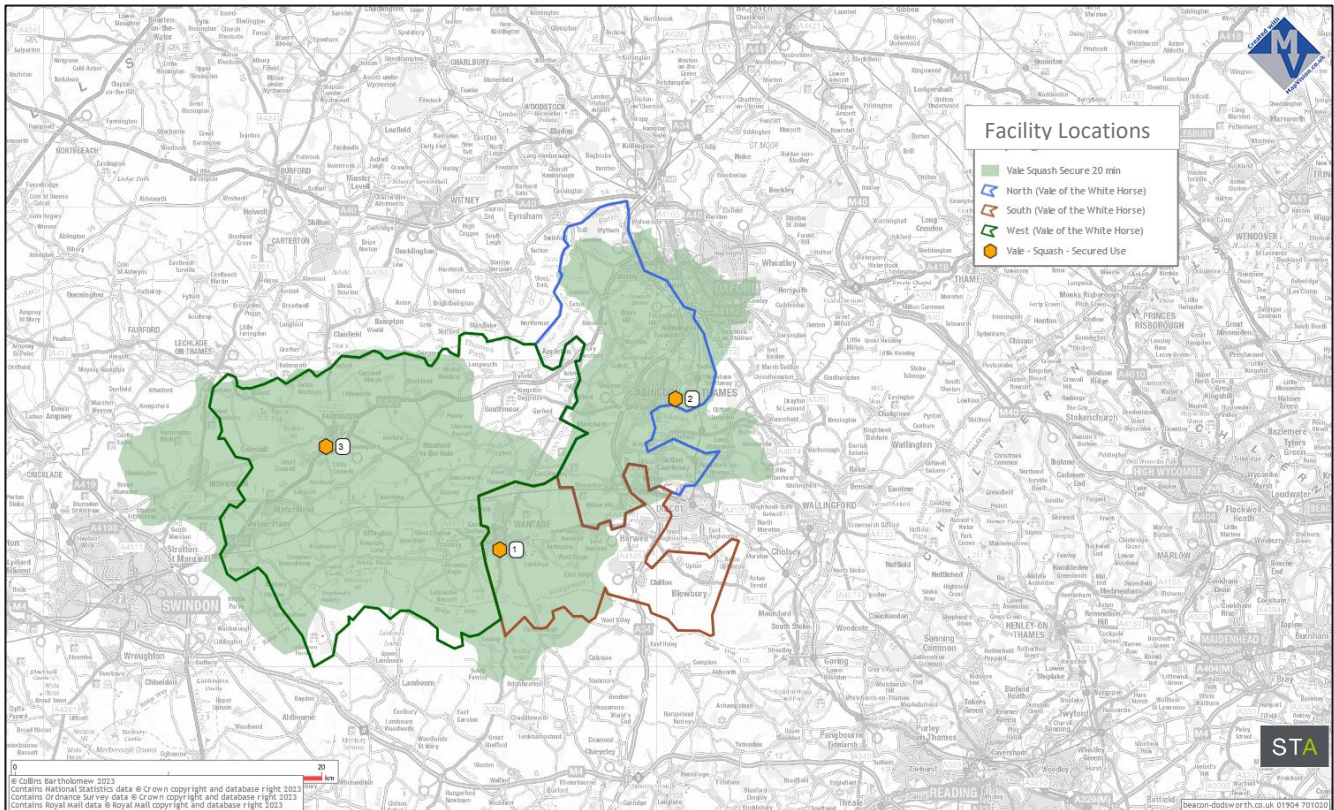
## 6.8 Accessibility

Squash court 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 below shows that there are some residents in the West sub area are not within a 20-minute drive-time of a public leisure centre gym. The map also shows that some residents in the South sub area are not within a 20-minute drive-time, however these residents are within a 20-minute drive-time of Didcot LC in South Oxfordshire.

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



## 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 two public leisure centres with squash courts in the Vale of White Horse. However, White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre only has six spare hours a week during peak periods (three hours each court). Abingdon Judo Club block-book each squash court for 10 hours a week in the peak period.

One of the squash courts at Faringdon Leisure Centre is used as a ‘Function Room’ and therefore not available for squash at any times during the week.

Table 6.6: Peak time usage of squash courts at public leisure centres in Vale of White Horse

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)
White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre (North)	Court 1	26	10*	13	3
	Court 2	26	10*	13	3
Wantage Leisure Centre (South)	Court 1	26	0	5	21
	Court 2	26	0	5	21
Faringdon Leisure Centre (West)	Court 1	23	0	12	11
	Court 2	n/a	Function Room	n/a	n/a

\*Abingdon Judo Club

There is spare capacity for squash during period periods at all public leisure centres in the Vale of White Horse. However, the courts at White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre are almost full-to-capacity (88% full during peak periods). No squash club is based here and the only block-booking is made by Abingdon Judo Club (20 hours per week in the peak period) for both squash courts.

At Wantage Leisure Centre, there are no block-bookings, but the school books the courts during weekdays (9am to 5pm) with a Joint Use Agreement for use of the courts. The courts have a used-capacity of 19% during peak periods. There are no block-bookings of the one court available for squash at Faringdon Leisure Centre during peak periods and a used-capacity of 52%.

## 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 the Vale of White Horse 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 314 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 the Vale of White Horse

Age Group	North Sub Area	South Sub Area	West Sub Area	Total (District)
5–15-year-olds	5	6	3	14
16–45-year-olds	48	46	27	121
46–75-year-olds	60	50	25	135
76–100-year-olds	21	10	12	43
<b>Total (5-100-year-olds)</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>314</b>

Future demand projections suggest that future demand will be highest in the North 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
<p><u>Quantity</u> – Are there enough facilities with sufficient capacity to meet needs?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are 19 squash courts located at seven sites. The largest number of courts are located at Radley College (five courts) and Abingdon and Witney College (four courts), which are both in the North sub area.</li> <li>• There is at least one glass-backed squash court at four of the five sites in the North sub area (Brookes Sport Botley has ‘normal’ courts).</li> <li>• There are no glass-backed squash courts in the South or the West sub areas, however there are ‘normal’ squash courts (i.e., not glass-backed) located in these sub areas.</li> <li>• There is one community squash club in the Vale (Abingdon Squash &amp; Racketball Club) which has a lease agreement with Abingdon and Witney College (expires in 2027).</li> <li>• There are no squash clubs using Wantage Leisure Centre or Faringdon Leisure Centre (no block-bookings reported by leisure centre operators).</li> <li>• Future demand for squash will be highest in the North sub area (134 new players) and total 314 across the district by 2041.</li> </ul>	<p>Enhance security of tenure for Abingdon Squash &amp; Racketball Club at Abingdon and Witney College (current lease expires in 2027).</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"> <li>• The worst quality squash courts in the district are located at Wantage Leisure Centre (‘Below Average’ quality) and the remaining six squash court sites visited were ‘Above Average’ quality.</li> </ul>	<p>Improve the quality of the squash courts at Wantage 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"> <li>• Some residents in the West sub area are not within a 20-minute drive-time of a public leisure centre squash courts.</li> <li>• Also, some residents in the South sub area are not within a 20-minute drive-time, however these residents are within a 20-minute drive-time of Didcot LC in South Oxfordshire.</li> <li>• The non-member fees for casual use of the gym per session (40 minutes) is £15.25 at all three of the Local Authority owned leisure centres.</li> </ul>	<p>Work with the operators of public leisure centre squash courts to reduce the ‘pay and play’ cost to use the courts.</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Abingdon School Sports Centre has the cheapest court hire charges (£10 an hour) but has limited opening hours (after 6pm during weekdays).</li> </ul>	
<p><u>Availability</u> – Are the facilities available to users who want to use them?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is spare capacity for squash during period periods at all public leisure centres in the Vale of White Horse. However, the courts at White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre are almost full-to-capacity (88% full during peak periods). No squash club is based here and the only block-booking is made by Abingdon Judo Club (20 hours per week in the peak period) for both squash courts.</li> <li>The used-capacity of squash courts at Wantage Leisure Centre is 19% during peak periods and 52% at Faringdon Leisure Centre.</li> <li>No capacity or availability issues raised by Abingdon Squash &amp; Racketball Club (which are based at Abingdon and Witney College).</li> </ul>	<p>New or alternative provision for Abingdon Judo Club to alleviate White Horse LTC and capacity issues.</p>
<p><u>Summary</u> – What provision is required to meet needs and address issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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. <b>(PROTECT)</b></li> <li>Enhance security of tenure for Abingdon Squash &amp; Racketball Club at Abingdon and Witney College (current lease expires in 2027). <b>(ENHANCE)</b></li> <li>Improvement to the quality of Wantage LC squash courts in order to meet customer expectations. <b>(ENHANCE)</b></li> <li>New or alternative provision for Abingdon Judo Club to improve the accessibility for both the existing and future population within the North sub area. <b>(PROVIDE)</b></li> </ul>	

## 7 GYMNASTICS FACILITIES

### 7.1 Introduction

This section contains a summary of the findings from the needs assessment work for gymnastics facilities in the Vale of White Horse. 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 Vale of White Horse there are gymnastics facilities located at eight sites. Seven of these sites are shared facilities (with other sports) – there are two sports halls, two school halls and three village halls. The only dedicated gymnastics venue is located at Wantage Gymnastics Centre (West sub area).

Table 7.1 below shows there are gymnastics facilities located in all three of the sub areas in Vale of White Horse. There are five gymnastics clubs using seven of the eight sites with gymnastics facilities. Didcot & Grove Gym Club and Kinetics Gymnastics both use two sites. There is also a partner-school located at Caldecott School.

The BG Partner School Programme (PSP) aims to support teachers to feel confident in delivering high quality gymnastics to participants, making their first taste of gymnastics a positive one. The PSP provides teachers with gymnastics session plans, support guides, online workshops and access to gymnastics e-learning courses.

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

*Table 7.1: Gymnastics Facilities in Vale of White Horse*

Site Name	Sub Area	Provision Type	User Type / Club Name	Ownership Type	Management Type
Caldecott School	North	School Hall	Partner School	Education	Education
Cumnor Primary School	North	School Hall	K-Squared Gymnastics	Education	Education
White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre	North	Sports Hall	Heights Trampoline & Gymnastics Club	Local Authority	Trust
Old Mill Hall, Grove	South	Village Hall	Didcot & Grove Gym Club	Local Authority	Local Authority

Upton Village Hall	South	Village Hall	Kinetic Gymnastics	Local Authority	Local Authority
Wantage Leisure Centre	South	Sports Hall	Kinetic Gymnastics	Local Authority	Trust
Mill Farm, Stanford-in-the Vale	West	Village Hall	Didcot & Grove Gym Club	Commercial	Commercial
Wantage Gymnastic Centre	West	Dedicated Unit	Wantage Gymnastic Club	Commercial	Club

### 7.3 Security of Access, Ownership and Management

Four of the eight sites with gymnastics facilities in Vale of White Horse have security of community access. These sites are owned by the Local Authority – White Horse Tennis and Leisure Centre, Old Mill Hall, Upton Village Hall and Wantage Leisure Centre – and they are managed the Authority or a Trust.

There are two sites that are owned by educational establishments – Caldecott School and Cumnor Primary School (both in North sub area). The two sites in the West sub area are commercially owned – Wantage Gymnastics Centre and Mill Farm.

### 7.4 Age and Quality of facilities

Table 7.2 below offers further detail with regard to the age and refurbishment dates of different facilities. Two sites with gymnastics facilities 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 Vale of White Horse*

Site Name	Sub Area	Year Built (refurbished)	Audit / Quality rating
White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre	North	2002	<b>Above average:</b> 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.
Wantage Leisure Centre	South	1976 (2001)	<b>Below average:</b> 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.

### 7.5 Demand (Club Consultation)

Two of the five gymnastics club using facilities in the Vale of White Horse responded to requests for information. Of the clubs that did not respond, Didcot & Grove Gym Club (12 members with no waiting list) and K-Squared Gymnastics (39 members with 10 on the waiting list) are relatively small clubs.

Kinetic Gymnastics has 153 members (primarily women’s artistic gymnastics) offering recreational classes on six days a week across three venues. Kinetic Gymnastics uses Wantage Leisure Centre and Upton Village Hall (as well as Didcot Leisure Centre in South Oxfordshire). The club report that Upton Village Hall is too small and Wantage Leisure Centre sports hall is usually dirty and hasn’t had heating for two years. 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 (100 people on its waiting list).

Heights Trampoline & Gymnastics Club has 201 members and offer recreational trampoline and gymnastics sessions on four days a week at varying times (including Friday day-time for Preschool Tramp & Gym and home education sessions from 4pm. The club reports that member numbers have decreased since the Pandemic but are increasing again (slowly). The club has potential to expand but the hire costs and a lack of availability for additional sessions at the White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre prohibits this. The club would like a dedicated unit to ensure all groups (and 50 people on its waiting list) can be offered a chance to participate in gymnastics throughout the whole day and every day of the week.

Wantage Gymnastic Club has 217 members and 400 on its waiting list. The club advised that a lack of qualified coaches is the main issue for the club (as it is with Abingdon Gymnastics Club in South Oxfordshire) and that small facility improvements (to the doors of its facility) are required.

### 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 with 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 Vale of White Horse (6.3%), 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

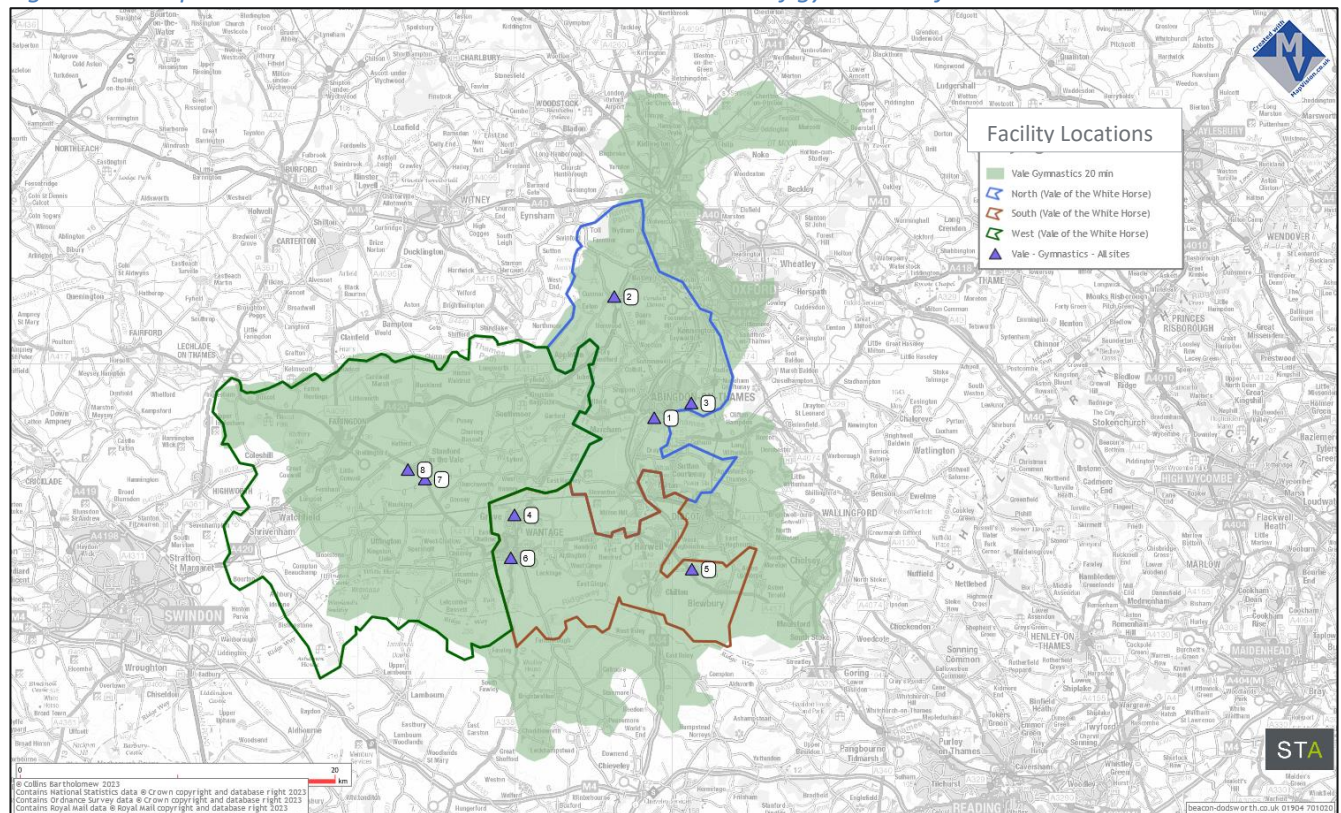
Activity	Vale of White Horse	South Oxfordshire	Oxfordshire (County)	South East (Region)	England (Nation)
Gymnastics or Trampolining	6.3%	2.4%	-4.1%	-4.0%	-3.9%

(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. The map below shows a small gap in provision in the West sub area, however residents in this area are within a 20-minute drive-time of gymnastics facilities in Swindon.

Figure 7.1: Map to show 20-minute drive-time catchment areas of gymnastics facilities in the Vale



## 7.9 Latent Demand (Waiting Lists)

Table 7.5 below shows the latest membership numbers (provided by BG) for 2022. Four of the five gymnastics clubs in Vale of White Horse have waiting lists for new members. The largest waiting list is for Wantage Gymnastics Club (400 people).

*Table 7.5: No. of gymnastics club members and waiting lists in Vale of White Horse*

Site Name	Sub Area	Provision Type	User Type / Club Name	Membership Number	Waiting List Number
Caldecott School	North	School Hall	Partner School	n/a	n/a
Cumnor Primary School	North	School Hall	K-Squared Gymnastics	39	10
White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre	North	Sports Hall	Heights Trampoline & Gymnastics Club	201	50
Old Mill Hall, Grove	South	Village Hall	Didcot & Grove Gym Club	12	0
Upton Village Hall	South	Village Hall	Kinetic Gymnastics	153	100
Wantage Leisure Centre	South	Sports Hall	Kinetic Gymnastics	As above	As above
Mill Farm, Stanford-in-the Vale	West	Village Hall	Didcot & Grove Gym Club	12	0
Wantage Gymnastic Centre	West	Dedicated Unit	Wantage Gymnastic Club	217	400

## 7.10 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 1,100 new gymnasts across the Vale of White Horse 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 the Vale of White Horse*

Age Group	North Sub Area	South Sub Area	West Sub Area	Total (District)
5–15-year-olds	313	418	197	<b>928</b>
16–45-year-olds	27	26	16	<b>69</b>
46–75-year-olds	34	29	14	<b>77</b>
76–100-year-olds	12	6	7	<b>25</b>
<b>Total (5-100-year-olds)</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>1,100</b>

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

### 7.11 Planned Developments

No planned gymnastics facility developments were recorded as part of this study.

### 7.12 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"> <li>• There are gymnastics facilities located at eight sites (across all three sub areas).</li> <li>• However, seven of these sites are shared facilities (with other sports) – there are two sports halls, two school halls and three village halls.</li> <li>• The only dedicated gymnastics venue is located at Wantage Gymnastics Centre (West sub area).</li> <li>• If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 1,100 new gymnasts across the Vale of White Horse by 2041.</li> <li>• Future demand will be highest in the South sub area (479 gymnasts) and the majority of this demand will be from people aged 5 to 15 years old (418 gymnasts).</li> </ul>	<p>New dedicated gymnastics facilities in the North and the South 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"> <li>• The majority of facilities are ‘Below Average’ or ‘Poor’ quality, particularly ancillary facilities. Only Wantage Gymnastics Club are happy with the quality of its facilities (reported as ‘Good’ quality).</li> </ul>	<p>Improve quality of sports hall facilities at Wantage 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"> <li>• There is a small gap in provision in the West sub area, however residents in this area are within a 20-minute drive-time of gymnastics facilities in Swindon.</li> <li>• Kinetics Gymnastics and Wantage Gymnastics Centre have large waiting lists. Kinetics use multiple venues – a dedicated single facility is a continual ambition for the club in order to offer time/space to meet demand.</li> </ul>	<p>New dedicated provision for Kinetics Gymnastics in the South sub area and close to Didcot.</p>
<p><u>Availability</u> – Are the facilities available to users who want to use them?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All but two club have waiting lists.</li> <li>• Heights Trampoline &amp; Gymnastics Club has potential to expand but the hire costs and a lack of availability for additional sessions at the White Horse LTC prohibits this. The club would like a dedicated unit to ensure all groups (and 50 people on its waiting list) can be offered a chance to participate in gymnastics throughout the whole day and every day of the week.</li> </ul>	<p>New dedicated provision for Heights Trampoline &amp; Gymnastics Club in the North sub area.</p>

<p><u>Summary</u> – What provision is required to meet needs and address issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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. <b>(PROTECT)</b></li><li>• Improve quality of sports hall at Wantage LC to meet customer expectations. <b>(ENHANCE)</b></li><li>• New dedicated provision for Kinetics Gymnastics in the South sub area and close to Didcot. <b>(PROVIDE)</b></li><li>• New dedicated provision for Heights Trampoline &amp; Gymnastics Club in the North sub area. <b>(PROVIDE)</b></li></ul>
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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 the Vale of White Horse. Archery GB is the NGB for the sport. It’s 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 three archery clubs in the Vale of White Horse (shown in Table 8.1 below) using three outdoor ranges and two indoor (sports halls) sites. Buscot Park Archers is based in Faringdon (West sub area), Oxford Archers in North Hinksey (North sub area) and Harlequin Bowmen in Harwell (North sub area). There is no archery club based in the South sub area. A map to show the locations of archery clubs is displayed in the Appendices.

*Table 8.1: Archery Ranges in Vale of White Horse*

Site Name	Sub Area	Provision Type	User Type / Club Name	Ownership Type	Management Type
Harwell Laboratories Recreational Association	North	Playing Field (outdoor)	Harlequin Bowmen	Trust	Trust
John Mason School	North	Sports Hall (indoor)	Harlequin Bowmen and Oxford Archers	Education	Education
Oxford Sports Club	North	Dedicated range (outdoor)	Oxford Archers	Local Authority	Club
Buscot Park	West	Woods and Field (outdoor)	Buscot Park Archers	Buscot Park	Club
Faringdon Leisure Centre	West	Sports Hall (indoor)	Buscot Park Archers	Local Authority	Trust

### 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).

There is one dedicated archery range (outdoor) in Vale of White Horse. Oxford Archers have a permanent range at the back of the Oxford Sports Club site. The archery range is a grass area (no sports pitches marked out) with hedging surrounding the area and gated access. The club has a wooden structure (to shoot from if raining) with storage for equipment. There are outdoor club sessions held throughout the year on Sunday afternoons (13:00 to 16:00) but access to the range is available to club members at any time.

Oxford Archers and Harlequin Bowmen did not respond to requests for information. However, the clubs’ websites state they both have indoor club sessions at John Mason School in Abingdon during the Winter.

Oxford Archers have use of the sports hall on Wednesday evenings (18:30 to 20:30) and Harlequin Bowmen on Fridays (18:00 to 20:30) and every other Tuesday (19:30 to 21:30).

Harlequin Bowmen have access to the middle playing-fields at Harwell Laboratories Recreational Association (HLRA). The club shoot throughout the year (all day on Sundays and most Saturdays), other than when rugby matches are taking place (usually Saturday afternoons), or other HLRA events are organised (typically 2-3 times during the year). During the Summer, the club also has evening access to the HLRA playing fields on Tuesdays (16:00 to Dusk) and on Fridays (14:00 to Dusk) dusk. During the Winter season the club retain use of the field on Saturdays and Sundays (as above).

Buscot Park Archers lease a wooded area from the National Trust at Buscot Park for field archery in the Summer (training sessions 3-4 times per week). For target archery, it leases a Field from Lord Faringdon Estates in the Summer (sessions 3-4 times per week); and both leases are renewed annually for agreed fees. During the Winter, the club hires the sports hall at Faringdon Leisure Centre for weekly training sessions. There has been no increase in the cost to hire areas at Buscot Park, but the club reports a 10% increase in the hire charges at Faringdon Leisure Centre over the last three years, which has led to the increase in club membership prices.

#### 8.4 Age and Quality of facilities

Table 8.2 below offers further detail with regard to the age and refurbishment dates of indoor facilities used by archery clubs in the Vale of White Horse. different facilities. Faringdon Leisure Centre subjected to a non-technical assessment and 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. John Mason School was not assessed as part of this study; however, it was built in 1960 (according to Sport England’s Active Place Power) and likely to be in need of refurbishment.

*Table 8.2: Quality, age and refurbishment detail of indoor archery range in Vale of White Horse*

Site Name	Sub Area	Year Built (refurbished)	Audit / Quality rating
Faringdon Leisure Centre	West	1990 (2010)	<b>Above average:</b> 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.

#### 8.5 Demand (Club Consultation)

Buscot Park Archers has eight junior members and 43 adults (16+ year olds) and has reported club members returning to normal (having reduced over the Covid Pandemic). Non-members are always welcome at all sessions, and ‘Pay and Play’. The club has four archers registered as disabled with Archery GB. They can access indoor and outdoor target archery and Clout. Field archery is not a priority for those archers who need to use wheelchairs.

The club highlighted a need for new archery coaches in the area. Most of its registered coaches are over 65 years old and it is having difficulty in finding people to undertake coaching qualifications - everyone is busy with family and work pressures. The club also report a lack of availability at Faringdon Leisure Centre to book Winter indoor shooting sessions at times that are convenient. Prior to Covid-19, the club booked two weekday evenings during the Winter, and now it can only book Saturday mornings. There are no other facilities in the area that the club can use (all target frames, safety nets and other equipment is stored at Faringdon Leisure Centre).

### **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)**

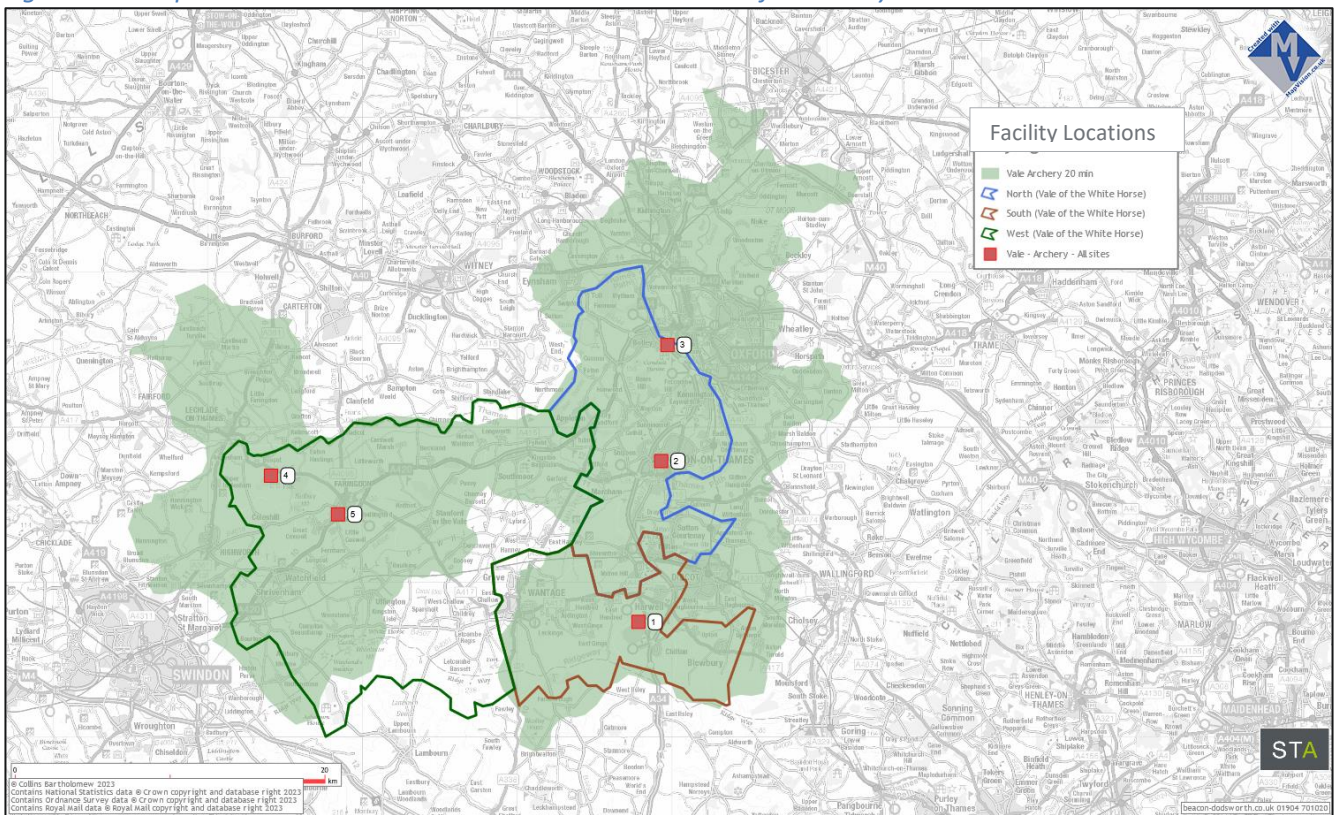
The latest Sport England Active Lives Data (2022) shows a decrease in the number of adults (16+ year olds) participating in archery in the last year across the county and region (between 2016 and 2022). Data at a county and district-level is not available, however participation rates across the South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

### **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 overleaf shows that there is a gap in provision in the West sub area.

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



### 8.9 Peak Time Usage

Sport England’s facility planning models use the peak periods of sports halls 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 operator of Faringdon Leisure Centre has provided information on the number of ‘block-bookings’ and ‘casual bookings’ the sports hall 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.’ Table 8.3 below shows that Faringdon Leisure Centre sports hall (on average) is full-to-capacity during 90% of weekly peak periods.

Table 8.3: Peak time usage of Faringdon Leisure Centre

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)
Faringdon Leisure Centre (West)	Court 1	46	34	10	2 (4%)
	Court 2	46	32	11	3 (7%)
	Court 3	46	32	11	3 (7%)
	Court 4	46	14	26	6 (14%)

	Court 5	46	13	26	7 (14%)
	Court 6	46	13	26	7 (14%)

### 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 47 new archers across the Vale of White Horse by 2041. A breakdown of future demand by sub area and age group has been provided in Table 8.4 below.

Table 8.4: Future demand for archery in the Vale of White Horse

Age Group	North Sub Area	South Sub Area	West Sub Area	Total (District)
5–15-year-olds	2	2	1	5
16–45-year-olds	7	7	4	18
46–75-year-olds	9	7	4	20
76–100-year-olds	3	1	2	6
<b>Total (5-100-year-olds)</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>47</b>

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

### 8.11 Planned Developments

A new 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Artificial Grass Pitch (3G AGP) is planned in Faringdon, to service the demand for football training (predominantly) in the town. The Faringdon Leisure Centre booking sheet shows the sports hall is used for football for 8 hours a week during peak periods. Should the 3G AGP in Faringdon be developed, then this could free up space for Buscot Park Archers to have more indoor training sessions (preference for the club).

### 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"> <li>There are three archery clubs in the Vale of White Horse using three outdoor ranges and two indoor (sports halls) sites.</li> <li>Buscot Park Archers is based in Faringdon (West sub area), Oxford Archers in North Hinksey (North sub area) and Harlequin Bowmen in Harwell (North sub area).</li> <li>There is no archery club based in the South sub area.</li> </ul>	Support archery development in the South sub area.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future demand for archery is low (47 people across the district by 2041).</li> </ul>	
<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"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	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"> <li>• There are residents in the West sub area that are outside a 20-minute drive-time of archery facilities.</li> </ul>	None.
<p><u>Availability</u> – Are the facilities available to users who want to use them?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buscot Park Archers highlighted a need for new archery coaches in the area. The club also report a lack of availability at Faringdon Leisure Centre to book Winter indoor shooting sessions at times that are convenient.</li> </ul>	Support Buscot Archers to gain more time at Faringdon LC for winter training sessions (as it did pre-Covid).
<p><u>Summary</u> – What provision is required to meet needs and address issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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. <b>(PROTECT)</b></li> <li>• Support archery development in the South sub area as there is no club. <b>(ENHANCE)</b></li> <li>• Improve accessibility for Buscot Archers at Faringdon Leisure Centre to meet demand for winter training sessions. <b>(ENAHNCE)</b></li> </ul>	

## 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 the Vale of White Horse. 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 144 outdoor tennis court sites in the Vale of White Horse. However, 128 of these sites are located at education sites (full list in Appendix B) and offer limited / no community access of the courts. There are 17 sites with community-accessible courts in the district. The White Horse Tennis Centre is a Community Indoor Tennis Centre (CITC) – recognised by the LTA as community tennis hubs that are accessible for everyone (i.e., no club is based here).

There are 13 LTA-registered Club sites (48 outdoor courts) in the Vale of White Horse, and there are outdoor tennis courts in all sub areas. There are also two non-LTA registered clubs in East Hendred and in Faringdon. Table 9.1 below contains the number of courts at each site and the ownership, management and community access type of each site. There is one Park site in the Vale of White Horse, at Boundary Park in Didcot.

Table 9.1: Community-accessible tennis courts in the Vale of White Horse

Site Name	Sub Area	Community Access	Number of courts	Ownership Type	Management Type
Abingdon Lawn Tennis Club	North	Club	8	Local Authority	Club
Appleton with Eaton Tennis Club		Club	2	Local Authority	Club
Oxford Sports Lawn Tennis Club		Club	8	Local Authority	Club
White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre		CITC	6 indoor & 10 outdoor	Local Authority	External Operator
Ardington and Lockinge Tennis Club	South	Club	1	Local Authority	Club
Boundary Park, Didcot		Park	4	Local Authority	Comm. Org.
Blewbury Tennis Club		Club	4	Local Authority	Club
Hendred Sports Club, East Hendred		Club	2	Local Authority	Club
Harwell Village Tennis Club		Club	2	Local Authority	Club
Letcombe Tennis Club		Club	2	Local Authority	Club
Wantage Lawn Tennis Club		Club	6	Local Authority	Club
Elms Tennis Court, Faringdon	West	Club	1	Local Authority	Club
Faringdon Tennis Club		Club	4	Local Authority	Club
Hanney Tennis Club		Club	2	Local Authority	Club
Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor		Club	4	Local Authority	Club
Shrivenham Lawn Tennis Club		Club	3	Local Authority	Club
Uffington Lawn Tennis Club		Club	2	Local Authority	Club

### 9.3 Security of Access, Ownership and Management

All 17 of the sites are owned by a Local Authority (District, Town or Parish Council) and the vast majority have long-term (over 15 years left) leases or rental agreements between the site owners and the clubs (i.e., secured use). However, Letcombe Tennis Club has a license agreement of 2.5 years with the Parish Council (although the club did not raise this as an issue).

There are two indoor tennis courts at the White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre that are operated (under contract until 2026) by Tennis Oxfordshire. The organisation is the County Association working closely with the LTA to promote and develop tennis across Oxfordshire. It hosts coaching lessons, training sessions and competitions at the centre throughout the year.

### 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.

The 10 outdoor tennis courts at White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre that are ‘Poor’ quality. In reality, six of 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 located in the West sub area (Uffington Lawn Tennis Club). Hanney Tennis Club reported its clubhouse is in need of refurbished.

*Table 9.2: Quality of Club and CITC tennis courts in the Vale of White Horse*

Site Name	Sub Area	Maintenance Provider	Facility Quality Rating
Abingdon Lawn Tennis Club	North	Club	<b>Good</b>
Appleton with Eaton Tennis Club		Club	<b>Good</b>
Oxford Sports Lawn Tennis Club		Club	<b>Above average</b>
White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre		External Operator	Outdoor: <b>Poor</b> Indoor: <b>Above Average</b>
Ardington and Lockinge Tennis Club	South	Club	<b>Above average</b>
Blewbury Tennis Club		Club	<b>Good</b>
Boundary Park, Didcot		Park	<b>Above average</b>
Hendred Sports Club		Club	<b>Good</b>
Harwell Village Tennis Club		Club	<b>Above average</b>
Letcombe Tennis Club		Club	<b>Above average</b>
Wantage Lawn Tennis Club		Club	<b>Good</b>
Elms Tennis Court	West	Club	<b>Unknown</b>
Faringdon Tennis Club		Club	<b>Good</b>
Hanney Tennis Club		Club	<b>Good</b>
Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor		Club	<b>Good</b>
Shrivenham Lawn Tennis Club		Club	<b>Above average</b>
Uffington Lawn Tennis Club		Club	<b>Below average</b>



## 9.5 Demand (Club Consultation)

Table 9.3: No. of members at Club sites in the Vale of White Horse

Site Name	Sub Area	No. of Members	Change in last 5 yrs	Reason(s) why
Abingdon Lawn Tennis Club	North	376	Increase	Popularity during Covid
Appleton with Eaton Tennis Club		150	Stayed the same	-
Oxford Sports Lawn Tennis Club		350	Increase	New coach and club committee
White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre		N/A	N/A	N/A
Ardington and Lockinge Tennis Club	South	30		
Blewbury Tennis Club		277	Increase	New sports-lights
Hendred Sports Club		-	-	-
Harwell Village Tennis Club		92	-	-
Letcombe Tennis Club		161	Stayed the same	-
Wantage Lawn Tennis Club		207	Stayed the same	
Elms Tennis Court	West	-	-	-
Faringdon Tennis Club		300	Stayed the same	-
Hanney Tennis Club		134	Stayed The same	
Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor		200	Increase	Growing interest and new housing
Shrivenham Lawn Tennis Club		150	-	-
Uffington Lawn Tennis Club		90	Stayed the same	-

Premier Tennis announced they were no longer able to provide a coach for Hanney Tennis Club (December 2022). Hanney Tennis Club is trying to find a suitably qualified coach able to provide tennis coaching for adults and juniors. Without a club tennis coach, the club anticipates it will lose members to local clubs who provide tennis coaching, and our membership will start to decline.

## 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 9.4: 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 below. The table shows that clubs across the Vale have a total of 245 spare capacity for new tennis players. However, three of the five clubs in the West sub area are over-capacity (124 in total, including Faringdon TC that is 100 players over-capacity).

Table 9.5: Capacity ratings of Club and Park tennis courts in the Vale of White Horse

Site Name	Sub Area	No. of Members	Capacity	Spare Capacity / Over-Capacity
Abingdon Lawn Tennis Club	North	376	440	64 spare capacity
Appleton with Eaton Tennis Club		150	120	30 over-capacity
Oxford Sports Lawn Tennis Club		350	440	90 spare capacity
White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre		-	-	-
Ardington and Lockinge Tennis Club	South	30	40	10 spare capacity
Blewbury Tennis Club		277	240	37 over-capacity
Hendred Sports Club		-	80	-
Harwell Village Tennis Club		92	80	12 over-capacity
Letcombe Tennis Club		161	80	81 over-capacity
Wantage Lawn Tennis Club		207	360	153 spare capacity
Elms Tennis Court	West	-	40	-
Faringdon Tennis Club		300	200	100 over-capacity
Hanney Tennis Club		134	120	14 over-capacity
Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor		200	220	20 spare capacity
Shrivenham Lawn Tennis Club		150	180	30 spare capacity
Uffington Lawn Tennis Club		90	80	10 over-capacity

### 9.7 Peak-time use – indoor courts

The peak periods of during weekdays: 17:00 to 22:00; and at weekends 09:00 to 13:00 for a total of 33 hours per week. As a guide, the external leisure operator of the White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre has provided information on the number of ‘block-bookings’ and ‘casual bookings’ that the indoor tennis courts receive in a typical week. Regular block-bookings include use by tennis coaches for lessons and casual bookings include ‘Pay and Play’ sessions.

Tennis Oxfordshire’s core usage is of the two indoor courts (courts 5 and 6), however all indoor courts (and outdoor courts - if they were usable) are required to meet the demand from coaches for hosting more competitions. During the winter, there is high demand from community club tennis players for use of the indoor courts and not all demand can be met.

Table 9.6: Peak time usage of indoor tennis courts in Vale of White Horse

Site Name (Sub Area)	Tennis 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)
White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre (North)	Court 1	33	24	7	2 (6%)
	Court 2	33	24	7	2 (6%)

	Court 3	33	19	14	11 (33%)
	Court 4	33	19	14	11 (33%)
	Court 5	33	33	0	0
	Court 6	33	33	0	0

Courts 5 and 6 are booked by Tennis Oxfordshire during the weekly peak periods. However, the remaining courts have a total of 26 hours spare capacity during weekly peak times (20% spare capacity). Overall (including all six courts), the tennis centre is full-to-capacity during 87% of weekly peak periods.

## 9.8 Demand

To support this study, the LTA provided a report using mapping software and demographic data relating to the Vale of White Horse 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	184	14%	9%
Tennis Troupers	105,508	186	25%	9%
Seasonal Spinners	22,965	102	5%	5%
Wimbledon Warriors	5,765	-	1%	0%
Social Butterflies	9,718	-	2%	0%
Senior Stalwarts	219,882	1,676	52%	78%
Non Profile	1,200	-	0%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>422,240</b>	<b>2,148</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 9.9 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), 0.1% participated in ‘Tennis’ once or more per week. If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 1,601 new tennis players across the Vale of White Horse by 2041. A breakdown of future demand by sub area and age group has been provided in Table 9.10 below.

*Table 9.9: Future demand for tennis in the Vale of White Horse*

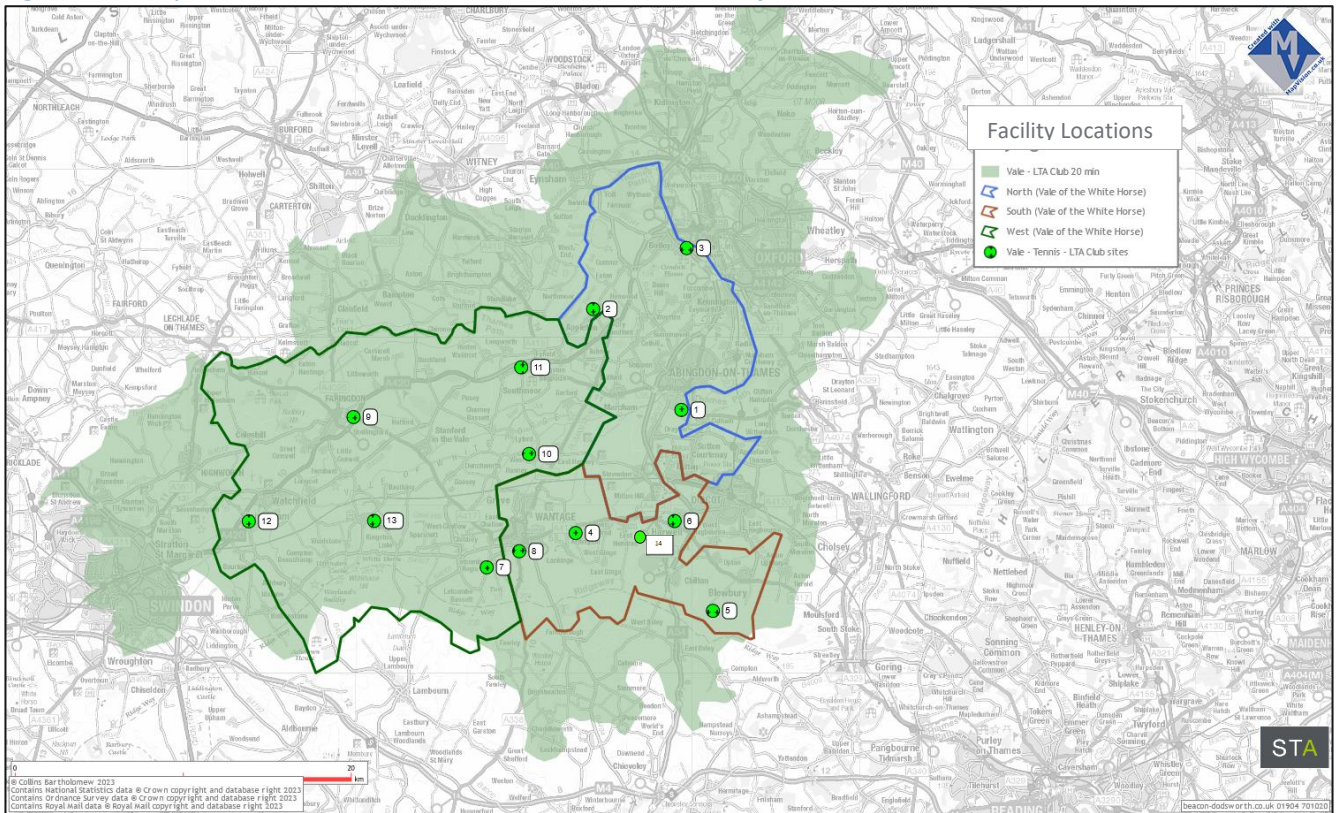
Age Group	North Sub Area	South Sub Area	West Sub Area	Total (District)
5–15-year-olds	121	161	76	<b>358</b>
16–45-year-olds	199	191	113	<b>503</b>
46–75-year-olds	248	208	105	<b>561</b>
76–100-year-olds	89	42	48	<b>179</b>
<b>Total (5-100-year-olds)</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>1,601</b>

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

## 9.10 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 tennis clubs in the Vale



### 9.11 Planned Developments

- White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre – Council intend to undertake feasibility study for new outdoor courts.
- Faringdon Tennis Club - Application for two more sports-light courts.
- Hanney Tennis Club - Retrofitting LED sports-lights a priority for 2023.
- Oxford Sports TC - currently expanding car parking provision in partnership with Oxford Rugby Club.
- Uffington Lawn Tennis Club – new sports-lights.
- Stanford-in-the-Vale Parish Council has plans to develop two new outdoor tennis courts at the village recreation ground.

### 9.12 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"> <li>• There are Club sites with outdoor tennis courts in all sub areas and one Park site (South sub area)</li> <li>• The White Horse Tennis Centre is a Community Indoor Tennis Centre (CITC) – recognised by the LTA as community tennis hubs that are accessible for everyone (i.e., no club is based here).</li> <li>• Clubs across the Vale have a total of 245 spare capacity for new tennis players.</li> <li>• However, three of the five clubs in the West sub area are over-capacity (124 in total, including Faringdon TC that is 100 players over-capacity).</li> </ul>	<p>New tennis courts at a 'Park; site in the West sub areas, as no 'Park' courts and clubs are over-capacity.</p> <p>White Horse LTC outdoor courts could be resurfaced to meet demand for 'pay and</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future demand could generate 1,601 new tennis players across the Vale by 2041.</li> <li>• Highest future demand in the North and South sub areas and the majority of this demand will be from 46-75-year-olds (248 in the North and 208 in the South).</li> </ul>	<p>play’ tennis courts in the North sub area.</p> <p>To increase club capacities, support Faringdon TC, Hanney TC and Uffington LTC.</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"> <li>• The quality of the Club sites is generally ‘Good’ and ‘Above Average’ quality.</li> <li>• There are 10 outdoor tennis courts at White Horse LTC that are ‘Poor’ quality.</li> <li>• In reality, six of these are former tennis courts that are no longer safe to use for tennis.</li> <li>• The worst quality club courts (‘Below Average’) are located in the West sub area (Uffington Lawn Tennis Club).</li> <li>• Hanney Tennis Club reported its clubhouse is in need of refurbished. Oxford Sports TC plans to expand its car park.</li> </ul>	<p>Support clubs with facility development plans (Uffington LTC, Hanney TC and Oxford Sports TC).</p> <p>Improve the quality of outdoor tennis courts at White Horse TLC</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"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<p>New tennis courts at a ‘Park’ site (i.e., predominantly ‘pay and play’ courts) in the West 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"> <li>• All 17 of the sites are owned by a Local Authority (District, Town or Parish Council) and the vast majority have long-term (over 15 years left) leases or rental agreements between the site owners and the clubs (i.e., secured use).</li> <li>• However, Letcombe Tennis Club has a license agreement of 2.5 years with the Parish Council (although the club did not raise this as an issue).</li> <li>• There are two indoor tennis courts at White Horse LTC that are operated (under contract until 2026) by Tennis Oxfordshire.</li> <li>• Overall (including all six courts), the White Horse tennis centre is full-to-capacity during 87% of weekly peak periods.</li> </ul>	<p>None.</p>
<p><u>Summary</u> – What provision is required to meet needs and address issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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. <b>(PROTECT)</b></li> <li>• Support Faringdon Tennis Club in its application for two more sports-light courts. <b>(ENHANCE)</b></li> <li>• Support Hanney Tennis Club with retrofitting LED sports-lights. <b>(ENHANCE)</b></li> <li>• Support Oxford Sports TC with expanding its car parking provision in partnership with Oxford Rugby Club. <b>(ENHANCE)</b></li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support Stanford-in-the-Vale Parish Council plans to develop two new outdoor tennis courts at the village recreation ground.</li><li>• Support Uffington Lawn Tennis Club in the installation of new sports-lights <b>(ENHANCE)</b></li><li>• Continue to support Abingdon LTC – it has recently installed sports lighting on two courts and upgraded LED lighting on six courts. <b>(ENHANCE)</b></li><li>• Future demand in the North sub area could be met by improving the quality of the outdoor tennis courts at White Horse LTC. <b>(ENHANCE)</b></li></ul>
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## 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 the Vale of White Horse. 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 eight sites that are used by the seven netball clubs and most of these courts are located at sports halls - there are two outdoor netball courts at Boundary Park (Didcot) that are used by Didcot Netball Club.

The Oxfordshire Netball League is currently located at St Helen's and St Katharine's School.

England Netball run 'Back to Netball' and 'Walking Netball' sessions. 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 no venues in the Vale of White Horse for 'Back to Netball' or 'Walking Netball'.

There are netball courts in the Vale that are not used by netball clubs. These outdoor netball courts are included in 'Section 17: MUGAs'. There are also 10 sports halls in the Vale 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 the Vale of White Horse*

Site Name	Sub Area	Provision Type	Community Access	No. of netball courts	Ownership Type	Management Type
John Mason School	North	Sports Hall	Club	1	Education	Education
Larkmead School		Sports Hall	Club	1	Education	Education
St Helen's and St Katharine's School		Sports Hall	Club	1	Education	Education
The Manor Prep School		Sports Hall	Club	1	Education	Education
White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre		Sports Hall	Club	1	Local Authority	External Operator
King Alfred's School (West Site)	South	Sports Hall	Club	1	Education	Education
Boundary Park, Didcot	West	Outdoor courts	Club	2	Local Authority	Comm. Org.
Faringdon Leisure Centre		Sports Hall	Club	1	Local Authority	External Operator



### 10.3 Security of Access, Ownership and Management

There are three Local Authority owned site used by netball clubs in the Vale of White Horse (White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre, Faringdon Leisure Centre and Boundary Park, Didcot), which have secured community use. The remaining six club sites are located at education- owned sites and therefore community use is unsecured. All netball clubs hire the courts they use through block-bookings throughout the season (i.e., no long-term lease agreements in place).

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.

There is one sports-lit netball court at Boundary Park and one netball court (the MUGA) that is not sports-lit.

### 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 the Vale of White Horse*

Site Name	Sub Area	User Club	Maintenance Provider	Facility Quality Rating
John Mason School	North	Abingdon Centre NC	Education	<b>Below average</b>
Larkmead School		Comets NC	Education	<b>Below average</b>
St Helen's and St Catherine's School		Abingdon Vale NC	Education	<b>Good</b>
The Manor Prep School		Team Matrix NC	Education	<b>Good</b>
White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre		Abingdon Vale NC	External Operator	<b>Above average</b>
King Alfred's School (West Site)	South	Challow NC	Education	<b>Above average</b>
Boundary Park, Didcot	West	Didcot NC	Comm. Org.	<b>Below average</b>
Faringdon Leisure Centre		Faringdon NC	External Operator	<b>Above average</b>

The quality of the facilities is generally ‘Above Average’ quality. However, the sports hall at John Mason School was built in 1960, and at Larkmead School in 1975’ these two sports halls are ‘Below Average’ quality. Although no quality issues were raised by the clubs using these sports halls.

The Manor Preparatory School and King Alfred's Academy (West Site) have the newest sports halls (both built in 2018) and St Helen and St Katharine School was built in 2016, so these halls are ‘Good’ quality.

Didcot Netball Club report that one netball court at Boundary Park (over-marked on the tennis courts) is well-maintained, however the second court (public MUGA) is becoming unsafe to use. The club has reported this to Boundary Park Sports Association and are hoping it will be resurfaced.

### 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 the Vale of White Horse

Club Name	Sub Area	No. of Members	Change in last 5 yrs	Reason(s) why
Abingdon Centre Netball Club	North	226	Increase	-
Abingdon Vale Netball Club		29	Increase	Recruitment drive
Comets Netball Club		44	Stayed the same	-
Team Matrix Netball Club		100	Increase	Introduction of senior squad
Challow Netball Club	South	90	Stayed the same	Lack of coaches
Didcot Netball Club	West	125	Stayed the same	Covid and injuries have resulted in some senior members no longer playing
Faringdon Netball Club		104	Increase	Better club management

All clubs report a lack of coaches to expand and Faringdon Netball Club and Didcot Netball Club also report a lack of space and time, which means they are at capacity for members. Didcot Netball Club reported that it has no plans to expand the number of members at the club because it is restricted by the number of coaches and court space.

Oxfordshire Netball League runs at St Helen's and St Catherine's School. During January – May 2023 (term time only) matches were played on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday (7pm-9:30pm). This totals 7.5hrs per week

across 17 weeks. It is likely that this demand will return to Oxford Netball Centre in Headington following the refurbishment of the netball courts. Oxford City Council did not respond to requests for information on the refurbishment of these courts.

In South Oxfordshire, there are two 'Back to Netball' and 'Walking Netball' venues; Holton Playing Fields and Thame Leisure Centre. However, these are too far away (more than a 20-minute drive-time) for residents in the Vale. England Netball is aware of the demand for these schemes in the district and hopes for similar participation rates to those seen in South Oxfordshire (450 participants 2022-23, up from 239 in 2021-22). England Netball intends to introduce 'Back to Netball' and 'Walking Netball' schemes in the Vale of White Horse in the future (site yet to be determined).

## 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.'

White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre and Faringdon Leisure Centre are full-to-capacity during 90% of peak periods. Wantage Leisure Centre is full-to-capacity during 94% of the hours open during peak periods. However, this the sports hall is not large enough for competitive netball matches.

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 Abingdon and Witney College, Abingdon School and Sports Centre, Larkmead School, Our Lady's Abingdon School and The Manor Preparatory School.

There is a strong commitment to community use at John Mason School, King Alfred's Academy, Radley College Sports Centre and St Helen and St Katharine School provide a significant proportion of hours within the peak period (39 hours each per week).

The majority of the sports halls in the Vale of White Horse do have the required run off space around the perimeter of the court and therefore matches can be played in those halls. However, the sports halls at Abingdon and Witney College and John Mason School are smaller four-court halls (dimensions of 33 x 18m), which provides for netball at the community level but are not large enough for competitive netball matches.

## 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 948 new netball players across the Vale of White Horse by 2041. A breakdown of future demand by sub area and age group has been provided in Table 10.5 below.

*Table 10.5: Future demand for netball in the Vale of White Horse*

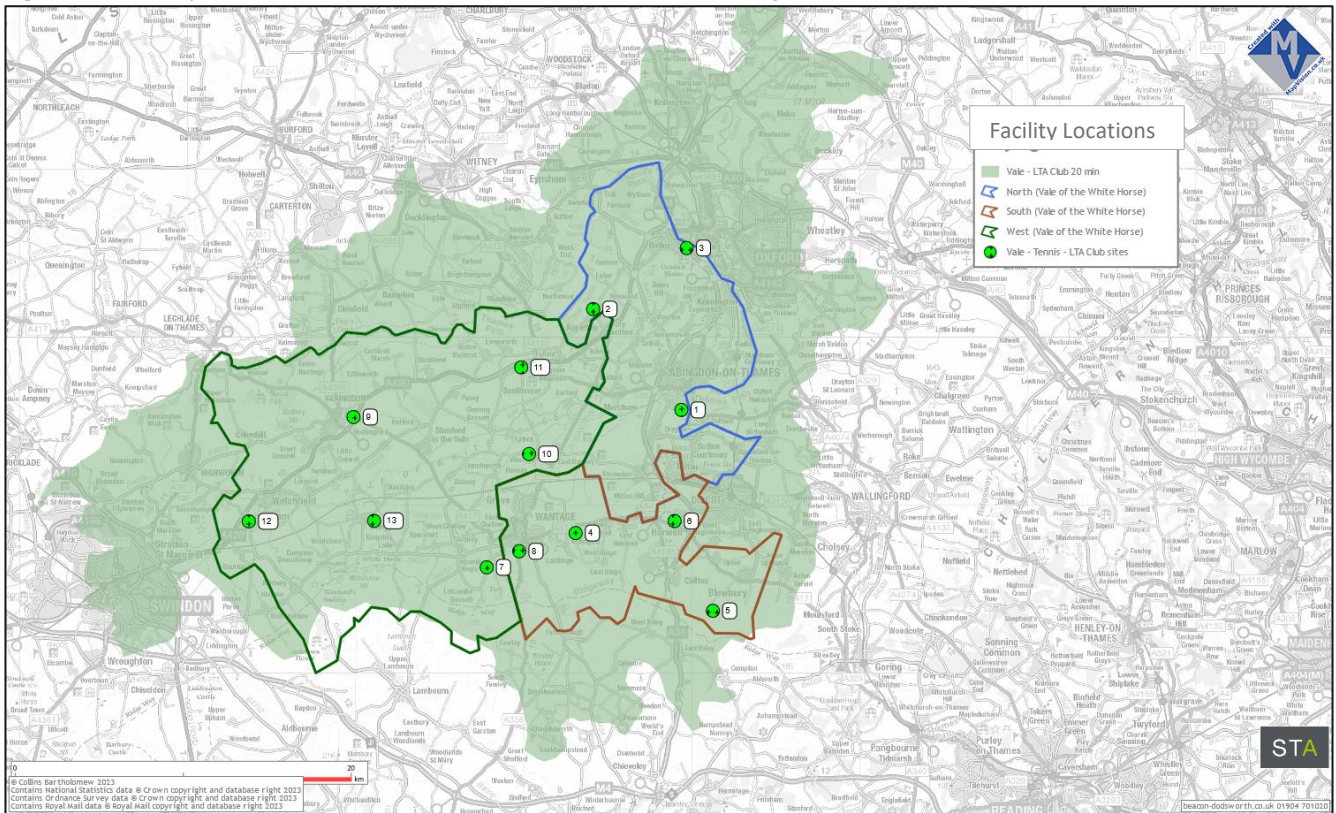
Age Group	North Sub Area	South Sub Area	West Sub Area	Total (District)
5–15-year-olds	219	292	137	<b>648</b>
16–45-year-olds	48	46	27	<b>121</b>
46–75-year-olds	60	50	25	<b>135</b>
76–100-year-olds	21	10	12	<b>43</b>
<b>Total (5-100-year-olds)</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>948</b>

Future demand projections suggest that future demand will be highest in the South 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. Figure 10.1 shows there are no gaps in provision.

Figure 10.1: Map to show 20-minute drive-time catchment areas for netball clubs in the Vale



### 10.10 Planned Developments

- Grove Secondary School. New MUGA for three netball courts and it could be a community netball hub.
- Refurbishment of Oxford City Netball Courts in Headington.

### 10.11 Summary of netball 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"> <li>• 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 the Vale 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.</li> <li>• There are eight sites that are used by the seven netball clubs and all of these courts are located at mostly sports halls - there are two outdoor netball courts in the Vale, at Boundary Park in Didcot.</li> <li>• The Oxfordshire Netball League is currently located at St Helen's and St Katharine's School (imported demand from Headington in Oxford).</li> <li>• Future demand could generate 948 new netball players across the Vale by 2041.</li> </ul>	<p>Ensure future sports hall developments are large enough to accommodate netball matches.</p> <p>New netball courts in the South and the North sub area to meet future demand (e.g., new courts at Grove Secondary School and White Horse LTC).</p> <p>Refurbishment of netball courts in Headington.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highest future demand in the South sub area (398 new players) and the majority of this demand will be from children and young people (292 players).</li> <li>• Future demand also high in the North sub area (348 new players – 219 children and young people).</li> </ul>	
<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"> <li>• The quality of the facilities is generally ‘Above Average’ quality. However, the sports hall at John Mason School was built in 1960, and at Larkmead School in 1975’ these two sports halls are ‘Below Average’ quality. Although no quality issues were raised by the clubs using these sports halls.</li> <li>• The Manor Preparatory School and King Alfred's Academy (West Site) have the newest sports halls (both built in 2018) and St Helen and St Katharine School was built in 2016, so these halls are ‘Good’ quality.</li> <li>• Didcot Netball Club report that one netball court at Boundary Park (over-marked on the tennis courts) is well-maintained, however the second court (public MUGA) is becoming unsafe to use. The club has reported this to Boundary Park Sports Association and are hoping it will be resurfaced.</li> </ul>	<p>Improve the quality of sports halls at John Mason School and Larkmead School.</p> <p>Improve the quality of the netball court (MUGA) at Boundary 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"> <li>• The distribution of netball clubs means that the majority of people with access to a car can reach an affiliated site within about 20 minutes’ drive.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• England Netball intends to introduce ‘Back to Netball’ and ‘Walking Netball’ schemes at a site in the Vale of White Horse (site yet to be determined)</li> </ul>	<p>England Netball ‘Back to Netball’ and ‘Walking Netball’ schemes to be initiated by England Netball (site yet to be determined).</p> <p>New provision of community outdoor netball courts (e.g., new outdoor courts at White Horse LTC).</p>
<p><u>Availability</u> – Are the facilities available to users who want to use them?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre and Faringdon Leisure Centre are full-to-capacity during 90% of peak periods.</li> <li>• Wantage Leisure Centre is full-to-capacity during 94% of the hours open during peak periods.</li> <li>• Education sites are relied upon by clubs. All netball clubs hire the courts they use through block-bookings throughout the season (i.e., no long-term lease agreements in place).</li> <li>• All clubs report a lack of coaches to expand.</li> </ul>	<p>Secure Community Use Agreements for the netball clubs using the education sites</p>
<p><u>Summary</u> – What provision is required to meet needs and address issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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. <b>(PROTECT)</b></li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Secure Community Use Agreements for the netball clubs using the education sites ((John Mason School, Larkmead School, St Helen's and St Katharine's School, The Manor Prep School, King Alfred's School (West Site) and Faringdon Leisure Centre. <b>(ENHANCE)</b></li><li>• The quality of courts at Boundary Park (MUGA), John Mason School and Larkmead School need to be improved to meet current user expectations. <b>(ENHANCE)</b></li><li>• Future demand for netball could be met with new courts at Grove Secondary School and White Horse LTC (or elsewhere in the North and South sub areas). <b>(PROVIDE)</b></li></ul>
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## 11. CYCLING FACILITIES

### 11.1 Introduction

This section contains a summary of the findings from the needs assessment work for dedicated cycling facilities in the Vale of White Horse. 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 dedicated 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 the Vale of White Horse. There are four BMX pump tracks (all in the South sub area) and three off-road circuits (two in the West sub area and one in the North). There are also three cycling clubs (one in each sub area) that use cycle pathways and roads, as well as the car park at Boundary Park in Didcot for training sessions.

*Table 11.1: Cycling facilities in the Vale of White Horse*

Site Name	Sub Area	Provision Type	Community Access	Ownership Type	Management Type
Abingdon Cycling Club	North	Roads	Club	Local Authority	Local Authority
Dalton Barracks (Abingdon RT)		Circuit	Club	MoD	MoD
Barrow Hills Pump Track	South	BMX	Public	Local Authority	Local Authority
Kennington Pump Track		BMX	Public	Local Authority	Local Authority
Boundary Park (Didcot Pheonix Cycling Club)		Roads	Club	Community Organisation	Community Organisation
Blewbury Park Pump Track		BMX	Public	Local Authority	Local Authority
Corallian Cycling Club		Roads	Club	Local Authority	Local Authority
Upton Park Pump Track	West	BMX	Public	Local Authority	Local Authority
Defence Academy Velo Club		Circuit	Club	MoD	MoD
Faringdon Cycle Park		Circuit	Public	Local Authority	Local Authority

Outside of the study area, in neighbouring Swindon, Moredon Sporting Hub has recently opened (2024) and offers an off-road cycling track for public / community sports club use.

### 11.3 Security of Access, Ownership and Management

The four BMX pump tracks and the off-road circuit at Faringdon Cycle Park are owned and managed by the local authority and are available for public use. Boundary Park car park is used by Didcot Pheonix Cycling Club for training and no issues with ownership or management were raised by the club.



There are two sites owned by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and are only available for club use. Abingdon Race Team has used Dalton Barracks in Abingdon since 2014; through block-bookings throughout the season (i.e., no long-term lease agreements in place).

### 11.4 Quality of Cycling Facilities

The quality of cycling facilities has not been assessed as part of this study. Faringdon Cycle Park opened in 2019 and is therefore likely to still be in a ‘Good’ condition. 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 or 1.5 hours to an indoor velodrome.

#### *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 Demand (Club Consultation)**

Didcot Phoenix Cycling Club are based at Boundary Park and use the car park for club training session but predominantly use cycle pathways and roads during club sessions. The club has 150 members, which is an increase of 50 members in the last three years. The club's main priority is to support the development of new cycling facilities at Valley Park in Didcot. The club would like an off-road circuit in order to develop existing member skill levels, as well as attracting new members to the clubs.

Abingdon Race Team have held races and events at Dalton Barracks for a total of 16,000 entrants over the course of the last five years (2016-21). The club would ultimately like the future Plan for the Dalton Barracks Garden Village to ensure that a sufficient area is set aside for a cycle circuit and pavilion to be constructed similar to other venues like Hillingdon (London Borough).

Corallian Cycling Club and Abingdon Cycling Club responded to requests for information. However, clubs acknowledged that this study is not relevant to them because they use cycle pathways and roads rather than any sports facilities.

Didcot Bike Park is a community-led scheme to provide Mountain Biking provision for local children in the area. The existing provision of trails at Shotover Park in the Vale, and BMX pump tracks and Bridleways in the Didcot area, do not sufficiently meet the needs of young local cyclists. The BMX pump tracks and Bridleways are too easy and the trails at Shotover Park are too difficult. The club would like for new Mountain Bike facilities to be developed in the area, which is accessible to young people on bikes and do not require a car to access.

## 11.7 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 992 new young cyclists (aged 5 to 15 years old), and 2,004 new Road Cycling or Racing cyclists (aged 16+) across the Vale of White Horse 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 40 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 the Vale of White Horse*

Age Group	North Sub Area	South Sub Area	West Sub Area	Total (District)
5–15-year-olds	335	447	210	992

*Table 11.5 Future demand for Road Cycling or Racing in the Vale of White Horse*

Age Group	North Sub Area	South Sub Area	West Sub Area	Total (District)
5–15-year-olds	Unavailable	Unavailable	Unavailable	n/a
16–45-year-olds	274	264	156	694
46–75-year-olds	342	287	144	773
76–100-year-olds	122	58	66	246
<b>Total (5-100-year-olds)</b>	<b>848</b>	<b>731</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>2,004</b>

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

### 11.8 Accessibility

British Cycling’s latest facility strategy that aims for all clubs to have access to appropriate cycling facilities within 45 minutes of their club base.

British Cycling’s latest facility strategy aims for no one to travel more than 45 minutes to a cycle circuit or 1.5 hours to an indoor velodrome. There are no indoor velodromes within a 1.5-hour drive-time of the Vale of White Horse and the nearest outdoor cycle circuit / outdoor velodrome is in neighbouring Swindon, Moredon Sporting Hub has recently opened (2024) and offers an off-road cycling track for public / community sports club use.

### 11.9 Planned Developments

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

### 11.10 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"> <li>• There are four BMX pump tracks (all in the South sub area) and three off-road circuits (two in the West sub area and one in the North).</li> <li>• There are also three cycling clubs (one in each sub area) that use cycle pathways and roads, as well as a car park for training.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<p>Provide an ‘off-road’ cycle circuit to meet current demand from Didcot Pheonix Cycling Club, Abingdon Race Team and Didcot Bike Club.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These routes are from Oxford to Abingdon and Didcot (NCN 5); from Didcot to Wantage and The Ridgeway (National Trail); and from Thames to Princes Risborough (NCN 57).</li> <li>• A key initiative for British Cycling is to provide dedicated cycling facilities in safe, traffic-free environments for any cyclist of any ability to participate, train and compete.</li> <li>• Future demand could generate 992 new young cyclists (aged 5 to 15 years old), and 2,004 new Road Cycling or Racing cyclists (aged 16+) across the Vale by 2041.</li> <li>• Highest future demand in the South sub area from children and young people (447 new cyclists) and from adults in the North and the South sub areas (848 and 731 new cyclists respectively).</li> </ul>	
<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"> <li>• No cycling facilities were assessed as part of this study.</li> </ul>	<p>Cycling facilities should be maintained appropriately in order to retain the quality.</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"> <li>• British Cycling’s latest facility strategy aims for no one to travel more than 40 minutes to an ‘off-road’ cycle circuit.</li> <li>• The nearest outdoor cycle circuit is in neighbouring Swindon, Moredon Sporting Hub has recently opened (2024) and offers an off-road cycling track for public / community sports club use.</li> </ul>	<p>Provide new ‘road-road’ cycle circuit.</p>
<p><u>Availability</u> – Are the facilities available to users who want to use them?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All cycling facilities are owned and managed by the local authority or a community organisation.</li> <li>• Abingdon Race Team has used Dalton Barracks in Abingdon since 2014; through block-bookings throughout the season (i.e., no long-term lease agreements in place).</li> </ul>	<p>New cycling provision should be publicly accessible but still “book-able” for club use.</p>
<p><u>Summary</u> – What provision is required to meet needs and address issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide off-road cycle circuit to meet current demand from Didcot Pheonix Cycling Club, Abingdon Race Team and Didcot Bike Club. New cycling provision should be publicly accessible but still “book-able” for club use. <b>(PROVIDE)</b></li> </ul>	

## 12.ATHLETICS FACILITIES

### 12.1 Introduction

This section contains a summary of the findings from the need assessment work for athletics facilities in the Vale of White Horse. 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 are two 400m synthetic surfaced tracks with full field events provision at Radley College Sports Centre and Tilsley Park Sports Complex (both in the North sub area). There is also an informal grass running track at Dalton Barracks, which is also located in the North sub area.

### 12.3 Security of Access, Ownership and Management

Both of the athletics tracks in the Vale of White Horse are owned by the educational establishment. Radley Athletics Club hire the use of Tilsley Park Sports Complex on an annual basis.

### 12.4 Quality of Athletics Facilities

The athletics track was not assessed as part of this study. However, the athletics clubs reported no issues with the quality of the facilities.

### 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)

Radley Athletics Club has 275 members, which are mostly juniors (200 members – and an increase over the last three years) that use Tilsley Park Sports Complex. The facility is managed by Abingdon School and the club reports no facility or availability issues but need more coaches in order to expand.

Abingdon & Vale Triathlon Club has 115 adult members (and seen an increase over the last three years due to interest during Covid. The club has no fixed premises and so most of its sessions are road running sessions in-and-around Thame. The club rents a school grass 400m track for speed training during the summer and a private fitness club for swimming. There were no quality or availability issues raised by the club.

White Horse Harriers are based in Wantage and has 241 members (181 are adults). The club has seen an increase in member numbers over the last three years due to interest post-Covid. The Club has no Club facilities and meets in a field behind Wantage Leisure Centre and Letcombe Regis Village Hall. The club focuses on middle and long distance running- road, trail, ultra. There are no athletics facilities in Wantage or Grove. There is a very significant requirement for a Compact Athletics Facility within Grove and Wantage as especially the Juniors have little exposure to Sprint Run, Throw, Jump athletics. The club has plans and outline design for a Compact Facility with an 80m 4 Lane track and throw cages and jump facilities. This could be placed in a local Senior School who have agreed maintenance and security. The lack of Athletics facilities means that the community cannot experience and are excluded from Athletics.

Vale Tridents Junior Triathlon Club has 51 members and is currently at capacity so has a waiting list. The club use playing fields, a MUGA and the swimming pool at Faringdon Leisure Centre. The club is considering increasing its membership numbers but is restricted on capacity for pool use and the number of coaches available.

Harwell Harriers Running Club has 120 members and trains twice a week using the pavement that loops around Boundary Park in Didcot. The main goal for the club is to have the use of a running track for training sessions. The pavement-loop is shared with members of the public, which limits the numbers of runners.

Having use of a running track would mean that the club could deliver training sessions in a more controlled environment and would be more appealing to prospective members. Setting up a youth section would be a priority for the club if it had use of a running track.

## 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 7,267 new joggers and runners (all ages) and 301 new ‘Track and Field’ athletes across the Vale of White Horse 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 the Vale of White Horse*

Age Group	North Sub Area	South Sub Area	West Sub Area	Total (District)
5–15-year-olds	447	596	281	<b>1,324</b>
16–45-year-olds	994	957	566	<b>2,517</b>
46–75-year-olds	1,240	1,040	523	<b>2,803</b>
76–100-year-olds	444	211	239	<b>894</b>
<b>Total (5-100-year-olds)</b>	<b>3,075</b>	<b>2,651</b>	<b>1,541</b>	<b>7,267</b>

*Table 12.3 Future demand ‘Track and Field’ in the Vale of White Horse*

Age Group	North Sub Area	South Sub Area	West Sub Area	Total (District)
5–15-year-olds	38	51	24	<b>113</b>
16–45-year-olds	41	40	23	<b>104</b>
46–75-year-olds	51	43	22	<b>116</b>
76–100-year-olds	18	9	10	<b>37</b>
<b>Total (5-100-year-olds)</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>301</b>

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

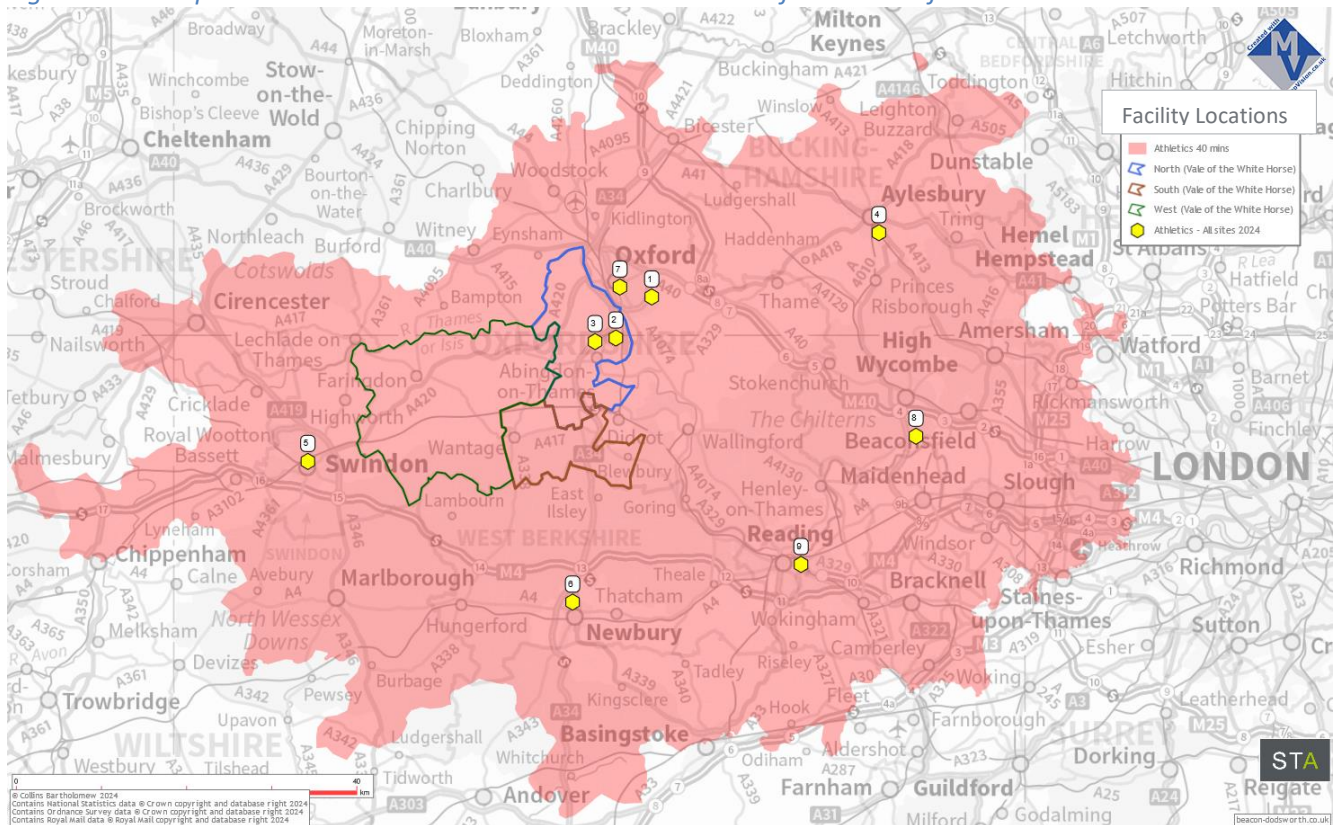


## 12.8 Accessibility

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 the Vale of White Horse.

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



## 12.9 Planned Developments

White Horse Harriers has plans and outline design for a Compact Facility with an 80m 4 Lane track and throw cages and jump facilities. This could be placed in a local Senior School who have agreed maintenance and security. The lack of Athletics facilities means that the community cannot experience and are excluded from Athletics.

## 12.10 Summary of Athletics Facilities

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"> <li>There are two 400m synthetic surfaced tracks with full field events provision at Radley College Sports Centre and Tilsley Park Sports Complex (both in the North sub area).</li> </ul>	New Compact Athletics Facility at a secondary school within Wantage or

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harwell Harriers Running Club run loops around Boundary Park. Having use of an ‘off-road’ running circuit would mean that the club could deliver training sessions in a more controlled environment and would be more appealing to prospective members. Setting up a youth section would be a priority for the club if it had use of a running track.</li> <li>• There are no Compact Athletics Facilities in the district and no dedicated running tracks.</li> <li>• White Horse Harriers would like a Compact Athletics Facility within Grove and Wantage as especially the Juniors have little exposure to Sprint Run, Throw, Jump athletics.</li> <li>• If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 7,267 new joggers and runners (all ages) and 301 new ‘Track and Field’ athletes across the Vale by 2041.</li> <li>• Highest future demand is for ‘Jogging and Running’ in the North sub area (3,075 new joggers and runners), and demand will be highest from people aged 46 to 75 years old (1,240 new joggers and runners).</li> </ul>	<p>Grove (e.g., King Alfred Academy).</p> <p>New ‘off-road’ running circuit to meet current club demand (Harwell Harriers Running Club).</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"> <li>• Clubs 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.</li> </ul>	<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"> <li>• England Athletics has confirmed that a 40-minute drive time is realistic for 400m synthetic surfaced track with full field events provision.</li> <li>• There are no gaps in provision in the Vale for a 400m track.</li> <li>• There are no compact athletics facilities in the district.</li> </ul>	<p>New compact athletics facility in Wantage or Grove (or elsewhere in the middle of the district).</p>
<p><u>Availability</u> – Are the facilities available to users who want to use them?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most clubs reported no issues with availability.</li> <li>• However, Vale Tridents Junior Triathlon Club has 51 members and is currently at capacity so has a waiting list.</li> <li>• The club is considering increasing its membership numbers but is restricted on capacity for pool use at Faringdon LC and by the number of coaches available.</li> </ul>	<p>Provide more pool time at Faringdon LC to meet current demand from Vale Tridents Triathlon Club.</p>
<p><u>Summary</u> – What provision is required to meet needs and address issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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. <b>(PROTECT)</b></li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Current and future demand for jogging and running in the North sub area could be met by providing a running track at Valley Park. <b>(PROVIDE)</b></li><li>• Future demand could be met for athletics with a new compact athletics facility in Wantage or Grove (or elsewhere in the middle of the district). <b>(PROVIDE)</b></li><li>• New 'off-road' running circuit to meet current club demand (Harwell Harriers Running Club). <b>(PROVIDE)</b></li></ul>
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## 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 the Vale of White Horse. There are eight outdoor bowling greens used by eight outdoor bowls clubs and three village halls used by three short-mat bowls clubs. There are no short-mat bowls clubs in the West sub area, however there are outdoor bowling greens in all sub areas.

*Table 13.1: Bowls Clubs in the Vale of White Horse*

Site Name	Sub Area	Provision Type	Community Access	Ownership Type	Management Type
Abingdon Bowling Club	North	Outdoor green	Club	Local Authority	Club
Milton Hill Bowling Club		Outdoor green	Club	Local Authority	Club
Drayton Short Mat Bowls Club		Village Hall	Club	Local Authority	Local Authority
Wootton Short Mat Bowls Club		Village Hall	Club	Local Authority	Local Authority
Hanney Short Mat Bowls Club	South	Village Hall	Club	Local Authority	Local Authority
Harwell Bowls Club		Outdoor green	Club	Local Authority	Club
Wantage Bowling Club		Outdoor green	Club	Local Authority	Club
Faringdon Bowling Club	West	Outdoor green	Club	Local Authority	Club
Kingston Bagpuise & Southmoor Bowls Club		Outdoor green	Club	Local Authority	Club
Letcombe Bowls Club		Outdoor green	Club	Local Authority	Club
Shrivenham Bowls Club		Outdoor green	Club	Local Authority	Club

### 13.3 Security of Access, Ownership and Management

All facilities used by bowls clubs in the Vale of White Horse are owned by the local authority. The eight 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 the Vale of White Horse

Site Name	Sub Area	Provision Type	Community Access	Maintenance Provider	Facility Quality Rating
Abingdon Bowling Club	North	Outdoor green	Club	Club	Above Average
Milton Hill Bowling Club		Outdoor green	Club	Club	Good
Drayton Short Mat Bowls Club		Village Hall	Club	Local Authority	Good
Wootton Short Mat Bowls Club		Village Hall	Club	Local Authority	Good
Hanney Short Mat Bowls Club	South	Village Hall	Club	Local Authority	Good
Harwell Bowls Club		Outdoor green	Club	Club	Good
Wantage Bowling Club		Outdoor green	Club	Club	Above Average
Faringdon Bowling Club	West	Outdoor green	Club	Club	Good
Kingston Bagpuise & Southmoor Bowls Club		Outdoor green	Club	Club	Above Average
Letcombe Bowls Club		Outdoor green	Club	Club	Above Average
Shrivenham Bowls Club		Outdoor green	Club	Club	Above Average

The quality of the facilities is generally ‘Above Average’ and ‘Good’ quality. However, Harwell BC and Kingston Bagpuise & Southmoor BC have plans to upgrade their clubhouse facilities.

### 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 Bowls Club in the Vale of White Horse

Site Name	Sub Area	Provision Type	No. of Members	Change in last 5 yrs	Reason(s) why
Abingdon Bowling Club	North	Outdoor green	-	-	-
Milton Hill Bowling Club		Outdoor green	30	Decrease	Members moving areas
Drayton Short Mat Bowls Club		Village Hall	50	Decrease	Covid
Wootton Short Mat Bowls Club		Village Hall	16	Decrease	Covid and costs
Hanney Short Mat Bowls Club	South	Village Hall	24	No change	-
Harwell Bowls Club		Outdoor green	30	Increase	Another club closing
Wantage Bowling Club		Outdoor green	70	Stayed the same	-
Faringdon Bowling Club	West	Outdoor green	75	Stayed the same	-
Kingston Bagpuise & Southmoor Bowls Club		Outdoor green	77	Increase	Recruitment drives
Letcombe Bowls Club		Outdoor green	-	-	-
Shrivenham Bowls Club		Outdoor green	-	-	-

### 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 350 new bowls players across the Vale of White Horse 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 the Vale of White Horse*

Age Group	North Sub Area	South Sub Area	West Sub Area	Total (District)
5–15-year-olds	Unavailable	Unavailable	Unavailable	n/a
16–45-year-olds	48	46	27	<b>121</b>
46–75-year-olds	60	50	25	<b>135</b>
76–100-year-olds	21	10	12	<b>43</b>
<b>Total (5-100-year-olds)</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>350</b>

Future demand projections suggest that future demand will be highest for ‘Bowls’ in the North 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 on the page overleaf show that there are no gaps in provision of outdoor bowling greens (i.e., all residents of the Vale of White Horse are within a 20-minute drive-time of an outdoor bowling green).

There is a small gap in provision for short-mat bowls in the South-Western part of the West sub area. However, these residents are within a 20-minute drive-time of Swindon, which has an indoor bowls centre.

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

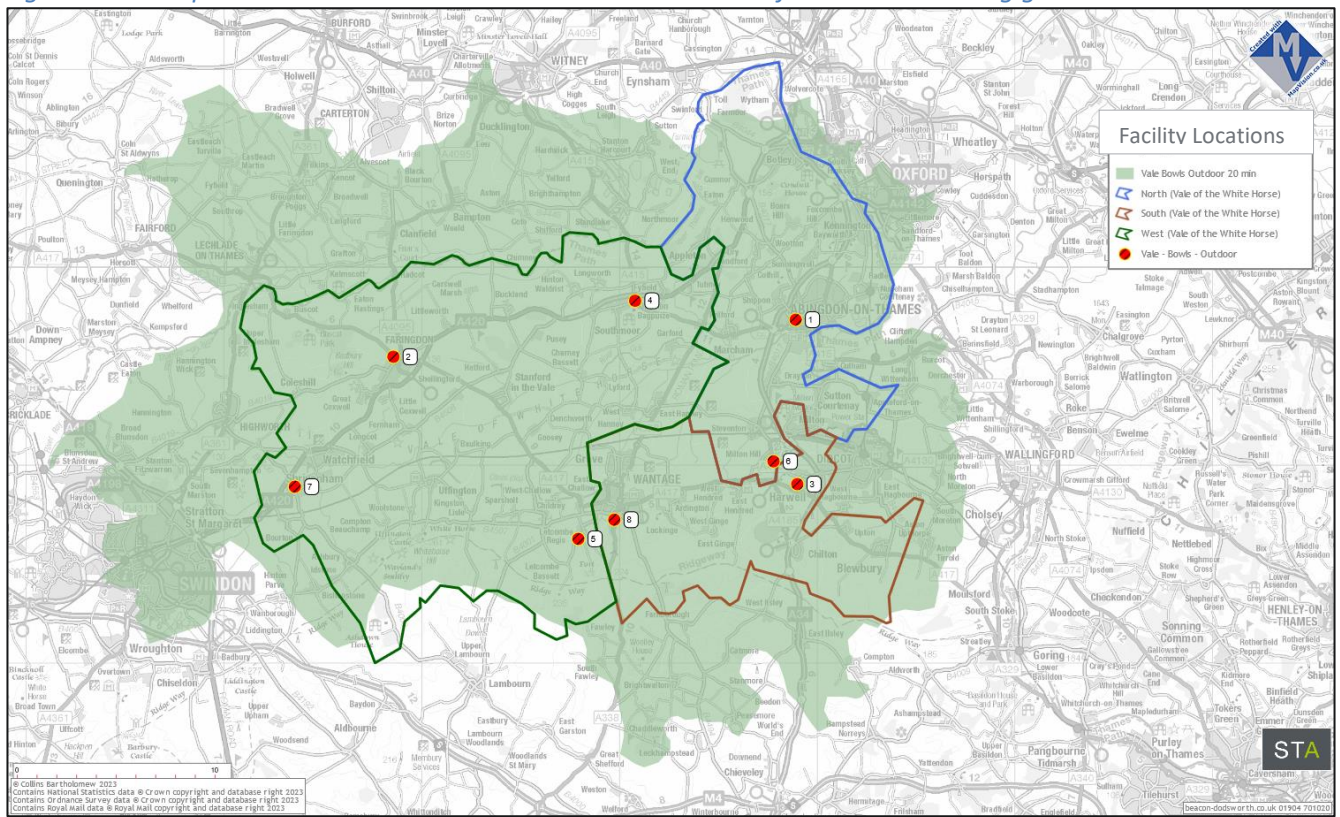
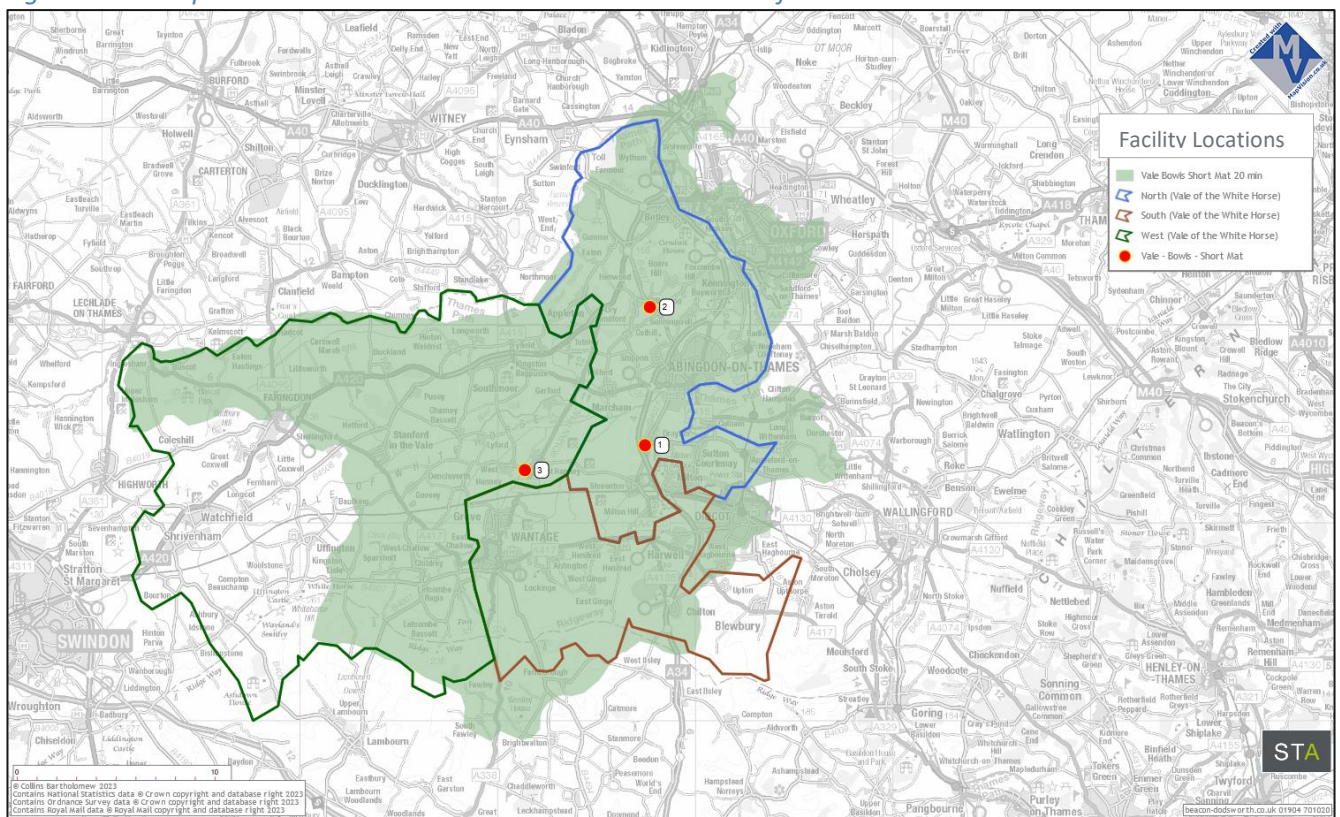


Figure 13.2: Map to show 20-minute drive-time catchment areas for short-mat bowls clubs



### 13.9 Planned Developments

Harwell BC and Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor BC have plans to upgrade their clubhouse facilities.

### 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"> <li>• There are no indoor bowls centres in the Vale of White Horse.</li> <li>• There are no short-mat bowls clubs in the West sub area, however there are outdoor bowling greens in all sub areas.</li> <li>• If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 350 new bowls players across the Vale of White Horse by 2041.</li> <li>• Highest future demand is in the North sub area (148 new bowlers).</li> </ul>	<p>New short-mat bowls club to be encouraged in the West 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"> <li>• The quality of the facilities is generally ‘Above Average’ and ‘Good’ quality. However, Harwell BC and Kingston Bagpuize &amp; Southmoor BC have plans to upgrade their clubhouse facilities.</li> </ul>	<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"> <li>• There are no gaps in provision of outdoor bowling greens (i.e., all residents of the Vale of White Horse are within a 20-minute drive-time of an outdoor bowling green).</li> <li>• There is a small gap in provision for short-mat bowls in the South-Western part of the West sub area.</li> <li>• However, these residents are within a 20-minute drive-time of Swindon, which has an indoor bowls centre.</li> </ul>	<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"> <li>• There were no issues with availability or the security of tenure raised by bowls clubs as part of this study.</li> </ul>	<p>None.</p>
<p><u>Summary</u> – What provision is required to meet needs and address issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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. <b>(PROTECT)</b></li> <li>• Support Harwell BC and Kingston Bagpuize &amp; Southmoor BC with plans to upgrade their clubhouse facilities. <b>(ENHANCE)</b></li> </ul>	



## 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 the Vale. These are located in two of the three sub areas – there is no croquet lawn located in the West sub area. 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 the Vale of White Horse*

Site Name	Sub Area	Community Access	Number of lawns	Ownership Type	Management Type
Radley College Croquet Club	North	College	2	College	College
Thames Valley Croquet Club		Club	3	Club	Club
Blewbury Croquet Club	South	Club	1	Local Authority	Club
Harwell Croquet Club		Club	2	Commercial	Commercial

### 14.3 Security of Access, Ownership and Management

There is secured community access at two 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. Thames Valley Croquet Club has three lawns that it uses at Abingdon Cricket Club (Hales Meadow). The croquet club has secured use of the facilities, which are owned and managed by the cricket club. Blewbury Croquet Club lease the site from Blewbury Parish Council and has 15 years left on the lease.

However, Harwell Croquet Club facilities are owned by Harwell Campus and therefore has unsecured use (i.e., no long-term lease or agreement to use the site).

Radley College Croquet Club is located at Radley College and therefore the club members are comprised of college pupils (i.e., the lawns 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 – six of the eight 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 the Vale of White Horse

Site Name	Sub Area	Community Access	Number of lawns	Maintenance Provider	Facility Quality Rating
Radley College Croquet Club	North	College	2	College	Good
Thames Valley Croquet Club		Club	3	Cricket Club	Good
Blewbury Croquet Club	South	Club	1	Croquet Club	Good
Harwell Croquet Club		Club	2	Harwell Campus	Below Average

At Harwell Croquet Club, the lawns are well maintained, but have never been professionally levelled, so are quite uneven. The lawns are usable for match play but quality could be improved.

At Blewbury Croquet Club, the clubhouse facilities are ‘Below Average’ (i.e., deteriorating and showing signs of wear and tear and poor quality). The facility is not as attractive to customers and does not meet current expectations.

### 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)

All three of the community croquet clubs in the Vale of White Horse responded to requests for information.

Table 14.4: No. of members at croquet clubs in the Vale of White Horse

Site Name	Sub Area	No. of Members	Change in last 5 yrs	Reason(s) why
Thames Valley Croquet Club	North	24	Stayed the same	-
Blewbury Croquet Club	South	48	Increase	Steady club development
Harwell Croquet Club		40	Increase	More interest from people working at Harwell Campus.

Blewbury Croquet Club has reported that it will reach full-capacity when it has 60 members (i.e., 30 members per lawn). All clubs reported future plans to add new members.

### 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.

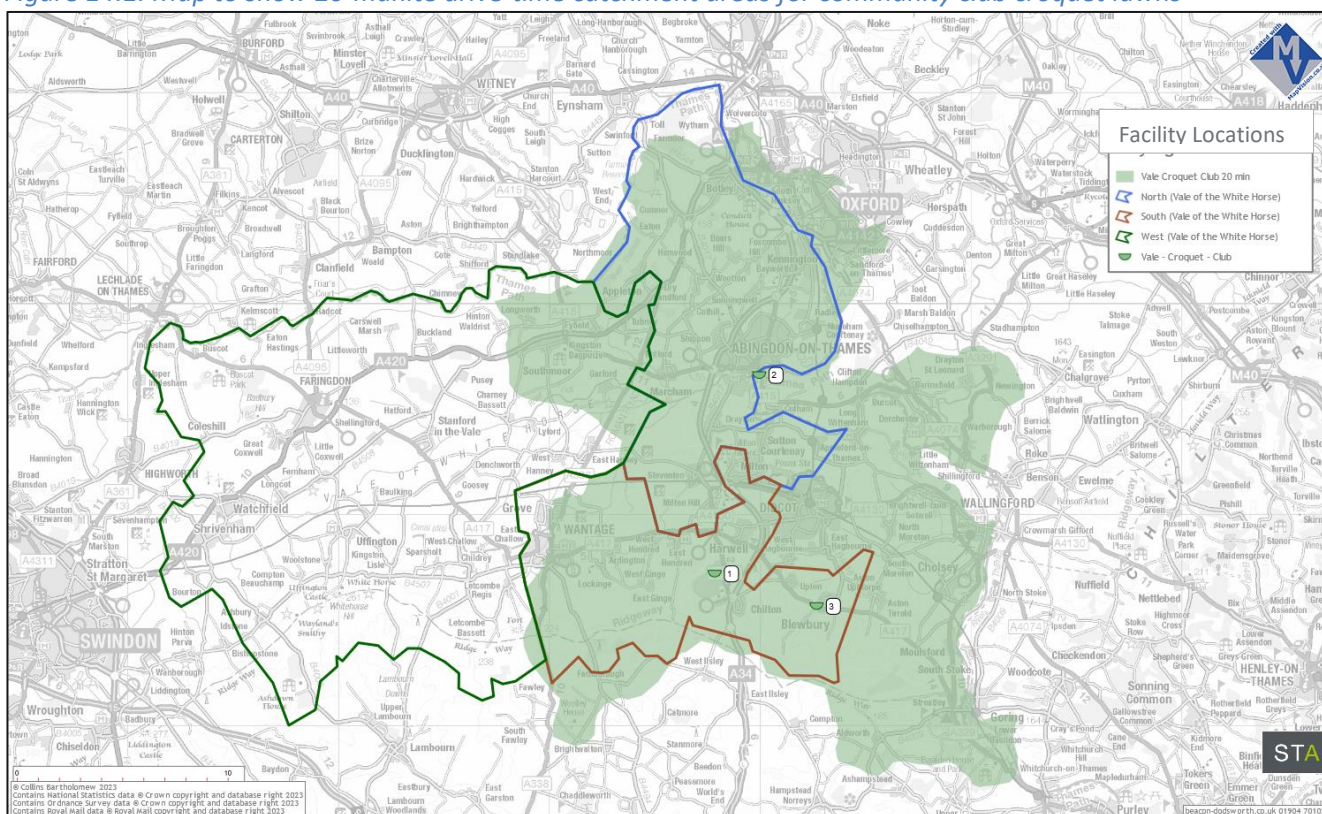
Active Lives data (2022) for Oxfordshire shows that 0.1% of adults (16+ year olds) participated in ‘Croquet’ at least twice in the last 28 days. If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 50 new croquet players across the Vale of White Horse by 2041.

### 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 below shows that there is a gap in community club croquet lawn provision in the West sub area.

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
Quantity – Are there enough facilities with sufficient capacity to meet needs?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no croquet lawn located in the West sub area.</li> </ul>	New croquet clubs to be encouraged in the West sub area.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 50 new croquet players across the Vale by 2041.</li> <li>• Blewbury Croquet Club has 48 members and reported that it will reach full-capacity when it has 60 members (i.e., 30 members per lawn).</li> <li>• All clubs reported future plans to add new members.</li> </ul>	Future demand can be met within existing club capacities.
<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"> <li>• At Harwell Croquet Club, the lawns are well maintained, but have never been professionally levelled, so are quite uneven. The lawns are usable for match play but quality could be improved.</li> <li>• At Blewbury Croquet Club, the clubhouse facilities are ‘Below Average’ (i.e., deteriorating and showing signs of wear and tear and poor quality). The facility is not as attractive to customers and does not meet current expectations.</li> </ul>	Support clubs with their facility development plans.
<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"> <li>• There is a gap in community club croquet lawn provision in the West sub area.</li> <li>• There were no cost issues raised by clubs as part of this study.</li> </ul>	New croquet clubs to be encouraged in the West sub area.
<p><u>Availability</u> – Are the facilities available to users who want to use them?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were no issues with availability or the security of tenure raised by croquet clubs as part of this study.</li> </ul>	None.
<p><u>Summary</u> – What provision is required to meet needs and address issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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. <b>(PROTECT)</b></li> </ul>	

## 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 the Vale of White Horse. 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 four water sports clubs and three school/college clubs with boathouse facilities (changing rooms, storage etc) and formal access to the river or a lake in the North and in the South 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 Wantage and Grove Angling Club are based at a pond in Grove, and Farmoor Reservoir is home to Oxford Sailing Club and Oxford Stand-Up Paddleboarding (SUP) Club.

*Table 15.1: Water Sports Clubs in the Vale of White Horse*

Site Name	Sub Area	Community Access	Water Type	Ownership Type	Management Type
Abbey Sailing Club	North	Club	River	Local Authority	Club
Abingdon Rowing Club		Club	River	Local Authority	Club
Abingdon School Boat Club		School	River	School	School
Farmoor Reservoir		Club	Reservoir	Commercial	Club
Griffen Boat Club		School	River	School	School
Kingfisher Canoe Club		Club	River	Local Authority	Club
Radley College Boat Club		College	River	College	College
Wantage and Grove Angling Club	South	Club	Pond	Commercial	Club

### 15.3 Security of Access, Ownership and Management

Wantage and Grove Angling Club lease the fishery at Grove Pond (approx. half an acre) from Network Rail on an annual basis. The club did not report any issues with this arrangement. Farmoor Reservoir is owned by Thames Water Utilities Limited and has long-term lease arrangements for community clubs to access the Reservoir.

There are also long-term leases of the facilities at Kingfisher Canoe Club, which are owned by The Environment Agency, and the club has 17 years left on its lease. Abingdon Rowing Club has a 40-year lease from Abingdon Town Council for the use of its 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 the Vale of White Horse

Site Name	Sub Area	Community Access	Provision Type	Maintenance Provider	Facility Quality Rating
Abbey Sailing Club	North	Club	Boathouse	Club	Above Average
Abingdon Rowing Club		Club	Boathouse	Club	Above Average
Abingdon School Boat Club		School	Boathouse	School	Good
Farmoor Reservoir		Club	Boathouse	Club	Above Average
Griffen Boat Club		School	Boathouse	School	Good
Kingfisher Canoe Club		Club	Boathouse	Club	Good
Radley College Boat Club		College	Boathouse	College	Good
Wantage and Grove Angling Club	South	Club	Boathouse	Club	Good

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.

### 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 the Vale of White Horse

Site Name	Sub Area	No. of Members	Change in last 5 yrs	Reason(s) why
Abbey Sailing Club	North	-	-	-
Abingdon Rowing Club		130	Stayed the same	Lack of coaches for juniors
Oxford Sailing Club / SUP Club		-	-	-
Kingfisher Canoe Club		96	Increased	Popularity of paddle sports
Wantage and Grove Angling Club	South	225	Stayed the same	At capacity (100 people on waiting list)

## 15.7 Demand (NGB Consultation)

As a method of good-practice, informal access to waterways in the Vale of White Horse (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 1,253 new people doing water sports across the Vale of White Horse 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 the Vale of White Horse

Age Group	North Sub Area	South Sub Area	West Sub Area	Total (District)
5–15-year-olds	31	41	19	91
16–45-year-olds	171	165	98	434
46–75-year-olds	214	179	90	483
76–100-year-olds	76	36	41	153
<b>Total (5-100-year-olds)</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>1,253</b>

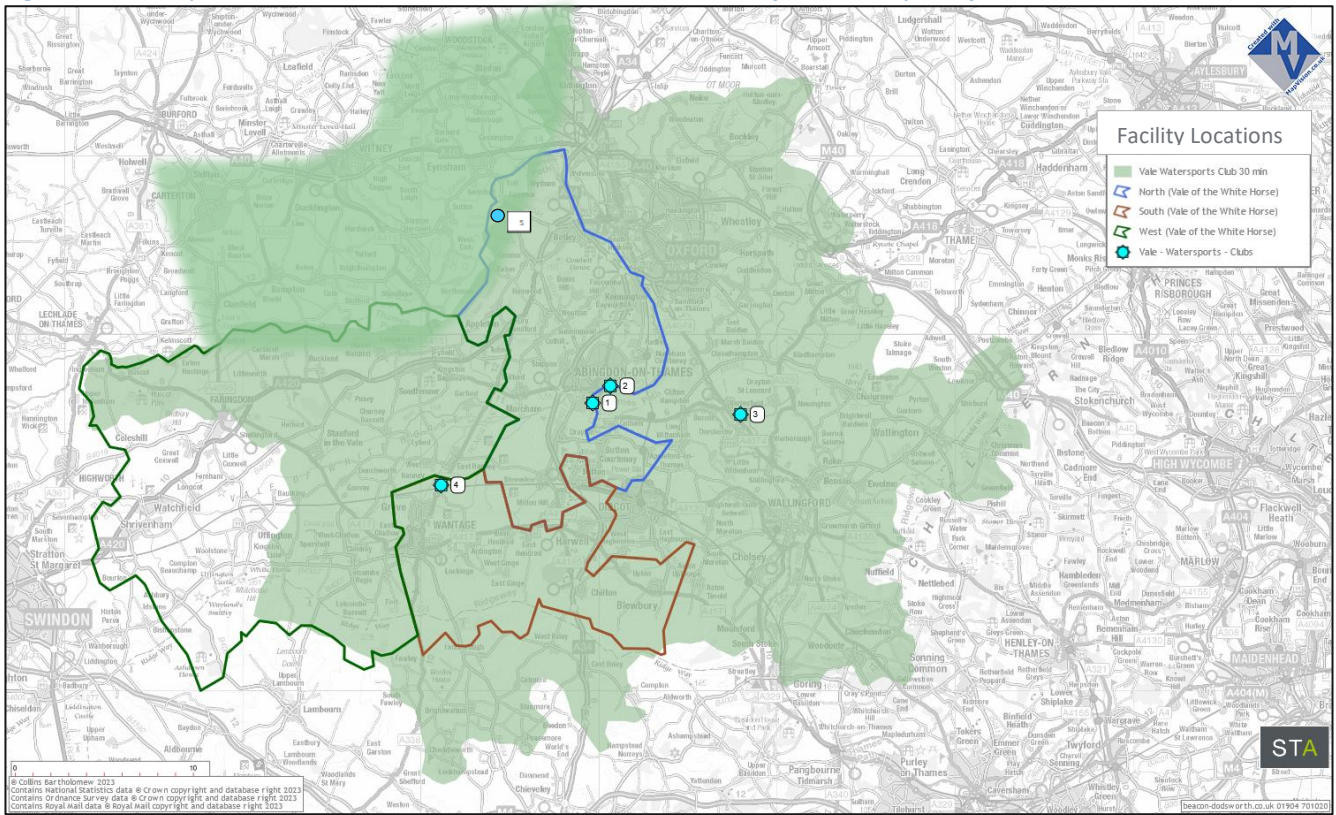
Future demand projections suggest that future demand will be highest for water sports in the North sub area, and demand will be highest from people aged 46 to 75 years old.

## 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 overleaf shows that there is a geographical gap in water sports provision in the West sub area.

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



### 15.10 Planned Developments

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

### 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"> <li>The majority of clubs use the River Thames, however Wantage and Grove Angling Club are based at a pond in Grove, and Farmoor Reservoir is home to Oxford Sailing and SUP clubs.</li> <li>Wantage and Grove Angling Club in the South sub area has 225 members and is at capacity (waiting list of 100 people).</li> <li>No clubs in the West sub area.</li> <li>If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 1,253 new people doing water sports across the Vale of White Horse by 2041</li> <li>Highest future demand in the North sub area (530 new regular participants) and from 46-75-year-olds (214 new participants).</li> </ul>	<p>To meet current and future demand, new angling or watersports clubs to be encouraged in all 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"> <li>• All boathouses are ‘Above Average’ or ‘Good’ quality and are meeting the expectations of users.</li> <li>• There were no quality issues recorded as part of this study.</li> </ul>	<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"> <li>• There is a gap in community watersports provision in the West sub area (i.e. outside a 30-minute drive-time).</li> <li>• There were no cost issues raised by clubs as part of this study.</li> </ul>	<p>New clubs to be encouraged in the West 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"> <li>• There were no issues with availability or the security of tenure raised by clubs as part of this study.</li> </ul>	<p>None.</p>
<p><u>Summary</u> – What provision is required to meet needs and address issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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. <b>(PROTECT)</b></li> </ul>	

## 16.SKATEPARKS

### 16.1 Introduction

This section contains a summary of the findings from the needs assessment work for skateparks in the Vale of White Horse. 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 six outdoor skateparks in the Vale – at least one in each 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 the Vale of White Horse*

Site Name	Sub Area	Community Access	Ownership Type	Management Type
Abingdon Skatepark	North	Free-to-use	Local Authority	Local Authority
Sutton Courtenay Skatepark		Free-to-use	Local Authority	Local Authority
Blewbury Skatepark	South	Free-to-use	Local Authority	Local Authority
Faringdon Skatepark	West	Free-to-use	Local Authority	Local Authority
Grove Skatepark		Free-to-use	Local Authority	Local Authority
Stanford in the Vale Skatepark		Free-to-use	Local Authority	Local Authority

### 16.3 Security of Access, Ownership and Management

All skateparks are owned and managed by a local authority (District, 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 the Vale of White Horse*

Site Name	Sub Area	Community Access	Maintenance Provider	Facility Quality Rating
Abingdon Skatepark	North	Free-to-use	Local Authority	<b>Above Average</b>
Sutton Courtenay Skatepark		Free-to-use	Local Authority	<b>Above Average</b>
Blewbury Skatepark	South	Free-to-use	Local Authority	<b>Above Average</b>
Faringdon Skatepark	West	Free-to-use	Local Authority	<b>Above Average</b>

Grove Skatepark		Free-to-use	Local Authority	<b>Above Average</b>
Stanford in the Vale Skatepark		Free-to-use	Local Authority	<b>Below Average</b>

Most of the skateparks in the district are ‘Above Average’ quality. The facilities are in a reasonable condition – may be older but are fit for purpose and safe. However, Stanford in the Vale Skatepark is not fit for purpose and is in need of improvement.

**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 the Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire. 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 290 new skateboarders across the Vale of White Horse 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 the Vale of White Horse*

Age Group	North Sub Area	South Sub Area	West Sub Area	Total (District)
5–15-year-olds	69	92	43	<b>204</b>
16–45-year-olds	14	13	8	<b>35</b>
46–75-year-olds	17	14	7	<b>38</b>
76–100-year-olds	6	3	3	<b>12</b>
<b>Total (5-100-year-olds)</b>	106	122	62	<b>290</b>

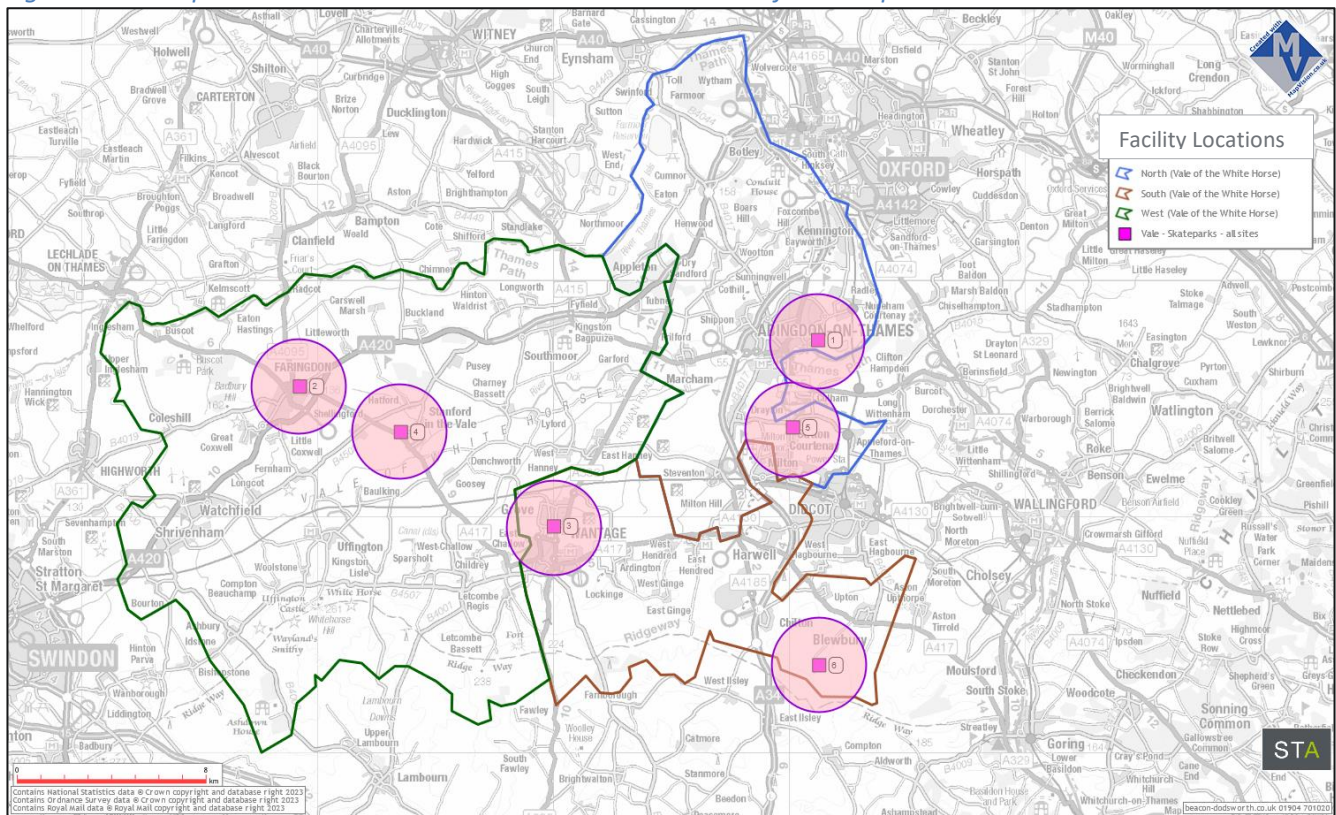
Future demand projections suggest that future demand will be highest for skateboarding in the South sub area, and demand will be highest from children and young people.

## 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 are no skateparks in Shrivenham, Watchfield and Kingston Bagpuize (all in the West sub area); Kennington and Botley (North sub area); and Harwell (South sub area).

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



### 16.9 Planned Developments

There is a new skatepark proposed at Central Park, Crab Hill in Wantage. Planning permission for a skatepark at Louie Memorial Playing Fields has been granted in Spring 2024 (with funding fully secured including a 250K contribution from Vale) to meet demand for a skatepark in Botley.

### 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"> <li>There are six outdoor skateparks in the Vale – at least one in each sub area.</li> <li>However, there are no skateparks in Shrivensham, Watchfield and Kingston Bagpuize (all in the West sub area); Kennington and Botley (North sub area); and Harwell (South sub area).</li> <li>If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 290 new skateboarders across the Vale by 2041.</li> <li>Future demand will be highest for skateboarding in the South sub area (122 new skateboarders), and demand will be highest from children and young people (92 new skateboarders).</li> </ul>	<p>New provision in all sub areas to meet current and future demand.</p> <p>Support the development of a new skatepark proposed at Central Park, Crab Hill in Wantage.</p> <p>Support the development of a new skatepark planned at Louie Memorial Playing Fields in Botley.</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"> <li>• Most of the skateparks in the district are ‘Above Average’ quality. The facilities are in a reasonable condition – may be older but are fit for purpose and safe. However, Stanford in the Vale Skatepark is not fit for purpose and is in need of improvement.</li> </ul>	<p>Enhance the quality of the skatepark in Stanford in the Vale.</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"> <li>• The normal acceptable standard is a 20-minute walk-time for skateparks in a rural area.</li> <li>• Existing skateparks are located in the largest villages and towns. However, there are no skateparks in Shrivenham, Watchfield and Kingston Bagpuize (all in the West sub area); Kennington and Botley (North sub area); and Harwell (South sub area).</li> <li>• All skateparks in the district are free-to-use.</li> </ul>	<p>New provision in all sub areas 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"> <li>• Skateparks in the district are available for use during daylight hours only. None of the skateparks have sports-lights.</li> </ul>	<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"> <li>• 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. <b>(PROTECT)</b></li> <li>• To increase the number of hours available for use at existing skateparks, consider installing sports-lights where appropriate. <b>(ENHANCE)</b></li> <li>• To maximise the use of existing assets through improving the quality of Stanford in the Vale skatepark.</li> <li>• Need to provide new skateparks in Shrivenham, Watchfield and Kingston Bagpuize (all in the West sub area); Kennington and Botley (North sub area); and Harwell (South sub area) to meet current demand.</li> <li>• Need to provide new skateparks to meet future demand, particularly in the South sub area (e.g., Wantage). Support the development of a new skateparks proposed at Central Park, Crab Hill in Wantage, and at Louie Memorial Playing Fields in Botley. <b>(PROVIDE)</b></li> </ul>	

## 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 the Vale of White Horse. 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 19 MUGAs in the Vale. The majority of MUGAs (12) are located in the North sub area. There are five MUGAs in the West sub area and two 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 the Vale of White Horse*

Site Name	Sub Area	Community Access	Ownership Type	Management Type
Anson Field, Marcham	North	Open Access	Local Authority	Local Authority
Appleford Drive, Abingdon		Open Access	Local Authority	Local Authority
Dunmore Primary School, Abingdon		Private	Education	Education
John Mason School, Abingdon		Private	Education	Education
Larkmead School, Abingdon		Private	Education	Education
Louie Memorial Playing Fields, Botley		Open Access	Local Authority	Local Authority
Southern Town Park, Abingdon		Open Access	Local Authority	Local Authority
St Andrews Parish, Botley		Open Access	Local Authority	Local Authority
Stratton Way, Abingdon		Open Access	Local Authority	Local Authority
Sutton Courtenay Recreation Ground		Open Access	Local Authority	Local Authority
Thameside Primary School, Abingdon		Private	Education	Education
Wootton Recreation Ground		Open Access	Local Authority	Local Authority
Boundary Park, Didcot	South	Open Access	Local Authority	Local Authority
Grove Recreation Ground		Open Access	Local Authority	Local Authority
Brookside, East Hanney	West	Open Access	Local Authority	Local Authority
Faringdon Community College		Private	Education	Education
Great Coxwell Recreation Ground		Open Access	Local Authority	Local Authority
Kingston Bagpuize Recreation Ground		Open Access	Local Authority	Local Authority
Stanford-in-the-Vale Recreation Ground		Open Access	Local Authority	Local Authority

East Challow Recreation Ground		Open Access	Local Authority	Local Authority
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### 17.3 Security of Access, Ownership and Management

Of the 19 MUGAs in the Vale, 14 are owned and managed by a local authority (Town and Parish councils) and are free-to-use by the community. Only two of these open-access MUGAs is sports-lit (Anson Field in Marcham and Boundary Park in Didcot have sports-lights); the remaining MUGAs are only available for use during daylight hours.

There are five MUGAs in the Vale that are located on education sites (i.e., they are owned and managed by a school or college) and are used by the school or college (i.e., private use only). The MUGA at Larkmead School in Abingdon is the only private-use MUGA in the Vale with sports-lights.

### 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 MUGAs in the Vale that are of ‘Good’ quality. This means the 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. There are also four MUGAs in the Vale that are ‘Above Average’ quality (i.e., the facilities are in a reasonable condition – may be older but are fit for purpose and safe).

There are 12 MUGAs in the Vale that 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 the Vale of White Horse*

Site Name	Sub Area	Community Access	Maintenance Provider	Facility Quality Rating
Anson Field, Marcham	North	Open Access	Local Authority	<b>Good</b>
Appleford Drive, Abingdon		Open Access	Local Authority	<b>Below Average</b>
Dunmore Primary School		Private	Education	<b>Below Average</b>
John Mason School, Abingdon		Private	Education	<b>Below Average</b>
Larkmead School, Abingdon		Private	Education	<b>Above Average</b>
Louie Memorial Playing Fields, Botley		Open Access	Local Authority	<b>Below Average</b>
Southern Town Park, Abingdon		Open Access	Local Authority	<b>Below Average</b>
St Andrews Parish, Botley		Open Access	Local Authority	<b>Above Average</b>
Stratton Way, Abingdon		Open Access	Local Authority	<b>Below Average</b>
Sutton Courtenay Recreation Ground		Open Access	Local Authority	<b>Good</b>
Thameside Primary School, Abingdon		Private	Education	<b>Below Average</b>



Wootton Recreation Ground		Open Access	Local Authority	<b>Above Average</b>
Boundary Park, Didcot	South	Open Access	Local Authority	<b>Below Average</b>
Grove Recreation Ground		Open Access	Local Authority	<b>Below Average</b>
Brookside, East Hanney	West	Open Access	Local Authority	<b>Good</b>
Faringdon Community College		Private	Education	<b>Below Average</b>
Great Coxwell Recreation Ground		Open Access	Local Authority	<b>Below Average</b>
Kingston Bagpuize Recreation Ground		Open Access	Local Authority	<b>Below Average</b>
Stanford-in-the-Vale Recreation Ground		Open Access	Local Authority	<b>Above Average</b>
East Challow Recreation Ground		Open Access	Local Authority	<b>Below Average</b>

### 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

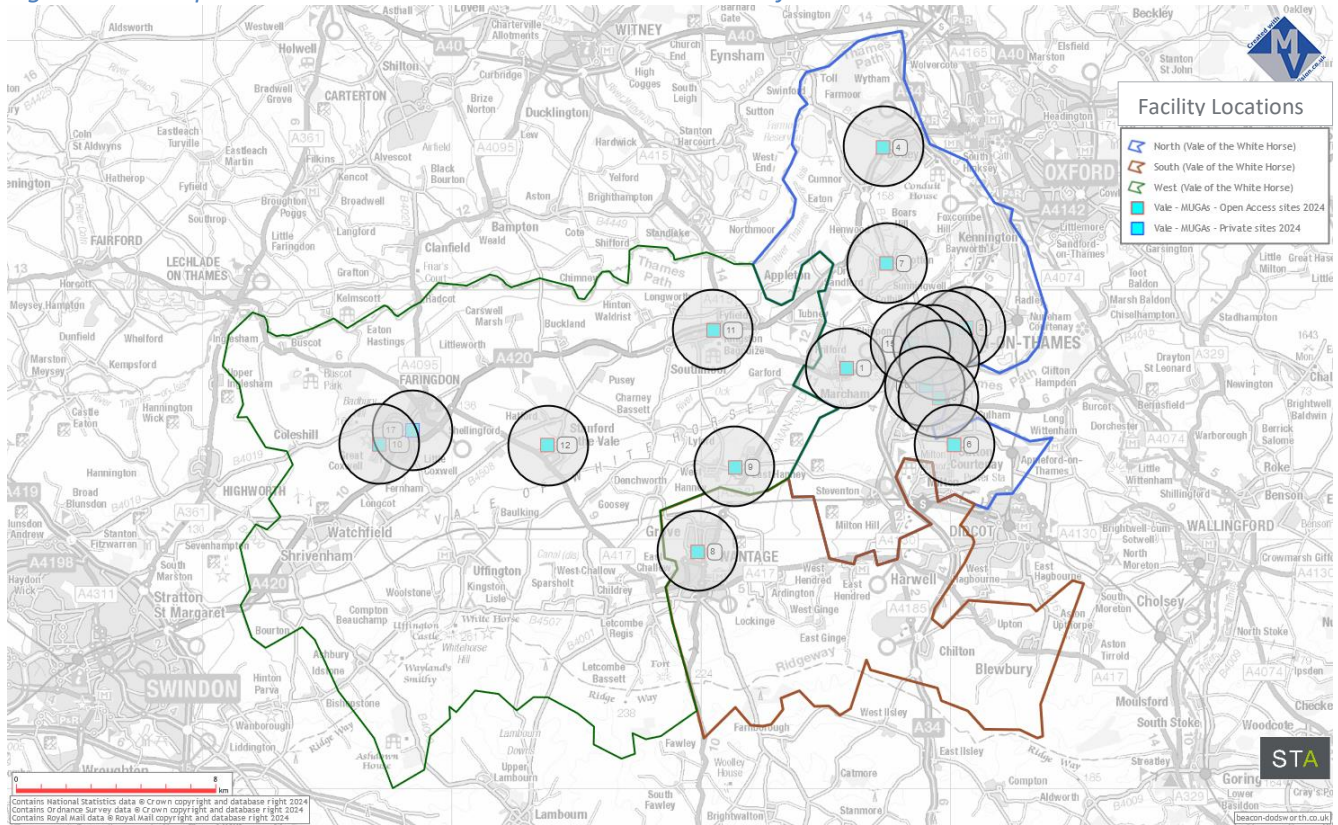
Due to the lack of data available on demand for MUGAs, it has not been possible to provide future demand projections for people using MUGAs in the district.

### 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.

Figures 17.1 overleaf shows that existing MUGAs are located in each sub area and in the towns and largest villages in the Vale.

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



### 17.8 Planned Developments

There is planning permission granted for football and cricket pitches along with a MUGA/ pavilion at Walnut Meadows development, which is located on Land West of Abingdon Road in Drayton ([P21/V1924/FUL](#)).

### 17.9 Summary of MUGAs

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"> <li>There are 19 MUGAs in the Vale – at least one in each sub area. However, five of the MUGAs are on educational sites and for private use only.</li> <li>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).</li> </ul>	<p>Retain and maintain existing provision to meet current and future demand.</p> <p>Enhance access to MUGAs on educational sites.</p>
<u>Quality</u> – Are the facilities fit for purpose for the users?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seven of the MUGAs are ‘Good’ or ‘Above Average’ quality. However, 12 MUGAs are ‘Below Average’ quality. These facilities are showing signs</li> </ul>	<p>Improve the condition of open-access MUGAs with open access that are ‘Below Average’ quality.</p>

<p>Do the facilities provide the level of play needed, and does the quality meet the user’s expectations?</p>	<p>of age and poor quality (e.g., surfaces are showing signs of wear and tear).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The following open-access MUGAs are usable but quality could be improved, as they do not meet current expectations; Appleford Drive, Southern Town Park and Stratton Way (all in Abingdon); Louie Memorial Playing Fields (Botley); Boundary Park (Didcot) and recreation grounds in Grove, Great Coxwell, Kingston Bagpuize and East Challow Recreation Ground.</li> </ul>	
<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"> <li>The normal acceptable standard is a 20-minute walk-time for MUGAs in a rural area.</li> <li>Existing MUGAs are located in the towns and largest villages and are free-to-use by the community.</li> </ul>	<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"> <li>Of the 12 open-access MUGAs in the Vale, only two are sports-lit (Anson Field in Marcham and Boundary Park in Didcot have sports-lights); the remaining MUGAs are only available for use during daylight hours.</li> <li>Of the five private-use MUGAs in the Vale, only one is sports-lit (Larkmead School, Abingdon).</li> </ul>	<p>Install sports-lights where appropriate (i.e., demand identified) to 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"> <li>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. <b>(PROTECT)</b></li> <li>Consider improving the condition of MUGAs with open access that are ‘Below Average’ quality, including; Appleford Drive, Southern Town Park and Stratton Way (all in Abingdon); Louie Memorial Playing Fields (Botley) and Boundary Park (Didcot) and recreation grounds in Grove, Great Coxwell, Kingston Bagpuize and East Challow Recreation Ground. <b>(ENHANCE)</b></li> <li>Consider increasing the number of hours available for use at existing MUGAs by installing sports-lights where appropriate, including; St Andrews Parish and Louie Memorial Playing Fields (both in Botley), Appleford Drive, Southern Town Park and Stratton Way (all in Abingdon) and recreation grounds in East Hanny, Grove, Great Coxwell, East Challow Recreation Ground, Kingston Bagpuize, Stanford-in-the-Vale, Sutton Courtenay and Wootton. <b>(ENHANCE)</b></li> <li>Encourage educational providers with MUGAs to allow public / community use where appropriate (e.g., Faringdon Community College). <b>(ENHANCE)</b></li> <li>Support the development of new MUGAs planned at Folly Park in Faringdon and at Land West of Abingdon Road in Drayton. <b>(PROVIDE)</b></li> </ul>	

## 18.PARKOUR PROVISION

### 18.1 Introduction

This section contains a summary of the findings from the needs assessment work for parkour provision in the Vale of White Horse. 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 is one site in the Vale with indoor parkour provision – The Pump House in Faringdon (shown in Table 18.1 below). There is indoor parkour provision at Oxford Academy in Littlemore (outside the study area).

There are also no sites in the Vale with outdoor parkour provision. The closest outdoor parkour areas are located in Salisbury, Southampton, London and Cardiff. There is 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.

*Table 18.1: Parkour provision in the Vale of White Horse*

Site Name	Sub Area	Community Access	Ownership Type	Management Type
The Pump House, Faringdon	West	Organised sessions	Town Council	Charity

### 18.3 Security of Access, Ownership and Management

The Pump House in Faringdon is a community building (former theatre) that is owned by Faringdon Town Council and managed by a local charity (the Pump House Project). The Pump House Project did not report any issues with security of access as part of this study.

The cost to participate in a parkour session at the Pump House ranges from £8 to £12 per session and is available to all ages of the community (further details are provided in 18.7 of this report).

## 18.4 Quality of Parkour Provision

The quality of the parkour provision at The Pump House has been determined as ‘Above Average’ quality. The facility is in a reasonable condition and is well maintained and presented. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are in an acceptable condition but may show some signs of wear and tear. Ancillary facilities are in a reasonable condition; may be older but are fit for purpose and safe.

## 18.5 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 18.3: 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)

## 18.6 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 the main issue in the Vale is that existing parkour provision is quite sparsely populated with groups and coaches – some support

to develop groups and coaches who live in the area would be useful. The NGB is aware of the parkour provision at The Pump House in Faringdon.

### **18.7 The Pump House Project**

Opening in 2013, the purpose of the Pump House Project (PHP) was initially to create a home for parkour and freerunning activities for the young people of Faringdon and the surrounding areas. There was a core demographic travelling to Cardiff to use appropriate parkour provision. Additionally the PHP became a 'home' for cubs and scouts and other youth groups. The Urban Movement Academy are a group of qualified coaches that operate weekly sessions at the Pump House, including five sessions on a Saturday for Body Conditioning, Parkour/Freerunning technique, Urban Dance, Acrobatics, Balancing and Circus skills. There are also weekly Academy Days (a fun parkour-based day for any young person in the community – c.40 children attend weekly); 'Freedom of Movement' sessions and Adult only sessions. The Academy report that they will always have enough coaches to service demand as the older and more experienced students are invited to be an Assistant Coach, once the current Assistant Coach completes their level 1 ParkourUK training and joins the coaching rota.

The PHP and the Urban Movement Academy (UMA) have reported numerous logistical issues with operating sessions from the Pump House, which have been summarised below:

- The equipment used by the coaches takes up to 3 hours to set up each Friday evening – this means we are unable to hire the hall for fundraisers, private hires and create an income.
- The UMA operates all day on Saturdays so if we are hosting an event (we have an alcohol licence and are popular for private hires) then the coaches are pressed to break down all the equipment as quickly as possible so that the bar and band can be set up in good time for the event.
- The space itself limits the 'set ups' of equipment the coaches can create and the number of students in any one group.
- The Academy is not massively lucrative but any surplus money goes into our general overheads (lighting/heating/insurance etc). There is no money to purchase additional or replacement equipment.

In order to address these issues, the UMA are looking for a new facility in central Faringdon, but it has been unable to find suitable provision in the last 12 months. A new facility with a permanent set-up of equipment would enable more structured training sessions and more drop-in sessions to be held; concentrating on reaching the demographics that are currently not being reached.

### **18.8 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 376 new people participating in parkour across the Vale of White Horse by 2041. A breakdown of future demand by sub area and age group has been provided in Table 18.4 below.

*Table 18.4: Future demand for Parkour in the Vale of White Horse*

Age Group	North Sub Area	South Sub Area	West Sub Area	Total (District)
5–15-year-olds	98	131	62	291
16–45-year-olds	14	13	8	35
46–75-year-olds	17	14	7	38
76–100-year-olds	6	3	3	12
<b>Total (5-100-year-olds)</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>376</b>

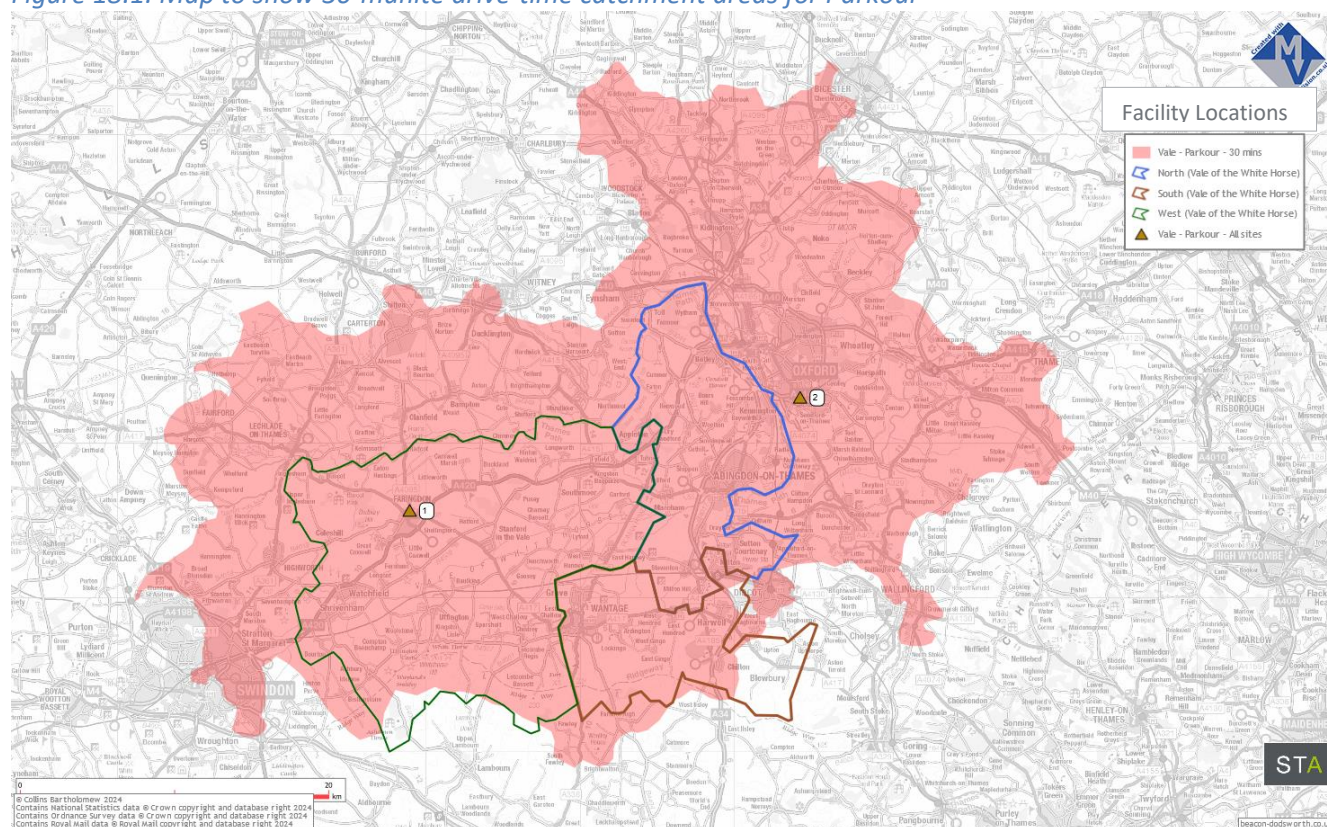
Future demand projections suggest that future demand will be highest for parkour in the South sub area, and demand will be highest from children and young people.

### **18.9 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 overleaf shows that the majority of residents in the Vale are within a 30-minute drive-time of the existing parkour provision in Faringdon. Although there is no parkour provision in Abingdon, Oxford Academy in Littlemore offers parkour sessions in its sports hall, and is within a 30-minute drive-time of residents in the North sub area.

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



### 18.10 Planned Developments

The Urban Movement Academy is actively looking for a new venue in Faringdon town centre, however it has not yet identified a new site nor has it yet fully considered any funding opportunities. The new venue would ideally have indoor and outdoor parkour facilities with a permanent equipment set-up. The indoor facility would ideally have high ceilings, a part-sprung floor, static bars and box equipment that can also be used for other young people’s groups (cadets, dance, cheerleading, cubs, brownies etc) when not running Academy sessions. The outdoor facilities would ideally be in an enclosed outdoor training area with gated access to potentially allow public access (providing a disclaimer is signed).

### 18.11 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"> <li>• There is one site with parkour provision in the Vale – at the Pump House in Faringdon.</li> <li>• The Urban Movement Academy (UMA) run weekly sessions at the Pump House and would like to expand operations at a new facility in Faringdon in order to address the logistical issues at the Pump House.</li> <li>• If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 376 new parkour participants across the Vale by 2041.</li> <li>• Future demand will be highest for parkour in the South sub area (161 new participants), and</li> </ul>	<p>Retain and maintain existing provision to meet current and future demand.</p>



	demand will be highest from children and young people (131 new participants).	
<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?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The parkour facilities are ‘Above Average’ quality. The facilities are in a reasonable condition – may be older but are fit for purpose and safe.</li> </ul>	None.
<u>Accessibility</u> – Are the facilities in the right physical location for users? Does the cost of using facilities prohibit access?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The normal acceptable standard is a 30-minute drive-time for parkour provision in a rural area.</li> <li>The majority of residents in the Vale are within a 30-minute drive-time of the existing parkour provision in Faringdon. Oxford Academy in Littlemore offers parkour sessions in its sports hall, and is within a 30-minute drive-time of residents in the North sub area.</li> <li>The cost to participate in a parkour session at the Pump House is between £8-12 per session.</li> </ul>	None.
<u>Availability</u> – Are the facilities available to users who want to use them?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Pump House in Faringdon is a shared facility between parkour and community groups. Due to the popularity of the sport in Faringdon, the Urban Movement Academy requires more availability of parkour provision and is actively looking for opportunities to have a new indoor and outdoor facility with a permanent parkour set up.</li> </ul>	New indoor / outdoor parkour provision in Faringdon to meet current and future demand from Urban Movement Academy.
<u>Summary</u> – What provision is required to meet needs and address issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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. <b>(PROTECT)</b></li> <li>Need to support Urban Movement Academy in providing new parkour provision to meet current needs and future demand in Faringdon. <b>(PROVIDE)</b></li> </ul>	

## 19. CLIMBING WALLS

### 19.1 Introduction

This section contains a summary of the findings from the needs assessment work for climbing walls in the Vale of White Horse. 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 the Vale. However, there are four indoor climbing centres located in neighbouring authorities; Oxford, Swindon (two centres) and Newbury.

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 Rockstar Climbing Centre and Flashpoint Swindon are both located 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.

*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
Rockstar Climbing Centre, Swindon	N/a	Public	Commercial	Specialist Operator
Flashpoint Swindon	N/a	Public	Commercial	Specialist Operator
Northway Climbing Centre, Newbury	N/a	Public	Commercial	Specialist Operator

### 19.3 Security of Access, Ownership and Management

All four 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-£16) 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 Newbury and Swindon 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 four neighbouring climbing centres, Brookes Sport Climbing Centre and Rockstar Climbing Centre in Swindon are members of ABC (both have Aspirant memberships).

## 19.7 Future Demand

To estimate the number of people likely to participate 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 421 new climbers across the Vale of White Horse 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 the Vale of White Horse*

Age Group	North Sub Area	South Sub Area	West Sub Area	Total (District)
5–15-year-olds	98	131	62	291
16–45-year-olds	21	20	12	53
46–75-year-olds	26	22	11	59
76–100-year-olds	9	4	5	18
<b>Total (5-100-year-olds)</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>421</b>

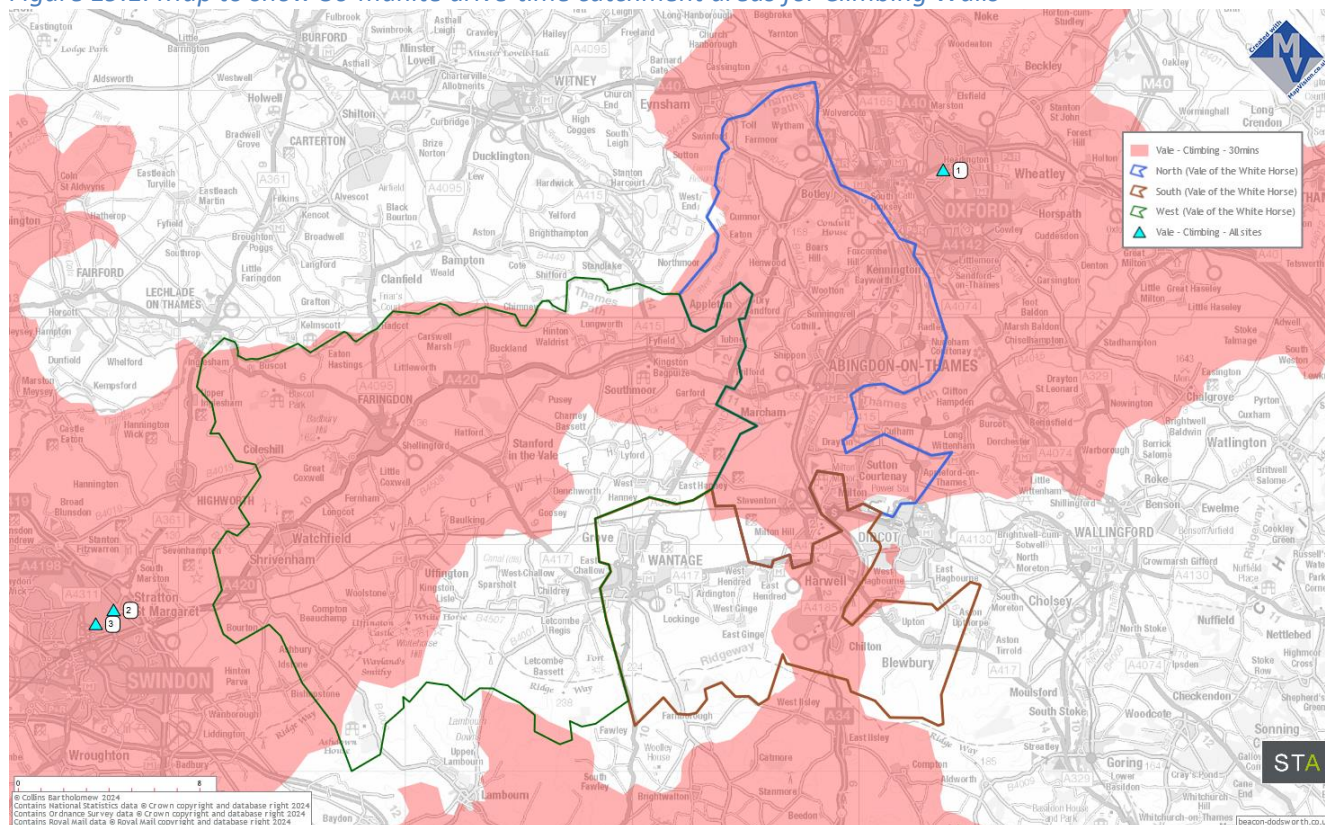
Future demand projections suggest that future demand will be highest for indoor climbing in the South sub area, and demand will be highest from children and young people.

## 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 the Vale are within a 30-minute drive-time of the existing climbing walls in Oxford, Swindon and Newbury.

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 Swindon 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"> <li>• There are no climbing walls in the Vale. However, it is likely that residents of the Vale are using the four indoor climbing centres in neighbouring authorities; Oxford, Swindon (two centres) and Newbury. There is also a new climbing centre due to open in Oxford in late 2023.</li> <li>• If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 421 new climbers across the Vale by 2041.</li> <li>• Future demand will be highest for climbing in the South sub area (177 new participants), and demand will be highest from children and young people (131 new participants).</li> </ul>	<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"> <li>No climbing walls were assessed as part of this study. However, the climbing centres in Newbury and Swindon 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).</li> </ul>	<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"> <li>The normal acceptable standard is a 30-minute drive-time for climbing walls in a rural area.</li> <li>The majority of residents in the Vale are within a 30-minute drive-time of the existing climbing wall in Oxford, Swindon or Newbury.</li> <li>All neighbouring climbing centres offer ‘pay and play’ public access to entry-level sessions (£11-£16) and monthly memberships (£22-£40) for regular users.</li> </ul>	<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"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>None.</p>
<p><u>Summary</u> – What provision is required to meet needs and address issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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 South sub area). <b>(PROVIDE)</b></li> </ul>	

## 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 the Vale of White Horse. 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 11 horse-riding centres in the Vale. The majority (five centres) are located in the West sub area; four centres are in the South sub area and two in the North sub area.

*Table 20.1: Horse-riding centres in the Vale of White Horse*

Site Name	Sub Area	Community Access	Ownership Type	Management Type
Malthouse Centre, Steventon	North	Public	Private	Commercial
Stonehill Farm, Abingdon	North	Public	Private	Commercial
Bessel's Way, Blewbury	South	Public	Private	Commercial
Ridgeway View, Wantage	South	Public	Private	Commercial
Silverdown Stable, Harwell	South	Public	Private	Commercial
Wantage Group	South	Public	Private	Commercial
Defence Academy Saddle Club, Shrivenham	West	Private	MoD	Private
Positive Riding, Uffington	West	Public	Private	Commercial
Huntersfield, Faringdon	West	Public	Private	Commercial
Lower Lodge Riding Centre, Southmoor	West	Public	Private	Commercial
Millaway Farm, Faringdon	West	Public	Private	Commercial

### 20.3 Security of Access, Ownership and Management

There is public access to 10 of the 11 horse-riding centres in the Vale. The Defence Academy Saddle Club in Shrivenham is owned by the Ministry of Defence and has private use only. The remaining horse-riding centres in the district 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 the Vale 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 the Vale.

## 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 291 new horse-riders across the Vale of White Horse 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 the Vale of White Horse*

Age Group	North Sub Area	South Sub Area	West Sub Area	Total (District)
5–15-year-olds	55	73	35	163
16–45-year-olds	21	20	12	53
46–75-year-olds	26	22	11	59
76–100-year-olds	9	4	5	18
<b>Total (5-100-year-olds)</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>291</b>

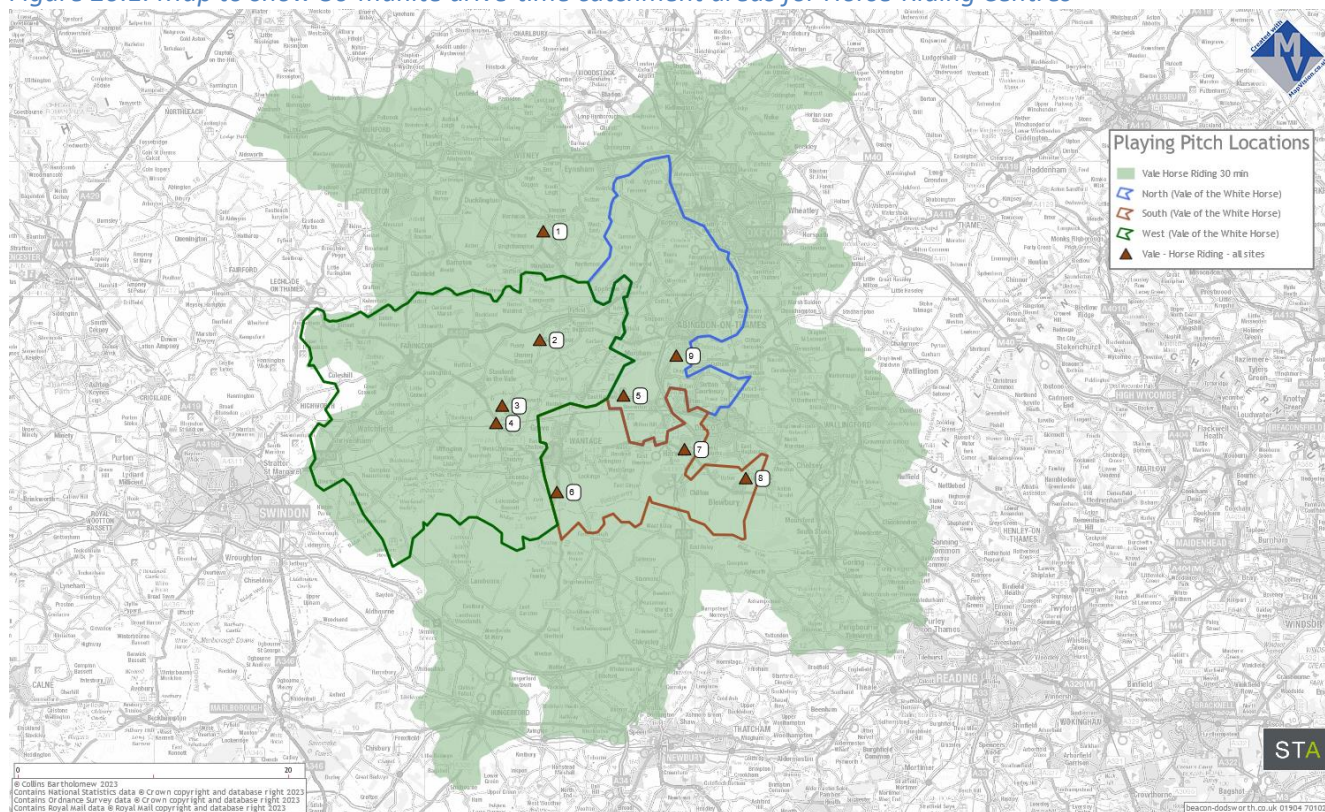
Future demand projections suggest that future demand will be highest for horse-riding in the South sub area, and demand will be highest from children and young people.

## 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 the Vale 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"> <li>• There are 11 horse-riding centres in the Vale. The majority (five centres) are located in the West sub area; four centres are in the South sub area and two in the North sub area.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 291 new horse-riders across the Vale by 2041.</li> <li>• Future demand will be highest for horse-riding in the South sub area (119 new participants), and demand will be highest from children and young people (73 new participants).</li> </ul>	<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"> <li>The horse-riding facilities were not assessed as part of this study.</li> </ul>	<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"> <li>The normal acceptable standard is a 30-minute drive-time for horse-riding in a rural area.</li> <li>The majority of residents in the Vale are within a 30-minute drive-time of the existing horse-riding centre.</li> <li>The cost for a horse-riding lesson is on average £57 for a private lesson and £31 for a group riding session (45-minutes).</li> </ul>	<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"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>Support horse-riding centres in addressing capacity issues, particularly in the North sub area (where there are only two horse-riding centres) and in the South 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"> <li>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. <b>(PROTECT)</b></li> <li>Need to support existing horse-riding centres in addressing capacity issues caused by a lack of suitable workforce, horsepower and costs. Particularly in the North sub area (where there are only two horse-riding centres) and in the South sub area (where future demand is highest) <b>(ENHANCE)</b></li> </ul>	

## 21. GOLF FACILITIES

### 21.1 Introduction

This section contains a summary of the findings from the needs assessment work for golf provision in Vale of White Horse. This consists of 18-hole courses, driving ranges and Par-3 (practice / coaching) courses.

### 21.2 Supply

There are eight golf sites in the Vale but none in the South sub area. The North sub area has the most provision, including Drayton Park (Abingdon) Golf Club and Hinksey Heights Golf Club, which both have an 18-hole golf course, 9-hole Par 3 and a driving range. In the West sub area, there are three sites; one with an 18-hole golf course, one with a 9-hole Par 3 and one with a driving range.

Table 21.1: Golf courses in the Vale

Site Name	Sub Area	Facility Type	Community Access	Ownership Type	Management Type	
Chandlings School	North	9-hole Par 3	Membership only	Education	Education	
Drayton Park (Abingdon) Golf Club		18-hole Course	Pay and Play	Commercial	Commercial Management	
		9-hole Par 3	Pay and Play	Commercial	Commercial Management	
		Driving Range	Pay and Play	Commercial	Commercial Management	
		3x 18-hole Course	Membership only	Commercial	Commercial Management	
Frilford Heath Golf Club		Hinksey Heights Golf Club	18-hole Course	Pay and Play	Golf Club	Golf Club
Hinksey Heights Golf Club			9-hole Par 3	Pay and Play	Golf Club	Golf Club
			Driving Range	Pay and Play	Golf Club	Golf Club
Radley College		West	9-hole Course	Membership only	Education	Education
Shrivenham Park Golf Club	18-hole Course		Pay and Play	Golf Club	Golf Club	
Smoke Acres Golf Driving Range	Driving Range		Pay and Play	Commercial	Commercial Management	
The Defence Academy (Shrivenham Station)		9-hole Course	Membership only	MoD	MoD	

### 21.3 Security of Access, Ownership and Management

There are two sites owned and managed by the golf club (Hinksey Heights Golf Club and Shrivenham Park Golf Club). All other golf provision in the Vale is located on privately-owned (education, MoD or commercial) land.

There is public access (ie, ‘pay and play’) to Smoke Acres Golf Driving Range (also known as Blewbury Driving Range – home to Bubble Golf Coaching) as well as three 18-hole golf courses in the Vale; Drayton Park (Abingdon) Golf Club, Hinksey Heights Golf Club and Shrivenham Park Golf Club.

The cost for a round of 18-holes at these three golf sites is £33-£35 per round for adults and £10-£15 for juniors (under 18s). All of 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).

There are two education-owned sites (Radley College and Chandlings School) and an MoD site (Defence Academy in Shrivenham) that have 9-hole courses. However, these are predominantly for private-use with a limited number of memberships available to the community (playing by permission of the school Bursar).

Frilford Health Golf Club is only available to members, and new members must be invited by an existing member to join. The Club hosts professional Golf Tour events and the course is maintained to meet Tour regulations.

#### 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 0.2% 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 0.2% in 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.	0.2	No change
Playing golf once or more a week - children and young people (5-15 years): percentage change between 2018 and 2022	0.2	No change

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 1,470 new golfers across the Vale by 2041. A breakdown of future demand by sub area and age group has been provided in Table 21.4 below.

Table 21.4: Future demand for Golf in the Vale

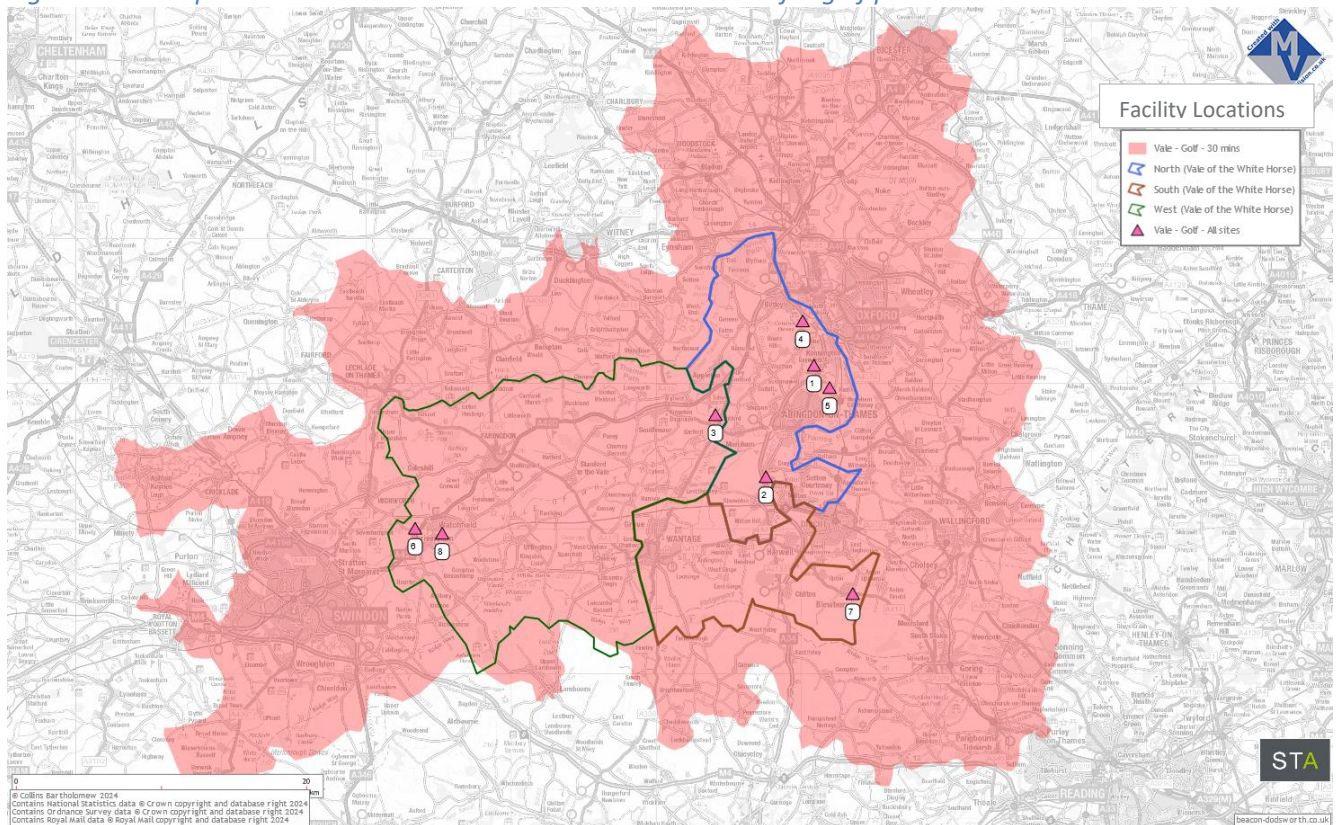
Age Group	North Sub Area	South Sub Area	West Sub Area	Total (District)
5–15-year-olds	76	102	48	226
16–45-year-olds	199	191	113	503
46–75-year-olds	248	208	105	561
76–100-year-olds	89	42	48	179
<b>Total (5-100-year-olds)</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>1470</b>

Future demand projections suggest that future demand will be highest for golf in the North 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 overleaf shows that the majority of residents in the Vale are within a 30-minute drive-time of existing golf courses. Although there is not a golf site in the South sub area, the residents are within a 30-minute drive-time of provision at Shrivenham Park Golf Club (West sub area) and Drayton Park Golf Club (North sub area).

Figure 21.1: Map to show 30-minute drive-time catchment areas for golf provision



## 21.9 Planned Developments

No planned developments for golf were recorded as part of this study.

## 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"> <li>• There are eight golf sites in the Vale but no golf provision in the South sub area.</li> <li>• There is public access (ie, 'pay and play') to three 18-hole golf course in the Vale; Drayton Park Golf Club, Hinksey Heights Golf Club (both in the North sub area) and Shrivenham Park Golf Club (West sub area).</li> <li>• If the participation rates stay the same, then future demand could generate 1,470 new golfers across the Vale by 2041.</li> <li>• Future demand will be highest for golf in the North sub area (612 new participants), and demand will be highest from 46-75-year-olds people (248 new participants).</li> </ul>	<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"> <li>The golf courses and facilities were not assessed as part of this study.</li> </ul>	<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"> <li>The normal acceptable standard is a 30-minute drive-time for a golf course a rural area.</li> <li>The majority of residents in the Vale are within a 30-minute drive-time of the existing golf courses. Although there is not a golf site in the South sub area, the residents are within a 30-minute drive-time of provision at Shrivenham Park Golf Club (West sub area) and Drayton Park Golf Club (North sub area).</li> <li>The cost for a round of 18-holes at these three golf sites is £33-£35 per round for adults and £10-£15 for juniors (under 18s).</li> </ul>	<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"> <li>There is public access (ie, ‘pay and play’) to Smoke Acres Golf Driving Range (also known as Blewbury Driving Range – home to Bubble Golf Coaching) as well as three 18-hole golf courses in the Vale; Drayton Park (Abingdon) Golf Club, Hinksey Heights Golf Club and Shrivenham Park Golf Club.</li> <li>All of 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).</li> <li>There are two education-owned sites (Radley College and Chandlings School) and an MoD site (Defence Academy in Shrivenham) that have 9-hole courses. However, these are predominantly for private-use with a limited number of memberships available to the community (playing by permission of the school Bursar).</li> <li>Frilford Health Golf Club is only available to members, and new members must be invited by an existing member to join. The Club hosts professional Golf Tour events and the course is maintained to meet Tour regulations.</li> </ul>	<p>None.</p>
<p><u>Summary</u> – What provision is required to meet needs and address issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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. <b>(PROTECT)</b></li> </ul>	