

Outdoor Sports Facilities

Introduction and definition

- 8.1 PPG 17 guidance considers the provision of both indoor and outdoor sports facilities. For clarity, these amenities are separated into two distinct typologies within this document. This section considers the provision of outdoor sports facilities across Bromsgrove
- 8.2 Outdoor sports facilities is a wide-ranging category of open space which includes both natural and artificial surfaces for sport and recreation that are either publicly or privately owned.
- 8.3 Facilities included within this category are:
- playing pitches (including football, rugby, cricket, hockey)
 - synthetic turf pitches (STPs)
 - tennis courts
 - bowling greens
 - athletics tracks
 - golf courses.
- 8.4 Outdoor sports facilities are often a focal point for a local community, functioning as a recreational and amenity resource in addition to a formal sports facility. This is particularly true of grass pitches, which often have a secondary function of a local dog walking and kickabout area.
- 8.5 Private facilities/clubs play a crucial role in the provision of outdoor sports facilities in Bromsgrove and several large clubs provide opportunities for player progression from a young age through to veterans.
- 8.6 While this PPG17 study provides a strategic overview of existing provision of outdoor sports facilities and future priorities across Bromsgrove, in light of the demand led nature of outdoor sports facilities, specific studies should be carried out relating to each type of facility.
- 8.7 There are many opportunities for the improvement of facilities across Bromsgrove, particularly capitalising upon the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. In addition, other sources of funding (such as National Governing Bodies and National Lottery) may offer further avenues for improvement, although it is recognised that funding opportunities for the majority of sports are currently limited.
- 8.8 Effective provision of high quality formal and informal sports facilities is essential if more adults and young people in Bromsgrove are to be encouraged to regularly participate in community sport. This will place greater demand on the facility stock and emphasises the need to ensure that facilities are fit for purpose.

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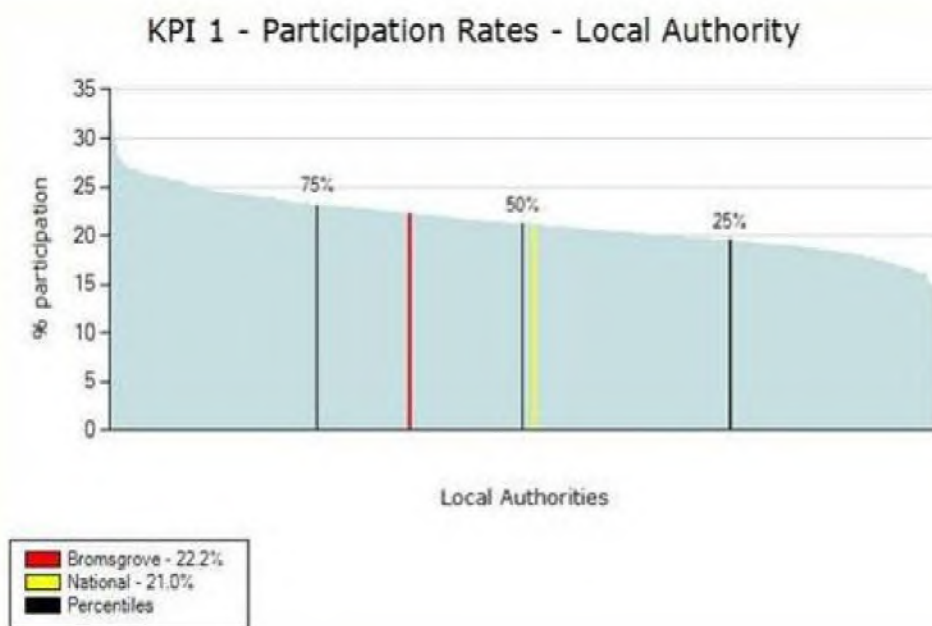
- 8.9 Sport England, the national government and wider governing bodies are targeting an increase in sporting participation of 1% per annum in the run up to London 2012 and beyond. While this increase is across all sports, there will be a knock on impact on demand for facilities should this target be achieved.

Context

Active People Survey results

- 8.10 The Active People Survey 2006 (the Survey) was a survey of adults aged 16 and over living in England. The Survey gathered data on the type, duration and intensity of people's participation in different types of sport and active recreation, as well as information about volunteering, club membership (member of a club where they play sport), people receiving tuition from an instructor or coach, participation in competitive sport and satisfaction with local sports provision.
- 8.11 Bromsgrove District was recorded as having a participation rate of 22.2%, which, as shown in Figure 8.1 below, is above the national average and places the District in the upper middle quartile for participation (3 x 30 minutes sport and active recreation).

Figure 8.1 – Participation rates within Bromsgrove



- 8.12 Bromsgrove falls within the Hereford and Worcestershire County Sports Partnership (CSP), which is in the West Midland Sport England region. Table 8.1 overleaf shows the results of the 2006 Active People Survey to allow comparison between the District, neighbouring local authorities, county and regional and national averages

Table 8.1 – Selected results from the Active People’s Survey 2006 for Bromsgrove

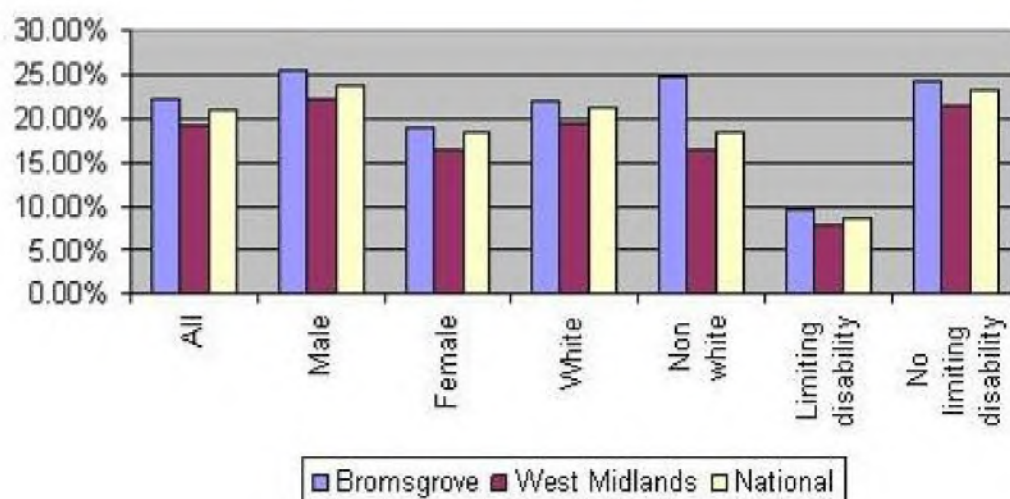
	At least 3 days a week x 30 minutes moderate participation (all adults) %	Taken part in organised competitive sport in last 12 months (all adults) %	Satisfied with local sports provision (all adults) %	At least one recreational walk lasting 30 minutes at moderate intensity (all adults) %	At least one recreational cycle lasting 30 minutes at moderate intensity (all adults) %
National	21.0	15.0	69.5	20.0	7.8
West Midlands	19.3	13.9	69.1	18.4	6.7
Hereford and Worcestershire CSP	21.6	15.6	71.4	22.5	7.8
Wychavon	21.5	16.5	77.2	23.7	8.7
Wyre Forest	20.1	14.2	76.5	19.1	7.8
Redditch	19.0	12.1	68.7	18.3	7.0
Bromsgrove	22.2	15.3	71.2	20.7	8.8

8.13 As table 8.1 above shows, results for Bromsgrove are similar to the findings for Hereford and Worcestershire CSP. Marginally more people in Bromsgrove take part in recreational cycling than the national, West Midlands and CSP averages.

8.14 71.2% of people in Bromsgrove are satisfied with their local provision, which places the local authority in the upper middle quartile. However, neighbouring local authorities score more highly on this performance indicator, which could act as an inspirational standard for Bromsgrove to match by sharing best practice ideas. Headline findings from the 2008 Active People Survey indicate that within Bromsgrove, levels of participation have risen by 1.5% to 23.7%. This level of participation is significantly above both the regional and national figures and indicates that participation targets have been achieved. In addition to the growth in participation, volunteering has also increased. However, there has been a decline in club membership and the proportion of residents satisfied with sports provision in the district has reduced significantly from 71.2% to 65.9%. This may be linked to the ageing stock of facilities in Bromsgrove.

8.15 Figure 8.2 overleaf shows that Bromsgrove has comparable levels of participation for various socio economic groups to both regional and national figures.

Figure 8.2 – Participation rates for selected socio economic groups



- 8.16 Those with a limiting disability in Bromsgrove (9.8%) participate in sport and active recreation marginally more than those in the West Midlands (7.9%) and nationally (8.8%).
- 8.17 More ‘non whites’ do 30 minutes of sport and active recreation three times a week in Bromsgrove (24.8%) than in both the West Midlands and nationally, by more than 6%.
- 8.18 The analysis of data from the Active People survey therefore demonstrates that on the whole, participation in Bromsgrove is marginally above the national average. Alternative opportunities for participation in physical activity can help increase the proportion of people participating in sport and physical activity and help Bromsgrove meet national and local targets for participation growth.

Market Segmentation

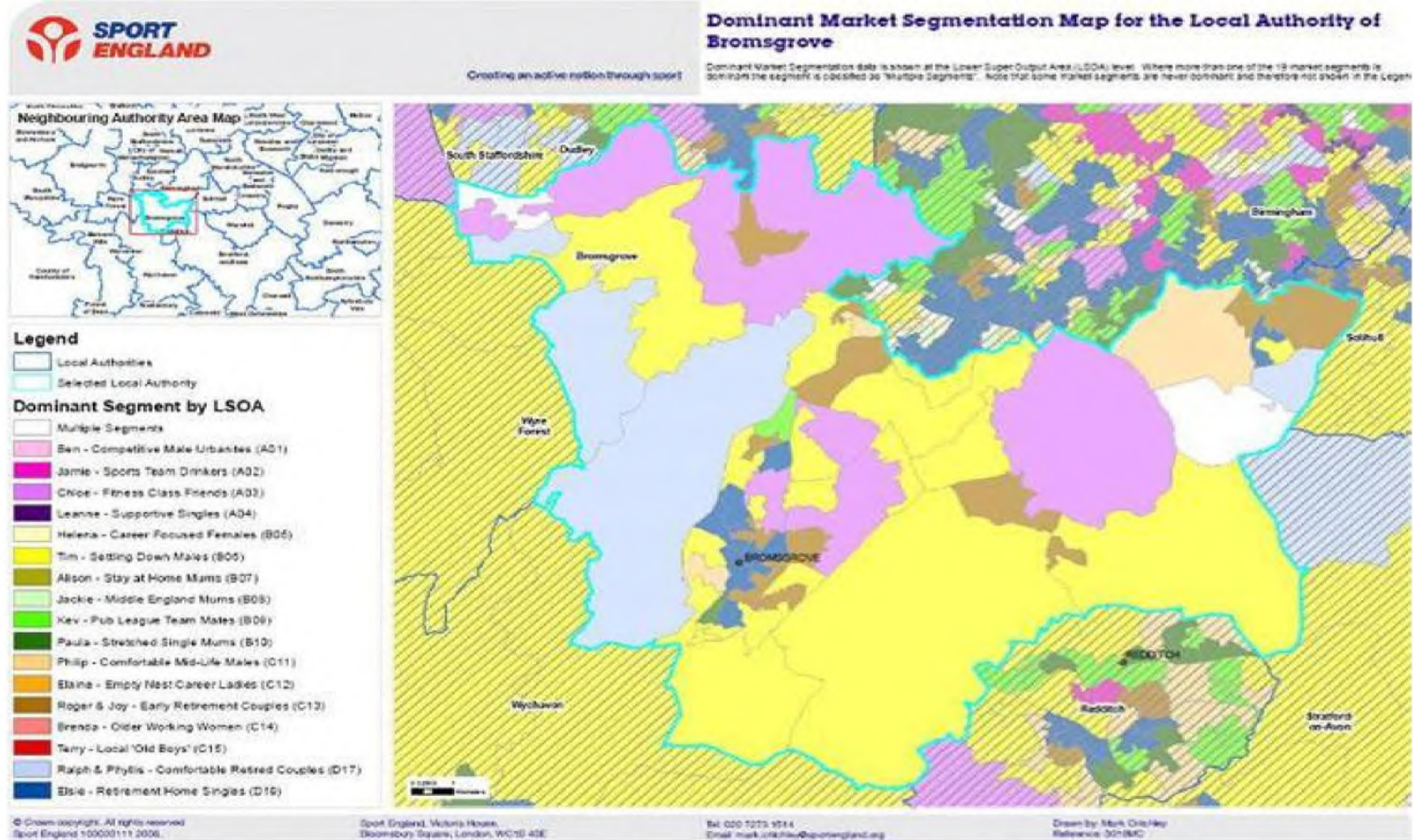
- 8.19 Sport England has developed nineteen sporting segments to help us understand the nations’ attitudes and motivations – why they play sport and why they don’t. This is particularly important to understand in order to ensure that the facilities in Bromsgrove cater for the needs and expectations of local residents.
- 8.20 The research builds on the results of Sport England’s Active People Survey, the Department of Culture, Media and Sport’s Taking Part survey and the Mosaic tool from Experian. It informs Sport England’s Strategy and Business Plan 2008-2011 and helps ensure that money is invested into areas that will have the greatest impact.
- 8.21 Residents are classified according to their key characteristics. The dominant groups in the district are explained in Table 8.2. Map 8.1 illustrates the spread of these residents.
- 8.22 It can be seen that ‘Tim’ appears to be the most dominant group throughout the district, followed by ‘Ralph and Phyllis’ in the north east and ‘Roger and Joy’ who are primarily dominant in the west of the local authority.

Table 8.2 – Dominant market segments in Bromsgrove

Label	Age	Status	Characteristics
Tim	26 – 35	Single/ married May have children Professional	Sporty Settling down with partner, buying a house Enjoys technical sports. Likely to have private gym membership, and compete in some sports
Chloe	18 – 25	Single Graduate/ professional	Image conscious, likes to keep fit/trim Makes friends at fitness classes etc Likely to volunteer within sports/the arts.
Roger and Joy	56-65	Married Retired or part time	Free-time couples nearing the end of their careers Participate one/two times a week. Enjoy activities such as walking, swimming, table tennis or golf, and also keep fit classes.
Ralph and Phylis	65 +	Married Retired	Enjoys a variety of activities and are likely to be members of sports and social clubs Particularly enjoy individual activities such as swimming, fishing or golf and lower intensity sports such as bowls
Philip	45 - 55	Married Professional Older children	Sporty Has more time for himself Most active type within this Peer Group, enjoys participating in a number of activities, including team sports, racquet games and technical sports.
Elsie and Arnold	66+	Widowed Retired	Health problems and disability being major inhibitors to activity. Those that do participate tend towards low intensity activities, such as walking, bowls or dancing (traditional ballroom), safe environments would encourage this group to walk more often

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Map 8.1 – Distribution of dominant market segments in Bromsgrove



- 8.23 The market segmentation information helps the identification of priority areas and helps to channel investment accordingly. The distribution of the dominant markets for Bromsgrove indicates that there are areas that may benefit from certain types of provision.
- 8.24 For example, to the west of the district 'Ralph and Phyllis' are dominant. This is a group which particularly enjoys individual activities such as swimming, fishing or golf and lower intensity sports such as bowls and whose main motivation for participation is to meet with friends, improve performance, and keep fit, but also because they enjoy it.
- 8.25 This will be returned to later in this section when considering the appropriateness of existing provision.

Strategic context

Regional

Regional Sports Facility Framework for the West Midlands (2007)

- 8.26 The Regional Sports Facility Framework for the West Midlands (the Framework) was produced by Nortoft in 2007. The Framework identifies the priorities for the future investment in sport and active recreation facilities. It considers the period up to 2021 and assesses the impact of population change, and the facility requirements that will be needed if the targets for participation in sport and active recreation are to be met and support is to be given to the highest levels of elite sport.
- 8.27 The Framework has three sections:
- part 1: Character of the Region, policy and key issues
 - part 2: Hierarchy of provision, regional level proposals, implementation and monitoring
 - part 3: County Sports Partnership generic section, and CSP specific sections.
- 8.28 The Framework identified the requirements of the various priority sports for different levels of facilities, and also proposed a network of facilities at the local and regional level. The key elements of this network, for the 10 priority sports are detailed in Table 8.3 overleaf. This report (Sections eight, nine and fourteen) provides a broad overview of the key issues for sports facilities in Bromsgrove.

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Table 8.3 –Facility priorities for priority sports in the West Midlands

Sport	Facility Type/specification		Location
Athletics	Indoor track and field	High performance Centre	One regional
		200m track	One regional
		Indoor training centres 82m x 25m x 7m high	One per 545,000 people or within a 45 minute drivetime in rural catchment areas. (2 each for Birmingham, Black Country, Greater Warwickshire and Staffordshire) (1 each for Shropshire, Hereford and Worcester)
	Outdoor track and field	8 lane track with covered spectator provision	One in each CSP
		6 lane track	1 per 250,000 or 45 minute drivetime in rural catchments
		Training facilities eg 6 lane x 100m straight, 4 lane x 200m J track, 2 lane x 400m track or 3 lane x 300m track	As satellites, particularly in rural areas
In facility terms the priority is to maintain what exists and take advantage of new build eg Specialist Sports Colleges.			
Badminton	Badminton requires an indoor space equivalent in size to that of 4 badminton courts with the relevant height clearance		Centre per 50,000 adult population and/or within a 15 minute drive time of anyone within an urban/semi urban area, or 20 minutes in a rural area.
	Provision of a badminton facility in Worcestershire is a priority as there is no provision currently.		A minimum of one Centre per County.

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Sport	Facility Type/specification	Location
Cricket	<p>The English Cricket Board have identified a number of broad priorities in relation to facility provision. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security of tenure for cricket clubs. • Improving the standard of pavilions and support facilities. • Improving the standard and availability of <i>indoor sports halls</i>. • Improving the standard of strategically located indoor Cricket Centres. • Improving spectator safety and provision at Test, One day international and first Class Cricket Grounds. • The need to improve the availability and standard of indoor practice facilities. 	
	<p>In addition to the indoor facility requirements the ECB have identified the following specific facility needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure all accredited Premier League Clubs meet the minimum facility requirements and standards. • To ensure a network of accredited District Development Centres is established to service the facility requirements of District development squad coaching and competition programmes. • To ensure a network of accredited facilities is established to service the requirements of County Representative, Academy, University Centres of Excellence and National Development Squads Programmes. 	
Football	<p>The Football Association (FA) has no advertised standards for the provision of full size pitches,</p>	<p>However informally the FA work on a ratio of 1 full-size pitch per 30,000 population of football participation age (6 - 45 years). The FA estimates that the prime catchment area for full-size 3G pitches is a radius of around 5 miles.</p>
	<p>The Football Association's recommended dimensions for small-sided football pitches vary for 5, 6 and 7 a-side pitches. However small-sided football is also provided for on full-size STPs by sub-dividing the pitch, usually into three.</p>	<p>The informal advice of officers within the FA is that they would expect that a supply rate of one small-sided court/pitch to a total population of 10,000 to be reasonable. This rate includes the availability for hire of full-sized STPs divided to provide for the small-sided game.</p>
	<p>New provision leads to an overall increase in participation in football, particularly amongst adults.</p>	

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Sport	Facility Type/specification	Location
Hockey	<p>Across the region there are seven water based pitches, some of which are deemed important to Performance Development. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fox Hollies Leisure Centre (Birmingham) • Birmingham University (2) • Cannock Hockey Club • Lilleshall National Sports Centre • North Solihull Sports Centre • Wyndley Stadium (Sutton Coldfields). 	<p>Provision of facilities for a minimum of one model key club in each local authority area. Current gaps in provision include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Warwickshire • North Shropshire • South Shropshire • Birmingham
	<p>Increase the number of water based pitches in the region as only four of those currently in existence are of the appropriate standard for top quality club games. This is too few to fully serve the elite English Hockey League teams.</p>	
Netball	<p>A Regional Centre, funded by Community Club Development Programme (CCDP) monies.</p>	<p>No location identified, although the Regional Office is to be based at University of Wolverhampton and it is hoped that this will also be the venue for the Regional Centre.</p>
	<p>There is a desire to increasing the number of Club Action Planning Scheme clubs across the West Midlands through a structured club development programme</p>	
Rugby	<p>As part of it range of facilities strategies and plans the RFU has introduced a structure for club provision, using four Model Venues.</p>	<p>Model Venue 1 (MV1) – club, school or other provider playing recreational, introductory and lower level competitive rugby.</p> <p>Model Venue 2 (MV2) – club, school, university or other provider, with a wider programme.</p> <p>Model Venue 3 (MV3) – established venue with a wide range of programmes and potentially higher level competitive rugby.</p> <p>Model Venue 4 (MV4) – a venue for top-level training and competition rugby.</p>

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Sport	Facility Type/specification	Location
	The provision of at least one rubber crumb pitch.	within each County Sports Partnership (CSP) is identified as desirable There are currently no RFU compliant 3rd Generation surfaces in Warwickshire or Herefordshire.
	RFU Council agreed to the formation Schools of Rugby (SoR)	With the objective of a minimum of one in each area.
Swimming	Swimming clubs to have agreed access to 25m pools at appropriate times and cost.	In each local authority area
	At least one 25m x 6-lane pool with timing equipment and adequate accommodation for competitors and spectators to stage local galas and events	
	There is at least one 25m x 8 lane pool with timing equipment and accommodation for competitors and spectators, capable of staging county galas and league events.	Within every English county and major conurbation
	At least one 8 lane, 50m and one 8 lane 25m competition pool for Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) District competitions.	In each of the nine Sport England regions
	The ASA has also identified the need for Regional Performance Centres to cater for elite swimming. These pools should be 50m pools (6 lane minimum) providing at least 22 hours access for elite swimmers together with access to land conditioning, sports science, and sports medicine services on site or close by.	Where there is no High Performance Centre within a reasonable travel time
	Four or five sub-regional 50-metre community pools	In the West Midland Region, specifically around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birmingham • Coventry • The Potteries/North Staffordshire (Stoke on Trent) • Wolverhampton • The Black Country • Warwick

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Sport	Facility Type/specification	Location
Tennis	International High Performance clubs capability of supporting all aspects of player development	Up to 10 throughout the UK
	High Performance Clubs with outstanding player performance programmes	40 – 50 throughout the UK
	County Accredited Clubs, which will be satellites or feeders for the top clubs.	Circa 175 throughout the UK
	There are currently 4 High Performance Clubs in the West Midlands: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solihull Arden • Edgbaston Priory • Tipton • Sutton Coldfield. 	
Synthetic Turf Pitches	Encourage some limited new STP provision, but each proposal needs to be market tested if the business case is reliant on community use.	.Likely to be predominantly education led.
	Encourage a mix of pitch types and sizes, including the retention of at least one water-based pitch for hockey, and the development of one match quality 3G pitch.	
	Resurface existing pitches available to the community to retain quality and availability.	

Regional and local

- 8.29 The key issues for outdoor sports facilities arising from a review of strategic documents are summarised in Table 8.4 overleaf.

Table 8.4 – Strategic context – Regional and local

Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation assessment
<p>Bromsgrove Local Plan</p>	<p>Policy RAT4 covers the retention of open space, stating that the Council will seek to retain and enhance all public and privately owned open space of recreational and amenity value.</p> <p>Policy S31 protects school sports facilities from development stating that development proposals at educational sites which result in the loss of open space and/or sports facilities will not be permitted.</p> <p>Policy S32 refers to sports pitches of all ownership and identifies that proposals leading to the loss of private playing fields, school playing fields and other public or private sports facilities will not be permitted unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there is sufficient provision of playing fields (Council standard) • there is alternative local provision • there is an alternative replacement site that could be provided in a suitable location • the scheme would lead to an improvement in the facilities elsewhere available on site. <p>Policy RAT1 refers to development in the Green Belt for outdoor sport or recreation stating it will be directed to areas of low quality agricultural land.</p>	<p>This assessment of outdoor sports pitches and playing fields will provide an indication as to the adequacy of the current supply of facilities to meet with demand, enabling informed decision making and providing an evidence base to policies.</p>

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Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation assessment
	<p>Policy RAT2 supports the development of outdoor sport and recreation facilities in the Green Belt as long as: the development is within a reasonable walking distance of public transport, there is adequate car parking, the development does not have an adverse impact on ecological or environmental interests or an unrelieved concentration of pitches is created.</p> <p>Policy RAT8 states that the Council will seek the provision of dual use school sports facilities where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the proposed scheme can meet demand • there is adequate car parking • the site is accessible by public and private transport • external floodlighting and increased vehicle movement do not affect residential areas. <p>Policy RAT21 states that the development of golf courses will be considered against a number of criteria.</p>	
<p>Worcestershire Playing Pitch Strategy 2002</p>	<p>The ratio of pitches to adults in Bromsgrove is 1:1165. This is significantly below the national average.</p> <p>Within Bromsgrove there is a shortfall of 13.6 junior football pitches, 8.5 junior rugby pitches and 4.9 hockey pitches. Based on future population</p>	<p>This study updates the findings of the Worcestershire Playing Pitch Strategy and provides a more detailed breakdown of supply and demand within the district of Bromsgrove.</p>

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Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation assessment
	<p>projections, there will also be a small shortfall of cricket pitches (0.4) by 2009.</p> <p>Only 44% of pitches within Bromsgrove have changing facilities and no sites have female changing facilities.</p> <p>The strategy recommended the development of changing facilities at the following sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aston Fields Recreation Ground • Boleyn Road, Frankley • Braces Lane Recreation Ground • Brook Road, Rubery • King George V Recreation Ground • Market Street Recreation Ground • New Inns Lane, Rubery • Sanders Park. <p>Within the District there area 106 ha of sports pitches of which 93% are available for community use.</p>	

Assessing current provision of outdoor sports facilities in Bromsgrove

8.30 Existing provision of outdoor sports facilities in Bromsgrove has been assessed in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility. This assessment has been informed by consultation with local residents, sports clubs and District and Parish Councillors, which explored local needs and opinions on current facilities.

8.31 Consultation findings relating to specific aspects of the assessment are covered over the following pages. However main points regarding usage of outdoor sports facilities and some of the emerging headline themes are outlined below:

- 42% of household survey respondents were found not to use outdoor sports facilities whilst 16% stated they use this type of facility at least once a week. These results reinforce the specialist nature of these facilities and are consistent with participation rates recorded through the 2006 Active People Survey
- the importance of outdoor sports facilities was reinforced through the Young People's IT Survey with 86% of respondents stating that they take part in sport and football (25%) and cricket (20%) featuring among the top three most popular sports
- one third of respondents to the IT Young People's Survey identified playing sport outdoors as their favourite activity, making it the second most popular activity for young people
- levels of regular sports participation by young people were encouraging with 40% participating in sport two to three times a week and 38% participating more than three times a week. This suggests strong participation in sport by young people in Bromsgrove and reinforces the need to ensure that adequate facilities are provided, particularly in light of the wider benefits associated with taking part in sport and physical activity
- residents raised both quantitative and qualitative issues relating to outdoor sports provision, with a particular emphasis on community use of school facilities
- although sports clubs and other sport specific consultees also raised a variety of issues relating to both the quality and quantity of provision, the quality of outdoor sports facilities was the main focus of discussions.

Quantity of provision

8.32 Outdoor sports facilities across Bromsgrove are owned and managed by a range of providers including the District Council (and management contractor), voluntary sports clubs and Parish and Town Councils. This reinforces the importance of partnership working.

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- 8.33 The quantity of outdoor sports facilities across Bromsgrove is summarised in Table 8.5 below. Calculations include all outdoor sports facilities regardless of their primary purpose. Consideration will be given to the specific type of facility provided during the application of local standards.

Table 8.5– Provision of outdoor sports facilities across Bromsgrove

Analysis areas	Current provision	Current provision per 1,000 population	Number of sites	Smallest site (hectares)	Largest site (hectares)	LDF population (2026)	Provision per 1,000 population (2026)
Bromsgrove North	16.80	1.49	12	0.11	5.97	12,575	1.34
Bromsgrove West	23.11	1.82	17	0.17	6.05	14,154	1.63
Bromsgrove East	24.19	2.59	12	0.11	7.77	10,429	2.31
Bromsgrove North East	11.33	1.00	8	0.09	5.46	12,706	0.89
Bromsgrove Central	70.51	1.63	41	0.11	7.44	48,192	1.46
Overall	145.94	1.66	90	0.09	7.77	98,056	1.49

- 8.34 In order to properly understand the distribution of sports facilities it is essential to subdivide the typology to consider the different functions that different facilities provide. Table 8.6 overleaf sets out the distribution of each type of sports facility enabling more in depth analysis and interpretation.

Table 8.6 – Provision of outdoor sports facilities by analysis area

Analysis areas	Total number of sites	Sites containing grass pitches	Synthetic turf pitches (STPs)	Tennis courts	Bowling greens	Athletics tracks
Bromsgrove North	12	9	0	2	1	0
Bromsgrove West	17	15	0	1	1	0
Bromsgrove East	11	9	0	2	1	0
Bromsgrove North East	8	4	1	2	1	0
Bromsgrove Central	41	31	1	5	3	1
Overall	90	68	2	12	7	1

8.35 Analysis of outdoor sports facilities by type and geographical area shows that:

- all areas have grass pitch, tennis court and bowling green facilities
- overall Bromsgrove Central has the highest provision of outdoor sports facilities and Bromsgrove North East the lowest
- the distribution of outdoor sports facilities across the District is relatively even with the exception of Bromsgrove Central, which has a significantly higher number of sites with grass playing fields than any other analysis area
- there are three STPs in the District located on two school sites. One site is located in the North East and one in the Central analysis area
- there is only one athletics track in Bromsgrove, which is located in the Central analysis area.

8.36 Additionally, there are eight golf courses located across the district, all of which are private facilities.

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8.37 The key issues emerging from the data presented in Table 8.67 and 8.7 and consultations relating to the quantity of outdoor sports provision across the District are as follows:

- household survey findings indicated that residents perceived the quantity of grass pitches (43%) and golf courses (50%) to be sufficient but were dissatisfied with provision of STPs, tennis courts, bowling greens and athletics tracks. The highest level of dissatisfaction related to the provision of tennis courts with 54% of respondents stating that provision was insufficient
- geographical analysis of household survey results showed that residents in Bromsgrove North East were the most satisfied with provision of STPs, tennis courts and bowling greens, which may be reflective of the fact that this analysis area has one of two STPs in the District and bowling and tennis facilities at Wythall Park. Respondents from Bromsgrove North, which has eight playing field sites, expressed the highest levels of satisfaction with provision of grass pitches
- conversely residents from Bromsgrove North were found to be most dissatisfied with provision of tennis courts, bowling greens and STPs. This analysis area has the second lowest provision per 1,000 population in the District although it is significantly higher than the level of provision in Bromsgrove North East
- feedback at the BECAN discussion session highlighted a lack of publicly accessible STPs in Bromsgrove, which was consistent with the household survey findings. Attendees identified two publicly accessible sites (Woodrush and Bromsgrove High School) both of which only offer community access after 6pm
- attendees at the sports club discussion session emphasised a lack of grass pitches in the area, contradicting the findings from the household survey. It was highlighted that six football pitches had been lost in recent years and that around 80% of league teams currently travel outside of the District to access a pitch. Droitwich Leisure Centre football pitches were identified as the facility used by many clubs in the football league
- 38% of young people stated that provision of outdoor sports facilities in Bromsgrove was insufficient. Sports pitches were highlighted as the second most popular facility for young people in Bromsgrove (16%)
- elected Members highlighted the issue of limited outdoor sports provision in Bromsgrove stating that current facilities were insufficient and the majority are located on school sites.

8.38 Consideration will be given to the quality of facilities later in this section.

Playing Pitch Provision

8.39 The Playing Pitch Methodology (PPM), explained in the Sport England document 'Towards a Level Playing Field', enables a more detailed estimate of the adequacy of the current supply of playing pitches to meet demand. It specifically considers provision for football, cricket, rugby and hockey.

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- 8.40 A Playing Pitch Strategy has been produced in conjunction with this study, which has concluded that within Bromsgrove there are:
- 49 adult football pitches
 - 5 dedicated junior football pitches
 - 6 dedicated mini soccer pitches
 - 15 cricket pitches
 - 21 rugby union pitches
 - 3 STPs.
- 8.41 75% of sites are secured for community use, a proportion significantly higher than the majority of local authorities.
- 8.42 Analysis of demand for these pitches indicates that there are 138 football teams, 81 cricket teams and 46 rugby teams playing in the district.
- 8.43 The full details of the pitch assessment can be found in section 9.

Active Places Power

- 8.44 Active Places Power (a strategic planning tool provided by Sport England) enables the comparison of the provision of outdoor sports facilities with other areas.
- 8.45 As shown in Table 8.7 below, Bromsgrove compares favourably to West Midlands and national levels of provision. Bromsgrove has a greater supply of athletics tracks and golf courses per 1,000 population than both nationally and regionally although it should be noted that the only facility available is a grass school based track.
- 8.46 For STPs the provision per 1,000 population in Bromsgrove is the same as national and regional levels.

Table 8.7 – Outdoor sports provision per 1,000 of the population

Area	Athletics tracks/1,000 population (lanes)	Golf courses/ 1,000 population (holes)	STPs/1,000 population (pitches)
National	0.05	0.67	0.03
West Midlands	0.06	0.61	0.03
Bromsgrove	0.07	1.64	0.03

- 8.47 The distribution of specific facilities will be considered later in this section as part of the application of standards.

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- 8.48 As well as reviewing the quantity and quality of sports facilities, it is important to consider the delivery of sport and recreation for disabled people within the local community. The provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities has a key role to play in maintaining and increasing levels of participation amongst less able bodied residents.
- 8.49 It will be vital to consider the needs of disabled people living and working in the District when planning for the future delivery of open space, sport and recreation facilities in Bromsgrove.
- 8.50 The Council should seek to raise awareness of the facilities and activities available to disabled people in the community and ensure that open space, sport and recreation facilities are accessible and cater for the needs of disabled users. A key strategic priority within the Worcestershire Board Cricket Development Plan is to increase opportunities for disabled residents to participate in cricket, which will involve a review of cricket facilities in the District.

Setting provision standards – quantity

- 8.51 The recommended local quantity standard for outdoor sports facilities considers all provision covered within this typology and therefore provides an overarching standard for broad planning need only. This standard should be used to provide an indication regarding the amount (in hectares) of sports facilities that should be provided per 1,000 population i.e. to predict the increase in demand for sports facilities as a result of growth in the local population. Local decisions would then be taken in order to determine the most appropriate type of facility in an area.
- 8.52 The application of the PPM enables the calculation of a more specific local standard for pitches that provides detail on the quantity of community use pitches required. The development of a local standard specific to pitches for Bromsgrove is included as part of the overarching quality standard. Full background relating to the calculation of this standard is set out in Section 9 of this report.

Developing a local quantity standard

- 8.53 The recommended local quantity standard for outdoor sports facilities has been derived from the local needs consultation and audit of provision and is summarised overleaf. Full justification is provided within Appendix E and F.

Quantity standard (see Appendices E and F – standards and justification, worksheet and calculator)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
1.64 ha per 1,000	1.67 ha per 1,000 of which 0.96 ha should be dedicated to community pitches
Justification	
<p>Due to the broad nature of the sports facilities included within this typology, it is recommended that this standard is used for planning need only. Detailed studies (such as the Playing Pitch Strategy) should be used to ascertain the detailed provision required for each type of facility. The recommended standard takes into account the findings of the Playing Pitch Strategy as well as the expressed demand during consultations and supports a pitch specific standard.</p>	
<p>Overall there is general dissatisfaction with the current level of provision, with respondents to the household survey indicating there is insufficient provision of four of the six outdoor sports facility types. General comments from residents further emphasised a lack of outdoor sports facilities in Bromsgrove. Attendees at the sports club workshop highlighted a lack of grass pitches in the District, stating that six sites have been lost to development in recent years and that around 80% of clubs in the football league have to travel outside Bromsgrove to access a football pitch.</p> <p>Application of the playing pitch methodology highlights that while there are sufficient adult football pitches to meet demand, there are shortfalls in cricket and rugby pitches. 0.81 ha per 1000 will be sufficient to meet projected demand as well as provide a 10% strategic reserve allowing the rest and recovery of pitches.</p> <p>In light of the above evidence it is recommended that the local standard is set above the existing level of provision. Setting the standard above the existing level of provision will enable the Council to identify any areas deficient in the provision of outdoor sports facilities and, combined with the application of the accessibility standard, enable the identification of locational deficiencies as well as the provision of new facilities to meet increased demand.</p>	

Current provision - quality

- 8.54 The quality of existing outdoor sports facilities in the District was assessed through site visits and is set out in Table 8.8 overleaf. It is important to note that site assessments are conducted as a snapshot in time and are therefore reflective of the quality of the site on one specific day.
- 8.55 The quality scores are weighted according to the findings of the local consultation. Cleanliness and maintenance and safety and security were the elements highlighted through consultation as being the most important determinants of quality for outdoor sports facilities. As such they have been given the highest weightings to ensure that they have a greater influence on the overall quality score achieved by each site. The full rationale behind this approach is set out in Appendix G.

SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

8.56 The site visits undertaken assess the outdoor sport site as a whole and do not specifically consider the degree to which a facility can be considered fit for purpose. Pitch assessments looking specifically at the suitability of the pitches in Bromsgrove for the sporting purpose they were intended are set out in section 9.

Table 8.8 – Quality of outdoor sports facilities across Bromsgrove

Geographical area	Number of sites	Range of quality scores (%)	Average quality scores (%)	Lowest quality sites	Highest quality sites
Bromsgrove North	3	80-100	93	Barnt Green CC (Site ID 20)	Barnt Green CC (Site ID 19)
Bromsgrove West	2	80-90	85	Belbroughton Rec Tennis Courts (Site ID 36)	Fairfield Villa Football Club (Site ID 330)
Bromsgrove East	9	48-100	85	Wiggin Memorial Playing Fields (Site ID 14)	Bromsgrove Cricket, Hockey & Tennis Club (Site ID 237) Bromsgrove RFC (Site ID 299)
Bromsgrove North East	6	46-96	80	Chapel Lane Sports Ground (Site ID 46)	Wythall Park Tennis Courts (Site ID 96)
Bromsgrove Central	12	52-89	73	Catshill Middle School Playing Field (Site ID 52)	Stoke Prior Sports & Country Club (Site ID 414)
Overall	32	46-100	80	Chapel Lane Sports Ground (Site ID 46)	Barnt Green CC (Site ID 19) Bromsgrove Cricket, Hockey & Tennis Club (Site ID 237) Bromsgrove RFC (Site ID 299)

SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- 8.57 The key issues emerging from the data presented in Table 8.9 and the consultation relating to the quality of outdoor sports facilities are as follows:
- 40% of household survey respondents regard the quality of outdoor sports facilities to be average whilst 30% consider the quality of this type of open space poor. This suggests that satisfaction with outdoor sports facilities is lower than other types of open space in Bromsgrove
 - although results within three of the five analysis areas are consistent with these overall findings a higher proportion of respondents were found to be dissatisfied with the quality of provision in Bromsgrove Central (36%). In contrast almost one third of respondents in Bromsgrove East consider the standard of facilities to be good, which indicates variance in the quality of sites in different areas of the District
 - general comments from respondents to the household survey highlighted the need to improve the standard of outdoor sports provision and indicated that enhancing quality is considered more important than increasing the quantity of provision. Residents felt a number of facilities had become run down and were in need of investment
 - attendees at the sports clubs discussion session identified the poor quality of grass pitches as a key issue. Football pitches were generally perceived to be of low quality and suffering from a number of problems such as sloping and poor drainage. Specifically, a lack of maintenance was perceived to be the cause of this. Charford Recreation Ground was recognised as one of the best Council owned pitches but also as a site with poor parking facilities
 - respondents to the Parish Council questionnaire also highlighted the quality of outdoor sports facilities as poor. Within the parishes of Tutnall and Cobley and Lickey and Blackwell the quality of outdoor sports facilities was perceived to be very poor. The tennis courts within the parish of Barnt Green were identified as in need of resurfacing
 - a division in opinion regarding the quality of outdoor sports facilities was highlighted by the Children's IT survey with 36% of respondents indicating that facilities are clean, safe and nice to use and 36% stating that facilities are sometimes unclean with litter and could be made better
 - 37% of respondents to the Young People's IT Survey rated the quality of outdoor sports facilities as average and in need of some improvements.

Setting provision standards – quality

- 8.58 The recommended local quality standard for outdoor sports facilities is summarised overleaf. Full justifications and consultation relating to the quality of provision for the local standard is provided within Appendix G. The standard highlights the key aspirations of local residents with regards sports facilities.

Quality Standard (see Appendix G)

Recommended standard – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES		
Local consultation, national guidance and best practice suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:		
Essential	Desirable	
Clean and litter free	Toilets	
Parking facilities	Changing facilities	
Well kept grass	Good access	
Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to outdoor sports facilities, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:		
Component of quality	Proportion of possible total responses received	Weighting
Security and Safety	41%	3
Cleanliness and maintenance	48%	4
Vegetation	32%	1
Ancillary accommodation	36%	2

Setting provision standards – accessibility

- 8.59 The accessibility of sites is paramount in maximising usage as well as providing an opportunity for all people to use the site. The recommended local standard is set in the form of a distance threshold and is derived directly from the findings of the local consultations.
- 8.60 An assessment of current usage patterns showed that the majority of frequent users, those residents who use outdoor sports facilities in the District more frequently than any other type of open space, travel to these sites by car (71%). 29% travel by foot.
- 8.61 Results from the household survey support these findings with the majority of residents stating that they expect to drive to outdoor sports facilities, with the exception of grass pitches where residents expect to walk.
- 8.62 Accessibility was one of the key issues for outdoor sports, with many residents highlighting that the lack of access to school facilities restricted their use of local sites.

SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- 8.63 Site specific accessibility issues were also analysed as part of the programme of site visits where information and signage, transport and general accessibility issues were assessed.
- 8.64 These assessments revealed that the accessibility of outdoor sports facilities is generally good with 81% of sites visited achieving accessibility scores of over 70%.
- 8.65 The recommended local accessibility standard for outdoor sports facilities is summarised below. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix H. The standard reflects the aspiration that pitches will be provided in close proximity to the home.

Accessibility standard (see Appendix H)

Recommended standard
<p>10 MINUTE WALK TIME = GRASS PITCHES</p> <p>15 MINUTE DRIVE (or public transport) TIME = TENNIS COURTS AND BOWLING GREENS,</p> <p>20 MINUTE DRIVE (or public transport) TIME = SYNTHETIC TURF PITCHES AND GOLF COURSES</p>
Justification
<p>There are several factors to consider in setting a standard for outdoor sports facilities. In particular, the range of facilities that lie within this typology makes it difficult to set a meaningful standard that can be applied across the board. For example, residents have significantly different expectations for synthetic turf pitches (to which they are willing to travel further) than they do for grass pitches (where there is a presumption of more localised provision).</p> <p>Findings from local consultation suggest three standards should be set. A walk time standard has been set for grass pitches and a drive time standard for tennis courts, bowling greens, synthetic turf pitches, golf courses and athletics. These standards have been recommended in line with the expected travel methods and to reflect the specialist nature of this typology, with all facility types not expected to be provided locally.</p> <p>Findings from the household survey highlight the importance of localised pitch provision for residents. A standard in line with the modal and mean has therefore been set. Although differing results are portrayed within three of the five analysis areas, a 10 minute walk time has been set to reflect the expectation for grass pitches to be locally accessible.</p> <p>For tennis courts and bowling greens a 15 minute drive time has been set and for synthetic turf pitches, golf courses and athletics a 20 minute drive time has been set. These standards are both based on key themes of the consultations and take into account both the mode and the mean and the spread of responses, as well as the more strategic nature of these facilities. These standards are reflective of the expectation of residents that there is a need to travel to access these types of outdoor sports facilities.</p>

SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

Applying provision standards

- 8.66 Given the broad nature of the outdoor sports facilities typology within PPG17, standards should only be applied to provide an indication of planning need.
- 8.67 The application of the recommended quality, quantity and accessibility standards helps to understand the existing distribution of outdoor sports facilities and identify areas where provision is insufficient to meet local need.
- 8.68 The quantity standards enable the identification of areas that do not meet the minimum provision standards, while the accessibility standards will help determine where those deficiencies are of high importance. Applying the standards together is a more meaningful method of analysis than applying the standards separately.
- 8.69 Sport England, the national government and wider governing bodies are targeting an increase in sporting participation of 1% per annum in the run up to London 2012 and beyond. While this increase is across all sports, there will be a knock on impact on demand for facilities should this target be achieved.
- 8.70 Table 8.9 below summarises the application of the quantity standard for outdoor sports facilities. As highlighted, the broad range of facilities included within this typology means that the application of a quantity standard provides only an indication of provision. The type of facility that is most appropriate for a given area will be derived from expressed demand and local participation trends.

Table 8.9 – Application of quantity standard

Analysis areas	Current balanced against local standard (1.67 hectares per 1,000 population)	Future balanced against local standard (1.67 hectares per 1,000 population)
Bromsgrove North	-1.98	-4.20
Bromsgrove West	1.86	-0.53
Bromsgrove East	8.65	6.77
Bromsgrove North East	-7.67	-9.89
Bromsgrove Central	-1.61	-9.97
Overall	-0.75	-17.81

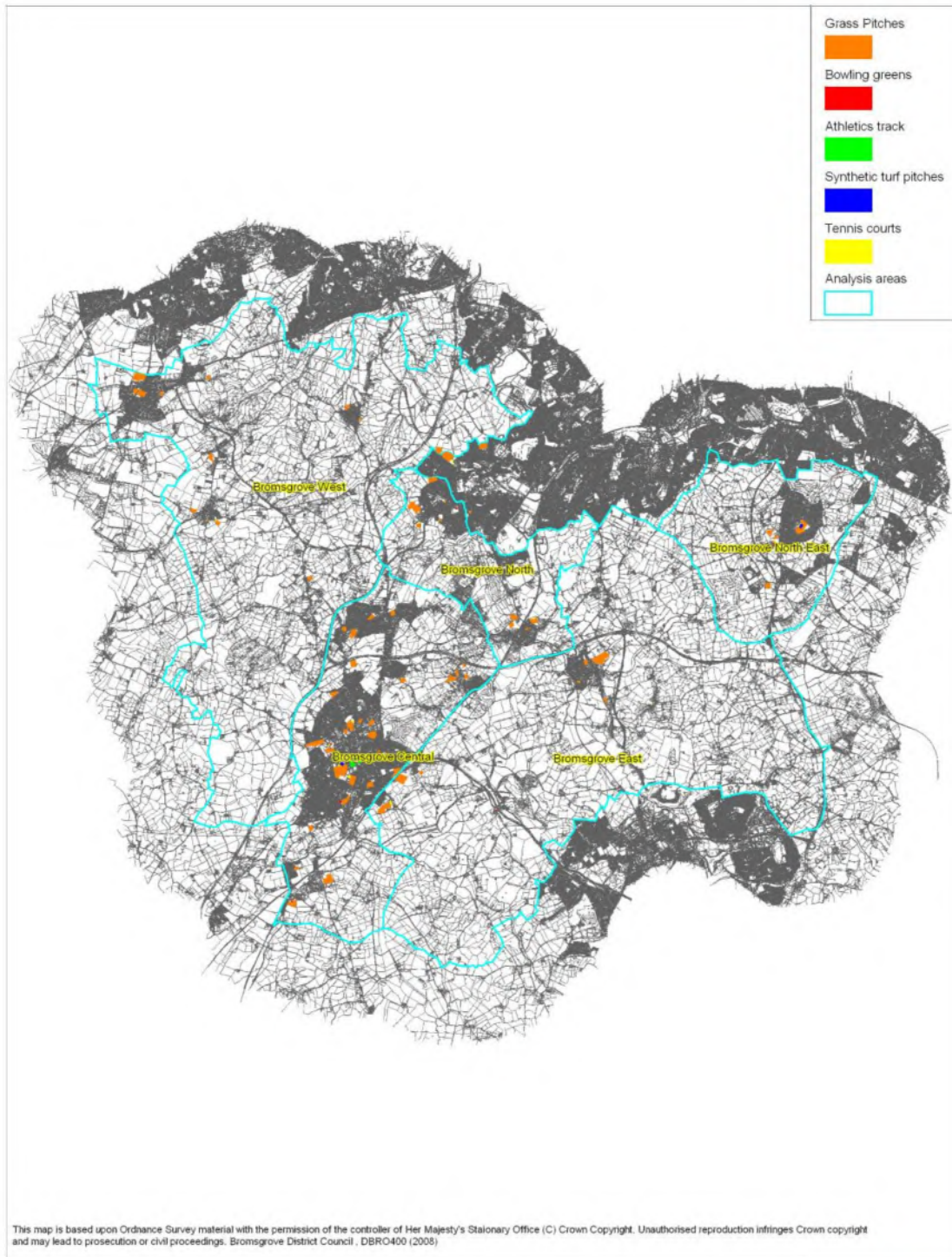
SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

8.71 As can be seen in Table 8.9:

- the recommended local standard (1.67 ha per 1,000 population) has been set above the existing level of provision to reflect the findings of the consultation and unmet demand highlighted in the Playing Pitch Strategy
- application of the local standard shows a surplus of provision in Bromsgrove East both now and in the future
- although provision in Bromsgrove West is sufficient to meet current needs projected population growth will increase demand and transform this into a shortfall of 0.53 ha by 2026
- there are deficiencies in existing provision in the remaining three areas - Bromsgrove Central, Bromsgrove North and, particularly, Bromsgrove North East. The current shortfall in each area becomes more pronounced by 2026 as rising population levels result in increased local demand. However the impact is most significant in Bromsgrove Central where the deficiency changes from -1.61 ha to -9.97 ha
- overall this means there is insufficient provision to meet demand currently (-0.75 ha) and shortfalls in provision become considerably more marked in the future as population numbers rise (-17.81).

8.72 The application of the local accessibility standards for outdoor sports facilities is set out overleaf in Maps 8.3 – 8.7. Map 8.2 demonstrates the distribution of different types of sports facility.

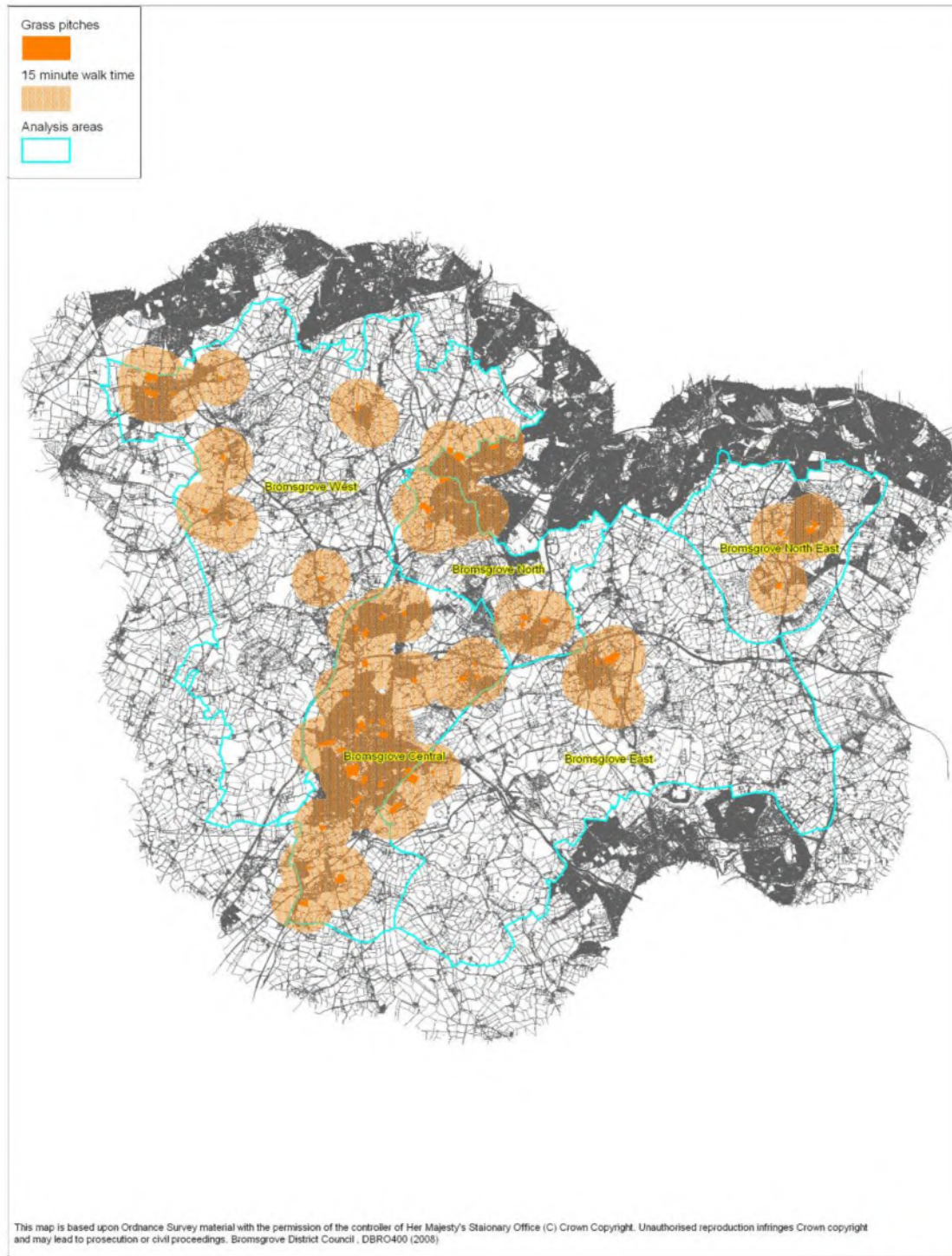
Map 8.2 – Provision of outdoor sports facilities in Bromsgrove



Outdoor sports facilities



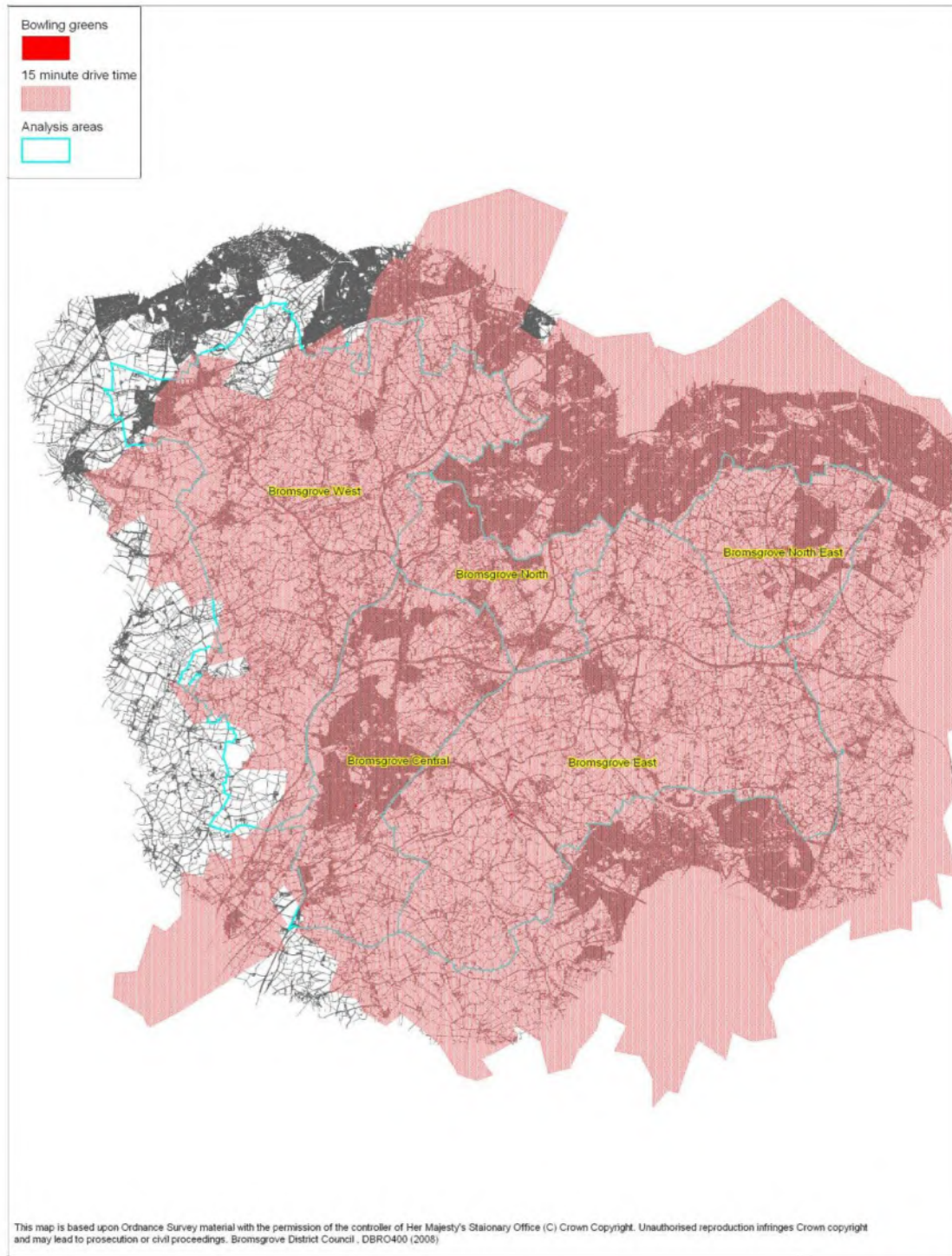
Map 8.3 – Provision of grass pitches in Bromsgrove



Grass pitches - 15 minute walk time



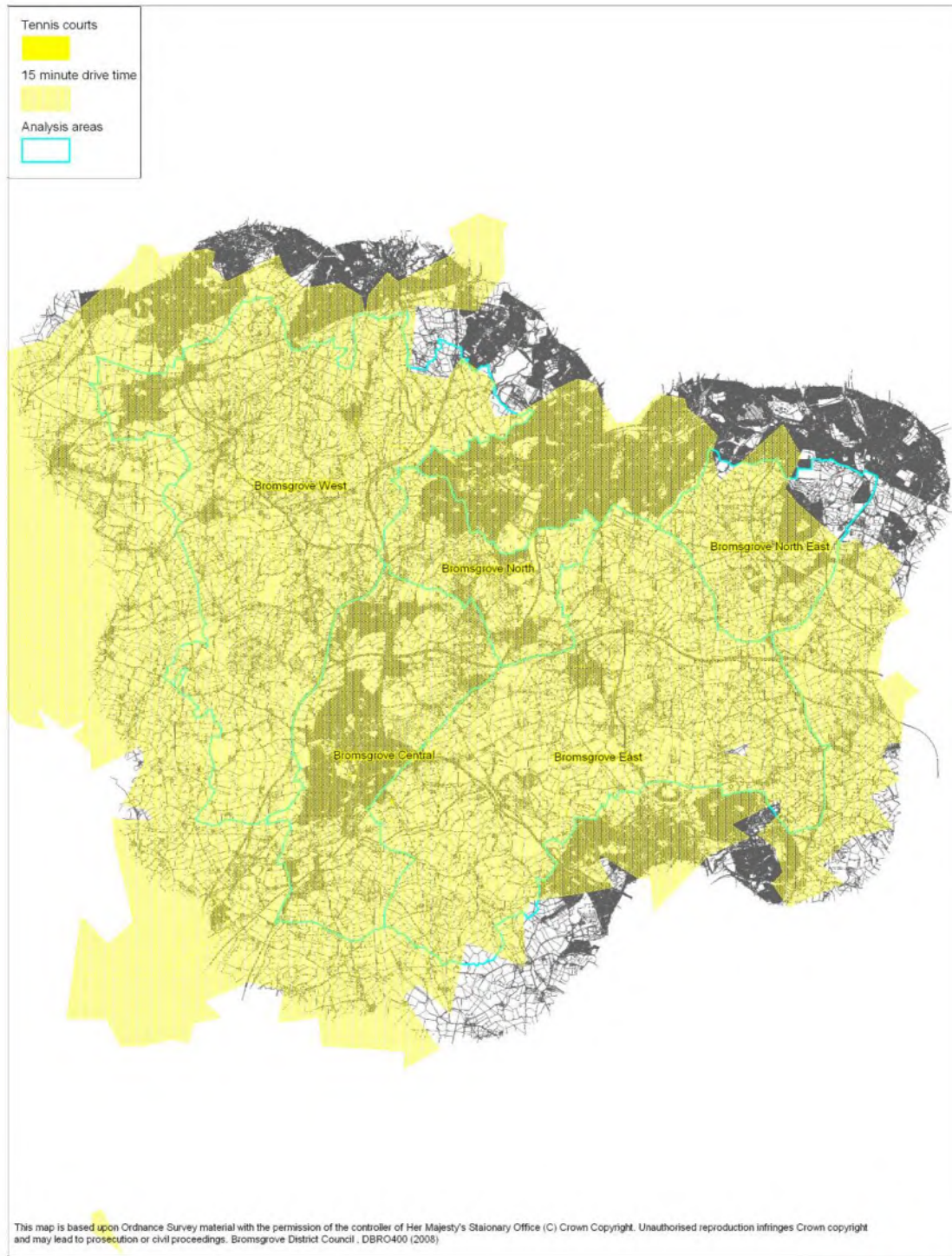
Map 8.4 – Provision of bowling greens in Bromsgrove



Bowling greens - 15 minute drive time



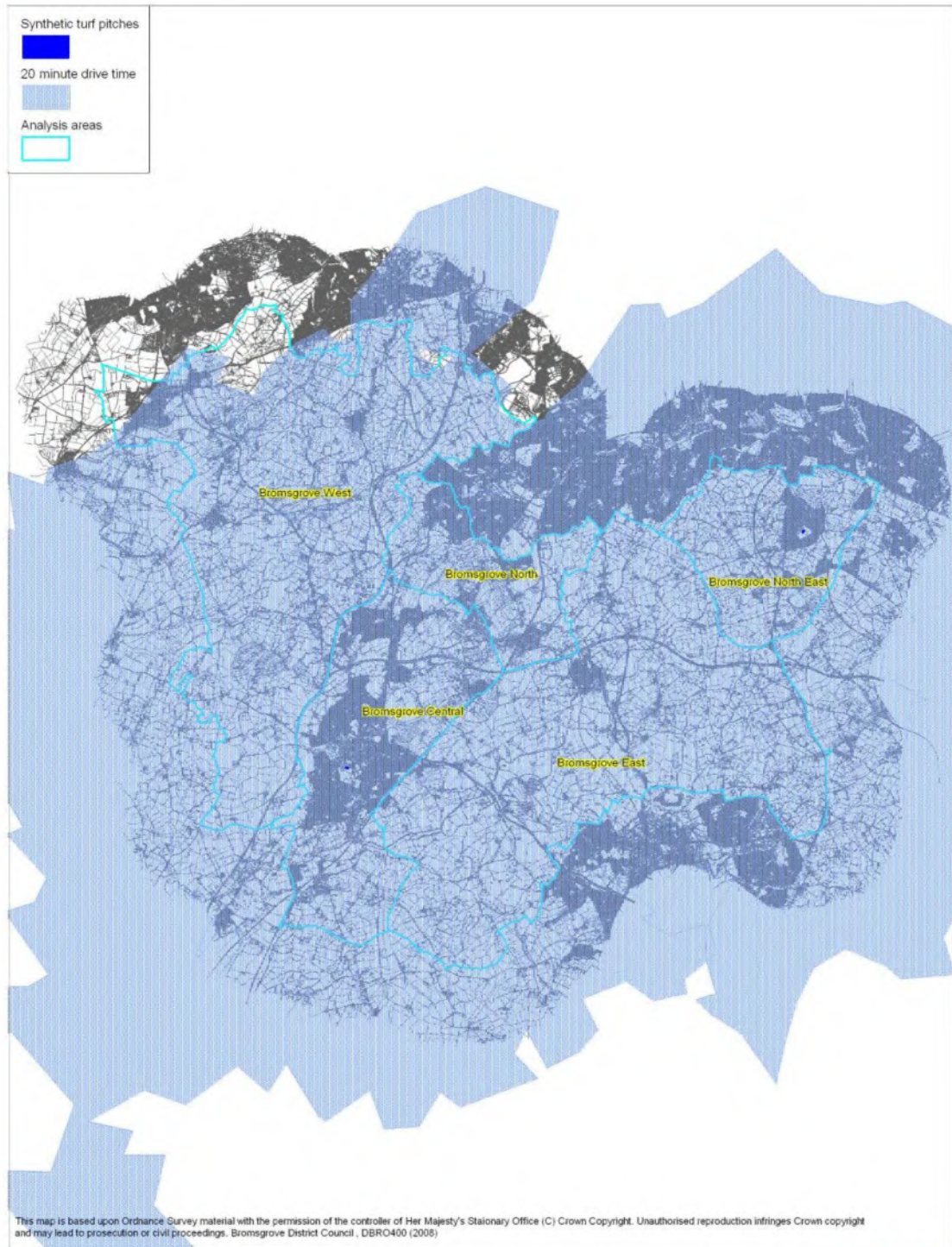
Map 8.5 – Provision of tennis courts in Bromsgrove



Tennis courts - 15 minute drive time



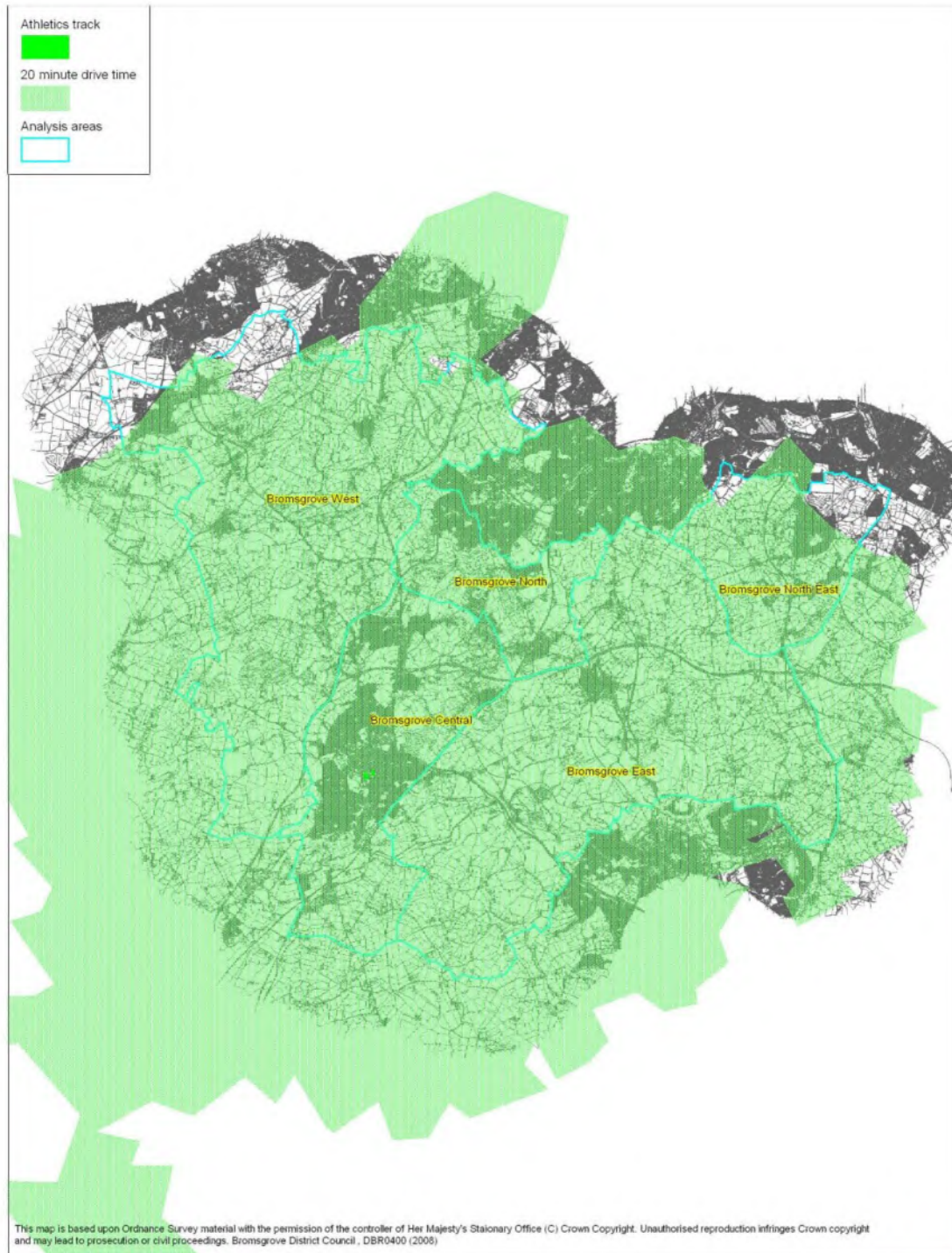
Map 8.6 – Provision of synthetic turf pitches in Bromsgrove



Synthetic turf pitches - 20 minute drive time



Map 8.7 – Provision of athletic tracks in Bromsgrove



Athletics - 20 minute drive time



SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- 8.73 The key issues arising from the accessibility mapping regarding the provision of outdoor sports facilities in Bromsgrove sites include:
- all residents have access to at least one outdoor sports facility within the recommended travel times
 - all residents, with the exception of those in the far North East of the District (Hollywood and Majors ward) are within a 15 minute drive of tennis court provision
 - the majority of residents, with the exception of those in the far North West of the District (Hagley Ward), fall within the accepted travel times of bowling greens, athletics tracks and STPs
 - grass pitches are evenly distributed across the District but whilst most residents are within a 15 minute walk of a playing field site there are areas in all analysis areas that fall outside of these catchments.
 - while consideration of the distribution of facilities is important, it is important to balance the desire to ensure that all residents have local access to facilities with the logistics of providing high quality facilities. Sites containing multiple facilities are more cost effective as well as providing greater opportunities for local residents.

Applying the quality, quantity and accessibility standards together

- 8.74 Quantity standards enable the identification of areas that do not meet the minimum provision standards, while the accessibility standards will help determine where those deficiencies are of high importance. Quality standards outline the key aspirations of local residents and provide an indication as to where sites may currently fall below expectations.
- 8.75 Consultation indicated that while the quantity of facilities is problematic in some areas, there is a real need to improve the quality of many existing sites. In many instances, improvements to the quality of existing sites will impact on the capacity of the facility. A facility that is able to sustain more games will serve the local community to a greater extent.
- 8.76 As indicated through the consultation process and the site assessments the quality of outdoor sports facilities in the District is highly variable. Although a selection of sites achieved a 100% quality rating and the overall average was 80%, some sites scored less than 50%. With limited accessibility deficiencies the initial focus should be on the enhancement of existing facilities.
- 8.77 Sites have therefore been divided into quartiles according to their quality. A full list of all scores achieved during site assessments can be found within Appendix I. To fall within the top quartile, a score of 90% would be required.
- 8.78 Key issues relating to the quality of specific sites will be considered during the application of the standards for each of the specific types of open space. The findings of the quality assessments should be used to guide the provision of outdoor sports facilities to ensure that they are fit for the purpose that they are intended.

OSF1	<p>Seek to improve the quality of outdoor sports facilities, to achieve 90% (the score required to fall within the top quartile). This should ensure that all are fit for their intended purpose.</p> <p>Sites should meet National Governing Body criteria. This includes the provision of appropriate changing facilities.</p>
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8.79 In addition to the quality of outdoor sports facilities, consultation highlighted that the quantity of provision in some areas is problematic. As previously highlighted all residents are within the recommended catchment of a tennis court and the majority within the established travel times for athletic track, bowling green, grass pitch and STP provision.

8.80 Consideration is given to the location of each type of facility in order to understand the provision of different facilities. In light of the expectation that athletics tracks, bowling greens, tennis courts and STPs will be provided within a drive time distance and are not expected within close proximity of the home, consideration has been given to the provision of these facilities at a District wide level.

Tennis courts

8.81 All residents have access to a tennis court within the distance threshold of 15 minutes drivetime. Four out of the five analysis areas have a similar resident population. Three of these areas have two sites and the remaining area one site. In comparison Bromsgrove Central has five sites but a population that is roughly four times larger. Four of these facilities are situated at school sites.

8.82 The profile of provision in different areas can be summarised as follows:

- Bromsgrove North – facilities at Barnt Green Sports Ground as well as Rubery Leisure Centre providing for both club-based and casual participation
- Bromsgrove West – provision solely at Belbroughton Recreation Ground offering casual use opportunities
- Bromsgrove East – facilities at Rowney Green Recreation Ground as well as Bromsgrove Cricket, Hockey and Tennis Club providing for both club-based and casual participation. Bromsgrove Tennis Club provides five male and five female competitive adult teams
- Bromsgrove North East – provision at Wythall Park supporting casual participation with facilities also at Woodrush Community High School
- Bromsgrove Central – provision at Sanders Park offering casual use access with facilities also at three school sites: Park Middle School, Bromsgrove School and South Bromsgrove School.

8.83 The above indicates that there are casual participation opportunities in each of the key settlements across the District.

SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- 8.84 Household survey findings showed that satisfaction with the quality of outdoor sports facilities is lower than other types of open space and consultation with Parish Council representatives highlighted that tennis courts at Barnt Green Recreation Ground are in need of resurfacing. However site assessments at Wythall Park, Rowney Green Recreation Ground and Belbroughton Recreation Ground indicated that the quality of publicly accessible tennis courts is generally good.
- 8.85 Residents also expressed particular dissatisfaction with the quantity of tennis courts. Since the majority of residents in the District are within the recommended accessibility catchment of a facility the reason for this perception may be the lack of publicly accessible facilities and / or the quality of sites. The focus therefore should be on increasing access to school sites as well as improving the quality of specific sites. Comments were also made relating to the lack of tennis courts that are suitable for winter use.

OSF2	Focus on increasing access to school sites as well as improving public transport links to maximise access to sites. Enhance the quality of sites identified as low quality through consultation and site assessments.
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- 8.86 With an identified pocket of deficiency in Hollywood and Majors Green ward, it is also recommended that a localised assessment is carried out and the potential for introducing tennis court facilities at grass pitch or amenity green space sites in this area is explored. While these residents are able to access facilities in neighbouring authorities, local access to facilities is poor.

OSF3	Examine demand for tennis provision in Hollywood and Majors Green ward and the potential for tennis court development on existing grass pitch or amenity green space sites.
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Bowling greens

- 8.87 There are bowling green facilities in all five analysis areas. Three of the seven sites in the District are located in Bromsgrove Central, which has the highest population. Residents in parts of the Hagley and Furlongs wards are the only people in the District to fall outside of the 15 minute drive time accessibility catchment for such provision. Provision of bowling greens is particularly important to the west of the district in light of the Sport England Market Segmentation data which demonstrates that residents in this area of the district have a particular propensity to participate in activities such as bowls.
- 8.88 Consultation indicated that there is a clear perception among residents in all areas except Bromsgrove North East that current bowling green provision is insufficient. The greatest level of dissatisfaction was evident in Bromsgrove East where provision is club-based as opposed to pay and play. Site assessments indicated that the quality of Wythall Park Bowling Green and Hewell Bowls Club is good with quality ratings of 80% and 93% respectively.

SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- 8.89 With the majority of residents within the recommended travel time of an existing facility the initial focus should be placed on increasing access to existing public bowling greens to improve their value to the local community as well as promoting related activities such as short mat bowls at local leisure facilities.

OSF4	Focus on increasing access to existing publicly accessible bowling greens in the District and promoting wider participation opportunities.
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Synthetic turf pitches

- 8.90 There are two sites containing STPs in the District, both of which are school sites. Bromsgrove High School contains two pitches although only one of these is accessible to the local community. Active Places Power indicates that the quantity of provision in Bromsgrove is equal to the national and regional averages.
- 8.91 Consultation highlighted strong dissatisfaction with the provision of STPs and concerns were raised by local sports clubs regarding the lack of publicly accessible facilities in the District. This was also reinforced in the playing pitch strategy, where competing interests between football clubs (who wish to use synthetic pitches for training) and hockey clubs (who require pitches for match play) were identified.

OSF5	Focus on improving access to the two school-based facilities in the District, particularly at weekends for hockey club and consider the provision of at least one additional synthetic pitch, potentially located at Bromsgrove Hockey Club.
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- 8.92 In addition to the creation of a new synthetic pitch, in order to ensure that demand is adequately met, further floodlit training facilities for football teams may be required.

Athletics tracks

- 8.93 There is one athletics track in the District and this is not a synthetic facility. For the size of the authority however this means that provision of this type of facility per 1,000 population is slightly above national and regional levels.
- 8.94 In terms of accessibility the majority of the Bromsgrove community, with the exception of some residents in the Hollywood and Majors ward (Bromsgrove North East) and Hagley ward (Bromsgrove West) are able to access an athletics track within the accepted 20 minute travel time. Residents outside of the facility in Bromsgrove are located within the appropriate distance of a facility in an adjacent authority.
- 8.95 Given that the facility is a grass based track and not a synthetic facility, it does not meet the needs of local clubs. The Bromsgrove and Redditch Athletics Club train at the Abbey Stadium in Bordesley, Redditch. The Regional Sports Facility Strategy does not identify the need for an additional facility in Bromsgrove, instead indicating that priority should be given to maintaining existing facilities. Should demand arise, a training track should be provided at a school site.

OSF6	Maintain existing athletics provision and should demand arise consider the provision of a training facility at a school site.
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Golf Courses

- 8.96 Analysis of Active Places Power indicates that the provision of golf courses in the Borough is above the national average. Consultation also demonstrates that residents are satisfied with provision. Despite this, there are limited facilities for pay and play, with the majority of clubs requiring memberships.
- 8.97 Future priorities should focus on facilitating access to golf for local residents and protecting existing sites from development.

OSF7	Protect existing golf courses from development and facilitate access to existing courses.
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General

- 8.98 Outdoor sports facilities provide important sport and recreation opportunities for local residents and can contribute to improving participation and health. As highlighted in the sections above, the distribution of facilities is even and there is a good level of provision across the district. Therefore, all outdoor sports facilities within the District should be protected from development.

OSF8	Protect all outdoor sports facilities from development unless it can be proven that the site is surplus to demand, or that development of one site will result in improved facilities at a nearby site. This should be incorporated through the provision of appropriate policies in the LDF.
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- 8.99 The playing pitch strategy considers the provision of grass pitches in detail. Application of the accessibility standard highlights that while there are areas that fall outside of the recommended 15 minute walk time catchment of a pitch, overall the distribution of pitches is even. Despite this, not all pitches are accessible for community use. The playing pitch strategy identifies that in particular, it will be important to secure access for community use to pitches that serve a unique catchment area. The playing pitch strategy examines the supply and demand in detail and concludes that:

- there is a perception that pitches are of poor value for money. Drainage at pitches and the provision of ancillary accommodation are particular priorities with regards the quality of pitches
- there is an theoretical oversupply (17.4) of adult football pitches on the peak day across the District
- there is an undersupply of junior pitches (-8.6) on the peak day (Sunday). However, in practice the adult pitch stock is being used by junior teams
- there is an undersupply of (-1.8) mini-soccer pitches on the peak day (Sunday). This indicates that mini soccer teams are likely to be using adult / junior pitches
- there is a slight shortfall of cricket pitches (-2) on the peak day (Sunday)

SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- there is an oversupply (19) of adult rugby union pitches on the peak day (Saturday)
- there is an undersupply (-10.5) of junior rugby pitches on the peak day, which is Sunday mornings. However, there is also a theoretical surplus of adult pitches on this day, which is used to accommodate junior matches
- in order to maximise resources, increasing access to school facilities should be a key priority going forward.

8.100 The key priorities and actions for pitch provision in each geographical area are therefore discussed in detail in Section 9. Delivery of these priorities should be incorporated within the LDF and should be integrated within planning policy.

Summary

8.101 Outdoor sports facilities are a wide-ranging category of open space which includes both natural and artificial surfaces for sport and recreation. Facilities can be owned and managed by Councils, sports associations, schools and individual sports clubs with the primary purpose of participation in outdoor sports. Examples include:

- playing pitches
- athletics tracks
- tennis courts
- bowling greens
- golf courses.

8.102 PPG17 considers the provision of all the different types of outdoor sport facilities as one and does not break down the typology into more detailed assessments for each sport. However, for the purpose of this study each sport has considered individually.

8.103 Consultation highlights issues with both the quantity and quality of facilities. Analysis of the existing provision supports this with pockets of deficiency identified in the Bromsgrove North East and Bromsgrove West analysis areas and variable quality ratings achieved during site assessment visits. Consultation indicated that enhancing the quality of sports facilities is perceived to be more important than increasing the quantity of provision.

8.104 Generally there is a good distribution of outdoor sports facilities across the District with all residents having access to at least one outdoor sports facility within the recommended travel time. All residents, with the exception of those in the far North East of the District (Hollywood and Majors ward) are within a 15 minute drive of tennis court provision and the majority, with the exception of those in the far North West of the District (Hagley Ward), fall within the accepted travel times of bowling greens, athletics tracks and STPs.

8.105 Whilst most residents are within a 15 minute walk of a playing field site there are areas in all analysis areas that fall outside of these catchments. Both enhancing the quality of existing outdoor sports facilities and increasing access to school-based provision are considered key priorities for the District.

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8.106 Sport England, the national government and wider governing bodies are targeting an increase in sporting participation of 1% per annum in the run up to London 2012 and beyond. While this increase is across all sports, there will be a knock on impact on demand for facilities should this target be achieved.

8.107 It is therefore recommended that the key priorities for the future delivery of provision for outdoor sports facilities in Bromsgrove that should be addressed through the Local Development Framework and/or other delivery mechanisms are:

- protect all outdoor sports facilities from development unless it can be proven that the replacement of a facility will result in a higher quality facility in a nearby location
- seek to improve the quality of outdoor sports facilities. Sites should meet National Governing Body criteria. This includes the provision of appropriate changing facilities
- improve access to tennis court provision at school sites and improve public transport links to existing sites
- upgrade the quality of identified sites tennis court provision
- investigate demand and potential for new provision in Hollywood and Majors ward
- focus on increasing access to existing publicly accessible bowling greens in the District and promoting wider participation opportunities
- increase access to school-based STP facilities in the District and develop at least one additional pitch
- facilitate the delivery of improved pitches including the provision of changing rooms and drainage installation.