

Outdoor sports facilities

Introduction

- 5.1 PPG 17 guidance considers the provision of both indoor and outdoor sports facilities, although these amenities are separated into two distinct typologies within the document. This section considers the provision of outdoor sports facilities. Indoor facilities will be considered later in section 7.
- 5.2 Outdoor sports facilities is a wide-ranging category of open space, which includes both natural and artificial surfaces for sport and recreation that are owned and managed by town and parish councils, sports associations and individual sports clubs. Examples include playing pitches, athletics tracks, bowling greens and golf courses all which have the primary purpose of participation in outdoor sports.
- 5.3 Outdoor sports facilities are often a focal point of a local community, functioning as a recreational and amenity resource in addition to a formal sports facility. This is particularly true of pitches, which often have a secondary function of a local dog walking and kickabout area.
- 5.4 The provision of outdoor sports facilities is demand-led. The consultation undertaken helps to quantify the need for provision of outdoor sport provision in terms of a level of provision per 1000 population. This will help to ensure that an adequate supply of outdoor sport facilities is provided over the LDF period.
- 5.5 However, in terms of appropriate and effective delivery of sites there is a need to capture the levels of participation across the full range of outdoor sports. Similarly participation will be dependent on facilities being accessible and of sufficient quality to persuade people that they are worth using.

Strategic context and consultation

Strategic context

- 5.6 Participation in sport, and the role that sports facilities can play in increasing the levels of health and physical activity is rising up the agenda on both a national and local level, with the national Government looking to increase participation by 1% per year up to 2012. The recently released interim results of the Active People survey suggest that 19.7% of residents in Ryedale participate in moderate intensity sport and active recreation at least three times per week, a proportion which is marginally lower than the national average. Provision of sports facilities to meet local resident needs in future years will therefore be essential if participation levels are to increase.
- 5.7 The importance of sport, recreation and community facilities within Ryedale is the focus of Chapter 11 of the Local Plan. In particular policies L1 and L2 relate directly to outdoor sports facilities and playing fields
- 5.8 Policy L1 states that applications for outdoor sporting facilities will be permitted outside the Development Limits of settlements defined on the proposals map where a number of criteria are met. The supplementary text to this policy states that there are rarely sites of sufficient size within settlements to accommodate new sporting facilities and that where sites do exist, land prices tend to favour other forms of development.
- 5.9 Policy L2 takes a protective stance against the loss of existing facilities, stating that development which is likely to result in the total or partial loss of a playing field will only be permitted where one of four criteria are satisfied –

SECTION 5 – OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES

- the development would provide an acceptable alternative facility of equivalent size, quality and community benefit in a suitable location;
 - it can be demonstrated that development of a small part of the area would enable sports and recreation facilities on the remainder of the site to be retained and enhanced;
 - the development of a small part of the area is required for operational reasons by a school or other institution;
 - it can be clearly demonstrated that there is an excess of sports pitches and public open space in the area and the playing field is not of amenity value.
- 5.10 The Ryedale Sport and Recreation Strategy sets out the intentions of the Council and its partners for the development of sport and recreation over the next 5 years. The Ryedale Sport and Active Recreation Executive provide advice, support and detail participation opportunities across Ryedale, ensuring that all residents are aware of the sporting opportunities on offer to them.
- 5.11 The Ryedale Corporate Plan outlines 20 key objectives – one of which is to increase participation and satisfaction with sports and cultural activities by 25% by 2009. This further reinforces the focus on increasing participation over the coming years.
- 5.12 The Ryedale District Council Open Space / Recreational Facilities Audit undertaken by Gillespies provides background on local expectations and suggests that provision of major sports facilities is not needed within the villages – as the focus is on village halls and village greens providing informal locations for sport. Within the market towns it recommends the provision of high quality indoor and outdoor multi-sport facility (ies) and suggests that facilities within each within each market town should include:
- football
 - cricket
 - rugby union / league
 - crown green bowls
 - tennis (grass and hard court)
 - netball
 - golf
 - rounders
 - archery
 - athletics (grass and synthetic).
- 5.13 The study highlights a desire to reduce over use of formal courts and pitches and provide facilities for disabled members of the community. The need to cater for the dispersed population is also recognised.

SECTION 5 – OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES

- 5.14 The study suggests there is a need to improve existing facilities rather than create new ones and to ensure that the quality of provision is adequate to sustain the required levels of demand.

Consultation

- 5.15 Consultation on the provision of outdoor sport facilities in Ryedale was undertaken through a variety of methods. The emerging findings, which contribute to the formation of the local standard include:
- there is an emphasis on the perception that the current quantity of provision is about right, with the highest level of satisfaction relating to grass pitches, where half of all respondents indicated that provision was about right. In contrast, 32% felt that there were insufficient synthetic pitches in Ryedale to meet local needs.
 - despite the overall level of satisfaction from residents responding to the household survey, attendees at the drop in sessions highlighted the importance of ensuring that the market towns have sufficient provision of sport facilities, particularly in light of the anticipated increases in population
 - of those consultees who thought that there were not enough grass pitches, issues raised commonly revolved around a lack of access to school sites
 - the lack of STP facilities locally (only 1 in the whole of Ryedale) means that people commonly travel to York to use these facilities, but feel that there should be more local facilities available
 - in terms of the quality of facilities, 34% thought that existing provision was of a good standard and only 25% felt it to be poor. 7% of respondents use outdoor sport facilities more frequently than any other type of open space by 7% of respondents. Of this group of people, well kept grass, clean / litter free, parking facilities and toilets were felt to be key determinants of the overall quality of facilities.
 - the most significant problems experienced by regular users of outdoor sports facilities related to dog fouling, miss-use of sites and litter. Residents at drop in sessions mentioned that in areas where the number of pitches is limited, there are issues over the maintenance given the high demand for these facilities and the pitches are therefore unable to sustain the required level of use.
 - 19% of those residents who used outdoor sport as their most frequently used open space walk and 78% drive to facilities in the district suggesting that people are willing to travel to reach facilities and that for most residents, there is not an expectation that these facilities will be located in close proximity to the home.

Current position

- 5.16 There is a range of outdoor sports facilities within the district including provision for football, rugby, cricket and hockey, bowling greens, golf courses and tennis courts.
- 5.17 There is a significant number of outdoor sports facilities at school sites, many of which are currently not accessible to the local community. Extending these schools to

SECTION 5 – OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES

provide community access would ensure that additional resources are available to meet local demand and that the use of existing assets are maximised. Lack of access to school facilities was raised as a key issue from consultees, particularly in the more rural areas.

- 5.18 The current provision of outdoor sports facilities in terms of quality, quantity and accessibility and the distribution of these facilities across the district is set out in table 5.1 and discussed in further detail in the text that follows.
- 5.19 The quality of each site was assessed through site visits, taking into account both the condition of buildings and facilities (level of maintenance and cleanliness), activities available, (type of use), related facilities available, and provision of synthetic surfacing. The accessibility was assessed in relation to sustainable transport links, car parking, disabled access and signage (external).
- 5.20 PPG 17 classifies all outdoor sports facilities together, regardless of the type of sporting facilities provided. However, given the scale of golf courses (and their tendency to skew the levels of provision) these facilities have been excluded from the quantity calculations. All other outdoor sports facilities have been included within the overall totals

Table 5.1: Distribution of outdoor sports facilities across Ryedale (excluding golf courses)

Analysis Area	Key sites	Ha	Facilities per 1000 population	Overall Quality	Key Issues (from site assessments)
Malton	Norton College	33.6	2.84	7 of the 10 facilities assessed scored "satisfactory".	Some sites scoring poorly in terms of the range of facilities provided. Some sites also considered to be poor in terms of the levels of wider benefits provided.
Pickering	Lady Lumley's School and Northern Ryedale Leisure Centre.	17.9	1.73	3 out of 6 facilities assessed scored "good" and the remainder scored "satisfactory"	Good levels of signage to sites and disabled access was considered to be moderate at all sites. A large proportion of sites considered to be poor in terms of heritage value.
Helmsley and Kirkbymoorside	Helmsley Sports and Recreation Club, Kirkbymoorside and District Sportsfield	18.57	2.85	75% of facilities were considered to be satisfactory, no facilities were of poor overall quality	All sites were perceived to be good in terms of car parking, external signage was also assessed as reasonable. There were no sites considered to be of poor quality in terms of disabled access to facilities.
Rural North	Ampleforth Millenium Sportsfield	11.92	1.12	No sites achieved an overall quality score of good and two sites were considered to be poor, with the remainder satisfactory.	Range of activities considered to be poor at the majority of sites. Access to some sites also poor in terms of sustainable transport links and some sites were considered to have poor external signage.

SECTION 5 – OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES

Rural South	Sheriff Hutton Cricket and Bowling clubs	22.77	1.85	50% of those sites receiving an overall quality assessment were considered to be poor and no sites overall were considered to be of good quality.	Only eight sites were considered to have a good or moderate range of uses, all other sites were considered to be poor. In contrast, only seven facilities were rated as poor in terms of related facilities available. Disabled access was considered poor at three sites.
DISTRICT WIDE		104.76	2.03		

5.21 The key issues arising out of table 5.1 on the previous page include:

- the distribution of outdoor sports facilities (in terms of hectares per 1000 population) ranges from only 1.12 (rural north analysis area) to 2.85 (Helmsley and Kirkbymoorside). This is reflective of the broad nature of this typology. A bowling green for example is significantly smaller in size than an adult football pitch. This means the quantitative shortfalls and surpluses highlighted at an analysis area level need to be considered in light of sport specific supply and demand issues and associated accessibility constraints.
- there is no clear difference between the levels of provision in the urban and rural analysis areas. Whilst the highest level of provision can be found in Malton analysis area (33.6 hectares in total), the second highest level of provision can be found in the Rural South analysis area.
- the range of the quality of facilities is evident with few sites across the district rated as good overall. Key issues relating to the quality of facilities centred around the range of facilities provided. In contrast, the related facilities available were considered to be moderate or above in most instances.
- the quality of facilities in the rural areas is poorer in the rural areas in comparison to the market towns, this is particularly noticeable in the rural south, where almost half of all facilities were considered to be poor. Inevitably, access to outdoor sports facilities through sustainable transport links is also more difficult in these areas.

Setting provision standards

5.22 When formulating local standards relevant to provision for outdoor sport facilities there is a need to take into account any national or existing local standards, current provision, other Local Authority standards for appropriate comparison and consultation on local needs.

5.23 A full assessment of local needs both district wide and within each area has been undertaken across Ryedale, and the key messages emerging from this assessment, coupled with an evaluation of the existing audit have been used to determine provision standards required to meet local needs. A summary of local needs and expectations and the key issues emerging from the analysis of current provision has been summarised in previous sections.

SECTION 5 – OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES

- 5.24 The process for setting each type of standard is outlined in section two. The rationale for each recommendation, including assessment of local need, existing provision and consultation is provided in Appendix E, F and G. The recommended local standards and the associated justifications have been summarised in brief below.
- 5.25 Following the justification for each standard, the standards are applied across the district of Ryedale in order to determine shortfalls, surpluses and areas of priority.

Quantity Standard (see appendix E – standards and justification, worksheet and calculator)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
2.03 hectares per 1000 population (excluding golf courses)	2.05 hectares per 1000 population
Justification	
Due to the broad nature of this typology, this standard should be applied for planning need only. Further research into the demand for specific sporting facilities should be undertaken (in the form of a Playing Pitch Strategy) Golf courses have been removed from these figures due to their size and subsequent tendency to skew figures. Consultation indicates that the existing level of outdoor sports facilities is about right, and the importance of maintaining the current level of provision. The largest perceived shortfall is in STPs and tennis courts. It is recommended that a standard be set just above the current level of provision (2.05 hectares per 1000 population). This will provide the flexibility to address deficiencies in sub-types of open space as required. Opportunities should also be taken to increase community use at existing school facilities.	

Accessibility Standard (see appendix G)

Recommended standard
15 minute walk time (URBAN AREAS)
20 minute drive time (RURAL AREAS)
Justification
<p>It is recommended that the Council adopt a separate accessibility standard for the urban and rural areas. Although it is often unrealistic for people to walk to sporting facilities e.g. golf courses, it is considered appropriate for the urban area to encourage sustainable transport choices. Equally, it is considered more appropriate for a driving standard to be set for rural areas due to the dispersed nature of settlements. This split is also reflective of the findings of the household survey. For example, in relation to grass pitches, district wide 51% expects to walk and 42% expect to drive. However, in the two rural analysis area more people expect to drive than walk – with 52% and 56% of all respondents expecting to drive. This also demonstrates that in urban areas there is a emphasis on walking to grass pitches rather than driving in order to produce the district wide figure of only 42% expecting to drive. Findings for the other types of outdoor sport facilities reinforce the urban / rural split in expectations.</p> <p>For the rural drive time standard, it is recommended that a 20-minute travel time is adopted. Looking at the two rural analysis areas the 75% threshold level for grass pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens ranges from 15 minutes to 22.5 minutes. However, given the dispersed settlement pattern it is considered that a 20-minute travel time is more appropriate. This also caters for the broad range of types of outdoor sport facilities.</p> <p>For the urban drive time standard, it is recommended that a 15-minute walk time is adopted. Across Malton, Pickering and Helmsley / Kirkbymoorside analysis areas, the 75% threshold ranges from a 10 minute to 20 minute walk for grass pitches, bowling greens and tennis courts. A 15 minute travel time sits with this range and would therefore be consistent with the expectations of the majority of respondents.</p>

Quality Standard (see appendix F)

Recommended standard
<i>“A well-planned, clean, litter and dog fouling free sports facility site, that sits in harmony with its surroundings. The site should have level and well-drained good quality surfaces, appropriate good quality ancillary accommodation including changing accommodation and car parking. The site should have appropriate management ensuring community safety and include lighting and the use of CCTV where appropriate to address the miss-use of sites.”</i>
Justification
<p>The key issues identified with existing sites are dog fouling and drainage that are reflected within the vision. Other issues raised are also reflected such as ensuring a clean and well-kept site and the need for ancillary accommodation such as parking and changing facilities. The standard incorporates "appropriate management" to ensure that where appropriate, management issues are addressed and also increase the usage of sites to continue to combat the miss-use of sites. Community safety is also incorporated to reflect NPFA design guidelines. Given that the majority of sites will be of substantial size, it is important that sites are designed with careful consideration to their context – this is reflected in the quality vision.</p> <p>There are also some quantitative issues that may be addressed through improved quality of pitches, which increases the importance of meeting the quality vision.</p>

Applying provision standards – identifying geographical areas

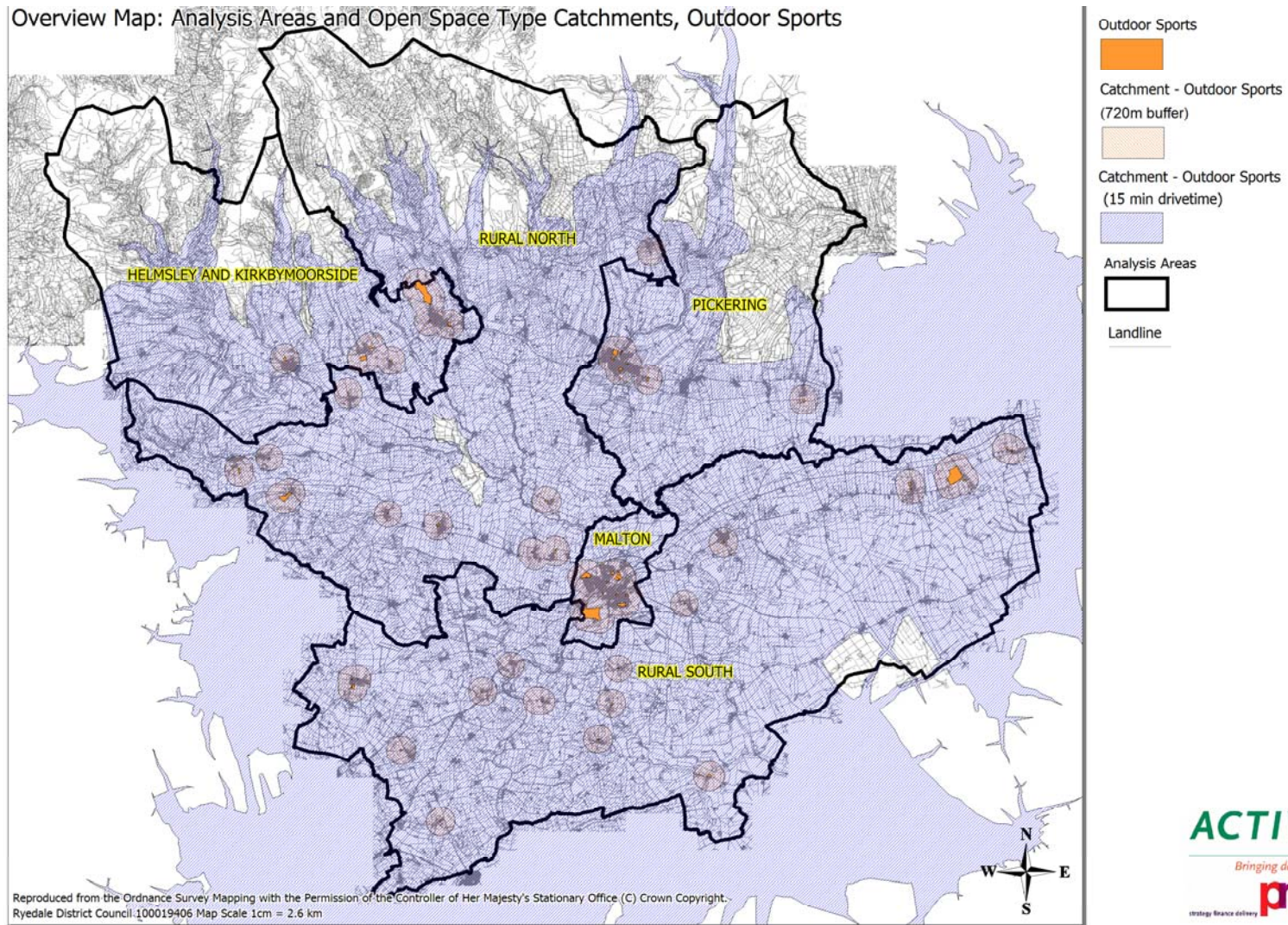
- 5.26 In order to identify geographical areas of importance and those areas with required local needs we apply both the provision of outdoor sports facilities in Ryedale together with the local accessibility standards. The quantity standards enable the identification of areas that do not meet the minimum provision standards, whilst the accessibility standards will help determine where those deficiencies are of high importance across the District. Applying the standards together is a much more meaningful method of analysis than applying the standards separately and therefore helps with the prioritisation of sites.
- 5.27 The current supply of outdoor sports facilities, excluding golf courses (as these large areas can skew the results) in Ryedale is 2.03 ha per 1,000 population. The standard has been set just above the current level of provision.
- 5.28 This current level of supply can be broken down by analysis areas, the following table highlights where there are shortfalls or surpluses in the relevant analysis areas. As per PPG17, this considers the overall level of outdoor sports facilities and does differentiate between sports facility types.

Table 5.2: Analysis area breakdown for provision of outdoor sports facilities (ha per 1,000 population)

Analysis Area	Current provision per 1,000 population	Local Standard	Level of provision against local standard	Future requirement – Population Scenario 1	Future requirement – Population Scenario 2	Future requirement – Population Scenario 3
Malton	2.84	2.05	9.33	0.46	2.24	-1.31
Pickering	1.73	2.05	-3.36	-7.80	-8.68	-6.91
Helmsley and Kirkbymoorside	2.85	2.05	5.22	2.57	1.68	3.45
Rural North	1.12	2.05	-9.93	-10.81	-10.81	-10.81
Rural South	1.85	2.05	-2.49	-3.38	-3.38	-3.38
District wide	2.03	2.05	-1.23	-18.96	-18.96	-18.96

- 5.29 As can be seen above, table 5.2 indicates that across Ryedale there is a requirement for approximately 19 additional hectares of outdoor sports facilities to satisfy the local standard up to 2021. This represents in the region of a 20% increase on the existing level of provision (105 hectares) and is reflective of the increased levels of demand that will arise from the projected population growth.
- 5.30 The level of provision within Malton and Helmsley / Kirkbymoorside analysis area is above the quantity standard both at the current time and against a backdrop of increased population levels (up to 2021).
- 5.31 Application of the quantity standard suggests that a large proportion of this increase should be met in rural areas - and particularly the Rural North analysis area where there is the lowest level of provision at the current time. However as previously mentioned in some circumstances the function of outdoor sport facilities can be replicated informally by other typologies (such as village amenity space). Furthermore, it is important to consider the requirement for each type of sports facilities and the appropriateness of the location of these facilities.
- 5.32 Given the vast array of sports facilities included within the quantity standard and the varying sizes of these facilities, it would be inappropriate to dwell on the quantity standard in isolation.
- 5.33 It is important to consider the quantity of provision in the context of accessibility in order to fully understand the distribution of sites and areas where real deficiencies lie. For example, despite Helmsley and Kirkbymoorside analysis area appearing to have sufficient provision in terms of the quantity of facilities to meet the needs of the population, there may still be accessibility deficiencies and other issues to be addressed. Existing accessibility deficiencies will be particularly significant in those areas projected to see increases in growth in future years.
- 5.34 Figure 5.1 illustrates the applied accessibility catchments for outdoor sport facilities across the district as a whole:

Figure 5.1: Provision of Outdoor Sports Facilities in Ryedale District



SECTION 5 – OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES

- 5.35 Similar to provision for young people, consultation highlighted different expectations between rural and urban areas. While a walk time accessibility standard has been set for residents in the urban areas, those living in rural areas expect to drive to reach such facilities.
- 5.36 As can be seen in figure 5.1, the majority of outdoor sport facilities are located within the main settlements of Ryedale. The application of the localised urban standard is discussed later in the chapter with reference to each of the four key towns.
- 5.37 Whilst analysis of the quantity standards suggests that the largest requirement for new provision is within the rural areas, consideration should also be given to the role that village halls and village greens play in these areas in providing informal locations for sport. Provision of large-scale multi sports facilities may not be appropriate in these areas.
- 5.38 Within the scope of the audit it can be seen that there is a good distribution of facilities across the rural analysis areas. Furthermore, analysis of the drive time accessibility catchments shows that almost all residents living within the rural settlements of the plan area are within a 15-minute drive of an outdoor sport facility.
- 5.39 Although application of the quantity standard suggests that provision of outdoor sports facilities in the rural areas is insufficient, provision in the urban areas is in line with quantitative demand. Most residents of the rural areas are able to access facilities in the market towns within the recommended 15-minute drive time. While the need to drive to facilities in the rural area is recognised, where possible, sustainable transport should be encouraged.
- 5.40 In light of the good spatial distribution of existing provision in the rural areas, it could be considered unfeasible and unnecessary to deliver additional facilities in settlements where there is currently no provision (particularly given the restraint policy on housing growth and subsequent reduction in the scope for developer contributions and other investment opportunities in these areas).
- 5.41 However, where provision is considered appropriate this should be in the context of
- existing population and demographics
 - the nearest provision of outdoor sport facilities in surrounding settlements
 - the local demand for outdoor sports facilities
 - potential for delivery.

OSF 1	Consider the requirement for additional facilities in the rural area in the context of the criteria outlined above. Any new facilities developed should meet the quality vision.
--------------	--

- 5.42 The type of new facility required should be determined through a consultation process (and analysis of existing and future participation trends), reflecting the demand led approach to be adopted for outdoor sports facilities).
- 5.43 The quality of outdoor sports facilities in the rural areas is varying and in some instances, sites are considered to be of poor quality. In light of the limited quantity of

SECTION 5 – OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES

facilities in the rural areas, it should be ensured that the quality of existing facilities is sufficient to meet both user expectations and to sustain the required level of use.

OSF 2	Provide support to Parish Councils and other providers of facilities in rural areas to improve the quality of outdoor sports sites, ensuring that facilities are fit for the purpose they are intended and that the necessary level of ancillary accommodation / related facilities is provided.
--------------	--

Provision within service centres

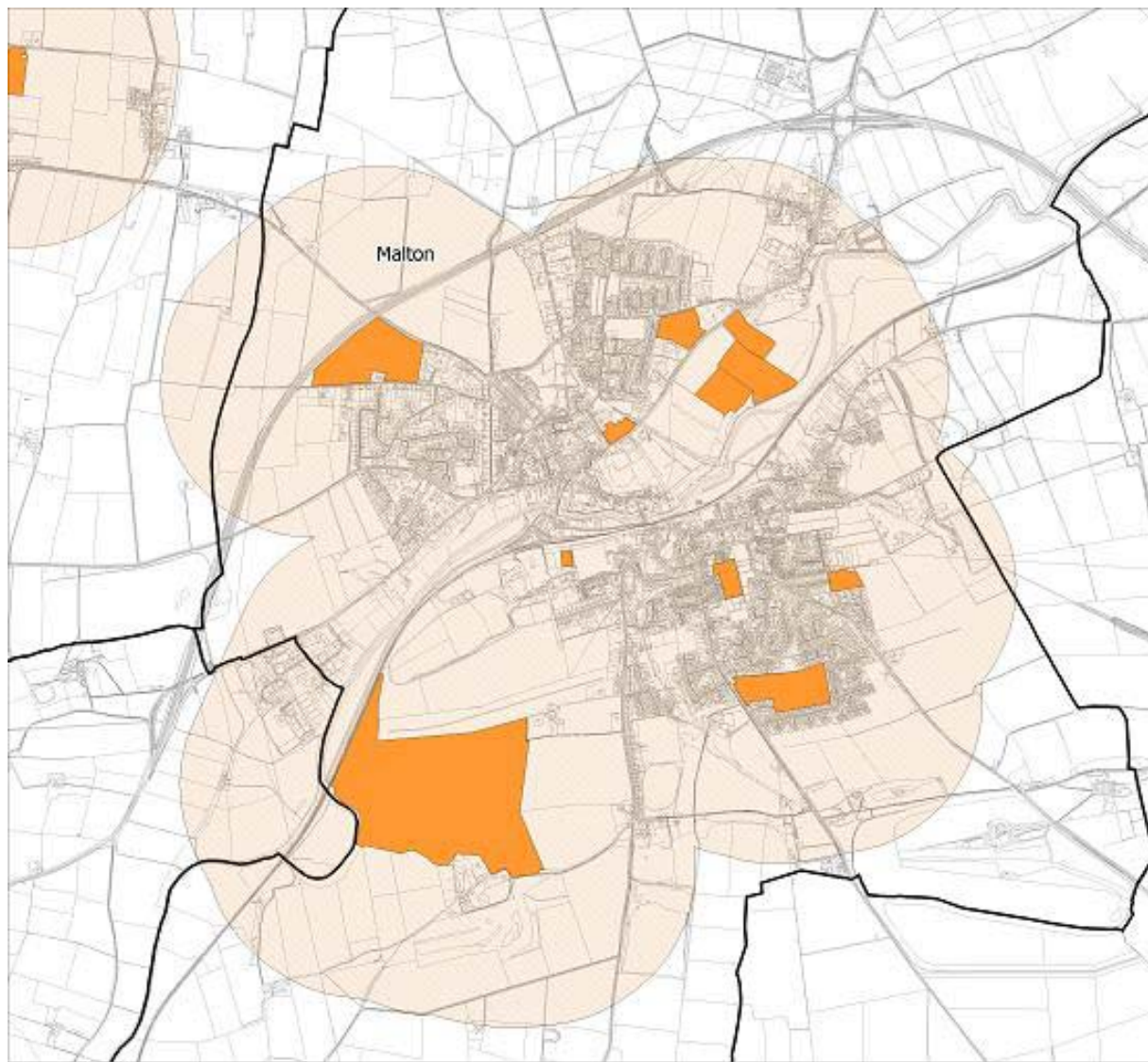
- 5.44 As a principle basis for sustainable development the Ryedale LDF will ensure that future population growth is distributed on a settlement hierarchy. Given the emphasis on these areas in terms of future growth, it is of fundamental importance that the implications of the agreed local standards in terms of the adequacy of provision both now and in the future are fully explored. This takes on even greater importance in the context of national and local agendas to increase participation (which is reliant on the provision of sufficient sporting facilities as well as the promotion of other opportunities to lead a healthy lifestyle).
- 5.45 The existing level of provision of outdoor sport facilities in the service centres is set out overleaf in Figure 5.2 and can be seen below in table 5.3.

Table 5.3: Provision of outdoor sports facilities across the service centres

Settlement Hierarchy	Settlement	Number of outdoor sport facilities
Principle Service Centre	Malton / Norton	11
Local Service Centre	Pickering	6
Rural Service Centre	Kirkbymoorside	3
Rural Service Centre	Helmsley	1

- 5.46 Provision of outdoor sports facilities in each of the areas likely to experience growth is therefore discussed in the sections that follow:

Figure 5.2: Provision of outdoor sports facilities within Malton



Provision of Outdoor Sports Facilities within Malton

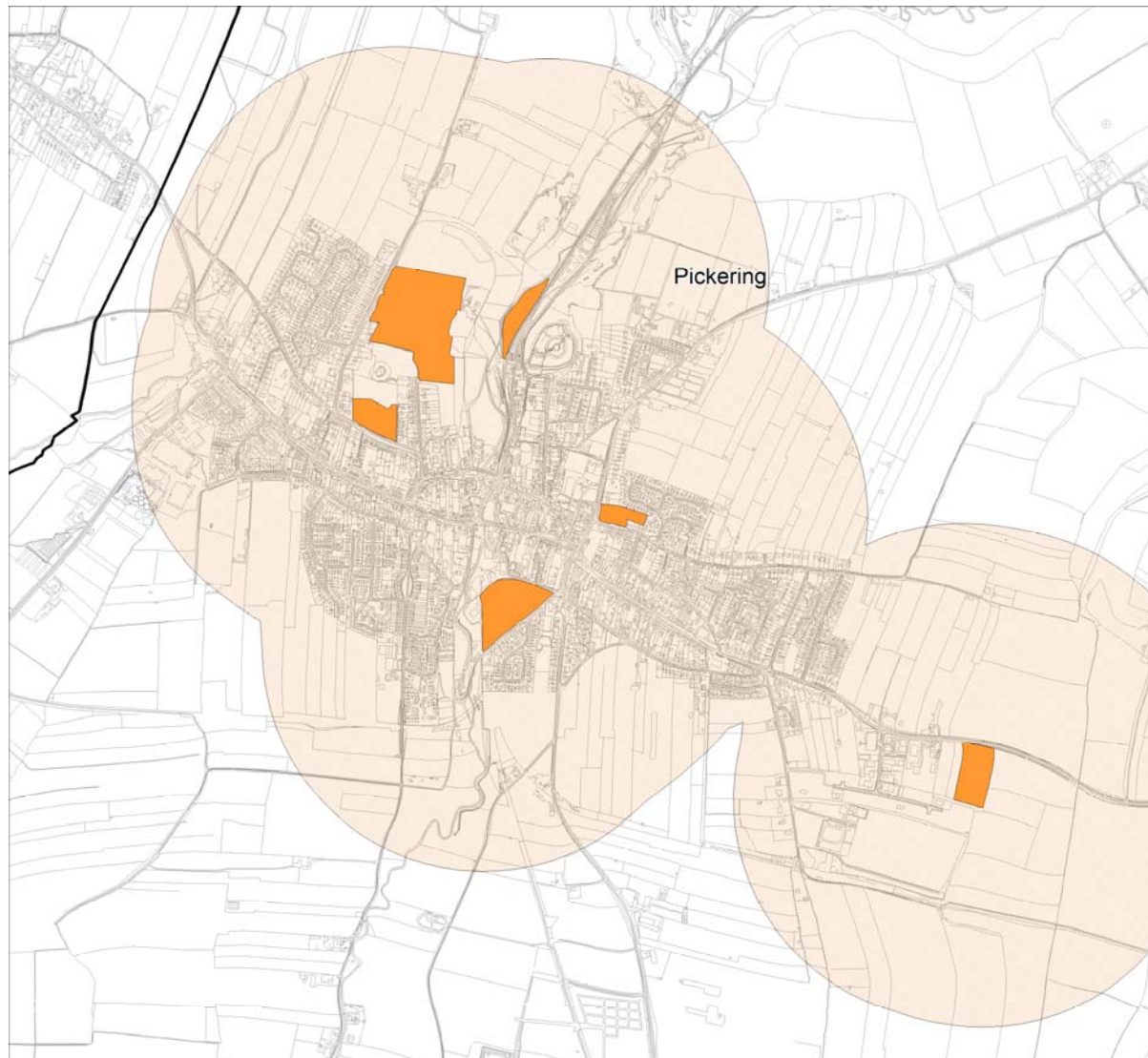
- 5.47 In total there are 11 outdoor sport facilities within Malton / Norton. Given a 2001 Parish population of 5030 (Malton) and 6940 (Norton), this is equivalent to 1 facility for every 1088 residents.
- 5.48 As can be seen on Figure 5.2 on the previous page, many of the sites within the Malton / Norton area are of a substantial size. Sites are also well distributed across the geographical area.
- 5.49 In light of the equitable distribution of outdoor sports facilities, it can be seen that all residents are within the recommended catchment area for an outdoor sports facility.
- 5.50 Given that the existing provision of outdoor sports facilities appears satisfactory both in terms of quantity and accessibility, it is important that the focus is placed on improving the quality of existing facilities and ensuring that all sites are fit for the purpose for which they are intended.

OSF 3	Ensure that all facilities in Malton / Norton are of sufficient quality to serve their intended purpose and carry out enhancements and improvements where required. Providers should strive to ensure that all sites meet the recommended quality vision.
--------------	---

- 5.51 The level of growth that Malton in future years is likely to see as the Principle Service Centre in the district will place increased demand on existing sports facilities. Additionally, targets to increase participation may have significant impact on the need for facilities in this area.

OSF 4	Monitor the quantity of and access to sports facilities across Malton in light of population growth and changing demographics. All new developments should be required to contribute to the provision of outdoor sports facilities in the town.
--------------	---

Figure 5.3: Provision within Pickering



Provision within Pickering

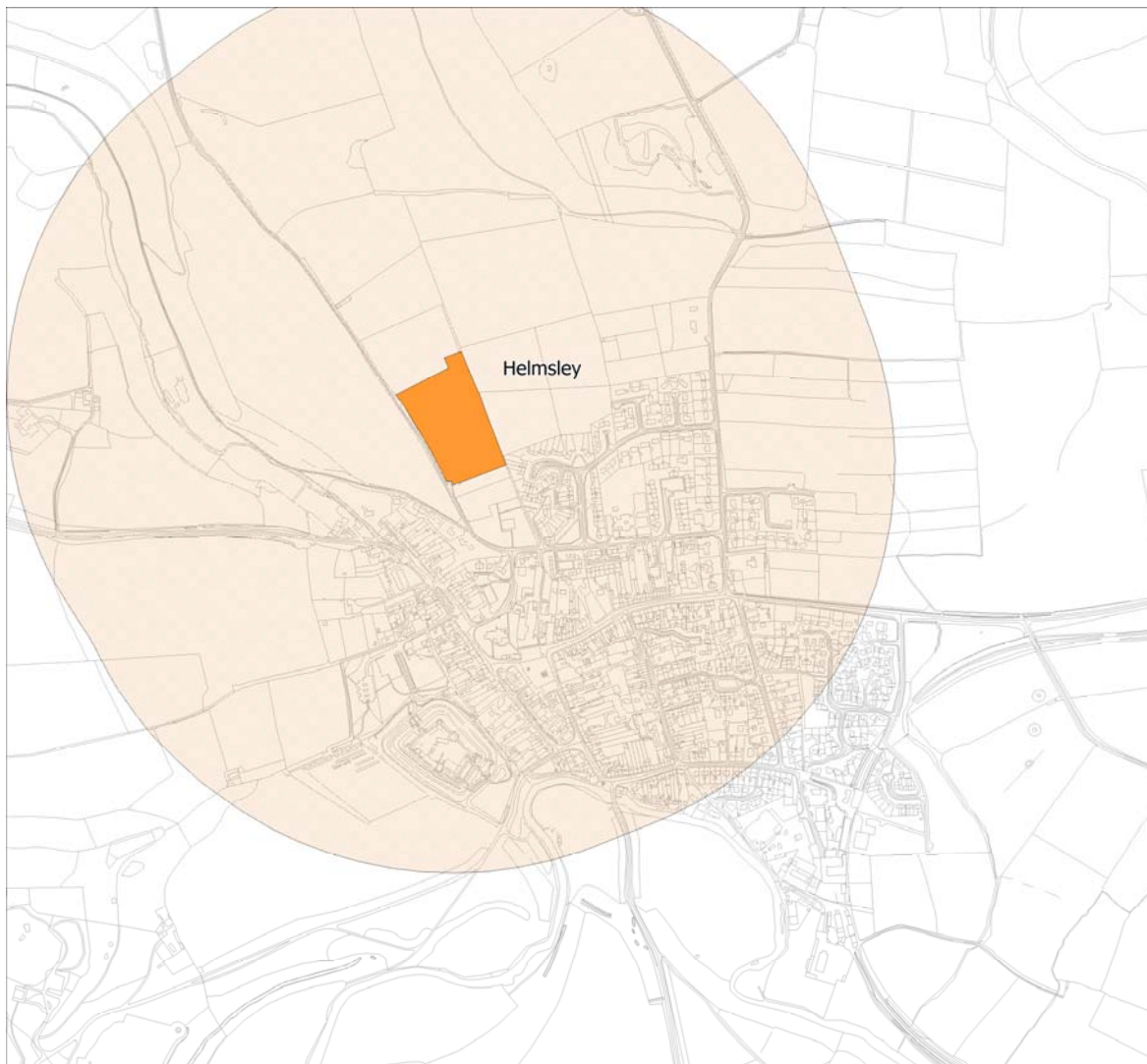
- 5.52 In total there are six outdoor sport facilities within Pickering all of which are similar in scale. This level of provision is similar to that within Malton / Norton when relating it back to 2001 Parish Population (6950) and is equivalent to 1 facility per 1158 population.
- 5.53 Similar to Malton and Norton, the distribution of facilities across Pickering is good with all residents of the town having access to at least one facility. As can be seen in Figure 5.3 on the previous page, all residents are within a 10-minute walk time of an existing facility and there are no clear deficiencies.
- 5.54 It is clear from figure 5.3 that the north of the town is particularly well served by outdoor sport facilities, as are the central areas, albeit to a lesser extent. Three of these sites in the north are located in very close proximity to one another to the north of Pickering, serving a similar catchment area. As a consequence, it is the residents to the east of Pickering who (whilst able to access facilities) have the smallest quantitative levels of provision.
- 5.55 Given that the existing provision of outdoor sports facilities appears satisfactory in terms of accessibility, it is important that the initial emphasis is placed on improving the quality of existing facilities within the area.

OSF 5	Initial emphasis should be placed on improving the quality of outdoor sports facilities within Pickering. This is particularly important on the Eastern side of the town, where there are less facilities and consequently likely to be higher levels of demand.
--------------	--

- 5.56 Similar to Malton, the level of growth that Pickering is likely to see under the LDF will place increased demand on these areas and therefore it is important that all sites are of sufficient quality to sustain the required level of demand. This is particularly important, as it is anticipated that in future years, the current level of sports facility provision will be insufficient in quantitative terms to meet the demands of the local population. New provision will therefore be required over the LDF period.

OSF 6	Population growth will place increased demand on the current facilities and there will be quantitative shortfalls in future years. Consideration should therefore be given to the provision of additional sports facilities. The most appropriate type of facility required should be determined in line with local consultation.
--------------	---

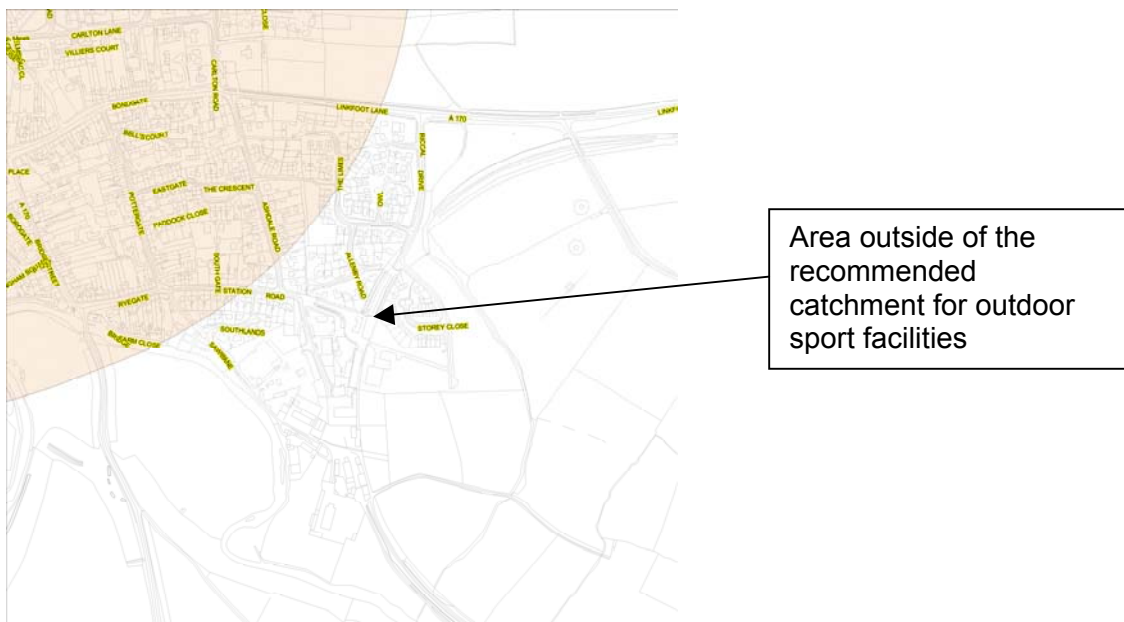
Figure 5.4: Provision of outdoor sports facilities within Helmsley



Provision within Helmsley

- 5.57 At the current time Helmsley Sport and Recreation Club is the only facility located in the town of Helmsley. This equates to 1 facility per 1560 population (2001 Parish Populations), a ratio which is lower than both Malton / Norton and Pickering.
- 5.58 The site is located on the northern periphery of the town. Given this location, it can be seen below that some residents to the south west are outside of the recommended 10 minute walk time. This area is pinpointed in figure 5.5 below

Figure 5.5: Residents outside of the appropriate catchment for a facility in Helmsley

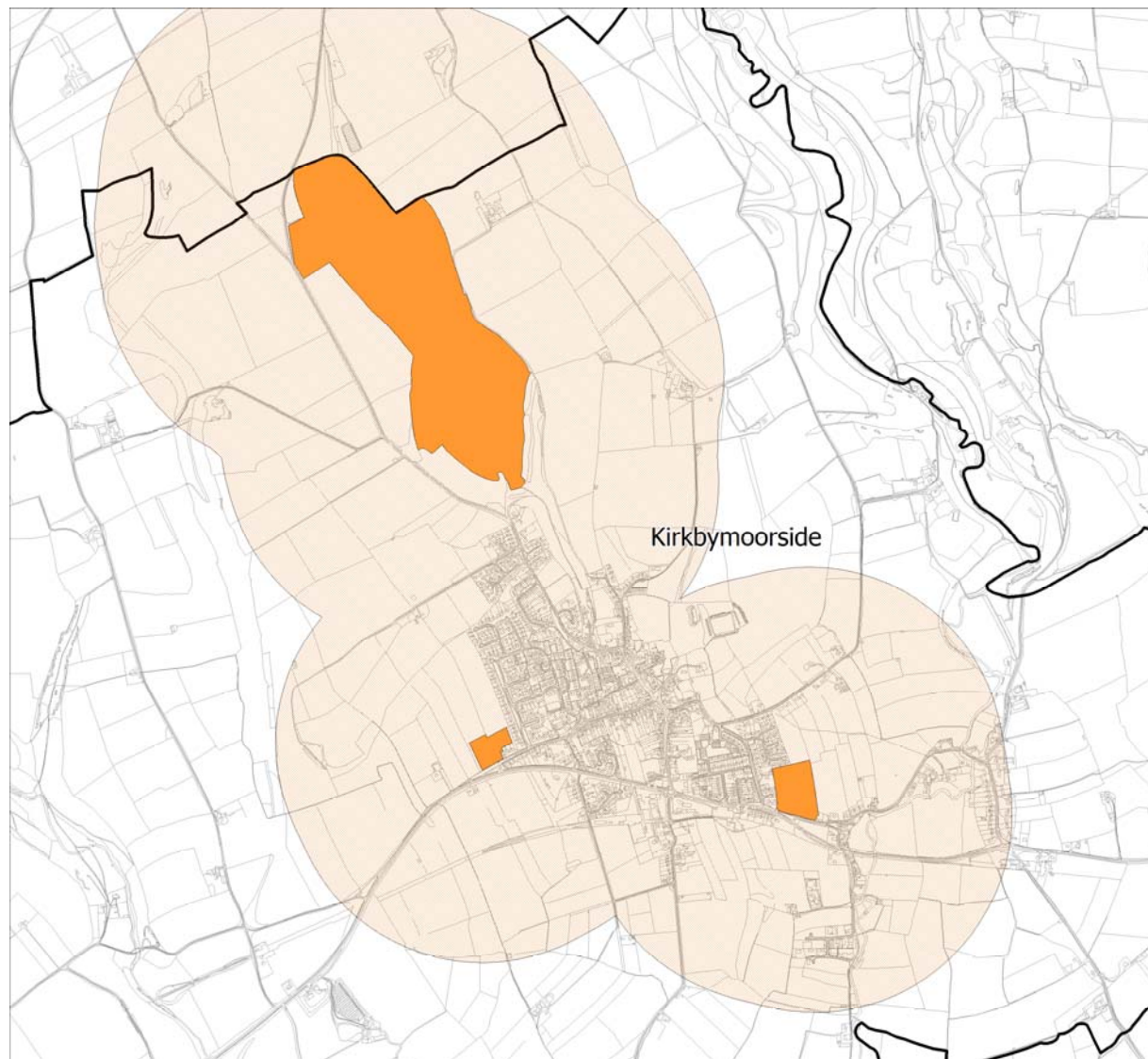


- 5.59 Application of the local quantity standard suggests that provision within Helmsley and Kirkbymoorside is sufficient to meet local standards, however it seems that a larger proportion of these facilities are located in Kirkbymoorside and it can therefore be concluded that additional provision may be required.
- 5.60 Given the limited availability of outdoor sport facilities within Helmsley (particularly for residents within the south west of the town) further provision to alleviate deficiencies through the delivery of new sites to the southeast should be considered.

OSF 7	Investigate the feasibility of (and demand for) new provision of outdoor sports facilities in the South East of Helmsley.
--------------	---

- 5.61 The nature of any further facilities provided should be made in light of expressed demand for specific sports within the town.

Figure 5.6: Provision of outdoor sports facilities within Kirkbymoorside



Provision within Kirkbymoorside

- 5.62 There are currently three outdoor sport facilities within Kirkbymoorside – the Golf Club, the Community Primary School and the Sportsfield. This equates to a level of provision of 1 facility per 960 population (2001 Parish Population of 2880).
- 5.63 Despite there being only three sites, the distribution of these facilities (one to the north, one to the east and one to the west) across Kirkbymoorside ensures that all residents are within a 10-minute walk time of an outdoor sports facility.
- 5.64 Given that the existing provision of outdoor sports facilities appears satisfactory both in terms of quantity and accessibility, it is important that the Council focuses on improving the quality of existing facilities within the area to ensure that these sites are able to sustain the recommended level of use.

OSF 8	Initial emphasis should be placed on improving the quality of outdoor sports facilities in order to ensure that all facilities meet the quality vision and local resident expectations.
--------------	---

- 5.65 Furthermore, any further housing growth / allocations within Kirkbymoorside should be located as close to the existing provision as possible, to ensure the continued delivery of accessible outdoor sport facilities for local residents.

Value assessment

- 5.66 Value is an entirely different and separate concept from quality. It relates to the context, level and type of use and the wider benefits of each open space, sport and recreation facility.
- 5.67 PPG17 notes that in relation to context, a space or facility that is inaccessible is almost irrelevant to potential users and therefore may be of little value, irrespective of its quality. Similarly, if there is significantly more high quality provision in an area than needed, some of it may well be of relatively little value – and conversely if there is very little provision in an area, even a space or facility of mediocre quality may well be valuable and well used by the local community.
- 5.68 The “context” for provision for outdoor sport facilities is predominantly about ensuring that the type of provision provided is fit for the intended purpose, in terms of demand for specific sporting facilities in different locations in Ryedale. The value of outdoor sports facilities is perhaps more complex than other typologies, given the wide variety of facilities included within this typology. In instances where a number of outdoor sport facility sites are provided in close proximity to one another, they may all still be of value if providing different and complementary opportunities, such as tennis, golf and pitches.
- 5.69 In the event where facilities are of poor quality, they may be of lower value to the community.
- 5.70 More generally, improving quality at poorly scoring sites is highly recommended – particularly in light of the fact that 25% of respondents to the household survey think that the current quality of outdoor sport facilities is poor. Site-specific quality issues were discussed early in this section and it was evident that there are significant

variations in the quality of facilities. Those sites which were considered to provide a good quality of provision overall are of high value in the overall context of outdoor sport facilities. All providers of facilities should strive to achieve the quality vision at all new and existing sites. This was emphasized particularly in Malton and Kirkbymoorside, where it was felt that while the quantity of provision is sufficient to meet standards, there are opportunities now and in the future to improve the quality of sites.

OSF 9	All facilities considered to be poor at the time of site visits should be investigated further and enhanced where necessary and appropriate.
--------------	--

- 5.71 PPG17 notes that poorly used spaces or facilities may be of little value (although the visual impact of a poorly used greenspace can be significant) while well used spaces and facilities are always of high value. The level of use at outdoor sports facility sites across the district was assessed at the time of site visits.
- 5.72 Where sites are currently used infrequently, they may be of little value and further investigations should be undertaken into the reasons for these low levels of usage. This may include the poor quality, inappropriate facility type to meet local needs or location. Consideration should be given to the appropriate policy option such as redesign of the site, qualitative enhancements or a change in primary purpose.

OSF 10	Investigate the value of all sites where the level of usage was perceived to be low to understand the reasons behind this and determine the appropriate action to improve the overall value of the site to the local community. There were 25 sites perceived to have low usage.
---------------	--

Summary

- 5.73 The outdoor sports facilities is a wide ranging typology which gives consideration to the provision of synthetic pitches, pitches, bowling greens, tennis courts and golf courses. Given the broad nature of this typology, findings should be treated as a starting point only and local standards should be applied for planning need.
- 5.74 While consultation highlights a perception that the overall quantity of provision is sufficient to meet local demand, it is clear that there are significant variations in the quality of provision.
- 5.75 Analysis of the current distribution of outdoor facilities illustrates a good distribution of provision across all areas of the district, with most residents of rural settlements in the plan area able to access facilities within a 15 minute drivetime and almost all residents within the urban areas living within 720m of some type of outdoor sports facility.
- 5.76 While there are currently few deficiencies, in light of the projected growth in population across the district and anticipated increases in participation in sport and physical activity, it will be important to address existing shortfalls as well as to meet future demand across the district.