



*Proofing for Sport and
Active Recreation
in Spatial Plans*

Summer 2009

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Scope and Purpose

This document sets out a series of checklists, organised by theme, to assist with the preparation of Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS) and Local Development Frameworks (LDF) in a way which takes account of the interests of sport and active recreation. Sport England recognises that, aside from the statutory duties relating to the preparation of open space assessments and protection of playing pitches, much planning activity for sport and active recreation is optional. However, the checklists emphasise the opportunities for making the most of the potential for sport and active recreation to contribute to a number of agendas including health, education and regeneration, for example. This approach accords with the spirit of spatial planning, which seeks to make connections between policy areas wherever possible. The **Appendix** sets out Sport England’s aspirations and objectives for planning policy and how these might be realised.

Regional and Sub-Regional Level

Regional Spatial Strategies and Sub-Regional Strategies

At regional and sub-regional scales, there is the opportunity to address strategic matters relating to sport and active recreation, particularly as part of the wider delivery of a range of aspirations that contribute to the quality of life of the area concerned. Thus, for example, connections can be made between various strategies and consideration given to the role that sport might play in helping to deliver other agendas such as tourism.

Regional Planning Objective/Delivery Mechanism	Does the Strategy ...
A guiding vision which reflects regional identity	Set out a vision which includes the contribution of sport and active recreation to regional identity and/or quality of life?
Objectives and policies resting on a robust evidence base	Provide an indication of how specific objectives and policies are based on an understanding of sport and active recreation needs and opportunities?
Connections made to other strategies	Make direct references to Regional Plans for Sport?
Promote policy integration, such as the contribution of sport to a range of policy objectives	Identify the contribution of sport in broader economic, environmental and social objectives such as health improvement or regeneration?
	Recognise the role of sport and active recreation in attracting visitors to the region?
Encourage regional and local distinctiveness	Identify how sport might contribute to the development of spatial and sectoral distinctiveness?
Promote sustainable development	Make explicit reference to the contribution that sport and active recreation can make to the realisation of the aims of sustainable development, such as meeting local needs locally?
	Include indicators for sport and active recreation as part of frameworks for sustainability appraisal?

Regional Planning Objective/Delivery Mechanism	Does the Strategy ...
Pay particular attention to designated and other 'special' areas	Make links between sport and tourism, e.g. water-based pursuits, natural geographic features and any related sub-regional distinctiveness?
Address regional or sub-regional issues	Where relevant, consider areas where management of access may be necessary e.g. coastal zones with natural/historic resources?
	Identify the role of sport and active recreation in places of particular change such as sub-regional growth areas?
	Identify where Significant Areas for Sport should be protected and/or developed?
	Identify where strategic open space is to be defined and promoted?
Identify sport and active recreation needs and opportunities on the Key Diagram where appropriate.	
Ensure that monitoring and evaluation is appropriate, using specific indicators	Include indicators for sport and active recreation as part of frameworks for monitoring and evaluation?

Local Level

Sport and active recreation should be included as a part of development of policy at local level, from the inclusion of a Sport England as a consultee within the SCI, to the indicators to monitor the performance of policy. The checklists use questions as prompts for thinking about where the merits of sport and recreation can be best employed. This may be to address specific aspirations for the delivery of sport and recreation, or as part of the promotion of a quality of life in a locality. Sport England's detailed aspirations for policy development are presented in the **Appendix**.

1. Statement of Community Involvement

- Is Sport England specifically identified in the SCI as a statutory consultee on playing field issues?
- Is Sport England identified as a non-statutory consultee on the protection of sports facilities and the provision of new sports facilities as part of major developments?

2. The Core Strategy

Theme	Does the core strategy ...
Vision	Refer to the contribution of sport and recreation to quality of life in the area?
Spatial Objectives	Is sport and recreation referenced in the spatial objectives, for example as part of a good quality of life in the plan area?
Policies	Have a policy which clearly states the aspiration to protect and enhance existing facilities, and develop new ones where appropriate, in all cases founded on a sound evidence base?

Theme	Does the core strategy ...
	Recognise the role of sport in contributing to a wide range of spatial planning issues: regeneration, health promotion, crime reduction, quality of life etc?
Evidence Base	Has a PPG17-compliant assessment of supply been carried out to help: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - protect facilities and bring forward land to meet community needs, through a partner DPD, SPD or other strategy; - ensure accessibility; and - develop local standards of provision?
Planning Obligations	Set out the provisions in respect of sport and recreation that will be expected as part of new development, ideally within a separate SPD? Ensure that any loss of sport and recreation facilities is adequately compensated for through like-for-like replacement, or similar?
Monitoring	Monitor effectiveness of policy implementation in respect of the protection and provision of sport facilities?
Design	Identify the role of good design (such as the co-location of facilities) in helping to deliver more sustainable communities?
Connections to other policy areas	Maximise contributions to spatial planning initiatives such as greenspace networks or better use of the urban fringe and the wider countryside?

3. The Evidence Base

- Has the information available through PPG17 audits and needs assessments of open space and sport and recreation facilities been used?
- Has used been made of parallel data gathering and analysis exercises undertaken as part of initiatives such as green infrastructure planning and playing pitch strategies which could provide opportunities for joint working?
- Has there been a consideration of the quality and accessibility of provision as part of the preparation of Local Area Agreements?
- Have significant cross-boundary issues, particularly relating to facility provision (see Planning Across Boundaries) been attended to?
- Has information from other local authority strategies, including sport and recreation strategies, play strategies and community strategies been considered?

4. Area Action Plans

- Have sport and recreation issues been addressed within the AAP, in respect of the protection and enhancement of facilities and/or opportunities for new provision where new development is planned?
- Are there opportunities to address sport and recreation issues within AAPs covering areas of comprehensive regeneration?
- In all cases, are policies and proposals based on a comprehensive assessment of need, using data from the PPG17 assessment, other relevant sport and recreation strategies and any area-

specific studies conducted as part of the preparation of the evidence base for the AAP and associated SA/SEA?

- Have Sport England's resources relating to Active Design, and the attendant principles of improving accessibility, enhancing amenity and increasing awareness been reviewed?

5. Generic Development Control Policies

- Has there been an assessment of the key factors in the district which could impact upon the way in which the sport facilities are protected, provided and enhanced?
- Has there been anticipation of the need for sport and recreation facilities through development of a sound evidence base, using the various resources available relating to facility planning and gauging demand?
- Is there suitable cross-referencing to advice such as design guidance which can assist in delivering better quality facilities?
- Has there been a consideration of where conditions and obligations might be best employed to advance the interests of sport and recreation as part of measures to protect, enhance and compensate facility provision?
- Is there a recognition of the contribution that sport might offer to achieving aspirations across a range of topics, particularly in mixed use developments and as catalyst in stimulating development?
- Is there effort to ensure that planning applications are submitted with adequate information through the use of: early negotiation, checklists, needs assessments and consultation with interested parties?

6. Proposals and Inset Maps

- Does the Proposals Map identify the main sport and recreation facilities based on an up-to-date survey?
- Are new facilities identified?
- Is there a clear connection between identified land parcels and policies set out in the Core Strategy and any Site-Specific Proposals?

7. Site-Specific Allocations

- Has a local needs assessment been undertaken to identify which facilities should be protected?
- Have specific sites been allocated for sports interests, as a result of a needs assessment and/or as part of new development?
- Where existing facilities are identified for development, has consideration (based on the findings of facility assessments) been given to whether a linked site specific allocation is required for providing replacement facilities or whether replacement provision should be

made through other measures (e.g. financial contributions in lieu of direct replacement provision)?

- Can it be verified that allocation of existing or former sports facilities for development (without replacement provision being made) will only be acceptable if it has been satisfactorily demonstrated through a detailed assessment that there is an excess of facility provision within the catchment and no demand exists for replacement facility provision?
- Has the provision of sports facilities been considered as part of the wider development of community infrastructure, thus forging links between policy areas?

8. Sustainability Appraisal

- Have appropriate documents such as the Regional Plan for Sport and a local Sport and Recreation/Leisure/Culture Strategy been used to inform the development of sustainability objectives?
- Is sport and recreation included within or referred to by at least one of the sustainability objectives?
- Is there cross-referencing between objectives such that the wider contribution of sport and recreation, in respect of economic and social well-being, is recognised?
- Are appropriate indicators attached to that objective relating to the delivery of sport and recreation, such as: open space/facilities assessment; participation in sport and active recreation; and assessment of accessibility and quality of provision?
- Is there an evidence base, notably a PPG17-compliant assessment of open space and facility provision, available to appraise the contribution of sport and recreation to securing sustainability objectives?

9. Tests of Soundness for DPDs

PPS12 (paragraph 4.52) states that to be ‘sound’ a core strategy should be:

(i) **Justified**

PPS12 provides that to be ‘justified’ a DPD needs to be:

- founded on a robust and credible evidence base involving:
 - evidence of participation of the local community and others having a stake in the area
 - research/fact-finding – the choices made in the plan are backed up by facts
- the most appropriate strategy when considered against reasonable alternatives

(ii) **Effective**

PPS12 states that core strategies should be effective. This means:

- Deliverable – embracing:
 - Sound infrastructure delivery planning

- Having no regulatory or national planning barriers to delivery
 - Delivery partners who are signed up to it
 - Coherence with the strategies of neighbouring authorities
- Flexible
 - Able to be monitored

(iii) Consistent with national policy

The DPD should be consistent with national policy. Where there is a departure, LPAs must provide clear and convincing reasoning to justify their approach.

http://www.planning-inspectorate.gov.uk/pins/appeals/local_dev/ldf_testing_soundness.pdf

(i) Justified

Theme	Key questions	Sport-related aspects
<i>Participation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the consultation process allowed for effective engagement of all interested parties? 	Inclusion of Sport England as a statutory consultee on developments affecting playing fields and informal consultee on policy development and other development control matters.
<i>Research/factfinding</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the content of the DPD justified by the evidence? What is the source of the evidence? How up to date is it and how convincing is it? • What assumptions had to be made in preparing the DPD? Are the assumptions reasonable and justified? 	<p>Development and application of a robust evidence base through a PPG17 Assessment of the supply of, and need for, recreational facilities.</p> <p>Use of regional and local strategies which assist with the consideration of alternatives, including regional plans for sport and local sport and recreation strategies, sustainable community strategies and cultural strategies.</p>
<i>Alternatives</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can it be shown that the LPA's chosen approach is the most appropriate given the reasonable alternatives? • Have the reasonable alternatives been considered and is there a clear audit trail showing how and why the preferred strategy/approach was arrived at? Where a balance had to be struck in taking decisions between competing alternatives, is it clear how and why these decisions were taken? • Does the sustainability appraisal show how the different options perform and is it clear that sustainability considerations informed the content of the DPD from the start? • Does the DPD adequately expand upon regional guidance rather than simply duplicate it? Does the strategy take forward the regional context reflecting the local issues and objectives? 	Inclusion of sport-related objectives, indicators and evidence using a range of sources such as Active Places.

(ii) Effective

Theme	Key questions	Sport-related aspects
<i>Deliverable</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the LPA clearly identified what the issues are that the DPD is seeking to address? Have priorities been set so that it is clear what the DPD is seeking to achieve? • Are there any cross-boundary issues that should be addressed and, if so, have they been adequately addressed? • Does the DPD contain clear objectives? • Are the objectives specific to the place; as opposed to being general and applicable to anywhere? Is there a direct relationship between the identified issues and the objectives? • Is it clear how the policies will meet the objectives? Are there any obvious gaps in the policies, having regard to the objectives of the DPD? • Are there realistic timescales related to the objectives? • Are the policies internally consistent? • Does the DPD contain material that is already in another DPD, should logically be in a different DPD or not be in a DPD at all? • Does the DPD explain how its key policy objectives will be achieved? • If there are development management policies, are they supportive of the strategy and objectives? • Have the infrastructure implications of the strategy/policies clearly been identified? • Are the delivery mechanisms and timescales for implementation of the policies clearly identified? • Is it clear who is going to deliver the required infrastructure and does the timing of the provision complement the timescale of the strategy/policies? • Is it clear who is intended to implement each part of the strategy/DPD? Where the actions required are outside the direct control of the LPA, is there evidence that there is the necessary commitment from the relevant organisation to the implementation of the policies? • Does the DPD reflect the concept of spatial planning? Does it go beyond traditional land use planning by bringing together and integrating policies for development and the use of land with other policies and programmes from a variety of agencies/organisations that influence the nature of places and how they function? • Does the DPD take into account matters which may be imposed by circumstance, notwithstanding the LPA's views about the matter? 	<p>Cross-checking that DPDs have due regard to national, regional and local sport strategies in general and policy-specific terms. This should include reference to regional plans for sport and local sport and recreation strategies, sustainable community strategies and cultural strategies.</p> <p>Demonstration of the use of national and regional policy guidance to frame and justify policy development. This should include specific reference to the duty outlined in PPS1 of local planning authorities to promote healthy communities, and the specific requirements set out in PPG17 for assessments of supply of, and need for, recreational facilities, the protection of facilities and opportunities for securing additional provision through planning contributions.</p> <p>Demonstration of how cross-boundary sport interests area are being represented, including the outcome of any joint studies undertaken.</p>

<i>Flexible</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the DPD flexible enough to respond to a variety of, or unexpected changes in, circumstances? • Is the DPD sufficiently flexible to deal with any changes to, for example, housing figures from an emerging RSS? • Does the DPD include the remedial actions that will be taken if the strategies/policies are failing? 	<p>Flexibility of policies for sport to respond to changes in need, demand or other circumstances, using data from an up-to-date evidence base.</p> <p>Evidence of the sensitivity testing of policies e.g. response to housing/population growth.</p> <p>Wider contingency planning for changes in circumstance or policy.</p>
<i>Monitoring</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the DPD contain targets and milestones which relate to the delivery of the policies, including housing trajectories where the DPD contains housing allocations? • Is it clear how these are to be measured and are these linked to the production of the Annual Monitoring Report? • Are suitable targets and indicators present (by when, how and by whom)? 	<p>Targets and milestones for sport developed, linked to the Annual Monitoring Report.</p> <p>Mechanisms and timescales set for policy implementation.</p> <p>Representations considered for site-specific allocations.</p> <p>Mechanisms established for the monitoring of policy implementation, such as the loss/creation of sports facilities and developer contributions to sports facilities.</p>

(iii) National Policy

Consistency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the DPD contain any policies or proposals which are not consistent with national policy, and if so is there local justification? • Does the DPD contain policies that do not add anything to existing national guidance? If so, why have these been included? 	
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10. Other DPDs/SPDs

- Has the opportunity to develop a SPD on open space, sport and recreation to expand upon policies set out in the Core Strategy and other DPDs been taken?
- Does the SPD take a comprehensive view of sport and recreation issues, using an appropriate evidence base (specifically a PPG17-compliant assessment) and making connections between policy areas?
- Are the interests of sport and recreation noted within a more general Planning Obligations SPD?
- What are the arrangements for monitoring the implementation of SPDs that have been produced (such as through the setting of targets for open space) and can these outputs be used elsewhere to track the effects of policy?

11. Annual Monitoring Report

- Are the indicators and targets for sport and active recreation developed for the Sustainability Appraisal reflected in the AMR?
- Has the potential contribution of sport and active recreation to the realisation of parallel policy agendas been identified?
- Is there a clear link back from the indicators presented in the AMR and their analysis to the development of policy?

Appendix: Sport England's Planning Aspirations and Objectives

Topic	Sport England Planning Policy Objective	Policy approaches
<p>A planned approach</p> <p>It is part of the function of the planning system to ensure that adequate land and water resources are allocated for sport. Local planning authorities should assess local needs for sport and recreational facilities as part of the development planning process.</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 1: To ensure that a planned approach to the provision of facilities and opportunities for sport and recreation is taken by planning authorities in order to meet the needs of the local community. The level of provision should be determined locally, based on local assessments of need and take account of wider than local requirements for strategic or specialist facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> encompass a planned approach to the provision of sports facilities based on sound assessments of current and future needs for strategic and local sports facilities, which take account of any deficiencies; support a mix of facilities which comprise strategic, local and specialist facilities; take account of the priorities set out in local sports strategies, and national governing body facility strategies; and take account of cross-boundary issues for major or specialist facilities which have extensive catchment areas.
<p>Protecting existing places for sport</p> <p>The protection of existing sports facilities and access to natural resources used for sport is vital for its continued development, the overall quality of life and protection of the environment. However, as sport is a relatively low value land use, sports facilities are often under pressure from other forms of development.</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 2: To prevent the loss of facilities or access to natural resources which are important in terms of sports development. Should redevelopment be unavoidable, an equivalent (or better) replacement facility should be provided in a suitable location.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> seek to protect or enhance existing sites and facilities and access to natural resources which are important for sport; identify important sites for sport on the proposals map for protection (including open space and playing fields and facilities which provide access to natural resources such as launching and landing facilities); and require at least an equivalent replacement in terms of quality, quantity and accessibility if the loss of a facility is unavoidable, unless it can be proved that the facility is genuinely redundant and there is no demand for a replacement based on a thorough local assessment.
<p>Significant Areas for Sport</p> <p>Sport England has been concerned over the loss of, and threats to, areas which are of significance for different sports, particularly where they are of national and regional importance.</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 3: To prevent the loss or partial loss of any identified 'Significant Area for Sport' (SASP) to other uses unless an equivalent or improved replacement in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility to the original facility or resource is provided.</p> <p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 4: To support the extension, upgrading or enhancement of any identified 'Significant Area for Sport' in the interests of sports development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify and list any SASPs within the plan area, including their identification on the proposals map; seek to protect SASPs from inappropriate forms of development; and allow for the upgrading and enhancement of any SASP where this will further the interests of sports development at the facility and can be achieved in a way which meets sustainable development objectives.
<p>Assessing playing pitch requirements</p> <p>Playing fields are one of the most important resources for sport in England, as well as making a significant contribution to informal recreation, amenity and the environment. The number, quality and location of pitches required for the</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 5: To promote detailed local assessments of playing field requirements using the methodology as outlined in 'Towards a level Playing Field'.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> make use of playing pitch assessments and strategies to identify the adequacy of existing provision to meet community needs for pitch sports; encourage greater community access to playing fields currently under private or educational ownership; encourage improvements to the overall quality of playing fields, e.g. through improved drainage or the provision of

Topic	Sport England Planning Policy Objective	Policy approaches
<p>playing of pitch sports will vary at the local level according to local participation rates in the various sports and the size and age structure of the population. Local Planning Authorities should carry out proper assessments of requirements for current and future generations to prevent unacceptable and avoidable loss of playing fields to other uses.</p>		<p>changing facilities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure that adequate funds are secured for maintenance where new or enhanced playing fields are provided in relation to new development; and • clearly indicate the role of S106 agreements in helping to achieve the above policies.
<p>Protection of playing fields for sport</p> <p>Playing fields are a scarce resource which, once lost to other forms of development, can rarely be replaced. In many areas there are severe pressures to develop playing fields for other uses, particularly in urban areas where they can attract high land values for residential development. Despite the encouragement of Sport England (see Assessing Playing Pitch requirements), in many local authority areas there are still no clear policy guidelines based on a careful assessment of need.</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 6: To ensure that there is no further reduction in the supply of conveniently located, quality playing fields for sport to satisfy current and likely future demand.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • resist the loss of sports pitches except in the following circumstances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated to the satisfaction of Sport England that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport. - The proposed development is ancillary to the principal use of the site as a playing field or playing fields, and does not affect the quantity or quality of pitches or adversely affect their use. - The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming, or forming part of, a playing pitch, and does not result in the loss of, or inability to make use of any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins), a reduction in the size of the playing area of any playing pitch or the loss of any other sporting/ancillary facility on the site. - The playing field or playing fields which would be lost as a result of the proposed development would be replaced by a playing field or playing fields of an equivalent or better quality and of equivalent or greater quantity, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements, prior to the commencement of the development. - The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor sports facility, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss of the playing field or playing fields.
<p>Planning new places for sport</p> <p>Sport is subject to the same pressure to change and develop as other activities. Participation is increasing and evolving year on year,</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 7: To support the development of new facilities, the enhancement of existing facilities and the provision and/or improvement of access to the natural environment which will secure opportunities to take part</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify the need for new facilities to cater for a wide range of sporting activities based on sound assessments of existing provision and any deficiencies, future population growth and rates of participation; • take account of the priorities set out in

Topic	Sport England Planning Policy Objective	Policy approaches
<p>generating demand for additional facilities. New activities are gaining popularity, some of which may require purpose built specialist sports facilities, whilst others can be accommodated in flexibly designed community facilities. Some existing facilities are in need of redevelopment or refurbishment to take account of changing activities and the higher expectations of users.</p>	<p>in sport and which can be achieved in a way which meets sustainable development objectives.</p>	<p>local sports strategies and/or Local Cultural Strategies, national Facilities Strategies of governing bodies of sport and other sport specific strategies;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify sites and make allocations for sporting uses, including playing fields, on the proposals map as far as possible; • establish criteria for the assessment of other sports facility development proposals; and • identify partnership opportunities with organisations working in the natural environment for the enhancement of facilities or access to natural resources.
<p>Providing for sport through new development</p> <p>Government guidance recognises the legitimate use of planning obligations to secure the provision of public open space and sporting, social, educational or other community facilities. Although sport has benefited from the use of planning obligations in the past, Sport England believes that the planning system can deliver a better deal for sport through new development.</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 8: To promote the use of planning obligations as a way of securing the provision of new or enhanced places for sport and a contribution towards their future maintenance, to meet the needs arising from new development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • indicate the circumstances in which planning obligations will be sought; • use the support of local assessments of community requirements likely to be generated by new development and which take account of the adequacy of existing provision and local Sport and Recreation Plans/Strategies; • ensure that adequate provision of sports facilities is secured as part of major new residential development. Additional requirements could be specified in a development brief; • seek developer contributions from small scale residential developments towards new or enhanced provision where the development will create additional demand or place additional pressure on existing sports facilities; • where it is not practicable to provide new facilities as an integral part of a new development, seek contributions towards off-site provision or enhancement which is directly related to the development; • seek financial contributions to the long-term maintenance of any new facilities provided as a result of a new development; and • encourage the provision of more places for sport in association with major commercial and retail developments.
<p>Shared use sites</p> <p>Making fuller use of existing resources contributes to sustainable development objectives by reducing the need for additional facilities and the potential loss of scarce resources such as open space. The practice of making school sports facilities available to wider community use is already well established and has been government policy for many years, but there are</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 9: To promote the wider use of existing and new sports facilities to serve more than one group of users. Sport England will encourage potential providers to consider opportunities for joint provision and dual use of facilities in appropriate locations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote the wider community use of existing sports facilities particularly on school sites, other educational establishments, MoD sites and private facilities owned by businesses; • encourage the development of new sports facilities which will serve more than one major group of users; • encourage the shared use of facilities between sport and other activities in designated areas to help reduce the impact on the environment; • encourage the enhancement of

Topic	Sport England Planning Policy Objective	Policy approaches
<p>further opportunities to extend this principle within the education sector through programmes such as Building Schools for the Future and City Academies and to other privately owned sports facilities, to help meet the growing demand for more and better places for sport in convenient locations.</p>		<p>potential sites, for example, by allowing additional changing facilities, floodlighting and car parking where necessary, to facilitate greater use; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • balance the impact that more intensive use of a site may have on nearby residents with the benefits provided to the wider community.
<p>The Urban Fringe</p> <p>The countryside around urban areas tends to be highly accessible by public transport, by car and on foot or cycle. It already plays an important role in meeting the needs of many urban communities offering footpaths and bridleways, sports grounds and access to the wider countryside. The need for a positive approach to the management and development of the urban fringe is now widely recognised, as are the benefits that sport can bring.</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 10: To promote the urban fringe as an important resource in providing opportunities for sport, and support proposals for improved access for sport, for the development of extensive facilities such as golf courses and pitches, and for built facilities which can be developed in a way which meets sustainable development objectives and which helps to maintain and improve the identity of this resource.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support measures to increase access to the urban fringe for sport including changes of use from agriculture to sports uses; • recognise the role the urban fringe can play in providing sites for sports that require extensive areas of land; • support the provision or relocation of built facilities for sport within the urban fringe where there is clear demand for the facility and where no suitable site within the urban area can be found; • encourage the restoration and imaginative use of redundant or degraded land, buildings and water areas for sporting uses; and • apply the sequential test to the location of new facilities.
<p>The Green Belt</p> <p>By virtue of its location adjoining urban areas and comprising essentially open land, the Green Belt makes an ideal location for outdoor sports facilities and can accommodate a wide range of sports close to major centres of population. PPG 2 recognises outdoor sport as an appropriate land use in the Green Belt and advises that new buildings which provide essential facilities for outdoor sport, including changing rooms and small spectator accommodation, may be developed.</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 11: To promote the development of outdoor sports facilities in the Green Belt including essential ancillary built facilities. In exceptional circumstances Sport England will support the development of indoor or other built facilities associated with outdoor sports, where there is an identified need and no suitable site is available elsewhere in the locality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • encourage the provision of outdoor sport facilities in the Green Belt which help to sustain community life; • identify suitable sites for outdoor strategic sports facilities where there is a clearly identified demand for such facilities and where no suitable site exists elsewhere in the locality; • set out criteria against which ancillary built facilities will be considered; and • recognise that there may be circumstances where floodlit facilities are appropriate in the Green Belt subject to satisfactory management arrangements.
<p>Community forests and other woodlands</p> <p>The 12 Community Forests cover extensive areas of land close to the main urban centres in England. They already provide a wide range of opportunities for informal sporting activity and include within their boundaries a number of more formal sports facilities ranging from water areas to sports pitches and built</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 12: To support the integration of facilities and opportunities for participation in sport in Community Forests, and support the principle of using other woodlands, particularly those near major centres of population, in a similar way.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • encourage sporting developments as an integral part of community forest developments; • recognise the potential for some built sports facilities within community forests; • seek opportunities to provide new and improved access to sport in community forests; and • protect sites used for sport within community forests.

Topic	Sport England Planning Policy Objective	Policy approaches
<p>facilities. Their location offers a significant opportunity to make a range of opportunities accessible to many millions of people, particularly for those sports which rely on the natural environment.</p>		
<p>Sport in the countryside and coastal areas</p> <p>Access to the countryside and coast is essential for a wide range of sports, but current provision is insufficient in many areas. Where access does exist it is frequently under threat either from competing land uses or from actual or perceived conflicts from other users or with nature conservation. Most of these losses could be prevented by improved planning or better and more positive management.</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 13: To support and promote the use of natural resources for sport in a way which meets sustainable development objectives. Sport England considers that development proposals for sport should be based on the 'Best Available Place' principle. This involves a planned approach to the provision and protection of sites and facilities, including the assessment of the impact of any sports use and a commitment to appropriate management measures.</p> <p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 14: Where management solutions have been tried and shown not to work due to irreconcilable conflict, then alternative locations should be found to accommodate the displaced sports activities, to a similar or improved standard.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • take a planned approach to the provision of sites for sports requiring extensive sites in the countryside, for example golf courses, airfields, motorsports venues; • consider the provision of new facilities in line with the 'Best Available Place' principle; • seek to protect significant areas for sport (SASPs) from other development, taking account of NGB Whole Sport Plans; • seek to maintain and improve access to the countryside for sport and ensure that any reduction in the level of activities possible is contingent upon the development of suitable alternative provision of at least equal quality; • allow for farm diversification into sport and recreation; • promote the use of good management practices to balance the legitimate needs of sport with amenity, environmental and other interests; and • recognise the need for ancillary facilities essential to the operation of some sports activities and venues.
<p>Access to the countryside</p> <p>Sport is one of the most rapidly growing areas of leisure. Growth in traditional activities in the countryside such as walking and horse riding has been complemented by newer activities such as mountain biking, and access to the countryside via the public rights of way network is a pre-requisite for participation.</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 15: To support the public rights of way network in its role of offering the single most important means by which people can get into and enjoy the countryside.</p> <p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 16: To support measures to protect, enhance and develop the network and other permissive routes that provide opportunities to access the countryside by foot, bicycle and horse.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seek to protect and enhance the Public Rights Of Way (PROW) network and other permissive access routes. Where it is necessary to divert a right of way, replacement of equivalent accessibility, convenience and attractiveness should be provided; • identify and safeguard the sporting potential of disused railway tracks and river corridors; • identify and prioritise gaps in the network as part of a wider access strategy for sport; • seek to enhance links between urban areas, villages and the wider countryside; • secure access to watersides and other areas through new development opportunities; and • promote the development of National Trails, the National Cycle Network, Greenways, canal towpath and other strategic and local access initiatives.
<p>National Parks</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 17: To maintain and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seek to maintain and improve opportunities for outdoor sport in

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<p>National Parks, including the Norfolk Broads and the New Forest Heritage Area, are an important resource for sport, and provide opportunities for millions of people each year to participate in their chosen activity.</p>	<p>improve opportunities for sport in the National Parks (including The Broads) and to ensure that existing and new activities are managed and developed in a way which meets the purposes of National Park designation and sustainable development objectives.</p>	<p>National Parks;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote the use of good management practices to balance the legitimate needs of sport with other interests; • do not seek to impose a blanket ban on certain sporting activities within National Parks; • take account of the sporting needs of the resident community within National Parks; and • seek to identify sites for possible counter attractions which may relieve the pressure on the most sensitive areas.
<p>Other nationally designated areas</p> <p>Specific areas designated by statute include Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), National Nature Reserves (NNRs) and Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs). Any of these designated areas could be an important resource for sport. It is important that those responsible for the management of these areas take into account the wider needs of the community, including demand for sport, insofar as these are compatible with the reasons for designation.</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 18: To protect and enhance existing places for outdoor sport in nationally designated areas and promote access to new places where the use is compatible with the objectives of designation. Where there is a conflict, a management solution should be sought. If reconciliation is not possible and a reduction in the use of the area by sport is required, Sport England will seek the provision of alternative provision to an equal standard.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protect and enhance existing places for sport and access to them in nationally designated areas; • promote access to new places for sport within nationally designated areas where the scale and nature of activity is compatible with the objectives of the designation; • do not seek to impose a blanket ban on sporting activities within designated areas; • allow for the development of ancillary facilities for sport where there is a clear demand and where they do not compromise the reason for the designation; • encourage the reuse of existing buildings within these areas for sporting purposes; and • seek equivalent replacement sites where places for sport are lost as a result of irreconcilable conflict.
<p>Locally designated areas</p> <p>These include local landscape designations such as Areas of Great Landscape Value and Special Landscape Areas, green gaps or wedges, and local nature conservation designations. Many development plans include local non-statutory designation, notwithstanding the advice contained in PPS7. These areas may, however, offer locations for sport, especially those activities displaced from, or not acceptable within, nationally designated areas, as well as offering local opportunities. Frequently, development plans use non-statutory designations to create another layer of exclusion of sporting use.</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 19: To promote policies which protect and enhance existing, and provide new, places for sport outside nationally designated areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protect and enhance existing places for sport and access to them in locally designated areas; • promote access to new places for sport within locally designated areas where the scale and nature of activity is compatible with the objectives of the designation; • do not seek to impose a blanket ban on sporting activities within locally designated areas; • allow for the development of ancillary facilities for sport where there is a clear demand and where they do not compromise the reason for the designation; and • encourage the re-use of existing buildings within these areas for sporting purposes.

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<p>Floodlighting</p> <p>Floodlighting is now an integral part of many sports facilities, particularly hard-surfaced areas such as synthetic turf pitches and tennis courts, and practice facilities such as golf driving ranges. Floodlighting and the intensification of use it can bring can, however, be intrusive in some locations. This can be an issue in both urban and rural areas.</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 20: To support the installation of floodlighting of sports facilities where this will lead to a significant increase in opportunities for sport.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> allow for the installation of floodlighting of sports facilities where it will lead to a significant increase in the opportunities for sport; are not overly-restrictive in relation to hours of use; and take account of the need to protect residential amenity by seeking to minimise the impact of light pollution from lighting systems through sensitive siting and design, and of the intensification of use.
<p>Synthetic turf pitches and Multi-Use Games Areas</p> <p>Full size synthetic turf pitches (STPs) and their smaller counterparts multi-use games areas (MUGAs) can accommodate higher levels of use than the equivalent area of natural grass, the only constraint being the time available. This quality, along with the consistent surface, makes them ideal facilities for intensive play and for coaching purposes. Because of the extended periods of activity possible, the use of floodlighting and the numbers of users these facilities can accommodate, particular care must be taken in choosing a location.</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 21: To support the development for sporting use of floodlit synthetic turf pitches and hard-surfaced multi-use games areas as an integral part of community sports provision.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> recognise the value of STPs and MUGAs in areas where there is a limited number of natural turf pitches available; ensure that there is a range of different types of STP's to meet the needs of a range of sports; encourage facilities in locations which are accessible to the catchment population, giving priority to access by walking, cycling and public transport and which take account of the need to protect residential amenity by seeking to minimise the disturbance; and encourage new provision on educational sites with community access.
<p>Stadia</p> <p>In view of the scale of the development and the issues involved, it is important that local planning authorities provide clear guidance in development plans on both the need for new stadia and the locational criteria which will be used to guide prospective developers. Where relocation is the aim, consideration should be given to the potential to reuse derelict or reclaimed land and the proximity of any site to the traditional catchment area of the user(s).</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 22: To support a strategic approach to the identification of need for stadia and site selection so that any new developments can be achieved in a way which meets sustainable development objectives. To encourage, where possible, a contribution towards urban regeneration objectives and the provision of community benefits.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify the need for new stadia based on a strategic assessment; seek to identify and allocate sites where the relocation of a facility is required, based on a framework of locational criteria including access to public transport, availability of alternative sites and minimisation of both environmental impacts and impacts on neighbouring uses; and encourage provision of community sports facilities as part of proposals for new stadia.
<p>Golf facilities</p> <p>A considerable number of new golf courses were built in the 1980s and early 1990s in response to a perceived demand for additional facilities. Although the rate of development has slowed down considerably in recent years, there remains</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 23: To support the development in appropriate locations of additional facilities for golf which meet an identified need and in particular encourage the provision of 'pay and play' facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify the need for new golf facilities taking into account the supply of existing facilities, demand based on participation rates, and an analysis of the catchment areas of existing facilities. The onus will be on applicants to demonstrate need in accordance with the strategies of Sport England and the governing bodies of golf; allocate sites or identify criteria for the

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<p>a steady throughput of golf-related proposals in the planning system.</p>		<p>location of new golf courses and driving ranges in appropriate locations near to potential users, taking into account issues of accessibility, especially by public transport, opportunities to reuse existing buildings, the potential to enhance areas of degraded landscape, and effect on neighbours;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seek to minimise the environmental impacts of golf developments, particularly in nationally designated areas of nature conservation or landscape value and areas of the best and most versatile agricultural land; and • encourage community access to existing and new facilities.
<p>Noise-generating sports</p> <p>A number of sports, including shooting, motorsports, powered air sports, water skiing and the use of personal water craft can generate levels of noise which, in certain locations, may be intrusive and disturbing to people and wildlife. However, great strides have been taken to minimise noise through noise attenuation techniques. Like all sports which rely on access to extensive areas of land or water, these activities are under considerable pressure from other forms of development (encroaching or reusing the site) and from environmental interests (wanting the cessation of activities).</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 24: To support the provision of opportunities for motorised sports and gun sports (clay pigeon shooting and target sports) in appropriate locations and to seek to ensure that proper consideration is given to such development in land use development plans.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify and allocate sites for noise-generating sports in locations where their environmental impact can be minimised; • use a sound assessment of the adequacy of existing sites and the demand for new and extended ones; • include positively worded criteria for site selection rather than operate a general presumption against development; • seek to ensure that proposals will minimise conflicts with other users and interests; and • seek to utilise, wherever possible, existing degraded or brownfield sites where the environmental impact is minimised.
<p>Watersports</p> <p>Participation in water-based sports has increased steadily in recent years with newer activities, such as the use of personal water craft (jet skis), adding to the demand. The increasing number of national nature conservation and landscape designations has increased the potential for conflict between sport and environmental interests. Conflicts may also arise between different sports.</p>	<p>PLANNING POLICY OBJECTIVE 25: To protect, improve, and bring into use new resources for water-based sport. To reduce potential conflicts between the sports use and the environment and between different users through good management practice and by the use of codes of conduct.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seek to protect appropriate water resources, and access to them, for sport, taking account of the need to avoid overcrowding and of access across land; • resist developments that would have an adverse effect on the sporting potential of inland waters and the coast; • promote the use of appropriate water resources for sport activities whilst taking account of nature conservation interests; • allow for the provision of ancillary facilities for example boathouses and slipways where there is an identified need, subject to nature conservation interests; • seek to bring into sporting use formerly redundant water bodies and identify opportunities to make best sporting use of newly created water bodies; and

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• seek management solutions to conflicts between sport and nature conservation interests and between different sports.