

BACKGROUND

SWIMMING

Current provision of public swimming pools

Oasis	Leisure pool with flumes
Link	25m x 6 lanes
Dorcan	20m x 4 lanes
Health Hydro	33m x 6 lanes
	20m learning pool
The Rec	25m x 6 lanes summer only
Wroughton	25m x 4 lanes
Moredon	15m x 3 lanes currently closed

Sports Strategy Consultation:

Quite strong lobby for a 50m pool in the town.

Justification in terms of competitive swimming that a) excellence level training now is hampered if not in a 50m pool, b) qualifications times now must be gained in a 25m or 50 m pool and c) the best swimmers are now beginning to leave Swindon clubs to join Bath where they have regularly access to the 50m pool.

Feeling from non-competitive swimmers that other towns are moving to 50m pools – as usual Swindon is thinking small!

Amateur Swimming Association

Regional office would support a 50m pool in Swindon. However, it is questionable whether Swindon would be successful in a lottery bid due to the ASA national policy.

National ASA Facility Policy

The ASA want pools which are:

- Available to the community and not restricted through an exclusive membership or pricing policy
- Accessible, sited in locations convenient to users
- Well designed, constructed to a high standard and meeting the special needs of those with disabilities
- Flexible, to allow for effective programming
- Sustainable with pools responsive to environmental issues
- Cost efficient

Facility requirements for teaching:

- Every primary school in England is within 20 minutes travel time of access to indoor, shallow, warm water for teaching; Highworth?
- That within every local authority area there is a network of facilities which provide shallow water for teaching;
- All applications to the Lottery Sports Fund to refurbish existing or develop new swimming pools, where appropriate, provide shallow water for teaching
- A network of ASA teaching centres delivering tutor, coach and teacher training desirably through residential schools.

Facility requirements for development

- The swimming clubs in any local authority area have agreed access to 25 m pools at appropriate times
- That within every local authority area there is at least on 25m x 6 lane pool with timing equipment and adequate accommodation for competitors and spectators capable of staging local galas and events
- That within every English county and major conurbation there is at least on 25m x 8 lane pool with timing equipment and accommodation for competitors and spectators capable of staging county galas and league events. None in Wiltshire

Competition Pools

The ASA feels that the needs of the limited number of national and international events held in England each year can be satisfied through the existing stock of 50m pools.

In terms of district and regional competitions they suggest each ESC region should have at least one 8 lane 50m and one 8 lane 25m competition pool with seating for 500+ and say that, ideally, in terms of new build they should be one and the same. Bath has the only 50m pool.

Training Facilities

The main requirements is for “adequate” access to 25 and 50m pools for training. The minimum width requirements for a training tank is 6 lanes.

Diving

Teaching Depth of at least 1.8m

Development Requirement for a pool in each local authority area which has a minimum of a 1m springboard and preferably a 3m board. In each County there should be at least 1,3 and 5m platforms and 1 and 3m springboards.

Synchronized Swimming

Teaching water at least 1m in depth

Development water at least 1.8 – 2.5m in depth

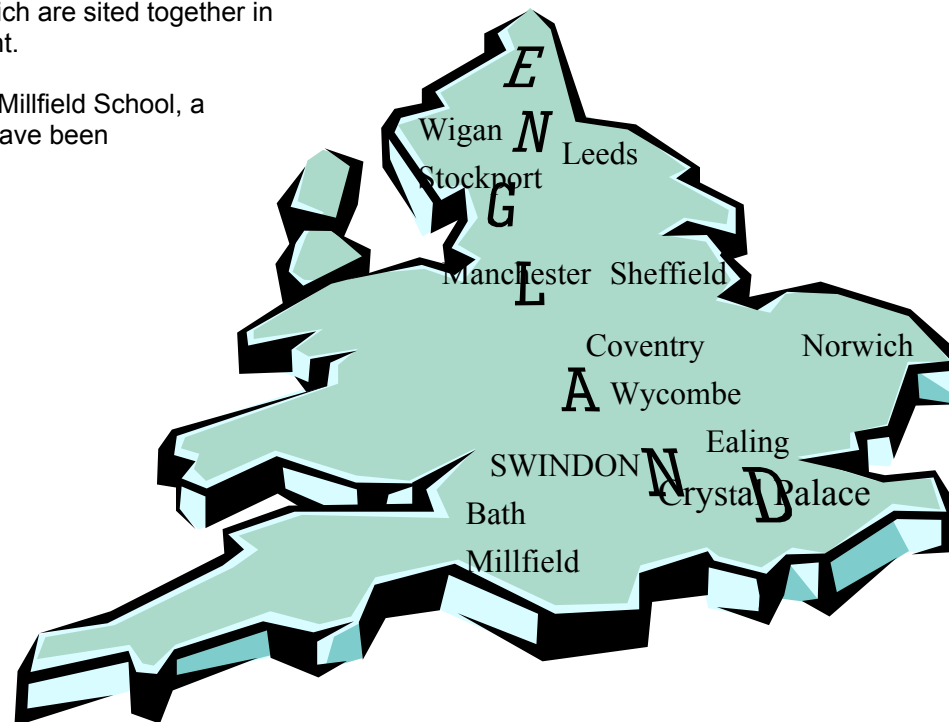
Water Polo

Minimum depth of 1.8m

50m Pools in England

There are currently 12 50m pools in England, two of which are sited together in Manchester. One more is in the process of development.

Pools in the south are Crystal Palace, Ealing, Bath and Millfield School, a further pool is being developed at Swansea and plans have been mooted for one in Bristol.



Facilities Planning Model

The Facilities Planning Model, Sport England's planning tool, identified in November 2000 a need for additional pool space by 2011, particularly in North Swindon.

Since this report was published the New College 17m x 3 lane pool has closed, creating a current water space shortfall.

The future of current facilities?

Oasis

There is a current recommendation to review the future of the Oasis and Link centre's.

Leisure pool is still very popular but no longer at the leading edge in leisure pool provision. If kept there is a need for new features to be installed.

Dome likely to require replacement in the short to medium term.

Possibility of partnership with University of Bath in development of current or new facility?

Possibility of flagship development at part of the town centre regeneration?

Possible resiting to allow for site development by University of Bath?

Link

Good quality pool, popular with swimming clubs.

Insufficient spectator seating for competition.

Possible relocation of centre with Oasis to one large facility?

Health Hydro

Currently home to a large % of schools swimming lessons. Also home to swimming clubs every evening.

Minimal casual swimming.

33m pool, no longer acceptable by ASA standards, only possibility to install boom – previous lottery bid failed.

Protected building.

Possible future as a residential and casual use Hydro, perhaps in partnership with a hotel chain? Fill in large pool and develop area as a top quality gym and fitness facility. Increase depth of small pool and connect to refurbished Turkish baths. Rationalise and modernise the natural health clinic and develop the rest of the building for residents. Move lessons and clubs to new pool.

Dorcan

Successful schools swimming lesson centre

Good neighbourhood pool for casual and target group swimming.

In need of major refurbishment

The Rec

Well used, popular community facility.

Good diving facility but does not meet Governing body specifications

Open air, therefore only open in summer.

Need for refurbishment, particularly changing and pool plant

Unsuccessful lottery bid to redevelop as indoor pool.

Aim remains to provide indoor pool.

Wroughton

Good pool with springboard facility.

Managed by Ridgeway school with casual and club use.

Hreod Parkway Small school pool, currently closed. Poor access
 Could be lost when Hreod Parkway is redeveloped.

SPORTS HALLS

Current provision of public access sports halls

Croft Sports Centre	5	badminton court
Dorcan	4	- " -
Haydon	4	- " -
The Rec	4	- " -
Hreod Parkway School	4	- " -
Link Centre	8	- " -
Oasis	8	- " -
Park Youth & Community	4	- " -
Pinehurst Sports Centre	4	- " -
Grange Drive Sports Centre	4	- " -
Ridgeway Sports Centre	5	- " -

Sports Strategy Consultation

Local sports clubs and governing bodies identified unmet demand for further sports hall space and in particular that for sprung floor halls. Sports represented were: badminton, netball, basketball, fencing, table tennis, trampoline, cricket

It was felt that there was a lack of large hall space with spectator facilities for competitions, possibility of a multi use arena.

Facilities Planning Model

In terms of location and capacity, the existing supply of sports halls can meet most of the existing demand. The total amount of unmet demand equates to about 0.5 of a four badminton court size sports hall.

Additional demand created in the period to 2011 is estimated to be equivalent to 0.7 of a four badminton court size sports hall. Additionally proposed new housing development to 2011 could generate the equivalent of a further 2.2 four badminton court size sports halls.

A total of an additional 3.4 four badminton court size sports halls, of which at least 0.7 should be in the south and 1.4 in the north.

The future of the current facilities?

Croft Sports Centre	Good community sports hall. Could be developed to meet the expressed need for a specialist youth sports centre?
Dorcan	Well maintained good school and community sports hall Possibility to enlarge to create a viable indoor competition facility?
Haydon	Maintain good community sports hall
The Rec	Maintain good school and community sports hall
Hreod Parkway School	Replacement of current “tired” sports hall as part of school redevelopment?
Link Centre	Possible relocation of centre with Oasis to one large facility? Good sports hall well used by casual and club users.

	Hall also doubles as event venue for sporting competition, exhibitions, hospitality etc
Oasis	There is a current recommendation to review the future of the Oasis and Link centre's.
	Possibility of partnership with University of Bath in development of current or new facility?
	Possibility of flagship development at part of the town centre regeneration?
	Possible resiting to allow for site development by University of Bath?
	Good sports hall well used by casual and club users.
	Hall also doubles as event venue for exhibitions, concerts, hospitality etc
Park Youth & Community	Possible redevelopment in partnership with University of Bath?
Pinehurst Sports Centre	Maintain good community sports hall
Grange Drive Sports Centre	Maintain good community sports hall
Ridgeway Sports Centre	Maintain good school and community sports hall

SPORTS PITCHES

Current provision of sports pitches with secured community use

County Ground Complex	2 adult football	Croft	2 adult football
Lydiard Park	4 adult football		2 mini football
	1 cricket		1 rugby
Moredon Playing Fields	4 adult football	Pembroke Gardens	2 adult football
	2 cricket	Southbrook Rec	2 adult football
Mannington Rec	9 adult football	Penhill	7 adult football
	1 cricket		2 cricket
The Cricket Ground	1 cricket	Shrewsbury Road, Walcot	4 adult football
Spring Gardens	1 junior football		1 cricket
Pinehurst Sports Centre	3 adult football	Chiseldon Rec	2 adult football
Greenbridge Road, Dorcan	3 junior football	Grange Drive	1 adult football
Meadowcroft	2 junior football	South Marston	2 adult football
Hoopers Field	2 adult football		1 junior football
Hoopers Field cont'd	1 cricket		1 cricket
	1 hockey	Liddington	1 junior football
Belmont Farm, Wroughton	1 junior football	Maunsell Way, Wroughton	1 adult football
Blunsdon	1 adult football		1 junior football
	1 junior football	Elms Extension, Highworth	3 junior football
	1 cricket	Ellms Rec	1 adult football
Weir Field, wroughton	1 adult football		1 cricket
	1 rugby	Crosslink	2 adult football
Allied Dunbar, Wanborough	12 adult football		1 cricket
	2 cricket	Nationwide	1 adult football
	1 hockey		1 cricket
Supermarine	4 adult football		1 rugby
	3 adult rugby	Bishopstone	1 adult football
	3 junior rugby		1 junior football
BR	1 adult football	NALGO	1 adult football
Burderop Park	1 adult football		1 cricket
	1 cricket	Swindon Rugby Club	2 rugby
Gas Club	1 adult football		

Playing Pitch Assessment Key Issues and Future Priorities

Necessity of protecting all existing areas of playing pitch land and open space in public, private and educational ownership.

Current	shortfall of 16.9 junior football pitches surplus of 28.9 adult football pitches surplus of 8 cricket pitches shortfall of 3 adult rugby pitches shortfall of 10.5 junior rugby pitches shortfall of 8.5 hockey pitches	2011	requirement for additional 5 surplus reduces to 17 requirement to retain all pitches requirement for 17 more pitches requirement for 2 more pitches requirement for 3 STP's
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Issues raised regarding enhancement of SBC Facilities

Mannington Recreation Ground	Charges, Quality of grass pitches, changing rooms, showers and toilets
County Ground	Facilities for disabled, ease of booking, changing rooms, parking
Lydiard Park	Changing rooms, showers / toilets, parking
Pembroke Gardens	Quality of maintenance, changing rooms, showers / toilets

Acquire agreement of community use of further school and private facilities.

The future of current facilities

All current SBC owned football pitches are well used and at times, particularly after bad weather when games have been postponed, over subscribed. There is, therefore, no plan to delete any facilities. However, should the opportunity arise to provide new football pitches it would prove a long term maintenance benefit to replace and then remove the pitches (9) at Mannington Rec which are not good quality and prove expensive to maintain.