

Warwick District Council – Athletics Provision Needs Assessment Report

December 2014



*Neil Allen Associates Registered Office:
20 Brook Road, Lymm, Cheshire, WA139AH
A limited company, registered in
England and Wales no. 616528*



Athletics Needs Assessment Report

Introduction

Warwick Council currently owns an 8-lane athletics track at Edmondscote, but it is old and poorly located, lacks parking and has other issues, which impact on its long-term 'fitness for purpose'. There is a potential opportunity to vacate the current site and potentially move to one of two sites being developed:

- Myton School / Sports Hub
- Kenilworth School

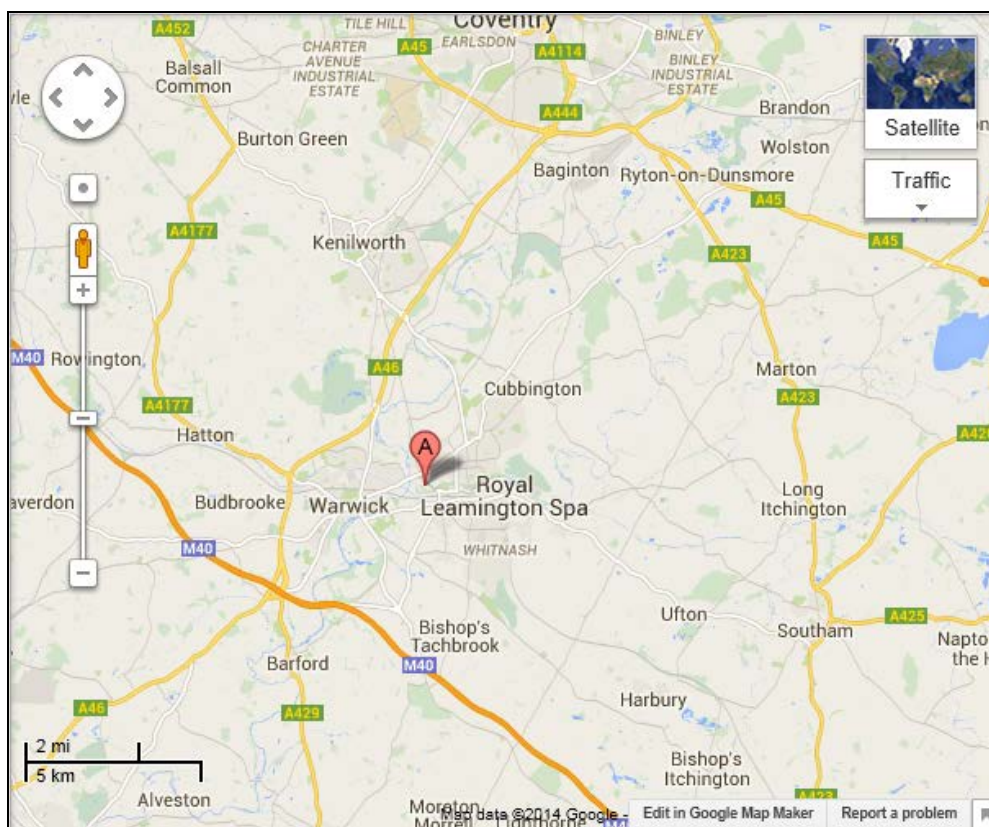
It should be noted that at this stage these developments are at a very early stage and no decision has been made about the future of Edmondscote. This report sets out the current issues with the track provides an evidence base to help the future decision making process.

The authority is committed to re-provision, but it will have to make a case, and the report considers a number of strategic issues and assesses whether the potential alternative sites are better located to meet the needs of athletics in the area in the long-term.

The report utilises the tools available from Sport England, consultation and makes recommendations in the conclusion.

Description of Edmondscote Track

Edmondscote track is a synthetic, 400m, 8-lanes, 10-lane straight track, located in Leamington Spa. The facility hosts events up to regional level. The track boasts an eight-lane circuit and a ten lane home straight, full floodlighting, PA system, changing and shower facilities.



Location of Edmondscote Track, Leamington Spa



The track is described as follows in the UK Running Track Directory (copyright Tim Grose), though this was last updated in 2004 and may not reflect the current situation:

'The track was originally cinder and opened on 30th May 1964 and was upgraded to synthetic in 1987 with 7 lanes all round an 8-lane home straight. It is set in a very pleasant location with trees surrounding most of the track. The two uncovered stands are quite old and some seats are missing. The track surface is relatively smooth and considered by some to be in need of replacing. In 2003 the track was resurfaced and converted to 8 lanes all round with a 10 lane home straight. Further, the old LJ runways on the infield have been filled in, and a new double LJ runway has been built adjacent but outside the home straight.'

The track is still the home base of Leamington Cycling and Athletics Club, and hosted one meeting of the Midlands Track and Field League in 2014.

The problems with the current track include:

- **Location / access & parking** – use is now outstripping supply of parking, especially during poor weather when parking on grass is problematic, the residential location and narrow access roads pose problems for peak numbers and coach access (and always have)
- **Deterioration of the running surface and foundations of track and jump run ups** – recent wet seasons / wet winters and frosts have caused the artificial surfaces to delaminate and the foundations to crumble. Full repair costs now run into tens of thousands to repair properly, so currently having to make do with patch repairs to the surfaces only
- **Subsidence / ground shift along back straight by river** – wet / dry periods against the river have led to ground movement which is repeatedly causing cracks to appear in the back straight. These are both dangerous and costly to repair
- **Limited club facilities / changing** – on busy days there is insufficient changing, the club area is too small, we are unable to accommodate the other clubs which also use the track with any accommodation, leading to requests for huts / sheds / containers to be installed
- No covered straight for winter sprint training.

The Council feel the combination of the above deficiencies makes it difficult to consider any significant long-term investment of the current track in its current location (which will be required in the near future), particularly when there could be alternative multi-sport locations which could be more suitable. The Council do not believe retaining the track in its current location is a viable option.

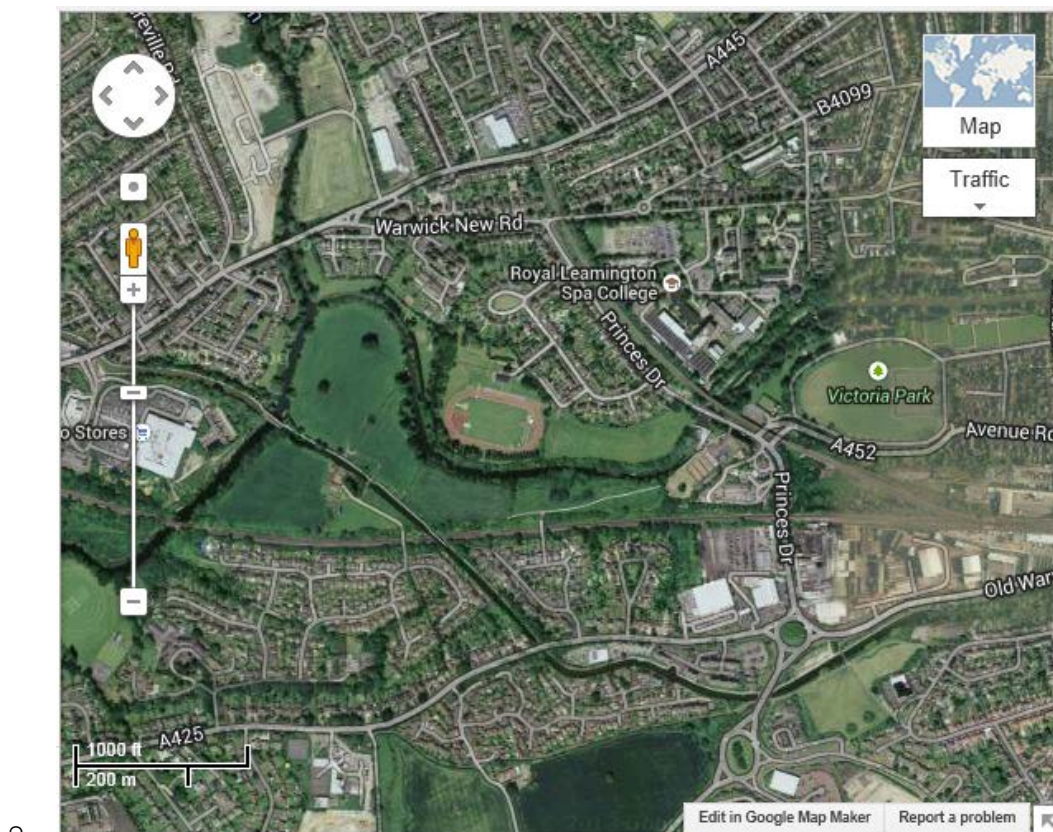
Consultation with clubs also provided views on the quality of the site. Spa Striders commented:

'Edmondscote is showing signs of its age. There is general wear and tear both on the track itself and in other areas such as the changing rooms and toilets. The track is patched up in places. There are ongoing usability issues caused by surrounding trees being dangerous (shedding leaves and branches, making the track surface slippery at times). There is a lack of accessible hard surface parking. There is no social provision, or access to complementary sports or services (e.g.: cycling, gym, swimming pool) that we feel our members would use and support.'

Leamington Cycling and Athletics Club also provided views on the current site:

- *'Edmondscote is in a convenient location. The track is generally well maintained. However, the rest of the facility is increasingly unsuitable for the demands placed upon it. This limits our ability as a Club to develop, expand and operate as an effective modern athletics club.'*
- *The track has an all-weather surface but even so it is safer, more effective and a lot more comfortable for some athletes to train indoors during the winter. We enter an indoor "Sportshall League" but cannot compete at home and always have to travel making it very difficult for us to encourage schools to participate in indoor athletics during the winter.'*
- *At Edmondscote the track is accessible but opportunities are very limited for disabled athletes to use all the facilities.'*
- *Limited facilities for strength and conditioning work. Very basic facilities for the assessment and treatment of sports injuries.'*
- *At weekends the track is only open on Sunday mornings which restricts training opportunities'*
- *Social facilities are extremely limited and nowhere near capable of supporting the number of users at the track. This is a major hindrance for us. In addition, as a single sport site, there are no opportunities to mix with like minded participants from other sports.'*
- *For six months of the year the track is open during daylight hours, but not staffed which leaves us open to the risk of theft and vandalism. Its remote position also exposes us to the same risk once the facility is closed. In recent years this has proven to be an expensive problem.'*
- *For the six months of the year when an attendant is present during the day, use of the track is low. This is an inefficient use of resources.'*
- *There are a number of maintenance problems which can probably only be solved with significant investment:*
 - *There is an on-going drainage issue which undermines the long jump runways which in turn has led to the need for several re-installations.'*
 - *Car parking is almost entirely on grass which for periods of the year is not usable because cars sink into it and become stuck. There are just five hard surface parking space, three of which are disabled spaces.'*
 - *The floodlights are near to end of their effective life.'*
 - *The throws cage footings are in need of replacement.'*
 - *The trees around the track are past their average life span and have started to fall. They need expensive preventive treatment.'*
 - *The track surface on the back straight has broken down twice due to, we suspect, an on-going subsidence problem which may be connected to the trees issue.'*
 - *Problems caused by the new roof at the clubhouse due to inadequate guttering.'*

What appears evident is that the track requires significant investment and is currently holding back growth in athletics development. A condition survey report (which can be viewed separately) relating to UK Athletics certification recommended a large number of improvements and classified the facility as B (on a range of A-C). However what seems equally apparent is that even with investment the current site has some inherent deficiencies which investment may not be able to overcome.



Aerial Photo of the Track and Surroundings

Supply and Demand Analysis

Quality

The Active Places Power database suggests that the track was originally built in 1964 and refurbished in 2003, so is over 50 years-old. The Council's and clubs views on the current quality of the site are set out in the previous pages. In short there is recurring deterioration of the ground conditions and ongoing patch up work on the track and long jump run ups. Floodlights are at the end of their life and will need re-investment in the medium term. Club facilities are pretty limited and struggle to support the ambitions of Leamington Cycling and Athletics Club and other local clubs. Car parking facilities are slim to none, with nearly all parking provision being on grass which gets very tricky in the winter months.

The view of the Council and clubs as set out above is that Edmondscote is approaching the end of its useful life, investment at the current site due to many inherent problems would not present 'value for money' and alternative locations should be considered. The need to provide for a replacement facility is set out in the following sections.

Quantity

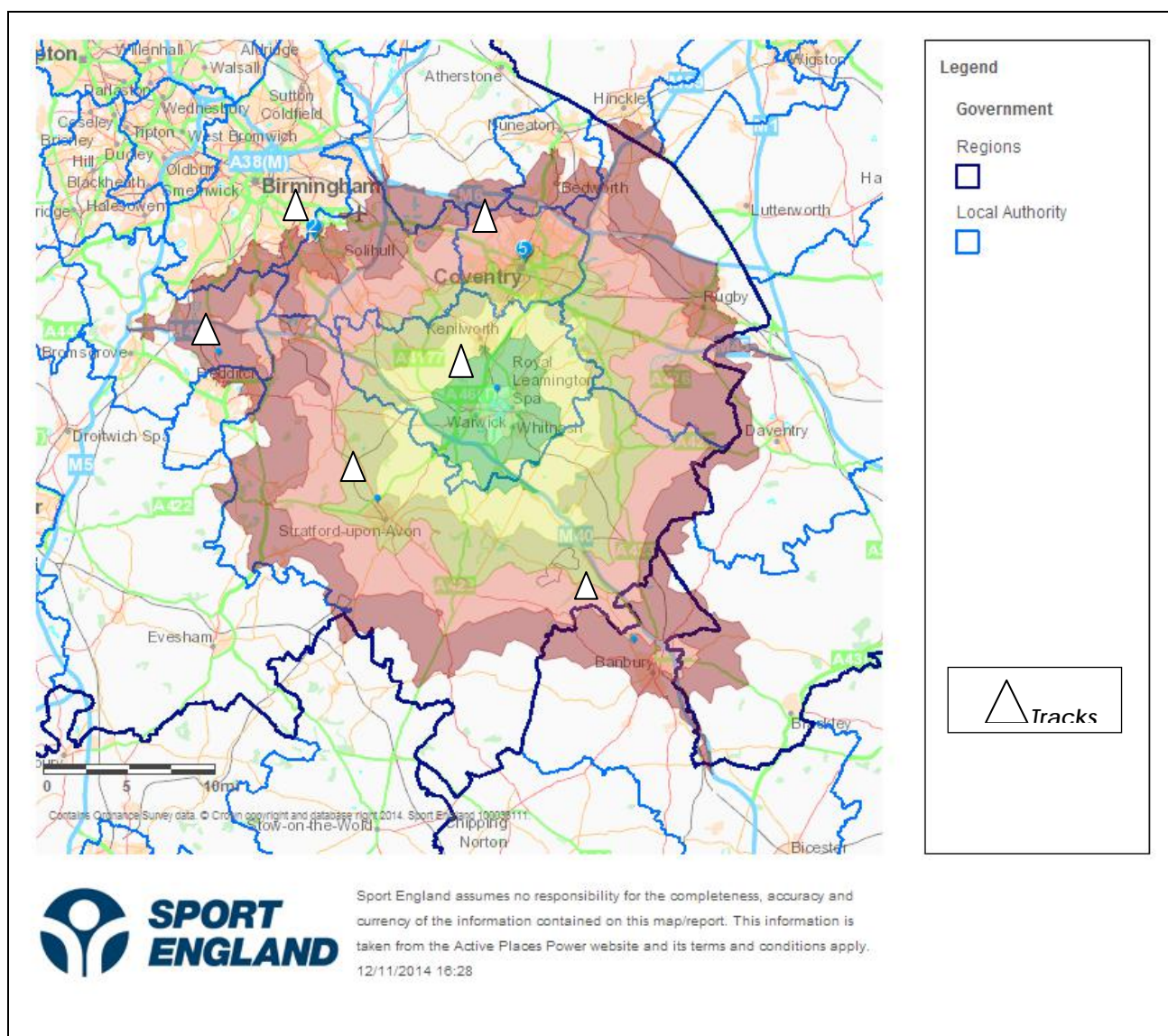
Edmondscote is the only existing track in Warwick as detailed below from the Active Places database.

Site Name	Facility Type	Lanes	Access	Ownership/management	Year Built/refurb
EDMONDSCOTE TRACK	Synthetic	8	Pay and Play	Local Authority/in house	1964/2003

However, there are a number of synthetic tracks within a 30 minute driving catchment of the Edmondscote track as follows:

Site Name	Facility Type	Lanes	Access Type	Ownership/management	Year Built/refurb	Range (mins)	LA Name
STRATFORD UPON AVON SCHOOL COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE	Synthetic	6	Pay and Play	Academies/in house	2004	15-20	Stratford-on-Avon
UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK (WESTWOOD CAMPUS)	Synthetic	8	Pay and Play	Higher Education Institutions/in house	1971/2005	15-20	Coventry
WHITLEY ABBEY BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE COLLEGE	Synthetic	6	Private Use	Community school/in house	2000	15-20	Coventry
BISHOP ULLATHORNE CATHOLIC SCHOOL	Cinder	6	Private Use	Voluntary Aided School/in house	1953	15-20	Coventry
LYNG HALL SCHOOL SPORTS CENTRE	Synthetic	6	Pay and Play	Community school/in house	2006	20-25	Coventry
ABBAY STADIUM SPORTS CENTRE	Synthetic	8	Pay and Play	Local Authority/in house	1982/2006	25-30	Redditch
DRAYTON PAVILION	Synthetic	8	Pay and Play	Local Authority/in house	1998/2011	25-30	Cherwell
FOX HOLLIES LEISURE CENTRE	Synthetic	6	Pay and Play	Local Authority/in house	1982/2013	25-30	Birmingham
TUDOR GRANGE LEISURE CENTRE	Synthetic	8	Pay and Play	Local Authority/in house	1985/2001	25-30	Solihull
PRESIDENT KENNEDY SCHOOL & COLLEGE	Cinder	7	Pay and Play	Academies/in house	1965	25-30	Coventry

There are therefore 4 further tracks within a 20-minute drive (albeit that 2 are in private use and one is cinder based). In addition, there are six further tracks within 20-30 minutes drive, including 1 cinder. All other tracks in the immediate area are 6-8 lanes in size.



Accessibility

In terms of relative supply the following table shows the available synthetic athletics facilities (excluding tracks only used privately) in lanes per 1000 population for a variety of other local, regional and national areas. Local provision in Warwick is above the regional and national average, but this statistic is skewed by the fact that one track in a relatively small district tends to over-record. All neighbouring districts/boroughs have worse provision, except Solihull. The 30-minute catchment around Edmondscote has even better provision, although only two tracks are within a 20-minute drive.

Warwick would require only a 4-lane track to meet regional and national average provision levels based on Active Places analysis as set out overleaf.

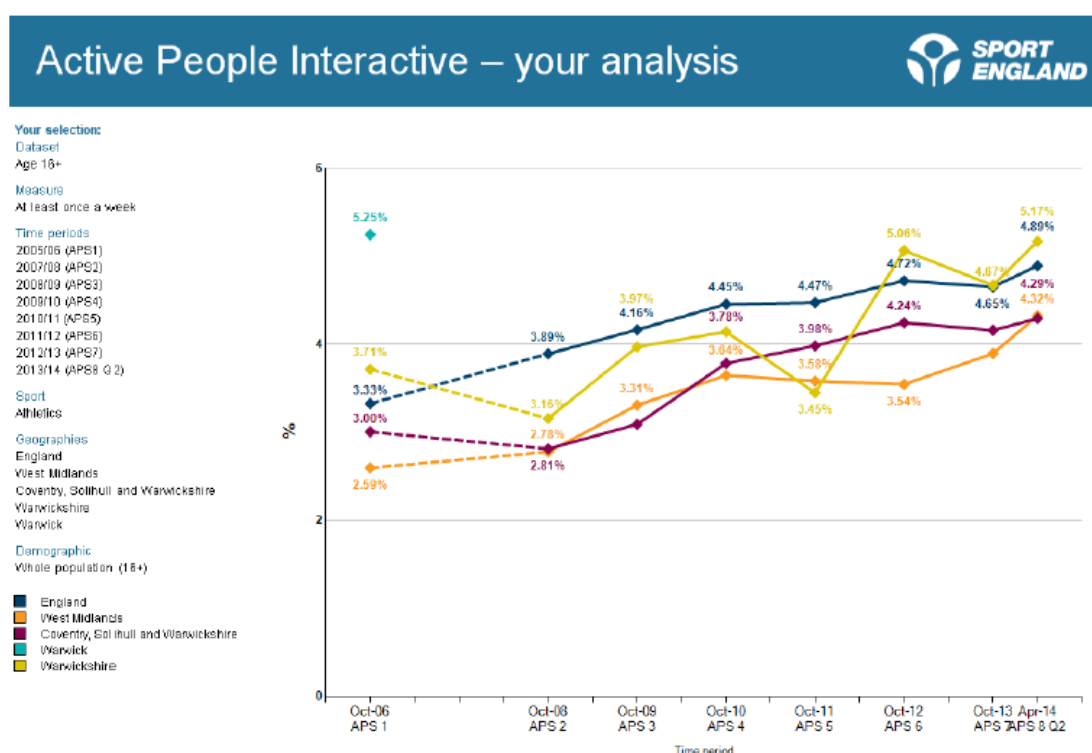
	Population	Tracks	Lanes	Lanes per 1000
Warwick	140,615	1	8	0.057
Coventry	333,088	2	14	0.042
Rugby	103,802	0	0	0
Stratford u Avon	124,164	1	6	0.048
Solihull	210,898	2	16	0.76
30 min catchment	923,881	8	58	0.063
CSP	-	7	52	-
Warks	559,109	3	22	0.039
West Midlands	5,726,783	28	208	0.036
England	54,472,081	238	1683	0.031

If Edmondscote were to close down and not be replaced, the ratio of tracks in the 30-minute catchment would fall to 0.054 per 1000, still well above average, but only two tracks would be within a 20-minute drive of the existing facility.

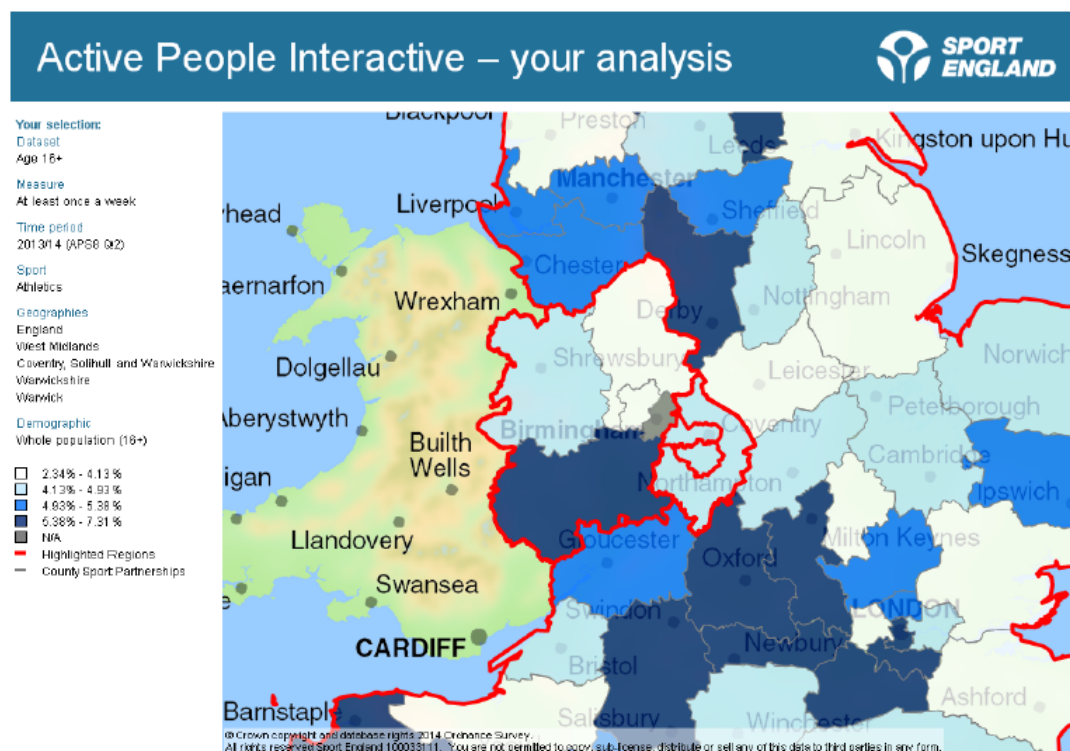
Considering supply only therefore, the loss of the track at Edmondscote would reveal a gap in provision in the Warwick area, unless it was replaced nearby serving a similar catchment.

Demand

Annual data from Sport England's Active People Survey are available from 2006 to the present (although the latest APS8 figures relate only to a six month period), showing participation in athletics across different geographical areas. The local data for Warwick District only relates to AP1.



Trends in athletics participation across all areas are on an upward trend from 2.5-3.5% of the adult population in 2006 to 4.3-5.5% in 2012. The most local data available, for Warwickshire and the CSP, are below the national average, but still on the rise. In the absence of local data for Warwick itself after 2006, it is unsafe to assume that participation rates in the district are still above the average as they were in 2006. It is estimated that based on the county and CSP participation figures and the current 16+ population of Warwick (109,600), there are up to 5000 adults in the district taking part in athletics (which includes jogging and similar activities). Reliance on the only data for the district would add a further 750-1000 to this figure. The map below shows Warwick participation in the context of surrounding areas – higher than the areas to the north but lower to most LAs immediately to the south (this data is for APS8 which as suggested above is only based on a 6 month period).



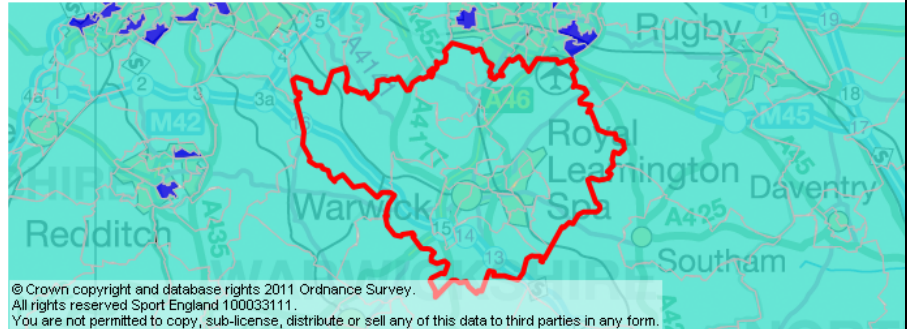
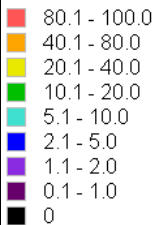
Sport England's Market Segmentation (MS) data suggest that between 5 and 10% of local adult residents might currently be participating in athletics (nearly 8000 individuals) in Warwick. This is in excess of the APS data above. This proportion varies little within the district. The main three segments (Ben, Chloe and Tim) represented in the district are all active in athletics above the national average.

Percentage of population participating in: Athletics



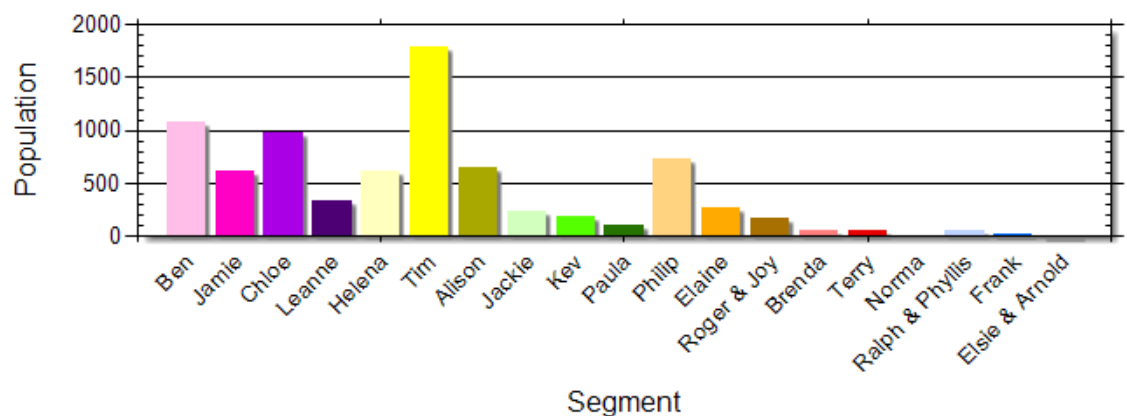
Catchment area:
Warwick District

Percentage colour key:



— Catchment area
— Middle Super Output Areas

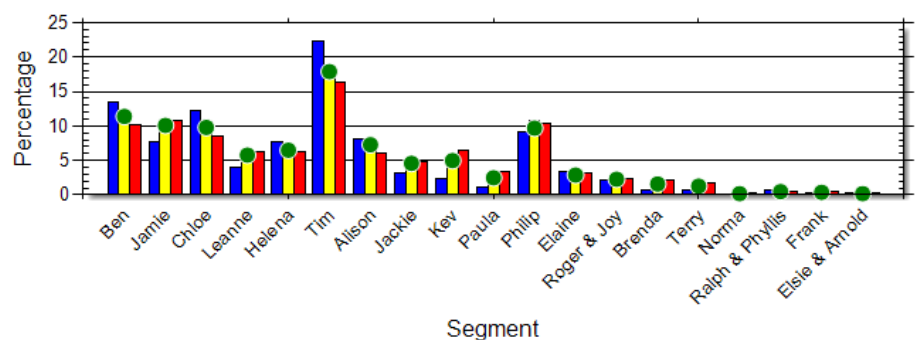
Population within catchment area participating in: Athletics



Population within catchment area participating in: Athletics



Catchment area:
Warwick District



MS suggests that there might be an additional 3250 adults who might wish to take up athletics. There is therefore a potential future demand for an additional 40% increase in activity, based on the profile of the district and the aspirations of the population, though the usual reservations about the use of this MS data must be applied.

Overall demand can be assessed as buoyant, probably at or around the national average and increasing in line with other areas. Future demand will depend on population increase and development initiatives undertaken by clubs, LA and NGBs and no data was researched for demand in the future.

Local Demand from Clubs

As part of the analysis consultation has been undertaken with a number of clubs including Leamington Cycling and Athletics Club, Spa Striders and Kenilworth Runners.

Comments from the clubs are set out below.

Leamington Cycling and Athletics Club

The Club prepared a comprehensive response which is attached as an appendix to this document and are keen to be included in discussions going forward. In conclusion the club commented:

'Leamington C&AC welcomes the development of a multi-sports complex within Warwick District. We see it as a once in a generation opportunity to develop facilities expected by 21 century sports participants and looks forward to being an active partner in its development.

We favour a move from the Edmondscote track to a complex at Myton as this is located closer to the District's population concentration than Kenilworth.

With use of the track increasing we feel there is a good case for both indoor and outdoor athletics facilities being provided. It will be more cost effective to develop high quality clubhouse and other facilities at a multi-sport complex rather than channel funds into improving Edmondscote for athletics only.

We feel there is a compelling case for including a cycling circuit in the complex as the sport is highly popular and is not catered for in the District at present.

These developments would enable the Club to develop and expand to capitalise on both the increased interest in running, cycling and athletics that already exists in the area (as demonstrated by the success of the Parkrun initiative), and the increased demand that will arise from housing developments over the next ten years.'

Spa Striders

The Club prepared a comprehensive response which is attached as an appendix to this document and are keen to be included in discussions going forward. In conclusion the club commented:

'We would welcome either a new facility in a similarly convenient location, or substantial investment into Edmondscote. If Edmondscote could not be upgraded to provide suitable, modern facilities, or it was uneconomical to do so, then Spa Striders would support relocation.

We would wish any new athletics track to be located in Warwick or Leamington so that it is easily accessible to our members, most of whom live in this area. There is a direct correlation between convenience and usage

Warwick and Leamington are sufficiently close as to have a large, joint conurbation. We understand that the area of Myton Road, Warwick is a possibility, which seems a natural fit with where Warwick District Council has approved the growth of housing and supporting services '

Kenilworth Runners

'Whilst we have a fondness for the track at Edmondscote, we do share the feeling that the place feels a little 'down at heel'

We would not have issues with a move & we would be hugely welcoming of a track incorporated into the new campus at Kenilworth School. It is something we, as a club, would support very enthusiastically

To have a track available to school pupils during the day & the wider community outside school hours is an obvious model which already functions well with the astroturf facility at the current Kenilworth School site at Leyes Lane.'

All the clubs acknowledge the poor condition of Edmondscote (set out previously) and the need for investment. If the facility cannot be upgraded they are happy to look to re-locate and seek to replicate and if possible, enhance the current facilities at any alternative location, particularly in terms of support facilities and particularly indoor provision. Leamington 365 another growing club have also had recent discussions about the need for indoor training facilities at Edmondscote.

There is a difference of opinion in terms of location depending on where the club are from. All clubs are keen to be involved in future discussions regarding Edmondscote.

Governing Body Guidance

UK Athletics, the sport's governing body, produced Athletics Facilities Planning and Delivery 2007 – 2012 to guide facility provision up to and after the 2012 Olympics. The criteria for new projects sought to ensure a hierarchy of provision for competition and training purposes for both outdoor and indoor facilities. The firm, but not strict, criteria for the provision of outdoor facilities were:

- One outdoor synthetic track (6 or 8 lanes) per 250,000 within 20 minutes drive (45 minutes in rural areas).

More recently two additional strategies have been prepared by the NGBs for athletics, British Athletics and Athletics England.

UK Athletics (UKA) Facilities Strategy 2014-19

Success at recent events and the increase in high profile mass participation running events, are contributing to a burgeoning profile of athletics which presents a platform for the development of the sport.

Facilities are essential to attracting, retaining and developing athletes of the future. Having the right facilities in the right place will be crucial in meeting growing demand, increasing

participation in physical activity and athletics, improving the health of the nation and supporting a new generation of athletes in clubs and schools through to national and world class level.

UKA and the Home Country Athletics Federations (HCAFs) recognise the challenges faced by facility owners and venue operators, and the 5 year Facility Strategy (2014-2019) uses a Track & Field facility model designed to support a sustainable UK network of development, training and competition venues that meet Home Country needs aligned to UKA's Athlete/Participant Development Model, comprising a range of facilities as follows:

- **Compact Athletics Facility** - A new generation of affordable and sustainable indoor and outdoor athletics satellite facilities that provide a stepping stone into Club Venues. Compact Athletics Facilities are designed to fit available spaces and budgets, and provide functional, inspiring, facilities at which people of all ages and abilities can improve their fitness and confidence and develop the FUNdamental athletics movement skills of run, jump and throw.
- **Club venues** - Track and field facilities (indoor and outdoor) that have a strong anchor club(s) membership 100+ and a focus on athletes at the Event Group stage of the Athlete Development Model (ADM) promoting appropriate training and competition opportunities. To support site sustainability, Club Venues should have excellent social and ancillary provision and facilities that actively encourage multi-sport usage. Club venues are suitable for low level competitions only (Level 1 – local open/medal meetings).

Regional Indoor and Outdoor Venues, National Competition Venues and High Performance Centres and International Venues

In addition to Track and Field provision, it is important to recognise the huge amount of club activity that takes place on roads, paths and trails and the strategy also maps out a plan for future “running” facilities. The strategy does not seek to identify priority facilities, clubs or geographical areas. Instead, it provides the direction and guidance that will enable the four Home Country Athletics Federations (England Athletics, Athletics Northern Ireland, Scottish Athletics and Welsh Athletics) to establish their own priorities and deliver the principles of the UKA Facilities Strategy within their own national context.

UKA does not have capital development funds to invest in facilities. However, it has a key role to play in the governance and direction of the sport and will continue to support HCAFs, Home Country Sports Councils and external funding partners to identify and prioritise capital projects that address deficiencies in provision, and contribute to the achievement of key strategic objectives.

England Athletics Strategic Facilities Plan 2012-17

Active People Survey identifies that 1.9m people over the age of 16 participate in athletics regularly with recreational runners accounting for almost half this number. There are in addition a significant number of children and young people under 16 years of age, the majority of who have become members of track and field clubs, which have shown a growth in membership in the last four years.

There are a variety of athletics disciplines, a diverse athlete profile and participation environments. Athletics is a low cost participation sport that makes it very accessible. However formal tracks are underutilised outside of club night and event usage and there is an ageing stock of facilities that normally require on-going subsidy. The growth in the sport is in recreational running that has resulted in significant new runners into the sport over the past few years and evidence strongly suggest this growth will continue.

The facility development agenda for England will work with UK Athletics on a National level and with Athletics Networks on a local level to address future competition and training needs; to engage and exploit opportunities with other sports and agencies and to deliver support and guidance to clubs, schools and communities. The priorities for investment underpin and support the activity and programme priorities delivered by Athletics Networks.

For the area of road, cross-country and fell running, whilst major facility interventions are limited, England Athletics will work with relevant agencies to promote and protect urban and country-side routes and encourage the opening up of new tracks and routes. There are clear practical benefits of creating better links between running clubs, groups and track and field venues and clubs. The provision of 'drop-in' points in parks and key gathering spaces in conjunction with other sports will be encouraged and some tools developed to make recreational running more enjoyable, particularly to assist new participants.

Track and field venues face increasing challenges in terms of maintaining quality facilities coupled with the increasing cost of operations. More usage of tracks, engagement and collaboration between parties is to be encouraged to maximise use of tracks in and out of athletics competition in order to meet maintenance costs and improvements. The modernization of changing and social provision is also important to help sustainability and attract new participants.

There is a need for more locally based covered training facilities, linked to formal track and field venues that could also be utilised by other sports to help viability. Full venue assessment is to be introduced for track and field venues in relation to facilities for disabled athletes and best practice guidance will be provided to assist operators in this area.

Innovative solutions are required for new 'compact' facility models to drive mass participation. Facilities to fit restricted spaces and multi-sport areas; integration of tracks and straights with synthetic pitch developments; mobile sprint straights to take the sport to communities and further enhancement of higher education facilities for community access.

England Athletics will establish a Community Athletics Team servicing the needs of clubs, schools and communities, delivering facility development support and working closely with UK Athletics (UKA) and other partners. It will aim to provide clubs with operational and facility development support and explore and exploit opportunities for development with existing and new partners. It will provide an information hub for athletics facilities and disseminate best practice through Athletics Networks and to its clubs. If capital funding is achieved, it will also manage a capital investment programme targeting funds to projects that will make a real difference to the sport.

The benefits to the sport of a having more direct involvement in the facility development agenda is that England Athletics will lead and drive investment to support its clubs, schools, communities and coaches in order to help underpin the sport development priorities and programmes. It will enable better and more extensive engagement with partners and maximize effort and resources. It will enable the delivery of specific expertise within its structure to better exert influence in the area of facility planning and development – an area vital for future growth and sustainability of the sport.

Overview

The two new strategies update and reiterate the following previous objectives for outdoor facilities:

- Investment into community track & field and recreational running projects to underpin and accelerate EA's community activation work.
- Focus on investment in existing facilities rather than creation of new ones (unless new

- facilities are entry level Compacts or a direct replacement for existing stock).
- New build entry level Compact Athletics Facilities in priority areas that support increased participation at the multi- activity/multi event stages of the UKA Athlete Development Model and provide pathways to existing clubs and club venues.
 - Multi-sport focus at club venues support increased usage and sustainability.
 - Sustainable business models that may include multi-sport artificial grass pitch infields and throwing areas external to the main track.
 - Modern, functional ancillary provision: Warm up/multi-purpose areas, Toilets and Changing rooms, Clubrooms, refreshment areas, gym/conditioning rooms, Car Parking.
 - Functional and appropriate floodlighting.

These objectives point to a need to consider the existing Warwick track in strategic terms as well as meeting the local need and this is considered overleaf.

As part of the work discussions have been held with England Athletics representatives. The views are set out below:

Matt Foad, Area Manager East and West Midlands and South West, England Athletics

'In terms of the Edmondscote facility, we would in principal support the clubs in their wishes on this as there are obvious limiting factors surrounding the track. If re-provision was to be made then I see no particular problem with this and this is something that we are seeing more and more; the new facility would need to be re provided on a like for like basis to allow a similar level of competition to take place. Having said this the it would appear that a main driver to this consideration would be to provide a vastly improved facility.'

'For the location I think that given that there are 3 main clubs using the site in Leamington then the Myton proposal would be favourable, there would be an obvious need to look at the costs of access as at times we have found that some school site can be expensive, but this is a minor consideration.'

Further discussions with the NGB revealed that indoor provision should be considered as a feature in any re-provision and would generally be supported. The delivery of this would clearly be dependent on individual site analysis and an understanding of the capital costs and funding position, but in strategic terms, given the number of clubs involved it would be worthy of consideration from a NGB perspective. Depending on the wider development proposals on either of the alternative sites, indoor opportunities could be provided through existing or planned sports hall provision.

Summary Assessment of Need

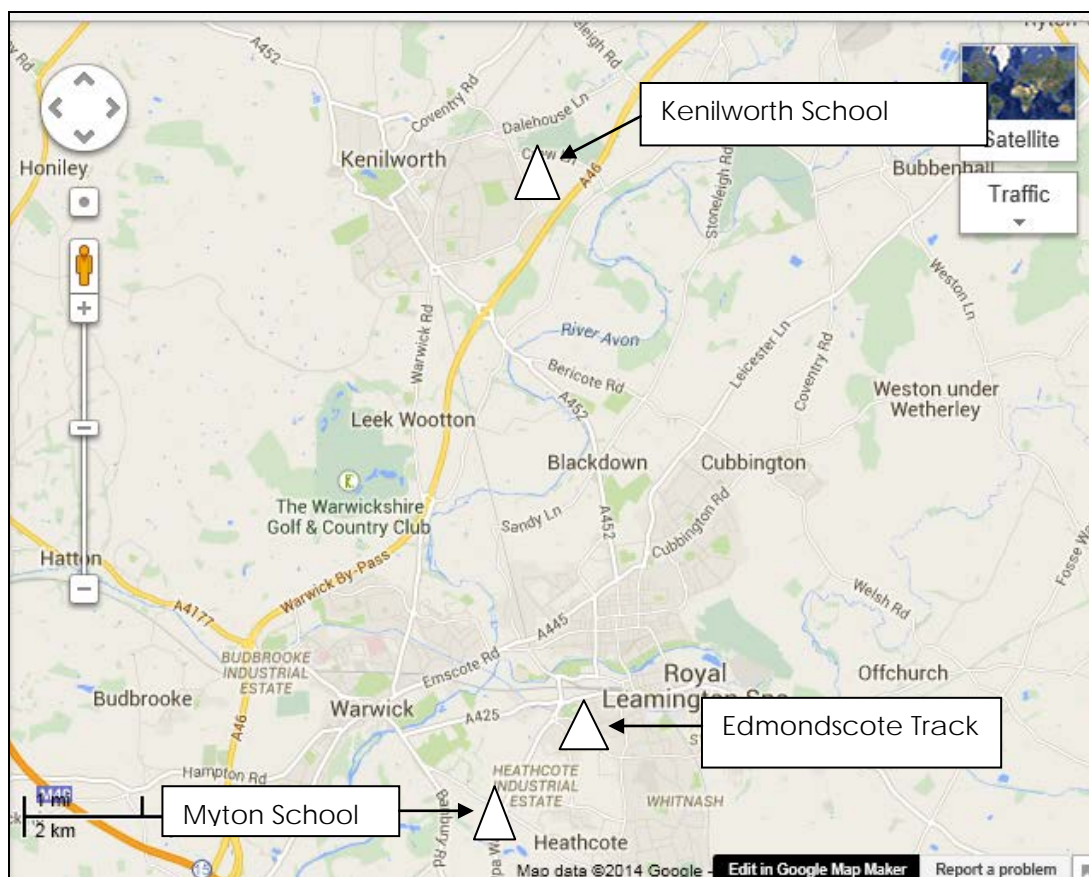
- The existing track at Edmondscote is well established, having been built in 1964, provided with a synthetic surface in 1987 and significantly refurbished in 2003. However there is evidence that the track surface is deteriorating and ancillary facilities are poor. The track is used by a number of active local clubs, and hosts regional fixtures.
- Both the Council and clubs feel Edmondscote is not '*fit for purpose*' in the long-term and investment in the site would not present value for money. There is a good case for a re-provision strategy and potential to explore multi-sport options on alternative sites present a sensible way forward for athletics in the area.
- Edmondscote is the only track in the district but there are a further 4 (2 pay and play synthetic) within a 20 minute drive and 6 within 20-30 minutes (all 6-8 lane). Existing provision

per head of population in the district is above the national and regional average – to meet this only a 4-lane track would be necessary. If Edmondscote were to close, provision within a 30 minute catchment would still be above average but only 2 tracks would lie within a 20 minute drive. In terms of supply alone therefore, the retention of a track in the district is desirable.

- Demand for athletics in Warwick from the data available is at or around the national average and probably on the rise in line with wider participation trends. It is understood that the local athletics club(s) are buoyant and growing (within the limitations of Edmondscote) and have expressed a clear desire to see an upgraded or replacement facility as part of this needs assessment work.
- Population rises and development initiatives are likely to support the retention of a track in the area, and this should meet the NGBs' requirements for at least a club venue and potentially a regional outdoor venue (criteria set out in the UKA current strategy) per District.
- There is therefore a case for re-provision on a like for like basis, although 6-lanes could be considered. Clubs aspire to enhanced facilities, particularly indoor, training.
- The NGB support a replacement strategy but would want to see *like for like* replacement and consideration of indoor provision, subject to further detailed site feasibility work.

Assessment of Alternative Locations

An assessment has been undertaken of the two alternative venues suggested and a comparison with the characteristics of the current location at Edmondscote. This is done only in broad terms. The costs of provision, refurbishment, and other factors all need to be taken into account before determining the optimum location. This would need to be the next phase of work.



Location of Alternative Options

Catchment Populations

Population levels within the catchment of the existing track and the two alternative venues were compared with the use of Active People data, using a series of different catchments representing reasonable travel time and walking accessibility. These are set out below.

Location	10 mins drive	20 mins drive	30 mins drive
Edmondscote track	106,174	367,192	923,881
Myton School	100,783	351,670	917,580
Kenilworth School	66,335	486,156	1,073,903

Location	10 mins walk	20 mins walk	30 mins walk
Edmondscote track	609	10,536	30,586
Myton School	726	2,713	8722
Kenilworth School	1,984	9,505	16797

Neither of the two alternative locations has as large a population within the smallest travel catchment as Edmondscote, although a track at Kenilworth would have a larger population within 30 minutes, although this is considered on the edge of a reasonable travel time to a track, and in any case there are a number of other tracks within this size of catchment.

In terms of walking accessibility, Kenilworth has a larger local population within 10 minutes than the existing track and Myton, though Edmondscote retains the large catchment within a wider catchment, though again a 20-30 minute walk is considered at the edges of a reasonable travel time to a track. This position will however change in the future with the projected housing growth in Leamington and Warwick, which will impact on increasing the catchment population around Myton.

Future housing developments, particularly to the south, are likely to increase the catchment population proportionately in Warwick and Leamington far more than the likely increases in Kenilworth. The majority of club users of the current track are Warwick / Leamington based, as well as Leamington C&AC, Spa Striders and the Leamington 365 Academy are both Leamington based. Whilst Kenilworth Runners are also a user of Edmondscote Track they are also close to the Coventry Track based at the Warwick of University.

Locating the new track facilities in Kenilworth would result in two tracks within five miles (Kenilworth and south Coventry) and none in the mid or southern parts of Warwick District.

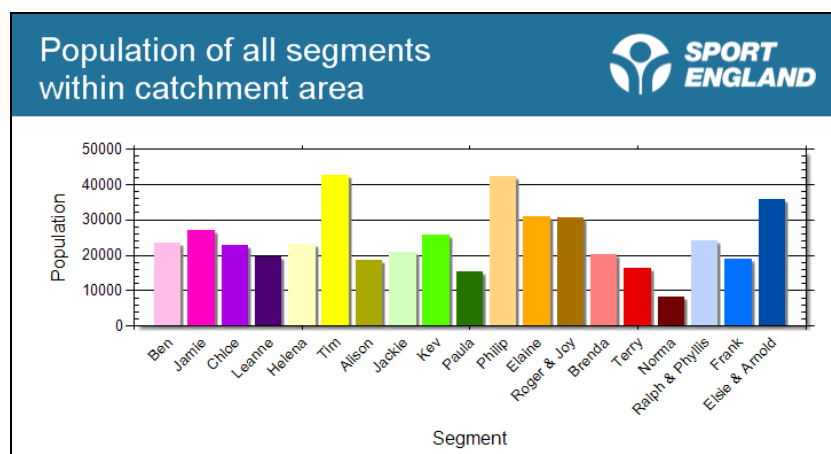
Market Segments

Market segmentation data was also used to assess the likely number of participants in athletics within the catchment of each facility – these figure were taken from the MS dataset (as opposed to APP) and relate to travel distance of 20 kms rather than travel time, but can be used for comparisons.

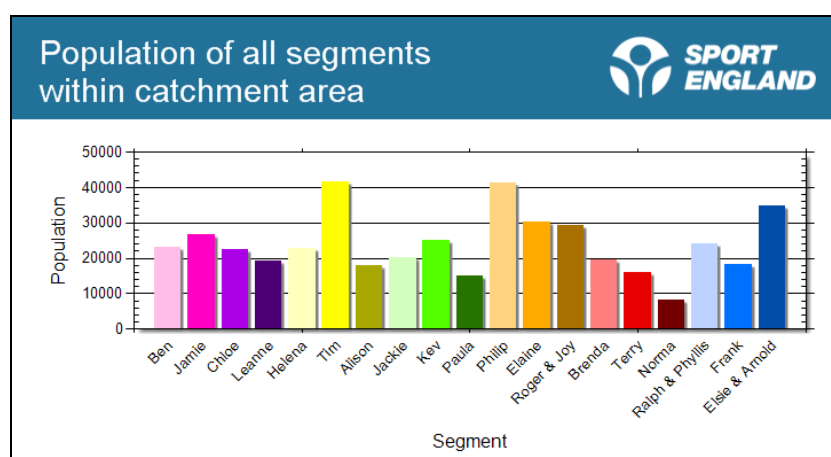
Location	Current participation	Would like to participate
Edmondscote track	30,805	13,274
Myton School	30,199	13,000
Kenilworth School	38,509	16,678

In this case, because of the demographic and socio economic make up of each catchment, Kenilworth is a more suitable location if it is to meet likely local demand. The Edmondscote and Myton catchments are almost identical (unsurprisingly in view of their proximity) while Kenilworth has more Tims and Philips who both take part in athletics/running and may account for the higher demand. Potential demand (i.e. those who would like to take part in athletics) is also higher in this area.

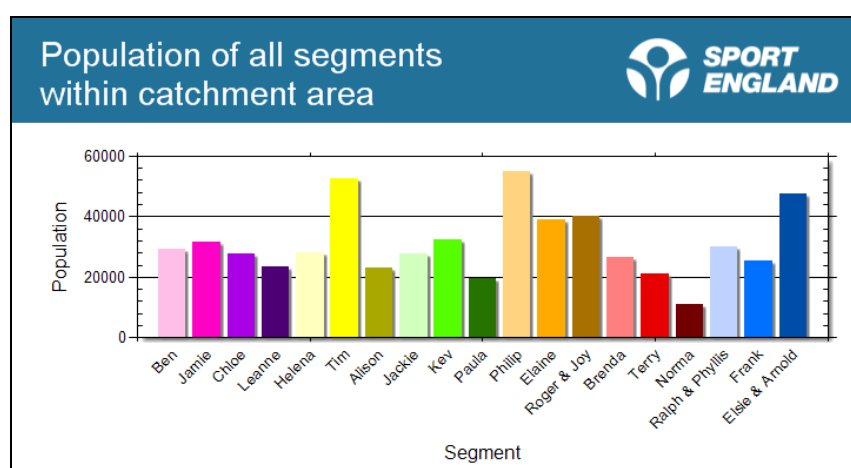
The demographic/SE data is not conclusive, but does suggest that Myton School is marginally less suitable as an alternative to Edmondscote, but that Kenilworth does have the population to support potentially more athletes. However other factors, such as the impact on the existing Leamington clubs, as set out above, needs to be taken into account.



Edmondscote 20 km



Myton School 20 km



Kenilworth 20 km

Overall Conclusion

- There is a good case for moving from the current Edmondscote track to support the long-term development of athletics in Warwick. Further there is a clear need to ensure the retention of a track in Warwick district in terms of demand and relative supply.
- All the clubs acknowledge the poor condition of Edmondscote and the need for investment. If the facility cannot be upgraded they are happy to look to re-locate and seek to replicate and enhance the current facilities at any alternative location, particularly in terms of support facilities. There is a difference of opinion in terms of location depending on where the club are from. All clubs are keen to be involved in future discussions.
- An alternative location at Myton School would be more attractive to the majority of clubs who are Leamington / Warwick based and this would involve less disruption to the existing Leamington clubs and other users of Edmondscote
- An alternative location at Kenilworth could however be attractive to a theoretically wider proportion of the population (based on current catchments), and would meet the needs of the Kenilworth club. There is however an existing synthetic track within 5-10 minutes of the proposed Kenilworth location (at Warwick University), as well as a private cinder track also nearby (Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School)
- The growth projected for Leamington and Warwick is also likely to counter-balance this and enhance the catchment population around Myton. On balance retaining the track in the current Warwick / Leamington catchment would appear the most sensible way forward (subject to more site specific analysis) is favoured by the majority and would meet the needs of the majority of clubs.
- The NGB would support a move to Myton and would like to see a like for like replacement plus consideration of enhancements to meet the current deficiencies, particularly indoor provision of some description.

This report has set out the need to replace the Edmondscote track and has demonstrated there is sufficient demand to justify looking to replace the track.

The next stage of work needs to consider in more detail the potential locations, funding and facility mix in the form of detailed feasibility work. These discussions should involve the local clubs and NGB who have been supportive of this phase of work and are keen to be involved in the next stages.

*Neil Allen Associates Registered Office:
20 Brook Road, Lymm, Cheshire, WA13 9AH*

*A limited company, registered in
England and Wales no. 6165280*