

CONTINUUM
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East Hampshire District Council
Playing Pitch Strategy 2024 Appendix A
Assessment of Need Report Cricket

Appendix A: Cricket - Assessment of Needs (Stages B and C)

The findings of the assessment of needs for cricket facilities in East Hampshire District Council are summarised in this appendix to the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS). Affiliated cricket clubs registered to East Hampshire and playing their home fixtures in the area have contributed to this assessment either by submitting an online club survey and/or through in person consultation during site visits. The number of clubs consulted with as part of this process represents 81% of teams playing cricket in the area.

Since the last assessment was carried out in 2018 there has been some change in the supply of cricket pitches in the district, with the pitch at Four Marks Rec being removed due to lack of use and the pitch at Bohunt school being lost with school use moving to Ripsley Park. The pitch at Bordon and Oakhanger Sports Club (BOSC) has been developed since the last study and is now used as the home pitch for Headley, Whitehill & Bordon CC. Holybourne CC have submitted an application to resurface their NTP wicket.

1. Cricket Supply (Step 1)

The findings of the assessment of supply of cricket facilities in East Hampshire are summarised in this section and detailed by site, both for fine turf pitches and for non-turf artificial grass pitches (NTP's). The supply side information is generated through standard facility audits based on the visual assessment, grading and playing capacity guidance (as set out by Sport England and the ECB in the national guidance for the development of playing pitch needs assessments) augmented by consultation with the Council, Hampshire Cricket and user clubs.

1.1 Cricket Pitches in East Hampshire

A total of 27 fine turf pitches are identified as available for community cricket in the district in 2023, on 25 playing pitch sites. Included in this total are the two sites located either just outside the border or on the edge of the border, Broadhalfpenny Down and Ripsley Park, which serve residents of East Hampshire. Tulls Lane in Standford (one wicket) has been discounted as it is for private ground use only.

There are 12 non-turf pitches on 11 sites currently available for community use. There are 2 NTP wickets at Medstead Village Green, however one is in an unplayable position and was discounted from this assessment.

In addition, during the site visits a further 3 non-turf pitches on educational sites were identified as potentially being available for future community use, these include Churcher's College (Ramshill), Eggars School and Horndean Technology College.

Figure 1.1: Cricket sites in East Hampshire

Site Name & Address	Ownership / Management	Access Security	Pitches / wickets	NTP	NT Nets	Pavilion / Changing Rooms	Pitch & Outfield Rating	Pavilion Rating	Fine Turf Capacity (MES pa)	Fine Turf Use (MES pa)	Peak Use (% of cap)	Supply/ Demand Balance	RAG
Bedales/Dunhurst Schools - GU30 7NY	Educational site- unaware of any CUA	Unsecured	2/12	No	Yes - 4 lanes (S)	Pavilion at both pitches. Junior pitch has a reasonably new pavilion with CR. Joint use with tennis and netball hirers. Senior pitch has a small, older pavilion.	Junior - P(G) O(S) Senior - P(G) O(S)	Junior (G), Senior (S)	72	44	61%	28	
Bentley Rec - GU10 5JP	PC	Secured	NA	Yes	Yes - 2 lanes (P)	Old pavilion which is in need of refurbishment	NA	P	No current FT use only NTP – in discussion to develop pitch and provide 4 grass wickets				
Bentworth Cricket Ground - GU34 5LE	Privately owned	unsecure club hires annually	1/10	No	No	Poor quality changing and shower facilities	P(G) O(G)	P	50	20	40%	30	
Binsted Rec - GU34 4PB	Binsted PC	Secured	1/10	No	No	Pavilion doubles as the Binsted Council offices. CR unknown. Poor standard pavilion with small kitchen and public toilet.	P(S) O(S)	P	30	71	237%	-41	
Bordon & Oakhanger Sports Club (BOSC) - GU35 9HG	Managed by the sports club under agreement with Whitehill and Bordon Regen. Comp.	Secured	1/10	Yes	Yes - 2 lanes (G)	Large pavilion as part of the sports club with separate CR with integrated showers.	P(S) O(P)	G	30	30	100%	0	
Broxhead Common Cricket Ground – GU35 0NY	Grayshott CC lease (6 years)	Secured	2/10	Yes	Yes	Pavilion is 40-50 years old but refurbished recently.	P1 - P(G) O(S) P2 – NTP	S	50	50	100%	0	
Broadhalfpenny down, Hyden Farm Lane, PO8 0UB	Charity	Secured	1/8	Yes	No	Reasonable sized pavilion on site.	P(S) O(S)	S	24	24	100%	0	
Chawton Cricket Ground – GU34 1SB	Managed by the club	Secured	1/8	No	Yes - 1 lane (P)	Old pavilion , no access was provided at time of visit.	P(G) O(S)	S	40	30	75%	10	
East Meon Cricket Ground - GU32 1QD	PC	Secured	1/10	No	Yes	Pavilion was built circa 2009 however facilities are basic and may require refurbishment / redevelopment in the future.	P(S) O(S)	P	30	10	33%	20	

Site Name & Address	Ownership / Management	Access Security	Pitches / wickets	NTP	NT Nets	Pavilion / Changing Rooms	Pitch & Outfield Rating	Pavilion Rating	Fine Turf Capacity (MES pa)	Fine Turf Use (MES pa)	Peak Use (% of cap)	Supply/ Demand Balance	RAG
East Tisted Rec - GU34 3QW	Owned by the Rotherfield Estate and leased to PC	Secured - Lease is currently being updated	1/6	No	No	Pavilion is very old and is in need of redevelopment. Maintenance of the building is difficult and the general security is very poor.	P(G) O(G)	P	30	31	103%	-1	
Grayshott Playing Fields - GU26 6LS	PC	Secured	1/12	Yes (2)	Yes	Large Pavilion with partitionable changing rooms	P(S) O(S)	G	36	36	100%	0	
Headley Playing Field - GU35 OPD	PC	Secured	1/8	Yes	Yes	Pavilion is dated with poor toilet/changing/kitchen facilities. Plans in place for refurbishment of the pavilion.	P(S) O(S)	P	24	20	83%	4	
Hawkley Rec. Ground - GU33 6NE	Secured club / Association	Secured	1/6	No	Yes	Village Hall with changing on site	P(S) O(S)	S	18	10	56%	8	
Holybourne Sport Field – GU34 4JA	Owned by a dev. Company – informal agreement	Unsecured	1/6	Yes	No	Small pavilion with adequate changing and toilet facilities	P(S) O(G)	S	18	18	100%	0	
Jubilee Playing Fields - GU34 1RF	PC - leased to Alton CC (10+ years)	Secured	2/16	Yes	Yes	There is a pavilion alongside each pitch, however one is mostly disused and the second is old and in need of redevelopment/refurbishment.	P1 - P(G) O(G) P2 - P(S) O(G)	P	66	66	100%	0	
King George V Field, Froxfield - GU32 1EG	Pitch owned by the PC. FCC rent pavilion from the charity	Unsecured	1/11	No	Yes	Pavilion/village hall is in good condition and has integrated showers in the changing rooms. FCC received grant funding to develop the pavilion, which they gave to the charity which manage the village hall.	P(G) O(S)	G	55	20	36%	35	
Kingsley Sports Club, GU35 9PD	Unknown	Unknown	1/6	No	Yes	Small Pavilion on site - not seen	P(S) O(S)		18	10	56%	8	
Medstead Village Green, GU34 5LG	PC	Secured	1/8	Yes	No	Basic pavilion on site with two changing rooms, showers have no hot water. PC has plans to modernise CR and expand to include parish office and community room.	P(G) O(S)	P	40	20	50%	20	

Site Name & Address	Ownership / Management	Access Security	Pitches / wickets	NTP	NT Nets	Pavilion / Changing Rooms	Pitch & Outfield Rating	Pavilion Rating	Fine Turf Capacity (MES pa)	Fine Turf Use (MES pa)	Peak Use (% of cap)	Supply/ Demand Balance	RAG
Penns Farm Playing Fields - GU31 4EP	PC	Secured	1/5	Yes	Yes	Pavilion is poor and suffers from regular break ins. The club are not investing in the facilities due to the potential redevelopment of the area. Pavilion has 2 CRs, toilet, and kitchen area.	P(S) O(S)	P	40	15	38%	25	Green
Petersfield Heath - GU31 4HR	PC - club lease until 2077	Secured	1/13	No	Yes	Pavilion is in good condition with recent refurbishments and developments. Offers a committee room, ladies toilets, balcony, bar, kitchen, disabled toilet with ramp access, 2 CRs, umpires room	P(G) O(S)	G	65	115	177%	-50	Red
Ripsley Park (Liphook & Ripsley Cricket Club) - GU30 7JG	Freehold	Secured	1/13	No	Yes	The pavilion has changing and shared showers. The current layout of the CR and showers are unsuitable as there is line of sight to the showers from the bar.	P(G) O(G)	P	65	84	129%	-19	Red
Rowlands Castle Rec - PO9 6AQ	PC	Secured	1/8	No	No	Large pavilion on site	P(S) O(S)	S	24	10	42%	14	Green
Ropley Rec, SO24 0DJ	PC	Secured	1/12	No	Yes	Large pavilion on site	P(G) O(G)	G	60	104	173%	-44	Red
South Lane Meadow, PO8 0RX (Clanfield CC)	Club has 25 year lease on pavilion and 3 year licence on pitches	Secured	1/8	Yes	No	Pavilion under construction but further funding required to fit out building due to increased costs.	P(S) O(s)	G (once built)	24	24	100%	0	Yellow
Steep Cricket Club - GU32 2DA	Freehold	Secured	1/9	Yes	No	Pavilion is quite small and is used at full capacity with the number of teams the club run.	P(S) O(S)	P	27	46	170%	-19	Red
Wield Cricket Ground – SO24 9RX	Unknown	Unknown	1/6	No	Yes (2)	Basic pavilion that requires roof repairs	P(S) O(S)	P	18	10	56%	8	Green

1.2 Junior Pitches

In general, the clubs with junior sections set aside one strip on the main square for junior matches requiring shorter dimensions and/or use of the non-turf pitches where these are available on their grounds. At most sites, Kwik cricket for younger children is generally played on temporary pitches set up on a mown strip in the outfield (or several strips around the outfield in the event of Kwik cricket tournaments and festivals). Most sites with NTP wickets have different markings for each age group to allow for regulation bowling lengths.

1.3 Closed Sites

There are 6 sites in the district which are disused. Liphook Recreation Ground and Four Marks Recreation Ground previously provided cricket squares, however both sites are now used purely for football. Binsted Council are leading the regeneration of the Holt Pound Lane Oval; however, the future use of the site is unknown. The Glebe was last used in 2018 by Liss CC before they folded.

1.4 Non-Turf Pitches (NTPs)

In the younger age groups (U10 to U13), some hardball match play takes place on non-turf pitches (NTPs). NTPs are also used for training and adult play including most short format friendly games between non-traditional single team clubs without a secured home ground. Currently, Rowledge CC have a large junior section do not have an NTP and instead use the fine turf pitch at Binsted Recreation Ground. The level of use of this square is more than double its capacity and suggests that Rowledge CC require access to an NTP wicket.

1.5 Non-Turf Practice Nets

There is a mix in provision of non-turf practice nets which are available at 18 of the 26 cricket pitch sites. Those clubs without non-turf net systems rely on mobile net cages for practice on the NTP on the square or on one of the fine turf strips if no NTP. The net systems at Bentley Rec, Chawton Cricket Ground, East Meon Cricket Ground, Penns Farm Playing Fields, and King George V Field are in a unusable or poor condition and need upgrading. The nets at Jubilee Field are enclosed and not available for community use.

Figure 1.2 – Non-turf permanent net systems: locations and quality

Location	No. of Lanes	Quality
Bedales/Dunhurst Schools	4	Standard
Bentley Recreation Ground	2	Unusable
BOSC	2	Good
Broxhead Common Cricket Ground	1	Standard
Churcher's College (Ramshill)	5	Good
Chawton Cricket Ground	1	Standard
East Meon Cricket Ground	1	Unusable
Grayshott Playing Fields	2	Exceptional
Headley Playing Fields	2	Standard
Hawkley Recreation Ground	1	Standard (not seen)
Jubilee Playing Fields	4	Exceptional
King George V Field	1	Poor
Kingsley Sports Club	1	Standard (not seen)
Penns Farm Playing Fields	2	Unplayable
Petersfield Heath	2	Standard
Ripsley Park	2	Standard (not seen)
Ropley Rec	2	Good
Wield Cricket Ground	1	Standard

1.6 Indoor Cricket School and Indoor Practice Nets

The district has multiple indoor cricket net providers which are used by clubs throughout the district, however these are all located on school sites, and some are not available for community use. Indoor nets are available at Amery Hill, Bedales, Bohunt, Ditcham Park, Eggars Schools, HSDC Alton and Churcher's College. Although being approx. 20-minute drive from the club (10 miles), Bentworth Cricket Club use the indoor facilities at Dummer Cricket Centre for winter training. Indoor sports hall space is in high demand across the area so the main constraint on cricket hires is the competing demand from sports hall team sports and badminton, these are all year-round activities whereas demand for indoor cricket nets is generally limited to peak evening or weekend slots from January to March and therefore disruptive to the core programme and income.

1.7 Facilities for Non-Traditional Forms of Cricket

Hampshire Cricket is working along with the ECB towards the aim to inspire a new generation to believe that 'Cricket is a game for me'. Hampshire Cricket believe that Cricket is a powerful way of connecting communities, building friendships and helping people to achieve through playing the wonderful game. In furtherance of this aim, Hampshire Cricket encourages the provision of suitable facilities in accessible locations for playing non-traditional, short format cricket which has a broad appeal across all ages and communities. Non traditional facilities range from non-turf pitches (NTPs) for organised cup and league 20 over matches and 'Last Man Stands' (games of 75 minutes approximately for teams of 8 players played in public parks) down to hard-court Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) for informal games of 'Cage Cricket' using a softball or tapeball (a tennis ball wrapped in tape). There are 'Last Man Stands' leagues in Portsmouth, Woking, and Basingstoke which are easily reachable to players across East Hampshire.

1.8 Ownership and Security of Access

Cricket pitches in the study area fall into one of three categories of site ownership where community access is considered to be 'secured':

- **Club / community organisation owned** - The most secure type of provision is those cricket grounds where the home club or a community sports association or trust owns the freehold or has a long lease. Steep Cricket Club's ground is owned by the club, ensuring their facilities are secure for the long term future of the club.
- **Council owned** – Grounds owned by the district, town or parish council are considered to be secured for community use and are hired out by the Council to clubs and teams either on a match-by-match pre-booked letting basis or under terms of a seasonal or longer agreement. Several of the cricket pitches in East Hampshire District fall within this category of secured access, e.g., Ropley Rec, Petersfield Heath, Binsted Rec, and Rowlands Castle Rec.
- **Education provider owned** – playing fields with cricket pitches on sites where the primary use is for education – i.e., school or student sport – with a legally enforceable Community Use Agreement (CUA) in place.

Community club access and use of privately owned or education sector playing fields is deemed 'unsecured' where a club has no legally enforceable right of access agreement in place for more than a year. None of the educational sites in East Hampshire provide a permanent home ground to cricket clubs in the district, however plenty are available for community bookings, and some provide indoor nets for winter training. Churcher's College, Eggars School and The Petersfield School are all available for community bookings but are currently unused by community clubs.

1.9 At Risk Sites

The pitch at Bohunt School is due to be lost, and although there is no current community use at the pitch, mitigation considerations are in place to improve the provisions at Ripsley Park (the home ground of Liphook & Ripsley CC).

1.10 Opportunity Sites for Cricket

Bentley Archers Cricket and Sports Club (BACSC) are currently in the process of redeveloping Bentley Rec to provide an additional 4 grass wickets. The current NTP is used occasionally for friendlies, but the redevelopment will provide a permanent home pitch for BACSC with increased capacity of use. Binsted Parish Council are leading the regeneration of the Holt Pound Lane Oval, however the future use of the site for cricket is currently unknown.

1.11 Pitch Quality

The table below shows the quality of pitches within the study area based on their operation.

Figure 1.3 – Pitch square and outfield quality and operation (S = Square O = outfield)

Rating	Club owned		Town / Parish Council owned		Privately Owned		Education		Total	
	Pitch	Outfield	Pitch	Outfield	Pitch	Outfield	Pitch	Outfield	Pitch	Outfield
Good	2	1	5	2	2	3	2	0	11	6
Standard	2	3	8	11	3	1	0	2	13	17
Poor	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1

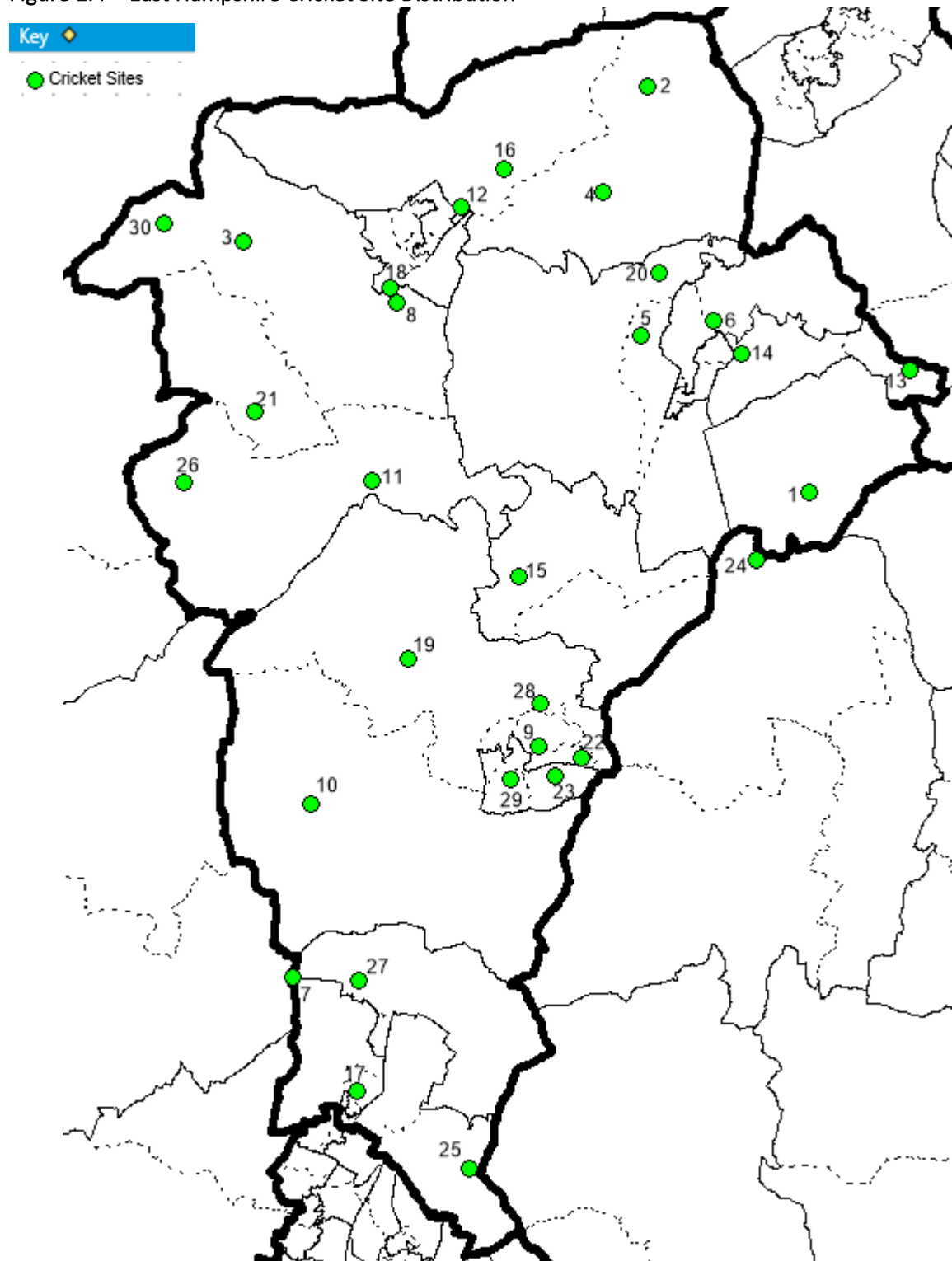
The cricket pitches (squares) and outfields in the district are, in the main, maintained to a standard quality (assessed by means of a combination of visual inspection, umpire ratings and club survey feedback). Where outfields are rated as ‘standard quality’ this is due either to shared use with football (e.g., Grayshott Playing Fields and Bordon and Oakhanger Sports Club) or issues with dogs or other animals on open access recreation grounds (e.g., Penns Farm Playing Fields). Generally, where clubs are responsible for maintaining a square and have access to a trained professional or experienced volunteer grounds person, the pitch quality tends to be higher than at Council owned sites without a partnership agreement with the hiring club that includes a maintenance clause. Similarly, the open access / shared use nature of recreation ground sites renders cricket pitches on these sites more vulnerable to incidences of damage and acts of vandalism than at sites where access is controlled.

Given that the pitches are generally maintained to a standard quality in most cases, there is some scope to increase the playing capacity of the existing supply by improving the quality of the pitches used by cricket clubs and teams based in East Hampshire.

1.12 Distribution of Cricket Sites

Figure 1.4 shows the distribution of fine turf and non turf pitch cricket sites across East Hampshire which are available for community use. This shows that most of the residents from the study area live within a reasonable distance of a community cricket pitch.

Figure 1.4 – East Hampshire Cricket Site Distribution



Key	Site	Postcode
1	BEDALES/DUNHURST SCHOOLS	GU30 7NY
2	BENTLEY REC	GU10 5JP
3	BENTWORTH CRICKET GROUND	GU34 5LE
4	BINSTED REC	GU34 4PB
5	BORDON & OAKHANGER SPORTS CLUB (BOSC)	GU35 9HG
6	BROXHEAD COMMON CRICKET GROUND	GU35 0NY
7	BROADHALFPENNY DOWN, HYDEN FARM LANE	PO8 0UB
8	CHAWTON CRICKET GROUND	GU34 1SB
9	CHURCHER'S COLLEGE (RAMSHILL)	GU31 4AS
10	EAST MEON CRICKET GROUND	GU32 1QD
11	EAST TISTED REC	GU34 3QW
12	EGGARS SCHOOL	GU34 4EQ
13	GRAYSHOTT PLAYING FIELDS	GU26 6LS
14	HEADLEY PLAYING FIELD	GU35 0PD
15	HAWKLEY RECREATION GROUND	GU33 6NE
16	HOLYBOURNE SPORT FIELD	GU34 4JA
17	HORNDEAN TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE	PO8 9PQ
18	JUBILEE PLAYING FIELDS	GU34 1RF
19	KING GEORGE V FIELD, FROXFIELD	GU32 1EG
20	KINGSLEY SPORTS CLUB	GU35 9PD
21	MEDSTEAD VILLAGE GREEN	GU34 5LG
22	PENNS FARM PLAYING FIELDS	GU31 4EP
23	PETERSFIELD HEATH	GU31 4HR
24	RIPSLEY PARK (LIPHOOK & RIPSLEY CRICKET CLUB)	GU30 7JG
25	ROWLANDS CASTLE REC	PO9 6AQ
26	ROPLEY REC	SO24 0DJ
27	SOUTH LANE MEADOW (CLANFIELD CC)	PO8 0RX
28	STEEP CRICKET CLUB	GU32 2DA
29	THE PETERSFIELD SCHOOL	GU32 3LU
30	WIELD CRICKET GROUND	SO24 9RX

1.13 Cricket Supply of Relevance in Neighbouring Local Authorities

There are a number of other cricket pitches with community access within a 20-minute drivetime (5 mile catchment area) of the East Hampshire District boundary based on application of the Active Places Power area access analysis mapping tool and these are shown in figure 1.5 below. Some cricket demand from the South of the East Hampshire District is exported to community cricket sites further afield to Cowplain Recreation Ground, Rogate Village Hall, South Lane Meadow, and Havant Academy. There may also be exported demand in the North (Herriard Sports Club) and East (Churt Recreation Ground) of the District.

Figure 1.5 – Cricket Supply in Neighbouring Local Authorities

Neighbouring venues	LA	Quantity	Accessibility
Herriard Sports Club	Basingstoke	1 pitch	Commercial site – located to the North
Cowplain Recreation Ground	Waterlooville	1 pitch	Council site – located to the South
Churt Recreation Ground	Farnham	2 pitches	Council site – located to the East
Rogate Village Hall	Rogate	1 pitch	Community organisation site – located to the South East
South Lane Meadow	Waterlooville	1 pitch	Council site – located to the South
Havant Academy	Havant	1 pitch	Education site – located to the South

2. Cricket Demand (step 2)

Findings relating to cricket pitch demand in East Hampshire are summarised below.

2.1 Cricket Clubs and Teams

In the 2023 cricket season, nineteen clubs were identified through the consultation as being active in East Hampshire. These clubs, their teams and where they play are shown in figure 2.1:

Figure 2.1- Open Age Cricket Expressed Demand in East Hampshire

Cricket clubs	Adult teams (players)	Youth teams (squads) (players)	Home ground(s)	Other grounds used
Alton CC	6 (111)	Under 7 (2)(24) Under 9 (2)(48) Under 11 (3)(65) Under 13 (3)(48) Under 15 (1)(19) Under 18 (1)(17)	Jubilee Playing Fields	
Bentley Archers Cricket and Sports Club	1(25)	N/A	Bentley Rec	
Bentworth CC	1 (30)	N/A	Bentworth Cricket Ground	
Binsted CC	1 (22)	N/A	Binsted Rec	
Chawton CC	2 (35)		Chawton Cricket Ground	
Clanfield CC	6 (132)	Under 7 (1)(15) Under 8 (1)(11) Under 9 (1)(13) Under 11 (1)(18)	South Lane Meadow	
DACD CC	1(-)	N/A	Rowlands Castle Rec	
East Meon CC	1(-)	N/A	East Meon Cricket Ground	
Froxfield CC	2 (32)	N/A	King George V Field	
Grayshott CC	8 (100)	Under 9 (2)(41) Under 10 (2)(31) Under 11(3)(59) Under 12(3)(55) Under 13 (1)(20) Under 14 (1)(14) Under 15 (3)(33) Under 18 (1)(10)	Grayshott Playing Fields	Broxhead Common Cricket Ground Amesbury School Highfield and Brookham School
Headley, Whitehill & Bordon CC	5 (78)	Under 13 (1)(14)	Bordon and Oakhanger Sports Club	Headley Playing Fields
Holybourne CC	1 (14)	Under 9 (2)(28) Under 11 (1)(16) Under 13 (1)(14)	Holybourne Sports Field	
Kingsley CC	2 (88)	N/A	Kingsley Sports Club	
Liphook & Ripsley CC	5 (125)	Under 9 (1)(8) Under 11 (1)(15) Under 13 (3)(45) Under 15 (3)(35) Under 17 (1)(15)	Ripsley Park	Stedham Playing Fields
Medstead CC	3 (-)	Under 9 (1)(-) Under 11 (1)(-) Under 13 (1)(-) Under 15 (1)(-)	Medstead Village Green	
Petersfield CC	5 (78)	Under 7 (1)(84) Under 9 (3)(56) Under 11 (2)(28) Under 13(1)(18) Under 15 (1)(12) Under 16 (1)(14) Under 17 (1)(12)	Petersfield Heath	Penns Farm Playing Fields

Cricket clubs	Adult teams (players)	Youth teams (squads) (players)	Home ground(s)	Other grounds used
Rowledge III CC	6(-)	Under 9 (1)(-) Under 11 (2)(-) Under 13(2)(-) Under 15 (1)(-) Under 16 (1)(-)	Binsted Rec	
Steep CC	3 (35)	Under 9 (1)(30) Under 11 (1)(30)	Steep Cricket Club	
Ropley CC	7 (-)	Under 9 (2)(-) Under 11 (2)(-) Under 13(2)(-) Under 15 (1)(-) Under 16 (1)(-)	Ropley Rec	East Tisted Rec

Nine clubs provide opportunities for juniors to play competitive cricket –Ropley CC, Liphook & Ripsley CC, Petersfield CC, Alton CC, Grayshott CC, Clanfield CC, Headley, Whitehill & Bordon CC, Holybourne CC, Steep CC. All these clubs (except Liphook & Ripsley CC and Holybourne CC) provide junior ‘All Stars’ and/or ‘Dynamos’ sessions supported by Hampshire Cricket.

There has been a decrease in the number of clubs in the area following the collapsing of Four Marks CC, however the number of teams across women, boys, and girls have increased. The greatest area of growth in East Hampshire since 2018 is in women’s cricket, with an additional 9 teams being developed in 5 years (+225%). There was also significant growth in the number of youth girls’ teams (+12 teams, a 150% increase) and youth boys/mixed teams (+17 teams, a 42.5% increase). Men's league teams in the area have remained mostly consistent (+3 teams, a 6% increase). In total it is estimated that, in the 2023 season, there were 53 men's teams (aged 18+), 13 women's (W10) teams, 20 youth girls (aged 7-18), and 57 boys’/mixed teams (aged 7-18), playing cricket matches in the site area, mainly at weekends. A large proportion of these teams also train on a midweek evening in season and most of the senior teams will also train indoors pre-season in January/February.

2.2 Active People Survey

The most recently published findings of the national Active Lives Adult Survey¹ showed that self reported regular participation (i.e., taken part at least twice in the last 28 days) in cricket in England by adults (aged 16+) increased from 0.5% in November 2020-2021 to 0.8% in November 2021-2022. If cricket participation in the study area was at the national average (i.e., 0.8%), this would indicate around 806 adults (aged 16+) living in the area play cricket out of a 16+ adult population of approximately 100,781.

With approximately 59 adult teams currently, the 'adult' cricket club playing membership in the area is close to 885 players (assuming an average of 15 squad players per team). If adult cricket participation in East Hampshire is in line with the national average of 0.8%, this suggests that approximately 9% of regular adult cricket participation is imported from outside the District. This does not take into consideration the levels of participation outside of a club environment (i.e., through informal games with family, friends and/or work colleagues in parks).

2.3 Casual Cricket Demand

Demand for less formal forms of play - using free to use net systems and non-turf facilities in public parks, as well as hard-surface areas such as MUGAs, streets, footpaths and hard standing areas on housing estates - is a growing feature of cricket demand nationally, particularly among teenagers and young adults in the Black, Black/British, Asian and Asian/British minority ethnic (BME) communities.

¹ Active Lives Adult Survey Nov 2021/22, Sport England, (April 2023)

Whilst the population of East Hampshire is predominately White British, the provision of facilities for free to access casual play across the area could help to increase cricket activity among all types of under-represented participant groups including families and groups of friends. There is currently provision for informal forms of cricket in the area (NTPs) at Bentley Rec, Grayshott Playing Fields, Medstead Village Green, and Penns Farm Playing Fields. The nets across the district are of varying quality and availability. It would be worth the council investigating the feasibility of upgrading some of the poorer quality nets and providing more provision particularly in more diverse areas of the District.

2.4 Unmet / Latent Demand

There was no identified unmet demand in the area, but clubs highlighted ambitions for growth to meet perceived latent demand, e.g., teams that could be created if additional pitch provision was available. This information is drawn from the club consultation surveys carried out from June to October 2023 and therefore only includes those clubs that completed the survey. Conversion of this perceived latent demand into new teams will depend on these clubs engaging sufficient volunteer team managers and coaches as well as securing suitable pitches to play and train on in the peak period.

10 clubs outlined their growth aspirations for the next 3 years. Figure 2.2 outlines the growth aspirations of these clubs, and it is apparent that there is latent demand in the District for youth and girls cricket.

Figure 2.2: East Hampshire District Cricket Clubs - Self-Reported Team Growth Plans

Club	Growth Aspirations
Bentworth CC	Looking to expand player pool as its currently difficult to consistently field a team
Froxfield CC	No plans to grow
Liphook and Ripsley CC	Plans to grow following recent increases in youth and women's teams
Binsted CC	No plans to grow
Petersfield CC	Looking to develop a new men's 3 rd team and a new u11 girls' team
Alton CC	Increase girls' participation and school age junior teams
Grayshott CC	Hoping to develop girls and women's hard ball cricket teams and expand their Super 1's disability group
Clanfield CC	Looking to develop an additional adult mixed team, u9s team, u11s team, u13s team, u15s team, and an adult disability team in 2024
Headley, Whitehill & Bordon CC	Looking to develop an additional Saturday men's team and a full complement of youth teams through u9 – u15
Binsted CC	No plans to grow
BACSC	Looking to develop both senior and junior cricket teams
Holybourne CC	Looking to reinstate their u15 boys' team and continue developing their girls teams
Steep CC	Looking to increase junior participation

2.5 Displaced/Imported Demand

In the consultations carried out, it was found that two clubs based in East Hampshire District are reliant on using facilities outside of the district. Liphook and Ripsley CC main ground is just over the East Hampshire Border in West Sussex. They also hire grounds in Chichester and Grayshott CC hire facilities at Amesbury School in Surrey, however both these facilities are only used as secondary sites. Bentworth CC use the indoor nets at Dummer Cricket Centre in Basingstoke during winter training months. There is also imported demand with Bounders CC using the pitch at East Tisted Rec for some of their home matches, Rowledge Cricket Club using Binsted Rec, and Hambledon CC using Broadhalfpenny Down.

2.6 Trends in Demand for Team Cricket

Nationally the ECB has reported a growth in teams in all areas with the greatest growth in the last few seasons in the youth age groups where the development of junior coaching and introduction of the ECB's Cricket All Stars (5-8yr olds) and Dynamos (8-11yr olds) initiatives for primary age children boosting demand. This is reflected in East Hampshire with several clubs reporting growth in their junior

section as well as introducing midweek formats, and friendly only fixtures providing more flexible formats of the game to cater for people's busy lifestyles.

There has been an increased focus by the ECB for Women's and girl's cricket, and this is reflected in the increase in women's teams in the area, currently two teams have W10 softball teams (Ropley CC and Grayshott CC). National trends (2022) are that the number of clubs with a women's or girls' sections have increased by 54% and the number of fixtures recorded online increased by 97%.

3. The Situation at Individual Cricket Sites (Step 4)

The fine turf cricket pitches were assessed during the 2023 season. All the sites were assessed using the methodology established by Sport England and the ECB in the published Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance and Appendices (2013) - i.e., a non-technical visual site assessment.

The findings of the site-specific audit assessments were reviewed with representatives of Hampshire Cricket and ratings for each agreed as a basis for comparison of the amount of play each site can accommodate (i.e., site carrying capacity) against the amount of play that takes place. Carrying capacity is a measure of the number of match equivalent sessions per season for community use each pitch can take without adversely affecting its quality and use. It was agreed with the ECB representative to adopt the following pitch carrying capacities according to each quality rating to be consistent with the approach adopted in similar assessments in other areas:

Figure 3.1: Cricket Pitch Carrying Capacity

Pitch Quality Rating	Carrying Capacity - Match equivalent sessions per prepared fine turf wicket (strip) per season
Good	5
Standard	3
Poor	0

The site-specific audit assessments detailed the situation at each cricket site with regard to:

1. *Pitch supply* (including the quality ratings) and conclusions reached as to the amount of play a site can accommodate (i.e., its carrying capacity for community use).
2. *The amount of play that takes place at each site* (i.e., the expressed demand) adjusted to reflect any casual or education use in addition to club use for matches and training.
3. *The comparison* (shown as a RAG rating) as to whether, for each pitch type it contains, a site is:
 - **RED** - Being overplayed (current use exceeds the carrying capacity)
 - **AMBER** - Being played to the level the site can sustain, or
 - **GREEN** - Potentially able to accommodate some additional play (current use falls significantly below the carrying capacity)

Seven sites (listed below) are highlighted from the audit as a **RED** rated site where the available fine turf cricket pitches are considered to be played over and above their estimated carrying capacity based on the size of the square (i.e., number of wickets/strips) and the assessed quality of the square.

- Binsted Rec
- BOSC
- East Tisted Rec
- Petersfield Heath
- Ripsley Park
- Ropley Rec
- Steep Cricket Club

Six sites (listed below) from the audit are rated as **AMBER** indicating that the majority of the available natural turf pitches are played at (or very close to) their playing capacity:

- Broxhead Common Cricket Ground
- Broadhalfpenny Down
- Grayshott Playing Fields
- Holybourne Sports Field
- Jubilee Playing Fields
- South Lane Meadow

4. The Current and Future Picture of Provision for Cricket (Step 5)

4.1 Current

Overall, the assessment of facility needs shows that the fine turf pitches of clubs with large junior sections in the area are largely over played, and these clubs require additional facilities to cater for demand. There are other sites under capacity which may be able to cater for some of this demand, as well as NTP's on education sites not used.

The supply of accessible indoor practice nets in the study area is insufficient with a number of clubs identifying a need for more provision and some travelling outside of the District to train for example Bentworth CC travelling to Dummer Cricket Centre in Basingstoke. The non-turf practice net systems are in need of upgrading at Bentley Recreation Ground, East Meon Cricket Ground, King George V Field, and Penns Farm Playing Fields.

Investment into pavilions is required including new or refurbished provision at a number of sites, with clubs (listed below) noting that their facilities are basic and their pavilion building is old and difficult to maintain. Some clubs have noted that repairs are needed throughout their pavilions, with the pavilion at Wield Cricket Ground requiring a new roof, the pavilion at Penns Farm Playing Fields being unsafe, and the pavilion at East Tisted Rec having little security. There is also a disused pavilion at Jubilee Playing Fields.

- Bentley Rec
- Bentworth Cricket Ground
- Binsted Rec
- East Meon Cricket Ground
- East Tisted Rec
- Headley Playing Field
- Jubilee Playing Fields
- Medstead Village Green
- Penns Farm Playing Fields
- Ripsley Park (Liphook & Ripsley Cricket Club)
- Steep Cricket Club
- Wield Cricket Ground

Many of the ancillary facilities in the area are unsuitable for women's and girls' cricket and are preventing further growth of female cricket at clubs. Pavilions with unsuitable floor plans, unsafe access, or lines of site from the changing rooms and showers to other indoor facilities restrict women's and girls' teams from using the facilities and prevent clubs from providing equal opportunities for all demographics, figure 4.1 outlines priority sites for improvements. Sufficient considerations also need to be made to the accessibility of ancillary facilities for disabled participants.

Figure 4.1: Priority sites for facilities improvements for women's and girls' participation

Club	Site	Pavilion issues that needs addressing to encourage more women's and girls players
Petersfield CC	Penns Place	The ancillary facilities are in poor condition, therefore the club only schedule women's and girls' matches at their main site (Petersfield Heath)
Grayshott CC	Grayshott Playing Fields	Changing rooms are directly accessible from inside the bar's male toilets. More dedicated female toilets required.
Grayshott CC	Broxhead Common Cricket Ground	More dedicated female toilets required
Headley, Whitehill & Bordon CC	BOSC	Improvements need to be made to changing rooms for them to be more suitable for female players
Binsted CC	Binsted Rec. Ground	No specific female changing rooms
Liphook and Ripsley CC	Ripsley Park	Line of sight from the bar to the showers, making them unsuitable for female players.

4.2 Future

To estimate the potential impact of population growth over the strategy period to 2040 on the need for cricket pitch capacity in the peak period, Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) tool has been used to determine the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth. To meet cricket demand from 8,958 additional residents (as currently forecast²) and assuming current levels of cricket demand by age group for matches and training in the peak period, the PPC predicts an increase of 10 teams in the area, 5 adult teams and 5 youth teams, based on team generation rates for the area and to meet this demand the equivalent capacity of two additional cricket pitches will be needed in the study area.

Figure 4.2: Team generation rates

Age Group	Current pop in Age group	Current no of teams	Team Gen. Rate	Increase Pop in age group	Predicted future no of teams	No of home matches per season	No of matches per pitch per season	Natural Turf pitches
Men (18-55yrs)	2215.83	53	470	1796.74	3.82	38.20	40	0.95
Women (18-55yrs)	2392.27	13	2070	1940.52	0.94	9.37	40	0.23
Boys (7-18yrs)	825.04	57	163	669.03	4.11	32.87	56	0.59
Girls (7-18yrs)	801.48	20	451	650.04	1.44	11.53	56	0.21
					10.31			1.98

With many clubs' aspirations for team growth and the impact of cricket development initiatives with regard to primary age children, women and girls' cricket and under-represented ethnic minority groups are added, it is noted that there may be higher than expected growth rates in these groups, leading to a greater demand for additional fine turf pitches. Additional NTP's at clubs with large youth sections who currently have no provision will help them to alleviate some of the pressure on their fine turf pitches and accommodate growth.

² ONS 2018-based housing-led population projections (Released March 2020)

The Hampshire Cricket Board reported that across Hampshire County over 600 teams are registered for the 2024 season, which is significantly greater than the expected number of 530 teams. Of these, over 100 are girl's teams. Hampshire Cricket Board is assuming responsibility for junior cricket in East Hampshire from 2024, taking over from the four independent district associations which previously organized youth competitions. If the success of other county cricket boards can be replicated in East Hampshire, Hampshire Cricket Board expects this venture to encourage further growth of junior cricket.

5. Key Findings and Issues for Cricket (Step 6)

Figure 5.1 - Cricket Key Findings and Issues

The main characteristics of the <u>current</u> supply of and demand for provision
<p>27 fine turf pitches are identified as available for community cricket across East Hampshire District in 2023, on 25 playing pitch sites. Included in this total are the two sites located either just outside the border or on the edge of the border, Broadhalfpenny Down and Ripsley Park, which serve residents of East Hampshire. There are 12 non-turf pitches on 11 sites. Since the last assessment was carried out in 2018 there has been some change in the supply of cricket pitches in the district, with the pitch at Four Marks Rec being removed and the NTP at Bohunt school is due to be lost. The pitch at Bordon and Oakhanger Sports Club (BOSC) has been developed since the last study and there have been improvements to the outfield at Holybourne Sports Field and they are currently refurbishing the NTP wicket.</p> <p>Nineteen clubs were identified in East Hampshire through the consultation, there are 53 total adult men’s sides in 2023, with many clubs offering informal cricket through mixed midweek fixtures and adult friendly fixtures and 13 W10 softball cricket teams. Nine clubs provide opportunities for juniors to play competitive cricket – Ropley CC, Liphook & Ripsley CC, Petersfield CC, Alton CC, Grayshott CC, Clanfield CC, Headley, Whitehill & Bordon CC, Holybourne CC, Steep CC.</p> <p>In total it is estimated that, in the 2023 season, there were 53 men's teams (aged 18+), 13 women's teams, 20 girl’s teams, and 57 boys’/mixed teams (aged 7-18), playing cricket matches in the area mainly at weekends. A large proportion of these teams also train on a midweek evening in season and most of the senior teams will also train indoors pre-season in January/February.</p>
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet <u>current</u> demand?
<p>The assessment of facility needs shows that the fine turf pitches of clubs with large junior sections in the area are largely over played, and these clubs require additional facilities to cater for demand and clubs such as Liphook and Ripsley CC and Grayshott CC use secondary facilities outside of the District. There are other sites under capacity which may be able to cater for some of this demand, as well as NTP’s on education sites not used.</p> <p>Overall, the cricket clubs in East Hampshire mostly benefit from good security of access on their home grounds, although Bentworth CC are reliant on a one year rolling agreement, Grayshott CC have no formal agreement with Grayshott Parish Council on their pitch, Holybourne CC had an informal agreement with their land holder which has not been recognised in the recent transfer of the land ownership, and Froxfield CC have no formal lease with Froxfield and Privett Parish Council on their pitch.</p>
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?
<p>Fine turf pitches across the District are mostly maintained to a standard level, leaving some opportunities to improve pitch quality and therefore increase capacity.</p> <p>The non-turf practice net systems are in need of upgrading at Bentley Rec, Chawton Cricket Ground, East Meon Cricket Ground, Penns Farm Playing Fields, and King George V Field.</p> <p>Investment into pavilions is required including new or refurbished provision at a number of sites, with clubs noting that their facilities are basic, and their pavilion building is old and difficult to maintain. Some clubs have noted that repairs are needed throughout their pavilions, with the pavilion at Wield Cricket Ground requiring a new roof, the pavilion at Penns Farm Playing Fields being</p>

unsafe, and the pavilion at East Tisted Rec having little security. There is also a disused pavilion at Jubilee Playing Fields.

Steep CC are exploring funding avenues to refurbish their pavilion to increase their capacity for teams and encourage more female players. Liphook and Ripsley CC have applied for S106 funding and ECB County Grant to help fund the refurbishment of their pavilion. Alton Town Council are investigating refurbishing both pavilions at Jubilee Playing Fields in order to make the second pavilion usable again

What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?

To meet cricket demand from 8,958 additional residents (as currently forecast³) and assuming current levels of cricket demand by age group for matches and training in the peak period, the PPC indicates that the equivalent capacity of a minimum two additional cricket pitches will be needed in the study area.

In addition, ten clubs have aspirations to grow their junior sections or offer sessions for women and girl’s cricket which will increase future demand for cricket pitches.

Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand?

There is not sufficient accessible and secured community use provision in the district to meet future demand. There is a need for a minimum of two additional fine turf pitches in the area. The development plan at Bentley Rec to add a 4 wicket fine turf pitch and upgrade the NTP will contribute toward meeting this demand and provide a suitable home pitch for BACSC. If the Holt Pound Lane Oval could be regenerated this would also support future demand in the area.

An NTP is needed at Ropley Rec and Binsted Rec to help alleviate the pressure on their fine turf pitches and support the growth of their junior sections. Petersfield CC are looking into the feasibility of a second pitch closer to their home pitch at Petersfield Heath to allow all teams to play on one site and reduce pressure on their current pitch on the Heath.

There is potential for clubs with large youth sections to use of NTP’s at the following educational sites Churcher’s College, Eggars School, and Horndean Technology College who have all stated their facilities are available for community bookings but are currently unused by clubs.

PitchPower (and ECB funding) is due to be available to cricket clubs in April 2024, providing potential for joint PitchPower and Football Foundation projects for sites with both football and cricket facilities. This could open an avenue to increased capacity and quality at joint sports sites such as Binsted Rec, Grayshott Playing Fields, and BOSC which are used at or above capacity.

The pitch at Hyden Farm Lane is currently only available for private use. Should this pitch become available for community use, it would help to reduce the demand for additional future provisions.

Investment into pavilions is required in the area including new or refurbished provision at many sites across the district. Clubs have noted that their current facilities are either not suitable for women’s and girl’s teams or are insufficient for any further growth of the club.

³ ONS 2018-based housing-led population projections (Released March 2020)