

peel



East Hampshire District Council  
Playing Pitch Strategy 2024 Appendix B  
Assessment of Need Report Football

## Appendix B: Football - Assessment of Needs (Stages B and C)

### 1. Introduction

The findings of the assessment of football facilities in East Hampshire District Council are summarised in this appendix to the Playing Pitch Strategy. FA affiliated football clubs registered to East Hampshire FA and playing home fixtures in the area have contributed to this assessment 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 83% of teams playing affiliated football in the area.

Since the last assessment was carried out in 2018 there have been changes in both the supply of football pitches in East Hampshire and in football demand. On the supply side, there has been additional provision of a new full sized 3G FTP at Oakmoor School in 2018 (replacing the previous provision at Mill Chase Academy) and Horndean Technology College (extension of existing small sized 3G) and a small sized 3G (18x36m) at Alton Sports Centre. New grass pitches at Bordon and Oakhanger Sports Club and improvements have been made or are in progress to the quality of grass pitches at Horndean Technology College, Love Lane Sports Ground, Newman Collard Playing Fields, Penns Farm Playing Fields and Jubilee Playing Fields.

There has been an increase in demand, as the number of football teams in East Hampshire has increased to 265 teams. This represents an increase of 41 teams - over 18% - since the previous audit in 2018 when 224 affiliated teams were registered in the district. There has been an increase in all formats of football including adult teams (+2 teams, one 11v11 and one small sided walking football) and a large increase in youth and mini soccer teams (+39) in total. Within youth and mini soccer, there was a decrease in girls' specific teams with 14 now compared to 33 in 2018, although it is likely due to more girls playing mixed football. Football demand recovered quickly from the restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2021/22 season and is now showing signs of accelerated growth, particularly in youth football.

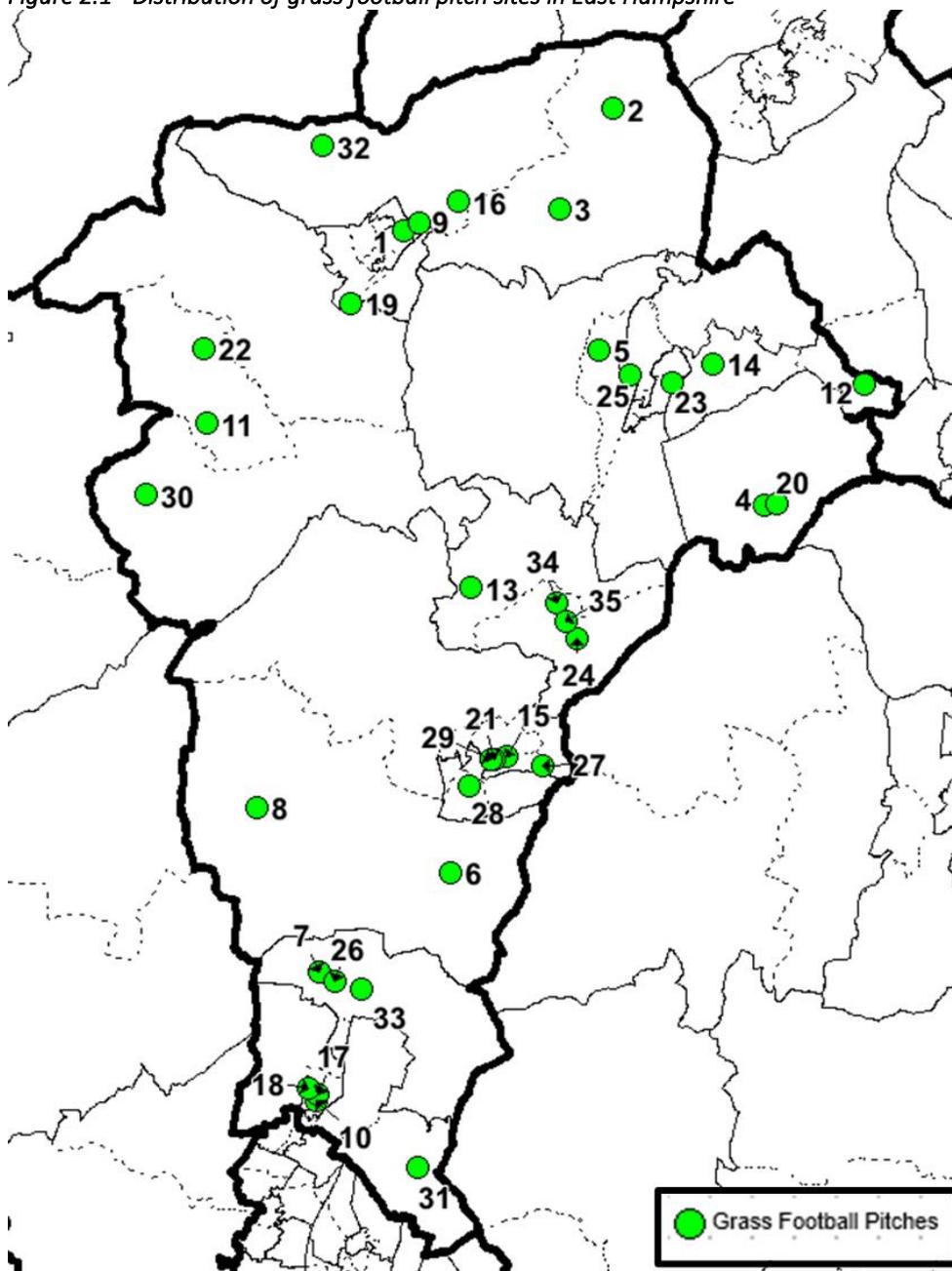
## 2. Football Supply (Step 2)

The findings of the assessment of supply of football facilities in East Hampshire are summarised in this section and detailed by site for both grass and artificial turf pitches. The supply 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 FA in the national guidance for the development of playing pitch needs assessments), augmented by consultation with the Council, Hampshire FA, and user clubs. At a number of key football sites, more detailed pitch quality assessments were undertaken using the Football Foundation's 'PitchPower' methodology. At these sites, the estimates of playing capacity are informed by the results of the PitchPower assessments and Performance Quality Standards (PQS) ratings provided by the Grounds Maintenance Association (GMA).

### 2.1 Distribution of Football Supply

Figure 2.1 and 2.2 show the distribution of key football sites across East Hampshire.

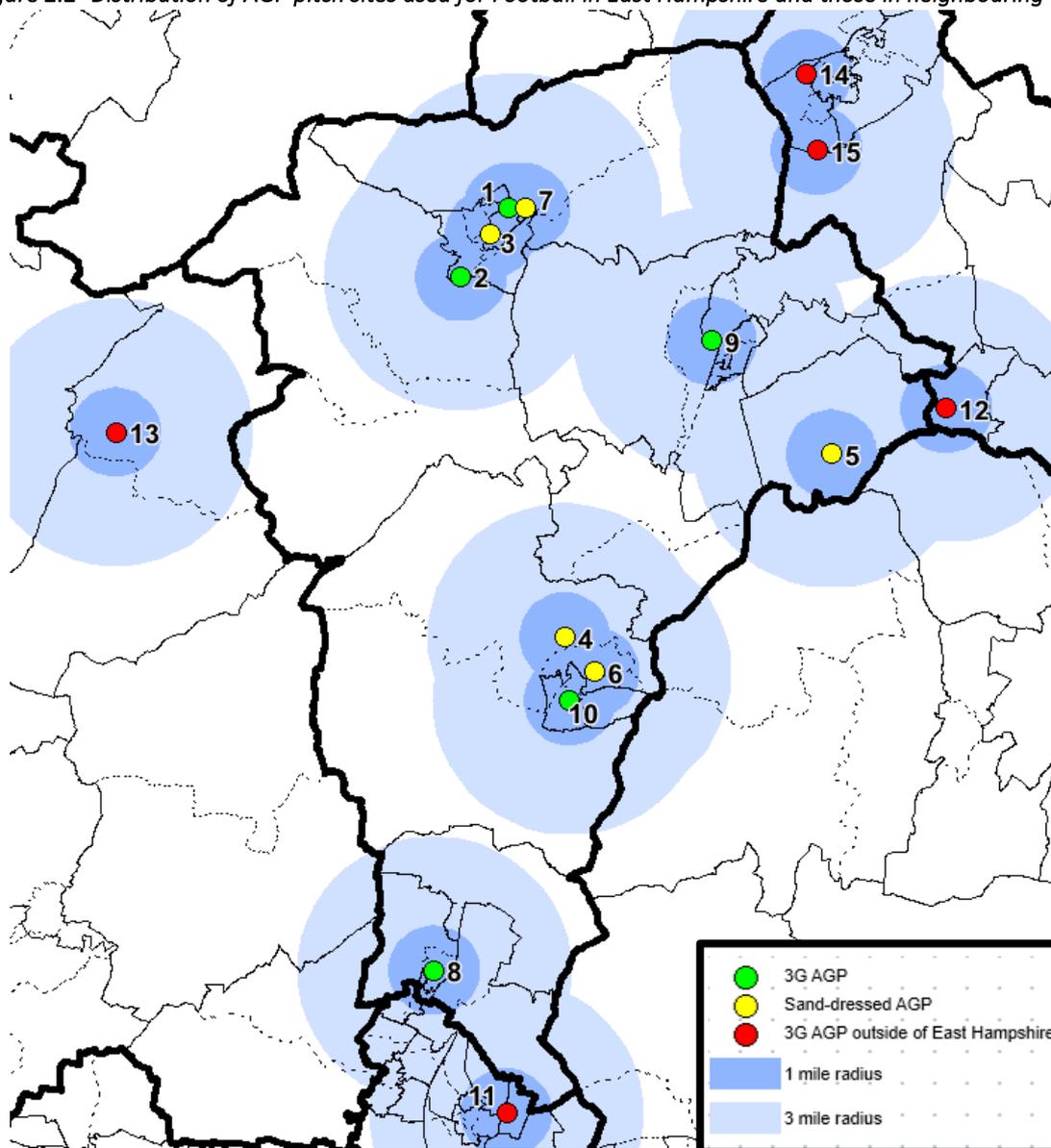
Figure 2.1 - Distribution of grass football pitch sites in East Hampshire



Key: Grass Football Pitch Sites*		
No	Site Name	Postcode
1	ANSTEY PARK / DIGGERS FIELD	GU34 2NB
2	BENTLEY REC	GU10 5HZ
3	BINSTED RECREATION GROUND	GU34 4PB
4	BOHUNT SCHOOL	GU30 7NY
5	BORDON & OAKHANGER SPORTS CLUB	GU35 9HG
6	BURITON RECREATION GROUND	GU31 5RX
7	CLANFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL	PO8 0RE
8	EAST MEON VILLAGE GREEN/ WORKHOUSE LANE	GU32 1PF
9	EGGARS SCHOOL	GU34 4EQ
10	FIVE HEADS REC	PO8 9HZ
11	FOURMARKS RECREATION GROUND	GU34 5AF
12	GRAYSHOTT SPORTS FIELD	GU26 6LS
13	HAWKLEY FIELDS	GU33 6LY
14	HEADLEY PLAYING FIELDS	GU35 8LH
15	HERNE JUNIOR SCHOOL*	GU31 4BP
16	HOLYBOURNE SPORTS FIELD	GU34 4HU
17	HORNDEAN TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE	PO8 9PQ
18	JUBILEE HALL PARK, HORNDEAN	PO8 9YE
19	JUBILEE PLAYING FIELD, ALTON	GU34 1RF
20	LIPHOOK RECREATION GROUND	GU30 7AN
21	LOVE LANE SPORTS GROUND	GU31 4BW
22	MEDSTEAD VILLAGE GREEN	GU34 5LG
23	MILL CHASE RECREATION GROUND	GU35 0EU
24	NEWMAN COLLARD PLAYING FIELD	GU33 7LE
25	OAKMOOR SCHOOL*	GU35 0JB
26	PEEL PARK RECREATION GROUND	PO8 0PR
27	PENNS FARM PLAYING FIELD	GU31 4EX
28	PETERSFIELD SCHOOL	GU32 3LU
29	PETERSFIELD TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB	GU31 4BW
30	ROPLEY RECREATION GROUND	SO24 0DJ
31	ROWLANDS CASTLE RECREATION GROUND	PO9 6AE
32	SHALDEN RECREATION GROUND	GU34 4DT
33	ST JAMES, CLANFIELD*	PO8 0WJ
34	THE GLEBE (LISS)	GU33 6JU
35	WEST LISS RECREATION GROUND	GU33 7AJ

\*Includes sites with potential or due to be available for community use next season- Herne Junior School, Oakmoor School and St James, Clanfield.

Figure 2.2- Distribution of AGP pitch sites used for Football in East Hampshire and those in neighbouring area's.



Key: Artificial Pitch Sites		
No	Site Name	Postcode
1	ALTON FC	GU34 2NG
2	ALTON SPORTS CENTRE	GU34 1ST
3	AMERY HILL SCHOOL	GU34 2BY
4	BEDALES SCHOOL	GU32 2DG
5	BOHUNT SCHOOL	GU30 7NY
6	CHURCHER'S COLLEGE	GU31 4AS
7	EGGARS SCHOOL	GU34 4EQ
8	HORNDEAN TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE	PO8 9PQ
9	OAKMOOR SCHOOL	GU35 OJB
10	THE PETERSFIELD SCHOOL	GU32 3LU
11	WESTLEIGH PARK (HAVANT)	PO9 5TH
12	WOOLMER HILL SCHOOL (WAVERLEY)	GU27 1QB
13	PERINS SCHOOL (WINCHESTER)	SO24 9BS
14	WEYDON SCHOOL (WAVERLEY)	GU9 8UG
15	FRENESHAM HEIGHTS SCHOOL (WAVERLEY)	GU10 4EA

## 2.2 Grass Football Pitches in East Hampshire

In total there are 117 grass pitches across 48 sites available for football use in East Hampshire. 16 of these pitches (14 sites) are on school playing fields and either are not currently available for community use or have no known history of community use. These include:

- Alton School – 1 pitch (Junior 11v11)
- Amery Hill School – 2 pitches (1x Adult 11v11, 1 x Junior 11v11)
- Bedales School – 2 pitches (1x Adult 11v11, 1 x Junior 11v11)
- Ditcham Park School – 1 pitch (Adult 11v11)
- Four Marks COE Primary School – 1 pitch (7v7)
- Grayshott COE Primary School – 1 pitch (Junior 11v11)
- HSDC Alton – 1 pitch (Adult 11v11)
- Kingscourt School – 1 pitch (7v7)
- Liss Junior School – 1 pitch (7v7)
- Medstead COE Primary School - 1 pitch (Junior 11v11)
- Petersgate Infant School – 1 pitch (7v7)
- St Mary's Bentworth COE Primary School – 1 pitch (7v7)
- St Matthews COE Primary School – 1 pitch (Junior 11v11)
- The Holme COE Primary School – 1 pitch (7v7)

Two education sites with 11 pitches, whilst not currently available for use, have facilities either due to be made available for community use or are considering community. These include:

- Oakmoor School - 5 pitches (2x junior 11v11, 1x 9v9, 2x7v7)  
The majority of pitches at Oakmoor School (1 x junior 11v11, 1x 9v9, 2x 7v7) are due to be available for community use from January 24, with an additional Junior 11v11 available from September 2024.
- Herne Junior School – 6 pitches (2x 9v9, 4x 5v5)  
These pitches are currently only used by the school, but they would be open to hiring out the pitches for future community use. However, they were unclear if changing provision could be provided.

The above pitches have all been excluded from the supply and demand calculations, as they are not currently available for community use. This means the number of secured pitches available for community football in East Hampshire is reduced to 90 pitches on 32 sites (with the key sites shown in figure 2.1). It should also be noted that a number of the pitches included in the area are over-marked to accommodate smaller sided games (e.g., 9v9 on 11v11 or 5v5 on 7v7).

Figure 2.3 below shows the number of secured pitches currently available compared with the number of FA affiliated teams by age group in June 2023. Comparison of current team numbers with the available supply of natural turf pitches shows that there is a relatively even distribution of pitches with nearly 3 mini soccer (7v7 or 5v5) teams and Junior 9v9 teams for each available pitch. There are just over 2 teams for each adult pitch, but there are less Junior 11v11 specific pitches for the number of teams in this age group with over 4 teams per pitch, meaning some will play on full sized pitches.

Whilst youth pitches have greater capacity for play than senior pitches (due to lower wear and tear by youth players compared to heavier adult players), the growth in youth age groups and the concentration of large clubs in one area, means additional demand is catered for in some areas by the over-marking of pitches, which in most cases leads to the over-play of pitches at these sites. Some demand for youth and adult games is catered for by 3G pitches in the area with Horndean Technology

College, Oakmoor School, and The Petersfield School registered for FA league matches, although usage for league matches at The Petersfield school is limited. The future demand for grass pitches is outlined in Section 5 of this document.

**Figure 2.3: Pitch Size / Team Comparison**

Pitch Type	Available Pitch Supply*		Teams playing in East Hampshire**	
11v11 (Open Age, Veterans, U19, U18, U17)	27	30%	60	23%
Junior 11v11 (U13 - U16)	14	16%	60	23%
Junior 9v9 (U11 – U12)	19	21%	52	18%
Mini Soccer 7v7 (U9 - U10)	20	22%	44	17%
Mini Soccer 5v5 (U6 – U8)	10	11%	47	18%
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>		<b>263</b>	

\*Includes 4 mini soccer pitches usually marked out at Love Lane Sports Ground but unavailable due to renovation works.

\*\* Source: Hampshire FA affiliation data (June 23) / Club Survey (June – Oct 23) excludes walking football, futsal, small sided disability teams

### 2.3 Local Authority Owned Sites with Grass Football Pitches for Hire:

Town and Parish Councils make grass football pitch sites available for community clubs to book and hire. These playing fields offer a total of 59 pitches for clubs to hire and are detailed in figure 2.4.

### 2.4 Town and Parish Council Owned Grass Pitches with Leases or Management Agreements:

Town and Parish Councils play an enabling role in developing better quality facilities by engaging and allowing community organisations, through the asset transfer process, to independently manage and operate existing and new facilities. The 3 playing field sites listed in figure 2.5 have football pitches owned by East Hampshire Parish Council’s that are leased to individual community sports clubs/organisations to manage and maintain.

### 2.5 Sports Association/Charity Owned Grass Football Pitches:

There are 5 playing pitches on 3 sites under sports association or recreation charity / trust ownership and have pitches that are used extensively by community football clubs. These are listed in figure 2.6. Bordon and Oakhanger Sports Club (3 pitches) is not currently in charity / trust ownership, but the aim is for the site to be transferred in the next 3 years. It is currently owned by the Ministry of Defence and managed by the Whitehill and Bordon Regeneration Company.

### 2.6 Football Pitches on Education Sites:

East Hampshire based community football clubs currently play on pitches at several education sites, as listed in figure 2.7. The clubs using pitches on education sites have little security of access as continued use from one season to the next depends on the consent of the site’s management (head teacher, board of governors, management company and/or governing trust). There are community use agreements in place at Oakmoor School, Eggars School and Horndean Technology College which provide protection for community access to the artificial and grass pitches, however it does not always determine use by a specific club. The other education sites do not have community use agreements in place and whilst none of these education providers has indicated any intention to stop allowing access in future, without specific agreements in place for longer than a single season, security of access for football clubs at these sites must be considered a risk. It should also be noted that the capacity of pitches on education sites are typically influenced by school use including PE activity, extra-curricular use and playtimes.

Further youth and mini-soccer pitches (or space to accommodate pitches) exist in the area on playing fields at other school sites across the district, as listed in section 2.2. However, the majority are single pitch sites on primary schools able to offer little or no access to ancillary facilities. Arranging future access to these pitches at weekends at reasonable cost while safeguarding the security of the schools' buildings would be difficult to achieve in most cases.

## 2.7 Changes to Grass Football Pitch provision

There are no known grass pitches at risk, but several grass pitches are due to be provided in the area on the following sites.

- Bentley Recreation Ground – 2 pitches (1x junior 11v11, 1x 7v7). There are proposals to accommodate Cricket and youth football at the site which will result in a reconfiguration of the ground resulting in one Adult 11v11 pitch being lost but one Junior 11v11 and one 7v7 pitch being provided.
- Headley Field 6 project – 3 pitches (1x junior 11v11, 1x 7v7, 1x 5v5) the pitches are due to be completed spring 24 and handed to the parish council to maintain, likely to be playable for the 25/26 season.
- Oakmoor School – 5 pitches (2x junior 11v11, 1x 9v9, 2x7v7) are due to be available for community use for the 24/25 season.
- Penns Farm Playing Fields – 1 pitch (1x Adult 11v11). Once new rugby pitches are provided one of the current rugby pitches will be changed to football, likely for the 25/26 season.
- St James, Clanfield – 2 pitches (2x 9v9 pitches). Pitches have been provided following development, ownership is with Clanfield Parish Council, a temporary license has been given to Clanfield FC to use the pitches, with the aim for a lease to be put in place.
- Land at Bordon Garrison (New Primary School provision) – 1 pitch (1 x9v9) due to be available for community use when school is built.

## 2.8 Facilities for Informal Football

Most of the parks and larger public open spaces in the district provide flat grass areas suitable for casual recreational games of football and kick-about. Many open spaces across East Hampshire also offer a fenced but open access multi use games area (MUGA) and/or a smaller ball court (for football/basketball/skate), some of which are floodlit. Examples identified include:

- Anesty Park – 2 x Floodlit Concrete MUGA resurfaced in 2018.
- Bramble Road, Petersfield – artificial grass MUGA.
- East Meon Rec – Floodlit MUGA resurfaced in 2023.
- Four Marks Rec – Macadam MUGA – surface due to be replaced soon.
- Jubilee Park, Buriton – Floodlit MUGA installed 2017.
- Lower Playing field, Farringdon – MUGA.
- Ropley Rec – Floodlit Macadam MUGA installed 2017.
- Wield Village Green – Grass area with goals.
- Woodlands Hall – Grass area with goals and MUGA due to be resurfaced summer 2024.

## 2.9 Commercial Football Centres

There are currently no commercial football centres located in the area, but there are two providers running small sided leagues at Oakmoor School, with Powerplay running a league on a Monday evening 8-9.30pm and Soccer Sixes on a Wednesday evening 9-10pm. There is also a recreational football provider Solent Sports delivering sessions at Oakmoor School on a Friday evening 8-9pm.

**Figure 2.4: Town and Parish Council Owned Sites with Grass Football Pitches for Hire:**

Site	Pitches by size	Overmarked	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security of access	Capacity	Estimated Use	Surplus	RAG
ANSTEY PARK / DIGGERS FIELD - GU34 2NB	Junior 11v11	NA	Standard	Teams use Alton FC main ground for toilet / Changing access.	Secured Alton PC	2	2	0	Yellow
ANSTEY PARK / DIGGERS FIELD - GU34 2NB	Junior 9v9	NA	Standard			2	2	0	Yellow
ANSTEY PARK / DIGGERS FIELD - GU34 2NB	Mini 7v7	NA	Standard			4	4	0	Yellow
ANSTEY PARK / DIGGERS FIELD - GU34 2NB	Mini 5v5	NA	Standard			4	2	2	Green
ANSTEY PARK / DIGGERS FIELD - GU34 2NB	Mini 5v5	NA	Standard			4	2.5	1.5	Green
BENTLEY REC – GU10 5HZ	Adult 11v11	NA	Standard	Pavilion currently used by scouts	Secured Bentley PC	2	0	2	Green
BINSTED RECREATION GROUND - GU34 4PB	Junior 9v9	Mini 7v7	Poor	Clubhouse with tea & coffee making facilities which doubles as the PC offices. Public toilets.	Secured Binsted PC	1	1.5	-0.5	Red
BINSTED RECREATION GROUND - GU34 4PB	Mini 5v5	NA	Poor			2	1	1	Green
BURITON RECREATION GROUND - GU31 5RX	Adult 11v11	NA	Standard		Secured Buriton PC	2	0	2	Green
BURITON RECREATION GROUND - GU31 5RX	Mini 7v7	NA	Standard			4	0	4	Green
BURITON RECREATION GROUND - GU31 5RX	Mini 7v7	NA	Standard			4	0	4	Green
EAST MEON VILL GREEN / WORKHOUSE LANE - GU32 1PF	Adult 11v11	NA	Standard	Unknown	Secured East Meon PC	2	1	1	Green
FIVE HEADS REC, PO8 9HZ	Adult 11v11 (Stadia Pitch)	NA	Standard	Clubhouse and changing rooms	Rolling lease (20 yr. lease is due to be signed).	2	1	1	Green
FIVE HEADS REC, PO8 9HZ	Adult 11v11	NA	Standard		Secured Horndean PC	2	1.5	0.5	Green
FIVE HEADS REC, PO8 9HZ	Adult 11v11	NA	Standard			2	1	1	Green
FIVE HEADS REC, PO8 9HZ	Mini 7v7	NA	Standard			4	1	3	Green

Site	Pitches by size	Overmarked	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security of access	Capacity	Estimated Use	Surplus	RAG
FIVE HEADS REC, PO8 9HZ	Mini 5v5	NA	Standard			4	1.5	2.5	
FOURMARKS REC. GROUND - GU34 5AF	Adult 11v11	NA	Standard	Basic changing rooms managed by sports committee.	Secured Four Marks PC	2	1	1	
GRAYSHOTT SPORTS FIELD - GU26 6LS	Junior 11v11	Junior 9v9	Standard	Good condition pavilion with partitionable changing rooms. Separate showers, some with separate cubicles, some open.	Secured Grayshott PC	2	1	1	
GRAYSHOTT SPORTS FIELD - GU26 6LS	Junior 9v9	NA	Standard			2	0.5	1.5	
GRAYSHOTT SPORTS FIELD - GU26 6LS	Mini 7v7	NA	Standard			4	1.5	2.5	
HAWKLEY FIELDS - GU33 6LY	Adult 11v11	NA	Standard	No facilities	Secured Hawkley PC	2	2	0	
HAWKLEY FIELDS - GU33 6LY	Junior 9v9	NA	Standard			2	1	1	
JUBILEE HALL PARK, HORNDEAN - PO8 9YE	Junior 9v9	NA	Standard	New pavilion (2xCR's, public toilets), community hall and parish office on site	Secured Horndean PC	2	2.5	-0.5	
JUBILEE HALL PARK, HORNDEAN - PO8 9YE	Mini 7v7	NA	Standard			4	2	2	
JUBILEE PLAYING FIELD, ALTON, GU34 1RF	Adult 11v11	NA	Standard	Dated pavilion in need of upgrading	Secured Alton PC	2	1.5	0.5	
JUBILEE PLAYING FIELD, ALTON, GU34 1RF	Adult 11v11	2 x Mini 7v7	Standard			2	2	0	
JUBILEE PLAYING FIELD, ALTON, GU34 1RF	Adult 11v11	2 x Mini 7v7	Standard			2	1.5	0.5	
JUBILEE PLAYING FIELD, ALTON, GU34 1RF	Adult 11v11	NA	Standard			2	2	0	
JUBILEE PLAYING FIELD, ALTON, GU34 1RF	Junior 9v9	NA	Standard			2	2	0	
LOVE LANE SPORTS GROUND - GU31 4BW	Adult 11v11	NA	Standard		Secured Petersfield TC	2	3	-1	
LOVE LANE SPORTS GROUND - GU31 4BW	Mini 7v7	NA	poor	Pitches not available due to renovation works		NIU	0	0	
LOVE LANE SPORTS GROUND - GU31 4BW	Mini 5v5	NA	Poor			NIU	0	0	
LOVE LANE SPORTS GROUND - GU31 4BW	Mini 7v7	NA	Standard			NIU	0	0	

Site	Pitches by size	Overmarked	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security of access	Capacity	Estimated Use	Surplus	RAG
LOVE LANE SPORTS GROUND - GU31 4BW	Mini 7v7	NA	Standard			NIU	0	0	
MEDSTEAD VILLAGE GREEN - GU34 5LG	Adult 11v11	NA	Standard	Basic pavilion on site with two changing rooms, but no hot water. PC has plans to develop.	Secured – Medstead PC	2	1	1	
MILL CHASE REC. GROUND - GU35 0EU	Junior 11v11	NA	Poor	Clubhouse with good size changing rooms and showers	Secured Headley PC	1	1.5	-0.5	
MILL CHASE REC. GROUND - GU35 0EU	Junior 9v9	NA	Poor			1	1.5	-0.5	
MILL CHASE REC. GROUND - GU35 0EU	Mini 7v7	NA	Poor			2	1	1	
MILL CHASE REC. GROUND - GU35 0EU	Mini 5v5	NA	Poor			2	1	1	
PEEL PARK RECREATION GROUND - PO8 OPR	Adult 11v11	NA	Poor (PP)	Large pavilion on site which is in need of refurbishment	Secured Clanfield PC	1	1.5	-0.5	
PEEL PARK RECREATION GROUND - PO8 OPR	Junior 11v11	NA	Good (PP)			4	2	2	
PENNS FARM PLAYING FIELD - GU31 4EX	Junior 11v11	NA	Standard	Toilets are available for use at Taro leisure Centre, but no changing facilities are provided.	Secured Petersfield TC	2	2.5	-0.5	
PENNS FARM PLAYING FIELD - GU31 4EX	Junior 11v11	NA	Standard			2	2.5	-0.5	
PENNS FARM PLAYING FIELD - GU31 4EX	Junior 11v11	NA	Standard			2	2.5	-0.5	
PENNS FARM PLAYING FIELD - GU31 4EX	Junior 9v9	NA	Standard			2	1.5	0.5	
PENNS FARM PLAYING FIELD - GU31 4EX	Junior 9v9	NA	Standard			2	1.5	0.5	
PENNS FARM PLAYING FIELD - GU31 4EX	Junior 9v9	NA	Standard			2	2	0	
PENNS FARM PLAYING FIELD - GU31 4EX	Mini 7v7	NA	Standard			4	3	1	
PENNS FARM PLAYING FIELD - GU31 4EX	Mini 7v7	NA	Standard			4	3	1	
PENNS FARM PLAYING FIELD - GU31 4EX	Mini 7v7	NA	Standard			4	3	1	
ROPLEY RECREATION GROUND - SO24 0DJ	Adult 11v11	NA	Good		Secured Ropley PC.	3	1.5	1.5	

Site	Pitches by size	Overmarked	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security of access	Capacity	Estimated Use	Surplus	RAG
ROPLEY RECREATION GROUND - SO24 0DJ	Junior 11v11	NA	Good		Club has licence for use	4	1	3	Green
ROWLANDS CASTLE REC GROUND - PO9 6AE	Adult 11v11	NA	Standard	Pavilion on site - PC report that the changing rooms and showers are in need of updating	Secured Rowlands Castle PC	2	0.5	1.5	Green
ROWLANDS CASTLE REC GROUND - PO9 6AE	Junior 11v11	NA	Standard			2	2	0	Yellow
ROWLANDS CASTLE REC GROUND - PO9 6AE	Mini 7v7	NA	Standard			4	1.5	2.5	Green
ROWLANDS CASTLE REC GROUND - PO9 6AE	Mini 5v5	NA	Standard			4	1.5	2.5	Green
SHALDEN RECREATION GROUND - GU34 4DT	Junior 11v11	NA	Standard	Small hut on site has toilets using a septic tank.	Secured Shalden PC	2	0.5	1.5	Green
WEST LISS RECREATION GROUND - GU33 7AJ	Adult 11v11	NA	Standard	Modern Pavilion with changing rooms and large hall.	Secured Liss PC	2	1	1	Green

**Figure 2.5 Town and Parish Council Owned Grass Pitches with Leases or Management Agreements:**

Site	Pitches by size	Overmarked	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security of access	Capacity	Estimated Use	Surplus	RAG
HEADLEY PLAYING FIELDS - GU35 8LH	Adult 11v11	NA	Poor (PP)	Pavilion with kitchen is old and in need of refurbishment, which Headley PC are planning.	Club 25 year sub-lease from Headley PC	1	2.5	-1.5	Red
HEADLEY PLAYING FIELDS - GU35 8LH	Junior 11v11	NA	Standard (PP)	Pavilion is shared with cricket and bowls clubs.		2	2	0	Yellow
HEADLEY PLAYING FIELDS - GU35 8LH	Junior 9v9	NA	Poor (PP)			1	1.5	-0.5	Red
HEADLEY PLAYING FIELDS - GU35 8LH	Mini 7v7	NA	Poor (PP)			2	2	0	Yellow
HEADLEY PLAYING FIELDS - GU35 8LH	Mini 5v5	NA	Standard			4	2.5	1.5	Green
LIPHOOK RECREATION GROUND - GU30 7AN	Adult 11v11	NA	Poor (PP)	50 year old clubhouse which was donated to the club. Recent £3,000 investment as several walls were rotten.	PC site - 15 year lease with club	1	1	0	Yellow
LIPHOOK RECREATION GROUND - GU30 7AN	Junior 9v9	NA	Poor (PP)			1	1.5	-0.5	Red

Site	Pitches by size	Overmarked	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security of access	Capacity	Estimated Use	Surplus	RAG
LIPHOOK RECREATION GROUND - GU30 7AN	Mini 7v7	NA	Poor (PP)			2	2	0	Yellow
LIPHOOK RECREATION GROUND - GU30 7AN	Mini 5v5	NA	Poor (PP)			2	1.5	0.5	Green
PETERSFIELD TOWN FC - GU31 4BW	Adult 11v11 (Stadia)	NA	Standard	Clubhouse with social facilities and small kitchen. Changing rooms basic, shower areas poor. Officials room had large crack in wall.	PC site – Club has 15-20 year lease	2	2	0	Yellow

**Figure 2.6 Sports Association/Charity Owned Grass Football Pitches:**

Site	Pitches by size	Overmarked	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security of access	Capacity	Estimated Use	Surplus	RAG
BORDON & OAKHANGER SPORTS CLUB - GU35 9HG	Adult 11v11	NA	Standard	Large clubhouse with 2 sets of 2 changing rooms at either end of the building.	MOD owned, managed by regeneration company.	2	1.5	0.5	Green
BORDON & OAKHANGER SPORTS CLUB - GU35 9HG	Mini 7v7	NA	Standard		CUA in place and land due to transferred into charity / trust.	4	0	4	Green
BORDON & OAKHANGER SPORTS CLUB - GU35 9HG	Junior 9v9	NA	Standard			2	1	1	Green
HOLYBOURNE SPORTS FIELD - GU34 4HU	Adult 11v11	NA	Poor	Cricket pavilion and separately accessible changing rooms and toilets. Unsure of access to cricket pavilion for football teams.	Land owned by Holybourne Sports Trust	1	1	0	Yellow
NEWMAN COLLARD P. FIELD - GU33 7LE	Adult 11v11	NA	Standard (PP)	Pavilion on site with changing room and tea & coffee making facilities.	Secured – Trust	2	2	0	Yellow
NEWMAN COLLARD P. FIELD - GU33 7LE	Junior 9v9	NA	Standard		Football Club seasonal hire	2	1	1	Green
NEWMAN COLLARD P. FIELD - GU33 7LE	Mini 7v7	NA	Standard			4	3	1	Green
THE GLEBE (LISS) – GU33 6JU	Adult 11v11	NA	Standard	Pavilion on site	Liss Cricket Ground	2	1	1	Green

**Figure 2.7 Football Pitches on Education Sites:**

Site	Pitches by size	Overmarked	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security of access	Capacity	Estimated Use	Surplus	RAG
BOHUNT SCHOOL - GU30 7NY	Adult 11v11	NA	Standard	Changing room facilities available for clubs	Educational site - no CUA	2	2	0	Yellow
BOHUNT SCHOOL - GU30 7NY	Junior 11v11	NA	Standard			2	2	0	Yellow
CLANFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL - PO8 0RE	Junior 9v9	NA	Standard	Old outdoor pool changing area used for storage only - no toilets facilities.	Education site - no CUA	2	2	0	Yellow
CLANFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL - PO8 0RE	Mini 7v7	NA	Standard			4	2.5	1.5	Green
CLANFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL - PO8 0RE	Mini 5v5	NA	Standard			4	2	2	Green
EGGARS SCHOOL - GU34 4EQ	Junior 11v11	NA	Standard	Access to school changing rooms with integrated showers are provided to hirers.	Education site - no CUA	2	1	1	Green
EGGARS SCHOOL - GU34 4EQ	Junior 9v9	NA	Standard			2	1	1	Green
HORNDEAN TECH COLLEGE - PO8 9PQ	Adult 11v11	NA	Standard	Hirers are provided access to changing and toilet facilities.	Education site - no CUA	2	2	0	Yellow
HORNDEAN TECH COLLEGE - PO8 9PQ	Junior 11v11	NA	Standard			2	2	0	Yellow
HORNDEAN TECH COLLEGE - PO8 9PQ	Junior 9v9	Mini 7v7	Standard			2	2	0	Yellow
HORNDEAN TECH COLLEGE - PO8 9PQ	Mini 7v7	NA	Standard			4	2	2	Green

## 2.10 Quality

The table below summaries the standard of the pitches assessed. The ratings attributed to each pitch are detailed in the audit spreadsheet. These were informed by a combination of visual assessment on site visits and PitchPower assessments as well as feedback from consultation with user clubs and the Council. The audit was also subject to a check and challenge process with the Hampshire FA.

**Figure 2.8 – East Hampshire grass football pitch quality**

	Total	Percentage
Good	3	3%
Standard	70	78%
Poor	17	19%
<b>Total</b>	<b>90*</b>	

\* This final number will vary due to overmarking, and pitches closed / being improved at time of audit

19% of pitches in the area that have been assessed are of poor quality, with the majority (78%) of the available grass football pitches accessible for community use in East Hampshire rated as 'standard' (i.e., providing a playing capacity for up to two match equivalent sessions a week on average for adults). Only 3% of pitches are rated as good, however whilst the majority of the pitches were deemed to be 'standard' most were closer to a good rating than a poor rating.

Poor natural drainage and compaction of the ground are issues at some of the football pitch sites, due to the largely clay soils of much of the area. Few Local Authorities, Town or Parish Councils or their contractors have the resources of trained staff and specialist equipment necessary to carry out drilling at the frequencies required to aerate the ground and de-compact the playing surface.

11 pitches on 4 sites in East Hampshire have been assessed using the Football Foundation's PitchPower assessment and reporting tool. The PitchPower report findings for these sites identify the maintenance needs required together with budget costs. These sites are identified in Figures 2.4-2.7 with 'PP' in brackets next to their pitch rating.

## 2.11 Un-Booked Use of Formal Pitches by Teams

Informal recreational use and unauthorised use of the maintained pitches in East Hampshire parks is a challenge for the Town and Parish Councils. Clubs tend to take advantage of these sites especially for early and late season training when there is sufficient daylight on weekday evenings. This leads to reduced pitch quality for those that do book and pay for the pitch. The District, Town and Parish Councils strive to address this whether it is by FA affiliated football teams, private soccer schools or independent coaches by aiming to monitor the situation and contacting teams when armed with evidence as well as directing people to use other open spaces and not the formal pitch spaces.

## 2.12 Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) in East Hampshire

In total, there are 10 pitches of various sizes across East Hampshire with artificial grass surfaces suitable for football play at some level (i.e., either 3G preferred football surface or a sand-dressed multi use playing surface), as outlined in figure 2.5 and 2.6. There are 5 FA compliant 3G pitches in the area, 2 of these are on education sites with high levels of community usage both for training and matches. The sites at Alton SC and Petersfield School have some capacity but this is primarily at weekend for match play. Alton SC is only suitable for youth 5v5 mini soccer matches and more expensive than grass pitch hire, which prohibits use and Petersfield School is in a poor condition.

Over half (61%) of all the football clubs consulted (14 clubs, 223 teams) stated that the current number of hours available to them for training did not meet their demand and had the following comments.

- *We don't have anywhere to train in the winter.*
- *We cannot get enough training slots, so we have to have crowded sessions.*
- *There is a lack of facilities given the demand in the local area.*
- *In East Hampshire there is a lack of playing fields available for hire or 3G pitches.*
- *Many teams have to train on an unsuitable hockey all-weather pitch in the winter due to the only available 3G pitch at Alton Sports Centre being too small and expensive.*
- *We currently have to train at 5 different venues, sometimes we have 5 or 6 teams training on a single pitch.*
- *Need floodlight 3G capability. Oakmoor is oversubscribed and we can only just accommodate existing teams let alone any new ones. Teams from outside of the area hire which does not seem right considering community use agreement in place. Outside of Oakmoor there is no quality or reasonable provision for evening training. Liphook Bohunt surface is not suitable.*
- *Training - the men's team have to go out of East Hampshire (normally Portsmouth) to find reasonable slots on an all-weather pitch due to no availability at the Petersfield School (youth section requires all the slots).*
- *The facilities at Bohunt school on the ATP (hockey pitch) are inadequate with no full size goals.*
- *We use the astroturf pitch at The Petersfield School for midweek training from October to March, but its hire is very expensive, and it is also in demand from other local clubs, so is not always available. One astroturf pitch is not sufficient for training for the growing number of teams on midweek evenings, with many teams needing to train on the astroturf at the same time.*
- *Winter training is also problematic as we have only one floodlit area and it ends up a total quagmire! But there's a drastic lack of alternatives like 3G to rent in the area.*

There are a number of alternative full size (or near full size) floodlit 3G FTPs in neighbouring boroughs within a 20-minute drive (5-mile catchment area) based on application of the Active Places Power area access analysis mapping tool as shown in Figure 2.2. The future demand for 3G artificial pitches is outlined in Section 5 of this document.

### **2.13 FTPs at risk**

There are no FTPs at risk due to housing developments, however there is no known sinking fund in place for the 3G pitch at The Petersfield School, which could affect the school's ability to resurface the pitch when needed.

### **2.14 Proposed New FTPs**

Bohunt School has submitted planning permission to install a new full sized 3G pitch which is due to be decided upon soon. A further 3G pitch is proposed on the land east of the Horndean development.

### **2.15 Ancillary Facilities**

The ancillary facilities across the district vary in quality with several sites needing improvement. Figures 2.4-2.7 detail the situation at each site. There is a lack of basic changing provision at Clanfield Junior, Hawkley Fields, and Penns Farm Playing Field, which limits usage particularly for women and girls teams. It is essential that at the minimum toilet provision and some shelter are provided on each site. Improvements to the current provision is also needed at Headley Playing fields, Jubilee Playing Field (Alton), Liphook Recreation Ground, Peel Park Recreation Ground and Petersfield Town FC to modernise facilities and make them fit for purpose to accommodate women and girls and provide disability access.

**Figure 2.9: 3G FTPs - Situation at Individual Sites**

Site	FTP Size and Type	Date Built (or last Refurb)	Rating	On FA 3G Reg.	Ancillary Facilities	Security Of Access	Peak Hours Available	Est. Use in Peak Hours	RAG
ALTON FC, GU34 2NG	Full sized, floodlit stadia 3G pitch	2016	Good	Yes	Clubhouse with community space, kitchen, and changing rooms. Flooring needs upgrading.	Long lease	34	100%	Red
ALTON SPORTS CENTRE, GU34 1ST	3G 18x36m Floodlit	2021	Good	Yes	Changing in sports centre	Council Facility	34	17.5 hours (51%) Capacity wkends	Green
HORNDEAN TECH. COLLEGE, PO8 9PQ	70x105m 3G Floodlit	2006 (2021)	Good	Yes	Hirers are provided access to changing and toilet facilities.	Education site (FF funded)	34	100%	Red
OAKMOOR SCHOOL, GU35 0JB	70X106M 3G Floodlit	2018	Good	Yes	Changing room provisions are available for hirers	Education site with a CUA in place	32	100%	Red
THE PETERSFIELD SCHOOL, GU32 3LU	70X104m 3G Floodlit	2010	Poor	No	Hirers given access to school changing rooms	Education site - No CUA in place	26	18 hours (69%) Capacity wkends	Green

There are also several artificial grass pitches in the district with sand-based playing surfaces designed for hockey as the main sport, but which also accommodate a large amount of demand for small sided football and club training.

**Figure 2.10: Hockey sand based AGPs available for football training - Situation at Individual Sites**

Site	AGP Size and Type	Date Built (or last Refurb)	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security Of Access	Peak Hrs Available	Est. use in Peak Hrs	RAG
BEDALES SCHOOL, GU32 2DG	Sand dressed 104x60m floodlit	1990, refurbished in 2009	Poor	Basic changing facilities	Education site – No CUA in place	26	26 hours (100%) Football use 4 hrs.	Red
BOHUNT SCHOOL, GU30 7NY	Sand filled 100x60m. Floodlit	2000, refurbished in 2020	Good	Changing facilities available	Education site – No CUA in place	28	15.5 hours (55%) Football use 15.5 hrs.	Green
CHURCHER'S COLLEGE, GU31 4AS	Sand filled 100x64m floodlit	2006 resurfaced 2020	Standard	Changing room provisions are available for hirers	Education site – No CUA in place	14	14 x hours (100%) Football use 10 hrs.	Red
EGGARS SCHOOL, GU34 4EQ	Sand dressed 101x63m floodlit	2018	Standard	Dedicated changing rooms with showers available for pitch hirers.	Education site with CUA in place	34	34 hours (100%) Football use 9 hrs.	Red

### 3. Football Demand (Step 3)

The findings relating to football pitch demand in East Hampshire are summarised in this section of the report.

#### 3.1 Clubs and Teams

In June 2023, East Hampshire had a total of 33 affiliated clubs (including separately constituted youth sections of adult clubs) registered to Hampshire FA with 265 teams all playing home fixtures on pitches in the district. The total of 265 teams is an increase of 41 teams - 18% - since the previous audit in 2018 when 224 affiliated teams were registered to East Hampshire.

Of the 265 Hampshire FA affiliated teams in East Hampshire, 44 are adult men's teams (U19 + including veterans and walking football teams), 4 women's teams (U19+ including veterans), 125 youth teams (comprising of 114 mixed teams, 1 boys' team and 10 girls' teams) and 91 mini-soccer teams (of which 4 are female specific teams). There is also 1 futsal team affiliated as playing small sided football in the area.

Eight of the clubs have youth sections with 10 or more age group teams. Of these clubs 3 have over 20 teams, Alton Youth with 39 teams, Clanfield Youth 22 teams and Petersfield Town with 45 teams. Alton Youth has access to their own 3G facility which caters for training and some match day provision, as well as using natural turf pitches at Anstey Park and Jubilee Playing Field. Clanfield Youth are spread across several venues for training and use 6 different venues for matches. Petersfield Town uses the 3G at The Petersfield School for training, but the site is not registered for FA match play. They use Love Lane Sports Ground and Penns Farm Playing Fields for matches. All 3 clubs state the need for access to more training and match day provision to support the continued growth of their clubs.

23% of teams in the district are adult teams (down from 26% in 2018), 43% are youth teams (down from 44%) 34% are mini-soccer teams (up from 29%).

#### 3.2 Active Lives Survey

*Adults:* The most recently published findings of the national Active Lives Adult Survey<sup>1</sup> (November 2021) showed that self-reported regular participation (i.e., taken part at least twice in the last 28 days) in football within England by adults (aged 16+) increased by 1.2% from 3.2% between November 2020 - November 2021 to 4.4% between November 2021 - November 2022.

If football participation in the district were at the national average in November 2020-2021 (i.e., 3.2%), this would indicate around 3,225 adults (aged 18+) living in the district of East Hampshire play football out of an 18+ adult population of approximately 100,781. At the 2021/22 national 16+ football penetration rate of 4.4%, this would suggest circa 4,434 over 18-year-olds in East Hampshire play football.

With approximately 60 adult teams currently, the 'adult' football club playing membership in the district is close to 900 players (assuming an average of 15 squad players per team). Assuming adult football participation in East Hampshire is in line with the current national average of 4.4%, this suggests that 80% of all regular adult football played in the district is unaffiliated football within small-sided leagues, friendly games, or park kick-about.

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<sup>1</sup> Active Lives Adult Survey November 2021-22, Sport England, (April 2023)

### 3.3 Expressed Demand

Expressed demand in the district for all levels and types of football is summarised in this section. Sources of demand information include FA databases, club and league websites, club survey returns, and information gathered from site visits and meetings.

**Open Age Men's Football** – There are 4 clubs based in East Hampshire who play within the Football League set up. Horndean FC play at the highest level at Step 4 in the Isthmian South East Division, followed by Alton FC and Petersfield Town at Step 5. These clubs must comply with the FA's minimum Ground Grading Guidelines to maintain their league status, promotion from their current division / league requires the club's home ground to meet the requirements of the corresponding ground grading at each 'Step'. Clanfield FC currently play outside of the District due to a lack of facilities available for the level they play at.

**Figure 3.1: Senior Adult Football League Clubs**

Senior Football Clubs	League	Home Ground	Training Ground
<b>Step 4</b>			
Horndean FC	Pitching-In Isthmian League South East Division	Stanley Chase Stadium, Five Heads Rec	Five Heads Rec (Floodlit Natural turf)
<b>Step 5</b>			
Alton FC	Combined Counties Premier Division South.	Anstey Park	Anstey Park
Petersfield Town FC	Velocity Wessex FL Premier Division	The Southdowns Builders Stadium, Love Lane Sports Ground	AGP venues in Portsmouth / Southampton
<b>Step 6</b>			
Clanfield FC	Velocity Wessex FL Division One	Westleigh Park (Havant) Peel Park Rec Ground	Westleigh Park (Havant) Horndean Tech. College,

Other adult clubs based in the district and playing within the FA affiliated leagues that have been identified are detailed in Figure 3.2 below.

**Figure 3.2: Men's Adult League Clubs**

Other Adult Men's League Clubs	League(S)	Home Ground	Training Ground
Alton FC • 5 male teams (inc. 1 walking football)	Suburban Football League Central Div Aldershot & Camberley Sunday League Farnham & District Sunday FL	Anstey Park	Anstey Park
Clanfield FC • 3 male teams	UHlsport Hampshire Premier FL Meon Valley Sunday FL	Westleigh Park (Havant) Peel Park Rec Ground	Westleigh Park (Havant) Horndean Tech. College, The Petersfield School, Cowplain School (Havant) South Downs College (Havant)
Four Marks Vets	Farnham & District Sunday FL	Four Marks Rec Ground	Unknown
Fundraising First	Unknown	West Liss Rec Ground	Unknown
Headley United • 2 male teams	UHlsport Hampshire Premier FL Aldershot & District FL Farnham & District Sunday FL Meon Valley Sunday FL	Headley Playing Fields.	Oakmoor school
Holybourne Vets • 2 male teams	Farnham & District Sunday FL	Holybourne Sports Field	Alton Sports Centre
Horndean Hawks First	Unknown	Five Heads Rec Ground	Horndean Tech. College
Liphook United • 4 male teams	UHlsport Hampshire Premier FL	Liphook Rec Ground	Highfield School (Waverley) Bohunt School

Other Adult Men's League Clubs	League(S)	Home Ground	Training Ground
Liss Athletic • 2 male teams	UhlSport Hampshire Premier FL	Newman Collard P. Field	Bohunt School and <i>The Edge (Waverley)</i>
Old Altonians Vets	Farnham & District Sunday FL	Jubilee Playing Field	Unknown
Old Boys Athletic First	City of Portsmouth Sunday FL	Rowlands Castle Rec. Ground	Unknown
Petersfield Town FC • 2 male teams	Hampshire combination & Development FL Friendlies	The Southdowns Builders Stadium, Love Lane Sports Ground	The Petersfield School
Pompey in the Community U19 • 2 male teams	Community & Education Football Alliance League	Anstey Park	Anstey Park
Ropley FC • 4 male teams	Aldershot & District FL	Ropley Rec Ground	Alton Sports Centre
Royal Oak Veterans (Hollywater) Vets	Farnham & District Sunday FL	Mill Chase Rec Ground West Liss Rec. Ground	Oakmoor School
Waterlooville Social • 3 male teams	City of Portsmouth Sunday FL Meon Valley Sunday FL	Horndean Tech College	Horndean Tech College
Wey Valley FC	Aldershot & District FL	Mill Chase Rec Ground Oakmoor School	Oakmoor School
Whistle Stop First	City of Portsmouth Sunday FL Meon Valley Sunday FL	West Liss Rec. Ground	Unknown
Whitehill and Bordon FC	UhlSport Hampshire Premier FL	Bordon & Oakhanger Sports Club	None available.

**Youth Football** - There are 14 youth football clubs in East Hampshire, 8 of these have 10 or more teams playing in affiliated leagues. The two largest youth clubs, Alton FC and Petersfield Town FC regularly put out 39 teams and 45 youth teams respectively.

**Figure 3.3: Youth and Mini Soccer Clubs**

Youth and Mini Soccer Teams	League(s)	Home Ground(S)	Training Ground(S)
Alton Youth • 33 youth teams	Allied Counties YFL, West Div, North East Hampshire YL	Anstey Park / Diggers Field Jubilee Playing Field Shalden Rec	Anstey Park, Four Marks Rec (Floodlit Natural Turf) plus, other school halls / other 3G's
Binsted Youth • 5 youth teams	North East Hampshire YL	Binsted Rec Ground	Oakmoor School Alton Sports Centre
Castle United Youth • 11 youth teams	Portsmouth Youth FL Mid Solent League	Rowlands Castle Rec Ground	Rowlands Castle Rec Ground
Clanfield Youth • 17 youth teams	Portsmouth Youth FL	Peel Park Rec. Ground Clanfield Junior School Petersfield School Petersgate Infant School	Horndean Tech. College Cowplain School The Petersfield School, South Downs College
Grayshott Youth • 7 youth teams	North East Hampshire YL	Grayshott Sports Field	Grayshott Sports Field (Floodlit Natural Turf)
Headley Youth • 18 youth teams	North East Hampshire YL	Headley Playing Fields	Oakmoor School
Horndean Hawks Youth • 12 youth teams	Portsmouth Youth FL Mid Solent League	Jubilee Field Horndean Tech College	Horndean Tech. College
Horndean Youth • 9 youth teams	Portsmouth Youth FL	Five Heads Rec. Ground	Local schools
Liphook United Youth • 13 youth teams	North East Hampshire YL	Liphook Rec Ground	Highfield School Bohunt School
Liss Athletic Youth • 15 youth teams	North East Hampshire YL	Newman Collard P. Field, Hawkley Field The Glebe	Bohunt School and <i>The Edge (Waverley)</i>

Youth and Mini Soccer Teams	League(s)	Home Ground(S)	Training Ground(S)
Manor Colts Youth • 11 youth teams	North East Hampshire YL	Jubilee Playing Field	Alton Sports Centre, Eggars School, Four Marks Rec (Floodlit Natural Turf)
Petersfield Town Youth • 41 youth teams	North East Hampshire YL	Love Lane Sports Ground Penns Farm Playing Fields	Penns Farm Playing Field (Natural Turf) The Petersfield School
Prosper Youth • 2 teams	Portsmouth Youth FL	The Petersfield School Bordon & Oakhanger Sports Club	The Petersfield School
Wey Valley Youth • 6 teams	North East Hampshire YL	Mill Chase Rec Ground	Oakmoor School

Women’s and Girl’s football – There are 18 specific Women’s and Girl’s teams in East Hampshire which has reduced since last PPS in 2018 which recorded 36 teams. This is likely due to more girls playing mixed football. Figure 3.4 provides the clubs with female specific teams.

**Figure 3.4: Clubs with Women and Girl's Teams**

Women And Girls' Teams	Leagues	Home Ground	Training Grounds
Alton Ladies & Girls • 1 women’s team • 6 girls’ teams	Hampshire County Women’s FL Div 3 Hampshire Girls Youth FL	Anstey Park	Anstey Park
Clanfield Women’s & Girls • 1 women’s team • 5 girls’ teams	Hampshire County Women’s FL Div 5 Hampshire Girls Youth FL	Clanfield Junior School The Petersfield School Peel Park Rec Ground	Horndean Tech. College The Petersfield School, <i>Cowplain school (Waverley)</i> <i>South Downs College (Waverley)</i>
Liphook Ladies	Hampshire County Women’s FL Div 1	Bohunt School	Bohunt School
Petersfield Town Juniors • 4 girls’ teams	Hampshire County Women’s FL Div 6 Hampshire Girls Youth FL	Penns Farm Playing Field Love Lane Sports Ground	Penns Farm Playing Field (Natural Turf) The Petersfield School
Pompey in the Community U19 girls	Community & Education Football Alliance League	Anstey Park	Anstey Park

Disability Football – There are no affiliated disability teams in the area, but Petersfield Town Juniors has expressed an interest in introducing sessions.

### 3.4 Soccer Schools

There is also significant demand for playing space for children's football coaching in East Hampshire, whether from commercial soccer schools or coaching schools organised by local community football clubs. Several youth football clubs based in the district run development sessions for u5s and u6s and/or soccer schools in the school holidays to generate income for their clubs and as a pathway to feed new teams. Organisations such as Assure Coaching provide holiday camps at Bordon & Oakhanger Sports Club, Sunday Funday sessions at Woodlands Community Hall, and youth coaching sessions in partnership with Liphook United FC at Liphook Recreation Ground. CM Sports run after school clubs and holiday provision (including HAF provision) at a variety of schools in the area including Anstey Junior, Bordon Junior, Clanfield Junior, Grayshott Primary, Horndean Technology College, Horndean Infant, Liss infant and Junior and Oakmoor School as well as a Saturday morning mini strikers’ session at Anstey Park. Aspire coaching runs holiday programmes and Futsal at The Petersfield School and works in partnership with Petersfield Town FC and Manor Colts FC to deliver mini Football and advanced coaching to older teams.

### 3.5 Casual Demand

Casual football play among groups of children and adults, using free to use open access grass and non-turf facilities in public parks continues to be a major feature of football demand. Indeed, the Active Lives Survey data suggests that 80% of all regular adult football played in the area is unaffiliated football within small-sided leagues, friendly games or park kick-about.

As identified in the supply section of the report, East Hampshire also provides for informal football demand by maintaining open areas of grass in parks and open spaces, open access MUGAs or single sets of small size goalposts. Where these informal play facilities are provided in parks alongside formal pitches designated for match play, they help to reduce wear of the formal pitches. However, formal pitches can still be subject to unauthorised use by organised teams and soccer schools for training and coaching.

### 3.6 Unmet / Latent Demand

Two clubs have reported unmet demand with Binsted Youth FC stating that they have demand for more teams, but a lack of facilities preventing them from being able to accommodate extra teams. Whitehill and Bordon FC state the club cannot expand to meet the demand due to lack of facilities. Other 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 July 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. Figure 3.5 outlines the growth aspirations of clubs, and it is apparent that there is latent demand in the district for all formats of football from youth to adult football including girls and disability provision.

**Figure 3.5: East Hampshire Football Clubs - Self-Reported Team Growth Plans**

Club	Growth Aspirations
Bentley Archers Cricket & Sports Club	We are a new organisation with a lease agreement in place as of 2023 and have plans to grow to a point where we have junior/senior cricket and youth and junior football.
Binsted Youth Football Club	We will grow by 1 new team per season but are running out of training space at our existing ground so are actively looking elsewhere for additional space and a 'home' that won't restrict the club's growth.
Clanfield Football Club	The demand for places is nonstop and we are looking at new venues all the time.
Grayshott Youth FC	Our club's development plan will see us within the next 3 years expand to the following: 2x Men's Teams in Hampshire Premier League/Reserve league Ladies Team U23's u18's 7 youth Teams. 12 teams with over 200 members, players and volunteers. This is all subject to pitch availability,
Headley United Football Club	Once the work to the pavilion is complete we will be looking to increase from 2 Men's Teams to 3 and possibly add an adult Women's Team.
Headley Youth FC	We want to grow a full complement of girl's teams from 4-6 girls' hedgehogs through from U7s team to u18s. With a view that older age group move into forming Headley women's teams. We would like to continue to grow mixed /boys to have at least 3-4 teams at lower age groups (u7-U9s) at least 3 per u10 -u12- s age group and at least 2 per older age groups.
Horndean Hawks Youth FC	We have an academy which produces players for the U7 team and a stable development plan in place.
Liphook United FC	Looking to start U7 & U8 girls' teams for the 2023/24 season and start wildcats by season 2024/25
Liss Athletic FC	We would like to grow but number of pitches and suitable place to train over the winter may impact this.
Manor Colts Youth FC	We plan to have one team in every age group and recruit more female players into mixed teams.
Petersfield Town Juniors FC	We are a community club committed making football available to all in the local community. We aim to increase the number of youth teams in response to growing demand locally, especially among girls who are under-represented at present. We plan to restart a Petersfield women's football team.

Club	Growth Aspirations
	We also wish to provide disability football in future as part of our ambition to remain a 3-star England Football accredited club.
Prosper Football Club	We would like our own ground, more teams and to be a household name for upcoming youth players.
Wey Valley FC	We will try to add a second male adult team at the earliest opportunity
Whitehill & Bordon FC	Our club's development plan will see us within the next 3 years expand to the following: 2x Men's Teams in Hampshire Premier League/Reserve league Ladies Team U23's u18's 7 youth Teams. 12 teams with over 200 members, players and volunteers. This is all subject to pitch availability.

### 3.7 Displaced and Imported Demand

The research and consultation show that as far as match play is concerned, there is some displaced demand of football - i.e., teams of clubs based in East Hampshire having to travel outside the area to find pitches to play home fixtures, such as Clanfield FC playing at Westleigh Park (Havant) as well as a number of clubs travelling to train on artificial grass pitches out of the district - e.g., Clanfield FC using Cowplain School and South Downs College in Havant, Liss Athletic and Liphook United using facilities in Waverley at Highfield School and The Edge and Petersfield Town training at venues in Portsmouth / Southampton. Venues outside of East Hampshire are designated in Italics in figures 3.1 to 3.4.

There is imported demand at Oakmoor School from clubs from outside the District using the facilities including Bourne Blades (Waverley) match and training use and Harting FC (Chichester) training.

Three clubs in the area have teams training on sand dressed artificial pitches (Liphook FC, Liss Athletic Manor Colts) and some clubs report using grass pitches for training throughout the season (Alton FC, Grayshott, Manor Colts and Petersfield Town Juniors) and it is likely other youth training takes place on grass pitches particularly in the lighter evenings and at weekends. Imported demand takes place at Horndean Technology College with Havant & Waterloo FC regularly using two grass pitches and at East Meon Village Green with Harvest FC Res and U16 using the pitch.

## 4. The Situation at Individual Football Sites (Step 4)

### 4.1 Grass Pitch Sites

The grass football pitches were assessed in October 2023/24. Most of the sites were assessed using the methodology established by Sport England and the FA in the published Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance (2013) - i.e., a non-technical visual site assessment. Four of the grass pitch football sites had a more in-depth assessment using the Football Foundation's PitchPower methodology and reporting. Hampshire FA have reviewed the findings of these site-specific assessments and agreed the quality ratings as a basis for comparison of the amount of play each site can accommodate (i.e., 'carrying capacity') against the amount of play that takes place. Carrying capacity is a measure of the number of match equivalent sessions per week for community use each pitch can take without adversely affecting its quality and use.

The following pitch carrying capacities have been used and are consistent with the PPS Guidance methodology, informed (where applicable) by the Performance Quality Standard ratings (from Poor to High) in the PitchPower Assessment Reports.

**Figure 4.1: Grass Football Pitch Carrying Capacity**

PPS Guide ratings/ Pitch Power PQS ratings	Adult Football	Youth Football (9v9, 11v11)	Mini Soccer (5v5, 7v7)
	Number of match equivalent sessions a week		
Good / High or Advanced	3	4	6
Standard / Basic or Good	2	2	4
Poor / Poor	1	1	2

The full pitch audit details the situation at each individual football 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 where known) 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 (current use matches the carrying capacity), or
  - **GREEN** - Potentially able to accommodate some additional play (current use falls below the carrying capacity)

There are six sites highlighted from the site audit spreadsheet as **RED** rated sites where a number of the available natural turf football pitches are overplayed.

- Binsted Rec. Ground (1 of 2 pitches)
- Headley Playing Fields (2 of 5 pitches)
- Jubilee Hall Park (1 of 2 pitches)
- Mill Chase Rec. Ground (2 of 4 pitches)
- Peel Park Rec. Ground (1 of 2 pitches)
- Penns Farm Playing Fields (3 of 9 pitches)

Seven sites from the full site audit are **AMBER** rated where a number of natural turf pitches are played at (or very close to) their playing capacity:

- Anstey Park / Diggers field (3 of 5 pitches)
- Bohunt School (2 pitches)
- Holybourne Sports Field (1 pitch)
- Horndean Technology College (3 of 4 pitches)
- Jubilee Playing Field (3 of 5 pitches)
- Liphook Rec (2 of 4 pitches)
- Petersfield Town FC (1 pitch)

The table below compares estimates of the total football play on natural grass pitches in the peak period (weekends and evenings) against available capacity across all the football playing field sites in the areas.

**Figure 4.2: Grass pitches Supply / Demand Balance –community football sites**

Pitch Type	Secured Capacity* (MES / Week)	Estimated Use (MES/ Week)	Supply / Demand Balance
11v11 (Open Age, Veterans, U19, U18, U17)	51	38	13
Junior 11v11 (U13-U16)	31	24.5	6.5
Junior 9v9 (U11-U12)	34	28.5	5.5
Mini Soccer 7v7 (U9-U10)	62	31.5	30.5
Mini Soccer 5v5 (U7-U8)	30	15.5	14.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>70</b>

\*Includes 4 mini soccer pitches usually marked out at Love Lane Sports Ground but unavailable due to renovation works.

The table shows that there is a positive supply balance (i.e., unused capacity) of natural turf pitches for football in the area as a whole. However, not all of this accounts for actual spare capacity in peak periods (Saturday PM and Sunday AM for adult football, Saturday AM for youth boys / mixed football and Sunday PM for girls’ football), some sites may be managed to below capacity to account for recreational / friendly matches, others do not have secured community use e.g., education sites and pitches rated as poor quality should also be discounted. Figure 4.3 lists the natural turf playing pitch sites with capacity to determine if this capacity is available in the relevant peak period and secured.

**Figure 4.3 - Does the Potential to Accommodate Additional Play Equate to Spare Capacity?**

Pitch sites with spare capacity	Is there any reason why additional play could not take place (Y/N)?	Are all the pitches for the particular pitch type used during the relevant peak period (Y/N)?	Pitch Type	Total pitch surplus	Spare capacity in peak (MES)?	Capacity discounted	Comments/ Rationale
Anstey Park / Diggers Field	N	N	5v5(x2)	4.5	4.5	0	Pitches available during peak times for youth football due to flexible kick off times.
Bentley Rec. Ground	Y	N	A11v11	2	0	2	Capacity discounted due to proposals to change pitch type to J11v11 & 7v7.
Binsted Rec. Ground	N	N	5v5	1	0	1	Capacity discounted due to poor pitch condition.
Bordon & Oakhanger Sports Club	N	N	11v11 9v9 7v7	0.5 1 4	0 1 4	0.5 0 0	Adult pitch not available in peak period. Youth pitches are available due to flexible kick off times.
Buriton Rec. Ground	N	N	A11v11 7v7 (x2)	2 8	1 0	1 0	Adult pitch is only available for 1 MES in peak period. Youth pitches available due to flexible kick off times
Clanfield Junior School	N	N	7v7 5v5	1.5 2	0 0	1.5 2	Pitches available but unsecured as no known CUA in place.
East Meon Village Green	N	Y	A11v11	1	0	1	Adult pitch is only available for 1 MES in peak period.
Eggars School	N	N	J 11v11 9v9	1 1	0 0	1 1	Pitches are available during peak times for youth football , however no current community use or agreement covering grass pitches in place.
Five Heads Rec. Ground	N	N	A11v11 (S) A11v11 (x2) 7v7 5v5	1 2.5 3 2.5	0 0 3 2.5	1 2.5 0 0	Stadia pitch spare capacity discounted. Adult pitches are only available for 1 MES each in peak period. Youth pitches available due to flexible kick off times.
Four marks Rec. Ground	N	Y	A11v11	1	0	1	Adult pitch is only available for 1 MES in peak period.
Grayshott Sports Field	N	N	J11v11 9v9 7v7	1 1.5 2.5	0 1.5 2.5	1 0 0	Adult pitch is only available for 1 MES in peak period. Youth pitches available due to flexible kick off times
Hawkey Fields	N	N	9v9	1	1	0	Youth pitches available due to flexible kick off times
Headley Playing Fields	N	N	5v5	1.5	1.5	0	Youth pitches available due to flexible kick off times
Horndean Tech. College	N	N	7v7	2	0	2	Pitches available but unsecured as no known CUA in place.
Jubilee Hall Park	N	N	7v7	2	2	0	Youth pitches available due to flexible kick off times

Pitch sites with spare capacity	Is there any reason why additional play could not take place (Y/N)?	Are all the pitches for the particular pitch type used during the relevant peak period (Y/N)?	Pitch Type	Total pitch surplus	Spare capacity in peak (MES)?	Capacity discounted	Comments/ Rationale
Jubilee Playing Fields	N	Y	A11v11	0.5	0	0.5	Adult pitch is only available for 1 MES in peak period.
Liphook Rec. Ground	N	N	5v5	0.5	0	0.5	Capacity discounted due to poor pitch condition.
Medstead Village Green	N	Y	A11v11	1	0	1	Adult pitch is only available for 1 MES in peak period.
Mill Chase Rec. Ground	N	N	7v7 5v5	1 1	0 0	1 1	Capacity discounted due to poor pitch condition.
Newman Collard P. Fields	N	N	9v9 7v7	1 3	1 3	0 0	Youth pitches available due to flexible kick off times
Peel Park Rec Ground	N	N	J11v11	2	0	2	Junior 11v11 max 2 MES due to length of games per day.
Penns Farm P. Fields	N	N	9v9 (x3) 7v7 (x3)	3 9	3 9	0 0	Youth pitches available due to flexible kick off times
Ropley Rec Ground	N	N	A11v11	1.5	0.5	1	Adult pitch is only available for 1 MES in peak period
Rowlands Castle	N	N	A11v11 7v7 5v5	0.5 2.5 2.5	0 2.5 2.5	0.5 0 0	Adult pitch is only available for 1 MES in peak period
Shalden Rec. Ground	N	N	J11v11	1.5	1.5	0	Youth pitches available due to flexible kick off times
The Glebe	N	Y	A11v11	1	0	1	Adult pitch is only available for 1 MES in peak period
The Petersfield School	N	N	9v9 (x2)	2.5	0	2.5	Pitches available but unsecured as no known CUA in place.
West Liss Rec Ground	N	Y	A11v11	1	0	1	Adult pitch is only available for 1 MES in peak period

Figure 4.4 below summarises the final capacity in the peak period across each type of natural turf pitch after discounting capacity due to unavailability in peak period or pitches being unsecured or of poor quality.

**Figure 4.4: Grass Pitches Supply / Demand Balance –community football sites\***

Pitch Type	Secured Capacity (MES / Week)	Estimated Use (MES/Week)	Supply / Demand Balance	Capacity discounted	Capacity in Peak period
11v11 (Open Age, Veterans, U19, U18, U17)	51	38	13	-14	-1
Youth 11v11 (U13-U16)	31	24.5	6.5	-4	2.5
Youth 9v9 (U11-U12)	34	28.5	5.5	-3.5	2
Mini Soccer 7v7 (U9-U10)	62	31.5	30.5	-4.5	26
Mini Soccer 5v5 (U7-U8)	30	15.5	14.5	-4.5	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>+39.5</b>

\*Includes 4 mini soccer pitches usually marked out at Love Lane Sports Ground but unavailable due to renovation works.

It should be noted that whilst the overall supply and demand balance is positive, the capacity does not account usage that cannot be quantified for example Informal recreational use and occasional use of the pitches by clubs for training especially in the early and late season when there is sufficient daylight on weekday evenings.

### 4.3 The FA National Football Facilities Strategy

In 2018, in partnership with the Football Foundation and Sport England, the Football Association developed a ten-year investment plan in facilities for grass roots football - *The National Football Facilities Strategy 2018-2028*. The facilities strategy aims to ensure that by 2028:

- Every FA-affiliated club has access to a 3G artificial pitch for training and potentially matches.
- Accelerated improvements are made to the key grass pitch sites across England to reduce fixture cancellations.

To support delivery of the National Game Strategy aims, Hampshire FA - in partnership with the Football Foundation and the county local authorities - is focused on:

- Supporting the development of *Football Hubs*<sup>2</sup> in strategic locations
- Supporting an agreed portfolio of priority projects for new and improved facilities in each local authority area that will have a significant impact on participation and provide capacity for growth, activated through new *Local Football Facility Plans* (LFFPs), a ten-year vision for football facilities.

### 4.4 East Hampshire Local Football Facilities Plan

A Local Football Facilities Plan (LFFP) for East Hampshire was published separately by the Football Foundation in November 2020 informed by consultation with the Council, Hampshire FA and the large community football clubs based in the district.

The priorities for East Hampshire were the delivery of two additional full size floodlit 3G FTPs (at Horndean Technology College and Bohunt School) and one resurface (The Petersfield School). The pitch

<sup>2</sup> Football Hubs serve major towns and cities with multiple pitches and modern pavilion facilities based around a minimum of 2 full size artificial turf football pitches (FTP).

at Horndean has been completed and Bohunt School is currently awaiting a planning decision. The pitch at The Petersfield School still requires resurfacing. Nine projects were prioritised for the improvement of grass pitches. Improvements are in progress or have been carried out at 4 sites (Horndean Technology College, Love Lane Sports ground, Newman Collard Playing Fields, Penns Farm Playing Fields and Jubilee Playing Fields). Mill chase Recreation ground has funding secured to carry out remedial works with drainage works due to take place early in 2024. Improvements are still needed at Headley Playing Fields, Peel Park Recreation Ground, and Bentley Recreation Ground. Three key changing rooms projects are listed for Penns Farm Playing Fields, Jubilee Playing Fields, and Liphook Recreation Ground.

The Playing Pitch Strategy methodology is more detailed than that used to inform the LFFP investment priorities. Accordingly, whilst in most instances there is a good deal of commonality between the PPS and LFFP in terms of the conclusions reached, this is not always the case. The LFFP does not provide an evidence base to inform the development planning process, so the PPS should be referred to as the evidence base.

#### **4.5 FA Training Scenario for 3G FTP Assessments of Need**

The FA has designed a model scenario to help with understanding what demand there may be for full size<sup>3</sup> equivalent floodlit 3G FTPs if increased amounts of play were to take place on them. The scenario question tested is: *How many full size floodlit 3G FTPs may be required to meet demand within the district if all teams playing competitive football had access to a full size floodlit 3G FTP to train on once a week?*

The answer to this scenario question for East Hampshire is set out below based on the current 4 full size (or near full size) floodlit 3G FTPs on the FA Register which have full community use for football during peak periods<sup>4</sup> (Alton FC, Horndean Technology College, Oakmoor school and The Petersfield School), plus Alton Sports Centre (0.25 of full sized pitch). As a guide the FA suggest that one full size floodlit 3G FTP could potentially accommodate the training demand from 38 teams. The information from the assessment indicates that there are 265 teams playing competitive football in East Hampshire and as such the 1:38 ratio suggests that 7 full size equivalent floodlit 3G FTPs would be required to meet 100% of team football training on 3G within the district.

As such, with the equivalent of 4.25 accessible full size 3G FTPs, there is a need for at least an additional **2.75** full sized 3G FTP across East Hampshire to meet the demand for training.

It should be noted this calculation does not take into account other demands during the peak period for small-sided leagues, recreational play and targeted community football development programmes outside the affiliated league structure.

The club training scenario calculation also takes no account of the accessibility of the available FTPs to the clubs nor cost / affordability issues.

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<sup>3</sup> A full size 3G FTP measures 106m x 70m including run off/safety margins.

<sup>4</sup> Weekdays 17:00 - 21:00 (or 19:00 on Fridays) and 09:00 - 17:00 on weekends.

## 5. The Current and Future Picture of Provision for Football (Step 5)

### 5.1 Grass pitches

A number of playing field sites in East Hampshire have pitches that are being played to capacity or overplayed, these are primarily sites that are the home ground for clubs with a number of teams and a limited number of pitches, such as Anstey Park / Diggers Field and Jubilee Playing Fields (Alton FC) Headley Playing Fields (Headley Youth), Liphook Recreation Ground (Liphook FC) Love Lane Sports Ground and Penns Farm Playing Fields (Petersfield Town Youth FC)

There is no spare capacity for adult 11v11 pitches in the peak period once poor pitches and those unsecured are discounted, and only a very small amount of capacity for Junior 11v11 and 9v9 pitches.

The PitchPower report findings for the sites in East Hampshire identifies the potential for enhanced quality and playing capacity at a number of sites if the ongoing pitch maintenance can be improved.

### FTPs

Demand has recovered from the Covid 19 pandemic and restrictions in season 2021/22 and clubs are experiencing further growth. The trends in football point to the continuing growth in the recreational game including walking football and women's recreation provision as well as youth mixed mini soccer and girls' football teams, as such the provision of more full size 3G football FTPs to support large youth clubs will help to meet the needs of these clubs for training and matches.

In addition, and to contribute to the FA's strategic priorities, there is a need to further improve the supply of FA registered 3G FTPs in East Hampshire to reduce the need for training on grass pitches, and to accommodate more match play by youth teams, reducing the number of over-marked or overused natural turf pitches.

### 5.2 Future

To estimate the potential impact of population growth over the strategy period to 2040 on the need for football 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. Figure 5.1 shows that team generation rates for the area predict there will be an increase of 19 teams in the area, 4 adult teams and 15 youth teams.

To meet football demand from 8,625 additional residents (as currently forecast<sup>5</sup>) and assuming current levels of football demand by age group for matches and training in the peak period, the PPC indicates that the equivalent capacity of +3 adult football pitches, +5 youth football pitches and +4 mini soccer pitches will be needed in the area (totaling +12 natural turf pitches) as well as +0.50 of additional 3G pitch space needed.

***Potential effect of demand trends (how pitch sports are played)*** – Among adults, national trends show a reduction in interest in taking part in sports that demand a commitment to regular attendance, in favor of more casual involvement. This national picture is not reflected in East Hampshire where Hampshire FA adult team affiliations have increased slightly (from 59 in 2018 to 60 in 2023/24). Youth football continues to show a growth trend, but this growth slows through the older youth age groups when exams and other interests tend to impact. The biggest growth in East Hampshire has been in mini soccer teams with an additional 25 teams (from 66 in 2018 to 91 in 2023/24). Clubs through their survey returns have indicated further growth aspirations for adult and youth teams. A total of 21 clubs outlined

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<sup>5</sup> ONS 2018-based housing-led population projections (Released March 2020)

growth aspirations, as outlined in Section 3, figure 3.1, and whilst clubs are reliant on volunteers to deliver this growth it is reasonable to suggest that with sufficient facilities each club could grow by 1-2 teams a year, resulting in a possible additional 21-42 teams a year. There is also likely to be a further increase in demand for girls' football following the success of the England Women's team and the FA's investment in development programmes such as the girls football school's partnership and Wildcats and Squad Girls at club level.

**Figure 5.1: Team generation rates.**

Age Group	Current Pop. in Age group	Current no of teams	Team Gen. Rate	Future Pop. in age group	Predicted future no. of teams	No of home matches per week	Natural Grass pitches per type Rounded up
Men 11v11 (16-45yrs)	1256.80	52	350	1255.81	3.58	1.79	<b>3</b> (2.07)
Women 11v11 (16-45yrs)	1327.16	8	2405	1326.46	0.55	0.28	
Boys 11v11 (12-15yrs)	215.02	37	84	214.76	2.55	1.27	<b>3</b> (2.06)
Girls 11v11 (12-15yrs)	220.47	23	139	220.49	1.59	0.79	
Boys 9v9 (10-11yrs)	112.79	33	50	112.69	2.27	1.14	<b>2</b> (1.83)
Girls 9v9 (10-11yrs)	105.34	20	76	105.35	1.38	0.69	
Mixed 7v7 (8-9yrs)	201.09	44	66	201.34	3.04	1.52	<b>2</b>
Mixed 5v5 (6-7yrs)	188.94	47	58	189.16	3.25	1.62	<b>2</b>
					<b>18.21</b>		<b>12</b>

The FA's insight shows that youth football is growing at an average of 3.09%. The previous strategy in 2018 predicted a growth of 32 teams based on population rates to 2028, this number has already been exceeded in 2023 by an extra 9 teams in East Hampshire, which a growth rate of 3.6%. In view of these demand pressures, a further run of the Playing Pitch Calculator has been made to show the possible impact on pitch needs with an adjusted demand rate of 73% for youth football (3.6% iterative increase per year over 16 years).

**Figure 5.2: Team generation rates for additional population and increase in youth football demand.**

Age Group	Current no of teams	Predicted future no. of teams	No of home matches per week	Natural Grass pitches per type Rounded up
Men 11v11 (16-45yrs)	52	3.58	1.79	<b>3</b> (2.07)
Women 11v11 (16-45yrs)	8	0.55	0.28	
Boys 11v11 (12-15yrs)	37	4.40	2.20	<b>4</b> (3.57)
Girls 11v11 (12-15yrs)	23	2.74	1.37	
Boys 9v9 (10-11yrs)	33	3.92	1.96	<b>4</b> (3.15)
Girls 9v9 (10-11yrs)	20	2.38	1.19	
Mixed 7v7 (8-9yrs)	44	5.24	2.62	<b>3</b>
Mixed 5v5 (6-7yrs)	47	5.60	2.80	<b>3</b>

		<b>28.41</b>		<b>17</b>
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To meet football demand from 8,625 additional residents (as currently forecast<sup>6</sup>) and adjusting demand for a growth of 3.6% in youth football for matches and training in the peak period until 2040, the PPC indicates that the equivalent capacity of +3 adult football pitches, +8 youth football pitches and +6 mini soccer pitches will be needed in the area (totaling +17 natural turf pitches) as well as 28.5 hours of training on a 3G pitch equivalent to 0.75 of additional 3G pitch space needed.

Figure 5.3 outlines the effects of future demand on pitch capacity based on population growth and adjusted demand.

**Figure 5.3 Changes in capacity after accounting for future growth and demand.**

Pitch Type	Capacity in Peak period	Demand (match equivalent sessions)	
		Future demand	Total
11v11 (Open Age, Veterans, U19, U18, U17)	-1	3	<b>-4</b>
Youth 11v11 (U13-U16)	2.5	4	<b>-1.5</b>
Youth 9v9 (U11-U12)	2	4	<b>-2</b>
Mini Soccer 7v7 (U9-U10)	26	3	<b>23</b>
Mini Soccer 5v5 (U7-U8)	10	3	<b>7</b>
	<b>+39.5</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>+22.5</b>

<sup>6</sup> ONS 2018-based housing-led population projections (Released March 2020)

**Figure 6.1: Football Key Findings and Issues**

The main characteristics of the <u>current</u> supply of and demand for provision
<p>There have been significant changes to the facilities for football in East Hampshire since the last facility review in 2018. Two new, full sized 3G artificial turf pitches have been provided at Oakmoor school (replacing the previous provision at Mill Chase Academy) and Horndean Technology College (extension of existing small sized 3G) as well as a small sized 3G (18x36m) at Alton Sports Centre. Improvements have been or are in progress to the quality of grass pitches at Horndean Technology College, Love Lane Sports Ground, Penns Farm Playing Fields and Jubilee Playing Fields.</p> <p>90 grass pitches are identified as available for community football across the district, on 33 operational playing pitch sites. It should also be noted a number of the pitches included in the area are over-marked to accommodate smaller sided games (e.g., 9v9 on 11v11 or 5v5 on 7v7).</p> <p>There are further pitches on school playing fields in the district, that could be available for community use such as at Oakmoor School once the pitch renovations have been completed and at Herne Junior School who are considering community use.</p> <p>Key trends in football demand identified in 2018 have continued to impact and East Hampshire has seen growth including adult football (in small increase in comparison to a decline in other areas), and especially in youth football and mini soccer. Football demand recovered quickly to pre-pandemic levels in 2021/22 and is now growing.</p> <p>In June 2023, East Hampshire had a total of 33 affiliated clubs (including separately constituted youth sections of adult clubs) registered to Hampshire FA with 265 teams playing home fixtures in the area. This is an increase of 41 teams - 18% - since the previous audit in 2018 when 224 affiliated teams were registered to East Hampshire.</p>
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet <u>current</u> demand?
<p>A number of playing field sites in East Hampshire have pitches that are being played to capacity or overplayed, in the main, they are sites that are the home ground for large youth clubs with a number of teams and a limited number of pitches, such as Alton FC (Anstey Park / Diggers Field and Jubilee Playing Field, Headley Youth (Headly Playing Fields), Liphook FC (Liphook Rec. Ground) and Petersfield Town FC (Penns Farm Playing Fields, Love Lane Sports Ground and Petersfield Town FC),</p> <p>There is no spare capacity for adult 11v11 pitches in the peak period once poor pitches and those that are unsecured are discounted, and only limited spare capacity of Youth 11v11 and 9v9 pitches. There is sufficient spare pitch capacity currently for Mini Soccer 7v7 and 5v5 pitches. There are also a number of senior clubs with insufficient facilities for their current level of football including Clanfield FC, who currently ground share outside the district, Liphook United FC, whose pitch is too small for their league and Petersfield Town FC whose floodlights and ancillary facilities need improving.</p> <p>There are shortfalls in provision of 3G pitches to meet training demand. There are several clubs who travel outside of the area for training or use sand based pitches or grass areas for training, which constrains the growth aspirations of these clubs and contributes to latent demand. To meet the shortfall in current supply investment is needed in the provision of 3 more full size 3G football FTP across the area which should be strategically located to support the larger youth clubs enabling them to meet the needs of their teams for training and matches.</p>

**Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?**

Two of the three full size football AGPs in the area are good quality, with newly laid playing surfaces, however the pitch at The Petersfield School is poor and needs resurfacing. A number of grass pitches (19%) are of a poor-quality suffering from poor natural drainage, compaction of the ground and overuse, thereby limiting the playing capacity of these pitches. To address this issue on a large scale it would require significant additional investment in maintenance works at the frequencies required to effectively aerate and de-compact the playing surfaces of the poor-quality natural turf pitches.

The delivery of the grass pitch improvements recommended by the Grounds Maintenance Association through the Football Foundation's PitchPower pitch assessment reports would go a long way to improving the playing capacity at the sites assessed. In most cases, this will necessitate increased revenue investment in enhanced pitch maintenance regimes supported by grant funding from the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Improvement Fund.

The ancillary facilities across the district vary in quality with several sites needing improvement. There is a lack of basic changing provision at Clanfield Junior school, Hawkley Fields and Penns Farm Playing Fields, which limits usage particularly for women and girls' teams. It is essential that at the minimum toilet provision and some shelter is provided on each site. Improvements to the current provision is also needed at Headley Playing fields, Jubilee Playing Field (Alton), Liphook Recreation Ground, Peel Park Rec. Ground and Petersfield Town FC to modernise facilities and make them fit for purpose to accommodate women and girls and provide disability access.

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

Future demand for football facilities is likely to grow increasing pressure on the existing supply, by 2040, assuming current levels of participation per capita and the forecast population growth, application of Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator tool indicates there will be a requirement to provide an additional 12 more natural turf pitches plus around 19 additional weekly training slots on a 3G artificial pitch.

The growth plans of the football clubs based in East Hampshire will also place further pressure on pitch supply. 21 clubs responded to the survey indicating they have aspirations to increase the number of teams they run over the coming seasons, provided they have sufficient volunteers and pitches for matches and training can be secured.

When adjusting for this increase in demand in youth football, the PPC indicates a need for 17 additional natural turf pitches as well as 28.5 hours for training on a 3G pitch.

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

Over the period of the strategy to 2040, to address forecast population growth, unmet and latent demand identified by clubs and to continue to deliver on the FA's strategy to transfer more affiliated competitive football to 3G surfaces, further secured provision of 3G FTP pitches is needed.

Investment in at least 2.75 additional full sized FA registered 3G FTP's is needed to cater for current demand plus an additional 0.75 full sized pitch equivalent for future population growth and demand. This totals a need for 3.5 3G FTP's in the area. There are already plans for a 3G at Bohunt School and at the land east of the Horndean development and assuming these can be delivered, an additional 1.5 pitches need is needed. Due to the current number of teams in the area and the accessibility an additional full sized pitch should be delivered in the Petersfield area, with a youth 11v11 3G in the North of the district to support the growth in population and demand from youth clubs.

Additional natural turf pitches are needed for adult 11v11, youth 11v11 and Youth 9v9 for match play by 2040 in light of the scale of forecast population growth and demand. Some of this provision can be accommodated with the planned new provision as outlined in 2.7. This equates to an additional 12 new natural turf pitches across the district and an additional 34 MES (assuming a standard pitch quality). There is also potential to explore community use at Herne Junior School, particularly for the 9v9 pitches. Transferring match play onto 3G pitches should also be explored at sites where there is capacity to accommodate this as well as making improvements to pitch quality on key grass football sites to increase capacity, such as Headley Playing Fields and Liphook Recreation ground.