



**CONTINUUM**  
SPORT & LEISURE LTD

East Hampshire District Council  
Playing Pitch Strategy 2024 Appendix C  
Assessment of Need Report Hockey

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

The findings of the assessment of needs for hockey facilities in East Hampshire are summarised in this appendix of the main Playing Pitch Strategy.

There are two Hockey clubs based in the district– Alton HC and Petersfield HC. Both clubs have contributed information and their views on hockey facility needs via online survey returns and direct consultation.

Since the last assessment in 2018, there has been a significant change in supply with an additional sand dressed pitch available at Eggars School and the pitches at Churcher’s College (Ramshill) and Bohunt School both resurfaced in 2020, as well as the upgrade of floodlights at Bedales School this year.

### 1. Hockey Supply (Step 2)

#### 1.1 Hockey Pitches in East Hampshire

There is currently four full sized (or near full sized) floodlit sand based artificial grass pitches (AGP) in East Hampshire, and an additional full sized pitch which is not floodlit, but currently available for community hockey.

The pitches were quality-assessed during the 2023/24 season on the basis of site visits and informed by consultation surveys with the user clubs and insight from England Hockey. Figure 1.1 details the situation at each site.

The availability of the pitches for community hockey use are usually dependant on bookings by other sports (e.g., football, touch rugby, lacrosse, tennis). For each site, this is noted in column headed estimated use in peak hours.

The Red, Amber, Green (RAG) rating refers to whether, in the peak period in a typical week in the main hockey season, there is considered to be:

- Unused capacity for hockey - **Green**
- The available peak slots for hockey are used close to capacity - **Amber**, or
- The available peak slots for hockey are at capacity - **Red**.

#### Indoor Hockey

There are no sports hall in the area suitable for competition indoor hockey, with the nearest facility being at Woolmer Hill Sports Ground (Waverley) home to Haslemere Hockey Club.

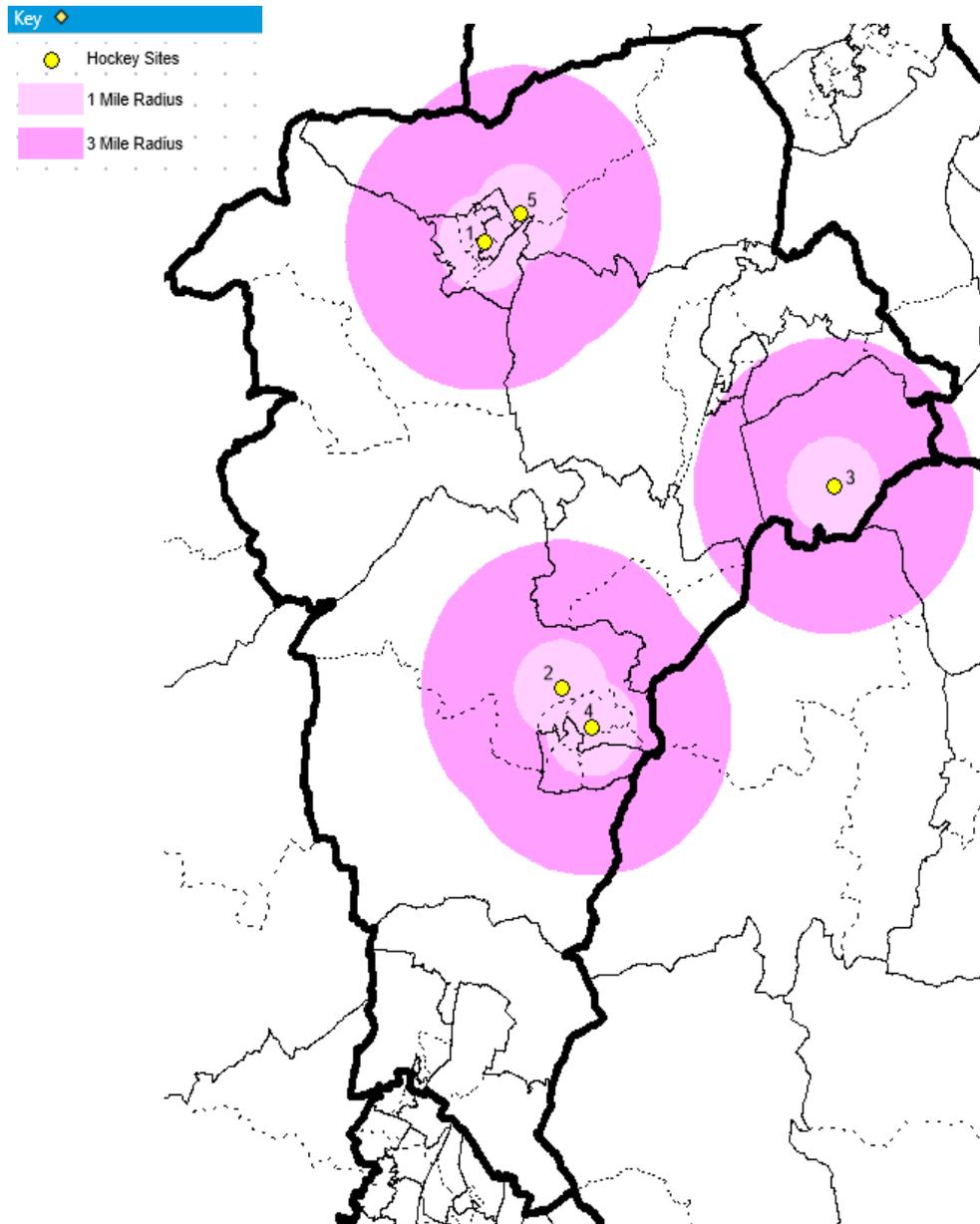
Figure 1.1: Situation at Individual Sites

Site	AGP Size and Type	Date built (last refurb)	Ancillary facilities	Security of access & ownership	Management of site	Rating	Peak hours available	Est'd use in peak hours	Supply/Demand Balance	RAG
AMERY HILL SCHOOL, GU34 2BY	Sand filled 100 x 60m NOT FLOODLIT	2004, refurbished in 2013	Hirers given access to school changing rooms with integrated showers	Education site unsure of any CUA in place	In house by school	Poor	16	16 hours hockey 0 Football use (100%)	0	Red
BEDALES SCHOOL, GU32 2DG	Sand dressed 104x60m Floodlit	1990, refurbished in 2009	Basic changing facilities	Education site unsure of any CUA in place	In house by school	Poor	26	22 hours hockey 4 hours Football (100%)	0	Red
BOHUNT SCHOOL, GU30 7NY	Sand filled 100x60m Floodlit	2000, refurbished in 2020	Changing facilities available	Education site unsure of any CUA in place	Bookings via School hire system	Good	28	0 hours hockey 15.5 hours Football (55%)	12.5	Green
CHURCHER'S COLLEGE (RAMSHILL) GU31 4AS	Sand filled 100x64m Floodlit	2006 resurfaced 2020	Changing room provisions are available for hirers	Education site unsure of any CUA in place	In house by school	Standard	14	4 hours hockey 10 hours Football (100%)	0	Red
EGGARS SCHOOL, GU34 4EQ	Sand dressed 101x63m Floodlit	2018	Dedicated changing rooms with showers available for pitch hirers.	Education site with CUA in place	In house by school	Standard	34	25 hours hockey 9 hours Football (100%)	0	Red

### 1.2 Distribution of Hockey AGP Sites

Figure 1.2 shows the distribution of full-sized (or near full sized) hockey AGP sites across East Hampshire. The distribution of sand based AGP sites is relatively well spread across the district, however there are areas particularly in the South of the district where residents would need to travel over 20 minutes by car to access a pitch.

Figure 1.2- Distribution of Hockey AGPs



Key	Site Name	Postcode
1	AMERY HILL SCHOOL	GU34 2BY
2	BEDALES SCHOOL	GU32 2DG
3	BOHUNT SCHOOL	GU30 7NY
4	CHURCHER'S COLLEGE (RAMSHILL)	GU31 4AS
5	EGGARS SCHOOL	GU34 4EQ

### **1.3 Hockey AGP's in Neighbouring Boroughs**

The nearest alternative full size floodlit hockey pitch 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 is at Farnham Heath End (Waverley) to the Northeast of East Hampshire and HSDC Havant (Havant) to the South. The nearest Hockey clubs are between 20-30 minutes' drive away at Haslemere Hockey Club (Waverley) to the Northeast and Havant Hockey Club (Havant) to the South.

Generally, hockey players (and parents of junior players) are prepared to travel some distance to access good quality facilities, coaching and standards of match play, but based on the location of the two key clubs in the area it is likely that residents within the district travel to play Haslemere or Havant Hockey clubs.

### **1.4 Ownership, Operation, Quality and Access**

Neither Hockey Club has any long term security on the sites they use with only annual hire agreements in place on the education sites they use and only one of the education sites, Eggars School, has a community use agreement in place, meaning access to facilities could be withdrawn at any time on the remaining four sites.

The pitch at Bohunt school is in a good condition but has no known community hockey use. The pitches at Churcher's College (Ramshill) and Eggars School are of standard condition. Amery Hill and Bedales School pitches are both in poor condition and need resurfacing. Amery Hill is not floodlit which limits the amount of community use.

Changing facilities across the area are basic and in need of improvement particularly on the clubs main sites to support match day requirements. Alton HC state that only having access to two changing rooms at Eggars School causes issues with back to back matches. Petersfield HC state the changing provision at Bedales school is basic and they report issues with access to changing rooms at Churcher's College (Ramshill).

### **1.5 At Risk Sites**

There are no current community sites known to be at risk of development.

### **1.6 Proposed New Supply**

Alton School had plans agreed for a new sand dressed ATP in 2023. The site is due to be available for community use, however the works have not started as the funding for the pitch is still to be confirmed and the school have recently stated it is no longer a priority for them.

## 2. Hockey Demand (Step 3 and 4)

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

### 2.1 Clubs and Teams

There are currently two hockey clubs based in the area

- Alton Hockey Club** provides both adult and junior hockey provision. They have 11 adult teams (5 male, 3 female, 1 female veterans and 2 mixed teams) and a large junior section with 11 boys teams (U8x2, U10x3, U12x3, U14x2, U16) and 15 junior girls teams (U8x2, U10x3, U12x4, U14x2, U16x2, U18x2). They also run a number of recreational programmes including Hockey hero's, Back to Hockey, Ladies Development programmes and Summer Training camps. They estimate 80% of their membership comes from East Hampshire, with the rest from Winchester, Hart and Basingstoke and Dean. The club has seen a growth in membership over the last few years mainly in the junior section and they are an accredited England Hockey Talent Centre.
- Petersfield Hockey Club** has both adult and junior teams. They have 5 adult teams (3 male, 2 Female) and a junior section consisting of 2 mixed teams (U8, U10), 3 boys teams (U12, U14,U16) and 4 girls teams (U12x2, U14, U16). They also run a Back to Hockey programme. They state 90% of their members come from East Hampshire and whilst they have fewer adult teams than previously, they have increased junior membership with more coaching and playing opportunities.

### 2.2 Club Players - Demand Trend

Player affiliation data in Figure 2.1 provided by England Hockey for this season shows demand for hockey participation totaling 762 affiliated players. Both clubs have reported a growth in junior membership in the last few years, but EH membership figures show a reduction in youth and adult membership at Alton HC. The number of senior adult teams at Alton HC is the same as in the previous strategy in 2018 with 5 male and 3 female, whereas Petersfield HC previously had one additional male team.

*Figure 2.1 Club affiliation data*

Club	2023/24		2022/23	
	Under 18	Over 18	Under 18	Over 18
Alton HC	301	200	357	248
Petersfield HC	141	138	135	141
<b>Totals</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>389</b>
	<b>780</b>		<b>881</b>	

### 2.3 Displaced Demand

Due to the location of clubs within the area it is likely some players from the Northeast and South of the area may travel outside of the area to play hockey.

### 2.4 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 hockey in England by adults (aged 16+) had increased to 0.3% from 0.2% between November 2020 and November 2021.

If hockey participation in the area were at the national average (i.e., 0.3%), this would indicate around 302 adults (aged 16+) living in the area play hockey out of an 18+ adult population of approximately

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

100,781. With 16 adult teams currently, the 'adult' hockey club playing membership in the district is close to 240 players (assuming an average of 15 squad players per team). If we then assume adult hockey participation in East Hampshire is in line with the national average of 0.3%, this suggests that 20% of all regular adult hockey played by residents in East Hampshire is either 'displaced' to venues outside of the area (e.g., at other clubs) or takes place in informal, social game formats such as Back 2 Hockey which both clubs provide.

### 2.5 Club Aspirations - Hockey Development Priorities and Facility Needs

The clubs in East Hampshire have ambitions to grow and reported the following facility needs,

- **Alton Hockey Club** are looking to grow. They feel with Eggars as their primary site and Amery as a second site they still have capacity for growth, however the changing rooms at Eggars School need improving and the club would like a clubhouse to help generate income for the club and improve social interaction of the club.
- **Petersfield Hockey Club** have ambitions to grow further by offering more hockey to adults through more teams and reintroducing veterans hockey. They also want to support disabled and other disadvantaged groups to play but feel they need a new pitch and clubhouse with changing provision to accommodate all their training and playing needs, which is secured for club use.

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

#### 3.1 Current

Since the last assessment of hockey facility needs in 2018, the main changes of relevance are:

- The provision of a new sand dressed pitch at Eggars School in 2018
- The refurbishment of Churcher's College (Ramshill) and Bohunt School AGP in 2020.
- New floodlights at Bedales School in 2023

Current priority facility issue facing the sport of hockey in East Hampshire is that the majority sites are at capacity, with two sites needing resurfacing. The lack of floodlights at Amery Hill School and restrictions due to planning at Churcher's College further limits the growth of the sport. Changing provision at the main club sites needs improving and the lack of security for clubs needs addressing.

#### 3.2 Future

To estimate the potential impact of population growth over the strategy period to 2040 on the need for hockey pitch capacity in the peak period, Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) tool has been used to determine the number of teams and junior training squads likely to be generated in the future based on population growth. Figure 3.1 shows that team generation rates for the area predicts there will be an increase of 1 adult team in the area and Figure 3.2 shows the predicted future number of junior training squads.

**Figure 3.1 Team generation rates.**

Age Group	Current population in Age group	Current no of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future Population of age group	Predicted future number of teams
Men (17-55yrs)	35,358	9	3923	2087.39	0.53
Women (17-55yrs)	37,041	7	5292	2187.09	0.41
					<b>0.94</b>

**Figure 3.2 Junior Member Generation Rates.**

Age Group	Current population in Age group	Current no of Junior Members	Junior Member Generation Rate	Future Population of age group	Predicted future number of junior training squads
Boys (14-16yrs)	184.30	46	67.83	184.27	0.07
Girls (14-16yrs)	172.84	75	39.01	172.63	0.11
Boys (11-13yrs)	192.98	106	30.82	192.93	0.16
Girls (11-13yrs)	178.63	115	26.30	178.44	0.17
Mixed (5-10yrs)	669.10	161	70.35	668.48	0.16
					<b>0.67</b>

To meet hockey demand from 8,958 additional residents (as currently forecast<sup>2</sup>) and assuming current levels of hockey demand by age group for matches and training in the peak period, the PPC indicates that the equivalent capacity of +0.13 additional sand based artificial grass pitches suitable for hockey

<sup>2</sup> 2022 projections from ONS 2018-based housing-led population projections (Released March 2020)

will be needed in the area based on the need for 0.47 additional match equivalent sessions and a total of 2.17 training hours per week (1.42 adult, 0.75 junior).

There is capacity in the area for club's aspirations to grow and to meet future demand, with Bohunt school not currently used for community hockey. There is a need to protect the existing quantity of pitch supply in the area and improve the quality of poor pitches in the area, as well as look to improve security and changing provision/ access for both clubs.

### **3.3 Conclusion**

To better meet current and likely future needs for the sport of hockey in East Hampshire, the strategy should seek to:

- Protect the current supply of sand based artificial pitches in the area.
- Resurface the pitch at Bedales and Amery Hill School.
- Provide new provision at Alton School.
- Investigate the possibility of securing additional hours of use at Churcher's College (Ramshill).
- Investigate the feasibility to improve the changing provision Bedales School and Eggars School and access to changing facilities at Churcher's College (Ramshill).

#### 4. Key Findings and Issues for Hockey (Step 6)

**Figure 4.1: Key Findings and Issues**

<b>The main characteristics of the <u>current</u> supply of and demand for provision</b>
<p>There is currently five full sized (or near full sized) floodlit sand based artificial grass pitches in the area currently available and for community hockey. Since the last assessment in 2018 there has been a significant change in supply with an additional sand dressed pitch available at Eggars School and the pitches at Churcher’s College (Ramshill) and Bohunt School were both resurfaced in 2020, as well as the upgrade of floodlights at Bedales School this year.</p> <p>Player affiliation data provided by England Hockey and club consultation suggests participation numbers for adults are down compared to the last few years, but there has been a small growth in Junior membership. There are two hockey clubs in the area, Alton Hockey Club have 11 adult teams (5 male, 3 female, 1 female veteran’s and 2 mixed teams) and a large junior section with 11 boys’ teams and 15 junior girls’ teams. Petersfield Hockey Club have 5 adult teams (3 male, 2 female) and a junior section consisting of 2 mixed teams, 3 boys teams and 4 girls teams.</p>
<b>Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet <u>current</u> demand?</b>
<p>There is sufficient provision in the area to meet the current demand, however this provision is not secure.</p> <p>The impact of the facilities becoming unavailable would mean clubs having to source pitches outside of the District or potentially fold if no suitable alternatives could be found.</p>
<b>Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?</b>
<p>The pitches at Amery Hill and Bedales school are poor and in need of resurfacing. Amery Hill is not floodlit which limits the amount of community use.</p> <p>Changing facilities across the area are basic and in need of improvement particularly on the clubs main sites to support match day requirements. Alton HC state that only having access to two changing rooms at Eggars School causes issues with back to back matches. Petersfield HC state the changing provision at Bedales school is basic and they report issues with access to changing rooms at Churcher’s College (Ramshill).</p>
<b>What are the main characteristics of the <u>future</u> supply and demand for provision?</b>
<p>Both clubs have ambitions to grow over the next 3 years and there is capacity in the area to accommodate this, although there is no secured provision in the area.</p> <p>The forecast population growth to 2040 of over 8,958 additional residents based on 2018 ONS housing-led projections, is estimated to generate little demand for additional pitches in the area.</p>
<b>Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet <u>future</u> demand?</b>
<p>There is capacity in the area for club’s aspirations to grow and to meet future demand with spare capacity at Bohunt School. The proposed new pitch at Alton School, if delivered, would provide a suitable venue for Alton HC, however due to the uncertainty of this being delivered Amery Hill School should be resurfaced to continue to accommodate club use.</p> <p>The majority of current supply is unsecured, with the exception of Eggars School which has a CUA in place. The lack of security on sites would impact both clubs and mean they would be unable to train or play</p>

matches if venues became unavailable. There is a need to protect the existing quantity of pitch supply and to secure usage for clubs where possible.

The pitch at Bedales needs resurfacing and the possibility of securing additional hours of use at Churcher's College (Ramshill) should be explored.

Improvements to changing provision is needed at Bedales School and Eggars School as well as ensuring access for Petersfield HC to the changing facilities at Churcher's College (Ramshill).