

Epping Forest District Council Playing Pitch Strategy

PROJECT DETAILS	
CLIENT NAME	Epping Forest District Council
ASSIGNMENT TITLE	Epping Forest District Council Playing Pitch Strategy
PURPOSE OF REPORT	ENGLAND HOCKEY DATA APPENDICES

Summary update:

- All hockey sites visited and assessed by the 4 global
- Received responses from 1 hockey club (100%)
- Information gathered in 4 global online platform www.playingpitch.com

Sign-off Process:

This datasheet is split into two sections;

- **Stage B Data** – Supply and demand data captured through site assessments and club consultations, to be signed off before Stage B is complete.
- **Stage C Data and site by site analysis** – This is the analysis undertaken per site showing capacity, key issues and club requirements. This version issue of the data sheet will include a basic capacity analysis of all football sites, with further detail included within the Stage C report.

STAGE B DATA

Pitch supply

Quantity overview

The table below provides a detailed breakdown of the Artificial Ground Hockey Pitches available across Epping Forest. This table only includes sand-dressed AGP's as 3G surfaces are not appropriate for hockey. For supply and demand analysis, any AGP's that are not full size (at least 100x60m) will not be included as they are not the required size for competitive hockey use.

Table 1: Sites with Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) that provide community use.

Site Name	Sand Based / Water based	Ownership	Management	Availability of community use / Security of community use	Size
Old Loughtonians HC (OLHC)	Water Based	Trust	Club	Available / Secured	100x70
Old Loughtonians HC (OLHC)	Water Based	Trust	Club	Available / Secured	100x70
Chigwell School	Sand Based	Trust	Education	Not available	100x70

The table below provides a summary of the scores provided to each site following the 4 global site assessment. The assessment of Artificial Grass Pitches was carried out in line with the England Hockey non-technical quality assessment aligned with the Sport England Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance.

Table 2: Overview of quality ratings

Quality rating	AGP
Good (80-100%)	2
Standard (50-79.9%)	1
Poor (0-49.9%)	0

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Table 3 below shows the detail behind Table 2 above, with the site assessment information for each pitch, as well as their additional facility and age.

Table 3: Detailed quality ratings for hockey AGP's in Epping Forest

Site Name	Sand Based / Water based	Size	Floodlit	Age of playing surface	Condition (Quality score)
OLHC	Water Based	100x70	Yes	2-5 years	90 - Good
OLHC	Water Based	100x70	Yes	2-5 years	90 – Good
Chigwell School	Sand Based	100x70	Yes	5-10 years	76 - Standard

Table 4 below details the availability of AGPs at sites where they are utilised for hockey club use. This has been presented in the form of match slots (= c.2 hours AGP use). Although mid week demand is mainly for training purposes, some matches may take place therefore in the demand section of this paper, training has been converted to match slots to allow for consistent measures.

This table includes only those facilities that are currently available for community use and are of a suitable size for competitive hockey to be played.

Table 4: AGP availability at Hockey club sites

Site name	AGP type	Weekday peak hours available	Saturday match slots available	Sunday match slots available
Roding Sport Centre	Water Based	20	10	10
Roding Sport Centre	Water Based	20	10	10
Chigwell School	Sand Based	-	-	-

Key Site Summary

Roding Sport Centre: the club is largely self-sufficient due to its ability to have attracted high value sponsorships and patrons. The site underwent extensive renovations due to its use as a training venue for the London 2012 Olympics. The club house is large and beginning to show some signs of aging but remains in a fair condition. The main challenges for the club are consistent with other large sports clubs. At present the club is focusing on retaining more players between the ages of 21-30. The clubs training AGP area is in the worst condition of all

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the playing surfaces and was thought to be over 10 years old. The club's final development aspiration is to add a large indoor hockey appropriate hall on or near to the site.

Chigwell School: A standard quality pitch located at Chigwell School, which is an independent school with extensive playing pitch provision. The sand-based facility is not currently used for hockey; however it is booked for a small proportion of the week by local football clubs. On consultation, the school did not communicate an aspiration to increase the amount of community hockey use on site, however it is noted that the school uses the facility extensively for both curriculum and after-school hockey.

Pitch demand

Club/Team profile

There is one hockey club that operates within the Epping Forest area. The breakdown of teams in this club has been provided below.

Table 5: Club analysis

CLUB NAME	ADULT TEAMS			JUNIORS	TOTAL
	SENIOR MEN	SENIOR WOMEN	MIXED		
Old Loughtonians Hockey Club	6	5	0	10	21

The table below highlights how the profile of Hockey teams across Epping Forest creates demand for competitive matches throughout the week.

Table 6: Competitive match demand

	Number of teams	Competitive hours required		
		Weekday	Saturday	Sunday
Senior teams (16-65)	11	0	12	1
Junior teams (11-15)	10	0	0	5

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The table below highlights how the profile of hockey teams across Epping Forest creates demand for AGP training hours throughout the week. Senior teams train midweek however some junior teams/development centres may train on weekends. It is important to understand that this will impact on capacity analysis when considered with the competitive match slots required above.

Table 7: Training hours required

	Number of teams	Training hours required		
		Weekday	Saturday	Sunday
Senior teams (16-65)	11	12	0	0
Junior teams (11-15)	10	4	0	0

Key Club Consultation Summaries

The following is a summary of the consultation undertaken with Old Loughtonians HC, focussing on their key issues and future plans. All pitch-rating comments are the opinions of the club and may differ from the impartial rating given by the site assessor.

Table 8: Summary of demand consultations from hockey clubs in Epping Forest

Club	Consultation Summary
Old Loughtonians HC	<p>A large club with a 11 adult sides (6 mens and 5 ladies) and a junior section with boys and girls teams in the U10, U12, U14, U16 and U18 age groups.</p> <p>The club has seen an increase in participation in the last few years, mainly as a consequence of the “Back to Hockey” initiative and the success of team GB in the Olympic Games, and they have plans to keep growing in every age group in coming years.</p> <p>All match play and training takes place at Roding Sports Centre, a site that is owned and maintained by the club. They have rated the quality of the pitches and ancillary facilities on site as good, although they have identified some evidence of moss/lichen on the playing surface. If required, they sometimes use the Lea Valley Centre or local schools as back up grounds.</p> <p>The club have also identified a current unmet demand for indoor hockey as a result of the lack of adequate facilities in the area, and they are currently using facilities outside of Epping Forest for this. They stated that they would be able to generate more teams if a purpose built indoor hockey facility was provided. “Old Loughtonians in the past have been successful at indoor hockey but with the lack of a facility it is difficult to provide appropriate opportunities for training and competition. Having indoor provision would also provide the resources for additional fitness sessions.”</p>

STAGE C SITE-BY-SITE ANALYSIS

Site-by-site capacity analysis

The table below provides capacity analysis for all hockey club AGPs in Epping Forest. This table contains demand (in hours) from competitive matches as well as training required by local clubs.

Table 8: AGP capacity analysis

Site name	Supply (hours)			Demand (Hours required – for training and matches)			Balance (Hours)		
	Week	Sat	Sun	Week	Sat	Sun	Week	Sat	Sun
OLHC	40	20	20	16	12	6	22	8	14
Chigwell School	20	8	8	9*	0	0	11	8	8

Peak time capacity analysis

The table below provides capacity analysis for all hockey club AGPs in Epping Forest. This table contains demand (in hours) from competitive matches as well as training required by local clubs.

In line with the 2013 Sport England PPS guidance, this study has considered the total supply and demand for facilities, measured in match equivalents per week.

While this is a valuable measure of whether or not AGP facilities are at capacity, the patterns of demand should also be considered when assessing whether there are sufficient facilities across the District.

With this in mind, this section undertakes a peak time capacity analysis, to assess whether there are sufficient facilities during the periods that the greatest proportion of the population like to play hockey.

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This will indicate whether there is enough capacity to satisfy the demand where a large amount of hockey is played at the same time (e.g. are there enough match slots so that all adult and junior teams can to play at the favoured times on Saturday and Sunday?)

The following assumptions on peak times have been developed, based on standard practice for competitive grass roots hockey, as well as consultation with Old Loughtonians HC.

- There are 4 x 2 hours match slots on Saturday per pitch
- There are 4 x 1.5 hours match slots on Sunday per pitch

It should be noted that only OLHC has been included in the peak time capacity analysis as it is the only site in the District that has regular hockey demand and a consistent level of supply.

Table 9: Peak time capacity analysis for Epping Forest District Hockey provision

Age-group (preferred match slot)	No. of teams	Peak-time demand (Match Slots)	Peak-time Capacity (Match Slots)	Balance	Commentary
Adult (Saturday 10-6*)	11	6	8	2.5	2 match equivalents spare capacity per week
Junior (Sunday 10-4)	10	5	8	3	3 match equivalents spare capacity per week

*Adult fixtures are occasionally played on Sunday however for this analysis, peak time adult demand is assumed to be Saturday.

Table 9 indicates that, with the exclusive use of two full sized AGP's (as well as the training facility for warm up use), OLHC has spare capacity during periods of peak demand. This corresponds to initial consultation with England Hockey, which identified a small amount of spare capacity that can be maximised, by helping the club to grow further and increase its reach in Epping Forest District and further afield.