

## Epping Forest Council Playing Pitch Strategy

PROJECT DETAILS	
CLIENT NAME	Epping Forest District Council
ASSIGNMENT TITLE	Epping Forest Council Playing Pitch Strategy
PURPOSE OF REPORT	<b>RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION DATA APPENDIX</b>

**Summary update:**

- All rugby sites visited
- Received responses from 2 out of 3 rugby clubs
- Information gathered in 4 global online platform [www.playingpitch.com](http://www.playingpitch.com)
- Raw site assessment and demand consultation data is presented in the accompanying excel file.
- All supply and demand data in this datasheet is required to be signed off by the NGB before Stage B can be completed

**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 of the datasheets will include a basic capacity analysis of all rugby sites, with further detail included within the full PPS report.

## STAGE B DATA

### Pitch supply

#### Quantity overview

The number of rugby pitches in Epping Forest has been detailed in the table below. It is important to understand where there may be potential further supply should the capacity analysis inform us that there is overplay within Epping Forest.

**Table 1: Breakdown of sites and pitches**

Site Name	Sub-area	Community use on site	Security of Use	Owners	Adult	Junior/Minis
Debden Park High School	South	Not available	Unsecured	Academies	0	1
Epping Upper Clapton RFC	West	Available	Secured	Sports Club	3	0
Jubilee Park Pavilion (Ongar RFC)	East	Available	Unsecured*	Local Authority	1	0
King Harold Business And Enterprise Academy	West	Not available	Unsecured	Academies	1	0
Ongar Academy (Ongar Leisure Centre)	East	Not available	Unsecured	Local Authority	2	1
Roding Valley High School	South	Available	Unsecured	Community school	1	0
Loughton Rugby Club	South	Available	Secured	Sports Club	2	0
Roding Valley Playing Fields South	South	Available	Secured	Roding Valley Town Council	2	0

\*New management agreement due in October 2017

#### Tenure/Management

The table below identifies the split in ownership of all rugby pitches in Epping Forest. Table 2 shows that a relatively even split between Council, Sports Club and Education sites.

## Epping Forest Council Playing Pitch Strategy

Table 2: Ownership and management summary of rugby pitches in Epping Forest

	Ownership	Management
Academy	2	1
Education	1	5
Local Authority	6	3
Sports Club	5	5

## Quality assessment

4 global has visited all sites and non-technical site assessments have been undertaken to provide an overall quality score that is in line with the RFU guidance provided below. The maintenance and drainage scores determine the capacity of a pitch in match equivalents.

Table 3: RFU pitch assessment guidance

Drainage	Maintenance		
	Poor (M0)	Standard (M1)	Good (M2)
Natural Inadequate (D0)	0.5	1.5	2
Natural Adequate (D1)	1.5	2	3
Pipe Drained (D2)	1.75	2.5	3.25
Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	2	3	3.5

Table 4 below shows the number of pitches in Epping Forest that fit into each of the RFU's pitch assessment guidance criteria (as shown in Table 3).

Table 4: Number of pitches fulfilling each category of the RFU pitch assessment guidance in Epping Forest

Drainage	Maintenance		
	Poor (M0)	Standard (M1)	Good (M2)
Natural Inadequate (D0)	8	0	0

## Epping Forest Council Playing Pitch Strategy

Natural Adequate (D1)	1	0	0
Pipe Drained (D2)	5	0	0
Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	0	0	0

Table 5 below shows the pitch scores following a non-technical quality assessment of the pitches that are used by the community for rugby in Epping Forest. This allows us to understand the capacity of each pitch from a community use perspective, using the capacity calculations in Table 3. It should be noted that the artificial grass pitch training area at Epping Upper Clapton RFC has been included, however a match equivalent capacity has not been added as this is a small sided training area. The facility is World Rugby 22 compliant, meaning that it can be used for contact training.

**Table 5: Community sites and individual pitch capacity**

Site Name	Type of pitch	Pitch maintenance score	Drainage Score	Pitch Capacity	Overall capacity of site
Debden Park High School	Junior Rugby Union	0 - Poor (M0)	D0	0.5	0.5
Epping Upper Clapton RFC	Senior Rugby Union	1 - Poor (M0)	D0	0.5	1.5
Epping Upper Clapton RFC	Senior Rugby Union	1 - Poor (M0)	D0	0.5	
Epping Upper Clapton RFC	Senior Rugby Union	1 - Poor (M0)	D0	0.5	
Epping Upper Clapton RFC	Training area	AGP	Not applicable		
Jubilee Park Pavilion	Senior Rugby Union	5 - Poor (M0)	D2	1.75	1.75
King Harold Business and Enterprise Academy	Senior Rugby Union	2 - Poor (M0)	D2	1.75	1.75
Loughton Rugby Club	Senior Rugby Union	1 - Poor (M0)	D0	0.5	1
Loughton Rugby Club	Senior Rugby Union	1 - Poor (M0)	D0	0.5	

## Epping Forest Council Playing Pitch Strategy

Site Name	Type of pitch	Pitch maintenance score	Drainage Score	Pitch Capacity	Overall capacity of site
Ongar Academy (Ongar Leisure Centre)	Senior Rugby Union	0 - Poor (M0)	D2	1.75	5.25
Ongar Academy (Ongar Leisure Centre)	Senior Rugby Union	0 - Poor (M0)	D2	1.75	
Ongar Academy (Ongar Leisure Centre)	Junior Rugby Union	0 - Poor (M0)	D2	1.75	
Roding Valley High School	Senior Rugby Union	2 - Poor (M0)	D1	1.5	1.5
Roding Valley Playing Fields South	Senior Rugby Union	5 – Poor (M0)	D0	0.5	1
Roding Valley Playing Fields South	Senior Rugby Union	5 – Poor (M0)	D0	0.5	

### Pitch Summaries

**Epping Upper Clapton RFC:** High quality site. 3 senior pitches were in good condition, in heavy and wet weather. However, drainage appeared to be a challenge. Posts in place and good quality. No floodlights on the grass pitches, however there is a floodlit WR22 training area at the site.

**Jubilee Park Pavilion:** Unable to arrange a meeting at the site, self-assessment done. Multi-sport site, evidence of well used facilities, at near carrying capacity. Pavilion is also shared and is of average to low standard. Site operation is due to change from Town Council to Sports Trust as off October 2017. This will have an effect on the maintenance of all pitches on the site with more volunteer work required. There is currently a concern over the security of the rugby pitches on site with a new management agreement due in October 2017.

**Loughton Rugby Club:** Average quality pitch, with drainage, evenness and grass coverage issues in places. Problems with littering/ dog walkers and unofficial use evident. Club house was highly secured building, with vandalism issues

**Ongar Academy:** Site drainage was poor overall. Sport England consultation highlighted that the playing fields are in the process of being transferred to Academy management and as part of the school redevelopment, this will see an improvement to rugby and football provision.

## Pitch demand

### Club breakdown

There are 3 rugby clubs that operate within the Epping Forest area. The breakdown of teams in these clubs has been provided below. This table requires sign off from the Rugby Football Union.

**Table 6: Team profile of clubs in Epping Forest**

Club	Adult teams	18-19 years youth teams	Junior teams (U13-17)	Mini / Midi teams (U7-12)	Totals
Epping Upper Clapton RFC	3	1	4	6	14
Loughton RFC	1	0	0	0	1
Ongar RFC*	3	0	3	4	10

\*The club failed to respond to 4 global's survey. Information obtained from club website

### Key Club Consultation Summaries

The following is a summary of the consultations undertaken with 2 clubs, 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 7: Summary of demand consultations from rugby clubs in Epping Forest**

Club	Consultation Summary
Epping Upper Clapton RFC	A large rugby club with 3 senior teams and youth teams ranging from under 5 to under 19. The home ground for the club is situated at the Epping Upper Rugby Club. With participation at the club rising their main priority at the moment is to obtain an artificial pitch for training and matches. Their current grass pitches are poor quality with a very out-dated drainage system. As a result, they lose approximately 8 weeks of rugby every year, which has an impact on their revenues. They have updated their clubhouse over the last few years with support from the RFU.
Loughton RFC	A small club with one adult team. They have recently updated the clubhouse, which is now of adequate quality, however they still don't have any heating in the facility due to a lack of resources. The clubhouse itself is owned by the members, however, they lease the pitches on a 50 year lease from the local authority. The pitches at the site are poor quality and one pitch has been unplayable for over 10 years. The club think the local authority should invest more into the pitches but leave it to the club to deal with. They would like to have another team but as a result of only having one playable pitch this is not feasible.

## STAGE C SITE-BY-SITE ANALYSIS

### Supply and demand balance

#### Site-by-site balance figures

The table below details the site-by-site capacity analysis for all sites used by rugby clubs in Epping Forest. Capacity analysis has not been carried out for sites where there is no demand for rugby. These sites have been detailed in table 5 above.

Table 9 overleaf shows the analysis of rugby facility capacity in the peak period. To assess the availability of rugby facilities at peak times, it has been assumed that the period of highest demand for rugby matches is on a Saturday afternoon for adults and Sunday morning for mini and youth rugby. It is also assumed that juniors play on adult match pitches (there are no designated junior pitches in the District), with all mini teams requiring half a pitch and youth teams requiring a full pitch.

**Table 8: Rugby site capacity analysis**

Site Name	Pitch type	Quantity	Supply (Capacity)	Demand (matches + training in match equivalents)		Overplay or Spare Capacity
				SNR	JNR	
Epping Upper Clapton RFC	Senior Rugby Union	3	4.0*	1.5	4.5	-2
Jubilee Park Pavilion	Senior Rugby Union	1	1.75	0.5	3.5	-2.25
Loughton Rugby Club	Senior Rugby Union	2	1	1	0	0
Ongar Academy	Senior Rugby Union	2	4	0	0	4
Roding Valley Playing Fields South	Senior Rugby Union	2	1	1*	1**	-1
Roding Valley High School	Senior Rugby Union	1	1.5	0	0	1.5

## Epping Forest Council Playing Pitch Strategy

Table 8: Peak period capacity for rugby provision

Adult				
Site Name	Sub area	Pitch Supply (Sat PM)	Match equivalent demand	Commentary
Epping Upper Clapton RFC	West	3	1.5	1.5 match equivalents spare capacity in the peak period
Jubilee Park Pavilion	East	1	0.5	0.5 match equivalents spare capacity in the peak period
Loughton Rugby Club	South	2	0.5	1.5 match equivalents spare capacity in the peak period
Roding Valley Playing Fields South	South	2	0.5	1.5 match equivalents spare capacity in the peak period
Roding Valley High School	South	1	0	1 match equivalents spare capacity in the peak period
Ongar Academy	East	2	0	2 match equivalents spare capacity in the peak period
Junior				
		(Sun AM)		
Epping Upper Clapton RFC	West	6	10	No spare capacity in the peak period
Jubilee Park Pavilion	East	2	0	1 match equivalents spare capacity in the peak period
Loughton Rugby Club	South	4	7	No spare capacity in the peak period
Roding Valley Playing Fields South	South	4	0	2 match equivalents spare capacity in the peak period
Roding Valley High School	South	2	0	1 match equivalents spare capacity in the peak period
Ongar Academy	East	4	0	4 match equivalents spare capacity in the peak period