

Appendix 2: Supply and Demand

Assessment of Individual Facility Types

Sports Halls and Activity Halls

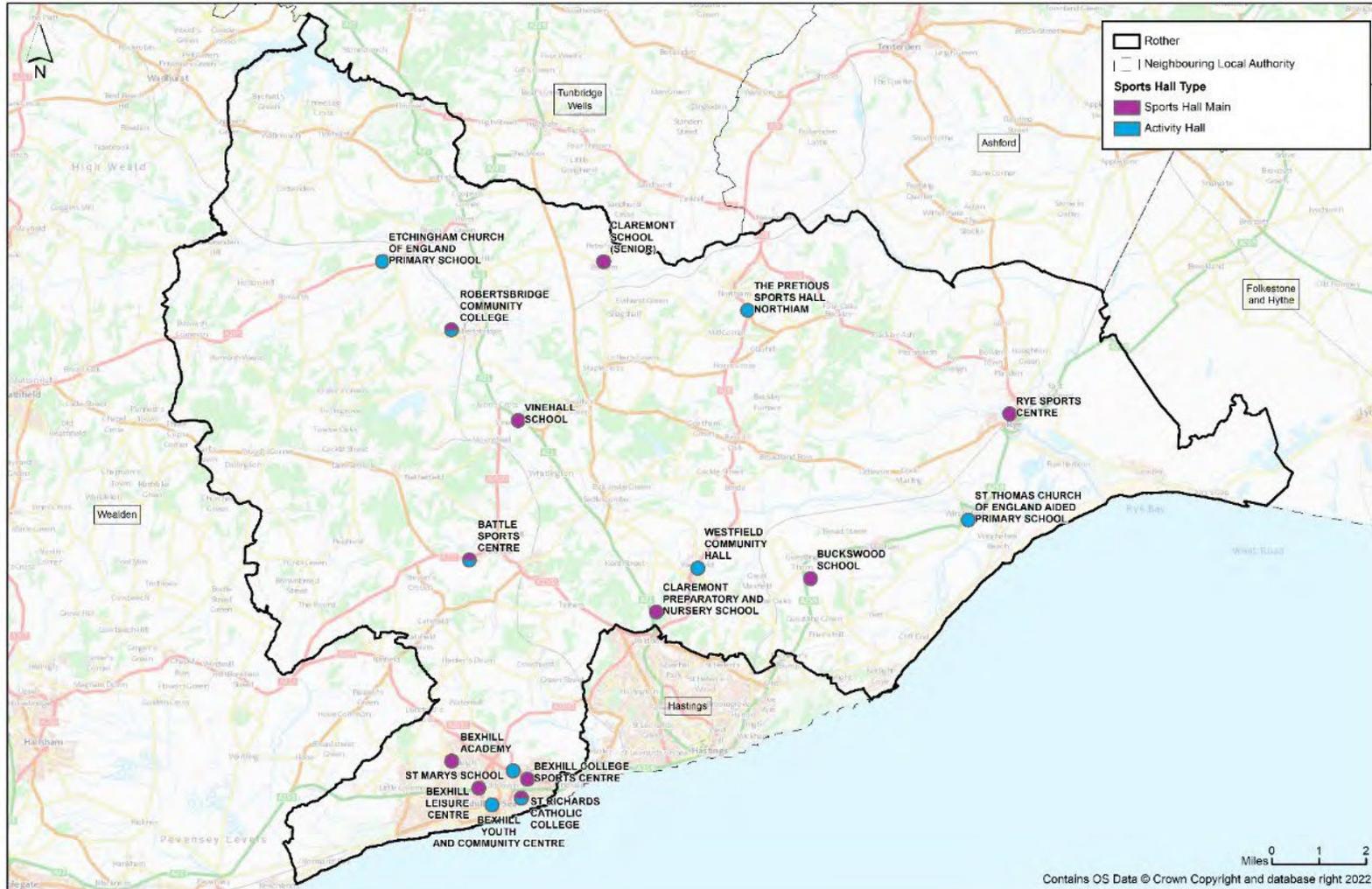
Quantity

- 2.1. Sports halls are identified as 3 court badminton halls and above and provide facilities for team sports such as netball, volleyball, basketball etc. Activity halls are smaller halls normally of 1 badminton court size but may not be marked out for badminton but can cater for some sports and physical activity.
- 2.2. The supply analysis identifies that Rother District has a total of 21 sports hall/activity halls across 16 sites (refer to Map 1). Table 1 details all sports halls and activity halls in the District.
- 2.3. There are
 - A total of 11 sports halls and 10 activity halls across 16 sites
 - 11 main sports halls in total (all strategic size i.e. 3 courts +)
 - 3 community pay and play sports halls (strategic size 3+ courts)
 - 4 community accessible sports halls i.e. available for sports club use
 - 4 sports halls in private use only
- 2.4. 2 of the sports halls are managed by Freedom Leisure on behalf of the local authority. (Bexhill Leisure Centre and Rye ports Centre), 1 sports hall is managed by a joint management committee (Battle Sports Centre) and the remaining 4 community accessible sports halls are managed by schools and a further education college. Bexhill College Sports Hall is currently closed as the College cannot afford the staff to open for community use.
- 2.5. Strategic size sports halls and activity halls are detailed in Table 1. Table 1 also highlights strategic size sports halls and activity halls available for pay and play community use.

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Map 1: Sports Halls/Activity Halls by access type in Rother District



Sports Halls by type in Rother



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Table 1: Supply of Sports Halls and Activity Halls in Rother District

Site Name	Post Code	Facility Type	Facility Sub Type	Number Badminton Courts	Access Type	Ownership Type		Management Type	Pay and Play	Sports Club Community Access	Year Built	Year Refurbished
Battle Sports Centre	TN33 0HT	Sports Hall	Main	4	Pay and Play	Other	Other		✓		1987	2012
Bexhill Leisure Centre	TN39 4HS	Sports Hall	Main	4	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Trust		✓		1990	2006
Rye Sports Centre	TN31 7ND	Sports Hall	Main	4	Pay and Play	Community School	Trust		✓		1987	2003
Bexhill Academy	TN39 4BY	Sports Hall	Main	4	Sports Club / Community Association	Education-Academies	School/College/University (in house)			✓	2010	
Bexhill College Sports Centre	TN40 2JG	Sports Hall	Main	4	Sports Club / Community Association	Further Education	School/College/University (in house)			✓	2004	
Robertsbridge Community College	TN32 5EA	Sports Hall	Main	4	Sports Club / Community Association	Community School	School/College/University (in house)			✓	2013	
Vinehall School	TN32 5JL	Sports Hall	Main	4	Sports Club / Community Association	Other Independent School	Trust			✓	1999	

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Site Name	Post Code	Facility Type	Facility Sub Type	Number Badminton Courts	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Pay and Play	Sports Club Community Access	Year Built	Year Refurbished
Buckswood school	TN35 4LT	Sports Hall	Main	4	Private Use – Sports Hall	Other Independent School	School/College/University (in house)			1933	
Claremont Preparatory and Nursery School	TN37 7PW	Sports Hall	Main	3	Private Use – Sports Hall	Other Independent School	School/College/University (in house)			1942	
Claremont School (Senior)	TN32 5UJ	Sports Hall	Main	4	Private Use - Sports Hall	Independent School approved for SEN Pupils	School/College/University (in house)			2013	
St Richards Catholic College	TN40 1SE	Sports Hall	Main	4	Private Use - Sports Hall	Voluntary Aided School	Other			2018	
Battle Sports Centre	TN33 0HT	Sports Hall	Activity Hall	0	Pay and play	Other	Other	✓		2015	
Bexhill Youth and Community Centre	TN40 1RE	Sports Hall	Activity Hall	2	Pay and play	Community Organisation	Community Organisation	✓		1965	2010
Etchingham Church of England Primary School	TN19 7BY	Sports Hall	Activity Hall	1	Sports Club / Community Association	Community school	School/College/University (in house)		✓	2015	
Robertsbridge Community College	TN32 5EA	Sports Hall	Activity Hall	1	Sports Club / Community Association	Community school	School/College/University (in house)		✓	1960	2015

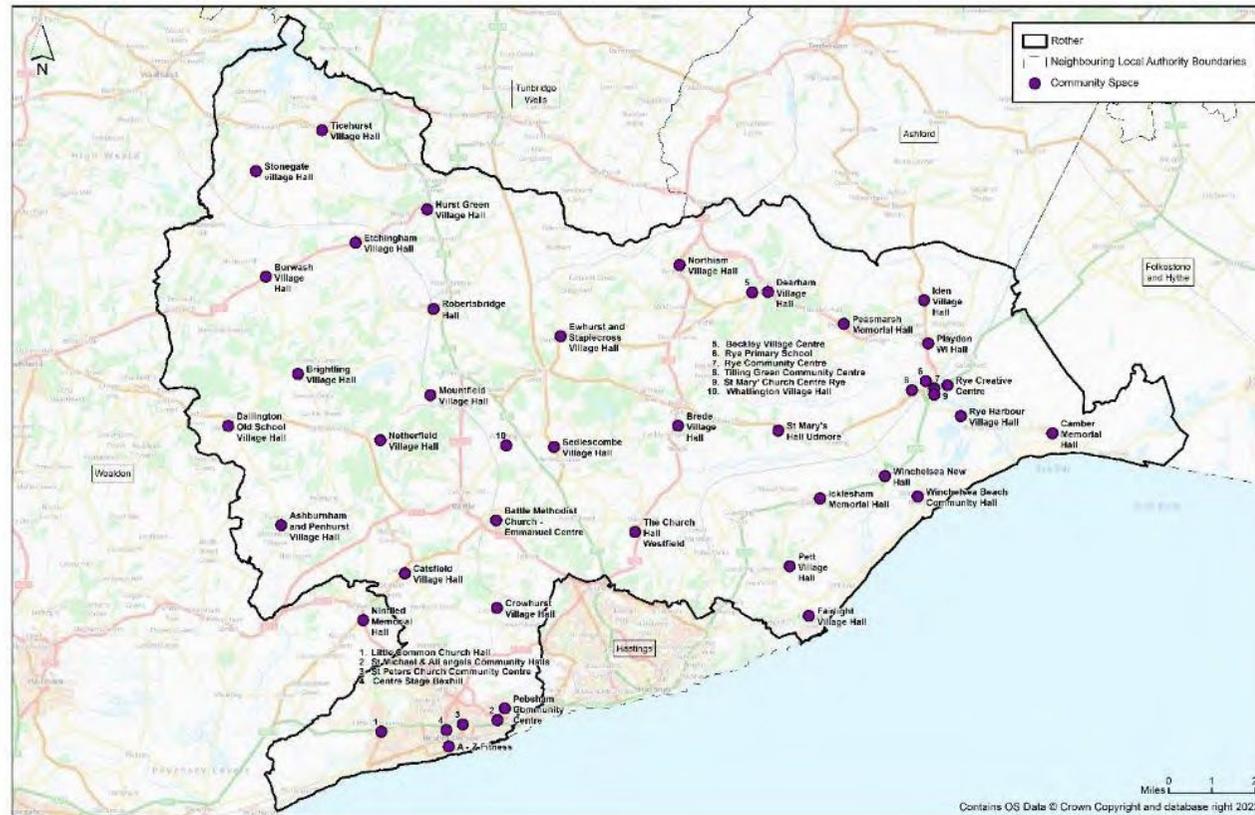
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Site Name	Post Code	Facility Type	Facility Sub Type	Number Badminton Courts	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Pay and Play	Sports Club Community Access	Year Built	Year Refurbished
The Pretious Sports Hall Northiam	TN31 6NB	Sports Hall	Activity Hall	2	Sports Club / Community Association	Voluntary Controlled School	Community Organisation	✓		2007	
Westfield Community Hall	TN35 4QJ	Sports Hall	Activity Hall	1	Sports Club / Community Association	Community Organisation	Community Organisation	✓		1983	
St Marys School	TN40 2LU	Sports Hall	Activity Hall	1	Private Use - Activity Hall	Voluntary Aided School	School/College/University (in house)			1981	
St Richards Catholic College	TN40 1SE	Sports Hall	Activity Hall	1	Private Use - Activity Hall	Voluntary Aided School	Other			1983	
St Richards Catholic College	TN40 1SE	Sports Hall	Activity Hall	0	Private Use - Activity Hall	Voluntary Aided School	Other			1963	
St Thomas Church of England Aided Primary School	TN36 4ED	Sports Hall	Activity Hall	1	Private Use - Activity Halls	Voluntary Aided School	School/College/University (in house)			1968	

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- 2.6. A total of 3 out of the 11 strategic sized sports halls (3+ badminton courts) are available for pay and play community use and 4 are available for sports club/community association use. A total of 8 out of the 11 strategic sized sports halls are located on school/college owned sites of which 4 sports halls are private use.
- 2.7. As well as the identified activity halls, there are a range of other community halls/centres, churches, village halls e.g. Bred and Fairlight Village Halls etc. These are available for community use sessions, usually for groups, associations, and privately run classes, but provide for far more than sport and physical activity. Typically community halls will also be hired for dance classes, arts/crafts, events and programmes, meetings and social gatherings.



Community space in Rother



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- 2.8. The education sports halls will have different hours of access for community use, outside of education use. Some schools and colleges proactively manage venues for wider community use, predominantly by sports clubs and community groups. Other schools and colleges let their sports halls on a responsive basis to sports clubs or community groups, for a term or even shorter lettings.
- 2.9. Schools with community access were consulted with as part of this study and the following key information was provided relating to access arrangements and programmes of use.

Table 2: Summary of School Sports Facilities – Community Use

School	Access arrangements and Programme of Use
Battle Sports Centre	Community access times: Monday – Friday 17.00 – 22.00 Saturday 09.00 – 18.00 & Sundays 09.00 – 20.00 Programme of use: badminton, male and female basketball, indoor cricket, pickleball, football, netball, table tennis, volleyball
Bexhill Academy	Community access times: Monday – Friday 18.00 – 21.00 Saturday & Sundays Closed Programme of use: badminton, basketball, cricket, football, gymnastics, netball, table tennis, volleyball Bookings are taken by School Hire
Bexhill College Sports Centre	Community Access times: currently closed for community use Programme of Use: Badminton, Basketball, 5 a side football, indoor cricket, martial arts, gymnastics, fitness sessions, handball netball, trampolining, indoor hockey, roller hockey, dance, climbing.
Robertsbridge Community College	Community Access times: Monday - Friday: 17:00 – 22:00 Saturday & Sunday: 09:00-17:00 Programme of Use: Badminton, Basketball, 5 a side football, indoor cricket, martial arts, gymnastics, fitness sessions, handball netball, trampolining, indoor hockey, roller hockey.
Vinehall School	Community Access times: Monday - Friday: Closed School use only Saturday & Sunday: 09:00-17:00 Programme of Use: Badminton, Basketball, 5 a side football, netball.

- 2.10. This overall range of provision within the district means that activities/sports can be separated. Big space sports such as volleyball and basketball can be accommodated in the main halls. The smaller activity halls can accommodate small space activities such as Pilates, yoga and martial arts. Bexhill College Sports Centre is currently closed for community sports club usage.

Quality

- 2.11. Detailed quality assessments were undertaken of all the RDC indoor sports facilities (May – July 2022) by way of a site visit and visual assessment of the facilities. These are provided in Appendix A and are summarised in Table 3 below.

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Table 3: Summary of the Quality Assessment of Rother District Sports Halls and Activity Halls

Facility Name	Quality Score	Commentary
Battle Sports Centre	43% Average	The school is having major building works taking place to the front of the school. The sports hall is remaining in situ but the building works have impacted on current programme and usage caused by parking issues and the closure of some of the facilities due to the works. The sports hall was built in 1987 and last major refurbishment in 2012. Issues include foyer needs reflooring and changing rooms require redecoration.
Bexhill Leisure Centre	52% Average	<p>The reception area has been refurbished recently and includes new laminate flooring, new seating, decoration and a barista style coffee machine.</p> <p>Gym Extra has had an overnight refurbishment in June 2022. The functional Gym was refurbished in May 2022 with new power racks and lifting platforms and new equipment has been provided since. The Myride studio has also received an upgrade to the very latest software and interactive technology.</p> <p>The centre sign on Down Road needs to be maintained and not hidden by the undergrowth. Sign posting to the car park is non-existent. You could drive into the motor cycling training centre before realising that you had gone wrong.</p> <p>The Leisure Centre has possible development options if the skate park, motorcycle training centre and land at the front with old Victorian building can be developed.</p> <p>Disability access needs to be addressed.</p>
Rye Sports Centre	43% average	Sports hall built 1987 and refurbished in 2007, floor is old and walls are brick no colour for badminton. There are 2 cricket nets and net dividers in the hall. Disability access is an issue.
Bexhill Academy	57% Average	Dual use facility built 2010 no known refurbishment. Sports hall walls are not correct colour for Badminton. Sports hall provides for 2 x 2 indoor cricket nets and the hall has a divider net.
Bexhill College Sports Centre	68% Good	Sports Hall is currently closed for community use.
Robertsbridge Community College	41% Average	Sports hall has a sprung floor, the lower sports hall walls are painted green. ~the colour of the top of the sports hall wall does not support badminton pla.2 lane cricket nets are available.
Vinehall School	No access	

- 2.12. Rother District Council owns 2 sports halls within the district; both are 4 court sports halls located at Bexhill Leisure Centre and Rye Sports Centre. Freedom Leisure operates Bexhill Leisure Centre, and Rye Sports Centre and Pool on behalf of Rother District Council as a not-for-profit trust.

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- 2.13. Battle Sports Centre is the largest sports hall site in terms of scale and capacity. It has a four-court sports hall and an extensive activity hall and has a capacity of 2,427 visits in the weekly peak period and can provide for multiple sports use across the two halls.
- 2.14. Sport England and National Governing Bodies of Sport recommend that a 4-badminton court sports hall for community participation should be 690 sq. m in size. This space provides additional space between courts, run off space and space for coaching and teaching school PE. Three sports halls Bexhill Academy, Bexhill College Sports Centre and Bexhill Leisure Centre meet this requirement. This means that these three sports halls can provide for all the indoor hall sports at the community level of participation and accommodate club sport programmes.
- 2.15. The four court sports halls at Battle Sports Centre, Robertsbridge Community College and Rye Sports Centre are 33m x 18m. Vinehall Independent School has a sports hall 27m x 18m.
- 2.16. There are no sports halls in the district larger than 4 badminton courts.
- 2.17. The average year built for all the sports halls in Rother District is 1999 and 1990 for the public leisure centres an average of 32 years for the public sports halls. Rother District therefore has an ageing stock of sports halls and there will be a need to continue modernisation.
- 2.18. The activity halls across the district vary in age. The oldest activity hall is Robertsbridge Community College (1960), which was refurbished in 2015. The most recent activity halls were built in 2015 at Battle Sports Centre and Etchingham Church of England Primary School.
- 2.19. This overall range of provision in the district means that the activities/sports can be separated. Big space sports such as badminton, basketball, and trampolining can be accommodated in the main halls. The smaller activity halls can accommodate small space sports and activities such as palates, yoga and martial arts.

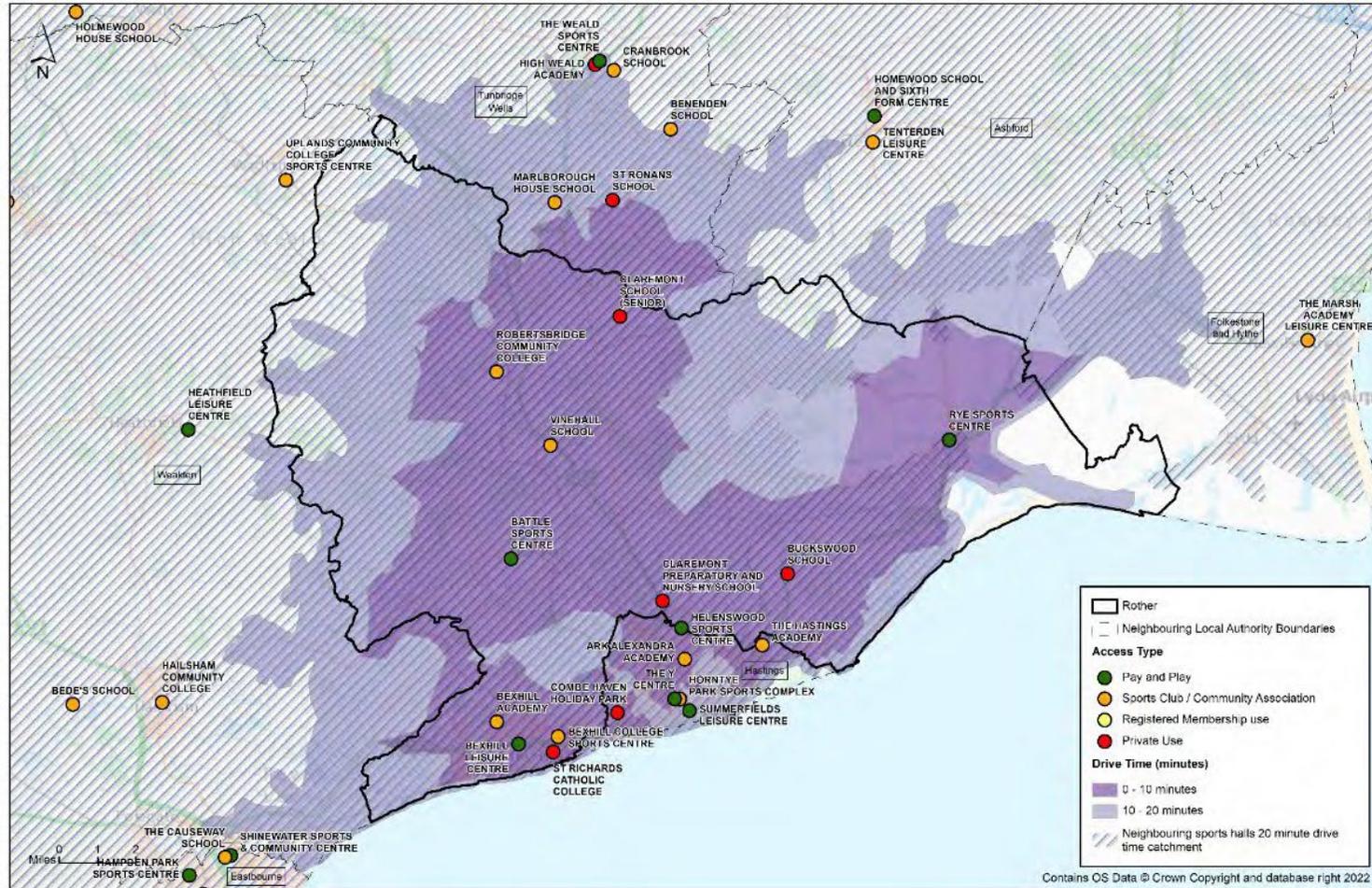
Accessibility

- 2.20. In Rother District, 17.8% of the population do not have access to a car which is lower than national (24.9%) but slightly higher than the regional (17.6%) figures. The percentage of the population without access to a car is important because it influences travel patterns to sports halls. If there is a higher percentage of the population without a car, then a network of local accessible sports halls for residents who either walk or use public transport to travel to a sports hall becomes much more important.
- 2.21. The findings for Rother District are that 84% of visits to sports halls are by car which is higher than national and regional figures. This means that only 16% are travelling by foot or using public transport, both of which are below national and regional levels.
- 2.22. There is a very limited bus service in Rother and this is also limited in the rural areas. However, at the sports hall sites, apart from Vinehall School, sports halls are within a 5-minute walk of a bus stop. Bexhill Leisure Centre, Robertsbridge Community College and Rye Sports Centre are within a 15-minute walk of a railway station. Opportunities to travel to sports halls by bus are greater than opportunities to travel by rail.

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2.23. Map 2 below shows the geographical distribution of the strategic size pay and play community accessible sports halls and activity halls in Rother District with a 20-minute walk and 30-minute drive catchment.

Map 2: Sports Halls/Activity Halls with pay and play community access catchments in Rother District (20 min drive time)



All Sports Halls 20 minute drive time catchment area in Rother



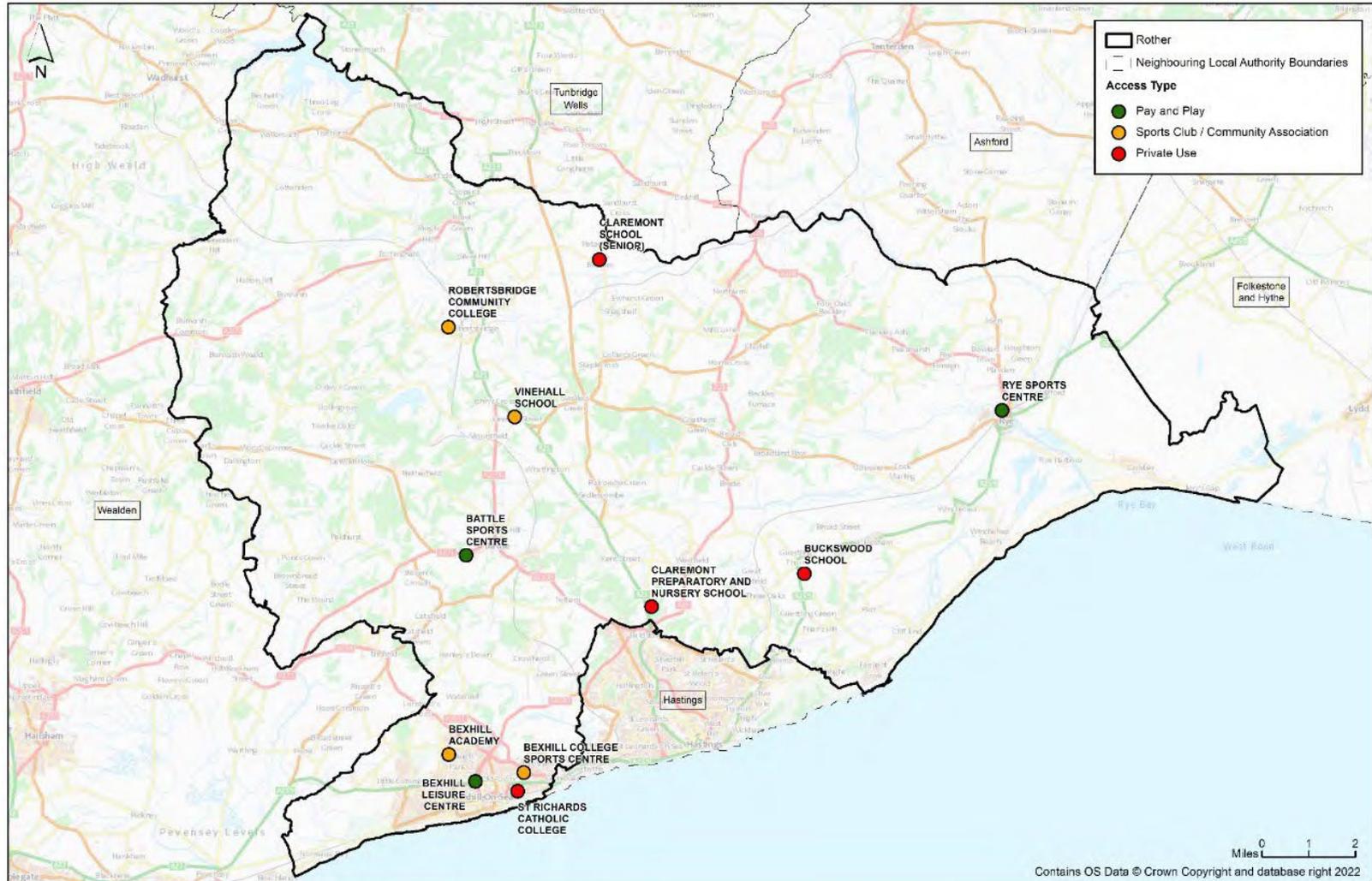
Availability

- 2.24. Table 1, together with Map 1 and 2 highlight that there is a high level of accessible sports hall and activity hall provision in Rother District. However, the majority are on education sites and only provide for sports club/association use. (See Map 3). Whilst a community accessible sports hall would typically be open from 7am – 10pm weekdays and 9am – 6pm weekends, a facility on an education site, if open to community use will be open from 5pm – 9pm weekdays and 9am – 5pm weekends as demonstrated in Table 2 above. Opening hours for village/community halls vary significantly depending on how they are operated but they would typically not be open for as many hours as a community accessible sports hall. There are 3 sports halls in Rother District with community pay and play access (See Map 4) but 1 of these is on an education site with dual use agreements in place. This means that pay and play access is normally restricted to weekday evenings and weekends.
- 2.25. The total supply of sports halls identified as strategic in the Sport England Facility Planning model equates to 33 courts, of which 27 are available in the weekly peak period for community use (known as effective supply). The Sport England Facility Planning Model (FPM) excludes sports halls and activity halls deemed to be private, too small or there is a lack of information relating to hours of use. In effect, there is an aggregate total of 6 badminton courts, across the education sites, which are unavailable for community use; this represents 18% of the total supply of badminton courts in Rother District. The peak period is weekday evenings (up to 5 hours per day) and weekend days (up to 7 hours per weekend day). The reason for the difference between the total supply of badminton courts and the effective supply, is because of the variable hours of access for community use at the sports halls located on education sites.

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Map 3: Sports Halls by Community use



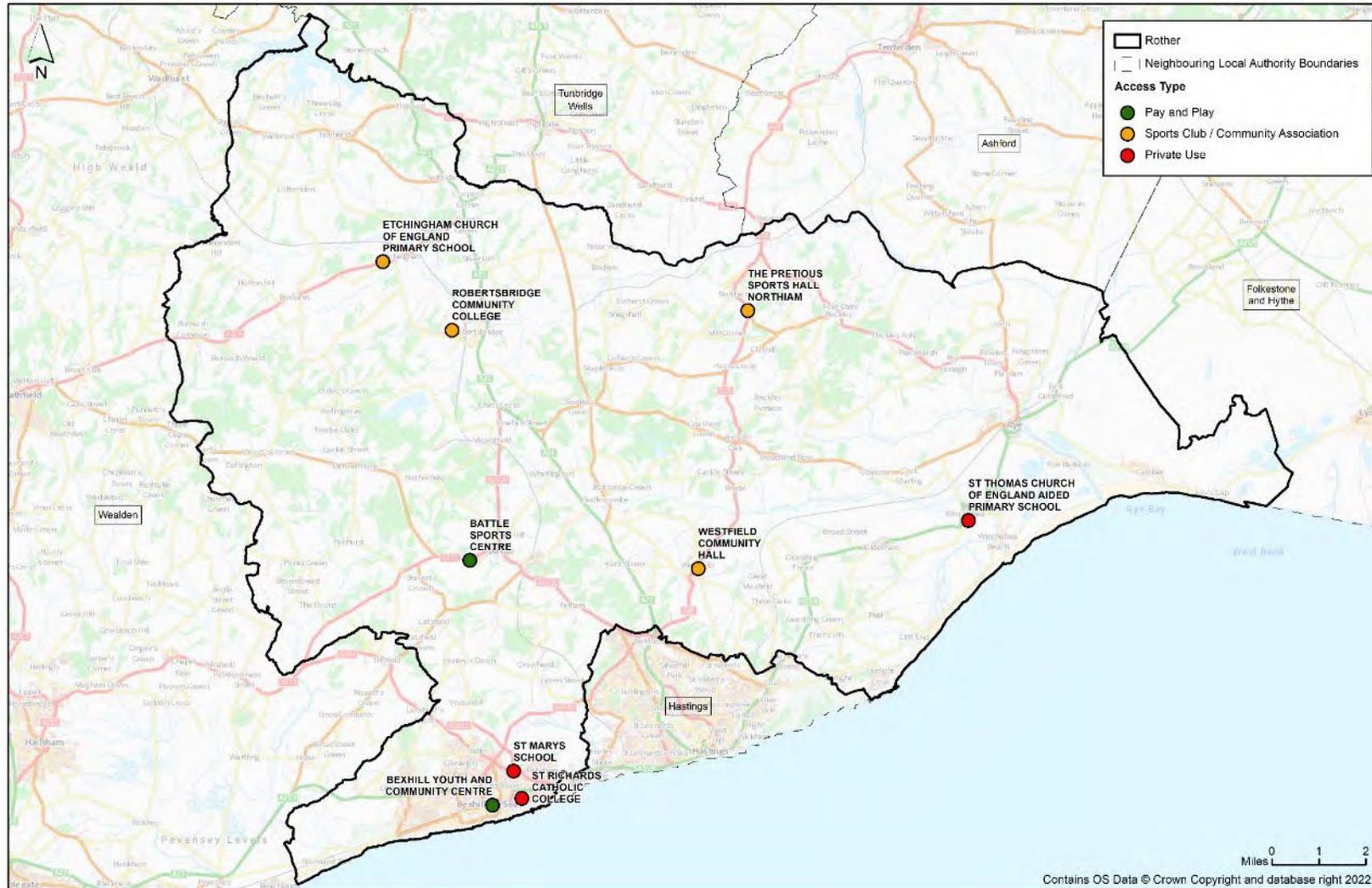
Sports Halls by community use in Rother



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Map 3a: Activity Halls by Community use

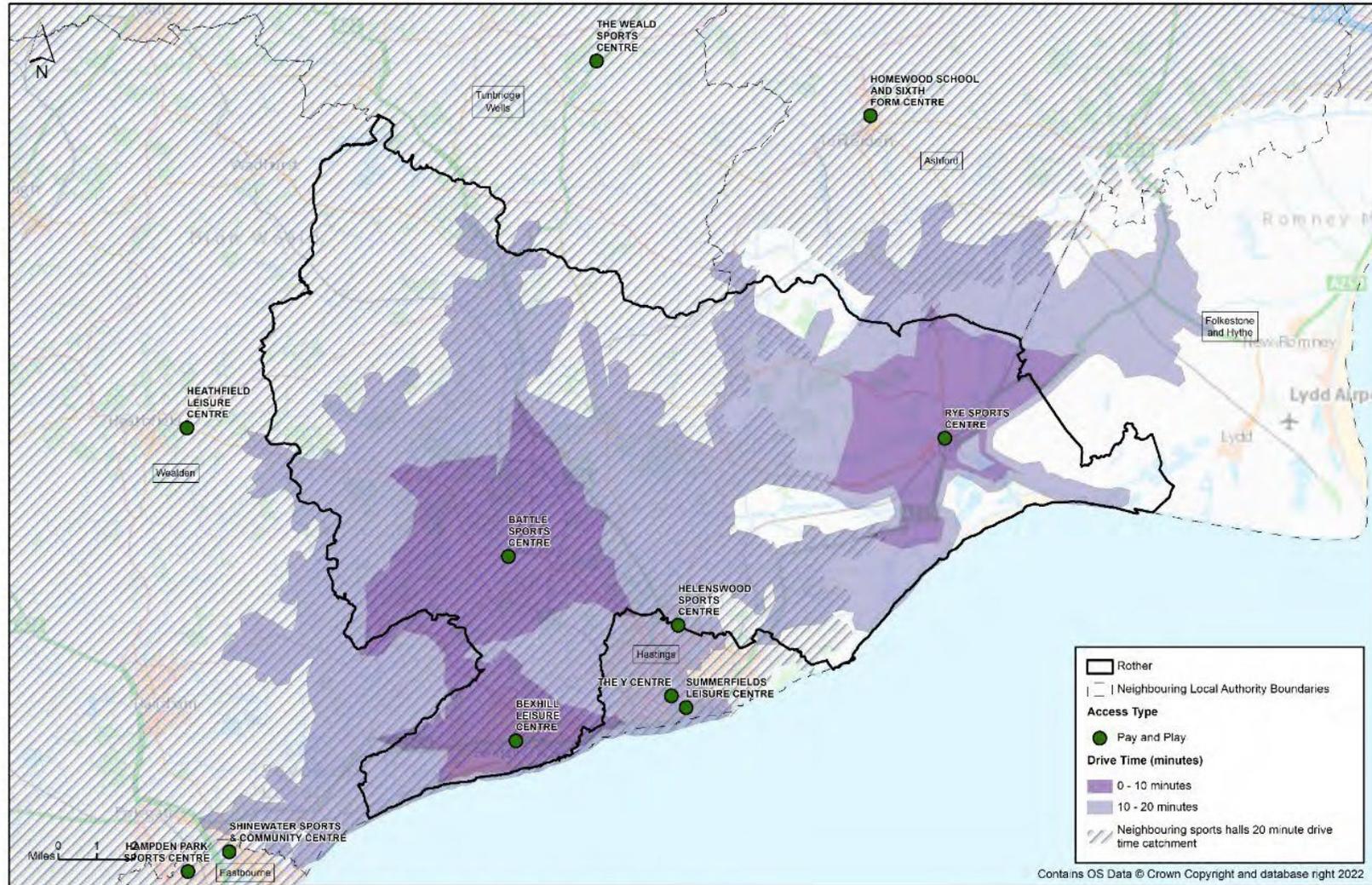


Activity Halls by community use in Rother



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Map 4:



Pay and Play Sports Halls 20 minute drive time catchment area in Rother



National Governing Bodies (NGB's)

- 2.26. Consultation was undertaken with National Governing Bodies (NGB's) to identify their views on the need for sports hall provision in Rother District. The views of NGB's (representing sports hall sports) who responded are included in Appendix B.
1. **Badminton** – In the Rother District area there is below average demand although an average number of badminton clubs and members. However, there is a below average number of sites and courts. Total unmet demand is below the national average and predicted to remain so by 2030. Participation rates are below average. However, there is a solid badminton infrastructure of 10 affiliated clubs in the area. Over 85% of the badminton courts available meet Badminton England quality threshold. There is a need for 56.57% (521) of the current available court hours 961 court hours per week to service all badminton demand. It is predicted by Badminton England that there will be a need for 58 additional court hours by 2030.
 2. **Gymnastics** – There is 1 gymnastics club in the Rother District area: 1066 Gymnastics and 3 clubs in the Hastings area The British Gymnastics National Strategy and Facilities Strategy both highlight 10% growth year on year in participation levels and long waiting lists. A key priority therefore is to 'identify and then remove bottleneck so that demand can be met, starting with addressing coaches and space limitations.' British Gymnastics supports clubs moving into dedicated facilities in order to increase their membership and diversify their range of activities which includes working with the community to provide physical activity opportunities. British Gymnastics target was to have over half of clubs in their own facilities by 2021. 1066 Gymnastics Club is in a dedicated facility.
 3. **Netball** – In Rother District there is 1 walking netball session at Bexhill Leisure Centre a second is paused for now at Battle Sports Centre. The key club is Pass and Move with 17 members. Netball England are keen to sustain both Hastings and Eastbourne Netball Leagues and to grow Walking Netball participants in the rother area by growing the Bexhill Leisure Centre walking netball participation and to develop the Battle Sports Centre session.

Sport England Facility Planning Model (FPM)

- 2.27. Strategic Leisure was provided with Sport England's Facilities Planning Model National Run Report (August 2022, based on Sport England 2022 National Run data) for sports hall provision in Rother District. The Sport England FPM report sets out an assessment of the current situation regarding sports hall supply, based on 7 sports halls located on 7 sites and includes strategic size (3+ badminton courts) and 1 badminton court sports halls (activity halls) that are on the same site.
- 2.28. The population of Rother District in 2022 is 98,935 and this population generates a sports hall demand of 7,521 visits in the weekly peak period. The peak period is weekday evenings (up to 5 hours per day) and weekend days (up to 7 hours per weekend day). The demand in the weekly peak period including a 'comfort' factor equates to 26 badminton courts.

- 2.29. This compares to a supply of 27 badminton courts which are available for community use in the weekly period. Therefore, in Rother District supply exceeds demand by 1 badminton court. Neighbouring Hastings has demand for 26 badminton courts five fewer courts than the available supply in Hastings.
- 2.30. The full and detailed FPM report is included at Appendix B.

Sports Halls

- 2.31. The key findings from the Sport England FPM report are as follows:
- 1. The total supply of sports halls with badminton courts is 33 badminton courts of which 27 are available in the weekly peak period for community use (known as the effective supply);**
 - 2. The difference in supply and available supply (6) of badminton courts is because the education sports hall sites have variable hours of access for community use;**
 - 3. The Facility Planning Model suggests that 91% of the demand generated by the population of Rother District is being met. This is the same for Hastings and England. But lower than the region (93.7%);**
 - 4. 25% of the satisfied demand is forecast as being exported out of Rother District in order to be met by sports hall provision in neighbouring authority areas;**
 - 5. Approximately 84% of the satisfied demand is modelled as those that travel by car, which is higher than the national (75%) and regional figure (80%). This means that only 16% are travelling by foot or using public transport, both of which are lower than national and regional levels.**
 - 7. Unmet demand is the equivalent of 2.3 courts. This is very similar to Hastings where unmet demand is 2.4 courts. Of Rother's unmet demand 7% is forecast to be as a result of lack of capacity at current facilities. Highest unmet demand is in Bexhill, but at a measure of 0.2 of a court per square kilometre. There is unmet demand of 0.1 of a court per square kilometre in several areas of Bexhill, Camber, Northiam and Rye. This is insufficient demand to build a new sports hall;**
 - 8. The model forecasts that a number of the individual sites are likely to be busy, if not full during the weekly peak periods. This means that there may well be limited opportunities to increase levels of usage at a number of publicly accessible sites. The model shows that Bexhill Leisure Centre has an estimated 100% of its capacity used at peak time. Sport England's measure of comfortably full is 80% of capacity at used at peak time. Rye sports Centre has an estimated used capacity of 62% in the weekly peak period;**

9. Rother District has an ageing stock of publicly accessible sports halls. Bexhill community college sport Hall is currently closed for community use. It is in the interest of Rother District Council to have this facility open for community use. The FPM states that maintaining the high level of community use at the educational sites is important in terms of both satisfied and retained demand.

Supply and Demand Analysis

2.32. Table 4 summarises the overall supply and demand analysis for sports halls and activity halls in Rother District.

Table 4: Sports Halls Supply and Demand Summary

Facility Type	Assessment Findings
Sports Halls	
Quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 7 strategic sports halls (3+ badminton courts) sports halls on 7 sites. There is an equivalent of 33 badminton courts, of which 27 are available for community use in the weekly peak period. The six unavailable courts represent 18% of the total supply. • The average build date for all the sports halls is 1999, and 1990 for the public leisure centres only. This means there is an ageing stock of sports halls in Rother (the average lifespan of public sports facilities is 30 years). On average, publicly accessible sports halls are 32 years old. • There are two public leisure centres (Bexhill Leisure Centre and Rye Sports Centre) and five educational sites, of which one is managed by a Trust rather than in-house. • Battle Sports Centre: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Is the largest sports hall site in the District, in terms of scale and capacity. ➤ Has a four-court hall and an extensive activity hall. ➤ Has a capacity of 2,427 visits in the weekly peak period. ➤ Can provide for multiple sports use across the two halls. • Five of the other sites have a four-court hall. Robertsbridge Community College Sports Centre has an activity hall. • Three are 35m x 20m: Bexhill Academy, Bexhill College Sports Centre and Bexhill Leisure Centre. This is the size that Sport England and the National Governing Bodies for hall sports recommend for a four-court hall. These dimensions provide a sports hall that can cater for all hall sports at the community level of participation. The scale also meets the requirements for hall sports club development. • The four-court halls at Battle Sports Centre, Robertsbridge Community College and Rye Sports Centre are 33m x 18m. • This size of hall can also accommodate most indoor hall sports at the community level of participation but has less space behind and between the courts. • There is a 27m x 18m three or four-court hall at Vinehall School.

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Facility Type	Assessment Findings
Sports Halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The existing district population needs access to 26 badminton courts to meet demand. • 91% of all demand for sports halls in the district is met. • The three sports halls in Bexhill are the busiest facilities in the district. • 59% of all available sports hall capacity is used in the weekly peak period. • Bexhill Leisure Centre has an estimated 100% of its capacity used at peak times i.e. weekday evenings. • There is unmet demand of 2.3 badminton courts in the district. Whilst the best location to address this is close to the site of the existing Bexhill Leisure Centre, the level of unmet demand is insufficient to require the building of a new sports hall. Unmet demand could be addressed by opening up increased capacity in existing sports halls in the district e.g. Bexhill Academy, Bexhill College. • Supply of, and demand for sports hall badminton courts is balanced in the district; this means that none of the existing stock can be lost unless a replacement is provided, or additional capacity is created in the remaining facilities. • Community access to the existing dual-use sites (Northam, Battle, Robertsbridge, Rye) needs to be maintained, but there is potential to review the financial arrangements underpinning these dual-use agreements. Battle provides the optimum model of dual use which could provide a template for other similar sites in the district. RDC's financial contribution should be aligned to the extent of community access provided, so that community benefit is the element subsidised. • NGBs and other local consultation' highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ NGBs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Badminton England – There are a below average number of sites and courts and very low participation rates despite 10 clubs. The current and future demand for badminton can be met from exiting provision. ▪ Football – sports halls to have Futsal markings and goals to enable the game to grow. ▪ Cricket – sports halls should be designed to provide for indoor cricket nets and indoor cricket play ▪ Gymnastics – support clubs moving into dedicated facilities to increase membership and diversify range of activities available including working with the community to increase physical activity opportunities. ▪ Handball - there is no handball activity in Rother District in terms of club set up. However, there is a clear lack of decent size sports halls, specifically 5 badminton court size or more. This is the size required to run Handball. ▪ Netball – Need to sustain Hastings and Eastbourne Netball Leagues and develop walking netball at Battle Sports Centre and develop participation in walking netball at Bexhill Leisure Centre ➤ Other Consultation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Many clubs have ambitions to grow and would like to see improved facilities to support this. ▪ Improved facilities for those with a disability are highlighted as a priority. ▪ Access to facilities in the daytime is key, particularly for older residents. ▪ There is a need to provide more physical activities for children

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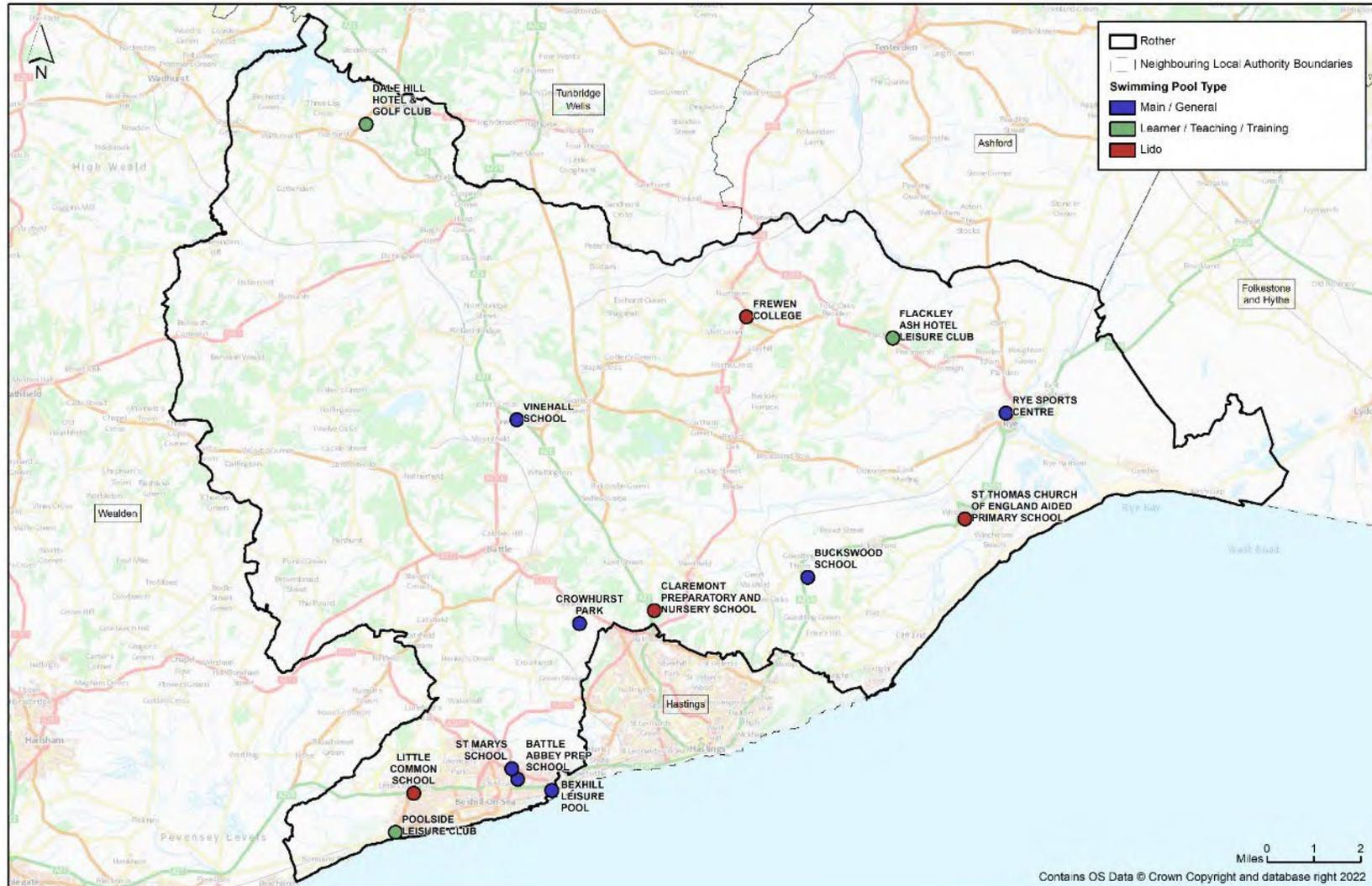
Facility Type	Assessment Findings
Sports Halls	
Quality	Six of the seven sports hall facilities available to the community have been scored as average facilities. Bexhill Community College Sports Hall not currently open for community use scored Good. Refurbishment will be needed across all the sports halls in the next 5 years with either floor, lighting and or changing room refurbishments required.
Accessibility	<p>Approximately 84% of the satisfied demand for sports halls is modelled as those that travel by car, which is higher than the national (75%) and regional figure (80%). This means that only 16% are travelling by foot or using public transport, both of which are lower than national and regional levels.</p> <p>There is a very limited bus service in Rother and this is also limited in the rural areas. However, at the sports hall sites, apart from Vinehall School, sports halls are within a 5-minute walk of a bus stop. Bexhill Leisure Centre, Robertsbridge Community College and Rye Sports Centre are within a 15-minute walk of a railway station. Opportunities to travel to sports halls by bus are greater than opportunities to travel by rail.</p> <p>Unmet demand is the equivalent of 2.3 courts. This is very similar to Hastings where unmet demand is 2.4 courts. Of Rother's unmet demand 7% is forecast to be as a result of lack of capacity at current facilities. Highest unmet demand is in Bexhill, but at a measure of 0.2 of a court per square kilometre. There is unmet demand of 0.1 of a court per square kilometre in several areas of Bexhill, Camber, Northiam and Rye. This is insufficient demand to build a new sports hall;</p>
Availability	<p>The majority 5 of the 7 strategic sports halls in Rother are on education. 4 of the 5 only provide for sports club/association use. 1 Battle Sports Centre provides for pay and play. There are a further 4 school sports halls that provide private school use only. Whilst a community accessible sports hall would typically be open from 7am – 10pm weekdays and 9am – 6pm weekends, a facility on an education site, if open to community use will be open from 5pm – 9pm weekdays and 9am – 5pm weekends as demonstrated in Table 2 above. Opening hours for village/community halls vary significantly depending on how they are operated but they would typically not be open for as many hours as a community accessible sports hall. There are 3 sports halls in Rother District with community pay and play access but 1 of these is on an education site with dual use agreements in place. This means that pay and play access is normally restricted to weekday evenings and weekends.</p> <p>The total supply of sports halls in badminton courts, is 33 courts, of which 27 are available in the weekly peak period for community use (known as effective supply). The Sport England Facility Planning Model (FPM) excludes sports halls and activity halls deemed to be private, too small or there is a lack of information relating to hours of use. In effect, there is an aggregate total of 6 badminton courts, across the education sites, which are unavailable for community use; this represents 18% of the total supply of badminton courts in Rother District. The peak period is weekday evenings (up to 5 hours per day) and weekend days (up to 7 hours per weekend day). The reason for the difference between the total supply of badminton courts and the effective supply, is because of the variable hours of access for community use at the sports halls located on education sites.</p>

Swimming Pools

Quantity

- 2.33. The supply analysis identifies that Rother District has a total of 14 pools across 14 sites. These pools are shown in Table 5 and Map 3 below. Strategic sized pools are those of 160 sqm plus; there are 4 of these in Rother District that are available for community use and 2 of these are owned by the Council and operated by Freedom Leisure Community Trust.
- 2.34. The strategic sized pools in Rother have one main pool each. There are no learner pools in the District. There are 3 x 25m pools in Rother. Bexhill Leisure Pool has four lanes but is L shaped and has a substantive amount of leisure water. Rye Sports Centre is a four-lane pool but is the smallest in the District. Battle Abbey Prep School is the largest pool and has six lanes. Crowhurst Park is a free form pool with 324 sqm of water, making it the second largest swimming pool in the District.
- 2.35. The total supply of water space for community use in the weekly period is 843 sqm (note: for context, a 25m x 4 lane pool is between 210 and 250 sqm of water, depending on individual lane width). The current population needs 988 sqm of community water space to meet demand. There is a current under supply of water space required for community use.
- 2.36. There are 2 community pay and play swimming pools; Both of these are owned by the local authority and managed by Freedom Leisure and are not located on school sites. These are Bexhill Leisure Pool and Rye Sports Centre Swimming Pool. Battle Abbey Prep School does not provide for pay and play and only provides for hire by swimming clubs and community use groups. It is not available for public recreational pay and swim. Crowthorne Park is operated as a commercial facility and provides recreational swimming through a membership.
- 2.37. St Mary's School Swimming Pool although not considered in Sport England's Facility Planning Model, as the facility is identified as Private use. The pool does have some sports club and community organisation use, such as disability groups and organisations.
- 2.38. The average year built for all sites is 1992 and 1997 for the public use sites.

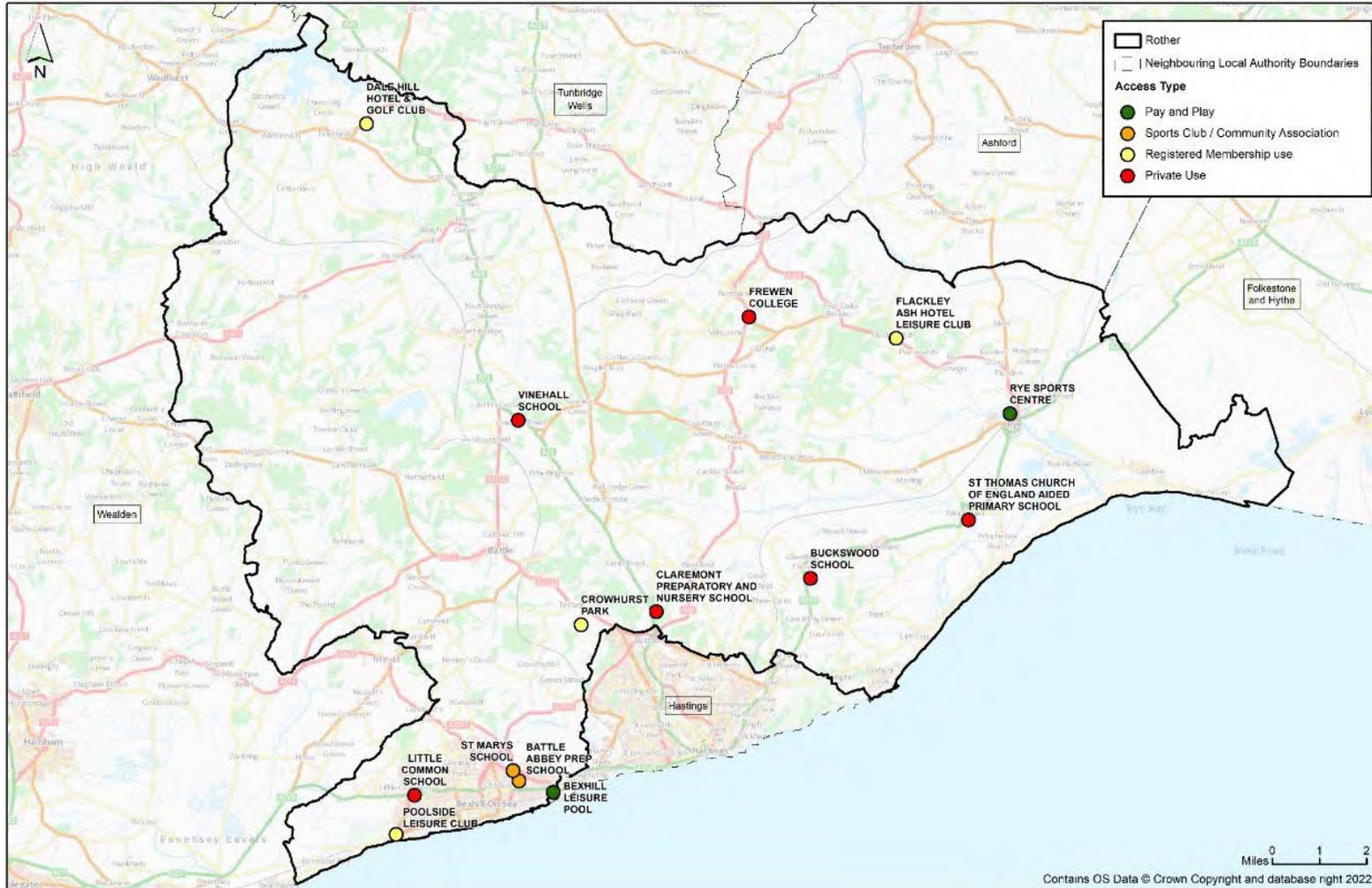
Map 5 Swimming Pools by Type



Swimming Pools by type in Rother



Map 6: Swimming Pools by Access Type in Rother District



Swimming Pools by community use in Rother



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Table 5: Swimming Pools in Rother District

Site name	Post Code	Facility Type	Lanes	Length	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Pay and Play	Sports Club Use	Commercial Use	Private Use	Year Built	Year Refurbished
Bexhill Leisure Pool	TN40 2JS	Main Pool	4	25m	Pay and play	Local Authority	Trust	✓				1990	2007
Rye Sports Centre	TN31 7ND	Main Pool	4	25m	Pay and play	Local Authority	Trust	✓				2003	
Battle Abbey Prep School	TN40 2NH	Main Pool	6	25m	Sports Club/Organisation	Education	Education		✓			1980	
St Marys School	TN40 2LU	Main Pool	4	20m	Sports Club/Organisation	Education	Education		✓			1989	
Crowhurst Park	TN33 0SL	Main Pool	3	18m	Registered Membership	Commercial	Commercial			✓		1995	2008
Dale Hill Hotel & Golf Club	TN5 7DQ	Learner Pool	0	8m	Registered Membership	Commercial	Commercial			✓		1971	2003
Flackley Ash Hotel Leisure Club	TN31 6YH	Learner Pool	0	12m	Registered Membership	Commercial	Commercial			✓		1987	

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Site name	Post Code	Facility Type	Lanes	Length	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Pay and Play	Sports Club Use	Commercial Use	Private Use	Year Built	Year Refurbished
Poolside Leisure Club	TN39 4TT	Learner Pool	1	9.5m	Registered Membership	Commercial	Commercial			✓		1986	2014
Buckswood School	TN35 4LT	Main	6	25m	Private Use	Education	Education				✓	1933	
Claremont Preparatory and Nursery School	TN37 7PW	Lido	3	18m	Private Use	Education	Education				✓	2013	
Frewen College	TN31 6NL	Lido	0	25m	Private Use	Education	Education				✓	2000	
Little Common School	TN39 4SQ	Lido	0	13m	Private Use	Education	Education				✓	1990	
St Thomas Church Of England Aided Primary School	TN36 4ED	Lido	0	10m	Private Use	Education	Education				✓	1973	
Vinehall School	TN32 5JL	Main/General	4	15m	Private Use	Education	Education				✓	1984	

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2.39. The analysis of the overall swimming pool supply in Rother District is as follows:

Table 6: Analysis of Swimming Pool Supply in Rother District

	No of Pools	No of sites
Total Number of Pools	14	14
Community Use Swimming Pools (pay and play and sports clubs/community associations)	4	4
Main Pools	7	7
Learner Pools	3	3
Diving Pools	0	0
Leisure pools	1	1
Registered Membership Use	4	4
Private Use Education Pools	6	6

Quality

2.40. Detailed quality assessments have been undertaken on all Rother District pools in the district, plus a number of other key community use swimming pools. These are summarised in Appendix B And Table 7.

Table 7: Summary of Qualitative Assessments – Community Use Swimming Pools

Facility	Overall Quantitative Score for Facility %	Qualitative Score for Swimming Pool	Need for Investment-Overall Facility
Bexhill Leisure Pool	37% Poor	<p>The Swimming pool is a 4-lane pool with wave machine and flume, small fitness suite. Sited at Ravensdale Retail Park. Can be issues with parking when the retail park is busy no one knows how many customers are lost due to parking issues. The pool can become busy at certain times in the summer and there are complaints about long queues and waiting times.</p> <p>Currently carrying out work to upgrade the fitness facilities e.g. providing a functional training room. The gym extra will share its space with birthday parties and will be open the majority of the week but not when hosting catered parties (usually Friday and Weekend afternoons). Some of the existing gym equipment is due to be replaced.</p> <p>The health suite is currently closed and has been for sometime.</p>	

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Facility	Overall Quantitative Score for Facility %	Qualitative Score for Swimming Pool	Need for Investment-Overall Facility
Rye Sports Centre	43% Average	<p>Customers informed us that there were regular issues with the wave machine and flume not working.</p> <p>There are no social/meeting/café facilities. Disability access is an issue. Built in 1990 and refurbished in 2007. Facility is looking tired and old.</p> <p>Swimming pool built 2003 changing rooms refurbished 2008. Swimming pool has had technical issues and had to close in July for a period of time - 2 days Swimming pool has had a rail installed to assist with people needing assistance from the pool to changing rooms. Small café overlooking the pool serving coffee and snacks</p>	
Battle Abbey Prep School	57% Average	<p>Swimming pool is not provided on the Battle Abbey Prep School site. It is on a standalone site adjacent to Bexhill College and Sports Centre. The swimming pool is used by Bexhill Swimming club, 1066 Swimming club and Hastings Seagulls Swimming Club. 3 Private swim Schools also use the facility. The swimming pool at face value is in reasonable condition, however the changing rooms are typical school changing rooms. The swimming pool was built in 1980 with no known refurbishment. There will be a need to refurbish this pool in the future.</p>	

2.41. The key local authority facility is now 32 years old (Bexhill Leisure Pool) and the main sports club used facility Battle Abbey Prep School is now 42 years old. These pools are ageing and are in need of refurbishment possible replacement.

Accessibility

2.42. The drive time catchment area is 20 minutes travel time or 30 minutes in more rural areas. It is also important to ensure that pools are as accessible as possible to those walking or using public transport. As a guide, Sport England recommend that catchment areas should be 10-minute walk time, and/or a 20-minute drivetime (private car). Clearly it is not possible to provide a swimming pool within 10 minutes' walk time of all residents.

2.43. 17.8% of Rother District's population do not have access to a car which is lower than national (24.9%) but higher than regional figures (17.6%). A low percentage, as is the case with Rother, means that there is likely to be a larger number of visits to swimming pools by car. However, only 22% of District residents are within a 20-minute walk of a swimming pool. 86% of residents travel to a swimming pool by car. 7% of residents walk and 7% of residents travel by public transport to a swimming pool. Of the four swimming pool sites, three are within a five-minute walk of a bus stop. The exception is Crowhurst Park.

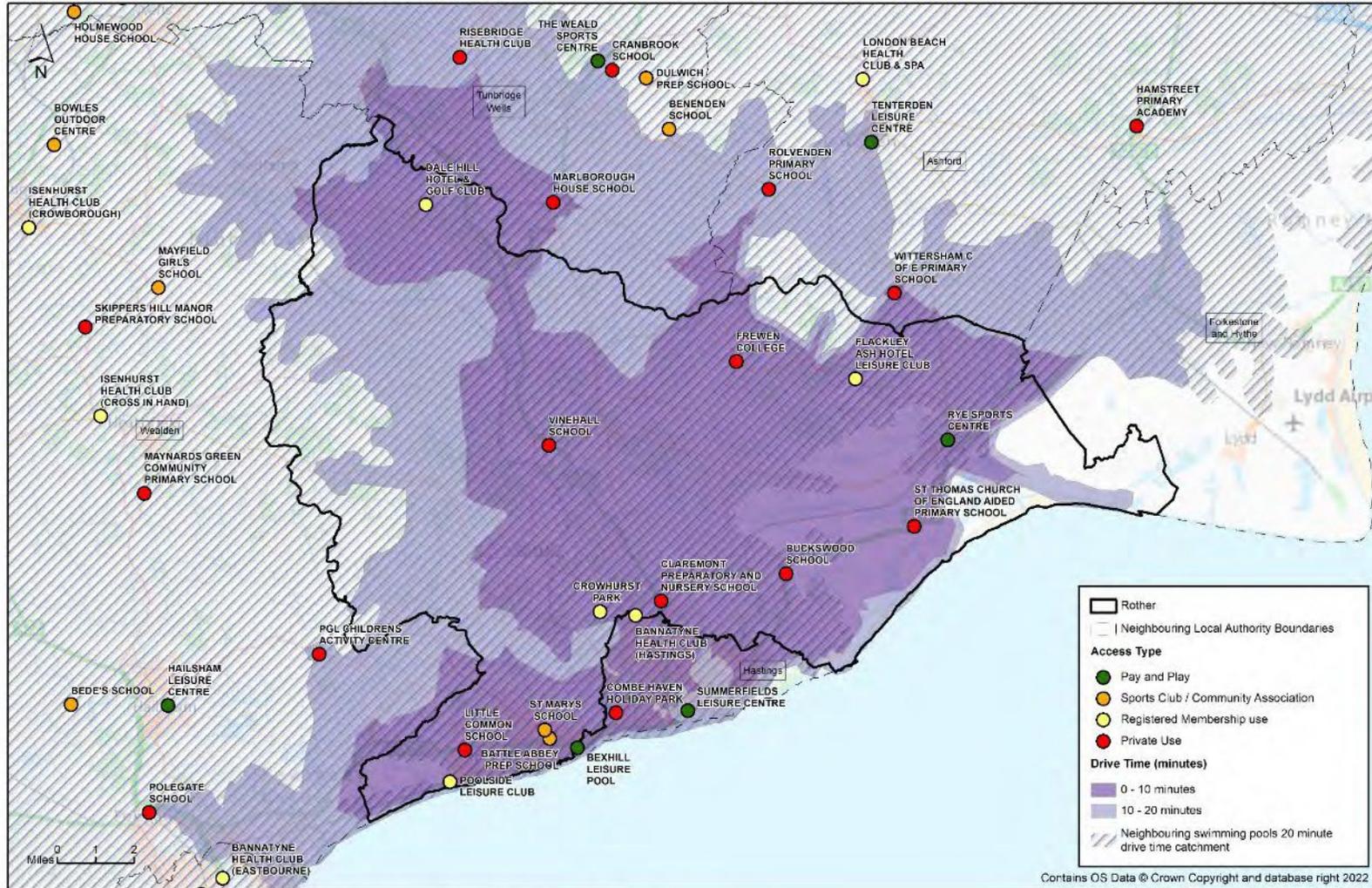
2.44. Rye Sports Centre is the only site within a five-minute walk of a railway station.

- 2.45. Map 7 shows the location of swimming pool sites in Rother District with pay and play community access and a 20 minute and 30-minute drive catchment. Map 7 shows that there is an extensive land area within a 10 – 20-minute drive of a pay and play community access pool with only a relatively small area to the northwest of the district excluded. The map also shows that all areas of the district are within a 20 minute drive of a pay and play community access pool, when pools in neighbouring local authorities are taken into consideration.
- 2.46. Accessibility to the existing pay and play access pools site is challenging for those who live outside of Bexhill and Rye in Rother District i.e. those living in the more rural areas of the district. There are therefore time, cost and travel barriers for some people living in the district in terms of access to swimming. Given swimming is a life skill, learning to swim is important.

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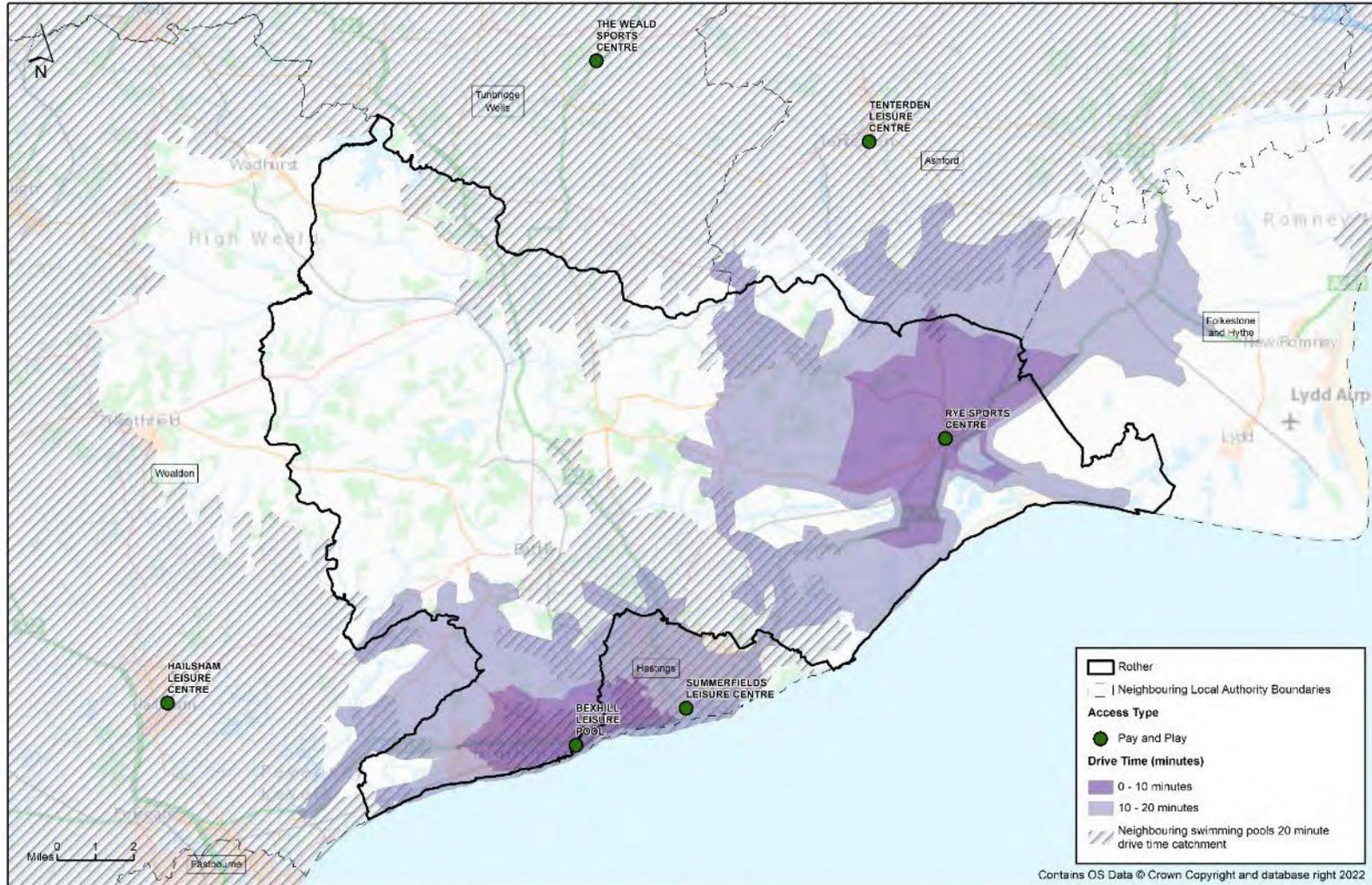
Map 7: Swimming pools with community pay and play catchment areas (20 min drive time)



All Swimming Pools 20 minute drive time catchment area in Rother



Map 8: Local Authority owned swimming pools with community pay and play catchment area (20 min drive time)



Pay and Play Swimming Pools 20 minute drive time catchment area in Rother



Availability

- 2.47. In 2022, the Rother District resident population is estimated to generate a demand for a minimum of 988 sqm of water with a 70% comfort factor. Rother's demand for swimming pools, with a comfort factor, is 17% greater than the available supply 843 sqm of water space. Rother's population is only 5,805 greater than that of Hastings and demand for swimming pools is very similar in both: 988 sqm in Rother and 998 sqm in Hastings.
- 2.48. Approximately 78% of total demand for swimming from Rother District residents is satisfied/met. This is the level of total demand for swimming located inside the catchment area of a swimming pool (pools located both inside and outside Rother District boundaries). 70% of the satisfied demand is being retained within Rother District and met by swimming pools within the local authority area. This means that 30% is forecast as being exported out of Rother District to be met by pool provision in neighbouring local authority areas.
- 2.49. The 2 public leisure centres have the smallest pools (Bexhill Leisure Pool and Rye Sports Centre Swimming Pool) in the District. However, because of their availability, they have the second- and third-largest capacities in the weekly peak period: 1,979 visits at Bexhill Leisure Pool and 1,750 visits at Rye Sports Centre.
- 2.50. Battle Abbey Prep School is available for 13 hours in the weekly peak period. Despite it being the largest pool in scale, the limited availability means it has the smallest capacity of any site, at 813 visits in the weekly peak period.
- 2.51. Crowhurst Park is available for 52.5 hours in the weekly peak period and has the largest capacity, at 2,835 visits in the weekly peak period.

National Governing Bodies

- 2.52. Consultation was undertaken with Swim England, to identify their views on the need for swimming pool provision in Rother District. The views of Swim England are provided in Appendix C and below.
- A key priority is to provide sustainable and fit for purpose facilities, enabling the whole community the opportunity to participate in aquatic activities.
 - We feel the proportion of swimming pay and play facilities needs to be increased, as the district largely provides membership or private aquatic facilities. Introducing an additional facility could alleviate pressures on the current facilities and help to tackle some of the unmet demand situated through the spine of district.
 - The main clubs based in this area are Hastings, Bexhill and 1066 using the Battle Abbey pool and Rye Leisure Centre. Hastings is the most competitive of the three, competing up to national standard, they also offer water polo. Bexhill and 1066 are smaller clubs with a few county level swimmers.
 - Moving forward we would hope to have some engagement with the council to ensure that the future water provision is maintained and potentially increased to meet any unmet demand with the district. We would look to provide our expertise and support to ensure that any future refurbishments or developments are fit for purpose and provide long term sustainability.

Sports England Facility Planning Model (FPM)

- 2.53. Strategic Leisure was provided with Sport England's Facility Planning Model National Run Report (August 2022, based on the 2022 National Run data) for swimming pool provision in Rother District. The FPM analysis is based on 4 individual pool facilities on 4 sites across Rother District in 2022. The analysis excludes lidos, private facilities, closed facilities and facilities classed as too small. The FPM does not include St Mary's School swimming pool as it is defined as a private swimming pool by the FPM. The pool at St Mary's does cater for some club and group use particularly disability groups.
- 2.54. The analysis provides an evidence base for the supply, demand, and access to swimming pools in Rother District in 2022. It includes the findings for the neighbouring districts to Rother District. This is because the assessment is catchment area based and the catchment areas extend across local authority boundaries. A copy of the FPM for swimming pools in Rother District can be found at Appendix B.
- 2.55. In 2022, the Rother District resident population is estimated to generate a demand for a minimum of 988 sqm of water with a 70% comfort factor. Rother's demand for swimming pools, with a comfort factor, is 17% greater than the available supply 843 sqm of water space. Rother's population is only 5,805 greater than that of Hastings and demand for swimming pools is very similar in both: 988 sqm in Rother and 998 sqm in Hastings.
- 2.56. In the weekly peak period, the estimated used capacity is 100% at Bexhill Leisure Pool and Battle Abbey Prep School, 63% at Rye Sports Centre and 24% at Crowhurst Park.
- 2.57. Local share is the available capacity that can be reached by the residents of an area divided by the demand for that capacity in the area. A value of 1 means that available capacity matches demand. In Rother District the local demand is 0.88. Therefore, demand in the District cannot access sufficient quality supply.
- 2.58. Local share varies across the District. Local share is best in Battle, at 3.1, and nearby, at 2.8. Demand in this area has access to three times the required quality provision. Local share is also good in Robertsbridge, Sedlescombe and Brede at 1.7.
- 2.59. Local share is poorest in the northwest of the District and in Bexhill, with values of between 0.4 and 0.5. The demand in these areas can access less than half the quality provision required.
- 2.60. Table 8 summarises the overall supply and demand analysis for swimming pools in Rother District.

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Table 8: Summary Analysis – Swimming Pool Supply and Demand

Facility Type	Assessment Findings
Swimming Pools	
Quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are four swimming pool sites in Rother, each has one main pool. • There are no teaching pools in the District. • The average build date of all swimming pools in the district is 1992 and 1997 for the public sites. This means public swimming pools are an average of 25 years old. • There are three 25m pools in Rother • Bexhill Leisure Pool has four lanes, but is L-shaped with a substantial element of leisure water. • Rye Sports Centre is a four-lane pool but is the smallest in the District. • Battle Abbey Prep School is the largest pool and has six lanes. • Crowhurst Park is a free-form pool with 324 sqm of water, making it the second-largest swimming pool in the District. • Battle Abbey Prep School does not provide for pay and play use. • The current population needs 988 sq. m of water space to meet demand. There is currently publicly accessible swimming pool provision of 843 sq. m. This means there is an under-supply of swimming pool provision. • 78% of the demand for swimming in Rother is met; this is lower than both the regional average (92%) and also the national average (90%).
Quality	<p>The key local authority facility is now 32 years old (Bexhill Leisure Pool) and the main sports club used facility Battle Abbey Prep School is now 42 years old. These pools are ageing and are in need of refurbishment possible replacement</p>
Accessibility	<p>Accessibility to the existing pay and play access pools site is challenging for those who live outside of Bexhill and Rye in Rother District i.e. those living in the more rural areas of the district. There are therefore time, cost and travel barriers for some people living in the district in terms of access to swimming. Given swimming is a life skill, learning to swim is important.</p> <p>17.8% of Rother District's population do not have access to a car which is lower than national (24.9%) but higher than regional figures (17.6%). A low percentage, as is the case with Rother, means that there is likely to be a larger number of visits to swimming pools by car. However, only 22% of District residents are within a 20-minute walk of a swimming pool. 86% of residents travel to a swimming pool by car. 7% of residents walk and 7% of residents travel by public transport to a swimming pool. Of the four swimming pool sites, three are within a five-minute walk of a bus stop. The exception is Crowhurst Park.</p> <p>Rye Sports Centre is the only site within a five-minute walk of a railway station.</p>

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Facility Type	Assessment Findings
Swimming Pools	<p>Local share is the available capacity that can be reached by the residents of an area divided by the demand for that capacity in the area. A value of 1 means that available capacity matches demand. In Rother District the local demand is 0.88. Therefore, demand in the District cannot access sufficient quality supply.</p> <p>Local share varies across the District. Local share is best in Battle, at 3.1, and nearby, at 2.8. Demand in this area has access to three times the required quality provision. Local share is also good in Robertsbridge, Sedlescombe and Brede at 1.7.</p> <p>Local share is poorest in the northwest of the District and in Bexhill, with values of between 0.4 and 0.5. The demand in these areas can access less than half the quality provision required.</p>
Availability	<p>Resident population is estimated to generate a demand for a minimum of 988 sqm of water with a 70% comfort factor. Rother's demand for swimming pools, with a comfort factor, is 17% greater than the available supply 843 sqm of water space. Rother's population is only 5,805 greater than that of Hastings and demand for swimming pools is very similar in both: 988 sqm in Rother and 998 sqm in Hastings.</p> <p>Approximately 78% of total demand for swimming from Rother District residents is satisfied/met. This is the level of total demand for swimming located inside the catchment area of a swimming pool (pools located both inside and outside Rother District boundaries). 70% of the satisfied demand is being retained within Rother District and met by swimming pools within the local authority area. This means that 30% is forecast as being exported out of Rother District to be met by pool provision in neighbouring local authority areas.</p> <p>The 2 public leisure centres have the smallest pools (Bexhill Leisure Pool and Rye Sports Centre Swimming Pool) in the District. However, because of their availability, they have the second- and third-largest capacities in the weekly peak period: 1,979 visits at Bexhill Leisure Pool and 1,750 visits at Rye Sports Centre.</p> <p>Battle Abbey Prep School is available for 13 hours in the weekly peak period. Despite it being the largest pool in scale, the limited availability means it has the smallest capacity of any site, at 813 visits in the weekly peak period.</p> <p>Crowhurst Park is available for 52.5 hours in the weekly peak period and has the largest capacity, at 2,835 visits in the weekly peak period.</p> <p>A total of 4% of Rother's demand for swimming comes from the 10% most-deprived lower super output areas (LSOAs) nationally. Overall, Rother ranks in the 50% most deprived of all local authorities.</p> <p>Rye Sports Centre is very close to the largest areas of most deprivation. There are small areas of high deprivation close to Battle Abbey Prep School. Bexhill Leisure Centre is located on the boundary with Hastings and there is an area of high deprivation in Hastings very close to the site</p> <p>Unmet demand for swimming is highest in Bexhill -on Sea.</p> <p>There is limited provision of laned swimming in the district.</p>

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Facility Type	Assessment Findings
Swimming Pools	<p>Future opportunities to increase provision of swimming pools should be considered, and specifically a laned pool with daytime access. This would better meet the needs of older residents in district and better contribute to opportunities for residents and visitors to be more active. The older population, and specifically the 85+ age group is set to increase significantly to 2036.</p> <p>Longer term, if the Council considers replacing a public leisure centre, consideration should be given to provision of a dedicated teaching pool. The depth of the existing pools may limit the water space suitable for learn to swim, which requires a depth of 0.9m.</p> <p>A dedicated teaching pool maximises the water space for learn to swim. Swimming is an important life skill, especially in a coastal authority.</p>

Health and Fitness Facilities

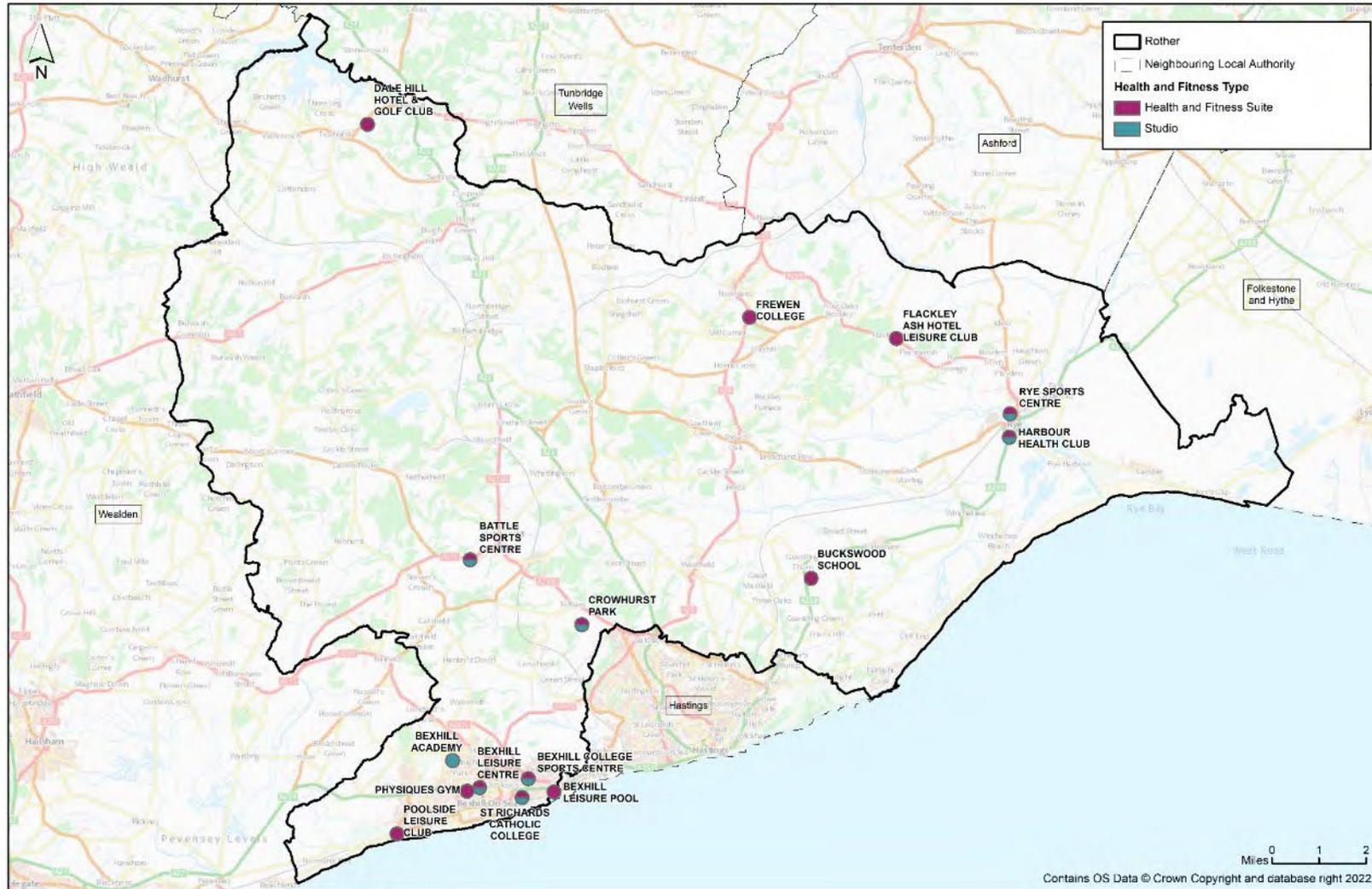
Quantity

- 2.61. A station is a piece of static fitness equipment. Health and fitness centres, with over 20 stations are generally able to make a more attractive offer to both members and pay and play users.
- 2.62. The 2022 state of the UK Fitness Industry report reveals that the membership penetration rate is 14.6% so one in every 20 people over the age of 15 in the UK is a member of a gym. This is slightly lower than 2019 pre pandemic.
- 2.63. The supply analysis identifies that overall, there are in total 361 fitness stations in Rother. 149 (41%) of these are in pay and play facilities. There are 47 fitness stations on educational sites that are for private school use only, and 165 in commercial facilities providing registered membership use.
- 2.64. All fitness suite facilities require some form of payment/membership payment before use, and an induction is required.
- 2.65. Appendix C presents a supply and demand analysis of fitness suites in Rother District and shows a current under supply of 43 fitness stations based on 2022 population estimates. Appendix C also presents a supply and demand analysis of fitness suites in Rother District based on the projected population in 2033. This shows an under supply of 78 fitness stations. These will be further exasperated if Harbour Health club in rye stays closed with a loss of 60 fitness stations. This would take the current undersupply to 103 stations and in 2033 138 stations.
- 2.66. All fitness suite facilities in the district are shown in Table 9 and illustrated in Map 6.

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Map 9: Health and Fitness Suites in Rother District



Health and Fitness facilities by type in Rother



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Table 9: Fitness Facilities (Fitness Suites) in Rother District

Site Name	Post Code	Facility Type	Number of Stations	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Pay and Play Community Access facilities	Year Built	Year Refurbished
Battle Sports' Centre	TN33 0HT	Health and Fitness Gym	30	Pay and play	Other	Others	✓	1987	2016
Bexhill Leisure Centre	TN39 4HS	Health and Fitness Gym	56	Pay and play	Local Authority	Trust	✓	1990	2010
Bexhill Leisure Centre	TN39 4HS	Health and Fitness Gym	10	Pay and play	Local Authority	Trust	✓	2000	n/a
Bexhill Leisure Pool	TN40 2JS	Health and Fitness Gym	23	Pay and play	Local Authority	Trust	✓	1990	2007
Rye Sports Centre	TN31 7ND	Health and Fitness Gym	30	Pay and play	Local Authority	Trust	✓	1987	2013
Crowhurst Park	TN33 0SL	Health and Fitness Gym	30	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial		1998	2008
Dale Hill Hotel & Golf Club	TN5 7DQ	Health and Fitness Gym	8	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial		1971	2015
Flackley Ash Hotel Leisure Club	TN31 6YH	Health and Fitness Gym	12	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial		1987	2011
Harbour Health Club	TN31 7EL	Health and Fitness Gym	60	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial		2001	2015
Physiques Gym	TN39 4HU	Health and Fitness Gym	50	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial		1998	
Poolside Leisure Club	TN39 4TT	Health and Fitness Gym	5	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial		1986	2014
Bexhill College Sports Centre	TN40 2JG	Health and Fitness Gym	22	Private	Education	Education		2015	
Buckswood School	TN35 4LT	Health and Fitness Gym	15	Private	Education	Education		2013	2015
Frewen College	TN31 6NL	Health and Fitness Gym	5	Private	Education	Education		1980	
St Richards Catholic College	TN40 1SE	Health and Fitness Gym	5	Private	Education	Education		2002	

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- 2.67. The quality of the Rother District facilities generally compares well with the quality of the existing private sector facilities, but there is a need for more fitness stations.
- 2.68. The priority fitness suites for investment to improve quality are the play and pay sites particularly local authority owned and Battle Sports Centre. Refurbishment at Bexhill Leisure Centre has occurred this year (2022), Gym Extra had an overnight refurbishment in June 2022, the functional Gym was refurbished in May 2022 with new power racks and lifting platforms and new equipment has been provided since. The Myride studio has also received an upgrade to the very latest software and interactive technology.
- 2.69. Harbour Health Club Rye is currently closed and may not reopen with a loss of 60 fitness stations. Poolside Leisure Club was part of Cooden Beach Hotel. The hotel has been taken over by the Relais Hotel Group and refurbishment of wellness facilities is ongoing.

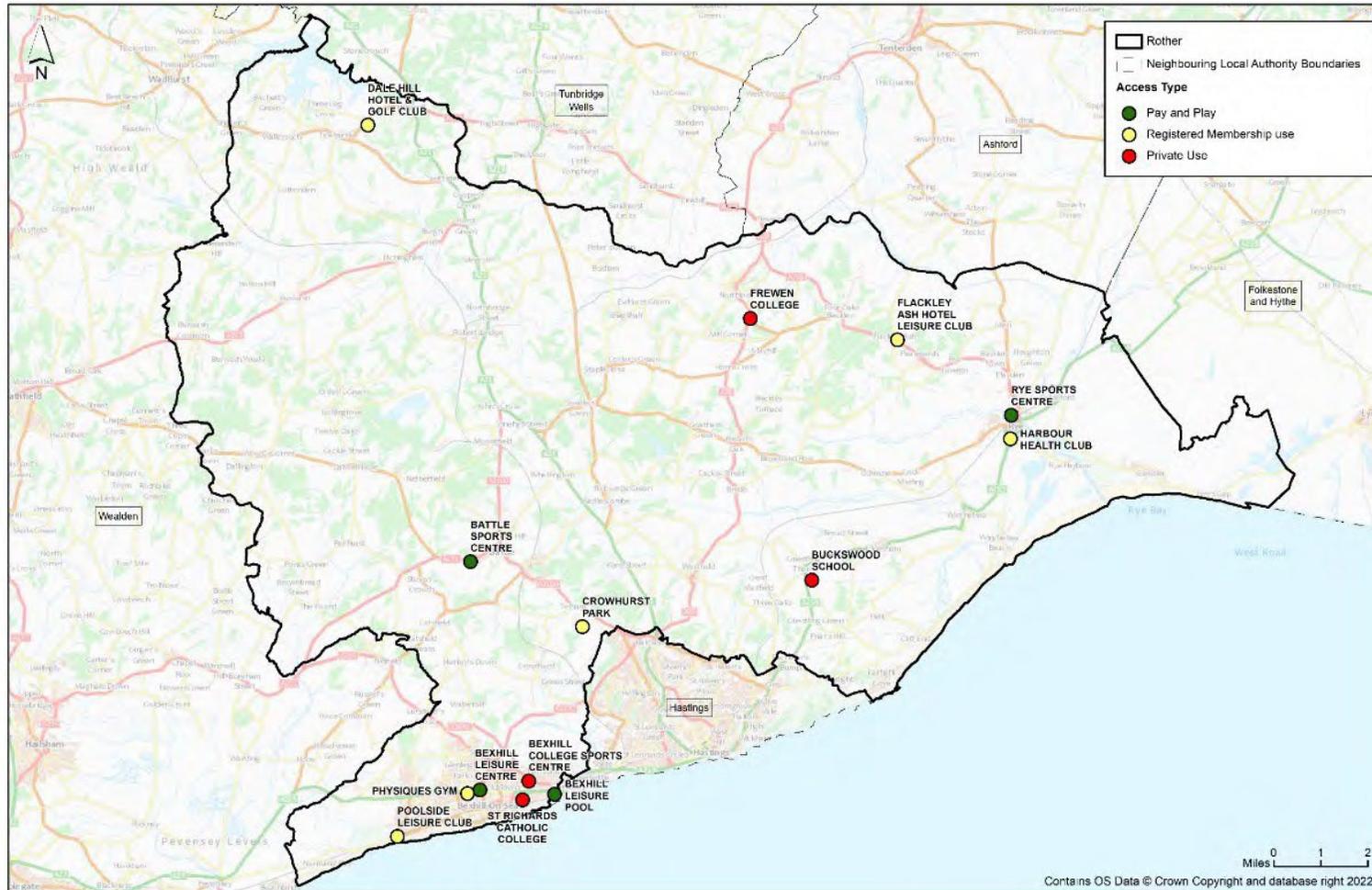
Table 10: Quality of Fitness Facilities (fitness suites and studios) where audits were possible

Site Name	Post Code	Facility Type	
		Health and Fitness Suite	Studio
Battle Sports Centre	TN33 0HT	Average Quality	Average Quality
Bexhill Leisure Centre	TN39 4HS	Good Quality	Good Quality (3 studios)
Bexhill Leisure Centre	TN39 4HS	Good Quality	
Bexhill Leisure Pool	TN40 2JS	Average Quality	
Rye Sports Centre	TN31 7ND	Average Quality	Good Quality
Crowhurst Park	TN33 0SL	Good Quality	Good Quality
Dale Hill Hotel & Golf Club	TN5 7DQ	Excellent quality	
Flackley Ash Hotel Leisure Club	TN31 6YH	Good Quality	
Harbour Health Club	TN31 7EL	Not Accessible	
Physiques Gym	TN39 4HU	Average	
Poolside Leisure Club	TN39 4TT	Not Accessible	

Accessibility

- 2.70. Maps 10 and 10a illustrate the existing health and fitness facilities in the district by access type.

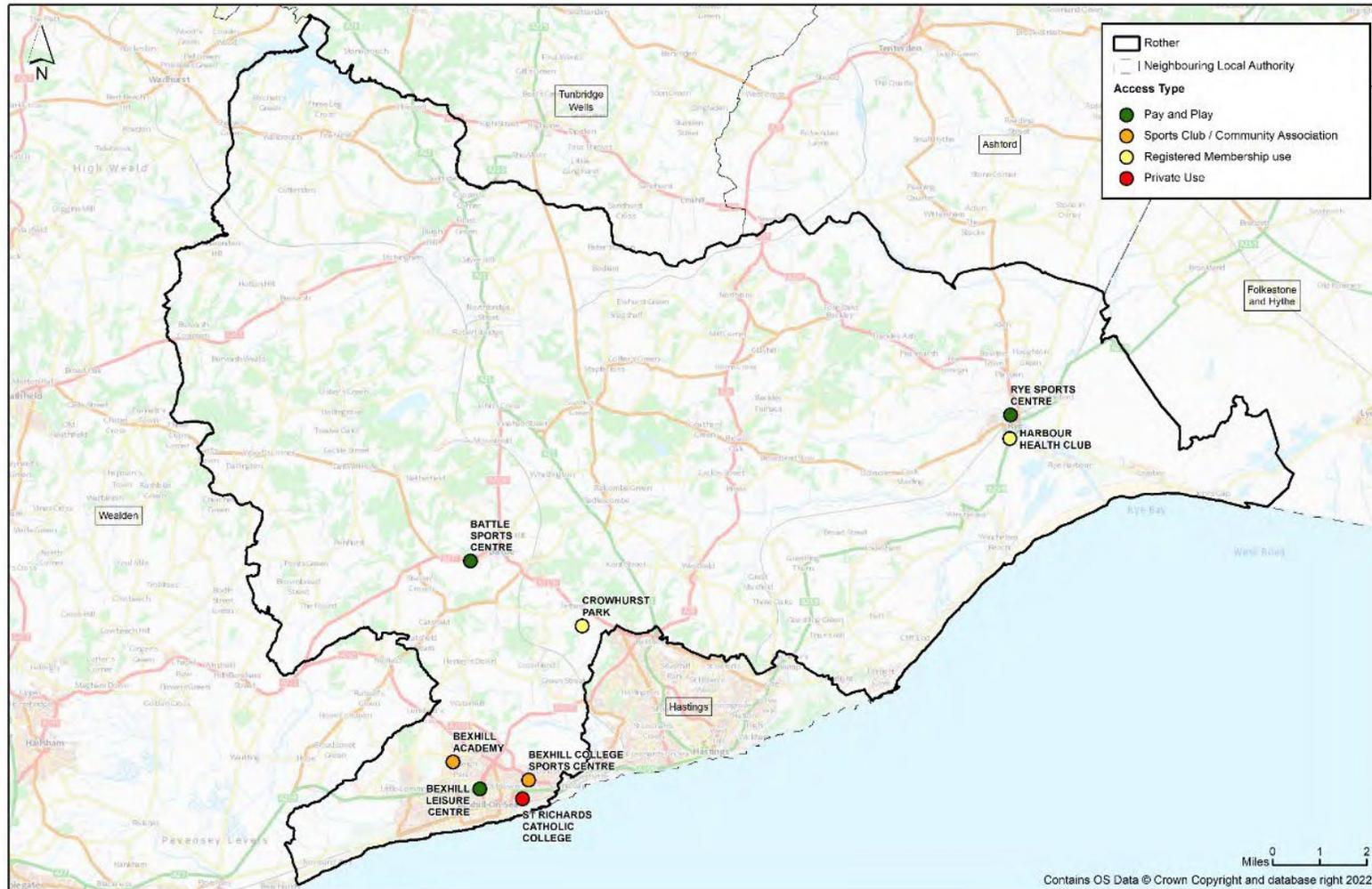
Map 10: Health and Fitness Suites by Community use



Health and Fitness Suites by community use in Rother



Map 10a: Studios by Community use



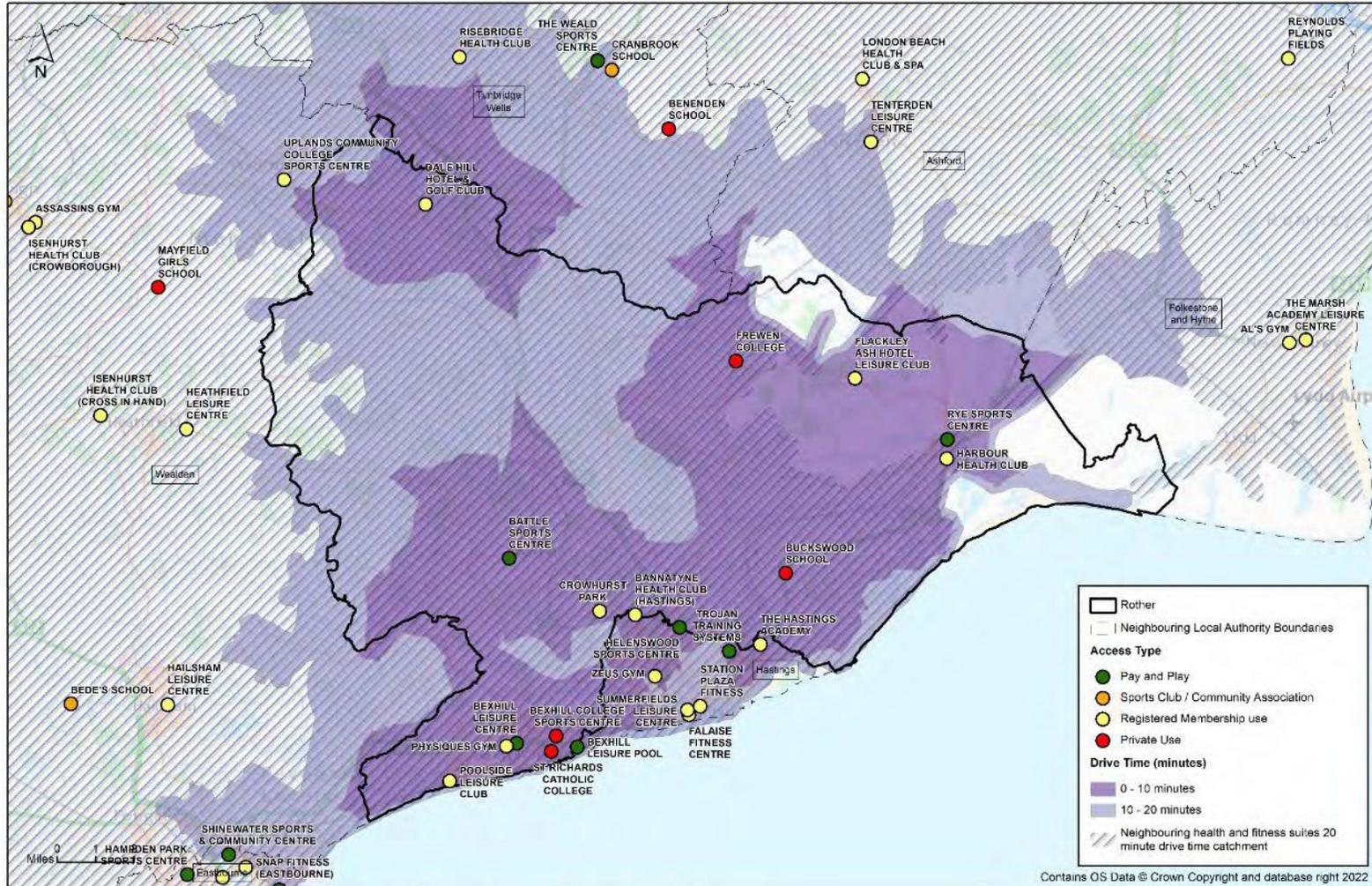
Studios by community use in Rother



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Maps: 11: Health and Fitness Suites with a 20 minute drive time



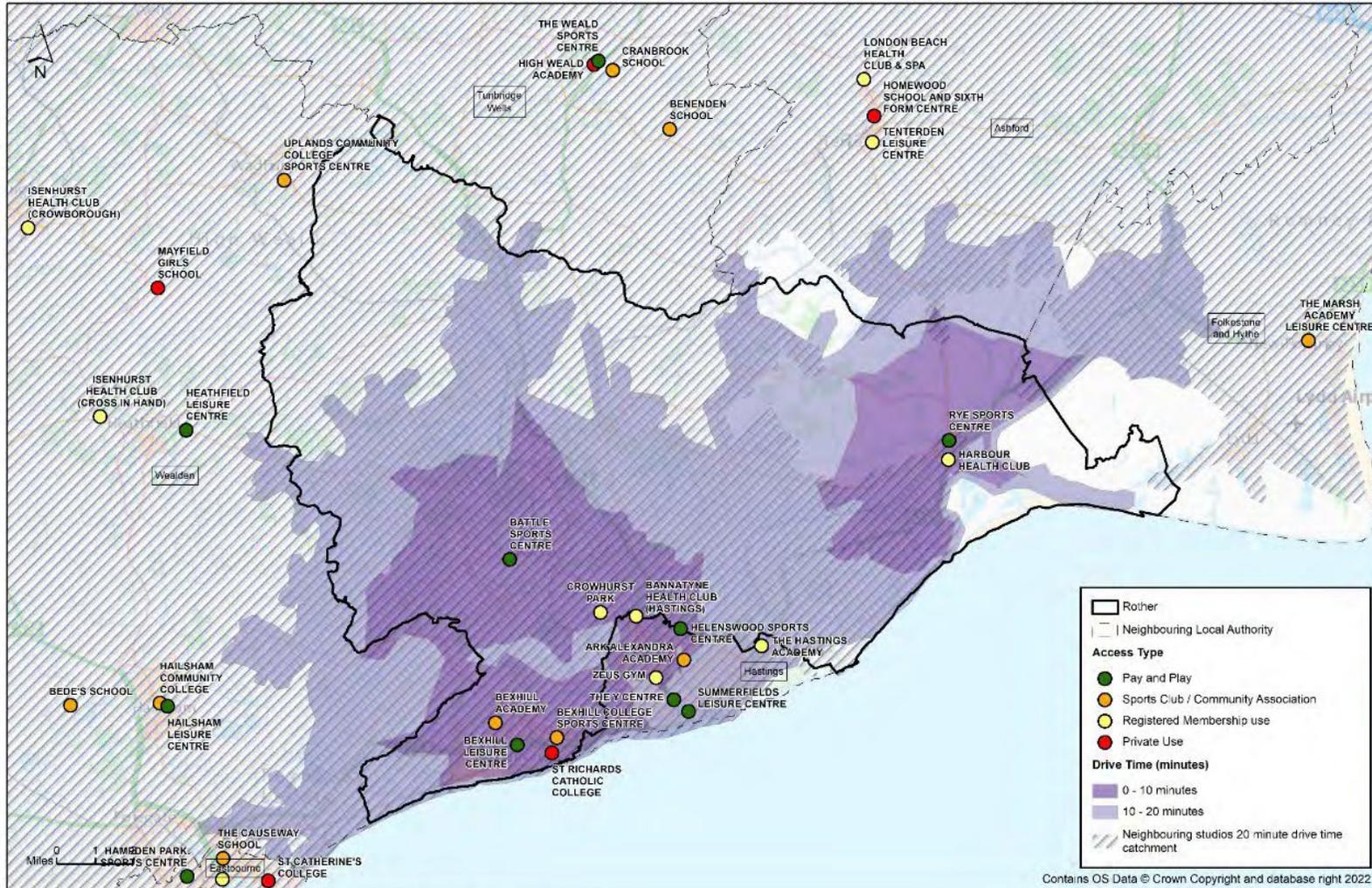
All Health and Fitness Suites 20 minute drive time catchment area in Rother



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Map 11a: Studios with a 20 minute drive time



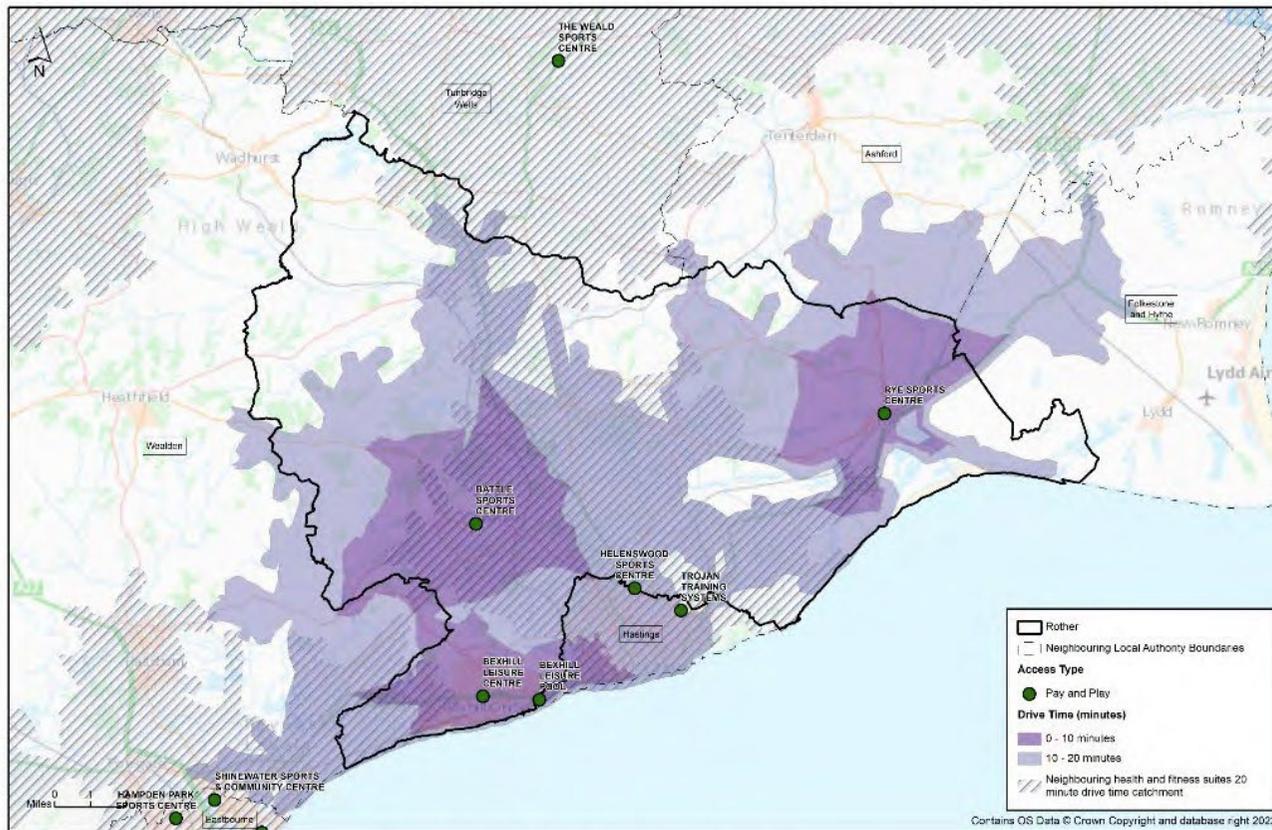
All Studios 20 minute drive time catchment area in Rother



Availability

2.71. Maps 12 and 12a shows the existing health and fitness facilities in the district and their availability for community access. All Rother District Council sites are included as green dots as they offer community use – pay and play access and access for sports clubs/associations.

Maps 12: Health and Fitness facilities availability for community access

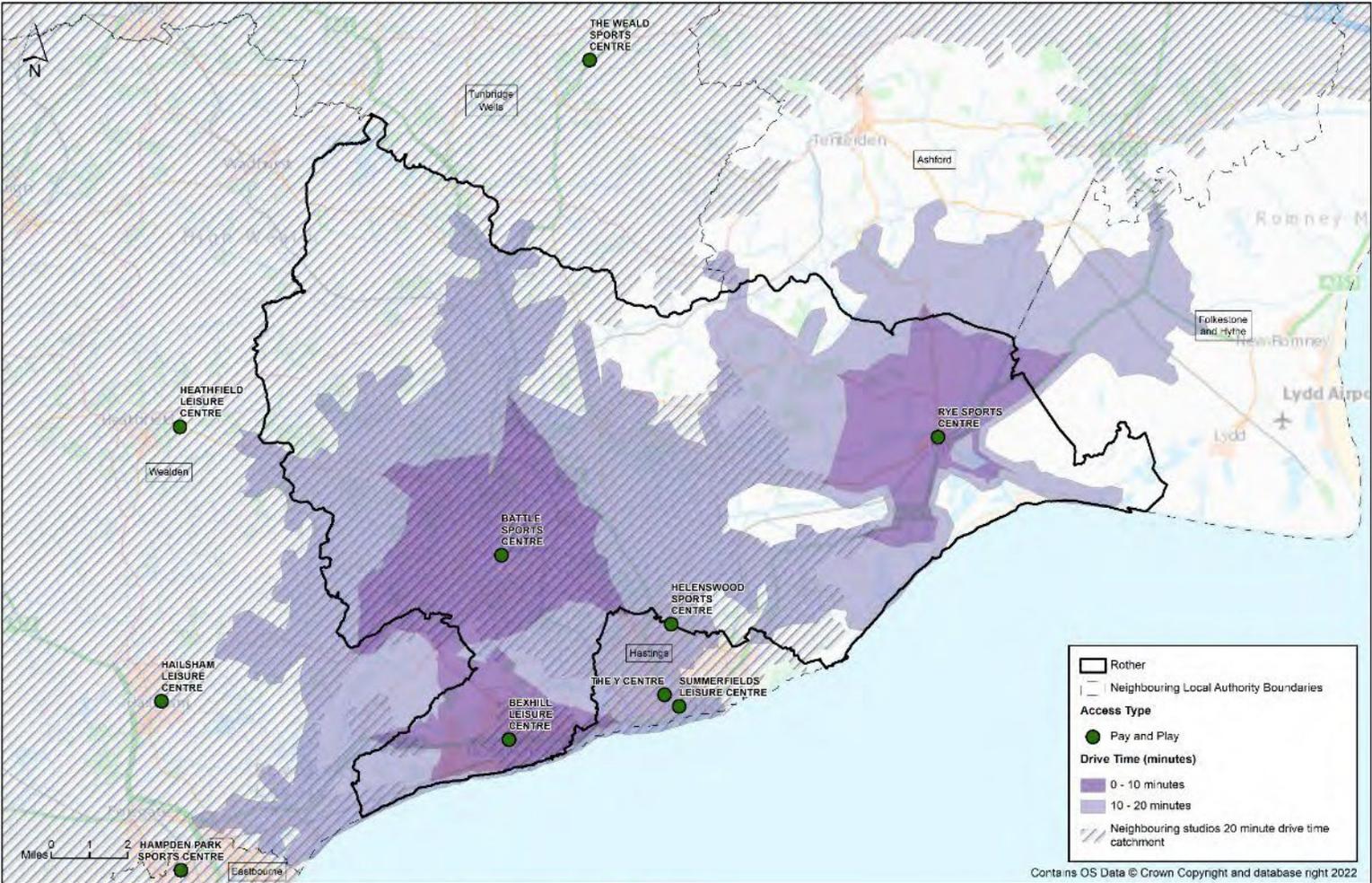


Pay and Play Health and Fitness Suites 20 minute drive time catchment area in Rother



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Map 12a: Studios facilities availability for community access



Pay and Play Studios 20 minute drive time catchment area in Rother



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- 2.72. The Rother District Council health and fitness facilities are in the main population centres Bexhill and Rye; they offer pay and play and membership access. There is competition across the district in terms of fitness facilities, but outside of the main population centres facilities tend to be membership only.
- 2.73. There are no major national fitness chains operating in the district, nor budget gyms. The smaller fitness facilities tend to be niche offers, run by local operators.
- 2.74. This means the quality and location of the offer becomes even more important to attract and retain members and usage. It also highlights the opportunity for investment in the Rother area offer to increase supply through expansion of provision, both in existing sites, and onto new sites, given the level of current demand for fitness facilities and the under-supply against this.
- 2.75. Table 12 summarises the overall supply and demand analysis for fitness facilities in Rother District.

Table 11: Summary Analysis –Fitness Facilities Supply and Demand

Facility Type	Assessment Findings
Health and Fitness Facilities	
Quantity	<p>The supply analysis identifies that overall, there are 14 health and fitness suites (13 sites) and identifies that overall, there are in total 361 fitness stations in Rother. 149 (41%) of these are in pay and play facilities. There are 47 fitness stations on educational sites that are for private school use only, and 165 in commercial facilities providing registered membership use.</p> <p>All fitness suite facilities require some form of payment/membership payment before use, and an induction is required. In general studios are on the same sites as fitness suites, but some sites have more than one studio.</p> <p>Appendix C presents a supply and demand analysis of fitness suites in Rother District and shows a current under supply of 43 fitness stations based on 2022 population estimates. Appendix C also presents a supply and demand analysis of fitness suites in Rother District based on the projected population in 2033. This shows an under supply of 78 fitness stations.</p> <p>These will be further exasperated if Harbour Health Club in Rye stays closed with a loss of 60 fitness stations. This would take the current undersupply to 103 stations and 2033 138 stations. Cooden Beach Hotel Wellness facilities are currently being refurbished. It is unknown if fitness facilities will be included following the refurbishment.</p> <p>There are 3 studios at Bexhill Leisure Centre, 2 studios at Rye Sports Centre and 1 studio at Battle Sports Centre. Education sites provide 1 studio at Bexhill Academy and 2 studios at Bexhill College Sports Centre (not currently available for community use).</p> <p>There is no supply and demand model available to assess sufficiency of studios. However, group exercise is, alongside fitness membership, an important income generator for leisure facilities so it is important to maintain the quality of existing sites and invest in those that have the potential to be improved.</p>

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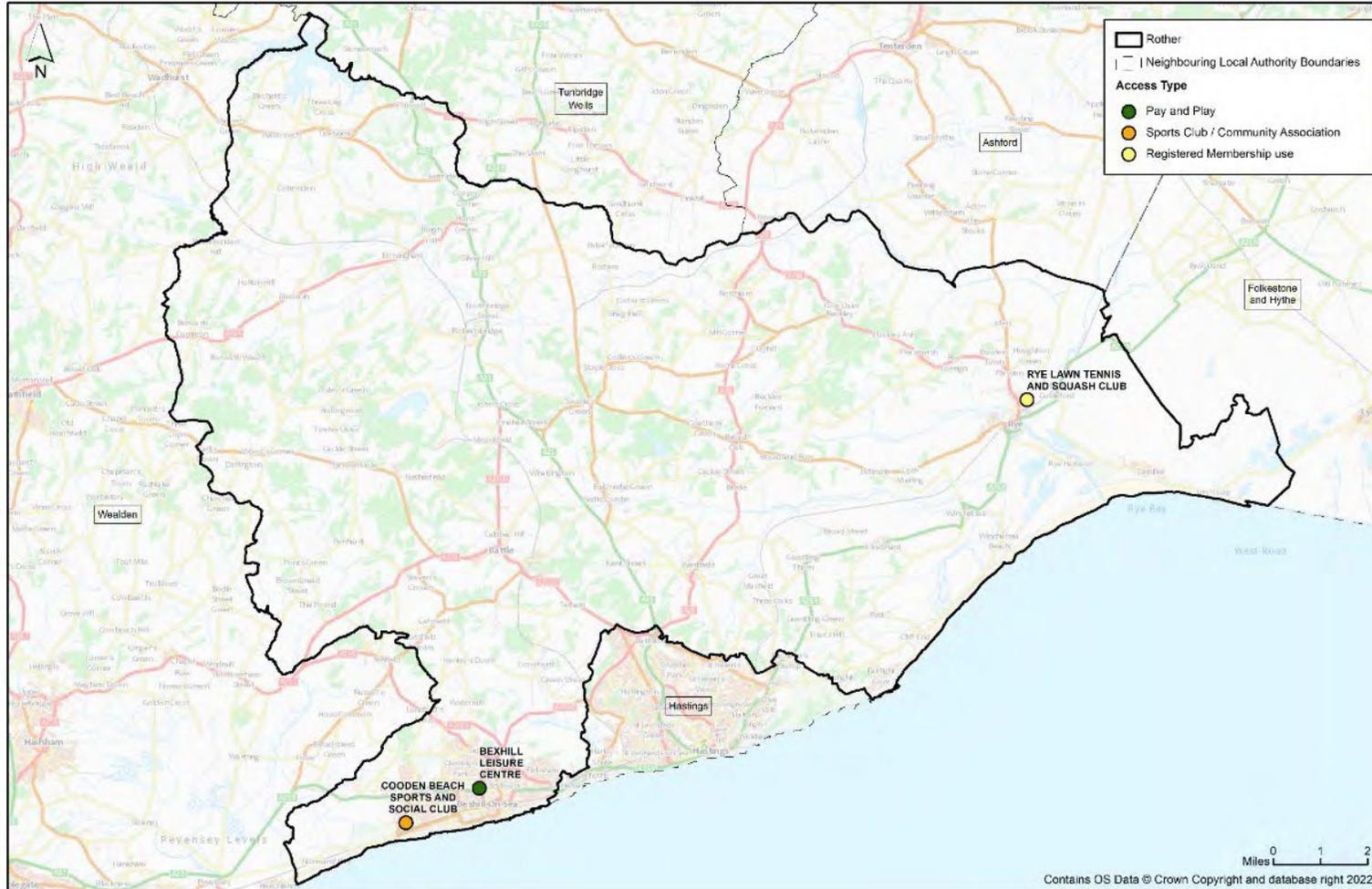
Facility Type	Assessment Findings
Health and Fitness Facilities	
Quality	<p>The quality of existing fitness suites and studios was assessed through site visits. It was not possible to access all sites, but overall the quality of studios is higher than that of fitness suites, as shown in Table 11. The quality of Rochester District Council facilities generally compares well with the quality of the existing private sector facilities, but there is a need for more fitness stations.</p> <p>The priority fitness suites for investment to improve quality are the play and pay sites particularly local authority owned and Battle Sports Centre.</p>
Accessibility	<p>There are fewer facilities (fitness suites and studios) with community pay and play access in the north of the district. This is however where there are fewer centres of population. Battle sports Centre provides for Battle and the surrounding areas.</p> <p>There are more facilities with pay and play access in Bexhill and Rye where the majority of the population is based.</p>
Availability	<p>There are no major national fitness chains operating in the district, nor budget gyms. The smaller fitness facilities tend to be niche offers, run by local operators.</p> <p>The Rother District Council health and fitness facilities are in the main population centres; they offer pay and play and membership access. There is competition across the district in terms of fitness facilities, but outside of the main population centres facilities tend to be membership only.</p> <p>Given the lack of national chains, and the current and projected future under-supply of fitness stations, Rother District Council, through its operator, has a real opportunity to increase the supply of fitness stations by expanding both existing sites and onto new sites, and offer both membership and pay and play access.</p> <p>There are 3 studios at Bexhill Leisure Centre, 2 studios at Rye Sports Centre and 1 studio at Battle Sports Centre. Education sites provide 1 studio at Bexhill Academy and 2 studios at Bexhill College Sports Centre (not currently available for community use).</p> <p>There is no supply and demand model available to assess sufficiency of studios. However, group exercise is, alongside fitness membership, an important income generator for leisure facilities so it is important to maintain the quality of existing sites and invest in those that have the potential to be improved.</p> <p>There will be increased demand for studio provision as the population grows; it would be therefore sensible to include studio provision in any new/replacement facilities. There are 3 studios at Bexhill Leisure Centre, 2 studios at Rye Sports Centre and 1 studio at Battle Sports Centre.</p>

Squash

Squash: Quantity

- 2.76. There are 7 squash courts in total. 2 public pay and play accessible squash courts at Bexhill Leisure Centre, 3 courts at Cooden Beach Sports and Social Club and 2 courts at 1 court is run for private use only at St Peters School. These are shown on Map 13.

Map 13: Squash Courts in Rother District



Squash Courts by community use in Rother



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2.77. The overall supply of squash courts is summarised in Table 10.

Table 12: Squash Courts in Rother District

Site Name	Post Code	No of courts	Facility Sub Type	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Pay & Play Community use (✓)	Year Built	Refurbished
Bexhill Leisure Centre	TN39 4HS	2	Normal	Pay and play	Local Authority	Trust	✓	1990	
Cooden Beach Sports And Social Club	TN39 3BD	3	Normal	Sports club	Sports Club	Sports Club		1977	2000
Rye Lawn Tennis And Squash Club	TN31 7NY	2	Normal	Registered membership	Sports club	Sports Club		1974	

Squash: Quality

2.78. A quality assessment was undertaken on following facilities.

Table 13: Summary of Quality Assessments Squash Courts in Rother District

	Overall Quantitative Score for Facility %	Qualitative Score for Squash Courts
Bexhill Leisure Centre	52% Average	Average
Cooden Beach Sports And Social Club	61% Good	Good
Rye Lawn Tennis And Squash Club	68% Good	Good

Squash: Accessibility

2.79. Squash courts are more specialist facilities, so there are generally fewer of them in any one area. 2 of the 7 courts in Rother District are provided at Bexhill Leisure Centre. Most squash courts nationally tend to be provided through clubs (not leisure centres) such as the Rye Lawn Tennis and squash Club.

Squash: Availability. There are 2 courts which are available for pay and play for the general public.

2.80. Rother District has a population of approximately 98k and, with 7 courts in total. There is however, no identified under supply of courts despite the NGB requirement of 1 court per 10,000 people.

Squash: Summary of Supply and Demand

Table 14: Summary Analysis – Squash Courts Supply and Demand

Facility Type	Assessment Findings
Squash Courts	
Quantity	<p>There is a total of 7 courts in Rother District with 2 all of these are classified as normal courts. England Squash method for assessing current supply requires 1 court per 10,000 people. There is no identified need through consultation for Rother District to provide additional courts.</p> <p>Future Demand</p> <p>Overall participation in squash is increasing at national level, and this is now being seen at a local level. Competitive squash across the country is predominantly now played in clubs, within a club facility; demand for community access squash courts has reduced in recent years. Participation is still growing however, but through the club base where juniors can be supported and coached from an early age.</p> <p>As a minimum, RDC need to maintain existing level of pay and play squash provision at Bexhill Leisure Centre. Rother District Council should consider the inclusion of squash courts as part of the development of any new leisure facility within the district, to replace existing ageing facilities. Consideration of provision needs to reflect existing levels of demand and participation in squash</p>
Quality	The quality of existing squash courts is generally of a good standard. The walls and wooden floors of the courts were in good condition, although all seven courts would benefit from having the walls repainted, floors sanded and lighting upgraded to LED.
Accessibility	2 squash courts are provided at Bexhill Leisure Centre (pay and play).
Availability	There are 7 squash courts in Rother District, all are classified as normal courts no glass back provision is provided 2 of the squash courts are pay and play 3 courts sports club based and 2 courts are membership based courts.

Indoor Bowls

Indoor Bowls: Quantity

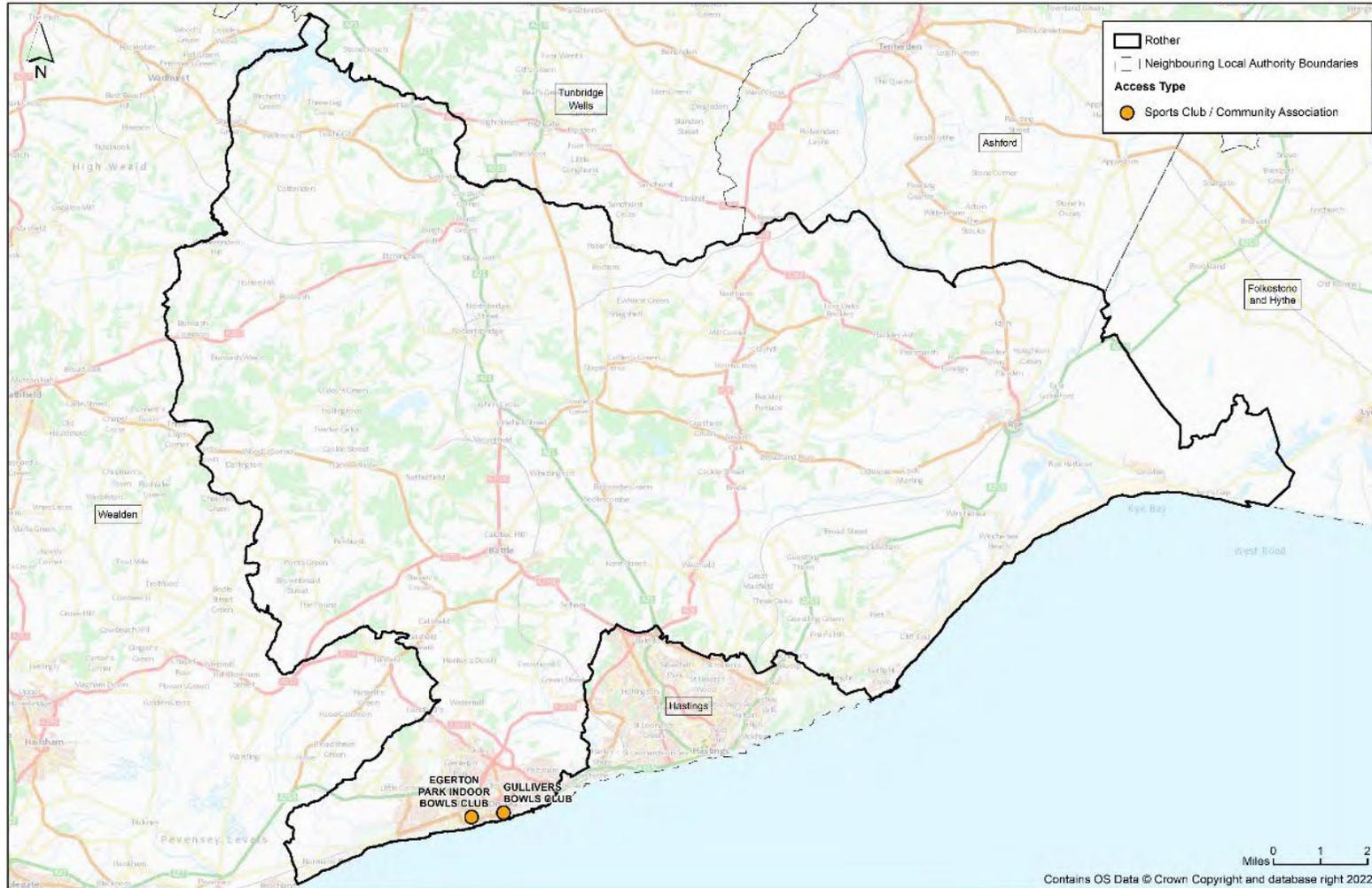
- 2.81. An indoor bowls facility comprises a number of indoor rinks (usually a minimum of 3 rinks). Indoor Bowls is a more specialist sport and tends to be participated in by bowlers who play outside in the summer, to practise and compete during the winter months. Indoor bowls is attractive to the older population and those with disabilities (wheelchair and visually impaired).
- 2.82. There are two indoor bowls facilities in Rother District with both facilities affiliated to the England Indoor Bowls Association (EIBA): Egerton Park Indoor Bowls Club and Gullivers Bowls Club.

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Table 15: Rother Indoor Bowls Facilities

Site Name	Post Code	Facility Type	Rinks	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Pay & Play Community use (✓)	Year Built	Refurbished
Egerton Park Indoor Bowls Club	TN39 3HL	Indoor Bowls	6	Sports Club / Community Association	Sports Club / Community Association	Sports Club / Community Association		1991	2004
Gullivers Bowls Club	TN40 1LJ	Indoor Bowls	2	Sports Club / Community Association	Sports Club / Community Association	Sports Club / Community Association		1952	1995

Map 14: Indoor Bowls in Rother District



Indoor Bowls by community use in Rother



2.83. The EIA are satisfied there are sufficient indoor bowls facilities within Rother District Council. Gullivers Bowls Club has been granted planning permission for housing on site, which will provide funds for refurbishment of the indoor facility. The 8 rinks should be maintained and sustained for future use.

Indoor Bowls: Summary of Supply and Demand

Table 16: Summary Analysis – Indoor Bowling Supply and Demand

Facility Type	
Quantity	There are two indoor bowls facilities in Rother District each having its own club. Both clubs are affiliated to the England Indoor Bowls Association (EIBA). Egerton Park Bowls Club provides 6 rinks and Gulliver’s Bowls Club provides 2 rinks.
Quality	Gulliver’s Bowls Club is in need of refurbishment and Egerton Park was last refurbished in 2004.
Accessibility	Both bowls facilities are in Bexhill on Sea where the highest population is in Rother. The two bowls clubs have good access and parking facilities. Egerton Park Bowls Club is also the site of Egerton Tennis Centre.
Availability	Egerton Indoor bowls Club provides summer and winter indoor bowls. Whilst Gulliver’s bowls club is under development the club will not be taking on new memberships .
Future Demand	EIBA consider there are sufficient indoor bowls facilities in rother district and neighbouring authorities to meet future need.

NGB England Bowls Consultation

2.84. The indoor bowls national governing body - EIBA explained how the EIBA plan covers the following areas:

- Recruit and Retain 45+; Recruit and Retain 70+ - two different markets which requires us to find a way to grow both specific groups. The 45+ requiring new versions/formats – the 70+ wishing to keep the current formats.
- Facilities – Build, Improve, Retain
- Youth and the Family
- Women – increased participation and retention
- Disability
- Competitions
- Internationals
- Promotion of our Sport
- Commercial partnerships

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2.85. EIBA Objectives

- A growth in participation across the adult population in local Communities. Targeted work to increase Female participation
- A growth in participation in the 12-18 age range as part of the “EIBA Development Pathway”
- The provision of an excellent sporting experience for new and existing participants
- A growth in Indoor Bowls participation by people who have disabilities

2.86. Running alongside our work is the Sport England Funded Development work provided jointly by the Indoor NGB (EIBA); Outdoor NGB (Bowls England) and the “Bowls Development Alliance” (BDA). Each NGB has two Directors on the Board of BDA.

2.87. The Sport England funding for the 2017-2021 period, focused on the delivery of:

- Club Development Programme: supports clubs across the country where they have identified greatest need.
- Play Bowls Package Scheme: supports clubs with their recruitment.
- Coach Bowls: providing qualifications for coaches and developing the best tutor workforce to deliver these qualifications across the whole sport including BE, EIBA, British Crown Green BA and English Short Mat BA
- Facilities: providing funding support for BE and EIBA to research the facility requirements of their clubs.

2.88. Alongside these core objectives the BDA worked with key partners on the following:

- Safeguarding Club Development Programme: supports clubs across the country where they have identified greatest need.
- Disability Scheme: supports clubs with their recruitment.
- Women Can

2.89. The BDA are currently awaiting Sport England feedback in respect of their “Funding Submission for the 2022-2025 period.

2.90. It is likely this will include:

- Club Hubs – encourage growth of membership and retention of facilities
- Communities
- Health
- Inclusion

2.91. Both clubs in Rother District are required to increase memberships following the covid 19 pandemic.

Indoor Tennis

- 2.92. Indoor tennis courts are considered because they are a completely different facility from outdoor tennis courts, which, unless they are club courts, tend to be used for recreational tennis. Indoor courts are significantly more expensive to use, and therefore tend to provide for those who are already tennis participants, or who wish to learn to play tennis and can afford private or group coaching.
- 2.93. It is a requirement of the ANOG methodology that indoor tennis courts are covered by an Indoor Facility Strategy to complement the findings of a playing pitch study which assesses needs for outdoor courts.
- 2.94. There are no existing indoor tennis courts in the district.
- 2.95. The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) has produced target areas for provision of indoor tennis facilities. The target areas are based upon a population of 12,500 for 1 indoor court. Rother is not a specified target area but Hastings is identified as a target area.
- 2.96. Rother District Council has been approached concerning the development of Padel Tennis courts in the district. Padel Tennis is a fast growing sport , with potential commercial benefit. Rother District Council should consider the feasibility of introducing paddle tennis as part of any future outdoor sports hub.

Indoor Tennis: Summary of Supply and Demand

Table 17: Summary Analysis – Indoor Tennis Supply and Demand

Facility Type	Assessment Findings
Quantity	There are no indoor tennis courts in Rother District. The LTA has identified Hastings as a target area for a Community Indoor bowls facility.
Quality	N/A
Accessibility	N/A
Availability	Consultation has identified a need for Padel Tennis courts in Rother particularly Bexhill.

Gymnastics Centres

Gymnastics Centres: Quantity

- 2.97. British Gymnastics has identified one affiliated gymnastics club in Rother District – 1066 Gymnastics Club. The club has a membership of 324 and has its own dedicated facility on a retail park. Bexhill Leisure Centre also offers gymnastics as part of its weekly programme. There are three other affiliated clubs in neighbouring Hastings:
- Hollington Gymnastics Club with approximately 258 affiliated and are based in a school sports hall.
 - Summerfield's Gymnastics Club based in dedicated facility in Hastings with approximately 119 affiliated members.
 - Acromax/Dharma Gymnastics Club based in a school sports hall in Hastings with approximately 75 affiliated members.

Gymnastics Centres: NGB Consultation

- 2.98. The NGB consultation with British Gymnastics is summarised below:
- 2.99. British Gymnastics Strategies are outlined in the [Strategic Framework \(2017 - 2021\)](#) and British Gymnastics Priorities (for the period 2017 - 2021) are:
- **Diversify sources of revenue to develop and grow the provision of gymnastics**
 - **Build the capacity and grow the demand in gymnastics**
 - **Raise the profile and increase the appeal of gymnastics**
- 2.100. There is no geographic focus to the British Gymnastics Facility Strategy. Focus is based on need, suitability and partners' ability to support a project to successful completion.
- 2.101. British Gymnastics Facility Development Priorities (for the period 2017 - 2021) outlined are:
- **Support increased capacity within gymnastics through clubs, leisure providers and other delivery providers**

- **Guide funding investment through the United Kingdom from British Gymnastics, Home Country Sports Councils, Local Authorities and other potential funders.**
- **Maintain and improve the quality of facilities and equipment within existing delivery partners.**
- **Develop insight, understanding and direction of how Facility Developments can contribute towards other BG Strategic Priorities**

Boxing

Boxing Clubs: Quantity

2.102. England boxing have one affiliated club in Rother – Bexhill ABC. The main priority is to support the existing delivery and ensure their sustainability for the future.

Boxing: NGB Consultation

2.103. The NGB consultation with England Boxing is summarised below:

2.104. Bexhill ABC - deliver a wide variety of community training sessions including juniors, seniors, women's-only, fitness-only etc... they have a strong following in the local community and put on regular boxing shows and events.

2.105. The club may need to extend their existing building to take on new members. Support from the LA to get the relevant planning in-place, and to possible help finance part or all of the extension would be very helpful.

2.106. We do not have funds available to support a development of this kind. We would support Bexhill ABC to apply for funds from external sources and would welcome the LA support with this aspect also.