

Comment on Applicant's Equestrian Centre Report (the Report)

The Report's assessment of local facilities is inaccurate as it fails to mention several local competition centers and mentions none of the excellent local rehabilitation venues.

- In the Applicant's "Map of Existing Supply", (Para 3.11, P.8) they **omit to include 5 venues** which are within an hour's drive of Crouchlands Farm. In total, there are **at least 12 competition venues within an hour's drive** that are regularly used. Please refer to the Table below on page 2.
- A **notable feature of all 12 existing venues is their proximity to A roads** giving easy access, which is essential for large Horseboxes given their size and maneuverability. Crouchlands Farm is not close to A roads - any A roads are over 5 miles away; after which small rural roads are required to reach the venue.
- The "**Map of Existing Supply**" (Para 3.11, P.8) also **fails to list venues that are rehab only** such as Equine Aqua Training in The Haven (8 miles away); Sussex Equine Hospital (13 miles) and Liphook Equine Hospital (16 miles), which is one of the largest in the UK. In addition, many people prefer to book Chiropractor, Physio, massage etc. to come to where the horse is stabled, as this is better for the horse. They only travel for something like the aqua treadmill and in that case choose the one nearby and go typically once a week for an hour.
- **The report details several Closed Venues (Para 4.1, P9):** Several listed have been closed for many years e.g., Stilemans, Shamley Green, Stocklands. These have all been closed for over 35+ years. Priory is still used for some dressage and pony club events and so is not completely closed. Royal Leisure is now the superb facility in Hascombe and is definitely not closed.
- The Report asserts at para 4.2.2, P. 12 that "*top riders are moving abroad to have access to consistently better facilities, and conversely, riders from abroad are not coming to the UK in such numbers to compete due to these falling standards*". This may be true in some parts of the UK, but in this area, there are many top riders and overseas riders basing themselves here: Swain & Price from New Zealand; Burton & McNab from Australia; Constantin (Tintin) Van Rijckevorsel from Belgium and many top British riders.
- The Applicant's proposal does not appear to have the level of spectator seating for the outdoor arena (EQUESTRIAN CENTRE - LANDSCAPE LAYOUT) that would be typically associated with a venue at this level, aspiring to be a "World Class facility", to "rival those available in Europe" and to attract "top riders". Both Hickstead and Ardingly have outdoor arena grandstands/pavilions. Both venues are in West Sussex.

Equestrian Existing Supply	Referenced in Applicants Report? Y/N	Distance from RH14 OLE	Comments
Petworth Schooling Course	Y	7.2 miles, 13-minute drive Excellent, direct access from the A272	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This venue is not only used by low level riders, but also by professionals for their young horses and for fitness as it has a fitness gallop up the hill with mile markers
Equine Aqua Training at Garlands	N	8 miles, 17-minute drive 1.4 miles from A281	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer training & rehabilitation only An international show jumper from the UAE was based there for three months for his summer campaign. Facilities include individual turn out paddocks, pasture, walker, sand school, solarium, hot water wash bays, horse laundry, vitafloor, aqua treadmill, 15 boxes
Brinsbury Agricultural College	N	9 miles, 16-minute drive Easy access from A29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoor schooling arena, two outdoor arenas for hire
Coombelands	Y	10.4 miles, 17-minute drive Excellent access directly off the A29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The cross country is only open during spring/summer/autumn as weather permits due to the clay As it's deep and wet in winter and rock hard in a dry summer They have recently re-surfaced their outdoor arenas which really are top class
Munstead	N	11 miles, 22-minute drive Access from B2130	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly hosting affiliated and unaffiliated horse trials Cross country and showjumping
Moorcroft Equine rehabilitation Centre	N	11 miles, 19-minute drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short-term schooling and rehabilitation for ALL breeds of horses BHS approved, 70 acres of paddocks, 2 yards, Indoor & outdoor school
Sussex Equine Hospital	N	13 miles, 22-minute drive Easy access 1 mile from A24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relatively new, state of the art, purpose-built facilities to provide patients and clients with the best standards of equine veterinary health care. Provides ambulatory equine veterinary services throughout East and West Sussex, and into Surrey and Hampshire. Cares for all types of equine patients from elite sport and racehorses to children's ponies.

Liphook Equine Hospital	N	16 miles, 32-minute drive 1 mile from B2070, 4 miles from A3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the largest specialist equine veterinary practices in the UK, a Centre of excellence at the forefront of equine medicine and surgery providing the most up to date and appropriate care. • Led by a team of RCVS and European recognised specialists assisted by residents and house vets and a large team of qualified equine veterinary nurses and trainee nurses.
Homelands Equestrian	Y	17 miles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed this is not really comparable to proposed development
Boxgrove Competition Stables	Y	19 miles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed this is not really comparable to proposed development
Hickstead Show Ground	Y	22 miles, 35-minute drive Excellent, direct access from the A272	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the world's premier equestrian venues with an excellent competition facility featuring the All England Jumping Course, with multiple arenas and large capacity spectator seating. • Hosting international events and outside leisure events.
Merrist Wood	Y	22 miles, 40-minute drive Easy access off the A323 or A322	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have recently resurfaced the indoor and outdoor arenas.
Hascombe Farm Equestrian Centre	N	22 miles, 38-minute drive Easy access from A2037	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosts affiliated shows & events • 2 indoor/ 2 outdoor arenas for hire • Rehabilitation services
Littleton Manor Equestrian	N	26 miles, 47-minute drive 1.2 miles from A25, 10 min from M25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross Country, Showjumping, Dressage, Gallops
Tweseldown	Y	27 miles, 47-minute drive Easy access from the A287 and A323	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a cross country mecca because of it being on sandy terrain. This means that this venue has the longest season and can start early spring and finish late autumn. It tends to be open all year for schooling as well. • It is no longer a race venue.
Ardingly Show Ground	Y	29 miles, 49-minute drive Easily accessible from the A272, M23 and A23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very good outdoor arena with spectator stands.

Felbridge Show Ground	N	31 miles, 46-minute drive Easy access from A22 and A264	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affiliated Show jumping & Dressage 2 Arenas
Wellington Riding	Y	40 miles, 60-minute drive Extremely easy to access from the A33, M4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The arenas are very good quality and used for numerous pony club, riding club, BD (British Dressage), BS (British Showjumping) events.

The Applicant's proposal does not appear to have the level of spectator seating for the outdoor arena that would be typically associated with a venue at this level and does not appear to be compatible with the Applicant's assertion that the Site will be a "World Class facility", to "rival those available in Europe" and to attract "top riders". Concern is that future proposals will follow, to increase the level of spectator seating for the outdoor arena, to allow the centre to be commercially viable.

- To do so would require an additional large structure adjacent to the outdoor arena

EQUESTRIAN CENTRE - LANDSCAPE LAYOUT



The plan only shows a seating wall for outdoor arena

HICKSTEAD has Grandstands for outdoor arenas



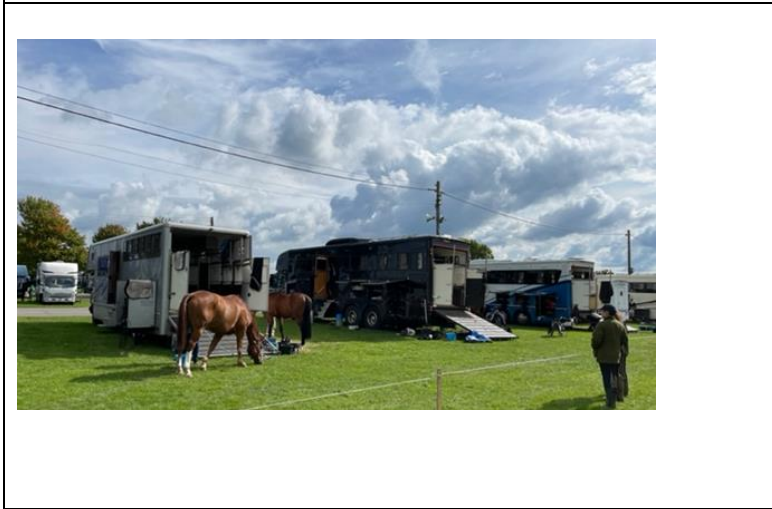
ARDINGLY has a pavilion





A notable feature of all 12 existing venues is their proximity to A and B roads, giving easy access which is essential for large Horseboxes given their size and manoeuvrability. Crouchlands Farm is not close to A or B roads – all A roads are over 5 miles away, after which small rural roads are required to reach the venue.

Horseboxes at Ardingly Autumn Show & International Horse Trials 24th September 2022



Ardingly has easy access from B2028





Hickstead has easy access from A272



Excellent, direct access from the A272 via B218 slip road