



PITCHPOWER

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Football Foundation**

FOOTBALL ASSESSMENT REPORT

ARLESEY ROAD PLAYING FIELDS

Bedfordshire FA

Active Places Site ID

30010837

Report ID

11805



This report has been compiled for STOTFOLD TOWN COUNCIL and Bedfordshire FA to provide information on the standard of the football pitches and outlines recommendations on how to improve the quality and maintenance of these pitches.

Inspection Window

4 JUL 2023 / 31 OCT 2023

Inspection Reason

EXISTING FOOTBALL FOUNDATION GRANT

Report Completion Date

24 OCT 2023

This report looks solely at the Football pitches for STOTFOLD TOWN COUNCIL to see how support can be offered in improving the standard of Football pitches and level of maintenance across the area. Please note these recommendations are based on the information obtained and/or provided and are for guidance purposes only. Any works undertaken are the responsibility of the club/organisation.

Site report:

ARLESEY ROAD PLAYING FIELDS





ARLESEY ROAD PLAYING FIELDS

Site ID: 30010837



Date inspection submitted

20/10/23

Inspection submitted by

jason@aas.co.uk

Next available inspection window

1 Nov 2023 / 31 Mar 2024

Overview



Map Key	Pitch Name	PQS Score
1	PITCH 1	● Good - 55%
2	PITCH 2	● Basic - 45%
3	PITCH 3	● Basic - 48%
4	PITCH 4	● Good - 55%
5	PITCH 5	● Poor - 52%
6	PITCH 6	● Basic - 57%
7	PITCH 7	● Basic - 59%
8	PITCH 8	● Basic - 57%



Please be mindful that the recommendations made in this report are based on the condition of the pitches at the time of the inspection. Pitch quality was variable depending on the levels of weed coverage and exposure of the drainage runs. Whilst there was generally reasonable groundcover a moderate to high percentage of this was weeds, Clover seemed particularly problematic. The remedial work to the drainage runs will need to be carefully monitored to ensure grass establishes within them and that surface levels are retained (further over-seeding is likely to be required). Another notable area for improvement is the health of the grass with visible grass stress which can happen on drained pitches when they are not adequately fertilised as drained pitches tend to leach nutrients more quickly. The soils are very compacted and deep spiking and slitting will be important both to maintain connectivity between the pitch surface and drains but also to improve root depth and density which in turn will improve grass health. With the ground cover measured from 100% where bare ground and/or weed coverage make up more than 25% the grass coverage cannot attain the 75% required to constitute a GOOD graded pitch at this time of year, some pitches failed to meet this threshold but also some pitches were downgraded due to the drainage repairs. It is presumed there is no irrigation on site so light touch renovations in the autumn and spring will probably provide better outcomes on this site than a one hit traditional end of season renovation approach and would typically include light scarification (spring and autumn), sand dressing (if budgets allow please ensure other critical works are carried out first before spending large amounts money on sports sand however if this is skipped it is likely to have a long term impact on the functionality of the drainage scheme and surface levels), half rate disc seeding and fertilisation (spring and autumn) and deep spiking of the pitches (spring and autumn). These works can take place while the pitches are in use and grass seed should germinate and establish in all but the highest use areas such as goal mouths which will require regular repairs during the season and more significant repairs when not in use. Selective weed control may be required next growing season as part of an Integrated Weed Management programme if cultural practices (scarification, surface grooming, over-seeding) are not effective in adequately controlling the weed coverage within the desired threshold (6-10% weed cover for "start of season" PQS) but while this should take place during the growing season it should not take place during drought periods. Slitting in the autumn and early winter will improve the soil structure and drainage potential of the pitches but no later than this so it does not contribute to any potential for surface cracking that can be more of a risk during summer months. It's too late in the growing season now to consider selective weed control.

Senior Regional Pitch Advisor contact
jmorris@thegma.org.uk
07519103040



Maintenance

Attention required in these areas:

[Mowing >](#)

[Line marking >](#)

[Decompaction >](#)

[Slitting >](#)

[Goal mouth repairs \(In season\) >](#)

[Surface Grooming >](#)

[Application of fertiliser >](#)

[Top Dressing \(Renovation\) >](#)

[Overseeding \(In Season\) >](#)

[Application of selective herbicide \(weed treatment\) >](#)

Equipment

Attention required in these areas:

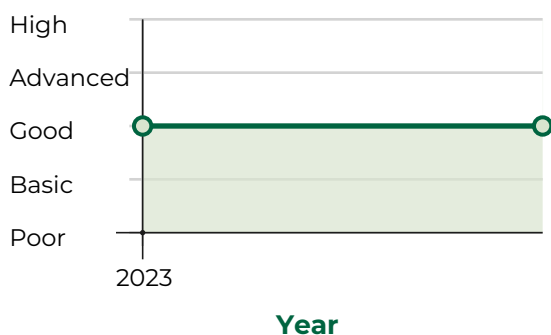
[None >](#)

Pitch 1 Football - Mini Soccer 5v5

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Good - 55%








































AREA				PQS GRADE
Grass height	40	40	40	3
Grass coverage	83%	90%	83%	2
Weed coverage	6%	2%	10%	2
Surface debris	Standard	Standard	Standard	2
Topsoil depth	100mm	190mm	190mm	4
Thatch depth	5mm	6mm	10mm	2
Root depth	80mm	100mm	110mm	3
Drainage Following Rainfall	Slow drainage			2
Line markings	Standard			1
Surface evenness	Standard			2
Goalposts	Compliant			1


Overall pitch PQS tracked over time



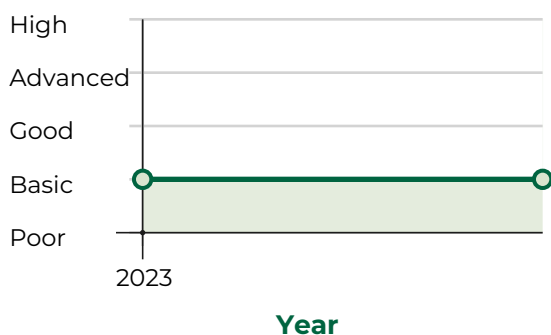
Pitch 2 Football - Mini Soccer 5v5

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Basic - 45%

AREA				PQS GRADE
Grass height	30 	35 	35 	3 
Grass coverage	42% 	70% 	76% 	1 
Weed coverage	48% 	16% 	12% 	0 
Surface debris	Standard 	Standard 	Standard 	2 
Topsoil depth	140mm 	130mm 	130mm 	2 
Thatch depth	5mm 	5mm 	5mm 	3 
Root depth	120mm 	85mm 	120mm 	3 
Drainage Following Rainfall	Slow drainage 			2 
Line markings	Standard 			1 
Surface evenness	Standard 			2 
Goalposts	Compliant 			1 

 Grass coverage cap: You received a score of Basic therefore your overall PQS has been capped at Basic

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time



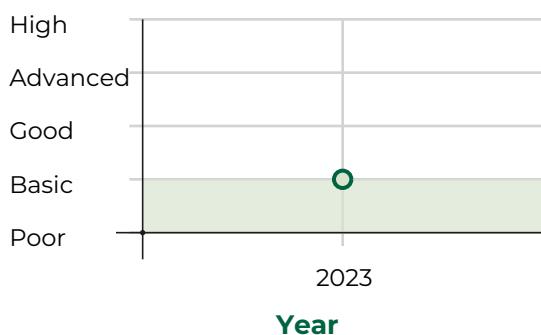
Pitch 3 Football - Mini Soccer 7v7

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Basic - 48%

AREA				PQS GRADE
Grass height	35	35	35	3
Grass coverage	72%	84%	74%	1
Weed coverage	21%	11%	16%	0
Surface debris	Standard	Above Standard	Standard	2
Topsoil depth	150mm	150mm	130mm	3
Thatch depth	5mm	2mm	5mm	3
Root depth	100mm	150mm	100mm	3
Drainage Following Rainfall	Slow drainage			2
Line markings	Standard			1
Surface evenness	Standard			2
Goalposts	Compliant			1




Grass coverage cap: You received a score of Basic therefore your overall PQS has been capped at Basic

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time

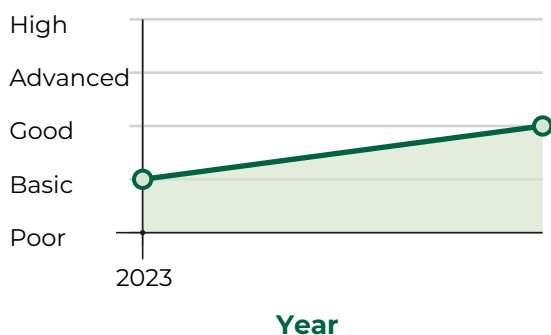


Pitch 4 Football - Junior Football 11v11

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Good - 55%

AREA				PQS GRADE
Grass height	35	35	35	3
Grass coverage	78%	78%	69%	2
Weed coverage	10%	15%	21%	0
Surface debris	Above Standard	Above Standard	Above Standard	4
Topsoil depth	150mm	200mm	150mm	3
Thatch depth	2mm	10mm	7mm	2
Root depth	120mm	150mm	150mm	4
Drainage Following Rainfall	Slow drainage			2
Line markings	Standard			1
Surface evenness	Standard			2
Goalposts	Compliant			1

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time



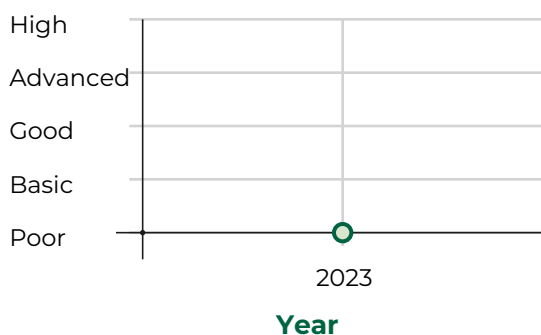
Pitch 5 Football - Mini Soccer 7v7

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Poor - 52%

AREA				PQS GRADE
Grass height	35	40	35	3
Grass coverage	57%	72%	41%	0
Weed coverage	33%	15%	43%	0
Surface debris	Above Standard	Above Standard	Above Standard	4
Topsoil depth	150mm	150mm	150mm	3
Thatch depth	3mm	2mm	4mm	3
Root depth	150mm	140mm	150mm	4
Drainage Following Rainfall	Slow drainage			2
Line markings	Standard			1
Surface evenness	Standard			2
Goalposts	Compliant			1

Grass coverage cap: You received a score of Poor therefore your overall PQS has been capped at Poor

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time

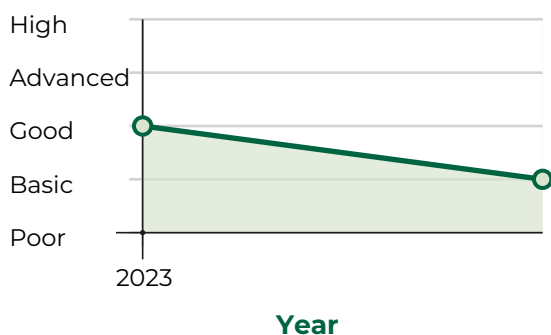


Pitch 6 Football - Mini Soccer 7v7

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Basic (Adjusted) - 57%




AREA				PQS GRADE
Grass height	45 ↓	40 ↑	40 —	3 —
Grass coverage	77% ↑	82% ↓	80% ↑	2 ↑
Weed coverage	13% ↓	10% ↓	10% —	2 ↓
Surface debris	Above Standard ↑	Above Standard ↑	Above Standard ↑	4 ↑
Topsoil depth	150mm ↑	150mm ↑	150mm ↑	3 ↑
Thatch depth	3mm ↓	10mm ↓	13mm ↓	1 ↓
Root depth	150mm ↑	150mm ↑	150mm ↑	4 ↑
Drainage Following Rainfall	Slow drainage —			2 —
Line markings	Standard —			1 —
Surface evenness	Standard —			2 —
Goalposts	Compliant —			1 —

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time

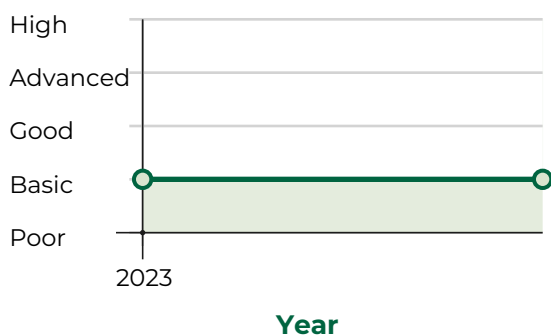


Pitch 7 Football - Junior Football 11v11

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Basic (Adjusted) - 59%

AREA				PQS GRADE
Grass height	40	35	40	3
Grass coverage	79%	61%	88%	2
Weed coverage	14%	37%	6%	1
Surface debris	Above Standard	Above Standard	Above Standard	4
Topsoil depth	150mm	150mm	150mm	3
Thatch depth	5mm	4mm	6mm	3
Root depth	150mm	150mm	150mm	4
Drainage Following Rainfall	Slow drainage			2
Line markings	Standard			1
Surface evenness	Standard			2
Goalposts	Compliant			1

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time



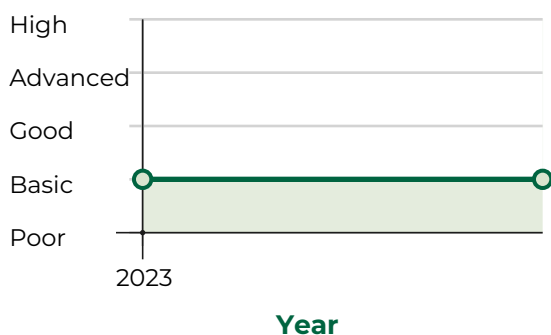
Pitch 8 Football - Adult Football

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Basic - 57%

AREA				PQS GRADE
Grass height	40	35	30	3
Grass coverage	66%	88%	64%	1
Weed coverage	30%	6%	11%	1
Surface debris	Above Standard	Above Standard	Above Standard	4
Topsoil depth	150mm	150mm	120mm	3
Thatch depth	5mm	5mm	5mm	3
Root depth	150mm	150mm	140mm	4
Drainage Following Rainfall	Slow drainage			2
Line markings	Standard			1
Surface evenness	Standard			2
Goalposts	Compliant			1

Grass coverage cap: You received a score of Basic therefore your overall PQS has been capped at Basic

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time





MAINTENANCE

These recommendations are in priority order

MOWING

Frequency:

Weekly

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

The playing area should be maintained at a playing height between 30-35mm during the growing season and increased to between 35-45mm during the autumn and winter months. There are exceptions to this, during drought periods height of cut should be increased to reduce stress on the plant and cutting avoided all together if growth has ceased. To minimise build-up of surface debris careful consideration should be given as to the conditions in which mowing takes place. Quality of cut will be maximised if cutting can take place when the grass leaf is dry, however cutting should not take place during the heat of a warm day as this will cause stress to the turf. No more than a third of the grass leaf should be mown during any one operation to minimise turf stress and reduce the build-up of grass clippings on the surface.

PLEASE NOTE: The indicative budget outlined in the report does not include mowing costs.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT MOWING >](#)



LINE MARKING

Frequency:

Weekly

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Lines should be marked to the appropriate dimensions with a suitable line marking paint. Strings should be used to straighten lines when possible. On multi pitch sites the use of GPS line marking technology to mark pitches out initially and periodically restraighen lines should be considered.

PLEASE NOTE: The indicative budget outlined in the report does not include line marking costs.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT LINE MARKING >](#)



DECOMPACTION

Frequency:

As Required

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£3000

Decompaction operations are essential to allow air, water and nutrients to pass into and through the soil profile increasing drainage and root depth/density and improving the breakdown of organic matter (Thatch). Deep spiking should be carried out at least once annually but ideally twice, spring and autumn using 18-24mm tines at 100mm spacings to maximum achievable depth. If funds permit conduct further linear aeration and decompaction operations during the autumn/winter month's dependent on ground conditions.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT DECOMPACTION >](#)



SLITTING

Frequency:

4 x per year

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Slitting provides aeration in the soil encouraging improved water, air and nutrient circulation in the soil. It is a quicker and less invasive method of aeration in comparison to deep spiking or linear decompaction and should take place more routinely as part of a routine maintenance schedule. Typically slitting would take place to a depth of between 150-220mm soil conditions allowing. Due to the slits created it can be particularly useful in the autumn when trying to improve the drainage of the soil prior to the wetter winter months. However as it creates lines of weakness in the soil it is not recommended on clay soils beyond the winter due to the risk of encouraging cracking during drought periods.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT SLITTING >](#)



GOAL MOUTH REPAIRS (IN SEASON)

Frequency:

Monthly

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£1920

Hand fork the goalmouths and gently apply heave to the fork to relieve compaction, if the area is bare scratching the top soil with a landscaping rake (plastic) to create a fine tilth. Top dress using a pan shovel with a suitable material (sports sand or sand/soil mix) to return the area to desired surface level, work the dressing into the surface as you go by brushing or raking, taking care not to smother any grass cover. If conditions are suitable add some grass seed, irrigate as required and cover with germination sheeting or scaffold netting if available.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT GOAL MOUTH REPAIRS
\(IN SEASON\) >](#)



SURFACE GROOMING

Frequency:

Fortnightly

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Any presence of worm casts should be alleviated by regular brushing of the surface providing the soil is dry enough as the right conditions are important to disperse the casts effectively. Worm casts are unsightly and can smear and cover fine turfgrasses. This would also help with thatch build up, dew dispersal and help to break up any surface debris. If use of a combination grooming tool could be organised regular use of this to rake and brush the area during the growing season and then to use the brush and surface slitter during the autumn and winter if soil conditions allow will help to relieve surface compaction, improve surface drainage and manage organic matter levels which can contribute to numerous turf problems. These operations will also alleviate the conditions in which many weeds and diseases thrive.

PLEASE NOTE: The indicative budget outlined in the report does not include implementing a surface grooming regime.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT SURFACE GROOMING >](#)



APPLICATION OF FERTILISER

Frequency:

As Required

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£3700

Experience has shown that where funds are limited and best value the principal concern application of a controlled or slow release granular fertiliser provides the best outcomes on pitches used for grassroots football. As a rough guide these types of fertiliser provide a slow “drip” feed of nutrients avoiding excessive grass growth that can be difficult to keep on top of and susceptible to disease. This release of nutrients can last for up to 4-5 months in certain products but more typically 3-4. Granular fertiliser has increased in cost in recent years so its really important to make sure that what you are applying to the area is appropriate and nothing is being wasted. A nutrient soil analysis that can usually be provided by your chosen supplier can help to make sure you’re using what’s most suitable for your site. Typically, whatever the preferred supplier a suitable fertiliser can be selected for spring/summer (Higher nitrogen content some phosphorus and medium potassium content) or autumn/winter (Low nitrogen content, no phosphorus and high potassium content. Approx. 12 x 20kg bags per full size pitch. Two applications per year would be considered the minimum in spring and late summer/early autumn given that drained pitches are more susceptible to leaching nutrients.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT APPLICATION OF FERTILISER >](#)



TOP DRESSING (RENOVATION)

Frequency:

As Required

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£9550

As per Sport England guidance where drainage has been installed annual topdressing at 6mm should be reapplied as part of maintenance works in the close season. This process will be necessary for at least three to five years following installation but is likely to be required on an annual basis for the lifetime of the drained pitches to ensure the connectivity between the pitch surface and secondary drains linking into the permeable backfill of the pipe drainage system below. One drawback with sand bands is that they can be capped with topsoil more easily, so this annual dressing is essential. It is essential that any sand dressings applied are of a compatible grade to that used for the sand bands and pipe trenches. Incompatible materials can lead to issues with surface drainage and cause root breaks leading to an unstable surface. Any top dressing should be obtained from a reputable source and specifically for sports turf.

Soft, builders, beach or play sand is not recommended as these types of sand do not have the correct drainage characteristics for natural turf sport pitches. If the top dressing is of poor quality it may change soil pH and stunt grass growth. You can make sure any materials used are compatible with your pitch construction by having a Particle Soil Distribution analysis undertaken by a suitable dressings supplier. Whilst sand bands are less susceptible



TOP DRESSING (RENOVATION) CONTINUED

to soil shrinkage problems than sand slits the need for potential top up dressings should be accounted for in any contingency budget.

If dressing localised areas (goal mouths) use a pan shovel to apply little and often is best practice and will avoid smothering the grass. Always keep dressing dry prior to and during application and brush/drag matt in when dry in several directions.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT TOP DRESSING
\(RENOVATION\) >](#)



OVERSEEDING (IN SEASON)

Frequency:

1 x per year

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£8450

In season over-seeding can be a viable option on sites where access to water is limited. Seeding in early spring and early autumn when weather conditions are more helpful can help to mitigate the risks of poor germination often seen on sites without irrigation when renovations are left till end of season and the risk of drought is higher. If choosing this option use of a disc seeder is crucial to make sure the grass seed is drilled into the pitch surface as this gives it some protection from play during germination. High traffic areas such as goal mouths are likely to still require end of season repairs. Disc seed in 3 directions at a rate of 35 grams per square metre (approximately 10-12 x 20kg bags of Perennial Ryegrass seed for a full-size pitch) If budgets are limited and over-seeding spring and autumn this can be done at half rate 18 grams per square meter per pitch, with budgets constraints in mind you could also consider concentrating on the width of the box/es down the length of the pitch where most of the wear takes place.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT OVERSEEDING \(IN SEASON\) >](#)



APPLICATION OF SELECTIVE HERBICIDE (WEED TREATMENT)

Frequency:

As Required

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£2050

As part of an Integrated Weed Management programme application of a broad spectrum selective herbicide may be required once per year if cultural controls are not adequately controlling the population within the defined tolerances. By way of an example a GOOD score for weed cover is for the pitch to have no more than 6-10% weed coverage. Selective herbicides should be applied by a fully qualified professional with the appropriate equipment and paperwork. It should typically not be applied within 6-8 weeks prior to or after seeding (refer to product label) Typically mowing should not take place for 3 days before and 3 days after application. (Do not apply in drought conditions it may damage the turf and will not treat weeds effectively). Selective herbicides should be sprayed in the dry with little to no wind. Most selective herbicides are rain fast within 24 hours of application. If rain falls prior to this it could affect the success of weed control. Work with the contractor to ensure the selective herbicide chosen controls the weeds on site. Most good quality systemic selective herbicides should control common weeds such as Daisy, Dandelion, Greater Plantain, Clover etc.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT APPLICATION OF
SELECTIVE HERBICIDE \(WEED TREATMENT\)>](#)

ESTIMATED BUDGET TO CARRY OUT RECOMMENDATIONS

£28670

Please note, the costs provided above are indicative and may vary dependent on quantities and frequency. This estimated budget should be used to help plan and prioritise work, but is not linked to the amount of grant funding you may receive. Following the recommended works should help you achieve the **GOOD** pitch standard, or if already at that level, sustain it.



EQUIPMENT

To carry out the maintenance specified above, we recommend the following equipment to carry out the activities.

NONE

If it were desirable for the organisation or affiliated site user to supplement contractor maintenance or bring in house funding may be available through the Football Foundation. The sort of equipment that is routinely funded includes, compact tractors, mowing equipment, grooming tools, fertiliser spreaders etc. Line markers can be included but only as part of a wider equipment application.

The Football Foundation will award a maximum grant of £50,000 that doesn't exceed 75% of the total project costs. Where a grant of over £50,000 or 75% of total project costs is required, the applicant should contact their County FA and/or Foundation Delivery Manager to discuss the project in more detail.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT NONE >](#)



TRAINING

As well as undertaking the maintenance activities as described above, we would also recommend attending the following training courses to further develop your skills and understanding of grass pitch maintenance.

[Click here for information on training courses.](#)

[VISIT TRAINING COURSES >](#)

Recommended Training

Jason Haley

Online Modules Level 2

[Read More >](#)

Stotfold Town Council

Online Modules Level 1 -
Football

[Read More >](#)



WANT TO APPLY FOR FUNDING?

FOOTBALL FOUNDATION FUNDING APPLICATION PORTAL

You could be eligible for a grant to help you carry out the recommendations in this report. Click 'Apply here' and you could be on your way to securing a grant and being a part of our mission to transform this country's grassroots game.

Report ID: **11805**

To apply for funding visit

[APPLY.FOOTBALLFOUNDATION.ORG.UK](https://apply.footballfoundation.org.uk)

Training Courses



Further information on any training courses you're recommended to complete can be found on the Grounds Management Association website.

[Visit the GMA >](#)

The Groundskeeping Community



Join the Football Foundation Groundskeeping Community to connect with groundskeepers across different levels of the game. You'll be able to ask questions and share best practice.

[Visit the Groundskeeping Community >](#)

Find out more about the Football Foundation's plan to transform the country's grass pitches

Visit our website, which has lots of information about other resources and funding opportunities we're offering organisations involved in the grassroots game.

[FOOTBALLFOUNDATION.ORG.UK >](https://footballfoundation.org.uk)



PITCHPOWER

**Powered by
Football Foundation**

FOOTBALL ASSESSMENT REPORT

HITCHIN ROAD RECREATION GROUND

Bedfordshire FA

Active Places Site ID

6016976

Report ID

12012



This report has been compiled for STOTFOLD TOWN COUNCIL and Bedfordshire FA to provide information on the standard of the football pitches and outlines recommendations on how to improve the quality and maintenance of these pitches.

Inspection Window

4 JUL 2023 / 31 OCT 2023

Inspection Reason

EXISTING FOOTBALL FOUNDATION GRANT

Report Completion Date

26 OCT 2023

This report looks solely at the Football pitches for STOTFOLD TOWN COUNCIL to see how support can be offered in improving the standard of Football pitches and level of maintenance across the area. Please note these recommendations are based on the information obtained and/or provided and are for guidance purposes only. Any works undertaken are the responsibility of the club/organisation.

Site report:

HITCHIN ROAD RECREATION GROUND





HITCHIN ROAD RECREATION GROUND

Site ID: 6016976



Map Key	Pitch Name	PQS Score
1	PITCH 1	● Advanced - 59%

Date inspection submitted
20/10/23

Inspection submitted by
jason@aas.co.uk

Next available inspection window
1 Nov 2023 / 31 Mar 2024



Please be mindful that the recommendations made in this report are based on the condition of the pitch at the time of the inspection. Pitch quality appeared consistent throughout and but for patches of Clover desirable grass cover looked very good. Grass height was too long in relation to acceptable heights for play but the pitch may have been due a cut. Soils were compacted and deep spiking with a small amount of heave will help this. With the ground cover measured from 100% where bare ground and/or weed coverage make up more than 25% the grass coverage cannot attain the 75% required to constitute a GOOD graded pitch at this time of year, the pitch comfortably exceeded this threshold. It is presumed there is no irrigation on site so light touch renovations in the autumn and spring will probably provide better outcomes on this site than a one hit traditional end of season renovation approach and would typically include light scarification (spring and autumn), sand dressing (if budgets allow please ensure other critical works are carried out first before spending large amounts money on sports sand), half rate disc seeding and fertilisation (spring and autumn) and deep spiking of the pitch (spring and autumn). These works can take place while the pitch is in use and grass seed should germinate and establish in all but the highest use areas such as goal mouths which will require regular repairs during the season and more significant repairs when not in use. Selective weed control may be required next growing season as part of an Integrated Weed Management programme if cultural practices (scarification, surface grooming, over-seeding) are not effective in adequately controlling the weed coverage within the desired threshold (6-10% weed cover for "start of season" PQS) but while this should take place during the growing season it should not take place during drought periods. Slitting in the autumn and early winter will improve the soil structure and drainage potential of the pitch but no later than this so it does not contribute to any potential for surface cracking that can be more of a risk during summer months. It's too late in the growing season now to consider selective weed control.

Senior Regional Pitch Advisor contact

jmorris@thegma.org.uk

07519103040



Maintenance

Attention required in these areas:

[Mowing >](#)

[Line marking >](#)

[Decompaction >](#)

[Slitting >](#)

[Goal mouth repairs \(In season\) >](#)

[Surface Grooming >](#)

[Application of fertiliser >](#)

[Overseeding \(In Season\) >](#)

[Application of selective herbicide \(weed treatment\) >](#)








































Equipment

Attention required in these areas:

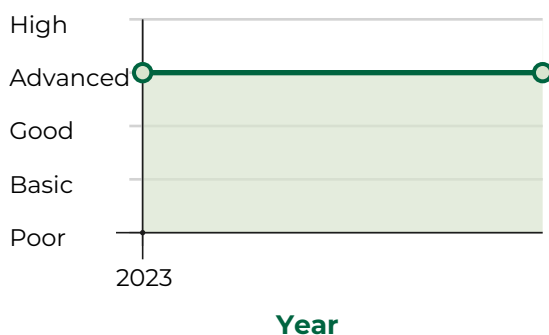
[None >](#)

Pitch 1 Football - Adult Football

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Advanced - 59%

AREA				PQS GRADE
Grass height	45 	50 	70 	2 
Grass coverage	94% 	92% 	79% 	3 
Weed coverage	3% 	4% 	19% 	3 
Surface debris	Standard 	Standard 	Standard 	2 
Topsoil depth	160mm 	150mm 	155mm 	3 
Thatch depth	10mm 	5mm 	5mm 	3 
Root depth	140mm 	120mm 	130mm 	4 
Drainage Following Rainfall	Slow drainage 			2 
Line markings	Standard 			1 
Surface evenness	Standard 			2 
Goalposts	Compliant 			1 

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time





MAINTENANCE

These recommendations are in priority order

MOWING

Frequency:

Weekly

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

The playing area should be maintained at a playing height between 30-35mm during the growing season and increased to between 35-45mm during the autumn and winter months. There are exceptions to this, during drought periods height of cut should be increased to reduce stress on the plant and cutting avoided all together if growth has ceased. To minimise build-up of surface debris careful consideration should be given as to the conditions in which mowing takes place. Quality of cut will be maximised if cutting can take place when the grass leaf is dry, however cutting should not take place during the heat of a warm day as this will cause stress to the turf. No more than a third of the grass leaf should be mown during any one operation to minimise turf stress and reduce the build-up of grass clippings on the surface.

PLEASE NOTE: The indicative budget outlined in the report does not include mowing costs.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT MOWING >](#)



LINE MARKING

Frequency:

Weekly

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Lines should be marked to the appropriate dimensions with a suitable line marking paint. Strings should be used to straighten lines when possible.

PLEASE NOTE: The indicative budget outlined in the report does not include line marking costs.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT LINE MARKING >](#)



DECOMPACTION

Frequency:

2 x per year

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£1000

Decompaction operations are essential to allow air, water and nutrients to pass into and through the soil profile increasing drainage and root depth/density and improving the breakdown of organic matter (Thatch). Deep spiking should be carried out at least once annually but ideally twice, spring and autumn using 18-24mm tines at 100mm spacings to maximum achievable depth. If funds permit conduct further linear aeration and decompaction operations during the autumn/winter month's dependent on ground conditions.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT DECOMPACTION >](#)



SLITTING

Frequency:

More than 4 x per year

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Slitting provides aeration in the soil encouraging improved water, air and nutrient circulation in the soil. It is a quicker and less invasive method of aeration in comparison to deep spiking or linear decompaction and should take place more routinely as part of a routine maintenance schedule. Typically slitting would take place to a depth of between 150-220mm soil conditions allowing. Due to the slits created it can be particularly useful in the autumn when trying to improve the drainage of the soil prior to the wetter winter months. However as it creates lines of weakness in the soil it is not recommended on clay soils beyond the winter due to the risk of encouraging cracking during drought periods.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT SLITTING >](#)



GOAL MOUTH REPAIRS (IN SEASON)

Frequency:

Monthly

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£240

Hand fork the goalmouths and gently apply heave to the fork to relieve compaction, if the area is bare scratching the top soil with a landscaping rake (plastic) to create a fine tilth. Top dress using a pan shovel with a suitable material (sports sand or sand/soil mix) to return the area to desired surface level, work the dressing into the surface as you go by brushing or raking, taking care not to smother any grass cover. If conditions are suitable add some grass seed, irrigate as required and cover with germination sheeting or scaffold netting if available.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT GOAL MOUTH REPAIRS
\(IN SEASON\) >](#)



SURFACE GROOMING

Frequency:

Weekly

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Any presence of worm casts should be alleviated by regular brushing of the surface providing the soil is dry enough as the right conditions are important to disperse the casts effectively. Worm casts are unsightly and can smear and cover fine turfgrasses. This would also help with thatch build up, dew dispersal and help to break up any surface debris. If use of a combination grooming tool could be organised regular use of this to rake and brush the area during the growing season and then to use the brush and surface slitter during the autumn and winter if soil conditions allow will help to relieve surface compaction, improve surface drainage and manage organic matter levels which can contribute to numerous turf problems. These operations will also alleviate the conditions in which many weeds and diseases thrive.

PLEASE NOTE: The indicative budget outlined in the report does not include implementing a surface grooming regime.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT SURFACE GROOMING >](#)



APPLICATION OF FERTILISER

Frequency:

As Required

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£650

Experience has shown that where funds are limited and best value the principal concern application of a controlled or slow release granular fertiliser provides the best outcomes on pitches used for grassroots football. As a rough guide these types of fertiliser provide a slow “drip” feed of nutrients avoiding excessive grass growth that can be difficult to keep on top of and susceptible to disease. This release of nutrients can last for up to 4-5 months in certain products but more typically 3-4. Granular fertiliser has increased in cost in recent years so its really important to make sure that what you are applying to the area is appropriate and nothing is being wasted. A nutrient soil analysis that can usually be provided by your chosen supplier can help to make sure you’re using what’s most suitable for your site. Typically, whatever the preferred supplier a suitable fertiliser can be selected for spring/summer (Higher nitrogen content some phosphorus and medium potassium content) or autumn/winter (Low nitrogen content, no phosphorus and high potassium content. Approx. 12 x 20kg bags per full size pitch. One application per year would be considered the minimum in spring but ideally at least two with the second in late summer/early autumn.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT APPLICATION OF FERTILISER >](#)



OVERSEEDING (IN SEASON)

Frequency:

As Required

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£1400

In season over-seeding can be a viable option on sites where access to water is limited. Seeding in early spring and early autumn when weather conditions are more helpful can help to mitigate the risks of poor germination often seen on sites without irrigation when renovations are left till end of season and the risk of drought is higher. If choosing this option use of a disc seeder is crucial to make sure the grass seed is drilled into the pitch surface as this gives it some protection from play during germination. High traffic areas such as goal mouths are likely to still require end of season repairs. Disc seed in 3 directions at a rate of 35 grams per square metre (approximately 10-12 x 20kg bags of Perennial Ryegrass seed for a full-size pitch) If budgets are limited and over-seeding spring and autumn this can be done at half rate 18 grams per square meter per pitch, with budgets constraints in mind you could also consider concentrating on the width of the box/es down the length of the pitch where most of the wear takes place.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT OVERSEEDING \(IN SEASON\) >](#)



APPLICATION OF SELECTIVE HERBICIDE (WEED TREATMENT)

Frequency:

As Required

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£350

As part of an Integrated Weed Management programme application of a broad spectrum selective herbicide may be required once per year if cultural controls are not adequately controlling the population within the defined tolerances. By way of an example a GOOD score for weed cover is for the pitch to have no more than 6-10% weed coverage. Selective herbicides should be applied by a fully qualified professional with the appropriate equipment and paperwork. It should typically not be applied within 6-8 weeks prior to or after seeding (refer to product label) Typically mowing should not take place for 3 days before and 3 days after application. (Do not apply in drought conditions it may damage the turf and will not treat weeds effectively). Selective herbicides should be sprayed in the dry with little to no wind. Most selective herbicides are rain fast within 24 hours of application. If rain falls prior to this it could affect the success of weed control. Work with the contractor to ensure the selective herbicide chosen controls the weeds on site. Most good quality systemic selective herbicides should control common weeds such as Daisy, Dandelion, Greater Plantain, Clover etc.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT APPLICATION OF
SELECTIVE HERBICIDE \(WEED TREATMENT\)>](#)

ESTIMATED BUDGET TO CARRY OUT RECOMMENDATIONS

£3640

Please note, the costs provided above are indicative and may vary dependent on quantities and frequency. This estimated budget should be used to help plan and prioritise work, but is not linked to the amount of grant funding you may receive. Following the recommended works should help you achieve the **GOOD** pitch standard, or if already at that level, sustain it.



EQUIPMENT

To carry out the maintenance specified above, we recommend the following equipment to carry out the activities.

NONE

If it were desirable for the organisation or affiliated site user to supplement contractor maintenance or bring in house funding may be available through the Football Foundation. The sort of equipment that is routinely funded includes, compact tractors, mowing equipment, grooming tools, fertiliser spreaders etc. Line markers can be included but only as part of a wider equipment application.

The Football Foundation will award a maximum grant of £50,000 that doesn't exceed 75% of the total project costs. Where a grant of over £50,000 or 75% of total project costs is required, the applicant should contact their County FA and/or Foundation Delivery Manager to discuss the project in more detail.

LEARN MORE ABOUT NONE >



TRAINING

As well as undertaking the maintenance activities as described above, we would also recommend attending the following training courses to further develop your skills and understanding of grass pitch maintenance.

[Click here for information on training courses.](#)

[VISIT TRAINING COURSES >](#)

Recommended Training

Jason Haley

Online Modules Level 2

[Read More >](#)

Stotfold Town Council

Online Modules Level 1 -
Football

[Read More >](#)



WANT TO APPLY FOR FUNDING?

FOOTBALL FOUNDATION FUNDING APPLICATION PORTAL

You could be eligible for a grant to help you carry out the recommendations in this report. Click 'Apply here' and you could be on your way to securing a grant and being a part of our mission to transform this country's grassroots game.

Report ID: **12012**

To apply for funding visit

[APPLY.FOOTBALLFOUNDATION.ORG.UK](https://apply.footballfoundation.org.uk)

Training Courses



Further information on any training courses you're recommended to complete can be found on the Grounds Management Association website.

[Visit the GMA >](#)

The Groundskeeping Community



Join the Football Foundation Groundskeeping Community to connect with groundskeepers across different levels of the game. You'll be able to ask questions and share best practice.

[Visit the Groundskeeping Community >](#)

Find out more about the Football Foundation's plan to transform the country's grass pitches

Visit our website, which has lots of information about other resources and funding opportunities we're offering organisations involved in the grassroots game.

[FOOTBALLFOUNDATION.ORG.UK >](https://footballfoundation.org.uk)



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Football Foundation**

FOOTBALL ASSESSMENT REPORT

RIVERSIDE PLAYING FIELDS

Bedfordshire FA

Active Places Site ID

1038940

Report ID

12050



This report has been compiled for STOTFOLD TOWN COUNCIL and Bedfordshire FA to provide information on the standard of the football pitches and outlines recommendations on how to improve the quality and maintenance of these pitches.

Inspection Window

4 JUL 2023 / 31 OCT 2023

Inspection Reason

EXISTING FOOTBALL FOUNDATION GRANT

Report Completion Date

26 OCT 2023

This report looks solely at the Football pitches for STOTFOLD TOWN COUNCIL to see how support can be offered in improving the standard of Football pitches and level of maintenance across the area. Please note these recommendations are based on the information obtained and/or provided and are for guidance purposes only. Any works undertaken are the responsibility of the club/organisation.

Site report:

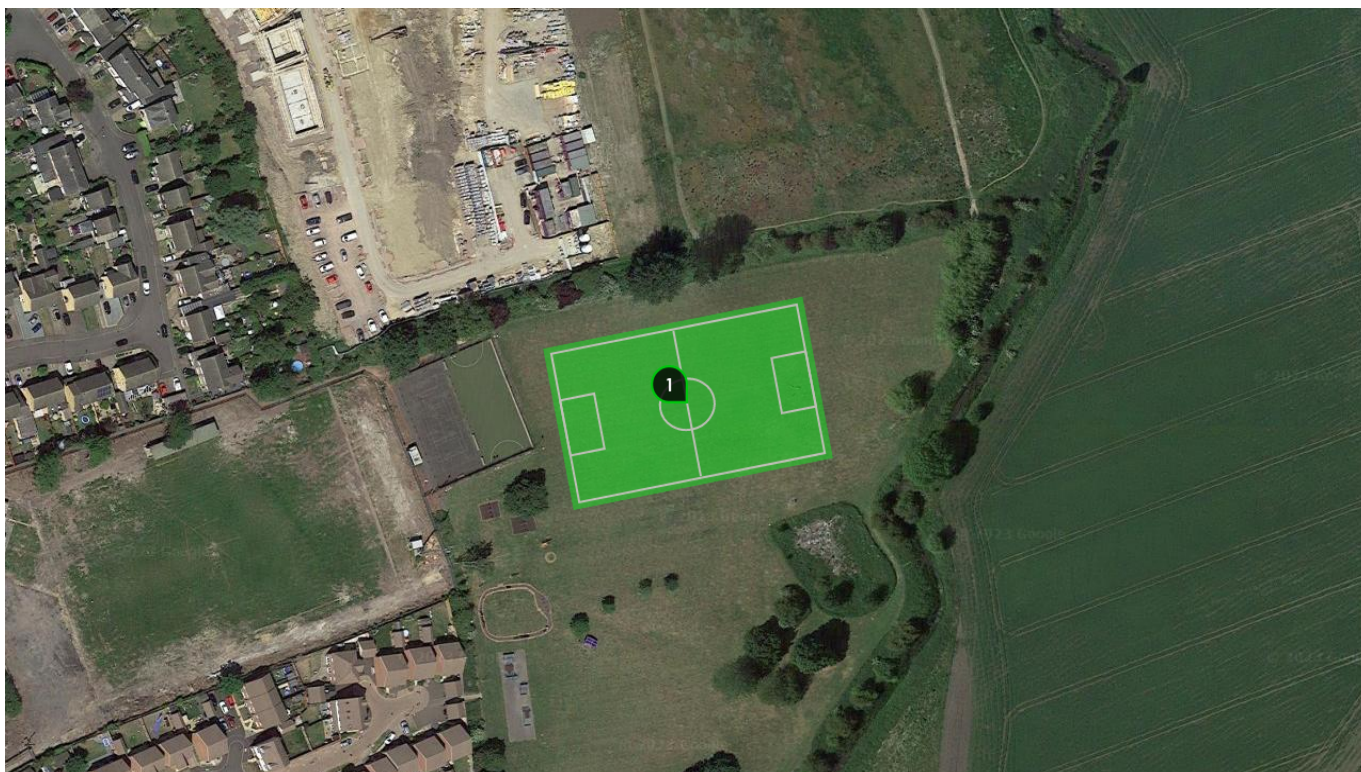
RIVERSIDE PLAYING FIELDS





RIVERSIDE PLAYING FIELDS

Site ID: 1038940



Map Key	Pitch Name	PQS Score
1	PITCH 1	● Good - 45%

Date inspection submitted
20/10/23

Inspection submitted by
jason@aas.co.uk

Next available inspection window
1 Nov 2023 / 31 Mar 2024



Please be mindful that the recommendations made in this report are based on the condition of the pitch at the time of the inspection. Pitch quality appeared consistent throughout and desirable grass cover looked very good. Grass height was too long in relation to acceptable heights for play but the pitch may have been due a cut. Soils were compacted and deep spiking with a small amount of heave will help this. With the ground cover measured from 100% where bare ground and/or weed coverage make up more than 25% the grass coverage cannot attain the 75% required to constitute a GOOD graded pitch at this time of year, the pitch comfortably met this threshold. It is presumed there is no irrigation on site so light touch renovations in the autumn and spring will probably provide better outcomes on this site than a one hit traditional end of season renovation approach and would typically include light scarification (spring and autumn), sand dressing (if budgets allow please ensure other critical works are carried out first before spending large amounts money on sports sand), half rate disc seeding and fertilisation (spring and autumn) and deep spiking of the pitch (spring and autumn). These works can take place while the pitch is in use and grass seed should germinate and establish in all but the highest use areas such as goal mouths which will require regular repairs during the season and more significant repairs when not in use. Selective weed control may be required next growing season as part of an Integrated Weed Management programme if cultural practices (scarification, surface grooming, over-seeding) are not effective in adequately controlling the weed coverage within the desired threshold (6-10% weed cover for "start of season" PQS) but while this should take place during the growing season it should not take place during drought periods. Slitting in the autumn and early winter will improve the soil structure and drainage potential of the pitch but no later than this so it does not contribute to any potential for surface cracking that can be more of a risk during summer months. It's too late in the growing season now to consider selective weed control.

Senior Regional Pitch Advisor contact

jmorris@thegma.org.uk

07519103040



Maintenance

Attention required in these areas:

[Mowing >](#)

[Line marking >](#)

[Decompaction >](#)

[Slitting >](#)

[Goal mouth repairs \(In season\) >](#)

[Surface Grooming >](#)

[Application of fertiliser >](#)

[Overseeding \(In Season\) >](#)

[Application of selective herbicide \(weed treatment\) >](#)

Equipment

Attention required in these areas:

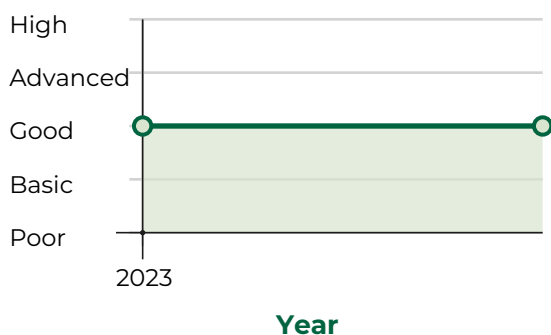
[None >](#)

Pitch 1 Football - Junior Football 11v11

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Good - 45%

AREA				PQS GRADE
Grass height	90 ↓	70 ↓	60 —	1 —
Grass coverage	98% ↑	100% ↑	95% ↑	4 ↑
Weed coverage	2% —	0% —	5% ↓	4 —
Surface debris	Standard —	Standard —	Standard —	2 —
Topsoil depth	170mm ↓	150mm ↓	160mm ↓	3 ↓
Thatch depth	20mm ↓	10mm ↓	15mm ↓	0 ↓
Root depth	140mm —	120mm ↓	120mm —	3 ↓
Drainage Following Rainfall	Slow drainage —			2 —
Line markings	Below standard —			0 —
Surface evenness	Below standard ↓			0 ↓
Goalposts	Compliant —			1 —

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time





MAINTENANCE

These recommendations are in priority order

MOWING

Frequency:

Weekly

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

The playing area should be maintained at a playing height between 30-35mm during the growing season and increased to between 35-45mm during the autumn and winter months. There are exceptions to this, during drought periods height of cut should be increased to reduce stress on the plant and cutting avoided all together if growth has ceased. To minimise build-up of surface debris careful consideration should be given as to the conditions in which mowing takes place. Quality of cut will be maximised if cutting can take place when the grass leaf is dry, however cutting should not take place during the heat of a warm day as this will cause stress to the turf. No more than a third of the grass leaf should be mown during any one operation to minimise turf stress and reduce the build-up of grass clippings on the surface.

PLEASE NOTE: The indicative budget outlined in the report does not include mowing costs.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT MOWING >](#)



LINE MARKING

Frequency:

Weekly

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Lines should be marked to the appropriate dimensions with a suitable line marking paint. Lines should be clearly visible when the pitches are in use.

PLEASE NOTE: The indicative budget outlined in the report does not include mowing costs.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT LINE MARKING >](#)



DECOMPACTION

Frequency:

2 x per year

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£1000

Decompaction operations are essential to allow air, water and nutrients to pass into and through the soil profile increasing drainage and root depth/density and improving the breakdown of organic matter (Thatch). Deep spiking should be carried out at least once annually but ideally twice, spring and autumn using 18-24mm tines at 100mm spacings to maximum achievable depth. If funds permit conduct further linear aeration and decompaction operations during the autumn/winter month's dependent on ground conditions.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT DECOMPACTION >](#)



SLITTING

Frequency:

More than 4 x per year

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Slitting provides aeration in the soil encouraging improved water, air and nutrient circulation in the soil. It is a quicker and less invasive method of aeration in comparison to deep spiking or linear decompaction and should take place more routinely as part of a routine maintenance schedule. Typically slitting would take place to a depth of between 150-220mm soil conditions allowing. Due to the slits created it can be particularly useful in the autumn when trying to improve the drainage of the soil prior to the wetter winter months. However as it creates lines of weakness in the soil it is not recommended on clay soils beyond the winter due to the risk of encouraging cracking during drought periods

[LEARN MORE ABOUT SLITTING >](#)



GOAL MOUTH REPAIRS (IN SEASON)

Frequency:

Monthly

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£240

Hand fork the goalmouths and gently apply heave to the fork to relieve compaction, if the area is bare scratching the top soil with a landscaping rake (plastic) to create a fine tilth. Top dress using a pan shovel with a suitable material (sports sand or sand/soil mix) to return the area to desired surface level, work the dressing into the surface as you go by brushing or raking, taking care not to smother any grass cover. If conditions are suitable add some grass seed, irrigate as required and cover with germination sheeting or scaffold netting if available.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT GOAL MOUTH REPAIRS
\(IN SEASON\) >](#)



SURFACE GROOMING

Frequency:

Weekly

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Any presence of worm casts should be alleviated by regular brushing of the surface providing the soil is dry enough as the right conditions are important to disperse the casts effectively. Worm casts are unsightly and can smear and cover fine turfgrasses. This would also help with thatch build up, dew dispersal and help to break up any surface debris. If use of a combination grooming tool could be organised regular use of this to rake and brush the area during the growing season and then to use the brush and surface slitter during the autumn and winter if soil conditions allow will help to relieve surface compaction, improve surface drainage and manage organic matter levels which can contribute to numerous turf problems. These operations will also alleviate the conditions in which many weeds and diseases thrive.

PLEASE NOTE: The indicative budget outlined in the report does not include implementing a surface grooming regime.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT SURFACE GROOMING >](#)



APPLICATION OF FERTILISER

Frequency:

As Required

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£650

Experience has shown that where funds are limited and best value the principal concern application of a controlled or slow release granular fertiliser provides the best outcomes on pitches used for grassroots football. As a rough guide these types of fertiliser provide a slow “drip” feed of nutrients avoiding excessive grass growth that can be difficult to keep on top of and susceptible to disease. This release of nutrients can last for up to 4-5 months in certain products but more typically 3-4. Granular fertiliser has increased in cost in recent years so its really important to make sure that what you are applying to the area is appropriate and nothing is being wasted. A nutrient soil analysis that can usually be provided by your chosen supplier can help to make sure you’re using what’s most suitable for your site. Typically, whatever the preferred supplier a suitable fertiliser can be selected for spring/summer (Higher nitrogen content some phosphorus and medium potassium content) or autumn/winter (Low nitrogen content, no phosphorus and high potassium content. Approx. 12 x 20kg bags per full size pitch. One application per year would be considered the minimum in spring but ideally at least two with the second in late summer/early autumn.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT APPLICATION OF FERTILISER >](#)



OVERSEEDING (IN SEASON)

Frequency:

As Required

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£1400

In season over-seeding can be a viable option on sites where access to water is limited. Seeding in early spring and early autumn when weather conditions are more helpful can help to mitigate the risks of poor germination often seen on sites without irrigation when renovations are left till end of season and the risk of drought is higher. If choosing this option use of a disc seeder is crucial to make sure the grass seed is drilled into the pitch surface as this gives it some protection from play during germination. High traffic areas such as goal mouths are likely to still require end of season repairs. Disc seed in 3 directions at a rate of 35 grams per square metre (approximately 10-12 x 20kg bags of Perennial Ryegrass seed for a full-size pitch) If budgets are limited and over-seeding spring and autumn this can be done at half rate 18 grams per square meter per pitch, with budgets constraints in mind you could also consider concentrating on the width of the box/es down the length of the pitch where most of the wear takes place.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT OVERSEEDING \(IN SEASON\) >](#)



APPLICATION OF SELECTIVE HERBICIDE (WEED TREATMENT)

Frequency:

As Required

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£350

As part of an Integrated Weed Management programme application of a broad spectrum selective herbicide may be required once per year if cultural controls are not adequately controlling the population within the defined tolerances. By way of an example a GOOD score for weed cover is for the pitch to have no more than 6-10% weed coverage. Selective herbicides should be applied by a fully qualified professional with the appropriate equipment and paperwork. It should typically not be applied within 6-8 weeks prior to or after seeding (refer to product label) Typically mowing should not take place for 3 days before and 3 days after application. (Do not apply in drought conditions it may damage the turf and will not treat weeds effectively). Selective herbicides should be sprayed in the dry with little to no wind. Most selective herbicides are rain fast within 24 hours of application. If rain falls prior to this it could affect the success of weed control. Work with the contractor to ensure the selective herbicide chosen controls the weeds on site. Most good quality systemic selective herbicides should control common weeds such as Daisy, Dandelion, Greater Plantain, Clover etc.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT APPLICATION OF
SELECTIVE HERBICIDE \(WEED TREATMENT\)>](#)

ESTIMATED BUDGET TO CARRY OUT RECOMMENDATIONS

£3640

Please note, the costs provided above are indicative and may vary dependent on quantities and frequency. This estimated budget should be used to help plan and prioritise work, but is not linked to the amount of grant funding you may receive. Following the recommended works should help you achieve the **GOOD** pitch standard, or if already at that level, sustain it.



EQUIPMENT

To carry out the maintenance specified above, we recommend the following equipment to carry out the activities.

NONE

If it were desirable for the organisation or affiliated site user to supplement contractor maintenance or bring in house funding may be available through the Football Foundation. The sort of equipment that is routinely funded includes, compact tractors, mowing equipment, grooming tools, fertiliser spreaders etc. Line markers can be included but only as part of a wider equipment application.

The Football Foundation will award a maximum grant of £50,000 that doesn't exceed 75% of the total project costs. Where a grant of over £50,000 or 75% of total project costs is required, the applicant should contact their County FA and/or Foundation Delivery Manager to discuss the project in more detail.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT NONE >](#)



TRAINING

As well as undertaking the maintenance activities as described above, we would also recommend attending the following training courses to further develop your skills and understanding of grass pitch maintenance.

[Click here for information on training courses.](#)

[VISIT TRAINING COURSES >](#)

Recommended Training

Jason Haley

Online Modules Level 2

[Read More >](#)

Stotfold Town Council

Online Modules Level 1 -
Football

[Read More >](#)



WANT TO APPLY FOR FUNDING?

FOOTBALL FOUNDATION FUNDING APPLICATION PORTAL

You could be eligible for a grant to help you carry out the recommendations in this report. Click 'Apply here' and you could be on your way to securing a grant and being a part of our mission to transform this country's grassroots game.

Report ID: **12050**

To apply for funding visit

[APPLY.FOOTBALLFOUNDATION.ORG.UK](https://apply.footballfoundation.org.uk)

Training Courses



Further information on any training courses you're recommended to complete can be found on the Grounds Management Association website.

[Visit the GMA >](#)

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Find out more about the Football Foundation's plan to transform the country's grass pitches

Visit our website, which has lots of information about other resources and funding opportunities we're offering organisations involved in the grassroots game.

[FOOTBALLFOUNDATION.ORG.UK >](https://footballfoundation.org.uk)



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FOOTBALL ASSESSMENT REPORT

THE GREEN (STOTFOLD)

Bedfordshire FA

Active Places Site ID

30010138

Report ID

12047



This report has been compiled for STOTFOLD TOWN COUNCIL and Bedfordshire FA to provide information on the standard of the football pitches and outlines recommendations on how to improve the quality and maintenance of these pitches.

Inspection Window

4 JUL 2023 / 31 OCT 2023

Inspection Reason

EXISTING FOOTBALL FOUNDATION GRANT

Report Completion Date

26 OCT 2023

This report looks solely at the Football pitches for STOTFOLD TOWN COUNCIL to see how support can be offered in improving the standard of Football pitches and level of maintenance across the area. Please note these recommendations are based on the information obtained and/or provided and are for guidance purposes only. Any works undertaken are the responsibility of the club/organisation.

Site report:

THE GREEN (STOTFOLD)





THE GREEN (STOTFOLD)

Site ID: 30010138



Map Key	Pitch Name	PQS Score
1	PITCH 1	● Advanced - 61%

Date inspection submitted
20/10/23

Inspection submitted by
jason@aas.co.uk

Next available inspection window
1 Nov 2023 / 31 Mar 2024



Please be mindful that the recommendations made in this report are based on the condition of the pitch at the time of the inspection. Pitch quality appeared consistent throughout and desirable grass cover looked very good. Grass height was much too long in relation to acceptable heights for play but the pitch may have been due a cut. Soils were compacted and deep spiking with a small amount of heave will help this. With the ground cover measured from 100% where bare ground and/or weed coverage make up more than 25% the grass coverage cannot attain the 75% required to constitute a GOOD graded pitch at this time of year, the pitch comfortably exceeded this threshold. It is presumed there is no irrigation on site so light touch renovations in the autumn and spring will probably provide better outcomes on this site than a one hit traditional end of season renovation approach and would typically include light scarification (spring and autumn), sand dressing (if budgets allow please ensure other critical works are carried out first before spending large amounts money on sports sand), half rate disc seeding and fertilisation (spring and autumn) and deep spiking of the pitch (spring and autumn). These works can take place while the pitch is in use and grass seed should germinate and establish in all but the highest use areas such as goal mouths which will require regular repairs during the season and more significant repairs when not in use. Selective weed control may be required next growing season as part of an Integrated Weed Management programme if cultural practices (scarification, surface grooming, over-seeding) are not effective in adequately controlling the weed coverage within the desired threshold (6-10% weed cover for "start of season" PQS) but while this should take place during the growing season it should not take place during drought periods. Slitting in the autumn and early winter will improve the soil structure and drainage potential of the pitch but no later than this so it does not contribute to any potential for surface cracking that can be more of a risk during summer months. It's too late in the growing season now to consider selective weed control.

Senior Regional Pitch Advisor contact

jmorris@thegma.org.uk

07519103040



Maintenance

Attention required in these areas:

[Mowing >](#)

[Line marking >](#)

[Decompaction >](#)

[Slitting >](#)

[Goal mouth repairs \(In season\) >](#)

[Application of fertiliser >](#)

[Surface Grooming >](#)

[Overseeding \(In Season\) >](#)

[Application of selective herbicide \(weed treatment\) >](#)

Equipment

Attention required in these areas:

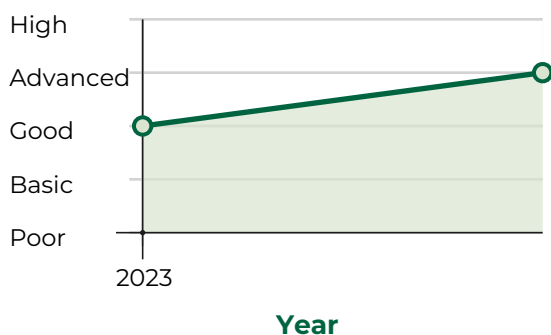
[None >](#)

Pitch 1 Football - Junior Football 9v9

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Advanced - 61%

AREA				PQS GRADE
Grass height	65	65	75	1
Grass coverage	98%	95%	98%	4
Weed coverage	0%	0%	0%	4
Surface debris	Standard	Standard	Standard	2
Topsoil depth	150mm	150mm	140mm	3
Thatch depth	5mm	5mm	8mm	3
Root depth	130mm	130mm	120mm	4
Drainage Following Rainfall	Slow drainage			2
Line markings	Standard			1
Surface evenness	Standard			2
Goalposts	Compliant			1

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time





MAINTENANCE

These recommendations are in priority order

MOWING

Frequency:

Weekly

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

The playing area should be maintained at a playing height between 30-35mm during the growing season and increased to between 35-45mm during the autumn and winter months. There are exceptions to this, during drought periods height of cut should be increased to reduce stress on the plant and cutting avoided all together if growth has ceased. To minimise build-up of surface debris careful consideration should be given as to the conditions in which mowing takes place. Quality of cut will be maximised if cutting can take place when the grass leaf is dry, however cutting should not take place during the heat of a warm day as this will cause stress to the turf. No more than a third of the grass leaf should be mown during any one operation to minimise turf stress and reduce the build-up of grass clippings on the surface.

PLEASE NOTE: The indicative budget outlined in the report does not include mowing costs.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT MOWING >](#)



LINE MARKING

Frequency:

Weekly

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Lines should be marked to the appropriate dimensions with a suitable line marking paint. Lines should be clearly visible when the pitches are in use.

PLEASE NOTE: The indicative budget outlined in the report does not include mowing costs.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT LINE MARKING >](#)



DECOMPACTION

Frequency:

2 x per year

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£700

Decompaction operations are essential to allow air, water and nutrients to pass into and through the soil profile increasing drainage and root depth/density and improving the breakdown of organic matter (Thatch). Deep spiking should be carried out at least once annually but ideally twice, spring and autumn using 18-24mm tines at 100mm spacings to maximum achievable depth. If funds permit conduct further linear aeration and decompaction operations during the autumn/winter month's dependent on ground conditions.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT DECOMPACTION >](#)



SLITTING

Frequency:

More than 4 x per year

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Slitting provides aeration in the soil encouraging improved water, air and nutrient circulation in the soil. It is a quicker and less invasive method of aeration in comparison to deep spiking or linear decompaction and should take place more routinely as part of a routine maintenance schedule. Typically slitting would take place to a depth of between 150-220mm soil conditions allowing. Due to the slits created it can be particularly useful in the autumn when trying to improve the drainage of the soil prior to the wetter winter months. However as it creates lines of weakness in the soil it is not recommended on clay soils beyond the winter due to the risk of encouraging cracking during drought periods.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT SLITTING >](#)



GOAL MOUTH REPAIRS (IN SEASON)

Frequency:

Monthly

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£240

Hand fork the goalmouths and gently apply heave to the fork to relieve compaction, if the area is bare scratching the top soil with a landscaping rake (plastic) to create a fine tilth. Top dress using a pan shovel with a suitable material (sports sand or sand/soil mix) to return the area to desired surface level, work the dressing into the surface as you go by brushing or raking, taking care not to smother any grass cover. If conditions are suitable add some grass seed, irrigate as required and cover with germination sheeting or scaffold netting if available.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT GOAL MOUTH REPAIRS
\(IN SEASON\) >](#)



APPLICATION OF FERTILISER

Frequency:

1 x per year

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£500

Experience has shown that where funds are limited and best value the principal concern application of a controlled or slow release granular fertiliser provides the best outcomes on pitches used for grassroots football. As a rough guide these types of fertiliser provide a slow “drip” feed of nutrients avoiding excessive grass growth that can be difficult to keep on top of and susceptible to disease. This release of nutrients can last for up to 4-5 months in certain products but more typically 3-4. Granular fertiliser has increased in cost in recent years so its really important to make sure that what you are applying to the area is appropriate and nothing is being wasted. A nutrient soil analysis that can usually be provided by your chosen supplier can help to make sure you’re using what’s most suitable for your site. Typically, whatever the preferred supplier a suitable fertiliser can be selected for spring/summer (Higher nitrogen content some phosphorus and medium potassium content) or autumn/winter (Low nitrogen content, no phosphorus and high potassium content. Approx. 12 x 20kg bags per full size pitch. One application per year would be considered the minimum in spring but ideally at least two with the second in late summer/early autumn.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT APPLICATION OF FERTILISER >](#)



SURFACE GROOMING

Frequency:

Weekly

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Any presence of worm casts should be alleviated by regular brushing of the surface providing the soil is dry enough as the right conditions are important to disperse the casts effectively. Worm casts are unsightly and can smear and cover fine turfgrasses. This would also help with thatch build up, dew dispersal and help to break up any surface debris. If use of a combination grooming tool could be organised regular use of this to rake and brush the area during the growing season and then to use the brush and surface slitter during the autumn and winter if soil conditions allow will help to relieve surface compaction, improve surface drainage and manage organic matter levels which can contribute to numerous turf problems. These operations will also alleviate the conditions in which many weeds and diseases thrive.

PLEASE NOTE: The indicative budget outlined in the report does not include implementing a surface grooming regime.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT SURFACE GROOMING >](#)



OVERSEEDING (IN SEASON)

Frequency:

1 x per year

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£1100

In season over-seeding can be a viable option on sites where access to water is limited. Seeding in early spring and early autumn when weather conditions are more helpful can help to mitigate the risks of poor germination often seen on sites without irrigation when renovations are left till end of season and the risk of drought is higher. If choosing this option use of a disc seeder is crucial to make sure the grass seed is drilled into the pitch surface as this gives it some protection from play during germination. High traffic areas such as goal mouths are likely to still require end of season repairs. Disc seed in 3 directions at a rate of 35 grams per square metre (approximately 10-12 x 20kg bags of Perennial Ryegrass seed for a full-size pitch) If budgets are limited and over-seeding spring and autumn this can be done at half rate 18 grams per square meter per pitch, with budgets constraints in mind you could also consider concentrating on the width of the box/es down the length of the pitch where most of the wear takes place.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT OVERSEEDING \(IN SEASON\) >](#)



APPLICATION OF SELECTIVE HERBICIDE (WEED TREATMENT)

Frequency:

As Required

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£300

As part of an Integrated Weed Management programme application of a broad spectrum selective herbicide may be required once per year if cultural controls are not adequately controlling the population within the defined tolerances. By way of an example a GOOD score for weed cover is for the pitch to have no more than 6-10% weed coverage. Selective herbicides should be applied by a fully qualified professional with the appropriate equipment and paperwork. It should typically not be applied within 6-8 weeks prior to or after seeding (refer to product label) Typically mowing should not take place for 3 days before and 3 days after application. (Do not apply in drought conditions it may damage the turf and will not treat weeds effectively). Selective herbicides should be sprayed in the dry with little to no wind. Most selective herbicides are rain fast within 24 hours of application. If rain falls prior to this it could affect the success of weed control. Work with the contractor to ensure the selective herbicide chosen controls the weeds on site. Most good quality systemic selective herbicides should control common weeds such as Daisy, Dandelion, Greater Plantain, Clover etc.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT APPLICATION OF
SELECTIVE HERBICIDE \(WEED TREATMENT\)>](#)

ESTIMATED BUDGET TO CARRY OUT RECOMMENDATIONS

£2840

Please note, the costs provided above are indicative and may vary dependent on quantities and frequency. This estimated budget should be used to help plan and prioritise work, but is not linked to the amount of grant funding you may receive. Following the recommended works should help you achieve the **GOOD** pitch standard, or if already at that level, sustain it.



EQUIPMENT

To carry out the maintenance specified above, we recommend the following equipment to carry out the activities.

NONE

If it were desirable for the organisation or affiliated site user to supplement contractor maintenance or bring in house funding may be available through the Football Foundation. The sort of equipment that is routinely funded includes, compact tractors, mowing equipment, grooming tools, fertiliser spreaders etc. Line markers can be included but only as part of a wider equipment application.

The Football Foundation will award a maximum grant of £50,000 that doesn't exceed 75% of the total project costs. Where a grant of over £50,000 or 75% of total project costs is required, the applicant should contact their County FA and/or Foundation Delivery Manager to discuss the project in more detail.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT NONE >](#)



TRAINING

As well as undertaking the maintenance activities as described above, we would also recommend attending the following training courses to further develop your skills and understanding of grass pitch maintenance.

[Click here for information on training courses.](#)

[VISIT TRAINING COURSES >](#)

Recommended Training

Jason Haley

Online Modules Level 2

[Read More >](#)

Stotfold Town Council

Online Modules Level 1 -
Football

[Read More >](#)



WANT TO APPLY FOR FUNDING?

FOOTBALL FOUNDATION FUNDING APPLICATION PORTAL

You could be eligible for a grant to help you carry out the recommendations in this report. Click 'Apply here' and you could be on your way to securing a grant and being a part of our mission to transform this country's grassroots game.

Report ID: **12047**

To apply for funding visit

[APPLY.FOOTBALLFOUNDATION.ORG.UK](https://apply.footballfoundation.org.uk)

Training Courses



Further information on any training courses you're recommended to complete can be found on the Grounds Management Association website.

[Visit the GMA >](#)

The Groundskeeping Community



Join the Football Foundation Groundskeeping Community to connect with groundskeepers across different levels of the game. You'll be able to ask questions and share best practice.

[Visit the Groundskeeping Community >](#)

Find out more about the Football Foundation's plan to transform the country's grass pitches

Visit our website, which has lots of information about other resources and funding opportunities we're offering organisations involved in the grassroots game.

[FOOTBALLFOUNDATION.ORG.UK >](https://footballfoundation.org.uk)