



PITCHPOWER

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Football Foundation**

FOOTBALL ASSESSMENT REPORT

ARLESEY ROAD PLAYING FIELDS

Bedfordshire FA

Active Places Site ID

30010837

Report ID

17155



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

1 JUL 2024 / 31 OCT 2024

Inspection Reason

EXISTING FOOTBALL FOUNDATION GRANT

Report Completion Date

4 OCT 2024

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

27/09/24

Inspection submitted by

marc@aas.co.uk

Next available inspection window

1 Nov 2024 / 31 Mar 2025

Reviewed by

pkime@thegma.org.uk



Map Key	Pitch Name	PQS Score
1	PITCH 1	● Advanced - 73%
2	PITCH 2	● Advanced - 75%
3	PITCH 3	● Advanced - 75%
4	PITCH 4	● Advanced - 75%
5	PITCH 5	● Advanced - 75%
6	PITCH 6	● Advanced - 75%
7	PITCH 7	● Advanced - 75%
8	PITCH 8	● Advanced - 75%



Thank you for your Pitch Power submission and waiting for the report to be completed. Please be mindful that the recommendations made in this report are based on the readings provided and condition of the pitches at the time of the inspection.

A pitch that is graded as good is less prone to damage and is likely to sustain more hours of play, resulting in fewer match postponements. The recommended weekly use of a well-maintained football pitch is 4-6 hours before maintenance needs to increase or the pitch will deteriorate significantly, especially through the winter months. The majority of the pitches in this submission are given as being at the upper end of the recommended use although this is not reflected in pitch condition. Usage should be monitored by the organisation to ensure overplaying by match play, recreational use or training is minimised where possible. The pitches on this site were all Performance Quality Standard (PQS) graded at ADVANCED with all pitches improving on previous grading, some significantly so which is great to see. Please continue to follow the recommendations made in this report to further improve the quality of the pitches.

Please see the recommendations section for more detail. Key action points to consider are the introduction of decompaction and deep slitting into the maintenance regime. Although the site is given as mostly free draining the above operations will aid continued movement of water through the profile whilst increasing air and nutrient intake. They will also help to break down thatch and improve root depth and density. Weed presence is minimal so continued cultural practices such as those mentioned above, scarification, regular mowing, fertilising and surface grooming will help with weed control, reduce costs and lessen the impact on the environment. In-season overseeding may also be of benefit to the site and provide a better yield if access to water is limited. Topdressing is recommended particularly on those pitches with drainage installed and scarification advised at the next end of season renovation.

Please visit the Hive learning grounds keeping community for further information on the maintenance practices detailed. <https://footballfoundation.hivelearning.com/login>.

Phil Kime

pkime@thegma.org.uk

Regional Pitch Advisor, Central-East



Maintenance

Attention required in these areas:

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

[Mowing >](#)

[Line marking >](#)

[Decompaction >](#)

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

[Scarification >](#)

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

[Application of fertiliser >](#)

[Surface Grooming >](#)

[Deep Slitting >](#)

Equipment

Attention required in these areas:

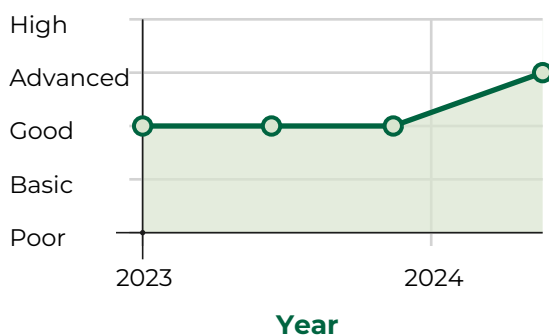
No Equipment to show

Pitch 1 Football - Mini Soccer 5v5

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Advanced - 73%

AREA			PQS GRADE
Grass height	30	30	4
Grass coverage	96%	100%	4
Weed coverage	3%	0%	3
Surface debris	Above Standard	Above Standard	4
Topsoil depth	200mm	200mm	4
Thatch depth	25mm	25mm	0
Root depth	150mm	130mm	4
Line markings	Below standard		0
Drainage Following Rainfall	Free draining		4
Surface evenness	Above standard		4
Goalposts	Compliant		1

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time



General Pitch Comments

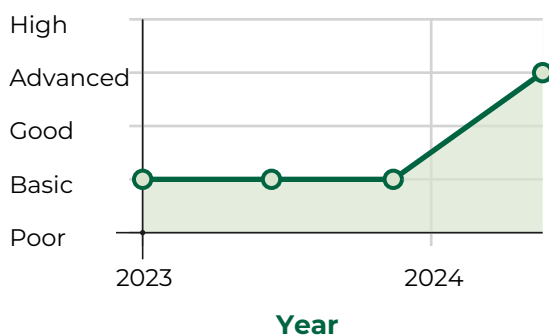
Decompaction and aeration are recommended although the pitch is free draining. This will help maintain a connection with existing drainage. Height of cut is good and weed presence is minimal. Thatch is evident and control needed. Pitch usage at 5 is at the top end of recommended use.

Pitch 2 Football - Mini Soccer 5v5

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Advanced - 75%

AREA			PQS GRADE
Grass height	30 	30 	4 
Grass coverage	100% 	100% 	4 
Weed coverage	0% 	0% 	4 
Surface debris	Above Standard 	Above Standard 	4 
Topsoil depth	200mm 	200mm 	4 
Thatch depth	25mm	25mm	0
Root depth	200mm 	140mm 	4 
Line markings	Below standard 		0 
Drainage Following Rainfall	Free draining 		4 
Surface evenness	Above standard 		4 
Goalposts	Compliant 		1 

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time



General Pitch Comments

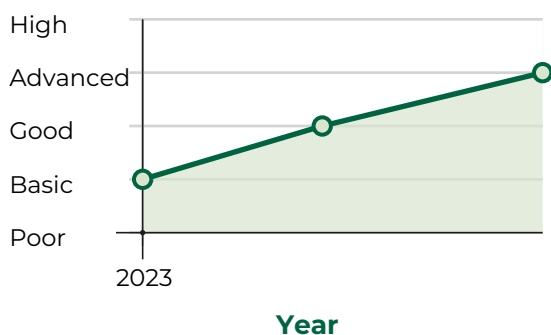
Decompaction and aeration are recommended although the pitch is free draining. This will help maintain a connection with existing drainage. Height of cut is good and weed presence is minimal. Thatch is evident and control needed. Pitch usage at 5 is at the top end of recommended use.

Pitch 3 Football - Mini Soccer 7v7

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Advanced - 75%

AREA			PQS GRADE
Grass height	30	30	4
Grass coverage	100%	100%	4
Weed coverage	0%	0%	4
Surface debris	Above Standard	Above Standard	4
Topsoil depth	200mm	200mm	4
Thatch depth	25mm	25mm	0
Root depth	200mm	160mm	4
Line markings	Below standard		0
Drainage Following Rainfall	Free draining		4
Surface evenness	Above standard		4
Goalposts	Compliant		1

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time



General Pitch Comments

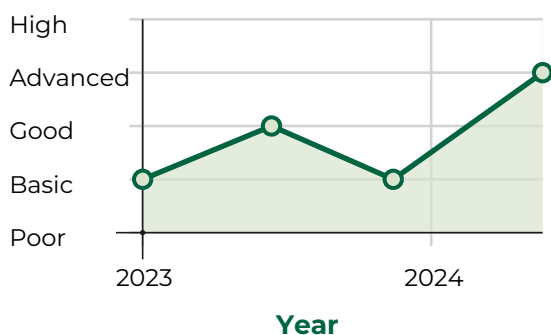
Decompaction and aeration are recommended although the pitch is free draining. This will help maintain a connection with existing drainage. Height of cut is good and weed presence is minimal. Thatch is evident and control needed. Pitch usage at 5 is at the top end of recommended use.

Pitch 4 Football - Junior Football 11v11

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Advanced - 75%

AREA				PQS GRADE
Grass height	30	30	30	4
Grass coverage	100%	100%	100%	4
Weed coverage	0%	0%	0%	4
Surface debris	Above Standard	Above Standard	Above Standard	4
Topsoil depth	200mm	200mm	200mm	4
Thatch depth	25mm	25mm	25mm	0
Root depth	160mm	200mm	160mm	4
Line markings	Below standard			0
Drainage Following Rainfall	Free draining			4
Surface evenness	Above standard			4
Goalposts	Compliant			1

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time



General Pitch Comments

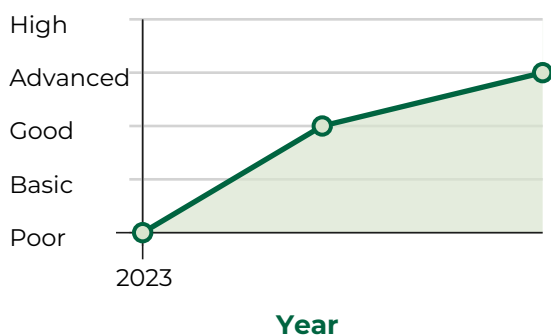
Decompaction and aeration are recommended although the pitch is free draining. This will help maintain a connection with existing drainage. Height of cut is good and weed presence is minimal. Thatch is evident and control needed. Pitch usage at 5 is at the top end of recommended use.

Pitch 5 Football - Mini Soccer 7v7

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Advanced - 75%

AREA			PQS GRADE
Grass height	30	30	4
Grass coverage	100%	100%	4
Weed coverage	0%	0%	4
Surface debris	Above Standard	Above Standard	4
Topsoil depth	200mm	200mm	4
Thatch depth	25mm	25mm	0
Root depth	200mm	150mm	4
Line markings	Below standard		0
Drainage Following Rainfall	Free draining		4
Surface evenness	Above standard		4
Goalposts	Compliant		1

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time



General Pitch Comments

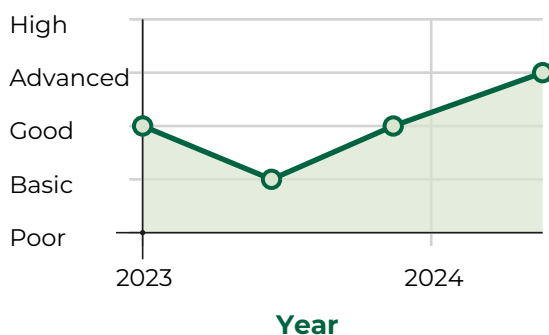
Decompaction and aeration are recommended although the pitch is free draining. This will help maintain a connection with existing drainage. Height of cut is good and weed presence is minimal. Thatch is evident and control needed. Pitch usage at 5 is at the top end of recommended use.

Pitch 6 Football - Mini Soccer 7v7

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Advanced - 75%

AREA			PQS GRADE
Grass height	30 	30 	4 
Grass coverage	100% 	100% 	4 
Weed coverage	0% 	0% 	4 
Surface debris	Above Standard 	Above Standard 	4 
Topsoil depth	200mm 	200mm 	4 
Thatch depth	25mm	25mm	0
Root depth	200mm 	200mm 	4 
Line markings	Below standard 		0 
Drainage Following Rainfall	Free draining 		4 
Surface evenness	Above standard 		4 
Goalposts	Compliant 		1 

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time



General Pitch Comments

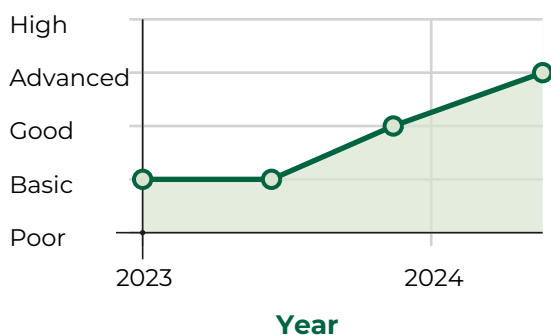
Decompaction and aeration are recommended although the pitch is free draining. This will help maintain a connection with existing drainage. Height of cut is good and weed presence is minimal. Thatch is evident and control needed. Pitch usage at 5 is at the top end of recommended use.

Pitch 7 Football - Junior Football 11v11

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Advanced - 75%

AREA				PQS GRADE
Grass height	30	30	30	4
Grass coverage	100%	100%	100%	4
Weed coverage	0%	0%	0%	4
Surface debris	Above Standard	Above Standard	Above Standard	4
Topsoil depth	200mm	200mm	200mm	4
Thatch depth	25mm	25mm	25mm	0
Root depth	200mm	200mm	200mm	4
Line markings	Below standard			0
Drainage Following Rainfall	Free draining			4
Surface evenness	Above standard			4
Goalposts	Compliant			1

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time



General Pitch Comments

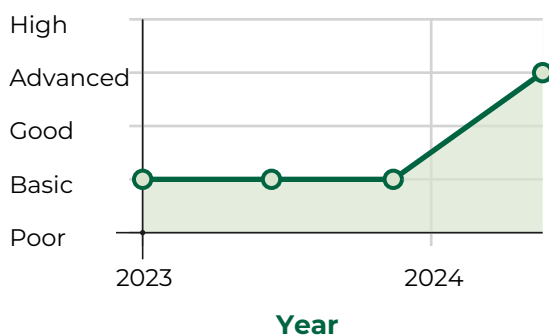
Decompaction and aeration are recommended although the pitch is free draining. This will help maintain a connection with existing drainage. Height of cut is good and weed presence is minimal. Thatch is evident and control needed. Pitch usage at 5 is at the top end of recommended use.

Pitch 8 Football - Adult Football

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Advanced - 75%

AREA				PQS GRADE
Grass height	30	30	30	4
Grass coverage	100%	98%	100%	4
Weed coverage	0%	2%	0%	4
Surface debris	Above Standard	Above Standard	Above Standard	4
Topsoil depth	200mm	200mm	209mm	4
Thatch depth	25mm	25mm	25mm	0
Root depth	200mm	200mm	200mm	4
Line markings	Below standard			0
Drainage Following Rainfall	Free draining			4
Surface evenness	Above standard			4
Goalposts	Compliant			1

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time



General Pitch Comments

Decompaction and aeration are recommended although the pitch is free draining. This will help maintain a connection with existing drainage. Height of cut is good and weed presence is minimal. Thatch is evident and control needed. Pitch usage at 5 is at the top end of recommended use.



MAINTENANCE

These recommendations are in priority order

TOP DRESSING (RENOVATION)

Frequency:

1 x per year

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.



TOP DRESSING (RENOVATION) CONTINUED

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 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
\(RENOVATION\) >](#)



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 restraigten lines could be considered.

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:

£6000

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 >](#)



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 \(IN SEASON\) >](#)



SCARIFICATION

Frequency:

1 x per year

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£2050

Scarification is performed to prevent the build-up of thatch or to control an existing thatch layer. Decaying organic matter can build up in the base of the grass plant, producing a thick impermeable layer that reduces the air, water and nutrient intake into the soil. Other reasons for scarification are to reduce populations of undesirable grasses and weeds. Sometimes it is a case of being cruel to kind with pitches and this process can help to reduce weed and weed grass populations in exchange for more resilient species that can be introduced through disc seeding soon after scarifying. On sites without irrigation, it is recommended that scarification is not carried out too aggressively as it presents a greater challenge to reinstate the playing surface.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT SCARIFICATION >](#)



GOAL MOUTH REPAIRS (IN SEASON)

Frequency:

As Required

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£160

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:

2 x per year

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£7400

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 and autumn/winter. 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:

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 >](#)



DEEP 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 DEEP SLITTING >](#)

ESTIMATED BUDGET TO CARRY OUT RECOMMENDATIONS

£33610

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.



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

No training courses found.



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: **17155**

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

17164



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

1 JUL 2024 / 31 OCT 2024

Inspection Reason

GENERAL PITCH MAINTENANCE ADVICE

Report Completion Date

1 OCT 2024

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 - 77%

Date inspection submitted
27/09/24

Inspection submitted by
marc@aas.co.uk

Next available inspection window
1 Nov 2024 / 31 Mar 2025

Reviewed by
pkime@thegma.org.uk



Thank you for your Pitch Power submission and waiting for the report to be completed. Please be mindful that the recommendations made in this report are based on the readings provided and condition of the pitches at the time of the inspection.

A pitch that is graded as good is less prone to damage and is likely to sustain more hours of play, resulting in fewer match postponements. The recommended weekly use of a well-maintained football pitch is 4-6 hours before maintenance needs to increase or the pitch will deteriorate significantly, especially through the winter months. The pitch in this submission is given as well managed although at the upper limit of recommended use. Usage should be monitored by the organisation to ensure overplaying by match play, recreational use or training is minimised where possible. The pitch on this site was Performance Quality Standard (PQS) graded at ADVANCED and has maintained previous grading which is great to see. Please continue to follow the recommendations made in this report to further improve the quality of the pitches.

Please see the recommendations section for more detail. Key action points to consider are the introduction of decompaction and deep slitting into the maintenance regime. Although the site is stated as free draining the above operations will aid continued movement of water through the profile whilst increasing air and nutrient intake. They will also help to break down thatch and improve root depth and density. Weed presence is minimal so continued cultural practices such as those mentioned above, scarification, regular mowing, fertilising and surface grooming will help with weed control, reduce costs and lessen the impact on the environment. In-season overseeding may also be of benefit to the site and provide a better yield if access to water is limited. Scarification is advised at the next end of season renovation to control existing thatch layer, further aid drainage and remove undesirable vegetation.

Please visit the Hive learning grounds keeping community for further information on the maintenance practices detailed. <https://footballfoundation.hivelearning.com/login>.

Phil Kime

pkime@thegma.org.uk

Regional Pitch Advisor, Central-East



Maintenance

Attention required in these areas:

[Mowing >](#)

[Line marking >](#)

[Decompaction >](#)

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

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

[Surface Grooming >](#)

[Application of fertiliser >](#)

[Deep Slitting >](#)

[Scarification >](#)

Equipment

Attention required in these areas:

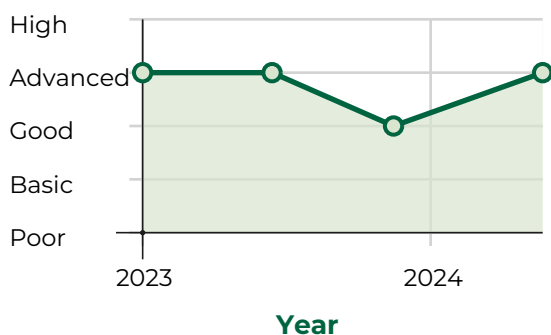
No Equipment to show

Pitch 1 Football - Adult Football

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Advanced - 77%

AREA				PQS GRADE
Grass height	30	30	30	4
Grass coverage	100%	100%	100%	4
Weed coverage	0%	0%	0%	4
Surface debris	Above Standard	Above Standard	Above Standard	4
Topsoil depth	200mm	200mm	200mm	4
Thatch depth	10mm	10mm	10mm	1
Root depth	200mm	200mm	200mm	4
Line markings	Above standard			2
Drainage Following Rainfall	Free draining			4
Surface evenness	Standard			2
Goalposts	Compliant			1

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time



General Pitch Comments

Although free draining decompaction is recommended to ensure continued movement of water through the profile. Weeds are minimal and height of cut good for this submission window. Thatch is given as evident and control needed. The pitch is at the upper limit of recommended usage.



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 >](#)



OVERSEEDING (IN SEASON)

Frequency:

1 x per year

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 boxes down the length of the pitch where most of the wear takes place.

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



GOAL MOUTH REPAIRS (IN SEASON)

Frequency:

As Required

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£20

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:

2 x per year

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£1300

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 it's 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 and autumn/winter. Approx. 12x 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 >](#)



DEEP 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 DEEP SLITTING >](#)



SCARIFICATION

Frequency:

1 x per year

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£350

Scarification is performed to prevent the build-up of thatch or to control an existing thatch layer. Decaying organic matter can build up in the base of the grass plant, producing a thick impermeable layer that reduces the air, water and nutrient intake into the soil. Other reasons for scarification are to reduce populations of undesirable grasses and weeds. Sometimes it is a case of being cruel to kind with pitches and this process can help to reduce weed and weed grass populations in exchange for more resilient species that can be introduced through disc seeding soon after scarifying. On sites without irrigation, it is recommended that scarification is not carried out too aggressively as it presents a greater challenge to reinstate the playing surface.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT SCARIFICATION >](#)

ESTIMATED BUDGET TO CARRY OUT RECOMMENDATIONS

£4070

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.



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

No training courses found.



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: **17164**

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

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FOOTBALL ASSESSMENT REPORT

RIVERSIDE PLAYING FIELDS

Bedfordshire FA

Active Places Site ID

1038940

Report ID

17163



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

1 JUL 2024 / 31 OCT 2024

Inspection Reason

GENERAL PITCH MAINTENANCE ADVICE

Report Completion Date

1 OCT 2024

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	● Advanced - 77%

Date inspection submitted
27/09/24

Inspection submitted by
marc@aas.co.uk

Next available inspection window
1 Nov 2024 / 31 Mar 2025

Reviewed by
pkime@thegma.org.uk





Thank you for your Pitch Power submission and waiting for the report to be completed. Please be mindful that the recommendations made in this report are based on the readings provided and condition of the pitches at the time of the inspection.

A pitch that is graded as good is less prone to damage and is likely to sustain more hours of play, resulting in fewer match postponements. The recommended weekly use of a well-maintained football pitch is 4-6 hours before maintenance needs to increase or the pitch will deteriorate significantly, especially through the winter months. The pitch in this submission is given as well managed although at the upper limit of recommended use. Usage should be monitored by the organisation to ensure overplaying by match play, recreational use or training is minimised where possible. The pitch on this site was Performance Quality Standard (PQS) graded at ADVANCED and has maintained previous grading which is great to see. Please continue to follow the recommendations made in this report to further improve the quality of the pitches.

Please see the recommendations section for more detail. Key action points to consider are the introduction of decompaction and deep slitting into the maintenance regime. Although the site is stated as free draining the above operations will aid continued movement of water through the profile whilst increasing air and nutrient intake. They will also help to break down thatch and improve root depth and density. Weed presence is minimal so continued cultural practices such as those mentioned above, scarification, regular mowing, fertilising and surface grooming will help with weed control, reduce costs and lessen the impact on the environment. In-season overseeding may also be of benefit to the site and provide a better yield if access to water is limited. Scarification is advised at the next end of season renovation to control existing thatch layer, further aid drainage and remove undesirable vegetation.

Please visit the Hive learning grounds keeping community for further information on the maintenance practices detailed. <https://footballfoundation.hivelearning.com/login>.

Phil Kime

pkime@thegma.org.uk

Regional Pitch Advisor, Central-East



Maintenance

Attention required in these areas:

[Mowing >](#)

[Line marking >](#)

[Decompaction >](#)

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

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

[Surface Grooming >](#)

[Application of fertiliser >](#)

[Deep Slitting >](#)

[Scarification >](#)

Equipment

Attention required in these areas:

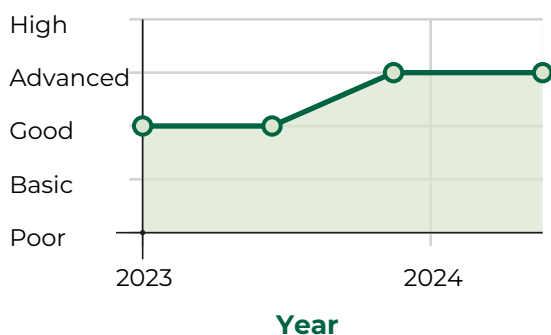
No Equipment to show

Pitch 1 Football - Junior Football 11v11

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Advanced - 77%

AREA				PQS GRADE
Grass height	40	40	40	3
Grass coverage	87%	100%	100%	4
Weed coverage	13%	0%	0%	4
Surface debris	Above Standard	Above Standard	Above Standard	4
Topsoil depth	150mm	200mm	200mm	4
Thatch depth	5mm	10mm	15mm	1
Root depth	150mm	200mm	200mm	4
Line markings	Standard			1
Drainage Following Rainfall	Free draining			4
Surface evenness	Above standard			4
Goalposts	Compliant			1

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time



General Pitch Comments

Although free draining decompaction is advised to ensure continued movement of water through the profile. Weeds are minimal although thatch is evident. Height of cut is adequate for this submission window. Grass cover photos should be taken from waist height.



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 twice annually on this site but ideally 3 times, 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 >](#)



OVERSEEDING (IN SEASON)

Frequency:

1 x per year

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 boxes down the length of the pitch where most of the wear takes place.

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



GOAL MOUTH REPAIRS (IN SEASON)

Frequency:

As Required

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£20

Hand fork the goalmouths and gently apply heave to the fork to relieve compaction, if the area is bare scratching the topsoil 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:

2 x per year

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£1300

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 and autumn/winter. 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 >](#)



DEEP 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 DEEP SLITTING >](#)



SCARIFICATION

Frequency:

1 x per year

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£350

Scarification is performed to prevent the build-up of thatch or to control an existing thatch layer. Decaying organic matter can build up in the base of the grass plant, producing a thick impermeable layer that reduces the air, water and nutrient intake into the soil. Other reasons for scarification are to reduce populations of undesirable grasses and weeds. Sometimes it is a case of being cruel to kind with pitches and this process can help to reduce weed and weed grass populations in exchange for more resilient species that can be introduced through disc seeding soon after scarifying. On sites without irrigation, it is recommended that scarification is not carried out too aggressively as it presents a greater challenge to reinstate the playing surface.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT SCARIFICATION >](#)

ESTIMATED BUDGET TO CARRY OUT RECOMMENDATIONS

£4070

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.



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

No training courses found.



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: **17163**

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



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[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 ASSESSMENT REPORT

THE GREEN (STOTFOLD)

Bedfordshire FA

Active Places Site ID

30010138

Report ID

17160



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

1 JUL 2024 / 31 OCT 2024

Inspection Reason

GENERAL PITCH MAINTENANCE ADVICE

Report Completion Date

1 OCT 2024

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	● Good - 55%

Date inspection submitted
27/09/24

Inspection submitted by
marc@aas.co.uk

Next available inspection window
1 Nov 2024 / 31 Mar 2025

Reviewed by
pkime@thegma.org.uk



Thank you for your Pitch Power submission and waiting for the report to be completed. Please be mindful that the recommendations made in this report are based on the readings provided and condition of the pitches at the time of the inspection.

A pitch that is graded as good is less prone to damage and is likely to sustain more hours of play, resulting in fewer match postponements. The recommended weekly use of a well-maintained football pitch is 4-6 hours before maintenance needs to increase or the pitch will deteriorate significantly, especially through the winter months. The pitch in this submission is given as well managed although at the upper limit of recommended use. Usage should be monitored by the organisation to ensure overplaying by match play, recreational use or training is minimised where possible. The pitch on this site was Performance Quality Standard (PQS) graded at GOOD and has unfortunately dropped from previous grading which is mainly due to the presence of weeds. Please continue to follow the recommendations made in this report to further improve the quality of the pitches.

Please see the recommendations section for more detail. Key action points to consider are the introduction of decompaction and deep slitting into the maintenance regime. As the site is stated as slow draining the above operations will aid improved movement of water through the profile whilst increasing air and nutrient intake. They will also help to break down thatch and improve root depth and density. Weed presence is evident so herbicide application advised. It should be noted that continued cultural practices such as those mentioned above, scarification, regular mowing, fertilising and surface grooming will help with weed control, reduce costs and lessen the impact on the environment. In-season overseeding may also be of benefit to the site and provide a better yield if access to water is limited. Scarification is advised at the next end of season renovation to control existing thatch layer, further aid drainage and remove undesirable vegetation.

Please visit the Hive learning grounds keeping community for further information on the maintenance practices detailed. <https://footballfoundation.hivelearning.com/login>.

Phil Kime

pkime@thegma.org.uk

Regional Pitch Advisor, Central-East



Maintenance

Attention required in these areas:

Mowing >

Line marking >

Decompaction >

Overseeding (In Season) >

Deep Slitting >

Application of selective herbicide (weed treatment) >

Goal Mouth repairs (In season) >

Surface Grooming >

Application of fertiliser >

Scarification >

Equipment

Attention required in these areas:

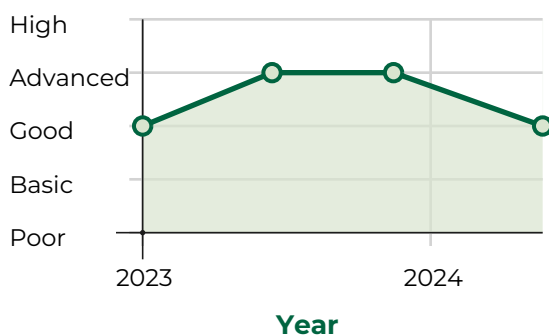
No Equipment to show

Pitch 1 Football - Junior Football 9v9

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Good - 55%

AREA				PQS GRADE
Grass height	40	40	40	3
Grass coverage	77%	85%	100%	3
Weed coverage	23%	15%	0%	0
Surface debris	Above Standard	Above Standard	Above Standard	4
Topsoil depth	200mm	200mm	200mm	4
Thatch depth	10mm	10mm	15mm	1
Root depth	200mm	200mm	200mm	4
Line markings	Below standard			0
Drainage Following Rainfall	Slow drainage			2
Surface evenness	Standard			2
Goalposts	Compliant			1

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time



General Pitch Comments

As the pitch is slow draining decompaction is recommended. Weeds and thatch are evident so control advised. Height of cut is adequate for this submission window. Grass cover photos should be taken at waist height.



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:

£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 >](#)



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 boxes down the length of the pitch where most of the wear takes place.

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



DEEP 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 DEEP SLITTING >](#)



APPLICATION OF SELECTIVE HERBICIDE (WEED TREATMENT)

Frequency:

1 x per year

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 \(WEED TREATMENT\)>](#)



GOAL MOUTH REPAIRS (IN SEASON)

Frequency:

As Required

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£20

Hand fork the goalmouths and gently apply heave to the fork to relieve compaction, if the area is bare scratching the topsoil 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:

2 x per year

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£1000

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 it's 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 and autumn/winter. Approx. 12x 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 >](#)



SCARIFICATION

Frequency:

1 x per year

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£300

Scarification is performed to prevent the build-up of thatch or to control an existing thatch layer. Decaying organic matter can build up in the base of the grass plant, producing a thick impermeable layer that reduces the air, water and nutrient intake into the soil. Other reasons for scarification are to reduce populations of undesirable grasses and weeds. Sometimes it is a case of being cruel to kind with pitches and this process can help to reduce weed and weed grass populations in exchange for more resilient species that can be introduced through disc seeding soon after scarifying. On sites without irrigation, it is recommended that scarification is not carried out too aggressively as it presents a greater challenge to reinstate the playing surface.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT SCARIFICATION >](#)

ESTIMATED BUDGET TO CARRY OUT RECOMMENDATIONS

£3420

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.



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

No training courses found.



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: **17160**

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)