



ASSESSMENT REPORT

NORTH BADDESLEY RECREATION GROUND

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This report has been compiled for **Baddesley Park Youth F.C.** and **Hampshire 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

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Our recommendations

Maintenance

Outlined below are the maintenance practices we recommend you should carry out to improve and maintain the quality of your pitches. For each type of maintenance, info is provided on what needs to be completed and why, how often to do this, and which pitches to complete it for. There is also a link to relevant additional info on the ‘The Groundskeeping Community’.

As this includes all the maintenance activities you need to complete, it may include existing maintenance that you are already undertaking.

Top Dressing (Renovation)

Should budgets permit end of season: ideally 30-60 tonnes per full size pitch – medium/fine sand. Remedial work should be undertaken as a minimum to sand and seed any bare and undulated areas on the pitches particularly goal mouths and centre spots. Make sure any materials used are compatible with your indigenous soil, 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. Contractor cost approx: £1200 per 11v11 pitch, £1020 per 9v9 pitch, £840 per mini soccer pitch	Junior 9 v 9
	Second 9 a-side pitch
	Junior 11 v 11 (Tyro)
	Adult pitch

Slitting

Frequency: Monthly

Slitting

Frequency: Monthly

To improve the drainage and rainfall percolation rates through the soil profile the aeration and decompaction programme should be increased.

Slitting, although useful on its own, works in perfect partnership with any decompaction works that are undertaken. Decompaction and aeration needs to be done at different depths to stop hard soil pans forming in the profile.

Overtime, the playing surface can become capped through use of machinery and play so the slitter is the perfect tool to keep the top of that soil profile open and give access to those deeper tine holes.

This will improve plant health and root growth through gaseous exchange and nutrient uptake.

Recommend to action this roughly every 4-6 weeks during the playing season, after decompaction.

Contractor cost approx £180 per 11 v 11 pitch.

The use of a roller is not recommended as it will cause surface compaction. This compaction will slow rainfall percolation and leave the playing surface wet on top and drier further down the soil profile. Rolling also encourages shallow rooting which will mean that grass plants are easily kicked out during matches. The action of rolling brings soil fines to the surface and when allowed to dry these fines will fill air spaces in the soil profile causing capping. It is suggested that a combination turf grooming attachment would be better for repairing the pitches after games and for preparing prior to matches.

Junior 9 v 9

Second 9 a-side pitch

Junior 11 v 11 (Tyro)

Adult pitch

Surface Grooming

Frequency: Fortnightly

Surface Grooming

Frequency: Fortnightly

If the club were able to source an appropriate tractor and grooming tool regular use of this to rake and brush the surface during the growing season and then to use the surface slitter during the autumn and winter when soil conditions allowed will help to manage the significant thatch levels which will be contributing the drainage issues experienced.

Any presence of worm casts should be alleviated by weekly brushing of the surface. 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.

Junior 9 v 9

Second 9 a-side pitch

Junior 11 v 11 (Tyro)

Adult pitch

Application of selective herbicide (weed treatment)

Frequency: 1 x per year

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 equipment and paperwork. It should not be applied within 6-8 weeks prior to or after seeding (refer to product label and data sheet) 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. Selective herbicide should be applied at least once per year by a fully qualified professional with the appropriate

Contractor cost approx: £250 per 11v11 pitch, £213 per 9v9 pitch, £175 per mini soccer pitch

Junior 9 v 9

Second 9 a-side pitch

Junior 11 v 11 (Tyro)

Adult pitch

Scarification

Frequency: 1 x per year

Scarification

Frequency: 1 x per year

medium/long term recommendation for the site is that the pitches could be scarified in multiple directions end of season to remove as much of the weeds and undesirable grasses as possible. Ideally 30 tonnes of a compatible sports sand dressing would then be applied (per full size pitch) followed by over seeding with a suitable Perennial Ryegrass mix using a disc seeder at a rate of 50g/sqm and followed by further deep spiking and fertiliser application. 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.

Contractor cost approx: £250 per 11v11 pitch, £213 per 9v9 pitch, £175 per mini soccer pitch (all costs are per directional pass)

Junior 9 v 9

Second 9 a-side pitch

Application of fertiliser

Frequency: 2 x per year

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Frequency: 2 x per year

To increase root depth and density and harden the grass plant for the winter a further application of controlled release fertiliser is recommended following a soil analysis that can be carried out by a suitable materials provider. A minimum of 2 applications per year would be recommended given the soil profile and level of use and in conjunction with an effective aeration programme this will help to improve root depth and density. Controlled release fertiliser is recommended to provide a continuous nutrient level over a greater period than compared with a conventional fertiliser. Some controlled release fertilisers offer 5-6months longevity, and these would be ideal for bi-annual application. Typically, whatever the preferred supplier a suitable fertiliser can be selected for spring/summer (Higher nitrogen content some phosphorus and medium potassium content) and autumn/winter (Low nitrogen content, no phosphorus and high potassium content 2-4% Iron content) Approx. 12 x 20kg bags per full size pitch. It should be that this is an essential part of improving the quality of the pitches, however this will lead to an increase in grass growth and noted a mowing regime of cutting a minimum of once per week will be necessary in the growing season.

Contractor cost approx: £500 per 11v11 pitch, £425 per 9v9 pitch, £350 per mini soccer pitch

Junior 9 v 9

Second 9 a-side pitch

Junior 11 v 11 (Tyro)

Adult pitch

Overseeding (Out of season renovation)

Overseeding (Out of season renovation)

To improve desirable grass coverage over-seeding is required using a Perennial Ryegrass mix of at least three cultivars. This should be applied using a disc seeder in at least 3 directions which discs the seed directly into the soil at a rate of 30-50gms per m2. No less than 10-14 20kg bags. Timing of application is key, as seed will struggle to germinate in dry hot weather without irrigation or cold temperatures when there is not adequate warmth for the seed to establish. Over-seeding using a disc seeder whilst the pitch is in play is an option if weather conditions are more favourable but high wear areas such as goal mouths, penalty spots and centre circles should be repaired and reseeded as early in the close season as possible and combined with a suitable sports sand raked to a tilth covered with germination sheeting and kept watered. Work with a sports seed supplier to identify the best seed mix for your requirements.

Contractor cost approx: £1100 per 11v11 pitch, £935 per 9v9 pitch, £770 per mini soccer pitch

Junior 9 v 9

Second 9 a-side pitch

Junior 11 v 11 (Tyro)

Adult pitch

Decompaction

Frequency: 2 x per year

Decompaction

Frequency: 2 x per year

The club are looking to take on the use of the neighbouring cricket ground that has not been in use for sometime.

The club would like to get two 9v9 pitches on to the new area and possibly a mini pitch in the future.

After visiting the ground and taking a soil sample it became apparent that the soil has a high clay content this will be contributing to the poor drainage along with compaction and high thatch levels. I recommend to improve drainage and that the new area should be deep tine aerated and linear aeration when the conditions allow.

Decompaction and aeration aids better penetration of water, air and fertiliser straight to rootzone and improves soil structure and rooting capacity

Vertical tine aeration (Deep spiking)

Use a vertical action machine equipped with 18-24mm solid tines, at correct spacings to the maximum achievable depth.

By using a vertical tine machine on the surface twice a year any compaction would lessen, and deeper rooting of the grass plant would be possible. The machine can also apply heave to the tine which if performed at the correct time of year will fissure the ground underneath the surface and allow more air spaces for roots to develop and for rainfall to pass through quicker.

Contractor must assess the site prior to deep spiking.

Contractor Cost approx £360 for an 11 v 11 pitch.

Decompaction – Linear

An additional method of decompaction to be considered should be in the form of linear blades which will reduce the risk of smear within the soil profile.

The blades on this tractor mounted unit will slice into and through the surface while fracturing the subsoil with minimal surface disturbance.

This operation improves root growth, nutrient uptake and the soils ability to drain.

It is recommended to undertake this operation in the autumn months before the arrival of the harsh winter weather. DO NOT perform this task close to the summer months as the risk of cracks is too great

Junior 9 v 9

Second 9 a-side pitch

Junior 11 v 11 (Tyro)

Adult pitch

and may vary dependant on quantities and frequency.

£24,210.00

Site report: **NORTH BADDESLEY RECREATION GROUND**



Our recommendations

Equipment

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

Equipment type	Notes
Soil Sampler	Due to the need for regular soil sampling, it is recommended that you consider the purchase of a suitable soil sampler. You may be eligible through the Football Foundation to use your new or existing grant to contribute towards the cost of a Soil Sampler. Please contact your County FA for more details.
Combination turf grooming tool	<p>A rear tractor mounted combination turf grooming tool would enable key maintenance tasks such as brushing, raking, slitting, and light rolling to be undertaken simultaneously if desired. When used on the 3-point link of a compact tractor it can be used in conjunction with the tractor and mowing deck allowing 5 operations in 1 hour of maintenance per full size pitch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Slitter• Brush• Rake• Light Roller• Minimum working width circa 180mm

Our recommendations

Training

Successful sports surface management requires a committed, motivated and trained workforce to conduct operations in a timely, efficient and safe manner. The Grounds Management Association provide a full range of Training and education packages, endorsed by the Football Association to suit all experience levels from volunteer to professional.

****Note:** To access Football Foundation funding, at least two members of your organisation will need to complete the Online Module Level 1 training.

Click here for information on training courses.

VISIT >

Training type

[GMA/FA Workshop](#)

[GMA Winter Pitches Level 2](#)

Additional info

Site visit date:

15 Feb 2022

Additional report info:

After visiting the ground at Baddesley park to see how their main pitches have improved after a new maintenance regime including regular weed control and deep tine aeration. The pitches have improved which is a credit to the club. The club are looking to take on the use of the neighbouring cricket ground that has not been in use for sometime. The club would like to get two 9v9 pitches on to the new area and possibly a mini pitch in the future. Upon taking a soil sample it became apparent that the soil has a high clay content this will be contributing to the poor drainage along with compaction and high thatch levels. I recommend to improve drainage and that the new area should be deep tine aerated and linear aeration when the conditions allow. Thatch levels are also high so this will also be contributing to poor drainage this will also be preventing nutrients getting through the surface. I have recommended decompaction and scarification to help improve these issues. There is a drainage system in place but its not working efficiently and may need further investigation by a agronomist drainage expert.

Performance Quality Standards

Outlined below is information on the quality of each grass pitch. This has been assessed using the Performance Quality Standard criteria (PQS) as endorsed by The FA and published by the Grounds Management Association; as benchmark standards for safe, true, consistent and fit for purpose playing surfaces. A range of parameters (e.g. compaction, surface uniformity, pitch gradient, grass cover, surface hardness, and presence of weeds) have been assessed to determine the score and inform maintenance recommendations required to ensure that the grass pitch is of an acceptable standard for the level of anticipated play.

Key

! = room for improvement. We will provide you with recommendations in this report to help you.

- Goal mouth 1
- Centre circle
- Goal mouth 2

PQS scoring

- Poor
- Basic
- Good
- Advanced
- High

Measurement Type	Adult pitch Adult Football				Junior 11 v 11 (Tyro) Junior Football 11v11			
Grass height								
	Grass height	25	15	25	Grass height	30	25	20
Ground profile								
	Grass cover	85	80	90	Grass cover	90	90	90
	Surface debris	Standard	Standard	Standard	Surface debris	Standard	Standard	Standard
	Weeds	0	0	0	Weeds	0	0	0
Soil profile								
	Growing medium	130	100	110	Growing medium	150	150	150
	Root depth	100	95	110	Root depth	120	140	110
	Thatch	5	5	5	Thatch	0	5	5
Surface levels	Standard				Standard			

Measurement Type	Adult pitch Adult Football	Junior 11 v 11 (Tyro) Junior Football 11v11
Drainage	Slow draining	Slow draining
Goal posts	<div>!</div> Compliant	<div>!</div> Compliant
Line Marking	<div>!</div> Standard	<div>!</div> Standard
PQS grade	Advanced	Advanced

Measurement Type	Junior 9 v 9 Junior Football 9v9				Second 9 a-side pitch Junior Football 9v9			
Grass height		<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>		<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Grass height	20	30	25	Grass height	40	30	20
Ground profile		<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>		<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Grass cover	75	90	85	Grass cover	50	90	90
	Surface debris	Below standard	Below standard	Below standard	Surface debris	Below standard	Below standard	Below standard
	Weeds	25	0	10	Weeds	50	10	10
Soil profile		<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>		<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Growing medium	100	80	120	Growing medium	150	150	150
	Root depth	80	150	120	Root depth	150	130	140
	Thatch	25	20	40	Thatch	25	15	5
Surface levels	<div><div></div></div>	Below standard			<div><div></div></div>	Below standard		
Drainage	<div><div></div></div>	Standing water			Slow draining			
Goal posts	<div><div></div></div>	Compliant			<div><div></div></div>	Compliant		
Line Marking	<div><div></div></div>	Below standard			<div><div></div></div>	Below standard		
PQS grade	Basic				Good			

Summary

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.

APPLY HERE >

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 anytime, anywhere with groundskeepers across different levels of the game. You'll be able to ask questions and share best practice. You'll also get the latest advice from The FA, GMA and Football Foundation. Best of all, it's completely free.

JOIN 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.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE >

