



PITCHPOWER

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FOOTBALL ASSESSMENT REPORT

NORTON HILL RECREATION GROUND

Somerset FA

Active Places Site ID

6000962

Report ID

10964



This report has been compiled for WESTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL and Somerset 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 APR 2023 / 3 JUL 2023

Inspection Reason

INTEREST IN A FOOTBALL FOUNDATION GRANT

Report Completion Date

3 JUL 2023

This report looks solely at the Football pitches for WESTFIELD PARISH 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:

NORTON HILL RECREATION GROUND





NORTON HILL RECREATION GROUND

Site ID: 6000962



Map Key	Pitch Name	PQS Score
1	NORTON HILL RECREATION GROUND	● Poor - 32%

Date inspection submitted
01/07/23

Inspection submitted by
council@westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk

Next available inspection window
1 Nov 2023 / 31 Mar 2024

Reviewed by
ahendrickx-nutley@thegma.org.uk



If funds allow carrying out all the maintenance activities will achieve the best result. If the budget doesn't allow this the priority activities are decompaction, there are a lot of weeds so an application of a selective herbicide if weeds in the spring, over-seeding, goal mouth repairs (this would be include in the over-seeding and dressing if that was carried out) and an application of fertiliser. If funds are available top dressing will help with drainage out to smooth out any unevenness over time. If the club the club can take advantage of a 75% machinery grant to purchase the package, I have recommended the club would have more versatile kit to improve the pitches. having a tractor with three-point linkage enables implements to be attached to the tractor such as a mower, groomer, slitter soil sampler etc. if the club had their own groomer this would enable the club to groom the pitch regularly, this will help to reduce the thatch levels and prevent its build up. Please be aware if funding is awarded 2 members of the club must complete a GMA online winter pitches course and two Pitchpower submissions must be submitted each season.

Maintenance

Attention required in these areas:

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

[Surface Grooming >](#)

[Decompaction >](#)

[Overseeding \(Out of season renovation\) >](#)

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

[Application of fertiliser >](#)

Equipment

Attention required in these areas:

[Compact tractor \(with cutting deck\) >](#)

[Combination turf grooming tool >](#)

[Soil Sampler >](#)



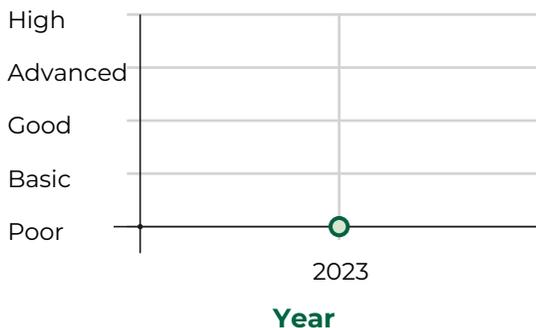
Norton Hill Recreation Ground Football - Adult Football

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Poor - 32%

AREA				PQS GRADE
Grass height	50	40	30	3
Grass coverage	55%	47%	36%	0
Weed coverage	30%	8%	49%	0
Surface debris	Standard	Standard	Standard	2
Topsoil depth	80mm	130mm	30mm	0
Thatch depth	8mm	5mm	12mm	3
Root depth	70mm	130mm	110mm	3
Drainage Following Rainfall	Slow drainage			2
Goal posts	Compliant			1
Line markings	Below standard			0
Surface evenness	Below standard			0

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

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time





MAINTENANCE

These recommendations are in priority order

APPLICATION OF SELECTIVE HERBICIDE (WEED TREATMENT)

Frequency:

1 x per year

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£350

Broad spectrum selective herbicide should be applied once per year 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 \(WEED TREATMENT\) >](#)



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 >](#)



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 (OUT OF SEASON RENOVATION)

Frequency:

1 x per year

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£1400

If adequate access to water is available end of season overseeding offers a reliable means of reinstating grass cover for the following season. 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 areas of the pitch/s are worn season end such as through the middle box to box the amount of grass seed can be concentrated appropriately to target these areas if budgets are limited.

Goalmouth repairs (renovation)

Ideally repairs to damaged goalmouths should be made through the season to maintain surface levels and grass cover where possible, however, it may prove that these areas need totally renovating at the end of the season if dishing has become too severe, should this be the case, they may require rotovating to completely break the soil profile up and additional sports sand or sand/soil mix incorporating and worked in to restore levels prior to seeding. In extreme circumstances, particularly during times of the year where seed germination is difficult; there may be the need to re-turf damaged areas. New turf will need time to bed in so this can be a difficult operation in terms of timing due to fixtures so should be considered a last resort to get you through the season or until more suitable remedial works are possible.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT OVERSEEDING \(OUT OF SEASON RENOVATION\) >](#)



TOP DRESSING (RENOVATION)

Frequency:

1 x per year

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£1600

Application of top dressing can help to reinstate surface levels, and improve surface drainage and the quality of the top soil over time. This can be done by bulk application of top dressing using specialised equipment as part of end of season renovations. Typically, the aim is to apply approximately 6-14kgs/ m² /year (This equates to between 60-100tonnes) for a full size pitch eg (100x64m) The type of top dressing used is important to avoid creating issues, you can make sure any materials used are compatible with your soil type/drainage by having a Particle Soil Distribution analysis undertaken by a suitable dressings supplier. Always keep dressing dry prior to and during application and brush/drag matt in thoroughly when dry in several directions. The report budget provided is for 30 tonnes.

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



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 (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 >](#)



ESTIMATED BUDGET TO CARRY OUT RECOMMENDATIONS

£5650

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.

COMPACT TRACTOR (WITH CUTTING DECK)

Compact Tractor with Mid-mounted cutting Deck
A 25hp-30hp compact tractor with a mid-mounted cutting deck would mean that rear tractor mounted implements could be used in combination with the mowing deck allowing potentially five operations in one if a combination turf grooming attachment was used. It would take approximately one hour to mow a full-size pitch.

- 25– 35horsepower
- Turf tread tyres
- ROPS
- PTO
- 3-point linkage

[LEARN MORE ABOUT COMPACT TRACTOR
\(WITH CUTTING DECK\) >](#)



COMBINATION TURF GROOMING TOOL

1.8m Rear tractor mounted Combination Grooming Tool would enable key maintenance tasks such as brushing, raking, surface 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 allowing 4 operations in 1 hour of maintenance per full size pitch. Attachments must be compatible in terms of horse power and lift capacity with the available or purchased tractor.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT COMBINATION TURF GROOMING TOOL >](#)



SOIL SAMPLER

Due to the need for regular soil sampling, it is recommended that you consider the purchase of a suitable impact style 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.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT SOIL SAMPLER >](#)



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

Tracey Stephens

**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: **10964**

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)