



PITCHPOWER

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FOOTBALL ASSESSMENT REPORT

HEYWOOD SPORTS VILLAGE

Lancashire FA

Active Places Site ID

1039670

Report ID

5791



This report has been compiled for LINK 4 LIFE F.C. and Lancashire 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 NOV 2021 / 31 MAR 2022

Inspection Reason

GENERAL PITCH MAINTENANCE ADVICE

Report Completion Date

2 FEB 2023

This report looks solely at the Football pitches for LINK 4 LIFE F.C. 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:

HEYWOOD SPORTS VILLAGE



HEYWOOD SPORTS VILLAGE

Site ID: 1039670



Map Key	Pitch Name	PQS Score
1	PITCH 1	● Basic - 45%
2	PITCH 2	● Basic - 50%
3	PITCH 3	● Basic - 59%

Date inspection submitted
10/03/22

Inspection submitted by
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Next available inspection window
1 Jul 2022 / 31 Oct 2022

Reviewed by
Acooper@thegma.org.uk



Thank you for your submission. In order for these pitches to improve, an increase in the maintenance activities and an increase in the machinery stock is required. You may be eligible for support for funding towards maintenance operations (which could be up to 2500 per full size pitch per year known as Enhanced Maintenance Funding) for pitches rated as BASIC or POOR and up to £750 per year for pitches rated as GOOD or above (known as Sustain Funding) and up to 75% towards the machinery recommended in this report. Your county FA will be able to help with this process. If the club is awarded enhanced maintenance funding, concentrating on over-seeding, top dressing and decompaction/aeration operations will have the greatest impact on these pitches. If the club can source the appropriate volunteers, taking some of the recommended maintenance tasks in house such as mowing, slitting and grooming, would also help. This would be dependent on the club sourcing appropriate machinery.

Maintenance

Attention required in these areas:

[Slitting >](#)

[Surface Grooming >](#)

[Decompaction >](#)

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

[Application of fertiliser >](#)

[Mowing >](#)

Equipment

Attention required in these areas:

[Combination turf grooming tool >](#)

[Slitter >](#)

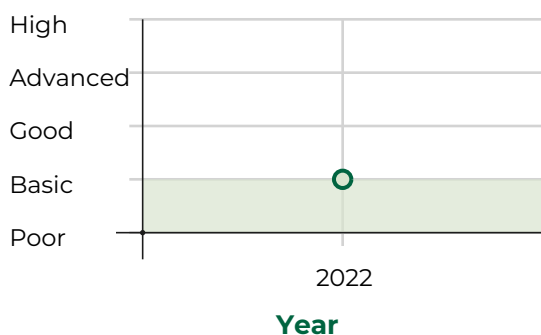
[Soil Sampler >](#)

Pitch 1 Football - Adult Football

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Basic (Adjusted) - 45%

AREA				PQS GRADE
Grass height	50	50	60	2
Grass coverage	75%	36%	55%	0
Weed coverage	10%	0%	10%	3
Surface debris	Below standard	Below standard	Below standard	0
Topsoil depth	150mm	100mm	160mm	3
Thatch depth	0mm	0mm	0mm	4
Root depth	150mm	150mm	100mm	4
Drainage Following Rainfall	Slow drainage			2
Goal posts	Compliant			1
Line markings	Standard			1
Surface evenness	Below standard			0

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time

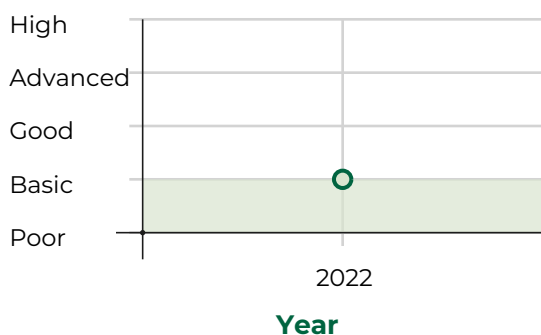


Pitch 2 Football - Adult Football

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Basic (Adjusted) - 50%

AREA				PQS GRADE
Grass height	30	40	40	3
Grass coverage	30%	48%	20%	0
Weed coverage	0%	0%	0%	4
Surface debris	Below standard	Below standard	Below standard	0
Topsoil depth	150mm	130mm	150mm	3
Thatch depth	0mm	0mm	0mm	4
Root depth	150mm	130mm	130mm	4
Drainage Following Rainfall	Slow drainage			2
Goal posts	Compliant			1
Line markings	Standard			1
Surface evenness	Below standard			0

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time

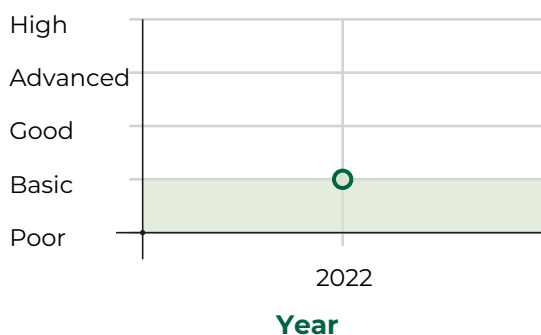


Pitch 3 Football - Junior Football 11v11

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Basic (Adjusted) - 59%

AREA				PQS GRADE
Grass height	40	40	40	3
Grass coverage	3%	21%	65%	0
Weed coverage	0%	0%	0%	4
Surface debris	Below standard	Below standard	Standard	2
Topsoil depth	150mm	140mm	150mm	3
Thatch depth	0mm	0mm	0mm	4
Root depth	100mm	80mm	130mm	3
Drainage Following Rainfall	Slow drainage			2
Goal posts	Compliant			1
Line markings	Above standard			2
Surface evenness	Standard			2

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time





MAINTENANCE

These recommendations are in priority order

SLITTING

Frequency:

More than 4 x per year

Recommended for:

Pitch 1, Pitch 2, Pitch 3

Slitting, although useful on it's own, works in perfect partnership with any decompaction works that are undertaken.

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. It must be mentioned that slitting the pitches should be performed as a preventative i.e. before heavy rain is forecast and not as an attempt to relieve a waterlogged surface as this will cause further damage.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT SLITTING >](#)



SURFACE GROOMING

Frequency:

More than 4 x per year

Recommended for:

Pitch 1, Pitch 2, Pitch 3

Throughout the year when conditions permit supplement decompaction and mowing operations with regular surface slitting and grooming to reduce surface compaction, improve ingress of water, air and nutrients and maintain connection between surface and deeper rootzone with attendant fractures and fissures. The latter most effective if conducted by a combination turf grooming tool fitted with attachments for surface slitting, rake, brush, and polishing roller. This encourages the grass plants to stand upright and grow vertically to help allow the air flow to the surface. These operations will also help with the control and prevention of thatch/organic matter build-up and disperse worm castings when ground conditions allow. Any rolling that takes place across the pitches should only be carried out with a lightweight roller in conjunction with a regular aeration programme.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT SURFACE GROOMING >](#)



DECOMPACTION

Frequency:

2 x per year

Recommended for:

Pitch 1, Pitch 2, Pitch 3

Est Cost:

£3000

The club/local authority should look to organise decompaction works on the site. Decompaction operations are essential to allow air, water and nutrients to pass into and through the soil profile increase drainage and root depth/density and improve the breakdown of organic matter (Thatch). Introduce a programme of deep spiking operations to be conducted at least twice annually, spring and autumn using 18-24mm tines at 100mm spacings to maximum achievable depth.

Contractor cost approx: £360 per 11v11 pitch, £306 per 9v9 pitch, £252 per mini soccer pitch

[LEARN MORE ABOUT DECOMPACTION >](#)



APPLICATION OF SELECTIVE HERBICIDE (WEED TREATMENT)

Frequency:

1 x per year

Recommended for:

Pitch 1, Pitch 2, Pitch 3

Est Cost:

£1050

Although there are very few weeds in the playing surface it is good practice to continue to spray a selective herbicide annually to keep the pitch in this condition.

Selective herbicide should be applied by a fully qualified professional with the appropriate equipment and paperwork.

This should be done when the grass is growing strongly.

It should not be applied any sooner than 6-8 weeks 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.

Contractor cost approx £250 per application 11 v 11 pitch

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



APPLICATION OF FERTILISER

Frequency:

1 x per year

Recommended for:

Pitch 1, Pitch 2, Pitch 3

Est Cost:

£1950

Slow release fertiliser

Experience has shown that where funds are limited and best value the major concern one application of a controlled release product in the spring once growth commences. For example giving 20% immediate availability of nutrients and the remainder over 4-5 months offers the best combination of value and result. This type of fertiliser provides a slow “drip” feed of nutrient avoiding excessive soft top growth susceptible to disease, encourages root and shoot development and avoids the common difficulty of increasing mowing regimes to keep up with the pace of growth even if only for a confined time period. Approx 10 x 20kg bags per 11 v 11 pitch per application Contractor cost approx £500 per application for 11 v 11 pitch.

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



MOWING

Frequency:

More than 4 x per year

Recommended for:

Pitch 1, Pitch 2, Pitch 3

The pitches should be maintained at a height between 30-35mm during the growing season and increased to between 35-40mm 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 during the heat of a warm day as this will cause stress to the turf. Use of brushes/spring harrows will help to disperse surface debris after cutting so this is another potential option. A height of cut between 35-40mm during close season will aid establishment of new growth and reduce the impact of stress factors such as drought or disease. Cutting a minimum of once per week during growing season is advisable.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT MOWING >](#)

ESTIMATED BUDGET TO CARRY OUT RECOMMENDATIONS

£6000

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.

COMBINATION TURF GROOMING TOOL

A 1.8m 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.

Combination turf grooming tool

- Slitter
- Brush
- Rake
- Light Roller
- Minimum working width circa 180mm

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



SLITTER

A 1.8m rear tractor mounted deep slitter would be ideal to carry out aeration to depths of between 160-220mm. This would complement any deep spiking operations carried out and will be ideal for controlling the thatch layer, increasing oxygen exchange in the soil and creating fissures for water to penetrate through the soil profile.

It would really serve the club well if they were to procure their own deep slitter which could be attached to the tractor - allowing the club flexibility in performing the operation as and when required and in the most suitable conditions.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT SLITTER >](#)



SOIL SAMPLER

Should the club be awarded Enhanced Grass Maintenance funding, then a dedicated soil sampler should be looked at to help club speed up time it takes and make it easier to carry out self-assessments of their pitches. Grantees are able to use their grant (up to a maximum of £100) towards a sampler. the supplier of these are offering a discount on top of this, it will be the impact soil sampler, with a discount and grant should only cost clubs around £50.

[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

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: **5791**

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)