



**PITCHPOWER**  
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Football Foundation

# ***FOOTBALL ASSESSMENT REPORT***

## **HARVESTERS FOOTBALL CLUB**

**Hertfordshire FA**

**SITE ID:**

6018147

**INSPECTION ID:**

8786



This report has been compiled for Harvesters F.C. and Hertfordshire 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 2022 / 31 Mar 2023**

Inspection Reason

**Existing Football Foundation Grant**

Report Completion Date

**21 Feb 2023**

Disclaimer: This report has been compiled for Harvesters f.c. and Hertfordshire 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

Site Report:

**HARVESTERS FOOTBALL CLUB**





## HARVESTERS FOOTBALL CLUB

Ground ID: 6018147

The below RAG Rating indicates how many of your pitches have achieved a PQS grade of Good or better

<b>RAG RATING:</b>	<b>71%</b> ●
Pitch 1	● Basic
Pitch 3	● Advanced
Pitch 4	● Good
Pitch 5	● Advanced
Pitch C	● Basic
Pitch 2	● Good
Pitch 6	● Advanced



Date submitted

**08/02/23**

Inspection window

**1 Nov 2022 / 31 Mar 2023**

Next assessment needs to be completed:

**1 Apr 2023 / 30 Jun 2023**

Reviewed by:

**[jmorris@thegma.org.uk](mailto:jmorris@thegma.org.uk)**

## GROUND OVERVIEW

Report completed 21/02/2023

The recommendations made in this report are based on the condition of the pitches at the time of the inspection. Pitch quality varied across the site with some wear through central areas and goal mouths on certain pitches but we would expect that to some degree at this time of year. Generally the site is improved compared to the previous inspection. Grass height was consistent and generally about right for the time of year. Appropriate mowing



heights are an important part of maintaining the health of the grass so it is better able to cope with stresses such as wear, potential disease and extremes of weather. Unless the standard of football demands it low heights of cut should be avoided. Pitch markings were visible and to standard with no signs of burning in. The depth of debris free topsoil was reasonable (ideally samples would be to at least 150mm) root depth was good but root density could be improved further. In terms of recommended maintenance in the short and medium term, temperatures are too cold at the moment to expect successful establishment from any potential over-seeding of worn areas. Deep spiking of the pitches if this hasn't taken place yet this winter will help improve the soil structure and encourage better root development and gaseous exchange in the soil improving turf health as well as improving surface drainage capacity. However for deep spiking to be effective it must take place when the soils are moist but not wet, if too wet deep spiking will be ineffective and may actually make drainage issues worse. It should also be avoided when frost is forecast or when the ground is too hard. Annual pitch renovation works are traditionally timed at the end of the football playing season however this is an increasingly high risk approach on pitches with no or limited means of watering and is becoming less and less successful with the weather extremes particularly in areas of the country where rainfall is below average. In future years given the droughts being experienced any seeding works deemed necessary will likely be more successful if divided between early spring and autumn. This may mean that seeding works are taking place whilst the pitches are in use which may lead to some grass loss through wear however 70% germination and establishment is preferable to the 0% we may see if seeding is left till season end and we continue to see the droughts experienced in recent years. Renovation works on recreational sites may typically consist of light scarification, sand dressing (budgets allowing), disc seeding, deep spiking and granular fertiliser application. Selective weed control should be applied annually but this should not be applied during drought conditions and should typically not take place within 6-8 weeks prior to or after seeding, this will not be appropriately timed before late spring now at the earliest.

Senior Regional Pitch Advisor contact [jmorris@thegma.org.uk](mailto:jmorris@thegma.org.uk)  
07519103040

The maintenance budget figure in this report



does not relate to any potential grass pitch maintenance grant award. It is an approximate budget to carry out all the listed tasks each season to the ideal frequency. Awarded funding helps to subsidise the cost of implementing the recommendations.

## Maintenance

Attention required in these areas:

[Mowing >](#)

[Line marking >](#)

[Decompaction >](#)

[Surface Grooming >](#)

[Application of fertiliser >](#)

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

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

## Equipment

Attention required in these areas:

[Slitter >](#)

## Question section

**Q. Who looks after the grounds maintenance?**

A. Club Staff or Volunteers

**Q. Renovations**

A. Club Staff or Volunteers

**Q. Volunteers**

A. 2



## Pitch 1

Football - mini soccer 7v7

Pitch ID:

**6453**

Current PQS grade: ● Basic

Previous PQS grade: ● Good

## PITCH

### Drainage

Q. Does your pitch have drainage installed?

A. No

Q. If your pitch has a drainage system, please select what system you have.

A. No Drainage

Q. How well does your pitch drain naturally?

A. Slow drainage

### Usage & Maintenance

Q. How many total match play hours are played on this pitch per week?

A. 16hrs

Q. How many total training hours are played on this pitch per week?

A. 0hrs

Q. Is there any recreational use of this pitch?

A. No

Q. How many games have been cancelled on this pitch since the previous inspection window?

A. 2



## Damaged areas

**Q. Select from the list below the type of damaged areas your pitch has.**

A. None

## Additional information

**Q. What standard are your line markings?**

A. Above standard

**Q. How even is your playing surface?**

A. Standard

**Q. Are your goalposts compliant?**

A. Compliant

**Q. Have you had any major work done in the past 5 years?**

A. Full renovation

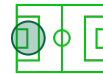
**Q. Is this pitch used in the National League System steps 1-6?**

A. No



## Surface profile

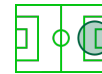
Q. How many squares contain grass?



30%

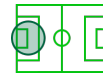


61%



65%

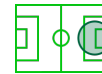
Q. Using the same picture, give the percentage of weeds in the picture. The total figure of 'Grass coverage' and 'Weed coverage' should not exceed 100%, so if you can see both grass and weed in the same square count the one that has the most in it.



0%

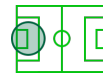


0%



0%

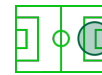
Q. What is the average grass height?



30

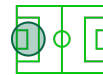


30



30

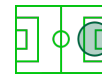
Q. How does surface debris impact the quality of matchplay on your pitch?



Below standard



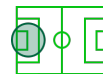
Standard



Standard

## Soil profile

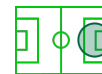
Q. Measure the thatch depth.



2mm

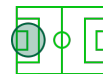


2mm



2mm

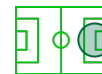
Q. Measure the root depth.



70mm

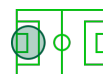


90mm



70mm

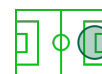
Q. Measure the topsoil depth.



120mm



120mm



120mm



## Pitch 3

Football - junior football 11v11

Pitch ID:

**6459**

Current PQS grade: ● Advanced

Previous PQS grade: ● Good

## PITCH

### Drainage

Q. Does your pitch have drainage installed?

A. No

Q. If your pitch has a drainage system, please select what system you have.

A. No Drainage

Q. How well does your pitch drain naturally?

A. Slow drainage

### Usage & Maintenance

Q. How many total match play hours are played on this pitch per week?

A. 12hrs

Q. How many total training hours are played on this pitch per week?

A. 0hrs

Q. Is there any recreational use of this pitch?

A. No

Q. How many games have been cancelled on this pitch since the previous inspection window?

A. 1





## Damaged areas

**Q. Select from the list below the type of damaged areas your pitch has.**

A. None

## Additional information

**Q. What standard are your line markings?**

A. Above standard

**Q. How even is your playing surface?**

A. Standard

**Q. Are your goalposts compliant?**

A. Compliant

**Q. Have you had any major work done in the past 5 years?**

A. Full renovation

**Q. Is this pitch used in the National League System steps 1-6?**

A. No



## Pitch 4

Football - junior football 11v11

Pitch ID:

**6460**

Current PQS grade: ● Good

Previous PQS grade: ● Good

## PITCH

### Drainage

Q. Does your pitch have drainage installed?

A. No

Q. If your pitch has a drainage system, please select what system you have.

A. No Drainage

Q. How well does your pitch drain naturally?

A. Slow drainage

### Usage & Maintenance

Q. How many total match play hours are played on this pitch per week?

A. 10hrs

Q. How many total training hours are played on this pitch per week?

A. 0hrs

Q. Is there any recreational use of this pitch?

A. No

Q. How many games have been cancelled on this pitch since the previous inspection window?

A. 2



## Additional information

**Q. What standard are your line markings?**

A. Above standard

**Q. How even is your playing surface?**

A. Standard

**Q. Are your goalposts compliant?**

A. Compliant

**Q. Have you had any major work done in the past 5 years?**

A. Full renovation

**Q. Is this pitch used in the National League System steps 1-6?**

A. No



## Pitch 5

Football - junior football 11v11

Pitch ID:

**6461**

Current PQS grade: ● Advanced

Previous PQS grade: ● Good

## PITCH

### Drainage

Q. Does your pitch have drainage installed?

A. No

Q. If your pitch has a drainage system, please select what system you have.

A. No Drainage

Q. How well does your pitch drain naturally?

A. Slow drainage

### Usage & Maintenance

Q. How many total match play hours are played on this pitch per week?

A. 10hrs

Q. How many total training hours are played on this pitch per week?

A. 0hrs

Q. Is there any recreational use of this pitch?

A. No

Q. How many games have been cancelled on this pitch since the previous inspection window?

A. 2



## Additional information

**Q. What standard are your line markings?**

A. Above standard

**Q. How even is your playing surface?**

A. Standard

**Q. Are your goalposts compliant?**

A. Compliant

**Q. Have you had any major work done in the past 5 years?**

A. Full renovation

**Q. Is this pitch used in the National League System steps 1-6?**

A. No



## Pitch c

Football - mini soccer 5v5

Pitch ID:

**6457**

Current PQS grade: ● Basic

Previous PQS grade: ● Good

## PITCH

### Drainage

Q. Does your pitch have drainage installed?

A. No

Q. If your pitch has a drainage system, please select what system you have.

A. No Drainage

Q. How well does your pitch drain naturally?

A. Slow drainage

### Usage & Maintenance

Q. How many total match play hours are played on this pitch per week?

A. 14hrs

Q. How many total training hours are played on this pitch per week?

A. 0hrs

Q. Is there any recreational use of this pitch?

A. No

Q. How many games have been cancelled on this pitch since the previous inspection window?

A. 2



## Damaged areas

**Q. Select from the list below the type of damaged areas your pitch has.**

A. None

## Additional information

**Q. What standard are your line markings?**

A. Above standard

**Q. How even is your playing surface?**

A. Standard

**Q. Are your goalposts compliant?**

A. Compliant

**Q. Have you had any major work done in the past 5 years?**

A. Full renovation

**Q. Is this pitch used in the National League System steps 1-6?**

A. No



## Pitch 2

Football - junior football 9v9

Pitch ID:

**6455**

Current PQS grade: ● Good

Previous PQS grade: ● Good

## PITCH

### Drainage

Q. Does your pitch have drainage installed?

A. No

Q. If your pitch has a drainage system, please select what system you have.

A. No Drainage

Q. How well does your pitch drain naturally?

A. Slow drainage

### Usage & Maintenance

Q. How many total match play hours are played on this pitch per week?

A. 16hrs

Q. How many total training hours are played on this pitch per week?

A. 0hrs

Q. Is there any recreational use of this pitch?

A. No

Q. How many games have been cancelled on this pitch since the previous inspection window?

A. 2





## Damaged areas

**Q. Select from the list below the type of damaged areas your pitch has.**

A. None

## Additional information

**Q. What standard are your line markings?**

A. Above standard

**Q. How even is your playing surface?**

A. Standard

**Q. Are your goalposts compliant?**

A. Compliant

**Q. Have you had any major work done in the past 5 years?**

A. Full renovation

**Q. Is this pitch used in the National League System steps 1-6?**

A. No



## Pitch 6

Football - adult football

Pitch ID:

**6462**

Current PQS grade: ● Advanced

Previous PQS grade: ● Good

## PITCH

### Drainage

Q. Does your pitch have drainage installed?

A. No

Q. If your pitch has a drainage system, please select what system you have.

A. No Drainage

Q. How well does your pitch drain naturally?

A. Slow drainage

### Usage & Maintenance

Q. How many total match play hours are played on this pitch per week?

A. 4hrs

Q. How many total training hours are played on this pitch per week?

A. 0hrs

Q. Is there any recreational use of this pitch?

A. No



## Damaged areas

**Q. Select from the list below the type of damaged areas your pitch has.**

A. None

## Additional information

**Q. What standard are your line markings?**

A. Above standard

**Q. How even is your playing surface?**

A. Standard

**Q. Are your goalposts compliant?**

A. Compliant

**Q. Have you had any major work done in the past 5 years?**

A. Full renovation

**Q. Is this pitch used in the National League System steps 1-6?**

A. No



# 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 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.

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## 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 restraighten lines should be considered.

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

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## Decompaction

**Frequency:**  
2 x per year

**Recommended for:**  
Whole Ground

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.

Typical contractor cost approx: £470 per 11v11 pitch, £336 per 9v9 pitch, £282 per mini soccer pitch

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## 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. Using the available combination grooming tool 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.

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## Application of fertiliser

**Frequency:**  
2 x per year

**Recommended for:**  
Whole Ground

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.

Contractor cost approx: £650 per 11v11 pitch, £520 per 9v9 pitch, £390 per mini soccer pitch (including materials)

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## Overseeding (In Season)

**Frequency:**

1 x per year

**Recommended for:**

Whole Ground

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 6 bags per operation.

Typical contractor cost approx: £1375 per 11v11 pitch, £1100 per 9v9 pitch, £825 per mini soccer pitch (including materials)

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## Application of selective herbicide (weed treatment)

**Frequency:**

1 x per year

**Recommended for:**

Whole Ground

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.

Typical contractor cost approx: £325 per 11v11 pitch, £260 per 9v9 pitch, £195 per mini soccer pitch (including materials)

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Annual budget to carry out recommendations. Please note costs provided are indicative and may vary dependent on quantities and frequency.

**£24000**



## EQUIPMENT

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

*These recommendations are in priority order.*

### Slitter

A 1.8m rear tractor mounted deep slitter would be ideal to carry out aeration to depths of between 150-220mm during the autumn and winter when soil conditions allow. This would complement any deep spiking operations carried out and would be ideal for controlling organic matter, increasing oxygen exchange in the soil and improving soil structure in turn improving drainage capacity. Up to 75% funding may be available through the Football Foundation towards new equipment and storage containers if required. Please speak to your County FA for further information. If the club also wanted to discuss any upgrades to existing machinery that may also be eligible for funding support please email me, [jmorris@thegma.org.uk](mailto:jmorris@thegma.org.uk)

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# TRAINING

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

*These recommendations are in priority order.*

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

[Visit Training Courses >](#)

## Recommended Training

### Nick Butcher

#### Online Modules Level 1

If not already completed a reminder that it is a terms and conditions requirement of the clubs maintenance equipment grants for two members of the applicant organisation to complete the GMA (ONLINE) Level 1 Football Grounds Maintenance.

[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.

Inspection ID: 8786

To apply for funding visit

<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 with groundskeepers across different levels of the game. You'll be able to ask questions and share best practice.

[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 the Football Foundation website](#) >

