



PITCHPOWER

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Football Foundation**

FOOTBALL ASSESSMENT REPORT

CLEGWELL COMMUNITY HUB

Durham FA

Active Places Site ID

1004108

Report ID

20083



This report has been compiled for CLEGWELL & HARTLEYBURN COMMUNITY HUB (CIO) and Durham 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 2024 / 31 MAR 2025

Inspection Reason

EXISTING FOOTBALL FOUNDATION GRANT

Report Completion Date

25 MAR 2025

This report looks solely at the Football pitches for CLEGWELL & HARTLEYBURN COMMUNITY HUB (CIO) 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:

CLEGWELL COMMUNITY HUB





CLEGWELL COMMUNITY HUB

Site ID: 1004108



Date inspection submitted

20/03/25

Inspection submitted by

joseph.dredge@durhamfa.com

Next available inspection window

1 Apr 2025 / 1 Jun 2025

Map Key	Pitch Name	PQS Score
1	PITCH 1 - CAMPBELL PARK ROAD	● Advanced - 61%
2	PITCH 2 - CAMPBELL PARK ROAD	● Good - 66%
3	PITCH 3 - CAMPBELL PARK ROAD	● Advanced - 61%
4	PITCH 4 PARK 9V9	● Advanced - 64%



Map Key	Pitch Name	PQS Score
5	PITCH 5 PARK 9V9	● Advanced - 66%
6	PITCH 6 HEBBURN INVOLVE	● Good - 52%
7	PITCH 7 HEBBURN INVOLVE	● Advanced - 64%



Thank you for the Pitch Power submission and waiting for the report to be completed. This report details a standard annual maintenance plan giving recommendations for best practice. All the pitches were graded at good or above, which is a credit to all involved. Regular decompaction and aeration works are vital throughout the playing season if conditions are suitable. Ensure all renovation works in the spring are planned to allow the site to recover and be in the best possible place for next season. The organisation should be proactive in planning, a fertiliser application, and over-seeding soon, temperatures and daylight hours are increasing, and visible growth can be seen in areas of the North-East and Yorkshire.

Machinery recommendations have been made if the organisation would like to update or add to their machinery stock. Up to 75% funding may be available through the Football Foundation towards new equipment that is recommended in this report.

Free educational workshops on grass pitch maintenance will be delivered online and in Yorkshire & the North-East, to view and book these events follow the link below.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScvsDI__bzpRGpEtAZ3PjOC-GFVDvGoo8ESxRAqCOglevwotQ/viewform

Chris Hunter

Yorkshire & North-East Regional Pitch Advisor

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Maintenance

Attention required in these areas:

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

[Decompaction >](#)

[Deep Slitting >](#)

[Surface Grooming >](#)

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

[Application of fertiliser >](#)

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

[Scarification >](#)

[Surface Levels >](#)

[Mowing >](#)

Equipment

Attention required in these areas:

[Compact tractor >](#)

[Mowing equipment >](#)

[Fertiliser spreader >](#)

[Combination turf grooming tool >](#)

[Deep Slitter >](#)

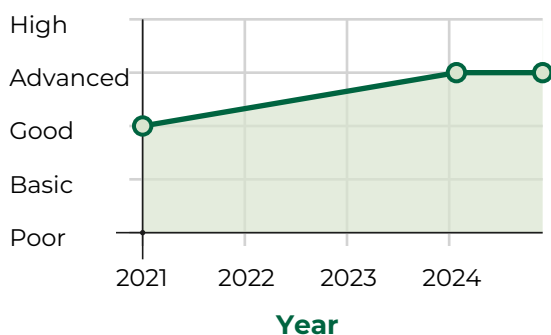
[Line marker >](#)

Pitch 1 - Campbell Park Road Football - Adult Football

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Advanced - 61%

AREA				PQS GRADE
Grass height	45 ↓	40 ↓	35 ↑	2 ↓
Grass	85 ↓	60 ↓	95 ↓	3 ↓
Weed coverage	0 ↓	0 ↓	0 ↓	4 ↓
Surface debris	Standard ↓	Standard ↓	Standard ↓	2 ↓
Topsoil depth	160mm ↓	150mm ↓	160mm ↓	3 ↓
Thatch depth	5mm ↑	5mm ↓	5mm ↑	4 ↑
Root depth	110mm ↑	80mm ↑	90mm ↓	3 ↑
Drainage Following Rainfall	Slow drainage ↓			2 ↓
Line markings	Standard ↓			1 ↓
Surface evenness	Standard ↓			2 ↓
Goalposts	Compliant ↓			1 ↓

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time



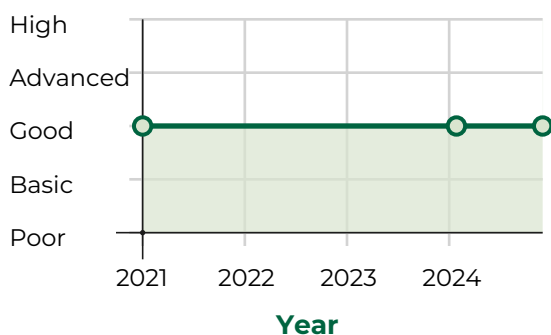
Pitch 2 - Campbell Park Road Football - Adult Football

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Good - 66%

AREA				PQS GRADE
Grass height	50	40	30	3
Grass	95	65	90	4
Weed coverage	0	0	0	4
Surface debris	Standard	Standard	Standard	2
Topsoil depth	170mm	160mm	150mm	3
Thatch depth	5mm	0mm	5mm	4
Root depth	130mm	80mm	100mm	3
Drainage Following Rainfall	Slow drainage			2
Line markings	Standard			1
Surface evenness	Standard			2
Goalposts	Compliant			1

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

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time

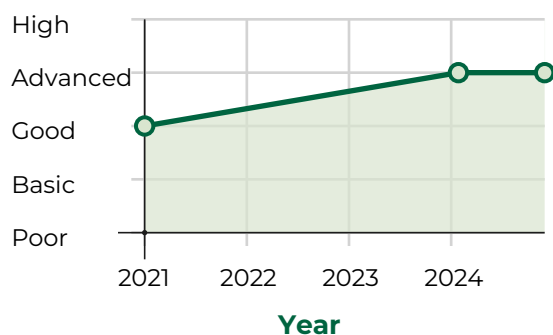


Pitch 3 - Campbell Park Road Football - Adult Football

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Advanced - 61%

AREA				PQS GRADE
Grass height	65	60	30	1
Grass	95	96	90	4
Weed coverage	0	0	0	4
Surface debris	Standard	Standard	Standard	2
Topsoil depth	160mm	165mm	180mm	3
Thatch depth	5mm	5mm	5mm	4
Root depth	115mm	110mm	170mm	3
Drainage Following Rainfall	Slow drainage			2
Line markings	Standard			1
Surface evenness	Standard			2
Goalposts	Compliant			1

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time

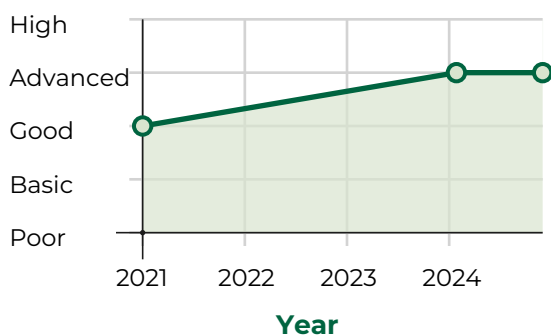


Pitch 4 Park 9v9 Football - Junior Football 9v9

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Advanced - 64%

AREA				PQS GRADE
Grass height	30	45	40	2
Grass	91	89	92	4
Weed coverage	0	0	0	4
Surface debris	Standard	Standard	Standard	2
Topsoil depth	180mm	180mm	180mm	4
Thatch depth	5mm	5mm	5mm	4
Root depth	160mm	160mm	150mm	4
Drainage Following Rainfall	Standing water			0
Line markings	Standard			1
Surface evenness	Standard			2
Goalposts	Compliant			1

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time

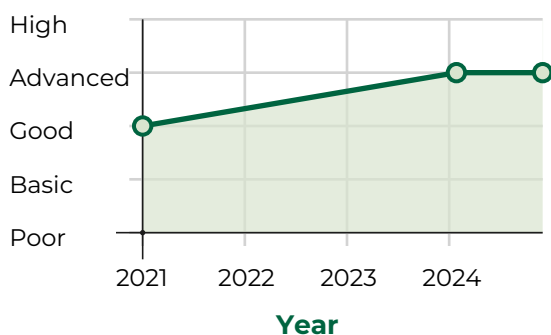


Pitch 5 park 9v9 Football - Junior Football 9v9

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Advanced - 66%

AREA				PQS GRADE
Grass height	30	45	55	2
Grass	92	81	90	4
Weed coverage	0	0	0	4
Surface debris	Standard	Standard	Standard	2
Topsoil depth	140mm	170mm	170mm	3
Thatch depth	5mm	5mm	10mm	4
Root depth	140mm	140mm	140mm	4
Drainage Following Rainfall	Slow drainage			2
Line markings	Standard			1
Surface evenness	Standard			2
Goalposts	Compliant			1

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time

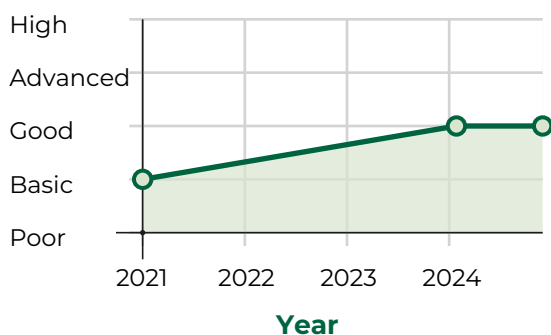


Pitch 6 Hebburn Involve Football - Junior Football 11v11

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Good - 52%

AREA				PQS GRADE
Grass height	45	40	40	2
Grass	81	76	84	3
Weed coverage	4	4	6	4
Surface debris	Standard	Standard	Standard	2
Topsoil depth	110mm	110mm	180mm	1
Thatch depth	10mm	5mm	5mm	4
Root depth	110mm	90mm	110mm	3
Drainage Following Rainfall	Standing water			0
Line markings	Standard			1
Surface evenness	Standard			2
Goalposts	Compliant			1

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time

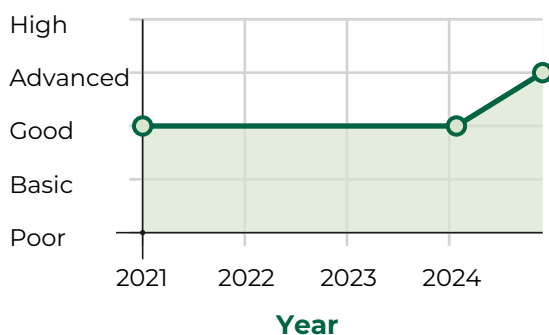


Pitch 7 Hebburn Involve Football - Junior Football 9v9

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Advanced - 64%

AREA				PQS GRADE
Grass height	40	40	35	3
Grass	95	90	80	4
Weed coverage	0	0	5	4
Surface debris	Standard	Standard	Standard	2
Topsoil depth	175mm	130mm	150mm	3
Thatch depth	5mm	5mm	5mm	4
Root depth	100mm	130mm	140mm	4
Drainage Following Rainfall	Standing water			0
Line markings	Standard			1
Surface evenness	Standard			2
Goalposts	Compliant			1

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time





MAINTENANCE

These recommendations are in priority order

GOAL MOUTH REPAIRS (IN SEASON)

Frequency:

As Required

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£140

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
\(IN SEASON\) >](#)



DECOMPACTION

Frequency:

2 x per year

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£6100

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 >](#)



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 >](#)



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 >](#)



OVERSEEDING (IN SEASON)

Frequency:

1 x per year

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£8900

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 \(IN SEASON\) >](#)



APPLICATION OF FERTILISER

Frequency:

1 x per year

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£4100

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 >](#)



APPLICATION OF SELECTIVE HERBICIDE (WEED TREATMENT)

Frequency:

As Required

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£2300

If weeds affect play or the ability to sustain a desirable level of grass cover then treatment should be considered. As part of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach, decide upon and set threshold levels where chemical control of weeds is deemed necessary. This treatment must be performed in combination with good routine cultural practices to help suppress weeds and operations to promote and sustain grass cover, reducing opportunities for invasive plants to become present in the pitch. Selective herbicides should only be applied by a fully qualified professional with the appropriate equipment and documentation. The application should not take place any sooner than 4-6 weeks before or after seeding, this timeframe will depend on the specific product. Weeds and invasive annual grasses will tend to die back in the late autumn, resulting in a loss of overall ground cover, and increasing the risk of postponed games - it highlights the importance of sustaining a suitable level of desirable grass cover throughout the year, this is achieved through routine maintenance operations performed following best practise guidance as recommended within this report.

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



SCARIFICATION

Frequency:

1 x per year

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£2300

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 >](#)



SURFACE LEVELS

Frequency:

1 x per year

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

If finances allow an application of top dressing can help to reinstate surface levels and improve surface drainage and the quality of the topsoil 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 9-16kgs/ m² /year (This equates to between 60-100tonnnes) 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 application and brush/drag matt in thoroughly when dry in several directions.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT SURFACE LEVELS >](#)



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 >](#)

ESTIMATED BUDGET TO CARRY OUT RECOMMENDATIONS

£23840

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

A 30-40Hp compact tractor with turf tyres, ROPS, front weights and PTO would enable the use of multiple attachments for pitch maintenance. The tractor should be matched in terms of power and lift capacity to the intended attachments.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT COMPACT TRACTOR >](#)



MOWING EQUIPMENT

A 1.8m Tractor mounted Rigid Rear Roller Mower could be considered. Whilst there is some compromise in cutting quality rotary units are more easily maintained than cylinder mowers, service costs are less and heights of cut more easily adjusted. Attachments must be compatible in terms of horsepower and lift capacity with the available or purchased tractor.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT MOWING EQUIPMENT >](#)



FERTILISER SPREADER

A tractor mounted fertiliser spreader with at least 300 litres capacity would enable the pitches to be fertilised when required and when conditions are favourable and are very time effective. Attachments must be compatible in terms of horsepower and lift capacity with the available or purchased tractor.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT FERTILISER SPREADER >](#)



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 horsepower and lift capacity with the available or purchased tractor.

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



DEEP SLITTER

A 1.8m rear tractor mounted deep splitter would be ideal to carry out aeration to depths typically between 150-220mm. 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 drainage capacity. Attachments must be compatible in terms of horsepower and lift capacity with the available or purchased tractor.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT DEEP SLITTER >](#)



LINE MARKER

Spray line markers provide accurate and bright lines and can be used with ready mix paints for economical line marking. I would also generally recommend that a wheel transfer marker is available for use as a back-up.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT LINE MARKER >](#)



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: **20083**

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)