

Ripplevale School

Maintenance Programme

Introduction

Following NTS reporting of NTS190_Ripplevale School_Playing Field PQS and further consultation and comments from Sport England on 31/05/23 LXA appointed NTS on 29/06/23 to a statement in response to the three points raised:

1. Provide a schedule of playing field maintenance including a programme for implementation for a minimum period of five years to satisfy the requirements of Condition 4.

Maintenance Programme

Maintenance of natural turf pitches is dependent on several variables and would be fluid through the process and years to be determined on an annual basis. The usage had been confirmed to be only for Ripplevale pupils. NTS have limited information on the level of this usage and hours of usage amongst other factors. It is known that the school have a contract in place that undertakes mowing regimes over the field and this therefore has not been included within the below scenarios.

The negatives of the football pitch location are generally based on the undesirable grasses and weeds present. If the pitch wishes to improve this area alone then a regime could be implanted as per table 1.

Table 1 – basic annual maintenance regime over 5 years

Description	Area	Unit	No.	£/Unit	Cost
Mowing – already in place by others	17066	m2			
Fertilising Plan for the application of fertiliser to commence four weeks after grass establishment using the following programme as a guide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apr 12:6:6 at 350 kg/ha • Jun 12:6:6 at 350 kg/ha • Sep 12:6:6 at 350 kg/ha 	17066	m2	3		
Weed Control The contractor shall plan for the application of an approved selective herbicide six months after establishment. This shall be applied at least two weeks after any fertiliser treatment and at a time when grass growth is strong and healthy. Do not apply herbicide during periods of potential turf stress i.e. if the weather is hot and dry or if the weather is frosty. Apply herbicide strictly according to the manufacturer's label recommendations.	17066	m2	1		
Over seeding The development area shall be over seeded using the same seed mixture as that used in the original establishment of the site at a rate of 25 g/m2.	17066	m2	1		
Aeration Verti-drain the development area on two occasions (April and September) when ground conditions are suitable (sufficient water content to allow penetration of Verti-drain tines to full operating depth).	17066	m2	2		
Total					

Since the reporting the lab results of the soil samples have returned showing a Sandy silty loam topsoil made up of:

- Sample 1 - 24% Sand (2.00 - 0.063mm), 59% Silt (0.063 - 0.002mm) and 17% Clay (< 0.002mm).
- Sample 2 - 21% Sand (2.00 - 0.063mm), 62% Silt (0.063 - 0.002mm) and 17% Clay (< 0.002mm).
- Sample 3 - 22% Sand (2.00 - 0.063mm), 62% Silt (0.063 - 0.002mm) and 16% Clay (< 0.002mm).