

A Report to Tetra Tech (Formerly WYG)

A Report into the Proposed Pitches at the Former East Lancashire Paper Mill - Radcliffe

27 March 2023



Professional Sportsturf Design (NW) Ltd
Wigan Road
Leyland
PR25 5XW

Tel: 01772 297830
Email: consultants@psdagronomy.com

Job Title Tetra Tech

Job Number 1501

Document Title A Report into the Proposed Pitches at the Former East Lancashire Paper Mill, Radcliffe

Document Reference O/001/WYG/1501/R/180618

Prepared By Dale Frith

Signed



Date 18/6/18

REVISION RECORD					
Revision	Date	Description/Filename		Prepared	Approved
A	18/6/18	Draft		DF	GO
B	12/07/18	Issue		DF	GO
C	20/07/20	Revised to exclude requirement for football pitches and update budget costs		DF	GO
D	08/01/25	Revision to indicative development options for winter sports use		LG	MY

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1.0 INTRODUCTION & OBJECTIVES

Tetra Tech is overseeing the conversion of the former East Lancashire Paper Mill Site into a new housing development and recreational areas. Part of the development includes relocating an existing cricket ground to a new sports facility nearby.

The existing site is the former home of the East Lancashire Paper Mill which was closed in 2001, with the buildings demolished in 2006 and since then the site has been derelict. There are areas of the site which are within a flood plain, therefore the levels, particularly on the cricket pitch, may need to be kept close to their current height to ensure that there are no issues with flooding of neighbouring properties or the new development.

The proposed sports pitch location is in the southeast corner of the overall development, close to the remains of Radcliffe Tower which is a Grade 1 listed building. To the northeast of the proposed area is Close Park which contains ornamental gardens, bowling greens and open recreational areas amongst other attractions. The overall site is approximately 23 hectares in size and is located to the south of Spring Lane, Radcliffe.

The site inspected is located at:

Land south of:
Church Street East,
Radcliffe,
Manchester,
M26 2RF

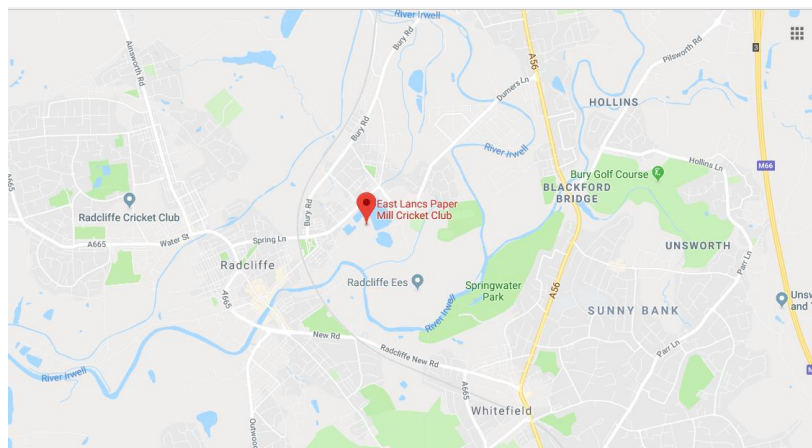


Plate 1: Site Location

PSD were originally instructed by Mr. Christopher Bradshaw of WYG (now Tetra Tech) to assess the condition of the site for the proposed sports pitches to assess the feasibility of delivery the project including recommendations and budget costs for the project.

The original proposals required 2no football pitches to be installed in addition to the relocation of the cricket pitch, however following review the football pitches are no longer required and the facility created will be stand alone for cricket. A desktop review was carried out in July 2020 following a request from Homes England to alter the report as the football pitches included originally within the plans are no longer required. The original site survey was undertaken by Dale Frith of PSD on 30th May 2018.

In March 2023, PSD were asked to revise the report due to a revision of the proposed site layout and following the diversion of Bealey's Goit which is the proposed drainage outlet for the pitch. In December 2024 PSD were advised to revise the indicative development options to accommodate winter sports use.

2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

	1. Site access for deliveries & materials storage etc. is good.
	2. There is adequate area available to create the cricket pitch required to meet SE/NGB Guidelines.
	3. The cricket section should be able to take on maintenance of their area post-handover as per their current situation.
	4. The Club have the necessary equipment and expertise to maintain the pitches following the works but also intend to engage the services of a specialist contractor to undertake annual sand topdressing.
	5. The proposed orientation is within SE/NGB Guidelines of 305° and 55° for cricket.
	6. The gradient is currently within SE/NGB Guidelines however will be beneficial to improve the gradients as other substantial earthworks are required in the form of site clearance and topsoil importation.
	7. A maintenance period will be required prior to handover which should include sand dressings to further enhance the soil texture at the surface, fertiliser applications & Vertidrainage to the outfield and careful rolling and topdressing to the square.
	8. Requirement for winter usage will require a secondary drainage system to assist water movement through the surface in the wetter winter months.
	9. Spoil arisings might need to go off site unless placement can be agreed with the Environment Agency.
	10. Restriction of working hours might be required due to the site being in a semi-residential location.
	11. The current surface and vegetation requires complete removal due to the poor quality of the vegetation and surface levels present.
	12. There is no existing drainage outfall present and as a drainage system is required, liaison with the Environment Agency will be required in order to establish connect to a positive outfall.
	13. The soil type and usage level dictate that a pipe drainage system is installed supplemented by sand topdressing.
	14. The site is identified as being within flood zones 2 & 3. This will require liaison with the Environment Agency to determine actions required. It is likely that the existing levels cannot be altered.
	15. Appropriate management of site access and pedestrians/dog walkers using the playing field will be necessary during any works.

KEY: ■ No action required ■ Action may be required ■ Action required

The installation of a drainage system and improvement of the soil texture are fundamental requirements for the short- and long-term success of the pitch. Therefore, the following items are required:

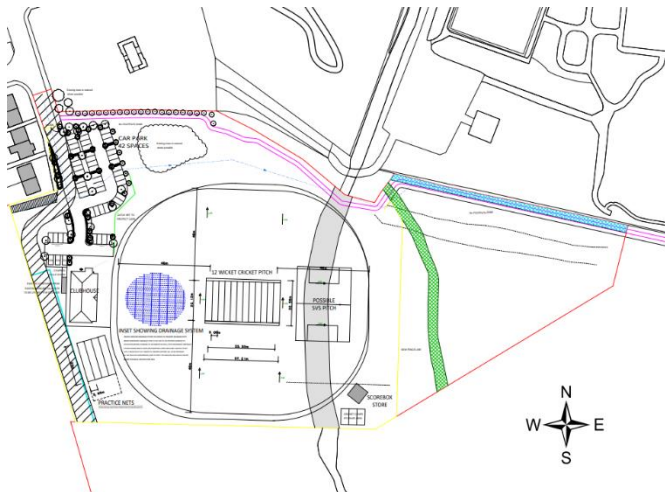
- Removal of existing vegetation and disposal off site
- Importation/transfer of topsoil material and placement
- Installation of lateral drains @ 5m centres
- Drainage arisings disposal onsite
- Installation of secondary drainage in the form of sand bands
- Connection to a positive drainage outfall

- Establishment of turfgrass from seed
- Post installation Verti draining and sand dressings – 2 no.
- Cricket square comprising allowance for 275 mm construction depth, sitting 25mm above the level of the surrounding outfield levels and comprising of 100 mm of MOT Type 1, 25 mm layer of sandy loam topsoil under 150 mm approved cricket loam placed in layers not more than 50mm depth.
- Installation of a water supply – it is imperative that a working water supply is installed adjacent to the cricket square to allow for safe preparation of the cricket square for use. In the absence of water, cricket square performance can be dangerous. The water supply must be a WRAS Category 5 compliant irrigation system.
- Install ball stop fencing to agreed location subject to ball strike assessment.

Based on the findings on site, the location and proposed usage, the works indicated above should be carried out as a minimum. Annual maintenance including sand dressings, fertiliser applications and Verti draining are essential practices to be carried out. Additionally, scarifying to remove dead vegetation and overseeding would provide benefits to the health of the sward. With the inclusion of planned secondary drainage, it is very important to note that frequent (minimum 3) sand topdressing applications would be required in the first 12 – 18 months post construction to protect the tops of the sand slits from contamination with the topsoil.

3.0 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

3.1 Proposed Layout/Orientation



The proposed layout comprises of a cricket pavilion, square and outfield as shown in Plate 2. The proposed sizes will need to meet those summarised in the table below to meet Sport England Guidelines.

Plate 2: Proposed Site Layout

It is not confirmed if the site is closed to non-cricket club users, if there are footpaths/access tracks and/or houses nearby, then a ball strike assessment maybe necessary in case of risk, with the protection measures to the car park also recommended to be checked.

Tetra Tech - East Lancs Paper Mill						
Proposed Pitch Size Assessment						
Pitch	Proposed Age Group	NGB Recommended Sizes				Comments
		Square Size		Overall Area		
		Length	Width	Length	Width	
Cricket	Open Age	20.12	36.6	111.56	128.04	Pitch to meet NGB Recommended Size

Table 1: Pitch Sizes and Run-offs

The newly installed pitch should be installed to NGB recommended sizes, the size of the outfield should be checked so that it complies with ECB guidelines of a minimum boundary 45.72m (50 yards) measured from the centre stump plus safety margin (2.74 m).

The table above gives the overall sizes for the pitch indicated and these can be accommodated within the area available.

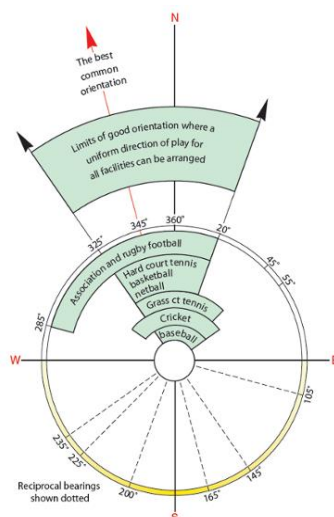


Fig 1: SE/NGB recommended orientation for a range of sports

In terms of orientation the cricket wicket is expected to be generally in a north to south direction and it will therefore be within the recommended range of 305° and 55°.

3.2 Existing Gradients/Surface Levels

Based on information provided in the form of 0.5m Lidar Contour plan, dated September 2017, approximate gradients are shown. Based on the site survey and the information provided approximate gradients are shown in the table below. The data provided indicates that the pitches would fall within the recommended gradients for pitches to current SE/NGB guidelines.

Tetra Tech - East Lancs Paper Mill				
Sport England/National Governing Body Preferred Gradients				
Pitch #	SE/NGB Preferred %		Measured on Site %	
	Line of Play	Across Play	Line of Play	Across Play
Square	Max 1%	<1.67%	2.00	0.25
Outfield	<2.0%	<2.0%	2.00	0.25

Table 2: Pitch Gradients

As part of the full design of the scheme, the levels of the pitch would need to be set to ensure that it is within SE/NGB guidelines. The current site has gradients just within the guidelines, there are however numerous low areas and discrepancies in the surface. This combined with an excessive amount of vegetation present on site will require significant work and presents the opportunity to allow the ground to be smoothed out as part of this process. It is also envisaged that a significant amount of topsoil will be required to improve the quality and depth of soil within the area. This should be possible by re-using topsoil from other areas of the development, e.g. pavilion, car park

etc. Any changes in the existing levels or gradients would need to be agreed with the Environment Agency as the site is located within Flood Risk Zones 2 and 3. Design levels should ideally be no more than 1% in either direction, this allows for the square and outfield to be installed on the same plane which is better for both play and maintenance.

3.3 Soil Profile

East Lancashire Paper Mill Site
Location of Soil Profile



Plate 3: Location of Soil Profile Digs

Excavations with a spade and hand-held auger together with laboratory analysis of the soil indicated the following:

a) Topsoil

- Maximum 150mm depth of topsoil, reasonably well structured; contained a significant amount of stones with laboratory analysis confirming 23.4% of material is over 3.4mm which is classed as a coarse gravel.
- A 40-50mm layer of fibrous organic material was present at the immediate surface of the topsoil. This was combined with the presence of a thick moss layer and a high amount of rooting mass at the surface.
- Laboratory analysis (see Appendix 2) classified the topsoil as a loam which after removal of the gravel, contained 49.8% sand, 31.2% silt and 19.0% clay.

Sample	% Gravel	After removal of gravel			Soil Texture Classification
		% Sand	% Silt	% Clay	
Sample EC/1/10804	26.1	49.8	31.2	19.0	Loam

In terms of the physical analysis of the topsoil, although it contains a relatively high percentage of sand with overall percentage 49.8%, the fines content of the remaining 50.2% below 0.125mm will

determine that it behaves as a fine textured topsoil and will be susceptible to structural damage (compaction) during play in wet conditions.

To improve the soil texture, sand amelioration or imported topsoil will be required during the winter sports pitch and outfield installation phase. This will allow a large percentage of the upper profile of topsoil to be enhanced. Further sand dressings are recommended on an annual basis to ensure continual improvements are made along with ensuring that the surface to drain connection remains open and functional (termed Hydraulic Connectivity).

Chemical analysis of the topsoil recorded a pH of 7.9 which is above the preferred range of 6.0 to 7.0 for a perennial ryegrass dominant sward.

Levels of major nutrients (phosphorus, potassium and magnesium) were recorded as Index 0.7 for phosphorus, 1.7 for potassium and 2.9 for magnesium.

Analysis	Result	Guideline	Interpretation	Comments
pH	7.9	6.0	High	High. An alkaline environment will reduce the availability of certain nutrients - particularly P, K, B, Co, Cu, Fe, Mn and Zn. An elevated pH will also impact on beneficial soil fungal populations and activity.
Phosphorus (ppm)	7	16	Very Low	(Index 0.7) 120 kg/ha P ₂ O ₅ (96 units/acre).
Potassium (ppm)	107	121	Low	(Index 1.7) 80 kg/ha K ₂ O (64 units/acre).
Magnesium (ppm)	98	51	Normal	(Index 2.9) Apply 25 kg/ha MgO (20 units/acre) every three to four years.

With the recommended index range being 2.0 to 4.0, the topsoil is very low in phosphorus, low in potassium but has normal levels for magnesium.

Based on the results, an annual fertiliser programme which provides in the region of 100-120kg of Nitrogen per hectare and includes phosphorus and potassium would be recommended. Depending on budget restrictions, the use of controlled release or possibly an organic based fertiliser would help to prevent flushes of growth which results in the grass being soft and needing to be cut more frequently. The pH of the soil will cause some elements to be locked up and unavailable for plant growth. A fertiliser regime will generally reduce the pH of the soil over time.

b) Subsoil

The subsoil was found to be a clay material immediately below the topsoil level. The subsoil contained a minimal amount of stone but was categorised as stiff clay throughout.



Plate 4: Typical topsoil profile and condition



Plate 5: Typical top of subsoil showing dense clay of very low permeability

3.4 Climatic Data

A collation of historical climatic data is tabulated in Table 4

Characteristic	Data	Comments
Annual rainfall	1,133mm	All represent high readings
Excess winter rain (median)	600mm	
Excess winter rain (quartile range)	460-720mm	
Return to field capacity	11 September	The pitches will be at field capacity for the majority of the football season
End of field capacity	13 May	
Period of field capacity	245 days	
Growing season	2 April- 26 Nov (238 days)	Reasonably long growing season; little need for irrigation
Grass drought factor	<5 days	
Potential transpiration	442mm	

Table 3: Historical Climate Data

From the table above, the following should be noted:

- Average rainfall for the area is high at 1,133mm per year
- The median excess winter rainfall which is the amount of rainfall that needs to be discharged through the profile and the drainage system over the winter period is recorded as 600mm (excess winter rain does vary from year to year and the quartile range given is 460-720mm).
- Field capacity is that state in which the soil is holding the maximum amount of water after free drainage has ceased. It is useful to know this since it indicates the time of year about which drainage will start to occur and also that time when soil compaction is most likely to happen. Fine textured soils in particular are susceptible to compaction from physical forces when at field capacity or above. The median date for return to field capacity is 11 September for this area and the end of capacity given as 13 May. This equates to the topsoil being at field capacity for 245 days and the majority of the winter sport season.
- The grass drought factor gives an indication of the number of days when the soil moisture deficit exceeds 50mm within the main rootzone. Such a soil moisture deficit is likely to lead to the growth of grass being impeded due to a lack of regularly available soil moisture. In this area the grass drought factor is estimated to be under 5 days.
- The determination of the growing season is not easy as it depends upon a number of different factors. However, in this case it is defined as the length of time that the top 300mm of soil remains

above 6°C. For this site the growing season is said to be 238 days (2 April – 26 November) and will provide a significant recovery period between seasons, assuming that the pitches are not excessively used for summer activities.

In summary, excess winter rainfall is high and will need to be removed by an efficient drainage system given the presence of the impermeable clay subsoil. Should winter sport usage be required, deterioration of the topsoil structural condition especially at the surface, would be expected given it would be at field capacity for much of the period these sports are played. Supplementing the pipe drainage system with sand bands to bypass the deteriorated topsoil must be considered as an essential component of the works on all areas to be used for winter sports.

The need to irrigate to enable the sward to recover following renovations at the end of the football season in spring is assessed as not being essential, but useful according to historical weather data. Nevertheless, a late summer sowing would be preferred for establishment of the area.

3.5 Existing Drainage

The existing condition of the area shows no signs of any existing drainage to be present. This can be attributed to the vegetation seen within the site and factors on the surface of the topsoil suggesting that water either stays within the soil for long periods or runs off the surface of the adjoining higher ground towards the lower ground to the north. There are no potential outfall chambers within the area however there are some sealed chambers to the north of the site just outside of its boundary.

Bealey's Goit is a water course in the local area and has been diverted from its existing path to aid water management in the area whilst also moving the route from below the proposed cricket outfield. The new layout plan shows a culverted section to the North-East of the proposed cricket field with a drain (unspecified) leading from the car park area at the West into the culvert.

It is proposed that the outfall from the cricket pitch drainage is taken into the proposed drainage infrastructure from site, design over pipe sizing and discharge rate will be required with appropriate permissions obtained.

The images below were taken during the initial site investigation and provide an insight into the infrastructure that has been installed around Bealey's Goit previously.



Plate 6: The end of Bealey's Goit near the proposed pitch area, note the start of the culverted section



Plate 7: Bealey's Goit looking north away from the area



Plate 8: Sealed chambers located just outside the perimeter of the site. It is unknown what is contained inside.

Consideration will also be required to prevent water from the higher area to the south of the site affecting the playing area and site in general.

3.6 Agronomic Assessment

The existing vegetation was overgrown significantly with the vegetation consisting mainly of reeds and other marsh vegetation. The ground was firm underfoot which can be attributed to the timing of the visit following a period of dry weather. There were a large number of small trees and bushes present within the area and there was a high level of moss and other fibrous vegetation present within the surface of the soil. There was also a high number of weed species such as mare's tail present with minimal sports turf grasses present.



Plate 9: General view of the existing vegetation



Plate 10: Typical weed content present

3.7 Pitch Usage

Usage will follow the needs of the East Lancashire Papermill Cricket Club. It is envisaged that their usage will be similar to current usage which is a maximum of 2-3 games per week during the cricket season (April-September).

The current layout plan provides a square of width 36.6m which is capable of accommodating 12no. pitches. In terms of projected usage, typically each pitch will accommodate 3 no. adult games plus 2 no. junior games.

Therefore, the capacity of a 12-pitch square would be:

12 x 3 = 36 adult games and 12 x 2 = 24 junior games.

Assuming a typical adult league season comprises 22 fixtures, the new square should be capable of hosting 2 adult teams with 1 game some weekends, 2 games on other weekends with the capacity to host a further 24 junior games which is generally adequate.

Alternatively, provision of a non-turf pitch to cater for younger age-group cricket would increase the availability of the natural turf pitches for older juniors and/or increase potential for training.

It is important that the client on behalf of the club, are fully aware of the likely number of fixtures per season in order to determine the size of the proposed cricket square and overall ground dimensions as this could affect a number of important factors.

With the consideration of a provision for winter sports within the outfield, Sport England consider the information provided in Table 4 as giving a reasonable estimation of the likely usage level on winter sports pitches for a range of construction types.

Drainage status	Adult weekly use* (hours)
Undrained	Under 2
Pipe-drained	2 – 3
Pipe-drained with mole drains	2 – 4
Pipe-drained with sand grooves	3 – 6
Pipe-drained with slit drains	3 – 6
Pipe-drained with topsoil and drainage layer	3 – 6
Pipe and slit drained	3 – 6
Pipe-drained with suspended water table	4 – 6

*The usage levels shown will increase by ~50 % for players 15 years of age and under.

Table 4. Estimated usage levels

Given the particle size distribution of the topsoil and the low permeability of the subsoil, the minimum improvement works required to install the cricket outfield would comprise a primary piped drainage system supplemented with secondary drainage if winter usage will be commonplace. A robust maintenance regime will also be required including regular sand topdressing to protect the integrity of any secondary drainage installed. The sand amelioration and dressings help to improve the physical characteristics of the topsoil including the more rapid transmission of water to, and the protection of, the supplementary drainage system. The amount of sand dressing required will be determined at the design stage once an assessment of the proposed material has been fully carried out.

Overall, an initial approach of installing a system with lateral drainage with the inclusion of a surface by-pass drainage system will be sufficient for the use of the cricket club inclusive of winter sports use. If adequate maintenance practices are followed, this includes regular aeration and annual sand dressings to maintain good hydraulic connectivity between the surface and the drainage system below. A minimum of 3 sand top dressings using sand approved for use on sports pitches would be required within the initial 12-18 months to protect the sand slits from contamination with the topsoil.

With a typical primary and secondary drainage system, estimated hours of usage would be in the region of 3 – 6 hours per week for adults or 4½ - 9 hours per week for younger age groups based on Sport England's usage guidance.

3.8 Site Infrastructure and Influencing Factors

A summary of relevant information relating to the site is given below:

- Access for articulated lorry deliveries and machinery for initial site clearance prior to the full design stage should not be an issue with all other associated works to be carried out within the development area and will need to be accounted for.
- A suitable area will need to be made available for a site compound/materials storage area and needs to include sufficient room for stripped topsoil to be stockpiled locally during cut/fill earthworks and drainage/construction material stockpiles which will be significant.
- It is anticipated that drainage arisings can be disposed of on site, however this should be confirmed as part of the design stage.
- The location of residential dwellings to the northeast of the proposed area could restrict working hours on site.
- The site is currently open in terms of access for pedestrians/dog walkers and will require appropriate management during any works.
- Provision of a suitable water supply and irrigation system will need to be included to construct and maintain the cricket square. The water supply must be a WRAS Category 5 compliant irrigation system.
- A ball strike assessment is recommended to determine whether ball stop netting is required to prevent potential damage to adjoining property or people accessing the site.
- Based on current Local Authority data, the site is within Flood Zone 2 and 3 which represents a high risk of flooding.

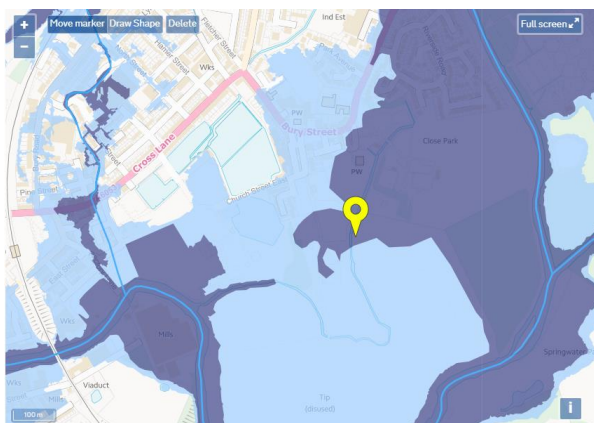


Fig. 2: Flood map showing the site falls in Zones 2 & 3



Plate 11: Work area, site access & materials storage

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS & GUIDELINE WORKS

4.1 Recommendations

The site requires a heavy clean-up of existing vegetation/trees/scrub and removal of stones along with the installation of a new primary and secondary drainage system as a minimum. Improvement of the gradients whilst cleaning the site and replacing the topsoil would be beneficial. Being in an area of high rainfall and having a fine textured topsoil overlaying a dense clay subsoil of low permeability there are limited options for this site. Sand amelioration of the topsoil would be beneficial to improve the soils' physical characteristics and drainage properties. These works would typically align with a Sport England Type 5 Pitch for Winter Sports use as per the document, Design Guidance Notes, Natural Turf for Sport.

The overall works should comprise of the following:

- Review of pitch size to be provided and that this is adequate compared to the existing provision whilst being in accordance with NGB/SE guidelines.
- Ensure that there is a positive outlet for a drainage system which is essential for the success of any pitch development within the site. This will require agreement from the Environment Agency.
- The existing vegetation will need to be cleared and ensure that the root mass is also removed. This material will need to be fully removed from site as it is of no value to the development of the pitches.
- Carry out a regrading exercise to create suitable gradients according to the design, maximum gradients of 1% in each direction are recommended. Consultation with the Environment Agency would be required.
- Any existing topsoil remaining will need to be thoroughly cleared of stone content and any other contamination.
- Topsoil will need to be imported (BS3882, Sandy Loam) onto the area to ensure that there is a minimum of 150mm of topsoil present but ideally 200mm present in all areas.
- A different approach will be required to the cricket square area where all material will need to be imported including an appropriate stone layer and proprietary cricket loam.
- A primary drainage system supplemented with sand bands (at construction) would be the most appropriate course of action and would need to connect to a positive outfall. Following pitch construction, a suitable maintenance period will be required for grow in which is typically 2 months.
- Disposal of drainage arisings may be possible on site; however, the material will be of poor quality and placement will need to be considered in relation to EA stipulations re flood defence and flood zone risk.
- Install ball stop fencing to agreed location subject to ball strike assessment.
- The sward will need to be established by seed and a careful maintenance plan implemented by a specialist contractor for at least 12 months after Practical Completion. Given the secondary drainage can be installed at construction, a 12 months maintenance period should be sufficient provided there is provision for supplementary irrigation should this be required.
- Annual sand dressings, Verti draining and fertilising operations as well as overseeding should be carried out on an annual basis to ensure that the outfield remains usable for the future, if no maintenance is carried out, the surface can hold onto additional organic material (thatch) which slows percolation rates through the surface. This can lead to the area holding water and cause games to be called off following rainfall.
- Post works, producing a safe playable surface is essential for cricket. This will only be achieved by implementing appropriate maintenance of the cricket square and outfield including the necessary irrigation required for pitch preparation. A newly constructed cricket square normally takes 12-18 months before it is safe to be brought into use. 12 months establishment and maintenance by the specialist contractor must be allowed for.

Note: The end of season sand topdressing/Verti draining/overseeding works/overseeding works should be undertaken by experienced specialist sportsground contractor.

4.2 Guideline Works

The installation of a drainage system and improvement of the soil texture are fundamental requirements for the short- and long-term success of the pitch. Therefore, the following items are required:

- Removal of existing vegetation and disposal off site
- Importation/transfer of topsoil material and placement
- Installation of lateral drains @ 5m centres
- Drainage arisings disposal onsite
- Connection to a positive drainage outfall
- Installation of secondary drainage in the form of sand bands using a Koro top drain or similar.
- Installation of a 25 mm sand or rootzone carpet
- Establishment of turfgrass from seed
- Post installation Verti draining and sand dressings – 2 no.
- Cricket square comprising allowance for 275 mm construction depth, sitting 25 mm above the level of the surrounding outfield levels and comprising of 100 mm MOT Type 1 stone base, 25 mm layer of sandy loam topsoil under a 150 mm layer of proprietary cricket loam placed in layers not more than 50mm depth.
- Establishment of turfgrass from seed
- Installation of a water supply – it is imperative that a working water supply is installed adjacent to the cricket square to allow for safe preparation of the cricket square for use. In the absence of water, cricket square performance can be dangerous. The water supply must be a WRAS Category 5 compliant irrigation system.
- Install ball stop fencing to agreed location subject to ball strike assessment.

Based on the findings on site, the location and proposed usage, the works indicated above should be carried out as a minimum. Annual maintenance including sand dressings, fertiliser applications and Verti draining are essential practices to be carried out. Additionally, scarifying to remove dead vegetation and overseeding would provide benefits to the health of the sward.

5.0 TIMESCALES/INDICATIVE PROGRAMME

With respect to timescales for completing the project, it is recommended that construction works are only undertaken under suitable ground and weather conditions and ideally achieve seeding in late August. If the excavated slit drainage option is installed, the slit drains can be installed the following Spring once ground conditions permit, and this will allow sufficient time to establish the surface ready for use in the September.

A cricket square requires a period of at least 12 – 18 months establishment post construction to allow for any settlement and topdressing etc. to ensure it is ready for use.

An indicative work programme is presented below, the initial seeding would be followed by a 12-month maintenance period. Ideally a late summer seeding date is preferable and would negate any requirement for additional irrigation to aid establishment.

Indicative Timescale – Drains @ 5m centres and supplementary sand bands

Sportsfield Drainage Works	Year 1										Year 2							
	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S
Design																		
Tender																		
Mobilisation of contractor																		
Site Clearance																		
Topsoil Import																		
Piped Drainage																		
Secondary drainage																		
Initial Seeding																		
Overseeding																		
Initial Maintenance																		
Square and Outfield brought into use																		

6.0 CONFIDENTIALITY

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7.0 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

It is the client's responsibility to check with the relevant local authority regarding permissions to implement the works e.g. planning permission or any other factors that could affect starting on site or progress whilst on site.

A Performance Quality Standards assessment (PQS) is provided in Appendix 3 which provides valuable data to compare the condition of the pitches post improvement.

This report does not constitute a detailed Specification or Bill of Quantities, and as such, is not suitable for use in obtaining prices from contractors or as a formal construction contract document.

Successful implementation of the works on the natural turf facilities at the Former East Lancs Paper Mill should involve the preparation of a full design and specification and the skilled implementation of the designed works. It must be appreciated that the preparation of good sports turf surfaces involves a great deal of skill and care. Materials, particularly soils on site, are variable. The way in which the works are implemented and especially the weather and ground conditions prevailing at the time are as important as the methods used.

Any work would best be carried out during the normally drier months of late spring and summer, with an aim to grow in the pitch ready for use in late summer to early autumn – depending on the weather.

Following the construction works it is essential that the facilities should be properly maintained, receiving a full maintenance programme designed around the individual requirements of the site.

All relevant Health and Safety Regulations must be observed and the works, as more widely described, would not fall within the scope of the Construction (Design & Management) Regulations 2015 (CDM 2015).

8.0 CONTACT DETAILS

Mr Dale Frith
Professional Sportsturf Design (NW) Ltd
Wigan Road
Leyland
Lancashire
PR25 5XW

Tel: 01772 297830

APPENDIX 1

TETRA TECH – Lancashire Paper Mill

PROPOSED LAYOUT

APPENDIX 2

TETRA TECH – Lancashire Paper Mill

SOIL ANALYSIS RESULTS

Analysis Results (SOIL)

Customer 1SOL

Distributor P.S.D. (NW) LTD
WIGAN ROAD
LEYLAND
LANCS
PR25 5XW

Sample Ref EL/2/10805

Date Received 05/06/2018

Sample No E265879/01

Crop GRASS GROWTH

Analysis	Result	Guideline	Interpretation	Comments
pH	7.9	6.0	High	High. An alkaline environment will reduce the availability of certain nutrients - particularly P, K, B, Co, Cu, Fe, Mn and Zn. An elevated pH will also impact on beneficial soil fungal populations and activity.
Phosphorus (ppm)	7	16	Very Low	(Index 0.7) 120 kg/ha P ₂ O ₅ (96 units/acre).
Potassium (ppm)	107	121	Low	(Index 1.7) 80 kg/ha K ₂ O (64 units/acre).
Magnesium (ppm)	98	51	Normal	(Index 2.9) Apply 25 kg/ha MgO (20 units/acre) every three to four years.

Additional Comments

The analyses and interpretations for P & K have been carried out in accordance with RB209. PLEASE NOTE: The recommendations should be adjusted if organic manures are used. See RB209 for more information.
Additional technical bulletins are available at www.lancrop.com

Please Note

Whilst every care is taken to ensure that the Results from Analysis are as accurate as possible, it is important to note that the analysis relates to the sample received by the laboratory, and is representative only of that sample. No warranty is given by the laboratory that the Results from Analysis relates to any part of a field or growing area not covered by the sample received. It is important to ensure that any soil, leaf, silage or fruit/seed sample sent for analysis is representative of the area requiring analysis and that samples are obtained in accordance with established sampling techniques. A leaflet containing instructions on how to take soil, leaf, herbage, silage and fruit samples for analysis is available from the laboratory on request.

Wellington Road
The Industrial Estate
Pocklington, York, YO42 1DN
Tel. +44 1759 305118
www.lancrop.com

Date Printed : 06/06/2018

APPENDIX 3

TETRA TECH – Lancashire Paper Mill

PQS ASSESSMENT

Appendix 3: Performance Quality Standards

Client: TETRA TECH – East Lancs Paper Mill

Physical Site Survey date:

30th May 2018

Project Title: Sports Pitch Improvements – 3no. Soccer Pitches

ELEMENT	LIMITS	METHOD OF TEST	Visit 1	Visit 2
Ground cover %	>75%	BS 7370 : P3 A6	✗	
Broad-leaved weeds %	<10	BS 7370 : P3 A6	✗	
Sward height mm	20-70 PS 30-60 CS	BS 7370 : P3 A3	✗	
Thatch depth mm	<15	BS 7370 : P3 A7	✗	
Hardness in g	35-200	STRI method of test using a 0.5 kg Clegg Impact Hammer from a drop height of 0.55 m	n/a	
Water infiltration rate mm d ⁻¹	5 (mm/hr)	BS 7370 : P3 A8	✗	
Evenness (2 metre straight edge)	<25 mm	BS 7370 : P3 A6	✗	
Slope: Direction of play (%)	<1.00 - 1.25	BS 7370 : P3 A5	✓	
Across play (%)	<1.25 - 2.5%		✓	
pH value	5.8 – 7.5	ISO 10390	✗	

KEY: SH = Sward Height

PS = Playing Season

CS = Closed Season

Visual assessment is an acceptable alternative method of testing, if undertaken by a turfgrass consultant who is able to satisfy the selection criteria identified within the Turfgrass Consultants – Construction/Upgrade Brief.

Assessment undertaken by:

Dale Frith

Consultancy:

Professional Sportsturf Design (NW) Ltd

APPENDIX 4

TETRA TECH – Lancashire Paper Mill

MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Outline Maintenance Recommendations – New Cricket Squares

Background: New cricket squares traditionally take at least 12 months before they can be used for the first time. However, sometimes it is necessary to construct a square at the end of one season and use it in the next season. Either way, the square requires careful management to ensure three key performance factors going forward:

- Good, even grass cover that is well rooted into the profile and clean of weed.
- A smooth surface that will give consistent ball bounce
- A gradual increase in compaction of the square (or pitch) over time.

New squares are generally low, slow and slightly variable in consistency in their first year but quality improves in years 2 and 3 and reaches optimum in years 3 to 4, provided that good maintenance is carried out.

There are some golden rules to follow however:

- Stay off the square until it is dry enough to walk on.
- Never take a mower on to the square that is going to cause a rut or scour as it is wheeled or turned.
- Never roll a new square when it is wet or saturated.
- Always remove clippings and empty the mower box before it becomes overfull and sinks the mower.
- Do not use disc seeders or deep scarifiers in very young squares.

If in doubt, keep off and deal with it when it is dry. New squares should not be rushed timing is everything – get it right and you will have a good square. Get it wrong and you can cause significant problems and thousands of pounds of damage.

Mowing. Try to maintain the grass at 20 mm initially to help maintain sward density. It is difficult when a square has been constructed at the end of the season going into a wet autumn-winter period. The purpose of the cutting is to help encourage tillering and a good sward density but it is better to leave it to grow in moist conditions (it will slow down in the cold of the winter anyway) than it is to try and mow it when wet and damage the surface levels with the mower. You can always overseed in the spring to help with grass cover so do not panic.

The ideal machine for cutting the grass early on is a rotary mower equipped with a rear roller and wide front wheels – this helps to reduce rutting. Initially aim for 20-25 mm and look to cut to 20 mm going into winter. Cut when you can but don't walk on the square when frosty to cut.

As you come into late February March bring the cut height down gradually to 20 mm and then 18 mm and then look to maintain the square at about 15 mm. Do not go too short too soon or you will affect root growth. If the grass does become too long, the height of cut should be reduced gradually over 3 – 4 cuts allowing some time for recovery in between. **N.B.** On no account should the grass height be reduced by more than 50% on any one occasion.

Fertiliser application. New squares are hungry because the root system is immature. Allowance should be made for a sufficient number of fertiliser applications to maintain healthy growth and colour (typically 3-4 per annum). The fertiliser regime should be based on the results of annual soil sampling to determine nutrient concentrations, but the following programme is provided as a guide:

- April 12:6:6 at 350 kg/ha
- May/June Liquid application of micro nutrients and micro-stimulants with fertiliser
- June/July 12:6:6 at 350 kg/ha
- September 5:5:20 at 350 kg/ha

Fertiliser shall be applied with pedestrian disc spreaders across the direction of play and then in the direction of play to ensure a uniform distribution.

Weed control. Squares are often small enough to hand weed – when the square is dry, use a flat bladed screw driver to lift weeds and their roots – do not leave tap roots in the soil or the weed can come back. Fill the hole with a mix of loam and grass seed and brush to surface level. If necessary (weeds are wide spread or creeping), apply a selective herbicide in the spring (if required). This to be applied at least two weeks after the first fertiliser treatment (April) and at a time when grass growth is strong and healthy. **NB.** Do not apply herbicide during periods of potential turf stress, i.e. if the weather is hot and dry or if frosts are forecast. Apply herbicide strictly according to the manufacturers label recommendations and only by suitably qualified

personnel. Use pedestrian machinery – do not use tractor mounted sprayers – there is a risk of damage to surface levels.

Rolling: If constructed properly, new squares will be dense as they should be compacted in layers as they are built up. The Cranfield University Rolling Trials showed that a roller is only effective to about 75 mm depth in the profile so they must be compacted as they are built. However, this does not mean that they should be rolled with the heavy roller as soon as possible. The same trials showed that grass roots play an essential role in preventing rollers from bulldozing the soil forwards which will ruin levels.

If your square was constructed in June/July you might be able to compact the square with cylinder mowers but avoid using the roller if possible. You will then be able to pre-season roll as before in March/April as per the Cranfield University Rolling Guidelines – start with heavy mowers and build up as ground conditions allow.

If your square was constructed in September / October leave rolling until April in the following year – let the grass establish a strong root network over winter and allow the soil to dry in early Spring. Depending on when you need to use the square the weight of roller can be increased gradually.

Never roll when the soil is soft – it must be able to take a cylinder mower without creasing before a roller is used. If you roll when it is too soft or wet you will corrugate the surface of your new square.

Aeration: New squares will not need to be spiked if they are well constructed and well cared for. Any spiking should only be done following analysis of soil cores by an experienced consultant or ECB Pitch Advisor.

Never use a slit tine aerator on a cricket square as you will encourage cracking and do not use hollow tines as this will result in an uneven surface.

Overseeding: Squares should be overseed at least twice before first use to help encourage good coverage. Only seed on a slight diagonal (stumps to the stumps on 1-2 pitches over) or in the line of play – do not overseed across play. Only use a dimple seeder – do not use a disc seeder as this will encourage cracking. Use a specialist dwarf perennial ryegrass cricket seed mix.

Loam topdressing: Because of the soft nature of the surface when cricket squares are constructed, achieving smooth levels straight away is very difficult and it can take 2-3 seasons of heavy cricket loam topdressing.

Always topdress with the loam used to construct the square. Dressings at the end of the first two seasons following construction should be made using 8-10 25 kg bags per pitch and along the full length of the pitch – do not just dress the ends. Following application of the loam (ideally using a drop spreader or something like a Sisis Truspred), a lute or straight edge should be used to work the loam into the profile and achieve a smooth finish.

Verticutting: Dwarf perennial ryegrasses do not tend to have a lot of lateral growth so verticutting is only required if there is a high content of *Poa annua* (annual meadowgrass in the sward) – verticutting will help maintain a higher shoot density and plant density if that is the case. Verticut with care as this will stress the grass plant – look to cut to about 1 mm above the surface and try not to cut into the surface or scarify the square.

Pesticide/Fungicide [If required]: A pesticide/fungicide application may be required should disease be present within the grass sward. An approved fungicide should be used with activity against the pathogens present and be applied following the manufacturers label recommendations by suitably qualified personnel.

Summary:

- The key to maintaining a new square is patience and not to panic – if you think it is too wet to put machinery on – it probably is – so keep off it. There will be a dry day eventually and you can catch up – but it is very difficult to undo the damage caused by going on a new square when it is too wet or soft.
- Build weight up slowly – do not rush for the heavy roller and remember you can let the water out of the tanks in the roller!
- For more information and advice, including videos on technique produced by the ECB – visit www.groundsmanship.co.uk and head to the cricket section.
- There is more advice in the ECB TS4 document available from www.ecb.co.uk

Maintenance Recommendations For Cricket Outfields

Mowing. The grass shall be maintained between a height of 12 and 16 mm using cylinder mowing equipment. The grass should never be allowed to exceed a height of 20 mm. If the grass does become too long, the height of cut should be reduced gradually over 3 – 4 cuts allowing some time for recovery in between. N.B. On no account should the grass height be reduced by more than 50% on any one occasion. Overall, approximately 30 mowing operations may be required each year, depending on weather and growing conditions.

Fertiliser application. Allowance should be made for a sufficient number of fertiliser applications to maintain healthy growth and colour. The fertiliser regime should be based on the results of annual soil sampling to determine nutrient concentrations, but the following programme is provided as a guide:

- April 12:6:6 at 350 kg/ha
- September 5:5:20 at 350 kg/ha

Fertiliser shall be applied with appropriate equipment that ensures a uniform distribution.

Weed control. Apply a selective herbicide in the spring (if required) to combat the weeds present. This to be applied at least two weeks after the first fertiliser treatment (April) and at a time when grass growth is strong and healthy. NB. Do not apply herbicide during periods of potential turf stress, i.e. if the weather is hot and dry or if frosts are forecast. Apply herbicide strictly according to the manufacturer's label recommendations and only by suitably qualified personnel in accordance with pesticide regulations.

Pesticide/Fungicide [If required]. A pesticide/fungicide application may be required should disease be present within the grass sward. An approved fungicide should be used with activity against the pathogens present. Apply pesticides strictly according to the manufacturer's label recommendations and only by suitably qualified personnel in accordance with pesticide regulations.

Aeration / Compaction Alleviation. Verti-drain (or other similar de-compaction treatment) the outfield on at least two occasions in the spring and autumn. Use 18 mm diameter solid tines working to a minimum depth of 200 mm below the surface, heave should be kept to a minimum to maintain surface levels. Verti-draining must not be carried out if ground conditions are too soft or during frost.

Additional aeration treatments (ideally spiking) during the playing season would also be highly beneficial to maintain surface drainage rates. These treatments should only be undertaken when ground conditions are suitable. Slitting should not be used on clay outfields where there is a risk of shrink and swell as slit expansion is a risk.

Sand topdressing. Supply and spread an approved medium-fine sand suitable for sports use during the renovations period (end of cricket season) at the rate of 65 - 85 t/ha (approx. 4-5 mm depth). After each application, the sand should be worked into the surface with brushes or drag mats. This should be undertaken annually to maintain drainage performance

Overseeding. Overseed the outfield and safety margins as required at the application rate of approximately 200 kg/ha immediately after the end of season topdressing application. Use at least three cultivars of perennial ryegrass chosen from the latest Turfgrass Seed booklet with live ground cover and visual merit ratings of 6.5 or more. Make at least two passes with seeding equipment designed to place the seed approximately 5 mm below the surface.

Divot repair [Playing season]. After each match, divot and tread the divots from sliding boundary stops back into position. This will remove any bare soil which allows weeds and weed grasses to germinate. Filling in divots with seed/soil mix will help to maintain better grass coverage.

Renovation of worn areas [Playing season]. Areas of high wear should be dressed and seeded using a divot repair mix (seed/rootzone) during the playing season as required in order to maintain good grass cover. These areas should be hand watered (if necessary) to ensure rapid grass germination and establishment.

Boundary Marking [Playing season]. Line marking should be undertaken on a weekly basis during the playing season in accordance with cricket laws and league regulations.

Rolling. DO NOT roll your outfield with your cricket square roller as this will cause compaction and poor drainage. Outfield mowers should provide sufficient firmness and expect speed of the outfield to vary with cut height and weather through the season.

Further Information: for helpful advice on cricket grounds maintenance, including videos and a time planner – visit www.groundsmanSHIP.co.uk