

Numerous minor undulations were also noted, below the recommended maximum of 25mm along a 2m straight edge.

Whilst the evenness across the football pitches is generally satisfactory (except in wear spots), the overall microrelief is undulating as discussed in Section 2.6 above. This may need to be addressed by regrading work.

Depth of Topsoil

The topsoil depths recorded during the initial Soil Resource Survey (200-510mm) are considered sufficient for sports turf. A topsoil depth of at least 200mm is desirable to support a resilient grass sward.

Depth of Grass Roots

Root growth is an important factor for generating satisfactory grass growth at the surface. Root growth was generally good, typically reaching a depth of at least 150mm.

Depth of Thatch

There was no significant build-up of thatch across the pitches. Thatch is a layer of living and dead grass and roots which accumulates between the layer of actively-growing grass and the soil underneath. Excessive thatch can restrict movement of air and water to the soil and grass roots.

Length of Herbage

The grass height measured across the pitches would be considered suitable for the relevant sports at this point in the year (winter season).

- 30-40mm – football pitches
- 60-75mm – rugby pitches
- 35-40mm – cricket outfield

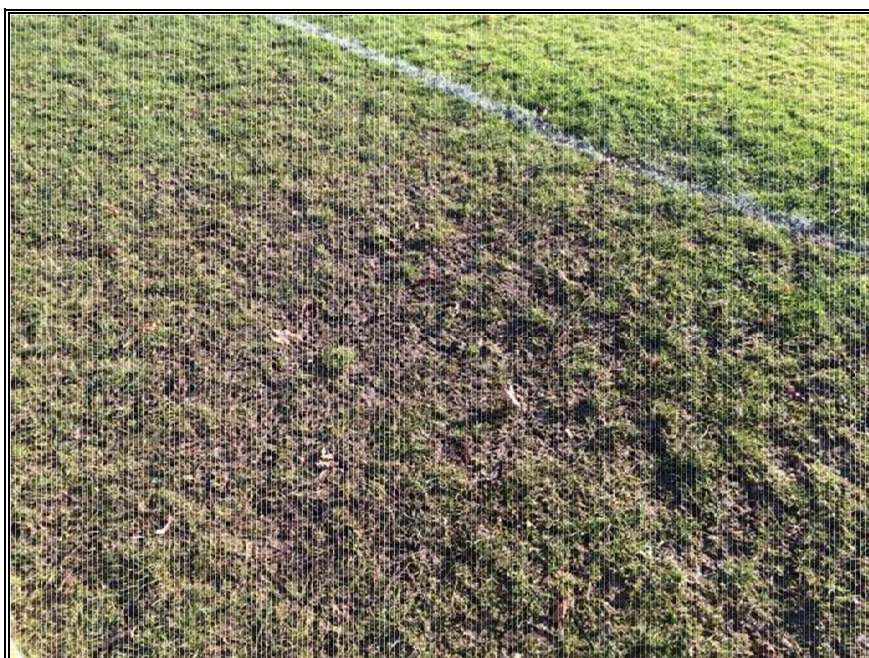


Plate 11: Worn centre circle in football pitch

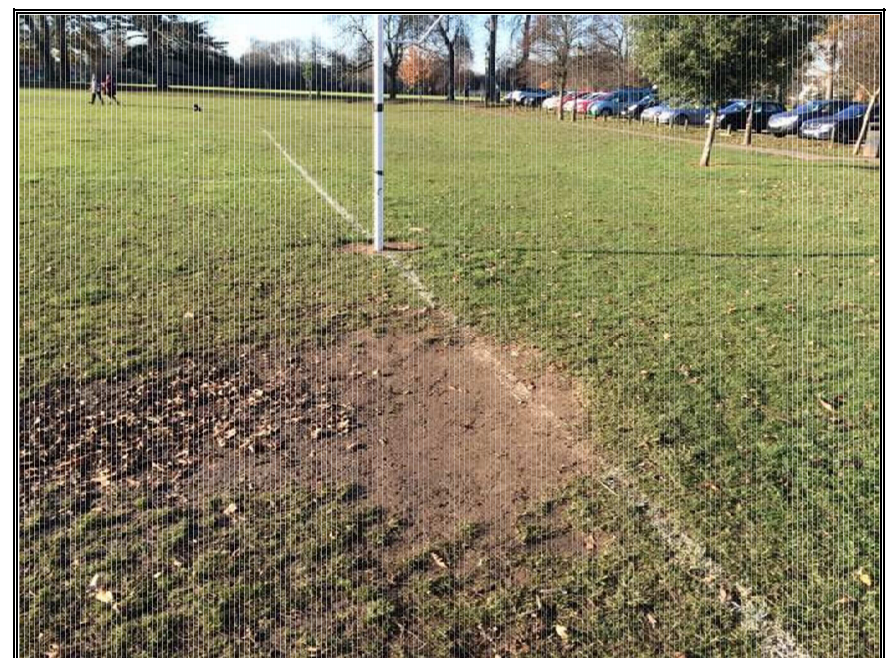


Plate 12: Worn football goal mouth