

Drainage to Village Playing Field

The village playing field is susceptible to flooding in the winter months, most notably around November through to March.

Historically, this has meant that using the facility for recreational purposes over that period has been extremely limited.

Maritime Football Club had the field Verti-Drained (deep tined) last autumn which did improve the drainage but only temporarily; heavy rainfall in November meant it was flooding once more in December.

A more long-term solution is required, and several ideas have been researched.

The Parish Council are going to invest significantly to have the entire field Terrain Aerated; an innovative process that is used at many sporting venues and National Parks. England's St. George's Park, Cambridge University Botanical Gardens and the Isle of Wight Festival to name just a few.

A video of the process can be seen here:

<https://youtu.be/Dq7e8Ua6-gk>

An overview of the process:

The process using the Airforce Terralift® machine involves using a JCB breaker gun to hammer the hollow probe 37cm (1 ½" diameter) into the soil to one-metre depth. Compressed air is then blasted through injecting dried milled seaweed on the tail end of the air blast. The seaweed expands and contracts with the moisture content in the soil, helping to keep the fractures and fissures open.

The surface water is able to drain down quicker to one metre depth before naturally percolating away. The probe is withdrawn, and the process repeated using two-metre centre spacings on a staggered grid pattern. The probe holes are backfilled with Lytag to provide a long-term aeration/ventilation shaft.

This deep aeration treatment is long term - at least 12-15 years, possibly even longer when use continue to use your top surface aerator - vertidrain, spiker etc. which will connect to our fissures, keeping the whole aeration process running.

Mr. Alan Ferguson from the higher echelons of the FA fully endorses the use of the Terralift machine on football pitches and regularly speaks to people about the treatment.