



Pesticide Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This policy has been developed to ensure that all employees, contractors, ground users, flora and fauna and wildlife are protected from potentially harmful pesticide usage.
- 1.2. The policy follows the key recommendations of modern pesticide practice.
- 1.3. This policy applies to all pesticide applications of herbicides, fungicides, plant growth regulators and biocides.

2. Purpose

- 2.1. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance and clarity on pesticide application.
- 2.2. This policy respects the need for good quality sports turf surfaces to ensure they are of a conditional acceptable for their sporting level.
- 2.3. The overarching purpose of this policy as well as adhering to all legislation is to safely define a procedure for applying a minimal amount of pesticide while maintaining the appearance and condition of property and grounds.

3. Legal Requirement

- 3.1. The following legislation is relevant to pesticide storage and application.
 - 3.1.1. Food and Environment Protection Act 1985
 - 3.1.2. Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986
 - 3.1.3. Plant Protection Regulations 1995
 - 3.1.4. Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
 - 3.1.5. Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations 2002
- 3.2. Witney Town Council is required to also register as a professional user of plant protection products with the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).
- 3.3. All pesticide spray records must be retained for three years.

4. Employer Duties

- 4.1. To provide safe systems of work and training for employees.

5. Employees' Duties

5.1. All those involved in the use of pesticides are responsible for their own duties in relation to following safe working practices and ensuring their activities do not harm the health and safety of others.

6. Policy Review

6.1. This policy will be reviewed every 5 years or on notification of change to any regulations.

6.2. The policy will also be reviewed in the event of an accident or incident involving pesticide use.

7. Application Zones

7.1. Witney Town Council land is broken down into four zones, spray zones, limited application zones, threshold zones, and no spray zones.

7.1.1. Spray zones are zones that follow a year-round application programme. These zones are limited to the fine turfs, defined as cricket squares, not including the outfield and bowling greens. These turfs have a requirement for their sporting level which means the turfs must be maintained with pesticides to make them viable for sporting purposes.

7.1.2. Limited application zones follow an ad hoc procedure or minimal application procedures. These are mainly zones that require the use of biocides or herbicides for appearance or maintenance purposes.

7.1.3. Threshold zones are zones that require a set threshold to be reached before pesticides can be applied. This is reserved for football fields and cricket outfield when a dense species has established over 20% of the field.

7.1.4. No spray zones are zones that under no circumstance will be sprayed with any form of pesticide.

8. Buffer Zones

8.1. Buffer zones are areas of land surrounding spray zones in order to reduce the risks of airborne movement to unintended sites. This is intended to control the application of pesticides where grounds border residential property, land and areas of biodiverse interest.

8.1.1. Bowls green ditches and surrounds offer a sufficient buffer zone to ensure spread is kept to a minimum.

8.1.2. A 5-meter perimeter around cricket squares will mark a buffer zone.

8.1.3. Football pitch buffer zones will include a 5m buffer zone around the entire perimeter of the recreation ground they are situated.

8.2. Buffer zones are not used in areas where exclusively biocides are used.

9. Ditches and watercourses

9.1. To avoid the need to complete LERAP (local Environmental Risk Assessments for Pesticides) documentation, no spraying will be undertaken within five meters of a ditch or water course. This is the maximum classification within LERAP regulations.

10. Spray Zones

10.1. Spray zones are limited to only fine turfs.

10.1.1. Herbicides containing glyphosate we be used at a maximum, once annually.

10.1.2. Herbicides required for moss control and plant are used periodically based on seasonal conditions and sward quality.

11. Limited Application Zones

11.1. Limited application zones mainly include play areas & sports surfacing, listed buildings, memorial areas and dry-stone walling.

11.2. The number of areas listed for limited application zones is very limited due to the required use of residual weedkillers and total weedkillers containing glyphosate.

11.3. Weed control over paving and hard surfaces will be managed through the use of a total weed killer and then a following application of residual weed killer.

11.4. Usage will be reduced and controlled through a single yearly maximum application of pesticides. Any further growth failing to be controlled through this application will be left or removed by hand.

11.5. Biocides for building, hard surface and play area cleaning.

11.5.1. Biocides used for cleaning purposes will be non-glyphosate-based and biodegradable.

12. Threshold Zones

12.1. Football pitch applications.

12.1.1. To determine if a football pitch or cricket outfield has reached a threshold zone, a 1 m² grid will be used in three locations across a pitch.

12.1.2. If the presence of dense species such as clover or yarrow has established over 20% of the tested area the area will be approved for pesticide application.

12.1.3. Applications of pesticides over recreation grounds will only be made through the use of a tractor-mounted boom sprayer set to the lowest height possible to reduce drift.

12.1.4. Applications will only be made during low footfall times and if necessary, signs will be erected warning users of the field of pesticide application.

12.1.5. Contractors or in-house staff must have PA1 & PA6 training to operate tractor-mounted boom sprayers.

13. No Spray Zones

13.1. Any zone not marked on the Pesticide Map is a designated No Spray Zone.

13.2. These zones have been identified to help reduce overall pesticide application across Witney and protect the biodiversity of green spaces.

13.3. Areas unmaintained through the use of pesticides will appear to be unkempt, but the growth of flora and fauna, which can be undesirable are crucial habitats.

14. Process for storage, application and record keeping.

14.1. Staff must follow all risk assessments, chemical labels and safe working practise when lifting storing and dosing pesticides.

14.2. All Pesticides must be kept in a designated locked, banded store.

14.2.1. The store is to contain material handling PPE and COSHH forms.

14.2.2. The store must be in close proximity to eye washing stations and potable water supply.

14.3. Only staff and contractors trained in Safe Handling & Application of Pesticides (PA1) can handle pesticides.

14.4. Only staff trained in relevant application training can apply pesticides. Typical PA6 for handheld applications and PA2 for driven boom sprayers.

14.5. The application of any pesticide must be recorded in a Spray Record Book and retained for 3 years.