



Witney Town Council

Pesticide Policy

Developed in consultation with:

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The purpose of the STRI Agronomy Service is to assist clients in matters of agronomic management. All recommendations are offered free of bias. The STRI has no commercial connections or obligations to any manufacturer, supplier or contractor.

INTRODUCTION

This policy has been developed to ensure that all users of the sports pitches, bowling greens, cricket squares, flora and fauna are protected from potentially harmful pesticide usage. Witney Town Council ("the Council") has a responsibility to control the use of pesticides. This will be via a process of authorisation and in places restriction of the use of pesticides. The Council needs to be kept informed of all aspects of such pesticide application.

This policy respects need for good quality turf surfaces by the sports users on the common areas and as such has been produced in consultation with the STRI Group.

The policy follows the key recommendations of modern pesticide practice, developed to provide a specific policy for the common areas of use.

A regular review of the policy and modification as necessary will be undertaken.

The policy applies to all pesticide application of herbicides, fungicides, and plant growth regulator products.

PERMISSION TO SPRAY

The Council holds the right to grant or refuse permission for employees or outside contractors to apply pesticides. The policy follows the form shown in the appendix. The process to gain approval to spray is determined below.

[1] BUFFER ZONES

The majority of the common areas under the management of Witney Town Council are determined as a "no-spray" area. Only land currently operated by the Bowls Clubs, the two Cricket Squares and the areas allocated for Winter Sports Pitches (i.e. Football & Rugby) will have a concession to apply pesticide following approval from the Council.

Bowling Green zones

Greens and grass ditch tops are designated as spray areas following approval.

Cricket buffer zones

Cricket Squares are designated as spray areas following approval.

Sports pitches buffer zones

The football pitches, and a strip 2 metres outside the side lines are designated as having a threshold before approval will be granted.

Ditches and water courses

To avoid the need to complete LERAP (Local Environmental Risk Assessments for Pesticides) documentation, no spraying will be undertaken within 5 metres of a ditch or water course. Please note that this is the maximum classification within LERAP regulations.

[2] THRESHOLDS

The categories for spray application are as follows:

NO SPRAY

No approval given except under extreme circumstances.

THRESHOLD + APPROVAL

Only once the stated threshold is reached can approval be sought.

APPROVAL ONLY

Approval only from the council.

The thresholds below take into account the key playing surfaces such as greens and cricket squares and hence require permission only to apply chemicals. All other areas have thresholds below which no spraying will be approved. Once a threshold has been reached, then approval can be sought.

Thresholds have been set to allow the policy to be implemented. These will be monitored and changed should any health & safety or environmental issues become apparent. A periodic review will undertake an assessment of thresholds.

HERBICIDES

Cricket and Football

Cricket outfield and football pitches would only be considered for spraying when one individual broad-leaved species occurred on average in every square metre of ground. Should a dense species such as clover or yarrow establish then once 20% of ground cover has been achieved by these species then the threshold is considered to have been reached. No spraying is permitted within 2 metres of non-sports Common land.

Cricket squares have a spray with permission category.

Bowling Greens

Greens and grass ditch tops have a spray with permission category.

INSECTICIDES AND LUMBRICIDES (Worm Killers)

No chemical products are currently authorised for the control of insects or worms (including casting) on amenity sports turf. Application of unauthorised products to control insects and worm casting is prohibited in all areas. Any product being sold with a label claiming insect or worm control or being sold and used with verbal claims of the control of insects or worms, are illegal as they must be authorised for that specific use by law.

Should duly authorised products become available they will be communicated to the Council by the STRI.

FUNGICIDES

Cricket outfield and football pitches will have a no spray policy. This will be modified to a spray with permission category in instances of severe disease outbreak.

All other areas have a spray with permission category.

RISK ASSESSMENTS (section 3 of the approval form)

Prior to any spraying application, a full risk assessment will need to be completed. This will identify whether such an operation is strictly necessary. Should a Contractor wish to spray, this will also act as a notification to the Council who would then provide the relevant permission following a meeting with the BASIS Qualified Agronomic Consultant in conjunction with Town Council appointed officer.

It is noted that certain chemicals are used on a regular basis on highly managed areas such as bowling greens and cricket squares. Where the same chemical and trade brand are used, it is appropriate to complete the pesticide use (Section 2) and risk assessment (Section 3), of the approval form and COSHH documentation annually, with a copy held on file for reference. Please note that any changes to location, area or contractor will need to be updated in Section 2 of the approval form.

ROLE OF THE COUNCIL APPOINTED OFFICER

The Council Appointed Officer will act as the key liaison representative for the Council. All approval forms will be sent to the Council Appointed Officer in the first instance.

The Council Appointed Officer will conduct approval meetings as appropriate with the Council's Agronomic Consultant and approve pesticide usage. Follow up monitoring of usage will also be undertaken. Responses for approval to spray will normally be returned within 3 working days. Urgent situations will be approved more rapidly if possible.

The Council's Agronomic Consultant is qualified to PA1 (Safe Use of Pesticides) and PA6 (Use of handheld applicator) and BASIS qualified to ensure a realistic approach to pesticide application.

PESTICIDE USE (section 2 on the approval form)

Only those pesticides which have been approved for use on TURF / AMENITY GRASS by DEFRA via the Pesticide Safety Directorate and have been given a MAFF (products approved prior to 1 July 1999)/MAPP (products approved after 1 July 1999) approval number will be used. These are included in the UK Pesticide Guide which is published annually and also in the Pesticide Safety Directorate updates. It is important to note however that some of these chemicals are still relatively harmful and any risk assessment should take into account the long-term nature of the pesticide applied and its effect on wildlife and safety implications with regard to the general public.

COSHH

A current COSHH assessment should be attached to the approval form. This is only necessary for the first application for approval for a particular chemical brand (not active ingredient). The assessment should also include the full label or product information.

PESTICIDE APPLICATION (section 1 and 5 on the approval form)

As a general rule, pesticide application will only be undertaken using equipment such as cowed sprayers or controlled-dose application. **The application of chemicals will only be undertaken by competent personnel with the relevant spraying certificate.** The Council requires a record of those people who are competent to spray on the common land and no other personnel should be allowed to undertake such operations. A copy of relevant PA1 and an application module such as PA2 or PA6 certificates will be required.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Public safety is a vital concern and any spraying operation undertaken must use appropriate signage as stated on the pesticide label until the pesticide treated area is deemed to be safe as per the instructions on the labels and information supplied with the pesticide. The general public need to be made appropriately aware of the risk and warned to keep off.

Spraying operations should be undertaken when few members of the public are present or could come into contact.

RECORD KEEPING (section 5 on the approval form)

This section details when the pesticide was applied, who applied it, the weather conditions at the time of application, any concerns that were picked up (i.e. public access etc.), the quantity of pesticide applied and how it was applied.

The form acts as a method of record keeping for pesticide application on the council owned land. Once completed, the approval form should be returned to the Council Appointed Officer for filing. Copies can be made for Bowling/Cricket/Football club filing purposes.

ALTERNATIVES

Wherever possible, the users of pesticides should seek non-chemical alternatives to pest and weed control. These include cultural measures and improvements in turf husbandry.

ABUSE OF POLICY

The Council holds the right to restrict the use of chemicals where a Contractor has been found to wilfully cause environmental damage, fails to follow Health & Safety regulations, or fails to follow the above policy. ALL such instances will be investigated, and the Contractor has a right to reply and/or appeal. Please note that the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) or the Environment Agency may need to be notified in the case of Health & Safety or environmental issues.

POLICY AMENDMENTS

On an occasional basis, representatives from the Sports Clubs and Council will review the policy. This may take into consideration new legislation, practical aspects of implementation, thresholds, infringements and possible extensions to the policy.

This will act as a forum to ensure the on-going commitment to safe and appropriate use of pesticides on common areas, used for sports pitches.

Witney Town Council

This form acts as an application for permission to spray, risk assessment and a report for application of pesticides. It must be completed prior to any operation involving pesticides.

Section One – Details of Contractor

CONTRACTOR _____

NAME OF PERSON SEEKING APPROVAL _____

SIGNATURE OF PERSON SEEKING APPROVAL _____

CONTACT TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

Section Two – Details of Pesticide application

NATURE OF PROBLEM _____

SURFACE TO BE TREATED _____

APPROX AREA _____ m²

PESTICIDE TO BE APPLIED _____
(Trade name and active ingredient)

METHOD OF APPLICATION _____ PROPOSED CONTRACTOR _____

Section Three – Risk assessment

HEALTH WARNINGS _____

IS THERE THREAT OF DEATH OR PERMANENT DISABLEMENT Y / N

ENVIRONMENTAL WARNINGS _____

EXCLUSION TIME _____

SAFETY SIGNAGE & EQUIPMENT _____

OTHER SAFER ALTERNATIVES _____

Council use only

RISK FACTOR low / medium / high / very high

CONFIDENTIAL



AREA OF CONCERN _____

Section Four – Approval to spray (Council use only)

APPROVAL _____ BASED ON THE ABOVE INFORMATION

REASONS FOR DECISION _____

CONDITIONS ATTACHED _____

ADDITIONAL SAFETY CONDITIONS _____

SIGNED _____ NAME _____

TEL _____ DATE _____

Section Five – Reporting of spraying operation

DATE APPLIED _____ TIME _____

WEATHER _____ WIND SPEED _____

PESTICIDE APPLIED _____

METHOD OF APPLICATION _____

CONCENTRATE VOLUME _____ DILUTE VOLUME _____

QUANTITY APPLIED _____ litres AREA OF APPLICATION _____ m²

LOCATION OF APPLICATION (map attached)

SAFETY PROCEDURES FOLLOWED _____

SAFETY SIGNAGE USED _____
(location shown on map)

DISPOSAL OF EXCESS CHEMICAL _____ QUANTITY _____ litres

ANY PROBLEMS OF APPLICATION _____

CONFIDENTIAL



NAME OF PERSON APPLYING CHEMICAL _____

COMPANY _____

Pesticide Application certificates attached.

I confirm that the above is a true record of the application of the above pesticide.

Signed _____ **Date** _____

