



Sports surface design and construction

Design - Construction - Maintenance - Refurbishment



Natural Cricket Table Processes

The construction and maintenance of a natural cricket table requires significant expertise to ensure it not only meets the technical standards set by the England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB), but that it offers the best possible playing experience. total-play Ltd's extensive knowledge of natural cricket table processes makes it ideally placed to act as your expert in pitch management; from the construction of brand new tables through to routine maintenance, square restoration works and the use of the latest techniques to help breathe life back into tired facilities...

An all-round cricket pitch specialist

Well-known for developing a range of class-leading non-turf pitch systems, total-play's pedigree in natural cricket table management is equally impressive.

Before moving into pitch consultancy services MD David Bates was, during his residency at Northamptonshire CCC, the youngest Head Groundsman on the County circuit; gaining a reputation for preparing some of the finest pitches in the country. Having been awarded two commendations from the ECB during his time as a groundsman, David was later appointed Chairman of the First Class Groundsman Committee, promoting research and development into cricket surfaces, and is also a trainer and pitch advisor for IoG.

David's expertise is backed by an in-house groundwork team that not only shares his passion for the preparation of exemplary playing surfaces, but has the experience to match; regularly helping clubs and schools across the country playing at everything from grass roots to first-class level ensure their natural and non-turf pitches are fit to perform. Add to the equation its extensive range of state-of-the-art, laser-guided ground management and maintenance equipment, and total-play is ideally placed to act as your expert partner in natural pitch management.





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This rigorous approach enables total-play to put forward the best solution to fit the individual situation while demystifying the processes involved for the client.

The total-play approach...

No two cricket grounds are exactly the same. Factors including the surrounding topography, the site's geology and historic management practices all have a bearing on the issues that will be faced by an individual club or school. This means there's no such thing as a 'one size fits all' solution to the construction, management and maintenance of natural cricket squares.

total-play, however, has drawn on its extensive experience to develop four key processes for natural pitch works – End of Season Renovation, Table Construction (Full Pitch and Profile), Square Restoration and Profile Regeneration.

Process Overview:

End of Season Renovation

By the end of the playing season, nearly all cricket pitches are suffering the wear & tear associated with a summer of use. End of season renovation works - including scarification, over-seeding, top dressing and the application of fertiliser, help to ensure that they recover and are back to playing standard in time for the following season. total-play can not only prescribe exactly what works need to be carried out on an individual square, but can take the strain and undertake the entire process on behalf of a club or school, as well as providing expert guidance should other issues be spotted during assessment.



The starting point for any natural pitch works remains to undertake a site visit to gain an understanding of the site and what the client wants to achieve. Following a thorough investigation of the site, a report will be presented that details the current situation, the issues the site faces and the key objectives of the project. It will then go on to present which of the aforementioned key processes is recommended, with works tailored to suit the specific site, to meet the standards set by the ECB whilst remaining within constraints set by the client – notably time and budget.





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Process Overview:

Table Construction

Full Construction and Profile Construction

The construction of a new cricket table from scratch requires expert input from the outset. From deciding the processes and timescales required for works and establishment of a playable surface, through to the finer details like selecting the optimum materials based on the geography of the site and the native soil type, total-play has the expertise.



Whether 'Full Construction', which incorporates a gravel raft, building layer and loam, or 'Profile Construction', which uses imported loam directly on the existing soil base, the service will include in-depth site analysis, sourcing of imported materials, construction ground works and the provision of a maintenance programme for the new table during its 12-18 month establishment period. total-play can also undertake essential pre-season preparation works ahead of the new table's first season of play.

Process Overview:

Square Restoration

Square Restoration is used to rectify the most commonly seen faults in an established square; such as saddling, an undesirable thatch layer, uneven surface levels and poor grass coverage. It can also be used to incorporate a new loam to help boost the growth of a sward well suited to cricket, but is limited in terms of the severity of issues it can solve.



total-play can advise on whether restoration is a good fit to resolve the issues faced by your square, before formulating and carrying out works that may include fraise mowing, surface levelling, sward establishment and change of top dressing; and can either advise on or carry out any ongoing maintenance works required as the restored table becomes established.





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Process Overview:

Profile Regeneration

The process of regeneration and profile recycling has been designed to bridge the gap between surface works and pitch construction. It is a hybrid of the two, and should be viewed as 'going a stage further' than the restoration process.

Where conditions allow, it acts as a cost-effective alternative to construction as it can solve many of the same problems; such as severe issues with levels and profile layering.

Regeneration also results in an immediate improvement to performance and will enable the square to be used the following season, thus avoiding the delays often associated with construction works. It is, however, restricted to a depth of 80-100 mm.



In 'profile recycling', rather than importing and exporting materials, on-site soils are utilised. Organic matter is removed from the surface and the existing underlying soil is cultivated. The process is purely dependant on native soil types and depths and employs machinery used in both construction and restoration; thus requires a high level of understanding and practical skill.

Surface regeneration works, including profile recycling, can be a cost-effective solution to breathe new life into old squares, creating the equivalent to a newly constructed table. It is not, however, a 'fix all' solution – the site's topography, native soil type and a host of other factors need to be taken into account when deciding whether this option is viable. total-play has the expertise to make this assessment, plan and carry out ground works and manage the entire project through to completion; supporting the club's own maintenance schedules to help ensure the project remains on track.

Pitch Protection

To keep your natural cricket square in top condition total-play has drawn on its expertise to develop the Climate Cover range of ground covers. There's something to suit every budget including the Climate Cover System™ - the lightest, strongest, and only proven breathable flat sheet ground cover - as used at the ECB National Academy, Lord's cricket ground, test match grounds, county grounds, schools and local league clubs across the country. The full range is available exclusively online via : www.thecricketgroundshop.co.uk

To discuss your club or school's natural cricket table requirements, or to arrange a site visit from a member of total-play's expert team to evaluate the current state of play, call 01604 864 575.



THE CRICKET GROUND SHOP

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