

Grounds Advisory Newsletter

Dereham Church Infant – planning ahead

Every school has its own unique character and layout that determines what works best for the children and staff alike. Your Grounds Advisor will work with you to achieve a well-thought out, best value scheme, even if it's just to fine tune existing plans and ideas.



Garage and tyre play

One school where close collaboration between a number of parties has led to excellent results, is Dereham Church Infants School. The school nestles in a lovely spot in the shadow of the St. Nicholas Church in the centre of Dereham and under the leadership of Karen Gay, it has developed its limited space into a brilliantly zoned area that maximises every square millimetre.



Beautiful setting

Projects have taken place over the last 5 years and have involved input from staff and children with all projects complementing each other. Unused grass areas have been transformed into wonderful school gardens, unloved corners of asphalt into adventure playgrounds, orchards have blossomed and muddy unusable areas have been improved by using synthetic grass to offer year round use. With each new project Karen has sought appropriate advice and the imaginative concepts envisaged by the school have come to fruition with minimal disruption.

The school cultivation area is one of the best in the county and has won several awards. Karen and her staff saw the potential and called in Peter Chambers, Grounds Advisor, to co-ordinate the whole project. David Yates, NCC Landscape Architect, produced a creative plan and the Norse Projects Team turned the plans into reality. The adjacent orchard with its tree seat provides an ideal place to seek peace and quiet.



'No Mow' amphitheatre

The creation of the Early Years garden followed a similar course and once again the completed project has been a huge success.

The children have an amphitheatre, a play garage, a race track, a tyre play and Karen's decision to use 'No Mow' synthetic turf enables the children access all year round. These projects have taken place around ongoing school building work and we have been able to avoid taking up space on the limited sports field. It shows what can be achieved with a combination of good ideas, enthusiasm and just a little bit of sound advice!



Colourful planters and mural

Growing areas—learn, explore and enjoy

There is a growing trend for school children to spend increasing amounts of learning time outside the classroom. The benefit of fresh air and the interest generated by the range of outside activities offered has had a proven effect on raising attainment.

Planting beds, where children are able to grow a range of vegetables to eat, have proven very popular in engaging pupils' interest. Once the soil is weeded and compost added, seeds are sown and the resulting plants are managed to completion.

Raised beds constructed from tough landscape sleepers are proving to be the most successful solution. The planting area is contained to give a neat appearance and individual beds can be allocated to groups of children so that everybody can become involved.

Beds can be offered in a range of sizes and heights to suit all needs, including wheelchair users.

Contact your Grounds Advisor for more information and prices.



Synthetic Grass

Synthetic Grass

There are many tired and worn out lawn areas on school grounds that become completely unusable during the wet winter months.

It need not be this way.

Norse is able to install a realistic looking synthetic grass, 'No Mow', that can be used right through the year, even after heavy rain. It can even be installed on mounds.

Pest damage to playing fields increases the likelihood of injury

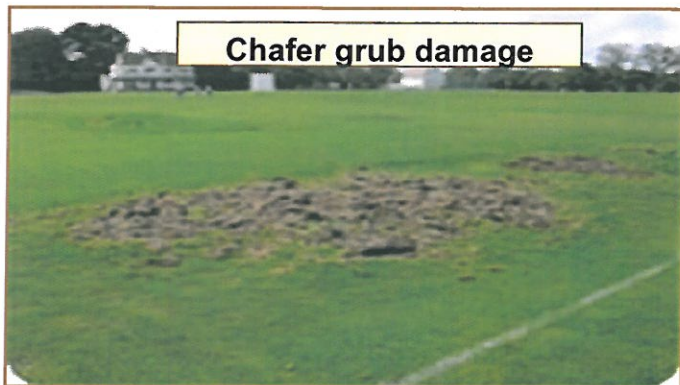
Chafer grubs



Moles, rabbits, chafer grubs, leather jackets — the list goes on. All have their part to play in the food chain but their destructive habits ruin the playing surface, creating bumps and hollows that can cause children to trip and fall. Injuries can occur.

Contact the Grounds Advisory Service for solutions.

Chafer grub damage



Chafer grubs attack grass roots in late summer, growth slows and yellow patches appear. Grass is easily pulled up by birds seeking the grubs. Chafer beetles emerge from the lawn in spring, lay their eggs which hatch into grubs. The grubs feed on the roots before burrowing deep into the grounds. They lay dormant before moving to the surface to emerge as beetles.

To resolve the continual re-infestation, the life cycle needs to be broken by applying chemical pesticides.



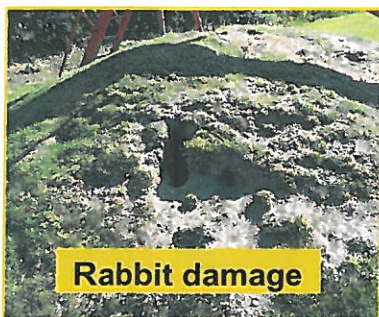
Rabbit problems are best prevented. Mesh fencing is a very effective method of keeping rabbits out of an area. The mesh is dug into the ground to prevent the rabbits from burrowing under.

If the rabbit population is not great enough to warrant fencing, there are several methods of control such as netting, using ferrets, gassing or shooting.

Rabbit fencing



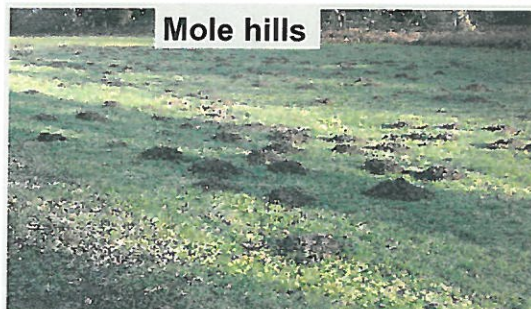
Rabbit damage



Mole hills and hollows over mole tunnels present a considerable danger to playing field users and will prevent the grass from being cut as contractors will not risk their mower blades being damaged.

When the first mole hill appears you need to take swift action to avoid an infestation. The longer you leave things, the worse the damage. Regular management will alleviate the problem.

Mole hills



Tree Management at your school.

We all get pleasure from the established trees planted years ago. How nice it would be to plant some new trees for our future children to enjoy?

Call us for advice and prices.

Tree Safety Management

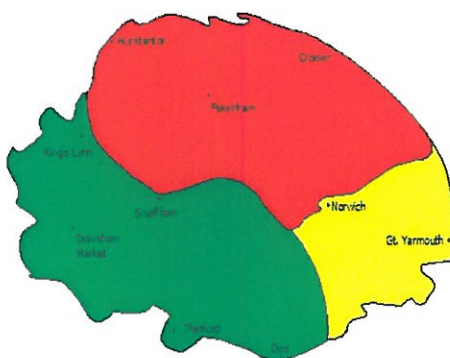
As you're probably aware, Children's Services Health & Safety Officers are monitoring whether schools have a tree management plan in place, as required by Norfolk County Council.

We have provided comprehensive tree surveys for over 150 schools to date with more in the pipeline. If you would like a tree survey for your school, please get in touch. Don't put yourself or your pupils at risk.



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Area covered by each Advisor



Norse

Buy into the Grounds Advisory Service and call us for help and advice. Contact your local Advisor for details



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