

CASE STUDY

FAREPLAY STEPFORD

COMMUNITY SPORTS &
LEISURE PARK



TESTING TECHNOLOGY FOR SPORT



FAREPlay Stepford Football Centre
Glasgow, Scotland
Case No. 2995



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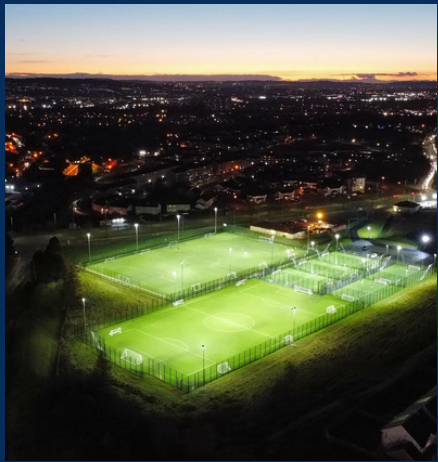


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“The ethos of FARE and what they do for young persons in the local community through their various programmes is the most rewarding aspect of working on this project.”

David Dickinson - Lead Consultant

SAPCA AWARD NOMINATED PROJECT



ABOUT SAPCA

The Sports and Play Construction Association is the UK's trade association for the sports and play construction industry, with over 220 members known for setting the standards of excellence in design.

ABOUT FAREPLAY STEPFORD

Formerly Stepford Sports Park, the facility received a £1.6 million investment. Stepford is now home to state-of-the-art footballing utilities, including two full-sized 4G pitches, five 5-a-side pitches and new floodlighting and fencing.

LARGE SPORTS OR PLAY FACILITY OF THE YEAR (>£350K)

Sports Labs were nominated for the SAPCA awards 2024 for our contribution towards the upgrading of Stepford Road. We are very proud of the work of our team and the work that went into the renovation process all to provide the local communities with a high-quality sports facility

Initial Design Concept

The client had major aspirations from the outset to develop the site and the initial feasibility and set of requirements for the project far outweighed the funding available and was financially non-viable.

Sports Labs Consult worked with the client to develop the overall scheme to maximise the potential opportunity in terms of phasing the works in a way to deliver the client's requirements but with options to down spec in areas if required. In the end, however, we managed to achieve the client's aspirations without much to any compromise.

Planning Issues

In terms of a site it was expected from the initial discussions that planning would not represent much of a risk to the project, this was supported by the fact that most of the development area was currently a natural grass pitch. However, this ended up being one of the most challenging aspects of the project. We had significant issues to overcome in terms of ecology and in particular water voles which had to be relocated from the site to allow development to be undertaken.

This was coupled with concerns over underlying mine-workings which resulted in a requirement to look at a bespoke sub-structure design. Sports Labs worked with the client to communicate during the development of the planning process and provided expert assistance to mitigate the risk and reassure the planning department, following approximately 18 months from initial submission planning was approved which turned the project into a reality.



Technical Design / Value Engineering / Procurement Route

As outlined previously the design stage of the project was crucial to meeting the tight funding available to deliver. Sports Labs developed this initial design then worked alongside the nominated contractors Sportex to offer expert advice on areas where the project could be value-engineered which not detracting from the final quality of the project. This involved building the pitch off the existing ground and using previous geogrid installation as a platform to build up and de-risk the project and minimise the impact to any previous mine-workings becoming a concern. This was a key aspect of the project by having a contractor on board early as it provided a practical solution and buy in from all parties on the route forwards and ultimately a successful project. This relationship was further developed when the project was on-site with sport labs and Sportex adding value with some additional features like a spectator standing area, additional fencing amongst other items.

In the end the project was completed on time and on budget with less than 2% contingency used from a 10% allowance. All parties involved were extremely satisfied with the end result and it is a project for all involved to be very proud of given the clear social value and impact it will have.

A Comment from Lead Consultant - David Dickinson

"Sports Labs takes immense pride in our involvement with the FAREPlay Stepford Community Sports & Leisure Park project, and it is a true honor to be recognised/nominated by SAPCA for our dedicated work. This serves as a testament to our commitment to delivering projects that not only are completed within budget, efficiently, and sustainably but also provide substantial social value for the community.

We look forward to seeing the players, teams, athletes, families and students in the area of Easterhouse and further afield benefitting from the amazing facilities we were able to help them deliver."

