fargro®

Ashdown Park Golf Club - East Sussex

Case Study

DCM Fertiliser and Bactiva GmbH Soil Amendment

ABOUT THE CLUB

Nestled near the iconic Ashdown Forest, believed to be the inspiration behind A.A. Milne's Winnie the Pooh. Ashdown Park Hotel and Country Club is a luxury destination in East Sussex, offering an 18-hole Par 3 golf course.

- **Front 9:** Flat with wide fairways and challenging roughs
- **Back 9:** Tight, undulating fairways winding through woodland, with water features
- Seasonal closures due to waterlogging
- Maintained by 3 facilities staff
- Previously reliant on synthetic fertilisers
- Strong player/member engagement and feedback

INITIAL GREEN CONDITIONS

Tee Box Inspection

Core samples revealed:

- Rooting depth: ~8–10mm
- Thatch layer: 20–30mm
- Overseeded areas growing in thatch, causing divots and turf instability

Holistic practices for sustainable turf management

Core samples show: Rooting depth: ~8–10mm,

Thatch layer: 20–30mm

Disclaimer

This Case Study does not guarantee any specific outcomes. Agronomy requires ongoing attention and decisions tailored to the unique needs of individual crops and conditions.

Fargro is not liable for results obtained from following the recommendations in this Case Study, whether in full or in part. Groundskeepers remain responsible for turf management. For specific advice, consult a qualified agronomic professional.

fargro®

Ashdown Park Golf Club - East Sussex

Case Study

DCM Fertiliser and Bactiva GmbH Soil Amendment

RECOMMENDATIONS (PRE-TREATMENT)

Greens
- Solid tine (VertiCore) before winter
- Verticut to remove debris and open surface
- Optional: Hollow tine and dress with 70:30 sand/soil mix
- Fertilise with DCM Vital Green (14-4-7) at 35-50g/m²
- Apply Bactiva GmbH to promote soil regeneration and rooting

Tee Boxes
- Gradual height reduction to avoid scalping
- Autumn scarification and overseeding, budget permitting
- Apply DCM Vivifos (4-30) fertiliser at 35–50g/m²

Holistic practices for sustainable turf management

Application through drenching process to the greens using boom spray methods.

ACTIONS TAKEN

AUGUST 2024

Greens
Application of DCM Vital Green (14-4-7)
- Initial application: 35–50g/m²
- Follow-up application 8-10 weeks

Application of Bactiva GmbH (1kg pack):
- Initial application: 250g
- Follow-up planned for Nov 2024
- Application via boom spray drenching

Tee Boxes
DCM Vivifos applied in summer and November, aligned with restoration and overseeding.

DCM ORGANIC VITAL GREEN

Specially developed for use on sports turfs and lawns. For a good (re)growth effect of the grass in spring and a continuous growth during the season.

NPK: 14-4-7+3MgO+Fe+35% organic matter

F/CODE: DCMEVG

BACTIVA GmbH

BACTIVA Soil Amendment is a water dispersible soil inoculant that strengthens the plant root and enhances resistance.

F/CODE: BACT1KG

DCM VIVIFOS

Organo-mineral fertiliser with emphasis on phosphorus. Contains easily available and organically bound phosphorus.

NPK: 4-30-0+13% organic matter

F/CODE: DCMVF

TECHNICAL TEAM 01903 256857 • EMAIL TECHNICAL@FARGRO.CO.UK

www.fargro.co.uk

VERSION 1: May 2025

RESULTS AFTER 4 WEEKS

Noticeable improvements in:

- Sward density
- Uniform green appearance
- Consistent ball speed
- Core samples showed improved root depth and structure
- Reduced need for turf repairs

Results after 4 weeks.

SUMMARY & NEXT STEPS

The application of **DCM Vivifos**, a high-phosphorus fertiliser, played a key role in tee box recovery and root establishment. Its targeted formulation supported seed germination during overseeding and helped strengthen turf in areas prone to wear and divoting. By encouraging strong early root development, Vivifos gave the turf a more stable foundation heading into the wetter months.

On the greens, **DCM Vital Green**, a balanced 14-4-7 fertiliser, delivered a steady and sustained release of nutrients, promoting uniform growth and improving sward density. The product helped maintain colour and consistency without producing excessive flush growth, leading to more predictable ball roll and reduced mowing stress. Both DCM products demonstrated their compatibility with a more sustainable turf management programme, reducing dependency on synthetic alternatives.

The addition of **Bactiva GmbH's Soil Amendment** further enhanced the root zone, stimulating microbial activity and improving overall soil structure. This led to better moisture retention, increased root depth, and a noticeable improvement in turf resilience. Core sampling confirmed these results, supporting the club's decision to adopt a holistic approach to greenkeeping.

Fargro will continue to work with Ashdown Park Golf Club as part of a wider 3 to 5 year course enhancement plan focused on building a healthier, more sustainable playing environment.