

## 55 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

55.1.1 The Contractor shall be expected to be fully aware of best practice and methods used in undertaking high quality horticultural and grounds maintenance work. The Authorities wish to ensure that high standards of amenity are presented to the residents, businesses and visitors of the Contract Area in order to enhance the environment and the quality of life in the area. Where there is any doubt in the interpretation of any method or practice, this should be clarified with the relevant Authorised Officer in advance of work commencing.

55.1.2 The Contractor shall achieve and maintain the following Grounds Maintenance Performance Standards:

55.1.2.1 General performance standards;

| Item  | Performance Standard   |
|---|--|
| Grass cutting   | Maintain sward within designated height limits (56.1) and free from rubbish and debris   |
| Grass cutting (for Norfolk County Council land within Breckland District Council area as identified in Appendix 11) | Maintain sward within designated height limits (56.1) and free from rubbish and debris<br>To be cut at 75mm or below.<br>To be cut a minimum of 5 times per year |
| Hedge cutting   | Maintain original function, shape, dimensions and appearance, hedge bases to have a tidy appearance  |
| Shrubs  | A tidy appearance and weed free<br>Full ornamental and functional quality to be displayed  |
| Annual bedding  | A tidy appearance and weed free<br>Full ornamental and functional quality to be displayed  |
| Rose Beds   | A tidy appearance and weed free<br>Free from significant pest infestations<br>Full ornamental and functional quality to be displayed                             |
| Herbaceous borders  | A tidy appearance and weed free<br>Free from significant pest infestations<br>Full ornamental and functional quality to be displayed                             |
| Water Plants  | Plants to display full ornamental and functional quality   |
| Trees   | Make safe and appropriate pruning where necessary, stakes and ties properly adjusted where present, no machinery damage to base                                  |
| Drainage ditches  | A tidy appearance, unimpeded water flow  |
| Ornamental ponds and streams  | Clean, free from algae and debris, filled to the correct level.<br>Fountains and streams operating (Weeks 19 – 36)   |
| Model yacht ponds   | Clean, free from algae and debris, filled to the correct level   |
| Hard surfaces   | A tidy appearance and weed free  |
| Cliff top vegetation  | A tidy appearance, unobstructed views<br>Vegetation maintained within prescribed limits (cat 8a)   |
| Cliff steps vegetation  | Vegetation not obstructing use of steps with a tidy appearance<br>vegetation maintained within prescribed limits (cat 8a)  |
| Bowls greens EBA  | High quality playing surface and facility available for play Week 16 – 41 by 10:00 am.   |

| Item   | Performance Standard                                      |
|--|---|
| Putting greens and pitch & putt, municipal bowls | Turf standards suitable for play Week 11 – 41 by 10:00am. |

#### 55.1.2.2 Grass cutting heights standards; and

| Category | Type   | Min / max height (mm)<br>Level                 | Min / max height (mm)<br>Banks                 | Collect<br>arising? |
|----------|--|--|--|---------------------|
| 1        | Grassed Area:<br>General Grass                                       | 25 -100  | 50 - 200                                       | no                  |
| 2        | Grassed Area: Cut<br>and Collect                                     | 15 – 50  | 15 – 100                                       | yes                 |
| 3        | Sports facilities  |  |  |                     |
|          | Bowls greens   | 4.0 – 4.5 (playing season)<br>6 – 10 (winter)  | N/A  | yes                 |
|          | Putting greens   | 6 – 10 (playing season)<br>15 – 20 (winter)    | N/A  | yes<br>no           |
|          | Fairways   | 25 – 50 (playing season)<br>50 -100 (winter)   | 25 – 50 (playing season)<br>50 -100 (winter)   | no                  |
|          | Rough  | 50 – 150 (playing season)<br>75 – 200 (winter) | 50 – 150 (playing season)<br>75 – 200 (winter) | no                  |
| 4        | Semi-natural and<br>landscape buffer<br>areas<br>(in all categories) | Cut once to 75 max Sept -<br>Dec               | Cut once to 75 max Sept -<br>Dec               | no                  |

#### 55.1.2.3 Performance Standards specified in paragraphs 56.1.8, 56.1.10 to 56.1.13.

55.1.3 Minimum and maximum cutting heights are specified in the Grounds Maintenance Performance Standards. The minimum cutting height may be increased according to the weather conditions and time of the year. The Contractor shall agree the cutting heights with the relevant Authorised Officer in advance of the cut.

## 56 OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

### 56.1 Grassed Areas

56.1.1 The Contractor shall achieve and maintain the Grounds Maintenance Performance Standards applicable for the type of Grassed Areas (i.e. *General Grass*, *Cut and Collect* and *Wildlife/Wildflower Grass* as identified in Appendix 11).

56.1.2 Where bulbs are planted within Grassed Areas, cutting of the specific bulbed area shall not commence until the plants have flowered and they have died down naturally. Arisings on the bulb area shall be raked up and removed. The area shall subsequently be maintained to the specified Grounds Maintenance Performance Standard of the surrounding grass area.

- 56.1.3 The Contractor shall cut and edge grass and weeds around all obstructions, obstacles and along fence and wall lines within or forming a boundary to the grass area to the same standard as the adjoining grass area.
- 56.1.4 The Contractor shall neatly cut back to the edges of the adjacent hard surface, beds, borders and channels to a standard appropriate to the category of grass.
- 56.1.5 Particular care shall be taken when cutting around isolated trees in grass areas to avoid damaging tree bases. The Contractor may maintain a grass free area of up to 250mm width around the bases to aid mowing.
- 56.1.6 The Contractor shall cut grass banks within the General Grass areas. It should be noted that some banks are steeply sloped and the Contractor's proposals for maintaining such areas in a safe and legally compliant way shall be described in his Grounds Maintenance Services Plan (Method Statement 13).
- 56.1.7 The Contractor shall ensure that there are no large accumulations of fallen leaves on Cut and Collect Grassed Areas, associated beds, borders or paved areas.
- 56.1.8 Following maintenance visits to Grassed Areas, the Contractor shall:
- 56.1.8.1 blow, sweep and/or remove any arisings that have been deposited on a hard surface; and
- 56.1.8.2 not leave the grass in piles after any cut.
- 56.1.9 It shall be noted that, on occasions, Grassed Areas may be reclassified. Should this occur the relevant Authorised Officer shall notify the Contractor and issue a Contract variation.
- 56.1.10 Areas of wildlife grass shall be managed in accordance with the agreed management plans presented in Appendix 12. Wildlife grass which is not subject to management plans shall be left uncut until the end of the growing season when a single cut shall be undertaken and all arisings left on the ground until one week after cutting when they shall be cleared by hand.
- 56.1.11 Areas of wildflower meadow shall be left uncut except for a single cut at the end of each flowering season. The arisings from such a cut shall remain in situ for a period of 1 week after which they shall be hand raked and removed from the Grounds Maintenance Sites.
- 56.1.12 Footpaths in areas of wildflower meadow and wildlife grass shall be cut regularly to a width of 1.5m and maintained throughout the year.
- 56.1.13 The Contractor shall provide Grounds Maintenance Services in accordance with this paragraph 56.1 on Grassed Areas managed by Norfolk County Council within the Breckland District Council area as identified in Appendix 11. This Service to Norfolk County Council is a provisional Service and Breckland District Council may remove this from the Contract during the Contract Period.