

Trustgreen

Standard Maintenance Guide

January 2023



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Grass cuttings

Grass cuttings are mulched to allow the nutrients from the cuttings to go back into the soil for the benefit of the health of the open space areas. Hardstanding areas such as pathways are blown clear of any cuttings.

Tree Maintenance

To minimise grassed areas becoming overgrown, maintenance on hedges/shrubs/trees/plant beds is completed during winter whilst grass isn't growing to allow the team to focus and complete these works during their monthly attendance. Completing these works during the winter months also ensures we are outside of bird nesting season, where birds will utilise hedges, shrubs and trees for nesting, food, and protective cover.

Fallen leaves

Leaves are blown onto the bases of trees as their nutrients promotes the health of the tree and suppresses growth of weeds. These also act as habitats for insects and promote biodiversity, supporting the local wildlife.

Weeds

For treatment of weeds, weed spraying is completed in preference to hand pulling. This method gives a greater chance at fully killing the weed, with the nutrients from the dying plant to go back into the soil. It can take a few weeks to show signs of it working on the weed, and if heavy rainfall is experienced this may hinder the effectiveness. Mowing will address weeds in grassed areas, causing them to die back.

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Attenuation Features

Attenuation features such as Sustainable Drainage Solutions (SuDS)/attenuation pond, swales and drainage ditches, are a water retention system which is in place to assist in the preventions of watercourses further downstream becoming overwhelmed. To assist in their function, the basins and verges of these features are allowed to grow during the summer months, so the plants may absorb additional water, and then cut back at the beginning of winter and again in the beginning of spring. These areas are often planted up and make take some time for the growth of these to fully establish. These grown areas act as great protection and habitats for local wildlife.

Anti-social behaviour

As a managing company our duty is to manage and maintain the open spaces within our responsibility. Unfortunately, we have no authority to act on any anti-social behaviour, and would kindly request that residents contact their local Police, or Community Support Officer for assistance should they witness to experience any such behaviour within the amenity areas.

Play Areas - Dogs

For health and safety, Dogs are not permitted within play areas. This is applicable regardless if they are on, or off-lead and if there are or aren't children present at the time. If the play area is not enclosed with a fence, please keep dogs a safe distance away from equipment, preferably on leads whilst in the vicinity, and again regardless if there are or aren't children present at the time. For more information on this, please visit ROSPAs information page regarding dogs in play areas.

Planting

Planting is completed during our Winter Maintenance schedule, planting during this time allows the plants the best chance of establishment and survival due to the amount of rainfall experienced, along with the weather getting warmer. Although our Winter schedule runs November – February, planting often won't be completed until we are through the coldest of the winter to avoid any overnight frosts which may harm the plant. This is usually towards the end of February, sometimes into March.

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Excessive Growth

During April – mid-June with the weather being both wet and warm, can cause excessive growth in between the scheduled attendance, not usually experienced in other months. This should improve as the weather becomes dryer.

Mature Trees

We carry out regular checks on the mature trees for disease, weaknesses of limbs and any health and safety concerns and we would only undertake work if it was deemed to be necessary. We are also restricted as to what work can be done at certain times of year due to bird nesting season, which runs March until September. Residents are entitled to cut back any limbs/branches that overhang their boundary line should no Tree Protection Orders be present.

Wildflowers

Wildflower areas promote great biodiversity and assist in supporting the local wildlife for both pollinators, insects, and other animals. The maintenance of these areas often includes a twice annual cut back, at the beginning of the winter and spring season. Wildflower areas self-seed, and over time will become more robust, acting as a great habitat and food source.

Help us to help you

You are our eyes and ears on the ground between maintenance visits, so if you see something that needs our attention, please don't hesitate to contact us. This will help us to provide you with a great service and allow us to schedule in the works.

Should you have any feedback or questions, please feel free to call us on **01829 708 457** or email us **enquiries@trustgreen.com**.