

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Maintenance of Grounds of St Michael's Churchyard and Blackawton Cemetery

Specifications

The requirements are for landscape maintenance, to a suitably high standard, of St Michael's Churchyard, Blackawton and Blackawton Cemetery.

The term of the contract is from July 2021 until the end of December 2022, with an optional annual extension for two further years.

The Parish encourage species diversity and wildlife habitat.

BPC will use this specification for the remainder of 2021 and for 2022. The situation will be reviewed during 2022 and alternative plans may be drafted for the duration of the contract if extended.

A degree of flexibility and common sense must be employed to accommodate further burials and planting that may take place during the contract; there are for example plans for the planting of shrubs and fruit bushes along the northern wall of the Churchyard in autumn 2021.

BPC does not specify an instruction to use any particular tool. The method employed is at the contractor's discretion.

The work comprises:

Maintenance of Cemetery

There are two distinct maintenance zones as highlighted on the plan:

In the areas highlighted in **yellow** two cuts a month from April to October (inclusive) to include:

- cut around and keep clear headstones, trees, bench, and graves;
- cut along both sides of, and remove any cuttings from, pathways, ensuring grass does not encroach over the pathway;
- cut around all sides of, and remove any cuttings from, and keep clear all recumbent tablets.

In the areas highlighted in **green** cut first in August, again in September or October (depending on growth), and in April.

August cut to be raked up and removed. Other cuts can be left on the ground.

Mow pathways as shown approximately in **blue** 1 metre wide and maintain by cutting twice a month between May and September.

Winter cuts

As needed. Will be requested by BPC. Winter cuts will be of both yellow and green zones. Leave cuttings on the ground.

Generally

- trim inside vertical face of hedges within Cemetery boundary once a year in the late autumn/early winter;
- control weeds in the tarmac areas (using spray or flame only if essential);
- cuttings which are removed are to be left on-site as mulch to the small copse or in designated heap;
- cut the vegetation growing outside entrance gates and their pillars to keep entrance clear and tidy;
- generally tidy the Cemetery.

Maintenance of St Michael's Churchyard

There will be two distinct maintenance zones.

April to October (inclusive)

- two cuts a month beside all pathways to a width of 1metre on each side of the path, remove any cuttings from pathways and ensure grass does not grow to encroach over the pathway;
- two cuts a month above the retaining walls beside Main Street, Park Lane, and School Lane to a width of approximately 600mm.

All other areas cut first in August, again in September or October (depending on growth), and in April to include:

- cut around headstones, trees, and graves;
- cut grassy areas;
- generally maintain and tidy the area.

August cut to be raked up and removed. Other cuts can be left on the ground.

Winter cuts

As needed. Will be requested by BPC. Winter cuts will be of both maintenance zones. Leave cuttings on the ground.

Generally

Place removed cut material in compost area shown in blue on the plan, avoiding the burial sites, and/or use as mulch to new plants.

Leave cutting daffodils until the leaves have died back in the spring.

Eastern Lychgate

The small plot outside the Eastern Lychgate around the memorial stone is for the time being maintained by Sustainable Blackawton but may be included in the contract when reviewed.
