

Grounds maintenance standards

Car Park

Grasscrete areas are mowed and strimmed when required during the growing season. This is typically when grass is more than 10cm higher than hard standing.

Beds within the car park are weeded periodically, when weeds are noticeable. Weeding is carried out on a rotational system to ensure they do not negatively impact the appearance of the car park.

Block paved bays are weeded and/or strimmed as required but as a minimum, once a month.

Front Lawns

The lawns at the front of the main building, two x large, 2 x medium and two x small are cut as required in the growing season and this is typically once a week. Mower setting is 2.5 which represents a grass length target of 4cm. The grass is always collected on the two large lawns and periodically mulched on the other lawns when not collected.

The grass along the hearse arrival road is cut to the same length as the main lawns and at the same intervals. Cuttings always collected.

Strewing Lawns

The three strewing lawns (Cherry, Hawthorn and Silver Birch) are kept longer in length in the region of 7cm when cut. Cutting does not take place as frequently as the front lawns as longer grass aids the settling in of strewed ashes which are brushed in after scattering. Lawns are kept tidy and are never mown directly after a scattering. If there has been a recent scattering cuttings will be mulched rather than collected, therefore keeping the ashes in situ. The beds surrounding these lawns are weeded as and when required to maintain a smart appearance.

Woodland areas

There are four woodland blocks which are areas that were newly planted with various tree species when the crematorium was built. These areas are left as wild as possible to encourage wildlife, flora and fauna. Because of this, the areas between the trees are strimmed out approximately four times a year. This is to get rid of unwanted species / weeds like thistle, dock and sow thistle. Desirable meadow plants are left in situ to enable them to spread.

Woodland areas that are used for strewing ashes are strimmed as above but these areas are left for a reasonable period after a scattering to ensure that ashes are left in situ.

Pathways

There is a public footpath crossing the site. This is clearly marked and cut on a regular basis to make this and other paths / dog walking routes easily identifiable and passable.

The tarmac paths around the site are checked regularly and cleared of grass cuttings, leaves and other debris as a minimum once a week and as required.

Memorial areas

The areas between the memorials (sanctums) are weeded as required to maintain a smart appearance and the lawn that abuts them is cut as part of the general routine with the mower set to 2.5. Similarly the area surrounding the plaque walls is kept weed-free in the same way.

Wildflower meadows

There are three areas of wildflower meadows. These are scarified and reseeded periodic. Unwanted species such as dock and thistle are strimmed out where possible. Once a year all areas are cut. All cuttings are collected and removed.

Outlying lawns and other grassed areas

At the entrance there is a large area of land that runs adjacent to the main road. This is cut with a ride on mower. This task is currently carried out by contractors and depends on their availability. Typically this area is cut twice a month in the growing season.

The areas of grass that follow the edge of the inner road system are cut as often as the lawns in order to keep a neat border which separates the more formal hard edges like road and paths from the softer informal wild flower meadows and woodland blocks.

Gritting

All tarmac and block paving areas, including any areas pedestrians/visitors use, are gritted under contract. Gritting takes place whenever the temperature drops below 0 degrees or is forecast to do so.