**SCHEDULE 1**

**Specification for the Provision of Grounds Maintenance Services**

1. **Scope of Work**
   1. The Service required is the provision of grounds maintenance services for Purbeck District Council as set out in this Specification. Please note: This Specification is divided **into two sections**: General Grounds Maintenance and Maintenance of the Wareham Town Walls (Scheduled Ancient Monument). Please refer to the **Map Pack** for maps of the areas to be maintained.

**Section 1: General Grounds Maintenance**

1. **General**
   1. All areas as specified in Appendix C of the ITT shall be maintained.
   2. The Contractor will be required to comply with a “Permit to Work” issued by the Council for all works carried out under this specification.
   3. Any damage caused by traversing machinery or plant across any walkway, footpath or any amenity grass area to carry out the service must be make good entirely at the Contractor’s own expense.
   4. Working practices shall be adopted that safeguard the environment from pollution, noise or other injurious hazards.
   5. Unless otherwise required by the Supervising Officer work associated with this Contract will be carried out between the hours of 07.30 to 18.00 in the summer and 07.30 to 16.30 in winter from Monday to Friday. No weekend, Bank or Public Holiday or night work is to be carried out without the prior written authority of the Supervising Officer.
   6. The Contractor must contact the Supervising Officer immediately if access proves difficult. No claims will be paid for difficult site access
   7. All arisings requiring removal and disposal by the Contractor should be accounted for in the Tender price.
2. **Vandalism**
   1. Any vandalism within any of the sites within the Contract shall be reported immediately to the Supervising Officer, or in his absence to a delegated Council Officer.
3. **Nuisance**
   1. All machinery shall be maintained and used to the manufacturer's recommendations to avoid unacceptable levels of smoke, noise, fumes, dust or noise being emitted or created.
   2. The Contractor shall programme his work to avoid areas and times of high public activity.
4. **Work Schedule**
   1. Current working schedules shall be made available to the Supervising Officer to enable inspections to be carried out while the work is in progress.
   2. As far as is reasonably practicable works should be undertaken in co-operation and collaboration with the Parish, Town and County Council work programmes as well as with the Dorset Waste Partnership.
5. **Special Events**
   1. Throughout the year, there may be special events (for example Wareham Carnival and Upton in Bloom) which may require preparatory groundwork. Events are outside the Contract price and daywork rates will apply unless other arrangements are agreed. The Contractor must ensure that resources are not diverted from the general maintenance programme.
6. **Quality Control and Performance Monitoring**
   1. Sites will be selected on a random basis and visually inspected from time to time by the Supervising Officer.
7. **Infestation or Disease**
   1. Any infestation or disease which would lead to a deterioration or loss of the required standard shall be reported to the Supervising Officer.
8. **Weed Control** 
   1. The Contractor may, from time to time, be asked to provide weed control for which the appropriate day rate will be paid.
9. **Fertilisers**
   1. In the event fertiliser is used it must meet and be applied to the specified manufacturer’s recommendations. Any damage caused by fertilisers will be reinstated at the Contractor's cost.
   2. Works required to restore areas damaged by fertiliser application will be carried out at the Contractor's expense.
10. **Chemical Applications**
    1. All weed control shall be carried out in accordance with horticultural practices which are acceptable to the Supervising Officer and with reference to relevant legislation including the provisions of the Weeds Act 1959 (specific attention is drawn to the requirements for the clearance and disposal of ragwort).
    2. Prior to carrying out weed control the Contractor shall provide the Supervising Officer with working plans two days prior to any applications.
    3. All chemical applications made should avoid staining or damaging any adjacent surfaces. All necessary costs to carry out the repairs or reinstatements will be met by the Contractor.
    4. If, in the opinion of the Supervising Officer, any treatment has not given satisfactory results, the Contractor shall at his own expense re-treat areas as instructed by the Supervising Officer.
    5. A C.O.S.H.H assessment must be completed by the Contractor and provided to the Supervising Officer for all chemicals used for the purpose of the Contract.
    6. The General Public and users of the facilities should be notified in writing or by the erection of a sign stating that spraying is to be or has been undertaken. If required by the manufacturers recommendations the public should be excluded from an area where spraying is taking place.
    7. Pernicious or noxious weeds shall be spot treated in areas where spraying with herbicides would adversely affect other vegetation that is to remain intact.
    8. Approved herbicide treatment to hedge bases shall be carried out to established hedge bases as specified to provide 12 months control.
    9. Non-porous surfaces including; car park areas, play areas, paths, walkways and seating areas and public convenience areas in the Specification shall be spot treated for all weeds.
    10. It may from time to time become necessary to treat areas of established shrubs with a granular herbicide applied to the manufacturer's recommendations, as required by the Supervising Officer at the appropriate day rate.
11. **Grass**
    1. Frequency of cuts
       1. Grass is to be maintained to the following standard:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of Area** | **Minimum number of cuts per year** | **Height Guidance** |
| Lawned | Minimum number of 12 cuts per year | In general the grass sword height should not exceed 150mm |
| Non-lawned  (Semi natural grassland) | Minimum number of 3 cuts per year | See 12.3.1 |

* 1. Management Aim for Lawned Areas

13.1.2 Areas identified as lawned areas are on the whole managed amenity areas often with footpaths running through them. These areas must be mowed within the Specification with cuts programmed to coincide with the growing season to maintain a neat appearance.

* 1. Management of Non-lawned Areas
     1. Areas identified as non-lawned areas are semi natural grassland often with footpaths running through them. The management aim is to stop scrub encroaching, encourage wild flowers and grasses and keep the area open in order to increase the wildlife value where possible. The areas 1m from footpaths should be mowed more regularly and given a more cared for appearance to stop long grass encroaching the footpath

13.4Pre-Cut Clearing

13.4.1 The Contractor shall, prior to each and every cut, inspect the cutting area and remove and dispose of any debris. The ground conditions must be suitable for grounds maintenance operations.

13.5 Subterranean Animals

13.5.1 All clean soil arisings where animals are active shall be dispersed to a maximum depth of 5mm over the surrounding surface area.

13**.**6 Snow and Frost

13.6.1 The Contractor shall not attempt to cut any areas where unforeseen weather conditions prevail, i.e. snow and heavy frost.

13.7 Machinery Classification

13.7.1 All grass cutting equipment shall be of a suitable type and agreed to be suitable by the Supervising Officer.

13.8 Headland and Periphery Cutting

13.8.1 Good cutting practices shall be observed where headland turning is involved. All damage caused to area peripheries by headland turning will be reinstated at the Contractor's cost.

* 1. Obstacles
     1. It is the Contractor's responsibility to programme cutting to take account of waste or recycling bin collections.
     2. If bins or receptacles for recycling are presented for collection they are to be removed when operations are in progress and replaced immediately after cutting.
  2. Trimming of Edges and Obstacles

13.11.1 All trimming of paths, seats, fence lines and any other obstacle within areas of works shall be carried using appropriate machinery however strimmers are not permitted to be used around tree bases.

* 1. Arisings and Collections
     1. On all mown areas arisings from grass cutting should be allowed to fall evenly over the cutting area unless they are over 100 mm long when they shall be collected and disposed of at each and every cut.
     2. Where the volume of grass cuttings exceeds the area capacity excess arisings shall be removed.
     3. All arisings not falling on the cutting area shall be removed on the same day the grass is cut.
     4. Where areas to be cut are bounded by a water course the arisings shall be removed on the same day.
     5. Any blockage attributed to arisings in water courses or drains shall be removed by the Contractor the same day.
     6. Where any potential fire hazard exists, arisings will be removed from the green sward the same day.
  2. Turf Repairs

13.13.1 Turf repairs will be undertaken using both seed and turf where instructed by the Supervising Officer.

* 1. Cleansing

13.41.1 All areas in the Contract shall be maintained in a clean and litter-free condition with all debris being removed and disposed of.

* 1. Contractor's Cutting Machinery

13.15.1 The whole area of works shall be cut with machinery which leaves no areas uncut between rows and produces an even height across the whole area. The height of cut shall be such that at no time shall the height of lawned and non-lawned areas exceed the limits stipulated in this Schedule.

1. **Hedges**

14.1 General

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of Area** | **Guidance: New Growth** | **Number of cuts** |
| Hedges | New growth should not exceed 200mm | At least once per year. |

14.1.1 All works undertaken in the maintenance of hedges shall be carried out in accordance with good horticultural practice and shall be timed to ensure the minimum impact on nesting birds.

* + 1. The Contractor shall liaise closely with the Supervising Officer to ensure that the standard of work undertaken on hedges is of an acceptable nature
    2. The Contractor shall ensure that the method of cutting (hand or mechanical) and the tools used are appropriate for the situation (including newly planted areas) and for the plant species present.
  1. Hedge Profiles
     1. Safety measures shall be employed at all times and where surface hedge cutting exceeds operative shoulder height, approved safety methods must be employed while cutting. Flail machinery shall not be used.
     2. All secateurs and reciprocating mechanical blade cuts shall be clean cuts.
     3. Hedges in the area of work are to be kept cut and shaped at all times during the year and throughout the Contract Period, at all times new growth shall not exceed 200 mm.
     4. The Contractor should allow for cutting more than one year's growth as necessary.
     5. The Contractor shall remove all arisings and litter, disposing of it on the day of the cut.

1. **Shrubs** 
   1. General
      1. All works undertaken in the maintenance of shrubs shall be carried out in accordance with good horticultural practice and shall be acceptable to the Supervising Officer.
      2. In maintaining shrubs great care must be taken so as not to damage the stem, bark or roots.
      3. Generally all dead, dying, weak diseased and crossing shoots or branches will be removed to achieve a good shape for individual shrubs, and an "even" shaped effect in large shrubberies and ornamental hedges.
      4. All cuts must be clean and no jagged broken wood or torn bark in evidence.
2. **Sweeping**
   1. General
      1. Sweeping is required to maintain all paths, car-parks, hard surface areas, steps and woodland paths in a safe, litter and debris free condition.
      2. All woodland path areas are to be kept clear of all-hazardous debris, bottles and cans and other refuse and disposed of.
3. **Algae, Lichen, Moss and Leaves**
   1. General
      1. At all times all swept areas shall be kept free from algae, lichen and moss growth using approved treatments.
      2. All accumulations of leaves, fruits, seeds etc. from all areas of works including paths, hard surfaces, channels, gullies etc. are required to be removed.
4. **Closed Churchyards & Graveyards**
   1. General

19.1.1 Closed churchyards and graveyards included in this Specification are:

|  |
| --- |
| **Name of Churchyard** |
| Langton Matravers |
| Corfe Castle |
| Kingston |
| Morden |

* + 1. The Contractor must take **particular care** to avoid damaging monuments during any cutting operations. The use of “ride on” or large mechanical mowers is not permitted.
    2. The closed churchyards at Langton Matravers, Corfe Castle and Morden must be cut the week before Remembrance Sunday each year.
    3. The work consists of: cutting lawned and non-lawned areas within the curtilage of the churchyards/ graveyards to a frequency that meets 12.1.1. Cuttings and arisings over a length of 100mm shall be removed from the location on the day of the cut.
    4. No mechanical digging machinery is to be used at any of the locations without the prior written consent of the Supervising Officer.
    5. No tree works other than minor trimming of overhanging growth are to be undertaken.
    6. No burning of any material is permitted.

1. **Ditches**
   1. General
      1. The locations of water courses are as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Location of Ditch / Watercourse** | **Area** |
| Car Park, West Street | Corte Castle |
| The Hyde (Culvert) | Langton Matravers |
| Carey Ditch | Wareham |
| Coomb Keynes Ditch | Coomb Keynes |
| Langton Matravers watercourse | Langton Matravers |
| Northmoor Ditch | Wareham |
| Ditch at foot of North Walls | Wareham |

* + 1. Culverts and ditches should be checked at least 6 times per year and any obstructions or over growing vegetation cut back or removed to ensure free flow of water through the ditch. At least twice per year a 1m strip from the top of each bank parallel with the ditch should be cut if appropriate. The water-course entering the culvert or ditch is to be cleared to allow an unrestricted flow of water, all arisings from site must be removed on the day of the work.

20.1.3 No chemicals are to be used at any water-course location, at any time.

**Section 2: Wareham Town Walls**

1. **General**
   1. Wareham Town Walls are earthen banks and ditches surrounding the old town of Wareham that formed the town defences in Saxon times. They are a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM), and have been leased to Purbeck District Council by the Rempstone Estate since 1956. Part of the leased area is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Ramsar site.
   2. The District Council is charged with managing and maintaining the Walls in a way befitting their status as a nationally, if not internationally important ancient monument, an important nature conservation resource, and significant public open space.
   3. The overall management aim for Wareham Walls is that of balancing and enhancing the archaeological and ecological interests of the monument, whilst addressing the need to develop sustainable recreational use, the Walls themselves being the only public open space within the old town of Wareham.
   4. This Specification for the maintenance of Wareham Walls has been separated out from the general grounds maintenance Specificationbecause the grass cutting regime differs from the standard. The maintenance of the Walls also includes the removal of woody, suckering vegetation, which has resulted from the wholesale removal of trees and scrub from the monument over the last 10 years, and for the annual clearance of the drainage ditch at the foot of North Walls.

21.5 This Specification has also been designed to take account of the requirement for a sensitive approach to the maintenance of grassland of nature conservation interest, whilst also ensuring that areas of less conservation interest are maintained in a manner that is more applicable for purely recreational areas. The methods of maintaining the grassland, whatever its value, take account of the fact that **a large proportion of the site is SAM which** **must not be damaged in any way**.

21.6 This Specification also reflects the need to keep the ramparts clear of invasive woody vegetation, which is one of the greatest threats to the integrity of the monument.

* 1. The following describes the habitat types that are present on the Walls in order to give a better understanding of the maintenance that is required.

**22. Grassland Habitat Types**

22.1 The Walls support a mosaic of habitats including grassland, woodland, scrub, swamp and fen communities. (These communities are described in detail in the Ecological Appraisal appended to the Wareham Walls Management Plan).

22.2 For the purposes of this Specification however, the swamp and fen vegetation of the SSSI/Ramsar site will also be classified as grassland, simply because their maintenance will fall within the grass cutting Contract. The main grassland habitats that are present therefore comprise dry neutral grassland, dry acid grassland, swamp and fen.

22.3 Dry Neutral Grassland

22.3.1 Generally has a limited range of herb species, and as such has less capacity to support wildlife. For this reason, this type of grassland is generally close mown on the Walls.

22.3.2 There are however a number of locations around the Walls that have previously been maintained as meadow grass but which fall into this habitat type. These areas are generally on the ramparts of East Walls, and on the eastern slopes of West Walls.

22.3.3 The wildlife potential of these areas does not merit them being retained within the meadow grass cutting regime, but the steepness of the slopes prohibits them from being brought into the short grass cutting regime. For this reason, these areas are to be maintained as a medium length sward. This gives a tidier, more cared for appearance to these areas of grassland.

22.3.4 There are however 3 locations within the dry neutral grassland habitat that are managed very differently due to the species present:

22.3.5 The area of Alexanders in the ditch adjacent to Westport House is to be cut once a year to maintain the species interest. Towards the top of the slopes the vegetation is to be cut 3 times a year, in order to keep a tidier appearance, especially in front of Westport Cottages. The two other species rich areas are to be maintained in the summer meadow cutting regime, to allow the plants to flower and set seed before being cut, and also to maintain cover for invertebrate species that reside in these locations.

22.4 Dry acid grassland

22.4.1 This is a diverse plant community, containing a wide range of herbs and fine leaved grasses. The habitat is nationally scarce due to agricultural improvement and the cessation of grazing by either stock or rabbits, and is therefore of considerable conservation value. There are nine notable Dorset plants present within this habitat on Wareham Walls, where the habitat is restricted to steep slopes and sandy parched soils. The four main locations in which it occurs are:

1. on the western flank, and part of the eastern flank of Bloody Bank south;
2. on the western flank of Bloody Bank central;
3. at the western end of the south facing slopes of North Walls;
4. on the slopes of the ramparts surrounding the area known as the Bowling Green and surrounding area.

22.4.2 These areas have more recently been cut either once or twice a year so that the wildflower content has not been diminished. There has however been continued pressure from some quarters to cut these areas of grass more frequently, as this regime can lead to the grass looking unsightly at various stages during the growing season. For this reason a summer meadow grass cutting regime is now specified for these areas, which introduces more frequent cutting in the spring leading to a finer sward through the summer, which will then be cut in September.

23.1 Swamp and fen

23.1.1 This is restricted to the base of North East Walls within the floodplain of the River Piddle. This forms part of a large complex wetland system which extends eastwards along the Piddle valley towards Poole Harbour. Part of the area is represented by tall herb fen, which is a nationally scarce habitat. All of the area is protected because of its importance for breeding wetland birds.

23.1.2 Dead reed detritus etc. must not be allowed to build up, as it will gradually choke out the existing vegetation. For this reason, the fen and swamp is cut once a year in September, well outside the bird breeding season.

**24. Grass cutting**

24.1 Special Considerations

24.1.1 The earthen banks of the SAM must not be damaged in any way during the course of the work. The correct tools/machinery must be utilised for all of the grass/vegetation cutting operations, so that scalping, gouging, divots and wheel damage are prevented. No vegetation must be uprooted in the area of the Walls designated as SAM. In addition, mowing and other vegetation clearance operations as identified must be undertaken during suitable weather/ground conditions to avoid damage.

24.1.2 The Northern and eastern sections of the Walls that fall within the Wareham Meadows SSSI and the Poole Harbour Ramsar Site must only ever be maintained in strict accordance with this Specification, so as not to damage these nationally/internationally important habitats.

24.1.3 Intentional damage to either the SAM, or the SSSI/Ramsar Site will constitute criminal damage under the Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (SAM), and under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981(SSSI) respectively. **Absolutely no digging, or uprooting of vegetation is allowed, and machinery and tools must not be allowed to damage the earth that the monument is made up of.**

24.1.4 There are four locations within the areas to be cut where there are colonies of plants/shrubs of particular nature conservation interest. **Under NO circumstances are these plants/shrubs to be cut back.** They consist of:

1. a stand of Burnet Rose at the top of the northern slope of North Walls, roughly opposite No. 2 North Walls;
2. a colony of Pignut on the North western slope of the Walls adjacent to the Bowling Green;
3. an area of Tormentil slightly North and east of the Pignut;
4. a stand of Burnet Rose just below the break of slope, northern most reaches of North western slope by the Bowling Green.

24.1.5 If the Contractor is uncertain of the exact location of these plants/shrubs, the Supervising Officer, or Senior Landscape Architect must be contacted before any work in adjoining areas commences.

24.1.6 A yearly cut is undertaken on steep slopes for health and safety and cost reasons. Special precautions need to be taken with regards to the safety of operatives undertaking the maintenance operations. For this reason, **a Health and Safety Method Statement** for work in these areas is required as part of the tendering process.

24.1.7 There is a small area of bluebells on the northern end of West Walls. Ensure that these plants are not mown until the leaves have died back.

­­24.2 General

24.2.1 This Specification is based on best practice as detailed in BS 7370 Part 3: 1991 Grounds Maintenance: Recommendations for Maintenance of Amenity and Functional Turf (Other than Sports Turf), Horticultural Advice: Maintaining Wildflower Meadows (Royal Horticultural Society), Maintenance of Reedbeds (DEFRA Rural Affairs), and Site Management Statement for Wareham Meadows SSSI (English Nature 1997).

24.2.2 The Contractor shall note that:

1. no burning of material on site is permitted;
2. all machinery and plant must be removed from the site at the end of each working day;
3. no motor vehicle is to be driven onto, or parked on the area of the Town Walls unless specifically indicated by the Supervising Officer;
4. all arisings and grass cuttings (if required as part of the Schedule), litter and other debris uncovered by the operations are to be removed from the site on the day of cutting;
5. the width of the cut is to be as shown on the plans;
6. grass is to be cut regularly to a distance of 1m around all seats and other street furniture, including road signs, dog waste bins litter bins etc. The grass underneath all of the seats is also to be mown regularly;
7. grass is to be cut regularly to a width of 1m adjacent to all roads.

24.2.3 It is essential that the Contractor examine the location and the works required, and that any questions or queries are directed to the Supervising Officer immediately they arise.

24.2.4 If drought or other extreme weather conditions exist, the Supervising Officer reserves the right to cancel one or more of the cuts as deemed necessary.

24.2.5 Reference shall be made to Purbeck District Council’s General Grounds Maintenance Specification for definitions, details of the machinery and equipment that are to be used for the work, details of the health and safety requirements to be implemented, and Conditions of Contract.

24.2.6 The frequency of the cuts given below is a guide to help in calculating likely workloads within the growing season. The frequency cannot however actually be predicted as it depends on the growing conditions (including weather etc.) and the phasing in and phasing out of cutting at the beginning and the end of the year.

24.2.7 For the purposes of this Specification, the growing season is considered to extend between March and the end of November.

24.2.8 The work is to start by Westport House, followed by West Walls, North Walls and finishing at East Walls, unless otherwise identified in this Specification. The timings are all as identified below.

24.3 Short Grass

24.3.1 The grass to be maintained under this regime generally contains few species that are of nature conservation value. The plants represented are not food source plants for the invertebrates and birds that inhabit the Walls. The species are generally common, and are unremarkable aesthetically.

24.3.2 As the amenity and recreational value of this type of grassland outweighs any nature conservation value it is preferable that these areas are, or continue to be maintained as short mown grass. Please provide an annual maintenance cost based on the following:

1. coloured **green** on the maps;
2. area: **17, 914 m2;**
3. cutting height: **30mm;**
4. max. height of growth: **50-75mm;**
5. frequency of cut: approximately **fortnightly** throughout the growing season;
6. arisings: **not to be removed.**

24.4.3 These areas are accessible to, and are least likely to be damaged by the use of ‘ride-on’ rotary grass cutting machinery and comprise:

1. verge of ditch adjacent to Westport House;
2. verges to Streche Road car park;
3. 1m to either side of footpaths running along the crest of the ramparts;
4. under and around seats;
5. area known as the Bowling Green;
6. verges adjacent to Bells Orchard Lane;
7. wherever the Walls run alongside a road.

24.4 Long Grass

24.4.1 This longer grass sward is preferable where the amenity and recreational value of the grassland outweighs any nature conservation value, but it is not operationally possible due to the slope of the ramparts to maintain short mown grass. Please provide an annual maintenance cost based on the following:

1. coloured **purple** on the plans;
2. area: **6, 490 m2**;
3. cutting height: **100mm;**
4. max. height of growth: **250mm;**
5. frequency of cut: **every 4-6 weeks** throughout the growing season;
6. arisings: **not to be removed.**

24.4.2 The principal locations for this grass cutting regime are:

1. two areas on the eastern slopes of West Walls;
2. on the slopes of East Walls as far south as East Street.

24.4.3 Due to inaccessibility in some areas, and the steepness of the slope in others, the machinery that can be utilised is limited to strimmers or brush cutters. It may be possible however to use a rotary mower without rollers (including hover type) on some of the less steep slopes. The grass cuttings do not need to be removed as it is not important to retain impoverished soils for wildflowers here.

24.5 ‘Summer Meadow’

24.5.1 These areas are to be maintained as ‘summer meadow’, and comprise the species rich grassland that occurs on the ramparts of the Walls. Please provide an annual maintenance cost based on the following:

1. coloured **orange** on the maps;
2. cutting height: **75-100mm;**
3. area: **10, 519 m2;**
4. max. height of growth: **not applicable;**
5. frequency of cut: **every 3-4 weeks between March and the end of April**, and then **once in mid-September;**
6. arisings: **to be removed from site after being allowed to lie for a few days so that the wildflowers and grasses can release seed.**

24.5.2 This cutting regime is to extend along the following areas:

1. most of the western slopes of West Walls;
2. a short section on the eastern slope of West Walls;
3. the south facing slopes of North Walls;
4. from the crest of North Walls to the break of slope on the northern slopes;
5. the south east and south west facing slopes surrounding the ‘Bowling Green’;
6. from the crest of the Walls as far as the break of slope on the North east and North west slopes round the Bowling Green;
7. the slopes and crest of the section of East Walls opposite Market Close.

24.5.3 As the slope of the ground in these locations is generally steep, it will be necessary to utilise strimmers or brush cutters to undertake the cut. It may be possible however to use a rotary mower without rollers (including hover type) on some of the less steep slopes.

24.6 3 Cuts Per Annum

24.6.1 The area that this cutting regime relates to is the ditch to the east of the PDC offices at Westport House. The vegetation consists mainly of a number of tall herbs, including Alexanders, and species rich grassland. This vegetation supports a variety of wildlife, including birds that come to feed, dragonflies that move up from the River Frome into the ditch, and a colony of small blue butterflies (on the mound).

24.6.2 At the head of the ditch, this mowing regime is to be implemented from the break of slope at the top, to approx. 2m down the side of the slope. This is mainly to give a tidier appearance to the area, which would otherwise be placed within the once yearly mowing regime. This has resulted from negotiations with the residents of Westport Cottages. Please provide an annual maintenance cost based on the following:

1. coloured **yellow** on the maps;
2. area: **818 m2;**
3. cutting height: **150mm;**
4. max. height of growth: **not applicable;**
5. frequency of cut: **3x per annum – May, July and September;**
6. arisings: **to be removed.**

24.6.3 The grass to be cut under this regime is found:

1. at the top of the slopes to the head of the ditch south of Worgret Road;
2. on the mounded area adjacent to the entrance to ‘Frome Hollow’, south of Worgret Road.

24.6.4 Due to inaccessibility in some areas, and the steepness of the slope in others, the machinery that can be utilised is limited to strimmers or brush cutters. The arisings are to be removed from the site so that they do not enrich the soil. It is not as important to leave the arisings for a few days so that the seeds are released from the wildflower heads in this location however.

24.7 Annual Cut

24.7.1 The vegetation in these areas is only to be cut once a year either because the site is very steep, or because the amenity aspects of the Walls will not be jeopardised by maintaining the grass as a long sward. Please provide an annual maintenance cost based on the following:

1. coloured **red** on the maps;
2. area: **20, 443 m2;**
3. cutting height: **150mm;**
4. max height of growth: **not applicable;**
5. timing of cut: **September each year;**
6. arisings: **to be removed.**

24.7.2 This grass cutting regime is to be implemented:

1. in the ditch to the south of Worgret Road;
2. under the trees, North west Walls;
3. the North facing slope of North Walls and Shatters Hill;
4. the swamp and reed beds within the SSSI;
5. from the break of slope down to the remaining woodland at the North eastern corner of the Walls.

24.7.3 Due to inaccessibility in some areas, and the steepness of the slope in others, the machinery that can be utilised is limited to strimmers or brush cutters. Where the area falls within the Swamp/fen of the SSSI, it will be necessary to use a tractor mounted forage harvester, mechanical scythe or reciprocating bar cutter to get through the dense vegetation, which will be waterlogged. In all cases, the arisings are to be removed from the site so that they do not enrich the soil.

24.8 Biennial Cut

24.8.1 There are two locations which are to be maintained in this manner so that they act as a refuge for invertebrates when other adjacent sections of the Walls are being cut. For this reason also, the areas are to be divided into two, one half being mown one year, and the other half the next. Please provide an annual maintenance cost based on the following:

1. coloured: **blue** on the maps;
2. area: **5, 951 m2;**
3. cutting height: **150mm;**
4. max height of growth: **not applicable;**
5. timing of cut: **once every other year** in September on rotation i.e. one half of the area to be cut one year, and the other the following;
6. arisings: **to be removed.**

24.8.2 This cutting regime is to be implemented in 2 areas:

1. southern approach to ditch west of Health Centre, Streche Road;
2. North west facing slope of ramparts adjacent to the Bowling Green (SSSI).

24.8.3 The dividing line between the two halves of each area can notionally be as follows:

1. the footpath running through the area adjacent to the Health Centre;
2. half way down the slope next to the Bowling Green.

24.8.4 Due to inaccessibility of the area, the steepness of the slope by the Bowling Green, and the density of the vegetation that will result in both areas, the machinery that can be utilised is limited to strimmers or brush cutters.

24.8.5 The arisings are to be removed from the site so that they do not enrich the soil. There is however no requirement to leave the arisings so that the seeds are released in this location.

24.9 Footpath Clearance

24.9.1 All of the footpaths on the Walls are to be kept clear of vegetation at all times. This includes for the cutting back of any scrub or shrubs, and for the clearance of tall herbaceous vegetation. Particular attention should be paid to the following paths which have been neglected in the past:

1. path at the foot of North Walls which runs alongside the River Piddle;
2. path running diagonally between North Mill and Shatters Hill on North Walls;
3. the lower level path to the Bowling Green from Folly Lane;
4. the path to the east of the southernmost section of East Walls.

24.9.2 Please provide an annual maintenance cost for keeping the paths clear.

24.10 Ditch Clearance

24.10.1 The ditch at the foot of North Walls is a drainage channel that must be kept clear. Allowance should be made for the clearance of vegetation from this ditch once a year in October. The Contractor will be responsible for contacting the Environment Agency in advance of the work to ensure all necessary restrictions are complied with and permissions applied for.

24.10.2 All vegetative material that is removed from below the waterline in the ditch must be placed on the bank alongside the ditch for two days to allow aquatic organisms the opportunity to escape back into the water. The cleared material should then be removed to an approved licenced tip.

25.1 Ragwort

25.1.1 Ragwort is identified under the provisions of the Weeds Act 1959 as a notifiable weed. The Act is designed to prevent the spread of weeds on adjacent land.

25.1.2 As there is farmland adjacent to the Walls in a number of locations, any ragwort found on any part of the Town Walls shall be brought to the attention of the Supervising Officer immediately, who shall then give the necessary instructions for it to be eradicated.

25.1.3 Under **no circumstances** shall any ragwort be pulled or levered out using hand tools, as this will damage the monument. All infestations shall be treated with an appropriate narrow spectrum herbicide using a weed wiper, and resulting dead material double bagged and removed from the site for incineration. Appropriate protective clothing including gloves and goggles shall be worn when picking the dead material up. If the plants were in seed at the time of herbicide application, the seed heads should be cut and placed in the bag first to reduce the possibility of spreading the seed.

25.1.4 The optimum time to eradicate ragwort in this way is when the plant is in ‘yellow bud’.

25.1.5 Refer to ‘Guidance on the Disposal Options for Common Ragwort’ and ‘Code of Practice on How to Prevent the Spread of Ragwort’ published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for further information.