

Grimley Parish Council

Chair Mr Simon Russell



Clerk & RFO Mrs Lisa Stevens, CiLCA
c/o 9 The Limes
Kempsey
Worcester
WR5 3LG
07950256363 / 01905 820956

Email: parishclerk@grimley-pc.gov.uk
Website: <https://grimley-pc.gov.uk>
Social Media: 'Grimley Parish Cllrs Worcs'

05/06/2026

Grass Cutting Specifications for Monkwood Green SSSI and Common, Summer/Autumn 2026

It is that time of year again where quotations are invited to mow and bale Monkwood Green Common and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) this year, in a cut of areas of the Common/SSSI in TWO PARTS.

Monkwood Green Common is for the most part designated by Natural England a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Consequently, there are restrictions on how and when the Parish Council can management mow the whole area. Please ensure that you note the specific areas to be mowed and the timings set by Natural England for this work, detailed below.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact myself as Parish Clerk or Parish Cllr Geoff Probert on 07970 434410. The parish council can, if asked, be flexible up to a point to meet contractor needs and the unpredictability of the weather. As usual though, all this is within the requirements set by Natural England.

Deadline for quotations 12th July 10am please.

Please send all quotations to the Parish Clerk as above.

Yours sincerely,

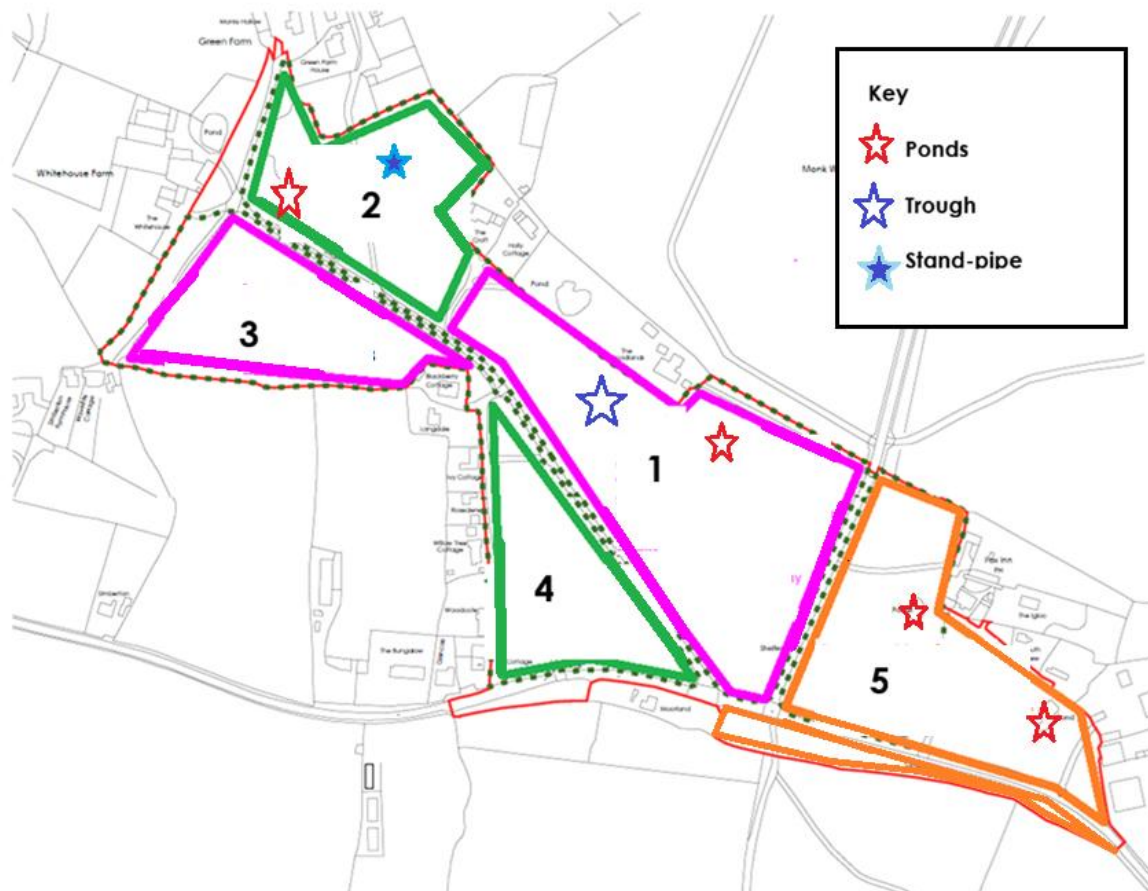
Electronic version

Mrs Lisa Stevens, Clerk to Grimley Parish Council

Grass Cutting Specifications for Monkwood Green SSSI and Common, Summer/Autumn 2026

Map 1 below: Monkwood Green Common and SSSI¹, WR2 6NX, owned by Grimley Parish Council. What3words: ///currently.drums.copy

Area 64036 meters², 689277 feet² 15.82 acres 0.025 miles² 0.064 km²
Perimeter 2002 meters, 6569 feet 1.244 miles 2.002 km



Area to be cut in two parts:

PART 1 = AREAS 2 & 4. Cut, bale and remove all material after **8th Aug 2026**. Also = **Area 1** – Cut verges only and NOT cut the internal section round the anthills/pettywhin. *NB. The parish council is arranging for the internal section of this piece to be hand trimmed in order to preserve the petty whin and anthills.* NB. The seeds in this section drop earlier than in other sections of the Common and so can be cut in August.

PART 2 = Areas 3 & 5. Cut, bale and remove all cut material **between 1st and 30th September 2026**. This is because there are several late-flowering species in these areas that need to be able to ripen seed. The Parish Council accepts that the value of the grass is reduced by such a late cut.

¹ The Common consists of five areas shown

1. **Anthills area of SSSI & Common** – verges only to be mowed due to presence of ant hills. Features to note: Permanent trough on site.
2. **SSSI & Common** Features to note: large deep pond, permanent stand-pipe.
3. **SSSI & Common**
4. **SSSI & Common**
5. **Common land and part-SSSI.** Features to note: shallow pond near willow and infilled ditch feeding into this pond. Hazardous large shallow pond near Fox Inn. Newly planted Oak for Queen's Jubilee on section 5 nearest the roadside hedgerow – A fence protects this specimen.

Terms and Conditions set by Grimley Parish Council (3 pages)

EQUIPMENT

The Contractor shall use machines which are appropriate in size, shape and method of cutting for the type of work involved.

Inaccessible parts may be cut with smaller hand mowing machines ideally no later than 24 hours following the use of large machines and mowing shall be to the same standard as the main area.

Blades and cylinders on all mowers shall be sharp and properly set to cut the sward cleanly and evenly. Mowers or rytecs must have their height of cut adjusted to prevent scalping.

Guards and other protective devices must be fitted on all machines and remain fitted at all times (except when maintenance is being undertaken) and all Codes of Practice observed.

Machines must be of an appropriate type, well maintained, correctly adjusted and set to the heights specified to give a clean even cut without causing damage.

The contractor shall take care not to cause damage to trees, shrubs and other obstacles as a result of contact with grass cutting machinery.

MACHINES – Maintenance and Service

Refuelling and minor servicing must not take place on grassed areas of the Common and SSSI. Spilled fuels, oils etc. shall be reported immediately to the Parish Clerk. During servicing or refuelling, engines must be switched off and machines immobilised.

All equipment shall be removed from the Common when the Contractor's staff leave the area, and no equipment is to be stored at any area nor left overnight thereon.

The Contractor shall ensure that staff are familiar with and adhere to the Codes of Practice relating to mowers and the safe storage and handling of petroleum spirit/diesel oil and standard operating procedures for individual makes of mowers.

SAFE OPERATION

Maintenance staff must be appropriately trained, competent, and comply with all relevant risk assessments and method statements for the tasks being undertaken.

Appropriate consideration must be given to the safety of residents/Common users and animals on site and the need to maintain a safe working environment.

The movement of contractor vehicles, including ride on mowers, within any part of the Common should not exceed 10mph.

The Parish Council shall not be liable for any damage or injury to the Contractor's equipment or employees, howsoever caused.

Third party insurance of person and equipment is required and proof of this must be received by the Parish Clerk prior to commencement of cutting.

PREPARATION

The Contractor shall remove litter, bottles, cans, stones, fallen branches and other debris from site prior to undertaking cutting operations.

The Parish Council shall not be liable for any damage or injury to the Contractor's equipment or employees, howsoever caused.

GRASS CUTTING

*** Be very aware of the uneven ground conditions on site.** Tractors with a rytec have been found to be ideal for mowing this site. Contractors should satisfy themselves that the conditions are suitable for their equipment

The timings for cutting (as detailed above) must strictly be adhered to. The Common is a SSSI and there are several late-flowering species in these areas that need to be able to ripen seed.

The timings have been agreed between the parish council, resident ecology experts and Natural England. Please refer to the Natural England website for details of the fines applicable in circumstances where timings are not adhered to.

For more information on what a SSSI is, please attend here: [Sites of special scientific interest - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/sites-of-special-scientific-interest) <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/sites-of-special-scientific-interest>

Strictly no cutting before 7am or after 10.30pm, as this is a semi residential area.

All baled and removed hay/arisings are the contractors to dispose of as they wish, though the parish council does not permit burning and it is a condition of this contract that arisings are not burnt on site or off site. Contractors found to be or suspected of burning arisings will not be approached for tender in future contracts.

Please ensure that all ditches are cleared once mowing has taken place, in order to prevent blocking of gullies and pipes.

Grass shall not be cut in adverse weather and ground conditions. Cutting shall only recommence when it is safe to do so, without danger or damaging the sward, surface levels or contours of the ground. Where inclement weather prevents the Contractor from mowing, the grass cutting shall resume as soon as the conditions become suitable again.

The Contractor will be expected to provide sufficient labour and machinery to catch up where time is lost through bad weather and to collect, remove and dispose of grass cuttings

The operator must ensure that all movement of the machine, whether mowing, turning or in transit, does not damage the sward or its visual appearance.

Particularly care must be taken to avoid skidding, balding or the effects of fast turns. Should damage occur, the Parish Clerk will instruct the Contractor to reinstate the area promptly at their own expense.

Grass must be cut as close as possible up to paving, kerbs, walls, fences, benches, pylons etc and around obstructions without causing damage to the obstruction, plants, trees or other features and other equipment. Any accidental damage must be reported to the Town Clerk as soon as possible.

Growth regulators and contact herbicides are not allowed on site.

WILDLIFE pertaining to the SSSI

There are species of endangered newt, invertebrates, glow worms and ground nesting birds on site. Their presence does not exclude or embargo the necessity of mowing, but contractors are required to take all reasonable care.

The Parish Clerk has a full list of species and the matters that gave light to the SSSI designation if contractors require a copy.

MATTERS TO BRING TO CONTRACTOR ATTENTION

*** Be very aware of the uneven ground conditions on site.** Tractors with a rytec have been found to be ideal for mowing this site. Contractors should satisfy themselves that the conditions are suitable for their equipment.

All areas and sections are surrounded by deep ditches with vehicle access points, so care must be taken when entering the site.

There are **4 ponds** of varying depth on site, as marked on the map.

Cattle Trough – section 1 has a permanent trough on site, also marked on the map.

Stand pipe – section 2 has a permanent stand pipe in site, also marked on the map.

Please take care to avoid these facilities.

Many of the residents surrounding the site have **Commoners' Rights** and work well with the Parish Council, but it must be noted that they may graze animals at any time during the year. All residents welcome the care and maintenance of this site and are known to cooperate and comply with Contractors requirements for removal of equipment and livestock. However, any difficulties in this respect should be reported to the Parish Clerk and after an initial request by a Contractor, no further attempts are required to be made – leave matters in the hands of the Parish Council and work on the remaining areas.

The public has unrestricted access to this site. Please be aware of dog walkers and equestrians, who may not be aware that cutting is being undertaken. There are several **rights of way** that cross this site and access to these cannot be closed for the duration of cutting.

All areas have 'vehicle to property' access rights of way and so care must be taken not to obstruct these rights.

WILDFIRE RISK

In scenarios where there is deemed to be a high to severe wildfire risk, contractors may be approached and asked for immediate assistance in cutting those areas close to residential properties. Negotiations for amendment to contract will be entered into, but priority must be given to safety and decisions can be made outside of Full Council, delegated to the Parish Clerk and Chair of the Parish Council.

Strictly no smoking on site when a heatwave is officially declared. In the UK, a heatwave is officially defined when a location records at least three consecutive days with daily maximum temperatures meeting or exceeding the heatwave temperature threshold. This threshold varies by county, reflecting the diverse climate across the UK. The Parish Clerk may possibly liaise with Contractors on this matter, but it is a requirement that Contractors take all due care and attention in this matter and assure themselves of the circumstances of fire risk.

VAT

Details of VAT registration will need to be provided to the Parish Clerk please if VAT is payable.

HUMAN COMFORT

There are no toilets on site. Many of the surrounding residents are parish councillors. Please approach the parish clerk for toileting arrangements as required.

There is no drinking water on site. As above please.

Please do not bring working dogs on to site whilst contracting. Animal wellbeing is our priority.

Horsefly spray is a must.

(END of spec)

