

From: [FOI](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Freedom of Information Request NCC-042288-19
Date: 06 March 2020 14:15:00

Dear Requester

Thank you for your request for information about grass cutting across Nottinghamshire County Council, including information about Contractors and the types of mowers used.

In order to respond to your request I have sought information across many Council departments.

I can confirm that the County Council does not have responsibility for the grass-cutting in parks and playgrounds as these are managed by the District and Borough Councils, who you would need to contact directly for this information.

The County Council does not have responsibility for grass-cutting at many schools, as for the vast majority of school this is usually managed by them independently of the County Council. But information is provided below in relation to a small number of schools who still opt to have this function managed by the County Council

However, I am pleased to be able to provide the following information.

Green Spaces

The County Councils Green Spaces team manage approximately 90 sites across Nottinghamshire for public recreation and biodiversity. Those sites used most often by the public (eg linear trails network) have regular maintenance throughout the growing season, whereas other extensive and less visited sites are maintained as and when required.

At present Green Spaces let two formal 'Landscape Maintenance' contracts which include an element of grass cutting, as well as hedge cutting, litter picking, herbicide application and other landscape maintenance tasks.

The majority of the grass-cutting work under this contract is a 1m wide amenity grass cutting through the summer months to path edges, using tractor mounted or self-propelled flail cutting equipment; together with an element of strimming around access furniture, gates, bins etc..

The two Green Estate Maintenance Contracts above have over the last four years been let to NT Killingley and Ulyett Landscapes. We are due to put contracts out to tender / or Framework this coming April.

We do not specify the makes / model of equipment and leave this to the Contractor – we only specify the finish required.

In addition we also instruct work using a number of local contractors to attend sites to undertake routine maintenance and 'one off' work items on our more sensitive wildlife sites (eg strimming and raking conservation grasslands). These minor works are instructed on a case by case basis, rather than under a formal contract – and we choose to use a small number of local contractors

depending on where the work is located.

We also have a Conservation grass cutting programme in August each year, to cut and remove grass from our more floristically diverse grassland sites. For the last two years we have employed Beechmast to undertake the work. They use a tractor and rear mounted flail and collect (eg Amazone)

In a few instances members of the Green Spaces team, and volunteers attend site to address / rectify particular grass cutting or vegetation management issues – usually following a complaint from members of the public. This work is undertaken using Stihl trimmers.

For County Hall and some schools

Grass cutting is managed in house for County Hall and a small number of schools by John Hughes, Group Manager Catering, Facilities Management and County Supplies <mailto:john.hughes@nottscc.gov.uk>, using Matsuri equipment

Children's homes

Managed in house by the home managers individually, using domestic lawn mowers

Public Right Of Way

Grass cutting for the public rights of way side are managed by contractors. The Contracts are managed by Jane Baines (Senior Rights of Way Officer for Via East Midlands Ltd). <mailto:jane.baines@viaem.co.uk> . The contracts are let annually through a Sub Contractor Framework and quotes process. Not using machinery owned by the County Council

Highways Mowing

Grass cutting along the side of highways is managed in house through Via East Midlands Ltd by Kevin Heathcote (Team Manager Environment and Operational Support) <mailto:Kevin.heathcote@viaem.co.uk>. Using the following bands of machinery; Trimax, pegasus3, Shabaura, Spearhead twiga mid, Bomford falcon, Wright stander.

I realise that this response is now being provided outside of the statutory timescale for provision of information requested under the Freedom of Information Act, and I apologise for this. I hope that the information remains relevant to you and that the delay has not caused you any difficulties. if you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, then please email us at foi@nottscc.gov.uk quoting the reference NCC-042288-19 and we will be happy to review your request

With kind regards

Complaints and Information Team
Nottinghamshire County Council