

NICHOLSONS

Commerical Grounds Management

Commercial Grounds Management

Since 1979, Nicholsons has been providing leading horticultural, landscapes, forestry and ecology services for the benefit of people and our planet. We provide a comprehensive garden management and grounds care service for commercial businesses, landmark estates, housing developments and more. We are proud to serve a diverse range of sectors with expertise, integrity and discretion.



You will find our values of creativity, dedication and passion for our planet reflected in all disciplines at Nicholsons. We are a dedicated team of gardeners and horticulturalists that are supported by an in-house administrative team. Together with our clients, we strive to always create projects of beauty and originality with sustainability at their core.

We offer an array of management services including lawn care, hedge cutting, border maintenance, formative and restorative pruning, weeding, plant and tree staking and mulching. We undertake site assessments, quality reviews and soil evaluations so the gardening team assigned to you truly understands your estate's advantages and potential challenges.

To achieve the first class results we take pride in at Nicholsons, your management team is led by a Head Gardener/Groundsman. Alongside this on-site point of contact, the departmental office provides additional support from scheduling the annual programme of works to assisting with resources and plant ordering.

Our commercial grounds management contracts are always tailored to suit our client's needs. It would be our privilege to maintain your landscaping for you.

Additional Services

Nicholsons is proud to be a multidisciplinary organisation and offer services across the breadth of horticultural, landscaping, forestry and environmental works. If you require additional assistance with your garden outside of garden management, our departments will be delighted to support you in creating the space of your imagination. Simply speak to your gardener or the departmental office team to be directed as appropriate. Our services include:

Garden Consultancy

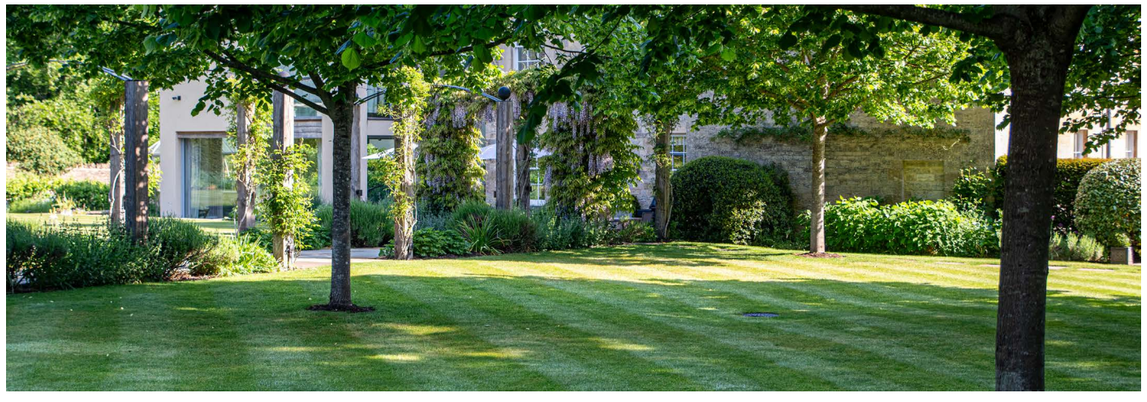
For gardens requiring rejuvenation or new planting schemes, we offer a bespoke service tailored to your garden's needs. Our consultancy service provides clients with professional horticultural knowledge married with expert planting design skill. From newly conceived herbaceous border designs to regenerative planting schemes for established gardens, our consultants work collaboratively with clients to develop their gardens. We thrive on creating cohesive, beautiful and abundant gardens, working in harmony with any ongoing garden management.

Garden Design

Our experienced designers specialise in transforming outdoor spaces into stunning gardens. With expertise in creating bespoke designs that blend aesthetics, practicality and sustainability, we bring your vision to life. From concept development to detailed construction drawings, our approach ensures that every element is carefully considered. With a deep understanding of horticulture and a keen eye for design, we create unique gardens which reflect your lifestyle and individuality.

Landscape Architecture

Our skilled professionals transform landscapes into attractive and functional environments for both residential and commercial clients. Underpinned by the green design tool, elemental, Nicholsons' landscape architects work closely with our in-house ecologists and arborists to ensure a cohesive design approach that maximises environmental outcomes. Clients are taken on a creative journey from initial concept design through to landscape masterplanning and project construction.



Landscape Construction

Nicholsons experience in some of the most prestigious landscaping schemes in the south of England has resulted in our reputation for quality. Our professional contract managers and site teams work closely with our in-house designers and many well known landscape and garden designers. Collaborative and solution-based in our approach, we work with the wider project team through the RIBA stages to ensure smooth project delivery.

Forestry

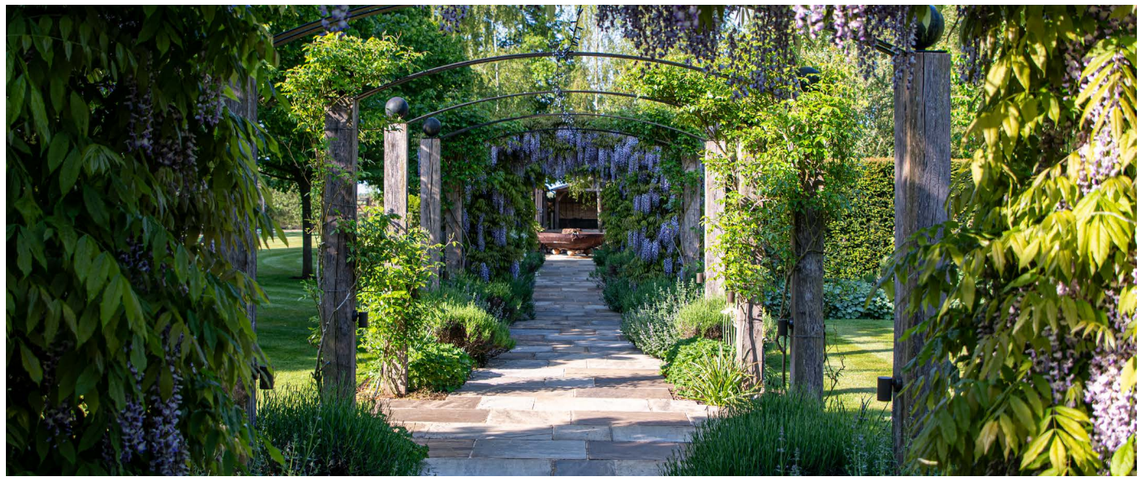
With a deep-rooted commitment to sustainable land management and a team of seasoned forestry professionals, we maximise the value and potential of forested areas. Our forestry team specialise in timber harvesting, forest inventory and mapping, new woodland creation and forest management planning. Extensive knowledge of forestry practices and cutting-edge technology ensure efficient and environmentally responsible operations.

Arboriculture

Our team of highly skilled arborists have a deep understanding of tree health and maintenance to enhance the safety and longevity of trees. Experts in tree planting, pruning and removal as well as tree health and risk assessments, our team use advanced techniques and equipment to deliver exceptional results while prioritising tree preservation and conservation.

Ecology

With a commitment to biodiversity, conservation and ecological stewardship, our ecology team work closely with clients to develop tailored strategies that minimise ecological impact and enhance the overall value of projects. Our ecology teams assess, manage and enhance ecological systems and specialise in protected species surveys, habitat assessments, ecological impact assessments and habitat restoration and management.



Frequently Asked Questions

At Nicholsons, our philosophy is centred around our values of creativity, dedication and passion for our planet. As such, we uphold standards of practice to support these principles and ensure we continue to provide a high level of service to our clients. To read Nicholsons' full company terms and conditions, please click here.

Conservation area properties and estates

We will not undertake any work in a conservation area without checking that we are able to do so via the relevant councils' guidelines on conservation practice. If we agree that work needs to be carried out, we will apply to the council for consideration, via our forestry department. Please note that there will be an administration fee for this and that there is a lead time for processing before we can continue. The same is relevant for Tree Protection Orders (TPOs).

Biosecurity measures

As a company, we take biosecurity very seriously. The gardeners take time in between visits to wipe down their tools, to reduce the risk of contamination and bringing in pests and diseases to the following client's garden.

Box (*buxus*) blight may take longer than expected to deal with as the gardeners will need to clean their blades after every cut. *Buxus* clippings and plants which require removal are bagged up and cable tied separately. Waste is disposed of in the general waste - on site, where possible, and not composted.

Multiple gardeners

If a gardener is required to work at height for hedge cutting, tree pruning, pond work or any other jobs of this nature, we will organise for two gardeners to attend the garden, which will be charged at an additional full day's rate.

Additional charges

Any administration, quotations or planning for your garden outside of your agreed contract will be subject to an additional fee. Any additional plants or materials that have been used for your garden will be charged separately to your management invoice.

There are additional charges for removing green waste, the use of specialist machinery, arboriculture services and specialist grass care. These will be outlined as/when required. Small bags of green waste are removed for free.

All subcontracted elements, e.g. specialist grasscare, water feature routine maintenance, will be charged at cost plus 10% and will be agreed in writing prior to instruction.

We advocate the use of any composting facilities that you have available, however if you do require green waste to be taken away, the gardener will leave your premises in time to be able to travel back to our yard and dispose of the waste.

Vehicles

Our gardener will usually park their van on your premises. If your residence is in a parking permit area, you will need to provide a permit for parking. If there is a parking meter, please advise of the charges at the time of booking. Any costs incurred for parking will be charged to you through invoicing.

Record keeping and evaluation of works

On your first visit with our team, a full risk assessment will take place in accordance with our health and safety policy. Your designated gardener will complete this task using their work phone and it will take around half an hour. The risk assessments will be routinely checked by any gardeners that enter the garden and will be revised accordingly.

At the end of each visit, the gardeners are required to fill out a diary page, logging the work they have undertaken and outlining any sundries used. This will be carried out on a work mobile and will be completed in your allocated time.

During the gardener's day, they will take two half-hour breaks, one in the morning at approximately 10:00am and for lunch at 13:00pm (you do not pay for this break time).

Changes to scheduling

If you need to cancel a visit, we require one week's notice to avoid cancellation fees.

If you need to cancel your contract, we require three month's notice of termination.

Branching out policy

At Nicholsons, we're committed to supporting our team with progression and training opportunities, sustainable salaries and pensions as well as a wider benefits package. We are proud of our team's knowledge and skills and hope they have a long and fruitful career at Nicholsons.

Unfortunately, our gardening team have previously been put in an extremely uncomfortable position when Nicholsons' clients approach them to work for them on a self-employed basis, therefore cancelling their garden management contract with Nicholsons. If you wish to have a conversation about this, please contact the Head of the Garden Management division in the first instance to avoid putting the team in a tricky position. As Nicholsons is an employee-owned trust, we do everything that we can to look after the team, protect their long-term interests and avoid putting any strain on the wider team.

If you do wish to pursue this arrangement, a recruitment fee of 10% of the last 12 months' invoice will be charged to you. The average recruiter's fee is typically 15-20% so the reduction to 10% will go towards recruiting and training new talent for the department.

We hope that you understand and invite any questions to be sent to the Head of the Garden Management Division.

To read Nicholsons' full terms and conditions, please click here.

Contract renewal

Prior to your annual renewal date, your contract will be subject to a review that will include any innovations, service developments, inflationary rises or changes to agreed works.



The Gardening Year

December - January - February

- Add plant supports
- Clear fallen leaves
- Clean greenhouses
- Mulch borders
- Plant bareroot plants
- Protect tender plants
- Prune woody plants
- Repair fences and trellises
- Service garden tools

March - April - May

- Clear away winter debris
- Deadhead spring flowering bulbs
- Divide summer flowering perennials
- Harden off tender annuals
- Pune roses
- Scarify lawns
- Sow flower, herb and vegetable seeds
- Water and feed containers
- Watch out for pests

June - July - August

- Deadhead spent blooms regularly
- Lift and divide bulbs
- Prune wisterias
- Put up pheromone traps
- Shade greenhouses
- Sow vegetables for autumn harvesting
- Tackle black spot, rust and mildew
- Thin out fruits on apples and pears
- Review herbaceous borders

September - October - November

- Collect leaves to make leafmould
- Lift and divide hardy perennials
- Lift or heavily mulch dahlias
- Mulch borders
- Plant evergreen shrubs
- Plant spring flowering bulbs
- Protect non-hardy plants with cloches
- Prune climbing roses
- Scarify and aerate lawns

Nicholsons' garden management team understand my particular aims - to have a landscape and restored woodland that are aesthetically pleasing while also offering varied habitats to support wildlife and birds. It is a pleasure to work with gardeners who are attuned to my interests.

Private client

Oxfordshire

NICHOLSONS

LANDSCAPES | FORESTRY | ECOLOGY

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