

Occupation Profile

for

Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Modern Apprenticeship at SCQF Level 5

Approved by: Land based Technical Expert Group

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Purpose:

This occupation profile consists of unit specifications and NOS routinely carried out in Greenkeeping and Sportsturf roles. This provides all the performance requirements and knowledge and understanding requirements apprentices need to demonstrate competence in the occupation.

This document includes

- 3 mandatory NOS and 3 mandatory unit specifications
- 8 optional NOS
- 7 optional unit specifications

Apprentices must achieve 11 occupational standards.



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Mandatory occupational standards

Contributing to performing work activities

Establish plants or turf in a sportsturf area

Prepare and maintain the condition of sports turf surfaces

Maintain grass surfaces

Maintaining health, safety and security

Using equipment and machinery

Unit Specification

Contributing to performing work activities

URN: SDS 0425

SCQF Level: 6 | SCQF Credit: 4

Goal of unit:

To contribute to safely preparing, implementing and closing down work activities to meet organisational procedures and legislative requirements

Brief outline:

This involves accessing and interpreting basic work information, checking work activities, contributing to developing risk assessments, using personal protective equipment (PPE), communicating with others, completing documentation and dealing with issues and closing down the work in accordance with technical specifications, instructions and organisational procedures.

Performance requirements

1. Accessing and interpreting relevant information required to carry out your work activities
2. Checking work activities before commencing to confirm these are required
3. Contributing to the development of risk assessments associated with own work activities in accordance with organisational procedures
4. Identifying and using the correct PPE in accordance with manufacturers' guidance
5. Contributing to maintaining safety and security of tools and equipment in accordance with manufacturers' guidelines and organisational procedures
6. Communicating relevant safety and work-related information with others in accordance with organisational procedures
7. Contributing to work activities in accordance with organisational procedures
8. Contributing to completing and storing all relevant documentation in accordance with organisational procedures
9. Dealing effectively with issues within the scope and limitations of your own responsibilities in accordance with organisational procedures
10. Reporting issues which are outside the scope and limitations of your responsibilities in accordance with organisational procedures
11. Contributing to disposing of waste in accordance with legislative requirements and organisational procedures

Knowledge and understanding requirements

1. Required information for your work activities and where to locate this
2. Rules, regulations, legislative requirements, business and professional ethics relevant to your working practice and to which you must adhere including access rights
3. Who to confirm your work activities with and why this is important
4. The importance of risk assessment and mitigation as relevant to own area of work
5. The importance of, and correct use of any required equipment and PPE
6. The duty to report any acts and omissions that could have a negative impact on yourself, others and your organisation
7. Principles of workplace sustainability and how to apply them
8. Principles of environmental good practice and how to apply them
9. Why it is important to maintain the safety and security of tools and equipment
10. Methods of communication and how to apply these
11. Digital technology used within own area of work and how to use this
12. Organisational procedures for completing and securely storing documentation
13. Scope and limitations of your own competence, responsibilities and accountability
14. Organisational procedures for reporting issues which cannot be solved
15. Organisational procedures for disposing of waste

Unit Specification

Maintaining health, safety and security

URN: US0203

SCQF Level: 5 | SCQF Credit: 7

Goal of Unit:

To maintain health, safety and security in line with legislative and organisation procedures to protect yourself and others from the risk of harm and injury.

Brief outline:

This is about maintaining the health, safety and security of yourself and others who may be affected by your work. This involves following set health and safety procedures and identifying unsafe situations in the workplace and during work activities. This also involves understanding the main risks to health, safety and security in the workplace and the using control measures and safe systems of work put in place. In the event of incidents and emergencies required procedures must be followed.

Security could include land, buildings, equipment and machinery, stock, resources, personnel and information.

Performance requirements

1. Identifying hazards and assessing risks to health, safety and security when carrying out your work
2. Taking required actions in response to identified hazards and risks in line with organisation procedures
3. Complying with control measures put in place to eliminate and to reduce risks and adopting safe systems of work
4. Using clothing and PPE suitable to carry out activities
5. Checking PPE regularly and in accordance with manufacturers' instructions
6. Following organisation security procedures to prevent risks to security
7. Preparing, using, maintaining and storing equipment and machinery in accordance with relevant legislation, manufacturers' instructions and organisation requirements
8. Recording and reporting health, safety and security information in accordance with legal and organisation requirements

Knowledge and understanding requirements

1. The relevant legal responsibilities of employers and employees for health and safety and the importance of following these
2. The difference between "hazard" and "risk", the importance of identifying hazards and assessing risks to yourself and others when carrying out your work, and what action to take when hazards are identified
3. Where to locate organisation risk assessments and why these should be followed
4. The particular hazards associated with your work, which could include personal injury, contracting disease and other physical and mental health problems
5. The effects that work-related accidents and ill health can have on workers and businesses and the importance of minimising these
6. The measures that can be used to control risks
7. The importance of good housekeeping in the workplace in maintaining health and safety
8. The importance of following procedures to maintain workplace security
9. Key requirements of the regulations relating to the handling, use and storage of chemicals and hazardous substances

10. Safe methods of checking, preparing, using, maintaining and storing equipment and machinery
11. Risks of injury associated with lifting and handling and how these can be minimised
12. Suitable clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE) required for work in your industry and the importance of regularly checking and maintaining PPE
13. Risks of working in isolation, in remote locations or potentially dangerous situations and the need for safe systems of work to be followed including communication and emergency procedures
14. Actions to take in the event of incidents and emergencies including accidents and near misses
15. Legislative and organisational requirements for recording and reporting on health, safety and security issues and matters

Unit Specification

Using equipment and machinery

URN: SDS 0423

SCQF Level: 6 | SCQF Credit: 8

Goal of Unit:

To use equipment and machinery in accordance with manufacturer's instructions, regulatory requirements and organisation procedures to maintain the safety of yourself and others

Brief outline:

This is about using equipment and machinery to perform daily tasks. It involves carrying out pre-use checks to confirm the equipment and machinery continues to operate safely, using the equipment and machinery to carry out tasks and storing it safely and securely after use. This includes digital, automated, or advanced technology and other specialised equipment and machinery used within your job role.

Note: individuals may be using equipment or machinery, or both.

Performance requirements

1. Completing all training and certification required to use required equipment and machinery in accordance with legislative and organisation requirements
2. Identifying hazards and using required PPE when operating equipment and machinery in accordance with manufacturer's instructions
3. Preparing equipment and machinery ready for use in accordance with manufacturer's instructions
4. Carrying out pre-use checks on equipment and machinery in accordance with relevant legal requirements and manufacturer's instructions
5. Operating equipment and machinery in accordance with relevant legislation, manufacturer's instructions and organisation procedures whilst ensuring the safety of self and others
6. Using attachments safely and correctly in accordance with manufacturer's instructions
7. Identifying problems with equipment and machinery and taking the required action

Knowledge and understanding requirements

1. Relevant health and safety procedures, how to identify hazards and assess risks, safe systems of work and the personal protective equipment (PPE) required for operating equipment and machinery
2. The relevant legal requirements, licences, certification, codes of practice, training and organisational requirements for the use of equipment and machinery
3. How to prepare equipment and machinery before use, including attachments where used, and the pre-use checks and actions required
4. How to operate equipment and machinery safely and correctly in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and organisation procedures
5. How to maintain the safety of self and others when using equipment and machinery
6. The capabilities and limitations of the equipment and machinery being used and the factors that may affect safety and efficiency
7. The types of attachments, where required, that are safe for use with the equipment and machinery being used, how to fit them safely and correctly and how to set and calibrate them

8. Shutting down equipment and machinery after use to maintain safety
9. Maintaining the security of equipment and machinery at all times in accordance with organisation procedures
10. Leaving equipment and machinery in a suitable condition for future use
11. Storing equipment and machinery safely and securely in accordance with organisation procedures

8. How to operate and use relevant attachments safely
9. The function of all controls and instruments on equipment and machinery being used
10. The types of hazards that may be encountered when operating equipment and machinery and how these should be dealt with
11. The sort of problems that may occur with equipment and machinery, how to identify them, and the action to take
12. The importance of carrying out routine checks on equipment and machinery and how to identify defects and faults
13. How to shut down equipment and machinery after use
14. Why it is important to maintain the safety and security of equipment and machinery at all times
15. Post-use activities that need to be carried out to maintain equipment and machinery
16. How equipment and machinery should be stored and the importance of security
17. The potential impact of your work on the surrounding area and the environment and how it can be minimised
18. Organisation procedures for recording and reporting equipment and machinery operation



Optional National Occupational Standards

Apprentices should achieve a minimum of five optional NOS and Unit Specifications.

(Please see the associated Qualification Structure for more information).

[Assemble and install purpose made equipment and components for sport/play](#)

[Carry out maintenance and repair of equipment and machinery](#)

[Establish and maintain working relationships with others](#)

[Identify the presence of weeds, pests, diseases, disorders and unwanted vegetation](#)

[Prepare and operate a powered vehicle](#)

[Prepare and operate a tractor](#)

[Prepare and operate a tractor with attachments](#)

[Transport physical resources within the work area](#)



Optional Unit Specifications

Apprentices should achieve a minimum of **five** optional NOS and Unit Specifications.

(Please see the associated Qualification Structure for more information).

[Establishing sportsturf surfaces](#)

[Controlling weeds, pests, diseases and disorders](#)

[Maintaining artificial sports surfaces](#)

[Maintaining grassed and planted areas](#)

[Maintaining sportsturf surfaces](#)

[Setting out sports areas](#)

[Maintaining wildflower-rich amenity grasslands](#)

Unit Specification

Establishing sportsturf surfaces

URN: SDS0354

SCQF Level: 5 | SCQF Credit: 4

Goal of Unit:

To establish sportsturf surfaces to meet site specifications, sport and event rules and standards.

Brief outline:

This is about establishing sportsturf from seed and turf to produce sports surfaces in accordance with site and sport specifications, event rules and standards. This involves producing surfaces to desired speed, surface response to ball, animal, player, moisture content, grass cover, consolidation and trueness according to sport requirements and event standards. Sports surfaces include football and rugby pitches, cricket pitches, tennis and lacrosse courts, athletic tracks, golf courses and racecourses.

Performance requirements

1. Preparing areas ready for establishing turf in accordance with site specifications and to meet site and sport specifications
2. Checking turf health meets site and sport specifications and rejecting unacceptable specimens
3. Completing soil texture tests for areas of ground to be prepared in accordance with soil testing procedures
4. Laying turf in desired locations in accordance with site and sport specifications whilst minimising environmental damage
5. Providing relevant aftercare and protection to maintain the health of newly established turf in accordance with site specifications
6. Inspecting established sportsturf surfaces to identify conditions that threaten health and report these in accordance with site procedures
7. Applying treatments to sportsturf to maintain health in accordance with site and sport specifications
8. Maintaining the safety and security of tools and equipment on site
9. Identifying best practice approaches to sustainability relevant to your work role

Knowledge and understanding requirements

1. Tools and equipment required and how to prepare, maintain and use these safely and effectively in line with legal requirements and manufacturers' instructions
2. How to identify grasses which meet site and sport specifications
3. Different types of soil and how this affects sportsturf establishment
4. Principles of grass growth and development
5. Different types of nutrient and when and how to apply them
6. How to assess health and condition of sportsturf and recognise those unsuitable for establishment
7. How to complete soil texture tests
8. Principles of selecting and combining grass species for different sports turf applications
9. Methods and techniques for ground preparation
10. When synthetic turf combined with grass are used and how to establish these
11. Factors that affect the timing of sports turf establishment
12. Methods of protecting and caring for newly established turf, causes of damage and drying out and how to prevent this
13. Rules and standards governing relevant sports and how they impact on sportsturf surfaces for different events

14. Methods of preparing and establishing sportsturf surface conditions to meet required specifications
15. Issues which occur when establishing sportsturf and actions to take
16. Why it is important to maintain communication with others involved in establishing sportsturf and how to do this
17. Why it is important to maintain safety and security of equipment and machinery when on site
18. Potential impact of your work on surrounding areas and importance of minimising environmental damage

Unit Specification

Controlling weeds, pests, diseases and disorders

URN: SDS0418

SCQF Level: 6 | SCQF Credit: 8

Goal of Unit:

To control weeds, pests, diseases and disorders in order to maintain the health of grass, plants and other vegetation

Brief outline:

This is about implementing measures to control the presence of weeds, pests, diseases and disorders to prevent damage to, and maintain the health of grass, plants and other vegetation. This involves monitoring and reporting on the success of implemented control measures. Control measures include chemical, cultural and biological.

Performance requirements

1. Identifying weeds, pests, diseases, disorders and invasive species present in grass and plants in accordance with organisational procedures
2. Implementing prescribed measures to control weeds, pests, diseases and disorders within grass and plants in accordance with legal requirements and organisational procedures
3. Completing training and certification needed to use required chemicals and equipment in accordance with legal and manufacturers' requirements, and organisational procedures
4. Preparing and using tools and equipment required safely in accordance with manufacturers' requirements and organisational procedures
5. Preparing and applying relevant products to control weeds, pests, diseases and disorders within grass and plants in accordance with legal, manufacturers requirements, and organisational procedures
6. Maintaining biosecurity to prevent the spread of weeds, pests and diseases within grass and plants in accordance with organisational procedures
7. Taking action to minimise adverse impacts of control measures on habitat, wildlife and wider environments

Knowledge and understanding requirements

1. How to recognise weeds, pests, diseases and disorders, including hazardous and invasive species
2. Plant Protection Products (PPP) and the range of methods to control weeds, pests, diseases and disorders such as cultural, biological and chemical
3. Legal requirements for controlling weeds, pests, diseases and disorders
4. Requirements for training and certification to use chemicals and equipment for controlling weeds, pests, diseases and disorders
5. Tools and equipment required to maintain grass and plant health and how to prepare, maintain and use these safely and effectively
6. How to calculate, order and apply products to control weeds, pests, diseases and disorders
7. Why it is important to maintain biosecurity and prevent spreading of weeds, pests and diseases
8. The potential impact of your work on the surrounding area and the wider environment and how this can be minimised
9. The importance of monitoring and reporting on the effectiveness of control measures and when this should be done

8. Monitoring and reporting on control measure effectiveness in accordance with organisational requirements
9. Maintaining the safety and security of tools and equipment on site
10. Identifying best practice approaches to sustainability relevant to your work role

Unit Specification

Maintaining artificial sports surfaces

URN: SDS0358

SCQF Level: 5 | SCQF Credit: 4

Goal of Unit:

To maintain artificial sports surfaces to meet sport requirements and event standards

Brief outline:

This is about maintaining artificial sports surfaces in accordance with site specifications and procedures, and sport rules and standards. This involves producing surfaces which are safe and meet required sport standards.. This includes inspecting sports surfaces, carrying out routine maintenance including removing debris, brushing, washing, moss, mould/algae control, applying weed killer, improving drainage, repairing damage, levelling, re-filling and frost protection.

Performance requirements

1. Inspecting, assessing and reporting on the condition of artificial sports surfaces in accordance with site procedures
2. Marking of hazards, out of bounds and ground under repair during maintenance work in accordance with site procedures
3. Renovating artificial sport surfaces using required methods in accordance with site specifications and procedures
4. Repairing artificial sport surfaces using required methods in accordance with site specifications and procedures
5. Cleaning and brushing artificial sports surfaces using required methods and techniques in accordance with site procedures
6. Applying treatments to artificial sports surfaces to control weeds, moss, mould and algae in accordance with site procedures
7. Carrying out other maintenance activities as required in accordance with site procedures
8. Checking playing surface quality meets required sport standard and appearance
9. Maintaining the safety and security of tools and equipment on site
10. Identifying best practice approaches to sustainability relevant to your work role

Knowledge and understanding requirements

1. Tools and equipment required and how to prepare, maintain and use these safely and effectively in line with legal requirements and manufacturers' instructions
2. Standard of playing quality and appearance of artificial sports surfaces that has to be achieved for sports requirements
3. Importance of inspecting, assessing and reporting on artificial sports surface conditions
4. Maintenance requirements for artificial sports surfaces and factors which affect this including timings
5. Importance of marking hazards, out of bounds and ground under repair signage during maintenance work
6. Methods of maintaining, renovating and repairing artificial sports surfaces to meet required sport standards
7. Rules governing relevant sports and how they impact on maintenance, renovation and repair of artificial sports surfaces for different events
8. How to control weeds, moss, mould and algae on artificial sports surfaces
9. Legal requirements for applying chemicals
10. How to check playing quality of artificial sports surfaces meet required sports requirements
11. Issues which occur when maintaining sports surfaces and actions to take

12. Why it is important to maintain communication with others involved in the work and how to do this
13. Why it is important to maintain safety and security of equipment and machinery when on site
14. Potential impact of your work on surrounding areas and importance of minimising environmental damage

Unit Specification

Maintaining grassed and planted areas

URN: SDS0360

SCQF Level: 6 | SCQF Credit: 12

Goal of Unit:

To maintain grassed and planted areas (turf and sod) to manage growth, maintain health and improve area aesthetics.

Brief outline:

This is about maintaining grassed and planted areas in accordance with site procedures. This involves assessing maintenance requirements, cutting and maintaining grassed areas, pruning, deadheading and replacing damaged and diseased plants, weeding and removing excessive growth and dealing with pests, diseases and disorders. This includes identifying pests, diseases, weeds, disorders and unwanted vegetation and taking appropriate action.

Performance requirements

1. Checking grass surfaces and planted areas regularly to assess maintenance requirements in accordance with site procedures
2. Cutting grassed areas to meet site requirements and in accordance with site procedures
3. Maintaining planted areas to suit plants, their environmental conditions and overall visual impacts
4. Assessing health of grassed and planted areas to identify relevant methods to improve health and promote growth
5. Applying nutrients and moisture to improve plants and grass health and promote growth in accordance with assessment findings
6. Using cultural methods to improve health and vigour of plants and grass surfaces in accordance with site procedures
7. Providing plants with required support to maintain health and growth and improve visual appearance in accordance with site procedures
8. Removing unwanted plant material to maintain plant health and growth and improve visual appearance in accordance with site procedures
9. Removing fallen leaves and dead plant material from grassed and planted areas to improve plant health and visual appearance in accordance with site procedures

Knowledge and understanding requirements

1. Tools and equipment required and how to prepare, maintain and use these safely and effectively in line with legal requirements and manufacturers' instructions
2. Importance of checking grass surfaces and planted areas regularly for safety purposes and maintenance requirements and when to do this
3. Grass characteristics and growth patterns
4. Turfgrass disease cycles
5. Impact of the stages of grass and plant development and time of year on maintenance requirements
6. Effects of pollutants, climatic conditions, soil and water on grass and plant growth
7. When grass cutting needs carried out,
8. How to select appropriate tools, and techniques to use
9. How to safely cut grass, including on sloping surfaces
10. Methods of assessing soil condition and nutritional status and effects on grass and plant health and growth
11. Requirements for nutrients and moisture and how to provide these to promote grass and plant health
12. Cultural methods of improving the health and vigour of plants and grass surfaces and how to apply them
13. Ways to select and remove unwanted plant material to maintain plant health and improve visual impact of established displays

10. Controlling weeds, pests, diseases and disorders to maintain health and appearance of grassed and planted areas in accordance with legal requirements and site procedures
11. Identifying dead, damaged and diseased plants to replace and renovate plants these in accordance with site procedures
12. Re-turfing and re-seeding required grassed areas in accordance with site procedures
13. Maintaining hygiene and biosecurity in accordance with site procedures
14. Maintaining the safety and security of tools and equipment on site
15. Identifying best practice approaches to sustainability relevant to your work role
14. Methods of removing fallen leaves and other dead plant material and when this needs to be done
15. How to identify weeds, pests, diseases and disorders, and control methods used
16. How to recognise when plants need to be replaced and renovated and the principles of renovating plants
17. How to re-turf and re-seed grass surfaces
18. Methods of monitoring and evaluating success of grass and plant maintenance
19. Why it is important to maintain hygiene and biosecurity and methods for achieving this
20. Issues which occur when maintaining grassed and planted areas and actions to take
21. Why it is important to maintain communication with others involved in maintaining grassed and planted areas and how to do this
22. Why it is important to maintain safety and security of equipment and machinery when on site
23. Potential impact of your work on the surrounding area and the environment and how it can be minimised

Unit Specification

Maintaining sportsturf surfaces

URN: SDS0362
SCQF Level: 5 | SCQF Credit: 4

Goal of Unit:

To maintain sportsturf surfaces to meet sport requirements and event rules and standards.

Brief outline:

This is about maintaining sportsturf surfaces in accordance with site specifications and event rules and standards. This involves producing surfaces to desired speed, surface response to ball, animal, player, moisture content, grass cover, consolidation and trueness according to the requirements of the sport and event standard. Sportsturf maintenance includes cutting, edging, weeding, pest and disease control, nutrition application, aeration, top dressing, switching and brushing, scarifying and verticutting, irrigation, rolling, over-seeding, repairing edges and inserting turf.

Performance requirements

1. Inspecting, assessing and reporting on the condition of sportsturf surfaces in accordance with sport specifications and site procedures
2. Preparing sportsturf surfaces prior to maintenance in accordance with site procedures
3. Marking hazards, out of bounds and ground under repair during maintenance work in accordance with site procedures
4. Using relevant methods to renovate and repair sport turf surfaces in accordance with site specifications and procedures
5. Maintaining drainage and irrigation requirements for sportsturf surfaces in accordance with specifications and procedures
6. Applying treatments to sportsturf surfaces to control weeds, pests, diseases and disorders and improve health in accordance with site procedures
7. Checking playing surface quality meets required sport standards and appearance
8. Maintaining the safety and security of tools and equipment on site
9. Identifying best practice approaches to sustainability relevant to your work role

Knowledge and understanding requirements

1. Tools and equipment required and how to prepare, maintain and use these safely and effectively in line with legal requirements and manufacturers' instructions
2. Relevant sports standards and specifications for sportsturf surfaces
3. Importance of inspecting, assessing and reporting sportsturf surface conditions and factors that affect health and maintenance requirements
4. Factors which affect timings of maintenance, renovation and repair of sportsturf surfaces
5. Methods of protecting and caring for sportsturf surfaces, causes of damage and drying out and how to prevent these
6. Rules governing the relevant sports and how they impact on the maintenance, renovation and repair of sportsturf surfaces for different events
7. Methods of preparing, maintaining, renovating and repairing sportsturf surfaces to meet required standards
8. Importance of marking hazards, out of bounds and ground under repair signage during maintenance work
9. Dangers of using equipment and machinery on slopes
10. Drainage and irrigation requirements for sportsturf surfaces
11. Effect of sportsturf treatments, how to use treatments correctly and codes of practice for applying treatments to sportsturf

12. Reasons for controlling weeds, pests, diseases, moss and disorders on sports surfaces and how to do this
13. Legal requirements for applying pesticides
14. How to check playing surface quality of sportsturf to ensure this meets sports requirements
15. Issues which occur when maintaining sportsturf surfaces and actions to take
16. Why it is important to maintain communication with others involved in the work and how to do this
17. Why it is important to maintain safety and security of equipment and machinery when on site
18. Potential impact of your work on surrounding area and importance of minimising environmental damage

Goal of Unit:

To set out sports areas to meet sports requirements and event standards.

Brief outline:

This is about setting out sports areas in accordance with the rules of relevant sports activities. This involves checking requirements with sport rules and standards, marking out sports areas and setting up equipment.

Performance requirements

1. Preparing and using required tools, equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE) to plan and set out sports areas
2. Checking required dimensions of sports areas to confirm they meet sport standards
3. Checking positioning and dimensions of sports areas to confirm they are laid out according to sport requirements and event standards
4. Using suitable marking equipment and materials in accordance with manufacturers' instructions to set out sports areas
5. Setting out sports equipment in accordance with sport rules and event standards
6. Checking sites and surrounding areas to confirm they are in undamaged and tidy conditions during and after planning and setting out sports areas
7. Maintaining communication with others involved in activities using appropriate communication methods in accordance with organisational procedures
8. Maintaining the safety and security of tools and equipment on site
9. Identifying best practice approaches to sustainability relevant to your work role

Knowledge and understanding requirements

1. Tools and equipment required and how to prepare, maintain and use these safely and effectively in line with legal requirements and manufacturers' instructions
2. Sources of information on standard dimensions for sports areas
3. How rules of sport impact on planning and setting out sports areas
4. Factors influencing the positioning of sports areas and equipment within total area available
5. Factors influencing choices and uses of marking equipment and materials when setting out sports areas
6. Why it is important to set out sports equipment according to sport rules and event standards
7. Mathematical and geometric principles used in setting out sports areas
8. How to mark out sports areas appropriate to sport and events and marking equipment and material choices
9. Issues which occur when setting out sports areas and actions to take
10. Why it is important to maintain communication with others involved in activities and how to do this
11. Why it is important to maintain safety and security of equipment and machinery when on site
12. Potential impact of your work on surrounding areas and importance of minimising environmental damage

Unit Specification

Maintaining wildflower-rich amenity grasslands

URN: SDS0414

SCQF Level: 6 | SCQF Credit: 10

Goal of Unit:

To maintain wildflower-rich grasslands in amenity situations, to maintain health and improve aesthetics of areas.

Brief outline:

This is about maintaining wildflower-rich grasslands in accordance with site requirements and procedures. This involves assessing maintenance requirements, cutting and maintaining grassed areas, including introducing wildflowers as seed or plug-plants. This involves understanding how wildflower-rich grasslands help to support other wildlife such as insect pollinators, and how wildlife uses grasslands at different times of year. This includes identifying common species of wildflower, and managing grasslands to encourage them, to remove unwanted vegetation, and taking appropriate action to maintain aesthetics of areas.

Performance requirements

1. Checking wildflower areas and grass surfaces regularly to assess maintenance requirements in accordance with site procedures
2. Cutting and maintaining grassed areas surrounding wildflower grasslands to meet site requirements, improve the overall visual impact and signal to users that the space as a whole is being maintained
3. Maintaining wildflower grasslands in ways appropriate to their longevity and environmental conditions that support other wildlife including insect pollinators, through cut-and-lift techniques and disposal of cut arisings
4. Assessing soil fertility to identify relevant methods to reduce soil fertility and to promote growth of diversity of wildflowers
5. Using management methods to reduce grass vigour and promote diversity of wildflowers in accordance with site procedures
6. Removing periodically dead and unwanted plant material to maintain wildflower plant health and growth and improve visual appearance in accordance with site procedures

Knowledge and understanding requirements

1. Tools and equipment required and how to prepare, maintain and use these safely and effectively in line with legal requirements and manufacturers' instructions
2. Importance of checking grass surfaces and planted areas regularly for safety purposes and maintenance requirements and when to do this
3. How to maintain the diversity of wildflowers in grasslands
4. Effects of soil nutrients, rainfall, light and climate on wildflower and grass growth
5. When grass cutting should be carried out and how to select the most appropriate tools and techniques to use
6. How to safely cut grass, including on sloping surfaces and where cut grass is lifted mechanically into hoppers
7. Methods of assessing soil condition and nutritional status and the effects on wildflowers and grasses and their growth
8. Why nutrient-poor soils favour wildflowers over grasses and how to provide and maintain nutrient poor soils to promote wildflower grasslands

7. Removing fallen leaves and dead plant material from grassed areas to improve plant health and visual appearance in accordance with site procedures
8. Controlling weeds, pests, diseases and disorders to maintain health and appearance of wildflower grasslands and grassed areas in accordance with legal requirements and site procedures
9. Rejuvenating wildflower areas, and re-turfing and re-seeding grassed areas as required in accordance with site procedures
10. Maintaining hygiene and biosecurity in accordance with site procedures
11. Disposing of cut grass and recycling waste in accordance with site procedures
12. Checking surrounding areas and wider environments to ensure damage is minimised
13. Maintaining the safety and security of tools and equipment on site
14. Identifying best practice approaches to sustainability relevant to your work role
9. Cultural methods for maintaining the diversity of wildflowers and how to apply them
10. Ways to select and remove unwanted plant material in wildflower grasslands and improve their ecological and visual impact
11. Methods of removing fallen leaves and other dead plant material and when this should be done
12. How to identify weeds, pests, diseases and disorders, control methods which can be used and associated legal requirements
13. How to re-turf and re-seed wildflower and grass swards; the value of local provenance for sourcing seed
14. Methods of monitoring and evaluating the success of wildflower grasslands and their maintenance
15. The importance of hygiene and biosecurity measures and how to apply these
16. Issues which occur when maintaining wildflower grasslands and actions to take
17. The importance of communicating why grasslands are being managed differently and communicating this with the wider public
18. Why it is important to maintain safety and security of equipment and machinery when on site
19. Potential impact of your work on the surrounding area and the environment and how opportunities for enhancing wildflowers can be extended elsewhere