



IfATE

Shaping skills training

Standard Draft Preview

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Standard in development
L5: Sports Turf Technical Manager
Version 0.0

Title of occupation

Sports Turf Technical Manager

UOS reference number

ST1410

Core and options

No

Level of occupation

Level 5

Occupational maps data

Route: Agriculture, environmental and animal care

Pathway: Agriculture, Land Management and Production

Cluster: Landscape horticulture manager

Typical duration of apprenticeship

36 months

Target date for approval

27/09/2024

Resubmission

No

Would your proposed apprenticeship standard replace an existing framework?

No

Does professional recognition exist for the occupation?

No

Regulated occupation

Is this a statutory regulated occupation?

No

Occupational summary

This occupation is found in professional facilities or venues of a particular sport or an estate of sports turf surfaces such as an independent school, university or professional sporting facility that may be in multiple locations across regions, nationally or potentially internationally. This could include facilities, venues or estates of athletics, bowls, croquet, cricket, equine, football, golf, lacrosse, rugby, tennis or other similar playing surfaces.

The broad purpose of the occupation is to implement and monitor natural and artificial

sports turf playing surface performance and construction. They have advanced technical skills to plan and prepare procedures to develop sports turf construction projects, maintain sports turf, renovate sports turf and lead others to attain high performing sports turf. They have analytical and technical skills to assess suitability and performance of resources, including contractors, for the construction, maintenance, and renovation of sports turf surfaces. They are typically the lead decision-makers for requesting and rationalising capital and operational expenditure related to sports turf maintenance and construction.

In their daily work, an employee in this occupation interacts with employees working on the site, site owners, contractors and departmental heads in order to ensure the playing surfaces suit those planning to use them.

An employee in this occupation will be responsible for leading on the management of sports turf operations, including the personnel, and may provide consultancy, leading and advising other managers on sports turf matters. They may have some supervisory responsibilities and will be required to oversee health and safety of the sports turf area.

Typical job titles

Grounds manager

Head groundsperson

Head of grounds and sportsturf

Sports turf technical manager

Are there any statutory / regulatory or other typical entry requirements?

Yes

Entry requirement label

Each employer will set their own entry requirements to the apprenticeship. Employers will typically expect someone applying for the apprenticeship to have experience working the sector, hold level 3 qualifications or 2 A levels in a related subject.

Occupation duties

DUTY	KSBS
<p>Duty 1 Interpret the characteristics of the soil environment and how these impact on turfgrass plant growth and playing surface performance.</p>	<p>K10 K11 K12 K14 K22 K23 S1 B4</p>
<p>Duty 2 Critically appraise playing surface performance using a range of testing procedures and equipment.</p>	<p>K4 K6 K15 S4 S6 S13 S15 S16 S17 B4</p>
<p>Duty 3 Evaluate machinery and energy sources to appraise the optimum utilisation of power and equipment.</p>	<p>K13 S11 S12 B1 B4 B6</p>
<p>Duty 4 Provide technical advice and project manage the design concepts of sports turf constructions, including natural, hybrid, artificial, irrigation and drainage systems.</p>	<p>K3 K20 K21 K25 S3 S8 S25 B1 B2 B3 B4 B6</p>
<p>Duty 5 Manage small and large-scale on-site projects from design, tender and delivery working to agreed specification of works.</p>	<p>K28 K29 K30 S1 B1 B2 B3 B4 B7</p>
<p>Duty 6 Manage sports turf sustainably by understanding how turfgrasses interact with their environment and how turfgrass physiology is influenced by changes in environmental conditions, such as those associated with climate change.</p>	<p>K2 K3 K4 K6 K9 K11 K14 K16 K17 K18 K19 K22 K23 S3 S4 S6 S12 S14 S22 S23 S24 B4 B6</p>
<p>Duty 7 Manage employees and contractors, including workforce planning, quality, health and safety, skills, motivation, recruitment, retention, and training.</p>	<p>K26 K27 K28 K30 S26 B2 B3 B4 B7</p>
<p>Duty 8 Interpret results of scientific investigations and literature.</p>	<p>K1 K3 K5 K7 K17 K24 S2 S3 S5 S7 S8 S18 S19 S20 S21 S24</p>

	B4
Duty 9 Be responsible for budgeting, setting priorities, forecasting, driving efficiencies, procurement, Profit and Loss reporting and sourcing funding where applicable.	K7 K19 K29 S7 S27 S28 B4 B6
Duty 10 Interpret and present information in a relevant and professional style.	K7 K24 S7 S8 S9 B2 B4
Duty 11 Undertake personal and professional development, maintaining awareness of industry developments and assessing how these will impact their organisation.	K1 K7 K8 S2 S9 S10 B1 B5

KSBs

Knowledge

K1: Information sources and methods used to research and evaluate scientific, technical developments and innovations likely to impact the turfgrass industry.

K2: Agronomic principles, plant, turfgrass and soil science relevant to sport turf technical managers.

K3: Sports turf science and its impact on the planning, construction, establishment and maintenance of a sports turf area.

K4: Methods used to conduct scientific sports turf laboratory and field investigations, collect data and analyse results.

K5: Problems associated with sports turf areas and how to collect data for subsequent evaluation.

K6: Specialist sports turf machinery, equipment and technology and how it can be applied.

K7: Methods used to identify credible sports turf management information sources and how investigative study and problem solving techniques can be used when developing practical solutions.

K8: Methods used to evaluate and plan own personal development.

K9: Plant biochemistry and physiology, how they relate to how plants survive in different environments and the processes by which plants pass on their genetic information from one generation to the next.

K10: The major UK soil groups and the factors which determine soil formation and development.

K11: The biotic and abiotic components and processes of the soil and their influence on plant growth, development and soil management.

K12: The principles of establishing natural grass surfaces for sport.

K13: Methods used to prepare maintenance schedules and the effects of maintenance operations and practices on the grass plant and turfgrass sward.

K14: Plant morphology and physiological processes within the grass plant and the effects of environmental influences on the growth and development of turfgrass.

K15: Experimental design, benchmarking and the application of statistical tests when testing a hypothesis in relation to sports turf quality, and performance.

K16: Common pest, disease and weed species in turfgrass surfaces and their impact on turfgrass quality and playability.

K17: The principles of ecology relating to sports turf facilities in the United Kingdom.

K18: Approaches to improving sustainability, natural habitats and biodiversity for a sports facility.

K19: Methods used to manage sports turf resources.

K20: Methods used to analyse and evaluate materials used in the drainage and construction of sport surfaces and methods used for specific sports surface construction in the UK.

K21: How mathematical formulae can be used to solve sports turf construction and drainage system problems.

K22: The processes involved in the assimilation of light energy, water and nutrients into a plant and how plants modify these to deal with stressful environmental conditions.

K23: The control of plant growth and development by environmental signals.

K24: Structure and content requirements when developing scientific style written reports and presenting recommendations.

K25: How to evaluate drainage designs and concepts.

K26: How to align workforce needs with organisational goals, including recruitment, retention, and skills development.

K27: Health and safety standards to ensure a safe working environment for all employees and contractors.

K28: How to motivate staff and provide ongoing support to enhance their performance and job satisfaction.

K29: How to prepare and interpret profit and loss statements, budget management, allocating resources efficiently and setting spending priorities.

K30: Techniques for effectively sourcing, negotiating, and managing supplier relationships.

Skills

S1: Apply agronomic principles of plant, turfgrass and soil science in the context of sports turf management.

S2: Evaluate and apply scientific and technical developments to sports turf industry practices.

S3: Record and evaluate sports turf scientific test results for use in planning, construction, establishment or maintenance of sports turf.

S4: Conduct laboratory and field investigations relating to developments in sports turf science to improve current sports turf practices.

S5: Analyse problems associated with sports turf areas and formulate appropriate solutions.

S6: Apply specialist sports turf technology and equipment.

S7: Investigate, analyse and evaluate sports turf management information and recommend practical options and solutions to resolve problems.

S8: Prepare written reports and present sports turf management recommendations and findings.

S9: Work independently and as a member of a team.

S10: Review, evaluate and plan own personal development.

S11: Identify appropriate machinery and equipment for turf maintenance practices.

S12: Prepare maintenance plans for identified sports turf grass surfaces.

S13: Review the quality of sports turf surfaces and evaluate results from a range of equipment.

S14: Review the breeding and development of new grass cultivars.

S15: Review the use of benchmarking and surface testing for sports turf management.

S16: Carry out performance testing of a sports surface and apply problem solving and data analysis to performance testing.

S17: Recommend improvements to sports turf management based on objective testing data.

S18: Produce a testable hypothesis or specific research questions for sports turf management.

S19: Design an experiment that will effectively test a hypothesis or answer sports turf management research questions.

S20: Select appropriate statistical tests, analyse data using appropriate software, interpret the results and draw conclusions.

S21: Propose and develop creative solutions for sports turf management research projects and evaluate project outcomes.

S22: Review and apply the concepts of an Integrated Pest Management approach to turfgrass areas, diagnose common pest, disease and weed species in turfgrass surfaces and evaluate the efficacy of available control options.

S23: Appraise a range of habitats relating to a particular site in order to establish specific conservation objectives.

S24: Evaluate selected sports turf resource management approaches taking into account sustainability.

S25: Apply mathematical formulae to evaluate construction problems and perform calculations.

S26: Manage employees, contractors and supplier relationships.

S27: Create and manage budgets, allocating resources efficiently, and setting spending priorities.

S28: Interpret profit and loss statements to monitor financial performance and make informed decisions.

Behaviours

B1: Embraces technological advancements within the sector.

B2: Committed to tailoring communication style to suit the audience.

B3: Acts in a way that builds and maintains positive relationships with colleagues, customers and suppliers.

B4: Actively seeks innovative solutions to resolve problems and demonstrates a commitment to making objective decisions.

B5: Committed to keeping up with industry developments, technology and best practice.

B6: Actively promotes sustainable initiatives.

B7: Supports an inclusive workplace.

Qualifications

English and maths

Apprentices without level 2 English and maths will need to achieve this level prior to taking the End-Point Assessment. For those with an education, health and care plan or a legacy statement, the apprenticeship's English and maths minimum requirement is Entry Level 3. A

British Sign Language (BSL) qualification is an alternative to the English qualification for those whose primary language is BSL.

Does the apprenticeship need to include any mandated qualifications in addition to the above-mentioned English and maths qualifications?

Yes

Other mandatory qualifications

FdSc Sportsturf and Applied Turfgrass Science

Level: 5

Consultation

Progression routes

The intended progression to this level would be from the Advanced Sports Turf Technician at level 3. In terms of progression onwards, there would be an opportunity to progress to senior roles within the sector alongside the opportunity to complete a full bachelors degree.

Supporting uploads

Mandatory qualification uploads

 ST1410_standard_hard_sift_evidence_L5 STTM Presentation_Final.pptx

Mandated degree evidence uploads

Professional body confirmation uploads

Subject sector area

8.1 Sport, leisure and recreation