



Assessment Guidance

Diploma in Greenkeeping SCQF Level 5
Diploma in Greenkeeping SCQF Level 6

May 2026

Introduction

This Assessment Guidance is to be used in conjunction with the approved Assessment Strategy.

The greenkeeping qualifications at SCQF Level 5 and 6 will be delivered and assessed in a real working environment that reflects typical occupational conditions that are relevant to the work activities being assessed.

This requires that learners are engaged in a relevant role and that work-based learning is aligned to, and assessed against, qualification unit performance requirements and knowledge and understanding requirements. This is the primary method by which learners develop and evidence the performance, knowledge and understanding requirements set out in these qualifications.

Evidence from performance is required and should be the primary source of evidence. However, this can be supported by questioning or other assessment methods in order to gather evidence of the ability to perform competently.

Holistic approaches to assessment are encouraged to provide an integrated rather than fragmented approach to assessment as well as to reduce duplication and the overall assessment burden on the learner and assessor. A single assessment can be used to evidence several performance requirements rather than the process of finding separate evidence for each performance requirement or assessment criteria.

The use of witness testimony is recognised as an appropriate tool for assessors in collecting evidence about candidate performance in the workplace. The role of the expert witness is to provide evidence for the assessor to make a judgement on. This evidence must directly relate to the learner's performance in the workplace as seen by the expert witness. It is not necessary for expert witnesses to hold an assessor qualification as in all cases it is the assessor who is responsible for judging the evidence from expert witnesses and making all assessment decisions about the acceptability of evidence.

It will be the responsibility of the assessor to make sure that any expert witness testimonies accepted as evidence of a learner's competency meet the requirements of validity, authenticity, reliability, currency and sufficiency.

Before using a witness testimony, assessors must satisfy themselves that:

- witnesses are clear as to the purpose and use of the testimony
- witnesses have relevant experience and expertise in the area of competence in which they are providing testimony for
- there is no relationship between the candidate and witness or witness and assessor that might invalidate the testimony.

Specific assessment requirements

The table below provides details of any specific evidence requirements for each unit.

Where evidence from simulation is acceptable follow the guidance on Simulations laid out in the Assessment Strategy.

Qualification Structure for SVQ in Greenkeeping at SCQF Level 5

To attain the qualification learners must complete 11 Units in total. This comprises:

- 6 Mandatory units
- 5 Optional units

Mandatory Units: All 6 Mandatory Units must be taken

Code	Title	Level
SDS0425	Contributing to performing work activities	6
LANH65	Establish plants or turf in a sportsturf area	4
LANH26	Prepare and maintain the condition of sports turf surfaces	5
LANH24	Maintain grass surfaces	4
US0203	Maintaining health, safety and security	5
SDS0423	Using equipment and machinery	6

Optional Units: 5 Optional Units must be taken

Code	Title	Level
LANCS25	Carry out maintenance and repair of equipment and machinery	5
SDS0418	Controlling weeds, pests, diseases and disorders	6
SDS0354	Establishing sportsturf surfaces	5
LANCS4	Establish and maintain working relationships	5
LANCS29	Identify the presence of weeds, pests, diseases, disorders and unwanted vegetation	4
SDS0360	Maintaining grassed and planted areas	6
SDS0362	Maintaining sportsturf surfaces	5
SDS0414	Maintaining wildflower-rich amenity grasslands	6
LANCS9	Prepare and operate a powered vehicle	5
LANCS7	Prepare and operate a tractor	4
LANCS57	Prepare and operate a tractor with attachments	5
SDS0365	Setting out sports areas	5
LANCS6	Transport physical resources within the work area	4

Qualification Structure for SVQ in Greenkeeping at SCQF Level 6

To attain the qualification learners must complete 11 Units in total. This comprises:

- 4 Mandatory units
- 7 Optional units

Mandatory Units: All 4 Mandatory Units must be taken

Code	Title	Level
LANCS3	Promote, monitor and maintain health, safety and security	6
LANEM15L	Develop an awareness of environmental good practice	6
SDS0425	Contributing to performing work activities	6
SDS0423	Using equipment and machinery	6

Optional Units: 7 Optional Units must be taken

Code	Title	Level
LANCS26	Assess and carry out the maintenance or repair of equipment and machinery	6
CFAMLE11	Communicate information and knowledge	7
LANCS30L	Co-ordinate the control of weeds, pests, diseases and disorders	6
LANH10	Co-ordinate the establishment of crops or plants	6
LANH34	Estimate resource requirements and programme work for land-based projects	6
LANH58	Identify and name plants using their botanical names	6
SDS0356	Implementing sportsturf surface management plans	6
LANH33	Maintain irrigation systems	6
LANH32	Maintain land drainage systems	6
SDS0360	Maintaining grassed and planted areas	6
SDS0414	Maintaining wildflower-rich amenity grasslands	6
LANH30	Plan and set out sports areas	7
LANCS31	Prepare and apply plant protection products to control weeds, pests, diseases or disorders	6

LANCS59	Prepare and operate a powered vehicle with attachments	6
LANCS57	Prepare and operate a tractor with attachments	5
SDS0428	Understanding the importance of environmental good practice in land use	7

LANCS3 Promote, monitor and maintain health, safety and security

Evidence requirements

- A. provide evidence of the ability to monitor hazards and assess risks to health, safety and security in your area of responsibility.
- B. provide evidence of examples of safety measures used to reduce the risks to health, safety and security in your area of responsibility.
- C. provide evidence of the actions you need to take in the event of an accident or emergency

Notes

Alternative methods, including simulation, questioning and professional discussion, are acceptable for providing evidence of the ability to deal with incidents and emergencies.

Security relates to: e.g. land, buildings, equipment and machinery, stock, resources, personnel and information

LANCS4 Establish and maintain working relationships

Evidence requirements

- A. establish and maintain working relationships with 3 of the following:
 - colleagues
 - supervisors and managers
 - persons external to the team or department
 - suppliers
 - customers
 - visitors
- B. use 4 of the following methods of communication:
 - face to face
 - telephone
 - radio
 - video link
 - written message
 - verbal message
 - electronic message
 - email
 - social media
 - apps
 - formal written correspondence

Notes

Evidence from simulations is not acceptable for this unit.

LANCS6 Transport physical resources within the work area

Evidence requirements

- A. transport 2 of the following physical resources:
- products
 - materials
 - equipment
- B. use 1 of the following forms of transportation:
- powered
 - manual

Notes

Evidence from simulations is not acceptable for this unit.

LANCS7 Prepare and operate a tractor

Evidence requirements

- A pre-start checks to include:
- routine maintenance
 - routine safety checks
- B operate a tractor in a variety of conditions likely to be encountered in your area of work

Notes

Evidence from simulations is not acceptable for this unit.

LANCS9 Prepare and operate a powered vehicle

Evidence requirements

- A. operate a powered vehicle in a variety of conditions likely to be encountered in your area of work

Notes

Evidence from simulations is not acceptable for this unit.

LANCS25 Carry out maintenance and repair of equipment and machinery

Evidence requirements

A.maintain and repair 3 items of equipment and machinery used at your place of work

Notes

Evidence from simulations is not acceptable for this unit.

LANCS26 Assess and carry out the maintenance or repair of equipment and machinery

Evidence requirements

- A. inspect and prepare a maintenance or repair schedule/plan for 3 items of equipment and machinery used at your place of work to include the following:
- routine
 - breakdown

Notes

Evidence from simulations is not acceptable for this unit.

LANCS29 Identify the presence of weeds, pests, diseases, disorders and unwanted vegetation

Evidence requirements

- A. identify the presence of a range of the following relevant to your area of work:
- pests
 - diseases
 - disorders
 - biological control or beneficial insects
 - weeds
 - unwanted vegetation
- B. provide knowledge evidence of how to identify invasive non-native, harmful or toxic species and the action that should be taken

Notes

Pests may include insects, slugs, snails and rodents. Diseases may be fungal, viral or bacterial and disorders may be caused by environmental issues or nutrient deficiencies.

Evidence from simulations is not acceptable for this unit.

LANCS30L Co-ordinate the control of weeds, pests, diseases and disorders

Evidence requirements

- A. develop suitable plans for the control of identified weeds, pests, diseases and disorders which contain the following:
- control method(s) to be used (chemical, biological and/or cultural)
 - timing
 - equipment and materials required
 - health and safety requirements
 - environmental protection measures
 - monitoring requirements
- B. co-ordinate the implementation of 2 of the following control methods in ways which minimise the risks to non-target species and the environment:
- chemical
 - biological
 - cultural
- C. identify the presence of a range of the following relevant to your area of work:
- pests
 - diseases
 - disorders
 - biological control or beneficial insects
 - weeds
 - unwanted vegetation
- D. provide knowledge evidence of how to identify invasive non-native, harmful or toxic species and the action that should be taken

Notes

Pests may include insects, slugs, snails and rodents. Diseases may be fungal, viral or bacterial and disorders may be caused by environmental issues or nutrient deficiencies.

If the use of chemicals is required, the learner must possess the appropriate certificates.

Simulation, questioning and professional discussion may be used to generate evidence where naturally occurring evidence is not available. Where simulations are used to generate performance evidence, these must follow the guidance set out in the Assessment Strategy.

LANCS31 Prepare and apply plant protection products to control weeds, pests, diseases or disorders

Evidence requirements

- A. obtain, set up and use the following equipment:
- application equipment
 - ancillary equipment

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • personal protective equipment <p>B. provide knowledge evidence of how to deal with the following problems in an effective way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spillage • contamination of equipment and non-target areas • malfunction of equipment • adverse effects on non-target species • changes in conditions which reflect on the relevance of the work plan • emergency <p>C. treat 3 of the following with a suitable plant protection product:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • weeds • pests • diseases • disorders
<p>Notes</p> <p>The learner must possess the appropriate certificates to prepare and apply chemicals.</p> <p>Evidence from simulations is not acceptable for this unit.</p>

<p>LANCS57 Prepare and operate a tractor with attachments</p>
<p>Evidence requirements</p> <p>A pre-start checks to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • routine maintenance • routine safety checks <p>B operate a tractor with attachments in a variety of conditions likely to be encountered in your area of work.</p> <p>C. use at least 2 of the following attachments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • loaders • trailers • mounted implements
<p>Notes</p> <p>Evidence from simulations is not acceptable for this unit.</p>

<p>LANCS59 Prepare and operate a powered vehicle with attachments</p>
<p>Evidence requirements</p> <p>A. operate a powered vehicle with attachments in a variety of conditions likely to be</p>

encountered in your area of work.

B. use at least 2 of the following attachments:

- loaders
- trailers
- mounted implements

Notes

Evidence from simulations is not acceptable for this unit.

LANEM15L Develop an awareness of environmental good practice

Evidence requirements

A. provide knowledge evidence of the impact on the environment of:

- pollution (land, air, water)
- climate change
- resource depletion
- biodiversity depletion
- damage to ecosystems

Notes

Evidence from simulations is not acceptable for this unit.

LANH10 Co-ordinate the establishment of crops or plants

Evidence requirements

A. confirm that 1 of the following sites for the establishment of crops or plants are set and marked out to specification:

- areas for soft landscape construction
- areas for planting
- areas for restoration
- indoor sites

B. co-ordinate the selection and establishment of at least 3 of the following:

- trees
- shrubs
- seedlings
- established plants
- turf
- seeds
- bulbs/corms/tubers/rhizomes
- cuttings

C. confirm the positioning of the crop/plant appropriately within the growing media

according to at least 3 of the following:

- spacing/density
- depth
- mix
- orientation
- firmness

Notes

Evidence from simulations is not acceptable for this unit.

LANH24 Maintain grass surfaces

Evidence requirements

- A. identify and deal with 3 of the following threats to turf health when maintaining grass surfaces:
- pests
 - diseases
 - disorders
 - unfavourable conditions
 - competing growth
- B. use 2 of the following methods of dealing with threats to turf health when maintaining grass surfaces:
- physical
 - chemical
 - cultural
 - irrigation
- C. prepare, use, clean, maintain and store 2 of the following types of tools and equipment when maintaining grass surfaces:
- hand tools
 - strimmers
 - pedestrian controlled mowers
 - ride on mowers
- D. use a suitable range of maintenance activities relevant to your area of work which could include:
- mowing
 - edging
 - feeding
 - watering
 - top dressing
 - repair

Notes

Evidence from simulations is not acceptable for this unit.

LANH26 Prepare and maintain the condition of sports turf surfaces

Evidence requirements

- A. use the following types of tools and equipment when preparing and maintaining the condition of sports turf surfaces:
- hand tools
 - powered equipment
- B. use suitable methods to prepare and maintain the condition of sports turf surfaces relevant to your area of work which could include:
- mowing
 - irrigation
 - drainage
 - scarifying and verticutting
 - rolling
 - top dressing
 - brushing or switching
 - aeration
 - edging (where appropriate)
 - feeding
 - grooming
 - marking out sports surface
 - setting out equipment
 - raking
- C. maintain the following aspects of the playing surface relevant to your area of work:
- speed
 - surface response to a ball, animal or player
 - moisture content
 - grass cover
 - degree of consolidation
 - trueness

Notes

Evidence from simulations is not acceptable for this unit.

Powered equipment includes pedestrian controlled machines and ride on machines.

LANH30 Plan and set out sports areas

Evidence requirements

- A. carry out the following operations:
- marking out
 - setting out equipment

Notes

Evidence from simulations is not acceptable for this unit.

Sports areas can include football, rugby and hockey pitches, cricket wickets, athletic tracks, racecourses, golf courses, tennis or lacrosse courts, bowling greens or any other appropriate sports area.

LANH32 Maintain land drainage systems**Evidence requirements**

- A. maintain 2 of the following types of land drainage systems:
- solid pipe
 - tile
 - open
 - perforated pipe
 - sustainable drainage systems
- B. deal with the following types of problems:
- blockages
 - leaks
- C. use the following types of tools and equipment:
- hand tools
 - powered equipment

Notes

Evidence from simulations is not acceptable for this unit.

LANH33 Maintain irrigation systems**Evidence requirements**

- A. maintain 1 of the following types of irrigation systems:
- mobile
 - installed
- B. inspect 1 of the following types of surface:
- hard/porous
 - synthetic
 - turf
- C. use 2 of the following materials to maintain irrigation systems:
- UPVC
 - MDPE

- glues
- pressure couplings

D. maintain 4 of the following components found within irrigation systems:

- pop-up sprinklers
- hose and attachments
- travelling and stand-alone sprinklers
- valves
- taps
- couplings
- solenoids
- irrigation housing boxes

Notes

Evidence from simulations is not acceptable for this unit.

LANH34 Estimate resource requirements and programme work for land-based projects

Evidence requirements

A. estimate resources for 1 of the following land-based projects:

- soft landscape
- hard landscape
- interior landscape

B. include 3 of the following resources for the programmes for land-based project:

- labour
- equipment
- materials
- finance
- specific expertise

C. plan and implement 1 of the following work programmes for land-based projects:

- soft landscape
- hard landscape
- interior landscape

Notes

Evidence from simulations is not acceptable for this unit.

LANH58 Identify and name plants using their botanical names

Evidence requirements

A. use the following plant characteristics to aid identification:

- habit
- leaves
- stems
- flowers
- buds

B. identify and botanically name 40 plants/varieties from a minimum of 4 of the following categories:

- annuals and short-lived perennials
- houseplants
- herbaceous perennials
- trees and shrubs
- grasses
- food crops
- weeds/wild plants (including invasive non-native and protected species)

C. define terms relating to plant characteristics for the following:

- monocotyledons
- dicotyledons
- evergreen
- deciduous
- hardy
- tender

D. define the following terms relating to plant life cycles:

- annuals
- biennials
- herbaceous perennials
- woody perennial

Notes

Evidence from simulations is not acceptable for this unit. Live plant material should be used where possible.

LANH65 Establish plants or turf in a sportsturf area

Evidence requirements

A. establish 2 of the following within a sports turf area:

- turf
- seeds
- shrubs
- trees
- seedlings

B. provide 2 of the following aftercare to plants or turf:

- provision of water
- protection

- feed
- cutting

C. set and mark out 1 of the following areas for:

- planting
- restoration

D. apply protection from 2 of the following:

- weeds and moss
- pests
- diseases and disorders
- environmental conditions

E. identify common grass and plant species used within sportsturf environments using common names and referencing botanical names where appropriate.

Notes

Evidence from simulations is not acceptable for this unit.

SDS0354 Establishing sportsturf surfaces

Evidence requirements

A. prepare ground and establish 3 sportsturf surfaces using both turf and seeds

B. provide 2 of the following aftercare to seeds or turf:

- provision of water
- protection
- feed
- cutting

C. apply protection from 2 of the following:

- weeds and moss
- pests
- diseases and disorders
- environmental conditions

D. identify 5 types of grass used for sportsturf surfaces:

- brown top bent.
- chewings fescue
- smooth stalk meadow grass
- timothy
- perennial rye grass

E. inspect established sportsturf surfaces to identify 4 of the following conditions:

- weeds
- pests
- diseases
- disorders

- moss

F. use 2 of the following treatments when maintaining the health of sports turf:

- physical
- chemical
- cultural

Notes

Evidence from simulations is not acceptable for this unit.

SDS0356 Implementing sportsturf surface management plans

Evidence requirements

A. plan and implement relevant methods to maintain the condition of sportsturf surfaces relevant to your area of work which could include:

- cutting
- edging
- weeding
- pest and disease control
- fertiliser application
- aeration
- top dressing
- switching/brushing
- scarifying/verticutting
- irrigation
- rolling
- over-seeding
- repairing edges

Notes

Evidence from simulations is not acceptable for this unit.

Sportsturf areas can include football, rugby and hockey pitches, cricket wickets, athletic tracks, racecourses, golf courses, tennis or lacrosse courts, bowling greens or any other appropriate sports turf areas.

SDS0360 Maintaining grassed and planted areas

Evidence requirements

A. provide evidence of maintaining 3 grassed or planted areas which could include the following:

- shrub areas
- scrub

- bedding
- herbaceous
- hedges
- amenity turf

B. carry out 8 of the following management activities:

- pruning
- trimming
- training
- thinning out
- tying in
- renovating
- removing and replacing
- spraying
- weed control
- pest control
- disease control
- feeding/watering
- mulching
- soil amelioration
- strimming
- mowing

C. identify the following threats to promote plant health:

- pests
- diseases
- disorders
- unfavourable conditions
- competing growth

Notes

Evidence from simulations is not acceptable for this unit.

SDS0362 Maintaining sportsturf surfaces

Evidence requirements

A. use the following types of tools and equipment when maintaining the condition of sportsturf surfaces:

- hand tools
- powered equipment

B. use suitable methods to maintain the condition of sportsturf surfaces relevant to your area of work which could include:

- mowing
- irrigation
- drainage
- scarifying and verticutting
- rolling

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • top dressing • brushing or switching • aeration • edging (where appropriate) • feeding • grooming • marking out sports surface • setting out equipment • raking <p>C. use 3 of the following renovation and repair methods on sports turf surfaces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • over-seeding • hand lifting • patching or plugging • forking up • top dressing • divotting <p>D. maintain the following aspects of the playing surface relevant to your area of work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • speed • surface response to a ball, animal or player • moisture content • grass cover • degree of consolidation • trueness
<p>Notes</p> <p>Evidence from simulations is not acceptable for this unit.</p> <p>Powered equipment includes pedestrian controlled machines and ride on machines.</p>

<p>SDS0365 Setting out sports areas</p>
<p>Evidence requirements</p> <p>A. carry out the following operations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • marking out • setting out equipment
<p>Notes</p> <p>Evidence from simulations is not acceptable for this unit.</p> <p>Sports areas can include football, rugby and hockey pitches, cricket wickets, athletic tracks, racecourses, golf courses, tennis or lacrosse courts, bowling greens or any other appropriate sports area.</p>

SDS0414 Maintaining wildflower-rich amenity grasslands

Evidence requirements

- A. provide evidence of 3 examples of monitoring and checking, maintaining and rejuvenating wildflower-rich amenity grasslands

Notes

Evidence from simulations is not acceptable for this unit.

SDS0418 Controlling weeds, pests, diseases and disorders

- A. use 2 of the following control methods:
- chemical
 - biological
 - cultural
- B. prepare and use equipment:
- relevant to the control method being used
 - appropriate personal protective equipment
 - to minimise the risks to non-target species and the environment
- C. identify the presence of a range of weeds, pests, diseases and disorders likely to be found in your area of work:
- D. provide knowledge evidence of how to identify invasive non-native, harmful or toxic species and the action that should be taken

Notes

Simulations may be used to generate evidence where naturally occurring evidence is not available. Where simulations are used to generate performance evidence, these should properly reflect the requirements of real working situations.

If the use of chemicals is required, the learner must possess the appropriate certificates and work under current Health & Safety legislation.

SDS0423 Using equipment and machinery

Evidence requirements

- A. carry out 4 of the following pre-use checks and activities:
- safety checks
 - cleaning
 - oiling/greasing

- checking and topping up fluids
- sharpening
- adjusting
- charging

B. use 3 items of equipment including attachments where appropriate

Notes

Evidence from simulations is not acceptable for this unit.

SDS0425 Contributing to performing work activities

Evidence requirements

Notes

Evidence from simulations is not acceptable for this unit.

SDS0428 Understanding the importance of environmental good practice in land-use

Evidence requirements

- A. provide knowledge evidence of the impact on the environment of:
- pollution (land, air, water)
 - climate change
 - resource depletion
 - biodiversity depletion
 - damage to ecosystems

Notes

Evidence from simulations is not acceptable for this unit.

US0203 Maintaining health, safety and security

Evidence requirements

- A. provide evidence of the ability to recognise hazards and evaluate risks to safety in your area of work.
- B. provide evidence of the ability to recognise hazards and evaluate risks to health in your area of work.
- C. provide evidence of the ability to recognise risks to security in your area of work.

- D. provide evidence of examples of safety measures that can be used to reduce the risks to health, safety and security in your area of work.
- E provide evidence of knowing what to do in the event of an accident or emergency

Notes

Alternative methods, including simulation or questioning, are acceptable for providing evidence of the ability to deal with incidents and emergencies.

Security relates to: e.g. land, buildings, equipment and machinery, stock, resources, personnel and information

CFAMLE11 Communicate information and knowledge

Evidence requirements

Notes

Evidence from simulations is not acceptable for this unit.