



Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Forest Recreation

Unit code: F3YG 35

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to deliver the relevant knowledge and skills for candidates to evaluate the potential of forests for recreational purposes and plan their development for recreational use. The Unit will be relevant for candidates wishing to enhance their knowledge and skills in the planning and development of forests for recreation.

On completion of the Unit the candidates should be able to:

- 1 Evaluate the potential of a forest area for recreational purposes.
- 2 Plan the development of a forest area to optimise recreational use in balance with other management objectives.

Credit points and level: 1 HN credit at SCQF level 8: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8*)

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: Access to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre. A prior knowledge of forest operations through completion of Unit F3YC 34 *Establishment of Woodland* and Unit F3YD 34 *Forest Harvesting* will be of advantage to candidates undertaking this Unit.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the component Written Communication of the Core Skill *Communication* to SCQF level 5, and the components Critical Thinking and Planning and Organising of the Core Skill *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 5, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or the Core Skills components.

Context for delivery: If this Unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

This Unit is included as optional in the framework for the following Group Award:
HND Forestry.

Assessment: The Outcomes for this Unit must be assessed holistically. The assessment could take the form of a project on a given or agreed area of forest where there is the potential for development of new recreation facilities.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

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The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, Knowledge and/or Skills, and Evidence Requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the Knowledge and/or Skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Outcome 1

Evaluate the potential of a forest area for recreational purposes

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Current policy and legislation
- ◆ Potential for recreational development
- ◆ Demand for recreational development
- ◆ Environmental impacts

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can evaluate the potential of a forest area for recreational purposes. The evaluation must:

- ◆ explain current policy and legislation in relation to recreational development in a forest area
- ◆ determine the potential for recreational development by taking into account the crop condition, ground conditions, access and features of interest
- ◆ determine the likely demand for recreational development in a forest by reference to local population and visitor statistics and other local forest visitor provision
- ◆ explain the effect of recreational development on other forest activities and state how these effects can be minimised
- ◆ explain the environmental impacts arising from recreational development and state how these can be minimised

The area of forest must be either given to the candidate by the tutor, or agreed in advance with the tutor. A single area of forest must be used to fulfil all Evidence Requirements.

Evidence from this Outcome must be used in Outcome 2.

Candidates must carry out a site visit in order to generate evidence.

Assessment Guidelines

The assessment for this Outcome may be combined with the assessment for Outcome 2 to provide an holistic assessment for the Unit. Please see further information under Outcome 2 Assessment Guidelines.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Forest Recreation

Outcome 2

Plan the development of a forest area

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Recreational development
- ◆ Risks to public health and safety
- ◆ Materials and construction standards
- ◆ Monitoring and maintenance schedules

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can produce a plan for the development of a forest area, which:

- ◆ selects and justifies appropriate forms of recreational development in terms of type of activity and scale of development
- ◆ explains the risks to public health and safety during implementation and use of the proposed development and states how the risks can be eliminated or minimised
- ◆ provides evidence of best practice in terms of specifications for materials to be used and construction standards for the proposed development
- ◆ provides schedules of routine monitoring and planned maintenance in accordance with best practice

The area of forest must be either given to the candidate by the tutor, or agreed in advance with the tutor. A single area of forest must be used to fulfil all Evidence Requirements.

The potential for development proposed in Outcome 1 must be used to produce the plan for the development of the forest area.

Candidates must carry out a site visit in order to generate evidence.

The assessment for this Outcome must be combined with the assessment for Outcome 1 to provide a holistic assessment for the Unit.

Assessment Guidelines

The assessment could take the form of a project on a given or agreed area of forest where there is the potential for development of new recreation facilities.

The site visit could be carried out in class time under supervision. The production of the plan could be undertaken in the candidates' own time.

It is recommended that maps, photographs and diagrams are used in order to keep the text of the plan within a guideline limit of 1,800 words or equivalent.

Administrative Information

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Unit title: Forest Recreation
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Version	Description of change	Date

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Forest Recreation

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit is included as optional in the framework for the following Group Awards:
HND Forestry.

It is recommended that the delivery of this Unit should be through a combination of lectures, site visits and classroom exercises.

Outcome 1

The following information gives suggestions of topics that could be covered as part of the Outcome:

- ◆ application of current policy and legislation: Government, Forestry Commission and owner's policy; all current UK legislation relevant to public access to the countryside; occupiers' liability; health & safety
- ◆ evaluation of potential for recreational development: ground conditions (slope, roughness, soil types, water courses); crop (species, age, density, management systems); access (public roads, internal access, car parking, legal constraints); features of interest (view points, watercourses/lakes, geology, archaeology, wildlife, plants, big/unusual trees)
- ◆ assessment of likely demand: present level of public access; level of access to nearby forests; local population; visitor populations; local surveys and public consultation
- ◆ evaluation of effect on other forest activities: current management objectives; current and planned operations (harvesting/planting/maintenance/protection); current recreational use; sporting activities
- ◆ assessment of environmental impacts of the development: impacts arising from development work and from increased public access; flora and fauna; human (litter, vandalism, fire, human waste, erosion); use of machines for development/maintenance work; areas requiring special measures (designated or other special areas — plants, nesting birds, animals, water, archaeology)

Outcome 2

The following information gives suggestions of topics that could be covered as part of the Outcome:

- ◆ selection of appropriate forms of recreational development:
 - type: walking, interpretation, cycling, mountain biking, horse riding, fitness trails, all-ability provision, child-orientated activities, specialist activities (eg archery, fishing, canoeing, cross-country skiing); car parking; signage (threshold, on-site, way marking)
 - scale: length/location of trails; area/location occupied by each activity interaction/separation of activities (spatial, seasonal)

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Forest Recreation

- ◆ assess risks to public health and safety:
 - during development and maintenance: machines and equipment; tree felling; excavation; construction; warning signs; diversions
 - safety of users: surfaces; trip hazards; built artefacts (fences, walls, gates, stiles, bridges, signs); dangerous trees; natural hazards (water, steep slopes, outcrops etc.); contemporaneous activities (forest operations, multiple recreational activities)
- ◆ materials specification and construction standards: requirements of different users and for multiple activity use; paths, bridges, fences, gates, styles, signs, way-markers; materials (type, sizes, colours); construction standards (design specification, construction methods, finishes); costs
- ◆ routine monitoring and planned maintenance: frequency; target areas (surfaces, drainage, condition of built artefacts, safety of adjacent trees/crops); litter collection; signage refurbishment; recording of monitoring and maintenance

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

Outcomes 1 and 2

The assessment for both Unit Outcomes must be combined in an holistic assessment for the Unit.

It is recommended that the assessment could require candidates to prepare a report on a given or agreed area of forest, where there are opportunities to develop new recreation facilities. The site selected could be broadleaved, coniferous or mixed forest and it is recommended that the area be not less than 20 hectares and not greater than 100 hectares.

It is recommended that a site visit is carried out in class time under supervision where possible. The production of the plan could be undertaken in the candidates' own time. It is recommended that maps, photographs and diagrams are used in order to keep the text of the plan within a guideline limit of 1,800 words or equivalent.

It is recommended that candidates are allowed three weeks for the submission of the report.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

If candidates use sources to research information and produce their evidence in the form of a report then there will be opportunities for them to develop the component Written Communication of the Core Skill *Communication* at SCQF level 5.

As candidates will be required to use evaluation and planning skills in this Unit then there will be opportunities for them to develop the components Critical Thinking of the Core Skill *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 5.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Forest Recreation

Open learning

All Outcomes are appropriate for open and distance learning approaches provided candidates have access to learning packs and tutor input and support at all stages. Centre devised supervision agreements should detail controlled conditions to ensure authenticity of evidence.

In the case of a distance/open learning candidate, a site of the candidate's choice, ie at their work or close to their home may be used, with the caveat that the site has to be agreed as suitable beforehand by the Unit tutor and that there is prior agreement for candidate and possible tutor access to the site by the landowner.

Candidates with disabilities and/or additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. Further advice can be found in the SQA document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs* (www.sqa.org.uk).

General information for candidates

Unit title: Forest Recreation

This Unit will equip you with the relevant knowledge and skills to evaluate the potential for recreational development in an area of forest and produce a plan for the development of recreational facilities in balance with other management objectives for the forest.

This Unit has a value of 1 HN credit (8 SCQF credit points) at SCQF level 8.

There are two sections or Outcomes in this Unit. The first Outcome will enable you to evaluate the potential of a forest area for recreational development. You will be able to explain current policy and legislation, and determine the potential for development taking into account the likely demand for such development in the local area. You will also be able to explain the effect of recreational development on other forest activities together with the environmental impact and state how these can be minimised.

The second Outcome is concerned with planning for recreational development in a forest area. You will be able to justify your selection of appropriate forms of development in terms of scale and type of activity. You will be able to explain the risks to public health and safety during development and also during use. You will consider best practice in terms of materials specifications and construction standards, and be able to provide schedules for monitoring and maintenance of the development.

The knowledge and skills acquired in this Unit will help you to evaluate and develop forests for recreational purposes.

For candidates already in employment this Unit provides an opportunity to extend existing knowledge and skills and lays a sound grounding for further study in forest management and land use.

This Unit will give you the opportunity to develop the components Critical Thinking and Planning and Organising of the Core Skill *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 5. If you carry out report writing while undertaking this Unit, it will give you the opportunity to develop the component Written Communication of the Core Skill at SCQF level 5.

The assessment of this Unit will require you to carry out a site visit on a given or agreed area of forest in order to generate evidence. The site must have opportunities to develop recreational use.