Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Forestry: Woodland Management Planning

Unit code: F404 35

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to provide the relevant knowledge and skills for candidates to prepare management plans for the regeneration and improvement of small woodlands where there is a community interest.

The Unit will be relevant for candidates wishing to enhance their knowledge and skills in the planning of operations in small coniferous and/or broadleaved woodland with community involvement and the preparation of management plans for small woodlands.

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

1   Produce a proposal for the regeneration of woodland.
2   Produce a proposal for the improvement of woodland.
3   Produce a proposal for community involvement in the use and management of woodland.

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. Prior knowledge of silviculture through completion of Unit F3YC 34 *Establishment of Woodland* would be beneficial 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, 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.

Assessment: The Outcomes for this Unit could be assessed holistically by the preparation of a management plan for a given area of woodland adjacent to a community.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Forestry: Woodland Management Planning

Unit code: F404 35

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.

Please refer to *Assessment Guidelines for the Unit* after the Outcomes.

Outcome 1

Produce a proposal for the regeneration of woodland

Knowledge and/or Skills

♦ Crop and site condition of woodland
♦ Public access
♦ Visual amenity
♦ Physical constraints
♦ Silvicultural systems
♦ Regeneration methods
♦ Future management requirements

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will be required to demonstrate their knowledge and skills by showing that they can produce a proposal for the regeneration of woodland, which contains the following:

♦ evaluation of an area of woodland, which includes the crop and site condition, public use, visual amenity and physical constraints. The candidate must look at these factors in terms of current and potential use and the way the factors relate to each other.
♦ selection of at least one silvicultural system and at least one regeneration method which must be based on the evaluation of the area of woodland, and which are realistic in terms of potential implementation.
♦ explanation of future management requirements for the silvicultural system(s) and regeneration method(s) selected. The candidate must give a justification of these requirements based on the silvicultural system(s) and regeneration method(s) selected.

The area of woodland must be either given to the candidate by the tutor, or agreed in advance with the tutor. Candidates must carry out a site visit in order to generate evidence.

Assessment Guidelines

Please see Assessment Guidelines after Outcome 3.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Forestry: Woodland Management Planning

Outcome 2

Produce a proposal for the improvement of woodland

Knowledge and/or Skills

♦ Silvicultural maintenance
♦ Risk and prevention of damage by mammals
♦ Improvement of biodiversity
♦ Visual amenity

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will be required to demonstrate their knowledge and skills by showing that they can produce a proposal for the improvement of woodland. The proposal must:

♦ prescribe silvicultural maintenance requirements in woodland, and justify the reasons for the suggested maintenance
♦ identify the risks of damage by mammals in woodland and prescribe measures to protect the woodland from such damage
♦ evaluate the potential for improving the biodiversity of woodland and make justified proposals for implementing improvements
♦ evaluate the present internal and external visual amenity of woodland and make justified proposals for implementing improvements

The proposal must be suitable in terms of the crop and site conditions.

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

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

Assessment Guidelines

Please see Assessment Guidelines after Outcome 3.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Forestry: Woodland Management Planning

Outcome 3

Produce a proposal for community involvement in the use and management of woodland

Knowledge and/or Skills

♦ Community involvement in the management of woodland
♦ Public access provision for woodlands
♦ Woodland as an educational resource
♦ People and the damage they may cause in woodlands

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will be required to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can produce a proposal for community involvement in the use and management of woodland, which contains the following:

♦ explanation of ways in which you might involve members of the community in the management of woodland. This should include the different contributions that individuals and groups might make.
♦ evaluation of the potential for creating new pathways and improving existing pathways in woodland, justification of the selection of chosen routes and specification of appropriate construction methods.
♦ evaluation of opportunities for using woodland as an educational resource and formulation of proposals that may be incorporated into a woodland education strategy.
♦ evaluation of existing and potential damage by people in woodland and a description of methods of controlling the damaging activities identified.

The produced proposal must be appropriate for the size and type of woodland.

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

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

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Forestry: Woodland Management Planning

Assessment Guidelines for the Unit

The assessment may be a combined assessment for Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 to provide an holistic assessment for the Unit.

It is recommended that the assessment could require candidates to undertake a project to prepare a Woodland Management Plan for a given or agreed area of woodland, where community involvement in the management of the woodland would be appropriate and in which all Outcomes are covered.

The Management Plan for the woodland could be based on the following headings:

♦ Introduction
♦ Site Evaluation
♦ Management Objectives
♦ Outline Prescriptions Matched to Management Objectives (justification)
♦ Detailed Prescriptions
♦ Summary of Programme of Work
♦ Consultation
♦ Plan Monitoring and Review

Site evaluation could be carried out in class time under supervision. The production of the plan could be unsupervised and undertaken in the candidates' own time.

The use of annotated maps could be encouraged in order to keep the content of the plan within a guideline limit of 2,000 words or equivalent.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F404 35

Unit title: Forestry: Woodland Management Planning

Superclass category: SG

Original date of publication: August 2008

Version: 01

History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

Source: SQA

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Forestry: Woodland Management Planning

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

While the exact time allocation for this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional 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:

♦   HNC Forestry
♦   HND Forestry
♦   HNC Arboriculture and Urban Forestry
♦   HND Arboriculture and Urban 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:

♦   woodland: location; existing crop, species, age classes, condition; soils; aspect; exposure
♦   public access: present; potential; type (walking, cycling, horse riding, organised activities); population (adults, children, families, groups, less able); existing provision; levels of use; how access might influence prescriptions
♦   visual amenity: internal and external quality; landscape dominance; proximity of communities.
♦   physical constraints: wayleaves and services; access for Woodland Management Planning; public safety during operations
♦   silvicultural systems and regeneration methods: clearfelling; continuous cover systems; coppicing; natural regeneration; planting; selection of regeneration areas; preparatory work (thinning, ground preparation); timing of regeneration fellings; seed years for natural regeneration; species, plant specification, methods for planting; public safety
♦   future management requirements: monitoring; weeding; dealing with unwanted species; beating up; respacing; future regeneration fellings

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Forestry: Woodland Management Planning

Outcome 2

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

♦ Maintenance operations in woodland: managing existing regeneration; draining; thinning; formative pruning; high pruning
♦ Damage to woodland by mammals: deer; rabbits; hares; grey squirrels; voles; feral goats; domestic animals
♦ Improve biodiversity in woodland: tree species; ground flora; water bodies and riparian zones; managed open space; butterfly glades; dead wood; statutory designations
♦ Improving visual amenity: internal and external; species; structure; shape; view points

Outcome 3

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

♦ involving a community: consultation; community councils; schools; interest groups; individuals; meetings; events; publicity; joint management groups; funding
♦ public access: types of access (walking, cycling, horse riding, special activities); access points; route selection; path construction; waymarking; provision for the less able; car parking; woodland furniture; public liability; safety during Woodland Management Planning
♦ woodland as an educational resource: schools; families; organisations; events; on-site interpretation; published information
♦ limiting damage by people: fire; vandalism; litter; dog fouling; fly-tipping; legislation

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

Outcomes 1, 2, and 3.

The assessment for all the Unit Outcomes could be combined in an holistic assessment for the Unit.

It is recommended that the assessment could require candidates to prepare a Woodland Management Plan for a given or agreed area of woodland, where community involvement in management might be a likely scenario. The site selected could be broadleaved or coniferous woodland, or mixed, and at a stage of development where consideration of plans for regeneration would be appropriate. It is recommended that the area of the woodland be not less than 10 hectares and not more than 25 hectares and comprise not less that two and not more than five crop types. The presence of watercourses in the woodland would be an advantage but not essential.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Forestry: Woodland Management Planning

Candidates could be asked to produce a five year Management Plan for the woodland using the following headings:

♦ Introduction
♦ Site Evaluation
♦ Management Objectives
♦ Outline Prescriptions (matched to the management objectives)
♦ Detailed Prescriptions
♦ Summary of Programme of Work
♦ Consultation
♦ Monitoring and Review
♦ Maps

It is recommended that the level of detail in the site evaluation is limited to that which is essential to support the prescriptions in the plan.

The use of annotated maps to support the plan could be encouraged in order to enable the content to be limited to around 2,000 words or equivalent. It is recommended that candidates are allowed three weeks for the submission of the plan.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

As candidates are required to produce proposals in this Unit, there may be opportunities for them to develop the component Written Communication of the Core Skill *Communication* at SCQF level 5.

Open learning

All Outcomes are appropriate for open and distance learning approaches, and it would be good practice to provide candidate packs and tutor input and support at all stages. Centre devised supervision agreements should detail any conditions to ensure authenticity of evidence.

The choice of site may be the candidate's choice, ie a site at their work or close to their home, 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: Forestry: Woodland Management Planning

This Unit will equip you with the relevant knowledge and skills to prepare management plans for the regeneration and improvement of small broadleaved and/or coniferous woodlands where there is a community interest. The area of woodland that you cover will either be given to you by your tutor, or agreed in advance with your tutor.

Successful completion of the Unit attracts 1 HN credit (8 SCQF credits) at SCQF level 8.

There are three sections or Outcomes in this Unit. The first Outcome will enable you to make a proposal for the regeneration of woodland taking into account the existing tree crop and site conditions, public access, visual amenity and any physical constraints. You will be able to select suitable silvicultural systems and methods of regeneration and also state the future maintenance requirements for the chosen systems and methods.

The second Outcome is concerned with making a proposal for the general improvement of woodland. You will be able to identify and prescribe possible silvicultural improvements to the existing tree crop and also determine where there is risk of damage to woodland by mammals and say how such damage might be prevented. You will also be able to suggest ways in which the biodiversity and visual amenity of woodland might be improved.

The final Outcome will equip you to produce a proposal for involving the community in the use and management of woodland. You will be able to explain how individuals and community groups might be encouraged to make use of woodland and contribute to the care of woodland. This will include improving existing paths and providing new ones, and evaluating opportunities for woodland education. You will also be aware of the damage that people might do in woodland and describe ways of controlling it.

You will be able to justify the proposal made for each of the three Outcomes and could be required to produce them in the form of a plan for an area of woodland.

There may be opportunities for you to develop the component Written Communication of the Core Skill *Communication* at SCQF level 5 in this Unit.