



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Practical Conservation: Pathwork (SCQF level 5)

Unit code: FV31 11

Superclass: QA

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Summary

This Unit will provide candidates with an introduction to paths and will explore some of the surfaces and structures commonly used in providing access to the countryside. Candidates will be introduced to approaches and techniques used in the construction and maintenance of paths in both lowland and upland settings. By studying the Unit, candidates will develop practical skills which are used in the construction and maintenance of paths and will gain the knowledge and understanding of the appropriateness of using different surfaces used in different situations.

The Unit is suitable for anyone wishing to gain experience and understanding of pathwork and the practical skills used in the provision of access in the rural environment.

This Unit is a mandatory Unit in the National Certificate in *Countryside Management*, but is also available for candidates wishing to study the Unit on its own.

Outcomes

- 1 Describe paths and their uses.
- 2 Carry out a range of tasks in the construction and maintenance of paths.
- 3 Carry out tasks in the construction and maintenance of access related structures.

Recommended entry

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, some prior experience of working outdoors and working with tools would be beneficial for candidates.

National Unit specification: general information (cont)

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Credit points and level

1 National Unit credit at SCQF level 5 (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 5).

**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.*

Core Skills

Opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit Specification.

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill component in this Unit..

National Unit specification: statement of standards

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Acceptable performance in this Unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the Unit specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to SQA.

Outcome 1

Describe paths and their uses.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify a range of path uses.
- (b) Describe the main structural features of paths.
- (c) Describe materials commonly used in the construction and maintenance of paths.
- (d) Describe path surfaces.

Outcome 2

Carry out a range of tasks in the construction and maintenance of paths.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify common hazards and assess risks associated with the construction and maintenance of paths on site.
- (b) Select tools, materials and equipment appropriate to tasks undertaken in the construction and maintenance of paths.
- (c) Carry out all tasks safely and in line with best practice.
- (d) Carry out all tasks to appropriate specifications.
- (e) Carry out all tasks in ways which do not damage the site.
- (f) Deal with waste material appropriately for the site.

Outcome 3

Carry out tasks in the construction and maintenance of access related structures.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Describe a range of access related structures.
- (b) Identify common hazards and assess risks in relation to the construction and maintenance of access related structures tasks.
- (c) Select tools, materials and equipment appropriate to tasks undertaken in the construction and maintenance of access related structures.
- (d) Carry out all tasks safely and in line with best practice.
- (e) Carry out all tasks to appropriate given specifications.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Evidence is required to demonstrate that candidates have achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria. All practical activities must be undertaken in compliance with current Health and Safety legislation.

Outcome 1 — Written and/or oral evidence which includes:

- ◆ an identification of four different uses of paths
- ◆ a description of a minimum of five main structural features of paths
- ◆ a description of materials commonly used in path construction and maintenance which must relate to:
 - lowland paths
 - upland paths
- ◆ a description of a minimum of two path surfaces

Outcome 2 — Performance evidence.

Written/oral or recorded and performance evidence in relation to Outcome 2.

Evidence must include:

- ◆ identification of a minimum of four common hazards and assess their risks on site
- ◆ selection of tools, materials and equipment appropriate to tasks undertaken
- ◆ carrying out all tasks safely and in line with best practice
 - using tools, materials and equipment safely
 - maintaining a clear and safe work site at all times
 - following instructions and best practice correctly
- ◆ carrying out all tasks to appropriate specifications
- ◆ carrying out all tasks in ways which do not damage the site
- ◆ dealing with waste material appropriately for the site

Outcome 3 — Performance and written and/or oral, or diagrammatic evidence.

For PC (a) — Candidates must provide written and/or oral or diagrammatic evidence to demonstrate that they can provide a description of a minimum of two access related structures.

For PC's (b–f) — Candidates will generate performance evidence by participating in the construction or maintenance of one access related structure.

Performance evidence must include:

- ◆ identification of four common hazards and assess their risks in relation to specified tasks
- ◆ selection of tools, materials and equipment appropriate to specified tasks undertaken
- ◆ carrying out all tasks safely and in line with best practice
 - using tools, materials and equipment safely
 - maintaining a clear and safe work area at all times
 - following instructions and best practice correctly
- ◆ carrying out all tasks to appropriate specifications
- ◆ dealing with waste material appropriately

National Unit specification: support notes

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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 aligned to the following LANTRA National Occupational Standards (NOS):

- ◆ CU2 — Monitor and Maintain Health and Safety
- ◆ CU4 — Maintain Environmental Good Practice at Work
- ◆ CU23 — Construct, Maintain and Repair Paths and Related Structures

Paths are often promoted as multi-use and should not, in general be seen as only footpaths. The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 allowed responsible access to the majority of Scotland's countryside and Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC) outlines what responsible access is and the guidance on the responsible management of access. This provision of increased access to the Scottish countryside has led to this requirement for and development of multi-use paths. Candidates should be aware of the legislation which has allowed wider access to Scotland's countryside and also of the role of the SOAC. It should also be recognised that although reference here is to accessing the countryside, many urban areas have pockets of more rural, countryside areas in or around them, particularly in the form of country parks where access is promoted alongside a wide range of conservation activities. Candidates should be encouraged to contribute to group discussions in relation to their own experiences of access.

Outcome 1

When considering the uses of paths, candidates should be encouraged to think about those who might and do use paths to access the countryside and give consideration to how they use them including: walking, horse riding, cycling and wheelchair access.

The main structural features of paths should be described and could include: formation; geotextiles; sub-base; path base; path surfaces; path edges; camber and cross-fall and drainage.

Materials used in path construction should be addressed in terms of those commonly used for lowland paths and the reasons why these differ from those used in upland pathwork. Because of access issues, upland paths tend to utilise local materials such as rocks for stone pitching and aggregates sourced from locally dug borrow pits. The use of small scale machinery is also common place including power barrows, mini-diggers and rock breakers where site conditions allow. Path surfaces covered could include natural, bound, unbound and Unit surfaces. Examples of natural surfaces would include bare earth and grass, whereas bound surfaces might include tar-spray and chip, bitmac and asphalt. Unbound surfaces might include aggregate, forest bark, whindust, sand and gravel and Unit surfaces flags, blocks and setts.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Outcomes 2 and 3

The main focus of this Unit should be on practical work and carrying out practical pathwork as a means of candidates gaining experience and developing skills and understanding required for the maintenance and construction of paths and access related structures in different settings. Where possible a range of path types and surfaces should be considered and worked with. On-site exploration of access related structures could be done through a wider exploration of work sites and site visits.

Path types could include: aggregate paths, stone pitched paths, flag paths, boardwalks, forest bark paths. Access related structures could include: simple bridges, steps, waymarkers and signs, gates and fords.

A specification diagram for the paths and structures worked on could be included by candidates as evidence supporting their participation in construction and/or path maintenance projects.

The production of a simple risk assessment could be used as part of the performance evidence in relation to identifying common hazards and assessing risks.

Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

Although this is intended to be a largely practical based Unit, some classroom based learning could be an appropriate way to introduce candidates to the variety of path types, surfaces and access structures associated with them. Candidates should be encouraged to reflect on their own experiences of accessing the countryside and take part in group discussions to explore the positive and negative aspects of their experiences in relation to the accessibility of paths.

Initial learning should be reinforced by practical participation in path projects, enabling candidates to understand more fully the taught theory and also develop an understanding of and level of experience in a range of practical skills which are required for path construction and maintenance. Where possible, projects should be sought which allow candidates to work through and complete a project which includes both the path elements and access structures elements of the Unit. Although it is recognised that this might not always be feasible, where opportunities occur, experience of working with a number of path types, surfaces and structures would be desirable.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

Assessment of this Unit could be through the production of a log book/project reports detailing information gained during site visits and through undertaking practical tasks into relation to the construction and maintenance of paths and related access structures. This log book could be based on the knowledge requirements of Outcomes 1 and 3 and provide evidence supporting the performance requirements of Outcomes 2 and 3.

This might include path and structure specifications, material requirements and amounts, tools used, photographic evidence of work undertaken and the physical results of this work.

Areas not covered directly through practical projects could be completed by desk study and the production of a short written piece to complement the log book/project reports.

Performance evidence for Outcomes 2 and 3 could be recorded on an assessor checklist.

Opportunities for the use of e-assessment

E-assessment may be appropriate for some assessments in this Unit. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by Information and Communication Technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or e-checklists. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all candidate evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. Further advice is available in *SQA Guidelines on Online Assessment for Further Education (AA1641, March 2003)*, *SQA Guidelines on e-assessment for Schools (BD2625, June 2005)*.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

By undertaking the activities required in this Unit, candidates will have opportunities to develop Core Skills in relation to Oral and Written Communication through participation in group discussions, producing assessment evidence and carrying out practical project work as part of a team, which will also be providing opportunities to develop skills in *Working with Others*. Opportunities to develop *Problem Solving* skills exist in all practical project work given the diverse nature of the paths and access features and the activities associated with their construction and maintenance. Candidates should be encouraged to consider the causes of problems encountered during practical activities and to suggest ways in which these could be addressed.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Disabled candidates and/or those with additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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