



## National Unit specification: general information

**Unit title:** Horticulture: Create a Landscaped Site (SCQF level 4)

**Unit code:** H1YH 10

**Superclass:** SE

**Publication date:** October 2012

**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority

**Version:** 02

### Summary

This Unit is designed to enable candidates to assist in the preparation; implementation and assessment of a landscape development. Candidates will assist in site investigation and will learn to work safely with others. Candidates will suggest suitable plants and/or other materials for a landscape development carry out landscaping tasks and assess the effectiveness of the site on completion. This is an introductory Unit aimed at individuals seeking to start careers within horticulture and the landscape industry.

This is a mandatory Unit in the National Certificate in Horticulture at SCQF Level 4 and may be integrated with the following mandatory Units in the Group Award:

- ◆ Practical Horticulture: Prepare an Area for Landscaping
- ◆ Practical Horticulture: Landscape Aftercare

The Unit may also be undertaken as a free standing Unit.

Successful completion of this Unit would enable candidates to progress to the following level 5 Units:

- ◆ D894 11 — Soft Landscaping: General Planting
- ◆ D895 11 — Soft Landscaping: Specialist Planting

### Outcomes

- 1 Assist in the investigation of a site and prepare a plan for landscape development according to a client brief.
- 2 Assist with the development of the landscape according to the client brief.
- 3 Reflect on the effectiveness of the landscape development in terms of the client brief.

## General information (cont)

**Unit title:** Horticulture: Create a Landscaped Site (SCQF level 4)

### Recommended entry

Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

It is expected the candidate will have little or no knowledge of horticulture before starting this Unit.

### Credit points and level

1 National Unit credit at SCQF level 4: (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 4\*)

*\*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

Achievement of this Unit gives automatic certification of the following Core Skills component:

Complete Core Skill	None
Core Skill component	Critical Thinking at SCQF level 4

There are also opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills which are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit specification.

## **National Unit specification: statement of standards**

**Unit title:** Horticulture: Create a Landscaped Site (SCQF level 4)

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.

All practical activities must be carried out in accordance with current Health and Safety legislation including wearing PPE and correct handling and lifting heavy items.

### **Outcome 1**

Assist in the investigation of a site and prepare a plan for landscape development according to a client brief.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Describe the requirements of the client.
- (b) Suggest a landscape area suitable for the client brief.
- (c) Assist with a site investigation in line with the information provided by the client.
- (d) Produce a design plan suitable for the client's needs.
- (e) Identify suitable plants and/or materials for the landscape development.

### **Outcome 2**

Assist with the development of the landscape according to the client brief.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Describe health and safety requirements for practical horticultural activities.
- (b) Assist in setting out the landscape development in line with the client brief.
- (c) Identify and justify selection of tools and equipment required for the tasks.
- (d) Work co-operatively in carrying out landscape preparation and development activities.
- (e) Carry out tasks according to instructions from a supervisor and work safely at all times.
- (f) Tidy the area; clean and store tools and materials and dispose of waste in accordance with instructions given and safe working practices.

### **Outcome 3**

Reflect on the effectiveness of the landscape development in terms of the client brief.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Record activities during the landscape development.
- (b) Assist with assessing the landscape development in terms of meeting the client expectations.
- (c) Review own contribution to the landscape development.

## 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 carried out in accordance with current health and safety legislation, including wearing PPE and correct manual handling and lifting procedures.

Induction to all tools and equipment is essential.

Candidates will be provided with a client brief.

#### Outcome 1

Written and/or oral and performance evidence generated under supervised open-book conditions is required which must include:

- ◆ an accurate description of one client brief
- ◆ one suggestion for an area suited to the needs of the client
- ◆ safe participation in investigation of a suitable site.  
Tasks must include the following:
  - measuring the area
  - producing a record of existing vegetation
  - identifying soil type
  - describing the aspect of the site, topography, shelter, light, soil and drainage and land ownership
- ◆ production of a design plan to meet the needs of the client
- ◆ identification and selection of a minimum of four plant groups and two suitable materials for the proposed landscape development

#### Outcome 2

Performance and open-book supervised written and/or oral evidence is required which includes:

- ◆ a description of the health and safety requirements for carrying out typical horticultural activities
- ◆ identification of PPE required for carrying out the landscaping activities
- ◆ active and safe participation in the setting out activities which will include:
  - the correct identification of tools and equipment, typically used for hard and soft landscaping to include as a minimum: secateurs, saw, spade, hoe, fork, loppers.
- ◆ justification for the selection of tools and equipment in the proposed landscaping development, which meets the client brief
- ◆ assistance with the clearance of unwanted vegetation or other unwanted materials.  
Tasks, carried out under supervision, will include a minimum of two from the following: weeding, stripping turf, pruning, cutting bark, hoeing, digging, lifting slabs, removing stones.
- ◆ assistance with the cultivation and conditioning of the soil on the site.  
Tasks, carried out under supervision, will include: digging, forking, raking, incorporating organic matter, checking and levelling.

- ◆ assistance in setting out the area for hard or soft landscaping.  
Tasks will include: positioning materials and/or plants according to the client brief and must also include one from the following: adding foundation sub base, consolidating the sub base, adding additional nutrients and soil conditioning, levelling, measuring.
- ◆ safe practice and co-operation with others at all times when carrying out tasks and in accordance with instructions
- ◆ maintaining a clean and tidy site
- ◆ cleaning and storing tools and equipment as instructed
- ◆ disposing waste materials according to acceptable industry practice

### **Outcome 3**

Performance and open-book supervised written and or oral evidence is required which must include:

- ◆ a record of personal activities carried out during the development of the site recorded at three different stages of the development
- ◆ a review of the landscape development including:
  - at least three ways in which the development has met client expectations
  - three positive contributions to the development made by the candidate
  - a recommendation for at least one further action which might enhance the development

## **National Unit specification: support notes**

**Unit title:** Horticulture: Create a Landscaped Site (SCQF level 4)

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):

- CS1 Maintain the safety of self and others in the workplace
- CS6 Transport physical resources within the work area
- CS53 Assist with the preparation of the growing media
- CS12 Assist with constructing structures and surfaces
- CS48 Assist with planting and establishing crops or plants

This Unit aims to introduce candidates to hard and/or soft landscaping activities where they will help to select a site, plan and execute a simple development to meet the requirements of a client brief.

The activities may be carried out in the grounds of the training centre or any other environment where landscaping could be carried out. Candidates would benefit from examining 'before' and 'after' situations where landscaping has enhanced a site. Candidates will be exposed to a range of plants and other materials suitable for creating a soft and/or hard landscaped area and be able to suggest suitable materials for creating a development in line with a client brief, which they will be given.

Team working and communication among the group are recommended activities throughout the Unit, with candidates encouraged to discuss and offer a range of suggestions for a suitable development before deciding which to recommend according to the client requirements.

All practical activities must be carried out in line with health and safety legislation and where required, PPE must be worn and induction to all tools and equipment is essential. Practical activities will be supervised and candidates will be expected to work safely at all times.

### **Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit**

This Unit may be based on a landscape development which occurs naturally, either within the grounds of a training establishment or off site, for example- a community project. The development activity may involve soft landscaping, hard landscaping or both. Candidates will be given a simple client brief. Candidates should work as a team in the planning and construction and planting stages. However the assessment and review process will be undertaken on an individual basis.

Discussions and practical activity form the basis of this Unit. There is a requirement for candidates to demonstrate understanding of the health and safety regulations governing horticultural work and this should be taught and assessed as interactively as possible, eg hazard spotting pictures and/or examples of accidents which have occurred or might occur.

## National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Health and safety teaching will include the importance of wearing PPE, which is essential, how to lift and handle heavy objects and the need to work safely both individually and with others. Some lecture theory input will be necessary. Prior to commencing the activities candidates will be told what they are expected to contribute to the development activity and a prompt sheet/practical checklist should be given to each candidate which will help them complete the review of performance exercise in Outcome 3.

By adopting the above learning and teaching approaches and through the Outcomes and corresponding Evidence Requirements, the Unit should provide candidates with an opportunity to develop the following essential skills for life, learning and work:

- ◆ Employability skills — through increased knowledge and skills in horticulture.
- ◆ Citizenship — the Unit could provide opportunities to demonstrate citizenship skills if the candidates were involved in a creating a landscape as part of a community project.
- ◆ Sustainability — the Unit could develop skills in sustainable development as candidates will be developing skills which can be applied in creating and maintaining landscapes for future generations

### Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

Candidates will maintain a record/log/folio of their activities during the preparatory, development and assessment stages of the landscape development and this will contribute to the necessary evidence for Outcomes 1, 2 and 3. However candidates should be encouraged to keep a log of all the practical activities they carry out during their study of the Unit.

Participation checklists may be compiled by the assessor and all practical activity should be assessed by means of practical performance checklists. Photographic evidence would complement the checklists and student folios.

Structured questioning provided by the tutor in the landscape evaluation exercise may be used to assist the learner focus on how well s/he contributed to the development activity

### 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 social software. 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)*.

## National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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### Opportunities for developing Core Skills

In this Unit candidates will assist in creating a landscape.

Candidates will:

- ◆ assist in the investigation of a site and preparation of a plan for landscape development
- ◆ assist with the development of the landscape
- ◆ reflect on the effectiveness of the landscape development

This means that as candidates are doing this Unit they will be developing aspects of the Core Skills of *Communication*, *Problem Solving*, and *Working with Others*.

Communication skills are developed when liaising with other members of the landscape development group and when recording evidence.

Problem Solving will occur naturally when considering and modifying the development in accordance with the client brief.

Candidates will work with others, while assisting and developing the landscape.

Additionally candidates will develop aspects of the Core Skill of *Numeracy* when measuring and estimating timings and costings associated with the landscape development; and the Core Skill of *Information and Communication Technology* when recording and reviewing their involvement in the landscape development.

This Unit has the Critical Thinking component of Problem Solving embedded in it. This means that when candidates achieve the Unit, their Core Skills profile will also be updated to show they have achieved Critical Thinking at SCQF level 4.

### 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](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements)



## History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Core Skills Component Critical Thinking at SCQF level 4 embedded.	09/10/2012

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