



**Arrangements for:
National Certificate in Rural Skills
at SCQF level 4**

Group Award Code: GF3D 44

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Acknowledgement

SQA acknowledges the valuable contribution that Scotland's colleges have made to the development of National Qualification Group Awards.

History of changes

It is anticipated that changes will take place during the life of the qualification, and this section will record these changes. This document is the latest version and incorporates the changes summarised below.

Version number	Description	Date
05	<p>Addition of unit: J581 43 - Virtual Work Placement Level 3 added as alternative to HF88 43 – Work Placement.</p> <p>Addition of unit: J581 44 - Virtual Work Placement Level 4 added as alternative to HF88 44 – Work Placement.</p> <p>Addition of unit: J581 45 – Virtual Work Placement Level 5 added as alternative to HF88 45 – Work Placement.</p> <p>Virtual Work Placement Unit (s) added to framework as an optional work experience unit to allow learners to continue with a work experience when attendance in a physical workplace is not possible or preferred.</p>	15/09/2021
04	<p>Revision of Unit: D36H 09 Work Experience <i>has been revised by HF88 43 Work Placement and will finish on 31/07/2017.</i></p> <p>Revision of Unit: D36H 10 Work Experience <i>has been revised by HF88 44 Work Placement and will finish on 31/07/2017.</i></p> <p>Revision of Unit: D36H 11 Work Experience <i>has been revised by HF88 45 Work Placement and will finish on 31/07/2017.</i></p>	22/07/2016
03	<p>H23W 73 Literacy <i>has been added as an alternative to F3GB 09 Communication</i></p> <p>H23W 74 Literacy <i>has been added as an alternative to F3GB 10 Communication</i></p> <p>H23W 75 Literacy <i>has been added as an alternative to F3GB 11 Communication</i></p> <p>H225 73 Numeracy <i>has been added as an alternative to F3GF 09 Numeracy</i></p> <p>H225 74 Numeracy <i>has been added as an alternative to F3GF 10 Numeracy</i></p> <p>H225 75 Numeracy <i>has been added as an alternative to F3GF 11 Numeracy</i></p>	19/05/2014
02	<p>Scottish Context Units added as alternatives: Rural Environment: An Introduction – Scotland (H6MG74) added as an alternative to Rural Environment: An Introduction (H09210), Rural Species Identification and Habitats - Scotland(H6MH74) added as an alternative to Rural Species Identification and Habitats (H09310)</p>	17/04/2014

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1 Introduction

This is the Arrangements Document for the new National Certificate (NC) in Rural Skills at SCQF level 4, which was validated in January 2012. This document includes: background information on the development of the Group Award, its aims, guidance on access, details of the Group Award structure, and guidance on delivery.

The National Certificate in Rural Skills is designed to equip candidates with the knowledge, understanding and skills required for success in current and future employment or progression to further academic and/or professional qualifications.

Careers in land based industries are changing in line with the industry which increasingly demands more and more professional skills, attitudes and expertise in an increasingly competitive marketplace.

Though career progression is not as clear-cut as in some other professional areas, opportunities for advancement exist and are growing. Employment destinations may include countryside estates, parks, fish farms, managed woodlands, game parks and gardening centres.

2 Rationale for the development of the National Certificate in Rural Skills

2.1 Background

The rationale for the NC Rural Skills is to increase positive destinations for young people in Scotland and to provide vocational training in rural skills to school pupils, young people and adults in marginalised communities (in particular 18-24) The number of young people in employment in Scotland has declined in the past 3 years: 28.3%–25.3%–18.4%. More young people are staying on to S5/6. Schools need to devise an appropriate curriculum for them in line with the Senior Phase of Curriculum for Excellence.

There is an SCQF level 5 NPA in Rural Skills but research and experience indicated that a very practical course at SCQF level 4 was more appropriate to the various 16–24 year old target client groups.

2.2 Development process

A Qualifications Design Team (QDT) was established in February 2011 with the remit to consider the extent and type of provision in rural skills across centres in Scotland and discuss how this could be enhanced to ensure that any qualification delivered in the centres would be compatible no matter where it was undertaken. The sector skills council Lantra was informed of the proposal. The QDT meetings included employers' representatives from early in the design stages and throughout the development process.

Research indicated support for a new nationally recognised Group Award. The proposed NC in Rural Skills offers progression to other SCQF level 5 NC courses in specialised areas. For example, Horticulture, Animal Care, Horse Care, Agriculture, Countryside Management and also to Modern Apprenticeships in the land based industries.

This provided the starting point for the work of the QDT which was influenced by a number of factors:

- ◆ The lack of provision at SCQF level 4 for this type of qualification. Currently there are college certificated courses but no nationally recognised course at SCQF level 4.
- ◆ SCQF level 4 is better suited to introductory nature of these courses.
- ◆ The nature of existing provision at levels 5–6 in colleges does not meet the needs of the candidate group.
- ◆ The characteristics of candidates attracted to provision in rural skills and related areas. One college's experience of offering Skills for Work and short courses in rural skills identified candidates with few or little qualifications. Candidates were often from disadvantaged areas or lived in marginalised communities.
- ◆ The need to ensure that the Units included in the new award were as practically based as possible without losing the necessary theoretical input.
- ◆ The need to provide training and employment prospects for pupils at school.
- ◆ The need to update Units to include current and future practice.

Initially, the QDT met to clarify both the commonality and the diversity of the provision offered in the eight colleges and to seek first-hand feedback on any proposed qualification framework from the employers' representatives.

Currently some candidates do exit and gain employment in jobs such as trainee gardener, trainee estate worker, trainee gamekeeper. Many learners embark on current provision with limited prior achievement and a key purpose of existing programmes is to build up employability skills and develop basic skills and capabilities which are transferable.

Overall there was a need to develop a nationally recognised qualification that would update and harmonise existing individual college programmes. Each Unit includes Outcomes and Performance Criteria agreed by a panel of experts, including employer representatives, will make reference to current health and safety requirements and the National Occupational Standards.

One of the principal aims of this qualification is to include, wherever possible, practical activities in a positive learning environment.

2.3 Progression Pathways

Centres offering specialist National Certificate programmes at SCQF level 5 such as, Horticulture, Agriculture and Animal Care, have indicated positively that they would accept a candidate, who had successfully completed the NC in Rural Skills at SCQF level 4, to undertake these level 5 qualifications, subject to satisfactory interview and references. It is also expected by receiving centres that candidates, who have successfully completed the NC in Rural Skills at SCQF level 4, will have achieved at least four Core Skills at SCQF Level 4

The NC in Rural Skills at SCQF level 4 is aligned to SVQ level 1. If candidates wanted to leave after successfully achieving the NC in Rural Skills then they may be able to fast track an SVQ in level 1 in Horticulture and/or progress to an SVQ 2 in Agriculture or another appropriate National Certificate at SCQF level 5/6. In exceptional cases and depending on experience and other qualifications, it may

also be possible for candidates to progress to an appropriate Higher National Certificate (HNC) course. (See Appendix 1)

3 Aims of the National Certificate in Rural Skills

3.1 Principal Aims of the National certificate

The primary aim of this new award National Certificate Rural Skills at SCQF level 4 is to provide candidates with the experience, skills and knowledge to be able to make choices about their future careers or future educational opportunities in the land based sector. Many learners embark on current provision with limited prior achievement and a key purpose of this programme is to build up employability skills and develop basic skills and capabilities which are transferable. The NC in Rural Skills offers opportunities for colleges to signpost for their candidates a range of career options and further study options. These options may include a specialised NC at level 5 or training or employment opportunities in the land based sector. Completing the course will put candidates in a stronger position to move to the next stage of their career.

3.2 Principal aims of the Group Award

- 1 To develop a nationally recognised qualification at SCQF level 4 that will update and harmonise existing individual college programmes.
- 2 To be a flexible, practical-based, programme to provide candidates with a range of practical and industry-relevant skills supported by relevant and up to date knowledge and understanding.
- 3 To allow successful candidates to transfer into employment as trainees/assistants in a wide range of land based and rural skills industries.
- 4 To provide candidates with suitable skills and knowledge in rural skills and to make informed choices later on.
- 5 To complement the Skills for Work course in Rural Skills at Intermediate 1.
- 6 To prepare students for entry into further education qualifications such as National Certificates in Horticulture at SCQF level 6, Animal Care at SCQF level 5, Gamekeeping at SCQF level 5, Countryside Management at SCQF level 5, and Horse Care at SCQF level 5. It also provides progression to Modern Apprenticeships at SVQ level 2/3.
- 7 To build upon the best of existing locally devised provision at this level within a nationally recognised Group Award and build on this to update the current Units and provide national qualifications at a suitable level.
- 8 To obtain the nested employability award on successful completion of the qualification.

3.3 General aims of the Group Award

Other aims, in addition to the principal aims, of the NC in Rural Skills include:

- 9 To provide candidates with the specific, relevant, and transferable skills, including Core Skills of *Communication, Information and Communication Technology, Numeracy, Working with Others and Problem Solving*.
- 10 To provide candidates with skills in team working and time management demanded by employers for entry into a wide range of land based occupational areas.

The Relationship of Aims to Units

The table below references the above Principal and Other Aims into the individual mandatory and optional Units.

Unit Code	Unit Title	Reference to aims of the award
Mandatory Section		
H092 10	Rural Environment: An Introduction	1,2,3,5,8,9,10
H093 10	Rural Species Identification and Habitats	1,2,3,5,8,9,10
H094 10	Rural Estate Maintenance	1,2,3,5,8,4, 9,10
H095 10	Rural Work Activities	1,2,3,5,8,9,10
D36N 10	Enterprise Activity	1,2,3,5,8,4, 9,10
F5G4 10	Developing Skills for Employment	1,2,3,5,8,4, 9,10

Core Skills Section		
F38W 10 or F38X 11	Skills for Customer Care or Skills for Customer Care	1,2,4,5,6, 8, 9,10
F3GB 09 or H23W 73 or F3GB 10 or H23W 74 or F3GB 11 or H23W 75	Communication Literacy Communication Literacy Communication Literacy	1,2,4,5,6, 8, 9,10
F3GF 09 or H225 73 F3GF 10 or H225 74 F3GF 11 or H225 75	Numeracy	1,2,4,5,6, 8, 9,10
F3GC 09 or F3GC 10 or F3GC 11	Information and Communication Technology	1,2,4,5,6, 8, 9,10
Optional Section		
D900 10	Tractor Operations	1,2,3,4,5,8, 9,10
H096 10	Agricultural Crops: an Introduction	1,2,3,4,5,8, 9,10
H097 10	Livestock: an Introduction	1,2,3,4,5,8, 9,10
DV0D 10	Feeding and Watering Small Animals: an Introduction	1,2,3,4,5,8, 9,10
DV0E 10	Accommodation and Handling of Small Animals: an Introduction	1,2, 3,4 5,8, 9,10
F6SY 10	Animal Care: Breed Identification and Selection	1,2, 3,4 5,8, 9,10

DX0Y 10	Animal Handling: an Introduction	1,2, 3,4 5,8, 9,10
DV0C 10	Health Care for Small Animals: an Introduction	1,2, 3,4 5,8, 9,10
HF88 43 or HF88 44 or HF88 45 J581 43* or J581 44* or J581 45*	Work Placement Or Virtual Work Placement	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8, 9,10
D905 10	Trees in the Environment	1,2, 9,4,5,6,7,8
D309 10	Environmental Issues	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8, 9,10
D310 10	Ecosystems	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8, 9,10

D311 10	Land Use	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
H09E 10	Small Powered Machinery Operations	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
H1JJ 10	Horticultural Drainage	1,2,3,4,5,6,8, 9,10
H098 10	Construct Rural Features and Structures: an Introduction	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
F6T9 10	North European Aquaculture: an Introduction	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
F6TB 10	Aquaculture an Introduction to Finfish Production	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
F6TC 10	Aquaculture an Introduction to Shellfish Production	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
F6TD 10	Aquaculture Basic Seamanship	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
D866 10	Forestry in Britain: an Introduction	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
D869 10	Tree Identification: an Introduction	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
H099 10	Forestry: Woodland Skills	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
H09B 10	Gamekeeping: an Introduction	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
H09D 10	Pest and Predator Control	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
FN5A 11	ATV Operations	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
FV74 11	Horse Care: Preparation of the Horse for Ridden Work	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
F6SW 10	Horse Care: Basic Handling of Horses	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
H09A 10	Gardening Skills: an Introduction	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
D865 10	Bedding Plant Production: an Introduction	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
H09F 10	Soft Landscaping: Introduction to Plant Groups, Selection and Use	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10, 9,10
D903 10	Tree and Shrub Planting	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
D29F 11	Soils - Structure and Function	1,2,3,5,6,7,8, 9,10
F1JS 10	Half Brick Walling: An Introduction	1,2,4,5,6,7,8, 9,10
DM81 10	Construction Crafts: Brickwork Techniques	1,2,4,5,6,7,8, 9,10
H1K8 10	Laying Slabs and Paving: An Introduction	1,2,4,5,6,7,8, 9,10

3.4 Target groups

This National Certificate is aimed at candidates wishing to develop skills and experience to support access to employment, access to education and academic progression markets. These are likely to include both school leavers and adult returners.

The National Certificate also provides opportunities for learners to engage in rural skills activities, to meet employers and to discover the skills required for working in the land based industries.

3.5 Employment opportunities

The National Certificate in Rural Skills at SCQF Level 4 has been designed mainly for progression to other specialised NC qualifications. The National Certificate takes into account the fact that candidates may be at the first stage where they are making choices about the future. However for some candidates there may be opportunities to enter the industry directly on completing the course, particularly for adult returners, given that they may have other suitable past employment experience. There is ample opportunity in both the mandatory and optional sections to develop skills which will increase their employability. These skills include:

- ◆ an understanding of the workplace and the employee's responsibilities
- ◆ self evaluation skills
- ◆ a positive attitude to learning
- ◆ flexible approaches to solving problems
- ◆ adaptability and a positive attitude to change
- ◆ confidence to set goals, reflect and learn from experience

The types of jobs which candidates may be able to undertake include assisting as trainees in estate maintenance, gardening, soft landscaping, gamekeeping, horticulture and agriculture.

4 Recommended Access

4.1 Access to NC in Rural Skills at SCQF level 4

There are no specific recommended entry requirements for this qualification. Entry will be at the discretion of each centre. It will be beneficial if candidates have an interest in:

- ◆ working outside
- ◆ the countryside
- ◆ practical based employment
- ◆ learning practical skills
- ◆ caring for — animals, wildlife, plants, landscape and environment

Candidates also need to be aware of the physical requirements of this course and realise that there is a requirement for working outside in a range of weather conditions.

4.2 Recommended Core Skills entry level

Entry and exit levels for Core Skills

Core Skill	Entry SCQF level	Opportunity to develop to
Numeracy	3	4
ICT	3	4
Communication	3	4
Problem Solving	3	4
Working with Others	3	4

5 National Certificate in Rural Skills Qualification Structure

5.1 Structure of the Group Award

The mandatory Units are designed to reflect the principal aims of the Group Award. The range of optional Units allows centres to offer subjects relevant to the needs of local industries and candidate profiles. The National Certificate in Rural Skills framework at SCQF level 4 enables candidates who successfully complete the course to progress to more specialised areas of study in the land based sector such as Green keeping, Horticulture or Countryside Management while providing them with opportunities to develop core and employability skills.

5.2 Framework

Unit title		SQA credit value	SCQF credit points	SCQF level
Mandatory Section 6 credits required				
H092 10 or H6MG 74	Rural Environment: An Introduction	1	6	4
	Rural Environment: An Introduction – Scotland	1	6	4
H093 10 H6MH 74	Rural Species Identification and Habitats	1	6	4
	Rural Species Identification and Habitats – Scotland	1	6	4
H094 10	Rural Estate Maintenance	1	6	4
H095 10	Rural Work Activities	1	6	4
D36N 10	Enterprise Activity	1	6	4
F5G4 10	Developing Skills for Employment	1	6	4
Group A: Core Skills 2-4 credits required				
Unit title		SQA credit value	SCQF credit points	SCQF level
F38W 10 or F38X 11	Skills for Customer Care or Skills for Customer Care	1	6	4
F3GB 09 or F3GB 10 or F3GB11	Communication	1	6	3/4/5

F3GF 09 or F3GF 10 or F3GF 11	Numeracy	1	6	3/4/5
F3GC 09 or F3GC 10 or F3GC 11	Information and Communication Technology	1	6	3/4/5
Group B				
2– 4 credits required				
Work Experience				
HF88 44* or HF88 45* or HF88 46* J581 43* or J581 44* or J581 45*	Work Placement Or Virtual Work Placement	1	6	3/4/5
Agriculture				
D900 10	Tractor Operations 1	1	6	4
H096 10	Agricultural Crops: An Introduction	0.5	3	4
H097 10	Livestock: An Introduction	1	6	4
Animal Care				
DV0D 10	Feeding and Watering Small Animals: An Introduction	1	6	4
DV0E 10	Accommodation and Handling of Small Animals: An Introduction	1	6	4
F6SY 10	Animal Care: Breed Identification and Selection	1	6	4
DX0Y 10	Animal Handling: An Introduction	0.5	3	4
DV0C 10	Health Care for Small Animals: An Introduction	1	6	4
Countryside Management				
D905 10	Trees in the Environment	1	6	4
D309 10	Environmental Issues	1	6	4

D310 10	Ecosystems	1	6	4
D311 10	Land Use	1	6	4
Estate Skills				
H09E 10	Small Powered Machinery Operations	1	6	4
H1JJ 10	Horticultural Drainage	0.5	3	4
H098 10	Construct Rural Features and Structures: An Introduction	1	6	4
Fisheries Aquaculture				
F6T9 10	North European Aquaculture: An Introduction	0.5	3	4
F6TB 10	Aquaculture An Introduction to Finfish Production	1	6	4
F6TC 10	Aquaculture An Introduction to Shellfish Production	1	6	4
F6TD 10	Aquaculture Basic Seamanship	0.5	3	4
Forestry				
D866 10	Forestry in Britain: An Introduction	1	6	4
D869 10	Tree Identification: An Introduction	1	6	4
H099 10	Forestry: Woodland Skills	1	6	4
Game keeping				
H09B 10	Game keeping: an Introduction	1	6	4
H09D 10	Pest and Predator Control	0.5	3	4
FN5A 11	ATV Operations	0.5	3	5
Horse Care				
FV74 11	Horse Care: Preparation of the Horse for Ridden Work	1	6	5
F6SW 10	Horse Care: Basic Handling of Horses	0.5	3	4
Horticulture				
H09A 10	Gardening Skills: An Introduction	1	6	4
D865 10	Bedding Plant Production: An Introduction	1	6	4

H09F 10	Soft Landscaping: Introduction to Plant Groups. Selection and Use	1	6	4
D903 10	Tree and Shrub Planting	1	6	4
D29F 11	Soils — Structure and Function	0.5	6	5
F1JS 10	Half Brick Walling: An Introduction	0.5	3	4
DM81 10	Construction Crafts: Brickwork Techniques	0.5	3	4
H1K8 10	Laying Slabs and Pavings: An Introduction	1	6	4

5.3 Opportunities to achieve Core Skills

Entry and Exit levels for Core Skills

Unit title	Entry SCQF level	Opportunity to develop to	
<i>Numeracy</i>	3	4	Automatically Certificated depending on optional Units chosen
<i>Information and Communication Technology (ICT)</i>	3	4	Automatically Certificated depending on optional Units chosen
<i>Communication</i>	3	4	Automatically Certificated depending on optional Units chosen
<i>Problem Solving</i>	3	4	Automatically Certificated
<i>Working with Others</i>	3	4	Automatically Certificated

Candidates will automatically be certificated for the Core Skills of *Working with Others* and *Problem Solving* on successful completion of D36N 10 Enterprise Activity.

On successful completion of Units selected from Group A, candidates will be automatically certificated for these Core Skills

The table below demonstrates where opportunities to develop Core Skills exist and where Core Skills are embedded.

Unit	Title	Signposted Core Skills	Embedded Core Skills
H092 10	Rural Environment: An Introduction	<i>Working with Others Problem Solving ICT</i>	
H093 10	Rural Species Identification and Habitats	<i>Communication ICT Numeracy Working with Others Problem Solving</i>	
H094 10	Rural Estate Maintenance	<i>ICT Numeracy Working with Others Problem Solving</i>	Core Skills component of Critical Thinking (<i>Problem Solving</i>) at SCQF level 4
H095 10	Rural Work Activities	<i>Communication ICT Numeracy Working with Others Problem Solving</i>	Core Skills component of Critical Thinking (<i>Problem Solving</i>) at SCQF level 4
D36N 10	Enterprise Activity	<i>Communication IT Numeracy Working With Others</i>	<i>Problem Solving and Working with Others</i> at SCQF level 4
F5G4 10	Developing Skills for Employment	<i>Communication ICT Working with Others Problem Solving</i>	
D900 10	Tractor Operations 1	<i>Communication Problem Solving</i>	
H096 10	Crops and Soils: An Introduction	<i>Problem Solving ICT</i>	
H097 10	Livestock: An Introduction	<i>Communication Problem Solving</i>	
DV0D 10	Feeding and Watering Small Animals: An Introduction	<i>ICT Numeracy Working with Others Problem Solving</i>	
DV0E 10	Accommodation and Handling of Small Animals: An Introduction	<i>Working with Others Problem Solving</i>	
F6SY 10	Animal Care: Breed Identification and Selection	<i>Working with Others Problem Solving Numeracy</i>	
DX0Y 10	Animal Handling: An Introduction	<i>Working with Others Problem Solving Numeracy</i>	
DV0C 10	Health Care for Small Animals: An Introduction	<i>Working with Others Problem Solving</i>	

Unit	Title	Signposted Core Skills	Embedded Core Skills
F38W 10	Skills for Customer Care	<i>Numeracy</i> <i>Working with Others</i> <i>Problem Solving</i>	
F38X 11	Skills for Customer Care	<i>Communication</i> <i>ICT</i> <i>Numeracy</i> <i>Problem Solving</i>	
F3GB 09 F3GB 10 F3GB11	Communication		<i>Communication</i> at levels 3,4 or 5
F3GF 09 F3GF 10 F3GF 11	Numeracy (at level 3,4 and 5)		<i>Numeracy</i> at levels 3,4 or 5
F3GC 09 F3GC 10 F3GC 11	Information and Communication Technology (at level 3,4 and 5)		<i>Information and Communication Technology</i> at levels 3,4 or 5
D36H 09 D36H 10 D36H 11	Work Experience		<i>Problem Solving and Working with Others</i> at SCQF levels 3, 4 or 5
D905 10	Trees in the Environment	<i>Communication</i> <i>Working with others</i> <i>IT</i>	
D309 10	Environmental Issues (Int 1)	<i>Communication</i> <i>Working with Others</i> <i>IT</i> <i>Numeracy</i>	Problem Solving at SCQF level 4 and the Core Skill component of Using Graphical Information (<i>Numeracy</i>) at SCQF level 4
D310 10	Ecosystems (Int 1)	<i>Communication</i> <i>Numeracy</i> <i>Working with Others</i> <i>IT</i>	Problem Solving at SCQF level 4 and the Core Skill component of Using Graphical Information (<i>Numeracy</i>) at SCQF level 4
D311 10	Land Use (Int 1)	<i>Communication</i> <i>Numeracy</i> <i>Working with Others</i> <i>IT</i>	Problem Solving at SCQF level 4 and the Core Skill component of Using Graphical Information (<i>Numeracy</i>) at SCQF level 4
	<i>(Managing Environmental Resources)</i>	<i>Communication</i> <i>Numeracy</i> <i>Working with Others</i> <i>Problem Solving</i> <i>IT</i>	

Unit	Title	Signposted Core Skills	Embedded Core Skills
H09E 10	Small Engine Powered Machinery Operations	<i>Numeracy Working with others</i>	Core Skills component of Critical Thinking (<i>Problem Solving</i>) at SCQF level 4
H1JJ 10	Horticultural Drainage	<i>Working with Others Problem Solving</i>	
H098 10	Construct Rural Features and Structures: An Introduction	<i>Numeracy Working with Others Problem Solving IT</i>	Core Skills component of Critical Thinking (<i>Problem Solving</i>) at SCQF level 4
F6T9 10	North European Aquaculture: An Introduction	<i>Numeracy Working with Others Problem Solving IT</i>	
F6TB 10	Aquaculture An Introduction to Finfish Production	<i>Numeracy Working with Others Problem Solving IT</i>	
F6TC 10	Aquaculture An Introduction to Shellfish Production	<i>Numeracy Working with Others Problem Solving IT</i>	
F6TD 10	Aquaculture Basic Seamanship	<i>Numeracy Working with Others Problem Solving IT</i>	Core Skills component of Planning and Organising (<i>Problem Solving</i>) at SCQF level 4
H09B 10	Gamekeeping: An Introduction	<i>Numeracy Working with Others Problem Solving IT</i>	Core Skills component of Critical Thinking (<i>Problem Solving</i>) at SCQF level 4
H09D 10	Predator and Pest Control	<i>Communication Working with Others Problem Solving IT</i>	Core Skills component of Critical Thinking (<i>Problem Solving</i>) at SCQF level 4
FN5A 11	ATV Operations	<i>Numeracy Problem solving</i>	Core Skills component of Critical Thinking (<i>Problem Solving</i>) at SCQF level 4
FV74 11	Horse Care: Preparation of the Horse for Ridden Work	<i>Numeracy Working with Others Problem Solving</i>	Core Skills component of Critical Thinking (<i>Problem Solving</i>) at SCQF level 4
F6SW 10	Horse Care: Basic Handling of Horses	<i>Numeracy Working with Others Problem Solving</i>	
H09A 10	Gardening Skills: An Introduction	<i>Working with Others Problem Solving IT</i>	

Unit	Title	Signposted Core Skills	Embedded Core Skills
D865 10	Bedding Plant Production: An Introduction	<i>Working with Others Problem Solving IT</i>	
H09F 10	Soft Landscaping: Introduction to Plant Groups. Selection and Use	<i>Numeracy Working with Others Problem Solving IT</i>	Core Skills components of Critical Thinking and Planning and organising (<i>Problem Solving</i>) at SCQF level 4
D903 10	Tree and Shrub Planting	<i>Numeracy Working with Others Problem Solving IT</i>	
D29F 11	Soils - Structure and Function	<i>Numeracy Working with Others Problem Solving IT</i>	
F1JS 10	Half Brick Walling: An Introduction	<i>Numeracy Working with Others Problem Solving IT</i>	
DM81 10	Construction Crafts: Brickwork Techniques	<i>Numeracy Working with Others Problem Solving IT</i>	
H1K8 10	Laying Slabs and Pavings: An Introduction	<i>Numeracy Working with Others Problem Solving IT</i>	
H099 10	Forestry: Woodland Skills	<i>Numeracy Working with Others Problem Solving IT</i>	Core Skills component of Critical Thinking (<i>Problem Solving</i>) at SCQF level 4
D866 10	Forestry in Britain: An Introduction	<i>Numeracy Problem Solving IT</i>	
D869 10	Tree Identification: An Introduction	<i>Problem Solving Working with Others Communication</i>	

Mapping to National Occupational Standards

The following table demonstrates the relationship between the practical Units of the National Certificate in Rural Skills and relevant Occupational Standards

Unit Title	SCQF Level	Links to NOS The Units may involve candidates in aspects of some of the skills, competences, standards and knowledge and understanding within the following National Occupational Standards.
Rural Environment: An introduction	4	CU91 Assess the characteristics of sites EC2 Survey and report on the condition of the environment EC23 Prepare, conduct and report on field surveys
Rural Estate Maintenance	4	CU16 Assist with maintaining structures and surfaces CU24 Install, maintain and repair site furniture and structures CU1 Maintain safe and effective working practices
Rural Work Activities	4	CU91 Assess the characteristics of sites EC2 Survey and report on the condition of the environment
Livestock: An Introduction	4	CU1 Maintain safe and effective working practices CU2 Monitor and maintain health and safety CU16 Assist with maintaining structures and surfaces CU20 Maintain and repair structures and surfaces CU29 Assist with the care of animals LP1 Assist with preparing and maintaining livestock accommodation LP2 Assist with preparation and the monitoring of livestock outdoors LP3 Adopt good bio-security practices at work LP7 Provide feed and water to livestock LP27 Maintain, monitor and evaluate the provision of feed and water to livestock
Small Powered Machinery Operations	4	CU17 Assist with the maintenance of equipment CU27 maintain equipment and machines, L27 Use and maintain equipment and machines F2 Make recommendations as a result of workplace investigations
Construct Rural Features and Structures: An Introduction	4	CU24 Install, maintain and repair site furniture and structures (SCQF L3)

Forestry: Woodland skills	4	(CU1) Maintain safe and effective working practices (CU2) Monitor and maintain health and safety (TW3) Carry out site surveys and communicate on your findings (TW8) Control unwanted vegetation around trees (TW9) Select, mark, and measure trees (TW41) Survey and inspect trees (GWT2) Use hand tools for green wood trades and coppice safely and effectively (GWT3) Identify tree species and timber required for a green wood project (GWT4) Select trees for coppicing and cut coppice (GWT5) Process coppice materials for coppice products (GWT6) Process wood for green wood products (GWT9) Produce fuel wood and charcoal (GWT13) Maintain woodland health for coppice (GWT14) Manage or re-establish coppice woodlands (CU22) Construct, maintain and repair boundaries and access points (CU23) Construct, maintain and repair paths and related structures (CU86) Habitat Management
Gardening Skills: An Introduction	4	L1 Site preparation L2 Establish plants outdoors CU76 Maintain plants outdoors L3 Maintain general amenity turf CU72 Propagate plants by vegetative methods CU73 Propagate plants from seed CU2 Monitor and maintain health and safety
Soft Landscaping: Introduction to Plant Groups, Selection and Use	4	(L2) Establish plants outdoors (CU2) Monitor and maintain health and safety (L27) Use and maintain equipment and machines (CU5) Develop personal performance and maintain working relationships (CU76) Maintain plants outdoors

Gamekeeping: an Introduction	4	Ga2 Monitor game populations and habitat Ga3 Maintain game populations Ga5 Assist with the management of public relations and access to a sporting estate Ga14 Contribute to the development of public relations for a sporting Estate CU46 Control vertebrate pests and predators using traps
Pest and predator Control: An introduction	4	CU46 Control vertebrate pests and predators using traps CU48 Control vertebrate pest populations using chemical means CU2

5.5 Articulation, professional recognition and credit transfer

Students who complete the National Certificate in Rural Skills at SCQF level 4 would be able to progress onto the NPA Rural Skills at SCQF level 5 and other specialised National Certificates at SCQF level 5.

The following Units are direct replacements for older Units and credit transfer may be applicable however this would be at the discretion of the centre:

New Unit	Replaces
H09B 10 Gamekeeping: an Introduction	D0NR 10 Introduction to Gamekeeping (ends 31.07.2014)
H09A 10 Gardening Skills: an Introduction	EE91 10 Introduction to Gardening Skills (ends 31.07.2014)

6 Approaches to delivery and assessment

6.1 Approaches to delivery and assessment

Given the flexibility of the choice in the structure of this award, it is not possible or desirable to have one overall approach to delivery.

The collaborative nature of the delivery mode envisaged will determine the blend of delivery approaches. This is likely to include:

- 1 Tutor-led delivery (combinations of classroom or work-based teaching and mentoring).
- 2 Practical work.
- 3 Observation, investigation and discussion.
- 4 Facilitated candidate enquiry (including the use of the internet and virtual learning environment (VLE) based resources and learning packs).
- 5 Experiential learning through work experience (guided and supervised by an employer) and site visits.
- 6 Visits to land based and rural related events, eg agriculture, horticulture shows, game fairs, seminars, etc.
- 7 Visiting speakers from land based industries.

Each individual Unit specification gives detailed information on the Evidence Requirements and approaches to assessment for each Unit, and gives suggestions on different approaches to delivery.

Examples of delivery for mandatory Units

Unit Code	Unit Title	Types of delivery
	Mandatory	
H092 10	Rural Environment: An Introduction	1,2,3,5,6,7
H093 10	Rural Species Identification and Habitats	1,2,3,5,6,7
H094 10	Rural Estate Maintenance	1,2,3,5,6,7
H095 10	Rural Work Activities	1,2,3,5,6,7
D36N 10	Enterprise Activity	1,2,3,5,6,7
F5G4 10	Developing Skills for Employment	1,2,3,5,6,7

6.2 Integration of delivery and assessment

no.	Unit Title	Possible integration with Unit number:
1	Rural Environment: An Introduction	2, 10, 11, 23, 24, 26, 34, 35, 36
2	Rural Species Identification and Habitats	1, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 23, 25, 31, 32, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 41, 43, 44, 45
3	Rural Estate Maintenance	4, 20, 27, 28, 29, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38
4	Rural Work Activities	3, 9, 20, 22, 27, 28, 29, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 47, 48, 49
5	Enterprise Activity	19, 20, 42, 43
6	Developing Skills for Employment	
9	Tractor Operations 1	4
10	Agricultural Crops: An Introduction	1, 2, 19
11	Livestock: An Introduction	1, 2
12	Feeding and Watering Small Animals: An Introduction	2, 13, 14, 20
13	Accommodation and Handling of Small Animals: An Introduction	2, 12, 14
14	Animal Care: Breed Identification and Selection	2, 12, 13, 15
15	Animal Handling: An Introduction	2, 12, 13, 14,
16	Health Care for Small Animals: An Introduction	2, 12, 13, 14, 15, 20
17	Skills for Customer Care (SCQF level 4)	19, 22
18	Skills for Customer Care (SCQF level 5)	19, 22
19	Communication (at level 3, 4 and 5)	10, 17, 18, 21
20	Numeracy (at level 3,4 and 5)	3, 5, 12, 16, 21, 25, 29, 42, 43, 44, 45, 47, 48, 49
21	Information and Communication Technology (at level 3,4 and 5)	5, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26
22	Work Experience	4, 17, 18, 19
23	Trees in the Environment	1, 2, 34, 35, 36
24	Environmental Issues	1, 21
25	Ecosystems	2, 20, 21
26	Land Use	1, 21, 34, 36
27	Small Powered Machinery Operations	3, 4, 28, 29, 42, 47, 48, 49
28	Horticultural Drainage	3, 4, 27

29	Construct Rural Features and Structures: An Introduction	3, 4, 20, 27
30	North European Aquaculture: An Introduction	31, 32, 33
31	Aquaculture An Introduction to Finfish Production	2, 33
32	Aquaculture An Introduction to Shellfish Production	2, 33
33	Aquaculture Basic Seamanship	30, 31, 32
34	Forestry in Britain: An Introduction	1, 2, 3, 4, 23
35	Tree Identification: An Introduction	1, 2, 3, 4, 23
36	Forestry: Woodland Skills	1, 2, 3, 4, 23, 45
37	Game keeping: an Introduction	2, 3, 4, 38
38	Pest and Predator Control	2, 3, 4, 37
39	ATV Operations	3, 4
40	Horse Care: Preparation of the Horse for Ridden Work	4, 41
41	Horse Care: Basic Handling of Horses	2, 4, 40
42	Gardening Skills: An Introduction	4, 20, 27, 45
43	Bedding Plant Production: An Introduction	2, 4, 20
44	Soft Landscaping: Introduction to Plant Groups. Selection and Use	2, 4, 20, 45
45	Tree and Shrub Planting	2, 4, 20, 36, 42, 44
46	Soils - Structure and Function	1
47	Half Brick Walling: An Introduction	4, 20, 27
48	Construction Crafts: Brickwork Techniques	4, 20, 27
49	Laying Slabs and Pavings: An Introduction	4, 20, 27

7 General information for centres

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.

Internal and external verification

All instruments of assessment used within this Group Award should be internally verified, using the appropriate policy within the centre and the guidelines set by SQA.

External verification will be carried out by SQA to ensure that internal assessment is within the national guidelines for these qualifications.

Further information on internal and external verification can be found in SQA's *Guide to Assessment* (www.sqa.org.uk).

8 General information for candidates

The National Certificate in Rural Skills at SCQF level 4 has been designed as a knowledge based and practical programme which will provide you with a range of occupationally relevant skills, understanding and experience in the rural sector of the land based industries. The qualification recognises the fact that you will be at a stage where you are making choices about your future. It should be emphasised that this qualification provides an introduction to rural skills and other land based subjects.

Successful completion of the qualification may provide enhanced opportunities for employment in one of the rural skills occupations or to further training or study, such as another National Certificate which specialises in one of the rural skills areas, eg NC In Animal Care at SCQF level 5. Depending on the optional Units you choose to study, you may decide to try and find employment as a trainee gardener or estate worker or to continue in education and progress onto further study at National Certificate SCQF level 5. Other jobs which candidates, who successfully complete the NC in Rural Skills at SCQF level 4, might apply for include: trainee or assistant landscaper, nursery worker, stable worker, farmhand, forestry worker or ranger.

There are six mandatory SQA credits which must be completed as well as a minimum of six additional credits from a list of options. At least seven credits must be at SCQF level 4. Depending on your place of study, all of the optional Units may or may not be available to you. You must successfully complete a minimum of 12 credits from the qualification framework to gain the qualification.

The mandatory Units are designed to:

- ◆ Provide you with suitable occupational skills and knowledge in the rural sector of the land based industries and should enable you to identify future employment opportunities
- ◆ Enable you to make informed career choices for the future;
- ◆ Provide you with the specific, relevant and transferable employability skills demanded by employers for entry into a wide range of rural skills-related occupational areas.

The mandatory and optional Units will introduce you to:

- ◆ Practical rural skills and knowledge that will enable you to undertake job related duties in the rural/land based industries including
- ◆ The requirement to maintain health and safety within a rural skills environment
- ◆ Use of basic tools and equipment
- ◆ Garden and plant maintenance tasks
- ◆ Identifying a range of species
- ◆ Carrying out simple risk assessments
- ◆ Understanding the rural environment
- ◆ Developing employability skills
- ◆ Current relevant legislation associated with pest and predator control
- ◆ Working with others and customer care
- ◆ Research and presentation skills
- ◆ Written and oral communication skills.

On successful completion of the NC Rural Skills at SCQF level 4, an employer could fully expect you to carry out the following jobs under supervision:

- 1 Check and report any damage to fences as well as the maintenance and erection of fences.
- 2 Work responsibly with supervision in accordance to Health and Safety and the law.
- 3 Carry out basic estate maintenance tasks.

9 Glossary of terms

SCQF: This stands for the Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework, which is a new way of speaking about qualifications and how they inter-relate. We use SCQF terminology throughout this guide to refer to credits and levels. For further information on the SCQF visit the SCQF website at www.scqf.org.uk

SCQF credit points: One SCQF credit point equates to 10 hours of learning. NQ Units at SCQF levels 2–6 are worth 6 SCQF credit points, NQ Units at level 7 are worth 8 SCQF points.

SCQF levels: The SCQF covers 12 levels of learning. National Qualification Group Awards are available at SCQF levels 2–6 and will normally be made up of National Units which are available from SCQF levels 2–7.

Dedicated Unit to cover Core Skills: This is a non-subject Unit that is written to cover one or more particular Core Skills.

Embedded Core Skills: This is where the development of a Core Skill is incorporated into the Unit and where the Unit assessment also covers the requirements of Core Skill assessment at a particular level.

Signposted Core Skills: This refers to the opportunities to develop a particular Core Skill at a specified level that lie outwith automatic certification.

Qualification Design Team: The QDT works in conjunction with a Qualification Manager/Development Manager to steer the development of the National Certificate/National Progression Award from its inception/revision through to validation. The group is made up of key stakeholders representing the interests of centres, employers, universities and other relevant organisations.

Consortium-devised National Certificates/National Progression Awards are those developments or revisions undertaken by a group of centres in partnership with SQA.

10 Appendices

Appendix 1 — Progression Pathway

Appendix 1 — Progression Pathway

