

SQA Advanced Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Golf Course Management: Managing Structures and Non-Turf Areas on a Golf Course

Unit code: HW87 47

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to enable candidates to appraise and develop a range of structures, facilities and non-turf features on a golf course. Candidates will develop the knowledge and skills required to evaluate hard and soft landscaping features within a golf course environment, and to develop an improvement programme which is feasible and capable of being maintained with existing resources.

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

- 1 Evaluate existing exterior landscaping features and utilities on a given site with a view to improvement.
- 2 Create a development plan for landscaping features and non-turf areas on a golf course aimed at improving their potential.
- 3 Prepare a management programme for landscaping features and utilities.

Credit points and level: 1 SQA Credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7*)

**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 National 1 to Doctorates.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: Entry to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre. However, it would be beneficial if the student had skills in landscaping/construction and/or conservation on the golf course, and this may be evidenced by possession of the National Units:

E9A5 11 *Tree and Shrubs in the Golf Course Environment*
E8C5 12 *Landscape Construction 1*

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Problem Solving*, *Communication* and *IT* at SCQF level 6 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or 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.

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Assessment: This Unit is assessed holistically by a Project. This requires an integrated approach to delivery and assessment, and there should, where possible, be a practical focus. Candidates will carry out an evaluation of existing exterior landscaping features and utilities on one particular golf course site of their choosing, produce a planned development program for improvement, including a management program for their recommendations in three key areas; clubhouse surrounds and golf course soft landscaping, golf course hard landscaping and water features on the golf course. Assessment should be open-book, with no restrictions, and be in standard report format. The report should be a minimum of 1,200 words inclusive of tables and could be supported by sketches, plans and/or photographic evidence.

SQA Advanced 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 existing exterior landscaping features and utilities on a given site with a view to improvement

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ **Golf course and Clubhouse surrounds (Soft Landscape Features):** trees and shrubs, species, age, spacings, uses, suitability/adaptability to site conditions, conservation value
- ◆ **Water features:** functional/aesthetic use, Safety, Purity/quality, Plant growth (marginal), Conservation value, Strategy, Drainage, maintenance

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ Evaluate the potential for exterior plantings at the clubhouse and on the golf course, subject to the environmental conditions imposed. The evaluation report should be clearly presented in a manner suitable for submission to a golf club committee.
- ◆ Appraise the hard and soft landscaping features on a golf course, with a view to potential improvement in both functional and aesthetic terms, and present their findings in a manner suitable for submission to a management committee of a golf club.

Assessment Guidelines

This Unit is assessed holistically by a project. The evaluation based on the information in Outcome 1 will form part of the project report. It will consist of an evaluation of a given site with a view to improvement (maximum 500 words).

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Outcome 2

Create a development plan for landscaping features and non-turf areas on a golf course aimed at improving their potential

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Aesthetic value/functional value
- ◆ Conservation value
- ◆ Plans appropriate to scale
- ◆ Feasibility of maintenance
- ◆ Materials/costs appropriate for hard landscape features
- ◆ Planting materials
- ◆ Suitability
- ◆ Species selection
- ◆ Size and spacing

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ produce a construction and planting plan for soft landscaping within the golf course which are technically accurate in relation to the drawings and written recommendations
- ◆ describe ways to improve the immediate surroundings of the clubhouse which are comprehensive in terms of planting and other proposals
- ◆ prepare plans and proposals for the alteration/creation of water features on the golf course which are appropriate in terms of technical feasibility

Assessment Guidelines

This Unit is assessed holistically by a Project. Part of the project report will be based on an assignment covering the knowledge and skills of Outcome2. This should be of approximately 400 words.

Outcome 3

Prepare a management programme for landscaping features and utilities

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Work programmes
- ◆ Realistic timescales
- ◆ Staffing levels
- ◆ Materials/machinery availability
- ◆ Timing/season of operations

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Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ produce a programme for the construction, repair and maintenance of all hard landscape features and utilities which is comprehensive and technically accurate
- ◆ produce a programme for the creation of soft landscape features on the course which is detailed and accurate including reference to the time scale involved
- ◆ produce a programme for the maintenance of the soft landscape feature on the course which is comprehensive and accurate including reference to wild plant and animal environments

Assessment Guidelines

This Unit is assessed holistically by a Project. Part of the project report will be based on an assignment covering the knowledge and skills of Outcome 3. This should be of approximately 300 words.

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Administrative Information

Unit code:	HW87 47
Unit title:	Golf Course Management: Managing Structures and Non-Turf Areas on a Golf Course
Superclass category:	SF
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Version	Description of change	Date

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SQA Advanced Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Golf Course Management: Managing Structures and Non-Turf Areas on a Golf Course

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

The aims of this Unit are to develop plant selection, design and planning skills with regard to the non-turf features that enhance the landscape within the golf course and as a result the enjoyment of the golfer. Primarily the candidate will learn to identify the aesthetic and functional aspects of the golfing experience outwith the main playing areas. These include the arrival in the car park, the clubhouse surrounds and the natural trees and shrubs and water features that exist within the environment of the golf course. Emphasis should be placed on developing plans that have conservation and wildlife habitat value, but also ornamental plantings for the purpose of presenting the golf club as an attractive location to visit should be covered.

Lectures and tutorials should be supported by field visits, resource materials and ICT to develop skills and knowledge. There should also be opportunities for guest speakers and practitioners.

Outcome 1 introduces the areas that need to be appraised with regard to a given site. These would include car parking, clubhouse buildings and maintenance facilities, plantings on the golf course, furniture including seats and litter bins, water feature, pathways, conservation and wildlife areas, walls/ditches, bridges and shelters. The appraisal should include criteria such as suitability, safety, maintenance and expertise required, and related to a vocationally related case study. The findings should be submitted in a format suitable for consideration by a management committee of a golf club.

Outcome 2 requires the candidate to submit development and improvement plans for three key non-turf areas; clubhouse surrounds, soft landscaping within the golf course and water features within the golf course. Emphasis should be on plans being realistic and maintainable, including justification for a particular course of action. The plans should relate to a specific vocationally relevant case study, and be in a format suitable for consideration by a management committee of a golf club.

Outcome 3 requires the candidate to submit a maintenance schedule for his/her development plans for Outcome 2. These should be realistic based on the time, staffing and resources available to the particular golf club.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

The Unit will normally be delivered as part of the Group Award. It would be beneficial for it to be delivered after or in conjunction with, complementary Units such as *Design and Construction of Golf Course Features*, and *Information Technology*. In these circumstances candidates would more easily appreciate the integration of material. This should allow the Unit to be delivered in a way that enables candidates to appreciate its relevance to the occupational area concerned.

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Summary of Instrument of Assessment

Outcome 1

Evaluate existing exterior landscaping features and utilities on a given site with a view to improvement (minimum 400 words).

For this part of the report you are required to produce an assignment covering the following topics.

- (a) Evaluate the hard and soft landscape features and other utilities on the golf course in terms of their aesthetic or functional value.
- (b) Evaluate the water features not in play on the golf course to assess their functional and environmental suitability.

Outcome 2: Plan a development and improvement programme for landscaping features and utilities for a given situation.

For this part of the report you are required to produce an assignment covering the following topics.

- (a) The construction and planting plan for the golf course is technically accurate in relation to the drawings and recommendations.
- (b) Details submitted to improve the immediate surroundings of the clubhouse are comprehensive in terms of planting and other proposals.
- (c) The preparation of plans and proposals for the alteration or creation of water features on the course are appropriate in terms of technical feasibility.

Approximately 500 words.

Outcome 3: Prepare a management programme for landscaping features and utilities.

For this part of the report you are required to produce an assignment covering the following topics:

- (a) The programme prepared for the construction, repair and maintenance of all hard landscape features and utilities is comprehensive and technically accurate.
- (b) The programme produced for the creation of soft landscape features on the course is detailed and accurate including reference to the timescale involved.
- (c) The programme produced for the maintenance of the soft landscape features on the course is comprehensive and accurate including reference to wild plant and animal environments.

Approximately 300 words.

The Unit is, however, a free-standing Unit and may be delivered as such for purposes of continuing professional development.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

While there may be opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Problem Solving*, *Communication* and *IT*, all at SCQF level 6 (SCQF level 6), there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

Open learning

This Unit could be delivered by distance learning.

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Equality and inclusion

This Unit specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence.

Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements.

General information for candidates

Unit title: Golf Course Management: Managing Structures and Non-Turf Areas on a Golf Course

This Unit is designed to enable you to develop knowledge and skills in evaluation and planning, and management of areas on the golf course not directly related to fine turf. It is intended to broaden your outlook on the priorities for a modern golf course manager, taking into account the golfer's experience of a particular club or course, from the moment he drives into the car park and enters the clubhouse.

It focuses on features such as buildings, furniture, soft landscaping including tree and shrubs, and creates the opportunity for you to understand that the environmental surroundings of golf are as important as the playing surface. It highlights how the course manager can take responsibility for enhancing the enjoyment of the game as well as enriching the landscape with diverse habitats and plantations.

In order to achieve the Unit you will be expected to evaluate and appraise the hard and soft landscaping of a particular golf course in terms of suitability, safety, conservation value and aesthetic appeal, identifying potential for improvement throughout the course.

You will then create development plans focusing on three key areas of on-turf: the clubhouse surrounds, the tree and shrub plantations within the golf course and water features. These plans must be realistic and feasible for the given situation.

Finally, you will be asked to provide a maintenance schedule for each of the three areas, indicating how they will be maintained over a period of five years, and once again these proposals have to be realistic and feasible based on the resources available.

Throughout the Unit you must demonstrate the ability to communicate your findings and recommendations to an acceptable industry standard.

On completion of this Unit you will be able to:

- ◆ evaluate existing exterior landscaping features and utilities on a given site with a view to improvement
- ◆ create a development plan for landscaping features and non-turf areas on a golf course aimed at improving their potential
- ◆ prepare a management programme for landscaping features and utilities