



Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Forestry: Alternative Forest Products

Unit code: F3YH 34

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to deliver the relevant knowledge and skills for candidates to plan for the generation, harvesting, and marketing of alternative products from woodland.

The Unit will be relevant for candidates wishing to enhance their knowledge and skills in the diversification of product outturn from woodlands, over and above the production of timber for industrial markets.

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

- 1 Evaluate the potential of woodland to generate alternative products.
- 2 Plan the harvesting of alternative products from woodland.
- 3 Explain the marketing opportunities for alternative products from woodland.

Credit points and level: 1 HN 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 Access 1 to Doctorates.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: Access to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre. A prior knowledge of silviculture through completion of the Unit F3YC 34 *Establishment of Woodland* will be of advantage to candidates undertaking this Unit.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skill of *Communication* at 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: As the Outcomes have a degree of integration, it is recommended that the assessment for all Outcomes is combined to provide an holistic assessment for the Unit which is based on a given or agreed area of woodland where opportunities for product diversification exist.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Forestry: Alternative Forest Products

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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 the potential of woodland to generate alternative products

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Production potential
- ◆ Alternative products
- ◆ Woodland management systems
- ◆ Product specifications
- ◆ Management impact
- ◆ Environmental impact

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can evaluate the potential of woodland to generate alternative products. The evaluation must:

- ◆ determine the potential for the successful production of a minimum of three alternative products in an area of woodland
- ◆ describe suitable woodland management systems for the production of the alternative products identified
- ◆ provide details of the specifications of each product
- ◆ explain the effect of the production of the alternative products on core management objectives for the woodland and state how these effects can be minimised
- ◆ explain the environmental impact of the production of the alternative products and state how these effects can be minimised

The area of woodland must be either given to the candidate, or agreed in advance with the tutor and a single area of woodland must be used to fulfil all Evidence Requirements. Evidence from this Outcome must be used in Outcomes 2 and 3, in that the alternative products identified in this Outcome will form the basis of Outcomes 2 and 3. Candidates must carry out a site visit in order to generate evidence.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Forestry: Alternative Forest Products

Assessment Guidelines

As the Outcomes have a degree of integration, it is recommended that the assessment for this Outcome is combined with the assessments for Outcomes 2 and 3 to provide a holistic assessment for the Unit. Please see further information under Outcome 3 Assessment Guidelines.

Outcome 2

Plan the harvesting of alternative products from woodland

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Timing of harvesting
- ◆ Methods of harvesting
- ◆ Environmental impacts of harvesting
- ◆ Health and safety

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can plan the harvesting of alternative products from woodland. The evidence must:

- ◆ state the optimum time to harvest alternative products taking into account product quality, seasonal constraints, crop and ground conditions and product marketing
- ◆ describe methods for harvesting, including processing, quality control, and storage of alternative products in accordance with industry best practice
- ◆ explain the potential environmental impacts of the chosen methods of harvesting and state how these can be minimised
- ◆ explain the potential risks to the health and safety of those harvesting alternative products and to other users of the woodland and state how the risks can be minimised

Candidates must use the alternative products identified in Outcome 1 to produce the evidence for this Outcome.

Assessment Guidelines

As the Outcomes have a degree of integration, it is recommended that the assessment for this Outcome is combined with the assessments for Outcomes 1 and 3 to provide an holistic assessment for the Unit. Please see further information under Outcome 3 Assessment Guidelines.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Forestry: Alternative Forest Products

Outcome 3

Explain the marketing opportunities for alternative products from woodland

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Markets for alternative products
- ◆ Product presentation
- ◆ Methods of sale

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can explain the marketing opportunities for alternative products from woodland. Candidates must:

- ◆ explain the potential local and national markets for the alternative products and select one market for each alternative product, taking into account the likely demand and distribution constraints.
- ◆ describe a minimum of one method by which each alternative product can be enhanced in value by additional processing or presentation at the point of sale.
- ◆ explain two possible methods of sale for each alternative product. Candidates must then choose their preferred method of sale for each alternative product and explain how this preferred method could be implemented.

Candidates must use the alternative products identified in Outcome 1 to produce the evidence for this Outcome.

Assessment Guidelines

As the Outcomes have a degree of integration, it is recommended that the assessment for this Outcome is combined with the assessments for Outcomes 1 and 2 to provide a holistic assessment for the Unit.

The assessment could take the form of a project on a given or agreed area of woodland where there is the potential to harvest alternative forest products.

The site visit could be carried out in class time under supervision. If evidence is produced in the form of a report to cover all the Unit Outcomes, this could be unsupervised and undertaken in the candidates' own time.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F3YH 34
Unit title: Forestry: Alternative Forest Products
Superclass category: SM
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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Forestry: Alternative Forest Products

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

Outcome 1

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

- ◆ production potential: location; species, age and condition of existing crops; climate; soil type; flora and fauna
- ◆ alternative products: specialist wood material for craft purposes; coppice for fuel, charcoal, greenwood working, horticultural products; harvesting residues for fuel; bark/wood chips for horticulture and equestrian use; edible fungi; decorative foliage; essential oils distillates; moss
- ◆ woodland management systems: clearfelling, continuous cover systems, coppicing; thinning frequency and intensity; species introduction/removal; maintenance and protection
- ◆ product specifications: species; sizes; moisture content; freshness
- ◆ management impact; reduced timber yields and/or values; public access; conservation interests
- ◆ environmental impact: visual amenity; biodiversity; soil degradation

Outcome 2

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

- ◆ timing of harvesting: crop and ground conditions; product availability/maturity/quantity; market demand/seasonality; conflicts with core management activities
- ◆ methods of harvesting: manual, motor-manual, mechanical; contract and direct labour; harvesting products; removal of products from site; processing products; storage of products both on and off site; packaging, bundling, labelling; quality control; working methods; tools and equipment
- ◆ environmental impacts of harvesting: ground damage by harvesting equipment; pollution; damage to other crop components
- ◆ health and safety; risks assessments for operators, the public and customers; warning signage; responsibilities

Outcome 3

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

- ◆ markets for alternative products: local; national; potential sales volumes; seasonal opportunities; production and distribution constraints
- ◆ product presentation: adding value by further processing (greenwood working, rustic furniture, niche market products); packaging and labelling; providing information on storage and use; 'green'/'sustainable' badging
- ◆ methods of sale: retail; wholesale; 'pick your own'; advertising, promotional material and events; delivered or buyer collect; sales by tender, auction, negotiation, fixed price

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Forestry: Alternative Forest Products

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

As the Outcomes have a degree of integration, it is recommended that the assessment for all Outcomes is combined to provide a holistic assessment for the Unit.

It is recommended that the assessment could require candidates to prepare a report on a given or agreed area of woodland, where there are opportunities to generate, harvest and market a minimum of three alternative products. The site selected could be broadleaved, coniferous or mixed woodland and it is recommended that the area be not greater than 10 hectares.

A site visit could be carried out in class time under supervision. Data for the report could be collected as a group. The preparation of the report could be unsupervised and undertaken on an individual basis in the candidate's own time. The use of maps, photographs and diagrams could be encouraged in order to keep the text of the report within a guideline limit of 1,500 words or equivalent.

Candidates could be allowed three weeks for the submission of the report.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

Core Skills may be developed during delivery and assessment of this Unit. The component Written Communication of the Core Skill *Communication* may be developed to SCQF level 5 through reading and producing work for formative and summative assessment.

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.

In the case of a distance/open learning candidate, a site of the candidate's choice, ie at their work or close to their home may be used, 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: Alternative Forest Products

This Unit will equip you with the relevant knowledge and skills to plan for the generation, harvesting, and marketing of alternative products from woodland.

Successful completion of the Unit attracts 1 HN (8 SCQF credits) at SCQF level 7. This Unit is an optional Unit in the HNC Forestry and HND Forestry which are Group Awards. It is, however, a free-standing Unit and may be delivered as such for purposes of continuing professional development.

There are three sections or Outcomes in this Unit.

The first Outcome will enable you to evaluate the potential of an area of woodland to generate alternative products to timber production. You will be able to identify alternative products that might be produced from the woodland and describe woodland management systems suitable for their production. You will know the specifications for alternative products and be able to explain the impact of their production on both core management objectives and the environment.

The second Outcome is concerned with planning for the harvesting of alternative products. You will know the best time to harvest individual products and describe the appropriate harvesting, processing and storage methods. You will also be able to explain any environmental impacts of these harvesting methods and the risks to the health and safety of workers and to others using the woodland.

The third Outcome will enable you to explain the marketing opportunities for alternative woodland products. You will be able to identify both local and national markets for products. You will know ways of adding value to products by additional processing and by ensuring good presentation at the point of sale. You will also know the range of methods for selling the products and how such selling methods are arranged.

The assessment of this Unit may require you to produce a report on a given or agreed area of woodland, where there are opportunities to generate, harvest and market a minimum of three alternative products for local markets.

The knowledge and skills acquired in this Unit will help you understand and evaluate the use of woodland for a wider range of products as an alternative to timber production.

For candidates already in employment this Unit provides an opportunity to extend existing knowledge and skills and lays a sound grounding for further study in forest management and land use.

This Unit will give you the opportunity to develop the Core Skill of *Communication* at SCQF level 5 *Communications* Core Skill through the use of evaluation and report writing.