



Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Forestry: Woodland Conservation

Unit code: F402 35

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to give the candidate understanding and knowledge of the management of woodlands for the conservation of biodiversity.

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

- 1 Evaluate a given woodland area for nature conservation.
- 2 Produce an operational plan for the conservation of biodiversity.

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

**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: Although entry is at the discretion of the Centre it would be beneficial if candidates have achieved or are working towards the following HN Units: F3YW 34 *Forestry: Forest Science*, F3YY 34 *Forestry: Silvicultural Systems* and F3YD 34 *Forest Harvesting*.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communications*, *IT* and *Working with Others* and the component *Reviewing and Evaluating* of the Core Skill *Problem Solving* to 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: The assessment of this Unit takes the form of an operational plan for the conservation of biodiversity in a given woodland area.

Higher National 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 a given woodland area for nature conservation

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ National conservation designations
- ◆ Regional conservation designations
- ◆ European conservation designations
- ◆ Global conservation designations
- ◆ Abiotic features
- ◆ Biotic features
- ◆ Conservation value criteria

Evidence Requirements

Evidence Requirements and Assessment Guidelines for the Unit as a whole are given after Outcome 2.

Assessment Guidelines

Evidence Requirements and Assessment Guidelines for the Unit as a whole are given after Outcome 2.

Outcome 2

Produce an operational plan for the conservation of biodiversity

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Ecological site description
- ◆ Management objectives
- ◆ Operational plan
- ◆ Conservation of biodiversity

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Forestry: Woodland Conservation

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can, for a given site:

- ◆ explain why conservation designations have been applied to the given site. Every explanation must contain at least two conservation designations appropriate to the site.
- ◆ produce an ecological site description. Each site description must include geology, soils, climate, topography and fauna and flora.
- ◆ evaluate the given site for nature conservation. Each evaluation must include diversity, size, naturalness, rarity, fragility and potential.
- ◆ produce management objectives from the results of the ecological site description and evaluation. The management objectives must include both strategic and operational objectives appropriate to the given site.
- ◆ produce an operational plan for the management of biodiversity in the given site. The operational plan must take the form of a single management plan project report.

Assessment Guidelines

The evidence of achievement for Outcomes 1 and 2 will take the form of a single operational plan project report for a given site.

The project could be based on visits to a given site. For distance learning candidates this would be to an agreed site elsewhere.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F402 35
Unit title: Forestry: Woodland Conservation
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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Forestry: Woodland Conservation

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 designed as a mandatory part of the HND Forestry and the content of the Unit will provide the candidate with an understanding of the principles of planning the management of woodlands for the conservation of biodiversity.

The following bullet points contain both mandatory (contained in the Evidence Requirements) and optional (not contained in the Evidence Requirements) areas of knowledge that may be helpful to the candidates.

Outcome 1

- ◆ abiotic and biotic site factors
- ◆ cultural site factors
- ◆ ecological relationships between site factors
- ◆ criteria used in the evaluation of conservation interest
- ◆ national Vegetation Classification (NVC) and Ecological Site Classification (ESC)
- ◆ designation of sites for nature conservation

Outcome 2

- ◆ strategic and operational management objectives appropriate to a given site
- ◆ management appropriate to the conservation of rare or threatened species
- ◆ proposals for the control of invasive or harmful non-native species
- ◆ the management of recreational activities on nature reserves
- ◆ the integration of educational and research activities with reserve management

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

Outcomes 1 and 2

Lectures and tutorials can be used to discuss ways in which current conservation legislation, and sustainable forest management policy, can be applied to the management of biodiversity on the given site.

Candidates will be given the opportunity to visit the site in order to collect field data. Candidates may work together to collect field data, but the management plan report should be their own individual work.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Forestry: Woodland Conservation

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

Core Skills may be developed during delivery and assessment of this Unit. It is envisaged that the candidates will have the opportunity to develop the Core Skills of *Communication* and *Working with Others* at SCQF level 5 during site visits interacting with other candidates, tutor and staff based on the site. The candidates will also have the opportunity to develop the Core Skills of *Communication* and *IT* at SCQF level 5 when producing the operational plan report.

The candidates will also have the opportunity to develop the component *Reviewing and Evaluating* of the Core Skill *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 5 when applying criteria for the evaluation of the conservation of biodiversity to features of the site and project data collection.

Open learning

All Outcomes are appropriate for Open and Distance Learning approaches with candidate packs and Tutor input and support at all stages. The project will be based on visits to a given site agreed between the tutor and distance learning candidates. Centre devised supervision agreements should detail controlled conditions to ensure authenticity of evidence.

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: Woodland Conservation

This Unit is designed to provide you with an understanding of ecological site description and evaluation. The Unit will also develop the skills and knowledge which you require in order to develop operational plans for the management of biodiversity in woodlands.

This Unit will give you the knowledge and understanding of how to carry out the ecological site description and evaluation of woodland sites for nature conservation. It will also introduce you to National, Regional, European and Global conservation designations and enable you to develop and produce operational plans for the management of biodiversity in woodlands.

This Unit is a mandatory component of HND Forestry.

Overall, the knowledge and skills acquired in this Unit will help you understand and analyse the factors that are involved in planning the management of biodiversity in woodlands. For candidates already in employment this Unit provides an opportunity to extend existing knowledge and skills and lays a solid grounding in the management of biodiversity in woodlands.

This Unit will give you the opportunity to develop Core Skills of *Communications, IT and Working with Others* and the component *Reviewing and Evaluating of the Core Skill Problem Solving* to SCQF level 5.

The Unit will be assessed by the production of an operational plan for the management of biodiversity.