Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Urban Woodlands and Green Space

Unit code: F407 35

Unit purpose: The purpose of this Unit is to establish and develop, in the learner, the knowledge of urban green infrastructure policies, strategies, and operational planning that will equip them to apply the best practicable techniques as are necessary to establish, maintain and manage woodlands and green space in an urban environment.

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

1   Evaluate the development and application of urban woodland and green space policies within the UK.
2   Plan the establishment and development of community woodland in an urban landscape.
3   Plan for the future management and enhancement of an existing urban woodland.

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: Access to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre. However it would be beneficial if candidates had some prior knowledge of this area. For example, possession of National Qualification Units at SCQF level 5 or 6 or practical experience in tree establishment and maintenance.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills components of Written Communication to SCQF level 5 and Critical Thinking to SCQF 6, 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: Outcome 1 of this Unit may be assessed by an extended response question, case study, report or restricted response questions. Outcomes 2 and 3 will be assessed by the submission of a plan for each Outcome.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Urban Woodlands and Green Space

Unit code: F407 35

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 development and application of urban woodland and green space policies within the UK

Knowledge and/or Skills

♦   Social benefits of trees and woodlands
♦   History of the development of town and city parks
♦   The policies attached to the establishment of the Country Parks network
♦   Current initiatives and partnerships
♦   Greenspace policies
♦   Good practice in the application of green infrastructure policies
♦   Methods for assessing the quality of parks and green space

Evidence Requirements

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

♦   explain the historical development, form and structure of urban woodlands and green space. Candidates must explain how these have altered over time.
♦   evaluate the use of trees in the context of social and community benefits. This must include amenity improvement, screening, privacy and improvement of house values.
♦   evaluate current policies, initiatives and of urban woodlands planning and greenspace management. This must include good practice in the application of green infrastructure policies.

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed by a range of Instruments of Assessment. This includes extended response questions, case study, report or restricted response questions. Wherever possible, candidates should be encouraged to use illustrative material, or mixed AV media presentation.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Urban Woodlands and Green Space

Outcome 2

Plan the establishment and development of community woodland in an urban landscape

Knowledge and/or Skills:

♦ Multi-functional objectives
♦ Site conditions and improvement measures necessary for woodland establishment
♦ Sequence of operations
♦ Constraints, risks and opportunities.
♦ Interpretation of maps and aerial photographs
♦ Engagement processes and techniques for community involvement and participation.
♦ The role and function of partnership working
♦ Species appropriate to a site and its objectives
♦ Maintenance processes
♦ Time and financial control planning skills
♦ Evaluation survey

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will be required to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can produce a plan for the establishment and development of a community woodland in an urban landscape. The candidate must:

♦ carry out an evaluation survey of a green space area as an initial function of planning. Candidates must analyse the site conditions and improvement measures necessary for woodland establishment including consideration of biodiversity and natural/native species selection.
♦ identify clear multi-functional objectives, which must be informed by policy guidelines and reflect the qualities and features of the specific site.
♦ produce a plan that is contextualised to the wider environment and to the concept of green infrastructure. The wider environment must include engagement processes and partnership working.
♦ choose species appropriate to a site and its objectives.
♦ determine the sequence of operations required to ensure successful establishment and maintenance of woodland including soil improvement, drainage, fencing, other protection methods, vegetation management, water table management, access facilities, health and exercise, and education factors.
♦ identify constraints, risks and opportunities.
♦ make recommendations appropriate to the site and realistic in terms of cost, scale and time.

Candidates must use maps and aerial photographs to enhance and qualify the site analysis and the planning decisions.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Urban Woodlands and Green Space

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome will be assessed by a plan based on an identified site within an urban environment, as laid out in the Evidence Requirements above.

Outcome 3

Plan for the future management and enhancement of an existing urban woodland

Knowledge and/or skills

- Historical development of existing woodlands, parks and green space
- Tree assessment techniques with regard to health and safety, appropriateness and function.
- Woodland assessment and evaluation techniques
- Short, medium and long term management
- Work programmes and schedules for the maintenance and enhancement of community woodland
- Management intervention

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will be required to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can produce a plan for the future management and enhancement of an existing community woodland. The candidate must:

- carry out an analysis of the history of a given site in relation to changing social needs and policies in a local and national context.
- apply tree assessment techniques with regard to health and safety, appropriateness and function.
- identify clear multi-functional objectives, which are based on woodland assessment and evaluation techniques.
- identify the level of management intervention required. A justification for this must be given and must relate to the objectives identified.
- create work programmes and schedules for the management and enhancement of woodlands and green space. Schedules must meet the short, medium and long-term objectives of the woodland and green space.
- identify time and financial management techniques for the establishment, evaluation and monitoring of a works programme.

Candidates must use maps and aerial photographs to enhance and qualify the site analysis and the planning decisions.

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome will be assessed by a plan based on an identified site within an urban environment, as laid out in the Evidence Requirements above.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F407 35

Unit title: Urban Woodlands and Green Space

Superclass category: SG

Original date of publication: August 2008

Version: 01

History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

Source: SQA

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Urban Woodlands and Green Space

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 purpose of this Unit is to enable the candidate to become familiar with and understand the concepts of urban woodlands and green space that have informed the development of such areas within an urban environment. Additional to this the candidate should be enabled to apply such concepts to the creation of a multi-functional woodland/green space matrix within an urban location and to use such knowledge to analyse the quality and potential of an existing matrix of existing woodland and green space. The application of conceptual understanding into planning and decision-making is fundamental to this Unit and the candidate will be required to demonstrate this fusion between theory and practical application throughout the Unit and its assessment. The concepts of social good, whole health, community participation and quality of life are major drivers of social policy and the practical delivery of a managed woodland — green space matrix should be seen in this wider context.

The candidate will be capable of planning the long-term management of an area within the practical demands of establishment and maintenance techniques and the demands of social policies.

The Unit would be most beneficial to candidates who have experience and knowledge of practical woodland and forestry skills at an operator level without supervisory or managerial control.

Outcome 1

Outcome 1 studies the development of the concepts of urban community woodlands and green space as they have grown out of government policies and initiatives, local and national, including town and country park establishment and management, community forests, Woodlands In and Around Towns and the emphasis placed on a structured approach to green space creation and management through partnership working within Greenspace Scotland and Greenspace. Evaluation techniques for assessing the quality of the social benefits of woodlands and green space are essential tools in planning the creation and development of such areas and the application of such techniques to an identified site is an essential element of this Outcome and Unit.

Outcome 2

In Outcome 2, the candidate should apply the concepts introduced and developed in Outcome 1 to the creation of woodland-green space matrices within an urban environment. Within a framework of multi-functional objectives based on the social and community benefits associated with woodlands and green space the candidate will be able to combine the technical specifications of woodland establishment and green space creation with the concepts that have led to the development of government social and environmental policies. The selection of species and the size and scale of woodland and green space should be fitted to the wider green infrastructure of the area and should be determined by examples of best practice. Detailed planting schemes and establishment and maintenance regimes will be essential components of teaching and learning content and assessment.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Urban Woodlands and Green Space

The use of maps and aerial photographs will be essential tools in the presentation of plans and programmes. Community engagement techniques and partnership creation are central tenets of the management of community woodlands and green space and will be appropriately addressed within this Unit.

Outcome 3

In this Outcome, the candidate should apply the theories and conceptual analysis established in the Unit to an existing woodland — green space matrix with the objective of providing a project plan that will deliver the social and community benefits that are essential objectives of government social, health and environment policies. Emphasis will be placed on the technical management plans for the area based on a site analysis that establishes previous management, existing quality and site potential. Woodland and green space evaluation techniques will be applied to the identified site. Detailed scheduling of operations within a priority/zoning system will be a fundamental requirement in order to develop the woodland — green space in line with the objectives and best practice. Operational controls for time, quality and budgets are critical elements in teaching, learning and assessment of this Outcome. The use of maps and aerial photographs will be essential tools in the presentation of plans and programmes.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

The Unit has been developed as an element in a Group Award in the land-based sector. It is designed to provide candidates with the technical and professional knowledge and skills relating to the project management of urban forests, woodlands and green space within the wider context of green infrastructure and government initiatives in social, health and environmental policies. Normally, delivery of the Unit will be in the context of candidate prior knowledge of woodland establishment and maintenance experience. Lectures will form the core of the delivery of the Unit but the potential for group working, role-playing and independent research and analysis are clear. To make real the learning experience will be the fundamental driver of the delivery of the Unit. The design and content of the Unit and its assessment form and schedule lend itself to networking both within the narrow discipline of forestry and wider related disciplines.

The Unit has also been designed to have an integrity that will allow its development as a discrete learning experience.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills components of Written Communication to SCQF level 5 and Critical Thinking to SCQF 6. Written Communication may be developed where candidates research information and produce essays and reports for formative and summative assessment. Critical Thinking can be developed in Outcomes 2 and 3 where candidates have to develop plans for the establishment and management of urban woodlands.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Urban Woodlands and Green Space

Open Learning

The Unit has been designed to facilitate open or blended learning development and will lend itself to the creation of web based teaching and learning materials. There is also potential for video conferencing delivery. The centre should establish supervisory agreements and controls to ensure the authenticity of evidence. All sites used for assessment purposes must be tutor approved.

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: Urban Woodlands and Green Space

The purpose of this Unit is to enable you to understand the concepts and policies that have informed the development of urban woodlands and green space creation, development and management. It has been designed to provide you with the knowledge and skills that will enable you to analyse and evaluate the quality of existing woodland, green space matrices and develop informed prescriptions for improvement. It will also provide you with the applied skills for the project management of the creation of a woodland-green-space matrix in the context of social, health and environment criteria based on government initiatives and policies. It would be useful if you have already gained some knowledge and experience of woodland establishment and maintenance techniques.

The Outcomes that form the core of the Unit should provide you with the following skills and knowledge:

Outcome 1

♦   knowledge and understanding of the development of urban woodlands and green space concepts and policies
♦   knowledge and understanding of urban forestry policies in relation to wider social policies
♦   analytical skills to assess the quality of urban woodlands and green space in relation to policy initiatives and requirements

Outcome 2

♦   knowledge and understanding of the relationship between urban woodland and green space planning in the context of green infrastructure planning and development
♦   project management skills to allow you to create an urban woodland-green space matrix on an identified site incorporating multi-functional objectives
♦   community engagement and participation techniques to promote ownership and responsibility
♦   monitoring and evaluation methodologies to allow project control within time and budgetary constraints
♦   use of maps and aerial photographs to help plan, promote and present management prescriptions

Outcome 3

♦   analysis and evaluation of the quality of existing woodland-green space matrices
♦   creation of work programmes and schedules that will meet the short, medium and long-term objectives of social and community benefit woodlands and green space
♦   managerial and supervisory operational planning and control of woodland-green space development to meet multi-functional objectives and social and community needs in the wider context of regional and national initiatives
♦   use of maps and aerial photographs to help plan, promote and present management prescriptions

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills components of Written Communication to SCQF level 5 and Critical Thinking to SCQF 6 in this Unit.