

## National Unit Specification: general information

**UNIT** Countryside Land Use (Intermediate 2)

**CODE** DV09 11

### COURSE

### SUMMARY

This Unit is a mandatory unit within the SPA in Rural Skills. It can also be delivered as a free-standing Unit.

This Unit is suitable for candidates who have limited experience of life in the countryside and related industries. It is intended to raise awareness of national and local land use, rural businesses and issues affecting current and future changes.

### OUTCOMES

- 1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the different forms of national land and water use.
- 2 Investigate the current and changing land and water use in your area.
- 3 Demonstrate an understanding of the key issues which are changing the way the countryside is used.

### RECOMMENDED ENTRY

There are no formal entry requirements for this unit, entry is at the discretion of the centre, however a basic understanding of Geography would be helpful.

### CREDIT VALUE

1 credit at Intermediate 2 (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 5\*)

*\*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*

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### Administrative Information

**Superclass:** QA

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## **National Unit Specification: general information (cont)**

**UNIT**      Countryside Land Use (Intermediate 2)

### **CORE SKILLS**

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill components in this Unit.

## **National Unit Specification: statement of standards**

### **UNIT**      Countryside Land Use (Intermediate 2)

Acceptable performance in this Unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the Unit Specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to the Scottish Qualifications Authority.

#### **OUTCOME 1**

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the different forms of national land and water use

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of land use capability and distribution.
- (b) Identify a variety of primary production land and water users.
- (c) Identify a variety of ancillary businesses which support primary production land and water users.
- (d) Identify a variety of non-production related users of land and water.

##### **Evidence Requirements**

Evidence of actual performance will require the candidate to demonstrate through a series of restricted response questions that they are aware of national land capability patterns, the wide range of land users and integrated supporting employment sectors.

#### **OUTCOME 2**

Investigate the current and changing land and water use in your area

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Accurately describe the primary producers and other land users within the local area
- (b) Describe changing patterns of land and water use over the last 25 years
- (c) Describe topical issues affecting local land and water use
- (d) Gather graphical and statistical data

##### **Evidence Requirements**

Evidence of actual performance will require the candidate to undertake an investigation consisting of practical site visits and produce an associated project report describing examples of land use and changing influences within his/her home area.

#### **OUTCOME 3**

Demonstrate an understanding of the key issues which are changing the way the countryside is used

## **National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)**

### **UNIT**      Countryside Land Use (Intermediate 2)

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Describe the impact changes in legislation have on land managers and the public.
- (b) Describe the effects that the drive for alternative and renewable energy sources may have on the landscape.
- (c) Discuss the impact that the rural urban divide can have on a rural way of life.
- (d) Discuss the impact that European Union and national policies on environmental issues have on land and water use.

#### **Evidence Requirements**

Evidence of actual performance will require the candidate to collate a folio of evidence drawn from their discussions and investigation of local and national issues.

## **National Unit Specification: support notes**

### **UNIT        Countryside Land Use (Intermediate 2)**

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**

On completion of this unit the candidate will be able to describe the national distribution of different land uses and the range of countryside employment opportunities. They should be able to identify how their local countryside is used and how it is changing. Candidates should be able to identify the key issues which are affecting change in the countryside.

Centre requirements for Unit delivery:

- ◆ Teaching staff: Staff should have a good understanding of the countryside as a working environment and how current national and local issues are impacting on countryside use.

Physical resources:

- ◆ local and national land capability maps
- ◆ access to transport for investigation visits
- ◆ access to: digital cameras, internet, local/national press and appropriate rural publications (eg Scottish Farmer, Shooting Times, Horse and Hound, The Great Outdoors)

#### **GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT**

##### **Outcome 1**

This Outcome is intended to give candidates a clear understanding of the physical reasons for the national distribution of different production land and water use activities. For this Outcome “national” will generally refer to Scotland but could also refer to the UK as whole or England, Northern Ireland or Wales as appropriate to where the unit is delivered. The use of soil and land capability maps integrated with internet investigation of land and water based industries should be encouraged to see the broad national picture. Land capability should include basic land grades and national distribution. Primary production users would include agriculture; forestry; sporting estates and aquaculture users. Non-production users would include recreation, tourism, mining and extraction. Ancillary businesses would include feed and machinery suppliers; vets; village shops; land agents; auctioneers; road hauliers and livery stables. The wide range of employment opportunities and skills required to support the rural sector should be made clear as investigation identifies those who earn their living from the countryside. The importance of tourism and the leisure industry to the rural economy should be outlined.

## **National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)**

### **UNIT Countryside Land Use (Intermediate 2)**

#### **Outcome 2**

This Outcome is intended to give candidates the opportunity to focus on land use and the issues affecting it in their local area. It is important that candidates have the opportunity to undertake a range of location visits to gather information and are exposed to the diversity of land uses, issues and people within the rural economy of their area. A group approach to initial project production should be adopted to encourage active participation and sharing of ideas. The investigation is not intended to analyse detailed statistics or trends but give a feel of what happens within the countryside of their local area. Graphs etc should be used where appropriate in the investigation report and where possible local statistics and sources of information should be used. Typical land use changes over the last 25 years would include the reduction in the agricultural workforce, agriculture becoming less intensive, the expansion of forestry and any appropriate local issues.

#### **Outcome 3**

This outcome is intended to give candidates the opportunity to debate the wide range of conflicting pressures on countryside use. A range of new concepts should be introduced during this outcome: Renewable energy and sustainability, Rural Urban divide and what is a rural way of life. It is not intended that any of these ideas are explored in depth but that they are discussed in the context of the changing pressures, expectations and employment opportunities our countryside has and continues to undergo. Topical issues could include: ‘the ban on hunting with dogs’, surge in wind farm planning applications, increase in leisure time and tourism, availability of affordable housing for those working in the countryside, raft of environmental legislation and enforcement (SEPA), diversification of land use, changes in EU agriculture support to favour the environment rather than production driven. The impact of Access and any related legislation should be covered with respect to areas of possible conflict, path safety and responsibilities. Renewable energy should be covered with respect to definitions, government agendas, visual and environmental impact of wind farms, crops grown as bio-fuels and planning conflicts (NIMBY). The “rural way of life” would include hunting, shooting and fishing. Possible impacts on the “rural way of life” would include a lack of mutual understanding between rural and urban communities, house prices and the effect of second homes and the importance of the countryside as a place to work not just for recreation. National/EU policies such as Rural Stewardship Schemes; pollution regulations and food traceability regulations should be covered with regard to their effect on such issues as the move away from production payments for agriculture; sustainability and environmental initiatives; reduced farming incomes leading to greater diversification such as B & B, holiday homes and second jobs; increase in hedges, woodland and wildlife biodiversity.

## **National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)**

### **UNIT**      Countryside Land Use (Intermediate 2)

#### **GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT**

Corresponding to the Outcomes:

##### **Outcome 1**

The candidate should be presented with restricted response questions to satisfy all the Performance Criteria.

##### **Outcome 2**

The candidate should prepare an individual written investigation based on an area they have access to. Evidence must be drawn from a range of data sources and visits within their area.

Satisfactory achievement of the outcome will require the project to cover each of the PCs in a clear and structured report. The report should allow candidates to use a range of different styles and formats.

##### **Outcome 3**

The candidate should prepare an individual folio of evidence from: the press, local or national bodies, individuals, class group discussions and questionnaires, which demonstrates their appreciation of issues which are affecting the use of the countryside, as detailed under the Outcome PCs.

Satisfactory achievement of the Outcome will require the candidate folio to provide appropriate evidenced examples of the main issues in each of the PCs.

#### **CANDIDATES WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS**

This Unit Specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. 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. For information on these, please refer to the document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs* (SQA, 2004).