



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Horticulture: Prepare an Area for Landscaping
(SCQF level 4)

Unit code: H1YL 10

Superclass: SE

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Summary

This Unit is designed to enable candidates to assess, plan and prepare an area of land for a landscaping project. Candidates will assess the potential of a simple site for soft and hard landscaping, assist in clearing the site and preparing it for landscaping materials. This is an introductory Unit, aimed at individuals seeking to start careers within horticulture and the landscape industry. The Unit is suitable for school pupils, as well as college students.

This is a mandatory Unit in the National Certificate in Horticulture at SCQF Level 4 and may be integrated with the following mandatory Units in the Group Award:

- ◆ Practical Horticulture: Create a Landscaped Site
- ◆ Practical Horticulture: Landscape Aftercare

The Unit may also be undertaken as a free standing Unit.

Successful completion of this unit would enable candidates to progress to the following Level 5 Units:

- ◆ D894 11 — Soft Landscaping: General Planting
- ◆ D895 11 — Soft Landscaping: Specialist Planting

Outcomes

- 1 Identify reasons for landscaping, the different types of landscaping and the materials used in each.
- 2 Identify the benefits of landscaping.
- 3 Assess an area for hard or soft landscaping.
- 4 Prepare an area for landscaping.

General information (cont)

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Recommended entry

This is an introductory level Unit, no formal entry requirements are necessary; however an interest in the enhancement of the environment is desirable.

Credit points and level

1 National Unit credit at SCQF level 4: (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 4*)

**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.*

Core Skills

Achievement of this Unit gives automatic certification of the following Core Skills component:

Complete Core Skill	None
Core Skill component	Critical Thinking at SCQF level 4

There are also opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills which are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit specification.

National Unit specification: statement of standards

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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 SQA. All practical activities must conform to current health and safety legislation including wearing PPE.

Outcome 1

Identify reasons for landscaping, the different types of landscaping and the materials used in each.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify reasons for landscaping.
- (b) Identify factors which must be considered when selecting a site for landscape development.
- (c) List different types of landscaping.
- (d) List materials used in different types of landscaping.

Outcome 2

Identify the benefits of landscaping.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Describe the environmental benefits of landscaping.
- (b) Describe the social benefits of landscaping.
- (c) Describe the economic benefits of landscaping.

Outcome 3

Assess an area for hard or soft landscaping.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Suggest an area suitable for the purpose of landscaping.
- (b) Assist with the assessment of the site in terms of suitability for a landscape development.
- (c) Propose a simple hard or soft landscape development according to findings.
- (d) Recommend the type of materials to achieve the proposed development.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Outcome 4

Prepare an area for landscaping.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify and select tools and equipment for preparing an area for landscaping.
- (b) Describe health and safety requirements for landscaping activities.
- (c) Identify PPE required for landscaping activities.
- (d) Assist in the clearance of unwanted vegetation.
- (e) Assist in the cultivation and conditioning of soil on the site.
- (f) Assist in setting out and preparing the site for hard or soft landscaping.
- (g) Work safely at all times and according to instructions given.

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Written/Oral, Product and Performance evidence is required to demonstrate that candidates have achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria. All practical activities must conform to current health and safety legislation including wearing PPE and correct lifting and handling procedures.

Evidence for Outcomes 1 and 2 must be produced under closed-book conditions.

Outcome 1

Written and/or oral evidence in which the candidate must include:

- ◆ identification of two reasons for landscaping from: improved appearance, giving the area a purpose, (eg recreational), environmental or any other suitable response
- ◆ a minimum of four factors to be considered when selecting an area for development from: area requires attention, its role in the local community, the location of the area, safety, soil conditions and drainage, climate, land ownership or any other suitable response
- ◆ reference to hard and soft landscaping
- ◆ a list of four materials from the following:
 - two from hard landscaping: paving, walling, fencing, decking or any other suitable materials
 - two from soft landscaping: plant groups, soil conditioning, mulching, hedging or any other suitable materials

Outcome 2

Written and/or oral evidence in which the candidate must include:

- ◆ one environmental benefit, eg to attract wildlife
- ◆ one social benefit, eg appearance, for peoples' enjoyment
- ◆ one economic benefit, eg to attract visitors/tourists to an area
- ◆ or any other suitable responses

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Outcome 3

Written and/or oral, product and performance evidence generated under supervised open-book conditions in which the candidate must include:

- ◆ a suggestion for an area suitable for a simple landscape development: The area will be no greater than 5m x 5m, should be flat and free from vigorous vegetation and there must be availability of services including water, gas, electricity and telephone.
- ◆ assist in the assessment of the area to determine its suitability
This must include as a minimum: measurement of the suggested site, a note of existing vegetation, identification of soil type, the aspect of the area, topography, shelter and light levels.
- ◆ a proposal for a suitable simple hard or soft landscape development, according to the findings of the assessment of the area. The proposal will include recommendations for a minimum of four types of materials which must include a minimum of two plant groups

Outcome 4

Evidence for PC (b) and (c) will be produced under closed-book conditions. The candidate must produce written and/or oral evidence which includes:

- ◆ a description of the health and safety regulations pertinent to hard and soft landscaping activities including manual handling and lifting procedures
- ◆ identification of PPE required for carrying out the landscaping activities

Evidence for the practical elements of Outcome 4 will be produced under supervised open book conditions and be supported by observation checklists/photographs. The candidate must produce written and/or oral performance and product evidence which includes:

- ◆ the correct identification and justification for the selection of tools and equipment, typically used for hard and soft landscaping to include as a minimum: secateurs, saw, spade, hoe, fork, loppers
- ◆ assistance in the clearance of unwanted vegetation or other unwanted materials. Tasks will include a minimum of two from the following: weeding, stripping turf, pruning, cutting bark, hoeing, digging, lifting slabs, removing stones
- ◆ assistance with the cultivation and conditioning of the soil on the site
Tasks will include: digging, forking, raking, incorporating organic matter, checking and levelling.
- ◆ assistance in setting out and preparing the area for hard or soft landscaping. Tasks will include: positioning materials and/or plants according to the original proposal plus a minimum of one other from the following:
 - adding foundation sub base, consolidating the sub base, adding additional nutrients and soil conditioning, levelling, measuring
- ◆ adherence to all instructions given during the practical activities including safe working practices, wearing correct PPE and using correct lifting and handling procedures

National Unit specification: support notes

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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 aligned to the following NOS:

- CS1 Maintain the safety of self and others in the workplace
- CS6 Transport physical resources within the work area
- CS53 Assist with the preparation of the growing media
- CS12 Assist with constructing structures and surfaces
- CS48 Assist with planting and establishing crops or plants

Candidates will suggest a site for development. This may be within the college, school, or training grounds but will be no greater than 5m x 5m. Candidates will take several factors into consideration before any proposals for the site are planned.

Factors to be considered are:

- ◆ current usage
- ◆ existing vegetation
- ◆ existing features
- ◆ soil type
- ◆ drainage

Candidates would benefit from having access to 'before' and 'after' case studies and/or photographs, showing the types of area which have been developed successfully.

They will learn about the different materials used in landscaping and the benefits of hard and soft landscaping. They will also be made aware of Health and Safety requirements in a practical horticultural context.

Outcomes 3 and 4 are mainly practical and the candidate will work under supervision and wear PPE as required to carry out the practical tasks. Visits to sites which have been developed would enhance the learning experience.

In addition to the school or college sites which may be suitable, other sites may include part of a community garden or other adopted tranches of land, for which permission to develop has been granted. Ornamental gardens; allotments; pottager gardens; wildlife gardens; gap sites; open green spaces and parks may also be potential areas for use in this Unit.

If working with other agencies and voluntary groups, it may be necessary to liaise and communicate regarding any specific client brief which may exist for the area identified as well as reporting any findings and proposals for the specific site which already exist.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

This Unit provides an ideal opportunity for candidates to assist with simple site assessment and to suggest landscape improvements to the area.

Given the SCQF level of the Unit, care must be taken to avoid embarking on projects which are too ambitious and over elaborate. There are opportunities for learners to work as a team, to undertake the development project. Tutor led discussions will be suited to Outcomes 1 and 2 whereas Outcomes 3 and 4 should be mainly practical. Candidates would benefit from visits to Demonstration Gardens, other suitable landscaped developments nearby or any existing development within the training centre location.

Candidates will become involved in the practical activities of site clearance; ground improvement and preparations for the new layout. Preparations will include: soil cultivation and conditioning; sub base installation and drainage in advance of hard or soft landscaping. They must be made aware of health and safety requirements before embarking on any practical work and must work safely, wearing the correct PPE, under supervision at all times.

By adopting the above learning and teaching approaches and through the Outcomes and corresponding Evidence Requirements, the Unit should provide candidates with an opportunity to develop the following essential skills for life, learning and work:

- ◆ Employability skills — through increased knowledge and skills in horticulture.
- ◆ Citizenship — the Unit could provide opportunities to demonstrate citizenship skills if the candidates were involved in preparing a landscape as part of a community project.
- ◆ Sustainability — the Unit could develop skills in sustainable development as candidates will be developing skills which can be applied in preparing landscapes for the use of future generations.

Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

Written/oral assessments for Outcome 1 and 2 and Outcome 4 PCs (c) and (d) will be completed under closed book conditions.

There will be scope to assess the practical elements of this Unit throughout the period of the site evaluation and preparation.

Candidates are encouraged to compile records/logs of work and to include their site notes and data. Images ('before' and 'after') may be inserted digitally, thus making use of modern technology.

All practical activity may be photographed or filmed and performance will be recorded using an observation checklist.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Opportunities for the use of e-assessment

E-assessment may be appropriate for some assessments in this Unit. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by Information and Communication Technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or social software. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all candidate evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. Further advice is available in *SQA Guidelines on Online Assessment for Further Education (AA1641, March 2003)*, *SQA Guidelines on e-assessment for Schools (BD2625, June 2005)*.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

In this Unit candidates will assist in preparing a landscape.

Candidates will:

- ◆ identify types of landscape, reasons for landscaping, and the benefits which landscaping can provide
- ◆ assess an area for landscaping
- ◆ prepare an area for landscaping

This means that as candidates are doing this unit they will be developing aspects of the Core Skills of *Communication*, *Problem Solving*, and *Working with Others*.

Communication skills are developed when liaising with other members of the landscape preparation group and when recording evidence.

Problem Solving will occur naturally when assessing and preparing the area for landscaping.

Candidates working as a team will provide the opportunity to develop skills for *Working with Others*.

Additionally candidates will develop aspects of the Core Skill of *Numeracy* when measuring the site and weighing materials. The Core Skill of *Information and Communication Technology* when taking notes and information details, which may be subsequently word processed.

This Unit has the Critical Thinking component of Problem Solving embedded in it. This means that when candidates achieve the Unit, their Core Skills profile will also be updated to show they have achieved Critical Thinking at SCQF level 4.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Disabled candidates and/or those with additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Core Skills Component Critical Thinking at SCQF level 4 embedded.	09/10/2012

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