

## National Unit Specification: general information

<b>UNIT</b>	Monitoring and Maintaining an Environmental Area (Access 3)
<b>NUMBER</b>	D555 09
<b>CLUSTER</b>	Managing Environmental Resources (Access 3)

### SUMMARY

This unit seeks to develop an awareness of the skills, tools, equipment and materials required for the monitoring and maintenance of an environmental area in an appropriate land-based context. The importance of appropriate records will also be emphasised.

### OUTCOMES

- 1 Observe and monitor an environmental area.
- 2 Maintain plants and constructed features in the environmental area.
- 3 Operate and maintain equipment used in the environmental area.

### RECOMMENDED ENTRY

Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

### CREDIT VALUE

1 credit at Access 3.

---

### Administrative Information

<b>Superclass:</b>	SE
<b>Publication date:</b>	November 1999
<b>Source:</b>	Scottish Qualifications Authority
<b>Version:</b>	02

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 1999

This publication may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that no profit is derived from reproduction and that, if reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged.

Additional copies of this unit specification can be purchased from the Scottish Qualifications Authority. The cost for each unit specification is £2.50 (minimum order £5).

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

**UNIT**                      Monitoring and Maintaining an Environmental Area (Access 3)

### **CORE SKILLS**

This unit gives automatic certification of the following:

**Complete core skills for the unit**                      Problem Solving                      Acc 3

**Additional core skills components for the unit**                      None

Additional information about core skills is published in *Automatic Certification of Core Skills in National Qualifications* (SQA, 1999).

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

### **UNIT**                      Monitoring and Maintaining an Environmental Area (Access 3)

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**

Observe and monitor an environmental area.

##### **Performance criteria**

- (a) The observation of the environmental area is accurate and carried out according to agreed plans.
- (b) The record of plant and animal wildlife of the environmental area is complete and accurate.
- (c) The record of changes in the constructed features of the environmental area is complete and accurate.

##### **Evidence requirements**

Evidence of an appropriate level of attainment should be generated with items covering all performance criteria. Performance evidence is required and could be provided in the form of observation of activity for performance criterion (a). Additional evidence in the form of a record of observations is required for performance criteria (b) and (c). Depending on the activity, the generation of evidence may involve group work.

#### **OUTCOME 2**

Maintain plants and constructed features in the environmental area.

##### **Performance criteria**

- (a) The identification of tasks required to maintain the environmental area is accurate.
- (b) The selection of steps, equipment and materials for the maintenance of plants and constructed features is appropriate with respect to agreed objectives.
- (c) The maintenance of plants is carried out appropriately and according to safe working practices.
- (d) The maintenance of constructed features is carried out appropriately and according to safe working practices.
- (e) The record of maintenance tasks performed is complete with regard to description, time and labour requirements.

##### **Evidence requirements**

Evidence of an appropriate level of attainment should be generated with items covering all performance criteria. Performance evidence is required and could be provided in the form of observation of activity for performance criteria (a) to (d). Additional evidence in the form of a record of work is required for performance criterion (e). Depending on the activity, the generation of evidence may involve group work.

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

**UNIT**                      Monitoring and Maintaining an Environmental Area (Access 3)

### **OUTCOME 3**

Operate and maintain equipment used in the environmental area.

#### **Performance criteria**

- (a) The equipment is selected and operated correctly with respect to the nature of the tasks and safe working practices.
- (b) The cleaning, maintenance and storage of the equipment is appropriate to the situation and in accordance with safety requirements.
- (c) The record of equipment use, maintenance and storage is complete and accurate.

#### **Evidence requirements**

Evidence of an appropriate level of attainment should be generated with items covering all performance criteria. Performance evidence is required and could be provided in the form of observation of activity for performance criteria (a) and (b). Additional evidence in the form of a record of work is required for performance criterion (c). Depending on the activity, the generation of evidence may involve group work.

For each outcome the candidate's responses must show the main aspects of observation and monitoring, of maintenance of plants, features and equipment and of operation of equipment have been recognised and that processes have been identified to deal with the situations.

The activities undertaken should afford opportunities, at the appropriate level of demand, for the candidates to demonstrate through their responses, oral and written, and through their performance that they have:

- identified the necessary sequences of steps
- selected and obtained the requisite resources
- carried out the tasks in the required manner
- recorded the tasks undertaken including a simple report on the results of monitoring and maintaining the environmental area
- given simple criteria, reviewed and evaluated their activities

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

### **UNIT**                      **Monitoring and Maintaining an Environmental Area (Access 3)**

This part of the unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the time allocated to this unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

#### **GUIDANCE ON CONTENT AND CONTEXT FOR THIS UNIT**

Full details to assist staff who are delivering the unit as a free-standing unit are given in the content section of the details of the cluster. The outline of content and context is as follows:

- 1     Observation and monitoring of wildlife.
- 2     Maintenance of site.
- 3     Maintenance of plants.
- 4     Maintenance of constructed features.
- 5     Maintenance of tools and equipment.

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

Details of suitable approaches are given in the details of the cluster.

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

All outcomes can be assessed by an appropriate level of attainment with regard to performance evidence, reports and records of work undertaken.

The observations made by staff and the oral and/or written responses produced by candidates should enable candidates to generate evidence relating to the outcomes and performance criteria such as:

- choice of appropriate methods for surveying the site, description and/or drawing of equipment used in survey, listings of organisms identified using keys, notes of changes in features of the site
- consideration of the aspects of the area and consequent selection of appropriate methods, tools and materials for maintenance of:
  - site eg timetable for specified maintenance tasks, collection and removal of leaves, composting
  - plants eg timing of tasks in keeping with the season, feeding, weeding, replacement
  - constructed features eg repair, refurbishment
  - tools and equipment eg safe working practices, cleaning and storage
- planning the various tasks, collecting necessary resources and carrying out the tasks
- keeping records with relevant details of the work undertaken, of information such as weather conditions, of difficulties overcome, of adaptations made and of results achieved

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

### **UNIT**                      Monitoring and Maintaining an Environmental Area (Access 3)

- evaluative comments, given simple criteria, on the period of monitoring and maintenance:
  - reasons for deterioration of features or plants and remedial actions taken
  - reasons for necessary changes to the site due to weather conditions, plant replacement or change of use
  - success in meeting purposes of the area such as attracting birds, producing plants to decorate the centre or giving pleasure to users
  - suggestions for future improvements to the ways of monitoring and maintaining the site

### **SPECIAL NEEDS**

This unit specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. Special 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 SQA document *Guidance on Special Assessment and Certification Arrangements for Candidates with Special Needs/Candidates whose First Language is not English* (SQA, 1998).