



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Trowel Skills for Landscape Construction

Unit code: H1K2 11

Superclass: SL

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Version: 01

Summary

This Unit is designed to allow the candidate to develop the knowledge and skills required to lay foundations and build a variety of landscape wall features.

Outcomes

- 1 Contribute to the laying of foundations.
- 2 Construct a one brick walling feature.
- 3 Contribute to the construction of a range of hard landscape features.

Recommended entry

Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

Credit points and level

1 National Unit credit at SCQF level 5: (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.*

General information (cont)

Unit title: Trowel Skills for Landscape Construction

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

Unit title: Trowel Skills for Landscape Construction

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.

Outcome 1

Contribute to the laying of foundations.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Appropriate materials and tools are selected.
- (b) Given areas are set out, marked and excavated in the correct manner.
- (c) Concrete or binding is mixed to the correct ratio as instructed.
- (d) Concrete or binding is laid and levelled to a given specification.
- (e) The work methods of and practices demonstrated by the candidate are safe and in accordance with the requirements of all relevant Health and Safety regulations.

Outcome 2

Construct a one brick walling feature.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Appropriate materials and tools are selected.
- (b) Mortar is mixed according to a given specification.
- (c) The feature is set out, built and pointed according to a given specification and to within given tolerances.
- (d) The work methods of and practices demonstrated by the candidate are safe and in accordance with the requirements of all relevant Health and Safety regulations.

Outcome 3

Contribute to the construction of a range of hard landscape features.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Appropriate materials and tools are selected.
- (b) Mortar, if specified for use, is mixed according to a given specification.
- (c) The feature is set out, built and pointed (as necessary) according to a given specification and to within given tolerances.
- (d) The work methods of and practices demonstrated by the candidate are safe and in accordance with the requirements of all relevant Health and Safety regulations.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Trowel Skills for Landscape Construction

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

For Outcome 1 candidates are required to produce practical evidence of their ability to contribute to the laying of foundations to given specifications in readiness for the building of a specified hard landscape feature.

For Outcome 2 candidates are required to produce practical evidence of their ability to construct a one brick walling feature to a given specification and within given tolerances.

For Outcome 3 candidates are required to produce practical evidence of their ability to contribute to the construction of a range of hard landscape features. This should include two from the following; block walling feature, reconstituted stone feature, rubble walling feature, drystone dyke feature.

The assessments for Outcomes 1 and 2 or 1 and 3 could be combined in to a single project. The candidate must work safely and adhere to all relevant Health and Safety requirements throughout all practical activities.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Trowel Skills for Landscape Construction

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 candidate should achieve the level of competence of someone who may be expected to lay foundations for and build a variety of types of walls/features not exceeding 1.2 metres in height for the landscape gardening industry.

An adequate supply of building tools should be available for each candidate.

Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

An opportunity to visit and inspect a range of walls would be useful as would a visit to local builder's merchants to see the variety of materials that are available and used in the area.

The Unit has candidates building a total of 3 walls or features but only stipulates one foundation to be built. It is recommended that at least one of the walls or features is built 'on site' using the foundation built for Outcome 1. The other two walls may be built on a 'solid floor' type workshop for ease but it is recommended that foundation specifications are referred to during building.

In the first instance it would be beneficial for the candidates to work collectively and in pairs under direct guidance from the tutor/trainer who will demonstrate each stage of the work. Candidates can then proceed to work individually and on independent sections of foundation or walls under the supervision of the tutor/trainer who will correct any errors or faults which have not been overcome, during the teaching/training stage.

Throughout the building stages candidates should be taught to continually use levelling equipment and lines. They should also be prompted as necessary to refer to given specifications for the build.

Safe working practices need to be stressed particularly when lifting heavy materials and if cutting bricks, blocks or breaking stones. Danger to eyes, fingers and legs needs emphasis and safety goggles should be available.

National Unit specification: support notes (contd)

Unit title: Trowel Skills for Landscape Construction

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

Although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill component in this Unit, the following Core Skills have been identified as necessary for the successful completion of this Unit.

Communication — candidates prove their ability to convey accurate information, orally in the assessments for Outcomes 1, 2 and 3.

Numeracy — the successful completion of Outcomes 1–3 requires the application of simple numerical skills when for example measuring an area prior to excavation and installation of foundations.

Problem Solving — in Outcome 2 and 3, candidates require the use of critical thinking when deciding how and where to place bricks or stones depending on the given specification for wall or feature building.

Planning and Organising — being able to keep a productive, safe and tidy workspace shows planning and organisational skills.

Working with Others — candidates are likely to work in groups and pairs when completing the practical tasks identified in Outcomes 1–3. As a group or in pairs they must plan, agree and each take responsibility for different aspects of the tasks.

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.

Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

Outcome 1

The candidate will be set a practical exercise to test the skills required to lay a foundation to a given specification. It is recommended that the assessment be carried out with the aid of an observation checklist.

Satisfactory achievement of the Outcome is based on all of the Performance Criteria being met.

Outcome 2

The candidate will be set a practical exercise to test the skills required to construct a one brick walling feature to a given specification and within given tolerances. It is suggested that approximately 1 square metre of wall/feature per candidate is a reasonable size for assessment purposes. It is recommended that the assessments be carried out with the aid of an observation checklist.

Satisfactory achievement of the Outcome is based on all of the Performance Criteria being met.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Trowel Skills for Landscape Construction

Outcome 3

The candidate will be set a practical exercise to test the skills required to construct two from the following; block walling feature, reconstituted stone feature, rubble walling feature, drystone dyke feature, to a given specification and within given tolerances. It is suggested that approximately 1 square metre of each wall/feature per candidate is a reasonable size for assessment purposes. It is recommended that the assessments be carried out with the aid of an observation checklist.

Satisfactory achievement of the Outcome is based on all of the Performance Criteria being met.

The assessments for Outcomes 1 and 2 or 1 and 3 could be combined in to a single project. The candidate must work safely and adhere to all relevant Health and Safety requirements throughout all practical activities.

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 e-checklists. 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)*.

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

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