



Group Award Specification for:

Full title of qualification(s): HNC/D Horticulture (SCQF level 7/8), HND Horticulture with Plantsmanship (SCQF level 8), HNC/D Landscape Management (SCQF level 7/8), HNC/D Garden Design (SCQF level 7/8)

Group Award Code:

- ◆ **GJ9L 15**
- ◆ **GJ9P 16**
- ◆ **GJ9T 16**
- ◆ **GJ9M 15**
- ◆ **GJ9R 16**
- ◆ **GJ9K 15**
- ◆ **GJ9N 16**

Validation date: April 2014

Date of original publication: August 2014

Version: 04 - May 2017

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1 Introduction

This document was previously known as the Arrangements document. The purpose of this document is to:

- ◆ assist centres to implement, deliver and manage the qualification
- ◆ provide a guide for new staff involved in offering the qualification
- ◆ inform course managers teaching staff, assessors, learners, employers and HEIs of the aims and purpose of the qualification
- ◆ provide details of the range of learners the qualification is suitable for and progression opportunities

This Group Award Specification has been produced for the revised Higher National (HN) qualifications for the Horticultural sector. The existing Higher National Certificates (HNCs) and Higher National Diplomas (HNDs) were validated in 2007 as part of the HN modernisation project. The qualifications have run successfully for several years but the review detailed in this document provided an opportunity to consider any changes required to the structure of the various awards and to the content of the component Units and Graded Units. It has also provided the opportunity to rationalise the various qualification structures to allow for greater flexibility in delivery and articulation between awards.

The previous titles have been retained, they have recognition within the sector and accurately reflect the content of each qualification, as follows:

- ◆ HNC Horticulture (SCQF level 7)
- ◆ HND Horticulture (SCQF level 8)
- ◆ HND Horticulture with Plantsmanship (SCQF level 8)
- ◆ HNC Landscape Management (SCQF level 7)
- ◆ HND Landscape Management (SCQF level 8)
- ◆ HNC Garden Design (SCQF level 7)
- ◆ HND Garden Design (SCQF level 8)

The Sector Skills Council (SSC,) for the Land-based and Environment sector, Lantra published revised National Occupational Standards (NOS) for Horticulture at the start of 2013 and this review has allowed the opportunity for the revised HNC/Ds to be mapped to the most up to date industry standards.

The qualifications will be suitable for a range of different learners, including:

- ◆ School leavers.
- ◆ Learners progressing from National Certificate (NC) level provision in related areas.
- ◆ Those already in employment who wish formal recognition of their skills or to further develop their knowledge and skills.
- ◆ Adults who are returning to education and seeking a career change or simply pursuing an interest in horticulture.
- ◆ Volunteers in community gardens/projects seeking recognition of their skills.

Possible employment opportunities include:

At HNC:

- ◆ Retail horticulture such as a garden centre or large home/leisure chain store.
- ◆ Within a landscape company.
- ◆ As a gardener in a private garden/estate or gardens that are open to the public, eg National Trust for Scotland.
- ◆ As a gardener in a community garden/charity sector.
- ◆ Interior landscape company.
- ◆ Nursery/grower/propagator role.
- ◆ Within a garden/landscape design company.
- ◆ Self-employment.

At HND:

- ◆ Assistant garden centre/plant manager within a garden centre or large home/leisure chain.
- ◆ Work based assessor/horticulture trainer.
- ◆ Landscape estimator.
- ◆ Senior gardener or Garden team leader.
- ◆ Contract Manager within a landscape company.
- ◆ Nursery/production manager.
- ◆ Area sales person within a retail company.
- ◆ Garden/landscape designer.
- ◆ Self-employment.

In addition to the employment opportunities identified above, successful learners may also be able to progress to degree level provision with direct entry to Year 2 with an HNC and Year 3 with an HND.

2 Qualification structures

The **HNC Horticulture** (SCQF level 7) consists of 7 Mandatory Units credits (56 SCQF Points) and 5 Optional Unit credits (40 SCQF Points). The mandatory section consists of 56 SCQF Points at SCQF level 7.

The **HND Horticulture** (SCQF level 8) consists of 8 Mandatory Unit Credits (64 SCQF Points) and 22 Optional Unit Credits (176 SCQF Points). The mandatory section contains 32 SCQF Points at SCQF level 8, with a minimum further 32 SCQF Credit Points at SCQF level 8 required within the restricted optional section.

The **HND Horticulture with Plantsmanship** (SCQF level 8) consists of 18 Mandatory Unit Credits (144 SCQF Points) and 12 Optional Unit Credits (96 SCQF Points). The mandatory section consists of 104 SCQF Points at SCQF level 8.

The **HNC Landscape Management** (SCQF level 7) consists of 6 Mandatory Unit Credits (48 SCQF Points) and 6 Optional Unit Credits (48 SCQF Points). The mandatory section consists of 48 SCQF Points at SCQF level 7.

The **HND Landscape Management** (SCQF level 8) consists of 13 Mandatory Unit Credits (104 SCQF Points) and 17 Optional Unit Credits (136 SCQF Points). The mandatory section consists of 64 SCQF Points at SCQF level 8.

The **HNC Garden Design** (SCQF level 7) consists of 7 Mandatory Unit Credits (56 SCQF Points) and 5 Optional Unit Credits (40 SCQF Points). The mandatory section consists of 56 SCQF Points at SCQF level 7.

The **HND Garden Design** (SCQF level 8) consists of 14 Mandatory Units (112 SCQF Points) and 16 Optional Unit Credits (128 SCQF Points). The mandatory section consists of 80 SCQF Points at SCQF level 8.

2.1 Structure

2.1.1 HNC Horticulture Structure (SCQF level 7)

Total SQA credits needed for the Group Award (not total SCQF points)	12
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Structure (Mandatory) All Units must be achieved		Total SQA credits needed from the mandatory section	7
4 code	2 code	Unit Title	SQA Credit
F1JA	34	Horticultural Practices	2
F21T	34	Plant Growth and Development	1
F2BB	34	Plant Protection	1
F21S	34	Horticulture: Plant Recognition and Use	1
F21V	34	Soil Management	1
H7L0	34	Horticulture: Graded Unit 1	1

Structure (Optional) Units which may be taken to meet the total credit requirement of the Course/Group Award		Total SQA credits needed from the optional section	5
4 code	2 code	Unit Title	SQA Credit
Optional Group 1 (Business) — 1 Credit Needed			
F1RJ	34	Business Management: An Introduction	1
H7V4*	34	Preparing to Start a Business	1
F5CP	34	Supervision and Management	1
F26G	34	Financial Records for Small Business	1
Optional Group 2 (Horticultural Machinery) — 1 Credit Needed			
F21P	34	Horticultural Mechanisation Principles	1
D4PE	34	Selection and Management of Machinery for Land-based Industries	1
Optional Group 3 — from 1 to 3 Credits needed			
DJ1K	34	Cell Biology: Theory and Practice	1
F1J3	34	Constructing Hard Landscape Features	1
F1JF	34	Nursery Production	1
F2B2	34	Pesticide Application	1
F1MS	34	Plant Physiology	1
F2B4	34	Plant Trials: An Introduction	1
H7BA	34	Planting Design	1
F1J9	34	Plants for Gardens: Woody and Herbaceous Perennials	1
F1JK	34	Retailing of Plants	1
F1MN	34	Landscape Industry: Specification and Estimation	1
F1JG	35	Parks, Gardens and Public Open Spaces	1
F1JB	35	Landscape Design History	1
F2B6	35	Plants for Gardens: Specialised Plantings	1
F69L	34	Communication: Presenting Complex Communication for Vocational Purposes	1

4 code	2 code	Unit Title	SQA Credit
Optional Group 4 — Up to 1 Credit Needed			
HJ4W*	34	Work Experience	1
DE3R	34	Personal Development Planning	1
Optional Group 5 — Up to 1 Credit Needed			
D75X	34	Information Technology: Applications Software 1	1
D85F	34	Using Software Application Packages	1

The HNC consists of 92 SCQF Credit Points, with a Mandatory Section comprised of 56 SCQF Credit Points all at SCQF level 7, including a the HNC Graded Unit 1 (8 SCQF Points at SCQF level 7). The remaining 36 SCQF Credit Points are selected from the Optional Section which includes both SCQF level 7 and level 8 Units. There are restricted Optional Sections to ensure learners achieve a suitable range of knowledge and skills while retaining a clear focus on the main occupational area.

2.1.2 HND Horticulture Structure (SCQF level 8)

HND Horticulture

Total SQA credits needed for the Group Award (not total SCQF points)	30
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Structure (Mandatory) All Units must be achieved	Total SQA credits needed from the mandatory section	8	
4 code	2 code	Unit Title	SQA Credit
F21T	34	Plant Growth and Development	1
F2B3	34	Plant Protection	1
F21S	34	Horticulture: Plant Recognition and Use	1
F21V	34	Soil Management	1
F1JL	35	Soils and Plant Nutrition	1
F1JH	35	Plant Protection: Integrated Approaches	1
F2CX	35	Horticulture: Graded Unit 2	1
H7L3	35	Horticulture: Graded Unit 3	1

Structure (Optional) Units which may be taken to meet the total credit requirement of the Course/Group Award	Total SQA credits needed from the optional section	22	
4 code	2 code	Unit Title	SQA Credit
Optional Group 1 (HNC Graded Units) — 1 Credit Needed			
H7L0	34	Horticulture: Graded Unit 1	1
H7L1	34	Landscape Management: Graded Unit 1	1
Optional Group 2 (Practice) — 2 Credits needed			
F1JA	34	Horticultural Practices	2
H7BC	34	Practical Landscaping	2

4 code	2 code	Unit Title	SQA Credit
Optional Group 3 (SCQF level 8 Units) — from 4 to 18 Credits needed			
H7B5	35	Advanced Plant Propagation	1
F2AX	35	Crop Physiology and Breeding	1
F1J4	35	Crop Production Practices	1
DJ6X	35	DNA Molecular Techniques: Theory and Practice	2
F1MK	35	Genetics for Plant Science	1
H7B6	35	Hardy Ornamental Nursery Stock	1
F2B0	35	Horticultural Growing Media	1
F21R	35	Horticultural Production Mechanisation	1
F1ML	35	Information Technology in Landscape Design and Management	1
F1JB	35	Landscape Design History	1
F1JC	35	Landscape Management and Maintenance	1
F2B1	35	Landscape Practices	1
H7BH	35	Lawn Construction and Maintenance	1
F1JG	35	Parks, Gardens and Public Open Space	1
H7BD	35	Plants and Habitats: Ecology and Conservation	2
F2B6	35	Plants for Gardens: Specialised Plantings	1
F1JJ	35	Protected Crops	1
DP4X	35	Terrestrial Ecosystems	1
F2B7	35	Water Gardens: Design and Construction	1
F3X3	35	Data Collection and Handling Methods	1
F1YA	35	Organic Production Systems	1
H7BF	35	Show Gardens: Design and Construction	2
Optional Section 4 (Business) — from 1 to 2 Credits needed			
F1RJ	34	Business Management: An Introduction	1
H7V4*	34	Preparing to Start a Business	1
F26G	34	Financial Records for Small Business	1
F5CP	34	Supervision and Management	1
Optional Section 5 — up to 13 Credits needed			
DH2J	34	Biochemistry: Theory and Practice	1
DJ1K	34	Cell Biology: Theory and Practice	1
F1J3	34	Constructing Hard Landscape Features	1
F21M	34	Design Process and Composition in the Landscape: An Introduction	1
F1J7	34	Fundamentals of Landscape Surveying	1
F1MM	34	Landscape Graphics	1
F1JF	34	Nursery Production	1
F2B2	34	Pesticide Application	1
H7BA	34	Planting Design	1
F1J9	34	Plants for Gardens: Woody and Herbaceous Perennials	1
F1JK	34	Retailing of Plants	1
D5E6	34	Understanding the Landscape	1
HJ4W*	34	Work Placement	1
F1MN	34	Landscape Industry: Specification and Estimation	1
DE3R	34	Personal Development Planning	1
F69L	34	Communication: Presenting Complex Communication for Vocational Purposes	1
F1MS*	34	Plant Physiology	1
F2B4*	34	Plant Trials: An Introduction	1

4 code	2 code	Unit Title	SQA Credit
Optional Section 6 (IT) — Up to 1 Credit Needed			
D75X	34	Information Technology: Applications Software 1	1
D85F	34	Using Software Application Packages	1

4 code	2 code	Unit Title	SQA Credit
Optional Section 7 — Up to 1 Credit Needed			
F21P	34	Horticultural Mechanisation Principles	1
D4PE	34	Selection and Management of Machinery for Land-based Industries	1

*Refer to the History of Changes

The HND consists of 240 SCQF Credit Points, with a Mandatory Section comprised of 64 SCQF Credit Points at SCQF levels 7 and 8, including the HND Graded Units 2 and 3 (each 8 SCQF Points at SCQF level 8). To ensure all learners complete the required 64 SCQF Credit Points at SCQF level 8 there is a Restricted Optional Section where a minimum of 32 SCQF Credit Points must be selected. There are further Optional Sections to ensure learners achieve a suitable range of knowledge and skills while retaining a clear focus on the main occupational area.

2.1.3 HND Horticulture with Plantsmanship (SCQF level 8)

HND Horticulture with Plantsmanship

Total SQA credits needed for the Group Award (not total SCQF points)	30
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Structure (Mandatory) All Units must be achieved		Total SQA credits needed from the mandatory section	18
4 code	2 code	Unit Title	SQA Credit
F2B3	34	Plant Protection	1
F21S	34	Horticulture: Plant Recognition and Use	1
F21T	34	Plant Growth and Development	1
F21V	34	Soil Management	1
H7B5	35	Advanced Plant Propagation	1
F1J6	35	Designing Plant Collections	1
F1JB	35	Landscape Design History	1
F1JE	35	Managing Plant Collections	2
F1MR	35	Plant Classification and Systematics	2
F1JH	35	Plant Protection: Integrated Approaches	1
H7BD	35	Plants and Habitats: Ecology and Conservation	2
F1JL	35	Soils and Plant Nutrition	1
H7L0	34	Horticulture Graded Unit 1	1
F2D4	35	Horticulture with Plantsmanship: Graded Unit 2	1
H7L4	35	Horticulture with Plantsmanship: Graded Unit 3	1

Structure (Optional) Units which may be taken to meet the total credit requirement of the Course/Group Award		Total SQA credits needed from the optional section	12
4 code	2 code	Unit Title	SQA Credit
Optional Group 1 (Practice) — 2 Credits needed			
F1JA	34	Horticultural Practices	2
H7BC	34	Practical Landscaping	2
Optional Group 2 (Machinery) — 1 Credit needed			
F21P	34	Horticultural Mechanisation Principles	1
D4PE	34	Selection and Management of Machinery for Land Based Industries	1
Optional Group 3 (Business) — from 1 to 2 Credits needed			
F1RJ	34	Business Management: An Introduction	1
H7V4*	34	Preparing to Start a Business	1
F26G	34	Financial Records for Small Business	1
F5CP	34	Supervision and Management	1
Optional Group 4 — from 7 to 8 Credits needed			
DH2J	34	Biochemistry: Theory and Practice	1
DJ1K	34	Cell Biology: Theory and Practice	1
F1J3	34	Constructing Hard Landscape Features	1
F1JF	34	Nursery Production	1
F2B2	34	Pesticide Application	1

Group Award Specification: HNC Horticulture (GJ9L 15), HND Horticulture (GJ9P 16), HND Horticulture with Plantsmanship (GJ9T 16), HNC Landscape Management (GJ9M 15) HND Landscape Management (GJ9T 16), HNC Garden Design (GJ9K 15), HND Garden Design (GJ9N 16) (SCQF level 7/8)

4 code	2 code	Unit Title	SQA Credit
F1MS	34	Plant Physiology	1
F2B4	34	Plant Trials: An Introduction	1
H7BA	34	Planting Design	1
F1J9	34	Plants for Gardens: Woody and Herbaceous Perennials	1
F1JK	34	Retailing of Plants	1
HJ4W*	34	Work Placement	1
F1MK	35	Genetics for Plant Science	1
DE3R	33	Personal Development Planning	1
F1MN	34	Landscape Industry: Specification and Estimation	1
F2B6	35	Plants for Gardens: Specialised Plantings	1
F3X3	35	Data Collection and Handling Methods	1
F1JG	35	Parks, Gardens and Public Open Space	1
DP4X	35	Terrestrial Ecosystems	1
F69L	34	Communication: Presenting Complex Communication for Vocational Purposes	1
Optional Section 6 (IT) — Up to 1 Credit Needed			
D75X	34	Information Technology: Applications Software 1	1
D85F	34	Using Software Application Packages	1

*Refers to the History of Changes

The HND consists of 240 SCQF Credit Points, with a Mandatory Section comprised of 144 SCQF Credit Points at SCQF levels 7 and 8, including the HND Graded Units 2 and 3 (each 8 SCQF Points at SCQF level 8). The Mandatory Section contains 96 SCQF Credit Points at SCQF level 8 exceeding the requirement for 64 SCQF Credit Points at level 8 for HNDs. There are further Optional Sections to ensure learners achieve a suitable range of knowledge and skills while retaining a clear focus on the main occupational area.

2.1.4 HNC Landscape Management (SCQF Level 7)

Total SQA credits needed for the Group Award =(not total SCQF points)	12
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Structure (Mandatory) All Units must be achieved		Total SQA credits needed from the mandatory section	6
4 code	2 code	Unit Title	SQA Credit
F1J3	34	Construction Hard Landscape Features	1
F21M	34	Design Process and Composition in the Landscape: An Introduction	1
F1J7	34	Fundamentals of Landscape Surveying	1
F21S	34	Horticulture: Plant Recognition and Use	1
H7BA	34	Planting Design	1
H7L1	34	Landscape Management: Graded Unit 1	1

Structure (Optional) Units which may be taken to meet the total credit requirement of the Course/Group Award		Total SQA credits needed from the optional section	6
4 code	2 code	Unit Title	SQA Credit
Optional Group 1 (Practice) — 2 Credits needed			
F1JA	34	Horticultural Practices	2
H7BC	34	Practical Landscaping	2
Optional Group 2 (Business) — 1 Credit Needed			
F1RJ	34	Business Management: An Introduction	1
H7V4*	34	Preparing to Start a Business	1
F5CP	34	Supervision and Management	1
F26G	34	Financial Records in Small Business	1
Optional Group 3 (Machinery) — 1 Credit Needed			
F21P	34	Horticultural Mechanisation Principles	1
D4PE	34	Selection and Management of Machinery for Land Based Industries	1
Optional Group 4 — from 1 to 2 Credits Needed			
F1MM	34	Landscape Graphics	1
F2B2	34	Pesticide Application	1
F1J9	34	Plants for Gardens: Woody and Herbaceous Perennials	1
F21V	34	Soil Management	1
D5E6	34	Understanding the Landscape	1
F1MN	34	Landscape Industry: Specification and estimation	1
F1JG	34	Parks, Gardens and Public Open Spaces	1
F2B3	34	Plant Protection	1
F2B6	34	Plants for Gardens: Specialised Plantings	1
HJ4W*	34	Work Placement	1
F69L	34	Communication: Presenting Complex Communication for Vocational Purposes	1

4 code	2 code	Unit Title	SQA Credit
Optional Group 5 (IT) — up to 1 credit needed			
D75X	34	Information Technology: Applications Software 1	1
D85F	34	Using Software Application Packages	1

*Refers to the History of Changes

The HNC consists of 96 SCQF Credit Points, with a Mandatory Section comprised of 48 SCQF Credit Points at SCQF levels 7 including the HNC Graded Unit 1. There are further Optional Sections to ensure learners achieve a suitable range of knowledge and skills while retaining a clear focus on the main occupational area.

2.1.5 HND Landscape Management (SCQF level 8)

Total SQA credits needed for the Group Award (not total SCQF points)	30
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Structure (Mandatory) All Units must be achieved		Total SQA credits needed from the mandatory section	13
4 code	2 code	Unit Title	SQA Credit
F1J3	34	Construction Hard Landscape Features	1
F21M	34	Design Process and Composition in the Landscape: An Introduction	1
F1J7	34	Fundamentals of Landscape Surveying	1
F21S	34	Horticulture: Plant Recognition and Use	1
H7BA	34	Planting Design	1
F1ML	35	Information Technology in Landscape Design and Management	1
F1JB	35	Landscape Design History	1
F1JC	35	Landscape Management and Maintenance	1
F2B1	35	Landscape Practices	1
F1JG	35	Parks, Gardens and Public Open Spaces	1
DP4X	35	Terrestrial Ecosystems	1
F2D2	35	Landscape Management: Graded Unit 2	1
H7L5	35	Landscape Management: Graded Unit 3	1

Structure (Optional) Units which may be taken to meet the total credit requirement of the Course/Group Award		Total SQA credits needed from the optional section	17
4 code	2 code	Unit Title	SQA Credit
Optional Group 1 (HNC Graded Unit) — 1 Credits needed			
H7L1	34	Landscape Management: Graded Unit 1	1
H7L2	34	Garden Design: Graded Unit 1	1
Optional Group 2 (Practice) — 2 Credits needed			
F1JA	34	Horticultural Practices	2
H7BC	34	Practical Landscaping	2
Optional Group 3 (Business) — 1 Credit Needed			
F1RJ	34	Business Management: An Introduction	1
H7V4*	34	Preparing to start a Business	1
F5CP	34	Supervision and Management	1
F26G	34	Financial Records in Small Business	1
Optional Group 4 (Machinery) — 1 Credit Needed			
F21P	34	Horticultural Mechanisation Principles	1
D4PE	34	Selection and Management of Machinery for Land Based Industries	1

4 code	2 code	Unit Title	SQA Credit
Optional Group 5 — from 11 to 12 Credits Needed			
F1J5	34	Design and Use of Hard Landscape Features	1
F1J8	34	Garden Design Concepts	2
F1MM	34	Landscape Graphics	1
F2B2	34	Pesticide Application	1
F21T	34	Plant Growth and Development	1
F2B3	34	Plant Protection	1
F1J9	34	Plants for Gardens: Woody and Herbaceous Perennials	1
F21V	34	Soil Management	1
D5E6	34	Understanding the Landscape	1
HJ4W*	34	Work Placement	1
H7BH	35	Lawn Construction and Maintenance	1
F1JH	35	Plant Protection: Integrated Approaches	1
H7BD	35	Plants and Habitats: Ecology and Conservation	2
F2B6	35	Plants for Gardens: Specialised Plantings	1
F1JL	35	Soils and Plant Nutrition	1
F2GA	35	Land Use and Systems	1
F1MN	34	Landscape Industry: Specification and Estimation	1
F2EE	34	Pollution and Waste Management: An Introduction	1
F2B7	35	Water Gardens: Design and Construction	1
F69L	34	Communication: Presenting Complex Communications for Vocational Purposes	1
Optional Group 5 (IT) — up to 1 credit needed			
D75X	34	Information Technology: Applications Software 1	1
D85F	34	Using Software Application Packages	1

*Refers to the History of Changes

The HND consists of 240 SCQF Credit Points, with a Mandatory Section comprised of 104 SCQF Credit Points at SCQF levels 7 and 8, including the HND Graded Units 2 and 3 (each 8 SCQF Points at SCQF level 8). The Mandatory Section contains 64 SCQF Credit Points at SCQF level 8 meeting the requirement for SCQF Credit Points at Level 8 for HNDs. There are further Optional Sections to ensure learners achieve a suitable range of knowledge and skills while retaining a clear focus on the main occupational area.

2.1.6 HNC Garden Design (SCQF level 7)

Total SQA credits needed for the Group Award (not total SCQF points)	12
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Structure (Mandatory) All Units must be achieved		Total SQA credits needed from the mandatory section	7
4 code	2 code	Unit Title	SQA Credit
F21M	34	Design Process and Composition in the Landscape: An Introduction	1
F1J7	34	Fundamentals of Landscape Surveying	1
F1J8 Or H7BG	34	Garden Design Concepts	2
	34	Garden Design Concepts	1
F1MM	34	Landscape Graphics	1
F21S	34	Horticulture: Plant Recognition and Use	1
H7L2	34	Garden Design: Graded Unit 1	1

Structure (Optional) Units which may be taken to meet the total credit requirement of the Course/Group Award		Total SQA credits needed from the optional section	6
4 code	2 code	Unit Title	SQA Credit
Optional Group 1 (Practice) — 2 Credits needed			
F1JA	34	Horticultural Practices	2
H7BC	34	Practical Landscaping	2
Optional Group 2 (Construction) — 1 Credit Needed			
F1J5	34	Design and Use of Hard Landscape Features	1
F1J3	34	Constructing Hard Landscape Features	1
Optional Group 3 (Business) — 1 Credit Needed			
F1RJ	34	Business Management: An Introduction	1
H7V4*	34	Getting Started in Business	1
F5CP	34	Supervision and Management	1
F26G	34	Financial Records in Small Business	1
Optional Group 4 — 1 Credit Needed			
H7BA	34	Planting Design	1
F1J9	34	Plants for Gardens: Woody and Herbaceous Perennials	1
F21T	34	Plant Growth and Development	1
F2B4	34	Plant Trials: An Introduction	1
HJ4W*	34	Work Experience	1
F1MN	34	Landscape Industry: Specification and Estimation	1
F21V	34	Soil Management	1
F2B6	35	Plants for Gardens: Specialised Plantings	1
D75X	34	Information Technology: Applications Software 1	1
D85F	34	Using Software Application Packages	1

*Refers to the History of Changes

The HNC consists of 96 SCQF Credit Points, with a Mandatory Section comprised of 72 SCQF Credit Points at SCQF levels 7 including the HNC Graded Unit 1. There are further Optional Sections to ensure learners achieve a suitable range of knowledge and skills while retaining a clear focus on the main occupational area.

2.1.7 HND Garden Design (SCQF level 8)

Total SQA credits needed for the Group Award (not total SCQF points)	30
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Structure (Mandatory) All Units must be achieved		Total SQA credits needed from the mandatory section	14
4 code	2 code	Unit Title	SQA Credit
F21M	34	Design Process and Composition in the Landscape: An Introduction	1
F1J7	34	Fundamentals of Landscape Surveying	1
F1MM	34	Landscape Graphics	1
F21S	34	Horticulture: Plant Recognition and Use	1
H7B7	35	Garden Design Practice	2
H7B9	35	Garden Design Skills	2
F1ML	35	Information Technology in Landscape Design and Management	1
F1JB	35	Landscape Design History	1
F1JC	35	Landscape Management and Maintenance	1
F2B1	35	Landscape Practices	1
F2D6	35	Garden Design: Graded Unit 2	1
H7L6	35	Garden Design: Graded Unit 3	1

Structure (Optional) Units which may be taken to meet the total credit requirement of the Course/Group Award		Total SQA credits needed from the optional section	16
4 code	2 code	Unit Title	SQA Credit
Optional Group 1 (HNC Graded Unit) — 1 Credits needed			
H7L1	34	Landscape Management: Graded Unit 1	1
H7L0	34	Horticulture: Graded Unit 1	1
H7L2	34	Garden Design: Graded Unit 1	1
Optional Group 2 (Practice) — 2 Credits needed			
F1JA	34	Horticultural Practices	2
H7BC	34	Practical Landscaping	2
Optional Group 3 (Business) — 1 Credit Needed			
F1RJ	34	Business Management: An Introduction	1
H7V4*	34	Preparing to Start a Business	1
F5CP	34	Supervision and Management	1
F26G	34	Financial Records in Small Business	1
Optional Group 4 (Garden Design) — From 1 to 2 Credits needed			
F1J8	34	Garden Design Concepts	2
H7BG	34	Designing Gardens	1
Optional Group 5 (Hard Landscape) — From 1 to 2 Credits			
F1J5	34	Design and Use of Hard Landscape Features	1
F1J3	34	Constructing Hard Landscape Features	1

4 code	2 code	Unit Title	SQA Credit
Optional Group 6 — from 5 to 10 credits needed			
F21T	34	Plant Growth and Development	1
F2B4	34	Plant Trials: An Introduction	1
H7BA	34	Planting Design	1
F1J9	34	Plants for Gardens: Woody and Herbaceous Perennials	1
F21V	34	Soil Management	1
HJ4W*	34	Work Placement	1
F1MN	34	Landscape Industry: Specification and Estimation	1
H7BF	35	Show Gardens: Design and Construction	2
H7BH	35	Lawn Construction and Management	1
F2B6	35	Plants for Gardens: Specialised Plantings	1
F2B7	35	Water Gardens: Design and Construction	1
F1RJ	34	Cell Biology: Theory and Practice	1
F1JF	34	Nursery Production	1
F2B2	34	Pesticide Application	1
F1MS	34	Plant Physiology	1
F1JK	34	Retailing of Plants	1
F1JG	35	Parks, Gardens and Public Open Spaces	1
D5E6	34	Understanding the Landscap	1
F69L	34	Communication: Presenting Complex Communication for Vocational Purposes	1
DE3R	34	Personal Development Planning	1
Optional Group X (IT) — up to 1 credit needed			
D75X	34	Information Technology: Applications Software 1	1
D85F	34	Using Software Application Packages	1
Optional Group X (Machinery) — Up to 1 Credit Needed			
F21P	34	Horticultural Mechanisation Principles	1
D4PE	34	Selection and Management of Machinery for Land Based Industries	1
Optional Group X (Plant Protection) — Up to 1 Credit Needed			
F1MP	34	Pests, Diseases, Weeds and Disorders of Garden Plants	1
F2B3	34	Plant Protection	1

The HND consists of 240 SCQF Credit Points, with a Mandatory Section comprised of 112 SCQF Credit Points at SCQF Levels 7 and 8, including the HND Graded Units 2 and 3 (each 8 SCQF Points at SCQF Level 8. The Mandatory Section contains 80 SCQF Credit Points at SCQF Level 8 exceeding the requirement for 64 SCQF Credit Points at Level 8 for HNDs. There are further Optional Sections to ensure learners achieve a suitable range of knowledge and skills while retaining a clear focus on the main occupational area.

3 Aims of the qualification(s)

HNC Principal Aims:

To provide individuals with basic generic knowledge, understanding, competencies, skills and abilities in horticulture and related areas and to enable them to be employable at the craft level within the industry.

HND Principal Aims:

To provide individuals with generic and specific knowledge, understanding, competencies, skills and abilities in horticulture and related areas and to enable them to be employable at the management level within the industry or to pursue an independent career.

3.1 General aims of the qualification(s)

HNC (Horticulture, Landscape Management, Garden Design) General Aims:

- ◆ To provide the knowledge and skills required to progress to a relevant HND qualification.
- ◆ To provide the knowledge and skills required for employment at the relevant level within the industry.
- ◆ To develop an understanding of the main theoretical concepts and terminology of horticulture.
- ◆ To develop employability skills in a horticultural context.

HND (Horticulture, Horticulture with Plantsmanship, Landscape Management, Garden Design) General Aims:

- ◆ To build upon the knowledge and skills developed in the HNC.
- ◆ To provide the knowledge and skills required to progress to relevant Degree level provision.
- ◆ To provide the knowledge and skills required for employment at a management level or equivalent within the industry.
- ◆ To provide an opportunity for specialism.

3.2 Specific aims of the qualification(s)

HNC Garden Design

The aim of the HNC is to develop knowledge and skills in design, plants, construction and business and to introduce learners to the breadth of the horticulture and landscape industries.

The HNC will:

- ◆ develop knowledge of the design process through a series of design projects, enabling learners to survey sites, interview clients and produce designs for gardens.
- ◆ develop landscape graphic skills.
- ◆ develop plant identification ability, and enable application of knowledge of plants to planting design.
- ◆ provide an opportunity for development of practical horticultural knowledge and skills in plant production and landscape maintenance.
- ◆ provide an opportunity to participate in practical construction projects.

HND Garden Design

This qualification will develop design and practical abilities to enable learners to successfully design and implement projects on a garden scale.

The HND will:

- ◆ develop an appreciation of different garden styles, designers and the history of landscape design, and enable learners to design in particular styles or for particular locations within the UK.
- ◆ develop skills in using computer aided design software.
- ◆ develop plant knowledge in relation to plant use in the landscape, and provide an opportunity to develop practical skills and knowledge in the care, maintenance and management of plants in the landscape.
- ◆ provide an opportunity to develop technical skills and knowledge in landscape construction.
- ◆ enthuse learners to develop their own design ideas.

HNC Horticulture

The aim of the HNC is to introduce the student to the breadth of the horticultural industry and to develop an understanding of the characteristics, growth and use of plants, supported by practical skills required for the production, care and maintenance of plants.

The HNC will:

- ◆ provide an opportunity for development of practical horticultural knowledge and skills in plant propagation, plant production and landscape maintenance.
- ◆ give a broad grounding in soil management, plant protection and horticultural machinery.
- ◆ develop plant identification skills.
- ◆ introduce horticultural science.
- ◆ enable some specialisation in ornamental plant production, plant retailing, planting design, food crop production.

HND Horticulture

This qualification has a broad range of Units enabling completion of a general qualification or one focused on either crop/plant production or amenity horticulture.

The HND will:

- ◆ provide an opportunity to develop skills and knowledge in the production of edible and non-edible crop plants
- ◆ provide an opportunity to develop practical skills and knowledge in the care, maintenance and management of plants in the amenity landscape
- ◆ provide an opportunity to develop abilities in horticultural science and technology
- ◆ allow specialisation through a range of Optional Units at SCQF level 8
- ◆ enable learners to apply knowledge in a management and scientific context
- ◆ enthuse learners to independently develop skills and knowledge in aspects of horticulture which interest them.

HND Horticulture with Plantsmanship

This specialist qualification will enable learners to gain specialised experience and skills by focusing on plantsmanship.

The specific aims are to:

- ◆ provide an opportunity to develop knowledge of taxonomy, ecology, conservation, cultivation and management of plants.
- ◆ provide an opportunity to focus on the design, management and interpretation of plant collections.
- ◆ enable learners to develop their knowledge of the science underpinning plant systematics and plant growth.
- ◆ enable learners to apply plantsmanship skills in a management and scientific context.
- ◆ enthuse learners to independently develop skills and knowledge in plantsmanship.

HNC Landscape Management

The aim of the HNC is to introduce the student to landscape management through an understanding of the characteristics, growth and use of plants, and the practical skills for the care and management of plants. This is coupled with practical construction and landscaping skills.

The HNC will:

- ◆ provide an opportunity for development of practical horticultural and landscaping knowledge and skills.
- ◆ give an understanding of the landscape design process and an opportunity to apply knowledge gained on site survey to site design.
- ◆ develop plant identification ability, and enable application of knowledge of plants to planting design.
- ◆ provide an opportunity to participate in the landscape construction process.
- ◆ enable some specialisation in soil management, plant protection, mechanisation or the broader landscape.

HND Landscape Management

This qualification will develop specialist knowledge of landscape management through an understanding of the characteristics, growth and use of plants, practical skills for the care and management of landscapes, and consideration of management constraints and opportunities.

The HND will:

- ◆ provide an opportunity to develop practical skills and knowledge in the care, maintenance and management of plants in the amenity landscape.
- ◆ develop knowledge of landscape construction in a management context.
- ◆ develop skills in using computer aided landscape design and management software.
- ◆ enable learners to evaluate landscapes and apply knowledge in a management context taking into account environmental, social and historical considerations.
- ◆ enthuse learners to independently develop skills and knowledge in aspects of landscape management which interest them.

3.3 Graded Unit(s)

The revision of the suite of HN qualifications has provided the opportunity to review the Graded Units in each of the awards. While the revised qualifications retain the previous format of an Exam for the HNC Graded Unit 1, a project for HND Graded Unit 2 and an exam for HND Graded Unit 3. Overall this model has worked well however the review has allowed the Exam Graded Units to be amended to allow for a clearer and more accurate distinction between the A, B and C Grades. Details of each Graded Unit is given below:

HNC Horticulture Graded Unit 1:

- ◆ Exam — 8 SCQF Points at SCQF level 7

HND Horticulture Graded Unit 2:

- ◆ Project — 8 SCQF Points at SCQF level 8

HND Horticulture Graded Unit 3:

- ◆ Exam — 8 SCQF Points at SCQF level 8

HND Horticulture with Plantsmanship Graded Unit 2:

- ◆ Project — 8 SCQF Points at SCQF level 8

HND Horticulture with Plantsmanship Graded Unit 3:

- ◆ Exam — 8 SCQF Points at SCQF level 8

HNC Landscape Management Graded Unit 1:

- ◆ Exam — 8 SCQF Points at SCQF level 7

HND Landscape Management Graded Unit 2:

- ◆ Project — 8 SCQF Points at SCQF level 8

HND Landscape Management Graded Unit 3:

- ◆ Exam — 8 SCQF Points at SCQF level 8

HNC Garden Design Graded Unit 1:

- ◆ Exam — 8 SCQF Points at SCQF level 7

HND Garden Design Graded Unit 2:

- ◆ Project — 8 SCQF Points at SCQF level 8

HND Garden Design Graded Unit 3:

- ◆ Exam — 8 SCQF Points at SCQF level 8

4 Recommended entry to the qualification(s)

Entry to this qualification is at the discretion of the centre. The following information on prior knowledge, skills, experience or qualifications that provide suitable preparation for this qualification has been provided by the Qualification Design Team as guidance only.

Learners would benefit from having attained the skills, knowledge and understanding required by one or more of the following or equivalent qualifications and/or experience:

- ◆ National Certificate in Horticulture SCQF level 5
- ◆ SVQ Horticulture, Production Horticulture, Landscaping or Parks, Gardens and Green Space levels 3
- ◆ Other equivalent qualifications
- ◆ A minimum of 2 Highers including a science

4.1 Core Skills entry profile

The Core Skill entry profile provides a summary of the associated assessment activities that exemplify why a particular level has been recommended for this qualification. The information should be used to identify if additional learning support needs to be put in place for learners whose Core Skills profile is below the recommended entry level or whether learners should be encouraged to do an alternative level or learning programme.

Core Skill	Recommended SCQF entry profile	Associated assessment activities
Communication	6	Written or Oral Reports, Technical Communication with clients and contractors
Numeracy	6	Use of Scale Drawing, Calculations or Area, Costings and Specifications
Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	6	Use of CAD, production of reports and annotated designs
Problem Solving	6	Extensive practical assessments in varying contexts and conditions
Working with Others	6	Team working and working with contractors and clients

5 Additional benefits of the qualification in meeting employer needs

This qualification was designed to meet a specific purpose and what follows are details on how that purpose has been met through mapping of the Units to the aims of the qualification. Through meeting the aims, additional value has been achieved by linking the Unit standards with those defined in National Occupational Standards and/or trade/professional body requirements. In addition, significant opportunities exist for learners to develop the more generic skill, known as Core Skills through doing this qualification.

5.1 Mapping of qualification aims to Units

Specific Aims to Units

HNC Horticulture

- A Provide an opportunity for development of practical horticultural knowledge and skills in plant propagation, plant production and landscape maintenance.
- B Give a broad grounding in soil management, plant protection and horticultural machinery.
- C Develop plant identification skills.
- D Introduce horticultural science.
- E Enable some specialisation in ornamental plant production, plant retailing, planting design, food crop production.

Title	M/O	A	B	C	D	E
Horticultural Practices	M	X	X			X
Horticulture: Plant Recognition and Use	M			X		
Plant Growth and Development	M				X	
Plant Protection	M		X	X	X	
Soil Management	M		X		X	
Cell Biology: Theory and Practice	O				X	
Constructing Hard Landscape Features	O	X				
Horticultural Mechanisation Principles	O		X			
Landscape Design History	O					X
Landscape Industry: Specification and Estimation	O					X
Nursery Production	O	X				X
Parks, Gardens and Public Open Spaces	O					X
Pesticide Application	O		X			
Plant Physiology	O				X	
Plant Trials: An Introduction	O	X			X	
Planting Design	O					X

Title	M/O	A	B	C	D	E
Plants for Gardens: Specialised Plantings	O			X		X
Plants for Gardens: Woody and Herbaceous Perennials	O			X		
Retailing of Plants	O					X
Selection and Management of Machinery for Land Based Industries	O		X			

HND Horticulture

- A Provide an opportunity to develop skills and knowledge in the production of edible and non-edible crop plants.
- B Provide an opportunity to develop practical skills and knowledge in the care, maintenance and management of plants in the amenity landscape.
- C Provide an opportunity to develop abilities in horticultural science and technology.
- D Allow specialisation through a range of Optional Units at SCQF level 8.
- E Enable learners to apply knowledge in a management and scientific context.
- F Enthuse learners to independently develop skills and knowledge in aspects of horticulture which interest them.

Title	M/O	A	B	C	D	E	F
Horticultural Practices	M	X	X				
Horticulture: Plant Recognition and Use	M		X				X
Plant Growth and Development	M			X			
Plant Protection	M	X	X				
Plant Protection: Integrated Approaches	M	X	X	X			
Soil Management	M	X	X			X	
Soils and Plant Nutrition	M	X		X		X	
Advanced Plant Propagation	O	X		X	X		X
Biochemistry: Theory and Practice	O			X	X		
Cell Biology: Theory and Practice	O			X	X		
Constructing Hard Landscape Features	O				X		
Crop Physiology and Breeding	O		X	X	X	X	
Crop Production Practices	O	X	X		X	X	X
Data Collection and Handling Methods	O			X	X		
Design Process and Composition in the Landscape: An Introduction	O			X	X		
DNA Molecular Techniques: Theory and Practice	O			X	X		

Title	M/O	A	B	C	D	E	F
Fundamentals of Landscape Surveying	O			X	X		
Genetics for Plant Science	O			X	X		
Hardy Ornamental Nursery Stock	O	X			X		X
Horticultural Growing Media	O	X		X	X		
Horticultural Mechanisation Principles	O		x				
Horticultural Production Mechanisation	O	X			X		
Landscape Design History	O				X		X
Landscape Graphics	O						
Landscape Industry: Specification and Estimation	O						
Landscape Management and Maintenance	O		X		X	X	X
Landscape Practices	O		X		X		
Lawn Construction and Maintenance	O		X		X		
Nursery Production	O	X					
Organic Production Systems	O	X		X	X		
Parks, Gardens and Public Open Spaces	O		X		X	X	
Plant Physiology	O			X			
Plant Trials: An Introduction	O		X	X			X
Planting Design	O						
Plants and Habitats: Ecology and Conservation	O		X		X		
Plants for Gardens: Specialised Plantings	O		X		X		
Plants for Gardens: Woody and Herbaceous Perennials	O		X				
Protected Crops	O	X		x	X	X	
Retailing of Plants	O						
Selection and Management of Machinery for Land Based Industries	O		X				
Show Gardens: Design and Construction	O		X			X	X

Title	M/O	A	B	C	D	E	F
Terrestrial Ecosystems	O		X		X		
Understanding the Landscape	O		X				
Water Gardens: Design and Construction	O		X		X		

HND Horticulture with Plantsmanship

- A Provide an opportunity to develop knowledge of taxonomy, ecology, conservation, cultivation and management of plants.
- B Provide an opportunity to focus on the design, management and interpretation of plant collections.
- C Enable learners to develop their knowledge of the science underpinning plant systematics and plant growth.
- D Enable learners to apply plantsmanship skills in a management and scientific context.
- E Enthuse learners to independently develop skills and knowledge in plantsmanship.

Title	M/O	A	B	C	D	E
Advanced Plant Propagation	M	X		X		X
Designing Plant Collections	M		X			X
Horticultural Practices	M	X				
Horticulture: Plant Recognition and Use	M	X				X
Landscape Design History	M		X			
Managing Plant Collections	M	X	X		X	X
Plant Classification and Systematics	M	X	X	X	X	X
Plant Growth and Development	M			X		
Plant Protection	M	X				
Plant Protection: Integrated Approaches	M	X				
Plants and Habitats: Ecology and Conservation	M	X			X	X
Soil Management	M	X				
Soils and Plant Nutrition	M	X		X		
Biochemistry: Theory and Practice	O			X		
Cell Biology: Theory and Practice	O			X		
Constructing Hard Landscape Features	O					
Data Collection and Handling Methods	O		X	X	X	
Genetics for Plant Science	O			X		X
Horticultural Mechanisation Principles	O	X				
Nursery Production	O	X				
Plant Physiology	O			X		

Title	M/O	A	B	C	D	E
Plant Trials: An Introduction	O			X	X	X
Planting Design	O				X	
Plants for Gardens: Specialised Plantings	O	X	X			X
Plants for Gardens: Woody and Herbaceous Perennials	O	X	X			X
Retailing of Plants	O				X	
Selection and Management of Machinery for Land Based Industries	O	X			X	
Terrestrial Ecosystems	O	X			X	

HNC Garden Design

- A Develop knowledge of the design process through a series of design projects, enabling learners to survey sites, interview clients and produce designs for gardens.
- B Develop landscape graphic skills.
- C Develop plant identification ability, and enable application of knowledge of plants to planting design.
- D Provide an opportunity for development of practical horticultural knowledge and skills in plant propagation, plant production and landscape maintenance.
- E Provide an opportunity to participate in practical construction projects.

Title	M/O	A	B	C	D	E
Design Process and Composition in the Landscape: An Introduction	M	X	X			
Fundamentals of Landscape Surveying	M	X				X
Garden Design Concepts	M	X	X			
Horticultural Practices	M				X	
Horticulture: Plant Recognition and Use	M			X		
Landscape Graphics	M	X	X			X
Constructing Hard Landscape Features	O				X	X
Design and Use of Hard Landscape Features	O	X	X			X
Landscape Industry: Specification and Estimation	O	X	X			X
Plant Growth and Development	O			X		
Plant Trials: An Introduction	O			X		
Planting Design	O		X	X		
Plants for Gardens: Specialised Plantings	O			X		
Plants for Gardens: Woody and Herbaceous Perennials	O			X		
Soil Management	O				X	

HND Garden Design

- 1 Develop an appreciation of different garden styles, designers and the history of landscape design, and enable learners to design in particular styles or for particular locations within the UK.
- 2 Develop skills in using computer aided design software.
- 3 Develop plant knowledge in relation to plant use in the landscape, and provide an opportunity to develop practical skills and knowledge in the care, maintenance and management of plants in the landscape.
- 4 Provide an opportunity to develop technical skills and knowledge in landscape construction.
- 5 Enthuse learners to develop their own design ideas.

Title	M/O	A	B	C	D	E
Design Process and Composition in the Landscape: An Introduction	M	X				X
Fundamentals of Landscape Surveying	M				X	
Garden Design Practice	M	X				X
Garden Design Skills	M				X	X
Horticultural Practices	M			X		
Horticulture: Plant Recognition and Use	M			X		
Landscape Design History	M	X				
Landscape Graphics	M					X
Landscape Management and Maintenance	M			X		
Landscape Practices	M			X	X	
Constructing Hard Landscape Features	O				X	
Design and Use of Hard Landscape Features	O	X	X		X	X
Designing Gardens	O	X	X			X
Garden Design Concepts	O	X	X			X
Horticultural Mechanisation Principles	O				X	
Landscape Industry: Specification and Estimation	O				X	
Lawn Construction and Maintenance	O				X	
Nursery Production	O			X		

Title	M/O	A	B	C	D	E
Parks, Gardens and Public Open Spaces	O			X		
Pests, Diseases, Weeds and Disorders of Garden Plants	O			X		
Plant Growth and Development	O			X		
Plant Physiology	O			X		
Plant Protection	O			X		
Plant Trials: An Introduction	O			X		
Planting Design	O	X		X		X
Plants for Gardens: Specialised Plantings	O			X		X
Plants for Gardens: Woody and Herbaceous Perennials	O			X		X
Show Gardens: Design and Construction	O	X		X	X	X
Soil Management	O			X		
Understanding the Landscape	O	X				
Water Gardens: Design and Construction	O	X		X	X	X

HNC Landscape Management

- A Provide an opportunity for development of practical horticultural and landscaping knowledge and skills.
- B Give an understanding of the landscape design process and an opportunity to apply knowledge gained on site survey to site design.
- C Develop plant identification ability, and enable application of knowledge of plants to planting design.
- D Provide an opportunity to participate in the landscape construction process.
- E Enable some specialisation in soil management, plant protection, mechanisation or the broader landscape.

Title	M/O	A	B	C	D	E
Constructing Hard Landscape Features	M	X			X	
Design Process and Composition in the Landscape: An Introduction	M		X			X
Fundamentals of Landscape Surveying	M	X	X		X	
Horticultural Practices OR Practical Landscaping	M	X		X	X	
Horticulture: Plant Recognition and Use	M	X		X		
Planting Design	M		X	X		
Horticultural Mechanisation Principles	O	X				X
Landscape Graphics	O		X			
Landscape Industry: Specification and Estimation	O	X	X	X	X	
Parks, Gardens and Public Open Spaces	O					X
Pesticide Application	O	X				X
Plant Protection	O	X				X
Plants for Gardens: Specialised Plantings	O		X	X		
Plants for Gardens: Woody and Herbaceous Perennials	O		X	X		
Selection and Management of Machinery for Land Based Industries	O	X				X
Soil Management	O	X				X
Understanding the Landscape	O					X

HND Landscape Management

- A Provide an opportunity to develop practical skills and knowledge in the care, maintenance and management of plants in the amenity landscape.
- B Develop knowledge of landscape construction in a management context.
- C Develop skills in using computer aided landscape design and management software.
- D Enable learners to evaluate landscapes and apply knowledge in a management context taking into account environmental, social and historical considerations.
- E Enthuse learners to independently develop skills and knowledge in aspects of landscape management which interest them.

Title	M/O	A	B	C	D	E
Constructing Hard Landscape Features	M		X		X	
Design Process and Composition in the Landscape: An Introduction	M	X	X	X		
Fundamentals of Landscape Surveying	M		X		X	
Horticultural Practices OR Practical Landscaping	M	X	X		X	
Horticulture: Plant Recognition and Use	M	X				
Landscape Design History	M		X			
Landscape Management and Maintenance	M	X	X			
Landscape Practices	M	X	X			
Parks, Gardens and Public Open Spaces	M	X	X		X	
Planting Design	M	X	X			
Terrestrial Ecosystems	M	X	X			
Design and Use of Hard Landscape Features	O		X		X	X
Garden Design Concepts	O		X			X
Horticultural Mechanisation Principles	O					X
Land Use Systems	O				X	X
Landscape Graphics	O	X	X			X
Landscape Industry: Specification and Estimation	O	X	X			X
Lawn Construction and Maintenance	O	X				X
Pesticide Application	O	X				X

Title	M/O	A	B	C	D	E
Information Technology in Landscape Design and Management	O			X		X
Plant Growth and Development	O					X
Plant Protection	O	X				X
Plant Protection: Integrated Approaches	O	X				X
Plants and Habitats: Ecology and Conservation	O	X				X
Plants for Gardens: Specialised Plantings	O	X				X
Plants for Gardens: Woody and Herbaceous Perennials	O	X				X
Pollution and Waste Management: An Introduction	O					X
Soil Management	O					X
Soils and Plant Nutrition	O	X				X
Understanding the Landscape	O				X	X
Water Gardens: Design and Construction	O	X	X			

5.2 Mapping of National Occupational Standards (NOS) and/or trade body standards

HN Unit	NOS Unit
Advanced Plant Propagation	H3, H4, H5, H6, H7, H8
Constructing Hard Landscape Features	H34, H35, H49, CS22, CS23, CS24
Crop Physiology and Breeding	H10, H11, H12, H14, H15, H16
Crop Production Practices	H10, H11, H12, H14, H15, H16
Design and Use of Hard Landscape Features	H49, H34
Design Process and Composition in the Landscape: An Introduction	H49,
Designing Plant Collections	H59,
Fundamentals of Landscape Surveying	H35, CS38, CS39, CS40
Garden Design Concepts	H49
Designing Gardens	H49
Garden Design Practice	H49
Garden Design Skills	H49
Hardy Ornamental Nursery Stock	H5, H6, H7, H8, H9, H10,
Horticultural Growing Media	H2
Horticultural Mechanisation Principles	CS7, CS8, CS9, CS35
Horticultural Practices	H1, H5, H7, H9, H11, H20
Horticultural Production Mechanisation	CS34, CS35, AgM31, AgC7
Horticulture: Plant Recognition and Use	H58, Tw1
Landscape Design History	NO LINK TO NOS
Landscape Graphics	H49
Landscape Industry: Specification and Estimation	H35, CS38, CS39, CS40
Landscape Management and Maintenance	H34, H35
Landscape Practices	H34, H49
Lawn Construction and Maintenance	H24
Managing Plant Collections	H59
Nursery Production	H2, H3, H4, H5, H6, H7, H8, H9
Pesticide Application	CS32
Pests, Diseases, Weeds and Disorders of Garden Plants	CS32
Plant Classification and Systematics	H58, H59

HN Unit	NOS Unit
Plant Growth and Development	H15, H16
Plant Protection	H16, CS32
Plant Protection: Integrated Approaches	H16, CS32
Planting Design	H17, H49
Plants and Habitats: Ecology and Conservation	CS38, CS39, CS40, CS41
Plants for Gardens: Specialised Plantings	H58, H59, H12, H17
Plants for Gardens: Woody and Herbaceous Perennials	H58, H59, H12, H17
Plant Trials	H1, H2, H5, H7, H9, H11
Pollution and Waste Management: An Introduction	CS27, Tw2
Practical Landscaping	H2, H9, H11, H35, H39, H40, H41, H42, H43, H44, H45, CS20, CS23,
Protected Crops	H9, H10, H11
Retailing of Plants	H54, H55, H56, H57
Selection and Management of Machinery for Land Based Industries	CS26
Show Gardens: Design and Construction	H17, H18, H49, H34, H35
Soil Management	H2
Terrestrial Ecosystems	CS38, CS39
Water Gardens: Design and Construction	H37

NOS Titles	
LANH1	Co-ordinate the clearance and preparation of a site for planting
LANH2	Prepare growing media
LANH3	Collect and store propagation materials
LANH4	Co-ordinate the collection and storage of propagation material
LANH5	Prepare and establish propagation materials
LANH6	Co-ordinate the preparation and establishment of propagation material
LANH7	Propagate plants from seeds
LANH8	Co-ordinate propagation of plants from seed

NOS Titles	
LANH9	Establish crops or plants
LANH10	Co-ordinate the planting of crops or plants
LANH11	Maintain the growth of crops and plants
LANH12	Monitor and control the growth of plants
LANH14	Co-ordinate the provision of water for crops
LANH15	Co-ordinate the provision of nutrients to crops or plants
LANH16	Co-ordinate environmental conditions for protected crops
LANH17	Create plant displays
LANH18	Maintain plant displays
LANH20	Carry out management of planted areas
LANH24	Maintain grass surfaces
LANH34	Estimate resource requirements and programme work
LANH35	Prepare sites for landscape construction and installation
LANH37	Construct pools and water features
LANH49	Design landscape areas and specify materials and components
LANH58	Identify and name plants using their botanical names
LANH59	Identify plants for use in collections
LANH55	Co-ordinate the collection of plants for sale or dispatch
LANH56	Merchandise and sell plants and other relevant products
LANH57	Respond to legislation which affects customer's rights
CS7	Prepare and operate a tractor with attachments
CS8	Supervise the selection, preparation and operation of tractors and attachments
CS9	Prepare and operate a powered vehicle
CS22	Co-ordinate the Construction and Maintenance of land-based site infrastructure
CS23	Install site furniture
CS24	Maintain site furniture
CS26	Maintain equipment and machines

NOS Titles	
CS32	Plan and manage the control of weeds, pests and diseases
CS34	Co-ordinate the management of planted areas
CS35	Prepare and use equipment and machines
CS38	Plan, coordinate and evaluate land-based site surveys
CS39	Assess the characteristics of land-based and environmental sites
CS40	Evaluate options for the development of land-based and environmental sites
CS41	Plan and monitor the development of land-based and environmental sites
LANTw1	Identify tree species and their properties
LANAgM31	Plan and manage the harvesting and preparation of crops
LANAgC7	Harvest crops by mechanical means

5.3 Mapping of Core Skills development opportunities across the qualification(s)

Unit code	Unit title	Communication		Numeracy		ICT		Problem Solving			Working with Others	
		Written	Oral	Using Number	Using Graphical Information	Accessing Information	Providing/Creating Information	Critical Thinking	Planning and Organising	Reviewing and Evaluating	Working Co-operatively with Others	Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
F1J2 35	Advanced Plant Propagation			X	X			X	X	X		
F1J3 34	Constructing Hard Landscape Features			X	X		X	X	X		X	
F2AX 35	Crop Physiology and Breeding	X			X			X				
F1J4 35	Crop Production Practices							X	X			
F1J5 34	Design and Use of Hard Landscape Features			X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
F21M 34	Design Process and Composition in the Landscape: An Introduction	X						X	X	X		
F1J6 35	Designing Plant Collections							X		X		
F1J7 34	Fundamentals of Landscape Surveying			X	X			X	X		X	
F1J8 34	Garden Design Concepts	X			X	X		X	X			
XXXX 34	Designing Gardens	X			X	X		X	X			
F1MJ 35	Garden Design Practice	X	X	X	X			X	X		X	
F21N 35	Garden Design Skills			X	X			X	X	X	X	

Unit code	Unit title	Communication		Numeracy		ICT		Problem Solving			Working with Others	
		Written	Oral	Using Number	Using Graphical Information	Accessing Information	Providing/Creating Information	Critical Thinking	Planning and Organising	Reviewing and Evaluating	Working Co-operatively with Others	Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
F2AY 35	Hardy Ornamental Nursery Stock	X	X	X	X		X	X	X			
F2B0 35	Horticultural Growing Media	X	X					X	X			
F21P 34	Horticultural Mechanisation Principles	X	X	X		X			X			
F1JA 34	Horticultural Practices			X				X	X		X	
F21R 35	Horticultural Production Mechanisation	X	X	X				X	X			
F21S 34	Horticulture: Plant Recognition and Use							X				
F1JB 35	Landscape Design History	X	X									
F1MM 34	Landscape Graphics	X		X	X	X	X	X	X			
F1MN 34	Landscape Industry: Specification and Estimation	X		X	X	X	X	X	X			
F1JC 35	Landscape Management and Maintenance							X	X		X	
F2B1 35	Landscape Practices							X	X		X	
F1JD 35	Lawn Construction and Maintenance			X				X	X		X	
F1JE 35	Managing Plant Collections	X	X	X	X			X	X			

Unit code	Unit title	Communication		Numeracy		ICT		Problem Solving			Working with Others	
		Written	Oral	Using Number	Using Graphical Information	Accessing Information	Providing/Creating Information	Critical Thinking	Planning and Organising	Reviewing and Evaluating	Working Co-operatively with Others	Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
F1JF34	Nursery Production	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
F1JG35	Parks, Gardens and Public Open Spaces				X			X	X			
F2B234	Pesticide Application	X		X	X	X		X	X			
F1MP34	Pests, Diseases, Weeds and Disorders of Garden Plants	X	X					X	X			
F1MR35	Plant Classification and Systematics	X	X			X	X	X	X			
F21T34	Plant Growth and Development	X	X			X	X					
F2B334	Plant Protection							X	X			
F1JH35	Plant Protection: Integrated Approaches							X	X			
F21W34	Planting Design			X	X							
F2B535	Plants and Habitats: Ecology and Conservation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
F2B635	Plants for Gardens: Specialised Plantings	X	X					X	X	X		
F1J934	Plants for Gardens: Woody and Herbaceous Perennials							X	X			
F2B434	Plant Trials: An Introduction			X	X			X	X	X		
XXXX34	Practical Landscaping							X	X		X	

Unit code	Unit title	Communication		Numeracy		ICT		Problem Solving			Working with Others	
		Written	Oral	Using Number	Using Graphical Information	Accessing Information	Providing/Creating Information	Critical Thinking	Planning and Organising	Reviewing and Evaluating	Working Co-operatively with Others	Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
F1JJ35	Protected Crops			X	X			X	X			
F1JK34	Retailing of Plants	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X
D4PE34	Selection and Management of Machinery for Land Based Industries	X	X	X	X	X		X		X		
F4TH35	Show Gardens: Design and Construction			X	X			X	X		X	
F21V34	Soil Management	X	X			X		X	X			
DP4X35	Terrestrial Ecosystems	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
F2B735	Water Gardens: Design and Construction			X	X	X		X	X		X	

5.4 Assessment Strategy for the qualification(s)

Unit	Assessment			
	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4
Advanced Plant Propagation	Written/Oral Report	Written/Oral Report	Written/Oral Report	Written/Oral Report
Constructing Hard Landscape Features	Extended Response		Practical	Practical
Crop Physiology and Breeding	Closed-book Restricted Response		Written/Oral Report	
Crop Production Practices	Practical Project			
Design and Use of Hard Landscape Features	Written/Oral Report with Annotated Drawings			
Design Process and Composition in the Landscape: An Introduction	Written/Oral Assignment	Written/Oral Assignment		
Designing Plant Collections	Case Study		Written/Oral Report	
Fundamentals of Landscape Surveying	Extended Response	Practical Assignment		
Garden Design Concepts	Written/Oral Report	Practical Assignment		
Designing Gardens	Written/Oral Report	Practical Assignment		
Garden Design Practice	Practical Assignment	Written/Oral Report		
Garden Design Skills	Extended Response	Practical Assignment		
Hardy Ornamental Nursery Stock	Written/Oral Project			
Horticultural Growing Media	Written/Oral Project/Case Study			
Horticultural Mechanisation Principles	Structured Assignment	Closed-book Assessment	Performance Evidence	Written/Oral Assignment
Horticultural Practices	Written/Oral Report	Practical Project		
Horticultural Production Mechanisation	Written/Oral Report	Practical Project		
Horticulture: Plant Recognition and Use	Written/Oral Report	Practical Assignment	Practical Assignment	
Landscape Graphics	Practical Project			
Landscape Industry: Specification and Estimation	Written/Oral Report			
Landscape Management and Maintenance	Written/Oral Report	Case Study		Written/Oral Report
Landscape Practices	Practical Assignment	Written/Oral Report	Performance Evidence	
Lawn Construction and Maintenance	Written/Oral Report		Practical Assignment	Written/Oral Report

Unit	Assessment			
	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4
Managing Plant Collections	Written/Oral Report	Closed-book Assessment	Written/Oral Report	
Nursery Production	Written/Oral Report		Practical Assignment	
Parks, Gardens and Public Open Spaces	Extended Response	Case Study/Project		
Pesticide Application	Closed-book Multiple Choice		Practical Assignment	Performance Evidence
Pests, Diseases, Weeds and Disorders of Garden Plants	Closed-book Assignment		Written/Oral Report	
Plant Classification and Systematics	Written/Oral Presentation		Performance Evidence	Open-book Assignment
Plant Growth and Development	Structured Questions			
Plant Protection	Closed-book Assessment	Written/Oral Report		
Plant Protection: Integrated Approaches	Closed-book Restricted Response		Written/Oral Report	
Planting Design	Practical Assignment/Performance Evidence			
Plants and Habitats: Ecology and Conservation	Closed-book Assessment			Written/Oral Report
Plants for Gardens: Specialised Plantings	Performance Evidence	Written/Oral Report		
Plants for Gardens: Woody and Herbaceous Perennials	Written/Oral Report		Performance Evidence	
Practical Landscaping	Written/Oral Report	Practical Assignment	Practical Assignment	
Protected Crops	Closed-book Assignment	Written/Oral Report		
Retailing of Plants	Written/Oral Report		Closed-book Restricted Response	
Show Gardens: Design and Construction	Written/Oral Report			Practical Assignment
Soil Management	Restricted Response	Written/Oral Report		
Terrestrial Ecosystems	Closed-book Assessment		Practical	
Water Gardens: Design and Construction	Written/Oral Report		Practical Assignment	

6 Guidance on approaches to delivery and assessment

6.1 Sequencing/integration of Units

6.1.1 Sequencing

HNC Year (HND Year 1) — example timetable SRUC Edinburgh
15 Unit Credits (12 for HNC + 3 for transition in to HND year)

Unit	Term 1				Term 2				Term 3			
Horticultural Practices												
Plant Growth and Development												
Plant Protection												
Plant Recognition and Use												
Soil Management												
Graded Unit 1												
Business Management												
Horticultural Mechanisation Principles												
Nursery Production												
Retailing of Plants												
Plant Trials												
Work Experience												
IT												
Plant Physiology												

HND Year (HND Year 2) example timetable SRUC Edinburgh
15 Unit Credits

Unit	Term 1				Term 2				Term 3			
Soils and Plant Nutrition												
Plant Protection: Integrated Approaches												
Graded Unit 2												
Graded Unit 3												
Advanced Plant Propagation												
Hardy Ornamental Nursery Stock Production												
Horticultural Production Mechanisation												

Unit	Term 1				Term 2				Term 3			
Landscape Management and Maintenance												
Landscape Practices												
Plants for Gardens: Specialised Plantings												
Terrestrial Ecosystems												
Data Collection and Handling Methods												
Genetics for Plant Science												
Organic Production Systems												
Crop Physiology and Breeding												

6.1.2 Integration

Centres are encouraged to seek every opportunity to integrate the delivery and assessment of Units within the HNC and HND qualifications. This will allow learners to better appreciate the links between Units and topics and how these relate to the wider industry requirements. It will also help learners to prepare for the Graded Unit assessments. The following list of Integration Opportunities is not exhaustive and centres should endeavor to identify, at an early stage, where integration is possible among the Units being delivered.

Unit Title	Opportunities for Integration
Constructing Hard Landscape Features	Fundamentals of Landscape Surveying Landscape Practices Garden Design Practice Garden Design Skills
Design Process and Composition in the Landscape: An Introduction	Landscape Graphics Garden Design Concepts
Designing Plant Collections	Managing Plant Collections Garden Design Skills
Fundamentals of Landscape Surveying	Constructing Hard Landscape Features Landscape Practices Garden Design Concepts
Garden Design Concepts	Design Process and Composition in the Landscape Planting Design Fundamentals of Landscape Surveying Landscape Graphics
Garden Design Practice	Garden Design Skills Designing Plant Collections Constructing Hard Landscape Features Information Technology in Landscape Design and Management

Unit Title	Opportunities for Integration
Garden Design Skills	Garden Design Practice Designing Plant Collections Constructing Hard Landscape Features
Horticultural Practices	Nursery Production Plant Protection
Horticulture: Plant Recognition and Use	Planting Design Plant Protection
Information Technology in Landscape Design and Management	Garden Design Practice
Land Use Systems	Landscape Management and Maintenance
Landscape Graphics	Design Process and Composition in the Landscape: An Introduction Garden Design Concepts
Landscape Management and Maintenance	Landscape Practices Land Use Systems Water Gardens: Design and Construction Parks, Gardens and Public Open Spaces
Landscape Practices	Landscape Management and Maintenance Constructing Hard Landscape Features Fundamentals of Landscape Surveying
Managing Plant Collections	Plant Classification and Systematics Designing Plant Collections
Parks, Gardens and Public Open Spaces	Landscape Management and Maintenance
Plant Classification and Systematics	Managing Plant Collections Plants and Habitats: Ecology and Conservation
Plant Growth and Development	Plant Physiology Plant Trials
Plant Physiology	Plant Growth and Development Plant Trials
Plant Protection	Horticulture: Plant Recognition and Use Horticultural Practices
Planting Design	Garden Design Concepts Horticulture: Plant Recognition and Use
Plants and Habitats: Ecology and Conservation	Plant Classification and Systematics
Soils and Plant Nutrition	Hardy Ornamental Nursery Stock Production

6.2 Recognition of Prior Learning

SQA recognises that learners gain knowledge and skills acquired through formal, non-formal and informal learning contexts.

In some instances, a full Group Award may be achieved through the recognition of prior learning. However, it is unlikely that a learner would have the appropriate prior learning and experience to meet all the requirements of a full Group Award.

The recognition of prior learning may **not** be used as a method of assessing in the following types of Units and assessments:

- ◆ HN Graded Units
- ◆ Course and/or external assessments
- ◆ Other integrative assessment Units (which may or not be graded)
- ◆ Certain types of assessment instruments where the standard may be compromised by not using the same assessment method outlined in the Unit
- ◆ Where there is an existing requirement for a licence to practice
- ◆ Where there are specific health and safety requirements
- ◆ Where there are regulatory, professional or other statutory requirements
- ◆ Where otherwise specified in an Assessment Strategy

More information and guidance on the *Recognition of Prior Learning* (RPL) may be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk.

The following sub-sections outline how existing SQA Unit(s) may contribute to this Group Award. Additionally, they also outline how this Group Award may be recognised for professional and articulation purposes.

6.2.1 Articulation and/or progression

Progression from HNC Garden Design

Learners achieving HNC Garden Design may be able to progress to the following courses:

- ◆ HND Garden Design
- ◆ HND Landscape Management

Progression from HNC Horticulture

Learners achieving HNC Horticulture may be able to progress to the following courses:

- ◆ HND Garden Design
- ◆ HND Horticulture
- ◆ HND Horticulture with Plantsmanship.

Progression from HNC Landscape Management

Learners achieving HNC Landscape Management may be able to progress to the following courses:

- ◆ HND Landscape Management
- ◆ HND Garden Design
- ◆ HND Horticulture

Progression from HND Garden Design

Learners achieving HND Garden Design may be able to progress to the following courses:

- ◆ Year 3 of BSc Garden and Greenspace Design delivered by SRUC and validated by the University of Glasgow.
- ◆ Year 2 or 3 of garden design degrees offered by universities elsewhere in the UK.

Progression from HND Horticulture

Learners achieving HND Horticulture may be able to progress to the following courses:

- ◆ Year 3 of the BSc Horticulture delivered by SRUC and validated by the University of Glasgow.
- ◆ Year 3 of the BSc Horticulture with Plantsmanship jointly by SRUC and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) and validated by the University of Glasgow.
- ◆ Year 2 or 3 of horticulture degrees offered by universities elsewhere in the UK.

Progression from HND Horticulture with Plantsmanship

Learners achieving HND Horticulture with Plantsmanship may be able to progress to the following courses:

- ◆ Year 3 of the BSc Horticulture with Plantsmanship delivered jointly by SRUC and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) and validated by the University of Glasgow.
- ◆ Year 3 of the BSc Horticulture delivered by SRUC and validated by the University of Glasgow.
- ◆ Year 2 or 3 of horticulture degrees offered by universities elsewhere in the UK.

Progression from HND Landscape Management

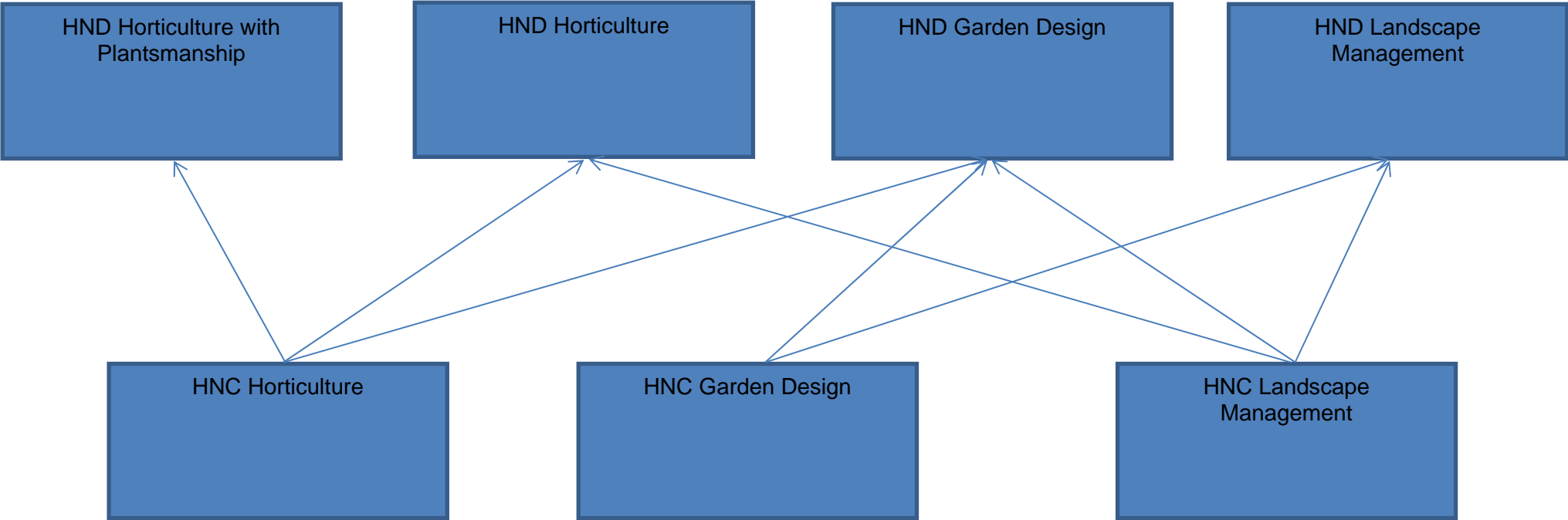
Learners achieving HND Landscape Management may be able to progress to the following courses:

- ◆ Year 3 of the BSc Horticulture delivered by SRUC and validated by the University of Glasgow.
- ◆ Year 2 or 3 of horticulture or landscape management degrees offered by universities elsewhere in the UK.

6.2.2 Articulation and/or progression

Achievement of any of the HNC or HND Group Awards would admit learners to Associate level membership of the Institute of Horticulture.

Articulation from HNC to HND



6.3 Opportunities for e-assessment

The suite of HN Horticulture qualifications contain a mixture of theoretical and practical knowledge and skills. Opportunities for e-assessment will be limited for the more practical aspects of the various Units but e-assessment could be a useful assessment tool for the more theoretical aspects. In addition to e-assessment, an e-portfolio would be an ideal mechanism for gathering evidence for both aspects (practical and theoretical), with photographs, video, observation checklists and witness testimony, etc used to demonstrate the achievement of the practical elements.

6.4 Support materials

A **list of existing ASPs** is available to view on SQA's website.

6.5 Resource requirements

The following information is provided for guidance and the list is not exhaustive.

Resources	Facilities
Sufficient relevant Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	Practical facilities including glass house/houses
Hand tools	Outdoor areas for growing plants and practical landscapes
Access to relevant machinery	Laboratory facilities

The HND in Horticulture with Plantsmanship is more specialist than the other HN Group Awards and will require specific facilities and expertise to deliver. Prospective centres are cautioned against seeking approval for this HND without an established background within this specialist field.

7 General information for centres

Equality and inclusion

The Unit specifications making up this Group Award have been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners will be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence. Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements.

Internal and external verification

All instruments of assessment used within this/these qualification(s) should be internally verified, using the appropriate policy within the centre and the guidelines set by SQA.

External verification will be carried out by SQA to ensure that internal assessment is within the national guidelines for these qualifications.

Further information on internal and external verification can be found in *SQA's Guide to Assessment* (www.sqa.org.uk/GuideToAssessment).

8 Glossary of terms

Embedded Core Skills: is where the assessment evidence for the Unit also includes full evidence for complete Core Skill or Core Skill components. A learner successfully completing the Unit will be automatically certificated for the Core Skill. (This depends on the Unit having been successfully audited and validated for Core Skills certification.)

Finish date: The end of a Group Award's lapsing period is known as the finish date. After the finish date, the Group Award will no longer be live and the following applies:

- ◆ learners may not be entered for the Group Award
- ◆ the Group Award will continue to exist only as an archive record on the Awards Processing System (APS)

Graded Unit: Graded Units assess learners' ability to integrate what they have learned while working towards the Units of the Group Award. Their purpose is to add value to the Group Award, making it more than the sum of its parts, and to encourage learners to retain and adapt their skills and knowledge.

Lapsing date: When a Group Award is entered into its lapsing period, the following will apply:

- ◆ the Group Award will be deleted from the relevant catalogue
- ◆ the Group Award specification will remain until the qualification reaches its finish date at which point it will be removed from SQA's website and archived
- ◆ no new centres may be approved to offer the Group Award
- ◆ centres should only enter learners whom they expect to complete the Group Award during the defined lapsing period

SQA credit value: The credit value allocated to a Unit gives an indication of the contribution the Unit makes to an SQA Group Award. An SQA credit value of 1 given to an SQA Unit represents approximately 40 hours of programmed learning, teaching and assessment.

SCQF: The Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework (SCQF) provides the national common framework for describing all relevant programmes of learning and qualifications in Scotland. SCQF terminology is used throughout this guide to refer to credits and levels. For further information on the SCQF visit the SCQF website at www.scqf.org.uk.

SCQF credit points: SCQF credit points provide a means of describing and comparing the amount of learning that is required to complete a qualification at a given level of the Framework. One National Unit credit is equivalent to 6 SCQF credit points. One National Unit credit at Advanced Higher and one Higher National Unit credit (irrespective of level) is equivalent to 8 SCQF credit points.

SCQF levels: The level a qualification is assigned within the framework is an indication of how hard it is to achieve. The SCQF covers 12 levels of learning. HNCs and HNDs are available at SCQF levels 7 and 8 respectively. Higher National Units will normally be at levels 6–9 and Graded Units will be at level 7 and 8. National Qualification Group Awards are available at SCQF levels 2–6 and will normally be made up of National Units which are available from SCQF levels 2–7.

Subject Unit: Subject Units contain vocational/subject content and are designed to test a specific set of knowledge and skills.

Signposted Core Skills: refers to opportunities to develop Core Skills arise in learning and teaching but are not automatically certificated.

9 General information for learners

This section will help you decide whether this is the qualification for you by explaining what the qualification is about, what you should know or be able to do before you start, what you will need to do during the qualification and opportunities for further learning and employment.

A range of Higher National qualifications are available if you interested in pursuing a career in horticulture, wish to further develop your skills or simply pursue an interest in Horticulture as a hobby.

Higher National Certificates (HNCs) are available in:

- ◆ Horticulture
- ◆ Landscape Management
- ◆ Garden Design

and Higher National Diplomas (HNDs) in:

- ◆ Horticulture
- ◆ Horticulture with Plantsmanship
- ◆ Landscape Management
- ◆ Garden Design

The HNDs will build upon the knowledge and skills develop in the HNCs.

An HNC typically takes a year to complete on a full time basis and an HND typically requires another year in addition to the HNC year.

The qualifications develop the range of practical and theoretical knowledge and skills required by employers. The table below provides details of possible employment opportunities:

Level	Employment Opportunities
HNC (Horticulture, Garden Design, Landscape Management)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Retail horticulture such as a garden centre or large home/leisure chain store◆ Within a landscape company◆ As a gardener in a private garden/estate or gardens that are open to the public, eg National Trust for Scotland◆ As a gardener in a community garden/charity sector◆ Interior landscape company◆ Nursery/grower/propagator role◆ Within a garden/landscape design company◆ Self employment

Level	Employment Opportunities
HND (Horticulture, Horticulture with Plantsmanship, Garden Design, Landscape Management)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Assistant garden centre/plant manager within a garden centre or large home/leisure chain ◆ Work based assessor/horticulture trainer ◆ Landscape estimator ◆ Senior gardener or Garden team leader ◆ Contract Manager within a landscape company ◆ Nursery/production manager ◆ Area sales person within a retail company ◆ Garden/landscape designer ◆ Self employment

If you wish to continue your studies to Degree level many Universities will accept HN qualifications for advanced entry, for example on to Year 2 with an HNC or Year 3 with an HND.

You will be assessed through a variety of methods, including direct observation of practical activities, identification exercises, practical project work and closed-book exams.

Each HNC and HND consists of a number of Mandatory Units and a range of Optional Units. The HNCs require a total of 12 SQA Unit Credits (96 SCQF Credit Points) and the HNDs 30 SQA Unit Credits (240 SCQF Credit Points).

While entry to each qualification is at the discretion of the delivering centre, typical entry requirements are given below:

- ◆ National Certificate in Horticulture SCQF level 5
- ◆ SVQ Horticulture, Production Horticulture, Landscaping or Parks, Gardens and Green Space levels 3
- ◆ Other equivalent qualifications
- ◆ A minimum of 2 Highers including a science

Many Universities will accept an HNC for direct entry in to Year 2 of a Degree and HNDs in to Year 3.