



Group Award Specification for:

**Professional Development Award (PDA) in Repair
and Maintenance of Traditional Masonry Structures
at SCQF level 6**

Group Award Code: GW0D 46

Validation date: June 2025

Date of original publication: July 2025

Version: 01

Contents

Section	Page
1. Introduction	3
2. Qualification structure	7
2.1 Structure	7
3. Aims of the qualification	8
3.1 General aims of the qualification	8
3.2 Specific aims of the qualification	9
4. Recommended entry to the qualification	10
4.1 Core Skills entry profile	10
5. Additional benefits of the qualification in meeting employer needs	13
5.1 Mapping of qualification aims to units	14
5.2 Mapping of National Occupational Standards (NOS) and/or trade body standards	15
5.3 Mapping of Core Skills development opportunities across the qualifications	19
5.4 Assessment strategy for the qualifications	26
6. Guidance on approaches to delivery and assessment	30
6.1 Sequencing / integration of units	30
6.2 Recognition of prior learning	31
6.2.1 Articulation and / or progression	32
6.2.2 Professional recognition	33
6.2.3 Transitional arrangements	33
6.2.4 Credit transfer	33
6.3 Opportunities for e-assessment	34
6.4 Support materials	34
6.5 Resource requirements	34
7. General information for centres	37
8. Glossary of terms	38
9. General information for learners	43

1. Introduction

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 higher education institutes (HEIs) of the aims and purpose of the qualification.
- Provide details of the range of learners the qualification is suitable for and progression opportunities.

Rationale for the initial development and subsequent reviews of the qualification

Repair and maintenance of traditional masonry structures

Scotland's historic environment makes a strong contribution to the wellbeing of the nation and its people providing value across cultural, social, environmental and economic areas. The historic built environment is predominantly of mass masonry walling with the materials sourced locally from the underlying geology and the natural environment.

The repair and maintenance of traditional masonry structures are not fully covered in present SVQ SCQF level 6 Stonemasonry. Professional Development Award (PDA) training packages for Masonry Trowel Occupations primarily focus on banker masonry and stone fixing for new build work.

Work in the sector comprises of construction projects undertaken within contracts, a significant proportion involve repair and maintenance of the existing traditional stone-built building stock. Often this work is undertaken by contractors who do not consider themselves to be stonemasonry contractors, however suitable competency, that is skills and underpinning knowledge to carry out repairs to traditional masonry structures must be held by individuals carrying out this type of work. This award is intended to ensure that work done to traditional masonry structures is carried out sympathetically with harmonious materials and to ensure that long-term damage is

not done inadvertently due to the lack of suitable understanding and the requisite skills.

Originally the need to develop a new qualification was highlighted by four reports which identified the need to increase the number of trained people working on traditional (pre-1919) buildings/structures in Scotland.

- Construction Industry Council report on: *Risk to Public Safety from Falling Masonry and Other Materials*.
- Heritage Environment Advisory Council for Scotland: *The availability of Traditional Materials, Professional and craft skills*.
- The Scottish Stone Liaison Group: *Safeguarding Glasgow's Stone-Built Heritage Skills and Materials Requirements*.
- National Heritage Training Group: *Traditional Building Craft Skills Report 2007*.

This resulted in the development of the National Progression Award (NPA) in Conservation of Masonry in 2007. Since then, this award has been very successful with over 350 learners achieving the award.

Rationale for reviewing the award

To ensure all awards, vocational training and qualifications are contemporary and complementary to other relevant qualifications and awards they should be regularly reviewed.

The identified need in 2007 for a suitable qualification in the repair and maintenance of traditional masonry structures has not diminished and throughout the delivery of the original NPA Conservation of Masonry qualification there were many observations and suggestions for alterations and improvements from across the sector regularly engaged with the conservation/restoration or repair/maintenance of masonry structures, including contractors, trade federations, heritage organisations, delivery centres and more.

Alterations and improvements to the original award were suggested for many aspects, such as overall coverage, individual unit content, delivery, target audience, additional optional unit possibilities and questions whether the award was suitably designated as a National Progression Award. Therefore, Historic Scotland (Historic Environment Scotland) and Construction Skills Scotland (CITB Scotland) undertook consultation across the sector to inform a review process.

In 2014 on the back of consultation, feedback and review, the NPA was restructured and updated to reflect sector needs and became a PDA.

This 2014 review process learned from the initial delivery of the award and made allowances for inclusions that recognise other developments and research. Further research and developments in the sector relevant to the review of the award in 2014 included:

- The Scottish Government's '*Our Place in Time*' *The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland*
[Our Place in Time: The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland](#)
- The Scottish Government's Historic Environment Policy; *Scottish historic environment policy, December 2011*
- The Scottish Government's — *Traditional Building Skills, A strategy for sustaining and developing traditional building skills in Scotland*
- *Skills Needs Analysis 2013, Repair, Maintenance and Energy Efficiency Retrofit of Traditional (pre-1919) Buildings in England and Scotland*

Between 2023 and 2025, this PDA was reviewed again on the back of consultation and feedback from the sector and delivery centres. The predominant aim of this review and the update was to incorporate within the structure of the award, a previously developed unit for this award, and to give delivering centres and learners, the flexibility and option of being able to deliver and undertake optional units within the overall group award.

Further developments relevant to the review of the award between 2019 and 2025 include:

- Technical Paper 31: Historic External Lime Finishes in Scotland, 15 July 2019.
[Historic Environment Scotland: Technical Paper 31: Historic External Lime Finishes in Scotland](#)
- Climate Action Plan 2020–25. 19th February 2020.
[Historic Environment Scotland: Climate Action Plan 2020-25](#)
- Technical Paper 33: Masonry Pointing and Joint Finishing, April 2022.
[Historic Environment Scotland: Technical Paper 33: Masonry Pointing and Joint Finishing](#)
- Skills Investment Plan for Scotland’s Historic Environment, April 2024
[Historic Environment Scotland: Skills Investment Plan for Scotland’s Historic Environment](#)

2. Qualification structure

This group award is made up of four mandatory SQA units comprising a total of 27 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 6.

This group award has four optional SQA units ranging from 5 to 9 SCQF credit points and at SCQF levels 5 and 6.

Learners must undertake and achieve at least one optional unit to achieve this group award.

2.1 Structure

Mandatory units:

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SQA credit	SCQF credit points	SCQF level
H8WR	46	Produce a Work Plan for a Conservation or Restoration Project	0.5	3	6
J8E3	46	Prepare and Mix Traditional Lime Mortars	0.5	3	6
H8WV	46	Consolidation and Repair of Masonry Structures	2	12	6
H8WW	46	Stonemasonry Repairs	1.5	9	6

Optional units:

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SQA credit	SCQF credit points	SCQF level
H8WX	45	Produce Basic Stonemasonry Components	1.5	9	5
J8E4	46	Surface Finishing to Masonry Walling	1	6	6
J8V1	46	Repairing Traditional Memorial Structures	1	6	6
J8V2	46	Retrofit Internal Wall Insulation to Traditional Mass Masonry Walling	1	6	6

3. Aims of the qualification

The overarching aims of this award is to:

- equip learners with existing experience, competencies and qualifications in construction with additional skills and underpinning knowledge to undertake conservation, repair and maintenance work on traditional (pre-1919) masonry structures.

3.1 General aims of the qualification

The award should develop:

1. skills in study, research and analysis.
2. ability to define and solve problems.
3. transferable skills.
4. ability to be flexible and work cooperatively with others.
5. responsibility for own learning.
6. planning, organisational and review/evaluation skills.
7. technical skills.
8. oral, written and pictorial communication skills.
9. resource management ability.
10. flexibility, knowledge, skills and motivation.
11. individual progression to higher level studies.

3.2 Specific aims of the qualification

The award should:

12. prepare learners for a range of vocational and technical careers in the repair and maintenance of traditional stonemasonry structures.
13. provide specialised studies which build upon previous study and work-based experience and are directly relevant to the individual vocations in which learners are currently working, or in which they intend to seek employment.
14. enable learners to make an immediate contribution in employment in the heritage sector.

4. Recommended entry to the qualification

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 (QDT) 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 5 in a relevant subject.
- An SCQF level 4 or 5 in relevant skills for work qualification.
- Those with relevant entry level qualifications.
- Any relevant vocational craft qualification.
- Relevant work experience where a learner can demonstrate a realistic chance of success.

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 would 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.

For this reason, the level stated should be reflective of the main focus of the qualification which is likely to require a certain level of ability in one or two of the Core Skills. Learners will naturally use and develop aspects of all five Core Skills as they work through the units making up the qualification through teaching and learning approaches which require to be mapped in the next section.

Core Skill	Recommended SCQF entry profile	Associated assessment activities
Communication	4	<p>Skills developed during the successful completion of all five Units will include the ability to produce and present accurate, well organised, written information in a written work plan and in other written work.</p> <p>Evidence will be relevant and coherent to the standards required within the vocational area. Written work should be factually and technically accurate, logically structured and suitable for purpose and readership.</p> <p>Formative work will involve extensive discussion of the principles and practice of repair and maintenance work, using the terminology and language of the workplace. Some units recommend small group work. Learners may also provide some evidence orally, demonstrating communication skills and using a range of verbal and non- verbal communication techniques which will meet the needs of employers.</p>
Numeracy	5	<p>The ability to interpret, apply and communicate complex numerical and graphical information is integral to achievement across the units. Data on construction materials and structures is analysed, calculated and presented accurately.</p>
Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	4	<p>Internet research on current and historical information and professional technical advice will be enhanced by access to a virtual learning environment to provide essential underpinning knowledge for the award. Presentation of graphic and written materials will involve access to and use of software to manipulate and integrate data. Online information will be available. Security, consideration for other users and the managing of any technical problems will be a routine aspect of good practice.</p>

Core Skill	Recommended SCQF entry profile	Associated assessment activities
Problem Solving	4	<p>Across the units, learners have to identify essential limitations and devise and justify strategies for sustainable initiatives dealing with a range of construction issues in real situations. Site visits and industry- based case studies are analysed and evaluated with the guidance of assessors.</p> <p>Practical work can apply theory, considering needs of the task such as client expectations, relevant legislation, standards, resources and health and safety requirements and reviewing approaches taken.</p>
Working with Others	4	<p>Small group activities as part of formative work will support learners with no site experience. Site visits will involve observation and co-operation in team approaches to issues relevant to the Built Environment. All practical assessment tasks will develop team working and help improve working relationships with a range of others in different types of practical contexts.</p> <p>Feedback from assessors on effective group working practice will be on going.</p>

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 (NOS) 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

Note: For details of the aims, see section [3.1 General aims of the qualification](#) and section [3.2 Specific aims of the qualification](#).

Mandatory units:

Unit code	Unit title	General aims	Specific aims
H8WR 46	Produce a Work Plan for a Conservation or Restoration Project	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11	11, 12, 13
J8E3 46	Prepare and Mix Traditional Lime Mortars	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11	11, 12, 13
H8WV 46	Consolidation and Repair of Masonry Structures	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11	11, 12, 13
H8WW 46	Stonemasonry Repairs	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11	11, 12, 13

Optional units:

Unit code	Unit title	General aims	Specific aims
H8WX 45	Produce Basic Stonemasonry Components	3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11	12, 13, 14
J8E4 46	Surface Finishing to Masonry Walling	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11	12, 13, 14
J8V1 46	Repair Traditional Memorial Structures	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11	12, 13, 14
J8V2 46	Retrofit Internal Wall Insulation to Traditional Mass Masonry Walling	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11	12, 13, 14

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

Mandatory units:

Unit code	Unit title	National Occupational Standards (NOS) code
H8WR 46	Produce a Work Plan for a Conservation or Restoration Project	<p>This unit will allow learners to gain some knowledge, understanding and practical training related to the National Occupational Standard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• VR546: Working on Conservation and Restoration Projects <p>The unit may also be applicable to other relevant NOS within the CITB Heritage Skills suite of NOS as provided by the CITB.</p>
J8E3 46	Prepare and Mix Traditional Lime Mortars	<p>This unit will allow learners to gain some knowledge, understanding and practical training related to the National Occupational Standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• VR548: Prepare and mix lime mortars• VR547: Conserve or restore stonemasonry, brickwork or earthen structures <p>The unit may also be applicable to other relevant NOS within the CITB Heritage Skills suite of NOS as provided by the CITB.</p>

Unit code	Unit title	National Occupational Standards (NOS) code
H8WV 46	Consolidation and Repair of Masonry Structures	<p>This unit will allow learners to gain some knowledge, understanding and practical training related to the National Occupational Standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VR547: Conserve or restore stonemasonry, brickwork or earthen structures • VR208: Repair Complex Stonemasonry Structures • VR548: Prepare and mix lime mortars <p>The unit may also be applicable to other relevant NOS within the CITB Heritage Skills suite of NOS as provided by the CITB.</p>
H8WW 46	Stonemasonry Repairs	<p>This unit will allow learners to gain some knowledge, understanding and practical training related to the National Occupational Standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VR547: Conserve or restore stonemasonry, brickwork or earthen structures • VR548: Prepare and mix lime mortars • VR196: Repair basic stonemasonry structures <p>The unit may also be applicable to other relevant NOS within the CITB Heritage Skills suite of NOS as provided by the CITB.</p>

Optional units:

Unit code	Unit title	National Occupational Standards (NOS) code
H8WX 45	Produce Basic Stonemasonry Components	<p>This unit will allow learners to gain some knowledge, understanding and practical training related to the National Occupational Standard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• VR188: Produce Standard Stonemasonry Components
J8E4 46	Surface Finishing to Masonry Walling	<p>This unit will allow learners to gain some knowledge, understanding and practical training related to the National Occupational Standard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• VR550: Select, prepare and apply finishing to structures• VR548: Prepare and mix lime mortars <p>This unit may also provide some underpinning knowledge and practical training related to, and within some VQs within the Heritage Skills suite, such as Heritage Skills: Stonemasonry provided by the CITB.</p>

Unit code	Unit title	National Occupational Standards (NOS) code
J8V1 46	Repair Traditional Memorial Structures	<p>This unit will allow learners to gain some knowledge, understanding and practical training related to the National Occupational Standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VR194: Fix and secure memorial masonry • VR206: Repair and maintain memorials <p>This unit may also provide some underpinning knowledge and practical training related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VR547: Conserve or restore stonemasonry, brickwork or earthen structures • VR548: Prepare and mix lime mortars • VR196: Repair basic stonemasonry structures <p>This unit may also provide some underpinning knowledge and practical training related to, and within some VQs within the Heritage Skills suite as provided by the CITB.</p>
J8V2 46	Retrofit Internal Wall Insulation to Traditional Mass Masonry Walling	<p>This unit will allow learners to gain some knowledge, understanding and practical training related to the National Occupational Standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VR644: Install internal insulation to walls <p>This unit may also provide some underpinning knowledge and practical training related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VR547: Conserve or restore stonemasonry, brickwork or earthen structures • VR548: Prepare and mix lime mortars • VR196: Repair basic stonemasonry structures <p>This unit may also provide some underpinning knowledge and practical training related to, and within some construction/insulation/retrofit VQs.</p>

5.3 Mapping of Core Skills development opportunities across the qualifications

Learners will have the opportunity to develop Core Skills contained in all units within this award. The following Core Skills components are signposted below:

Core Skill Communication components: Written (Reading), Written (Writing), Oral

Unit code	Unit title	Communication components
H8WR 46	Produce a Work Plan for a Conservation or Restoration Project	Written (Reading) Written (Writing) Oral
J8E3 46	Prepare and Mix Traditional Lime Mortars	Written (Reading) Written (Writing) Oral
H8WV 46	Consolidation and Repair of Masonry Structures	Written (Reading) Written (Writing) Oral
H8WW 46	Stonemasonry Repairs	Written (Reading) Written (Writing) Oral
H8WX 45	Produce Basic Stonemasonry Components	Written (Reading) Written (Writing) Oral

Unit code	Unit title	Communication components
J8E4 46	Surface Finishing to Masonry Walling	Written (Reading) Written (Writing) Oral
J8V1 46	Repair Traditional Memorial Structures	Written (Reading) Written (Writing) Oral
J8V2 46	Retrofit Internal Wall Insulation to Traditional Mass Masonry Walling	Written (Reading) Written (Writing) Oral

Core Skill Numeracy components: Using Number, Using Graphical Information

Unit code	Unit title	Numeracy components
H8WR 46	Produce a Work Plan for a Conservation or Restoration Project	Using Graphical Information
J8E3 46	Prepare and Mix Traditional Lime Mortars	Using Number
H8WV 46	Consolidation and Repair of Masonry Structures	Using Number Using Graphical Information
H8WW 46	Stonemasonry Repairs	Using Number Using Graphical Information
H8WX 45	Produce Basic Stonemasonry Components	Using Number Using Graphical Information
J8E4 46	Surface Finishing to Masonry Walling	Using Number Using Graphical Information
J8V1 46	Repair Traditional Memorial Structures	Using Number Using Graphical Information
J8V2 46	Retrofit Internal Wall Insulation to Traditional Mass Masonry Walling	Using Number Using Graphical Information

Core Skill Information and Communication Technology (ICT) components:

Accessing Information, Providing/Creating Information

Unit code	Unit title	Information and Communication Technology (ICT) components
H8WR 46	Produce a Work Plan for a Conservation or Restoration Project	Accessing Information Providing/Creating Information
J8E3 46	Prepare and Mix Traditional Lime Mortars	Accessing Information
H8WV 46	Consolidation and Repair of Masonry Structures	Accessing Information
H8WW 46	Stonemasonry Repairs	Accessing Information
H8WX 45	Produce Basic Stonemasonry Components	Accessing Information
J8E4 46	Surface Finishing to Masonry Walling	Accessing Information
J8V1 46	Repair Traditional Memorial Structures	Accessing Information
J8V2 46	Retrofit Internal Wall Insulation to Traditional Mass Masonry Walling	Accessing Information Providing/Creating Information

Core Skill Problem Solving components: Critical Thinking, Planning and Organising, Reviewing and Evaluating

Unit code	Unit title	Problem Solving components
H8WR 46	Produce a Work Plan for a Conservation or Restoration Project	Critical Thinking Planning and Organising Reviewing and Evaluating
J8E3 46	Prepare and Mix Traditional Lime Mortars	Critical Thinking Planning and Organising Reviewing and Evaluating
H8WV 46	Consolidation and Repair of Masonry Structures	Critical Thinking Planning and Organising Reviewing and Evaluating
H8WW 46	Stonemasonry Repairs	Critical Thinking Planning and Organising Reviewing and Evaluating
H8WX 45	Produce Basic Stonemasonry Components	Critical Thinking Planning and Organising Reviewing and Evaluating
J8E4 46	Surface Finishing to Masonry Walling	Critical Thinking Planning and Organising Reviewing and Evaluating

Unit code	Unit title	Problem Solving components
J8V1 46	Repair Traditional Memorial Structures	Critical Thinking Planning and Organising Reviewing and Evaluating
J8V2 46	Retrofit Internal Wall Insulation to Traditional Mass Masonry Walling	Critical Thinking Planning and Organising Reviewing and Evaluating

Core Skill Working with Others components: Working Co-operatively with Others, Reviewing Co-operative Contribution

Unit code	Unit title	Working with Others components
H8WR 46	Produce a Work Plan for a Conservation or Restoration Project	Working Co-operatively with Others Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
J8E3 46	Prepare and Mix Traditional Lime Mortars	Working Co-operatively with Others Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
H8WV 46	Consolidation and Repair of Masonry Structures	Working Co-operatively with Others Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
H8WW 46	Stonemasonry Repairs	Working Co-operatively with Others Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
H8WX 45	Produce Basic Stonemasonry Components	Working Co-operatively with Others Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
J8E4 46	Surface Finishing to Masonry Walling	Working Co-operatively with Others Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
J8V1 46	Repair Traditional Memorial Structures	Working Co-operatively with Others Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
J8V2 46	Retrofit Internal Wall Insulation to Traditional Mass Masonry Walling	Working Co-operatively with Others Reviewing Co-operative Contribution

5.4 Assessment strategy for the qualifications

Mandatory units:

Unit title	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4	Outcome 5
Produce a Work Plan for a Conservation or Restoration Project	(Knowledge assessment 1) Closed-book, multiple-choice and structured questions.	(Knowledge assessment 2) Closed-book, multiple-choice and structured questions.	(Practical assessment 1) Observation checklists, product evidence.	Not applicable	Not applicable
Prepare and Mix Traditional Lime Mortars	(Knowledge assessment 1) Closed-book, multiple-choice and structured questions.	(Practical assessment 1) Observation checklists, product evidence.	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Consolidation and Repair of Masonry Structures	(Knowledge assessment 1) Closed-book, multiple-choice and structured questions (one for all five outcomes).	(Knowledge assessment 1) Closed-book, multiple-choice and structured questions (one for all five outcomes).	(Knowledge assessment 1) Closed-book, multiple-choice and structured questions (one for all five outcomes).	(Knowledge assessment 1) Closed-book, multiple-choice and structured questions (one for all five outcomes).	(Knowledge assessment 1) Closed-book, multiple-choice and structured questions (one for all five outcomes).

Unit title	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4	Outcome 5
Consolidation and Repair of Masonry Structures	(Practical assessment 1) Observation checklists, product evidence.	(Practical assessment 2) Observation checklists, product evidence.	(Practical assessment 3) Observation checklists, product evidence.	(Practical assessment 4) Observation checklists, product evidence.	(Practical assessment 5) Observation checklists, product evidence.
Stonemasonry Repairs	(Knowledge assessment 1) One closed-book, multiple-choice and structured questions (one for all three outcomes).	(Knowledge assessment 1) One closed-book, multiple-choice and structured questions (one for all three outcomes).	(Knowledge assessment 1) One closed-book, multiple-choice and structured questions (one for all three outcomes).	Not applicable	Not applicable
Stonemasonry Repairs	Not applicable	(Practical assessment 1) Observation checklists, product evidence.	(Practical assessment 2) Observation checklists, product evidence.	Not applicable	Not applicable

Optional units (minimum one of the following):

Unit title	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4	Outcome 5
Produce Basic Stonemasonry Components	(Knowledge assessment 1) One closed-book, multiple-choice and structured questions (one for both outcomes).	(Knowledge assessment 1) One closed-book, multiple-choice and structured questions (one for both outcomes).	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Produce Basic Stonemasonry Components	(Practical assessment 1) Observation checklists, product evidence.	(Practical assessment 2) Observation checklists, product evidence.	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Surface Finishing to Masonry Walling	(Knowledge assessment 1) One closed-book, multiple-choice and structured questions (one for all four outcomes).	(Knowledge assessment 1) One closed-book, multiple-choice and structured questions (one for all four outcomes).	(Knowledge assessment 1) One closed-book, multiple-choice and structured questions (one for all four outcomes).	(Knowledge assessment 1) 1 Closed-book, multiple-choice and structured questions (one for all four outcomes).	Not applicable
Surface Finishing to Masonry Walling	(Practical assessment 1) Observation checklists, product evidence.	(Practical assessment 2) Observation checklists, product evidence.	(Practical assessment 3) Observation checklists, product evidence.	(Practical assessment 4) Observation checklists, product evidence.	Not applicable

Unit title	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4	Outcome 5
Repair Traditional Memorial Structures	(Knowledge assessment 1) One closed-book, multiple-choice and structured questions (one for all three outcomes).	(Knowledge assessment 1) One closed-book, multiple-choice and structured questions (one for all three outcomes).	(Knowledge assessment 1) One closed-book, multiple-choice and structured questions (one for all three outcomes).	(Practical assessment 1) Observation checklists, product evidence	Not applicable
Retrofit Internal Wall Insulation to Traditional Mass Masonry Walling	(Knowledge assessment 1) One closed-book, multiple-choice and structured questions (one for both outcomes).	(Knowledge assessment 1) One closed-book, multiple-choice and structured questions (one for both outcomes).	(Practical assessment 1) Observation checklists, product evidence.	(Practical assessment 2) Observation checklists, product evidence.	Not applicable

6. Guidance on approaches to delivery and assessment

This award is designed to equip students with the knowledge, understanding and skills required for success in employment as operatives employed in the repair and maintenance of traditional masonry structures.

6.1 Sequencing / integration of units

The structure of the PDA allows for a high degree of flexibility in the delivery model. The award could be offered full-time, block-release, day release or evening modes. Combination of delivery modes is also a possibility. Such combined mode study may enable learners to complete the award within a shorter time period.

Course delivery should focus on the problems associated with traditionally built masonry structures including those within a heritage context. The use of case studies involving repair, maintenance and conservation issues is likely to be beneficial.

The course should promote the need to identify alternative solutions and the inter-relationship of best practice, viability, reversibility, sustainability, and health and safety. Learners should be encouraged not merely to solve problems but to identify the solution most likely to provide 'best practice' to the overall repair, maintenance or conservation project.

Centres can define the order in which units are undertaken but should consider knowledge and practical skills progression, mode of delivery, resource issues and logical progression.

Training for the *Produce a Work Plan for a Conservation or Restoration Project* unit can be delivered at the beginning of any group award training program and re-visited during training for other units with final assessment taking place after more knowledge, understanding and skills are acquired. A suggested delivery sequence to enable progression for the group award is outlined in the table on next page:

Order	Unit	Credit value
1	Produce a Work Plan for Conservation or Restoration Project	0.5
2	Prepare and Mix Traditional Lime Mortars	0.5
3	Consolidation and Repair of Masonry Structures	2.0
4	Stonemasonry Repairs	1.5

X1 Optional units (minimum):

Order	Unit	Credit value
5	Optional unit: Produce Basic Stonemasonry Components	1.5
5	Optional unit: Surface Finishing to Masonry Walling	1.0
5	Optional unit: Repairing Traditional Memorial Structures	1.0
5	Optional unit: Retrofit Internal Wall Insulation to Traditional Mass Masonry Walling	1.0

Throughout all units emphasis should be placed the application of health, safety and sustainability. Safe working practices should be looked at in accordance with current codes of practice, safety guidance, regulations and as risk-assessed. Unit and group award delivery should include reference to sustainability and the environment.

Learners should understand the criteria affecting sustainability and the impact of not implementing sustainability measures on the environment.

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: [SQA Home Page](http://www.sqa.org.uk) (www.sqa.org.uk).

The following sub-sections outline how existing SQA units 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

The award has been designed as a stand-alone training-based qualification and can also be used to develop knowledge, skills and understanding for Scottish Vocational Qualifications associated with repair and maintenance of traditional (pre-1919) structures.

The award does not specifically articulate to a degree, however knowledge, skills and practical experience associated with the group award or units can be valuable for various pre and post Graduate learning in Built Environment, Architectural and Conservation related studies.

6.2.2 Professional recognition

The group award is not currently recognised as an occupational profession. However, all eight units do provide accredited training that may be delivered and achieved as part of professional qualifications within relevant recognised occupational pathways.

The group award or individual units can be used for up-skilling existing professionals and/or as suitable Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

6.2.3 Transitional arrangements

It is recommended that learners who are in the process of completing the predecessor award continue and finish rather than switching to the revised award.

6.2.4 Credit transfer

The following units will be given full credit transfer:

H8WR 46: Produce a Work Plan for a Conservation or Restoration Project.

H8WV 46: Consolidation and Repair of Masonry Structures.

H8WW 46: Stonemasonry Repairs.

H8WX 45: Produce Basic Stonemasonry Components.

The following unit has been reviewed regards the SCQF level which has been changed to SCQF level 6 and recoded — no changes to content of unit:

H8WT 45: Prepare and Mix Traditional Lime Mortars — New Code: J8E3 46.

6.3 Opportunities for e-assessment

E-assessment may be appropriate for some elements in this award. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by Information and Communication Technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or social software. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all learner evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence.

The most up-to-date guidance on the use of e-assessment to support SQA's qualifications is available at [SQA e-Assessment](http://www.sqa.org.uk/Guide%20to%20best%20practice.pdf). ([www.sqa.org.uk/Guide to best practice.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/Guide%20to%20best%20practice.pdf)).

6.4 Support materials

Draft Training and Assessment Packs (TAPs) previously existed for this award. These were never verified as suitable for this award and should not be used. Centres are advised to undertake internal prior verification of any developed assessment materials. It is advised these should also be externally verified by SQA.

Please contact Historic Environment Scotland (Technical Education and Training) who can advise if any developed learning, support or assessment materials can be shared with approved centres.

6.5 Resource requirements

Successful delivery of the award requires delivery staff who are fully conversant with current conservation, repair and maintenance knowledge, skills, techniques, methodology and materials understanding for masonry structures. Assessors and trainers will be required to demonstrate they are occupationally competent to deliver the units or award as a whole.

Previously there was a requirement for Historic Environment Scotland to provide a letter of support and approval to SQA for centres wishing to gain approval. This is no longer required, however; it is recommended that centres that wish to consider delivery of this award enter into a dialogue with Historic Environment Scotland's training team (Technical Education and Training) prior to undertaking the formal SQA approval process.

A classroom type facility is recommended for the underpinning knowledge learning required for all units.

For the *Produce a Work Plan for Conservation or Restoration Project* unit, physical access to a suitable structure that requires conservation, repair and maintenance work is recommended for learners to produce their assessment materials; however, it is conceivable that alternative means of assessing a structure can be utilised such as non-tactile inspections that can be undertaken remotely and/or virtually.

Internal workshop or external areas, such as those required for trowel occupations vocational qualifications, with full adherence to health and safety requirements are required for the *Prepare and Mix Traditional Lime Mortars* and all other units.

The *Consolidation and Repair of Masonry Structures* unit requires a training rig with suitable relevant inclusion of the building components listed in the unit specification. The same is true for *Stonemasonry Repairs*, and the optional unit *Surface Finishing to Masonry Walling*. It may be possible to combine the three requirements into one training rig, but it is more likely that separate rigs will be required. Risk assessment of some tasks in these units will require that dust hazards need to be controlled.

Optional unit: *Retrofit Internal Wall Insulation to Traditional Mass Masonry Walling* requires a training rig of internal mass masonry walling. This can be stand alone or combined with other units that require a similar rig structure.

Additional resource requirements to deliver this unit will include:

- a suitable selection of internal wall insulation products
- suitable vapor control layer materials

This list is not exhaustive. Please refer to the unit specification and evidence requirements.

The optional unit: *Repair Traditional Memorial Structures* can be undertaken in a cemetery and the requisite permissions will need to be in place from the local authority. This unit could also be undertaken in a simulated environment but would require memorial training rig structures that are ground erected and can sufficiently accommodate a foundation as part of training and assessment delivery. This would likely require an outdoor training and assessment area. Risk assessment of some optional tasks in this unit may require that dust hazards need to be controlled.

For optional unit *Produce Basic Stonemasonry Components* a training facility equipped with Local Exhaust Ventilation (LEV) will likely be required as part of a decision to offer and deliver this unit. The risk assessment activity may also require that suitable and sufficient Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) will be required for all learners undertaking practical tasks and assessments in this unit.

Additional resource requirements to deliver this unit will include:

- Banker tables for each learner
- suitably sourced stone blocks that meet minimum dimensions
- a range of carbide tipped stonemasonry chisels, mallets and squares

This list is not exhaustive. Please refer to the unit specification and evidence requirements.

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:

[SQA Assessment Arrangements](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements) (www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements).

Internal and external verification

All assessments used within these qualifications 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 [Guide to Assessment](#)

(www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/Guide_To_Assessment.pdf)

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 and / or candidate 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 and / or candidates 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).

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 and / or candidates 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 to 9 and graded units will be at levels 7 and 8. National Qualification group awards are available at SCQF levels 2 to 6 and will normally be made up of National Units which are available from SCQF levels 2 to 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.

History of changes

It is anticipated that changes will take place during the life of the qualification and this section will record these changes. This document is the latest version and incorporates the changes summarised below. Centres are advised to check SQA's APS Navigator to confirm they are using the up-to-date qualification structure.

Please note: Where a unit is revised by another unit:

- No new centres may be approved to offer the unit which has been revised.
- Centres should only enter learners and /or candidates for the unit which has been revised where they are expected to complete the unit before its finish date.

Version number	Description	Date
01	<p>The group award specification revision now includes eight units. Four of which are mandatory units, and four units are optional of which a minimum of one optional unit must be completed to attain the group award.</p> <p>As part of the development of this group award there are now three new units that previously did not exist as an option.</p> <p>They are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional unit: Repairing Traditional Memorial Structures • Optional unit: Retrofit Internal Wall Insulation to Traditional Mass Masonry Walling • Optional unit: Surface Finishing to Masonry Walling <p>The previous version of this group award had unit Produce Basic Stonemasonry Components as a mandatory unit that must be undertaken as part of the group award. This unit is now an optional unit.</p> <p>The group award now follows this structure.</p> <p>Mandatory units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory unit: Produce a Work Plan for Conservation or Restoration Project • Mandatory unit: Prepare and Mix Traditional Lime Mortars • Mandatory unit: Consolidation and Repair of Masonry Structures • Mandatory unit: Stonemasonry Repairs 	19/06/25

Version number	Description	Date
01 (continued)	<p>Optional units: (One unit minimum to achieve the group award):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional unit: Produce Basic Stonemasonry Components • Optional unit: Surface Finishing to Masonry Walling • Optional unit Repairing Traditional Memorial Structures • Optional unit: Retrofit Internal Wall Insulation to Traditional Mass Masonry Walling <p>The rationale for this revision was in response to sector research and skills needs. The reviewed award now allows greater flexibility for delivery centres and to meet climate commitments and the latest legislative and industry requirements.</p>	19/06/25

Acknowledgement

SQA acknowledges the valuable contribution that Scotland's colleges have made to the development of this qualification.

Template version: February 2025

9. General information for learners

This information 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.

Before the commonly accepted date of 1919, the majority of traditional construction used locally sourced, indigenous materials. In Scotland a rich variety of locally quarried stone types, along with a range of different additional materials such as lime mortars, earth, clay, brick and lime harls or renders were used to both build and finish robust structures. This led to a range of associated vernacular architectural styles that are an inherent part of the built heritage that helps to provide our 'sense of place'. It is imperative that these traditional masonry structures are repaired and maintained sympathetically and harmoniously using the right skills and materials so as not to inadvertently cause long term damage either through neglect or through the use of inharmonious materials. The majority of skills training on offer, as part of formalised apprenticeships, is predominantly focused on new-build construction methods.

We are currently in a climate emergency, and our historic and built environment is at risk. How we will tackle the causes of the climate crisis and respond to the impacts puts a particular emphasis and importance on the need for sound repair and regular maintenance of traditional structures. Now and into the future, we will need to increasingly share knowledge, build resilience and invest in sustainability to help address the current climate emergency.

The energy efficiency improvement measures and the retrofit of existing traditional masonry structures is an important consideration and will require the knowledge and skills contained in this award to repair and maintain traditional masonry structures. Retrofit and energy improvement measures to traditional structures require initial and ongoing repair and maintenance measures for effective energy efficiency improvement.

This group award is about understanding the repair and maintenance of traditional (pre-1919) masonry structures. The award covers applying understanding to assess the condition and then schedule and carry-out a range of sympathetic repair work to a variety of traditional masonry structures and components and to schedule future maintenance inspections. It will also develop your knowledge and understanding of how traditional buildings perform and function, specifically with respect to the traditional masonry fabric.

Adaptations and retrofit measures to improve thermal performance of traditional mass masonry walling is additionally covered as an optional unit.

Skills and materials to repair and maintain traditional masonry structures when applied to structures with significance, such as those in conservation areas, listed or scheduled buildings, or structures within world heritage sites can be referred to as conservation work.

The group award is suitable for those with existing experience, competencies and/or qualifications in construction who wish to upskill, train and apply new competencies to the repair and maintenance of traditional masonry structures.

Successful completion of this group award will provide you with the underpinning knowledge and training for carrying out a variety of masonry repair work to a range of traditional masonry structures. Mandatory units within the group award includes:

- Produce a Work Plan for a Conservation or Restoration Project.
- Prepare and Mix Traditional Lime Mortars.
- Consolidation and Repair of Masonry Structures.
- Stonemasonry Repairs.

The group award also requires that you undertake at least one optional unit from the following:

- Produce Basic Stonemasonry Components.
- Surface Finishing to Masonry Walling.
- Repair Traditional Memorial Structures.
- Retrofit Internal Wall Insulation to Traditional Mass Masonry Walling.

The group award has been designed as a stand-alone training-based qualification and can also be used to develop knowledge, skills and understanding for Scottish Vocational Qualifications associated with repair and maintenance of traditional structures.

This award is at SCQF level 6 and can be used upon achievement to progress onto related qualifications at SCQF level 7 and 8. The award may also be valuable as a progression towards various pre and post graduate learning in the Built Environment, Architectural or Conservation related studies.

The individual units can be used for up-skilling existing professionals and/or as suitable Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

This group award is not currently recognised as an occupational profession. However, all eight units do provide accredited training that may be delivered and achieved as part of professional qualifications within relevant recognised occupational pathways.