Qualification Specification for:

OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Garden Design
➢ **Qualification No: 610/1245/2**

OCN NI Level 2 Extended Certificate in Garden Design
➢ **Qualification No: 610/1246/4**

Qualification Regulation Information

OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Garden Design
Qualification Number: 610/1245/2

OCN NI Level 2 Extended Certificate in Garden Design
Qualification Number: 610/1246/4

Operational start date: 01 August 2022
Operational end date: 31 July 2027
Certification end date: 31 July 2029

Qualification operational start and end dates indicate the lifecycle of a regulated qualification. The operational end date is the last date by which learners can be registered on a qualification and the certification end date is the last date by which learners can claim their certificate.

All OCN NI regulated qualifications are published to the Register of Regulated Qualifications (**http://register.ofqual.gov.uk/**). This site shows the qualifications and awarding organisations regulated by CCEA Regulation and Ofqual.

OCN NI Contact Details

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Foreword

This document explains OCN NI's requirements for the delivery and assessment of the following regulated qualifications:

→ **OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Garden Design**
→ **OCN NI Level 2 Extended Certificate in Garden Design**

This specification sets out:

- Qualification features
- Centre requirements for delivering and assessing the qualification
- The structure and content of the qualification
- Unit details
- Assessment requirements for the qualification
- OCN NI's quality assurance arrangements for the qualification
- Administration

OCN NI will notify centres in writing of any major changes to this specification. We will also publish changes on our website at **www.ocnni.org.uk**

This specification is provided online, so the version available on our website is the most up to date publication. It is important to note that copies of the specification that have been downloaded and printed may be different from this authoritative online version.

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About Regulation

OCN NI

Open College Network Northern Ireland (OCN NI) is a regulated Awarding Organisation based in Northern Ireland. OCN NI is regulated by CCEA Regulation to develop and award professional and technical (vocational) qualifications from Entry Level up to and including Level 5 across all sector areas. In addition, OCN NI is regulated by Ofqual to award similar qualification types in England.

The Regulated Qualifications Framework: an overview

The Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) was introduced on 1st October 2015: the RQF provides a single framework for all regulated qualifications.

Qualification Level
The level indicates the difficulty and complexity of the knowledge and skills associated with any qualification. There are eight levels (Levels 1-8) supported by three 'entry' levels (Entry 1-3).

Qualification Size
Size refers to the estimated total amount of time it could typically take to study and be assessed for a qualification. Size is expressed in terms of Total Qualification Time (TQT), and the part of that time typically spent being taught or supervised, rather than studying alone, is known as Guided Learning Hours (GLH).

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Qualification Features

Sector Subject Area

3.2   Horticulture and forestry

Qualifications' Aim

The aim of the OCN NI Level 2 Certificate and Extended Certificate in Garden Design will enable the learner to develop the skills and knowledge in order to create garden designs from initial project brief through to design drawings and specifications.

Qualifications' Objectives

The objectives of the OCN NI Level 2 Certificate and Extended Certificate in Garden Design are to enable the learner to understand the function of the following within garden design:

- plant identification, features and uses
- plant and soil science
- design influences and process
- plant selection and care
- hard landscaping materials and features
- graphic design

Grading

Grading for these qualifications is pass/fail.

Qualification Target Group

The qualifications are targeted at learners who wish to pursue a career in garden design including current landscape gardeners wishing to gain a qualification in garden design.

Progression Opportunities

The OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Garden Design will allow learners to progress to the OCN NI Level 2 Extended Certificate in Garden Design and/or to higher level qualifications in the area of Garden Design and/or into employment.

Entry Requirements

There are no specific entry requirements for these qualifications though learners should be a minimum of 16 years of age.

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Qualification Support

A Qualification Support pack is available for OCN NI centres within the login area of the OCN NI website (https://www.ocnni.org.uk/my-account/), which includes additional support for teachers, eg planning and assessment templates, guides to best practice, etc.

Delivery Languages

These qualifications are available in English only at this time. If you wish to offer these qualifications in Welsh or Irish (Gaeilge) then please contact OCN NI who will review demand and provide as appropriate.

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Centre Requirements for Delivering the Qualification

Centre Recognition and Qualification Approval
New and existing OCN NI recognised centres must apply for and be granted approval to deliver the qualification prior to the commencement of delivery.

Centre Staffing
Centres are required to have the following roles in place as a minimum, although a member of staff may hold more than one role*:

- Centre contact
- Programme Co-ordinator
- Tutor
- Assessor
- Internal Verifier

*Note: A person cannot be an internal verifier for their own assessments.

Tutors
Tutors delivering the qualifications should be occupationally competent at a higher level than the qualifications and have and have a minimum of one year's relevant experience.

Assessors
The qualifications are assessed within the centre and are subject to OCN NI's quality assurance processes. Units are achieved through internally set, internally assessed, and internally verified evidence.

Assessors must:
- be occupationally competent at a higher level than the qualification
- have a minimum of one year's experience in the area they are assessing
- have direct or related relevant experience in assessment
- assess all assessment tasks and activities

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Internal Verification

OCN NI qualifications must be scrutinised through the centre's internal quality assurance processes as part of the recognised centre agreement with OCN NI. The centre must appoint an experienced and trained centre internal verifier whose responsibility is to act as the internal quality monitor for the verification of the delivery and assessment of the qualifications.

The centre must agree a working model for internal verification with OCN NI prior to delivery of the qualifications.

Internal Verifiers must:

- have at least one year's occupational experience in the areas they are internally verifying
- attend OCN NI's internal verifier training

Internal verifiers are required to:
- support tutors and assessors
- sample assessments according to the centre's sampling strategy
- ensure tasks are appropriate to the level being assessed
- maintain up-to-date records supporting the verification of assessment and learner achievement

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Structure and Content

In order to achieve the OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Garden Design learners must complete a total of 15 credits, to include the mandatory unit for 6 credits and the remaining 9 credits can be taken from any of the optional units.

Total Qualification Time (TQT) for this qualification: 150 hours
Guided Learning Hours (GLH) for this qualification: 120 hours

In order to achieve the OCN NI Level 2 Extended Certificate in Garden Design learners must complete a total of 30 credits.

Total Qualification Time (TQT) for this qualification: 300 hours
Guided Learning Hours (GLH) for this qualification: 240 hours

Unit Reference Number	OCN NI Unit Code	Unit Title	Credit Value	GLH	Level
Mandatory unit					
Y/650/3471	CBF867	Garden Design Process	6	48	Two
Optional units					
A/650/3472	CBF868	Plant Identification, Features and Uses	3	24	Two
D/650/3473	CBF869	Plant and Soil Science	3	24	Two
A/650/3481	CBF870	Plant Selection and Care	6	48	Two
D/650/3482	CBF871	Hard Landscaping Materials and Features	3	24	Two
F/650/3483	CBF872	Garden Graphical Design	3	24	Two
H/650/3484	CBF873	Garden Design Influences	6	48	Two

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Unit Details

Title	Garden Design Process
Level	Two
Credit Value	6
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	48
OCN NI Unit Code	CBF867
Unit Reference No	Y/650/3471

Unit purpose and aim(s): This unit will enable the learner to understand and apply the principles of garden design from initial site assessment and brief to the production of design drawings.

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
1. Understand the process and principles of garden design.	1.1. Illustrate the process and principles of garden design from initial drawings through to the presentation plan.
2. Be able to produce a site survey and analysis for garden design.	2.1. Conduct a survey and assessment on a given site to include the recording of the following: a) existing structures b) boundary c) hard and soft landscaping elements d) plants 2.2. Select appropriate scale and paper size for survey drawings. 2.3. Produce a site survey and site analysis drawings to scale based on recordings made in AC 2.1.
3. Be able to produce a concept design and costings.	3.1. Produce a concept board which supports the design development for a given design brief. 3.2. Develop at least three preliminary design ideas including sketches and photos based on concept board produced and design brief identified in AC 3.1. 3.3. Select with justification the most appropriate design idea form those developed in AC 3.2. to develop a concept design and costings.
4. Be able to produce garden design drawings.	4.1. Apply primary and secondary design principles to produce the following garden design drawings based on design idea selected in AC 3.3: a) presentation plan b) section elevation c) 3-dimensional sketch
5. Be able to produce a scale plan that features appropriate visual spacing.	5.1. Describe the importance of visual balance in addressing a design brief. 5.2. Produce a scale plan which features appropriate visual spacing with the use of positive and negative space.

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Assessment Guidance

The following assessment method/s may be used to ensure all learning outcomes and assessment criteria are fully covered.

Assessment Method	Definition	Possible Content
Portfolio of evidence	A collection of documents containing work undertaken to be assessed as evidence to meet required skills outcomes OR A collection of documents containing work that shows the learner's progression through the course	Learner notes/written work Learner log/diary Peer notes Record of observation Record of discussion
Practical demonstration/assignment	A practical demonstration of a skill/situation selected by the tutor or by learners, to enable learners to practise and apply skills and knowledge	Record of observation Learner notes/written work Learner log
Coursework	Research or projects that count towards a learner's final outcome and demonstrate the skills and/or knowledge gained throughout the course	Record of observation Learner notes/written work Tutor notes/record Learner log/diary
E-assessment	The use of information technology to assess learners' work	Electronic portfolio E-tests

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Title	Plant Identification, Features and Uses
Level	Two
Credit Value	3
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	24
OCN NI Unit Code	CBF868
Unit Reference No	A/650/3472

Unit purpose and aim(s): This unit will enable the learner to accurately identify different plants and their features, describe their use in the garden, and be able to specify plants for a planting scheme.

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
1. Be able to apply the binomial system of naming plants.	1.1. Use the binomial system to accurately identify the following: a) 20 trees b) 20 shrubs c) 10 plants suitable for hedging d) 25 herbaceous plants.
2. Understand the use of trees, shrubs and herbaceous perennials in garden design.	2.1. Define the terms tree, shrub and herbaceous perennial. 2.2. Describe using examples the use of trees, shrubs and herbaceous perennials in garden design.
3. Be aware of the ornamental features of trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants.	3.1. Describe the different ornamental features exhibited by trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants.
4. Understand the use of hedges in garden design.	4.1. Describe using examples the use of hedges in garden design.
5. Understand the use of bulbs for year round planting.	5.1. Describe, with examples, how bulbs may be used in different situations and seasons.
6. Know how to specify plant material required for a garden design.	6.1. Describe how to specify plant material for a given garden design including size, quantity and accurate plant and variety names.

Assessment Guidance

The following assessment method/s may be used to ensure all learning outcomes and assessment criteria are fully covered.

Assessment Method	Definition	Possible Content
Portfolio of evidence	A collection of documents containing work undertaken to be assessed as evidence to meet required skills outcomes OR A collection of documents containing work that shows the learner's progression through the course	Learner notes/written work Learner log/diary Peer notes Record of observation Record of discussion
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Coursework	Research or projects that count towards a learner's final outcome and demonstrate the skills and/or knowledge gained throughout the course	Record of observation Learner notes/written work Tutor notes/record Learner log/diary
E-assessment	The use of information technology to assess learners' work	Electronic portfolio E-tests

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Title	Plant and Soil Science
Level	Two
Credit Value	3
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	24
OCN NI Unit Code	CBF869
Unit Reference No	D/650/3473

Unit purpose and aim(s): This unit will enable the learner understand soil science including types and structure and the impact of soil characteristics on plant growth.

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
1. Understand the processes involved in plant growth and development.	1.1. Describe the basic process of photosynthesis and factors that affect its rate and impact on plant growth and development. 1.2. Describe the process of transpiration and its importance to plant growth and development.
2. Understand texture, profile and characteristics of soils.	2.1. Describe what is meant by the term soil texture. 2.2. Summarise the information provided by a soil profile and how it is used. 2.3. Describe the characteristics of clay, sandy and silty soils.
3. Understand soil structure and how it may be improved.	3.1. Define the term soil structure. 3.2. Describe three methods for the improvement of soil structure. 3.3. Define the term bulky organic material. 3.4. Identify three bulky organic materials and how they can be used to improve soil structure.
4. Understand soil pH, nutrients and plant growth.	4.1. Describe what is meant by soil pH and its impact on nutrient availability. 4.2. Describe how soil pH may be adjusted. 4.3. Describe with examples what is meant by the terms calcifuge and calcicole. 4.4. Describe the role of major mineral nutrients and trace elements and their impact on plant growth.

Assessment Guidance

The following assessment method/s may be used to ensure all learning outcomes and assessment criteria are fully covered.

Assessment Method	Definition	Possible Content
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Practical demonstration/assignment	A practical demonstration of a skill/situation selected by the tutor or by learners, to enable learners to practise and apply skills and knowledge	Record of observation Learner notes/written work Learner log
Coursework	Research or projects that count towards a learner's final outcome and demonstrate the skills and/or knowledge gained throughout the course	Record of observation Learner notes/written work Tutor notes/record Learner log/diary
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Title	Plant Selection and Care
Level	Two
Credit Value	6
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	48
OCN NI Unit Code	CBF870
Unit Reference No	A/650/3481

Unit purpose and aim(s): This unit will enable the learner to understand how to select plants for different situations and provide plant aftercare.

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
1. Understand planting and aftercare of trees and shrubs, and herbaceous perennials.	1.1. Describe how sites should be selected for given trees, shrubs and herbaceous perennials. 1.2. Describe the ground preparation required for trees, shrubs and herbaceous perennials. 1.3. Describe the importance of appropriate planting depth of trees. 1.4. Describe the appropriate aftercare of trees, shrubs and herbaceous perennials.
2. Understand different trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants available as nursery stock and their uses.	2.1. Describe the appropriate use of trees typically available as nursery stock. 2.2. Describe the sizes and forms of shrubs and herbaceous plants typically available as nursery stock and their uses.
3. Understand plant breeders' rights.	3.1. Define plant breeders' rights. 3.2. Describe how plant propagation for garden use is affected by plant breeders' rights.
4. Understand plant selection and adaptations.	4.1. Identify for each of three different environmental conditions five appropriate plants. 4.2. Describe how soil, aspect, wind, frost and microclimate affect plant selection and growth. 4.3. Describe leaf and stem adaptations exhibited by plants growing in sun, drought, shade and wind.

5. Understand pest, disease, weed and invasive plant species control.	5.1. Summarise the process used for checking the condition of plants.
	5.2. Define the following terms:
	   a) pest and disease
	   b) weed
	   c) invasive plant species
	5.3. Summarise key aspects of current legislation in relation to invasive plant species.
	5.4. Identify four common invasive plant species.
	5.5. Describe what is meant by the terms
	   a) contact
	   b) systemic
	   c) residual pesticides
	5.6. Describe one cultural and one chemical control method for invasive plant species.

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6. Understand the use of fertilizers in gardens.	6.1. Define the terms organic and inorganic fertilizers. 6.2. Describe why fertilizers are applied in gardens. 6.3. Identify two organic and two inorganic fertilizers and the nutrients each supplies. 6.4. Describe the appropriate application process for two organic and two inorganic fertilizers. 6.5. Describe how to minimize environmental pollution when applying fertilizer.

Assessment Guidance

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Title	Hard Landscaping Materials and Features
Level	Two
Credit Value	3
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	24
OCN NI Unit Code	CBF871
Unit Reference No	D/650/3482

Unit purpose and aim(s): This unit will enable the learner to select appropriate hard landscaping materials for a given site and brief and understand how to use these materials within the garden design process.

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
1. Understand hard landscaping materials, terms and features.	1.1. Describe different hard landscaping materials used in garden design. 1.2. Identify different garden terms and features used in hard landscaping.
2. Be able to select appropriate hard landscaping for a given garden site and design brief.	2.1. Select appropriate hard landscaping materials to produce a presentation plan for a given garden site and design brief.
3. Understand the use and construction of hard landscaping features.	3.1. Describe hard landscaping features which may enhance a garden design. 3.2. Describe different ways hard landscaping features can be constructed.
4. Be able to select hard landscaping materials and corresponding details.	4.1. Select and apply at least three hard landscape design details for the given garden site and design brief identified in AC 2.1.

Assessment Guidance

The following assessment method/s may be used to ensure all learning outcomes and assessment criteria are fully covered.

Assessment Method	Definition	Possible Content
Portfolio of evidence	A collection of documents containing work undertaken to be assessed as evidence to meet required skills outcomes OR A collection of documents containing work that shows the learner's progression through the course	Learner notes/written work Learner log/diary Peer notes Record of observation Record of discussion
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Title	Garden Graphical Design
Level	Two
Credit Value	3
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	24
OCN NI Unit Code	CBF872
Unit Reference No	F/650/3483

Unit purpose and aim(s): This unit will enable the learner to develop graphic presentation skills to produce drawings including plans, sections, elevations and 3-dimensional images for garden design. Learners will understand industry standard conventions and symbols as well as developing their own style of graphic presentation.

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
1. Be able use drawing equipment and materials for garden design.	1.1. Describe how different drawing equipment can be used for garden design. 1.2. Select and use drawing equipment for given garden design adhering to relevant health and safety guidelines.
2. Understand the application of geometrical shapes in garden design.	2.1. Assess the application of geometrical shapes in different garden designs.
3. Know how to use common conventions and symbols used in garden design.	3.1. Use appropriate graphic techniques to represent both hard and soft landscaping features.
4. Be able produce a plan drawing.	4.1. Use appropriate techniques to produce a plan drawing for a given garden including: a) title block b) use of different pen lines c) appropriate scaling d) labelling e) dimensions f) use of industry standard graphic symbols for hard and soft landscape features g) north indicator
5. Be able to produce a section elevation and 3-dimensional drawing.	5.1. Produce a section elevation and a 3-dimensional drawing for the garden plan drawing identified in AC 4.1.

Assessment Guidance

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Title	Garden Design Influences
Level	Two
Credit Value	6
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	48
OCN NI Unit Code	CBF873
Unit Reference No	H/650/3484

Unit purpose and aim(s): This unit will enable the learner to understand the influences that have led to historic and modern day garden design styles, and to develop the skills to use and blend these styles in creative garden design.

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
1. Understand historic garden design styles.	1.1. Illustrate different historic garden design styles with reference to their design concept and hard and soft landscape features. 1.2. Assess how different given present day gardens have been influenced by the historic garden design styles identified in AC 1.1.
2. Understand influences on garden design.	2.1. Illustrate different modern garden design styles from 1930s to present day with reference to the design concept and hard and soft landscape features. 2.2. Describe how trends in fashion, art and culture have historically influenced garden design styles up to the present day. 2.3. Select three contemporary garden designs assessing the influence of modern garden design styles on each.
3. Be able to incorporate garden design styles in the garden design process.	3.1. Select a series of garden design styles and produce at least three different creative mood boards. 3.2. Use the mood boards produced in AC 3.1 to develop garden designs for three different given sites.

Assessment Guidance

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Portfolio of evidence	A collection of documents containing work undertaken to be assessed as evidence to meet required skills outcomes OR A collection of documents containing work that shows the learner's progression through the course	Learner notes/written work Learner log/diary Peer notes Record of observation Record of discussion
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Coursework	Research or projects that count towards a learner's final outcome and demonstrate the skills and/or knowledge gained throughout the course	Record of observation Learner notes/written work Tutor notes/record Learner log/diary
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Quality Assurance of Centre Performance

External Verification

All OCN NI recognised centres are subject to External Verification. External verification visits and monitoring activities will be conducted annually to confirm continued compliance with the conditions of recognition, review the centre's risk rating for the qualifications and to assure OCN NI of the maintenance of the integrity of the qualifications.

The External Verifier will review the delivery and assessment of the qualifications. This will include the review of a sample of assessment evidence and evidence of the internal verification of assessment and assessment decisions. This will form the basis of the EV report and will inform OCN NI's annual assessment of centre compliance and risk. The External Verifier is appointed by OCN NI.

Standardisation

As a process, standardisation is designed to ensure consistency and promote good practice in understanding and application of standards. Standardisation events:

- make qualified statements about the level of consistency in assessment across centres delivering a qualification
- make statements on the standard of evidence that is required to meet the assessment criteria for units in a qualification
- make recommendations on assessment practice
- produce advice and guidance for the assessment of units
- identify good practice in assessment and internal verification

Centres offering units of an OCN NI qualification must attend and contribute assessment materials and learner evidence for standardisation events if requested.

OCN NI will notify centres of the nature of sample evidence required for standardisation events (this will include assessment materials, learner evidence and relevant assessor and internal verifier documentation). OCN NI will make standardisation summary reports available and correspond directly with centres regarding event outcomes.

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Administration

Registration

A centre must register learners within 20 working days of commencement of a qualification.

Certification

Certificates will be issued to centres within 20 working days of receipt of correctly completed results marksheets. It is the responsibility of the centre to ensure that certificates received from OCN NI are held securely and distributed to learners promptly and securely.

Charges

OCN NI publishes all up to date qualification fees in its Fees and Invoicing Policy document. Further information can be found on the centre login area of the OCN NI website.

Equality, Fairness and Inclusion

OCN NI has considered the requirements of equalities legislation in developing the specification for these qualifications. For further information and guidance relating to access to fair assessment and the OCN NI Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations policies, centres should refer to the OCN NI website.

Retention of Evidence

OCN NI has published guidance for centres on the retention of evidence. Details are provided in the OCN NI Centre Handbook and can be accessed via the OCN NI website.

OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Garden Design - Qualification No: 610/1245/2
OCN NI Level 2 Extended Certificate in Garden Design - Qualification No: 610/1246/4
Updated: 20 July 2022

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OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Garden Design
Qualification Number: 610/1245/2

OCN NI Level 2 Extended Certificate in Garden Design
Qualification Number: 610/1246/4

Operational start date: 01 August 2022
Operational end date: 31 July 2027
Certification end date: 31 July 2029

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