

Award in Energy Efficiency Measures for Older and Traditional Buildings

NOCN at Level 3 · 3 Credits

Qualification Specification

The purpose of this qualification is to equip learners with the knowledge and understanding of the available energy efficiency measures for older and traditional buildings.



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Introduction to Apex Training

Apex Training is the training arm of The Verdancy Group, delivering accredited green skills programmes across Scotland and the wider UK. We specialise in practical, industry-focused learning that supports individuals and organisations to develop the knowledge required for the transition to a low-carbon built environment.

Training is delivered online, in our Apex Training Centres and through partner venues, with options for employer-based delivery where suitable. All programmes are led by practising industry specialists to ensure alignment and compliance with current standards, regulations and sector expectations.

About The Verdancy Group and NOCN

The Verdancy Group is a specialist provider of green skills training, consultancy, sustainability education, and workforce development. Our programmes are designed to meet emerging industry needs and support national and regional net zero goals.

For over three decades, NOCN has been at the forefront of creating opportunities through learning and skills development. As an educational charity, NOCN Group's primary objectives are to support learners in achieving their full potential and to assist organisations in flourishing. Their long-standing commitment to education and development underscores their contribution to personal and professional growth across various sectors.

Award in Energy Efficiency Measures for Older and Traditional Buildings

Overview

This Level 3 qualification provides learners with an overview of older and traditional buildings, the range of energy efficiency measures available, how to evaluate their suitability and recommend their installation.

Duration

The award has a total notional learning time of 30 hours, comprising:

- Guided learning: approximately 21 hours
- Independent learning: approximately 9 hours

Delivery may be offered online, in person or through a blended model.

Who Is This Qualification For?

This course is designed for professionals involved in the assessment, care, or improvement of older and traditionally constructed buildings. This includes retrofit coordinators, retrofit assessors, building surveyors, conservation designers, contractors, housing and asset management officers, and heritage or conservation practitioners. It is also relevant for organisations managing traditional or pre-1919 building stock, or those preparing for retrofit or energy efficiency programmes. Participants should have some familiarity with building construction or property management, though prior specialist knowledge of damp, mould, or heritage buildings is not essential.

Materials And Certification

Learners will be provided with access to all required learning materials through online or in-person delivery formats.

Learners who successfully meet the assessment requirements will receive a certificate of achievement issued by The Verdancy Group, confirming the award's NOCN Level 3 status and 3 credit points.

Assessment

This qualification is assessed through three multiple-choice tests, one for each mandatory component. Each test consists of 15 multiple-choice questions and learners are allocated 20 minutes to complete each test. The assessments are externally set and marked and are graded on a Pass/Fail basis.

The pass mark for each test is 80%. Learners who achieve a mark of 80% or higher in all three tests will be awarded the qualification. All tests are open book and learners may refer to their notes during the assessments.

Supporting assessment resources for this qualification are available via the awarding body's online learning platform.

Progression After This Qualification

Achievement of this award supports progression to:

- Technical or vocational routes within the domestic retrofit sector
- Specialist training such as airtightness, ventilation, damp and mould, or building fabric modules
- Occupational pathways that require a foundational understanding of retrofit principles

The award also supports wider professional development for those working in housing, community energy, consultancy or property roles.

Qualification Structure and Module Content

There are three modules of learning within the Award in Energy Efficiency Measures for Older and Traditional Buildings:

Module 1

Evaluating the Options for Introducing Energy Efficiency Measures to Older and Traditional Buildings

Module Purpose

The aim of this unit is to provide learners with the knowledge to be able to identify the range of information required and key issues to be considered to evaluate how to improve the energy performance of older and traditional buildings.

Module Content

- Identify energy efficiency measures for older and traditional buildings.
- Assess interactions between measures and required adaptations to detailing and services.
- Assess the impact of occupant behaviour on energy performance.
- Assess legal and regulatory implications for energy efficiency measures.
- Assess technical risks and approaches to mitigation.
- Explain EPCs, U-values, and assessment limitations.
- Evaluate options for introducing energy efficiency measures to traditional buildings.

Module 2

Make Recommendations and Provide Advice on the Introduction of Energy Efficiency Measures to Older and Traditional Buildings

Module Purpose

The aim of this unit is to provide learners with the knowledge to be able to make recommendations and provide advice on energy efficiency measures for older and traditional buildings based on a whole building approach.

Module Content

- Make recommendations and provide advice on energy efficiency measures.
- Review and refine proposed energy efficiency measures using information sources.
- Prepare reports and plans for introducing energy efficiency measures.
- Describe legal and regulatory implications for energy efficiency installations.
- Justify the selection of energy efficiency measures.
- Explain delivery requirements for energy efficiency measures in a retrofit project.

Module 3

Recognising the Age, Nature and Characteristics of Older and Traditional Buildings

Module Purpose

The aim of this unit is to provide learners with the knowledge to be able to identify the age, nature and characteristics of older and traditional buildings. This includes their age, construction, condition, thermal performance, hygrothermal performance, their heritage values and significance, and the implications of these for the introduction of energy efficiency measures.

Module Content

- Establish building age and implications for energy efficiency.
- Identify heritage values and building significance.
- Explain conservation principles in traditional buildings.
- Identify traditional construction, performance, and materials.
- Identify heating and ventilation systems and implications for energy efficiency.
- Explain the impact of common defects on energy efficiency measures.
- Refer to specialists or recommend further investigations when required.

Version History

Version	Date	Summary of Changes	Actioned By	Reviewed / Approved By
Version 1.0	January 2026	First publication of the Award Specification for the NOCN Level 3 Award in Energy Efficiency Measures for Older and Traditional Buildings.	Apex Training (Author)	Verdancy QA Lead

Document Control Statement

This document is maintained by Apex Training, part of The Verdancy Group. All updates are recorded through internal quality assurance procedures. The most recent version of this specification supersedes all previous versions.



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