



Award in Understanding Repair and Maintenance of Traditional pre-1919 Buildings

NOCN Level 3 · 2 credits

Qualification Specification

This qualification supports learners progressing from Level 2 craft roles towards Level 3 heritage skills qualifications. It introduces the knowledge and traditional techniques needed to work appropriately on pre-1919 buildings within the heritage construction sector.



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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 Understanding Repair and Maintenance of Traditional pre-1919 Buildings

Overview

This qualification is designed as a bridge between a Level 2 craft occupation e.g. Decorative Finishing / Painting and Decorating and the Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Heritage Skills. It provides the learner with knowledge of working with traditional skills used within pre-1919 buildings, and enables them to work within their chosen craft and gain work opportunities within the heritage sector of the construction industry.

Duration

The award has a total notional learning time of 21 hours, comprising:

- Guided learning: approximately 14 hours
- Independent learning: approximately 7 hours

Who Is This Qualification For?

There are no formal entry requirements for this qualification; however, learners must be aged 18 or over. It is suitable for anyone working in or entering the construction, maintenance, or retrofit sectors who is likely to work on pre-1919 or traditionally constructed buildings. The course is ideal for tradespeople, surveyors, property managers, or those progressing towards heritage skills qualifications. A basic understanding of building construction will be helpful but is not essential.

Materials And Certification

Learners will be provided with access to all required learning materials.

All successful candidates will receive NOCN certification.

Assessment

This qualification is assessed through a multiple-choice test covering the key knowledge required for the repair and maintenance of traditional pre-1919 buildings. The assessment consists of 30 multiple-choice questions, each with four possible answers, and learners must select the single correct response for each question.

Each correct answer is worth one mark, giving a total of 30 marks available. The assessment is externally set by the awarding body and is graded on a Pass/Fail basis, with a minimum pass mark of 24 out of 30 (80%) required to achieve the qualification. Supporting assessment materials and guidance are provided.

Progression After This Qualification

Achievement of this award supports progression to:

- Progress directly into employment
- Progress into further learning at a higher level

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

Qualification Structure and Module Content

The NOCN Level 3 Award in Understanding Repair and Maintenance of Traditional pre-1919 Buildings consists of one mandatory unit containing five learning outcomes that together provide the underpinning knowledge required for working with traditional buildings.

Learning Outcome 1

Understand the Importance of repairing and maintaining traditional pre-1919 buildings

Outcome Content

- Describe the main characteristics and criteria that should be considered when deciding if a building is worth saving
- Explain the accepted reasons why society seeks to preserve an historic environment and traditional buildings and structures
- Describe the performance characteristics of traditional buildings compared to those of modern construction
- Explain the importance of retaining as much of the original structure and features of traditional buildings as possible when repairing and maintaining
- Explain how the repair and maintenance of traditional pre-1919 buildings contributes to current sustainability practices



Learning Outcome 2

Understand legislation and official guidance relating to repairing and maintaining traditional pre-1919 buildings

Outcome Content

- Describe the purpose of conservation plans and statutory listing of historic buildings and conservation areas
- Explain how relevant regulations and control measures relate to the repair & maintenance of traditional pre-1919 buildings
- Explain the main terms relating to the repair and maintenance of traditional pre-1919 buildings

Learning Outcome 3

Understand the importance of using traditional building methods and materials when repairing and maintaining traditional pre-1919 buildings

Outcome Content

- Explain why the methods and materials used to maintain and repair a traditional building must be the same or similar to the original, except when using honest repairs
- Describe the main problems which may occur from using materials that are incompatible with the original materials, method of construction and application
- Explain the reasons for minimum intervention/ maximum retention of existing material
- Explain the reasons for integrating existing and new constructional components or finishes
- Describe the purpose of repair and replacement, in relation to: appropriate ways in which work to traditional buildings should be carried out avoiding unnecessary damage. Using proven techniques and truth to material approach to re-instatement of missing or damaged features removal of damaging alterations or inappropriate repairs using appropriate methods and materials concepts of reversibility and re-treatability

Learning Outcome 4

Understand how to repair and maintain traditional pre-1919 buildings

Outcome Content

- Explain the relevant research and investigative methods used to determine repair and maintenance measures
- Describe the methods and techniques used to access evidence of original or different periods of the structure and features of traditional buildings at a later date
- Describe the methods of integrating existing and new constructional components or finishes
- Describe the investigative and recording methods and techniques used to understand the building, in relation to: carrying out condition surveys assessing causes of decay Page 1 of 2 identifying previous treatments.
- Explain who would be involved in the planning and delivery of repair and maintenance of traditional pre- 1919 buildings
- Explain the importance of analysing historic developments and changes to a building or components

Learning Outcome 5

Understand how to maintain safe working practices during repair and maintenance of traditional (pre- 1919) buildings

Outcome Content

- Describe situations when instructions and/or clarification must be sought to ensure the work is carried out safely and effectively
- Describe appropriate ways of stopping work when doubt occurs regarding existing construction
- Explain the reasons for seeking advice from relevant people when doubt occurs regarding existing construction
- Explain their personal responsibilities relating to safeguarding the original building fabric

Version History

Version	Date	Summary of Changes	Actioned By	Reviewed / Approved By
Version 1.0	April 2026	First publication of the Award in Understanding Repair and Maintenance of Traditional pre-1919 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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