



PART OF **nocn** GROUP

QUALIFICATION SPECIFICATION

- **NOCN Level 2 Extended Technical Occupational Entry for Bricklaying (Diploma)**

Qualification No: 610/4613/9

Operational Start Date: 1st August 2025

Version: 4

To know more about NOCN:

- Visit the NOCN website: www.nocn.org.uk
- Call the Customer Service Team: **0300 999 1177**

Introduction

NOCN is a market-leading awarding organisation that has been providing qualifications for a wide range of Centres, including FE colleges and training providers, for 30 years both in the UK and internationally.

We work with centres to deliver a high quality and flexible service for learners to underpin our passionate belief in the power of education and its impact on communities and individuals.

We offer all the advantages of being with a national awarding organisation with a diverse portfolio of qualifications, alongside providing a personalised, bespoke, service to our Centres and learners.

As an accredited Leader in Diversity, we are proud of our reputation as a provider of fully accessible, trusted, and flexible qualifications.

About NOCN Group

NOCN is part of NOCN Group, a progressive educational charity whose core aims are to help learners reach their potential and organisations thrive. The group includes business units specialising in regulated UK and international qualifications, end point assessments, endorsed programmes and assured short courses, smart job cards, assessment services, consultancy, and research.

NOCN Group shares a joint purpose to offer learners, training providers, employers, and FE colleges a fully integrated range of learning and skills development products and services.

Information about all our courses and qualifications is available from our website:
www.nocn.org.uk/

Qualification at a Glance

Title	Size
NOCN Level 2 Extended Technical Occupational Entry for Bricklaying (Diploma)	<p>GLH – 426</p> <p>TQT – 520</p> <p>Credit – 52</p>
Purpose	Target Audience
<p>The purpose of this qualification is to equip learners with the knowledge and understanding to progress on to a higher level supervisory or management qualifications e.g., Level 3 Diploma / NVQ in Occupational Work Supervision or progress into employment in their chosen trade.</p> <p>Employment opportunities could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bricklayer 	<p>This Level 2 qualification is for learners aged 16 and above who want to continue their education and develop their knowledge / competencies and understanding of their role in Bricklaying.</p>
Content Overview	Entry Requirements
<p>This Level 2 qualification provides learners with a range of knowledge and skills. Learners will develop an understanding of health and safety for working in the construction industry and knowledge, skills and behaviours of a bricklayer as stated in the IfATE Occupational Standard.</p>	<p>There are no formal entry requirements for learners undertaking this qualification.</p> <p>This qualification can be undertaken without any previous training or qualifications in this subject area, but a thorough initial assessment is advised.</p>
Assessment	Additional Resources
<p>There are a variety of assessment methods used in this qualification. Please see each unit for information on how it must be assessed.</p>	<p>Supporting resources are available for this qualification on NOCN's vLearn document manager, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centre Guide • Delivery / support materials or presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction Health and Safety • Construction Principles • Construction Information, Quantities and Communications • Environmental Awareness and Sustainability in Construction • Personal Skills in the Construction Industry • Personal Wellbeing in Construction • Employment in the Construction Industry

Summary of changes

This section summarises the changes to the qualification specification since the last version.

Version	Publication date	Summary of amendments (please add page numbers where changes can be found)
3	01.08.2025	Changes to the overall GLH & TQT for Bricklaying Changes to some of the units in terms of GLH and TQT, with new reference numbers, highlighted in blue.
4	23.10.2025	External Assessment (externally set and internally assessed) updated – contact for assessment passwords (page 10). Additional Resources updated (page 3)

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Overview of Qualification

This qualification is vocationally based and as such, offers the opportunity for learners to demonstrate an achievement of practical skills, understanding and knowledge in bricklaying.

This qualification supports the learner to gain fundamental and transferable practical skills with associated underpinning knowledge. It will provide learners with a comprehensive foundation to progress to full-time employment in the construction sector or to further learning.

This is a Technical Occupational Entry qualification for learners aged 16 years and over. The content of the qualification is mapped to the IfATE *Bricklayer Occupational Standard (ST0095)*.

1.1 Entry Requirements

There are no formal entry requirements for learners undertaking this qualification.

Learners must be in a position to demonstrate the requirements of the qualification and have access to required assessment opportunities and relevant resources. Please refer to specific assessment requirements on individual components for more information.

Centres should undertake initial assessment activities with learners to ensure this is an appropriate qualification and they are capable of achieving the level they will be studying before enrolling them onto a programme of learning.

Learners do not need any prior qualifications to undertake this level 2 qualification; however, NOCN do offer a level 1 in Bricklaying which will give learners the knowledge and skills required to work towards this qualification.

This qualification is available to learners aged **16** years or over.

1.2 Progression Routes

Achievement of this qualification confirms the learner has gained the knowledge and skills required to:

- gain employment in construction – bricklayer.
- progress on higher level construction qualifications at level 3 or above.

Qualification Details

2.1 Qualification Structure

The NOCN Level 2 Extended Technical Occupational Entry for Bricklaying (Diploma) is a 52-credit qualification with a Total Qualification Time (TQT) of 520 hours including 426 Guided Learning Hours (GLH).

Learners must complete all mandatory elements in this group and **one unit** from the **optional group** to achieve this qualification. A full list of achieved units will be listed on learners' certification from NOCN in order to allow learners to show their precise achievement.

MANDATORY GROUP

Unit	M/O	Level	Ofqual Unit Ref	Credits	GLH	Assessment
Construction Health and Safety	M	1	F/618/0738	5	50	MCQ paper
Construction Information, Quantities and Communications	M	2	D/618/0830	4	32	Project assessment
Construction Principles	M	2	T/651/4794	3	22	MCQ paper
Personal Skills in the Construction Industry	M	1	F/618/0741	1	9	Project assessment
Personal Wellbeing in Construction	M	1	Y/651/4795	2	18	Project assessment
Environmental Awareness and Sustainability in Construction	M	1	A/651/4796	1	10	Project assignment
Construct Cavity Walls	M	2	R/651/2712	15	117	Observed practical with underpinning knowledge questions
Construct Solid Walls	M	2	T/651/2713	17	138	Observed practical with underpinning knowledge questions

OPTIONAL GROUP

Unit	M/O	Level	Ofqual Unit Ref	Credits	GLH	Assessment
Constructing Masonry Cladding	O	2	Y/651/2714	6	48	Observed practical with underpinning knowledge questions
Constructing Thin Joint Masonry	O	2	A/651/2715	4	30	Observed practical with underpinning knowledge questions
Repair and Maintain Masonry	O	1	D/651/2716	4	30	Observed practical with underpinning knowledge questions

ADDITIONAL GROUP

Learners may take any of the additional, extended content units listed below but they do not count towards the overall achievement of the qualification.

Unit	A	Level	Ofqual Unit Ref	Credits	GLH	Assessment
Employment in the Construction Industry	A	1	Y/618/0745	1	9	Project assessment
The Construction Industry	A	1	D/651/4797	3	21	MCQ paper
Erect and Dismantle Access Equipment or Working Platforms	A	1	H/651/2718	2	18	Observed practical with underpinning knowledge questions
Establish Work Area Protection and Safety	A	2	F/651/2717	3	25	Observed practical with underpinning knowledge questions
Handle, Move and Store Resources	A	1	J/651/2719	2	18	Observed practical with underpinning knowledge questions

2.2 Total Qualification Time (TQT)

Through consultation with users, TQT has been agreed by considering the total number of learning hours required for the average learner to achieve these qualifications.

TQT is split into two areas:

Area	Example of activities
<p>1. Guided Learning Hours (GLH):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning activity under the immediate guidance or supervision of a lecturer, supervisor, tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training • Includes the activity of being assessed if the assessment takes place under the immediate guidance or supervision of a lecturer, supervisor, tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classroom-based learning supervised by a teacher • Work-based learning supervised by a teacher • Live webinar or telephone tutorial with a teacher in real time • E-learning supervised by a teacher in real time • All forms of assessment which take place under the immediate guidance or supervision of an appropriate provider of training • Exam time
<p>2. Other Learning Hours (OLH):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An estimate of the number of hours a learner will spend, as directed by (but not under the immediate guidance or supervision of) a lecturer, supervisor, tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ preparatory work ○ self-study ○ any other form of education or training, including assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent and unsupervised research/learning • Unsupervised compilation of a portfolio of work experience • Unsupervised e-learning • Unsupervised e-assessment • Unsupervised coursework • Watching a pre-recorded podcast or webinar • Unsupervised work-based learning

2.3 Assessment Methods

The qualification consists of a combination of externally set and internally assessed and externally set and externally assessed units.

2.3.1 External Assessment (externally set and internally assessed)

Learners will be required to complete the assessments created by NOCN for the following units.

Component / Unit Title	Assessment Method
Construction Information, Quantities and Communications	Project assessment
Personal Skills in the Construction Industry	Project assessment
Personal Wellbeing in Construction	Project assessment
Environmental Awareness and Sustainability in Construction	Project assignment
Construct Cavity Walls	Observed practical with underpinning knowledge questions
Construct Solid Walls	Observed practical with underpinning knowledge questions
Constructing Masonry Cladding	Observed practical with underpinning knowledge questions
Constructing Thin Joint Masonry	Observed practical with underpinning knowledge questions
Repair and Maintain Masonry	Observed practical with underpinning knowledge questions
Employment in the Construction Industry	Project assessment
Erect and Dismantle Access Equipment or Working Platforms	Observed practical with underpinning knowledge questions
Establish Work Area Protection and Safety	Observed practical with underpinning knowledge questions
Handle, Move and Store Resources	Observed practical with underpinning knowledge questions

Assessment materials are available from NOCN's vLearn document manager, for centres approved to deliver the qualification. **Passwords are required to access live assessments – available from NOCN Customer Services.** Existing Centres have access to the vLearn document manager; new Centres must contact their NOCN Business Development Manager. Centres must use current live assessment materials, downloading the most up-to-date version no more than 7 days before learners start their assessment. Centres must destroy any unused assessments and always download the latest version from the vLearn document manager before each assessment is taken.

Forms and guidance for gathering learner evidence against the individual assessment criteria are available for download in Word format on the NOCN website:

www.nocn.org.uk/support/nocn-support/quality-assurance/

2.4.1 Authenticity of student work

An assessor must assess only the learner's work that is authentic, i.e., the learner's own independent work. Prior to the assessment of a learner's work, the learner must authenticate their work by completing a declaration. The learner must sign the declaration to confirm that:

- all evidence submitted for that assignment is the student's own
- the learner understands that false declaration is a form of malpractice.

Assessors must ensure that the learner's work is their own by supervising them during the assessment period. However, assessors must ensure that they do not provide direct input, instructions or specific feedback that may compromise authenticity. If, during assessment, an assessor suspects that there is work that is not authentic they must then take appropriate action, using the centre's policies for malpractice. Further guidance can be obtained from NOCN's Assurance Team.

2.4.2 Late submission / completion of assessments

Centres must have a policy regarding the late submission / completion of assessments that should be applied fairly to learners, who should be aware of the policy. It is important that clear deadlines are issued, but learners can be permitted extensions in extenuating circumstances.

However, to maintain the fairness of assessments and to avoid advantaging or disadvantaging learners, there is a need to minimise the opportunity for learners to learn from others. Centres must apply their own policies to ensure comparability of assessment.

Centres may apply a penalty to assignments that are submitted beyond the published deadline, in line with their own policies, but when a late submission is permitted it should be assessed in the same way as any other. The same assessment criteria should be used, and feedback given in line with guidance given to all other submissions, with appropriate feedback and the cap applied at the end of the assessment process.

2.4.3 Making assessment decisions

Each assessment, and its component elements, receive individual grading in line with the guidance given in the assessment materials.

Assessors make judgements and decisions on assessments using the guidance provided in the assessment brief. The learner's work can be judged using all the relevant criteria at the same time. The assessor needs to make a decision against each criterion that evidence is present and sufficiently comprehensive. The assessment decisions are quality assured through internal and external quality assurance principles and the use of assessment boards in centres.

NOCN expects all centres to hold assessment boards for this qualification for standardisation and moderation purposes and to make recommendations on:

- The outcome, task and unit grades achieved by learners including standardisation and moderation.
- Identification of cases of plagiarism and cheating.

- Any extenuating circumstances.
- Referral and resubmissions for learner's work.

The Assessment Boards should include the centre's assessors and internal quality assurers, who have the following responsibilities:

- Assessors make the primary assessment decisions based on the provided guidance given in the assessment briefs.
- Internal Quality Assurers (IQAs) oversee all assessment activity. They check that assessment decisions are valid. Often, IQAs are also assessors, but they cannot verify their own decisions.

The assessment boards should be held at a minimum of once per year and minutes, reports and decisions recorded as part of the quality control process.

2.4.4 Assessment process

The Assessment Board is the summative stage of the assessment process and centres need to plan the delivery and assessment of the qualification to ensure timely decisions can be made. The centre needs to include the following considerations in their planning of the assessment process:

- the time required for teaching and carrying out assessments.
- a schedule of deadlines for submission of assessments.
- assessment time for assessors to grade learner's work.
- training and standardisation for the assessors.
- creating a sampling plan that covers all assessments, assessors, and a range of learners.
- who the internal quality assurers will be for the assessments, and when this process needs to be completed.
- planned dates for learners to complete the external assessment
- how to schedule resubmissions.

2.4.5 Issuing assessment decisions and feedback

The final assessment decision should be issued to the learner once the assessment team has completed the assessment process. The result and feedback must be recorded in the relevant section of the assessment brief. The feedback to the learner must:

- include the final decision and how it has been reached by indicating how or where criteria have been met or not met.
- not provide feedback on how to improve evidence but can suggest how to improve in the future.

2.4.6 Resubmission opportunities

Resubmission is permitted for each of the internally marked unit assessments. However, only one resubmission is permitted per unit.

2.4.7 Repeating Units

If, after resubmission, a learner's work is still judged to be below the minimum pass criteria, the learner, at the discretion of the centre, may repeat the unit. In this case the learner must study the entire unit again. A unit can only be repeated once, and the repeated unit achievement is capped at pass only.

2.5 Grading

This qualification is graded: Pass / Distinction / Not Achieved

Assessment guidance is provided by NOCN to aid assessors grading learners' work, including grading descriptors and / or tolerances. Some units are graded Distinction / Pass / Not Achieved, some are simply Pass / Not Achieved. The assessment decisions are quality assured internally within centres and then externally quality assured by the NOCN assurance team.

The overall grade is derived from the unit grades, shown in the table below:

Unit Title	Available Grades
Construction Health and Safety	Pass / Not Achieved
Construction Information, Quantities and Communications	Pass / Not Achieved
Construction Principles	Pass / Not Achieved
Personal Skills in the Construction Industry	Pass / Not Achieved
Personal Wellbeing in Construction	Pass / Not Achieved
Environmental Awareness & Sustainability in Construction	Pass / Not Achieved
Construct Cavity Walls	Distinction / Pass / Not Achieved
Construct Solid Walls	Distinction / Pass / Not Achieved
Constructing Masonry Cladding (optional)	Distinction / Pass / Not Achieved
Constructing Thin Joint Masonry (optional)	Distinction / Pass / Not Achieved
Repair and Maintain Masonry (optional)	Distinction / Pass / Not Achieved
Employment in the Construction Industry (extended content)	Pass / Not Achieved
The Construction Industry (extended content)	Pass / Not Achieved
Erect & Dismantle Access Equipment or Working Platforms (extended content)	Pass / Not Achieved
Establish Work Area Protection and Safety (extended content)	Pass / Not Achieved
Handle, Move and Store Resources (extended content)	Pass / Not Achieved

The learner's result for each element, listed above, apart from the units - **Construction Health and Safety, Construction Principles, The Construction Industry** (these units are automatically graded via the Quartz System after the tests are taken via the test platform), the other units must be entered into Quartzweb by the training provider using the following numerical grades listed below.

Code	Grade	Grade begins at (marks)
N/A	Not Achieved	0
P	Pass	1
D	Distinction	10

These units as marked above:

Construct Cavity Walls	Distinction / Pass / Not Achieved
Construct Solid Walls	Distinction / Pass / Not Achieved
Constructing Masonry Cladding (optional)	Distinction / Pass / Not Achieved
Constructing Thin Joint Masonry (optional)	Distinction / Pass / Not Achieved
Repair and Maintain Mansory (optional)	Distinction / Pass / Not Achieved

Code	Grade	Grade begins at (marks)
N/A	Not Achieved	0
P	Pass	1

These units as marked above:

Construction Information, Quantities and Communications	Pass / Not Achieved
Personal Skills in the Construction Industry	Pass / Not Achieved
Personal Wellbeing in Construction	Pass / Not Achieved
Environmental Awareness & Sustainability in Construction	Pass / Not Achieved
Employment in the Construction Industry (extended content)	Pass / Not Achieved
Erect & Dismantle Access Equipment or Working Platforms (extended content)	Pass / Not Achieved

Establish Work Area Protection and Safety (extended content)	Pass / Not Achieved
Handle, Move and Store Resources (extended content)	Pass / Not Achieved

2.5.1 Overall Grading for the Qualification

Once all the assessments and knowledge tests have been completed, an overall mark will be determined by how many marks the learner has achieved, as per the table below.

Code	Grade	Grade begins at (marks)
N/A	Not Achieved	0
P	Pass	9
D	Distinction	36

2.6 Fair and Equitable Assessment

Assessments are designed to be accessible and inclusive, and the assessment methodology is appropriate for individual assessment, giving due consideration to any assessment requirements attached to individual components.

2.7 Learners with Particular Requirements

If you are a NOCN Recognised Centre and have learners with particular requirements, please see the **NOCN Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations Policy and Procedure** found on the NOCN website at www.nocn.org.uk

This policy gives clear guidance on the reasonable adjustments and arrangements that can be made to take account of disability or learning difficulty without compromising the assessment criteria.

The NOCN Centre Approval process requires the Centre to hold policy statements on Equal Opportunities, Diversity and Disability Discrimination, which will be reviewed by NOCN.

Please refer to the **NOCN Quality Assurance Manual** for further details.

2.8 Recognised Prior Learning

Recognising Prior Learning is an assessment process that recognises learning that has its origins in a learner's experience and/or previous formal and informal learning contexts. This includes knowledge and skills gained within school, college, university, and outside formal learning situations such as through life, employment, apprenticeships, and other work experiences.

NOCN is committed to the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and has developed a policy and procedures to inform and support Centres. This is available on the NOCN website at www.nocn.org.uk

Centre Information

3.1 Required Resources for Delivering the Qualification

As part of the requirement to deliver this qualification there is an expectation that staff undertaking roles as part of the delivery and assessment of the qualification have a demonstrable level of expertise.

NOCN expects that tutors and assessors are able to demonstrate the following competencies:

3.1.1 Tutor Requirements

Be technically competent/subject matter experts, hold or be registered as working towards, a recognised education and training qualification, have experience of delivering training within this subject area. The minimum expectation is that the level of competence of the Tutor should be at the same level as the training that is to be delivered.

3.1.2 Assessor Requirements

Be technically competent, have experience of carrying out assessment activities and hold, or be registered as working towards, a recognised assessing qualification. The minimum expectation is that the level of competence of the Assessor should be at the same level as the qualification being assessed.

3.1.3 Internal Quality Assurer Requirements

Each centre must have internal quality assurance policies and procedures in place to ensure that decisions made by Assessors are appropriate, consistent, fair, and transparent, and that they do not discriminate against any learner. The policies and procedures must be sufficient to secure the quality of the award, ensuring validity, reliability, and consistency.

NOCN expects that an Internal Quality Assurer is able to demonstrate the following competencies:

They should:

Have an understanding of the subject area, have experience in carrying out internal quality assurance activities and hold, or be registered as working towards, a recognised Internal Quality Assurance qualification. The minimum expectation is that the level of competence should be at the same level as the qualification being quality assured.

NOCN supports and recognises Centres' internal quality assurance systems which support the above; any system should include standardisation and sharing of good practice.

Centre staff may undertake more than one role, e.g., tutor, assessor, or internal quality assurer, but they **cannot** carry out any quality assurance on work that they have previously assessed.

Refer to the **NOCN Quality Assurance Manual** for further information on the Internal Quality Assurance process. This can be found on the NOCN website at www.nocn.org.uk

3.1.4 Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Centres are expected to support their staff, ensuring that their subject knowledge remains current and that their members of staff are up to date with regards to best practice in delivery, assessment, and quality assurance.

3.1.5 External Quality Assurance

Once recognised as a Centre, NOCN will allocate an External Quality Assurer. The External Quality Assurer will have ongoing responsibility for monitoring the Centre's compliance with the requirements of recognised Centre approval status.

The External Quality Assurer will make regular visits to all Centres. During these visits they will:

- Monitor the Centre's compliance with the Centre approval criteria by reviewing course documentation, meeting managers, tutors, internal quality assurers, learners, and administrative staff.
- Review the standard of the Centre's assessment and internal quality assurance practices and decisions to determine whether all assessment requirements are met to support safe and valid claims for certification.
- Refer to the **NOCN Quality Assurance Manual** for further information on the External Quality Assurance process. This can be found on the NOCN website at www.nocn.org.uk

3.2 Offering the Qualification

3.2.1 Existing Centres

If you are already recognised to offer NOCN qualifications and would like more information about offering this qualification, please contact: business-enquiries@nocn.org.uk, alternatively use Horizon to add this qualification to your Centre.

3.2.2 New Centres

If you are interested in offering this qualification, but are not yet a NOCN Approved Centre and would like more information about becoming a NOCN Centre and offering this qualification please see **Become a Registered Centre** on our website <https://www.nocn.org.uk/customers/nocn-centres/> and click Become a Centre.

Component Information

4.1

The NOCN Level 2 Extended Technical Occupational Entry for Bricklaying (Diploma) qualification consists of mandatory, optional, and additional components. The qualification structure (**see section 2**) sets out the rules for achieving the qualification.

To achieve this qualification a learner must provide evidence of learning and achievement against all the assessment requirements within each of their chosen components.

A copy of all mandatory, optional, and additional components can be downloaded via the NOCN website.

- [NOCN Level 2 Extended Technical Occupational Entry for Bricklaying \(Diploma\)](#)



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