PART OF nocn GROUP

QUALIFICATION SPECIFICATION

NOCN Level 4 Certificate for Certified Green Building Professional

Qualification No: **610/7828/1**

Operational Start Date: **5th August 2026**

Version: **1.0**

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 assessment, 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 4 Certified Green Building Professional	GLH – 106 TQT – 150 Credit – 15
Purpose	**Target Audience**
This qualification equips learners with the knowledge and understanding required to design, implement, and manage sustainable, resource-efficient buildings. It supports the application of green building principles, optimisation of energy and water performance, use of low-carbon materials, and the improvement of indoor environmental quality.	This qualification is intended for professionals within construction, engineering, architecture, facilities management, and sustainability roles who are involved in the design, construction, or management of buildings.
Content Overview	**Entry Requirements**
This Level 4 qualification provides learners with comprehensive knowledge and practical skills in sustainable building design, construction, and performance optimization. It covers key areas including green building principles, energy efficiency strategies, water management, low-carbon materials, indoor environmental quality, sustainable site planning, and green building rating systems. The qualification also introduces learners to sustainability integration across the project lifecycle, emerging trends in sustainable construction, and practical application through real-world case studies.	Learners should be able to demonstrate relevant knowledge and skills in the subject area through qualifications, work experience, or prior learning.

Assessment	Additional Resources
Assessment is based on a portfolio of evidence that enables learners to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding, and application of green building principles within the built environment. Assessment methods may include a combination of written assignments, case studies, practical activities, projects, and professional discussions designed to reflect real-world scenarios and workplace practices. Evidence should demonstrate learners' ability to apply relevant concepts, evaluate sustainable construction approaches, and address environmental considerations in a practical context. The centre is responsible for designing assessment activities that are valid, reliable, and fit for purpose, ensuring that learners have appropriate opportunities to meet the qualification requirements and demonstrate achievement of the learning outcomes and assessment criteria.	PowerPoint presentation

Summary of changes:

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

Version	Publication Date	Summary of Amendments (page numbers where changes can be found)
1.0	06/08/2026	

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1. Overview of Qualification

This qualification is a vocational programme designed to develop knowledge and practical capability in sustainable building design, construction, and environmental performance within the built environment. It covers key areas including green building principles, energy efficiency, water management, low-carbon materials, indoor environmental quality, sustainable site development, and green building rating systems, together with sustainability integration across the project lifecycle, innovation in sustainable construction, and the application of sustainability strategies through real-world case studies and project-based learning.

Developed to support industry needs, the qualification enables learners to contribute effectively to the delivery of sustainable and high-performance buildings, supporting environmental responsibility and resource efficiency within construction and building operations.

This qualification is for:

Learners who wish to develop knowledge and practical capability in sustainable building design, construction, and environmental performance within the built environment. This includes professionals and practitioners seeking to enhance their expertise in green building practices, as well as individuals involved in the design, construction, or operation of buildings who aim to improve resource efficiency, reduce environmental impact, and support sustainable development initiatives.

Entry Requirements

This qualification is designed for individuals who have an interest in, or are working within, engineering, construction, the built environment, or related sectors. It is suitable for graduates, current learners, career changers, and practitioners seeking to develop their knowledge and skills in this area.

Learners must be able to demonstrate the requirements of the qualification and have access to the necessary assessment opportunities, workplace activities (where applicable), and relevant learning resources. Please refer to the specific assessment requirements for individual units/components for further details.

Centres should carry out an initial assessment with each learner to determine whether the qualification is appropriate for their needs and whether they are likely to achieve the required level of study before enrolment onto a programme of learning.

This qualification is available to learners aged 18 years and above.

Entry requirements have been designed to recognise the diverse educational, professional, and practical experience that learners may bring. There are no specific academic prerequisites; however, learners should possess sufficient knowledge, skills, and experience to engage with the qualification content and successfully meet the assessment requirements.

Progression Routes

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

- Higher-level qualifications in Sustainable Construction
- Environmental Management qualifications
- Energy Management qualifications
- Building Performance and Energy Assessment programmes
- Professional certification in green building and sustainability disciplines

- Employment within sustainability, environmental management and building performance roles

2. Qualification Details

2.1 Qualification Structure

NOCN Level 4 Certified Green Building Professional is a structured qualification designed to provide learners with the knowledge and practical skills required in sustainable building practices. The qualification consists of a total of 15 credits with an overall Total Qualification Time (TQT) of 150 hours, including 106 Guided Learning Hours (GLH).

Learners must achieve all 15 credits.

To achieve, learners **must** complete all of the following **4** mandatory units:

Unit	M/O	Level	Ofqual Unit Ref	Credits	GLH	Assessment
Advanced Energy, Water and Indoor Environmental Quality Assessment	M	4	M/652/3223	5	36	Centre derived assessment.
Advanced Materials, Waste, Transportation and Site Assessment	M	4	R/652/3224	5	26	Centre derived assessment.
Certification Documentation, Performance Evaluation and Client Reporting	M	4	T/652/3225	5	44	Centre derived assessment.

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
1. Guided Learning Hours (GLH): • 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.	• 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.
2. Other Learning Hours (OLH): • 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: ○ Preparatory work. ○ Self-study. ○ Any other form of education or training, including assessment.	• 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 and Evidence

The qualification is a combination of internally set and internally assessed units.

Internal assessment (internally set and internally assessed)

Internal assessment activity must ensure evidence of achievement against **all** the requirements specified within each component.

For assessments that are internally set, the IQA will need to ensure pre-verification of assessment tasks take place prior to its use to ensure that it is an appropriate assessment tool, that it is inclusive to learners of all needs, that it meets the principles of assessment and does not hinder learner attainment of the NOCN assessment evidence requirements.

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

Centres must ensure that knowledge-based learning is at the correct level for the qualification.

Assessment activities must be robust in that the assessment decisions are made based on evidence, which is valid, authentic, current, sufficient and reliable regarding the assessment taking place:

Valid The validity of an assessment decision is ensuring that the right thing has been assessed in the right way to deliver an accurate assessment result.

Authentic The assessment process must ensure that all evidence of achievement is authentic in that it has been created solely by the learner (unless otherwise required) and has not been plagiarised. If work was not authentic, it would undermine the entire the assessment process and overall qualification system.

Current The assessment process must ensure that the evidence used to claim qualification or unit achievement reflects current industry/qualification practice. This can be done by ensuring that the evidence is relevant at the time of the assessment as well as ensuring that the assessor has used the most-up-date assessment documentation.

Sufficient The Assessor must review assessment evidence to judge whether the learner has generated enough evidence at the right level to confidently cover all relevant learning outcome or assessment criteria requirements. The Assessor must also ensure their records of the assessment are complete, legible and accurate.

Reliable The Assessor must ensure that they are making reliable and consistent assessment decisions across their learners and with other Assessors within the Centre. Assessment decisions must also be consistent over time and across academic/programme cycles. This can be supported by attending standardisation activities.

2.4. Fair and Equitable Assessment

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

2.5. 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.

2.6 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

2.7. Assessment and Evidence for the Components

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/

3 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:

Tutor/Assessor Requirements:

Tutor/Assessors for this qualification must be demonstrably competent to teach and assess, therefore, they must:

- Hold verifiable knowledge of the subject matter at the level being taught, evidenced through an up-to-date CV or equivalent.
- Hold or be working towards a recognised education and training qualification.
- Have relevant teaching and assessment experience or be trained in teaching and assessment.
- Keep Continuous Professional Development current with industry best practices.

NOCN does not formally require that Tutor/Assessors hold, or are working towards, a recognised teaching or assessing qualification, if the Tutor/Assessor can demonstrate competence in line with the above.

Internal Quality Assurer (IQA) 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.

Internal Quality Assurers for this qualification must be demonstrably competent to carry out internal quality assurance, therefore, they must

- Understand the subject area at the level being quality assured, evidenced through an up-to-date CV.
- Hold, or be registered as working towards, a recognised Internal Quality Assurance qualification. Where working towards, countersigning arrangements must be in place through a qualified IQA.

- Keep Continuous Professional Development current with industry best practices.

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/Data/Support_Downloads/NOCNQualityAssuranceManual(V7.3202208).pdf

3.1.1 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.

3.1.2 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

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.

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.

4 Component Information

The NOCN Level 4 Certified Green Building Professional consists of 3 mandatory units that together provide a comprehensive foundation in sustainable building practices and green construction principles. The qualification structure outlined in Section 2 defines the requirements for successful achievement of the qualification.

To achieve this qualification, learners must successfully complete all mandatory units and provide evidence of learning and achievement in line with the assessment requirements specified for each unit.

A detailed description of all units, including their learning outcomes, assessment criteria, and assessment methods, is provided within this Qualification Specification.

- NOCN Level 4 Certificate for Green Building Professional

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