



Introduction to Beekeeping

Qualification Specification

Version 2

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1 About Lantra Awards

Lantra Awards is a nationally recognised awarding organisation approved to develop and accredit qualifications such as NVQ/SVQs, VQs and Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) provision. We offer national qualifications in a range of subject areas, as well as technical awards and customised provision to accredit in-house training. Our portfolio of credit-based qualifications is constantly developing and this Level 1 Award in Introduction to Beekeeping is designed to add value to our existing provision, as well as enable progression routes for a range of learners and support continuing professional development (CPD).

2 Qualifications and Credit Framework

Since 2006 the regulatory authorities have been testing the QCF, a new qualifications structure built from credit-based units. Units are selected and combined into qualifications in order to enable a more flexible learner centred approach, depending on the agreed rules of combination for each qualification.

It is anticipated that as the QCF develops it will enable more freedom, choice and flexibility for learners, enabling them to undertake smaller bite-sized learning opportunities that can build up achievements over time. Learners can therefore work at their own pace and in their own learning context.

This Qualification is designed to fit into the ethos of the QCF and has been designed to enable flexibility and encourage positive outcomes for all learners.

3 What is the aim of this Qualification?

The Level 1 Award in Introduction to Beekeeping (QCF) is a competency based qualification. It is based on the British Beekeeping Association (BBKA) National Standards which reflect the working practices of beekeepers.

The Qualification aims to introduce learners to beekeeping and provide an opportunity to develop their skills. The Qualification is designed to assess the competence and knowledge of beekeeping across a range of occupational routes. The structure of the Qualification also enables CPD activities to be evidenced and certificated for those learners who may not require the full Award. The Qualification has evolved from industry requirements.

The qualification meets the needs of:

- a) LEARNERS by providing a rounded introduction to both the craft of beekeeping, the underlying biology, the health of bees, the regulatory framework and production of honey. This will allow the student to participate in beekeeping activity and to know when to seek further advice from more experienced practitioners.
- b) EMPLOYERS by equipping employees to carry out simple bee management and be able to identify problems as they arise. The employee will also understand the relationship between bees and plants/crops and thus understand the impact on horticulture, land management and biodiversity.

4 Who is the Qualification designed for?

The Qualification is for those entering the industry or seeking to formalise existing experience will find the Level 1 Award in Introduction to Beekeeping beneficial. The Qualification gives learners the skills and knowledge they need to make the craft of beekeeping a sustainable activity and improve the quality of beekeeping.

Sector areas include:

- Horticulture, plant breeding
- Land management, crop production
- Biodiversity management
- Small scale commercial enterprises dealing in honey bee hive products

5 What are the benefits of undertaking the Qualification?

This qualification provides an entry level qualification for those interested in beekeeping and allows learners to gain a range of skills. There are commercial benefits to taking this Qualification, either by direct honey production and sale in a small-scale business start-up, provision of pollination services on a paid basis or to enhance the productivity of horticulture and agriculture.

6 What is in the Level 1 in Introduction to Beekeeping (QCF)?

This Qualification has been devised with the key aim of progressing learners into further learning and training/development.

The Qualification comprises of six mandatory units to achieve the Qualification. The structure and content of the Qualification has been supported by Lantra Sector Skills Council.

The qualification offers:

- a) An outline of the biology of the honey bee, in terms of lifecycle and behaviour, including interaction with plants and crops. This is needed to understand the practical aspects of the beekeeping craft.
- b) An introduction to the appearance of a healthy hive and to the basic indications of serious pests/disease and their management, either directly by the student or by seeking more experienced help.
- c) Simple introduction to the hygiene of the honey bee colony, techniques to prevent the transmission of disease and the management of equipment
- d) Practical beekeeping skills, both of general applicability (e.g. use of equipment and apiary set-up, interpretation of the state of the colony) and seasonal (e.g. winter preparation, spring growth, swarm management and honey production).
- e) Simple skills dealing with the removal of honey from beehives and its extraction and preparation for sale, including awareness of labelling Regulations..
- f) General Health and safety advice for the apiary, equipment use and beestings. Simple record keeping and dealing with members of the public.

For a full list of units and qualification structure please see Annex A.

7 Are there any entry requirements for this Qualification?

There are no pre-requisites for this Qualification.

8 How long would it take for a learner to complete the Qualification?

The recommended notional learning time for the achievement of a single credit is 10 hours. This Qualification is awarded upon the achievement of 11 credits (99 Guided Learning Hours).

Learners may take slightly less or slightly more time to achieve the number of credits required. The size of the Qualification is based upon notional learning time and represents an average rather than a defined number of learning hours. It is important that centres approved to deliver the Qualification give the appropriate time and support to enable learners to achieve. Learners may claim certification for any credit/units they achieve irrespective of whether they have completed the full Qualification.

9 My organisation is interested in offering the Qualification. What do I have to do now?

Your organisation must apply to Lantra Awards to become an approved centre for the Qualification. If you meet the criteria set in the Application for Centre Approval, Lantra Awards will approve your organisation as an 'assessment centre' which means that you can offer the Qualification.

Learners cannot be assessed for any part of the Qualification unless they have been registered with Lantra Awards by an approved centre. Only approved centres can register learners.

It is the responsibility of the approved centre to ensure that all tutors/instructors are competent to deliver and assess the units they are teaching. Lantra Awards recommends that all instructors are approved by Lantra Awards or by an equivalent internal system of quality assurance.

10 My organisation is already an approved Lantra Awards training provider. Do I still need to apply for centre approval?

Regulations require awarding organisations to approve each centre for specific qualifications, regardless of any other activities that organisation may undertake.

11 Quality assurance – how is the Qualification assessed?

In order to achieve the Qualification learners need to demonstrate that they have met the evidence requirements for the assessment criteria of the unit.

The Qualification is achieved through the completion of six units, which are all mandatory. Each unit can be undertaken if necessary, by different tutors. Five units are assessed by evidence of study shown through a portfolio of work. Unit 3 is assessed through practical observation by an experienced Beekeeper qualified to an appropriate level within the BBKA 'General Husbandry' Certificate or holding an equivalent industry-based qualification.

A benchmarking assessment is included on the Qualification CD to support the requirements of the Qualification.

Learner activity is internally assessed, internally moderated and externally moderated as outlined below:

- Assessments set by Lantra Awards or by a centre in consultation with Lantra Awards
- Learners assessed internally, using agreed assessment
- Portfolios of evidence internally moderated by an internal moderator at the centre
- Portfolios externally moderated by an external moderator appointed by Lantra Awards.

How do learners register for the Qualification?

Learners must be registered with Lantra Awards. Centres must complete a QCF learner registration form. Learners who have not been registered will not be certificated.

How do centres claim learner certification?

The Learner Achievement Record should be completed and submitted to Lantra Awards for the Qualification certification to be issued.

See Annex B for the Qualification administration process

Quality assurance

For internally assessed assignments that are externally moderated, external moderators are responsible for liaising with the centre to arrange a review of the centre's internal verification process and sampling of learners' work.

All learners' work must be retained by the centre until instructed to release following moderation.

Lantra Awards provides guidance to internal moderators which include the size and nature of samples and additional samples when required. External moderators will stipulate the sample from the list of registered learners provided by Lantra Awards. The sample must normally be at least 10 per cent or 10 completed assignments, whichever is larger. External moderators may request a higher sample, for example where the centre is new or where previous moderation activities have indicated some inconsistency or errors in marking learner' work. Where more than one internal assessor is active then the moderator must ensure that the internal moderation process samples the marking of all assessors. Feedback to assessors should be evident and where there are inconsistencies across markers then evidence to action to address this should be available to the external moderator.

External moderators are responsible for giving feedback to the centre regarding the accuracy and consistency of their assessment decisions and internal moderation process, and where relevant, indicate where the centre can improve on these. Following moderation, external moderators must complete the appropriate documentation to demonstrate that moderation has taken place and that the moderator is satisfied with the internal assessment and moderation process.

Internal assessors

The information for centres for each Qualification will offer guidance on the nature and type of assessment evidence that is acceptable where appropriate. This will include the extent to

which learners are allowed to re-draft work and the type and extent of feedback that can be given to learners by assessors.

Where there is more than one assessor operating within a centre, Lantra Awards requires the assessors to be standardised internally and to provide evidence to Lantra Awards that this has taken place via the internal moderation system. The external moderator for the centre will request a sample of work from the centre that will have been internally moderated. Lantra Awards requires written confirmation from the learner and the assessor that the work produced is authentic and moderators will sample this area from time to time.

Marking

Each benchmark/task should be assessed against the assessment criteria of the unit being undertaken and judged to be either achieved or not achieved. Where a series of tasks are set, the learners must demonstrate the achievement of the required standards identified in the assessment criteria in all tasks in order to achieve the unit credit. All of the assessment criteria within a unit must be met before the unit is achieved. The unit is not banded or graded.

Learner performance should be recorded on an appropriate form or forms. Lantra Awards has developed appropriate tracking sheets for all units which are available as electronic copies.

Centres will be required to provide samples of assessment tasks and activity for regular standardisation events.

12 What is the cost of the Qualification?

QCF Qualification fees are based upon a combined full qualification fee or individual unit fees depending upon the requirements of the learner. For a current list of all centre approval, learner registration charges and quality assurance costs please access the published fees list. Where required, EV visits and distance monitoring will be charged to the centre at current rates. For a list of current rates please access the published fees list.

13 What do I do if a learner wishes to enquire about or appeal against their assessment decisions?

Lantra Awards has an enquiries policy and an appeals procedure that can be used in these circumstances. There are fees for enquiries and appeals, which will be refunded in full if the appeal is upheld or if a learner's results are changed as a result of an enquiry. See Lantra Awards Policy Document for details.

14 What if a learner loses their certificate?

Lantra Awards will issue a replacement certificate if a learner loses the original, provided that the learner can provide proof of identity (for example, birth certificate, marriage certificate, driving licence) and can give details of the centre they were registered with. Lantra Awards will check all claims for replacement certificates against the original certificate claim form. The centre may be contacted for authentication. The certificate will be clearly marked as a replacement. There is a fee for all replacement certificates; contact Lantra Awards for the current fee.

15 Is the Level 1 Award in Introduction to Beekeeping nationally recognised?

The Qualification has been designed as QCF qualification which fits into the QCF at Level 1. All qualifications within the QCF are regulated in England, Wales and Northern Ireland by Ofqual. This Qualification has been approved by Ofqual and will be listed on the Learning Aims Database. The Qualification may be offered in Scotland, but is not regulated by the Scottish Qualifications Authority.

16 Is there funding for the Qualification?

Approved qualifications are eligible for funding from either the Young People's Learning Agency or the Skills Funding Agency (or equivalent bodies in Wales and Northern Ireland). The Qualification is listed on the Register of Regulated Qualifications and the Learning Aims Database. Funding may be available to organisations which meet the requirements of the relevant agency.

17 Is the Qualification available throughout the UK, including Scotland?

Yes. Although QCF qualifications are not regulated in Scotland, the Qualification is available to anyone who wishes to use it. Lantra Awards makes no distinction between centres and learners in Scotland and those elsewhere.

18 Some of my learners have additional needs. What arrangements can be made to support them?

Lantra Awards publishes its Equal Opportunities Policy in the Policies Document sent to all centres on approval.

Centres are expected to make appropriate arrangements, including reasonable adjustments; these are detailed in the Policy to ensure that learners with additional needs can access assessments wherever possible. The Equal Opportunities Policy covers alternative assessment arrangements which can be made for learners with visual and/or auditory impairment, permanent or temporary physical impairment, specific learning difficulties or dyslexia and learners for whom English is a second language.

19 How do I make a complaint or an appeal?

The Lantra Awards Complaints and Appeals Procedures are published in the Lantra Awards Policies Document issued to all approved centres.

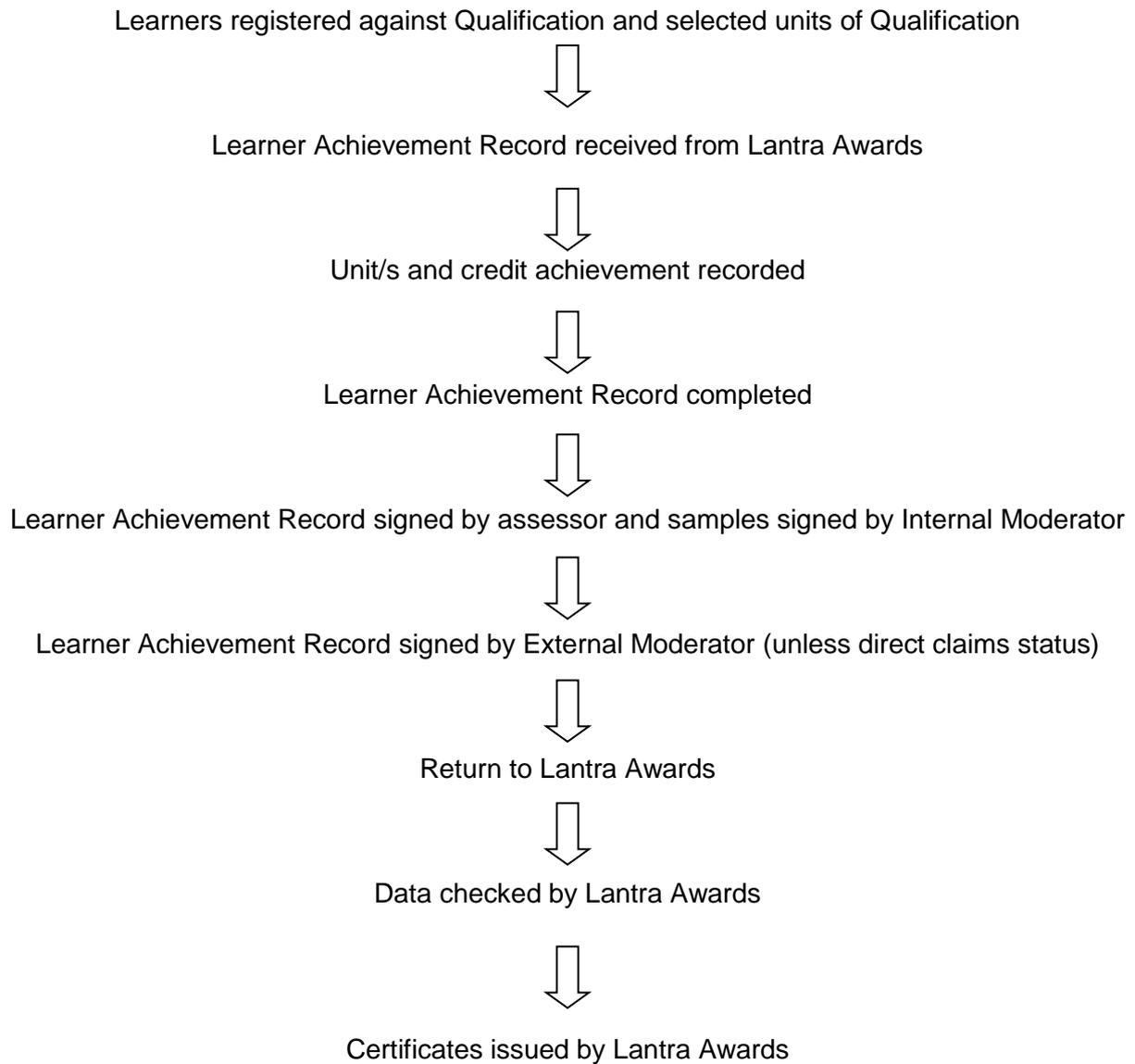
20 What do I do if I suspect any form of malpractice in connection with the Qualification?

Contact Lantra Awards with as much information as you can provide about the suspected malpractice and the circumstances surrounding the matter. You should also refer to the malpractice procedure in the Lantra Awards Policies Document for information about how Lantra Awards investigates such cases.

Annex A – Unit List

Unit Code	Unit Title	Credit Value
T/503/2754	Understand the Interaction between Honey Bees and Flowering Plants	1
M/503/2753	The Natural History of the Honey Bee and the Colony	2
F/503/2756	Practical Beekeeping	4
K/503/2752	Pests, Diseases and Hygiene	2
K/503/2749	Health and Safety Awareness in Beekeeping	1
A/503/2755	Awareness of Food Safety in the Collection of Honey	1

Annex B – Administration Process



Annex C – 2011 Census Ethnic Group Classifications

Please use the following code(s) to indicate ethnicity when completing the
Learner Registration Form.

England and Wales		Northern Ireland		Scotland	
01	White: English/Welsh/Scottish/ Northern Irish/British	19	White	30	White: Scottish
02	Irish	20	Chinese	31	British
03	Gypsy or Irish Traveller	21	Irish traveller	32	Irish
04	Any other White background	22	Indian	33	Any other White background
	Mixed/multiple ethnic groups	23	Pakistani		Mixed:
05	White and Black Caribbean	24	Bangladeshi	34	
06	White and Black African	25	Black Caribbean		Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British:
07	White and Asian	26	Black African		Indian
08	Any other Mixed/multiple ethnic background	27	Black other	35	Pakistani
	Asian/Asian British:	28	Mixed ethnic group	36	Bangladeshi
09	Indian	29	Any other ethnic group	37	Chinese
10	Pakistani			38	Any other Asian background
11	Bangladeshi			39	Black, Black Scottish or
12	Chinese				Black British:
13	Any other Asian background			40	Caribbean
	Black/African/Caribbean/ Black British:			41	African
14	African			42	Any other Black background
15	Caribbean				Other ethnic background
16	Any other Black/African/Caribbean background			43	Any other ethnic group
	Other ethnic Group:				
17	Arab				
18	Any other ethnic group				



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