

# Proposed Changes to RHS Qualifications and Transition Arrangements – Level 3

We appreciate learners considering an RHS course or partway through their programme are concerned over the validity and completion of their course with the introduction of our revised Level 3 qualifications from September 2023. We have been working on transitional arrangements between our existing and new qualifications to ensure all learners have the opportunity to complete.

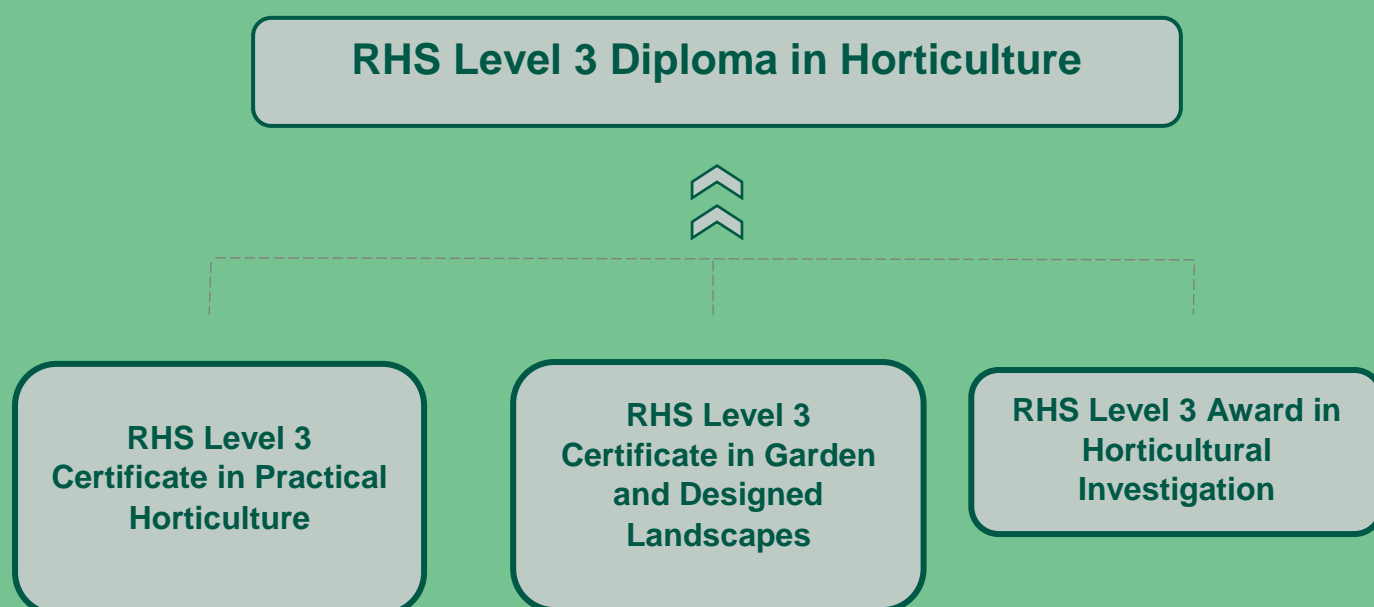
We hope this document outlines our plans, but it is important to recognise that the qualifications have not yet been approved by the regulators and therefore the below is **subject to change**. Should changes be required, RHS Qualifications will endeavour to ensure that these are kept to a minimum as far as we are able to do so.

## Revised Qualification Structure:

Following consultation with industry and various stakeholders, it is proposed RHS qualifications will continue with a separate theory and practical pathway. This will include the introduction of two new routes (practical and theory) and achievement of both, along with the Award in Horticultural Investigation will provide learners with the overarching RHS Level 3 Diploma in Horticulture.

The revised Level 3 has been designed to build on the Level 2 programmes. It supports specialist / industry-specific pathways informed by the findings of the Ornamental Horticultural Round Table Group (OHRG). It is aimed at those progressing in horticultural roles or having a specialist personal interest in the supervision and development of gardens and landscapes, thus meeting the needs of the amateur gardeners and professional horticulturists alike.

**Revised RHS Level 3 Structure from September 2023 (Subject to Ofqual approval):**



It is proposed that the following qualifications are seen as 'direct' replacements for their counterparts:



## Transition Plans from September 2022/23

The table below shows how current learners may use a combination of old and new qualification structures to achieve the combined qualification they planned to achieve.

| If a learner has studied the below by September 2023 | They must <u>complete</u> the following qualifications by 31 July 2025 to be awarded the Principles and Practices of Horticulture (i.e. current diploma)                                      |                                |                                |
|--|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Plant Growth   | <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="627 1176 1415 1234">Garden Planning (existing)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="627 1234 1415 1294">Practical Horticulture (new)</td> </tr> </table>     | Garden Planning (existing)     | Practical Horticulture (new)   |
| Garden Planning (existing)                           |   |                                |                                |
| Practical Horticulture (new)                         |   |                                |                                |
| Garden Planning                                      | <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="627 1350 1415 1408">Garden and Designed Landscapes</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="627 1408 1415 1469">Practical Horticulture (new)</td> </tr> </table> | Garden and Designed Landscapes | Practical Horticulture (new)   |
| Garden and Designed Landscapes                       |   |                                |                                |
| Practical Horticulture (new)                         |   |                                |                                |
| Practical  | <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="627 1525 1415 1583">Garden Planning (existing)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="627 1583 1415 1644">Garden and Designed Landscapes</td> </tr> </table>   | Garden Planning (existing)     | Garden and Designed Landscapes |
| Garden Planning (existing)                           |   |                                |                                |
| Garden and Designed Landscapes                       |   |                                |                                |
| Plant Growth and Garden Planning                     | Practical Horticulture (new)  |                                |                                |
| Plant Growth and Practical                           | Garden Planning (existing)  |                                |                                |
| Garden Planning and Practical                        | Garden and Designed Landscapes  |                                |                                |

Due to the structure and assessment design of the new qualifications, please note the transitional options above will only be available until the end of academic year 2024/25 (31st July 2025).

The above only applies to those learners holding the full qualification certificates. Those holding unit(s) recognition will be unable to transition.

### **Enrolment Timeline:**

We accept that learners currently embarked on the current Level 3 pathway will want time to complete existing qualifications. Therefore, to allow centres time to prepare for delivery of the new suite, from 1 April 2023 no new programmes/enrolments may begin for:

- L3 Certificate in in the Principles of Plant Growth, Health and Applied Propagation
- L3 Certificate in Practical Horticulture

No new enrolments from 1 April 2024 for:

- L3 Certificate in the Principles of Garden Planning, Construction and Planting

### **Assessment Timeline:**

Learners enrolled or enrolling on the existing practical qualification in academic year 2022/23 should have completed the necessary assessments by September 2023.

Examination sessions (Feb/June) for the existing theory qualifications will continue up until February 2025. Learners studying these qualifications will need to ensure they complete the relevant exams prior to this date and allow sufficient time for resits.

The table below shows implementation dates for the new qualifications and assessment windows for current and new qualifications over the next four years for Level 3. After July 2025, the transitional arrangements will end and no further assessments for the existing suite of qualifications will be available.

# Timeline

**Key:**

- Current Qualifications
- New Qualifications
- ★ Assessments

