



Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Gamekeeping: Deer Biology

Unit code: DN8P 34

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to enable candidates to develop knowledge of the ecology of the main deer species found in the UK. The Unit also develops knowledge of the parasites and diseases most likely to be encountered in the handling, larding and processing of venison.

On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to:

- 1 Describe the life cycle of UK deer species.
- 2 Identify diseases and assess the impact of diseases on deer health.
- 3 Identify and interpret current legislation in relation to deer disease.

Credit points and level: 1 HN credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7*)

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: Entry for this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, however it is recommended that the candidate should have completed the following: N/SVQ Gamekeeping and Wildlife Management levels 2 and 3 or NC Units EA7P 11 *Practical Deer Tasks* or Introduction to EA7M 10 *Deer Biology*. It would be beneficial if candidates have had some experience of deer management or relevant industrial experience.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *IT* and *Communication* at SCQF level 6 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

Context for delivery: If this Unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

Assessment: Outcome 1 of this Unit will be assessed by an open-book project and Outcomes 2 and 3 will be assessed by a series of structured questions.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

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The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, Knowledge and/or Skills, and Evidence Requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the Knowledge and/or Skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Outcome 1

Describe the life cycle of UK deer species

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Types of deer species found in the UK
- ◆ Key identifying features
- ◆ Species habitat
- ◆ Species habits
- ◆ Species breeding
- ◆ Species life span
- ◆ Species measurements

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ describe the species of deer commonly found in the UK
- ◆ for one species of deer describe:
 - key identifying features
 - typical habits
 - breeding practices
 - typical life span
 - typical measurements

Assessment Guidelines

The assessment of this Outcome is an open-book assessment in the form of a project.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Gamekeeping: Deer Biology

Outcome 2

Identify diseases and assess the impact of diseases on deer health

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Diseases including notifiable diseases
- ◆ Nervous system response
- ◆ Immune system response
- ◆ Lymphatic system response
- ◆ Types of endoparasites
- ◆ Types of ectoparasites
- ◆ Abnormalities found within the gralloch, head, pluck and legs

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ describe the effect of diseases on the deer's nervous and immune system
- ◆ describe the life cycles of the main deer parasites
- ◆ evaluate and analyse the ecology of the main bovine parasites

Assessment Guidelines

The assessment of this Outcome is a series of structured questions.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Gamekeeping: Deer Biology

Outcome 3

Identify and interpret current legislation in relation to deer disease

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Current legislation relating to abnormalities that may be of a notifiable type
- ◆ Procedures prior to deer being culled
- ◆ Abnormalities found within the gralloch, pluck and joints
- ◆ Legal requirements for gamekeeper/stalker to report suspicious conditions
- ◆ Field inspection and larder inspection following culling

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ observe the animal's behaviour before culling
- ◆ identify abnormalities found in the gralloch, head, pluck and legs
- ◆ identify notifiable diseases
- ◆ identify and interpret current legislation in relation to disease
- ◆ identify and interpret legal requirements for venison intended for human consumption or export

Assessment Guidelines

The assessment of this Outcome is structured questions (open-book).

Administrative Information

Unit code: DN8P 34

Unit title: Gamekeeping: Deer Biology

Superclass category: RH

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History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Gamekeeping: Deer Biology

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

The Unit is primarily intended to prepare candidates for work in the gamekeeping industry and provides them with the knowledge of the type of deer biology they may require once employed within the game-sporting industry.

As a result the candidates are likely to work predominantly as individuals researching material appropriate to the deer species/habitats involved. Candidates who do not have experience of deer biology will be able to widen their knowledge and understanding whilst on relevant work experience.

In Outcome 1 candidates select a deer species from within the United Kingdom and produce a project which is accurate in terms of recognition, habitat, habits, breeding, life span and measurements. Typical deer species will include: red deer, roe deer, fallow deer, sika deer, muntjac and Chinese water deer.

In Outcome 2 candidates are provided with the knowledge required for the identification of specific parasites, which affect the deer's health.

Candidates will require to explain the life cycles of the main parasites, which affect wild deer. Types of parasites will include:

Endoparasites: tapeworm, roundworm, lungworm, liver fluke, nasal bot fly and warble fly.
Ectoparasites: Lice, ticks, mites and keds.

In Outcome 3 candidates explain their responsibilities whilst gralloching deer of any condition which is deemed to be suspicious. The candidates must be aware of the correct procedures outlined within current legislation in relation to any of the notifiable diseases. Types of disease will include: Tuberculosis (bovine, avian) actinomycosis, arthritis, tumours, foot and mouth, brucellosis, anthrax and Johne's disease.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit forms part of the Group Award HNC Gamekeeping with Wildlife Management. It is primarily designed to provide candidates with technical or professional knowledge and skills relating to the specific occupational area. It would be expected that those who successfully complete the award would progress to work as an under keeper, single-handed keeper, stalker or deer manager. This should allow the Unit to be delivered in a way that enables the candidate to appreciate its relevance to the occupational area.

The assessment will be by three instruments of assessment. The first instrument is a project containing the following information: recognition, habitat, habits, breeding, life span and measurements. The other two instruments are in the form of a series of structured questions. They should both be held in controlled conditions.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Gamekeeping: Deer Biology

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There may be opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication* and *IT*, both at SCQF level 6, in this Unit, however there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill components.

Open learning

This Unit could be delivered by distance learning. However, it would require planning by the centre to ensure the sufficiency and authenticity of candidate's evidence. Arrangements would have to be made to ensure that the assessments for Outcomes 2, 3 are assessed within a supervised environment under controlled conditions.

Candidates with disabilities and/or additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. Further advice can be found in the SQA document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs* (www.sqa.org.uk).

General information for candidates

Unit title: Gamekeeping: Deer Biology

This Unit is designed to enable you to recognise the characteristics of the main UK deer species. It is primarily intended to outline the main parasites and diseases and their impact on the health of the deer. You will gain an understanding of the relevant deer legislation and the current health and hygiene codes of good practice.

The Unit is about the lifecycles of the main deer species found within the UK. The assessment will take the form of a series of structured questions relating to current deer legislation, hygiene and codes of good practice. The other assessment comprises of a project relating to a deer of your choice. This information will include all aspects of the animal's life cycle and it's preferred range and habitat.