



Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Gamekeeping: Gamebird Management

Unit code: DN8V 34

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to enable candidates to develop the knowledge and skills required to manage gamebirds on a sporting estate. It provides candidates with an understanding of gamebird species, their habitat, and their management on a sporting estate. It also provides underpinning knowledge of management techniques required by current legislation and codes of good practice.

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

- 1 Describe the habitat requirements for selected gamebirds.
- 2 Describe the impact of predators on wild and reared gamebird populations.
- 3 Describe legal methods of predator management.
- 4 Assess populations of gamebird species.

Credit points and level: 2 HN credits at SCQF level 7: (16 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: There are no formal entry requirements for this Unit. However it would be beneficial for candidates if they had some vocational experience within gamebird management, or if they had studied, or were studying, gamebird laying stock and egg handling, incubation and hatchery practice, gamebird rearing/releasing or related units.

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

Context for delivery: This Unit is in the framework for the Options for the HNC Gamekeeping with Wildlife Management. The Unit is normally taught within the subject area of the Group Award. The Unit can also be delivered as a free-standing Unit and may provide a source for Continuing Professional Development.

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: This Unit is assessed by the following instruments of assessment: extended response questions and one project.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Gamekeeping: Gamebird Management

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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 habitat requirements for selected gamebirds

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Wild/Reared gamebird species
- ◆ Typical gamebird habitats by species
- ◆ Game records

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ describe gamebird habitats in terms of nesting, brood rearing and winter holding requirements
- ◆ describe gamebird habitats in terms of woodland management policies, agricultural strategies, environmental requirements and conservation issues
- ◆ analyse game records in relation to previous and current gamebird numbers

Assessment Guidelines

The assessment of this Outcome is combined with Outcome 4 in the form of extended response questions.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Gamekeeping: Gamebird Management

Outcome 2

Describe the impact of predators on wild and reared gamebird populations

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Natural predators — avian/mammalian
- ◆ Impact of predators on wild gamebird species
- ◆ Impact of predators on reared gamebird species

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ describe the impact of predators and potential damage to both wild and reared gamebird populations
- ◆ identify predator species in relation to potential damage to wild and reared gamebird populations

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome is assessed by a series of extended response questions.

Outcome 3

Describe legal methods of predator management

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Current relevant legislation
- ◆ Avian Predator Species
- ◆ Mammalian Predator Species
- ◆ Protected Species
- ◆ Predator Management Methods
- ◆ Health and Safety

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ identify and describe current relevant legislation
- ◆ describe how current legislation applies to protected species
- ◆ describe legal methods of predator management

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome will be assessed by extended response questions and a project to meet the Evidence Requirements.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Gamekeeping: Gamebird Management

Outcome 4

Assess populations of gamebird species

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Gamebird restocking programme — wild and reared
- ◆ Number of Birds released
- ◆ Shooting Returns
- ◆ Hatchery records
- ◆ Rearing Options — wild and reared
- ◆ Resources required to rear gamebirds
- ◆ Gamebird welfare requirements — wild and reared

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ assess wild and reared gamebird species and populations for shooting purposes
- ◆ calculate the number of gamebird species required to restock a shoot
- ◆ assess rearing options in relation to available resources and game production requirements
- ◆ describe gamebird release techniques
- ◆ describe gamebird welfare requirements for wild and reared birds in relation to feeding, shelter and disease

Assessment Guidelines

The assessment of this Outcome should be combined with Outcome 1 as part of a single assessment in the form of a series of extended response questions.

Administrative Information

Unit code: DN8V 34

Unit title: Gamekeeping: Gamebird Management

Superclass category: SH

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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: Gamebird Management

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 80 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

The Unit is primarily intended to prepare candidates for the type of gamebird management they may take up once employed within the game/sporting industry.

As a result, the candidates are likely to work predominately as individuals researching material appropriate to the game species/habitats involved. Candidates who do not have experience in gamebird management will be able to widen their knowledge and understanding whilst on work experience undertaking relevant gamebird management with various species of sporting birds.

Outcome 1 looks at the identification and assessment of habitat requirements of gamebirds. Teaching should cover the habitat for game species, woodland management policies, agricultural strategies, environmental requirements and conservation issues. Teaching for this Outcome should cover both wild and reared birds and their habitat. It should look at the use of records to assist with interpreting habitats and establishing requirements.

In Outcome 2 the candidates look at the impact of predators on all types of gamebird populations. Teaching should cover the types of predator, the rationale on gamebird populations in terms of numbers produced and the impact of predation on prey items.

In Outcome 3 the candidates should have a working knowledge of current legislation relating to the control of pest and predators as well as protected species.

In Outcome 4 the candidates look at assessing populations accurately for shooting purposes; candidates calculate the numbers of gamebird species required to re-stock a shoot ensuring that they comply with current codes of good practice. The candidate assesses different rearing options and carries out an evaluation of selected resources for the rearing and releasing of gamebirds.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit may be delivered as a stand alone Unit. However, it will often be delivered as part of the HNC in Gamekeeping and Wildlife Management, which is primarily designed to provide candidates with technical or professional knowledge and skills related to a specific occupational area. It would be expected that those who successfully completed the award would progress to work as an underkeeper or a single-handed keeper. The emphasis on the delivery of this Unit is seasonally based. This should allow the Unit to be delivered in a way that enables the candidate to appreciate its relevance to the occupational area concerned.

Assessment will be by two instruments of assessment. Outcomes 1, 2 and 4 will be assessed by a series of extended response questions.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Gamekeeping: Gamebird Management

The second instrument is a project based on habitat requirements and resources required to implement gamebird production. The project will be used to assess Outcome 3 along with extended response questions.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There may be opportunities to gather evidence towards the Core Skill of *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 6 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills components.

Open learning

This Unit cannot be delivered by distance learning.

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: Gamebird Management

This Unit is designed to recognise the main habitats for game species within the UK. It primarily intended to prepare you for the role of underkeeper or a single-handed keeper, but it can also assist you if you already hold such a position.

The Unit is about gamebird management, habitat and correct use of resources.

It has four main areas, each of which is subject of a separate Outcome. You will be asked to undertake a project relating to your specific choice and type of sporting estate. This will include rearing/releasing options, use of appropriate resources within gamebird management. The second assessment areas comprise of closed-book assessments relating to current legislation, protected and non-protected predators/pest species.

Overall you will be expected to use the knowledge and skills from the Unit to enable you to assess the potential gamebird management techniques and selection of appropriate resources and methods of rearing gamebird within current legislation and current codes of good practise.