



Higher National Unit specification

General information

Unit title: Game and Wildlife Management: Wildlife Legislation
(SCQF level 7)

Unit code: H95E 34

Superclass: SH

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Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 01

Unit purpose

This Unit is designed to enable learners to further develop their underpinning knowledge of their legal obligations and responsibilities in regard of specific current countryside and animal legislation in the game sporting industry. The Unit is designed to ensure that learners are fully informed and are conscious of their role in the lawful undertaking of their duties as professional gamekeepers. This Unit would be beneficial to both trainees and learners who are currently employed in the game management industry that may wish to undertake CPD. The Unit is intended to expand upon prior knowledge accrued whilst employed or undertaking work experience on a sporting estate.

On completion of the Unit the learner will be able to:

- 1 Describe the role of the police and the gamekeeper in relation to wildlife crime.
- 2 Describe legislation relating to public rights of access and to poaching.
- 3 Describe relevant legislation in relation to predator and pest control.

Credit points and level

2 Higher National Unit credits at SCQF level 7: (16 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7)

Higher National Unit Specification: General information (cont)

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Recommended entry to the Unit

There are no formal entry requirements for this Unit. The learners however must have some vocational experience within NC Workplace Experience (Gamekeeping) or other relevant industrial experience. The prior achievement of specific NC Units such as *H09D 10 Pest and Predator Control*, *FN5M 11 An Introduction to Public Relations*, *FN5K 11 Gamekeeping Health and Safety*, would be appropriate. The successful completion of the nationally recognised Snaring Accreditation Course or the DSC Level 1 would also be an advantage.

Core Skills

Opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills are highlighted in the Support Notes for this Unit specification.

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill components in this Unit.

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.

This Unit is included in the HNC in Gamekeeping and Wildlife Management at SCQF level 7 but may also be delivered as a stand-alone Unit for the purposes of Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

Equality and inclusion

This Unit specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence.

Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements.

Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards

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Acceptable performance in this Unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the Unit specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to SQA.

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. Learners will 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 role of the police and the gamekeeper in relation to wildlife crime.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Witnessing/reporting a wildlife crime.
- ◆ The responsibilities and role of the gamekeeper in relation to wildlife crime
- ◆ The powers and role of the police in relation to wildlife crime
- ◆ Current wildlife legislation
- ◆ Evidence of wildlife crime

Outcome 2

Describe legislation relating to public rights of access and to poaching.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Rights of the public and estate owners/employees in relation to countryside access
- ◆ Current legislation relating to the poaching game birds and deer
- ◆ Current legislation relating to countryside access
- ◆ Poaching offences within current wildlife legislation
- ◆ Sale of game and venison within current legal guidelines

Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)

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Outcome 3

Describe relevant legislation in relation to predator and pest control.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ The use of relevant general Licences in relation to game management
- ◆ The legitimate practices and responsibilities of all users in relation to legal traps and snares covered by current legislation
- ◆ The monitoring and recording of all snares under current legislation
- ◆ The identification of illegal traps and snares and the consequences of being in possession of them
- ◆ Pest bird and mammal species
- ◆ Legal control methods for both bird and mammal pest species
- ◆ Protected bird and mammal species and legislation relating to their nesting sites or dwelling places

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Learners will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills across all Outcomes by showing that they can:

Outcome 1

- ◆ identify a relevant incident that could potentially be a wildlife crime.
- ◆ describe the role of the police and other organisations in relation to wildlife crime.
- ◆ describe the role of the gamekeeper in relation to wildlife legislation.
- ◆ interpret current relevant legislation.

Outcome 2

- ◆ describe incidents that relate to all poaching offences under current legislation.
- ◆ describe the rights and legalities of the public in relation to countryside access.
- ◆ describe the rights of landowners/employees and their legal obligations in relation to countryside access.
- ◆ define the legalities of the sale of game and venison.

Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)

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Outcome 3

- ◆ understand the role of general licences in game management.
- ◆ describe the illegal practices of anyone undertaking bird control.
- ◆ describe the legal and best practice guidelines for the control of pest mammals.
- ◆ describe the illegal practices of anyone undertaking pest mammal control.
- ◆ understand the trained operator's responsibilities in regard of record keeping.
- ◆ identify legal snares.
- ◆ identify illegal snares.
- ◆ identify pest birds and mammals stated in general licences.
- ◆ identify legal traps used in pest bird and mammal control.
- ◆ identify illegal traps used in pest bird and mammal control.
- ◆ describe the legal and best practice guidelines for the control of pest birds and mammals.



Higher National Unit Support Notes

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Unit Support Notes are offered as guidance and 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

This Unit is designed to provide learners with a greater awareness and a better understanding of the legal complexities of wildlife management, animal welfare, poaching, and lawful countryside access that they may be required to make use of whilst in employment or undertaking work placement to ensure that they work within the law and industry best practice guidelines.

The learner's perception of wildlife, poaching and access legislation will be enhanced helping them to deal with real life situations that may arise whilst undertaking tasks as trainee game managers.

The Outcomes are designed to be a representative collection of information enabling learners to develop a better awareness of their legal obligations whilst undertaking their seasonal duties to support game management.

The industry National Occupational Standards (NOS) relating to this Unit are listed below:

- Ga5 Assist with the Management of Public Relations and Access to a Sporting Estate
- Ga10 Care for Animals Used in Support of Gamekeeping and Wildlife Management
- Ga13 Manage Wild Game Populations
- Ga14 Contribute to the Development of Public Relations for a Sporting Estate
- Ga20 Contribute to the Prevention of Rural Crime on a sporting Estate
- CU46 Control Vertebrate Pests and Predators Using Traps
- CU47 Control Vertebrate Pests and Predators by Shooting
- CU48 Control Vertebrate Pest Populations Using Chemical Means

Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

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Guidance on approaches to delivery of this Unit

This Unit is mandatory and forms an integral part of the Higher National Certificate in Gamekeeping and Wildlife Management at SCQF level 7.

All Outcomes

The information required for much of this Unit is readily available from relevant internet web sites such as:

- ◆ Scottish Natural Heritage
- ◆ Scottish Government
- ◆ British Association of Shooting and Conservation (BASC)
- ◆ Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust
- ◆ Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
- ◆ Countryside Alliance

Other sources could include reference books, legal documents, industry publications and Best Practice Guidelines. The research will be entirely student based learning. The centres delivering this award could also make use of specialist industry guest speakers which would be beneficial to developing the learners underpinning knowledge of relevant legislation and legal obligations within the Game Management Industry.

This Unit should be delivered holistically as there is considerable scope for integration. Delivery of this Unit will generally be learner based with suitable support from teaching staff.

Guidance on approaches to assessment of this Unit

Evidence can be generated using different types of assessment. The following are suggestions only. There may be other methods that would be more suitable to learners.

Centres are reminded that prior verification of centre-devised assessments would help to ensure that the national standard is being met. Where learners experience a range of assessment methods, this helps them to develop different skills that should be transferable to work or further and higher education.

Learners will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills across all Outcomes by showing that they can successfully undertake one of the following types of assessment.

This Unit could be assessed in a number of different ways including; Staged Assessment, Portfolio, Structured Response Questions or a Project.

Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

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Staged Assessment

At the discretion of the centre this Unit could be assessed through the use of a series of staged closed-book multiple choice papers. The learner responses should be clearly arranged and organised as per the Evidence Requirements. One closed-book test paper could be used per Outcome.

Portfolio

An alternative assessment this Unit could also take the form of a portfolio. It would be a holistic assessment and entirely open-book enabling the learner to personalise and compile naturally occurring evidence in the form of a portfolio or booklet. There is scope for integration and cross reference of their researched evidence where appropriate. The completed work must contain a contents checklist and be set out in a way which the learner could integrate some of the Outcomes where appropriate. The portfolio should be clearly labelled and sequenced where required. The use of photographic and electronic evidence would also allow the learner to demonstrate personal initiative.

Structured Response Questions

The assessment of this Unit and its Outcomes could take the form of a series of three question papers with each one having a different situation/scenario on which the learners could be assessed. There could be an inclusive marking matrix ensuring that all assessors clearly understood the range of learner responses in relation to the stem of each of the papers. This could be Open-book assessment but each of the three individual papers would have to be completed within a stipulated assessment schedule.

Project

This Unit could be holistically assessed by bringing together all the Outcomes. There is also scope for the learners to integrate some of the Outcomes by following clearly defined and structured Project guidelines produced by the centre.

Opportunities for e-assessment

E-assessment may be appropriate for some assessments in this Unit. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by Information and Communication Technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or social software. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all learner evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. The most up-to-date guidance on the use of e-assessment to support SQA's qualifications is available at www.sqa.org.uk/e-assessment.

Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

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Opportunities for developing Core and other essential skills

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

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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General information for learners

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This section will help you decide whether this is the Unit for you by explaining what the Unit is about, what you should know or be able to do before you start, what you will need to do during the Unit and opportunities for further learning and employment.

This Unit is designed to provide you with an awareness and working understanding of the legal complexities of wildlife management, animal welfare, poaching legislation and other relevant lawful countryside access, regulations.

The legitimate operations undertaken by gamekeepers on a regular basis as part of their working brief are also covered in this Unit. The Unit seeks to develop and build upon your own knowledge and awareness of the strict legal obligations in the field of game and wildlife management in the modern countryside.

This Unit is suitable for those wishing to pursue a career in the Game and Wildlife Management industry or those already working in the industry who wish to further develop their knowledge and skills or gain formal recognition of their existing experience.