



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Deer Stalking (SCQF level 6)

Unit code: FN5E 12

Superclass: SH

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Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 01

Summary

This Unit is designed to provide candidates with basic knowledge and understanding of deer stalking principles. On completion of the Unit candidates will be able to outline deer legislation, count, identify and classify deer species, prepare for deer stalking and explain safe and effective stalking practice.

This Unit is an optional Unit in the National Certificate in Gamekeeping but is also available for candidates wishing to study the Unit on its own.

Outcomes

- 1 Outline the main provisions of current legislation relating to deer management.
- 2 Describe census techniques used by deer managers.
- 3 Prepare a plan for a deer stalk.
- 4 Undertake a deer stalk.
- 5 Carry out post stalking activities.

Recommended entry

Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

Credit points and level

2 National Unit credits at SCQF level 6: (12 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 6*)

**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.*

National Unit specification: general information (cont)

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Core Skills

Achievement of this Unit gives automatic certification of the following Core Skills component:

- ◆ Critical Thinking at SCQF level 6
- ◆ Planning and Organising at SCQF level 6

There are also opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills which are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit specification.

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.

Outcome 1

Outline the main provisions of current legislation relating to deer management.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify and describe the role of the organisation responsible for providing advice to the Scottish Government on deer management issues.
- (b) Outline the legal limitations regarding the use of firearms and ammunition to control deer.
- (c) Identify offences in relation to deer.
- (d) Identify legal measures for conservation, control and sustainable management of deer.
- (e) Describe statutory records required to be kept by deer managers.

Outcome 2

Describe census techniques used by deer managers.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Describe the methods used for counting deer.
- (b) Identify and classify deer by species, sex, physical condition and age.

Outcome 3

Prepare a plan for a deer stalk.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify appropriate information and resources for deer stalking.
- (b) Describe the health and safety requirements for deer stalking.
- (c) Participate in a risk assessment prior to the deer stalk taking place.
- (d) Explain the importance of zeroing a firearm.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Outcome 4

Undertake a deer stalk.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Recommend approaches for using habitat and topography to stalk deer.
- (b) Identify safe and unsafe situations for shooting deer.
- (c) Identify abnormal behaviour in deer.
- (d) Select appropriate deer to meet cull requirements.
- (e) Carry out post-shot procedures in accordance with safe working practices and relevant legislation.

Outcome 5

Carry out post stalking activities.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Describe and carry out relevant post stalk procedures.
- (b) Visually inspect a deer carcass.
- (c) Explain the reasons for recovering deer carcasses.

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

All activities undertaken in this Unit must adhere to current legislation, regulations and codes of practice.

Candidates should provide written and/or recorded oral evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge, understanding and/or skills in relation to the Outcome and Performance Criteria.

Centres must be satisfied that the evidence submitted is the work of individual candidates.

Outcome 1 must include evidence to demonstrate that the candidate can:

- ◆ describe the role of the organisation responsible for providing advice to the Scottish Government on the management of deer in Scotland
- ◆ outline the legal limitations regarding the use of firearms to control deer including: conditions of use, calibre, bullet type and weight, muzzle velocity, muzzle energy
- ◆ identify offences in relation to deer which are stipulated in the Deer (Scotland) Act 1996 and any future legislative amendments
- ◆ identify legal measures for conservation, control and sustainable management of deer and briefly explain the rationale
- ◆ provide a description of the statutory records required to be kept by deer managers

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Outcome 2 must provide evidence to demonstrate that the candidate can:

- ◆ describe and recommend a method for estimating a deer population in an open hill or woodland situation
- ◆ identify and classify species of deer by sex, physical condition and age

Outcome 3 must include evidence to demonstrate the candidate can:

- ◆ identify key information relating to ownership boundaries, topography, sensitive habitats, recreation areas, weather conditions, deer behaviour, anatomy and physiology of deer
- ◆ identify the resources required for stalking to meet the current best practice standards
- ◆ describe the health and safety requirements for deer stalking with respect to employee responsibilities, firearms handling and discharge, notifiable diseases, carcass handling and transportation, use of high seats, lone working, weather conditions, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and approaching shot deer
- ◆ complete a risk assessment
- ◆ explain the importance and principles of zeroing a firearm with respect to operational safety and deer welfare

Outcome 4 the explanation of the key requirements for effective and safe deer stalking practice must include evidence to demonstrate the candidate can:

- ◆ recommend appropriate approaches for using habitat and topography to stalk deer taking account of deer behaviour and weather conditions
- ◆ identify safe and unsafe situations for shooting deer taking account of deer welfare and public safety
- ◆ identify abnormal behaviour when selecting a deer to be culled
- ◆ select appropriate deer to meet a specified cull requirement
- ◆ carry out appropriate post-shot procedures including reaction to shot, locating and approaching shot deer and dispatching wounded deer
- ◆ adhere to safe working practices and relevant legislation throughout

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Outcome 5 must include evidence to demonstrate the candidate can:

- ◆ describe and carry out where appropriate the safe techniques used to bleed and gralloch deer carcasses hygienically and efficiently with respect to: eye blink reaction, knife specification/condition, carcass position, bleed/gralloch method and cleaning equipment
- ◆ carry out a visual inspection of a deer carcass and identify any abnormalities which could indicate diseases or contaminated meat entering the food chain
- ◆ explain safety precautions when loading deer into a vehicle or pony including sources of contamination, restraining the deer's head and hooves, lifting techniques, load capacity and carcass protection
- ◆ explain appropriate action to take if the deer carcass is suspected to have a notifiable disease including: identification of signs, restricting carcass movement, informing Divisional Veterinary Manager, personal health check
- ◆ describe possible sources of contamination when recovering deer carcasses including bullet, gralloch, human, equipment, environment, transport/storage
- ◆ explain the hazards to human health when handling deer carcasses including use of knives, transmission of zoonoses, pathogens, infection of cuts, dragging/lifting and transportation

National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Deer Stalking (SCQF level 6)

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

This Unit is an optional Unit in the National Certificate in Gamekeeping, but is also available as a freestanding Unit. Candidates are not required to have any prior knowledge and/or skills in order to complete this Unit.

This Unit is aligned to the following LANTRA National Occupational Standard (NOS):

- ◆ CU49 Stalk and Cull Deer
- ◆ Ga22 Control the Production of Game Meat for Human Consumption
- ◆ CU50 Prepare Deer for Human Consumption

In addition, the Unit is aligned to the Lantra QCF level 2 Award in Wild Game Meat Hygiene and the Deer Management Qualification Deer Stalking Certificate level 1 Award.

The content for this Unit should be informed by the current Best Practice Guidance on the Management of Wild Deer in Scotland. This guidance provides clarity regarding law, safeguarding public safety, ensuring food safety and deer welfare. In addition the content should be informed by the Food Standards Agency wild game guidance document 'The Wild Game Guide' or subsequent updated guidance. This guidance provides an interpretation of the relevant regulations and puts them into context for professional game meat handling. This guidance should be regarded as essential reading for Centres and is available on the Best Practice Guidance and Food Standards Agency websites respectively.

www.bestpracticeguides.org.uk

www.food.gov.uk

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

An integrated approach could be taken, with use made of classroom presentations covering the subject theory, practical demonstrations and a site/work visit to provide each candidate the opportunity to put the theory into context through experiential learning. Handouts should be used to support some of the topics covered.

Candidates are required to demonstrate practical ability through simulation or live stalking procedures of the Performance Criteria in order to achieve the required standard. However, performance evidence could be used, supported by an assessor observation checklist to record any practical activities. The evidence could be observed by an assessor checklist, word processed or recorded with a digital audio/video recorder.

Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

Stand alone open-book assessment for Outcomes 1 and 2. Outcomes 3, 4 and 5 could be a project or a mix of project work and practical ability. Centres may use the instruments of assessment which are considered by teachers/lectures to be the most appropriate for the available resources. Outcome 1–5 could be assessed with structured questions requiring short answers, multiple-choice questions and/or restricted response. Candidates may have the option to provide written, performance, photographic and oral evidence in response to the assessment questions.

Opportunities for the use of 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 e-checklists. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all candidate evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. Further advice is available in *SQA Guidelines on Online Assessment for Further Education (AA1641, March 2003)*, *SQA Guidelines on e-assessment for Schools (BD2625, June 2005)*.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There may be opportunities to gather evidence towards the Core Skills of Communication, IT, Working with Others and Problem Solving at SCQF level 6 in this Unit.

This Unit has the Problem Solving components of Critical Thinking and Planning and Organising embedded in it, so when the candidate achieves this Unit their Core Skills profile will be updated to show they have achieved Critical Thinking and Planning and Organising at SCQF level 6.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Disabled candidates and/or those with additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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