



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Game Bird Release (SCQF level 5)

Unit code: FN5L 11

Superclass: SH

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Version: 01

Summary

This Unit develops vocational skills and underpinning knowledge in the release of Game Birds into the wild. Candidates will extend and improve their experience of the methods of completing a release structure. Candidates will introduce Game Birds successfully into required areas for game shooting, and their monitoring and welfare is also covered.

Whilst undertaking this Unit the candidates will follow the best practice guidelines stipulated by the game shooting industry.

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 Assist with the provision of a release structure.
- 2 Assist with the release of Game Birds.
- 3 Carry out observations on the health and behaviour of Game Birds when released.
- 4 Carry out a suitable feeding and watering regime for Game Birds.

Recommended entry

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, candidates that have acquired some previous relevant industrial experience or training would also be considered.

National Unit specification: general information (cont)

Unit title: Game Bird Release (SCQF level 5)

Credit points and level

1 National Unit credit at SCQF level 5: (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 5*)

**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.*

Core Skills

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

- ◆ Critical Thinking at SCQF level 5

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

Unit title: Game Bird Release (SCQF level 5)

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

Assist with the provision of a release structure.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Assist with the selection of a release site which is suitable and appropriate for the selected Game Bird species.
- (b) Participate in the clearing and preparation for the chosen site.
- (c) Participate in the correct selection of appropriate materials and tools required for a release structure.
- (d) Assist with the selection of the type of structure appropriate to the Game Bird species to be released.
- (e) Participate in the provision of the structure using all required tools and the appropriate technique in compliance with safe working practices.
- (f) Complete the release structure in accordance with current health and safety legislation and in compliance with safe working practices.

Outcome 2

Assist with the release of Game Birds.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Assist with identification and preparation of correct resources needed to transport Game Birds.
- (b) Carry out correct catching procedures which cause minimum stress to the Game Birds.
- (c) Participate in the correct handling techniques for the selected species.
- (d) Carry out the removal of bits, where appropriate, using correct techniques.
- (e) Clip primary feathers, where appropriate, using correct techniques.
- (f) Participate in the recording and allocation of birds to the crates for release.
- (g) Assist with the release of birds from the crates into the selected structure.

Outcome 3

Carry out observations on the health and behaviour of Game Birds when released.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify normal and abnormal behaviour of a Game Bird.
- (b) Record any signs or conditions that may indicate ill health or disease in Game Birds.
- (c) Describe factors relating to stress in released Game Birds.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Game Bird Release (SCQF level 5)

Outcome 4

Carry out a suitable feeding and watering regime for Game Birds.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Select feed type appropriate to the age and nutritional needs of the selected Game Bird species.
- (b) Assist with the supply of clean water systems.
- (c) Assist with the supply of an appropriate feeding system for the selected Game Bird species.

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Candidates are required to provide written and/or oral recorded evidence and performance to demonstrate that all Outcomes and Performance Criteria have been achieved.

In relation to Outcome 1

Candidates are required to demonstrate their knowledge and practical skills by showing that they can plan and participate in the provision of a Game Bird release structure. The evidence must include:

- ◆ a description of the suitability of the selected site
- ◆ a cleared and prepared site for provision of a release structure
- ◆ appropriate materials — including: wood, galvanised wire, nails, polypropylene netting, stobs, screws, sections, rail, staples and anti-fox grills for provision of a release structure
- ◆ use of appropriate tools — including: mallet, claw hammer, pinch bar, post holder, spade, screwdriver, cable ties, wire cutter, fencing pliers, bolt cutters and slasher for provision of a release structure — in compliance with safe working practices
- ◆ a completed Game Bird release structure appropriate to species, which complies with relevant legislation, codes of practice and safe working practices

Performance evidence for PC (f), provision of release structure, will be sampled. Evidence will be generated under supervised conditions and candidates will not know in advance on which technique (assembly, construction or repair) they will be assessed. In any re-assessment, a different technique must be used.

In relation to Outcome 2

Candidates are required to demonstrate their practical skills by showing that they can plan and participate in the catching and releasing of Game Birds. The evidence must include:

- ◆ prepared crates, nets
- ◆ Game Birds are caught and handled correctly
- ◆ bits are removed correctly, where appropriate
- ◆ primary feathers are clipped in accordance with industry practice, where appropriate
- ◆ birds are counted and recorded and placed in crates
- ◆ birds are released in accordance with industry practice

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Game Bird Release (SCQF level 5)

In relation to Outcome 3

Candidates are required to provide written and/or oral recorded evidence on a single assessment occasion. The evidence must include:

- ◆ the behaviour of a healthy Game Bird is identified
- ◆ signs of stress in Game Birds are recorded
- ◆ signs which could indicate disease in Game Birds are recorded
- ◆ signs which could indicate parasite infections in Game Birds are recorded
- ◆ factors causing stress in released birds are identified

In relation to Outcome 4

Candidates are required to demonstrate their practical skills by showing that they can participate and contribute to the correct feeding regime for Game Bird species.

Evidence must include:

- ◆ choice of feedstuff (protein values) for age and species of Game Bird is appropriate including Game Bird pellets, wheat, barley, maize, potatoes
- ◆ feed additives — medicines, supplements and oils
- ◆ selection of feeding utensils, hoppers, drinkers according to age and species is correct
- ◆ all utensils, hoppers, drinkers, plastic piping must be regularly washed using an appropriate biocide and detergent agent
- ◆ high standards of personal hygiene observed
- ◆ amount of feedstuff given according to chosen feeding strategy
- ◆ supply of clean water
- ◆ supply of suitable grit
- ◆ hand feeding
- ◆ hopper feeding

National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Game Bird Release (SCQF level 5)

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

This Unit is a mandatory Unit within the National Certificate in Gamekeeping (SCQF level 5), but can also be taken as a free-standing Unit.

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

- ◆ CU2 Monitor and Maintain Health and Safety
- ◆ Ga9 Assist the Establishment of Reared Game Birds in the Wild

This Unit is intended for candidates who wish to develop knowledge and understanding of Game Bird releasing which is recognised as an important area within the gamekeeping sector.

Outcome 1

This Outcome covers the underpinning knowledge required in the sighting, preparation of an area for Game Bird release and then undertaking of the construction of a release structure. The candidate will have the ability to develop their understanding of the reasons behind site choice and also acquire some of the vocational skills needed in the clearance of the area and erection of the structure. Care should be taken to ensure that the structure is built to the highest standard using the appropriate materials. The candidates should also understand the importance of dimensions, design, and their location in relation to estate boundaries. On completion of the structure any faults or design flaws should be discussed. The importance of team work plays an integral part of this Outcome and should be stressed at the planning stage.

The calculations of the resources required for the construction of the structure, eg wire, netting, posts, rails could be integrated into numeracy within Core Skills. Whilst undertaking these construction tasks it is expected that all work practices must meet current health and safety legislation and best practice guides.

Outcome 2

The successful completion of this Outcome will ensure that the candidate has undertaken an assessment of the resources required to undertake the transportation of birds to the release site. The vocational skills required in the undertaking of catching, restraining, debiting, wing clipping, counting and recording of data will also be improved. The introduction of the birds to their release structure must be undertaken in a manner that minimises stress at all times. The importance of the preparation of the structure prior to introducing the birds is also critical at this stage in the Game Bird releasing programme. The candidates must be aware of the risks of inhalation of dust and birds feathers as well as being in contact with bird faeces. The importance of bio security must be emphasised at all times whilst undertaking this Outcome.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Game Bird Release (SCQF level 5)

Outcome 3

In this Outcome it is essential that the candidates can develop their observational and investigative skills to ensure that the health and welfare of the birds is constantly monitored. The candidates must also be able to recognise signs and indicators of ill health, disease, parasites and stress in released Game Birds. The climatic factors such as constant rain and high winds and their impact on the welfare of the birds must be covered.

The importance of reporting information regarding health and to whom it must be relayed must be highlighted during the teaching of this particular Outcome.

The fieldcraft skills required to identify the impact of individual avian and mammalian predators forms an integral part of this Unit as some of the potential predators of Game Birds are fully protected under current legislation. The methods used to deter potential predation pressures such as pen design, electric fencing, audio and visual objects, fox grids and chemical deterrents should be covered. Any predator control strategy implemented during this Unit must conform to all current legal requirements and best practice guidelines.

Outcome 4

In this Outcome the vocational skills needed to correctly undertake the feeding of released Game Birds of varying ages and species should be carried out to the highest standard. The correct selection of the types of feedstuffs, protein values and suitable utensils or hoppers to implement a feeding regime forms a major part of this Unit. The amount of feed given in relation to the amount of birds in the release structure is precise and distributed properly. The method or technique used in distributing food will vary on different shoots so the candidate will take part in an established feeding regime that is already in place.

If ATV's are to be used then the candidates must be trained and competent. The importance of cleanliness to human health and the risks to candidates must be stressed when working with birds and feedstuffs. The undertaking of bio security systems for candidates to minimise cross contamination and infection of Game Birds is essential in this Outcome.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Game Bird Release (SCQF level 5)

Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

By undertaking this Unit candidates will gain knowledge and understanding of what is required in the clearing and construction of a Game Bird release structure. Candidates will also practice and improve the vocational skills needed to use hand and power tools correctly. It is essential that candidates are aware of current industry best practice guidelines and their individual legal responsibilities to ensure the best welfare practices whilst looking after young Game Birds.

The underpinning knowledge required could take the form of the following teaching and learning approaches including:

- ◆ group work
- ◆ internet/website
- ◆ tutorials
- ◆ DVD/video
- ◆ demonstrations
- ◆ field trips/investigation
- ◆ working individually

It is expected that candidates will be given support and guidance from the instructor/lecturer or teaching assistant in all Outcomes before progressing to an assessment.

Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

The following approaches are suggested:

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| Outcome 1 | Practical observation checklist, written or oral restricted response questions |
| Outcome 2 | Practical observation checklist |
| Outcome 3 | Written or oral restricted response questions |
| Outcome 4 | Practical observation checklist |

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)*.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Game Bird Release (SCQF level 5)

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

The Unit provides opportunities for candidates to develop aspects of the following Core Skills:

Problem Solving — Critical Thinking/Planning and Organising/Evaluation at SCQF level 5
Communication — Oral and Written at SCQF level 5
Working with Others at SCQF level 5

This Unit has the Problem Solving component of Critical Thinking embedded in it, so when the candidate achieves this Unit their Core Skills profile will be updated to show they have achieved Critical Thinking at SCQF level 5.

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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