



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Pest and Predator Control

Unit code: H09D 10

Superclass: SC

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Version: 02

Summary

This Unit is intended to develop basic knowledge and understanding of pest and predator control in the land based sector. The Unit will introduce candidates to different types of pest and predator found in the United Kingdom. They will also learn the importance of humane and environmentally safe control methods. The Unit allows candidates to develop some basic skills required to assist with a pest and predator control programme.

This is an optional Unit in the National Certificate in Rural Skills at SCQF level 4. It is also available as a free-standing Unit. Candidates are not required to have any prior Knowledge and/or Skills in order to complete this Unit.

Outcomes

- 1 Identify types of humane and environmentally safe pest and predator control.
- 2 Assist in the implementation of pest and predator control.

Recommended entry

Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

Credit points and level

0.5 National Unit credit at SCQF level 4: (3 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 4*)

**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.*

General information (cont)

Unit title: Pest and Predator Control

Core Skills

Core Skills

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

- ◆ Critical Thinking at SCQF level 4

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: Pest and Predator Control

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. All activities must comply with current Health and Safety legislation relevant to the land based sector.

Outcome 1

Identify types of humane and environmentally safe pest and predator control.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify different types of pest and predators.
- (b) Select appropriate methods of control.
- (c) Describe methods used to avoid non-target species.
- (d) Describe humane dispatch.

Outcome 2

Assist in the implementation of pest and predator control.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Record signs of pest and predator activity, predation and damage.
- (b) Select tools required to carry out pest and predator control.
- (c) Assist with using a technique for pest and predator control.
- (d) Assist with a method of pest and predator disposal.
- (e) Describe and follow health and safety procedures.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Pest and Predator Control

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

All activities undertaken in this Unit must adhere to current Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice applicable to the gamekeeping sector.

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

Evidence for all Outcomes should be gathered under open-book conditions. The evidence should be obtained under supervised conditions and 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:

- ◆ identify one type of mammalian, avian and insect pest and predator species.
- ◆ select an appropriate method of control for two species which may be controlled, eg. trapping, snaring, biological, poison, shooting, non-lethal, and deterrent.
- ◆ describe two methods used to avoid non-target species.
- ◆ describe the importance of humane dispatch by stating the main reason for practising it.

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

- ◆ record two signs of pest or predator activity, predation or damage and identify the species, eg sighting, tracks, hair, feather, kills, bark stripping, grazing, browsing
- ◆ select tools required to carry out pest or predator control for one of the species identified.
- ◆ assist with using a technique for pest or predator control.
- ◆ assist with a method of pest and predator disposal.
- ◆ describe and follow health and safety procedures. This should include a description for one method of pest or predator control and one method of disposal.

National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Pest and Predator Control (SCQF level 4)

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 20 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This is an optional Unit in the National Certificate in Rural Skills at SCQF level 4. It is also available as a free-standing 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 National Occupational Standards (NOS) from Lantra:

CU46 Control vertebrate pests and predators using traps
Ga3 Maintain game populations

The content for this Unit could be informed by the following sources of information:

- ◆ The British Association for Shooting and Conservation www.basc.org.uk. This website provides information, advice and codes of practice about trapping and shooting pest and predator species.
- ◆ Forest Research www.forestresearch.gov.uk. This website has useful information on controlling birds mammals and invertebrates in woodland situations.
- ◆ The British Crop Production Council www.bcpc.org. This website provides some useful information regarding pest identification and control methods.
- ◆ Pest Control UK www.pestcontrol.co.uk. This website provides some useful information on pest identification and control techniques.

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.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Pest and Predator Control

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

In this Unit candidates will learn about pests and predators and the approved methods of control.

Candidates will:

- ◆ identify types of pest and predator control and situations where it should be implemented.
- ◆ explain the importance of humane and environmentally safe control methods.

As candidates are doing this Unit they will be developing aspects of Core Skills in *Communication, Working with Others, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Problem Solving.*

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 4.

Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

Outcome 1 and 2 could be assessed with structured questions requiring short answers and/or restricted response to test the knowledge and understanding. Candidates may have the option to provide written, photographic and oral evidence in response to the assessment questions. Alternatively the Unit could be assessed through a practical project based on a visit to a workplace and an opportunity to assist a practitioner. Candidates are required to demonstrate practical ability through simulation or in a working environment in order to achieve the required standard. The assessment could be undertaken in simulated conditions if there are problems with cost, resources or health and safety concerns. For example a candidate could be asked to demonstrate a safe and effective method of dispensing rat poison. Due to health and safety concerns the grains of rice could be used as a substitute for real poison. Alternatively the candidate could be asked to set a Larsen trap to control Corvids. Due to logistical problems it may not be possible to carry out the assessment in a suitable trap location. Therefore, the candidate could be asked to select an appropriate site from a map and demonstrate the competence in setting a trap taking into account the welfare considerations of the target species. The evidence could be observed by an assessor checklist, word processed or recorded with a digital audio/video recorder.

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: Pest and Predator Control (SCQF level 4)

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
02	Core Skills Component Critical Thinking at SCQF level 4 embedded.	19/01/2012

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