Group Award Specification for:

HNC Game and Wildlife Management

Group Award Code: GL04 15

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Contents

1   Introduction

This document was previously known as the Arrangements document. The purpose of this document is to:

♦   assist centres to implement, deliver and manage the qualification
♦   provide a guide for new staff involved in offering the qualification
♦   inform course managers teaching staff, assessors, learners, employers and HEIs of the aims and purpose of the qualification
♦   provide details of the range of learners the qualification is suitable for and progression opportunities

The Higher National Certificate (HNC) in Game and Wildlife Management at SCQF level 7 is based on the previous HNC Gamekeeping with Wildlife Management, previously validated in 2005. The HNC has run successfully at the two main Game centres, this re-validation has provided the opportunity to refresh Unit content where appropriate and to adjust the Group Award Structure to address changing practices and priorities within the Game and Wildlife Management sector. The title of 'Game and Wildlife Management' has been adopted to match the Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQ) titles, the suite of relevant SVQs are all prefixed: 'Game and Wildlife Management'.

The HNC is suitable for learners who wish to pursue a career within the Game and Wildlife Management sector and those already employed who wish to gain formal recognition of the knowledge and skills they already possess. It offers a clear progression pathway from the National Certificate in Gamekeeping at SCQF level 5.

On completion of the HNC learners could seek employment within the sector, for example as beatkeepers, ghillies or single-handed keepers and with suitable experience as head keeper, forest enterprise ranger, wildlife officer, stalker/head stalker, river bailiff or Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) inspector.

2   Qualification(s) structure

The HNC in Game and Wildlife Management at SCQF level 7 consists of a total of 96 SCQF credit points all at SCQF level 7. The mandatory section consists of 88 SCQF credit points with a further 8 SCQF credit points required from a total of 24 SCQF credit points available within the optional section. The HNC contains a Graded Unit consisting of 8 SCQF points at SCQF level 7 within the mandatory section. The HNC structure fully meets SQA's design principles.

2.1   Structure

Mandatory Units — 88 SCQF credit points (11 SQA Unit credits) required

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SCQF level	SCQF credit points	SQA credit
H95J	34	Game and Wildlife Management: Gamebird Management	7	16	2
H9PY	34	Game and Wildlife Management: Sustainable Deer Management	7	16	2
H95E	34	Game and Wildlife Management: Wildlife Legislation	7	16	2
H95C	34	Game and Wildlife Management: Workplace Practice	7	16	2
H95F	34	Game and Wildlife Management: Public Relations	7	8	1
H95H	34	Game and Wildlife Management: Managing Game Sporting Activities	7	8	1
H9T8	34	Game and Wildlife Management: Graded Unit 1	7	8	1

Optional Units — 8 SCQF credit points (1 SQA Unit credit) required

4 Code	2 code	Unit title	SCQF level	SCQF credit points	SQA credit
H95G	34	Game and Wildlife Management: Deer Biology	7	8	1
DN8T	34	Gamekeeping: Biodiversity for Wildlife Management	7	8	1
H95D	34	Game and Wildlife Management: Working Dogs	7	8	1

3 Aims of the qualification(s)

3.1 General aims of the qualification(s)

- To provide industry with a qualified and adaptable workforce.
- To provide an academic progression route for those who wish to progress to management within the land-based sector.
- To improve the quality of training for those in the industry.
- To attract a wider range of people into the industry.

3.2 Specific aims of the qualification(s)

1. To provide learners with the knowledge and skills required to work in a professional manner at a supervisory level in the game and wildlife management industry.
2. To develop a high standard of knowledge, understanding and practical ability within game and wildlife management for those who wish to progress to a higher level of study.
3. To develop and enhance the required competences for persons who will undertake a supervisory role on a sporting estate.
4. To develop specialist interests in game and wildlife management by providing opportunities for in-depth study and investigation.
5. To develop cognitive skills that can be applied to practical work situations.
6. To place due emphasis on the importance of Health and Safety in the industry.

3.3 Graded Unit(s)

The HNC in Game and Wildlife Management contains a Graded Unit consisting of 8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7. The Graded Unit is a Practical Assignment which requires the learner to plan, deliver and evaluate a relevant game sporting activity, for example deer stalking or a day's fishing for a client. Successful completion of the Graded Unit will demonstrate that the learner is able to integrate and apply a range of knowledge and skills from across various Units.

4 Recommended entry to the qualification(s)

Entry to this qualification is at the discretion of the centre. The following information on prior knowledge, skills, experience or qualifications that provide suitable preparation for this qualification has been provided by the Qualification Design Team as guidance only.

Learners would benefit from considerable experience of the game and wildlife management sector, this could be gained through completion of the National Certificate (NC) in Gamekeeping at SCQF level 5, completion of a relevant Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ) at SCQF level 5 or 7 or by relevant work experience (for example as a beater).

4.1 Core Skills entry profile

The Core Skill entry profile provides a summary of the associated assessment activities that exemplify why a particular level has been recommended for this qualification. The information should be used to identify if additional learning support needs to be put in place for learners whose Core Skills profile is below the recommended entry level or whether learners should be encouraged to do an alternative level or learning programme.

Core Skill	Recommended SCQF entry profile	Associated assessment activities
Communication	6	Report writing, communication with clients, colleagues and public
Numeracy	5	Monitoring game populations
Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	5	Producing reports, research
Problem Solving	6	Project planning, practical activities
Working with Others	6	Team working, working with clients/land-owners

5 Additional benefits of the qualification in meeting employer needs

This qualification was designed to meet a specific purpose and what follows are details on how that purpose has been met through mapping of the Units to the aims of the qualification. Through meeting the aims, additional value has been achieved by linking the Unit standards with those defined in National Occupational Standards and/or trade/professional body requirements. In addition, significant opportunities exist for learners to develop the more generic skill, known as Core Skills through doing this qualification.

5.1 Mapping of qualification aims to Units

Code	Unit title	Aims 1	2	3	4	5	6
H95J 34	Game and Wildlife Management: Gamebird Management	X	X	X	X		X
H9PY 34	Game and Wildlife Management: Sustainable Deer Management	X	X	X			X
H95E 34	Game and Wildlife Management: Wildlife Legislation	X	X	X			X
H95C 34	Game and Wildlife Management: Workplace Practice	X		X		X	X
H95F 34	Game and Wildlife Management: Public Relations	X		X		X	X
H95H 34	Game and Wildlife Management: Managing Game Sporting Activities		X	X			X
H9T8 34	Game and Wildlife Management: Graded Unit 1	X					X
H95G 34	Game and Wildlife Management: Deer Biology	X	X	X	X		X
DN8T 34	Gamekeeping: Biodiversity for Wildlife Management	X	X	X	X		X
H95D 34	Game and Wildlife Management: Working Dogs	X	X	X	X	X	X

5.2 Mapping of National Occupational Standards (NOS) and/or trade body standards

Code	Unit title	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
H95J 34	Game and Wildlife Management: Gamebird Management										X	X	X	X		X			
H9PY 34	Game and Wildlife Management: Sustainable Deer Management		X	X		X		X								X		X	
H95H 34	Game and Wildlife Management: Managing Game Sporting Activities	X						X								X		X	
H95F 34	Game and Wildlife Management: Public Relations	X														X			
H95G 34	Game and Wildlife Management: Deer Biology		X							X						X		X	
H95CD 34	Game and Wildlife Management: Workplace Practice	X		X						X						X			
DN8T 34	Gamekeeping: Biodiversity for Wildlife Management	X	X			X								X		X			
H95D 34	Game and Wildlife Management: Working Dogs															X			X
H95E 34	Game and Wildlife Management: Wildlife Legislation	X	X	X		X		X	X					X		X	X	X	

National Occupational Standards:

The following NOS are drawn from the SVQ 3 in Game and Wildlife Management at SCQF level 7:

1   Contribute to the Development of Public Relations for a Sporting Estate (LANGa14)
2   Contribute to Deer Management Planning (LANGa23)
3   Contribute to the Development of a Sporting Estate (LANGa21)
4   Contribute to the Management of Fishery (LANCU60)
5   Contribute to the Management of Game Habitat (LANGa15)
6   Contribute to the Management of Heather Burning (LANGa24)
7   Contribute to the Organisation of Game Shooting Activities (LANGa12)
8   Contribute to the Prevention of Rural Crime on a Sporting Estate (LANGa20)
9   Control the Production of Game Meat for Human Consumption (LANGa22)
10   Manage the Incubation of Gamebird Eggs (LANGa17)
11   Manage the Production of Fertile Gamebird Eggs (LANGa16)
12   Manage the Release of Gamebirds (LANGa19)
13   Manage Wild Game Populations (LANGa13)
14   Prepare Deer for Human Consumption (LANCU50)
15   Promote, Monitor and Maintain Health, Safety and Security (LANCU3)
16   Rear Gamebirds for Release (LANGa13)
17   Stalk and Cull Deer (LANCU49)
18   Train Animal to Achieve Specific Objectives (LANCU40)

5.3 Mapping of Core Skills development opportunities across the qualification(s)

Unit code	Unit title	Communication		Numeracy		ICT		Problem Solving			Working with Others	
		Written	Oral	Using Number	Using Graphical Information	Accessing Information	Providing/Creating Information	Critical Thinking	Planning and Organising	Reviewing and Evaluating	Working Co-operatively with Others	Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
H95H 34	Game and Wildlife Management: Managing Game Sporting Activities	X	X					X	X	X	X	X
H95F 34	Game and Wildlife Management: Public Relations	X	X					X	X		X	
H95G 34	Game and Wildlife Management: Deer Biology	X	X			X	X	X				
H9PY 34	Game and Wildlife Management: Sustainable Deer Management	X	X			X		SCQF Level 5	X	X	X	
H95C 34	Game and Wildlife Management: Workplace Practice	X	X					X	X	X	X	X
DN8T 34	Gamekeeping: Biodiversity for Wildlife Management	X	X			X	X	X	X			
H95J 34	Game and Wildlife Management: Gamebird Management	X	X	X	X			X	X	X		
H95D 34	Game and Wildlife Management: Working Dogs	X	X			X	X	X	X			
H95E 34	Game and Wildlife Management: Wildlife Legislation	X	X									

5.4 Assessment Strategy for the qualification(s)

Unit	Assessment			
	Outcome 1	**Outcome 2**	**Outcome 3**	**Outcome 4**
Game and Wildlife Management: Managing Game Sporting Activities	Project			
Game and Wildlife Management: Public Relations	Project	Portfolio	Report	Role Play/Simulation
Game and Wildlife Management: Deer Biology	Project	Structured Questions	Structured Questions	
Game and Wildlife Management: Sustainable Deer Management	Project			
Game and Wildlife Management: Workplace Practice	Portfolio			
Gamekeeping: Biodiversity for Wildlife Management	Report	Presentation	Case Study	
Game and Wildlife Management: Gamebird Management	Project			
Game and Wildlife Management: Working Dogs	Project			
Game and Wildlife Management: Wildlife Legislation	Project/Portfolio			

6 Guidance on approaches to delivery and assessment

6.1 Sequencing/integration of Units

The exact sequence and timing of Unit delivery is at the discretion of the delivering centre, however, based on full time delivery over the course of an academic year the following is suggested:

Week:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
Manage Game Sporting Activities	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓																	
Public Relations	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓																	
Deer Biology																		▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓
Workplace Practice	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓
Biodiversity for Wildlife Management																		▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓
Game Bird Management	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓																	
Sustainable Deer Management																		▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓
Working Dogs																		▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓
Graded Unit	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓

Integration:

Centres are encouraged to consider opportunities to integrate the delivery and assessment of individual Units. This will help to reduce the burden of assessment on learners and assessors alike and help to link the learner's skills, knowledge and understanding developed in separate Units in to a coherent whole.

Opportunities to integrate delivery and assessment will depend on the delivery and assessment models used within centres, the following is provided as guidance only.

Game and Wildlife Management: Workplace Practice

There may be opportunities to integrate delivery and assessment of all the Units, with the exception of the Graded Unit, with the *Workplace Practice* Unit. Learners will have the opportunity to demonstrate many of the skills and much of the knowledge they have developed while studying other Units while on their placement. Witness testimony from staff from the work placement could also be used to supplement more direct evidence.

6.2   Recognition of Prior Learning

SQA recognises that learners gain knowledge and skills acquired through formal, non-formal and informal learning contexts.

In some instances, a full Group Award may be achieved through the recognition of prior learning. However, it is unlikely that a learner would have the appropriate prior learning and experience to meet all the requirements of a full Group Award.

The recognition of prior learning may **not** be used as a method of assessing in the following types of Units and assessments:

♦   HN Graded Units
♦   Course and/or external assessments
♦   Other integrative assessment Units (which may or not be graded)
♦   Certain types of assessment instruments where the standard may be compromised by not using the same assessment method outlined in the Unit
♦   Where there is an existing requirement for a licence to practice
♦   Where there are specific health and safety requirements
♦   Where there are regulatory, professional or other statutory requirements
♦   Where otherwise specified in an Assessment Strategy

More information and guidance on the *Recognition of Prior Learning* (RPL) may be found on our website **www.sqa.org.uk**.

The following sub-sections outline how existing SQA Unit(s) may contribute to this Group Award. Additionally, they also outline how this Group Award may be recognised for professional and articulation purposes.

6.2.1 Articulation and/or progression

While there is no direct articulation to HND level (SCQF level 8) provision specific to Game and Wildlife Management there may be opportunities to progress to more advanced study in related areas such as the SCQF level 8 HND in Countryside Management. There may also be opportunities to progress to a range of Degree level programmes in Wildlife Management and related areas.

6.2.2 Professional recognition

While studying for the HNC in Game and Wildlife Management learners will be eligible for Student Membership of the Scottish Gamekeepers Association (SGA) and for full Gamekeeper Membership once employed within the sector.

6.2.3 Credit transfer

The table below illustrates the relationship between the Units included in the 'old' HNC and the Units included in the revised HNC.

Current HNC	New HNC	Relationship
Gamekeeping: Managing Game Sporting Activities (1.0)	Game and Wildlife Management: Managing Game Sporting Activities (1.0)	Updated — minor change to content
Gamekeeping: Public Relations for Wildlife Management and Field Sports (1.0)	Game and Wildlife Management: Public Relations (1.0)	Updated — minor changes to Outcome 3
Gamekeeping: Deer Biology (1.0)	Game and Wildlife Management: Deer Biology	Updated — minor changes to Outcome 2 and Outcome 3
Gamekeeping: Workplace Practice (2.0)	Game and Wildlife Management: Workplace Practice	Updated — minor change to content
Gamekeeping with Wildlife Management: Graded Unit 1 (1.0)	Game and Wildlife Management: Graded Unit 1 (1.0)	Graded Unit updated to reflect changes to other Units
Gamekeeping: Biodiversity for Wildlife Management (1.0)	Gamekeeping: Biodiversity for Wildlife Management (1.0)	Unit Unchanged
Gamekeeping: Gamebird Management (2.0)	Game and Wildlife Management: Game Bird Management (2.0)	Updated (contains elements of previous Red Grouse Unit)
Gamekeeping: Deer Management (2.0)	Game and Wildlife Management: Sustainable Deer Management (2.0)	Updated (contains elements of previous Woodland Deer Unit)
Gamekeeping: Red Grouse Management (2.0)	N/A	Content added to Game Bird Management
Gamekeeping: Gundog Management (2.0)	Game and Wildlife Management: Working Dogs (1.0)	Updated — reduction of size of Unit (16 SCQF Points to 8 SCQF Points)

Current HNC	New HNC	Relationship
Ecology and Habitats: An Introduction (1.0)	N/A	Unit no longer relevant
Information Technology: Applications Software 1 (1.0)	N/A	Unit no longer relevant
Gamekeeping: Woodland Deer Management (2.0)	N/A	Content added to Sustainable Deer Management Unit

6.3 Opportunities for e-assessment

Due to the practical nature of the HNC in Game and Wildlife Management opportunities for e-Assessment will be limited. Opportunities, where they do exist, are highlighted in the individual Unit specifications. Centres may wish to consider the use of e-Portfolios as a means of organising evidence and identifying opportunities to integrate evidence across Outcomes and Units.

6.4 Support materials

A **list of existing ASPs** is available to view on SQA's website.

6.5 Resource requirements

In addition to suitably qualified staff centres would require access to the following resources:

Access to relevant Sporting Estates, covering Lowland, Grouse/Upland, Deer Management and Conservation Activities to allow for practical visits, demonstrations and placements.
Access to Game Farms, Working Dogs and Gun Dog kennels for visits and demonstrations (depending on Optional Units selected).
Arrangements in place to ensure suitable work placements for all learners.
Areas for storing and preparing game in accordance with current legislation.

7 General information for centres

Equality and inclusion

The Unit specifications making up this Group Award have been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners will 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**.

Internal and external verification

All instruments of assessment used within this/these qualification(s) should be internally verified, using the appropriate policy within the centre and the guidelines set by SQA.

External verification will be carried out by SQA to ensure that internal assessment is within the national guidelines for these qualifications.

Further information on internal and external verification can be found in *SQA's Guide to Assessment* **(www.sqa.org.uk/GuideToAssessment)**.

8 Glossary of terms

Embedded Core Skills: is where the assessment evidence for the Unit also includes full evidence for complete Core Skill or Core Skill components. A learner successfully completing the Unit will be automatically certificated for the Core Skill. (This depends on the Unit having been successfully audited and validated for Core Skills certification.)

Finish date: The end of a Group Award's lapsing period is known as the finish date. After the finish date, the Group Award will no longer be live and the following applies:

♦ learners may not be entered for the Group Award
♦ the Group Award will continue to exist only as an archive record on the Awards Processing System (APS)

Graded Unit: Graded Units assess learners' ability to integrate what they have learned while working towards the Units of the Group Award. Their purpose is to add value to the Group Award, making it more than the sum of its parts, and to encourage learners to retain and adapt their skills and knowledge.

Lapsing date: When a Group Award is entered into its lapsing period, the following will apply:

♦ the Group Award will be deleted from the relevant catalogue
♦ the Group Award specification will remain until the qualification reaches its finish date at which point it will be removed from SQA's website and archived
♦ no new centres may be approved to offer the Group Award
♦ centres should only enter learners whom they expect to complete the Group Award during the defined lapsing period

SQA credit value: The credit value allocated to a Unit gives an indication of the contribution the Unit makes to an SQA Group Award. An SQA credit value of 1 given to an SQA Unit represents approximately 40 hours of programmed learning, teaching and assessment.

SCQF: The Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework (SCQF) provides the national common framework for describing all relevant programmes of learning and qualifications in Scotland. SCQF terminology is used throughout this guide to refer to credits and levels. For further information on the SCQF visit the SCQF website at **www.scqf.org.uk**.

SCQF credit points: SCQF credit points provide a means of describing and comparing the amount of learning that is required to complete a qualification at a given level of the Framework. One National Unit credit is equivalent to 6 SCQF credit points. One National Unit credit at Advanced Higher and one Higher National Unit credit (irrespective of level) is equivalent to 8 SCQF credit points.

SCQF levels: The level a qualification is assigned within the framework is an indication of how hard it is to achieve. The SCQF covers 12 levels of learning. HNCs and HNDs are available at SCQF levels 7 and 8 respectively. Higher National Units will normally be at levels 6–9 and Graded Units will be at level 7 and 8. National Qualification Group Awards are available at SCQF levels 2–6 and will normally be made up of National Units which are available from SCQF levels 2–7.

Subject Unit: Subject Units contain vocational/subject content and are designed to test a specific set of knowledge and skills.

Signposted Core Skills: refers to opportunities to develop Core Skills arise in learning and teaching but are not automatically certificated.

History of changes

It is anticipated that changes will take place during the life of the qualification and this section will record these changes. This document is the latest version and incorporates the changes summarised below. Centres are advised to check SQA's APS Navigator to confirm they are using the up to date qualification structure.

Version Number	Description	Date

Acknowledgement

SQA acknowledges the valuable contribution that Scotland's colleges have made to the development of this qualification.

9   General information for learners

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

The HNC in Game and Wildlife Management at SCQF level 7 is suitable for you if you wish to pursue a career in the Game and Wildlife Management sector. The HNC consists of a range of Units designed to allow you to develop the knowledge and skills required to work effectively in the industry. The HNC has a practical focus which will allow you to gain 'hands-on' experience while also providing the knowledge and understanding required to adapt your skills to a wide range of contexts.

You will study:

♦ Sporting Habitat Planning
♦ Managing Game Sporting Activities
♦ Public Relations for Wildlife Management and Field Sports
♦ Deer Biology
♦ Sustainable Deer Management
♦ Workplace Practice

Your centre will also offer a range of optional Units which will allow you to focus on an area of particular interest or relevance, such as:

♦ Biodiversity
♦ Integrated Land Use
♦ Gamebird Management
♦ Working Dogs
♦ Wildlife Management

The HNC also contains a Graded Unit, this is designed to allow you to demonstrate your ability to integrate the knowledge and skills you have developed from across a number of different Units. The Graded Unit is a Project which will require you to Plan, Deliver and Evaluate a Game and Wildlife Management activity, such as holding a shoot day or organising a day's fishing for a client. The Project is divided in to three Sections (Planning, Doing and Evaluation), each section will be marked and an overall Grade (A, B or C) will be assigned to the Unit overall.

Throughout the HNC you will have the opportunity to develop your Core Skills of *Communication, Numeracy, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Problem Solving* and *Working with Others*, all in a Game and Wildlife Management context. When you achieve Unit H9PY 34 "Game and Wildlife Management: Sustainable Deer Management" you will also have achieved the Core Skills component of Critical Thinking at SCQF Level 5.

On completion of the HNC you will be well placed to seek employment in the industry, perhaps as a Beatkeeper, Ghillie or Single-Handed Keeper and eventually, with appropriate experience, Head Keeper, Forest Enterprise Ranger, Head Stalker, River Bailiff or SSPCA Officer.