



Higher National Unit specification

General information

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

Unit code: H95G 34

Superclass: SH

Publication date: May 2015

Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 01

Unit purpose

This Unit is designed to enable learners to expand their knowledge and understanding of parasites and diseases that learners could encounter whilst handling deer carcasses in the field prior to larding and processing the venison.

The learners will also develop a greater knowledge of deer biology and current legislation relating to the main deer species found within in the UK.

This Unit is suitable for those who wish to pursue a career in gamekeeping or wildlife management or for those already employed within the sector for the purposes of Continuing Professional Development.

Outcomes

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

- 1 Describe the life cycle of UK deer species.
- 2 Identify diseases and parasites which can impact on deer health.
- 3 Interpret current legislation in relation to deer disease.

Credit points and level

1 HN credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7)

Higher National Unit Specification: General information (cont)

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Recommended entry to the Unit

Entry for this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, however it is recommended that the learner should have completed the following: NVQ/SVQ Gamekeeping and Wildlife Management levels 2 and 3 or NC Units EA7P 11 *Practical Deer Tasks* or EA7M 10 *Introduction to Deer Biology*. It would be beneficial if learners have had some experience of deer management or relevant industrial experience.

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 Game and Wildlife Management SCQF Level 7.

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 should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items could be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Outcome 1

Describe the life cycle of UK deer species.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Key identifying features
- ◆ Species habitat
- ◆ Species habits
- ◆ Species breeding
- ◆ Species life span
- ◆ Species measurements

Outcome 2

Identify diseases and parasites which can impact on deer health.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Diseases including notifiable diseases
- ◆ Nervous system response
- ◆ Immune system response
- ◆ Lymphatic system response
- ◆ Types of endoparasites
- ◆ Types of ectoparasites
- ◆ Abnormalities found within the gralloch, head, pluck and legs

Outcome 3

Interpret current legislation in relation to deer disease.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Responsibilities for trained hunter
- ◆ Current legislation relating to abnormalities that may be of a notifiable type
- ◆ Field inspection and larder inspection following culling
- ◆ Legal requirements for gamekeeper/stalker to report suspicious conditions

Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)

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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:

for Outcome 1:

- ◆ describe species of deer commonly found in the UK.
- ◆ for one selected species of Deer describe:
 - key identifying features
 - typical habits
 - breeding practices
 - typical life span
 - typical measurements

for Outcome 2:

- ◆ describe the effect of diseases on the deer's nervous and immune system.
- ◆ describe the life cycles of the main deer parasites.
- ◆ evaluate and analyse the ecology of the main bovine parasites.

for Outcome 3:

- ◆ observe the animal's behaviour before culling.
- ◆ identify abnormalities found in the gralloch, head, pluck and legs.
- ◆ identify notifiable diseases.
- ◆ identify and interpret current legislation in relation to disease.
- ◆ identify and interpret legal requirements for venison intended for human consumption.



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 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

The Unit is primarily intended to prepare learners for work in the gamekeeping industry and provides them with the knowledge of deer biology that they may require once employed within the game-sporting industry.

Outcome 1 will consider the various species of deer commonly found within the UK. It will then focus more closely on one particular species to allow learners to develop an understanding of the deer's life cycle including:

- ◆ habitat
- ◆ habits
- ◆ breeding
- ◆ life span
- ◆ measurements

Typical UK deer species would include:

- ◆ red deer
- ◆ roe deer
- ◆ fallow deer
- ◆ sika deer
- ◆ muntjac
- ◆ Chinese water deer

In Outcome 2 learners are provided with the knowledge required for the identification of specific diseases and parasites which affect the deer's health.

Learners will develop an understanding of the life cycles of the main parasites, which affect wild deer. Types of parasites will include:

Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

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Endoparasites:

- ◆ tapeworm
- ◆ roundworm
- ◆ lungworm
- ◆ liver fluke
- ◆ nasal bot fly
- ◆ warble fly

Ectoparasites:

- ◆ lice
- ◆ ticks
- ◆ mites
- ◆ keds

Types of disease will include:

- ◆ tuberculosis (bovine, avian)
- ◆ actinomycosis
- ◆ arthritis
- ◆ tumours
- ◆ foot and mouth
- ◆ brucellosis
- ◆ anthrax
- ◆ Johne's disease
- ◆ blue tongue and epizootic haemorrhagic virus (EHV)

In Outcome 3 learners develop understanding of their responsibilities whilst gralloching deer including any conditions which are deemed to be suspicious. The Outcome will also cover the correct procedures outlined within current legislation in relation to any of the notifiable diseases.

Relationship to NOS and/or other industry standards:

Completion of this Unit could contribute underpinning knowledge for the following National Occupational Standards:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| LANGa23 | Contribute to Deer Management Planning |
| LANCU49 | Stalk and Cull Deer |
| LANCU50 | Prepare Deer for Human Consumption |
| LANGa22 | Control the Production of Game Meat for Human Consumption |
| LANGa23 | Contribute to Deer Management Planning |

Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

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Guidance on approaches to delivery of this Unit

This Unit forms part of the Group Award HNC Gamekeeping with Wildlife Management. It is primarily designed to provide learners with technical or professional knowledge and skills relating to deer biology within the Game and Wildlife Management environment area. It would be expected that those who successfully complete the award would progress to work as an under keeper, single-handed keeper, stalker or deer manager. This should allow the Unit to be delivered in a way that enables the learner to appreciate its relevance to the occupational area.

Delivery of this Unit could be in the form of formal and informal lecturers, use of virtual learning environments, use of Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) Deer Best practice material, practical visits to local estates/deer forests, visit deer larder and venison processing facilities, handle deer carcasses, following all protocol's to ensure the meat is fit for human consumption and venison is stored correctly.

Learners are likely to work predominantly as individuals researching material appropriate to the deer species/habitats involved. Learners who do not have experience of deer biology will be able to widen their knowledge and understanding whilst on relevant work experience.

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.

Assessment may be carried out by three instruments of assessment. The first instrument could be a project which could contain a selection of the following information: recognition, habitat, habits, breeding, life span and measurements.

The other two instruments could take the form of a series of structured questions. They would normally both be held in controlled conditions.

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.

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Opportunities for developing Core and other essential skills

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Problem Solving* and *Information and Communication Technology (ICT)* at SCQF level 6 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

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 the Unit content, 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 enable you to recognise the characteristics of the main UK deer species. It is primarily intended to outline the main parasites and diseases and their impact on the health of the deer. You will gain an understanding of the relevant deer legislation and the current health and hygiene codes of good practice.

The assessment will likely take the form of a series of structured questions relating to current deer legislation, hygiene and codes of good practice. The other assessment could be in the form of a project relating to a deer of your choice. This information will include all aspects of the animal's life cycle and its preferred range and habitat.

This Unit may be suitable for you if you wish to pursue a career within the Game and Wildlife Management sector or as a means of developing and demonstrating your knowledge and skills if you are already in employment.