



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Wildfowl Shooting and Habitat: An Introduction
(SCQF Level 5)

Unit code: FN59 11

Superclass: SH

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Version: 01

Summary

This is an introductory Unit for candidates who wish to develop their skills and knowledge of wildfowl shooting and the various habitats in which wildfowl live. This Unit introduces candidates to the practical aspects of maintaining wildfowl habitats and hide construction. This Unit is an optional Unit within the National Certificate in Gamekeeping but is also available for candidates wishing to study the Unit on its own.

Outcomes

- 1 Maintain a habitat suitable for wildfowl.
- 2 Construct hides for wildfowl shooting.
- 3 Supply feed to wildfowl on flight ponds.
- 4 Demonstrate wildfowl flighting techniques.

Recommended entry

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, it would be beneficial if candidates had previous experience of game sporting activities.

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.*

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 5
- ◆ Planning and Organising 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

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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

Maintain a habitat suitable for wildfowl.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Maintenance procedures implemented for a wildfowl habitat are appropriate in terms of providing:
 - ◆ appropriate aquatic plants and other vegetation for the wildfowl present
 - ◆ appropriate depth of water in feeding area
 - ◆ adequate seclusion and sheltering for roosting and loafing in resting area
 - ◆ nesting sites in the breeding area

Outcome 2

Construct hides for wildfowl shooting.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Selection of tools, equipment and materials is appropriate to the type, design and function of the hide to be built.
- (b) Selection of a site for the hide is appropriate for the type, design and function of the hide to be built and appropriate risk assessment is carried out.
- (c) Construction of the hide is in accordance with recognised techniques and procedures, adheres to safe working practices and the finished hide is robust.

Outcome 3

Supply feed to wildfowl on flight ponds.

Performance Criteria

- (a) The identification of factors influencing feed requirements of wildfowl is correct.
- (b) The selection of feed is appropriate for a given situation.
- (c) The calculation of quantity of feed required is accurate for a given situation.
- (d) The method of distributing the feed is appropriate to a given situation and type of feed to be supplied.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Outcome 4

Demonstrate wildfowl flighting techniques.

Performance Criteria

- (a) The demonstration of flighting techniques is appropriate to a given situation and is in accordance with safe working practices.

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Evidence is required to demonstrate that candidates have achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

Outcome 1

Performance evidence where the candidate maintains appropriate aquatic plants and other vegetation for the wildfowl present. The candidate must also ensure there is an appropriate depth of water in the feeding area, and adequate seclusion and sheltering for roosting and loafing in the resting area and nesting sites in the breeding area.

Outcome 2

Performance evidence where the candidate constructs a hide for wildfowl shooting. The selection of tools, equipment and materials must be appropriate to the type, design and function of the hide to be built. The selection of a site for the hide must be appropriate for the type and function of the hide to be built and candidates should carry out a risk assessment to identify hazards and take appropriate action. The construction of the hide must demonstrate recognised techniques and procedures and be carried out according to safe working practices and the finished hide must be robust.

Outcome 3

Performance evidence for Performance Criteria (b) (c) (d) and written and/or oral evidence for Performance Criteria (a). When supplying feed to wildfowl on flight ponds the identification of factors influencing the feed requirements of wildfowl must be appropriate for the given situation and the calculation of the quantity of feed required must be accurate for a given situation. The method of distributing the feed must be appropriate to a given situation and the type of feed to be supplied

Outcome 4

Performance evidence for this Outcome will be sampled, where candidates demonstrate flighting techniques for a given situation. Candidates will be assessed on one from the following list of flighting techniques: morning flight, evening flight, driven duck shooting and stubbling (decoying). Candidates should adhere to safe working practices throughout.

Evidence will be generated under supervised conditions and candidates will not know in advance on which technique they will be assessed. In any re-assessment, a different technique must be used.

National Unit specification: support notes

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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 is an optional Unit in the National Certificate in Gamekeeping at SCQF Level 5.

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

- ◆ GA11 Maintain and Improve Game and Wildlife Habitats
- ◆ GA13 Manage Wild Game Populations
- ◆ GA15 Contribute to the Management of Gamebird Habitats

It is important that the practical aspects of learning involving gamekeeping skills take place in either a work setting or simulated work setting.

It is important that the deployment of appropriate learning environments is preceded by valid risk assessment.

Outcome 1

Candidates visit a range of wildfowl habitats to develop knowledge of pond construction, nesting sites, plants and trees associated with the wetland sites, understand current legislation relating to sites could be Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI). Candidates take part in site maintenance such as cutting vegetation round site, construct paths round site for safety, maintaining suitable areas for wildfowl to nest, feeding and resting areas; this could be demonstrated on inland flight ponds. Maintenance of suitable habitat for wildfowl should include, plant species of value to wildfowl, site preparation and planting for habitat improvements. Site requirements, eg seclusion and shelter, roosting and loafing, breeding sites and feeding sites should be considered.

Outcome 2

Candidates investigate the types and styles of shooting hides used in flighting wildfowl, from wooden/wire using vegetation to hide persons within to camouflage netting hides. Candidates take part in siting and construct a suitable hide taking in to account of wind direction sky line and shooting safety for public and participants. Methods for constructing wildfowl shooting hides should include source of materials, requirements of wildfowl, shooting hide, hide construction methods and siting and positioning of hides.

Outcome 3

Candidates are instructed in feeding techniques, food used could be — barley, wheat, mixed grain, potato. Candidates learn about timing of feeding and feeding in different weather conditions resulting in changing feeding techniques. The importance of water depth, the frequency of feeding due to weather conditions number of wildfowl using pond to feed should also be covered.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Outcome 4

Candidates look at the different techniques of shooting wildfowl this should include current legislation covering shot type, steel/ tin etc. Candidates should understand shooting etiquette and health and safety relating to morning and evening flighting, driven wildfowl shooting and stubbling(decoying).

Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

The practical aspects of this Unit should take place in a realistic and approved environment or simulated work setting.

Outcome 1

The candidate should maintain suitable habitat for wildfowl, methods of nesting, feeding and resting sites construction could be demonstrated on inland flight ponds.

Outcome 2

The candidate should take build and site wildfowl shooting hides, using appropriate designs and materials.

Outcome 3

The candidate should feeding wildfowl using a number of different feeding materials and feeding techniques.

Outcome 4

The candidate could discuss the requirement of morning flight, evening flight, driven duck shooting and decoying or stubbling and taking part on local estates or shoots.

Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

Appropriate Instrument of Assessment for all of the Outcomes would be a series of practical exercises together with restricted response questions for Outcome 3 Performance Criteria (a).

In all Outcomes, performance evidence could be supported by an assessor 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)

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Opportunities for developing Core Skills

This Unit could provide opportunities for the development of Working with Others and Problem Solving at SCQF 5 during the learning and teaching activities throughout the 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 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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