



## National Unit specification: general information

**Unit title:** Pest and Predator Control (SCQF level 5)

**Unit code:** FN5F 11

**Superclass:** SC

**Publication date:** July 2011

**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority

**Version:** 01

## Summary

This Unit is intended for candidates who wish to develop their knowledge and understanding of pest and predator control within the gamekeeping sector. This Unit is designed to introduce candidates to current relevant legislation associated with pest and predator control, identification of mammalian and avian pest and predators found in the United Kingdom and legal trap types and associated methods that are relevant to their control.

This Unit is a mandatory Unit in the National Certificate in Gamekeeping but is also available for candidates wishing to study the Unit on its own.

## Outcomes

- 1 Describe the current legal requirements relating to pest and predator control in the UK.
- 2 Identify mammalian and avian pest and predator species in the UK.
- 3 Identify control methods and trap types for pest and predator species in the UK.
- 4 Carry out a pest and predator control programme in accordance with current legislation and codes of practice.

## Recommended entry

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, it would be beneficial if candidates have prior knowledge of legislation associated with Pest and Predator control.

## 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)**

**Unit title:** Pest and Predator Control (SCQF level 5)

### **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: Pest and Predator Control (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**

Describe the current legal requirements relating to pest and predator control in the UK.

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Describe the legal requirements of snaring.
- (b) Describe the legal requirements of trapping.

#### **Outcome 2**

Identify mammalian and avian pest and predator species in the UK.

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Identify mammalian pest and predator species.
- (b) Identify avian pest and predator species.
- (c) Identify protected and non target pest and predator species.

#### **Outcome 3**

Identify control methods and trap types for pest and predator species in the UK.

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Identify legal trap types.
- (b) Identify legal control methods for pests and predators.
- (c) Describe the seasonal planning associated with pest and predator control.
- (d) Explain codes of practice associated with pest and predator control.

#### **Outcome 4**

Carry out a pest and predator control programme in accordance with current legislation and codes of practice.

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Identify evidence of pest and predator species.
- (b) Identify a selection of trap types for given situations.
- (c) Construct a trap or a snare.
- (d) Set a trap and snare.
- (e) Check all traps and snares in accordance with current legislation and codes of practice.
- (f) Explain the legal and humane despatch methods for a variety of pests and predators.

## National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

**Unit title:** Pest and Predator Control (SCQF level 5)

### Evidence Requirements for this Unit

**All activities undertaken in this Unit must adhere to current legislation, regulations and codes of practice.**

Written and/or oral and performance evidence is required to demonstrate that the candidate has achieved all of the Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

#### Outcome 1

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

- ◆ timescales for checking of all traps and snares
- ◆ snare hardware and design
- ◆ trap hardware and design
- ◆ location of traps and snares
- ◆ target / non target species
- ◆ current legislation and codes of practice relating to trapping and snaring

#### Outcome 2 and 3

Candidates are required to provide written and/or oral evidence of the UK pest and predator species on a single assessment occasion. The evidence must include:

- ◆ identification of four current UK avian pest species
- ◆ identification of four current UK avian predator species
- ◆ identification of four current UK mammalian pest species
- ◆ identification of four current UK mammalian predator species
- ◆ identification of current UK protected and non target pest and predator species
- ◆ description of seasonal planning must include:
  - preferred habitat of the UK pest and predator species identified above
  - seasonal movement of UK pest and predator species identified above
  - breeding cycles of UK pest and predator species
- ◆ identification of three legal trap types for a given situation
- ◆ identification of correct control method for pests and predators
- ◆ explanation of codes of practice must include:
  - seasonal control method and timing in relation to trap type and target species
  - appropriate use of all legal trap types in relation to the environment and target species

## **National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)**

**Unit title:** Pest and Predator Control (SCQF level 5)

### **Outcome 4**

Candidates are required to demonstrate their practical skills by showing that they can perform and plan a pest and predator control programme.

Evidence for this Outcome should be gathered by the candidate performing at least two practical activities. Evidence must include:

- ◆ correct identification of signs of a pest or predator presence
- ◆ identification of selection of trap type for an appropriate situation
- ◆ location and use of trap or snare complies with current legislation and code of practice
- ◆ checking of traps and snares complies with current legislation
- ◆ all operations are in compliance with health and safety legislation
- ◆ explanation of legal and humane despatch methods for pests and predators are humane in compliance with current legislation

## National Unit specification: support notes

### Unit title: Pest and Predator Control (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, but can also be taken as a free-standing Unit.

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

- ◆ CU46 Control Vertebrate Pests and Predators using Traps
- ◆ CU59 Control Vertebrate Pests and Predators using Shooting
- ◆ CU2 Monitor and Maintain Health & Safety
- ◆ CU5 Develop Personal Performance and Maintain Working Relationships

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

**Outcome 1** covers the current legal requirements relating to pest and predator control. This should entail interpretation of the following pieces of legislation relevant to pest and predator control (relevant at time of writing):

- ◆ Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981
- ◆ Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004
- ◆ Deer (Scotland) Act 1996
- ◆ Wild Mammals Protection Act 1996
- ◆ Animal By-Products Order
- ◆ Animal Health & Welfare (Scotland) Act
- ◆ The Snares (Scotland) Order 2010
- ◆ Wildlife & Natural Environment Bill 2010

This should encompass offences relating to pest and predator control, trap checking times, identification of hardware/design of traps and snares, preparation prior to setting of trap or snare, correct methods of trapping/snaring prohibited sites, and record keeping.

The candidate could be assessed by correctly answering five short restricted response questions relating to legal requirements. This will include timescales for trap checking, legal snare types, positioning of traps, legal trap types, and trap type for a given situation.

## National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Pest and Predator Control (SCQF level 5)

**Outcome 2** is intended to allow the candidates to develop identification skills relating to UK pest and predator species. This will include all major avian and mammalian species relevant to the UK, protected or non target species that impact on flora and fauna within the UK. This should include:

◆ **avian pests**

- raven
- carrion crow
- rook
- chough
- jackdaw
- jay
- magpie
- starling
- house sparrow

◆ **avian predators**

- golden eagle
- goshawk
- hen harrier
- sparrow hawk
- merlin
- buzzard
- tawny owl
- red kite

Consideration should be given to the five common geese species as avian pests, although these species have been previously identified within the wildfowl and their habitat unit.

◆ **mammalian pests**

- brown hare
- blue hare
- rabbit
- brown rat
- mouse
- mole
- grey squirrel

◆ **mammalian predators**

- red fox
- badger
- pine martin
- otter
- mink
- polecat
- stoat
- weasel

## National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

### Unit title: Pest and Predator Control (SCQF level 5)

Implications of trapping relating to protected species should be emphasised. Release techniques and further operations should also be recognised, and the welfare of the species taken into consideration.

The candidate could be assessed by correctly identifying four avian pest and predator species, and four mammalian pest and predator species. The assessment could be selected from 10 digital images.

**Outcome 3** allows the candidate to identify the different legal trap and snare type relevant to pest and predator control. Correct use of all legal trap/snare types should be identified in relation to the current relevant codes of practice. Seasonal times of year for trapping and snaring should be identified taking into account weather, location of species, breeding and parental bond.

The candidate could be assessed by correctly identifying three legal trap types relating to UK pest and predator control, and correct selection of a trap type for four given situations.

**Outcome 4** allows the candidate to gain practical experience with current legal traps and snares. Identification of damage to flora and fauna and signs relevant to the target species should be demonstrated prior to setting of a trap or snare enabling correct identification of pest or predator. The siting and trap type selected is appropriate to the target species and set in accordance with codes of practice. The candidate should take the necessary precautions to prevent capture of non target species. Trap checking times should be carried out in relation to the current legislation and codes of practice the despatch of any target species done in accordance with codes of practice and relevant legislation.

The candidate could be assessed by a practical observation checklist. Evidence could be gathered by the candidate correctly identifying the pests and predators present, selection of trap type, suitable location, compliance with best practice, health and safety and suitable despatch method.

### Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

Through this Unit candidates will gain knowledge and understanding relating to pest and predator control, whilst developing their practical skills. Candidates should be aware of the legislation and the current relevant key aspects that relate to pest and predator control.

Essential knowledge and understanding could be developed by a variety of teaching and learning approaches including:

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



## National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Pest and Predator Control (SCQF level 5)

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

### Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

The following approaches to assessment are suggested:

|           |                                     |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| Outcome 1 | Restricted response question/answer |
| Outcome 2 | Restricted response question/answer |
| Outcome 3 | Restricted response question/answer |
| Outcome 4 | Practical/observation checklist     |

Time should be allowed for any necessary re-assessment.

### 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)*.

### Opportunities for developing Core Skills

In this Unit candidates will investigate and recognise key areas of legislation, identify and research avian and mammalian pests and predators, trap types and carry out a pest and predator programme. This provides ideal opportunities for candidates to develop aspects of communication, IT skills, Numeracy and Problem Solving and will allow the candidate to liaise with other land managers and users in relation to seasonal pest and predator control, recording of data via IT, positioning, recording and number of trap types located on a OS map, and suitable correct use of trap types within a given situation.

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](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements)

## History of changes to Unit

| Version | Description of change | Date |
|---------|-----------------------|------|
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