



## National Unit specification

### General information

**Unit title:** Scottish Animal Wildlife (SCQF level 4)

**Unit code:** HA1P 44

**Superclass:** SH

**Publication date:** January 2016

**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority

**Version:** 01

### Unit purpose

This Unit is designed to provide the learner with an overview of wildlife in Scotland including both native and non-native/introduced species. The learner will also develop an understanding of the relationship between species and habitat and how species interact within the food chain. Finally the learner will develop their knowledge of the legislation that governs the management of wildlife, how this is enforced and the types of job opportunities available within the sector.

This Unit may be suitable for learners who wish to pursue a career within Wildlife Management or within the wider Animal Care sector.

### Outcomes

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

- 1 Identify native and non-native wildlife species.
- 2 Describe the relationship between wildlife and habitat.
- 3 Describe key wildlife legislation and job opportunities within the wildlife sector.

### Credit points and level

1 National Unit credit at SCQF level 4: (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 4)

### Recommended entry to the Unit

Entry to this Unit is at the discretion of the delivering centre.

## **National Unit specification: General information (cont)**

**Unit title:** Scottish Animal Wildlife (SCQF level 4)

### **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.

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

## **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**

Identify native and non-native wildlife species.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Identify a range of wildlife species found in Scotland.
- (b) Identify whether species are native to Scotland.

### **Outcome 2**

Describe the relationship between wildlife and habitat.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Describe typical habitats found in Scotland.
- (b) Identify characteristic species associated with the habitats identified.
- (c) Describe food chains for a habitat.
- (d) Identify the herbivores and carnivores within that habitat.

### **Outcome 3**

Describe key wildlife legislation and job opportunities within the wildlife sector.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Describe the key legislation relating to wildlife and the countryside.
- (b) Describe the role of the police in relation to wildlife and the countryside.
- (c) Identify job roles relating to wildlife management.
- (d) Describe the role of government and non-government agencies involved in wildlife management.

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

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### Evidence Requirements for this Unit

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

#### Outcome 1

Written and/or recorded oral evidence is required of the learner's ability to:

- ◆ identify a minimum of seven from ten wildlife species found in Scotland.
- ◆ identify whether each species is native or non-native to Scotland.

#### Outcome 2

Written and/or recorded oral evidence is required of the learner's ability to:

- ◆ provide a brief description of a minimum of four different Scottish habitats.
- ◆ identify two species characteristic of each habitat.
- ◆ describe a food chain for one habitat.
- ◆ identify the herbivores, carnivores and top predator.

#### Outcome 3

Written and/or recorded oral evidence is required of the learner's ability to:

- ◆ identify the key legislation.
- ◆ briefly describe the relevant sections of legislation in relation to:
  - Birds
  - Mammals
  - Plants
  - Game Species.
- ◆ describe the role of the wildlife crime officer in Scotland.
- ◆ identify a minimum of four different job roles that may involve wildlife management.
- ◆ describe a minimum of one government and one non-government agency involved in Scottish wildlife.



## **National Unit Support Notes**

**Unit title:** Scottish Animal Wildlife (SCQF level 4)

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**

Knowledge of the countryside is important for all and this Unit introduces the learner to the basics of Scottish wildlife. Understanding different habitats and which animals are characteristically found in different habitats is a good starting point in understanding ecological relationships. By investigating simple food chains and food webs the learner will begin to understand the intricate relationships that exist between species — who eats who and who is eaten by whom.

It is also important the learners begin to understand how wildlife and humans interact through habitat management, from work on estates and farms to the work of conservation agencies and organisations, including the enforcement of legislation to protect wildlife through the role of Police Scotland and the work on non-government organisations. The topic of re-introductions could be explored, including the conflicts this can bring as well as those between different land uses and users.

Completion of this Unit could help with progression to higher level study, for example the SCQF level 5 National Certificate (NC) in Animal Care.

### **Guidance on approaches to delivery of this Unit**

This Unit could be delivered as a mix of class based study to introduce the basic concepts, images of wildlife species and class discussion on some of the controversial topics such as re-introductions.

Practical visits could support the learning by looking at a variety of habitats and identifying characteristic species and giving hands on experience. Site visits could involve talks from wildlife rangers, land owners and managers.

Encouragement should be given for learners to develop the knowledge and skills required to identify species whilst out on visits from a range of criteria rather than reliance on identification books. Where possible field visits should include various different habitat types. Post field work could include working out food webs and identifying top predators.

## National Unit Support Notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Scottish Animal Wildlife (SCQF level 4)

### 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.

Outcome 1 could be assessed by a written and/or recorded oral assessment, under closed-book conditions, to identify a minimum of seven wildlife species found in Scotland from a sample of ten species. For each species the learner should also identify whether it is native or non-native to Scotland.

Outcome 2 could be assessed through the production of a portfolio covering four different habitats and including:

- ◆ A minimum of two characteristic species of each of the four habitats
- ◆ A diagram or explanation of food chain/web for one habitat
- ◆ The herbivores, carnivores and top predator found within that habitat

Outcome 3 could be assessed by restricted response questions in relation to the management of habitats and wildlife, including:

- ◆ Identification of relevant legislation (with specific reference to Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981)
- ◆ Brief description of relevant sections of legislation with regard to:
  - Birds
  - Mammals
  - Plants
  - Game Species
- ◆ A minimum of four different job roles related to wildlife management
- ◆ One government and one non-government organisation involved in wildlife management in Scotland

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.

### 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](http://www.sqa.org.uk/e-assessment).

## **National Unit Support Notes (cont)**

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### **Opportunities for developing Core and other essential skills**

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components in this Unit, however there may be opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication* and *Information and Communication Technology (ICT)* at SCQF level 4.

There may also be opportunities for the learner to develop their employability skills by being able to demonstrate an understanding of this area of the Animal Care sector.

## History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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## General information for learners

### **Unit title:** Scottish Animal Wildlife (SCQF level 4)

This section will help you decide whether this is the Unit for you by explaining what the Unit is about, 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.

If you are interested in working in the Animal Care sector or within Environmental Conservation or are simply interested in the variety of wildlife found in Scotland this Unit could be for you. It is designed to introduce you to the wildlife species found in Scotland, both native and non-native, the habitats they live in and how they interact and finally how humans interact with and manage wildlife.

On completion of this Unit you will be able to:

- 1 Identify native and non-native wildlife species.
- 2 Demonstrate a basic understanding of ecological relationships within habitats.
- 3 Demonstrate basic knowledge of wildlife law and job opportunities within wildlife.

The delivery of this Unit will be a mix of classroom learning and practical experiences including field visits.