



NPA Beekeeping Support Event

**SQA Optima Building
Glasgow**

Friday 14 February 2020



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Aims:

- National Progression Awards (NPAs)
- History and Overview of the NPA Beekeeping
- Qualification Approval and Quality Assurance



National Progression Awards (NPAs)

- Aimed at **assessing a defined set of skills and knowledge in specialist vocational areas**. They also link to National Occupational Standards, which are the basis of SVQs
- NPAs are at SCQF Levels 2 - 6 and are delivered in partnership between schools, colleges and employers. Many schools are now getting involved, along with colleges for short-study programmes, such as return-to-work courses
- Currently, **359** NPAs available covering most industry and business sectors
- Ranging from Accountancy to Zoo Animal Behaviour and Welfare





SQA Qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework



scottish credit and
qualifications framework

SCQF
Levels

SCQF
Levels

12

12

Doctorate*

11

11

Masters*

SVQ 5

10

10

Honours Degree*

9

9

Ordinary Degree*

Professional
Development
Awards

SVQ 4

8

8

Higher National Diploma

7

7

Advanced Higher
Scottish Baccalaureates

Higher National Certificate

SVQ 3

6

6

Higher
Skills for Work Higher

Awards

5

5

National 5 /
Skills for Work National 5

SVQ 2

4

4

National 4 /
Skills for Work National 4

SVQ 1

3

3

National 3 /
Skills for Work National 3

2

2

National 2

1

1

National 1

*Benchmark qualifications of higher education institutions

History and Overview of NPA Beekeeping

- Developed in conjunction with **Inverness College UHI** in collaboration with the **Scottish Beekeepers Association**
- The NPA was validated in August 2017
- First SQA Approved Centre: **Inverness College UHI** in February 2018





'Setting the Scene'



History and Overview of NPA Beekeeping

Edited Extract from the KAYE ADAMS Morning Programme on Radio Scotland - 7 June 2018

“We're talking about bees this morning and, of course, the importance of bees for pollinating flowers and plants are well known, but one teacher says these delightful little insects are also a great learning tool, in fact **Lorraine Johnston** is so **buzzing** about them she's decided to start and Bee Club at her school which means that her pupils will be able to gain a National 5 level qualification in beekeeping.”



History and Overview of NPA Beekeeping

The importance of beekeeping

Bees are in danger of disappearing from our environment. Farming practices continue to disturb natural habitats and forage of solitary and bumblebees at a rate which gives them little chance for re-establishment. The honey bee is under attack from the pests and diseases it is only the treatment and care provided by beekeepers that is keeping colonies alive. Most wild honey bee colonies have died out as a result of this disease.

The above, coupled with a decline in the number of beekeepers in the UK, have prompted the development of this National Progression Award (NPA) and its associated units, both to raise the profile of beekeeping in Scotland and the UK as a whole, but also to encourage more individuals to keep their own hives and to do so in a responsible and appropriate manner.



History and Overview of NPA Beekeeping

The value of honey bees and bumblebees as pollinators of commercially grown, insect-pollinated crops to the UK has been estimated at over **£200 million per year**.

In the UK approximately **70** crops are dependent on, or benefit from, pollination by bees. In addition to the direct crop benefits, bees also pollinate the flowers of many plants which become part of feed for farm animals.



History and Overview of NPA Beekeeping

Studying bees adds significantly to the wider education of pupils.

For example:

- Bees are useful in explaining food chains, as they are pollinators vital to the food chain. **One third of the food we eat would not be available but for bees**
- The evolution of the limbs and mouthparts of bees into tools, are good examples of adaptation and engineering
- Honey, pollen, wax and propolis has nutritional, craft, manufacturing, and medical applications
- The social life of the honey bee colony provides a controversial start to thinking about the structure of societies, and gender roles!





History and Overview of NPA Beekeeping

General aims of the qualification

The NPA in Beekeeping is designed to provide an introduction to:

- The basics of beekeeping theory
- The identification and use of associated equipment
- Understanding the subduing and manipulation of colonies of bees.

Framework of National Group Award: **NPA Beekeeping @ SCQF Level 5 (GM73 45)**

STRUCTURE (Mandatory): 3.0 credits needed

- **Beekeeping: An Introduction** - (HP9P 45) (1.0)
- **Beekeeping: Theory** - (HP9T 45) (1.0)
- **Beekeeping: Practical Skills** - (HP9R 45) (1.0)
- 3 x 40 hour NQ Units
- Total of 18 SCQF Credit points





NPA Beekeeping - Units

- The **Introduction** unit to beekeeping covers the equipment and tools used to keep bees
- The techniques used to subdue and handle them
- It also covers recognising the nectar producing plants bees need, and the pests and diseases that can effect bees.

The two remaining units build upon the introduction:

- The **Theory unit** further developing the learners scientific knowledge and understanding of the importance of bees to the wider agricultural economy
- The **Practical Skills unit** which provides hands on experience of working with bees

Current SQA Approved Centres @ February 2020

NPA Beekeeping

1. Annan Academy - Dumfries & Galloway
2. Borders College - Scottish Borders
3. Garnock Community Campus - North Ayrshire
4. Inverness College UHI - Highland #
5. Kelso High School - Scottish Borders *
6. Mearns Academy - Aberdeenshire
7. Oban High School - Argyll and Bute
8. Peterhead Academy - Aberdeenshire

first approved centre

* first approved school



What added benefits could arise from schools offering the NPA Beekeeping?

“Widening the Box”



Widening the Box

- Young people are very environmentally conscious
- Generating candidate interest in other Science based subjects
- Re-engaging with candidates
- Possible follow on for the *Skills for Work: Rural Skills* at Nat 4
- The units also could stand alone within many land based group awards, such as the NC Rural Skills SCQF 4.
- NPA content has been mapped to the Scottish Beekeeping qualification framework, and learners that successfully complete the group award will be ideally prepared for their final exam should they chose to register.
- And probably a lot more



Links with the Scottish Beekeepers Association

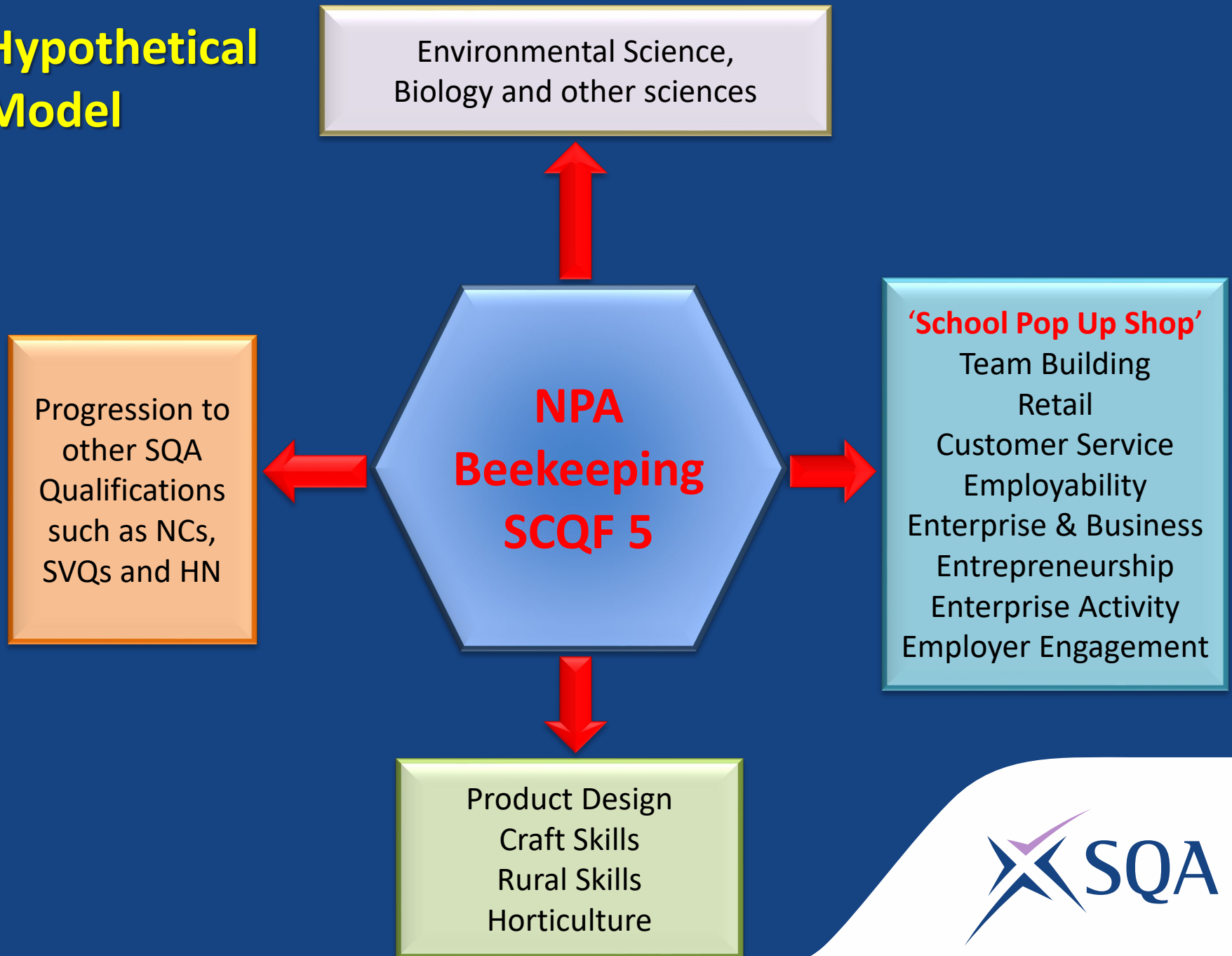
- Schools working in partnership with local branches of the Scottish Beekeepers Association (SBA)
- Expert help, experience and advice available from the local branches of SBA

Benefits for SBA:

- Encouraging young people to become members of the SBA and actively participate
- Young people undertaking SBA examinations and gaining more qualifications



Hypothetical Model



SQA Qualification Approval Application

- NQ Approval Application form – April 2019
- Staff Qualifications and Experience form
- Partnership Agreement form?
- Site Selection Checklist form?
- Completed application submitted to SQA through your SQA Coordinator to: approval.applications@sqa.org.uk
- NPAs are not subject to the NQ Diet approval “cut off” date – you can apply at anytime
- What happens at the Approval Visit?



Working With SQA

Every organisation working with SQA has a dedicated Regional Manager.



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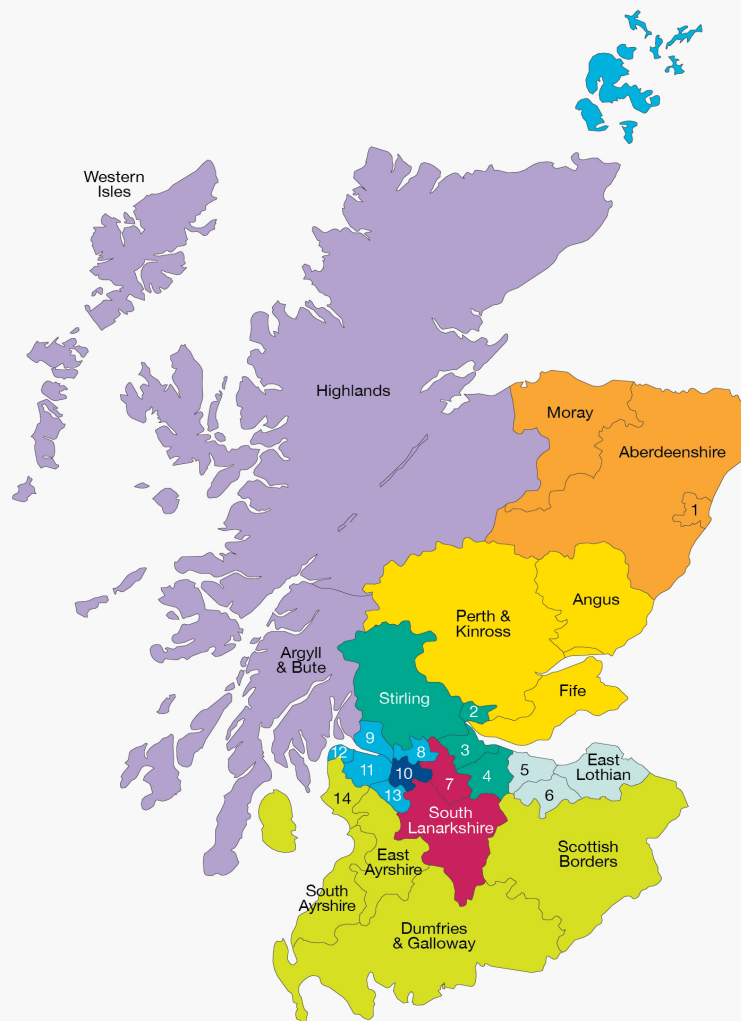
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8. East Dunbartonshire
9. West Dunbartonshire
10. City of Glasgow
11. Renfrewshire
12. Inverclyde
13. East Renfrewshire
14. North Ayrshire



Questions?

[SQA Web Site: NPA Beekeeping SCQF 5](#)

