



North Highland College UHI Rural Studies Centre

Deer Management Qualifications at North Highland College

Deer Stalking Certificate 1 (DSC1)

DSC1 is a basic qualification for deer stalkers and managers. It is a largely knowledge based qualification which enables candidates to demonstrate their understanding of basic deer management principles and meat hygiene, and to show competence in shooting at simulated targets.

Even the experienced should consider first taking one of the training courses available from DMQ Assessment Centres, many of which lead to a consequent assessment for the award.

Once registered candidates have three years to complete the assessment modules, but they can be completed in one day. The DSC1 is a prerequisite for DSC2.

Deer Stalking Certificate (DSC2)

DSC2 is a practical portfolio based qualification which enables candidates to demonstrate their knowledge and competence in legally, safely and humanely culling deer and dealing with carcasses hygienically. The DSC1 is a prerequisite for DSC2.

DMQ strongly recommends that candidates obtain practical experience under the guidance of a competent person before registering for DSC2. Candidates are also advised to consult the [Best Practice Guides](#) issued for England and Wales or the [Best Practice Guidance](#) for Scotland, depending on where you live or stalk.

DSC2 is a stand alone qualification but is aligned with the National Occupational Standards and can be used as evidence towards the deer elements of the Gamekeeping NVQ/SVQ if required.

North Highland College is an assessment centre and anyone registering for DSC2 will be provided with a list of Accredited Witnesses.

Assessment

The **DSC1** assessment tests knowledge and skills in the following areas:

- 1. Deer biology and ecology.
- 2. Legislation.
- 3. Stalking techniques and taking the shot.
- 4. Deer identification.
- 5. Safety.
- 6. Shooting.
- 7. Large Game Meat Hygiene.

DSC1 assessments are carried out by North Highland College accredited by DMQ. The DSC1 assessment has the following 5 modules:

1. **Written.** This has 50 multiple choice
2. **Visual.** Candidates are shown 20 images covering the 6 species of wild deer in the UK. The species and the sex have to be identified for each image, and both must be correct to gain a mark
3. **Safety.** Candidates are walked round a course during which they are shown 4 deer targets and asked to specify whether they would shoot at them or not
4. **Game Meat Hygiene.** This has 40 multiple choice questions.
5. **Shooting.** This has 2 parts. First, the candidate must put 3 shots inside a 4 inch circle on a zero target from 100m. Three attempts at this are allowed in any one day. When that has been achieved, the candidate can then have 3 attempts (in any one day) to put:
 - (a) 2 shots into the killing area of a deer target from 100m (in any position using normal stalking aids such as rucksack or bipod);
 - (b) 2 shots into the killing area of a deer target from 70m sitting or kneeling (again normal aids such as bipod or sticks may be used);
 - (c) 2 shots into the killing area of a deer target from 40m standing (sticks may be used).

REASSESSMENT

If you are unable to complete all of the 5 modules in the DSC1 assessment you will have to re-sit only those modules you did not pass.

The award of **DSC2** is based on a portfolio of evidence and any supplementary evidence that you have supplied.

When you submit your portfolio to the Assessment Centre, it will be sent to an Assessor, who will check that it is complete, and that the evidence you have presented is satisfactory in all respects. The Assessor may contact you, and your witnesses, to be satisfied about the validity and sufficiency of the evidence.

When the Assessor is satisfied, the portfolio is then passed to an Internal Verifier who will confirm that all is well before recommending the award of DSC2. The Internal Verifier may also contact you or your witnesses.

If the evidence supplied by you is not sufficient the portfolio may be returned to you for further evidence to be obtained and submitted. This can of course result in delays in the issue of a certificate and can be avoided by providing the correct evidence at first submission.

Courses at NHC

The following Courses can be arranged at NHC

- Full training and Assessment weeks/weekends (DSC1)
- Assessment only days (suitably qualified people are able to sit the assessment only at NHC)

Contact

Please contact Carol Main for enrolment and additional information: 01847889242 or carol.main@uhi.ac.uk