



Underkeeper

Industry:	Land-Based
Lantra code:	ST0412
Level:	2
Typical duration:	18 months
Funding band:	£7,000 maximum
EPA cost:	£1,400
Venue:	Workplace



Introduction to this Apprenticeship Standard

This occupation is found in the game and wildlife management sector. The broad purpose of the occupation is to participate in habitat management, pest and predator control and animal husbandry in support of a shooting enterprise.

As well as producing a harvestable surplus of gamebirds, an underkeeper contributes to associated conservation activities for the benefit of other flora and fauna. An underkeeper will assist on shoot days and will be expected to undertake routine estate maintenance. In their daily work, an employee in this occupation interacts with a variety of organisations and individuals, including estate managers, senior gamekeepers, police/other statutory bodies, paying guests, other land users and the general public.

Underkeeper's work under some challenging conditions and can be expected to work some unsociable hours and will be outdoors in all weathers. They need to follow instructions precisely from the head keeper or estate manager to help deliver an estate's management plan, but frequently operate alone and need to rely on their own initiative and adaptability. An employee in this occupation will be responsible for supporting the management of landscapes, wildlife and shooting activities.

To fulfil these requirements an underkeeper needs to be competent and qualified in a range of practical gamekeeping skills, including animal and bird husbandry, the creation and maintenance of healthy habitat, and the responsible and appropriate use of all relevant traps, pesticides, hand tools, power tools and firearms. Typical job titles of roles that successful Underkeeper apprentices undertake include Beat Keeper, Game Keeper, Underkeeper, Wildlife Manager.



On Programme Apprentice Activity and Tracking

Apprentices will need to achieve the core skills, knowledge and behaviours in order to achieve this Apprenticeship:

- Portfolio.
- A record of Off the Job Training – this is training that must occur for a minimum of 20% of the time the Apprentice is paid to work and is training delivered outside of their normal working duties – to develop a wider understanding of the industry.



Mandatory Qualifications

- Level 1 English and Maths. For those with an education, health and care plan or a legacy statement, the apprentice's English and Maths minimum requirements is Entry Level 3. A British Sign Language (BSL) qualification is an alternative to the English qualification for those whose primary language is BSL Level 2 Award in Game Meat Hygiene
- Level 2 Awards in Safe use of Pesticides. On completion of the pesticides foundation one of the following units will also be required
 - Boom Sprayer
 - Mounted, trailed or self-propelled equipment
 - Granular applicator equipment
 - Handheld application equipment
- Level 2 Rat Control for Gamekeepers certificate. The following are acceptable.
 - HGO Rodenticide training for gamekeepers
 - Lantra Awards Level 2 Award in Pest Management
 - Lantra Awards Rodent Control on Farms



Gateway Criteria

The Apprentice will be entered for EPA once the employer is satisfied that requirements of the Standards have been met and can be evidenced to an end-point assessment organisation and that the Apprentice is consistently working at or above the level set out in the standard:

- Apprentices must complete their portfolio prior to taking their end-point assessment.
- Level 1 English and Maths. For those with an education, health and care plan or a legacy statement, the apprentice's English and Maths minimum requirements is Entry Level 3. A British Sign Language (BSL) qualification is an alternative to the English qualification for those whose primary language is BSL Level 2 Award in Game Meat Hygiene
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 - Lantra Awards Level 2 Award in Pest Management
 - Lantra Awards Rodent Control on Farms
- Apprentices must have undertaken a minimum of 12 months of training before taking the end point assessment.

In addition the apprentice must have undertaken training in accordance with Health and Safety Executive requirements prior to gateway in addition to the mandatory qualifications.

- Apprentices must hold a valid certificate of competence in Chainsaw maintenance and cross cutting
- Completed ATV training and hold a valid certificate as evidence.
 - All terrain vehicle sit astride Or All Terrain vehicle – sit in skid steer Or All terrain vehicle – sit in conventional steer
- Training with assessment. - Safe use and handling – Rifles
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Gateway Declaration

The Lantra Awards Gateway Declaration form must be completed, signed and dated by the Employer, Apprentice and Training Provider and uploaded onto ACE360 as part of the EPA registration process prior to the EPA taking place.

End Point Assessment (EPA) – Demonstrating Learning

The End Point Assessment consists of 3 components in the sequence as follows:

Knowledge Test	The on-line knowledge assessment is a multiple-choice test consisting of 40 questions each with 4 response options. The assessment must be completed within 60 minutes under controlled conditions.
Practical Assessment	The Apprentice will be observed by an Independent End Point Assessor, completing a practical assessment consisting of 6 practical tasks to be completed in controlled conditions with responses to verbal knowledge questions posed by the Independent End Point Assessor. The practical assessment will be time bound and take no more than 3 hours 35 minutes.
Professional discussion underpinned by a portfolio	The Professional Discussion is a structured discussion between the Apprentice and the Independent End Point Assessor. The discussion will take approximately 90 minutes and will use the Apprentices Portfolio to covers the apprentice's achievements, the standard of their work and their approach on knowledge, skills and behaviours mapped to this assessment method.



Apprenticeship Certification

Certificates are issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency and sent directly to the Apprentice's employer.



How Lantra can help

- We are specialists in environmental and land-based industries
- We offer good value and cost-effective EPA
- Our assessors meet and exceed the requirements of the assessment plan
- We offer our service across the whole of England
- We use ACE360 - an apprenticeship standards management system - to manage EPA
- We are experts in the delivery of Apprenticeship Frameworks and National Occupational Standards
- With a 40-year history, delivering high quality, specialist support to the land-based industries is in our DNA.

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