



Purpose Statement

Name of regulated qualification	
QN: 603/1906/9	Title: Pearson BTEC Level 2 Technical Diploma in Countryside Studies

What is the countryside sector?

The countryside sector is often overlooked as a career. However, it has a wide range of progression and job opportunities. The sector employs approximately 73,000 people in the UK, with approximately 31,000 people employed in the game and wildlife industry. The number of people working in this area is expected to grow each year, and employment opportunities can be found in both urban and rural areas. The countryside sector also includes the game and wildlife industry, which involves management of upland, lowland, woodland and wetland game and wildlife species.

Who is this qualification for?

This qualification, which is 360 GLH, is for you if you want to start a career in the countryside sector. It is designed for post-16 students and can be taken as part of a wider study programme. It is an ideal qualification if you are intending to progress directly to employment within the countryside sector, or to a countryside apprenticeship.

What does the qualification cover?

This qualification has been developed in consultation with employers in the countryside sector to ensure that you learn the skills and behaviours that will give you the best opportunity to be successful when applying for work.

There are five mandatory units that relate directly to the skills, knowledge and behaviours expected by employers in the countryside sector. The areas you will cover include:

- health and safety
- an introduction to plant and soil science
- a countryside work placement
- maintaining habitats
- estate maintenance.

You will be able to add two optional units to the mandatory content, covering areas such as:

- country access and recreation
- an introduction to game management
- land-based machine operations.

You will also enhance your broader skills in literacy and numeracy, which will be invaluable in supporting progression in other areas. In addition, you will develop transferable technical and practical skills in communication (working with colleagues, customers and clients), and research and project work (providing you with an opportunity to demonstrate your reflective practice by suggesting alternative approaches to a problem).

What could this qualification lead to?

When studied as part of a full study programme, typically alongside maths or English, this qualification will give you an advantage when applying for a job in the countryside sector. The types of role you will be ready for are:

- assistant estate operative
- assistant reserve warden.

This qualification will also give you a sound basis to progress further within the countryside sector to a level 3 qualification such as a Pearson BTEC Level 3 National in Countryside Management.

Who supports this qualification?

This qualification is supported by the following professional body:

- The British Association for Shooting & Conservation (BASC).

Further information

Further information about the qualification can also be accessed at:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-technical/countryside-studies.html>