

Purpose Statement

Name of regulated qualification

QN: 603/2677/3

Title: Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Countryside Management

Overview

The countryside management sector

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

Who is this qualification for?

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Countryside Management**, which is 1080 GLH, is intended as a Tech Level qualification, equivalent in size to 3 A levels and, as such, is designed to meet the Tech Bacc measure, if you study it alongside level 3 mathematics and the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). Outside the Tech Bacc, it will normally be your only qualification in a two-year study programme, and is ideal for you if you are looking for a full-time course specialising in the countryside management sector, and if you have a firm intention of progressing to employment in one of the wide variety of roles available.

As well as direct entry to employment, this qualification will prepare you for higher study of a specialist degree or BTEC Higher National Diploma. This route gives you the opportunity to enter the sector at a higher level, or in a more specialist role.

No prior study of the sector is needed, but you should normally have a range of achievement at level 2, in GCSEs or equivalent qualifications, including English, mathematics and science.

What does the qualification cover?

The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with employers and professional bodies to ensure that it is appropriate for those interested in working in the sector.

In addition, higher education representatives have been involved to ensure that it fully supports entry to the relevant range of specialist degrees.

There are ten mandatory units, which cover the following aspects of countryside management:

- professional working responsibilities
- plant and soil science
- contemporary issues in the land-based sectors
- work experience in the land-based sectors
- countryside estate skills activities
- managing environmental habitats
- wildlife ecology and conservation management
- woodland management
- countryside recreation
- managing countryside visitor activities.

You will be able to add five optional units to the mandatory content. These have been designed to support your progression to a range of employment opportunities in countryside management, and to a range of higher education courses. Optional units will introduce you to a sector-specialist area of your choice, including working in particular environments, and link with relevant occupational areas. The optional units cover the following areas:

- planting and care of trees
- developing a land-based enterprise
- land-based machinery operations
- controlling countryside pests and predators
- gamekeeping
- managing a shoot
- controlling firearm safety in the land-based sectors
- water quality management
- management of deer in the UK
- tree felling and chainsaw safety
- freshwater and wetland management
- coastal management
- working dogs
- freshwater and wetland management
- applied ecological management
- ecological concepts
- physical and biological environmental processes.

While taking this qualification, you will be required to engage with sector employers as part of your course, including 300 hours of work experience with an employer in the sector, where you will be given opportunities to develop practical skills in preparation for employment.

What could this qualification lead to?

Will the qualification lead to employment, if so, in which job role and at what level?

This qualification will prepare you for direct employment in the countryside management sector, and is suitable if you wish to enter a particular specialist area of work, such as:

- ranger
- warden
- estate supervisor
- gamekeeper
- shoot manager
- assistant scientific officer
- assistant researcher
- countryside education officer.

Will the qualification lead to further learning?

There are many roles in this sector where recruitment is at graduate level. The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as meeting admission requirements to many relevant courses. This qualification could lead to degree courses, such as a:

- BSc (Hons) in Countryside and Environmental Management
- BSc (Hons) in Countryside Management
- BSc (Hons) in Landscape Management
- FdSc in British Wildlife Conservation.

You should always check the entry requirements for degree programmes at specific higher education providers.

Why choose this size of qualification?

If there are larger and/or smaller versions of this qualification, or it is available at different skills levels, why should you take this particular one?

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Countryside Management** is equivalent in size to 3 A levels, and is typically the sole qualification in a two-year full-time 16-19 study programme. It is ideal for you if you know that you want to work in the countryside management sector as it allows you to focus all of your study on the sector. The qualification does meet entry requirements for a range of higher education programmes and so you could take a sector-related degree before entering employment in the sector at a higher level.

It is intended that the suite also includes the following qualifications:

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Countryside Management**, which is equivalent in size to 1 A level. It is ideal for you if you are interested in learning about the countryside sector with supplementary fields of study. It will prepare you for an entry-level role, such as a trainee estate operative or a trainee reserve warden. If you take it alongside other level 3 qualifications, it may prepare you for a higher/degree apprenticeship, or, alternatively, it may enable you to progress to a sector-related degree before entering the countryside management sector at a higher level.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Countryside Management**, which is equivalent in size to 1.5 A levels. It is ideal for you if you are looking for a one-year course of full-time study, perhaps after taking further level 2 qualifications, and are intending to gain employment directly in roles such as an estate operative, fieldwork assistant or assistant warden, or to progress to an apprenticeship in countryside management.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Countryside Management**, which is equivalent in size to 2 A levels. Its size means there is time in a two-year full-time study programme to take an additional level 3 qualification, such as one of those listed above, to support progression to more specialist employment or to higher level study prior to entering employment in the countryside management sector.

For more detail about the other qualifications listed here, and the different progression opportunities they particularly support, please refer to their statements of purpose.

Who supports this qualification?

Professional body

The British Association for Shooting & Conservation (BASC)

Employer

Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF)

Further and Higher Education

Myerscough College

University of Central Lancashire

University of the West of England