
Overview

This standard is about analysing and reporting on the findings of field surveys, and is increasingly likely to involve electronic data analysis e.g. GIS.

For this standard, the surveys are likely to be of equivalent complexity to National Vegetation Classification, Phase Two Habitat Survey, British Trust for Ornithology Breeding Bird census, Monkswood Butterfly transects, Environment Agency.

This standard is for all environmental conservation staff who are closely involved with the analysis and interpretation of data from field survey work.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 ensure that your evaluation is appropriate to the objectives of the survey and meets operational requirements
- P2 interpret survey data using all available, relevant and current information
- P3 note any failure in the analysis to obtain useful results and inform the appropriate person promptly
- P4 justify your interpretation of survey data using rational argument and supporting evidence
- P5 seek feedback on survey interpretations prior to a final report being produced
- P6 produce a report, evaluating survey data and making appropriate recommendations
- P7 ensure that your report is accurate, complete and in a format that conforms to the survey specifications
- P8 ensure that your report contains the required supporting data in accordance with the survey specifications
- P9 ensure that your report presents information and conclusions in a manner which is accessible and of use to others
- P10 make the report available to the appropriate people within the required timescale
- P11 reply to requests for further clarification and explanation of the report clearly and accurately within the specified timescale
- P12 maintain confidentiality of information in accordance with the survey specifications

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 techniques for data evaluation and their application in different circumstances
- K2 awareness of the limitations of different data sources
- K3 awareness of the limitations of different interpretation and evaluation methods
- K4 actions to be taken in cases where useful survey results are not obtained
- K5 legal implications of the report findings
- K6 means of obtaining feedback on the interpretation of survey data
- K7 appropriate people to receive copies of the report
- K8 ways of reporting information clearly and in a manner appropriate to the intended user
- K9 how to present data to support the report
- K10 timescales within which reporting must take place and reasons for this
- K11 means of obtaining and handling feedback from the recipients of the report
- K12 awareness of the confidentiality and sensitivity of information

Scope/range

Sources of data:

- 1 primary
- 2 secondary

Types of data:

- 3 qualitative
- 4 quantitative

Glossary

Surveys may be of the following subjects: landscape features, flora and fauna, different habitat types, historical and archaeological features, and human impact on the environment. Survey techniques include counting, sampling and mapping.

For the purposes of this standard, the following definitions should be applied:

Survey: a one-off activity to collect data for a prescribed purpose e.g. baseline survey

Surveillance: a repeated survey building up a picture that can detect change but does not trigger action

Monitoring: repeated observations building up a picture that can detect change and trigger action.

Developed by Lantra

Version number 1

Date Approved March 2012

Indicative review date March 2017

Validity Current

Status Original

Originating organisation Lantra

Original URN LANEC23

Relevant occupations Ranger; Access Officer; Conservation Officer; Ecologist; Environmental Management Officer; Property Manager; Head of Environment

Suite Environmental Conservation

Keywords flora; fauna; sea; land; habitat; environment; sampling; mapping
