

Overview

This standard is designed for those whose work role is at a strategic level with overall responsibility for planning and management of land-based and environmental site surveys i.e. setting the parameters of surveys, determining effective methods and systems for data collection, allocating work to the survey team, monitoring the collection of data and evaluating this to produce and present the final outcome of the survey.

Sites may be assessed for a wide range of reasons such as for a new development, for amenity purposes, or for the preservation of historical areas to help plan landscape and marine conservation.

You will need technical knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to site surveys, particularly for determining the site characteristics and the related infrastructure.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 determine the information requirements for the assessment of the site together with the possible sources of information
- P2 undertake preliminary studies to identify the range of issues which need to be taken into consideration for the effective assessment of the site e.g. site designations
- P3 identify appropriate data collection methods which enable the required data to be obtained with minimum damage or disturbance to the site
- P4 develop suitable formats and systems for capturing data which allow it to be obtained validly and reliably and in a form which is capable of later analysis
- P5 develop appropriate data analysis methods which allow valid and reliable conclusions to be drawn
- P6 use plans and systems that allow for the most cost-effective use of resources
- P7 take the appropriate action to resolve problems relating to insufficient resources being available for the effective assessment of the site
- P8 develop a realistically achievable programme for the assessment of the site given the resources available and any time constraints
- P9 allocate resources in the best way to meet the outcomes
- P10 provide those responsible for data collection and analysis with all necessary details to enable them to complete their job successfully
- P11 monitor data collection and analysis at optimal frequencies to ensure that it is being done correctly and is producing valid and reliable outcomes
- P12 take the appropriate action where there are deviations from the plan
- P13 evaluate the outcomes of data collection and analysis to confirm they are valid and reliable and that sufficient information has been generated
- P14 present information about the site in a way which enables it to be used effectively

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the information requirements of the site survey in relation to site characteristics and infrastructure
- K2 the parameters of the particular site assessment, the resources available, time constraints and any restrictions there may be on access
- K3 the difference between primary and secondary sources of data and how the source may affect validity and reliability
- K4 the purpose of undertaking preliminary or feasibility studies
- K5 the various methods of data collection available and how to determine the best approach
- K6 how to ensure that data is sufficient, valid and reliable
- K7 potential sources of error and bias
- K8 how to design formats and systems for capturing information that can be used by those who are to implement them
- K9 the effective methods of preparing and briefing individuals for the assessment of sites
- K10 how to optimise the use of resources in assessing sites given the complexity of the task in hand, the resources available (including people, equipment and materials), the time of year and any other relevant factors
- K11 wildlife legislation, site designations and statutory obligations regarding the identification and protection of habitats
- K12 ethical and moral responsibilities for alerting the organisation to any decisions which adversely affect the outcome
- K13 the qualitative and quantitative ways of analysing data which will provide the information required
- K14 possible actions to take when there are problems with the collection and analysis of data
- K15 how to determine the optimal frequency for monitoring given the nature of the site and its complexity and the findings from the survey
- K16 effective methods of presenting information which meet the audience requirements and their use of the information

Scope/range

Sources:

- 1 primary
- 2 secondary

Sata:

- 3 quantitative
- 4 qualitative

Glossary

Preliminary studies:

- on site
- searches for available data/information about the site
- information on views, needs and priorities for development of the site

Site characteristics including legal, environmental, ecological, historic, social, cultural and aesthetic factors.

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Plan, co-ordinate and evaluate the assessment of land-based and environmental sites



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