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### Overview

This standard is about the skills you need to identify, arrange and oversee habitat management work. This involves identifying the need for work to be carried out and planning the necessary work. It also involves the selection and briefing of a suitable workforce and evaluating that habitat management work achieves its objectives. This evaluation includes checking that all aspects of the work specification have been adequately completed (i.e. evaluating the work on its completion) and monitoring the impact of the work over a longer period to determine its impact and effectiveness with regard to habitat condition. The length of time over which such monitoring and evaluation should take place will vary according to the habitat and type of work.

The standard is applicable to the management of all types of habitats and covers the full range of appropriate management techniques from the coppicing of native woodlands, through the management of grazing regimes to the cutting of reedbeds and the control of erosion. It also covers the management of habitats for a variety of reasons.

This unit contains the following elements:

1. Plan habitat management work
2. Co-ordinate and oversee habitat management work
3. Monitor the effectiveness of habitat management work

### Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

#### **Plan habitat management work**

- P1 identify the need for habitat management
- P2 identify the objectives of required management
- P3 recognise the environmental value of sites and take account of this in your planning
- P4 select appropriate habitat management methods to achieve management objectives
- P5 produce work plans and specifications for the identified work
- P6 carry out risk assessments and identify safe working procedures
- P7 seek agreement from all relevant interested parties
- P8 ensure that all necessary permissions are in place
- P9 identify the most appropriate workforce for the planned habitat management
- P10 identify and access the resources required to carry out the planned work
- P11 schedule management work
- P12 record your plans in a suitable format

*You must be able to:*

#### **Co-ordinate and oversee habitat management work**

- P13 make available the necessary **resources** to allow habitat management to be carried out in a safe and effective way
- P14 inform the appropriate person without delay where these **resources** are not available
- P15 select the most appropriate workforce for the planned management
- P16 **brief** those who will be carrying out the work
- P17 oversee **habitat management** as it is taking place
- P18 take required corrective actions without delay and inform the relevant people of any changes which may affect them
- P19 conduct communications with the work team and other interested parties in a way which promotes understanding and goodwill
- P20 make sure that records of work are complete, accurate and comply with organisational procedures

*You must be able to:*

#### **Monitor the effectiveness of habitat management work**

- P21 evaluate the success of habitat management work once the practical work has been completed
- P22 set in place systems to monitor the longer-term effectiveness of habitat
- P23 monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of habitat management in creating desired conditions over **appropriate** timescales
- P24 plan and implement additional work to rectify any problems or failures to achieve original management objectives
- P25 use the outcomes of your monitoring to **inform** the planning of future

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habitat management work

### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

#### **Plan habitat management work**

- K1 how to identify the need for habitat management
- K2 how to identify the objectives of required management
- K3 how to recognise the environmental value of sites
- K4 how the environmental value of sites affects the planning of work
- K5 how to assess risks and develop safe working procedures
- K6 how to produce work plans and specifications
- K7 how, and when, to seek agreement for your plans
- K8 the types of work and site where permissions are required
- K9 how to decide upon the suitability of potential workforces
- K10 how to identify and access resources
- K11 how to schedule management work
- K12 organisational requirements for plan format
- K13 how your planned work fits into local organisational objectives and UK biodiversity action plans

*You need to know and understand:*

#### **Co-ordinate and oversee habitat management work**

- K14 the required type and quantity of resources needed for management activities
- K15 appropriate action in the case of inadequate resources
- K16 relevant aspects of work specifications, and individual responsibilities
- K17 how to select a workforce which is appropriate for the planned work
- K18 how to brief workers
- K19 how to effectively oversee management work which is being carried out
- K20 how to identify and minimise the effect of disruptions; reasons for selecting corrective actions
- K21 how to establish and maintain systems to monitor work; how to identify improvements to work
- K22 methods of communication likely to promote understanding and goodwill
- K23 the importance of complete and accurate records which comply with organisational procedures

*You need to know and understand:*

#### **Monitor the effectiveness of habitat management work**

- K24 how to evaluate the success of habitat management work at completion of practical activities
- K25 the requirements of the original work plan and specification
- K26 the importance of longer-term monitoring to determine whether habitat management has been effective
- K27 how to determine the length of time over which monitoring should take place
- K28 when and how to plan additional work

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K29 how to use the outcomes of monitoring to improve future plans

### Additional Information

#### Scope/range

1. **Objectives:**
  - 1.1. to create or maintain suitable conditions for particular species
  - 1.2. to create or maintain a desired mix of habitats for access and recreation
  - 1.3. to conserve desirable physical or archaeological features
  - 1.4. to reduce the pressures of human activity on habitats
  - 1.5. to promote site safety
2. **Identify:**
  - 2.1. site monitoring
  - 2.2. management plan
  - 2.3. reports from others
3. **Environmental value:**
  - 3.1. ecological
  - 3.2. archaeological
  - 3.3. recreational
4. **Work plans and specifications:**
  - 4.1. schedule
  - 4.2. location
  - 4.3. methods and procedures
  - 4.4. physical resources
  - 4.5. human resources
  - 4.6. legal requirements
  - 4.7. standard of outcome required
5. **Schedule:**
  - 5.1. identified priorities
  - 5.2. effects of season and timing
6. **Resources:**
  - 6.1. natural
  - 6.2. physical
  - 6.3. human
  - 6.4. financial
7. **Brief:**
  - 7.1. work specification
  - 7.2. environmental value of the site and its implications for the

planned work

8. **Appropriate:**
  - 8.1. the habitat being managed
  - 8.2. the work which was carried out
  
9. **Inform:**
  - 9.1. your own planning of future work
  - 9.2. planning by other people

# LANCU88 - SQA Unit Code H519 04

## Manage habitats

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**Relevant occupations** Horticulture and forestry; Conservation Associate Professionals

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**Suite** Treework; Crofters and Smallholders

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