

LANCS70(SQA Unit Code-H723 04)

Identify and assess rural land use



Overview

This standard covers the identification and assessment of rural land uses and the issues relating to their management. It also covers how land uses in a given area interact and are managed to minimise conflict e.g. water catchment, agriculture, recreation etc.

The standard is suitable for those who need to identify and assess rural land use.

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Performance

criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 identify the physical factors that influence the distribution of rural land use
- P2 identify other key factors that influence rural land use
- P3 investigate past rural land management practices and their impact
- P4 identify key drivers that have shaped rural land use
- P5 review management changes to rural land use and their impact on the natural heritage
- P6 assess the impact of visitors
- P7 identify conflicts to rural land use
- P8 assess how different land uses interact and can be managed to minimise conflicts
- P9 identify opportunities for integrated land use
- P10 identify the role of government agencies and other key players in reducing land use conflicts
- P11 assess different measures that could be taken to further improve integrated land management

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the main physical factors influencing rural land use
- K2 how the main rural land uses are distributed as a result of the physical factors
- K3 other key factors influencing rural land use
- K4 the effects of past rural land management practices
- K5 key drivers that have shaped rural land use e.g. forestry, tourism
- K6 the management changes to rural land use and their effect on the natural heritage
- K7 issues that arise from high concentrations of visitors
- K8 the conflicts that exist between land uses, historically and currently
- K9 the role of key players in reducing rural land use conflicts i.e. private, public, voluntary and community bodies
- K10 how government agencies and policies can reduce rural land use conflicts
- K11 the measures that can be put into place to manage conflicts between land uses and the effectiveness of these
- K12 how to identify opportunities for integrated land use
- K13 the nature of designations and how these may influence rural land use

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Glossary

Rural land use could include: agriculture, forestry and woodlands, field sports, biodiversity and conservation, energy generation, aggregates, aquaculture, drinking water, recreation and infrastructure etc.

Examples of rural land uses changes could include: Agriculture and the increasing intensification it has had since World War II i.e. mechanisation and larger machines leading to larger fields and the loss of field margin habitat such as hedgerows, the increasing switch from spring sowing to autumn sowing, which has an impact on farmland birds and the removal of winter stubble for forage, greater use of herbicides and insecticides reducing biodiversity, and the drive to increase the area of productive land and its negative impact on biodiversity, for example, small copses were felled and wet corners and marshy areas drained; large-scale afforestation post World War I; landscape conservation designations e.g. National Parks.

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