

LANCS36 (SQA Unit Code - HA0D 04)

Carry out work to create or manage habitats



Overview

This standard covers the work required to create, restore or manage habitats. The work required will differ according to the nature of the habitat and the desired outcome of the work.

You are expected to carry out these activities following specifications based upon site management and other plans e.g. Biodiversity Action Plans. It is essential that you understand the basic ecology of the habitat you are working in and the effects that your work will have on it. Species identification skills are also important (covered in a separate standard) as are traditional habitat management skills.

The use of power tools and machinery and the application of chemicals must only be undertaken if you are appropriately trained in line with current legislation, and hold a relevant award where appropriate.

You must carry out your work in line with appropriate permissions and licences and at the correct time of year. Permissions and licences may relate to work on designated sites (Sites of Special Scientific Interest, nature reserves, conservation areas, etc.), to specific types of work (tree felling etc.) or to the presence of protected species within that site.

This standard is suitable for anyone who is involved in the creation, restoration or management of habitats.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 carry out all habitat work in accordance with instructions and specifications
- P2 ensure you have any necessary permissions, consents or licenses
- P3 select, prepare, use and maintain tools, equipment, machinery and any PPE required, in a clean and serviceable condition throughout the work
- P4 maintain the security of equipment, machinery and materials on site and ensure they are stored securely after use
- P5 carry out all work in accordance with relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and organisation policies
- P6 maintain suitable levels of bio-security throughout the work
- P7 keep the site clear of any unnecessary obstacles and waste material
- P8 carry out work in a manner that causes minimal disturbance to the site and surrounding area
- P9 carry out your work in accordance with relevant local, national and European legislation, guidance and codes of practice
- P10 carry out site assessment and prepare the site for the required habitat work
- P11 use the correct techniques to create, restore or maintain the habitat in accordance with specifications
- P12 where appropriate, select vegetation in accordance with work plans and specifications and any prevailing constraints
- P13 deal with waste safely and correctly in accordance with relevant legislation and organisational requirements
- P14 where accidental damage to the habitat occurs take appropriate action
- P15 report and record progress as required

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the aims and objectives of the habitat creation, restoration or management plan
- K2 how to interpret work plans and specifications
- K3 types of tools, equipment, machinery and materials required for the work, how to prepare, use and store these safely and effectively, and why this is important
- K4 how to identify hazards and assess risks
- K5 your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and organisation policies
- K6 the importance of maintaining bio-security and the methods for achieving this
- K7 why and how habitats need to be created, restored or managed for different outcomes
- K8 the effect that site and environmental conditions will have on the growth of vegetation, habitat quality and landscape value
- K9 the most appropriate time to carry out the work to maximise the benefits to the habitat and minimise environmental damage
- K10 the environmental value (in terms of biodiversity, public access, historic and landscape value) of work sites, the potential effects of your work on the environment and how to control these
- K11 the effect that the positioning, mix and density of vegetation establishment will have on the habitat and landscape quality
- K12 ways of encouraging natural regeneration
- K13 the potential causes of damage to vegetation and the ways in which vegetation can be protected
- K14 habitat creation and management techniques, including traditional methods, and how to carry them out
- K15 how your work fits into local Biodiversity Action and other plans
- K16 the implications of the legislation that affects your work, including any constraints e.g. public rights of way
- K17 when permissions or licences are required
- K18 the limits of your responsibility and expertise, and where to seek advice
- K19 relevant legal and organisational requirements for the handling, transport, storage and disposal of waste and excess material

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K20 the requirements for reporting and recording progress

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Glossary

Habitats may be in terrestrial, freshwater, coastal or marine environments.

Habitat creation, restoration or management work could include:

- opening up of woodland canopy or coppicing to promote woodland flora and tree regeneration
- management to encourage the development of food plants for specific insects
- improving numbers and diversity of native species through re-introductions
- control of invasive, non-native plant and animal species
- manipulation of water levels
- erosion control
- scrub control in reed beds, grasslands or heathlands
- site amelioration and habitat creation in urban or post-industrial sites
- management of marine habitats improving marsh, wetland, seagrass or riparian communities through re-vegetation and natural re-contouring of landscapes
- improving shellfish beds through seeding juvenile shellfish, creating adult spawner sanctuaries, introducing appropriate substrates etc.
- working with coastal and marine authorities to develop ecologically compatible dredging, shoreline protection and recreational activities
- use of grazing animals to manipulate vegetation
- management of wild animals

Site and environmental conditions:

- climate
- time of year
- weather
- soil
- water
- drainage
- slopes and levels
- use of containers/planters

Protection from:

- unwanted competing growth
- prevailing environmental conditions
- humans
- animals

Instructions: may be verbal or written

Specifications: work plans; drawings; schedules; method statements; Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs); manufacturers' guidelines; good

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practice guidelines; customer requirements

Links To Other NOS

LANEnC33 Apply species identification skills

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