

Overview

This standard describes the gathering and analysis of data for a land-based or marine survey of a site. It assumes that you are working within a survey design and plan developed by someone else.

To meet the standard you will require technical knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to collecting and analysing data on characteristics of land-based sites and the associated infrastructure which supports such sites. You are also expected to know how to minimise any damage to the site caused by the survey itself.

Performance criteria

Gather data on the characteristics of sites

You must be able to:

- P1 ascertain the information which the site assessment aims to produce
- P2 identify your own roles and responsibilities in the assessment process and your relationship to others
- P3 collect data using methods which are consistent with the specifications and are appropriate to the identified sources
- P4 carry out data collection methods correctly
- P5 carry out data collection methods and associated activities in a way which minimises any damage to the site
- P6 confirm that the data gathered is valid and reliable
- P7 for problems which are outside your area of responsibility or expertise seek advice from the appropriate person
- P8 maintain the health and safety of yourself and others at all times

Analyse data to produce information on the characteristics of sites

You must be able to:

- P9 confirm that there is sufficient data prior to the start of the analysis
- P10 identify appropriate analysis methods to be used
- P11 analyse and record data in a format which is appropriate to the nature of the data and the particular needs of the site assessment
- P12 provide valid and justifiable interpretations about the nature of the site against the analysed data
- P13 where the analysis of data reveals problems with its sufficiency, reliability or validity, take the appropriate action
- 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:

Gather data on the characteristics of sites

- K1 the information which the assessment aims to produce in relation to site characteristics and the related infrastructure
- K2 the nature and characteristics of the flora, fauna, landscape and historical features which may occur on the site in order to identify them correctly and recognise signs of change
- K3 the impact of recreation and access
- K4 how to confirm your own roles and responsibilities and those of others
- K5 different collection methods (written, oral, aural, electronic, visual) which are available for assessing the characteristics of sites and the principles of their use
- K6 why different methods are used on different occasions and different sites and why they should be implemented as specified
- K7 how to implement the methods being used on the site
- K8 the techniques of counting and estimating
- K9 the meaning of valid and reliable data
- K10 how to evaluate the validity and reliability of data
- K11 suitable methods of recording the data being collected
- K12 the sources of error and bias in data collection
- K13 the limits of your responsibility and expertise and when to seek advice from others
- K14 the ways in which site assessments may alter and affect the nature of the site itself and how to minimise this

Analyse data to produce information on the characteristics of sites

You need to know and understand:

- K15 how to estimate the sufficiency of data
- K16 the different quantitative and qualitative analysis methods which may be used for the information which is required and their relative advantages and disadvantages
- K17 how to use data analysis methods which have been presented for the site
- K18 the formats for presenting the analysed data and how to use them effectively
- K19 the meaning of valid, reliable and sufficient quantitative and qualitative information
- K20 how to interpret the information provided from the site validly and with good justification
- K21 the actions to take when there are problems with sufficiency, validity and reliability

Knowledge and understanding

K22 who will make use of the information, and their needs and interests in terms of its presentation

K23 methods of presenting information

Scope/range

Data:

- 1 quantitative
- 2 qualitative

Sources of data:

- 3 primary
- 4 secondary

Glossary

site characteristics: including legal, environmental, ecological, historic, social, cultural and aesthetic factors

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Assess the characteristics of land-based and environmental sites



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