

Carry out site surveys and communicate your findings

Overview

This standard is about carrying out site surveys and communicating your findings. Survey methods may include counting, sampling and mapping.

Depending on the nature of the site and the planned establishment work, surveys may include plants, animals, people, physical features, habitat types, soils and growing conditions

You will work to a specification against which you would carry out the survey. You are expected to have an understanding of different survey methods. In most surveys you will be expected to use both primary and secondary sources of data.

This standard is also about communicating the findings of surveys that you have carried out.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. assess the risks associated with the site and the proposed work
2. clarify your role and responsibilities in the survey activity
3. select and use the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for the work
4. select and use suitable survey techniques in accordance with the survey specification
5. collect data that meets the requirements of the survey specification
6. ensure that the effects of your work and access do not adversely affect the environment
7. keep accurate and complete records of data collected
8. present your findings in an appropriate manner, which contains the necessary supporting data
9. communicate your findings within the required timescale and in accordance with requirements
10. respond to requests for further clarification and explanation of information in an appropriate manner
11. maintain the health and safety of yourself and others at all times, in accordance with relevant legislation

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. how to identify hazards and comply with the control measures of risk assessments
2. the selection, use and care of personal protective equipment (PPE)
3. your role and responsibilities in relation to survey activity
4. the range of survey techniques available, their advantages and disadvantages and principles of use
5. the range of data collected and its significance, including types and sources
6. the actions to take if there is difficulty in obtaining data
7. the methods of collecting primary and secondary data
8. the difference between quantitative and qualitative information and how to collect this data
9. the ways of presenting information clearly and in a manner appropriate to the purpose of the information and the intended user
10. suitable methods of communication
11. the importance of evaluating the actions taken when dealing with difficulties in carrying out site surveys and presenting the data
12. the potential effects of your work on the environment and how to control these effects
13. your responsibilities under current relevant health and safety and other relevant legislation

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Scope/range related to performance criteria Collect quantitative and qualitative data

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Scope/range related to knowledge and understanding

Survey techniques could include:

- mapping
- use of Graphic Information System (GIS) equipment and software
- quadrat
- trapping/counting
- pH tests
- ecological survey



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Glossary

particular species (woody or non-woody); encroachment of undesired species; the effects of excluding grazing animals from a particular area

surveys of animals: grazing pressure, presence of potential pest species

surveys of people: visitor pressure, current site use

surveys of physical features: status of boundary hedges, walls or fences; erosion problems

surveys of habitat types

surveys of soil and growing conditions: soil type and condition; site drainage; prevailing environmental conditions

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Surveys may include:

surveys of plants:

the presence or abundance of a

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