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## Overview

This standard covers producing, implementing and monitoring a farm environmental management plan, to comply with directives and management frameworks in the natural environment.

The standard is applicable to the management of all types of activities, both on the farm and in the wider environment.

The standard adopts the premise that good environmental management is fully integrated into the overall management practices of the farm and is ongoing. It aims to exploit the natural balance between commercial and environmental management.

This standard is suitable for those with responsibility for farm management.

## Performance criteria

### *You must be able to:*

1. identify environmental designations and directives that relate to the farm, and incorporate their requirements into the farm environmental management planning process
2. maximise the benefits of designations to the farm in terms of the agri-environmental mix
3. research relevant environmental grant schemes to make optimum use of the funding and support available, including schemes relating to status such as organic, integrated management etc. and their potential application and benefit
4. evaluate the development of new technologies and ideas and make decisions as to their use and appropriateness to the farm environmental management plan
5. obtain an environmental audit for the farm, including an environmental impact assessment where required, to show the current environmental value of the land and its potential to deliver additional environmental benefits
6. confirm the audit identifies environmental features and includes data/maps that show the details of the features including location and current condition
7. seek specialist advice where required
8. using the farm audit, produce a farm environmental management plan covering the action required for each of the identified features and any opportunities for the creation of new features
9. confirm that the plan demonstrates a good balance between farming and environmental conservation and incorporates a whole-farm approach
10. identify the priorities of the plan and potential timescales
11. select appropriate management methods to achieve the planned objectives
12. produce work plans and specifications for the implementation of the farm environmental management plan
13. obtain permission to carry out the work from the relevant authority, where appropriate
14. identify and confirm availability of the resources required to implement the farm environmental management plan
15. communicate the plan to those involved with the implementation and other interested parties
16. manage the implementation of the farm environmental

management plan and be prepared for inspection and audit by external organisations

17. establish measures to maintain the required levels of hygiene and bio-security and confirm that they have been implemented
18. establish measures for the recycling or disposal of waste and by-products in accordance with relevant legal and organisational requirements and confirm that they have been implemented
19. confirm that working methods maintain health and safety and are consistent with relevant legislation, codes of practice and organisational requirements
20. confirm that those involved in carrying out the environmental management work are using appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
21. monitor and evaluate the implementation of the farm environmental management plan and use this data and information to review the plan and inform future environmental management work
22. confirm that records are maintained and stored as required by relevant legislation, codes of practice, quality assurance requirements and organisational policies

## Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

1. how to obtain an environmental farm audit and what features need to be recorded
2. how to recognise the environmental value of sites and how this may affect planning work
3. the requirements and potential benefits of relevant designations, directives, schemes and programmes
4. the types of work and sites where permission is required
5. how to produce a well-planned and integrated farm environmental management plan including objectives and timescales
6. how to determine the management activity required for each of the identified features which could be maintain, restore, recreate or create
7. how to assess the carbon footprint of the farm and ensure the farm environmental management plan aims to reduce the contribution to carbon emissions wherever possible
8. how the farm environmental management plan meets the farm environmental objectives, local and national biodiversity action plans and/or agri-environmental schemes
9. the sources of information and specialist advice on farm environmental management
10. how to produce efficient work plans and specifications that deliver the required standards for farm environmental management
11. how to determine the human, financial, material and capital resources necessary to achieve the farm environmental management plan
12. the need for, and the process of, contingency planning
13. the methods of communicating plans and specifications with contractors, work teams and other interested parties
14. how to effectively oversee the implementation of the farm environmental management plan
15. the methods of maintaining hygiene and bio-security and the reasons why this is important
16. the relevant legal and organisational requirements for the handling, transport, storage, recycling and disposal of waste and by-products
17. your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and organisational

requirements

18. the importance of confirming that the correct personal protective equipment (PPE) is used when carrying out environmental management activities
19. how to monitor and evaluate the success of the farm environmental management plan and how to determine the length of time over which monitoring should take place
20. how to use the outcomes of monitoring to improve future planning
21. the requirements for reporting and recording and the length of time for which records should be retained
22. the requirements for inspection and audit by external organisations

## Glossary

### Designations and directives could include:

- National Park
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs),
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
- World Heritage Site (WHS)
- Archaeological site
- National Trust
- Nitrogen Vulnerable Zone (NVZ)
- Drinking Water Safeguard Zones
- Scheduled Monuments (SMs)
- Listed Buildings (LBs)
- Registered Parks and Gardens (RPGs)
- Registered Battlefields (RBs)
- Sites identified on the Historic Environment Record (HER).

### Features could include:

- Wildlife species
- Habitats
- Historic structures
- Stone walls
- Ancient trees
- Hedgerows
- Birds
- Landscape
- Vulnerable soils
- Water sources
- Traditional orchards
- Natural resource protection
- Public access

LANAgM8

Produce, implement and monitor a farm environmental management plan



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**Suite** Agricultural Management

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