

LANCS37

Plan and oversee work to create or manage habitats



Overview

This standard covers planning and overseeing the work required to create, restore or manage habitats. This involves identifying the need for work and developing and overseeing plans for the work to be carried out. This includes the selection and briefing of a suitable workforce and monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the work in meeting the objectives.

The standard is applicable to all types of habitats and covers the full range of appropriate creation, enhancement and management techniques. This could include, for example, tree planting, sowing wildflower meadows, pond creation, coppicing of native woodlands, management of grazing regimes, cutting of reed beds, the control of erosion and the establishment of artificial reefs.

You must ensure work is carried out 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 planning and overseeing habitat creation, restoration or management work.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 identify and interpret relevant information to help plan habitat creation, restoration or management work
- P2 confirm the purpose, scope and objectives of the habitat creation, restoration or management work
- P3 recognise the environmental value of the site and take account of this in your planning
- P4 identify the most appropriate time for the work to be carried out and take account of this in your planning
- P5 identify any relevant site restrictions or designations in place and obtain any necessary permissions, consents or licenses
- P6 communicate with relevant interested parties regarding the planned work
- P7 select appropriate habitat creation, restoration or management methods and identify the resources required to achieve the objectives
- P8 ensure a risk assessment is carried out and procedures are in place to protect the health and safety of those undertaking the work and other users of the site
- P9 ensure appropriate measures are in place to protect the bio-security of the site
- P10 establish measures for the recycling or disposal of waste and superfluous materials in accordance with relevant legal and other requirements
- P11 determine the best methods of transporting equipment, materials and workforce to and from site
- P12 develop work plans and specifications for the work in a suitable format
- P13 brief those carrying out the work and provide all necessary details to enable them to complete their job
- P14 oversee habitat work as it is taking place to ensure it is completed in accordance with work plans and specifications
- P15 take appropriate action where there are changes to the plan
- P16 maintain effective communications with those involved in the work
- P17 ensure appropriate records are maintained and stored as required by relevant legislation and the organisation
- P18 ensure all work is carried out in accordance with relevant local, national and European legislation, guidance and codes of practice
- P19 monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of habitat work in creating desired conditions over appropriate timescales

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 different sources of information when confirming the purpose, scope and objectives of habitat creation, restoration or management work and preparing plans
- K2 how your planned work fits into local/organisational objectives, site management plans, Biodiversity Action and other plans
- K3 how to recognise the environmental value of sites and how this affects the planning of work
- K4 the factors to consider when planning the the work to be carried out
- K5 the implications of relevant site restrictions or designations that are in place
- K6 the circumstances where permissions or licences are required and how to go about obtaining these
- K7 the importance of communicating with interested parties and the methods of communication that are likely to promote understanding and positive relationships
- K8 how to identify hazards, assess risks, and develop safe working methods
- K9 the importance of bio-security and appropriate bio-security measures for the site
- K10 relevant legal and organisational requirements for the handling, transport, storage and disposal of waste
- K11 the principles of habitat creation, restoration and management work
- K12 how to determine the resources required to carry out the work and how to ensure they are available where and when required
- K13 the importance of producing work plans and specifications and how to do this
- K14 the importance of overseeing habitat work that is being carried out and possible actions to take where there are problems with the implementation of the plan
- K15 the importance of briefing the workforce and how to do this
- K16 relevant local, national and European legislation, guidance and codes of practice
- K17 the importance of maintaining complete and accurate records as required by relevant legislation and the organisation
- K18 the importance of longer-term monitoring to determine whether habitat work has been effective in achieving the desired outcome and the

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appropriate methods for doing this

- K19 how to use the outcomes of monitoring to help plan future habitat work
- K20 the importance of sharing information and experiences with others to help them plan and oversee habitat creation, restoration or management

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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
- 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

Information could include:

- site monitoring
- reports from others
- data collection
- site management plan
- bio-diversity action plan

Objectives could include:

- to create or maintain suitable conditions for particular species
- to create or maintain a desired mix of habitats for bio-diversity, access and recreation
- to conserve desirable physical or archaeological features
- to reduce the pressures of human activity on habitats
- to promote site safety

Environmental value:

- ecological
- landscape
- historical
- recreational

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- cultural

Work plans and specifications could include:

- schedule
- methods and procedures
- legal requirements
- standard of outcome required

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