

### Overview

This standard covers providing environmental advice on proposed developments. It involves the need to provide legally compliant advice within a statutory framework (legislation, policy or regulations, including local bylaws) to allow others to make decisions about how best to consider the needs of the environment. The advice is given to others in order to help them make an informed and considered judgement or decision. Your advice may or may not be accepted or acted upon, or it can form the basis of any licence application subsequent to the approval being given.

This standard is likely to be of relevance to staff dealing with development proposals and applications, including Statutory Agency and Local Authority Staff, Access Officers, Ecologists, Geologists and Archaeologists, other Environmental Specialists (including Consultants and Environmental Policy Officers) and others who need to provide legislative advice connected with their area of work who then give advice to developers, planners, grant makers and colleagues.

### Performance criteria

#### You must be able to:

- P1 research and identify environmental issues associated with the proposed development
- P2 identify any gaps in information and documentation provided and seek clarification and further information on the environmental issues concerned
- P3 where required carry out site visits
- P4 assess the risks associated with the site and the proposed works
- P5 prepare legally compliant advice to allow others to make decisions in accordance with relevant strategy, policy, legal requirements, codes of practice and funding requirements
- P6 present your recommendations to the audience in the format required

### Knowledge and understanding

#### You need to know and understand:

- K1 how to research and interpret information and documentation to advise on environmental issues
- K2 the relevant advice for different circumstances
- K3 relevant legal requirements, codes of practice, strategy and policy, funding rules for different circumstances and implications of not adhering to them
- K4 when sufficient environmental information has been obtained for different circumstances
- K5 how to advise on and monitor compliance in a correct and timely manor
- K6 permissible default actions for different circumstances and reasons for choice, where appropriate
- K7 how to identify hazards and assess risks
- K8 appropriate support in circumstances involving aggression or abuse
- K9 the ecological, access and other technical requirements of environmental issues being impacted upon by the proposed development

### Glossary

#### Developments:

- planning applications
- environmental projects
- environmental policies
- environmental strategies
- licence applications
- grant applications
- environmental legislation

#### Environmental issues:

- archaeological and historical sites
- protected landscapes
- landscapes and registered parks and gardens
- public Rights of Way, Open Access and other recreational access (e.g. permissive)
- biodiversity, habitats and species (including protected and non-native species)
- listed buildings
- grant-funded environmental agreements
- land use
- soils and geology

#### Information and documentation:

- planning documentation
- environmental statement
- environmental impact assessment
- maps (including information stored electronically on Geographical Information Systems (GIS))
- architects' plans
- correspondence
- grant applications
- environmental survey data
- historical survey data
- landscape survey data
- soil and geological survey data

#### Audiences:

- local authority planners
- funding advisors
- colleagues
- organised/community groups
- individual members of the general public
- people with special interests in the development

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- landowners
  - the developer
  - consultants, agents and other specialists asked to help make or assess an application
  - planning inquiries
  - judicial reviews

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