

Overview

This standard is about identifying species in terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments. It can be applied to both flora and fauna (including protected, non-native and noxious species) and across a wide range of industries. Species identification is important to the conservation of biodiversity and to economic production. The standard complements those for surveys (including EnC3 and EnC4).

You are expected to work in a safe and effective way, recognising when advice or further information is required, and also to seek appropriate permissions, consents or licences for both access and species work

The standard is for a wide range of staff, including rangers, gamekeepers, ecologists, landscapers, grounds maintenance, construction workers, farmers, growers, and professional advisers.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 clarify the purpose and requirements of the site inspection
- P2 prepare the equipment and resources required for the identification of various species
- P3 ensure you have access to relevant sources of information to aid identification
- P4 clarify any relevant site restrictions or designations in place
- P5 identify and obtain any necessary permissions, consents and licences
- P6 establish the current or previous use of the site to help indicate likely species to be found
- P7 identify habitat types to help indicate likely species to be found
- P8 identify indicator species, tracks, trails or signs
- P9 record details to support species identification e.g. photograph, notes, measurements
- P10 use appropriate sources of information to identify and name species
- P11 recognise the limits of your own authority and expertise and seek advice or confirmation where necessary
- P12 carry out activities in a manner which causes minimal disturbance to the surrounding environment
- P13 follow protocols, codes of conduct and legislation relevant to the collection of wildlife data
- P14 follow appropriate health and safety procedures when carrying out a site inspection

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the purpose and requirements of the site inspection
- K2 the equipment and resources required for species identification
- K3 the possible sources of information which can be used to aid identification and how to use them
- K4 the implications of relevant site restrictions or designations in place
- K5 how to obtain any relevant permissions, consents or licenses
- K6 the species likely to be found in different types of habitat, their tracks, trails and signs
- K7 how to record appropriate details to support species identification
- K8 the limits of your own authority and expertise and alternative sources of advice
- K9 the potential impact of your activities on the environment and how to minimise this
- K10 protocols, codes of conduct and legislation relevant to the collection of wildlife data
- K11 legislation and restrictions which apply to surveying and recording data
- K12 your responsibilities under current environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and company policies

Glossary

various species:

- plants (including lower order plants and trees)
- insects
- reptiles and amphibians
- fish (marine, freshwater and molluscs)
- birds
- mammals
- protected species
- non-native species
- noxious weeds

Tracks, Trails and Signs

- Tracks, trails and signs are commonly used to help identify or confirm the presence of animals, particularly mammals, in the absence of physical sightings. They include footprints, runs, habitat disturbance, shelter (e.g. burrow), dead animals (including prey), sounds, smells, droppings, and skeletal remains and their sources (e.g. owl pellets)

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