Plan, co-ordinate and evaluate the characteristics of sites



### **Overview**

This unit describes the planning and management of land-based site surveys, i.e. setting the parameters of surveys, determining effective methods and systems for data collection, allocating work to the survey team, monitoring the collection of data and evaluating this to produce and present the final outcome of the survey.

#### The elements are:

- 1. Develop systems and methods for assessing the characteristics of sites
- 2. Co-ordinate and evaluate the collection and analysis of data on the characteristics of sites

To achieve the standards specified in this unit, individuals require technical knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to land-based site surveys particularly for determining the physical, ecological, social, cultural and aesthetic characteristics and the related infrastructure.

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# Performance criteria

#### You must be able to:

### Develop systems and methods for assessing the characteristics of sites

- P1 correctly determine the **information requirements** for the assessment of the site together with the possible **sources of information**
- P2 undertake **preliminary studies** to identify the range of issues which need to be taken into consideration for the effective assessment of the site
- P3 identify appropriate **data collection methods** which enable the required data to be obtained with minimum damage to the site
- P4 develop suitable formats and systems for capturing data which allow it to be obtained validly and reliably and in a form which is capable of later analysis
- P5 develop appropriate **data analysis methods** which allow valid and reliable conclusions to be drawn
- P6 use plans and systems allow for the most cost effective use of resources
- P7 take the **appropriate action** to resolve problems relating to insufficient resources being available for the effective assessment of the site

### You must be able to:

# Co-ordinate and evaluate the collection and analysis of data on the characteristics of sites

- P8 develop a realistically achievable programme for the assessment of the site given the **resources** available and any time constraints
- P9 allocate **resources** in the best way to meet the outcomes
- P10 provide those responsible for data collection and analysis with full necessary details to enable them to complete their job successfully
- P11 **monitor** data collection and analysis at optimal frequencies to ensure that it is being done correctly and is producing valid and reliable outcomes
- P12 take the **appropriate action** where there are deviations from plan
- P13 evaluate the outcomes of data collection and analysis to confirm they are valid and reliable and that sufficient **information** has been generated
- P14 present **information** about the site in a **way** which enables it to be used effectively

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# Knowledge and understanding

## You need to know and understand:

### Develop systems and methods for assessing the characteristics of sites

- K1 the information requirements of the site in relation to its physical, ecological, social, cultural and aesthetic characteristics
- K2 sources of information and any restrictions there may be on access
- K3 the difference between primary and secondary sources of data and how the source may affect validity and reliability
- K4 the purpose of undertaking preliminary or feasibility studies
- K5 the various of data collection methods available and how to determine the best approach
- K6 the resources available for the site assessment (including human, financial, equipment and materials)
- K7 what is meant by valid and reliable data collection methods
- K8 the particular validity and reliability issues related to each of written, oral, electronic, visual and aural means of obtaining data
- K9 potential sources of error and bias
- K10 how to design formats and systems for capturing information that can be used by those who are to implement them
- K11 the qualitative and quantitative ways of analysing data to provide the information required
- K12 the reasons for considering analysis methods before starting data collection
- K13 ethical and moral responsibilities for alerting the organisation to any decisions which adversely affect the outcome

## You need to know and understand:

# Co-ordinate and evaluate the collection and analysis of data on the characteristics of sites

- K14 the parameters of the particular site assessment, the resources available and any time constraints
- K15 how to optimise the use of resources in assessing sites given the complexity of the task in hand, the resources at one's disposal, the time of year and any other relevant factors
- K16 the effective methods of preparing and briefing individuals for the assessment of sites
- K17 how to determine the optimal frequency for monitoring given the nature of the site, its complexity and the resources being used
- K18 the effective methods of evaluating the validity and reliability of the outcomes
- K19 how to determine what action may be appropriate in each case of deviation (e.g. when deviations show there are problems with the data collection tools)
- K20 how to assess that sufficient information has been generated given the

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- original brief, the nature of the site and its characteristics
- K21 the effective methods of presenting information in written, diagrammatic, graphic and pictorial, and audio form
- K22 the methods of checking out with one's audience their requirements and their use of the information

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### **Additional Information**

Scope/range related to performance criteria

### Develop systems and methods for assessing the characteristics of sites

- 1. determine the following information requirements:
  - 1.1. physical
  - 1.2. ecological
  - 1.3. social, cultural and aesthetic
  - 1.4. infrastructure
- 2. determine the following **sources of information**:
  - 2.1. primary
  - 2.2. secondary
- 3. undertake the following **preliminary studies**:
  - 3.1. on site
  - 3.2. searches for available data/information about the site
  - 3.3. information on views, needs and priorities for development of the site
- 4. identify three of the following data collection methods:
  - 4.1. written
  - 4.2. oral
  - 4.3. electronic
  - 4.4. visual
  - 4.5. aural
- 5. develop and use the following data analysis methods:
  - 5.1. quantitative
  - 5.2. qualitative
- 6. resolve problems by taking the following **appropriate action**:
  - 6.1. alter/develop the resources available
  - 6.2. negotiating further resourcing
  - 6.3. inform others of the issues
  - 6.4. halt work

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- 7. allocate the following **resources**:
  - 7.1. human
  - 7.2. equipment and materials
  - 7.3. financial

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- 8. **monitor**:
  - 8.1. quantitative data and analysis
  - 8.2. qualitative data and analysis
- 9. take the following **appropriate action** if there are deviations from the plan:
  - 9.1. intervene to remedy faults in relation to the collection and analysis of data
  - 9.2. alterations to data collection and analysis methods
  - 9.3. change resource use
- 10. check that the following information has been generated:
  - 10.1. physical
  - 10.2. ecological
  - 10.3. social, cultural and aesthetic
  - 10.4. infrastructure
- 11. present information in three of the following ways:
  - 11.1. written
  - 11.2. diagrammatic
  - 11.3. graphical and pictorial
  - 11.4. audio

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