

Design and plan a forest or woodland

Overview

This standard is about designing and planning a forest or woodland. This may be by revising or revisiting existing plans, creating a new forest or woodland area or designing part of a community development project.

The standard covers the skills and knowledge related to designing and planning the establishment of trees on a given piece of land.

This includes the related aspects of establishing forest or woodland taking account of geographical, financial, legal and practical requirements and constraints.

Your work must conform to all relevant legislation and codes of practice when carrying out this work.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. assess the risks associated with the site and the proposed work
2. clarify the purpose, scope and objectives of the forest or woodland development
3. collect and collate site data
4. interpret maps and analyse site data
5. assess the environmental impact of the proposed forest or woodland development
6. assess the physical suitability of the site
7. develop a design for the forest or woodland based on management objectives and site information
8. review the design to take account of relevant legal considerations, public access, financial constraints and the sustainable use of the site and future management implications
9. communicate the design to the landowner and agree any amendments required
10. develop a plan of the activities required to implement the design
11. maintain the health and safety of yourself and others at all times, in accordance with relevant legislation

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. how to identify hazards and assess risks
2. how to interpret risk assessments
3. the purpose, scope and objectives of the forest or woodland development
4. how to source planning information relating to forest or woodland design
5. how to identify and consult with stakeholders outside of your organisation
6. how to interpret maps and use Global Information System (GIS) to aid planning
7. the principles of landscape design in a forest or woodland context
8. the elements of sympathetic forest or woodland design within a historic landscape
9. the impact of planting the forest or woodland on the existing ecology and surrounding land
10. the current system of statutory designations including biodiversity, landscape and heritage designations and how they impact on forest or woodland design planning
11. the costs relating to establishment of the forest or woodland
12. the sources of information regarding grants and other financial incentives
13. public access considerations
14. how to determine site features that may affect management choices when designing and planning a forest or woodland
15. how to assess the environmental impact of the proposed forest or woodland
16. how to encourage the sustainability of the site
17. the methods of presenting and communicating designs
18. how to negotiate and obtain agreement for the design and the processes involved
19. how to develop plans and schedules to implement designs
20. your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation and codes of practice

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Scope/range related to knowledge and understanding

Site features:

- lowland site
- upland site
- industrial site
- ancient forest or woodland site
- agricultural site
- urban site

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