

Develop a habitat management plan

Overview

This standard outlines the competencies required by individuals who are responsible for developing a habitat management plan for a wildlife management area. It has been developed so that it can be applied to a variety of situations.

This standard is aimed at those who work in game and wildlife conservation and who are responsible for determining the habitat characteristics for a wildlife management area, and establishing habitat management objectives.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. establish and implement procedures to support the accurate collection and analysis of habitat data and management information to support the development of a habitat management plan
2. seek specialist advice when required
3. analyse habitat data and management information to establish a baseline and determine measurable aims and objectives for habitat management, including plant species and their distribution, geography and topography of the area, interactions with wildlife, areas of damage and concern
4. establish priorities for habitat management
5. determine the resource requirements necessary to support the successful implementation of the habitat management plan
6. assess the significance of the influences that may affect the management of habitat
7. establish a range of interventions that may be used to confirm that the objectives of the habitat management plan have been achieved
8. determine working methods that maintain health and safety and are consistent with relevant legislation and codes of practice
9. establish the procedures required to measure the influence of the habitat management plan
10. confirm that the habitat management plan takes account of other wildlife management area activities, land designations and complies with relevant legislation, national policies, codes of practice, sector guidance and organisational requirements
11. consider the opinions of others, including those involved with or affected by the habitat management plan, as part of the overall development of the plan
12. communicate the requirements of the habitat management plan to those involved in its implementation

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. the value of a habitat management plan
2. the relationship between the habitat management plan and the overall objectives of the wildlife management area
3. data collection and analysis techniques including the use and interpretation of maps and other graphical data, published material, records and habitat impact assessments
4. the types of habitat damage and damage assessment techniques
5. where to obtain specialist advice
6. the process of developing a habitat management plan including establishing measurable aims and objectives covering the short- (1 – 2 months), medium- (12 months) and long-term (5 years)
7. resource planning and utilisation, for example of people, equipment, finance
8. the known influences that impact on the management of habitat, such as habitat uses, actions of pests and vermin, disease, land usage, human influences, and national objectives
9. the national and local regulations relating to access to the countryside, wildlife and habitat management
10. how to recognise habitat species, and their distinguishing characteristics, that are relevant to the wildlife management area
11. the principles of habitat management
12. the ecology of the wildlife management area
13. how habitat management can support game and wildlife populations
14. the interaction between usage, the wildlife management area and biodiversity
15. interventions that can be used to achieve habitat management objectives such as habitat creation, habitat maintenance, pest and vermin control, measures to improve the health of the habitat
16. the impact of species and land designations on land use
17. the role of relevant legislation, national policies, codes of practice, sector guidance and organisational requirements that support habitat management

Glossary

Designations could include:

- National Park
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs),
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
- World Heritage Site (WHS)
- Archaeological site
- National Trust
- Nitrogen Vulnerable Zone (NVZ)
- Drinking Water Safeguard Zones
- Scheduled Monuments (SMs)
- Listed Buildings (LBs)
- Registered Parks and Gardens (RPGs)
- Registered Battlefields (RBs)
- Sites identified on the Historic Environment Record (HER).

Game

Legal quarry species, including deer

Sector guidance could include:

The Code of Good Shooting Practice

Deer Initiative Best Practice Guides

Scottish Natural Heritage Best Practice Guides

Wildlife management area

Any area of land used for the provision of game-shooting activities

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