

## Site assessment

*Make a series of notes and maps to describe the site by answering the following series of questions. You may want to make 4 separate sets of notes and maps to contain all the information*

### **Space and structures**

1. **Draw a rough plan of the fields/beds** - and label them
2. **How much space is available for growing?** – estimate the area of each growing area and of the whole site
3. **What are the physical features around the site that will affect its use?** – list them and mark them on the map
4. **What is access like to the site, and around the site - for people, machinery and materials?** - mark access points, tracks or pathways, and any inaccessible areas on your plan
5. **What water sources are available on site?** – describe and mark them
6. **Mark on any other physical features** – buildings, pylons, burns, ponds, etc
7. **Where are the nearest roads, villages and towns** – and mark the direction and approx distance on the plan

### **Climate**

1. **What will the climate be like on this site?** – describe the factors that will affect the climate experienced on the site, and likely conditions
2. **Are there any areas of different micro-climate/ shelter around the site?** – describe the different areas and mark them on your plan
3. **How exposed is the site?** – mark the prevailing wind direction and any areas of exposure
4. **Are there any structures that help reduce exposure to the climate, or could new ones be added?** – describe them and mark them on your plan
5. **Which parts of the garden/ farm get a lot of sun and which don't?** Do certain areas get morning or evening light? Do some areas get no sun in winter? - mark on plan

## ***Growing conditions***

1. **What can you say about the soil?** – mark any distinctly different areas of soil on the map and briefly describe the different soils you see
2. **What are gradients like on this site?** – mark level, sloping and steep areas on the map and make notes on any constraints this will place on using the site
3. **What is drainage like on this site?** – mark all water courses and look for signs of impeded drainage and mark them on the map
4. **Is there any evidence of damage such as localized pollution, soil compaction or erosion, or damage from fire or salt spray?** – make notes and mark on map
5. **Is there any evidence of animal problems and damage, and are there structures in place to reduce them?** – mark on map and add notes

## ***Site history***

1. **How long has this site been used for cultivation and what is known of its previous history?** – make notes
2. **What is the current use of the site and mark existing crops, or ones that have been cultivated in the past 2 years?** – mark on map
3. **If the site has been recently cultivated, what inputs have been used?** – list any lime, fertilizer, manures, stock grazing, pesticide use that is known
4. **Is there any evidence of past damage or neglect of the site, such as overgrown perennial weeds, intensive pig or poultry production?** – make notes and mark on map
5. **Is there anyone who has used the site before who could be approached to gain information on the site and its use?** – make a note and arrange to see them
6. **Is the site used for any activities other than food production?** – if so, what, who and when do they use the site?