

CCSAPAD1

Characterise the archaeological resource and provide management advice



Overview

This standard is for archaeologists who undertake the characterisation of any aspect of the archaeological resource (landscapes, sites, structures, objects). Characterisation involves synthesis of all the available information about the resource. If the available information is insufficient for an adequate understanding of character, it facilitates the design of work to bring that understanding up to an appropriate level. Understanding the character and significance of an archaeological resource allows due weight to be given to it in any situation threatening to damage or destroy it, whether by natural or human agency. An adequately informed understanding of the character and significance of archaeological evidence enables strategies for maintenance, repair or preservation to be devised, as appropriate to the situation that needs managing. It also enables the development of options that take account of the availability of resources and other practical considerations.

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Performance criteria

Assess and describe the archaeological resource

You must be able to:

- P1 assemble, collate and review all relevant data
- P2 identify and apply relevant technical and ethical standards to your work
- P3 clarify the purpose for which a characterisation of the resource is required
- P4 select methods for describing the resource which are appropriate
- P5 characterise the resource accurately and present information in a format that will facilitate appropriate management advice and recommendations

Assess and describe what data the resource has the potential to reveal

You must be able to:

- P6 review available data about the resource and its context
- P7 identify comparative data, wider contextual information and precedents relevant to the resource
- P8 invite the expert opinion of others regarding both the resource and its context as appropriate
- P9 synthesise the potential of the resource to provide significant information and contribute to wider understanding of the historic environment
- P10 prepare a report which describes, substantiates and presents the findings

Assess and describe the potential significance of the archaeological resource

You must be able to:

- P11 review all relevant, available data on the archaeological resource and its context
- P12 define the criteria by which significance will be determined
- P13 prepare an assessment of the significance of the resource

Evaluate options and management recommendations

You must be able to:

- P14 assess the character, condition and potential of the resources
- P15 analyse findings from assessment in the context of legislation, policies, plans and resources
- P16 identify threats and opportunities for the conservation of the resources
- P17 where necessary
- P18 advise interested parties on management and other options
- P19 devise options for action most likely to optimise the understanding and conservation of the archaeological resource
- P20 consult those with expert knowledge on the viability of alternative courses of action

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 relevant technical and ethical standards
- K2 types of archaeological resource
- K3 how to assess the significance of the resource
- K4 ways of analysing/approaching the resource
- K5 the different values and functional capacity of different resources
- K6 types, ranges and variety of data
- K7 application and usage of data
- K8 related data analysis methods
- K9 associated research/ professional expertise
- K10 types and methods of data analysis
- K11 data outputs
- K12 data requirements and limitations
- K13 the application to research
- K14 investigation requirements: human and material resources
- K15 legislative, statutory and funding regulations
- K16 organisational direction and policy
- K17 policies and legislation affecting future action
- K18 which experts and specialists to contact for further information
- K19 previous courses of action

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