
Overview

This standard is for archaeologists who are responsible for making assessments of the archaeological resource and recommending strategies for in situ conservation of landscapes, sites or structures. This is based on an agreed characterisation and significance of archaeological evidence. 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.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

Explore and evaluate options for conserving the archaeological resource in situ

- P1 identify and apply relevant technical and ethical standards appropriate to your work
- P2 confirm with interested parties the purpose and key objectives for conserving the archaeological resource in-situ
- P3 review the opportunities and constraints that will influence the selection of options
- P4 assess the extent to which action can be taken within existing policies, plans and resources
- P5 devise options for action most likely to optimise the value of the archaeological resource in situ
- P6 consult those with expert knowledge on the viability of alternative courses of action as appropriate
- P7 prepare proposals and plans for alternative courses of action
- P8 present options for action to interested parties and justifying a preferred course of action

You must be able to:

Define the risks of conserving the archaeological resource in situ

- P9 ensure that the process of risk assessment covers all relevant areas of potential risk
- P10 seek appropriate sources of information and advice
- P11 prepare a risk assessment that establishes the potential consequences of conserving the archaeological resource in situ and their likelihood of occurring singularly, and where relevant, in combination
- P12 prepare an overall appraisal which addresses the acceptability of risk

You must be able to:

Recommend strategies for conserving the archaeological resource in situ

- P13 agree objectives and priorities for conserving the archaeological resource
- P14 assess factors which will influence a programme of continuing maintenance of the resource
- P15 identify and assess opportunities which may be beneficial to the maintenance and use of the resource
- P16 estimate resources required for the maintenance of the archaeological resource
- P17 obtain advice and estimates from others to support recommendations as appropriate
- P18 verify that proposals are compliant with relevant policies and plans
- P19 prepare a strategic plan for implementation that takes full account of available resources and includes budgets, targets and milestones

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P20 present and justify plans to interested parties

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 legal, political, economic, social, cultural and historical impacts
- K2 the range and requirements of different kinds of resources and their situations and locations:
 - K2.1 ownership and status
 - K2.2 environmental conditions
 - K2.3 public/research access
 - K2.4 exposure
- K3 qualitative and quantitative risk assessment
- K4 risk identification and classification: practical and immediate risk, long term costs, outcomes and impacts and consequences
- K5 information sources - internal, external
- K6 legislation
- K7 organisational and industry recommended response options
- K8 how to prioritise the conservation of different parts of the resource, and which factors should be taken into account
- K9 the condition of the resource
- K10 the status of the resource: ownership, identity, classification, stability, longevity
- K11 the resource's preservation requirements and its vulnerability
- K12 the resource's relationship to its environment
- K13 the resource's contribution to the discipline
- K14 the opportunities the maintenance strategy presents
- K15 the maintenance strategy's resources and capacities
- K16 the maintenance strategy's financial, technical and recruitment costs
- K17 the factors that are taken into account when selecting between different conservation options
- K18 how the conservation options would differ if the resource were used in different ways, or kept in different conditions
- K19 access and availability
- K20 role in the community
- K21 stability
- K22 environmental conditions
- K23 the available conservation option

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