Assess options for conserving the archaeological resource in situ



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.

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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

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

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

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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
- P20 Present and justify plans to interested parties

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to	know	and
understand:		

K1 K2	Legal, political, economic, social, cultural and historical impacts The range and requirements of different kinds of resources and their situations and locations:
	Ownership and status
	Environmental conditions
	Public/research access
	• 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

in situ **Developed by Version number Date approved Indicative review** date **Validity Status Originating** organisation **Original URN** Relevant occupations Suite **Key words**

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