



Heneb

Glossary of Standard Archaeological Terms

(As defined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Cadw/Welsh Government and Historic England)

Building investigation and recording

Archaeological building investigation and recording (ABIR) is a programme of work intended to establish the character, history, dating, form and archaeological development of a specified building, structure, or complex and its setting, including buried components, on land, in an inter-tidal zone or underwater.

Desk-based assessment

Desk-based assessment is a programme of study of the historic environment within a specified area or site on land, in the inter-tidal zone or underwater that addresses agreed research and/or conservation objectives. It consists of an analysis of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic information in order to identify the likely heritage assets, their interests and significance; the character of the study area, including appropriate consideration of the settings of heritage assets; and the nature, extent and quality of the known or potential archaeological, historic, architectural and artistic interest. Significance is to be judged in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.

Evaluation

The definition of archaeological field evaluation is a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts and their research potential, within a specified area or site on land, in an inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present, field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, reports on them and enables an assessment of their significance in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.

Excavation

The definition of archaeological excavation is a programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives, which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within a specified area or site on land, in an inter-tidal zone or underwater. The records made and objects gathered during fieldwork are studied and the results of that study published in detail appropriate to the project design.





Heneb

Geophysical Survey

Archaeological geophysical survey uses non-intrusive and non-destructive techniques to determine the presence or absence of anomalies likely to be caused by archaeological features, structures or deposits, as far as reasonably possible, within a specified area or site on land, in the inter-tidal zone or underwater. Geophysical survey determines the presence of anomalies of archaeological potential through measurement of one or more physical properties of the subsurface.

Heritage Impact Assessment and Heritage Impact Statements

In Wales, *heritage impact assessment* is a structured process to make sure that the significance of a historic asset is taken into account when developing and designing proposals for change. It is a core part of the design process, which tests whether proposals for change to a historic asset are appropriate by assessing their impact on its significance. It helps to ensure that any changes use the principles of good design to sustain or enhance the significance of the historic asset.

The results of heritage impact assessment are summarised in a *heritage impact statement* submitted with an application for listed building consent, conservation area consent or, when requested, scheduled monument consent.

Preservation in situ

Preservation in situ is the term used to refer to the conservation of an archaeological asset in its original location. It can describe situations when a site is preserved as part of a development scheme, but also refers to the long-term management of, for example, wetland archaeological sites. Critical to the success of any preservation in situ scheme is that the below-ground environment is understood fully, particularly before construction or land-use change begins.

Scheduled Monument

A site, monument or archaeological deposits designated by the Welsh Ministers, through Cadw, as a 'Scheduled Monument' and therefore protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

Setting

Setting describes the relationship of a historic asset to the surrounding landscape or townscape. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Although many historic assets are visible and their settings are obvious, those that are buried also have a setting. Intangible as well as physical factors can be important. These may include function, sensory perceptions or historical, artistic, literary and scenic associations.





Heneb

Watching brief

The definition of an archaeological watching brief is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, in an inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive. The term does not cover chance observations, which should lead to an appropriate archaeological project being designed and implemented, nor do they apply to monitoring for preservation of remains in situ.

