

Appendix 7: General Principles – Development Impacts and Mitigation

Below Ground Archaeological Impacts – General Principles

- 1.1 In general terms, all groundworks of a development are likely to cause a partial or total impact to any archaeological remains which may be present. This includes:
- The demolition of any existing buildings below ground floor level, including any disturbance to existing floor or ground levels and grubbing-out of foundations.
 - Topsoil stripping in advance of construction (including the preparation of site compounds and similar). Even where not deep enough to directly affect archaeological remains, this would probably expose them to damage from site vehicles and weather, or leave too little cover to protect them from such damage.
 - Excavation for foundations will normally destroy any remains in their line. This is the case even if the remains are below designed formation depth, because archaeological deposits are classed as made ground for engineering purposes, and usually have to be removed and replaced with either a deepening of the foundation or load-bearing fill, unless the foundations can be designed to bridge them.
 - Excavation for service trenches destroys any remains within their depth, although it is not usually necessary to remove archaeological deposits below the base level.
 - Landscaping and road/access construction also destroys archaeological remains down to formation depth, sometimes with the need to remove archaeological deposits classed as made ground below this, and can lead to compaction and dehydration. However, to a degree the impact can be limited by appropriate design of levels.
- 1.2 The cumulative impact of development on heritage assets on the site would consist of the factors outlined above superimposed on existing impacts. In addition, subsequent changes during the life of the development – house extensions, gardening, re-laying of services, etc. – can all lead to additional impact. Individually these may be quite small, but add to the cumulative effect.

Mitigation - General Principles

- 1.3 In general terms, the potential risk to heritage assets caused by development can be reduced by:
- Implementing design measures to eliminate or reduce the risk, by excluding them from the area to be developed or ensuring that the construction has little or no impact on the sensitive levels. Such measures would ensure that, as far as necessary, standing monuments are protected from direct impact and thus preserved in situ, and the integrity of their settings is maintained.
 - If preservation in situ is not feasible, and development is considered acceptable, the implementation of an appropriate programme of archaeological work to ensure that archaeological remains are appropriately recorded and reported.
 - Identifying opportunities to enhance the positive contribution that heritage assets can make to the character and sustainability of the local community and environment.
- 1.4 Any mitigation measures should be proportionate to the sensitivity of the heritage asset(s) concerned.
- 1.5 Please note that the adoption of mitigation measures does not necessarily mean that a development will not lead to substantial harm to an asset.