



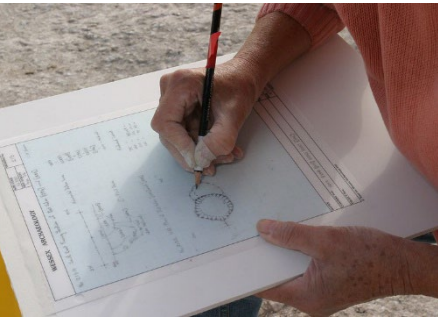
HOW TO: Understand the Role of Archaeology Services

26 September 2022

with Tiva Montalbano and Mili Rajic

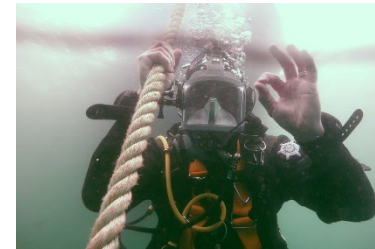
Order of Play

1. Introductions
2. What is Developer-Funded Archaeology?
3. Range of Commercial Archaeology Services
4. Using Archaeology to Add Value
5. Commissioning Archaeology: Top Tips
6. Links to Further Reading and Resources



Hello!!

- Wessex Archaeology: a commercial company and an educational charity
 - UK-wide and international
 - Doing archaeology on land, sea, air and in the metaverse
 - Clients: public sector, private sector, 3rd sector and infrastructure
- Tiva Montalbano
- Milica Rajic
- Who are you?



Archaeology in a Planning Context

HERITAGE ASSET: 'A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest.'

– UK National Planning Policy Framework

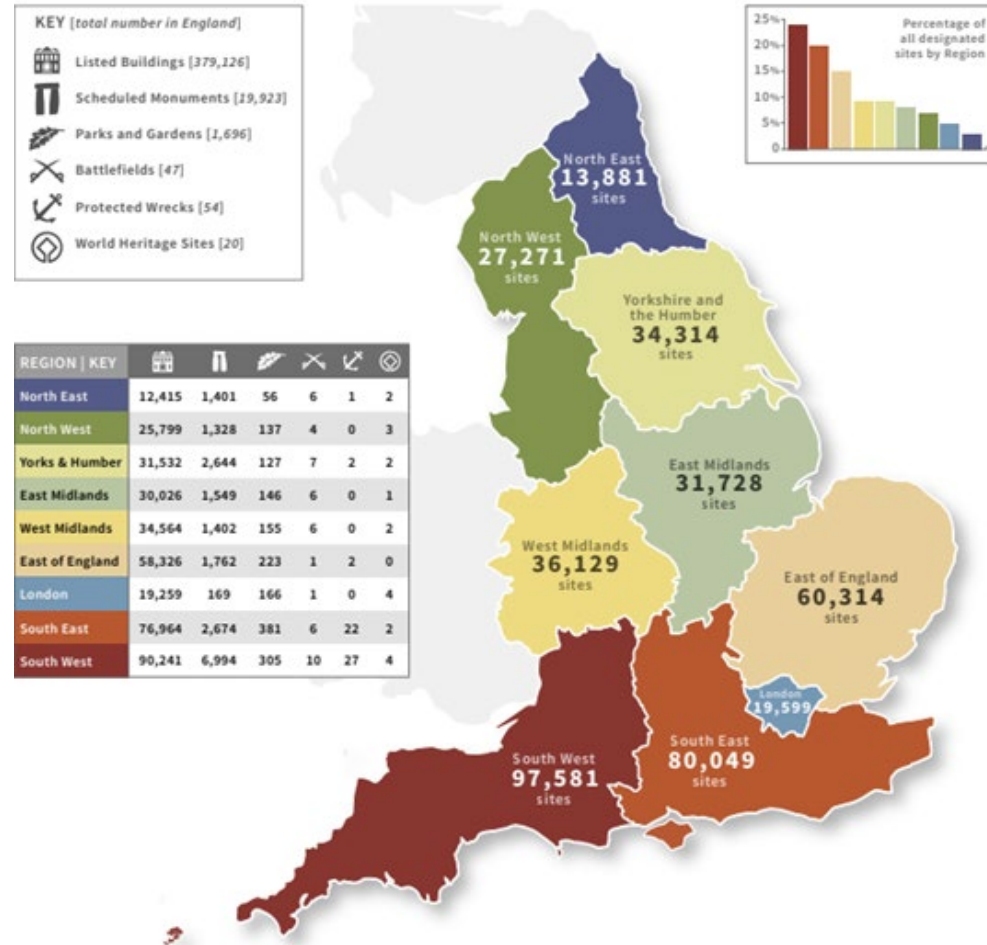
Generally speaking, where a development proposal will lead to harm to the significance of a heritage asset, this harm should be either wholly exceptional, mitigated against or balanced out by the public benefits of the proposal.

Variables can be =

- the development itself
- significance of the assets affected
- extent of harm
- articulation of public benefit

Subjectivity/expertise are a big factor in decision-making

Distribution of designated heritage sites in England



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Archaeology in Planning

Relevant NPPF Clauses (Chapter 16):

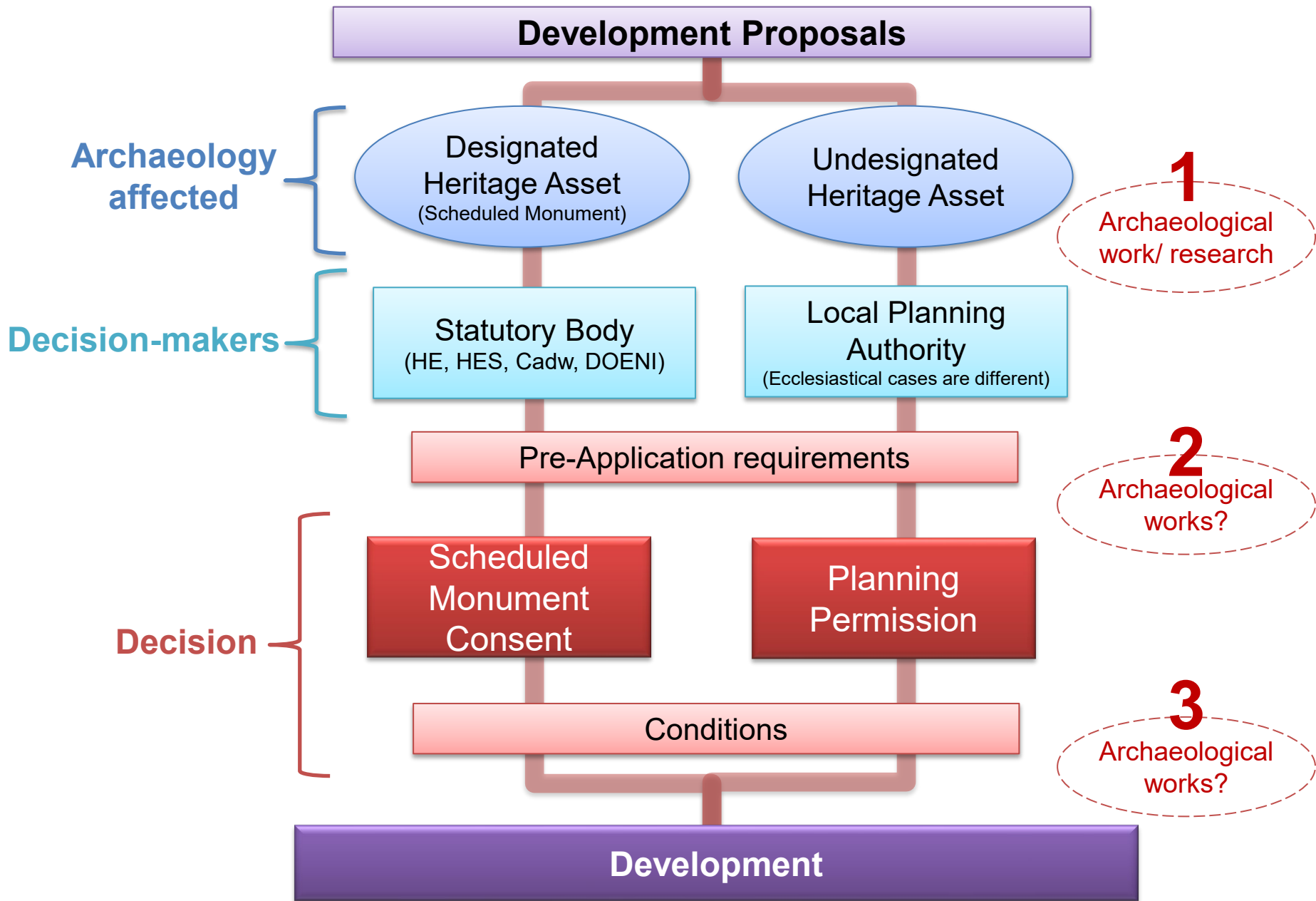
- **192.** Local planning authorities should maintain or have access to a historic environment record (HER). This should contain up-to-date evidence about the historic environment in their area and be used to:
 - a) assess the significance of heritage assets and the contribution they make to their environment; and
 - b) predict the likelihood that currently unidentified heritage assets, **particularly sites of historic and archaeological interest**, will be discovered in the future.
- **194.** In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to **describe the significance of any heritage assets affected**, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed **using appropriate expertise** where necessary. **Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.**
- **200.** Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification...
- **205.** Local planning authorities should require developers to **record and advance understanding** of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, **and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible**. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.

Developer-Funded Archaeology

- The idea that archaeology is important to society is enshrined in law. That's why you can't just bulldoze everything and chuck it in a landfill
- Since 1990, archaeological works have been based on the 'polluter pays' principle: The responsibility for dealing with any archaeology on a site rests with the developer. They bear the cost, not the taxpayer
- Archaeological services are considered by some to be no different to removing Asbestos, newts or bats. It's necessary site clearance to 'de-risk' the development
- Sadly, archaeology is therefore often viewed as a costly obstacle, an impediment, or even a 'tax on development'
- This is a missed opportunity!
- Archaeology can and does add value, distinction and interest to a development, to a place and to society as a whole

Archaeology in Planning

- 1. Archaeological works/research
 - Before planning permission submitted
 - Understand what's there/ what might be there
 - Understand and articulate significance
- 2. Pre-Application Archaeological Works
 - Possibly before permission granted
 - Understand extent of survival
 - Recording
 - (Get these right and your Conditions, if you get them, will be very targeted)
- 3. Planning Conditions
 - Must be discharged as a condition of planning permission (sometimes as pre-commencement conditions)
 - May include excavation (preservation by record)
 - Recording / publication



Archaeology can add value!

- Engagement with the past can offer significant and impactful non-financial societal benefits
- These can include: education, engagement, wonder, sense of place, connection, participation, community-building, socialising, wellbeing, inclusion, rehabilitation, diversity and so much more!
- Efforts are currently (constantly!) being made to quantify these benefits – to make the case to decision-makers that they're important
- We want to change the narrative about developer-funded archaeology:

“from risk-mitigation to value-generation”

- The only real limitations are your budget and your imagination...

(Training Opportunity)

Wessex Archaeology have joined forces with York Archaeological Trust and Museum of London Archaeology (MoLA) to offer an 8-part online mentoring scheme.

For anyone involved in archaeology or heritage who wants to work with new audiences but doesn't know where to start.

Over the course of three months, we will help you develop your project from initial idea to grant-ready proposal.

Find out more and apply at:

www.yorkarchaeologicaltrust.co.uk/aan

(deadline October 16th 2022)


DEVELOPING
INCLUSIVE
ARCHAEOLOGY
PROJECTS



Image created by The Studio at Wessex Archaeology



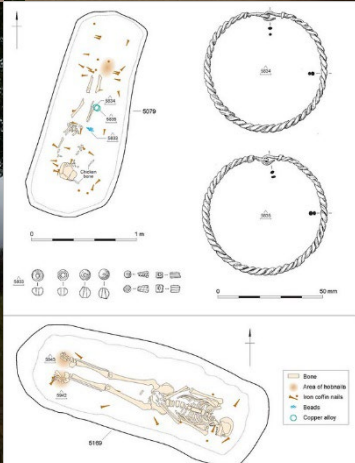
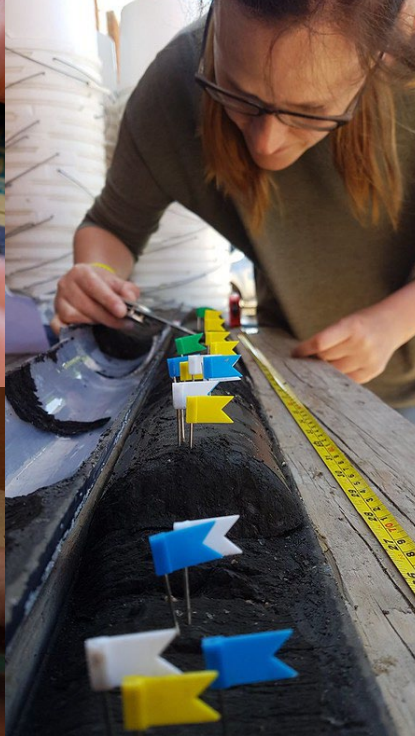
Archaeological Services – Investigation

- For an exhaustive (and constantly growing) range of services, please visit our website
- What you will need for a planning application:
 - Desk-based assessment (DBA)
 - Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)
- Work you might see on site:
 - Surveys (Building, Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR), Fieldwalking, LIDAR, Magnetometry etc)
 - Evaluation (watching brief, test-pitting, sampling, trenching, geoarchaeology)
 - Full excavation (Strip, map and sample; set-piece excavation etc)
 - Recording (mapping, photography, photogrammetry etc)



Archaeological Services – Post-Excavation

- What happens after the fieldwork (off-site):
 - Post-Excavation
 - Analysis, synthesis, conservation, finds study, environmental assessments, context, comparisons etc
 - Publication
 - reports, establishing an archive, ‘grey’ literature, books, articles, presentations, interpretation, leaflets, 3D printing, video, web content, comics etc...
 - Digital resources
 - datasets, maps, 3D scans, reconstructions, interactives, animations, Virtual Reality (VR), Augmented Reality (AR), Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs) etc...
 - NB: the above may account for up to 50% of the cost of works



Example 1: Harthill

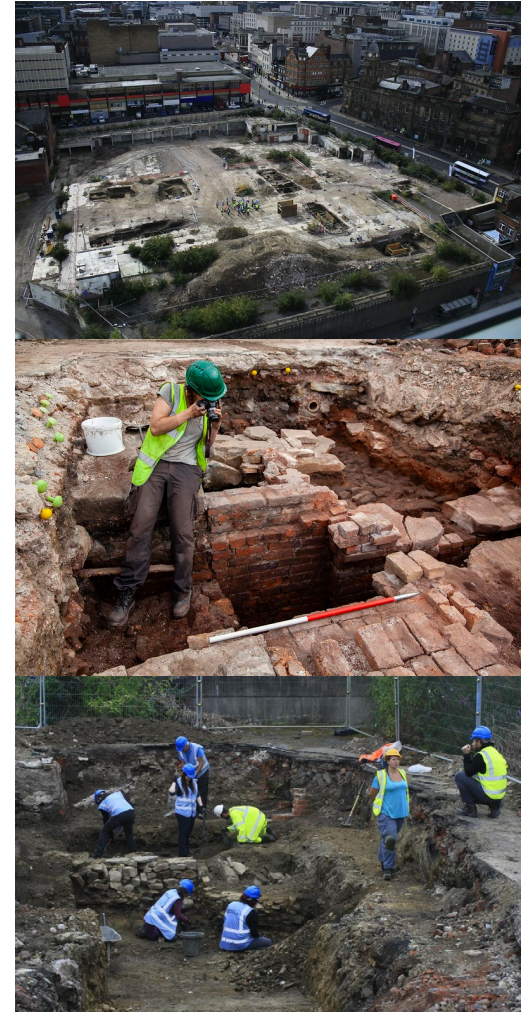
- **Client needs:** Archaeological evaluation in a form of trenching
- **What we did:** Trenching, but we also engaged with the nearby village community who were highly interested in archaeology but with no previous experience
- **How we created value:**
 - Legacy, knowledge, skills and empowerment
 - The village established a new archaeological and historical society and they now do their own archaeological digs annually



<https://www.wessexarch.co.uk/news/harthill-community-project>

Example 2: Sheffield Castle

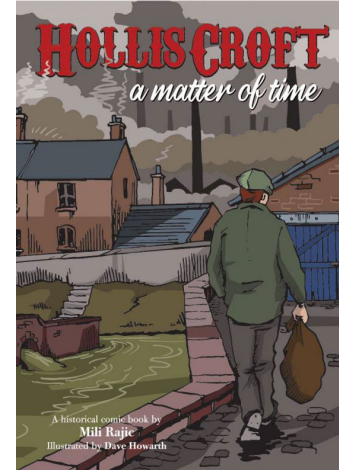
- **Client needs:** Council-funded excavation, with a contractual requirement for community engagement
- **What we did:** Carried out evaluation in a form of trenching and geoarchaeological boreholes but also engaged with community, Friends of Sheffield Castle, University of Sheffield, Hallam University, Schools and Volunteers
- **How we created value:**
 - Trained a weekly cohort of volunteers & students, engaged with 'hard to reach' communities
 - Created sense of place and connection with the place throughout its history (laying the groundwork for future regeneration)
 - Contributed to community-building socialising, wellbeing and inclusion
 - We even wrote a theatre play for school children in Year 1
 - Engaged over 8000 people on site over 8 weeks
 - In terms of non-local audience, we delivered a comms campaign with weekly vlogs and web content that had global reach
 - Publication included a user-friendly digital storymap



<https://www.wessexarch.co.uk/our-work/sheffield-castle>

Example 3: Hollis Croft

- **Client needs:** Historic building recording, Evaluation in the form of trenching, Strip, Map and Sample
- **What we did:** Carried out standard archaeological works but brought innovation to the post-ex side (publication and archive):
 - Created a new and engaging interface (in the form of a digital comic book) which brought the archaeology to life
 - Users could choose to float on the surface, dip their toes in, paddle or deep-dive into the archaeological knowledge underpinning the story
- **How we created value:**
 - Reached a much wider audience with the publication than those who would not normally read dry, 'grey lit' reports
 - Created a new legacy in creative, online publication and archive



<https://www.wessexarch.co.uk/our-work/hollis-croft>

[Hollis Croft. A Matter of Time. Rajic and Howarth. Internet Archaeology 56. \(intarch.ac.uk\)](http://intarch.ac.uk)

Example 4: Bath Abbey

- **Client needs:** NLHF-funded refurbishment of the Abbey – including a new floor (with a heat-exchange system) – required a reduction of existing floor levels across the whole Abbey church (in three phases).
- **What we did:** Used photogrammetry to speed up the recording process. Built a composite model of the whole excavation. Turned that into a digital 3D landscape (with interpretation) which visitors can explore with a VR headset; also built a 3D jigsaw puzzle of the medieval floor tiles
- **How we created value:**
 - Made the archaeological findings coherent and, more importantly, accessible
 - Created a long-term vehicle for sharing archaeological knowledge even after the works were completed and the new floors installed
 - The heritage interpretation we created is now part of the permanent Discovery Centre exhibition on-site



<https://www.wessexarch.co.uk/our-work/virtual-reality-experience-excavation-below-bath-abbey>

Commissioning Archaeological Services: Top Tips

- Early engagement with your Local Planning Authority and other decision-making organisations is key
- A reliable heritage specialist (e.g. a planning or archaeology advisor) will guide and support you and hopefully help you think outside the box.
- Archaeology can be a catalyst for community engagement/ community-building – and give your project exposure and momentum at an early stage
- Integrate archaeology into grant-funded activity plans/interpretation plans to maximise public benefits (and funding prospects)
- Budget appropriately – you get what you pay for (ideally, quality should outweigh cost when inviting quotes)
- Programme realistically - don't let unrealistic timescales be the first domino
- You can never completely predict what you're going to find so build-in contingencies in both time and money (5-10%)!
- Think up-front about what happens after the works: how to get the most out of publication, reporting interpretation & activities; what to do with the post-ex collection and archive; etc.
- Ensure your archaeological contractor has the capacity, experience and a proven track-record to deliver what you want (not to mention ClfA accreditation!)

Further Resources

National Heritage List for England:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/>

Your Local Historic Environment Record:

<https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/>

National Planning Policy Framework:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

Conservation Principles (written 2008, redrafted for consultation 2017):

<https://historicengland.org.uk/content/docs/guidance/conservation-principles-consultation-draft-pdf/>

Wessex Archaeology menu of services:

<https://www.wessexarch.co.uk/archaeological-services>

Synthesis of how Developer-funded archaeology evolved (Historic England):

<https://historicengland.org.uk/whats-new/debate/looking-back-and-forward/>

Professional Archaeology: A Guide For Clients (CIfA):

<https://www.archaeologists.net/clientguide>

Where to find accredited archaeologists (CIfA):

<https://www.archaeologists.net/lookingforanarchaeologist>

Why Archaeology in the English Planning Process works (CIfA):

<https://www.archaeologists.net/profession/planningcasestudies>

Introduction to Archaeology in Planning (ALGAO):

<https://www.algao.org.uk/localgov/planning>

Archaeology & Planning: A Guide for Developers (Hampshire County Council):

<https://documents.hants.gov.uk/archaeology/archaeology-planning-developers.pdf>

Archaeological Planning Conditions and what they mean (Southampton City Council):

https://www.southampton.gov.uk/media/aqyhntro/archaeological-conditions-explained_tcm63-360367.pdf

City of London Supplementary Planning Document on Archaeology:

<https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/assets/Services-Environment/supplementary-planning-document-archaeology-and-development-guidance.pdf>

Guidance and Standards for Archaeological Works (York City Council):

<https://www.york.gov.uk/archaeology-1/guidance-documents-archaeological-work>

Be sure to check your Local Planning Authority's website for guidance and policies

Thank you!

- Any questions, please get in touch.

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