

LEVELS OF SURVEY FOR HISTORIC LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENTS

Sources : National Trust 'Historic Landscape Survey Guidelines' & English Heritage [RCHME] 'Recording Archaeological Field Monuments'

LEVEL 1 -

Non analytical essential information - based on known records and give an awareness of the archaeological resource and recognition that further survey is required.

- Desk top assessment
- SMR site gazetteer and map

LEVEL 2

Non-intensive basic descriptive and interpretative record, with ground photography, and sketch-plot at 1:10,000 and 1:2500

- Brief assessment of evidence,
- Short SMR gazetteer and map
- short landscape history,
- with recommendations for future research.

LEVEL 3

Intensive detailed and full analytical record of an archaeological site leading to a comprehensive report.

- Full SMR gazetteer and map
- Site plans at 1:10,000 and detailed sketch plots at 1:2,500
- Full assessment of evidence, assessment of cultural significance
- Archive of material
- Condition of features

LEVEL 4

Includes all Level 3 but with more detailed specialist archaeological work, such as geophysical survey, AP mapping, VBS, watching briefs and excavations. Need to call in professional archaeologists.

STAGES IN CARRYING OUT A LEVEL 2 SURVEY

DESK TOP

1. Collate known records SMR, NMR
2. Collate historic maps county record office/local studies library etc.
 - OS 1", 6", 25" - all editions
 - Tithe Map and Award
 - Enclosure Map and Award (if relevant)
 - OSDs and 18th county maps [Rocque]
 - Any estate maps
3. Check Aerial Photographs NMR, county flights 1940-present
 - vertical and oblique
4. Consult historic archives county record office
local studies library
county archaeological library
 - Historic manuscripts
 - Prints, photos, postcards
 - Local parish studies

FIELD WALK OVER

1. At 1:10,000 plot all features identified from above, locate on ground and plot additional features
2. Take photos where relevant

SYNTHESIS

1. Brief assessment and analysis of all the evidence
2. Short landscape history
3. SMR site gazetteer and map
4. Recommendations for future research and management
5. Photographs and illustrations

Deposit copy with county SMR (and if possible county record office)

SUMMARY MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE IN THE LANDSCAPE

Key guideline -

Minimal disturbance to an archaeological site or feature

1. Avoid siting footpaths, tracks, extraction routes, information boards, seats and other landscape furniture over or on features.
2. Ideal habitat for earthworks is pasture. Grazed or mown.
3. Avoid grazing or mowing in wet weather to prevent poaching. Site water and feeding areas away from archaeological sensitive areas
4. Avoid putting up fences on or over archaeological features
5. Avoid new tree planting, and scrub development on archaeological features
6. Where possible, control burrowing animals in earthworks to minimise disturbance to stratified deposits.
7. For cultivated sites, keep plough depth to existing level or reduce it. Ideally take site out of cultivation.
8. Avoid locating service trenches across archaeological sites. If not seek advice and establish a watching brief when works are being undertaken.
9. Do not site new ponds or scrapes on archaeological sites
10. Undertake regular maintenance of traditional built structures, using traditional materials. Seek advice on consolidation of ruins.
11. Inform all those working on site (contractors and volunteers) of the archaeological resource and management guidelines. If necessary provide maps of where features are and mark off with tape. Especially important with woodlands.

