

Unit AE2. Assess options for conserving the archaeological resource in situ

Elements

AE2.1 Explore and evaluate options for conserving the archaeological resource in situ

AE2.2 Define the risks of conserving the archaeological resource in situ

AE2.3 Recommend strategies for conserving the archaeological resource in situ

Unit Commentary

This unit 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.

AE2. Assess options for conserving the archaeological resource in situ

AE2.1 Explore and evaluate options for conserving the archaeological resource in situ

Performance Required

This will involve:

- a) Confirming with interested parties the **purpose and key objectives** for conserving the **archaeological resource** in-situ
- b) Reviewing the **opportunities and constraints** that will influence the selection of options
- c) Assessing the extent to which action can be taken within existing policies, plans and resources
- d) Devising options for action most likely to optimise the value of the archaeological resource in situ
- e) Where appropriate, consulting those with **expert knowledge** on the viability of alternative courses of action
- f) Preparing proposals and plans for alternative courses of action
- g) Presenting options for action to interested parties and justifying a preferred course of action

Occupational Context

- 1 Purpose and key objectives**
 - archaeological significance
 - environmental considerations
 - cultural significance
 - public access
 - economic potential
- 2 Archaeological resource**
 - landscapes
 - sites
 - structures
- 3 Opportunities and constraints may include:**
 - ownership of the resource
 - location
 - constraints on access
 - public opinion
 - cost factors (capital, revenue and maintenance costs, grants, potential income generation)
 - legal and regulatory factors
 - risk factors
- 4 Expert knowledge**
 - Within archaeology (e.g. wetlands archaeologist, historic buildings advisor)
 - External to the discipline

Knowledge Requirements

You need to know about:

Legal, political, economic, social, cultural and historical impacts

The range and requirements different kinds of resources and their situations and locations:

- Ownership and status
- Environmental conditions
- Public/ research access
- Exposure

AE2. Assess options for conserving the archaeological resource in situ

AE2.1 Explore and evaluate options for conserving the archaeological resource in situ

Required Skills

You should demonstrate:

- Analytical skills
- Writing proposals

Evidence Required

You should provide evidence that you can explore and evaluate options for conserving the archaeological resource in situ

The candidate should be questioned, based upon the documentation provided, to explore

- written proposals for alternative courses of action

Evidence Rules

The candidate should have been involved in at least 2 contrasting sites.

AE2. Assess options for conserving the archaeological resource in situ

AE2.2 Define the risks of preserving the archaeological resource in situ

Performance Required

This will involve:

- a) Ensuring that the process of risk assessment covers all relevant **areas of potential risk**
- b) Seeking appropriate **sources of information** and advice
- c) Preparing a risk assessment that establishes the potential consequences of and their likelihood of occurring singularly, and where relevant, in combination
- d) Preparing an overall **appraisal** which addresses the acceptability of risk

Occupational Context

1 Areas of potential risk

- damage / deterioration / loss of the resource
- exhaustion of supplied resources: timescale for action, finances, human resources
- health and safety
- environmental
- financial
- legal/ political

2 Sources of information

- statutes/ regulations and related guidance
- technical guidance/research reports
- business/commercial guidance
- from professional institutions and regulatory bodies
- previous research projects which demanded specific attention to risk, i.e. experience in the field.

3 Appraisal

- qualitative and experiential review
- statistical/ quantitative data
- projections and forecasts
- categories/ ranking of risk factors

Knowledge Requirements

You need to know about:

Risk

- Risk theory
- Qualitative and quantitative risk assessment
- Risk identification and classification: practical and immediate risk/ long term costs/ outcomes and impacts and consequences
- Models of risk management

Organisation

- Attitude to risk: organisational culture
- Capacity for handling risk: human, financial and time resources
- Strategy and risk: legislative policy and procedures, authoritative structure and responsibility for management

Data

- Information sources – internal, external
- Legislation

(c) Organisational and industry recommended response options

AE2. Assess options for conserving the archaeological resource in situ

AE2.2 Define the risks of preserving the archaeological resource in situ

Required Skills

You should demonstrate:

- Writing risk assessments and appraisals
- Effective decision making under uncertainty

Evidence Required

You should provide evidence that you can define the risks of preserving the archaeological resource in situ

The candidate should be questioned, based upon the documentation provided, to explore

- the form of risk assessments, detailing identified and classified risk in relation to specific resource management

Evidence Rules

The candidate should have been involved in at least 2 contrasting sites.

AE2. Assess options for conserving the archaeological resource in situ

AE2.3 Recommend strategies for conserving the archaeological resource in situ

Performance Required

This will involve:

- a) agreeing objectives and priorities for conserving the **archaeological resource**
- b) assess **factors** which will influence a programme of continuing maintenance of the resource
- d) identifying and assessing **opportunities** which may be beneficial to the maintenance and use of the resource
- e) estimating resources required for the maintenance of the archaeological resource
- f) where appropriate, obtaining advice and estimates from others to support recommendations
- g) verifying that proposals are compliant with relevant policies and plans
- h) preparing a strategic plan for implementation that takes full account of available resources and includes budgets, targets and milestones
- i) presenting and justifying plans to interested parties.

Occupational Context

1 Archaeological resource

- landscapes
- sites
- structures

2 Factors

- policies and legislation
- financial resources
- location and accessibility
- climate and exposure
- planting and grounds maintenance
- other uses on the site (e.g. agriculture)
- protection of features and maintenance of structures
- site safety, security and structural stability
- site services and facilities

3 Opportunities

- changes in land use
- linkage with other sites and activities
- public amenity
- tourism
- educational use
- research potential

Knowledge Requirements

You need to know and understand how to:

- Prioritise the conservation of different parts of the resource, and which factors should be taken into account

You need to know about:

The archaeological resource

- The condition of the resource
- The status of the resource: ownership, identity, classification, stability, longevity
- Its preservation requirements and its vulnerability
- The relationship to its environment
- Its contribution to the discipline

Maintenance strategy

- The opportunities it presents
- Its resources and capacities
- Financial, technical and recruitment costs
- The factors that are taken into account when selecting between different conservation options
- How the conservation options would differ if the resource were used in different ways, or kept in different conditions

The location

- Access and availability
- Role in the community
- Stability
- Environmental conditions
- The available conservation options

AE2. Assess options for conserving the archaeological resource in situ

AE2.3 Recommend strategies for conserving the archaeological resource in situ

Required Skills

N/A

Evidence Required

You should provide evidence that you can recommend strategies for conserving the archaeological resource in situ

The candidate should be questioned, based upon the documentation provided, to explore

- the procedures for recommending strategies for conserving the archaeological resource in situ.

Evidence Rules

The candidate should have been involved in at least 2 contrasting sites.