

## CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

### Introduction

This section describes the methodology by which the overall impact of the development on individual heritage assets has been assessed. The methodology is based on that described in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) Volume 11, Section 3, Part 2 Cultural Heritage (2007).

With reference to the anticipated impact of the development, the “Magnitude of Impact” is combined with consideration of the “Importance of Asset” to generate a measurement of the “Significance of Effect”. After consideration of any proposals for mitigation, residual effect is stated.

### Importance of Historic Assets

The system employed to evaluate the importance of heritage assets is based on the six point scale as set out in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) Volume 11, Section 3, Part 2 Cultural Heritage, Annex 5 (2007). This scale acknowledges that statutory or non-statutory designation of an asset, and any grading which may have been applied to it, will reflect an existing judgement of its heritage significance:

- **Very High** (Major Importance): world heritage sites, other assets which are of acknowledged international value or which significantly contribute to international research objectives;
- **High** (Important): scheduled monuments, Grade I and II\* listed buildings, sites or buildings not yet scheduled or listed but meriting such designation, Grade I and II\* historic parks and gardens, registered historic landscapes, conservation areas containing important buildings and other assets which significantly contribute to national research objectives;
- **Medium** (Moderate Importance): Grade II listed buildings, Grade II historic parks and gardens, conservation areas which contain buildings which contribute significantly to its historic character, and sites and buildings of regional interest entered on the regional historic environment record and considered to contain evidence that would improve understanding of the historical period or the type of site represented;
- **Low** (Minor Importance): assets not in the above category but with some heritage interest or sites of uncertain importance meriting further investigation (and possible subsequent re-classification);
- **Negligible** (Not Important): sites with little or no heritage interest; and
- **Unknown**: sites or heritage assets with some potential (unproven) heritage significance.

*Conservation Principles*<sup>1</sup> provides guidance on the qualitative assessment of the heritage significance of heritage assets, including their settings. The document

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<sup>1</sup> Conservation Principles for the sustainable management of the historic environment in Wales. Cadw 2011

recommends<sup>2</sup> assessing the overall heritage significance of an asset as the sum of its component heritage values; these values may be grouped as set out in Table 13A-1.

**Table 12A-1**  
**Aspects of heritage value**

Value Group	Scope
<b>Evidential</b>	the potential of a place to yield primary evidence about past human activity
<b>Historical</b>	tending to be either <i>illustrative</i> (the potential for a place to illustrate aspects of history or prehistory) or <i>associative</i> (the historical importance of any connections with a family, person, event or movement); whether the asset is still used for its original purpose or has been adapted for new uses
<b>Aesthetic</b>	the degree to which people can draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place including its setting; aesthetic qualities generated by conscious or unconscious design; age rarity completeness quality of design and construction; innovation;
<b>Communal</b>	the value of meanings of a place for people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory; activities associated with the asset having notable communal significance; associated veneration / worship or spiritual / inspirational value

## Magnitude of impact

Direct impacts to historic assets may involve direct physical damage resulting from development activities, but can also include indirect physical damage caused by secondary processes such as dewatering of fragile waterlogged remains. Physical damage to archaeological sites is considered to be irreversible, and therefore permanent. Current guidance is to avoid damage to known archaeological sites where possible, favouring preservation *in situ*.

Assessment of the magnitude of indirect impacts on the setting of heritage assets has included a consideration of guidance set out in *EH Settings*<sup>3</sup>, which provides a non-exhaustive check-list of the ways in which the setting of an asset or assets may contribute to their heritage significance:

- the asset's physical surroundings:
  - topography;
  - other heritage assets (including buildings, structures, landscapes, areas or archaeological remains);
  - definition, scale and 'grain' of surrounding streetscape, landscape and spaces;
  - formal design;
  - historic materials and surfaces;

<sup>2</sup> Pages 16-17

<sup>3</sup> The Setting of Heritage Assets: English Heritage Guidance (English Heritage 2011) p.19, deemed to apply in Wales in the absence of adopted national guidance

- land use;
- green space, trees and vegetation;
- openness, enclosure and boundaries;
- functional relationships and communications;
- history and degree of change over time;
- integrity;
- issues such as soil chemistry and hydrology;
- experience of the asset:
  - surrounding landscape or townscape character;
  - views from, towards, through, across and including the asset;
  - visual dominance, prominence or role as focal point;
  - intentional intervisibility with other historic and natural features;
  - noise, vibration and other pollutants or nuisances;
  - tranquillity, remoteness, ‘wildness’;
  - sense of enclosure, seclusion, intimacy or privacy;
  - dynamism and activity;
  - accessibility, permeability and patterns of movement;
  - degree of interpretation or promotion to the public;
  - the rarity of comparable survivals of setting;
- the asset’s associative attributes:
  - associative relationships between heritage assets;
  - cultural associations;
  - celebrated artistic representations; and
  - traditions.

The assessments of heritage significance, and the contribution of setting to that significance have taken the above factors into account, and the relevant factors are discussed in each assessment.

For the overall assessment of “Magnitude of Impact”, a four point scale is employed: major, moderate, minor and neutral (adapted from DMRB, *ibid*). Impacts may be positive or negative. The definitions of criteria in this scale are given in Table 13A-2 below. Assessment of the magnitude of impact is considered irrespective of an individual heritage asset’s importance.

**Table 12A-2**  
**Definitions of magnitude of impact**

Impact Magnitude	Definition
<b>Major</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Change to most or all key archaeological materials, such that the resource is totally altered</li> <li>● Comprehensive changes to setting</li> </ul>
<b>Moderate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Changes to many key archaeological materials, such that the resource is clearly modified</li> <li>● Considerable changes to setting that affect the character of the asset</li> </ul>
<b>Minor</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Changes to key archaeological materials, such that the asset is slightly altered</li> <li>● Slight changes to setting</li> </ul>
<b>Neutral</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No change</li> </ul>

**Significance of Impact**

The methodology for completing the assessment process is to be read with reference to Table 12A-3 (to determine the significance of effects on heritage assets). This combines the importance of the heritage asset with the predicted magnitude of impact to provide a broad (non quantitative) measure of impact significance, the nature of which, for individual heritage assets, is discussed in the impact assessment as a narrative in greater detail.

Within the assessment, predicted impacts resulting from the proposed development which fall within the range Moderate – Very Large are considered to be *significant effects* as referred to in the EIA Regulations.

**Table 12A-3  
Matrix to determine the significance of effects on heritage assets**

		Magnitude of Impact			
		Major	Moderate	Minor (slight)	Neutral
Importance of Asset	Very high	Very Large	Large/ Very Large	Moderate/ Large	Neutral
	High	Large/ Very Large	Moderate/ Large	Slight/ Moderate	Neutral
	Medium	Moderate/ Large	Moderate	Slight	Neutral
	Low	Slight/ Moderate	Slight	Neutral/ Slight	Neutral
	Negligible	Slight	Neutral/ Slight	Neutral/ Slight	Neutral