

# Guidelines for Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment – An Introduction to the Project

## The need for guidelines

- ❖ Current practice in cultural heritage impact assessment is of variable quality, reflecting the absence of widely adopted guidelines.
- ❖ IEMA has identified new cultural heritage guidelines as a primary objective for the IEMA Impact Assessment Network in 2017/18.
- ❖ ClfA, IHBC and IEMA believe there is a pressing need for guidelines that present a clear, well respected and authoritative view of what constitutes current best practice in cultural heritage studies for impact assessment.
- ❖ ClfA, IHBC and IEMA have signed an agreement to author these new guidelines.
- ❖ The three authors alongside other professionals have formed a project Advisory Panel, which is also a sub-group to the IEMA Impact Assessment Network. The Project Advisory Panel is formed of the following members:
  - James Caird (IHBC)
  - Stephen Carter (Headland Archaeology)
  - Victoria Cooper (Royal Haskoning DHV)
  - Josh Fothergill (IEMA)
  - Kirsten Holland (ClfA)
  - Ian Houlston (LDA Design)
  - Peter Jones (IEMA)
  - Andy Ricketts (WSP | Parsons Brinkerhoff)
  - Rob Sutton (Cotswold Archaeology)

## Scope and ambition of the guidelines

- ❖ Cultural Heritage is a broad topic and the guidelines will seek to address the cultural heritage resource in its widest sense.
- ❖ The scope will be UK wide and the guidelines will therefore seek to demonstrate relevance both to the heritage and regulatory contexts in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- ❖ The primary purpose of the guidelines will be to show how the broad principles and key assessment requirements of the impact assessment process apply to cultural heritage issues throughout the project lifecycle.
- ❖ In order to achieve this goal, the Guidelines will need to explicitly address a number of key challenges that face the sector when undertaking impact assessment.
- ❖ The objective would be to greatly enhance assessment and achieve the following:
  - all developments are assessed by a suitably qualified heritage professional or team of professionals;
  - there is an appropriate level of engagement in all stages of the planning and design process;
  - assessments are proportionate to the nature of the development and the heritage resource affected; and
  - findings are presented in a form that uses well-defined terminology.

## Target audience for the guidelines

- ❖ The guidelines would be used by heritage professionals undertaking assessments, individuals responsible for commissioning assessments and professionals from related disciplines that need to understand the nature of cultural heritage assessment.
- ❖ The guidelines would also be accessible to interested members of the general public and those providing and receiving training.
- ❖ It is the intention of the authors and Advisory Panel that the guidelines should be available electronically and free of charge.

## Next Stages:

- ❖ Secure key sponsors of the Guidelines to support the delivery of the project.
- ❖ The Advisory Panel will be undertaking wider sector consultation on the scope of the guidelines and format they should take.
- ❖ Regular communications will be issued through the professional institutes to keep the sector informed of progress.