

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL CRITERIA FOR COUNTY SITE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL (CSAI) AND AREA OF HIGH ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL (AHAP) SELECTION



Surrey County Council's mapped Archaeological Areas are used to inform planning related considerations. They identify areas where related planning applications will require consultation with the archaeological officers within the Historic Environment Planning Team. This document outlines the key criteria and methodology used in the selection of these areas and should be used as a supporting document alongside the mapped areas.

Background

National Planning Policy requires planning authorities to consider 'non-designated Heritage Assets' in deciding an application. All archaeological remains can be considered to fall under this criteria, therefore Surrey County Council have adopted clear policies to identify known or potential archaeology which are likely to require additional planning considerations.

Archaeological Policies

Surrey County Council's Historic Environment Planning Team provide advice on the basis of two key archaeological policies.

1. developments within pre-designated areas of sensitivity – County Sites of Archaeological Importance (CSAIs) and Areas of High Archaeological Potential (AHAPs).
2. developments involving areas over a pre-specified size - 0.4ha.

Planning applications which fall into either of these two criteria will be flagged for consultation with the archaeological planning officers who will provide advice accordingly. These policies have been successfully used in Surrey since 1990 and are reflected in the Local Plans of the 12 planning authorities across Surrey.

Mapped Archaeological Areas

There are two formal categories of archaeological sites involved in the mechanism for administering this policy. The first category of sites are **County Sites of Archaeological Importance¹ (CSAI)** - sites where there is a proven archaeological presence and where that archaeology is known to be of a standard and quality to require a definite presumption in favour of preservation *in-situ*.

The second category of sites are **Areas of High Archaeological Potential¹ (AHAP)** – defined zones which have been examined by the County Archaeologist and determined to likely contain good evidence for the existence of archaeological remains. The determination is largely based upon information in the County HER, as well as information on previous finds, past investigations, historic maps, aerial photograph, and thematic surveys. Although

¹ See below for full definitions

the exact character of any remains might not have been fully explored, within these areas it is strongly suspected that the larger-scale groundworks that take place as a result of development will lead to the destruction of archaeological evidence.

The alert mapping areas are simply a tool used by planning officers. The areas are not formal designations, and do not have accompanying rights or restrictions.

Review

It is intended that the areas are reviewed every 5 years. This ensures that the areas are based on the most up-to-date evidence. The next review is due to be completed in 2023.

Definitions:

County Site of Archaeological Importance

Definition:

A County Site of Archaeological Importance is a known archaeological heritage asset within Surrey that is important in either a national or regional context and should be preserved.

Supporting Information:

CSAIs are locally designated archaeological Heritage Assets recognised for their significance by the county and district councils on the basis of information submitted to the Historic Environment Record and assessed by the Historic Environment Planning Team. They may be defined in terms of their proven evidential value (rarity, preservation, complexity), their aesthetic contribution to the County, their known historic value, or their importance to the communities of Surrey and/or the South-East region. The boundaries of CSAIs should be considered to be definitive in character as are those of Scheduled Monuments, although similarly there may be curtilage and setting issues to consider should development nearby be proposed. Sites worthy of consideration as CSAIs can be identified through a combination of documentary assessment and/or archaeological fieldwork by qualified and informed persons or organisations. Their designation is based upon a recommendation from the County Council Archaeological Officers that the site could be considered to be of schedulable quality according to the national criteria. Some, but not all, CSAIs are wholly or partially Scheduled already. Development proposals shown to be adversely affecting the heritage significance of a CSAI will be resisted and advice given by the Historic Environment Planning Team in response to planning consultations will reflect this principle.

Area of High Archaeological Potential

Definition:

An Area of High Archaeological Potential is a defined area where it is strongly suspected that there is an increased likelihood of archaeological remains (finds or features) being revealed should ground disturbance take place.

Supporting Information:

An Area of High Archaeological Potential is a local designation described by the County Council and adopted by the county, district and borough authorities for use within their Local Plans. The boundaries of these areas should be considered to be approximations for planning purposes rather than definitive edges, and archaeological features may extend beyond the perimeter. They have been selected and defined on the basis of archaeological, historic or cartographic information contained within the Historic Environment Record and can include categories of site from isolated areas within the landscape where finds have been reported, through to known historic settlements such as town centres. Not all sites of known archaeological discoveries are designated as AHAPs, and because of their comparative rarity and fragility, Prehistoric sites have been accorded greater “weighting” within the designation process. Development within an AHAP is not prohibited but will likely require the implementation of the archaeological assessment, evaluation and mitigation programme set out within the National Planning Policy Framework and its associated Practice Guide.

Scheduled Monument (Related)

Definition:

A Scheduled Monument is a Heritage Asset of recognised National Significance that is legally protected under the terms and conditions of the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act.

Supporting Information:

Scheduled Monuments are designated by the Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport - on the advice of Historic England - following a rigorous programme of assessment. The process examines qualities such as (but not exclusively) survival, rarity, group value, period, documentation, vulnerability, diversity, and potential. The boundaries of these areas are definitive, and there may in addition be curtilage and setting issues to consider depending upon development proposals. All Scheduled Monuments have been assessed to these standards and are considered to be of importance in a National context. However, not all nationally important sites are Scheduled as Historic England's policy reflects a desire to Schedule a representative sample of monument classes, rather than the entire national portfolio. Within Surrey, unscheduled but still nationally significant monuments or sites are likely to be CSAIs (see below).

Any works carried out on a Scheduled Monument require the prior authorisation of Historic England through the issue of a formal Scheduled Monument Consent. Unauthorised works to a Scheduled Monument constitute a criminal offence, prosecutable under the terms and conditions of the 1979 Act.

Selection Methodology and Criteria

Part 1: Table of Assessment

Section 1: Initial Assessment	Evidential Value
Archaeology Definitely Present on a site (HER/Other ref)	Designation possible – proceed to Section 2
Archaeology Suspected on a site – Define Reasoning	Designation may be appropriate – proceed to Section 2
Archaeology Partially Damaged (Estimated <10% loss)	Designation appropriate – proceed to Section 2
Archaeology Partially Damaged (Estimated 10-50% loss)	Assess but Discuss – Designation may be achievable
Archaeology Partially Damaged (Estimated >50% loss)	Assess but Discuss – Designation may not be appropriate
Archaeology 100% Destroyed	Do not designate.

Section 2: Assessment of Significance	Evidential Value	
Archaeological Evidence	Single or Fragmentary Piece of Evidence	Multiple Evidence*
*Multiple evidence refers to a series of finds or features which can reasonably be expected to relate to each other; e.g. in the instance of a flint scatter where the collection of items are likely to have been produced around the same time.		
Palaeolithic flint artefact	Low	Moderate
Any other Palaeolithic artefact (eg. bone)	Very High	National
In-situ Palaeolithic material of any kind or date	National	National/ International
Palaeolithic environmental evidence	National/International	
Palaeolithic/Mesolithic transition period evidence of any kind	National	
Mesolithic flint artefact	Low	Moderate
Any other Mesolithic artefact (eg. bone)	High	Very High
In-situ Mesolithic material of any kind	High	Very High
Mesolithic feature (pit/posthole/ditch)	High	Very High
Mesolithic occupation/ritual Site	Very High	National
Mesolithic environmental evidence	National	
Mesolithic/Neolithic transition period evidence of any kind	National	
Neolithic flint artefact	Low	Moderate
Any other Neolithic artefact (eg. bone)	High	Very High
In-situ Neolithic material of any kind	High	Very High
Neolithic feature (pit/posthole/ditch)	High	Very High

Section 2: Assessment of Significance	Evidential Value	
Archaeological Evidence	Single or Fragmentary Piece of Evidence	Multiple Evidence*
Neolithic domestic occupation/ritual site	Very High	National
Neolithic environmental evidence	Very High	National
Neolithic/Bronze Age transition period evidence of any kind	Very High	
Bronze Age flint artefact	Low	Moderate
Bronze Age metalwork object	Moderate	High
Bronze Age pottery/other artefact	Low	Moderate
Bronze Age feature (pit/posthole/ditch)	Moderate	High
Bronze Age field system/agricultural working evidence	Moderate	High
Bronze Age domestic occupation/religious site	High	Very High
Bronze Age funerary site (cremation/inhumation)	High	Very High
Bronze Age (in-situ) industrial working evidence	Very High	Very High
Bronze Age environmental evidence	High	Very High
Bronze Age/Iron Age transition period evidence of any kind	Very High	
Iron Age flint artefact	Low	Moderate
Iron Age metalwork object	Moderate	High
Iron Age pottery/other artefact	Low	High
Iron Age feature (pit/posthole/ditch)	Moderate	High
Iron Age field system/agricultural working evidence	Moderate	Very High
Iron Age domestic occupation/religious Site	Very High	Very High
Iron Age funerary site (cremation/inhumation)	Very High	Very High
Iron Age standing remains (eg earthwork)	Very High	National
Iron Age (in-situ) industrial working evidence	Very High	National
Iron Age environmental evidence	Very High	Very High
Iron Age/Roman transition period evidence of any kind	Very High	
Roman pottery/CBM	Negligible	Moderate
Roman worked object (metalwork/bone/pottery)	Low	Moderate
Roman artefact ("other")	Moderate	Moderate
Roman feature (pit/posthole/ditch)	Low	High
Roman field system/agricultural working evidence	Moderate	High
Roman road	Moderate	
Roman domestic occupation	High	Very High
Roman religious activity / site	High	Very High
Roman funerary site (cremation/inhumation)	High	Very High

Section 2: Assessment of Significance	Evidential Value	
	Single or Fragmentary Piece of Evidence	Multiple Evidence*
Archaeological Evidence		
Roman (in-situ) industrial working evidence	Very High	Very High
Roman Military Evidence (finds)	Moderate	Very High
Roman Military Evidence (features)	High	Very High
Roman environmental evidence	High	
Roman/Saxon transition period evidence of any kind	Very High	
Saxon pottery/building materials	Low/Moderate	Moderate
Saxon worked object (metalwork/bone/pottery)	Moderate	High
Saxon artefact ("other")	Moderate	High
Saxon feature (pit/posthole/ditch)	High	High
Saxon field system/agricultural working evidence	High	Very High
Saxon domestic occupation	Very High	Very High
Saxon religious activity / site	High	High
Saxon burial site	High	Very High
Saxon (in-situ) industrial working evidence	Very High	Very High
Saxon military/political evidence of any kind	Very High	Very High/ National
Saxon standing remains (building/structure)	Very High	Very High/ National
Saxon standing remains (eg. earthwork)	Very High	Very High/ National
Saxon other evidence (eg. place name/environmental)	Low/ Moderate	Very High
Saxon/Norman transition period remains	Very High/National	
Medieval pottery/building material	Negligible	Low/ Moderate
Medieval worked object (metalwork/bone/pottery)	Low	Low/ Moderate
Medieval artefact ("other")	Moderate	Moderate
Medieval feature (pit/posthole/ditch)	Low	Moderate
Medieval field system/agricultural working evidence	Low	Moderate
Medieval domestic occupation (feature / site)	Moderate	High
Medieval religious site/activity (inc. standing remains)	High	High
Medieval burial site	High	High
Medieval (in-situ) industrial working evidence	Moderate	High
Medieval military or Royal occupation evidence of any kind	Moderate	High
Medieval standing remains other (structural, eg. non-religious building)	Moderate	Very High

Section 2: Assessment of Significance	Evidential Value	
	Single or Fragmentary Piece of Evidence	Multiple Evidence*
Archaeological Evidence		
Medieval standing extant evidence - other (non-structural eg. earthwork, road alignment, hollow way, place name, environmental)	Moderate	Moderate/High
Post-Medieval pottery/building material	Negligible	Low
Post-Medieval worked object (metalwork/bone/pottery)	Low	Moderate
Post-Medieval artefact (“other”)	Low	Moderate
Post-Medieval feature (pit/posthole/ditch)	Low	Low/Moderate
Post-Medieval field system/agricultural working evidence	Low	Low/Moderate
Post-Medieval domestic occupation	Low/Moderate	Moderate
Post-Medieval religious site/activity	Low	Low/Moderate
Post-Medieval burial site	High	Very High
Post-Medieval building	Low	Low/Moderate
Post-Medieval (in-situ) industrial working evidence	Moderate	Moderate/High
Post-Medieval – early military or Royal occupation evidence	Low	Moderate/High
Post-Medieval - Civil War evidence	High	Very High
Post-Medieval standing remains (unique, secular, designed, associated)	Low	Low/Moderate
Post-Medieval designed landscaping (earthwork, garden, park)	Moderate/High	High/Very High/National
Post-Medieval – early cultural/political/artistic/literary	Moderate/High	High/Very High
Post-Medieval – 19 th Century military	Low	Moderate/High
Post-Medieval – 19 th Century cultural/political/artistic/literary/social/economic	Moderate	High/Very High/National
Industrial Archaeology - pottery/building material	Negligible	Low
Industrial Archaeology - worked object (metalwork/bone/pottery)	Low	Low/Moderate
Industrial Archaeology - technical/mechanical object	Moderate	Moderate/High
Industrial Archaeology - industrial working site/feature	Moderate	Moderate/High
Industrial Archaeology - unique/type/innovation site (former/demolished)	Moderate	Very High/National
Industrial Archaeology - unique/type/innovation site (extant/standing)	High	National/International
20 th Century - technical/industrial site (unique/culturally significant)	Moderate	High

Section 2: Assessment of Significance	Evidential Value	
	Single or Fragmentary Piece of Evidence	Multiple Evidence*
Archaeological Evidence		
20 th Century - technical/industrial site (other)	Negligible	Low
20 th Century - cultural/political/artistic/literary	Moderate/ High	High/ Very High
20 th Century - WWI related/Military 1900-1920	Low/ Moderate	High/ Very High
20 th Century - Military 1920-1945/WWII related	Low/ Moderate	Moderate/ High
20 th Century – WWII – result of enemy action (eg. aircraft crash sites)		High
20 th Century - Cold War	Low/ Moderate	Moderate

Section 3: Contrary or Supporting Considerations.	Value
Location Information poor/indeterminate	Designation might not be achievable
Original Source unreliable/requires investigation	Designation might not be achievable
Repeated negative archaeological interventions	Yes/No
Map evidence correlation	Yes / No / Unclear
Aerial photographic or LiDAR correlation	Yes / No / Unclear
Relevant historic written source material	Yes / No / Unclear

Part 2: Classifications

Classification	Description
Negligible:	Presence of feature/artefact is not necessarily indicative of past activity in an area. Commonplace and relatively archaeologically unimportant.
Low:	Presence is not necessarily indicative, but is worthy of note. Accumulations of such material or features may be of value to investigate for their potential as indicators of more significant activity.
Moderate:	Finds or features of local importance, or features where any value is limited due to mitigating circumstances (e.g. severe damage).
High:	Potentially contributing significantly to our knowledge of the history and development of the County of Surrey.
Very High:	Regionally important information which has the potential to contribute to our understanding of long-term trends and development in the wider region. Also material of potential national importance that requires further assessment to understand fully, or has been damaged to a point whereby important information contributing to its heritage significance has already been lost.
National:	Has the potential to contribute important data to the known development of the UK as a whole.
International:	A find or feature or site which has potential significance in a European or Global context.

Part 3: Establishing Boundaries

During the designation project, area boundaries were defined according to the following sequential assessment process:

- a) HER or other historic or archaeological information delineates proposed boundary edge.
- b) Current topography clearly indicates a likely heritage feature boundary edge.
- c) Current topography indicates a sensible and reasonable edge based upon the modern landscape.
- d) Allocate an arbitrary edge based upon a reasonable circumference around the proposed AHAP/CSAI*.

*Note – establishing a clear feature boundary is a criterion for CSAI definition. If no such boundary can be delineated, the site is most likely not suitable for CSAI classification.

For further information please refer to;
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