Appendix 15.2

Methodology for the cultural heritage assessment

1.1 In accordance with the EIA Regulations the significance of an impact or effect should be identified. This is achieved using a combination of published guidance and professional judgement. Four criteria will be considered in evaluating the significance of the residual effects of the proposed development, taking into account any proposed mitigation measures.

Type of Impact

1.2 Impacts may be positive, beneficial, negative, adverse, neutral (i.e. no discernible effect) or none. They may be permanent or temporary, of long, medium or short duration, direct or indirect. They may also be cumulative or combined with other effects occurring in the vicinity.

1.3 Direct impacts have a physical effect upon an archaeological site, structure or cultural heritage asset. This may lead to the partial or total destruction of that asset.

1.4 Indirect impacts of development upon scheduled monuments, listed buildings, parks and gardens and other designated features of the cultural heritage landscape are more difficult to assess. Consideration should include the context (or setting) of a cultural heritage asset (or place) and how we should assess its significance. Contextual relationships may be visual, but can also be, for example, functional or intellectual.

Likelihood of the impact occurring

1.5 An assessment will be made as to the likelihood of the identified impact occurring. Probability is considered as certain, likely, unlikely or not known.

Sensitivity

1.6 Three categories of sensitivity are identified: high, medium and low. These are expanded upon in the table below.

Definition of cultural heritage sensitivity

Sensitivity	Definition
High	Sites and settings of *national importance*. Scheduled Monuments. Registered Battlefields. Grade I and Grade II* Listed Buildings and Registered Historic Parks and Gardens. Sites may also be discovered as a result of new research that are also of national importance and are candidates for scheduling.
Medium	Sites and settings of *regional importance*. Archaeological sites and features that are not considered sufficiently important or well-preserved to be protected as Scheduled Monuments. Grade II Listed Buildings and Grade II Registered Historic Parks and Gardens. Conservation Areas.
Low	Archaeological sites and structures, and other components of the historic environment that contribute to the local landscape. Locally designated assets.

The Setting of Heritage Assets

1.7 Historic England recommends in Good Practice Advice 3 a broad approach to assessment, undertaken as a series of steps that apply proportionately to complex or more straightforward cases:

- Step 1: identify which heritage assets and their settings are affected;
- Step 2: assess whether, how and to what degree these settings make a contribution to the significance of the heritage asset(s);
- Step 3: assess the effects of the proposed development, whether beneficial or harmful, on that significance;

- Step 4: explore the way to maximise enhancement and avoid or minimise harm;
- Step 5: make and document the decision and monitor outcomes.

These steps will be followed in the assessment.

Magnitude

1.8 The magnitude of change to a cultural heritage asset or landscape is considered in terms of its vulnerability, its current condition and the nature of the impact upon it. With respect to sub-surface archaeology, there may be a degree of uncertainty of the magnitude of change, and where this is the case it is noted. Magnitude is assessed as high, medium, slight or none and the criteria used in this assessment are set out below:

Criteria for assessing magnitude of change for cultural heritage

Magnitude of Change	Description of Change
High	Complete destruction of a well-preserved archaeological site, historic structure or element of the cultural heritage landscape Change to the setting of a cultural heritage asset such that our ability to understand the resource and its historical context is permanently changed
Medium	Destruction of an archaeological site or other cultural heritage asset already in degraded condition Change to the setting of a cultural heritage asset such that our ability to understand the resource and its historical context is partly or temporarily changed
Slight	Destruction of an archaeological site or other cultural heritage asset already in highly degraded condition Change to the setting of a cultural heritage asset such that our ability to understand the resource and its historical context is slightly or temporarily changed

None	No physical effect upon an archaeological site or other asset of the cultural heritage landscape No discernible effect upon the setting of a cultural heritage asset, or our ability to understand the resource and its historical context

Assessing significance

1.9 The four criteria are considered together to reach a conclusion upon the significance of residual effects taking into account any mitigation measures. In accordance with the EIA Regulations these are quantified as significant, not significant or neutral (i.e. no change to the existing situation). They may be beneficial or adverse. In some cases it may not be possible to quantify the significance of an effect, for example due to a gap in information, and this is noted. A matrix of the inter-relationship of sensitivity with magnitude is presented below.

Inter relationship of sensitivity with magnitude

Magnitude →	**High**	**Medium**	**Slight**	**None**
Sensitivity ↓				
High	**Significant**	**Significant**	Not significant	Neutral
Medium	**Significant**	Not significant	Not significant	Neutral
Low	Not significant	Not significant	Not significant	Neutral