

## **Policy D6: Archaeology**

Development proposals that affect archaeological features and deposits will be supported where:

- i. they are accompanied by an evidence based heritage statement that describes the significance of the archaeological deposits affected and that includes a desk based assessment and, where necessary, reports on intrusive and non-intrusive surveys of the application site and its setting; including characterisation of waterlogged organic deposits, if present;
- ii. they will not result in harm to the significances of the site or its setting;
- iii. they are designed to enhance or better reveal the significances of an archaeological site or will help secure a sustainable future for an archaeological site at risk; and
- iv. harm to archaeological deposits is unavoidable, detailed mitigation measures have been agreed with City of York Council that include, where appropriate, provision for deposit monitoring, investigation, recording, analysis, publication, archive deposition and community involvement.

### **Explanation**

- 8.31 The deep, wet, anoxic sub-surface archaeological features and deposits within the historic core of the City of York are designated as an Area of Archaeological Importance under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and are of international importance and significance. The vast majority of these archaeological deposits are of equivalent significance to scheduled ancient monuments. Within the historic core, substantial harm is defined as greater than 5% disturbance to buried archaeological deposits through foundation design and infrastructure development as described in the York Development and Archaeology Study (1990). Within the historic core, substantial harm to nationally-important remains will be permitted only where it meets this target and where it can be demonstrated that the proposal would bring substantial public benefits. This policy approach has been adopted to ensure both the continued economic vitality of the city centre and the preservation in-situ of these highly significant deposits. In all other parts of the City of York, substantial harm to or loss of designated or undesignated features or deposits of national importance will be permitted only where this is outweighed by the public benefits of the proposal.
- 8.32 The important and complex picture of the development of human settlement and exploitation in the City of York area is constantly being amended and elaborated as a result of archaeological investigations and research. Understanding this picture and the significance of these assets, both designated and undesignated, are fundamental to their conservation, enhancement and management. Development proposals will always need to be accompanied by a heritage statement that is proportionate to the size and impact of development proposals and the nature of archaeological evidence. In all circumstances the City of York Historic Environment Record (HER) must be consulted and advice and guidance sought from the council's historic environment specialists. The significance and value of archaeological remains must always be appropriately assessed as part of a statement of significance drawn up with reference to Historic England's Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance (2008), which the Council considers to be appropriate guidance on this matter. The

heritage statement may also need to be accompanied by the results of more detailed analysis involving building assessment, deposit monitoring, including characterisation of waterlogged deposits and their hydrological setting, below ground evaluation and documentary research. The Council will expect the heritage statement to examine the potential impacts of development proposals on significance and value using appropriate evidence and analysis. Where harm to archaeological features and deposits is unavoidable, development proposals will be expected to provide detail on appropriate mitigation measures agreed with City of York Council. Where development sites contain deep, wet, archaeological deposits, these mitigation measures may include provision for installation of and data recovery from deposit monitoring devices. Where mitigation measures include physical excavation of deposits, provision must include adequate resources for excavation, analysis, publication, and archive deposition with the Yorkshire Museum. Development proposals will also be expected to demonstrate the public benefits including community engagement, and lasting educational value through research, publication and display. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.

- 8.33 Copies of all heritage statements and reports on archaeological interventions, whether pre- or post determination of an application, must be deposited with the City of York HER. Physical interventions into heritage assets through standing building assessment or below ground archaeological investigations should be led by appropriately qualified individuals and organizations preferably accredited by nationally recognised professional institutes or organizations.
- 8.34 On some sites, discoveries made during archaeological evaluations or excavations may create opportunities for the permanent display of features, structures and finds. Such displays can deliver significant public benefit and add value to the finished development. Where such circumstances arise, City of York Council will encourage developers to incorporate features, structures, finds and displays into the finished development.

### **Delivery**

- Key Delivery Partners: City of York Council; developers and Historic England
- Implementation: Planning applications; and heritage statements

### **Policy D7: The Significance of Non-Designated Heritage Assets**

Development proposals will be encouraged and supported where they are designed to sustain and enhance, the significance of York's historic environment, including non-designated heritage assets.

The significance of non-designated heritage assets and their settings should be assessed in development proposals against the following criteria, namely the:

- special architectural or vernacular interest; and/or
- townscape and landscape significance; and/or
- historic interest; and/or