

A Brief Outline of an Archaeological Assessment

Archaeological assessments are completed in a staged fashion.



Stage 1 assessment is a detailed background study of the land use and geological history of the property and its topographic, physical and historical setting. The goal of Stage 1 assessment is to determine the potential for the discovery of archaeological sites on the property.



Stage 2 assessment (or field survey) consists of a pedestrian "walk over" of ploughed fields and/or shovel testing of grassed or wooded areas. Alternative techniques are employed in the assessment of urban areas.



If sites are found, **Stage 3** testing may follow, usually involving test excavations to determine the size, nature and significance of the site.



If the testing is productive and a site is deemed significant, **Stage 4** mitigation work is conducted. This may involve negotiating avoidance measures to preserve all or part of the site in a park-like green space, partial excavation, or complete excavation.

All stages of fieldwork are followed by an inventory and analysis of the artefacts recovered and the completion of an assessment report.

