FISH TERMINOLOGIES

Archaeological Event Type Thesaurus

Report Format: Hierarchical listing - alpha

Notes: For the recording of archaeological and architectural investigative, data collection exercises.

Date: February 2020
3D SEISMIC SURVEY
SN A maritime technique similar in theory to sub-bottom profilers, however for 3D seismic surveys the receiver array is more complex involving multiple receivers so that a volume of sediment is studied rather than a single 2D line.
CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY
RT SUB BOTTOM PROFILING SURVEY

ACOUSTIC GROUND DISCRIMINATING SYSTEM
SN An extra processing unit which can be used in conjunction with single beam echo sounders to determine the roughness and hardness of the seafloor. Mainly used for marine biology, but has been used in archaeology.
CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH INTERPRETATION
SN The interpretation of information on aerial photographs usually resulting in the production of maps and records of archaeological sites and landscapes. Many aerial photographs may be consulted for a single analytical survey.
CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS
RT AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY
SN The taking of photographs from above using photographic equipment mounted on, or used from an aircraft or other airborne vehicle.
CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE
NT CONVENTIONAL AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY
MULTI SPECTRAL AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY
RT AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH INTERPRETATION

AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE
SN Airborne survey to discover, record and monitor archaeological sites and other heritage assets. Sites will usually be recorded by aerial photography.
CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT REMOTE SENSING
NT AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY
LIDAR SURVEY

Airborne Laser Scanning
USE LIDAR SURVEY

AIRBORNE LASER SCANNING SURVEY
SN The interpretation of visualisations derived from Airborne Laser Scanning, or LIDAR, data usually resulting in the identification of archaeological features and landscapes.
CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS
RT LIDAR SURVEY

Airborne Lidar Survey
USE LIDAR SURVEY

ANALYTICAL BUILDINGS RECORD (LEVEL 3)
CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT BUILDINGS INVESTIGATION (ENGLAND)

ANALYTICAL EARTHWORK SURVEY
SN The accurate survey and analytical depiction of earthworks and their relative chronological relationships by means of hachures and related symbols.
CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT SURVEY
RT TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY

ANTIQVARIAN OBSERVATION
SN Observations made by antiquarians (Those who studied sites and landscapes prior to archaeology and architectural history becoming established disciplines in the 19th century) and reported through publication or from unpublished manuscripts.
CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT OBSERVATION

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTION
SN Any activity, undertaken by professional archaeologists or experienced amateurs, that has a physical impact, actual or potential, upon the archaeological resource, substituting the physical resource with recorded information.
CL INTRUSIVE EVENT
NT AUGER SURVEY
BOREHOLE SURVEY
EVALUATION
EXCAVATION
FIELD OBSERVATION (MONITORING)
GRAB SAMPLING
METAL DETECTING USE
SALVAGE RECORDING
WATCHING BRIEF

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY
SN Recording and analysis of built structures utilising close observation as well as manual or electronic survey equipment such as GPS and REDM (Reflectorless Electromagnetic Distance Measurement). Includes research, fieldwork and a report.
CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY
SN Programmes of research that seek to identify the archaeological and/or architectural significance of a site or landscape.
CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
NT AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH INTERPRETATION
AIRBORNE LASER SCANNING SURVEY
BUILDING FABRIC ANALYSIS
CONDITION SURVEY
CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL
AUGER SURVEY
SN Transect or area-based arrangements of drilled auger-holes used to describe deposits and collect samples.
CL INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT NON ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTION
ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTION
ENVIRONMENTAL INTERVENTION
RT BOREHOLE SURVEY
CORE SAMPLING

BASIC BUILDING SURVEY (LEVEL 1)
SN A written description of the structure including archive assessment supported by drawn and photographic evidence including a ground plan.
CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT BUILDINGS INVESTIGATION (SCOTLAND)

BATHYMETRIC SURVEY
SN A maritime investigation that records depth data which can be used to map submerged topography utilising echo sounders which emit a short acoustic pulse. Depth is calculated by measuring the time taken for the pulse to be reflected back to the transducer.
CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT SONAR SURVEY

BOREHOLE SURVEY
SN Type of survey involving the drilling of deep and narrow shafts in the ground used to describe deposits, understand stratigraphy and collect cores samples.
CL INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT NON ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTION
ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTION
ENVIRONMENTAL INTERVENTION
RT AUGER SURVEY
CORE SAMPLING

BOISING SURVEY
SN A subsurface detection method performed by striking the ground with a heavy wooden mallet or a lead-filled container on a long handle.
CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT SURVEY

BOX TRENCHING
UF Grid Excavation
SN A system of excavation, developed by Mortimer Wheeler, whereby a site was uncovered by means of a grid of square trenches with baulks between them to aid the recording of the stratification of all four sides of each trench.

BUILDING SURVEY
USE BUILDING SURVEY

BUILDING FABRIC ANALYSIS
SN The recording and analysis of the fabric of a structure or building.
CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

BUILDINGS APPRAISAL
USE BUILDING SURVEY

BUILDINGS INVESTIGATION (ENGLAND)
SN The process of investigating and recording historic buildings for the purposes of historical understanding.
CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT BUILDINGS RECORDING AND INVESTIGATION

BUILDINGS INVESTIGATION (SCOTLAND)
SN The process of investigating and recording historic buildings for the purposes of historical understanding.
CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT BUILDINGS RECORDING AND INVESTIGATION

BUILDINGS RECORDING AND INVESTIGATION
SN Includes the processes for investigating and recording historic buildings. Differences in
terminology may apply to the recording of 
buildings due to the approach taken. As such, 
concepts in this hierarchy may be country 

specific.

CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT SURVEY
NT BUILDINGS INVESTIGATION (ENGLAND)
BUILDINGS INVESTIGATION (SCOTLAND)

Burial Ground Survey

USE GRAVEYARD SURVEY

CASUAL OBSERVATION

SN The unplanned observation of archaeological 
features or the recovery of artefacts of interest, 
for example either random finds by members of 
the public or the unplanned observation of 
archeological features during the course of 
umonitored developments.

CL INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT NON ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTION

COMPREHENSIVE ANALYTICAL BUILDINGS RECORD

SN Visual and descriptive record of a building, 
drawing on the full range of sources and 
including consideration of significance. Equivalent 
to Historic England Level 4.

CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT BUILDINGS INVESTIGATION (ENGLAND)

COMPREHENSIVE BUILDING SURVEY (LEVEL 4)

SN A comprehensive written report drawing together 
the evidence from the recording programme, 
archive research and consideration of the 
historical and landscape context supported by 
measured plans and elevations and a thorough 
photographic survey.

CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT BUILDINGS INVESTIGATION (SCOTLAND)

CONDITION SURVEY

SN Programmes of investigation which assess and 
record the condition of heritage assets.

CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL

CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

Contour Survey

USE TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY

CONVENTIONAL AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

SN Capturing visible spectrum photographs or 
images of monument features or character using 
still or motion cameras from an aircraft or other 
aeroplane vehicle or apparatus. Covers both digital 
and film-based cameras.

CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

CORE SAMPLING

SN The retrieval of samples for laboratory analysis 
from buried features that have been sampled 
using boring equipment.

CL INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING
NT GRAVITY CORE

VIBRO CORE
RT AUGER SURVEY
BOREHOLE SURVEY

Cross Sectional Building Survey

USE BUILDING SURVEY

DENDROCHRONOLOGICAL SURVEY

SN The extraction of wood samples for dating 
analysis. Tree ring dating is the science of dating 
cultural and environmental events in the past by 
comparative study of the growth rings in trees 
and aged wood.

CL INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT ENVIRONMENTAL INTERVENTION
RT TIMBER SAMPLING

DESCRIPTIVE BUILDINGS RECORD (LEVEL 2)

SN Visual and descriptive record of a building, 
usually interior and exterior. Equivalent to Historic 
England Level 2.

CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT BUILDINGS INVESTIGATION (ENGLAND)

DESK BASED ASSESSMENT

SN A programme of assessment of the know n or 
potential archaeological resource within a 
specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or 
underwater by the consultation and collation of 
eexisting written, graphic, photographic and 
electronic data.

CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

DETAILED BUILDING SURVEY (LEVEL 3)

SN A descriptive account of the building supported 
by detailed archive research, annotated 
measured plans and elevations and a detailed 
photographic record.

CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT BUILDINGS INVESTIGATION (SCOTLAND)

DIVER INSPECTION

SN An assessment of a known wreck or 
underwater archaeological site through diving.

CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT OBSERVATION

DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH

SN Programmes of research or investigation 
involving the examination of primary documentary 
material to inform the understanding of heritage 
assets.

CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

DOWSING SURVEY

SN The supposed detection of subsurface features 
by employing a twig, copper rod, pendulum, or 
other instrument. Discontinuous movements in 
these instruments are believed by some to record 
the existence of buried features.

CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT SURVEY

EARTH RESISTANCE (REISTIVITY) SURVEY

UF Earth Resistance Survey
Electrical Survey
Geophysical Resistivity
Earth Resistance Survey
USE EARTH RESISTANCE (RESISTIVITY) SURVEY

Electrical Resistivity Imaging Survey
USE ELECTRICAL RESISTIVITY TOMOGRAPHY

ELECTRICAL RESISTIVITY TOMOGRAPHY
UF Electrical Resistivity Imaging Survey
Resistivity Profile
SN A geophysical technique for imaging subsurface structures in cross section from electrical measurements made at the surface, or by electrodes in one or more boreholes.

ENHANCED BUILDING SURVEY (LEVEL 2)
SN A written, drawn and photographic record, including a ground plan and elevations to produce an adequate record of the structure.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTION
SN Controlled intrusive fieldwork which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts and ecofacts within a specified area or site on land or within the inter-tidal zone.

ENVIRONMENTAL INTERVENTION
SN Intervention into the archaeological resource intended to gather information about past ecologies and economies, formation processes, and to retrieve material for scientific dating purposes.

ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING
SN Removal of samples from deposits, including archaeological contexts to recover information about past environments and economies, retrieve material for scientific dating and for the investigation of the deposits themselves e.g. formation processes.

EVALUATION
SN A limited programme of intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land or within the inter-tidal zone.

EXCAVATION
SN Controlled intrusive fieldwork which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts and ecofacts within a specified area or site on land or within the inter-tidal zone.

FIELD SURVEY
SN The collection of information relating to the location, distribution and organisation of past human activities involving field or site-based investigation of a certain geographic area.

FIELD VISIT
SN Observations made by an archaeologist or architectural historian as the result of a field visit to a site or monument.
CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT OBSERVATION

Fieldwalking
USE SYSTEMATIC FIELDWALKING SURVEY
UNSYSTEMATIC FIELDWALKING SURVEY

FIELDWALKING SURVEY
CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT SURVEY
NT SYSTEMATIC FIELDWALKING SURVEY
UNSYSTEMATIC FIELDWALKING SURVEY

GEOCHEMICAL SURVEY
SN The taking of samples at regular intervals from the surface of a study area in order to retrieve information on the different chemical elements present.
CL INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT ENVIRONMENTAL INTERVENTION
NT PHOSPHATE SURVEY
X-RAY FLUORESCENCE SURVEY

GEO MORPHOLOGICAL SURVEY
SN Field survey undertaken to investigate land formation processes often carried out in association with, or in the vicinity of, an archaeological site, or as part of a wider landscape project.
CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT SURVEY

Geophysical Magnetic Susceptibility
USE MAGNETIC SUSCEPTIBILITY SURVEY

Geophysical Magnetometer
USE MAGNETOMETRY SURVEY

Geophysical Resistivity
USE EARTH RESISTANCE (RESISTIVITY) SURVEY

GEO PHYSICAL SURVEY
SN Ground-based or marine subsurface mapping of archaeological features using different sensing technologies. Most commonly applied are magnetometers, electrical resistance meters, ground penetrating radar, side scan sonar, and electromagnetic conductivity.
CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT SURVEY
NT 3D SEISMIC SURVEY
ACOUSTIC GROUND DISCRIMINATING SYSTEM
EARTH RESISTANCE (RESISTIVITY) SURVEY
ELECTRICAL RESISTIVITY TOMOGRAPHY
ELECTROMAGNETIC SURVEY
GROUND PENETRATING RADAR SURVEY
MAGNETIC SUSCEPTIBILITY SURVEY
MAGNETOMETRY SURVEY
MICROGRAVITY SURVEY
SEISMIC SURVEY
SONAR SURVEY

GEO TECHNICAL SURVEY
SN Any subsurface investigation conducted to assist with the technical rather than archaeological aspects of a proposed development or extraction scheme.
CL INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT NON ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTION
NT GEOTECHNICAL TEST PIT

GEOTECHNICAL TEST PIT
UF Subsoil Test Pit
SN Test pits dug by geotechnical engineers or engineering geologists to obtain information on the physical properties of soil, sediments and bedrock around a site to design earthworks and foundations for proposed structures.
CL INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT GEOTECHNICAL SURVEY

GRAB SAMPLING
UF Grab Survey
SN A maritime technique which involves the simple process of bringing up surface sediments from the seafloor for analysis usually using mechanical apparatus. As the process recovers a mixture of sediments it cannot be used to characterise stratigraphy.
CL INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTION

Grab Survey
USE GRAB SAMPLING

GRAVEYARD SURVEY
UF Burial Ground Survey
SN The systematic survey and recording of graveyards and burial spaces recording the position of individual grave markers and the detail of any inscriptions.
CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT SURVEY

GRAVITY CORE
SN A maritime coring technique which penetrates the ground due to the force of gravity. Since the speed of penetration is the same as the sampling speed, it barely disrupts the sedimentary layers. A cable attached to the ship is used to recover the core.
CL INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT CORE SAMPLING

Grid Excavation
USE BOX TRENCHING

Ground Penetrating Radar
USE GROUND PENETRATING RADAR SURVEY

GROUND PENETRATING RADAR SURVEY
UF Ground Penetrating Radar
SN A technique that measures the amount of time it takes pulses of electromagnetic energy sent into the ground, from a transmitter, to reflect back from the interfaces between layers and other subsurface features in order to produce a subsurface profile.
CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

HEDGEROW SURVEY
SN The assessment of the age of a hedge based on its nature, condition and the number and type of woody plant species present. Most surveys
make use of Hooper’s hypothesis which states that for every 27m a new woody species invades a hedge every 100 years.

**HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

**SN** Programmes of research or investigation which seek to identify the significance of a heritage asset, often to inform proposals for change.

**CL** NON INTRUSIVE EVENT

**BT** ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

**HISTORIC AREA ASSESSMENT**

**SN** An overview of the historical and architectural development, character and heritage assets of a settlement or area. An HAA may result in the creation, at varying levels of intensity, of individual site-based records informed by area context.

**CL** NON INTRUSIVE EVENT

**BT** ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

**HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION**

**SN** An holistic approach to landscape, using GIS, which maps diversity of landscape character as a means to managing future change in ways that are appropriate and sustainable.

**CL** NON INTRUSIVE EVENT

**BT** ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

**RT** HISTORIC SEASCAPE CHARACTERISATION

**HISTORIC SEASCAPE CHARACTERISATION**

**SN** A map-based understanding of coastal and marine historic character; its GIS and linked texts extend Historic Landscape Characterisation principles to give a common framework of baseline information for the sustainable management of change from land to sea.

**CL** NON INTRUSIVE EVENT

**BT** ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

**RT** HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION

**HISTORIC URBAN CHARACTERISATION**

**SN** A holistic approach to urban character, using GIS to map areas of urban character and historical development, as a tool for managing future change in ways that are appropriate and sustainable.

**CL** NON INTRUSIVE EVENT

**BT** ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

**Infra Red Aerial Photography**

**USE** INFRARED AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

**Infra Red Line Scan Aerial Photography**

**USE** INFRARED LINE SCAN AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

**Infra Red Thermography Survey**

**USE** INFRARED THERMOGRAPHY SURVEY

**INFRARED AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY**

**UF** Infra Red Aerial Photography

**SN** A specific type of Infrared photography that uses an airborne scanning infrared sensor to record differential spectrums of features both extant and buried.

**CL** NON INTRUSIVE EVENT

**BT** MULTI SPECTRAL AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

**INFRARED THERMOGRAPHY SURVEY**

**UF** Infra Red Thermography Survey

**SN** An investigative method using an infrared camera to detect temperature differences in the ground. The thermal camera does not record the actual temperature of the object in question. Instead the camera records the infrared radiation emitted by the object.

**CL** NON INTRUSIVE EVENT

**BT** MULTI SPECTRAL AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

**INTRUSIVE EVENT**

**CL** INTRUSIVE EVENT

**NT** ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTION

**ENVIRONMENTAL INTERVENTION**

**NON ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTION**

**LASER SCANNING SURVEY**

**SN** The recording of a surface, or surfaces, using scanning technologies, to create a 3D model of the target structure/object.

**CL** NON INTRUSIVE EVENT

**BT** SURVEY

**RT** LIDAR SURVEY

**LIDAR SURVEY**

**UF** Airborne Laser Scanning

**Airborne Lidar Survey**

**SN** Light detection and ranging is a type of aircraft based remote sensing which records reflected laser pulses. The data can be used to produce very accurate digital elevation models. For ground-based work use LASER SCANNING SURVEY.

**CL** NON INTRUSIVE EVENT

**BT** AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE

**RT** AIRBORNE LASER SCANNING SURVEY

**LIDAR SURVEY**

**LASER SCANNING SURVEY**

**MF** Geophysical Magnetic Susceptibility

**SN** The extraction of samples from selected features on a site to identify a characteristic magnetic response from sediments derived from the features in order to predict the response that similar features would produce. Also used to prospect for sites.

**CL** NON INTRUSIVE EVENT

**BT** GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

**MAGNETOMETRY SURVEY**

**UF** Geophysical Magnetometer

**SN** Survey using a magnetometer, a device capable of detecting variations in magnetic susceptibility between soils, subsoils and rocks, can also be used in a maritime context to detect variations in the magnetic field of seabed sediments.

**CL** NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
MANAGEMENT SURVEY
SN A field and desk-based assessment of heritage asset condition and vulnerability so that informed decisions can be made regarding how best to manage the resource.
CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

MEASURED SURVEY
SN A dimensional check on a building or site giving detailed measurements.
CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT SURVEY
RT AARCHITECTURAL SURVEY BUILDING SURVEY

METAL DETECTING SURVEY
UF Metal Detectors
SN Systematic Metal Detector Survey
CL INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT NON ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTION AARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTION
RT METAL DETECTING USE

METAL DETECTING USE
SN The hobby of using a metal detector to hunt for buried coins or artefacts; alternatively the use of a metal detector to locate metal artefacts on an archaeological excavation that otherwise would go unnoticed.
CL INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT NON ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTION AARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTION
RT METAL DETECTING USE

MICROGRAVITY SURVEY
SN A sensing technique that consists of measuring minute variations in the gravitational pull of the Earth in order to detect gravity anomalies arising from voids and cavities within the earth.
CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

MONOLITH SAMPLING
SN Removal of a sample from a vertical section generally using a U-sectioned tin to extract an intact column of the observed stratigraphy. Used in the study of pollen, diatoms etc.
CL INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

MULTI BEAM ECHO SOUNDER SURVEY
SN An underwater technique used to create 3D terrain models and to record objects on the seabed through the comparative analysis of reflections from high frequency sound waves emitted in multiple beams allowing large swathes of the seabed to be surveyed.
CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT

MULTI SPECTRAL AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY
SN Recording using specialist equipment that allows discrete wavelengths in the visible spectrum and beyond to be recorded. The combination of different spectral bands allows features to be identified that would not be visible to the naked eye.
CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY
NT INFRARED AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY INFRARED LINE SCAN AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY INFRARED THERMOGRAPHY SURVEY

NON ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTION
SN Any activities that have a physical impact upon the archaeological resource where the purpose is not primarily archaeological research.
CL INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT NON ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTION

OBSERVATION
CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
NT ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS OBSERVATION REMOTE SENSING SURVEY

OPEN AREA EXCAVATION
SN Controlled investigation, recording and removal of archaeological deposits according to the principles of stratigraphic excavation. The size of an open area can range from holes to examine pile foundations to extensive trenches of 100 square meters.
CL INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT EXCAVATION

PHOSPHATE SURVEY
SN The systematic collection of samples from a defined study area analysed for phosphate content. Elevated concentrations of phosphate are a generalised signature of human activity.
CL INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT GEOCHEMICAL SURVEY

PHOTOGRAMMETRIC SURVEY
UF Photogrammetry
SN The measurement of a surface, either in elevation or plan, determined from measurements derived from two or more photographic images taken from different positions; this allows three dimensional viewing of the surface to be mapped.
CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT
BT PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY
RT RECTIFIED PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY
**PHOTOGRAMMETRY**

**USE** PHOTOGRAMMETRIC SURVEY

**PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORDING**

**SN** The taking of photographs during informal site visits, which may be undertaken by amateur archaeologists or architectural students. More formal, detailed surveys should be termed Photographic Survey.

**CL** NON INTRUSIVE EVENT

**BT** SURVEY

**PHOTOGRAHIC SURVEY**

**SN** Detailed survey using photographic images to record archaeological and architectural sites or features of interest. Record photography is an important aspect of recording such features before they are destroyed.

**CL** NON INTRUSIVE EVENT

**BT** SURVEY

**RECTIFIED PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY**

**SN** Systematic recording of building facades that produces a seamless mosaic of digital images by identifying control points and defining limits to each image. The rectified mosaic can then be introduced into a CAD environment.

**CL** NON INTRUSIVE EVENT

**BT** PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY

**RT** PHOTOGRAMMETRIC SURVEY

**POST EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT**

**SN** An initial synthesis of the data collected from an excavation.

**CL** NON INTRUSIVE EVENT

**BT** ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

**REMOTE OPERATED VEHICLE SURVEY**

**SN** A technique utilised in maritime recording; a remote operated vehicle (ROV) is a tethered underwater robot. ROVs have been used to locate and inspect a number of historic shipwrecks in depths beyond the reach of human divers.

**CL** NON INTRUSIVE EVENT

**BT** REMOTE SENSING

**REMOTE SENSING**

**SN** Survey using photographic or other recording equipment mounted on or used from either an aircraft or other airborne vehicle or a maritime vessel/submersible craft.

**CL** NON INTRUSIVE EVENT

**NT** AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE

**REMOTE OPERATED VEHICLE SURVEY**

**SATELLITE IMAGING**

**SN** The capture of imagery using an orbiting satellite. The type of imagery is very varied including visible light photography, infrared and multi-spectral photography as well as imagery derived from radar and lidar data.

**CL** NON INTRUSIVE EVENT

**BT** REMOTE SENSING

**SEISMIC SURVEY**

**UF** Seismograph Survey

**SN** An acoustic method which involves the creation of a shock wave through the ground. By recording the time interval between the initial shock and the reflected or refracted shock waves, it is possible to define subsurface deposits.

**CL** NON INTRUSIVE EVENT

**BT** GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

**SIDE SCAN SONAR SURVEY**

**SN** Underwater investigation of the seabed, using a side-looking sonar device that emits fan-shaped acoustic pulses down to the seabed. The intensity of the acoustic reflections from the seabed are recorded as an image of the seabed.

**CL** NON INTRUSIVE EVENT

**BT** SONAR SURVEY
Side Scanning Sonar Survey

USE SIDE SCAN SONAR SURVEY

SINGLE BEAM ECHO SOUNDER SURVEY

SN An underwater technique that records bathymetric (depth) data by generating point depths in a line directly beneath the transducer mounted on a vessel as it progresses along the acquisition line.

CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT

BT SONAR SURVEY

SONAR SURVEY

SN Active sonar systems are based on the behaviour of sound waves in water; acoustic energy is transmitted and the time for the returning echo is measured to allow submerged seabed features to be mapped. Use specific type where known.

CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT

BT GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

NT BATHYMETRIC SURVEY

SYSTEMATIC FIELDWALKING SURVEY

USE METAL DETECTING SURVEY

SYSTEMATIC FIELDWALKING SURVEY

USE TRAIL TRENCH

TEST PIT

USE TEST PIT

STRIP MAP AND SAMPLE

USE STRIP MAP AND SAMPLE

STRIP MAP AND SAMPLE

USE STRIP MAP AND SAMPLE

SUB BOTTOM PROFILING SURVEY

SN Used to identify and measure various sediment layers that exist below the seabed. A sound source emits a signal vertically downwards and a receiver monitors the return signal that has been reflected off the seafloor and sub seabed sediment layers.

CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT

BT SONAR SURVEY

RT 3D SEISMIC SURVEY

Subsoil Test Pit

USE GEOTECHNICAL TEST PIT

Surface Collection

USE SYSTEMATIC FIELDWALKING SURVEY

UNSISTEMATIC FIELDWALKING SURVEY

SURVEY

SN The non intrusive processes by which information is collected about the location, distribution and organisation of past human activities. The approaches can be either extensive or intensive depending the objectives that need to be addressed.

CL NON INTRUSIVE EVENT

BT ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

TIMBER SAMPLING
Topographic Survey

- Contour Survey (UF)
- The controlled measurement of natural and artificial landscape features to produce a measured plan or a 3D data set reading as a plan. Features are depicted by either hachures, symbols or contour lines.

- Visual Buildings Record (Level 1) (BT
- Visual Inspection

Trial Trench

- Sample Trenches (UF)
- Targeted Trenches
- Archaeologically excavated trench, either hand or machine dug, as part of a sampling programme to evaluate the presence/absence, nature, preservation, age and extent of any buried archaeological features.

- Systematic Fieldwalking Survey (RT)

- Unsystematic Fieldwalking Survey (SN)

Underwater Evaluation

- A limited programme of intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified underwater area.

- Underwater Excavation (CL)

- Underwater Survey (BT)

Unsystematic Fieldwalking Survey

- Fieldwalking (UF)
- Surface Collection
- Topsil Artefact Survey

- Visual Buildings Record (Level 1) (BT
- Visual Inspection

- Visible Buildings Record (Level 1) (SN
- Equivalent to Historic England Level 1.

- X Ray Fluorescence Survey (RT)

- Field Observation (Visual Assessment) (USE

Watching Brief

- A formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons that may damage archaeological deposits. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater.

- Salva ge Recording (BT

X Ray Fluorescence Survey

- The systematic use of portable X-Ray Fluorescence equipment to retrieve information on the different chemical elements present in the soil.

- Field Observation (Monitoring) (RT

Vibro Core

- A maritime coring technique which uses vibration to facilitate ground penetration. With the force of gravity, and sometimes a piston, it can penetrate much deeper layers although the vibration provokes a slight mixing of the sediments.

- Core Sampling (BT

Visual Buildings Record (Level 1)

- Visual record of a building, usually exterior only. Equivalent to Historic England Level 1.

- Buildings Investigation (England) (BT

- Salvage Recording (RT

Walkover Survey

- A planned programme of investigation conducted within a defined area aimed at identifying and surveying previously unrecorded sites and checking the condition of known sites.

- Field Observation (Monitoring) (CL

Environmental Intervention

- Field Observation (Monitoring) (BT

Archaeological Intervention

- Field Observation (Monitoring) (RT

Geochemical Survey

- Field Observation (Monitoring) (CL

- Geochemical Survey (BT