FISH TERMINOLOGIES

Archaeological Event Type Thesaurus

Report Format: Alphabetical listing

Description: Terminology used for recording of archaeological and architectural Investigative, data collection exercises, from intrusive Interventions to non-damaging surveys.

Date: May 2024

Linked Data: http://purl.org/heritagedata/schemes/agl_et
FISH Event Types Thesaurus: Alphabetical

3d Seismic Survey
RT : Sub Bottom Profiling Survey
BT : Geophysical Survey
TT : Non Intrusive Event
★ 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.

Acoustic Ground Discriminating System
BT : Geophysical Survey
TT : Non Intrusive Event
★ 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.

Aerial Investigation And Mapping
BT : Survey
TT : Non Intrusive Event
★ The interpretation of information on aerial photographs &/or airborne laser scanning (lidar) resulting in the production of maps & records of archaeological sites & landscapes. Many sources of aerial images may be consulted for a single analytical survey.

Aerial Photograph Interpretation
RT : Aerial Photography
BT : Assessment And Analysis
TT : Non Intrusive Event
★ 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.

Aerial Photography
RT : Aerial Photograph Interpretation
BT : Aerial Reconnaissance
TT : Non Intrusive Event
NT : Conventional Aerial Photography
Multi Spectral Aerial Photography
★ The taking of photographs from above using photographic equipment mounted on, or used from an aircraft or other airborne vehicle.

Aerial Reconnaissance
BT : Remote Sensing
TT : Non Intrusive Event
NT : Aerial Photography
Airborne Laser Scanning (Lidar) Survey
★ Airborne survey to discover, record and monitor archaeological sites and other heritage assets. Sites will usually be recorded by aerial photography.

Arborglyph Survey
USE : Airborne Laser Scanning (Lidar) Survey

Airborne Lidar Survey
USE : Airborne Laser Scanning (Lidar) Survey

Airborne Laser Scanning Interpretation
BT : Survey
TT : Non Intrusive Event
★ The interpretation of information on aerial photographs &/or airborne laser scanning (lidar) usually resulting in the production of maps & records of archaeological sites and landscapes. For mapping projects use ‘aerial investigation and mapping’.

Airborne Laser Scanning Survey
RT : Airborne Laser Scanning Survey
BT : Assessment And Analysis
TT : Non Intrusive Event
★ The interpretation of visualisations derived from Airborne Laser Scanning, or LiDAR, data usually resulting in the identification of archaeological features and landscapes.

Airborne Laser Scanning Survey
USE : Airborne Laser Scanning (Lidar) Survey

Analytical Buildings Record (level 3)
BT : Buildings Investigation (England)
TT : Non Intrusive Event

Analytical Earthwork Survey
BT : Survey
TT : Non Intrusive Event
★ The accurate survey and analytical depiction of earthworks and their relative chronological relationships by means of hachures and related symbols.

Antiquarian Observation
BT : Observation
TT : Non Intrusive Event
★ 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.

Arborglyph Survey
BT : Survey
TT : Non Intrusive Event
★ Survey to locate identify and record carvings into the bark of trees.
Archaeological Intervention

BT : Intrusive Event
TT : Intrusive Event
NT : Evaluation
Excavation
Watching Brief
Salvage Recording
Metal Detecting Use
Borehole Survey
Auger Survey
Grab Sampling
Field Observation (monitoring)

★ 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.

Archaeomagnetic Sampling

BT : Environmental Sampling
TT : Intrusive Event

★ Removal of samples from in situ deposits for dating analysis by studying the remnant magnetism contained within the deposit.

Architectural Survey

BT : Survey
TT : Non Intrusive Event

★ 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.

Assessment And Analysis

BT : Non Intrusive Event
TT : Non Intrusive Event
NT : Desk Based Assessment
Environmental Impact Assessment
Historic Landscape Characterisation
Historic Seascapes Characterisation
Management Survey
Historic Area Assessment
Thematic Survey
Aerial Photograph Interpretation
Conservation Area Appraisal
Post Excavation Assessment
Airborne Laser Scanning Survey
Condition Survey
Documentary Research
Building Fabric Analysis
Heritage Assessment
Historic Urban Characterisation
Landscape Survey
Automated Object Detection

★ Programmes of research that seek to identify the archaeological and/or architectural significance of a site or landscape.

Auger Survey

BT : Archaeological Intervention
Environmental Intervention
Non Archaeological Intervention
TT : Intrusive Event

★ Transect or area-based arrangements of drilled auger-holes used to describe deposits and collect samples.

Automated Object Detection

BT : Assessment And Analysis
TT : Non Intrusive Event

★ A range of semi-automated techniques using computer vision and machine learning to recognise potential archaeological features from airborne laser scanning (LiDAR) and satellite products.

Basic Building Survey (level 1)

BT : Buildings Investigation (Scotland)
TT : Non Intrusive Event

★ A written description of the structure including archive assessment supported by drawn and photographic evidence including a ground plan.

Bathymetric Survey

BT : Sonar Survey
TT : Non Intrusive Event

★ 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.

Borehole Survey

BT : Environmental Intervention
Archaeological Intervention
Non Archaeological Intervention
TT : Intrusive Event

★ Type of survey involving the drilling of deep and narrow shafts in the ground used to describe deposits, understand stratigraphy and collect core samples.

Bosing Survey

BT : Survey
TT : Non Intrusive Event

★ A subsurface detection method performed by striking the ground with a heavy wooden mallet or a lead-filled container on a long handle.

Bottom Classification Sonar

USE : Side Scan Sonar Survey

Box Trenching

UF : Grid Excavation
BT : Excavation
TT : Intrusive Event

★ 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 Elevation Survey

USE : Building Survey

Building Fabric Analysis

BT : Assessment And Analysis
TT : Non Intrusive Event

★ The recording and analysis of the fabric of a structure or building.
Building Plan Survey
USE : Building Survey

Building Recording
USE : Building Survey

Buildings Appraisal
BT : Buildings Investigation (Scotland)
TT : Non Intrusive Event
★ A preliminary assessment of a building or structure, often carried out as pre-application work, including an archive assessment, a general description of the structure, photographs and an annotated ground plan.

Buildings Investigation (England)
BT : Buildings Recording And Investigation
TT : Non Intrusive Event
NT : Comprehensive Analytical Buildings Record (level 4)
Descriptive Buildings Record (level 2)
Analytical Buildings Record (level 3)
★ The process of investigating and recording historic buildings for the purposes of historical understanding.

Buildings Investigation (Scotland)
BT : Buildings Recording And Investigation
NT : Buildings Appraisal
Basic Building Survey (level 1)
Enhanced Building Survey (level 2)
Detailed Building Survey (level 3)
Comprehensive Building Survey (level 4)
★ The process of investigating and recording historic buildings for the purposes of historical understanding.

Buildings Recording And Investigation
BT : Survey
TT : Non Intrusive Event
NT : Buildings Investigation (England)
Buildings Investigation (Scotland)
★ 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.

Building Survey
UF : Building Elevation Survey
Building Plan Survey
Building Recording
Cross Sectional Building Survey
BT : Survey
TT : Non Intrusive Event
★ A descriptive survey involving the systematic measurement and recording of the dimensions or features of a building. Where the survey is accompanied by systematic investigation and analysis, use Architectural Survey.

Burial Ground Survey
USE : Graveyard Survey

Casual Observation
BT : Non Archaeological Intervention
TT : Intrusive Event
★ 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 archaeological features during the course of unmonitored developments.

Comprehensive Analytical Buildings Record (level 4)
BT : Buildings Investigation (England)
TT : Non Intrusive Event
★ 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.

Comprehensive Building Survey (level 4)
BT : Buildings Investigation (Scotland)
TT : Non Intrusive Event
★ 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.

Condition Survey
BT : Assessment And Analysis
TT : Non Intrusive Event
★ Programmes of investigation which assess and record the condition of heritage assets.

Conservation Area Appraisal
BT : Assessment And Analysis
TT : Non Intrusive Event
★ An objective analysis of the elements which together define the special architectural or historic interest of a specific area.

Contour Survey
USE : Topographic Survey

Conventional Aerial Photography
BT : Aerial Photography
TT : Non Intrusive Event
★ Capturing visible spectrum photographs or images of monument features or character using still or motion cameras from an aircraft or other airborne vehicle or apparatus. Covers both digital and film-based cameras.

Core Sampling
BT : Environmental Sampling
TT : Intrusive Event
NT : Gravity Core
Vibro Core
★ The retrieval of samples for laboratory analysis from buried features that have been sampled using boring equipment.
Cross Sectional Building Survey
USE : Building Survey

Dendrochronological Survey
BT : Environmental Intervention
TT : Intrusive Event
★ 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.

Descriptive Buildings Record (level 2)
BT : Buildings Investigation (England)
TT : Non Intrusive Event

Desk Based Assessment
BT : Assessment And Analysis
TT : Non Intrusive Event
★ A programme of assessment of the known or potential archaeological resource within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater by the consultation and collation of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic data.

Detailed Building Survey (level 3)
BT : Buildings Investigation (Scotland)
TT : Non Intrusive Event
★ A descriptive account of the building supported by detailed archive research, annotated measured plans and elevations and a detailed photographic record.

Diver Inspection
BT : Observation
TT : Non Intrusive Event
★ An assessment of a known wreck or underwater archaeological site through diving.

Documentary Research
BT : Assessment And Analysis
TT : Non Intrusive Event
★ Programmes of research or investigation involving the examination of primary documentary material to inform the understanding of heritage assets.

Dowsing Survey
BT : Survey
TT : Non Intrusive Event
★ 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.

Earth Resistance (resistivity) Survey
UF : Resistivity Survey
Earth Resistance Survey
Electrical Survey
Geophysical Resistivity
BT : Geophysical Survey
TT : Non Intrusive Event
★ Examination, recording and plotting of variations in the electrical resistivity of soils in order to locate and define buried features.

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
BT : Geophysical Survey
TT : Non Intrusive Event
★ 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.

Electrical Survey
USE : Earth Resistance (resistivity) Survey

Electromagnetic Survey
BT : Geophysical Survey
TT : Non Intrusive Event
★ Technique using electromagnetic fields to map subsurface electrical conductivity anomalies. Can be used as a high-sensitivity metal detector.

Enhanced Building Survey (level 2)
BT : Buildings Investigation (Scotland)
TT : Non Intrusive Event
★ A written, drawn and photographic record, including a ground plan and elevations to produce an adequate record of the structure.

Environmental Impact Assessment
BT : Assessment And Analysis
TT : Non Intrusive Event
★ An information gathering exercise to facilitate an understanding of the potential environmental impact of a development proposal; includes the collation of specialist reports from a variety of disciplines.
Environmental Intervention

BT: Intrusive Event
TT: Intrusive Event
NT: Environmental Sampling
- Borehole Survey
- Timber Sampling
- Geochemical Survey
- Dendrochronological Survey
- Auger Survey

★ 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

BT: Environmental Intervention
TT: Intrusive Event
NT: Core Sampling
- Monolith Sampling
- Archeomagnetic Sampling

★ 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

BT: Archaeological Intervention
TT: Intrusive Event
NT: Test Pit
- Trial Trench
- 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 area or site on land or within the inter-tidal zone.

Excavation

BT: Archaeological Intervention
TT: Intrusive Event
NT: Box Trenching
- Open Area Excavation
- Rescue Excavation
- Strip Map And Sample
- Research Excavation
- Underwater Excavation

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

Field Observation (monitoring)

BT: Archaeological Intervention
TT: Intrusive Event

★ Periodic visits being made to a site by an archaeologist to record archaeological deposits and recover finds that have come to light since the previous visit. An archaeological presence is not maintained during groundwork as it is with a watching brief.

Field Observation (visual Assessment)

UF: Visual Inspection
BT: Observation
TT: Non Intrusive Event

★ A site visit to ascertain the nature and extent of the site and its surrounding environs by means of a visual inspection from which a written and/or photographic record is made.

Field Survey

BT: Survey
TT: Non Intrusive Event

★ 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

BT: Observation
TT: Non Intrusive Event

★ Observations made by an archaeologist or architectural historian as the result of a field visit to a site or monument.

Fieldwalking

USE: Systematic Fieldwalking Survey

Fieldwalking

USE: Unsystematic Fieldwalking Survey

Fieldwalking Survey

BT: Survey
TT: Non Intrusive Event
NT: Unsystematic Fieldwalking Survey
- Systematic Fieldwalking Survey

★ -

Geochronological Survey

BT: Environmental Intervention
TT: Intrusive Event
NT: Phosphate Survey
- X Ray Fluorescence Survey

★ 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.

Geomorphological Survey

BT: Survey
TT: Non Intrusive Event

★ 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.

Geophysical Magnetic Susceptibility

USE: Magnetic Susceptibility Survey

Geophysical Magnetometer

USE: Magnetometry Survey
Geophysical Resistivity
USE : Earth Resistance (resistivity) Survey

Geophysical Survey
BT : Survey
TT : Non Intrusive Event
NT : Magnetometry Survey
Ground Penetrating Radar Survey
Seismic Survey
Microgravity Survey
Electrical Resistivity Tomography
Earth Resistance (resistivity) Survey
Magnetic Susceptibility Survey
Acoustic Ground Discriminating System
Sonar Survey
Electromagnetic Survey
3d Seismic Survey

★ 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.

Geotechnical Survey
BT : Non Archaeological Intervention
TT : Intrusive Event
NT : Geotechnical Test Pit

★ Any subsurface investigation conducted to assist with the technical rather than archaeological aspects of a proposed development or extraction scheme.

Geotechnical Test Pit
UF : Subsoil Test Pit
BT : Geotechnical Survey
TT : Intrusive Event

★ 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.

Grab Sampling
UF : Grab Survey
BT : Archaeological Intervention
TT : Intrusive Event

★ 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.

Grab Survey
USE : Grab Sampling

Graveyard Survey
UF : Burial Ground Survey
BT : Survey
TT : Non Intrusive Event

★ The systematic survey and recording of graveyards and burial spaces recording the position of individual grave markers and the detail of any inscriptions.

Gravity Core
BT : Core Sampling
TT : Intrusive Event

★ 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.

Grid Excavation
USE : Box Trenching

Ground Penetrating Radar
USE : Ground Penetrating Radar Survey

Ground Penetrating Radar Survey
UF : Ground Penetrating Radar
BT : Geophysical Survey
TT : Non Intrusive Event

★ 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.

Hedgerow Survey
BT : Survey
TT : Non Intrusive Event

★ 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
BT : Assessment And Analysis
TT : Non Intrusive Event

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

Historic Area Assessment
BT : Assessment And Analysis
TT : Non Intrusive Event

★ 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.

Historic Landscape Characterisation
BT : Assessment And Analysis
TT : Non Intrusive Event

★ 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.
Historic Seascape Characterisation
BT: Assessment And Analysis
TT: Non Intrusive Event
★ 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.

Historic Urban Characterisation
BT: Assessment And Analysis
TT: Non Intrusive Event
★ 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.

Infrared Aerial Photography
UF: Infra Red Aerial Photography
BT: Multi Spectral Aerial Photography
TT: Non Intrusive Event
★ Aerial photography using infrared sensitive film or sensors to reveal soil and vegetation characteristics not apparent in photographs derived from conventional aerial photography.

Infrared Line Scan Aerial Photography
UF: Infra Red Line Scan Aerial Photography
BT: Multi Spectral Aerial Photography
TT: Non Intrusive Event
★ A specific type of Infrared photography that uses an airborne scanning infrared sensor to record differential spectrums of features both extant and buried.

Infrared Thermography Survey
UF: Infra Red Thermography Survey
BT: Multi Spectral Aerial Photography
TT: Non Intrusive Event
★ 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.

Landscape Survey
BT: Assessment And Analysis
TT: Non Intrusive Event
★ An overview using multiple techniques to determine the archaeological & historical & development, character & heritage assets of a landscape or defined area. This may result in the creation, at varying levels of intensity, of individual site-based records.

Laser Scanning Survey
RT: Airborne Laser Scanning (Lidar) Survey
BT: Survey
TT: Non Intrusive Event
★ The recording of a surface, or surfaces, using scanning technologies, to create a 3D model of the target structure/object.

Magnetic Susceptibility Survey
UF: Geophysical Magnetic Susceptibility
BT: Geophysical Survey
TT: Non Intrusive Event
★ 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.

Magnetometry Survey
UF: Geophysical Magnetometer
BT: Geophysical Survey
TT: Non Intrusive Event
★ Survey using a magnetometer, a device capable of detecting variations in magnetic susceptibility between topsoils, subsoils and rocks, can also be used in a maritime context to detect variations in the magnetic field of seabed sediments.

Management Survey
BT: Assessment And Analysis
TT: Non Intrusive Event
★ 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.

Measured Survey
BT: Survey
TT: Non Intrusive Event
★ A dimensional check on a building or site giving detailed measurements.

Metal Detecting Survey
UF: Metal Detectors
RT: Systematic Metal Detector Survey
BT: Metal Detecting Use
TT: Non Intrusive Event
★ Structured & carefully executed scanning of the ground surface with a metal detecting device in order to recover surface scatters of metal objects & plot them spatially within the study area as part of an archaeological survey or metal detecting rally.
Metal Detecting Use
RT: Metal Detecting Survey
BT: Non Archaeological Intervention
TT: Archaeological Intervention

★ 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.

Metal Detectors
USE: Metal Detecting Survey

Microgravity Survey
BT: Geophysical Survey
TT: Non Intrusive Event

★ 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.

Monolith Sampling
BT: Environmental Sampling
TT: Non Intrusive Event

★ 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.

Multi Beam Echo Sounder Survey
BT: Sonar Survey
TT: Non Intrusive Event

★ 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.

Multi Spectral Aerial Photography
BT: Aerial Photography
TT: Non Intrusive Event
NT: Infrared Thermography Survey
Infrared Line Scan Aerial Photography

★ 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.

Non Archaeological Intervention
BT: Intrusive Event
TT: Intrusive Event
NT: Metal Detecting Use
Geotechnical Survey
Casual Observation
Auger Survey
Borehole Survey

★ Any activities, that have a physical impact upon the archaeological resource where the purpose is not primarily archaeological research.

Non In Intrusive Event
NT: Survey
Remote Sensing
Assessment And Analysis
Observation

★ -

Observation
BT: Non Intrusive Event
TT: Non Intrusive Event
NT: Antiquarian Observation
Field Observation (visual Assessment)
Field Visit
Diver Inspection

★ -

Open Area Excavation
BT: Excavation
TT: Intrusive Event

★ 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.

Phosphate Survey
BT: Geochemical Survey
TT: Intrusive Event

★ 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.

Photogrammetric Survey
UF: Photogrammetry
BT: Photographic Survey
TT: Non Intrusive Event

★ 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.

Photogrammetry
USE: Photogrammetric Survey

Photographic Recording
BT: Survey
TT: Non Intrusive Event

★ 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.
Photographic Survey
BT: Survey
TT: Non Intrusive Event
NT: Photogrammetric Survey
Rectified Photographic Survey
★ 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.

Post Excavation Assessment
BT: Assessment And Analysis
TT: Non Intrusive Event
★ An initial synthesis of the data collected from an excavation.

Rectified Photographic Survey
BT: Photographic Survey
TT: Non Intrusive Event
★ 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.

Remote Sensing
BT: Non Intrusive Event
TT: Non Intrusive Event
NT: Satellite Imaging
Aerial Reconnaissance
Terrain Mapping From Aerial Photography
Underwater Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
★ 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.

Rescue Excavation
UF: Salvage Excavation
BT: Excavation
TT: Intrusive Event
★ Controlled investigation, recording and removal of archaeological deposits under threat of destruction from building development. A pre PPG 16 activity, usually under strict time constraints.

Research Excavation
BT: Excavation
TT: Intrusive Event
★ Controlled investigation, recording and removal of archaeological deposits in targeted areas in order to answer specific questions relating to a particular archaeological site or landscape. Usually undertaken by university departments or amateur groups.

Resistivity Profile
USE: Electrical Resistivity Tomography

Resistivity Survey
USE: Earth Resistance (resistivity) Survey

Salvage Recording
BT: Archaeological Intervention
TT: Intrusive Event
★ The monitoring of the excavation of a hole made by a non-archaeologically trained person. Any archaeological evidence that comes to light is recorded by the archaeologist during the course of the work although he/she cannot suspend the groundwork.

Sample Trenches
USE: Trial Trench

Satellite Imaging
BT: Remote Sensing
TT: Non Intrusive Event
★ 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.

Seismic Survey
UF: Seismograph Survey
BT: Geophysical Survey
TT: Non Intrusive Event
★ 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.

Side Scan Sonar Survey
USE: Side Scanning Sonar Survey

Side Looking Sonar Survey
USE: Side Scan Sonar Survey

Side Scanning Sonar Survey
BT: Side Looking Sonar Survey
Bottom Classification Sonar
BT: Sonar Survey
TT: Non Intrusive Event
★ Underwater investigation of the seabed, using side-looking sonar device that emits fan shaped acoustic pulses down toward the seafloor. The intensity of the acoustic reflections from the sea floor are recorded as an image of the seabed.

Single Beam Echo Sounder Survey
BT: Sonar Survey
TT: Non Intrusive Event
★ 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.
Sonar Survey
BT: Geophysical Survey
TT: Non Intrusive Event
NT: Bathymetric Survey
  Single Beam Echo Sounder Survey
  Multi Beam Echo Sounder Survey
  Side Scan Sonar Survey
Sub Bottom Profiling Survey
★ 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.

Sondage
USE: Test Pit

Strip And Record
USE: Strip Map And Sample

Strip Map And Sample
UF: Strip And Record
BT: Excavation
TT: Intrusive Event
★ An excavation technique that involves the machine stripping the topsoil/subsoil from the area to be excavated, plotting observed features onto a site plan and then partially or fully excavating those features.

Sub Bottom Profiling Survey
RT: 3d Seismic Survey
BT: Sonar Survey
TT: Non Intrusive Event
★ 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.

Subsoil Test Pit
USE: Geotechnical Test Pit

Surface Collection
USE: Systematic Fieldwalking Survey

Surface Collection
USE: Unsystematic Fieldwalking Survey

Survey
BT: Non Intrusive Event
TT: Non Intrusive Event
NT: Building Survey
  Architectural Survey
  Bosing Survey
  Measured Survey
  Metal Detecting Survey
  Topographic Survey
  Laser Scanning Survey
  Analytical Earthwork Survey
  Geomorphological Survey
  Geophysical Survey
  Photographic Recording
  Photographic Survey
  Hedgerow Survey
  Walkover Survey
  Fieldwalking Survey
  Underwater Survey
  Graveyard Survey
  Field Survey
  Buildings Recording And Investigation
  Aerial Investigation And Mapping
  Arborglyph Survey
★ 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.

Systematic Fieldwalking Survey
UF: Surface Collection
  Fieldwalking
  Topsoil Artefact Survey
BT: Fieldwalking Survey
TT: Non Intrusive Event
★ The systematic study of ground surfaces and collection of visible archaeological material. Fieldwalking can be carried out as line-walking, grid collection and transect or quadrant sampling. Any material recovered is logged and stored by sample unit.

Systematic Metal Detector Survey
USE: Metal Detecting Survey

Targeted Trenches
USE: Trial Trench

Terrain Mapping From Aerial Photography
BT: Remote Sensing
TT: Non Intrusive Event
★ Use of images from an aircraft to create a 3D model of the ground surface. This includes use of conventional aircraft or remote controlled aircraft (drones).
Test Pit

Test Pit Survey

Thematic Survey

Timber Sampling

Topographic Survey

Topsoil Artefact Survey

Trial Trench

Underwater Evaluation

Underwater Excavation

Underwater Remote Operated Vehicle Survey

Underwater Survey

Unsystematic Fieldwalking Survey

Vibro Core

Visual Buildings Record (level 1)

Visual Inspection

★ Systematically positioned hole, or holes, utilised in all studies that aim to sample the nature of the topsoil and subsurface deposits.

★ The investigation of heritage assets along thematic lines, usually to inform the production of a thematic study. Such studies bring specialist insights to bear on the particular area of study, but may not address other aspects of the site’s significance.

★ The extraction of a limited quantity of wood for scientific analysis.

★ 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.

★ The unsystematic study of ground surfaces and collection of visible archaeological material.

★ 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.

★ Controlled intrusive fieldwork which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts and ecofact remains within a specified underwater area.

★ 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.

★ The non intrusive processes by which information is collected about the location, distribution and organisation of past human activities that are now submerged by water. The approaches can be either extensive or intensive depending on the objectives.

★ The unsystematic study of ground surfaces and collection of visible archaeological material.

★ 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.

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

BT: Survey
TT: Non Intrusive Event

★ 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.

Watching Brief

BT: Archaeological Intervention
TT: Intrusive Event

★ 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.

X Ray Fluorescence Survey

BT: Geochemical Survey
TT: Intrusive Event

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