

Annex D

Heritage Impact Assessment Methodology

Those sites both directly and indirectly impacted can be rated according to magnitude and sensitivity of impact. Magnitude refers to the extent that the site may be impacted in terms of area that will be damaged and changes to current access to the site. Sensitivity considers the site’s uniqueness; its local/national/international significance; the community values that it carries; and its scientific importance in terms of research potential. *Table 1.1* combines these attributes to provide a ‘Rating Significance’ from which relevant mitigation proposals are established.

Table 1.1 Means by which to Determine Cultural Heritage Site significance¹

			Cultural Heritage Site Sensitivity		
			Low	Medium	High
Definitions			Defining Characteristic(s): Site is not specifically protected under local, national, or international laws or treaties; Site can be moved to another location or replaced by a similar site, or is of a type that is common in surrounding region; site has limited or no cultural value to local, national, or international stakeholders; and/or site has limited scientific value or similar information can be obtained at numerous sites. (Replicable Cultural Heritage)	Defining Characteristic(s): Site is specifically or generically protected by local or national laws but laws allow for mitigated impacts; Site can be moved or replaced, or data and artefacts recovered in consultation with stakeholders; Site has considerable cultural value for local and/or national stakeholders; and/or Site has substantial scientific value but similar information can be obtained at a limited number of other sites. (Non-replicable Cultural Heritage)	Defining Characteristic(s): Site is protected by local, national, and international laws or treaties; Site cannot be moved or replaced without major loss of cultural value; Legal status specifically prohibits direct impacts or encroachment on site and/or protection zone; Site has substantial value to local, national, and international stakeholders; and/or Site has exceptional scientific value and similar site types are rare or non-existent. (Critical Cultural Heritage)
Magnitude of Impact	Negligible	No discernible change in the physical condition, setting, or accessibility of the site.	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
	Small	Small part of the site is lost or damaged, resulting in a loss of scientific or cultural value; Setting undergoes temporary or permanent change that has limited effect on the site’s perceived value to stakeholders; Stakeholder/public or scientific access to site is temporarily impeded; and/or Historic building suffers minor, reparable, structural damage.	Negligible	Minor	Moderate
	Medium	A significant portion of the site is lost or damaged, resulting in a loss of scientific or cultural value; Setting undergoes permanent change that permanently diminishes the site’s perceived value to stakeholders; Site becomes inaccessible for the life of the Project to stakeholders including traditional users or researchers; and/or Historic building suffers major structural damage that is not reparable.	Minor	Moderate	Major
	High	The entire site is damaged or lost, resulting in a nearly complete or complete loss of scientific or cultural value; Setting is sufficiently impact to cause site to lose nearly all or all cultural value or functionality; Site becomes permanently inaccessible to stakeholders including traditional users or researchers; and/or Historic building suffers major structural failure.	Moderate	Major	Major

¹ ERM , 2012, Annex B – 5: p. 15