

1) Historic England has revised and updated its guidance on Piling and Archaeology.

Historic England have updated their guidance and good practice note on **piling and archaeology** (<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/piling-and-archaeology/>). Originally published in 2007, it has been revised by a team of archaeologists and engineers, to align it more closely with the planning process and current planning guidance (NPPF). #

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The previous guidance focused on limiting piling to a given percentage of the site area. However, this often meant that there was little consideration of whether the areas chosen for piling were suitable. This *new guidance places greater emphasis on recognising the importance of understanding the significance of archaeological remains in advance of decisions being made about piling.* #

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As before, the document includes sections describing the principal piling methods, and some of the observations made on site and in the laboratory about their impacts on archaeological deposits. *A major addition is a chapter on designing a sustainable foundation scheme, which highlights the importance of early engagement between all parties, describes the need for a robust evidence base as well as highlighting avoidance and low impact methods for foundation construction on archaeological sites. It also covers foundation re-use, obstructions to piling, waterlogged deposits and burial grounds.* #

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This revised edition *includes a risk assessment methodology* to provide a framework in which clients and their contractors can identify, avoid or otherwise manage the key construction risks to archaeological remains arising from their schemes. #

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Over the coming months we will be devising various events and online activity to disseminate, promote and explain this document, and the suite of other guidance documents dealing with preserving archaeological remains. #

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2) Historic England funded projects to develop reference collections & typologies#

<https://historicengland.org.uk/research/support-and-collaboration/research-frameworks-typologies/reference-collections-typologies/> #

[Worcestershire Ceramics Online Database](#). The Worcestershire Ceramics Online Database makes the *complete pottery fabric (from Neolithic to the modern period) and form type series for Worcestershire* available online. It contains information on all the pottery fabrics used and made in Worcestershire. The Worcestershire online type series is aimed at ceramic specialists and students, but could be used by anyone interested in identifying and studying pottery. #

[The National Zooarchaeological Reference Resource \(NZRR\)](#). The aim of the National Zooarchaeological Reference Resource (NZRR) is *to improve accessibility to zooarchaeological reference collections and facilitate zooarchaeological research across all sectors. Currently (January 2017) the NZRR includes data from 18 collections including Historic England and a number of university and museum collections.*

The specimens held by those collections can be searched together and filtered by taxonomic level and sex. Further details, such as age and carcass metrics, can be browsed, and full details downloaded. #

[The National Pipe Archive](#) The National Pipe Archive (NPA) was established to collect and preserve documentary and archaeological evidence relating to the history and culture of pipe smoking. *The new website has been set up provide a guide to the collections and to make some of the more significant elements of it available online. These can be searched using an interactive map of the British Isles.* The main aim of the website is to help researchers with their pipe related queries and to *provide a 'one stop shop' for anyone trying to identify pipes or prepare a report on excavated material.* #

The **Mineralised Plant & Invertebrate remains** project (Project 7443) is underway. A new project is underway to create *a photographic guide to the identification of mineralised (calcium phosphate-replaced) plant and invertebrate remains.* This will include mineralised Coleopteran and Diptera. The identification guide will help assist in teaching, improve the skills of environmental archaeologists, *increase awareness of how useful this range of material can be in terms of interpretation and dietary information and maximise the information obtained from cesspits, garderobes, middens, town ditches and rubbish pits.* #

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