

Toolbox Talk - Environment

Archaeology



DID YOU KNOW?

- Archaeology is the scientific study of human history and prehistory through the excavation of sites and the analysis of physical remains
- Where no other records exist, it is often the only source of information about previous occupation of an area from the earliest inhabitants many thousands of years ago to more recent times of just a hundred years or so
- It is not only buildings and foundations, but also artefacts such as jewellery, pottery, coins, bones and skeletons that need expert examination before removal and preservation
- Any sites may have ancient monuments and/or listed buildings on them, which are protected by law and planning control. Any specific issues related to these should be identified before work on site begins.

WHY?

- archaeology is an important part of heritage and valuable and irreplaceable remains can easily be damaged on construction sites

- It is illegal to disturb human remains, remove treasure and to damage certain monuments and historical structures/buildings.



DO'S & DON'TS

- ✓ stop work if anything is found that might be archaeological and immediately contact site management
- ✓ find out if there are any archaeological sensitive areas on site
- ✓ fence off any part of the site suspected of containing archaeological artefact
- ✓ follow the advice provided by any appointed archaeologist
- ✗ assume that any artefacts or features discovered are unimportant
- ✗ remove any 'finds' such as coins, pottery, or bones from the site – it is illegal
- ✗ undertake work near to areas of archaeological importance without prior consent



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