ARCL0108: MANAGING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

2020-21, Term 1 & 2
MA module
30 credits

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Room: 602
Office hours: 12.00-14.00 on Wednesdays

Please refer to the online IoA Student Handbook (https://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/current-students/ioa-student-handbook) for instructions on coursework submission, IoA referencing guidelines and marking criteria, as well as UCL policies on penalties for late submission.
1. MODULE OVERVIEW

Module description
This module aims to examine the theory and practice of archaeological site management, the reasons for selecting sites for preservation, and the methods for successful management and conservation of a site's significance. By the end of the module, students should be able to understand and apply a planning process based on the recognition of a site's values and of its interest groups, or stakeholders. Students will also learn practical methods for the physical conservation of different categories of archaeological sites and will master a technical vocabulary adequate to communicate with site management specialists. The module has an international perspective and will appeal to students from a range of academic backgrounds (e.g. archaeology, conservation, planning, architecture, museum studies, tourism). In balancing theory and practice, it will suit those wishing to continue on to academic research and those seeking employment in heritage administration or international organisations.

Module Aims
This Module aims to provide an understanding of the processes that lead to the preparation and implementation of a site management plan and to equip the students with the theory and practice needed to carry out similar processes.

Objectives:
• To facilitate debate on the theory and methodology of value-based management planning processes
• To debate the ethics of archaeological resource
• To demonstrate the need for site management planning as a holistic tool
• To provide students with an understanding of the tools and the techniques for developing and implementing a site management plan and site management structures

Learning Outcomes:
• Observation and critical reflection
• Application of acquired knowledge
• Written and oral presentation skills

Methods of Assessment
1. One essay of 2,000 words (20%)
2. One Statement of Significance (40%)
3. One essay of 3,000 words (40%)

Communications
• **Moodle is the main hub** for this course.
• Important information will be posted by staff in the Announcements section of the Moodle page and you will automatically receive an email notification for those.
• **Microsoft Teams** will be primary channel for communications and online teaching. You will receive an invitation to join the Teams Group for this module.
• Please post any general queries relating to module content, assessments and administration in the MS Teams Module forum (or alternatively in Moodle Q&A or via email if you prefer).
• For personal queries, please contact the co-ordinator by email.
**Week-by-week summary**

Each week of the term is organised around a theme in site management.

**Term 1**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic / Theme</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>7 Oct</td>
<td>Introduction. Why manage? What are we managing?</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>14 Oct</td>
<td>Authenticity, values and interest groups</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>21 Oct</td>
<td>Management planning: models and approaches</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>28 Oct</td>
<td>Participatory planning, rights, ethics and sustainability</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>4 Nov</td>
<td>Statements of Significance</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td>READING WEEK</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>18 Nov</td>
<td>Legislation and charters – the international context</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>25 Nov</td>
<td>World Heritage Sites: Tentative lists, nomination dossiers, evaluation and the World Heritage Committee</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>2 Dec</td>
<td>Documentation: a platform for decision-making</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>9 Dec</td>
<td>Preventive conservation and maintenance: reburial and shelters on archaeological sites</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>16 Dec</td>
<td>Values, SWOT analysis and approaches to social science research projects (including your dissertation project)</td>
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**Term 2**

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic / Theme</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>13 Jan</td>
<td>Cultural tourism and sustainability</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>20 Jan</td>
<td>Recording, managing &amp; conserving urban archaeological sites</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>27 Jan</td>
<td>Managing rural archaeological sites and landscapes</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>3 Feb</td>
<td>Conflict/post-conflict: values, significance, local community and heritage management</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>10 Feb</td>
<td>Developing Governance and Risk management</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td>READING WEEK</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>24 Feb</td>
<td>Interpretation strategies on archaeological sites</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>3 Mar</td>
<td>Heritage management and global challenges: climate emergency, COVID-19, disasters</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>10 Mar</td>
<td>Funding research and management, and heritage industries</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>17 Mar</td>
<td>Management context, monitoring &amp; evaluating</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>24 Mar</td>
<td>Conclusions &amp; review</td>
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The lectures and discussion sessions will be run by Gai Jorayev and Tim Williams. Most of the weekly discussions/themes will involve contributions from guest speakers as well.
**Weekly Module Plan**

The module is taught through lectures, case studies and discussions. Each week will have a pre-release of recorded presentations and additional learning materials. Students will be required to undertake set readings, complete pre-class activities and watch pre-recorded content before the sessions on Wednesday in order to be able to actively participate in the discussion. Students will also make (non-examined) short presentations of case study material on agreed sessions.

**Fridays: Lectures for following week will be made available on Moodle; Tuesdays: deadline to complete proposed activities and readings; Wednesday: 16.00 – 18.00 teaching session.**

Each week’s learning will be supported by essential reading (see below). There will be a wider reading list (https://ri.talis.com/3/ucl/lists/A6D50761-11DC-C8EF-5285-472988E12EF4.html) containing materials available online, via UCL Library access, and occasionally a ‘reading list for future’, which will contain physical books which are not currently digital.

Additional readings and learning materials in the form of news articles, reports and datasets will be made available on Moodle under each weekly session. They will be widely used to facilitate seminar discussions.

Some weeks will feature a Case Study that is centred around site management themes. These will often include conversations/interactions with site managers and external specialists.

**Workload**

This is a 30-credit module which equates to 300 hours of learning time including session preparation, background reading, and researching and writing your assignments. With that in mind you should expect to organise your time in roughly this way:

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<th>Hours</th>
<th>Activity Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Staff-led teaching sessions (lectures, seminars, tutorials, discussion-board sessions)</td>
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<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>Self-guided session preparation (reading, listening, note-taking and online activities), about 6 hours a week</td>
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<tr>
<td>140</td>
<td>Reading for, and writing, essays and other assignments</td>
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**2. ASSESSMENT**

Each assignment and possible approaches to it will be discussed in class, in advance of the submission deadline. If students are unclear about the nature of an assignment, they should discuss this with the Module Co-ordinator in advance (via office hours, class Moodle forum or email). You will receive feedback on your written coursework via Moodle, and have the opportunity to discuss your marks and feedback with the co-ordinator in their office hours.

For more details see the ‘Assessment’ section on Moodle. The marking criteria and IoA writing guidelines (https://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/current-students) are useful guides when writing your essay. **Penalties for late submission:** see guidance in UCL Student Handbook.

In this module your essays should examine theoretical and practical issues, using archaeological sites and practices, from any area, to illustrate your discussions. There will be 3 assignments in this module and they will have following **weightings:**

20% - Assignment 1 will form 20% of your final mark for this module.
40% - Assignment 2 will form 40% of your final mark for this module.
40% - Assignment 3 will form 40% of your final mark for this module.

**Word counts and deadlines:**
Assignment 1: approximately 2,000 words; deadline: Monday 2nd November
Assignment 2: approximately 3,000 words; deadline: Friday 18th December
Assignment 3: approximately 3,000 words; deadline: Friday 26th March

Assignment topics:

For Assignments 1, the students will be asked to write an essay on one of the questions below:

i. How has the concept of authenticity changed since the Venice Charter? Does it still have a role in the management and conservation of archaeological sites and landscapes?

ii. Discuss the concept of values and how are they formed.

iii. Should visitor access to sites ever be limited for reasons of conservation?


v. Discuss the role of heritage professionals in decision-making at archaeological sites.

For Assignment 2, the students will be asked to write a Statement of Significance for a site of their choice. This assignment will be similar to practical assignments in site management work. Submitted work will be expected to have numerous illustrations and present information in different way to ordinary essays. Further guidance on this assessment will be provided during the teaching sessions.

For Assignment 3, the students will be asked to write an essay on one of the questions below. The students will be encouraged to select questions that allow them to look at different areas of theory and practice.

i. How might you balance potentially conflicting values in the management of archaeological sites?

ii. In what ways can a country’s legislation and government guidance create a framework for archaeological site management? Give examples.

iii. Given that the involvement of local communities is important in the management of archaeological sites, what could be done to encourage their participation?

iv. In what circumstances would the reburial of archaeological remains be an appropriate strategy? What are the key practical and technical issues involved in reburial?

v. Discuss the notion of ‘sustainability’ and its application to archaeological heritage management.

vi. Examine the sites currently selected as “World Heritage in Danger”. Discuss their selection and the role of the “in danger” list.

vii. Discuss the impacts and potential of heritage tourism on the management of archaeological sites in developing countries.

viii. What strategies might be employed in interpreting buried sites or landscapes? Give examples of effective methods.

ix. Shelters on archaeological sites: visual intrusions or the only viable solution? Discuss the key elements in decision-making about sheltering for excavated sites. Use examples.

x. Compare the two versions of The Principles for the Conservation of Heritage Sites in China (2002 and 2015). Is this work dominated by western conservation specialists’ emphasis on material integrity and authenticity through materials, or does it reflect a mixture of western and eastern conservation ethics and values? Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of this form of international collaboration.
3. Reading, Resources and Preparation for Class

Preparation for class

You are expected to read the **two essential readings as well as watching the pre-recorded lectures and completing any online activities on Moodle** each week. Completing the readings is essential for your effective participation in the activities and discussions that we will do, and it will greatly enhance your understanding of the material covered. **Further readings are provided via the online-reading list** for you to get a sense of the range of current work on a given topic and for you to draw upon for your assessments. It is essential that you check the online reading list regularly.


**Recommended basic texts:**


**Online resources:**


- The Council for British Archaeology [https://new.archaeologyuk.org/](https://new.archaeologyuk.org/)


- ICOMOS [https://www.icomos.org/en](https://www.icomos.org/en)

- ICCROM [http://www.iccrom.org](http://www.iccrom.org)


And the UNESCO World Heritage Centre [https://whc.unesco.org/en/](https://whc.unesco.org/en/)

**Key journals:**

- *Conservation and Management of Archaeological Sites*

- *Public Archaeology*

- *The Historic Environment: Policy & Practice*

- *Journal of Cultural Heritage Management and Sustainable Development*

- *Journal of Community Archaeology & Heritage*

- *Antiquity* (especially the editorials)

- *International Journal of Heritage Studies*

- *Journal of Cultural Heritage*
4. Syllabus

In broad terms, the first 5 weeks will look at theoretical background and the main concepts in our discipline. The discussions of the legislation, international normative documents, and the concept of the World Heritage will follow after the Reading Week in Term 1. Term 2 will look at a wide variety of contemporary issues affecting the management of heritage sites - from tourism and urban development to risks and global challenges - with extensive range of case studies and discussions of the best practice.

Term 1

Week 1: Introduction. Why manage? What are we managing?
The session will explore a broad introduction to practical and philosophical issues of research, conservation, the expectations of interest groups and communities, the economic pressure to develop sites for tourist purposes, and the necessity for predicting and managing change at archaeological and heritage sites. It will explain what to expect from this module during the academic year.

Essential reading:
https://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/id/eprint/10049158/1/Williams_Conservation_management_archaeological.pdf


Week 2: Authenticity, values and interest groups

What is authentic? What or who defines authenticity? What are values? How can they influence the way a site is conserved, interpreted, presented and managed? Who are the stakeholders? How can a site be assessed for its importance? Who establishes significance? What should be conserved: authenticity or significance?

These are some of the core questions of our discipline and this week will introduce basic concepts, discuss some examples, and then the module will keep returning to them during the academic year.

Essential reading:

http://dx.doi.org/10.1179/175355210X12670102063661

Week 3: Management planning: models and approaches

Management plans have become an established element of site management in recent years. They are required by many funding agencies and are now a prerequisite for attaining World Heritage Site status. What are they? Are they an appropriate tool for all sites? What should they aim to achieve? How can they be applied?

This week, the models for the planning process will be examined, including: the identification of aims, values, stakeholders; documentation and description of the site and its conditions; assessment and analysis of values, management context, and physical condition; developing long, medium and short term goals through the establishment of policies, objectives, strategies and tasks; issues of implementation and the monitoring.

Essential reading:


Week 4: Participatory planning, rights, ethics and sustainability

Efforts to manage and conserve heritage places often require the engagement of a multiplicity of stakeholders, frequently with conflicting interests, values, and identities, as well as clashes arising from cultural differences. Successful planning is often based on the participation of all interested parties. This session explores these issues, exploring approaches to developing active involvement of stakeholders and communities in the planning process, and tools and techniques for consensus building, negotiation, and conflict resolution.

Sustainable development – and core issues of identity, poverty and education – are central issues in a discussion of the relevance of our work to contemporary societies. What is our role, and those of international and national agencies, in these processes?

Essential reading:


Week 5: Statements of significance

This will look at the background, aims and construction of Statements of Significance, in advance of the second piece of coursework/assignment. We will use several examples, identify the main approaches, and look at the possible scenarios for your assignment and future works.

The Statements of Significance are often about identifying why the sites are important and what needs to be done to preserve that importance for the future. Due to diversity of heritage sites, the approaches to developing site-specific statements can take different forms. There are certain guidelines, often within one country, and it is challenging to implement one set of guidelines universally, but there are global recognitions of significance that could be reflected on in any archaeological site. The session will allow further discussions of values and significance, with the focus on generating tangible document that can act as a focal point for stakeholder consultations, management decisions and any designation actions.

Essential reading:

Week 6: READING WEEK

Week 7: Legislation and charters – the international context

Numerous international charters are concerned with, or impact upon, archaeological site management. The ICOMOS Australia Burra charter, in its original and in its updated versions, has had a profound influence upon the practice and development of site management worldwide. More recently, the Valetta convention is reshaping work in Europe. This week will examine the difference between charters and conventions, their evolution and some of the most important features and impacts. It also will look at the future of legislative frameworks and guidance.

The *European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage* (Revised), better known as the Valetta Convention or the Malta Convention (1992), raised numerous issues regarding the management of archaeological resources in Europe. Please, have a look at it on the CoE website: ([https://www.coe.int/en/web/culture-and-heritage/valletta-convention](https://www.coe.int/en/web/culture-and-heritage/valletta-convention)).

Essential reading:

Week 8: World Heritage Sites: Tentative lists, nomination dossiers, evaluation and the World Heritage Committee

The 1972 convention, with its changes over time, started a significant process that impacted archaeological site management and set the context for World Heritage Site designation and
management. This week, the process of tentative lists, nomination dossiers, evaluation, inscription, monitoring and periodic reviews will be examined. The representivity of the World heritage list will also be discussed.

Essential reading:


**Week 9: Documentation: a platform for decision-making**

“Good decisions” in heritage management are based on timely, relevant and accurate information about the conditions, materials and evolution of archaeological sites and landscapes. Therefore, documenting, recording and analysis of heritage places is an essential part of their conservation and management.

The week will explore: Concepts of documentation, information gathering, recording; methodologies and tools for recording, documentation, inventories and information management; integrating documentation in the site management process; topographic, GPS, photogrammetric, and 3D laser scanning techniques, and archival research (historic, archaeological, structural, condition); notions of ‘inventory’.

Essential reading:


McKeague, Peter et al., 2020. One Archaeology: A Manifesto for the Systematic and Effective Use of Mapped Data from Archaeological Fieldwork and Research. Information (Basel), 11(4), p.222. [https://doi.org/10.3390/info11040222](https://doi.org/10.3390/info11040222)

**Week 10: Preventive conservation and maintenance: reburial and shelters on archaeological sites**

Preventive conservation and maintenance are two approaches to conservation that greatly facilitate the responsibilities of the manager, reducing the need for costly, labour-intensive conservation and restoration project. Within those, reburial and the use of shelters are two contrasting approaches that need a specific attention as part of this week's discussions. Shelters have been used for some time to protect archaeological features, most commonly mosaics. It allows archaeological features to be presented to wider public. Reburial have been used extensively to preserve archaeological features ‘for the future’ and to avoid any damage. It is often seen as cost-effective and easy to achieve, but without careful planning, it can be a damaging intervention. How do we plan for their use? What are the design considerations? How do we balance aesthetics and visual impact with conservation and education?
**Week 11: Values, SWOT analysis and approaches to research projects**

There are different approaches to elaboration on the values of specific archaeological sites. Some tools, such as SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analyses, are borrowed from other disciplines and successfully used in archaeological site management. This week will look at this and other visualisations of values and significance and, through practical discussions, will encourage you to use these in exploring values for, and attitudes to, archaeological sites.

The week will also focus on some of the key issues in social science research, including planning research projects, quantitative and qualitative data, sample size, semi-structured interviews, questionnaires, etc. In addition to discussing the use of social science research methods for site management work, the session will also help you to start thinking about how you might approach your dissertation research.

**Essential reading:**


**Term 2:**

**Week 1: Cultural tourism and sustainability**

Tourism is now arguably the largest industry in the world, and cultural tourism represents a significant component of this global industry. For many developing countries cultural tourism is seen as a key element of poverty relief and economic sustainability. There are many different forms of tourism, with negative and positive impacts both to archaeological sites and the local communities around them, and different relationships and structures within and between governments, local communities, and tourism industry. Relying on extensive set of case studies, we will explore concepts of sustainability, poverty, management strategies, and issues in environmental and cultural conservation.

**Essential reading:**


Week 2: Recording, managing & conserving urban archaeological sites

Urban sites present complex issues due to their location in usually densely built-up and populated areas. The values of archaeological sites can often be ignored or minimised, especially when faced with the pressure of urban communities and the needs of urban development. However, the approaches in this area are rapidly changing, with increasing recognition of the value of urban heritage. How can site management be integrated with the economic, social, and cultural life of a place? Is it possible to preserve and manage archaeology in an urban environment in a harmonious and beneficial way?

Essential reading:


Week 3: Managing rural archaeological sites and landscapes

Rural environment presents different and specific challenges to managing archaeological sites and landscapes. Agricultural activities, the scale of the area and the difficulties of site identification are just some of the factors. Increasing changes of environment also affect archaeological sites in rural landscapes in direct fashion. There are significant differences in approaches to preservation and management from one country to another, and the land ownership patterns play an important role. Considering significance of rural archaeological landscapes for culture, ecology, economy and education, this week will look at the main issues and as well as several case studies to facilitate the discussions in this area.

Essential reading:


Week 4: Conflict/post-conflict: values, significance, local community and heritage management

Destruction of archaeological sites in conflict or full-scale war often takes headlines, with loss of the cultural property causing an outcry. However, the headlines often do not reflect the full complexity of the issue. The loss of a physical fabric is not the only negative outcome, with loss of associated values that the local communities hold having far greater impact locally. This week discusses the value-based approach and its meanings in relation to heritage management and focuses on the role of the local community in shaping and protecting their cultural heritage.

Understanding all values attributed to heritage resources is not an easy task especially during conflict times when these values become highly contested. Considering that the significance of a place is never based on a single value, how can we identify the collective values in a contested place? How do we move from the destruction to the reconstruction of historic urban areas? How do we achieve longer-term international support for the sites affected by a conflict?
Week 5: Developing Governance and Risk management

This week will explore how site management might be structured, exploring the role of a Site Coordinator and development of governance structures. Is there an optimal governance model that ensures long-term sustainability at archaeological sites? Additionally, we will discuss the need for Risk and Disaster Management, and their impact on long-term archaeological site management planning. There is an abundance of practical guidance and case studies in this area and many governments require detailed risk management plans, but despite that, disasters in heritage sites occur regularly. What can be done to minimise the risks?

Essential reading:


Week 6: READING WEEK

Week 7: Interpretation strategies at archaeological sites

People perceive visiting sites in very different ways – they have differing motivations, expectations and needs. How can these expectations be realised or enhanced or, with unsympathetic management, destroyed, devalued, or marginalised into economic activities? This week will look at the opportunities to interpretation at archaeological sites, discussing some of the unique challenges in detail.

Essential reading:


Week 8: Heritage management and global challenges: climate emergency, COVID-19, disasters

We live in the times of sudden changes, and even with the best governance models and risk management strategies, it is challenging to factor in all possible negative impacts to archaeological sites that those may cause. Recent years presented cases where global events had negative impacts on archaeological deposits as well as the management structures/organisations tasked to protect and maintain them.

Climate crisis and ongoing pandemic provide two of the most vivid examples that are testing the resilience of heritage management in different parts of the world. However, there are many other, more localised disasters that do so in a continuous fashion. This week will analyse the impact of some of the disasters and take a long-term view to the interaction of archaeology and global challenges. Beyond the impact of those on our practice, what are the roles of archaeology/heritage and heritage specialists in recovery phase?

Essential reading:


Week 9: Funding research and management, and heritage industries

This week will look at the ways of funding research and management of heritage sites, using examples from around the world. Long-term and sustainable management of archaeological sites needs funding and new research often relies on specific financial support. Most often, archaeological parks rely on multiple sources of long-term and one-off funding. As part of this lecture, major global funding agencies and their models of operation, as well as the local funding sources, will be discussed and their effectiveness assessed. It will rely on several contemporary case studies to illustrate complexities and challenges.

Essential reading:


Week 10: Management context, monitoring & evaluating

This week, the wider context of management plans, including financial management, will be explored in more detail. Continuous monitoring and evaluating is the key to achieving effective management system and we will discuss how the approaches in heritage management are similar/different to other areas. We will also look at the tools and techniques to evaluate the implementation of the management plan. Is it possible to build all-encompassing monitoring strategy? How can the data from monitoring turned into actionable plans? How can the modifications to the plan be introduced as a result of this evaluation?
Essential reading:


Week 11: Conclusions & review

This will be an overall summary of the course and a detailed discussion of its main messages. We will return to the themes of lectures and seminars and readdress the areas that may need additional discussion. We will use the session to present additional materials and updates, and discuss the future learning sources and materials.