



STANDARD FOR DESK-BASED HERITAGE REPORTS, HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENTS (INCLUDING EIA) OR CONSULTANCY ADVICE IN GIBRALTAR

Heritage desk-based assessments, environmental impact assessments or heritage impact assessments may be required to inform planning decisions made by the Gibraltar Development and Planning Commission. (DPC).

Such assessment reports must meet the Standard below and may be rejected if they fail to do so.

Note: the DPC may require additional information where, for example, it considers that not enough has been submitted in a desk study or where more details are required in relation to any mitigation measures recommended.

A short method statement should be submitted to the Government Archaeologist for approval before work is undertaken by individuals or companies.

Heritage assets include objects and antiquities, visible above ground features and below ground deposits, on land or underwater, whether designated under the *Heritage and Antiquities Act 2018* or not.

It is expected that anyone undertaking such work will visit the site/area under study and will liaise with all relevant stakeholders.

Individuals or companies undertaking such work will be members of a relevant professional body at an appropriate level, for example corporate members of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. The method statement should include professional qualifications and affiliations.

THE STANDARD

Desk-based heritage assessments will determine, as far as is reasonably practicable from existing records, the nature, extent and significance of known and potential heritage assets within a specified area. The assessment will set the heritage assets within the wider context of Gibraltar's history and within the local context of the environs of the site under study.

In a planning context the assessment will establish the impact or potential impact of the proposed development or change on the significance of known and/or potential heritage assets within the relevant area and setting as appropriate (or will identify the need for further evaluation in order to do so).

The assessment report or advice must be clear and well-written in plain English. It must be accurate and reflect current knowledge and understanding. It must be properly researched in proportion to the nature and significance of the heritage assets and scale of change.

Recommendations or advice must be clear, compliant, impartial, informed and robust, and should be proportionate to a well-researched and clearly-reasoned assessment of the known and potential significance of the heritage assets concerned.

The assessment report or advice will enable reasoned and evidence-based decisions to be made whether to mitigate, offset or accept without further intervention the identified impact.

The assessment or advice should seek to ensure that the commissioning individual or body understands and complies with ethical, legal and policy requirements and is aware of likely resource requirements.

The heritage advisor or author must be suitably-qualified, skilled and competent.



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FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information may be obtained from the Government Archaeologist, Ministry for Heritage, or the Town Planning Department (contact details below).

The Gibraltar Standard is based on the Code of Conduct and Standards & Guidance documents produced by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA). These provide further detail on process, briefs and specifications, report contents, ethics and other issues and are available at <https://www.archaeologists.net/codes/cifa>. Work in Gibraltar should seek to comply with these CIFA Standards & Guidance, subject to complying principally with Gibraltarian legislation and regulations.

Town Planning Information Sheet 12 (<https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/town-planning/planning-guidance>) provides an explanatory guide to the protection of cultural heritage in planning applications, and explains the type of information or work that might be required.

Town Planning Information Sheet 13 (<https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/town-planning/planning-guidance>) provides information on Gibraltar's World Heritage Site, Gorham's Cave Complex. Guidance on heritage impact assessments for applications potentially affecting the World Heritage Site or its Buffer Zone can be obtained from the World Heritage Office, Gibraltar National Museum.

CONTACT DETAILS

**Department of the Environment, Sustainability, Climate
Change, Heritage and Culture**

Government Archaeologist: Dominic Lopez
HM Government of Gibraltar
Napier of Magdala Battery
Rosia Road
Gibraltar
GX11 1AA
Tel: (+350) 20068004

dominic.lopez@gibraltar.gov.gi

Gorham's Cave Complex World Heritage Site

Head of Cultural Resource Management: Sue Davies
World Heritage Office
Gibraltar National Museum
18-20 Bomb House Lane
Gibraltar
Tel: (+350) 20074289

whoffice@gibmuseum.gi

Department of Town Planning & Building Control

Deputy Town Planner: Paul Naughton-Rumbo
HM Government of Gibraltar
Suite 631 Europort
Gibraltar
GX11 1AA
Tel: (+350) 20075483 / 20048449
Fax: (+350) 20074086

paul.naughton-rumbo@gibraltar.gov.gi

The Gibraltar National Museum

Managing Director: Geraldine Finlayson
18-20 Bomb House Lane
P.O. Box 939
Gibraltar GX11 1AA

Tel: (+350) 200 74289

admin@gibmuseum.gi