

Part.8: How To Determine Site Condition

Recording the condition of your site or structure helps us to interpret on-site levels of preservation. Recording the current condition of a site is an important part of the record, but it can be a subjective procedure.

Condition Categories

To make the process easier, and to ensure records are consistent, a series of standardised categories and associated descriptions are available. These will help you to accurately describe the condition of your site. Press the  button to view the Condition Categories in the app.

The conditions are-

Good: Fully or almost-fully intact and clear at time of survey

Fair: Structurally recognisable, but subject to some damage or decay or alterations

Poor: Generally poor condition, significant features largely missing

Very poor: Substantially collapsed or features wholly missing

Uncertain: Features of interest not surveyable at the time of the survey (obscured or not located)

Destroyed: Little or nothing remains visible above ground or no further information can be obtained from future investigation of the site.

Things to Consider

Consider the following questions when choosing the condition of a building-

- Is the structure complete or are substantial features, such as walls and windows, missing?
- Is it possible to determine the original shape, form, or extent of the structure? Can you identify if original features have been removed or if the structure has been modified?
- Do you have a historic photograph of the building you are recording? If so, how does it compare with what remains today?
- Can you compare your site to other surviving examples?

When recording the condition of earthworks, such as practice trenches, ask yourself-

- How well defined are the earthworks? Are the remains prominent or slight?
- Is it possible to interpret the earthworks on the ground? Can you still 'read' them to identify their function or purpose?
- Have the earthworks been subject to any damage, erosion or backfilling?

Condition Examples

A series of example photographs have been provided below to help aid your decision. Use these to familiarise yourself with the condition categories and their associated statements.

Good

This Accommodation Hut has been restored but clearly highlights a site in 'Good' condition. The hut retains its 'Hopper' type windows, its doorway, and brick foundation pillars.



Cannock Chase. ©Wayne Cocroft

Fair

This Accommodation Hut represents 'Fair' condition. The hut has been subject to some damage, decay and alteration but is still structurally recognisable as an Accommodation Hut. Some alterations have taken place; the 'Hopper' type windows have been removed and the structure is now covered with weatherproof plastic.



Redmires, Sheffield. ©Chris Kolonko

Poor

This Accommodation Hut illustrates 'Poor' condition. Only the wooden frame and a single upstanding wall remain. Original features such as the 'Hopper' type windows and doorways are missing.



Redmires, Sheffield. ©Chris Kolonko

Very poor

The same Accommodation Hut now represents 'Very Poor' condition. The remaining frame is now collapsed with only the gable end wall remaining.



Redmires, Sheffield. ©Chris Kolonko