

Writing your own Site Description

A site description explains the history of your site and tells us what remains.



Writing a site description is like writing a story about your site. You can tell the story of your site by describing its history, location, and what remains.

What?, Where? and What Remains?

When writing the site description it is very important to describe the type of site you are recording, its history, the location of the site, and what remains.

You can use

What?, Where? and What Remains? to help you.

What?

What are you recording? Describe the type of site or building you are recording, its function, and dates when the site was in use. You can also describe the site's historical background and mention the names of any people connected to the site.

Example-

'First World War accommodation hut from Anytown Training Camp. The Anytown Pals Battalion trained at the Camp from December 1914 to March 1915. After the War the hut was sold and rebuilt in a new location, it is now used by the Anytown Scouts.'

Where?

Where is the site located? Further details about the location of your site will help other people find the site. Mention any prominent landmarks to describe its location.

Example-

The hut is in the north-east corner of Anytown Park alongside Park Road.



What remains?

If you have found or identified remains and standing buildings you can describe them. When recording a building it is helpful to describe its orientation (which direction it is facing), and the structure's shape in plan (this is the building's shape as if seen from above). You can also mention the building's dimensions including its length, width and height. Metres and centimetres are used when recording dimensions, these are known as 'metric' measurements. Any materials used to make the building can also be described.

Example-

'The hut is orientated north to south and rectangular in plan measuring 5m wide, 8m in length, and approximately 7m in height. The building is constructed from a wooden frame with wooden panels attached. A brick chimney also survives.'

Sometimes you may find features such as graffiti left by soldiers, original windows and doors, or painted signs. These can also be described in the site description.

Example-

'Graffiti was found scratched into a wooden panel near the doorway. The name reads 'Pvt. John Smith, Anytown Pals, 1916'. The remains of a painted sign can be found above the surviving door, the sign reads 'Hut No. 1'.'



Over to you

Take a look at site descriptions within the Home Front Legacy recording app by zooming in and clicking on the red pins. Some interesting sites can be found by typing the Grid References below into the Gazetteer search menu:

SK 28186 86135

SX 33208 87133

ST 57340 74879