



Rescue Geology – taking advantage of temporary exposures

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Within the UK and elsewhere it has long been a requirement to include an archaeological site investigation to precede work on new building and infrastructure projects. It is not always the case that geodiversity is treated with the same care, nor is there always a requirement for this. Rescue archaeology, which occurs on sites that may be destroyed or covered, involves aspects such as in situ preservation, recording and protection where possible is widely accepted.

This paper examines the case for rescue geology and examples of good and bad practice and recommendations for the future. Recent projects in the UK, such as Crossrail in London and some of the major road building schemes have included much site investigation and published in various forms their findings. However, it is still common to pass temporary exposures which are not being recorded and are then covered with inappropriate cladding.

The benefit of rescue geology is apparent but inconsistently available and there are opportunities to improve this.

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