# Tintern Abbey part 5: Recording the archaeology

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| Tintern Abbey, Cadw’s most ambitious conservation project in decades. Recording the archaeology. | Information cards |
| Will Davies Inspector of Ancient Monuments | Graphic |
| When the archaeology has been done and it's, it's all been constantly recorded, so we've got high, high resolution photogrammetry going every day, every feature. | Will stands within the abbey church facing camera |
| So, this will be probably the best recorded Cadw site that we've got. |  |
| Now, the first thing that happened before any of the work started was a really high resolution 3D survey was collected; |  |
| and that's a combination of laser scanning, photogrammetry, so we know every pore and every stone. And a massive model called a point cloud, from which we will extract elevation drawings - digital. |  |
| And then all of the contractors, consultants, specialists that we use will be layering up their information on those drawings. |  |
| So rather than commissioning the drawings again and again and again, these will last us while the technology is still good – they’re perfectly efficiently archived as digital packages. |  |
| So we'll be left with the information of the excavation, which will inform the scaffold building. Once the excavation is done, | Drone flies slowly through the east end of the abbey church showing the stripped back earth. |
| we've identified a procedure to backfill with something inert and stable enough to support a scaffold and protect the archaeology, the scaffold can go up and the masonry works can begin. |  |
| Masonry will be taking place in five stages, the archaeology possibly three, maybe. According to how this pans out, we might tackle other areas of the church slightly differently. | Will stands within the abbey church facing camera |
| Once you understand the layers, the sort of the levels of the rubble, what we've got to work with, we might not be looking to strip quite as much if we are happy that some of these surfaces are stable enough to take scaffolding. |  |
| But the lasting thing will be the record, of course. There’ll be the monument itself, which would be safely accessible hopefully within the next five years or so; | Drone flies towards the east window, passing through into the east end of the abbey church. |
| but the record itself, the drawings will be what, you know, outlast any of the people having this conversation now. |  |
| So we'll have this great digital model with series of drawings that everybody can add to. We'll make a record of what’s actually happened. So next time we're doing this work, |  |
| we won't be going through the same process of trying to work out what we’ve done, |  |
| because we will have that record from the start of its conservation history right the way through to the end of this piece of work when the scaffold’s down in five years time.  End. |  |