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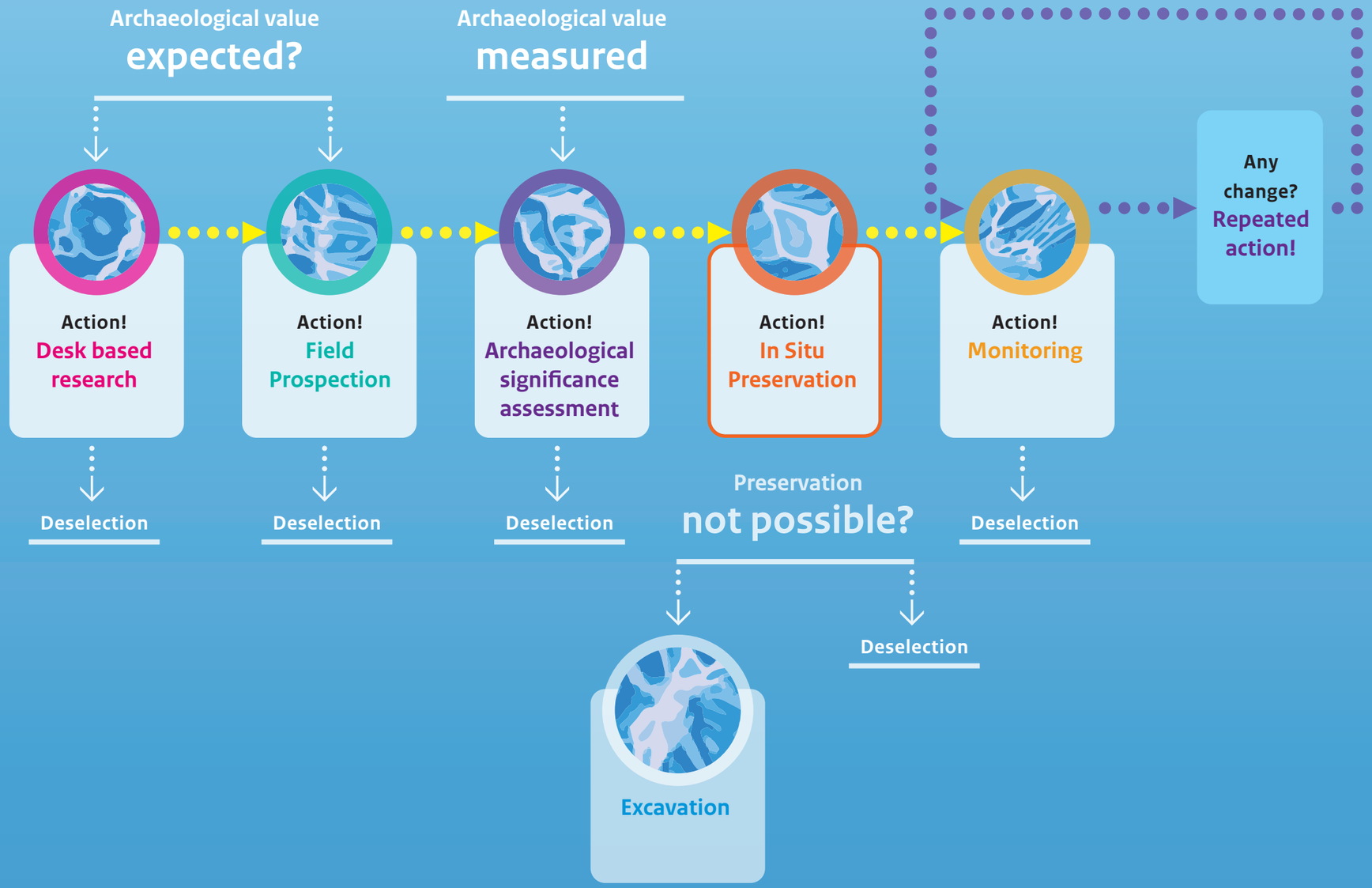
Archaeological Underwater Management Process



The Archaeological Underwater Management Process is standardized and widely accepted within the archaeological community.

In the Netherlands we follow the Archaeological Monuments Care cycle (AMZ-cyclus). The process presented here is more or less a representation of this.

During all steps within the Archaeological Underwater Management Process, data and information will be stored and made available.
In the Netherlands data is stored at DANS Digital Archive
See: https://dans.knaw.nl/en/
This data can then be used again within the management process.

Click on the items in the diagram for more information.

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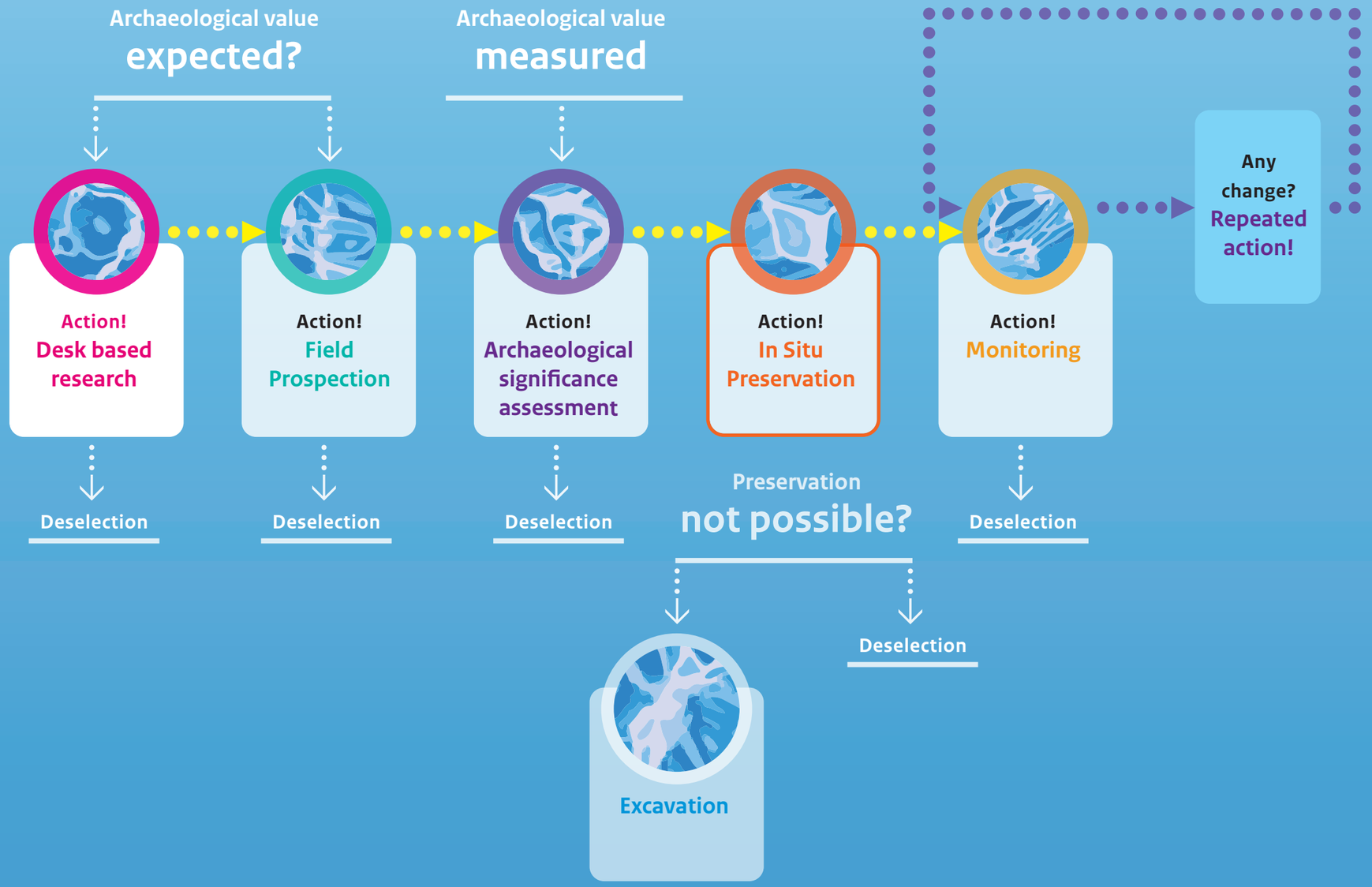

Desk based research

Before any fieldwork is done, digital and paper research is executed on an area or a specific reported site.

After the collection of information a first selection can be made to either continue research or stop.

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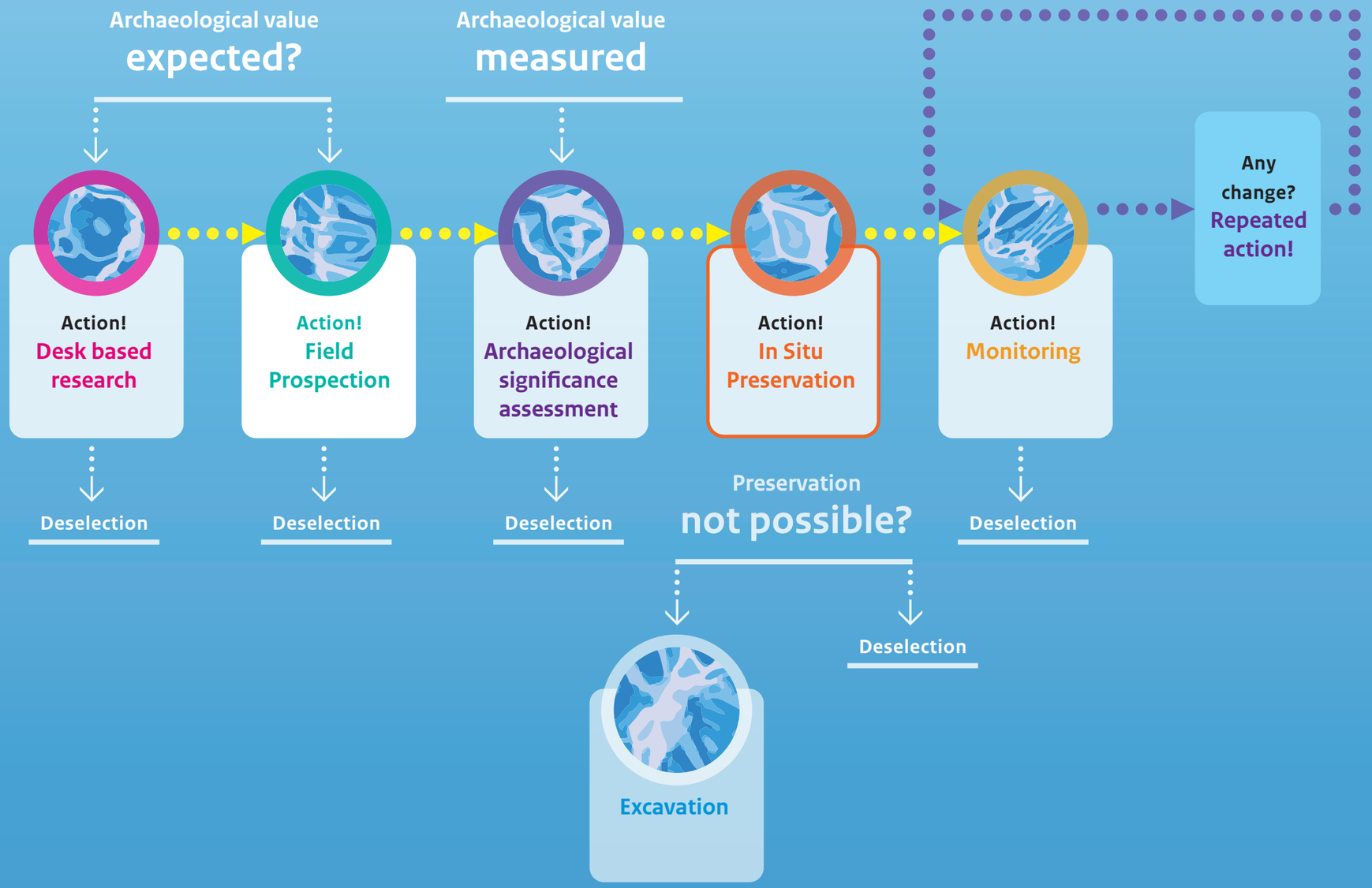

Field Prospection

If it has been decided to continue the work on a specific site are area, the first fieldwork is being executed: the field prospection. This prospection can be done from the water surface with bathymetric methods or underwater by diving or with the use of ROV's.

After the fieldwork a decision is made to either continue or stop and deselect the site(s).

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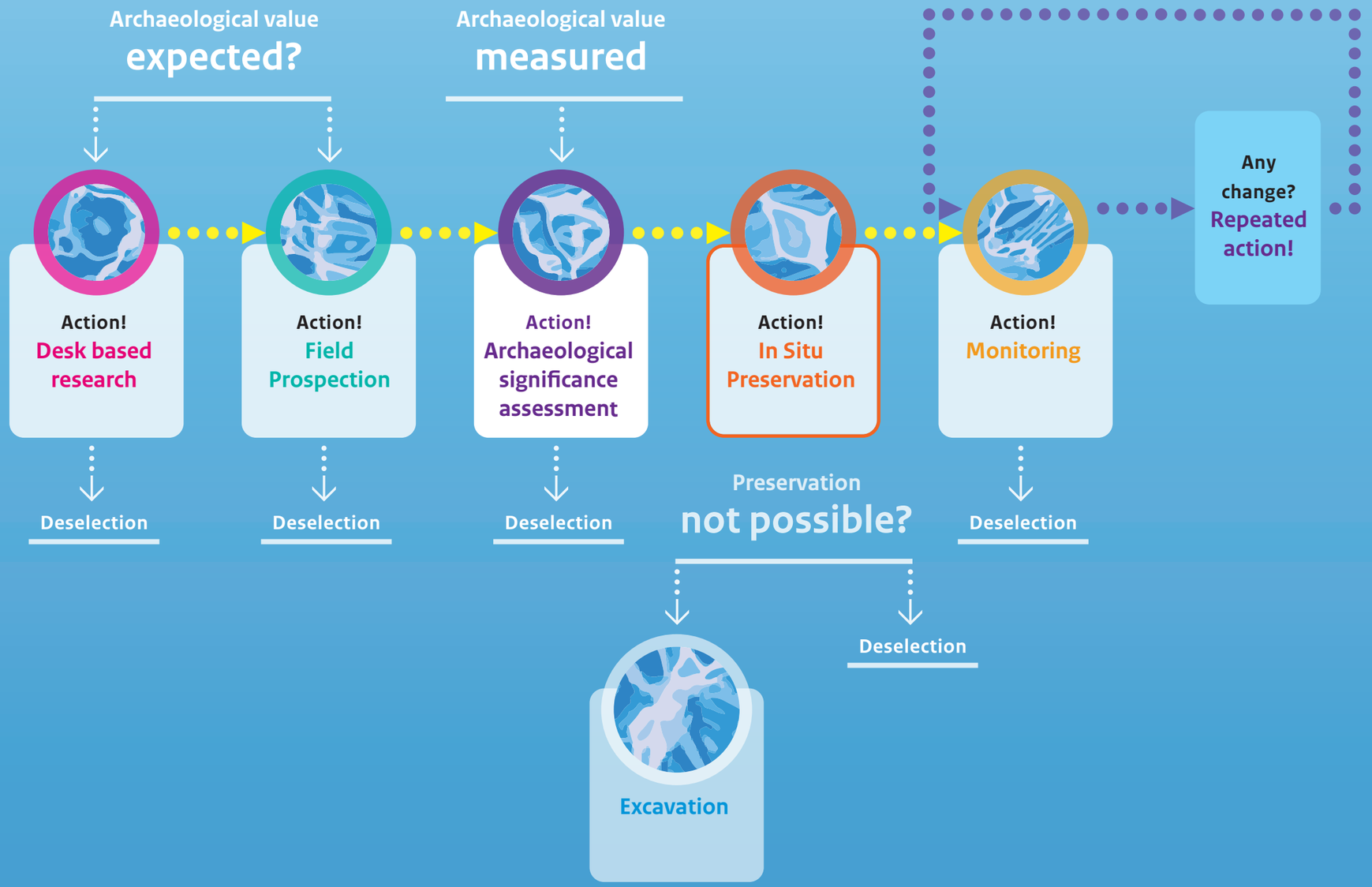

Archaeological significance assessment

If it has been decided, based on the survey data to continue to work onsite, then a specific archaeological significance assessment is being executed. This assessment determines the archaeological value and needs to be properly conducted.

For this we use a format in order to be able to compare the outcome with that of other sites. After this phase still we can decide not to continue.

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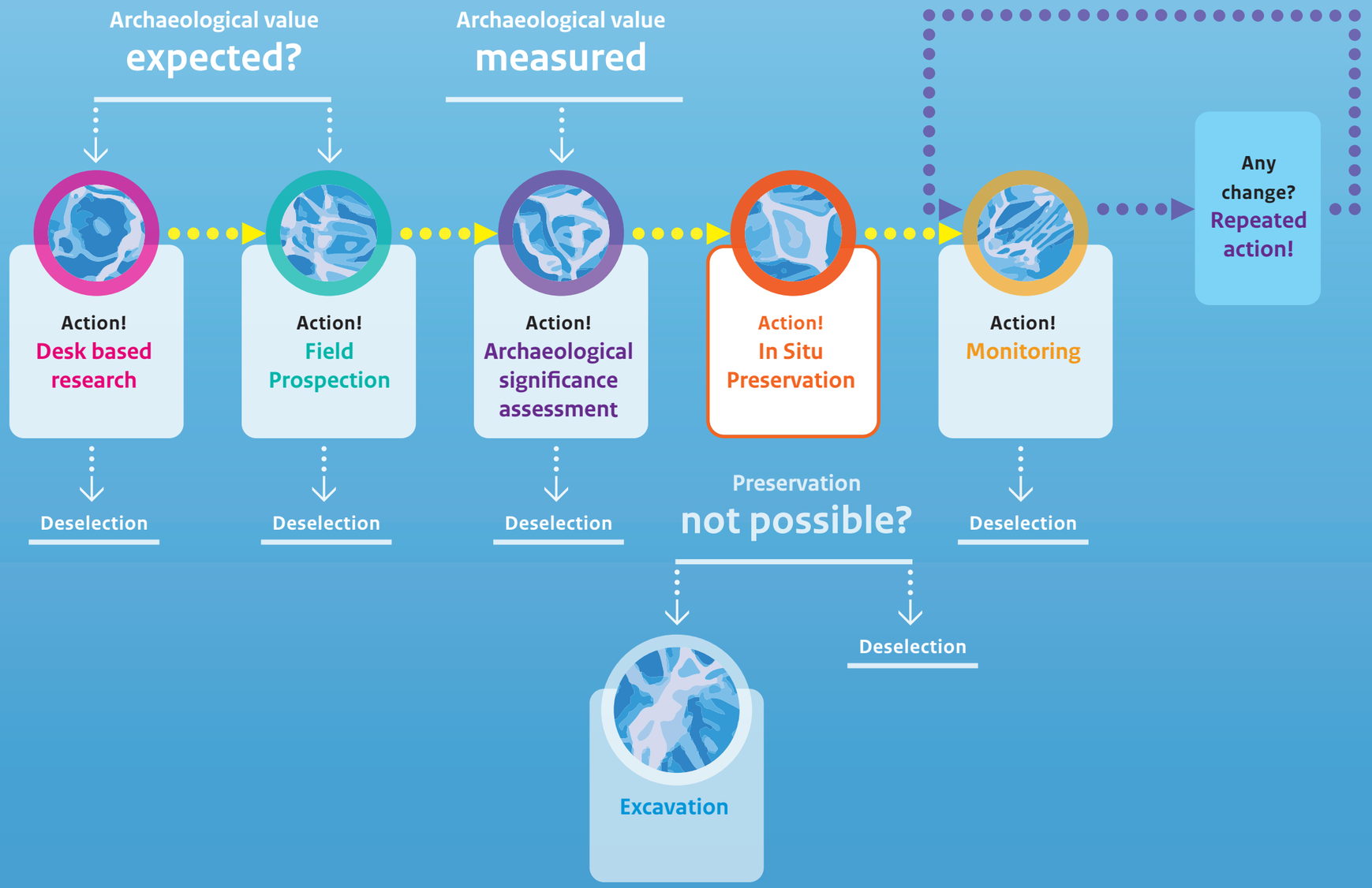

In Situ Preservation

If important enough to keep or preserve, a site can be preserved in situ. There are many physical methods to do so, depending on the natural conditions onsite.

Also law and policies can help to protect a site. In site preservation can be done for short, middle or long term.

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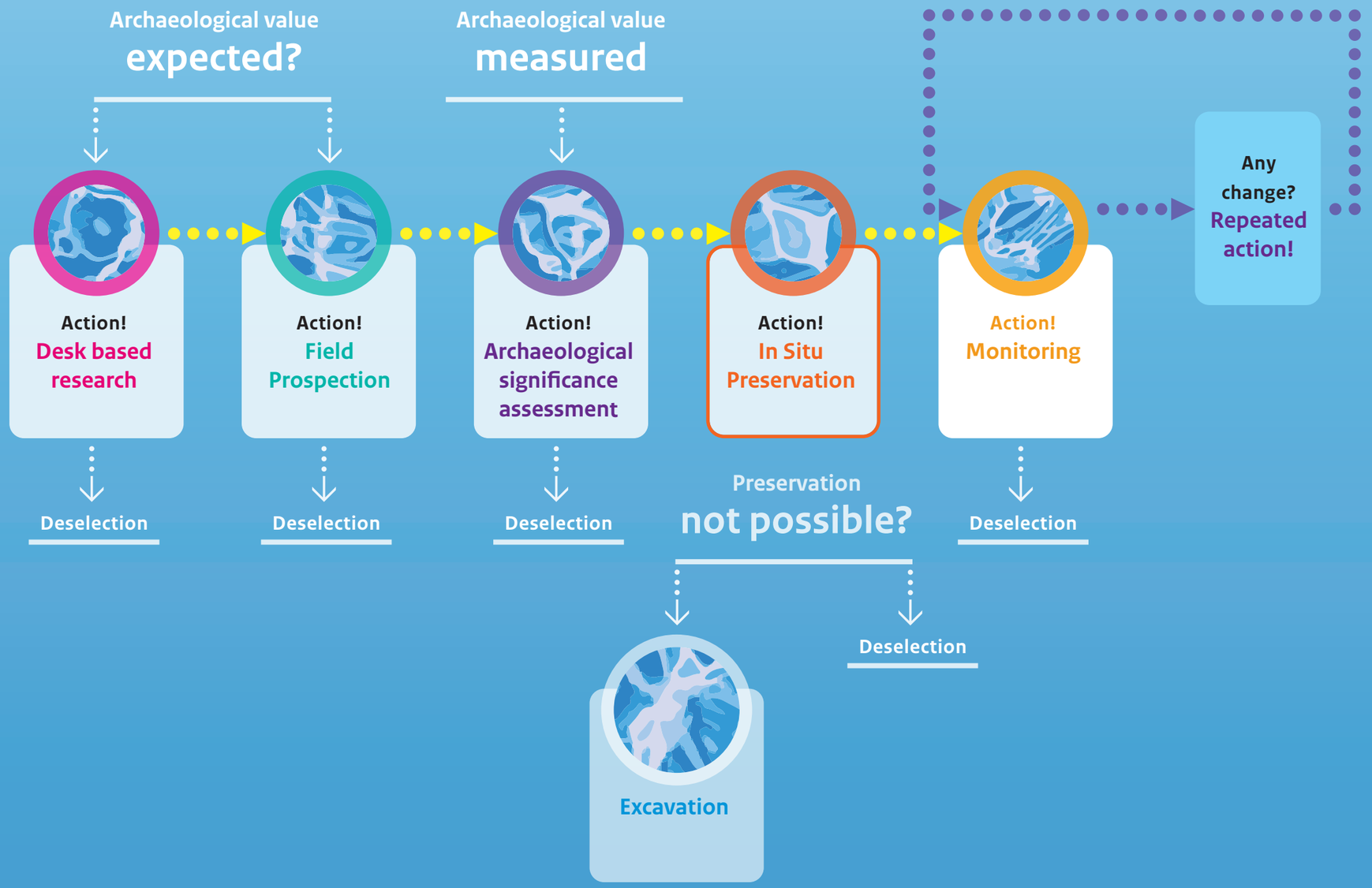

Monitoring

If we decide to protect a site in situ, then monitoring is a necessity.
The frequency depends on the natural circumstances, human activities in the area, the kind of threats and the specific value of the site.

Good monitoring relies on a baseline study, repetitive monitoring and a good analyses. The frequency of repeating the monitoring depends on the results of the previous monitoring.

Monitoring can also result in the decision being made to discontinue the in situ protection and to deselect the site.

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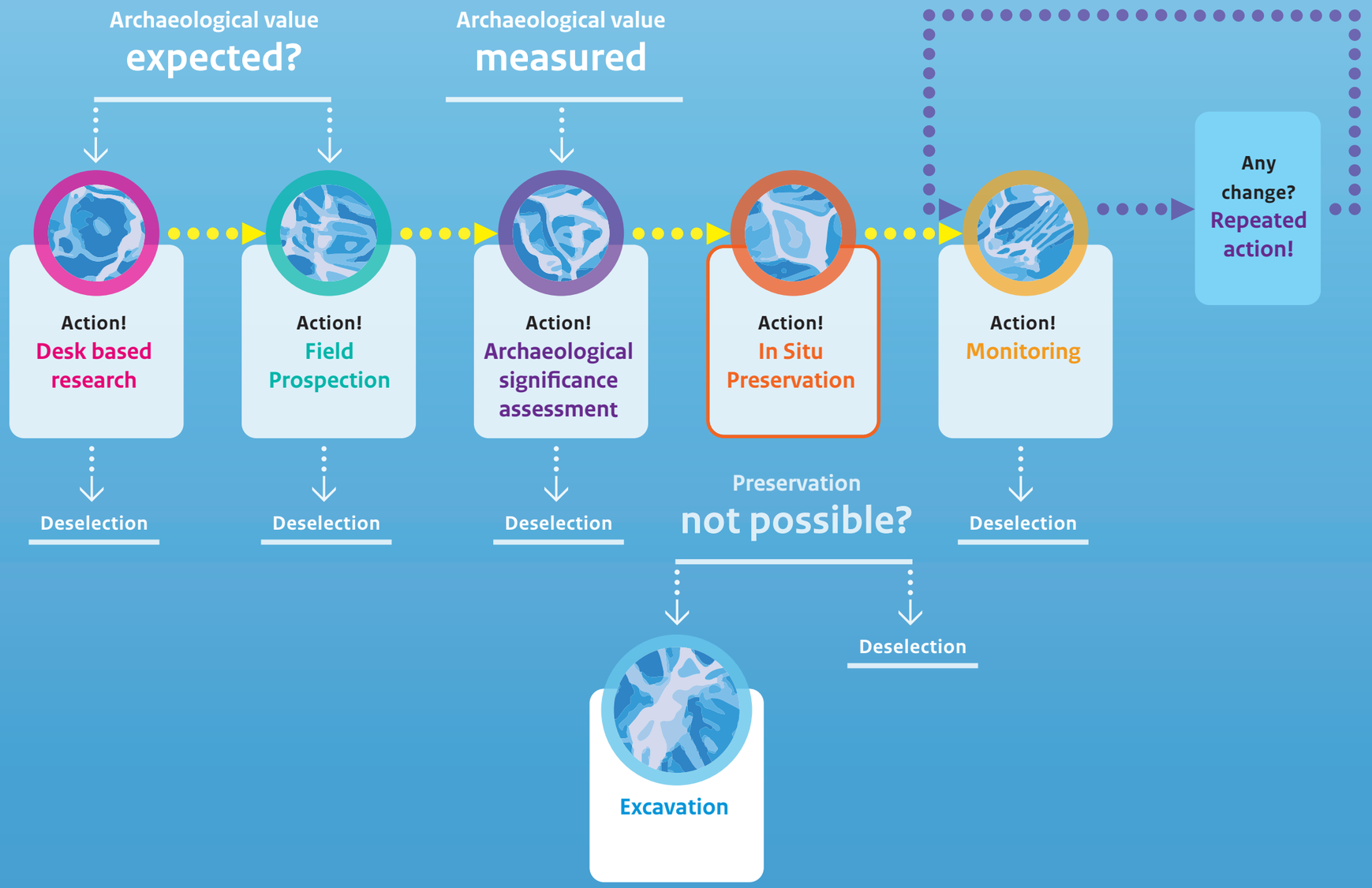

Excavation

An archaeological significant site can be preserved in situ or excavated. The latter is only opportune when a project plan is in place and the conditions, like budget and capacity, are being met.

This takes time and in the meantime the same site may be temporarily preserved in situ. Sometimes, conditions are not as such that in situ preservation is viable, then there is either the choice to preserve ex-situ (through excavation) or deselect the site after all.

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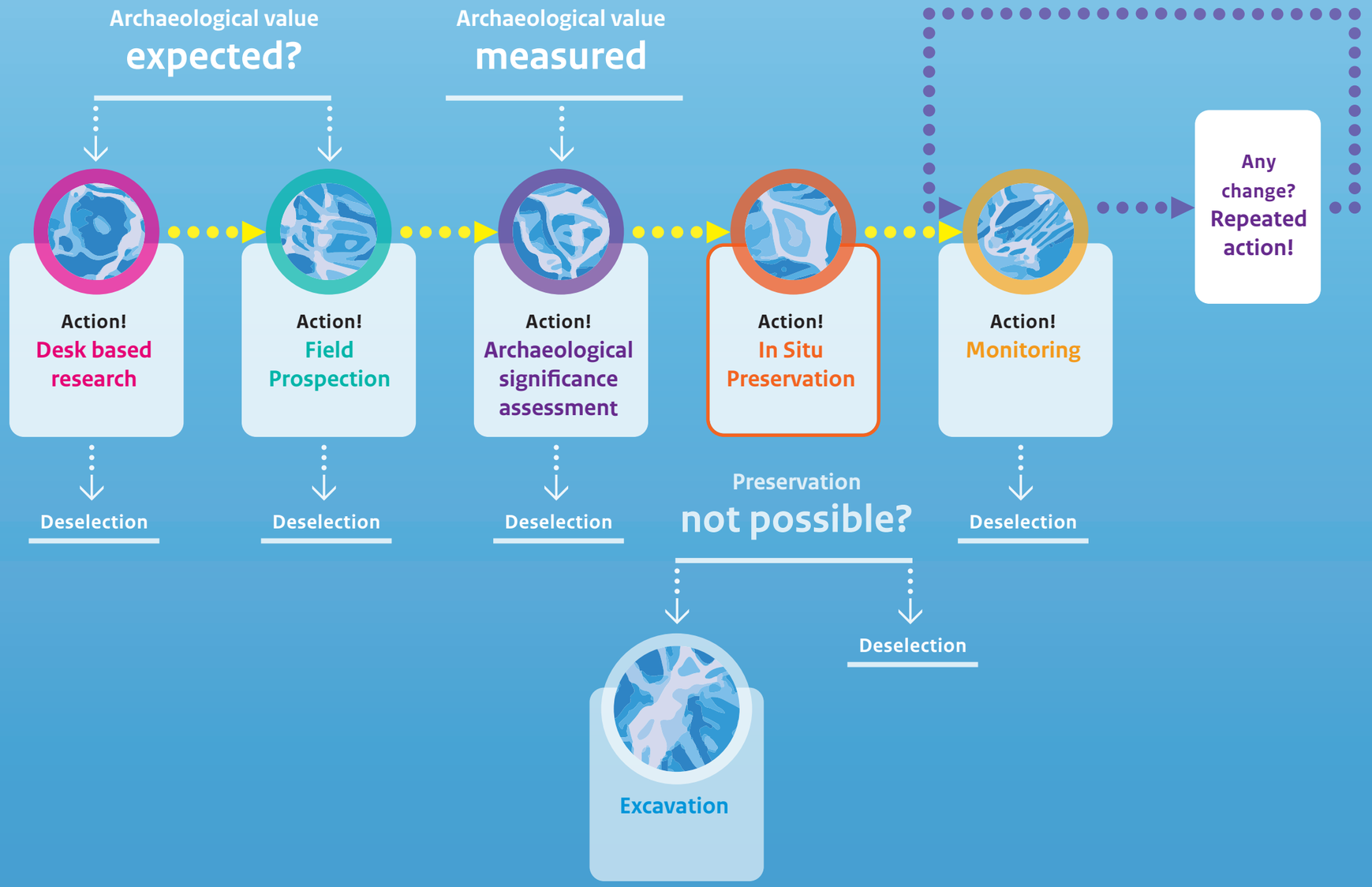

Repeated action

Monitoring is a repeated action which may also trigger other management actions.