



Members eBulletin, June 2020

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CIfA news

Advocacy update

COVID-19

CIfA is continuing to advocate on behalf of the archaeology sector and help inform UK governments of the impacts of the pandemic in archaeology. In England, CIfA is sitting on both Historic Environment Forum task groups which are looking at COVID-19 (one focussed on short term recovery, the other on longer term rebuilding). In Scotland, CIfA is sitting on the COVID Historic Environment Resilience Forum. We are also receiving regular updates from Cadw and the Historic Environment Division on processes for managing COVID impact on archaeology in Wales and Northern Ireland.

CIfA has also been advising on new DCMS guidance for the heritage sector which will be published in the coming days. Throughout the pandemic we have been working closely with Prospect to help support the development

of site safety guidance. More information can be found on our [Coronavirus information pages](#).

We are currently surveying archaeological organisations and individuals to help inform our contributions to these forums. [You can complete the survey here](#).

Planning

The Westminster Government has recently made statements about its aspirations for reform of the planning process, in part to help stimulate economic recovery from COVID-19. This should serve as a taster for what is expected from the English Planning White Paper, which is due to be published by Government very soon. Other press reports have indicated that the Government may be considering major reforms.

We will also be responding to the publication of a radical paper from the Policy Exchange think tank which advocated for the massive scaling back the planning system.

CiFA remains extremely concerned by the Government's insistence that cutting regulation will speed up the planning process and make it more efficient. CiFA has a briefing paper detailing its policy position on the relaxation of planning control which you can [read here](#). Last year CiFA also conducted the [Planning Case Studies Project](#) which developed a body of evidence which showed how the current planning system functions well to protect heritage and prove that it does not create unnecessary burdens, and conversely, highlighting the potential for harm where these systems are undermined.

CiFA recently responded to an initial call for evidence on Scotland's National Planning Framework 4 and will also be participating in this major reform process as they develop later this year.

UK Shortage Occupation List

A current consultation from the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) is reviewing the Shortage Occupation List (SOL) in the light of proposed changes to the UK Government's immigration policy. Archaeology was added to the SOL last year following a previous review and the MAC is not currently re-considering that inclusion. As such all archaeological jobs will be remaining on the shortage list for the until such time as the next full review takes place.

Recent consultation responses

Recent CiFA consultation responses can be [found here](#).

Archaeology and public benefit UKRI Future Leader Fellowship

CiFA are partners on a UKRI-funded research project led by Sadie Watson at MOLA. The project is intended to investigate our sector's approach to providing public benefit from our work, with the eventual aim of producing Policy papers and project design guidance to ensure public benefit is at the heart of all archaeological projects. CiFA's support is particularly valuable

as we acknowledge that archaeology's contribution to society is not particularly well articulated but is a central tenet of our professional practice.

The project will involve detailed reviews of current practice, extensive surveys of both our sector and the public, and close consideration of how the construction and archaeological sectors operate together to establish if we can better navigate the procurement and design stages of large infrastructure projects. A regular newsletter will provide further updates, alert readers to surveys and consultation events and invite comments and contributions. Do sign up if you want to hear more and be kept up to date. Please [see here](#).

Useful links

[MOLA project page](#)

[UKRI page](#)

First archaeology apprenticeship offered!

We were really pleased to see the first advert for a Trailblazer apprenticeship in archaeology out this week from L-P Archaeology, [see advert here](#). The apprenticeship is an Archaeological Specialist Level 7 degree apprenticeship and is in post-excavation skills with a focus on medieval pottery. The apprentice will gain valuable workplace skills over a three year period as well as a Masters degree in Professional Practice.

The Trailblazer apprenticeships are the culmination of over seven years hard work by the Historic Environment Trailblazer Group of employers and training providers, convened by Historic England and supported by CifA, Icon and IHBC. The Archaeological Specialist apprenticeship was designed to address skills needs across a number of specialist areas and has benefitted from consultation with relevant CifA Special Interest Groups.

Updates to the Standards and guidance

Changes were recently made to the wording of the text of the **Standard** for evaluations and watching briefs and the text of the **guidance** sections for archives and archaeological advice – [see here for a recap](#). These updates stem from projects that have focused on archaeological archives and archaeological reporting with the collective objective to improve industry standards and provide good practice guidance related to archiving, digital data management and grey literature reporting. The CifA **Standards** (the paragraph at the top of each document) are binding on all accredited members and Registered Organisations. The **guidance** provides good practice advice outlining how to achieve the **Standard**, it is not binding per se but members and Registered Organisations need to demonstrate that the **Standard** is being achieved and are recommended to document alternative approaches and the reasoning behind them.

Recent changes

In relation to the recent changes, especially those affecting the guidance sections of the Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives and the Standard and guidance for archaeological advice by historic environment services, members and organisations are advised to make use of the resources that have been developed to aid implementation of the changes. These specifically focus on having in place **project-specific selection**

strategies and Data Management Plans. There is no requirement to follow the template examples and proforma provided, they are there to help and support you to make changes where necessary and helpful.

Resources available

Implementing selection strategies - [Developing a selection toolkit for archaeological archives](#)

[Data management plans](#)

If you have any queries please contact Jen
jen.parkerwooding@archaeologists.net

Validation committee needs you!

The role of our Validation committee is to carry out a peer review process to assess individual applications against the requirements for CIfA accreditation. The committee usually alternate meetings between Reading and Birmingham. More recently we have been holding them virtually and this may continue in the future.

We are always looking for accredited members to get involved to ensure we have a wide representation for this process. This is a benefit to applicants, but can also benefit individuals and can count towards your CPD. Find out more about [getting involved here](#).

Samantha Boyle, PCIfA is on the Validation committee, you can [read about her experiences here](#).

Interested? Please email Lianne to find out more
lianne.birney@archaeologists.net

Four out of five new committee members said they are "*surprised by the detailed analysis of each application*".

Membership services update

Join over 3000 accredited professionals!

Accreditation demonstrates you have the skills to carry out your work and that you've committed to work in accordance with our professional Code of conduct. [Find out more about applying here](#).



This brings our total membership to 3854 divided into 3020 accredited and 834 non-accredited.

The break-down is as follows:

Honorary MCIfA 12
MCIfA 1539
ACIfA 716
PCIfA 753
Affiliate 500
Student 334

The first half of 2020 has seen a steady number of successful applications

and upgrades. Following two Validation committee meetings so far this year, we are pleased to tell you that 25 existing members successfully upgraded, and 20 new applicants were successfully accredited.

We have validated 89 Student and 28 Affiliate members, plus 4 successful re-joiners at accredited grades.

Lianne has been holding regular workshops to help applicants complete the application process, which have proved popular and have been useful to those who attended. Look out for more next month!

We look forward to receiving your application! [Find out more here](#) and [apply online here](#). If you need any help, please contact Lianne at membership@archaeologists.net.



Registered Organisation Community LinkedIn group

The group invites Registered Organisation Responsible Post Holders and CIfA accredited managers in ROs to join and share expertise, good practice and news stories, views and issues about the profession and the sector.

Over recent weeks there have been posts about such diverse topics as financial sharp practice, Covid safety, supporting good mental health, changes to Standards and guidance and much more.

It is a great place for RO managers to network and share expertise. You can [view the page here](#).

The Registration Committee (Organisations) is looking for new members.

The committee (RCO) meets four times a year to consider the inspection reports from new and current applications for registration and to deal with other matters relating to the scheme.

Volunteering for CIfA can provide several benefits which include opportunities to

- network and engage with other professionals
- develop your knowledge and skills
- shape your profession
- demonstrate your commitment to your profession

To join the RCO, you must have enough experience to be able to distinguish good practice and areas for improvement throughout an organisation. Expressions of interest are welcomed from any accredited member (PCIfA, ACIfA or MCIfA). Diversity is crucial to effective decision making. [Read what Otis Gilbert PCIfA and RCO member has to say](#).

The current Chair and Vice-Chair have reached the end of their terms of office. If you are interested in joining the committee or standing for either of the officer positions, please state this in your expression of interest. More information can be [found here](#)

Yearbook survey responses

Thank you to members who responded to the recent Yearbook & Directory survey, we had a total of 619 responses and the results will feed into any changes in the future.

We asked about preferences for a hard copy or digital version, what you use it for, if you find the Yearbook or the Annual review more important and how you would prefer your details (accredited only) to be presented.

The 2020 Yearbook and Directory will be going out in the usual way this year, with overseas members receiving a digital version unless they would like a hard copy, and we hope to implement some changes to format, style and distribution for 2021.

We will keep members' up to date with any changes. If you have any queries please get in touch with membership@archaeologists.net.



ATF Award 2020

The annual Archaeology Training Forum Award Forum has been recognising excellence and innovation in training, learning and professional development since 2011. The award is usually presented at the Cifa Conference in April but due to its cancellation this year it will be awarded at a later date and the judging is taking place at the moment. There are some excellent entries this year and it is good news for heritage that there are such high-quality training initiatives being run – and such enthusiastic and dedicated people running them.

You can find out more information about [shortlisted entries here](#). Find out about previous award winners and the work of the Forum at www.archaeologytraining.org.uk.

Book reviews

For past reviews and current books available for review please [see our website](#) (login required). Please contact admin@archaeologists.net if you have trouble signing in.

If you are interested in providing a review, or if you have a book you would like to have reviewed, please get in touch with [Laura Beasley](#), our reviews editor.



Cifa Group news/events/training opportunities

Please [visit our website](#) for our full event calendar and to book your place for any of the below events!

Tea breaks

Join us each week for our weekly digital tea break! The date changes and we alternate mornings and afternoons to accommodate peoples' schedules. Join us for 45 minutes to discuss the archaeological topics of the week or just catch up with CIfA members and staff alike!

Wednesday, 24 June, 15:00 – 15:45

Thursday, 2 July, 10:30 – 11:15

Friday, 10 July, 15:00 – 15:45

Accreditation workshops

We have hosted six free accreditation workshops and are looking to book more in the coming weeks. Look out for more details soon!

Introduction to project management

Join us for a one hour lunch and learn introductory session about project management in archaeology. The session is intended for those who have had little contact with project management and will give an insight into the responsibilities and duties of a project manager.

Thursday, 2 July, 13:00 – 14:00

Scottish group workshops

Scottish group will be hosting some workshops in the coming weeks. Some dates are still to be confirmed, but keep an eye on your email; full workshop details and registration links will be sent soon!

Save the date: Wednesday, 8 July, 10:00 – 13:00

Ethics digital workshops

Earlier this month, we brought the Ethics workshop from the CIfA conference to the digital world for the first time. It was a sold out event and we received some great feedback from members who attended. We are just about sold out for our June workshop but are pleased to announce dates for upcoming workshops in July and August.

Save the date: Wednesday, 15 July, 10:00 – 13:00

Save the date: Wednesday, 5 August, 10:00 – 13:00

Other news and events

U.S. Heritage Compliance (CRM) Sector Contracts in 2019 - HBI Releases its 2020 Annual Industry Size Report

TUCSON, AZ – The United States' heritage compliance sector contracted in 2019 by about 10 million dollars. This contraction marks the ninth year in a row of negative growth for the sector since its historic high in 2011. The compliance sector of the heritage industry includes work performed by heritage and environmental firms to achieve compliance with environmental and cultural resource requirements. It is sometimes referred to as the Cultural Resource Management or CRM industry.

These figures come from the just released 2020 edition of the annual industry size report published by Heritage Business International. The report contains a preface on COVID-19, key sector-size statistics, a breakdown of size by U.S. geographic region, historical graphs, and a data table of nominal and real size in dollars and percent annual change going back to 1971. This year's report includes a new breakdown of size by client industry and key notes throughout the report to assist readers in understanding these data. The report is available for purchase and download from heritagebusiness.org.

Dr. Christopher Dore, the report's principal author, added that "*While 2019 only showed a small decrease in size, the nine-year negative trajectory of the sector is of concern. Since 2011 the sector has lost 22.8 percent of its value. This is both the longest and largest decline in the industry's history.*"

Heritage Business International is an L3C social enterprise venture dedicated to helping heritage organizations increase their value, sustainability, and impact. The HBI annual industry size report has been published since 2015.

Free webinars - Europe's Medieval Pasts: a Manifesto

The European Archaeological Association: Medieval Europe Research Council has drawn up a Manifesto that focuses on why our medieval past matters, what it means to us as researchers and heritage managers as well as society more generally. The project was funded through the Archaeology Programme, EAA MERC and the Royal Society for Edinburgh.

Two webinars (free to attend) are taking place in June focusing on the Scottish perspective and the Continental perspective – see below for more details and to book your place.

1. Europe's Medieval Pasts: a Manifesto – a Scottish Perspective, 25 June, 2-4pm BST, where a number of heritage professionals will be asked to reflect on their experiences with the Scottish Burgh Survey and how the Manifesto resonates with their experiences

2. Europe's Medieval Pasts: a Manifesto – a Continental Perspective, 30 June, 2-4pm BST, which will focus on the European experience of building awareness of medieval archaeology and highlight a number of our chosen case

Europe's Medieval Pasts: a Manifesto

Webinar 1: A Scottish Perspective

Critical Reflections on the achievements and shortcomings of the Scottish Burgh Survey Project in light of the goals of the MERC Manifesto

25 June 2-4 pm BST

Free Registration:

https://unifebgsow.zoom.us/join/register/AWN_1HfdeTzDT-gQwvB2cOMJw

Webinar 2: Continental Perspectives

The Guiding Principles of the Manifesto – project-based insights and inspiration

30 June 2-4 pm BST

Free Registration:

https://unifebgsow.zoom.us/join/register/AWN_IfHfJ5PSRFjINNSpVJIG



The Notre Dame Fire - 15 April 2019 – image by Milliped / CC BY-SA



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