



Members eBulletin, October 2023

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CIfA NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our new Honorary Chair

At the CIfA Annual General Meeting on 10 October we announced the results of the ballot for the position of Honorary Chair of the Board of Directors. We are very pleased to congratulate Pen Foreman on successfully being elected to the role.

Pen has taken over from Stephen Carter who has been Chair of CIfA for the past five years and has now stepped down from the Board after completing a full six-year term.

We would like to thank Stephen and the other individuals who have stepped down from the Board and Advisory Council for volunteering their

time to support the Institute.

CiFA 2022/23 Annual review



We have recently published our Annual Review for 2022/2023 which was circulated to members with the latest edition of The Archaeologist.

You can find a digital [copy on the website here](#)

The review highlights some of the key areas of work we have completed or made significant progress on over the last twelve months.

These are working towards [the aims set out in our Strategic plan](#). This has included work to encourage a more diverse range of people to enter and succeed in the profession, continued improvements to our accreditation process, expanding the suite of apprenticeship qualifications, and promoting accredited archaeologists through publications such as [Archaeological works: a guide for construction companies and householders](#).

The areas we have particularly focused on in the review are:

- developing archaeology as a career
- reflecting our discipline better
- extending our reach
- being more inclusive
- strengthening our institute
- protecting archaeology through advocacy and challenge

If you would like to know any more about our areas of work or would like to get more involved in any of our committees please contact admin@archaeologists.net

Memorandum of Understanding between CiFA and FAME

CiFA recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers (FAME), and it may be useful to explain a little more about it.

Over the years CiFA has signed MoUs with organisations within the heritage sector to facilitate better collaborative working, and build new and stronger partnerships for influence with our sector and others, in line with our strategic plan strategy – take a look at the [Partnerships page on our website](#). These MoUs enable CiFA to promote our shared interests with these organisations and build better and more productive working relationships to help address issues and concerns that affect all parts of our industry.



Although Cifa and FAME have different perspectives, both are invested in ensuring a healthy and sustainable future for archaeology, promoting a discipline that is recognised for giving value to the public and clients. It's only through cooperation and communication that we can hope to achieve this.

The Memorandum of Understanding between Cifa and FAME aims to begin the process of building a better and more productive relationship between archaeology's professional institute and trade association. It formalises the basis for collaboration between the two organisations, complementing our long-standing positive working relationship with the Prospect trade union. This MoU was formulated over a period of months at Board level, as with all of Cifa's other MoUs.

MoUs are formal but non-legally-binding statements of intent that seek to foster a collaborative working relationship by helping the two organisations understand each other, by setting out the established relative remits of the organisations and identifying areas of potential collaboration. They can be valuable in helping others understand the organisations' legitimate similarities and differences of roles and perspectives.

For full details of Cifa's Memorandum of Understanding with FAME, and those with other organisations, [visit the partnership page on Cifa's website](#). Should you have any questions about this MoU, please contact admin@archaeologists.net

Carbon reduction network

Through the work of Cifa's climate change working group, we have just launched a carbon reduction network through the Historic England Knowledge Hub. This provides an informal online space to allow Cifa members and others to ask questions and share ideas and resources so that we can collectively improve our practices and respond to the climate crisis.

You can request to join the Knowledge Hub at khub.net/group/cifa-carbon-reduction-network/group-home or email alex.llewellyn@archaeologists.net

You can read more about the what the climate change working group has been doing in the latest edition of [The Archaeologist 120 \(member log in required\)](#).

The Archaeologist: call for articles



The themes for the next few editions of The Archeologist will be

- **TA121** 2023 marks the 50th anniversary of the Protections of Wrecks act and this edition of TA will focus on wreck protection and developments in marine archaeology. **Deadline 1 December 2023**
- **TA122** Heritage crime (details to follow). **Deadline 1 April 2024**

If you'd like to submit an article please read the [information on the website](#) and email alex.ilewellyn@archaeologists.net. We'd also love to hear your ideas for future themes.

Dig Digital Toolkit update



Joint Statement from the Archaeological Archives Forum

The Archaeological Archives Forum has issued a joint statement highlighting how all heritage professionals can support the effective management of digital data in archaeological projects.

The Dig Digital project, an initiative of the Forum funded by Historic England and delivered by DigVentures in partnership with ClfA, has created guidance targeting those who deal with digital data in archaeological projects. The project is designed to address an inconsistent and unsustainable approach to digital data for archaeological projects and archives identified by the Future for Archaeological Archives Programme, formed by Historic England and Arts Council England.

For further information about the [Dig Digital](#) resource, available to heritage professionals, and to read the [Archaeological Archives Forum statement in full](#)

We need you for Validation committee, professional review interview panels and specialist assessments!

Are you interested in ensuring that archaeologists have the knowledge, skills and professionalism to meet the needs of society, clients and stakeholders in the future?

If so, we need you!



Even though we are always looking for accredited members at any grade (PCIfA, ACIfA, MCIfA) to get involved, we particularly need new Validation committee members this year as 4 committee members have had to step down after serving their two 3-year terms.

Validation committee role - to carry out a peer review process to assess individual applications against the requirements for CIfA accreditation for both ethical and technical competence using the competence matrix and a scoring system. Meetings are held virtually with one in person each year.

Panel member role - to assess individual applications against the requirements for CIfA accreditation for ethical competence in an interview discussion format and report to the Validation committee.

Specialist assessor role – to assess individual applications examples of work from different specialisms against the requirements for CIfA accreditation for technical competence, where we are lacking expertise on Validation committee, and report to them.

Are you interested?

Find out more about [getting involved here](#).

Please email Lianne lianne.birney@archaeologists.net to find out more about getting involved with the Validation committee, professional review interview panels and specialist assessments.

Book Reviews



You can find our full list of books available for review [here \(member log in required\)](#).

If you are interested in sending in a publication to be included in our reviews please send an email to admin@archaeologists.net

If you need any further information please see our [book review guidance](#)

Member benefits reminder

Have you made use of your CIfA membership benefits?

If you have recently joined CIfA, or if you have been a member for a while, you might not be aware of the wide range of benefits that come as part of your CIfA membership.

You can find a detailed list on our webpage [Membership benefits](#) but here are a few key opportunities

- **be at the heart of developing your profession** by [getting involved](#) and volunteering on a CIfA Group committee
- sign up to the [Jobs Information Service and Training weekly bulletin](#) to help you develop your career or recruit staff
- join any of our [Area and Special Interest groups](#) to network with CIfA colleagues and take part in events
- Join the CIfA [Professional pathways scheme](#) with **regular bulletins** to help you through your career and to understand the competence requirements for professional accreditation
- accredited members can **choose to be listed** in the digital [CIfA Directory of accredited professionals](#) that is widely publicised to clients and others

CIfA's assessment service update



CIfA has been delivering an assessment service for NVQs for approximately 16 years. These practical, skills-focused qualifications are based on employer-led standards and have been used to train and accredit a wide variety of archaeologists. They are a great way to provide a much-needed alternative route into the industry, as well as helping current archaeologists develop their skills and have their competence recognised. As these are formal qualifications that appear on the Regulated Qualifications Framework, they fall under the auspices of the qualifications regulator, Ofqual.

More recently, CIfA's assessment service for qualifications has been recognised by Ofqual to deliver end-point assessment for apprentices in the industry. These qualifications also provide a valuable alternative route into the sector. In addition, they are a great way for organisations to expand their workforce while having a professional partner that delivers formal, industry-approved training and development. Like NVQs, these qualifications are also based on standards that have been designed by employers in the industry, and like NVQs, they're regulated by Ofqual.

To promote the qualifications assessment service, we need a clear identity and brand that is instantly recognisable by CIfA's various audiences, which includes the archaeology industry, qualification candidates, training providers and, of course, the regulator, Ofqual.

Therefore, CIfA is naming its assessment service for qualifications CIfA Qualifications, recognisable by the logo above. CIfA believes that this better reflects the nature of the qualifications assessment service that it provides and also allows scope to encompass any future qualifications offer.

Any employers who are interested in taking on an apprentice can contact the assessment centre manager (Amanda Wood) at assessment@archaeologists.net who'll be happy to advise.

Events/training/elearning

Keep up-to-date with all our events via our [events webpage](#).



ACIfA accreditation - a step-by-step guide

10 Nov 2023 | 12.00 - 12.35 | online

Join our digital workshop to help understand the accreditation process for Associate (ACIfA) applications.

[Register here](#)



PCIfA accreditation - a step-by-step guide

10 Nov 2023 | 13.00 - 13.30 | online

Join our digital workshop to help understand the accreditation process for Practitioner (PCIfA) applications.

[Register here](#)



Practising ethical competence in archaeology - MCIfA

13 Nov | 14.00 – 16:30 | online

This CPD workshop is for accredited professionals and those that need to demonstrate ethical abilities as part of their application for accreditation

[Register here](#)



Lunchtime Chat - November

20 Nov | 12:30 – 13:15 | online

Come to our regular digital networking event. One of the sessions this time will be catching up with our neurodiveristy network and the other will be about CPD.

[Register here](#)

Other Events



A cross-disciplinary series of events for professionals working in the built heritage sector



CifA and IAI – informing climate change responses the role of archaeology

Thursday 9 November 2023, 1pm-2pm, online

Archaeologists spend their lives studying past societies and their environments and are uniquely placed to help us understand and adapt to environmental changes in the future as a result of the climate emergency. Drawing on case studies from the built and natural environments, this CPD session will focus on ensuring that responses to climate change are informed by an understanding of the historic environment, how it has evolved and how it might be impacted in the future.

Case study 1 – adaption and reuse of urban early buildings

Cóilín Ó Drisceoil, National Monuments Service

Employing case studies from the medieval town of Kilkenny, the talk will highlight some of the benefits and challenges that arise for archaeology from the adaptation and reuse of urban early buildings. Experience demonstrates that the proactive integration of archaeological investigations, and particularly buildings archaeology methods, into such projects reveals new knowledge about the origins, development and changing forms and uses of early buildings. This knowledge is vital for informing the architectural, conservation and engineering designs of adaptations but also adds greatly to their overall cultural value by providing historical integrity and authenticity. Proactive and ongoing iterative archaeological investigation is essential for resolving the tensions that can arise between the needs of archaeology and the practicalities of modern interventions in historic buildings.

Case study 2 – peatland restoration challenges and opportunities

Kara Ward and Vicky Ginn, Historic Environment Division

Kara will give an introduction to peatland restoration and its role in meeting climate change targets. She will also discuss the value of peatland archaeology, threats to peat and peatland archaeology, the NI Peatland Strategy and its context and future considerations for the restoration of peatlands. The case studies that Vicky will present give a brief overview of some of the issues facing exposed archaeology within peatscapes, and examine how these issues may be addressed.

The speakers

Kara Ward and Vicky Ginn are archaeologists with the Department for Communities' Historic Environment Division in Northern Ireland. They have a particular interest in environmental archaeology and conservation.

Cóilín Ó Drisceoil is an archaeologist with the National Monuments Service. He has a particular interest in the archaeology of early buildings and gardens and has undertaken excavations and buildings archaeology investigations on many of Kilkenny's key medieval and early modern buildings.

[Register Here](#)

Other News

[Bishop Grosseteste University](#) have announced they are launching a NEW Level 7 Archaeological Specialist apprenticeship programme and are actively taking Expressions of Interest now.

For more information click the link below or email us at apprenticeships@bishopg.ac.uk

[Archaeological Specialist Apprenticeship \(bgu.ac.uk\)](#).

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