

1 Summary

- 1.1.1 A survey of organisations considered to be IfA stakeholders was carried out between October and December 2013. IfA's *Strategic Plan 2010–2020* required measurement of progress towards certain objectives and targets, and consequently this survey was designed to collect baseline data about IfA and its progress to date towards elements of Objectives 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6. This will then be compared with the results of two future surveys to be carried out within the period covered by the Plan. The project was a collaboration between IfA and an external consultant (Rachel Edwards, Arboretum Archaeological Consultancy), with IfA staff taking the lead role in designing the online survey and compiling the contact list. The consultant carried out the analysis and reported the results.
- 1.1.2 The survey response was considered to be sufficiently representative for the results overall to be meaningful. Returns were received from across the UK, from both archaeological and non-archaeological organisations. The low response from the construction and design sectors was noted. While this was considered to be a potential weakness in the results of the survey, it does provide a strong indication of where IfA could work to increase influence and improve relationships.

IfA Objective 1: increase understanding of the role of archaeologists in society and improve our status

- 1.1.3 Half of all respondents considered that their colleagues or members had a clear understanding that archaeologists are professionals working with the historic environment.
- 1.1.4 The results revealed some uncertainty about where and how most archaeologists work. Nearly three fifths correctly agreed that most archaeologists work in private companies, with their work funded by the construction industry. Over four fifths were confident that the majority of archaeologists work in association with the planning and construction process. Despite this, half of respondents in non-archaeological organisations considered that the majority of archaeological digs are carried out by researchers, students, and volunteers.
- 1.1.5 Respondents were unanimous in agreeing that 'most archaeologists have specialist skills and knowledge relating to the study and care of the historic environment', and almost all agreed with the statement that 'archaeologists are reliable professional people'.

IfA Objective 3: strengthen the relationships between archaeologists across the historic environment and other sectors

- 1.1.6 Over four fifths of respondents' organisations routinely worked with, employed, or consulted archaeologists. Overall 69% had positive views about their organisations' professional relationships with archaeologists, rising to 73% of non-archaeological organisations. A high proportion (89%) of non-archaeological organisations considered that archaeologists understood the needs of their sector. Archaeologists' ability to fit into a team and to know the limits of their competence in a multidisciplinary working environment were valued by 78% of respondents in non-archaeological organisations. Around two thirds of responding organisations used archaeologists to add value to their work and to create a distinctive character to their work and products.
- 1.1.7 Three quarters of all organisations and three fifths of non-archaeological organisations worked within the same sector as IfA and considered that IfA supported the work they do.

This positive attitude was confirmed by the relatively low proportion of respondents (13% overall) that considered that the IfA could do a lot more to help support the work of their organisation. Responses indicated an enthusiasm for more collaborative work with IfA, expressed by two fifths of all respondents and by half of the non-archaeological organisation respondents.

IfA Objective 4: make IfA membership and registration essential demonstrations of fitness to practise

- 1.1.8 The majority of respondents (71%) worked in a sector represented by a professional institute. Over two fifths were individual members of IfA. Of the 29 respondents that did not work for IfA Registered Organisations (RO), all had heard of IfA. Most respondents (71%) considered that their colleagues or members would expect archaeologists to belong to a professional institute.
- 1.1.9 The majority of all respondents (72%) and of non-archaeological organisation respondents (71%) considered that MIfA membership of IfA would be equivalent to the highest level of membership of other professional institutes, such as RIBA, RTPI, CIOB, and ICE. There was almost unanimous agreement from respondents that their organisations would consider that 'archaeological works undertaken in advance of development (eg as part of the planning process) should be undertaken by a qualified professional'.
- 1.1.10 Two thirds of respondents and their colleagues would refer to recommended lists or take advice when employing archaeologists or archaeological organisations. The IfA handbook listing accredited members featured strongly amongst the sources cited, along with the list of IfA Registered Organisations. Over four fifths of all respondents, and nearly two thirds of non-archaeological organisation respondents were aware of the IfA RO scheme.

IfA Objective 5: develop a stronger influence on historic environment policy

- 1.1.11 Those working in respondents' organisations were relatively well-informed about how planning legislation works to protect the historic environment. Half of all respondents and of non-archaeological organisation respondents considered that planning legislation and guidance provided adequate protection for archaeological remains against damage or destruction from development.
- 1.1.12 A large majority of respondents considered that IfA has a strong advocacy role. Respondents were reasonably confident that the IfA can affect UK historic environment policy. Just over a quarter of all respondents believed that IfA has a great deal of influence in UK policy development, and just over half considered it had some influence.
- 1.1.13 The survey results indicate that IfA is well regarded for its impact on policy development and change in the UK. Most respondents (71%) considered that IfA has had a positive impact on policy development and change in the UK.

IfA Objective 6: give archaeologists a credible, effective and efficient professional institute

- 1.1.14 Respondents were asked to identify the views of their colleagues or members about IfA, and all but two (95%) considered that their colleagues would know that IfA is a professional institute representing archaeologists.
- 1.1.15 Respondents from archaeological organisations unanimously agreed that IfA's work has helped improve standards of archaeological practice. Professional regulation was supported by 86% of respondents and the survey revealed a strong belief in IfA's role in maintaining archaeological standards.