

Policy Priorities for CifA

Introduction

CifA invests extensively in advocacy and policy work, in both a proactive and reactive way. Proactive work is undertaken by building networks and establishing trust with politicians, civil servants, sector bodies and key bodies beyond the sector; reactive work involves activating those networks in response to threat – and occasionally opportunities – arising from non-archaeological initiatives, and responding to consultations (c 45 in 2014); most are listed at the end of this report.

Our principal objectives remain

- to maintain or improve the protection and management of the historic environment – this is an objective we share with many others
- to maintain or advance, in the interests of the public and clients, the quality of archaeological practice, particularly where occasioned through planning or other processes managing change to the historic environment – this is an objective we share with some others but increasingly tend to lead on, with an emphasis on seeking to ensure that work is done by competent professionals to professional standards

The number of consultation responses submitted on behalf of the Institute has fallen slightly in the last 18 months as staff and members attempt to develop more strategic approaches to influencing policy and to prioritise those areas considered most appropriate to further our principal objectives. It is hoped that the clear identification and dissemination of policy priorities will help to focus all CifA's advocacy work.

CifA's Advisory Council and Board have set the Institute's considered draft policy priorities for 2015-16. Advocacy work to support these priorities is often taken forward on an opportunistic basis according to initiatives and other timetables outside our control. Advocacy work may be undertaken independently or in collaboration with other bodies, with CifA sometimes taking the lead and sometimes in support: such collaboration may be informal or as part of formal partnership or agency arrangements.

Policies have been prioritised for advocacy action and resource

1. Key priority requiring significant proactive and reactive action in the short term
2. Important priority requiring some proactive action in the short term
3. Important priority requiring largely reactive action or support for other organisations in the short or medium term
4. Aspirational priority requiring little or no proactive action

England

Policy	Priority
Supporting the role of local authority historic environment services, including seeking a statutory duty for planning authorities to have access to a professionally supported and maintained HER service	1
Ensuring that risks to the archaeological resource are not increased – preferably reduced – by incremental changes to planning and other safeguards	1
Ensuring that risks to the archaeological resource are not increased by other deregulatory initiatives such as the red tape challenge	1
Promoting restriction of commercial and sensitive work to Registered Organisations or professionally accredited individuals working to CIfA Standards	1
Marine licensing and the management and protection of marine heritage assets	2
Reform of the Class Consent regime for scheduled monuments	4
Treasure Act reform – extension of criteria for Treasure and appointment of Coroner for Treasure	3
Maintain / improve management and protection of historic environment through implementation of the new Rural development Programme for England and the implementation of other aspects of Common Agricultural Policy	2
Promoting the recognition, consideration and protection of the historic environment in major infrastructure projects (such as HS2) and promoting good practice (including the use of CIfA Standards and guidance) and the need for a clearly identified curatorial role (and a body or bodies to fulfil that role) in such projects	2

Wales

Coordination of Historic Environment, Planning, Future Generations and Environment bills and relevant secondary legislation to take proper account of historic environment	1
Ensuring that the Historic Environment (Wales) Bill and relevant secondary legislation most effectively facilitate the management and protection of the historic environment and do not reduce (and where possible increase) protection of historic assets	1
A statutory duty for planning authorities to have access to a professionally supported and maintained HER service	1
Promoting restriction of commercial and sensitive work to Registered Organisations or professionally accredited individuals working to CIfA Standards	1
Continuation of functions of RCAHMW	3
Marine licensing and the management and protection of marine heritage assets	2
Reform of the Class Consent regime for scheduled monuments	4
Maintain / improve management and protection of historic environment through implementation of the new Rural development Programme for Wales and the implementation of other aspects of Common Agricultural Policy	2
Promoting the recognition, consideration and protection of the historic environment in major infrastructure projects and promoting good practice (including the use of CIfA Standards and guidance) and the need for a clearly identified curatorial role (and a body or bodies to fulfil that role) in such projects	2

Scotland

Supporting the role of local authority historic environment services, including seeking a statutory duty for planning authorities to have access to a professionally supported and maintained HER service	1
Ensuring that the protection of the historic environment and archaeology are enhanced through the Historic Environment Policy review	1
Promoting restriction of commercial and sensitive work to Registered Organisations or professionally accredited individuals working to Cifa Standards	1
Improving the quality and profile of archaeology through the Archaeology Strategy	1
Ensuring that risks to the archaeological resource are not increased – preferably reduced –	2
Marine licensing and the management and protection of marine heritage assets	2
Reform of the Class Consent regime for scheduled monuments	4
Maintain / improve management and protection of historic environment through implementation of other aspects of Common Agricultural Policy	2

Northern Ireland

Promotion of concept of increasing public benefit from archaeology, including the deposition of and public access to archives from commercial excavations, eg through review of licensing criteria and processes	2
Ensuring that risks to the archaeological resource are not increased – preferably reduced – by deregulation	2
Marine licensing and the management and protection of marine heritage assets	2
Reform of the Class Consent regime for scheduled monuments	4
Maintain / improve management and protection of historic environment through implementation of the new Rural development Programme for Northern Ireland and the implementation of other aspects of Common Agricultural Policy	2

United Kingdom

Ratification of Hague Convention	3
Ratification of UNESCO Convention on Underwater Heritage (Implementation of ratified Valletta Convention is addressed nationally)	3

European Union

Promote the management and protection of the historic environment in EU policy and legislation, including support for an EU Directive on the historic environment	4
A contingency plan for the Brexit Referendum in the event of a UK exit from the EU	2