

**Archaeologists, the UK, Europe and the world:  
a statement from the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists**

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Responding to archaeologists' strong feelings about the referendum on UK membership of the European Union, the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) wishes to emphasise its status vis-à-vis nations, states and unions.

CIfA is the leading professional body for archaeologists. Its accredited members have agreed to subscribe to the *Code of conduct* and to follow its Standards and guidance. This obligation applies wherever they live and work, as does their requirement to comply with all relevant legislation and regulations. CIfA therefore operates without national borders: it is not and never has been a UK institute. While the majority of its members practise in the UK, and the attentions of the Chartered Institute are hence focused there, a growing cadre is based elsewhere (we are distributed across 32 countries).

CIfA does not have formal position on the UK's membership of the European Union: that is a matter for the constituent parts of the UK and the EU to resolve through appropriate democratic processes. CIfA commends the thoughtful analyses of The Archaeology Forum and the Heritage Alliance of the potential impacts of a separation.

CIfA's Board of Directors has reaffirmed its commitment to working with archaeologists from around the globe to promote professional standards and ethical behaviour, to maximise the benefits that archaeologists bring to society. One of the great benefits that archaeologists offer is the power to help different people understand the great variety of cultures and traditions of humanity, to recognise how civilisations can thrive on cooperation and how conflicts can arise where cooperation is absent, and to realise how socio-economic problems are generated within societies as often as by outsiders.

Above all, archaeology shows the mobility of our species. We are all of migrant stock: some have travelled from choice and in hope, others from danger and in distress. All have left their mark on the environment; and researching that mark through archaeology shows how these new peoples flourished or faded, whether their cultures stayed separate, integrated and retained their heritage or were absorbed almost without trace. The knowledge of how societies have adapted to and benefited from interactions between peoples helps us understand why the world is as it is today and gives us privileged insights into how to handle some of the challenges and chances it faces. Those challenges are very noticeable in today's Europe, just as there have been magnificent examples of generosity and hospitality.

The job of work for archaeologists to do will be discussed in depth at CIfA's next annual conference: *CIfA2017 Archaeology: a global profession*, to be held 19 to 21 April 2017, at the University of Newcastle <http://www.archaeologists.net/conference/2017>. CIfA will also take an active role at the annual meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists later this year.

## LINKS TO FURTHER INFORMATION

CIfA website [www.archaeologists.net](http://www.archaeologists.net)

## CONTACT

Peter Hinton MCI fA, Chief Executive

[peter.hinton@archaeologists.net](mailto:peter.hinton@archaeologists.net)

0118 378 6446

## FURTHER INFORMATION

- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) is the leading professional body representing archaeologists. We promote high professional standards and strong ethics in archaeological practice, to maximise the benefits that archaeologists bring to society.
- CIfA has c 3300 members living and working in 32 countries. Over 96% are UK-based, though individual non-UK archaeologists are showing a markedly increased interest in obtaining CIfA accreditations, and several associations based in other lands have been discussing strategic partnerships with the Chartered Institute.
- Members of CIfA are professionally accredited and skilled in the study and care of the historic environment.
- Further information about CIfA and CIfA Standards and guidance can be found at [www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa](http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa).
- The Archaeology Forum analysis is at <http://archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/news/TAF%20Briefing%20-%20What%20does%20the%20EU%20mean%20to%20the%20Archaeology%20Sector.pdf>) and the Heritage Alliance paper at <http://www.theheritagealliance.org.uk/tha-website/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Heritage-the-EU-May-2016.pdf>