



Professional pathways June 2024 bulletin Pathway to Practitioner

Welcome to this edition of Professional pathways. Previous bulletins can be found on the [Professional pathways page](#).

Professional pathways aims to support members through the ClfA accreditation process by signposting to useful advice, resources and training that will help members to build on their existing knowledge and skills and reach the next stage in their professional career.

In this bulletin:

- exploring public benefit
- how can you make the most of your ClfA membership?
- what can you do next?

Exploring public benefit.

Archaeology in the UK is often said to be done for 'public benefit' but what exactly does that mean? How does it impact on individuals' jobs? What are good ways to make sure we are working towards it?

We study the past through its physical remains and those remains also have meaning and value for a wider audience. Archaeologists have a responsibility to the public to care for the historic environment and share new understanding of the past. We may have commitments to the people we work for, and our own research interests, but we act together for the ultimate client, the public. We have a duty to reach more people, and to encourage them to engage with archaeology in ways that enhance lives.

It's expected that archaeologists should deliver public benefit but its also written into official documents and strategies which you can [find out more about here](#).

Increasing understanding of the past is at the heart of everything archaeologists do and is, itself, a public benefit. There are many ways that we can deliver public benefit through our work and here are just a few

- how we tell stories is a key way to engage and inspire people
- being involved with archaeological activities like meeting people and being outdoors are all recognised health and wellbeing benefits



- archaeology can be a way to develop community values, through increased pride and sense of place. It may provide opportunities for communities to reinterpret their neighbourhoods
- archaeological work can leave lasting positive impacts on the landscape or lead to changes in how landscapes are managed and used
- participating in archaeological activities supports learning at all levels and develops skills like teamwork
- well delivered public benefit like exhibitions and visitor centres at archaeological sites helps to define areas and can boost local economies through tourism
- archaeological research and interpretation helps to develop new ways to engage with people and share knowledge

You can find more on our [public benefit page](#) which includes guidance and case studies illustrating what public benefit can look like in practical terms.

For an in-depth look at delivering public benefit within large infrastructure projects read the professional practice paper Delivering public benefit, by ClfA, HS2 and Sadie Watson [which you can find on this page](#). In 2023 Sadie Watson [wrote a blog for the Council of British Archaeology's Day in Archaeology](#) in which she explains why she wanted to focus her research on public benefit.

The [toolkit for public engagement](#) was launched at ClfA2024 and sets out how to embed public engagement in projects as part of public benefit.

ClfA's Community archaeology special interest group is a group you should join if you work in or have an interest in working with communities through engagement with archaeology and the wider historic environment. The group have [further resources](#) on their web page. You can join any group by signing into the website and going to your dashboard. E-mail admin@archaeologists.net if you have difficulties logging in.

How can you make the most of your ClfA membership?

The more you use your ClfA membership the more you will get out of it. ClfA needs its members to fill the committees, area and special interest groups, panels and working groups that drive the institute. Without the time and commitment of our members much less would be achieved. Last year 225 committee members were involved with the area and special interest groups and 115 members ensured the various accreditation and registration panels ran efficiently. Your skills and knowledge are needed by your professional institute and there are benefits for you too in the skills and knowledge that you'll build along the way.



As a Student or Affiliate member you can join a [special interest or area group](#) committee and it is a great way to learn skills that employers value and to grow your professional network. Look on the JIST bulletin or webpages for groups you are interested in to see if any are advertising vacancies. Look for upcoming Annual general meetings so you can find out what the ClfA groups have done and are planning.

- AGM [ClfA Heritage Crime Group](#) on 2 July
- AGM [Research and Impact Group](#) on 6 August

Join them to hear about what the groups have been doing over the past year and their plans for the upcoming months.

Once you are accredited any of ClfA's other committees are open to you and you can [find out more](#) about how to get involved with them here.

There may be less chance to attend in person training when you are working, training or learning so make the most of all the on-line learning opportunities on the website. The really useful thing is that many of these are short bite sized CPD or recordings that you can listen to whilst out walking etc. Look at the [Professional pathways pages](#) to find links to useful online resources.

Look at our [event recordings](#) which include links to some of our past conferences and Innovation festivals.

E-learning modules don't take up much time and you can download a certificate when you've finished. You can find [ClfA e-learning here](#) including one to help you understand personal development plans and continuing professional development.

See our [events page](#) for other events such as our digital tea breaks and topical lunch and learn events if you have an idea for a topic e-mail us at membership@archaeologists.net

To find out more about the work archaeologists do look at our [public benefit page](#)



What can you do next?



Practitioner applications are reviewed at the end of each month and details of how to apply, application costs and deadlines are here <https://www.archaeologists.net/join/apply>. We want to encourage every archaeologist to submit a successful application for professional accreditation. To help you prepare look at the resources on the Practitioner section of the 'Join ClfA' pages. If you have any specific questions, please contact [Ellen McNamara](#).

The next ClfA Innovation celebrating innovation in archaeology will be held on **7 - 11 October 2024** as a continuing annual online event and you can [register here](#). The 2024 ClfA Annual General Meeting will be held during this week and once you are an accredited Practitioner you will be able to vote. All members are invited to attend so look out for announcements about it and please join if you can and find out what we've been doing during the last year. It will also be an opportunity to meet ClfA's new CEO, Nathan Baker.



Any questions? Please ask

If you've got a question about ClfA or careers please send it to anna.welch@archaeologists.net or for membership enquiries contact ellen.mcnamara@archaeologists.net.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ellen'.

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