

## MARINE ARCHAEOLOGY SPECIALIST INTEREST GROUP

Tuesday 25 February 2025, 11:00 – 12:00  
Teams Meeting

### Minutes

**Present:** Cara Burton (CB, CIfA), Alison James (AJ, Treasurer), Mark James (MJ, Chair), Hefin Meara (HM, OCM), Terence Newman (TN, OCM), Stephanie Said (SS, Secretary), George Stewart-Phillips (GSP, OCM), Victoria Boothby (Advisor), Christian Dalton (CMD, OCM)

| Agenda Point |   | Action (Initials) |
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| 1.           | <b>Apologies</b><br>Lauren Tidbury (LT, OCM)<br>Claudette Day (CD, OCM)   |                   |
| 2.           | <b>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b><br>Accepted without change.  |                   |
| 3.           | <b>Matters Arising</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">The Standard and guidance for nautical archaeological recording and reconstruction</a> – is this regularly referred to and is it useful as Standard and guidance in everyday practice, and how is it being utilised? Would this be better in another format such as a toolkit or practice paper?</li> </ul> <p>HM - Document still relevant and referred to for certain works.<br/>           SS Agreed to review by next meeting pointing out what is missing / what is outdated.<br/>           CB to check if there is word document and will upload on Knowledge Hub for all to access and comment.<br/>           VB to consider the doc. aims and purposes / greatest utility.<br/>           HM - still applied in certain aspects of recording (volunteers / avocational divers / urban excavations that encounter timber etc.)<br/>           Outreach to other staff.<br/>           MJ – opportunity to look at wider membership to input into this guidance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Slipping Through the Net': Marine Archaeological Archives in Policy and Practice</a> – does this document need a review and rebrand? Is it actively used and referred to?</li> </ul> <p>MJ - TL ask Julie for input. BAR report came out the same time. Suggest leaving as is for the time being.<br/>           AJ - Point in time document. Possibly invite Julie at the next meeting to see what she thinks.<br/>           VB – could discuss this during standalone event (discussed later).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Change of Treasurer role into Vice Chair</li> </ul> <p>MJ - Alison is the current treasurer.<br/>           CB – Treasurer position overly confusing role. CIfA will take on the financial role, whilst current Treasurer will support the committee as a Vice-chair instead.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Register of archaeological divers / supervisors on MASIG / CIfA directory (AJ)</li> </ul> | SS<br><br>CB      |

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|    | <p>AJ - needs input from ClfA on this. State of maritime archaeology and money in diving contracts is reducing / rates rise. Little archaeological diving takes place - not getting in the water to retain skills and competency. Rather than using non-archaeological divers, look back into the profession to support this. Registered organisation can look at a register to select these accredited divers.</p> <p>A resource of archaeological divers / archaeological diving supervisors that is hosted on MASIG page - list would be a first point of call.</p> <p>CB – looking at expanding the list of accredited professions, filter by more options. To check with organisation.</p> <p>MJ – make sure the list reflects qualifications that are relevant to working in UK.</p> <p>AJ – will collate list of details required by next meeting.</p> <p>HM – questioned whether we are only including ClfA members in this list.</p> <p>CB – can have this as a separate tab under MASIG page as a resource that can be referred to?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CPD / Online Sessions</li> </ul> <p>MJ – propose to set up a programme for delivering these sessions; quarterly 1hr sessions.</p> <p>To pass on any topics one wishes to deliver on to AJ who will set up a programme &amp; discuss at next meeting.</p> <p>To include any topics, one wishes to hear about.</p> <p>CB – pass on ClfA slide template to utilise for these &amp; set up the meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standalone day event</li> </ul> <p>VB - No marine content at the conference. Suggests we go ahead and undertake the standalone event. Reach out to ClfA on this to go over next steps. Refine sessions that have already been proposed. Possibly looking at a November event.</p> | <p>CB</p> <p>AJ</p> <p>CB</p> <p>VB</p> |
| 4. | <p><b>Advisory Council Feedback</b></p> <p>SS - Last meeting attended was November 2024, discussion revolved around setting up a comprehensive membership survey to inform forward planning and shift towards a Member-driven ClfA.</p> <p>CB – A couple of big changes in the ClfA team. Some proposals going forward to the Board. Rules for roles being changed to enable groups to undertake work. Possibly looking at more fluid groups that have similar focusses. Alex and Kate taking new co-CEO role. Three-year strategy still in place and Board of directors are more involved with ClfA members.</p>  |   |
| 5. | <p><b>Group Documentation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social media</li> </ul> <p>CB – nothing further to update.</p> <p>SS – queried whether we wish to retain MASIG ‘X’ account?</p> <p>CB – committee to run their own social media platforms.</p> <p>MJ – asked the group whether we wish to stay on. All agreed to close this account.</p> <p>AJ – suggested to set up a Bluesky account.</p> <p>HM – leaflet can be saved digitally and posted on the Bluesky platform.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newsletters and feeding into other publications</li> </ul> <p>MJ - NAS quarterly is now out. Can provide a quick introduction of MASIG to provide</p>   | <p>CB</p> <p>HM</p>                     |

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|    | <p>to them. Highlighting non-ClfA members can join for £10.00/year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stand-alone events/practical sessions</li> </ul> <p>HM / TN attended the Shipwreck Conference. Ample MASIG leaflets left over to share at other event.</p> <p>TN going to ClfA conference at the end of April – available stand. GSP is also attending. Will coordinate accordingly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge Hub <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Maintain materials/photographs &amp; list of available guidance</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>AJ will upload material there.</p> <p>SS confirmed a that the list of guidance is there.</p>  | AJ                  |
| 6. | <p><b>Communications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultations and consultation responses</li> </ul> <p>HM - Rob Lennox provided a respond on behalf of ClfA regarding EAC call for evidence on Governing the Marine Environment (<a href="#">Governing the marine environment - Committees - UK Parliament</a>) at the end of January.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaison with ClfA</li> </ul> <p>SS - Nothing to update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Validation Committee (VB/Michael Walsh/TN)</li> </ul> <p>VB – Contributing as and when needed. Nothing to update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaison with HE, future of profession (HM)</li> </ul> <p>HM - Nothing to update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JNAPC representation</li> </ul> <p>MJ: Provided update. Bob York Chair position taken up by David Parham. Main issue - lack of support for heritage within the new governments’ forward planning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ALGAO</li> </ul> <p>VB attended the last meeting. Provided an update - mostly focussing on coastal change and problems encountered by local government officers dealing with this. Discussion on how we can refine how to develop impact assessments. A couple of interesting projects being developed by Natural England focussing on heritage and natural assets; development of an intertidal peats database; focus on loss of graveyards to coastal changes; moving forward with marine HER.</p> |                     |
| 7. | <p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>CD unable to attend MASIG meetings going forward and will step down. CB proposed to issue a call for new member (early careers).</p> <p>AJ - PWA project along with advocacy document – reports will be issued shortly. Requires support/logo added of different stakeholders, AJ will share accordingly.</p>  | <p>CB</p> <p>AJ</p> |
| 8. | <p><b>Date of next committee meeting and future events</b></p> <p>Next meeting scheduled for <b>20 May 2025 11:00-12:00</b></p>   |                     |