

Newsletter February/March 2025

Hello RIG members,

This is the February and March newsletter. Your committee has met both in February and March and we have lots to report so please read on.

RIG Committee

Your committee has taken the option to drop the Treasurer officer role and adopt the Vice Chair option.

The RIG committee now consists as follows

- Evelyne Godfrey (Chair), Matilda Holmes (Vice Chair), Colin Forrestal (Secretary), Katerina Vavaliou, Ermelinda Trinder, Marianne Moedlinger, Perry Gardner, Daria Dabal

We now have a vacancy for an ordinary committee member (OCM). If you wish to volunteer, then please send an email to our Secretary, forrestal.colin@gmail.com and he will send you a co-option form for you to complete. You can then be voted in at the next RIG committee meeting which will be at the CIfA Conference 2025 in Birmingham.

RIG at EAA Belgrade 2025

Members of the RIG committee have an online presentation at EAA Belgrade 2025 concerning heritage crimes. The session organisers have invited RIG group members with direct experience in the discovery of mass burials from the conflicts in the region to consider contributing a paper. If you are interested in sharing your professional experiences, please contact the Secretary at forrestal.colin@gmail.com and he will put you in contact with the organisers of the Heritage Crime session. More details to follow.

The EAA Heritage Crime working group are running an online session on Heritage Crime, mainly trafficking of artefacts at EAA 2025 Belgrade online conference. Members of the RIG committee are part of this.

You can view the abstract and presentations from the RIG EAA Rome session #882 titled '*Synthesis, Facilitator or Hindrance: Should Synthesis Be Part of Commercial Archaeology or Left to the Academics?*' The full abstract for the session along with five of the presentations can still be found on our KnowledgeHub page. Sadly, one is being withheld but the recording of the full session is available to access on our KnowledgeHub page.

From the RIG Committee Room

The RIG committee met on 3 February and 24 March. Among the discussion was a decision to hold an in-person committee meeting in Birmingham in April 2025 to coincide with the CIfA conference. Members of the RIG committee are holding a session with Early Careers Group on the 30 April. It is aimed at increasing CIfA and academia partnership. The RIG committee are all going to be attending so do come and say hello.

In addition, RIG is continuing to review ClfA Standards and guidance when required and asking if they are fit for purpose. There was a discussion around whether we should be thinking regionally first and then locally. It was emphasised that regional plans should play a key role in promoting synthesis—encouraging both commercial and academic sectors to undertake synthesis work. This in turn would feed back into and help inform and update regional plans and Historic Environment Records (HERs).

We also discussed the important role of county archaeologists in guiding the regional plans and asked the question of how many of these important people there are nowadays. Unfortunately, the situation appears to be deteriorating with no replacement of these roles when they become vacant being common. This is a topic your committee will be following up on.

We are pleased to announce the new and improved specialist competence matrix to help those working in academic or research roles to apply for professional accreditation or use as a tool for CPD development which includes clearer and inclusive language. [Academia and research specialist matrix](#). This was created and edited by RIG committee members as part of the review of all the specialist matrices to ensure they are up to date and fit for purpose. These take place roughly every three years. A big thank you for the hard work our working group did in producing this. We hope this is useful to new and upgrading applicants and if you have any feedback please get in touch.

Also in the pipeline is a Heritage Crime Workshop with the help of the Heritage Crime and International Practice groups. This will probably be in late 2025.

The matter of ESRC funding for PhD's concerning that they expect the student to do a three-month placement as part of the programme was discussed at the February committee meeting. The main concern was for funding for accommodation and travel expenses when this comes into force. It was pointed out that it is common practice in Europe for a PhD student to spend 3 months at a different institute as part of their PhD. The committee member was told they should contact archaeological charities, CBA and Heritage Alliance to discuss their misgiving and to form some alliance to assist in finding and funding suitable placements.

The RIG committee have decided to discontinue the use of Facebook and to move to LinkedIn and Bluesky. More details to follow. Please be aware that efforts to delete the RIG Facebook page have been unsuccessful.

Thank You for your continued support.

Knowledge Hub RIG group

To join the RIG Knowledge Hub group please [click here](#).

Contacting the RIG Committee

We will provide details of our LinkedIn and Bluesky pages soon. If you have any matters you wish to raise with the committee, please get in touch with us directly using the [RIG Knowledge Hub](#) or email cifarig@gmail.com.