

Finds Special Interest Group

27 August 2025
10am Teams meeting online

Minutes

Present: Emily Johnson (Chair; EJ) Bekky Hillman (Secretary; BH), Rachel Cubitt (**RC**), Ruth Beveridge (RB), Peter Guest (PG), Anna Tyacke (AT), Cara Burton (guest CIFA, CB), Phil Pollard (guest HE; PP)

Agenda Point		Action (Initials)
1.	Apologies Gulfareen Kamram (GF), Deborah Fox (DF), Laura Ratcliffe Warren (LRW), Imogen Woods (IW),	
2.	Minutes of the Previous Meeting Accepted no changes Update from AT Kate Geary has been in touch and will advise when the CIFA Training Advisory Panel is set up and she can join them. It was about a 50 / 50 split between FLOs and non-FLOs at the PAS training sessions, but they were not recorded, so you had to attend on the day. Bristol Museum and they said that they do not have any rooms in the museum that they rent out during the day for conferences or training days, but they can accommodate us at the M Shed. We should contact Kate Iles Curator of Archaeology across several museums for Bristol Culture about handling collections for the day if we need them. Gail Boyle left in December.	
3.	Advisory Council Feedback (BH) Simply a groups catch up many were eager to collaborate including Heritage crime, Wales, Marine archaeology, Buildings, Digger Forum, Landscape, Early careers groups. All matrices are now reviewed Code of conduct principles section revisions are needed for the principles to ensure they respect the values and protect employees and amendments will be made to the terms 'proven competence and cumulative service need to be less vague. They aim to move away from legislation and be more geared to respect	
4.	Outgoing/upcoming Committee roles EJ up for election no one else interested happy to stay in role BH up for election no one else interested happy to stay in role AT up for election no one else interested happy to stay in role and support other elected posts	

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	<p>PG end of six years, will stay on as advisor; may be joining RIG group as OCM</p> <p>LRW to move from advisor to OCM</p> <p>IW end of six years but happy to be advisor</p> <p>RB happy to move to vice chair role</p> <p>DF has very full diary so will have to step into advisory role</p>	<p>CB to advertise for two positions as OCM</p>
5.	<p>Communications (GF)</p> <p>Facebook- 19 new members since October, the group now has 30 members.</p> <p>X-membership has fallen from 458 to 415</p> <p>Instagram- launched in Feb has 123 followers with Bsky having 52</p> <p>GF is sharing lots of content but always eager for more, and will need help for the next few months as she is busy. Please can you make sure anything sent to share has copyright info for all images. EJ we need more information for events and will make a form so we don't have look things up</p>	<p>BH offered to help admin on socials while GF is busy</p>
<p>** ADDED ITEM</p> <p>6.</p>	<p>HESCAPE</p> <p>PP Skills Forum Chair to share good practice and resources as well as bridge the skills gap. Mostly online on KHub and run monthly webinars, there are over 250 members from over 100 companies. May objectives are to enable a broader range of pathways and reduce barriers and supporting employers with work-based training. Six groups identified as most in need, one is post excavation specialists. Five priorities are regional evidence, upskilling, creating career opportunities, an apprenticeship programme and to embed heritage into mainstream education. Activities to promote this include mentorship, enrichment modules of courses, funding models, work experience and use of a shared framework.</p> <p>Delivery is through working groups looking at skills and research and coordinating activities locally. There is also a national steering group.</p> <p>In Autumn 2025 it will be a year since launch. There will be changes as working groups haven't worked well and it is voluntary and outcomes and outputs will be updated.</p> <p>Key points it is difficult to deliver things when there is no money directly for it, need to align with HE grants and lottery funding. Things like the mentoring grant programme have been successful, a red list project, ways of gathering data have been changed.</p> <p>EJ how can finds group support this PP any way that the group can, there is no skills investment plan in England so no funding to apply for these activities</p> <p>RC could think about things we do already that align with it, could add questions to our membership survey that get useful data for HESCAPE, there will be other overlaps too. PP HE have toolkit for data collection (link to follow). Resilience resources hub has never been launched which has free guidance and advice to download this is a public access site https://khub.net/web/resiliencehub</p> <p>PP could take on advisory role for group or OCM (or vice chair!!!) advisory role would be the best way forward at the moment so that we can work together.</p>	

7.	<p>AGM</p> <p>EJ would still like to do synthesis AGM M Shed could accommodate us, preferably in person but will aim for hybrid. Hopefully November with PG and RC to present for the SIG. 24-26 November suggested 11-3 pm max 50 in person</p> <p>PG to approach M Shed</p> <p>EJ call for papers aiming for around five papers</p> <p>RC should have a structured networking element to encourage more people</p> <p>EJ survey for members needs completion, could look at engagement for new website and what people find useful</p>	<p>PG/AT to approach Kate Iles and report back</p>
8.	<p>New SIG guidance</p> <p>CB all approved by the board, most SIG stays the same, can have working groups and networks. Advisors can be non members of the ClfA. Don't need the boards approval for network CB can approve personally therefore easier to form</p>	<p>CB to keep us updated</p>
9.	<p>Archaeology achievement awards</p> <p>PG could put forward suite of toolkits to CBA. Form is about impact and site based training and needs doing in the next few weeks. EJ difficult to gauge impact of tool kits so could be hard to fill forms in. Maybe with data collected we could apply for next year.</p>	
10.	<p>FAFF update LRW</p> <p>FAFF now live. A call out was made for a committee to oversee and suggest edits and tweaks BH and RC have volunteered, more information will be sent out next month.</p> <p>Do the group want its logo added to the workshops alongside the mudlarking exhibition at Docklands museum EJ maybe as we aren't organising we should not have the logo, but if it would help you we would need to see details of the event we are endorsing, if not we can promote.</p> <p>Workshop on leather and iron that can be shared on socials which is aimed at metal detectors , it is very basic level but we could advertise it-GF waiting for copyright</p>	
11.	<p>Finds Training update</p> <p>RB no progression lately, if we don't provide free training to local groups it may not progress, perhaps we can talk to PP about funding with none available from ClfA. Need to find funding for training.</p> <p>EJ We are sharing lots of training on socials and work well as a hub for promoting the training, we don't have time to provide the training ourselves.</p> <p>AT to send links to next set of PAS lectures</p> <p>RB networking at AGM will help in introductions and training opportunities.</p> <p>PG will be running a paid Roman society course over five weeks on Roman coinage, could use that as a model where they charge for the course and the society take half the money and the trainer takes the other half. This could be a way of being paid to train that aren't voluntary.</p>	<p>EJ to add to socials in GF absence</p>
12.	AOB	

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	Collaboration with diggers forum, and FAFF/ICON An application for funding for CBM toolkit is being made	
13.	Date of next committee meeting and future events Doodle poll to follow	