



CIFA2021 ONLINE: ANNUAL CONFERENCE

ONLINE 2021

21 - 23 APRIL 2021

SESSION TITLE

An archaeologist, a town planner, and an engineer walk onto a site... Multidisciplinary environments and the archaeological profession

SESSION ABSTRACT

Archaeologists work in a collaborative position on a range of multi-disciplinary projects. These situations put us into contact with people from different backgrounds and disciplines, providing opportunities to develop and grow, engage others and promote our profession.

This session will explore multidisciplinary projects and situations. What can we learn from (and give back to) our colleagues in other disciplines such as ecology, geology, engineering, digital media, graphics and from archaeologists with different backgrounds and routes into the profession? How can these environments foster skills, develop engaged and wide thinking professionals in both the current and the next generation of archaeologists; and what are the pitfalls and barriers?

In these environments we also act as ambassadors for promoting the profession. Our behaviours and the approach to our work can leave a lasting impression on how others perceive and value the work of archaeologists. Experiences can be positive and negative on both sides and can influence attitudes to archaeology on later projects.

This session aims to bring together case studies and perspectives from heritage professionals and their multidisciplinary peers, interns/placement students, and beyond to explore the issues. In addition, we aim to engage the audience and allow a wider space for discussion as we explore how, why (and if) we are better together.

SESSION PROGRAMME

9:00 – 9:10	Welcome
9:10 – 9:25	Promoting professionals together: walking on to a website with other disciplines <i>Peter Hinton, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists</i>
09:25- 9:40	Atomic Archaeology- Testing the efficacy of Gamma Radiation Surveying or Archaeological Propection <i>Victoria Robinson, University of Reading</i>

9:40 - 9:55	I got 99 problems and Archaeology ain't one. <i>Naomi Trott, Arcadis</i>
9:55 - 10:10	From pipe dreams to dream teams – collaborative advantage and how to get good archaeology {and the pipeline} done without coming to blows, perspectives from a multi-disciplinary design and construction team. <i>Catherine Barnett, Stantec</i>
10:10 - 10:30	Interactive discussion on theme of multi-disciplinary projects
10:30 - 10:45	Break
10:45 - 10:55	Welcome to second half
10:55 - 11:15	The opportunities of a year's Student Internship at Wood Environment and Infrastructure Solutions <i>Imanol (Manny) Flores Navarlaz, University of Reading</i> <i>Abi Tompkins, Ashley Bryant, Wood PLC</i>
11:15 - 11:35	Archaeology Apprenticeships: challenges and opportunities <i>Claudia Tommasino, MOLA</i>
11:35 - 11:55	Building a career from ruins; a route into the profession- perspectives from past and present heritage graduates at Arcadis Consulting (UK). <i>Jason Summers & Daniel Evans, Arcadis</i>
11:55 - 12:15	Interactive discussion on theme of student entry into the profession

SPEAKER ABSTRACTS

Promoting professionals together: walking on to a website with other disciplines *Peter Hinton (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists)*

This paper will review an initiative in England (so far) to promote professional heritage experts to the client sector. The venture is built on a shared belief that the best way of ensuring the supply of heritage skills is to foster the demand for them. This multidisciplinary collaboration between seven professional institutes, two client associations and one marketing expert, convened by CIfA, also seeks to persuade clients that the use of accredited heritage professionals will meet their needs and the needs of the public.

But it's not easy. There are practical, political, promotional and financial difficulties to overcome. This presentation will explore the potential and the challenges – and will look for constructive suggestions on how to make the plan work.

Atomic Archaeology – Testing the Efficacy of Gamma Radiation Surveying for Archaeological Prospection *Victoria Robinson (University of Reading)*

This paper presents preliminary findings of an ongoing research project testing the efficacy of gamma radiation surveying for the identification of possible archaeological features and whether it can contribute to the current 'toolbox' of geophysical techniques. The study aims to determine whether the materials used in the construction of archaeological features have a measurably different radioisotopic composition to surrounding substrate. Surveys are conducted using the portable radiation detection system 'Groundhog'; a proprietary system owned by Nuvia Limited. Groundhog is extensively used for surveying sites suspected to contain anthropogenic radioactive contamination. Its application in an archaeological context is, however, completely unique. To date, surveys have been undertaken at two sites; a pilot study in a Berkshire village and more extensive surveys at Silchester Roman Town. Some results are promising, with clear anomalies identified within the radiation data closely aligning with similar anomalies visible in magnetometry data collected from the same areas.

I got 99 Problems and archaeology ain't one

Naomi Trott (Arcadis)

Working on multidisciplinary projects can be a juggling act to ensure that not only the needs of heritage are met but also those of other professions. This paper will explore case studies where heritage professionals have worked with other disciplines to create a collaborative, environmentally friendly approach to engineering designs and solutions.

These collaborative approaches include a watching brief on a 'live dig' of a badger sett in Cheshire; the staged and restricted excavation of trenches to account for removal of newts and buffers of trees; as well as the restrictions in place for ground contamination and UXO clearances. Factoring all these constraints in makes you wonder- are we just Archaeologists?

This paper will use these case studies to demonstrate good practices for heritage professionals when working in a collaborative environment. Feedback has been sought from colleagues and clients to bring voices from outside of the profession to the discussion and consider lessons learnt for the profession.

From pipe dreams to dream teams – collaborative advantage and how to get good archaeology {and the pipeline} done without coming to blows, perspectives from a multi-disciplinary design and construction team

Catherine Barnett (Stantec), Michael Tierney (Headland Archaeology) and Alistair Barclay (Cotswold Archaeology)

Stantec lead on the design and construction of major linear schemes including water and sewage pipelines and associated non-infrastructure sites such as pumping stations, plants and reservoirs for a number of water industry clients. These often need to go through rural and sensitive areas not normally subject to substantial development, with a high risk of significant archaeological remains being encountered. In an environment governed by keen targets and major fines for non-delivery, there's heavy time and financial pressure on engineering and planning colleagues to get the job done. However, with a clear ethos of sustainable working and a strong focus on environment and

heritage, plus a great deal of good humour and communication thrown in, we are managing to not only put basic agreed mitigation in place but to get great archaeological outcomes on major schemes. There are plenty of bumps and bruises along the way, and I'll present the candid views of some of colleagues in engineering, project management and environmental management as well as our partnering sub-contractors, key stakeholders and monitors using two case studies of pipelines created in Oxfordshire and West Sussex on behalf of Thames Water via SMBJV.

The opportunities of a year's Student Internship at Wood Environment and Infrastructure Solutions

Imanol (Manny) Flores Navarlaz (University of Reading- one year placement at Wood plc) and Abi Tompkins/ Ashley Bryant (Wood PLC)

In 2019, Wood Plc's Environment and Infrastructure Solutions welcomed their first intern to the Historic Environment (HE) Team on a one-year placement. This presentation will set out the process by which the HE Team secured internal support for the internship and recruitment. The current intern, Imanol Flores (Manny), will then discuss what he sees to be the benefits of the internship: what skills he has learned, both professional and technical, and how these might help him in his future academic and professional career.

The final part of the presentation will focus on Manny's reflections on his year-placement with Wood. It will include his thoughts and objectives before entering Wood, his impressions while he was working there and how it affected his personal, academic and professional development.

It will also include some feedback on the year-placement, and a short reflection on why students, universities and companies should think of offering these opportunities.

Archaeology Apprenticeships: challenges and opportunities

Claudia Tommasino (MOLA)

The apprenticeship programme developed by the UK government aims to provide the participants with "the knowledge, skills and behaviours" to start or advance in their occupations, while allows the providing institutions to receive levy funds.

Archaeological companies are trying to use this scheme to attract more people to the commercial archaeology sector to satisfy the increasing demand for Archaeologists. However, some specificities of the sector have proven to hinder the straight-forward implementation of the apprenticeships. Challenges such as highly changeable work programmes, low salaries and misconceptions of the Archaeological profession must be overcome to make these apprenticeships sustainable and successful.

To overcome these challenges, this paper explores how the delivery of the apprenticeships should be approached as an educational exercise of transferable skills that would benefit the companies and the apprentices in a more far-reaching manner, beyond the preconceived ideas of what an archaeological career entails.

Building a career from ruins; a route into the profession- perspectives from past and present heritage graduates at Arcadis Consulting (UK).

Jason Summers and Daniel Evans (Arcadis)

Arcadis Consulting (UK) offer a graduate scheme for entry level applicants in their Cultural Heritage Team. The aim of the scheme is to provide an environment to challenge their graduates and foster skills and networks within a multidisciplinary consultancy. Experiences of the scheme will be shared by Jay, a graduate who is a year into Arcadis' graduate programme and by Dan, who completed the programme over a year ago.

Discussion will cover steps in the scheme designed to promote opportunities, collaboration and professional development for participants. This includes different workshops, internal and external training opportunities and challenges, designed to continue a graduate's development from wherever their last step was and onto the next stages of their career.

The question must be asked- for a profession as specialised as the historic environment, how much value can be harnessed from the scheme for the graduate, and what influence can they have to promote the heritage profession amongst others from different disciplines and sectors?