

CIfA Advocacy Objectives – 2021-22

Introduction

CIfA invests extensively in advocacy and policy work. We proactively build networks and establish trust with politicians, civil servants, and bodies within and beyond the sector; we also work reactively, using those networks, in response to threats or opportunities arising from political initiatives and consultations.

CIfA acts as an authoritative voice for the archaeology sector. It is one of the only UK-based archaeological bodies with sufficient resources, remit and record to provide effective archaeological advocacy. We are one of the leading opinion formers and independent advisors to government, heritage sector partners and other decision-makers.

CIfA has a remit that enables us to represent all aspects of archaeological practice. To do this effectively we draw on the expertise of our professional membership and work with our Registered Organisations, as well as sharing and collaborating with other organisations that serve more specific interests in the sector.

Our principal advocacy objectives are

- to maintain or improve the protection and management of the historic environment –an objective we share with many others
- to maintain or advance, in the interests of the public and clients, the quality of archaeological practice, particularly where occasioned through planning or other processes managing change to the historic environment –an objective we share with some others but increasingly lead on
- to ensure that work is done by competent professionals and to professional standards – we lead on this

Through its advocacy work CIfA aims to

- influence government policy and regulation, along with thinking and practice in government, the historic environment sector and wider sectors
- provide authoritative advice to ministers, parliamentarians, government departments and agencies, and NGOs
- work with partners across sectors to achieve positive changes for archaeology
- be proactive in promoting our agenda
- be pragmatic in seeking opportunities to influence
- be strategic in how we prioritise our objectives

CIfA's Board sets the Institute's advocacy objectives following guidance from the Advisory Council. There is potentially far more work than the Institute can expect to achieve, so we prioritise pragmatic activity on those areas or issues which present the greatest threat or opportunity, often according to initiatives and other timetables outside our control. Advocacy work may be undertaken independently or in collaboration with other bodies. There is a formal partnership with CBA covering our advocacy work, recognising that CBA and CIfA have complementary roles and are the two most active archaeological bodies engaged in UK advocacy.

Objectives have been ranked:

1. Key objective requiring significant proactive and reactive action in the short term
2. Important objective requiring some proactive action in the short term
3. Important objective requiring largely reactive action or support for other organisations in the short or medium term
4. Aspirational objective that may be supported by proactive research and long-term goal of influencing policy

England

Objective	Priority
Strong and sustainable local authority historic environment services, potentially with a statutory duty for planning authorities to have access to a professionally supported and maintained HER service, and delivered in a way which responds to any wider pressures on, or reform to, local government.	1
Risks to the archaeological resource are not increased – preferably reduced – by incremental changes to planning other deregulatory initiatives and other safeguards	1
Commercial and sensitive work is restricted to Registered Organisations or professionally accredited individuals working to ClfA Standards	1
Maintenance / improvement of management and protection of historic environment is achieved through agri-environment and forestry development processes. Specifically, that the Environmental Land Management Scheme includes provision for heritage which improves on previous schemes and that heritage is seen as an integrated part of the environment.	1
Systems for marine licensing and the management and protection of marine heritage assets are effective and that equal weight is given to terrestrial & marine heritage in policy & guidance	2
The historic environment is given due consideration and presented in a positive light in major infrastructure projects and good practice (including the use of ClfA Standards and guidance) is promoted, along with the need for a clearly identified curatorial role (and a body or bodies to fulfil that role)	2
Reformed Class Consent regime for scheduled monuments	3
The Treasure Act places more emphasis on significance and less to financial value, and encourages responsible metal detecting	3

Wales

Effective implementation of Historic Environment legislative consolidation programme, as well as Planning, Wellbeing of Future Generations, and Environment Acts and relevant secondary legislation, ensuring proper account of historic environment	1
Maintenance / improvement of management and protection of historic environment is achieved through agri-environment and forestry development processes. Specifically, the Sustainable Farming System includes provision for cultural heritage which improves upon previous schemes, and that heritage is seen as an integrated part of the environment	1
Commercial and sensitive work is restricted to Registered Organisations or professionally accredited individuals working to ClfA Standards	1
Effective implementation of the statutory duty to provide a professionally supported and maintained HER service for each local authority area in Wales	2
Systems for marine licensing and the management and protection of marine heritage assets are effective and that equal weight is given to terrestrial & marine heritage in policy & guidance	2
The historic environment is given due consideration in major infrastructure projects and good practice (including the use of ClfA Standards and guidance) is promoted, along with the need for a clearly identified curatorial role (and a body or bodies to fulfil that role)	3
Reformed Class Consent regime for scheduled monuments	4

Scotland

Strong and sustainable local authority historic environment services, potentially with a statutory duty for planning authorities to have access to a professionally supported and maintained HER service, and delivered in a way which responds to any wider pressures on, or reform to, local government.	1
The protection of the historic environment and archaeology are enhanced through policy and guidance and Archaeology Strategy implementation	1
Commercial and sensitive work is restricted to Registered Organisations or professionally accredited individuals working to ClfA Standards	1
Maintenance / improvement of management and protection of historic environment is achieved through agri-environment and forestry development processes.	1
Risks to the archaeological resource are not increased – preferably reduced – by incremental changes to planning and other safeguards	2
Systems for marine licensing and the management and protection of marine heritage assets is Effective	2
Reformed Class Consent regime for scheduled monuments	4

Northern Ireland

Ensure greater public benefit through the application of professional standards	1
Commercial and sensitive work is restricted to Registered Organisations or professionally accredited individuals working to ClfA or IAI Standards	1
Risks to the archaeological resource are not increased – preferably reduced – by incremental changes to planning and other safeguards	1
Maintenance / improvement of management and protection of historic environment is achieved through agri-environment and forestry development processes.	1
Systems for marine licensing and the management and protection of marine heritage assets are effective	2
Reformed Class Consent regime for scheduled monuments	4

United Kingdom

Immigration policies enable the archaeology sector to sustainably recruit from outside the UK, as required to supplement domestic training and skills programmes.	1
There is a sufficient provision, through higher education, of graduates who are suitably prepared to enter the profession and on a pathway to ClfA accreditation and university departments sufficiently supported to deliver this provision.	2
Successful implementation of the 2017 Cultural Property (Armed Conflicts) Act and implementation of the Hague Convention	3
Ratification of UNESCO Convention on Underwater Heritage	3

Germany

TBC	TBC
-----	-----

Europe

Improve management and protection of the historic environment in EU policy and legislation, including creation of an EU Directive on the historic environment	4
No backsliding on regulations in the future relationship between the EU and UK, including	2

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensuring at least equivalent provision for environmental protection in UK legislation and policy maintaining parity in funding levels for the historic environment in the UK and EU promoting archaeology across Europe as a means of sharing understanding of society, culture, identity and the long history of migration 	
<p>The UK continues to be recognised as a world-leader in archaeological research and is enabled to take part in EU research collaborations and access funding</p>	<p>3</p>

For further information about CIfA's advocacy and campaigns and for details on other priority areas, visit www.archaeologists.net/advocacy or email admin@archaeologists.net.

