

Specialist competence matrix – to support applicants who work with as diggers on site
PLEASE NOTE: All applications will be assessed against the main competence matrix (P6 Applicant’s Guide) with the specialist matrix as an advisory document only.

	Knowledge	Autonomy	Coping with Complexity	Perception of Context
Practitioner (PCIfA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic knowledge of archaeological practice; consistently defines and excavates a variety of archaeological features and deposits. • Consistently produces written and drawn records (context sheets, plans, sections and elevations). • Understands the requirements for and has the ability to take environmental samples. • Aware of the value and able to undertake accurate photographs of archaeological features and deposits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaises with Senior Archaeologist, Project Manager or other senior on-site staff as required. • Works as part of a team. • Follows health and safety procedures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistently demonstrates ability to undertake basic archaeological on-site tasks. • Differentiates between a variety of artefact types. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic understanding of role within team/site and takes responsibility for own work. • Provides a basic interpretation of deposit formation within excavated features.
Associate (ACIfA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad knowledge of archaeological practice; consistently defines and excavates a variety of archaeological features and deposits on complex sites (i.e. large-scale rural or deep urban stratigraphy). • Understands what information can be gained from a variety of environmental sample strategies and able to judge when different methods should be applied. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works on small scale non-supervisor projects (i.e. watching briefs or evaluations). • Undertakes supervision of small teams. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistently demonstrates responsibility for complex on-site situations. Understands Strat/Plan matrices. • Recognises numerous artefact types and makes judgements on recovery methodologies and retention strategies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertakes report writing (i.e. DBAs or Post Ex reports). Responsible for a variety of small sites or areas within a larger site. • Prepares and undertakes an overall site plan. • Interprets and assesses archaeological features within a wider site context. Demonstrates understanding of site formation processes.

Member (MCIFA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extensive knowledge of archaeological practice and consistently demonstrates ability to understand and manage a variety of complex archaeological situations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responsible for the safe running of the site as a whole and the safety and supervision of the site staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extensive experience in managing on-site strategies and problems with regard to undertaking archaeological work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Undertakes management of a variety of archaeological sites.• Report writing and publication• Where appropriate will liaise with internal and external specialists to determine environmental, artefactual and scientific dating strategies for site(s) in line with regional research agendas and national guidance on best practice.• Ability to consider features and sites within the wider landscape context and to assess the significance of archaeological deposits.
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