

# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING IN MEETING THE 21<sup>ST</sup>-CENTURY CHALLENGES FOR ARCHAEOLOGY IN ENGLAND

## Historic England and Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA)

### 1. Introduction

This draft Memorandum of Understanding sets out the basis for cooperation on archaeology between the two organisations, in pursuit of answering the priority challenges identified by the joint project 21st-Century Challenges for Archaeology. In doing so we anticipate that it will provide a firm foundation for an enduring mutual understanding of shared interest between the two organisations.

### 2. The organisations

#### Historic England

Historic England is the public body that helps to improve people's lives by protecting and championing the historic environment. We work to ensure that people value and care for heritage; that they understand and celebrate it, see how everyone benefits from it, and feel a sense of connection to and ownership of it. Its statutory duties under the National Heritage Act (rev 2002) are to secure the preservation of ancient monuments and historic buildings, to promote the preservation and enhancement of the character and appearance of Conservation Areas and to promote the public's enjoyment of, and advance their knowledge of, ancient monuments and historic buildings.

All aspects of England's historic environment lend themselves to investigation through archaeology. HE plays a lead role in the conservation and management of the historic environment – 'the archaeological resource' – through

- survey
- strategic and reactive designation
- monitoring of its condition and intervention where appropriate
- grant aid for assets at risk
- strategic and casework advice to planning authorities

It conducts and supports archaeological investigation through

- supporting regional and thematic research frameworks
- supporting HERs and other repositories of data
- developing, advising on and applying scientific techniques
- providing guidance
- 'last resort' funding for investigation
- grant-aiding dissemination of new data and knowledge

It also supports archaeological infrastructure through

- helping local authority services make the case for their role
- supporting standards and guidance

- investigating potential threats
- supporting strategic and immediate initiatives for skills
- advising government and NDPBs
- collaborative working
- International liaison

### The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA)

CifA is the leading professional body representing archaeologists working in the UK and overseas: it is open to applicants from anywhere in the world and from any archaeological discipline. CifA promotes high professional standards and strong ethics in archaeological practice, to maximise the benefits that archaeologists bring to society.

Accredited CifA professionals have demonstrated technical and ethical competence in archaeology by means of an examined portfolio of work in whichever areas of the diverse discipline of archaeology in which they work. They have agreed to comply with the CifA *Code of conduct* and CifA Standards and guidance wherever they work in the world. The Code of conduct and Standards and guidance identify outcomes and processes expected of many types of archaeological work. CifA professionals act impartially, and are accountable under professional conduct procedures. Registered Organisations of CifA are led by senior accredited professionals and have formally undertaken to comply with the Code and Standards; they are assessed for skills, performance, compliance, and quality management procedures via a written application and an inspection by peers. Registration is time-limited.

The Chartered Institute supports five area groups (including one in England) and 16 special interest groups.

It regulates, supports and improves the profession, and the public value derived from it, by

- setting standards for individual and organisational ability based on technical and ethical competence, for archaeological products, and for learning opportunities
- accrediting and endorsing people and activities that meet those standards
- defining and promoting pathways through a career structure
- encouraging and recognising good practice, innovation and collaboration
- investigating and where necessary imposing sanctions on individuals and organisations alleged to have acted unprofessionally
- acting alone or with others, advocating to governments, agencies and policy makers to introduce reforms to legislation, policy, guidance and practice that would secure greater public benefit from archaeology

### **3. Areas of cooperation and support between CIFA and HE**

Both organisations therefore have an interest in the promotion of professionalism and good practice in archaeology in England.

- Historic England as the Government's advisor on the historic environment needs to be clear that the public value of archaeological practice in England is maximised. It does this through
  - providing leadership for the sector
  - supporting bodies engaged in archaeology, including professional institutions such as CifA

- engaging in debate and discussion with those involved in archaeology in England about improving the context, process and systems required to deliver that public value
- monitoring, researching and evaluating the functioning of archaeology
- ClfA requires the archaeologists it accredits to demonstrate competence and to comply with its *Code of conduct* and standards. It does this through
  - monitoring and updating standards for individuals, organisations and archaeological outcomes/products
  - producing guidance and training on good practice for attaining those outcomes
  - investigating allegations of unprofessional conduct

It is therefore recognised that while Historic England and ClfA share common aspirations for archaeology and professionalism, their purposes and roles are different. The two organisations are distinct, but complementary.

Historic England has funded and supported numerous ClfA projects, including the Southport Group's strategic recommendations on securing increased public benefit from planning-led archaeology (2010-11) and the joint *Twenty-first-century challenges for archaeology* project (2017-18), and ClfA staff and volunteers have contributed expert archaeological advice to many Historic England projects, notably Good Practice and other advice notes and guidance.

#### 4. Coordination and cooperation on C21st Challenges for Archaeology

The *Twenty-first-century challenges for archaeology* project made recommendations for changes to the way the sector creates, sustains and uses

- standards and guidance
- designation and management of heritage assets with archaeological interest
- archaeological advice to planning authorities
- synthesising the findings of planning-led investigations to create new understandings
- hard-copy and digital publications
- archives

Historic England and ClfA will jointly coordinate and oversee a programme of strategic improvements to archaeological practice in England, based on the project's recommendations. Each will seek to provide appropriate and sufficient support according to its means, to enable:

- convening an advisory panel of sector representatives, in line with agreed terms of reference
- establishing and guiding working groups to take forward thematic clusters of initiatives, in line with agreed terms of reference
- development and undertaking of specific projects, whether funded by Historic England or from other sources
- publicising the programme and promoting the adoption of its products
- reporting on progress against the jointly agreed programme

More generally each organisation will

- seek to strengthen its relationship with the other
- consider working in partnership where corporate objectives and priorities coincide
- encourage archaeologists to gain accreditation
- seek to cooperate with the other on advocacy where policy or interests are common to both
- seek to promote the other's initiatives, events and services for members, where appropriate

## 5. Liaison

Each party will appoint a representative to form the link between the institutes. At the date of this Memorandum the representatives are:

- Historic England National Specialist Services Director, Barney Sloane
- ClfA Chief Executive, Peter Hinton

In addition to programme meetings, the representatives will meet annually to review progress with the Memorandum and with shared endeavours.

## 6. Duration and termination

This Memorandum shall continue in force for 5 years unless terminated by either party or superseded by another agreement.

Any party wishing to terminate this Memorandum must notify the other party in writing, giving no less than three months' notice.

For and on behalf of: <b>Historic England</b>	For and on behalf of: <b>ClfA</b>
Name: Barney Sloane Position: National Specialist Services Director	Name: Peter Hinton Position: Chief Executive
Date: 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	Date: 9 December 2019