

# Press release

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## Issued by

Jen Parker Wooding, Senior Professional Standards and Practice Coordinator, CIfA

## Headlines

**CIfA appoints the IAC Archaeology (IAC) to assist on phase 2 of the project on the alignment of Standards and guidance for use in Northern Ireland, supported by the Historic Environment Fund (Department for Communities, Historic Environment Division)**

## Summary

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) was commissioned earlier this year by the Department for Communities, Historic Environment Division (HED) to undertake a project focused on reviewing the applicability of Standard and guidance documentation (produced by CIfA and the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland (IAI)) to archaeological practice in Northern Ireland. The project aligns with an ongoing CIfA initiative to ensure that their suite of Standards and guidance are up-to-date, accessible, and relevant across all the jurisdictions (where CIfA members practice). The project is being managed by a Project Executive Board comprising representatives from CIfA, HED and IAI, and will

- enable the profession to deliver archaeological activities to consistent and professional standards in a Northern Ireland specific context, to support the delivery of public benefit
- enable HED, as the regulatory and licencing body for Northern Ireland, to ensure consistent and appropriate standards are applied
- provide a 'level playing field', so that all organisations participating in archaeological works or activities are clear from the outset about what is required to meet the requirements of any licenses, consents or conditions which may apply to their work undertaken in Northern Ireland
- provide clear and consistent information which allow those commissioning archaeological works to understand processes and requirements
- benefit the conservation of archaeological sites and their associated artefacts, records, and data by providing specific Northern Ireland standards and guidance that will help to ensure their continued enjoyment by future generations

The first phase of the project was completed in March 2021 and involved a review of the existing Standards and guidance for archaeological practice in Northern Ireland. The second phase is now underway with CIfA recently appointing IAC to assist with the process of aligning guidance, the drafting of new guidance, and organising sector-wide consultation opportunities. The project is due to complete in **December 2021**.

### **Note on the organisations**

The **Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA)** is the leading professional body representing archaeologists working in the UK and overseas. CIFA promotes high professional standards and strong ethics in archaeological practice, to maximise the benefits that archaeologists bring to society, and provides a self-regulatory quality assurance framework for the sector and those it serves. CIFA has over 4,000 members and over 80 registered practices across the United Kingdom. Its members work in all branches of the discipline: heritage management, planning advice, excavation, finds and environmental study, buildings recording, underwater and aerial archaeology, museums, conservation, survey, research, and development, teaching and liaison with the community, industry, and the commercial and financial sectors. <https://www.archaeologists.net/>

**IAC Archaeology (IAC)** is an award winning archaeological and built heritage consultancy with offices in Dublin, Belfast, and Birmingham. Established in 1998, IAC provide a comprehensive range of heritage services to private and public sector clients in Ireland and the UK. IAC's key mission objectives are to embrace client objectives, work tirelessly to achieve their success and set the standard in all areas of archaeological practice. With a multidisciplinary team, IAC's services range from consultancy, archaeological evaluations/assessments, environmental impact assessment for large-scale developments and infrastructural projects, built heritage assessments, industrial archaeological surveys, geophysical surveys and major fieldwork projects across Ireland and the UK. <https://www.iac.ie/>

### **Department for Communities, Historic Environment Division**

The Historic Environment Division plays a leading role in the historic environment sector. Our aim is *Helping communities to enjoy and realise the value of our historic environment*. We do this by recording, protecting, conserving, and promoting heritage assets across Northern Ireland, including managing 190 sites in State Care. We influence decision-making, emphasising how the historic environment contributes to a sustainable, strong, and regionally-balanced economy, and contributes to our well-being. HED is also the government body responsible for designating heritage assets for protection and regulating activities through excavation licencing and consenting processes. We develop policy, and provide advice, both to the public and to other government bodies, to ensure our historic environment is well-managed and maintained so that it can be understood and enjoyed by future generations. <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/archaeology-northern-ireland>

For more information about this project, please contact [jen.parkerwooding@archaeologists.net](mailto:jen.parkerwooding@archaeologists.net)