

Archaeology Training Forum




The importance of skills: the work of the Archaeology Training Forum

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Archaeology Training Forum



The ATF is a UK-wide delegate body which represents all those organisations which have an interest in the issues of training and career development in archaeology.

It was constituted in 1998 to review the present provision of training in archaeology and to co-ordinate future strategies to meet the discipline's training needs.



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Key ATF milestones:

- *Training in professional archaeology: a review* (Gill Chitty)
- National Occupational Standards for Archaeological Practice developed
- Major consultation on the future of archaeological training and career development
- *Profiling the profession* (Labour Market Intelligence survey)
- National Vocational Qualification in Archaeological Practice launched
- Forward Plan 2008-10 adopted, based on vision for meritocratic discipline




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The ATF's vision:

for archaeology to be a meritocratic discipline that is open to all, with archaeologists able to gain qualifications that demonstrate their expert skills, competence and knowledge and whose capabilities and achievements can be appropriately valued and rewarded.



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ATF provides strategic framework:

- National Occupational Standards
- Vocational Qualification
- Models for apprenticeships, placements, training courses
- Case studies, exemplars
- Information resources

Organisations encouraged to use NOS, diversify workforce, develop training plans, think about skills needs and personal development needs of staff and volunteers

Individuals encouraged to develop awareness of skills and competencies, draw up personal development plans, undertake CPD, use available tools and resources



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The Creative Blueprint is the Sector Skills Agreement for the Creative & Cultural Industries.

It provides a workforce development plan for cultural heritage in the UK.



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Cultural Heritage Blueprint

The next steps:

1. Host an Apprentice
2. Develop and host a traineeship (in partnership with another organisation if more appropriate)
3. Develop workforce diversity plans with specific goals and planned activities
4. Improve and increase the use of appraisals and training needs analysis tools
5. Identify more development opportunities such as secondments and shadowing



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Cultural Heritage Blueprint


The next steps:

6. Ensure voluntary staff are offered development opportunities
7. Ensure development opportunities are included in short term contracts
8. Prioritise and provide staff with opportunities to develop business skills
9. Look at ways of developing an environment where staff can be creative and are supported to take risks where appropriate
10. Increase the use of mentoring in the development of specialist skills and knowledge.




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