

Re-imagining Scottish Archaeology: structure, funding, and delivery Press release



Inverness College UHI Campus
(© Rob Lennox)

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) is pleased to announce the launch of the report for *'Re-imagining Scottish Archaeology: structure, funding, and delivery'*. The summary report includes an outline of the facilitated discussions which took place over the course of three workshops and recommendations for next steps.

The project is timely with the current and future challenges the sector now faces. One clear message from the workshops is that the sector valued having a space to conduct wide ranging discussions with multiple stakeholders and repeating this approach is something CIfA and the Scottish Strategic Archaeology Committee will explore going forwards.

"CIfA was delighted to deliver this project working with HES and the Scottish Strategic Archaeology Committee. The conversations which took place can help inform the next steps the sector needs to take to meet the challenges we now all face"
Kate Geary, Head of Professional Development and Practice, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

"Scotland's Strategic Archaeology Committee is pleased to see the launch of this report and is looking forward to taking forward the recommendations informed by the workshops"
Dr Andy Heald, Chair of the Scottish Strategic Archaeology Committee

"Historic Environment Scotland was delighted to support the organisation of these important discussions. The 'buy in' from the sector, both in the build up to the workshops, and at the workshops themselves, ensures the report is informed by multiple stakeholders which can now be taken forward by the Scottish Strategic Archaeology Committee"
Dr Rebecca Jones, Head of Archaeology and World Heritage, Historic Environment Scotland (HES)



Workshop discussions at Inverness
College UHI (© Jen Parker Wooding)

Background to the project

CIfA received a grant from Historic Environment Scotland (HES) to organise three workshops on behalf of the Scottish Strategic Archaeology Committee (SSAC) with a focus on the structure, funding, and delivery of archaeology in Scotland. Held in late 2019, the workshops (taking place in Inverness, Edinburgh, and Glasgow), supported the 'Delivering Archaeology' Aim of Scotland's Archaeology Strategy, and successfully brought together over 70 delegates from across Scotland representing 33 organisations. Questions were posed for discussion that focused on the current set up and practice of archaeology in Scotland whilst encouraging 'blue sky thinking' and the exploration of different approaches. The resulting discussions were broad, and the feedback mixed with a few topics achieving some measure of consensus and others provoking more varied debate.

This report and its supporting documents presents the build up to the workshops, highlighting the think pieces authored by Dr Alan Leslie, Kirsty Dingwall and Dr Kenny Brophy and the online Twitter chats that provided the opportunity for wider audience input ahead of the facilitated discussions. The report presents several recommendations, identifies actions and provides a cross reference to Scotland's Archaeology Strategy Delivery Plan. The report, think pieces, Twitter chat details and further documents are available on the [SAS](#) and [CIfA websites](#).

Going forward, CIfA (in partnership with the Scottish Strategic Archaeology Committee) will explore how to facilitate regular sector-wide discussions to encourage further knowledge sharing and cross-sectoral collaboration. This will provide the opportunity to carry on the positive legacy of the workshops grant-aided by Historic Environment Scotland in support of delivering Scotland's Archaeology Strategy.

Notes to editors

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 3,900 members and 80 registered organisations across the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. 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.

Historic Environment Scotland

[Historic Environment Scotland](#) (HES) is the lead public body charged with caring for, protecting, and promoting the historic environment. HES is also the lead on delivering Scotland's first strategy for the historic environment, Our Place in Time.

Historic Scotland, Scram, Canmore, The National Collection of Aerial Photography (NCAP), The Engine Shed, Stirling Castle and Edinburgh Castle are sub-brands of Historic Environment Scotland.

Scotland's Archaeology Strategy

Scotland's Archaeology Strategy was launched in 2015 by the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Europe, and External Affairs on the occasion of the European Association of Archaeologists Annual Meeting in Glasgow. It sets a strategic framework for the delivery of archaeology in Scotland and delivers the archaeological aspects of Our Place in Time, the Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland. It has been developed and is delivered in partnership across the sector. To find out more, visit:

www.archaeologystrategy.scot