

## 21<sup>st</sup>-century Challenges in Archaeology

### New models for advisory services: potential future roles for local authority archaeology services and Historic England

#### Themes and questions

Online discussion on **20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> September** will focus on the delivery of local archaeological advisory services through Local Authorities and Historic England. At a time when all public sector budgets are reducing we will be talking about the future: what kind of services do we want, and how can we ensure their survival?

1. To what extent are the current roles and functions of public sector (local authority and Historic England) archaeological services appropriate for the future?

What are the pressures and the opportunities for change?

2. What examples do we have of modifications/developments in regional and local structures that have occurred to date? How successful/unsuccessful have these been? Does practice need to change to meet new pressures? If so how?

3. Are there other ways, tested or untested, of delivering these services? What can we learn from new/different service models e.g. Wales; GLAAS; Worcestershire; South West Heritage Trust?

4. We have both local authority services and HE regional teams. Is this the most-appropriate division of labour/responsibilities? Would more-collaborative working, both regionally and nationally, be more effective?

5. What is Historic England's strategic role in respect of local authorities? How can Historic England and the rest of the sector work together, post-Howell Redesdale report and the Culture White paper, to sustain and develop local advisory services?

6. Statutory local authority services – is this a concept worth fighting for or is it a non-starter? Would improved definitions of services/standards/performance be beneficial? Should these be linked to funding and in what way e.g. payment by results?

7. A plan for the future: what are our short and long term priorities for change?

- Are there lessons we can learn from recent experiences in England and elsewhere?
- Are there changes we as a sector need to make to the way we do things? What short-term/long-term strategies exist/need to be developed?
- Are there specific legislative and/or policy changes that we need to lobby for?