



Autumn 2009
Number 73

The ARCHAEOLOGIST



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**IfA CONFERENCE
2009 AND THE
IfA ANNUAL
REPORT**

**Rethinking
PPG 16**

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Once again the autumn issue of *TA* focuses on the activities at our annual conference and our year long activities as an Institute in the form of the Annual Report, and once again you have a temporary Editor to bring you this issue. Alison will return in the winter with an issue focussing on Scotland and Wales. This issue contains reviews of the sessions from this year's conference in Torquay. Many interesting papers were given and we are lucky that several speakers have generously allowed us to print their papers here alongside the reviews so that the whole membership can read them. Peter Fowler's memories of the M5 motorway excavations can be read on 45, and Jason Wood's praise of Blackpool on page 48. Two papers from the session 'Rethinking PPG 16' can be read from page 6. These are particularly timely; since the conference the draft version of PPS 15 and associated guidance has been published for consultation. Readers may find it interesting to decide to what degree the two writer's aspirations have, or have not, been met by the proposed guidance, please send us your views for inclusion in the IfA's response. The Institute will be responding to this draft and we anticipate that this will be the

major topic of discussion at the seminar before this year's AGM, which returns to the Society of Antiquaries of London and will be held on 12 October.

The Institute continues to grow and change, and we are currently working on the new Strategic Plan for 2011–2020 the draft structure of which is available for comment on the IfA website, and will be updated as we go through the process (www.archaeologists.net/modules/icontent/index.php?page=224). This is an important document, as it outlines the work we will be doing for the next ten years, and it is important that we get member feedback so please do read it and send your thoughts to peter.hinton@archaeologists.net.

On a final point, next year's conference will be in Southport from 14–16 April 2010. We had excellent feedback from delegates about this year's conference centre, so we are continuing to use specialist facilities, but this time are heading further north. We hope to see as many of you as usual there.



Delegates outside this year's conference venue. © Sarah Cole Photography



Kathryn Whittington
Public Relations Coordinator

Notes to contributors

Themes and deadlines

Winter: Archaeology in Scotland and Wales
deadline: 15 October 2009

Spring: tbc

Contributions and letter/emails are always welcome. *TA* is made digitally available through our website and if this raises copyright issues with any authors, artists or photographers, please notify the editor. Accessed digitally, web links are especially useful in articles, so do include these where relevant. Short articles (max. 1000 words) are preferred. They should be sent as an email attachment, which must include captions and credits for illustrations. The editor will edit and shorten if necessary. Illustrations are very important. These can be supplied as originals, on CD or as email attachments, at a minimum resolutions of 500kb. More detailed *notes for contributors* for each issue are available from the editor. Options expressed in *The Archaeologist* are those of the authors and not necessarily those of IfA.

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FROM THE FINDS TRAY

IfA's Annual Conference 2010

We are pleased to announce that our 2010 Annual Conference will be in Southport at the Southport Theatre and Convention Centre on 14–16 April. We received a great deal of positive feedback from this year's conference and it seems that members are keen for us to continue to use professional conference facilities. With this in mind we have chosen to repeat this format, though in a location further to the north. The facilities are excellent and the centre is within easy distance of a large number of hotels. Southport also boasts a large number of attractions and is easily reached by car, rail or air. For the first time this year we have chosen to break our traditional link with the week running up to Easter. We hope that this allows people who normally find the timing difficult to make it to conference next year.

TAG 2009, Sessions confirmed and call for papers

Sessions have been accepted at TAG 2009 from Martin Newman of IfA's Information Management Special Interest Group, and Andrea Bradley and Peter Hinton of IfA. Martin's session, 'On the record: the philosophy of recording' aims to look and why and how we choose to record archaeology and whether the choices we make can be regarded as artefacts in their own right. Andrea and Pete's session, 'Bad archaeology: a debate between academic and commercial archaeologists', looks at the tricky issue of what Good and Bad Archaeology is, and where it is found. Proposals for papers are being accepted until the end of September. See the TAG website www.dur.ac.uk/tag.2009/call_papers.html for more details.

Note for insolvency practitioners

IfA hopes that none of its members will ever need to refer administrators and liquidators to an advice note on what to do when an archaeological organisation becomes insolvent or goes into administration, but should that situation arise information is now available from IfA. It can be downloaded from our website at www.archaeologists.net/modules/icontent/inPages/docs/administratorsliquidators.pdf

Is England's Past for Everyone? learning and outreach in the historic environment

2–3 October 2009, Armada House, Bristol
Supported by Heritage Lottery Fund, English Heritage and the Council for British Archaeology, this conference marks the conclusion of the Victoria County History project, England's Past for Everyone. Aimed at teachers and learning professionals, colleagues from the heritage and museum sectors, local authorities and those involved in setting up or running volunteer projects, the conference will cover topics such as identifying local funding partners, running successful outreach projects, and working with schools. There will also be the chance to get outside and explore the diverse history of Bristol itself.

Online booking now available at
www.EnglandsPastforEveryone.org.uk/conference

Workshop: Ancient cremations: reigniting the debate

9–10 October 2009, Cardiff University School of History and Archaeology
Róisín McCarthy, one of our HLF funded bursary holders, is hosting a two-day workshop on ancient cremations at Cardiff University. The keynote speaker will be Wessex Archaeology's Jacqueline McKinley, and the themes will cover experimental cremation, post-graduate research into the area and evidence of ritual practice. The registration deadline is 30 September 2010, please email mccarthy1@cardiff.ac.uk for more information or to book a place to discuss these burning issues.

Apology

On page 8 of issue 72 of *The Archaeologist* we incorrectly printed Eliza Alqassar's name as Algassar and didn't publish her up-to-date employment details. Although she used to work for Cambridgeshire County Council she is now Archaeological Planning and Conservation Officer at Buckinghamshire County Council.

Formal review of IfA's disciplinary procedures

Andrea Bradley



The Disciplinary Regulations of the IfA require a regular review by an external authority of the allegations dealt with under the Institute's disciplinary procedures. On 19 August 2008, Mr Peter Savill (Counsel, of 12 College Place, Southampton) carried out a review of the IfA's system for dealing with disciplinary matters at the IfA office in Reading, inspecting files and reports from all cases brought since the last review which took place in July 2006.

Mr Savill produced a report to summarise the outcome of the review, which found that 'the IfA, its officers and those tasked with performing roles within the disciplinary process, have acted diligently and properly'. Overall, Mr Savill was satisfied that the Institute has been treating disciplinary matters in a 'fair, transparent and impartial manner and takes seriously its responsibilities', complying fully with the Regulations. His report identifies some areas for improvement in the process, but confirmed that the system as it stands is 'evidently fit for purpose'.

Recommendations for improvement of the system included more detailed logging of correspondence and documentation (building on improvements made since the last review) more detailed recording and formalisation of correspondence issued between the organisation and investigators, more timely and detailed communication of procedures to those under investigation and more comprehensive recording of decisions and outcomes of the process. Mr Savill also offered his opinion and advice in relation to three areas of the Regulations themselves, relating to terminology, the enforcement of regulations and procedures for appeal.

IfA Council has taken into consideration Mr Savill's recommendations and the system has been altered in line with his recommended improvements. The next review will be carried out at the end of 2009.

Andrea Bradley
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ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE RESULTS OF DISCIPLINARY INVESTIGATIONS

Case number one

The Institute's Disciplinary regulations set out the disciplinary procedure by which the Institute will determine whether an allegation requires formal investigation, and if it does how that investigation will be carried out. If formal disciplinary proceedings take place, each party is given an opportunity to present his/her case or to defend himself/herself against the allegation. The procedures also allow for representation and appeal against the findings and any sanctions.

In the event of a formal reprimand the Institute will publish an account of the case and may identify the member concerned.

A Disciplinary Inquiry Panel conducted a hearing on 28 January 2009 to investigate allegations that Dr Steve Ford MIfA had breached the *Code of conduct*. Following an appeal by Dr Ford an Appeal Panel conducted a hearing on 29 June 2009. The Appeal Panel found that Dr Ford had, in his failure to follow

the requirements of a Written Scheme of Investigation, breached the principles of the *Code of conduct* 1.12 and 3.3.1 of the Standards & guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs and Archaeological Field Evaluation. In addition, in his failure to respond to reasonable curatorial requests, Dr Ford had breached the IfA *Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in archaeology* clause 17. The Panel agreed that sanction should be in the form of a formal reprimand, the wording of which would be prepared by the IfA (Executive Committee). The IfA should publish an account of the case in accordance with article 37 of the Disciplinary regulations.

Therefore, 'In accordance with clause 22 of the IfA's Disciplinary regulations you are formally reprimanded for breaching the *Code of conduct*, by failing to follow a Written Scheme of Investigation, and for breaching the *IfA Code of approved practice* clause 17 by failing to respond to reasonable curatorial requests'.

1

Case number two

The Institute's Disciplinary Regulations set out the disciplinary procedure by which the Institute will determine whether an allegation requires formal investigation, and if it does how that investigation will be carried out. If formal disciplinary proceedings take place, each party is given an opportunity to present his/her case or to defend himself/herself against the allegation. The procedures also allow for representation and appeal against the findings and any sanctions.

In the event of a formal reprimand the Institute will publish an account of the case and may identify the member concerned.

A Disciplinary Inquiry Panel conducted a hearing on 16 January 2008 to investigate allegations that a member had breached various clauses of the *Code of conduct*. Following an appeal by the individual concerned an Appeal Panel conducted a hearing on 24 November 2008. The Appeal Panel found that a

Member of the Institute had not acted in accordance with Rule 1.7 of the *Code of conduct*.

Recognising the circumstances of the case, Council agreed with the Panel's recommendation, in accordance with clause 22 of the IfA's Disciplinary Regulations, that the appropriate sanction is an anonymous formal reprimand:

'In accordance with clause 22 of the IfA's Disciplinary Regulations you are formally reprimanded for deliberately making material misrepresentations in the course of a formal application for membership of the Institute and with a view to facilitating your validation as a member.

In particular, you are reminded that all members of the Institute have a continuing duty under Rule 1.7 of the IfA's *Code of conduct* to abstain from conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation in archaeological matters and not knowingly to permit the use of their name in support of activities involving such conduct'.

2

On 24 July the draft PPS 'Planning for the Historic Environment' was released for consultation. This will replace the legislation which has shaped the way commercial archaeology operates for the last 18 years. At conference this year a session 'Rethinking PPG16' looked at the legacy of PPG16, and ways in which the new planning legislation can improve upon our current practise. A review of the session can be seen on page 40 but two of the sessions contributors, Roger M Thomas, and Philip Wise have kindly provided their papers for fuller publication. These were written before the publication of the draft PPS.

PPG16 has brought many benefits in England: greatly improved archaeological protection, increased archaeological investigation and a powerful stimulus to the development of professional standards in archaeology. Now, with a new Planning Policy Statement (PPS) for England on *Planning and the Historic Environment* on the horizon, it is opportune to consider what might be improved on for the future, both in English and other UK planning guidance. This piece concentrates on one specific (but central) issue: the approach we take to development-led excavation.

The emphasis of PPG16 (or at least, in the way it has been interpreted by practitioners) lies very much on a notion of 'recording'. The phrase 'preservation by record' is common shorthand: if archaeological remains cannot be preserved intact, a 'record' of what has been destroyed can (so the thinking goes) serve as some kind of substitute for the remains themselves.

Of course, this is generally recognised to be a rather flawed argument. Once the remains have been destroyed, their original archaeological potential has been lost irretrievably (however thorough any prior excavation has been).

Perhaps because of unease with the phrase 'preservation by record', the term 'mitigation' is often used to describe development-led excavation. This also seems wrong, though. The word 'mitigation' means the reduction of harm, but the harm caused to archaeological remains by destroying them cannot really be 'mitigated', because the harm is total.

In short, although much very good archaeology has been carried out under PPG16, the policy itself emphasises the making of records, more or less as an end in itself. PPG 16 does not stress that the purpose of archaeological work is to make socially worthwhile contributions to our understanding of the past.

It is, though, extremely important that we are able to demonstrate the public benefit which our work produces. For this reason, I believe we should 'rethink' the way we look at development-led archaeological work.

In essence, rather than seeing such work as an attempt at 'preservation by record' or as 'mitigation' (an attempt to 'reduce the harm' to remains), we should see it as a form of **offsetting**. Development-led archaeology should be seen as a process which provides a benefit of one kind (increased understanding of the past) in return for – or to **offset** – a harm of a different kind (the irreversible loss of archaeological potential which occurs when remains are destroyed). 'Offsetting' is a term which is used in

the EU EIA Directives, and development-led excavation appears to fall under it. (This could also be termed 'compensation' but this term can carry an implication of financial payment in return for damage, and may therefore be best avoided.)

I believe that this 'rethinking', to look at development-led investigation in a new way, would bring a number of benefits

- First, it makes it explicit that the purpose of development-led archaeological work is to make useful contributions to knowledge.
- Second, it aligns the test for the adequacy of proposed development-led work with that for whether 'research' excavation on an unthreatened site should be permitted. In each case, the test would be: 'will the anticipated gain in knowledge and understanding be enough to make up for the loss of the remains themselves?'. This is a coherent and logical position.
- Third, an emphasis on producing knowledge and understanding would place a premium on academic insight, innovation and elegance in research design. At present, competition seems often to be on the basis of who can 'record' a given body of deposits at the lowest cost. If the aim was to increase understanding, the question would be: who can secure the optimum balance between the resources spent and the results (in terms of increased understanding) obtained. This could result in greater increases in understanding being obtained for the same level of expenditure. In some cases, it might even result in lower costs for developers, through particular investigations being more sharply-focussed. In all cases, continuous critical review of resource allocations in relation to emerging results would be needed throughout every stage of the work.

This approach might lead to more satisfying work (as it would be aimed at producing a clear public benefit), and also to a situation in which it was commercially advantageous to reward intellectual and academic excellence.

Of course, moving to this way of doing things would pose significant challenges for all concerned, and devising satisfactory procurement and regulatory systems would need careful thought. In particular, there might need to be much more investment 'up-front' of time, thought and effort in developing project designs and methodologies.

However, and notwithstanding the challenges of implementing such an approach in practice, I am convinced that it is the right direction in which to go in. Very substantial resources are being devoted to development-led archaeology, and it is incumbent on us to ensure that we maximise the value of the results obtained. Moving to a system which emphasises the production of knowledge and understanding, rather than of records, seems an essential step in the evolution of our professional practice.

This piece was written before the consultation draft of PPS15 and its accompanying practice guide were published. Both documents emphasise the need for development-led investigations to yield advances in understanding, and for that new understanding to be made publicly available. This provides the policy basis for implementing the approach outlined above.

Roger M Thomas

English Heritage, Head of Urban Archaeology
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Philip J Wise

From a museum perspective PPG16 has been a disaster; there is no reference to the role of museums and as a result the concerns of museum archaeologists have been ignored.

The first omission in PPG16 relates to ensuring that information resulting from excavation and other fieldwork is available to the public. Museums have a leading role here as we are often seen by the public as a key resource for understanding an area's archaeology, yet too often the information is inaccessible in 'grey literature', seen by many archaeologists as inadequate. There are, of course, many units with excellent publication records and we should also acknowledge the role of English Heritage in funding the recent Roman Grey Literature Project undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology. The fact remains, however, that there is no requirement in PPG16 to publish.

The second omission relates to the long-term curation of archaeological archives. This is of particular concern as the onus tends to fall on local authority museums, which are being increasingly squeezed in terms of funding and geographical remit. Many museums feel that it would have been reasonable for the financial responsibility for storage, as well as excavation, to have been placed on developers.

The situation has been made infinitely worse by two premises which have been prevalent in archaeology for many years. Firstly, that excavation is an unrepeatable experiment and consequently there is a duty to preserve the results of this experiment 'by record' which can thus be continually re-interpreted for infinity. The record is, in effect, a virtual archaeological site. Secondly, that museums have a duty to preserve their collections for ever. This is especially difficult because museums do not choose what they are expected to collect – they cannot decide how much archaeology comes out of the

ground. This lies in the hands of others: the development control archaeologist, the project manager and the developer.

The results of these two premises – keep everything and keep it for ever – has been a long term challenge for museums, which in some individual cases has resulted in a crisis. This may manifest itself in two ways

- 1 some museums have reached capacity and are unable to accept any more archives
- 2 others have tried to keep pace but archives are now being stored in unsuitable conditions as museum directors struggle to find space to accommodate the tide of material coming in

However many, if not all, of these crisis situations could have been avoided if a requirement had placed on the developer to make adequate arrangements for the deposition of excavation archives in museums.

Slowly and painfully some museums are grappling with these issues. The Museum of London is undoubtedly the trail blazer here with its LAARC project, and the MLA and EH are now working on a joint approach. The Archaeological Archive Forum also acts a meeting place for the sector and has achieved some success, most notably with the recent publication of 'Archaeological archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation'.

So to satisfy the needs of museum archaeology a revised PPG16 must insist on the publication of the results of fieldwork. It must also include a clear role for museums in terms of the long-term maintenance of the excavation archive. Lastly it must address the issue of the future funding of archives in museums.

Philip J Wise
Chairman Society of Museum Archaeologists

The ACES project –

building a better understanding

Kate Geary

ACES stands for Archaeology and Construction Engineering Skills and is a Leonardo Da Vinci-funded project that aims to increase understanding and cooperation between archaeology and the construction sector through training.

promoted a better understanding between the archaeology and construction sectors but has also enabled a better understanding between archaeologists and engineers across the partner countries.

More information about the project can be found on the project website at <http://aces-project.eu>. The project is due to complete in November 2009.

Kate Geary
IfA Training and Standards Manager
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The project partnership, led by IfA, includes archaeologists and construction specialists from Turkey, Poland, Norway and the UK. Drawing on the experience of all the partners, the project has so far developed good practice guidance for managing the relationship between archaeology and construction specific to each country. The next stage is to distil the common elements of this national guidance into trans-national e-learning modules which can be delivered to students and as CPD to archaeology and construction professionals across the partner countries and beyond.

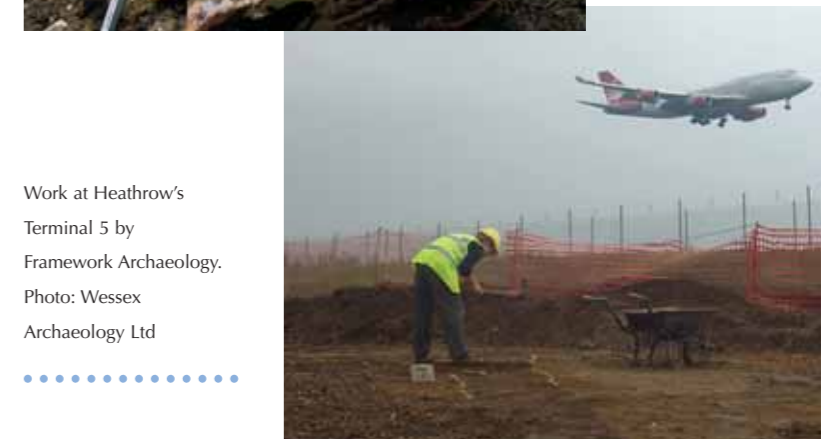
The aim of the e-learning modules is not to train construction engineers to be archaeologists (or vice versa) but to promote a better understanding of each sector's priorities and requirements at the different stages of a development or construction project. In the UK, this builds on, and is supported by, the good practice guide *Archaeology and development – a good practice guide to managing risk and maximising benefit* (Barber et al 2008) produced by CIRIA in partnership with IfA. The importance of early archaeological advice in any construction project is a key message throughout, as is the promotion of a better understanding of health and safety requirements.

The e-learning modules will be developed over the summer and are due to be tested early in the Autumn. The engineering module, aimed at archaeologists, will be tested on a range of professionals, including contractors, curators and consultants, at different stages in their career in order to determine the best target audience.

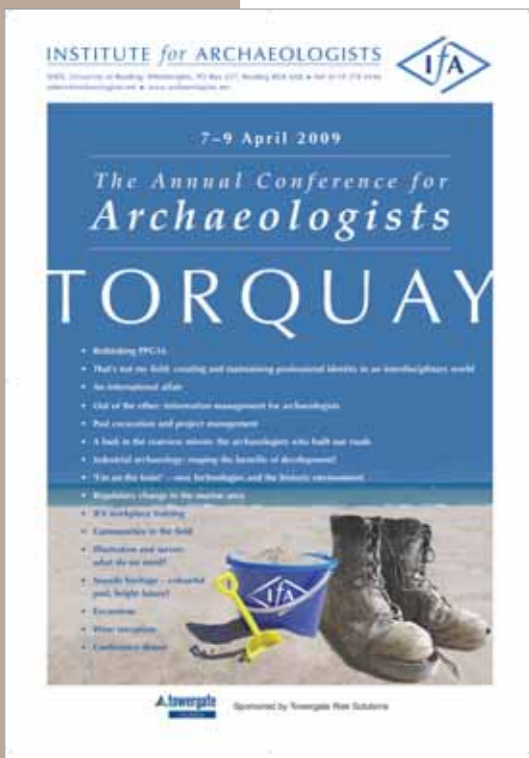
Working with partners from a range of European countries, each with their own systems for dealing with the archaeology-construction relationship, has thrown up some interesting challenges, but the sharing of experiences and best practice has been very valuable. As a result, the project has not only



Excavations at Fenchurch Street, London. Photo: Wessex Archaeology Ltd



Work at Heathrow's Terminal 5 by Framework Archaeology. Photo: Wessex Archaeology Ltd



Some of the many exhibitors.
© Sarah Cole Photography

Three hundred delegates attended IfA's three-day conference in Torquay this year. For the first time we chose to use a conference centre, and all were impressed with the facilities available. There was an enjoyable range of events, displays

and trips to see historic houses in Devon, Torre Abbey and Kents Cavern. Summaries and reviews are available in this issue, and in several cases we have had papers submitted for inclusion as well. You may have already seen the papers relating to PPG 16, but we have also printed papers from Peter Fowler on the M5 excavations and from Jason Wood on the heritage of Blackpool.

We are extremely grateful to our sponsors, session organisers and speakers for their continued support and help with event. Special thanks also have to be given to the conference centre staff who helped make the conference run so smoothly. We hope to see you next year in Southport.



The stage is set for the annual conference © Sarah Cole Photography



The English Riviera. © Sarah Cole Photography

Industrial Archaeology: reaping the benefits of redevelopment? Kenneth Aitchison

We didn't realise it at the time, but the IfA conference session "Industrial archaeology: reaping the benefits of development?" may have been a last public hurrah for the archaeology of the industrial transition. Since the April conference, we have learned that the University of Manchester is to close the University of Manchester Archaeology Unit and that Ironbridge Archaeology is no longer renewing staff contracts. These two powerhouses of industrial archaeology are effectively no more.

Organisations that specialise in the archaeology of industrial production and consumption will inevitably end up working on a very high proportion of brownfield sites – and these were the first sites where work stopped. While transport infrastructure and large-scale engineering projects may be continuing, albeit at a lower level of intensity than at this time last year, it is site investigation budgets (including archaeology) on smaller scale projects – such as housing on brownfield infill – that have been cut most heavily by developers.

But these have not been cases of over-specialised organisations that were unable to diversify their income streams. Both of those organisations did plenty of non-industrial archaeology, they were just very good at that particular specialist angle. The problem has been that their parent organisations – the University of Manchester and the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust – did not allow their commercial archaeological companies to build up reserves that would see them through difficult times, and when they were no longer providing them with sufficient income (as had done throughout the boom years of the late 90s and first eight years of this decade) they have just switched off the financial support.

The session itself – organised by two curators, **Jim McNeil** of South Yorkshire Archaeology Service and **Helen Gomersall** from West Yorkshire Archaeology Service, was a great success. It showed just how

successful commercial archaeology had been in developing cutting-edge methodologies and interpretations for industrial archaeology. PPGs 16 and 15 in England have taken the discipline far from its first principles and the hobbyist environment with a disproportionate focus on artefacts over monuments in which industrial archaeology was still deeply embedded within twenty years ago. The development of the brownfield sites has been a series of one-off opportunities to add to our knowledge of the recent past, which has been seized superbly – but now the skills and understanding that made that knowledge-creation possible may be at risk of being lost forever. One of the session slides showed a trench quite literally full of scissors – now we know that this can be a painful experience.

Kenneth Aitchison
IfA Head of Projects and Professional Development



A painful experience – scissors removed from a trench. Photo: South Yorkshire Archaeology Service



ENGLISH HERITAGE





Andrea Bradley

That's not my field: creating and maintaining professional identity in an interdisciplinary world

This session developed from an interest in the concept of 'professional identity'. Every profession is talking about it: economists, teachers, IT and medical professionals, therapists, bankers, literary experts and mathematicians. As archaeologists we must also think seriously about who we are and where we want to be – particularly at a time when we are being thrown together with so many different disciplines working in the 'historic environment'.

The session aimed to question and to explore the identity of archaeologists from the point of view both of archaeologists and of non archaeologists. Speakers were **Steve Shaw** of the Cities Institute, London Metropolitan University, **Andrew Townsend**, Bristol & Region Archaeological Services and Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB), **Alistair Grant**, public artist, **Greg Bailey**, University of Bristol (screen media and archaeology), producer of 'The Van', and **Andrew Marvell**, Chief Executive of Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust.

Alistair Grant discusses his public art projects. © Sarah Cole Photography



Questions raised by the session included

- what is our professional identity and what can we do to reinforce it positively? Do we value our unique contribution and demonstrate that value to others the best that we can? Do we and do others see us in a positive or negative light? Would we want to change our identity and what would we change? (Andrea Bradley)
- in a multidisciplinary world, where do we sit in relation to colleagues in planning, urban design and construction, and how can we learn from each other's needs and approaches? How do we open up new dialogues and break with tradition in the way we do things to achieve common goals? (Steve Shaw, Andrew Townsend)
- in interdisciplinary terms, what is the location and nature of archaeology itself and its boundaries with other disciplines such as art, conservation or museum studies? How can we share the roles of interpretation and representation? For example, how far are, say, artistic methods of representation comparable to the way we ourselves create the archaeological 'record' we produce? (Alistair Grant)
- how do we imagine ourselves (what is our 'culture'?) and how are we imagined by society (public, clients, government)? What is our duty to the public in our relations with them and in the way we present ourselves? (Greg Bailey)
- and ultimately, what is it to be an archaeologist today, and what should it be in the future? (papers will soon be able to be viewed on our website at www.archaeologists.net/modules/icontent/index.php) How can we broaden our horizons, our theory and our method while keeping our identity intact? (Andrew Marvell)

As archaeologists we know that when environmental or market forces change, the political situation is volatile or threatening, a community's identity is often exerted or reinforced in response. It would be nice to think that in these months and years of economic instability, there is not only a challenge to be overcome but also an opportunity to redefine and strengthen our identity. We need a strong professional profile, but it might be dangerous to sustain an identity anachronistically – the message from this session was move with the times, embrace change, adopt a new image, new technologies and new ways of seeing and doing – it will make us stronger. But don't let us forget who we are in the process.

Andrea Bradley

An International Affair IfA Buildings Archaeology Group



Catherine Cavanagh

As buildings archaeology progresses in its methods and applications, so too does its world - wide appeal. Last year's Buildings Archaeology Group (BAG) newsletter included projects in Hong Kong, Afghanistan and Malawi. This year's conference session continued BAG's exploration of the global.

Papers covered a mix of policy and practice in Albania, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Cambodia, Ethiopia and Portugal, yet common themes emerged and were expanded on in lively discussion sessions chaired by **Michael Rhodes**, who has experience of working in Hong Kong. Comparing practice in different countries, the result of different twentieth century regimes (from communism to dictatorship) shone a light on approaches in the UK.

Policy and politics

World Heritage Sites (WHS) were the subject of four of the papers - Angkor, Brasilia, Butrint and Lalibela. However, UNESCO WHS status, for all its kudos, does not guarantee statutory protection in individual countries. Conservation work at Lalibela is funded by the World Bank and European Union, but the site has no effective management plan and coordination of permissions is tricky, as it effectively comes under the protection of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church while permits for archaeological work are controlled by the Antiquities Authority.

Even in England and Wales, protection cannot be assumed; WHS are identified in the draft Heritage Bill, which is on hold, and are intended to be defined as Heritage Assets alongside the other designation categories. Since the conference, the government department for Communities and Local Government has published a Planning Circular on the *Protection of World Heritage in England*, accompanied by *Guidance for the Protection and Management of World Heritage Sites in England* from English Heritage.

But WHS inscription has the potential to influence local procedures. If the condition to have national legislation and a buffer zone in place is not met,

The church of Beta Maryam was conserved in the 1960s and has recently received protective roofing. It is part of the site of Lalibela, one of the most famous and most visited tourist attractions in sub-Saharan Africa, which has 11 rock-carved churches thought to date to the 13th century. © Niall Finneran



inscribed sites are immediately put on the danger list. Angkor, not rediscovered until the nineteenth century, became a WHS and was put on the WHS in Danger list at the same time; it took about twelve years for it to lose its danger status due to the civil war.

Brian Ayers noted that Albanian policy and practice are more closely intertwined than in the UK, although the system is more bureaucratic and relies on a high level of private funding. Fortunately, Butrint did not become the nuclear base that Khrushchev considered it suitable for when he visited, but perhaps we could learn from Albanian construction police who have the power to bulldoze illegal development?

Brazil is at the forefront of conservation but with three tiers of government that can list buildings, heritage legislation is complex. In fact, it even restricted Oscar Neimeyer, the centenarian architect of Brasilia, from altering his previous designs in Ibirapuera Park, São Paulo. Advantages over the system in England for example, are that movable fittings and collections can be designated and that setting is a material consideration. Brazil was among the first countries to realise the value of their modernist heritage through designation. It also had clear listing criteria from the start, while England has only recently defined these.

International links

The presentations may have inspired holiday plans among the audience, but tourism is a threat as well as an opportunity for international links and funding.



Lalibela now has an airport, reducing what was a three-day journey until the 1960s but increasing the impact of tourism. In Angkor, visitor numbers have grown from 40,000 to 2 million in 2008; yet this interest means that the WHS is jointly coordinated by France, Japan, and UNESCO. Cambodia's competent heritage authority, APSARA, is in part the result of multi-national technical and political collaboration.

Dick Moore's response to threatened bus shelters was a personal one: along with many visitors to rural Azerbaijan, he was entranced by the mosaic designs of the post-World War II bus shelters, but this was tempered by local negativity towards the outmoded iconography of the former Soviet Union. Despite the existence of a nationwide historic environment record, legislation is necessary to ensure this aspect of the country's past is not lost but, without local support, funding for protection or recording are unlikely. This highlights the issue of different cultural values, and possible conflicts between local and international heritage, political ideology and public art, drawing parallels with murals in Belfast and Sardinia. We ignore intangible values at our peril, and the priority in Butrint is to work with local communities and partners to ensure a sustainable future that embraces tourism.

Inspired by the Coimbra project, **Lília Basílio** and her colleagues have taught themselves to analyse buildings and are spreading the word. Dryas

Lília Basílio speaks in the Buildings Archaeology Group session. © Sarah Cole Photography



Arqueologia, although a commercial company, has a strong improving ethos. It has created a database of materials used in construction, and provides training for colleagues in other organisations – our own Peter Hinton having been invited to speak at one of its conferences. It is fortunate that Dryas Arqueologia is taking the initiative as, despite five universities providing archaeology courses in Portugal, none do buildings archaeology nor are there any restoration-focussed architectural courses.

Part of leaving a legacy is using local craftsmen, working with young archaeologists, and providing training. At Butrint, this process has come full circle with Albanians now training American archaeologists. The speakers agreed that working with students is useful and engenders reciprocal benefits. International teams are learning from one another's approaches to conservation in Angkor, and an Ethiopian research student in Winchester is training to be recognised as a church archaeologist. **Geraint Franklin** was fortunate to spend two months on secondment with the state heritage agency IPHAN, and in October 2009 he is leading a tour of Brazil for the Twentieth Century Society.

Conservation

Many of the risks to the historic environment were identified as natural, such as rising water levels or earth tremors in Butrint, and pervasive vegetation there and at Angkor. While in Azerbaijan, road improvements, changing ideology and neglect impact on street furniture. Designation and development control are key issues in Brazil and Portugal.

On-site conservation in Albania has been informed by targeted research and supported by developments in public policy, procedure and practice. The work has been undertaken against a backdrop of exceptionally rapid change in the country presenting considerable challenges.

What of the philosophy of conservation? Lalibela's churches were originally hidden, reached by underground passages, but the need to preserve them has changed their setting: they are now viewed as they were never designed to be, and the protective roof has a striking visual impact. In Angkor, conservation teams from different countries work alongside each other, as much as they can given the 400km² scale of the site; alongside Cambodian experts, countries as diverse as Japan, France, India, Poland, China, Germany, Italy and the USA are represented. **Alexandra Coxen** highlighted the



contrasting philosophical approaches of these countries, such as on whether to conserve, replace or re-carve statuary faking a damaged appearance. Despite different techniques and attitudes to conservation, collaboration has proved beneficial for the country and its conservation policies.

Buildings archaeology

In contrast to conservation, the role of archaeology is to record and understand, an approach which has been criticised as enabling the loss of assets that have been documented. At Coimbra and elsewhere, the developer can use recording to improve public attitudes towards demolition and Dryas capitalised on this, asking the council to sponsor information panels on the site, a short course and exhibition – perhaps we in the UK should be more ambitious?

When archaeological recording is unlikely to happen, for example of the bus shelters in Azerbaijan, what is the solution – guerrilla recording and posting images online? Previous study of Lalibela has been largely limited to the field of art and architectural history, heavily descriptive but with little thought to the analysis of the building techniques and construction history of the excavations themselves. **Niall Finneran** highlighted how buildings archaeology can add more detail to the story of this Ethiopian site.

Not only is analysis of buildings rare in Africa, in Portugal its inclusion in archaeological projects remains marginal, mainly restricted to a few academic teams and concentrated on ecclesiastical buildings – publication is rare. It has yet to pervade Portuguese contract archaeology, where 80% of archaeological work is developer-funded, and to some extent the same could be said of the UK.

The overall tenet of the session, across five continents, was a welcome to interdisciplinary and



Decorated, reinforced concrete bus shelters are a distinctive and ubiquitous feature of roadsides throughout the countries of the former USSR. The themes of these mosaics in Azerbaijan reflect local folklore, customs or industries and often include soviet-era symbolism. © Dick Moore

collaborative working. It suggested a positive future for buildings archaeology but that more training and greater recognition of its importance is required.

This summary is based on my interpretation of the following papers and related discussion. Further details of the papers and our newsletters are available from the BAG pages of the IfA website.

- Coimbra, Portugal** *Lília Basílio, Dryas Arqueologia*
- Butrint, Albania** *Brian Ayers, The Butrint Foundation*
- Lalibela, Ethiopia** *Dr Niall Finneran, University of Winchester*
- Azerbaijan** *Dick Moore, Network Archaeology*
- Angkor** *Alexandra Coxen, English Heritage and ICOMOS Cambodia.*
- Brazil** *Geraint Franklin, English Heritage*

Catherine Cavanagh with a debt to those at the session Buildings Archaeology Group Catherine.cavanagh@sas.ac.uk



Butrint is an Archaic Greek, Roman, Late Antique, Byzantine and Venetian site in southern Albania opposite Corfu. For the last 15 years, the Butrint Foundation has been working with Albanian colleagues and authorities to protect, conserve and present the site and its environs. © Butrint Foundation



It's not just potsherds and bones any more. Information management is integral to modern archaeological practice. Photo: Edmund Lee

This session was the first event organised by the new Information Management Special Interest Group (IMSIG). The session was preceded by the group's AGM including the election of a committee.

The session opened with a paper by **Edmund Lee** titled 'Everything we know informs everything we do' *A vision for Information Management*. This set the scene for the papers that followed by examining the current state of historic environment information management in theoretical terms as well as looking at what needs to be undertaken to make information management central to good practice. Case studies showcased a wide range of current projects and recent developments. **Jay Carver** looked at multidisciplinary working for the Highways Agency's Cultural Heritage Management Plan which is drawing together datasets from a range of partners. **Guy Hunt's** paper concerned digital data creation on site, using a developer - funded site to test approaches and examine how theoretical approaches could be adapted to produce a hybrid system that worked in a practical environment. **Mike Middleton** and **Susan Casey** considered the impact of the INSPIRE directive (<http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>) and presented the preliminary findings of a study of the spatial depiction of heritage objects, looking at spatial data quality and the current state of polygonisation in Scotland. **David Thomas** and **Tom Pert** talked about a major National Assembly for Wales supported initiative *Csgliad y Bobl – the People's Collection*, which is creating an online archive illustrating Welsh history using photographs, documents and film. The theme of online access continued with a sobering look at website usability testing, with **Cat Cloud**

The Heritage Gateway project has employed iterative usability testing to capture common user journeys and inform redesign work on its web interfaces. Photo: Heritage Gateway Project

Out of the Ether: Information Management for Archaeologists

Martin Newman

presenting a case study using the Heritage Gateway. This is a web portal for historic environment data managed by the National Monuments Record at English Heritage that uses web services to collate and present datasets from differing sources. The final paper of the session also dealt with access via a portal: **Dan Hull** and **Stuart Jeffrey** presented a web services case study, HEIRNET the Historic Environment Information Network (www.britarch.ac.uk/heirnet/).

Those who presented papers have been invited to contribute versions for inclusion in the first edition of the group's newsletter. Future IMSIG events are being planned including a joint meeting with the Forum on Information Standards in Heritage (FISH). If you would like to join this new group please contact the IfA office. For information on the activities of the IMSIG see the group's page on the IfA website (www.archaeologists.net/modules/icontent/index.php?page=221)

Martin Newman
English Heritage, Datasets Development Manager
martin.newman@english-heritage.org.uk



Post-Excavation and Project Management Does post-excavation ever go to plan....? Reflections on a session on post-excavation management

At the beginning of 2008 Birmingham Archaeology began a HLF/IfA Bursary placement in Post-Excavation Management which aimed to provide a hands-on training programme in the mechanics of analysing and publishing the results of archaeological investigation. To aid the training programme, post-excavation management was split up into the range of tasks a manager may undertake or require during the analysis, publication and eventual deposition of an archaeological archive. The process of splitting up the role itself highlights the complexity of the process, and perhaps also explains why the role of Post-Excavation Manager within commercial organisations is becoming increasingly common. Despite management tools such as MAP2 and MoRPHE, and the apparent development of specialists in Post-Excavation Management, the process itself is still fraught with problems and continues to be seen as main source of escalating budgets and over-running end dates.

The post-excavation management bursary placement afforded the opportunity to look at the day-to-day running of post-excavation across different organisations, and the idea for the conference session was born out of this exploration into the process. Rather than perpetuating the blame culture which has seemingly developed, the session aimed to provide an opportunity for the views of all archaeologists (specialists, project managers and consultants) to be aired together. Our hope was to get past individual cases in order to reveal those causal and contributing factors inherent to the way things are done and which may, with due care and attention, be avoidable.

The call for papers was well received and the session soon included papers covering training, standards,

Amanda Forster and
Rebecca Beardmore



post-excavation

management techniques and approaches to publication, alongside project specific examples providing a spotlight on the areas outlined above. The discussion that followed the session picked up on most of the points raised throughout the day, and it is probably fair to say that everyone attending felt the session had been interesting and stimulating, if inconclusive.

The session confirmed that problems in post-excavation run deep, and cannot be solved by the introduction of process alone. The prevailing impression was that, from every corner of the post-excavation experience, there are some common contributing issues which add to the problems in post-excavation. A resounding conclusion of the session was that across the profession and within projects, there is a demonstrable need for more open and honest communication during the post-excavation process. Added to that, from specialists, managers, planning archaeologists and ultimately through to clients, there is a professional desire for consistency so that all involved in the project are aware of what is expected and what can be achieved at different stages of reporting (e.g. evaluations, post-excavation assessment).

Another conclusion of the session was that there is a real demand for training, in terms of both new recruits into the profession and in updating the skills of those already practising. Perhaps more fundamental was the suggestion that one of the major inhibiting factors to successful post-excavation was the existence of artificial boundaries within something that is a very organic and human experience. The concept of post-excavation management itself could be causal to its problematic success rate: has our vision of the archaeological process becoming too fragmented to make it work?

We plan to bring a summary of the session together over the next six months for publication. If you are interested in talking some more about post-excavation, a discussion blog has been set up at www.postexcavation.wordpress.com.

Amanda Forster and Rebecca Beardmore
Birmingham Archaeology, University of Birmingham



Amanda Foster speaking in the post-excavation and project management session. © Sarah Cole Photography



Seaside Heritage – colourful past, bright future?

Kathryn Whittington

This session focussed on Britain's colourful seaside heritage as an important part of the nation's history. Heritage is now an important part of the way seaside resorts are considered by local and national government. **Allan Brodie**, began the session by looking back at how our attitude to seaside resorts has changed, largely because of a change in the attitude towards Georgian and Victorian townscapes, which frequently form an important part of seaside towns. He looked at how heritage is playing an important part in the economic growth and future of seaside towns.

Fred Grey went on to discuss the archaeological remains of the seaside holiday, looking in particular at Brighton Beach, which has been a popular destination since the 1730s. He examined the archaeological possibilities of the beach, and the remains of past holiday infrastructure. He moved on to a case study of Brighton's West Pier, following its conception as a simple promenade and landing stage, through various stages as a pleasure pier, and its eventual decay and destruction by arson in 2003, demonstrating the dangers of assuming a rigidity of form and purpose in resort building.

The West Pier at Brighton after its destruction.
Photo: Kathryn Whittington



The next paper, by **Jason Wood** focussed on Blackpool (the full article is available on page 48). He looked at the town's unique atmosphere and cultural landscape. He pointed to the difficulties people can have with regarding Blackpool as 'heritage', and the poor reception the local council's plans to put the resort forward as a UNESCO World Heritage Site received. However, the initial disbelief has given way to a more considered reaction which has contributed to dialogue over how we evaluate and monitor World Heritage Sites in general.

Helen Doe then looked at the changing profile of small English ports in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. She investigated evidence from port shipping registers and associated material to examine the changes in the fortunes of small ports, and the ways that communities changed in response to market conditions and the sorts of roles that were available and necessary in these communities.

Peter Murphy discussed the management of coastal historic assets is going through a period of change. The release of the United Kingdom Climate Impact Programme has extensive implications for the coastline, Shoreline Management Plans are being reviewed nationally and there are fears that some areas of coast where sea defences are maintained, may not be protected in the future. Peter also mentioned that future legislation such as the Marine Bill and PPS 20 will all have an impact upon how we manage coastal regions. He also outlined some results of the English Heritage Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Surveys and explained how these results can contribute to a strategic programme of mitigation.

Sarah Gaventa from the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) gave a paper on the role heritage has in regeneration. CABE have recently made a £45 million contribution to invest in the heritage and culture of our seaside. This was followed by a perspective from **Colin Ellis** of Weymouth and Portland Borough Council, who have been unsuccessful in their CABE bid. Interesting discussion followed.

Kathryn Whittington
IfA, PR Coordinator

ANNUAL REPORT

2009



INSTITUTE OF FIELD ARCHAEOLOGISTS

(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

Trading as 'The Institute for Archaeologists'

DIRECTORS' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2009

REPORT OF THE HONORARY CHAIR

The year ending 31 March 2009 has seen dramatic changes external to the Institute with a severe recession, the absence of the long-heralded Heritage Protection Bill for England and Wales in the government's legislative programme, a 'problem-fixing' Bill of welcome but limited scope in Scotland, the publication of a draft Planning Policy Statement for England to replace PPGs 15 and 16, and a radical devolution of planning and consent powers from the centre to new local authorities in Northern Ireland.

The IfA has responded in an unprecedentedly dynamic way. We are now the IfA – having embraced the 'modernising agenda' begun previously and adopted the 'Institute for Archaeologists' as our trading name at the AGM in October 2008. This better reflects the diversity and breadth of our membership so that we can now honestly claim to be an institute for the study and care for the historic environment. We have held a seminar to discuss the impacts of the recession, we are tracking its effects on employment via quarterly job surveys, and are progressively working on a range of measures to aid our members insofar as the institute can do – for example freezing subscription fees. Despite the recession membership of the Institute continues to grow, reflecting the value that individuals and organisations place upon the IfA.

The IfA Registered Organisation scheme is now recognised as a hallmark of ethical practice and adherence to a *Code of conduct* and a wide and growing range of Standards and guidance which serve to protect and deliver benefits to the public. The Institute continues to work to get the Registered Organisation scheme recognised in national and regional/local policies as a sine qua non for professionalism. We have not lost sight of the importance of the individual member – Student, Affiliate, Practitioner, Associate or Member – and continue to explore routes to individual accreditation such as chartership. As an example of working to support our individual members the IfA promotes raising salaries through recommended minimum salaries – this year the effect is a rise of CPI plus 3.2%, significantly narrowing the gap between the lowest archaeological salaries and those of other benchmarked professions – and this despite the recession.

The IfA has engaged constructively with the Institute for Historic Building Conservation following the recognition that a merger between the institutes was not a practical goal. On a bigger and more significant stage, the Institute has undertaken to respond to a great number of government policies. More importantly, we are now increasingly part of the process by which policies are conceived, making our influence more effective and emerging policy – sometimes at least – more attuned to modern heritage practices than might have been the case.

As we look to the autumn of 2009 our concerns must address the policies and actions we need to pursue to advance the historic environment sector through the recession, so as to emerge in the recovery as a stronger institute and with all our key skills and expertise intact. Crucial to this is recognition that the IfA, through its Registered Organisation scheme, is the most effective means of ensuring the delivery of public benefits from work arising through the planning control process.

Gerry Wait
Hon Chair of Council

REPORT OF THE HONORARY TREASURER

In line with its current strategic plan, Council has continued to pursue the following strategies

- to ensure our long-term financial security so that we are well placed to implement our strategies and activities for the benefit of members and others (S4.9)
- to generate income (S4.9)
- to manage our investments (S4.10)
- to pursue a sound pricing policy (S4.11)
- to manage the key risks to our financial security (S4.12)
- to maintain adequate financial controls and procedures (S4.13)

In order to pursue this agenda to ensure the healthy future of the IfA, Council has agreed to invest some of the IfA's reserves in the continuing modernisation of the institute, its processes and organisation, and has committed to a recruitment strategy to increase levels of individual and organisational membership. Individual membership has continued to rise, increasing by 7% from 2,632 to 2,806. Registered Organisation numbers have increased from 59 to 62, an increase of 5%.

IfA projects have enabled research into UK and European professional practice, and the promotion of workplace learning. The Institute will continue to seek funding for research, with a particular emphasis on working practices and the delivery of sustainable training across the sector. IfA projects have also continued to contribute to the Institute's funds.

The accounts show a deficit of £1,554 (£4,802 including Corporation tax) compared to a budgeted deficit of £4,574 (£7,199 including Corporation tax).

The Institute continues to have an extremely healthy balance sheet (£429,365) capable of sustaining the losses budgeted over the coming years. Among other things, this will enable us to invest in the implementation of our recession plan to assist members and Registered Organisations during the current crisis. For this reason deficits are planned for the next few years, but the Institute will continue to maintain sufficient reserves to provide a financial base with which to further the aims of the Institute's Strategic Plan, in particular continuing to focus on the promotion of the Qualification in Archaeological Practice, on our modernising agenda, and on the further development of our membership services.

Martin Newman
Hon Treasurer

**EMPLOYEES OF
THE INSTITUTE**

Kenneth Aitchison, MfA	Head of Projects and Professional Development (from May 2008–)	Full time
	Head of Professional Development (Sep 2004–May 2008)	Full time
Beth Asbury, AlfA	Membership Administrator	Full time
Lynne Bevan, MfA	JIS Compiler	Part time
Andrea Bradley, MfA	Workplace Learning Programme Coordinator (from July 2009)	Part time
	Chief Executive's aide (cover March–Sept 2009)	Part time
	HLF/EPPIC Bursaries Coordinator (cover June 2008–June 2009)	Part time
Kirsten Collins	Office Manager (from September 2008)	Full time
Kate Geary, MfA	Training & Standards Manager (from Feb 09)	Full time
	Training & Standards Coordinator (from Feb 05)	Full time
Peter Hinton, MfA	Chief Executive	Full time
Tim Howard, Affil	Policy and Recruitment Manager (Jan 09)	Part time
	Marketing and Recruitment Coordinator (July 05)	
Gina Jacklin, PlfA	Finance and Administrative Assistant	Part time
Natasha Kingham, Affil	HLF Workplace Learning Bursary Coordinator	Part time
Claire Soper	Project Assistant (from August 08)	Part time
Alex Llewellyn, MfA	Head of Administration	Full time
Alison Taylor, MfA	Editor	Part time
Kathryn Whittington, AlfA	Public Relations Coordinator (Jan 2009–Present)	Full time
	Publicity Administrator (Oct 2007–Dec 2008)	Full time
Karina Williams	Administrative Assistant (from July 2009)	Full time
Samantha Bax	EPPIC placement (April 2009 to April 2010)	Full time
Rebecca Beardmore, Affil	HLF placement (March 2008 to March 2009)	Full time
Allison Borden, Affil	EPPIC placement (April 2007 to April 2008)	Full time
Gemma Bryant	EPPIC placement (May 2007 to May 2008)	Full time
Andrew Burn, PlfA	EPPIC placement (April 2007 to April 2008)	Full time
Stuart Churchley	EPPIC placement (April 2009 to April 2010)	Full time
Lorna Coventry, Affil	EPPIC placement (May 2007 to May 2008)	Full time
Claudia Fantino	EPPIC placement (May 2009 to May 2010)	Full time
Elizabeth Forster	HLF placement (June 2007 to June 2008)	Full time
Sarah Howard, Affil	HLF placement (Nov 2007 to Nov 2008)	Full time
Therese Kearns	EPPIC placement (April 2009 to April 2010)	Full time
Anna Komar	EPPIC placement (May 2009 to May 2010)	Full time
Victoria Lambert, AlfA	EPPIC placement (April 2007 to April 2008)	Full time
Roisin McCarthy, Affil	HLF placement (Sept 2008 to Sept2009)	Full time
Matthew Nicholas	HLF placement (Oct 2008 to Oct 2009)	Full time
Johanna Roethe, PlfA	EPPIC placement (July 2008 to July 2009)	Full time
Agnieszka Sadraei	EPPIC placement (April 2007 to April 2008)	Full time
Tom Sparrow	HLF placement (Jan 2009 to Jan 2010)	Full time
Tara-Jane Sutcliffe	EPPIC placement (April 2009 to April 2010)	Full time
Stefanie Vincent, PlfA	EPPIC placement (April 2007 to April 2008)	Full time
Mariangela Vitolo	EPPIC placement (April 2009 to April 2010)	Full time
Hannah Waugh	EPPIC placement (May 2009 to May 2010)	Full time
Shona Williams	EPPIC placement (April 2007 to April 2008)	Full time

**INDEPENDANT
AUDITORS' REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF
INSTITUTE OF FIELD
ARCHAEOLOGISTS
(COMPANY LIMITED
BY GUARENTEE)**

We have audited the financial statements of Institute of Field Archaeologists (Company Limited By Guarantee) trading as Institute for Archaeologists for the year ended 31 March 2009 set out on pages 5 to 12. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein and the requirements of the Financial Reporting Standards for Smaller Entities (effective January 2007).

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 235 of the Companies Act 1985. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTORS AND AUDITORS

As described in the statement of Directors' responsibilities on page 3, the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985. We also report to you whether in our opinion the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements. In addition we report to you if, in our opinion, the company has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if information specified by law regarding directors' remuneration and transactions with the company is not disclosed.

We read the Directors' Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

BASIS OF AUDIT OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes an examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

OPINION

In our opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to Smaller Entities, of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 March 2009 and of its loss for the year then ended;
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985; and
- the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements.

Ross Brooke Limited

ROSS BROOKE LIMITED
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

Date: 19 August 2009

2 Old Bath Road
Newbury
Berkshire RG14 1QL

**PROFIT AND LOSS
ACCOUNT FOR
THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2009**

	Note	2009 £	2008 as restated £
Turnover		1,136,192	834,249
Cost of sales		(720,571)	(419,454)
Gross surplus		415,621	414,795
Administrative expenses		(432,041)	(348,729)
Operating (deficit)/surplus	2	(16,420)	66,066
Other interest receivable and similar income		14,866	12,569
(Deficit)/surplus on ordinary activities before taxation		(1,554)	78,635
Tax on (deficit)/surplus on ordinary activities	4	(3,248)	(2,381)
(Deficit)/surplus for the financial year	11	(4,802)	76,254

**STATEMENT OF
TOTAL RECOGNISED
GAINS AND LOSSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2009**

	2009 £	2008 as restated £
(Loss)/profit for the financial year	(4,802)	76,254
Total recognised (losses) and gains for the year	(4,802)	76,254
Prior year adjustment	(44,903)	
Total recognised losses since the last annual report	(49,705)	

**BALANCE SHEET AS
AT 31 MARCH 2009**

	Note	2009 £	2008 as restated £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	5	2,946	2,850
Current assets			
Stocks		41,238	49,368
Debtors	6	168,358	57,195
Cash at bank and in hand		562,113	672,644
		771,709	779,207
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	7	(345,290)	(347,890)
Net current assets		426,419	431,317
Total assets less current liabilities		429,365	434,167
Capital and reserves			
Income and expenditure account	11	429,365	434,167
		429,365	434,167

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part VII of the Companies Act 1985 relating to small companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2007).

Approved and authorised for issue by the Board on 8 July 2009 and signed on its behalf by:



MARTIN NEWMAN
Director

**NOTES TO THE
FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS FOR
THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2009**

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2007).

Cash flow statement

The accounts do not include a cash flow statement because the company, as a small reporting entity, is exempt from the requirements to prepare such a statement.

Going concern

These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Turnover

Turnover represents the value of income earned and services provided during the year.

Long-term contracts

Sales and foreseeable profits on long-term contracts are recognised in line with the activity of each contract. Invoiced sales in excess or deficit of recognised sales are carried forward in payments on account or accrued income. The balance of costs recognised that are in excess or deficit of invoiced costs are carried forward in accruals or work in progress. Provision is made in accruals for any foreseeable losses.

Fixed assets

Fixed assets are initially recorded at cost.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Office equipment 50% reducing balance

Stock and work in progress

Stock and work in progress are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after due regard for obsolete and slow moving stocks. Net realisable value is based on selling price less anticipated costs to completion and selling costs.

Foreign currencies

Profit and loss account transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the exchange rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the closing rates at the balance sheet date and the exchange differences are included in the profit and loss account.

Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged in the profit and loss account on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged in the profit and loss account as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

Area and special interest groups

The Institute has a number of area and special interest groups, who organise comparatively small scale events, conferences and other activities. The income, expenditure and funds held by these groups is incorporated into the accounts of the Institute.

2 OPERATING (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS

Operating (deficit)/surplus is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2009 £	2008 £
The audit of the company's annual accounts	12,138	3,998
Foreign currency gains	(14,380)	(8,278)
Loss on sale of fixed assets	295	-
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	1,793	2,057

3 DIRECTORS' EMOLUMENTS

No emoluments were paid to the directors during the year (2008 - £nil).

4 TAXATION

Analysis of current period tax charge

	2009 £	2008 £
Current tax		
Corporation tax charge	3,122	2,381
(Over)/under provision in previous year	126	-
UK Corporation tax	3,248	2,381

Corporation tax is only chargeable on interest received.

5 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Cost

As at 1 April 2008 23,895
Additions 2,184
Disposals (1,012)

As at 31 March 2009 25,067

Depreciation

As at 1 April 2008 21,045
Eliminated on disposals (717)
Charge for the year 1,793

As at 31 March 2009 22,121

Net book value

As at 31 March 2009 2,946

As at 31 March 2008 2,850

6 DEBTORS

	2009 £	2008 £
Trade debtors	27,134	15,898
Prepayments and accrued income	141,224	41,297
	168,358	57,195

7 CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2009 £	2008 as restated £
Payments received on account	208,357	269,174
Trade creditors	23,829	35,017
Corporation tax	3,122	2,388
Social security and other taxes	8,691	9,782
Other creditors	20,230	12,113
Accruals and deferred income	81,061	19,416
	345,290	347,890

8 PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENT

Revenue of £69,966 and direct costs of £25,063 relating to the 2008 conference were included in turnover and cost of sales respectively in the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2008. As the conference took place after the year end these amounts should have been carried forward. To this effect, a prior year adjustment of £69,966 has been made to turnover and payments received on account and £25,063 has been made to cost of sales and work in progress.

9 PENSION SCHEME

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the period represents contributions payable by the company to the scheme and amounted to £21,315 (2008 - £19,901).

Contributions totalling £20,230 (2008 - £12,113) were payable to the scheme at the end of the period and are included in creditors.

10 COMPANY STATUS

The company is a private company limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital.

Each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £10 towards the assets of the company in the event of liquidation.

11 RESERVES

	Income and expenditure account £
Balance at 1 April 2008	479,070
Prior year adjustment	(44,903)
At beginning of the year as restated	434,167
Transfer from income and expenditure account for the year	(4,802)
Balance at 31 March 2009	429,365

12 OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

As at 31 March 2009 the company had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

Operating leases which expire:	2009 £	2008 £
Within one year	2,541	10,264
Within two and five years	1,284	1,255
	3,825	11,519

**DETAILED PROFIT
AND LOSS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2009**

	2009		2008 <i>as restated</i>	
	£	£	£	£
Turnover (analysed below)		1,136,192		834,249
Cost of sales				
Direct project costs	138,706		40,717	
Core staff project salaries	69,693		97,157	
Non-core staff project salaries	512,172		281,580	
		(720,571)		(419,454)
Gross surplus		415,621		414,795
36.58% (2008 - 49.72%)				
Administrative expenses (analysed below)				
Employment costs	305,377		251,609	
Establishment costs	9,582		8,735	
General administrative expenses	124,351		90,297	
Finance charges	(9,357)		(3,969)	
Depreciation costs	2,088		2,057	
		(432,041)		(348,729)
Operating (deficit)/surplus		(16,420)		66,066
Other interest receivable and similar income				
Bank interest receivable		14,866		12,569
(Deficit)/surplus on ordinary activities before taxation		(1,554)		78,635
Turnover				
Subscriptions		277,722		266,456
Application Fees		4,215		3,546
RAO Fees		64,371		55,050
Conference income		75,065		77,703
Adverts		4,978		8,516
Publications		659		756
JIS subscriptions & adverts		16,445		12,211
Building group fees		1,410		230
Total project income		691,327		409,781
		1,136,192		834,249
Employment costs				
Core staff overhead salaries		258,006		220,842
Temporary staff costs		17,548		4,115
Staff recruitment		1,675		1,668
Staff training		3,637		1,843
Committee travel		10,535		11,154
Group funding		2,287		1,555
Staff pensions (Defined contribution)		11,689		10,432
		305,377		251,609
Establishment costs				
Premises costs		9,582		8,735
General administrative expenses				
Telephone and fax		4,204		4,112
Venue Hire		2,752		3,362
Computing & IT		6,759		9,783
Printing, postage and stationery		22,875		24,392
Sundry expenses		229		416
JIS costs		1,034		1,041
Publications: TA		20,871		20,261

	2009		2008 <i>as restated</i>	
	£	£	£	£
Insurance		6,271		4,786
Staff expenses - conference		1,691		2,266
Travel and subsistence		18,472		10,316
Promotional material		10,811		1,796
Hospitality		869		662
Magazine and institution subscriptions		1,341		1,342
Accountancy fees		1,120		(300)
The audit of the company's annual accounts		12,138		3,998
Auditors' remuneration - non audit work		2,000		-
Payroll costs		830		600
Consultancy fees		6,386		-
Legal and professional fees		3,082		-
Bad debts written off		616		1,464
		124,351		90,297
Finance charges				
Bank charges		5,023		4,309
Foreign currency gains		(14,380)		(8,278)
		(9,357)		(3,969)
Depreciation costs				
Depreciation		1,793		2,057
Loss on disposal of intangible fixed assets		295		-
		2,088		2,057

**REPORT OF THE
HONORARY
SECRETARY**

In 2008/09 IfA Council (consisting of twenty-one elected and co-opted members) has continued to focus on strategic development to raise the profile of the re-named Institute for Archaeologists. IfA committees for working practice, professional training, membership, registration and the editorial board have all been working towards this end. Committee members give up their time and expertise voluntarily, so thank you.

Membership and RO promotion and recruitment

With the Policy and Recruitment Manager being joined by a PR (Public Relations) Co-ordinator to good effect this year, both the Registered Organisations and Validation committees have dealt with increased numbers of applications.

The Institute has adopted a new brand, visible in all of its new promotional literature and publications this year. We have also produced a booklet highlighting the diversity of our membership which has been well received by both members and non-members alike. The marketing and recruitment team have also produced copy for a wide range of publications to continue to promote the Institute and its Registered Organisations in the historic environment sector and beyond.

There are now 62 Registered Organisations with several others awaiting consideration. There are over fifty applicants currently going through the validation process for individual membership. The latest (June) membership figures are as follows, with 2008 numbers in brackets.

Honorary members	15	(15)
Members	1104	(1050)
Associates	618	(609)
Practitioners	415	(390)
Students	234	(241)
Affiliates	420	(327)
Total	2806	(2632)

Pay and conditions

This issue has understandably been influenced by the crises of the current economic situation. An important function of the Institute is to make salary recommendations to its members, benchmarking these against salaries in comparable sectors, under its objectives to improve the status of archaeologists and to ensure ethical and businesslike working practices. The IfA will respond appropriately to any advertised posts which don't meet the IfA minimum recommendations.

Standards

Following consultation with members, the *Standard and guidance for archaeological desk-based assessment*, the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*, the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* and the *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* have been reviewed and up-dated where necessary. The *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* which was adopted in draft at the 2008 AGM will be proposed for full adoption in 2009. A bid for funding has been submitted for the development of a *Standard and guidance for curatorial archaeology* and work will continue with this in 2009-10.

Training and Professional Development

The final year of the current HLF Workplace Learning Bursary scheme has seen another eight placements set up in areas of skills need across the historic environment. In addition, the English Heritage EPPIC scheme has supported nine placements this year with a potential tenth in development. The first awards of the NVQ in Archaeological Practice were made early in 2009 and the IfA Assessment Centre continues to grow with more assessors and candidates signing up.

Council and the committees carry on their good work in promoting the Institute, which would not function without the staff, so thank you to all of you.

Joanna K. F. Bacon

Hon Secretary

AREA AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

REPORT OF THE SCOTTISH GROUP

The committee has met five times between April 2008 and March 2009. During the year 2008/09 the aim of meetings has been focussed on resolving the issue of the remit of the Scottish Group and looking at expanding our activities to become less Edinburgh-centric.

The AGM was held on 24 October 2008 at the Archaeology Department of the University of Edinburgh. Chairman John Sode-Woodhead presented a paper on the future of the Scottish Group and a full ranging discussion on the benefits and limitations of the group ensued. This was then followed by a seminar on the SHEP series given by Noel Fojut of Historic Scotland.

In the months after the AGM the committee followed up on comments regarding the role of the Scottish Group by sending out a questionnaire to all members. Responses show that there is support for the Scottish Group, but that there needs to be a noticeable move away from both an Anglo- or Edinburgh-centric focus, by having more meetings round the country and involving a wider range of members. The group also needs to improve its communication processes and should publicise the work it undertakes better. Along with employers, the group should also be supporting training and CPD events.

We have already started to find ways of putting these recommendations into practice. We now have a newsletter that is sent out or emailed to members, our 2009 AGM will be held in Glasgow, and we will be looking at ways of supporting training and CPD: during the year, funding has been secured to hold a number of training sessions around Scotland which will be open to all members.

These will focus on essential skills for heritage professionals, including conducting desk-based research and report writing. Agreement has also been reached on holding further training seminars in the Highland region and Orkney, although details of these are still to be confirmed.

The Scottish Group has significantly increased its role in advocacy and responding to consultations by working closely with BEFS and other heritage bodies in Scotland, contributing to the consultation on Action on climate change, and the recently passed Marine Bill, among others.

Kirsty Dingwall

Hon Secretary, Scottish Group

REPORT OF THE WALES/CYMRU GROUP

Jenny Hall (Hon Chair), Fiona Gale (Hon secretary), Stephen Briggs (Hon Editor), John Latham, Ian Brooks (Hon Treasurer), Richard Hankinson, David Maynard

The AGM of the Wales/Cymru group was held on 11 July 2008 and the Wales/Cymru committee met on three occasions. Again the main work of the group was providing two day schools reflecting current themes and working practices. The summer day school was held on 11 July, on the theme of 'Upland Survey', as the RCAHMW's Uplands Initiative enters its final stages. The autumn day school on 7 November was on 'Recent Work and Future Directions' with contributions from the Welsh Archaeological Trusts of Cadw and the RCAHMW.

The chair attended The Archaeology Forum 21 January in Cardiff.

Committee meetings discussed ways of increasing attendance at IfA day schools. Attendance is very good from individuals and smaller, private companies and but decreasing from the Archaeological Trusts and public bodies, and ways of turning this around were explored.

Maintenance and feedback has been maintained for the Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales. Andy Williams of Orchardweb, Llandeilo has helped with technical support for the website, www.archaeoleg.org.uk

The IfA Wales/Cymru group web page has been kept updated by Richard Hankinson, <http://www.archaeologists.net>, and details of meeting are being added to the new IfA meetings calendar.

Jenny Hall

Hon Chair Wales/Cymru Group

REPORT OF THE MARITIME AFFAIRS GROUP

The last year has seen MAG's activities and membership grow. MAG has been active in responding to various consultations, either by contributing to IfA response or via separate MAG responses. Among others we have responded to Defra's Consultation on the *Future Priorities for and Delivery of the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund* – April 2008 to March 2011, Defra's *Delivering Marine Conservation Zones and European Marine Sites*, Inquiry into the *Marine Bill* from the National Assembly for Wales, and for *SHEP on the Marine Historic Environment*.

This year the work of publicising the dire situation relating to archive provision for marine archaeological investigations has continued. MAG representation on the Archaeological Archives Forum has resulted in the adoption of maritime issues as one of the Forum's key areas for future work, and funding of the 'Securing a Future for Maritime Archaeological Archives' assessment project which is due for completion later this summer (<http://www.hwtma.org.uk/archaeological-projects/research/maritime-archaeological-archives/>).

MAG is also currently working on the Maritime Standard and Guidance Development Strategy and Diving Technical Note. We are currently assessing development of Marine Survey Standard and Guidance.

Communication with the MAG membership has been as frequent as ever with the production of our two annual bulletins, which provide the opportunity for members to update on latest activities and projects, as well as for longer discussion articles.

The MAG email information service has been very active. This invaluable service for MAG members has been undertaken via the MAG 'blog' (<http://ifamag.wordpress.com/>).

MAG also organised the annual maritime session at the IfA conference 2009, holding a session on the 'Regulatory change in the marine area: impacts on our underwater cultural heritage and maritime archaeology'.

MAG continues to represent professional maritime archaeology at various committees and meetings. This is a valuable reminder of the work of the group, particularly the activities that regularly go on behind the more visible communications. This year MAG has been represented at Joint Nautical Archaeology Policy Committee, ALGAO Maritime Group, HSE Diving Group, UK Diving Industry Committee, IKUWA 3 Organising Committee and the Archaeological Archives Forum.

MAG Committee members have also involved been in developing the new English Heritage funded 'Maritime and Marine Historic Environment Research Framework' project, (http://www.southampton.ac.uk/archaeology/research/projects/maritime_research_framework.html)

Dr Vir Dellino-Musgrave

Hon Chair Maritime Affairs Group

REPORT OF THE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT GROUP

The Information Management group was formally recognised by the IfA as a Special Interest Group in January 2009 and has since held its AGM in April at the IfA conference in Torquay. The AGM itself was a brief affair aimed at electing officers for the group's organising committee. The committee was elected as follows:

Chair – Kieron Niven

Secretary – Emma Turner

Treasurer – Trevor Reynolds

Newsletter Editor – Alison Bennett

Committee Members – Edmund Lee, Martin Newman, Ben Wallace, Dan Hull, Stuart Jeffrey and Sarah Orr

The AGM itself formed part of the Information Management group's first IfA conference session 'Out of the Ether: information management for archaeologists' organised and chaired by Martin Newman. The session featured seven speakers and focussed on a wide range topics relating to the management of information within the historic environment sector. As the 'official launch' of the Information Management group the session also allowed discussion of a proposed agenda together with the opportunity for those in attendance to sign up as group members. A report of the session is proposed to feature in a forthcoming issue of ERCIM News and a detailed report will form the basis for the first issue of the Information Management group's newsletter. The group is also currently creating an email mailing list and planning an October meeting to be held jointly with the Forum on Information Standards in Heritage (FISH). In addition the group has also been asked formally to participate in the Events Thesaurus peer review.

REPORT OF THE DIGGERS' FORUM

A limited number of Committee members and work commitments of those involved has prevented the Forum from taking as active a role as we would have liked this year. We hope to recruit new members to the Committee over the next months with a view to sharing the workload with a greater number of people and revitalising the Forum in the process. However, we maintain a voice on the IfA Council. We currently have four DF members representing our interests, though our Chairman Chris Clarke has to stand down at the IfA AGM in October having completed the full six year period allowed. We have encouraged Forum members to put themselves forward as nominees for IfA Council membership.

As ever, our main concern is campaigning for improved pay and conditions for archaeologists working within unit field teams. The IfA *Benchmarking Archaeological Salaries* report (April 2008) highlighted a staggering 13 – 53% pay increase needed to bring archaeology into line with comparable professions. The report has served as a useful focus as we press for improved pay deals, but the economic recession has stalled progress and had severe consequences for field staff – some having to work reduced hours and many people being made redundant.

There's a danger that skilled, experienced field archaeologists will not return to the profession in sufficient numbers when economic recovery takes place, unless there have been significant improvements to pay and conditions. The Forum is encouraged that "the IfA is committed to a target increase in minimum salaries of 13% above inflation over the next five years." We will continue to campaign for better pay. Once the recession shows signs of receding, our intention is to work together with IfA and other interested parties to make that commitment a reality and ultimately to achieve a staged series of pay increases that will move beyond the 13% target.

Jeremy Taylor

Hon Secretary Diggers' Forum

REPORT OF THE GEOPHYSICS GROUP

The group, which currently has some 50 members, was formed at its inaugural meeting in October 2008. One problem in setting up such a group was that many archaeological geophysicists were not members of the IfA. Indeed the importance of collaborating with other organisations working within the historic environment and related sectors was recognised early on. This has been reflected not only in the membership of the SIG but also in the make-up of a lively executive committee which meets every 3 months.

Chair – Peter Barker (Stratascan Ltd)

Secretary – Hannah Heard (CgMs)

Treasurer – Dr Ken Hamilton (Curator with Norfolk CC)

Member – Dr Roger White (University of Birmingham, IfA Council member and chair of the IfA Professional Training Committee promoting CPD)

Member – Adrian Butler (Northampton Archaeology)

The following members have either been elected or co-opted onto the committee representing a wide range of interests.

Paul Linford – Geophysics Team English Heritage Fort Cumberland

Dr Chris Gaffney – University of Bradford and International Society for Archaeological Prospection

Dr George Tuckwell – Stats Ltd and the Environmental & Industrial Geophysics Group of the Geological Society

Chris Leech – Geomatrix Ltd and European Association of Geoscientists & Engineers

James Adcock – GSB Ltd and European GPR Association

Paul Baggeley – Wessex Archaeology with a specialism in marine archaeological geophysics

Dr Laurence Donnelly – Halcrows Ltd Consulting Engineers with a specialism in forensic geology/geophysics - Chair of Geological Society Forensic Geoscience Group

We are still looking for representation from **ALGAO (England, Scotland and Cymru), Historic Scotland, Cadw** and **Dept of Environment – Northern Ireland**.



Mark Dunkley

Philip Robertson giving his paper. © Sarah Cole Photography

Regulatory Change in the Marine Area: impacts on our underwater cultural heritage and maritime archaeology

The MAG session was reasonably well attended, despite competing with three other sessions (post-excavation and project management, seaside heritage and workplace training). MAG is grateful to Mike Pitts, editor of *British Archaeology*, and the CBA for donating a box of *British Archaeology* (Number 106, containing articles on the discovery of HMS Victory and on underwater cultural heritage) to be distributed at the session.

The session intended to explore whether proposed legislation is sufficiently forward-looking to ensure flexible, but robust, protection for the underwater cultural heritage throughout the UK.

The session commenced with **Philip Robertson**, Senior Inspector Historic Scotland, presenting the application to regulatory change and Scotland's marine environment. Here, the recent launch of 'Marine Scotland' provides the mechanism for an integrated strategy for the protection, management and promotion of Scotland's marine historic environment.

Simon Crabbe, Defra, described delivery of the Marine & Coastal Access Bill. It was noted that although cultural and archaeological assets are recognised as comprising elements of the environment, marine heritage will not be a material consideration in the designation of a Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ). This paper was given just before the Government's joint publication of the high level marine objectives for the marine environment which will steer the development of policies to achieve sustainable development in the marine area.

Deanna Groom, RCAHMW, provided a view from the west by addressing devolution and the Marine & Coastal Access Bill while Mark Dunkley, English Heritage, presented an update on Heritage Protection in England and noted that pending introduction of the Heritage Protection Bill in England and Wales, Heritage Protection Reform in England defaults to the provisions set out in the 2007 White Paper.



Alison Kentuck, Receiver of Wreck MCA, described the proposed responsibilities of the Receiver of Wreck within the terms of the Heritage Protection Bill. Here, the White Paper proposes to impose a duty on the RoW to inform heritage agencies about recovered assets. Reference was made to determine how the same objectives might be achieved outside of the Bill framework.

Sarah Dromgoole, University of Nottingham, addressed regulation of activities affecting the marine historic environment beyond the 12 nautical miles territorial sea. Here, it was proposed that the regulation of marine scientific research, as applied to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, could be utilised as it affects natural resources (e.g. acquisition of geological data in support of marine archaeological research). In addition, it was noted that the Marine & Coastal Access Bill could afford some measure of protection to cultural heritage in defining Marine Conservation Zones.

Unfortunately, as all speakers kept strictly to schedule no time was available for discussion at the end immediately before the lunch break. It would be a brave session organiser that kept a room full of archaeologists from their lunch!

Mark Dunkley
IfA MAG

Workplace training – new research, new skills and inspiration for the future

This year's conference session dedicated to the IfA's workplace learning schemes funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and English Heritage gave placement holders the opportunity to talk about new areas of research they were involved in, to review the skills they were gaining and, in the case of past placement holders, to review how their placements had helped them move into the professional employment.

Sarah Botfield undertook a varied placement at Peterborough Cathedral which combined archive research with field survey. She spoke about her research into the Irvine Papers, a collection including over 1000 archaeological and architectural drawings relating to Peterborough Cathedral and its precincts, the work of James Thomas Irvine, Clerk of Works at the Cathedral during the late nineteenth century. Irvine recorded the excavations of the time which revealed the remains of the Anglo-Saxon Abbey Church under the South Transept and was very highly regarded for his accuracy and meticulous attention to detail.

Róisín McCarthy talked about her work on the osteoarchaeological analysis of cremated bone from an Anglo-Saxon cemetery site at Cleatham in North Lincolnshire, the subject of her placement at the Cardiff Osteoarchaeology Research Group at Cardiff University. Róisín described some of the problems and challenges she had encountered due to extensive fragmentation of the material and the difficulties of constructing a palaeodemographic profile from the material.

In contrast, **Oliver O'Grady** described his placement in Development Control and Curatorial Archaeology with the Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust and compared it with his previous experience as an academic. He discussed the transferable skills that he had been able to bring to Perth and Kinross as well as the valuable, professional skills he had gained during the placement.

Stefanie Vincent was coming to the end of her year long EPPIC placement in Human Osteology and Stratigraphy with English Heritage. She described her work on two skeletal assemblages from cemeteries at Huntingdon Castle Mound and Whitby Abbey. As well as analytical and report writing skills, she spoke



Kate Geary

about the communication skills gained through liaising with other specialists, speaking at conferences and presenting her work to the public.

Lindsey Büster had moved from a placement in historical archaeology to an AHRC funded collaborative PhD entitled 'Inhabiting Broxmouth: domestic buildings and everyday life in the Scottish Iron Age'. Although at first glance this seemed to be quite a dramatic departure, Lindsey explained that the practical experience in commercial archaeology that she gained during the placement had given her an advantage over other applicants for the PhD funding. Lindsey was one of the first placement holders to achieve an NVQ in Archaeological Practice which she regarded as being complimentary to her academic achievements.

Sarah Howard had also recently completed her placement (with the Lake District National Park Authority) and was working with the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service. She described how the skills gained on the placement allowed her to move into her new role as Archaeological Records Officer. She paid particular tribute to the inspirational people she had worked with at the National Park.

The final speaker, **Catherine Grindey**, completed an EPPIC placement just over a year ago. She described how the skills she had gained with the EH Archaeological Survey and Investigation team had benefitted her in her new role with AMEC. The placement gave her the opportunity to make the move from excavator to consultant, involved in interpretation and management on a landscape scale.

Once again, the session provided an inspiring insight into the contribution structured workplace learning opportunities can make to the career development of archaeologists from a range of different backgrounds. The IfA is currently investigating a range of options in order to develop its workplace learning programme and, at the time of writing, has been invited by the HLF to bid for funding to support placements over a further two years. If this bid is successful, we will engage in a series of events to help support the development of workplace learning schemes across the sector.

Kate Geary
IfA Training and Standards Manager

workplace training



Róisín McCarthy giving her paper at this year's IfA Conference in Torquay. © Sarah Cole Photography



A Look in the Rearview Mirror: the archaeologists who built our roads



Kathryn Whittington

The art deco former Rootes garage at Maidstone, from John Minnis' paper on the Car Project. Photo: John Minnis

This session looked at the impact the car and motoring architecture has had on our lifestyles and landscape as well as tracing the way road building has impacted upon archaeology, and the way archaeologists work.

After an introduction by **Magnus Alexander** the first paper by **John Minnis** looked at the English Heritage 'Car Project' (www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.19388), a major national project that examines how the car has transformed the appearance of this country and has made significant changes to the way we lead our lives. John outlined the scope of the project and gave an overview of the type of buildings and structures it is investigating. He also reviewed the way attitudes towards the car have changed over time, from a popular consumer product to embrace, to an item whose impact upon our environment we seek to lessen.

This paper was followed by **Peter Fowler's** history of development of motorway archaeology, focussing in particular on the largely amateur work in the construction of the M4 and M5 in the 1970s (see Peter's paper on page 45 for more details), and how this helped to develop a case for the inclusion of archaeological work in road building projects since, and influenced the development of our profession.

Following on from this, and in a similar vein, was **Trevor Rowley's** look at the M40 Research Group, again in the 1970s. The group's work during the expansion of the M40, ultimately paved the way for what we now know as Oxford Archaeology. The work was undertaken under the direction of Oxford University Delegacy for Extra Mural Studies (now continuing education) using both professional and amateur workers. A coordinated approach was established and the results of the excavations and fieldwork were published. Again it demonstrated how road building has ultimately contributed to the formation of the profession as we now know it.

Eiren Milner then took us forward in time to illustrate how the introduction of PPGs 15 and 16 have shaped archaeology as evidenced by the work of Bournemouth University's Archaeological Investigations Project. In the final paper **Sefryn Penrose** discussed the M1 widening programme and the challenges faced by Atkins Heritage in dealing with a mitigation project that had to consider not only with the more common archaeological phenomena such as a hillfort, but also with the road itself. She described the experimental approach they took, appointing a photographer in residence as well as using more traditional mitigation techniques.

Overall this session took us on a journey if you like, from the beginnings of the profession to what may become the future.

Kathryn Whittington
IfA, PR coordinator

Devon Manor Houses and Landscapes

Robert Waterhouse, of Devon Buildings Group, led a coach party of conference delegates, sharing his in-depth knowledge of south Devon's many surviving historic buildings and beautiful landscape. En route, Robert commented on the historical development of the landscape from its earliest field systems and Iron Age hillforts, right through to the site of Slapton Sands which was used by the US military during World War II to practice for the Normandy invasions.

Our first stop was Dartmouth, one of England's most important medieval seaports, where we visited the defensive site of Bayard's Cove, a fort built in 1534 to command the estuary at its narrowest point. We were also treated to a tour of Dartmouth's surviving sixteenth to seventeenth century merchants' houses, including the Grade I listed Butterwalk, now part of Dartmouth Museum, with its highly decorative timber-framed arcade built in 1635-40 and a rare viewing of the highly ornate plasterwork with mystical Biblical scenes. Sadly we only had time to take in the exteriors of the many historic pubs like The Cherub (c1380) in Higher Street.

Robert's knowledge and local contacts proved invaluable and we were kindly allowed privileged access to access Keynedon Barton, where he traced the development of the complex from a large fourteenth to seventeenth century courtyard mansion with a sixteenth century deer park and banqueting house to the present courtyard farm.

Jon Mullis
BAG Secretary
Jonathan.mullis@jacobs.com



John Mullis and David Divers

Continuing the tradition of the last few conferences, IfA's Buildings Archaeology Group organised tours with local experts.

Torre Abbey

Michael Rhodes, Head of Museum Services at Torbay Council, guided us around Torre Abbey. Founded in 1196, it is the largest surviving medieval monastery in Devon and Cornwall, and Torquay's oldest building. The buildings have had many roles - as an abbey, a family home, art gallery, attraction and venue for the IfA conference drinks reception. Torre Abbey has recently undergone an extensive £6.5 million restoration over three years. In addition to the conservation and repair of the historic fabric, the building was reorganised to improve interpretation and circulation of visitors, who now enter through the medieval undercroft into a new reception area which reflects the arrangement of the cloisters. Other interventions include stairs and a lift in an unmistakably modern style which assists with the reading of the historic fabric. The works also included below-ground archaeology and post-excavation analysis following community programme excavations in the 1980s.

The new challenge for the Abbey is attracting visitors, as its discrete location, set back from the seafront and just outside the town centre, means it is off the beaten track of many visitors to Torbay. However, initiatives such as the hosting of Antony Gormley's *Field for the British Isles* in the medieval barn (until August 23) should help attract new audiences. Michael left us with a positive message about the recession as it was the loss of his job during the early 1990s that was the catalyst for his move to Torbay and his involvement with the Abbey.

David Divers
David.divers@english-heritage.org.uk



A tour of the recently-restored Torre Abbey. Photo: David Divers

conference tours

One of Dartmouth's many timber framed houses. Photo: Kirsten Collins



Rethinking PPG16: a discussion Forum

Andrea Bradley

Following **Roger Thomas's** opening paper (see page 6), a panel made short statements developing their own aspirations for improved practice, including what might be achievable alongside new legislation and policy.

Stewart Bryant, representing ALGAO supported Roger's call for a less adversarial culture and for better standards for curatorial practice. **Rob Bourn** of CgMs, archaeological consultant, focussed on the duty of consultants to sell research and public benefit as a product to developer clients. **Peter Hinton** of the IfA emphasised the need for standards to help protect the public interest, particularly if Local Authority resources are threatened. **David Jennings** of Oxford Archaeology, representing FAME, stressed the importance of investment by the sector in training, and the need for barriers to entry to the profession. **Philip Wise** of the Society of Museum Archaeologists supported Roger's stress on the production of knowledge and understanding in the context of archive and collections management (see page 8 for Philip's full paper).

Open discussion picked up on a number of important themes, but in particular raised the question of the level of detail required in future policy guidance. Should policy specify best practice or simply reflect and encourage it? Could improvements suggested by the panel be achieved without or even despite new policy? The importance of value to society was



Steve Bee of English Heritage and Gerald Wait IfA Hon. Chair during the opening address. © Sarah Cole Photography

central to the discussion, culminating in the prospect of a jointly managed pilot study to investigate innovative means of providing value by analysing exemplars of best practice.

Andrea Bradley

'I'm on the train!' New technologies and the historic environment: a practical guide for geeks, nerds and technophobes

Billed as a review of current projects, ideas and initiatives in the application or potential of technology in the historic environment, the session organised and chaired by English Heritage's **John Schofield** proved to be a stimulating set of well delivered papers. The persistent theme of the majority of papers was the use of commonly available mobile technology, specifically in the form of smart phones, to access data related to the historic environment.

Wessex Archaeology's **Paul Cripps** demonstrated how smart phones with integrated GPS could be used to access heritage - related web content based on the actual location of a user. Free digital mapping such as Google Earth was one medium used to create simple, free tours of monuments and landscapes that can be accessed directly by smart phone users on site or from a PC (tinyurl.com/shenge).

Joseph Reeves outlined Oxford Archaeology's Digisite digital field data concept (oadigital.net) as well as championing their open - source derived 'free IT everywhere' philosophy. This approach minimises costs and permits the same software to be used on multiple platforms, permitting access by a wider range of users.

David Walsh detailed how the City of Lincoln intends to use mobile web technology to allow residents and visitors to access interpretive audio files whilst touring the urban environment. Audio captions could be accompanied by photographs to aid further understanding.

Kostas Arvanitis from Manchester University presented a thought provoking paper on the use of mobile phones as a method of generating awareness of the historical environment, enabling museums to project a presence outside their physical confines into the everyday world.



Johnny Crawford

For those on a budget, **Peter Insole** (Bristol City Council) and **Toby Butler** (University of East London) had both been inspired by audio tours around New York and demonstrated that CD players and iPods can be used to guide visitors around urban and industrial landscapes. Their respective tours around Bristol and London's Docklands add a new level of immersion in the presentation of these environments, creating innovative ways of helping people engage with the past.

Mary Spence, former President of the Royal Cartographic Society reviewed what she considered to be good and bad examples of mapping, reminding everyone of the old aphorism that 'if you put rubbish in, you get rubbish out'; her plea was for the exercise of caution and common sense when using or interpreting data for mapping.

The session was well attended and provoked some useful discussion, demonstrating that existing mobile technology is already being utilised by both professionals and the general public to access spatially relevant heritage data. Developments such as the Heritage Gateway Portal will serve to make access to these data easier than ever and the session left one with the impression that we are on the cusp of a much fuller integration of historic environment data and mobile technology; similar sessions are sure to be seen at future IfA conferences.

Johnny Crawford



Using a mediascape on a PDA to demonstrate the ease of use of this particular technology to people of any age. Photo: Peter Insole



This session brought together speakers representing voluntary, developer-funded rescue and local authority sectors, with papers demonstrating the demands, successes and failures of community involvement in heritage projects within UK archaeology today.



One of our many exhibitors. © Sarah Cole Photography

Dan Hull and **Suzie Thomas** (Council for British Archaeology (CBA) highlighted recent developments with the Community Archaeology Forum (CAF), and the appointment of the Community Archaeology Support Officer. Two years on and the well established CAF has contributions from diverse projects and guidance on a range of topics. However in order to develop further, a better understanding of community archaeology needs to be gained to support those engaged in local heritage research. The recently appointed Community Archaeology Support Officer is currently engaged in extensive research to characterise the nature of community archaeology in the UK, by surveying the many groups and societies involved. The results will form the basis of how 'CAF 2.0' could be facilitated, presented and provided in the future.

www.britarch.ac.uk/caf &
www.britarch.ac.uk/research/community
www.britarch.ac.uk/communitysurvey

Communities in the Field

Moira Greig (Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service) presented the Mason's Mark Project, which combined the expertise of professional archaeologists with the enthusiasm of volunteers from local archaeological societies to carry out research, update records and create a useable database of mason's marks over an extensive area - Aberdeenshire, Angus and Moray.

www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/archaeology

Only weeks into her new role as Education Officer, **Caroline Barrie-Smith** (Hampshire and Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology (HWTMA)) delivered a paper introducing the range of ways used by HWTMA to engage new audiences in Maritime Heritage. Of particular interest is the innovative Community Outreach Van, a Heritage Lottery Funded mobile resources facility that enables activities and information to be utilised all over Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. All sectors of the local community can become involved and the van is fully accessible with a wheelchair ramp and SEN provision.

www.htma.org.uk

Helen Bradley (Archaeology Scotland, and co-chair of the session) gave a brief presentation outlining the Adopt-a-Monument Scheme, an initiative from Archaeology Scotland (formerly the Council for Scottish Archaeology). The scheme, sponsored by Historic Scotland, is helping communities to conserve, interpret and make accessible their local heritage, by providing hands-on support and a range of resources. The scheme, in its current form, has been running for two years and is now working with groups across Scotland from the Borders to Shetland.

www.scottisharchaeology.org.uk/projects/adopt

As co-chair the author also gave a brief summary of the projects initiated, partnerships formed and communities involved during the first 18-months of a 3-year Heritage Lottery Funded Community Archaeologist post based at Heritage Enterprise (Surrey County Council). The projects have been many and varied, but recognised that as the project funding is time-limited, building successful

Abby Guinness

relationships with partner organisations is key to providing possible opportunities for future funding, support and activities for project participants.

www.surreycc.gov.uk/archaeology

Although there appears to be widely differing cultural values, attitudes and expectations among the various stakeholder groups currently working in or consuming archaeology in Scotland, **Dr Ellen McAdam** (Glasgow Museums) discussed that over the past five years the traditionally 'art collection' focussed Glasgow Museum Service has been working on changing perceptions by becoming involved in several major initiatives to develop public engagement in archaeology. Recent projects include the Regional Research Framework for Local History and Archaeology in the West of Scotland, Glasgow City Council's Local History and Archaeology Strategy, and the M74 continuation project public archaeology programme.

www.glasgowmuseums.com

Justin Hughes (Workers Educational Association (WEA)) outlined his involvement with the Yorkshire and Humber WEA, which recently completed a community archaeology project in South Yorkshire. The organisation recruited adult learner groups from a range of backgrounds to take part in local archaeological fieldwork, offering training to people who have not had the opportunity to explore their local heritage through traditional academic routes. The project was a real success with over 80 students taking part in structured learning courses in the classroom and in the field. As a result the WEA now has a full set of teaching collections and resources with which to expand the range of archaeological courses it can offer, providing further practical, accredited learning courses. The archaeological profession can build on this success, adapting other accredited learning programmes, to encompass the needs of students who wish to enter the profession as practitioners or to begin formal study at pre-degree levels.

www.britarch.ac.uk/news/20090213-weaseminar
www.wea.org.uk/yh



The final two papers focussed on recent outreach projects in East Sussex involving volunteers from local archaeological and metal detector societies. **Greg Chuter** (East Sussex County Council) reviewed a large-scale excavation of a Roman roadside settlement and rescue excavation within a newly discovered early Saxon cemetery. **Lyn Palmer** (East Sussex County Council) introduced the new Heritage Lottery Funded Weald Forest Ridge Historic Environment Awareness Project, which works with local communities to gain a more detailed understanding of the historic environment of the area, which is heavily wooded. It will undertake a LiDAR survey and the results incorporated into toolkits for investigating woodland archaeology, which will be created and tested with community groups, and left as a legacy at the end of the project.

www.eastsussex.gov.uk/archaeology
www.highweald.org

Abby Guinness

Community Archaeologist
 Heritage Enterprise, Surrey County Archaeological Unit, Surrey County Council



One of the social events. © Sarah Cole Photography

community involvement



Illustration and Survey: what do we need?

Kathryn Whittington

IfA's illustrators and surveyors special interest group have produced a survey on current employment and practice (this can be downloaded from the IfA website at www.archaeologists.net/modules/icontent/inPages/docs/groups/ISSIGsurvey.pdf). It has provided us with a considerable amount of data about practitioners and current practice at a useful point in time.

This work was used as a starting point for this session. The session began with a paper from **Rob Read** about working conditions for illustrators and surveyors. It compared the positions of those employed in these roles, their pay, status, equipment etc, relative to other parts of the sector. The position of freelance operatives and issues surrounding copyright were also explored.

John Hodgeson gave two papers, one on the changing nature of illustration and survey work, the types of graphics that are being produced, and what trends can be observed. Following on from this he examined the changes to methodology that can be observed. He discussed what sorts of technology and methodology were currently in use, and perhaps most importantly whether they fulfil their purpose as part of a viable archive.

Steve Allen and **Colin Berks** examined the need and viability of establishing standards for the production of illustration and survey material. This was related to the needs of the profession as a whole. Linking in to this **Rob Read** then discussed the types of training that need to be made available in order to enable illustrators and surveyors to produce work that will form part of an effective, comprehensive archaeological record.



Delegates at the conference took advantage of many excellent opportunities for photographs. © Sarah Cole Photography

Finally **Garry Gibbons** discussed the Visualisation in Archaeology (VIA) project (www.viarch.org.uk/). This English Heritage funded project is designed to initiate applied, cross-discipline research to research and explore the impact of visualisations in the construction and dissemination of knowledge resulting from archaeological investigations. Garry discussed the project aims and objectives and gave an update of the project's first year of operation.

Kathryn Whittington
IfA, PR Coordinator

M5 in Memoriam

Peter Fowler

This paper was given as part of the 'A look in the rearview mirror' session at this year's conference and was well received. We thought members unable to attend would like to read about this interesting part of the profession's early history.

The archaeological response to the construction of the M5 motorway through Gloucestershire and Somerset, 1969-74, was a pioneering and fortunately unrepeatable episode in twentieth century English field archaeology (echoed in the parallel story about the simultaneous construction of the M4 through Wiltshire). For a short paper at the 2009 IfA conference, I was asked to 'recall the day-to-day reality of working on these large infrastructure projects, how they were organised, the work patterns and conditions, and ... to explore the social history of our profession through oral testimony.' This summary is based solely on the memories of four people involved with the M5: Nigel Spry, Gloucester, and Brian Murless, Taunton, both amateur archaeologists, David Miles, our first paid excavation Director, and the writer, at the time a member of staff in Bristol University's Department of Extra-Mural Studies.

In 1969 a meeting held in Bristol under CBA auspices considered the archaeological implications of the construction of the M5 motorway. Many local archaeological societies and groups were represented, as were representatives of the motorway construction contractors; the presence of Prof 'Peter' Grimes and Dr Raleigh Radford ensured that we enjoyed a national profile and a sense of status from the start. The meeting appointed an M5 Research Committee. The only 'official' threat was to a possible Roman site on the M5 line. Ironically, upon investigation it failed to materialise, while the M5 produced over a 100 previously unrecorded 'sites'.

Initially, no-one was paid to do M5 archaeology. The exercise always was overwhelmingly an amateur effort, based on the participation in a centralised, standardised scheme of reconnaissance and record of key amateur societies and groups like the Gloucester and District Archaeological Group and the Bridgwater Archaeological Society. The M5 line from north of Tewkesbury to the Devon border was divided up into a series of lengths, characteristically 2-3 miles long and 1/4 mile wide to take in off-line construction

works such as widening approach roads. Volunteers were at best present only on sufferance yet, despite often working in circumstances which simply would not be contemplated nowadays, several hundred people worked archaeologically on some 220 miles (350 km) of motorway construction of the M4 and M5 through three counties over 5 years without, so far as I know, an accident.

In practice the work was largely done by a small number of individuals – for example, Nigel Spry, the late Bernard Rawes and colleagues either side of Gloucester, the late Bob and late Ann Everton, Bill Solley, Michael Batt and John Drinkwater in south Gloucester/North Bristol, the indefatigable late Madge and late Charlie Langdon in the Bridgewater area, Collin Clements, Brian Murless, the late John Bentley and the late Marion Newsom in the Taunton area. Most such people had been to extra-mural archaeology courses over the preceding decade. Mostly with full-time jobs, they recorded the M5 in their lunch breaks, in the evenings, at weekends and by taking time off work.

At first there was no time for advance fieldwork; we were almost totally overwhelmed in north Gloucestershire. The late Edna Linnell alone stood between a poor record and no record at all in the Tewkesbury area where we first encountered the noise, the mud, the speed of material removal and the sheer, remorseless power of the myriad machines. They all induced a sense of hopelessness. Survival came in



'on sufferance ... working in circumstances which simply would not be contemplated nowadays': salvage excavation, centre right, on the M5 amid 'the noise, the mud, the speed of material removal and the sheer, remorseless power of the myriad machines'. © P.J.Fowler



A brief interlude for rescue excavation after initial machine-scraping as the M5 slices through the Gloucestershire landscape at Brookthorpe on the 27 June 1969, recorded in an airphotograph by Jim Hancock. © J. Hancock

M5 in memorium

'... on and of clay, with little in the way of obvious features': Bathpool medieval site outside Taunton, Somerset. © P.J.Fowler

those early months, 1969-70, because the construction contracts were let irregularly in sequence from north to south; so in central and south Gloucestershire and in Somerset as a whole, we were able to effect a change from salvage to rescue to controlled archaeology as we first worked alongside, then just ahead and finally months ahead of the machines.

Fieldwork results were assimilated with documentary and other sources of evidence in central and south Gloucestershire and parts of Somerset. Vital central roles were played by specialists like the late Jim Hancock, an amateur air-photographer, and Frances Neale who turned her professional archival and documentary skills on to a crash programme of examining historical maps and place- and field-names along the whole route. Such information contributed to dossiers for each parish, field and site which were built up and sent to the local fieldworkers who in turn sent field notes back to 'central HQ' i.e. my office.

Centrally and locally, we also engaged in what would now be called 'community archaeology'; then it had no name because it was common sense. We participated in many interviews and on-site broadcasts on radio and TV. We also organised an annual M5 Symposium at which those who had been or were at that moment in the thick of it reported briefly on their experiences and results. We had some worrying moments too – as when, after a Friday evening newscast about skeletons on the M5, our



single most important excavation, a rare Iron Age settlement and cemetery at Christon in the western Mendips, was overrun, not by bull-dozers but by visitors on the Sunday afternoon.

As the archaeological enormity of our work dawned, we became able to mount advance excavations. Stephen Green excavated a Bronze Age cairn on the Failand Ridge, for example, and the late Martin Forrest excavated a medieval farm nearby. Soon, we were able to appoint an M5 archaeologist and then a small digging team on a site by site basis. We were even able to help one or two of the reliable groups financially: Nigel Spry reminded me that in 1971 I generously granted him £36 for a week's excavation of a Roman site at Stoke Orchard.

We had great difficulty in recruiting good archaeologists: people like current IfA members were few on the ground. Our first M5 archaeologist ended his brief career with us when he departed to a post overseas, taking with him the written and graphic record of the Christon excavation. We never saw him or the records again, nor did we ever receive the promised report. One of our first paid diggers was a superficially scruffy individual who nevertheless somehow conjured stratigraphy and ard-marks out of a glutinous, muddy swamp of Rhaetic Clay in south Gloucestershire: he was called David Miles. In David's team of five, as well as the future Chief Archaeologist of the as yet undreamt of English Heritage, were the future Keeper of Archaeology at the National Museum of Scotland and the future County Archaeologist of Essex; but at that stage each was an hairy man, paid £15 a week. David bought a fire-damaged caravan for £10 so that they could live on site because 'management' i.e. me, did not pay expenses or an accommodation allowance.

Yet David's impromptu digging team worked all hours, week after week, because they were glad to be working in archaeology: 'We worked seven days a

week out of choice, so keen were we to do archaeology, and it was better to be doing that than not doing archaeology.' M5 made great demands of others too: Brian Murless, articulating what many found, commented that the whole experience was 'disruptive' of personal life.

Another reason for the long hours was the need to use local amateur help and, conversely, the need to provide excavation opportunities for people who may have found the site in the first place. Inevitably, a distinction between amateur and professional excavations emerged, though the difference was not so much over digging as about interpretation. The nature of our excavated M5 sites compounded the problem, for many were on and of clay, with little in the way of obvious features. They were difficult to excavate and very difficult to interpret. Criticism of interpretation was not, however, merely of amateurs by paid archaeologists: as one of the former remarked of a paid site supervisor: 'He produced the evidence alright, but it didn't make sense.'

Forty years ago, as our M5 experience began, there were no PCs or laptops, no mobile phones, no faxes, no internet, no e-mail, no digital photography, no GPS, no rapid geofizz, no availability of national AP, no developer-funding, no macho luminous jackets and no hard-hats, indeed an absence of much that is archaeologically now taken for granted. I had forgotten the extent to which archaeology in 1969 was of a different world from that of 2009. Nor had I realised that so many of my former colleagues and friends have turned up that one-way road off the great interchange in the sky, taking with them insights, stories, memories of their M5 years. Nigel Spry's overall assessment is: 'We are proud of what we did. None of us are unhappy with what we achieved.' For Brian Murless, the M5 marked the moment of 'archaeology in transition', adding 'I think we were sort of brave.'

Reviewing the M4/M5 exercises in 1979, I wrote (*Archaeol J* 136, 1979, 25): 'The great age of motorway construction, as with canals and railways before, is already over. It is curious to sense that, having seen the archaeology of two of its largest constructions through from start to finish, we have already seen that archaeology and its context become a part of modern social history and the motorways themselves potential ancient monuments of a century hence.' My phrase 'archaeology and its context' was innocent of the concept that we ourselves, the individuals involved in the first coherent archaeological response to motorway construction, were or would be of any historic interest; yet, if the IfA invitation behind this note is anything to go by,



M5 in memorium

the living as well as the dead of the M5 experience have already become history.

Peter Fowler

Further reading

General accounts written at the time are: Fowler P. 1972, 'Field archaeology and the M5 Motorway 1969-71: some provisional results, analyses and implications' in Fowler E. (ed) *Field Survey in British Archaeology*, CBA: London, 28-38
Fowler P. 1973 'Motorways and archaeology' in Rahtz P. (ed) *Rescue Archaeology*, Penguin: Harmondsworth, 113-129

Basic record publications:

Dawson D. et al 2003 'Archaeology and the M5 motorway: the gazetteer of sites in Somerset', *Proc Soc Somerset Archaeol Nat Hist Soc* 145, 39-52
Fowler P. et al. (eds) 1971, 1973, 1974, 1976 'Archaeology and the M5 Motorway ... 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Reports', *Trans Bristol Gloucestershire Archaeol Soc* 90, 22-63; 92, 21-81; 93, 1011-30; 94, 47-91

For an overview, with full bibliography to 1978, see: Fowler P. 1979 'Archaeology and the M4 and M5 motorways 1965-78', *Archaeological J* 136, 12-26

The latest of single site M5 reports is:

Rippon S. 2008 'Coastal trade in Roman Britain: the investigation of Crandon Bridge, Somerset, a Romano-British transshipment port beside the Severn Estuary', *Britannia* 39, 85-144

'... overrun by visitors on the Sunday afternoon' in March, 1970: popular interest in a rescue excavation of an Iron Age settlement and cemetery, Christon, Somerset. © P.J.Fowler





The Winter Gardens.
© Jason Wood



Celebrating the Counter-Intuitive Heritage of Blackpool

The conference session on Seaside Heritage, organised by Allan Brodie of English Heritage, was a lively affair. Here, Jason Wood offers his take on his home town of Blackpool as it aims for World Heritage Site status.

Boarding houses.
© Jason Wood



Blackpool is a place that continues to polarise opinion. The very mention of it can reduce normally level-headed, intelligent people (most of whom have never set foot in the place) to gross over-reactions and extraordinary displays of ignorance. Those of us who were born in the town have grown immune to such intolerances and attitudes and when confronted have developed mechanisms of self-parody adeptly to diffuse potentially awkward situations, while at the same time encouraging whoever it happens to be to disregard the media stereotype and to look beyond rusting piers, smutty postcards and drunken stag and hen parties. For others – current and former residents, those who derive their views from informed commentators, and not forgetting the 10 million visitors who still go there every year – Blackpool holds a special attraction and a unique position in the national consciousness.

For some that attraction is rooted in those very uneasy and unofficial aspects of the town that its detractors so abhor or misconstrue – the otherworldliness of the place, its quirkiness and edginess. Blackpool does not do subtle. It wears a wicked smile. It is not a place for the fainthearted. It purveys eccentricity, hedonistic indulgence and freakery, combined with a bawdy sense of humour.

Bill Clinton perhaps neatly summed it up with his qualified endorsement following a visit to the resort: 'I like Blackpool. The weather's great and the town's kinda ... sleazy isn't it?' This maybe not everyone's idea of affirmative brand recognition (indeed it probably falls squarely into the local Council's marketing consultants 'Yesterbrand' definition) but it's one that is in keeping with the town's unmistakable character, outlandish sense of fun and daring and its overall contribution to human happiness.

In several articles, my colleague John Walton and I have asserted that Blackpool, as a pioneer town for popular tourism in the nineteenth century, and still today synonymous with fun and excitement, constitutes a unique cultural landscape – a meeting point and melting pot of contested and contradictory spaces and a living, evolving expression of the industrial archaeology of the popular seaside holiday and entertainment industry. Evolving is the key word here. The place is not some evolutionary 'dead-end'. It has constantly been in flux, at the forefront of invention, innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship (as expressed enduringly in the town's motto, 'Progress') yet the resort has always retained its core identity and ambience and sustained its distinctive atmosphere of revelry and participation, with an impressive array of surviving architectures and built environments dedicated to the provision of leisure and enjoyment.



Noah's Ark. © Jason Wood

For those harbouring traditional notions about the content and nature of heritage Blackpool poses a difficult yet fascinating challenge. Until recently the town was rarely associated with the word 'heritage', but aversion to this apparently incongruous juxtaposition is slowly beginning to change with widening recognition within the heritage sector of the economic and cultural significance of the seaside in British society and beyond. However, when the Council first revealed its ambitious, but not unreasonable, plans to put Blackpool forward as a potential UNESCO World Heritage Site – as the world's first working-class seaside resort – many in the heritage sector considered the bid audacious and counter-intuitive, and joined, initially at least, in the widespread media condescension towards, even

outright hostility to, the proposal. This was culture shock rather than cultural heritage.

But once the mirth and disbelief over Blackpool's World Heritage Site ambitions had given way to serious thought it became clear that there was a genuinely important case to answer, and one that provocatively inverts much of the current debate and parlance surrounding the evaluation and monitoring of World Heritage Sites. For example, current concerns about the impact of tourism, tall buildings and tram systems on World Heritage Sites are no concern to Blackpool. Tourism is seen as a welcome benefit, not a negative impact. Blackpool's tallest building, the Tower, at over 500 ft, has dominated the skyline since 1894, and as a Grade 1 listed building and official 'Icon of England' would form the centre piece of a World Heritage bid. The introduction of new tram systems to World Heritage Sites has been particularly contentious in places like Edinburgh and Florence. In Blackpool, the pioneer public electric street tramway opened in 1885 and is still operating.

Making the case for such a unique site will require a unique kind of bid; one that embraces changing perceptions of, and conflicts around, the heritage of the recent past, further stimulates the overlap between archaeology and popular culture, and squarely confronts the mind set and hostile prejudices that see Blackpool as the antithesis of heritage.

Jason Wood
jwhcs@yahoo.co.uk

Further reading:

John K Walton and Jason Wood, 'Reputation and Regeneration: History and the Heritage of the Recent Past in the Re-making of Blackpool', in L Gibson and J Pendlebury (eds), *Valuing Historic Environments*, Farnham: Ashgate (2009), 115-137.



Blackpool Tower.
© Jason Wood



Members news

Allison Borden, Aifa 5706

Allison has recently joined Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd as their Buildings Archaeologist. Based in the Edinburgh office, Allison will be primarily responsible for conducting historic building analysis and surveys.

Allison has degrees in architecture and urban planning. She also holds an MSc in Architectural Conservation from Edinburgh College of Art, and publication of her research on early reinforced concrete structures in Scotland is forthcoming.

Before relocating to the UK in 2006, Allison had served as a local authority urban design and conservation officer in the US for seven years and is a certified planner (AICP). She comes to Headland after completing an English Heritage Professional Placement in Conservation (EPPIC) with the Architectural Investigation Team in York.

She has also undertaken independent planning consulting work both in the United States and in Scotland. In addition Allison was one of three researchers supporting the expansion of the Dictionary of Scottish Architects (DSA) database (see

<http://www.codexgeo.co.uk/dsa/index.php>) into the post-1940 period through a partnership with staff at Historic Scotland.

This appointment adds a new dimension to Headland's Historic Building Recording team and moves it further into the architectural conservation sphere.

For further information contact allison.borden@headlandarchaeology.com.



Allison Borden

Jessica Grimm, MfA

Jessica Grimm studied archaeology at the University of Groningen, Netherlands. Her specialisation into zooarchaeology began by analysing the animal bone material from a Late Bronze Age farmstead near Rodenkirchen, Germany as part of her master's thesis. After several years as a research fellow in Germany and some time as a freelance zooarchaeologist she came over to the UK. Since the end of 2005 she has been the zooarchaeologist at Wessex Archaeology. Jessica has been analysing animal bone assemblages from a wide area and with a time span ranging from the Palaeolithic to almost modern day as well as expanding Wessex's reference collection through the sourcing and preparation of skeletons. This has not made her popular with those colleagues in possession of a fine nose.

Jessica has a strong academic background and has been exploring ways to disseminate the results of her

zooarchaeological work in such a manner that they contribute to the project and also to wider academic research. She hopes for a future where there is a stronger collaboration between the commercial and academic sides of the profession, and across Europe.



Jessica Grimm

S New members

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ELECTED	Member (MIFA)	Associate (AIFA)	Practitioner (PIFA)	Affiliate	Student
	Rhodri Gardner	Cara Jones	Piotr Brozyna	Joseph Bampton	Fiona Bradshaw
	Stuart Leather	George Luke	Heather Cope	Hannah	David Howell
	Donald Shimmin	Laura Strafford		Buckingham	Stuart Ladd
	Giovanna Vitelli			Hayley Forsyth	Thomas Mahoney
	Gwilym Williams			Mandy Jay	Alex Mulhall
				Iain Pringle	Deborah Pitt
				Robert Scrimgeour	Emma Welsby
				Michael Whitty	

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TRANSFERS	Member (MIFA)	Associate (AIFA)	Practitioner (PIFA)	Student
	Richard Conolly	Richard Cramp	David Godwin	Victoria Park
	Sally Dicks	Andrew Walsh	Andrea Hamel	
	Jessica Grimm		Robert McCubbin	
	Andrew King		Roy Riches	
	Timothy Longman			
	Matthew Smith			
	Jeremy Taylor			

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We would like to thank everybody who has continued to support the Institute through their continued membership in these difficult times. We appreciate that times are hard for many and that membership of the IfA does come at a financial cost. We are in the fortunate position of being able to offer reduced rates for some members who meet the criteria as part of our recession plan, but are nonetheless grateful to those who have been in a position to continue to pay full membership subscriptions. We continue to monitor the situation and take steps to help our members and Registered Organisations while times are challenging, as well as looking forward to plan for a future when circumstances may be easier. For more information please see the recession page on our website (www.archaeologists.net/modules/icontent/index.php?page=219)