

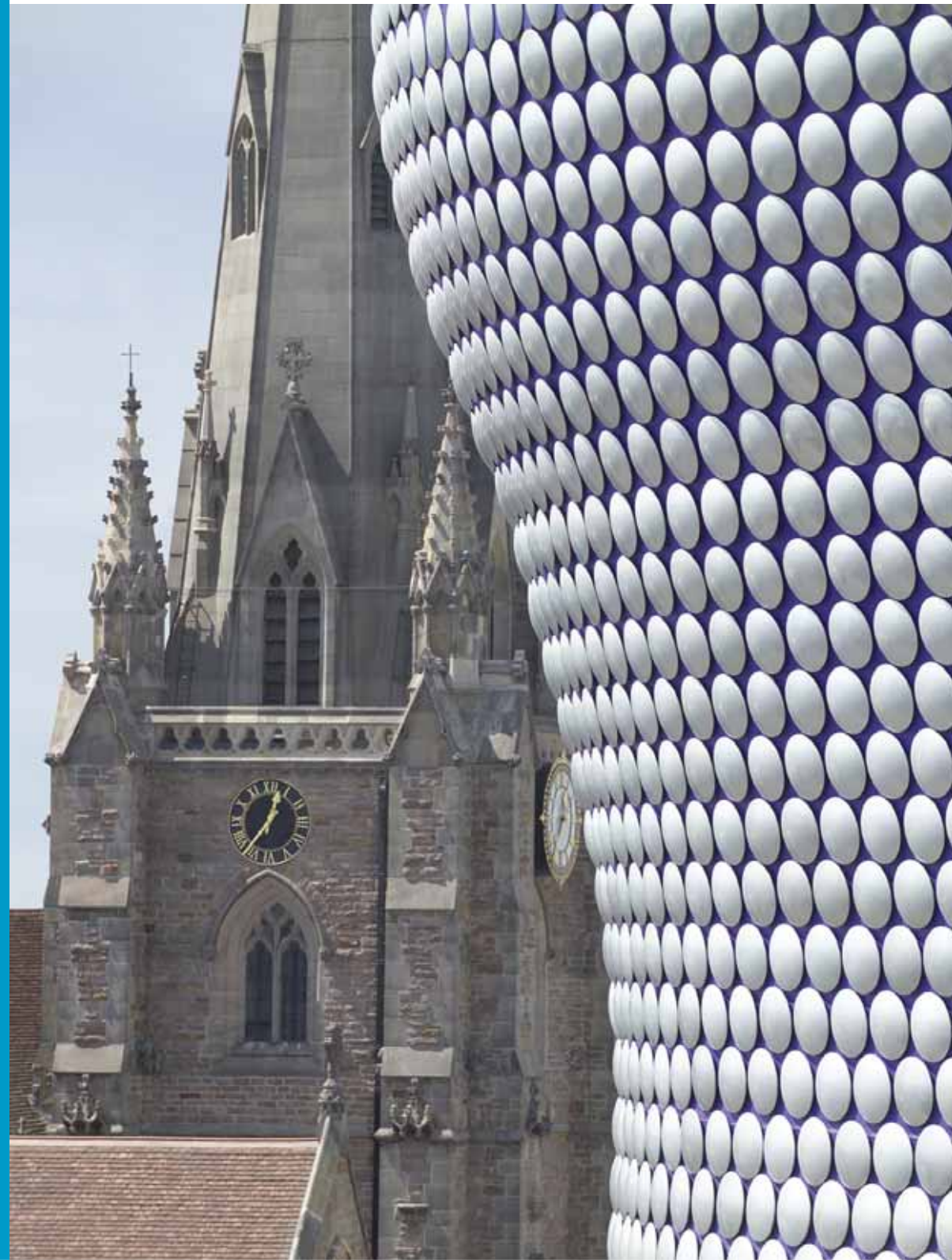


Summer 2005
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The ARCHAEOLOGIST



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This issue:

**WORKING IN
HISTORIC
TOWNS
and
THE IFA ANNUAL
REPORT**

**Bullring and
beyond**
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monuments in
today's urban
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urban survey
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The ARCHAEOLOGIST



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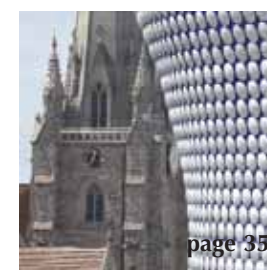
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Work in historic towns, the theme of this *TA*, is the bedrock of many archaeological careers and was the key issue that sparked the rescue boom of the 1970s. Winchester, one of our most interesting historic towns and the birthplace of much innovative work (including, as we learned in March, of the Harris matrix) was an ideal place to reflect on how much has been achieved as well as how much needs to be done, during our Annual Conference. In addition to the headline events, several conference sessions addressed these points, and are reported here. These include the changing nature of historic environment records, the importance of influencing policy makers (and the approaches this needs), and a new urban policy that has been developed by ALGAO.

Within the urban theme, this issue of *TA* has been able to pick up on a few examples of work currently in progress in centres as disparate as Edinburgh and Nantwich. Significantly, such work is providing useful practical lessons that will affect practice in other centres, and will contribute to the preservation in situ debate. Also within the urban context, we have an update on English Heritage's urban survey programme, an answer to the needs for strategies before we approach problems and analysis once data are gathered, and a scientific contribution on the value of pollen analysis in towns.

The Annual Report, an essential part of our publication programme, gives formal details of the hard work various committees have been involved in this year. This includes the exceptional work of our Groups (Maritime and BAG have excelled this year in their involvement in special issues of *TA* as well as organisation of their own conferences) as well as the core contributions of committees such as Validation and RAOs.



David Jennings, retiring Chair of IFA and new father of twins

Within the IFA office, Beth Asbury was promoted to replace Nick Davis, and Sonya Nevin was appointed to replace her. Tim Howard joined us as recruitment officer in July, and I will reduce my hours from September to concentrate on publication.

Finally, congratulations to IFA Chair David Jennings. He has just become father of twins Ophelia Neave and Vianne Grace, who join brother Oscar. The family all seem to be doing well, but David was understandably not able to write his valedictory View from the Chair at the same time – apologies for this.

Alison Taylor
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Notes to contributors

Themes and deadlines

Autumn: Working with finds
deadline: **15 September 2005**

Winter: Environmental archaeology
deadline: **15 December 2005**

Contributions and letter/emails are always welcome. 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 are best supplied as originals or on CD, scanned at a minimum of 500kb. More detailed *Notes for contributors* for each issue are available from the editor. Views expressed in *The Archaeologist* are those of contributors, not necessarily of IFA.

EDITED by Alison Taylor, IFA, SHES, University of Reading, Whitenights, PO Box 227 READING RG6 6AB

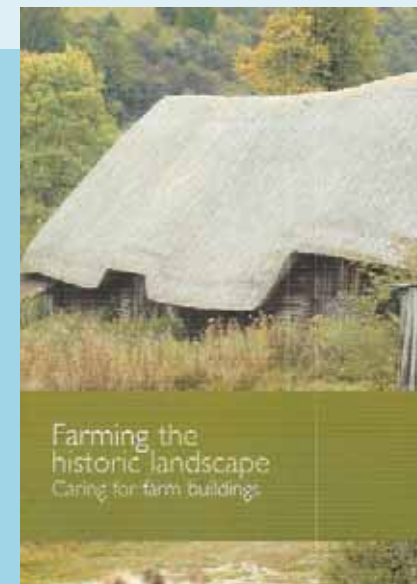
DESIGNED and TYPESET by Sue Cawood

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FROM THE FINDS TRAY

Farming the Historic Landscape

English Heritage has completed publication of a series of leaflets *Farming the Historic Landscape*, which provide guidance on best practice in managing the heritage of England's farmland. Separate leaflets have been published which deal with historic farm buildings, parkland, archaeological sites in arable and grassland areas and the implications of Environmental Stewardship. A booklet provides a general introduction to the historic environment aimed at professional farm advisers. Free copies are available from EH Customer Services on 0870 333 1181 or by emailing customers@english-heritage.org.uk, or can be downloaded from www.english-heritage.org.uk/farmadvice and the Historic Environment – Local Management website www.helm.org.uk.



Scotland's Policy on Carved Stones

This strategy document sets out policies and guidance for care and protection of carved stones (a generic term that include prehistoric rock carvings, Roman, early medieval, later medieval and post-reformation sculpture; architectural sculpture and fragments, and gravestones) in Scotland. It concentrates on carved stones still physically associated in some way with their place of manufacture or one of their stages of use. It includes guidance on legal protection, raising awareness, conservation strategies and practice, including intervention, research and information, and best practice. *Carved Stones: Scottish Executive Policy and Guidance* is available on www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/carvedstones

Archaeology and Education conference

1-4 September 2005
York, St John University College
The fourth biennial conference organised by the CBA for all those are interested in archaeology and education will cover all sectors of education, from work with schools to higher and adult continuing education. Sessions will include presentations of current good practice, discussion of issues and themes, practical activities and visits to sites. Enquiries should be made to Don Henson, tel. 01904 671417, fax 01904 671384, education@britarch.ac.uk

FROM THE FINDS TRAY



English Heritage strikers picket the Eastern England office in Cambridge

English Heritage staff strike

Amazingly, Prospect members in English Heritage marked the Summer solstice with synchronised walk-outs across the UK, in protest at an imposed below-inflation pay award (just 1.5%). There was picketing at Savile Row and at regional offices in

Swindon, Guildford, Cambridge, York, Newcastle, Manchester and Bristol, and tourist attractions, from Stonehenge to Hadrian's Wall, were affected. Nearly 500 members had voted to take industrial action, reflecting the frustration over pay and the management attitude towards staff concerns. Prospect negotiator Dave Allen said: 'These cuts strike at the very heart of the organisation's ability to extend its educational remit into schools and colleges, while its architectural resources, which are so well-used in the preservation of the country's physical heritage, will be diminished. Instead of preserving the nation's cultural heritage DCMS have left English Heritage struggling to appease its undervalued staff. But the decision to impose another poor settlement and bypass any consultation process with the unions has forced staff to make a stand.'

CV Surgery with Doctor Lynne Bevan

Lynne Bevan has run IFA's Jobs Information Service since 1991, and has therefore seen a huge number of job descriptions and been in touch with most of the employing bodies.

Users of JIS often write to me asking what they are doing wrong, having applied for numerous jobs without a single interview. After a quick scan of their CVs the reasons are apparent. An archaeological CV should start with a profile of the individual, followed by sections on their educational and career history, and any publications and conference papers. If it is inadequate, out-of-date, full of unnecessary details or typographical errors it will stop you getting the job. I have therefore compiled this checklist of potential CV pitfalls.

Education

Following graduation you do not need to cite every school exam grade. Surprisingly many people forget to include their degree class, so it looks as if they got a third class or pass. Though some employers will specify no less than a 2:1 degree for certain senior posts most employers value your track record over degree class. If you have a postgraduate degree state the date, title and awarding university. Include a paragraph on your thesis topic, especially if relevant to the job you are applying for. Include any degrees or courses you are currently working on.

Employment

Keep your CV up-to-date, listing all employers, length of service and the main sites you have worked on, with type of site and period. Keep a precise record of your employment history and all relevant documents for regularly updating your CV.

When you start in field archaeology you should amass as much practical site experience as possible. If you haven't had paid work make the most of your experience as an undergraduate or volunteer, especially if this involved supervisory duties, surveying, data entry, finds or environmental work. As you progress ensure your CV reflects your increased supervisory and project management experience. Job descriptions are increasingly specific regarding the level of responsibility expected for staff grades and you will have to demonstrate that you are ready for increased responsibility. Your CV must reflect this. If making the transition to a heritage-related post working with the public, draw on aspects of work experience, including supervising volunteers and school students, talks to the public and visitors and dealing with the media.

Non-archaeological work experience

Many people make the mistake of mixing archaeological and non-archaeological work experience. List any non-archaeological jobs briefly under a separate heading after your archaeological experience, drawing attention to any useful and transferable skills/experience, eg computing; financial control; report writing; event management; working with volunteers and different age groups; photography and drawing.

Publications

Many adverts for more senior archaeological staff (Project Officers or Managers) demand an excellent standard of English and sound writing skills, as well as, increasingly, 'additional specialisms', perhaps in finds or building recording. Make sure that all your reports are listed under 'Publications', even if they are in press or forthcoming. Cite your references as you would in a bibliography. Include a separate section entitled 'Client Reports', and list any papers you have presented at conferences or day schools.

Tailoring your CV to the job description.

A common mistake is to fail to tailor your CV to the job description. You might have relevant experience but if you do not draw attention to it the employers

will not interview you. If your work experience has been in different fields, site based archaeology and sites and monuments work, for example, your CV should emphasise the most relevant experience. Time spent adapting your CV will not be wasted as you can reuse different versions when applying for similar jobs.

Overcoming prejudice

Ageism and sexism are alive and well in most professions, archaeology being no exception. You can give yourself a better chance by not stressing your age, marital status or whether you have children, particularly if you entered archaeology as a mature student. It is also a common misconception that if people want to dig in their 30s, 40s and beyond without climbing the career ladder they are losers.

Other information

Mention any relevant training or first aid courses, and your driving licence. It is not necessary to mention hobbies and interests, which may actually stop you getting jobs, particularly if they might be construed as weird or demand a high level of commitment. Likewise, annual digging trips abroad will show up in your CV and might stop potential employers taking you seriously.

Referees

Many organisations take more notice of references than CVs. If someone cannot write anything good about you it is better they decline to write at all. Some people give a bad or lukewarm reference while others will scribble down inaccurate references or fail to produce one, so be very careful. Unless specified on the application form you do not have to use your current or last employer. Be creative in who you choose, make sure they are on your side and are respected in their own right, and always obtain permission before you cite them.

Good luck,

Lynne Bevan
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CV Surgery

Finds Group and BAG

THE POTENTIAL OF BUILDINGS ARCHAEOLOGY AND BUILDING MATERIALS

The day school highlighted the scope and value of the two disciplines, with common themes that included the need for

- research agenda, to make better and more accountable decisions
- project designs to provide for specialist input at an early stage
- the historic environment to be promoted as part of new development schemes.

Ian Betts drew attention to the shortfall in funding for synthetic research. He was also cautious about current research frameworks becoming too prescriptive. Pat Reynolds used moving maps to show how 'short wall anchors' spread throughout the world with Dutch building techniques, enlivened by observations about ethnicity and identity. Phil Mills showed how studying a CBM assemblage can elucidate status, cultural identity, the wider economy and the impact of urban form,

At the Imperial Pottery, Hanley, the planning condition was only implemented for below-ground archaeology. So the standing building was not recorded and virtually none of it remained to be excavated. © David Barker



joint conference:

as well as informing us about dating and formation of a site. Sandra Garside-Neville demonstrated the development of Ceramic Building Materials (CBM) studies, and how information can be lost when CBM is discarded without study.

David Barker emphasised the need to record a building while still standing, as opposed to just its foundations. This still doesn't happen often enough. Bruce Watson and Nigel Jeffries peopled a row of nineteenth-century tenements using excavated, artefactual and historical evidence, again raising questions about ethnicity, when building survey formed the basis of successful community projects in Stoke. The new scheme will include public display of the findings

Stephen Dean emphasised the importance of historic environment policies based on specialist advice informed by data collection, to give an holistic approach. Understanding a resource before making decisions is stressed in guidance such as Staffordshire County Council's *Conservation within the Highway: Structures of historic importance*. Oliver Jessop and Mark Douglas deconstructed a group of recently recorded pubs in Sheffield. Unless considerations such as setting, historical context and salvage are explicit in briefs and specifications, developers won't pay for them.

The papers are published on the Group's page of the IFA website.

The seminar on 9 June 2005 was organised jointly by the IFA Finds and Buildings Archaeology Groups with the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials (CBM) Group. More information about the Archaeological Ceramic Buildings Group can be found at www.geocities.com/acbmg1/. The groups hope to work together to achieve higher standards for archaeological work in the future.

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Winchester



The urban cycle of understanding: new policy from ALGAO

Brian Durham

At the IFA Liverpool conference, ALGAO Urban Committee introduced some forward thinking (*Rolling start, urban policy from ALGAO*). A lot was motherhood-and-apple-pie, but some initiatives were progressive and others were glue for joints that had not opened up yet. Coming on the back of ALGAO's core strategy, it was never intended to be prescriptive, but when we contemplated issues that an urban curator might encounter there were



several blindspots. For instance, faced with conflicts in setting a brief, curators ought to be able to fall back on criteria that would give an objective scoring system.

Following Liverpool, a draft document was circulated, and partners asked to help implement the more progressive parts before releasing an agreed text. English Heritage officers responded, and we met Colum Giles who leads their strategy on urban research (*English Heritage Strategic Plan 2005-10* (forthcoming)). This was an opportunity to review the ALGAO document in their perspective, particularly the 'cycle of understanding'.

Research frameworks and reasonableness

ALGAO's own research interest is targeted on what a local authority curator needs to justify a planning condition, and to defend it at inquiry. It is unreasonable to ask a developer to address aims that are speculative unless they are relevant to those most affected, the local community and visitors. A soundly argued, targeted, achievable and communally acceptable research framework, adopted in regional spatial strategy, is a vital part of the 'cycle of reasonableness' that we need to keep PPG16 operations looking lean and hungry.

Impartial guidance

Regional frameworks need to be qualified accordingly. Urban sites are often only a small part of a larger monument, and may depend on future investigations to place them in context, so the aims may only be achievable over space and time, and dependent on actions of others. The urban curator's recommendation can be contentious, and it is important that there should be an informed body able to advise impartially. There is no substitute for local feel, so a supplementary recommendation is that each curator should be able to call on a relevant forum for guidance. And because urban sites may have upstanding historic structure, we must unify our aims with the requirements of conservation officer colleagues in IHBC.

Researching preservation

Intellectual research aims must still be part of a sound preservation strategy: it is ironic that the mantra of 'preservation in situ', our ethical yardstick and strongest negotiating peg, is weakened by experience in York where it was invented. Another century down the line our successors may find important sites bristling with successive piled foundations, while the organic deposits we sought to protect have shrunk away (Davis et al 2002). A vital research area is therefore to understand the

Fragile complexity in a lift shaft: Excavators at 1-15 Spurriergate, York, record Anglo-Scandinavian organic deposits beneath a ground floor slab. MAP Archaeological Consultants. Photograph: Brian Durham

Conference session

Preservation in situ: Impact at the new Lincoln City and County Museum was minimised by retaining the slab of the former car-park, and reusing piles. The mosaic in this lift shaft was lifted and will form an attraction in the Roman displays. © APS/Lincolnshire County Council



hydrological and microbiological principles that have preserved Anglian York. Another technical concern is 'brown land', which is relatively more likely to include archaeological remains but carries no presumption of investigation before bulk disturbance for remediation purposes (Durham 2004).

Research does not stop with the brief: the aims must be addressed on site, the results assessed against them in the report, and where they are inconclusive, the report and archive must jointly include sufficient data that can be reassessed. This is especially important on urban sites, which can only be properly interpreted when several sites are brought together. Therefore we are backing our 'cycle of understanding' with a plea for essential data such as the stratigraphic matrix for any site with an 'urban' level of complexity.

Intellectual appetites and design of communities
Satisfying communal intellectual appetites is important, but the developer should be getting something back too. So the cycle branches to include feedback to spatial planning and the design of communities. Modest as we are, we remain *par excellence* the students of settlement design, the ultimate human ecologists, we probe unashamedly into the underskirts of our communities and come up with plausible models of the morphing they must have gone through.

As an economically successful nation, the UK needs to create new communities, and designers should expect to come to us for advice on how existing

successful places have evolved and how they might go on evolving successfully. Towns that are growing organically may demand a lighter planning touch than those growing speculatively, *ergo* an increased bureaucratic efficiency that might please government. There may come a time when the 'presumption of preservation *in situ*' is so well established that we can campaign for a more challenging yardstick, 'presumption of organic growth'. The world may thank us.

Brian Durham
ALGAO Urban subcommittee

Brian Durham is Archaeologist to Oxford City Council. Views in this article benefit from advice from ALGAO members and other colleagues; they do not necessarily represent the views of Oxford City Council.

ALGAO policy framework for urban places, Draft June 2004 available from algao.cji@btinternet.com

Davis M, Hall A, Kenward H and J Oxley 2002 'Preservation of Urban Archaeological Deposits: monitoring and characterisation of archaeological deposits at Marks & Spencers, 44-45 Parliament Street, York', *Internet Archaeol.* 11

Durham, B 2004 'Cleaning up: protecting deposits on brownfield sites under EIA', in T Nixon, ed, *Preserving Archaeological Remains in situ*, MoLAS, 239-248.

Buildings: where next?

Catherine Cavanagh

Are buildings archaeology? **When** should they be recorded? **Who** is responsible? **What** type of recording is appropriate? **Can** buildings archaeology elucidate social aspects of living and working in historic towns? Buildings archaeology is a rapidly expanding field, but how much has really changed in ten years? IFA Buildings Archaeology Group (BAG) ran a half day session to address these questions

Edward Roberts, author of *Hampshire Houses 1250-1700*, studied changing life-styles derived from the dendrochronological study of buildings, in his talk *Living in Trees*. A sixteenth-century barn tells the tragic story of its owner trying to establish himself in county society. Tree ring dates also showed how owners adapted to the 'Great Rebuilding' by converting medieval open halls. Simon Roffey, University College Winchester, introduced a technique for analysing church fabric. His recording template for chapel recording has been used on eighty chantries and chapels in Hampshire, Wiltshire and Somerset. The highlight of his talk was the spatial and visual interpretation of structures arising from this methodology.

Oliver Jessop, ARCUS, explored current English politics, where inconsistent Government policies directly impact on our work. With responsibility for heritage and development control split between the DCMS and the ODP, how do we reconcile conservation with pressures of brownfield development, regeneration and house building? Will the current Heritage Protection Review lead to a more consistent approach in recommending conditions, writing briefs and monitoring building investigation?

Based on his experience as a chartered surveyor, Bob Hill, Wessex Archaeology, challenged us to produce better reports in order to impress and educate our clients. We agreed more training is needed, and debate led to the suggestion that BAG update the IFA's *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (if only to shorten its name).

Jeremy Lake, English Heritage, gave a psychedelic tour of historic farmsteads. Characterisation shows

the topographical impact of past and present social, economic and cultural activity, and colourful patterns emerged, the above ground equivalent of drift geology maps, illustrating distinct areas of land use. A pilot project in Hampshire is informing future management and research priorities. Andrew Westman, MoLAS, then entertained us with lessons learned from twentieth-century buildings, including those demolished without record. Documentary research complemented physical and social divisions evident from internal layout.

Debate, led by our chair, Marilyn Palmer, emphasised that archaeologists should be confident enough to advise on design of new development, based on the significance of existing structures. Our understanding of how buildings functioned and the people who lived and worked in them is valuable in this process.

Full papers are available at www.archaeologists.net/buildings

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BAG logo designed by Brian Tattersfield to reflect a wide range of buildings from Roman to post-medieval periods.

Getting upstream: influencing the decision makers

Taryn Nixon and Ian George

This session examined how archaeologists can engage with strategic decision-makers to develop our key messages: that the historic environment is a catalyst for regeneration; heritage provides iconic buildings and brings pride to business, tourist and residential communities; heritage attracts business.

The session began by noting that archaeologists have become vocal about their contribution to regeneration agenda and their potential to help create sustainable communities, evidenced in documents and published case studies from a range of organisations, but our message is still not being embraced. The session went on to question method as much as message.

Wally Kumar, Development Securities (Projects) Ltd, discussed the Paddington Central

development, detailing the complex master planning exercise which emerged in the context of wider principles of accessibility, improved public realm, mix of uses, community support, environmental sustainability, durability and quality design. A wider strategic vision was set out by Paul Hudson of SEEDA, who explained how successful regional development was founded upon sustainable use of natural resources, competitive businesses, community participation and local leadership. Paul Finch of CABE set the world of major developments into an historical and design context with a vision of the character of places being enhanced by intelligent, imaginative and high quality design. As creators of tomorrow's heritage we need to create places in which people *want* to live and work.

Kate Clark showed what a key role in the historic environment and in regeneration HLF now has, with annual expenditure of £300M. Given the appropriate tools heritage professionals can influence decisions, but the profession needs a far clearer vision of its priorities in a competitive environment.

Malcolm Cooper predicted dangerous waters ahead. He argued that incremental changes across the profession and in society were likely to have a cumulative effect which was unpredicted and may not be to our advantage. He encouraged more explicit debate about our possible futures and preparation to face the future through well-tested strategic thinking.

The validity of the message was not in doubt: heritage can unite communities and stimulate public debate; heritage is a catalyst for regeneration; heritage does contribute to the economy. However, we have to improve the way we convey our message. We need to be absorbed into Codes that place heritage at the heart of urban design from the outset, and therefore need to be enshrined in policy.

To get into policy we need legitimate views, demonstrably valuable ideas and hard, persuasive data. How should we gather the data? We could commission original research; other sectors use think tanks and professional lobbyists – why shouldn't we? And how should we communicate our benefits to a high quality urban landscape? It was suggested that characterisation projects will prove one key tool for engagement.

In any event, an effective public communications strategy will be paramount.

Taryn Nixon
MoLAS
Ian George
English Heritage

Training in Archaeology: Workplace Learning Bursaries Workshop

Kate Geary

IFA has been awarded a grant by HLF to develop a bid for funding workplace learning bursaries in archaeology (see TA 56). This conference workshop explained the background to the project, how the bursaries might operate and whom they could benefit, and it was an opportunity for delegates to have their say. It was attended by Hannah Cobb and Ange Brennan of the Higher Education Academy HCA Archaeology Subject Centre who presented the results of their Fieldwork Evaluation Project. The workshop was well attended, with debate on the wider issues surrounding training in archaeology as well as those relating specifically to the project.

We discussed potential overlap between the HLF bursary placements and those already offered at undergraduate and graduate levels, notably by Bradford University and Oxford University Department of Continuing Education. Another major issue was the level of bursary, as cost, both for employers and for trainees, is one of the biggest barriers to skills development in archaeology. The aim of the project is to offer bursaries

commensurate with the 'going rate' for the role for which training is being provided.

Archaeologists from academic, contract and curatorial sectors attended and contributed to this session, and their comments and discussion have informed the development process. The full bid has now been submitted and we are expecting the HLF response in December. If successful, we plan to recruit trainees early in 2006.

Fieldwork Evaluation Project

Hannah Cobb and Ange Brennan reported the findings of the Fieldwork Evaluation Project which explored staff and student expectations of fieldwork placements. The aim was to determine what current archaeology students think of the practical aspect of their course and whether it was a useful inclusion in an undergraduate degree. Initial results suggest that students greatly valued this experience. Seventy-five per cent expressed an interest in pursuing an archaeological career as a result of the practical elements of their course.

The IFA is building closer links with the HEA Archaeology Subject Centre and we look forward to working with them on future projects.

Kate Geary
IFA Training and standards co-ordinator
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Getting upstream: MoLAS Excavations at Shoreditch this July attracted politicians to meet local children involved in investigations of the site of war-damaged housing in their local park. Photograph: Alison Taylor

A regeneration issue: Bedford Castle Mound and gardens

Jeremy Oetgen

Motte and bailey castles are characteristic of medieval towns, but urban castles can be neglected, unsightly wastelands. With the help of Albion Archaeology, Bedford Borough Council is showing that it is possible for a local authority take a grip on a problematic historical site and make it a distinctive urban landmark.

Often seen as a rather nondescript town, albeit with nice parks and an attractive riverside, Bedford, like many towns, faces competition from out-of-town shopping and larger centres like Milton Keynes and there is a run-down feel to some areas, highlighted by recent issues including yob-culture, vandalism and petty crime.

To counter this, the Council wants to stimulate regeneration by promoting

- the riverside (Bedford's 'jewel')
- heritage (history and diversity)

- distinctive retailing and leisure facilities
- improvement of the High Street area

There is great unlocked potential in Bedford's heritage. The town is a Saxon foundation and, although a tradition that Bedford was the burial place of King Offa is probably spurious, we do know that two *burhs* were established on respective sides of the river. The original layout probably survived through the Middle Ages and is retained in the modern street plan.

Capture and neglect

Bedford's short-lived castle was built before 1130, on the south-east quadrant of the northern *burh*.

Bedford: the north bank of the River Great Ouse in 2002. From left to right are St Paul's Church (rebuilt after the 1224 siege of Bedford Castle), the Town Bridge (SAM), and the historic Swan Hotel. Behind the clump of trees at far right is Castle Mound before the recent improvement work



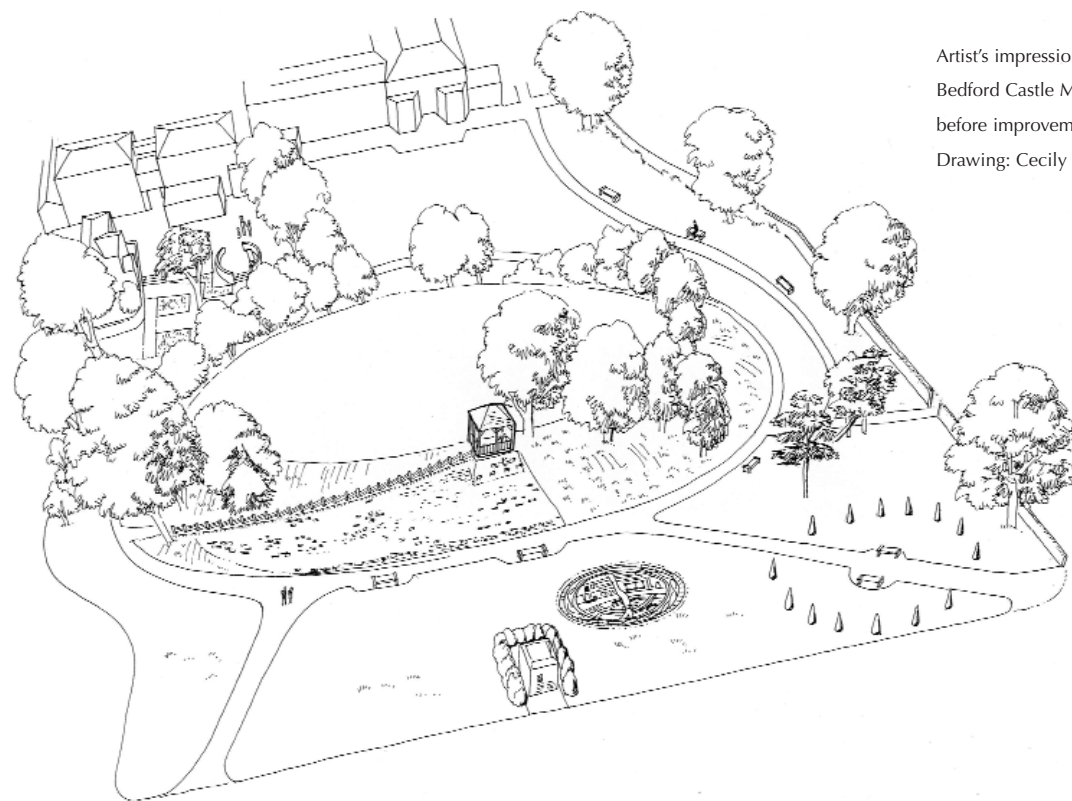
Henry III ordered it destroyed in 1224, having captured it from unruly baron Falkes de Breauté.

The baileys were eventually built over and all trace was lost. Between 1969 and 1973, David and Evelyn Baker carried out excavations in advance of threatened redevelopment of the bailey area. Significant medieval and Saxon remains were found, but development did not proceed and the land is now an open-air car park.

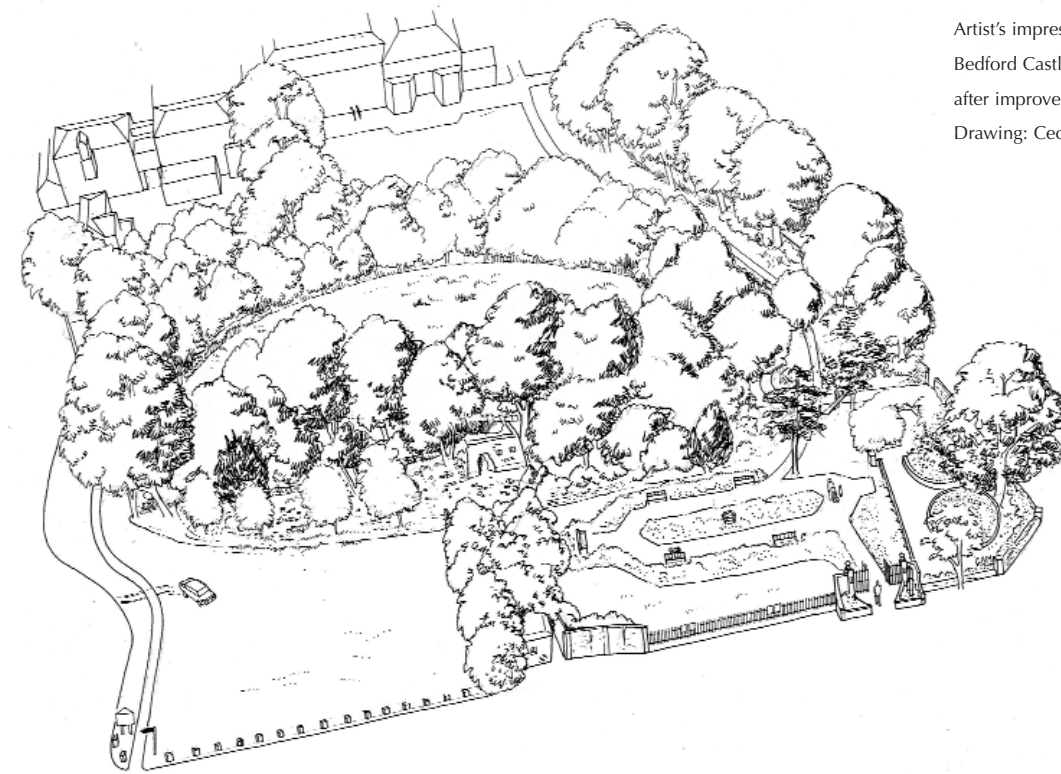
The massive motte survived and is now known as Castle Mound. The earthwork was occupied by a garrison in the Civil War. Afterwards, the top

became a bowling green and in the nineteenth century an ice house was inserted on its northern side. The southern face was altered with walls and a summerhouse on a projecting stone platform, and ornamental trees were planted on the slopes. Despite being scheduled, the mound fell into neglect and its flanks became overgrown with trees. Eventually it became unsafe and had to be closed to the public.

For decades, the Borough Council had grappled with the problem of how to manage the site. It occupies a key location in the town, between the prestigious riverside Embankment and the High



Artist's impression of Bedford Castle Mound before improvement.
Drawing: Cecily Marshall



Artist's impression of Bedford Castle Mound after improvement.
Drawing: Cecily Marshall



History and diversity: Bedford's First Generation Italian club members enjoy a dance on the lawn at the top of Castle Mound, which was reopened to the public in 2004 after many years as a no-go area.
Photograph: Helen Parslow

Street. Buildings to the north house the cultural assets of Bedford Museum, Cecil Higgins Art Gallery, and the BCA Gallery. Surveys show that the public is strongly in favour of developing the town's heritage, with the improvement of Castle Mound high on their wish-list.

Stabilisation and improvement

Albion Archaeology is working closely with the Borough Council, English Heritage and the local planning archaeologists to develop an effective strategy for the management of the whole archaeological resource in the Castle Lane area. The Improvement Scheme and Monument Management Plan set out proposals for stabilisation and conservation of the mound; creation of a useful and attractive public space, and provision of interpretation and education materials. Stabilisation and improvement of the site were a priority, since interpretation would be pointless while the monument remained in a poor state. Success in tackling these problems would also inspire

confidence in the Council's ability to manage heritage-led regeneration of the rest of the Castle Lane area, and improve chances of external funding for future projects.

Regeneration of Castle Mound included

- removal of modern clutter and structures, creating a unified space for public events and opening up views
- selective felling and pruning of trees, improving visibility and condition of the earthwork, whilst retaining its wooded character
- restoration of stonework and repair of paths and steps
- creation of new features of interest, including a timber-frame shelter on the mound and public art
- re-routing paths, to draw people into the site
- improved safety and security

Last year's British Archaeological Awards judges commended the project (*TA 54*). Improved access encourages the public to appreciate and value the monument and fosters awareness of the history of the town. Most importantly, it has shown that Bedford is serious about its heritage and wants to see its past built into its future.

Jeremy Oetgen
Albion Archaeology (Bedfordshire County Council)

What a difference a year makes: recent developments in historic environment records

Martin Newman

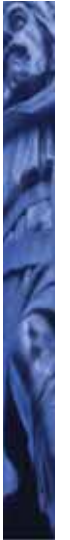
There hadn't been a session devoted to SMRs/HERs at IFA since the Brighton conference in 2000. Since then the sector has undergone considerable changes, most dramatically over the last year, and continued radical changes seem assured. In fact there probably hasn't been a more interesting point in the evolution of HERs since their conception. As Paul Gilman put it a recent paper in *Internet Archaeology* Cinderella could finally be going to the ball.

At the Brighton conference ALGAO launched its strategy for SMRs, *Local Records National Resource*, so it was apt that the first paper in this session delivered by Ken Smith set out ALGAO's vision for the future. One of the principal recent developments has been the establishment of a benchmarking standard to accompany the planned statutory status of HERs. Issues raised by this and the resources required to achieve it were discussed by David Baker in a paper written with Gill Chitty and Rachel Edwards. How to transform an SMR into a true Historic Environment Record was a theme that ran through the presentations and was specifically addressed in two papers, a case study from Worcestershire presented by Victoria Bryant and a Welsh perspective on HERs from Marion Manwaring and Jeff Spencer.

Another development has been concerned with outreach. The Brighton session had come shortly after HLF had outlined its support for SMRs in *Unlocking Britain's Past*. This has recently been updated for HERs by English Heritage and ALGAO and retitled *Unlocking Our Past*. A number of projects have taken advantage of this funding stream, one of which was outlined by Chris Webster and Talya Bagwell from Somerset County Council. There was also a user's perspective by Neil McNab, archaeological consultant for Scott Walker. This paper addressed issues such as variation in service across the country and the usefulness of online records. Digital archiving was addressed by Catherine Hardman and Kieron Niven from ADS. This very practical paper included back-up, data migration, security, refreshment and documentation.

The session also helped promote the Historic Environment Records Forum, and discussion of these themes has continued on its email list. The Forum organises twice-yearly meetings and publishes Historic Environment Record News. Membership is free and open to all. To join contact nick.davis@english-heritage.org.uk

Martin Newman
English Heritage



Public archaeology

Don Henson

Interest in the past has rarely been higher, with people keen to watch archaeology on television, read magazines, visit sites, and most importantly get involved in active investigation of their personal or locality's past. New technology has increasingly played a part in helping archaeologists reach out to this public, and in providing archaeological content for education.

David Dawson from the Museums, Libraries and Archives council highlighted the potential that was largely untapped or soon to be developed. For example, the internet is a potent tool, allowing people to input the results of their own research or comments on the work of archaeologists. We have hardly begun to explore the potential of third generation mobile phones and links from these to the internet. Andrew Jones from the York



Explore an early Anglo-Saxon village



Archaeological Trust showed how YAT's website was making some of these aspirations a reality. Through the Integrated Archaeological Database, people could access the whole finds database of particular excavations by the Trust, eg <http://www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk/wgate/main/archive.php>, and could input, amend or comment on records themselves. Jon Kenny showed how the Archaeology Data Service, <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/>, was providing a mass of data to the public, and how this supports higher education and professional and local research. For educators, they were developing through PATOIS online tutorials in how to use resources for teaching and learning, <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/learning/>.

Cathy Grant from the British Universities Film and Video Council explained how web-based resources like EMOL, <http://www.emol.ac.uk/>, provide higher, continuing and further education with a wealth of audio-visual materials. Members of the BUFVC had access to the off-air recording service's archive of television programmes for use in teaching. The Portable Antiquities Scheme already has its growing finds database online, and Dan Pett and Cei Paynton showed us their new website, based around an interactive Anglo-Saxon village, <http://www.finds.org.uk/village/index.html>. The session ended with Rebecca Jones from RCAHMS exploring Canmore (its online database), and its extension through Pastmap with Historic Scotland, <http://www.pastmap.org.uk/>. RCAHMS will also be looking to see how its data might become accessible through mobile phones.

This is only a taste of the session and does not cover the good discussion at the end, which covered issues relating to the use of ICT by the public, such as archive security. The digital age is upon us, it is thriving and leading to exciting new ways of reaching out to our public.

Don Henson
Council for British Archaeology

First steps in exploring life in an Anglo-Saxon village through a new interactive PAS website

CONFINED IN THE DEPTHS OF EDINBURGH

Ronan Toolis

The investigation of urban archaeological sites can lead to complex health and safety, logistical and engineering issues not encountered in rural sites. Urban archaeological requirements may lead to archaeologists working in very different conditions, even from other construction industry workers on the same site.

For instance, while the main contractor of an urban development site may only be concerned with deep foundation trenches or driving down piling, using machines at the top ground level, the archaeologists may first be required to bodily reach the depths of that hole. Obviously, the deeper an excavation trench the more unstable the sides become. The easiest way of overcoming this is to step the sides, thereby maintaining a stable angle to the trench sides. However, within a small urban location, this is not always possible.

DIGGING 8M DOWN

One way such a problem can be overcome was demonstrated at AOC Archaeology Group's recent evaluation of the medieval graveyard of St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh. This was within a small courtyard surrounded on three sides by five-storey buildings, set on the steep south slope of Edinburgh's Old Town. From the start, AOC Archaeology was faced with problems in assessing the spatial distribution and depth of archaeology here. As the depth of the nineteenth-century foundations of surrounding buildings was unknown, it was imperative that the evaluation should not destabilise the walls. This was compounded by results from earlier boreholes, which indicated that potential archaeological deposits *four metres* deep were overlaid by an overburden of made ground that was *also four metres* deep. This was a peculiar result of the local



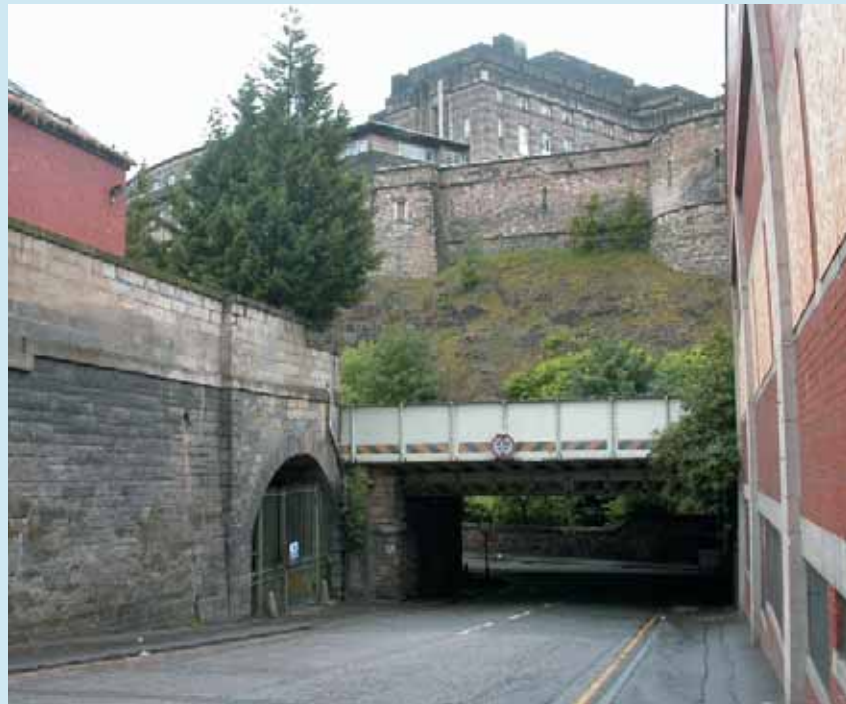
The AOC evaluation of the former medieval graveyard of St Giles

topography of the Old Town of Edinburgh, set as it is on a ridge with steep slopes south and north. We therefore had to plan for an evaluation trench 8m metres deep.

The solution for AOC and the main contractor was to step the ends of the trench to maintain a stable 45° angle between the base of the evaluation trenches and the adjacent walls. The sides of the trenches were supported with man-hole boxes 3m x 3m. These were pushed down as



AOC Archaeologists entering the Crawley Tunnel



The Waverley
Vaults entrance

the excavation continued, the archaeologists excavating no more than 300mm below the box plates to ensure that no archaeological remains were damaged as the boxes were pushed down.

OTHER HAZARDS

Trenches 8m deep raise other problems of course. One is the removal of significant amounts of spoil. At the St Giles' Graveyard site, this was overcome using a tray lowered by the site machine excavator, onto which spoil could be loaded. However, because of the operation of a machine within such a limited space, access



into the trench had to be carefully managed; access routes were demarcated and scaffolding erected to enable the archaeologists to safely enter and exit. Another problem of the sheer depth was that the base of the trenches effectively became confined spaces, with a significant potential hazard from the build up of gases. Gas monitors were constantly employed to ensure that if a critical level was about to be reached, the archaeologists would be alerted. The archaeologists were also required to wear harnesses so that they could be quickly and safely brought to the surface.

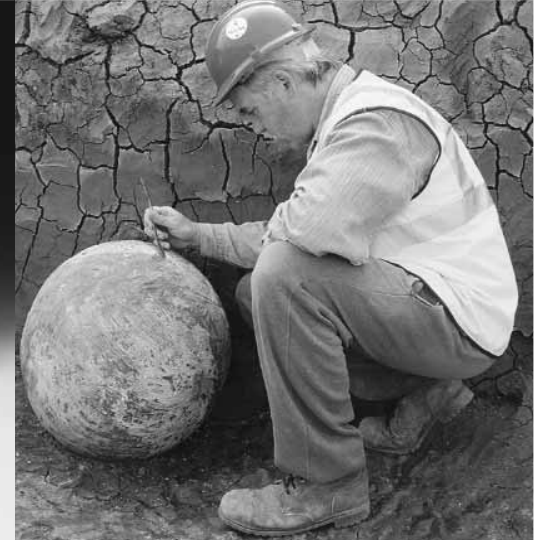
TRAINING FOR SAFE WORKING

In situations like this a proper programme of staff training pays dividends. Because our staff have undertaken confined space training, the company can not only react in a competent manner to situations that develop during a long term project, such as the evaluation of St Giles' Graveyard or the investigation of the Crawley Tunnel, Edinburgh but also to plan ahead, for example for evaluation and excavation beneath Waverley Station. In this last case, AOC Archaeology was required to use heavy plant within nineteenth-century vaults that had not been designed with adequate ventilation for the emission of plant fumes (the reason the vaults were closed in the 1960s). Archaeology works required a temporary ventilation system to be installed to create a sufficiently strong air current to ensure carbon fumes did not build up. While anyone can employ specialist contractors to carry out this work, the archaeologists were required to *monitor* the gas levels to ensure that the system of safe working was operating efficiently and to *take* appropriate action if gas levels approached a critical level.

In designing a safe system of work, flexible working practice is required to enable archaeologists to work safely to the peculiar conditions of any individual site – which means a training programme that enables staff to deal with any problem a site can throw at them.

Ronan Toolis
AOC Archaeology
Edgefield Road Industrial Estate
Loanhead
Midlothian EH20 9SY
ronant@aocscot.co.uk

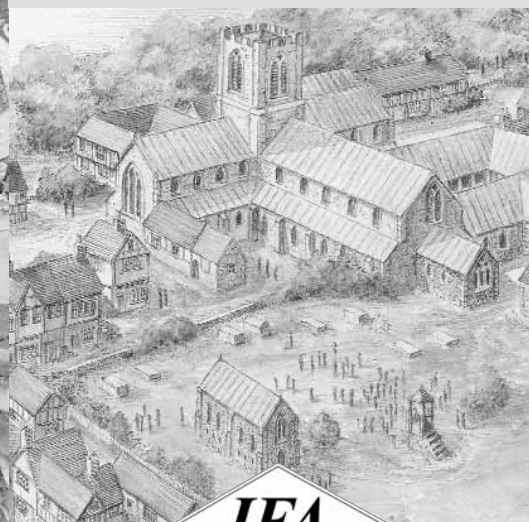
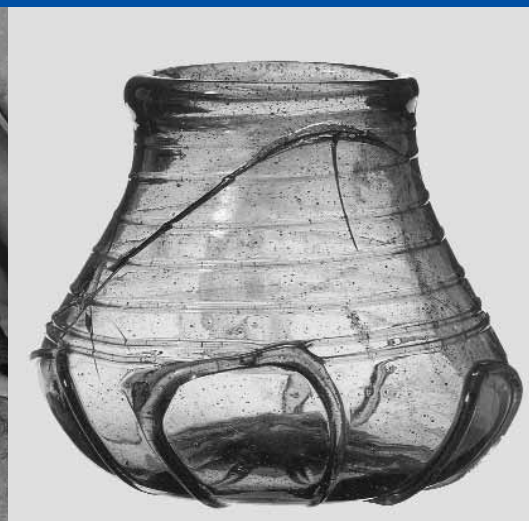
The working environment of
Waverley Vaults prior to the
evaluation



THE INSTITUTE OF FIELD ARCHAEOLOGISTS

Annual report 2004/2005

Covering the period July 2004 to June 2005
with financial statements for the period 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005



IFA

SETTING STANDARDS IN ARCHAEOLOGY

Company Registration
Number 1918782

ANNUAL REPORT 2004/2005

COVERING THE PERIOD JULY 2004 TO JUNE 2005

WITH FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2004 TO 31 MARCH 2005

REPORT OF THE HONORARY CHAIR

Given the complexity of interests and issues on which archaeology impinges it is unsurprising that IFA has a broad-ranging, intricate and context-sensitive strategic plan that requires considerable subtlety in its implementation. At every turn over my six years on IFA Council and this last year as the Honorary Chair, I have been aware of the diversity of our members' interests, roles and responsibilities. This is before beginning to consider the breadth of the 'external' environment in which we operate as archaeologists.

Against this background, it is to be expected that our objectives are pursued over a number of years and deploy a range of strategies. To this extent, I report on similar developments as previous Chairs. To the impatient, however, I suggest this is not a sign of weakness but of the gathering maturity of IFA and the profession as it tackles large-scale and difficult challenges that face our sector.

Therefore we have continued to make progress in relation to terms and conditions of employment. A Diggers' Forum has been established and we continue to work with Prospect and SCAUM on national pay initiatives. Furthermore, the minimum salaries requirement for the RAO scheme is under active review and this benchmark continues to encourage improvements in pay. The RAO scheme now has 48 organisations. This year has seen improvements in the complaints procedure and streamlining of the scheme's administration (see report of Hon Vice Chair, Standards), and we are making it more attractive and relevant to Higher Educational establishments and curatorial bodies.

Further improvements have involved an increase in the number of staff; enabling more effective handling of membership services and enabling us to develop towards our strategic goals.

We have continued to explore the longer term goal of chartered or similar status and our dialogue with National Heritage Agencies relating to the implementation of the Valletta Convention has been maintained.

In terms of representing the sector, IFA continues to exercise a strong presence, responding to consultation documents and being actively involved in collaborative efforts with other institutions to promote improvements and recognition of the sector at Governmental level. Indeed, much of our strategy is reliant on good working relationships with other heritage bodies, and working together is a fundamental component towards effective representation and recognition of our concerns in the wider community.

Whether the conference address by Tessa Jowell represented a coming-of-age or an election year is a moot point. It is indicative that the IFA is recognised by Government as the leading professional institution for archaeologists in the UK, hard-won recognition that represents many years of sustained effort; it is also a solid foundation on which we can build a beneficial future.

At this point it is appropriate and a pleasure to acknowledge and thank all of the hard work that is put into making IFA a vital and progressive body. The Institute has a very dedicated and capable cadre of staff, who carry forward the strategic plan with considerable skill, tenacity and perseverance. This team is supported by the Executive, Council and numerous Committee members who give their time and skills often far in excess of that which might be reasonably anticipated. We are grateful for their continued contribution. Equally we would like to thank the project sponsors that enable us to develop and drive forward initiatives beneficial to the

development of the sector. Their support has enabled us to pursue numerous initiatives that it would have been difficult to develop from within our internal resources.

Finally, I would like to turn my attention to that which I conceive is still our most pressing issue – the need to continue to drive our membership levels upwards. All our aspirations will, I believe, be predicated on more comprehensive representation of our sector. In this regard we still have a long journey ahead and all members need to perform an advocacy role for the Institute.

On a personal note, over the last six years I have learnt much and worked with many excellent people, such that I am assured that our positive agenda for archaeology can and will be achieved. It is transparent that the future will be challenging and that we will need to sustain our efforts. However, the IFA will undoubtedly perform a critical role in the development of our sector.

David Jennings
Hon Chair of Council

REPORT OF THE HONORARY TREASURER

REPORT OF THE HONORARY TREASURER

In line with the IFA Strategic Plan, Council has continued to pursue the following strategies

- S4.9: We will 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: We will generate income
- S4.10: We will manage our investments
- S4.11: We will pursue a sound pricing policy
- S4.12: We will manage the key risks to our financial security
- S4.13: We will maintain adequate financial control procedures.

I am grateful to Alex Llewellyn, Andy Taylor (our accountant) and Ross Brooke (our auditors) for preparing the company accounts.

The Income and Expenditure Account for the financial year 2004-5 shows a higher surplus than predicted for the year of approximately £40,000 (see Income and Expenditure Account below). Although this is to be welcomed, it is also a matter of concern, as the financial viability of the Institute remains heavily dependent on the income generated from externally-funded projects and, as been demonstrated in previous years, the income from projects provides a volatile element in the IFA budget. On the other hand, income derived from subscriptions and application fees for the year fell short of the budget, largely as a result of the recruitment targets not being met. Losses are predicted for the next few years

The surplus for the year has been added to the reserves, which the Balance Sheet shows stand at just short of £290,000 (see Balance Sheet below). A proportion of the reserves are restricted to cover expenditure in the event of a financial crisis; in light of the recent rises in the Institute's financial commitments this figure needs to be increased by £30,000 to £160,000, and an appropriate recommendation will be placed before Council in mid-2005. The remaining reserves provide a financial base on which to plan expenditure to further the aims of the Institute's Business Plan, including the provision of adequate staff resources to run the Institute's affairs, the promotion of recruitment, and the expansion of the Institute's publication programme. In light of the volatility of the Institute's income, as described above, Council will continue to exercise prudence over the use of the reserves in order to provide protection for the Institute's core activities in the event of serious budget deficits.

Jack Stevenson
Hon Treasurer

THE DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2005

The directors who served the company during the year were:

NAME	POSITION	
Beverley Ballin Smith, MIFA		
Stephen Briggs, MIFA		
Kayt Brown, AIFA	Hon Vice Chair, Personnel and membership	
Catherine Cavanagh, PIFA		
Christopher Clarke, PIFA		
Hester Cooper-Reade, MIFA	Hon Secretary	
Michael Dawson, MIFA		
David Gaimster, MIFA	Hon Vice Chair, Outreach	
David Jennings, MIFA	Hon Chair	
Clare King, MIFA		
Philip Mills, AIFA		
David Parham, MIFA		
Roy Stephenson, AIFA		
Jack Stevenson, MIFA	Hon Treasurer	
Jeremy Taylor, PIFA		
David Thackray, MIFA		
Joanna Bacon, MIFA		(Appointed 27 Sept 2004)
Patrick Clay, MIFA		(Appointed 27 Sept 2004)
Veronica Fiorato, MIFA		(Appointed 27 Sept 2004)
Geoff Morley, PIFA		(Appointed 27 Sept 2004)
Roland Smith, MIFA	Hon Vice Chair, Standards	(Appointed 27 Sept 2004)
Robert Woodside, MIFA		(Appointed 27 Sept 2004)
Evelyn Baker, MIFA		(Resigned 27 Sept 2004)
Annette Hancocks, MIFA		(Resigned 27 Sept 2004)
Jonathan Parkhouse, MIFA		(Resigned 27 Sept 2004)
Deborah Porter, MIFA		(Resigned 27 Sept 2004)
Mark Turner, AIFA		(Resigned 27 Sept 2004)
Robert Zeepvat, MIFA		(Resigned 27 Sept 2004)

The following directors are to retire from the board at the Annual General Meeting in accordance with the Articles of Association:

Mike Dawson*
David Jennings
Roy Stephenson*
Jeremy Taylor*
Robert Woodside*

Directors marked with an asterisk are eligible for immediate re-election and may therefore be re-nominated.

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company at the end of the year and of the surplus or deficiency for the year then ended.

In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to select suitable accounting policies, and then apply them on a consistent basis, making judgements and estimates that are prudent and reasonable. The directors must also prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. The directors are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

AUDITORS

A resolution to re-appoint Ross Brooke Limited as auditors for the ensuing year will be proposed at the annual general meeting in accordance with section 385 of the Companies Act 1985.

SMALL COMPANY PROVISIONS

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part VII of the Companies Act 1985.

Signed by order of the directors



ALEXANDRA LLEWELLYN
Company Secretary

Approved by the directors on 18 July 2005

EMPLOYEES OF THE INSTITUTE

NAME	POSITION	PERIOD OF OFFICE
Kenneth Aitchison, MIFA	Head of Professional Development	Full time
Beth Asbury, PIFA	Administrative Assistant (Nov 04)	Full time
	Membership Administrator (May 05)	Full time
Lynne Bevan, MIFA	JIS Bulletin compiler	Part time
Nick Davis	Membership Administration (to May 05)	Full time
Kate Geary, MIFA	Training & Standards Co-ordinator (Jan 05)	Full time
Peter Hinton, MIFA	Director	Full time
Gina Jacklin	Finance and Administrative Assistant	Part time
Alexandra Llewellyn	Head of Administration	Full time
Sonya Nevin	Administrative Assistant (June 05)	Full time
Gillian Phillips	Senior Administrative Assistant (to Nov 04)	Full time
Paula Smith	Administrative Assistant (to Sept 04)	Part time
Alison Taylor, MIFA	Head of Outreach	Full time

COMPANY INFORMATION

<i>Company secretary</i>	Alexandra Llewellyn	
<i>Registered office</i>	Institute of Field Archaeologists	University of Reading Whiteknights PO Box 227 Reading RG6 6AB
<i>Auditors</i>	Ross Brooke Limited Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors	21/22 Park Way Newbury Berkshire RG14 1EE
<i>Bankers</i>	Co-operative Bank Plc	34 St Mary's Butts, Reading RG1 2LQ
<i>Solicitors</i>	Simon Best Tim Francis	Gaston Whybrew Solicitors, Westwood Park, London Road, Great Horkelesley, Colchester, CO6 4BS

**INDEPENDENT
AUDITORS' REPORT TO
THE MEMBERS OF THE
IFA FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 31 MARCH 2005**

The directors have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 March 2005.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The principal activity of the company during the year continued to be the advancement of the practice of field archaeology and allied disciplines.

We have audited the financial statements of Institute of Field Archaeologists for the year ended 31 March 2005 which have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective June 2002), under historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out.

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 235 of the Companies Act 1985. Our audit 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 the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and United Kingdom Auditing Standards.

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 if, in our opinion, the Directors' Report is not consistent with the financial statements, if 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 United Kingdom Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes 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 of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 March 2005 and of its profit for the year then ended, and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.



ROSS BROOKE LIMITED
Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors
37 London Road, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 1JL
Date: 3 July 2004

**INCOME AND
EXPENDITURE
ACCOUNT FOR THE
YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2005**

	NOTE	2005 (£)	2004 (£)
Turnover		488,459	441,977
Cost of sales		<u>(141,252)</u>	<u>(121,087)</u>
Gross surplus		347,207	320,890
Administrative expenses		<u>(311,313)</u>	<u>(264,788)</u>
Operating surplus	2	35,894	56,102
Interest receivable		<u>4,565</u>	<u>4,624</u>
Surplus on ordinary activities before taxation		40,459	60,726
Tax on surplus on ordinary activities	3	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
Retained surplus for the financial year		40,459	60,726

**BALANCE SHEET AT
31 MARCH 2005**

	NOTE	2005 (£)	2004 (£)
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	4	3,832	2,424
Current assets			
Stocks		167	19,744
Debtors due within one year	5	67,845	31,711
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>338,578</u>	<u>314,546</u>
		406,590	366,001
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	6	121,178	119,456
Net current assets		285,412	246,545
Total assets less current liabilities		289,244	248,969
Government grants	7	185	369
		<u>289,059</u>	<u>248,600</u>
Reserves	9		
Income and expenditure account	10	289,059	248,600
Members' funds		289,059	248,600

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part VII of the Companies Act 1985 and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective June 2002).

These financial statements were approved by the directors on the 15 June 2005 and are signed on their behalf by:



JACK STEVENSON
Director

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2004

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

- (i) **Basis of accounting** The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective June 2002).
- (ii) **Turnover** The turnover shown in the income and expenditure account represents amounts invoiced during the year and amounts receivable on projects undertaken within the year.
- (iii) **Fixed assets** All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost.
- (iv) **Depreciation** Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:
Office equipment - 50% per annum of net book value
- (v) **Work in progress** Work in progress is valued on the basis of direct costs plus attributable overheads based on normal level of activity. Provision is made for any foreseeable losses where appropriate. No element of profit is included in the valuation of work in progress.
- (vi) **Operating lease agreements** Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged against income on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.
- (vii) **Foreign currencies** Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the operating surplus.
- (viii) **Income in advance** Income relating to future periods, including memberships, and other subscriptions are deferred and carried forward as income in advance in creditors. Project grants received ahead of costs are deferred and are also carried forward as income in advance.
- (ix) **Area and special interest groups** The IFA has a number of regional 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 IFA.
- (x) **Deferred capital grants** Grants in respect of capital expenditure are treated as deferred income and are credited to the profit and loss account over the estimated useful economic life of the assets to which they relate.

2 OPERATING SURPLUS

Operating surplus is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2005 (£)	2004 (£)
Amortisation of government grants re fixed assets	(184)	(376)
Depreciation	2,367	2,424
Auditors' fees	2,938	2,515

3 TAX ON SURPLUS ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES

Corporation tax is only chargeable on bank interest received.

4 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Office Equipment (£)
COST	
At 1 April 2004	13,823
Additions	3,775
At 31 March 2005	17,598
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 April 2004	11,399
Charge for the year	2,367
At 31 March 2005	13,766
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2005	3,832
At 31 March 2004	2,424

5 DEBTORS

	2005 (£)	2004 (£)
Trade debtors	35,397	314
Prepayments and accrued income	32,448	31,397
	67,845	31,711

6 CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2005 (£)	2004 (£)
Trade creditors	48,024	22,180
Other creditors including taxation & social security: PAYE & social security	6,243	5,177
Other creditors	148	-
Accruals and deferred income	66,762	92,099
	121,178	119,456

7 CAPITAL GRANTS

	2005 (£)	2004 (£)
Received and receivable:		
At 1 April 2004	744	1,489
Fully amortised	-	(745)
At 31 March 2005	744	744
Amortisation:		
At 1 April 2004	375	744
Grants fully amortised	-	(745)
Credit to profit and loss account	184	376
At 31 March 2005	559	375
Net balance at 31 March 2005	185	369

8 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

No transactions with related parties were undertaken such as are required to be disclosed under the The Financial Reporting Standard For Smaller Entities (effective June 2002).

9 COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

The Company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. In the event of the company being wound up, the members are liable to contributing up to £10 each to meeting the liabilities of the company.

10 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	2005 (£)	2004 (£)
Balance brought forward	248,600	187,874
Retained surplus for the financial year	40,459	60,726
Balance carried forward	289,059	248,600

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2005 (not forming part of the audited accounts)

	2005 (£)	2004 (£)
INCOME	176,238	160,547
Subscriptions	176,238	160,547
Fees	2,697	3,264
Application Fees	2,697	3,264
RAO Fees	37,479	29,531
Sales	2,690	3,476
Adverts	2,690	3,476
Publications	3,758	2,204
JIS Subscriptions & advertising	15,146	15,064
Other	2,386	2,900
Group income	2,386	2,900
Sundry income	5,798	-
Interest	4,565	4,624
Grants and sponsorship	-	5,000
Other grants	-	5,000
Sponsorship and donations	-	-
Projects	82,859	66,847
Total conference income	82,859	66,847
Total project income	161,317	153,143
	325,513	263,142
EXPENDITURE		
Staff	215,708	176,470
Staff salaries	215,708	176,470
Temporary staff	4,442	1,714
Staff travel	6,687	5,962
Staff training fees	559	1,896
Staff recruitment	2,035	470
Project	66,978	53,217
Total non-core staff conference expenditure	66,978	53,217
Total non-core staff project expenditure	76,182	67,870
Committees and groups	4,261	5,146
Committee travel	4,261	5,146
Group funding	932	1,935
Membership services	1,420	2,285
JIS costs	1,420	2,285
Publications TA	19,973	15,100
Publications - Papers	-	295
Publications - Annual report	-	295
Accommodation	10,002	8,327
Office rent/costs	10,002	8,327
Office costs	2,550	2,560
Insurance	2,550	2,560
Stationery	4,124	3,510
Postage	9,453	8,788
Copying	3,007	5,147
General printing	3,986	2,417
Computing & IT	7,586	5,797
Telephone	3,305	4,735
Fundraising and publicity	625	740
Fundraising	-	375
Promotional material	625	740
Other	324	653
Hospitality	324	653
Magazine & institution subs	846	868
General expenses	15	-
Bank Charges	3,070	3,063
Legal fees	-	-
Accountancy	682	1,075
Audit	2,938	2,515
Payroll cost	600	600
Advice	-	-
Depreciation of fixed assets	2,367	2,424
Amortisation of capital grant	(183)	(375)
Refunds	-	-
	454,473	385,874
Surplus for the year	40,459	60,726
Contribution from projects	101,016	98,903

REPORT OF THE HONORARY SECRETARY

IFA Council 2004-05 is made up of 22 members. They are company directors of the IFA and have responsibilities to ensure that its business is conducted in a proper manner. The Council oversees the strategic direction of the organisation and takes decisions on key issues. Financial and budgetary issues, progress against the strategic plan and matters of business requiring Council input are discussed at all Council meetings. Some decisions are delegated to the Executive Committee (Hon Chair, Hon Vice Chairs, Hon Treasurer and Hon Secretary), although day-to-day operations are devolved to staff. Council members can serve for a maximum of six years, although they will need to stand for re-election after the third year.

There are currently nine Committees dealing with areas ranging from validation, registered archaeological organisations and disciplinary matters, through to organisation of the conference and training. The committee structure varies, although all members of the Council sit on at least one committee.

The 2004 Annual General Meeting was held at the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, London on 27 September. In addition to the election of six corporate members to the Council of the Institute, the AGM approved the election of Martin Dean and Roger Mercer as Honorary Members. Following on from the AGM both Council and Executive have met four times, with another Executive meeting planned before the 2005 AGM. Four of the current Council members are due to retire at the 2005 AGM, including our Chair, David Jennings, who has served as a member of council for six years. The time taken up serving on Council or the various Committees and Groups can be considerable and thanks are due to the hard work that everyone puts in.

In addition to routine matters, Council has covered a range of ongoing issues including recruitment of new members, the impact of the Valletta Convention on the profession, rejuvenation of the Group structure, plans for the publication of a members' Journal and the development of other areas of the IFA's strategic plan. Through Council and the wider membership, the IFA is represented on a number of external committees and other groups and as a result we are able to contribute to many current consultations, debates and discussions relevant to the profession. We are continuing discussions with Prospect and SCAUM concerning industry-wide collective pay bargaining and have had input into the many sector-wide issues covered by the Archaeology Forum.

Thanks are due to all IFA staff who, through their hard work, ensure a smooth running Council and Executive

Hester Cooper-Reade
Hon Secretary

REPORT OF THE HONORARY VICE CHAIR, OUTREACH

During 2004-5 we took forward the following key strategies

- S1.2: We will raise our profile and increase awareness of the importance of archaeology and archaeologists
- S1.3: We will maintain a rolling campaign to recruit members and register organisations in the UK and overseas
- S2.1 We will define, develop and deliver a range of services and products
- S2.4: We will offer a range of professional and personal benefits

Our principal publication this year has continued to be *The Archaeologist*, which reflects our members' wide interests and responsibilities. Themes covered this year were *The IFA Liverpool Conference*, *Maritime Archaeology*, *Buildings Archaeology*, and *Prehistoric Britain*. I would like to take this opportunity to remind all members that our editor is always looking out for good stories, so do let her know if you have material of interest.

Financial constraints meant we had to defer publication of our proposed journal, *Archaeological Practice*, but there has been strong Council support for carrying this project forward and in June there was final approval.

IFA's website, www.archaeologists.net, re-vamped by CBA last autumn and managed by IFA staff, is now carrying more news and information than ever before, and we want to keep it as data rich as we can manage. We see the site as an important part of IFA's publication programme, hosting many IFA documents and publications (some duplicated in print, some only available digitally) and with useful links to a growing number of other archaeological organisations. It is an important promotional tool for both IFA and our Registered Archaeological Organisations. News, Opinions and pages for all IFA Groups have been added. The whole site is well used, and we are especially pleased that the most visited part is the RAO section, showing that many people who employ archaeologists use this information.

An addition to our free member services that is proving popular is the fortnightly e-newsletter SALON-IFA. This derives from SALON (Society of Antiquaries of London Online Newsletter), with added IFA news and is sent to the email boxes of all members who want it, 25 times each year. Edited by Christopher Catling, it covers governmental consultations and new legislation (actual and proposed), news and reviews of conferences, books, discoveries and TV programmes, job vacancies, deaths, issues of controversy within heritage, etc. It is valuable in spreading news, forming opinions, and generally expressing views from the heritage sector. All members are urged to submit items that will interest others, especially if they wish to publicise events, new discoveries or publications.

The Jobs Information Service, which many of you now receive online, is a benefit to employers and those looking for a career change alike. Other membership services include free legal advice, competitive specialist insurance and health insurance, an arbitration scheme and discounts on books from an increasing number of publishers, in addition to services supplied directly by the Institute.

Well over 400 archaeologists were drawn to Winchester to enjoy a conference on the theme 'Working in Historic Towns'. The key note paper by Martin Biddle included a challenge to archaeologists (especially curators) working in a developer-funded world to match the research objectives of earlier work. A speech by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Tessa Jowell, also created much interest. There were at least three parallel sessions over three days, covering issues that included the problems of working on road schemes, how to deal with archaeological archives, results of recent work in our smaller towns, post-medieval cemetery archaeology and some outstanding discoveries of 2004. We enjoyed informative tours and all the usual social occasions: wine reception, disco and party, Conference Dinner, and receptions. Plans are already being made for the 2006 Conference in Edinburgh.

Recruitment is crucial to the long-term success of IFA. This year we did not achieve our business plan target. A power-point presentation can be borrowed to use for recruitment visits, whether to students or to groups of staff, and a recruitment coordinator, Tim Howard, was appointed in July 2005.

David Gaimster
Hon Vice Chair, Outreach

REPORT OF THE VICE CHAIR, PERSONNEL AND MEMBERSHIP

The personnel structure at the Institute has developed in line with the following key strategies

- S4.1: we will be a good employer
- S4.2: we will increase staff numbers
- S4.3: we will develop a training programme for staff

In order to manage the potential risks of a single member of staff having sole knowledge of an important area of the Institute's work, to allow for succession planning and to adapt to the growing office workload, a reorganisation of office staff took place during the year. Alex Llewellyn became head of administration, overseeing the finance team (herself and finance and administrative assistant Gina Jacklin) and the membership team (membership administrator Beth Asbury and administrative assistant Sonya Nevin, who now share responsibilities for looking after individual members and RAOs). Sadly we also said farewell, with grateful thanks, to Paula Smith, Gillian Phillips and Nick Davis. To ensure that we accelerated progress on training and standards initiatives including a potential HLF-funded placement bursary scheme, Kate Geary was appointed as training and standards coordinator working with Kenneth Aitchison, now head of professional development.

The role of this vice chair post includes oversight of the work of the Validation Committee which, under Clare King's guidance, has received 172 new and 62 transfer applications during the past twelve months.

The current (June) membership is as follows (2004 figure in brackets)

Honorary members	13	(10)
Members	855	(834)
Associate	486	(471)
Practitioner	333	(334)
Students	146	(210)
Affiliate	171	(128)
Total	2004	(1987)

As reported by the Hon Vice Chair, Outreach, we fell short of our business plan recruitment targets in 2004-5. Addressing this problem is a priority for 2005-6.

Kayt Brown
Hon Vice Chair, Personnel and membership

REPORT OF THE VICE CHAIR, STANDARDS

I am very pleased to report for the first time on the work of those responsible in the Institute for the cause of ‘Standards’ in 2004/5. Aware that annual reports can be a little dry, I thought I would take the opportunity for a more personal view than might normally be put forward. As a very new Executive Councillor, previously unknowing of the internal machinations of the Institute, I offer the following.

During the course of the year several key issues have repeatedly featured high on the agenda of the various Committees and working parties of the Institute. Progress on a number of these during the year can be demonstrated.

Pay and conditions continue to dominate the concerns of many professional archaeologists, whether members of the Institute or not. The IFA’s AGM in September 2004 initiated useful dialogue between a number of the key players (reported in *TA 54*) and which consequently has resulted in important discussions between all parties on national pay bargaining. The IFA’s recently formed ‘Diggers’ Forum’ will be seeking to make an essential contribution through ceaseless campaigning for better pay and conditions, while it is proposed that a sub-committee of CWPA be established to re-examine the minimum pay scales and inclusion of other benefits, such as holidays and pensions. As part of the ‘building blocks’ for improvement, Prospect and IFA have established a working party to benchmark the roles of Project Manager and Project Officer within the profession. Progress is undoubtedly slow, and painfully so for some parties, but now, more than ever, is the time for resolve and determination.

Concerns over discipline, or the perceived lack of it, closely follows concerns over pay and conditions. Despite the negative views of our detractors, IFA continues correctly to encourage improvement and progression rather than condemnation and punishment. There have, of course, been disciplinary cases this year, and several complaints about RAOs, and the seriousness of the process and outcome should never be underestimated. As a new Councillor, I have been party to a number of these cases and my eyes have been opened to the extraordinary sensitivity of these cases and the enormous impact personally and professionally they can have on all those involved. All such processes depend on transparency, fairness and credibility and, in the light of experience, there have been proposed amendments this year to both the disciplinary procedures and the complaints procedures for RAOs (RAO procedures have been amended; proposals on disciplinary procedures will be presented at the AGM).

In seeking improvements to standards of archaeological practice, there has been much emphasis this year on RAOs. Registration for membership now occurs for a two-year period and, in streamlining the RAO scheme, there has been clarification and greater transparency in the benchmarked standards for membership, which are used to trigger recommendations or conditions for improvement. In the latter case, ineligibility for membership will now apply if three conditions are imposed in a three-year period. The complaints procedure has also been revised and made less unwieldy and time-consuming. IFA has looked at ways to promote membership amongst curatorial and academic bodies. A constructive meeting with ALGAO resulted in an acknowledgement that the RAO scheme may be more relevant to curators than they themselves have previously considered and the whole scheme would benefit from the inclusion of more curatorial organisations. A pilot scheme to share publications between RAOs has also been introduced to provide a tangible benefit to registration, as well as making a contribution to raising standards.

The considerable achievement of the Committee for Working Practices in Archaeology in establishing a new contract for archaeological work was promoted in last autumn’s *TA*. The Committee will turn its attention shortly to issues arising from the tendering of archaeological post-excavation work.

Roland JC Smith
Hon Vice Chair, Standards

AREA & SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

REPORT OF THE SCOTTISH GROUP

John A Lawson (Hon Chair), Mairi Black (Hon Secretary), Andrew Dunwell (Hon Treasurer), Tim Neighbour, David Strachan, Jenni Morrison, Murray Cook and Jack Stevenson.

The committee has met on a regular basis through out the year, following the groups 2004 AGM held on the 15 August. The AGM also saw the election of Murray Cook (AOC) and the re-election of Andrew Dunwell (CFA Archaeology) as Hon Treasurer. The AGM coincided with a seminar chaired by John Lawson on ‘NPPG 5 Ten years on’ exploring success and failures of this policy. The day was again well attended by over 30 people and the notes from this meeting will be posted on the Group’s IFA web-page.

Following the pattern set over the last few years much of the work of the committee has focused on responding to consultations emanating principally from the Scottish Executive and working closely with

the Built Environment Forum Scotland (BEFS). This has included: the Scottish Executives proposals for new Model Planning Policies affecting the built and natural environment; the Cultural Commissions report into the future of Cultural Provision in Scotland jointly with CSA and the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland; the Scottish Executive workshop on its future Sustainable Development Strategy; the HEACS-BEFS seminar on the future of Heritage Protection Legislation and workshop on Historic Scotland’s Corporate Plan 05-08.

In early June this year the committee held in conjunction with the Glasgow University Archaeology Department a seminar with the Honours Students on careers in Archaeology. The seminar is an outcome of the committee’s desire to encourage new recruits into the profession and also the development of the ‘junior’ ranks. The seminar was a considered a success by all those who attended and feed back from the students will be taken on board to help in next years seminar. It is hoped that this essentially outreach event will be broadened in future to the other colleges and universities in Scotland.

The groups 2005 AGM will be held on 19 August at the Museum of Edinburgh and will coincide with a seminar, ‘Strategic Environmental Assessment for Archaeologists’. This new process has the potential to radically change our profession and the seminar will address what strategic environmental assessment are in terms of legislation, the scope of the work that can be anticipated and will present examples of work in progress.

John A Lawson
Chair, Scottish Group

REPORT OF THE WALES/CYMRU GROUP

Jenny Hall (Hon Chair), Fiona Gale (Hon Secretary), Kate Howell (Hon Treasurer), Stephen Briggs (Hon Editor), John Latham, Neil Johnstone, Ian Brooks, Richard Hankinson, Jonathan Berry.

Our AGM was held on 28 May 2004 and the Wales/Cymru committee met on four other occasions. After the AGM, we had a dayschool on prehistoric archaeology in Wales. On 5 November we held a dayschool on documentary sources and their uses.

IFA groups have been given their own space on the IFA website, and we hope to keep the site updated with information about forthcoming IFA Wales events.

The Research Agenda process, initiated at the IFA Wales/Cymru conference in 2001, is moving forward, and if all goes well, will be published during autumn 2005. Two publications are planned. An illustrated, bilingual booklet for the archaeological community at an operational level will include all period themes as well as the infrastructure and big issues. The other publication will be a glossy bilingual leaflet highlighting the ten big issues of the Welsh archaeological community to a wider audience. Further details can be found on the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust website, www.cpat.org.uk

Jenny Hall
Chair, Wales/Cymru Group

REPORT OF THE DIGGERS’ FORUM GROUP

Chris Clarke (Chair), Jez Taylor (Treasurer), Paul Everill (Secretary), Amy Gray-Jones, Kevin Wooldridge

Formed in autumn 2004 we held our inaugural meeting at Mortimer Wheeler House in London on 16 October. On 19 February 2005 we ratified our Statement of Intent as

- the Diggers’ Forum, primarily conceived as a way of unifying contract archaeologists for the purposes of campaigning through the IFA for change within the profession
- archaeologists primarily involved in excavation and post-excavation assessment (as opposed to managers, consultants, county officers etc) are currently under-represented within the IFA. The Forum will aim to redress the balance and keep the issues that affect us at the top of IFA agenda
- the Forum will serve as a platform providing up to date information and news about subjects affecting archaeologists working in our sector, particularly how IFA responds to them
- through the Forum we can discuss and formulate appropriate responses to IFA initiatives and where necessary put forward our own
- we will aim to strengthen our voice within the organisation by increasing our representation on IFA Council and various committees
- the Diggers’ Forum recognises benefits to site staff provided by the work of individuals and organisations such as ‘The Digger’ newsletter, BAJR, IFA, Prospect and Unison and will endeavour to work in co-operation with all these bodies to further improve the situation for site staff.

It was agreed that it was important to encourage members by making it free to those within IFA and only charging £5 for non-IFA members. We also agreed that our early priorities should be to examine key

concerns of site staff such as adequate and appropriate Health and Safety provision and access to training opportunities. Since the meeting in February a regional branch of the Diggers' Forum has been established in the East of England, and they held their first meeting in Cambridge on the 23 April 2005. We are keen that this be the first of many regional groups.

We have established a presence on the IFA website which is key to disseminating information to our members (and potential members) and have recently produced our first newsletter. Our membership structure is now established and we have already received a number of applications. For further information and to download a membership form visit <http://www.archaeologists.net/diggers>

Paul Everill
Secretary, Diggers' Forum

REPORT OF THE FINDS GROUP

Duncan Brown (Hon Chair), *Annette Hancocks* (Hon Treasurer), *Nicola Powell* (Hon Secretary), *Phil Mills*, *Talla Hopper* (co-opted June 2004) and *Roy Stephenson* (co-opted June 2004), with the UKIC Archaeology Section representative *Claire Heywood*.

The committee met several times during 2004 and 2005. A wide variety of topics have featured on the agenda, including the minimum standards document and the organisation of a session at the IFA 2005 Conference.

The 2004 AGM and meeting was held at Mortimer Wheeler House (LAARC), Museum of London and looked at 'Metals and Metalwork'. It was a popular event and was followed in the autumn by a hands-on session looking at Iron Age and Roman metalwork at the British Museum, kindly provided by Drs JD Hill and Ralph Jackson. This was over subscribed and it is hoped other metalwork training sessions will be arranged at the BM as part of our continuing training programme.

We returned to the LAARC and Mortimer Wheeler House for this year's AGM and meeting, with the theme 'The Potential of Buildings Archaeology and Building Materials', organised by Phil Mills jointly with the IFA Buildings Archaeology Group and the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group.

IFA Finds Group meetings and seminars are open to non-members, but priority will be given to members for training sessions, where numbers may have to be limited.

Our Hon. Treasurer, Annette Hancocks, stood down at the AGM. The Committee would like to thank her very much for all her hard work and will greatly miss her.

The Finds Group session in the 2005 IFA Conference in Winchester looked at 'Archaeologists, Archives and our Future'. It was chaired by Duncan Brown, Hon, Chair IFA Finds Group, and provided a positive, upbeat programme. The Finds Group hopes to organise a session annually and welcomes ideas and papers from members.

We aim to bring out at least two newsletters a year. The newsletter includes an editorial reporting the activities of the Finds Group, reviews of seminars and conferences, contact details and importantly a dates for the diary section. This alerts members to conferences and day schools with a finds theme organised by other groups and organisations. Do contact the Hon Secretary if you would like to advertise a seminar or conference or submit a review for the newsletter.

Membership of the group stands at 286. The 19 members of the FG who are not in the IFA pay a small fee to cover mailing costs. The IFA Finds Group committee welcomes ideas for future meetings and training days and will be looking for new committee members to be voted in at future AGMs. Please contact the Hon Secretary, Nicola Powell, Museum of London Archaeology Service, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, London, N1 7ED, npowell@museumoflondon.org.uk, 0207 566 9324

Nicola Powell
Hon Secretary, IFA Finds Group

REPORT OF THE MARITIME AFFAIRS GROUP

Committee up to March 2005

Dave Parham (Hon Chair), *Mark Dunkley* (Hon Secretary), *Andrea Parsons* (Hon Treasurer) *Douglas McElvogue*, *Julie Satchell*, *Paola Palma*, *Annabel Lawrence*

Committee March 2005

Julie Satchell (Hon Chair), *Mark Dunkley* (Hon Secretary), *Douglas McElvogue* (Hon Treasurer), *Paola Palma*, *Dave Parham*, *Mark Littlewood*

The group organised the successful 'Managing the Marine Cultural Heritage' conference, 29-30 September 2004, in Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. This attracted delegates from around the globe and resulted in

interesting debate on current approaches to management and challenges faced in the future. The group is working to publish the proceedings of this conference and to organise another conference in September 2006. A follow up to the conference was a maritime themed issue of *The Archaeologist*.

Maritime archaeology was represented at the IFA conference in Winchester with a well attended half day session. The session highlighted the diversity of work being undertaken by maritime and coastal archaeologists. The group AGM followed this session, a number of committee positions were up for election this year (details of new committee above).

Department of Transport *Titanic* consultation
Strategic Environmental Assessment of parts of the northern and central North Sea to the east of the Scottish Mainland, Orkney and Shetland (SEA 5)
DCMS Consultation Paper: *Protecting the Marine Historic Environment – Making the system work better*

The group continues to be represented on the Joint Nautical Archaeology Policy Committee, the ALGAO Maritime Sub-Committee and the Health and Safety Executive's Diving Industry Committee. MAG has organised the re-establishment of the Keith Muckelroy Award as a British Archaeology Award, the first presentation of this award took place in October 2004 in Belfast. In addition we continuing to produce the MAG Bulletin and are working on standards and guidance papers relating to Diving Practices and Ship and Boat Recording.

Julie Satchell
Hon Chair, Maritime Affairs Group

REPORT OF THE BUILDINGS ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

Marilyn Palmer (*Hon Chair*); Jonathan Smith (*Hon Sec*), Catherine Cavanagh (*education officer*), Phil Thomas (*newsletter editor*), Geraint Franklin (*newsletter designer*), Oliver Jessop (*website editor*), Robina McNeil, Shannon Fraser, Frank Green, Mike Nevell, Jonathan Edis (*Hon Treasurer*) and Bob Hill. The new members, Marilyn, Bob and Jonathan (Edis) were elected at this year's AGM.

The Group, which had reformed in the previous year, continued to move forward in securing its own healthy existence and widening the scope of its activities during 2004-2005. All the vacant positions on the committee (chair and treasurer) were filled during the year. The committee also faced the sad loss of John Samuels with his death in 2004. 2004-2005 saw the group produce two newsletters, be central in the production of a buildings archaeology issue of *The Archaeologist*, organise a session on buildings archaeology at the IFA conference, develop its own website page and expand its output in making representations on draft guidance and policy documents coming from Government and other organisations related to buildings archaeology.

Reinvigoration of the group has seen nearly 100 new people join the group or request the service of providing an e-copy of the newsletter. This will remain free for 2005-2006, but the committee decided that membership of the group should lead to the charge of a £10 annual subscription for those who are not IFA or IHBC members. Membership is currently 178 (IFA and IHBC members) and 176 (non members).

In terms of liaison with other groups/organisations with similar or overlapping interests, the newsletters and *The Archaeologist* buildings issue have sent ripples beyond the IFA. This has been followed up by the invitation of representatives from such groups to the buildings archaeology session at the IFA conference. During 2005/2006 the aim is to build on these emerging networks by, amongst other things, being centrally involved with the organisation and contribution towards a training day/seminar with IHBC and ALGAO and a conference on historic farms.

The Group has made representations on emerging policy and recording standards documents including English Heritage documents on *Recording guidance*, *Low demand housing*, *Conservation Area appraisal*, *Conservation Area management* and *Historic regeneration*. In the next year important consultations will include the Heritage Protection Review. The Group will also be reviewing and updating IFA's own guidance on building recording and analysis.

The Group maintains a critical role in the development of IFA, especially as broader, political and historic environment issues increasingly require understanding of our built historic environment. BAG's principal role is to promote buildings archaeology within the profession. We believe that 2004-2005 has seen the Group secure a strong position to more fully realise this aim in the next few years.

The newsletter editor, Phil Thomas (archaeological.surveyor@cathedral.co.uk) would be pleased to receive articles, roundups of recent work, books reviews, etc and is happy to promote relevant courses in the newsletter. Contact the secretary jonathan.smith@hertscc.gov.uk to join IFA Buildings Archaeology Group and receive free copies of the newsletter.

Catherine Cavanagh
Education officer, Buildings Archaeology Group

2004/2005 COMMITTEES

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Andrea Bradley
Kayt Brown
Frank Green
Alex Llewellyn
Phil Marter
Rob Sutton
Alison Taylor
Keith Wilkinson

EDITORIAL BOARD

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Beth Asbury
Jonathan Bateman
Stephen Briggs
Andrea Bradley
Catherine Cavanagh
Alison Taylor
David Thackray
Tracy Wellman

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Cath Patrick
Jez Taylor
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Dan Poore
Annabel Lawrence
Deborah Porter
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Jo Bacon
Veronica Fiorato

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Nigel Clubb
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Roger Thomas
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Jo Bacon
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Catherine Cavanagh
John Collis
Tom Evans
Don Henson
Bob Hook
Gary Lock
Ken Smith
Peter Stone
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Roger White

REGISTERED ARCHAEOLOGICAL ORGANISATIONS COMMITTEE

Laura Schaaf (Chair)
Evelyn Baker
Peter Barker
Stephen Briggs
Stephen Carter
Chris Clarke
Patrick Clay
Hester Cooper-Reade
Bob Croft
Sue Davies
Rachel Edwards
Peter Hinton
Gwilym Hughes
John Hunter
Clare King
Forbes Marsden
David Miles
Peter Murphy
Richard Newman
Jonathan Parkhouse
Paul Spoerry
Roland Smith
Dave Start
John Williams
John Woodhead
Bob Zeepvat
Mark Leah
Stewart Bryant

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Beth Asbury
Jo Bacon
Evelyn Baker
Beverley Ballin Smith
Stephen Briggs
Kayt Brown
Hester Cooper-Reade
Rachel Edwards
Phil Mills
Beccy Jones
Roy King
Geoff Morley
Dave Parham
Jonathan Parkhouse
Roy Stephenson
Jez Taylor
David Thackray

COMMITTEE FOR WORKING PRACTICES IN ARCHAEOLOGY

Mike Dawson (chair)
Kenny Aitchison
Beverley Ballin Smith
Peter Barker
Paul Chadwick
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BULLRING AND BEYOND: ARCHAEOLOGY IN BIRMINGHAM CITY CENTRE

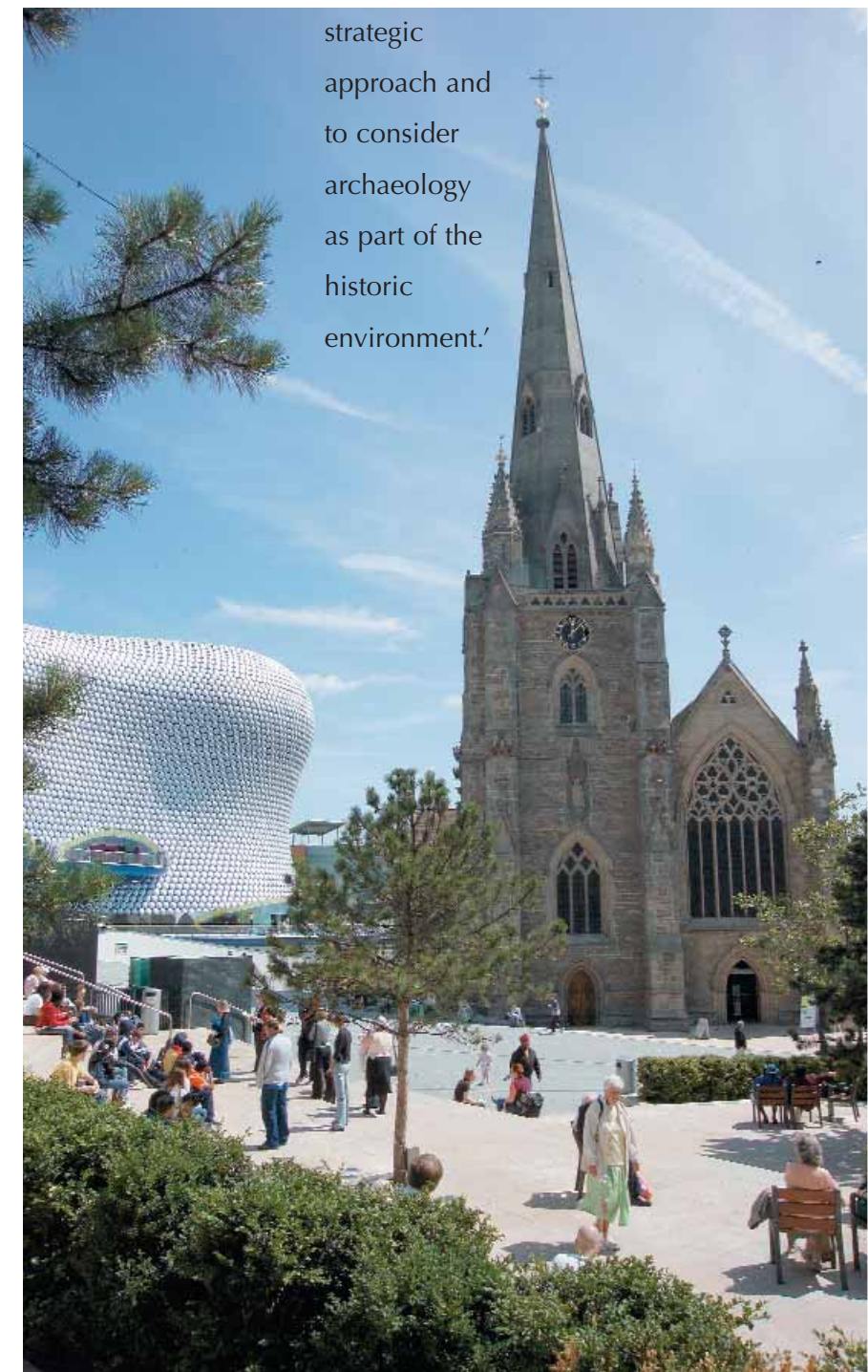
Mike Hodder

Birmingham has not been regarded as a 'historic town' in the traditional sense and has never been the subject of urban surveys. Following some small-scale work, the first substantial excavation in the city centre took place as recently as 1999, part of the Bullring development. This and subsequent work has overturned perceptions that the city centre was largely a post-medieval creation and that the survival of any earlier deposits would be poor because of intense later development. Demonstration of the extent and quality of archaeological remains itself raises challenges for the future.

Previous perceptions were based on sparse medieval documentation and a lack until recently of archaeological evidence, compounded by the almost total lack of pre-eighteenth-century structures in the centre. The potential contribution of archaeology was not appreciated, so there was little archaeological work before the 1990s.

Bullring is a major award-winning retail development on a European scale. It is also in the historic heart of Birmingham, around St Martin's church. Four excavations between 1999 and 2001 demonstrated extensive survival of medieval and post-medieval remains, including palaeo-environmental data and industrial residues. Similar deposits have been excavated on other sites in the city centre, also as part of new development. The excavations have shown that Birmingham was a newly-created twelfth-century town, and have revealed a range of industries from the thirteenth century onwards, including some not normally associated with Birmingham such as pottery manufacture, leather tanning and hemp and flax processing. Birmingham's transformation over the last few centuries is represented by important post-medieval deposits including industrial remains and St Martin's churchyard with its burials (see *TA 44*). Below-ground deposits complement above-ground archaeology, which consists of eighteenth-century and later industrial and domestic structures, including canals and two gasworks.

'It is essential to take a strategic approach and to consider archaeology as part of the historic environment.'



St Martin's church in Bullring.
Photograph: Birmingham City Council



BULLRING AND BEYOND:

ARCHAEOLOGY IN BIRMINGHAM CITY CENTRE

As in other urban areas, regeneration includes major developments that sweep the existing townscape away. Although Birmingham's historic environment is still largely understood in terms of designated sites and areas, ie listed buildings and conservation areas, development-related professions are becoming more aware of archaeology in Birmingham. Back in 1994, developers used to archaeological requirements elsewhere expressed surprise that they were expected to do the same in Birmingham! Archaeological remains 'preserved by record' have resulted in a huge gain in information and assisted responses to development proposals on nearby sites.

Entrenched perceptions are hard to overturn. The new information must therefore be disseminated widely and quickly. Publication of the Bullring sites is imminent, but smaller-scale work remains in grey literature. In Bullring, archaeological results have also featured on interpretation panels provided as part of a Section 106 planning agreement.

It is essential to take a strategic approach and to consider archaeology as part of the historic environment. Birmingham City Council's Archaeology Strategy, adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance in 2003, includes specific reference to the city centre, and archaeology is included in conservation area appraisals and management plans. A project design has been prepared to increase appreciation of the archaeology of Birmingham city centre. This will include analysis of hitherto unpublished information and deposit modelling.

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For a review of Mike Hodder's Birmingham: the Hidden History see p49

Excavations in the Bullring were carried out by Birmingham Archaeology for The Birmingham Alliance, with CgMs as archaeological consultants. The excavations are to be published by Oxbow as two volumes in 2005 and 2006. Simon Buteux's *Beneath the Bull Ring* (Brewin Books, 2003) summarises the results.

St Martin's church and Selfridges.
Photograph:
Birmingham City Council



Engraving of Newport Arch by Godfrey, 1773



The housing and public realm design adjacent to the Mint Wall contributes to a quality environment of heritage character. (Photo: City of Lincoln Council)



The city wall at Cecil Street is in poor condition due to severe erosion and collapse. (Photo: City of Lincoln Council)

The recent *Conservation Plan for Lincoln's Roman monuments* offers fresh opportunities to work across the social and cultural spectrum to meet objectives for regeneration, tourism and education. The project has been promoted by English Heritage as an exemplary study in conservation planning and community engagement.

Lincoln boasts 27 surviving Roman monuments. The majority formed parts of the city walls, gates and forum-basilica but some include evidence for houses and the water-supply. Newport Arch, part of the original north gate to the Roman city, is perhaps the best known. It is the only Roman gate-arch in Britain still used by traffic. Equally significant is the Mint Wall, the only surviving upstanding basilica wall in Roman Britain and part of Lincoln's earliest 'town hall'. Lesser known monuments include a well-head and shaft, various hypocausts, a section of aqueduct and part of the Fosse Way.

The City of Lincoln Council recognises its duty to promote and safeguard this major heritage asset, and commissioned a conservation plan to inform

Using Roman monuments in today's urban environment: a case study from LINCOLN

Jason Wood

the monuments' long-term conservation, management and interpretation and provide a basis for seeking funding to improve access and enjoyment.

A plan to conserve ...

The plan was a collaborative effort between the City Council, County Council and key stakeholder groups, with myself as facilitator/editor. Contributors covered a range of topics in order to gain a wide perspective on the monuments and their settings. These extended beyond the umbrella of conservation to issues with possible effects (positive and negative) on the monuments, including ownership, access, health and safety, transport, tourism and education.

... and engage

Public consultation began at the outset and evolved as an integral and influential part of the plan's

LINCOLN

Newport Arch was almost destroyed by a fish lorry in 1964. The Arch was hit again in the early 1990s and as recently as May last year. (Photo: City of Lincoln Council)

preparation, enabling the local community to become involved in 'real time'. The approach was in line with current agenda for social inclusion and community engagement in the historic environment, but on a scale previously not attempted. Target groups included residents and businesses, local school children and visitors to the city. Over 540 people were consulted.

Thirty-six policies addressed the key issues. The following points focus on those exploring enhancement of the monuments and their use in today's public realm.

Damage and decay

The condition of some monuments is deteriorating due to climatic and human activity, reducing their visual attraction and amenity value. Lincolnshire limestone is not a robust building material and repairs in line with earlier national guidance have not stood the test of time. Decay may also be due to inappropriate use, accidental damage or vandalism. The monuments and their settings would definitely benefit from an enhanced fabric and grounds maintenance regime.

Low to negative visual impact

Almost a third of the monuments were graded as having low to negative visual impact within their broader setting, and over half have a landscape setting of only poor to average quality. Many suffer by being incidental to their immediate setting rather



than the focus. Visual impact could be improved through design, landscaping and lighting. For example, if it proves essential to continue using Newport Arch for traffic, it should at least be possible to prevent all goods vehicles and to introduce paving and other public realm works to deter through-traffic, whilst allowing access for trade and parking.

Opportunities also exist for interpretation within a broader Lincoln context; for example along Roman roads and within amenity areas that abut them. Interpretative events, re-enactments and reconstructions could be developed, and the creation of public art might offer distinctive solutions and reinforce the significance of the monuments.

... but interested communities

The quality of the historic environment is often an important concern for communities, and the consultations demonstrated much interest in Lincoln's Roman heritage. Getting local people involved leads to positive social and educational outcomes, including developing skills, raising aspirations for a neighbourhood, and a sense of community. Any new developments should build on the inclusive process of community outreach and engagement already begun.

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The plan is available (£20 plus p&ep) from Oxbow Books, Park End Place, Oxford OX1 1HN tel 01865 241249 (and don't forget IFA members can get a discount on all Oxbow books).



Only nine of the Roman monuments are provided with interpretation boards and some of these contain information which is now out of date or discriminatory. A number are inappropriately sited. (Photo: City of Lincoln Council)

Current excavations in Huntingdon

Rachel Clarke, Richard Mortimer and Aileen Connor

Huntingdon celebrates the 800th anniversary of its charter this year, and amongst the events in the town are several archaeological excavations. Most are small pieces of work, but two major projects have fortuitously coincided with the celebrations. Major redevelopment of the town centre has afforded an excellent opportunity for Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Archaeological Field Unit to investigate significant parts of this historic town. The excavations, which are expected to continue over the next two to three years, comprise the largest area of the town to be investigated, covering approximately 2ha.

Grimston face pot
(AD 1250-1350)
discarded in a
rubbish pit ©
Cambridgeshire
County Council

Walden House site: medieval expansion and post-medieval industry

The first of the town centre redevelopment sites was at Walden House, a project designed to involve the local community through on-site participation, finds processing, open days, presentations and visits to schools. The main period of occupation spanned the eleventh to fourteenth centuries, when the town was at its most prosperous. Features characteristic of urban settlement included dense zones of pitting and quarrying, wells, ovens, timber buildings, cobbled surfaces and ditched property boundaries. Pottery and animal bones were abundant and there are early indications that tanning was a major industry. Soil samples await analysis.



Evidence of urban contraction in the later medieval period was found across the site, represented by an extensive cultivation or levelling layer and a generally lower level of activity. This supports documentary evidence, which suggests that Huntingdon suffered a period of decline from the fourteenth century onwards.

A group of plank and brick-built pits are the remains of the only tannery known in Huntingdon, first documented in 1811 and owned by the Maile family; it had gone out of business by 1877.

At its height, Huntingdon had 16 churches; by the sixteenth century only four were still functioning. Large fragments of architectural stone reused in later foundations could be from one of the 'lost churches' © Cambridgeshire County Council

Lost church?

Did St George's, one of Huntingdon's lost churches, stand on this site? Although no sign of an in-situ building matching this description was found, architectural stone fragments consistent with an ecclesiastical origin had been reused in a post-medieval boundary wall.



Hartford Road: Saxon and medieval central Huntingdon

The excavation lay immediately north of St Mary's, still the principal parish church, at the junction of the High Street and Hartford Road in the centre of medieval Huntingdon. Archaeological deposits were up to 3.5m deep, though the upper metre had been truncated. The surviving remains span Late Saxon to the early 15th century, with a few intrusive features such as wells and a brick cellar.

Hartford Road excavations © Cambridgeshire County Council



Post-pit, part of a possible gateway © Cambridgeshire County Council

A Saxon boundary

One intriguing discovery was a series of massive post-pits, the largest 2x1m and 2m deep, dating to the tenth or eleventh century, which formed a boundary across the site perpendicular to the High Street. There is evidence for different activities on either side of this boundary, which may have been a gate structure, marking an entrance to the town itself or to a separate enclosure, perhaps for St Mary's church or Priory. The posts appear to have been removed at or after the Conquest.

Medieval industry

Excavated medieval features dating to the twelfth to fourteenth centuries include wells and quarry pits, an area of small kilns or ovens, on-site metalworking, and large, square pits, some of which may originally have been wood-lined. Finds include large quantities of pottery (sequences spanning the Late Saxon to medieval transition are of particular importance) and domesticated and wild animal, bird and fish bone. Substantial quantities of metalworking waste indicate that the smith in question was working principally with iron but also copper and lead.

Coming up...

Further small-scale excavations are soon to be undertaken, including a community excavation on Mill Common immediately west of the Norman motte and bailey castle. These will focus on what may be outworks to the Late Saxon and medieval town defences.

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Looking south to St Mary's Church © Cambridgeshire County Council

Huntingdon

Excavating and lifting the salt ship © Earthworks Archaeological Service



NANTWICH: exceptional preservation and a mitigation issue

Tim Malim

Remarkable survival of wet deposits, timbers and organic remains within York, London and Carlisle is well publicised, but recent work at Nantwich, Cheshire, has demonstrated that this small town is amongst the premier league for 'urban wetlands'. Roman salt tanks, wooden tools, an Anglo-Norman tub-stave and in-situ structural timbers, a medieval 'salt ship', timber-frame buildings and barrels are some of the finds made in the last two years alone. Particularly surprising is that these finds do not only come from low-lying areas, but also up the hill, in waterlogged deposits apparently overlying natural sand.

Historically Nantwich was Cheshire's most important town after Chester, and lies at a nodal communication point. Its economic importance, in common with Middlewich and Northwich, rests on salt production from brine springs, an industry with prehistoric origins. In 1583 the centre of the town was engulfed by a 'great fire'. The consequences of this conflagration can be visible as a significant stratigraphic horizon, often leaving early foundations in situ.

Salt production and deep preservation

Excavations over the past century have consistently demonstrated the depth and quality of its stratigraphic sequence and finds assemblages, in contrast to other historic towns in Cheshire with the exception of Chester. Since 1990 around 25 investigations have confirmed that high quality preservation extends over approximately 17.5ha, rising to some 6m above river level, with stratigraphy on top of the hill of 2.5m, and considerably deeper on the alluvial plain.

Buckets and spades and cisterns

At Kingsley Fields, on a clay terrace above the Weaver, University of Manchester Archaeological

Unit recorded Roman waterlogged features, probable brine wells, containing a rich assemblage of leatherwork and woodwork such as spades and buckets, animal bone, complete ceramic vessels and metalwork. Two timber brine cisterns, 10 x 2m and 2m deep, constructed of planks revetted with sill beams and uprights, were excavated. Adjacent to the Weaver, Earthworks Archaeological Services recovered a medieval 'salt ship' (hollowed-out log) which had been used as a salt cistern, below six wooden barrels set within a timber channel, positioned against the wall of a timber frame workshop which had burnt down. Organic deposits were 3m deep and contained leather and wooden artefacts with medieval pottery. An earlier 'salt-ship' had been found in Wood Street in 1979.

Tracks and pavement

Across the river land rises steeply to the centre of the historic town. Excavations for a gas main and cables in the High Street during the early 1980s detailed a complex stratigraphic sequence, with 1.3m of organic deposits over sand. A corduroy timber trackway at the base of this sequence was overlain by cobbles and organic build-up 'rich in vegetable matter' with hazel-nuts, straw, hazel-rods



Excavation of Roman cistern in Nantwich © University of Manchester Archaeological Unit

NANTWICH

Fresh approaches and design solutions

At present there is a welcome reassessment of the current approach within the profession towards preservation in situ, which has tended to use the Ove-Arup study of York to permit up to 5% of an urban area to be lost directly to piling, and an unknown quantity of waterlogged deposits through collateral damage and local drainage around each pile. Into this debate, fresh evidence and approaches from other areas could be usefully included. In Nantwich it is essential that a survey is adopted soon to map the extent of waterlogged preservation, and to investigate the cause of such preservation on top of the hill. A strategy can then be put in place by Cheshire County Council's Historic Environment Team, so that in future all parties can take full regard for the significance of the archaeological resource in this small historic town. Justified balance can be given to recommendation for research (preservation by record) as opposed to a design solution with minimal impact.

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Excavations at the Lamb Hotel with remains of Anglo-Norman timber structures, and piling in progress © Gifford



for wattling, animal bone and shoemakers offcuts. Oak planking above this had formed a pavement, with a coin of Henry III lying on the planks. Sand and modern deposits sealed the sequence.

Anglo-Norman and medieval timber housing

Further east, at the Lamb Hotel, Gifford excavated clay and organic-rich silts 2.6m deep overlying natural sand. Soil micromorphological analysis by Ian Drew and Jonathan Lageard of Manchester Metropolitan University showed that clay floors were interspersed with deposits from stables and workshops. Five oak timbers from a wide selection of in-situ planks and sill beams and a wash-tub stave, were dated by dendrochronology, the earliest to post-1048 with a second timber from the same tree dated 1158 – 1183. Others have thirteenth-century dates which correspond to the pottery evidence. Ian Tyers (ARCUS) remarks that this assemblage comes from local well-managed woodland, which concords with other Nantwich tree-ring sequences and matches planks from the transept of Peterborough Cathedral, perhaps from the same timber source.

Preservation in situ: new systems

At the Lamb Hotel preservation in situ was chosen as the mitigation measure (full excavation had been adopted elsewhere) and Gifford designed a scheme using 200mm top-driven steel-sleeved piles sunk into clay below the natural sand, preventing drainage and desiccation. This mini-piling, coupled with raising the ring-beam and pile caps, amounted to only 0.9% disturbance to archaeological deposits, and allowed repositioning of the pile if it encountered an obstacle such as timber whilst being inserted.

WORKING IN TOWNS: ENGLISH HERITAGE URBAN SURVEY PROGRAMME

Roger M Thomas

Before 1990, a large proportion of English Heritage's archaeology budget was tied up in urban rescue. When PPG 16 moved the cost of development-led excavation from the state onto developers, EH was able to use this budget to support strategic activities. One of the largest of these – and one of EH's most important current initiatives in the urban historic environment – is the programme of survey and characterisation projects, underway in partnership with local authorities since the late 1980s.

Needs in towns

It was clear that PPG 16 would have a particular impact in historic towns, with their combination of rich and important archaeological remains and heavy development pressures. In 1992, EH published *Managing the Urban Archaeological Resource*, setting out support for a new generation of 'intensive' and 'extensive' urban survey projects to produce better information, understanding and policies for local authorities. The new programme was foreshadowed by pilot projects in Cirencester, Durham, York and the Central Marches. This programme now embraces the wider concepts of 'historic environment' and characterisation. Funding comes from EH's Historic Environment Enabling Programme (HEEP), with 'in kind' support from participating local authorities and some finance from regeneration agencies (Cornwall and Leicester, for example).

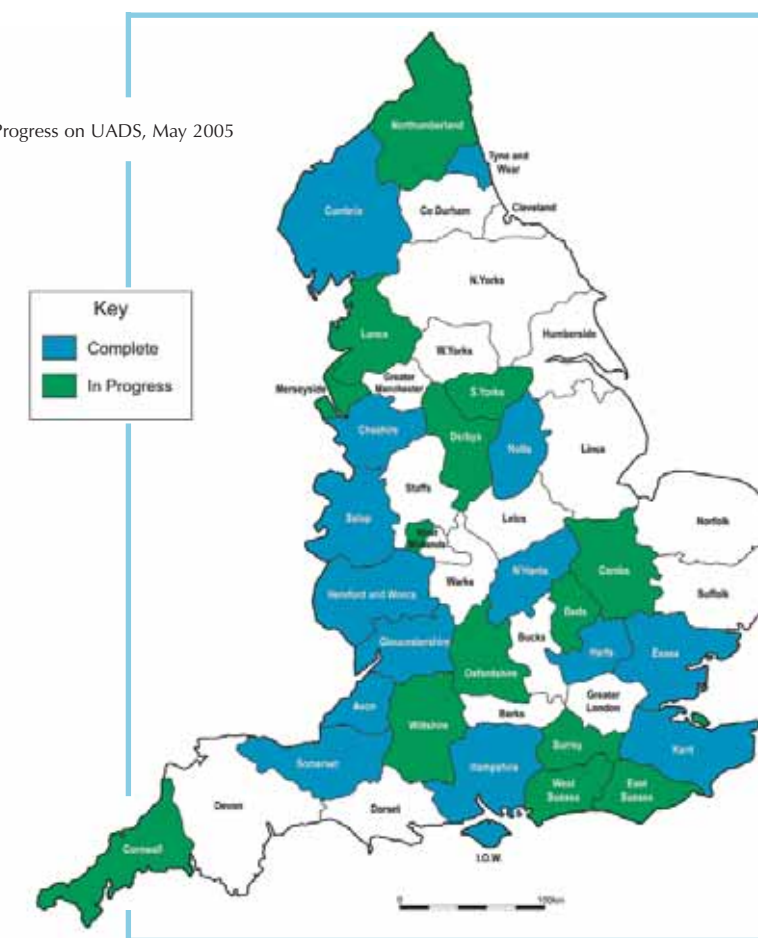
Intensive projects

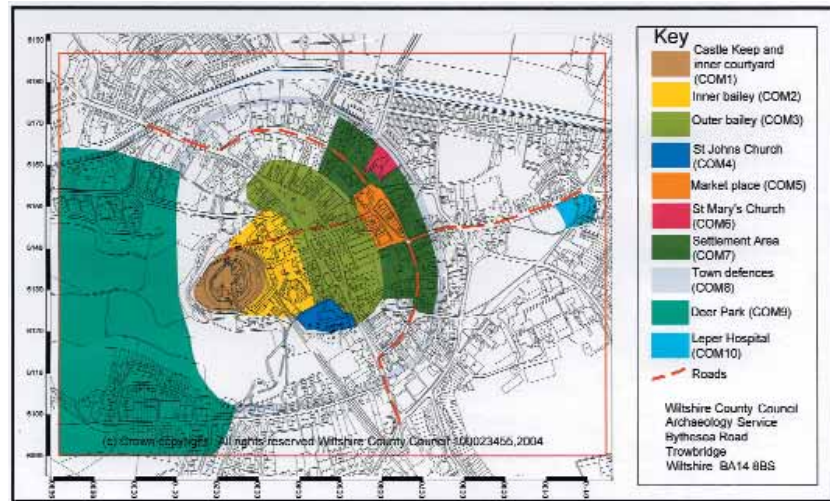
'Intensive' projects cover 35 major English historic towns and cities, chosen for their chronological depth, good archaeological survival and obvious development pressure. Each is the subject of a separate project, funded through the city, district or unitary council concerned. Each project has three stages: database, assessment and strategy.

An Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) records and maps 'events' (eg excavations), monuments and deposits in the historic core. Information from a wide range of sources is drawn together, and GIS is central to the work. UADs are either held as part of the County SMR or separately by the local authority. Some 25 UADs are either completed or are progress, and are proving extremely valuable for planning and other purposes in major historic urban centres.

Assessment produces a monograph-length synthesis with maps to show each town's evolution. Cirencester, Greater London, Lincoln and St Albans have been published, and Bristol, Shrewsbury, Winchester, Newcastle, Colchester and Bath are in preparation. They are, however, proving

Progress on UADS, May 2005





An extract from Wiltshire Extensive Urban Mapping Survey, mapping the planform analysis for the town of Devizes. Drawn by Archaeology Service, Wiltshire County Council

challenging to complete, a reflection of the problems of attempting synthesis on this scale.

The next stage (strategy) is the local authority's policy statement on the management and use of its urban archaeological resource. This may be adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance (as in Bath – <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk>).

Extensive surveys

'Extensive' urban surveys ('EUS') cover smaller towns on a county-by-county basis. Projects are funded through county (or equivalent) archaeological services, and the results held in the SMR. Again, the broad database-assessment-strategy structure is followed. Twenty-nine counties, covering nearly 700 towns (out of a likely total of around 1100), have been completed or are in progress, and the assessment reports are beginning to be made available on the internet (*via* ADS: <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk>).

In small towns, where there is often little evidence from excavation, attention is paid to urban topography, trying to understand its evolution by defining a series of 'plan components' such as market places, burgrave plots and churchyards.

Recent developments

Since 2000 and *Power of Place*, the EUS programme has developed to embrace characterisation and the needs of regeneration. It has also begun to tackle major conurbations and their associated industrial landscapes, as well as traditional 'small towns'.

In Cornwall, eighteen towns have been examined in detail, with 50% funding from Objective 1 (an EU

regeneration fund). The aim is to protect the distinctive regional character of Cornwall's towns from erosion by regeneration-led investment. Character areas have been defined for each town, and the salient characteristics of each documented in text and photographs. In Sussex, an EUS project concerned largely with market towns has sought to define 'Historic Urban Character Areas' (HUCAs) and to give a numerical 'Historic Environment Value' to each HUCA.

In Lancashire, the EUS deals with the complexity of the county's major industrial towns of the nineteenth century. Work has also now begun on characterising the conurbations of Merseyside, South Yorkshire and the Black Country, where there is often no meaningful distinction between urban, rural and industrial landscapes. These projects apply a characterisation approach (a fusion of Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) and EUS) across the whole area.

HEEP, historic environment management and the profession

EH's urban surveys are a good example of how HEEP is supporting strategic programmes which provide better tools for the management of the historic environment. UADs typically cost EH between £50,000 and £100,000 each (with further costs for assessment and strategy stages). EUS typically now costs EH about £5000 per town. Even taking into account 'in kind' contributions from local authorities, these projects are good value for money.

Important benefits include better and more accessible information to allow clear and confident advice to be given quickly. A large body of digital information with enormous potential (largely unrealised as yet) for outreach and community involvement has been created. The programme has also built up capacity in local authorities, advanced the role of GIS in curatorial archaeology and provided valuable career development opportunities.

Through HEEP, EH is therefore supporting the management of the historic urban environment and strengthening the development of our profession.

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Using palynology to investigate how human populations alter the landscape has a long history. On-site pollen analysis of archaeological soils however is relatively new and is still underused, especially in an urban context, even though its potential has been well documented since 1982 (Greig 1982).

Pollen can be preserved within urban deposits such as floors, burials, hearths and cesspits. At Newport Street in Worcester, a post-medieval cesspit containing highly minerogenic layers revealed a pollen suite primarily of grasses, as well as cornflower, nettle and vetch, material used to dampen down the cess. When investigating specific contexts such as a burial or floor surface, it is advisable to distinguish the background flora from that context. This is successful if a range of samples is taken spatially. Experimental investigations have highlighted differences in pollen flora and concentrations between stable and domestic floors. The pollen record has been successful in establishing background urban flora for example at both Saltway in Roman Droitwich and in the Old Market area of medieval Bristol.



Cesspit excavated by WHEAS at Newport Street, Worcester

Pollen analysis in an urban archaeological context

Katie Head

Goose pollen

Fodder from outside

Deposits of dumped material often found on urban waterfront sites are also a valuable source of pollen remains. At St Julian's Friars in Shrewsbury, a peat layer of medieval date had been formed behind the town wall close to the River Severn, providing evidence of damp or seasonally flooded meadowland and dumped hay waste. Environmental evidence of fodder brought in from outside is often found on urban sites. The time of fodder collection can affect both the arboreal and herbaceous pollen record, reducing or increasing flowering, and can indicate managed areas of fodder production, although due to taxonomic uncertainties, on-site samples must be taken to prevent a bias towards regional pollen rain. Sampling from probable hayfields and meadows adjacent to the settlement may highlight fodder practices, as these herb communities can be identified down to genus or type. Reliable identifications within the cereal record again depend on preservation and taxonomic precision. Questions on the provenance of cereals have also emerged, highlighting the need for research on the transport and deposition of cereal pollen using modern analogues.

Garden plants inside

An urban site will often include evidence of buried soils and gardens (see Murphy and Scaife 1991). Although weeds of waste and arable and an outside arboreal component usually dominate, the pollen record can include plants cultivated for food or exotics. Cultivated plants are common in plant macrofossil assemblages, but pollen is more problematic due to confidences in taxonomic precision. Pollen of hemp, broad beans, and hops were recorded from a medieval barrel latrine in Worcester, the identifications supported by plant



Drilling rig (courtesy of Global Probing and Sampling Ltd) used in both rural and urban landscape assessments at WHEAS

macrofossil evidence. Pollen records from medieval gardens need to be increased however, in order to identify plants of culinary and medicinal use.

Pollen from augering

Where little is known about an area, but excavation is not initially required or practical, auger assessments adopting pollen analysis can be helpful (smaller sample sizes), particularly when combined with a rapid coring technique using a power auger or drilling rig. These types of auger rigs, particularly track-mounted models, are especially relevant to urban archaeology where access is difficult, sediments impenetrable, or excavation hazardous.

Frameworks which incorporate environmental analyses are vital (see guidelines by the Association for Environmental Archaeology 1995) and we need to increase on-site pollen analysis, particularly on urban excavations. Other requirements are

- a considered sampling strategy specific to pollen
- multiproxy approach, to improve taxonomic precision
- increased modern analogues and experimental work on taphonomic problems
- inform curators of the advantages of palynology

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The author sampling pollen at a Romano-British site at Weston super Mare



ARCHAEOLOGY & POLITICS

Christopher Catling (editor of SALON) begins a new column on politics and archaeology by looking at the bills currently going through Parliament



Children learning about archaeology at Segedunum Museum and Archaeological Park, Wallsend, one of several HLF-funded projects that opens up archaeology for the local community and a wide circle of visitors. Will such high-quality archaeological projects survive all the new pressures? Photograph: Zak Waters, for HLF

It is rare that archaeology *per se* is discussed in the UK Parliament (through we have been promised a Heritage Bill in 2007, primarily to see through changes to the heritage protection regime in England). Yet political decisions often have an impact on archaeology, even when archaeology is not the focus of the legislation or debate. That is true of several bills in the Queen's Speech and now beginning their passage through Parliament.

IMPACT OF OLYMPICS

One is the Olympics Bill (sponsored by DCMS), to host the 2012 Games. For archaeologists there will be a double impact. Construction of new facilities

may lead to developer-funded work, but it will also mean top slicing Lottery budgets to raise the £2-4 billion which are already estimated. This will much diminish HLF funds from now to 2012 and beyond.

GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE IN GOOD CAUSES

The Lottery Bill is proving to be contentious. Ostensibly it is designed to merge the New Opportunities Fund, Community Fund and Millennium Commission to create the Big Lottery Fund (BLF). Theresa May, Conservative Shadow Culture Secretary, has warned that it 'will lead to the Lottery becoming just another arm of

government,' and Don Foster, Shadow Culture Secretary for the Liberal Democrats, has described the Bill as a new 'stealth tax'. Their concern lies in its terms of reference. In place of tangible good causes (sport, heritage, the arts, charities) BLF has been given broad funding themes: improving the quality of life of local communities, promoting wellbeing, encouraging community learning, enhancing community safety, for example. Sector commentators have pointed out that these themes look remarkably similar to the Government's own core priorities of health, education and crime. They worry about Government interference and the use of lottery funding to plug gaps in public spending (a new Jamie Oliver trust to improve school catering, for example).

VIEWERS' VOTES

The Government hasn't (yet) attempted to deny this. Instead, it says that Lottery Funds are 'the People's Millions' and that using funds for the Olympics and school meals is simply responding to popular opinion. In fact, the Government wants to see even greater response to public opinion. Starting this autumn, ITV will broadcast the first of a series of programmes asking viewers to vote for projects they think should win money.

The Lottery Bill has one other implication for archaeology: why stop at 50% of Lottery proceeds? The Government could argue that it is more efficient to abolish the existing 'good causes' (HLF, Arts Council, UK Sport), and have one application centre. How well would archaeology compete with computer training for teachers or new hospital equipment, let alone demands for the Olympics?

STEERING CONSULTATIONS

When the time comes (this autumn) for Government to review the Lottery, they will publish a consultation document. Government has developed consultation as a fine art for disarming criticism and setting out limited parameters for debate. Civil servants craft documents to steer respondents in the direction of prepared conclusions. HLF consultation will fall a long way short of a fundamental review, but will ask us to endorse broad principles, such as that HLF should be more accountable to the public (or civil servants).

MANAGING THE COUNTRYSIDE

Another small Bill in the Queen's Speech that has proved to be surprisingly controversial is the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Bill (sponsored by DEFRA), creating a new integrated countryside agency called Natural England to manage delivery of rural and environmental services and advise the Government on biodiversity and nature conservation. According to an apoplectic opinion piece in *Country Life* (2 June 2005), this means 'an army of bureaucrats armed with rigid farm plans laid down at the centre and imposed by satellite spying on every inch of rural England'. A less self-interested writer might have welcomed Natural England's remit to rebalance the use of the countryside in favour of wildlife.

MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY

Another DEFRA-sponsored bill is the Common Land Bill, intended to ensure that common land, especially in SSSIs, is managed in the interests of wildlife and protected from overgrazing. DEFRA says that the common land is 'an important part of our national heritage', and so it is. But it begs the question why the protection of natural heritage is worth so much Parliamentary time, when archaeology and the built heritage is not. The point is reinforced by the Marine Bill (DEFRA again), aimed at 'improving sustainable development of the marine and coastal environment', which will extend the protection given to marine species and habitats whilst introducing a streamlined system for planning and managing developments in coastal and marine waters. A vast amount of archaeological resource lies in the coastal zone and under the sea, so this legislation that could have major implications for archaeology, yet archaeology is not mentioned in the draft of the Bill.

So, it is rare that archaeology is ever mentioned in the UK Parliament – but surely that is a situation we need to change. The Marine Bill is the result of lobbying by Wildlife and Countryside Link, WWF, RSPB, Wildlife Trusts and the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society. We archaeologists could achieve just as much if we took politics as seriously as they do.

Christopher Catling
 Christopher.catling@virgin.net

NEW BOOKS REVIEWED Alison Taylor

Birmingham: the hidden history

Michael Hodder 2004

Tempus publishing 192pp £17.99 pb

Most archaeologists approaching archaeology in Birmingham would assume that its interest lay principally in the post-medieval period, and for once it would be pretty fair to say they would be right. Michael Hodder, Planning archaeologist for Birmingham City Council since 1994, has great knowledge of the local archaeology, especially of the intricacies of recent excavation in this huge city, and makes impressive attempts to report early evidence, but great gaps appear to be quite genuine. Burnt mounds are the only substantial Bronze Age evidence, and Metchley fort is the best the Romans offer, though there are a couple of excavated kiln sites. Things only improve in the middle ages, with the usual features of numerous villages plus the planned creation of Birmingham itself in the twelfth century. This thrived as a market and industrial town around the thirteenth-century church of St Martin's.

It is interesting to see the effect of features such as deer parks, moats and churchyards on the city's



Brick-built bottle-shaped craft pottery kiln, c. 1830, at Sutton Coldfield

topography, but Birmingham's real significance comes alive from about 1500, as excavations give us tangible evidence for example for metalworking, glass making, tanning, hemp and flax working, tile and pottery kilns and manufacture of artefacts from buttons to bricks. Accounts of these excavations must be a resource of national importance, as are those of the power sources that fuelled them and the transport systems (for which Birmingham has no natural advantages) that enabled success on a global scale. It is these processes themselves that deserve the attention of archaeologists who deal with the products all over Britain.

Excavations at the priory of the Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, Clerkenwell, London

MoLAS monograph 20

Barney Sloane and Gordon Malcolm 2004

Museum of London Archaeology Service and English

Heritage 434pp £31.95 pb



Excavating a crypt wall beneath the Knights Hospitaller's round church

How should we publish large-scale but bitty urban excavations, where innumerable specialists need to give detailed reports, complex stratigraphic data absorbed the excavators' interests for decades, but where it was the overall story these material remains elucidate that must become the authors' priority? Mixing narrative and data may be the heart of our discipline, but it is no easy feat. For some time MoLAS have been pioneering this approach in less promising circumstances, and this well documented site, fitting into a dramatic international context, benefits immeasurably from an integrated style that gives priority to the unfolding story and keeps data controlled in a supporting role. The authors' are also fortunate in the quality of the archaeological, architectural and documentary evidence, which is explored through seven thematic sections that place it in its wider context.

The international significance of this site is that it is a rare example (unique in Britain) of provincial headquarters of the Knights Hospitaller. Nineteen

excavations between 1985 and 1995 built up a detailed picture from its foundation in 1144 to the seventeenth century, most of the buildings having stayed in private use after the Dissolution in 1540 (though its round church was dastardly blown up by the Lord Protector Somerset to provide materials for his own house).

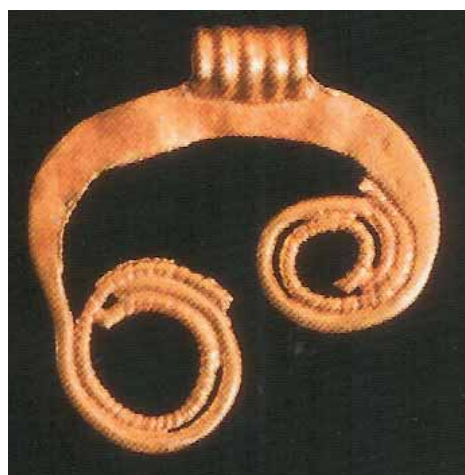
Despite the function of the site, there is only limited evidence for military or religious activity, but the section on diet, health, hygiene and living standards, all of an enviable standard for any date, confirms much that we thought about good-living monks. Evidence from twelfth/thirteenth-century cesspits for example demonstrate the luxurious diet (veal, suckling pig, swan, duck, partridge, haddock, plaice, figs and strawberries are included) in the

The origins of mid-Saxon Southampton: Excavations at the Friends Provident St Mary Stadium 1998-2000

Vaughan Birbeck with Roland JC Smith, Phil Andrews and Nick Stoodley 2005

Wessex Archaeology 217pp £15 pb

Southampton Football Club's decision to return to its old site, which happened to cover a sizeable piece of Hamwic, provided a fine opportunity to investigate this international mid-Saxon trading centre, uncovering rich burials along with evidence for various manufactures, squalid living conditions, streets, houses etc, mostly within a tight time-frame of the late seventh to ninth centuries. This report is therefore packed with data for several aspects of this poorly-understood period.



Gold pendant, only paralleled in Friesland

inner precinct, with a more restricted but still nutritious diet apparent outside the enclosed area. The medieval and post-medieval pottery reports concentrate refreshingly on information learned rather than on typology, and are hugely informative. Lyn Blackmore for example identifies 'bird pots', which are well documented in the Netherlands and were hung from trees or buildings to attract nesting birds (alas, for culinary rather than sentimental let alone ecological reasons) from the fifteenth to seventeenth century. There were also pottery watering cans and flower pots from gardens that were always an important feature here. Mostly bought at the neighbouring annual St Bartholomew's fair, pottery in general from Clerkenwell is informative for import and distribution networks of London.

The burials, which immediately preceded and were ignored by the settlement, unusually fall into two distinct categories which, again unusually, can arguably be explained by a sudden change in religion and the ruling power. Urned cremations with scarcely any grave goods seem to date to a short period either side of AD 700 (uncommon but far from unique in this area of late conversion) and were followed by inhumations, some richly furnished, perhaps a result of a West Saxon take-over. Weapon graves were common (the seax was a favourite), and included a decorated calf leather scabbard with a belt set. Female graves included two gold pendants and curated Roman jewellery amongst other riches. Only three out of 23 burials had no grave goods, which would have considerable interest at this date were it not that the appalling survival of bones and the impossibility of recognising graves in brickearth meant that nearly all had to be discovered through metal-detecting, a circumstance that should have been explained to those writing the discussion (a common complaint).

The eighth/ninth-century settlement produced tantalisingly slight evidence for iron, bronze and even gold working (a mass of gold thread), and for glass and pottery manufacture. More abundant evidence for a plain diet and squalid living conditions give a less glamorous picture of life for the inhabitants but, the authors suggest, the combination of regal burials and a manufacturing/trading centre of rapid growth puts Hamwic into line with London and Ipswich, also major trading centres probably established by royal intervention. The report therefore makes a major contribution to understanding the economy and politics of this intriguing period at an international level.

New members

ELECTED	Member (MIFA)	Associate (AIFA)	Practitioner (PIFA)	Affiliate	Student
	Colin Buck	Paul Adams	Broughton Anderson	Laura Hill	Graham Aldred
	David Hunter	Sally Dicks	Charlotte Dawson		Diane Butterfield
	Nicholas Johnson	Christopher	James Gerrard		Christopher Caine
	Neil MacNab	Hewitson	Tim Vickers		Trista Clifford
	Dietlind	Magnus Kirby			Michelle Crabb
	Paddenberg	Ian McHardy			Glyn Dodwell
	Rebecca Roseff	Bruno Mezec			Jonathan Dudley
	Alistair Webb	Roger Oram			Julia Gerken
		Richard Oram			Christopher Harrison
		Sally Parker			Maria LeRoi
		Naomi Payne			Avis Lloyd
		Sean Taylor			Panagiota
		Kim Watkins			Markoulaki
		Ross White			Scott Pannell
					Iwan Parry
TRANSFERS	Member (MIFA)	Associate (AIFA)	Practitioner (PIFA)		
	Martin Lightfoot	Caroline Appleton	Jenny Hayward		Farnaz Parvizi
	Gareth Watkins	Syann Brooks	Michael Keech		Guy Salkeld
		Jim Brown	Ingrid Ward		Michael Shaw
		Brian Hession			Sarah Ward
		Rebecca			Mary Wilde
		Thompson-Lawrence			

Members news

Peter Marsden, now on the point of retiring as director of the Shipwreck Heritage Centre, has been part of British archaeology over nearly half a century. In 1959 he was employed at the Guildhall Museum, City of London, as the museum's archaeologist, and throughout the 1960s was alone tackling the City's archaeology as the last wartime bombed sites were redeveloped. Fortunately he was able to form the City of London Excavation Group, enthusiastic volunteers who worked at weekends. Finding a Roman barge at Guy's Hospital in 1959 led him to maritime archaeology, and other Roman, medieval and later wrecks found at Blackfriars opened this field further. With Joan du Plat Taylor he formed the Committee for Nautical Archaeology, leading to the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973. In 1986 he was involved with a trust which established the Shipwreck Heritage Centre in Hastings. Other campaigns include trying to stop the MoD selling off wrecks of early historic warships. The trust now

owns two warship wrecks, both of which were targeted by treasure hunters.

Peter will continue writing when the Mary Rose is published in 2006 – and continue campaigning. Currently he is trying to stop amateur divers looting a merchant ship, the SS Storaasund, sunk by enemy torpedo in 1943 but considered by the MoD not to have been in military service. He has officially appealed to the High Court for permission for a Judicial Review which could open up the possibility of protection for merchant ships in which thousands of men died in two world wars.

He comments that 'it is a great delight to see the professionalism and enthusiasm of so many young people through the IFA. It has been a privilege to be part of the whole scene, and to know that our discipline is in much more capable hands now than it was in the 1950s and 1960s'.

Catherine Cavanagh has recently left English Heritage to become the manager of *England's Past for Everyone*. This new project is sponsored by the Victoria County History in partnership with HLF and is based in the Institute of Historical Research at the University of London. EPE is intended to bring local history to a wider audience, with thematic paperback publication and online resources for schools (www.EnglandPast.net).

Catherine successfully delivered the Historic Environment Local Management project for English Heritage, which provides online access to information, guidance and training at www.helm.org.uk. With a background in both commercial and development control archaeology and specific interests in buildings archaeology, project management and training, Catherine is a member of IFA Council and Education officer for the Buildings Archaeology Group.

Obituary

Christopher Currie, MIFA 888

Christopher Currie died suddenly this June, aged 52, whilst carrying out an archaeological survey for the National Trust on the Isle of Wight.

Since the late 1980s Chris was a pioneer of garden archaeology in Britain, and his CBA handbook on the subject is about to be published. His career began in the early 1980s, when he spent several years in Wiltshire running a Manpower Services Commission archaeology unit and as an archaeological research officer in Harrow. He took an MPhil at UCL studying the archaeology of medieval fishponds, and in 1989 was appointed Leverhulme Research Fellow to test the application of archaeological methods to practical fieldwork on historic gardens, based at Castle Bromwich Hall, West Midlands. This led to the Gardens Archaeology Project, which amongst its projects carried out research excavations at Dartington Hall, Devon, and long term excavation and survey of the landscaped gardens at Bushy Park, Greater London. He was a passionate believer in raising archaeological standards, and was a supporter of the IFA, its Standards, and the RAO scheme. From 1992 he was Principal of CKC Archaeology, and never failed to append the fact that the consultancy was IFA RAO no. 1!

Chris was a multi-faceted archaeologist, with an amazing range of knowledge on just about all periods of British archaeology – he published almost eighty articles in county and national journals and book chapters, covering sites from many different

areas. His historical training and meticulous approach led to definitive papers on subjects as diverse as the introduction of the carp to England, ponds as garden features, horticultural ceramics, Saxon charter boundaries, post-medieval environmental archaeology, and woodland management in the eighteenth century. His legacy of publications is testament to his assiduousness in ensuring research was carried through to dissemination at a time when many contractors were drawing back from publishing more than grey literature.

He believed that archaeology belonged to everybody, and always tried to provide opportunities for schoolchildren, students and volunteers on his projects. Although not by nature a 'committee man', he served for long periods on the Society for Landscape Studies and Hampshire Field Club. Chris was never afraid to court controversy in his interpretations and ideas, and his input into many fields of British archaeology will be sorely missed by fellow professionals and amateurs within the archaeological community.

Neil Rushton & Martin Locock

RAO News

CKC Archaeology

As a result of Chris Currie's sad death, CKC Archaeology will cease business when all current projects are completed this winter. Members wishing to discuss any CKC business should contact Neil Rushton on neilrushton13@hotmail.com.



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