



Hi - as Student and Affiliate members of CIfA you have access to the UK's biggest network of professional archaeologists and a wealth of information about how to build and grow your career in the heritage environment sector.

These bulletins are tailored to show you sector-specific careers resources, answer your FAQs and introduce you to other early career archaeologists and what they're doing in the field. We'll also highlight what is going on within the sector and CIfA, both events and practice-wise, and why it's important.

In this bulletin:

- What is CIfA?
- Professional Pathways
- Professional Profile *Nina Tayler*
- What are we doing right now?
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What is 'CIfA'?

CIfA stands for the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. The Institute was created in 1982 as the Institute for Field Archaeologists and became the Institute for Archaeologists in 2006. We achieved a Royal Charter in December 2014. Our [brief history of CIfA](#) gives an overview about why the Institute was established and what it has achieved to date. You can find out more about CIfA and what we do on our website <https://www.archaeologists.net/> and we'll look at different aspects of CIfA's work in future bulletins.

Professional Pathways

Professional Pathways aims to support members through the CIfA accredited grades by signposting to useful advice, resources and training that will help members to build on their existing knowledge and experience towards the next stage in their professional career. The Pathways project began this by drawing together information for early career archaeologists looking to gain a Practitioner membership and [can be found here](#)

Early Careers Archaeologists – a profile of Nina Tayler, Trainee with Pre-Construct Archaeology

I studied an Anthropology degree at Oxford Brookes University. My undergraduate course incorporated a broad syllabus, ranging from current social anthropological topics to prehistoric archaeological studies, and this sparked my interest in pursuing an Archaeological career. However, since I left uni with little practical experience, and seeing as most commercial companies require at least 3 months field experience, I found myself in a Catch 22 situation.



I decided to look for voluntary work, to build my CV and get a feel for work in the archaeological environment. Pre-Construct Archaeology offers good information about their voluntary opportunities on their website, and this led me to start finds-processing volunteering in the London office. Around Christmas, PCA were advertising for trainee positions, and they offered me the opportunity to become one of their Trainees.

The rotational nature of the job allowed me to participate in a variety of different sites, ranging from prehistoric to post-med, and incorporating Roman and Saxon assemblages, therefore providing me with a well-rounded scope of British archaeological sites. The work also ranged from evaluations to full-excavations, preparing me for both individual and team-based work. Furthermore, the trainees were also given training from a range of PCA's specialists including taught lectures on site specific pottery types, ceramic building material, site formation and lithics. PCA ensured I had a mentor at each site I went to and working alongside other Archaeologists allowed me to learn all about their own individual experiences.

The trainee position has been both insightful and enjoyable for me, and I am sad to be leaving PCA in order to complete a Masters' degree abroad. The trainee course at PCA has enriched my knowledge in both the science and practice of archaeology, and I am confident that the trainee course has made me a more desirable candidate for future internships entailed on my Masters programme. Also, the trainee course required me to complete a PCA Trainee logbook, making skills readily transferable in the internship application process. Once I have completed the Masters degree, I'd be very happy to consider a future with PCA.

The CfA approved trainee course at PCA is a great opportunity for anyone who is eager to learn how to perform field archaeology and gain taught-knowledge from professionals on British Archaeology.

Any questions? Please ask

If you've got a question about CfA or careers please send it to anna.welch@archaeologists.net or for membership enquiries contact lianne.birney@archaeologists.net You'll get a confidential answer but if the information could help others it will be included in an anonymised FAQs section. Here's a couple of questions that are often asked:

Where can I find out about jobs in archaeology?

CifA members get a weekly Jobs Information Service and Training (JIST) bulletin. If you're not receiving it please check your Junk folder and, if it's still missing, e-mail admin@archaeologists.net There are also [on-line adverts](#) on our website. Another good place to look is [British Archaeological Jobs & Resources \(BAJR\)](#)

What are 'ethical working practices' and where can I find out about them?

The CifA [Code of conduct](#) sets out the ethical working practices expected of professional archaeologists and professionally accredited members of CifA must adhere to them. As a member you can download a copy of '[A Guide to Professional Ethics](#)' which has a number of useful case studies and our e-learning module – 'Professionalism in historic environment practice, an introduction' – will introduce you to the meaning of 'professionalism' within a working environment.

Natalie Olemba was A Historic England placement student with CifA last summer. It has been very interesting and useful to hear her ideas, as someone new to archaeology, on how we can improve our careers information and, in her second blog, gives [her thoughts on the CifA Code of Conduct](#) her thoughts on the CifA Code of conduct



What are we doing at the moment?



10am catch up. Photo credit: Alex Llewellyn

Right now you're likely to be studying remotely and wondering when you're going to be able to return to university or your training position. Or you may be thinking about how you're able to get a job when a good part of the world is in lockdown.

We're working from home but you can still get hold of us by e-mail at

admin@archaeologists.net and we're publishing up to date information about how archaeology is being affected during this time, what help is available, and keeping yourself safe if you are doing any archaeological work. See our [Coronavirus web page](#) for more news.


CifA, and other heritage organisations, are talking to the government about financial support that archaeology companies need right now and are likely to need once lockdown rules are relaxed.

We're signposting to CPD training that members might be interested in. CifA Diggers' Forum group have [put together a list](#) and so have [CifA's Voluntary and Community Archaeology group](#) . You can

find more suggestions on the Coronavirus page. We're running some webinars to help with putting together applications for accreditation and you can find more details on our [Events calendar](#) .

We hope you find this bulletin of interest. We will be sending them regularly and if you have suggestions for what you'd like to see in the future please get in touch.

Hopefully by the time you get the next bulletin things will be a bit more back to normal. Until then – and beyond - the Professional Pathways team is here to help and support you through your career in archaeology and professional accreditation of CfA.



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