



Polydora Baker and Fay Worley
Environmental Studies Team
Heritage Protection and Planning
English Heritage
Fort Cumberland
Fort Cumberland Rd.

24 January 2014

Dear Polydora and Fay,

Consultation on Animal Bones and Archaeology: Guidelines for Best Practice

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these draft guidelines for best practice.

The Institute for Archaeologists

The Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) is a professional body for the study and care of the historic environment. It promotes best practice in archaeology and provides a self-regulatory quality assurance framework for the sector and those it serves.

IfA has over 3,000 members and more than 70 registered practices across the United Kingdom. Its members work in all branches of the discipline: heritage management, planning advice, excavation, finds and environmental study, buildings recording, underwater and aerial archaeology, museums, conservation, survey, research and development, teaching and liaison with the community, industry and the commercial and financial sectors.

Animal Bones and Archaeology: Guidelines for Best Practice

IfA welcomes the formulation of these draft guidelines as a helpful and comprehensive guide, not only to zooarchaeological best practice in this context, but also to the products of zooarchaeological research (something which needs to be understood by those without specialist knowledge). We also particularly welcome the reference throughout the document to IfA Standards and guidance along with other relevant material.

The following comments are confined to minor points of detail.

Page 14 – Text Box 1 refers to ‘Definition of historic environment and historic assets’ (my underlining). This should read ‘heritage assets’. In addition the references to PPS 5 should be replaced by references to the Glossary to the NPPF (where those references can now be found).

Page 15 – The references to ‘IfA Guidance’ in the third row of the table should read ‘IfA Guidance (for example IfA 2008a, b, c, d, 2012, 2013, 2009)’ and the reference in the fourth row of the table should read ‘*Standard and guidance for archaeological advice by historic environment services* (IfA 2013). See below under References.

Page 18, paragraph 2.1 – Although there are references to both ‘historic’ and ‘heritage’ assets in the NHPP, it might be better consistently to refer to ‘heritage assets’ rather than ‘historic assets’.

Page 18, paragraph 2.2 – The reference to the IfA standard here should read ‘IfA 2013’.

Page 20, paragraph 2.4, last line – The Institute welcomes the reference to IfA Standards here and notes that the draft guidelines uses the same terminology as the 2008 Standard (i.e. a requirement for ‘a qualified and suitably experienced specialist’). However, more recently drafted or revised IfA Standards refer to ‘competence’ or ‘expertise’ rather than ‘experience’ (as competence and experience are not necessarily synonymous). This comment also applies to paragraph 3.2.5 at page 39 (‘experienced zooarchaeologist’) and paragraph 3.3.4 at page 41 (‘suitably experienced individual’).

Page 22, paragraph 2.5 – The reference should read ‘IfA 2009’.

Page 35, paragraph 3.2.2 – The reference to ‘Andrew (1991)’ should read ‘Andrews (1991)’ (my underlining).

Pages 46-47, paragraph 3.6 – The reference to ‘Gillman & Newman 2007’ should read ‘Gilman & Newman 2007’.

Page 110, References - The reference to ‘Andrew (1991)’ should read ‘Andrews (1991)’ (my underlining).

Page 113, References - The reference to ‘Gillman & Newman 2007’ should read ‘Gilman & Newman 2007’.

Page 114 – 115, References – The references to IfA Standard and guidance are as follows (I have added the up-to-date web address if that is of assistance):

IfA 2008a *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*. Reading: Institute for Archaeologists
<http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/IfASG-Finds.pdf>

IfA 2008b *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation*. Reading: Institute for Archaeologists
<http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/IfASG-Excavation.pdf>

IfA 2008c *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*. Reading: Institute for Archaeologists
<http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/IfASG-Watching-Brief.pdf>

IfA 2008d *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*. Reading: Institute for Archaeologists
<http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/IfASG-Field-Evaluation.pdf>

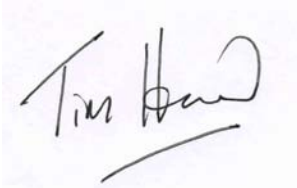
IfA 2009 *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*. Reading: Institute for Archaeologists
<http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/IfASG-Archaeological-Archives.pdf>

IfA 2012 *Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment*. Reading: Institute for Archaeologists
<http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/DBA2012-Working-draft.pdf>

IfA 2013 *Standard and guidance for archaeological advice by historic environment services*. Reading: Institute for Archaeologists
<http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/IfASG-Archaeological-Advice-and-glossary.pdf>

If there is anything further that I can do to assist please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Howard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke underneath the name.

Tim Howard LLB, Dip Prof Arch
Policy Advisor