

Professional conduct investigation results in expulsion of a Member (MCIfA) of the Institute

Following an investigation into an allegation of misconduct against Dr Neil Phillips, MCIfA (4717), the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists found that Dr Neil Phillips had breached the CIfA Code of conduct.

Dr Phillips was found to have told his client that additional costs had been incurred which were outside what was needed to fulfil the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) and due to the archaeological advisor to the planning authority pursuing their own personal research objectives. The actions taken by Dr Phillips were found to have unjustifiably injured the planning archaeologist's reputation contrary to Rule 1.5 and also constituted misleading or unwarranted statements about archaeological matters contrary to Rule 1.2. The panel also found that Dr Phillips' comments about the length of time needed for additional work (not merely work required to meet the requirements of the WSI) amounted to dishonesty and/or misrepresentation of archaeological matters contrary to Rule 1.8. The Panel further determined that these matters had brought archaeology into disrepute contrary to Rule 1.1.

As a result, a sanction of expulsion from the Institute has been imposed. In determining the sanction, the Panel took into account that Dr Neil Phillips had within the last three years been issued with a formal reprimand by the Chartered Institute for a breach of the Code. In reaching the decision on the sanction, the Panel was conscious that the Respondent had not shown any degree of contrition or indication that he would reflect upon how he might improve his conduct in future.