

COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 13 May 2026,
15:00 – 16:25
Online
Minutes

Present:

Richard McConnell – RM
Perry Gardner – PG, Sarah-Jane Farr – SJF
Jessica Lowther - JL (Chair), Emily Johnston – EJ
Laura Miucci - LM (Secretary), Rebecca Dolan - RD
Cara Burton – CB - (Cifa)

Agenda Point	Action
1. Apologies Frank Giecco -FG	ALL, LM
2. Updates since last meeting - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recording Community Engagement with Commercial Units (<i>Scot Survey 2024</i>): not always easy to access this info publicly, so hard to measure the impact • Possibly create a Community Archaeology dataset, and guidance notes? • Oasis5 (updated 2025 to include some info Qs for Comm.Arch element) - need to advertise more widely, ie at a Cifa event? • Advisory Council meeting today discussed making Cifa memberships more attractive to people (Jessica & Rebecca attended) Jess will write a Press Release and chat to the OASIS working group,	ALL
3. The Comm.Arch Facebook page Jess will find out if any of us have access to the Facebook page or know people who do. Emily would be happy to be part of the team handling our social media. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • good place to share useful Grant info, such as Reverberate (English Heritage) - promoting heritage engagement for those aged 11-25 • focus more on LinkedIn? [seems to be changing recently] • highlight any relevant CPD sessions by other heritage bodies/groups • use to promote the Toolkit 	ALL
4. Outreach & public engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emily’s colleague in outreach, Sally, might be able to give a short talk (Digit!) • Using the Press Release as a Tool • Laura has a Conference next week giving a community archaeology CPD talk and could re-jig her para on the benefits of community archaeology as an Intro • personal stories of interacting with the press on community-centred projects/events • important to focus on the positive elements, not negative experiences • advice for Social Media posts - each group controlling their own narrative • things to keep secret vs. what you can be sharing publicly • engaging with stakeholders • templates for press releases that people can edit? • avoidance of the words ‘Treasure’ - helps eliminate sensationalising info Richard, Laura and Jessica planning to attend our tea-break session on Weds 20 May. Want more open discussion, so won’t record, but will share a write-up after (Talk Takeaway)	ALL
5. Hosting an annual community archaeology event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try to host a community archaeology event every year, but only look at a Cifa conference session when we’ve got something big/exciting to say • event will be a 1 day event - Cifa will help support us with it 	ALL

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> target different groups & offer some free/discounted tickets to make it more accessible currently we have over 1000 in the Community Archaeology SIG - appeal to wide audiences mix of networking, seminar sessions, and CPD training sessions <p>Ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> aiming for Event Autumn (in-person vs. online) - hybrid not used for ClfA events - we could do pre-recorded segments however mini-conference: 4 tea-break talks back-to-back? specific SC Meeting for this, in addition to regular committee meetings look at a range of platforms? Promote in emails, and our newsletter 	
6.	<p>Outreach & public engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emily was commended on her wonderful presentation at the Conference 2026 Conference really improved upon the 2025 one - well done to the IM SIG Oxford Archaeology: Quantification of Social Value - their formula might prove a useful standard to promote (when Emily attended 'Social Value' session) - they're modifying one pre-existing one [<i>We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give</i> - Social Value and Public Benefit in Archaeology] Value vs. Money: Powerful tool; has to be used carefully, for specific purposes some Project Legacies are somewhat immeasurable Impact Assessments need to see what people do next, not necessarily straight after but as a more long-term result of involvement in community projects being okay with projects coming to a close - but general community outreach in that area will continue, not for one project to be responsible for - sharing legacies across different projects on the same topics/in the same area - collective responsibility: sign-posting to other heritage bodies/groups etc... Community Archaeology SIG public benefit pop-up - very well-attended, and lots of networking taking place, as hoped, yay - many interesting conversations good to action some of the conversations had at the conference Doing really well at getting some models together for community archaeology engagement guidance - need to replicate this progress across the sector: smaller companies as well as the big ones - different realistic achievements for different companies, depending on size and capacity 	ALL
7.	<p>Date of next committee meeting</p> <p>Next committee Meeting in September but planning to have a specific meeting to plan the Autumn event. Jess suggests 23 June, 3-4:30pm.</p> <p>Closing Q from Perry: <i>Is Archaeology ready for external scrutiny?</i></p>	