Call for papers

These sessions are actively accepting and calling for papers and would welcome submissions from individuals, groups or organisations who may be interested in contributing to the session at CIfA2025.

We want these to showcase great archaeology, to stimulate debate, and to look to change how we work and how we promote our profession to others.

We intend to record all presentations delivered at CIfA2025. All session recordings (digital) will be made available for our attendees to view on demand from the Cadence online conference platform.

To submit a proposal for a paper:

* email the **session organisers** with the title of your paper and an abstract of up to 150 words
* make sure you include your **name and contact details** in your submission
* advise if you have any additional requirements, needs, or may need any **logistical support**
* if you can **confirm your availability** to attend in person on the date/time of the session as per our draft timetable

In the interest of promoting a more varied set of speakers, this year we will ask speakers to present papers at a **maximum of two sessions**. If you are offered the opportunity to speak at three or more sessions, you will need to select two. We hope this will give more opportunities to present for early careers archaeologists and those who may not have been selected to present in previous years.

## Wednesday, 30 April, 2025

### 11:00 – 15:00

**Stories of our past to inspire our future**

**Organisers:** Jim Williams, Louise Rayner, Mark Hinman

We are organising a CIfA conference session called “Stories of our past to inspire our future” where we want to showcase the results of groundbreaking archaeological work carried out by Registered Organisations.

We want to deliver a session that stimulates conference attendees and “wows” them with the new stories from recently completed work. For our profession to be ‘fit for’ and valued in the 21st century, we need to tell these stories in interesting, inspiring, collaborative ways. We invite staff from Registered Organisations to accept that challenge and tell us a story – about all aspects of their projects, from innovative methodologies illustrated with stunning imagery to the best analytical work, and creative approaches to meeting the challenges of our sector, to show how commercial archaeology in the 21st Century is helping us understand our past and is serious about communicating its value/significance.

We have a three hour conference slot on Wednesday 30th April and are looking for engaging speakers who’d like to present either a 20 minute paper that explores RO-led archaeological projects and their outcomes in detail, or a shorter 10 minute snapshot of specific parts of these projects.

We would like to hear from speakers who represent the diversity of employees of ROs, in line with CIfA’s Equal Opportunities Policy so that the session represents the widest range of viewpoints, experiences and perspectives about our past. It would be great to hear from presenters and organisations who do not regularly present at the conference.

Louise Rayner (Archaeology South-East), Mark Hinman (Pre-Construct Archaeology) and Jim Williams (Historic England). Please send proposed paper titles and abstracts (150 words) to jim.williams@historicengland.org.uk by 31st January.

### 15:30 – 17:00

**Don't call it a T3D Talk: The future of the profession in big ideas**

**Organiser:** Emily Plunkett

**Abstract**: The future of our profession is shaped not just by those big ideas beyond our profession such as policy or sustainability, but also those big ideas which come from within the profession.

One example is the big idea that archaeologists should tender for work rather than only working ‘their patch’, which for better or worse led us here.

**The Session**: This session will present up and coming professionals with their ‘big idea’ for the future of the profession in a T3D style talk and the idea is that we take some time to explore what the future leaders of our profession think are the big ideas which will shape our profession over the next 10 to 20 (or 40!) years.

Now a BIG IDEA can also be a small change so I am keen to ensure that not only those with ideas for big changes apply. And I hope that the session can reflect this. Your paper can be anything from 3 to 12 minutes and can be in any format you would like.

However, I will say that I am most interested in papers from future leaders not current leaders! SO if you are junior, or early career, or starting out in some way in the profession I would love to hear your ideas most of all.

Applicants should email emily.plunkett.iknowem@gmail.com or you can find me on LinkedIn.

You should:

1. Give me your name and current professional standing.
2. State how long you want for your paper (3 mins to 12 mins).
3. Give me a 150 word or less outline of your idea. Make sure you include how you think it will change the profession and why it matters.

Feel free to include any other information you feel is relevant.