

Thursday 23 January 2025

Issue 15



Welcome to our weekly update of what's happening in the world of CIfA – for members, about members, driven by members. We will cover a broad range of news, including events, training and resources, advocacy and policy, collaborative working with partners, and much more. We would love your feedback and suggestions about what we could cover in future issues. Email your ideas and comments to: admin@archaeologists.net

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CIfA Area and Special Interest Groups news

A few of our Special Interest Groups have recently set up BlueSky accounts. If you're looking to stay informed about Group activities, connect with others, and engage with discussions about their work then give them a follow!

- [CIfA Early Careers Group](#)
- [CIfA Human Osteoarchaeology SIG](#)
- [CIfA Information Management Group](#)
- [CIfA Landscape SIG](#)
- [CIfA Finds Group](#)

CIfA's [Landscape Special Interest Group](#) delivered the second in their series of tea break lectures last week, featuring presentations about OSL Profiling and Dating (OSL-PD) for landscape archaeology and a case study of a landscape; Parish of Birse Aberdeenshire. If you didn't get a chance to watch them live you can watch the [recording here](#).

Don't forget to subscribe to the Landscape Group (and any others which interest you) by updating your [members profile](#) to get Group notifications for any future sessions straight to your inbox.

Upcoming application workshops

Thinking about applying for or upgrading your professional accreditation?

Our first application workshops of the year are planned for February. These walk through each stage of the application process, ensuring you understand what CIfA's Validation committee is looking for and how to best demonstrate your skills and knowledge to them.

You can book for free using the links below

[Practitioner \(PCIfA\)](#) – Monday 10 February at 5pm

[Associate \(ACIfA\)](#) – Tuesday 25 February at 12pm

If you need any advice or support, please get in touch with Ellen or Lianne at membership@archaeologists.net. We are happy to chat through any questions you have.



Members in the News

Each week we will feature CIfA members and Registered Organisations who have made the news recently. If you have a news piece that you would like to share, email: carl.smith@archaeologists.net

Hoard of 11 Century coins found at Sizewell C power station.

A team from CIfA's registered organisation, Oxford Cotswold Archaeology, has discovered a hoard of coins dating back to the 11 century during excavations at Sizewell C power station in Suffolk.

The lead package containing 321 coins in mint condition is believed to have been the savings pot of a local figure, possibly fearing regime changes following the coronation of Edward the Confessor in 1042, who was somehow prevented from returning to the location.

This discovery is being featured in the new series of the BBC's Digging for Britain, [available to watch now on BBC iPlayer.](#)



Cifa Conference 2025

Registration for Cifa Annual Conference 2025 is now open! Early bird rates are available for the next week (deadline 31 January). Cifa members save over 30% on bookings. [Book your place here](#).

The Cifa conference schedule has been announced and can be viewed on the [conference information page](#), along with the most up-to-date list of sessions requesting papers. Session topics include: conservation, bringing together academic and commercial archaeology, large scale projects, how we share archaeological stories, archives, value of heritage, green approaches to archaeology, evaluation, and wellbeing in archaeology. Further information will be provided as it is confirmed.

Two sessions for the annual conference are currently calling for papers: *Stories of our past to inspire our future* (organised by Jim Williams, Louise Rayner, and Mark Hinman) and *Don't call it a T3D Talk: The future of the profession in big ideas* (organised by Emily Plunkett). Full details of the sessions and the who to contact can [be found here](#).

Cifa has worked with Birmingham and West Midlands Conference Bureau to create an exclusive [conference accommodation booking portal](#). These rooms are being held at dedicated rates until 31 March 2025, but are limited in availability; we encourage you to book early. This portal is by no

means an exhaustive list. Most budget hotels, hostels, and B&Bs do not participate in these booking portals.

We are now accepting bookings for sponsors and exhibitors within our exhibition hall. We look forward to welcoming our exhibitors back in full force to the Cifa conference.

[Cifa2025 Sponsorship & Exhibitor Brochure](#)

[Cifa2025 Sponsorship & Exhibitor Booking Form](#)

We have a number of bursary options available to assist with the cost of registering or attending Cifa2025. The first confirmed set of bursaries are open for accepting applications. Further information can be found on our dedicated [bursary page](#).

Recordings from the 2024 Innovation Festival are now available. Find the [festival recordings here](#).

Are you interested in sharing your knowledge and skill set by supporting your peers to develop new skills?

We are evaluating our annual CPD/training offer and want to expand on our provision but to do this – we need your help! We are looking to develop a register of members with relevant expertise to help co-design and deliver new content.

If you have experience of designing and/or delivering training or CPD content, we'd love to hear from you. If you have skills you'd like to share but don't have experience of delivering training, we still want to hear from you - we may be able to support you to learn how to deliver training workshops.

Please fill in this [brief survey](#) to help inform this process.

Survey data will be collected and stored in line with our [GDPR policy](#). Get in touch with any questions at approvedcpd@archaeologists.net



Archaeological technician apprentices' field trip

Apprentices at Cirencester College recently spent three days touring a variety of key sites which included Avebury, Stonehenge, West Kennet Long Barrow, Maiden Castle, Cheddar Gorge, Devizes Museum and Salisbury Museum.

The college runs two annual trips each year, which last for several days. They're designed so that the apprentices can apply knowledge learned in the classroom to the landscape, and they also present their own research on-site. The trips are carefully tailored to dovetail with the teaching syllabus, covering pre-history with Wessex in the autumn, and the Romans with Northumberland in the summer.

Leading the trip were Aidan Scott, Archaeology Lecturer and Catherine Montgomery, Archaeology Apprenticeship Coach.

Apprentice Kayleigh Hibberd says:

I found the Wessex trip to be such an enlightening experience as it gave the opportunity to really go out and see examples of the sites we've been discussing in lectures. Learning about different time periods online is one thing, but going out into the landscape and being able to visualise how prehistoric peoples used it is another, and gives much more insight into why they were doing things, like constructing megalithic structures in certain places.

In particular, when visiting Stonehenge, Aidan took the time to walk us around the surrounding area so that we could really get a feel for how Stonehenge would have sat within the landscape and how it would have been seen. The level of detail that he went into at each site was amazing and I came away feeling freshly inspired!

As the apprenticeship learning is delivered nationwide, the trips also give the apprentices the opportunity to meet up and share their experiences of working in a diverse range of organisations, including commercial archaeological businesses and bodies such as Historic England and the National Trust. The apprentices also begin their courses at different times of the year so the trips provide a great opportunity to learn from others who are further ahead with their training.

Kayleigh says:

I found meeting the other apprentices to be such a helpful experience as it gave us the opportunity to talk through the apprenticeship and how we're finding things. A lot of the apprentices are working within commercial units, so it's especially reassuring talking with apprentices that are coming from a similar research/desk-based role as me. After meeting everyone else, I feel a lot more comfortable speaking up in lectures and sharing thoughts.

If you're interested in talking to Cirencester College about how an apprentice could contribute towards your workforce, please contact Kate Tingle: kate.tingle@cirencester.ac.uk

A professional home for archaeology, wherever you're based

CifA was invited to the Bundesdenkmalamt, Runde Tisch Archäologie 2025 (The Federal Monuments Office, Archaeology Round Table meeting) in Vienna last week, to speak about the role of professional bodies. Jen Parker Wooding gave a presentation on the key building blocks that support the work undertaken by members - the Code of conduct and professional standards – and the importance of collaborative approaches to aligning guidance across jurisdictions to ensure guidance frameworks that support archaeologists, wherever they're working.

The [event included international speakers](#) with presentations from Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Iceland and the United Kingdom, and a panel discussion on archaeological monument preservation in the 21st Century with speakers from various organisations across Austria.

Awareness of CifA and accreditation levels outside of the UK is steadily increasing with CifA members now extending into 28 countries. One of our current strategic objectives is to ensure the CifA Code of conduct and Standards and guidance are fit for purpose, universally applicable and link to local guidance across different jurisdictions. This work is being guided by members through our professional standards advisory panel, our area and special interest groups and specialist advisory panels.

In the upcoming issue of *The Archaeologist* magazine make sure you keep an eye out for a great article entitled *Ethics and standards in international practice* authored by CifA members Ruth Humphreys MCIfA, Dr Coralie Acheson MCIfA, and Leonora O'Brien MCIfA (International Practice Group Chair). If you would like to become more involved in the review and update process of the CifA Standards and guidance [please contact Jen](#) for more information.



Stay up-to-date with our upcoming events by checking our [event list](#). We have a wide range of networking events, light CPD lunch & learns, and other events in the coming weeks!

Carbon Reduction and planning lunchtime drop-in

Historic England and CifA are keen to provide more support for small to medium archaeological organisations and need your help in shaping this.

Join us for a lunchtime chat, on *29 January and 5 February from 12.30 until 13.15*. This session will provide you with the opportunity to network with colleagues and provide some informal CPD. For more and to register: [29 January](#) and [5 February](#).

Human Osteoarchaeology SIG Osteobites Session

The Human Osteoarchaeology special interest group invites you to their first 'Osteobites' series of short online talks from 18.30 until 19.30 on Thursday 30 January 2025.

These bit-sized talks, followed by discussions and questions are a chance to connect with fellow OsteoSIG members. Each session which focuses on a specific topic and are open to all CifA members to attend. [More information and to register click here](#)

Neurodiversity network

Join us on the 4 February, from 12.30 to 13.15, for one of our regular neurodiversity network catch ups. This will be an informal discussion with the opportunity to share experiences and ask questions. [More information and to register click here](#)



Are you interested in reviewing a book?

CifA currently has dozens of books on a wide variety of subjects available for members to review. With titles ranging from *The Green Man: Myth and Reality* to *The Hot Trod: A history of the Anglo-Scottish Border*, there is bound to be one that interests you.

You can see the full list of books available, as well as any previous reviews, [on our website](#).

If you are interested in reviewing a book, or have a publication you would like to be considered for review, please contact Michael Sharp at Michael.sharp@archaeologists.net

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