

Thursday 30 January 2025

Issue 16



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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January has been a packed month for CIfA Advocacy, with a four-week consultation on Managing the Marine Environment (conveniently coinciding with Christmas and New Year), responses to a Law Commission consultation on burial and cremation, and consultation on Historic Environment Scotland's corporate plan. CIfA has also prepared responses to Historic England's technical guidance on waterlogged wood and [Managing Archaeology in London](#) (closes 7 February). [All CIfA's consultation responses can be found here.](#)

CIfA also met with the MP for Ely, Charlotte Cane, who is a former professional archaeologist, to discuss the *All Party Parliamentary Archaeology Group*. We are looking forward to Charlotte being a vocal champion for archaeology in Parliament. CIfA has also been supporting the development of the *Heritage Sector Resilience Plan* by attending a number of workshops.

CIfA is also working with the Heritage Alliance to plan a joined-up sector approach to the English Planning and Infrastructure Bills and Devolution White Paper. There has been some more noise in the media around the Westminster Government's plan to streamline planning and infrastructure development, with announcements relating to the limiting of legal challenge to planning permissions, and the decision to proceed with an overhaul of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), utilising the previous Government's Environmental Outcomes Report structure, legislated in the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act. At this stage, we do not perceive this as a direct threat to archaeological safeguards and will be working to engage with Government to ensure that this remains the case.

[Archaeology sector at risk of losing government support for the level 7 degree apprenticeships](#)

The government has recently announced that it plans to 'rebalance' how it spends the employer training levy, which includes withdrawing spending on level 7 apprenticeships. This puts our much-valued level 7 archaeological specialist master's degree apprenticeship at risk.

This route is providing a vital avenue for training the next generation of archaeology specialists, providing work-ready specialists for a profession that's been at risk for many years. [Read more here](#) about why CifA believes that, for the archaeology industry, the Department for Education needs to re-think this decision.

We're making a case to the department to explain how important these apprenticeships are for our sector. If you'd like to add your voice, please contact assessment@archaeologists.net



CifA Area and Special Interest Groups news

CifA's [Groups](#) represent different specialisms, geographical areas and themes across the historic environment sector, established by CifA members to provide a forum for discussion regarding good practice, and assist in setting high professional standards. CifA members can [join any groups for free](#), and [non-members can join a group](#) for an annual fee of £10 per group.

[International Practice SIG](#) held their AGM last week. The group were joined by IPSIG members across the world and welcomed two new members onto the committee. A special thanks goes out to IPSIG Chair Leonora who has agreed to continue in the role until the Group recruit a new Chair.

Currently both [International Practice SIG](#) and [Diggers' Forum](#) have Chair positions available. The Chair is responsible for representing the Group, supporting and directing the committee and are the main committee contact with CifA. They are instrumental in helping the Group deliver its goals by providing direction and leadership.

Interested in learning more about what being a Group Chair means? You can [view the committee roles and responsibilities document](#) or reach out with any questions about role requirements or to express your interest to groups@archaeologists.net.

CifA Deutschland Online Conference

For the fourth consecutive year, CIfA Deutschland and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Ur und Frühgeschichte (DGUF) are organising the annual online conference *Das archäologische Jahr* (A Year in Archaeology) on 22 February. Papers will focus on discoveries, excavations and research in archaeology which took place in Germany in 2024.

This German language event is free to attend and open to anyone. More information can be found on the DGUF [event page](#), where you will also find the full programme once the call for papers has closed. If you would like to join us, you can register via the DGUF's [website](#). Registration is open until 3pm (CET) on 21 February.



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

Roman settlement unearthed across the Ermin Way

Archaeologists from Oxford Cotswold Archaeology (a partnership between CIfA Registered Organisations Oxford Archaeology and Cotswold Archaeology) were amongst a group which unearthed a Roman settlement that straddled the Ermin Way. The excavations on the south-eastern part of the A417 in Gloucestershire were undertaken during construction on the Missing Link Scheme, and [featured on the BBC's Digging for Britain](#).

It's believed that this small town was a link to many Roman settlements, including Cirencester and Gloucester. Alex Thomson, from Cotswold Archaeology, said: "Our Roman settlement site was one of the standout areas of our work on the A417 project. It's clear that the structures we've recorded helped serve the passing trade on a busy Roman highway - it really could be a 2,000-year-old service station."

It's likely that the town represented a busy stopping point for those travelling along the Roman highway seeking somewhere to rest and trade. The team uncovered ovens, Roman coins, brooches, 420kg of pottery and animal bone, opening a window into the lives of the settlement's occupants from nearly 2,000 years ago.

Apprenticeships: local authorities networking session

To celebrate National Apprenticeship Week 2025, the Local Authority Heritage Community is hosting a networking session for its members, focussing on all things apprenticeships, on *Tuesday 11 February, 12:30-13:30pm*.

Join Ellie Davis, Heritage Apprenticeships and Qualifications Adviser at Historic England, for an online drop-in session. They want to hear your thoughts and experiences, and offer a space to network, ask questions, and celebrate apprenticeships and their value for the public sector, as well as exploring barriers to entry. [Visit the online community for event details](#) and more opportunities for discussion.



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!

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](#).

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 one of our online focus group sessions, on 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 information and to register](#).

PCIfA accreditation: a step-by-step guide

Join our digital workshop to help understand the accreditation process for Practitioner (PCIfA) applications, from 5pm on 10 February. [For further information, and details of how to register for the workshop](#).

We want to encourage every archaeologist to submit a successful application for professional accreditation. But how do you ensure you have included everything in your application, so it is more likely to be successful? Join Ellen for a review of the accreditation process, covering everything from the online application form to the statement of competence and everything in between.

Managing Archaeology in London Consultation

CiFA is reviewing the new draft guidelines for archaeological work in London produced by The Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS) in association with MOLA Archaeology. If you work in London and are interested in taking part in the consultation, which closes on 7 February, visit [Historic England's website](#).

CiFA welcomes the draft Managing Archaeology in London guidelines, particularly the strong emphasis on delivering public benefit outcomes from archaeological work, and will be submitting a response to the consultation this week.



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 Final Frontier: Scotland's Early Roman Landscape* to *Hords from Wiltshire*, 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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