

Thursday 9 January 2025

Issue 13



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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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

'Lost' Elizabethan manor house in Devon features on Digging of Britain

A long-lost manor house at Columbjohn, Devon, has been relocated by the University of Exeter as part of their annual field school, featured in Episode 6 of the new series of Digging for Britain, scheduled for broadcast on BBC Two on Thursday 16 January at 8pm, or [available to watch now on BBC iPlayer](#).

Working in partnership with the National Trust at Killerton, the excavations were undertaken by students and volunteers in May - June 2024. The manor house was built in around 1580 and occupied for around 100 years by the Acland family, before they moved to the main house at Killerton, but its exact location was unknown. Following survey, the excavations uncovered a cobbled courtyard, two ranges of buildings, parts of a demolished outer precinct wall and a probable sunken garden.

"The buildings were much better preserved than expected, with intact floors and many finds indicating high-status occupation, including dress pins, buttons, a bone comb, a wine glass stem and a pipe tamper signet ring," said lead archaeologist at the University of Exeter, Susan Greaney MCIfA. The team hope to return this summer to understand more about the overall layout of the buildings.

CIfA members highlight damage to scheduled monuments in Wales by off-roaders

The problem of damage to the historic environment caused by off-road bikers is highlighted in a [news story on BBC News Online](#) by Claudine Gerrard, MCIfA of Registered Organisation Heneb: the Trust for Welsh Archaeology, and Jon Berry MCIfA, Chair of the CIfA Cymru/Wales Group and Senior Inspector of Ancient Monuments & Archaeology at Cadw.

Claudine and Jon emphasise the benefits of partnership working between Heneb, Cadw, local authorities and the police to tackle the issue. Wales has introduced new legislation to make it easier to prosecute unlawful damage to scheduled monuments and, in recent years, [Operation Heritage Cymru](#) – a neighbourhood watch scheme for ancient monuments – has been launched and is delivering good results.

CIfA formed a new [Heritage Crime Special Interest Group](#) in 2023, which is open to all CIfA members with an interest in heritage crime, and non-members can also join the group for £10 per year.

Archaeologists in the New Year's Honours List

Professor Timothy Insoll, founder and Director of the University of Exeter's Centre for Islamic Archaeology, [has been awarded an OBE in the New Year's Honours List](#) for his work over the past 25 years in Bahrain.

Update on the 2024 salary benchmarking report

The [interim salary benchmarking report](#) was published last October. Since then, the Project Advisory Group has been working to complete the final report for the 2023-24 financial year, which will be circulated to members very shortly.

Alongside this, a working group of CIfA's Board of Directors is focusing on aligning and implementing the two resolutions passed by members at the April 2024 EGM, and Advisory Council is working on a sector survey to enable a more detailed understanding of the issues and concerns facing the sector. We will keep you updated on progress with all three areas of work over the coming weeks.



[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

January is looking to be a busy month for CIfA Groups, with loads of opportunities to get involved, learn more, and bolster your 2025 CPD log!

·[Landscape Special Interest Group](#) are holding a [tea break lecture](#) on January 15 from 12.05 – 12.55 featuring a talk on *Make Un-dateable Features a Thing of the Past! OSL Profiling and Dating (OSL-PD) for Landscape Archaeology and Case Study of a Landscape; Parish of Birse Aberdeenshire*.

·[International Practice SIG](#) are holding their [Annual General Meeting](#) on Wednesday 22 January 2025 from 17:00 - 18:00, where the Group will discuss their work in 2024, plans for 2025, and how they can best meet the needs of the Group members.

·[Human Osteoarchaeology SIG](#) are holding their first [bitesize online lecture series, Osteobites](#), featuring a talk by Tom Booth - Ancient DNA for Archaeologists: What it Can and Can't Do and Why.

These bitesize CPD opportunities are free to attend online, and all CIfA members are welcome to attend.

CIfA Annual Conference 2025 now open for registration

Conference registration is now open! Early bird rates are available until the end of the month (31 January). CIfA members save over 30% on bookings. The event programme will be announced in the next week. [Book your place here](#)

Additionally, 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; the nightly rates range from £119 to £201 for a single occupant stay. If you are interested in any of these options, we encourage you to book early. This portal is by no means an exhaustive list. Please note that Birmingham has a range of accommodation centrally to suit all budgets. Most budget hotels, hostels, and B&Bs do not participate in these booking portals.

Research on looting of archaeological material

Criminology student Rosemary Cook, from the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI), is conducting research for her dissertation on Illicit Looting of Archaeological Material Culture or Objects within the Archaeological Site: Looters and Their Destruction and would like your help to gather data by filling in a questionnaire.

Rosemary's dissertation aims to investigate the looting of archaeological material from sites, and to develop suggestions to help combat it, highlighting those archaeological sites that are more at risk, with the potential of suggesting ways of securing them. [The questionnaire can be accessed here](#). If you have any questions, email Rosemary on: 20016735@uhi.ac.uk

DELLTechnologies

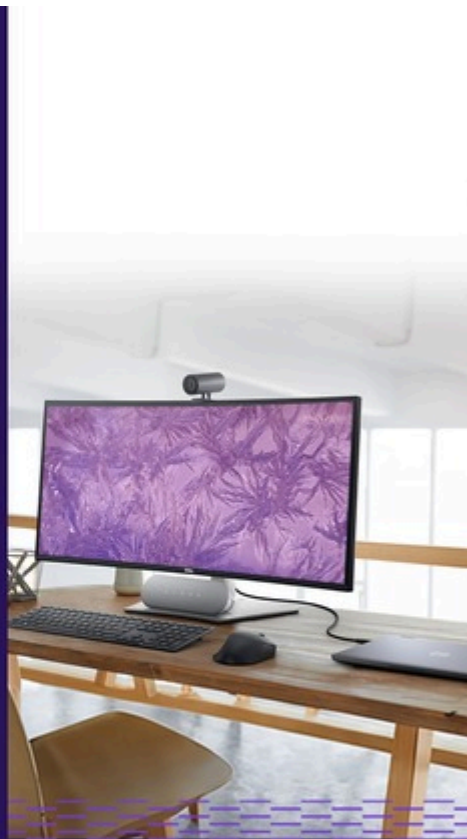
WINTER SALE

It's the best time to
shop this January.

For a limited-time, save on PCs,
monitors, software upgrades and
more. Save up to 20% on Top Tech,
and get additional up to 20% off using
your exclusive member coupons

*T&Cs apply limited quantity deals!
Offers end on 16th January.

Shop Now at Dell



Dell Technologies winter sale – special offer for CifA members

7 January to 16 January 2025

For a limited time, CifA members can save on PCs, monitors, software upgrades and more. Save up to 20% on Top Tech, and in addition get up to 20% off with your exclusive member coupons.

You still also have access to discounts, and even more savings during promotional periods.

Get your [discount here!](#) (CifA website login required).

If you have any queries, members can contact the team at SBAUK@Dell.com for assistance.

Historic Environment Skills Forum

There is still time to sign up for the [Historic Environment Skills Forum](#) annual in-person workshop, being held in Manchester on Thursday 23 January.

These workshops provide a great opportunity to meet other members of the Skills Forum and to contribute to developing and shaping the forum's activities in England. This year, the workshop attendees will be developing

delivery plans for the forum working groups and exploring regional heritage skill networks.

For more information about the programme for the day and to sign up, [follow this link](#).



State of the Market Survey 2024

CIfA and FAME (Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers) are requesting help from archaeological employers, large and small, and independent consultants, to gather data for their annual State of the Market Survey for the year ending 31 March 2024 (31 December 2024 in Ireland). To take part in the survey, [follow this link](#).

The survey provides a wealth of information on the size and nature of the archaeology market in the UK, and its contribution to the wider economy, supporting work to forecast future demand for archaeological services. Data collected from the survey deepens CIfA's understanding of the sector, which helps us target resources and support for our members and Registered Organisations, as well as highlighting the valuable contribution archaeology makes to society.

The State of the Market survey is also an important source of data to support CIfA's skills advocacy in the heritage sector, and for understanding skills gaps and needs, informing our support for the sector in meeting those needs.

The more contributors we have to the survey, the more accurate and useful the data, so please take the time to add your voice to it. The closing date for the survey is Sunday 2 February 2025, and results will be published later in the year.

[New draft resource for those involved in preparing & transferring archaeological archives for England](#)

A new Toolkit (currently in draft) has just launched. Developed by Historic England (derived from Queens Counsel legal advice) as part of the [Future for Archaeological Archives Programme](#), of which Cifa is a member, the Toolkit for Managing the Ownership of Archaeological Finds in England can be [accessed here](#).

This Toolkit is designed as an important new resource for individuals involved in the management, recovery, and archiving of archaeological materials. It offers guidelines to ensure the secure and legal transfer of ownership of archaeological material, thereby supporting effective archival practices and planning policy. To find out more see our [news item](#).



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 *Norton Folgate and the Story of Spitalfields* to *Stone Circles in Britain*, 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

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
Power Steele Building, Wessex Hall,
Whiteknights Road
Reading RG6 6DE

0118 966 2841

www.archaeologists.net



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Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
Power Steele Building, Wessex Hall
Whiteknights Road, Earley,

Reading, Berkshire RG6 6DE
United Kingdom