

CIfA Advocacy Objectives – 2020-21

Introduction

CIfA invests extensively in advocacy and policy work. We proactively build networks and establish trust with politicians, civil servants, and bodies within and beyond the sector; we also work reactively, using those networks, in response to threats or opportunities arising from political initiatives and consultations.

Our principal advocacy objectives are

- to maintain or improve the protection and management of the historic environment –an objective we share with many others
- to maintain or advance, in the interests of the public and clients, the quality of archaeological practice, particularly where occasioned through planning or other processes managing change to the historic environment –an objective we share with some others but increasingly lead on
- to ensure that work is done by competent professionals and to professional standards – we lead on this

Through its advocacy work CIfA aims to

- influence government policy and regulation, along with thinking and practice in government, the historic environment sector and wider sectors
- provide authoritative advice to ministers, parliamentarians, government departments and agencies, and NGOs
- work with partners across sectors to achieve positive changes for archaeology
- be proactive in promoting our agenda
- be pragmatic in seeking opportunities to influence
- be strategic in how we prioritise our objectives

CIfA's Board sets the Institute's advocacy objectives following guidance from the Advisory Council. There is potentially far more work than the Institute can expect to achieve, so we prioritise pragmatic activity on those areas or issues which present the greatest threat or opportunity, often according to initiatives and other timetables outside our control. Advocacy work may be undertaken independently or in collaboration with other bodies. There is a formal partnership with CBA covering our advocacy work, recognising that CBA and CIfA have complementary roles and are the two most active archaeological bodies engaged in UK advocacy.

Objectives have been ranked:

1. Key objective requiring significant proactive and reactive action in the short term
2. Important objective requiring some proactive action in the short term
3. Important objective requiring largely reactive action or support for other organisations in the short or medium term
4. Aspirational objective that may be supported by proactive research and long-term goal of influencing policy

England

Objective	Priority
Strong local authority historic environment services potentially with a statutory duty for planning authorities to have access to a professionally supported and maintained HER service	1
Risks to the archaeological resource are not increased – preferably reduced – by incremental changes to planning other deregulatory initiatives and other safeguards	1
Commercial and sensitive work is restricted to Registered Organisations or professionally accredited individuals working to ClfA Standards	1
Maintenance / improvement of management and protection of historic environment through implementation of replacement schemes for the Rural Development Programme for England, Countryside Stewardship, and other aspects of protection deriving from of the Common Agricultural Policy.	1
Systems for marine licensing and the management and protection of marine heritage assets are effective	2
The historic environment is given due consideration in major infrastructure projects and good practice (including the use of ClfA Standards and guidance) is promoted, along with the need for a clearly identified curatorial role (and a body or bodies to fulfil that role)	2
Reformed Class Consent regime for scheduled monuments	3
Reformed Treasure Act – more attention to significance and less to value, and highlighting perverse financial disincentive to responsible detecting	3

Wales

Effective implementation of Historic Environment, Planning, Future Generations and Environment Acts and relevant secondary legislation, ensuring proper account of historic environment	1
Maintenance / improvement of management and protection of historic environment through implementation of replacement schemes for the Rural Development Programme for Wales, Glastir, and other aspects of protection deriving from the Common Agricultural Policy	1
Commercial and sensitive work is restricted to Registered Organisations or professionally accredited individuals working to ClfA Standards	1
Effective implementation of the statutory duty to provide a professionally supported and maintained HER service for each local authority area in Wales	2
Systems for marine licensing and the management and protection of marine heritage assets are effective	2
Effective facilitation of the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and relevant secondary legislation to achieve benefits to the management and protection of the historic environment	3
Continuation of the functions of RCAHMMW	3
The historic environment is given due consideration in major infrastructure projects and good practice (including the use of ClfA Standards and guidance) is promoted, along with the need for a clearly identified curatorial role (and a body or bodies to fulfil that role)	3
Reformed Class Consent regime for scheduled monuments	4

Scotland

Local authority historic environment services are supported, and the potential for a statutory duty for planning authorities to have access to a professionally supported and maintained HER service explored	1
The protection of the historic environment and archaeology are enhanced through policy and guidance and Archaeology Strategy implementation	1
Commercial and sensitive work is restricted to Registered Organisations or professionally accredited individuals working to ClfA Standards	1

Maintenance / improvement of management and protection of historic environment through implementation of replacement schemes for the Rural Development Programme for Scotland and other aspects of protection deriving from of the Common Agricultural Policy	1
Risks to the archaeological resource are not increased – preferably reduced – by incremental changes to planning and other safeguards	2
Systems for marine licensing and the management and protection of marine heritage assets is effective	2
Reformed Class Consent regime for scheduled monuments	4

Northern Ireland

Ensure greater public benefit through the application of professional standards	1
Commercial and sensitive work is restricted to Registered Organisations or professionally accredited individuals working to CIfA or IAI Standards	1
Risks to the archaeological resource are not increased – preferably reduced – by incremental changes to planning and other safeguards	1
Maintenance / improvement of management and protection of historic environment through implementation of replacement schemes for the Rural Development Programme for Northern Ireland and other aspects of the Common Agricultural Policy	1
Systems for marine licensing and the management and protection of marine heritage assets are effective	2
Reformed Class Consent regime for scheduled monuments	4

United Kingdom

Post-Brexit immigration policies supplement domestic training and skills programmes, by enabling accredited non-UK archaeologists to work in the UK and accredited UK archaeologists to work elsewhere.	1
There is a sufficient provision, through higher education, of graduates who are suitably prepared to enter the profession and on a pathway to CIfA accreditation.	2
Successful implementation of the 2017 Cultural Property (Armed Conflicts) Act and implementation of the Hague Convention	3
Ratification of UNESCO Convention on Underwater Heritage	3

Europe

Improve management and protection of the historic environment in EU policy and legislation, including creation of an EU Directive on the historic environment	4
No backsliding on regulations in the future relationship between the EU and UK, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensuring at least equivalent provision for environmental protection in UK legislation and policy • maintaining parity in funding levels for the historic environment in the UK and EU • promoting archaeology across Europe as a means of sharing understanding of society, culture, identity and the long history of migration 	2
The UK continues to be recognised as a world-leader in archaeological research and is enabled to take part in EU research collaborations and access funding	3

For further information about CIfA's advocacy and campaigns and for details on other priority areas, visit www.archaeologists.net/advocacy or email admin@archaeologists.net.