

Your chance to vote on a proposal for Chartered Archaeologist status

At the AGM in a few weeks' time, ClfA members will be asked to vote on whether or not to approve a proposal for a Chartered standard for archaeologists. The proposal outlines the basic framework for how a Chartered Archaeologist grade might be assessed, and its positioning in relation to the existing ClfA membership structure. If you approve the outline, ClfA staff will start drafting an amendment to the Charter and developing the supporting regulations for further consultation, with the aim of seeking final approval at the 2018 AGM and, if granted, submitting to the Privy Council Office shortly after that.

Being able to confer Chartered Archaeologist status on our members means that archaeology will become a **chartered profession** like architecture, engineering or surveying. Our Advisory Council and Board firmly believe that such a move will

- increase professionalism
- add value, for clients and the public
- promote best practice and improve career pathways
- increase recognition of professional skills and accreditation
- attract new people into membership

The proposal follows extensive research and consultation with members, stakeholders, other professional bodies and the Privy Council Office and has been benchmarked against the requirements for chartered status in other professions. Our research has shown that although there are a variety of ways to approach a Chartered standard, there are some common themes, with the majority being based around these three pillars:

Our vision of a Chartered Archaeologist is a competent professional who can demonstrate

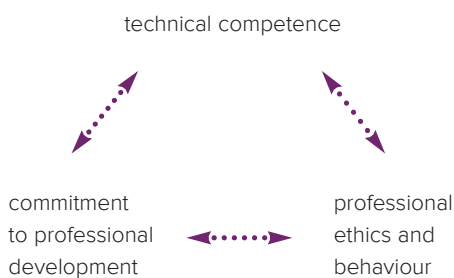
- a high level of technical competence appropriate to his/her career path (assessed by the current Validation process for MCIfA)
- appropriate understanding of the legislative and policy framework(s) relevant to his/her work (an additional assessment process for Chartered Archaeologists)
- a high level of ethical competence and understanding of professional ethics, standards and regulation (an additional assessment process for Chartered Archaeologists)
- a commitment to his/her own development and to the development of the profession/discipline (an additional assessment process for Chartered Archaeologists)

We recognise the need for the standard to be both rigorous and accessible. It is proposed that the Chartered Archaeologist grade will be open to all archaeologists and historic environment professionals who are directly and actively involved in investigating, managing or conserving the historic environment, whether in a paid or a voluntary capacity.

This is a significant moment in the development of the Institute and the

development of the profession. The standard needs to be a mark of quality and professionalism and be recognised by clients, employers and the wider public. We have been discussing the draft with our members, with stakeholder organisations and with the wider sector and feedback has shown a wide range of views. There are also a number of questions of detail that will need to be considered if we move to the next phase. The Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to encourage members to have their say at the AGM, vote on this important issue and shape the future direction of the profession and the Institute.

You can find details of the proposal and the consultation so far on our website at www.archaeologists.net/charter/chartered_archaeologists. The motion which members will be asked to vote on has been sent to all members with the AGM papers. If you have not received yours, please contact the ClfA office.



Chartered Archaeologist development timeline

2015 – 2016

Research, initial workshops, member survey

April – July 2017

Development of outline proposal for a Chartered Archaeologist grade

August – September 2017

Informal consultation on outline with members and stakeholders

Informal consultation with Privy Council Office

October 2017

CIfA members asked to approve outline proposal at AGM



Approved

Not approved

November 2017 – April 2018

Detailed drafting of regulations and supporting procedures

Costing

May – August 2018

Formal consultation with members, stakeholders and the wider sector

Publicity campaign

October 2018

CIfA members asked to approve wording of a formal petition to amend Royal Charter

November 2017 – March 2018

Further discussion and consultation leading to a revised proposal

April 2018

CIfA members asked to approve revised outline at Conference EGM

May – August 2018

Detailed drafting of regulations and supporting procedures

Formal consultation with members, stakeholders and the wider sector

October 2018

CIfA members asked to approve wording of a formal petition to amend Royal Charter



November – December 2018

Formal submission of petition to Privy Council Office