

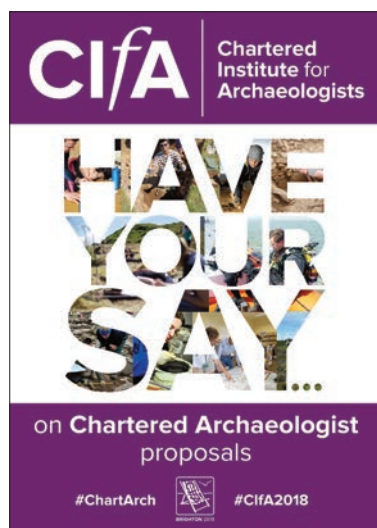
# Chartered Archaeologist update

At the time of writing, the consultation on assessment criteria for Chartered Archaeologist has recently closed, the consultation on assessment methodology is underway, and four workshops are being planned. There is more consultation to come: we will be asking for further thoughts on the assessment strategy later this autumn, but the detailed proposals that we will be asking members to vote on are taking shape.

By the time this article comes to print we will be moving into the final stages of this consultation. We will be feeding back in detail through a series of discussion papers that will be published alongside the final proposals and amended by-laws, from autumn and into the New Year, in the run up to a formal vote on whether to approve the submission of a petition to the Privy Council to amend our Charter in April 2019.

## Defining and assessing Chartered Archaeologist grade

Chartered status is the most rigorously tested level of accreditation any professional body can award its members. It is an externally verified and internationally recognised benchmark of professionalism.



In order to become a Chartered Archaeologist, applicants will need to demonstrate that they meet agreed standards of competence and commitment.

By **competence** we mean the demonstrated ability to apply knowledge, skills and behaviours; **professional competence** requires the ability to apply technical *and* ethical knowledge, skills and behaviours.

By **commitment** we mean the personal and professional commitment archaeologists make to society and to the profession through the adoption of a set of shared values and behaviours.

The proposed assessment of professional competence will test applicants across a range of areas including

- technical, subject specific skills, knowledge and understanding
- understanding of the legal and policy framework(s) relevant to their work
- application of professional ethics, standards and behaviours, as required by the *Code of conduct* and relevant Standards and guidance

It will also test their commitment to

- maintaining and developing their competence through CPD
- the development of the wider discipline/profession

## Draft assessment methodology

Applicants for Chartered Archaeologist grade will need to demonstrate that they

- 1 meet the competence criteria for MClfA grade (existing requirement)
- 2 understand and apply professional standards and ethics in their work (existing requirement, new assessment)
- 3 understand and apply relevant legal and policy frameworks
- 4 work effectively with colleagues, clients and stakeholders
- 5 are committed to developing themselves and the profession

We propose that applicants will be assessed by a peer review process combining assessment of documentary evidence and a formal interview. As with the current validation process, documentary evidence will include a personal statement, examples of the applicant's work and references. If the applicant is already accredited at PCIfA, ACIfA or MClfA grade, documentary evidence must also include evidence of having undertaken appropriate CPD, in line with ClfA requirements. Applicants who are not already professionally accredited will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their commitment to maintaining and enhancing their competence.

The application process has been designed in two stages: if applicants are not already accredited at MClfA grade, they must demonstrate that they meet the competence criteria for MClfA before proceeding to the stage described above.

For more information on the current MClfA applications process, see [www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/0317%20Cifa%20Application%20Guide%20-%20accredited%20draft%20final.pdf](http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/0317%20Cifa%20Application%20Guide%20-%20accredited%20draft%20final.pdf)

## Maintaining skills and competence

The results of the recent consultation on assessment methodology will be reported on shortly. One of the key questions we asked was about the mechanism for assuring clients, other professionals and the public that Chartered Archaeologists continue to maintain and develop their competence once chartered status has been granted. We suggested three options, two based around evidence of CPD and one in which chartered status is granted for a limited period and is subject to a reapplication process. We also asked for your thoughts on other ways we can ensure confidence in the grade.

## Next steps

Following this most recent consultation, we are currently in the process of amending the assessment strategy and drafting some outline guidance to illustrate how we propose to apply it. We know that some of our consultation respondents are keen to see the strategy as a whole, so we will be releasing it for further comments early in November. From that point, we can start the process of preparing an amendment to the Charter by-law and drafting regulations to support it. The process of

formal consultation on these changes will commence in the New Year, counting down to a vote in 2019. We are aiming to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) at the ClfA conference in April for this purpose. A system for electronic voting in advance of the EGM for those not able to attend will be in place.

*Information about Chartered Archaeologists is at [www.archaeologists.net/charter/chartered\\_archaeologists](http://www.archaeologists.net/charter/chartered_archaeologists). Members can provide comments and feedback at any stage by emailing [chartered@archaeologists.net](mailto:chartered@archaeologists.net) or by using #ChartArch.*

## Charter Timeline



### Consultation on technical detail

A First draft criteria for the assessment of professional competence  
 B First draft assessment methodology  
 C First draft of outline guidance material  
 Board meeting to sign off A – C for the next round of formal consultation  
 A – C released as a package for second round consultation  
 Amended by-law and regulations issues for consultation prior to EGM  
 Pre-EGM discussion and consultation events  
 EGM

April – July 2018  
 Aug – Sep 2018  
 Sept – Oct 2018  
 1 Nov 2018  
 Nov – Dec 2018  
 Jan – Feb 2019  
 Feb – March 2019  
 April 2019