

Policy, partnerships and collaborations

As part of ClfA's policy work, we work closely with government, civil servants and external organisations, collaborating with many others in both formal and informal partnership. Our advocacy objectives are discussed with the Advisory Council and agreed by the Board.



In the last twelve months our advocacy networks have been working at full strength, as ClfA has been engaged at the heart of sector-wide working groups reforming the Historic Environment Forum in England and, of course, responding to COVID-19. We have worked closely with DCMS over Brexit and have met several times with civil servant colleagues to share knowledge from the sector with government.

On planning reform, we have attended meetings with civil servants in Scotland alongside other sector representatives to help inform the early stages of designing Scotland's National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) and have also commented on the development of permitted development right (PDR) proposals. More recently, ClfA has been working to highlight concerns around radical planning reform in England – an objective that we will continue to work on in the year ahead.

Given this important moment for planning, it is essential that ClfA is maintaining close links with bodies like the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI), the Chartered Institute of Ecologists and Environment Managers (CIEEM), and Wildlife and Countryside Link. These bodies are key allies in our attempts to champion archaeology's positive contribution to good planning.

COVID-19 also promoted collaborative working as we gathered information and formulated responses to the challenges we have faced – in England through the Historic Environment Forum and Heritage Alliance, in Scotland with the Built Environment Forum Scotland, with the Historic Environment Division of the Department for Communities in Northern Ireland and with Cadw in Wales. We have worked closely with Prospect Union and have supported their work to monitor safety and produce guidance for archaeological site work during the pandemic, and championed this guidance to DCMS, ensuring it was eventually adopted into government guidance. We also applaud the work of Registered Organisations in adapting to the crisis. The committed response of the profession appears to have been effective and positively received, with respondents to a ClfA survey rating their employers 4.2 stars out of 5 for their response to the pandemic.

The converse of this informal advocacy engagement through partnerships is that we have achieved our aim to be more proactive and respond to fewer consultations, focusing only on responding where we are likely to have a strong influence. This year we have targeted important issues such as UK immigration policy, the Environment Bill in England, environmental land management in Wales, PDR in Scotland, NPF4, and Historic England’s Local Authority Strategic Framework and advice note on statements of heritage significance – the latter still a concern to us as it could mislead ClfA-accredited professionals to breach the *Code of conduct*.

Delivery of many of ClfA’s strategic objectives is dependent of effective collaboration and partnerships with other bodies, within and outside our sector. This year we hosted three workshops in support of Aim 1 of Scotland’s Archaeology Strategy, where sector representatives from across Scotland contributed to discussion of archaeology’s structure, funding, and delivery. We have also worked closely with Historic England to develop and refine the 73+ recommendations from the *Twenty-first-century challenges for archaeology* project into a sector action plan supported by ALGAO, CBA, UAUK, the Society of Antiquaries of London and others. This work has also resulted in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Historic England, setting out the basis for our partnership on this initiative.

We have also signed a new MoU with the Council for British Archaeology, recognising the mutually supportive but different sector-leading roles of each organisation. Together, we support the Westminster All-Party Parliamentary Archaeology Group (APPAG), on behalf of The Archaeology Forum (TAF).

We also remain committed to collaborative working and mutual support under our existing MoUs with the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA), the Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Ur- und Frühgeschichte e.V. (DGUF), the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland (IAI), and the Institute for Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) – with whom our MoU partnership was renewed this year.

Few of the issues archaeology faces are exclusive to our profession, and most of the good practice evolved elsewhere can be adapted and applied to ClfA. As well as our formal collaborations, ClfA is a regular attendee of CEO forums held by the Professional Associations Research Network (PARN) and the Institute of Association Leadership (IAL), sharing perspectives, ideas and fixes with up to 50 other professional and trade bodies. ClfA members continue to benefit from this community of knowledge.

Although the year ahead may bring challenges, we remain well positioned to carry out the business of championing archaeology and delivering expert, reliable advice to government, the wider sector, and non-heritage partners.



Details of our current advocacy priorities are on the ClfA website at www.archaeologists.net/advocacy