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23

Archaeological Achievement Awards



Council for
British Archaeology

The Archaeological Achievement Awards

The process of judging the nominations has been not only a privilege but a profoundly gratifying experience. This year's nominees have demonstrated the sheer scope of innovation and inspiration thriving within our discipline and the myriad ways of connecting with communities. It is a joy to come back to this role every year and have our expectations continuously exceeded by the obvious commitment and passion displayed in every project.

I'm grateful to my fellow judges for embarking on this collective effort to select winners from among such brilliant projects. My sincere thanks as well for their generosity, unwavering commitment to excellence in archaeology and for the robust discussions that characterise our meetings.

2023 marks a very special year in the history of the awards.

In acknowledgement of the challenges we face in our time, the 2023 awards proudly introduced the brand new category, 'Archaeology and Sustainability'. This addition underscores our discipline's pivotal role in developing impactful solutions to collective climate emergency. Whether through groundbreaking climate change research, the development of innovative eco-conscious methodologies, or the promotion of sustainable development practices, this award recognises archaeology's significant contribution to a more sustainable future and its commitment to fostering a greener world.

This award category sends a clear message that archaeology and those who practice it are crucial agents in the global climate emergency. After all, it is our discipline that has meticulously documented the interactions between humans and their environments throughout history. At the awards and the CBA we wish to champion such initiatives and this award is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate them.

As we celebrate the achievements of the awardees, let us also celebrate the enduring spirit of collaboration and commitment that defines our archaeological community. May we be inspired to continue championing excellence in archaeology and contribute actively to a future where our shared heritage coexists harmoniously with a sustainable and vibrant world.

Jeannette Plummer Sires, Chair of Judges



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The 21st Century Challenges for Archaeology Programme, or 21CAP for short, first emerged as a concept in 2015 when the profession marked the 25th anniversary of PPG16, and celebrated the successes of development-led archaeology. A ‘state-of-the-nation’ reflection had been held at the ClfA Conference in 2010, resulting in the formation of the Southport Group, established to understand the opportunities provided by the introduction of the NPPF. The Southport Group’s 2011 report, along with *Historic England’s Building the Future* (2015), formed the blueprint for 21CAP. Planning commenced with a review of where the Southport work had led, *What about Southport* (Nixon 2017), the findings of which formed the agenda for an England-wide consultation, including regional seminars, online feedback, and discussion at the ClfA Conference. The results were published in *The World after PPG16: 21CAP* (Wills 2018), which identified six key challenges to be addressed:

- *The need for a stronger focus on public benefit*
- *The challenges and opportunities of digital advances*
- *Wider and more ambitious use of professional standards*
- *The importance of the planning system and Local Authority archaeology services in delivering the current model, and the vulnerability of both*
- *The need to maintain effective advocacy for archaeology*
- *A desire for strong leadership in the complex structure of our sector*

These form the basis of 21CAP today, alongside the need to develop a sustainable sector to help face the challenges of climate change.

With the agenda defined, ClfA and Historic England signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2020, agreeing to lead the 21CAP programme in collaboration and establishing an Advisory Board with representatives from across the sector. Five Work Packages to deliver on the key areas defined in the World after PPG16 report were formed, led by the relevant sector body, supported by appropriate members of the 21CAP team. Organisations offer their time in kind, and where financial resources are required these are sourced through Historic England’s grant process.

Keeping a watch on, and advising over, legislation is Work Package 1. Historic England have collated the sector’s wish list over law/policy reforms, and ClfA have produced the report *Advocacy Foresight: Identifying Opportunities and Threats Requiring an Advocacy Response* (Wills and Lennox 2023) – the mechanism for the sector to maintain and act on this advocacy agenda is being developed. Support over National Significance equivalence has been published in the form of case studies.

Understanding different models of Local Authority delivery for archaeology advice, and sharing what works is encompassed in Work Package 2.

ALGAO and Landward Research conducted a review of Local Authority services, now published, and focus has moved on to how to support Local Authorities over the challenges and opportunities they face. The potential to bolster capacity through peer-to-peer training and mentoring is being explored.

ClfA lead over Work Package 3 where the range of Standards and Guidance for the sector is being audited for coverage and individual documents updated. The guidance over evaluation, excavation and watching briefs were consulted over early in 2023, with more to follow. Parallel to this, University Archaeology UK lead on developing Technical Guidance to support Standards and Guidance, to facilitate inter-site and thematic studies. FAME are developing a Standard Method of Measurement for Archaeological Excavation to enable contract negotiations in developer-led work.

Improved synthesis and dissemination are the aims of Work Package 4. Historic England are looking at how to release the knowledge dividend from unpublished pre-PPG16 backlog material. The British Academy and Society of Antiquaries of London are scoping improved structures to enable synthetic research of landscapes and themes, having held a ‘How Do We Learn’ seminar in 2022. Sitting above all of this the CBA have just commenced a Public User Needs Survey 2, building on the original conducted in 2003, to look at what today’s audiences want.

Work Package 5, better known as the Future of Archaeological Archives Project (FAAP), led by Historic England along with Arts Council England and other national heritage organisations, is a response to the 2017 Mendoza *Review of Museums in England*, and aiming to deliver a long-term sustainable future for archaeological collections recovered from excavations.

In conclusion, 21CAP is a cross-sector collaborative venture looking to build on the success of development-led archaeology over the last three decades, through practical and implementable solutions, to enhance relevance and public benefit, and to meet the challenge of climate change through improved sustainability.

Full information on the background, ambitions and progress can be found on the Historic England 21CAP webpage.



Outstanding Archaeological Achievement Award

The Outstanding Achievement Award is sponsored by
AOC Archaeology Group.



AOC Archaeology Group offers a range of services to enable quick and effective responses to archaeological, heritage and conservation requirements.

Winner

Roots in Time

Roots in Time is an archaeology and art project at a new public green space and woodland. A community excavation of Romano-British/prehistoric archaeology was followed by onsite interpretation co-created with local communities. As part of Worcestershire County Council's net zero strategy, additional biodiverse habitats were created by designing around the archaeology.



 @ExploreThePast  @ExploreThePast  @WorcsAAS

Our judges noted that, “*Roots In Time is an excellent example of the role archaeology can play in environmental issues and opportunities for linking archaeology to arts funding.*”

Winning entries from all five award categories are automatically put forward for our
Outstanding Achievement Award.

Winner

Roots in Time



Public Dissemination or Presentation

An award celebrating how people access archaeology, including books and publications, exhibitions, films, social media or presentations. Nominations can relate to a specific site, artefact, place or a wider landscape.

Sponsored by Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland




The IAI is the representative all-island organisation for professional archaeologists working in Ireland and Northern Ireland. The aim of the IAI, through the representation of its members, is to advance and strengthen the profession of archaeology in Ireland.

Winner

Uncovering Roman Carlisle

Uncovering Roman Carlisle (URC) is an ongoing programme of community archaeological investigations, engagement, and exhibitions, exploring the internationally significant Carlisle Roman Bathhouse on Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site. URC seeks to enhance participants' wellbeing, create community, and provide opportunities to participate in heritage to benefit Cumberland's residents and visitors. The judges noted that, "*Uncovering Roman Carlisle excelled in sharing archaeology with diverse audiences using a wide range of outputs throughout the project. The extent and reach of dissemination activities was exceptional. Site visits, guided tours, talks, touring and static exhibitions, a learning programme, drop in sessions, publications, videos, a book, media articles, television documentaries and 3D scans of the artefacts freely available online all had a part to play in putting Roman and indeed modern Carlisle on the map. The co-production with volunteers and use of volunteer content in exhibitions was particularly distinctive, giving voice to participants in the project.*"



 @thediggerscarlisle

Highly Commended

WallCAP – Hadrian’s Wall Community Archaeology Project

WallCAP was funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund to promote the value of heritage – specifically of the Hadrian’s Wall World Heritage Site – to local communities and provide opportunities for volunteers to engage with the archaeology and conservation of the Wall to better ensure the future of the monument.

The judges commented that, “*WallCAP, the Hadrian’s Wall Community Archaeology Project, targeted local communities, heritage managers, educational and academic stakeholders and the wider public with its dissemination activities. Each had a specific dissemination strategy tailored to maximise engagement with and understanding of the archaeology and conservation of Hadrian’s Wall, and to promote a sense of place at a local level. Activities included informational and results sessions, social media, press releases, media coverage, newsletters, a volunteer portal, reports, conference papers, scholarly publications, online lecture series, site tours, exhibitions at 3 locations and a book. Care was taken to match timing and locations of dissemination activities to the identified groups.*”



✕ @Wall_CAP

Shortlisted Nominations

The Forgotten Cemetery: Excavations at Ranelagh, Co. Roscommon

Excavations took place between October 2015 and October 2016, and post-excavation analysis was carried out between November 2016 and November 2020. Publication of the main dissemination products—the scheme monograph *The Forgotten Cemetery: Excavations at Ranelagh, Co. Roscommon*, and its companion StoryMap—took place in early 2023 (January and April, respectively).



@IntarchEditor @wessexarch @internet.archaeology



The Online Publication of Hollis Croft: A Comic Tale

Inspired by the public interest during excavations, an imagined human story draws on and combines the actual historical and archaeological context of the industrial archaeology found at Hollis Croft, Sheffield into a comic. The online interactive comic was published (open access) alongside the excavation report and ADS digital archive.



@IntarchEditor @wessexarch @internet.archaeology



A14: The evolution of a landscape through time – Geoarchaeology and Environmental Archaeology in Action: The Story of the A14 Landscape and Vegetation from the Bronze Age to the Anglo Saxon

This novel online, interactive, vegetation StoryMap brings to life, and to a wide digital audience, past natural environments and their human modification over time. Interpretation is based on the detailed analysis of environmental, geology and LiDAR evidence, presenting an accessible changing land use history of the Cambridgeshire A14 scheme.



@CambsArch

Abingdon Online Archaeological Map

The project makes information about the archaeology of Abingdon ('England's oldest town') available to the public through an interactive online map, created by Abingdon's archaeological society. The map, which is hosted on the Town Council website, also has links to information about Abingdon's historic buildings.



@AAAHsociety

Sponsored by



Archaeology and Sustainability

A new award for 2023, highlighting the increasing importance of ensuring that archaeological projects meet sustainable goals, the Archaeology and Sustainability Award celebrates projects that address the aspirations of the United Nations Sustainability Goals.

Sponsored by National Highways



National Highways, formerly Highways England, is the government company responsible for the country's motorways and main A roads. This includes modernising and maintaining the highways, as well as running the network and keeping traffic moving.

Winner Roots in Time

Roots in Time is an archaeology and art project at a new public green space and woodland. A community excavation of Romano-British/prehistoric archaeology was followed by onsite interpretation co-created with local communities. Woodland, wildflower meadows and wetland were then designed around the archaeology and will become a new public green space – New Farm Nature Reserve as part of Worcestershire County Council's Net Zero strategy. Additional biodiverse habitats were created by designing around the archaeology.

The judges commented that Roots in Time is, *"An excellent and lovely project, bringing together a wide range of different communities to protect and enhance the natural and historic environment. The project showed clear leadership and engagement at all levels and demonstrated how to develop long-term sustainable futures for Worcestershire's environment. We feel that this project will be replicable and is a model for other similar schemes."*



@WorcsAAS



@ExploreThePast



@ExploreThePast

Highly Commended

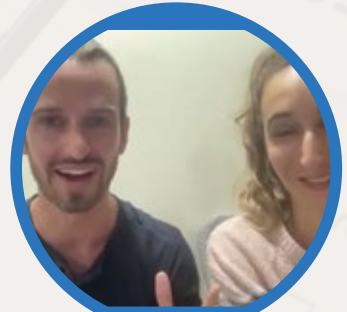
Diggit Paperless

Diggit is an independent enterprise, self-funded during its early stages by co-founders Iain and Natacha, who worked as a field archaeologist and data science PhD student respectively. They dedicated evenings and weekends to Diggit's design and development. In early 2022, Iain transitioned to full-time work on Diggit to support its beta testers, and after its May 2022 commercial release and Natacha's PhD completion in December of that year, she also joined full time. Diggit's ongoing development is funded by the revenue it generates as a self-sustaining venture.

The judges commented, *"This IT solution to archaeology's carbon footprint and drive to net zero has the potential to be adopted across the sector. Diggit has clearly demonstrated an innovative approach to create an accessible, cost-effective and climate-aware digit recording system, putting environmental issues at the heart of every stage of its development and system implementation. Therefore, we highly recommend it."*



Diggit Archaeology



Shortlisted Nominations

Tuatha

Tuatha is a membership community that connects people across the country to the monuments, landscapes, and stories of Ireland, and to each other. Tuatha delivers reliable, in-depth knowledge to its members through articles, courses, tours, and more, led by our team of award-winning archaeologists, and through collaboration with internationally renowned experts.



@tuathaireland

Sponsored by



Learning, Training and Skills

An award based on celebrating training, learning and skills across academic, public and commercial archaeology and demonstrating how delivery utilises engaging learning mechanisms.

This award is sponsored by Archaeological Management Solutions



AMS is an independent cultural heritage consultancy that provides archaeological services across the UK and Ireland.

Winner Uncovering Roman Carlisle

Uncovering Roman Carlisle (URC) is an ongoing programme of community archaeological investigations, engagement, and exhibitions, exploring the internationally significant Carlisle Roman Bathhouse on Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site. URC seeks to enhance participants wellbeing, create community, and provide opportunities to participate in heritage to benefit Cumberland's residents and visitors.

The judges remarked that, *"Uncovering Roman Carlisle is a fantastic project that has sought to involve the local community in not only the discovery but interpretation of a site of international importance when it comes to our understanding of Roman Britain. The engagement across the spectrum of the Carlisle community by the Uncovering Roman Carlisle project is what made this approach so significant to those who took part and left a lasting impression on those who visited."*



Shortlisted Candidates



The Irchester Field School

An innovative collaboration between North Northants Council (at the Chester House Estate) and the University of Leicester, inspiring and empowering people of all ages to engage in life-enhancing opportunities focused on the small Roman town of Irchester, and the rich archaeology and heritage of the Nene Valley.



@Irchesterfieldschool

@Northantsarc

@ChesterHouseEstate

Discover Maritime Archaeology eLearning courses

The Discover Maritime Archaeology eLearning courses provide an engaging training programme to introduce people to the world of maritime, underwater and coastal archaeology. In conjunction with the optional in-person practical courses, this will create a broader range of upskilled citizen scientists to protect and monitor our precious maritime heritage.

LEGISLATION



In this module, you will learn about the legislation that is in place to protect our maritime heritage. You will learn how this applies to you visiting or diving on the coast.

@NautArchSoc

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Sponsored by



The Award Ceremony



The Award Ceremony



Early Career Archaeologist

Celebrating the contribution of an early career archaeologist, including contributions to archaeological work or research, dissemination, or a wider contribution to the workplace or a project.

Sponsored by Royal Archaeological Institute



The Royal Archaeological Institute is a leading national archaeology society, dating back to 1844. Its interests span the archaeological, architectural and landscape history of the British Isles.

Winner Sakshi Surana

Sakshi is a recent graduate from the University of London's Institute of Archaeology. She passionately advocates for increased access to archaeological careers and has been a vital part of the ClfA Early Careers committee since 2022. She was recently awarded the Norah Molony prize for fieldwork and the Hellyar Prize for Outstanding Contributions to the Life and Work of the Institute of Archaeology.

The judges commented that Sakshi is an *“Exceptional early career archaeologist who is demonstrating a tangible passion for archaeology through a commitment to their own professional development and the advancement of the discipline. Their enthusiasm has been energising for the entire panel!”*



Highly Commended

Tabitha Gulliver Lawrence

Tabitha is a 2020 graduate from Bournemouth University with a strong enthusiasm for archaeology, public outreach, and local communities. She currently works for Colchester Archaeological Trust, and also volunteers for the ClfA Early Career Special Interest Group, ClfA Diggers Forum, the Young Archaeologists' Club, and the Lithic Studies Society.

The judges described Tabitha as an “Inspiring early career archaeologist embarking on an impactful career. We look forward to seeing everything they will accomplish in the years to come!”



Shortlisted Nominations

Marie-Therese Barrett

Marie-Therese holds a BA and MPhil from UCC and an MSc from QUB. Marie-Therese has extensive experience in archaeological fieldwork. Her doctoral research focused on the dating and chronology of Drumclay crannog using tree-ring analysis, and she is currently working on the post-excavation of Drumclay with IAC Archaeology.



Engagement and Participation

This award focuses on broadening participation in archaeology in all forms and is not limited to on site delivery or activities. Projects nominated can be on the ground or virtual, and engagement can be through a single event or a package of activities.

Sponsored by University Archaeology UK (UAUK)



UAUK represents the departments of archaeology in UK universities.

Winner CAER Heritage: ‘The Hidden Hillfort Project’

CAER is a collaboration between Action in Caerau and Ely, Cardiff University, local schools, residents, and many others. The project focuses on the co-produced research of Caerau Hillfort, a nationally important site that’s nestled in the Cardiff suburbs of Caerau and Ely, two of the most deprived wards in Wales. From April 2019 to April 2023, CAER was funded by the National Lottery and instigated the ‘Hidden Hillfort Project’. The £2m project focussed on creating a heritage centre at Caerau Hillfort along with heritage trails, interpretation, and volunteering opportunities (including excavation and post-excavation activities) to help co-research and co-curate the monument.

The judges commented, “*The EDI impacts of this project were phenomenal. The project involved working collaboratively with a broad range of local partners and stakeholders, as well as visitors/tourists. Reviving the community was a huge part of this project, with archaeology bringing people together, helping to create a sense of belonging and togetherness that was previously missing, but sorely needed. There were a lot of different activities offered, enabling people to engage with the project in a way that was most accessible to their individual needs, and/or most accessible to them.*”



Highly Commended

Hands on Heritage volunteers at Avalon Archaeology & Archaeology on Prescription

The Hands on Heritage volunteer project has created an exciting new archaeological open air museum on the Somerset Levels. The dedicated band of volunteers has spent a decade creating a range of vibrant archaeological reconstructions that are now open to the public and visiting groups to experience and enjoy.



Archaeology on Prescription is York Archaeology's pioneering project that uses archaeology as a social prescribing tool. Participants join the project with mental health conditions, disabilities, and other barriers that have excluded them from archaeology previously. Through archaeology, they improve their health and well being, plus learn new skills in archaeology.



@YorkArchaeology



@YArchaeology



@yorkarchaeology

On both of these highly commended projects, the judges remarked, *"These were two amazing projects, each with different aims, objectives, audiences (and budgets) that scored very highly. We felt that these projects could be easily replicated across the country and are great examples of what can be achieved through archaeology to benefit communities (and the wider public)."*

Shortlisted Nominations

South Blockhouse Project, Kingston upon Hull

The South Blockhouse Archaeology Project is a community engagement and research project designed to inform, and provide interpretive details for, a new open air visitor attraction on the site of the former South Blockhouse, built under the orders of Henry VIII between 1541-43. The South Blockhouse is a scheduled monument.



South Blockhouse Project

The Irchester Field School

The Irchester Field School is an innovative collaboration between North Northants Council and the University of Leicester, inspiring and empowering people of all ages to engage in life-enhancing opportunities focused on the small Roman town of Irchester within the Estate, and the rich archaeology and heritage of the Nene Valley.



@ChesterHouseEstate @Irchesterfieldschool @northantsarc

Sponsored by



Delivering value to the highest standards

The Archaeological Achievement Awards are supported by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland and the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (UK). The CBA and these leading bodies in archaeology in the UK and Ireland are committed to promoting high standards of archaeological practice in the service of the public. The judging criteria aim to showcase how archaeology delivers on their core mission to provide value for society and our environment, and to create a positive impact from the work of archaeologists. The challenge of archaeology is that many of the ways we undertake our investigations are destructive. What we touch and how we interpret it can enrich and sustain society, but it can also damage and offend. We collectively believe in the value and sensitivity of what we do. At all times we need to work ethically, with expertise and restraint and to shared standards.

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This booklet was produced with support from Historic England under the 21st Century Challenges for Archaeology Programme (21CAP)



Judges

The Archaeological Achievement Awards are run by the Council for British Archaeology (CBA) and overseen by a judging panel made up of representatives from across the sector.

Jeannette Plummer Sires

Chair - European Society of Black and Allied Archaeologists (ESBAA)

Aidan O'Sullivan

University College Dublin

James Cole

University Archaeology UK (UAUK)

Kate Geary

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA)

Kathryn Laws

CBA Wales/Cymru

John Lawson

Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO)

James Kyle

Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland

Keith Lilley

CBA Trustee & Queen's University Belfast

Carenza Lewis

Vice-Chair, CBA Trustees

Kat Baxter

Society for Museum Archaeology

Phil Richardson

Archaeology Scotland

Laura Hampden

European Society of Black and Allied Archaeologists (ESBAA)

Fiona Gale

CBA Trustee representing voluntary groups

Kayt Hawkins

Research Institute for Equality in Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (REACH)

Jo Caruth

RESCUE – The British Archaeological Trust

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Outstanding Achievement Award Sponsor



AOC Archaeology Group

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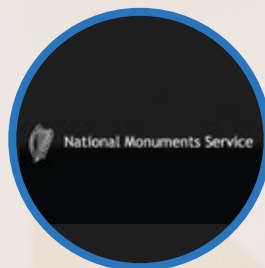


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Service



Historic
Environment
Scotland



Cadw



Department for
Communities



This booklet was produced with support from
Historic England under the 21st Century Challenges
for Archaeology Programme (21CAP)