

ARCHAEOLOGY

2030



## WELCOME

### Newsletter #1

Welcome to the first Archaeology 2030 newsletter.



## Archaeology 2030 Launch

Archaeology 2030 was launched at an online event in December 2020. Since then, we have established a Project Board and eight Working Groups. Read on to find out more about their work, and how you can get involved.

## Archaeology 2030

### A strategic approach for Northern Ireland

This newsletter highlights some key steps and activities undertaken since the launch of Archaeology 2030. We hope that it inspires you to want to take part in changing how archaeology is delivered in Northern Ireland. Visit our website to find out more about how you can become involved in shaping our future!

## Standards and Guidance

We are delighted to use this edition of our newsletter to showcase our work on creating a suite of four new Standards and Guidance documents specifically aimed at archaeological practitioners undertaking work in Northern Ireland. These have been developed by Historic Environment Division (HED), in partnership with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland (IAI).

# Standards and Guidance

Find out more about the progress that has already been made on standards and guidance.



A key recommendation under Aim One of Archaeology 2030 is the need for Standards and Guidance which can be used by practitioners conducting all aspects of licensed archaeological excavation in Northern Ireland. HED commissioned ClfA to undertake this project, focused initially on reviewing the applicability of Standards and Guidance documentation produced by ClfA and IAI to archaeological practice in Northern Ireland. Work then moved on to aligning guidance, drafting new guidance, and undertaking sector-wide consultation, with the aim of initially publishing four new documents in Spring 2023.

The project aligns with an ongoing ClfA initiative to ensure that their suite of Standards and guidance are up-to-date, accessible, and relevant across all the jurisdictions (where ClfA members practice). This work also sits under the Archaeology 2030 Strategic Approach for Northern Ireland, by delivering standards, guidance and procedures that enable good archaeological practice. Once complete, the project will:

- enable the profession to deliver archaeological activities to consistent, professional standards in Northern Ireland, and support the delivery of public benefit
- enable HED, as regulatory and licensing body, to ensure consistent and appropriate standards are applied in Northern Ireland
- provide a 'level playing field' and ensure clarity around requirements of licenses, consents or conditions
- provide clear, consistent information to those commissioning archaeological work
- aid the conservation of archaeological sites and associated artefacts, records, and data by providing specific Northern Ireland standards and guidance

## Standards and Guidance continued...

Phase one of the project involved a brief review and comparison of documentation produced or referenced by HED against Standards and guidance documentation issued by ClfA and IAI.

The results identified the need for new guidance, including nautical archaeology, guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures, forensic archaeology and stewardship for the historic environment, that should be developed in the longer-term.

However, four guidance documents were identified as an immediate priority, focusing on excavation, human remains, archiving and digital archiving. In phase two of this project, these were developed in partnership between HED, ClfA and IAI, with Irish Archaeological Consultancy (IAC) playing a vital role in the drafting and consultation process.

Draft documents were circulated to stakeholders working in the commercial, research and academic sectors ahead of a very constructive workshop event held on Tuesday 21st June 2022. The engagement and input from practitioners was invaluable in helping shape the documents and addressing areas of concern. Focused consultation was also undertaken with a number of heritage experts to better develop procedures under themes including human remains and archive management.

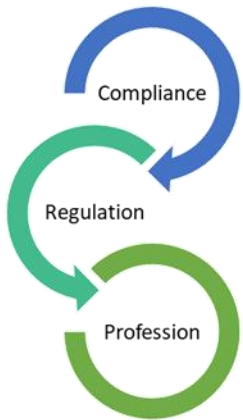
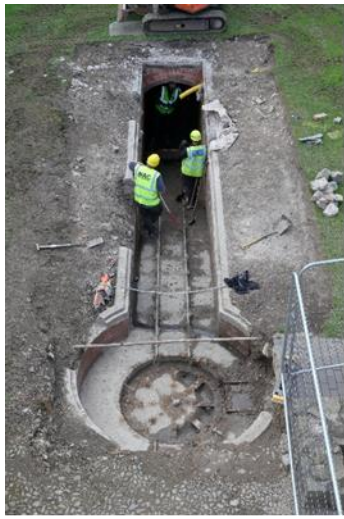
HED is now finalizing a suite of four new guidance documents for the following areas, and look forward to delivering useful and practical standards, guidance and procedures that enable good archaeological practice in Northern Ireland:


- Licensed Excavation
- Archaeological Archive
- Human Remains
- Digital Data Archiving

**Aim 1: Archaeology on the Ground. Standards, Guidance and Procedures that enable good archaeological practice.**

Further information on this collaborative project can be found here:

[Standards and guidance in Northern Ireland | Chartered Institute for Archaeologists](#)





We want archaeology to be accessed and valued by as many people as possible, led by a sector which is healthy, resilient and connected.

Interested in getting involved?

Archaeology 2030 is your opportunity to shape archaeology in NI for the future!

If you are interested in getting involved, get in touch with us at  
Archaeology2030  
[@communities-ni.gov.uk](https://communities-ni.gov.uk)

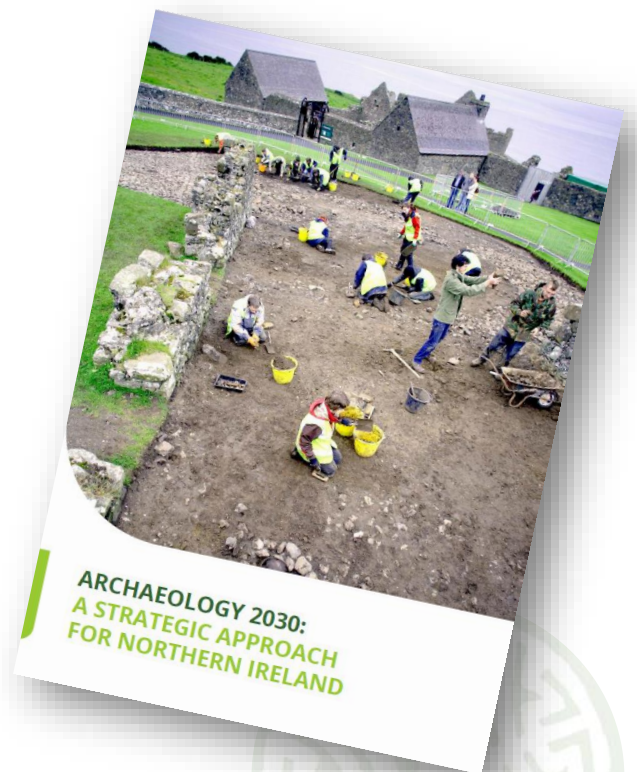


## Project Board

Since the launch of Archaeology 2030 in December 2020, a number of key actions have been undertaken: the Project Board has been set up to oversee the delivery stage of the project, and eight Working Groups have been established to begin delivering the recommendations of the Archaeology 2030 strategy.

One of the key tasks of the Project Board will be to keep the momentum going and monitor progress of the Working Groups. We aim to publish a short annual report on the progress that has been made, to keep everyone up to date.

The Board is a cross-sectorial group, and members represent different organisations and specialisms from the archaeological community in Northern Ireland and beyond. Key members include the Historic Monuments Council, HED and the Archaeology 2030 Working Group Chairs, which encompasses members of the Institutes, the Discovery Programme and the Centre for Community Archaeology at Queen's University Belfast. .



ARCHAEOLOGY 2030:  
A STRATEGIC APPROACH  
FOR NORTHERN IRELAND



# Delivering by 2030

## Working Groups and Action Plans

A review of the recommendations in Archaeology 2030, taking into consideration the main themes, organisation of tasks, and key collaborators, led to the creation of eight Working Groups. Each of these Working Groups is currently working on a draft action plan, setting priorities and timeframes for how they propose to deliver over the coming years. Have a look at the list of working groups below – is there one (or more!) that you would like to volunteer for?

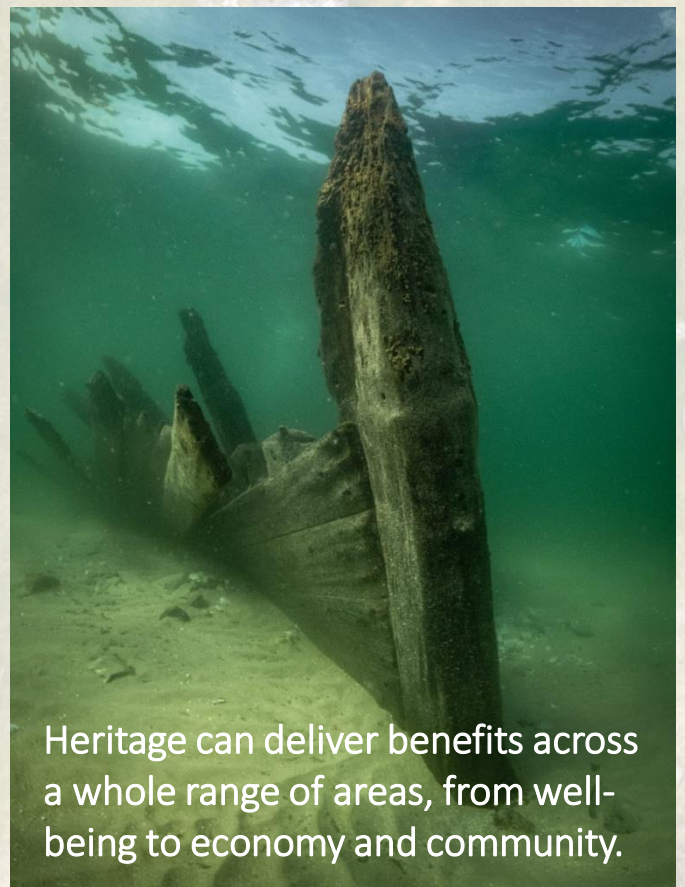
- Working Group 1 - Standards and Guidance
- Working Group 2 - Regulatory Activities
- Working Group 3 - Archives and Collections
- Working Group 4 - Research Framework
- Working Group 5 - Legislative Reform
- Working Group 6 - Engagement and Outreach
- Working Group 7 - Sectoral Communication and Advocacy
- Working Group 8 - Professional Skills, Training and Specialisms

More information on each Working Group will be published on our website when it goes live in early 2023. We are particularly keen to hear from students and young people working in archaeology, those involved in commercial, voluntary and community archaeological work, and representatives from local government and professional organisations. If you are interested in finding out more about Archaeology 2030, joining our mailing list, or volunteering for a working group please contact us at [Archaeology2030@communities-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Archaeology2030@communities-ni.gov.uk)

## Website

### Archaeology 2030 Website Launch!

The development of the Archaeology 2030 website has been made possible with support of the Historic Environment Fund, as part of the redevelopment and expansion of the Heritage Delivers Web presence – Heritage Delivers is an alliance of NI's heritage organisations. The website will be launched in early 2023: [archaeology2030.org](http://archaeology2030.org)



Heritage can deliver benefits across a whole range of areas, from well-being to economy and community.

Standards and Guidance review delivered in collaboration with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), and the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland (IAI).



If you are interested in finding out more about Archaeology 2030, joining our mailing list, or volunteering for a Working Group please get in touch with us at [Archaeology2030@communities-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Archaeology2030@communities-ni.gov.uk)



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