

# COMMIT, COLLABORATE, CONSTRUCT

## building relationships with the construction industry

Caroline Raynor MClfA (9008), Work Package Manager and Principal Archaeologist for the Costain–Skanska Joint Venture at HS2 enabling works

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists is undergoing several changes, so what better time to establish new relationships, break down walls and build new bridges? There are a lot of construction-related analogies in this opening sentence because as an archaeologist who works within the construction industry for Costain, an engineering solutions provider, I perhaps have a different view on the industry and the inter-disciplinary relationships that can either help or hinder it. Wearing two different hard hats makes me twice as busy but perhaps twice as lucky, as I can help to bring together two very different approaches and outlooks.

Archaeology has traditionally been viewed by the construction industry as a preamble to delivering the works, rather than an intrinsic part of what we do and how we do it. Archaeology as a discipline has an often-uneasy relationship with the requirements of major construction projects and has moved in and out of Construction Design and Management (CDM) requirements on numerous occasions. A further example of the uncertainty of where the discipline fits comes with the removal of the Construction Related Occupation role from the Construction Skills

Certification Scheme (CSCS). This lack of certainty is not conducive to embedding, developing and maturing a relatively young profession.

I was lucky enough to be at the last ClfA conference (Brighton 2018), representing the Costain–Skanska Joint Venture and HS2 enabling works. Hundreds of people travelled to Brighton to participate, share experiences and ideas, and learn about change and innovation in the industry. That got me thinking... why don't we take ClfA to the archaeological field teams?

Kate Geary, ClfA's Head of Professional Development and Practice, was incredibly receptive to the idea when I approached her with an open invite for her team to set up a CPD day on site at my offices in Euston, Central London. The proposal was to create a day that allowed archaeologists to meet with ClfA representatives, whether they were members or not. By holding open workshops, the field team were given the opportunity to discuss ClfA membership, CPD and the development of Chartered Archaeologist, amongst other things.

We also planned a 'lunch and learn' session for the construction team. This was a first introduction to ClfA for many of the team on site, but it was an excellent opportunity for the construction managers, engineers and site foremen to understand ClfA's mandate and the important role that it plays.

Feedback from the day was very positive and it was encouraging to see so many different disciplines turn up to meet the ClfA team and find out more about what ClfA has to offer – not only to the archaeological team but the construction industry as a whole.



HS2 Ltd. Credit: Caroline Raynor



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Caroline is Work Package Manager and Principal Archaeologist for the Costain Skanska Joint Venture on the HS2 Enabling Works at Euston. She has a particular interest in uniting the fields of archaeology and engineering.