

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



The Archaeological Achievement Awards at Dublin Castle. Credit: National Monuments Service (NMS)

Council for British Archaeology

The awards reflect a collective belief in the value and sensitivity of what we do and encourage work founded on ethical practice, expertise and restraint, based upon shared standards.

CifA is a proud supporter of the Archaeological Achievement Awards, as we were of their predecessor, the British Archaeological Awards. The opportunity to showcase the best of our discipline, promoting the contribution that archaeology makes to society and the public benefit it creates, fits perfectly with CifA's aims to

- prioritise promoting the public benefit that professionalism in archaeology brings
- show that archaeologists have skills, responsibilities and a value to society equivalent to other professions
- encourage archaeologists to have pride in their professionalism¹

Since taking over the running of the Awards in 2019, the Council for British Archaeology has expanded their reach to include Ireland and the UK. At the same time, the award categories have been revised to showcase the very best of archaeological activity across the British Isles and island of Ireland and now celebrate innovation, engagement and participation, learning, training and skills, public dissemination, as well as the contribution of early career archaeologists.

The awards seek to promote high standards of archaeological practice in the service of the public. The judging criteria aim to showcase how archaeology provides value for society and our environment and how we create a positive impact from the work of archaeologists. The challenge of archaeology is that many of the ways of undertaking our investigations are destructive. What we touch and how we interpret it can enrich and sustain society, but it can also damage and

offend. The awards reflect a collective belief in the value and sensitivity of what we do and encourage work founded on ethical practice, expertise and restraint, based upon shared standards.

Awards trophies for the Archaeological Achievement Awards. Credit: National Monuments Service (NMS)



¹ CifA's Strategy and values (archaeologists.net)

2022

The awards are judged by a panel made up of representatives from across the archaeological community, chaired by the European Society of Black and Allied Archaeologists (ESBAA)'s Jeannette Plummer Sires. ClfA is represented on the panel by our Head of Professional Development and Practice, Kate Geary, who said:

'It's an honour to be involved in judging the Archaeological Achievement Awards, especially when the nominations are of such high quality. We have seen some truly inspiring projects led by archaeologists who are passionate about what they do and committed to the communities they serve. The Early Careers Award particularly gives me great confidence that the future of our discipline is in safe hands.'



L-R Megan Schlanker PCIfA and Victoria Sands ACIfA, Highly commended and Winner of the Early career archaeologist award. Credit: National Monuments Service (NMS)



The team from Y Heritage - Make A Splash!, highly commended for the Engagement and participation award. Credit: National Monuments Service (NMS)

The 2022 Awards were presented at a magnificent ceremony at Dublin Castle, hosted by Ireland's National Monuments Service in partnership with the Office of Public Works and in the presence of the Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform, Malcolm Noonan T.D.

Winners in all six categories – including an overall outstanding achievement award – were acclaimed in the ceremony led by National Monuments Service's Chief Archaeologist Michael MacDonagh, after several weeks of deliberation amongst the judges, with the quality of nominations being such that highly commended nominees were also chosen for most categories.

ClfA would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the shortlisted and winning entries from the 2022 awards, but especially ClfA members Victoria Sands ACIfA and Megan Schlanker PCIfA, winner and highly commended in the Early Career Archaeologist award, along with Tabitha Lawrence PCIfA who was also shortlisted. Megan and Tabitha will be well known to Early Careers Group members and Victoria is an active member of the Archives Group committee. We would also like to congratulate Registered Organisation MSDS Marine who were highly commended in the Engagement and Participation award for their *Y Heritage – Make a Splash!* project.

You can find out more about the shortlisted and winning entries, and award sponsors, on the Awards website at Archaeological Achievement Awards Council for British Archaeology (archaeologyuk.org)