

# EDITORIAL



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The theme for the ClfA 2023 conference in Nottingham focused on a sustainable future – for standards, with the purpose of engaging everyone in thinking about how, through collaboration and cooperation, we can collectively ensure our industry maximises the opportunities and addresses the challenges we are facing. This edition of *The Archaeologist* continues in this vein.

Kate Geary and Cara Jones start with a summary of their session on *Building a sustainable future*. This sets the scene for some of the different considerations for how a sustainable future could be achieved, including skills development and career pathways, inclusion and accessibility, value and public benefit. These topics are discussed in more detail in the articles which follow.

Megan Schlanker presents some of the thoughts and opinions based on the feedback gathered from early-career archaeologists about what they think a career in archaeology needs to offer to be sustainable, and highlights some of the barriers individuals are facing. Regarding career pathways, Jess Elleray and Phil Pollard share views from their session, which attempted to map the career journeys of their speakers, recognising how these have been shaped by unique opportunities and relationships.

Sarahjayne Clements continues this theme by suggesting some inclusive

workplace practices we could all look to adopt to attract and retain disabled archaeologists.

Picking up on the importance of communicating the value of archaeology, Maria Bellissimo, Communications Manager at Oxford Archaeology, emphasises the weight of proactively engaging with the public and sharing our work and its significance. Examples of some innovative ways of delivering public engagement are then highlighted in the articles by Robin Holgate of ARS and by Jennifer Bray and Sheena Payne-Lunn at Worcester City Council.

Cooperation, co-creation and collaboration is another theme drawn out of the considerations for a sustainable future, and next Peter Hinton draws attention to the framework of strategic initiatives set out in the 21st-Century Challenges for Archaeology Programme in England, involving a range of sector partners.

We round off this theme with an article from Abdul Qadoos, setting out what he believes should happen to improve the sustainability of archaeology in Pakistan – particularly around education and public benefit. Much of what Abdul highlights echoes the topics discussed at ClfA 2023, demonstrating that, although to different extents, we all recognise what our priorities must be to build a sustainable future for archaeology across the world.