

# ClfA Standards and guidance for an international audience

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## ClfA is the leading professional body representing archaeologists working in the UK and overseas.

There has been a notable increase in overseas ClfA members in recent years, supported by the establishment and influence of ClfA's International Practice Special Interest Group and the Deutschland and Australia Area Groups. At present there are ClfA members based in 26 countries and jurisdictions, with Registered Organisations also located in Germany and the Republic of Ireland. If you consider the number of ClfA-accredited UK-based archaeologists that also work, undertake research or manage projects overseas, the number of countries/jurisdictions represented is much higher. It is therefore a strategic plan priority to ensure the Institute's primary regulatory documentation, namely the *Code of conduct* and the Standards and guidance, are up to date and applicable to ClfA-accredited archaeologists wherever they're working.

To facilitate this, the Institute's *Code of conduct*, now over 40 years old, has been undergoing an in-depth review (as outlined by Peter Hinton in TA118) and a new structure has been introduced for the ClfA Standards and guidance. The structural changes have involved separating the Standard from the guidance so they are standalone and reorganising the guidance into two tiers focused on universal guidance and jurisdiction-specific guidance. This approach provides the mechanism to deliver Standards and guidance that can be applied anywhere, supported by more detailed guidance for different jurisdictions.

This is a substantial piece of work supported by a Professional Standards Advisory Panel comprising a broad spectrum of ClfA-accredited archaeologists. The work is happening in stages, with the fieldwork documents (amongst ClfA's oldest) forming the initial focus and test for the delivery of the new structure. In December 2023, after in depth consultation, the newly updated Standards and 'universal' guidance for archaeological excavation, archaeological field evaluation and archaeological monitoring and recording (formerly watching brief) were published on the ClfA website

<https://www.archaeologists.net/codes/cifa>. The jurisdiction-specific guidance is still in development, but we are excited to have taken this first step to ensuring our documents are applicable to archaeological activities wherever they take place.

As awareness of ClfA continues to grow globally, this work is essential, but so is your input. If you have an opportunity to respond to a consultation in the future, please do! These documents form the regulatory foundation for professional archaeological practice, so your input is a crucial part of helping to shape your profession.

If you have any queries about the updates or would like to enquire about getting more involved in the review process, please contact Jen ([jen.parkerwooding@archaeologists.net](mailto:jen.parkerwooding@archaeologists.net)).


 The logo for ClfA, featuring the letters 'ClfA' in a bold, purple, serif font. The 'l' is lowercase and has a distinctive shape, and the 'f' is lowercase and has a long descender.