

# EDITORIAL



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This edition of *The Archaeologist*, like TA115 and TA108, focuses on climate change – an ever-evolving area of changing practice, innovation and challenge.

The new Labour government, elected last year, recognises that the climate and nature crisis is the greatest challenge we face and has prioritised making Britain a clean energy supplier, setting a target to double onshore wind, triple solar power and quadruple offshore wind by 2030. Kate Geary and Rob Lennox introduce this edition by focusing on the research and discussions that have been taking place to identify the potential impacts solar farm developments have on the historic environment, and the aspirations for a range of stakeholders to work together to improve mutual understanding and seek viable solutions to concerns. Dan Phillips explains how Hertfordshire County Council is adapting its practices to support the acceleration of clean energy developments and other demands around net zero, against increasing financial pressures and tightening of public service spending plans.

Dan Miles provides an update on the work Historic England (HE) has been doing to support the sector, including a series of infographics highlighting the carbon emissions generated from different areas of the heritage sector. Kenneth Aitchison introduces the FAME carbon calculator tool, which is expected to launch in early 2025 and will be freely available to all archaeological organisations. Catherine

McGrath then gives us a closer insight into National Highways' commitments to reaching net zero, and how they are collaborating with their supply chain and partners to achieve this.

Jasmin Folland and Sara-Jayne Boughton share two projects from AtkinsRéalis demonstrating where positive contributions were made to carbon efficiencies or reduction from on-site archaeological fieldwork in flood and coastal erosion management. Brendon Wilkins of DigVentures tells us about Deep Time – an innovative crowd platform empowering people to map archaeological sites and ecological habitats using satellite imagery and LiDAR, providing data for more informed and immediate decisions on landscape investments and conservation efforts.

Cara Jones, ClfA, and Phil Pollard, HE, conclude by drawing attention to the discussion and planned activities taking place to address the need for new and adapted 'green skills' to support the climate agendas. These skills are adding to the increasing range of recorded skills gaps and shortages for archaeology.

The articles in this edition support the ever-increasing bank of information the ClfA climate change working group is collating on ClfA's website at [www.archaeologists.net/practices/archaeologists-and-climate-change](http://www.archaeologists.net/practices/archaeologists-and-climate-change). If you have a case study you would be happy to share, please contact us by emailing [alex.llewellyn@archaeologists.net](mailto:alex.llewellyn@archaeologists.net)