

VALIDATION – people and processes

Applications for professional accreditation are peer reviewed by volunteers who are accredited members of ClfA. Here you can find out more about who is involved in the application process and what they do.



Lisa Brown MClfA (7457)

I am the Archaeological Science Manager at Historic Environment Scotland. My role is a balance of providing science advice to HES and working strategically on innovation, scientific infrastructure and skills challenges.

I am also the chair of the Validation committee (VC), which I joined as I was interested in learning more about this part of the ClfA process; I also thought that it might look good on my CV! I enjoy taking part, and have learned a lot from other VC members, so when a space became available for Vice-Chair and subsequently Chair, I jumped at the opportunity.

The VC assesses the technical and ethical competence of applicants. The committee read each applicant's documents in detail (statement, examples and references, interview reports), and discusses each applicant individually. Their work is compared against the competence matrix, and it is decided whether the applicants have demonstrated the required level using a scoring system. Sometimes we need more information from an applicant, before we can make a decision. Very occasionally, applicants might not meet the competencies. In these cases, we provide feedback or offer an opportunity to talk with a VC member.

If you would like to find out more about becoming a panel member, assessor, or committee member please contact Lianne at membership@archaeologists.net



Dan Young MClfA (9580)

I have a background in Quaternary science and environmental archaeology and have been working in commercial archaeology for 16 years. In my current role as a Principal Geoarchaeologist at Wessex Archaeology, I am responsible for providing project management and technical expertise throughout the lifetime of geoarchaeological projects. I am the technical lead for geoarchaeological deposit modelling and ensure best practice in this vital area of assessment.

I am also a specialist assessor for applicants with a background in environmental archaeology and geoarchaeology. In this role I review applicants' statements and examples of work against the competence matrix, assessing them in four key areas. I provide a report giving advice to the Validation committee to help them reach a decision. I am grateful for this opportunity to support ClfA in ensuring best practice in a specialist area of commercial archaeology and find the process incredibly rewarding.

'While the application itself takes a bit of time, it felt worth the investment. In my case it helped me understand my own path and skills better as it gave me the chance to stop and think (a rare privilege these days!) about the competencies that I have developed and put into practice during these last years.'

Guillermo Diaz de Liaño del Valle
MClfA (13007)



Peter Reavill MClfA (2332)

I joined ClfA as a Practitioner and upgraded to Member in 2010. I became a panel member to give something positive back to the profession. I am a landscape archaeologist specialising in material culture and mostly worked in the museum sector for the British Museum's Portable Antiquities Scheme. I am now the HER Officer for Herefordshire Council.

I know from my own experience applying can feel daunting. It takes bravery and self-confidence to allow others to read and form a professional opinion of your work. As a panel member this is not something I take lightly. Using the application process information is vital; there aren't any hidden tricks. Everybody involved in it wants the applicant to be successful – it is a positive process. We extend this through ethical competence interviews which are more of an open conversation rather than a test with a right (or wrong) answer.

Like everyone, my time is precious and limited – so why do I give it up to support the profession? For me, I benefit from the panel process – reading and discussing applications allows me to reflect on my own professional practice and adds to my knowledge of different approaches that may support me in the future. As professionals we are always learning and as your career develops opportunities aren't always apparent. This not only lets me make a difference to others but also helps me undertake good practice and be a more rounded archaeologist.