

EDITORIAL

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In this issue, contributors illustrate clearly the message given to the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Archaeology in Westminster in March: that whether for social cohesion, cultural participation, wellbeing and education; climate adaptation and resilience; or realising the value of local culture and access to culture in placemaking – archaeology delivers. Delivery can be through UK legislation and policy-based social value or benefit frameworks, project-specific benefit frameworks or through urban design frameworks. The message is being given, by sector leaders and advocates – but is it being heard?

The language of global economic and social development could provide a useful means of positive messaging for future conversations, like the goals ('SDGs') of the UN's Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 (see the ClfA Client Guide 2024 for more on this, and the Archaeology Scotland team article, p4). UNESCO's Culture2030 is a further, more finely grained framework of thematic indicators to help monitor culture's enabling contribution to national and local delivery of the UN goals. The framework supports assessment of the role of cultural activities and actions (like ours) as well as the transversal contribution of these across many different SDGs and policy areas. The framework aims to 'make culture visible', provide a means of 'thematic overview' and from there a basis to 'build messages and advocacy'.

The articles in this edition of TA each provide evidence within the four themes of the Cl2030 framework of the contribution of archaeology and cultural heritage to sustainable development, demonstrating:

Cl2030 Inclusion and Participation

the ways in which cultural practices, sites, elements, and expressions convey values and skills conducive to social inclusion and cohesion, as well as the capacity of culture to stimulate effective engagement of local communities in public life. These are evident in Wessex's person-centred work at Erlestone and Thorney Hill (p8), as well as in Archaeological Research Services Ltd's work connecting a local community in Milton (p10) and Heneb's inclusion-focused project at Penparcau/Aberystwyth (p15)

Cl2030 Environment and Resilience

- the ways that tangible and intangible cultural and natural heritage contribute to the creation of sustainable places, as well as the inclusion of traditional knowledge in culturally sensitive planning.* Elizabeth Robson's team demonstrate these through their social value-based approach to place-making, trialled in Edinburgh (p12) as do Heneb again, through their grassland restoration initiative at Pendinas Hillfort (p15)

Cl2030 Knowledge and Skills

- how culture provides a context for building knowledge and skills, fostering empowerment through formal education as well as through training in heritage conservation and cultural management.* Education and skills development are key outcomes for the National Highways' Lower Thames Crossing engagement (p18), as they are also for Heneb (p15)

Cl2030 Prosperity and Livelihoods

- the governance structures that are in place to support a thriving role for culture in local and national economic development and livelihood.* Bruce

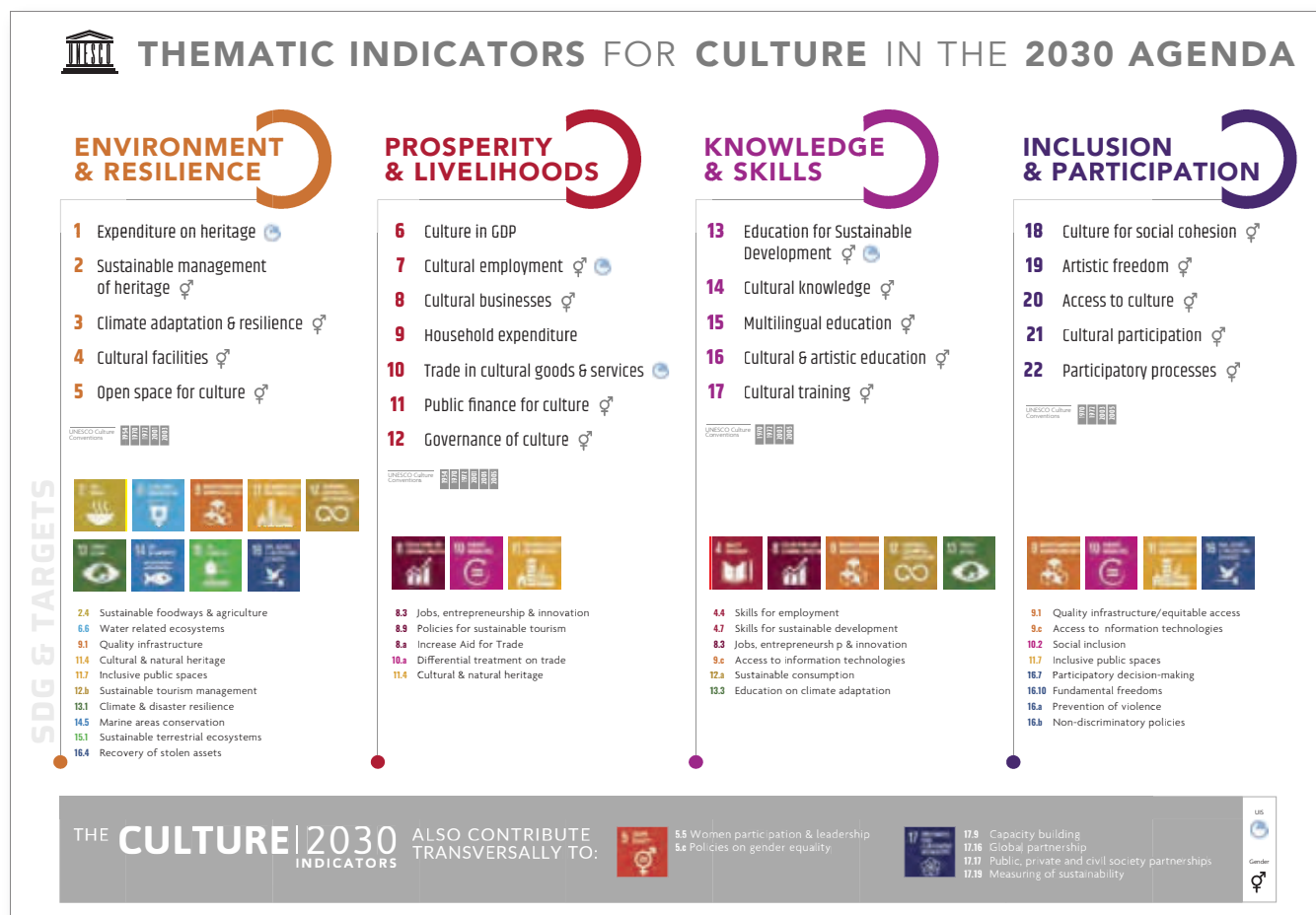
Mann's and Andy Robertson's paper for ALGAO Scotland (p24) and Rob Lennox's policy advocacy piece (p28) show how governance structures continue to develop for us in the UK. Brendon Wilkins looks at how we might better articulate the value of archaeology through his 'Theory of (societal) Change' (p20)

Reading across these contributions we get an indication of the skills, the cross-disciplinary partnering, the scale of

collaborative working, the policy entrepreneurship, the creative clients and above all the principles – in particular the respect for individuals and communities – that have driven these projects and made them a success.

These factors: skills, partnerships, collaborations, policy work, co-creation and person-centredness, are where we need to provide support (for example, see Cara's article p26) and leadership so we

can scale up, deliver bigger impacts more widely, measure them more convincingly, and send the message to policy makers and funders once and for all: that archaeology makes a significant contribution to sustainable development – a contribution valuable far and away greater than its cost – and one that must surely be not just a consideration in sustainable place-making and community-building in the future, but a cornerstone.



Credit: UNESCO

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Andrea is an independent heritage consultant currently working through AtkinsRealis and others to provide advice around heritage and sustainability. She is interested in the potential for future research from archaeological archives, cultural sustainability in master planning, and how archaeology and heritage work can help towards targets for the environment, education and communities in infrastructure development.

