

# THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2025

**Cifa is a proud supporter of the Archaeological Achievement Awards, which showcase excellence in UK and Irish archaeology. The awards celebrate great examples of sustainability, public dissemination, engagement and participation, learning, training and skills, in addition to the contribution of early-career archaeologists.**

More widely, the awards highlight how archaeology benefits society and can make positive impacts by enriching lives, supporting wellbeing and reinforcing our sense of place while promoting high standards of practice founded on ethical practice.

The judging panel is made up of representatives from across the archaeological community, chaired by the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland (IAI)'s James Kyle. This year Cifa was represented on the panel by our Head of Professional Standards, Jen Parker Wooding, who said:

*'This was my first time representing Cifa in the judging of the Archaeological Achievement Awards, and it was an honour to be involved. The work being undertaken by archaeologists across the UK and the Republic of Ireland is inspiring and it was wonderful being part of a process that shines a light on this. It was also brilliant seeing projects involving Cifa members and Registered Organisations.'*

Cifa Co-CEOs Kate Geary and Alex Llewellyn said:

*'The Awards reflect Cifa's aims to promote the public benefit that professionalism in archaeology brings, to show that archaeologists have a value to society equivalent to other professions, and to encourage archaeologists to have pride in their professionalism.'*<sup>1</sup>



The awards were presented at the Great Hall, Queen's University, Belfast, at an event hosted by local poet Morgan L. Ventura. Archaeologists from across the public, private and third sectors attended the event. There were also fantastic performances from local traditional music groups Footnote Productions and Ancient Music Ireland, who provided a display of reconstructed ancient instruments for attendees to view, and performed using some of them.

Cifa would like to congratulate all the shortlisted and winning entries for 2025, but especially

- Cifa Registered Organisation Oxford Archaeology, who were highly commended for their Fieldwork Training Pathways in the Learning, Training and Skills category
- Kayleigh Hibberd, winner of the Early Career Archaeologist award, who successfully completed her Archaeological Technician Apprenticeship Level 3 in 2025. This involved undertaking a combination of employer training and off-the-job training, provided by Cirencester College, with Cifa Qualifications ([www.archaeologists.net/careers/qualifications](http://www.archaeologists.net/careers/qualifications)) delivering her end-point assessment.

Full details of the shortlisted, highly commended and winning entries can be found on the Council for British Archaeology's website: <https://www.archaeologyuk.org/resource/meet-the-winners-of-the-2025-archaeological-achievement-awards.html>

<sup>1</sup> Cifa's Strategy and values (<https://www.archaeologists.net/about/values-strategy>)

