ARCHAEOLOGICAL ETHICS
CIfA2018 WORKSHOP REVIEW

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Professional archaeological ethics have become increasingly prominent in recent years. This has been partly due to the Institute's move to introduce Chartered Archaeologist and what many members see as a natural consequence of receiving our Royal Charter back in 2014. To glance sideways and put 'ethics' into context, it is emerging that technical expertise is something for which the Institute has developed fairly robust systems to assess competency. But ethical competence has so far relied upon supporting references and the member self-asserting that they will abide by the Code of conduct, and then being held accountable by means of the potential for allegations of professional misconduct – a form of ex post facto assessment. As the Institute moves towards Chartered Archaeologist it is seeking to strengthen and improve the robustness and transparency of its accreditation processes. It is also making it clear that one of the main differentiators between a full Member MCIfA and a Chartered Archaeologist is the independent assessment of an individual's ability to demonstrate their understanding and application of ethics in their professional conduct as a part of the process of becoming a Chartered Archaeologist.

In this context Kenneth Aitchison (Landward Research and CIfA) Christopher Dore (Heritage Business and Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA)) and I coordinated a session about ethics at the CIfA annual conference last year in Brighton. And we are reprising that session in Leeds in 2019. Our original intention was to replicate the 'Ethics Bowl' staged by the RPA and held by and at the annual Society for American Archaeologists conferences every year. This tournament (or 'bowl' in American English) has teams of four students from university departments competing for a trophy and cash prizes, and has become hotly contested, popularly attended and performed to a very high standard. Our attempt to replicate the format in the UK failed for lack of support from university departments. However, CIfA had recently published the *CIfA Professional Practice Paper: An introduction to professional ethics* and we agreed that the issues were and are important, so we modified the session from a competition between academic teams into a debate amongst self-organised teams comprised of anyone who attended.

ETHICS TOURNAMENT
BRIGHTON 27 APRIL 2018

Have you ever been concerned about archaeology and heritage for sale?

Have you thought about the rights and wrongs of excavating sites for money paid by investors with a vested interest in you not finding anything?

Are you concerned about looting and nighthawking of archaeological sites?

If so, the Ethics Tournament is for you

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and the Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA) are sponsoring the first ever Tournament on Ethics for archaeologists in the UK. This will take place at the CIfA conference which will be held on 25–27 April 2018 at the Brighton Racecourse. The Ethics Tournament will take place on Friday 27 April.

We are inviting teams (of 3–5 participants plus a faculty mentor) from University Archaeology Departments to enrol for the tournament. Ethical questions to debate will be pre-circulated prior to the event for the teams to prepare. Teams will make a structured series of statements and rebuttals, respond to a question from the judges and make a final statement of five minutes. The judges will include one representative of each CIfA, RPA, and Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers (FAME). A trophy will be presented to the winning team, along with certificates for all winners and runners-up.

More information about the Tournament and how to enrol is available at **www.archaeologists.net/conference/2018** or email **conference@archaeologists.net** There will be a small travel bursary available.

The Tournament is organised by Kenneth Aitchison (Landward Research) and Gerry Wait (Triskelion).

Christopher Dore (Heritage Business International) will chair the event.

Teams must register by 16 February 2018

CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

This proved to be a very successful change of direction. About 35 people attended and engaged in the half-day session. Several teams were created, based upon where people happened to be sitting, and three case studies were read out and debated. The case studies (we had a dozen prepared) were written for teams of university undergraduates and were perhaps too tongue-in-cheek in style and less challenging than might have been appropriate. Nonetheless the debates quickly became forceful and challenging – such that attendance after the morning coffee break actually increased over the number present at the start.

The format adopted was to assign teams various roles to play, and then read the case study and pose the ethical questions. Groups had 5–10 minutes to consider and discuss internally, and then each team had the opportunity to present their case and in turn respond to their opponent's presentation of arguments.

Despite the apparent simplicity of some of the cases the debates were real, sometimes surprisingly heated – and everyone agreed that the process was valuable, wherever we are in our professional careers. The cases and debates are an excellent preparation for demonstrating individual ethical competence for anyone contemplating the move to Chartered Archaeologist.

We'll be reprising the debates, with more sophisticated and challenging case studies, at the CIfA Annual Conference in Leeds in April 2019, so come and join us!

RESOURCES FOR PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

We have recently set up a resource page for professional ethics on the CIfA website at www.archaeologists.net/membership/ethics. This includes

- CIfA *Code of conduct*

- archaeological ethics database – an ongoing project by the Register of Professional Archaeologists (the Register) and CIfA. The goal of the database is to bring together sources on archaeological ethics in a single place for the use of students, researchers and professional archaeologists. It includes over 500 sources relating to ethics in archaeology.

- *An introduction to professional ethics* practice paper – a starting point to help archaeologists develop awareness of ethical issues in the profession. It examines what ethics are and what comprises ethical behaviours, and then, using specific case studies relevant to archaeology, sets out a series of questions and discussion as to how these issues could be addressed. The case studies cover topics such as gifts and hospitality, equality and diversity, conflicts of interest, and archaeology.

- ethical case studies – this document includes a variety of ethical scenarios which may be familiar to professional archaeologists. These are in addition to the case studies contained in the Professional Practice Paper.

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CIfA Professional Practice Paper:
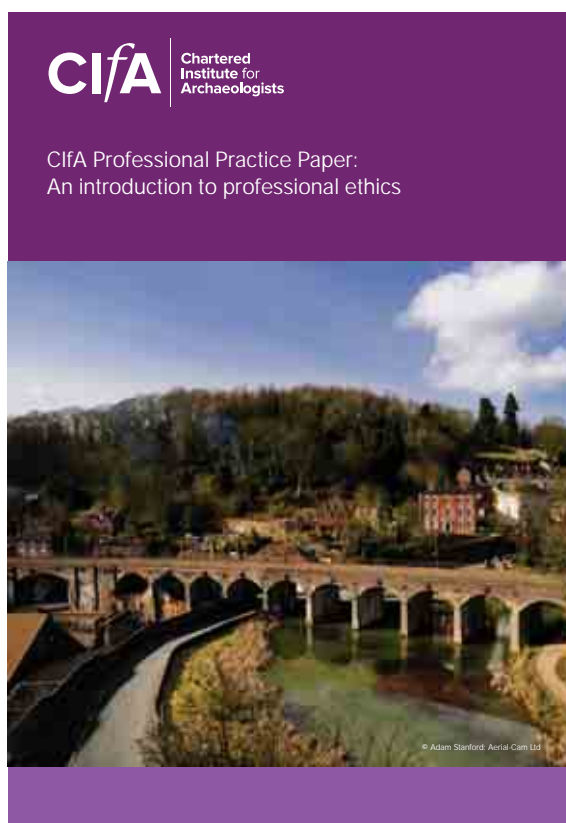An introduction to professional ethics

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