



Talking to the construction team at HS2 Euston. Credit: Caroline Raynor

Promoting professionalism

Kate Geary, ClfA Head of Professional Development and Practice

From a ClfA perspective, we are always keen to take up opportunities to talk to members and prospective members. It's not always easy for those who are predominantly site-based to access information about ClfA membership or CPD, although our Diggers' Forum Group is doing a great job of breaking down some of the barriers, and it was extremely valuable to be able to discuss concerns and aspirations directly with the field team. Challenges on the scale of HS2 demand innovative approaches and ClfA is eager to work with project Contractors as part of our Promoting Professionalism campaign, as well as HS2 Ltd's Historic Environment team (all members of ClfA), who are supporting initiatives and encouraging good practice across the project.

We were pleased to have the opportunity to talk to the construction team as well, promoting the value of archaeology and the skills and professionalism of archaeologists. For the construction and environmental professionals on site, the requirements of professional accreditation, CPD and chartered status are all very familiar. But there was a lack of awareness that the same professional structures exist for archaeologists, indicating that there is still some way to go before archaeologists are seen as another vital, and integrated, part of the construction team. As well as working with Caroline and her colleagues, ClfA is also working with client sector professional institutes and trade associations to highlight the benefits and value that archaeology brings to construction projects and to encourage an approach that seeks to put social value and the delivery of public benefit at the heart of the process. Our publication *Professional Archaeology: a guide for clients* sets out the benefits archaeology can bring to construction projects and is free to download from the ClfA website at www.archaeologists.net/clientguide



Image credit: MOLA