

# NOTICEBOARD

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## Dates for your diary

### Cifa Annual General Meeting

Our next AGM will be held on the morning of Tuesday 15 October 2019 at City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh. The AGM notice and other documentation is on our AGM website page [www.archaeologists.net/cifa/agm](http://www.archaeologists.net/cifa/agm)

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### What's going wrong with desk-based assessments?

Following the AGM we will be holding a CPD seminar.

The desk-based assessment (DBA) is a much-maligned beast. Despite being enshrined in planning guidance, there still seems to be confusion as to what one is and its purpose. Recent discussions with ALGAO highlighted several problems, including submission of DBAs when they are not required and the frequent appearance of documents that do little more than reiterate information already available in the HER, with no meaningful assessment of significance, potential or impact. This led to the organisation of a workshop on DBAs at the Cifa AGM in October 2018. It was decided to repeat this workshop across the UK to ensure a wide range of feedback, especially from those operating under different planning policies.

Cifa is currently undertaking a thorough review of its Standards and guidance, which includes consideration of where and why things might be going wrong. This suite of DBA workshops, aimed at anyone who commissions, writes, approves or uses DBAs, will take an in-depth view of what the Standard requires and why. It will also provide the opportunity for some collaborative working as Cifa seeks to improve the guidance to help members achieve a better-quality product. The course is not designed to teach delegates with little or no previous experience how to write a DBA. Full details of the seminar, speakers and information about how to book a place are on the Cifa website at [www.archaeologists.net/events](http://www.archaeologists.net/events).

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### Cifa conference 2020

Sponsored by Towergate Insurance

Cifa2020 will be held from 22 to 24 April 2020 at the Apex City of Bath Hotel, Bath.

At Cifa2020 we will be looking to the future and asking what more we can do to promote the profession and our professionalism. Over the last decade we have defined new entry routes into archaeology and set out the career structures and competence requirements for professional archaeologists, but how can we maximise these to attract new and diverse talent and promote the value and quality of the work we do? Where can we further develop and reinforce the standards and good practice championed by the Institute to ensure we consistently understand and meet our professional obligation to deliver public benefit? And how, as a profession, can we better equip ourselves with the ethical and professional knowledge, skills and behaviours required in a changing and challenging environment? None of these are new concepts, but ones that we must all engage with. Further details about the sessions and workshops can be found on our website at [www.archaeologists.net/conference](http://www.archaeologists.net/conference) and we are now running our Call for Papers.

The conference will also include the usual selection of excursions, networking and social events.

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### Yearbook and Directory 2019 correction

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