

EDITORIAL



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Archaeologists are a talented group of people, we know. We all bring an eclectic mix of knowledge, experience, skills and ideas to our variable roles.

Sometimes the skills we need to use are different to our original expectations – spreadsheets and logistics perhaps? Sometimes we do things automatically with everyday panache – excavating, analysing, communicating.



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Our curiosity to understand, explain and share our discoveries means that we are keen to learn from other disciplines, often taking practices from the construction industry or other environmental fields, for example. And here HS2 offers a hothouse of opportunities for knowledge exchange, for collaboration and lessons learned.

I hope that you will find words and practices that resonate and something perhaps to apply in your own work. The articles by colleagues working on HS2 show just how many different skills are needed in our profession and how much more there always is to know.



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LEAN management is only something I had learned on a management course. Caroline Raynor has demonstrated the value that putting theory into practice can bring to our work.



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The importance of investing in our staff is highlighted by Guy Hunt as L-P: Archaeology look the skillset needed by today's archaeologist, which is widening beyond the 'core' archaeological toolkit.

On HS2 there have been two major excavations of post-medieval burial grounds and Mike Henderson explains how this has given eleven early-career osteologists opportunity to work alongside experienced professionals.

Emma Tetlow writes about her varied career path and the transferable skills she brings to her specialist role. Resilience is something we all need more than we previously thought.

Community engagement is at the core of what we do as archaeologists; Mary Ruddy tells us about the response to COVID-19, ensuring that engagement not only continued but flourished through the online world, making great use of visualisations.

Tom Sparrow highlights the skills needed to use advanced digital capture methods and illustrates this with the work on the roundhouse at Curzon Street, linking old and new information sources to achieve incredible and accessible imagery.

Sometimes life puts you in its spotlight and for Rachel Wood this meant facing many facets of the media to share the remarkable discoveries at Wellwick Farm; read about her experience and think how you would have fared!

Tom Wilson shows us the perspective of a built heritage consultant, the nature of the resource and the collaboration required to deliver the HS2 Area North built heritage programme.

Finally, Mark Collard and David Bonner write about how they adapted to working in the COVID-19 world, coming up with new ways of working at the Wellwick Farm site and the challenges this brought to the investigation of a lead coffin using Microsoft Teams.

Our call for articles for this edition's theme in the end generated more content than we could include in this issue, so a couple of additional pieces will be published as online articles on the Cifa website. These include a case study from Paul McGarrity of MHI looking at the skills required to deliver the community engagement events held around recording and interpreting the funerary monuments in St James's Gardens. And as HS2 is about all things railway, Joe Critchley explains the requirements for safety and access while recording non-designated built heritage including the Parkway Tunnel outside Euston Station and the Statue of Robert Stephenson.

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