



Our policy for the future

Human beings are innately curious and archaeology informs us of a past that transcends historical records, helping us to understand and shape the future.

Rescue, The British Archaeological Trust is a non-political organization dedicated to supporting archaeology and archaeologists at home and abroad. We receive no state support and our income is derived solely from our members' subscriptions and our charitable activities. Our commitments for the future are summarised below, more details can be found by following the links.

As the historic environment comes under increasing pressure we will:

- Maintain our ability to speak and act independently by never accepting funds from the State or from any advertising stream or other means that do not directly support our charitable aims.
- Continue to campaign for the provision of Historic Environment Records (HER) and the expertise to interrogate them, to be made a statutory function of local government. [\[3\]](#)
- Campaign for sufficient central government funding to ensure local authorities can support sufficient expert archaeological staff to offer advice to the planning system and to ensure that Historic England is adequately resourced for the future. [\[1,2\]](#)
- Campaign for Britain to ratify, implement and abide by European and UNESCO conventions for the landscape, World Heritage Sites, the historic environment and maritime heritage and to defend them against any watering down of these commitments as a result of future government policy. We will similarly campaign against any watering down of our national heritage legislation and policy. [\[2,4,5\]](#)
- Advocate for the conditions of Article iii of the Valetta Convention to be applied to all metal detecting and other intrusive fieldwork and for the compulsory reporting of all recovered archaeological material. We will press for a national investigation into the feasibility of a licensing system for all archaeological work. [\[10\]](#)
- Highlight the growing pressure on museums and, in particular, the storage of archaeological archives. We will encourage debate across the related disciplines and the formulation of funded solutions that allow these archives and museum collections to be retained for posterity and made accessible for research. [\[8\]](#)
- Advocate for the adoption of best practice standards across the archaeological profession and for employment terms consistent with comparable roles in allied professions (e.g. architecture, planning consultancy etc.). [\[6\]](#)

- Campaign to maintain archaeology as an academic subject within schools and higher education. [13,14]
- Work with colleagues in the historic environment sector to support robust and innovative outreach and community archaeology. [15,16]
- Continue to encourage a range of methods of disseminating the results of investigation of the historic environment and to publish selectively ourselves.

Detailed policy reference nos. in brackets.

The following document contains is a statement of our policies on the issues that we hold most important to the protection of our heritage for the next few years.

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The Purpose of Archaeology

Archaeology provides a voice vital to understanding the past and building the future of people from all walks of life. Although closely intertwined with history, it extends beyond that discipline by offering a direct connection to the material and immaterial past through traces revealed in our surroundings. It forms the backbone of our identity and is the basis for understanding who we were and where we have come from, to influence how we develop in the future. It is this capacity to consider and reflect on the past in shaping our future that sets humans apart.

History is limited to the relatively recent past, dependent on information that has been documented, with an inherent partiality favouring the educated, the elite and/or the (largely) male. Archaeology's immense range of finite and irreplaceable resources allows us to discover our collective past of a time and shared ancestry that equally represents the ordinary people: i.e. the peasants, the farmers, the men, women and children. It presents the evidence of human actions and behaviour resulting directly from practised beliefs, lived emotions and social constructs from a time that we cannot know of, but yet which collectively shapes who we are today.

This evidence that archaeology gives us is an irreplaceable, non-renewable resource: once it is destroyed it cannot be recreated. Each unique archaeological site tells us something different about a distinct group of peoples at both a local and national level, and even broader global level. We cannot pre-determine what each site will tell us, nor which will hold that new piece of evidence that changes our understanding of who we are.

Integral to the understanding of the purpose of archaeology and how it continues to enlighten us is the appreciation of the dynamic nature of ideas: they grow, shift and change as more evidence is sought and as political and social beliefs evolve. No single interpretation of our past will be static; it is never complete, nor ever a fact that cannot be debated.

Archaeology keeps us questioning the very essence of our humanity. Its importance and value to us as a whole is demonstrated through the countless efforts worldwide by local communities or even by single individuals who have given their lives to protect heritage. Its positive impact on the well-being of peoples all around the world continues to this day.

RESCUE policy

We will never accept money from any political organisation nor from any advertising stream that is not directly related to and compatible with our aims. We will continue to advocate at a national level in favour of the historic environment, lobbying parliament, responding to relevant consultations and contributing to calls for evidence as well as engaging with like-minded organisations to achieve our aims. We will not compromise our aims to gain favour or in any unsupported hope of better to come.

Section 1: Historic Environment Protection, Legislation and Infrastructure

Issue 1: Central government provision & Historic England

RESCUE is concerned that actions of successive central government administrations have been largely detrimental to the historic environment in general and archaeology in particular. It is clear that for perhaps the last 15 to 20 years heritage has not been a priority for successive governments, and that they care little for its future well-being. We specifically draw attention to the following issues which remain unresolved despite continual lobbying by RESCUE and other organisations:

- the repeated refusal to take the vital step of making the provision of Historic Environment Records (HERs) a statutory responsibility on local authorities;
- the failure to ensure that local authorities understand and enact the provisions of the NPPF in respect of archaeology and the historic environment, and recognise the need to employ sufficient numbers of suitably qualified staff;
- central government's repeated disavowal of responsibility for local and regional museums while at the same time trying to force responsibility for deep and profoundly damaging cuts to museums onto under-funded local authorities;
- the repeated and ongoing cutting of funding to English Heritage, now Historic England, and the inadequate funding basis on which the successor body English Heritage Trust is expected to care for the nation's most valued historic buildings and archaeological sites;
- the Government's consistent refusal to implement the provisions of the *Valetta Convention*, specifically in relation to the funding of HERs and of local and regional museums.
- the failure of the All Party Parliamentary Archaeology Group (APPAG) to take a principled, cross-party stance on archaeology and the historic environment.

RESCUE Policy

RESCUE will continue to urge the Government to recognise the important economic, cultural and educational value of archaeology and to act on this recognition by ensuring that funding is adequate to guarantee that the nation's heritage is effectively safeguarded whether it exists in the form of buried or submerged archaeological sites, standing buildings, museum archives (written drawn, photographic and artefactual) or historic landscapes. We will campaign for a joined up archaeological policy at a national level, that brings transparency to the grant awards system, combining Historic England grants and the Listed Places of Worship Scheme, and advocate for other specific measures to support the historic environment such as the removal of VAT on Listed Building repairs.

Issue 2: The Development Process & Legislation

Since the *Town and Country Planning Act* 1990 made the historic environment a material consideration in the planning process, archaeology has been inextricably linked with development. However, since the recession of 2008, historic environment protection has suffered sustained attacks from numerous revisions to planning legislation. Alongside this, austerity measures since 2010 have seen severe cuts to local authority budgets which have impacted on the Historic Environment Services (HES) that are essential to ensuring that the terms of current legislation and the planning guidance in *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) of 2012 can be adhered to. Significant and severe cuts to the resources of English Heritage (now Historic England) have their origins further back than this. The current situation therefore is one of marked and ongoing decline nationally and in the local authority resources both to maintain the Historic Environment Records and to provide expert archaeological advice on planning applications to local planning authorities, along with the weakening in the protection offered by the relevant legislation. Yet the implications for archaeology from the volume of infrastructure work planned in the next 5 to 20 years suggest that this is the very time when strong legislation and well-resourced historic environment services will be most needed.

RESCUE policy

RESCUE is opposed to any watering down of current legislative protection for the historic environment, and will examine all policy changes for potential impact on historic environment protection from this standpoint. We will respond to consultations in a robust and uncompromising manner. We shall continue to press for inclusion of the Historic Environment Services and Historic Environment Records as a statutory duty on local authorities.

We will work with other bodies where our aims are in agreement, but do not believe that the historic environment is best served by compromise or capitulation, and will not endeavour to engage in such narratives. RESCUE will be alert to any suggestions that a lack of capacity in the archaeological workforce is an adequate reason for reducing requirements on development.

Issue 3: Archaeological Planning Advice and Historic Environment Records

RESCUE believes that the receipt of impartial archaeological advice is fundamental to local authorities' obligations to make appropriately informed decisions on planning matters that affect archaeological and historic heritage assets. All local authorities have a duty to either provide in-house, or call upon through prior arrangement, professional archaeological advice that is offered independently of the influence of developers or their contracted agents. This will ensure the needs of the archaeological resource are assessed properly. RESCUE also believes that all local authorities should have, or have access to, an appropriately-resourced and staffed Historic Environment Record, and that this requirement should be a statutory obligation.

RESCUE Policy

RESCUE will advocate and campaign for local authority historic environment advice services and HERs to be made statutory. This is the **only** way to ensure the safety of these vital services in the future. We will oppose the ongoing reductions to and closures of these services.

Issue 4: Marine archaeology & Treasure Hunting

As an island nation, sea-faring has historically been an important means of transporting people and goods between Britain and the rest of the world. Inevitably this means that our waters contain some of the highest densities of wrecks in the world and are the burial sites of many sailors, passengers and traders. With sophisticated investigative technology made more available it is inevitable that these wrecks are becoming increasingly the target of those who seek to profit from their investigation.

There is a lack of comprehensive international protection for maritime cultural resources. Although the 2001 *UNESCO Convention for the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage* has been ratified by some countries, Britain is not among them. The Historic England archive contains over 40,000 records that relate to wreck sites or maritime archaeology of which only 62 are protected by statute which leaves the vast majority of the sites to which these records relate vulnerable with no protection from unregulated investigation owing to curiosity, greed or poor archaeology. RESCUE believes that the historic marine environment should be protected in a similar way to land-based archaeological and historic sites.

RESCUE policy

RESCUE will advocate for Britain to ratify the 2001 *UNESCO Convention for the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage* and will campaign for an extension to the principles of the Burial Act 1857 to cover all human remains found at sea. Consistent with the investigation of archaeological sites on land, RESCUE will campaign for a requirement for detailed project designs to be agreed and lodged with the relevant authorities before marine investigations start. No artefacts recovered during the course of approved works should be sold for personal gain, to support businesses or to fund further investigations. We will campaign for a register of authorised investigators who agree to abide by the ClfA standards for nautical archaeological recording and reconstruction¹ and that any person or body seeking funds from the British government for these purposes should be so registered.

We advocate that all historic wreck sites where there has been military loss of life are classed as war graves and should be subject to current restrictions for such graves, and that the exclusion of salvage rights from any other historic wrecks where loss of life has occurred should be applied.

¹ http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/ClfAS%26GNautical_1.pdf.

Issue 5: Infrastructural Development Impacting on World Heritage Sites and their settings

Increased infrastructural and other development risks impinging on designated World Heritage Sites (WHS) across the country. The designation of a WHS by UNESCO brings a firm UK Government commitment under the 1972 *World Heritage Convention* to protect and conserve the World Heritage Site in its entirety for its outstanding universal value to mankind and for the benefit of future generations. In particular, in 2017, both Stonehenge and Liverpool are under threat.

In December 2014 the Government announced a new proposal to dual the A303 by Stonehenge, with 2.9km twin-bored tunnels, requiring deep cuttings that would emerge within the WHS, and grade-separated junctions at the Site's eastern and western boundaries. RESCUE considers such road engineering works, which would destroy archaeological remains in their path and severely compromise the integrity and setting of the WHS, would be contrary to the World Heritage Convention, a view shared by UNESCO. Should a tunnel scheme be decided upon, it must be long enough to protect the WHS and its setting.

The threat from inappropriate high-rise development impacting on the Liverpool Maritime Mercantile City WHS has led to it being placed on the WHS at risk register by UNESCO. Despite this, plans for the development have so far not been changed and Liverpool risks having its WHS status withdrawn. Similar high-rise development compromises the setting of the Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey including St Margaret's Church WHS, where UNESCO has also expressed concern about delay in undertaking repairs to the Houses of Parliament buildings.

RESCUE Policy

RESCUE will advocate and campaign for the proper protection and rehabilitation of all World Heritage Sites.

In particular, we shall continue to campaign to protect the internationally acclaimed archaeological landscape of the Stonehenge WHS and its setting from further degradation and from unnecessary and damaging development, in line with the demands of the World Heritage Convention and planning policy. We will support measured, considered and innovative archaeological research that furthers our understanding of this landscape. RESCUE will maintain its support for the Stonehenge Alliance².

RESCUE will support sympathetic urban development in WHS such as Liverpool and Bath, recognising the need to support economic development, including that which enhances economic value. At the same, we shall advocate for development that enhances WHS rather than being detrimental to them.

² Stonehenge Alliance supporter-organisations are: Ancient Sacred Landscape Network, Campaign for Better Transport, Campaign to Protect Rural England, Friends of the Earth and RESCUE: The British Archaeological Trust. For updates on the Stonehenge Campaign, see: www.stonehengealliance.org.uk

Section 2. Professional practice, employment and training

Issue 6: Professional Practice and Standards

The archaeological resource is non-renewable, therefore it is essential that all archaeological fieldwork and subsequent post-excavation work is carried out to high standards in order to extract maximum information from that resource. Following completion of a project a complete and well-ordered archive that is available for re-interrogation and research in the future should be deposited with an appropriate body. The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and Historic England have drafted and disseminated a wide range of practice guidance and professional standards documents to this aim. CIfA membership on both an individual and organisational level has a commitment to upholding standards enshrined in its terms; however questions still arise about whether these standards are themselves high enough, and more significantly whether the system of holding members to account is robust enough. In addition, there is no requirement on non-member archaeological professionals (whether individual or an organisation) to commit to these standards. It is difficult to ensure competency amongst individual practitioners without extensive monitoring procedures that make demands on dwindling resources, nor is it easy to bar individuals or organisations from undertaking commercial contracts, even if they have been found to be practising below acceptable standards.

RESCUE Policy

RESCUE recognises the efforts of the CIfA and Historic England in producing the practice guidance and professional standards documents but will advocate for a much more pro-active policy in respect of ensuring that the principles and practice enshrined in such documents are enacted on a day-to-day basis and are not compromised by a lack of resources, training or inadequate staffing levels.

RESCUE is concerned that the CIfA works to a set of “minimum acceptable” standards and will encourage a more aspirational set of standards to be aimed for. RESCUE will continue to advocate for professional standards to be raised and will support the CIfA and the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO) in the operation of robust monitoring of such standards and effective disciplinary action when they are not met.

Issue 7: Employment, pay & training

RESCUE believes that archaeology represents a worthwhile and rewarding career option which should be open to everyone in the UK. RESCUE notes, however, that pay and conditions typically fall short of those available to employees in comparable occupations and professions, whether this is the disparity in pay between field staff and those in the construction and civil engineering sectors or in the fees chargeable by specialists. RESCUE looks to the profession's representative bodies, including the ClfA and the Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers (FAME), to take active steps to ensure that archaeologists are not disadvantaged in terms of pay or conditions and that both reflect the very high level of qualification and practical experience typically represented in the archaeological workforce.

RESCUE Policy

RESCUE wants to see fair contracts of employment for all staff, the abolition of zero-hours contracts and encouragement of the use of longer term contracts, enhanced staff benefits and pay levels in line with or above ClfA recommendations that will enable those at the lower end of the pay hierarchy decent standards of family life. RESCUE recognises the importance of training and professional development at all levels within the profession and looks to employers to support those who wish to maintain, upgrade and diversify their skills either through direct financial support or by facilitating leave of absence to allow individuals to undertake accredited courses or to gain experience through secondment to appropriate projects.

RESCUE will continue to advocate for the right of all employees and freelance contractors to support or renounce the trades union, professional body or advocacy group of their own choice, and to work for improved terms and conditions of work without the fear of prejudicial treatment in the workplace. RESCUE also supports efforts to eliminate sexual harassment and similar discriminatory behaviour in the workplace and advocates a zero-tolerance policy towards such behaviour.

Section 3. National issues for the Historic Environment

Issue 8: Archaeological Archives and Museums' Storage

RESCUE considers the provisions of the current planning process regarding the curation and storage of archaeological archives created through planning-related work, to be inadequate, and to have been so for a considerable period. RESCUE supports the creation of state-funded regional Archaeological Resource Centres, where all site archives should be deposited and where facilities should exist for the display of items of note, and where the archives can be made readily accessible for research, education and enjoyment. The burgeoning national archaeological research archive is the result of national Government policy, and is a national asset; provision of curatorial and storage expertise should not therefore be imposed upon local and regional museums; rather central Government should both accept responsibility for this issue and supply the financial resources needed to provide a resolution.

Archives are not an inconvenient by-product of the completion of archaeological projects; they are the future research resource for the furtherance of our profession, advancement of knowledge about the past, understanding of our forebears and development of new techniques of investigation. RESCUE believes that programmes of collection rationalisation, standardisation of requirements nationally, a unified approach to digital archiving and the honing of collection strategies are vital. The profession has made more than adequate moves to address this issue in recent years, and we recognise that no further meaningful progress can be made without appropriate Government support, both financially and in the form of a properly balanced strategic programme to provide a long-term and educationally beneficial solution.

RESCUE Policy

RESCUE believes archives are integral to the future of the archaeological discovery process and will support measures for their continued maintenance. RESCUE also believes that rationalisation of archive material (e.g. the disposal of excavated artefacts) is a potentially damaging practice that should only be carried out by qualified specialists following appropriate assessment. We will advocate for both the creation of regional archive repositories, and for the provision of the necessary Government financial and strategic support for coordinated archive deposition with improved integrated use of archives for education and recreational purposes. RESCUE recognises that the space and cost implications of this growing resource are difficult to resolve, but we will campaign and work in conjunction with others in the historic environment sector and national Government to come up with workable and innovative solutions to preserve this priceless resource.

Issue 9: Agricultural Damage

Agriculture is one of the most destructive processes for the archaeological landscape and few systems effectively protect archaeological sites in the medium or long term. RESCUE campaigned successfully about the ongoing destruction of part of the Roman city of Verulamium which was eventually taken out of cultivation in 2003. However, many other scheduled monuments remain in cultivation and are only protected, at least for a period, if the landowner chooses to enter an agri-environmental scheme. Under such schemes only a tiny minority of non-scheduled sites are likely to qualify for grant support for protective management, and the majority continue to erode away. This process is likely to intensify with changes in crops and farming techniques due to climate change impacts. Unlike quarrying and building, most agricultural processes are outside the planning system, and highly destructive works such as reservoir construction may be treated as not requiring full planning consideration. Similarly, extensive new woodland planting is rarely properly assessed for archaeological impact.

RESCUE policy

RESCUE supports the protection of scheduled monuments through the removal of all rights to continue existing agricultural practices, apart from controlled grazing, and supports its replacement with an appropriate agreed regime for the individual site. RESCUE believes that this should be followed by an extension of the schedule for significant sites at high risk to include settings. RESCUE will advocate for the protection of the historic rural landscape through a better and more specific definition of the planning role and policies in the countryside.

Issue 10: Amateur and community survey and excavation

Britain has a proud history of community and amateur archaeology, having made some of our most spectacular discoveries in the past. However, since 1990 there has been a growth in the numbers of professionals, all of whom work within an increasingly regulated system. This contrasts with the unregulated nature of amateur fieldwork which can include metal detecting, fieldwalking, and excavation as well as non-intrusive research such as geophysical survey.

Rescue recognizes the contribution amateur and community survey and excavation can make to the overall record: for example metal detecting can provide a good indication of the ongoing destruction of archaeology in arable areas. However, Rescue believes that unregulated hobby detecting and other fieldwork does not contribute sufficient value or information to our understanding of the past to justify the damage caused to the wider archaeological resource, in particular by detecting on non-arable land, by poor recording of find locations and by inadequate post-excavation reporting. Of the suite of amateur techniques, only the recovery of finds, mainly through metal-detecting (because it is the most widely practiced and has the potential for making lucrative discoveries) has been subject to any state intervention in the form of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS). Whilst this has been successful in recording significant numbers of de-contextualised finds, the PAS has been unable to sufficiently advocate for archaeological methodologies and rigorous survey practices to underpin artefact collecting and this results in archaeological material being removed from the landscape without appropriate recording. The voluntary nature of the PAS means that hobby detectorists are not obliged to adhere to the principles of the scheme nor to record the material they are recovering. Furthermore, funding for the scheme is no longer guaranteed.

There are no arrangements in place to govern any form of archaeological fieldwork outside the protection of Scheduled Monument status or the planning framework. Rescue does not believe that these arrangements correspond to the requirements or the spirit of Article 3 of the 1992 *Valetta Convention* which they were designed to address, and therefore we have concluded that the current system for regulating the recovery of archaeological evidence by non-professionals in the UK is inadequate.

Rescue Policy

Rescue supports the provisions of Article 3 of the *Valetta Convention* (<https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/rms/090000168007bd25>) and welcomes discussions and further debate on the subject of how best to bring the UK into line with the requirements it sets out. Rescue calls for a national investigation into the feasibility of a licensing system for all archaeological work, including metal detecting. In the meantime we will advocate for all metal detecting, fieldwalking, excavation and other intrusive survey to be subject to prior authorisation on a case-by-case basis, supported by appropriate pre-commencement documentation. Rescue will also advocate for the introduction of legally enforceable compulsory reporting of all recovered archaeological material supported by adequate resourcing of procedures for authorisation and supervision.

Issue 11: Archaeological antiquities

The law in England and Wales allows the sale of archaeological objects and as a result they acquire a financial value that distorts behaviour in respect of them. Artefacts considered under the Treasure Act 1996 are assigned a financial value that museums wishing to display them have to raise, rather than the automatic acquisition of these objects for public benefit and enjoyment. The Dealing in Cultural Objects (Offences) Act 2003 and the UK ratification of the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property prevents museums and galleries purchasing objects that have been acquired illegally from any historic site or monument or that have been imported illegally, but it does not apply to archaeological finds made legally in this country.

Antiquities law is very variable across the world, but England, has some of the least prescriptive regulation; Scotland has a different system which offer more protection to archaeological finds.

The Metropolitan Police Art and Antiques Unit has recently been suspended but is due to re-open; however it is always subject to the uncertainties of public spending budgets.

RESCUE policy

We will support and encourage the better identification of the source of artefacts coming into British auction houses from international markets. We will support the creation of antiquities legislation for England that requires all archaeological objects offered for sale to be fully and legitimately provenanced, will discourage the sale of UK archaeological artefacts, and which takes a similar line to the Scottish system whereby any objects found by chance or through activities such as metal-detecting, field-walking, or archaeological excavation, for which the original owner is unknown, automatically become the property of the state.

Issue 12: The impact of Brexit on the Historic Environment

The UK entered the European Union in 1975 at a time when great strides taking place within UK archaeology. Many principles and policy critical to how archaeology is practised within the UK and under the planning system have been adopted into UK practice through its membership of the EU. In addition to planning and environment principles, the UK's membership with the EU has guaranteed the 'four freedom' principles, allowing the free movement of labour, that is, skills and talent, into the UK which have hugely benefited the wider progress of the historic environment sector, both nationally and globally, and in both research and practice.

As the UK negotiates its position with the EU and debates in Parliament which EU policies it will embed into UK law, we at Rescue are aware of the omission of key EU environmental principles which have not yet been embedded into UK law. Elements of British historic environment protection, underpinned by the environmental principles within Article 191 of the *Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union* - have not been included in the EU Withdrawal Bill currently making its way through UK Parliament. Article 191 aims at 'high level protection' of the environment and is based on 'preventive action' in which 'environmental damage should as a priority be rectified at source and that the polluter should pay'. These principles include the 'polluter pays', the 'preventive principle' and the 'precautionary principle', all of which have been the basis of environmental protection, and fundamental to the way archaeology is carried out in the UK. The omission of these environmental principles from the EU Withdrawal Bill threatens the importance and spirit of guidance and policies currently in place and, without clearly and explicitly embedding them into UK law, will have serious negative impacts on the ability of UK archaeologists and planners to ensure the historic environment is properly protected.

We are also aware of the many positive benefits EU citizens contribute to the UK. All sectors of UK archaeology welcome the skills, talent and diversity that European citizens contribute to both the workplace and the sector as a whole. These workers are essential to the delivery of archaeological programmes between 2018 and 2025, particularly in advance of major infrastructure and housing projects, which themselves will be further compromised by restricting the free movement of labour.

RESCUE policy

In the first instance Rescue will promote and support proposals for the inclusion of environmental principles within the EU Withdrawal Bill. It will also promote the inclusion of the *historic*, in addition to natural, environment within the new proposed Environment Bill.

We also advocate that for long-term protection of the historic environment the UK should proceed with full implementation of the World Heritage Convention (Paris 1972), the *Convention for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage of Europe* (revised) (Valletta, 1992) and the *European Landscape Convention* (Florence 2000) in UK planning policy and law, all of which are ratified agreements independent of EU membership. This would guarantee long-term stability of the protection of the UK historic environment.

Section 4. Archaeology and Education, Community archaeology and Outreach

Issue 13: Archaeology Within the Education System: 1. Schools and Colleges

RESCUE believes that all young people in schools should have access to high quality input on Archaeology as well as knowledge of the results of archaeological work, specifically through the use of primary sources for the interpretation of the past. These should be core features in the teaching of History in schools and it is our opinion that there is too little emphasis on them. It should also be made clear what roles other subject areas, (e.g. Science, Geography, Mathematics, English, IT/Computing, Social Sciences and the Arts) offer in the study of the past.

Archaeology is an excellent example of an inter-disciplinary subject using a broad, cross-curricular approach to investigate the past. As such, archaeology could be used to demonstrate a range of related work in schools via cross-curricular studies, links that are crucial for a proper study of history. Emphasis should be placed on highlighting the high level of transferrable skills that the study of archaeology provides; skills that can open up a wide range of employment opportunities, not just within the archaeological world. Students at GCSE and 6th Form level in particular, can benefit from the opportunity to access archaeological work through school subjects and/or work experience and clear guidance towards apprenticeships in archaeology.

RESCUE policy

RESCUE will support measures for Archaeology to be included in the work of schools to provide encouragement to young people to study Archaeology at a higher level. We will also campaign for the reinstatement of Archaeology as a full A Level subject. RESCUE will continue to campaign for more teachers to be trained in archaeological techniques so that they may see the value of the subject for a wide range of curriculum areas and may pass this information on to their pupils and students. RESCUE recommends the involvement of archaeologists in the planning and preparation of History courses at all levels in schools and colleges. RESCUE will also continue to press for clear progression pathways through Archaeology, in schools, colleges and on into Higher Education, to ensure there is a strong pool of trained archaeologists to carry out the important fieldwork necessary to have a clear picture of the past of this country.

Issue 14: Archaeology Within the Education System 2: Higher Education

At Higher Education level, RESCUE believes that universities should do more to encourage a wider range of young people to take up archaeological studies, particularly since entry routes are being cut back. Universities need to carry out a greater range of outreach work, working with young people at all age levels and aiming to widen participation in the study of archaeology. The university sector also needs to have a clear understanding of career pathways and career opportunities for young people interested in studying archaeology at degree level.

RESCUE recognises the interdisciplinary potential and vast benefits that archaeology could offer students at all levels. At the most basic level, archaeology is in practice linked to a range of other key subjects and its study encourages a cross-comparative approach that allows students to appreciate different histories, attitudes, ideas and even methodological approaches to the profession. This highly valued and transferable skill is the backbone of employability, particularly at a time of increasing globalisation and rapid changes in the global workplace. Additionally, the various stages of archaeology allow students to explore entire processes of thinking – from conceptual theories to in-depth research, to complex methodologies, planning, and analysis of a large set of results, allowing students to develop a healthy critical approach and outlook. These essential skills – strengthened by working within archaeology – are vital for the development and training of students for becoming global citizens who are critical thinkers. The study of archaeology inspires creativity and innovation and enables students to recognise the importance of identity, culture and community – all fundamental skills for a wide range, if not all, industries and sectors.

RESCUE Policy

RESCUE will support moves to ensure that Archaeology continues to be taught at degree level in a wide range of institutions nationwide and that more young people from schools and colleges are encouraged to take up its study. RESCUE will continue to encourage Higher Education institutions to work with schools and colleges to strengthen progression pathways through the education system and on into the world of work, stressing the plurality of opportunities studying archaeology provides.

Issue 15: Volunteering and Fieldwork Opportunities on Professional Projects

Taking part as a volunteer in archaeological research offers a range of both physical and academic opportunities to non-professional members of the public. The varied nature of the work means that there is a task suitable for all ages and all physical capabilities. The success of Time Team on television has enabled archaeology to reach a much wider audience than it did twenty years ago. No longer is the profession surrounded in mystery with the reputation of being only practised by those of a certain background. The introduction of developer funded archaeology, and the predicted explosion of infrastructure projects and house building over the next five to ten years, means that more archaeology is being undertaken than ever before. However, at the same time opportunities for including non-professionals in commercial excavations are becoming increasingly limited as access for members of the public to development sites becomes more restricted. And yet, working alongside professionals on large-scale projects offers the most complete experience of archaeology to enthusiastic members of the local communities who are often otherwise restricted to test-pitting projects. As a result, as well as the thrill of archaeological discovery, opportunities for the transfer of skills and knowledge between professionals and volunteers and, in particular, the latest innovations in archaeological practice are being lost. The valuable and free resource that enthusiastic volunteers offer to archaeological sites is being denied to developers and communities; and perhaps most important opportunities to maximise the scope of the archaeological investigation are being missed.

RESCUE policy

RESCUE will press for a requirement for the inclusion of robust and innovative outreach programmes into the briefs set by local government archaeological officers and the Written Schemes of Investigation produced by commercial contractors. RESCUE will continue to highlight the many advantages resulting from encouraging volunteers on site, and to campaign where construction practice seems to work against their inclusion.

Issue 16: Community Archaeology

The continued prominence given to archaeological finds in the media as well as easier access to historical documentation in digital form has contributed to a growth in community archaeology, with opportunities for amateur archaeology focused around HLF projects, the work of local societies, or community test-pitting projects. Archaeology provides a medium to bridge cultural divides and provides identity for communities; it has proved to be a powerful agent for community cohesion, enhancing a sense of place and shared history as well as developing skills and maintaining basic levels of physical activity.

However, whilst resourcing for HLF projects means that funding is often available to provide for professional support for those projects, other community excavations are often lacking advice and, in particular, post-excavation support. The depletion of local government archaeologists contributes to the problem as these government-funded staff were the main source of advice to local archaeology societies; and as numbers participating in local archaeology appear to be growing, local government archaeologist numbers are simultaneously shrinking. As a result, local amateur groups are undertaking excavation, sometimes on complex and well preserved archaeological sites, but without the support to develop the necessary skills, guidance on record keeping, or access to finds specialists. England has a long history of high quality amateur research; however, the growing divide between professional, academic and amateur archaeologists leaves us at risk of seeing archaeological sites, sometimes complex and of schedulable quality, being investigated without the knowledge, direction, sufficient resources or sometimes the will, to adequately record the fieldwork, or complete post-excavation programmes.

RESCUE policy

RESCUE recognises the valuable role that community archaeology plays, and supports and encourages all to be involved in archaeology. Underpinning most of RESCUE policy is the recognition of the critical role that Local Government Archaeological Officers provide for British archaeology. These individuals have highly public-facing roles, being the essential link between professionals and the amateur archaeological society, providing both the background context for their site and the professional expertise. RESCUE will continue to highlight the depletion of these archaeologists and continue to push for statutory funding for HERs and the officers to man them.