

LGA Special Interest Group Annual Report to LGA Board

SIG Name: ALGAO

Lead Member:

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Membership

Bedford Borough Council
Birmingham City Council
Boston Borough Council
Buckinghamshire Council
Cambridgeshire County Council
Central Bedfordshire
Cheshire (Cheshire West and Chester/Cheshire East)
Chichester District Council
City of Coventry
City of London
City of York Council
Colchester Borough Council
Cornwall Council
Cumbria County Council
Dartmoor National Park
Derbyshire County Council
Devon County Council
Dorset Council
Dudley M.B.C.
Durham County Council
East Berkshire (Bracknell Forest, Reading, Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead and Wokingham unitary authorities)
East Sussex County Council
Essex County Council
Exeter City Council
Exmoor National Park
Gloucester City
Gloucestershire County Council
Greater London

Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service
Hampshire County Council
Herefordshire Council
Hertfordshire County Council
Humber Archaeology Partnership (Kingston upon Hull and East Riding councils)
Isle of Wight Council
Kent County Council
Lake District National Park Authority
Lancashire County Council
Leicester City
Lincolnshire County Council
Merseyside
Milton Keynes Council
New Forest National Park
Newcastle City Council and Tyne & Wear
Norfolk County Council
North Kesteven District Council
North Lincolnshire Council
North Somerset Council
North York Moors National Park
North Yorkshire County Council
Northamptonshire County Council (two authorities from 1/4/21)
Northumberland County Council
Northumberland National Park
Nottingham City Council
Nottinghamshire County Council
Oxford City Council
Oxfordshire County Council
Peak District National Park
Peterborough City Council
Plymouth City Council
Shropshire Council
South Gloucestershire Council
South Kesteven District Council
South West Heritage Trust
South Yorkshire Archaeology Service
South Yorkshire Archaeology Service
Southampton City Council
Southend Borough Council
Southwark Council
Staffordshire County Council
Stoke on Trent City Council
Suffolk County Council
Tees Archaeology (Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees)
Warwickshire County Council
West Berkshire Council
West Sussex County Council

West Yorkshire Archaeology Service
Wiltshire Council
Winchester City Council
Wolverhampton City Council
Worcester City Council
Worcestershire County Council
Yorkshire Dales National Park

Aim

ALGAO has four key objectives:

- To provide a strong voice for local authority historic environment services and promote these within local government to strengthen and develop their role within local government in delivering local, regional and national government policy.
- To ensure that local government historic environment services are included within policy (national, regional and local) for culture and education.
- To ensure that policy aims to improve the sustainable management of the historic environment.
- To promote development of high standards in the historic environment profession

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

Throughout 2020/1, ALGAO has undertaken the following:

+ Member services responded well to the lockdown and Covid restrictions. We quickly developed protocols with developers and archaeological contractors to implement 'Covid Safe' ways of working to ensure the continued delivery of development projects and NSIP programmes.

+ Commissioned and published research into the response by the association to Covid that showed that the majority (c.70%) of ALGAO members have continued to provide a full-service providing planning advice, policy advice, to comment on active developments and to provide Historic Environment Record services, with a further 28% recording a partial service but one focused upon planning and development management and advice.

+ Commenced research, joint funded by Historic England the LGA, into understanding the differing delivery models of archaeological services in local authorities. This will deliver later this year.

+ We joined the Project Steering Group to produce CIRIA's updated *Archaeology and construction: good practice guidance* by Christina Holloway and Taryn Nixon, with Kate Geary, Peter Hinton and Gillian King (CIRIA RP1059). A final version was signed off in April 2021 and it is planned that it will be launched latter this summer/early autumn.

- + We advised Historic England on HEANs (Historic England Advice Notes) on Archaeology and Planning and 'Listed Building Consent'. Both HEANs are due for consultation later this year.
- + We are participating in policy sprints associated with the heritage elements of the Planning White Paper, providing sector specific expertise to ministers and officers from MHCLG and DCMS
- + Both Level 4 & 7 apprenticeships are now live. Our annual survey requests have been incorporated into a sector wide Historic England project
- + We are embedded in the Historic England 'Heritage Information Access Strategy' to streamline public access to heritage data and making local authority Historic Environment Records the primary point of access
- + With the Forestry Commission we have run training sessions on 'Historic Environment and Woodland Creation' which is very topical. Through ADEPT we input to the recent Treescapes Fund
- + We are on the Steering Committees for the Natural England projects assessing the effectiveness of relevant CSS options and continue to work closely with them and DEFRA on ELMS
- + Generally provided advocacy and support for local government across the heritage sector.