

Archaeological Achievement Awards: Celebrating Excellence in Archaeology

Crosscutting themes

To be applied to all awards.

Health and Wellbeing

Nominations should demonstrate a contribution to health and well-being according to any of the following definitions:

- The absence of physical illness, disease and mental distress. (A negative definition of health and well-being.)
- The achievement and maintenance of physical fitness and mental stability. (A positive definition of health and well-being).
- Health and well-being achieved as a result of a combination of physical, social, intellectual and emotional factors. (A holistic definition of well being.)¹
- Enabling people to improve their health and wellbeing in line with the Five Ways of Health and Wellbeing (take notice, connect, be active, keep learning and give) developed by the New Economic Foundation.²

Collaboration - commercial/academic/public

Definition: Two or more people working together to create or achieve the same thing.³

Nominations should demonstrate collaborative working across at least two of the following – commercial, academic and/or public archaeology. Alternatively, they should be able to evidence collaborative working with partners from other areas such as the natural environment or health and wellbeing.

Equality, diversity and inclusion

Definition: EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) ensures fair treatment and opportunity for all. It aims to eradicate prejudice and discrimination on the basis of an individual or group of individual's protected characteristics.⁴

Nominations should demonstrate a positive and active contribution to the promotion of equality, diversity and inclusion.

Placeshaping / placemaking

Definition: A process through which places that people want to live in, work in, or explore are created.⁵

Nominations should demonstrate how archaeology has contributed to the process of place shaping in the work of the project, organisation or individual concerned.

Criteria for each award

Overall Award

Annual Outstanding Archaeological Achievement Award

All shortlisted entries from the award categories will automatically be considered for this award. Nominations for outstanding projects/individuals not considered in other categories are also welcomed.

Criteria:

- Makes a substantial positive contribution against all of the cross-cutting themes
- Designed to have long-term sustainable impact and legacy

Award Categories

Archaeological innovation

This category celebrates innovative approaches and techniques in archaeology, championing the use of imaginative practice and ways of doing things differently.

Nominated projects should show how they have met as many of the following criteria as relevant in their case:

- Innovative ways of using new or existing methodologies
- Innovative use or development of new or existing technology
- Demonstrates overcoming challenges in existing processes
- Enhances understanding for one or more different audiences
- Produces accessible outcomes

Public dissemination or presentation

This broad category can include books and publications, exhibitions, film, social media or presentation. It can relate to a specific site, artefact, place or a wider landscape.

Nominated projects should show how they have met as many of the following criteria as relevant in their case:

- Accessibility to diverse audiences
- Enhances public understanding
- Creativity
- Innovative design and production
- Multi-format outputs, where appropriate

Engagement and participation

This award focuses on broadening participation in archaeology in all forms and is not limited to on-site delivery or activities. Projects nominated can be on the ground or virtual and engagement can be through a single event, or a package of activities. Emphasis is on the quality of the participants' experience and the depth of engagement, rather than the number of people taking part. We particularly welcome projects that have an element of co-production.

Nominated projects should show how they have met as many of the following criteria as relevant in their case:

- Offers high-quality engagement for participants
- Includes an element of co-production
- Volunteers are given opportunities to participate in delivery
- Sustainability and legacy are built into the project

Early career archaeologist

This award will highlight the contribution of an early career archaeologist. For the purposes of this award, 'early career' is defined as an individual studying or undertaking entry level training, or in the first 8 years of employment as an archaeologist. This can be after a career break or career change and is not restricted by age. Nominations should demonstrate why the individual is considered an early career archaeologist.

Nominations should show how individuals have met all of the following criteria:

- Has made a demonstrable contribution either through a body of work over the last 2 years or through a specific piece of work. (This could include contributions to archaeological work or research, dissemination, or a wider contribution to workplace.)
- Has developed their skills and knowledge
- Has shown leadership, commitment and a passion for archaeology

Learning, training and skills

An award to celebrate training, learning and skills across academic, public and commercial archaeology. Nominations should demonstrate how the method of delivery moves beyond traditional lectures and presentations and utilises engaging learning mechanisms.

Nominated projects should show how they have met as many of the following criteria as relevant in their case:

- Clearly evidenced need and target outcomes
- Demonstrates innovative delivery
- Incorporates engaging and/or inclusive learning
- Designed to deliver transferable skills
- Designed to have long-term sustainable impact and legacy