

## **AAF FORWARD AGENDA 2007–10**

### **1. Archaeological resource centres – guidance and policy statement.**

There is widespread acknowledgement that archaeological resource centres, whether regional or more locally based, are a good solution to some of the current problems in England. The LAARC in London is a prime example, and already a number of areas in the country are actively developing plans to follow suit. The Forum has begun a project which will result in a suite of guidance advising on the development of such centres. This will be accompanied by an AAF policy statement about archaeological archives and resource centres. It is hoped that both these documents will provide the key for unlocking funding streams. The DCMS are briefed and up to speed on this issue however further advocacy work is necessary.

### **2. Maritime archaeological archives**

Maritime archives have distinct issues, from creation to curation, encompassing a lack of regard for archiving issues during planning; a lack of conservation, selection and retention policies; serious problems over ownership, recipient repositories and long term access. There is a fundamental policy void in this area.

The Forum is working with the IFA maritime archaeology group to address this issue, beginning with a project which will scope the breadth of the problem. The project design can be found on the AAF web page:- AAF/IFA MAG 'Securing a Future for Maritime Archaeological Archives: Evaluation of current and future archive creation, curation and access' by J Ransley and J Satchell

### **3. Framework for archaeological selection strategies**

The second half of this project, the production of a selection framework, is carried over from the 2002-7 agenda. This work has become even more pressing as European archaeologists join forces to strive for solutions.

We plan to support a short project to deliver new guidance which will provide a decision making mechanism for the selection, retention and discard of archaeological materials at all stages in the archaeological process. It will ensure that the decision making process is firmly linked to all the relevant standards, research priorities and professional liaison points at all times.

### **4. Training**

A training package, based on the new AAF guidance '*Archaeological Archives A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation, 2007, Brown D, AAF*' will be delivered by the IFA and the SMA through their standard one day training schemes. Particular attention will be paid to course syllabus, audience and venue in order that we attain the correct cross sector approach.

## **5. Museum deposition policy**

The work on storage costs, box grants and collecting areas for museums undertaken during 2002-7 made a positive impact on procedures and also provided essential data for policy making. The Forum now needs to capitalise on this work and, in partnership with the MLA, strive to bring about improvement and some consistency to museum policy on archaeological deposition.

## **6. The AAF relationship with the wider historic environment sector**

The Archaeological Archives Forum has been an effective and successful specialist working group. This may be in part because it has been tightly focussed on a set agenda. However archaeological archives are part of a wider historic environment resource which includes archives from the historic built environment as well as from those from archaeological sources. At a time when the sector is being encouraged by new legislation to think in terms of the broader historic environment and to merge work practices, we believe that it is right to consider whether the Forum should re-examine its own remit. The next business meeting will be prefaced with a morning strategy session devoted to this issue.

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