

Covid Historic Environment Resilience Forum

Commercial Archaeology and the Construction Sector



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TODAY

- Today I have been asked to discuss two main questions:
 - What contribution can commercial archaeology make to the country's recovery?
 - What are the threats to commercial archaeology?

ARCHAEOLOGY, CONSTRUCTION & THE PLANNING PROCESS

Commercial archaeology is linked to national and local legislation.

Archaeology is a **material consideration within the planning system** which manages the impacts that development may have upon our historic environment.

Most of this work is on **undesigned sites** (not protected by listing or scheduling) in which the scale, quality and significance of the archaeological site is often unknown fully before it is considered through the planning process.

Thus, applied archaeology sits firmly within the planning system.

It is also important to note that we are **very well integrated into the construction sector**, often working side-by-side with main contractors.



ADVICE AND DELIVERY

The advisory planning officers who administer the legislative framework

Representatives of various owners of the delivery organisations.



**WHAT
CONTRIBUTION
CAN APPLIED
ARCHAEOLOGY
MAKE TO THE
COUNTRY'S
RECOVERY?**

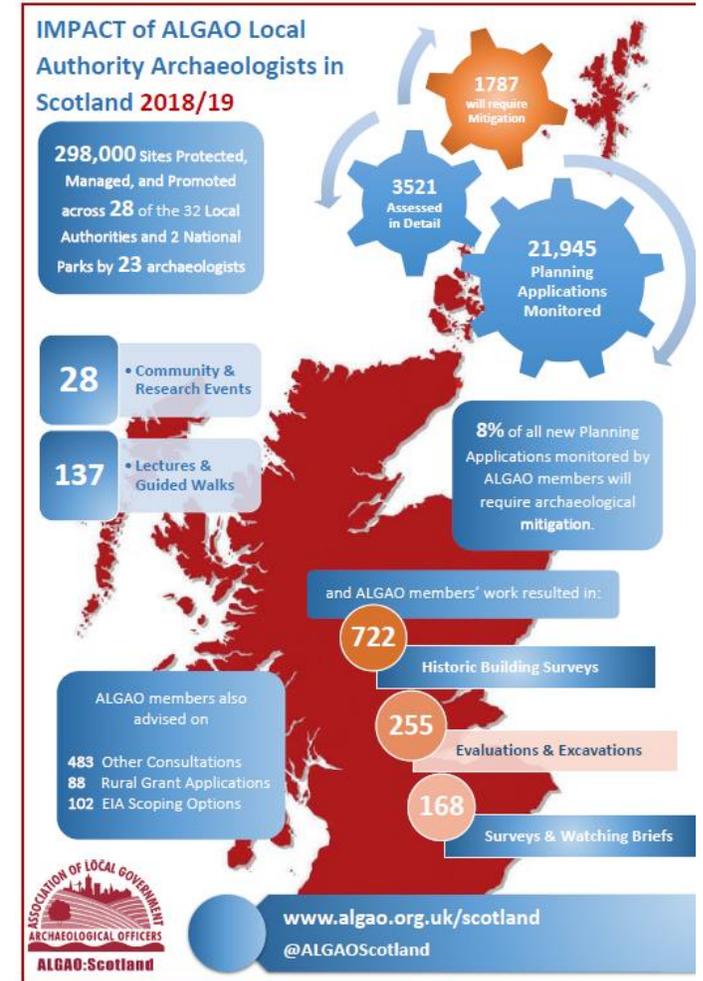
Commercial Archaeology is critical to delivering a sustainable economic recovery, respecting our historic environment

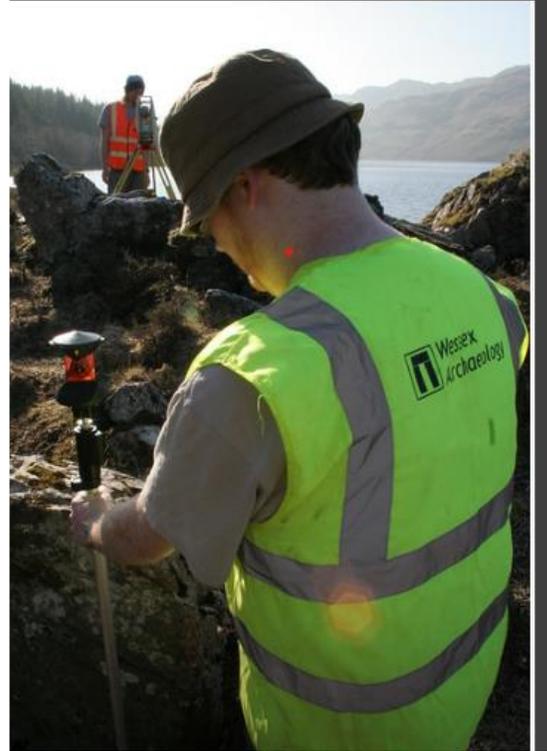
ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Last year UK commercial archaeology revenue was **£260m**, of which around **£220m** was related to development management.

Regional Planning archaeologists facilitate this **£220m** system; the cost of these services is around **£15m** per annum. Thus, for every pound spent on local planning authority archaeologists the local economy sees around **£15 in return**.

ALGAO Scotland's annual survey for 2018-19 saw that **8%** of new planning applications required archaeological mitigation with around **1100** programmes of archaeological work managed and overseen.





ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT

There are around 7,200 archaeologists currently employed in the UK: 5,300 work in commercial archaeology and 270 work as local planning authority archaeologists, 23 in Scotland. Thus almost 77% of UK archaeologists work in the development management system.



ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Commercial archaeology plays a key role in delivering successful development, particularly by reducing delays.

Delays due to archaeology discovered late in the construction process can increase associated costs by 3-7 times.

Thus, with the current spend of £220m per annum, archaeology in the development management system could be saving the UK up to around £1bn per year.

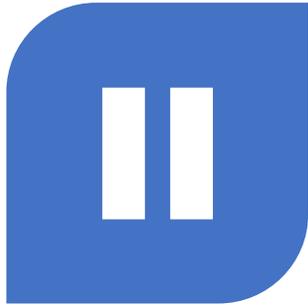
These UK figures are broadly transferable to Scotland. Scottish commercial archaeology turnover is around 6% of the UK total, as is the number of local regional archaeologists and number of people employed.

OUR LAST FEW MONTHS

Although a significant proportion of Scottish archaeologists were placed on furlough many others did work on some fieldwork (largely essential services) or non-fieldwork projects.

Thus, even during Covid-19 many commercial archaeologists have **continued to contribute to the wider Scottish and UK economy.**

Unlike many of their colleagues, the over-whelming majority of archaeologists working in planning, particularly in Local Authority Archaeology Services, have not been furloughed and have, again, been facilitating the planning process, protection of our heritage, and aiding the economy.



BUSINESS CONFIDENCE

SCORES OF DEVELOPMENT AND MAJOR 'OVEN READY' INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMMES, SUCH AS THE **£30M TRANSPORT SCOTLAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK** (E.G. A9, A96 ETC) AND THE **EDINBURGH TRAM EXTENSION** EITHER READY TO START OR RESTART WHICH WILL AID THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY OVER THE SHORT, MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM



MORE PEOPLE EMPLOYED IN COMMERCIAL ARCHAEOLOGY THAN EVER – **WE ARE READY TO HELP TO KICK START THE ECONOMY**



THESE PROJECTS WILL ALSO HAVE SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC BENEFIT TO LOCAL SUPPLY CHAINS INCLUDING MUCH AFFECTED SECTORS SUCH AS **HOSPITALITY** AND **ACCOMMODATION** ACROSS THE WHOLE OF SCOTLAND, PARTICULARLY IN **RURAL AREAS**.





HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Rightly, health and safety is everyone's primary focus.
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- Since March our industry has been following all Govt, CIFA, Prospect and **Construction Leadership Council Site Operating Procedures**.
- It is important to note that our industry immediately initiated Covid-19 risk assessments and procedures to **keep the archaeology and site projects going** and our offices safe places to work from.
- We have spent a huge amount of time on health and safety over the last 3 months, particularly on active infrastructure and construction sites, and we are happy to **share this learning** with the wider heritage sector, so we can restart the economy as quickly and safely as possible.

SUSTAINABILITY

Support Govt **Sustainability and Climate Change** agendas, particularly through work on infrastructure and energy projects.

The recent Crown Estate announcements and reinvigorated energy sector should see a significant push towards a **sustainable economy**.

With our continual improvements in **digital technology** we can move to 'greener' and more sustainable ways of undertaking archaeological work.

PROTECTING OUR HERITAGE

As enshrined in Scottish Government thinking it should always be the case that sustainable economic growth is not achieved at the expense of other interests, particularly the environment and our shared heritage.

Our existing curatorial systems will ensure that our economy is always archaeologically accountable and socially responsible.

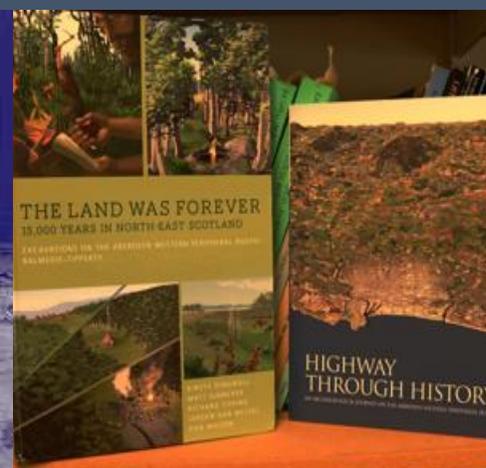
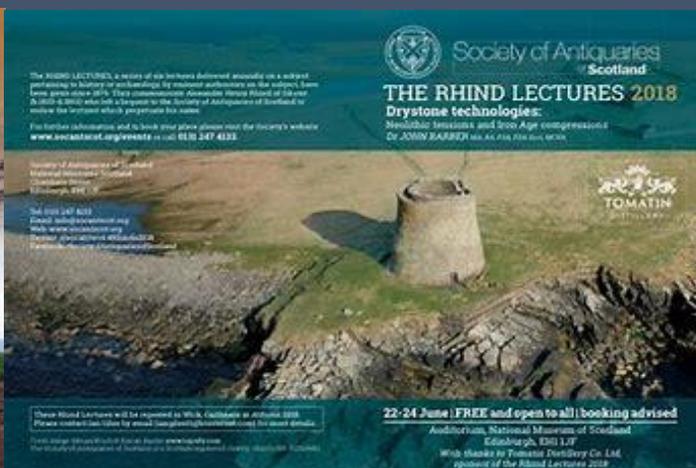
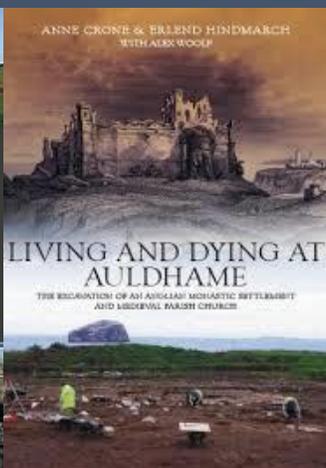
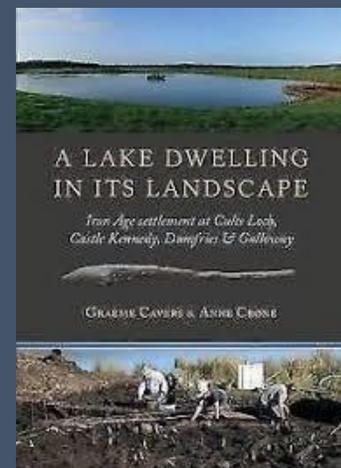


WHAT CONTRIBUTION CAN APPLIED ARCHAEOLOGY MAKE TO THE COUNTRY'S RECOVERY?

Commercial Archaeology enables health, wellbeing, and education agendas that strengthen our communities



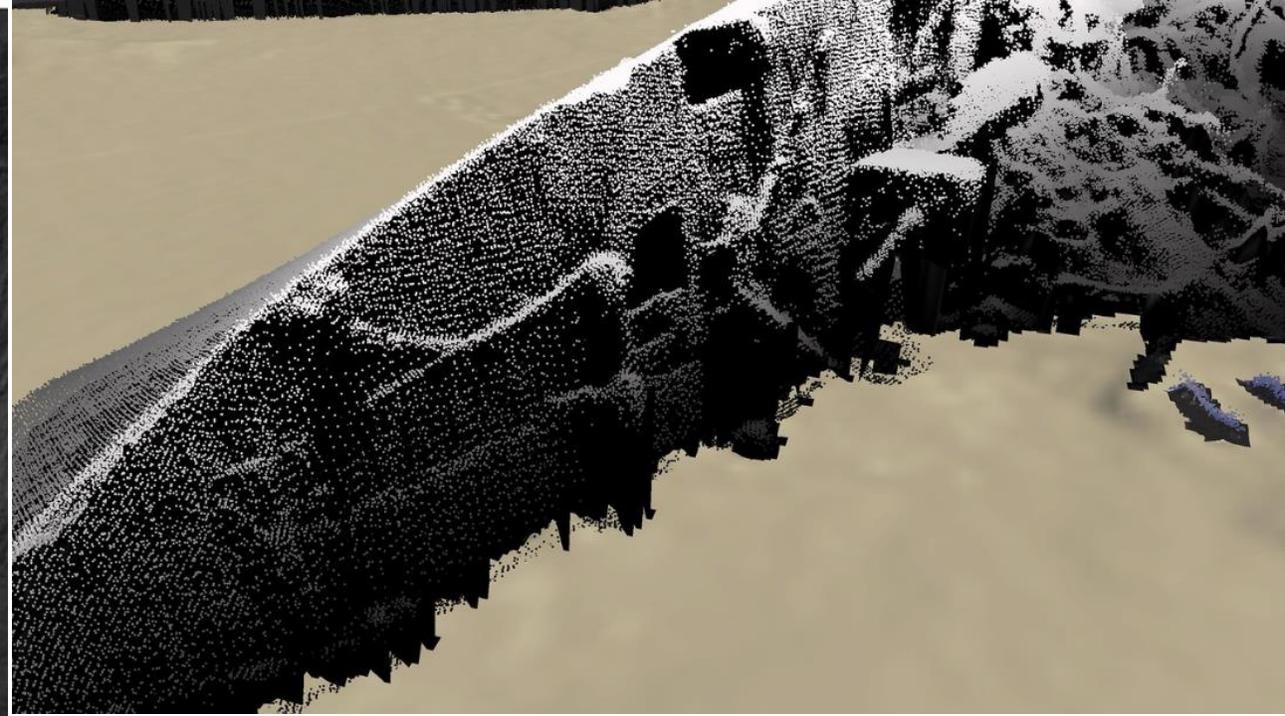
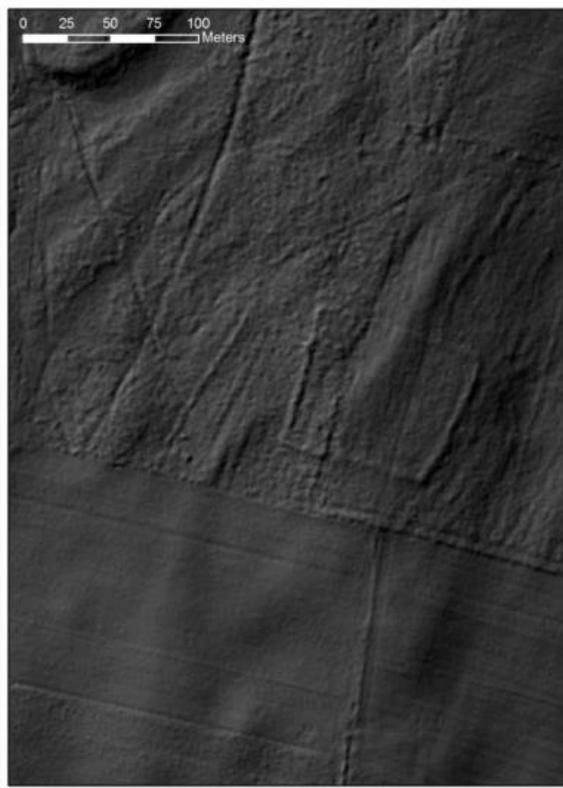
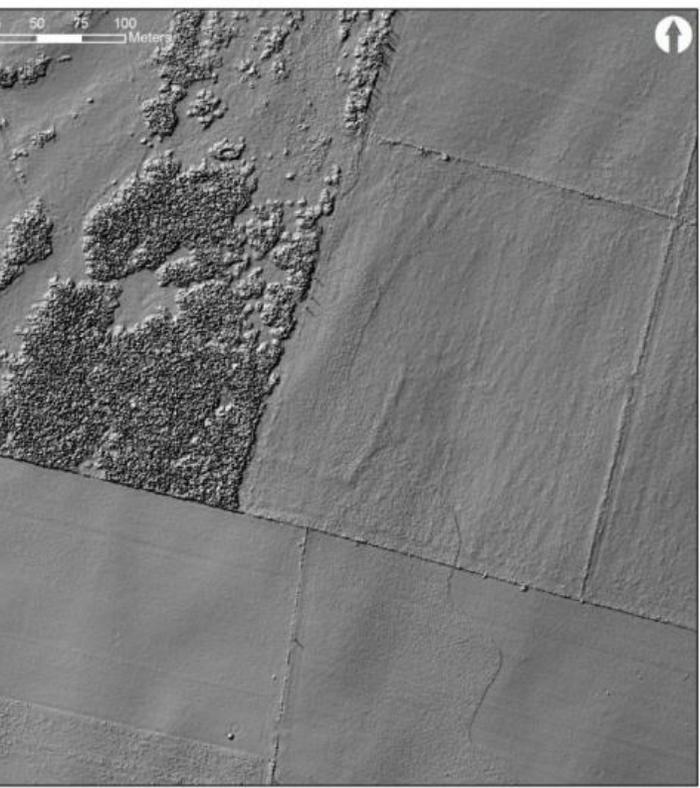
**HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
AND SOCIAL COHESION**



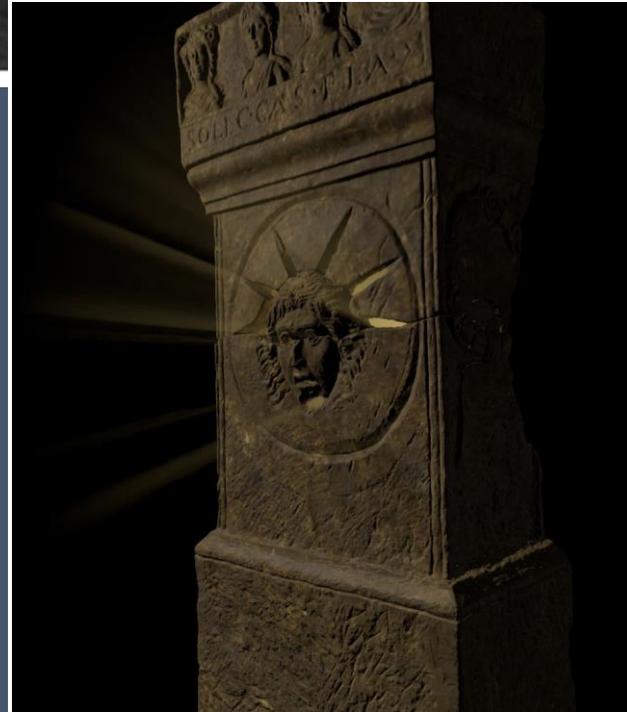
EDUCATION AND CELEBRATING OUR HERITAGE



YOUNG PEOPLE & EMPLOYMENT



INNOVATION & SKILLS



WHAT ARE THE THREATS TO COMMERCIAL ARCHAEOLOGY?

Our Clients' Resilience

Curation and the Overall Process

OUR CLIENTS' RESILIENCE

There are threats to our sector - **No Deal Brexit** and a **post-Covid Recession** being obvious ones. These will undoubtedly affect market confidence and some of our main contractors may decide to defer developments or move them to other regions.

But, with the **strong pipeline of work** in infrastructure, energy, forestry, extractive industries, and some housing markets we are confident.

The **£30m Transport Scotland Archaeological Framework** could not have come at a better time; not just economically but also with associated public benefits.



TRANSPORT
SCOTLAND
CÒMHDHAIL ALBA



OUR CLIENTS' RESILIENCE

Many applied archaeologists rely on funding from bodies such as **HES** and **NTS** and we need to know now the likely effects of Covid-19 on these key funding streams.

What will happen, for example, to funding of community projects, the Property in Care, Conservation and Human Remains Call-Off Contracts?

And will funds still flow to institutions like **CIFA** and **FAME** that are critical to upholding professional standards?



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA



298,000 Sites Protected, Managed, and Promoted across 28 of the 32 Local Authorities and 2 National Parks by 23 archaeologists

28 • Community & Research Events

137 • Lectures & Guided Walks



8% of all new Planning Applications monitored by ALGAO members will require archaeological mitigation.

and ALGAO members' work resulted in:

722 Historic Building St

255 Eval

ALGAO members also advised on

- 483 Other Consultations
- 88 Rural Grant Applications
- 102 EIA Scoping Options

CURATION & THE OVERALL PROCESS

Enormous benefits of the current Local Authority curatorial structure.

There should be no attempt to kick start the economy in a way that contravenes our longer-term commitments to our shared heritage.

A key outcome of a recent Scottish Archaeology Strategy workshop was that **we needed more, not fewer, curators**, particularly at regional level.

CURATION & THE OVERALL PROCESS

Over the next 4 years there will literally be thousands of new finds, digital and paper records, and samples from working on, for example, Government backed infrastructure projects.

If curators and museums are unsupported in this crisis what happens to these archives, finds, and results from this new pipeline work?

Who else is there to use this information to embed and celebrate the results within Scottish schools?



CURATION & THE OVERALL PROCESS

Construction archaeology is **so much more** than just facilitating or delivering a planning application for a private developer and we cannot lose sight of this in our wider sector recovery discussions.

The current system which **marries Local Authority and commercial sector expertise** is perhaps best-placed to help Scotland recover from Covid-19 and deliver many of the Scottish Government's **National Performance Framework Objectives**.



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