Hi there guys n girls,

I wanted to write to you all regarding an organisation I have been involved with for some time now and that is close to my heart as an archaeologist and heritage professional.

Many of you will know this organisation, many will have heard of it from the past and many will never have heard of it.

This organisation was once hugely relevant to the development of British commercial archaeology and undoubtedly without this group, archaeology as most of us know it probably would not have existed.

Since those days our profession and subject has grown from strength to strength. Subsequently, as this process has developed, so this particular pressure group has appeared possibly less relevant to some.

HOWEVER...for whatever the reason, we are NOW facing some MAJOR challenges to the future of archaeology as a professional career. Changes that could quite possibly erode all of the hard work we have done to secure heritage protection over the last 25 years.

• The new neighbour planning bill is proposing major reform to planning considerations by cutting pre commencement conditions, which may include archaeology.

• Museums across the country are facing real concerns about the storage of archaeological archive and 60% of museums that accept depositions are suggesting they will be full within 5 years.

• HER's across the country are at threat of closure due to lack of funding adequate staffing to maintain them.

• Local government archaeologists/county archs are a dying species! Once revered as extremely experienced and important heritage professionals, financial cuts to historic environment teams are now making it extremely difficult for these individuals to do their job properly. In some places whole historic environment teams are disappearing altogether.

• Where curatorial advice is disappearing there is real concern that this is being replaced by private advice. That raises issues of the independence of such advice. Are we heading toward the privatisation of planning advice?

• There are various organisations that are meant to be representing us and our profession at the highest level. Whilst having something that provides guardianship for the historic environment is a wholly valuable endeavour, such organisations are succumbing to outside influences and altering their priorities in favour of development over heritage protection.

<http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/at_the_end_of_the_day_i_was_digging_a_hole_how_finding_81_anglo_saxon_coffins_in_great_ryburgh_nearly_ruined_builder_1_4908533>

• Changes to CSCS cards, which allow archaeologists to work on some sites will now be tied in with a certain archaeological institution. The result of which may result in forced membership.

• Stonehenge WHS has for a long time been under real threat of damage due to planned infrastructure improvements. It now appears that this process of finally coming up a head and could potentially result in a major effect on the entire WHS, including Vespasian's Camp and the Durrington Walls Barrow Group.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FrWZ9g1FS2A>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZapaIn_ZI6M>

These are just some of the issues currently facing archaeology and heritage as a whole, within the United Kingdom.

The organisation I am a member of is trying its hardest to tackle all of these issues as it has been doing for the past 40 years. It is made up of individuals who care passionately about our past and its protection.  Its key aim is to put archaeology FIRST! It's completely voluntary and as such is not beholden to any outside factor. It is there MORE RELEVANT NOW than ever before!

This group is called....RESCUE...

However, they need continued support and they need "new and young blood". The majority of their members are getting older and they need people with fresh approaches to the historic environment. Yes there is a small cost to join (£15, yes, as in three pints! peanuts compared with CIFA) but what price do we put on protecting our futures?

If this is something that might interest you, I have put a link below to their website. I have also attached a flyer for their upcoming AGM in Manchester, which is completely free.

If you got this far, many thanks for taking the time to read this stuff, and feel free to forward this email to those you think may be interested.

Kind regards

Daniel phillips

RESCUE Website:

[rescue-archaeology.org.uk/](http://rescue-archaeology.org.uk/)

AGM Poster: