

Icon Archaeology Group Action Plan 2020-2022

Icon is ‘the lead voice for the conservation of cultural heritage in the UK.’¹ The Icon Archaeology Group (Icon AG), voluntarily run by professional members of the conservation community under the authority of Icon, is for all those concerned with archaeological conservation in the UK. All such groups are subject to the ‘Icon Groups Terms of Reference’².

‘The purpose of Groups is to support Icon’s members in their professional development and working practice. Groups also support the fulfilment of Icon’s charitable objects which are to:

- advance the education of the public by research into and the promotion of the conservation of items and collections of items of cultural, aesthetic, historic and scientific value; and
- preserve and conserve items and collections of items of cultural, aesthetic, historic and scientific value.

Groups’ primary activity is to advance understanding, competence and professionalism in their specialist fields of conservation, through events such as talks, demonstrations, workshops and the exchange of information and ideas. In some cases, geographically based Groups deliver additional activities relating to advocacy and engagement. These activities support the delivery of Icon’s strategic aims as set out in the *Strategy 2017-21*.’

Icon Groups – Terms of Reference

The Icon AG supports Icon’s vision; ‘For cultural heritage to be valued and accessible and for its future to be enhanced and safeguarded by excellence in conservation’³; and its mission to support advocacy, excellence and engagement. We aim to contribute to the delivery of Icon’s strategic plan through the following activities.

¹ www.Icon.org.uk

² ‘Icon Groups – Terms of Reference’ 04.09.17, reviewed 24.06.20

³ ‘Icon’s Strategy 2017-2022’ (icon.org.uk)

Icon AG Activity	Relevance to Icon Groups Terms of Reference ⁴ (based on Icon Strategic Plan)
<p>Provide a network for members. Maintain strong visibility of Icon AG by write-ups in Icon News, news from the groups, social media such as Twitter etc. Encourage engagement and communication with members through the AGM as well as events and social media.</p>	<p>Providing a forum for mutual professional support. Acting as a conduit for gathering sector information. Providing a forum for mutual professional support and creating a sense of community within a discipline or geographical area. Creating networking opportunities for members and supporting the growth of small and micro businesses.</p>
<p>Support conservators entering the profession through forums such as the emerging professionals network, networking activities as described below, and a series of skills webinars which we aim to make available via the website.</p>	<p>Providing opportunities for training and education. Providing a forum for mutual professional support and creating a sense of community within a discipline or geographical area. Creating networking opportunities for members and supporting the growth of small and micro businesses. Supporting the development and implementation of conservation-related professional standards. Helping to disseminate knowledge and good practice Recruiting new members.</p>
<p>Arrange subject-specific conferences, talks, demos and workshops for members and non-members to advance understanding, competence and professionalism. Utilise a range of platforms to maximise engagement and increase access, both venue-based and digital.</p>	<p>Providing opportunities for training and education. Providing a forum for mutual professional support and creating a sense of community within a discipline or geographical area. Creating networking opportunities for members and supporting the growth of small and micro businesses. Supporting the development and implementation of conservation-related professional standards. Helping to disseminate knowledge and good practice Recruiting new members.</p>
<p>Provide up to date information relating to archaeological conservation for members and the public through resources section on the website, guidance documents, and via committee members.</p>	<p>Recruiting new members. Supporting and facilitating research. Acting as an interface between the conservation profession and other related disciplines. Supporting the development and implementation of conservation-related professional standards.</p>

⁴ 'Icon Groups – Terms of Reference' 04.09.17, reviewed 24.06.20, section 1.3 'Value'

	Delivering Icon's public benefit through encouraging high standards in conservation, research and documentation etc.
Advocate for high standards in archaeological conservation, for Icon, for the value of conservation, and for professional accreditation.	Supporting the development and implementation of conservation-related professional standards. Advocating for Icon and for the value of conservation and cultural heritage. Acting as an interface between the conservation profession and other related disciplines.
Encourage the development of different skills through committee member involvement and role allocation. Encourage committee involvement of membership where appropriate.	Providing opportunities for developing non-conservation skills through taking on committee roles e.g. finance and event planning.
Act as a liaison between Icon and other relevant bodies such as PAS (Portable Antiquities Scheme), English Heritage/Historic England, AAF (Archaeological Archives Forum), CBA (Council for British Archaeology), SMA (Society for Museum Archaeologists), RESCUE, IFA (Institute of Field Archaeologists), and keep abreast of relevant issues in the field of archaeology and conservation. Respond to requests for input or comment into documentation and proposals where required/appropriate.	Acting as a conduit for gathering sector information. Supporting and facilitating research. Advocating for Icon and for the value of conservation and cultural heritage. Acting as an interface between the conservation profession and other related disciplines.
A specific task is to instigate and facilitate the publication of new edition of First Aid for Finds (in collaboration with RESCUE – The British Archaeological Trust). Target for completion 2021.	Helping to disseminate knowledge and good practice. Advocating for Icon and for the value of conservation and cultural heritage. Delivering Icon's public benefit through encouraging high standards in conservation, research and documentation.