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Dear Kate

NVQ in Archaeological Practice

I am writing to you on behalf of the Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers ([FAME](http://www.famearchaeology.co.uk)), which represents over 50 archaeological businesses employing most of those professionals who provide archaeological services to commercial clients throughout the UK.

We are very concerned to learn of proposals to withdraw funding for candidates for the NVQ in Archaeological Practice. The traditional entry route to professional archaeological practice in the UK has of course been via graduate and postgraduate training. However, we have become increasingly concerned in recent years at the diminishing skills base within the profession, and the growing gap between the skills of graduates and the needs of the development-led sector. Rising tuition fees are of course likely to exacerbate this problem.

We see the NVQ in Archaeological Practice as potentially a highly valuable and attractive alternative route of entry to the profession; one that is both more affordable and vocationally-focused than conventional graduate training, and one that provides tangible and measurable outcomes for both trainees and employers.

Despite recent economic conditions, a number of our members are already providing workplace learning opportunities allied to attainment of the NVQ in Archaeological Practice. As the economy begins to show signs of recovery we expect this trend to increase, and in our view it would be extremely ill-advised to withdraw support for the qualification just as market conditions more favourable to its wider uptake are beginning to appear.

Yours sincerely

Adrian Tindall MA FSA MifA
Chief Executive, Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers