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Dear Amanda

### **Skills for the Future Programme**

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 the professionals who provide archaeological services to commercial clients throughout the UK.

We have been concerned for a number of years about skills loss and diminishing capacity within the sector. Since 2009 we have jointly funded with the IfA a quarterly series of *Job Losses Surveys* and, more recently, wider surveys of the *State of the Archaeological Market*. Last year, we devoted our annual conference to the issue of how we can best bridge the growing skills gap between graduates and the needs of the development-led sector.

For these reasons we very much welcome your proposal to introduce a training placement programme. It would not only offer trainees the opportunity to develop essential skills in conservation and heritage management, but would also provide them with a solid grounding in the constraints, requirements and priorities of working in a commercially-funded environment.

I am sure that FAME members would be keen to participate in the programme through providing suitable placement opportunities, and I very much look forward to hearing how your application progresses.

Yours sincerely

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