

**IAI Summer Conference 2009**

**Where now for Irish Archaeology ? – Policy, Practice and Prospects**

**Continuous Professional Development in the  
context of the current employment levels in  
Irish Archaeology**

**Dr Eoin Sullivan  
Development Officer, IAI**

**at  
Red Cow Moran Hotel,  
Naas Road, Dublin**

**18th July 2009**

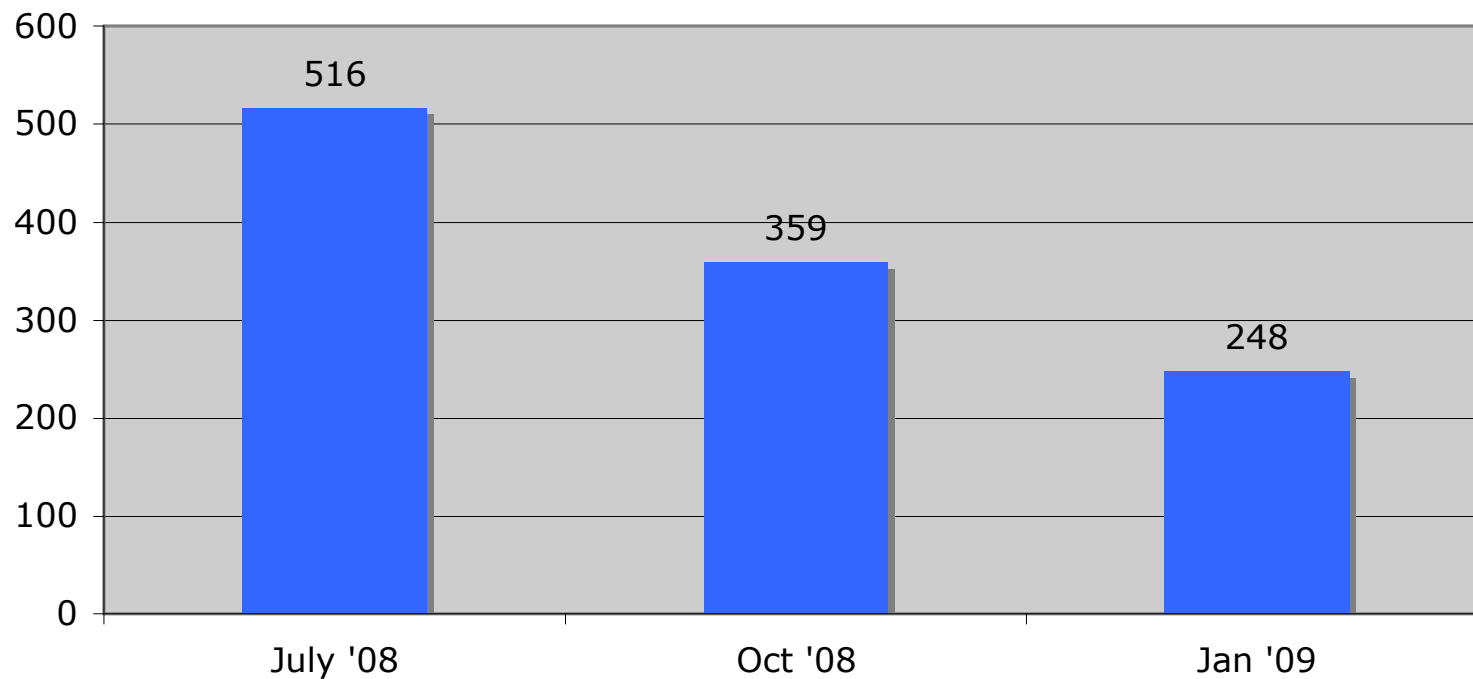
## *The Context - Employment levels in Irish Archaeology*

The IAI initiative of the questionnaire survey of employment levels in Irish Archaeology has supplied the profession with accurate baseline data.

The questionnaire posed five questions –

- What type of company/ organisation ?
- How many archaeological staff were employed ?
- Has your company/ organisation had to introduce reduced staffing levels ?
- Do you anticipate that your company/ organisation can maintain its current staffing levels over the next three month period ?
- Do you believe market conditions will deteriorate further in 2009 ?

**Total number of people employed in the twenty one organisations that responded to the questionnaire survey**



<b>Conditions of employment</b>	<b>June '08</b>	<b>October '08</b>	<b>January '09</b>
Archaeologists full time employed	220	222	164
Archaeologists contract	239	90	43
Non-archaeologists full time employed	51	41	37
Non-archaeologists contract	6	6	4
<b>Number of people represented in survey</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>248</b>

Seven of the eight respondents that decided to reduce staffing levels were archaeological consultancies.

Three of the archaeological consultancies introduced a shorter working week prior to involuntary staff reductions.

Four of the respondents did not feel that they could maintain their current staffing levels over the next three months.

Seventeen respondents believed that market conditions would deteriorate further in 2009.

Report detailing the survey results was brought to the attention of IAI members.

Report made available online and results placed on the Archaeology of Contemporary Europe website.

The questionnaire survey is in the process of being repeated to correlate the March and June figures.

# *Continuous Professional Development*

*- where we are*

The IAI is delivering on its CPD 'pilot' programme (Phase II) facilitated through the funding and support of the DEHLG and the Heritage Council.

The CPD programme is based upon the IAI CPD framework.

Six CPD courses were organised involving nineteen professional archaeologists. The events are intentionally located around the country and address some of the thirteen quality managed thematic modules that make up the CPD framework.

- 1. The legislative and administrative framework for Archaeology in Ireland**
- 2. Essential research for the practising archaeologist**
- 3. Field survey techniques for archaeologists**
- 4. Report writing and preparation for publication**
- 5. Project Management for archaeologists**
- 6. Environmental Impact Assessment (towards professional accreditation)**
- 7. Archaeology and Planning: evaluation of archaeological sites, assessment of development impacts and scoping amelioration and mitigation measures**
- 8. Archaeological archiving for the practising archaeologist**
- 9. Essential skills for practice in professional Heritage Management**
- 10. Archaeology and the media**
- 11. Information Technology**
- 12. Archaeological monuments in the landscape: context, cultural associations and setting**
- 13. Health and Safety**

## Themes addressed :

Theme 4 : Excavation Report Writing for the Practising Archaeologist – Methodology and Skills

Theme 2 : Source materials for Writing Heritage – an introductory workshop for archaeological and historical consultants, museum curators and other heritage professionals (Follow on instruction event at National Archives)

Theme 2 : Writing and Editing Archaeological Publications

Theme 6 : Environmental Impact Assessment – towards best practice (31<sup>st</sup> July 2009)



# CPD courses



# *Continuous Professional Development*

*– where we're going*

In these difficult times the IAI is fortunate to have an employed Development Officer. A result of the foresight and commitment of both the IAI and funding bodies.

Market research has commenced with statutory authorities and archaeological consultants concerning the training needs of present staff.

A programme of CPD events for 2010 will be available on the IAI website ([iai.ie](http://iai.ie)) in September 2009.

CPD course to date have focussed upon archaeological skills training. Negotiations are in hand to commence generic skills training courses in late 2009.

The CPD training courses must be fully accredited through either FETAC/ HETAC.

The review of archaeological practice will hopefully address the issue of need for established and available guidance and standards for best practice across a range of professional archaeological activities in Ireland. The IAI should be central in the creation of such documentation.

Funding opportunities at National and International level