



70 Cowcross Street
London EC1M 6EJ
Tel: +44 (0)20 7566 0031
email: admin@icomos-uk.org
web: www.icomos-uk.org
Registered Charity: 1175871

PRESS RELEASE

Threatened closure of the Department of Archaeology at the University of Sheffield

ICOMOS-UK wishes to express its grave concern at the announcement by the University of Sheffield that it is considering closing its Department of Archaeology.

Such a closure would be a blow to the value and status of the archaeological profession in the UK and to our ability to produce archaeologists who can not only work in the UK but can sell their expertise abroad – something the government supports strongly.

Britain is a world-leader in archaeology having the top four university departments of archaeology in the world, according to QS World University Rankings. The Department of Archaeology at Sheffield University has long ranked as one of the best in the country and is internationally renowned. Many international students choose to come to the UK to study archaeology, with the Department of Archaeology at Sheffield being among the top choices.

Closing the Department of Archaeology in Sheffield will compromise highly valuable research and worsen the current shortfall of archaeologists acknowledged in the latest UK government skills shortage list of April 2021, while in the longer term the ability of UK-trained archaeologists to export their skills internationally will also be threatened.

ICOMOS-UK considers that there is an urgent need for the Government, Universities and the archaeology profession to join forces and define a strategic approach to archaeological research and training, based on a full analysis of the value that archaeology departments deliver at a national level and of their part in a much wider national export and internationalisation strategy.

END

24th May 2021

Contact: admin@icomos-uk.org