SOC user engagement exercise

The Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) is a recognised framework that enables all UK occupations to be classified according to skill level and specialisation. Some SOC users have expressed a need for a greater level of detail than is currently available. In response to this, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) is working with Warwick University's Institute for Employment Research (IER) to launch a user engagement exercise looking at the level and nature of requirements. For now, the remit of this work remains exploratory. There are no plans currently to publish statistics to this more detailed level as it is unlikely there will be availability of large enough sample sizes to make the new job groups statistically viable.

Your insight will however play a crucial role in contributing to the development of the framework.

The survey will remain open until Sept 30th 2019. Analysis of returns will be undertaken throughout the exercise period, with follow up engagement stemming from responses made taking place as required.

More information on the project can be viewed at **https://consultations.ons.gov.uk/**

Any personal information will be stored and used securely as outlined in our Privacy Policy. Please indicate in your response if you do not wish for ONS to keep your personal information.

SECTION 1: You and your organisation

1. Name of your organisation? *The Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC)*

2. Which Sector do you represent?

Creative Arts & Design	☐	Information & Technology	☐
Energy & Utilities	☐	Public Services & Administration	☐
Engineering & Manufacture	☐	Retail & Sales	☐
Environment & Agriculture	☐	Science & Pharmaceuticals	☐
Finance	☐	Service Industry	☐
Health & Social Care	☐	Teaching & Education	☐
Housing	☐	Transport & Logistics	☐
If other, Please tell us As an interdisciplinary body (see below) we represent interests across a multitude of sectors, including for example Environment & Agriculture, Public Services & AdministrationService IndustryEngineering & Manufacture Creative Arts & Design and Housing			

Office for National Statistics

3.   What is your role within the organisation?

Director

SECTION 2: Use of the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC)

4.   How frequently do you use SOC within your role?

Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Less than monthly	I do not use SOC Go to Section 3	Not previously aware of SOC Go to Section 3
☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐

5.   At what level do you use SOC?

1 Digit	2 Digit	3 Digit	4 Digit
☐	☐	☒	☒

6.   Briefly describe how you use SOC within your role

To advocate on behalf of built and historic environment conservation practice and IHBC members' roles there

SECTION 3: Extension of the SOC

The SOC Extension team have discussed with several organisations how a more detailed framework may be useful to them.   These have revealed a range of cases where organisations feel a greater level of detail than currently available would be of benefit. Provided below are some examples of how further extension of the Index could be applied if sufficient evidence is found:

STEM Subjects

There is a known need to build and develop STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) skills and occupations within the UK. The SOC is currently unable to separate Unit Group 2314: Secondary Education Teaching Professionals into those teaching STEM and none STEM subjects. An extension of the SOC to identify subject area is one theme being considered.

Police Officers

Further disaggregation of Unit Group 3312: Police Officers (Sergeant and Below) could potentially enable officers to be grouped more specifically by rank i.e. detective/constable/sergeant or alternatively by the specific roles that they perform e.g. dog handler/armed response.

Fitness Instructors

Unit Group 3443 Fitness Instructors currently covers a range of roles including weight trainers, personal trainers and yoga instructors. Currently this does not allow for distinction between place of work i.e. private health and fitness centres, local government leisure centres, private home tuition or elsewhere. Is there added benefit to this?

Similar examples can be drawn from across the SOC. The questions of if and how these and other Unit Groups can potentially be disaggregated has been raised by stakeholders for further investigation.

You can explore how your own and other occupations are coded here.

7. Are there specific areas of the SOC that you would like to see considered for having additional detail?

Yes	No, I feel my interests are sufficiently well represented at the 4-digit level Go to Q10	Don't know Go to Q10
☒	☐	☐

8. Which area/s of SOC would you would like to see considered for having further detail?

Interdisciplinary (cross sector) practices such as those undertaken by IHBC members in built and historic environment conservation practice are difficult to classify – both at 3 digit and 4 digit levels. For example IHBC members use the term 'Conservation Professional' and 'Conservation Officer' - currently used at 2141 for example, in the context of 'SCIENCE, RESEARCH, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONALS. Generally IHBC conservation professionals often are more involved with the 'Environmental' than STEM areas, and so fit better with 2142 (Environment Professionals) within the 3 digit range. At the same time many also fit under 211 - Natural And Social Science Professionals – often more specifically 2114: Social And Humanities Scientists.

9. What further detail would you like to see?

Capacity for structured linkages across the SOCs to facilitate refinement of classification of roles and skills so they can reflect the real-world practices that inceasingly demand cross-sector and interdisciplinary skills and outcomes, including those tied to built and historic environment conservation practice

10. SOC2010 is currently available online in excel and PDF formats. How would you prefer to access the extended classification in future?

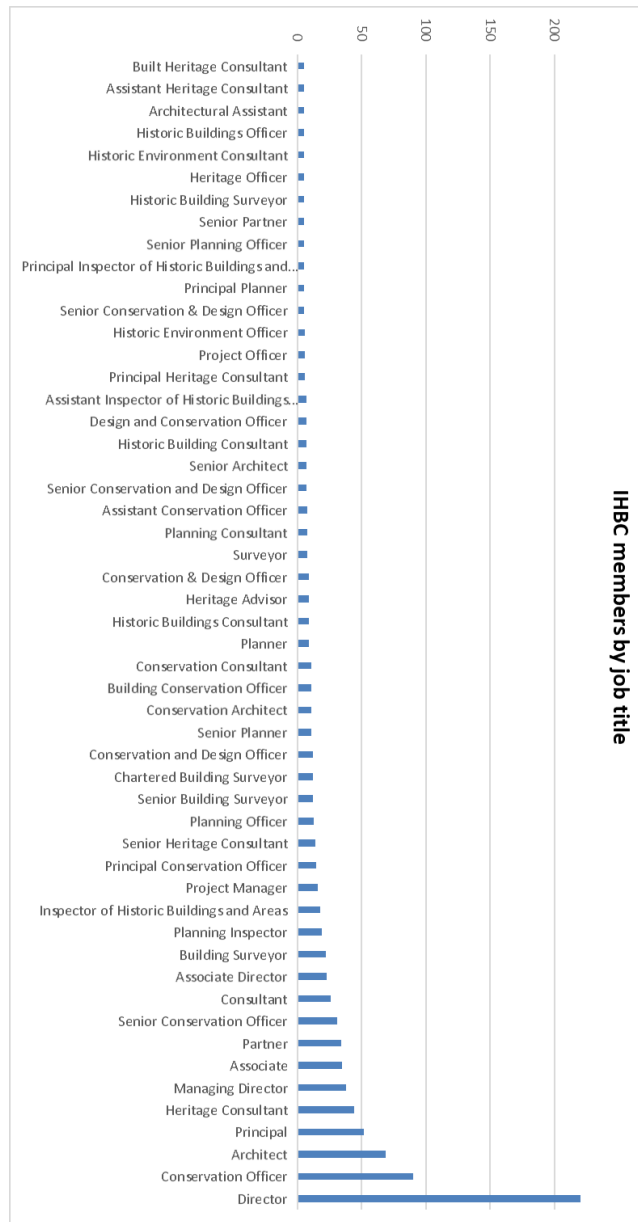|	
PDF	☒
Excel	☒
CSV	☒
Other	Click or tap here to enter text.

SECTION 4: Further Involvement

As part of our exercise to examine if there is demand for an extended SOC, we are seeking to gather lists of job titles from within organisations. This will help us to understand how an extended SOC may take account of areas of growth and new and emerging roles. The information will be evaluated carefully by the project team and will be of significant benefit to the project. We do not require any additional information associated to the posts i.e. salary, post holder etc. however a brief description of the role would be of use.

11. Please provide a list of job titles from within your organisation. If the space provided is insufficient, please send as an additional attachment.

'Conservation professional' is the generic term used to apply to the spectrum of practitioners enagaged in built and historic environment conservation. Also please see below for further analysis on our membership. More detail – including on paid Jobs advertisements posted our membership - available on request from October

Office for National Statistics — Employment types

In terms of the roles that people undertake, these are very diverse and represent a wide range of fields.

We have 693 individually titled employment roles, of those where there were more than 5 in the membership, the following bar chart shows the breadth and spread of jobs.

Jobs advertised by the IHBC

Of the 546 jobs we have advertised, the most advertised job was for Conservation Officers with 47, with the addition of Senior Conservation Officers taking the total to 67.

Of the 546 jobs, there are listing for 315 different job titles which shows the breadth of the jobs we advertise.

Office for National Statistics 12. If you would be prepared to be contacted by a member of the ONS Classifications Unit to discuss your response please leave your contact details.

Email   *director@ihbc.org.uk*
Telephone   *07814 976117*

13. Are you able to recommend another individual or organisation within your sector of work that may be interested in contributing to this work? Please provide details:

Click or tap here to enter text.

14. Is there anything more that you would like to add?
Click or tap here to enter text.

Thank you for your time.

More information relating to the project can be accessed via consultations.ons.gov.uk

The completed survey can be emailed to SOCExt@ons.gov.uk

This email can also be used to contact the project team directly with questions or to request an alternative format.