

**Working collaboratively with archaeological archives**

**Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Archaeological Archives Group Day Conference and AGM  
Wednesday 14 March 2018 at Birmingham and Midland Institute**

Very rarely is the archaeological archiving process the work of one person; it often involves many individuals and institutions working together across the sector, over an extended period of time. These collaborations can enhance an archive's visibility, improve selection and retention strategies, promote an archive's value to researchers and the public, and ease the transition from a working project archive to the preserved archive. However, collaborative working can also cause tensions, and highlights the challenges and issues currently being faced within the wider sector.

This day conference will explore how different types of collaborations determine the stories around the resultant archaeological archives: their creation, selection, uses and potential. We are looking for examples of collaborative working practices around archaeological archives; both positive initiatives and also some cautionary tales that we can constructively learn from.

Potential themes include collaborations:

- within a commercial unit while collecting the working project archive
- between museums and archaeology units on creating the preserved archive
- with finds or environmental specialists on selection and retention strategies
- between universities, community groups, archaeological units and museums to support research and archive re-use
- with a wider audience, facilitated by social media
- with digital heritage specialists
- with partners outside the heritage sector e.g. artists
- throughout a project's lifecycle, from inception to deposition

We are seeking papers from contractors, material specialists, museums, academic researchers (including students), community groups, volunteers and digital heritage specialists to give their experience of working collaboratively with archaeological archives. We would welcome joint presentations.

**Papers should be around 20-25 minutes although groups of shorter papers will be considered. An abstract of no more than 300 words should be sent to David Ingham [Dp.ingham@albion-arch.com](mailto:Dp.ingham@albion-arch.com) (CifA AAG events coordinator) no later than 15 December 2017.**