

## **So ... what's everyone doing about this? The current state of play**

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Ironbridge Archaeology and Samantha Paul Consulting was commissioned by the West Midlands Museum Development Programme to undertake a programme of research with a view to better understanding the current situation with regards to museum-held archaeological collections and any work that is being undertaken locally, regionally or nationally on the issue. This research will feed into and inform a broader goal of the West Midlands Museum Development Programme which is to develop a project which will raise the profile of under used archaeological collections in the West Midlands Region and the creation of stronger links between museums holding archaeological material and non-museum bodies.

The information gathered during this programme of research has been synthesized into a report (to be released shortly) which provides a summary of responses provided by museums based in the West Midlands, national bodies, and relevant Subject Specialist Networks, and an identification of themes and patterns arising from these responses.

Recommendations are made based on these responses, these include the development of a nationally recognised toolkit for selection and rationalisation of archaeological archives; the development of a national archaeological archives register integrated within the redevelopment of OASIS; standardised transfer guidelines for the county alongside the development of a regional selection, de-selection and rationalisation strategy that is specific to the West Midlands. These recommendations were approved by the room during the CIfA AAG 2016 AGM.