



BRIGHTON 2018

WEDNESDAY 25 APRIL

SESSION AND PAPER ABSTRACTS

14.00 – 17.30 SELECTION AND RETENTION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL ARCHIVES

Organisers: Katie Green, Archaeology Data Service
Sam Paul, Chair of ClfA Archaeological Archives Group Committee

It is now generally accepted that we can no longer retain everything produced or recorded during an archaeological investigation, and retrospective selection is currently being carried out in many museum stores. A well-constructed and comprehensive selection and retention strategy is therefore an essential component of all archaeological projects.

Following on from the successful ClfA Archaeological Archives Groups (AAG) event on selection, de-selection and rationalisation, a tool kit for professional archaeologists to aid the decision-making processes around creating an appropriate strategy has been developed.

This workshop will begin by presenting the importance of preparing a strategy at the outset of a project, then present case studies of successful strategies focusing on three key elements, planning, practice and collaboration. The workshop will then introduce the AAG tool kit to participants who will carry out a practical activity that will encourage participants to think critically about how to create their own strategies.

WORKSHOP OUTLINE

Using the Toolkit

During this exercise participants will be divided into groups and asked to use the resources in the Selection Toolkit to develop a suitable selection strategy for a specific archaeological project. Participants will be required to think strategically about how to create a selection strategy, the workflow they should follow, the additional guidance or documentation they may need to consult, and the people they will need to collaborate with as part of selection strategy creation process.

Strategy discussion

During this exercise participants will be asked to present the selection strategies they have developed and justify the reasoning behind their choices. Guided by the session leaders, participants will have the opportunity to access strengths and weaknesses of the strategies they have developed.

Feedback on the Toolkit

This will be an opportunity for participants to provide feedback on the Selection Toolkit itself and provide input into the further development of the Toolkit.

CPD learning outcomes

By the end of the course participants will be expected to:

- Understand the importance of selection and retention
- Have a working knowledge of the new ClfA Selection Toolkit
- Understand the benefits of applying a selection strategy for their own work
- Have knowledge of who to involve in the selection strategy development process
- Be able to prepare a Selection Strategy

National Occupational Standards

- **CCSCH61** Implement collections management procedures for cultural heritage
- **CCSAPAA1** Develop policies and guidance for archaeology