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ClfA Human Osteoarchaeology Special Interest Group (OsteoSIG) was established just over a year ago in November 2018. The Group's remit is to represent the interests of professionals who work or have an interest in the area of osteoarchaeology and burial studies.

The Group also aims to promote standards and good practice for the excavation, treatment, conservation, analysis and curation of human remains and funerary archaeology from the historic environment. Since it was set up, the committee has organised two successful training courses. The first of these was about paleoradiology (the use of x-rays in osteoarchaeology) and the second more recently about puberty in the past and the use of new osteological methods used to identify stages of puberty in human skeletal remains. This workshop has resulted in the development of a recording form to summarise assessment criteria, and a summary table to aid in the estimation of the stage of puberty the individual was experiencing (see the article by Ceri Falys and Mary Lewis on page 10).

To highlight the work of the SIG and the work of osteoarchaeologists this edition of *The Archaeologist* looks at the ethical issues they face on a daily basis, for example when dealing with the analysis and archiving of human remains, the use of human remains in imagery, or with engaging and informing local

communities during the excavation of burials grounds such as Park Street in Birmingham as part of HS2. The articles also look at the wide range of rapidly developing techniques available to osteoarchaeologists, which allow us to continually learn more about past societies and the individuals who were part of them. The case studies from Dawn Gooney (page 12) and Louise Loe (page 6) cover isotope analysis, radiocarbon dating and ancient DNA.

As specialists, osteoarchaeologists can provide expert advice on the current and relevant techniques available and the ethical considerations around human remains. Their early engagement in archaeological projects is not just essential as part of excavation, recovery and analysis, but as Caroline Raynor highlights on page 17, it is also crucial for ensuring that the correct provisions in terms of handling, processing and storage are in place.

The Human Osteoarchaeology SIG committee is made up of very experienced osteoarchaeologists who are keen to promote good and ethical practice. If you have any queries about human remains please direct them to the ClfA OsteoSIG and email groups@archaeologists.net. You can follow the Group on Twitter @OsteoSIG and ClfA members can join the Group mailing list by logging into your member dashboard via the ClfA website.