

# EDITORIAL

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The seeds for this issue were sown at The Enabled Archaeology Foundation's panel at the 2022 ClfA conference *Enabled archaeology: making field and museum archaeology more inclusive for disabled staff, volunteers and visitors*. Several case studies of good accessible and inclusive practice from commercial units, community projects and universities were shared at the conference, stimulating a discussion on the need to identify and highlight the barriers disabled people still face when they want to participate in archaeological activities, and how organisations can address this by adopting the models of good practice that exist. Using the conference as a starting point, ClfA and The Enabled Archaeology Foundation have worked together to create what we hope is a stimulating issue for readers.

This issue begins with a brief exploration of the barriers that disabled people face when engaging in archaeological fieldwork, and barriers to the recruitment and retention of disabled field archaeologists, by Sarahjayne Clements, Alex Fitzpatrick and Abigail Hunt (all of the Enabled Archaeology Committee). The article ends with a call to action for all those working or volunteering in archaeology to make our sector more

accessible and inclusive to disabled people, by enacting changes that are simple, small and cost effective. Erin Bell then considers the impact that the barriers university-based staff and student historians have faced in terms of access to archives since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. We then present case studies of good practice for accessible and inclusive archaeology, providing disabled people with equity of opportunity and experience from across the UK archaeological sector, spanning commercial, community and university archaeological work. The case studies from Breaking Ground Heritage, York Archaeological Trust, the University of Winchester and Solent University, and Harlaxton College/Evansville University reflect on recent and current projects and draw out how to engage in good practice and the positive impact this has had – not just on disabled participants, but on all those engaging with archaeological field work. Finally, Carenza Lewis reflects on the 2020–21 Heritage at Risk and Wellbeing and the current Community Archaeology in Rural Environments Meeting Societal Challenges research projects and the positive impact engaging with archaeology can have on the psychological wellbeing of participants.