



## **GUIDELINES FOR INVASIVE SCIENTIFIC SAMPLING OF HUMAN SKELETAL REMAINS**

### **Preamble**

These guidelines were established by the scientific committee of Kantonsarchäologie Aargau and adopted on 27 May 2021. The executive committee of Kantonsarchäologie Aargau has examined the guidelines and they have been implemented as of 23 June 2021. In August 2021, Kantonsarchäologie Aargau has kindly permitted IAG to adopt named guidelines.

### **1. General principles**

- the guidelines address sampling for radiocarbon, aDNA, isotope or trace element analysis
- cultural heritage protection is essential, but enabling research is also a task of IAG
- grant permissions sparingly, but do not reject all applications (strike a balance)

### **2. Criteria for approval**

- in line with current scientific strategy of the specific archaeological agency
- scientific relevance (topical issue, research desideratum, data gap)
- clearly stated question(s) and realistic aim(s)
- precise declaration of required samples (type and amount/number)
- precise declaration of applied procedures (possible adverse effects on further / subsequent analysis)
- «crown jewels» (teeth, petrous bone) to be spared to the best possible degree
- plausible description of how the proposed method works / was optimized
- «added value» for archaeology is essential requirement and needs to be demonstrated
- there are no redundancies with existing results or ongoing analyses



### **3. Procedure following approval**

definition of clear project framework by means of contract or loan agreement, respectively:

#### **3.1 Documentation and sampling procedures**

- the lender documents the handover of materials in accordance with the regulations of the lending institution as well as the standards of the archaeological agency concerned and in consultation with the curator responsible for the IAG skeletal collection at Bottmingen BL
- the borrower samples the human skeletal material on site (at the location of the specific archaeological agency or the IAG depot at Bottmingen) – if possible – or else organizes transportation of the human remains (with the archaeological agency lending support as far as possible)
- shipment of human remains is possible by registered mail only (and at the expense of the borrower, as previously agreed). Important notice with regard to shipment to foreign countries: Customs declaration must list «scientific samples»
- the borrower ensures a detailed case-by-case documentation prior to sampling the human remains as previously agreed and to be supplied to the lender (e.g., by structure from motion, 3D scan, computed tomography)
- sampling procedures must be planned so as to ensure that further analysis to the same materials / skeletal elements (by the same or another institution) remain possible and will not require sourcing additional material
- sampling should proceed from existing broken edges wherever possible
- samples must needs be taken sparingly
- samples must not be stockpiled for future analysis
- it must be ensured that unused material is returned to the lender
- the borrower returns unused material in accordance with the guidelines of the lender and will bear all incidental costs

#### **3.2 Data and results**

- ownership of data and results must be agreed upon beforehand
- return of data and results to the specific archaeological agency as well as the collection curator at the IAG depot at Bottmingen must be guaranteed
- there must be willingness to share resulting data completely and without restrictions with the scientific community
- if no publication ensues, the archaeological agency must at the least be provided with an (intelligible) written report containing all data and results
- co-authorship of publications must be agreed upon analogous to other participating parties
- unsolicited provision of sample copies of publications is mandatory (preferably pdf, also print copies, depending upon the type of publication)

### **4. Implementation**

These guidelines were adopted by the annual general meeting of the IAG on 24 August 2021.