

Ethics statement

Antiquity is dedicated to the promotion of professional knowledge and public appreciation of world archaeology. This includes a commitment to support the protection and preservation of all forms of archaeological cultural heritage. Research published in *Antiquity* must therefore be guided by the highest ethical standards, informed by international agreements, professional ethical guidelines and sensitivity to local cultural values. Where appropriate, it should also be authorised by official research permits and/or institutional agreements. *Antiquity* reserves the right to decline to publish articles that disregard these principles of research ethics. At the same time, *Antiquity* welcomes submissions that research and debate these positions, including the ethical standards of work previously published in this journal.

All authors are required to comply with the relevant national and international treaties and institutional policies, and to adhere to the relevant professional codes concerning, but not limited to, the following areas:

Human remains

Antiquity endorses the [Code of Ethics](#) and [Code of Practice](#) (both last updated in 2019) regarding the research and analysis of human remains outlined by the *British Association for Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology* (BABAO), the '[Vermillion Accord on Human Remains](#)' adopted by the World Archaeology Congress (WAC) in 1989 and the [Code of Ethics](#) produced by the *American Association of Biological Anthropologists* (AABA, 2003). *Antiquity* adheres to the principle that the destructive sampling of human remains should strive to minimise damage and preserve material. For guidance, we direct authors to the [framework](#) (2023, 2nd edition) produced by the *Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England* (APABE). It is permissible to include photographs of human remains in manuscripts submitted to *Antiquity*; these should be of direct relevance to the subject matter and should avoid showing the remains of individuals who have died within living memory. Further guidance related to [digital imaging](#) and [photography](#) is provided by the BABAO.

Indigenous peoples

Antiquity endorses the 'Principles to Abide by' in respect to obligations towards Indigenous peoples or descendant communities as stated in the '[First Code of Ethics](#)' adopted by the WAC in 1990. We also appreciate the complexity of ethics and stakeholders in this area and therefore reserve Editorial discretion in how the Code is applied in individual cases.

Materials acquired through the antiquities trade

Antiquity condemns unequivocally the looting of archaeological sites and the illicit trade in antiquities. No research that directly or indirectly violates relevant national or international laws will be published. *Antiquity* supports the 1970 UNESCO '[Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property](#)' and subsequent treaties. *Antiquity* adheres to the [Policy on the Presentation and Publication of Undocumented Antiquities](#) adopted by the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA, last updated in 2020), as implemented by the [publishing policy](#) of the *American Journal of Archaeology* (AJA), which states that:

"The publication and presentation venues of the Archaeological Institute of America will not serve for the initial scholarly publication or announcement of any object in a private or public collection acquired after December 30, 1973, unless its existence is documented before that date, or it was legally exported from the country of origin. An exception may be

made if, in the view of the Editor or Program Committee, the aim of publication is to emphasize the loss of archaeological context or acquisition history.”

Person surveys/questionnaires

Antiquity endorses good practice for undertaking research, including questionnaires and person surveys, recommended in the European Union’s [Ethics for Researchers](#) (2013) and the [Code of Practice for Research](#) (2023) published by the UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO). Ethical issues include informed consent, transparency, anonymity, and cross-cultural sensitivities. Authors are required to confirm that they have obtained informed consent and approval by a relevant ethics committee. Where this is not possible, authors are expected to outline how their research upholds principles of research ethics.

Publishing ethics

Antiquity adheres to its publisher Cambridge University Press (CUP)’s [Research Publishing Ethics Guidelines for Journals](#) (2023), which are regularly updated (e.g. on the use of generative AI). Both *Antiquity* and CUP are members of the [Committee on Publication Ethics](#) (COPE).

Papers submitted to *Antiquity* are initially assessed for suitability by the editorial team, and their originality is assessed using the CrossRef Similarity Check. Some papers will be desk rejected due to being deemed by the editorial team as either out-of-scope or not meeting the high-quality threshold of *Antiquity*. Other papers are then sent for rigorous, external peer-review. *Antiquity* reserves the right to withdraw papers at any time during the review and production process, including post acceptance, if specific ethical issues are identified.

Antiquity, as a COPE member, also supports the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME)’s policy on [Geopolitical Intrusion on Editorial Decisions](#) (2004), which states that: “Editorial decisions should not be affected by the origins of the manuscript, including the nationality, ethnicity, political beliefs, race, or religion of the authors. Decisions to edit and publish should not be determined by the policies of governments or other agencies outside of the journal itself.”

This statement was last reviewed, revised and approved by Antiquity’s Editorial Advisory Board in December 2025.