
Overview

This unit is for an archaeologist who is responsible for the care of items (including artefacts and ecofacts, samples, archives and collections). Items going into store may remain there for a considerable time, so it is essential to be aware of the agents of deterioration, and of the means of monitoring and controlling the environment to ensure optimum storage conditions. It is essential to be able to assess deterioration in the items and to record it accurately. In order to do this effectively, a programme of monitoring both the environment and the condition of the items must be set up.

Performance
criteria

You must be able to:

Identify the appropriate environment in which to maintain and protect items

- P1 Identify the optimum preservation conditions for each of the different material types present
- P2 Obtain specialist advice on optimum environmental conditions
- P3 Monitor the environment of the storage area(s) prior to installation to ensure they meet specifications
- P4 Ensure that the storage environment is consistent with security and Health and Safety considerations
- P5 Assess accurately the resources to implement specified procedures and pass details to the relevant people
- P6 Record and disseminate recommendations and procedures according to requirements

Control the environment to preserve and protect items

- P7 Monitor and maintain the environment of items, and evaluate their effectiveness
- P8 Ensure schedules and procedures for monitoring and maintaining the environment of items are correctly implemented
- P9 Identify as quickly as possible any evidence of instability or change in the items and any other indications that the environment is not suitable, and take appropriate action
- P10 Assess accurately the resources to implement appropriate action and pass details to the relevant people
- P11 Comply at all times with health and safety procedures

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 How to assess the accuracy of recording equipment and arrange for its regular calibration or maintenance
- K2 The types of environments for storing archaeological items
- K3 The types of environments appropriate to different items or materials
- K4 The appropriate environment in terms of security, Health and Safety implications
- K5 The appropriate environment relating to access
- K6 The appropriate equipment and techniques for monitoring, recording and maintaining appropriate conditions
- K7 How the environment can be accurately monitored, and the principal factors to monitor
- K8 The indications that an environment is not suitable for the items
- K9 The action that can be taken if the environment is not suitable for the item
- K10 Who are the appropriate people to inform of any problems
- K11 The health and safety implications of the available treatments
- K12 The implications of an inappropriate environment

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occupations**

Suite

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