Overview

This standard is for archaeological conservators, people who are required to have knowledge of a range of items or specific groups of items as well as having expert knowledge of the potential conservation problems that may be encountered with such items, whether individually or in groups and collections.

Once an item has been assessed, it is necessary to identify a suitable conservation plan for the item to ensure that it is properly conserved. There are likely to be a number of conservation options for the item, and it is important that each of these is considered, and that the option that is selected is the most suitable. This unit covers identifying conservation options that potentially have the capability of conserving the item and selecting the most appropriate conservation option in agreement with others

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

Explore conservation options for items

P1 Review and collate the available information on the key aspects of and risks to the items

P2 Explore a range of potential conservation options and assess any new approaches for their effectiveness

P3 Identify and take into account present and future environmental conditions affecting the items

P4 Identify solutions to conservation problems

P5 Identify and take into account the items' integrity, the expected role and use, and the resources of the owner

P6 Identify and assess the limitations, risks and effects of all conservation options

P7 Identify clearly the resource implications of the conservation options

P8 Test the materials and treatment methods correctly to ensure their suitability

P9 Adapt conservation procedures where necessary and collect information on their use

Specify conservation options for items

P10 Ensure the conservation options meet the requirements of the items and the owner

P11 Ensure that relevant parties understand the outcome, risks and resource implications of the selected options

P12 Ensure the conservation options can be implemented within the specified resource constraints

P13 Identify clearly the advantages, disadvantages and limitations of each option

P14 Recommend and agree preferred options with all relevant parties

P15 Record clearly the selected options and disseminate them to the appropriate people

CCSAPAD4
Develop conservation plans for archaeological items

P16 Plan the use of resources and the timescale for implementing the selected options

P17 Develop a suitable conservation plan and record it in an appropriate format

CCSAPAD4
Develop conservation plans for archaeological items

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

K1 How to record information on the application of new approaches, and why it is important to disseminate it

K2 The appropriate amount of information and level of detail required to identify conservation options

K3 The environmental conditions likely to affect the item

K4 The most valuable sources of information on new conservation options

K5 Why the particular options have been examined

K6 How ethics affect the choice of option

K7 The costs and resource implications of different conservation options, and how they can be assessed for a specific item

K8 The health and safety implications of different conservation options

K9 The likely effects of the present and future use of the item

K10 How to draw up a conservation plan for other people to follow

K11 How to record a conservation plan, and the appropriate formats

K12 The factors that are taken into account when selecting conservation options

K13 How the conservation options would differ if the item was used in different ways, or kept in different conditions

K14 Why the specific conservation options were chosen

K15 The specified resource constraints for the item

K16 Who are the relevant people that need to be consulted on the selection decision

K17 Who should be aware of the conservation plan, and the level of detail that they need

CCSAPAD4
Develop conservation plans for archaeological items

Developed by	
Version number	
Date approved	
Indicative review date	
Validity	
Status	
Originating organisation	
Original URN	
Relevant occupations	
Suite	
Key words	