

## **Unit AE6          Apply preventive care procedures to items**

### **Elements**

**AE6.1    Control the environment to preserve and protect an item**

**AE6.2    Monitor and modify the environment and the condition of an item**

### **Unit Commentary**

This unit is for archaeological conservators or conservation technicians, people who are required to have knowledge of a range of items or specific groups of items and the potential conservation problems that may be encountered by such items.

Once a conservation option has been selected it has to be implemented. One type of option is for the application of preventive care procedures to items. This involves ensuring that the environmental conditions are appropriate for the items concerned and that systems are in place to monitor and maintain the environment of the items.

## AE6 Apply preventive care procedures to items

### AE6.1 Control the environment to preserve and protect an item

#### Performance Required

*This will involve:*

- a) Identifying the item's **environmental requirements** in accordance with the conservation plan
- b) Monitoring the existing environmental conditions in the intended location accurately over a **suitable period**
- c) Identifying as quickly as possible any evidence that the environment is not suitable for the item
- d) Determining and implement suitable methods to modify the item's environment where necessary
- e) Implementing procedures for the **handling and physical protection** of the item
- f) Recording and disseminating descriptions of all actions taken to recover control of the item's environment, making recommendations where necessary
- g) Consulting a conservation specialist when further action is required

#### Occupational Context

##### Environmental requirements

- controlled temperature/humidity
- controlled/ limited light
- air quality: clean, pollutant-free
- protection from pests
- protection from shock/ vibration
- use of biological and chemical agents

##### 2 Suitable period

- Suitable for the monitoring requirements
- Suitable for the item's stability
- Suitable for the available resources

#### 3 Handling and physical protection

- Concerning fragility of the item
- concerning stability of the item
- concerning movement and transfer
- concerning safety and security
- concerning environmental conditions
- concerning human error

#### Knowledge Requirements

*You need to know and understand how to:*

- Draw up specifications for the control of the item's environment
- Draw up guidelines and procedures for monitoring the item's environment

*You need to know about:*

The item

- The existing recommendations for the item
- The indications that an environment is not suitable for the item

The Environment, location and physical situation

- How the environment can be accurately monitored, and the principal factors to monitor
- The equipment available to monitor the environment, and how to use it

Protection Strategies and Procedures

- Who are the appropriate people to inform about the item's environment
- Why it is important to keep appropriate records
- What could be considered to be suitable packing, storage and display materials
- The appropriate handling requirements

## **AE6 Apply preventive care procedures to items**

### **AE6.1 Control the environment to preserve and protect an item**

#### **Required Skills**

*You should demonstrate:*

- Observation skills and attention to detail
- Dexterity in handling unstable items
- Communication
- Accurate measuring and data analysis skills

#### **Evidence Required**

*You should provide evidence that you can control the environment to preserve and protect an item*

The candidate should be questioned, based upon the documentation provided, to explore how they

- modify the environment to preserve and protect items that are moderately degraded

#### **Evidence Rules**

The candidate should have been involved in applying preventive care procedures to a range of items typical to their work area

## AE6 Apply preventive care procedures to items

### AE6.2 Monitor and modify the environment and the condition of an item

#### Performance Required

*This will involve:*

- a) Establishing suitable procedures for **monitoring** and maintaining the environment and the condition of the item
- b) Carrying out procedures for monitoring and maintaining the **environment of the item** according to specification
- c) Identifying as quickly as possible any evidence of **instability or change** in the item and any other indications that the environment is not suitable for it, and take appropriate action
- d) Taking appropriate action when specifications for the environmental protection and condition of items are not being met
- e) Ensuring the records of the monitoring process are clear and accurate

#### Occupational Context

##### 1 Monitoring

- measuring instruments
- observation/ supervision/ inspection
- regular/ frequent/ 24hrs
- in conjunction with security where appropriate

##### 2 Environment of the item

- temperature
- light
- air quality
- stability/ vibration
- chemically un/ treated

##### 3 Instability or change

- change in composition/ coloration/ size/ shape
- discharge, radio activity, etc
- measurements such as temperature

#### Knowledge Requirements

*You need to know about:*

Modifying environmental conditions of an item

- The existing recommendations for the item
- How the environment can be accurately monitored, and the principal factors to monitor
- The indications that the environment is not suitable for the item
- What action can be taken if the environment is not suitable for the item
- Who are the appropriate people to inform of any problems
- The implications of an inappropriate environment

**AE6 Apply preventive care procedures to items**

**AE6.2 Monitor and modify the environment and the condition of an item**

**Required Skills**

*You should demonstrate:*

- Contingent planning

**Evidence Required**

*You should provide evidence that you can monitor and modify the environment and the condition of an item*

The candidate should be questioned, based upon the documentation provided, to explore how they

- monitor and modify the environment and the condition of an item.

**Evidence Rules**

The candidate should have been involved in applying preventive care procedures to a range of items typical to their work area