

Unit AE8 Implement routine interventive conservation procedures

Elements

AE8.1 Apply routine stabilisation

AE8.2 Implement routine cleaning and repair

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 routine interventive conservation. This could involve a range of routine interventive procedures depending on the condition of an item, and type of action being agreed by the owner or keeper. This unit covers minimising deterioration in the item by implementing routine interventive stabilisation procedures and routine cleaning and repair.

AE8 Implement routine interventive conservation procedures

AE8.1 Apply routine stabilisation

Performance Required

This will involve:

- a) Working to a conservation plan agreed by a conservator
- b) **Treating** the items, without compromising their integrity, in accordance with the agreed conservation plan
- c) Removing, reducing or neutralising potential and active **agents of deterioration**
- d) Minimising further deterioration by the application of the appropriate materials
- e) **Evaluating** what is required in the future to maintain the condition of the treated item
- f) Recording the treatment procedure accurately and correctly in the appropriate format

Occupational Context

1 Treating

- Structure: Supporting/repairing
- Composition: Chemically analysing/changing form
- Appearance: masking, highlighting, preserving, exaggerating, cleaning, restoring.

2 Agents of deterioration

- Environmental: exposed location, etc
- Biodeterioration: insects, fungus, plant growth etc
- Atmospherically: weathering, light etc.
- Chemical imbalance/change
- Physical/structural: vibration, etc.

3 Evaluating

- In terms of efficacy
- In terms of cost efficiency
- In terms of reliability/sustainability
- In terms of ease and ability

Knowledge Requirements

You need to know and understand how to:

- Monitor the item's treatment

You need to know about:

Stabilisation motivation, theory and practice requirements.

What is routine about the conservational plan:

- In terms of item's requirements
- In terms of organisational function
- In terms of team/ supervisory/ managerial function
- In terms of physical intervention, stabilisation, monitoring and evaluation.

The agreed conservation plan

Treating Deterioration

- The agents of deterioration likely to be found in the item
- The weaknesses likely to be found in the item
- The available protective and preservative procedures, and which is most effective for the item
- The sort of data that should be recorded and the appropriate format
- The health and safety implications of different routine treatments
- How the effect of the treatment can be evaluated

AE8 Implement routine interventive conservation procedures

AE8.1 Apply routine stabilisation

Required Skills

You should demonstrate:

- Proficient handling of chemicals
- Dexterity in the handling of fragile and unstable items and structures
- Data collection and monitoring

Evidence Required

You should provide evidence that you can apply routine stabilisation

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

- minimise the deterioration of items that are moderately or seriously degraded and at least one unstable item.

Evidence Rules

The candidate should have been involved in Implementing routine interventive conservation procedures to a range of items typical to their work area

AE8 Implement routine interventive conservation procedures

AE8.2 Implement routine cleaning and repair

Performance Required

This will involve:

- a) Working to a conservation plan agreed by a conservator
- b) Treating the item, without compromising its integrity, in accordance with the agreed conservation plan
- c) Removing or reducing material which inhibits the interpretation of the items
- d) Adding **materials** to effect **repair**
- e) Only making additions that are reversible, appropriate and identifiable
- f) Assessing the application and effect of the intervention, and notifying the **appropriate person** in the event of **unforeseen effects**
- g) Evaluating what is required in the future to maintain the condition of the treated item
- h) Recording the treatment procedure accurately and correctly in the appropriate format

Occupational Context

- **Materials**
 - Chemical/ Structural
 - Altering/ Supportive
 - Additional/ replacement
- 2 **Repair**
 - Restoration/ Renewal
 - Chemical/ structural
 - Surface/ compositional
- 3 **Appropriate person**
 - Conservation/materials scientists
 - Item specialists
 - Health and safety advisors/emergency staff
 - Site officials/management
 - Organisational/professional representatives
 - Funding/ statutory/regulatory bodies

4 Unforeseen effects

- Chemical / structural
- Damage/ disintegration/ decay
- Unexpected stabilisation, exacerbated renewal
- Behavioural/ functional/ visual/ compositional change

Knowledge Requirements

You need to know and understand how to:

- Monitor the item's treatment
- Evaluate the effect of the treatment

You need to know about:

What is routine

- What is in the conservation plan and the parameters for action
- Who is the recognised conservation specialist

Cleaning and repair processes

- What material can be removed from the item, and from where on the item
- The methods and materials that should be used for removing or reducing materials and accretions on the item

Evaluating treatment

- What tests can be applied to the item
- The type of data that should be recorded
- The health and safety procedures for the available treatments
- The methods and materials that could be used for repair

AE8 Implement routine interventive conservation procedures

AE8.2 Implement routine cleaning and repair

Required Skills

You should demonstrate:

- Dexterity in cleaning and repair skills and use of technical material
- Handling with due care and attention
- Observation, analysis and attention to detail

Evidence Required

You should provide evidence that you can implement routine cleaning and repair

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

- clean and repair items that are moderately or seriously degraded and at least one unstable item in order to aid their interpretation.

Evidence Rules

The candidate should have been involved in Implementing routine interventive conservation procedures to a range of items typical to their work area