

## **OBJECT AND MATERIALS CONSERVATION MANAGING ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING**

M3D08216 17-20 JUNE 2019 (3 day course)

Preventive conservation, the act of caring for objects, has always been embedded within conservation. Whilst some in conservation engage with the material qualities of the objects to return them to stability, preventive conservation engages with the environment and context in which an object is used to create conditions to enable its use over the long term. The life expectancy of collections is significantly affected by the environmental conditions in which they are stored. Understanding the impact of environmental parameters such as light, humidity or temperature on the stability of materials helps those responsible for collections care to make judgements about how best to use those objects whilst retaining their value into the future.

This course will review the agents that cause deterioration of museum and cultural heritage objects and consider how these impact on complex collections. The composition of a range of materials found in collections will be introduced and we will discuss the basic interactions of these materials with their surroundings. Students will examine a range of strategies, from technical to managerial, to understand and modify conditions to deliver acceptable levels of care for collections.

The course will consider the process of environmental management, from the identification of environmental factors to be considered, targets, monitoring conditions and data capture, to the interpretation of results with subsequent action.

Delegates will develop targets for light, ultraviolet light, temperature and humidity for their organisations. There will be a discussion of other targets such as pollution, pests and emergency preparedness and about how to integrate these concepts into the collection management plan.

There will be practical sessions to test environmental monitoring equipment and an opportunity to discuss the range of equipment available and the opportunities these create. The thorny issue of interpreting data, especially humidity and temperature charts, will be addressed so that participants are able to interpret charts from their own organisations and compare them to the targets they have set. The course will complete the cycle by discussing how to respond to and report on the

findings of the data. Simple reporting and action plans will be discussed followed by a session which focusses on how to make influential recommendations.

Delegates are asked to bring data outputs from environmental monitoring in their own organisations for discussion on the course. All delegates should bring the mission statement of an organisation that they work with. Course participants who wish to prepare for the course are encouraged to read the agents of deterioration website <http://canada.pch.gc.ca/eng/1444330943476> and the British Library pamphlet on managing the library and archive environment. [http://www.bl.uk/aboutus/stratpolprog/collectioncare/publications/booklets/managing\\_library\\_archive\\_environment.pdf](http://www.bl.uk/aboutus/stratpolprog/collectioncare/publications/booklets/managing_library_archive_environment.pdf)

### **Course Leader**

Jane Henderson, BSc, MSc, PACR, FIIC, SF HEA Reader in Conservation in Cardiff University. Jane has been working in and studying conservation and collections care in Wales since 1984. Jane teaches on Cardiff University's BSc in Conservation and MSc's in Collection Care and in Conservation Practice. Jane sits on the committee of the Welsh Federation of Museum and Art Galleries and The Cynon Valley Museum Trust. Jane is currently serving on the editorial panel of the Journal of the Institute for Conservation and the ICOM-CC preventive conservation working group. Jane has published on issues related to: conservation decision making; influence for collections care; sustainable conservation practice; teaching and assessing conservation.

### **Course Tutor**

Phil Parkes BSc, PACR, FHEA, is an accredited conservator who leads on analytical and practical archaeological conservation at Cardiff University. Phil teaches on the MSc and BSc conservation degrees, leading modules on practical conservation and decision-making. Phil continues to work with museums, heritage centres and archaeological units internationally to deliver practical conservation outcomes.

## OUTLINE PROGRAMME

Day 1	Monday
16.00-18.30	Register at Reception Desk
18.45	Welcome Talk
19.00	Dinner followed by
Evening	Course outline and lecture: The evolution and development of standards – the plus minus debate
Day 2	Tuesday
Morning	Introductions and icebreaker. Goals and Challenges. Agents of deterioration. Core concepts in environmental control and monitoring. Equipment available for monitoring
Afternoon	Calibration and accuracy of data. Where to monitor? Your goals for environmental improvement
Evening	Access and use, significance and value – what we choose to bring forward
Day 3	Wednesday
Morning	How does humidity and temperature damage collections? Measuring humidity. Humidity and temperature targets. Monitoring temperature and humidity
Afternoon	Interpreting RH and temperature graphs. Psychrometric charts. Control and management strategies for temperature and humidity. Your organisation's corporate priorities.
Evening	Engaging stakeholders in environmental management decisions.
Day 4	Thursday
Morning	Light - How does it damage collections? Light targets from maximum to dosage. Taking light readings.
Afternoon	Strategies to manage and control light. Strategies for collections management. What makes a good report? . Evaluation, action plan and close
15.30	Course ends.

**Non-residential course fee: £498**

**Fully inclusive residential course fee:**

**Standard room with private bathroom facilities £753**

**Superior room with private bathroom facilities £819**

## HOW TO BOOK

Please complete one booking form, or copy of form, per person per course and enclose a deposit for each course booked. On receipt of your booking, we will send all the further details you will need for your visit, including the course details and your final payment slip. Travel instructions will be sent to all students.

For further information about the course, please contact the Course Organiser: [cpd@westdean.org.uk](mailto:cpd@westdean.org.uk) or +44 (0) 1243 818219.

For further information about booking, please telephone the Bookings Office: +44 (0)1243 818300.

Website: [www.westdean.org.uk](http://www.westdean.org.uk)