



09 Building conservation and heritage

Understanding the legislative framework and principles of conservation practice. Having the right knowledge, skills and techniques, or access to the right specialists, to work on conservation (repair and maintenance) projects, and historic or listed buildings and places.

Background and context: understanding of:

- Historic assets (buildings, areas, monuments, gardens and parks, whether designated yet or not) and their settings.
- Designations.
- National and international organisations and charters.
- ICOMOS guidelines.
- Understanding common conservation terms.
- The repair, alteration/ extension, refurbishment and management of historic assets.

Legislation and published governmental and other guidance

- Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
- BS7913: 2013.
- NPPF and government policy.
- Assets of Community Value.
- Special considerations in the application of Approved Documents (including Building Regulations).
- The Equality Act.
- Fire safety strategy and legislation.
- Statutory consents, requirements and processes.
- Enabling Development and the Conservation of Heritage Assets.
- UNESCO conventions and recommendations.

Significance: understanding of:

- Historical significance.
- Social, cultural and emotional significance.
- Architectural and aesthetic significance.
- How to determine significance based on evidence and plans for conservation.
- Researching the historic development of a building and its setting using archival sources.
- New designs in designated and historic contexts.

Making judgments and collaboration: ability to:

- Make balanced judgements based on shared ethical principles.
- Accept responsibility for the long-term welfare of cultural heritage.
- Recognize when advice must be sought by different specialists.
- Give expert advice on maintenance strategies, management policies and the policy framework for environmental protection and preservation.
- Document works executed and make same accessible.
- Work in multi-disciplinary groups using sound methods.
- Work with inhabitants, administrators and planners to resolve conflicts, and to develop conservation strategies appropriate to local needs, abilities and resources.

Reading and understanding a monument: ability to:

- Read a monument, ensemble or site.
- Identify its emotional, cultural and use significance.

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- Understand the history and technology in order to define their identity, and plan for their conservation.
- Interpret the results of this research.
- Understand the setting in relation to other buildings, gardens or landscapes.
- Find and absorb all available sources of relevant information.

International and historic context: understanding of:

- Antiquity.
- 18th century grand tour.
- 19th century restoration and the search for antiquity.
- Early 20th century legislation.
- 20th century architecture.
- Post-war developments.

Surveys and investigations: understanding of:

- Site surveys.
- Destructive and non-destructive analysis.
- Recording, documentation and communication.
- Reading the building.

Determining and understanding defects and causes of decay

- Understanding defects and behaviours of various materials.
- Approaches to repair and conservation techniques.
- Lime mortar.
- Cleaning historic buildings.

Materials: understanding of:

- Traditional and modern.
- The conservation of stonework, brickwork, timber and concrete.
- Thermal upgrade of listed buildings, buildings in conservation areas, and of buildings of traditional construction.
- The use of the right insulation.
- The correct window upgrades.
- Breathability of fabric.

Conservation strategy: understanding of:

- Grants, funds and funding organizations.
- Climate change and special considerations applicable to the historic environment.
- Implementation and management of conservation works.
- Procurement and contract administration.
- Being accredited as a recognised conservation architect

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Links to other organisations and resources

RIBA Conservation Course and Register <https://www.architecture.com/education-cpd-and-careers/membership-and-accreditation/join-the-riba-conservation-register>

International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) <http://www.icomos.org/en/>

Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) www.spab.org.uk

Institute of Conservation <https://icon.org.uk/>

Council on Training in Architectural Conservation (COTAC) www.cotac.org.uk

Understanding Conservation <http://www.understandingconservation.org/>

The Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) www.ihbc.org.uk

Ecclesiastical Architects' and Surveyors' Association (EASA) <http://www.easynet.co.uk/>

Sustainable Traditional Buildings Alliance <http://stbauk.org/>

Historic England <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/>

Heritage Lottery Fund <https://www.hlf.org.uk/>

Church Buildings Council <http://www.churchcare.co.uk/churches/church-buildings-council>

Victorian Society <http://www.victoriansociety.org.uk/>

Georgian Group <https://georgiangroup.org.uk/>

20th Century Society <https://c20society.org.uk/>

Canal and River Trust <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/>