



Conservation Register

Scheme handbook

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Introduction

The CIAT Conservation Accreditation Register identifies Chartered Architectural Technologists competent in the conservation of historical buildings and their surroundings. CIAT's Conservation Accreditation Scheme is recognised by Historic England, Historic Scotland, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Cadw (Welsh Government historic environment service) and The Heritage Lottery Fund for its members to act as lead consultants on grant/fund aided projects.

Chartered Architectural Technologists submitting for accreditation as a Conservationist must demonstrate competence against the fourteen skills identified by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and defined within the *ICOMOS Education and Training Guidelines*. This document illustrates a framework for the Scheme and coupled with the CIAT suggested range of evidence (listed in respect of each unit) will provide useful guidance for candidates. All evidence submitted should be conservation based, derived from dealing practically with physical decay of buildings, their everyday maintenance and adapting redundant buildings for alternative, sustainable uses where the principles of conservation (minimal intervention, reversibility, minimal loss of fabric, transparency of intervention and preservation of authenticity and integrity) are applied.

CIAT has two routes available:

1 CIAT—Accredited Conservationist

Candidates must be practising in a conservation related field and must be able to demonstrate their competence through conservation projects carried out in practice. This route is recognised by grant/fund providing bodies as identified above.

2 CIAT—Recognised Conservationist (non-practising)

CIAT recognises that some of its members, although having sufficient knowledge in the area of conservation, may not be practising in this area and will therefore be unable to demonstrate the competences required through the conventional assessment route. Instead, CIAT will accept five case studies (hypothetical examples) awarding the designation of CIAT—Recognised Conservationist (non-practising). Although candidates choosing this route will have to meet the same competences as the conventional route. This route is not recognised by grant/fund providing bodies.

For candidates seeking to become CIAT—Accredited Conservationists, all evidence should be derived from the individual rather than the team. Candidates should be able to demonstrate that they recognise that they may not have sufficient expertise in all aspects of work associated with conservation intervention. The ability to recognise their own limitations and the need to be able to source, evaluate and appoint other specialists, but related professionals, are essential to being a competent practitioner. As a project leader, the ability to manage a team will also need to be demonstrated and evidence of this should form an element of the candidate's submission.

Other information to support a candidate's evidence might include; curriculum vitae, educational qualifications, employment details and experience, professional qualifications, short courses, CPD records, publications and references.

There are five units of skills identified within the Scheme, each of which is preceded by a commentary, outlining the scope of the unit:

1. Philosophy of Conservation;
2. Site Analysis and Intervention;
3. Investigation, Materials and Technology;
4. Social and Financial Issues; and
5. Implementation and Management of Conservation Works.

The completed portfolio and a written statement (approx. 500 words) of the candidates philosophy of conservation should be submitted for assessment to CIAT, along with the relevant application form and assessment fee. Successful candidates will be invited to attend a formal interview, where they will be asked to discuss areas of their work with our experienced conservation assessors. Details of both of these processes are contained within the *Conservation Register Candidate Guidance Notes*.

Unit One Philosophy of Conservation

A vital skill for a conservation practitioner is the ability to evaluate and recognise cultural significance. All conservation work involves a synthesis of skills; probably the most important of which is the ability to read a building or asset, evaluate its significance and establish its value not only to its current owner but also to its local, national and international audiences. Heritage assets might be a building, a group of buildings, whole geographical areas, a single monument or a building element. This unit is designed to assess a practitioner's expertise with respect to investigating and assessing the cultural, historical, social, spiritual and emotional significance of a site, the importance of its architectural quality, spatial layout, use and significance of the physical fabric in order to make informed decisions about its treatment and protection.

Evidence can be derived from dealing with physical decay of buildings, their everyday maintenance and adapting buildings for appropriate alternative, sustainable usage where the principles of conservation (minimal intervention, reversibility, minimal loss of fabric, transparency of intervention and preservation of authenticity and integrity) are applied. Forms of evidence may include: documentary research and its analysis, survey reports, measured drawings or photogrammetric surveys, design work, including specification of works, funding applications and applications for statutory and other consents.

Candidates are required to cover the following elements:

1.1

Identify and research sources relating to the historical, cultural, social and emotional development of sites (including physical evidence, documents and visual sources)

1.2

Assess and analyse these sources in relation to the site's historical, cultural, social and emotional significance and its sustained use/re-use.

1.3

Define a philosophical approach to the conservation of a site including principles of conservation and development of a conservation plan/strategy based on this.

Unit Two Site Analysis and Intervention

Buildings and sites are valued because of their significance to a range of interest groups and for a variety of reasons. They will have established value through use which has developed over time and will have established significance historically, for past, present and future generations. An asset may be recognised as an example of building type, famous designer's work, historical style or social change; as such its value needs to be identified and protected. Any intervention, however small, is likely to affect appearance and consequently architectural value. This unit is designed to assess a practitioner's expertise and ability in recognising and assessing architectural quality and social value in order that conservation work, whether it be a whole site or building element(s) is undertaken with full knowledge and appreciation of its potential impact upon existing architectural quality and social value.

Evidence can be derived from dealing with physical decay of buildings, their everyday maintenance and adapting buildings for alternate, sustainable usage where the principles of conservation (minimal intervention, reversibility, minimal loss of fabric, transparency of intervention and preservation of authenticity and integrity) are applied. Forms of evidence may include: building and/or area analysis through character statements, drawings and specification proposals, development of alternative proposals and analysis of options, procurement factors, funding applications, applications for statutory and other consents and reports on relevant issues.

Candidates are required to provide evidence to cover the following elements:

2.1

Identify, survey and analyse existing qualities of a site or building element (in terms of factors such as location, concept, spatial relationships (including between buildings, each other, open spaces and surrounding countryside), proportion, light, detailing, materials, physical condition and economic viability)

2.2

Analyse and assess gathered evidence in relation to any proposed intervention

2.3

Identify what work must be undertaken as a result of the site assessment and assess the implications

2.4

Identify vulnerable aspects of a site from the investigation

2.5

Undertake a critical analysis of possible solutions to technical or functional problems of the following forms of intervention and fully consider their implications on existing architectural quality and value: repair, maintenance and other interventions; rebuilding; interventive landscaping; public safety measures and introduction of modern services

Unit Three Investigation, Materials and Technology

Buildings and sites are valued because of their significance and value to their current owner/user as well as local/national/international culture as a whole in the past, present and future and so successful conservation requires incorporation of specialised/additional technical factors to ensure that special values are identified and protected. This could include balancing the need for current regulation conformation with its implications to the site and identifying, rectifying and minimising environmental and other deterioration. This unit is designed to assess a practitioner's expertise with respect to condition surveys and investigation of defects, their symptoms and causes. It will also assess their ability to make balanced, defensible decisions in order to resolve the physical, aesthetic and philosophical issues presented.

Evidence can be derived from dealing with physical decay of buildings, their everyday maintenance and adapting buildings for alternate, sustainable usage where the principles of conservation (minimal intervention, reversibility, minimal loss of fabric, transparency of intervention and preservation of authenticity and integrity) are applied. Forms of evidence may include: technical reports; survey reports; structural appraisals; procurement factors; defects diagnosis; condition assessment and investigative reports and design work, including specification.

Candidates are required to provide evidence to cover the following elements:

3.1

Identify and formulate an appropriate survey methodology through the evidence presented on site

3.2

Decide upon the need for and use of specialists

3.3

Identify and critically analyse original construction process and technology and any subsequent intervention

3.4

Identify and assess evidence of constructional defects, defects in the building's structure/foundations, defective or damaged materials and the likely causes of these defects/decay/damage

3.5

Assess the impact of the constructional defects, structural defects and defective/decayed materials on surrounding materials and the overall integrity of the element or structure, and estimate the likely rate of continuing deterioration or spread throughout the element/structure (including effects of climate)

3.6

Identify what work must be undertaken as a result of the investigations and assess the implications

3.7

Identify and assess the range of available repair techniques to resolve a problem of material decay/damage, construction or structural failure to preserve the significance of the site or building.

Unit Four Social and Financial Issues

A vital skill for a conservation practitioner is the ability to identify and understand the various social and financial issues that form part of the process of conservation intervention such as the level of the public's understanding of the site, factors affecting its significance and identifying and use of sources of funding. Buildings and sites are valued because of their significance and representation to their current owner/user as well as local/national culture as a whole in the past, present and future and so any intervention should ensure that special values are protected. Within this context, the site along with its specific qualities and requirements are of primary importance and should be used to guide any methodology and strategy developed in order to support their protection. This unit is designed to assess a practitioner's expertise with respect to making balanced, defensible decisions with respect to their impact upon significance and contextual factors and that they are able to develop these in order to resolve the social and economic issues that threaten the significance of a site.

Evidence can be derived from dealing with physical decay of buildings, their everyday maintenance and adapting buildings for alternate, sustainable usage where the principles of conservation (minimal intervention, reversibility, minimal loss of fabric, transparency of intervention and preservation of authenticity and integrity) are applied. Forms of evidence may include: survey and valuation reports; feasibility studies and reports; reports on technical or legal matters; financial or economic appraisals; funding applications; applications for statutory and other consents and design work, including specification.

Candidates are required to provide evidence to cover the following elements:

4.1

Analyse and assess the value of a building or site of significance using appropriate methodologies [such as condition or measured survey, taking into account factors such as functional obsolescence, planning and other legal restrictions and responsibilities] and look at it in relation to the property market

4.2

Identify and analyse public use, perception, expectation and the level of public understanding of a site and analyse likely contributory causes

4.3

Identify, analyse and assess the impact of external factors affecting a site of significance such as vibration, weather, mining subsidence, pollution, vandalism and theft, and apply appropriate measures to protect the site's significance

4.4

Identify, understand and apply local and national government legislative controls [including listed building and ancient monument status, planning and building control, enforcement and appeal procedures, compulsory repair and acquisition]

4.5 Develop a feasibility study for appropriate and sustainable re-use of a site of significance and identify compatible re-users

4.6

Identify available sources of funding [such as private, public, charitable, local, national and international] and clarify eligibility and complete appropriate application procedures

4.7

Identify, assess and use relevant methods of promoting and improving public understanding of a site, whilst ensuring minimum disruption to its significance [using methods such as printed and electronic material, websites, public consultation, the media and influential figures]

Unit Five Implementation and Management of Conservation Works

A conservation practitioner will have good working experience of adopting appropriate contractual and management methodology when implementing conservation works/projects. Candidates are expected to demonstrate that he or she has adopted appropriate contractual arrangements, understanding cost control procedures and the need for appointing specialist contractors (when required) and can provide evidence of management methodology appropriate to conservation work. Buildings and sites are valued because of their significance and representation to their current owner/user as well as local/national culture as a whole in the past, present and future and so any intervention should ensure that special values are protected. Understanding the cultural significance of a site is vital for successful conservation and sensitive historical, architectural and archaeological issues will likely influence the aspects of construction such as schedule, contractors and specialist skills required. This unit is designed to assess a practitioner's expertise with respect to implementing financial and managerial aspects of a conservation plan or project without damaging or compromising the cultural significance of the site, to put in place appropriate management methodologies to ensure its sustained use/re-use.

Evidence can be derived from dealing with physical decay of buildings, their everyday maintenance and adapting buildings for alternate, sustainable usage where the principles of conservation (minimal intervention, reversibility, minimal loss of fabric and preservation of authenticity and integrity) are applied. Forms of evidence may include: construction process; risk analysis; contractual and tender documentation or reports; cost planning and cost control documentation; photographic and other records of the works on site; maintenance plans and monitoring and reviewing proposals/plans.

Candidates are required to provide evidence to cover the following elements:

5.1

Identify the extent and standard of work required including the comparative assessment of suitable contractors or specialists and their competency and preparedness to undertake the works

5.2

Select the most appropriate means of procuring the works [where the conservation outcome can be achieved whilst providing value for money and protection of interests] and the most suitable contractual form

5.3

Establish appropriate methods of recording information and maintain these records

5.4

Identify and make any special provisions according to the significance and needs of the site

5.5

Establish and evaluate costs in relation to sites of significance and carry out appropriate cost control procedures [such as assessment and reconciliation of tenders and estimates, monitoring costs and risk analysis, pricing and management]

5.6

Effectively plan site supervision and management in accordance with the conservation strategy [including protecting vulnerable elements of significance and establishing procedures for notification of, and response to, discoveries on site]

5.7

Identify maintenance needs and develop short and long term maintenance plans for a site of significance in accordance with its conservation strategy

5.8

Identify, assess and modify the impact of visitors to a site of significance [including income, perception, erosion/damage and visitor facilities]

5.9

Formulate a suitable organisational system for long-term monitoring and review of a site's significance and conservation [including condition, significance, conservation, staffing and funding]

Addressing the criteria

Candidates must have obtained relevant conservation knowledge, experience and responsibility to a level that they can demonstrate the elements shown within the five units. The Assessors will judge each candidate's level of attainment of the elements against their area of work as described within their application and its importance.

Mapping

The five units and the criteria are based on the *International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) Guidelines for Education and Training* and CIF, which is the International Training Committee of ICOMOS.

The table below shows the mapping of the five units against the ICOMOS standards, CIF standards, as well as the standards for Chartered Architectural Technologist, MCIAT, which is found within the *Professional Standards Framework*.

Scheme units	ICOMOS	CIF	MCIAT
Unit One — Philosophy of Conservation	A B C	A B C D	ES PS
Unit Two — Site Analysis and Intervention	B C E F	A B C D F	ES PS
Unit Three — Investigation, Materials and Technology	D F G H J K L	C F G H I J K M	ES PS
Unit Four — Social and Financial Issues	I J N	G H L	ES PS
Unit Five — Implementation and Management of Conservation Works	H J K M N	E G H I J K L	ES PS

Key

ICOMOS — International Council on Monuments and Sites
icomos.org/en/charters-and-texts/179-articles-en-francais/ressources/charters-and-standards/187-guidelines-for-education-and-training-in-the-conservation-of-monuments-ensembles-and-sites

CIF — International Training Committee (Comité international de la Formation)

http://cif.icomos.org/pdf_docs/CIF%20Meetings/Guidelines/ICOMOS_CIF_UK_DRAFT_Guidelines_Practitioners.pdf

ES — Educational Standards
ciat.org.uk

PS — Practice Standards
ciat.org.uk

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