

Workshop: Conserving the Past

Pupils will explore conservation as a career and find out what our conservators do and why they do it. They will experiment on documents to discover how best to care for them and learn handling and packaging skills to keep documents safe for the future.

Duration: 105 minutes Audience: KS3 Location: WYHC

Learning Objectives:

- To introduce archive material and Archives as a source of information about the past
- To introduce conservation as a profession
- To explore the properties of materials and draw conclusions about data collected
- To learn new skills in document handling and packaging

Workshop Overview

Activity	Content	Timings and resources
Welcome and introduction	Meet and greet Why are you here? What are we going to do today? Housekeeping	5 mins
Introduction to archives and conservation	What is an archive and what do we do at WYHC? Show handling collection What is conservation? Meet a conservator	15 mins
Activity 1: Tour	Visit to freezer then conservation studio Visit to store	20 mins
Activity 2: Experiments	Hand groups document folder Explain experiments and activity set up Iron Gall Ink experiment Cobb test PH test Insect matching activity Discuss results	30 mins
Activity 3: Storing documents	Explain packaging activity Package a document in the way you think will best look after the document Discuss what each group has done and why – choose the best	25 mins
Plenary	Recap session asking questions about archive and activities What have you learnt? What have you enjoyed?	10 mins