CHAPTER OF CONSERVATION ARCHITECTS

Standard of knowledge, skill and competence

Areas of Competence

The Board will assess demonstrated evidence of the competencies below:

1A – Conservation philosophy, doctrine and ethical principles

2A – Identification and evaluation of cultural significance

2B – Research, analysis, recording and interpretation

2C – Using significance to determine conservation policy and intervention

2D – Assessment of heritage impact

3A – Condition assessment, diagnosis and investigation

3B – Technical and regulatory strategies for intervention

3C – Drawings, specifications and intervention design

3D – Temporary works, demolition, dismantling and shoring

3E – Repair, restoration and consolidation techniques

3F – Building services, environmental performance and sustainable upgrading

3G – Maintenance, management and long-term conservation

4A – Management, coordination and implementation of conservation works

4B – Communication, consultation and stakeholder engagement

4C – Statutory, regulatory and professional obligations

4D – Documentation, site-stage review and recording of conservation works

4E – Procurement, contractual arrangements and legal agreements

Expected levels of competence

PHILOSOPHY & PRINCIPLES OF CONSERVATION

1A Conservation philosophy, doctrine and ethical principles

Member	Fellow
Understanding and ability to interpret and apply conservation principles to project decisions, including the ability to explain why a proposed intervention is appropriate to the significance and condition of the asset.	Advanced ability to reconcile competing conservation philosophies and project requirements; to lead principled decision-making in complex cases; and to contribute to the development, interpretation or dissemination of conservation standards, policy, guidance or knowledge.

EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

2A Identification and evaluation of cultural significance

Member	Fellow
Ability to evaluate and articulate significance, including the relative significance of fabric, features, spaces, setting and associations, and to use architectural history and physical evidence to inform that evaluation.	Ability to evaluate significance in highly complex buildings, ensembles and sites where multiple periods, values, stakeholders or cultural assets overlap, and to guide others in resolving competing heritage values.

2B Research, analysis, recording and interpretation

Member	Fellow
Ability to carry out, commission, interpret and synthesise research, analysis and recording for conservation documentation, reports and project decisions.	Ability to devise and lead research and recording strategies for complex or highly significant assets, integrating multidisciplinary evidence and identifying uncertainty, gaps in knowledge and priorities for further investigation.

2C Using significance to determine conservation policy and intervention

Member	Fellow
Ability to translate an assessment of significance into conservation policies, priorities, design parameters and proportionate interventions.	Ability to lead significance-led decision-making where competing values, uses, statutory requirements or development objectives require a balanced and clearly reasoned conservation strategy.

2D Assessment of heritage impact

Member	Fellow
Ability to assess heritage impact, compare alternatives, justify mitigation measures and prepare or contribute substantially to Architectural Heritage Impact Assessments and equivalent heritage assessments.	Ability to lead heritage impact assessment for assets, ensembles or settings of the highest significance and/or complexity, including the assessment of cumulative, indirect and contextual impacts and the resolution of major competing requirements.

CONSERVATION TECHNOLOGY

3A Condition assessment, diagnosis and investigation

Member	Fellow
Ability to assess and record condition; diagnose or coordinate diagnosis of building pathology; identify causes rather than symptoms; and commission, interpret and integrate appropriate structural, material or scientific investigations within a conservation strategy.	Ability to lead multidisciplinary condition assessment and diagnostic strategies for complex or highly significant assets, prioritise risk and repair, and coordinate conservation plans addressing interacting structural, material, environmental and heritage issues.

3B Technical and regulatory strategies for intervention

Member	Fellow
Ability to formulate and justify strategies that reconcile conservation objectives with applicable technical and regulatory requirements for buildings and sites of significance.	Ability to lead the development of integrated strategies for highly significant or complex assets where compliance objectives, performance requirements and conservation values are in tension.

3C Drawings, specifications and intervention design

Member	Fellow
Knowledge and ability to prepare coordinated drawings, details, specifications and schedules for repairs, alterations and conservation interventions, selecting materials and methods appropriate to the asset and its significance.	Advanced ability to develop and review conservation documentation for complex works to highly significant buildings, ensembles and sites, including bespoke details, sequencing, trials, performance requirements and specialist interfaces.

3D Temporary works, demolition, dismantling and shoring

Member	Fellow
Ability to identify heritage risks, define conservation requirements and coordinate mitigation measures with the relevant structural and technical specialists.	Ability to lead multidisciplinary conservation review of complex temporary works, demolition, dismantling or shoring proposals, including the evaluation of alternatives and protection of significance throughout implementation.

3E Repair, restoration and consolidation techniques

Member	Fellow
Ability to select, justify, specify and evaluate repair, restoration and consolidation approaches based on diagnosis, significance, evidence, trials and current best practice, while recognising when specialist conservator-restorer or scientific input is required.	Advanced knowledge and judgement in the selection and evaluation of specialised or innovative interventions, including the ability to assess long-term consequences, uncertainty and risk in assets of high significance or complexity.

3F Building services, environmental performance and sustainable upgrading

Member	Fellow
Ability to develop and coordinate proportionate interventions that improve use, comfort, accessibility or environmental performance while safeguarding significance and avoiding unintended harm to historic fabric and building physics.	Ability to lead multidisciplinary review of complex service and environmental interventions, climate adaptation or major upgrades to highly significant assets, balancing performance, resilience, reversibility/retreatability where appropriate and conservation values.

3G Maintenance, management and long-term conservation

Member	Fellow
Ability to develop and implement maintenance, monitoring and management strategies that respond to significance, condition, use, resources and identified risks.	Ability to lead long-term conservation and asset-management strategies for complex buildings, ensembles and sites, balancing competing demands and establishing priorities, governance, monitoring and review mechanisms.

PROCUREMENT OF A CONSERVATION PROJECT

4A Management, coordination and implementation of conservation works

Member	Fellow
Ability to manage conservation projects and coordinate architects, engineers, conservator-restorers, archaeologists, craftspeople and other specialists in accordance with the conservation strategy and best practice.	Ability to lead complex multidisciplinary conservation projects, establish conservation priorities, resolve conflicts between disciplines and maintain conservation intent from inception through completion.

4B Communication, consultation and stakeholder engagement

Member	Fellow
Ability to communicate and defend conservation reasoning clearly to clients, authorities, specialists, contractors, communities and other stakeholders, and to structure consultation appropriate to the significance and scale of the project.	Ability to lead sensitive or complex consultation, reconcile competing stakeholder objectives and communicate conservation strategy in projects of the highest significance or public interest.

4C Statutory, regulatory and professional obligations

Member	Fellow
Ability to identify and address applicable statutory and regulatory obligations and to coordinate the conservation implications of requirements arising under planning, cultural heritage, building and other relevant frameworks.	Advanced ability to navigate complex statutory interfaces affecting highly significant assets, advise on conservation implications, coordinate engagement with relevant authorities and uphold the public-interest responsibilities of the Perit, including the protection of cultural heritage.

4D Documentation, site-stage review and recording of conservation works

Member	Fellow
Ability to produce and coordinate documentation describing conservation works and to undertake conservation-led review during implementation, including site inspections, samples, trials, discoveries, unforeseen conditions, changes to methodology and records of completed interventions.	Ability to establish and lead documentation, monitoring and review protocols for complex conservation works, ensuring that significant discoveries and changes are assessed, justified, recorded and incorporated into the conservation strategy.

4E Procurement, contractual arrangements and legal agreements

Member	Fellow
Understanding and ability to advise on conservation-specific requirements within procurement and contractual documentation, while recognising matters requiring legal or other specialist advice.	Advanced ability to develop and coordinate procurement strategies and conservation-specific contractual requirements for highly significant or complex works, including specialist interfaces, quality control, risk allocation and procedures for discoveries or changes.