



Conservation and Analysis are provided by specialists within the Conservation Teams of Birmingham Museums. With 800,000 objects, in nine venues, most are designated as being of national importance and many are world class. Hence its reputation as a centre of excellence across a wide spectrum of objects, and materials.

These include:

- ◆ The Staffordshire Hoard, the largest collection of Anglo-Saxon gold ever discovered
- ◆ The finest collection of Pre-Raphaelite art in the world

So, with this range of excellence, experience and expertise we can provide the help that you need for an individual Object, an Exhibition, a Collection, or a whole Museum project.

Object Conservation

The expert Teams can undertake conservation of two and three dimensional objects, including

- Surface cleaning
- Repair
- Stabilization and consolidation
- Micro-excavation
- Laser cleaning
- Photographic and documentation reports
- Object packing

The work is undertaken in the Conservation Studios at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, or in situ.

The team can also provide consultancy services for capital development, storage and related documents and funding bids, as well as other assessments and surveys.

Investigative Conservation and Analysis

Birmingham Museums has leading edge facilities and equipment, rarely available elsewhere in the UK.

The equipment includes:

- X-ray Fluorescence (XRF) – portable and table top
- Fourier Transform Infrared spectroscopy (FTIR)
- X-radiography – digital with high resolution
- 3-D Digital Microscopy, including surface mapping
- Polarised Light Microscopy
- Walk-in freezer
- Phoenix Nd YAG laser

This equipment is used by the Conservation Team as part of projects for clients.

Examples include:

- XRF - to identify metal alloys and heavy metal hazards
- FTIR – to identify plastics
- X-radiography – for the analysis of archaeological and museum objects
- 3-D Digital Microscopy – for surface mapping, and detailed imaging and measurement
- Polarised Light Microscopy – using light penetration for gem identification
- Freezing – most freezers have one “dry” setting. At Birmingham there is a second setting for treating “wet” materials, so flood damaged objects can be treated.
- Laser cleaning

Equipment and Studio Hire

This equipment is also available for use by qualified customers. In addition, space in our cutting edge Conservation Studios is available for short or long term professional hire.

Training and Advice

We run a range of standard courses, covering all aspects of Conservation.

We can also create bespoke courses to fit your exact requirements, as well as CPD. Courses can be run at your site or at Birmingham Museums.

Courses include:

- Basic Conservation – An Introduction
- Modern Materials
- Conservation Ethics
- Emergency Planning and Recovery
- Collections Storage
- Loans
- Packing & Handling
- The Museum Environment
- Benchmarks in Collections Care
- Risk Assessment and Hazards
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- Stop the Rot – An Introduction to Collections Care

A Centre of
Excellence