



## International Course on Stone Conservation SC13

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**SESSION:** Methodological approach to conservation interventions

**INSTRUCTOR:** Stephen Gee

**TIME:** Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> May/ 9:30 – 11:00 (1.5 hours)

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### SESSION OUTLINE

#### ABSTRACT

The Venice Charter and Burra Charter are useful documents for their theoretical approach and use of standard terminology.

Understanding the history of a place by gathering evidence forms a study of the historic development of the site. This leads to an identification and assessment of the attributes which make a place of value to society - its cultural significance - and an awareness of where that significance is vulnerable. Policies must be put in place to protect cultural significance so that it is retained, regained, revealed or at least impaired as little as possible.

Conservation strategies and priorities need to be designed and developed by the multidisciplinary team, generally led by an architect experienced in conservation of buildings. How does one make these decisions? What investigations need to be carried out? What informs the decision-making process? Careful assessment of all the alternatives is essential. The aesthetic impact of the solutions must also be evaluated against cultural significance.

#### OBJECTIVES

To demonstrate a methodological approach for determining the extent of conservation interventions.

#### CONTENT OUTLINE

- Theory and practice
- Setting up a basic standard procedure with policies appropriate to the property
- Recording the structure using various techniques
- Enabling works: conservation-based trials; geology/petrography; mortar, biocides, cleaning, archaeology, destructive vs non-destructive investigations, paint analysis etc to inform the decision and policy making process
- Setting priorities against economic resources
- Criteria: maximum retention of historic fabric with minimum intervention; availability of materials, techniques and craftspeople with knowledge; reversibility; authenticity of design, materials and workmanship

#### READINGS

No readings.

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