

# Principles of Conservation:

13 broad statements defining an ethical approach to items of cultural heritage

## Knowing why any action is proposed, and who is involved

1. The aim of the proposed action should be agreed with stakeholders, taking into account the demands which will be placed on the item, the goals of the stakeholders and the material needs of item. The option of no action should be investigated first.
2. The rationale for the proposed action needs to be clearly defined and understood before starting.
3. The action is appropriate, sustainable and effective in achieving the agreed aim with the least means possible.



## Understanding the issue

4. Decisions should be governed by thorough understanding of the item and its significance, including its tangible and intangible qualities.
5. Decisions are based on an understanding of the underlying causes of deterioration, which should be addressed



## Considering resources and constraints

6. Decisions are informed by an assessment of consequences, risks, and benefits.
7. Decisions and actions should draw on and provide appropriate skills and experience.
8. Aim for the best quality and most sustainable action achievable with available resources.



## Designing the action

9. Future use, planned maintenance, preservation and preventive measures should be considered when designing the action.
10. Actions should remain detectable.
11. Actions should allow future re-treatment and remain as reversible as possible.
12. Actions should only be undertaken where there is evidence to support the intended aims and the methods proposed for achieving



## Documentation

13. The action, or decision to take no action, is documented to the appropriate level of detail and include recommendations for the future maintenance and preservation of the item.

