



York Archaeological Trust

Conservation Services

*With over 25 years of
service, whether it be for
Pre-planning and on-site
Assessment of artefacts
Full X-radiography, for
Investigative conservation
Collections condition surveys
Teaching, training and
The York Archaeological
materials from waterlogged*



Removal of the marine encrustation from a 16th Century cast iron cannon recovered from an Elizabethan shipwreck off the island of Alderney, Channel Islands. Once all concretion has been removed the cannon is then desalinated to wash out harmful salts, a process that can take upwards of two to three years.

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Steam being applied to a marble bust in order to remove surface dirt. This was then followed by repeated applications of poultices to remove stubborn areas of soiling, paint and other marks. The bust of Mr Mackenzie, a member of the Newcastle Library committee in the 19th Century, is on display in the new central library in Newcastle.



With over 30 years experience, York Archaeological Trust's Conservation team offers clients a cost-effective and broad-based service, whether it be for routine conservation, or a solution to a unique problem. We deliver conservation expertise on a diverse range of materials and can provide the following services:

- On-site first-aid conservation including lifting of fragile artefacts
- Assessment of artefact assemblages for conservation and research
- X-radiography, photography and computer-based recording
- Investigative conservation for research and publication
- Display standard conservation and mount making
- Condition assessment surveys for collections, and advice on appropriate storage and display environments
- Conservation of artefacts from marine environments including large cast iron and bronze cannons

Our waterlogged organic section has gained an international reputation for the recording and conservation of waterlogged wood, leather and other organic materials from terrestrial and marine environments, and we operate one of the largest freeze-drying units used in archaeological conservation.

For further information, please contact Ian Panter, Principal Conservator.

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