Winchester Cathedral

Planning, commissioning and using conservation consultants when managing major projects
Kings and Scribes - The Birth of a Nation

Three key areas of work

- New Learning Centre
- Presbytery – conservation work
- South Transept – new exhibition
Commissioning conservation consultants
So just how many conservation consultants do you need?

- Architect
- Archaeologist
- Structural engineer
- Timber decay specialist
- Timber construction expert
- Paint analyst
- Wall paintings specialist
- Metalwork specialist
- Stained glass conservator
- Stonework conservator
- Sub specialist analysis of materials
- Non-destructive below ground investigations
- Geotechnical analysis
Consultants are often looking at materials and how they behave in their environment.

These materials reside within the building envelope.
Which present an external face...
...and an internal face.

The environment in which all these different materials sit is a key factor in understanding their behaviour.
Three thoughts on commissioning conservation consultants

- **Brief**: The brief is critical

- **Interrelationship of Disciplines**: A need for dialogue

- **Timing**: You cannot start too soon
Presbytery conservation work

A brief case study
Renewal of the lead roof coverings
Repair of the timber vault
Conservation of decorative paintwork
Conservation of the stained glass
Conservation of mortuary chests
Understanding the stained glass
Glass of different dates

Winchester Cathedral, Presbytery Clerestory

Distribution of surviving medieval and late medieval glass
Establishing a central data logger

Image courtesy of Tobit Curteis Associates
Establishing baseline data

Image courtesy of Tobit Curteis Associates
Assessing environmental impact

Image courtesy of Tobit Curteis Associates
Understanding the micro-climate

Image courtesy of Tobit Curteis Associates
Specialist glazier condition assessment

Winchester Cathedral
Presbytery Clerestory

An investigation into the condition
Of the stained glass with recommendations
towards a conservation strategy.

Prepared by Stephen Clare
Stained Glass Consultancy Limited:
July 2012

1. Window SIl. Panel 5d internal face.

Sample 2 is some surface layer but with an internal crust on the surface of the applied layer.

Questions:

- Is the crusted surface on the internal face of the applied layer different to the base material?
- Is it possibly due to microbial growth?
- Is it likely that the link between any microbial growth and the applied surface layer is a factor in the loss of painted detail?

* The layer appears to be an organic pigment - probably a thin wash of oil paint. There is evidence of microbial growth at the interface between the oil paint layer and the glass surface and on the inner surface of the oil paint layer.

Image courtesy of Stephen Clare
Key findings from the environmental monitoring included:

**Condensation** occurring on the glass on all elevations throughout the year being most pronounced between September and March and worst on the north windows.

Whilst the north was wetter the **number of wetting and drying cycles** was higher on the south side.

The **radiators in the feretory** were having little impact at high level.

The **pollutants** on the widows interact **with the condensation**, in this case not only external deposits but also internal one from previous Gurney stove heating systems.

The case for protective glazing was strong.
Current state of play

South side

North side
Design development informed by trials
The goal is to do the best we can to care for the glass for now…

… and in the future