

TRAINING SCHOOL PROGRAMME

Title: First aid, Analysis and Documentation of Excavated/Archaeological Textiles

Duration: 5 days (1 week)

Number of participants: 10

Dates: 22-26 August 2022

Venue: Centre for Textile Research / University of Copenhagen

Proposed programme

Day 1: lectures by invited speakers on the application of natural sciences to textile archaeology and discussion – presentations on state-of-the-art analytical techniques applied to archaeological textiles; Discussion on the advantages versus the disadvantages of instrumental analysis; and evaluation of the results.

Day 2: lectures and hands-on practice on first-aid, and packing of excavated textiles - lectures on first-aid and packing practices when retrieving textiles from excavations; hands-on practice, where the participants will excavate buried archaeological textiles (study pieces donated to CTR by the Museum of Copenhagen). During this practical participants will learn basic guidelines in handling excavated textiles, and become familiar with the properties and standards of the appropriate materials and methods used for storage.

Day 3: lectures on the conservation of excavated textiles, fibre identification, and hands-on practice on sampling and fibre identification - presentation of case studies of conservation of excavated textiles, and fibre identification; hands-on practice, where the participants will remove samples from their objects and attempt fibre identification using bench and digital optical microscopes. During this practical they will learn how to prepare fibre samples for identification.

Day 4: lectures and exercises on the documentation of excavated textiles - lectures on the information necessary for the creation of documentation forms; documentation exercises, technological analysis of their buried-now retrieved textiles. During this practical they will learn how to measure, describe, draw, and evaluate the condition of excavated textiles and see the benefits of the different magnifications offered by the microscopes.

Day 5: presentations by the participants and discussion of results- the participants will be presented by a scenario for their objects and budget available and will be asked to select the appropriate analytical method/s, and sampling method they will use, within their budget. Then they will present their results, along with first-aids and storage from Day2, fibre identification from Day3, and documentation from Day4 to the rest of the group. A discussion of how each case was approached and why, will follow.