

Specialist competence matrix – forensic Practitioner (PCIfA)

Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ability to understand archaeological problems, excavate, record, plan and draw sections rapidly.• Understand the role of photography in an investigation and direct photographers accordingly.• Basic knowledge of human skeletal components and their anthropological significance, familiarity with skeletal terminology.• Ability to keep up to date with developments in the field and to take active steps to maintain competence.
Autonomy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited task autonomy - may be assigned role of assisting.
Coping with complexity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basic knowledge of police structure, criminal investigation, and scene of crime infrastructure.
Perception of professional conduct	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understands role in team, and limitations of role.• Understands issues of confidentiality and sub-judice.• Demonstrates understanding of the ethical requirements of the <i>Code of conduct</i> and can apply to own work.• Upholds the values of the Institute to work in the public interest.

<p>Knowledge</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to understand archaeological problems, excavate, record, plan and draw sections rapidly. • Understand the role of photography in an investigation and direct photographers accordingly. • Basic knowledge of human skeletal components and their anthropological significance, familiarity with skeletal terminology. • Familiarity with electronic and conventional methods of survey, aerial photography, understanding of advantages and limitations of relevant geophysical techniques. • Ability to keep up to date with developments in the field and to take active steps to maintain competence.
<p>Autonomy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Lead Archaeologist but with considerable autonomy within delegated tasks
<p>Coping with complexity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad knowledge of police structure, criminal investigation, and scene of crime infrastructure. • Broad knowledge of appropriate legal framework, including court systems, disclosure and continuity of evidence. • Understanding of the evidential requirements of other scene of crime personnel, e.g. forensic scientist, entomologist.
<p>Perception of professional conduct</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands role in team, and limitations of role. • Ability to provide reports orally and in writing to colleagues, to communicate succinctly without excessive terminology. • Understands the ethical requirements of the <i>Code of conduct</i> and uses them to guide and review own practice and, where applicable, that of others. • Can recognise and resolve potential conflicts of interest within an established framework. • Upholds and promotes the values of the Institute to work in the public interest.

<p>Knowledge</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to understand complex archaeological problems, excavate, record, plan and draw sections rapidly. • Familiarity with electronic and conventional methods of survey, aerial photography, understanding of advantages and limitations of relevant geophysical techniques. • Understand the role of photography in an investigation and direct photographers accordingly. • Basic knowledge of human skeletal components and their anthropological significance, familiarity with skeletal terminology. • Ability to keep up to date with developments in the field and to take active steps to maintain competence.
<p>Autonomy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take role as Lead Archaeologist with reporting status. • Be able to make a practical contribution to a Search Strategy. • Confidently advise on the wider factors which influence search methodologies, the underlying principles of the techniques available, and, of their advantages and limitations. • Responsible (where appropriate for team selection).
<p>Coping with complexity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad knowledge of police structure, criminal investigation, scene of crime infrastructure and of the relevant criminal justice system and procedures. • A broad knowledge of landscape, soils and factors which dictate the selection of deposition sites. An awareness of what maps, pictorial and aerial imagery resources might be utilised to reconstruct landscapes (changes to tree lines, coastline etc.); and, have a working knowledge of both modern and older building constructions especially in terms of floors, walls, footings, subfloor deposits. • Understanding of the evidential requirements of other scene of crime personnel, eg forensic scientist, entomologist. • Being able to plan a systematic and sequenced excavation strategy that ensured the ‘best evidence’. • Broad knowledge of appropriate legal framework, including court systems, disclosure and continuity of evidence. • Ability to give advice confidently, to acknowledge boundaries of own expertise, to recommend others as appropriate, and ability to work independently, but within team. • Active participation within the CIfA Special Interest Group to encourage ‘good practice’.

Perception of professional conduct

- Ability to provide reports orally and in writing to colleagues, to communicate succinctly without excessive terminology, and to give evidence lucidly in court.
- To provide advice and to work in concert with the Police Search Adviser (POLSA), Police Search Team; and Police Dog handlers.
- To provide advice as to use of other specialists available to assist the search and location phase.
- To acknowledge boundaries of own expertise, to recommend others as appropriate, and ability to work independently but within team.
- Understands and gives clear leadership to archaeologists and other crime scene personnel with respect to extent and role of archaeological involvement in operation.
- Often provides Training Inputs to Police Forces or other investigative authorities.
- Demonstrates professional judgement and ethical behaviour across a wide variety of complex situations, supporting and encouraging others to do the same.
- Can anticipate, recognise, and resolve potential conflicts of interest.
- Promotes the values of the Institute to work in the public interest with colleagues, clients, and stakeholders.