

# Specialist competence matrix – forensic Practitioner (PCIfA)

<b>Knowledge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understands basic archaeological problems. Can excavate, record, plan and draw sections rapidly and compile Harris matrices.</li><li>• Understands the role of photography in an investigation.</li><li>• Basic knowledge of human skeletal components and their anthropological significance, familiarity with skeletal terminology.</li><li>• Keeps up to date with developments in the field and maintains CPD.</li><li>• Understands stratigraphic relationships and their use to determine chronological sequences.</li></ul>
<b>Autonomy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Limited task autonomy - may be assigned the role of assisting.</li><li>• Takes responsibility for own work under supervision.</li><li>• Understands role in the wider team.</li><li>• Demonstrates communication skills and understands importance of teamwork.</li></ul>
<b>Coping with complexity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Awareness of relevant police structure, criminal investigation, and scene of crime infrastructure.</li><li>• Awareness of and ability to follow procedures for avoiding contamination.</li><li>• Understanding of evidential chain.</li><li>• Aware of the need for appropriate PPE for dealing with Police Cases as opposed to general historical skeletal remains.</li></ul>
<b>Perception of professional context</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understands role in team, and limitations of role.</li><li>• Understands role of others in team attending the crime scene.</li><li>• Understands issues of confidentiality and sub-judice.</li><li>• Demonstrates understanding of the ethical requirements of the Code of conduct and can apply this to own work.</li><li>• Upholds the values of the Institute to work in the public interest.</li></ul>

<b>Knowledge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understands and can partly resolve archaeological problems. Can excavate, record, plan, and draw sections rapidly.</li><li>• Understands the role of photography in an investigation and can direct photographers accordingly.</li><li>• Good knowledge of human skeletal components and their anthropological significance, familiarity with skeletal terminology.</li><li>• Familiarity with electronic and conventional methods of survey, and aerial photography,</li><li>• Understanding of advantages and limitations of relevant geophysical techniques.</li><li>• Keeps up to date with developments in the field and takes active steps to maintain competence through CPD.</li><li>• Good understanding of stratigraphic relationships and their use to determine chronological sequences.</li></ul>
<b>Autonomy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Works with Lead Archaeologist but with considerable autonomy within delegated tasks.</li><li>• Describe your role in the team and how you take responsibility for your own work and make decisions, and where applicable responsibility of others.</li><li>• Understands role in the wider team.</li><li>• Outline your approach to keeping your knowledge up to date through CPD.</li></ul>
<b>Coping with complexity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Broad knowledge of relevant police structure, criminal investigation, and scene of crime infrastructure.</li><li>• Broad knowledge of appropriate legal framework, including court systems, disclosure and continuity of evidence.</li><li>• Understanding of the evidential requirements of other scene of crime personnel, e.g. forensic scientist, entomologist.</li><li>• Awareness and understanding of DVI protocols and Interpol forms.</li></ul>

Please go to the next page for Perception of professional context

### **Perception of professional context**

- 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 Code of conduct 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.

### Knowledge

- Substantial knowledge of a broad range of complex archaeological problems, excavation, recording and planning and the relevant legislation that underpins it.
- Substantial understanding of the advantages and limitations of electronic and conventional methods of survey, aerial photography, and relevant geophysical techniques. Include how you evaluate established and new techniques and approaches.
- Substantial understanding of the role of photography in an investigation and can direct photographers accordingly.
- Substantial knowledge of human skeletal components, their anthropological significance, and skeletal terminology.
- Keeps up to date with developments in the field and to takes active steps to maintain competence through CPD.
- have a working knowledge of both modern and older building constructions especially in terms of floors, walls, footings, and subfloor deposits.
- Understanding of the physical characteristics of a wide range of natural and anthropogenic formation processes and their differentiation from soils deposited as a result of human activities, eg alluvial (including high and low energy soil deposition), colluvial, and wind-blown soils.
- Detailed familiarity with the use of historical and modern maps and other imagery to track and describe changes to the landscape over time (desk-based assessment) to anticipate the presence of sub-surface features, ground-level anomalies, and identify features that pre- or post-date the timescales relevant to the investigation.

Please go to the next pages for Autonomy and Coping with complexity

<b>Autonomy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Describe role as Lead Archaeologist with reporting status. Explain the approaches used to achieve successful outcomes in a leading role.</li><li>• Can make a practical contribution to a Search Strategy.</li><li>• Confidently advise on the wider factors which influence search methodologies, the underlying principles of the techniques available, and, of their advantages and limitations.</li><li>• Where appropriate responsible for team selection.</li><li>• Can assess gaps in your own knowledge and explain how you address these through CPD. Where applicable, include your responsibility for CPD of others.</li><li>• Ability to work independently, but within team.</li></ul>
<b>Coping with complexity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demonstrate broad knowledge of relevant police structure, criminal investigation, scene of crime infrastructure and of the relevant criminal justice system and procedures.</li><li>• Demonstrate an understanding of factors which dictate the selection of deposition sites.</li><li>• Demonstrate understanding of the evidential requirements of other scene of crime personnel, e.g. forensic scientist, entomologist, understanding the structure of evidence recovery and avoid impeding others in the team.</li><li>• Can plan a systematic and sequenced excavation strategy that ensures the 'best evidence'.</li><li>• Demonstrate broad knowledge of appropriate legal framework, including court systems, disclosure and continuity of evidence.</li><li>• Demonstrate ability to give advice confidently, to acknowledge boundaries of own expertise, to recommend others as appropriate.</li><li>• Substantial understanding of DVI protocols and Interpol forms, particularly when attending Coroners Court.</li><li>• Demonstrate your professional judgement to solve problems and deal with conflicts of interest.</li></ul>

Please go to the next page for Perception of professional context

### Perception of professional context

- Ability to provide reports orally and in writing to colleagues, to communicate succinctly without excessive terminology, and to give evidence lucidly in court (where relevant).
- Can provide advice and work with the Police Search Adviser (POLSA), Police Search Team, Police dog handlers, digital teams, relevant search teams and other specialists.
- Can provide advice as to the use of other specialists available to assist the search and location phase.
- Active participation within the CI/fA Special Interest Group to encourage 'best practice'.
- Understands and gives clear leadership to archaeologists and other crime scene personnel with respect to extent and role of archaeological involvement in operation.
- May provide 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.
- Promotes the values of the Institute to work in the public interest with colleagues, clients, and stakeholders.
- Demonstrates full understanding of the implications of the duties expected of an expert witness within the relevant court system.