

The Richard Bright Papers

Prior to the project- from 1983 to September 2014

We didn't know very much about the collection:

- Two boxes containing the unknown number of folded letters, notebooks and sketchbooks.
- Not individually catalogued.
- Believed to be the early 19th century materials.
- Unidentified correspondents and addressees.
- Remained untouched and inaccessible since the accession.



MC 116/299 (part), 633 x 7



MC 116/299 (part), 633 x 8

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All of the unknown factors came as a result of poor condition of the items.



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2014 Scoping Study

Funded by the Wellcome Trust

To determine the extent of work required to make the papers accessible.

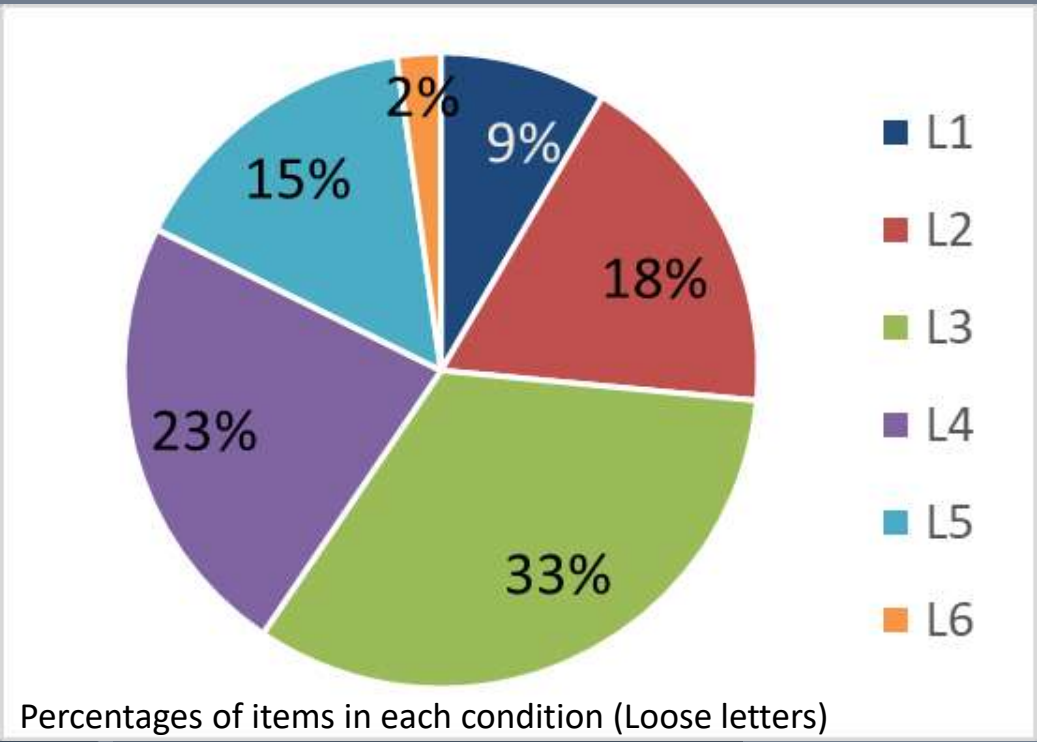
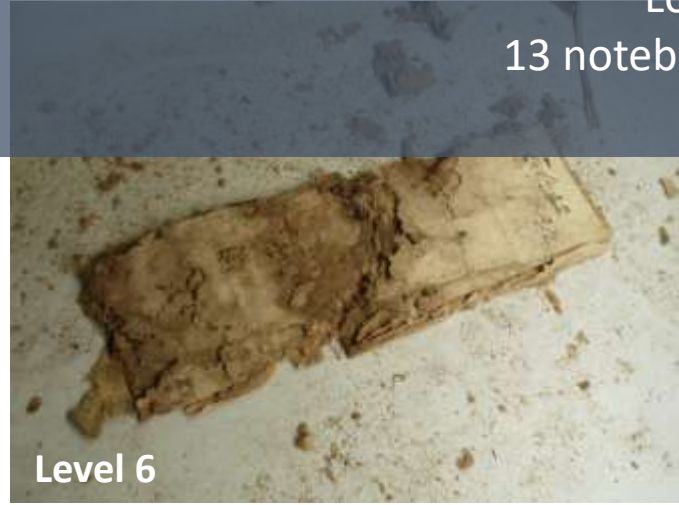
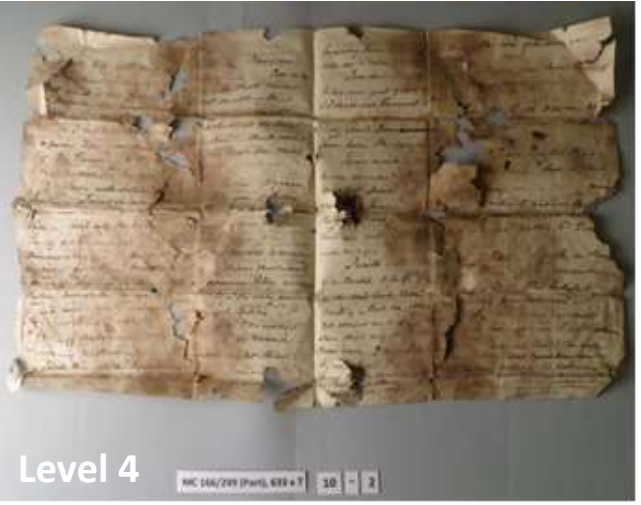
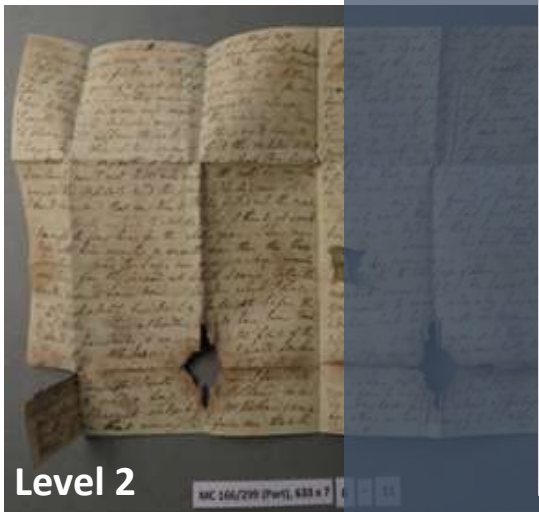


Methodology:

- Compiling comprehensive condition report: including investigation of the types of ink and paper
- Categorising all the items according to six condition levels: level 1 to 6 – 1 being the least damaged whilst 6 denoted those items most severely degraded
- Establishing a suitable conservation procedure appropriate to each group
- Estimating treatment times and costings for the project

2014 Scoping Study

Condition level 1 - 6



Estimated number of items:
Loose letter: 849
13 notebook pages: 834
Total: 1683

2014 Scoping Study

Development of treatment method and trial

-Common treatment procedures for items rated in condition levels 1 to 5



2014 Scoping Study

Assessing treatment times of items in each condition level

The study revealed:

- Total duration of the treatment: 712days = (3.16 years)
- Total = 4.48 years
- Level of skill required: Highly skilled



Level 6; MC 116x299 (part), 633x8, 11-10, Detail

Condition level Treatment and related preparations		Level 1		Level 2		Level 3		Level 4		Level 5	
Unfolding		3		3		5		10		15	
Cleaning		10		10		5					
Preparation for temporary facing (incl. humidification and drying)		30 mins/5 items: <u>6</u>		30 mins/5 items: <u>6</u>		30 mins/3 items: <u>10</u>		30 mins/3 items: <u>10</u>		30 mins/3 items: <u>10</u>	
Temporary facing prior to aqueous treatment				30		40		100		150	
Preparation of aqueous treatment		30 mins/5 items: <u>6</u>		30 mins/5 items: <u>6</u>		30 mins/3 items: <u>10</u>		30 mins/3 items: <u>10</u>		30 mins/3 items: <u>10</u>	
Wetting	Ultrasonic mist	20 mins/5 items: <u>4</u>		20 mins/5 items: <u>4</u>		20 mins /3 items: <u>7</u>					
	Zorbix							45 mins /3 items: <u>15</u>		45 mins /3 items: <u>15</u>	
Washing (twice)	Immersion	30 mins /5 items: <u>6</u>		30 mins /5 items: <u>6</u>							
	Screen float					30 mins/3 items: <u>10</u>		30 mins/3 items: <u>10</u>		45 mins /3 items: <u>15</u>	
Treatment with Calcium Phytate solution + washing	Immersion	30 mins /5 items: <u>6</u>		30 mins /5 items: <u>6</u>							
	Screen float					30 mins/3 items: <u>10</u>		30 mins/3 items: <u>10</u>		45 mins /3 items: <u>15</u>	
Alkalisisation with Ca(HCO3)2	Immersion	15 mins/5 items: <u>3</u>		15 mins /5 items: <u>3</u>							
	Screen float					15 mins/3 items: <u>5</u>		21 mins/3 items: <u>7</u>		21 mins/3 items: <u>7</u>	
Preparation of drying and flattening		20 mins /5 items: <u>4</u>		20 mins /5 items: <u>4</u>		15 mins /3 items: <u>5</u>		15 mins/3 items: <u>5</u>		15 mins /3 items: <u>5</u>	
Repair prior to lining or sizing		S	20	S	40	L	90	L	120	L	150
Infilling (incl. prep)				40							
Preparation for lining or sizing		S	30 mins /5 items: <u>6</u>	S	30 mins /5 items: <u>6</u>	L	75 mins /6 items: <u>12.5</u>	L	75 mins /6 items: <u>12.5</u>	L	75 mins /6 items: <u>12.5</u>
Lining 1 or sizing		S	30 mins /5 items: <u>6</u>	S	30 mins /5 items: <u>6</u>	L	45 mins /6 items: <u>7.5</u>	L	45 mins /6 items: <u>7.5</u>	L	45 mins /6 items: <u>7.5</u>
Lining 2								L	45 mints /6 items: <u>7.5</u>	L	45 mints /6 items: <u>7.5</u>
Preparation for drying and flattening		20 mins / 5 items: <u>4</u>		20 mins/ 5 items : <u>4</u>		30 mins / 6 item: <u>5</u>		30 mins / 6 items: <u>5</u>		30 mins / 6 items: <u>5</u>	
Trimming the excess		10		10		15		15		15	
Time per sheet (min / item)		88		184		237		337		439	
Time per sheet (hour / item)		1.5		3.1		4.0		5.6		7.3	

2017-2019 Phase 1 Conservation

Funded by the Wellcome Trust

Appointing Project Conservator – David Parker

The aim of the project:

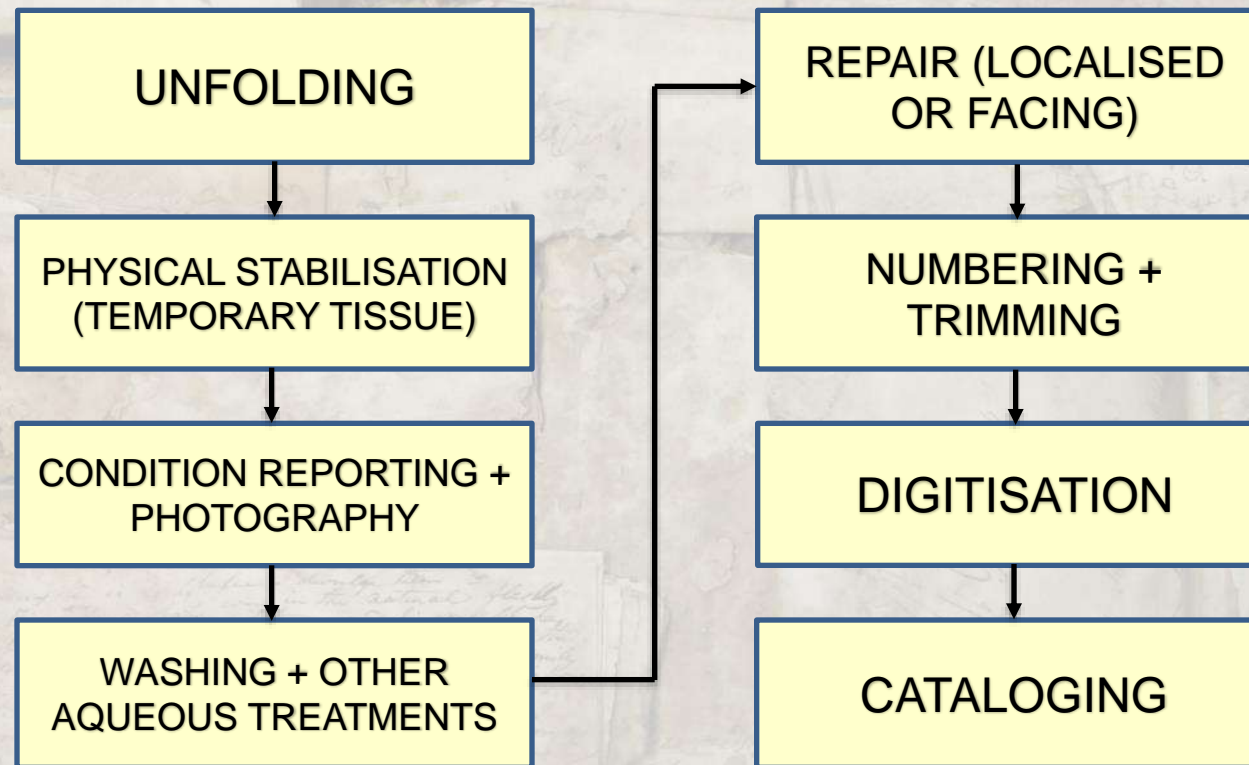
- To allow this resource to be fully accessible to researchers via high resolution digital images in conjunction with an extensive catalogue.

Tasks:

- Treatment of the first of the two boxes ('Box 8') containing 403 letters and 6 notebooks and sketchbooks with 395 pages.
- Digitisation of the conserved items
- Re-boxing of the collection

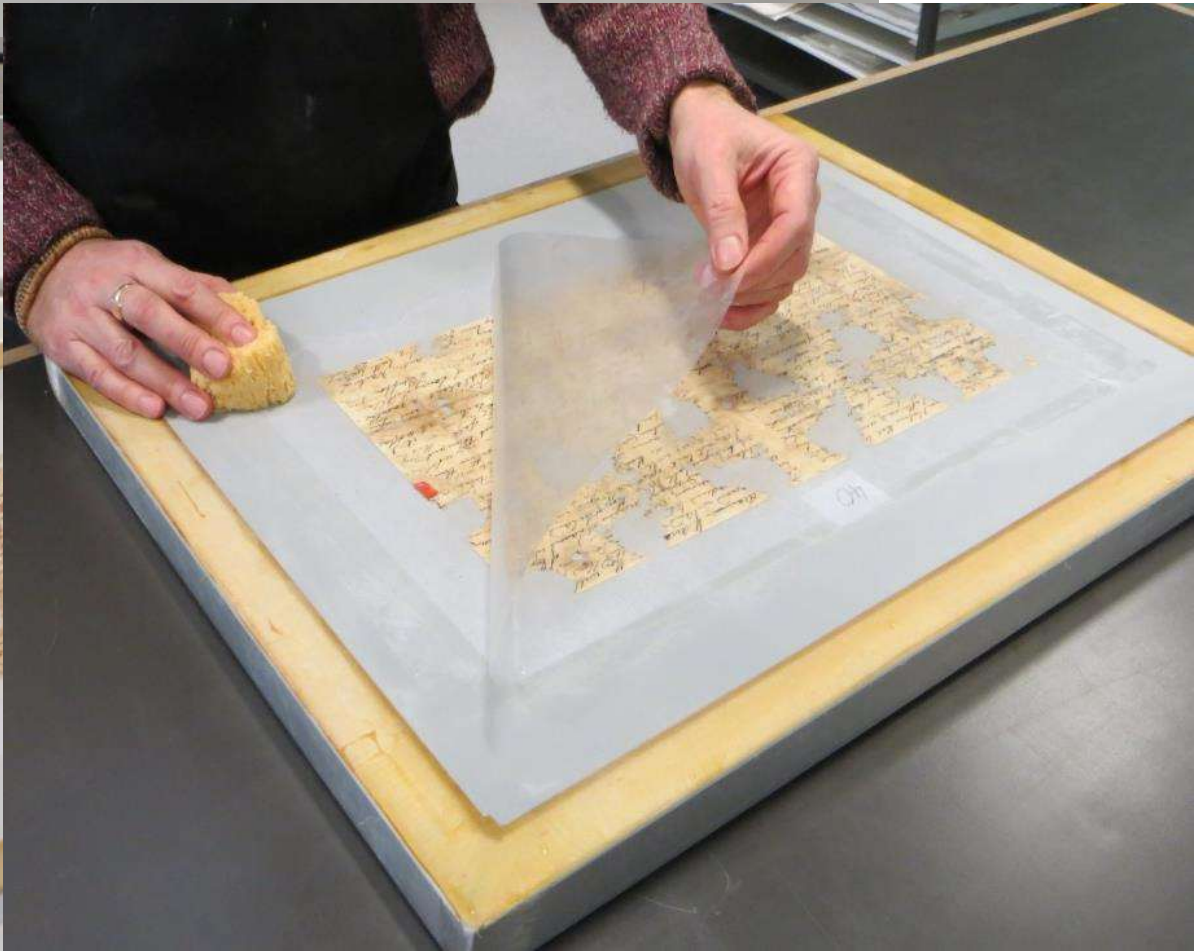
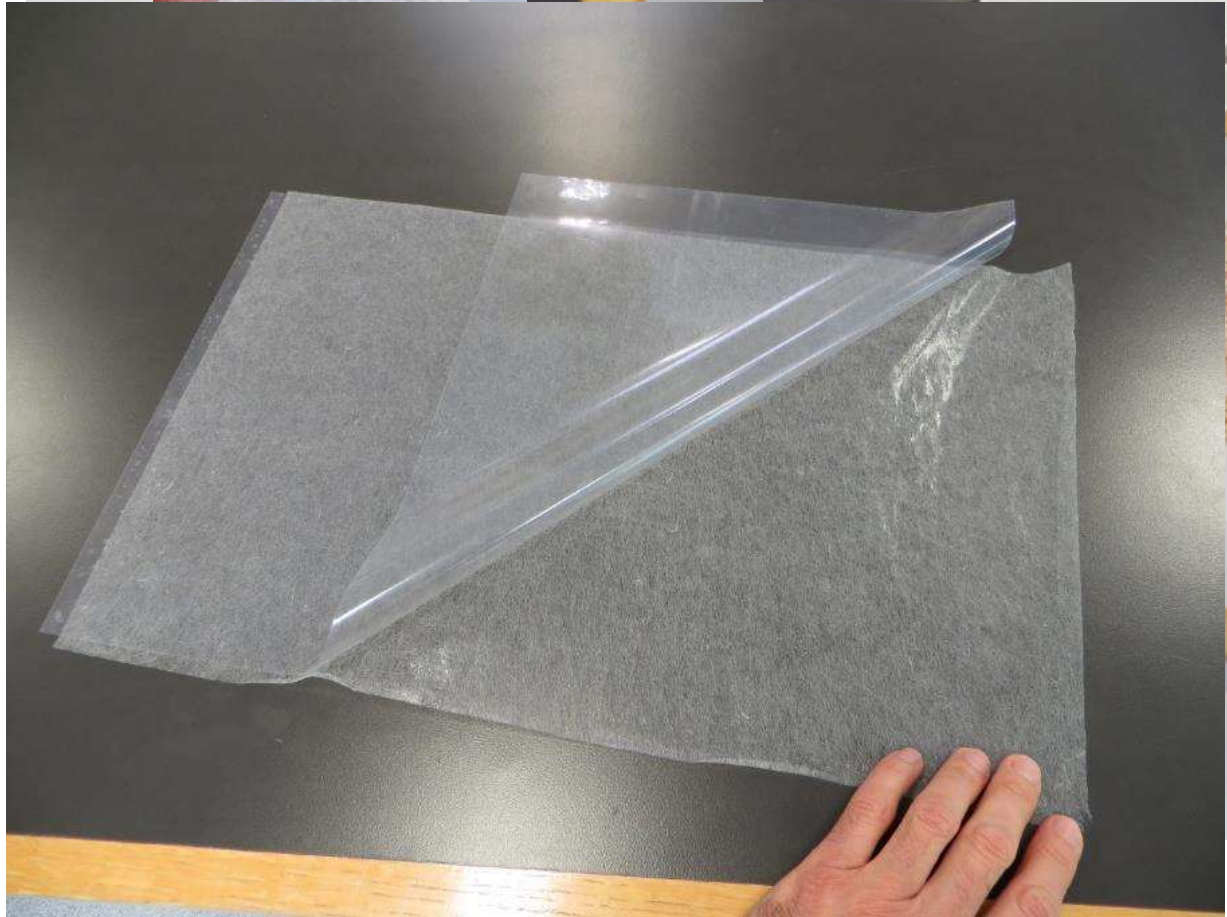


Treatment - Work Flow



Source: David Parker, Project Conservator, Norfolk Record *Office 'Intensive Care for Poorly Papers' Conserving the letters and notebooks of Dr. Richard Bright*, Archives and Records Association, UK and Ireland Annual Conference: 29 to 31 August 2018, Glasgow, UK

2017-2019 Phase 1 Coservation



2020-2021 Phase 2 Conservation

The aim:

- To complete the project; conserving the remaining collection consisting of 7 notebooks and 493 letters.

Financial support:

- Supported by partially the Wellcome Trust, the National Manuscript Conservation Trust and private supports.

Achieved:

- Conserved 225 loose papers (46%) and 7 notebooks
- Digitisation
- Re-boxing



Outcome of the project and the Future of the collection

Outcome of the project:

- Providing safe access to the contents – the digital images of the items
- The original items are viewable under conservator's supervision.

The future of the collection-The remaining work:

Completion of conservation treatment;

- 268 letters in 'Box 7': 30% of the total number of letters
- It is estimated that the remaining work will require 11 months.

Cataloguing to item level;

- Every item will be catalogued to item level in line with ISAD(G) (International Standard of Archive Description). Authority records will be created and linked to the item level descriptions. These will cover personal names, places and subjects.

Sharing the descriptive metadata and digital images online:

Promoting the resource

