# APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION FOR DESTRUCTIVE SAMPLING OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIAL

Applicant surname: ………………..……………..First name(s)…………………………..Title……

Affiliated institution:

…………………..………………………….………………………………..…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………. Telephone No .………………………………………………

Email……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Supervisor/Referee………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Site code(s) for material involved (expand if necessary):

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Proposed dates for access: From………………………………….to…….……………………….

Requires return visits? (YES/NO)

Artefact/bone/tooth description and size (and/or weight) of sample(s) required …………………………….. ………………………………………………………………………………………………………….……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

Please provide reasons why this number of samples is required ………………………………………………………………………………………………………….……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

Description of research proposal: include details of the project, its justification, methodology and your experience in undertaking such work (continue on a separate sheet as necessary)

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Where will the samples be analysed? If they are being sent overseas, please provide an explanation why

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Please justify why your research must be undertaken on MOLA collections?

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Please justify why non-destructive methods cannot be used to answer your research question/s?

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How will your research be presented and what is the predicted timescale for this? (eg dissertation, thesis, conference paper, publication)

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I have read and agree to the CONDITIONS overleaf

Signed:………………………………………………………Date:…………………………………………………………………

## Conditions of destructive sampling

### **Application process**

Applicants must give **at least one month’s notice** of the proposed date for access and should not make arrangements to visit until they have confirmation of the success of their application.

1. In the first instance, the Team Leader ead of the relevant section will decide the merits of all applications. They may also seek internal or external advice
2. Any application which involves research on a collection which has not been formally deposited in the archive must also be passed by the relevant Project Manager
3. At the earliest stage possible any researcher wishing to take samples for destructive analyses or to otherwise be removed from MOLA premises, must provide a comprehensive list of material to be sampled. This must include site code, context number, element and size of sample required
4. Research designs should be drawn up in such a way as to make best use of any samples taken, for example the targeting of samples to allow more than one type of analysis or more than one project to be served by the same sample
5. When drawing up final research designs the applicant should consider costs they will incur from bench fees, photography, printing and postage/transport of material for return

### **Limitations and grounds for refusal**

1. Destructive sampling will not normally be considered for unique artefacts or for pathological elements of human or animal bone
2. Sampling of named individuals and material of great archaeological significance will rarely be permitted, and then only if the research proposal can be shown to adequately justify the use of this specific material
3. When sampling human remains, only one tooth and/or one bone sample in total will usually be permitted per skeleton
4. Applications may be refused if:
5. The proposal is not considered clear or novel enough
6. Insufficient notice has been given by the applicant
7. Another researcher has undertaken very similar work
8. The material requested is considered too sensitive for sampling
9. The material requested is rare or unique in date, provenance or context
10. The material requested is very poorly preserved or incomplete
11. The material requested has not been fully recorded onto the MOLA database
12. The material requested has previously been sampled (by MOLA or external researchers), including for C14 dating
13. The ethical considerations outweigh the value of any results generated

MOLA reserves the right to require changes to the specific material requested and may suggest the use of alternatives.

### **Sampling procedure**

All researchers must:

1. Photograph all material to be sampled. A digital copy of the image(s) must be provided to MOLA
2. Fill out a sampling card and place this in the skeleton/artefact box
3. Under supervision, update the relevant Oracle record to indicate that sampling has taken place
4. Return all boxes to their original location as instructed
5. Any material removed from MOLA premises for non-destructive analyses must be returned to the original location at the researchers cost
6. All extant material remaining following destructive testing must be returned at the researchers cost
7. Material must be returned within 6 months of completion of analysis or 1 month before submission of thesis/publication, whichever is the soonest

Any researcher who is found to be contravening these requirements will receive one written warning which will be copied to their supervisor.

A second breach will result in no further access being granted to that researcher and may prejudice future research applications from their academic institution.

**MOLA reserves the right to terminate a visit or refuse future access to yourself and other individuals from your institution if these regulations are contravened**