

ICOM REPORT

Name of event: 21st **ICOM-CC Triennial Conference** in Oslo 14-18 September 2026.

Name:- Claire Magill ACR

Job title: Regional Conservator for Northern Ireland,

Organisation: National Trust

Description of the event and your contribution to it:

Attendee at The 21st ICOM-CC Triennial Conference, held in Oslo from 14–18 September 2026, brought together conservators, scientists, curators, and museum professionals from around the world to explore the theme *Cultural Connections in Conservation*. The conference highlighted Oslo's remarkable cultural transformation, shaped by over a decade of investment in major institutions such as the Munch Museum, the National Museum, and the forthcoming Museum of the Viking Age.

Part 2: Highlights of the event (particularly pertinent talks or activities):

The 21st ICOM-CC Triennial Conference in Oslo was a truly energising week, set within a city that has reinvented itself as a cultural powerhouse. From the opening night in the magnificent City Hall, delegates were welcomed into an atmosphere of generosity, curiosity, and collaboration. Oslo's compact layout made it easy to move between sessions, conversations, and events, creating a sense of shared purpose throughout the week.

The technical tours mid-conference were a standout, offering rare behind-the-scenes access to Norway's most ambitious cultural projects. These visits showcased how major national investments are reshaping conservation practice and generating new knowledge.

Across the programme, aspirational talks from fellow NT colleagues demonstrated the strength and innovation within our own organisation. The Preventive Conservation sessions were particularly valuable, offering practical insights that will directly support and strengthen my work in Northern Ireland.

Throughout the week, delegates explored questions central to contemporary conservation: how to build stronger professional networks, navigate connections between past and future, advocate for diverse voices, and bridge cultural and generational divides. The event underscored conservation's evolving role in an interconnected world — and left me inspired for what comes next.

Key takeaways you plan to act on (follow up conversations, new approach to an aspect of your work):

The conference offered far more than inspiration — it provided clear, actionable takeaways that I plan to build into my work over the coming months. The Preventive Conservation sessions, in particular, highlighted new approaches to risk assessment and environmental management that I want to explore further, especially around modelling vulnerability and strengthening resilience across our Northern Ireland portfolio. Hearing how institutions responded to tsunamis, hurricanes, and large-scale flooding has encouraged me to rethink how we prepare for unexpected events, even on a smaller scale, and I intend to follow up with several speakers to learn more about their methodologies.

The week also opened valuable networking pathways. I plan to continue conversations with colleagues who are trialling innovative access strategies, as well as those developing new frameworks for balancing use and preservation. Their insights will help refine aspects of my own practice, particularly around decision-making for high-use collections.

The aspirational talks from NT colleagues were another catalyst, prompting me to consider how we can better share our own research and successes. Overall, the conference reinforced the importance of collaboration, curiosity, and thinking beyond traditional boundaries — principles I'm committed to carrying forward in my work.

Your plans for sharing the learning from the event:

I plan to share the learning from the ICOM-CC Triennial Conference through a mix of structured updates and practical integration into ongoing work. I will begin by preparing a concise briefing for colleagues, highlighting key insights from the Preventive Conservation sessions, the technical tours, and the international case studies on large-scale disasters such as tsunamis, hurricanes, and floods. These examples offer valuable perspectives that can help us think creatively about risk, resilience, and preparedness across our Northern Ireland properties.

I will also incorporate relevant learning into upcoming collections-care reviews, using new approaches and frameworks discussed at the conference to strengthen decision-making and problem-solving. Informal knowledge-sharing will continue through team discussions, cross-departmental conversations, and collaboration with NT colleagues who presented in Oslo. My aim is to ensure the benefits of the conference are translated into practical improvements across our portfolio.

Images Please supply at least three images from the visit. We ask that images are clearly indicated in the report using the following pattern.

Image 1 Charlotte Newman presentation. Credit Line Claire Magill



Image 2 National Trust attendees. Credit Line: Siobhan Watts



Image 3- Claire Magill attending conference. Credit Line: Charlotte Newman