



## The Tru Vue Conservation & Exhibition Grant Scheme

### Application guidance

 **TRU VUE**

**icon**

THE INSTITUTE OF CONSERVATION





*The Kelmscott Press Project, William Morris Society, London (2021)*

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# Introduction

*Tru Vue and Icon are committed to supporting the delivery of conservation and care of collections projects that make our shared cultural heritage more accessible.*



Icon is a charity championing heritage conservation, and the membership body for the conservation profession.

We know that small heritage institutions are the custodians of some of our most precious shared cultural heritage. Safeguarding the objects in these collections and keeping them on public display ensures that everyone's stories can continue to engage and inspire.



Tru Vue is a manufacturer of high-performance glazing products and sets the standard in glazing that enhances, protects, and beautifies.

From custom framing and commercial optics to conservation and preservation in museums and galleries around the world, Tru Vue is known internationally as a leader and innovator in the protection and conservation of all things framed and displayed.

*The Under the Floorboards Project, Van Gogh House, London (2022)*







*Re-housing the natural history collections, National Museum of Bhutan (2025)*

## Overview

Under the Tru Vue Conservation and Exhibition Grant Scheme, small heritage institutions are able to apply for funding up to **£3,000** to support the delivery of conservation projects that enable the safe display of an object in their collection. We are looking to support projects that do one of the following:

**Conserve and protect an object or objects already on display**

*Or*

**Enable an object that is not currently on display to be conserved and made accessible to visitors in a safe way.**

There are two components to the grant award:

**Funding to cover the materials, supplies, and/or support needed to deliver the project**

*And*

**Glazing materials supplied by Tru Vue (value estimated up to £4,000)**

## Useful information and grant conditions

Grantees will receive **both** the cash grant **and** the Tru Vue® materials. The Tru Vue® materials are free of charge however the cost of their transportation and fabrication are expected to be factored into the project budget along with the conservation work.

The material donation is worth **up to £4,000** and will be credited to the Tru Vue distributor directly for the distributor to make the requested material available to the grantee. The distributor may charge the grantee for cut-to-size and shipping of the donated material; money from the cash award can be used towards this cost.

The cash award is up to **£3,000** and intended to cover the conservation process, case fabrication, and the aforementioned shipping or cut-to-size costs.

Applicants will be asked to provide a quote from a supplier in the application form, detailing the shipping, fabrication, and cut material-to-size costs involved in their project.

*Conservation and Display of a Rare Silk Doublet at Grimsthorpe Castle, Lincolnshire (2024)*







*Shakespeare Recovered, Durham University (2024) © Durham University*

## Tru Vue materials

Tru Vue® will make an in-kind donation of Optium Museum Acrylic® or UltraVue® Laminated Glass for use directly related to the conservation and exhibition project. The full list of Tru Vue® products is available [here](#). Examples of an in-kind donation include:

(1) sheet of 3048 mm x 1829 mm (72 inch x 120 inch) 6.0mm Optium Museum Acrylic

OR

(1) sheet of 3048 mm x 1829 mm (72 inch x 120 inch) 8.8mm UltraVue Laminated Glass

OR

(1) sheet of 2438 mm x 1829mm (72 inch x 96 inch) 4.5mm Optium Museum Acrylic

OR

(2) sheets of 3.0mm 2438 mm x 1219 mm (48 inch x 96 inch) Optium Museum Acrylic

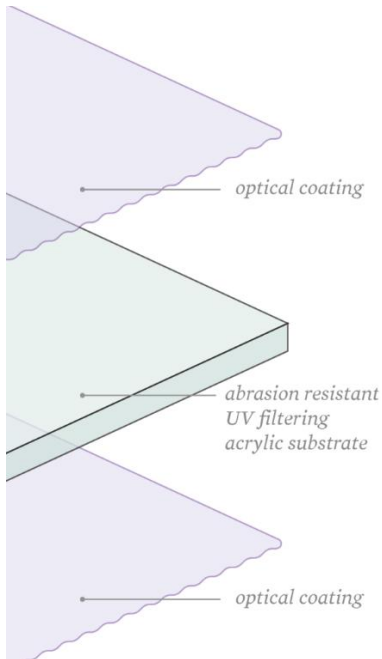
OR

(2) sheets of 2159 mm x 1600 mm (63 inch x 85 inch) 4.4mm UltraVue Laminated Glass

Please note that this *excludes* any shipping or fabrication costs. These should be factored into your application. Applicants are expected to ensure that a distributor is able to supply the desired material to their location. Information on Tru Vue® distributors can be found [here](#).

## Tru Vue materials

**Optium®**  
Museum Acrylic



Virtually eliminates reflections.

Blocks up to 99% of UV rays.

Optimal light transmission protects and brightens colours.

Anti-static protection that immediately dissipates static.

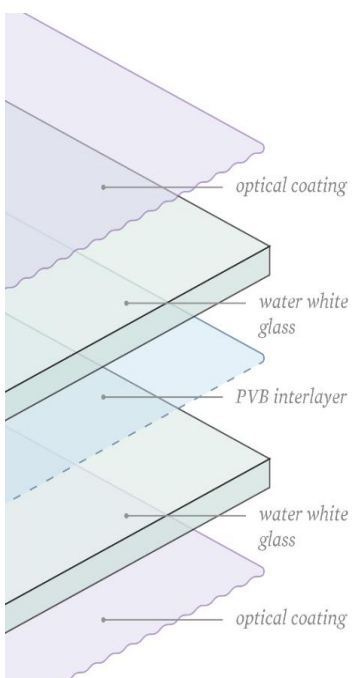
Durable hard coat protects against scratches.

Shatter resistance safeguards against injury and damage to artwork.

Cleans like glass – easy to clean with common household glass cleaners. No special acrylic cleaners needed.

Proprietary coating is engineered for permanence.

**UltraVue®**  
Laminated Glass



Virtually eliminates reflections.

Blocks up to 99% of UV rays.

Water White substrate provides crystal clear colour transmission.

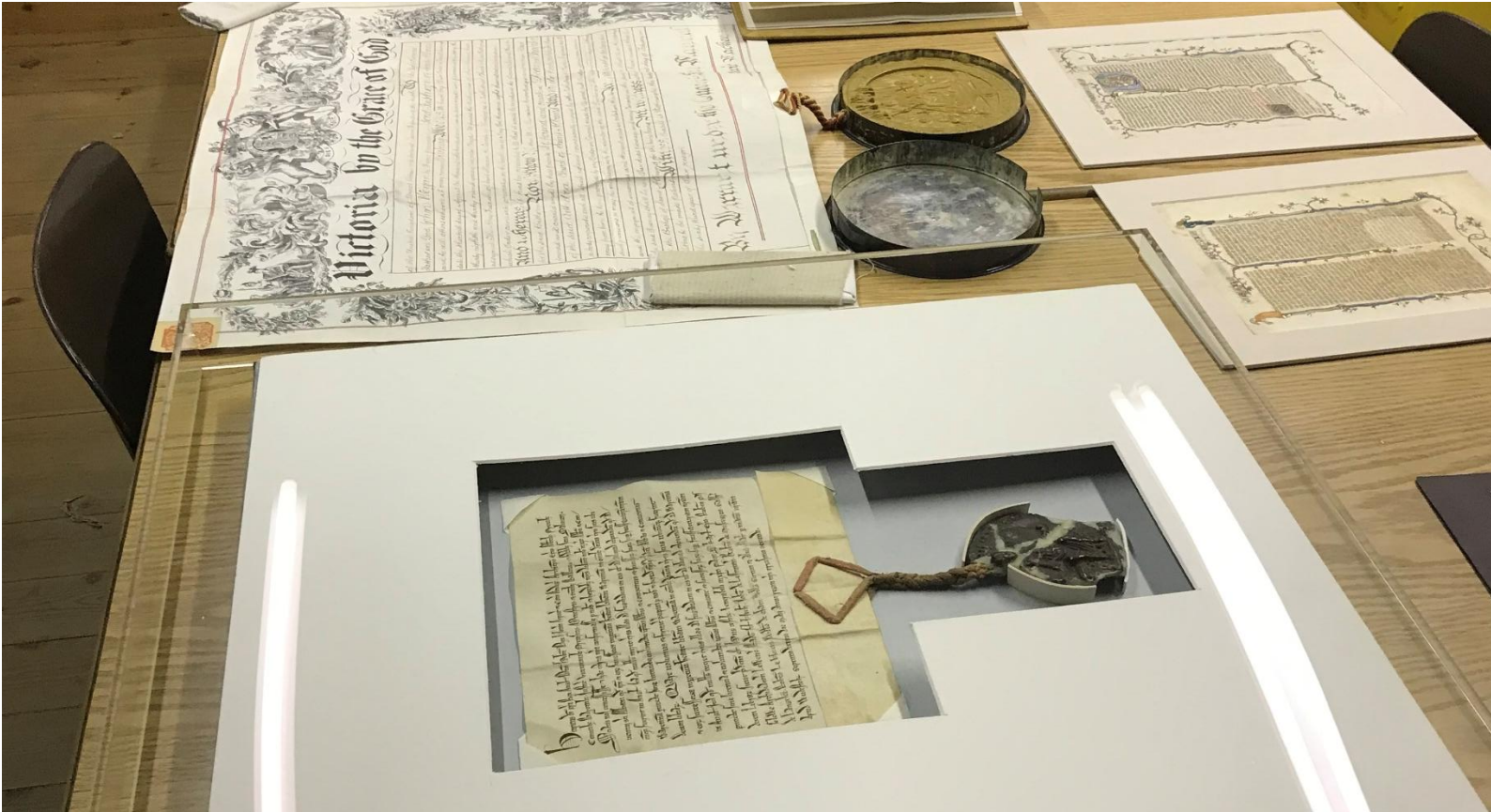
Optimal light transmission brightens colours.

Shatter resistance safeguards against injury and damage to artwork.

Enhanced surface for better durability and easy cleaning.

Proprietary coating is engineered for permanence.





*Mounting and re-boxing of 11 medieval Charters at St Albans Cathedral, St Albans (2022)*

## Eligibility and application process

At least **seven** grants of **up to £3,000** will be distributed to small heritage institutions with under 100,000 visitors each year. We welcome applications from institutions across the globe (bar targeted geographic regions that are subject to the United Kingdom, and/or United States economic sanctions and embargoes; check the US Sanctions [here](#) and the UK Sanctions [here](#)).

Applicants must clearly demonstrate how the funds will be used and demonstrate the impact of this funding for the organisation and its visitors. Using the [application form on Icon's website](#), applicants will need to provide the following:

- An outline of the proposed project.
- How the project will address conservation or display challenges, and current risks.
- How the Tru Vue® materials will be used as part of the project.
- How the institution will acquire the Tru Vue® materials for the project.
- An outline of the intended outcomes for the project.
- A proposal for how the institution will share the impact of the project.
- A project budget including the conservation work and shipping, cut-to-size and fabrication costs for the Tru Vue® materials.

Applicants are asked to include up to 4 photographs in their application – one of these should be of the object.

**Please send your completed application form and up to 4 photographs to [office@icon.org.uk](mailto:office@icon.org.uk)**

Applications will be reviewed by Icon with a final selection made by a panel comprised of 3 Icon members.



## 2024-25 Grantees

A fascinating range of objects were able to engage and inspire new audiences through the Tru Vue Conservation and Exhibition Grant Scheme in 2024-25.



### **Grimsthorpe and Drummond Castle Trust Ltd**

*Conservation and Display of a Rare Silk Doublet at Grimsthorpe Castle, Lincolnshire*

© TuulaPardoe

For the staff at Grimsthorpe Castle, Lincolnshire, the conservation of a rare silk doublet, last exhibited at the V&A in the 1990s, prompted a mission to display this fragile object and its matching trunkhose at Grimsthorpe in optimum environmental conditions.

The objects are highly significant as rare survivors of elite court dress of

the early 17th century. They may have been worn by Robert Bertie, 14th Lord Willoughby de Eresby (later 1st Earl of Lindsey and Lord Great Chamberlain of England) at the coronation of James I. Their display at Grimsthorpe Castle, where Bertie lived, is vital in contextualising their significance.

After conservation, the Grimsthorpe team realised that without sympathetically designed display cabinets addressing the complex protection needs of the objects, public exhibition would be impossible.

The grant contributed Tru Vue materials and finance towards the purchase and manufacturing of two bespoke made 6mm thick Optium Museum Acrylic cases with mitred edge-to-edge joints.

The case was designed to counteract agents of deterioration to minimise dust deposition, static, exterior RH and temperature fluctuations, visible light and UV. An integrated silica gel tray was incorporated to inhibit mould and stabilises RH within the cabinet, and inert materials were used to avoid off-gassing within the display unit. After display of the garments, the cabinets will be employed for subsequent displays of sensitive objects at the castle.



© Grimsthorpe and Drummond Castle Trust Ltd



### Lamport Hall Preservation Trust

*Display of 15th Century crucifix in Optium Museum Acrylic® case*

© Lamport Hall Preservation Trust

[Lamport Hall](#) in Nottinghamshire was home to the Isham family for over 400 years. Celebrating 50 years of the charitable Preservation Trust in 2024 with a new exhibition, one of the key objects on display is a 15<sup>th</sup> century crucifix which was found buried on the Lamport estate, and previously kept at Peterborough Cathedral for security reasons.

The grant has allowed Lamport Hall to display this rare and special cross on a marble altar table in a safe and secure way. An anti-reflective Optium Museum Acrylic case was constructed with edge-to-edge

mitred joints to give the visual impression of seamless lines. Without distractions from unsightly edges and reflections, the viewer's focus centres on what is most important – what lies within the case. All the details of the cross can be viewed with absolute clarity whilst mitigating hazards such as dust and exposure to UV rays.

### The Hunt Museum

*Conservation, glazing and re-framing of two Roderic O'Connor paintings*

© The Hunt Museum

[The Hunt Museum](#) in Limerick, Ireland, home to the collection of John and Gertrude Hunt, utilised the grant to conserve, glaze and re-frame their two Roderic O'Connor paintings.

The work of Roderic O'Connor, often regarded as the first Irish modernist, reflects the bold influence of the Impressionist and Post Impressionist movements, making him a key figure in Irish and European art. The Museum's masterpieces are now well-protected with Tru Vue's Optium Museum Acrylic to enable audiences to enjoy them for years to come!







## Durham University

### *Shakespeare Recovered*

© Durham University

[Durham University's](#) copy of Shakespeare's 1623 *First Folio* tells an incredible tale. Already an object of immense cultural, historical, and academic significance, the Folio's history took a dramatic turn when it was stolen in 1998. Resurfacing many years later without its original binding, the Folio has become an object of codicological archaeology, bearing the visible marks of its turbulent history. 'Shakespeare Recovered' set out to conserve and stabilise the book, return it to its original home and create an exhibition that both honours its material history and engages new audiences.



Support from the grant scheme enabled the creation of nine custom display plinths for the Folio's detached leaves, fabricated with Optium Museum Acrylic for exceptional clarity, anti-reflection, and UV protection. These plinths were grouped into three thematic "catwalks," guiding visitors through narratives of heritage science, the physical making of the First Folio, and the development of Shakespeare's cultural legacy. The surviving textblock forms a powerful focal point at the heart of the exhibition.

The project's outcomes extend far beyond conservation. *Shakespeare Recovered*, the six-month public exhibition, has drawn more than 3,500 visitors and achieved outstanding feedback. A conservation-based iPad game, public bookbinding competition, school outreach events, and talks have reached and connected new audiences with the history of their city. The project has also strengthened Durham's role in national Shakespeare scholarship and set a precedent for future single-object exhibitions.



## **REME (Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers) Museum**

*Conservation and glazing of Norman Thelwell watercolour (1945) Using UltraVue® laminated glass*

© REME Museum

The [REME Museum](#) used the grant to display a 1945 watercolour and pencil on paper of a sergeant in the Corps of the REME, by the artist Norman Thelwell (1923 – 2004). Although Thelwell is well known for his comic images of young girls and their ponies, this work is an early naturalistic portrait of one of his fellow REME soldiers, Staff Sergeant P.C. Cummins.

It is signed and dated and was completed while both men were on active service in India.

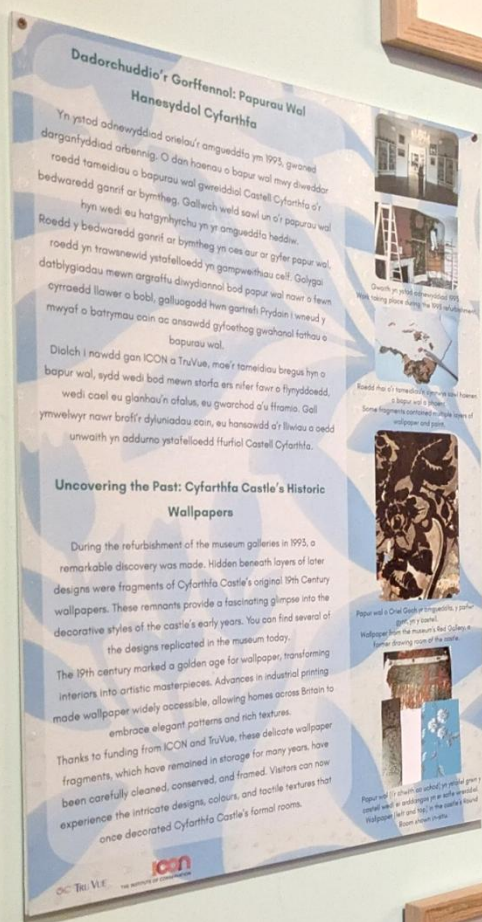
The grant enabled REME to permanently display the work, in a busy public space, after appointing an ICON-accredited conservator to assess and conserve the watercolour, as well as purchasing the materials necessary to conserve it for the long term.

The watercolour was already quite badly faded when it was acquired by the Museum from the sitter's son in 2023. The work was glazed using 4.4mm UltraVue Laminated Glass to mitigate any further deterioration to the remaining colour from harmful UV light and help eliminate reflections.

The paper on which the image was painted is acidic and of low quality and probably reflects the lack of decent materials available in India during 1945. The use of a museum-quality mount ensures a neutral backing to display the work.

The painting has been framed using oak, and the rebate and back of the frame has been sealed with Marvelseal barrier film to prevent any off gassing from the frame affecting the work in the future.





## 2025-26 Timelines

### Applications open

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2025

### Applications close

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026

### Notice of awards

Late March 2026

### Awarded project completion

By March 2027

Icon and Tru Vue will hold information and support sessions throughout the application window, keep an eye on the Icon website for dates.

*Please note due to the volume of applications received, we are unable to provide individual feedback to all applicants.*