

# CARE OF COLLECTIONS

'A stitch in time saves nine'

The last few months have been tough for cultural heritage professionals and for the institutions where they work.

There are still challenging times ahead - recovery will not be easy and we understand that there will be a need to tighten belts.

However, investing in collections care and conservation is responsible and cost-effective.

**WE ARE MAKING A STRONG PLEA FOR THE NEED TO MAINTAIN CONSERVATION SERVICES WITHIN OUR CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS.**



The Institute of Conservation is a charity and the professional body representing and supporting the practice and profession of conservation.

Icon champions excellence in conservation and promotes the value of caring for heritage.

# Getting us through lockdown

Objects and collections simply don't look after themselves. Conservators worked hard behind closed doors to ensure that objects and collections remained safe and secure during lockdown.

- Essential monitoring and regular inspections, even with limited access to sites
- Preventing disasters ranging from leaking gutters to burst pipes
- Preparing plans to 'wake up' collections post-lockdown
- Combatting infestations and pests due to limited capacity and undisturbed venues
- Responding to an enormous appetite for online engagement with collections and museums

**Conservation helps us understand ourselves and our future by preserving the past. Conservators save the things that matter most with far reaching benefits to society.**

One of three pillars of collections care needed to ensure that collections are safeguarded



A distinct profession with its own standards, judgement and ethics, and code of conduct.

Supporting the economy, healthier and happier lives and encouraging sustainability

# Building the new normal

Investing in conservation shows moral responsibility to the future. It also helps organisations make a successful case for support and demonstrate contributions to spending priorities, like jobs, skills and innovation.

## Responsibility

- Fulfilling the responsibilities of stewardship by safeguarding cultural heritage entrusted in their care
- Retaining skills and ensuring the continuity of specialist knowledge and expertise
- Supporting people and the places they care about in an uncertain post-Covid future
- Building resilience in a cost effective way by prioritising early interventions that prevent problems that would be much more expensive to deal with later on

## Rebuilding

- Future-proof jobs resilient to automation due to a high level of training and reliance on creative and crafts skills
- Heritage science expertise supporting the UK's ambitions to become a scientific superpower and driving innovation
- Leveling up economic opportunity across all regions with many conservation businesses based in rural areas supporting regional museums and attractions