

About Us

The Institute of Conservation is a membership organisation and charity which brings together those with a passion for the care of cultural heritage. Icon raises awareness of the cultural, social and economic value of caring for heritage and champions high standards of conservation.

Find out more about Icon's achievements and impact: www.icon.org.uk/about-us/icons-impact

Key Facts

An **independent charity** governed by a Board of Trustees.

A **membership organisation** representing nearly 3,000 individuals and organisations, including professional conservators, volunteers and owners of cultural heritage.

A **professional body** raising the standards of conservation practice through Accreditation, a Code of Conduct, Professional Standards and Complaints Procedure.

A small **enterprise** with 10 employees offering expertise in membership services, finance, professional development, communication, strategy, policy and advocacy.

History

Founded in 2005, from the merger of 5 bodies



Our Strategy and Activities



ADVOCACY



ENGAGEMENT



EXCELLENCE

Influencing our partners and the public

enhancing our visibility with government and policy makers – responding to consultations – undertaking fresh research – designing campaigns to engage partners and the public

Building knowledge, high standards and valuing the profession

accrediting professional conservators – developing our standards – managing a highly regarded internship programme – delivering professional development programmes – running regular events – sharing publications

Encouraging public awareness and participation

tailoring membership offers – engaging with emerging professionals – collaborating with partners to diversify workforce – promoting benefits of conservation to society and wellbeing

2,548 members **772** Accredited Conservator-Restorers **475** volunteers

Working across:



Public sector,
e.g. in
museums,
archives and
libraries



Private sector,
with 1/3 self
employed and
over 50 % in
microbusinesses
(<10 employees)



Third and
academic sector,
e.g. trusts and
university
departments

Divided between:

16 Special Interest Groups

Archaeology
Care of Collections
Furniture & Wood
Heritage Science
Photographic
Materials
Gilding & Decorative
Surfaces
Ceramics & Glass

Ethnography
Textiles
Metals
Book & Paper
Historic Interiors
Paintings
Scotland
Stained Glass
Stone &
Wallpaintings

7 Networks

Modern Materials
Documentation
Contemporary Art
Emerging
Professionals
Dynamic Objects
Higher Education
Northern Ireland

Working across the UK



majority in London and the South



and **17.5%** abroad



Stories from Our Members

Icon member and conservation student Joe G. Martin was involved in the conservation of three iron objects unearthed from a large Anglo-Saxon cemetery discovered by a detectorist in Lincolnshire in 2018.

The artefacts had spent an extended period in burial, becoming heavily corroded and encased in dirt. To preserve the objects for display, Joe carefully devised a plan for removing the heavy surface dirt and consolidating the artefacts. Each object required different investigation and cleaning methods calling for a varied and considered approach to treatment, demonstrating the complexity of conservation.

Read more about Joe's work here:

<https://icon.org.uk/news/joe-g-martin-conserving-objects->



In 2018, Icon member Michael Rieveley was asked to remove, conserve and reinstall a mosaic by artist Jonah Jones in the Church of the Resurrection of Our Saviour, Morfa Nefyn.

Removing half a million individual pieces of glass tesserae whilst preserving the artwork's integrity was a considerable challenge. Michael consulted colleagues, carried out extensive research and trialled numerous methods before finding a workable solution to move the mosaic. In 2019, the mosaic was successfully taken down and treated for minor repairs and prepared for re-installation. The mosaic was transported to its new home and the sections cautiously lifted into place. The intricate mosaic can now be enjoyed at a Catholic School in Rhyl.

Read more about Michael's work here:

<https://icon.org.uk/news/michael-rieveley-a-resurrection>

Our Membership Categories

Accredited

- ✓ Assessed and reviewed by peers
- ✓ Subject to CPD recall
- ✓ ACR post-nominal

Associate

- ✓ Professional conservators
- ✓ May be working towards Accreditation

Student

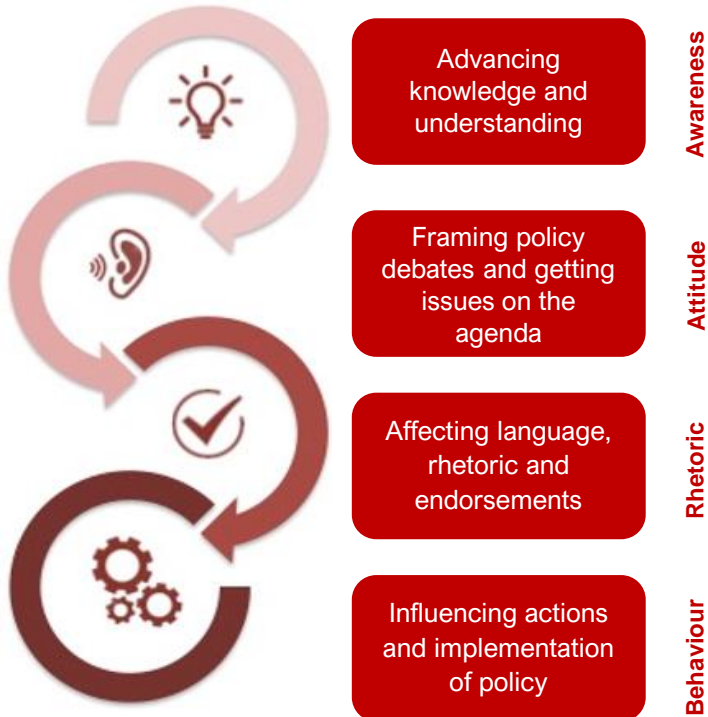
- ✓ Enrolled on a course or undertaking entry-level internship

Supporter

- ✓ Passionate about conservation
- ✓ Keen to engage with the sector

Our Advocacy

We're all about creating positive change...



Our Publications

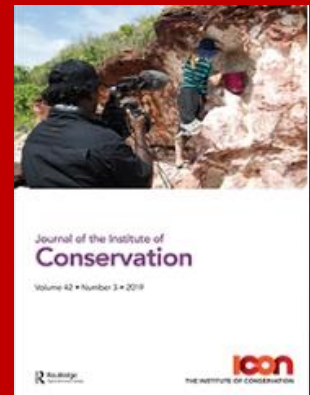


Icon News

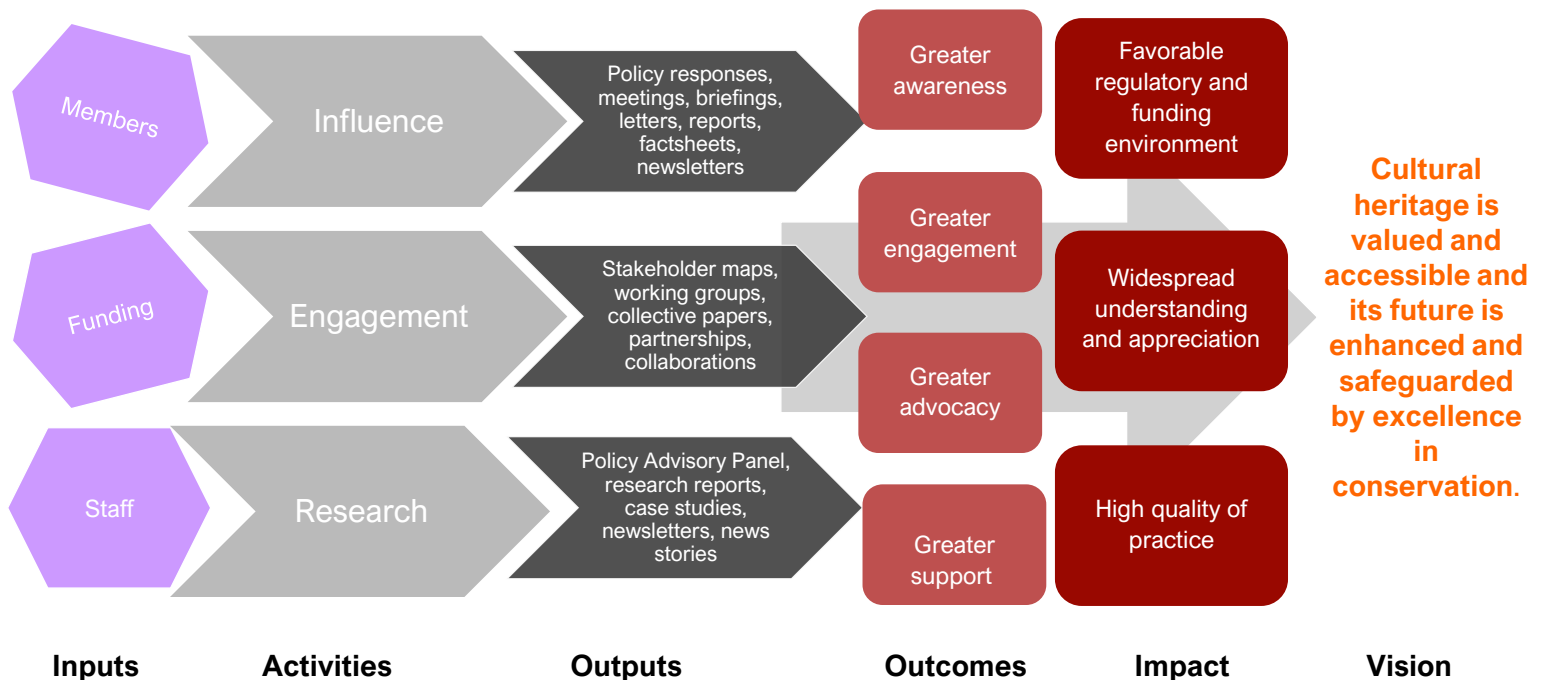
Bi-monthly magazine featuring the latest conservation case studies, interviews, reviews, analysis and updates from staff.

Journal of the Institute of Conservation

Thrice yearly, fully peer-reviewed publication presenting innovative research and practice-related articles on conservation. Published by Taylor & Francis.



and this is our plan for achieving it:



Celebrating Our Successes

Over the years, over 180 emerging conservators have kickstarted their careers in conservation through an Icon Internship.

- Offers an invaluable opportunity for interns to develop their careers, engage with professional networks and develop practical knowledge.
- Lets hosts focus on what they do best: to provide the experience and skills required for success in the workplace.
- Introduces a strong understanding of the practical application of Icon's Professional Standards in conservation.
- Each intern assigned a dedicated Advisor, who along with the host supports them through the practicalities of the programme and with their professional development.

More information about our internship programme and work on apprenticeships:

www.icon.org.uk/training/internships

www.icon.org.uk/icon-resources/careers-training/trailblazer-apprenticeships

Since 2017 Icon has played a leading role in the development of Apprenticeship Standards for the profession.

- The launch of the government's Trailblazer Apprenticeships presented an opportunity to formalise vocational entry routes into conservation.
- Icon convened and supported a representative employer group to design programmes that matched real job roles and skills requirements.
- In 2019, the Institute of Apprenticeships approved the Cultural Heritage Conservation Technician and Conservator Apprenticeships.
- The programmes have the potential to enhance sector diversity by making entry routes more accessible.
- We will work closely with Universities and Colleges in the delivery of the new programmes.

Looking Ahead

In 2020, we will relaunch the Conservation Register as a new and improved public-facing resource for finding Accredited Conservator-Restorers.

- Owned and operated by Icon since 2005 as the key directory for people who need advice and support to care for their objects and collections.
- New Register to feature an up-to-date list of all Icon Accredited Conservator-Restorers.
- The public will be able to easily identify and contact an accredited professional to ensure a safe future for their family heirlooms and the things they love.

2020 will be a busy year of celebration events to mark 20 years since the introduction of Icon Accreditation.

- Launch of a new logo and post-nominal for our Accredited Conservator-Restorers.
- Publication of Icon's Professional Standards, currently being revised following consultation.
- CPD programme to support members in developing their careers
- Dedicated party to help us celebrate in style!

More Information

www.icon.org.uk

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