

Engaging with National Museums NI in a Covid World

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A Pause for Thought

- Covid made us stop and think, examine our working practices and contributions to society
- Opportunity to focus on the future, plan and develop
- Renewed sense of role and purpose for our museums and collections



New Corporate Strategy

‘The current climate presents a continued opportunity to reflect on and rethink the role of culture and the museum in public and civic life. At a time when we need to learn, connect and grow more than ever, we know museums have a key role to play in facilitating this conversation.’

Commitments:

- We will champion inclusion, diversity and accessibility
- We will create more ways to get involved
- We will extend the impact of our collections
- We will build the museum infrastructure of the future



Master-planning

- Ulster Museum – World-class cultural resource for all. Your Story, Our Story, Our World.
- Ulster Folk Museum – A People's Museum, focussing on wellbeing and championing sustainability.
- Ulster American Folk Park – Dynamic heritage centre and tourism hub. Expanding the narrative.
- Ulster Transport Museum – experimentation and partnership working. The Museum of Innovation.



Collections Access Plan

- Making improvements in collections storage, collections documentation and collections digitisation
- New CMS and DAMS project
- New store for the Transport and Industry collections
- Bringing collections back to the Ulster Museum
- A transformational project with our library and archive collections



Positioning - Decolonisation

1. To embed a decolonisation approach
2. To interrogate our collections and sites
3. To nurture and learn from partnerships
4. To be honest and transparent

‘National Museums NI recognises we have much further to go with this work, but we are committed to act, change, listen, learn and develop.’



Positioning – Biodiversity Conservation

- We will identify key objectives and priorities for biodiversity conservation in our forward planning
- We will rebuild the Natural Sciences team, ensuring we have sufficient expertise within the organisation
- We will further integrate the Centre for Environmental Data and Recording (CEDaR)
- We will maximise key strategic partnerships
- We will clarify our ethical position
- We will engage with audiences



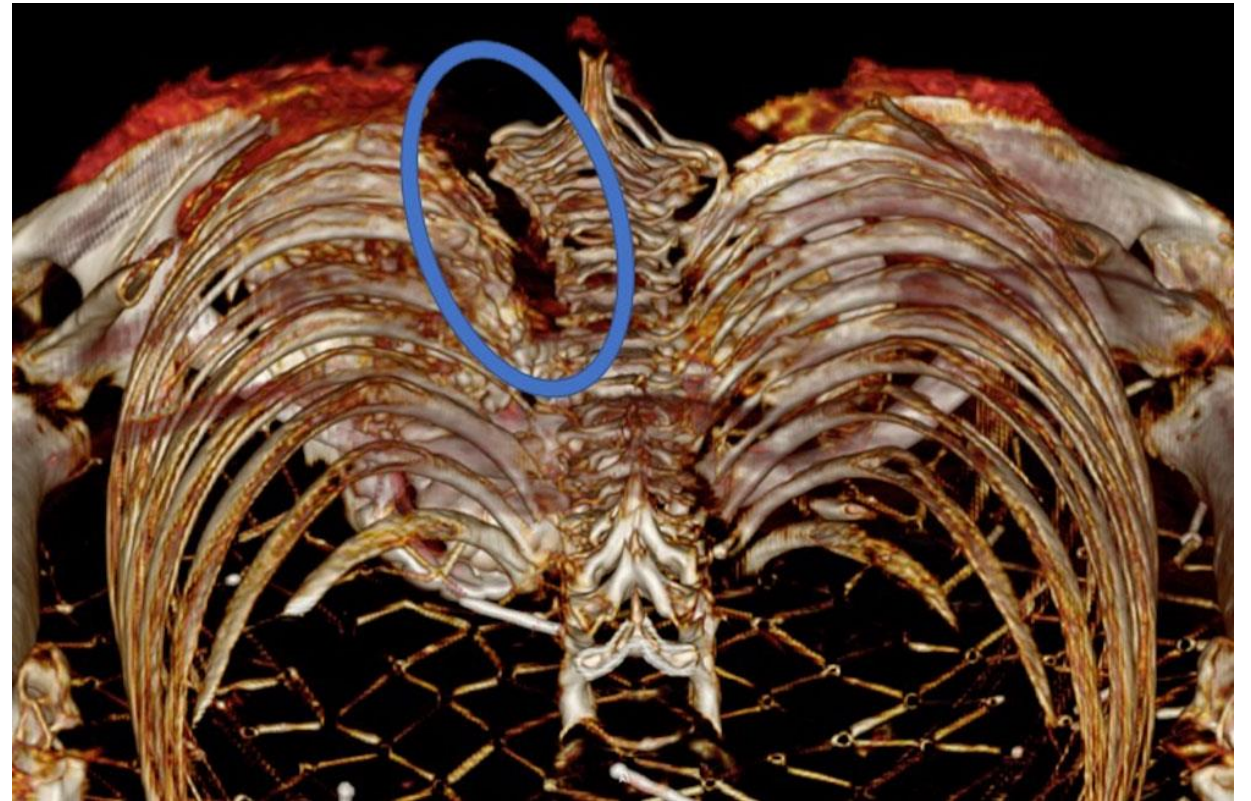
New Partnerships

- Widening knowledge about our collections e.g., Ulster Automobile Club
- Engaging with priority, contemporary agendas e.g., the Conflict and Legacy Network
- Knowledge and skills sharing within the museums and heritage sector e.g., MOU with the National Museum of Ireland



Development of a Research Plan

- Supporting delivery of National Museums NI's Research Policy
- Identifying and communicating research priorities
- Developing our research infrastructure
- Enabling research partnerships
- Increasing the visibility of and encouraging engagement with our collections



IRO Status

- Priority within the new Research Plan
- Advice and guidance from UKRI
- Observer at the Independent Research Organisation Consortium (IROC)
- Learning from the National Trust about the application process
- Preparations in 21-22. Plan to submit application in 22-23.



Thank you

<https://www.nmni.com/collections/Research.aspx>

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