

Rural AEOM Conference 2025

Ulster Folk Museum: Learning from the Land

In a time of accelerating climate change and environmental uncertainty, open-air museums have a powerful role to play. Rooted in place, rich in memory, and alive with tradition, they hold deep, often overlooked knowledge – knowledge of the land, of craft, of seasonal rhythms and sustainable ways of living.

Open-air museums are more than heritage sites. They are living laboratories. Catalysts for change.

At the Rural AEOM Conference 2025, we gather at the Ulster Folk Museum to explore how rural lifeways, skills and customs can inform environmental stewardship today. We will look at how open-air museums – through their collections, practices, landscapes and people – can inspire new thinking and action.

Join us for a programme of dialogue, demonstration and discovery – and leave inspired by the lessons the land can teach us.

Conference Dates

- Thursday 18th September 2025: 09:30-20:00 (dinner to be provided)
- Friday 19th September 2025: 09:30-16:00
- Optional: Attend the Ulster Folk Museum Harvest Festival on Saturday 20th September 2025

What is included in conference cost?

- Enjoy a series of informative and lively talks from the AEOM Community
- Engage in interesting group discussions
- Get involved in hands on activities
- Enjoy a curatorial led tour
- Rural demonstrations
- Explore the Ulster Folk Museum
- Optional attendance at Ulster Folk Museum Harvest Festival on Saturday 20th September 2025
- Morning refreshments and lunch on 18th and 19th September
- Dinner and entertainment on 18th September included
- Please note that transfers from Belfast to the Ulster Folk Museum are not included and public transport should be used to travel to the museum. A shuttle bus back to Belfast will be provided at the end of each day
- Please note flights and accommodation are not included in cost

Conference cost

- The conference is charged at a total of £165.00 per person
- **If you would like to attend the conference, please make your payment by Monday 30th June 2025 via the link below**
<https://nationalmuseumsni.digitickets.co.uk/category/63836?branches.branchID=3471>

Submission of papers

If you would like to submit a paper to be delivered at the conference, please visit the link below to make a submission. Please note that spaces will be limited due to the duration of the conference.

Please provide your submission by Monday 30th June 2025.

<https://forms.office.com/e/tEV1k9LpbW>

Travel Recommendations

The Ulster Folk Museum is located in Cultra which is 3 miles from Belfast city centre.

Airports

- The closest airport to the Ulster Folk Museum is George Best Belfast City Airport which is located 11 minutes from the Ulster Folk Museum. From Belfast city centre it is 18 minutes to George Best Belfast City Airport. Buses are available.
- Belfast International Airport is located 28 minutes from Belfast city centre and 35 minutes from the Ulster Folk Museum. It is possible to take a bus from Belfast International Airport to Belfast City Centre.
- It is also possible to fly into Dublin airport in Ireland. Buses to Belfast city centre depart every hour from Dublin Airport and take a total of 2 hours 30 minutes. Please note that euros are accepted in Ireland and pounds (GBP) in Northern Ireland

Hotel recommendations

We would recommend staying in Belfast city centre or Titanic Quarter. Noted below are recommendations of centrally located hotels in both city centre and in Titanic quarter to suit a variety of budgets. It is possible to travel via train to the Ulster Folk Museum from both areas.

Hotel	Location	Link
Premier Inn: Belfast Titanic Quarter	Titanic Quarter (Travel to Cultra station from Titanic Quarter station)	www.premierinn.com Select Belfast Titanic Quarter
AC Hotel Belfast *Premium hotel	Titanic Quarter (Travel to Cultra station from Titanic Quarter station)	Hotel Near Titanic Quarter & SSE/Odyssey Arena - AC Hotel Belfast by Marriott
Titanic Hotel Belfast *Premium hotel	Titanic Quarter (Travel to Cultra station from Titanic Quarter station)	Titanic Hotel Belfast Luxury City Centre Northern Ireland
The Flint Hotel	Belfast City Centre (Travel to Cultra station from Belfast Grand Central station)	The Flint Hotel Belfast Beautiful Rooms Great Location
Travelodge Belfast	Belfast City Centre (Travel to Cultra station from Belfast Grand Central station)	Travelodge Great value hotels throughout the UK, Ireland & Spain Select Belfast Central
Bullitt Hotel	Belfast City Centre (Travel to Cultra station from Belfast Grand Central station)	Bullitt Hotel No Nonsense Rooms In Belfast City Centre

Europa Hotel	Belfast City Centre (Travel to Cultra station from Belfast Grand Central station)	The Europa Hotel 4 Star Hotel In Belfast City Centre Official Site
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Travel by train from Belfast city centre to the Ulster Folk Museum

- The Ulster Folk Museum is located in Cultra and the closest train station is Cultra train station.
- We would recommend travelling to the museum from Belfast city centre by train
- Please note travel to the museum each day will be via public transport with a bus back to Belfast provided at the end of each day

Further information on how to find us is included in the link below:

[How to find us | Ulster Folk Museum](#)

Contact details

If you have any enquiries relating to the conference, please contact Susan Starrett General Manager Ulster Folk Museum susan.starrett@nationalmusuemsni.org

If you would like further information on the Ulster Folk Museum, please visit our website www.ulsterfolkmuseum.org