

Derby Museums  
Collections Development Policy  
2014



A WHOLE HISTORY OF FORWARD THINKING

**DERBY MUSEUMS**

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**Name of museum:** Derby Museums (comprising Derby Museum and Art Gallery, The Silk Mill and Pickford's House)

**Name of governing body:** Derby Museums Trust

**Date on which this policy was approved by governing body:** November 2014

**Policy review procedure:**

The collections development policy will be published and reviewed from time to time, at least once every five years.

**Date at which this policy is due for review:** 2019

**Arts Council England** will be notified of any changes to the collections development policy, and the implications of any such changes for the future of collections.

**1. Relationship to other relevant policies/plans of the organisation:**

**1.1. The museum's statement of purpose is:**

The vision for Derby Museums is to shape the way in which Derby is understood, the way in which the city projects itself, the way in which people from all places are inspired to see themselves as the next generation of innovators, makers and creators.

The purpose of Derby Museums is to inspire people to become part of a living story of world class creativity, innovation and making.

**1.2. The governing body will ensure that both acquisition and disposal are carried out openly and with transparency.**

**1.3. By definition, the museum has a long-term purpose and holds collections in trust for the benefit of the public in relation to its stated objectives. The governing body therefore accepts the principle that sound curatorial reasons must be established before consideration is given to any acquisition to the collection, or the disposal of any items in the museum's collection.**

**1.4. Acquisitions outside the current stated policy will only be made in exceptional circumstances.**

**1.5. The museum recognises its responsibility, when acquiring additions to its collections, to ensure that care of collections, documentation arrangements and use of collections will meet the requirements of the Museum Accreditation Standard. This includes using SPECTRUM primary procedures for collections management. It will take into account limitations on collecting imposed by such factors as staffing, storage and care of collection arrangements.**

**1.6. The museum will undertake due diligence and make every effort not to acquire, whether by purchase, gift, bequest or exchange, any object or specimen unless the governing body or responsible officer is satisfied that the museum can acquire a valid title to the item in question.**

**1.7. The museum will not undertake disposal motivated principally by financial reasons**

## **2. History of the collections**

The collection comprises items across several subject areas acquired since the foundation of the Free Library and Museum in 1879. Some items in the collection were acquired by Derby Corporation prior to this date, including material previously displayed in the Derby Town and County Museum. Most items in the collection are of local and regional importance, although some collections, such as the Joseph Wright and Derby Porcelain collections, are of international significance. The initial stages of the collection's history (1872-c.1930) saw the development of the Joseph Wright collection and large donations and bequests of Derby Porcelain. The beginnings of the current natural sciences, archaeology and world cultures collections also date from this period.

During the mid to late twentieth century the Social History collections grew substantially and, with the opening of Derby Industrial Museum (now Derby Silk Mill), Derby's industrial became a major area of collections development. In the 1960s and 1970s major acquisitions included large quantities of railway related artefacts, particularly those associated with the Midland Railway Company and its successor, the LMS.

The development of the collection during the last quarter of the twentieth century continued with large intakes of social history, industry archaeological material. The opening of Pickford's House in 1988 resulted in the further development of the costume and toy collections, and saw items from the collection displayed in period settings.

Since the early 2000s there has been a move away from more generic social history collecting and towards a focus on certain themes which are of particular significance to the history of Derby, particularly the Enlightenment period and the city's industrial history. There has also been a greater emphasis on collections supporting other areas of the organisation, including education, outreach and fund raising.

Derby Museums was established as an independent charitable trust in 2012 and is responsible for the care and management of the museum collections owned by Derby City Council. The collections are on loan to Derby Museums from Derby City Council. The terms and conditions of this loan are detailed in the Collections

Agreement between Derby Museums and Derby City Council, dated 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012.

### **3. An overview of current collections**

The collection is catalogued on a TMS database hosted by Gallery Systems which currently contains 144,000 individual records, although some of these refer to bulk accessions of archaeological material and large collections of natural sciences specimens. The number of individual objects and specimens within the collection are estimated to be around 250,000 to 300,000.

The contents of the collection by subject area are outlined below.

#### **3.1 Archaeology**

Archaeology is taken to mean anything manmade or manipulated by humans, which has been removed from the ground.

As of 2014 there were approximately 20,000 records classified on the museum database as archaeology, representing 15.8% of the total catalogued collection. The archaeology collection is poorly documented and the actual number of objects in the collection is much higher. Some excavation archives have only a single group record but contain many individual objects. Many single records include multiple objects often numbering hundreds of, for example, individual flints or pottery sherds from different contexts which ideally should be documented separately.

##### 3.1.1 Local archaeological material

The archaeology collection includes material from the City of Derby, South Derbyshire District, Erewash District, Amber Valley District and parts of the Derbyshire Dales. The collection covers all periods from the Lower Palaeolithic to post-Medieval, and includes portable artefacts, remains of industrial processes, structural remains, human remains, animal remains, environmental samples, plant remains and associated documentary archives.

The material types that comprise the three-dimensional 'archive' include ferrous, non-ferrous and precious metals; glass; pottery and other ceramics; stone; semi-precious stones, jet and amber; bone, antler, horn and ivory; wood, leather, plant remains and other organics. The documentary archive materials include paper, black-and-white and colour photographs, slides and negatives, microfiche, and electronic/digital media.

The collection crosses over with other disciplines within the collection - Pleistocene faunal remains are referred to the Natural Sciences section; recent industrial archaeological remains are referred to the STEM and Working Life section; post-medieval ceramics from recorded contexts are collected in liaison with the Ceramics and Decorative Art section. The collection includes numismatics from archaeological contexts.

The bulk of the present collection are the archives formed by the excavations at Little Chester (Roman and Anglo-Saxon), Derby Racecourse (Roman), Repton (Anglo-

Saxon and Viking), Willington (multi-period from Neolithic to medieval), and Full St, Derby (medieval) between 1970-1990.

Items of national significance include the Lower Palaeolithic handaxes from the Trent Valley, the Bronze Age (Hanson) log boat, the Repton Anglo-Saxon and Viking excavation archives, Ingleby Viking barrow cemetery excavation archives, and the antiquarian records of Major Hayman Rooke.

Items of regional significance include Bronze Age metalwork from the Trent and Dove valleys; the Roman Derby (Little Chester and Racecourse) excavation archives; pottery from Roman kiln excavations at Holbrook, Hazelwood and Shottle; and the Anglo-Saxon stone sculpture from St Alkmund's Church, Derby and St Wystans Church, Repton.

Other items of local importance include excavation archives from prehistoric sites at Willington, Swarkestone Lowes, Melbourne, and Aston-on-Trent cursus monument; the Iron Age and Roman site at Littlehay Grange, Ockbrook; an aureus of Carausius from the Ashbourne area; the collection of early-medieval and medieval Derby mint coins; the excavation archives from medieval Derby at Full St and the Magistrates Court; the pottery from excavations at Burley Hill medieval kiln site; the Time Team excavation archive from Codnor Castle, including a gold noble of Henry V; medieval tiles from Dale Abbey; excavation archives from deserted medieval villages at Church Wilne, Barton Blount and Thurstaston; excavation archives from Melbourne Castle, Duffield Castle, medieval kilns at King Street, Duffield and Ticknall, and the Stanley Grange medieval smelting site, a 14<sup>th</sup> century hoard of coins from City Rd, Derby; a 17<sup>th</sup> century hoard of coin clippings from Alderwasley; and a discrete group of 18<sup>th</sup> century semi-/complete pots from St Mary's Bridge, Derby.

The collection is particularly strong in material from the Bronze Age, Roman and Early Medieval (Anglo Saxon and Viking) periods, but has little displayable Iron Age medieval and post-medieval material.

Over the last 30 to 40 years metal detectorists have been recovering archaeological objects from Derbyshire, as in the rest of the country, and through this the Museum is beginning to build up a collection of Treasure finds from the local area.

### 3.1.2 Non-local British archaeological material

After the acquisition of the Bateman Collection by Sheffield Museum in 1893, Derby Museum had little opportunity to form a significant collection of non-local Derbyshire antiquities. There is a small number of important non-local Derbyshire specimens, including flints from Creswell Crags (1877, 1921 and 1933) (of national importance and part of a larger collection of material dispersed among several museums); Bronze Age pottery from Stanton Moor (1926); excavation archives from Green Low, Aldwark (1968) and Melandra Castle (1977); surface collections of flint artefacts from north Derbyshire by Cooper (1976), Lomas (1978) and Radford (1995). In the latter case, Derby Museum was specified in the donor's bequest.

There are a small number of specimens from other parts of the British Isles. Type collections of flints from Kent, Sussex and Hampshire acquired from the

British Museum in the 1910s formed the core of the early collection. 100 coins from the 14<sup>th</sup> century Tutbury hoard were acquired in 1930.

## **3.2 Ceramics and Decorative Art**

### **3.2.1 Ceramics**

The ceramics collection contains porcelain from the two Derby factories, Derby Porcelain (1748-1848) and the King Street Factory (1849-1935). It also contains representative collections from the Derby Crown factory, later Royal Crown Derby (1875 – present), Pinxton Porcelain, Abbeydale and Lynton.

The collection also encompasses related material including pattern books, models, figure parts, moulds, artwork, documents and other material associated with the factories, workmen and porcelain artists.

Within the collection are also significant representational collections of Derbyshire and local salt glazed stoneware, and pottery from local factories including Cockpit Hill, Brampton, Denby and Langley Mill, with examples from other Derbyshire factories used for comparative purposes. There are also pieces of work within the collection both on display and in the reserve collection of modern artists which continue the story of the Derby ceramics industry. There are other ceramic objects that are considered Archaeology, Industrial and Social History material, owing to the crossover between disciplines.

The ceramics gallery at the Museum and Art Gallery was redisplayed in 2012-2013 and currently has 735 items on display. Approximately half the gallery is made up of material from the Nottingham Road factory, with smaller displays devoted to Pinxton, Royal Crown Derby, Cockpit Hill, several Art Pottery factories and selected studio potters. There is a large reserve collection of ceramics, which the museum aims to make more available for study by academics, collectors and researchers. There is also potential for display in specific porcelain special exhibitions, such as the recent Langley Mill exhibition, and as part of the redevelopment of the Silk Mill and the theme of 'Making'.

Derby Museums holds the largest collection of Derby manufactured porcelain to be found in any national, international or private collection. The collection comprises approximately 11,200 pieces of porcelain, related documents and ephemera, models, moulds and figure parts dating from the earliest period around 1750 to the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Alongside the Derby Local Studies Library, who hold a large collection of related documents, Derby Museums is the only institution in the world where the output, working practises and people of Derby Porcelain can be studied and appreciated.

### **3.2.2 Decorative Arts: Stonework**

The Museum has representative collections of locally manufactured pieces of Ashford Black Marble, Blue John and Derbyshire fluorspars, gypsum and alabaster. The aim of these small but significant collections is to demonstrate unique locally produced and manufactured goods. New acquisitions are made where they would add a significant new dimension to the collection, and where they fit with the aims of a specific project.

The collection is likely to see use as part of both the Enlightenment and Making narratives pursued by Derby Museums, as well as for partnership working with holders of similar collections in the area. There have been no significant additions to this collection within the last five years.

### 3.2.3 Decorative Arts: Glass

The collection includes a small collection of less than 500 items. There are other glass objects that are considered Social History material, and some considered Archaeology, owing to the crossover between disciplines. One of the strengths of Derby Museum's decorative art glassware is a good collection of drinking glasses – these are mainly conical ale glasses with decorative stems, dating from the mid-18<sup>th</sup> to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The collection covers most methods of working and finishing glass vessels. Most of the pieces are blown, either hand blown or mould blown, but there are a small number of pressed pieces made by significant and well known firms such as Sowerby and Davidsons. Fashions and styles are also fairly well covered. Many of the Victorian coloured items are very representative of the period.

By its nature it is not a local collection; Derby was never a glass working centre. The majority of the pieces are English, a few European, and a couple Irish. A few of the pieces have a local connection.

Although the collection was not built with an aim in mind, it is illustrative of the developments in glass working and styles and forms of drinking glasses. As visual arts objects some of these are quite beautiful.

### 3.2.4 Decorative Arts: Furniture

The collection contains examples of furniture used in period room settings at Pickford's House Museum (1770 onwards), and as part of the 'Bonnie Prince Charlie Room' at the Museum and Art Gallery, which commemorates the 1745 rebellion.

It is not intended to be a comprehensive furniture collection, but to form part of the above-mentioned displays, and has been acquired specifically for that purpose. A number of specimens are on loan from the Victoria and Albert Museum and from private collections. There are few items made in Derby of historic significance. There have been no significant recent additions to this collection.

## **3.3 Costume and Textiles**

As of 2014 the collection includes over 7,500 items classified as costume, around 6% of the documented collection. The initial aim of the collection was to build up a representative collection of English dress and textiles from the 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards, but this has evolved over time to have a more local focus on Derby and the surrounding area. Most of this collection is made up of personal clothing of children and adults from the Derby area from the 1700s to the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. There is a strong emphasis on women's fashion within the collection.

Particular strengths of the collection include examples of the work of a number of local clothing manufacturers and designers, including man-made fibres from British Celanese, samples from Derbyshire textile manufacturers. The collection also contains 1920s and 1930s costume once belonging to Lady Curzon of Kedleston Hall and the Stanton collection of 19<sup>th</sup> century costume from Snelston Hall.

In addition to costume, the collection includes household textiles, textile crafts and embroidery, including examples of the work of the local textile artist Rebecca Crompton.

### **3.4 Fine Art**

Derby Museums currently hold 4,500 items that may be classified by the term 'fine art', which in October 2014 represented approximately 3.5% of the total catalogued collection. Though now considered outmoded by many quarters, the term remains a useful, although by no means exclusive way, of distinguishing the collection from that of its related counterpart, 'decorative art'.

The collection includes representative examples of a range of traditional visual art forms, including painting, drawing, print making, and sculpture, and photography, which in turn cover many different subjects, media, and techniques of production.

Broadly speaking, the collection covers British art, extending from the 18<sup>th</sup> century through to the present day, with a small selection of works by national or internationally renowned artists, such as Benjamin West (1738-1820), or John Singer Sargent (1856-1925). However, particular focus is given to works that exhibit a local connection, whether through subject matter (for example, local topographical art), or artist (an artist may be linked to the local area by birth, domicile, education or employment/studio practice).

Works within the latter, local category cover a wide range of techniques of production and subject-matter, by artists from Derby and Derbyshire, ranging from Thomas Smith of Derby (approximately 1724-1767) to any living artist whose work is considered of sufficient quality and importance to justify representation and preservation.

Most significantly, Derby Museums' hold the world's largest, and most representative collection of paintings, drawings, prints, and ephemera relating to Joseph Wright, ARA (1734-1797), Designated by the then Museums, Libraries, and Archives Council in 2011 as a collection of national significance. Full public access to the museums' archive of over 300 drawings by Wright, alongside manuscripts and secondary resource material, was recently made possible through the establishment of a dedicated Joseph Wright Study Room, enabled by a grant from Arts Council England's Designation Development Fund. This development complements a wider commitment to raising the profile and accessibility of the artist's work, which currently includes the display of 35 of the museums' total 38 oil paintings by Wright.

Further areas of note include a superb collection of paintings and drawings by Ernest Townsend (1880-1944), many of which depict Derby locations and people during the inter-war years. Some of these paintings are included among Alfred Goodey's collection of nearly 600 paintings and drawings of 'Old Derby', which were donated to the Museum between 1936 and 1945. Largely topographical, these paintings range from the early 18<sup>th</sup> century to the mid twentieth century, and provide a fascinating account of the physical and social development of Derby and Derbyshire during the period.



The fine art collection also includes a modest assembly of sculpture, and includes work by Ronald Pope (1920-1997), and David Payne (1843-1894). More recent, small scale, acquisitions have attempted to begin to address a collection gap in the form of contemporary fine art photography, in accordance with the local emphasis outlined above.

### **3.5 STEM and Working Life**

Derby Museums' science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) and Working Life collection represents the range of local manufacturing and extractive industries with a particularly strong emphasis on railway technology, general engineering and clay-working industries. As of 2014, there were 11,537 objects classified on the museum database as 'Industrial History', representing 8.87% of the total, catalogued collection. The size of many industrial items means that the Industrial collection forms around 25% by volume of collection. There is some crossover with the social history collections concerning working life and the social movements related to employment. There is also material from the local textile industry contained within the costume and textiles collections.

One principle area of the STEM and Working Life collection are the railway engineering and Midland Railway collections. These collections are comprised of locomotives and rolling stock, including the nationally significant British Pullman carriage bodies, presently on a renewable five year loan to the Midland Railway Centre at Butterley, Derbyshire. Much of the related archive and ephemera collection has been made publicly accessible through the Midland Railway Study Centre at the Silk Mill, opened in 2005. Railway model-making is also represented through the 7mm gauge Midland Railway collection.

There is considerable material relating to engineering and supporting industries in Derby across several specialisms including iron founding, pattern making, light and heavy engineering, brick making, horological material, mining equipment and scientific equipment. Significant sub-collections include the Derby-made Qualcast lawnmowers, working stationary steam, a large collection of locally-made bricks, and clocks from John Whitehurst and Smith of Derby.

The collection's importance to the Silk Mill as the southern gateway to the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site is established by material relating to the textile industries of Derby and its environs, including the Erewash Valley. Themes covered include the spinning of cotton and silk, narrow tapes weaving, handframe and machine knitting and the development of man-made fibres.

There are limited collections relating to transport industries, most notably consisting of car and aero-engine production material from Rolls-Royce, including objects on loan from the Rolls-Royce Heritage Trust. There are also buses in storage in Uttoxeter and a Derby-built motorcycle, the Silk 700s.

Supporting collections of photographs, drawings and ephemera are also present. A large proportion of this collection relates to Stanton Ironworks and International Combustion of Derby.

### **3.6 Military History**

The Military History collection contains the following sub-collections.

#### 3.6.1 9<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> Royal Lancers Collection

The 9<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> Royal Lancers Museum is a separate Accredited Museum with a service agreement with Derby Museums Trust to provide display, storage and curatorial services. The collection covers the 9<sup>th</sup> Light Dragoons, the 12<sup>th</sup> Light Dragoons, the 9<sup>th</sup> Dragoons, the 12<sup>th</sup> Dragoons, the 9<sup>th</sup> Lancers, the 12<sup>th</sup> Lancers and the 9<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> Lancers. The collections also include material relating to the 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Lancers during the Second World War. The 9<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> Royal Lancers Museum is covered by its own Acquisition and Disposal Policy as required by ACE. Collection is undertaken by the Curator of the 9<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> Lancers Museum on behalf of the Trustees and by the Trustees themselves. The 9<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> Royal Lancers Museum has a small purchase grant to buy items from auctions and dealers, but relies on donations. It particularly pursues 'modern' and current-issue items with the assistance of the serving Regiment.

#### 3.6.2 Derbyshire Yeomanry and Leicestershire and Derbyshire Yeomanry

This small sub-collection is almost exclusively the property of Derby City Council (approximately 2500 objects including photography and medals), but it does include some items on loan from the Leicestershire Derbyshire Yeomanry Trustees and Old Comrades Association (about 220 items).

#### 3.6.3 Derbyshire Infantry and Sherwood Foresters

These collections consist of items relating to the 95<sup>th</sup> (Derbyshire) Regiment, Infantry and Rifle Volunteers, Militia, and the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Battalions of the Sherwood Foresters and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalions of the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters. Collections are mostly the property of Derby City Council although items on display in the *Soldiers Story* gallery are on loan from the Museum of Mercian Regiment (WFR Collection) Trustees. In 2007, the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment were amalgamated with two other infantry regiments to form the Mercian Regiment. Derby Museums does not hold any items relating to the Mercian Regiment, which is now the County Infantry regiment. However we would consider borrowing some items relating to the Mercian Regiment for display in the Soldiers Story Gallery to update our displays to show the current Regiment's recent achievements.

#### 3.6.4 General British Army, Naval and Air Force

Within Derby City Council's military collections there are items and medals relating to the military service of local men and women who served with corps or non-local regiments (such as the Royal Medical Corps, the Royal Engineers and other regiments) as well as the Royal Navy, Merchant Navy and Royal Air Force (and antecedent organisations). Most items in this category should be passed, with the owner's permission to the relevant regimental or national museum where appropriate and offers of new material treated similarly. Non-accessioned material of this category should be passed to the appropriate museum immediately UNLESS it can be demonstrated that the object has strong local significance (such as a local hero).

### 3.6.5 Foreign Military

There are items in the collection that relate to 'foreign military' such as uniform items, weapons and other souvenirs and relics, including the Cunnington collection of First World War related items. These are primarily the result of Derbyshire Yeomanry or Sherwood Foresters soldiers bringing items back from the First and Second World Wars (probably from Prisoners of War or from the dead), though some material now relating to the 'modern' post-Second World War Malaya (1950s), Northern Ireland (1970s and 1980s) Former Yugoslavia (1990s), Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts is also in the collection.

### 3.6.6 First and Second World War Home Front

There are a number of items relating to the 'Home Front' of both World Wars, including items concerning rationing, air-raids and bombing, gas-masks and ARP. There are particularly significant collections of signs, paper ephemera (posters and documents) and items relating to the Home Guard. These are all items for which there is considerable contemporary interest

### 3.6.7 Firearms

Derby Museums have a collection of approximately 120 firearms. Advice on the care of these and similar explosive based weapons is provided by the 9<sup>th</sup>/12th Lancers curator due to particular legal requirements ensuring that they are dealt with safely, carefully and with sensitivity.

They are mainly associated with the Derbyshire Yeomanry, the Sherwood Foresters and its antecedent regiments. There is a representative collection of locally-manufactured or retailed civilian firearms (shotguns and handguns). A small number of firearms in the collection were originally used in crime and given to the Museum by the police.

There are a small number of objects, particularly relating to the manufacture of firearms that are considered Social History material, owing to the crossover between disciplines.

### 3.6.8 Uniformed Services

This collection contains material relating to the police and law enforcement, Red Cross (and Ambulance service), Fire Brigade (AFS and Fire Brigade), and modern era (nuclear) Civil Defence. Recent acquisitions include a number of items from the old County Borough of Derby police force.

## **3.7 Natural Sciences**

The Natural Sciences collection covers biological and earth sciences specimens from all disciplines. These are divided into the three major disciplines of botany, zoology and geology. It is estimated that around 75,000 individual specimens are contained within these three disciplines, although only many of these are not recorded as individual specimens on the Accessions Register but as components of larger collections. The Natural Sciences collections are currently being researched, documented and redisplayed as part of the DM Nature project.

The Museum had also long maintained a biological records centre to record biological data from Derby and Derbyshire. In the absence of a dedicated Natural Sciences curator, this work is now undertaken by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and forms

part of the National Biodiversity Network. The data can now be accessed through the NBN Gateway ([data.nbn.org.uk](http://data.nbn.org.uk)).

### 3.7.1 Botany

The botanical collection consists of around 10,000 plant specimens of predominantly Derbyshire origin. The bulk of the botanical collection is a vascular plant herbarium of approximately 8,500 pressed specimens and arranged by the Dandy classification system. It includes collections of important 19<sup>th</sup> century botanists such as J. Whittaker, W.R. Linton and W.H. Painter, as well as the modern day collections of R. Smith and Dr A. Wilmot.

Much work has been done over the last decade to catalogue specimens and computerise data held within the collection. As a whole, the botanical collections aim to reflect the botanical composition of the area for scientific and educational purposes. They are also a useful reference source for conservationists and provide support for current plant recording activities.

Future uses of the collection include displays within the redeveloped nature gallery at the Museum and Art Gallery and the more widespread use of the collection and its associated data through partnerships with academic institutions, volunteers and special interest groups.

### 3.7.2 Zoology

The zoological collections contain specimens from all over the world with a bias towards birds, mammals and insect.

#### 3.7.2.1 Invertebrates

The entomological collections consist of approximately 50,000 specimens of insects and related orders in varying states of preservation. Some specimens are been lost as a result of an *Anthrenus verbascii* infestation within an area of the insect store. Non-British material is a prevalent feature of this collection, particularly among the Coleoptera. There are specimens of international importance in the collection are the Bragg collection of Phasmid type specimens and type specimens of South American, Indian and Far Eastern coleoptera from the collection donated by Mapp. The collection also contains large numbers of Lepidoptera, notably the locally significant collection of Heywood, one of the founders of the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Entomological Society (DaNES). An assessment of the significance of individual groups and specimens contained within the entomology collection has been partially completed.

A number of other animal groups are represented by a small number of specimens, such as Echinoderms, Corals and Crustacea. Significant among the non-entomological invertebrate collections are the Grimwood-Taylor collection of British and non-British Mollusca; and a collection of shells acquired during James Cook's voyages to the Pacific.

#### 3.7.2.2 Vertebrates

The vertebrate collections contain approximately 5,000 specimens, mostly birds and mammals. Most specimens and most are mounted in life-like poses and are either cased or uncased. The collection is in varying states of preservation with some specimens no longer of displayable quality. The collection contains a number of examples specimens acquired from prominent local collectors, such as the Mosley

collection of cased birds obtained following the closure of Burton-on-Trent Museum). There are also examples of the work of prominent local taxidermists, including Hutchinson and Cook. The collection also includes a limited number of skeletal remains, bird egg collections and study skins.

The scientific data associated with the vertebrate collection varies but the collection can be broadly described as being representative of British wildlife, especially that of Derby and Derbyshire. The collection also contains a number of non-British specimens and includes examples of extinct species.

Although there have been few additions to the zoological collection in recent years, it has seen continued use as part of education programmes and exhibitions. Work has been done documenting vertebrate specimens in preparation for the *Enlightenment!* exhibition. Entomological specimens are also exhibited at the DaNES annual exhibition. A considerable amount of zoological material is to be used in the redeveloped nature gallery. It is envisaged that the partnerships with academic institutions and specialist groups will lead to greater access to the collection for research and other forms of public engagement.

### 3.7.2.3 Geology

The geological collections are split between petrology (1,500 specimens), palaeontology (4,500 specimens) and mineralogy (2,500 specimens). The palaeontology collection shows a bias towards Derbyshire specimens of the Carboniferous and Quaternary periods. There is little locality data for much of the collection and documentation is poor.

- There are some small significant collections within the geological collections. These are:
- A set of type specimen fossils from Chrome Hill, complete with a catalogue and documentation.
- The Nellie Kirkham Collection of specimens from Derbyshire mines
- A collection of marbles and building stones comprised of donations from the 1920s and later additions. This collection forms a good record of architectural petrology within the city.

There is a good general collection of Derbyshire minerals and an extensive collection of minerals from around the world. These are mostly good quality specimens but require further research to gauge their significance.

The palaeontology collection includes ichthyosaur and plesiosaur remains which are of potential research interest. There are also cave deposits and animal remains from important local sites of scientific interest, including Creswell Crags, Thor's Cave and Hoe Grange. One of the most notable single specimens is the 'Allenton Hippo', the remains of which date from the Ipswichian Interglacial. Other large faunal remains from the Boulton Moor area are also in the collection.

The collection contains a small number of historically important items relating to Derbyshire geology, including White Watson tablets, and tools and materials for Ashford Black Marble inlaying. Worked ornamental items of Ashford Black Marble, Blue John and Chellaston Alabaster are included in the Decorative Arts collection.

### 3.8 Photography

The photographic collection consists of over 7500 individually catalogued items, including prints, postcards, negatives, photograph albums and carte-de-visites. This figure masks the real extent of the photographic collection because of the number of uncatalogued or bulk accessioned items relating to the history of local companies, most notably Stanton Ironworks and the railway industry.

Much of the photography collection is of local topographical subjects and is used to illustrate life in Derby in support of other disciplines. For this reason the bulk of the photographic collection is considered to be part of the STEM and Working Life, and Social History collections.

The most significant items are original photographs, glass plate negatives and lantern slides by Richard Keene (1825-1894), founder of the Derby Photographic Society and a noted photographer of Derbyshire landscapes; portraits by W.W. Winters, Derby's earliest purpose built photographic studio; and examples of early photography techniques dating from the 1850s and 1860s.

Many of the images in the collection are available to view online as part of the Picture the Past partnership between libraries and museums in Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ([www.picturethepast.org.uk](http://www.picturethepast.org.uk)).

### 3.9 Social History

The collection contains a large and varied collection of social history items connected with community life, home life and personal life in Derby. This category formerly included objects related to working life but these have now been reassigned to the STEM and Working life category to reflect the responsibilities of the Curator of Making. Most of the objects within the social history collection are related to life in Derby over the past three centuries. There are a number of sub-collections of note. There is a growing collection of items of artistic, social and scientific interest relating to Derby during the 18<sup>th</sup> century Midlands Enlightenment. Some of this material has been acquired recently as part of the HLF-funded Collecting Cultures project *Enlightenment! Derbyshire Setting the Pace in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century* in partnership with Buxton Museum and Art Gallery and Belper North Mill. Internationally important items include Erasmus Darwin's microscope, John Flamsteed's 'Atlas Coelestis' and John Whitehurst's 'Inquiry into the Original State and Formation of the Earth'. There are also important items relating to events of national importance which occurred locally, including Prince Charles Edward Stuart's ring and the execution block used to behead the Pentrich rebels in 1817. There is also a small collection of items relating to Captain R.F. Scott's British Antarctic Expedition given to the museum by George Clarke Simpson, meteorologist on the *Terra Nova*.

A part of the collection which is of national importance is the collection of over 1200 toy theatres and associated material donated by Frank Bradley in 1977. The collection includes toy theatres, scenery, figures and playbooks and is one of the most comprehensive collections of toy theatres in the world. The toy theatre collection forms part of a larger collection of 3500 items relating to childhood toys and games, many of which have little local provenance in terms of manufacture but can be used as supporting material and to indicate national trends.

A further strength of the social history collection is a collection of approximately 400 radios, televisions and music players dating from the early and mid-twentieth century. Little of this material is of local manufacture but is a regionally important collection of audio and visual technology.

Other areas of the social history collection are comprised of paper ephemera relating to local individuals and businesses, a large collection of bottles of local manufacture, furniture, architectural features and the contents of Cope and Taylor's chemist shop, acquired when the business closed in 1972.

Community organisations, such as the Co-operative movement and local Friendly Societies, are well represented by paper ephemera. There is also some material relating to local Christian and Jewish organisations, although contemporary religion is generally under represented within the collection.

There is a significant collection of social history numismatics mainly consisting of: coins of national issue and recent date (approximately 1750 onwards), early Derbyshire banknotes, with a printing plate, Derbyshire trade tokens, token money of local industries or businesses (such as pub checks and bus tokens), other 'paranumismatica', or money-like items (such as ration books and credit cards), commemorative medals of both local and national issue relating to non-military events, and foreign coins and coin weights. Its strengths lie in the examples of local banknotes and trade tokens, together with the locally-issued commemorative medals.

The Museum has a good collection of new stamps and First Day Covers up to c.1997, and, based around the local Walton Bequest of 1934, a first rate Empire and world collection.

Other aspects of the social history collection include more generic items, including personal grooming items, food packaging, cooking utensils and photography equipment.

### **3.10 World Cultures and Non-British Archaeology**

Derby Museums' World Cultures collection consists of approximately 1400 objects, approximately 200 of which are on loan from East Staffordshire District Council, and a further 500 classified as Foreign Archaeology. The collection was audited in 2005 but very few objects have been added to the collection since the loan from East Staffordshire District Council in 1981. At the start of 2014, there were 1,277 objects classified on the museum database as world cultures and ethnography, representing 1% of the total catalogued collection.

African, particularly West African, material makes up a significant proportion of the objects in the main World Cultures collection, partly due to a policy in the 1940s of exchanging other material for African specimens. The material culture of Oceania is also well represented and the collection includes small numbers of objects from China, India, Japan and the Americas. It is worth noting that some of the best examples in the collection are among the objects on loan from East Staffordshire.

The Foreign Archaeology includes flint and stone tools from Denmark, Egypt, France, North America and India; Iron Age metalwork from France; cuneiform tablets and pottery from Greece Cyprus and Egypt (the latter includes material from Beni Hasan and is part of a larger collection of excavated material dispersed among several museums). The collection also includes the Egyptian mummies, which were among Derby Museums' earliest acquisitions.

The strengths of the collection lie primarily in its diversity, with some of the African material being of relevance to communities within Derby. Its principal weakness is its relatively poor documentation, mainly in respect of its origin and collection rather than its acquisition by the Museum.

With the exception of the 1981 loan of material from East Staffs, there have been very few additions to this collection since the late 1970s. The most recent acquisitions have been two Islamic items acquired as part of the *Devotion* exhibition and various items identified during the 2005 audit

The World Cultures and Foreign Archaeology collections place Derby Museums' collections in a global context and many aspects of these collections relate to communities living in Derby. This material also has relevance to the history of collecting and Derby Museums as an institution.

### **3.11 Human Remains**

Derby Museums policy on human remains is outlined in detail in its Human Remains Policy (2013, revised 2014). The policy covers the care and management of the collection, and outlines the terms under which access is granted. The collection includes human remains in the following categories:

#### 3.11.1 Archaeological

This refers to human remains acquired as a result of archaeological excavations. It forms the largest single group of human remains within the collection and consists mainly of specimens from within the city and the wider county. Notable examples are remains from the Roman cemetery excavated at Derby Racecourse and Bronze Age cremations from Stanton Moor.

#### 3.11.2 Ethnographic/World Cultures

Ethnographic remains are classified as non-British human remains acquired because they were deemed to be of scientific or cultural value. In practice there is some overlap between this group and the other categories but in line with the Museum Ethnographers' Group *Guidelines on Management of Human Remains* (1991, revised 1994) they have been highlighted as a distinct category in recognition of the fact that they may be subject to concerns not applicable to other human remains. These include acquisition as the result of unequal relationships, cultural sensitivity and the legacy of different curatorial practices being applied to human remains from western and non-western societies.

Significant holdings in this area include two Egyptian mummies on display at the Museum and Art Gallery, and skeletal remains from South America and New Zealand.



### 2.11.3 Natural Sciences

This group comprises human remains acquired primarily as anatomical or natural history specimens, including skeletal remains and other medical specimens.

## **4. Themes and priorities for future collecting**

The majority of Derby Museums' collecting is passive. The suitability of individual donations in specific subject areas is to be assessed against the criteria outlined in this section. Cross-disciplinary themes for collecting where a more active approach is required are also identified in this section. These themes are identified as areas where the collection has existing strengths which can be built on, provide a particular focus for public engagement and can be used to strengthen the identity of the organisation.

### **4.1 Themes for current collecting**

#### **4.1.1 Enlightenment**

Derby Museums recognises the importance of Derby and Derbyshire to the scientific, artistic and intellectual developments of the 18<sup>th</sup> century Enlightenment. Derby Museums will seek to add to its collections relating to this period where possible, with particular attention being focused on items relating to individuals with Joseph Wright of Derby, the Whitehurst family of clockmakers, Erasmus Darwin and John Flamsteed. Other material relating to the social, political, artistic and economic life of Derby during the period will also be collected as appropriate.

This collecting priority builds on existing strengths in all disciplines within the collection and seeks to provide a focus for Derby Museums on the achievements of this period, its longer term impact and how it has shaped Derby as it is today. There is also a desire to build on the legacy of the HLF-funded *Enlightenment!* project which ran from 2008-2013 and to maintain a productive relationship with the partners in that project, Buxton Museum and Art Gallery and Belper North Mill. It is envisaged that any collecting in this area will be with reference to the collecting policies of these institutions and to the collecting aims of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site (DVMWHS).

#### **4.1.2 Making**

The theme of 'Making' is closely related to both the Enlightenment theme and the STEM and Working Life collections. The theme of 'making' is the responsibility of the Curator of Making and is taken to mean *the material culture and ideas resulting from the knowledge, skills, experience and activities of the people of Derby and its environs.*

The Making narrative seeks to build on the existing strengths of the industrial collection and to make these more representative of Derby's makers through time. With this in mind, contemporary collecting will be encouraged and will be supported by the collection of oral histories and other supporting material from donors wherever possible. The development of the Derby Maker narrative will also be supported by developing stronger links with contemporary makers and companies working in Derby. This will help to inform the contemporary collecting policy for the STEM and Working Life collection.

Future use is built in to the redevelopment of the Silk Mill. The collections will play a central role in the re-display of the co-produced exhibition spaces, the events programming agenda, and the schools, in-reach and out-reach programmes. The ultimate aim is for open storage facilities to enable access to the entire collection housed at the Silk Mill. Though a considerable number of images from the Stanton Ironworks photographic collection are already available through the Picture the Past website project there is provision to enhance the availability of information online.

## **4.2 Collecting priorities by subject area**

### **4.2.1 Archaeology**

The collecting area for archaeological material is defined by parish in the *Procedures for Transfer of Archaeological Archives in Derbyshire* (2004) and comprises the City of Derby, Amber Valley, Erewash, South Derbyshire and the Derbyshire Dales as far north as Ashbourne.

Derby Museums is an Approved Archaeological Store, eligible for English Heritage storage grant aid. Archives from developer-funded projects will be subject to a storage charge at least equivalent to the English Heritage grant (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1995). All museums in Derbyshire collecting these archives agreed to this charge taking effect from April 2004. All archaeological curators and archaeological excavation units and contractors have been informed of this change. The charge will not apply to material that the museums were informed of prior to this date.

As of 2014 accession numbers are no longer issued for 'negative' archives, i.e. watching briefs and evaluation work which produce no finds on the grounds that such work is already recorded with Derbyshire HER and OASIS. Instead units are required to inform Derby Museums at the as soon as they know if a project will yield any finds so that an accession number can be issued.

There will be no further collecting of non-local archaeology.

### **4.2.2 Ceramics and Decorative Art**

The collection is the largest of Derby Porcelain and its associated factories in public ownership and is of international importance. Future collecting should focus on the earliest period of the Nottingham Road factory, particularly the Planché period prior to 1760. Material from the Robert Bloor period and after (1811-1848) should only be collected when they fill an obvious gap in the collection. Pieces from the King Street factory will also continue to be collected due to their under-representation in the collection.

In terms of ceramics, 'local' is taken to mean Derby, Derbyshire and immediately adjacent areas where an industry or production activity crosses the county boundary. Derby museums will discuss collecting individual ceramic pieces with neighbouring museums who may be collecting ceramics from their defined collecting areas. In particular, it is proposed that we do not collect any Royal Crown Derby items, unless they are of exceptional quality or of unusual or rare design. Any such pieces offered or sought after should be with the full knowledge and agreement with the Royal Crown Derby Museum.

Ceramics by smaller local manufacturers should be considered with priority given to Pinxton, Cockpit Hill creamware, Melbourne creamware and Ticknall pottery. Studio pottery by local artists is to be considered on a case by case basis.

Other items to be considered are any material relating to the history of the Derby factories, workers at those factories, the processes of ceramic production and its development over time. Material relating to individual porcelain artists should also be collected where possible to add greater context to the collection. Collecting in this area is strongly linked to the themes of Enlightenment and Making outlined above.

It is not envisaged that any new stoneware, glass or furniture will be accepted in the future unless they are the work of local artists or manufacturers; commemorate local events or places; or in some way contribute to the Enlightenment and Making narratives.

#### **4.2.3 Costume and Textiles**

The costume collection has grown to fill most of the storage space allocated to it and is currently without a dedicated curator. There is also a high level of duplication within the collection and a need for it to be audited and repacked. Given these concerns, it is Derby Museums' policy not to add to the costume collection in the foreseeable future. Individual donations will be considered on a case by case basis but they must fill an obvious gap in the collection, be of use for public engagement and have a strong local provenance. Items will also be considered if it can be demonstrated that they contribute to the Enlightenment or Making narratives.

#### **4.2.4 Fine Art**

Derby Museums endeavours to expand its range of historic and contemporary works by local artists where funds, uniqueness, individual provenance, and importance allow. Increasingly, the museums' depleting storage and display capacity poses a limitation on the size of possible acquisitions, and the frequency at which items are accepted for inclusion in the collection.

For this reason, priority continues to be given to works or material relating to Joseph Wright, in accordance with the plans and ambitions set out within the Museum's business plan that aim to raise the profile of Wright and the collection of his work both locally and nationally. A collecting strategy focussed on addressing gaps within the Wright Collection was drawn up in 2012, and identified and prioritised two key areas: depictions in oils of Wright's native Derbyshire and depictions in oils of Mount Vesuvius in Naples, a subject he returned to over 30 times within his career.

More recently, this 'Wright-centric' approach has been expanded to include works by contemporaries of Wright (both British and foreign) in a bid to broaden the understanding of the context in which his work was produced and exhibited, although the prohibitive cost of works by artists such as Sir Joshua Reynolds and Thomas Gainsborough may make this a gradual and necessarily opportunistic process. In addition, the museum will investigate ways of developing a range of the highest calibre national and international art, through loans and partnerships with other institutions.

#### **4.2.5 STEM and Working Life**

The collecting priorities for the STEM and Working Life collection are closely related to those of the Making and Enlightenment themes, although both these themes also cover other aspects of the collection.

New acquisitions are to be sought where they fill an obvious gap in the existing collection, have a strong local provenance or help to develop the collection so that it becomes more representative of the economic and social life of Derby. It is noted that the material relating to smaller employers, organised labour and the lives and experiences of individual workers is currently under represented in the collection. To better represent the Derby Maker narrative and the Enlightenment, the following areas are considered to be collecting priorities:

- Material relating to the silk industry in Derby.
- Scientific and mathematical equipment relating to Enlightenment principles.
- Information technology and electronic entertainment equipment including software.
- Food processing and brewing.
- Printing and typesetting.
- Social movements relating to employment, particularly trade union activity.
- Oral histories from makers and citizens in the city.

Collecting will be informed by discussion with other institutions collecting similar material within the area, including Peak District Mining Museum, Wirksworth Heritage Centre, Sharpe's Pottery and Nottingham City Museums and Galleries. Development on the extensive railway holdings will be facilitated by maintaining existing links with railway partners and forging new partnerships with the National Railway Museum.

#### **4.2.6 Military History**

##### 4.2.6.1 9th/12th Royal Lancers Collection

Acquisition of material relating to the 9<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> Royal Lancers is subject to the policies of the 9<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> Royal Lancers Museum.

##### 4.2.6.2 Derbyshire Yeomanry and Leicestershire and Derbyshire Yeomanry

Items relating to both units are collected by Derby Museums as representation of these units in the collections is quite weak. Material from the period after the Second World War is particularly weak and is sought after when possible. Most items should be considered at all times unless in poor condition or duplicated.

##### 4.2.6.3 Derbyshire Infantry and Sherwood Foresters

No further collection of material relating to the Sherwood Foresters, the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters or the Mercian Regiment is to be considered and any offers are to be directed to the Museum of the Mercian Regiment (Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Collection) which is based in Nottingham and is a separate Accredited Museum.

#### 4.2.6.4 General British Army, Naval and Air Force

Occasionally a general British Army object exists in the collection that appears to have no local significance, or a similar offer is made to the museum. Disposal and refusal as appropriate should be considered in these circumstances unless the object or objects represent a gap in the collection not met by the collections of the 9<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> Royal Lancers and the Derbyshire Yeomanry or if the item/items would significantly enhance our understanding of the service lives of Derby men and women, particularly during the First and Second World Wars. This exception might be used for example if a general non-provenanced item was offered with no known links to a local person, but would have been used by the Derbyshire Yeomanry or 9<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> Lancers as 'general issue' and that gap exists in the collections. Similarly a non-provenanced item or general British Army issue could be considered for use in the education and handling sessions conducted in connection with the *Soldiers Story* gallery.

Only medals that are under-represented should be accepted in any event. Common medal groups of the First and Second World Wars should be refused (including those of the Derbyshire Yeomanry) unless there is a situation that makes it unusual – for example the addition of a gallantry medal, or some other circumstances. Medals should only be accepted with some form of accompanying documentation, such as a photograph of the medal recipient and background information (to assist interpretation and display). Where possible medals should be accompanied with other donations such as uniform or military items that enhance the group of objects being acquired – medals by themselves with no known recipient should be avoided.

Items relating to 98 (City of Derby) RAF Squadron should be collected when possible.

#### 4.2.6.5 Foreign Military

Foreign Military items should only be collected where they relate to soldiers of the Derbyshire Yeomanry or 9<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> Lancers, or where it can be demonstrated that a Derby person was involved. No foreign military should be collected where there is no connection.

#### 4.2.6.6 First and Second World War Home Front

The Museum aims to build a collection which represents the various aspects of life in Derby during the two World Wars. New material should be considered on the basis of need and condition, and the extent of material already in the collection. There are large numbers of both accessioned and non-accessioned ration books in the collection – there should be no further collection of these.

#### 4.2.6.7 Firearms

There should be no further collecting of military firearms unless they are associated with use by the Derbyshire Yeomanry or Leicestershire and Derbyshire Yeomanry, and are under-represented in the Museum's collections. Non-provenanced items should only be considered when that weapon type is not represented by a provenanced weapon.

#### 4.2.6.8 Uniformed Services

All new offers of material should be considered carefully and donation in these areas should be encouraged, unless items are in poor condition or are duplicated. As the organisation of uniformed services has been closely linked with the development of those services at a county level, particular care will be taken to ensure that material is only acquired after consultation with Derbyshire County Museum Service.

#### **4.2.7 Natural Sciences**

The current collecting area for Natural Sciences related material is the county of Derbyshire, including the City of Derby.

For the purposes of data recording, especially regarding botany, the system of Watsonian Vice-Counties is used. This uses an unchanging system of boundary with Derbyshire classified as *VC57- Derbyshire*.

Any new acquisitions into the Natural Sciences must fulfil the conditions outlined in the appropriate British and European legislation and conform to the requirements of the relevant international treaties, specifically the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1954) and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

##### 4.2.7.1 Botany

It has previously been identified that specimens of non-vascular plants are under-represented in the collection, as are lichens. Other material which will be considered are specimens relating to prominent local botanists.

The lack of a dedicated Natural Sciences curator within the staff at Derby Museums means that outside advice may be sought about potential new acquisitions, including Natural England and partnerships generated as part of the Derby Museums Nature project, local wildlife groups, Derby and Nottingham universities. Advice from other museums may also be beneficial, particularly curatorial staff at Wollaton Hall.

Specimens not originating in Derbyshire will not be collected unless are contained within a larger collection of primarily local material, or relate to the career of a prominent Derbyshire botanist.

##### 4.2.7.2 Zoology

It is envisaged that local avian and mammal specimens will need to be periodically acquired to offset potential damage to specimens resulting from repeated use and long-term display. Such specimens are only to be acquired when a specific need is identified by an assessment of current holdings. Acquisitions of better skeletal material and more Derbyshire entomology would fill gaps in the current collection.

New specimens should be of local provenance, except in cases where it can be demonstrated that they build on existing strengths in the collection or where there is an identified immediate need for their use in education, display or research.

Historic specimens will also be considered where they have a strong connection to prominent local naturalists and collectors. The work of notable local taxidermists is also of continued interest. It is also desirable to collect examples of invasive species recently arrived in Britain. Such specimens have benefits for education and public engagement, as well as making the collection more representative of recent changes in the natural environment.

As in the case of the botanical collections, outside advice should be sought where appropriate about individual acquisitions.

#### 4.2.7.3 Geology

New specimens should only be acquired when they fill a known gap in the collection and will not be acquired without relevant scientific data attached. No further worldwide and UK specimens should be acquired unless for purposes of comparison with local specimens.

External advice will be sought as appropriate from organisations such as the National Stone Centre and the British Geological Survey regarding individual acquisitions.

#### **4.2.8 Photography**

Future collecting should focus on photographs or albums from the late 20<sup>th</sup>/early 21<sup>st</sup> century or very early examples of photography (such as the 1850s to the 1870s, including photographs/negatives by Richard Keene). As large collections are also held by Derby Local Studies Library and the Derby Evening Telegraph newspaper, the Museum should concentrate on more unusual subjects, such as portraits, domestic life, or images which support other museum projects.

Fine Art photography by local photographers and of local subject matter is currently under represented in the collection and should be collected with a preference for physical prints backed up with negatives or digital files if appropriate.

#### **4.2.9 Social History**

New acquisitions should conform to the aim of the collection to be representative of local community, domestic and personal life at different periods of time. Items will only be collected where they have local provenance, are of local manufacture, or have strong local associations. Collection from the City of Derby is prioritised but material from the following areas of Derbyshire will be considered if it fills a significant gap in the collection or enhances the existing collection:

- Amber Valley (main towns Alfreton, Ripley, Heanor and Belper\*)
- South Derbyshire (main towns Swadlincote\* and Melbourne)
- Derbyshire Dales, as far north as the boundary of the Peak District National Park (main towns Ashbourne, Matlock\*)

\*Note that collecting will be by agreement with the accredited museums at Belper North Mill (relating to the local textile industry and the Strutt family), Wirksworth Heritage Centre and Sharps Pottery Museum (Swadlincote).

Priority areas for Social History collecting are closely related to the Enlightenment theme. Other areas where there are noticeable gaps in the collection are as follows:

- Cultural, political and economic life in medieval, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century Derby – particularly material relating to churches and religious movements, the English Civil War, the town's market function and entertainments
- Cultural life in communities in present day Derby that are currently under-represented in our collections, particularly migrant communities
- Youth culture

Areas which should be subject to no further collecting include generic social history items, shop fittings, TVs and radios, and cameras (excluding those relating to

prominent local photographers). Moving film and sound recordings will not generally be collected, unless they specifically support existing collection items. Existing material of this kind will be offered to other Accredited museums or the Media Archive for Central England (MACE).

#### **4.2.10 World Cultures and Non-British Archaeology**

It is not recommended that the World Cultures and Non-British Archaeology collections be added to unless new material is related to community groups within the Derby and the surrounding area, or is related to specific projects undertaken by Derby Museums and/or partner organisations.

#### **4.2.11 Human Remains**

Acquisition of human remains usually occurs as a result of the transfer of archaeological archives. As a result of the agreement reached with other museums operating in Derbyshire in 2004, Derby Museums is designated as a repository for archaeological material from a clearly defined collecting area. Acquisition of archaeological human remains will follow the standard procedure for the Transfer of Archaeological Archives. It is understood that excavations deposited with Derby Museums have been conducted with reference to the appropriate legal requirements.

The acquisition of non-archaeological human remains will occur only in exceptional circumstances. Any acquisitions of this nature will also involve consultation with appropriate interested communities (e.g. cultural groups, scientific specialists or academic bodies).

### **5. Themes and priorities for rationalisation and disposal**

- 5.1 The museum recognises that the principles on which priorities for rationalisation and disposal are determined will be through a formal review process that identifies which collections are included and excluded from the review. The outcome of review and any subsequent rationalisation will not reduce the quality or significance of the collection and will result in a more useable, well managed collection.**
- 5.2 The procedures used will meet professional standards. The process will be documented, open and transparent. There will be clear communication with key stakeholders about the outcomes and the process.**
- 5.3 Rationalisation and disposal will be a feature of all projects which contain an element of collections review. Current priority collections for rationalisation are linked to the Silk Mill redevelopment and focus on the STEM and Working Life and Social History collections. There is both scope and a need to rationalise the STEM and Working Life collection to safeguard the future of the core collection and provide capacity for contemporary collecting.**



There may be some scope for amalgamation of archive and periodical collections with Derby Local Studies Library or the Derbyshire County Record Office. Owing to an inability to effectively store sensitive material moving images, film and sound recordings will generally not be collected, unless they specifically support new acquisitions or existing collections. Existing material of this kind will be offered to the Media Archive of Central England (MACE).

- 5.4 Rationalisation and disposal will also occur as part of improvements to the overall storage and conservation of the collection. Areas where this is to be prioritised are the Social History and Costume collections.**

There is scope for rationalisation of costume and textile collections through a carefully managed programme of dispersal of objects to other museums and institutions and the disposal of certain duplicates or material with a poor provenance. This is likely to include children's white clothes, wedding clothes, certain household textiles, lace samples and material samples. Such a process would ease pressure on current storage and allow a more robust conservation regime to be implemented. Areas of Social History where rationalisation and disposal can be prioritised include poorly provenanced domestic life material and generic items with little local relevance.

## **6 Legal and ethical framework for acquisition and disposal of items**

- 6.1 The museum recognises its responsibility to work within the parameters of the Museum Association Code of Ethics when considering acquisition and disposal.**

## **7 Collecting policies of other museums**

- 7.1 The museum will take account of the collecting policies of other museums and other organisations collecting in the same or related areas or subject fields. It will consult with these organisations where conflicts of interest may arise or to define areas of specialism, in order to avoid unnecessary duplication and waste of resources.**

- 7.2 Specific reference is made to the following museum(s)/organisation(s):**

- 9<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> Royal Lancers
- Bakewell Old House Museum
- Belper North Mill
- Buxton Museum and Art Gallery
- Chesterfield Museum and Art Gallery

- Derby Local Studies Library
- Derbyshire County Record Office, Matlock
- Erewash Museum
- Midland Railway Centre, Butterley
- Museum of the Mercian Regiment (Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Collection)
- National Trust Museum of Childhood, Sudbury Hall
- National Stone Centre, Wirksworth
- National Tramway Museum, Crich
- Nottingham City Museums and Galleries
- Peak District Mining Museum
- Royal Crown Derby Museum
- Sharpe's Pottery Museum, Swadlincote

## **8 Archival holdings**

**As the museum holds archives, including photographs and printed ephemera, its governing body will be guided by the Code of Practice on Archives for Museums and Galleries in the United Kingdom (third edition, 2002).**

**Derby Museums will not seek to acquire archives which do not support its existing collections or form supporting material for new acquisitions. It will work with other organisations, particularly the County Record Office and Derby Local Studies Library, to find appropriate homes such archive material.**

## **9 Acquisition**

**9.1 The museum acquisitions group chaired by the Collections Manager decide on the suitability of material for the collections. The museum will accept material that meets the general collecting criteria unless it has insufficient local provenance or connection, is in poor condition or is a poor quality duplicate of material already held in the museum or the museum has insufficient resources to care for the items properly. The acquisitions group will also refer to the Collections Agreement between Derby Museums and Derby City Council where appropriate, ensuring that any acquisitions by Derby Museums on behalf of Derby City Council are within the terms of the Collections Agreement. In situations where there are financial implications for acquisition the matter must be approved by the executive team.**

**9.2 The museum will not acquire any object or specimen unless it is satisfied that the object or specimen has not been acquired in, or exported from, its country of origin (or any intermediate country in which it may have been legally owned) in violation of that country's laws. (For the purposes of this paragraph 'country of origin' includes the United Kingdom).**

**9.3 In accordance with the provisions of the UNESCO 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, which the UK ratified with effect from November 1 2002, and the Dealing in Cultural Objects (Offences) Act 2003, the museum will reject any items that have been illicitly traded. The governing body will be guided by the national guidance on the responsible acquisition of cultural property issued by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in 2005.**

## **10 Human remains**

**10.1 As the museum holds or intends to acquire human remains under 100 years old, it will obtain the necessary licence under the Human Tissue Act 2004 and any subordinate legislation from time to time in force.**

**10.2 As the museum holds or intends to acquire human remains from any period, it will follow the procedures in the 'Guidance for the care of human remains in museums' issued by DCMS in 2005.**

## **11 Biological and geological material**

**11.1 So far as biological and geological material is concerned, the museum will not acquire by any direct or indirect means any specimen that has been collected, sold or otherwise transferred in contravention of any national or international wildlife protection or natural history conservation law or treaty of the United Kingdom or any other country, except with the express consent of an appropriate outside authority.**

## **12 Archaeological material**

**12.1 The museum will not acquire archaeological material (including excavated ceramics) in any case where the governing body or responsible officer has any suspicion that the circumstances of their recovery involved a failure to follow the appropriate legal procedures.**

**12.2 In England, Wales and Northern Ireland the procedures include reporting finds to the landowner or occupier of the land and to the proper authorities in the case of possible treasure (i.e. the Coroner for Treasure) as set out in the Treasure Act 1996 (as amended by the Coroners & Justice Act 2009).**

## **12 Exceptions**

**13.1 Any exceptions to the above clauses will only be because the museum is:**

- **acting as an externally approved repository of last resort for material of local (UK) origin**
- **acting with the permission of authorities with the requisite jurisdiction in the country of origin**

**In these cases the museum will be open and transparent in the way it makes decisions and will act only with the express consent of an appropriate outside authority. The museum will document when these exceptions occur.**

## **13 Spoliation**

**14.1 The museum will use the statement of principles ‘Spoliation of Works of Art during the Nazi, Holocaust and World War II period’, issued for non-national museums in 1999 by the Museums and Galleries Commission.**

## **14 The Repatriation and Restitution of objects and human remains**

**15.1 The museum’s governing body, acting on the advice of the museum’s professional staff, if any, may take a decision to return human remains (unless covered by the ‘Guidance for the care of human remains in museums’ issued by DCMS in 2005) , objects or specimens to a country or people of origin. The museum will take such decisions on a case by case basis; within its legal position and taking into account all ethical implications and available guidance. This will mean that the procedures described in 16.1-5 will be followed but the remaining procedures are not appropriate.**

**15.2 The disposal of human remains from museums in England, Northern Ireland and Wales will follow the procedures in the ‘Guidance for the care of human remains in museums’.**

## **16 Disposal procedures**

**16.1 All disposals will be undertaken with reference to the SPECTRUM Primary Procedures on disposal.**

- 16.2 The governing body will confirm that it is legally free to dispose of an item. Agreements on disposal made with donors will also be taken into account.**
- 16.3 When disposal of a museum object is being considered, the museum will establish if it was acquired with the aid of an external funding organisation. In such cases, any conditions attached to the original grant will be followed. This may include repayment of the original grant and a proportion of the proceeds if the item is disposed of by sale.**
- 16.4 When disposal is motivated by curatorial reasons the procedures outlined below will be followed and the method of disposal may be by gift, sale, exchange or as a last resort - destruction.**
- 16.5 The decision to dispose of material from the collections will be taken by the governing body only after full consideration of the reasons for disposal. Other factors including public benefit, the implications for the museum's collections and collections held by museums and other organisations collecting the same material or in related fields will be considered. Expert advice will be obtained and the views of stakeholders such as donors, researchers, local and source communities and others served by the museum will also be sought.**
- 16.6 A decision to dispose of a specimen or object, whether by gift, exchange, sale or destruction (in the case of an item too badly damaged or deteriorated to be of any use for the purposes of the collections or for reasons of health and safety), will be the responsibility of the governing body of the museum acting on the advice of professional curatorial staff, if any, and not of the curator or manager of the collection acting alone. A list of items for disposal with a one line description should be circulated to the Board of Trustees via email and this list be discussed at the next board meeting.**
- 16.7 Once a decision to dispose of material in the collection has been taken, priority will be given to retaining it within the public domain. It will therefore be offered in the first instance, by gift or sale, directly to other Accredited Museums likely to be interested in its acquisition.**
- 16.8 If the material is not acquired by any Accredited museum to which it was offered as a gift or for sale, then the museum community at large will be advised of the intention to dispose of the material normally through a notice on the MA's Find an Object web listing service, an announcement in the Museums Association's Museums Journal or in other specialist publications and websites (if appropriate).**

- 16.9** The announcement relating to gift or sale will indicate the number and nature of specimens or objects involved, and the basis on which the material will be transferred to another institution. Preference will be given to expressions of interest from other Accredited Museums. A period of at least two months will be allowed for an interest in acquiring the material to be expressed. At the end of this period, if no expressions of interest have been received, the museum may consider disposing of the material to other interested individuals and organisations giving priority to organisations in the public domain.
- 16.10** Any monies received by the museum governing body from the disposal of items will be applied solely and directly for the benefit of the collections. This normally means the purchase of further acquisitions. In exceptional cases, improvements relating to the care of collections in order to meet or exceed Accreditation requirements relating to the risk of damage to and deterioration of the collections may be justifiable. Any monies received in compensation for the damage, loss or destruction of items will be applied in the same way. Advice on those cases where the monies are intended to be used for the care of collections will be sought from the Arts Council England/CyMAL: Museums Archives and Libraries Wales/Museums Galleries Scotland/Northern Ireland Museums Council (*delete as appropriate*).
- 16.11** The proceeds of a sale will be allocated so it can be demonstrated that they are spent in a manner compatible with the requirements of the Accreditation standard. Money must be restricted to the long-term sustainability, use and development of the collection.
- 16.12** Full records will be kept of all decisions on disposals and the items involved and proper arrangements made for the preservation and/or transfer, as appropriate, of the documentation relating to the items concerned, including photographic records where practicable in accordance with SPECTRUM Procedure on deaccession and disposal.

### ***Disposal by exchange***

- 16.13** The nature of disposal by exchange means that the museum will not necessarily be in a position to exchange the material with another Accredited museum. The governing body will therefore ensure that issues relating to accountability and impartiality are carefully considered to avoid undue influence on its decision-making process.

- 16.13.1** In cases where the governing body wishes for sound curatorial reasons to exchange material directly with Accredited or non-Accredited museums, with other organisations or with individuals, the procedures in paragraphs 16.1-5 will apply.
- 16.13.2** If the exchange is proposed to be made with a specific Accredited museum, other Accredited museums which collect in the same or related areas will be directly notified of the proposal and their comments will be requested.
- 16.13.3** If the exchange is proposed with a non-Accredited museum, with another type of organisation or with an individual, the museum will place a notice on the MA's Find an Object web listing service, or make an announcement in the Museums Association's Museums Journal or in other specialist publications and websites (if appropriate).
- 16.13.4** Both the notification and announcement must provide information on the number and nature of the specimens or objects involved both in the museum's collection and those intended to be acquired in exchange. A period of at least two months must be allowed for comments to be received. At the end of this period, the governing body must consider the comments before a final decision on the exchange is made.

#### ***Disposal by destruction***

- 16.14** If it is not possible to dispose of an object through transfer or sale, the governing body may decide to destroy it.
- 16.15** It is acceptable to destroy material of low intrinsic significance (duplicate mass-produced articles or common specimens which lack significant provenance) where no alternative method of disposal can be found.
- 16.16** Destruction is also an acceptable method of disposal in cases where an object is in extremely poor condition, has high associated health and safety risks or is part of an approved destructive testing request identified in an organisation's research policy.
- 16.17** Where necessary, specialist advice will be sought to establish the appropriate method of destruction. Health and safety risk assessments will be carried out by trained staff where required.

**16.18 The destruction of objects should be witnessed by an appropriate member of the museum workforce. In circumstances where this is not possible, egg the destruction of controlled substances, a police certificate should be obtained and kept in the relevant object history file.**