

ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL POLICY

Derbyshire Museum Collections

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This document lays out the policies for the collections, acquisitions and disposals, on display or in store at Buxton Museum and Art Gallery, Elvaston Castle and Schools Library Service. It is in two parts: firstly, it reviews existing collection areas, identifying particular strengths and gaps in the collections and collection care issues, and how these might be addressed. The policy identifies areas where the museum intends to continue to collect, whether actively or passively. It highlights particular issues relating to the collection of material within specific disciplines. It notes institutions to which staff should refer regarding collections within the district. It identifies material that will not be collected. It addresses issues relating to handling collections and loans.
- 1.2 The second part of the report focuses on the disposal of collections. It must be noted that there is a presumption against disposal of collections from museums. However, it is realised that there are occasions when museums might consider disposal: transferring an item to the handling collection or to another museum which is better able to care for it or with which it has more appropriate associations. Any such disposal will be carried out in line with the procedures laid down by the Museums Association (MA) and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Commission (MLA) and outlined in this policy. It is expected that the same procedures will apply to any other object collections, whether named a museum or not, within the County Council's control.
- 1.3 Within both parts are the formal guidelines agreed by the MA with the Museums Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), and included within the requirements for MLA Accreditation, as core to an Accredited Museum's Acquisition and Disposal Policy.
- 1.4 This document has been prepared in preparation for an application for Museums Accreditation in 2006, and should be read alongside Derbyshire's Museum and Art Gallery: Statement of Purpose and Key Aims and Five Year Forward Plan, and in conjunction with the MA *Code of Ethics for Museums*, 2002.

2 Guidelines relating to the acquisition of collections

- 2.1 The museum will exercise 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 valid title to the item in question. For this reason, the museum will not accept donations from any minor (under 18).
- 2.2 In particular, 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).
- 2.3 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 DCMS in 2005.
- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 The museum will not acquire archaeological antiquities (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, such as reporting finds to the landowner or occupier of the land and to the proper authorities in the case of possible treasure as defined by the Treasure Act 1996 (in England, Northern Ireland and Wales) or reporting finds through the Treasure Trove procedure (in Scotland).
- 2.6 Any exceptions to the above clauses will only be because the museum is either:
 - acting as an externally approved repository of last resort for material of local (UK) origin; or
 - acquiring an item of minor importance that lacks secure ownership history but in the best judgement of experts in the field concerned has not been

illicitly traded; or acting with the permission of authorities with the requisite jurisdiction in the country of origin; or in possession of reliable documentary evidence that the item was exported from its country of origin before 1970.

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.

- 2.7 Spoliation: 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.
- 2.8 Repatriation and Restitution: 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, 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.
- 2.9 Acquisitions not covered by the policy: Acquisitions outside the current stated policy will only be made in very exceptional circumstances, and then only after proper consideration by the governing body of the museum itself, having regard to the interests of other museums.
- 2.10 Management of archives: Buxton Museum and Art Gallery particularly holds archives, including photographs and printed ephemera, and its governing body will be guided by the *Code of Practice on Archives for Museums and Galleries in the United Kingdom* (3rd ed., 2002).

3. Existing collections, including the subjects or themes for collecting

3.1 Introduction:

- 3.1.1 The collections of Derbyshire Museums are principally held at Buxton Museum and Art Gallery. The core collection covers the archaeology and geology of the Peak District. Principally this consists of the documentary archive of Professor Sir William Boyd Dawkins (1837 – 1928), author of *Cave Hunting* (1874) and the Dinantian fossil collections and associated material collected by Dr. J.W.Jackson (1880 – 1978). Collections made by their contemporaries are also deposited at the museum, particularly relating to the caves of the Manifold Valley and the intrusive geology in the Buxton area. These collections form about 60% of the holdings at the museum.

Supporting this are the Romano-British excavations from the Peak District; fine and decorative art, particularly inlaid Ashford Black Marble and worked

Blue John, and local social history, including the photographic record of Buxton c. 1860 to 1960. Finally, there are two ex-museum collections: the Douglas collection, comprising the contents of his Castleton Museum, the House of Wonders and the Derbyshire Police collection.

3.1.2 The collections at Elvaston Castle Working Estate museum relate to social history, particularly agriculture and craft trades. There is a loan of childhood collections, to the National Trust, Sudbury Hall Museum of Childhood. Finally the Schools Library Service manages the resource collection of artefacts available on loan for education purposes, a collection that began in the 1930s and covers fine and decorative art, natural sciences, social history and ethnography.

3.1.2 Details of the individual collections and disciplines are included below.

3.2 Criteria governing future collecting policy, including the subjects or themes for collecting:

Derbyshire's museums will continue to collect material within the existing collection rationale as identified below. Additions to the collections will be made collectively between museum staff and elected members and where appropriate local residents and experts.

3.3 Period of time and/or geographical area to which collecting relates

3.3.1 Derbyshire museums principle collections focus on the geological material from the area, including the carboniferous limestone, producing objects in excess of 500 million years, and the archaeological evidence from faunal caves (50,000 years) and through to the human inhabitation of the Peak District.

3.3.2 Within Derbyshire, the archaeology collections are held in several key museums, and the collecting areas are jointly agreed to parish level. The schedule of parishes collected by Buxton Museum and Art Gallery is included below.

3.3.3 There are several independent museums and heritage societies within the county which collect social history. Therefore, Buxton Museum and Art Gallery will only collect social history within an 8-kilometre radius of Buxton. Significant Derbyshire material may be held in the collection if no local museum can retain it. Such additions will be considered on their individual merits.

4. Limitations on collecting

4.1 The museum recognises its responsibility, in acquiring additions to its collections, to ensure that care of collections, documentation arrangements and use of collections will meet the requirements of the Accreditation

Standard.

- 4.2 Acquisitions outside the current stated policy will only be made in *very* exceptional circumstances, and then only after proper consideration by the governing body of the museum itself, having regard to the interests of other museums.
- 4.3 The museum will not collect material which:
- does not satisfy the ownership and title requirements of the museum,
 - may have been collected without appropriate permission or unethically,
 - comes from outside the collection area,
 - cannot be cared for in accordance with guidelines for the care of collections,
 - needs substantial conservation for which no funds may be available,
 - whose documentation arrangements cannot be met, because of such factors as inadequate staffing, storage and care of collection arrangements
 - does not add significantly to the understanding of life and life experiences within the identified areas of Derbyshire.

Additional limitations may be included below.

5. Collecting policies of other museums

- 5.1 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 specialisms, in order to avoid unnecessary duplication and waste of resources.
- 5.2 Specific reference is made to the following museum(s):
- Derbyshire Record Office (archival material)
 - The Local Studies Library, Matlock (local history photographs, ephemera and oral history)
 - Derby City Museums (archaeology, natural history, south Derbyshire material)
 - Chesterfield Museum (Chesterfield material)
 - Manchester Museum (geology, archaeology, ethnography)
 - Galleries of Justice and Museum of Law (Police material)
 - Nottingham City Museums (decorative art – particularly ceramics)
 - Creswell Crags (Creswell related palaeontology)
 - The National Trust – Sudbury (childhood material)

- The National Trust and Derbyshire historic houses (decorative art, especially Blue John and Ashford Black Marble artefacts)
- Media Archive of Central England (MACE)(film collections)
- Crime and Punishment, subject specialist network, for Police collections
- Museums near to Buxton Museum and Art Gallery including New Mills Heritage Centre; Castleton Historical Society; Peak District Mining Museum, Matlock; Bakewell Old House Museum; Macclesfield Museums and other similarly located institutions.
- And others included in individual discipline areas

5.3 Specialist curators at nearby museums, curatorial advisers and appropriate university staff will be asked to advise professional staff in areas of identification, documentation and collections of significant merit, when appropriate.

6 The Collections at Buxton Museum and Art Gallery

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Buxton Museum and Art Gallery, at the heart of the Peak District, is well placed to collect and make accessible to museum users the scientific, historical and artistic achievements of a well-defined physiographical district. The Peak District comprises the White Peak, the area of carboniferous limestone upland south east of Buxton; and the Dark Peak, the Millstone grit north of the town, which together transcend historical and political boundaries, and yet provide a wholly logical collecting area. The district therefore stretches from Ashbourne in the south, through Matlock in the east to the Hope valley in the north of the county. It is recognised that within this district many communities have independent museums and historical societies, and Buxton Museum and Art Gallery will confer with these institutions.

6.1.2 At the heart of the museum are the Special Buxton Collections, highlighted in the agreement between High Peak District Council and Derbyshire County Council in a legal agreement in 1967. These are the collections acquired principally before 1967, relating to Buxton and the archaeology and geology of the Peak District. The underlying landscape of the district and its formation is shown in the geology collections; archaeology provides evidence of how people adapted to living in the upland areas and the link to social history, and the development of local communities through tourism, trade, agriculture and industry. However, none of these disciplines is wholly independent and in its collecting, the museum will endeavour to find multi-disciplinary links.

- 6.1.3 It is estimated that the geology and archaeology collections (including the associated archives and libraries of Sir William Boyd Dawkins and Dr J.W.Jackson) comprise 65% of the total museum collection. A further 10% of the collection is fine art; 15% is local history including the Board collection, and 10% relates to other collections including decorative art, the Derbyshire Police collection and the Douglas collection. A physical audit of these collections is ongoing in 2005, working through individual disciplines and subsections thereof. This process, part of resolving the documentation backlog, will by 2010 establish more accurately the total size of the collection, and confirm the accuracy of these statistics.
- 6.1.4 Amongst these collections, the museum holds material of national and international importance, and while they may not merit designated status, these collections must be widely accessible and meet recommended standards of care. Some of the archival material is available on microfiche, and access to some of the photographic collections is now available on the HLF funded Picture the Past website (www.picturethepast.co.uk).
- 6.1.5 The museum holds a reference library associated to the collections, particularly specialising in geology and archaeology texts from about 1830 to c.1970. Some of the texts are rare books and early scientific publications which have been accessioned into the collection, and runs of journals. It is anticipated that the museum should continue, within reason, to add to this collection. However, resources should be sought to make the library accessible to the public, and although it is likely to remain a reference library, a catalogue should be available on the public information website.

6.2 **Archaeology**

- 6.2.1 The archaeology collections cover the period from the earliest evidence of people in the Peak District (which links closely with some of the material in the geology collections) to the end of the medieval period c.1400. The strengths of the collection are the prehistoric remains and the Romano-British evidence, and there are substantial gaps, particularly in the post-Romano-British collections.
- 6.2.2 No other museum in Great Britain is as close to localities rich in Pleistocene vertebrate material as Buxton is, and is not surprising therefore that the Pleistocene collection is nationally important. The Dove Holes mammalia, collected in 1902-03, includes evidence of sabre tooth tiger, mastodon and hyena and was described by William Boyd Dawkins as "the very oldest collection of remains of animals from caves which have been met with in the whole world" (26 June, 1928). Although predominantly a collection of macro

and micro fauna, recent research by Sheffield University has reinforced the relevance of human evidence and its significance in the understanding of the prehistoric period. The material from the Manifold Valley on the Derbyshire / Staffordshire border was principally collected by the Peakland Archaeological Society (PAS) from major cave excavations including at Thor's Fissure, Elder Bush Cave, Fox Hole, and Sycamore Cave. Additionally the museum holds significant material from Creswell Crags, one of over 30 British museum with such collections.

- 6.2.3 There is potential for new discoveries in the caves and fissures of the Peak District. If the museum is to add to these collections, or be required to become a repository for further collections, the storage requirements will need to be reviewed.
- 6.2.4 The prehistoric material covers the period of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic man from locations of both local and national significance (including Arbor Low). The F.A.Holmes collection of stone implements contains Eolithic and Palaeolithic tools from around the world, while the recently acquired Waterhouse collection includes microliths from Kinder Scout and Edale. Many of the collections were accumulated at the end of the 19th and early 20th century, and while published, much of the material has little further documentation.
- 6.2.5 The Romano-British collection includes artefacts from the Peak District forts, particularly Melandra, near Glossop (excavated by Manchester University); Poole's Cavern (excavated by PAS); Carsington Reservoir and Buxton itself.
- 6.2.6 Any further acquisition to these collections must be in accordance with *The guidelines for the deposition of Archaeological Archives* (2003 and forthcoming reviews) agreed by the principal Derbyshire archaeological repositories and the Derbyshire County Archaeology Team. This document identifies the agreed collecting areas at parish level. The museum has already allocated accession numbers for some anticipated excavation archives. It is noted that the archaeology department at Derby City Museum is the Treasure Act repository for the County, while Buxton Museum and Art Gallery is a holding repository for material awaiting the Stockport Coroner's decision on Treasure Act, in line with the Dept of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) and British Museum requirements.
- 6.2.7 The museum will actively target material to fill the gap between 400 - 1400 AD, subject to resources. It will passively collect, with careful consideration, local chance finds that add significantly to the collection. Such material must meet both the collection and ethical guidelines.

6.2.8 In addition to the restrictions on collections referred to above, the museum will not collect material which does not have good location references or, in the case of formal archives, is offered for deposit without due reference to *The guidelines for the deposition of Archaeological Archives (2003)*.

6.2.9 Further contacts:

- The local authority museums and county archaeology service work closely together and have agreed procedures with regard the deposition of archaeological archives.
- The museum will continue its relationship with the Portable Antiquities Scheme and especially the Finds Liaison Officer based at Derby Museum and Art Gallery.
- Any items that may fall within the remit of the Treasure Act will be referred to the local coroner, to the County Archaeologists and to Derby City Museum.
- For academic advice, the museum will contact Departments of Archaeology at Sheffield University and Manchester University.
- The museum will consult with colleagues in appropriate local museums (e.g.: Derby, Chesterfield, Sheffield, Stoke-on-Trent, Nottingham), in specialist museums (e.g., Stockport and Manchester for the PAS material), and in the wider museum community.
- The museum will work with English Heritage, the National Trust, the Creswell Heritage Trust, and specialist groups such as the Council for British Archaeology (CBA), of which the museum is a member.
- The museum will develop links with amateur archaeologists and in particular youngsters, with the aim of encouraging both interest in the subject and ethical collecting of archaeological specimens.

6.3 **Decorative Art**

6.3.1 The principal decorative art collections include the Ashford Black Marble and worked Blue John objects, manufactured locally in the 19th century, which are internationally important. The acquisition of the Tomlinson collection of Ashford Black Marble in 2005 marks the Buxton collection of this type of work as probably the best in public ownership. Since this material is closely allied to the geology collections, every opportunity should be made to build on the collection, actively pursuing artefacts and grant aid to support its appropriate purchase. In particular, the museum must remain aware that several pieces in the Ashford Black Marble collection are on loan to the museum, and if the opportunity arises, the museum would like to be able to acquire these.

6.3.2 The ceramics collection includes an assortment of 18th and 19th century

wares, some of which have local provenance (e.g. Crown Derby, Chesterfield Salt Glaze), but are principally pre-1967 acquisitions by the museum. Some of these were acquired with grant aid from the V&A Purchase Grant Fund before 1945. The museum also houses a collection of souvenir ceramics, representing local events, churches, etc, transferred from the Derbyshire Museums Service. The museum provides a trustee to the Ballantyne Collection, alongside a loan of studio pottery from Derbyshire County Council to Nottingham City Council.

6.3.3 The museum holds a collection of Buxton and local souvenirs, some of which are fine examples of decorative art, reflecting the early 19th century development of the tourist trade in the town. The museum should continue to collect similar pieces.

6.3.4 The museum building itself has some high quality stained glass panels in the doors and windows, contemporary with its construction, in Art Nouveau style.

6.3.5 Further contacts:

- With regard to the Ashford Black Marble and Blue John collections, the museum will keep in contact with Derby City Museum, Chatsworth, the V&A and private collectors in Castleton, elsewhere in Derbyshire, and through the internet. The museum will also make contact with auction houses, antique dealers and retailers of this type of material, particularly in the Peak District.
- With regard to the ceramics collection, the museum will maintain contact with Derby City Museum, Nottingham Castle, and Stoke on Trent Museums.

6.4 **Derbyshire Police Collections**

6.4.1 In 2003 the Derbyshire Police invited the County Council to take on the responsibility of the collection management of their institutional museum which was housed at St. Mary's Gate, Derby, with financial support from themselves. Title was transferred in 2004. The collection, comprising over 1900 police related items and associated ephemera, was moved to storage at Buxton Museum and Art Gallery with a proposal to undertake a series of temporary exhibitions throughout Derbyshire to enable access to the collection.

6.4.2 This collection is considered active, and additions will be considered from the Derbyshire Police and associated agencies, and from serving and retired officers and their families, and people who have police related material which will add to the story of policing within the county.

6.4.3 Objects with clear provenance to local communities will be directed,

transferred or loaned to their nearest recognised museum, subject to the protection needed by some of the more controversial items in the collection. Collections management work is still being undertaken with the existing collection to arrange loans of material to more appropriate local collections.

6.4.4 The collection does not contain any firearms and Buxton Museum and Art Gallery does not currently have the licence or facilities to include firearms in its collection. The collection does contain replica drugs, equipment for committing crimes of several kinds and equipment used in the pursuit of crime. Some of this material is sensitive and the museum will be respectful in its use of it.

6.4.5 Decisions regarding significant additions to the collections will be made jointly with the Police and the County Council since there may be further implications with regard storage, personnel and resources, should the collection increase significantly.

6.4.6 Further contacts:

- The museum will liaise with the Galleries of Justice, the Manchester Police Museum, Crime and Punishment (CAP) which is the MLA supported subject specialist network, and other similar organisations.

6.5 **Ephemera**

6.5.1 The museum holds ephemera relating to the local history of Buxton, the archaeology and geology of the Peak District and, through the deposits of the Derbyshire Museum Service, the whole of the county. This material is frequently consulted by enquirers. The museum will review the county deposits with advice from the Local Studies Library to improve accessibility to this collection

6.5.2 The museum also holds two specific ephemera collections: the Ros McCoola collection of theatre ephemera, related to the Buxton Opera House, and the Douglas collection of c.1910 – c.1930 ephemera including significant material relating to Houdini. These two are, in principle, closed collections and it is not expected that they will be significantly enlarged.

6.6 **Ethnography**

6.6.1 In principle, the museum does not collect ethnography.

6.6.2 However, there are ethnography specimens within both the Boyd Dawkins and the Douglas collections. There may be occasion to add to the former collection following research into his correspondence and diaries for objects that he may have acquired but are no longer represented in the collection. The Douglas collection is a closed collection, and it is not anticipated that it will be significantly enlarged, except through direct contact to Douglas' heirs.

6.7 **Fine Art**

6.7.1 An audit of the permanent collection of fine art in 2003 identified in excess of 900 paintings, drawings and prints in this collection. The principal strengths are the late 19th century watercolours, and the early 20th century oils and prints by celebrated artists including Brangwyn, Chagall, Utrillo and Augustus John. Several collectors have made this possible, particularly Oliver Gomersal, Arto Funduklian and Rupert Turner.

6.7.2 The remaining collection includes views of Derbyshire in all media, including photographs. This continues to be an area for collecting. Works with a Derbyshire theme are considered for inclusion in the annual Derbyshire Open Art Exhibition, the winner of which is usually acquired for the collections. Since 2001 the Friends of Buxton Museum and Art Gallery have also supported this exhibition with a smaller, purchase prize. This investment over more than 20 years has provided the museum with a strong collection of late 20th century work by local artists. The museum continues to raise the profile of the art collection through a policy of programming exhibitions from the permanent collection at least twice a year. The museum will also continue to collect works that add to the contemporary collection of views of Derbyshire and topographical historic views of Buxton and the Peak District, subject to funds being available. The temporary exhibition programme encourages local artists to show their work, and the museum will continue to acquire a representative collection of the work of such artists.

6.7.3 The museum will endeavour to have copyright of artworks passed to it at acquisition. It will keep an accurate record of the copyright of the contemporary art works as currently required (for the lifetime of the artist/creator and a further 70 years after the year of death), held in the collection. The museum will therefore have to keep artists' details on record, protected by the Data Protection Act.

6.7.4 Further contacts:

- The museum will maintain relationships with the art departments at local colleges and schools.
- The museum will work alongside Arts Council England (East Midlands).

- The museum will continue to contribute to the county's arts policy and will remain a member of the Derbyshire Arts Development Group.

6.8 **Geology**

- 6.8.1 Along with archaeology, the geology collections form the core of museum, and those of Sir William Boyd Dawkins and Dr. J.W.Jackson are of local, national and international importance. The collections are enhanced by the mineral collections of G.Puttrell and G.S.Mitchell and other individual's collections: the Miller collection of High Peak volcanics, and the Dagger, Bellhouse and Appleby collections.
- 6.8.2 The collection is strongest in fossil specimens from the Dinantian period, reflecting the predominant rock types of the White Peak. The Jackson collection of Lower Carboniferous fossils (estimated at about 17000 specimens) is of national importance. It was collected prior to the creation of the Peak District National Park and much of the material is from areas either protected by ownership or inscription as a site of special scientific interest (SSSI), or more dramatically has been lost to the extractive quarrying in the district. Many specimens survive with Jackson's own labels, but the collection does need specialist support.
- 6.8.3 No other museum in Great Britain is as close to localities rich in Pleistocene vertebrate material as Buxton, and is not surprising therefore that the superficial and cave deposit material that forms the core of the Pleistocene collection is nationally important. There is potential for new discoveries in the caves and fissures of the Peak District. If the museum is to add to these collections, or be required to become a repository for further collections, the storage requirements will need review.
- 6.8.4 The collections also include a significant collection of cave formations including stalagmites, stalactites, cave straws, cave pearls and petrifications. The Douglas collection advertised that it held the best collection of such material in Castleton (despite the proximity of four major show caves to the town!). Many of the collectors were also amateur photographers and the lantern slide collection of the approaches and interiors of these caves are an important record. The documentation is not necessarily strong, but the collection is representative of the attitude to these cave formations at the beginning of the 20th century.
- 6.8.5 There are some significant weaknesses in the collection, including representation of the Upper Carboniferous period. The collection is also weak in named rock types and thin sections of local rock types. Advice

needs to be taken to establish whether the museum should broaden its collections in these areas, either at this time in view of current resources or at a time in the future.

6.8.5 The Jackson collection might be considered a closed collection. A survey needs to be undertaken to identify areas which may need a more pro-active collecting policy (for example in any new quarry site); such a survey will have to be undertaken alongside the collections of Derbyshire material held at the Manchester Museum.

6.8.6 In addition to the restrictions stated above, the museum will not collect material which does not have good location references.

6.8.7 Further contacts:

- for academic advice, the museum will contact Department of Geology at Manchester University.
- The museum will consult with colleagues in appropriate local museums (e.g. Derby City Museums), in specialist museums (e.g. Manchester, and Stockport Museums, which hold PAS deposits), and the wider museum community.
- Specialist curatorial advisers, particularly from Manchester Museum, will be sought to advise professional staff in areas of identification, documentation and collections of significant merit. This is in the spirit of J.W.Jackson's guidelines regarding professional advice for this collection.
- The museum will engage in communication with the British Museum, English Heritage, the National Trust, the British Geological Council (BGC), the National Stone Centre, the Creswell Heritage Trust, and other centres where Creswell material has been deposited.
- The museum will develop links with local companies managing the quarries around the High Peak including Tarmac, RMC, Redland LeFarge and others, who may have records of particular geological interest. This may especially relate to photographic records.
- The museum will contact the Derbyshire monitors of SSSI to ensure geological records are broadly accessible.
- The museum will continue its membership of the Geological Curators Group (GCG) and the Manchester Geological Society.
- The museum will develop links with amateur geologists and interested children, with the aim of encouraging them to collect geological specimens ethically.

6.9 Local History

6.9.1 The collection of local history relates principally to Buxton and a radius of

about 8 kilometres from the town centre, and includes material from the 15th century to the present day. Of particular importance are souvenirs of the town (see Decorative Art) and relics of local industries including mineral water bottles (from Buxton Water), brake linings (from Federal Mogul Friction Products (previously Ferodo) of Chapel-en-le-Frith) and electric resistors (from Otter Controls of Buxton).

- 6.9.2 The museum also holds a serendipity collection of social history objects relating to local government, law and order, toys etc, but there has been no structured collecting in this area. A survey of the extent of these collections was undertaken in the summer of 2005. Passive collecting in these areas will continue, but all acquisitions will be supported by good provenance. The museum will keep abreast of developments within the town and collect small, representative memorabilia of matters that directly concern the town.
- 6.9.3 Quarrying is still a significant industry and employer in the area. While the museum does already hold material, it is envisaged that there could be potential to add to this collection, if not with objects, then at least with photographic record. Evidence of working conditions will enhance the collections.
- 6.9.4 The museum is often contacted regarding collections of material local to Derbyshire communities. Wherever possible, the museum will direct such enquiries to the nearest relevant museum. Buxton Museum will not collect social history material outside the narrow margin defined above, unless the objects further the understanding of other parts of the collection, or are of particular civic significance or warrant true Derbyshire value. It is expected that some of this type of material will be transferred from Elvaston Castle to Buxton Museum and Art Gallery. The museum will accept objects with a High Peak or Derbyshire Dales provenance only if no other suitable repository can be identified.
- 6.9.5 It is recognised that there will be areas of local history collecting that may be common to the Derbyshire Record Office, the Local Studies Library and the museum. The museum will not collect indentures, plans, manorial rolls or similar material for which the Record Office is its correct repository. There is also potential duplication in the ephemera collections held at the museum, Buxton Library and the Local Studies Library. The museum will review any such deposit case by case for final deposition. The museum will however collect personal records that relate to individual interests in the town.
- 6.9.6 The archive of oral history recordings, made by Derbyshire Museum Service, was deposited at Buxton Museum in 1992. The contents of this

collection should be reviewed with respect to whether Buxton is the most appropriate location for this material: many of the tapes record the lives of people in the east of the county. It may be more appropriate to transfer this material to the Local History Library where access will be increased. At the present time, the museum does not have the resources to continue oral history recording.

6.9.7 Further contacts:

- The museum will play a pro-active role between the independent and local government museums in Derbyshire. The museum will also remain in contact with Derby City Museums, Chesterfield Museum, Erewash Museum, Elvaston Castle, Stockport Museum and local social history museums around the borders of the County.
- The museum will develop links with local companies managing the quarries around the High Peak e.g. Tarmac, RMC, Redland LeFarge and others, who may have records of particular local interest. This may especially relate to photographic records.

6.10 **Natural History**

6.10.1 Only natural history material with very specific associations to the principal collections are held at Buxton Museum, for example: two cabinets of *Lepidoptera*, collected by the Rev. Green of Buxton. This sets a precedent that older collections with a good provenance and from named Peak District localities might be acquired alongside material relating to those collections discussed in the Personalia section. However, such additions must take into account both the care of the collection and the access to it.

6.10.2 A collection of shells and corals is held at the museum, deposited from John Turner House. This may be part of the J.W.Jackson collection or representative of the material in which he was interested, or associated to the F.A.Holmes collection. The collection needs professional consideration, documenting and appropriate storage. The museum will contact Liverpool Museums (where the Jackson shell collection is deposited)) to further this review

6.10.2 There will be no active collecting of either fauna or flora. The biological data record is held by Derby City Museum.

6.11 **Numismatics**

6.11.1 The museum holds coins dating from the Roman period to the present day, and a collection of trade tokens. The most significant item is the Buxton coin

hoard from the Natural Baths, on loan from High Peak Borough Council, but the collection is representative of almost all periods.

- 6.11.2 The trade tokens are not exclusive to Derbyshire, and there may be good argument to relocate parts of the collection to museums where they are representative of local traders and currency issues.
- 6.11.3 The museum will continue to collect passively well provenanced coins and currency, pre 1400 AD, which meet the archaeological collection guidelines, and tokens and bank notes that represent local trading establishments. These latter will only be collected in consultation with local museums and historical societies; specific Buxton examples will be actively collected. The museum will also collect evidence of illegal coining in the Peak District.
- 6.11.4 The museum will not collect foreign currency or currency in circulation. However, should the Euro become a recognised currency in Britain, a sample will be acquired, since it will represent the first time since Roman occupation that there has been a common European currency in circulation.
- 6.11.5 The museum will consult with museums with good Roman and English coin collections, particularly the British Museum, Birmingham Museum and the Yorkshire Museum.

6.12 **Personalalia**

- 6.12.1 Since the 17th century, Derbyshire has been associated with some of the fundamental early researchers whose understanding of natural philosophy of the Peak District held world significance in the emerging scientific studies of geology and archaeology. The museum holds significant archives, and should actively pursue acquisition of specimens associated to specific scientists and the writings and discourses of these people.
- 6.12.2 Of particular importance are the archives of Sir William Boyd Dawkins and of Dr.J.W.Jackson, with the associated libraries and collections. These include specimens, tools, records, photographs and correspondence with the foremost scientists of the day, including Darwin, Owen, Pengelly, Huxley and others. The museum will actively pursue further additions to these collections, in consultation with Manchester Museum, on the rare occasions that related books, manuscripts and ephemera become available.
- 6.12.3 Other significant archaeologists and geologists whose publications and personalia would enhance the collections include Micah Salt, F.A.Holmes, W. Storrs-Fox and Don Bramwell. The museum will consult with colleagues at Manchester University and at the Department of Archaeology, Sheffield

University, with regard to these people. It will also consult with local societies of which these people were members.

6.12.4 The Randolph Douglas collection is held at Buxton. This collection formed the House of Wonders in Castleton, and was purchased by Derbyshire County Council with grant aid from the PRISM Fund. It covers a wide range of disciplines. Its strengths include collections of locks and keys, and material associated with Houdini. In principle this is a closed collection and it is unlikely that there will be any additions to this collection, except such material that provides more information on Douglas himself and his collecting criteria. The museum will consult with Castleton Historical Society regarding the Douglas collection and will continue to loan material to the Castleton Historical Society for exhibition in the Castleton Centre, subject to agreed loan conditions.

6.12.5 The art, ephemera and photograph collections include specific named collections, and the museum will pursue personalia relating to Arto Funduklian, Oliver Gomersal, Ros McCoola and J.R.Board, to further the understanding of the collections. The museum will consult with their heirs, and with local societies and institutions of which these people were members, with regard these collections.

6.13 Photographs, Postcards and Film

6.13.1 The principal collection is the J.R.Board photographic archive dating from c. 1860 to c. 1960, amassed by a single business. The collection includes glass plates, prints and negative material, and provides a unique record of Buxton for the period. The copyright of this collection has been transferred to the Derbyshire County Council.

6.13.2 The museum has additional photographic negative and image collections, including the Wooliscroft collection (purchased with support of the V&A Purchase Grant Fund), the Aumonier collection, and the Sturgess collection, which compliment the Board collection, and to which it will add. The postcard collection contains local images, and is collected for the pictorial record as distinct from the philately or correspondence value of the objects. These images include views of Buxton (both exteriors and interiors) and scenic highlights of the Peak District, and compliment the engravings collection.

6.13.3 The Derbyshire Museums Service collection of photographs and postcards was deposited at Buxton Museum. Although it does contain some Buxton and High Peak material, it includes many images of the eastern and southern parts of Derbyshire. The Museum will consult with the Local Studies Library

to deposit this material where the public access can be improved.

- 6.13.4 Four hundred photographs by J.R.Board, most of the historic photographic print collection and a selection of historic lantern-slides of caves, archaeology and landscapes taken between 1870 to 1930, have been scanned and made available through the Internet on the HLF supported website Picture the Past (www.picturethepast.org.uk). The museum will continue to pursue ways in which the photographic archives can become more accessible to users, including through projections at the museum, publications and lectures.
- 6.13.5 In the past, photographers have been commissioned to create portfolios of photographs for exhibition. Such commissions have been supported with grant aid. Should the possibility arise, the museum will consider continuing such pro-active collecting in consultation with the Local Studies Library.
- 6.13.6 The Museum Loans Service collection of 16mm film, which was deposited at Buxton Museum, was transferred to MACE in 2004. Opportunities to have the Derbyshire related material made available in a digital version will continue to be pursued. While the museum may continue to accept film stock it will be under the firm understanding that the stock itself will transfer to MACE. The copyright of the material must be clarified upon deposit.
- 6.13.7 The museum will remain aware of the copyright issues associated to these collections; it will endeavor to acquire copyright of photographs and postcards, recognising that making copies available to visitors and researchers enables access to the collection. The museum will ensure that photographs and postcards are handled appropriately when new negatives are being generated, and will ensure that the modern negative bank is used in preference to the original object. Derbyshire County Council levies a charge on reproductions of photographs for both personal and publication use, and these charges will be applied.
- 6.13.8 Further contacts:
- The museum will keep in contact with museums and local history libraries whose towns and communities are represented in the collections held at Buxton. The museum will communicate with the Local Studies Library, the Derbyshire Record Office and the local historical societies.
 - With reference to the film collection, the museum will continue its relationship with MACE. The museum will contact museums and local studies libraries whose communities may like access to copy of the film, subject to copyright.

7. Elvaston Castle

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 Elvaston Castle Working Estate Museum was set up in the early 1970s in the former stables and workshop complex, adjacent to Elvaston Castle and its historic garden. It was intended to show life on the estate in around 1910, complete with working demonstrations and live farm animals. The displays were shown on open display with little security and no environmental controls.
- 7.1.2 The collections represent a wide range of social history including domestic life; craft and rural trades; agriculture and transport. The collections were acquired through gifts; transfers from the Museums Loan Service, loans from Derby Museum Service and other individuals; bequests and purchases. Collections mainly represented the southeast of Derbyshire, but there were many exceptions to this.
- 7.1.3 Some of the material acquired was of significant local interest, and the museum successfully attracted grant aid from the V&A Purchase Grant Fund and the PRISM fund to purchase items or undertake remedial work on some of the vehicles. The museum also actively collected images of the estate and the buildings, and researched the history of Elvaston, creating a valuable archive, much of which is now held digitally.
- 7.1.4 With the enlargement of the Derbyshire Museums Service in the 1980s, collecting was widened, and Elvaston was used to store additional collections including town life, costume and natural history. The Kettle collection of Victorian life was acquired with support of the V & A Purchase Grant Fund, adding a further 2000 items to an already large collection. Social history and industrial objects acquired at the museum headquarters were transferred to storage here. In 1979, a documentation team undertook a retrospective project of over 2000 items in store, but never completed the exercise. In 1993, when the Derbyshire Museums Service closed, the remaining collections were removed from headquarters for storage, many having little accompanying documentation. Some of this material was brought into the Castle, but heavy machinery was stored in the Home Farm complex. Collecting has been at a standstill since 1993, with only very few significant items being taken into the collections. The museum finally closed to the public in 2002, as the County Council addressed the future of the buildings.
- 7.1.5 Meanwhile, Elvaston developed a reputation for exciting education and activities, and the education officer was the sole museum officer on site. His knowledge of the collections was remarkable. Curatorial advice was available

from East Midlands Museum Service (EmmS). In 1998 a county museums manager, was appointed who has taken on a curatorial advisor role as well as supervising a collection review alongside the Park Manager - Elvaston. Since 2000 all the collections have been inventoried and checked against manual documentation systems or newly listed. By December 2005, the reconciliation programme was over 85% complete.

7.1.6 This policy needs therefore to look to the future needs of Elvaston, as well as establishing the continuing collection management of the historic collections. The gardens at Elvaston are Grade 2* listed and it is here that the emphasis will be placed in the next years. While developments are still at an early stage, it is anticipated that an interpretation centre exploring the history and development of the Elvaston estate and formal gardens may be created. It may also explore the wider interest in gardening history.

7.2 The Elvaston collections

7.2.1 The Harrington family has been associated with the Elvaston estate since the 1601. A substantial Stuart building of 1633 was the centrepiece of the estate. However, following a marriage of high romance, Elvaston was rebuilt between 1813 and 1817 in its current Gothic form, and William Barron was employed to create the formal gardens in 1823 to 1833. These are now recognised as important early Victorian gardens, featuring many of the conifers that were being introduced from both Asia and North America at this time.

7.2.2 In respect of this history and in view of the anticipated future development of Elvaston, collecting at Elvaston will consider:

- Artefacts, archives and photographs associated with the Harrington family estate, the gardens, grounds, and the subsequent history of the estate.
- The history of gardening up to the present day, including horticultural tools and ephemera, domestic gardening, mechanised Victorian horticultural equipment including the Barron planting machine and associated ephemera.
- Product information relating to horticulture, timber and woodland management.
- Contemporary art commissions from products on the estate.
- Maintaining a teaching collection of natural history specimens to illustrate habitats within the park and formal gardens, working with local natural history societies to create biological record for the estate.

7.2.3 Staff at Elvaston will have further contacts regarding the collections with: Derby City Museum for natural history and social history and other gardens of note including Chatsworth; Haddon Hall, Renishaw; the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; and the Edinburgh Botanic Gardens; The Royal Horticultural

Society; The National Trust and English Heritage.

8. The Residual Derbyshire Museums Service collections

- 8.1. As discussed above, the principal social history collections belonging to the county are currently stored at Elvaston. The collection covers the social and light industrial history of Derbyshire, particularly the eastern part of the county, and includes vehicles, costume and ephemera collections. The inventory project (2000 – 2003) has identified over 12000 objects (documented to a basic level).
- 8.2. Although the primary documentation is incomplete, it is clear that the collection has been acquired from many sources, including purchase, transfer from other museums, gift, loan and bequest. Although much may have been in reasonable condition when it was acquired, several years of storage have resulted in deterioration of the condition. The recent inventorying programme has enabled the improvement of basic storage and packing.
- 8.3. There will be no additions to these collections at Elvaston, outside the remit of the collection policy stated above. In the meantime, since it is anticipated that collections of interest will be brought for consideration such offers will be referred to the Derbyshire Museum Manager who will advise on their retention within the county. Should they merit retention, they will need to meet the terms of any individual museum's collection policy. It is recognised that some items may not fall within these parameters (e.g.: coal mining material), and decisions will need to be made on individual merit.
- 8.4. Further contacts regarding the collections include:
The Derbyshire Museums Manager; members of the Derbyshire Museums Forum; Derbyshire Schools Library service; and East Midlands Museums Libraries and Archives Council (EMMLAC); other museums, particularly independent museums on the borders of Derbyshire.

9 Handling collections including the Derbyshire and Derby School Library Service (SLS), museum artefact collections and other handling collections

- 9.1 Providing people with the opportunity to handle collections is stimulating, exciting and memorable. The collections should:
 - Be safe to handle, without need for protective clothing and equipment
 - be appropriate, meeting the Council's Equal Opportunities policy
 - not be unique in the museum collection, although they may be so in the SLS collection,

- be able to endure wear and tear, including carriage to and from venues, or be replaceable,
- be easily identifiable as handling objects,
- be able to be reviewed every five years,
- have systems in place to be able to revert to full museum collection status,
- have agreement from donors that the objects may be used in handling collections,
- be easy to deaccession should they become unsuitable for their purpose as handling objects,
- be easy to dispose appropriately should it be appropriate.

9.2 Within the county the Derbyshire and Derby Schools Library Service runs an artefact service, under business agreements, which is popular with schools. The collection, one of the first ever made for this purpose, was established in the 1930s and has subsequently grown to include over 6000 objects, as well as books, audio-visual and support materials. It includes artworks by makers of national and international reputation, purchased at the start of their careers, museum-quality ethnography, social and natural history specimens. Since the 1930s there have been significant changes in the way formal education is delivered and how such services are resourced. Until 1990 the museums artefact collection was managed within the Derbyshire Museums Service within the Education Department. Following the closure of the museum service, the artefact collection was initially mothballed until in 1993 it was reopened by the SLS by popular demand. At this time the collection was reviewed. Criteria for retention in the active collection included the age, uniqueness and composition of the artefacts. Some collection groups were disbanded to enable relevant items to be included in the new collections.

9.3 SLS is the main provider of artefact boxes to schools, working successfully with Derby City as a partner to Renaissance East Midlands, and developing new projects. The collections are mostly used for handling by young people from pre-school to 6th form, for curriculum support, OFSTED and INSET. The service also lends material to students on degree courses, the public library service (particularly for reminiscence work), local museums, the University of Derby, Derby College, Surestart centres, Social Services (for adult and special needs learning activities); individual consultants; advisory teachers, students and other groups. It is recognised that some items are now more appropriately used for promotion and marketing of the service, as display exhibits, or handled by trained staff rather than being included for general loan handling.

9.4 The SLS collection is demand led, based on requests for resources on

specific subjects, not on individual items. Currently SLS adds to its collections through purchasing original works including paintings, prints, embroideries, textiles, sculpture, carving, ceramics, clothing, jewellery and accessories. SLS also acquires replica items including models (excluding any that need a power source) and replicas, historical costume, and arms and armour (excluding weapons of any description). All these are acquired for their individual quality as well as how they support other key resources, including books and audio visual materials. Purchases are made from a variety of sources including artists, craft workers and designers, including work to commission; local and national exhibitions; museum retail; educational and local suppliers; antique shops and flea markets. Donations are made to the service and are accepted according to suitability, as outlined above. Contemporary material is needed to address potential demand of objects of today and the future.

- 9.5 When SLS took over the service in 1993, the artefacts were reviewed and absorbed into the SLS collection, or removed and put in storage, transferred or disposed. This included transferring natural history specimens for use at Elvaston Castle and the permanent disposal of specimens in bio-prep solution, which could no longer be suitably curated. SLS currently operates a Removal Policy, to take items out of circulation based on terms of condition and suitability (see below).
- 9.6 At Buxton Museum and Art Gallery there is a distinct handling collection for use in the museum and outreach work? It is neither part of, nor on its own, a permanent collection; it will not become too big; collections will not be added to it that cannot be used practically for handling within the museum's current programmes and resources. Should the programme change, the handling collection associated to the collection will be reviewed.
- 9.7 The Derbyshire Police collection is used by the Police for outreach events. Certain items will be identified as suitable for this purpose: however this will not be exclusive, and the curators will need to take active and responsible decisions about handling objects within this collection.
- 9.8 As work continues at Elvaston there is potential for the creation of peripatetic collections to be used for display in the Countryside Service and public libraries, and also as handling boxes for reading groups. A variety of opportunities and possibilities will be explored so that the collections can be made accessible outside the museum.
- 9.9 Objects acquired for handling will be subjected to the same documentary requirements as the principal collections. The individual numbers given to

this collection will distinguish the objects from the permanent collection. Objects may be subject to individual risk assessments, both for the sake of the object and visitors.

9.10 During the process of dealing with the museums' documentation backlog, objects may be found without documentation that might appropriately fit into the handling collection. If documentation cannot be reconciled, permission will be sought to transfer the object into the handling collection. It is not the intention to let the handling collection become the final resting-place of collections without documentation

9.11 Further contacts:
Staff in SLS and the museum will keep in contact with educators both in the county, schools and museum sectors, and with companies that make reproductions and replicas. To develop new audiences and develop new partnerships, they will work with people across social services, both with young people and older users.

10. Other collections in Derbyshire

10.1 The Derbyshire Museums collections are currently managed by the Cultural and Community Services Department, which provides curatorial support to other departments known to be managing heritage collections for the benefit of the public. Other than collections mentioned elsewhere in this report, the only other collection of merit is at Middleton Top and High Peak Junction, part of the World Heritage site, which is one of the world's oldest railway sheds.

11. Loans

11.1. Buxton Museum and Art Gallery will continue to borrow items, subject to terms and conditions of loans as described in the "Loan In" Agreement, based on guidelines from EmmS (pre 1998). The museum will not accept conditional loans where the conditions cannot be met by the museum, nor loans of an indefinite period (except from long standing societies and organisations). Loans will be agreed for up to five years, at which time they may or may not be renewed.

11.2 There is some significant material on loan into Buxton Museum. Loans from individuals include the Hodgkinson loan of Ashford Black Marble and the Mary Furness collection of locally made furniture. The Buxton coin hoard is on loan from High Peak Borough Council; there are Cloisonné enamel vases on loan from Manchester City Art Gallery as part of the Boyd Dawkins collection; the Buxton Assembly book is on loan from the Buxton Antiquarian

and Natural History Society.

- 11.3 All existing loans in are subject to regular review, and renewal agreements signed as appropriate. Such items that have been on loan from individuals for a long time may need to be reconsidered, with a possibility of their transfer to a gift or bequest should the lender be prepared to consider this. The loan would continue as renewable every five years until any bequest came in to being.
- 11.4 The museum will loan material to other museums and public organisations, subject to the terms and conditions outlined in the "Loans Out" Agreement based on guidelines from EmmS. There will be a preference to loan to museums with registered status, or that can provide surety of government indemnity and that meet MLA standards in environmental control and security. Accessioned museum objects will not be loaned to schools or similar organisations. Every potential loan request will be considered, but the museum reserves the right within reason to refuse an object for loan, or to offer a different object or a copy of an object for loan.
- 11.5 The most significant loans out include the Gavioli organ on loan to Crich Tramway Village and the portrait of Richard Arkwright on loan to Lancashire Museums. There are some loans out that have been ongoing for many years. Should lender request the transfer of the item to their collections, this will be considered.
- 11.6 The museum will continue short-term loans in of material for temporary exhibitions, subject to agreed terms and conditions.

12. Disposal Procedures

- 12.1.1 By definition, the museum has a long-term purpose and should possess (or intend to acquire) permanent collections in relation to its stated objectives. The governing body accepts the principle that, except for sound curatorial reasons, there is a strong presumption against the disposal of any items in the museum's collection.
- 12.1.2 The museum will establish that it is legally free to dispose of an item. Any decision to dispose of material from the collections will be taken only after due consideration.
- 12.1.3 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.
- 12.1.4 Decisions to dispose of items will not be made with the principal aim of

generating funds.

12.1.5 Any monies received by the museum governing body from the disposal of items will be applied for the benefit of the collections. This normally means the purchase of further acquisitions but in exceptional cases improvements relating to the care of collections may be justifiable. Advice on these cases will be sought from MLA.

12.1.6 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), 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 of the collection acting alone.

Once a decision to dispose of material in the collection has been taken, priority will be given to retaining it within the public domain, unless it is to be destroyed. It will therefore be offered in the first instance, by gift, exchange or sale, directly to other Accredited Museums likely to be interested in its acquisition.

12.1.7 If the material is not acquired by any Accredited Museums to which it was offered directly, then the museum community at large will be advised of the intention to dispose of the material, normally through an announcement in the Museums Association's Museums Journal, and in other professional journals where appropriate.

12.1.8 The announcement 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.

12.1.9 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 3 Procedure on deaccessioning and disposal.

12.2 The Derbyshire Museums Service collections

12.2.1 Derbyshire County Council recognises it has responsibilities with regard to the existing collections. It realises the sensitivity about disposal and the implications of disposing of collections which can have severe repercussions on the institution. Equally it is recognised that the public deserve the

collection to be managed and stored appropriately and that there should be public access to them.

12.2.2 However, at the time this document was prepared, there was no indication of any future additional gallery provision for the Derbyshire Museums Service collections, nor for any permanent museum standard storage provision. The majority of these collections are currently at Elvaston (see above), and it is important that these collections undergo review as their future. It is clear that not all 12000 objects can be retained. It is anticipated that the holdings be reduced to about 10% of the current size, through appropriate disposal. Collections strongly identified for retention will need to be managed to MLA Accreditation guidelines, and the county will need to recognise its responsibility to do this. There will be some difficult decisions to take regarding disposal of collections which will benefit those collections the county decides must be retained. Any disposal however will be undertaken with reference to this policy and reference to the MA's Code of Ethics.

12.2.3 Vehicles and Agricultural Equipment: The inventory taken in 2003 with support from a subject specialist, identified 140 vehicles and large items of agricultural machinery. 13 items have been supported with PRISM grant aid, to a total of £3002. In 2005 two items were transferred, with responsibility for their grants (as appropriate) from the collections. The inventory identified significant items for their strong Derbyshire provenance, which in principle should be retained for the county. However, it is recognised that some are very large, others may be of more than local significance, so a further effort is being made to relocate these items, preferably into accredited collections or into heritage collections. The majority of objects, though, are in poor condition. Since in the foreseeable future the county is unlikely to be able to provide the collection management and access required by such items, it is recognised that it would be more appropriate to return items to the private domain or to dispose of them completely, where the condition warrants this. This can only be done in discussion with colleagues, and advisors from the MLA and MA.

12.2.4 Costume: The inventory of 2002-3 identified 800 items. While the collection includes some significant pieces like agricultural smocks and locally grown and woven linen which will perhaps be retained, the majority is represented in museum collections across the country: wedding clothes, Victorian and Edwardian middle class garments, strong cotton undergarments, and domestic linen. Some of this material may be of interest to museums within the county or to SLS. Following that, it is recommended that this collection be appropriately dispersed.

- 12.2.5 Craft tools: This is the largest collection, and includes artefacts representing nearly all the Victorian and Edwardian crafts and trades. Important collections include the Hanstock collection of woodworking tools, whose loan was converted to a purchase; cobbler's artefacts from Mason's of Ilkeston; the Ockbrook farrier's shop. However, craft tool collections are well represented in museums across the country, and while there are some collections that may be returned to their towns of origin, it will be difficult to dispose of these collections into existing museum collections.
- 12.2.6 Domestic Life: This is a strong collection with local provenance representing rural life in the period 1850 – 1930, although there are some key items from before this date, which may be retained. Well represented in museum collections, it will be important to identify pieces with strong Derbyshire connections for retention. Thereafter the majority will need to go through the disposal procedure.
- 12.2.7 Books and ephemera: The book collection is principally a reference library from around 1900 to 1970. There are some books significantly older. It is not an accessioned collection, and the majority could be drawn into the reference collections held at Buxton Museum and Art Gallery. Where possible, archival material has been transferred to the County Record office. The ephemera collection was acquired alongside individual objects as handbooks, manuals and instruction leaflets, or are magazines associated with particular trades and businesses. This needs further assessment for its condition and relevance, before decisions can be made regarding its retention.
- 12.2.8 The Kettle collection: In 1981 the V&A Purchase Grant Fund supported the acquisition of material from Col. Kettle of Scarsdale Hall. Comprising over 2000 objects, the collection includes art works, furniture, costume, social history and books. The collection was acquired with the intention of a major expansion at Elvaston. It does not seem to have undergone rigorous curatorial scrutiny, when decisions about what should be kept would have been made. There are some significant items in the collection, not necessarily of good quality but useful for temporary exhibition work. Officers from the V&A have visited the collection, and recognise that it does need stronger curatorial decision making, particularly since it is clear that the county does not have the same intentions for this collection as when it was acquired. Any decisions with regard to the collection will be with the agreement of the V&A.
- 12.2.9 Childhood: The Derbyshire collections of childhood are currently held at the National Trust's property, Sudbury Hall, in the Museum of Childhood. This is

a registered museum, scheduled for accreditation in about 2008. Staff have undertaken a retrospective documentation project, completed in 2005. The county and the National Trust need to negotiate the future of the collection. It is recognised that the National Trust may not wish to retain the collection in its entirety and the terms by which they hold items from the county will need clarification: whether to transfer title, or maintain a loan.

12.2.10 SLS: The Schools Library Service operates a removal policy taking objects out of circulation. This is based on either condition of material, or suitability.

With regard the former, SLS currently has no access to technical support so only simple repairs can be undertaken to items. Original paintings and prints may be reframed and glazed so that they can continue in circulation. Reproduction paintings and posters that are badly faded and damaged are withdrawn and disposed. Original sculpture that has been unsympathetically restored is withdrawn, pending conservation. Stained, soiled or damaged textiles (other than original items of clothing that display damage due to everyday wear and tear), that cannot adequately be cleaned or repaired are removed. Any item that displays signs of damage that could cause harm when handled is removed and depending on the possibility of repair, the age and uniqueness of the item may be discarded. However, damage can be part of an object's story and items may not always be withdrawn from the active collection because of it.

With regard suitability, artefacts may be removed from the active collection because of decision making about the terms by which they were acquired, and their current display; lack of resources to update support notes; the inappropriateness of items within current county council policy, with regard to race and gender; lack of relevance to the current user base; the value; and the number of similar items and demand on them.

It is recognised that some material may need to be reviewed, in particular fine and decorative art and ethnography. For example, forty items of studio pottery are currently on loan to the Ballantyne Collection at Nottingham Castle Museum, some of which have been included in the tour of Ballantyne pots to Derbyshire Libraries, funded by HLF, between 2003 and 2007.

12.2.11 Summary: Derbyshire County Council recognises that where disposal from collections is identified as the best solution for the management of collections and access to them, it is not something to be undertaken lightly. It will be done in line with the requirements of MLA Accreditation and the MA code of Ethics. Any proposed disposal has to be undertaken openly and within the public gaze, and is a slow and disciplined task. Every opportunity to keep

appropriate collections within Derbyshire will be sought. The county will seek creative solutions to use the collections, as evidenced by the Ballantyne and the Derbyshire Police collections. The county will work with Derby City Museums, Chesterfield Museum, Erewash Museum, Sudbury Museum of Childhood and the independent sector in the county to resolve some of these long standing issues. The county will work with Renaissance East Midlands collections strategy team, other accredited museums and heritage facilities as well as, where necessary, the private sector. The county invited the MA to comment on progress to date at Elvaston in spring 2005, and the MA found that the work was continuing at more than required ethical standards.

12.3 Other disposal issues

12.3.1 Buxton Museum and Art Gallery offers an object enquiry service. Objects for enquiry are accepted into the museum on the entry system, with an agreement to return the object with information. However, on occasions, the depositor fails to collect the property. The museum will write to the depositor giving three months notice to the depositor to collect the property, according to the conditions on the Entry form. Following that three-month period, the museum will dispose the object as appropriate. This may mean that the object will be formally assimilated into the collection.

12.3.2 Buxton Museum runs a temporary exhibition programme. Objects for exhibit are accepted into the museum on the Entry system, with an agreed date for return. However, on occasions, the depositor fails to collect the property. The museum will write to the depositor giving three months notice to the depositor to collect the property, according to the conditions on the Entry form. Following that three-month period, the Museum will dispose the object as appropriate. This may mean that the object will be formally assimilated into the collection.

13 Policy review procedure

13.1 The Acquisition and Disposal Policy will be published and reviewed from time to time, at least once every five years. This policy will be reviewed by March 2011, or as required should there be any significant legal or domestic alterations necessary.

13.2 EMMMLAC will be notified of any changes to the Acquisition and Disposal Policy, and the implications of any such changes for the future of existing collections.

14. Conclusions

- 14.1 The above Acquisition and Disposal policy has been written in accordance with the current guidelines for Museums and Galleries Accreditation 2005, and using documentation and the knowledge of the staff at Buxton Museum and Art Gallery, Elvaston Castle, the Schools Library Service, Sudbury Hall Museum of Childhood and other staff of Derbyshire County Council.
- 14.2 The Acquisition and Disposal Policy will be presented for approval in March 2006 as part of the Collections Management Portfolio. Following elected member approval, the policy will be available for public reference in Buxton Museum and Art Gallery, Buxton Library, Derbyshire Record Office and Local Studies Library, Matlock. A copy will be lodged at EMMMLAC. It will also be available digitally at: www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/buxton_museum.

Archaeology and Social History Repositories in Derbyshire,

at parish level

Parish	Archaeology	Social History
		still in discussion
Abney and Abney Grange	Buxton Museum	
Aldercar and Langley Mill	Derby City Museum	
Alderwasley	Derby City Museum	
Aldwark	Buxton Museum	Wirksworth
Alfreton	Derby City Museum	Alfreton Local History*
Alkmonton	Derby City Museum	
Ash	Derby City Museum	
Ashbourne	Derby City Museum	Ashbourne LH*
Ashford in the Water	Buxton Museum	Bakewell
Ashleyhay	Derby City Museum	
Ashover	Weston Park Museum	
Aston	Buxton Museum	
Aston upon Trent	Derby City Museum	
Atlow	Buxton Museum	
Ault Hucknall	Weston Park Museum	Eyam
Bakewell	Buxton Museum	Bakewell
Ballidon	Buxton Museum	
Bamford	Weston Park Museum	Castleton
Barlborough	Weston Park Museum	
Barlow	Weston Park Museum	
Barrow upon Trent	Derby City Museum	Derby City
Barton Blount	Derby City Museum	
Baslow & Bubnell	Weston Park Museum	Bakewell
Bearwardcote	Derby City Museum	
Beeley	Weston Park Museum	
Belper	Derby City Museum	Belper
Biggin	Buxton Museum	
Birchover	Buxton Museum	
Blackwell	Weston Park Museum	
Blackwell in the Peak	Buxton Museum	Buxton Museum
Bonsall	Buxton Museum	
Boylestone	Derby City Museum	
Brackenfield	Weston Park Museum	
Bradbourne	Buxton Museum	
Bradley	Derby City Museum	
Bradwell	Buxton Museum	
Brailsford	Derby City Museum	
Brampton	Weston Park Museum	
Brassington	Buxton Museum	
Breadsall	Erewash Museum	Erewash
Breaston	Erewash Museum	Erewash
Bretby	Derby City Museum	
Brimington	Chesterfield Museum	Chesterfield
Brough and Shatton	Buxton Museum	
Brushfield	Buxton Museum	
Burnaston	Derby City Museum	
Buxton	Buxton Museum	Buxton Museum

Calke	Derby City Museum	
Callow	Buxton Museum	
Calow	Weston Park Museum	
Calver	Weston Park Museum	Bakewell
Carsington	Buxton Museum	
Castle Gresley	Derby City Museum	Sharpes, Swadlincote
Castleton	Castleton	Castleton
Catton	Derby City Museum	
Cauldwell	Derby City Museum	
Chapel-en-le-Frith	Buxton Museum	Chapel LH/BM&AG
Charlesworth	Buxton Museum	Glossop
Chatsworth	Weston Park Museum	
Chelmorton	Buxton Museum	Buxton
Chinley, Buxworth and Brownside	Buxton Museum	New Mills
Chisworth	Buxton Museum	Glossop
Chesterfield	Chesterfield Museum	Chesterfield
Church Broughton	Derby City Museum	
Clay Cross	Weston Park Museum	
Clifton and Compton	Derby City Museum	
Clowne	Weston Park Museum	
Codnor	Derby City Museum	
Coton in the Elms	Derby City Museum	
Crich	Derby City Museum	
Cromford	Buxton Museum	
Cubley	Derby City Museum	
Curbar	Weston Park Museum	
Dalbury Lees	Derby City Museum	
Dale Abbey	Erewash Museum	Erewash
Darley Dale	Buxton Museum	
Denby	Derby City Museum	
Derwent	Weston Park Museum	
Dethick, Lea and Holloway	Derby City Museum	
Doveridge	Derby City Museum	
Drakelow	Derby City Museum	
Draycott and Church Wilne	Erewash Museum	Erewash
Dronfield	Weston Park Museum	
Duffield	Derby City Museum	
Eaton and Alsop	Buxton Museum	
Eckington	Weston Park Museum	
Edale	Buxton Museum	
Edensor	Weston Park Museum	
Edlaston and Wylaston	Derby City Museum	
Eggington	Derby City Museum	
Elton	Buxton Museum	
Elmton	Weston Park Museum	
Elvaston	Derby City Museum	
Etwall	Derby City Museum	
Eyam	Buxton Museum	Eyam
Eyam Woodlands	Buxton Museum	Eyam
Fenny Bentley	Buxton Museum	
Findern	Derby City Museum	
Flagg	Buxton Museum	
Foolow	Buxton Museum	

Foremark	Derby City Museum	
Foston and Scropton	Derby City Museum	
Froggatt	Weston Park Museum	
Glapwell	Weston Park Museum	
Glossop	Buxton Museum	Glossop
Grassmoor	Weston Park Museum	
Gratton	Buxton Museum	
Great Hucklow	Buxton Museum	
Great Longstone	Buxton Museum	Bakewell
Green Fairfield	Buxton Museum	Bakewell
Grindleford (and Nether Padley)	Weston Park Museum	
Grindlow	Buxton Museum	
Harthill	Buxton Museum	
Hartington Middle Quarter	Buxton Museum	
Hartington Nether Quarter	Buxton Museum	
Hartington Town Quarter	Buxton Museum	
Hartington Upper Quarter	Buxton Museum	
Hartshorne	Derby City Museum	
Hathersage	Weston Park Museum	
Hassop	Buxton Museum	Bakewell
Hatton	Derby City Museum	
Hayfield	Buxton Museum	
Hazelbadge	Buxton Museum	
Hazelwood	Derby City Museum	
Heanor and Loscoe	Derby City Museum	
Highlow	Buxton Museum	Buxton Museum
Hilton	Derby City Museum	
Hognaston	Buxton Museum	
Holbrook	Derby City Museum	
Hollington	Derby City Museum	
Holmesfield	Weston Park Museum	
Holmewood and Heath	Weston Park Museum	
Holymoorside and Walton	Weston Park Museum	
Hoon	Derby City Museum	
Hope	Buxton Museum	
Hope Woodlands	Buxton Museum	
Hopewell	Erewash Museum	Erewash
Horsley	Derby City Museum	
Horsley Woodhouse	Derby City Museum	
Hulland	Derby City Museum	
Hulland Ward	Derby City Museum	
Hungry Bentley	Derby City Museum	
Ible	Buxton Museum	
Idridgehay and Alton	Derby City Museum	
Ilkeston	Erewash Museum	Erewash
Ingleby	Derby City Museum	
Ironville	Derby City Museum	
Ivonbrook Grange	Buxton Museum	
Kedleston	Derby City Museum	
Kilburn	Derby City Museum	
Killamarsh	Weston Park Museum	
Kirk Ireton	Buxton Museum	

Kirk Langley	Derby City Museum	
King Sterndale	Buxton Museum	Buxton Museum
Kniveton	Buxton Museum	
Lea Hall	Buxton Museum	
Linton	Derby City Museum	
Little Eaton	Erewash Museum	Erewash
Little Hucklow	Buxton Museum	
Little Longstone	Buxton Museum	Bakewell
Litton	Buxton Museum	
Long Eaton	Erewash Museum	Erewash
Longford	Derby City Museum	
Lullington	Derby City Museum	
Mackworth	Derby City Museum	
Mapleton	Derby City Museum	
Mapperley	Derby City Museum	
Marston Montgomery	Derby City Museum	
Marston on Dove	Derby City Museum	
Matlock Bath	Buxton Museum	
Matlock Town	Buxton Museum	
Melbourne	Derby City Museum	
Mercaston	Derby City Museum	
Middleton and Smerrill	Buxton Museum	Bakewell
Monyash	Buxton Museum	Bakewell
Morley	Erewash Museum	Erewash
Morton	Weston Park Museum	
Nether Haddon	Buxton Museum	Bakewell
Netherseal	Derby City Museum	
New Mills	Buxton Museum	New Mill HC
Newton Grange	Buxton Museum	
Newton Solney	Derby City Museum	
Norbury and Roston	Derby City Museum	
North Wingfield	Weston Park Museum	
Northwood & Tinkersley	Weston Park Museum	
Ockbrook	Erewash Museum	Erewash
Offcote and Underwood	Buxton Museum	
Offerton	Buxton Museum	
Old Bolsover	Weston Park Museum	
Osleston	Derby City Museum	
Osmaston	Derby City Museum	
Outseats	Weston Park Museum	
Over Haddon	Buxton Museum	Bakewell
Overseal	Derby City Museum	
Parwich	Buxton Museum	Parwich LH
Peak Forest	Buxton Museum	Buxton Museum
Pentrich	Derby City Museum	
Pilsley	Buxton Museum	
Pinxton	Weston Park Museum	
Pleasley	Weston Park Museum	
Quarnditch	Derby City Museum	

Radbourne	Derby City Museum	
Ravensdale Park	Derby City Museum	
Repton	Derby City Museum	
Ripley	Derby City Museum	
Risley	Erewash Museum	Erewash
Rodsley	Derby City Museum	
Rosliston	Derby City Museum	
Rowland	Buxton Museum	
Rowsley	Weston Park Museum	
Sandiacre	Erewash Museum	Erewash
Scarcliffe	Weston Park Museum	
Shardlow and Great Wilne	Derby City Museum	
Sheldon	Buxton Museum	Bakewell
Shipley	Derby City Museum	
Shirebrook	Weston Park Museum	
Shirland & Higham	Weston Park Museum	
Shirley	Derby City Museum	
Shottle and Postern	Derby City Museum	
Smalley	Derby City Museum	
Smisby	Derby City Museum	
Snelston	Derby City Museum	
Somercotes	Derby City Museum	
Somersal Herbert	Derby City Museum	
South Darley	Buxton Museum	
South Normanton	Weston Park Museum	
South Wingfield	Derby City Museum	
Stanley	Erewash Museum	Erewash
Stanton	Buxton Museum	Bakewell
Stanton by Bridge	Derby City Museum	
Stanton by Dale	Erewash Museum	Erewash
Staveley	Chesterfield Museum	Chesterfield
Stoke	Weston Park Museum	
Stoney Middleton	Buxton Museum	Eyam
Stretton	Weston Park Museum	
Sudbury	Derby City Museum	
Sutton cum Duckmanton	Weston Park Museum	
Sutton on the Hill	Derby City Museum	
Swadlincote	Derby City Museum	Sharpe's, Swadlincote
Swanwick	Derby City Museum	
Swarkstone	Derby City Museum	
Taddington	Buxton Museum	
Tansley	Buxton Museum	
Temple Normanton	Weston Park Museum	
Thornhill	Buxton Museum	
Thorpe	Buxton Museum	
Tibshelf	Weston Park Museum	
Ticknall	Derby City Museum	
Tideswell	Buxton Museum	
Tintwistle	Buxton Museum	Glossop
Tissington	Buxton Museum	
Trusley	Derby City Museum	
Tupton	Weston Park Museum	
Turnditch	Derby City Museum	
Twyford and Stenson	Derby City Museum	

Unstone	Weston Park Museum	
Walton upon Trent	Derby City Museum	
Wardlow	Buxton Museum	Bakewell
Wessington	Weston Park Museum	
West Hallam	Erewash Museum	Erewash
Weston Underwood	Derby City Museum	
Whaley Bridge	Buxton Museum	New Mills
Weston upon Trent	Derby City Museum	
Wheston	Buxton Museum	Buxton Museum
Whitwell	Weston Park Museum	
Willington	Derby City Museum	
Windley	Derby City Museum	
Wingerworth	Weston Park Museum	
Winster	Buxton Museum	Wirksworth
Wirksworth	Buxton Museum	Wirksworth
Woodville	Derby City Museum	
Wormhill	Buxton Museum	Buxton Museum
Yeaveley	Derby City Museum	
Yeldersley	Derby City Museum	
Youlgreave	Buxton Museum	Bakewell

RJW 7.2005