

Collections Development Policy

Date on which this policy was approved by governing body: 13th December 2021

Date at which this policy is due for review: December

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 Object of the Carisbrooke Castle Museum Trust is:

To promote the education of the public in the history of Carisbrooke Castle and the Isle of Wight by the provision of a museum for the maintenance and public exhibition of a collection of objects, artefacts, specimens, books and documents and pictures and the extension, enhancement, conversation and maintenance of the collection.

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

Carisbrooke Castle Museum was founded in 1898 by Princess Beatrice, Queen Victoria's youngest daughter, who was Governor of the Isle of Wight. It was created as a memorial to her husband Prince Henry of Battenberg who had died in 1896. Prince Henry had been the previous Governor of the Isle of Wight.

The early museum was placed in the room above the Gatehouse at Carisbrooke Castle and its scope was Isle of Wight history with its core collection a group of objects from the Stuart period. These objects were specifically connected with King Charles 1 and his children, Princess Elizabeth and Prince Henry. All three were imprisoned in Carisbrooke Castle during the Civil War period and Princess Elizabeth died at the Castle. Several significant objects were donated by Princess Beatrice and her mother Queen Victoria.

The collection was augmented in 1911 by part of the local history collection of the closed Newport Museum, which had been founded in 1852. This included local archaeology. From that time Carisbrooke Castle museum illustrated the Island's past from prehistory to the 19th century with collections of archaeology, fine and decorative art and social history. Princess Beatrice continued to influence the collecting policy and she and other members of the Royal Family presented gifts to the early museum. Princess Beatrice died in 1944.

The local, social history collections continued to grow under the care of the early Curators Frank Morey and his sister Kathleen Morey. By 1950 the museum had outgrown its accommodation and so King George VI gave permission for the museum to move within the Castle from the gatehouse to its present location in the former Governor's house. In 1974 the Isle of Wight County Council set up a museum service and also began to collect similar items relating to local island history, including archaeology.

In 1981 the County Council agreed to take responsibility for the field archaeology and all the pre- Norman objects in the collection. The significant collection of Island archaeological material dating from the Palaeolithic to the Anglo-Saxon times was transferred to the Isle of Wight County Council Museums service on long term loan, where it has remained. At that time a narrower field of collecting was negotiated alongside the Council's Heritage Service.

Carisbrooke Castle Museum agreed to collect post- medieval domestic artefacts and paintings from 1500 onwards. The Museum also agreed not to collect industrial archaeology, maritime material and fine art unrelated to Carisbrooke Castle.

Since this date further revisions have been made to our collecting remit in conversation with the Council and in reference to other local collections, these are reflected by the policy outlined below

3. An overview of current collections

The collections consist of approximately 35,000 items held at Carisbrooke Castle Museum and a further 30,000 archaeological artefacts on long-term loan to Isle of Wight Council.

The collections include applied art, fine art, photography, social history, science and technology, archaeology, and archives and cover subject areas such as military, maritime and childhood. They cover a timespan from prehistory to the present day.

Significant groups of material in the collection are:

Applied Art

The museum has strong applied art collections covering costume and textiles, ceramics (handcrafted and souvenir ware), silver and metalwork, furniture, glass, decorative boxes, jewellery and other applied arts including a good collection of sand pictures, perhaps unique to the Isle of Wight. Collections have strong connections to Isle of Wight businesses and organisations, themes of royalty, and ecclesiastical institutions (although large number of loans in this category).

Fine Art

Carisbrooke Castle Museum has an excellent collection of topographical views of the Isle of Wight mainly dating from the late-eighteenth, nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. Other subjects include royalty particularly relating to King Charles I and Princess Beatrice. Collections include paintings, prints and drawings and works in other media, and artists represented in the collection include: JMW Turner, John Nixon, William Buck, Thomas Hosmer Shepherd, Charles West Cope, Arthur Stockdale Cope, George Brannon, Fanny Minns and Ellen Cantelo.

Photography

One of the greatest strengths of the collection are the negatives and lantern slides from the Milne collection. Another significant group is the photographs of local shipwrecks which are of variable quality as photographs, but of clear relevance to the Isle of Wight. Some of the photographs of the castle itself and of various pageants were also of interest and a few other individual works stand out: the two portraits of Tennyson by Julia Margaret Cameron and a photograph called 'Grief' by the Swedish-born British photographer Oscar Gustav Rejlander.

Social History

The museum at Carisbrooke Castle was set up as a museum of local history and its collections of social history include objects relating to the domestic and working life of the people of the Isle of Wight. For a small independent museum, the social history collections are exceptionally good. The collections overwhelmingly date from the late-eighteenth, nineteenth and first half of the twentieth centuries with very little contemporary collecting.

Arms, Armour & Militaria

The collections are strong in military related items covering a range of collection types including arms and armour, medals, uniforms, silver and metalwork, social history and archives. The army, navy and air force are all represented. Particular strengths are collections relating to the Isle of Wight Rifles and items with royal connections.

Science and medicine

Carisbrooke Castle Museum has groups of material relating to science and technology, the most important material that the museum holds are the objects and archive relating to seismologist John Milne.

Archaeology

Carisbrooke Castle Museum has archaeology from Europe, Western Asiatic and North Africa including archaeology of the Isle of Wight, Mesopotamia and Egypt. The majority of the archaeology collection consists of approximately 30,000 items on long-term loan to Isle of Wight Council and with a smaller collection of archaeology held at Carisbrooke Castle Museum. Generally, archaeology held by the Isle of Wight Council covers Palaeolithic to Medieval periods, whereas the majority of finds at Carisbrooke Castle Museum are post-medieval British and some finds said to be from Europe, Asia and North Africa several of which connect to the museum's development and history.

Coins and Medals

The numismatic collection at Carisbrooke Castle Museum contains something approaching 2,000 items and, in many respects, is quite typical of the collections held by museums up and down the country. It includes British and foreign coins, trade tokens, jetons, banknotes, commemorative medals, campaign medals and gallantry awards, orders and decorations, and what can conveniently be grouped as 'paranumismatic' items (i.e. miscellaneous tickets, checks, passes, etc.). Again typically, much of this material has a strong local bias, but there are also a number of individual pieces or groups of much greater significance.

Archives

Carisbrooke Castle Museum holds paper archives including documents, manuscripts and correspondence from Medieval period to the twentieth century. One of the earliest documents is a charter of Nicholas the Sumpter dated 1266. There are also documents relating to local businesses, events, personal correspondence, programmes, certificates and other ephemera. Themes include military, royalty, maritime and tourism.

Other significant collection areas by theme

- Personal objects given as gifts to the museum by members of the Royal family including Queen Victoria, Princess Beatrice, Prince Henry of Battenberg, King George V and Queen Mary and Lord Louis Mountbatten.
- Stuart and civil war material connected with King Charles I and his imprisonment at Carisbrooke Castle.
- Objects commemorating the life and death of Princess Elizabeth, daughter of Charles I, who was also imprisoned at the castle.

Closed Collections

These are collections of material which have been identified as of significance and with potential for display or educational use but which do not relate to the museum's current collecting policy. They will continue to be held in a closed collection (to which there shall be no further acquisitions).

These collections are:

- A collection of objects associated with the history of lighting
- A collection of toys, games and items related to childhood
- A collection of early printed Bibles and other early printed books with no IW connection
- A collection of historic costume with no specific Isle of Wight provenance or story

Handling Collections

Outside the accessioned collection the museum also maintains a small handling collection used for education and outreach. Social history artefacts offered to the museum that fall out of our Collecting Policy may be considered for the handling collection with caution. If the objects are of some importance depositors should be encouraged to donate them to another suitable museum collection. It is museum policy that it is made clear to potential donors whether material on offer will enter the main collection as an acquisition or be used for educational purposes.

4. Themes and priorities for future collecting

The collecting policy for Carisbrooke Castle Museum is:

"To collect objects, artefacts, books, documents and pictures which illustrate or are related to the particular history and culture of the Isle of Wight from the Norman conquest to the present day, or which illustrate the history of Carisbrooke castle and its inhabitants".

Objects will usually be considered for acquisition if they satisfy **at least one** of the following criteria:

- Illustrate the Isle of Wight's particular history and culture
- Relate to a significant person, place or event connected with the Isle of Wight
- Made on the Island, or by an individual associated with the Island and of recognised significance

A series of questions have been developed to aid decision making regarding future acquisitions (see Appendix I); future collecting is expected to be in the following areas:

Applied Art

Costume and textiles; ceramics; silver and metalwork; horology; other applied art:

- illustrating the Island's particular history or culture
- associated with a significant Isle of Wight person, place or event
- made on the Island or by a person associated with the island and of recognised significance

Priority collecting: 20th Century and contemporary IW handcrafted ceramics

Fine Art

Although CCM has not actively collected Fine Art, except that directly related to Carisbrooke Castle and topographical views of the Island, we would consider doing so in the case of fine art created on the Island or by people associated with the island and of recognised significance. In cases of potential fine art acquisitions we would make specific consideration of the Isle of Wight Council collection as this is an area they have traditionally collected in.

Priority collecting: fine art associated with Carisbrooke Castle and its environs; fine art relating to other fortifications of the IW to providing the opportunity to illustrate a wider history of Island defence.

Photography

Original photographs:

- illustrating the Island's particular history or culture
- illustrating a significant Isle of Wight person, place or event
- made on the Island or by a person associated with the island and of recognised significance

We would consider acquiring examples of 'art' photography where there was a clear association with the Isle of Wight. In cases of potential 'art' photography acquisitions we would make specific consideration of the Isle of Wight Council collection and that of Dimbola Museum and Galleries.

Social History

Social history collecting will only be conducted in areas which illustrate the *particular* history and culture of the Isle of Wight. General social history objects will not be collected if they do not satisfy the above condition, even if they have an Isle of Wight provenance.

Potential themes for social history collecting include:

- Rural Life
- Governance of the Isle of Wight, to include: Politics; Law and Order

- Island Industries
- Tourism, in particular seaside heritage
- Religious Life
- Oral Histories of Island Life
- Maritime Life, in particular smuggling and shipwrecks*
- Isle of Wight Institutions**
- Island Transport***

* the Isle of Wight Council collection will be considered when items are connected to the history of shipbuilding on the Island, and the Shipwreck Centre and Maritime Museum will be considered when items are connected to the history of shipwrecks.

** except where there are pre-existing collection strengths in other local collections (eg. IW Records Office)

*** except where there are established alternative local collections, for example the IW Steam Railway and the IW Bus Museum

Priority collecting: Governance of the Island, in particular the history of the Lords, Captains and Governors of the Island;

Arms, Armour & Militaria

Arms, Armour & Militaria:

- Illustrating the history of the defence of Carisbrooke Castle or the Isle of Wight
- associated with a significant Isle of Wight person, place or event

Priority collecting: the history of the IW Rifflers; the defence of Carisbrooke and the Isle of Wight

Coins and Medals

Coins and medals:

- Illustrating the particular history and culture of the Isle of Wight
- associated with a significant Isle of Wight person, place or event

Archives

Archives and documents associated with local history will normally be offered to the Isle of Wight Record Office, except where there is a compelling connection to an established part of CCM's existing collection or to an identified future collecting theme.

Archaeology

Archaeological finds should normally be offered to the Isle of Wight Council except in the case of Norman and later finds where there is a compelling connection to an established part of CCM's existing collection or to an identified collecting theme.

NB. All pre-Norman objects or archaeological finds should be offered to the Isle of Wight Council Collection.

Science and medicine

Scientific and medical objects:

- Illustrating the particular history and culture of the Isle of Wight

- Associated with a person, organisation, or event of significance to the Island's history

Priority collecting: Robert Hooke; John Milne

Other priority collecting areas by theme

- The history of Carisbrooke Castle and its inhabitants
- The English Civil War, specifically in relation to the Isle of Wight and the imprisonment of Charles I at Carisbrooke Castle
- Prince Henry and Princess Beatrice of Battenberg
- The early history of Carisbrooke Castle Museum and the other museums on the Island established in the 19th century (since closed).

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.

The main groups of objects in the museum which should be considered for rationalisation and in some cases disposal are:

- Items on loan to Carisbrooke Castle Museum should be returned to lenders where they are of insufficient relevance or interest to retain.
- Items which do not fit with the current collecting policy which could be transferred to another accredited museum or heritage organisation where they would give the most public benefit.
- Items beyond repair.
- Items which have been inadvertently accessioned such as supporting documentation to the collections and research for exhibitions and events.

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 museums/organisations:

Accredited museums:

- The Isle of Wight Council Heritage Service, including Cowes Maritime Museum, Dinosaur Isle, Newport Roman Villa, Archaeology Service and Record Office
- English Heritage
- The National Trust
- Dimbola Museum and Galleries
- Brading Roman Villa
- The Classic Boat Museum
- Shipwreck Centre and Maritime Museum
- Isle of Wight Steam Railway
- Isle of Wight Bus and Coach Museum (working towards Accreditation, 2021)

Non-accredited local heritage organisations:

Cowes, Ventnor, Shanklin and Ryde Heritage Centres

7.3 CCM undertakes not to actively compete with other local collections for acquisitions in which there is common collecting policy, in particular where this would be to the detriment of either organisation or the safety of the object, and commits to working collaboratively to ensure the most appropriate home is secured for objects.

8 Archival holdings

The museum holds paper archives including documents, manuscripts and correspondence from the medieval period to the twentieth century. One of the earliest documents is a charter of Nicholas the Sumpter dated 1266. There are important 17th century documents which relate to Charles I and British constitutional history. There are also documents relating to local businesses, events, personal correspondence, programmes, certificates and other ephemera. Other archives kept at the museum include paper, photographs, sound, film and video.

As the museum holds archives its governing body will be guided by the Code of Practice on Archives for Museums and Galleries in the United Kingdom.

Future collecting in this area would take account of the collecting policies of other local museums and organisations listed above, but specifically The IW County Record Office and English Heritage.

Archives and documents associated with local history will normally be offered to the Isle of Wight Record Office, except where there is a compelling connection to an established part of the existing CCM collection or to an identified priority collecting theme.

Acquisition

8.1 The policy for agreeing acquisitions is:

- The Curator is responsible for agreeing acquisitions, following an acquisition assessment procedure agreed by the museum's governing body (see Appendix I).
- Acquisitions with a purchase value of £500 or over (whether budgeted or non-budgeted) will require formal, advance, Trustee approval.
- 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 Curator is satisfied that the museum can acquire a valid title to the item in question.

8.2 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).

8.3 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.

9 Human remains

9.1 The museum does not hold or intend to acquire any human remains.

10 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.

11.2 Natural History items will only be considered for acquisition if there is a particular and compelling historic context – for example, an association with a significant historic figure from the island – justifying their acquisition and after the museum's ability to care for such items has been assessed.

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).
- 12.3 The museum will not collect any pre-Norman archaeological material and will only collect post-Norman archaeological material if it has a specific connection to the museum's collecting priorities and the themes of its collection. All other general, local archaeology will be directed to the Isle of Wight Council

13 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.

14 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.

15 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.
- 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.

- 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, eg the destruction of controlled substances, a police certificate should be obtained and kept in the relevant object history file.

Appendix I

Carisbrooke Castle Museum: Framework for Acquisitions Decisions

In usual circumstances:

All potential acquisitions must satisfy **at least one** of the following criteria:

- Illustrates the Island's particular history and culture
- Relates to a significant person, place or event connected with the Isle of Wight
- Was made on the Island, or by an individual associated with the Island and of recognised significance
- Fits with one of the identified collecting themes (see: 4. Themes and priorities for future collecting)

All potential acquisitions must also be able to answer **yes to all** of the following criteria:

- Do we have the capacity/ability to safely store/display the object?
- Is the object 'original' (ie. not a modern reproduction or facsimile)?
- Does the object fill a gap in the collection, is it unique in the context of the collection or is it an improved duplicate?¹
- The object is likely to be used for display or research?

The following questions should also be **considered** in making acquisition decisions:

- Do we have the capacity/ability to provide appropriate preventative conservation measures and any necessary conservation work?
- Is there a more appropriate potential home for the object? (Priority should be given as described above.)
- Is the object at risk of being lost to the public domain if we do not accept? How serious a loss might this be?
- Is the object museum quality? What is its condition? Does it have the 'wow' factor?

¹ An 'improved duplicate' is an object which is identical or near identical to an object already in the collection but is more desirable due to a factor such as: an object in notably better condition; an object with a better-known or more significant provenance.