



REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

PORTFOLIO AREA: HEALTH AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Date of Meeting: 13th June 2005

Public

Key Decision: Yes

Recorded in Forward Plan:

Yes

Inside/Outside Policy Framework

Title: Tullie House Museum & Art Gallery: Acquisition & Disposal Policy 2005-7

Report of: Head of Culture, Leisure & Sport

Report reference:

Summary:

Updates existing policy (ref: EX 324/03) with re-worded standard clauses, as required by the Museums, Libraries & Archives Council for purposes of Museum Accreditation.

Recommendations:

That the Acquisition & Disposal Policy for 2005-7 be approved

Contact Officer: Hilary Wade/David Clarke

Ext: 5500 x 253/242

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

The Acquisition & Disposal Policy is an essential document governing the development of the City's collections held by the Tullie House Museum & Art Gallery service.

It is also one of the key documents ensuring our continued status as a Registered Museum, attaining nationally accepted standards. It is normally reviewed at three-year intervals. The Museums, Libraries & Archives Council (the Government body responsible for museums nationally) has recently revised the Registration scheme, and has re-launched it under the title of Museum Accreditation. As a lead partner in the NW HUB, our service is required to apply for Accreditation by July 2005.

The main implication for our document is that some changes are required to various standard clauses regarding ethical and legal issues. New wording has been provided by MLA and forms the basis of sections 5-14 (excluding 10) in the proposed document.

We have also been required for the first time to list factors that might in our view affect future development of the Policy. These appear in section 3 of the document. Members are asked to note and agree its contents.

There are otherwise no other significant changes to the document approved in January 2004 (Minute ref: EX 324/03, which was due to expire in January 2006).

2. CONSULTATION

The Accreditation Adviser appointed by MLA Northwest has seen the present document and minor changes she advised have already been incorporated. The Tullie House Management Team has agreed the document.

- 2.1 No further consultation, other than with Members, is necessary at this time.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Acquisition & Disposal Policy for 2005-7 document is approved.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To enable Tullie House to comply with the Accreditation time-table and thereby to meet its obligations as a lead museum in the North West region.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- **Staffing/Resources** – none with immediate effect, but some of the issues noted in section 3 may variously become critical within the review period.
- **Financial** – dependent upon future development decisions, including storage issues; failure to attain Accreditation would bar access to many grant sources.
- Legal – n/a
- **Corporate** – failure to attain Accreditation would have a negative impact on the City's image, and possibly lead to Tullie House losing HUB museum status.
- Risk Management –
- Equality Issues – n/a
- Environmental – n/a
- Crime and Disorder – n/a

Tullie House Museum & Art Gallery Service, Carlisle

ACQUISITION & DISPOSAL POLICY **2005-2007**

Adopted by Carlisle City Council at its meeting on ##### 2005
(Minute reference: EX. #####)

This policy falls due for review in June 2007

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document sets out the policy for the development of the collections of Tullie House Museum & Art Gallery service for the period 2005-7. It is for public information and for the guidance of Members of Carlisle City Council and its museum officers, and replaces all previous policies.

- 1.2 Tullie House Museum & Art Gallery is owned and managed by Carlisle City Council. It reports to the Portfolio-holder for Culture, Leisure & Sport who is an Executive Committee member in a Cabinet style Local Authority District Council.
- 1.3 The Service's collections have developed continuously since the first public museum opened in Carlisle in 1877. They are now a significant resource of cultural material, variously of regional, national or international importance. It was first Registered (No. 160) under the former Museums Registration Scheme in 1989. The museum service includes the Guildhall Museum, Carlisle, as a branch of Tullie House. The Guildhall was numbered 161 under the Registration scheme, but has no separate collections and draws objects for display from the core collection held at Tullie House.

2. Existing collections

- 2.1 The collections fall into three main subject areas: Human History, Natural Sciences and Fine & Decorative Arts. **Human History** collections centre on the social history of Carlisle and its immediate environs, and on the archaeology of Carlisle and Cumbria; **Natural Sciences** encompass the fauna, flora and geology of Cumbria; **Fine & Decorative Arts** focuses on British Fine Art, English ceramics, and costume and textiles of the Carlisle area. More detailed summaries of the scope and contents of the collections are given in section 15 of this document.

3. Factors affecting future collecting policy, including subjects or themes for collecting

- 3.1 The following may all affect future developments in Collecting policies:
 - a) *the wider policy objectives of Carlisle City Council*: Tullie House is a major element of the Council's direct services and therefore at the forefront of policy influences.
 - b) *the Tullie House Development Plan (2004)*: this is to be considered by the City Council during 2005.
 - c) *storage issues*: unless some means of expanding storage capacity is found, self-imposed limitations on collecting may become inevitable within the period of the policy.
 - d) *staffing*: the present staff complement places practical limitations on effective acquisition in some aspects of the scope of the collections.
 - e) *Trust status for Tullie House*: this has been considered by the Council and will be subject to future review in 2007.

4. Collecting areas

- 4.1 Collecting areas for the various disciplines covered by the collections vary and are given in sections 15.1.4, 15.2.4 and 15.3.3 below.

5. Limitations on collecting

- 5.1 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. It will take into account limitations on collecting imposed by such factors as inadequate staffing, storage and care of collection arrangements.
- 5.2 Subject to the above, future collecting will continue in all of the principle subject areas, and work to the strengths of these collections. In general there will be a presumption against acquiring items in very poor condition, requiring high expenditure on conservation in the short term or on an ongoing basis. The only exceptions will be items that are very clearly of major importance to the scope of the collections and/or the documentation of local cultural history.

6. Collecting policies of other museums

- 6.1 The service 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.

In particular, the service will have special regard to the interests of any museum participating in the Accreditation/Registration process within the county of Cumbria and adjacent Local Authority Districts, wherever there are overlaps of interest.

7. Policy review procedure

- 7.1 This Acquisition and Disposal Policy will be published and reviewed from time to time, at least once every five years. The date when the policy is next due for review is as noted above.
- 7.2 The Regional Agency, MLA Northwest, 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.

8. Acquisitions not covered by the policy

- 8.1 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.

9. Acquisition procedures: legal and ethical issues

- 9.1 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 a valid title to the item in question.
- 9.2 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).
- 9.3 In accordance with the provisions of the UNESCO 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, which the UK ratified with effect from November 1 2002, and the Dealing in Cultural Objects (Offences) Act 2003, the museum will reject any items that have been illicitly traded. The governing body will be guided by the national guidance on the responsible acquisition of cultural property issued by DCMS in 2005.
- 9.4 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.
- 9.5 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).
- 9.6 Any exceptions to the above clauses 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4 or 9.5 will only be because the museum is either: a) acting as an externally approved repository of last resort for material of local (UK) origin; or b) 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 c) acting with the permission of authorities with the requisite jurisdiction in the country of origin; or d) in possession of reliable documentary evidence that the item was exported from its country of origin before 1970.

In all these cases the museum will be open and transparent in the way it takes decisions and will act only with the express consent of an appropriate outside authority.

10. Service-specific guidelines

- 10.1 **Collecting methods: collecting** will be through gifts, bequests, field collecting, purchases and commissions; Archaeological material will not be acquired through excavation or field collecting directly by the service. Joint- acquisition projects with major National or regional museums will be considered.
- 10.2 **Acquisitions by purchase:** the financial implications of individual acquisition proposals will be weighed against available Purchase Funds, and the needs of the collections as a whole. Decisions to proceed on individual items will be at the discretion of the Tullie House officers, but proposals in excess of £10,000 value will be in consultation with the service's Portfolio-holder in the first instance. Grants will be sought in conjunction with all appropriate purchases.
- 10.3 **Learning & Access Service collecting:** acquisition of historic artefacts for the purposes of use by the Tullie House Learning and Access Service is governed by an in-house Code of Practice. This is to ensure that all offered donations will be centrally processed via the entry form system,

with the main collections having priority of opportunity to acquire items on offer. A Schools Loans Service was initiated in 1992. Artefacts permanently acquired for this purpose are listed separately from the main accession records by the Learning & Access section. In addition, selected artefacts from the main Tullie House collections are placed on loan to the Loans Service and regularly audited.

- 10.4 **Loans-In:** The service will normally acquire items on loan from third parties only for the purposes of temporary exhibitions (including locally important material held by National or major regional museums). Loans-in will otherwise be exceptional and may relate to items clearly destined to become acquisitions, items for enquiry or short-term research and objects of local importance whose immediate future is in some way seriously threatened. All items received as loans will be clearly documented as such and a finite loan period will form a condition of all such receipts. Such loans will be subject to the lender's legal title to the objects.

11. Spoliation

- 11.1 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.

12. Repatriation and Restitution

- 12.1 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, 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.

13. Management of archives

- 13.1 As the museum holds/intends to acquire archives, including photographs and printed ephemera, its governing body will be guided by the Code of Practice on Archives for Museums and Galleries in the United Kingdom (3rd ed., 2002).

14. Disposal procedures

- 14.1 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.

- 14.2 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.
- 14.3 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.
- 14.4 Decisions to dispose of items will not be made with the principal aim of generating funds.
- 14.5 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.
- 14.6 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.
- 14.7 Once a decision to dispose of material in the collection has been taken, priority will be given to retaining it within the public domain, 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.
- 14.8. 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.
- 14.9. 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.

- 14.10. 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 de-accession and disposal.

15. Subject/discipline statements:

The collections are sub-divided on the basis of the existing curatorial staff structure, which reflects subject and academic disciplines. They are Human History (comprising Archaeology and Social History), Fine Arts & Decorative Art, and Natural Sciences. Statements for collections relating to these disciplines follow below:

15.1 Human History

15.1.1 Scope of collections

Archaeology

The collections comprise Cumbrian Prehistory, Roman Cumbria (especially Carlisle and the Hadrian's Wall area), Dark Age and Medieval Cumbria. There are a number of important excavation archives. These include pre-1979 material from Carlisle and many sites from the western sectors of Hadrian's Wall. Organic material – especially wood and leatherwork – are notable in some instances.

Important items within the collections include: *Stone Age*: rough-out material from the Langdale stone axes factories, pottery from Ehenside Tarn and Old Walls; *Bronze Age*: stone spear-mould from Croglin, gold neck-ring from Greysouthern, cemetery material from Garlands and Aglionby; *Roman*: inscribed and sculptured stones from Carlisle and Hadrian's Wall, domestic and military material from Carlisle; *Dark Age*: objects from Viking burials at Ormside, Hesket and Cumwhitton, Saxon sword from the River Thames; *Medieval*: coins struck at the Carlisle Mint, ceramics from Carlisle, wooden artefacts, leather shoes, city bell, muniment chest and stocks, silver racing bells, *Elizabethan* weights and measures; *all Periods* British coinage. **[Approximately 16,000 items]**

Scope of collections

Social History

A wide-ranging collection of objects, ephemera and photographs (plus a limited range of oral history recordings) reflecting to personal, community and working life in and around Carlisle from the 1644-5 Civil War onwards.

The collections include a good general representation of domestic material; the 1745 Jacobite Rising; 17th/18th century silver of the City and its Trade Guilds, banners relating to the Trades Guilds, Trades Unions and political movements; representative medals, coins, trade tokens and banknotes; local postal history (with closed collection of British postage stamps); tools and products of local agriculture and industry (plus an archive relating to the Blue Streak Rocket Project)

[Approximately 20,000 items]

15.1.2 Collecting Objectives

To acquire and develop collections which will enable greater understanding of the evolution of the City of Carlisle and its community. Key elements will be: the development of Carlisle as a Roman town; its subsequent development as an important medieval Border City and stronghold; its continued development as a flourishing provincial centre in which textile industries and the development of railways were especially influential; 20th century growth and development. The collections will also reflect the wider context of human settlement and activity in Cumbria and the Borders in the period before the foundation of Carlisle.

15.1.3 Scope of collecting activities

In pursuit of the above objectives, the Service will continue to develop the collections of artefacts and associated evidence in the fields of Archaeology and Social History which, where appropriate, will include related forms of material evidence, such as photographic and sound archives. (In practice, the discipline of Archaeology deals with all material pre-dating c.1700AD; Social History deals with the remaining time-span to present day).

15.1.4 Collecting Areas:

Archaeology

Historically, the Service has been a repository for archaeological finds from sites throughout the present county of Cumbria. Items relating to recent history have focussed much more clearly on the historic hinterland of the City of Carlisle - which does not necessarily conform to very recently drawn Local Government boundaries.

Future acquisitions in Archaeology will normally derive from or relate to the Carlisle area, with the following regular exceptions:

- Where the Service already possesses excavated material and documentation from an archaeological site and that site is re-excavated, the finds and documentation will be accepted. This follows current HBMC guidelines that the excavation archive from one site should remain intact.
- Where finds and documentation originate from excavations carried out anywhere in the county under the auspices of the Cumberland & Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society (CWAAS). (This is in recognition of Tullie House's long-standing association with the CWAAS).

Social History

Acquisitions will normally be restricted to historic and contemporary items made in, used in or closely associated with Carlisle and its traditional hinterland. In the context of this Policy, this means the current Local Government District, together with those parts of adjacent Districts within a radius of c. 20 km of the City. Material from sites out-with Carlisle District but associated with Carlisle will be acquired only in consultation with the museums of the adjacent Cumbria Districts.

In addition, social history collecting will be made with reference to the policies of other collecting institutions based within Carlisle. In particular, oral history recordings and business and legal records (for example, indentures) will not normally be acquired, but redirected to the County Record Office as the primary repository for such archive material. Individual newspapers (both local and national) may be collected as examples of type or to record particular events, but sequences of local papers will normally be redirected to the Carlisle Library Local Studies collection (Cumbria County Council). There will be some overlaps of interest with the latter, who also actively collect printed ephemera and photographs as well as publications.

Special circumstances

Exceptionally the Service may acquire Archaeological or Social History artefacts that fall outside the above statements and relate primarily to other Districts within Cumbria, subject to all three criteria below being satisfied:

- That the artefact(s) in question are judged to be of high importance to the local heritage.

- That failure to act would result in the item(s) not remaining in or returning to the Cumbria area, and/or being placed at risk of loss or destruction.
- That the provisions of Section 6 above are enacted, and that the other relevant interested parties confirm that they not willing or able to proceed with the acquisition.

Artefacts acquired by the Service under the above circumstances would normally be considered strong candidates for loans out to Registered museums of the areas most concerned.

15.1.5 Acquisition Priorities: Archaeology:

- Finds and documentation or paper archival material relating to the existing collections (line with HBMC Guidelines to excavators and other researchers).
- Finds and documentation or paper archival material relating to sites in the collecting areas for which there is no current representation in the collections. This will include the formal transfer of material from excavations by the now defunct Carlisle Archaeological Unit/Carlisle Archaeology Ltd, as well as material from other contractors.
- Pre-historic period: all material from within the collecting area, particularly the pre-Roman Iron Age (c. 700 BC – 43 AD).
- Roman period: archive and material from the Carlisle Millennium excavation (long-term loan).
- Sub-Roman and Anglian/Viking material (6th-11th centuries AD): artefacts are scarce and almost all material from within the area is of high interest.
- Medieval period (11th-17th centuries AD): further representation of the period of Border conflicts with Scotland, whether at national or local levels. The latter will emphasise the unique local phenomenon of 'Reiving', in which weapons, armour and other militaria may be pre-eminent; local items associated with the period of the Civil War (1644-1645) will also be of special interest. Medieval items relevant to the interpretation of a medieval house are desirable for the Guildhall.
- Individually very significant items found, made or used locally, of any date up to c. 1700 AD.

15.1.6 Acquisition priorities: Social History:

- Twentieth and twenty-first century items, will be a general priority, reflecting the effects a change of millennium may have on availability of material of that period.
- Photographic archive material, especially where this documents non-represented subjects/areas, and/or has special relevance to themes of planned gallery presentations.
- Material relating to popular culture in Carlisle, including music and sport
- Large artefacts (such as furniture, machinery and vehicles) will in general not be acquired on the grounds of insufficient storage or display space. Possible exceptions will be furniture, fittings and other domestic artefacts that could be used immediately to enhance interpretation of historic periods or the service's buildings. These could include items of 17th or 18th century date relevant to the interpretation of the Jacobean house and /or the period of the Jacobite Risings.

15.2 Fine & Decorative Art:

15.2.1.Scope of collections

Fine Art:

A collection of some 3,650 British paintings, prints and drawings of 18th-21st centuries, with special strengths in the Pre-Raphaelite movement. Notable artists represented in the collections include: Samuel Palmer, D. G. Rossetti, E. C. Burne-Jones, Arthur Hughes, Charles Ricketts, Paul Nash, Stanley Spencer. Some important acquisitions derive from major bequests (E. & G. Bottomley, 1949 **[600 items]**; Carel Weight, 1999 **[91 items]**) and a contemporary purchase scheme (1933-1975 **[200 items]**). There is also a strong local/topographical paintings collection with notable representation of work by Sam Bough RSA, and other Cumbrian artists **[1000 items]**. Photography and sculpture are small collections. **[3650]**

Decorative Art:

Main strengths are English porcelain of 18th and 19th centuries (R H Williamson bequest, 1949 - 800 pieces, all major factories); women's, men's and children's costume 1700 to present day including a good range of footwear and other accessories; Cumbrian quilts; furniture; local clocks and watches, and a late 17th century bracket clock by Joseph Knibb of London: a small collection of musical instruments includes strings by the Forster family and a decorated violin by Andrea Amati (c1564).

[approx. 7000 items]
15.2.2 Collecting Objectives

- To acquire and develop collections of fine and decorative art that relate to the City of Carlisle and its hinterland.
- To maintain collections of fine and decorative art that are of national importance.
- To acquire and develop collections of fine and decorative art that reflect contemporary practice in Cumbria.
- Key elements will be: Carlisle artists; fine art subject matter that relates to the collecting area; local links to the Pre-Raphaelite and Arts and Crafts movements; contemporary Cumbrian artists and makers; costume, textiles and ceramics, made, used or associated with the City of Carlisle and its hinterland.

15.2.3 Periods Represented

For practical purposes the collections resources required to fulfil the above objectives will relate to the period from c.1700 to the present day.

15.2.4 Collecting Areas

Acquisitions will normally be restricted to historic items made in, used in or closely associated with the City of Carlisle and its historic hinterland. Items will also be acquired from outside this area to comply with the other collecting objectives.

The collections of nationally important material (Bottomley Bequest, Art Purchase Scheme, Williamson Bequest) are closed collections.

15.2.5 Acquisition criteria and advice

Works will be selected on the basis of artistic merit and historic importance. The advice of the Tullie House Visual Arts Officer will be sought on proposed acquisitions of contemporary works.

Acquisitions of contemporary art from 1933 to 1975 were via a Purchase Scheme, using London-based Honorary Advisors. This is a closed collection. In addition to collecting contemporary Cumbrian artists and makers a wider scheme will be considered when gallery developments will permit effective use of such collections.

15.2.6 Acquisition Priorities

- Works in a variety of media by significant Cumbrian artists and makers from the 20th and 21st centuries.
- Works in a variety of media by leading British artists from the 20th and 21st centuries whose subject matter relates to the City of Carlisle and its hinterland.
- Pre-Raphaelite and Arts and Crafts Movement items that relate to the City of Carlisle and its hinterland.
- Artists associated with the School of Art and commercial art departments in Carlisle.
- Men's, women's and children's costume and accessories dating from the late 20th and 21st centuries that relate to the City of Carlisle and its hinterland.
- Printed textiles, quilts, rag rugs and needlecrafts that relate to the City of Carlisle and its hinterland.
- Ceramics dating from the 20th and 21st centuries that relate to the City of Carlisle and its hinterland.
- A clock (or clock mechanism) by George Graham FRS (1673-1751) of Kirkcaldy and London would be desirable to represent this nationally important figure.

15.3 Natural Sciences

15.3.1 Scope of the collections

Zoology

Large collection of British birds and mammals (mounts and skins) and birds' eggs; some Vertebrate skeletal material; extensive collections of British insects; British and foreign Mollusca. **[140,000 items]**

Botany

Lakeland and British herbaria, including mosses and lichens. **[26,000 items]**

Geology

Substantial holdings of fossil, rock and mineral material. Includes a major Cumbrian mineral collection and a 19th century fossil collection

(R Harkness). **[9,000 items]**

Local Biological Records database

A Local Records Centre for the Cumbria area based on RECORDER software. The database now holds around 310,000 records, which include some 20,000 deriving from the existing collections material. A Cumbria Biological Data Network was formed in 1999: within this, Tullie House is the main database for species field records.

15.3.2 Objectives

To provide through material collections and associated data, a long-term resource for the study and interpretation of the Natural Sciences in Cumbria

To promote the appreciation and enjoyment of the local landscape and its wildlife, and an understanding of human interactions with the natural world.

In pursuit of the above objectives, the Service will acquire, develop and maintain collections in the fields of Zoology, Botany and Geology, representing both historical and present day perspectives. Individual collections representing particular species groups and/or time periods or sites will be of importance. In addition, the Service will further develop biological-species data-sets relating to the collecting area.

15.3.3 Collecting Areas

The area from which collected material will derive will normally be the county of Cumbria and its inshore waters.

Exceptions to the above will be

- a) the Minerals collection, for which the area will be extended to include that part of the North Pennine ore-field which lies within the counties of Durham and Northumberland,
- b) the entomological collections, which may acquire representative material of non-Cumbrian species, especially reflecting taxa in which there is staff and other local expertise.

The previous paragraph excepted, acquisition of non-regional British material, or foreign specimens will be limited and mainly for comparative and educational purposes.

15.3.4 Acquisition Priorities

Vertebrate Zoology

- Display material of certain British birds and mammals - of species not yet represented. Red Deer, Dormouse, Harvest Mouse, Polecat, Beaver are of particular interest.
- Examples of the work of well-known local taxidermists - both historical and present day (e.g. Blacket Greenwell of Alston and Linnaeus Eden Hope) and/or photographic records of such items.
- Study skins of bats, and of mammal species new to the area (such as Grey Squirrel, Ferret/Polecat, Mink) and of species now declining (such as Red Squirrel, Water Vole). All such material must be well documented and of local origin.
- Skeletal material representing the local mammal fauna. (Such material must be well documented and of local origin).
- Models of the local reptiles, amphibians and certain fish for display purposes.
- Any item or collection of major scientific or historic importance which is relevant to this Policy.
- Photographs of local Vertebrates, particularly when taken locally. Images of the common and typical species are required as well as rare occurrences.

Invertebrate Zoology

- Local specimens of Invertebrate species new to the collections.
- Material collected during surveys of specific sites - particularly where survey methods allow a comparable repeat survey in the future for monitoring purposes.
- Voucher material for data held on the Biological Records Database.
- Specimens of non-Cumbrian species new to the existing collections, but otherwise within the scope of this Policy.
- Any item or collection of major scientific or historic importance which is relevant to this Policy.
- Habitat photographs of important Invertebrate sites - for monitoring purposes; representative images of the local Invertebrate fauna, preferably taken locally.

Botany

- Local specimens of higher plant species new to the collections.
- Local material of mosses, lichens and fungi.
- Photographs of important plant habitats and also of local species.
- Any item or collection of major scientific or historic importance which is relevant to this Policy.

Geology

- Local specimens of rocks, fossils and minerals which are under-represented or new to the collections.
- Material from sites that are endangered (for example mines and quarries which are about to be closed).
- Local specimens with detailed stratigraphic and locality information which compliment existing material in the collections.
- Specimens relating to recognised geological sites (i.e. SSSI or RIGGS designated) in Cumbria.
- Large specimens of a selection of local rock, mineral or fossil types for display purposes.
- Any item or collection of major scientific or historic importance which is relevant to this Policy.

15.3.5 Biological Records Database

Priorities will be: records relating to the Vertebrate fauna of the area (particularly mammals, reptiles and amphibians), invertebrates (all taxa), Bryophytes and Fungi. (Other groups not specifically mentioned may become prioritised as circumstances and resources allow, through discussion within the Cumbria Biological Data Network).