

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL MUSEUM SERVICE

ACQUISITION & DISPOSAL POLICY 2001

[Adopted by the Executive Committee of the Isle of Wight Council 11th December 2001]

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Policy brings up to date the Acquisition & Disposal Policy for the Isle of Wight Council Museum Service first adopted by the Isle of Wight Council in 1991, in compliance with the requirements of the Registration Scheme of Resource. The Policy summarises:

- **the conditions and procedures under which the Museum Service may accept or dispose of objects, including the legal, ethical and professional requirements and codes that apply**
- **the nature, history and scope of existing collections**
- **what the Museum Service will collect, and the criteria governing future collecting, including reference to other museums with similar collecting interests, and the geographical and time periods of collecting interest**
- **what the Museum Service will not collect, so as to avoid duplication with other museums and institutions, and to ensure a focus is maintained for collecting relevant, well documented, local material which has a role in public displays or as a primary research archive.**

The general policy considerations and the procedures for acquisition and disposal contained in this Policy, exactly follow nationally adopted guidance enshrined in the Registration scheme for museums.

ACQUISITION & DISPOSAL POLICY 2001

1. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- *The purpose of this policy is to comply with the requirements of the Registration Scheme of Resource (formerly the Museums & Galleries Commission) concerning the Acquisition & Disposal of collections and to encourage public confidence in the museum as a suitable repository.*
- *It defines the present state and use of the collections and reviews the current policy of acquisition. It ensures material is accepted according to a recognised strategy and serves as a reference document to guide curatorial decisions.*
- *The Policy also includes a statement about disposals. The Museum Service's primary objective is to preserve the cultural heritage of the Island through the collection and active curation of a permanent body of historic material. Consequently, there must be a strong presumption against the disposal of any item.*
- *It establishes relationships with other museum bodies in the area with regard to acquisition of material for the collection and transfer of objects.*

2. GENERAL POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 The Museum Service recognises its responsibility, in acquiring material, to ensure adequate conservation, documentation and proper use of such material and takes into account limitations on collecting imposed by such factors as inadequate staffing, storage and conservation resources.
- 2.2 The Museum Service will take due account of the collecting policies of other museums collecting in the same or related areas or subject fields and will consult with such organisations where conflicts of interest may arise or to define areas of specialisms, in order to avoid unnecessary duplication and waste of resources. Reference is made in particular to the Registered Museums of the Hampshire County Museums Service, Portsmouth City Museums, Southampton City Museums and the Carisbrooke Castle Museum Trust.
- 2.3 Acquisitions outside the current stated policy will only be made in very exceptional circumstances, and then only after proper consideration by the Isle of Wight Council, having regard to the interests of other museums.
- 2.4 The Isle of Wight Council will not normally accept material on loan unless for the purposes of temporary exhibition, copying or research. Any loan will be agreed in writing by the lender and the museum, including allocation of responsibilities for insurance and transport arrangements and shall be for a specified fixed-term only, renewable in writing. Use of the term "permanent loan" shall be avoided and items will not be accepted on this basis.
- 2.5 The Acquisition and Disposal Policy will be published and reviewed from time to time, at least once every five years. The policy is next due for review in 2005.

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

- 2.6 Ethical considerations and good practice in this Policy are guided with reference to the published *Museums Association Ethical Guidelines* on Acquisition and Disposal.

3. ACQUISITION PROCEDURES

- 3.1 The Museum Service will consider for acquisition all material provenanced to or directly associated with the Isle of Wight and its adjacent seabed, as further detailed in sections below.
- 3.2 The Museum Service will not acquire, whether by purchase, gift, bequest or exchange, any object or specimen unless the Isle of Wight Council or responsible officer is satisfied that the museum can acquire a valid title to the item in question, and that in particular it 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). Wherever possible a formal transfer of title should take place in the form of a signed document.
- 3.3 The Museum Service will not acquire by any direct or indirect means any biological or geological material 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.
- 3.4 The Museum Service will not acquire British or foreign archaeological antiquities (including excavated ceramics) in any case where the Council or responsible officer has reasonable cause to believe that the circumstances of their recovery involved the recent unscientific or intentional destruction or damage of ancient monuments or other known archaeological sites, or involved a failure to disclose the finds to the owner or occupier of the land, or to the proper authorities in the case of a possible Treasure Trove (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or Bona Vacantia (Scotland).
- 3.5 Gifts and bequests shall only be accepted on the basis that any conditions are approved by the Isle of Wight Council, and in all cases reference will be made to the limitations on collecting as specified in the policy. The Isle of Wight Council shall reserve the right to refuse any offer of material.
- 3.6 The Museum Service may occasionally acquire certain items which are not intended to be retained for the permanent collections. These items may be used as educational or school handling collections, or, in the case of industrial or transport collections, as spares or consumable working parts.
- 3.7 In the case of such material, documentation will clearly show the intended use of the object and donors will be made aware of this possibility at the time of entry and informed as soon as a decision has been made regarding the material. These objects will be recorded separately outside the main accession record and shall not be treated as part of the permanent collection since their intended use implies that preservation cannot be guaranteed.

- 3.8 As the Museum Service holds archives, including photographs and printed ephemera, it will be guided by the *Code of Practice on Archives for Museums in the United Kingdom* 1996. The Museum Service will also aim to meet the standards outlined in the Royal Commission on Historic Manuscripts *Standards for Record Repositories* 1990.

4. DISPOSAL PROCEDURES

4.1. General Principle

By definition, the Isle of Wight Council's museums have a long-term purpose and possess (or intend to acquire) permanent collections in relation to their stated objectives. The Isle of Wight Council accepts the principle that there is a strong presumption against the disposal of any items in its collections except as set out below.

4.2 Criteria for Disposal

- 4.2.1 Items which have been damaged or have deteriorated beyond restoration, and are of no value for the Museum Service purposes may be destroyed. Disposal should be carried out discreetly at a designated rubbish tip.
- 4.2.2 Duplicate items or unprovenanced items for which no new information is likely to become available, may be disposed of providing they are of low intrinsic value and surplus to the Museum Service's requirements.
- 4.2.3 Items which fall outside this Authority's collection policy because of provenance or subject matter, may be transferred to an appropriate registered museum or otherwise disposed of in the prescribed manner.
- 4.2.4 Certain categories of bulk material from archaeological fieldwork may be destroyed or disposed of providing that the material has been fully analysed and published and all relevant records deposited with the site archive; and that, where applicable, an adequate and representative proportion is retained in perpetuity for future research and reference.

4.3 Procedure for Disposal

- 4.3.1 In those cases where the Isle of Wight Council is proven to be legally free to dispose of an item, it is agreed that any decision to sell or otherwise dispose of material from the collections will be taken only after due consideration. Decisions to dispose of items will not be made with the principal aim of generating funds. Once a decision to dispose of an item has been taken, priority will be given to retaining the item within the public domain and with this in view it will be offered first, by exchange, gift or sale to Registered museums before disposal to other interested individuals or organisations is considered.
- 4.3.2 In cases in which an arrangement for the exchange, gift or sale of material is not being made with an individual Registered museum, the museum community at large will be

advised of the intention to dispose of material. This will normally be through an announcement in the Museums Association's *Museums Journal* and other appropriate professional journals if appropriate. 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. A period of at least two months will be allowed for an interest in acquiring the material to be expressed.

- 4.3.3 A decision to dispose of a specimen or object, whether by exchange, sale, gift 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 Isle of Wight Council acting on the advice of professional curatorial staff, and not of the curator of the collection acting alone. Full records will be kept of all such decisions 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.
- 4.3.4 Any monies received by the Isle of Wight Council 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 Resource.
- 4.3.5 Where a museum object has been acquired with the aid of an external funding organisation, permission from that organisation will need to be sought before the object is de-accessioned or transferred to another museum. If the object is sold, repayment of the original grant may be required.
- 4.3.6 Human remains designated for disposal must be re-buried with appropriate care and dignity in a secure and peaceful location. Those remains recovered from a recognised burial ground should be made available for re-burial according to the appropriate religious rite if requested.

ARCHAEOLOGY ACQUISITION POLICY

The principal purpose is to collect archaeological material and associated data in order to preserve and interpret human history on the Isle of Wight.

A1 DESCRIPTION OF THE EXISTING COLLECTIONS

A1.1 History

During the nineteenth century a number of bodies amassed small collections of antiquities on the Island. The earliest collection belonged to the Isle of Wight Philosophical Society who formed a museum in Newport in 1819. Carisbrooke Castle Museum, established in 1889 by Princess Henry of Battenburg, also contained antiquities. The demise of the Newport Museum in 1911 saw the transferral of its archaeological collection to the Castle, followed in 1915 by material from the Ryde Museum, and in 1955 by the Ventnor Museum of antiquities.

The collection remained relatively dormant during the 1950's and 1960's, until 1973 when the newly appointed Assistant Curator began an active collection policy. By 1975 concern was being expressed by the Trustees of the Castle Museum at the lack of space for the rapidly expanding archaeology collection. In 1979 the Vectis Report recommended that archaeology become a function of the County Museum Service and by 1981 the Trustees and the County Council had successfully negotiated for the transfer of the collections and the Assistant Curator's post to the Council.

A1.2 Scope

The archaeology collections comprise two major groups of material: collections on deposit/loan by various organisations, and collections largely acquired after 1981 from excavations and by other means (donations, purchases etc). Major loans include archaeological material from the Carisbrooke Castle Museum Trust (mainly pre-Norman finds), and the Oglander Trust (Brading Roman Villa).

The collections range from the Lower Palaeolithic to the nineteenth century. Nationally important assemblages exist of Lower Palaeolithic and Mesolithic flint tools, Bronze Age pottery and metalwork, Iron Age coinage, Roman remains, and Saxon coins and metalwork. Amongst the post-medieval collections are substantial remains from the wreck of the *Santa Lucia* (1567) and HMS *Pomone* (1811).

A2 CRITERIA GOVERNING FUTURE COLLECTION POLICY

- A2.1 The collecting policy will be determined in close conjunction with the County Archaeology and Historic Environment Service, who have a primary role in managing the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), undertaking identifications, documentation, field work, archaeological liaison, procedures under the Treasure Act etc.
- A2.2 Wherever possible, the Museum Service will acquire associated items from a single site as a complete assemblage, and organisations carrying out archaeological investigations on the Island will be encouraged to deposit the total site archives into the care of the Council.

The Museum Service will normally be the recipient of the physical archaeological remains and their data, and the Archaeology & Historic Environment Service the recipient of the associated archive, which will attach to the SMR archives.

- A2.3 A total site archive will include all artefacts, environmental remains, site records, and post-investigation records, up to and including publication. All computer records, and a hard copy, will be required, together with a record of the hardware and software used to generate them, to facilitate future access to the computerised record.
- A2.4 Before archaeological excavation is begun there should be an agreement between landowners, excavators, the Archaeology & Historic Environment Service and the Museum Service for the transfer of the total site archive to the Council.
- A2.5 In the case of archaeological excavation where the initiative for the work stems from a commercial development, rather than a research programme, the Museum Service will normally make a charge upon the contractor for deposition of the resulting archive. Such one-off charges will nominally cover the costs of conservation, storage and museum accessioning of the site archive, and will be a fixed rate per unit volume no less than storage rates currently recognised by English Heritage.
- A2.6 Incomplete finds and archives will not normally be accepted, with the following exceptions:
- (a) The transfer of the remaining finds and archives at a future date has been agreed.
 - (b) There are extenuating circumstances, such as accidental loss or destruction before their acquisition by the Museum Service.
 - (c) Items have been retained by recognised institutions for the purposes of specialist study, analysis or dating.
- A2.7 Samples which are the result of on-site or post-excavation analysis, will only be accepted in the following categories:
- (a) Slag and other industrial waste.
 - (b) Common building materials.
 - (c) Un-worked animal bone and other environmental remains.
 - (d) Any other category of common material deemed suitable for sampling during excavation or post-excavation work.

There shall be consultation between the Museums Service, Archaeological & Historic Environment Service, excavators, finds officers, and environmental scientists during the formulation of the sampling strategy, to ensure that an adequate proportion of material will be held in perpetuity for future reference and research. All associated records will be part of the total site archive.

Soil samples, provided they have been fully analysed and recorded, will not normally be required.

A2.8 Priorities in collecting will be determined by sites threatened by development or natural erosion, and action will usually be initiated via the Archaeological & Historic Environment Service.

A2.9 Acquisitions may otherwise be prioritised in relation to gaps in the collection and to quality of finds. Particularly under-represented on the Island or in the collections are finds of Upper Palaeolithic age, Neolithic pottery, the early Iron Age, and the Viking period.

Post-Norman conquest and post-medieval finds are poorly represented in the collection, although such material is not necessarily rare. An ever increasing number of such finds are reported through metal detecting activity, but acquisition is usually constrained by these being offered as purchases.

A3 PERIOD OF TIME AND GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

A3.1 The Museum Service will acquire archaeological material and associated evidence from the topographical area of the County of the Isle of Wight and its coastal waters, and record, preserve and interpret the culture and activities of people on the Isle of Wight from prehistoric times to the industrial revolution.

A3.2 Unstratified material from excavations, or any other organised archaeological investigation, will be acquired if:

- (a) They are of intrinsic or special importance.
- (b) They enhance the level of information about the site (eg plotted surface finds).
- (c) They are relevant to another area of the Museum Service collecting policy.

The Museum Service will liaise with excavators and finds officers regarding the acquisition, sampling and recording of unstratified material, according to its nature and the nature of the site.

A3.3 The Museum Service will not add to the small number of items representing Foreign Archaeology and Ethnography it already possesses, unless by gift of an item with considerable and important local associations.

A3.4 The Museum Service may acquire excavated human remains from ancient burials if there is reasonable evidence that they are over 100 years old, and providing the excavators have the relevant Home Office licence.

Stray finds of human bone may be accepted too, providing: there is reasonable evidence that they are over 100 years old, the local coroner has been informed and given his consent, and the relevant Home Office licence has been obtained.

GEOLOGY ACQUISITION POLICY

The principal purpose is to conserve and interpret the Island's rich and diverse geological heritage.

G1 DESCRIPTION OF THE EXISTING COLLECTIONS

G1.1 History

The Geological Collection has evolved from the Collections of mid-19th century naturalists. The Isle of Wight Philosophical Society founded a museum in Newport in 1819 and over the next fifty years the collection grew. In 1913 all the geological specimens were transferred to Sandown Free Library and opened to the public in 1923. Although the collection became the property of the Sandown and Shanklin Urban District Council it was curated by the Isle of Wight Natural History Society up to 1942. From the late 1940's until 1974 the Borough Council employed a succession of honorary custodians. At various times the collection was augmented by the transference of material from redundant museums at Ventnor and Ryde.

From 1974 the collection came into the care of the County Council, transferring in 1995 to the Isle of Wight Council. The Museum of Isle of Wight Geology relocated to the new Dinosaur Isle museum in 2001, vacating the old premises above Sandown Library.

G1.2 Scope

The collection currently comprises circa 30,000 geological specimens . It reflects the breadth of the Island's geological history, ranging from Early Cretaceous to Early Oligocene and Pleistocene age. Particular strengths include Wealden (Early Cretaceous) dinosaurs, Cretaceous ammonites, Palaeogene molluscs, vertebrates, plants and insects.

Notably the collection contains partial and near complete dinosaur skeletons, including the type of *Neovenator salerii*. Other type and figured material includes Cretaceous and Palaeogene molluscs and vertebrates.

The collection also contains representative rock and mineral specimens from the Island.

The finest part of the collection, including vertebrate type specimens, is on display at Dinosaur Isle museum, and the stored component of the collection is kept at Cothey Bottom, Ryde.

G2 CRITERIA GOVERNING FUTURE COLLECTION POLICY

G2.1 Collecting will be governed by resource constraints. It will be led by imperatives of threats to the geological heritage, gaps in the collection and policy towards display and interpretation. These help define a number of overlapping collecting themes as follows:

G2.2 Threats to the geological heritage: these are identified as coastal erosion and pressures created by private and commercial collecting. They apply in particular to all vertebrate fossils from the Cretaceous, Palaeogene and Pleistocene deposits.

G2.3 Gaps in the collection: recognised gaps in the collection are found in the following areas:

Cretaceous insects in amber

Upper Greensand vertebrates and invertebrates

Lower Chalk vertebrates and invertebrates

Palaeogene mollusca

Pleistocene vertebrates and invertebrates

G2.3 Display and interpretation: the creation of Dinosaur Isle museum in 2001, Britain's first purpose built dinosaur museum, lends obvious weight to maintaining a robust collecting policy towards acquiring dinosaur material and the contemporary indigenous fauna and flora, and building upon this strength which is of recognized national and international importance.

G3 PERIOD OF TIME AND GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

G3.1 The museum will primarily collect geological materials of Mesozoic, Palaeogene and Neogene age from the topographical county of the Isle of Wight, its inter-tidal zone and the inundated channel of the ancient River Solent.

G3.2 The museum will also occasionally, for interpretation purposes, collect geological and biological specimens from other areas and periods, which place the Island's geological heritage into a wider regional, international and evolutionary context. This will in particular apply to providing a broader interpretational context to the dinosaurs and associated fauna and flora of the Lower Cretaceous.

SOCIAL HISTORY ACQUISITION POLICY

(including Numismatics and Maritime History)

The principal purpose is to collect and preserve material which helps illustrate the Island's history, economy, manufactures and people.

H1 DESCRIPTION OF THE EXISTING COLLECTIONS

H1.1 History of the Collections

Social History material began to be collected by the Museum Service in 1975, first with maritime material following the closure of Cowes shipbuilding firm J. Samuel White, and then in 1977 with the purchase of material from the defunct Albany Steam Museum. The former led to the establishment of the Cowes Maritime Museum within Cowes Public Library, and the latter to a short-lived museum of industrial history based at Cothey Bottom Heritage Centre (now the Museum Service's central store).

The maritime collections were expanded considerably with two dimensional material (photographs, documents, ephemera, pictures) and books, but by relatively few 3-D objects. The local/industrial history collections on the other hand were supplemented by significant 3-D objects (carriages, agricultural equipment, machinery, tradesmen's tools etc,) and in 1996 by a large collection of civic items following the amalgamation of the Borough Councils under Unitary status.

In 1996 the Museum of Island History in Newport Guildhall opened, which displays a selective cross section of social history material telling the story of the Island's history.

The formation of a social history collection has, to a greater or lesser extent, evolved to compliment the extensive holdings of local history material held by the Carisbrooke Castle Museum Trust.

H1.2 Scope

The principal components of the social history collection today are:

1. A small but important collection of industrial machinery
2. A small collection of locally made horse drawn/ hand drawn vehicles
3. Local tradesmen's tools and shopkeepers' equipment
4. Civic regalia and associated material
5. Photographs and postcards of maritime and local interest
6. A small collection of boats and ship models.
7. A large collection of maritime archives and books

H2 CRITERIA GOVERNING FUTURE COLLECTING POLICY

H2.1 Future policy needs to focus upon two collecting areas:

Items made on, made for use on, and depicting the Isle of Wight, which are significant as primary evidence in a social history context.

Items associated with a person, place or event connected with the Isle of Wight, where the associated person, place or event is of greater significance than the objects.

H2.2 The Museum Service seeks to present the “broad picture” of the island and its people, by collecting local objects which help illustrate significant “outcomes”, whether they be achievements by individuals or organisations, industrial or social developments, or events of consequence. The focus will not be exclusive - items will be interpreted in a community context.

H2.3 The scope of collecting in the above areas will be controlled and guided in part by the collecting policies of other museums, especially Carisbrooke Castle Museum Trust, which centres upon collecting Island-related artefacts and pictures from the 16th century to present. The Isle of Wight Council Museum Service Strategy 1999 acknowledged common overlaps between the Museum Service and Carisbrooke Castle Museum in the field of social history, and as a result the two organisations are working closely together to avoid duplication.

H2.4 Other small museums such as those at Ventnor and Brighstone, are ideally placed to reflect their own local history within their respective communities, and the Museum Service will take into account the collecting policies of these and other appropriately constituted museums.

H2.5 The scope of collections development will largely be controlled by future opportunities for display and interpretation. For the Museum Service this will largely depend upon developing the Guildhall and Cothey Bottom further, and finding alternatives to deploy the maritime history collections.

H2.6 A review of the present social history collection will seek to relocate items which fall outside the policy to other appropriate museums as loans or disposals, following laid down procedures.

H3 PERIOD OF TIME AND GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

H3.1 For the purposes of this policy the collecting area is defined as the topographical county of the Isle of Wight.

H3.2 The social history collection will generally cover material of post-medieval date (16th century) to the present. Items recovered from within an archaeological context will normally be housed within the archaeology collection.

FINE AND DECORATIVE ART

The principal purpose is to collect and preserve locally relevant representational art-works and local material representative of the different fine and decorative art styles and techniques.

F1 DESCRIPTION OF THE EXISTING COLLECTIONS

F1.1 History of the Collections

Fine art items (including paintings, watercolours, prints) form a small part of the Museum Service's holdings mainly acquired as maritime history acquisitions via the Cowes Maritime Museum, and via the amalgamation of the Borough Councils in 1996. Although mainly of locally related subjects, a small number of pictures in the civic collections are neither local subjects nor by local artists. Four of the largest (marine) oil paintings are displayed at Northwood House, but other pictures stored at this location have since been removed to appropriate museum storage. A significant collection of local topographical Victorian watercolours was purchased in 1996 for the collections for display in the Museum of Island History.

An important collection of Chinese and European porcelain (the Brigstocke Collection) came into the Council's possession upon Unitary status. The collection was begun in the 18th century in Hampshire by William Player, Lord of the Manor of Ryde, and by descent passed down to George Robert Brigstocke of Ryde, who left the collection for the benefit of the inhabitants of Ryde. A number of covenants govern the use of the collection, which for instance must be kept within the boundary of the town (which has no museum facility).

Other items which may be included under the "decorative art" heading include 19th and 20th century silverware from the civic collection, and local pottery, porcelain and souvenir-ware items.

F1.2 Scope

The principal components of the fine and decorative collection today are:

1. Marine paintings and portraits of local subjects.
2. 19th century watercolours of local views
3. Marine and topographic prints
4. Silverware objects
5. Local pottery, porcelain and souvenir-ware
6. Brigstocke Collection of Chinese and European porcelain

F2 CRITERIA GOVERNING FUTURE COLLECTING POLICY

F2.1 The acquisition of fine and decorative art items has largely been by default, with limited pro-active collecting taking place. The over-riding limiting factor in this area of the collection has been the lack of suitable (secure) premises and resources to exhibit collections.

- F2.2 New plans offer scope for properly maintaining and developing this part of the collection. For display purposes, it is planned to develop the first floor of the Guildhall into a gallery suitable to show art works. For storage purposes, a mobile art racking system has been acquired which will be assembled within a controlled environmental store at Cothey Bottom.
- F2.3 Opportunities may be forthcoming from 2002 to display some at least of the Brigstocke Collection in Ryde, and other small parts of the decorative art collection will be displayed in the Guildhall.
- F2.4 When suitable new display and storage facilities are in place (or at least are a guaranteed commitment) the Museum Service will seek to collect fine and decorative art on a pro-active basis. Again, there is potential overlap with Carisbrooke Castle Museum in this area, and therefore the Museum Service will specialise in acquiring:
- (a) Oil paintings of local subjects, and by notable local artists
 - (b) Marine paintings and watercolours of local subjects
 - (c) Representative local decorative art items
- F2.5 Local items of sculpture will be considered on a case by case basis since opportunities to show such work are limited.
- F2.6 A review of the present fine and decorative art collection will seek to relocate items which fall outside the policy to other appropriate museums as loans or disposals, following laid down procedures.

F3 PERIOD OF TIME AND GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

- F3.1 For the purposes of this policy the collecting area is defined as the topographical county of the Isle of Wight.
- F3.2 The acquisition of paintings will concentrate upon local topographic and marine pictures before 1870 i.e. pre-dating the common use of photography. Pictures after this date will normally be acquired much more selectively, with a bias towards stylistic approach rather than pure recording of subject.
- F3.3 Local decorative art items will be sought from all periods, but will be representative rather than comprehensive in scope, ensuring the main types and classes of such objects are represented.