



**EAST AYRSHIRE LEISURE TRUST**  
**Collection Development Strategy**  
2022-2030

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## **SECTION 1: WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO**

### **I Introduction**

#### **I.1 East Ayrshire Leisure's Strategic Vision**

This document expands on our Strategic Vision 2020-2030 to give further information on our vision for East Ayrshire Leisure Trust and the Museum Collections that we care for. It provides strong and ambitious objectives, outlines clear timescales for delivery and gives specific strategic direction for our Collections that will contribute to developing the Trust into a more independent, resilient, innovative and inclusive organisation. Within the period of this strategy, East Ayrshire Leisure Trust will continue to grow as a leisure provider, facilitator and partner that is recognised on both a local and national stage.

##### **To be successful in our ambitions collectively we plan to:**

- Work more closely with local communities and our customers to deliver services that are valued and embedded in local life;
- Engage with local and national partners to develop collaborative approaches to service design that enhance the opportunities for leisure across East Ayrshire;
- Develop facilities that are of a high quality and to support partners across the third, public and private sector in doing the same;
- Contribute to local and national agendas through the provision of an innovative programme that encourages East Ayrshire to flourish;
- Value our people, recognise their skills and talents and empower them to be solution focused;
- Integrate commercialisation and sustainability into our business model in its widest sense and to explore more efficient working practices, governance and leadership arrangements and to look to the market place for inspiration
- Be a responsible member of the community that supports a sense of place and adopts environmental best practice

#### **I.2 Collection Development Strategy**

In addition to our Strategic Vision, we have prepared a suite of Strategies, which explain our priorities, our governance, the processes, and protocols we adhere to and any other relevant regulations or documents that apply. Whilst East Ayrshire Council owns the East Ayrshire Collection, it is managed and cared for by East Ayrshire Leisure through a Service Level Agreement. The Collection Development Strategy sets out the vision for collections to 2030, related collection Delivery Plan Outputs for the period 2022 – 2024 and it provides a review of East Ayrshire Council's object groupings, stating collecting priorities for the future.

### **2 Strategic Vision Theme: Living Your Best Life**

East Ayrshire Leisure will contribute to improving the enjoyment, quality of life, health and wellbeing of communities and visitors to East Ayrshire through an innovative, welcoming and ambitious programme of cultural, sport and outdoor activities. In order to achieve this theme, we have established the following Strategic Objectives:

- To support the development of sustainable pathways that encourage lifelong participation in leisure activities
- To contribute to a programme of high profile regional and national events, exhibitions, programmes and projects, that are ambitious and outward facing, whilst maximising the impact on our customers and visitors
- To develop activities and services that contribute to the Scottish Government's aspirations for 'A Healthy and Active Nation' and 'A Creative, Open and Connected Nation' and that ensure that East Ayrshire Leisure is at the heart of future trends and initiatives

The delivery of each objective is monitored through a supporting 2 year Corporate Delivery Plan and individual Service Delivery Plans, which outline specific actions and outputs.

The objects held within the collection fall within three of the six East Ayrshire Leisure Trust Strategic Themes. The collections, including the built heritage assets, provide the foundation for destination tourism in East Ayrshire. The profile of the venues and associated exhibition, event and engagement programmes fulfil the outcomes within **Living Your Best Life**.

The collections also provide the cultural key stones of community life, reflecting authenticity and sense of place in the truest form, connecting people to their shared heritage. Our venues are situated across East Ayrshire, ensuring **Leisure at the Heart of Every Community**.

Management of the collections and the built heritage assets forms a significant contribution to community wealth building. Key Performance Indicators, Accreditation, Recognition and Visit Scotland Star Ratings all underpin the ability of the Trust to sustain itself and its contribution to wider regeneration strategies across East Ayrshire. This involvement **Creates a Solid Foundation for Growth** for the Trust and for our stakeholders.

### **3 Our Collections**

#### **3.1 Accreditation**

The Accreditation Scheme is the UK industry standard for museums and galleries. Being an accredited museum service provides evidence that the Trust manages our collections properly, sharing them widely and protecting them for future generations. East Ayrshire Council currently holds Accreditation status via the Trust's successful application to be part of the scheme.

The Accreditation Scheme is run for museums and galleries across the UK. It is managed as a UK Partnership between Arts Council England, the Welsh Government, Museums Galleries Scotland and the Northern Ireland Museums Council. Local authorities are deemed to have the power to operate museums through the relevant Act of Parliament or Order (Northern Ireland) listed:

England & Wales: Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964; Local Government Act 1972

Scotland: Public Libraries Consolidation (Scotland) Act 1887

Northern Ireland: The Museums and Galleries (Northern Ireland) Order 1998

Local authorities also have powers to operate museums through an appropriate Local Authority Act. Local authorities need to know the constitutional arrangements for the museums they manage, whether through the relevant Act, or where museum provision has been granted through a local Act, or where the authority acts as a sole trustee to a charitably constituted museum. In the case of East Ayrshire Council, the Trust operates and delivers the museums service on behalf of the Council via a Collections Agreement, part of a suite of Service Level Agreements between the local authority and East Ayrshire Leisure Trust.

Applications for accreditation must be resubmitted every five years. The application process requires a significant commitment from the Collections team in relation to evidencing the required information and reviewing the Collections Agreement, the Collections Development Strategy and the Collections Procedural Manual. Alongside these documents, financial information, facility resource information, staffing numbers and professional standards also require to be submitted.

Securing Accreditation supports loans in of significant works or art from lending institutions. It is a mark of quality and security that confirms to lenders that their objects will be looked after in a professional manner.

#### **3.2 Recognition**

Museums Galleries Scotland manage Scotland's Recognition Scheme. The scheme celebrates, promotes and invests in Nationally Significant Collections beyond those held in our national museums and galleries.

The Recognition Scheme objectives are:

- To raise awareness and appreciation of the Nationally Significant Collections, maximising their potential to celebrate Scotland's culture - locally, nationally and internationally;
- To ensure the longevity of Nationally Significant Collections by raising standards in collections care and management;
- To strengthen resourcing for the long term sustainability of the Nationally Significant Collections;
- To inspire and deliver new forms of access to and public engagement with the Nationally Significant Collections;
- To support holders of Nationally Significant Collections to increase their leadership of and contribution to the sector through innovation, ambition, collaboration and partnership working.

East Ayrshire Council's Musical Instrument Collection secured the highly regarded and exclusive Recognition Status in 2014 and retained the title in 2021, taking East Ayrshire's Recognition status for the Musical Instrument Collection to 2026.

The collection of Historic Musical Instruments cared for by the Trust on behalf of East Ayrshire Council features lutes, guitars, harpsichords, recorders, pianos and harps and boasts one of the earliest violins in existence - an English Renaissance violin made by the Bassano family, which dates from between 1550 and 1580. A 17<sup>th</sup> Century violin of unusual form is included within the collection. Only three violins of this nature are known of; one in the East Ayrshire Collection and two in Edinburgh University.

The significance and quality of some of the musical instruments has been compared to those found in the Metropolitan Museum in New York and the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C. Other highlights include a rare Royal Irish Portable Harp made in 1821 by John Egan who was harp-maker to King George IV, an 18<sup>th</sup> century Apollo Lyre and some highly decorated and intricately-constructed miniature fiddles.

Holding a Recognised Collection commits the Trust to meet the objectives of the scheme and increases the amount of funding available from Museums Galleries Scotland's Museum Development Fund.

The Trust has a responsibility and a commitment to deliver the objectives given above, to actively collect, research, interpret, promote and manage the Musical Instrument collection in order to ensure the health of the Musical Instrument Collection, and to retain Recognition Status, which requires resubmission every five years (next submission due October 2025).

### **3.3 Collection Procedural Manual**

In order to ensure safe management of the Council's collections, the Trust follows the guidance set out within the Trust's Collections Procedural Manual (CPD). This guidance set out within the Trust's CPD is based on the Collections Trust Spectrum Standards 5.0 of collections management. The use of Spectrum Standards is formally linked to the Museum Accreditation scheme and supports the health of the collections. The Collection Procedural Manual is reviewed annually and procedures within the guidance are subject to Trust and Council audit procedures.

## **SECTION 2: OUR VISION FOR OUR COLLECTIONS**

### **4 Leisure Facility Strategy**

East Ayrshire benefits from exceptional heritage venues. Dean Castle and the Dick Institute (Kilmarnock) are the Trust's flagship museum and gallery destinations, with Burns House Museum (Mauchline) and Baird Institute (Cumnock) sister sites key community museum venues of significant historical value. All four of the sites hold important architectural value, each with listed status and all four hold Visit Scotland four star attraction awards.

The heritage venues are maintained and invested in as part of East Ayrshire Council's Asset Management Framework, which supports the effective management, improvement and long-term investment in for the Council's Asset Base. The vision for the Council's assets is that 'East Ayrshire has safe, sustainable and efficient assets that meet the needs of its existing and future users and communities'.

East Ayrshire Council has also developed a property pledge to provide a collaborative and proactive approach to the maintenance of all East Ayrshire assets. The Trust has signed up to this pledge and works together with the Council to:

- Protect, maintain and raise the standard of repair in Trust buildings;
- Strengthen the collective ownership approach through raised awareness of the importance of effective property management, with repair and maintenance an integral part of the facilities management regime
- Deliver effective and resilient operational buildings;
- Ensure statutory compliance with an emphasis on safer buildings;
- Ensure greater consistency and transparency of service by setting out the framework within which property management decisions will be made;
- Take steps to improve the environmental sustainability of our buildings.

By ensuring Trust venues are maintained to a high standard, the collections presented and held within them can be managed safely and effectively, ensuring our museum sites continue to meet the standards required for Accreditation as well as ensuring a first class welcome for visitors.

#### **4.1 Flexible Cultural Hubs**

East Ayrshire Leisure Trust's vision for the future is to continue to deliver cultural services that are locally relevant and nationally important. We will continue to work with East Ayrshire communities to identify our authentic assets and our unique selling points to ensure we develop an approach that reflects East Ayrshire's sense of place, which celebrates our shared histories, our similarities and our differences.

Strategic consideration will be given to the strength, quality, and number of venues, opening hours and engagement programmes and in response, we will deliver multi-purpose cultural venues to support active, sustained and responsive engagement programmes, which reflect place in the widest sense.

Our ambitious exhibition and event programme and our spectacular collections and display spaces set East Ayrshire apart from our regional counterparts and they remain a focus for us in relation to tourism, heritage, conservation and safekeeping. We will consider where possible, the safe repatriation of collections in the development of our hub venues to support developing a sense of place. East Ayrshire Leisure Trust will support community wealth building through our delivery of lifelong learning, skills building and digital access across our portfolio of services and our venues will be welcoming, warm, accessible and sociable dwell spaces for residents and visitors alike.

#### **4.2 Digital Accessibility**

Interpretation, learning and engagement is one of the most important sets of activities that the Trust delivers. Recognising this, the Trust has developed a Digital Transformation Strategy, which addresses many of the gaps faced in terms of profile, reach and accessibility.

Originally launched in 2012, futuremuseum.com was a leader in the field of digital access to museum collections. The website allows public access to collections held by both local authority/trust and independent museum services across southwest Scotland.

The Trust leads on the delivery of futuremuseum.com with Dumfries and Galloway, North and South Ayrshire Council's as key partners. The Trust recently secured external funding to undertake a two-year redevelopment project which will allow us to commission a web development company to redesign the website to make it more accessible through improved design, site navigation and effective use of analytical tools to support content generation. The funding will offer the opportunity to revisit and develop partnership agreements and work with an external organisation to undertake a community consultation exercise. The project will conclude in 2024.

#### **4.3 Sense of Place and Repatriation**

The Trust's vision for the future of our museum services is to continue to deliver cultural services that are locally relevant and nationally important. The Trust is committed to continue to work with East Ayrshire communities



to identify the authentic assets and unique selling points to ensure museum services reflect East Ayrshire's sense of place, which celebrates our shared histories, our similarities and our differences.

The Trust will support community heritage projects and events where possible, responding positively to requests for support in relation to short-term loans out for festivals of local importance, and longer term support in relation to archive and digitisation projects.

Where environmental and security conditions permit, the museum service will seek to support the temporary repatriation of objects to communities to support their developing sense of ownership and pride of place. In turn supporting community wealth building through providing strategic responses to Local Delivery Plans and economic growth strategies.

#### **4.4 Education and Engagement**

The Trust is ambitious and aspirational in the development of learning and engagement projects. East Ayrshire is recognised in the national cultural scene as punching well above its weight in visual arts, performing arts, heritage, museums and galleries. The list of external and internal recognition for this work is long and reflects the innovation and dynamism, which is evident in the approach taken.

With a focus to the future strongly based on experience centred museums, the Trust will continue to develop innovative programmes, which respond to lifelong learning in a multi-faceted and blended approach, which are provided through a variety of platforms and media.

#### **4.5 Storage, Exhibition and Display**

The number of objects the Trust cares for is estimated at 140,000. A number of objects are on display in the four museums sites. However, the majority of the collections are currently in storage.

Themes for public view across the four sites (fifteen galleries) reflect the histories and heritage of the locations, with displays reflecting the local area (social and industrial history, textiles, literature, and politics) as well as collections gifted to the Council by philanthropists (musical instruments, fine art, arms and armour, taxidermy, geology and entomology). Displays are largely of a semi-permanent nature, with two temporary exhibition galleries in the Main Gallery at the Dick Institute and the Barony Gallery at the Baird Institute, which focus mainly on touring exhibitions.

The Trust stores were at capacity and the closure of Doon Valley Museum in 2017 took the stores beyond their capability as the Doon Valley collections moved into store at the Baird Institute. Lack of storage is also preventing further acquisition of objects, which in turn inhibits the health of the collection, which in turn can affect Accreditation.

The Trust alongside the Council has identified this as an issue that needs to be addressed, in order to ensure proper care of the objects currently held within the East Ayrshire Council collection, to support the future health of the collections and to support inventory management. During the life of this strategy, a proposal for an open store will be developed and implemented.

### **SECTION 3: FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **5 Changing Portfolio**

High quality facilities are crucial in the development of a financially sustainable and resilient organisation. Since our inception in 2013, the portfolio of facilities that the Trust manages on behalf of East Ayrshire Council has changed as some facilities are no longer viable, some have transferred to community ownership or management and new facilities have developed.

Doon Valley Museum in Dalmellington was selected for consideration for transfer to community ownership. The venue closed in 2017. The transfer of the building to the community has not been undertaken and opportunities will now be explored to reopen the venue as part of a regeneration masterplan for the Doon Valley.

In line with our Strategic Vision and the audit and community consultation that was carried out in 2019 and 2020, our Leisure Facility Strategy sets out our vision for the venues that we currently manage that support leisure programming across the area without competing with, or duplicating, other provision in local communities.

In line with the Leisure Facility Strategy, the Trust will consider the current portfolio of museum venues and the opportunities to develop the service in terms of reaching further and managing our inventory of objects.

## **6 Growing Partnerships**

As well as being a leisure provider with a large portfolio of high quality leisure facilities, East Ayrshire Leisure Trust is also committed to supporting local community, charitable and private sector partners to maximise opportunities for community activity regardless of who the leisure provider is.

Working with key local, regional and national partners across the private, public and third sectors will allow us to deliver projects and programmes that will maximise income opportunities whilst also providing a range of quality, free and affordable activities and services, providing value for our customers and our communities.

Through the continued development of partnerships and the further development of our 4 and 5 star visitor attractions, we will support key regional tourism campaigns. We are also uniquely placed to work in partnership with tourism and hospitality providers to focus on East Ayrshire's unique selling point in relation to arts, heritage, sports and countryside.

Our museum venues provide the foundations from which destination planning can be developed. Dean Castle is the jewel in East Ayrshire's crown and its reopening in 2023 after major redevelopment will provide an exceptional opportunity to refocus the region's tourism offer.

## **7 A Sustainable Collection**

East Ayrshire Leisure Trust is committed to partnership working in order to ensure programme and financial sustainability. The Trust understands that by working together with local, national and international neighbours and partners that collectively our reach can go further and our strength can be more powerful than working in isolation.

The Trust's reputation for delivering a programme of high quality and high profile exhibitions, events and engagement is long standing. Our partnerships range from National Museums Scotland to working alongside our regional counterparts in North and South Ayrshire Councils and Dumfries and Galloway Council. We regularly work with community partners such as The Cumnock Tryst and community groups.

Where joint bids can be submitted, this assists partners and neighbours to benefit together, develops community spirit, broadens the scope of support and shares funding more widely. The Trust has taken the lead on a number of partnership projects, not least in the development and delivery of futuremuseum.com which brings all of the collections held in south west Scotland to the public domain.

Our continued work with our partners is a key focus for service delivery and will continue to be so into the future.

## **8 General Rules for Collecting**

The Trust's museum service recognises its responsibility, in acquiring additions to its collections, to ensure that care of collections, documentation arrangements and use of the collections will meet the requirements of the Accreditation standard. It will take into account limitations on collecting imposed by factors such as staffing, storage and care of collections arrangements.

The Trust's museum service will exercise due diligence and will make every effort not to acquire, whether by purchase, gift, bequest or exchange, any object or specimen unless the Trust/Council or a responsible officer is satisfied that the museum can acquire a valid title (evidence of ownership) to the item in question, and that the object is not in contravention of law regarding imports, wildlife or natural history conservation, Treasure Trove,

archaeological antiquities, spoliation of works of art during the Nazi, Holocaust and WWII period, firearms, and care of human remains.

Since the Trust's museum service has a wide range of collections, different criteria are used to define collecting areas of a subject according to the collection concerned.

The aims of acquisition fall into two main groups –

- The systematic collection of material representative of the human history, natural history, and earth sciences of the local area. That is particularly East Ayrshire, but for historical, geographical and scientific reasons the concept of the local area is meaningful in many contexts only when more widely defined as Ayrshire or in some cases the Clyde basin. The direct geographical responsibility for the museum is the area of East Ayrshire, of which it is a direct responsibility to ensure the preservation of a record of human history, natural history and earth sciences.
- Systematic additions to existing collections with a purely subject basis not related to the local geographic area. Such collections formed a large part of the original basis for the museums both at the Dick Institute and at Dean Castle, and the various deeds of donation are dedicated to ensuring their preservation. These collections are mostly on clearly defined themes.

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. We will consult with organisations where conflicts of interest may arise or to define areas of specialism, to avoid unnecessary duplication and waste of resources.

## **8.1 East Ayrshire Museums Subject Collecting Priorities**

In general terms, these are to build on the strengths of the existing collections by filling gaps, which detract from the significance of subject collections, or leave important aspects of the local area under-represented:

- Some former local crafts and industries are poorly represented – cutlery and swordsmithing, bonnet making, hornwork, calico printing, mining, woodworking. In other cases, we have a number of specimens, but lack examples of certain types – Ayrshire embroidery, textile designing, and pottery. Other local industries still survive, but acquisitions should be made as they modernise or in the event of closure, since existing specimens are an inadequate record – machine lace, madras, hydraulic engineering, hosiery, locomotive engineering, carpets, whisky blending and bottling, printing, agriculture, shoemaking;
- Records and artefacts relating to the history of Dean Castle and of the Boyd family. Records and artefacts relating to the history of former local burghs, and of local estates, businesses and industries;
- Fine Art – the existing strengths should be developed – especially Scottish 18<sup>th</sup> century to early 20<sup>th</sup> century – and brought up to date by adding works by contemporary artists – Scottish, especially West of Scotland;
- Photography and other pictorial records – the weak parts of the collection should be filled, both in respect of periods and of geographical areas and subjects, especially of the region;
- Natural Sciences – the original collections were extremely strong and comprehensive, but where particular specimens have deteriorated, high quality matching examples should be added and existing gaps filled;
- Major specialised collections – there are limited opportunities to add to major collections like early European musical instruments, but any opportunities which arise should be taken;
- Split, named collections – several of these which we hold have 'lost' substantial parts before the Museum acquired them – e.g. the van Raalte Collection of musical instruments, the Robert Munro Collection of archaeology, the Braidwood Collection of antiquities, the Thomson Collection of corals and other fossils, the Murphy Collection of insects, the Landsborough Collection of shells. 'Lost' items belonging to these collections should be re-integrated whenever the opportunity arises.

## 9 Archaeology

### 9.1 Our Archaeological Collection

British Pre-historic, Romano-British, Medieval, other British, Classical Archaeology, Egyptology and other foreign archaeology

The majority of the archaeological collections are small, self-contained collections, and include a comprehensive range of specimens of periods and types from the Ayrshire area. There are also world antiquities – including ancient glass, Mediterranean pottery, and pre-Columbian pottery.

### 9.2 Significant Sub-Collection

The Robert Munro Collection

This collection was acquired by the Corporation in 1879, and housed initially in the Burns Monument. It was transferred to the Dick Institute on its completion in 1901. The Robert Munro Collection is an important specialised archaeology collection from lake dwelling sites; including many items figured in Munro's seminal works of the 1880s (another section of this collection is held by National Museums Scotland). Regularly visited by specialist researchers, the significance of this collection has not decreased with time.

### 9.3 Future Collecting Priorities

Current additions to the Archaeology collections are almost entirely of Scottish material from Ayrshire. These are mainly generated from rescue excavations and surveys by museum staff as well as by allocations from the Treasure Trove Secretariat. Chance finds by individuals are accepted where these conform to the acquisition rules specified in the Collection Development Policy, which makes up part I of the Collection Procedural Manual.

In addition to these on-going processes, three areas of desirable acquisition can be highlighted:

- Collect a larger and more representative sample of local finds of all periods. This may allow researchers to attempt to identify local typologies and chronologies, presently largely unknown;
- Attempt to retrieve items formerly in Robert Munro's Collection, but dispersed in private hands and items removed from sites excavated by Robert Munro from private individuals;
- Attempt to trace and acquire other lost finds from local sites, such as items figured in 19<sup>th</sup> century archaeological texts, especially *The Archaeological Collections of Ayrshire and Galloway* and John Smith's *Prehistoric Man in Ayrshire*.

## 10 Archives

### 10.1 Our Archives Collection

Institutional, Business, Church, Clubs, Societies, Maps, Plans, Official, Oral history, Personal, Estate, State and others

The formation of the Ayrshire Archives, a cross-authority archive service, has meant that several items have been transferred from our collections to Ayrshire Archives. However, certain classes of archive material have been retained. The main collections in this area fall under the following areas:

- **Items relating to our properties:** These include archives relating to Dean Castle and the Dick Institute and to the individuals and families who are closely associated with them.
- **Maps:** Ordnance Survey and other maps, which relate directly to the East Ayrshire area. However, it is planned that duplicate OS maps be transferred to Ayrshire Archives.
- **Business, estate, and ecclesiastical records:** Relating to the East Ayrshire area. However all 'Dean of Guild' records have now been transferred to Ayrshire Archives.
- **Other:** Items held by East Ayrshire Libraries at the Burns Monument Centre Kilmarnock and other venues.

### 10.2 Future Collecting Priorities

- Archive material that forms part of a larger body of collections including objects;
- Any other archive material relevant to the East Ayrshire area, in negotiation with other bodies with overlapping collecting policies e.g. Ayrshire Archives, Libraries.

## 11 Coin and Medals

### 11.1 Our Coins and Medals Collection

#### Coins, Medals, Tokens, Badges, Banknotes

Coins are represented by collections of coins of the World, and of Britain. The British section covers the Roman, Anglo-Saxon, Medieval and Modern periods, and is comprehensive without including many rare or any particularly important examples.

- **Trade Tokens** – a collection of British trade tokens, including a strong Scottish section;
- **Medals** - military and commemorative medals – including many of the well-known national examples, and also local ones;
- **Miscellaneous** - items such as colliery checks, include mainly local examples;
- **Communion Tokens** – this is the most important collection in this category, with over 4000 specimens. Systematic and comprehensive, it covers all Scottish Presbyterian churches and sects, and all parishes. The date range is 17<sup>th</sup> century to 19<sup>th</sup>. Smaller sections cover English, Irish and American Presbyterian churches, and other denominations.

### 11.2 Significant Sub-Collection

#### The MacDowall Collection

This forms the main part of the Communion Tokens collection. Additional sections were contributed by Landsborough and Kater, both important benefactors in other subject areas.

### 11.3 Future Collecting Priorities

- Local items – trade tokens, colliery checks, etc.
- Systematic additions to the Communion Token collection, with examples of different date or in better condition.
- Coins filling gaps in the series of British coins, especially Scottish.  
NB – Items resulting from field collection or excavation are regarded as archaeological specimens and treated according to the guidelines laid out in Sections 2, 3 and 4.

## 12 Costume and Textiles

### 12.1 Our Costume and Textiles

#### Accessories, Designer, Uniform, Regalia, Theatrical, Ladieswear, Menswear, Childrenswear, Religious, Workwear, Tapestry, Embroidery, Carpets, Textiles, Lace, Shoes, Hats and other

This collection is mainly housed at Dean Castle. Display is primarily in the Dick Institute. The costume selection is relatively small and almost entirely drawn from the local area. The great bulk of it dates to the period 1850-1920, with a few isolated earlier and later examples. Except for military uniforms, male costume is poorly represented.

### 12.2 Significant Sub-Collections

#### Lace and Whitework

Lace and whitework embroidery have been collected systematically, with examples from all over Europe and further afield. This complements the local selection of Ayrshire embroidery and machine lace. The most important aspect of the last being several thousand designs and samples from the 1880s onwards. The Bryson sub-collection comprises of or includes Ayrshire Needlework, whitework, haberdashery and a reference library

#### European Tapestries

A small but important Howard de Walden Collection housed and exhibited in Dean Castle. Brussels tapestries of the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries include an important framed altarpiece by the Master of St Gudule (c.1475).

### 12.3 Future Collecting Policy

- Further examples of Ayrshire embroidery of different designs and techniques used on different items.
- Further examples of costume worn locally – especially male costume.
- Further examples of locally produced fabrics and textiles, especially those made by weaving and knitting techniques, plus equipment and objects associated with their production and design.

- Original examples of both Stewarton and Kilmarnock bonnets.
- Items relating to the Morton family, as well as Irvine Valley weavers and textile manufacturers

## 13 Culture

### 13.1 Our Culture Collection

Cinema, Literature, Media, Music, Theatre and other

We have representative items from all aspects of this category.

### 13.2 Significant Sub-Collections

Robert Burns

The Burns Collection includes both original items associated with, and in some cases produced by, Burns and his contemporaries, and more recent items produced to commemorate and celebrate him. In addition, East Ayrshire Council holds the properties at the Burns House Museum and the National Burns Memorial.

McKie Collection

The McKie Collection of Burns manuscripts and books was purchased in 1882 by public subscription, pre-dating even the Thomson Geological Collection. It was then donated to the Kilmarnock Corporation and housed in the Burns Monument (Kay Park), and for some years added to systematically. Several years ago, all original specimens were removed to more secure and environmentally controlled conditions at the Dick Institute and Dean Castle.

This includes manuscript letters and poems (50) including major works – Tam o’ Shanter, The Twa Dogs, Holy Fair, Holy Willie’s Prayer and the Cotter’s Saturday Night. In some cases, these are the manuscripts for the original publication of the poem concerned. In others, it is an altered version for a later edition. Several manuscripts show extensive alterations in the poet’s hand. The collection of books has examples of all important editions of Burns’ works, including the Kilmarnock (First) and Edinburgh (Second) editions.

In addition to paintings and illustrations, some contemporary with the poet, there are artefacts and relics associated with him.

Musical Instruments

The Musical Instrument collection holds Recognition Status.

This collection is housed and displayed in Dean Castle. Some examples are in playing condition. On occasion, performances by professional specialists in period music are arranged to replicate the sound of the musical instruments in the collection. This collection is regularly visited by researchers from all over the world. The sopranino recorder has been used as a model for modern replication. With a few isolated specimens from other sources, it consists of the van Raalte Collection, donated by Lord Howard de Walden along with Dean Castle.

The van Raalte Collection

This collection of European musical instruments (100) has numerous internationally important items. The lute and guitar section covers the period 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries and includes examples of the work of famous makers like Sellas and Tieffenbrucker. Keyboard instruments (all of portable or miniature types) cover much the same period, but include some even earlier examples believed to be from the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Most are spinets, but there are also examples of the organ, clavichord and harpsichord. The wind section is less comprehensive, but covers the period 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries, with important early examples of the recorder, flute, oboe and cornetto. No violins by famous makers are included but there are a number of important viols, especially 17<sup>th</sup> century pochettes and 18<sup>th</sup> century viole d’amore. In addition to these systematic sections, the collection has interesting individual examples of other instruments.

The Eglinton Tournament

Items relating to the Eglinton Tournament of 1839, one of the last great events of the Gothic Revival movement. Collections include twenty detailed watercolours by James Henry Nixon, seven marshall tent shields by Samuel Pratt, the silver-gilt statue of the 13<sup>th</sup> Earl of Eglinton from the Glasgow Eglinton Memorial candelabrum, and other associated items such as handbills and books.

### **I3.3 Future Collecting Priorities**

- Additions to the Robert Burns collection are sought in cases where they fill gaps in the collection
- Early musical instruments, especially woodwind and stringed, and Scottish musical instruments
- Original music relating to the instruments in the collection
- Small scale early keyboard instruments
- Small scale early mechanical instruments
- Objects from the dispersed van Raalte collection
- Early and contemporary brass instruments
- Kilmarnock fiddles
- Items relating to local cinema, media and theatre
- Video, phonographic and other equipment related to the above category
- Items relating to the Eglinton Tournament of 1839

## **I4 Decorative and Applied Arts**

### **I4.1 Our Decorative and Applied Art Collection**

Architecture, Basketwork, Ceramics, Contemporary Crafts, Enamelling, Furniture, Glass, Jewellery, Lacquering, Metalwork, Woodwork and other

We have representative items from all aspects of this category.

### **I4.2 Significant Sub-Collections**

#### Cumnock Pottery

At present, there are 170 items in the collection of Cumnock Pottery ranging from miniature pieces to large basins and crocks. Cumnock Pottery began production in 1791 from local clays, firing to a deep terracotta colour and normally decorated with a rich brown glaze. A few items are stamped "Cumnock" or "Cumnock N.B.". Initially the pottery was made very much for daily use and in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, most local homes would have had some Cumnock Pottery. The decoration of items with mottoes in old Scots dialect was very popular and helped continue production into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

#### Mauchline Ware or Box-ware

The Mauchline Ware collection ranges from small napkin rings and trinkets to stools and tables. This is believed to be the largest collection in public ownership in Scotland, and second only in Britain to Birmingham Museum's collection. Beginning with the manufacture of snuffboxes with "invisible hinges" in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century Mauchline Ware production reached its peak about 1860. Apart from the village of Mauchline, this domestic and souvenir woodware was made in other parts of East Ayrshire - for example, Cumnock, Auchinleck and Catrine. Most Mauchline Ware was produced in one of three distinct ranges: transfer ware, tartan ware, fern ware.

Transfer ware was a pictorial souvenir ware, each piece decorated with a view associated with the place of purchase. Mauchline Ware was produced with views of Scotland; England; Canada; USA; Australia. One manufacturer, Smiths of Mauchline, developed an ingenious machine capable of "weaving" coloured tartan designs onto paper. The Mauchline Ware items were decorated with the tartan paper then covered with layers of protective varnish. Examples of fernware were produced later than the others and in smaller quantities. In most cases, actual ferns were used in the decorative process, which remains a secret to this day.

### **I4.3 Future Collecting Priorities**

- Cumnock Pottery - The Museum will continue to collect this material and will take active steps to develop the length and breadth of the collection. Duplicates of items already in the collection shall be acquired, as this museum service is the main repository in Scotland for this type of material. Duplicates enable specimens to be rotated on display and allow specimens to be available for some purposes, e.g. research, whilst similar items are otherwise in use or unavailable, e.g. touring exhibitions;
- 'Mauchline box-ware' - The Museum will continue to collect this material and will take active steps to develop the length and breadth of the collection. For the reasons previously referred to in relation to Cumnock Pottery, duplicates shall be acquired;
- Local architecture;

- Locally made ceramics and earthenware, plus catalogues from the relevant companies;
- ‘Darvel’ chairs;
- Locally made cutlery, including hornwork items.

## 15 Domestic Life

### 15.1 Our Domestic Life Collection

Child rearing, Childhood, Cleaning, Laundry, Food, Drink, Tobacco, Furnishings, Heating, Lighting, Sanitation, Media and Communications, Sewing, Dressmaking and other

We have representative items for many aspects of this category, but no significant sub-collections.

### 15.2 Future Collecting Priorities

- any items from the above sections relating to East Ayrshire;
- items from the above, which, could be used for reminiscence work.

## 16 Fine Arts

### 16.1 Our Fine Arts Collection

Drawings, Paintings, Watercolours, Prints, Sculpture and other

This collection is primarily housed at the Dick Institute. It is exhibited at all venues, with a policy of rotation, which attempts to put all displayable works on exhibition regularly. Unlike the other collections dealt with above, this did not originate from one main private collection. It has grown gradually over the years with the donation of a number of private collections, together with occasional purchases. Some of the most important acquisitions have resulted from benefactors systematically purchasing paintings in order to donate them to the Museum. Particularly important are works presented in this way by Sir Alexander Walker and by George Dunlop.

The scope of the collection is Scottish, English and European paintings (four hundred works), drawings, prints and sculptures, covering the period 16<sup>th</sup> century to present. Several paintings are illustrated in catalogues raisonnées, biographies or period studies. Specialist researchers regularly visit the collection.

Within this broad heading, a number of strong sections can be identified:

- European paintings. Ranging in date from 16<sup>th</sup> century to 19<sup>th</sup>, these include works by Dutch, Flemish, French and Spanish artists, some of considerable historical importance – such as Herrera, Lairese, Teniers and Corot;
- British paintings. This section is primarily 19<sup>th</sup> century, although it extends into the earlier part of the 20<sup>th</sup> with, for example, three fine works by Brangwyn. There are works by Constable (3), and Turner, but the most notable are high Victorian works by neo-Classical and pre-Raphaelite artists. This includes major works by Alma-Tadema, Leighton and Millais;
- Scottish paintings – this is the largest paintings section – includes a strongly representative series of works from the late 18<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. There are works by artists such as Nasmyth, Raeburn, Robert Scott Lauder, Horatio McCulloch, D.O. Hill, W. Cameron (8), E.A. Hornel (10), G.F. Henry, Samuel Bough, William Mounsey, David Farquharson, William Gibson, Charles Oppenheimer, David Gauld and Stuart Park. Artists with West of Scotland connections are particularly strongly represented. These include some undeservedly little-known outside this area, such as Andrew Law, Brownlie Docharty and Taylor Brown;
- Works by recent and contemporary artists are not so well represented. These are in a variety of media and include works by Robert Colquhoun, Robert McGilvray, Charles Boyle, David Martin, John Taylor, Nathan Coley, Michael Visocchi, Calum Colvin, Timorous Beasties, and others of more local significance.
- Prints mainly cover the period mid-19<sup>th</sup> – mid 20<sup>th</sup> century and represent English and Continental artists as well as Scottish. Artists represented include Graham Sutherland, Emilio Coia, Wyndham Lewis and Augustus John;
- Sculpture is mainly bronze. A small section of high quality work by Rodin, McGill, Evans and Schotz;
- The Penkill Collection is a special sub-section, representing a remnant of the important collection of pre-Raphaelite art formerly held at Penkill Castle. Mainly comprising watercolours and prints by William Bell Scott and Alice Boyd. This cross-links to the main collections in two ways – both to the Fine Art collection and to the Boyd Collection representing the family papers of the Boyds (formerly of Dean Castle).



## **16.2 Future Collecting Priorities**

The general principle of collecting is to build on the existing strengths and fill gaps. The prices commanded by Fine Art specimens make difficult a planned systematic series of additions to this collection at the existing level of quality. Nonetheless, it is realistic to plan to make acquisitions in certain categories where gaps exist.

- Scottish works mid-19<sup>th</sup> century to present, especially those filling gaps in the existing strong West of Scotland series, e.g. a work representing Hornel's Japanese period, more works painted by Horatio McCulloch while working in Kilmarnock, Kirkcudbright, Glasgow Boys and Girls;
- Works by recent artists with West of Scotland significance, especially where the works themselves are of local interest or complement existing specimens – works by Stuart Park, Andrew Law, Brownlie Docharty and Taylor Brown;
- Works by Robert Colquhoun, with comparative material by Robert Macbryde and the Neo-Romantics;
- Works by contemporary and emergent artists, especially those of local interest;
- Material to support the Fine Art collection – sketchbooks, documentation, photographs of artists and exhibition catalogues;
- Works from artists who have displayed their work at our venues, and where possible, work exhibited at our venues;
- Items related to the Penkill artistic community, whilst regarding the collecting policies of other interested parties.

## **17 Health**

### **17.1 Our Health Collection**

Alternative, Mental, Pharmaceuticals, Public, Surgery, Emergency Services and other

The collections contain a very limited range of items relating to this area.

### **17.2 Future Collecting Priorities**

- Emergency Services relating to the area.
- Public health, especially items relating to local hospitals;
- Items related to all the above for use in reminiscence work;
- Items relating to significant historical events and shared memory (e.g. cholera epidemic, coronavirus pandemic).

## **18 History of Science**

### **18.1 Our History of Science Collection**

Astronomy, Chemistry, Electronics, Mathematics, Medicine, Natural, Biological, Physics, Veterinary and other

The collections contain a very limited range of items relating to this area.

### **18.2 Future Collecting Priorities**

- Items relating to local individuals, businesses and societies of importance – e.g. Sir Alexander Fleming, Lord Boyd-Orr.

## **19 Industry / Commerce**

### **19.1 Our Industrial and Commercial Collection**

Advertising, Agriculture, Brewing, Distilling, Chemicals, Civil Engineering, Clerical, Communications, Computing, Construction, Energy, Fishing, Forestry, Horticulture, Manufacturing, Mining, Retail, Textiles, Tourism, Trades and other

Much of Ayrshire's history is bound up in its industrial and commercial activity. There are many items in the collections relating to these fields, but similarly there are a wealth of potential acquisitions to be made. As and when industries or businesses decline or relocate (e.g. lace manufacture, whisky), opportunities to add to collections arise.

## 19.2 Future Collecting Priorities

- Agricultural items;
- Items relating to tourism in the area
- Whisky industry
- Manufacturing, especially tools and equipment, and those items which may become available through closure and salvage
- Trades, especially tools and equipment
- Retail
- Printing

## 20 Local Collections

### 20.1 Our Local Collections

#### Material representing East Ayrshire and its Environs

In addition to the local aspects of the topics covered by the systematic subject collections described in Section 4.4, local social and industrial history has been collected. The results of this are uneven. Some aspects are fairly well covered, others hardly represented at all. Industrial history in particular suffers from patchy coverage. The former industries of bonnet-making and calico printing were of national importance in Scotland, but are represented by only a few specimens, as are others formerly of West of Scotland significance – cutlery, horn work and shoemaking. Ayrshire embroidery is better represented. Mainly models represent engineering. With locomotives etc., preserved in the national and other large museums, there is less need for preservation of large items locally. Other continuing industries are partially represented – especially lace, hosiery, shoemaking, carpets and agriculture.

Photographs include landscapes, townscapes, portraits and industrial studies, from around 1850 to the present. Heavily used for reference and display, this collection is a priority for expansion to fill gaps in periods and subjects.

Local archival material relates to former local authorities, local estates, families and businesses. Plans and maps include estate plans as well as published maps. Of direct significance to the Museum itself are the collections of Boyd Family Papers, and Kilmarnock Estates Records, which both include material relating to Dean Castle.

Additions to the local collections are the most actively pursued type of acquisition. While generally representative items in the social history category are sought, the collecting priority is where local items are unique.

### 20.2 Future Collecting Priorities

- Local photographs and pictorial records;
- Local records including maps and plans (subject to the principles detailed in Sections 2 and 3, applied in particular to the relevant archival institutions listed in Section 4.1.1). This to be done in conjunction with the Libraries service to avoid unnecessary duplication and to ensure adequate preservation of local material;
- Artefacts associated with local industries of a unique or unusual status – bonnet making, machine lace, calico printing, madras, hydraulic engineering;
- Artefacts associated with general local industries – shoemaking, carpets, whisky blending and bottling, engineering, especially locomotives, woodworking, agriculture, pottery including brick and tile making, mining, hosiery;
- Social historical items relating to domestic and leisure activities, plus those relating to the emergency services, health the ecclesiastical history of the area, and architecture;
- Local ephemera, such as political posters, price lists, advertisements, etc.;
- Extinct local crafts – hornwork, cutlery and swordsmithing;
- Contemporary social history;
- Artefacts and records relating to locally significant individuals or families.

## 21 Maritime

### 21.1 Our Maritime Collection

Exploration, Fishing, Engineering, Navigation, Oceanography, Ports, Rescue Services, Seafarers, Shipbuilding, Trade and other

East Ayrshire has no coastline, but there are still a limited number of items in the collections directly related to the above categories.

### 21.2 Future Collecting Priorities

- Items relating to local industries with maritime connections e.g. Strang's (propellers);
- Items related to local individuals with maritime connections.

## 22 Natural Sciences

### 22.1 Our Natural Sciences Collection

Fossils, Minerals, Rocks, Mammals, Birds and Eggs, Reptiles, Amphibians, Fish, Insects, Invertebrates, Botany and other

This is housed and primarily displayed at the Dick Institute, with some 8000 specimens – mostly carefully selected and of high quality. This is the historical origin of the Dick Institute in its present form, since the adoption of that museum as a service funded by Kilmarnock Corporation (1893) and the acceptance of the gift of funds for the construction of the Institute were both specifically to accommodate the Thomson Collection.

### 22.2 Significant Sub-Collections

Thomson Collection

The Thomson Collection is important internationally for 170 specimens of Carboniferous corals from South and Central Scotland including 24 type and 10 figured specimens. Amassing the collection between 1857 and 1900, he pioneered classification methods dependent on the internal structure of the fossil creatures. This was only possible because of his skill in sectioning and polishing the specimens and engraving for illustrations. An important collection in the history of taxonomy. His general palaeontological collection has important fossil fish from the Carboniferous rocks of Ayrshire and Lanarkshire. One fish specimen is figured (Traquair, 1913). Most of the collection was obtained from sites (especially mines) that no longer exist.

Braidwood Collection

This collection of J Hunter-Selkirk also joined the Museum in 1894, with a fossil section including further type specimens. (However, this wide-ranging collection also contributed antiquities and early printed books).

Blackwood Collection

Described as second only to his great friend Dr Heddle as a mineralogist the Blackwood Collection consists of three parts:

- The mineral and rock collections of some 1500 specimens of predominantly Scottish rocks and minerals;
- The microscope slide collection including 1000 slides taken from the rock and mineral specimens has a manuscript notebook by Dr Heddle;
- The collection of 400 Carboniferous fossils is strong in brachiopods. He was also a pioneer in photography, electric light and optics.

Other Geology Collections

The local Carboniferous period is most strongly represented in the palaeontological collections. Many other notable individuals (Sinclair, Landsborough, Linton, Lindsay) and institutions (Kilmarnock Glenfield Ramblers, Kilmarnock Philosophical Institution) have been instrumental in developing high quality, wide ranging, local and national collections of fossils. Specialists like Landsborough on plants and Linton on amphibians seem to have co-operated through the societies to develop systematic collections with few gaps. The Gloag collection of

several hundred local agates further enhances the geological collections. The specimens in the existing collections were collected when Scottish (especially Ayrshire) extractive industries were at their height, and specimens of the highest quality resulted. This series of collections is housed mainly in the Dick Institute, and primarily displayed there. The bulk of this material joined the museum collections after the opening of the Dick Institute in 1901.

### Zoology – Vertebrates

#### Birds

There is clear evidence of societies and individuals working together in the period 1910-1940 to form a systematic collection of British birds. The Kilmarnock Philosophical Institute donated a general collection (as well as Pheasants of the World) whilst the Richmond-Paton collection is especially strong in birds of prey. Fisherman/Naturalist J. McCrindle donated seabirds and migratory species. The gaps were filled by active collection and donation, principally by the Kilmarnock Glenfield Ramblers. Archibald Fairburn was a skilled taxidermist and besides doing work for the museum, he donated 130 specimens. A collection of eggs, from the same donors, supports and enhances the mounted specimens.

Mainly mammals represent other vertebrates from the Ayrshire area (although there is a section on exotic mammals and reptiles).

### Zoology – Invertebrates

#### Insects

The insect collections (some 25,000 specimens) comprise principally of three named collections and exotic specimens, particularly butterflies.

The Murphy collection has many good specimens with data from the Clyde Area. The comprehensive collections of beetles and butterflies form a good reference collection but their arrangement is outdated and inconvenient to access. A curious feature is the virtual absence of Heteroptera as Murphy was an authority. The main collection of Heteroptera is possibly elsewhere.

The Clark collection of butterflies is more complete than the Murphy and is attractively stored. However, there is less data than the Murphy and the specimens have come from a broader geographical range. The Crainie collection has predominantly butterflies, moths and beetles with small numbers from other orders, from Britain and abroad. There is little data.

#### Shells

The British shell collection is again very broad ranging with 2000 specimens representing 200 species. Gastropods, bivalves, chitons and scaphopods from marine, terrestrial and freshwater environments are all present. Kept separately, there is a collection of shells from Kilmarnock and district comprising thirty-four species.

A complimentary collection of 1800 foreign shells includes a particularly important group of Unionids from N. America, many of which are now extinct. The major donor is Rev D Landsborough with contributions, especially of local material, from Rose, McCutcheon and Clark.

#### Botany

This is the smallest of the Natural History collections, with under 1000 specimens. Two discrete named collections are on a Clyde area basis, and one of British plants.

## **22.3 Future Collecting Priorities**

Geology - the museum staff continue active field collecting when new road cuttings or opencast mining provides opportunities. Casual finds are accepted subject to the conditions laid down in the Collection Procedural Manual. There are specific cases where the existing collection would benefit by acquisitions:

- Trilobites from South Ayrshire
- Recently found and previously found specimens from Lesmahagow (in conjunction with national museums);
- Historical collections or recent finds of Ayrshire agates and other semi-precious stones;

- Geological specimens from local extractive sites e.g. local coal, fireclay, stone

Zoology – Vertebrates - This collection is rarely actively added to for strong legal, ethical and environmental reasons, but nowadays quality specimens are most frequently available because of accidental mortality, or as antique taxidermy specimens and display. The legislation surrounding the acquisition of bird's eggs is extremely restrictive, but subject to certain conditions being met, it is possible to acquire them, if the alternative is destruction by the owner.

Subject to the relevant legislation, we would seek to acquire (to replace poor quality or damaged specimens):<sup>1</sup>

- Common birds
- Particular species of less common birds, especially hawks, falcons and owls
- British small and large mammals
- Bats, reptiles, amphibians and fish (especially freshwater)
- Skeletons, particularly skulls

Zoology – Insects - Active collecting is not pursued, but occasional acquisitions are made following dead specimens being found by members of the public.

## 23 Photography

### 23.1 Our Photographic Collection

Art, Copies, Film, Archive, Equipment, and other

The current strengths of these collections are postcards, prints and duplicate copies of local scenes and individuals. Film is under-represented, but there is a good collection of photographic equipment.

### 23.2 Future Collecting Priorities

- Images and footage of local scenes, people, and events.

## 24 Society

### 24.1 Our Societal Collection

Crime, Law, Punishment, Education, Politics, Religion and others

There are representative items of most of these subject headings in the collections.

### 24.2 Significant Sub-Collection

Lochnorris Collection

The Lochnorris Collection contains 1200 items relating to the public and private life of the influential politician James Keir Hardie and his family, principally his daughter Agnes (Nan) and her husband Emrys Hughes. The collection has been acquired almost exclusively from direct family descendants. Furniture, letters, pictures, books, photos and ceramics are all included. Many items were gifts received by James Keir Hardie on world tours so a strong element of ethnography appears in the collection.

### 24.3 Future Collecting Priorities

- Lochnorris / Keir Hardie - The policy of the Museum is to acquire material to develop this collection whilst recognising that other museums may have similar aspirations;
- All of the above categories where they relate to the local area;
- Items for reminiscence;
- Covenanted material.

## 25 Sport and Leisure

### 25.1 Our Sport and Leisure Collection

Sport, Hobbies, Games, Toys and other

Although some areas of this category are fairly well represented, there are still significant gaps in the collections.

### 25.2 Future Collecting Priorities

- Football related to the area, at all levels
- Curling
- Quoits
- Golf
- Bowling
- Rugby
- Local sporting events
- Women's sport
- Sportspeople

## 26 Transport

### 26.1 Our Transport Collection

Aerospace, Waterways, Road, Rail and other

Items related to the railways are well represented, whilst the other sections are not.

### 26.2 Future Collecting Priorities

- Railway items (including trams);
- Bicycles.

## 27 Warfare and Defence

### 27.1 Our Warfare and Defence Collection

Wartime life, Army, Navy, Merchant Navy, Air Force and other

Wartime life is fairly well represented, whilst the other areas are not.

### 27.2 Future Collecting Priorities

- The Home Front;
- Local militia, plus the Home Guard and Ayrshire Yeomanry;
- Personal items and correspondence relating to local individuals' experience of war.

## 28 Weapons and Accessories

### 28.1 Our Weapons and Accessories Collection

Ammunition, Artillery, Edged weapons, Explosive weapons, Firearms, other weapons, Military uniform, Flags and banners, Armour, other accessories

European Arms and Armour

### 28.2 Significant Sub-Collection

The Howard de Walden Collection

This collection was included in the gift of Dean Castle. The full and half armours (12) of the 16<sup>th</sup> century are good quality, interesting examples, but include no exceptional specimens. However, there are several outstanding examples of parade pieces including helmets and a comprehensive collection of separate helmets. The swords (100) include a number of very fine and rare types, ranging from the Viking and Crusader periods to the 17<sup>th</sup> century including several examples made by noted sword smiths in Toledo, Bilbao and Milan and this section of the collection is comprehensive and of international significance. There is a smaller collection

of daggers of similar quality. The other sections of the collection do not attempt to be comprehensive, but include important individual items.

This discrete collection is enhanced by and complements certain of the Dick Institute collections. The Walker Collection of Scottish broadswords are a comprehensive selection from an area not dealt with in depth by the Howard de Walden Collection. This includes all stages of development from the claymore through shellguard swords to basket hilts. The Kater collection of firearms (200) includes early wheel-locks, overlapping with the Howard de Walden collection, but continues through flint-locks and percussion caps to bolt-action weapons. The Walker Collection of Oriental arms and armour provides examples comparative with European specimens, extending the small Oriental selection included for the purpose in the Howard de Walden Collection.

### **28.3 Future Collecting Priorities**

The acquisition of specimens of the quality and condition seen in the collection is quite beyond foreseeable financial resources; however, it is hoped to acquire examples in deteriorated or excavated condition, which will enhance the collection by filling technical gaps.

- Scottish weapons and accessories, especially those made locally;
- Uniform;
- Locally relevant heraldry;
- Systematic additions to the de Walden collection;
- Covenanting items;

## **29 World Culture**

### **29.1 Our World Culture Collection**

Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, South America, Australia and New Zealand and other

Housed at the Dick Institute, this consists of a series of collections, mainly put together in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Most have a local connection by originating from the travels of local people. The main areas represented are Central and Southern Africa, China and South-East Asia, and Australasia (especially Australia and New Guinea). Such material would not now be sought, but it remains a valid part of the Museum collections for historical reasons, and because of the local origin of the collections. It remains useful in providing comparative examples, which help to interpret other 'active' collections. This is particularly true for the artefacts produced by recent Stone Age and Iron Age cultures in relation to the Archaeology collection, for Oriental musical instruments and arms and armour in relation to the European collections of these items, and for sculpture and other art forms in relation to the Fine Art collection.

### **29.2 Future Collecting Priorities**

The policy on acquisitions of ethnographic items is that they will only be made in particular circumstances, where they relate closely and directly to the existing collections, and where they satisfy the principles laid down in Sections 2, 3 and 4.

## **SECTION 4: CORPORATE DELIVERY PLAN**

### **30 2022 – 2024 Corporate Delivery Plan Priorities**

Our 2022-2024 Corporate Delivery Plan will guide our work for the 2-year period. It sets out our priorities that will support the realisation of our Vision. Within the Corporate Delivery Plan, there are a number of outputs that are specifically relevant to the Collection Development Strategy. These are translated into Service Delivery Plans to ensure our commitment to implementation.

#### **30.1 Sharing Our Vision**

Strategic Objective 1: To create a programme of community engagement activities which includes consultation with our customers and potential customers about existing and future facilities and services and to adopt a positive approach to feedback

- Redesign and redevelop Future Museum to promote collections and services of South West Scotland;
- Ensure service delivery meets standards required to secure quality marks.

#### **30.2 Leisure At The Heart Of Every Community**

Strategic Objective 1: To work with community, local authority and private providers to develop a Leisure Facility Strategy that identifies all leisure provision throughout East Ayrshire and maximises the opportunities for our communities to participate in leisure activity

- Explore the potential for the repatriation of collections to specific Flexible Cultural Hub venues across the region;
- Develop and implement plans for the reopening of Doon Valley Museum as a Flexible Cultural Hub;
- Develop and agree a proactive maintenance programme for each venue/facility.

#### **30.3 Living Your Best Life**

Strategic Objective 1: To support the development of sustainable pathways that encourage lifelong participation in leisure activities

- Deliver a high impact/high profile rolling two year visual art and heritage exhibition and event programme across our gallery and museum venues;
- Complete the five year refurbishment and restoration of Dean Castle;
- Redesign, reimagine and deliver interpretation, interactives, animations, engagement and activity plans for Dean Castle including a re-opening event;
- Deliver the Cultural Kilmarnock project, which will include refurbishment and development of key heritage venues and spaces, green corridors between town centre heritage sites, encourage active travel and support green, cultural and heritage tourism.

#### **30.4 Investing In Our People & Embracing Our Values**

Strategic Objective 2: To offer work placements, volunteering and apprenticeships

- Develop volunteering roles across all areas of the Trust.

#### **30.5 Creating A Solid Foundation For Growth**

Strategic Objective 1: To review and continually improve and enhance our systems and processes to ensure that they are effective and appropriate in the transformation of our business

- Develop website to include more online and interactive resources

Strategic Objective 3: To maximise the return from commercial opportunities, especially around retail, hospitality and membership packages, so that we are in a position to fulfil our charitable obligations and become a sustainable organisation



- Produce Retail Plan to identify opportunities across venues and organisational areas;
- Develop a range of Membership Packages.

Strategic Objective 4: To develop an effective performance management framework

- Manage and deliver responsibilities under the Collections Agreement via the Collections Development Strategy and Documentation Procedural Manual.

### **31 Future Planning**

Future focus for collections development includes Accreditation, the Rapid Inventory project, the Dean Castle Restoration Project, the Leisure Facility Strategy, the Musical Instrument Recognised Collection, and the Digital Transformation Strategy – Future Museum. These key priorities provide a focus for activity to 2030, which will support the delivery of the Collections Development Strategy as part of the wider East Ayrshire Leisure Trust Delivery Plan, and in turn improve the management, care of, interpretation, reach, breadth and depth of East Ayrshire's Collections.