

Agenda Item No: 6

Report to: Museums Committee

Date of Meeting: 18 June 2012

Report Title: Suggested amendment to Acquisitions and Disposals Policy

Report By: Cathy Walling
Museum Curator

Purpose of Report

to consider an amendment to the Museum's Acquisition and Disposal Policy with regard to the collection of archaeology

Recommendation(s)

- 1. That subject to any changes the amendment is recommended for adoption by cabinet**

Reasons for Recommendations

Introduction

1. The Sussex Museums Group Archaeological Working Party has recently been discussing standards for the deposition of archaeological archives. Part of this procedure involves looking at Museum collecting areas county-wide, which were last agreed in 1988.

2. A large amount of material has been generated by planning-led excavations in Rother and Wealden District Council areas, particularly Rye and Winchelsea. Most of the Hastings material comes via Archaeology South-East and of a recent list of 50 projects ready for deposition, just 13 were from Hastings. One excavation alone in Winchelsea generated 31 boxes of finds.

3. The Museum's archaeology collection is currently stored at Castleham and space is limited. Meetings have taken place between the Curator and the Curator of Bexhill museum, Julian Porter, who also has responsibility for Rye and Winchelsea, to discuss this issue.

4. Hastings Museum's Acquisitions and Disposals Policy was approved by this Committee in June 2009 and is due to be reviewed in June 2014. The section on archaeology is currently as follows:

'The Museum will continue to collect archaeological material from all periods found within the Hastings boundary and from the following parishes as agreed by the Sussex Curators Archaeological Working Party in 1988:

Dallington, Burwash, Ticehurst, Etchingam, Brightling, Ashburnham, Catsfield, Ninfield, Penhurst, Mountfield, Salehurst, Hurst Green, Bodiam, Ewhurst, Whatlington, Battle, Crowhurst, Westfield, Sedlescombe, Netherfield, Brede, Northiam, Beckley, Peasmarsch, Udimore, Guestling, Fairlight, Pett, Icklesham, Rye, Rye Foreign, Iden, Playden, East Guldeford, Camber.

There will be no additions to the collections of foreign archaeology unless of particular relevance to material already held.'

5. The Sussex Museums Group Archaeological Working Party has suggested the following wording for the deposition of archaeological archives:

'for planning-led archaeological work the archive should be offered to the principal museum in the District or Borough which acts as the Local Planning Authority for the work undertaken. Where this is not possible because, for example there is no collecting museum, then the archive should be offered to the nearest accredited collecting museum.'

6. It is suggested that an amendment is made to paragraph 3.2 of the Museums Acquisition and Disposals Policy to read:

'The Museum will continue to collect archaeological material from all periods found within the Hastings Borough boundary. There will be no additions to the collections of foreign archaeology unless of particular relevance to material already held.'

7. The amended section of the Policy will feed into a project on the curation of archaeological resources currently being undertaken by the Society of Museum Archaeologists.

Wards Affected

None

Area(s) Affected

None

Policy Implications

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	No
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	No
Risk Management	No
Environmental Issues	No
Economic/Financial Implications	No
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	Yes
Local People's Views	No

Background Information

SMA Project Summary

Officer to Contact

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