

Site Collections Development Policy

Name of Museum: English Heritage - Osborne

Name of Governing Body: English Heritage Trust

Date on which this policy was approved by the Acquisitions, Loans and Disposals Committee: 25 September 2019

Policy review procedure: The Site Collections Development Policy is owned by the Senior Curator for the geographical area. It will be reviewed at least once every five years as part of a cyclical process managed through Registry.

Date at which this policy is due for review: September 2024

Arts Council England will be notified of any changes to the Site Collections Development Policy, and the implications of any such changes for the future of the collections.

1. Management Arrangements and scope

- 1.1. This policy covers all the museum artefacts managed by English Heritage from, or associated with the site whether they are held on site, at another English Heritage site or store, or on loan to a third party. This policy does not cover artefacts associated with other English Heritage sites which are stored or displayed at this site.
- 1.2. The site and its collections form part of the National Collection of English Heritage.
- 1.3. The majority of the collection is owned by the Royal Collection Trust. There are two loan agreements that cover the collections in the Swiss Cottage, the Swiss Cottage Museum and the main house.

2. Relationships to other relevant policies/plans of the organisation

- 2.1. The national *Collections Development Policy* approved by the Board of Trustees on 9 November 2016, (together with any amendments to, or replacements for, the policy approved by Trustees), apply to the site. In the event of any disagreement between this site policy and the national policy the national policy will apply.
- 2.2. Without limitation to the above all the procedures, all ethical and legal considerations set out in the national policy apply to acquisitions, disposals and loans from or to the sites collection.
- 2.2. Acquisitions outside the current stated policy will only be made in exceptional circumstances.

3. History of the collections

- 3.1. The collection is made up of the original contents of the house, the Swiss

Cottage and the Swiss Cottage Museum. Most of the collection was acquired by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert as mutual gifts and intended for display at Osborne.

- 3.2. There is also a collection of objects relating to the King Edward VII Convalescent Home that occupied a large part of the house after Queen Victoria's death and also archival material and ephemera relating to the history of the Royal Naval College Osborne that occupied part of the estate.

4. An overview of the collections

- 4.1. The collection is made up of approximately 10,230 objects: art (75%); social history (10%); natural history (5%); ethnography (5%); archives (5%).
8,976 objects are on long term loan from the Royal Collection Trust. 1,254 objects are owned by English Heritage Trust.
80% of the collection is on display with rest in stores on the site.
There are two working objects: a piano by Erard, c.1850 and another by Pape, c.1850.
There are significant sculptures and paintings from the Victorian Royal Collection including Franz Xaver Winterhalter's oil painting, *Florinda* and William Theed's marble sculpture, *Queen Victoria*.

5. Themes and priorities for future collecting

- 5.1. Pre-Victorian Osborne (before 1844) – collect objects relating to the history of Osborne before it was bought from the Blatchford family by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert.
- 5.2. Victorian Osborne (1844 – 1901) – collect objects relating to Queen Victoria and Prince Albert's occupation of Osborne.
- 5.2. King Edward VII Convalescent Home (1904 – 2000) - collect objects relating to the occupation and use of the house by the King Edward VII Convalescent Home for Officers.
- 5.3. Royal Naval College Osborne (1903 – 1921) – collect objects relating to the history of the Royal Naval College Osborne.
- 5.4. Osborne as Visitor Attraction (1902 – present) – collect objects relating to the development of the site as a visitor attraction after Edward VII gave Osborne to the nation.
- 5.5. Collect objects relating to the external and internal architecture of Osborne and its dependent buildings within the area that is managed by English Heritage Trust (see attached plan).
- 5.6. Any archaeological material that relates to the history of the occupation and use of the area that is managed by English Heritage Trust, the adjacent beach, and the golf club (see attached plan) should be acquired with the involvement of archaeological colleagues in English Heritage Trust and the Isle of Wight Museum Service.

6. Themes and priorities for rationalisation and disposal

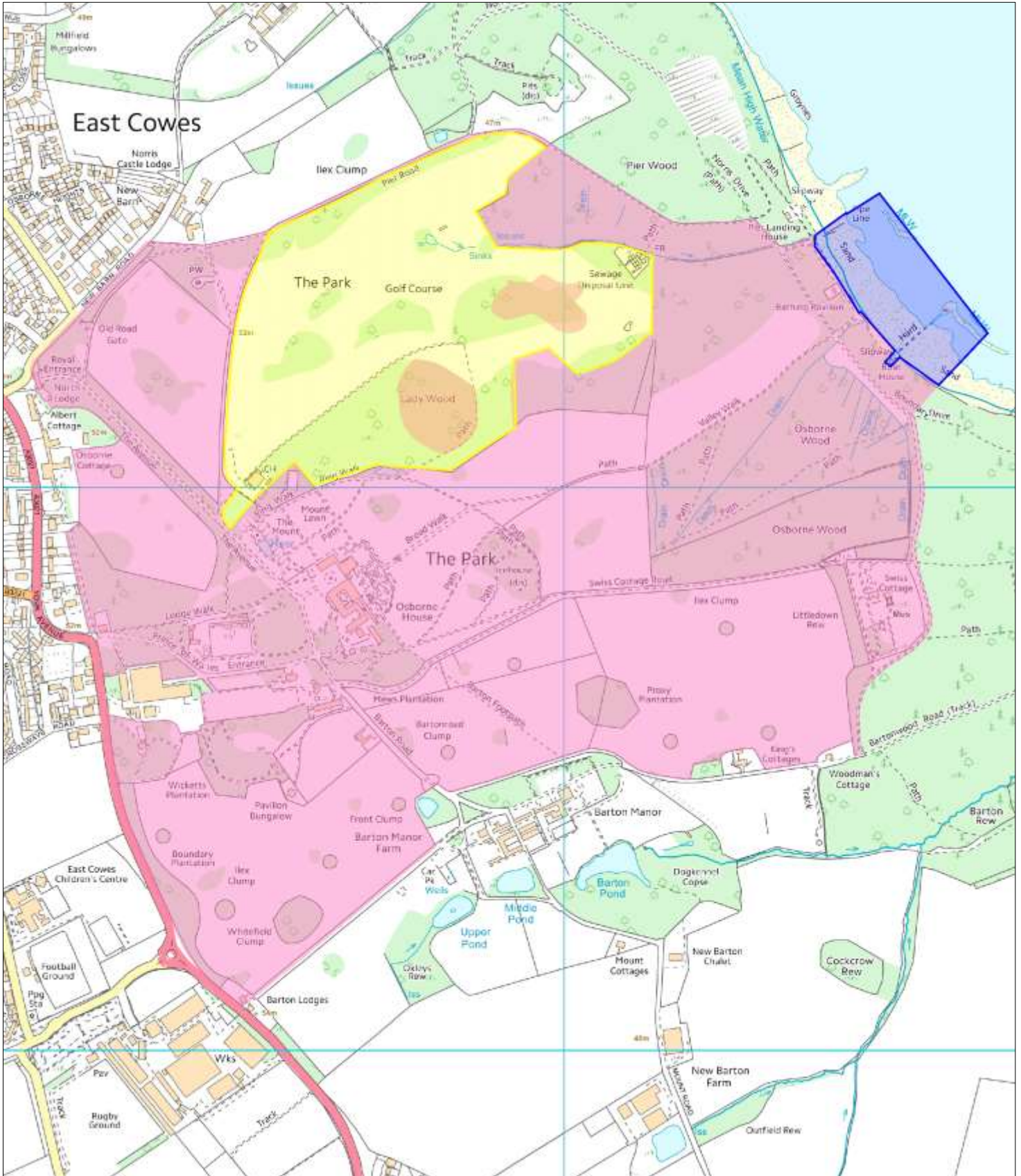
- 6.1. Osborne is the subject of a Capital Investment Plan, due to deliver in 2023. The focus will be on the visitor experience but the plan will include

re-presentation of some of the interiors which may involve the addition to the loan the Royal Collection Trust of relevant objects. There is also the possibility that areas currently used as stores will be opened to the public, necessitating the relocation of these objects to other stores on the site, or their return to the Royal Collection Trust.

7. Collecting policies of other museums

- 7.1. English Heritage will take account of the collecting policies of other museums and other organizations collecting in the same or related subject areas or fields. It will consult with these organizations where conflicts of interest may arise or to define areas of specialism in order to avoid unnecessary duplication and waste of resources.
- 7.2. Specific reference is made to the following museums and organizations:
 - 7.2.1. The Royal Collection Trust – collects objects and archives relating to Queen Victoria, Prince Albert and Osborne.
 - 7.2.2. Historic Royal Palaces – collects objects and archives relating to Queen Victoria and Prince Albert.
 - 7.2.3. Carisbrooke Castle Museum – collects objects and archives relating to the Victorian royal family and their connection with the Isle of Wight.
 - 7.2.4. Isle of Wight Museum Service – collects objects and archives relating to the Victorian royal family and their connection with the Isle of Wight. The service also collects archaeological material relating to the history of the Isle of Wight.
 - 7.2.5. The Historic England Archives- with reference to archive material.

Osborne House - archaeological collecting area



Map Scale 1:9,324

Map Centre 451902,94816

Date

10/09/2019

Pink/orange = EH managed area
 Yellow = golf course
 Blue = beach



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