

## Site Collections Development Policy

Name of Museum: English Heritage – Richmond Castle

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 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 site of Richmond Castle is owned by the Duke of Richmond and Gordon however the museum and castle are managed by English Heritage under guardianship.

### 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, and 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 archaeological collections that English Heritage hold from Richmond Castle derive from specific excavations at the site between 1911 and 2014, from within the current guardianship area only. The 1911-c.1938 excavations were carried out by the Office of Works, located across various areas on the site. This included standard clearance, deep

excavation during the underpinning of the curtain walls and excavation of the well outside the chapel of St Nicholas. Small scale excavation, evaluation trenching and watching briefs carried out between 1989 and 2014 were undertaken in areas of development, including the cockpit garden, visitor centre and toilet block.

- 3.2 Whilst developing the new interpretation scheme (opening July 2019) a small group of objects of social historic interest - but with no direct provenance to the site - were acquired.

#### 4. An overview of the collections

- 4.1. There are 431 records for the Richmond Castle permanent collection. The majority of the collection is archaeological material from the site, together with a small quantity of social historic interest.
- 4.2 The archaeological collection contains a good assemblage of high-medieval ceramic vessels, medieval small finds, animal bone all associated with domestic life in the medieval castle, and a small, yet important collection of architectural stone. In addition, there is a small quantity of material associated with the post-medieval and early modern occupation of the site. Associated archaeological paper archives are stored at Helmsley Archaeology Store.
- 4.3 Between 2018-19 several acquisitions were made to augment the existing collection in its new museum display (launching July 2019). These include 11 works-on-paper of artistic responses to the castle ruins between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, First World War ephemera including a white feather letter, propaganda sculpture of a conscientious objector, conscription poster and a general service uniform badged with Non-Combatant Corps insignia.
- 4.4 Also on display in the new museum are seven items on long-term loan from the Green Howards Regimental Museum, North Yorkshire County Records Office and private individuals. These comprise, 19th century militia uniform from the North Yorks Militia (based at the castle from 1855), an attestation paper belonging to a First World War absolutist conscientious objector imprisoned in the Richmond Cell Block, and postcards belonging to a serving Private in the Non-combatant Corps at Richmond.
- 4.5 Highlights of the collection now include;
- A unique and intricately carved pre-conquest bone hair pin.
  - A medieval iron-handled lead draw-bucket from the well.
  - A selection of largely complete 14<sup>th</sup> century jugs.
  - A fragment of early 16<sup>th</sup> century European window glass depicting the 'Weeping Virgin', now displayed with graphics as a complete window roundel.
  - A First World War ceramic propaganda sculpture of a conscientious objector.
  - A First World War white feather letter.

#### 5. Themes and priorities for future collecting

5.1. *Archaeological material*

The collecting policy for Richmond Castle has previously been restricted to archaeological material from the current guardianship area - the area of the castle's inner ward. We will continue to acquire all future archaeological material from the guardianship area, with a pre-deposition disposal policy for repetitive material.

Consideration has been given to incorporating the castle's Outer Ward area – a developed and populated zone of Richmond town - but this would undoubtedly yield post-medieval and early modern material with no association to the castle; Richmondshire Museum is also the established collecting body for this area. However, should significant material be unearthed which undoubtedly relates to the castle, exceptional circumstances should be sought for acquisition and added to the English Heritage collection. Should material from earlier excavations be presented with demonstrated or demonstrable provenance, these should also be added to the permanent collection. A small group of lost antiquarian finds is known from the site, namely a Roman silver coin hoard; should any of this material resurface with demonstrable provenance, these too should be acquired for the permanent collection.

5.2 *Social history*

Generic works-on-paper should only be acquired if they can inform on architectural development, or relate to key periods of occupation, particularly 1855 to 1945 photography.

Items of social historic interest associated with the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century occupation of the site – particularly the 19<sup>th</sup> century militia and later First World War occupation - should be assessed for acquisition if provenance to the castle can be established.

Consideration should also be given to non-site-specific objects associated with the conscientious objection narrative - one of the site's most highly significant periods in history - particularly as this theme is now represented with objects in the site museum. All cases must be assessed on an individual basis, and consideration given to whether English Heritage is the most appropriate collecting body and has facility/scope for public display.

6. Themes and priorities for rationalisation and disposal

- 6.1. At present, there is no scope for rationalisation or disposal of permanent collections; the collection contains little duplicate material.

7. Collecting policies of other museums

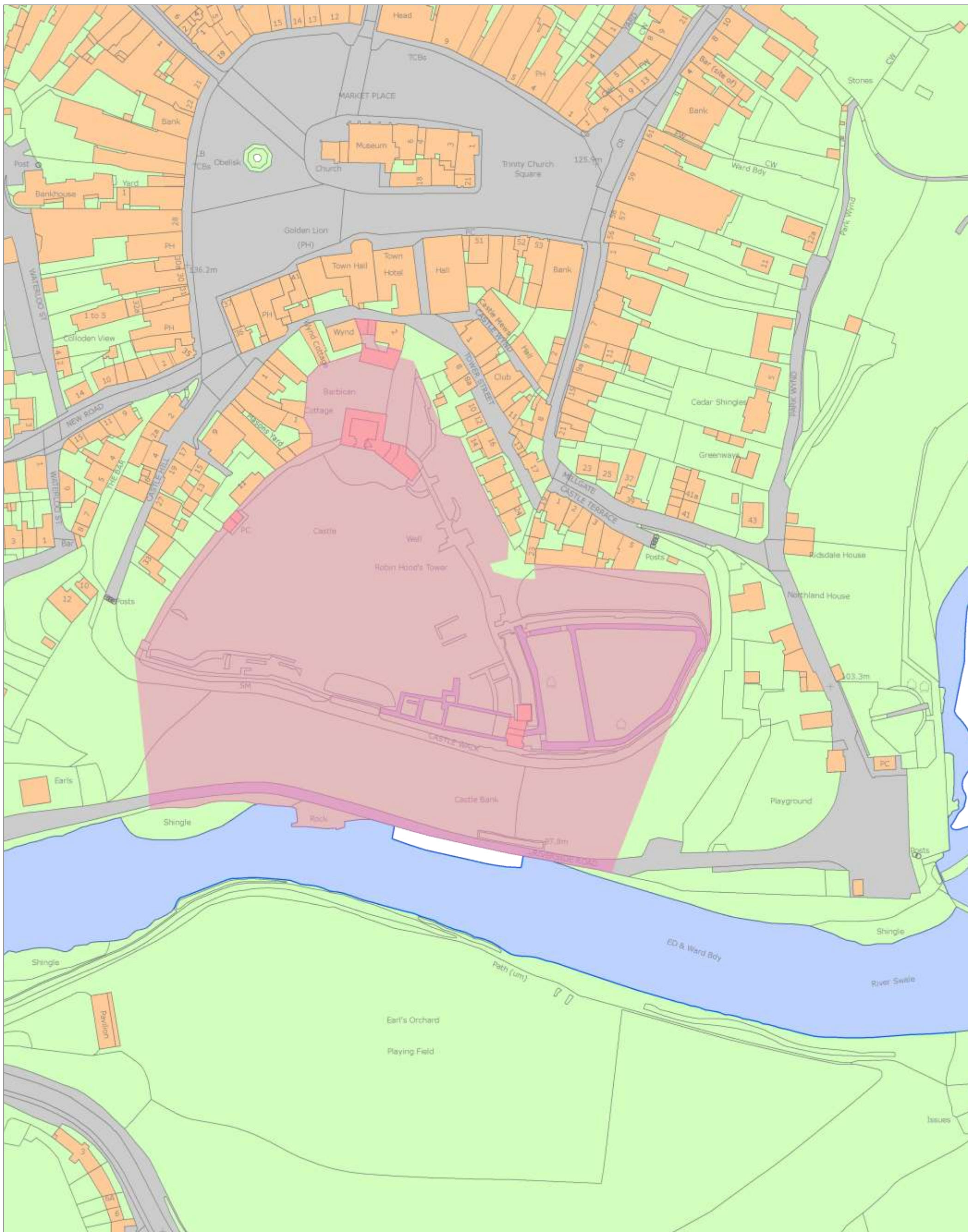
- 7.1. English Heritage will consider the collecting policies of other museums and other organisations collecting in the same or related subject areas or fields. It will consult with these organisations where conflicts of interest may arise or to define areas of specialism in order to avoid unnecessary duplication and waste of resources.



- 7.2. Specific reference is made to the following museums and organisations:

- 7.2.1 Richmondshire Museum with reference to archaeological material from the Outer Ward area.

- 7.2.2 The Green Howards Regimental Museum with reference to material associated with the North Yorks Militia and the Green Howards Regiment.
- 7.2.3 Library of the Society of Friends | Quakers in Britain with reference to First World War Conscientious Objector material.
- 7.2.4 Leeds University Library, Special Collections with reference to First World War Conscientious Objector material.
- 7.2.5 Imperial War Museum with reference to militaria.
- 7.2.6 North Yorkshire County Record Office with reference to archive material associated with the site.
- 7.2.7 The Historic England Archives- with reference to archive material associated with the site.

# Richmond Castle



<p>English Heritage managed area</p>	<p>Date 29/05/2019                  Map Scale 1:1,298                  Map Centre 417183,500707</p>	<p>  Historic England  <a href="http://HistoricEngland.org.uk">HistoricEngland.org.uk</a> </p> <p>  ENGLISH HERITAGE  <a href="http://www.english-heritage.org.uk">www.english-heritage.org.uk</a> </p>
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