
TRANSFER OF COLLIERY SUBSIDENCE ARCHIVE

**Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Nick Wallis,
Leisure and Local Environment Portfolio**

**Responsible Director - Paul Wildsmith,
Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Members approval for the permanent transfer of the John Mallon North Eastern Railway Colliery Subsidence Archive to another accredited museum or archive.

Summary

2. The John Mallon Collection is jointly owned by Darlington Borough Council (Head of Steam Museum) and the North Eastern Railway Association (NERA). The museum and NERA both agree that the North Eastern Railway Colliery Subsidence section of the John Mallon Collection does not fit into the museum's current Collections Development Strategy (2012-2017) and would be better suited to an accredited museum or archive that holds a mining collection.

Recommendation

3. It is recommended that The North Eastern Railway Colliery Subsidence section of the John Mallon Collection is permanently transferred to an accredited museum or archive that holds a mining collection with the proviso that Darlington Borough Council (Head of Steam Museum) or the North Eastern Railway Association (NERA) would be able to loan the items in the future if required.

Reasons

4. The recommendation is supported by the following reasons :-
 - (a) The North Eastern Railway Colliery Subsidence section of the John Mallon Collection does not fit in with the museum's current Collections Development Strategy (2012-2017).

- (b) The North Eastern Railway Colliery Subsidence section of the John Mallon Collection has yet to be accessioned into the museum's collection.
- (c) By permanently transferring the archive it will free up much needed space within the Head of Steam Museum's collection stores, therefore improving the overall storage of the remaining collection.
- (d) The Museums Association's Code of Ethics states that 'responsible, curatorially-motivated disposal takes place as part of a museum's long-term collections policy, in order to increase public benefit derived from museum collections (Section 6)'.

Paul Wildsmith
Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources

Background Papers

1. Museums Association Code of Ethics (2008)
2. Museums Association Disposal Toolkit (2014)
3. Head of Steam – Darlington Railway Museum: Collections Management Strategy 2012-2017

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S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no implications to Crime and Disorder as a result of this report.
Health and Well Being	There are no implications to Health and Well Being as a result of this report.
Carbon Impact	There are no implications to Carbon Impact as result of this report.
Diversity	There is no impact on the Authority's public sector duties as a result of this report.
Wards Affected	Northgate Ward
Groups Affected	There is no impact on any particular group as a result of this report.
Budget and Policy Framework	There is no impact on the Council's Budget or Policy Framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	There is no direct impact on the Community Strategy as a result of this report.
Efficiency	A small efficiency will be achieved by creating more space within the archive at the Head of Steam.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

5. The John Mallon Collection was bequeathed to Darlington Borough Council (Head of Steam Museum) and the North Eastern Railway Association (NERA) in 2002 with an agreement that the collection would be jointly owned (50:50) by the two organisations. The complete collection includes a large photographic and ephemera collection totalling approximately nine thousand items.
6. The North Eastern Railway Colliery Subsidence section of the John Mallon Collection consists of 27 packages of documents totally approximately 385 documents in total that cover the north eastern region.
7. The North Eastern Railway Colliery Subsidence archive has been accessed by rail enthusiasts from North Eastern Railway Association (NERA) and has been deemed 'unimportant' in railway terms but it would be deemed 'important' to an organisation that holds a mining archive.
8. We have received the support of David Corfield, Chairman, of the North Eastern Railway Association (NERA) to investigate the transfer this material to an accredited museum or archive.
9. The Curator has consulted the Head of Steam – Darlington Railway Museum: Collections Management Strategy 2012-2017 and the Museums Association Code of Ethics and Disposal Toolkit when considering the disposal of the North Eastern Railway Colliery Subsidence archive by transfer to another accredited museum or archive.
10. In transferring the North Eastern Railway Colliery Subsidence archive to another organisation this will free up much needed space within the museum's collections stores therefore allowing easier access to the existing collections, which in turn will enable the collections staff to deal with customer enquiries more quickly and efficiently.

Outcome of Consultation

11. Consultation has taken place with NERA as part owner of the collection.