

Rehoming the object collection

National Waterways Museum Collection

Further information

closing date 22nd January 2021



Why is the Museum looking for new homes for some of its object collection?

The Canal & River Trust is responsible for the most comprehensive and important collection of inland waterways material anywhere in the UK. It has been Designated by Arts Council England as a collection of national significance and includes over 15,000 objects.

Despite dedicated staff and volunteers striving to find sustainable solutions, the challenges of looking after the Collection have dogged the Museum for many years. Following on from work on rehoming the boat collection following the 2015 report funded by the Esmée Fairburn Collections Fund. The curatorial team has turned its focus on rationalising the object collection to ensure the Collection's integrity in terms of its quality and representation. This would then allow the Canal & River Trust to better look after its collection by focussing future resources on caring for the remaining collection.

Why can't you just sell the objects or give them to anyone who will take them on?

The Museums Association Code of Ethics, to which as an Accredited Museum we adhere, supports the responsible removal of items from museum collections so long as this meets legal and ethical requirements. In addition, there must be a clear rationale for each item to be rehomed.

As an Accredited Museum there is a responsibility on the Trustees to care for the Collection in such a way that it will be a benefit and inspiration for future generations to enjoy. Museums also frequently consist of objects which have been donated or bequeathed and naturally there is an expectation on the part of the donor that their gift will be seen and enjoyed for many generations to come.

All museums, have a duty to behave with due diligence in looking after their collections and any decision to remove an item must take this responsibility into account and ensure public confidence is maintained in the individual museum and the Museum Sector as a whole.

Who has agreed to this?

The Canal & River Trust Board of Trustees approved a policy for the National Waterways Museum to dispose of historic boats in the National Collection. Next, we established an expert panel to rigorously consider each boat proposed and consider what might be the best option. We have applied the same procedure to the consideration of the object collection.

The panel members are:

- Graham Boxer, Head of Collections & Archives, Canal & River Trust.
- Becky Peacock, Collections Manager, Canal & River Trust
- Victoria Wallworth, National Historic Ships UK,
- Phil Prettyman, Chair, Historic Narrow Boat Club
- David Viner (Canal & River Trust)
- Emma Chaplin (CEO, Association of Independent Museums & former Curator at Ellesmere Port)
- Rachel Mulhearn (Interim Director, Preston Museums & former Director of the Merseyside Maritime Museum)
- Mike Turpin (Museum Volunteer and past Chair of the Waterways Museum Society)
- Mike Carter (Consultant Marine Engineer and member of the boating community)

Once a new home has been identified, the Trustees will have the final say on the recommendations of the Expert Panel.

How will you go about finding new owners for these objects?

In the first instance, under the Trust's Policy and Museums Association guidelines, these objects will be offered to accredited museums. The purpose being that as much as possible, museum collections should remain in the public domain. However, should a home not be found in another museum or relevant public body, then they can then be offered to individuals and private interested bodies.

However, for historic inland waterways, the Canal & River Trust recognises that there are many enthusiasts some of whom are members of the Historic Narrow Boat Club who love and cherish their boats and who could provide the right loving home for

these displaced objects. The Trust also recognises its responsibility in finding the right home in a fair and transparent way and to achieve this we have set out criteria that have to be met by individuals when submitting an expression of interest form.

Can't the objects go back to their original owners?

The objects in our collection have come to us over the past 40 years. Many date back to the museum's opening in 1976. We will do everything we can to contact the original owners to tell them of our plans. It is unlikely that, even were we to be able to contact them, the original owner would be willing, or able, to take the object back.

Why are you giving the objects away and not selling them?

The priority for the Canal & River Trust is to preserve as much the waterways heritage as possible. Many of the objects do not meet the Museum's Collecting Policy or are duplicates and increase the cost of caring for the collection. The Trust wants to ensure that the new owner has the capacity to take on this responsibility.

What will you do if you can't re-home any of the objects?

It may be that no other Museum or individual will be interested in taking them on or able to afford the costs in looking after them.



How do I express an interest in one of the objects in the current round?




An Expressions of Interest Form can be downloaded from canalrivertrust.org.uk/nwm. Should you require more information, please contact the museum at nationalwaterwaysmuseum@canalrivertrust.org.uk.



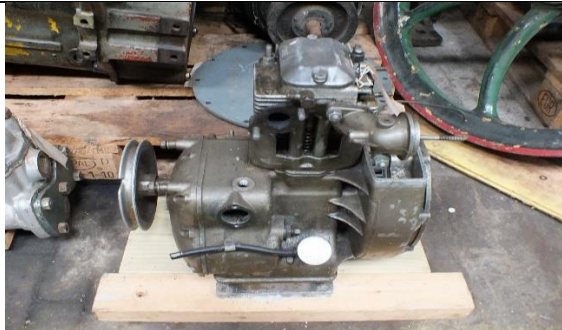
All applicants must show what the plans they have for the object, how they will care for it over the long term, what the public benefit might be, how these plans will be funded and what, if any, support will be needed from the museum. All expressions of interest will be considered anonymously by the panel before the final recommendation for the new home will be made to the Board of Trustees for ratification.



Expressions of Interest should be returned to the museum by **midday 22nd January 2021**.



Objects currently identified for disposal are:




Object	Description	Photograph
Lister Type CS engine	Single cylinder Lister engine no: CS56194 3.5hp @650rpm. Water cooled with its own tank and pump. Average condition.	
Lister Type D engine	Farm engine. Single cylinder petrol stationary engine. Average condition	



Petter A1 engine	It is a farm engine. Single cylinder no 522005. Average condition	
Lister Type A engine	It is a stationary engine with no connection to the waterways. 3 3/4hp petrol engine no:227087 A26c. Average condition	
Bentall Pioneer engine	Farm engine. It was found in the Pattern Shop on a pallet. Incomplete. Single cylinder stationary engine. Gas fuelled. Chain driven. 11/2 to 21/2 hp. Only 2 drive wheels. No 33666 Poor condition	



Stuart Turner petrol engine	Incomplete engine. Poor condition		
Scammel engine	Tractor engine. In poor condition. 4cylinder, side valve petrol engine		
Lister Petter AA1 engine	Incomplete stationary engine. Possibly for a compressor or generator. Brough in for repair. Small cylinder engine, 1.5hp. ID numbers include AA1C905		



<p>Deutz two-cylinder engine</p>	<p>Almost complete boat engine from Northwich workshops. Donated by British Waterways to the Boat Museum Trust and then passed to CRT. Never intended to enter the collection but to use as spares or for fundraising</p>		
<p>Four-cylinder petrol engine</p>	<p>Spare engine bought for use in Amaryllis but never fitted. 4-cylinder petrol engine, similar to a BMC</p>		

<p>Lister Petter AC1 engine</p>	<p>Incomplete stationary engine</p>		
<p>SIF engine</p>	<p>Lawn mower engine. Very small 2 stroke Petrol engine</p>		

Douglas Flat Twin engine	Generator set engine modified for marine use. Quirky engine but no paperwork to determine its marine use. In good condition.	
Steam Pump	Possibly a boiler feed pump and no evidence of connection to site. Made by Hayward Tyler of Luton	
Gardner LW1 engine	Came from Shell research at Thornton and was used for testing fuels.	

<p>Lister Generator Set</p>	<p>Used for lighting lamps. Single cylinder No.18267/117. 1.75 kva 230-volt single phase</p>	
<p>Ailsa Craig engine</p>	<p>1930s boat engine</p>	

Crossley Gas engine	<p>A Crossley Brothers stationary gas engine. It is water cooled and was used for generators or hoists and operated on town gas. It proved uneconomical in factories. It dates from 1920. 8" bore and 14" stroke, 11.5 litres. Engine number G112-145393. 12hp @ 300rpm. In good/fair condition</p>	
Kelvin Poppet engine	1956 fishing boat engine	

<p>Johnson Super Runner</p>	<p>Road repairing machine. Average condition</p>	
<p>Ribbon plates</p>	<p>Eight ribbon plates (various dates) of fair to good condition, most with manufacturing defects.</p>	

Lamp shade

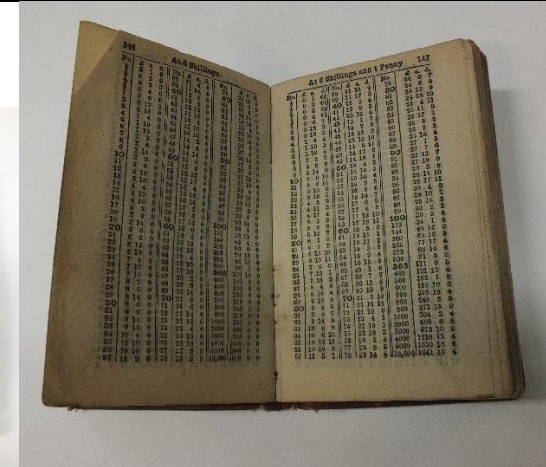
A 1920s porcelain single lamp shade issued to Ellesmere Port residents by the Electric Company on the town-wide installation of electric lighting.



<p>Wedgwood plates</p>	<p>Two Wedgwood Queensware plates issued by the North West Museum of Inland Navigation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anderton Boat Lift 2. Ellesmere Port Boat Museum <p>Good condition with certificates, in box.</p>	
<p>Revolution counter</p>	<p>A copper-alloy engine revolution counter manufactured by Schaeffer & Budenberg, no. 3871</p>	

Book


A pre-decimal currency reckoner (Trader's Companion) book in fair condition, published by Cameron and Ferguson.






Medallet

A medallet and case issued by Warrington and District Junior Rugby Football Alliance to a T. Pollitt for 1928-1929.





<p>Medallet</p>	<p>A boxed Scania Transport Trust Finalist Award issued to the Royal Automobile Club, London, 30/2/1991</p>	
<p>Coins</p>	<p>A set of decimal and pre-decimal coins, predominantly British. 1x 1982 decimal Halfpenny 1x George V Halfpenny 1x George VI Halfpenny 5x Elizabeth II Halfpenny 5x George V Penny 3x George VI Penny 10x Elizabeth II Penny 2x Elizabeth II Threepence 1x 1963 Finnish Penni</p>	

Lamp glass	A lensed lamp glass from a boat tunnel lamp	
Gloves	A pair of leather women's gloves	
Boots	A pair of leather women's boots	

Sewing Machine

A c.1880 to 1890 'New Family' tabletop sewing machine produced by the Singer company and probably purchased in St. Helens, Lancashire



		
Vacuum cleaner	An Electrolux model XII (1930-1937) cylinder vacuum cleaner with attachments, in wooden carrying case.	

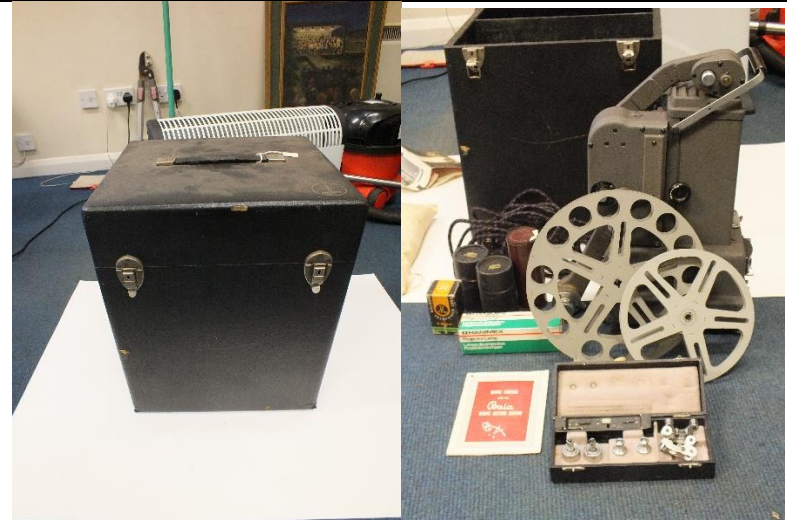
Vacuum cleaner

An Electrolux (possibly model XII?) cylinder vacuum cleaner with attachments, in wooden carrying case.



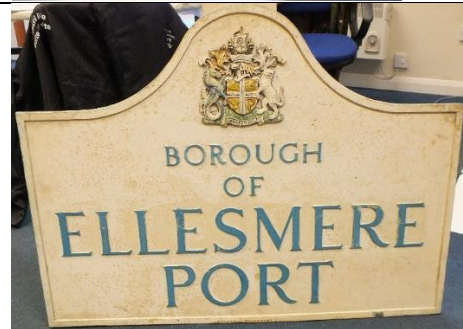
Projector

A Paillard Bolex film projector complete with accessories.



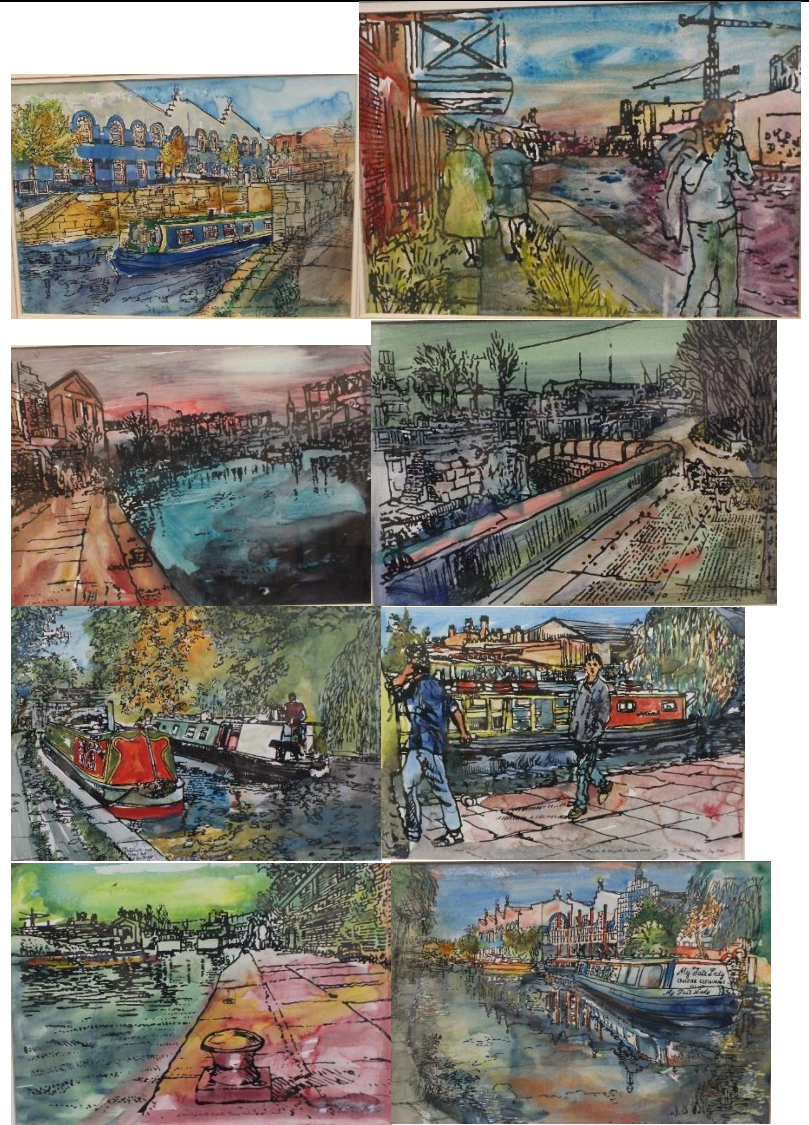
Sign




A cast metal painted sign for the town of Ellesmere Port.




Watercolour paintings

A set of eight watercolour paintings depicting canal and waterside scenes.



Gas Mask	A General Post Office telecom gas mask, possibly still with asbestos filter fitted.	
Gas mask	A 'Mickey Mouse' type gas mask, possibly with original asbestos filter still fitted.	
Gas Mask	Two infant gas masks, often colloquially known as 'baby helmets'. Possibly with original asbestos filters still fitted.	

Canal clothing	A costume set of braces and a 'spiderweb' belt.	 <p>The image shows three items of canal clothing laid out horizontally. At the top is a wide, rectangular belt with a repeating pattern of colorful stars (red, yellow, green) on a light background, with a frayed edge. Below it are two pairs of braces. The top pair has a dark, patterned fabric with a floral or geometric design and brown leather straps with metal buckles. The bottom pair is similar but has a different pattern and also features brown leather straps with metal buckles.</p>
Blouse	A women's blouse, mid-late 20 th century.	 <p>The image shows two views of a women's blouse. The left view shows the blouse laid flat, revealing a high, ruffled collar and a long front placket with buttons. The fabric has a dark background with a light-colored, vertical, geometric or 'spiderweb' pattern. The right view shows the blouse from a slightly different angle, highlighting the ruffled collar and the patterned fabric.</p>

Bonnet	A modern recreation of a boatwoman's/19 th century bonnet	
Rally Plaque	A 1971 Rochdale Canal IWA rally plaque, complete with original map and correspondence.	