

Site Collections Development Statement

Name of Museum: English Heritage – Walmer Castle

Name of Governing Body: English Heritage Trust

Date on which this statement was approved by the Acquisitions, Loans and Disposals Committee: **12th December 2019**

Statement review procedure: The Site Collections Development Statement 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 statement is due for review: December 2024

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

1. Management Arrangements and scope

- 1.1 This statement 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 statement 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 collections for Walmer Castle belong to the Heirloom Collection, which was established by Act of Parliament in 1892 and prevented the removal of objects without permission from the Secretary of State for War. Legal responsibility for the Heirloom Collection transferred to the Commissioners for Works in 1904. Responsibility has been delegated to Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (HBMCE) by Direction of the Secretary of State. English Heritage manages the collection under the national Property and Operating License.

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 statement 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.
- 2.3 Acquisitions outside the current stated policy and statement will only be made in exceptional circumstances.

3. History of the collections

- 3.1 The majority of the collection relating to Walmer Castle consists of furnishings and art that have been owned by the various Lord Wardens of the Cinque Ports who used the Castle.
- 3.2 Traditionally each new Lord Warden purchased the contents of the Castle from his predecessor at his own expense. However, concerns were raised over the course of the 19th century that this private ownership risked historically significant objects being removed or sold.
- 3.3 As a result, the son of the Right Hon. W. H. Smith (Lord Warden 1891 to his death that same year) carried out his father's desire to donate the belongings to the state.
- 3.4 The Heirloom Collection was formed by Act of Parliament in 1892. The collection at that time was inventoried; certain objects relating to Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington, returned to the site; and the whole collection was required to remain at Walmer in perpetuity. The Lord Warden retained the right to use, and the responsibility to maintain, the furnishings but could not remove objects without permission from the Secretary of State for War.
- 3.5 Additional objects were added to the Heirloom Collection in 1905 and 1906. At some point in the 20th century a few pieces are assumed to have been sold in unknown circumstances as not all inventoried objects can be accounted for.
- 3.6 Legal responsibility for the Heirloom Collection transferred from the Secretary of State for War to the Commissioners for Works in 1904 when responsibility for the Castle was transferred. The functions of the Commissioners/Office/Department of Works now belong to the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.
- 3.7 The Lucas collection of Wellington memorabilia was acquired by Lady Reading in the 1930s to commemorate the Duke of Wellington, and was incorporated in a small museum in one of the upstairs rooms.
- 3.8 Since English Heritage took over the running of the site a small number of additional objects have been added to the collection through both donation and purchase, largely with the intention of complementing the display.

4. An overview of the collections

- 4.1 The collection consists of approximately 2,300 objects. Of these around 35% are on display, 5% in the Lord Warden's apartment, 40% in onsite stores and 20% in offsite storage.
- 4.2 The largest elements of the collection are art (30%) and furniture (20%), with a substantial archive (10%). There are also significant quantities of tableware, textiles, archaeology, fixtures and fittings, and guns.
- 4.3 Within the larger collection sits the Lucas collection of around 300 items of contemporary memorabilia relating to Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington. These include a large number of mass produced pieces such as cartoons and ceramics.
- 4.3 There are 93 long term loans on site, most of which are from the current Duke of Wellington. Other loans include guns from the Royal Armories, a painting and tea service from the Royal Collection, a sideboard and prints from the V&A museum, two dispatch boxes and an inkstand from the Chequers Trust, a clock from the Cutler Memorial Trust, and a bust from Lord Hardinge of Penshurst.

- 4.4 There are two working objects: a walnut cased musical bracket clock (c.1781) on long term loan and a mahogany long case clock (c.1790) in the Lord Warden's apartment.
- 4.5 The most significant objects in the collection relate to the 1st Duke of Wellington's time at Walmer. These include his travelling camp bed (with bedding), a pair of his boots, and the chair in which he died.

5. Themes and priorities for future collecting

- 5.1 Our main priority is to collect furnishings, oral histories and archive that are associated with Walmer Castle, its function and past occupants. In particular if any disassociated objects from the Heirloom collection became available they should be acquired if possible.
- 5.2 Representations of the castle and its key occupants (e.g. paintings, prints, photographs) may be acquired in the following circumstances: if they are of exceptional quality; if they can be shown to have been painted or hung at the site; if they document the appearance of the interior of the Castle; or if they are of immediate use for display.
- 5.3 We would also acquire items that, although not directly from Walmer Castle, are similar in date and type to objects which can be demonstrated to have formerly been in situ in the Castle, where those objects can contribute to the display.
- 5.4 Because of Walmer Castle's association with the Lords Warden of the Cinque Ports, as their residence since the early 18th century, we may also acquire artefacts associated with the Lords Warden. This class of objects would only be acquired where they can help with display or where they have significant research value and a more suitable repository does not exist.
- 5.5 We may also occasionally acquire items for use by the incumbent Lord Warden in his apartment. On acquisition of such items documentation would clearly show the intended use of the object, and donors would be made aware of this "sacrificial" use. Objects of this kind would be recorded as a 'working object' since their intended use implies that preservation cannot be guaranteed.
- 5.6 In particular we are likely to be interested in:
 - 5.6.1 Archaeology from the guardianship area.
 - 5.6.2 Archive material, visual representations and oral histories with research value for the history of the site, its function and occupants.
 - 5.6.3 Cinque Ports material relating to Walmer Castle.
 - 5.6.4 Furnishings from The Lord Warden's apartments relating to its use as accommodation for the Lord Warden.
 - 5.6.6 Artefacts that help furnish the displays in the Castle based on research on the interiors. E.g. an appropriate drop glass Chandelier for the first floor Rotunda to match the 1927 watercolour by William Ranken.
 - 5.6.7 Images and artefacts associated with particular Lords Warden:
 - 5.6.7.1 Examples of contemporary mass market production commemorative representations of the Duke of Wellington to complement the Lucas Collection. We are not planning to acquire any additional large memorabilia collections.

- 5.6.7.2 Personal artefacts associated with William Pitt the younger and his niece Lady Hester Stanhope.
- 5.6.7.3 Personal artefacts associated with Lord Beauchamp.
- 5.6.7.4 Objects associated with the Duke of Wellington during his time as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, including a figure of Napoleon similar to that which can be seen in Thomas Shotton Boys' watercolour of his bedroom.

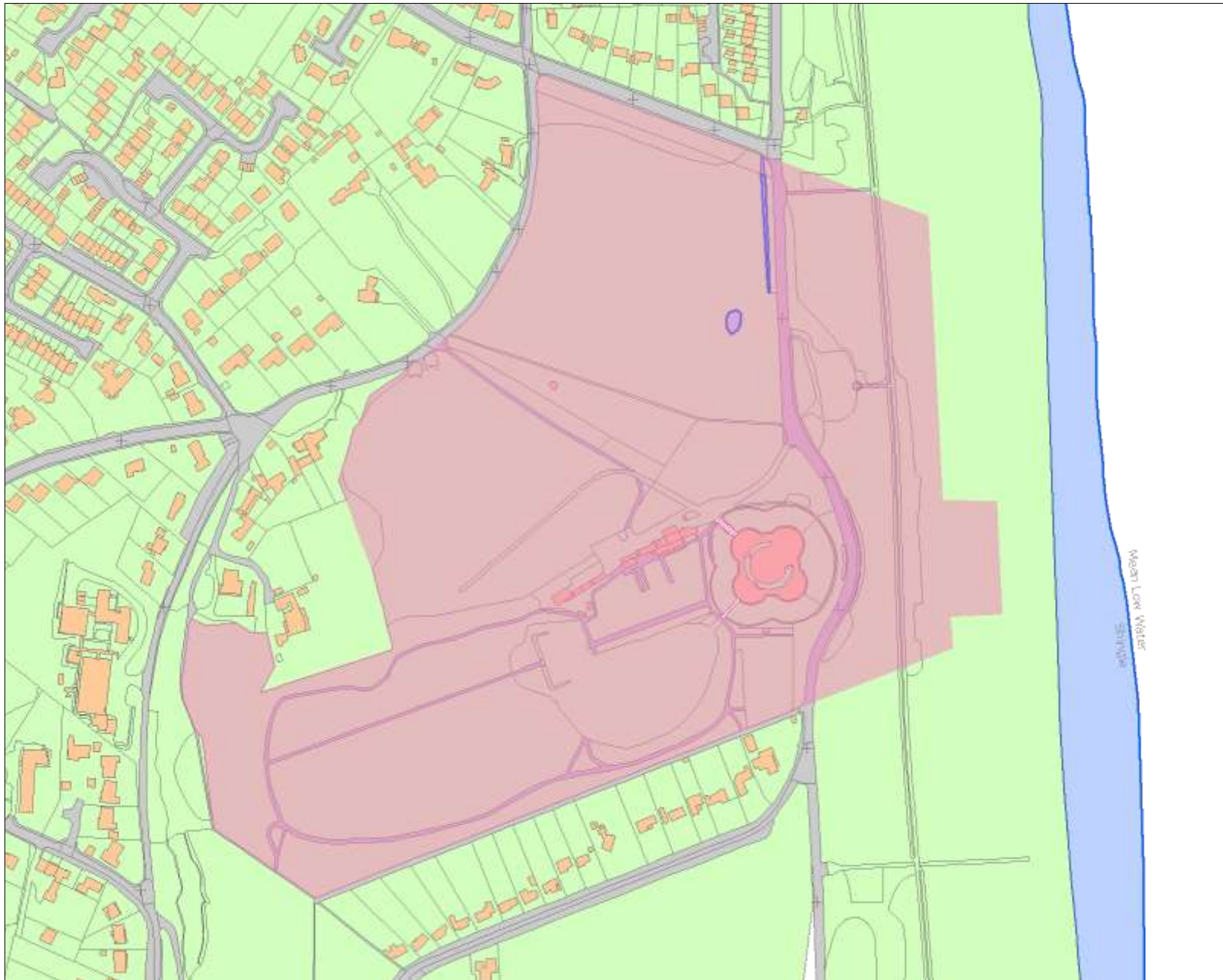
6. Themes and priorities for rationalisation and disposal

- 6.1 Walmer Castle has undergone a major redisplay project in the last few years. Historic objects acquired for use as props in the previous display should be assessed to determine whether they should remain in the collection.
- 6.2 We will not dispose of any items from the Heirloom Collection.

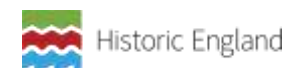
7. Collecting policies of other museums

- 7.1 English Heritage will take account of 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 Dover Town Museum - regarding Cinque Ports material.
 - 7.2.2 Apsley House (English Heritage) - regarding Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington.
 - 7.2.3 Stratfield Saye House (home of the current Duke of Wellington) - regarding Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington.
 - 7.2.4 Knole House and gardens (National Trust) - regarding previous Lord Warden Lionel Sackville (1688–1765).
 - 7.2.5 National Army Museum - regarding military material.
 - 7.2.6 Imperial War Museum – regarding military material.
 - 7.2.7 The Historic England Archives - with reference to archive material.

Walmer Castle EH management area



Date 29/11/2019
Map Scale 1:4,039
Map Centre 637655,150146



[HistoricEngland.org.uk](https://www.historicengland.org.uk)



ENGLISH HERITAGE

www.english-heritage.org.uk