Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority **Item 10**

31 March 2026

Dales Countryside Museum Collections Management Framework 2026-2031

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Members' approval for the Dales Countryside Museum (DCM) Collections Management Framework which encompasses the Collections Development Policy, Documentation Policy, Conservation Policy and Access Policy.

Recommendation

2. That Members approve the Dales Countryside Museum Collections Management Framework in the **Appendix.**

Strategic Framework

3. The information and recommendation contained in this report are consistent with the Authority's statutory purposes and support the strategic planning framework:

    - **Corporate Plan Objective:5**

    Use the Dales Countryside Museum and the Historic Environment Record to help local heritage groups to research, record and promote the stories of the National Park, including completing the enhancement of the Historic Environment for the new area of the National Park by 2025.

Background

4. The Dales Countryside Museum is an Accredited Museum. The Accreditation Scheme in England is administered by Arts Council England. The Scheme sets nationally agreed standards for UK museums. To qualify, museums must meet standards on how they are managed, for the services they offer and on how they care for collections. To comply with current Accreditation requirements, the Collections Management Framework which includes the Collections Development Policy, Documentation Policy, Conservation Policy and Access Policy, needs to be approved by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority every five years.

    The Arts Council template for the Collections Development Policy sets out the principles that provide governing bodies and museums with a framework for responsible and ethical acquisition and disposal of collections. It provides clear

procedures and decision-making processes common to Accredited Museums. Implementing the policy enables museums to demonstrate the public benefit in their approach to collections development. It provides a basis for open and transparent decision-making and an informed dialogue between governing bodies, donors, funding bodies and other stakeholders.

The acquisition, management and disposal of collections is guided by: a museum's constitution and statement of purpose; the legal basis on which the collections are held; the public benefit derived from the effective use and management of the collections; an assessment of the needs of the museum's collections; the collections held by other museums and organisations collecting in the same or related geographic areas or subject fields; the Museums Association code of ethics.

The Dales Countryside Museum Collections Development Policy applies to material which the museum owns and has accessioned into the collection or intends to own and accession into the collection. It is shown within the Collections Management Framework together with the Documentation Policy, Conservation Policy and Access Policy, in the Appendix.

Financial Implications

5. None.

Legal Implications

6. None.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Implications (Mandatory)

7. The Dales Countryside Museum Collections Management Framework has been reviewed in line with the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy, 2025.

Conclusion

8. The Dales Countryside Museum Collections Management Framework is in line with Arts Council guidance.

Fiona Rosher
Museum Manager

Background Papers:
Arts Council Accreditation Guidance UK Museum Accreditation Scheme | Arts Council England
Museums Association code of ethics Code of Ethics - Museums Association