



Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH, CULTURE AND VISITOR EXPERIENCE DECISION MEETING, 25 FEBRUARY 2025
Subject	DEACCESSION OF ARTEFACTS FROM THE CORINIUM MUSEUM
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	Councillor Paul Hodgkinson Cabinet Member for Health, Culture, and Visitor Experience Email: Paul.Hodgkinson@cotswold.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Joseph Walker Head of Economic Development and Communities Email: Joseph.Walker@Cotswold.gov.uk
Report author	Stuart Wilson Leisure Contracts Lead Email: Democratic@Cotswold.gov.uk
Summary/Purpose	To consider three requests put forward by the Corinium Museum to dispose of three artefacts through deaccession.
Annexes	Annex A: Collections Policy (which sets out the process to be followed) Annex B: three deaccession proposals LB528 Swathe-Turner LO X093 Eastbury Christening Gowns Sly collection, comprising a number of hats
Recommendation(s)	That the Cabinet Member for Health, Culture and Visitor Experience resolves to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Determine the proposals to dispose of three items through deaccession
Corporate priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delivering Good Services



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supporting Communities• Supporting the Economy
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	The role of the Council is to determine the deaccession requests put forward by the Museum, through its operators, Freedom Leisure.



1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1** The Corinium Museum (the Museum) through its operators Freedom Leisure, has put forward three proposals for the deaccession of museum artefacts, which are summarised in the following report, and annexed in full, at Annex B.
- 1.2** The recently approved Collections Policy, attached at Annex A, contains the procedures the Museum will follow in disposing of artefacts, a process referred to as 'deaccession'. The Policy vests this decision with the Governing Body, Cotswold District Council, and as agreed by Cabinet, with the Cabinet Member for Health, Culture, and Visitor Experience.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The Museum is highly acclaimed, showcasing local history and Romano-British life. Over the period of its operation, collections of artefacts have been amassed, stored at the Museum and its resource centre in Northleach. The Collections Policy is clear that sound curatorial reasons for disposal must be established before consideration is given to the disposal of any items in the museum's collection. Disposal will not be undertaken simply for financial reasons, but allows for the rationalisation of artefacts to focus on the Museum's core collections.

- 2.2** There are three current proposals to consider.

2.3 LB528 Swathe-Turner

This is a large piece of agricultural equipment, currently located in the Science Museum's National Collections Centre in Wroughton, near Swindon. While it was accessioned by the Museum in 1981, it has been on loan to the Science Museum since shortly after. The Science Museum has requested a permanent transfer. The recommendation is that this would assure its future, as the Corinium Museum does not have an appropriate facility to display or conserve this item.

2.4 LO X093 Eastbury Christening Gowns

These christening gowns have never been displayed, and are currently loaned out to the original donor, who has requested their return. While the Museum has in the past accepted items for social or local historical reasons, if presented today, these gowns would not fit with collections management.



2.5 Sly collection, comprising a number of hats

This is a collection of hats, which provides some social history. They are currently held in the Museum Resource Centre, and have never been displayed. As with the previous item, these items would not be accepted under the current collections policy. The donor's representative has requested the return of these items.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1** In light of the facts and cases outlined above and attached at Annex B, it is considered that there is no alternative to determining these requests, without prejudice to the decision taken.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1** The report above sets out the process and case for three deaccession decisions, to enable a determination to be made by the Cabinet Member. The office recommendation is that due process has been followed, and that it would be appropriate to recognise the expert opinion of the Museum Director and agree these proposals.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** Sectoral best practice is that disposals should not be financially motivated, but instead be made reflecting on the priorities of collection management. That factor notwithstanding, the deaccession of the Swathe Turner will ensure its proper conservation. Retaining ownership of this object would create a potential requirement for rehoming the artefact, with costs associated with its transportation and conservation.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** These requests are being processed through adopted policy.

7. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 7.1** The decisions covered in this report fall within the scope of recently approved policy. Moreover, based on a review of the specifics of the three proposals, it is considered that there is limited associated risk.



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8. EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.1 Not applicable

9. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Not applicable

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

(END)