

Brooklands Museum Collecting Policy

All acquisitions and loans are at the discretion of the curatorial team and any proposed donation or loan must be discussed with a curator.

Please see below for an overview of the Museum's current collections and areas in which we are and are not collecting.

An overview of current collections

Brooklands Museum's wheeled collections are focussed on the 1907 banked motor course and its influence on the development of the motorcar, motorcycle and bicycle. They also reflect the history of the UK's world-leading motor sport industry, which grew up at Brooklands before the Second World War and was still largely focused in the local area in the post-war years.

Equally the aviation collections are focussed on Brooklands Aerodrome, one of Britain's first airfields (home to many aviation pioneers and a thriving centre for both flying training and pioneering long distance flights), Brooklands vital role in producing military aircraft in both world wars, and the many renowned military and civil aircraft (including much of Concorde) designed and manufactured there until the last factory closed in 1989.

The collections are representative of all the most important parts of Brooklands' past: Aviation, Motorsport, Cycle Racing and Social History (including the land-owning Locke King family and the builders of the Track). The Museum is dedicated through its Collections Development Plan to researching, identifying, acquiring, conserving and exhibiting items that help interpret the history of Brooklands and of the many people - racing drivers and motorcyclists, pilots, engineers, designers, mechanics, spectators and staff - who gave the Track, Aerodrome and related factories (particularly those of Sopwith/Hawker/Vickers-Armstrongs/BAC/British Aerospace) their unique place in British history.

From a unique and historic range of motor racing and aviation buildings and site features, the collections include examples of the aircraft, racing and sports cars, motorcycles, airfield vehicles, cycles, aero-engines, archives, photographs, paintings, trophies, medals, costume and badges that help interpret the history of the site.

Priorities for future collecting

- Brooklands Museum is working toward focussing its collections more on **objects that tell the story of Brooklands and its unique role in the history of aviation and motoring**. It will also endeavour to own more of these vehicles and aircraft as opportunities arise and resources permit.
- Brooklands Museum is becoming increasingly in demand as a source of information on Grand Prix history and post war motor racing. There is no dedicated museum on this subject and apart from, to some extent, the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu and the British Motor Museum at Gaydon, no museums have both archives and an associated history with these subjects. The Museum will continue to collect items relating to **post-**

war Grand Prix racing with priority given to races held in Britain and British based teams, along with material featuring racing teams local to Brooklands with links to the track, such as Cooper, and any races which feature drivers who raced at Brooklands.

- The Museum aims to strengthen its collections in the area of **items that originate from the aviation industry and aircraft factories at Brooklands.** This is a subject area that is being developed and will become more prominent when the Brooklands Aircraft Factory project is completed.
- The Museum will focus its collection of Concorde related items to those which represent the **design and construction of Concorde at Brooklands**, or those **directly related to G-BBDG.**
 - Brooklands Museum no longer collects general Concorde memorabilia as the existing collection is a sufficient representation of the area.
- Opportunities will also be taken to develop the Museum's cycle racing collections, particularly with a view to owning more examples of **cycles with Brooklands racing history or other items relating to Brooklands cyclists.**
 - The Raleigh Collection and the general road bicycle collection will not be added to in future.
- The Museum would not wish to acquire further examples of veteran or family saloon cars for display unless they had a specific Brooklands significance, for example the Locke King's 1904 Siddeley.
- The Museum is additionally collecting oral history material. If you or someone you know has memories of Brooklands, for example working at or visiting Brooklands, and you are willing to be interviewed, please get in touch.

This Policy complies with the Museums Association's Code of Ethics for Museums (2015) which states that 'Museums are public-facing, collections-based institutions that preserve and transmit knowledge, culture and history for past, present and future generations'.

The governing body will ensure that both acquisition and disposal are carried out openly and with transparency.

By definition, the museum has a long-term purpose and holds collections in trust for the benefit of the public in relation to its stated objectives. The governing body therefore accepts the principle that sound curatorial reasons must be established before consideration is given to any acquisition to the collection, or the disposal of any items in the museum's collection.

Acquisitions outside the current stated policy will only be made in exceptional circumstances.

The museum recognises its responsibility, when acquiring additions to its collections, to ensure that care of collections, documentation arrangements and use of collections will meet the requirements of the Museum Accreditation Standard. This includes using SPECTRUM primary procedures for collections management. It will take into account limitations on collecting imposed by such factors as staffing, storage and care of collection arrangements.

The museum will undertake due diligence and make every effort not to acquire, whether by purchase, gift, bequest or exchange, any object or specimen unless the governing body or responsible officer is satisfied that the museum can acquire a valid title to the item in question.