

Decision Recording Form

Title	Loan of objects from the Ipswich Borough Council collections	Decision Maker	Head of Culture and Environment
Date of decision	16 th June 2020	Source of authority	Constitution, Part 3 Section 5 10.8 (a)
Date of Publication			

Background and Reason for decision

Background

This decision relates to the agreement of five loan requests and one loan extension related to the Ipswich Museum collections:

Consultation

The CIMS Museums Manager and CIMS Collections Working Team have been consulted in making these decisions. The Portfolio Holder for Development & Museums has been consulted in making these decisions.

Reason for decisions:

These loans will enable the IBC collections to contribute to three local exhibitions in the East of England region, continue the ongoing exhibition in London, as well as being used for a research project by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, and will continue the Museum Service's partnership working with a network of cultural organisations

- a. **Museum of East Anglian Life, Stowmarket**
(IPMSG: LO. 2020.01)

Revised loan to commence: 27 July 2020 at the earliest

Loan ends: 26 February 2021

This loan request is for a group of items for a temporary exhibition *Darwin's Mentor: Walking with Henslow* at the Museum of East Anglian Life. The exhibition is being undertaken in partnership with the local community of Hitcham in Suffolk, where Revd. John Stevens Henslow was the rector from 1837-1861, and will explore Henslow's work in supporting the village school which educated the poor children of the parish.

The exhibition will also include loans from the Suffolk Record Office, the University of Cambridge and the Museum of Zoology (Cambridge). The items requested from the Ipswich Museums' collection are:

- Portrait of *Professor John S. Henslow (1796–1861), President of Ipswich Subscription Museum (1850)* by an unknown artist, oil on canvas (IPSMG: R.1960.185)
- Book of letters written by J. S. Henslow (IPSMG: R.2020.02)
- A selection of Herbarium sheets (IPSMG: R.1935.313.4)
- The Henslow cabinet and jars (IPSMG: R.2020.03 and IPSMG: R.2020.04)
- Nine teaching aids used by Henslow (IPSMG: UR.1977.76)

- Front page from the Hitcham School register (no accession number)
- Elephant skull (IPSMG. HSM.2018.16)
- A selection of coprolites and barnacles (various accession numbers)
- A selection of seeds and plants in newspaper collected by Hitcham School (IPSMG: R.1935.313.5)
- A selection of up to ten examples of lithographs (1937.20.1-65)
- 'Flora in Suffolk' (1866) by Revd. J. S. Henslow and Edmund Skepper (IPSMG: R.1962.1.A)

Two of the requested objects are currently on display at Ipswich Museum, the portrait of Henslow (IPSMG: R.1960.185) and the elephant skull (IPSMG: HSM.2018.16). All the other items are in store and have not been on public display in recent years. Approval of this loan request would strengthen the very good working relationship with the Museum of East Anglian Life, a fellow Arts Council NPO in the area. It would also be of direct benefit by providing an opportunity to learn more about the contribution made by Henslow to the development of Ipswich Museum from 1847-1861 when he was the museum's President. This information will be of value in planning the new galleries in the redevelopment project.

b. Little Hall, Lavenham, Suffolk
(IPSMG: LO.2017.08)

Bell Ringers, Lavenham (c. 1963) by Reginald Brill (1902-1974), oil on canvas (IPSMG: R.1994.30)

Sweet Bells Jangled, preparatory pencil sketch for *Bell Ringers* by Reginald Brill (IPSMG: R.1996.13)

Loan to commence: 15 March 2021

Loan ends: 12 November 2021

This loan request is from Little Hall, Lavenham, where Reginald Brill and his wife ran a residential college for art students during the 1960s and now a museum. Little Hall has wanted to borrow 'Bell Ringers' for several years, but until recently the environmental conditions at the venue were not suitable for displaying the painting. Having made some changes to the display space, Little Hall have renewed their request and a site visit in December 2019 confirmed that the environment was now acceptable. It is also proposed to offer Little Hall a second work, a preparatory drawing, to complement the main work. 'Bell Ringers' is currently in store and has not been on public view for some years. It would be particularly appropriate to display the work in Lavenham where it was painted.

c. Towner Art Gallery, Eastbourne and Compton Verney, Warwickshire
(LO.2020.03)

Wartime Garden (1944) by Cedric Morris (1889-1982), oil on canvas (IPSMG: R.2010.17.4)

Loan commences: 26 September 2020

Loan ends: 13 June 2021

This loan request is for a temporary exhibition entitled *John Nash: The Landscape of Love and Solace* which will be shown at two venues: Towner Art Gallery, Eastbourne (26 September 2020 – 24 January 2021) and Compton Verney, Warwickshire (15 February – 13 June 2021). 'Wartime Garden' is currently in store and was previously lent to the Garden Museum, London in Summer 2018.

The Towner Art Gallery is a prestigious venue in the south-east of England which is well known for presenting major, large-scale exhibitions of UK and international modern art. Similarly Compton Verney has built a reputation over twenty years for hosting significant art exhibitions and indeed Ipswich previously lent to an exhibition at this venue in 2017.

This is an opportunity to promote the Ipswich art collection through a major exhibition alongside works from other galleries including the Imperial War Museum. The exhibition will be accompanied by a book, written by the art historian Andy Friend, which will provide a new perspective on Cedric Morris who is represented by other works in the Ipswich collection.

d. Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), Bury St Edmunds
(LO.2020.04).

Loan commences: 1 September 2020

Loan ends: 1 March 2021

This request relates to several fragments of Anglo-Saxon glassware found in archaeological excavations in Ipswich from the 1970s to 1990. The loan is to enable SCCAS to research the finds for publication in a book on Anglo-Saxon Ipswich.

e. Suffolk Record Office, The Hold, Ipswich
(LO.2020.05)

John Henniker, 2nd Lord Henniker in the uniform of Worlingworth Volunteers (1802) by Mather Brown (1761-1831), oil on canvas (IPSMG: R.1937.236)

Loan commences: tbc 2020

Loan ends: tbc 2025

This request comes jointly from the Suffolk Record Office and the Worlingworth Local History Group. It is proposed that the painting of 'Lord Henniker' will go on display in the John Blatchly Library of The Hold following its conservation, which will be funded by the Worlingworth Local History Group. The costs of the conservation work, including framing, are considerable and would not be a priority for Ipswich Borough Council, particularly as the very large size of the work (236 x 135cm) means that it could not be displayed in any IBC venue. Essentially if this loan does not go ahead the painting is unlikely to be conserved in the foreseeable future.

This loan provides an opportunity to put this historically important work on display. Lord Henniker's portrait is thought to be the only surviving painting of a Suffolk man in the uniform of a volunteer soldier at the time of the war against Napoleon (1799-1815). The artist Mather Brown was born in Boston, Massachusetts and was an accomplished portrait painter whose subjects included the US president Thomas Jefferson and George IV as Prince of Wales. The

display in The Hold would be supported by archive material from the Suffolk Record Office and the Worlingworth Local History Society.

f. Sir John Soane’s Museum, London

(LO.2019.01)

Loan commenced: 13 January 2020

Loan ends: 30 September 2020 (extension as below)

IPSMG:R.1997.5.1 Langlands & Bell, *Millbank Penitentiary*, 1994

Original exhibition dates: 26.02.2020 – 25.05.2020

New exhibition dates: 26.02.2020 - 27.09.2020

Due to COVID-19 and the national lockdown the Sir John Soane’s Museum have requested an extension to the loan until end of September 2020. Currently the Museum is closed, however they have made the exhibition available online for visitors. Ipswich’s loan of IPSMG:R.1997.5.1 Langlands & Bell, *Millbank Penitentiary*, 1994 can be seen on the ground floor in the Foyle Space as part of the exhibition *Langlands & Bell: Degrees of Truth*.

<https://www.soane.org/langlands-bell-degrees-truth/ground-floor#foyle-space>

This loan request extension is for a temporary exhibition, Langlands & Bell at Sir John Soane’s Museum). New artworks made by Ben Langlands and Nikki Bell especially for this exhibition, along with loans from private and museum collections, have been installed in dialogue with Sir John Soane’s collection of art, architecture and antiquities. Sir John Soane (1753-1837) was an architect and collector of art and antiquities in the 18th century.

Langlands & Bell, *Millbank Penitentiary*, 1994 is central to the curatorial vision of the exhibition and is displayed in a prominent and pivotal location within the museum, in the centre of the Foyle Space. The work has been in store. It was last on loan in 2009-2010 when it was shown at Norwich and Nottingham. Ipswich has not previously lent to the Sir John Soane Museum, so this extension request is an opportunity to continue to work with a new museum partner.

Conflict of interest	N/A		Relevant Portfolio(s)	Development and Museums			
ALL WARDS	Y		<i>Use a Y in the table below to mark the wards affected if not all wards</i>				
NW	NE		CENTRAL	SW		SE	
Castle Hill		Bixley	Alexandra		Bridge		Gainsborough
Whitton		Rushmere	St Margaret’s		Gipping		Holywells
Whitehouse		St John’s	St John’s		Sprites		Priory Heath
			Westgate		Stoke Park		
Once complete the Decision Maker must send this form and any background documentation for publication to Monitoring.officer@ipswich.gov.uk				Admin use only			