



CHATHAM HISTORIC DOCKYARD TRUST

**COLLECTING POLICY
2006-2011**

February 2006

**Acquisition & Disposal Policy revised and adopted
21st September 2005**

**Collecting Policy adopted by the Board of Management
February 2006**

Due for Review by January 2011

**Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust
Fully Accredited Museum
Registered Charity: 292101**

Consultation with other Museums

This is the third review of the Trust's Collecting Policy. The initial policy (1996-2001) was circulated, and commented on, by a wide range of national, regional and local museums known to collect in similar areas. The policy was reviewed in 2001 in line with a position paper circulated, and accepted, by the lead museums group of the United Kingdom Maritime Collections Strategy (UKMCS) of which the Historic Dockyard is a member.

This third iteration of the Collecting Policy has again been circulated to the UKMCS lead museums group and also to museum colleagues in key South East regional and local museums through the South East Museum hub and the Kent Medway Museums Partnership. The Trust will continue to consult with these organisations on collecting matters particularly where conflicts of interest arise or to define areas of specialisms in order to avoid unnecessary duplication and waste of resources.

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INTRODUCTION

The Historic Dockyard at Chatham is a site of exceptional international maritime heritage significance.

Encompassing an area of around 80 acres, with approximately 100 buildings and structures it was in use as a Royal Dockyard from 1613 to 1984 and is arguably the most complete Dockyard of the Age of Sail to survive in the world. It also contains a number of important later 19th Century structures.

The Chatham Dockyard played a highly important and significant role in supporting the Royal Navy for over four hundred years, building over 400 ships including HMS *Victory*, Nelson's flagship at Trafalgar and repairing and maintaining thousands more. In that time the Royal Navy achieved and maintained an unrivalled mastery of the seas – a critical factor in the development of Britain's global influence.

For over 400 years, from its earliest foundations in the reign of Henry VIII to the Falklands Crisis on 1982 - the Dockyard touched the lives of thousands of local people through:

- employment - directly and indirectly - the dockyard direct workforce rose to over 17,000 people during the Second World War
- service in the Royal Navy on ships built at Chatham and manned from Chatham - in the two world wars nearly a third of the Navy's seamen - c35,000 men had Chatham as their home port
- economically and socially - as the area's principal employer
- educationally - entrance to the dockyard workforce was by examination - for much of the 20th century local schools targeted many of their pupils towards success in the dockyard entrance examinations rather than national qualifications

In 1998 The Historic Dockyard was identified by the UK government as a key part of a potential World Heritage Site and placed on the UK Tentative List of sites for future nomination.

Core Charitable Objectives & Museum Purposes

As a registered charity Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust has two core objectives:

- To secure for the public benefit the preservation and use of the Historic Dockyard at Chatham in the County of Kent in a manner appropriate to its archaeological, historical and architectural importance
- To promote and foster for the public benefit a wide knowledge and understanding of the archaeological, historical and architectural significance of the Historic Dockyard.

As a fully accredited museum we collect, preserve, study and exhibit objects and material connected with the history of:

- The people who worked in, or were associated with, the dockyard
- The development of Royal Navy warship design and construction
- The Royal Navy's use of the River Medway and its role in the development of the Medway area.

As a partner in the south east regional museum hub, part of DCMS/MLA's Renaissance in the Regions initiative to transform regional museums the Trust provides leadership for all museums in the region, particularly those in the Kent-Medway sub region, and helps sustain high standards of museum excellence.

This Collecting Policy is designed to support these objectives and purposes

Collections

Historic material collected in support of the Trust's objectives and museum purposes is made accessible in a number of ways - displayed through exhibitions in the dockyard's principal galleries (see Annex 1); made available for research through dedicated on-site study facilities and increasingly on-line through the Trust's website.

During the period of this Policy the Trust plans to implement three major museum gallery development projects.

No 3 Covered Slip

Visitor access to an iconic timber shipbuilding slipway and creation of a joint large object open access store in partnership with the Royal Engineers Museum.

Ropery re-display

Re-interpretation of the ropery. The ropery is now the oldest of the Trust's galleries and no longer fits well with the costumed tour style of interpretation introduced recently.

Ships Timbers Find

Recovery, conservation and display of a unique collection of ships timbers found during works to one of the dockyard's buildings. Consideration being given to their display in the context of an archaeological discovery centre

All three largely relate to the display, or re-display of existing collection although some additional collecting - particularly in the context of the ropery and ships timbers may need to be supported by some active collecting.

A further area of active collecting will be oral history where we plan to significantly increase the collection of oral testimony - particularly from people who worked in, or were associated with the dockyard and its ships.

National Museums at Chatham

A fourth major project, to be located in No 1 Smithery is a partnership project with three national museums (Imperial War Museum, National Maritime Museum and Science Museum) to develop exhibition galleries to display maritime material drawn from their collections, a touring exhibition centre and a research centre for maritime models.

The collections displayed or held within the new centre will however remain the responsibility of the partner museums involved, and thus does not have any implications for the Trust's Collecting Policy.

ACQUISITION & DISPOSAL POLICY

(Approved by the Board of Management 21st September 2005)

Collecting Policy Review

This Collecting Policy will be reviewed at regular intervals, not exceeding 5 years. The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) and SEMLAC will be notified of any changes to the Acquisition and Disposals Policy, and the implications of any such changes for the future of existing collections. The Acquisition and Disposal Policy will be published and reviewed from time to time, at least once every five years. The date when the policy is next due for review is noted above.

Acquisitions

The Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust will collect in accordance with the UK Museums Association's *Code of Ethics 2002* and the International Congress of Maritime Museum's *Standard for the Exploration of Underwater Cultural Sites and the Acquisition, Preservation and Exhibition of Artifacts Recovered from Shipwrecks and other Sites*, adopted at Barcelona in September 1993. As the Trust holds archive material, including photographs and printed ephemera, it will be guided by the *Code of Practice on Archives for Museums in the United Kingdom (3rd ed., 2002)* and will also aim to meet the standards outlined in the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments *Standards for Record Repositories (1990)*.

In particular, the Trust will:

- The Trust recognises its responsibility, in acquiring additions to its collections, to ensure that care of collections, documentation arrangements and use of collections will meet the requirements of the Accreditation Standard. It will take into account limitations on collecting imposed by such factors as inadequate staffing, storage and care of collection arrangements.
- only collect such material as identified in the following collections lists which have been drawn up in consultation with other museums known to be collecting in similar or related fields. The Trust will consult with other museums where conflicts of interest may arise or to define areas of specialisms, in order to avoid unnecessary duplication and waste of resources.
- acquisitions outside this policy will only be made in very exceptional circumstances, and then only after proper consideration by the Trust's Board of Management, having regard to the interests of other museums.
- the Trust will exercise due diligence and make every effort not to acquire, whether by purchase, gift, bequest, or exchange, any object or specimen unless the Board of Management or responsible officer (Curator) is satisfied that the Trust can acquire a valid title to the item in question, and that in particular it has not been acquired in, or exported from, its country of origin (or any intermediate country in which it may have been legally owned) in violation of that country's laws. (For the purposes of this paragraph, 'country of origin' includes the United Kingdom).

- In accordance with the provisions of the UNESCO 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer Ownership of Cultural Property which the UK ratified with effect from November 1 2002, and the Dealing in Cultural Objects (Offences) Act 2003, the Trust will reject any items that have been illicitly traded. The Board of Management will be guided by the national guidance on the responsible acquisition of cultural property issued by DCMS in 2005.
- as the Trust holds archives, including photographic and printed ephemera, the Board of Management will be guided by the *Code of Practice on Archives for Museums in the United Kingdom (3rd ed., 2002)*. The Trust will also aim to meet the standards outlined in the Royal Commission on Historic Manuscripts *Standards for Record Repositories* (1990).
- the Trust does not seek to acquire biological or geological material in its own right, but should any such item be considered for acquisition under any of the following collecting areas, it will not acquire by any direct or indirect means any specimen that has been collected, sold or otherwise transferred in contravention of any national or international wildlife protection or natural history conservation law or treaty of the United Kingdom or any country, except with the express consent of an appropriate outside authority (e.g. a British court in the case of a specimen seized from a third party under the Protection of Birds Acts).
- So far as British or foreign archaeological antiquities (including excavated ceramics) are concerned, in addition to the above safeguards, the Trust will not acquire archaeological antiquities (including excavated ceramics) in any case where the Board of Management or the responsible officer (Curator) has any suspicion that the circumstances of their recovery involved a failure to follow the appropriate legal procedures, such as reporting finds to the landowner or occupier of the land and to the proper authorities in the case of possible treasure as defined by the Treasure Act 1996 (in England, Northern Ireland and Wales) or reporting finds through the Treasure Trove procedure (in Scotland).
- So far as artefacts recovered from underwater sites are concerned the Trust will in addition not knowingly acquire or exhibit artefacts which have been stolen, illegally exported from their country of origin, illegally salvaged or removed from commercially exploited¹ archaeological or historic sites in recent times².
- Any exceptions to the above clauses will only be because the Trust is either:
 - Acting as an externally approved repository of last resort for material of local (UK) origin; or
 - acquiring an item of minor importance that lacks secure ownership history but in the best judgement of experts in the field concerned as not been illicitly traded; or acting with the permission of

¹ In the 1993 Barcelona Standards a 'commercially exploited' heritage site is one where the primary motive for investigation is private financial gain.

² Since the 1990 ICMM Congress

authorities with the requisite jurisdiction in the county of origin; or in possession of reliable documentary evidence that the item was exported from its country of origin before 1970.

In these cases the museum will be open and transparent in the way it makes decisions and will act only with the express consent of an appropriate outside authority.

- The Trust will use the 'Spoilation of Works of Art during the Holocaust and World War II period'; issued for non-national museums in 1999 by the Museums and Galleries Commission.

Methods of Acquisition

Appropriate objects or material will normally be acquired for the collections through gifts, purchases, and bequests. In each case, title to the item will be acquired by the Trust with the intention of holding it in perpetuity. Occasionally items may be borrowed from an owner to fulfil the Trust's own exhibition or display requirements, but particularly important items may be taken on loan when it is judged that they are unlikely to be available from other sources. Exchanges (involving the transfer of title to material already in the Trust's collections) will not normally be considered and would be referred to the Trust's Board of Management as part of the disposals procedure.

Due to the nature of the Trust's activities, the Trust may occasionally acquire certain items, which are not intended to be retained for the permanent collections. These items may be used as educational or school handling collections, or as spares or consumable working parts for operating industrial and maritime equipment and machinery. In the case of such material, documentation will clearly show the intended use of the object and donors will be made aware of this possibility at the time of entry and informed as soon as a decision has been made regarding the material. These objects shall be recorded separately outside the main accession record and shall not be treated as part of the permanent collection since their intended use implies that preservation cannot be guaranteed.

Disposals

By definition, the Trust has a long-term purpose and should possess (or intend to acquire) permanent collections in relation to its stated objectives. The Trust's Board of Management accepts the principle that, except for sound curatorial reasons, there is a strong presumption against the disposal of any items in the museum's collection except as set out below.

In particular:

- In those cases where the Trust is legally free to dispose of an item (if this is in doubt, advice will be sought) it is agreed that any decision to sell or otherwise dispose of material from the collections will be taken only after due consideration. Decisions to dispose of items will not be made with the principal aim of generating funds. Once a decision to dispose of an item has been taken, priority will be given to retaining the item within the public domain, unless it is to be destroyed and with this in view it will be

offered first, by exchange, gift or sale directly to other accredited museums likely to be interested in its acquisition before sale to other interested individuals or organisations is considered.

- In cases in which an arrangement for the exchange, gift, or sale of material is not being made with an individual accredited museum, the museum community at large will be advised of the intention to dispose of material. This will normally be through an announcement in the Museum Association's *Museum Journal* and other appropriate professional journal. The announcement will indicate the number and nature of the specimens or objects involved, and the basis on which material will be transferred to another institution. Preference will be given to expressions of interest from other accredited museums. A period of at least two months will be allowed for an interest in acquiring the material to be expressed. At the end of this period, if no expressions of interest have been received, the museum may consider disposing of the material to other interested individuals and organisations.
- A decision to dispose of a specimen or object, whether by exchange, sale or gift or destruction (in the case of an item too badly damaged or deteriorated to be of any use for the purposes of the collections), will be the responsibility of the Board of Management acting on the advice of the professional curatorial staff and not of the curator of the collection acting alone. Full records will be kept of all such decisions on disposals and the items involved and proper arrangements made for the preservation and/or transfer, as appropriate of the documentation relating to the items concerned, including photographic records where practicable in accordance with SPECTRUM Procedure on de-accession and disposal.
- Where a museum object has been acquired with the aid of an external funding organisation. In such cases, any conditions attached to the original grant will be followed. If the object is sold, repayment of the original grant may be required.
- Any monies received from the disposal of items will be applied solely for the benefit of the collections. This normally means the purchase of further acquisitions but in exceptional circumstances, improvements relating to the care of collections may be justifiable. Advice on these cases will be sought from the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA).

COLLECTION GUIDE

The collections have been divided into three categories - object collections; general reference collections and historic dockyard reference collections. They are presented in alphabetical order and therefore no significance should be attached to the order in which they are listed.

A. Object Collections

1. Archaeological Material

Existing Collection

Current archaeological material held falls into two distinct groups - material related to the wreck of the *Invincible*, a 3rd Rate ship of the line which sank in 1758 (some 700 or so items collected between 1986 and 1990) and archaeological material which has resulted from archaeological investigations carried out on the Historic Dockyard site and the larger Chatham Dockyard site, since the closure of the naval base in 1984 as part of re-development and regeneration works.

Future Collecting

Priority will be given to items found within the site of Chatham Dockyard as the result of archaeological excavations carried out during the repair or re-development of the site, taking into account the Museum's Association code of practice with respect of archaeological material.

Sections of ships and material recovered from other underwater cultural sites will only be collected where particularly relevant to the Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust's museum mission and will take into account the provisions of the International Congress of Maritime Museums Standards approved at Barcelona in September 1993.

2. Clothing

Existing Collection

A relatively small quantity of items of clothing and personal equipment relating to dockyard workers - particularly protective clothing - and naval uniform.

Future Collecting

Will concentrate on clothing and personal equipment issued to or used by dockyard workers in all trades in the dockyard with the intention of expanding the Trust's holdings in this area of collections considerably. Naval uniform will be collected primarily for interpretation and display purposes, except where there is clear evidence of a direct link between the original owner/wearer and the dockyard, naval base or Chatham Division. This is not seen as an area of major expansion of collecting.

3. Ephemera

Existing Collection

A small collection of miscellaneous items having a connection with the Trust's areas of collecting which do not readily fall into other categories, most generally items made for or by dockyard workers, often from scrap material.

Future Collecting

As above. Not anticipated to be a major growth area of the collections, all items to have a specific Chatham Dockyard/Naval Base connection and history.

4. Models

Existing Collecting

Models of items of naval, engineering, ordnance and architectural interest related to the Trust's main areas of collecting of both historic and modern manufacture.

Future Collecting

a. Ships

Collecting to be primarily restricted to models of warships built on the Medway, or with a strong connection to the Chatham Dockyard and naval base, although the interpretation requirements of future galleries will be recognised and the scope broadened to include models of vessels of particular technical merit, Models of ships built by dockyard or naval personnel based at Chatham or Sheerness yards.

b. Engineering

Models of warship propulsion systems and of other ship's mechanical fittings, machine tools and engineering processes associated with shipbuilding and the work of the dockyard.

c. Architectural

Models of dockyard buildings and processes - primarily of Chatham or Sheerness yards, but also to be expanded to include Medway based Ordnance Board and Victualling Board premises.

5. Naval Aircraft

Existing Collection

In the period since the last Collecting Policy was adopted, the Trust has made an exceptional acquisition of a naval aircraft - a Dragonfly helicopter. The Dragonfly helicopter is not a unique specimen in its own right (it is represented in other collections), but it has been acquired principally as an 'aid to display'.

Future Collecting

It is not envisaged that this will be a growth area for future collecting.

6. Ordnance

Existing Collection

The Trust holds a large collection (c 100 items) of naval muzzle loading guns, many of which were gifted to it by the Ministry of Defence on the closure of the dockyard or have been recovered from the Chatham Dockyard site during the demolition of buildings prior to the re-development of Chatham Maritime. Subsequently further muzzle loading guns have been added to the collection. The Trust also holds a small number of torpedoes and mines.

Future Collecting

a. Guns

Further ordnance items will be added to the collection to enable the collection to adequately demonstrate the evolution of naval ordnance, particularly those specimens relevant to the interpretation requirements of existing or future galleries.

b. Gannet

Items of ordnance, guns and firearms, original and replica will be acquired or made as required for the fitting out of the 1878 Sloop Gannet as part of her restoration.

c. Torpedoes and Mines

Further appropriate examples to be acquired, as required, for the development of existing and future galleries including the future interpretation requirements of the submarine Ocelot. It is not anticipated that this will become an area of major expansion of the collections.

7. Ships, Small Craft and Boats

Existing Collection

The Trust has acquired a small number of historic vessels that have been carefully selected as essential elements in the interpretation of the site. Most significant are the three historic warships:

- HMS Gannet (1878) a transitional period sloop built on the River Medway at Sheerness
- HMS Cavalier (1944) - surviving Second World War destroyer ³
- HMS Ocelot (1962) - an the 'O' class submarine Ocelot, the last warship built for the Royal Navy at Chatham

Also a small number of relevant smaller craft including HSL 376, a 1944 Harbour Service Launch.

HMS Gannet has been listed as part of the National Historic Ship Committees 'Core National Collection', whilst HMS Cavalier and HSL 376 are listed as Designated Vessels.

Future Collecting

The Trust does not plan to acquire further large vessels and given constraints on funding, storage, restoration and conservation, is unlikely to pursue the acquisition of any further small craft during the lifetime of this Collecting Policy.

Small sections of ships demonstrating particular methods of design and construction may be acquired, particularly if relevant to future galleries.

8. Ships - Marine Engineering and Propulsion

Existing Collection

The Trust has sought and collected significant examples of warship propulsion systems. The two main groups of equipment being a 1944 steam triple expansion engine and associated equipment and most recently a sectioned boiler, turbine and gearbox from a 1950's Blackwood class frigate acquired from the Royal Navy's engineering training school at HMS Sultan. Smaller associated items (condensers, thrust blocks, etc.) have also been acquired. An Admiralty Standard Range 1 (ASRI) diesel engine, designed and built at Chatham has also been acquired - fitted to the Submarine Ocelot. These items are shortly to be displayed in the 3 Slip large object store.

Future Collecting

Two examples of other marine power systems are still sought to complete the Trust's collections of marine engineering systems - an early 'simple' marine steam engine and a modern marinised gas turbine. Neither are seen as a high priority.

³ Owned by HMS Cavalier (Chatham) Trust

9. Tools and Industrial Equipment

Existing Collection

The Trust holds an extensive collection of hand tools, machine tools and industrial equipment related to the shipbuilding process at Chatham Dockyard. The machine tools collection in particular ranges from the extremely large (a 200 ton Plate Bending Machine) to the relatively small. Miscellaneous equipment related to the dockyard has also been collected.

The Trust is also responsible for a major collection of historic ropemaking equipment and machinery still operated 'on display' to visitors in the Ropery. .

Future Collecting

Materials recovered from the Smithery have been through a preliminary sift and items retained for both collection and display purposes. A final review will be undertaken on completion of the Smithery project.

A small number of hand and machine tools may be added to the collections either to fill significant gaps or if related to a particular person of interest to the history of the Dockyard.

10. Transport

Existing Collection

Two of Chatham Dockyard's railway locomotives (one steam and one diesel), together with two steam cranes and a number of railway goods vehicles are held by the Trust. In addition, a few examples of mechanised road transport vehicles are represented in the collections.

Future Collecting

Further road and railway objects may be added to the collection providing that they have a direct relevance to the dockyard and its history.⁴

11. Worcester Collection

Existing Collection

In 1989, following the closure of the Merchant Navy College at Greenhithe in North Kent, the Trust took over responsibility for the collection of historic material, objects and some records relating to the Training Ship Worcester that were held there. Some items, principally decorative silver pieces are on loan from the Marine Society.

⁴ In addition other items may be acquired by the Trust as part of its plans to return the railway to operation but any such items - not of relevance to the dockyard will not be taken into the museum collections.

Future Collecting

Additional items relating to the training ship, mostly sourced through the Association of Old Worcesters, will be added to the collection. This is not seen as a major growth area.

B. General Reference Collections

The Trust will collect reference material related to its main museum collecting themes. In particular:

- * the design and construction of warships for the Royal Navy, particularly those built, repaired or refitted at Chatham and Sheerness.
- * the history and topography of Royal Dockyards, particularly those on the River Medway at Chatham and Sheerness.
- * crafts, trades and skills of the dockyard worker
- * personalities connected with the dockyard and naval base
- * design and development of naval ordnance
- * general reference material relating to navies, shipbuilding, other dockyards and private yards
- * development of Chatham Dockyard site after closure of the Naval Base (see also section C - Historic Dockyard Reference Collections)

Much primary material concerning the dockyard and its history is held by other institutions and collections, most significantly in the Public Records Office and National Maritime Museum. Selective copying of such material may take place with the agreement of the institutions concerned to enable primary source material to be made available within the dockyard.

1. Works of Art

Existing Collection

In addition to a major ceiling painting attributed to Thomas Highmore and Sir William Thornhill, known to have been on board the Royal Sovereign in 1701 and now in the Commissioner's House, the Trust holds a number of paintings of topographical and personality interest relating to the development of the dockyard at Chatham. Most important is a major work in oil by Elias Martin, an early Royal Academician and Sergeant Painter to the Swedish Court.

Future Collecting

Works of Art of particular relevance to Chatham Dockyard, in particular those of topographical interest and those relating to ships and people connected with the Dockyards at Chatham and Sheerness.

2. Printed Books and Manuscripts

Existing Collection

A further 8,500 volumes were donated to the Library by Mrs Joan Ashcroft in 1999, complementing the 10,000 volumes acquired following the demise of the Merchant Navy College at Greenhithe in 1989, and a major donation of 20th century Navy Lists. Over the past decade acquisitions have been concentrated on the key areas of interest outlined above and on the history and development of the Historic Dockyard (see Section C).

Future Collecting

Will follow the format of previous years concentrating on the acquisition of appropriate works in the key areas of interest.

3. Maps, Plans and Charts

Existing Collections

The Trust holds a few examples of original maps, plans and charts relating to the Chatham Dockyard site.

Future Collecting

Maps, plans and charts relating to the Royal Dockyards at Chatham and Sheerness and the Royal Navy's use of the River Medway and environs.

4. Architectural Drawings

Existing Collections

Some historic drawings of buildings and structures at Chatham Dockyard are held directly by the Trust, others are held on loan from the National Maritime Museum, some of which are now held on microfilm as well.

Future Collecting

Historic drawings will be collected as appropriate bearing in mind the holdings of the National Maritime Museum, Public Records Office and Historic Monuments Record.

5. Photographs and Film

Existing Collections

Two principal collections of photographs are held by the Trust. These are the Pembroke Studios collection of photographs relating to Chatham Dockyard and visiting ships during the 1950's and the Reid collection of photographs of Royal Navy ships put together by a Chatham based officer. The Historical Society also holds considerable numbers of dockyard photographs - particularly those taken in connection with Periscope, the Dockyard newspaper during the period c. 1960 - 84.

Future Collecting

Photographs relating to the dockyards at Chatham and Sheerness and warships built or refitted at either dockyard. In particular, efforts are to be made to increase holdings of dockyard photographs remaining within the local community, as the official dockyard photographic collection would appear to have been largely destroyed.

6. Oral History

Existing Collections

Until 2004, only a small amount of oral history material was held, mostly generated by others and copied for the Trust. Since 2004, a number of oral history projects have been undertaken by members of the curatorial team. These projects have concentrated on interviews with ex-Dockyard and Naval personnel.

Future Collecting

Interviews with ex-Dockyard personnel (especially those from ethnic minority backgrounds) will be undertaken in the near future. It is intended to continue undertaking interviews in the foreseeable future.

C. Historic Dockyard Reference Collections

Collection of material, both objects and archival based to provide a record of the development of the Historic Dockyard after 1984, covering archaeological investigation, building repair and restoration, gallery development and programmes. Collecting will take place in the following areas:

1. Archaeological finds
2. Architectural sample
3. Contract and other documents
4. Correspondence and other records
5. Architectural drawings
6. Photographs and film
7. Printed material

ANNEX 1

Current Galleries

Museum of the Dockyard

- Tells the over-arching story of Chatham Dockyard through four centuries - setting the site in a context of time and place

Wooden Walls

- A recreation of the dockyard of 1758 and the construction of the 3rd Rate ship *Valiant*

The Ropery

- Ropemaking at Chatham

Historic Warships

- *HMS Gannet (1878) - Victorian Sloop*
- *HMS Cavalier (1944)⁵ - Second World War Destroyer*
- *HMS Ocelot (1962) Cold War submarine*

Lifeboat!

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution's national historic collection of lifeboats .⁶

⁵ HMS Cavalier is owned by a subsidiary Trust - the HMS Cavalier Trust which has its own Collecting Policy. The ship and its collections are an integral part of the Trust's 'museum' offer and are managed by CHDT on behalf of HMS CCT

⁶ Whilst the Trust provides the location and 'front of house' services to the Lifeboat! gallery, curatorial responsibility and the provision of curatorial expertise remains the responsibility of the RNLI at Poole.