

Isle of Wight Steam Railway

Care and Conservation Policy

Date on which this policy was approved by governing body: 9 September 2017

This policy will be published and reviewed from time to time, at least once every five years.

Date at which this policy is due for review: 9 September 2022

This document details the policy which The Isle of Wight Steam Railway (IWSR) uses in the care and conservation of its Collection.

We recognise that a museum collection is held in trust for future generations. We take our responsibilities very seriously and aim to ensure that items entrusted to us for the future are cared for to the highest standard that it is practicable to achieve. In so doing we balance the needs of the present with those of future generations.

We will endeavour to store all objects in the correct environment dependent on the condition and integrity of that object, although we accept that this may initially not always be possible.

It is our policy to continuously improve the conditions in which we care for our collection over the long term. We aim to achieve standards that meet and where possible exceed those recognised as current best practice in the United Kingdom. The Board will allocate a budget and apply for such grants as may be available to ensure that the care of our collection is financed as a priority.

We will take active conservation action where:

- An artefact is to be displayed and requires repair, cleaning, or other conservation work
- Such action is necessary to prevent or reduce deterioration caused by the passage of time
- Working artefacts require maintenance to keep them in working order.

The museum will check the suitability of conservators chosen to work or advise on the collections and will keep detailed records of all work carried out on objects.

In all cases we will attempt to avoid damage to original components and retain in store samples of any original components (or samples of) any that have to be replaced.