

**SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT GRID - Reviewing Significance 2.0**

©Caroline Reed

	<b>A PROVENANCE / ACQUISITION</b>	<b>B RARITY / UNIQUENESS</b>	<b>C VISUAL &amp; SENSORY IMPACT</b>	<b>D CONDITION / COMPLETENESS</b>	<b>E HISTORICAL MEANING</b>	<b>F 'EXPLOITABILITY' – for research, education, profile raising, business support, tourism etc.</b>
<b>1 KEY POINTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Who created, made, owned or used it? Is there evidence?</li> <li>When/where /why it was made or produced? Is there evidence?</li> <li>When / for how long it was used? Is there a well-evidenced chain of ownership and use?</li> <li>Is it unusually well-provenanced / documented for its class or type?</li> <li>Do we know how/when/why it was acquired by the museum and from whom?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is it, unique, rare, unusual or an example of an extinct or endangered species?</li> <li>Is it a fine example of its type?</li> <li>Does it have unusual distinguishing features?</li> <li>Is it a typical / characteristic example of its type?</li> <li>Is it of a quality, class or type rarely accessible for viewing as part of a public collection?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is it well designed, crafted or made?</li> <li>Was its design original, innovative or influential?</li> <li>Does it demonstrate technical and/or creative accomplishment?</li> <li>Does it have a strong visual / sensory impact?</li> <li>Is its impact affected by its condition?</li> <li>Is it, or has it been, deemed beautiful, pleasing, striking or interesting?</li> <li>Do its form, colour, materials or imagery have an implicit symbolic meaning?</li> <li>Does/could it evoke a strong personal / cultural response?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is it intact / complete?</li> <li>Is it in good condition for its type?</li> <li>Is it in largely in original condition?</li> <li>If altered before acquisition by the museum, does this tell us anything about it's changing history of use / ownership?</li> <li>What do signs of wear and tear tell us about its history of use?</li> <li>If it's restored / conserved how authentically / sensitively has this been done?</li> <li>Does it's restoration help viewers to understand it's original purpose / what it looked like?</li> <li>Is it a working item in working order?</li> </ul>	<p><i>Note: In this column it might be helpful to look at the boxes below first and then return to this box to see if anything needs adding in response to these more general 'key points' questions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is it associated with a particular person, family group, event, place or activity?</li> <li>Does it reflect an historic theme, process or pattern of life?</li> <li>Does it contribute to our understanding of a period, place, activity, person, family, group or event?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is the item/ collection currently used for scientific or other research and/or answering enquiries (including family history) / learning / outreach?</li> <li>Does/could it have clear research / learning / outreach potential?</li> <li>Does it enrich understanding of other material in our collections?</li> <li>Does/could it support National Curriculum based or other learning activities (including adult)?</li> <li>Does/could it be used to reach new audiences?</li> <li>Could it support reminiscence work?</li> <li>Does/could it inspire creativity or support income generation, business or product development (either for the museum or external users)?</li> <li>Does/could it support profile raising and tourism?</li> <li>Has it ever/ could it be loaned for display/research by other heritage organisation(s)?</li> </ul>
<b>2 NATIONAL / INTERNATIONAL</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the <u>provenance</u> connect it to historical event, person, family, place, group or theme of national / international significance?</li> <li>Is the artist, writer, designer, creator recognised to be of national / international importance?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is ours the only surviving example worldwide /in UK?</li> <li>Is it an outstanding or iconic example of its class or type?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is it an excellent example of a style, design, artistic movement or iconography?</li> <li>Does it show outstanding artistic design, innovation or technical accomplishment?</li> <li>Has is it, or objects of its type, been used as a source or inspiration by other artists / designers / makers?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is it in exceptionally good condition for its type?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does it make a fundamental contribution to our understanding of the world or the study of a particular discipline?</li> <li>Does it make a significant contribution to the study of a discipline within the UK?</li> <li>Does it represent / is it directly connected with an important historical event of national significance?</li> <li>Did it contribute to changing course of national history?</li> <li>Is it an example of an object type associated with an important event, person, family, group, movement, period, activity, or theme?</li> <li>Is it an example of an object type representing a course or pattern of UK national or cultural history?</li> <li>Is it associated with a pivotal discovery or innovation in the history of science, technology or design?</li> <li>Does it have a pivotal place the development of the work of a particular artist, creative movement or school?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does / could it support national / international research in any field? –</li> <li>Does/could it support research on an important, rare or endangered aspect of the natural environment?</li> <li>Is it/could it be a key resource for the study of national or international natural, social, cultural or political history?</li> </ul>
<b>3 REGIONAL / CROSS REGIONAL</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the provenance connect it to historical event, person, family, group, place or theme of specific regional significance?</li> <li>Does the artist, writer, designer, creator have strong regional connections?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is it the only, or one of the best examples of its class or type held regionally?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do its form, colour, materials or imagery have a regionally significant symbolic meaning?</li> <li>Has is it, or objects of its type, been used as a source or inspiration by specifically regional artists / designers / makers?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does its condition or evidence of wear have any regionally specific significance?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is it an example of object type associated with important regional event, person, family, group, movement, period, activity or theme?</li> <li>Does it represent a course or pattern of regional history or culture?</li> <li>Is it associated with a regionally significant discovery or innovation in the history of science, technology, design or working life?</li> <li>Is it related to regionally significant topography, industry, trade, craft, person or group?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does/could the item or collection support research on an important, aspect of the regional natural environment?</li> <li>Does/could it enhance public understanding of the region's natural, social, cultural or political history, working life or industry?</li> <li>Does/could it support regional tourism?</li> <li>Does/could it support specifically regional income generation, business or product development?</li> </ul>

	<b>A PROVENANCE</b>	<b>B RARITY / UNIQUENESS</b>	<b>C VISUAL &amp; SENSORY IMPACT</b>	<b>D CONDITION / COMPLETENESS</b>	<b>E HISTORICAL MEANING</b>	<b>F 'EXPLOITABILITY' – for research, education, profile raising, business support, tourism etc.</b>
<b>4 LOCALLY SPECIFIC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the provenance connect it to historical event, person, family, group place or theme of specific local significance?</li> <li>Is the artist, writer, designer, creator have strong local connections?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is it the only, or one of the best examples of its class or type held locally?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is it a good or outstanding example of its type within local collections?</li> <li>Do its form, colour, materials or imagery have a locally significant symbolic meaning?</li> <li>Has is it, or objects of its type, been used as a source or inspiration by specifically local artists / designers / makers?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does its condition or evidence of wear have any locally specific significance – e.g. the way a garment was worn or a tool used?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is it an example of object type associated with an important local event, person, family, group, period, activity or theme?</li> <li>Is it an example of locally specific cultural or social activity?</li> <li>Is it an example of locally specific domestic or working life activity?</li> <li>Is it related to locally significant topography, industry, trade, craft, person or group?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does/could the item or collection support research on the locally specific natural environment?</li> <li>Does/could it enhance public understanding of locally specific social, cultural or political history, working life or industry?</li> <li>Does/could it support locally specific creative or economic activity, including tourism?</li> </ul>
<b>5 COMMUNITY OR GROUP</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the provenance connect it to historical event, person, family, place or theme of specific relevance to a specific community or group?</li> <li>Is the artist, writer, designer, creator important to a particular community, or group?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is it the only, or one of the best examples of its class or type held locally / regionally to represent a particular community, family or group?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do its form, colour, materials or imagery have a symbolic meaning for a particular community or group?</li> <li>Has is it, or objects of its type, been used as a source or inspiration by artists / designers / makers from a particular community or group?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does its condition or evidence of wear have any community specific significance – e.g. the way a garment was worn or a tool used?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is it an example of an object type associated with an event, person, family, period, activity or theme of significance to a particular community group?</li> <li>Does it reflect community specific cultural or social activity?</li> <li>Does it reflect community specific domestic or working life activity?</li> <li>Does it embody or symbolise beliefs, ideas, customs, traditions, practices or narratives that are important to a community or group?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does/could it enhance public awareness of the culture or history of a particular community or group?</li> <li>Does/could it support creative or economic activity for a specific community or group?</li> </ul>
<b>6 ORGANISATIONALLY OR SITE SPECIFIC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the provenance connect it to historical event, person, place or theme of specific relevance to a specific site, building or location?</li> <li>Does the artist, writer, designer, creator have a specific connection to your site, building, location or organisation?</li> <li>Was the acquisition of the object/collection part of a defined, proactive collecting plan?</li> <li>Was the object/collection acquired with external support or funding?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is it the only or one of the best examples of its class or type in your organisation's collection?</li> <li>Is it seen as an 'iconic' item in the context of our collection?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do its form, colour, materials or imagery have a symbolic meaning or significance in the context of our site, building, location or organisation?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What does restoration / interventive conservation work done on the object tell us about it's history as a museum specimen or collected / preserved object?</li> <li>Does its condition or evidence of wear have any site or organisationally specific significance?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is it popularly or traditionally regarded as an iconic' object within our collection?</li> <li>Does it help to interpret aspects of its specific place or context?</li> <li>Does it have a special place in relation to other items in our collection?</li> <li>Is it specifically related to an event, person, family, group, movement, period, activity or theme of significance to our site, building or organisation?</li> <li>Is it of a type that reflects an event, person, family, group, movement, period, activity or theme of significance to our site, building or organisation?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the item or collection support research on an important, of site-specific natural environment?</li> <li>Does/could it contribute to public understanding of your particular site, location, building, collection or organisation?</li> <li>Does/could it help our museum reach a prioritised target audience?</li> <li>Does/could it have potential to raise our organisational profile, support income generation, business or product development (for your museum / organisation)?</li> </ul>