

ANGUS COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL & LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE – 29 MAY 2003

DE-ACCESSION OF A HUMAN SKELETON TO ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEISURE SERVICES

ABSTRACT

This report recommends the de-accession of a human skeleton from the Arbroath Museum Collection and its transfer to Aberdeen University.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee de-accession the Arbroath skeleton from the Arbroath museum collection and transfer it permanently to Aberdeen University.

2. BACKGROUND

During a regular audit of museum material on loan to other institutions, the loan of a human skeleton to Aberdeen University from Angus Museums was due for review.

Angus Council does not now collect non display human remains in its museums, and this skeleton had been discussed during archaeological excavations, and had been added to the museum collections prior to being sent to Aberdeen University on long term (permanent) loan.

In August 1987 a male skeleton was discovered by Council workmen moving goal posts at Victoria Park, Arbroath. On investigation, this proved to be a long cist burial which was subsequently dated to the late 6th century, the earliest Christian burial so far discovered in Angus.

Following this carbon 14 dating analysis at Glasgow University, the skeleton was subsequently given to Aberdeen University on loan.

Aberdeen University does collect medieval and prehistoric skeletal material for study, and Angus normally deposits all skeletal material from archaeological excavations with them following excavation and analysis.

Angus Council has an Acquisition and Disposal Policy (Report No 1185/02) and items may only be removed from the museum collections with Council approval.

It is recommended that this skeleton is de-accessioned from the museum collection and transferred permanently to Aberdeen University.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Rights Implications arising from this Report.

5. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, the Director of Law and Administration and the Director of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

JOHN R ZIMNY
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing this report.