Engaging the Wider Museum Sector

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The South West region

- South West largest English region geographically - over 18%
- South West Tourism is worth 10.6bn to UK economy
- SW is the largest tourism market outside London and South East



Museums in the South West

- Over 210 Museums within the Accreditation Scheme
- 30% of the sector is run by volunteers



The Six Key points...

- 1. Designed for full engagement
- 2. Value of NS collections is not determined by 'size'
- 3. Mindful of the diversity of museums
- 4. Build on what works
- 5. Chase up the, as yet, untapped potential for developing an effective network of support
- 6. Collective advocate for Natural Science collections



1. Requirements for Engagement

- Access to Expertise
- Mindful of the diversity of capacity, context, drivers



2. Value of Natural Science Collections

- No correlation between value and size
- Updating and collating collections data



3. Issues faced by the wider museum community

Participation is hampered by range of issues:

- Lack of skills and experience with Natural Science Collections
- Limited access to Natural Science expertise
- Lack of capacity and resources to address the above issues



4. Effective approaches

What has worked so far...

- Collaboration between the Regional Curators and SWMD
- Building on existing practice
- Integrated approaches to training
- Kits and provision of materials to implement practice
- Working together at a local, regional and national level



5. Who or What can help?

- Sustained investment
- Facilitating access to specialist collections expertise
- Nationals, SSNs and Sector Support Organisations



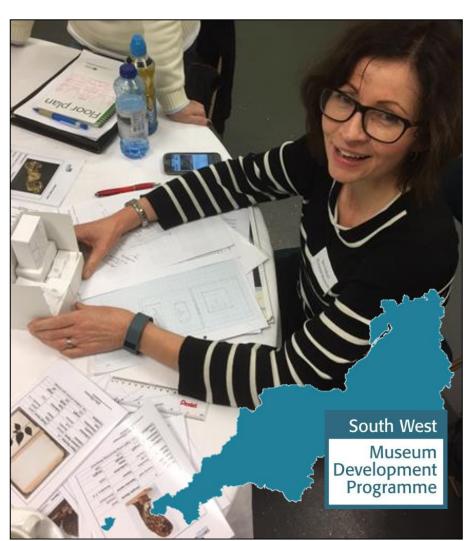
6. Collective recognition of the value of Natural Science Collections

- Advocate for Natural Science collections
- Maintain the foundations of the SWANs Project
- Build on the current momentum



In conclusion...

- 1. Sector Engagement
- 2. Equally valued
- 3. Respectful of Diversity
- 4. Build on what works
- 5. Realise untapped potential
- 6. Collective Advocacy



Contact details



South West

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