

Harrow Green

Moving Professionals



Heritage Storage Scheme

Relocation and storage excellence for your peace of mind

Our Heritage Storage Scheme

Harrow Greens Heritage Relocation and Storage scheme is one of the most unique offerings of its type in the industry.

We combine expertise with cutting edge technology to provide the Museum, Heritage, Library, and Archive sectors with a complete service for the handling and storing of artefacts ranging from entire museum collections to rare books.

Our scheme is the only one of its kind to be recommended by the National Conservation Service for its quality, know-how and on-going investment for the care and conservation of our cultural treasures, to ensure that they continue to be enjoyed by countless generations of the public in the future.

Our service is customised to the needs of each customer and delivers a handling, transportation, storage and conservation programme run by trained, heritage specialists.



Tim Ryder
Managing Director



Heritage Storage Scheme At a glance...



Specialist methods are applied by teams trained in artefact handling and packing. We only use museum grade packing materials such as Acid-Free tissue, Plastazote® foam and Tyvek®. Items are placed in custom built cases and clearly labelled to minimise handling.

The former US Air Force hangars have been re-purposed to climate controlled heritage storage facilities monitored and recommended by the National Conservation Service.

Our duty to our collections extends to the provision of on-site, especially equipped and atmospherically controlled suites allowing curators the opportunity to conduct conservation work without leaving the premises.

First class end to end service that places your collections at the heart of what we do.

Collection assessment



We survey the site and identify the project's aims under the guidance of the curators, to decide on the best outcome. Our approach is customised to fit the collection's conservation, the customer's needs and the public's safety.

Expert handling skills



Tracking & Transportation technology



Items are numbered and barcoded and their unique location is monitored on our 24 hour, web-based system. We use air-ride vehicles which are GPS tracked and follow pre-arranged routes to ensure safety and confidentiality.

Purpose built site for heritage sector



Highly secure



Protected 24/7, our secure, bomb proof, flood proof, fire proof, damp-free and pest-free, cold war hangars provide the safest home for heritage collections.

Ongoing care



Returns and access as needed



Our web based cataloguing system enables us to retrieve individual items from the collection as needed, deliver them to the owner and then return them to heritage storage as necessary.

Museum collection and archive relocation service

Heritage and museum collections are by nature unique, fragile, valuable and sensitive to environmental fluctuations. Museum spaces are designed so that objects of cultural significance are kept in the best conditions for their protection, study and preservation for future generations.

When they are required to move it needs to be done by experienced and trained heritage experts. Artefacts are most at risk whilst being handled and moved.

Moving any item, whether it's from one showcase to another, or from one collection to another, requires meticulous planning and specific processes and packing materials.

Incorrect handling can damage museum exhibits, as can humidity and temperature changes. Even minor vibrations whilst in motion can affect the structure of a delicate object. Correct relocation methods and procedures are imperative for a collection to be moved safely and successfully.

Restore Harrow Green are experts in the handling of cultural objects and have been moving collections for some of the biggest names in the Arts, Heritage and Archive fields for a number of years. We are recommended by the National Conservation Service for our professionalism and experience.

Getting started

If you're considering moving your collection our project managers will first visit your site in order to assess and discuss your museum's needs. By building a close relationship with our customers we are able to identify a collection's special requirements.

These include:

- Aims and goals for the move
- Deadlines and exhibition schedules
- Remaining operational during the move
- Access difficulties
- Custom fixture needs
- Storage requirements

Moving a collection requires meticulous planning and specific processes and packing materials

From there, a risk assessment will be carried out and a detailed plan of responsibilities will be put together which includes in depth methodologies for the safe packing and transportation of items ranging from natural history specimens and archival records to major exhibits.

Should your museum need to remain open during the move, our planning and risk assessments will allow us to minimise disruption to the exhibit space, and enable the public to come and go in the safest way possible.

All round expertise

Specialisation doesn't come easy and our reputation as one of the best heritage relocation providers has been earned through hard work, dedication, research and training. Our expertise has been built on years of working with customers in the Heritage and Archive sector and by understanding each collection's parameters.



CASE STUDY

National Museum Cardiff

+ About

National Museum Cardiff houses and displays Wales' Art and natural Sciences collections. In partnership with the Science Museum Group, the museum hosted the exhibition of the Soyuz space capsule, used during Tim Peake's, 2015 mission to the International Space Station.

+ The project

To move the world famous Soyuz TMA-19M space capsule into the National Museum Cardiff. The greatest challenge to the project was bringing the 1.7-tonne, 2,200mm wide spacecraft in through the main entrance, which was too small.

+ What we did

Our experienced contract manager had to come up with a solution, and fast. After carefully surveying all access points, we found that the window above the revolving doors could be removed without breaching the museum's listed building status, due to it being a modern addition, and made that the focus of the move.

Here's what we did to solve the puzzle:

- Designed specialized scaffolding and platform to support the shuttle.
- Brought the spacecraft in using the window above the main entrance.
- Coordinated with various museum stakeholders, in minute detail, to ensure the project's absolute success.



+ The results

The shuttle touched down, in the right place to play a starring role, just in time for the exhibition to open.

What our customer said:

"It was great to work with the team from Harrow Green. Working across many partners and stakeholders, the team helped us every step of the way, providing us with the advice and support we needed to plan and implement the complex manoeuvre of getting the capsule safely into the museum."

Ffion Fielding, Exhibitions and Programmes Coordinator National Museum Cardiff

national museum cardiff
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Specialist packing & packaging to archival standards

All our operatives receive regular training in the sensitive handling, preparation, packaging and transportation of museum collections, exhibitions as well as archives.

Our dedicated, on-site training academy covers a variety of topics including appropriate handling methods, use of archive grade materials and packing museum items, as well as posture and space management, to ensure that nothing is left to chance when relocating a priceless and irreplaceable collection.

Where possible our packers use cotton or nitrile gloves and only pack items in acid free material. We design and build our own transportation cases, based on the needs of individual items in the collection; these are then filled with shock

absorbing material designed to fit the item in question.

Prior to packing, the material used for the cases is heat treated in order to exterminate any parasites, bacteria or moulds naturally present in the wood, so that items packed within the cases remain uncontaminated.

Once packed, each case is fitted with specialised sensors designed to indicate if it is handled roughly, thus ensuring that all items are transported in the safest possible fashion and disrupted as little as possible.



CASE STUDY

Royal College of Music Museum

+ About

One of the great musical centres of the world, the Royal College of Music also owns an internationally important collection of over 25,000 musical artefacts. They called on Harrow Green and the Heritage Storage Scheme when they needed expert help prior to a large-scale museum renovation.

+ The project

To pack thousands of antique and irreplaceable musical instruments, paintings and artefacts and move them to our dedicated storage site at Upper Heyford. All within a specific timeframe and budget.

+ What we did

Antique musical instruments are functional works of art, made of materials such as wood, bone, metal and leather, which are sensitive to temperature and humidity. As such, they require specific packing techniques and cannot be exposed to any materials that cause warping or disintegration. We worked closely with the Royal College of Music Museum's conservators to come up with the perfect packing approach for each item, from acid-free tissue paper, to custom built, foam-lined wooden cases sealed with copper rivets. Once packed, we moved artefacts to a climate controlled hangar at Upper Heyford where they were kept for the duration of the project, at a constant temperature of 13-20°C and relative humidity between 47-58%.



+ The results

- 25,000 items moved and stored
- All items barcoded and scanned before storage
- Entire museum emptied in two months, on time and on budget.

What our customer said:
"We enjoyed working with the teams from Harrow Green. They were flexible and accommodating when it came to our requests and the needs of the collection and we have an ongoing relationship with them transporting our collection to and from storage."

Susana Caldeira, Conservator Royal College of Music Museum

Archive and library moves

Our specialist heritage division also relocate libraries and archives. We handle rare, precious and fragile books for relocation, cleaning, auditing and storage.

Our experts wear special gloves that are acid and powder free to prevent unwanted acid migration to books. They also use inert packing materials such as anti-acid tissue paper to carefully wrap centuries' old books. Special acid-free binder folders with protective coverings are used to safeguard detached or damaged covers and to isolate books with severe red rot and oxidation.

We take special care to ensure that books are carefully placed in boxes or crates (as appropriate) to relieve any pressure on the spines and binding. Paperbacks or softbacks are carefully handled to avoid creasing the spines or pages. Rolled up materials such as plans and

maps are placed in cardboard tubing to keep them protected.

Working in partnership with librarians and archivists we have gained experience and skills in sequential moving as well as merging and separating book collections as required. We can measure and map library spaces and shelving so that all layout is as desired at the new location and uses the library's preferred classification system.

Tracking, transportation and technology

All packed items are labelled and barcoded so that we're able to track and retrieve them at a moment's notice, even if the item is on the move or already in storage. Barcodes are placed inside and outside each case and entered on to our web database for a real time view of where they are, whether it's a single book or the Soyuz space capsule. When it's time to move, all items are secured into our top-of-the-range vehicles which are equipped with GPS tracking and temperature control, enabling us to provide a variety of secure transportation options in accordance with government indemnity guidelines. Our specialist suspension absorbs shocks generated by the road and ensures the smoothest journeys possible.



“ Harrow Green provided a great service, were extremely careful with our objects and had all the technical knowledge we required to complete a very challenging lift and move.

Nigel Blackmore, Senior Curator
Brecknock Museum & Art Gallery ”

The Heritage Storage Scheme

At Harrow Green, we are committed to supporting the heritage sector in their valuable work to conserve artefacts and objects for future generations to enjoy.

We offer an innovative heritage storage scheme for galleries, museums and organisations that houses collections in converted ex-Cold War hardened aircraft hangars protected by the best 21st-century technology has to offer. We understand that internationally important textiles, musical instruments and works of art may need careful storage, but they also need caring for – researching, restoring, removing from an on-loan museum location back to storage. That's why we provide dedicated, specially equipped and atmospherically controlled spaces for archivists, curators and librarians to work in when on site.

Benefits of the Heritage Storage Scheme

-  **Protection** – Housed in converted Cold War hardened aircraft hangars that are bombproof, flood-proof, fireproof, damp-free and pest-free.
-  **High security** – 24/7 manned security, CCTV and barbed wire perimeter fencing ensure the security of our site.
-  **Monitoring** – Our facilities are independently monitored by the National Conservation Service to ensure compliance with BS EN 16893:2018 Conservation of Cultural Heritage.
-  **Temperature controlled** - On-site atmospherically controlled suites for active collection management.
-  **Low carbon footprint** - Our facility offers a green solution for long-term heritage storage.

PEACE OF MIND...That's what you get when you place your priceless collections in our care.







Historic sites

The hangars at Upper Heyford that house the Heritage Storage Scheme are themselves scheduled historical monuments, listed and protected by English Heritage.

Upper Heyford was a thousands strong air base used by the American Air Force during the Cold War, with personnel ready to react within moments.

To meet the rigorous specifications in the recently updated and upgraded conservation standard, BS EN 16893:2018 Conservation of Cultural Heritage, Upper Heyford was assessed against the standard's criteria for:

-  **Security of location** – The ex-airbase site represents high security in a low risk location
-  **Security of building** – The hardened aircraft hangars, converted to storage units with the addition of state-of-the-art security access controls.
-  **Fire protection** – There are no external fire risks at the site and fire detection systems are installed within the hangars should anything unexpected happen.
-  **Flood protection** – The site is on top of a hill, well above the minimum flood plain level with excellent drainage provision. There is no water supply inside the hangars.



Hangar upper level

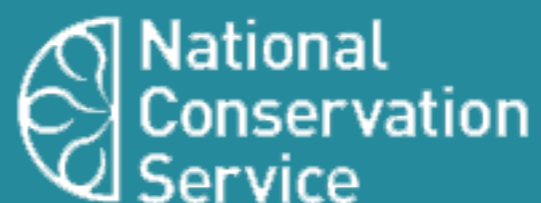


High security at Upper Heyford

Monitoring and quality control

Harrow Green works in collaboration with the National Conservation Service (NCS), whose experience and expertise ensure the aircraft hangars are converted with sensitivity to their own heritage status, while meeting the required conservation standards for collections and artefacts.

As an independent organisation, NCS acts on behalf of you, the customer, to monitor the quality of conditions inside the storage facility, as well as value for money, and can advise your organisation on their collection's needs before moving into storage.



The measures in place to ensure compliance include:



Temperature control



Damp & mould prevention



Humidity control



Pest prevention

CASE STUDY

Horniman Museum & Gardens

+ About

Adrian Holloway, the museum's Collections Manager, tells us about the balance he strives to achieve between accessibility to the widest and most engaging range possible of the Horniman's objects and free movement around their Study Collections Centre.

+ The project

Museums are organic things. They stage exhibitions, loan artefacts and need to continually create more space by moving objects around. The Horniman had secured Arts Council England funding for a major three-year Collections Review Project and were looking for a heritage storage provider with great flexibility and a team of heritage experts.

+ What we did

The BS EN 16893-compliant storage at Upper Heyford in Oxfordshire, in specially adapted buildings that are heritage monuments themselves, is managed by an expert, helpful team and priced at rates geared to cash-strapped heritage organisations.

Our levels of care and service reinforce peace of mind for collections curators and we provide dedicated viewing and conservation rooms for the Horniman's team to measure up items or as a routine visit.

We currently care for pianos, organs, a rickshaw, a moose's head, a tarpon (type of large fish) and many tribal masks from around the world.



+ The results

- The key winning point for the Horniman is low cost without compromise
- Museum colleagues have room to breathe and behind-the-scenes organisation and interpretation is less stressful
- The re-organisation of objects means more of them can be seen and engaged with by visitors – worth its weight in gold!

What our customer said:

"Value for money and customer service. It's as simple as that."
Adrian Holloway, Collections Manager The Horniman Museum

Cultural conservation standards updated

Cultural conservation standards updated BS EN 16893:2018 has now superseded the PD5454 standard, and covers more aspects of the design and construction process for housing heritage collections.

These include:

- Sustainability
- Risk management
- Environmental strategy
- Building specifications
- Hazards identification
- Air quality/ventilation
- Infestation by pests/mould
- Fire protection/prevention
- Protection against water ingress
- Lighting provision.



Harrow Green can help you build a practical heritage storage scheme that will not only help you manage your relocation and storage needs but also future-proof them.

Take the first step towards your relocation and storage scheme solutions. Contact us to find out more about our range of services.



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