

CLOSED MUSEUMS AND THEIR COLLECTIONS 2000-25

A summary of the data



Mapping Museums Lab

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This document is available from our website at:

<https://mapping-museums.bbk.ac.uk>

A live version of the data and code base is maintained at:

<https://github.com/Birkbeck/museum-object-flows/>

A data snapshot has been deposited at Birkbeck Research

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Cover image: L-R top, Gun carriage, Firepower: Royal Artillery Museum; Taxidermy tiger, Woodend Natural History Museum; Jelly moulds, Bakelite Museum; Fly wheel, Kidwelly Industrial Museum. Middle L-R: Electric Railway Museum, image by Basingstoker, CC BY-SA 2.0 creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0, via Wikimedia Commons); Silver Studio designs, image courtesy of Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture; YSL red gloves and saddle, images courtesy of Leathercraft Museum. Bottom L-R: Museum of Straw Works; John Jarrold Printing Museum; Ballet shoes, image courtesy of Leathercraft Museum; Canon, The Rotunda, image courtesy of Paul Evans.

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The Mapping Museums Lab is a critical programme for the museum sector. Building on their successful project to compile a dataset of all UK museums since 1960, this comprehensive report provides data on museum closures and collection disposal. It develops our understanding of the reasons behind museum closures and identifies a direction of travel which has implications for our shared heritage in museums and their collections.

The size of the task involved in gathering reliable data for the 524 museums that closed over a 25 year period cannot be underestimated. This large-scale and in-depth data collection gives us a clear view of how the museum sector continues to evolve. Above all, this research and data is available to all - with software specially developed to help users easily search and download what is relevant to them.

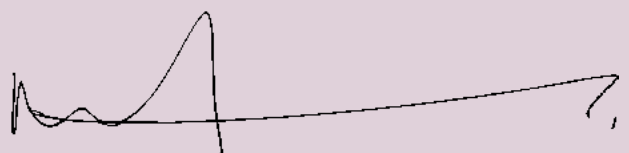
The findings provide the detail behind the sector I documented in the Mendoza Review of Museums in England in 2017 and records the continuing impact of the trends described then.

The data shows that museums are more likely to fail in their first decade of operation, while those that reach their 50th anniversary are least likely to close. Our national museums and those attracting over a million visitors annually have the fewest openings and closures. The most dynamic group are privately-owned museums. Numerous new museums opened. These are most likely to be small museums, which also have the highest rate of closure. Over half of the medium museums closing were local authority museums and fewer museums are opening than closing. With 10,000 to 50,000 visits per year, medium-sized museums have been operating in a challenging environment over this period, with neither the resources of the larger museums nor the flexibility of the smaller.

Since 2020, there has been a shift in how collections are handled when local authority museums close. Prior to 2020, collections from closed museums were transferred to other local authority museums, and the museum buildings found alternative uses. Now local authorities are more likely to retain the museum buildings and to keep the collections in situ. Whether this mothballing is a pragmatic, reversible solution or a risk to both the collections and historic buildings remains to be seen.

Reassuringly, the report has found no irresponsible disposals of collections. Many closures have remained within the public or independent museum sphere. Whilst private collections tend to be sold on closure of a museum, those that are not sold often go to public and independent museums.

Museums, their dedicated staff and their collections play a crucial role in connecting people and places. This research uncovers the data and deepens our understanding of the challenges facing the museum sector as well as the opportunities that brings to build a sustainable future for the communities they serve.



Lord Mendoza, Chairman, Historic England

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

During the 1970s and 1980s there was a large increase in the number of museums in the UK, and growth continued through the 1990s. As the number of new museums increased, so did the number of closures, albeit more slowly.

Since 2000, the closure rate has only slightly risen, but the growth rate dropped. Between 2000 and 2020, there were several years when the number of closures equalled or exceeded those of openings. More recently, the closure rate has also dropped, and the sector is becoming more static.

Closure rates vary depending upon the governance of the museum. For local authority museums, the closure rate rose to nearly 2% in the early 2010s, while those for private museums rose to around 2.5% in the same period. By contrast, closure rates for independent museums rarely ever rose above 0.5%

Composition of the sector

Around 870 new museums opened and around 530 museums closed since 2000. These openings and closures have had an impact on the composition of the sector. While the numbers of national, independent, university, and private museums all increased, those of local authority museums decreased. Likewise, while the number of small museums grew, as to a lesser degree did that of large museums, the number of medium-sized museums decreased. There is a connection between the decrease in the number of local authority museums and that of medium-sized museums – more than half of the local authority museums to close were of medium size.

Local authority museums

One hundred and thirty-nine local authority museums have closed since 2000, a total decrease of 8%. Ten local authority districts that had local authority museums in 2000 had no local authority museums in 2025. Neath Port Talbot had two local authority museums in 2000 and now has none. Basildon, Newham, Wandsworth, Elmbridge, Barnet, Caerphilly, Cannock Chase, Clackmannanshire, and Fareham all had one local authority museum in 2000 and none in 2025. Three of those districts are in London, where the decrease in local authority museum provision is especially marked. A further nine local authority districts, including two in London (Greenwich and Southwark), had three or more local authority museums in 2000 and just one in 2025.

The loss of local authority museums is significant. There is a wide variety of museum types in the UK, offering different kinds of experience and provision. Unlike national museums which are concentrated in capital and major cities, local authority museums were evenly dispersed in regional towns and cities across the UK.¹ Unlike many independent museums, they tend to be free to enter, so they have more potential to function as public space.² They have toilets, and can serve as shelter from the rain or for people suffering from fuel poverty. Growth in the independent museum sector does not compensate for the loss of local authority provision.

Private museums

The number of private museums has increased since 2000. Even so, private museums have seen a closure rate of about 37%, the highest rate of closure according to museums' governance type. Private museums that closed included the Goonhilly Satellite Earth Museum, the Cotswold Cricket Museum, North Cornwall Museum and Art Gallery, Paulton's Romany Museum, as well as the Mechanical Music Museum, Barometer World, and the Bakelite Museum.

¹ Ballatore, Andrea and Candlin, Fiona, 'A Geography of UK Museums', *Transaction of the Institute of British Geographers*, 2022, 1–17.

² Pepin, Sarah et al., *Local Museums*, Debate pack CDP-2018-0059 (House of Commons Library, 2018).

Around

870

new museums have opened since 2000

Around

530

museums have closed since 2000

Private museums are often treated as being peripheral to the professional museum sector or dismissed as inconsequential displays established by individual collectors. In fact, the category of private museums is extremely varied, including museums run by organisations and businesses, as well as by individuals and families. Some are small and quirky, others are highly specialised, many are run as fully fledged museums. They can add interest and colour to local areas, attract tourism, and provide a focus for subject specialists.

Museum Age

Museums are far more likely to close before they are ten years old than at any other point. If they can survive their first decade, then their chances of remaining open are much higher, and even more so once they pass the fifty-year mark.

Many of the new museums that opened in the late twentieth century did not survive until 2025. Since fewer new museums opened, the average age of museums rose. Taken as a whole, the museum sector is ageing.

Accreditation

There are roughly equal numbers of accredited and unaccredited museums in the UK. Far more unaccredited than accredited museums opened and closed during the period under study. We do not have historic data on accreditation, so it is not clear if the closed museums had accreditation, which they then lost, or if they were never accredited. Given the short life span of many new museums, it is likely that they were never sufficiently established to apply for or gain accreditation.

Footfall is no guarantee of survival

There is an assumption that museums close due to lack of visitors or in contemporary museum parlance, because they 'lose relevance'. Thirty large museums closed. They attracted between 50,000 and 100,000 visitors per year. Over one hundred medium-sized museums that received between 10,000 and 50,000 visitors per year also closed. These museums had an audience; they were serving their communities. They may have been uncommercial, or unsustainable, but they were not irrelevant.

Although some museums have extremely small audiences, they remain open because they receive ongoing support from a host organisation. 'Relevance' as judged by footfall is not a good indicator of survival.

Reasons for closure

Museums cited a wide range of reasons why they closed. Finance was most often mentioned, with funding cuts being the most common trigger for local authority museums to close and rising costs for independent museums. The loss of premises was a recurrent issue, particularly for military museums. Changes to Ministry of Defence support and funding to regimental museums resulted in some losing their 'grace and favour' accommodation. Life events – principally retirement and death – were the main factor for the closure of private museums. Museum staff also cited problems with their buildings – deterioration, lack of access, and poor facilities – although this could also be viewed as a lack of resources and hence as a financial problem. Nineteen museums closed because a replacement museum was being planned, and 26 closures occurred as part of an amalgamation process. These strategic closures often result in positive change within the sector since they can lead to more efficient or improved spaces and organisations.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Costs of closure

Museums are often closed as a means of cutting costs but closure itself can be expensive and time-consuming. If it is done properly and follows ethical guidelines, then staff have to check provenance, contact lenders and donors and return objects appropriately, offer the collection to accredited museums with a cognate remit, legally transfer collections to the new owners, clean and archive data ensuring that no personal information will be disclosed, recycle or rehome gallery furniture, pack collections so that they can be safely moved, and oversee transit. That process usually takes at least a year and often a good deal longer. If the operating organisation chooses to store the collection or if the collection is left in situ, then that can involve ongoing costs. When Lancashire Council closed Helmshore Mills Textile Museum, Queen Street Mill, and Judges' Lodgings in 2016, it turned out to be more expensive than keeping them open. The mills still had to be maintained and kept secure, and Judges' Lodgings had a collection of valuable furniture that required professional storage.³ Closure is not necessarily a cheap option.

After closure

The governance of museums had a strong impact on which museums closed and what happened to their collections. Many national museums have branches. Only three such branch museums closed and in all cases the collection returned to the parent organisation. Overall, local authority museums mainly transferred their collections, although since 2020 they have been more likely to store the collections. Independent museums transferred and stored more-or-less in equal measure. Private museums generally sold their collections.

When collections were transferred, local authority museums mainly gave them to other local authority museums, while independent museums mainly transferred them to other independent museums. Otherwise, objects from both types of museums went to a wide range of public institutions, schools and colleges, and heritage and enthusiast groups. Private museums infrequently transferred their collections. When they did so, the transfers were to independent, local authority, university, or national museums, and not to other private museums. Their owners were cognisant of the cultural value of their collection and were keen to preserve objects for public use.

Responsible disposal

Although there were examples of museum staff and owners struggling to find homes for their artefacts, we did not find any reports of irresponsible disposal. On the contrary, it was clear that staff at closed museums had often put a great deal of time, thought, and imagination into securing appropriate homes for their collections, especially when those transfers were to organisations outside the museum sector. For instance, objects from the Amelia Earhart Museum in Derry/Londonderry were relocated to the local airport and displayed in a passenger lounge. Earhart was of course the first woman to make a nonstop transatlantic flight and having crossed the ocean her plane first touched down in Derry/Londonderry. Although attempts to have the airport renamed for Earhart failed, her role as a pioneer in the history of aviation was signalled by the objects placed on exhibition.

Storage

Objects from closed museums were far more likely to be stored than to be displayed. They were either stored at the outset, or transferred or sold, and then stored. Storage encompassed a wide variety of conditions. Some objects went into professional climate-controlled museum storage that was accessible to potential users. These objects continue to provide a potential resource for curators, educators, researchers, and communities. Other objects were packed up in plastic, stacked high, and stored in decommissioned RAF hangars, garages, barns, and shipping containers. These conditions were not always suitable for the long-term preservation of objects, and the objects were not always readily accessible or even locatable. In these instances, it was not clear if the objects were providing a resource for the future.

More collections are being stored now than in 2000. Storing objects can just pass on the problem of what to do with collections from closed museums and may not always be the best response to closure. Unless objects are particularly rare or irreplaceable, of scientific or scholarly interest, or of deep significance to a specific community, then it may be better to move them out of the museum sector, even out of the heritage sector, and give them to people who can display or otherwise use them.

3 Caroline Parry, 'Council Decides to Reopen Three Lancashire Museums', Museums Association, 27 June 2018, <https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/analysis/2018/06/01072018-council-decides-to-reopen-three-lancashire-museums/>

Loss and gain

Some museums, organisations, and audiences have gained from closure. When Firepower: The Royal Artillery Museum ran into financial difficulties they loaned large quantities of objects to other organisations including Heugh Battery in Hartlepool, enabling it to open as a museum. Over the last decade the Battery has become a community hub with plans and funding for the future. When the Percival David Foundation in London closed, its world-leading collection of imperial-era Chinese ceramics went on loan and then as a gift to the British Museum, where it is permanently displayed in its entirety. The Percival David collection of ceramics is now viewed by millions rather than a few thousand visitors a year.

There are also many losses. Very practically, records of all kinds are lost. It is common for databases, catalogues, day books, visitor and account books, and correspondence to be scrapped.

Some of the museums that we investigated have left almost no trace behind. For the sake of the historical record and future researchers we would make a plea that some paper and digital records are archived.

Audiences in areas with no local authority museums have lost a service. There has also been a loss of specialist museums including Leathercraft in Northampton, and the Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture, the Theatre Museum, and the Asian Music Museum, all in London. While other museums may have leather objects, examples of domestic design, costumes, or Asian instruments, they tend to be displayed as one object among many. Large scale or in-depth exhibitions on these and other specialist topics are relatively rare.

Lastly, there is personal loss. Alongside the data collection, we have been interviewing people who worked or volunteered at closed museums and the level of emotional fallout was striking. Even years after the event, many people were still clearly angry, upset, and disappointed by the closure of their museum. Some people were unwilling to talk about what they experienced for fear of stirring up old painful memories, or they did talk and commented on rising feelings of anxiety as they remembered what had happened. Very few people we spoke to ever mentioned relief or satisfaction at the end of a job well done. On similar lines, there are audiences and communities of interest who deeply regret the closure of their museums. Five years after its closure, supporters of the Falconer Museum in Forres are still vigorously campaigning for its re-opening, and they may be successful. Museum closure is sometimes reversible.



Governance of the museum has a strong impact on which museums closed and what happened to their collections.



INTRODUCTION

Not all closures are alike. A local council may amalgamate several museums to form one consolidated organisation or replace an outdated institution with a landmark building. In such instances services may be improved.

Some museum collections may be mothballed or put into deep storage. Others may be broken up with some objects being returned to lenders and donors, some being scrapped, and others sold.

In the absence of coherent data on collections disposal in the UK, it was unclear if closures indicated a change in museum provision or a loss and, if the latter, which kinds of collections stayed in public circulation, and which disappeared.

Over the past decade, the Mapping Museums Lab has collected and analysed data to better understand the history, geography, and composition of the UK museum sector. We were keen to extend our investigations to include a detailed investigation of closure and in 2023 we secured Arts and Humanities Research Council funding for a major research project entitled 'Museum Closure in the UK 2000-2025'.

The project has five main outputs;

- A database containing information on museum closures since 2000, their reasons for closure, and what happened to the collections.
- A web application that enables users to search, visualise, and download the data on closure. It is free to use under the terms of the Creative Commons (CC BY-NC 4.0) license.
- This report, which is intended as a guide to the data and a static record of the data. It has been produced in hard copy for archiving purposes.
- A series of academic articles addressing research methods and findings.
- A monograph, provisionally titled *Museum Afterlives* that uses archival and interview-based research to develop themes and questions that arose in the data analysis. Publication is planned for 2027.

The complete datasets, the web application, copies of the report, and links to publications are available from the project website.

Context of closure

Over the past two and a half decades museums have faced a series of significant challenges. These have been particularly acute for museums that are supported by local authorities. Real-term funding for local authorities was broadly flat in the mid 1990s and while it grew in the 2000s, most of the increased spending was directed at education and at social care. The cultural services only had relatively modest increases in funding.⁴ The 2008-9 financial crisis, the deepest recession since the 1930s led to museums losing investment income and paid members of staff.⁵ In 2010, the Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition government introduced austerity measures that reduced the size of state provision. These included drastic cuts to local authority budgets, and many local authorities responded by reducing funding to their museums. Between 2009-10 and 2019-20 local authority museums in England lost 34% of their funding in real terms with the figure being around 31% in Wales and 23% in Scotland. The cuts made during a decade of austerity had a material impact on museums' capacity to maintain basic levels of service and work with their communities.⁶

In 2020, the COVID pandemic forced museums into lockdown. Few museums had sufficient reserves to weather months of closure and initially there was some considerable concern that museums might not survive, especially when lockdowns continued into 2021. In the event, a wide range of emergency funding schemes covered the bills, and indeed some museums were better placed at the end of the pandemic than at the beginning. Other museums struggled to reopen and went into extended periods of temporary closure, staff resigned, and audiences stayed away. The Association of Leading Visitor Attractions found that visitor numbers for 2022 were 23% below their pre-pandemic levels, in 2023 they were 11% below, and in 2024 they remained 9% down.⁷

Post-pandemic, the UK was hit with a cost-of-living crisis. The war in Ukraine meant that the UK stopped trading with Russia, had to look elsewhere for fuel supplies, and the price of gas and electricity rose sharply. The UK's exit from the European Union had an adverse effect on trade and pushed up the cost of materials, and inflation rose to an 11% peak in October 2022. Museums of all kinds began to struggle to pay their bills.⁸ Despite increases to funding, local authorities were also under significant financial pressure with increases in spending outpacing revenue.⁹ Costs for acute social and educational services rose, putting pressure on funding for non-statutory services, which includes museums. In 2023 Birmingham City Council announced that it had an £87million shortfall and it was cutting its budget to culture completely, while Suffolk County Council announced that it would stop all core funding for its nine arts and heritage organisations.¹⁰ Other councils came to similar decisions.

By 2024 the museum sector was in an uncertain state. The reality of austerity and post-pandemic financial fragility, funding cuts, and increased overheads were putting museums under significant pressure. Two-thirds of museum directors were concerned about actual or possible shortfalls in their budgets.¹¹ The Arts Fund, the English Network of Civic Museums, and the Museums Association all made calls to the UK Government for urgent help for local authority and civic museums, and they responded with the £20m Museum Renewal fund.¹² In the same year, national museums started making drastic staff cuts to offset post-pandemic deficits.¹³ Everyone was attempting to cut costs.

4 Local Government Financial Statistics England. No.20 2010, no. 20 (Communities and Local Government Publications, 2010).

5 Gary Noakes, 'Recession Is Double-Edged Sword for Museum Sector', Museums Association, 13 November 2009, <https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2009/11/37651-2/>

6 Bethany Rex, Local Authority Investment in Museums after a Decade of Austerity (Museums Association, 2021).

7 'ALVA News', ALVA Association of Leading Visitor Attractions, 17 March 2023, <https://www.alva.org.uk/details.cfm?p=403&codeid=866>. 'ALVA News', Association of Leading Visitor Attractions, 18 March 2024, <https://www.alva.org.uk/details.cfm?p=403&codeid=878>. 'ALVA News', Association of Leading Visitor Attractions, 21 March 2025, <https://www.alva.org.uk/details.cfm?p=403&codeid=886>

8 Simon Stephens, 'Cost-of-Living Crisis Is Hitting Museums Hard, Report Shows', Museums Journal, 3 October 2023, <https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2023/10/report-shows-cost-of-living-crisis-is-hitting-museums-hard/>

9 Kate Ogden and David Phillips, How Have English Councils' Funding and Spending Changed? 2010 to 2024 (Institute for Fiscal Studies, 2024), <https://ifs.org.uk/publications/how-have-english-councils-funding-and-spending-changed-2010-2024>

10 'Birmingham City Council Signs off "devastating" Cuts', Birmingham & Black Country, BBC News, 5 March 2024, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-68483264>. Berning Sawa, Dale, 'Museums in the Firing Line as UK Council Funding Crisis Bites', The Art Newspaper, 5 March 2024, <https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2024/03/05/museums-in-the-firing-line-as-council-funding-crisis-bites>

11 Rebecca Atkinson, 'Two-Thirds of Museum Directors Warn of Funding Shortfalls', Museums Association, 6 June 2024, <https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2024/06/two-thirds-of-museum-directors-warn-of-funding-shortfalls/>

12 Wafer Hadley, Museum Directors Research 2024 (Art Fund, 2024).

13 Rebecca Atkinson, 'Large Institutions Shed Staff to Offset Post-Pandemic Losses', Museums Association, 20 March 2025, <https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2025/03/large-institutions-shed-staff-to-offset-post-pandemic-losses/>

RESEARCH SCOPE AND METHODS

This study focuses on the UK and covers the period between 2000-25:

Defining closure

Definitions of museums have been repeatedly contested.¹⁴ In this research we specified that a museum needed to care for objects in the long term, have objects on display, should occupy a defined space with a threshold, and have a public orientation – so there needs to be something that invites visitors in, be it a website or a sign on the door.¹⁵ We defined a museum as being closed if it ceased to have any of those characteristics.

We have not included temporary closures, and we have recorded site rather than organisational closure. A national museum or museum service may continue to function after closing one of its branches.

Our research covers national, local authority, university, independent and private museums. It does not consider online, mobile, or pop-up museums, or museums and galleries without a collection.



The dataset has detailed information on museum closure from 2000-2025



Museum governance

We have divided museums into seven categories of governance:

- Independent museums (non-profit and not-for-profit, English Heritage, National Trust, National Trust for Scotland, Historic Environment Scotland)
- Local Authority museums, whether run directly by local authorities or managed on their behalf by third parties
- National museums as designated by central government
- Other government museums (CADW historic environment service for the Welsh government; museums operated by centralised military, security, and emergency services)
- Private museums operated at the expense of, or for the profit of individual persons, families, or businesses
- University museums
- Unknown governance

At present there are only seven museums in the UK categorised as 'other government'. They are included in our dataset, but we have largely omitted them from analysis, and have done likewise for museums of 'unknown governance'.

Long-standing readers may note will note that whereas our previous projects treated private museums as a sub-set of independent museums, this project regards them as a standalone category. This alteration brings our categories into line with mainstream practice in the UK museum sector. In addition, private and non-profit independent museums have different patterns of opening and closure so separating them into distinct categories is helpful for the purposes of analysis.

Some local authorities have contracted out the managerial responsibility for their museums to community groups or leisure management companies while retaining ownership of the collection. Other local authorities have transferred assets to community organisations, either outright or under the terms of a lease, or a lease providing for an ultimate transfer of ownership. Unless the collection has been permanently transferred to another group, this study treats museums with contracted-out management or leased collections and buildings as local authority museums.

¹⁴ Bruno Soares Brulon et al., eds, *Defining Museums of the 21st Century: Plural Experiences* (ICOM International Committee for Museology, 2018).

¹⁵ Fiona Candlin and Jamie Larkin, 'What Is a Museum? Difference All the Way Down', *Museums and Society* 18, no. 2 (2020): 115–31.

Data collection

We collected data on why museums had closed and on what had happened to their collections and other objects. Wherever possible we found out who had acquired the collection, under what circumstances, when, and the objects' new locations, if relevant. We obtained our information from the following sources:

- Local and national newspapers
- Subject-specialist journals, newsletters, and mailing lists
- Charity Commission, Companies House, Scottish Regulator files
- Liquidators' reports
- Closed museums' websites (extant and via the Internet Archive Wayback Machine)
- Defunct and current social media
- Online reviews, blogs, and chat forums

We followed leads by email and telephone, contacting former volunteers, members of staff, and family members as appropriate. We also put out calls for help via social media and contacted staff in:

- Subject-specialist networks
- Enthusiasts, preservation, and historical societies
- Local councils and their museum services
- Neighbouring museums and businesses
- Tourist offices

The material was cross-checked by the research team. Staff from each of the Museums Development Networks, Museums Galleries Scotland, and the Northern Ireland Museum Council reviewed and helped refine our lists of closed museums.

We integrated the data on closure with our Mapping Museums dataset. This has information on all the museums open in the UK between 1960 and 2020, their address, governance, size, and subject matter, accreditation status, years of opening and, if relevant, closure. We have continued to check for new and closed museums and to update the Mapping Museums and Museum Closure databases accordingly. Updates come from four main sources:

- Museums Journal news and announcements
- Google alerts and online searches
- Regular communication with the Museums Development Network
- Direct contact with museum staff

The finalised Museum Closure dataset comprises a list of museums in existence in the UK during 1960-2025 and their characteristics, with detailed information on museum closure from 2000 and after.

Classifying closure

To analyse the data we first needed to categorise objects, reasons for closure, closure events, and actors. Wherever possible we used Wikidata types to classify the objects itemised in the process of disposal, and drew on the CIDOC Conceptual Reference Model for key distinctions concerning changes in ownership (such as sales and gifts) and custody (such as when an object is loaned or moved).¹⁶ Using established categories links our research to other datasets and facilitates reuse and semantic alignment. As no prior categorisation existed we developed bespoke taxonomies for reasons for closure, closure events, and actors. This process involved compiling the terms and descriptions commonly found in our sources and grouping similar events together. For instance, sources might cite the recession, rising costs of insurance, and funding cuts as reasons for closure, which we grouped as 'financial', while sale of premises, lease expired, and redevelopment of site were grouped under loss of premises (for complete taxonomies see Appendix 1).

¹⁶ CIDOC was developed by the International Committee for Documentation, a sub-group of the International Council of Museums.

RESEARCH SCOPE AND METHODS

Relaunched and redeveloped museums

In some cases, museums are replaced. It is not always easy to decide when a museum has been relaunched and when it has been so thoroughly redeveloped as to constitute a completely new entity. We considered strategic redevelopments on an individual basis. For example, Wakefield Museum and Gallery closed as part of the plan to develop Hepworth Wakefield. This involved a name change, a new building on a different site, a change in governance (the local authority devolved management responsibility to a newly established trust), and a new and more international remit.

We treated this as a closure and a new museum, not as a relaunch. Amalgamations are treated as closures followed by the launch of a new museum. If one museum merges into a second, which otherwise retains its original identity, it is treated as a single closure.

Reasons for closure

Closure is usually multi-causal in that museums often face several overlapping problems. These combined issues are often given a single, simple explanation at the time of closure.

For example, a museum may have suffered from poor transport links, non-existent marketing, high ticket prices, lack of stakeholder buy-in, and problems with governance and staff management, but the closure is attributed to low visitor numbers. We have recorded the various reasons for closure that were in the public sphere – those that were announced on museum websites and social media or reported in the news – and the (often messier) details that were communicated in emails, conversation, or interviews with stakeholders.

Where the information was available, we entered more than one reason for closure, hence the number of reasons listed is not identical to the number of museums that have closed.

Museum objects vs collections

Accessioning is the process whereby an object is formally added to the museum collection. It involves the legal transfer of title, documentation, and assigning a unique accession number to the object in question. Sometimes objects are accessioned in groups (e.g. ‘freshwater and marine shells’), and some museums may never accession all their objects, which are nonetheless treated as part of a collection. Museums also have objects that are part of the infrastructure of display, including vitrines, set dressing, mannequins, wall texts, labels, interactive stations, and handling objects. They have objects used in collections management, conservation, and storage, such as archive boxes and moveable racks. And they have objects that would be commonly found in any organisation, such as desks, telephones, coffee mugs. Although we concentrated on recording information about objects that formed part of the museum collection, we also noted any details about non-collection objects, for instance when display cases were passed on to another museum or interpretation panels are reused by a local organisation.

That information is not included in this report. Here we concentrate solely on objects from museum collections.

Museums may have a collection or several collections that form a whole. For example, staff at a local authority museum might refer to their natural history collection, their art collection, and their horology collection. When a museum closes, ‘the collection’ is sometimes split up, and not necessarily into its component collections. For clarity, we use the word ‘collection’ to denote the entirety of a museum’s holdings. Thereafter we use the terms ‘objects’ and ‘groups of objects’.

Estimating collection size

Modelling the numbers of objects involved in transfers, sales, and other events proved challenging for a variety of reasons:

- Some objects are more thoroughly documented than others. There is more information about vehicles, especially military vehicles, than objects such as ploughs or threshing machines.
- Staff and volunteers made broad brushstroke comments such as ‘most of the collection went to A, and a couple of things went to B’ or ‘Some things went to X, but the vintage tractor went to Y’.
- Terms such as ‘some’ or ‘most’ are relative. It is likely that ‘some’ of the collection from a large local authority museum is substantially bigger than ‘most’ of that of a small independent museum.
- Solid information on the size of a collection is rarely available.

For these reasons, our records are not spread evenly across all closures but tend to be more concentrated in specific areas. We used actual numbers where that information was available (e.g. seven boats). Otherwise, we devised a methodology to manage uneven data. We attributed percentages to the non-numerical and relative terms so that ‘all’ was 100%, ‘most’ 60-99%, ‘half’ 40-59%, ‘some’ 11-39%, and ‘few’ 0-10% of a collection. That information was then combined with the size of the museum (according to number of visits per year) to provide an estimation of quantity. About 30% of groups of objects were given a numeric size; around 70% were assessed in relative terms. The visualisations in this report have larger or smaller circles, thicker or thinner flowlines depending on these calculations. It is important to note that when we write about transfers, these could be small or large collections, groups of objects, or single objects.

Comparing geographic units

There are significant differences in the sizes and populations of the constituent nations of the UK. As of 2022 when the last census was taken, England had around 57 million residents, Scotland 5.5m, Wales 3.2m, and Northern Ireland 1.9m. There is also considerable variation within the English regions, as they are defined by the Office of National Statistics.

The largest, the South East of England, had around 9.5 million residents, while the smallest, the North East, had 2.7m. For the purposes of comparison, we show data on museums in Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales alongside that of the English regions.

A note on the data

We continue to add to and edit the data. The most up-to-date version of the data can be found online. This report is based on the data as at August 1st 2025. This specific data snapshot is available at doi.org/10.18743/zd5a-se41

There are 524 museums which we are certain closed between 1st January 2000 and 31st July 2025. We collected a large body of information about these museums with at least some data for 466 museums, 89% of the total. We codified the content of our detailed notes into a database detailing the type of objects contained in collections, the events they were involved in, the timing of events, and the recipients of objects. Events include transfers, sales, moves, subsequent exhibitions and other things that happened to the objects'.

The entries for each museum vary in terms of quantity and level of detail. For 150 museums (29% of known closures), we have recorded one event involving one group of objects. Usually this is because the entire collection was involved in a single event, but occasionally it is because we could only find information on part of the collection. For 288 museums (55% of known closures), we have recorded between two and eight events per museum, involving between one and eight objects or groups of objects.

5% of the closures have many database entries. These are mostly museums of war and conflict or of transport. The two museums with the highest number of recorded events are Firepower: The Royal Artillery Museum with 118 separate events, and The Electric Railway Museum with 64 events. Overall, the data contains more detail about large individual items of machinery such as trains, aircraft, and ships, and less detail about other objects. Information about closed museums of arts, buildings, and rural industry usually concerns the collection rather than individual items.

Fractions have been rounded up or down to whole numbers. If two or more numbers in the tables have been rounded up, then the totals may not quite match.

In some cases, we know that an event occurred but do not know the identity of the actors. For instance, we know that an object was returned to a lender, but we do not know who the original lenders were, simply that they existed. We refer to these recipients as 'unspecified actors'

89%

of closed museums
have at least one database entry

55%

of closed museums
have 2-8 database entries

5%

of closed museums
have many database entries

PATTERNS OF CLOSURE

All museums

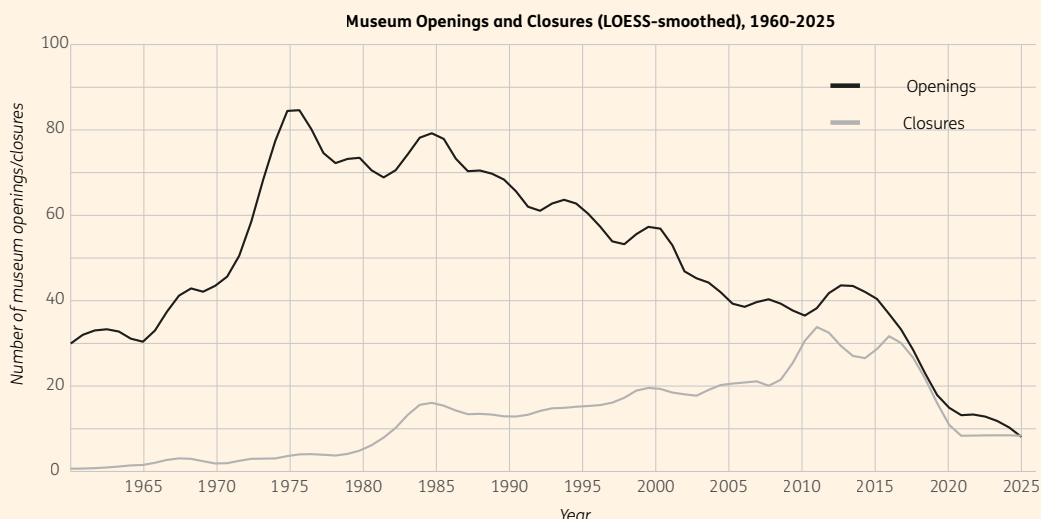


Figure 1. Number of museum openings and closures in the UK 1960-2025

While this study concentrates on the period from 2000-25, it is useful to start with a longer view of museum openings and closures in the UK. As **Figure 1** indicates, large numbers of new museums opened from the mid 1970s through to mid 1980s. New museums continued to open, although not in such large numbers.

The number of closures grew far more slowly than that of openings. The number of closures increased in the 1980s and then rose again from 2000 onwards. After 2000 there were years when the number of closures equalled or exceeded those of openings. Both the number of closures and those of openings started to fall from around 2016.

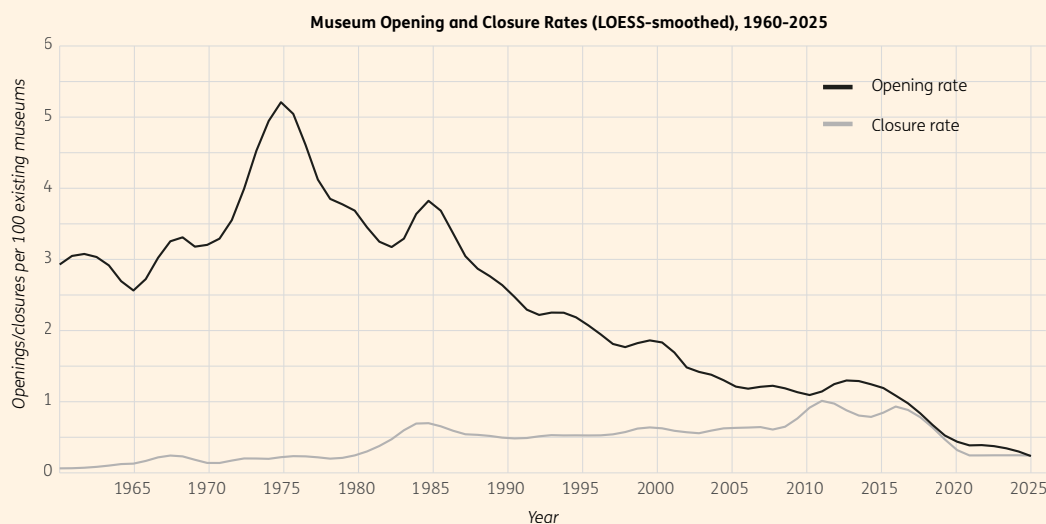


Figure 2. Rate of museum openings and closures in the UK 1960-2025

When we take the size of the sector into account there were proportionately more closures after 2000 than before. As **Figure 2** indicates, the closure rate was between 0.2% and 0.7% in the twenty years from 1980-2000. It increased slightly in the 2000s, and more substantially in the 2010s when it peaked at over 1%.

In the late 2010s and 2020s, the closure rate fell to levels similar to those in the 70s and early 80s. Broadly, there has been a downwards trajectory in the number of openings since the mid 1980s and an upwards trajectory in the rate of closures, although more recently closure rates have also dropped. The sector is becoming more stable.



After 2000 there were years when the number of closures equalled or exceeded those of openings.



Closure according to form of governance

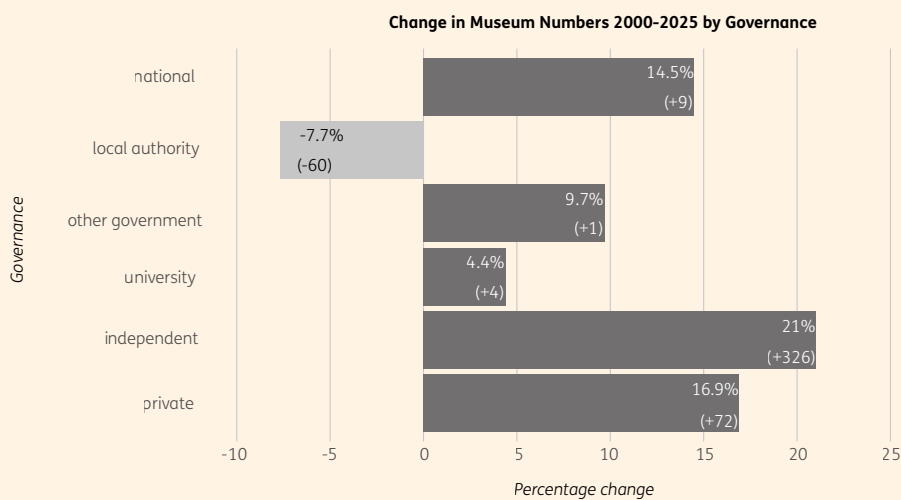


Figure 3. Change in museum numbers in the UK 2000-25, according to form of governance (excluding museums of unknown governance).

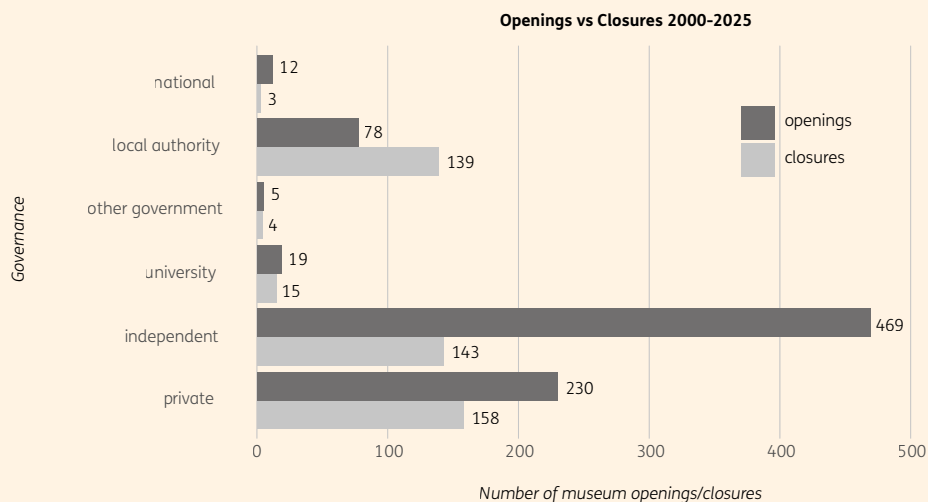


Figure 4. Number of museum openings and closures in the UK 2000-25, according to form of governance (excluding museums of unknown governance).

PATTERNS OF CLOSURE

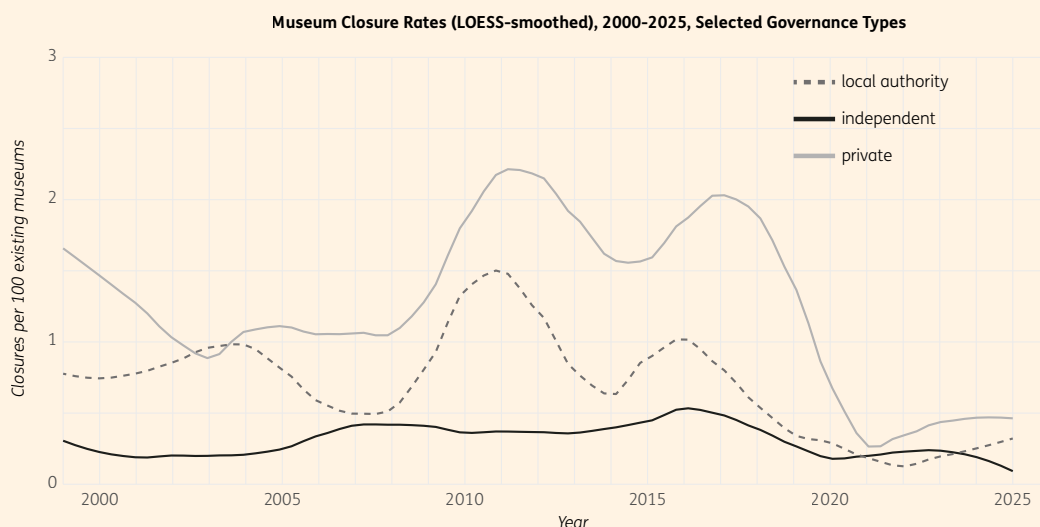


Figure 5. Rates of closure for independent, local authority, and private museums in the UK 2000-25

The number of museums in the UK has risen since 2000, increasing from around 3050 to 3390 in 2025 (11%). An estimated 870 new museums have opened, and 530 museums have closed. In most cases openings outpace closures, and the total number of national, university, independent, and private museums has increased since 2000. There has been a large increase in the number of independent and of private museums in the UK, a small increase in the number of national museums (although these are generally larger institutions) and a decrease in the number of local

authority museums (**Figure 3**). Hence there has been a shift from public sector museums towards non-profit/not-for-profit and private museums, which continues the trend of earlier decades.

Larger numbers of independent museums opened compared to any other category (**Figure 4**). The rates of museum closure also differ (**Figure 5**). At their highest in 2011 and 2012, closure rates for private museums rose to 2.6% and that of local authority museums to 1.7%. Closure rates for independent museums have not risen above 0.7%.



There has been a shift from public sector museums towards non-profit/not-for-profit and private museums.



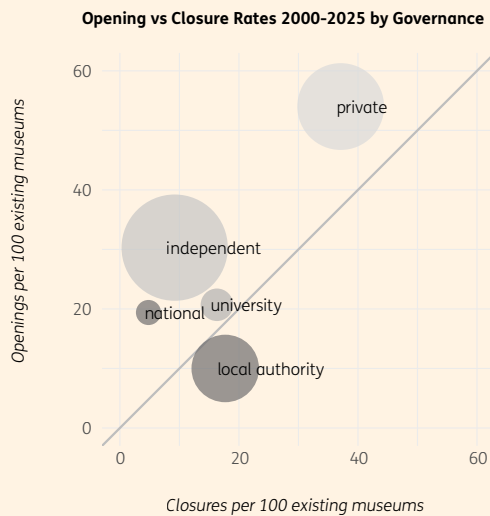


Figure 6. Museum opening vs closure rates in the UK 2000-25 according to form of governance

Growth in the museum sector as a whole can conceal a high degree of closure. Numerous museums may be opening and closing, but so long as those numbers are roughly equivalent then the sector will appear to be stable, at least as far as the data suggests. Thus, it is useful to look at relative rates of opening and closing.

In **Figure 6**, national, independent, university, and private museums are above the diagonal line, showing that their numbers grew. Local authority museums are below the line indicating that their numbers were in decline.

The groups closest to 0 are the most static, having the least 'churn', those further along the diagonal have the most. Private museums are at the furthest point along the diagonal indicating the largest rate of both openings and closures according to their form of governance. Since 2000, private museums had an opening rate of 54% and a closure rate of 37%. By comparison the closure rate for national museums is 5%. Private museums were the most likely to close, followed by local authority, university, independent, and national museums.

Closure and museum size

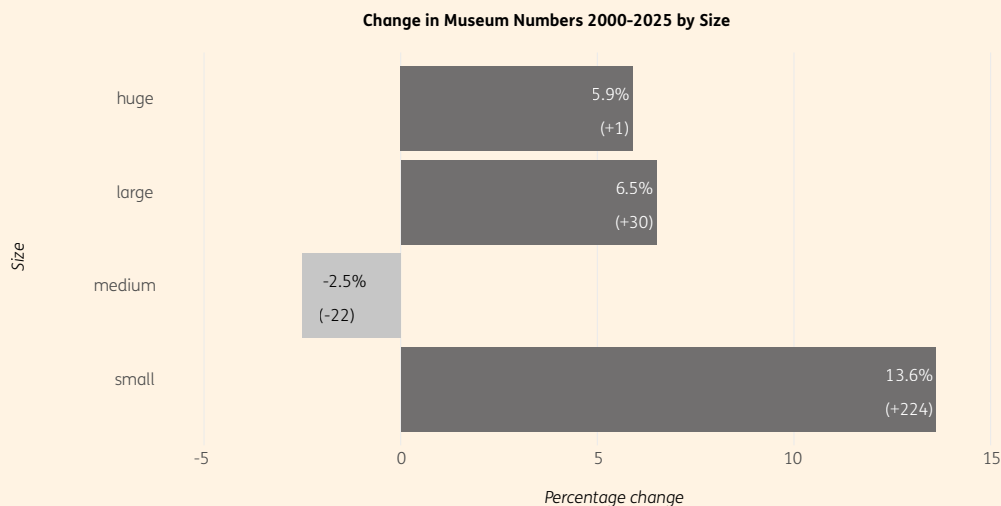


Figure 7. Change in museum numbers in the UK 2000-25, according to size (excluding museums of unknown size). Size is estimated from the number of visits per year: small (0-10,000), medium (10,001-50,000), large (50,001-1 million), huge (1 million+).

PATTERNS OF CLOSURE

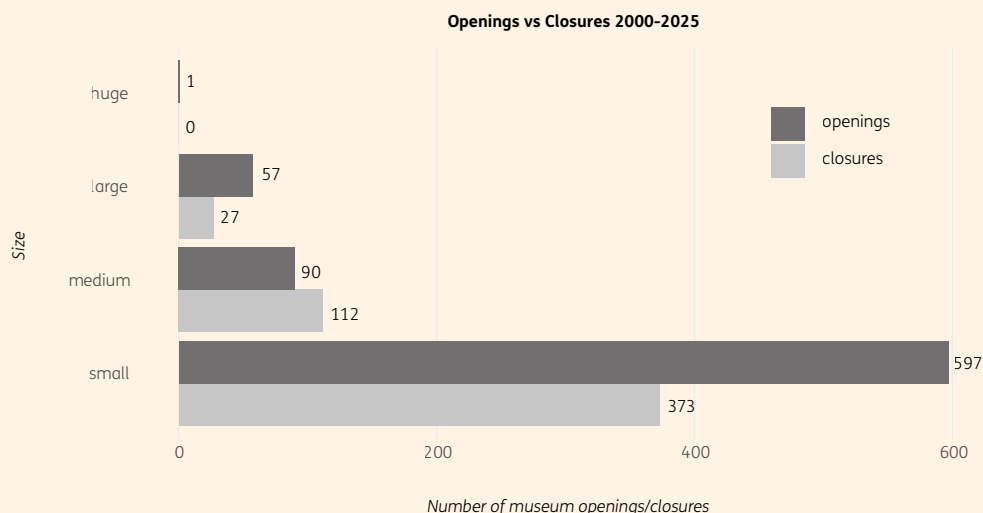


Figure 8. Number of museum openings and closures in the UK 2000-25, according to size (excluding museums of unknown size). Size is estimated from the number of visits per year: small (0-10,000), medium (10,001-50,000), large (50,001-1 million), huge (1 million+).

Growth is occurring principally among small museums with less than 10,000 visitors per year and the overall decrease, albeit relatively slight, is among medium sized museums that had 10,000-50,000 visitors per year (**Figure 7**). Although the sector is growing with respect to the total number of museums in operation, the organisations that open and those that close are not of the same type and the new museums do not have equivalent reach. To be more specific, one huge museum opened – Tate Modern in London – and none closed. ‘Huge’ is the only museum size category where there were no closures.

More large and more small museums opened than closed (**Figure 8**). Fifty-seven large museums opened and 27 closed, an increase of thirty or 7%. The large museums to close included The Way We Were at Wigan Pier, Walsall Museum, and Snibston Discovery Centre.

Almost six hundred small museums opened and nearly four hundred closed, leading to a 14% increase in their total number. Conversely, more medium-sized museums closed than opened, leading to a decrease of twenty museums or 3%.



Growth is occurring principally among small museums with less than 10,000 visitors per year and the overall decrease, albeit relatively slight, is among medium sized museums that had 10,000-50,000 visitors per year



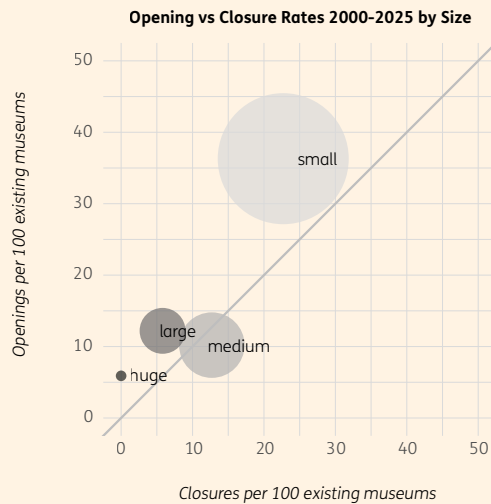


Figure 9. Museum opening vs closure rates in the UK 2000-25 according to size (excluding museums of unknown size).

The relative rates of opening and closure according to museum size are plotted in **Figure 9**. Huge, large and small museums are above the diagonal line showing that they have grown in numbers; medium sized museums are below the line indicating that their numbers were in decline.

Small museums are at the furthest point along the diagonal indicating the largest rate of both openings and closures according to size. The larger size of the circle representing small museums indicates their greater number.

Change in Museum Numbers 2000-2025							
Governance	national	9	2	1	1	4	1
	local authority	-60	8	-28	-46	5	
	other government	1	1			-1	
	university	4	4	-5	4	1	
	independent	326	61	224	17	24	
	private	72	33	39	4	-4	
	unknown governance	-10	-1	-7	-2		
	all	341	108	224	-22	30	1
		all	unknown	small	medium	large	huge
Museum size							

Figure 10. Change in museum numbers according to form of governance vs size, in the UK 2000-25.

There is a link between the figures on museum size and those on governance. The increase in the number of museums since 2000 has principally been driven by the foundation of small independent museums (**Figure 10**).

The decrease in the number of medium-sized and local authority museums is also connected. A total of 139 local authority museums closed, of these 73 were medium sized. The largest decrease in numbers of museums when judged according to size and governance, was among medium sized local authority museums.

PATTERNS OF CLOSURE

Closure and subject matter

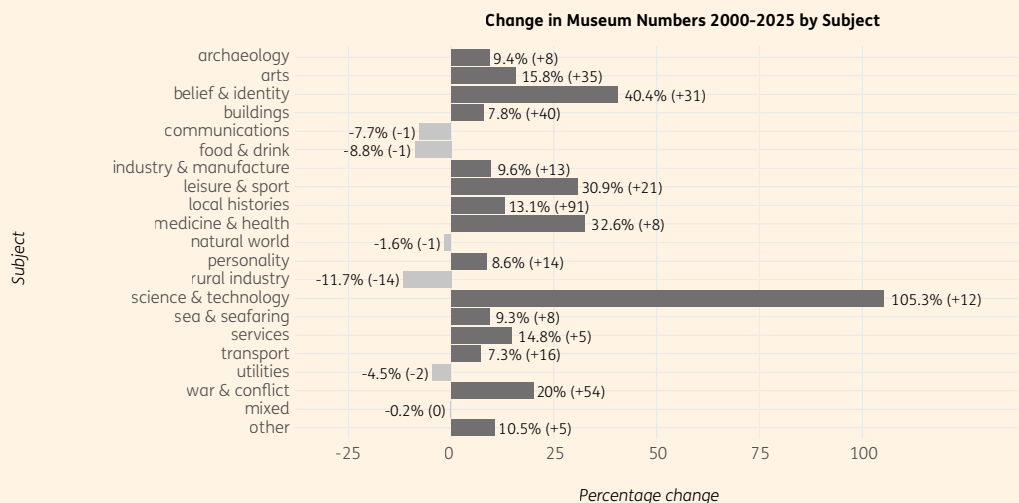


Figure 11. Change in number of museums in the UK 2000-25, according to subject matter.

Between 2000-25 there was no change in the most common subjects for museums. They were and remain local history museums, museums that focused on buildings, and war and conflict museums. Those areas, particularly local history, have also seen the most increase. As **Figure 11** shows, more museums opened than closed in all subject areas apart from museums of food and drink, utilities, communications, and rural industry.

Museums of the natural world and of mixed subject matter only gained one museum apiece. Rural industry museums saw the largest decrease of museums according to subject matter: 31 rural industry museums closed and 16 opened, a 14% decrease.

There is some link between subject matter and governance. 13 of the rural industry museums to close were private, the category with the highest rates of closure.



Rural industry museums saw the largest decrease of museums according to subject matter



Rural industry museums

31 16

closed opened

Closure and accreditation

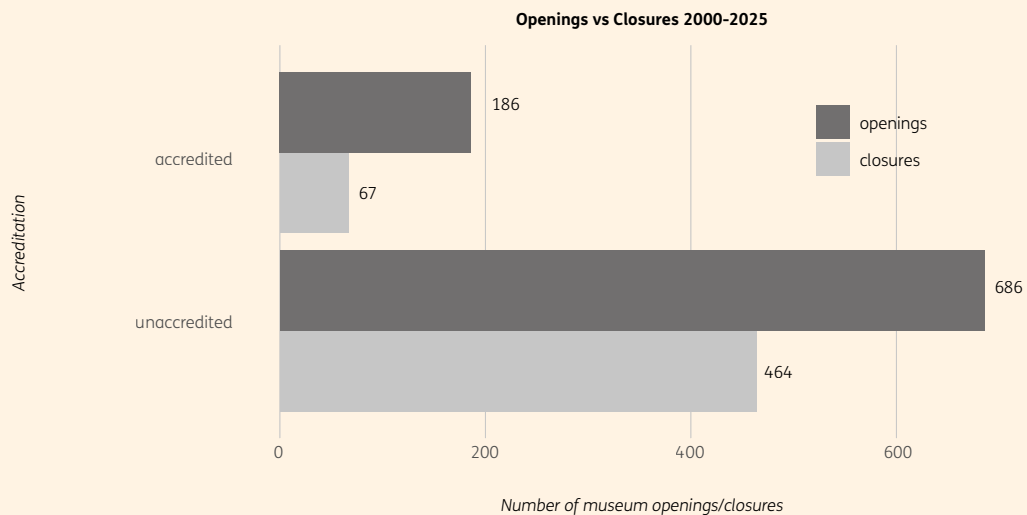


Figure 12. Number of museum openings and closures in the UK 2000-25, according to accreditation.

There are roughly equal numbers of accredited and unaccredited museums in the UK. In both cases the number of openings exceeded the number of closures. However, considerably more unaccredited museums opened and closed during this period (**Figure 12**).

This statistic needs some qualification. Museums may not gain accreditation immediately, or even soon after opening, and they may lose it prior to closing. The states of opening and closure tend to coincide with the absence of accreditation.

Alternatively, the figures may point to a lack of sustainability among unaccredited museums.



Ten local authority districts that had one or more local authority museums in 2000 had no local authority museums by 2025



PATTERNS OF CLOSURE

Location of closure

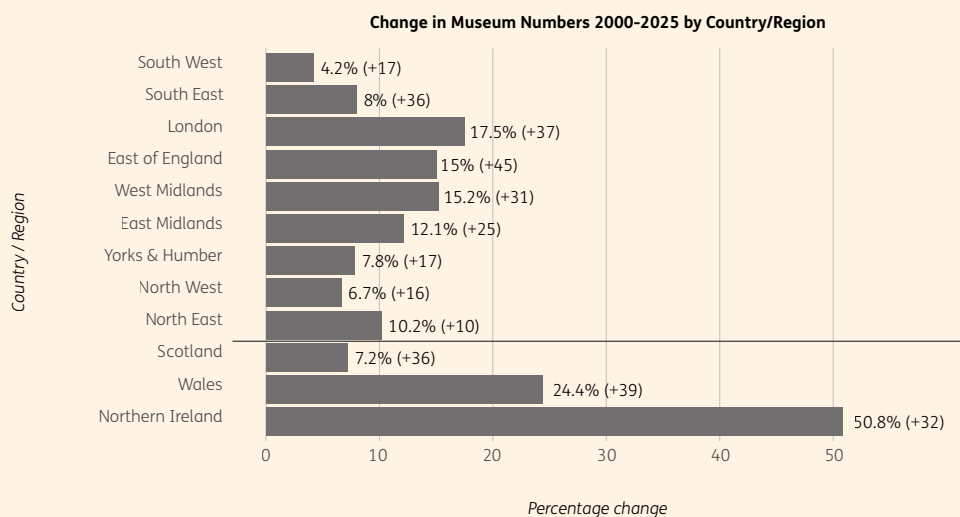


Figure 13. Change in number of museums in the UK 2000-25 according to country / region.

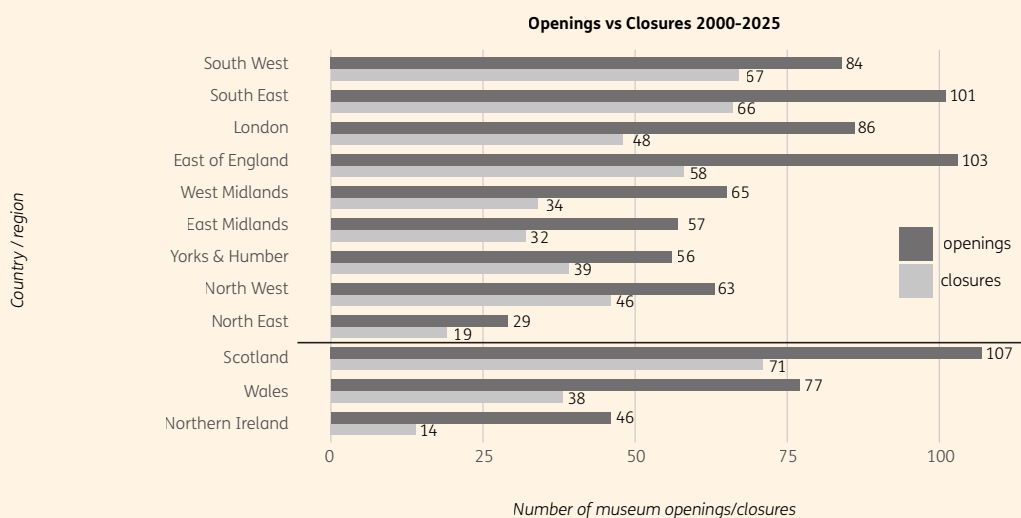


Figure 14. Number of museum openings and closures in the UK 2000-25, according to country / region.

The number of museums has grown in each of the constituent nations of the UK, and in each of the English regions. The relatively small sectors of Northern Ireland and Wales have seen the largest growth. In England, the South West and North West saw the least, and London the most. As **Figure 13** shows, the largest growth in percentage terms was in Northern Ireland (51%), followed by Wales (24%) and London (18%). The lowest growth was in the South West (4%), the North West (7%) and Scotland (7%).

The geographic size and the population of the regions and nations varies significantly, as does the size of their museum sectors. A small percentage increase might equate to a few museums in one area and many in the next. Thus, it is useful

to consider the actual numbers of openings and closures to better understand where the new museums are opening (**Figure 14**). Over one hundred new museums opened in Scotland, the East of England, and the South East. Twenty-nine opened in the North East, the lowest number of new museums among the regions. The highest number of closures was in Scotland where 71 museums have closed since 2000, followed by 67 closures in the South West and 66 in the South East.

The lowest number of closures was in Northern Ireland with 14, and the North East with 19. Since 2000, the North East gained ten more museums, the North West 16, and the South West and Yorkshire and the Humber 17 apiece, while the East of England gained 45 and Wales 39.



The number of local authority museums decreased in all regions, the exception being Northern Ireland



Change in Museum Numbers 2000-2025														
Governance	national	9	1	1		2	2					2	1	
	local authority	-60	4	-4	-13	-5	-8	-3	-2	-4	-5	-8	-7	-6
	other government	1		2						-1				
	university	4	1		1	-2	1	1		1	1	-2	1	
	independent	326	13	29	44	13	13	16	24	26	53	27	40	28
	private	72	12	11	11	3	5	2	3	6	7	17	-3	-1
	unknown governance	-10	2		-7	-1	2			4	-10	1	4	-5
	all	341	32	39	36	10	16	17	25	31	45	37	36	17
		all	N. Ire.	Wales	Scot.	N. East	N. West	Yorks.	East Mids.	West Mids.	East Eng.	London	S. East	S. West
Country / region														

Figure 15. Number of museum openings and closures in the UK 2000-25, according to form of governance and to country / region.

Several regions have gained one or two national museums including the Imperial War Museum North in Manchester, the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool, the National Waterfront Museum in Wales, and Tate Modern. Most regions have gained an additional university museum, three had no increase, and the North East and London decreased by two each (**Figure 15**).

The number of independent museums rose across the UK, broadly driving the dominant trends for growth. The number of local authority museums decreased in all regions, the exception being Northern Ireland where the museum sector has different patterns of growth and closure to the rest of the UK. Scotland, which had relatively high numbers of local authority museums in 2000, lost the most with a drop of thirteen since then, a percentage decrease of 9%. The North West and London lost eight local authority museums apiece. In London that loss meant a decrease of 20%, the largest in the UK.

The closure of five local authority museums in the North East equates to a drop of 16%, the second largest percentage decrease.

Ten local authority districts that had one or more local authority museums in 2000 had no local authority museums by 2025. Neath Port Talbot had two local authority museums in 2000 and now has none. Basildon, Newham, Wandsworth, Elmbridge, Barnet, Caerphilly, Cannock Chase, Clackmannanshire, and Fareham all had one local authority museum in 2000 and none in 2025. Three of those districts are in London, where the decrease in local authority museum provision is especially marked.

A further nine local authority districts, including two in London (Greenwich and Southwark), had three or more local authority museums in 2000 and just one in 2025.

PATTERNS OF CLOSURE

Closure by age of museum

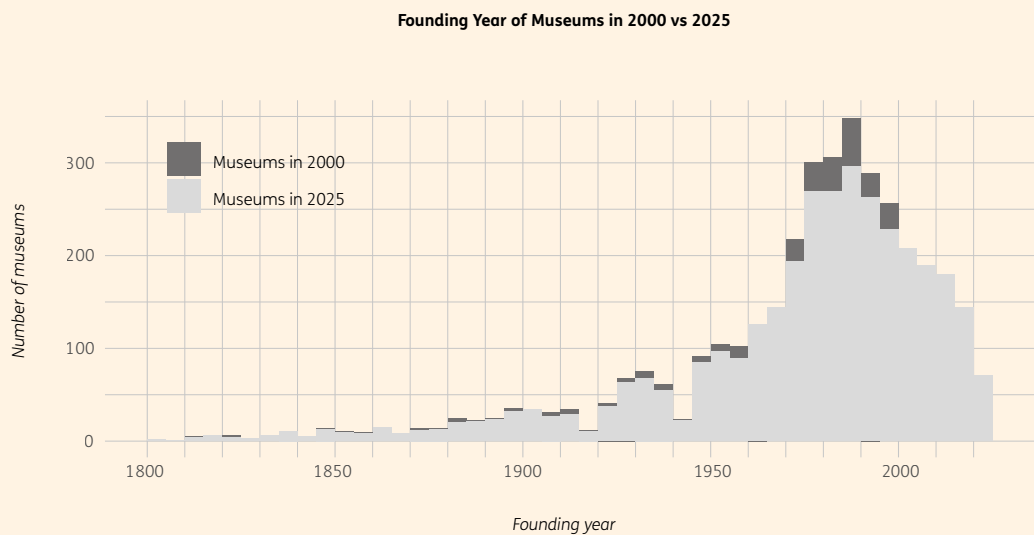


Figure 16. The year of foundation of museums open in the UK in 2000 and in 2025; the bars indicate five-year intervals. Excluding pre-1800 museums

In 2000, there were high numbers of young museums. A large portion of museums had opened since 1970, so were less than thirty years old. **Figure 16** shows that 300 museums that opened in the late 1970s, over 300 museums that opened in the first half of the 1980s, and almost 350 museums that opened in the late 1980s, were still open in 2000.

It also shows that the number of museums that had opened in each of those periods and that were still open in 2025 had fallen below 300. Many of the museums that were founded in the late twentieth century did not survive until 2025. Since fewer new museums opened, the average age of museums rose. Taken as a whole, the museum sector is ageing.

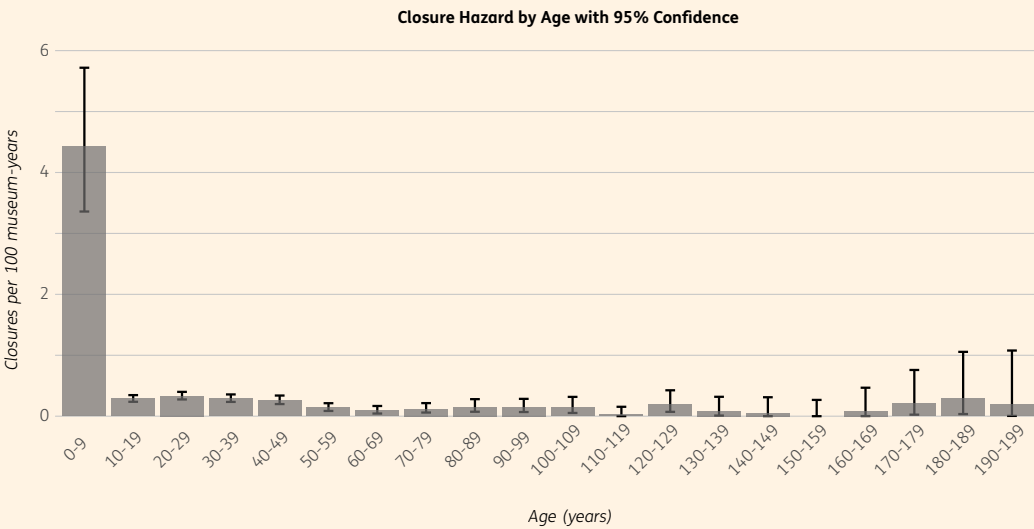


Figure 17. Bar chart showing closure hazard according to the age of museums in the UK 2000-25. The closures are per 100 museum years (where museum years are the number of museums open multiplied by their age).

In **Figure 17**, the bars show the number of closures per museum year. The error bars represent the 95% confidence interval. The younger and older categories are smaller than the middle-aged categories so we can be less certain about them, hence the error bar extends further.

Nonetheless, the bar representing closures in the 0-9 age group is much higher than in other age groups, so we can be certain that museums are far more likely to close before they are ten years old than at any other point. If they survive the decade, then their chances of remaining open are much higher, and even more so once they pass the fifty-year mark. The risk of closure seems to rise again once museums reach 180 years.

The museum with the shortest recorded life span was the Prefab Museum in London, which was destroyed by fire before its first birthday, although several others including British Magic Museum in North Walsham, the Bond Museum in Keswick, the Museum of Cypher Equipment in Cupar, and Keighley Police Museum only lasted a year or two.

The oldest museums to close were the Cornwall Geological Museum, which opened in 1814 and closed in 2000 at the age of 188 years; the University College London Art Museum, which opened in 1847 and (by our criteria) closed in 2025; and the Arbutnot Museum, a local authority museum in Peterhead which opened in 1850 and closed in 2020.

Reasons for Closure

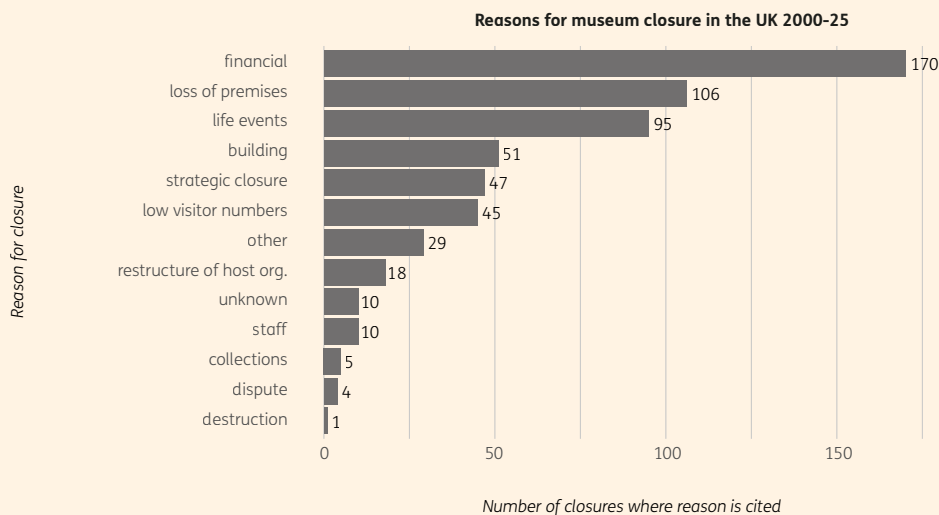


Figure 18. Reasons for museum closure in the UK 2000-25.

Museums gave a wide range of reasons why they closed (**Figure 18**). Finance was most cited as the trigger for closure. This category included funding cuts and rising costs, but only a small number of insolvencies. The loss of premises was a recurrent issue. Some museums had previously benefitted from ‘grace and favour’ accommodation in historic houses, civic and military organisations, and businesses, and those spaces were re-purposed or sold. In other instances, commercial leaseholds came to an end.

Life events – principally retirement and death – were a factor. Museums also cited problems with their buildings – deterioration, lack of access, and poor facilities, although this could also be viewed as a lack of resources and hence as a financial problem.

Forty-seven closures were actively planned as part of a redevelopment or restructure. Of these, 19 museums closed because a replacement museum was being planned, and 26 closures were made as part of an amalgamation process. These ‘strategic closures’ often result in positive change within the sector since they can lead to more efficient or improved spaces and organisations.

Otherwise, museums cited low visitor numbers (which is arguably a symptom of the museum’s difficulties, rather than a cause), the restructuring of host organisations, loss of key staff, problems with the collection, and legal disputes.

MUSEUM COLLECTIONS AFTER CLOSURE

All museums

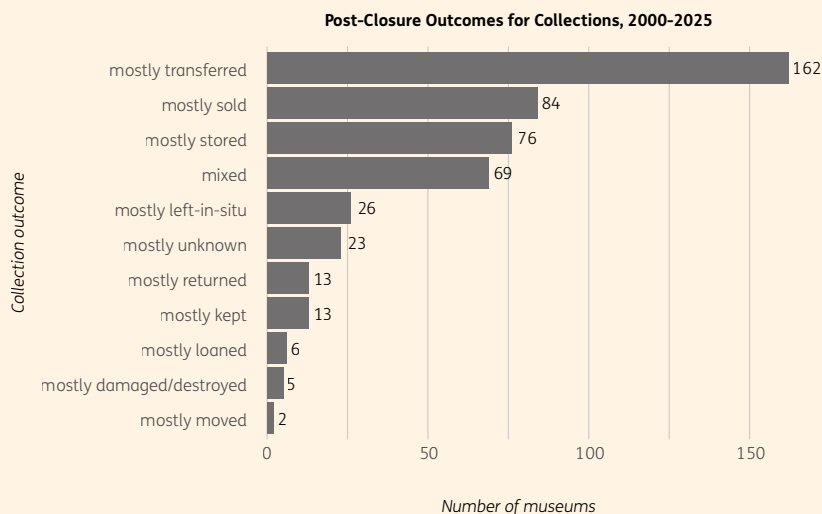


Figure 19. Outcomes for the collection after museum closure in the UK 2000-25. 'Mostly' refers to 50% or more of the total collection. For example, museums are considered to have mostly transferred their collection when they have transferred 50% or more of their objects.

After closure, collections were most commonly transferred elsewhere. As **Figure 19** indicates, 162 museums (34%) mainly transferred their collection after closure. 84 museums (17%) mainly sold their collection. 76 (16%) stored their objects in the first instance. In 69 (14%) cases the collection went in a variety of directions; their outcomes are recorded as 'mixed'. In 26 cases (5%), the objects were mostly 'left in situ', that is, the building was closed but the collection remained in place. Industrial site museums were often left in situ simply because buildings and heavy machinery formed part of a scheduled monument, or were listed, or were simply too difficult to move.

The category also includes collections in conventional museums that were left in place when the building closed to the public. Thirteen museums (3%) mainly returned objects – they had relied heavily on donations or loans. In a few cases (3%) organisations and individuals kept the collection, most of the collection was sent elsewhere on loan, or it was destroyed or damaged. The category 'mostly moved' is when the owner retains and relocates the objects but does not store them, for instance when vehicles or large guns are moved to an outdoor site.

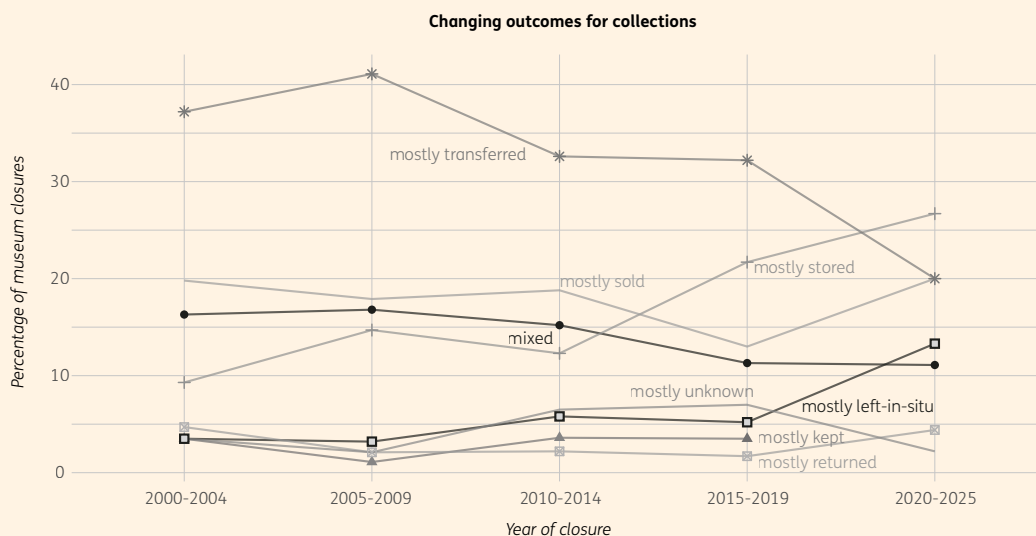


Figure 20. Change in outcomes over time for collections from closed local authority museums in the UK 2000-25.

What happened to the collections from closed museums changed over time (**Figure 20**). In the 2000s it was most common for collections to be transferred, and less common for them to be stored. That position later reversed. In 2000-4, 40% of collections were mainly transferred and 10% were stored.

By 2025, only 20% of collections were being transferred, and 27% were being stored. As we will discuss later in the report, the pattern of disposal largely follows that of local authority museums. The number of collections being left in situ also rose from around 4% to 14%. In effect, an increasing number of collections were kept in abeyance.



After closure, collections were most commonly transferred elsewhere.



Keeping collections together

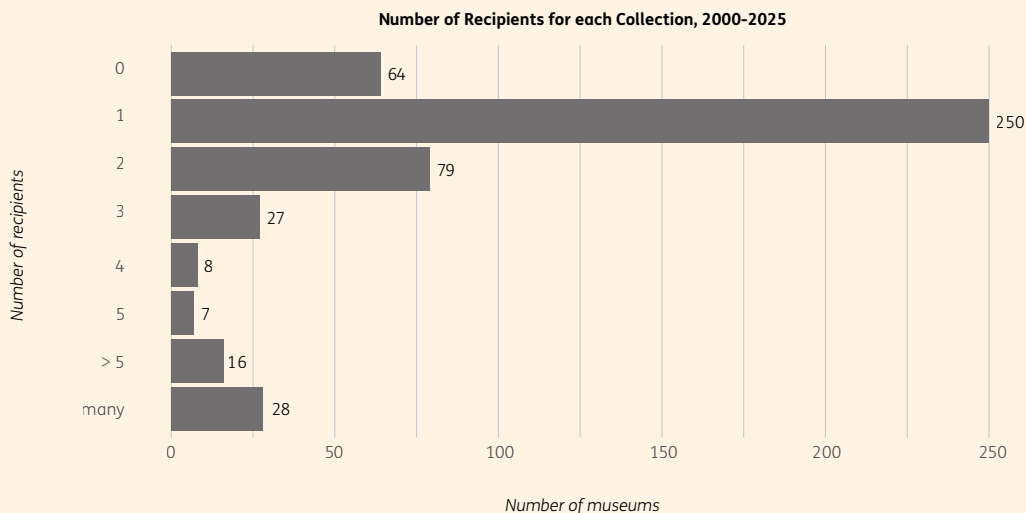


Figure 21. The number of recipients for collections from closed museums in the UK 2000-25. 0 recipient is when the initial organisation kept the collection; one recipient is when the collection was moved in its entirety, two recipients is when the collection was split into two parts, and so on.

Most museums transferred, stored, or sold their collection in its entirety at the point of closure (**Figure 21**). In around 65% of cases all or most of the collection stayed together. Some 64 museums retained possession of their collection and in 250 cases the collection went to a single recipient. In 79 cases the collection was split between two recipients.

In 23 cases the collection was split between 5 or more recipients, and in 28 between 'many' recipients (when our informants mentioned 'many' recipients but did not give a numeric figure). This was one of the few areas where the museums' forms of governance were not a factor in what happened to a collection, with the outcomes being similar throughout.

MUSEUM COLLECTIONS AFTER CLOSURE

Distances travelled

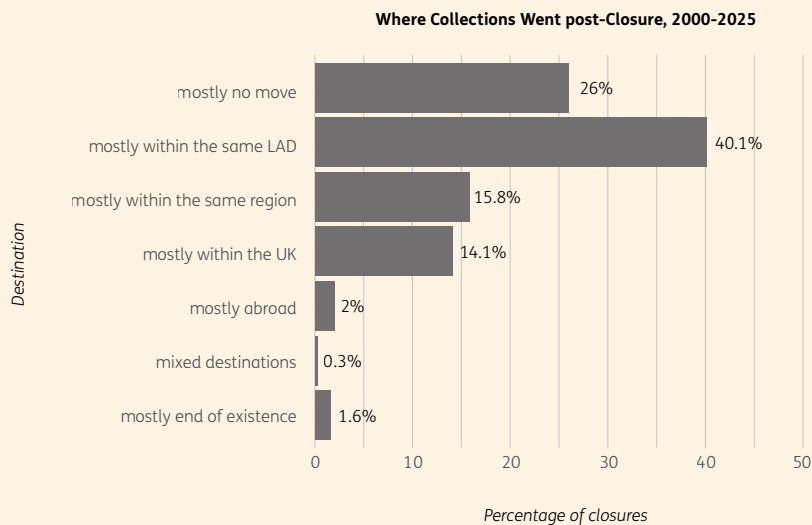


Figure 22. Percentage outcomes for collections after museum closure in the UK 2000-25, by destination (excluding unknown destination). ‘Mostly’ refers to 50% or more of a museum’s collection.

In many cases, we had no information as to the objects’ new locations. This was mainly when the recipient was unknown, when an object was sold at auction, or when the information was too vague (e.g. “it went to a museum in Wales”). Where we do have that information, we can see from **Figure 22** that collections often stayed close to home.

Around 26% of collections were not moved and 41% remained within the local authority district, so 67% stayed reasonably close to the original museums, with a further 16% of collections remaining within the same region, a total of 83%. Only six collections travelled outside of the UK, although more may have been sold to overseas collectors.

Time taken to dispose of objects

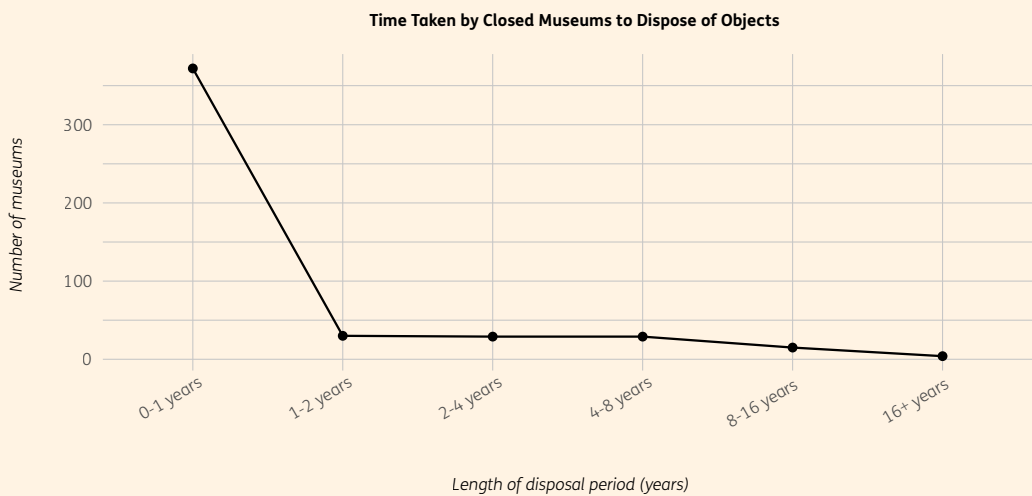


Figure 23. Time taken by closed museums to dispose of objects in years in the UK 2000-25. Date ranges are inclusive of the first number and exclusive of the second. For example, 375 museums disposed of objects in less than one year of closing.

Most museums disposed of their collection within one year (**Figure 23**). For others the process was far more drawn out. Many museums were still disposing of objects (although not necessarily collections in their entirety) years later.

Ten of the museums that took up to sixteen years to dispose of objects were local authority museums. In these cases, the collection was often left in the closed museum while the staff organised transfers. For instance, the Clarke Hall Educational Museum in Wakefield closed in 2012. A year later staff sent two objects to Temple Newsam House in Leeds, in 2015 they gave thirty-eight items to Leicestershire County Council for their use in Donington Le Heath Manor House Museum, and over a period of nine years sent objects to at least nine more museums and heritage sites, with the remaining objects being earmarked for eventual auction.

The museums that took the longest to dispose of objects were three small private museums, one of unknown governance, and the Type Museum, a small independent museum in London. This shows as having a long disposal time because it closed as a museum in 2006, but it continued to function as an archive that was open by appointment, until that also closed in 2022. At that point its monotype collection, which was on loan from the Science Museum, was returned and the Stephenson Blake collection, which consists of the stock, plant and archive of Stephenson Blake and Co Ltd, Sheffield, the last commercial type foundry in the United Kingdom, went to the V&A.

Scrapped and destroyed

It was rare for whole collections to be scrapped. We found only two such examples: the Straw Works Museum in Norfolk and the Battle of Flowers Museum in Jersey. Ella Carstairs, the founder and owner of the Straw Crafts Museum died without having made any provision for the museum, which was displayed in outbuildings around her house. Florence Bechelet set up the Battle of Flowers Museum to preserve artefacts from the island's annual festival which centres on a parade of huge flower-covered floats. Although the nearby Pallot Museum took a few models, she was unable to find a home for the rest of the collection.

While two museums are not enough to establish a trend it is notable that women museum founders are comparatively rare outside of local history museums, and that the two collections to be scrapped in their entirety had both been founded by women. It is possible, even likely, that women's collections are less valued than those established by men and that there is less interest in preserving crafts (again, often women's sphere) than other artefacts.

Three aviation museums and one war and conflict museum sent objects for scrap. In all cases the objects were very big and therefore expensive and difficult to house or to move, and they had scrap value. Bruntingthorpe Aircraft Museum was given short notice to vacate its leasehold site, and their exit coincided with the pandemic, making relocation especially difficult. While they succeeded in rehousing several planes, and in moving others to a new museum space, ten or more of the larger airframes were sent for scrap.



It is possible, even likely, that women's collections are less valued than those established by men and that there is less interest in preserving crafts (again, often women's sphere) than other artefacts.



When the Warship Preservation Trust folded, ownership of the collection was transferred by default to the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company. The LCT 7074, an amphibious assault ship went to the D-Day story in Portsmouth and some artefacts including a ship's bell went to the Royal Naval Museum, while the HMS Bronington was partially sunk at her moorings. A trust has since been formed to save the ship.

The HMS Plymouth, also part of the Warship Preservation trust collection, was sold for scrap. Joe Mullen, a businessman who was intending to set up a Submarine Heritage Centre in Barrow in Furness, bought HMS Onyx for a reported £117,000.

When that business also went into liquidation the HMS Onyx was sent for scrap. Otherwise, we only found seven instances of museums throwing away objects from their collection, in one case things that were beyond repair, in others these being 'miscellaneous material'.

Seven museums lost some or all of their collections in a fire.

MUSEUM COLLECTIONS AFTER CLOSURE

Recipients of closure

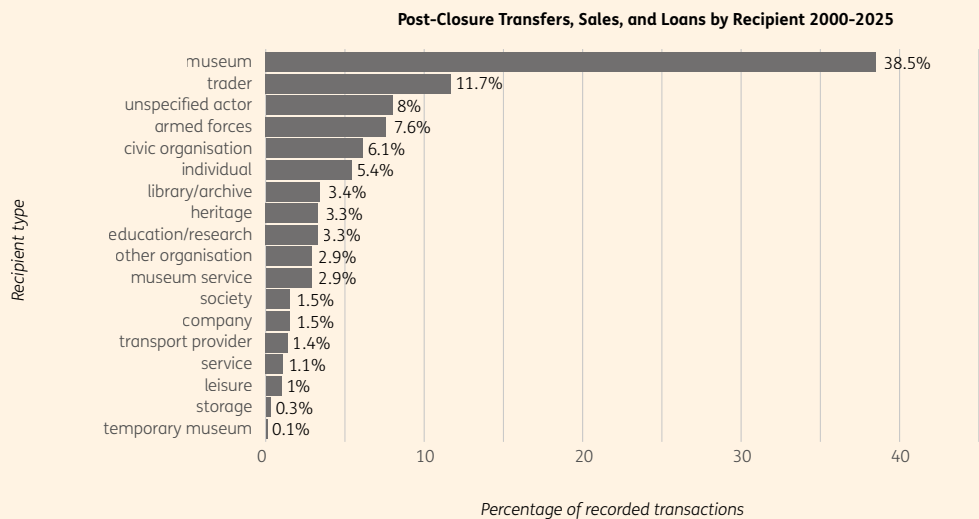


Figure 24. Recipients of objects from closed museums in the UK 2000-25. The numbers relate to the number of transfers, loans, and sales.

The main recipients of the collections of closed museums were other museums. As **Figure 24** indicates, in 38.5% of cases, objects went to other museums, rising to 48% if museum services, libraries and archives, and heritage organisations are included.

Around 12% of transfers, loans, and sales are made to traders and 5% to individuals. Otherwise, objects go to a wide range of recipients including public institutions, schools and other educational bodies, societies, transport providers, and into storage. The Armed Forces are the recipient in around 8% of transactions, although this figure is skewed due to Firepower: The Royal Artillery Museum.



The main recipients of the collections of closed museums were other museums.



Making loans

Firepower: Royal Artillery Museum loaned hundreds, possibly thousands, of objects to some 117 different sites including military barracks and depots and training schools, museums, heritage sites and businesses. These objects were sent on loan when its stores were closed as part of a cost-saving exercise a few years before the museum finally closed. The objects all subsequently remained on loan.

Three collections were loaned in their entirety. In these instances, the governing body retained ownership of the objects, which were displayed elsewhere. The Percival David Foundation ceramics collection was loaned to the British Museum for fifteen years at which point the loan was converted into a gift. (Its extensive handling collection and library went to the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London).

The Asian Music Museum collection was loaned to the Music Department at the University of York where part of it is used for teaching and some instruments are played, most notably by the Chinese music ensemble.

The Jewish Military Museum collection was loaned to the Jewish Museum in London, which has now closed pending a new venue. Twenty-five museums loaned a few or some objects.

Sales

We found 200 instances of sales, although it is also likely that other sales went unmentioned or unrecorded. Most sales were made through auction houses, in which case the buyer's identity usually remained confidential. Generally, we only know where an object has gone if it is culturally significant (so the purchase is documented) and it remains in the public sphere.

For instance, the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery in Stoke-on-Trent bought a majolica peacock at auction which had originally come from the Minton Museum, a small museum within the Minton factory.

Stored, displayed, used

There is limited information on what recipients do with the collections or objects that they acquire. Where that information is available, it was much more likely that objects were stored rather than displayed. We found 151 instances of objects being displayed and 178 instances of them being stored. However, the quantity of objects that were involved differed between the two eventualities. It was eight times more likely that 'most' of the collection would be stored rather than displayed, whereas it was only twice as likely that a 'few' items would be displayed as stored. We also suspect that the likelihood of objects being stored is higher than was reported.

Museum objects are routinely stored, and it is less likely that information would be remarked upon or recorded than objects from closed museums being displayed.

We found sixty-one instances of objects being stored off-site. In a few cases they were stored in collections centres, but more often they were stored in buildings that were not readily accessible to the public or researchers, which suggests that these objects were not likely to be displayed anytime soon.

We also found four instances of objects being 'used'.

The Finkley Down Farm Museum was superseded by a farm experience and adventure park, and agricultural machinery that had been on display was reused as set-dressing.

Items from the Kings Lynn military museum were incorporated into 'outreach' boxes for local schools, bar furniture from a historic inn that had been on show at the Medway Heritage Centre was used as a leaflet rack in Fort Amherst Visitor Centre, and, on one occasion, a railway carriage that had previously been part of the collection at the Electric Railway Museum was reused as a café.



Objects were much more likely to be stored rather than displayed



CLOSURE AND COLLECTIONS BY MUSEUM TYPE

The reasons for closure, what happened to the collections once a museum closed, and who received collections or objects from the closed museums all varied depending on the type of museum, and especially on their form of governance.

National museums

The three national museums that closed were all branch museums. The Theatre Museum in Covent Garden, London was a branch of the Victoria and Albert Museum and it closed in 2007 citing the costs of running the building and a failed funding bid. The Museum of Liverpool Life, which was part of National Museums Liverpool, was closed in 2006 pending the foundation of the new Museum of Liverpool, which opened in 2011. The Shambellie House Museum of Costume was part of the National Museums of Scotland. It closed in 2013 because of funding cuts. In all three cases the collections were transferred back to their parent institution.

Local authority museums

Local authority museums generally gave finance as the main reason for closure, more specifically citing funding cuts.

The loss of premises and problems with buildings were also given as reasons for their closure, in many cases because they occupied nineteenth- and early twentieth-century buildings that were expensive to maintain and in need of substantial repairs, or had no lifts and limited access.

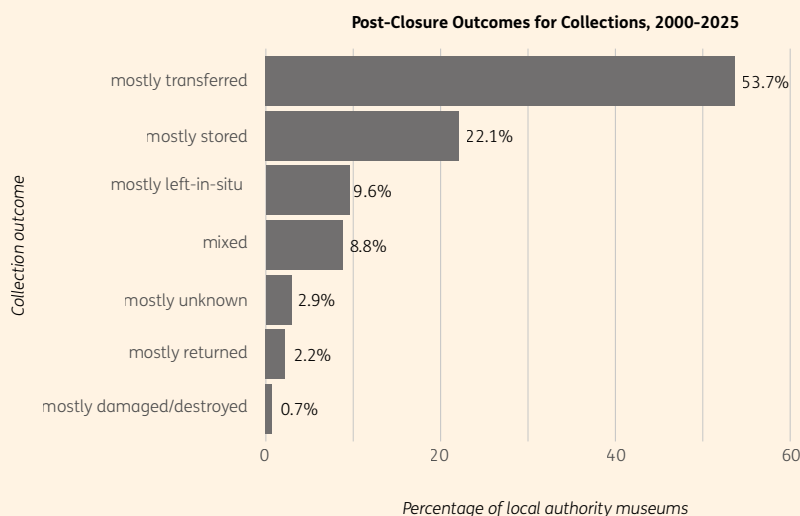


Figure 25. Percentage outcomes for collections from closed local authority museums in the UK 2000-25. 'Mostly' refers to 50% or more of the total collection. For example, museums are considered to have mostly transferred their collection when they have transferred 50% or more of their objects.

Over half of all the local authority museums to close mainly transferred their collection with around one quarter storing collections (**Figure 25**). In thirteen (10%) cases, the collection was mainly 'left in situ', that is, the building was closed with the collection remaining in place.

Local authority museums were the most likely to leave collections in situ mainly because they owned the buildings concerned. It was cheaper to use the museum building as storage than to pay for professional storage elsewhere, especially if there was no immediate use for the space.

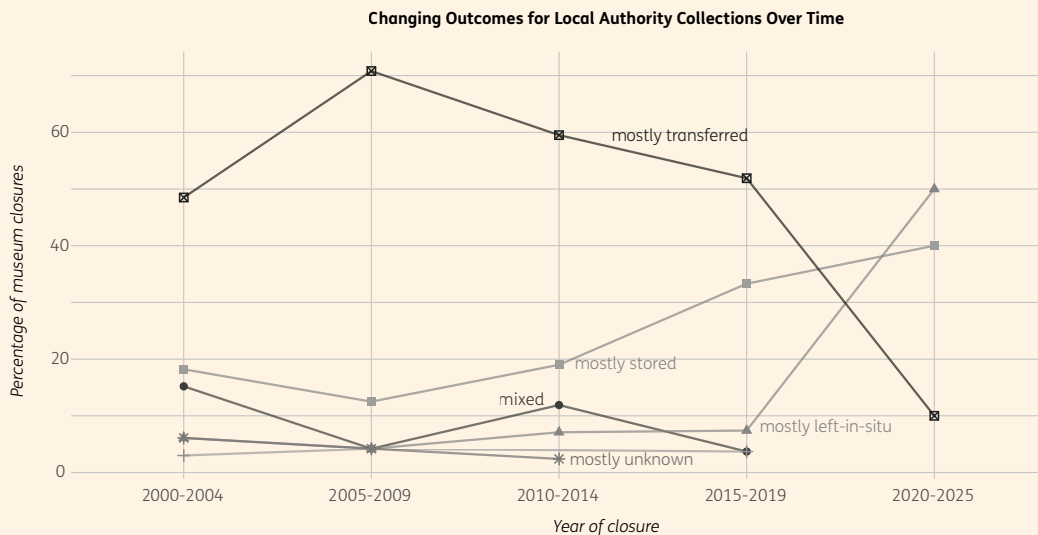


Figure 26. Change in outcomes over time for collections from closed local authority museums in the UK 2000-25.

Local authority museums are the only type of museum where the outcomes for the collections clearly changed over time (as they do when museums are considered collectively). Whereas at the beginning of the century most local authority museums transferred their collection, it is now more likely to be stored (**Figure 26**). The number of transfers rose from 49% in 2000-4 to 71% in 2005-09 and then dropped sharply after 2019. For the last five years only 10% of local authority closures have resulted in collections being mostly transferred, with 40% being mostly stored and 50% being mostly left in situ.

The declining number of transfers might be because other museums are less willing to take on the costs associated with acquiring a collection or that these are more recent closures and transfers may happen in time. The rising number of objects being left in situ may be because these local authority museums no longer have the staff or the resources to arrange relocations.

The number of objects transferred by local authority museums

49% **71%** **10%**

2000-04 2005-09 2020-25

CLOSURE AND COLLECTIONS BY MUSEUM TYPE

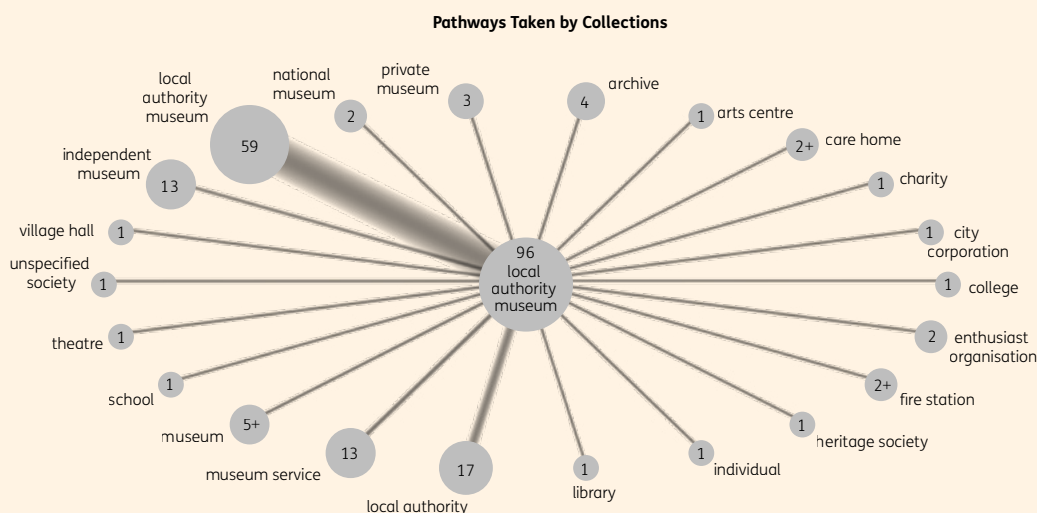


Figure 27. Pathways taken by objects transferred from closed local authority museums in the UK 2000-25, showing the first destination only. The thickness of lines represents the approximate volume of objects transferred between actors. It is estimated according to the size of the originating museum (larger museums are assumed to have more objects) and the terms used to describe the size of the group of objects being moved.



We found very few examples of local authority museums selling objects.



When objects were transferred from closed local authority museums, they mainly went to other local authority museums (**Figure 27**). Some went to the local authority museum service, and when there was no museum service directly into local authority management. As with national museums, this is an example of objects going to a parent organisation (just not a museum). To a lesser extent objects were transferred to independent museums with a few going to national and private museums. Otherwise, they were transferred to other public sector organisations including archives, fire stations, a school, a college, and a library. A few were transferred to enthusiast and heritage organisations, a care home, and a theatre.

If objects were moved for a second time they tended to follow the same path, namely, to another local authority museum. In some instances, the objects moved through a sequence of three local authority museums, or zig-zagged and first moved into a museum service or to a civic organisation and then to a local authority museum.

We found very few examples of local authority museums selling objects. We have only two definite cases on record: Swansea Maritime and Industrial Museum sold a carding machine to the National Wool Museum and, having exhausted the options for transfer, the Clarke Hall Educational Museum in Yorkshire sent miscellaneous items to auction.

Independent museums

Independent museums gave finances as the main reason for closure, citing unsustainable and/or rising costs. Loss of premises was the second most common factor, with sites being redeveloped or leaseholds expiring.

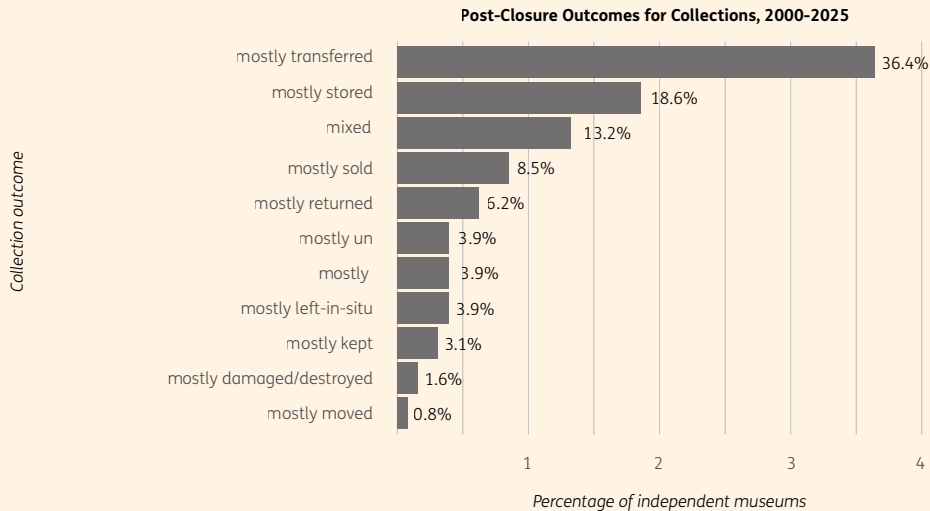


Figure 28. Percentage outcomes for collections from closed independent museums in the UK 2000-25.
 'Mostly' refers to 50% or more of the total collection.

The outcomes for the collections at closed independent museums were more varied than for museums of other governance types, and more evenly spread across categories, although like local authority museums, the collections were mainly transferred or stored (**Figure 28**). Eleven collections were sold. These sales happened under a variety of circumstances. The Royal Photographic Society was in financial crisis and decided to sell their collection to generate revenue that could be used for their core mission. The collection went to the Victoria and Albert Museum. Eyemouth Maritime Centre, which closed in 2015, and the Yorkshire Waterways Museum, which closed in 2019, both went into liquidation and, as liquidators are under a legal obligation to act in the best interests of their creditors, the collections were sold.

In other instances, the museum management, funding, and development were separate from the ownership of the assets. After Fred Dibnah died in 2006, his property was sold, and the new owners Mr and Mrs Powney established the Fred Dibnah Centre Charitable Trust and opened the site as a museum. The ownership of the assets (land, chattels and the company limited by shares) remained with the Powneys throughout the Centre's brief life, and it was their decision to sell.



The outcomes for the collections at closed independent museums were more varied than for museums of other governance types



CLOSURE AND COLLECTIONS BY MUSEUM TYPE

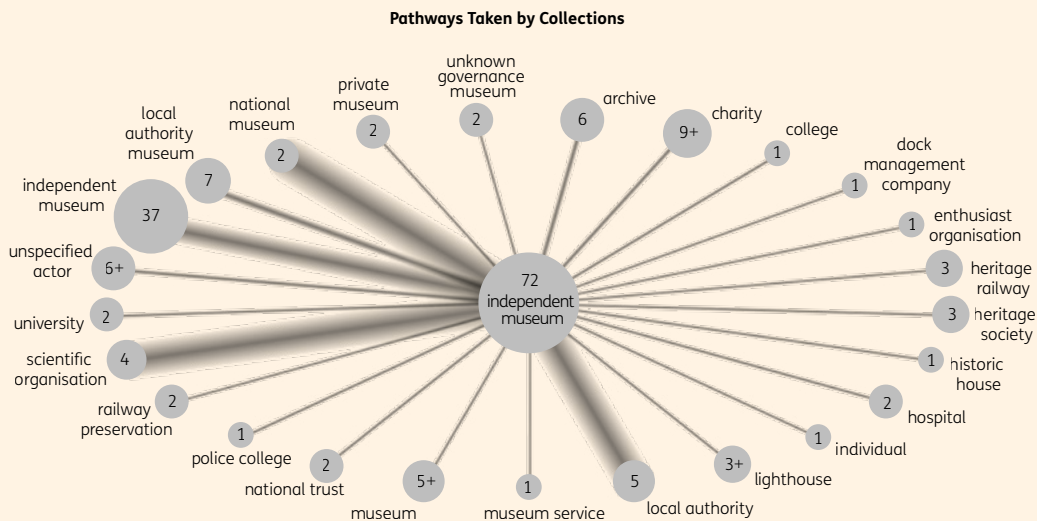


Figure 29. Pathways taken by objects transferred from closed independent museums in the UK 2000-25, showing the first destination only. The thickness of lines represents the approximate volume of objects transferred between actors. It is estimated according to the size of the originating museum (larger museums are assumed to have more objects) and the terms used to describe the size of the group of objects being moved.

The objects that were transferred from independent museums mainly went to other independent museums (**Figure 29**). Otherwise, there were transfers to local authority museums, local authorities, archives, educational establishments of various kinds, and railway preservation and heritage societies. Objects from independent museums generally went to a slightly wider range of destinations than those from local authority museums.

Noticeably, if objects that went to non-museum organisations were transferred for a second time, they usually went back to a museum. Transport providers, civic organisations, museum services, or educational bodies, all transferred objects that they had received from museums over to other museums.

The objects from independent museums were more likely to travel further than those from other museum types. The number of objects that stayed in place, within the same local authority district, region, or travelled within the UK was more evenly spread than was the case with other museum types.



Objects from independent museums were more likely to travel further than those from other museum types.



Private museums

Private museums mostly closed due to life events, usually because owners decided to retire and close the museum, or they died without making provision for the museum. Finance was the second reason for closure, with many private museums being unable to meet their running costs.

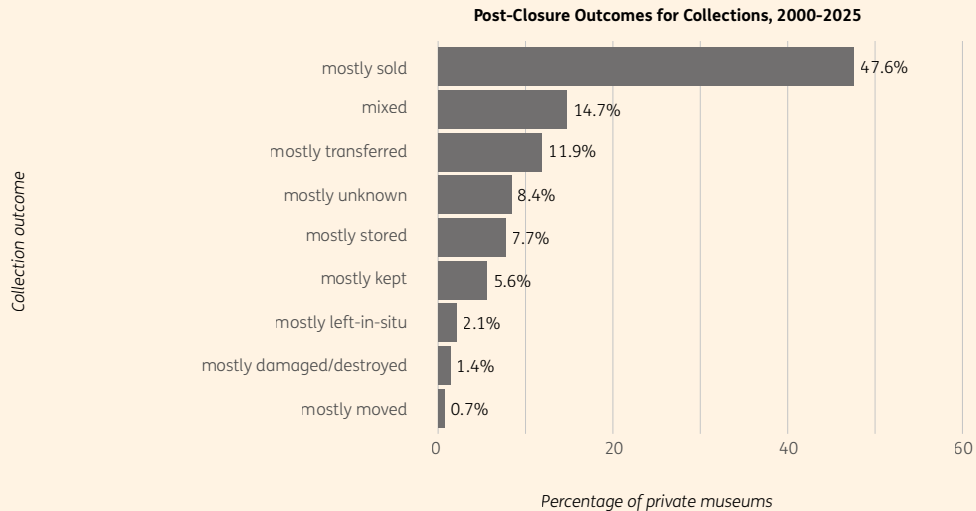


Figure 30. Percentage outcomes for collections from closed private museums in the UK 2000-25. 'Mostly' refers to 50% or more of the total collection.

Almost half of private museums sold their collection (Figure 30). They were the least likely to store their collection.

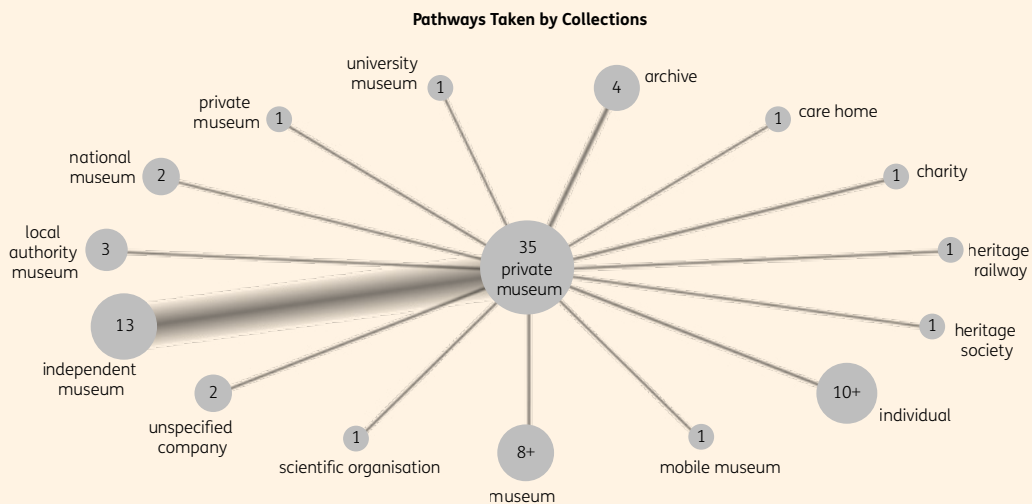


Figure 31. Pathways taken by objects transferred from closed private museums in the UK 2000-25, showing the first destination only. The thickness of lines represents the approximate volume of objects transferred between actors. It is estimated according to the size of the originating museum (larger museums are assumed to have more objects) and the terms used to describe the size of the group of objects being moved.

Private museums were much less likely to transfer objects than museums of other governance types. When they did, they did not transfer objects within their governance type but instead gave to independent museums, and to a lesser degree to other types of museum (Figure 31).

In these instances, the owners wanted to preserve their collections in the long-term or to make good an omission in museum coverage. For instance, Des Pawson, who owned the Museum of Knots and Sailors' Ropework, gave his collection to Chatham House Dockyard because they did not have comparable artefacts. Private museums also made transfers to societies, schools and individuals.

CLOSURE AND COLLECTIONS BY MUSEUM TYPE

University museums

University museums closed for a mixture of reasons: loss of premises, financial, and strategic closure. When they closed, they mainly transferred or stored their collection. No university museum sold their collection.

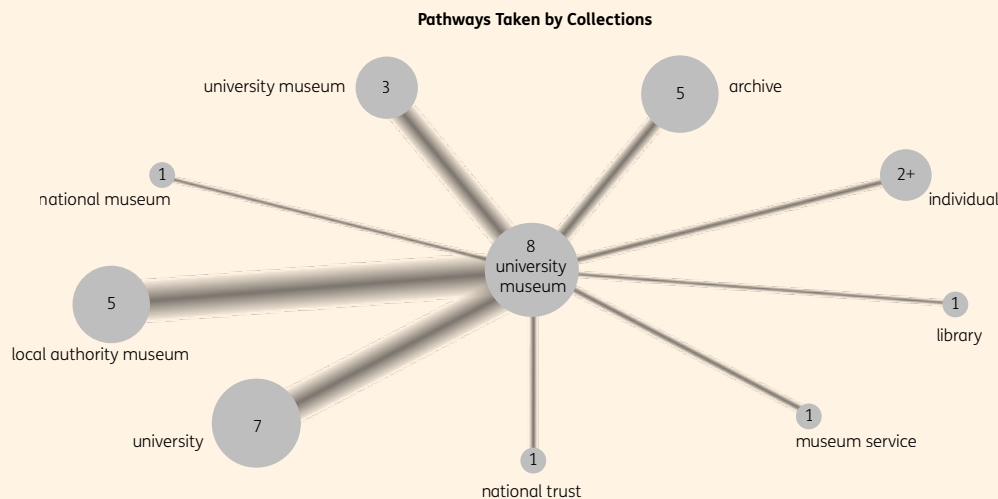
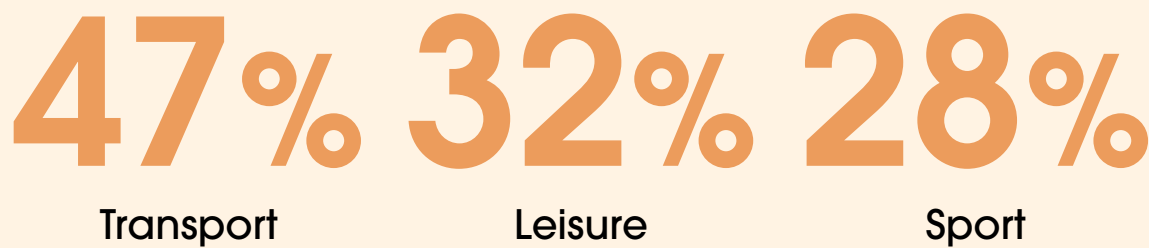


Figure 32. Pathways taken by objects transferred from closed university museums in the UK 2000-25, showing the first destination only. The thickness of lines represents the approximate volume of objects transferred between actors. It is estimated according to the size of the originating museum (larger museums are assumed to have more objects) and the terms used to describe the size of the group of objects.

University museums made transfers to local authority, national, and other university museums, the National Trust, and other public sector organisations (Figure 32). Otherwise, collections generally reverted to their parent institution, in this case the university.

Museums most likely to sell their collections



Museums by subject matter

The relatively large numbers of subject-matter categories means that the data on closed museums is thinly spread when considered according to this characteristic (**Figure 33**). Hence it is difficult to draw many strong conclusions about reasons for closure or outcomes of closure according to subject matter. However, there are a few points worth making.

Museums of rural industry had the highest rates of closure of museums when judged by subject matter. In this case, the reasons are evenly spread across several categories and there was no single reason why they closed.

Local history museums closed in the highest number, most commonly citing finances – both funding cuts and rising costs.

A disproportionately high number of war and conflict museums cited loss of premises as their reason for closure. In 2017 the Ministry of Defence started reducing its support to regimental museums, with more having funding and help in kind cut in 2022. That support often included accommodation for the museums.

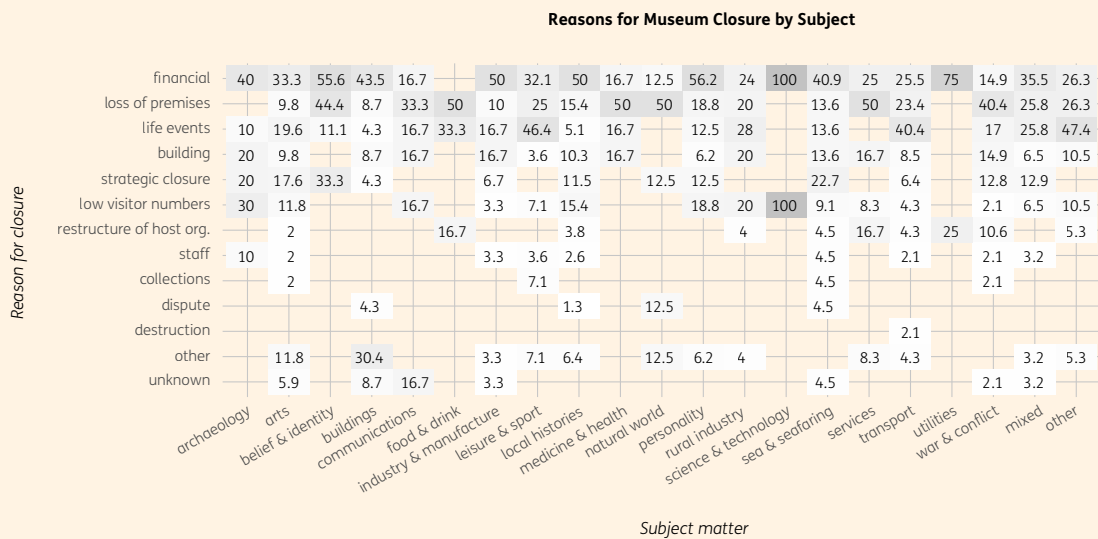


Figure 33. Reasons for closure according to museum subject matter in the UK 2000-25. Some museums give multiple reasons for closure, so the percentages can sum to more than 100. For example, only one science and technology museum closed and it cited both financial reasons and low visitor numbers as reasons for closure.

The outcomes for collections when assessed according to subject matter followed the general trends of mainly transferring or storing collections. The exceptions were museums of transport, rural industry, and leisure and sport, which were much less likely to transfer their collections and far more likely to sell – 47% of transport, 32% of leisure and sport, and 28% of rural industry museums mostly sold their collections. With only two exceptions, all these museums were privately owned.

Museums of industry, utilities, and rural industry were especially likely to leave their collections in situ. Museums of industry and utilities often have heavy machinery that cannot be used and so it is left behind; museums of rural industry often have agricultural machinery that is not particularly valuable, so not worth selling, and the space to leave objects in place.

CLOSURE AND COLLECTIONS BY MUSEUM TYPE

Museums by size

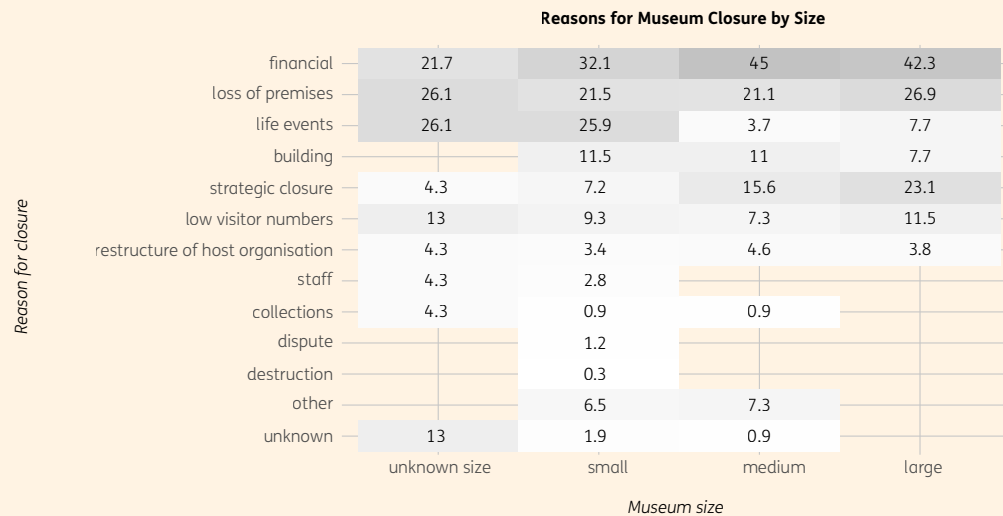


Figure 34. Reasons for closure according to museum size in the UK 2000-25. For example, 45% of medium museums cited financial reasons for closure.

Small museums gave finances as the main reason for closure but differed from the more usual pattern in that life events were their second most common reason for closure, with loss of premises the third (rather than vice-versa). A high proportion of small museums are private, and life events are the most common reason for private museums closing. Large and medium-sized museums were more likely to close for strategic reasons than small museums (**Figure 34**).

Medium and large museums transferred most of their collection around half of the time. Otherwise, medium museums mainly stored their collections, whereas large museums were equally likely to store as to sell their collection. The outcomes for small museums were more mixed. They transferred their collections 29% of the time, sold them 22% of the time, and stored them around 15% of the time. These patterns are closely linked to governance. Most local authority museums are medium sized (and they transfer or store), while many small museums are private (and they tend to sell rather than to store).

The large museums that mostly sold their collections were also private.

When the collections from large museums were transferred they mainly went to other large museums. Collections from medium-sized museums mainly went to other medium and to large museums. Small museums made more-or-less equal numbers of transfers to small, medium, and large museums. Small museums also transferred objects to three huge museums. The Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture sent colour charts to Tate Britain; York Racing Museum transferred some badges to the British Museum; and Avery Historical Museum sent a weighing scale to the Science Museum.

It is customary to end reports by stating that more research is needed. We want to vary that formula slightly.

Fiona Candlin, Director of the Mapping Museums Lab, has already begun following up on some of the questions raised by the data analyses. Drawing on archival and interview-based research, she is investigating why some collections remain intact while others are dispersed, why certain collections stay in situ—sometimes for years—and why the objects from Firepower were distributed so widely, among other topics.

Provisionally titled *Museum Afterlives*, Candlin's book considers the legal structures, institutional politics, and historical contexts that shape the onward flow of objects from closed museums. It also examines how objects are reframed or reinterpreted in their new settings. We are also looking forward to Bethany Rex's forthcoming book on museum closure and local museums.

Beyond these projects, the topic of museum closure would benefit from substantial further enquiry. Four potential areas for future research are as follows.

The emotional labour of closure.

In collecting data, we spoke to staff and volunteers from closed museums, many of whom had been deeply affected by the closures. Museum scholars have undertaken valuable research into the emotional labour of professional museum practice. Building on this, researchers could examine the specific emotional labour associated with closure and explore ways to alleviate its more negative aspects.

The impact of museum closure upon communities.

Whether neighbourhood-based or linked by shared interests. Some closures have been met with bitter resistance, while others have passed almost unnoticed. Future research could ask: what factors shape the reception of closure?

Sustainability.

Our data shows that museums are most likely to close within their first decade. Which funding structures, policies, and practices support long-term sustainability, and how might new museums be better planned and supported to survive those early years?

An international perspective on museum closure.

Do other nations experience markedly different closure rates, and if so, is this due to greater sectoral stability? What lessons about museum longevity might be learned from abroad?

More broadly, museum closure is not simply a story of loss but also of change. Tracking closures alongside openings allows academics, museum professionals, and governmental and non-governmental bodies to see which areas of the sector are expanding or contracting, and to respond accordingly.

By collecting data on sectoral change, making it publicly accessible, and consolidating the findings in this report, we aim to lay the groundwork for future research and to help inform sustainable planning, policy, and practice.

AUTHORS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mapping Museums Lab

The Mapping Museums Lab is a multidisciplinary research team based at Birkbeck, University of London. We combine computer and data science, and museum studies to document and analyse the history, geography, composition, and development of the UK museum sector since 1960. Our work has been funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. 'Museum Closure in the UK' is our third major project. For more information visit the research website: mapping-museums.bbk.ac.uk/

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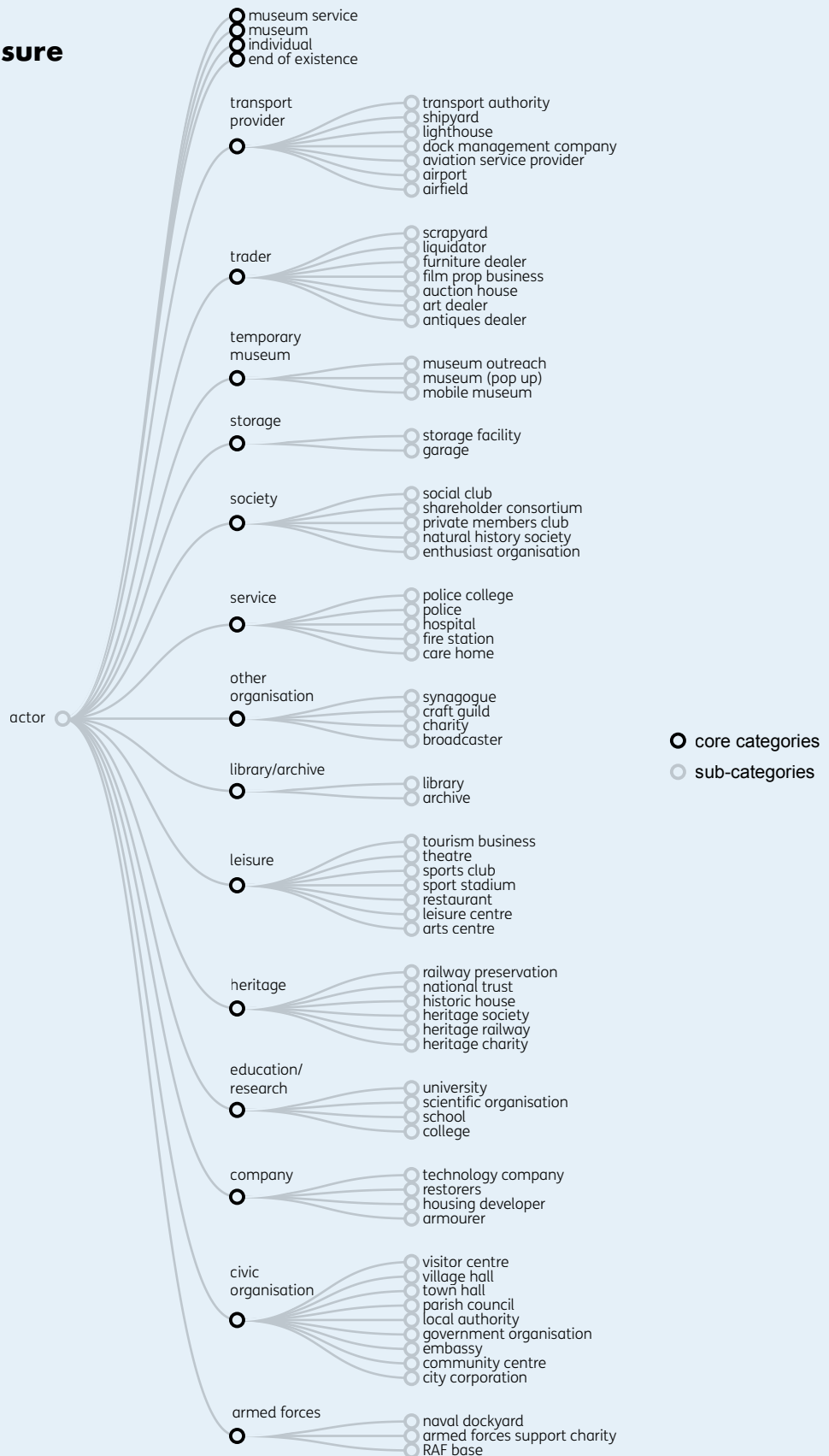
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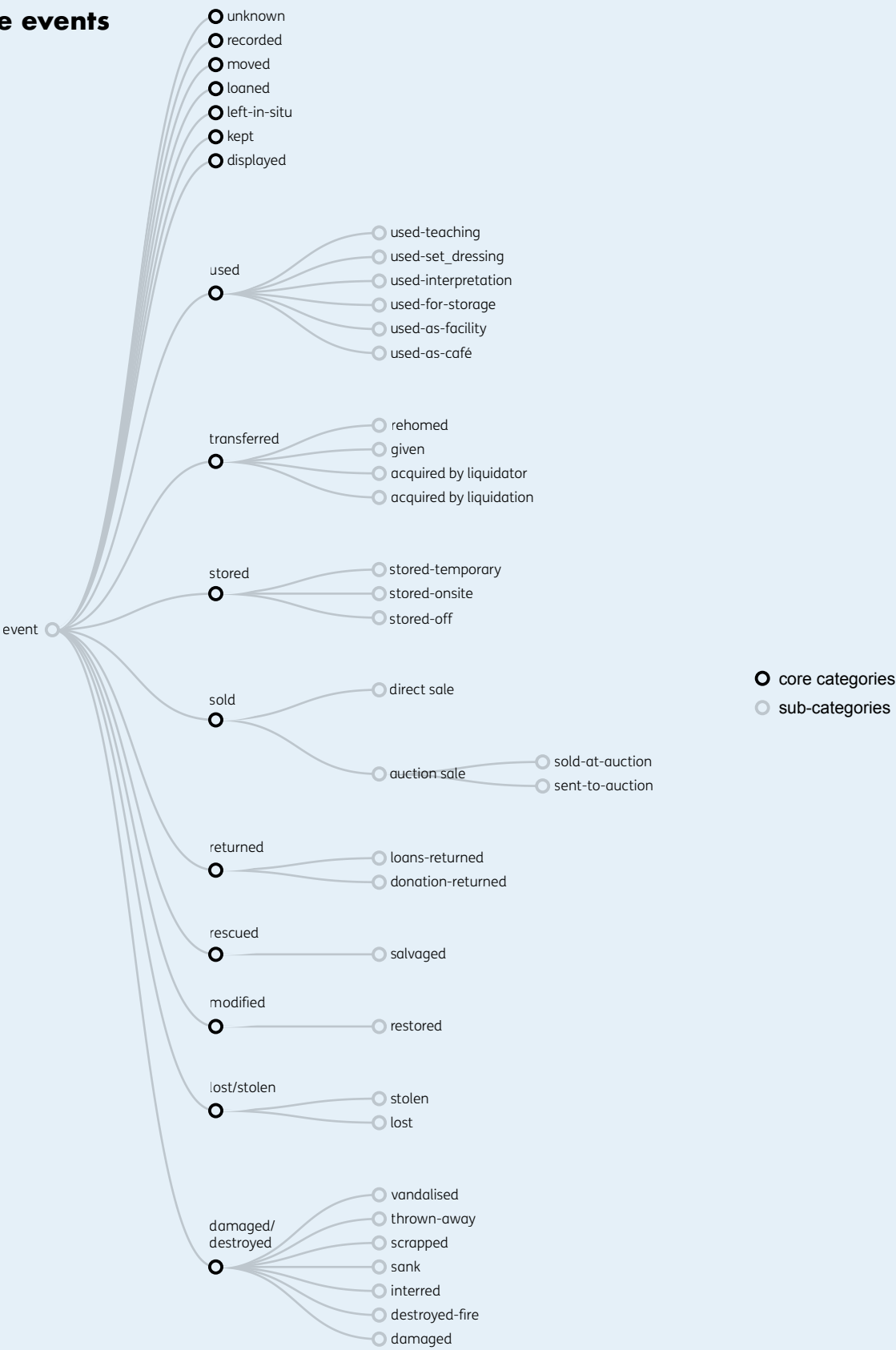
Professor Giovanna Morra and Adrian Babbidge both gave feedback on drafts of the report. We are very grateful for their input.

And finally thank you to the systems group in the School of Computing and Mathematical Sciences at Birkbeck who have hosted the Mapping Museums database and web application.

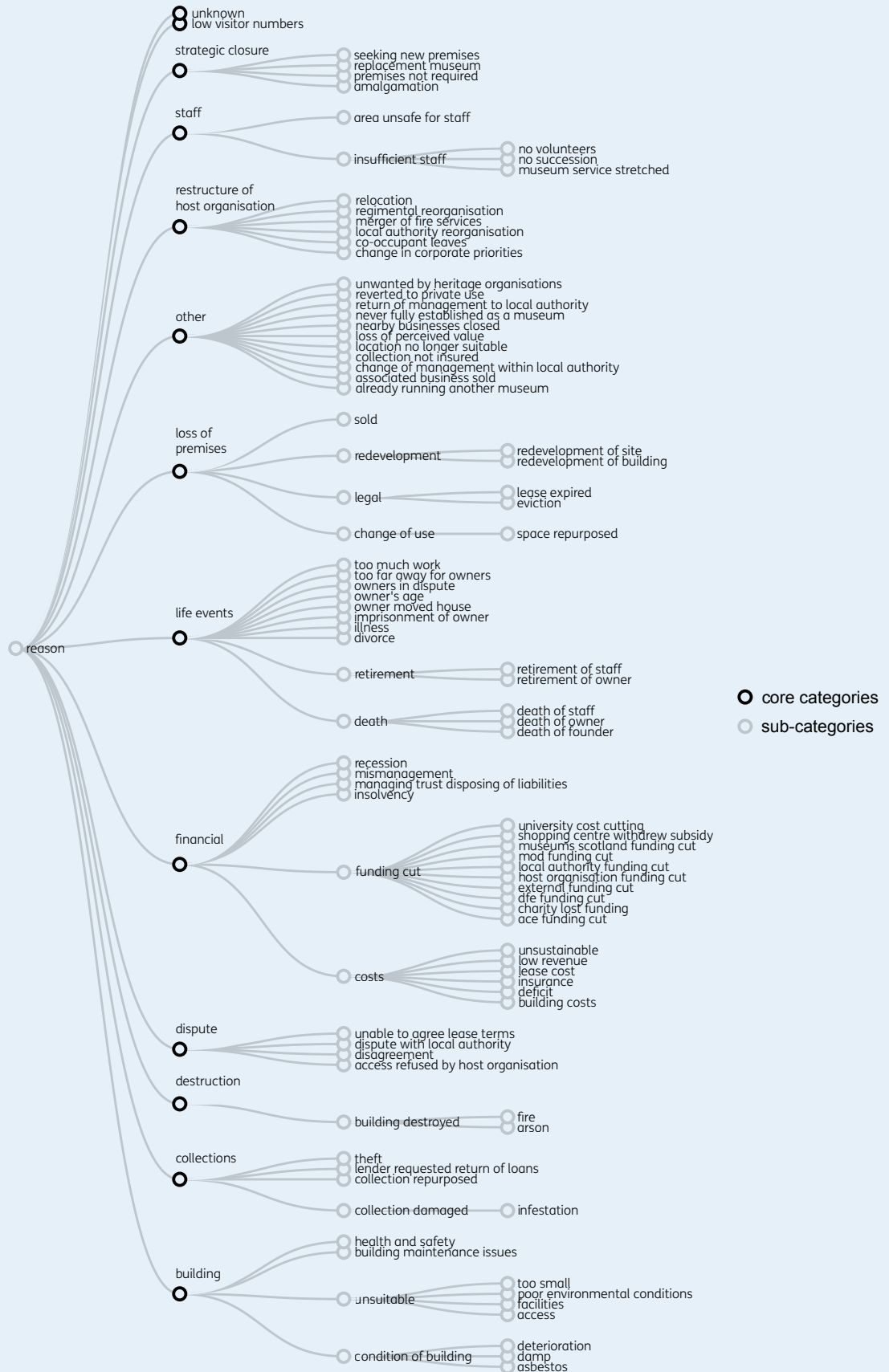
Reasons for Closure



Closure events



Actors



LIST OF MUSEUMS THAT CLOSED 2000-25

ENGLAND

East Midlands

MUSEUM	TOWN/CITY	OPENED	CLOSED	GOVERNANCE	SIZE	SUBJECT MATTER
50 and 61 Squadron Museum	Lincoln	1980-1989	2017	Independent	small	War and conflict: Regiment
Hearon Heritage Centre	Hearon	1991	2005	Independent	small	Local Histories
Museum Of RAF Firefighting	Lincoln	2002	2016	Independent	small	War and conflict: Airforce
South Nottinghamshire Hussars Museum	Nottingham	1994	2011	Independent	small	War and conflict: Regiment
Strutts North Mill	Belper	1995	2022	Independent	small	Industry and manufacture: Textiles
The Museum of Leathercraft	Abington	1946	2023	Independent	small	Industry and manufacture: Other
Wirksworth Heritage Centre	Wirksworth	1986	2025	Independent	small	Local Histories
Bruntingthorpe Aircraft Museum	Lutterworth	1983	2020	Independent: Unknown	small	War and conflict: Airforce
Donington Grand Prix Exhibition	Derby	1973	2018	Independent: Unknown	small	Transport: Cars and motorbikes
Normanton Church Museum	Normanton	1985	2011	Independent: Unknown	small	Local Histories
Snibston Discovery Museum	Coalville	1992	2015	Local Authority	large	Science and technology: Other
Millgate Museum	Newark	1976	2012	Local Authority	medium	Local Histories
Museum of Costume & Textiles, Nottingham	Nottingham	1976	2003	Local Authority	medium	Arts: Costume and textiles
Stamford Museum	Stamford	1961	2011	Local Authority	medium	Local Histories
Wygstons House Museum Of Costume	Leicester	1974	2000	Local Authority	medium	Arts: Costume and textiles
City And County Museum, Lincoln	Lincoln	1907	2005	Local Authority	small	Mixed: Encyclopaedic
Newark Museum	Newark	1912	2004	Local Authority	small	Local Histories
Cadeby Light Railway	Market Bosworth	1963	2005	Private	small	Transport: Trains and railways
Ellys Manor House	Great Ponton	2008	2017	Private	small	Buildings: Houses: Large houses
Incredibly Fantastic Old Toy Show	Lincoln	1989	2003	Private	small	Leisure and sport: Toys and models
M&C Collection of Historic Motorcycles	Bakewell	1997	2012	Private	small	Transport: Cars and motorbikes
Mawthorpe Bygones Museum	Alford	1955	2000-2001	Private	small	Mixed: Bygones
Museum Of Entertainment	Spalding	1979	2005	Private	small	Arts: Music
Naseby Battle and Farm Museum	Kettering	1975	2004-2005	Private	small	War and conflict: Event or site
National Dragonfly Museum	Peterborough	1995	2001	Private	small	Natural world: Other
The Working Carriage Museum	Matlock	1946	2017	Private	small	Transport: Other
Vinas Dolls Gallery	Newark	1984	2015	Private	small	Leisure and sport: Toys and models
Kawasaki Museum	Nottingham	2002	2016	Private	unknown	Transport: Cars and motorbikes
Bomber County Aviation Museum	Hemswell Cliff	1975-1976	2004-2006	Unknown	small	War and conflict: Airforce
Lace Museum	Nottingham	1980	2003	Unknown	small	Industry and manufacture: Textiles
Longdale Craft Centre And Museum	Nottingham	1973	2015	Unknown	small	Arts: Other

East of England

Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum	Norwich	1990	2012	Independent	medium	War and conflict: Regiment
Bishops Stortford Local History Museum	Bishops Stortford	1979	2002	Independent	small	Local Histories
Fenland and West Norfolk Aviation Museum	Nr Wisbech	1987	2022	Independent	small	War and conflict: Airforce
Military Museum (Kings Lynn)	Kings Lynn	2013	2017	Independent	small	War and conflict: Military
Rhodes Memorial Museum	Bishops Stortford	1938	2002	Independent	small	Personality: Political
Sue Ryder Foundation Museum	Sudbury	1979	2000-2010	Independent	small	Medicine and health: Other
Suffolk Punch Heavy Horse Museum	Woodbridge	1994	2013	Independent	small	Rural Industry: Other

The Nelson Museum	Great Yarmouth	2001	2019	Independent	small	Personality: Other
Walton (-on-the-Naze) Maritime Museum	Walton on the Naze	1984	2020	Independent	small	Sea and seafaring: Mixed
Bygones At Holkham Park	Wells-next-the-sea	1979	2014	Independent: Unknown	medium	Rural Industry: Rural life
Norfolks Golden Fleece Heritage Museum	Worstead	1945-2010	2011	Independent: Unknown	medium	Rural Industry: Textiles
Brewery Chapel Museum	Halstead	1986	2007	Independent: Unknown	small	Local Histories
Iceni Village	Cockley Clay	1975	2014	Independent: Unknown	small	Archaeology: Prehistory
Kingsbury Watermill Museum	St Albans	1978	2012-2014	Independent: Unknown	small	Rural Industry: Watermills
Litcham Village Museum	Kings Lynn	1991	2014	Independent: Unknown	small	Local Histories
Maldon & District Agricultural & Domestic Museum	Maldon	1988	2003	Independent: Unknown	small	Rural Industry: Other
Tower Museum Bassingbourn	Royston	1974	2020	Independent: Unknown	small	War and conflict: Airforce
William Clowes Printing Museum	Beccles	1984	2004	Independent: Unknown	small	Industry and manufacture: Print
Manor House Museum	Bury St Edmunds	1993	2006	Local Authority	large	Arts: Other
Bedford Museum	Bedford	1962	2010	Local Authority	medium	Local Histories
Hitchin Museum And Art Gallery	Hitchin	1941	2012	Local Authority	medium	Local Histories
Letchworth Museum and Art Gallery	Letchworth	1914	2012	Local Authority	medium	Mixed: Encyclopaedic
Mark Hall Cycle Museum	Harlow	1982	2002	Local Authority	medium	Transport: Bicycles
St Peter Hungate Church Museum	Norwich	1933	2000	Local Authority	medium	Arts: Fine and decorative arts
The Cecil Higgins Museum	Bedford	1949	2007	Local Authority	medium	Arts: Fine and decorative arts
The Motor Boat Museum	nr Basildon	1986	2010	Local Authority	medium	Sea and seafaring: Boats and ships
Town House Museum Of Lynn Life	Kings Lynn	1992	2010	Local Authority	medium	Local Histories
Tymperleys Clock Museum	Colchester	1987	2010	Local Authority	medium	Industry and manufacture: Clocks and watches
Kings Lynn Custom House	Kings Lynn	1999	2019	Local Authority	small	Buildings: Civic
Maritime Museum for East Anglia	Great Yarmouth	1967	2002	Local Authority	small	Sea and seafaring: Mixed
Wolterton Hall	Erpington	1945-1949	2014	Private	medium	Buildings: Houses: Large houses
Anchor Press Museum	Tiptree	2001	2014	Private	small	Industry and manufacture: Print
Blacked-out Britain War Museum	Huntingdon	1960-2007	2008-2017	Private	small	War and conflict: Event or site
Blitz And Pieces	Great Yarmouth	2014	2016	Private	small	War and conflict: Other
British Magic Museum	North Walsham	2017	2018	Private	small	Other
Colmans Mustard Shop & Museum	Norwich	1973	2017	Private	small	Food and drink
David Howkins Memorial Museum	Great Yarmouth	2008	2016	Private	small	Mixed
Gosfield Hall	Gosfield	1945-1960	2003	Private	small	Buildings: Houses: Large houses
John Jarrold Printing Museum	Norwich	1982	2019	Private	small	Industry and manufacture: Print
Louis Tussauds House of Wax Museum	Great Yarmouth	1954	2012	Private	small	Other
Marshland Maritime Museum	Kings Lynn	2004	2024	Private	small	War and conflict: Navy
Museum of Knots & Sailors Ropework	Ipswich	1996	2021	Private	small	Sea and seafaring: Other
Museum Of Magic - Davenports Magic Kingdom	North Walsham	2013	2017	Private	small	Leisure and sport: Other
Norfolk Museum Of Straw Works	Hanworth	1985	2017	Private	small	Arts: Crafts
Rupert Brooke Museum	Grantchester	1999	2013	Private	small	Personality: Literary
Stondon Motor Museum	Henlow	1994	2015	Private	small	Transport: Cars and motorbikes
Suffolk Underwater Studies Museum	Orford	1975-1981	2017	Private	small	Sea and seafaring: Mixed
Sutton Windmill & Broads Museum	Stalham	1976	2008	Private	small	Mixed: Other

LIST OF MUSEUMS THAT CLOSED 2000-25

East of England (continued)

Rupert Brooke Museum	Grantchester	1999	2013	Private	small	Personality: Literary
Stondon Motor Museum	Henlow	1994	2015	Private	small	Transport: Cars and motorbikes
Suffolk Underwater Studies Museum	Orford	1975-1981	2017	Private	small	Sea and seafaring: Mixed
Sutton Windmill & Broads Museum	Stalham	1976	2008	Private	small	Mixed: Other
Walton Hall Museum	Stanford Le Hope	1992	2010	Private	small	Mixed: Bygones
Wolferton Station Museum	Kings Lynn	1970	2001	Private	small	Transport: Trains and railways
Yesterdays World	Great Yarmouth	2007	2014	Private	small	Mixed: Bygones
Bradwell Bay Military & Science Museum	Bradwell-on-Sea	2017	2018	Private	unknown	Mixed: Other
Collectors World	Downham Market	1960-1972	2009	Private	unknown	Mixed: Other
John Dony Field Centre	Luton	1945-2010	2010-2017	Unknown	small	Natural world: Mixed
RAF Signals Museum	Henlow	1999	2024	Unknown	small	War and conflict: Airforce
Taggart Tile Museum	Great Staughton	1981	2007	Unknown	small	Arts: Ceramics
Laundry & Mangle Museum	Coggeshall	1960-2001	2001	Unknown	unknown	Rural Industry: Rural life
Norwich Area Telephone Museum	Norwich	1978	2006-2010	Unknown	unknown	Communications: Other

London

Commonwealth Institute	London	1962	2003	Government: Other	large	Mixed: Other
Jewish Museum	London	1932	2023	Independent	medium	Belief and identity: Religion
Jewish Museum - Finchley	London	1983	2007	Independent	medium	Belief and identity: Religion
Asian Music Museum	London	1998	2014	Independent	small	Arts: Music
British Dental Association Museum	London	1934	2024	Independent	small	Medicine and health: Professional association
Clowns Gallery Museum	London	1959	2018	Independent	small	Other
Danson House	London	2005	2016	Independent	small	Buildings: Houses: Large houses
Firepower! The Royal Artillery Museum	London	2001	2016	Independent	small	War and conflict: Regiment
Fleming Collection Gallery	London	2002	2015	Independent	small	Arts: Fine and decorative arts
Jewish Military Museum	London	1996	2015	Independent	small	War and conflict: Military
London Motor Museum	Hayes	2001	2018	Independent	small	Transport: Cars and motorbikes
London Motorcycle Museum	Greenford	1999	2019	Independent	small	Transport: Cars and motorbikes
Museum of Army Music	London	1989	2020	Independent	small	War and conflict: Regiment
Pollocks Toy Museum	London	1956	2023	Independent	small	Leisure and sport: Toys and models
Royal Artillery Museum	London	1820	2001	Independent	small	War and conflict: Regiment
Royal London Hospital Archives & Museum	London	1984	2022	Independent	small	Medicine and health: Hospital
Southside House	London	1981	2022	Independent	small	Buildings: Houses: Large houses
Type Museum	London	1992	2006	Independent	small	Industry and manufacture: Print
White Lodge Museum	London	2009	2015	Independent	small	Arts: Other
Metropolitan Traffic Police Museum	Hampton	1960-2003	2014	Independent	unknown	Services: Police
The Gilbert Collection	London	2000	2008	Independent	unknown	Arts: Fine and decorative arts
City of London Police Museum	London	2016	2021	Independent: Unknown	small	Services: Police
London Fire Brigade Museum	London	1960-1969	2015	Independent: Unknown	small	Services: Fire
Church Farmhouse Museum	London	1955	2011	Local Authority	medium	Local Histories
Cuming Museum	London	1906	2013	Local Authority	medium	Mixed: Encyclopaedic
Forty Hall Museum	Enfield	1955	2010	Local Authority	medium	Local Histories
Greenwich Borough Museum	London	1919	2003	Local Authority	medium	Local Histories

Greenwich Heritage Centre	London	2003	2018	Local Authority	medium	Local Histories
London Borough Of Bromley Museum	Orpington	1965	2015	Local Authority	medium	Local Histories
North Woolwich Old Station Museum	London	1984	2008	Local Authority	medium	Transport: Trains and railways
The Epping Forest Museum	London	1895	2002-2003	Local Authority	medium	Natural world: Mixed
Wandsworth Museum	London	1986	2014	Local Authority	medium	Local Histories
Woodlands Art Gallery	London	1972	2003	Local Authority	medium	Local Histories
Erith Museum	Erith	1934	2009	Local Authority	small	Local Histories
The Pumphouse Educational Museum	London	1989	2011	Local Authority	small	Utilities: Water and waste
British Theatre Museum	London	1987	2007	National	large	Arts: Other
Bramah Tea And Coffee Museum	London	1992	2008	Private	small	Food and drink
Britain At War	London	1992	2013	Private	small	War and conflict: Event or site
Genius Treasure Museum	London	2018	2019	Private	small	Arts: Other
Prefab Museum	London	2014	2014	Private	small	Buildings: Other
Soseki Museum	London	1984	2016	Private	small	Personality: Literary
West Ham United Football Club Museum	London	2002	2008	Private	small	Leisure and sport: Rugby and football
Percival David Foundation Of Chinese Art, University Of London	London	1950	2010	University	medium	Arts: Ceramics
Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture	London	1976	2024	University	small	Arts: Design
UCL Art Museum	London	1847	2025	University	small	Arts: Fine and decorative arts
UCL Geology Collections	London	1855	2018	University	small	Natural world: Geology
Valentines Mansion & Gardens	Ilford	2009-2010	2013-2014	Unknown	small	Buildings: Houses: Large houses

North East

Durham Museum and Heritage Centre	Durham	1975	2024	Independent	small	Local Histories
Durham Miners Heritage Centre	Nevilles Cross	2008	2012	Independent: Unknown	small	Industry and manufacture: Mining and quarrying
Military Vehicle Museum	Newcastle upon Tyne	1983	2006	Independent: Unknown	small	War and conflict: Military
Billingham Art Gallery	Billingham	1968	2008	Local Authority	medium	Arts: Fine and decorative arts
Cleveland Crafts Centre	Middlesbrough	1984	2003	Local Authority	medium	Arts: Fine and decorative arts
Durham Light Infantry Museum	Durham	1969	2016	Local Authority	medium	War and conflict: Regiment
Green Dragon Museum	Stockton-on-Tees	1973	2006	Local Authority	medium	Local Histories
Margrove Heritage Centre	Saltburn	1990	2004-2005	Local Authority	medium	Local Histories
Monkwearmouth Station Museum, Tyne And Wear Museums	Sunderland	1973	2017	Local Authority	medium	Transport: Trains and railways
Woodhorn Church Museum	Ashington	1974	2000	Local Authority	medium	Local Histories
Middlesbrough Art Gallery	Middlesbrough	1958	2003	Local Authority	small	Arts: Fine and decorative arts
Timothy Hackworth Victorian Railway Museum	Sildon	1975	2003	Local Authority	small	Transport: Trains and railways
Norham Station Museum	Norham	1970	2010	Private	small	Transport: Trains and railways
Tynemouth Toy Museum	Tynemouth	1985	2012	Private	small	Leisure and sport: Toys and models
Vintage Vehicles Sildon	Sildon	2005	2012	Private	small	Transport: Mixed
Marine Life and Fishing Heritage Centre	Seahouses	1985	2009	Private	unknown	Local Histories
Museum of Antiquities, Newcastle	Newcastle upon Tyne	1960	2008	University	medium	Archaeology: Roman
Shefton Museum Of Greek Art And Archaeology	Newcastle upon Tyne	1956	2008	University	small	Archaeology: Greek and Egyptian

LIST OF MUSEUMS THAT CLOSED 2000-25

North West

The Way We Were	Wigan	1986	2007	Independent	large	Local Histories
East Lancashire Regiment Gallery, Blackburn	Blackburn	1935	2002-2003	Independent	medium	War and conflict:Regiment
Windermere Steamboat Museum	Windermere	1977	2006	Independent	medium	Sea and seafaring:Boats and ships
14th/20th Kings Hussars Museum	Preston	1966	2016	Independent	small	War and conflict:Regiment
Earby Lead Mining Museum	nr Colne	1971	2015	Independent	small	Industry and manufacture:Mining and quarrying
Florence Mine And Heritage Centre	Egremont	1992	2008	Independent	small	Industry and manufacture:Mining and quarrying
Fred Dibnah Heritage Centre	Bolton	2010	2017	Independent	small	Personality:Other
Haig Colliery Mining Museum	Whitehaven	1999	2016	Independent	small	Industry and manufacture:Mining and quarrying
Haylake Lifeboat Museum	Wirral	2011	2015	Independent	small	Sea and seafaring:Boats and ships
Liverpool Scottish Regimental Museum	Liverpool	1979	2008	Independent	small	War and conflict:Regiment
The Old Sunday School	Macclesfield	1984-1987	2018	Independent	small	Industry and manufacture:Textiles
The Printing House Museum	Cockermouth	1993	2010	Independent	small	Industry and manufacture:Print
The Village Museum, Little Crosby	Crosby	1996	2012	Independent	small	Local Histories
Warship Preservation Trust	Wirral	1989	2006	Independent	small	War and conflict:Military
Wetheriggs Pottery & Museum	Penrith	1995	2008	Independent	small	Industry and manufacture:Potteries
RAF Millom Museum	Millom	1992	2010	Independent:Unknown	small	War and conflict:Airforce
Hindley Museum	Wigan	1977	2011	Local Authority	large	Local Histories
Botanic Gardens Museum	Southport	1876	2011	Local Authority	medium	Mixed:Other
Fylde Gallery	Lytham	2008	2019	Local Authority	medium	Arts:Fine and decorative arts
Lancashire Mining Museum, Salford	Salford	1975	2000	Local Authority	medium	Industry and manufacture:Mining and quarrying
Museum Of Lancashire	Preston	1972	2016	Local Authority	medium	Local Histories
Oldham Local Interest Centre	Oldham	1972	2001	Local Authority	medium	Local Histories
Platt Hall, The Gallery Of Costume	Manchester	1947	2017	Local Authority	medium	Arts:Costume and textiles
Setantii	Ashton under Lyne	2002	2012	Local Authority	medium	Local Histories
Wirral Museum	Birkenhead	2001	2010	Local Authority	medium	Sea and seafaring:Boats and ships
Cumbria Constabulary Museum	Penrith	1989	2001	Local Authority	small	Services:Police
Lewis Textile Museum	Blackburn	1936	2006	Local Authority	small	Industry and manufacture:Textiles
Shore Road Pumping Station	Birkenhead	1960-2008	2012-2014	Local Authority	small	Utilities:Water and waste
The Duke Of Lancasters Own Yeomanry Museum	Preston	1979	2016	Local Authority	small	War and conflict:Regiment
Wythenshawe Hall	Manchester	1929	2016	Local Authority	small	Buildings:Houses:Large houses
Museum Of Liverpool Life	Liverpool	1993	2006	National	large	Local Histories
Bond Museum	Keswick	2009	2011	Private	small	Leisure and sport:Film Cinema and TV
Cars Of The Stars Motor Museum	Keswick	1989	2011	Private	small	Transport:Cars and motorbikes
Chester Toy And Doll Museum	Chester	1983	2001	Private	small	Leisure and sport:Toys and models
Fort Perch Rock Museum	Wirral	1976	2016	Private	small	Other
Keswick Mining Museum	Keswick	1987	2012	Private	small	Industry and manufacture:Mining and quarrying
Lancashire Titanic Museum	nr. Chorley	2011	2018	Private	small	Sea and seafaring:Boats and ships
Mouldsworth Motor Museum	Mouldsworth	1971	2013	Private	small	Transport:Cars and motorbikes
The Amazing Novelty-Orium & Mechanical Museum	Skelsmersdale	1996-2008	2018	Private	small	Leisure and sport:Fairgrounds and amusements
The Broadcasting Museum	Chester	1994	2000	Private	small	Communications:Radio
The Cumberland Toy & Model Museum	Cockermouth	1989	2005	Private	small	Leisure and sport:Toys and models

Doctor Who Museum	Blackpool	2004	2009	Private	unknown	Leisure and sport:Film Cinema and TV
Tom Varley Museum of Steam	Clitheroe	1960-1976	2002	Private	unknown	Transport:Other
Museum Of Dentistry, University Of Liverpool	Liverpool	1880	2009-2017	University	small	Medicine and health:Other
Heritage First!	Ulverston	2000	2014	Unknown	small	Personality:Political

South East

Royal Marines Museum	Southsea	1958	2017	Government:Other	medium	War and conflict:Navy
Buffs Regimental Museum, Canterbury	Canterbury	1927	2008	Independent	large	War and conflict:Regiment
Redoubt Fortress & Military Museum	Eastbourne	1977	2017	Independent	medium	War and conflict:Castles and forts
Royal Sussex Regimental Museum	Eastbourne	1930	2017	Independent	medium	War and conflict:Regiment
Surrey Infantry Museum	Guildford	1981	2015	Independent	medium	War and conflict:Regiment
Sussex Combined Services Museum	Eastbourne	1977	2017	Independent	medium	War and conflict:Regiment
Balfour Museum Of Hampshire Red Cross History	Winchester	1994	2012	Independent	small	Services:Other
Bentley Wildfowl and Motor Museum	nr Halland	1982	2018	Independent	small	Transport:Cars and motorbikes
Bexhill Costume And Social History Museum	Bexhill-on-Sea	1972	2004	Independent	small	Arts:Costume and textiles
British Balloon Museum & Library Ltd	Newbury	1979	2008	Independent	small	Other
British Engineerium	Brighton	1976	2006	Independent	small	Industry and manufacture:Steam and engines
Calleva Museum	Silchester	1950-1951	2006	Independent	small	Archaeology:Roman
Charterhouse School Museum	Godalming	1874	2002	Independent	small	Mixed:Encyclopaedic
Dolphin Sailing Barge Museum	Sittingbourne	1968	2008	Independent	small	Transport:Canals
Light Infantry Museum	Winchester	1990	2009	Independent	small	War and conflict:Regiment
Mervyn Quinlan Museum	Cranbrook	1945-2006	2013	Independent	small	Medicine and health:Hospital
National Dairy Museum	nr. Southampton	1978	2003	Independent	small	Rural Industry:Farming
Queens Royal Irish Hussars Regimental Collection	Eastbourne	1976	2017	Independent	small	War and conflict:Regiment
Reigate Priory Museum	Reigate	1973	2013	Independent	small	Local Histories
Stanmer Rural Museum	Brighton	1974	2014-2017	Independent	small	Rural Industry:Farming
Hadlow Tower	Hadlow	2013	2014-2017	Independent:Unknown	small	Buildings:Other
Haxted Watermill Museum	Haxted	1969	2012	Independent:Unknown	small	Rural Industry:Watermills
Medway Heritage Centre	Chatham	1978	2001-2002	Independent:Unknown	small	Local Histories
Parish Museum	Lindfield	1933	2000-2007	Independent:Unknown	small	Local Histories
Museum Of Isle Of Wight Geology	Sandown	1923	2001	Local Authority	large	Natural world:Geology
Southampton Maritime Museum	Southampton	1966	2012	Local Authority	large	Sea and seafaring:Mixed
Canterbury Heritage Museum	Canterbury	1978	2017	Local Authority	medium	Mixed:Other
Eastleigh Museum	Eastleigh	1986	2022	Local Authority	medium	Local Histories
Elmbridge Museum	Esher	1909	2014	Local Authority	medium	Local Histories
Flora Twort Gallery	Petersfield	1991	2016	Local Authority	medium	Arts:Fine and decorative arts
Hastings Old Town Hall Museum Of Local History	Hastings	1949	2015	Local Authority	medium	Local Histories
Ramsgate Museum	Ramsgate	1912	2004	Local Authority	medium	Local Histories
Westbury Manor Museum	Fareham	1990	2024	Local Authority	medium	Local Histories
Bursledon Windmill	Southampton	1991	2024	Local Authority	small	Rural Industry:Windmills
Eastgate House	Rochester	1923	2004	Local Authority	small	Personality:Literary

LIST OF MUSEUMS THAT CLOSED 2000-25

South East (continued)

Gods House Tower - Museum Of Archaeology	Southampton	1961	2011	Local Authority	small	Archaeology:Mixed
Kent Fire Brigade Museum	Maidstone	1955	2011	Local Authority	small	Services:Fire
Rupert Bear Museum	Canterbury	2003	2012	Local Authority	unknown	Arts:Literature
Buckleys Yesterdays World	Battle	1986	2015	Private	large	Mixed:Bygones
Museum Of Agricultural Bygones	Ringmer	1978	2000	Private	large	Mixed:Bygones
Paultons Romany Museum	Romsey	1984	2009	Private	large	Belief and identity:Ethnic group
Paultons Village Life Museum	Romsey	1983	2012	Private	large	Rural Industry:Rural life
The Hop Farm Museum	nr. Tonbridge	2000-2009	2021-2023	Private	large	Rural Industry:Farming
Arreton Manor	Newport	1945-1960	2015	Private	small	Buildings:Houses:Large houses
Bear Museum	Petersfield	1984	2006	Private	small	Leisure and sport:Toys and models
Blackgang Sawmill Museum	Chale	1981	2017	Private	small	Rural Industry:Watermills
Brading Waxworks	Brading	1965	2010	Private	small	Other
Bygones Museum	Banbury	1972	2010-2011	Private	small	Mixed:Bygones
Finchcocks Musical Museum	Goudhurst	1970	2015	Private	small	Arts:Music
Finkley Down Farm Museum	Andover	1981	2011	Private	small	Rural Industry:Farming
Fordingbridge Doll Museum	Fordingbridge	1982	2012	Private	small	Leisure and sport:Toys and models
How We Lived Then Museum Of Shops	Eastbourne	1988	2014	Private	small	Other
Mechanical Memories Museum	Brighton	1994	2019-2020	Private	small	Leisure and sport:Fairgrounds and amusements
Museum Of Country And Agriculture	Arreton	1978	2000	Private	small	Rural Industry:Rural life
Musgrave Museum	Eastbourne	1983	2014	Private	small	Mixed:Other
Ramsgate Motor Museum	Ramsgate	1985	2005	Private	small	Transport:Cars and motorbikes
Ringwood Town And Country Experience	Ringwood	2004	2013	Private	small	Other
Rye Treasury of Mechanical Music	Rye	1997	2013	Private	small	Arts:Music
The Holley/cornelius Collection	Milton Keynes	1994	2015	Private	small	Leisure and sport:Toys and models
The Precinct Toy Collection	Sandwich	1974	2004-2017	Private	small	Leisure and sport:Toys and models
Wish Tower Puppet Museum	Eastbourne	1995	2001	Private	small	Leisure and sport:Toys and models
Yafford Mill and Farm Museum	Shorwell	1970	2000	Private	small	Rural Industry:Farming
Otter Gallery	Chichester	2000	2018	University	medium	Arts:Fine and decorative arts
Mesolithic Museum	nr Dorking	1950-1973	2011-2017	Unknown	small	Archaeology:Prehistory

South West

Dingles Fairground Museum	Lifton	1986	2024	Independent	medium	Leisure and sport: Fairgrounds and amusements
Museum Of Wiltshire Rural Life	nr Marlborough	1979	2000	Independent	medium	Rural Industry:Rural life
Royal Photographic Society	Bath	1890-1899	2001	Independent	medium	Arts:Photography
Wiltshire College Museum Of Agriculture & Rural Life	Chippenham	1946	2009	Independent	medium	Rural Industry:Farming
Bath Abbey Heritage Vaults	Bath	1994	2012-2013	Independent	small	Belief and identity: Religious buildings
Bath Postal Museum	Bath	1979	2023	Independent	small	Communications:Post
Bristol Aero Collection Trust	Bristol	2000	2011	Independent	small	Transport:Aviation
British Empire and Commonwealth Museum	Bristol	2002	2008	Independent	small	Belief and identity:Ethnic group
Castle Combe Museum	Chippenham	1984	2012	Independent	small	Local Histories
Cornwall Geological Museum	Penzance	1814	2000-2003	Independent	small	Natural world:Geology

Cornwall Maritime Museum	Falmouth	1981	2001	Independent	small	Sea and seafaring:Mixed
Dunkeswell Memorial Museum	Honiton	1997	2012	Independent	small	War and conflict:Other
Trinity House National Lighthouse Centre	Penzance	1989	2005	Independent	small	Sea and seafaring:Lighthouses
Winchcombe Railway Museum	Cheltenham	1968	2013	Independent	small	Transport:Trains and railways
Cornwall Aviation Heritage Centre	Newquay	2015	2022	Independent:Unknown	medium	Transport:Aviation
Curzon Exhibition Of Heritage Cinema Technology	Clevedon	1999	2014	Independent:Unknown	small	Leisure and sport:Film Cinema and TV
National Museum Of Gardening	Crowntown	1998	2011	Independent:Unknown	small	Natural world:Herbaria and gardening
Shoe Museum	Street	1974	2019	Independent:Unknown	small	Arts:Costume and textiles
The Museum Of Electricity	Christchurch	1983	2012	Independent:Unknown	small	Utilities:Gas and electricity
The Woodland Heritage Museum	nr Westbury	1971	2007-2017	Independent:Unknown	small	Natural world:Other
Weymouth Timewalk Museum	Weymouth	1990	2010	Independent:Unknown	small	Local Histories
Bristol Industrial Museum	Bristol	1978	2006	Local Authority	large	Industry and manufacture:Mixed
Barnstaple Heritage Centre	Barnstaple	1998	2016	Local Authority	medium	Local Histories
Connections Discovery Centre	Exeter	1993	2000	Local Authority	medium	Mixed:Other
Gloucester Folk Museum	Gloucester	1935	2018	Local Authority	medium	Local Histories
Gloucester Transport Museum	Gloucester	1977	2004	Local Authority	medium	Transport:Mixed
Peat Moors Centre	Westhay	1982	2009	Local Authority	medium	Natural world:Other
Public Library and Museum (Camborne)	Camborne	1913	2005	Local Authority	medium	Mixed:Other
Museum Of South Somerset	Yeovil	1924	2011	Local Authority	small	Local Histories
Wiltshire Fire Defence and Brigades Museum	Devizes	1978	2016	Local Authority	small	Services:Fire
Cotswold Cricket Museum	Stow-on-the-Wold	2012	2015	Private	large	Leisure and sport:Cricket
Goonhilly Satellite Earth Station	Helston	2002-2003	2010	Private	large	Communications:Other
Park House Toy Collectors Museum	Stow-on-the-Wold	1987	2011	Private	large	Leisure and sport:Toys and models
Stapehill Abbey, Crafts, Gardens & Country Museum	Ferndown	1990	2006	Private	large	Belief and identity:Religious buildings
Newhouse	Salisbury	1960-2017	2019	Private	medium	Buildings:Houses:Large houses
North Cornwall Museum and Art Gallery	Camelford	1973	2012	Private	medium	Rural Industry:Rural life
Bakelite Museum	Williton	1985	2018	Private	small	Other
Barometer World and Museum	Okehampton	1990	2022	Private	small	Other
Bedwyn Stone Museum	Great Bedwyn	1962	2009	Private	small	Arts:Other
Bradworthy Transport Museum	Holsworthy	2006	2010	Private	small	Transport:Mixed
Bredy Farm Old Farming Collection	Bridport	1968	2007-2011	Private	small	Rural Industry:Farming
British Cured Pilchards Ltd	Newlyn	1995	2005	Private	small	Food and drink
British Cycling Museum	Camelford	1992	2009	Private	small	Transport:Bicycles
Charlestown Shipwreck & Heritage Centre	St. Austell	1976	2024	Private	small	Sea and seafaring:Boats and ships
Cinderbury Iron Age Experience	Nr. Coleford	2005	2006-2017	Private	small	Archaeology:Prehistory
Cornish Heritage Museum	Newquay	1975	2024	Private	small	Rural Industry:Rural life
Exmoor Classic Car Museum	Porlock	2000	2012	Private	small	Transport:Cars and motorbikes
Flambards Park, Museum And Gardens	Helston	1976	2024	Private	small	Other
Harveys Wine Museum	Bristol	1965	2003	Private	small	Food and drink
Lanreath Folk And Farm Museum	Looe	1960-1969	2006	Private	small	Rural Industry:Rural life
Magnificent Music Machines	Liskeard	1967	2012	Private	small	Arts:Music

LIST OF MUSEUMS THAT CLOSED 2000-25

South West (continued)

Mechanical Music Museum	nr. Cheltenham	1985	2019	Private	small	Arts:Music
Moretonhampstead Motor Museum	Moretonhampstead	2013	2024	Private	small	Transport:Cars and motorbikes
Mr Potters Museum Of Curiosities	Launceston	1880	2003	Private	small	Other
Museum Of Bookbinding	Bath	1977	2000	Private	small	Other
Museum Of Motoring Memories	Colyford	2003	2011	Private	small	Transport:Cars and motorbikes
Now and Then	Camelford	2016	2018-2019	Private	small	Local Histories
Shire Horse Farm and Carriage Museum	Redruth	1972	2020	Private	small	Rural Industry:Other
The Shambles Museum	Newent	1989	2008	Private	small	Other
The Well House Collection	Melksham	2012	2016	Private	small	Local Histories
Wayside Folk Museum	Zennor	1937	2015	Private	small	Local Histories
Yelverton Paperweight Centre	Yelverton	1978	2003	Private	small	Other
Longstone Heritage Centre	Isle of Scilly	1987	2011	Private	unknown	Mixed:Other
Luxulyan Museum and Heritage Centre	Luxulyan	1984	2006	Unknown	small	Local Histories
Countryside Collection	Ferndown	1960-2005	2006	Unknown	unknown	Rural Industry:Farming

West Midlands

H M Prison Service Museum	Rugby	1982	2005	Government:Other	small	Services:Other
Harvard House And The Museum Of British Pewter	Stratford-upon-Avon	1996	2010	Independent	medium	Arts:Other
Priory Visitor Centre	Coventry	2003	2019	Independent	medium	Belief and identity:Religious buildings
Bishops Castle Railway Museum	Bishops Castle	1999	2017	Independent	small	Transport:Trains and railways
Ceramica Pottery Museum	Burslem	2003	2011	Independent	small	Arts:Ceramics
Electric Railway Museum	Coventry	2007	2017	Independent	small	Transport:Trains and railways
George Eliot Hospital Museum	Nuneaton	1982	2006	Independent	small	Medicine and health:Hospital
Jerome K Jerome Birthplace Museum	Walsall	1984	2007	Independent	small	Personality:Literary
The National Brewery Centre	Burton-upon-Trent	1977	2022	Independent	small	Food and drink
The Staffordshire Police Museum	Stafford	1992	2006	Independent	small	Services:Police
Boulton Paul Heritage Centre	Wolverhampton	2001	2013	Independent	unknown	Transport:Aviation
Berkswell Village Museum	Coventry	1981	2016	Independent:Unknown	small	Local Histories
Nursing History Museum	Leek	1984	2006-2008	Independent:Unknown	small	Medicine and health:Other
Railways in Miniature Museum	Ross on Wye	2000	2005-2006	Independent:Unknown	small	Transport:Trains and railways
Shire Hall Gallery	Stafford	1927	2017	Local Authority	large	Arts:Fine and decorative arts
Broadfield House Glass Museum	Kingswinford	1980	2015	Local Authority	medium	Arts:Glass
Churchill House Museum & Hatton Gallery	Hereford	1966	2002	Local Authority	medium	Mixed:Other
Museum of Cannock Chase	Cannock	1989	2025	Local Authority	medium	Local Histories
Museum Of Local Life	Worcester	1971	2003	Local Authority	medium	Local Histories
Rowleys House Museum	Shrewsbury	1932	2014	Local Authority	medium	Mixed:Other
Walsall Museum	Walsall	1895	2015	Local Authority	medium	Local Histories
Warwick Doll Museum	Warwick	1953	2004	Local Authority	medium	Leisure and sport:Toys and models
Birchills Canal Museum	Walsall	1984-1986	2003	Local Authority	small	Transport:Canals
Aircraft Radio Museum	Coventry	1975	2010-2011	Private	small	Communications:Radio
Avery Historical Museum	Warley	1927	2014	Private	small	Industry and manufacture:Other
Beswick Museum	Stoke on Trent	1986	2000-2002	Private	small	Arts:Ceramics
Chimney Pot Museum	Stoke-on-Trent	1995	2007	Private	small	Industry and manufacture:Potteries

Coventry Toy Museum	Coventry	1973	2008	Private	small	Leisure and sport:Toys and models
Land of Lost Content	Craven Arms	1991	2023	Private	small	Other
Minton Museum	Stoke on Trent	1950-1956	2002	Private	small	Arts:Ceramics
Mow Cop Chapel Museum	Stoke on Trent	1990	2011	Private	small	Belief and identity:Religion
Shipton Hall	Much Wenlock	1945-1960	2016	Private	small	Buildings:Houses:Large houses
Time Machine Museum of Science Fiction	Bromyard	2007	2025	Private	small	Leisure and sport:Toys and models

Yorkshire and the Humber

Harlow Carr Museum of Gardening	Harrogate	1989	2008-2009	Independent	large	Natural world:Herbaria and gardening
13th/18th Royal Hussars Museum	Barnsley	1963	2014	Independent	medium	War and conflict:Regiment
Ashworth Barracks Museum	Doncaster	2014	2020	Independent	medium	War and conflict:Military
Colour Museum	Bradford	1978	2017-2018	Independent	medium	Industry and manufacture:Other
Micklegate Bar Museum - Henry VII Experience	York	2010	2020	Independent	medium	Personality:Other
Richard III Experience	York	1993	2020	Independent	medium	Personality:Other
Beside The Seaside Museum	Bridlington	1998	2010	Independent	small	Leisure and sport:Fairgrounds and amusements
Fort Paull Museum	Paull	2000	2020	Independent	small	War and conflict:Castles and forts
Hull People's Memorial Museum	Kingston upon Hull	2007	2022	Independent	small	War and conflict:Other
Museum Of Army Transport	Beverley	1981	2003	Independent	small	War and conflict:Military
Quilt Museum and Gallery	York	2008	2015	Independent	small	Arts:Costume and textiles
Thorpe Prebend Heritage Centre	Ripon	2002-2004	2009-2010	Independent	small	Local Histories
Yorkshire Waterways Museum	Goole	1980	2019	Independent	small	Transport:Canals
Howden Heritage Centre	Goole	2017	2018	Independent	unknown	Local Histories
National Coastguard Museum	Bridlington	1976	2013	Independent:Unknown	small	Sea and seafaring:Other
The Counting House Museum	Malton	2009	2017	Independent:Unknown	small	Personality:Literary
Yorkshire Motor Museum	Batley	1993	2010	Independent:Unknown	small	Transport:Cars and motorbikes
Mappin Art Gallery	Sheffield	1887	2003	Local Authority	large	Arts:Fine and decorative arts
Wakefield Museum And Art Gallery	Wakefield	1934	2009	Local Authority	large	Arts:Fine and decorative arts
Baysgarth House Museum	Barton-upon-Humber	1981	2021	Local Authority	medium	Local Histories
Dewsbury Museum & Gallery	Dewsbury	1896	2016	Local Authority	medium	Mixed:Encyclopaedic
Red House Museum	nr Cleckheaton	1973	2016	Local Authority	medium	Buildings:Houses:Medium houses
Rotherham Art Gallery	Rotherham	1976	2011-2012	Local Authority	medium	Arts:Fine and decorative arts
Woodend Museum Of Natural History	Scarborough	1952	2006	Local Authority	medium	Natural world:Mixed
York Story	York	1975	2000	Local Authority	medium	Local Histories
Clarke Hall Educational Museum	Wakefield	1974	2012	Local Authority	small	Local Histories
Keighley Police Museum	Keighley	2013	2015	Local Authority	small	Services:Police
Victoria Tower	Huddersfield	2005	2009	Local Authority	small	Buildings:Other
Automobilia Transport Museum	Huddersfield	1980	2000	Private	small	Transport:Cars and motorbikes
Haywain Farm Museum	Doncaster	1945-1999	2016-2018	Private	small	Rural Industry:Farming
Marshalls Humber Car Museum	Hull	1974	2018	Private	small	Transport:Cars and motorbikes
Rugby League Heritage Centre	Huddersfield	2005	2013	Private	small	Leisure and sport:Rugby and football
The Harmonium Museum	ShIPLEY	1985	2011	Private	small	Arts:Music
Todmorden Toy & Model Museum	Todmorden	1998	2018	Private	small	Leisure and sport:Toys and models

LIST OF MUSEUMS THAT CLOSED 2000-25

Yorkshire and the Humber (continued)

York Racing Museum	York	1965	2002	Private	small	Leisure and sport:Other
Yorkshire Museum Of Carriages And Horse Drawn Vehicles	Leyburn	1968	2003	Private	small	Transport:Other
Traditional Heritage Museum, University Of Sheffield	Sheffield	1985	2011	University	small	Other
Ulita: An Archive of International Textiles	Leeds	2004	2019	University	small	Arts:Costume and textiles
Doughty Museum	Grimsby	1958	2004	Unknown	small	Sea and seafaring:Fishing

SCOTLAND

Clydebuilt - Scottish Maritime Museum At Braehead	Glasgow	1999	2010	Independent	medium	Sea and seafaring:Mixed
Abbot House Heritage Centre	Dunfermline	1992	2016	Independent	small	Local Histories
Angus Folk Museum	Forfar	1958	2017	Independent	small	Rural Industry:Rural life
Biggar Albion Museum	Biggar	1993	2018	Independent	small	Transport:Mixed
Clan Armstrong Trust Museum And Centre	Canonbie	1995	2013	Independent	small	Belief and identity:Ethnic group
Dunaskin Open-air Industrial Museum	by Patna	1990-1999	2005	Independent	small	Industry and manufacture:Mixed
Eyemouth Maritime Centre	Eyemouth	2007	2015	Independent	small	Sea and seafaring:Boats and ships
Gladstone Court Museum	Biggar	1968	2015	Independent	small	Buildings:Shops
Greenhill Covenanters House	Biggar	1981	2015	Independent	small	Belief and identity:Religion
Heatherbank Museum Of Social Work	Glasgow	1975	2004	Independent	small	Other
Jane Welsh Carlyle Museum	Haddington	1981	2003	Independent	small	Personality:Other
Kilmaurs Historical Society Museum	Kilmaurs	1960-2000	2003-2005	Independent	small	Local Histories
Moat Park Heritage Centre	Biggar	1988	2015	Independent	small	Local Histories
Museum of Fire	Edinburgh	1969	2016	Independent	small	Services:Fire
Sandaig Island Life Museum	Tiree	1992	2010	Independent	small	Local Histories
The Buckie Drifter Maritime Heritage Centre	Buckie	1994	2005	Independent	small	Sea and seafaring:Mixed
Thurso Heritage Museum	Thurso	1965-1969	2006	Independent	small	Local Histories
Clappertons Photographic Studio	Selkirk	1989	2015	Independent	unknown	Arts:Photography
Glover House	Aberdeen	1996	2012	Independent	unknown	Personality:Other
Springburn Museum	Glasgow	1986	2001	Independent:Unknown	medium	Local Histories
Borreraig Park Museum	Dunvegan	1988	2013	Independent:Unknown	small	Mixed:Bygones
Inveraray Maritime Museum	Inveraray	1995	2012	Independent:Unknown	small	Sea and seafaring:Boats and ships
Maxwelton House	Moniavie	1985	2000	Independent:Unknown	small	Buildings:Houses:Large houses
Morita Museum Of Fine Art	Edinburgh	2002	2013-2017	Independent:Unknown	small	Arts:Fine and decorative arts
Muthill Village Museum	Muthill	1980	2015-2016	Independent:Unknown	small	Local Histories
Nairn Fishertown Museum	Nairn	1977	2000	Independent:Unknown	small	Local Histories
The James Paterson Museum	Thornhill	1995	2003	Independent:Unknown	small	Personality:Art
The Last House Museum & Gift Shop	Caithness	1990	2010	Independent:Unknown	small	Local Histories
Wild Life Museum	Appin	1972	2000	Independent:Unknown	small	Other
Falconer Museum	Forres	1871	2020	Local Authority	medium	Local Histories
Newhaven Heritage Museum	Edinburgh	1994	2006	Local Authority	medium	Local Histories
Pittencreeff House Museum	Dunfermline	1911	2017	Local Authority	medium	Local Histories
Alloa Museum and Gallery	Alloa	1992	2011-2012	Local Authority	small	Mixed:Encyclopaedic
Alyth Museum	Alyth	1973-1974	2024	Local Authority	small	Local Histories
Arbuthnot Museum	Peterhead	1850	2020	Local Authority	small	Sea and seafaring:Mixed

Archaeolink Prehistory Park	Insch	1997	2011	Local Authority	small	Archaeology:Prehistory
Bod Of Gremista	Lerwick	1987	2000-2010	Local Authority	small	Local Histories
Brander Museum	Huntly	1883	2011	Local Authority	small	Mixed:Encyclopaedic
Carnegie Museum	Inverurie	1884	2008	Local Authority	small	Local Histories
Doon Valley Museum	Dalmellington	1986	2017	Local Authority	small	Rural Industry:Textiles
Garlogie Powerhouse Museum	Westhill	1995	2012	Local Authority	small	Industry and manufacture:Textiles
Hunter House Museum	East Kilbride	1996	2011	Local Authority	small	Personality:Scientific
Inverkeithing Museum	Inverkeithing	1974	2005	Local Authority	small	Local Histories
John Hastie Museum	Strathaven	1921	2011	Local Authority	small	Local Histories
Lochwinnoch Community Museum	Lochwinnoch	1984	2001	Local Authority	small	Local Histories
Mcdouall Stuart Museum	Kirkcaldy	1975	2009	Local Authority	small	Personality:Explorer
North Berwick Museum	North Berwick	1957	2002	Local Authority	small	Local Histories
Peter Anson Gallery	Buckie	1974	2005	Local Authority	small	Arts:Fine and decorative arts
Peterhead Maritime Heritage Centre	Peterhead	1995-1996	2010	Local Authority	small	Sea and seafaring:Mixed
Pictavia Visitor Centre	Haughmuir	1999	2014	Local Authority	small	Archaeology:Other
Shawbost School Museum	Shawbost	1969-1970	2004	Local Authority	small	Local Histories
The Vennel Gallery	Irvine	1988	2009-2010	Local Authority	small	Personality:Literary
Weavers Cottage Museum	Airdrie	1989	2000	Local Authority	small	Buildings:Houses:Small houses
Shambellie House Museum Of Costume	Dumfries	1982	2013	National	medium	Arts:Costume and textiles
Commando Museum	Lochaber	1993	2020	Private	small	War and conflict:Military
Cornice Museum of Ornamental Plasterwork	Peebles	1987	2018	Private	small	Arts:Crafts
Dick Galloway Archery Museum	Fentons Barns	1994	2014	Private	small	Leisure and sport:Other
Glendale Toy Museum	Isle of Skye	1987	2012	Private	small	Leisure and sport:Toys and models
Graemeshall Museum	Kirkwall	1960-1982	2006	Private	small	Arts:Other
Musselburgh Doll Museum	Musselburgh	2004	2011	Private	small	Leisure and sport:Toys and models
The Museum of Cypher Equipment	Cupar	2002	2004	Private	small	War and conflict:Other
Titanic Inverness Maritime Museum	Inverness	2012	2018	Private	small	Sea and seafaring:Boats and ships
Torosay Castle	Airdree	1972	2012	Private	small	Buildings:Houses:Large houses
Collins Gallery, University Of Strathclyde	Glasgow	1973	2012	University	medium	Mixed:Other
Marischal Museum, University Of Aberdeen	Aberdeen	1907	2008	University	medium	Mixed:Encyclopaedic
University of St Andrews, Gateway Galleries	St Andrews	2005	2016	University	medium	Mixed:Other
University of Dundee Museum Collections	Dundee	1945-2003	2003-2017	University	small	Mixed:Other
Edinburgh Police Museum	Edinburgh	1960-2013	2014	Unknown	unknown	Services:Police

LIST OF MUSEUMS THAT CLOSED 2000-25

WALES

Regimental Museum Of 1st The Queens Dragoon Guards	Cardiff	1968	2010	Independent	medium	War and conflict:Regiment
Welch Regiment Museum (41st/69th Foot) of the Royal Regiment of Wales	Cardiff	1927	2010	Independent	medium	War and conflict:Regiment
Caernarfon Maritime Museum	Caernarfon	1981	2010	Independent	small	Sea and seafaring:Boats and ships
Kidwelly Industrial Museum	Kidwelly	1988	2017	Independent	small	Industry and manufacture:Metals
Llanrwst Almshouse Museum	Llanrwst	2002	2011	Independent	small	Buildings:Houses:Small houses
Segontium Roman Museum	Caernafon	1937	2009	Independent	small	Archaeology:Roman
Vale Of Glamorgan Railway	Barry Island	1996	2008	Independent	small	Transport:Trains and railways
Welsh Museum of Fire	Skewen	1994	2024	Independent	small	Services:Fire
Welsh Transport Heritage Centre	Swansea	2011	2012	Independent	small	Transport:Mixed
Bro Aman Museum	Ammanford	1996-2005	2017	Independent:Unknown	small	Industry and manufacture: Mining and quarrying
Canal Exhibition Centre	Llangollen	1974	2000	Independent:Unknown	small	Transport:Canals
The Hall at Abbey-cwm-Hir	nr Llandrindod Wells	2007	2020	Independent:Unknown	small	Buildings:Houses:Large houses
Bodelwyddan Castle	Rhyl	1988	2019	Local Authority	large	Mixed:Other
Llancaiach Fawr Living History Museum	Treharris	1991	2024	Local Authority	large	Buildings:Houses:Large houses
Swansea Maritime and Industrial Museum	Swansea	1977	2002	Local Authority	large	Industry and manufacture:Mixed
Bersham Heritage Centre	Wrexham	1983	2014	Local Authority	medium	Industry and manufacture:Industrial life
Cefn Coed Colliery Museum	Neath	1986	2020	Local Authority	medium	Industry and manufacture: Mining and quarrying
Celtica	Machynlleth	1996	2006	Local Authority	medium	Local Histories
Neath Museum and Art Gallery	Neath	1986	2010	Local Authority	medium	Local Histories
Parc Glynllifon	Caernarfon	1975	2008-2012	Local Authority	medium	Buildings:Houses:Large houses
Winding House	New Tredegar	2008	2024	Local Authority	medium	Local Histories
Haulfre Stables	Llangoed	1987	2012-2013	Local Authority	small	Rural Industry:Other
Ynysfach Engine House	Merthyr Tydfil	1989	2017	Local Authority	small	Industry and manufacture:Metals
Abergynolwyn Village Museum	Abergynolwyn	1960-1985	2007	Private	small	Local Histories
Baked Bean Museum of Excellence	Port Talbot	2009	2023	Private	small	Food and drink
Betws-y-Coed Motor Museum	Betws-y-Coed	1985	2007	Private	small	Transport:Cars and motorbikes
Griffithstown Railway Museum	Pontypool	2001	2011	Private	small	Transport:Trains and railways
Llys Ednowain Heritage Centre	Trawsfynydd	2004-2005	2017-2018	Private	small	Local Histories
Museum of Childhood Memories (Beaumaris)	Beaumaris	1985	2006	Private	small	Leisure and sport:Toys and models
Museum Of The Home	Pembroke	1986	2004	Private	small	Other
Pembrokeshire Motor Museum	Keeston	2000	2015	Private	small	Transport:Cars and motorbikes
The Doctor Who Experience	Cardiff Bay	2012	2017	Private	small	Leisure and sport: Film Cinema and TV
Tin Shed Museum	Laugharne	2011	2018	Private	small	War and conflict:Event or site
West Wales Museum of Childhood	Llangeler	2005	2021	Private	small	Leisure and sport:Toys and models
Pembrokeshire Candle Centre Museum	Newport	1982	2020	Private	unknown	Industry and manufacture:Other

NORTHERN IRELAND

Grey Point Fort	Helens Bay	2008	2022	Government:Other	small	War and conflict:Military
Causeway School Museum	Bushmills	1987	2013	Independent	small	Buildings:School
Fernhill House: The People's Museum	Belfast	1996	2008	Independent	small	Local Histories
Flame Gasworks Museum	Carrickfergus	2002	2022	Independent	small	Utilities:Gas and electricity
Milford House Museum	Millford village	1960-2017	2024	Independent	small	Buildings:Other
Museum of the Royal Irish Regiment	Ballymena	1993	2007	Independent	small	War and conflict:Regiment
Upperlands Heritage Museum	Maghera	1982	2008	Independent:Unknown	small	Industry and manufacture:Textiles
Amelia Earhart Cottage Museum	Derry City	1989	2009	Local Authority	small	Personality:Other
Derry Workhouse Museum	Derry	1997	2014	Local Authority	small	Buildings:Other
Grays Museum	Strabane	1997	2007-2008	Local Authority	small	Industry and manufacture:Print
Harbour Museum	Derry	1995	2012	Local Authority	small	Sea and seafaring:Boats and ships
Brookeborough Vintage Cycles Museum	Brookeborough	1998	2004-2017	Private	small	Transport:Bicycles
Lurgan History Museum	Lurgan	2000	2018	Private	small	War and conflict:Other
Mullaghbawn Folk Museum	Newry	1965	2003-2017	Unknown	small	Buildings:Houses:Small houses

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Brooklands Agricultural Farm Implements Museum	Guernsey	1996	2005	Independent:Unknown	small	Rural Industry:Farming
Jersey Motor Museum	St. Peter	1973	2001	Independent:Unknown	unknown	Transport:Cars and motorbikes
Guernsey Telephone Museum	Castel Guernsey	1976	2011	Local Authority	unknown	Communications:Other
Battle Of Flowers Museum	St Ouen	1971	2012	Private	small	Arts:Crafts
Jersey Photographic Museum	Jersey	1993	2006	Private	unknown	Arts:Photography
St Peters Bunker War Museum	Jersey	1965	2000	Private	unknown	War and conflict:Bunker
The Nigel Mansell Museum	St. Hellier	2013	2018	Private	unknown	Personality:Other

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