

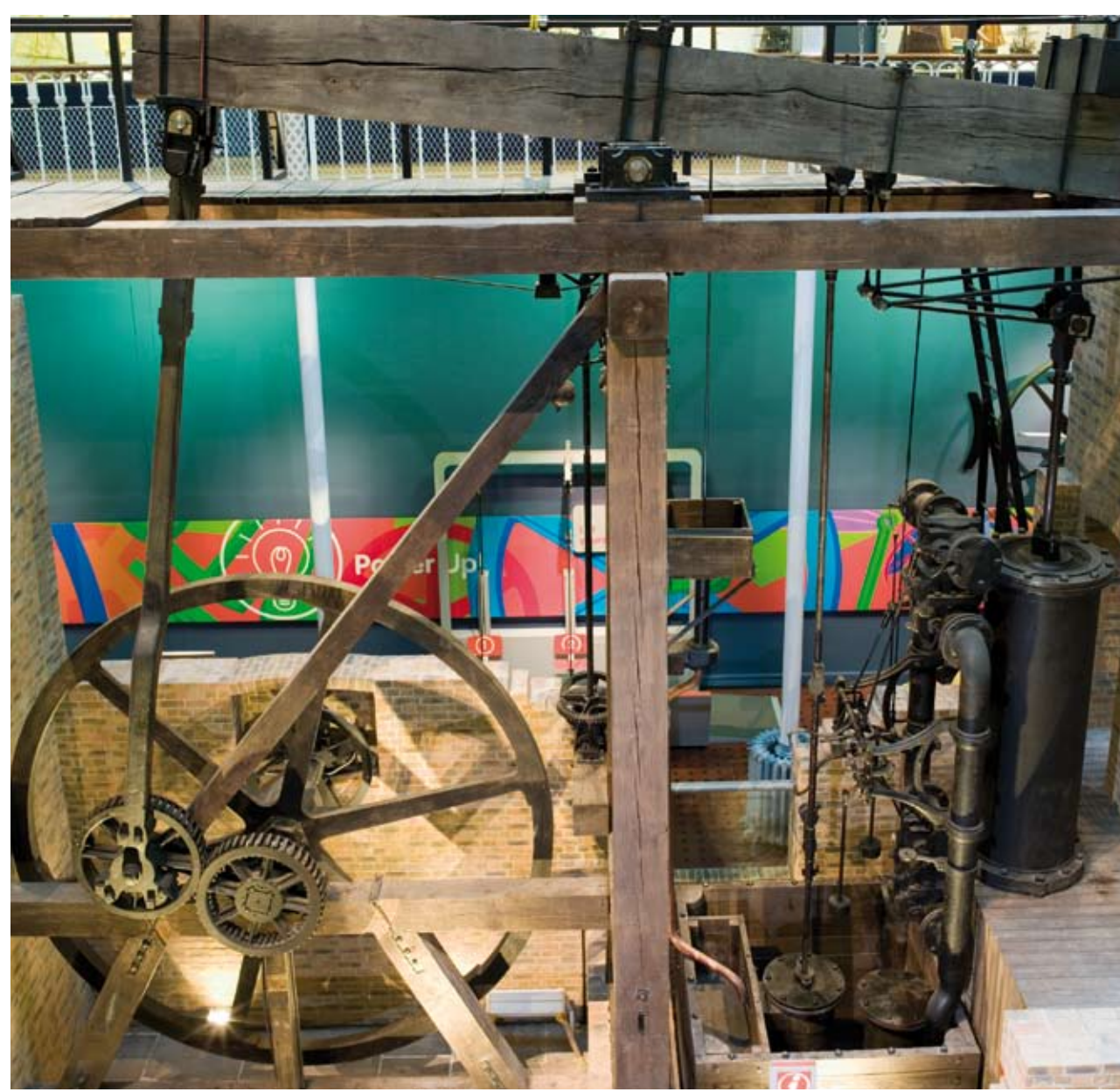
Preserving Renewable Energy

with National Museums Scotland

In the Beginning

National Museums Scotland's Science & Technology collection began through the auspices of the Industrial Museum in 1854. Its aim was to 'publicise the idea of technology'¹ and represent 'the science of the industrial arts'². The collections were contemporary and international, demonstrating manufacturing processes and showcasing an immense range of products.

¹ The Royal Scottish Museum, the early years, by Jenni Calder, Department of Education and Public Relations, Royal Scottish Museum, 1984
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Boulton & Watt Beam Engine in the Connect Gallery, National Museums Scotland collection



Stirling Engine, National Museums Scotland collection

Where We are Now

One hundred and fifty years on, we are keen to build on this legacy. National Museums Scotland has an outstanding collection recording Scotland's generation and use of energy. With around 400 items representing prime movers and 3,300 items relating to mining and mineral processing – including the definitive James 'Paraffin' Young collection and the second oldest Boulton & Watt beam engine in the world – we are well placed to trace the use and development of energy technologies from the industrial revolution to the mid twentieth century.



Interview with Professor Stephen Salter, August, 2007



Salter's Duck, National Museums Scotland collection



Newcomen Engine in the Museum of Scotland, National Museums Scotland collection

The Way Forward

Our vision is to be a world-class museum that informs, educates and inspires. Our interactive science gallery Connect, opened in 2006, displays many of the treasures of our collection and hosts commissioned Science Shows and 'Meet the Scientist' sessions. A key component in delivering our vision is being a leading player in facilitating public engagement with science and technology, exhibiting contemporary innovation in the field and encouraging public debate on the subject. To this end, our aim for the next five years is to embark on a focussed collecting project to represent the development of Scottish renewable energies. This research project, entitled Capturing Renewables, is designed to collect material culture and oral histories relating to the Scottish story with a particular emphasis on wind and wave technologies.

And this is where you come in!

You can personally contribute to ensuring the enhancement and growth of this collection and help to safeguard a continued wealth of educational material for future generations.

If you are...

- Interested in donating collections to National Museums Scotland
 - Happy to participate in a filmed interview on the subject of renewable innovation
 - Simply want to find out more about our project please contact **Rowan Brown, Curator of Technology** e-mail r.brown@nms.ac.uk or telephone (0044) 0131 247 4256
- We look forward to hearing from you.