

Heavy Metal Project

The Heavy Metal Project was funded by a £50,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Partners of the project were The Museum of English Rural Life (MERL) and the Road Locomotive Society. The project began in April 2007.

The project's aim was to create access to the archives of steam and agricultural machinery manufacturers held at The MERL and by the Road Locomotive Society. The project catalogued Wallis and Steevens, International Harvester and Massey Ferguson archives held at The MERL.

A conservation survey was undertaken of Charles Burrell and Sons engineering drawings and volunteers catalogued the Charles Burrell engineering drawings.

The Wallis and Steevens glass negatives, owned by the Road Locomotive Society, were catalogued, preserved and digitised.

You can find out more about the collection involved in this project at the following links:

- [John Fowler](#)
- [Wallis & Steevens](#)
- [Charles Burrell](#)
- [Ransomes](#)
- [International Harvesting Company](#)
- [Massey Ferguson](#)

The project also visited steam fairs and country shows to inform the public of the archives. The travelling exhibition visited five shows during the summer 2007 explaining to visitors about the archives:

- Steam and Vintage Show 2007 Milestones Museum, Basingstoke (26-28 May 2007)
- Etruria Canals Festival Etruria Industrial Museum, Stoke-on-Trent (2-3 June 2007)
- Woodcote Rally (14 and 15 July 2007)
- Wokingham and Reading Country Show (19 August 2007)
- Newbury Show (15-16 Sept 2007)

Workshops were held at The MERL to introduce the new audience to the sources available.