

Suffolk County Council news release:

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Suffolk Archives receives national accreditation

Suffolk Archives Service has received its Provisional Archive Service Accreditation from The National Archives.

Representatives from The National Archives visited The Hold on Ipswich Waterfront on Friday 11 November, where they met staff from Suffolk Archives and were given a tour of the new archives and heritage centre building. The Hold is a partnership between Suffolk County Council and the University of Suffolk and was partly funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Members of partnership organisations, heritage groups and volunteers from across the county also attended the celebratory event, which showcased the work that has been achieved in transforming and diversifying the archives service.

The visit comes just over a year since the building was officially opened by His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester and provided an opportunity for Suffolk Archives to be officially presented with their Provisional Archive Service Accreditation.

The accreditation defines good practice and agrees standards for archive services across the UK. It allows archive services to participate in a scheme supporting the ongoing development of their service against a nationally agreed standard.

Councillor Bobby Bennett, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Equality and Communities said: "I am delighted that after being delayed by the pandemic, Suffolk Archives has now been officially presented with their certificate of Provisional Accreditation.

"Suffolk Archives preserves our local history so that people of all ages and backgrounds can discover more about their heritage, and this national accreditation formally recognises the important work they do."

Jeff James, Chief Executive and Keeper, The National Archives said: "I am delighted to get this opportunity to visit The Hold, view the fantastic facilities that this new building offers, and to participate in the presentation of Suffolk Archives' certificate for provisional Accreditation. Archives Service Accreditation is a notable achievement and I am pleased to be able to join so many staff members and local stakeholders to celebrate this."

Kate Chantry, Strategic Manager at Suffolk Archives, said: "The visit by The National Archives is a wonderful milestone for Suffolk Archives and has been an opportunity to recognise our staff who have worked so hard on the accreditation process, as well as the volunteers, supporters and funders that have helped us along the way."

ENDS

Notes to editors:

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About Suffolk Archives

Suffolk Archives collects and holds material that is relevant to the history of Suffolk, its communities, and people.

The three branches (in Bury St Edmunds, Ipswich, and Lowestoft) are home to 900 years' worth of history, captured through millions of items, many of which are of national and international significance.

www.suffolkarchives.co.uk

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