

Dear all

At the beginning of the year, the Council confirmed the closure of the North-East and West Suffolk branches of the archive service.

We can now share that these branches will close to the public by the end of August 2024 and that most of the branch archives will be transferred to the county's purpose-built strongrooms at The Hold.

The decant and transfer of archives and local studies material to The Hold, and the associated work to reorganise the Ipswich strongrooms will be a substantial undertaking. To facilitate this work, the archives and the John Blatchly Local Studies Library areas at The Hold will close to the public for 3 months from the beginning of October 2024. The exhibition gallery, café and associated events programme will remain open and operational.

We appreciate that this will temporarily impact access to the archives, but complete closure is the safest and most efficient way to ensure a smooth move. We plan to reopen the archives and the John Blatchly Local Studies Library in January 2025 with an improved service offering.

In the Autumn we will arrange a Service Delivery Engagement meeting with key stakeholders to discuss service delivery at The Hold. We will contact you at a later date with details about this meeting.

Please continue to email [suffolkarchivesengagement@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:suffolkarchivesengagement@suffolk.gov.uk) with comments or queries.

Regards

The Hold, 131 Fore Street, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP4 1LR  
[www.suffolkarchives.co.uk](http://www.suffolkarchives.co.uk)