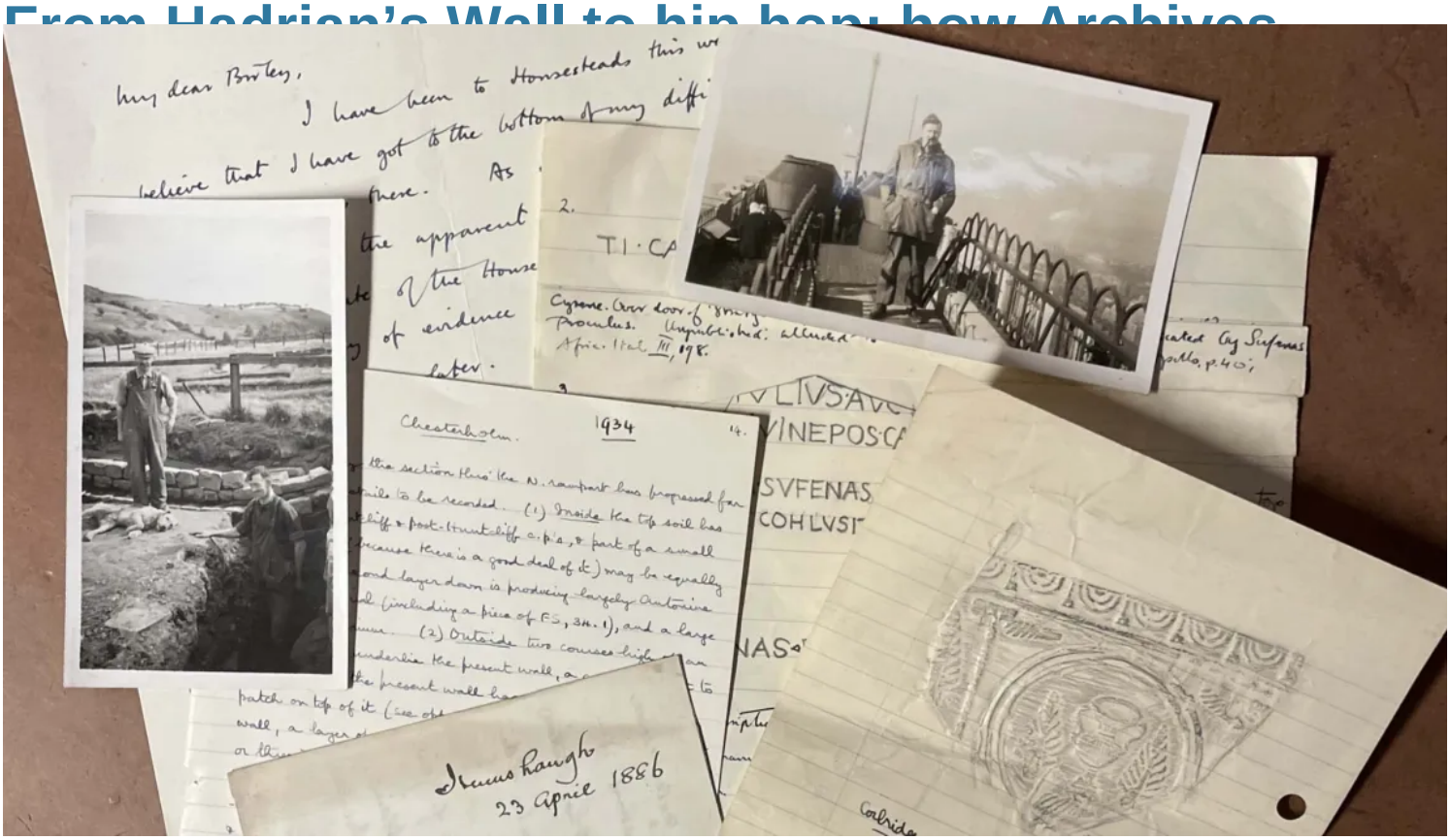
From Hadrian's Wall to hip hop: how Archives



The documents, photographs, notes and research of the archaeologists who rediscovered the history of Hadrian's Wall are being catalogued as part of The Vindolanda Trust's Archives Revealed project. Credit: The Vindolanda Trust.

Our £5million investment is scaling up the ambition of a grants programme helping archives and museums tackle their backlog of uncatalogued material, and rediscover fascinating stories in the process.

Archives Revealed is a partnership between us and The National Archives, the Wolfson Foundation and the Pilgrim Trust that offers several types of grants to archives.

Scoping grants independently assess unexplored but publicly significant collections, while cataloguing and consortium grants fund archivists and public outreach that make collections accessible for everyone.

> These archives hold extraordinary potential for research, creativity and public engagement, but much of that potential remains locked without detailed cataloguing."
> *Bethany Goodman, Archivist and Project Manager, The Vindolanda Trust*

Meet five projects opening up collections for public engagement and learning.

Exploring Hadrian’s Wall through the archaeological archive

The Vindolanda Trust is leading a partnership with Durham University’s Museum of Archaeology and North East Museums to catalogue five archives relating to the modern research history of Hadrian’s Wall.

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Excavation records from work at Arbeia South Shields Roman Fort, including photographs like this one, are being catalogued as part of The Vindolanda Trust's Archives Revealed project. Credit: North East Museums.

Bethany Goodman, Archivist and Project Manager, said: “These archives hold extraordinary potential for research, creativity and public engagement, but much of that potential remains locked without detailed cataloguing.

“This project allows us to bring together collections that are usually encountered in isolation and reveal the networks of people, ideas and material culture that shaped our understanding of Hadrian’s Wall.”

From drawing board to slipway: the Harland & Wolff ship plan archive

National Museums and Galleries of Northern Ireland is custodian of an extensive, internationally significant collection that includes the Harland & Wolff archive, spanning over a century of design and plans for more than 1,200 ships – including the Titanic.

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The RMS Titanic photographed during sea trials.

Diggin’ in the crates: counter-narratives through UK hip hop

As SIN Cru, a hip hop arts organisation, reached its 30th anniversary, an Archives Revealed scoping grant made possible a vital first step in assessing its extensive living archive. The organisation wants to catalogue and activate their collection of creative outputs and material culture spanning three decades of UK hip hop as a resource for artists and educators.



Performers 1DaWoman and TrubLroC. Credit: SIN Cru.

Protecting disabled histories and making archives accessible

The Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People is a pan-impairment disabled people's organisation, run and controlled by disabled people to promote independence and inclusion.

Its Archives Revealed project will catalogue donated collections that provide a detailed history of disabled people's fight for independent living. All items will be available in accessible formats, including text only, large print, subtitled video, transcript and BSL. The project will ensure the stories of disabled people – a shared community, culture and history – are preserved.



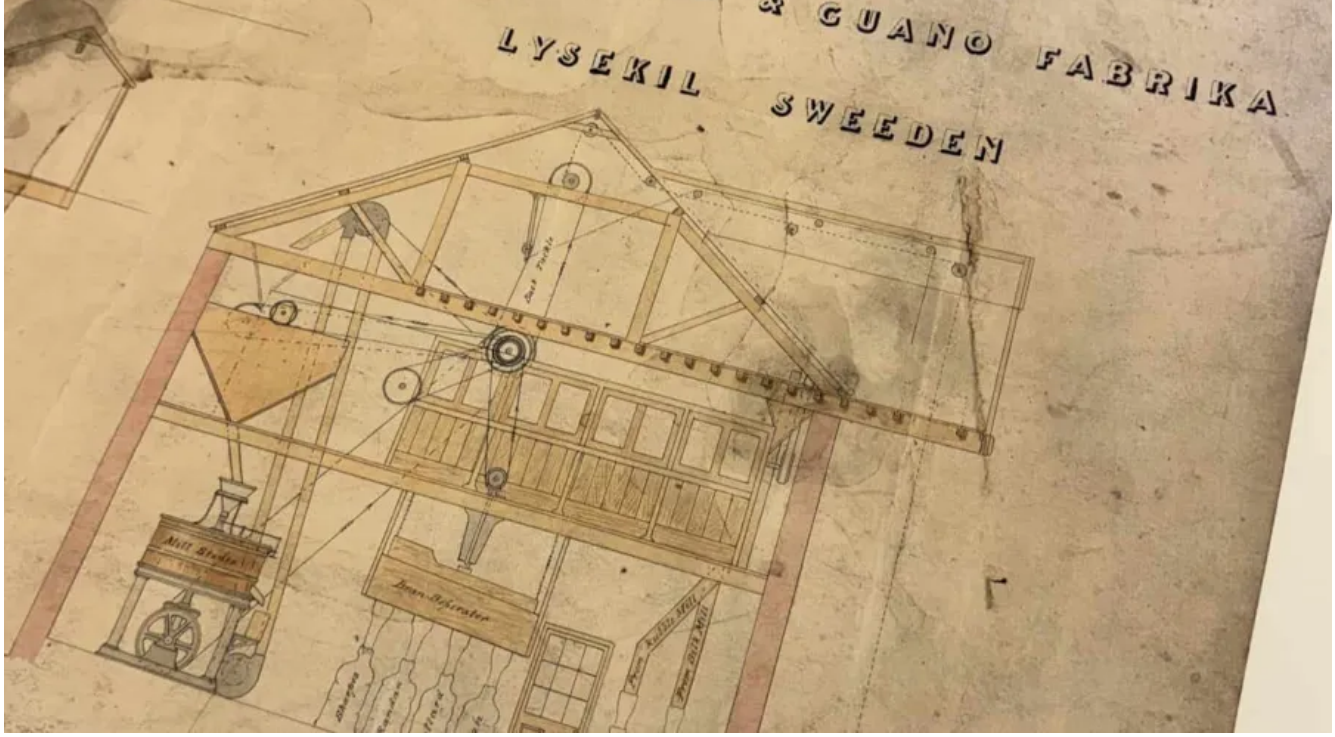
Placards from the UK Disabled People's Movement. Credit: Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People.

Preserving millwrighting heritage to save an endangered craft skill

Four collections that record the historic craft of millwrighting – building and repairing windmills and watermills – are being catalogued by the Mills Archive Trust.

The records, including technical drawings and photographs of historic mills in the UK and abroad, come from contemporary and 20th century millwrights and heritage specialists.

The trust hopes these records can be useful teaching resources in caring for mills and helping pass on millwrighting, an industrial heritage skill classed as critically endangered by the Heritage Crafts Association.



Around 1,000 technical drawings showing how historic mills were built and operate are being catalogued with an Archives Revealed grant. Credit: The Mills Archive Trust.

Find out more about Archives Revealed

Explore more about the funding programme, including how to apply for a grant, by visiting The National Archives' website.



The project uncovered Keith Armstrong's photographic archive, who photographed events from within. Credit: Shape Arts.



outside the archive’s walls

2026 joint winner: Hannah, Project Officer at Gloucestershire Archives, with vegetables harvested from the community garden. Credit: Gloucestershire Archives.



winning environmentally friendly project

The new Kresen Kernow archive centre has been made possible thanks to a £11.7million National Lottery grant and nearly a decade of work.

Creating a home for Cornwall’s archives