

Cumbria Archives



Your History, Your Place - Be Part of It!

Our Vision

Cumbria's archives are here for everyone, a unique, exciting and inspiring resource that can help everyone explore and appreciate what is so special about Cumbria, its people and places.

Archives are profoundly important for learning. They capture the imaginations of young people, inspiring them to take an interest in their surroundings. For adult learners, archives satisfy our natural thirst for knowledge, as well as building skills and confidence.

The archives are Cumbria's collective memory, providing authoritative evidence to help people solve problems and find out the truth. Archives encourage pride in individual and community identities and bring our past alive as our frame of reference for the present and future.



Westmorland
& Furness
Council

Working for Cumberland Council and
Westmorland & Furness Council

Our Archives

Cumbria's archives are documents that were created during the course of everyday activities (domestic, personal, political, industrial, commercial, religious, educational and social) from the 12th century to the present day.

Over time, these records acquired a historical perspective, offering us a fascinating immediacy and personal connection with past events and previous generations. The archives – paper, parchment, maps, plans, photographs, and modern media - give an unrivalled insight into the historical development of places throughout Cumbria, and the daily lives of both important and ordinary people.

Our Services

To achieve its vision, Cumbria Archives will:

- Proactively collect, preserve, catalogue, digitise and publish Cumbria's inclusive documentary heritage as an evidential and learning resource for everyone
- Provide friendly, expert advice to support everybody's research of the archive collections, whether in person, by enquiry, or on-line
- Encourage the widest possible use of the archive collections by people of all ages from across the country and the world, but most especially by Cumbrian people
- Provide stimulating learning materials, interpretation, events and activities to support learning for young people and adults
- Create opportunities for volunteers to support staff to improve the preservation and access to collections whilst supporting individual learning and social contribution to local communities
- Use the archives to promote what is special about Cumbria, encouraging cultural tourism to support the local economy
- Protect evidence and information which supports the democratic and other rights of citizens, and the delivery of local authority services
- Train and develop our staff to enhance their specialist expertise and provide excellent customer service
- Consult with service users and non-users to develop services, and work with partners when appropriate to deliver enhanced services
- Work to national archive standards and best practice
- Utilise technology including digital access to widen access to archives and reach new audiences