



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
THE **ARC**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
RESOURCE CENTRE

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Background

- Its been a long time coming!
- Archaeological archives have been unable to be collected and stored in Northants for over 20 years.
- There are over 20,000 boxes of archaeological archives from Northants that will end up at the ARC.
- The vast majority of the archive collections have been inaccessible to the public and researchers.
- Much of the existing collection is held in completely unsuitable conditions and all over the country.

The Northamptonshire ARC

- Central Archaeological Archive Repository for all of Northants.
- Open public access to archives and facilities for all researchers.
- Ability to loan objects within the collection.
 - Short or long term loans for display for other museum/heritage organisations.
 - Research loans to universities.
- State of the art climate controlled facility space for over 32,000 boxes of archaeological archives.
- Integrated into the planning processes.
- Outreach events using archaeological archives.

Our Next Steps

- Building expected to be signed over in March.
- Move 16,000+ boxes from existing stores from March-May.
- Beginning the re-packaging and cataloguing process in May.
 - Over 10,000 boxes need replacing.
 - Almost none of the archive is properly catalogued.
 - Expected to take 8-10 years.
- Hoping to open to volunteers and the public in June (Covid dependant!).
- Finally, we will be working towards ACE Museum Accreditation once open.

The Northamptonshire ARC Building



Downstairs Bulk Archive Store



Paper Archive Store



Metal Artefact Store (Ignore the plan chests!)



Humidity Control System



The Best Existing Store



How Not To Store Archaeological Material



How Many Archives Arrive



The Future!





School of Archaeology & Ancient History (SAAH)

- Academics working across **two disciplines with a commercial archaeological unit** within a fully integrated research environment
- 600+ students
- **Flexible learning providers** for more than 20 years, providing a wide range of internationally-recognised campus based and distance learning qualifications
- Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014 **research classed as 'world-leading'** placing us in the top five archaeology departments in the UK, and **1st for the public impact of our research**
- **Research income £5 million+** in 2019/20





Chester House Estate & SAAH partnership

- Research on the town and wider landscape
- Community excavation
- Placements, internships and volunteering opportunities
- Education programme for all ages
- Collaborative projects with local arts and heritage organisations



To find out more please contact Sarah Scott (sas11@le.ac.uk)