What is the Historic Environment?
The Historic Environment is all around us and encompasses a vast range of visible, buried and submerged sites as well as whole landscapes including field patterns, hedgerows, ponds and commons. Suffolk is rich in heritage relating to all periods of human activity; from prehistoric burial mounds, Roman villas and Saxon burial grounds, to medieval castles, historic parklands and 20th century military sites. It plays a vital role in creating our sense of place and belonging and is enjoyed by local people and visitors. However, once lost it cannot be replaced and therefore careful management is required to retain this invaluable resource for the future.

Contact the Historic Environment Team at:
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
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Hollow Road
Bury St Edmunds
IP32 7AY
T: 01284 741230
E: archaeology@suffolk.gov.uk
W: https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/archaeology
W: https://heritage.suffolk.gov.uk/
You can also follow us on Twitter
@SCCArchaeology

https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/archaeology
@SCCArchaeology
What does the Historic Environment Team Do?

We are the main providers of archaeological advice in Suffolk, offering guidance to planners, developers and farmers. We also maintain a record of all known archaeology and heritage in Suffolk, identify finds brought in by members of the public and curate the county’s archaeological archives.

Historic Environment Record (HER)

This is our comprehensive record of archaeology in Suffolk. We have nearly 40,000 records of archaeological sites from 700,000 year-old flint tools through to medieval manor houses and Cold War military infrastructure. We also hold information on historic buildings, parks and gardens, industrial sites, and coastal and marine remains.

The HER is available as a public resource through the Suffolk Heritage Explorer. As well as providing access to our records you can also view our archaeological map of the county and browse and download our range of publications.

Finds

Finds recording in Suffolk is part of the national Portable Antiquities Scheme, over 6000 finds are recorded in Suffolk each year. This is a free service that identifies and records archaeological objects found by members of the public. All finds dating before 1550 are recorded and aid our interpretation of Suffolk’s rich and diverse history.

Archives

The Archaeology Service is the main depository of archaeological archives in the county. We have several collections of regional and national importance. Our stores can be visited by appointment during weekday office hours.

Planning

Our Development Management Team supports Local Planning Authority colleagues by providing advice and information regarding the likely impacts of development on the historic environment and on the process of archaeological assessment, subject to the requirements of National Planning Policy.

Advice

We also provide countryside advice to organisations such as the Forestry Commission and Natural England. In addition, as part of Stewardship Schemes, we offer guidance to farmers and landowners regarding the appropriate management of, often vulnerable, archaeological remains on agricultural land.

heritage.suffolk.gov.uk