

Press release

04.07.2012

Websites captured forever in local authority archiving pilot

The websites of [Nick Clegg](#) and [FC United of Manchester](#) are among a collection of regional sites archived by The National Archives as part of a pilot project with local authorities.

Last year, The National Archives [announced](#) it would be piloting a web archiving model with seven local archives*, covering 20 local authorities, to share the expertise it had developed in archiving central government websites.

Each of the archives taking part in the scheme chose three websites of particular local interest for permanent preservation in the [UK Government Web Archive](#), which now contains more than a billion pages. The pilot aimed to encourage local authorities to think about how they could archive important local online information for future generations.

Other websites selected for preservation included: [Taylors of Harrogate](#), [VisitDorset](#), [Diocese of Lichfield](#), [Surrey Wildlife Trust](#) and [The Culture Vulture](#).

Oliver Morley, Chief Executive and Keeper of The National Archives, said:
“This project has enabled us to share our innovation and expertise beyond central government and to make a real difference by working alongside local authorities across the country to capture and preserve the digital history of their communities.”

The pilot has resulted in more than 3 million new online documents being permanently preserved. The sites were selected on the basis of a wide range of criteria from those which posed a specific technical challenge to others which would complement the paper records already held in existing collections.

Staff from the local record offices was trained in how to develop a curated web archive for their area and were provided with free support by The National Archives and the Internet Memory Foundation.

The National Archives and the Internet Memory Foundation are now working with the wider archive sector to create guidance and service model options for local authorities. A focus group has been arranged with the participating archives to explore key issues.

To complement this pilot, The National Archives undertook an automated web crawl of all primary local authority and NHS sites in 2011 to capture and gain greater understanding of the diversity of locally-held information. These are now available to view [online](#). A further automated crawl will be carried out later this year.

For further information, interviews or images please contact The National Archives' Press Office on 020 8392 5277 or e-mail press@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

Notes to editors

*The local authority archives services taking part in the pilot (and the websites they chose to archive) were:

- **Greater Manchester Archives Group** (multiple services in a joint partnership)
 - [Manchester International Film Festival](#)
 - [Football Club United of Manchester](#)
 - [Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People](#)
- **West Yorkshire Archives Service** (covering the authorities of Leeds, Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield)

- [Wakefield Anglican Diocese](#)
- [Incredible Edible Todmorden](#)
- [The Culture Vulture](#)
- **Sheffield Archives**
 - [Nick Clegg, MP for Sheffield Hallam](#)
 - [Sheffield Pride](#)
 - [South Yorkshire Housing Association](#)
- **North Yorkshire County Record Office**
 - [Taylors of Harrogate](#)
 - [Northallerton Town Football Club](#)
 - [UNISON North Yorkshire Local Government](#)
- **Surrey Heritage**
 - [Hambledon](#)
 - [Painshill Park](#)
 - [Surrey Wildlife Trust](#)
- **Dorset History Centre** (including the Borough of Poole and Bournemouth Borough Council)
 - [Bournemouth Holidays and Tourist Information](#)
 - [Visit Dorset](#)
 - [Poole Tourism](#)
- **Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Archives Service**
 - [Diocese of Lichfield](#)
 - [Stoke on Trent, Pottery and Ceramics](#)
 - [Staffordshire Hoard](#)

About The National Archives

For the record, for good... The National Archives is a government department and an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). As the official archive of the UK government and England and Wales, we look after and make available to the public a collection of historical records dating back over 1,000 years, including records as diverse as Domesday Book and MI5 files.

Our 21st-century role is to collect and secure the future of the record, both digital and physical, to preserve it for generations to come, and to make it as accessible as possible. We do this by devising technological solutions to ensure the long-term survival of public records and working to widen access to our collection. The National Archives also advises on information management across government, publishes all UK legislation, manages Crown copyright and leads the archive sector. We work to promote and improve access to public sector information and its re-use.

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

About Archives Sector Development (ASD) at The National Archives

Through Archives Sector Development, The National Archives leads the archives sector by providing services and guidance on all matters relating to the management, care, and use of archives and all strategic issues arising from this. We aim to support all custodians of records, including private owners and those with responsibility for caring for archive collections, with a range of services and written guidance to enable these activities to flourish.

About the Internet Memory Foundation

The Internet Memory Foundation is a non-profit institution, established in 2004 under the name European Archive Foundation, to preserve web content as a new media for current and future generations and to support web archiving initiatives in cultural institutions. The Internet Memory Foundation enables partner institutions to focus on curation and preservation activities without having to deal with operational workflow issues, thanks to its qualified and dedicated team who specialise in web archiving. The Internet Memory Foundation currently hosts and provides open online access to hundreds of terabytes of archived websites. The collection consists of internal crawls as well as crawls made on behalf of partner institutions. Among these institutions are The National Archives (UK), the National Library of Ireland and CERN.