THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AWARDED GRANT TO HELP EQUIP A NEW GENERATION OF ARCHIVE TRAINEES

A unique project administered by The National Archives which gives people the skills they need for future careers in heritage, and opens up heritage to wider audiences, has today received a grant of just under a million pounds from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) under its Skills for the Future programme.

The project, Transforming Archives, will offer three annual cohorts of trainees the opportunity to develop practical archiving skills. It will run from 2014 to 2017, and builds on the success of The National Archives' previous HLF-funded programme, Opening Up Archives, which ran from 2011 to 2014.

Speaking about the grant Nick Kingsley, Head of Archives Sector Development, The National Archives, said:

"This grant enables the continuation of The National Archives' work to tackle skills shortages in the wider archives sector and is further evidence of the vitally important role archives play in providing a gateway to our nation’s rich and fascinating history. It will also allow us to provide opportunities for people from a diverse range of backgrounds to explore the world of archives, learn about the important work that goes into preserving heritage, and play a significant role in sharing our history with the wider community".

Transforming Archives will be delivered in partnership with the Archives and Records Association and a network of partners across England who will host work placements at archive and heritage services, providing an alternative route of entry
into archives work for non-humanities graduates. Each trainee will focus on a specific area of heritage work, such as:

- community engagement
- collections development
- online interpretation
- digital preservation.

Trainees will share regular joint training days and a training week at The National Archives to enhance their training experience. They will also be able to take advantage of one-to-one support and mentoring to help personal development.

*Transforming Archives* will run in collaboration with a *Skills for the Future* project developed by the Scottish Council on Archives, *Opening Up Scotland's Archives*.

- Ends -

For further information, please contact Angela Owusu on 0208 392 5277 or press@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

**Notes to Editors**

Skills for the Future is a strategic HLF programme which gives people the skills they need for future careers in heritage and opens up heritage to wider audiences.

The National Archives has received £950k to run the programme.

The network of partners across England who will host work placements at archive and heritage services are:

Archives+ (Manchester Libraries, Information and Archives)
Cheshire Archives and Local Studies
Gloucestershire Archives
Hull University Archives, Hull History Centre
London Metropolitan Archives
Newsam Library and Archives, Institute of Education
Norfolk Record Office
Rambert Dance Company
St George's Chapel Archives, Windsor
The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust
Vivacity: Peterborough Local Studies and Archives
Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Skills for the Future programme
Skills for the Future funds work-based training in a wide range of skills that are needed to look after buildings, landscapes, habitats, species, and museum and archive collections, as well as equipping people to lead education and outreach programmes, manage volunteers and utilise digital technologies. We give grants to organisations that can demonstrate a skills shortage and are able to plan and develop a new training programme and to recruit, train and pay trainees new to the sector.

This initiative is intended to:

- increase the range and quality of work-based training to develop skills in the heritage sector
- meet identified skills shortages in the heritage sector
- increase the capacity of the sector to deliver training and share good practice
- increase the diversity of the heritage workforce.

For more details see:
http://www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/programmes/Pages/SkillsfortheFuture.aspx

Transforming Archives
The National Archives in partnership with The Archives and Records Association will deliver a three year programme of bursaries in eight host locations across England. Trainees will acquire skills relating to one, or two combined (where appropriate) skills gaps, through a year long placement in an archive with a dedicated trainer and mentor. The skills gaps are centred on people-focused as well as practical skills identified as essential to the development of archives and an archival workforce able to adapt to changing demands and priorities.

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, The National Archives looks after and makes 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. The National Archives do this by devising technological solutions to ensure the long-term survival of public records and working to widen access to our collection. It also advises on information management across government, publishes all UK legislation, manages Crown copyright and leads the archive sector. Since 2011, The National Archives has had responsibility for leading in the development of the archive sector in England.

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk  www.legislation.gov.uk