



The Collecting of Developer-Funded Archaeological Archives: 2024 Survey

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Summary

This report presents the findings of a 2024 snapshot survey examining the current collecting practices of repositories holding developer-funded archaeological archives in England.

Conducted as part of the *Future for Archaeological Archives Programme*, the survey gathered data on whether repositories were collecting, as well as capacity and collecting limitations. Upon completion, the findings were analysed and compared with those of previous surveys, offering insights into the evolution of collecting practices over time. The results were also mapped to identify trends and regional variations.

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Introduction

As part of the Future for Archaeological Archives Programme¹, Work Package B: Establishing the Best Option for Future Archive Provision, it was identified that a snapshot survey was required to provide updated information on the collecting capacities of repositories for developer-funded archaeological archives. This was undertaken by Historic England's Archaeological Archives Team.

Collecting surveys have been undertaken by the Society for Museum Archaeology (SMA) and partners since 2003. The last survey was in 2018, part of a run of three surveys funded by Historic England (HE), 2016-2018. These surveys identified challenges in capacity to collect, and staff resourcing and expertise. The 2024 survey was designed to review how the collecting of developer-funded archaeological archives had changed since then and differed by focusing only on the collection of developer-funded archaeology.

Previous surveys, online information, geographical comparison, and expert knowledge were used to identify contacts. This pulled together a rich resource which meant it was also possible to compare the 2024 survey to previous data and review what is known about areas where there was not a response to the current survey and identify where there are no repositories. This report therefore is in two parts – the result of the 2024 survey and reviewing all known data.

The 2024 survey was designed for ease and brevity of replies, focusing on whether institutions collected, what was collected, capacity to collect, charging structures. It therefore did not review collecting areas, storage conditions, types of institutions, or staff expertise, and was not as extensive as previous surveys. There was also no capacity for interviewing or follow up contact with repositories. The survey did not differentiate between types of repositories; the collecting of archaeological archives is undertaken mainly by museums, but also by similar organisations which can be considered publicly accessible repositories², as defined by the SMA. The terms 'museum' and 'repository' are used alternatively in the report.

¹ <https://historicengland.org.uk/research/support-and-collaboration/future-for-archaeological-archives-programme/>

² <https://socmusarch.org.uk/socmusarch/gailmark/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Publicly-accessible-repositories.pdf>

This report continues from previous work to identify collecting areas to understand changing capacity.

Previous surveys

The first survey of archaeological archives was *A Survey of Archaeological Archives in England*, a joint Museums & Galleries Commission/English Heritage project, published in 1998, but the data was not available digitally. In 2003, Val Bott on behalf of the Society of Museum Archaeology (Bott, 2003), built upon this to identify collecting areas and coverage. In 2012, Rachel Edwards, on behalf of the Society Museum Archaeology and the Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers (FAME), refreshed this information, including review of the archaeological contractors to quantify archives that cannot be deposited (Edwards, 2012). Between 2016-18 the SMA, commissioned by HE surveyed and reported on museum collecting three times³, reviewing collecting, capacity, policies and guidelines, digital policy, staff and expertise (Boyle, Booth, & Rawden, 2016, 2017, and 2018). The data from reports 2003-2018 was utilized for the 2024 survey.

³ <https://socmusarch.org.uk/projects/hesma-annual-survey-of-museums-collecting-archaeology-reports/>

Methodology

Establishing contacts

Data from previous Society of Museum Archaeology (SMA) surveys (Bott, 2003), (Edwards, 2012), and (Boyle, Booth, & Rawden, 2016, 2017, and 2018) were compiled into a central database. Repositories were assigned unique identifiers, and the datasets were united to facilitate comparison, accounting for repositories with changed names and disregarding changes in governance. This created an overall list of which organisations to select from who to contact for the 2024 survey.

Difficulties arose in identifying repositories from the SMA 2016-2018 surveys due to differing research questions, between them and the 2024 survey. The SMA surveys encompassed repositories holding archaeological archives, and contacted a broader range of organisations, while this survey specifically focused on collecting developer-funded archaeology. This broader range of contact received a response from a wider range of collectors, leading to some repositories being identified as collectors between 2016-2018, but known not to be part of the network collecting area coverage of England for developer-funded archaeological archives. Therefore, reliance was placed on the 2003 and 2012 survey results to assess the likelihood of repositories collecting developer-funded archaeological archives.

Collating the five previous surveys into a database identified over 500 repositories (including an indeterminate amount of duplication). Previously in 2003 around 130 repositories were identified. In 2012 161 repositories were contacted and during 2016-2018 over 460 repositories were initially contacted. From this data, 176 repositories were identified as potentially collecting developer-funded archaeological archives.

The identified list of repositories was compared to the Office for National Statistics map of local authority districts, counties, and unitary authorities (2023)⁴ to identify potential gaps in collecting coverage.

Exclusions

For the 2024 survey, the collecting practices of archaeological site-based heritage organisations were considered out of scope, as this would skew collecting patterns due to the reduced likelihood of developer-funded archaeology occurring on known archaeological sites. These were also more likely to have site facilities and potentially

⁴ <https://geoportal.statistics.gov.uk/documents/cb64eeb1b0a74e5ca277f9fac58500f4/explore>

acting as landowner and repository. However, it is acknowledged that these sites, along with national organisations like the National Trust, English Heritage, and the National Museum of the Royal Navy, contribute significantly to the archaeological collecting framework in England. Their presence indicates significant heritage assets and when collecting themselves alleviates collecting pressures on local museums.

Further exclusions included university museums and classical archaeology museums. Museums within an established collecting area were not included, i.e. if there was already county coverage. Finally, museums which were part of the same organisation were not contacted.

Survey

Once the list of repositories was identified they were contacted, mainly through generic email addresses with a link to an online survey, with two follow up emails if there was no response. The survey was open between 2nd February to 17th March 2024. It was designed in Microsoft Forms and utilised 'branching' so that only relevant questions were visible.

Internet searches also provided information on collecting by museum and planning authorities. This allowed for recording of partial collecting practices beyond 2018, even if no survey response was received. Further information from Derbyshire, Cheshire and Hertfordshire proved particularly useful. Additionally, while only three out of eight repositories in Essex responded to the 2024 survey, a 2023 report from Place Services, Essex County Council on the 'Essex Archaeological Archives and Museum Project (phase 1)' (Place Services, 2023) provided data on Essex museums collecting in 2023 and/or at capacity; this data was incorporated into this report, due to its recency and the low response rate overall from Essex.

Online survey

The survey consisted of a maximum of six questions including: -

Organisation Name:

Contact email:

1. Does your organisation currently collect archaeological archives from development-led investigations? (Response: Yes/No)

If Yes:

2. How many years do you think you can continue to do so before you run out of space? (Response: Free Text)
3. Excluding digital archives, are there limitations in what you collect, i.e. only able to take smaller archives, not documentary archives? Please describe: (Response: Free Text)
4. Do you charge for deposition? (Response: Yes/No)

If Yes

5. What is your charging structure (e.g. £ per box, £ per cu metre etc)? (Response: Free Text)
6. If you do have to stop, would you be comfortable advising Historic England in writing? (Response: Yes/No)

If No:

7. Have you previously collected archaeological archives from development-led investigations? (Response: Yes/No)
8. When did you stop collecting (month/year)? (Response: Free Text)
9. How long have you stopped collecting for (e.g. 2 years, 5 years, permanently etc) (Response: Free Text)

All:

10. Any further information (Response: Free Text)

Results

Completed questionnaires were received from 94 of the 176 organisations; a 53% response rate, including one museum confirming that they were still collecting, but unable to answer further questions within the time.

Two heritage organisations contacted, that were identified as potentially collecting, answered the 2024 survey as 'not collecting' and 'never collected' and therefore discounted from analysis. *Fishbourne Roman Villa* holds archives for *The Novium*, Chichester, but as they responded separately, *Fishbourne's* response was as a heritage site and therefore also excluded. Therefore, the data were reviewed on the results of 91 responses and 173 identified repositories.

The survey was designed to attract quantitative and qualitative responses. Where qualitative responses were received, they are reported on at the relevant question to enhance the otherwise quantitative responses.

Results by question

Results: Question 1. Does your organisation currently collect archaeological archives from development-led investigations?

Of the 91 respondents 72 said they were collecting and 19 were not. (79% of respondents collecting). However, one repository had only stopped for 3-6 months and one for a year. These were interpreted as short hiatuses and classed as collecting, altering the collecting figure to 74 (81%) (see Table 1).

Table 1: Responses to question 1.

Response	Number of museums	% of total respondents
Collecting	74	81
Not collecting	17	19
Total	91	100

Essex

The Place Services 2023 report provided the information set out in Table 2. It is compared to the three responses received from Essex repositories in 2024.

Table 2: Place Services, 2023, Essex museums summary.

Essex Museum	Responded 2024	Collecting 2024	Reported as still collecting 2023	Reported as at capacity 2023
Braintree Museum	-	-	-	Yes
Chelmsford Museum	-	-	Yes	-
Colchester Museum	-	-	Yes	Yes
Epping Museum	Yes	Yes	-	Yes
Harlow Museum	-	-	Yes	Yes
Saffron Walden Museum	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
Southend Museum	-	-	Yes	-
Thurrock Museum	Yes	No	-	Yes

Combined with the Place Services figures and changing the responses of not collecting; short hiatus in collecting to 'collecting' the results are:

Table 3: Responses to question 1, including Place Services, 2023 Essex museums results.

Response	Number of museums	% of total respondents
Collecting	78	81
Not collecting	18	19
Total	96	100

The respondent count of 96 will be used from now on for the review of the 2024 data. In both the 2024 survey and the Places Services report, repositories responded that they are collecting, despite being at capacity and this can include when they are no longer able to collect new acquisitions, demonstrating that 'not collecting' and 'at capacity' are not considered the same.

Collecting museums

Results: Question 2. How many years do you think you can continue to do so before you run out of space?

Answers were categorized into six date ranges (see Table 4). The main finding is that 16% of collecting museums have reached their capacity. When combined with the figures for Essex from Place Services (15 out of 78), this totals to 19%. Therefore, while the overall figure for museums still actively collecting stands at 81%, this is nuanced by the fact that 16% of these museums have already reached capacity. Moreover, an additional 36% anticipate reaching capacity within the next 5 years.

Table 4: Responses to question 2, including Place Services 2023 Essex Museum figures.

Year until full	Repository Count	%
Already full	15	19
1-5 years	28	36
6-10 years	13	17
11-20 years	4	5
20 + -100, not limited	8	10
Unknown/Unsure	10	13
Total	78	100

As well as quantitative data, repositories provided comments on capacity:

Several museums highlighted the challenges in estimating space availability, as it depends on factors such as the size of future archives and undeposited materials. For instance, eight museums mentioned that their projected date ranges were contingent upon the size of future archives to be deposited and anticipated demand. One museum noted the difficulty in providing an accurate estimate, citing numerous archives issued with accession numbers that have yet to be deposited, some dating back over 20 years.

One repository stated that they use Deepstore (a private storage service, suitable for long term storage due to its location in a salt mine) for bulk material for which they have no limit. Eight other museums stated that they were looking into expanding and developing space for archaeological archives either through using other collection spaces or rationalisation and a further museum was in the process of a store move. Four museums said that they also use off site storage, two referred to paying for the extra facility, one to unsuitable conditions for the archive, and one to use of shipping containers. One reported capacity as volume (about 80 boxes) and this was summarised to 1-5 years.

The Essex museums report (Place Services, 2023) approached capacity assessment based on volume rather than years. *Braintree*, *Colchester*, *Epping*, and *Thurrock* reported having no available storage space, while Harlow did not provide figures. *Saffron Walden* reported having 27 metres of remaining capacity, *Southend Museum* reported 100 metres, and *Chelmsford* reported 200 metres of shelf space. When considering undeposited materials, it was estimated that the county has a total of 114 metres of storage space remaining across all repositories.

Results: Question 3. Excluding digital archives, are there limitations in what you collect, i.e. only able to take smaller archives, not documentary archives? Please describe:

The responses to the survey in some cases did leave room for interpretation as to whether there was a limitation in place, and many responses included what is accepted practice, i.e. not collecting waterlogged remains (5), unprocessed soil samples (5), or unstable material (2), as well as selection strategies and policies based on evidential value. The definition of limited collecting also did not include not collecting negative (sterile) or documentary only archives (10) (presumed digitally deposited), oversize items (8) (otherwise it would require unreasonable predicting and maintenance of space), or specialist storage (2). Nevertheless, these limitations highlight challenges in meeting standards for collecting complete archives. In total 19 repositories have limitations in place that would leave an archive split (without another repository) or uncollected.

Table 5 below summarises the responses; one museum may have reported several limitations, and these were all listed separately. Only three museums collecting did not answer, 19 museums reported no limitation.

Table 5: Responses to question 3

Summary	Count
No limits	19
Selection criteria is reviewed e.g. bulk animal bone, ceramic building material or badly corroded metals.	13
Do not accept archives with no finds including negative archives and material from watching briefs/documentary only	10
Do not accept large archives	8
Geographical restrictions on collecting areas	8
Do not accept outsize material	8
Do not accept waterlogged/wet organics	5
Do not accept unprocessed soil samples	5
Do not accept items requiring specialist storage conditions	4
Limited to small archives only or those that we have space for	3
Do not accept human remains	2
Unstable material	2
Limitations on bulk	2
Target gaps in collections	1
Do not accept environmental material	1
Any archive with over 100 boxes may cause difficulties	1
Do not accept unstratified material	1
Significance of material takes precedence over ability to store	1
Do accept one box of most significant finds	1
Can only take what we have committed to	1
Modern material where more precious items were treated as treasure trove which would have had to pay for separately despite being part of the same excavation and the owner of the site was not prepared to pay the deposition fee.	1

What was classed as a limitation or selective collecting was: included accepting small archives only/exclusion of large archives (11), selective (general) (6), limitations of bulk (2), exclusion of human remains (2) exclusion of environmental material (1), and new accessions (3). The extent to which limits were applied varied, for instance, one museum mentioned their practice of only accepting one box containing the most significant finds:

“We currently work closely with archaeological contractors to select which finds will form the archive. We formulate fairly strict selection and retention strategies which err on the side of discarding more material. Our main headache is with projects that present us with a

large volume of material with high research potential but low public display potential, e.g. medieval iron slag or pottery kiln wasters."

"We are selective about accepting archives (documentary and artefactual) and we can choose to decline archives, particularly those where the selection, retention and disposal process has not been followed properly prior to deposition."

"We no longer accept physical documentary archives and have placed restrictions on outsized and bulk finds."

"Currently we can take very limited documentary archives. We have to be selective in the objects that we can take and would mostly have to limit these to objects that can be put on display (temporary or permanent)"

"Smaller archives only... do not usually accept environmental material or any items requiring specialist conditions which we do not have."

There is, as would be expected, an alignment between selective collecting and capacity. Three museums which provided a capacity estimate of over 5 years also providing details of material excluded. This excluded material comprised of large human remains archives, selective choice of whole archives, environmental remains or material with specialist storage requirements.

Ten museums do not accept archives without material finds, and two more are considering this, three state these should be deposited digitally with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) or Historic Environment Record (HER).

Results: Question 4. Do you charge for deposition?

Of the 74 respondents that said they were collecting 68 said they charge for deposition (92%) and six do not. Of these six, one said it was bringing in a charge.

Results: Question 5. What is your charging structure (e.g. £ per box, £ per cubic metre etc)?

This question had mixed replies. Some museums only stated that they charged by box, but others also provided the box charges. Most museums charge by box rather than cubic metre, only one museum did the later (see Table 6).

Table 6: Responses to question 5.

Charging	Number of museums	% of respondents
Box rate	57	83
£ per cubic metre	1	1
Flat fee then additional boxes	11	16
Total	69	100

Eleven museums use a flat fee per archive or a flat fee for accession number and first two/three boxes and then an additional box charge to any further boxes. Additional to table 6 and combined with box charging, one museum charges differently according to the organisation excavating, one combines this strategy with size of development and another charge depending on what is greatest; size of development or archive volume.

The average maximum charge per box was £112 (this did not consider box volume or dependent charging) and is close to previous reporting of an average of £108.40 per box (Paul and Forster 2023). Upfront fees varied from £50-300.

Results: Question 6. If you do have to stop, would you be comfortable advising Historic England in writing?

All respondents who are collecting said that they would be happy to advise Historic England in writing if they had to stop.

Results: Question 7. Have you previously collected archaeological archives from development-led investigations?

Of the 17 responding museums that are not currently collecting 16 said they had previously collected and three said they had never collected material originating from development-led investigations. Therefore, these are excluded from calculations, as they

are effectively out of scope of the survey. One holds the archives from the local community archaeology only, one has no space, and one is not a repository.

Non collecting museums

Results: Question 8. When did you stop collecting?

Two museums had no date for when they stopped collecting and two of the museums that previously collected stopped collecting over ten years ago (one stated in 1997). Within the last ten years, 12 of the museums have stopped collecting and six of these were in the last four years.

Table 7: Responses to question 8.

Previously known collecting years	Number of museums
2020-2024	6
2014-2018	6
Over 10 years ago	2
Unknown	2
Total	16

Results: Question 9. How long have you stopped collecting for (e.g. 2 years, 5 years, permanently etc)?

Of the 16 museums that previously collected archives but have stopped, five have permanently stopped and six are indefinite, depending mainly on staff capacity, space, and resources. The remaining five museums only have a temporary pause in collecting, which ranges in length from 3-6 months to 5 years.

Table 8: Responses to question 9.

Years not collecting	Number of museums
Permanently	5
Indefinitely	6
1 year	1
4 years	1
5 years	1
3-6 months	1
Store move ongoing	1
Temporary total:	5
Total	16

Results: Question 10. Further Information Answers

Responses could come from either collecting or not collecting museums. 54 museums provided information. Some responses included information relevant to previous questions and the results were added to the statistics.

- The most common topic was current and potential rationalisation projects to make space for future collections.
- Several mentioned reviewing collecting policies.
- Two reported they were officially open but had in reality stopped collecting.
- One referenced having to use shipping containers, these would provide an unstable environment for archives, and another commercial storage.
- Several stated they would be full if all material currently held at archaeological units was deposited.
- Two mentioned large infrastructure projects as risking capacity issues.
- Two repositories, one open, one closed, refer to previously collecting at county level, but reducing to borough/ town.

Below are some anonymised quotes from survey responses, that formed the basis for the above bullet points.

We are in the middle of writing a new deposition policy. This is in conjunction with an archaeologist who has deposited material with museums many times so we hope to create a useable approach for as many people as possible. We aim to not only be clearer on what we can and can't take (and introduce charges) but also develop a better system of

pre-deposition communication so that we can get the information that we need in good time before deposition.

We have stopped collecting new depositions, but still expect some already approved depositions to arrive within the next couple of years. We are hoping to be able to rationalise our existing archaeology collections to create more space, and have started this process, but this is very time consuming and we are a team of 2.4 members of staff, so we don't have a lot of capacity.

Technically we are still open for deposits, however the on-the ground nature of staffing, storage space and resources for collections care, and the necessary specialist knowledge in effect prevents us doing so, and this situation is unlikely to change. Were a significant excavation to take place within our collecting area, it would be incredibly difficult to accept this into the collection, and would have a major impact on already very stretched resources. In the past deposits have been offered that have not been adequately prepared, resulting in even more work for the limited museum staff. We suggest that HE would gain a better understanding of current practices and trends from those directly involved in creating excavation archives, and also that a more centralized approach from HE to storing and caring for excavation archives may be a more manageable way forward considering the long-standing resourcing situation faced by UK museums.

In recent years we've had various issues dealing with archaeological depositions. We stopped taking depositions completely for a few years while we were all working on a major redevelopment of one of our museum sites. We also had to vacate some of our old stores and use temporary storage until new stores were ready, which extended the time we were closed to depositions. When we got one of our new stores up and running, we had far fewer staff so we gradually started taking in some of the depositions which had built up during the time we were closed. Before we were fully up and running again, the Covid Pandemic hit and so everything shut down again. Last autumn we discovered that our "new" stores (converted from a school sports hall) contained RAAC (crumbly concrete) and building work is required to make the building safe. I understand the roof will have to be replaced - but this won't be done straight away. So it will be some time yet before we can routinely take in depositions the way we did 10 years ago. It is important to note that we haven't had an archaeologist on staff for the last 12 years and so all the archaeology depositions etc. are handled by non-archaeologists.

We find that local societies (particularly those with historic connections to our Museum) consider that our museum is a useful deposit for their archives. This limits the amount of

storage space available for objects within our current CDP [Collections Development Policy].

We are one of the authorities identified as a repository for HS2 archives, but there is as yet little clarity on timescales, quantities and how the deposition will be financial supported other than generalised reference to deposition charges.

It would hugely assist our ability to continue to accept archaeological archives locally if we could transfer large volumes of material such as iron slag, pottery wasters, architectural fragments to a central repository.

Our ability to take archives is current ok, but that does not account for a huge backlog within the commercial sector. Something like 500+ archives are not deposited for various reasons. Should all these suddenly arrive we would be overwhelmed. Currently planning a complete restructure of our Archaeological Archives process to become more involved with the decisions for retention at every stage of the process and to attempt to stop the build up of further backlog by providing a better framework for commercial units.

We currently have in excess of 100 [accession] numbers issued which have yet to be deposited! Hence the difficulty in calculating space availability. In addition, as the Council is currently under a 114⁵, and all areas of responsibility will be under scrutiny, as part of cost-saving measures, it might be that going forward, only sites within Nottingham city are accepted, including those which are awaited.

Acquisitions across all of the museum's varied collections (not just archaeology) has been put on hold following recent redundancies and a cut in remaining staff hours. Our remit before the hold was implemented was also reduced from County-wide to Borough-wide.

I think further consultation with curators is key in terms of understanding the problems we face but also the solutions that many of us have developed. Whilst a National Store is a solution to a wider problem, I think careful thought needs to be paid to how it works with existing collections/repositories. There is a real risk that local authorities, who are all in financial difficulty, will see this as a reason to cut museums further - see the recent report on local authority museum funding.

I think that Museum Accreditation should include as a requirement, along with secure premises and a balanced budget, that a museum should have plans for storage expansion as needed in the short term (10 years is good). I think that the heritage profession in

⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Section_114_notice

general should back us up on the twin principles that 1) museums should collect and 2) museums should, as a norm, retain what they have collected. I think that there is a tendency afoot to expect museum policies to reflect their storage capacity, not vice versa, and that this should be knocked on its head before it does more harm. I think that we should affirm very loudly that it is the business of museums to increase knowledge and that this involves increasing, full stop. That's what I think.

Non responders

For organisations that did not respond to the 2024 survey, documents published online, such as collecting policies, provided later collecting dates than the 2018 survey.

Sixty-five repositories which did not respond to the survey were identified as collecting in previous surveys/online information. The known last date of those who did not respond to the 2024 survey and believed to be collecting is listed in Table 9.

Table 9: Count of repositories that did not respond to the 2024 survey, and their last identified date of collecting.

Last date identified as collecting	Count of repositories
2023	6
2022	2
2021	10
2019	1
2018	13
2017	9
2016	6
2012	12
2003	7
	Total: 65

Twelve repositories who did not respond to the 2024 survey have previously reported not collecting (two partially closed in 2012). There are an additional two repositories who have never responded to a survey and two more which have only been invited to surveys since 2016 and not responded. The last date of those who have previously confirmed they are not collecting in surveys is set out in table 10.

Table 10: Count of year not collecting was recorded.

Not collecting since year	Count of repositories
2023	1
2018	5
2017	2
2016	1
2012	1
2012 (partial)	2
Area with no repository	2
No response	2
	Total: 16

Survey Summary

This was a snapshot survey, undertaken by online form only and the response rate of 53% was good for the method. The responses provided updated information on collecting of developer-funded archaeological archives; the last survey (Boyle, Booth & Rawden, 2018) being 6 years old and predicting a decline in collecting. Limiting the contacts to previously identified relevant repositories posed a risk of exclusion but was necessary to focus the research within the project timetable. Table 11 summarises the collecting status of the 96 repositories data was collected from. Overall, 18 (19%) repositories were no longer collecting, 46 (48%) were collecting with <5 years capacity or selectively collecting. 32 (33%) were collecting without reporting limitations in collecting and >5 years capacity.

Table 11: Summary of collecting statuses

Collecting status	Number of repositories	% of total respondents
Not collecting	18	19
Collecting but at capacity	15	16
Collecting <5 years capacity	28	29
Selective collecting with >5 years capacity	3	3
Collecting >5 years capacity/Unknown	32	33
Total	96	100

Quantitative discussion of collecting has limitations; the impact of a repository not collecting archaeological archives varies significantly and among the repositories not currently collecting, some have previously provided coverage for counties and cities. Fifteen repositories, including results from the Place Services 2023 Essex museums survey, reported being at capacity. This included four repositories that have county-wide coverage collecting policies.

When asked about limitations on collecting, most responses reflected reasonable practices, however, 19 repositories reported not collecting complete archaeological archives. As would be expected this practice aligned with capacity issues, with only three repositories selectively collecting with >5 years capacity.

The survey revealed that collecting at capacity, selective collecting, and discrepancies between officially collecting and ability to collect suggest that asking "are you collecting" does not provide a complete picture of collecting in England. Some responses indicated that positive answers to "are you collecting" might be inaccurate, with potentially damaging collecting policies that skew the understanding of archaeological collecting in England.

The survey found that 93% of repositories charge for collecting, this is a c.40% increase since the 2016-2018 surveys. However, the exclusion from the survey of heritage sites or those not collecting developer-funded archaeology, makes the overall increase unclear. What has come to light is that nearly all repositories for developer-funded archaeology now charge, and most charging schemes are 'by box'. The survey highlighted the need for nuanced questions regarding charges, excluding those who would be effectively charging themselves (e.g. heritage sites, such as English Heritage).

Evaluating when collecting stopped, suggested a recent increase in non-collecting, with only four out of sixteen repositories ceasing over ten years ago. However, the low number and patterns of returning to collecting make this difficult to analyse conclusively.

Data comparison

Comparing the results from previous and the 2024 surveys made it clear that the binary question of ‘collecting or not collecting’ does not capture the full picture of collecting developer-funded archaeological archives in England. Within the 2024 survey responses, there is a range of scenarios, including repositories officially collecting but currently on hiatus, those selectively collecting archives, and those refusing certain materials (described as partial collecting in 2012). The extent of selective collecting described in two responses to the 2024 survey could be classed as not collecting. Repositories cover variable area sizes, archaeology, and development rates, and therefore reported issues with collecting have unequal consequences.

Surveying who is and is not collecting data also misses information on where there is no repository, which is significant to the understanding the collecting of developer-funded archaeological archives across England. Patterns in the survey results show difficulties in receiving responses, and gaps in data can be significant. Comparing surveys compensates for this and provides insights into longer-term issues> Despite the risk of data being out of date it provides answers to ‘what do we know now?’ Understanding coverage is crucial alongside quantitative statistics. For instance, in both Northamptonshire and Cambridgeshire, the number of collecting repositories has reduced to one, but full coverage remains.

The 2024 data was compared to previous survey data and the Office for National Statistics list of counties and unitary authorities⁶. This comparison also allowed for classification of the situation for each area or repository, aiding in visualizing the issues, as set out in table 24 (p.77) and mapped in Figure 1 (p.75).

The classifications used are:

- Collecting with capacity: Repository has capacity beyond 6 years or more to collect and reported no limitations.

⁶ https://public.opendatasoft.com/explore/dataset/georef-united-kingdom-county-unitary-authority/table/?disjunctive.ctr_code&disjunctive.ctr_name&disjunctive.rgn_code&disjunctive.rgn_name&disjunctive.ctyua_code&disjunctive.ctyua_name

- Previously collecting 2020-2023: Identified as collecting between 2020-2023 from online resources, data collected may not have included information on capacity or collecting limitations.
- Previously collecting 2016-2019: Identified as collecting between 2016-2019 from online resources or the SMA collecting surveys 2016-2018, these may not have been able to also report on capacity or collecting limitations.
- Previously collecting 2003-2012: Identified as collecting from the 2003 and 2012 collecting surveys, these may not have been able to also report on capacity or collecting limitations.
- Collecting with 1-5 years capacity: Identified in the 2024 survey as having 5 years capacity or less, may also have collecting limitations.
- Collecting without capacity/selective: Identified in the 2024 survey as collecting despite capacity being full or applying a selective collecting strategy.
- Previous partial collecting: Identified in a survey prior to 2024 that the repository selectively collected.
- Previously not collecting: Identified in a survey prior to 2024 that the repository was unable to collect.
- Hiatus: Reported in 2024 that the repository was temporarily not collecting for over a year.
- Does not collect: Reported in 2024 that the repository does not collect.
- No repository identified: It is believed that the area does not have repository that collects, nor a previously collecting repository. It does not mean the area has no museum, only that it has never been responsible for collecting.

The 2016-2018 surveys recorded where museums wished to start collecting; if this data could not be updated, the repository was classified as 'previously not collecting', rather than 'does not collect'.

The impact of the collecting status was then reviewed and rated from 1 (low impact, i.e., collecting with capacity over 5 years) to 5 (high impact, i.e., not collecting/no repository). This rating broadly aligned with the classification but also allowed the impact of the classification to be measured. For example, where collecting was so selective that it should be classed as not collecting, high impact could be recorded without altering the classification of the survey response. The results of this are set out in table 23 (p.77) and figure 2 (p.76).

Based on evaluating and combining past and the 2024 survey responses a discussion of what is currently known about repositories, organised by ceremonial county, follows.

Bedfordshire

Two museums collect developer-funded archaeological archives, *Luton Museum* which covers: South Bedfordshire and Luton and *The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum* (Bedford Museum) covers North Bedfordshire and Mid Bedfordshire.

Luton Museums

Luton Museums reported they were collecting in 2024, with a 1–2-year capacity.

Classification: Collecting with 1-5 years capacity.

The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum, Bedford

The museum is likely to be collecting. It last reported collecting in 2018, therefore it's capacity and limitations are unknown. Classification: Previously collecting 2020-2023.

Berkshire

The Berkshire was reorganised in 1998 into the six unitary authorities of West Berkshire, Windsor and Maidenhead, Wokingham, Bracknell Forest, Reading and Slough. Prior to this *Reading Museum* had collected archaeological archives for the county. *Reading museum's* collecting policy has been reduced to Reading town. Reading and West Berkshire have complete collecting coverage. Windsor and Maidenhead, Wokingham, Bracknell Forest, and Slough are believed to be gaps, with no repositories in Wokingham and Bracknell Forest. It is unlikely Slough has a collecting museum and *Windsor & Royal Borough Museum* no longer collects.

Reading

Reading Museum is currently collecting with 100 years capacity, the only limitation on collecting being they do not take documentary only archives. Classification: Collecting with capacity.

West Berkshire:

West Berkshire Museum Service, Newbury is collecting with 1-2 years capacity.

Classification: Collecting with 1-5 years capacity.

Bracknell Forest

Classification: No identified repository.

Slough

Slough Museum, a charitable organisation, was not identified 2003 and in 2012 Slough was identified as a gap. The museum contacted in the 2016-2018 surveys but did not

respond. Therefore, it is not believed to be a collector of developer-funded archaeological archives. Classification: No identified repository.

Windsor and Maidenhead

Windsor & Royal Borough Museum no longer collects, noting in 2024 they never sought to collect, but collected when there was space. They stopped formally collecting in 2023 but had not accepted an archive in approximately 10 years. Classification: Does not collect.

Wokingham

Classification: No identified repository.

Bristol

Bristol Museums responded to the 2024 survey, is collecting and has over twenty years capacity and no limitations on collecting. Classification: Collecting with capacity.

Buckinghamshire

Buckinghamshire County Museum Trust provides county coverage, including Milton Keynes, and is collecting. It has over twenty years capacity and no limitations on collecting although it requires discussion on outsize objects. Classification: Collecting with capacity.

Cambridgeshire

Cambridgeshire County Council accepts archaeological archives in lieu of a museum service in the county. They utilize offsite storage in Deepstore salt mines for bulk material. Small finds archives are stored with the council, and they are looking to expand their store for >15 years capacity. They have limitations on large material. Classification: Collecting with capacity.

Peterborough

Peterborough Museum & Art Gallery has recently had Historic England funding to reorganise their collections as part of a wider project. They report no limitations, with the exception of outsize objects. Currently they have 10-15 years capacity. Classification: Collecting with capacity.

Cheshire

In 2009 the county was split into two unitary authorities: Cheshire West and Chester and Cheshire East. This has led to Warrington, Halton and Cheshire East needing to take in archives. Prior to this *Chester Museum*, which now collects from Cheshire West, had a

wider remit. Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service documented the issue in 2020⁷. Some support is possibly also provided by the *Museum of Liverpool* (see below).

Cheshire East

Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service documented Cheshire East has no local authority museum for the collection of archaeological archives (Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service, 2020). Although, it suggested *Nantwich museum* and *Congleton museum* as assisting, it is overall classified as: No repository identified.

Nantwich Museum

The museum has limited storage and so may consider each archive on a case-by-case basis (Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service, 2020). Classification: Collecting without capacity/selective.

Congleton Museum

The museum accepts items from Congleton and Astbury. It will consider receiving items from a wider area in the former Boroughs of Congleton and Macclesfield where there is no other appropriate receiving repository. This could include those townships situated between Congleton and the adjacent communities of Alsager, Sandbach, Holmes Chapel and Macclesfield (Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service, 2020). Classification: Previously collecting 2020-2023.

Cheshire West and Chester

Cheshire West Museums

The museum did not respond to the 2024 survey. The last response to a survey was in 2016 and they were collecting. Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service identified they were collecting in 2020. Classification: Previously collecting 2020-2023.

Halton

There is currently no designated museum for the collection of archaeological archives within Halton Borough Council and deposition of material from the majority of the area is unlikely. *Norton Priory Museum* accepts archives from Norton Priory, Halton Castle, and the immediate environs of these sites. (Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service, 2020). Classification: No repository identified.

⁷ <http://www.cheshirearchaeology.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Archive-Deposition-1.pdf>

Warrington

Warrington Museum & Art Gallery reported in 2024 that they are selective about what archives they take and have 3-5 years capacity. A similar description was given in 2020. Classification: Collecting without capacity/selective.

Cornwall

Royal Cornwall Museum responded in 2024 and provides near coverage of the county. The *Isles of Scilly Museum* also collects. The *Museum of Cornish Life* (Helston) has previously been known to collect shipwreck material but did not respond to the 2016-2018 surveys. It is considered unlikely to collect developer-funded archaeology and has been classified as 'does not collect'.

Royal Cornwall Museum

The museum reported in 2024 they are at capacity but still officially collecting, they no longer accept physical documentary archives and have placed restrictions on oversized and bulk finds. Classification: Collecting without capacity/selective.

Isle of Scilly

The museum building was closed in 2019 due to structural issues and storage capacity elsewhere has been secured. The museum does not accept environmental remains and can only take 'smaller archives,' reporting they have at least five years storage capacity. Classification: Collecting without capacity/selective.

County Durham

The non-metropolitan county was subject to 2009 reforms. The county council, districts and boroughs were changed to four unitary authorities and the county is ceremonial: Borough of Darlington, County of Durham, Borough of Hartlepool and Borough of Stockton-on-Tees.

The collecting of archaeological archives for County Durham was previously undertaken by the *Bowes Museum*, and this is now replaced by *Durham County Council (CoDAA (County Durham Archaeological Archives))*. The city of Durham is covered by the *Museum of Archaeology, Durham University*.

In 2003 it was reported that following the split to district authority Darlington remained covered by *Bowes Museum*, and it needs to be clarified that CoDAA continues this.

Darlington

The 2003 survey reported that following the split to district authority Darlington remained covered by Bowes. This has not been confirmed, especially as *Bowes Museum* are now replaced by CoDAA. No other repository has been identified. Classification: Uncertain.

County of Durham

Durham County Council

Durham County Council reported in 2024 that they are collecting, have 5 years capacity and charge dependent on size of development and differently for research projects.

Classification: Collecting with 1-5 years capacity.

Durham City

Museum of Archaeology, Durham University reported in 2024 they were collecting and charge by box. Classification: Collecting with 1-5 years capacity.

Hartlepool

Tees Archaeology provides planning advice, manages the HER and stores archaeological archives, acting as a permanent store on behalf of Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees councils. *Tees Archaeology* reported in 2024 that they were collecting, unable to report on capacity, and charged depending on size of development. Classification: Collecting with capacity.

Stockton-on-Tees

Tees Archaeology, see Hartlepool. Classification: Collecting with capacity.

Cumbria

Cumbria is now formed by two unitary authorities, but the museum division relates to old districts. Museums relevant to the survey were identified as *The Dock Museum, Tullie House Museum, The Beacon Museum, Kendal Museum* and *Keswick Museum & Art Gallery*.

Allerdale

Keswick Museum was reported in 2003, 2012 and 2024 as not collecting. Classification: Does not collect.

Barrow-in-Furness

The Dock Museum did not respond to the 2024 survey. It was reportedly partially collecting in 2012, but could not be contacted and reported in 2017 it was not collecting and would not return to collecting. Classification: Does not collect.

Carlisle

Tullie House Museum responded to the 2024 survey. It is currently collecting, reporting that they were full, reorganising to create capacity for what they have already committed to taking. In 2003 it was documented they collect from the Carlisle District, plus Cumbrian sites represented in collection and/or excavated by Cumberland & Westmoreland Antiquarian & Archaeological Society. Classification: Collecting without capacity.

Copeland

The Beacon Museum last responded to a survey in 2012 and reported it could not accept large archives and will not accept large quantities of bulk finds. Classification: Previous partial collecting.

Eden and South Lakeland

Kendal Museum reported in 2016-2018 it was unable to collect but hoped to restart in the future, they did not respond in 2024. Classification: Previously not collecting.

Derbyshire

The collection of archaeological archives is documented in the collecting procedures for *Chesterfield*, *Buxton*, and *Derby Museums* within the county. *Museums Sheffield* collect from parishes in Bolsover, Derbyshire Dales, High Peak, Northeast Derbyshire, as well as Sheffield. These documents were last updated in 2016 and were provided by *Derbyshire County Council* in 2024 and breakdown collecting by parish.

Chesterfield and *Derby* responded to the 2024 survey. *Chesterfield Museum Service* reported they are collecting, would struggle to take a large archive, have two years capacity, and do not collect human remains. *Derby* reported they have 3-4 years capacity. *Buxton* was last recorded collecting in 2016, reporting storage issues in 2012. *Museums Sheffield* are discussed below.

Museums

Derby Museum & Art Gallery:

Classification: Collecting with 1-5 years capacity.

Museums Sheffield:

Classification: Previously collecting 2016-2019.

Chesterfield Museum & Art Gallery:

Classification: Collecting without capacity/selective.

Buxton Museum & Art Gallery

Classification: Collecting Previously collecting 2016-2019.

Areas

Amber Valley

Derby Museum

Bolsover

Museums Sheffield

Derby

Derby Museum

Chesterfield

Chesterfield Museum

Derbyshire Dales

Buxton Museum, Derby Museum & Art Gallery, and Museums Sheffield

Erewash

Derby Museum

High Peak

Buxton Museum and Museums Sheffield

Northeast Derbyshire

Museums Sheffield

South Derbyshire

Derby Museum & Art Gallery

Devon

The collecting of developer-funded archaeological archives is covered by four museums, *Barnstaple and North Devon Museum*, *The Box* (previously Plymouth City Museum & Art Gallery), and *Royal Albert Museum, Exeter*, all of which responded to the 2024 survey. *Torquay Museum* was identified very late in the research, and missed from the 2024 survey.

Royal Albert Museum, Exeter

Royal Albert Museum report 10-20 years collecting capacity, discussed challenges of bulk material. Classification: Collecting with capacity

The Box Plymouth Museum Gallery Archive

The Box reported 5-10 years and qualified this with potential future strategies and less archaeological work in collecting area compared to many other museums, and many sites result in negative archaeology or no finds. *The Box* currently, take all in archives but 'with sampling'. As it was not clear that 'with sampling' was equal to selective collecting, the classification remained as collecting. *The Box* also requires all physical documentary archive to be digitised and deposited with the ADS. Classification: Collecting with capacity

Museum of Barnstaple & North Devon

Barnstaple reported they are currently running out of space. Classification: Collecting with 1-5 years capacity

Torquay Museum

Torquay Museum collects from the Torbay Unitary Authority, it has not responded to a survey since 2012. In 2012 it was collecting. Classification: Uncertain.

Dorset

Dorset County Museum collects from the entire county except for Poole and clarification is required for Bournemouth. It is believed Christchurch is covered by *Hampshire Cultural Trust*. *Hampshire Cultural Trust* collection development policy 2020-2025, suggests crossover of collecting policy with Christchurch.⁸

Dorset County Museum closed to collecting for 5 years in January 2024. Classification: Hiatus.

Poole

Poole Museum responded to the 2024 survey that it was collecting but had reached capacity. Classification: Collecting without capacity/selective.

⁸ <https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/documents/s56881/Appendix%201%20-%20HCT%20Collections%20Development%20Policy.pdf>

East Riding of Yorkshire

East Riding of Yorkshire is classed here as being made up from the East Riding Unitary Authority and Kingston upon Hull City (known as Hull).

East Riding of Yorkshire Council's Museum Service

East Riding of Yorkshire Council's Museum Service (ERYMS) collects from the area with exception of Hull. In 2024 they reported collecting but could not comment on capacity. Although the service did not report collecting limits other than not accepting 'paper only' archives, its deposition guidelines include excluding unworked/unbutchered animal bone, highlighted capacity issues with large human remain archives, and the discard policies recommended may impact the completeness of an archaeological archive.⁹ Classification: Collecting with capacity.

Hull

Hull City Council Museums & Galleries last reported they were collecting in 2018. Classification: Previously collecting 2016-2019.

East Sussex

East Sussex is made up from the local authority districts Eastbourne, Hastings, Rother, Wealden, and Lewes. Brighton and Hove is a unitary authority covered here for simplicity. The 2012 survey report on the *Sussex Museum Group* (also covers West Sussex) and its successful collaboration to provide county coverage. It noted this included Archaeology South East, a contracting organisation, which holds significant quantities of archives which had not yet been deposited. The *Sussex Museums Group* provided the 2012 survey with a parish list¹⁰ and although there are crossovers between districts and repositories the majority coverage by district is summarised below.

Brighton and Hove

Royal Pavilion & Museums have had long-term difficulties in taking archaeological archives and reported in 2024 to be unable to take archives for nearly 30 years, with collecting in the 1990s reported as ad hoc. As a result, a large backlog of archive remains

⁹ <https://downloads.eastriding.org.uk/culture/museums/collections/guidelines-on-archaeological-archives-dec2018.pdf>

¹⁰ https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archiveDS/archiveDownload?t=arch-381-1/dissemination/pdf/2012/Sussex_collecting_areas_list.pdf

with *Archaeology South East*, the local commercial archaeological contractors.
Classification: Does not collect.

Eastbourne

Heritage Eastbourne (Eastbourne Borough Council) responded in 2024 as collecting but closed to new accessions due to lack of space and only accepting depositions with a previously given accession number. Classification: Collecting without capacity/selective.

Hastings & Rother

Hastings Museum & Art Gallery reported in 2024 it had run out of space and was paying for offsite storage. Classification: Collecting without capacity/selective.

Lewes & Wealden

Sussex Archaeological Society (Barbican House Museum), Lewes reported in 2024 that it was at capacity and had stopped collecting since 2014. Classification: Does not collect.

Bexhill Parish

Bexhill Museum reported in 2024 that it was collecting, and it was developing plans for further archive storage. It collects from the parish of Bexhill. Classification: Collecting with capacity.

Essex

Essex is made up of thirteen districts and one unitary authority. As well as responses to the past surveys, data was also gathered from the Essex Museums report (Place Services, 2023). This confirmed the collectors of archaeological archives are: *Braintree Museum*, *Chelmsford Museum*, *Colchester Museum*, *Epping Museum*, *Harlow Museum*, *Saffron Walden Museum*, *Southend Museum*, *Thurrock Museum*.

In the Place Services report *Braintree Museum*, *Colchester Museum*, *Epping Museum*, *Harlow Museum*, and *Thurrock Museum* were reported as at capacity.

In the 2024 survey *Thurrock* reported it was no longer collecting indefinitely. *Epping* report it had 2-5 years storage. *Saffron Walden* has 10 years storage.

Table 12: Essex repository coverage by area.

Area	Repository	Classification
Basildon	Split coverage by Southend Museums Service (Basildon town) and Chelmsford Museum (Billericay)	Collecting with capacity
Braintree	Braintree District Museum	Collecting without capacity/selective
Brentwood	Chelmsford Museum	Collecting with capacity
Castle Point	Southend Museums Service	Collecting with capacity
Chelmsford	Chelmsford Museum	Collecting with capacity
Colchester	Colchester Museums	Collecting without capacity/selective
Epping Forest	Epping Forest District Museum Service	Collecting with 1-5 years capacity
Harlow	The Museum of Harlow	Collecting without capacity/selective
Maldon	Colchester Museums	Collecting without capacity/selective
Rochford	Southend Museums Service	Collecting with capacity
Southend-on-Sea	Southend Museums Service	Collecting with capacity
Tendring	Colchester Museums	Collecting without capacity/selective
Thurrock	Thurrock Museum	Does not collect
Uttlesford	Saffron Walden Museum	Collecting with capacity

Gloucestershire

Gloucestershire is split into six districts with a museum for each. Collecting areas coverage is detailed in the 'Gloucestershire archaeological archives standards' (2018)¹¹. This documents coverage to parish level, but the main divergence from singular district coverage appears to be that Tewkesbury district is covered by *Tewkesbury Museum*, with *Gloucester Museums* and *Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum*.

Gloucester and *Stroud* have stopped collecting. *Gloucester* has a year hiatus until March 2025. *Stroud* was reported as not collecting indefinitely in the 2024 survey. *Tewkesbury Museum* reported collecting in 2024 with 'not many more' years capacity, which was summarised to 1-5, and could only take what they were committed to. *Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum (The Wilson)*, *Corinium Museum* report 2 years capacity. *Dean* reported space issues in 2012 but was still collecting in 2016 and *Cheltenham* was still collecting in 2018.

¹¹ <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/ktt5adn/gloucestershire-archaeological-archives-standards-version-1b-jan-2018.pdf>

Cheltenham

Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum (The Wilson). Classification: Collecting with 1-5 years capacity.

Cotswold

Cotswold district is mainly covered by *Corinium Museum*. Classification: Collecting with 1-5 years capacity.

Forest of Dean

Dean Heritage Centre. Classification: Previously collecting 2016-2019.

Gloucester & South Gloucestershire

Gloucester Museums. Classification: Hiatus in collecting.

Stroud

The Museum in the Park (The Stroud District (Cowle) Museum Service). Classification: Does not collect.

Tewkesbury

Tewkesbury Museum (with Gloucester Museums and Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum). Classification: Collecting with 1-5 years capacity.

Greater London

The *Museum of London* was only able to partially respond to the survey in 2024. Previous issues of coverage of Greater London were resolved when the Museum expanded its collecting area to cover the City and boroughs. It is known that *Valence House* collects from Barking and Dagenham, but further work is required to ensure there is clarity on collecting coverage. In 2003 it was reported that the *Museum of London* assisted with the 32 boroughs. In 2012 the *Museum of London*, *Valence House Museum*, and *Greenwich Heritage Centre* were identified as collecting, but by 2017 *Greenwich Heritage Centre* was not collecting. For the 2016-2018 surveys *Enfield Museum and Sutton Museum & Heritage Service* said they were collecting, but it remains unclear if this includes developer-funded archaeological archives.

The *Museum of London* is collecting in 2024. Classification: Collecting with capacity.

Valence House last reported collecting in 2018. Classification: Previously collecting 2016-2019.

Greater Manchester

Review of the 2003 and 2012 surveys was unable to clearly define the collecting areas of Greater Manchester. In 2003 *Manchester Museum* reported as collecting from the City, Alderley Edge (Cheshire), and the University Field Archaeology Unit, in 2012 it reported space issues and collecting from the city. 2003 reported Greater Manchester and Cheshire archives were partly held by county units rather than museums.

The County of Greater Manchester is made up of 10 Metropolitan Districts and Boroughs namely, Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford, and Wigan. The 2003 survey noted *Bolton Museum* also takes in material from northwest as one of five accredited museums for archaeology storage, and that would suggest that there are repository gaps.

In total 12 organisations were contacted for surveys between 2003-2024. The SMA 2016-17 surveys contacted 10 organisations.

Five responded to the 2016-18 surveys in total: *Gallery Oldham, Manchester Museum (University of Manchester), Saddleworth Museum, Salford Museum & Art Gallery, Stockport Heritage Services*. *Gallery Oldham* responded it does not collect, does not hope to collect.

Non responders were *Bolton Museums, Museum of Science & Industry, Museum of Wigan Life, Rochdale Borough Cultural Trust, Staircase House, Tameside Museums & Galleries, and Whitworth Historical Society*.

Combining with the 2003-12 data this meant that previous collectors identified were *Bolton Museums, Manchester Museum, University of Manchester, Saddleworth Museum, Salford Museum & Art Gallery, and Stockport Heritage Services* (hiatus on collecting recorded 2018). It was these that were included in the 2024 survey, for which only *Salford* responded (as collecting).

With older information about collecting areas and lack of responses, there are risks in evaluating the data, however, it is likely therefore that there are gaps in collecting coverage for Bury, Trafford, Tameside, and Wigan.

Bolton

Bolton Museums. Classification: Previously collecting 2003-2012.

Bury

Classification: No repository identified.

Manchester

Manchester Museum. Classification: Previously collecting 2016-2019.

Oldham

District covers Saddleworth and *Saddleworth Museum* says it collects, but did not respond to the 2024 survey. *Saddleworth* is a small museum, it is unknown if it collects from the wider district and the situation remains unclear. Classification: Uncertain.

Rochdale

Rochdale Borough Cultural Trust did not respond to the 2016-2018 surveys, it remains uncertain if they are collecting archaeological archives. Classification: Uncertain.

Salford

Salford Museum & Art Gallery responded in 2024 they are collecting but at capacity, and they only accept one box of the most significant finds, documentary archives with no finds go to the Local History Library. Classification: Collecting without capacity/selective.

Stockport

Potentially there has been long-term difficulties with collecting by *Stockport Heritage Services*. In 2003 partial collecting was recorded, in 2012 it could not be contacted in 2012 and classified as 'accepts archives under particular conditions'. *Stockport* responded they were collecting in 2017 and not collecting in 2018 but hoped to restart. Classification: Previously not collecting.

Tameside

Tameside Museums & Galleries collections development policy does not include archaeology¹². Classification: No repository identified.

Trafford

No repository identified. Classification: No repository identified.

Wigan

No repository identified. Classification: No repository identified.

¹² <https://www.tameside.gov.uk/MuseumsandGalleries/Collections-Development-Policy>, last accessed 14/06/2024

Hampshire

Hampshire Cultural Trust provides county coverage with the exceptions: *Southampton* and *Portsmouth Museums*.

Hampshire Cultural Trust

Hampshire Cultural Trust manages *Winchester City Council* and *Hampshire County Council* collections. They reported in 2024 that the collections had 4-5- and one-year capacity respectively, currently they reported that they are utilising shipping containers for storage. It is believed they collect from Christchurch, due to continuing responsibility for *The Red House Museum*. This should be reconfirmed. Classification: Collecting with 1-5 years capacity.

Portsmouth

Portsmouth Museums replied to the 2024 survey and are collecting, noting that archives are normally small and therefore likely to have 5-10 years capacity. Classification: Collecting with capacity.

Southampton

Southampton Museums and Art Galleries replied to the 2024 survey and are collecting, they gave a capacity for about c.80 boxes. This was summarised to 1-5 years in the data. Classification: Collecting with 1-5 years capacity.

Herefordshire

Herefordshire Museum Service provides county coverage. In 2024 it still had capacity for 5-10 year and the limitations, as noted by many, is oversized objects. Classification: Collecting with capacity.

Hertfordshire

In 2021 *Hertfordshire Museums* published a joint archive standard which set out the collecting areas <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/media-library/documents/environment-and-planning/historical-environment-archaeology/hertfordshire-archaeological-archive-standards-version-1-april-2017.pdf>. At the time there was only no coverage for one parish in Hertsmere: Ridge Shenley. Only four museums responded to the 2024 survey, there were also limited responses to the 2016-2018 surveys.

Table 13: Hertfordshire repository coverage by area.

Area	Repository	Classification
Broxbourne	Lowewood Museum	Collecting without capacity/selective
Dacorum	Dacorum Heritage Trust (Berkhamsted, Hemel Hempstead, Kings Langley & Tring)	Previously collecting 2020-2023
East Hertfordshire	South Mills Arts (Bishop's Stortford Museum)	Collecting with capacity
East Hertfordshire	Hertford Museum	Previously collecting 2020-2023
East Hertfordshire	Much Hadham Forge Museum	Previously collecting 2020-2023
East Hertfordshire	Ware Museum	Previously collecting 2020-2023
Hertsmere	Elstree And Borehamwood Museum	Previously collecting 2020-2023
Hertsmere	Bushey Museum & Art Gallery (Hertsmere)	Previously collecting 2020-2023
Hertsmere	Potters Bar Museum	Previously collecting 2020-2023
North Hertfordshire	North Hertfordshire Museums	Previously collecting 2020-2023
St Albans	St Albans Museums Service / Verulamium Museum	Previously collecting 2020-2023
Stevenage	Stevenage Museum	Previously collecting 2020-2023
Three Rivers	Three Rivers Museum of Local History	Previously collecting 2020-2023
Watford	Watford Museum	Collecting with capacity
Welwyn Hatfield	Welwyn Hatfield Museum Service (Mill Green Museum & Welwyn Roman Baths)	Hiatus

Broxbourne

Lowewood Museum reported in 2024 it was collecting, had one year's capacity and only able to take small archives.

East Hertfordshire

South Mills Arts (Bishop's Stortford Museum) responded in 2024, it is collecting, but unable to comment on capacity.

Watford

Watford Museum was collecting in 2024, but unsure of space.

Welwyn Hatfield

Welwyn Hatfield Museum Service (Mill Green Museum) reported it was not collecting in 2024 for 3-6 months for a collections assessment.

Isle of Wight

Isle of Wight Museum Service collects from the island and the adjacent seabed. It last responded to a survey in 2017, when it was still collecting. Classification: Previously collecting 2016-2019.

Kent

Kent is divided into 12 districts and 1 unitary authority. Currently seven repositories are identified for Kent and issues in the county have been documented since 2003, including lack of coverage and substantial archives with local archaeology groups, Kent County Council's Heritage Team reported at the time the HS1 archives remaining with contractors' and a county backlog of about 875m³ (Edwards, 2012).

Ashford

Tenterden and District Museum; this museum was identified as the collector for archaeological archives in 2012 but did not respond to that survey, 2016-2017 or 2024. Classification: uncertain.

Canterbury

Canterbury Museums & Galleries did not respond to the 2024 survey. It was still collecting in 2016, by 2017 it was not collecting but hoped to restart. Classification: Previously not collecting.

Dartford

Dartford Borough Museum reported being at capacity in 2024 and only able to take small archives. Classification: Collecting without capacity/Selective.

Dover

Dover Museum responded in 2024 that they have 5 years capacity. Classification: Collecting with 1-5 years capacity.

Folkestone and Hythe

Classification: no repository identified

Gravesham

Classification: no repository identified

Maidstone

Maidstone Museum collected from Maidstone and West Kent, assisting with county coverage. However, in 2024 it reported it stopped collecting in 2020 until staff capacity could be found. Classification: Does not collect.

Medway

The Guildhall Museum, Rochester responded to the 2003 and 2017 that it does not collect archaeological archives, in 2003 it was noted that it does have large archaeological collections. Classification: no repository identified.

Sevenoaks

Classification: no repository identified.

Swale

Classification: no repository identified.

Thanet

Powell-Cotton Museum reported in 2016-2017 it does not collect and does not hope to restart. Classification: No repository identified.

Tonbridge and Malling

Classification: Does not collect.

Tunbridge Wells

Tunbridge Wells Museum & Art Gallery last reported collecting in 2016. Classification: Previously collecting 2016-2019.

Lancashire

Lancashire has a county museum service which covers nearly the entire county, with *Lancaster City Museum* and *Blackburn Museum* also identified by 2012. The 2012 survey also included Ribchester site in its collection coverage. All site-based heritage organisations were excluded from the 2024 survey, however, the collecting description from Ribchester included the Ribble Valley, if this the district, and therefore the organisation is adding to the coverage network, it should be included in future surveys.

Liverpool Museums collecting policy also includes Lancaster south of the Ribble (see below).

Lancashire Museum Service last answered a survey in 2017 but updated their collecting policy in 2022, and therefore known to be collecting then.

(<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/media/930034/guidance-for-the-deposition-of-archaeological-archives.pdf>). The document does not include the exclusion of certain materials. Classification: Previously collecting 2020-2023.

Blackburn with Darwen

Blackburn with Darwen is a unitary authority in the county, *Blackburn Museum* covers the area. It has not responded to a survey since 2012. Classification: Previously collecting 2003-2012.

Burnley

Townley Hall, Burnley was identified in 2003 and 2018, but did not respond in 2024. Classification: Previously collecting 2016-2019.

Lancaster

Lancaster City Museums answered the 2024 survey, the documentary archives are curated by Lancashire Archives, they are collecting and have 10-20 years capacity. Classification: Collecting with capacity.

Leicestershire

Leicestershire has a county museum service providing coverage, except for Leicester city which is covered by *Leicester City Museums* and both organisations responded in 2024 as collecting.

Leicestershire County Museum Service has 5 years storage and only declined archives in the past that have large, 'conservationally challenging' objects which they felt they could not adequately care for. Classification: Collecting with 1-5 years capacity.

Leicester City Museums discussed that it's capacity was dependent on size of archives but would struggle with a large deposition of over 100 boxes. Classification: Collecting with capacity.

Lincolnshire

As well as the county of Lincolnshire there are two separate unitary authorities: North East Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire.

The Collection: Art & Archaeology in Lincolnshire provides county coverage and responded in 2024, it is collecting and has three years capacity. They noted that they urgently needed space due to the number of infrastructure projects in the county. Classification: Collecting with 1-5 years capacity.

Northeast Lincolnshire

In 2012 it was noted Northeast Lincolnshire archives are administered for the *Fishing Heritage Centre (Grimsby)* by *North Lincolnshire Museum Service*. The *Northeast service* has not responded to a survey since then (classification: uncertain), however *North Lincolnshire Museum Service* responded in 2024, (see below). Classification: Collecting with 1-5 years capacity.

North Lincolnshire

North Lincolnshire Museum Service reported in 2024 that it was collecting and had one year's capacity left. Classification: Collecting with 1-5 years capacity.

Merseyside

National Museums Liverpool was last identified as collecting archaeology archives in 2022 from its only guidelines, these documents collecting from Merseyside, Cheshire, and Lancashire south of the Ribble¹³. Classification: Previously collecting 2020-2023.

Norfolk

Norfolk County Museum Service is collecting in 2024. Classification: Collecting with capacity.

North Yorkshire

North Yorkshire in 2003 was believed to have full coverage, this is due to *York Museums Trust* being the museum of last resort. The 2012 report identified issues in the Selby area. Updated work to clarify collecting areas would be beneficial. The ceremonial county of North Yorkshire contains the unitary authorities of York, North Yorkshire, Redcar and Cleveland and Middlesbrough.

York Museums remained collecting in 2024. Also identified as relevant repositories were:

- *Craven Museum & Gallery*

¹³ <https://images.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/2022-12/Archive%20deposition%20guidelines%20December%202022.pdf>

- *Malton Museum*
- *Whitby Museum*
- *Scarborough Museums Trust*
- *Richmondshire Museum*
- *Thirsk Museum*
- *Harrogate Museums & Arts*

Middlesbrough

Dorman Museum last report it was collecting archives in 2017. Classification: Previously collecting 2016-2019.

Redcar and Cleveland

Kirkleatham Museum was not contacted in the 2016-2018 surveys, was last identified as collecting in 2012. Classification: Previously collecting 2003-2012.

Craven

Craven Museum & Gallery was collecting in 2024 but only able to take in small archives (usually one or two boxes of material maximum), it had 1 year's capacity. Classification: Collecting without capacity/selective.

Hambleton

Believed to covered by *York Museums Trust*.

Harrogate

Harrogate Museums in 2012 it reported space issues and in 2016 it had stopped collecting. It needs to be researched if this area is therefore covered by *York Museums Trust*. Classification: Previously not collecting.

Richmondshire

Richmondshire Museum: Classification: Previously collecting 2003-2012.

Ryedale

Malton Museum was collecting in 2024 but reported it was unable to collect large archives, or those needing specialist storage conditions. Classification: Collecting without capacity/selective.

Scarborough

Scarborough Museums Trust reported it was collecting in 2017. Classification: Previously collecting 2016-2019.

Selby

Believed to covered by *York Museums Trust*, see below.

Thirsk

Thirsk Museum was identified as a collector of archaeological archives in 2012 but has not responded to a survey since. Classification: Previously collecting 2003-2012.

York

York Museums Trust. Classification: Collecting with 1-5 years capacity.

Whitby

Whitby Museum reported in 2012 it had limited capacity and selected archives. It is presumed other archives go to York Museums Trust. Classification: Previously collecting 2016-2019.

Northamptonshire

Long standing issues in the county have been resolved with the development of the *Archaeological Resource Centre*, which now holds the county's archaeology. This is currently collecting and has 10–25-year capacity. Classification: Collecting with capacity.

Northumberland

The *Great North Museum, Hancock*, provides county coverage, however, *Berwick Museum* was also previously identified as collecting. Considerable number of roman sites in the area, which potentially hold their own archives. Neither responded to the 2024 survey and were last recorded as collecting in 2017. Classification: Collecting with capacity.

Nottinghamshire

The issues collecting from the county have been documented since the 2003 survey. In the 2003 survey *Nottingham City Museum* collected 'Priority given to Nottingham City, then South Notts if site already represented, or period under-represented in existing collection'. The university collects 'archaeology of the East Midlands down to the mediaeval period, especially from Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.' Further surveys did not collect area data which means this information needs to be updated and clarified, *Nottingham City Museum* now limits collecting to the city only, sites outside Nottingham in the collecting area which are Scheduled and sites in our collecting area where we already have another archive or individual archaeological finds. There is limited coverage by district museums.

Ashfield

Classification: No repository identified.

Bassetlaw

Bassetlaw Museum was collecting in 2024 and had 1 year's capacity, they are working on a case by case basis and would struggle to take an archive of 10 boxes. Classification: Collecting with 1-5 years capacity.

Broxtowe

Classification: No repository identified.

Gedling

Classification: No repository identified.

Mansfield

In 2024 *Mansfield Museum* reported that their previous collections relate to the local archaeology society. In 2012 space issues were report and they did not accept human remains. Classification: Does not collect.

Newark and Sherwood

Limited collecting archaeological archive was reported in 2003 and 2012. They did not respond the 2016-2024 surveys. Classification: uncertain.

Nottingham

Nottingham City Museum now limits collecting to Nottingham, sites outside Nottingham in their collecting area which are Scheduled and sites in their collecting area where they already have another archive or individual archaeological finds and are at risk of needing to reduce this further. They were unable to comment on capacity, due to the number of undeposited archives with accession numbers. Classification: Collecting with capacity.

Rushcliffe

Classification: No repository identified.

Oxfordshire

Oxfordshire Museums Service provides county coverage and have 5 years capacity. In the 2016-18 survey *Wallingford Museum* (home of *the Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS)*) was identified as collecting archaeology for the first

time, it is not believed to collect developer-funded archaeological archives, however, it did not respond to the 2024 survey.

Oxfordshire Museums Service: Classification: Collecting with 1-5 years capacity.

Wallingford Museum: Classification: Uncertain.

Rutland

Rutland County Museum was collecting in 2024 with 1-2 years storage. Classification: Collecting with 1-5 years capacity.

Shropshire

Shropshire Museums (Shropshire Council) provides county coverage, it is believed they also cover Telford and Wrekin unitary authority, they are collecting but have no capacity.

Classification: Collecting without capacity/selective.

Somerset

County coverage is provided by *South West Heritage Trust* on behalf of the *Somerset County Council* and local museums except *Roman Baths Museum*, who collect from Bath & North East Somerset. The *Museum of South Somerset, Hendford* was identified in 2003 as a repository but did not collect then and has not responded to a survey since then and is currently presumed replaced by *South West Heritage Trust*.

Roman Baths Museum is collecting and has 5 years capacity. Classification: Collecting with 1-5 years capacity.

South West Heritage Trust reported it was also collecting in 2023, at capacity but creating space through store reorganisation. Classification: Collecting without capacity/Selective

South Yorkshire

South Yorkshire is made up of 4 metropolitan districts and has full coverage from *Repository Museums Sheffield*, *Experience Barnsley - Barnsley Museum & Archives Centre*, *Rotherham Heritage Services South Yorkshire*, and *Doncaster Museum Service*.

In 2024 *Heritage Doncaster* reported being at capacity (classification: Collecting without capacity/selective) and *Rotherham Heritage Services* reported collecting with 5 years capacity (classification: Collecting with 1-5 years capacity). *Barnsley* was not contacted

2016-2018 and was collecting in 2012 (Classification: Previously collecting 2003-2012). *Sheffield* was collecting in 2018 (Classification: Previously collecting 2016-2019).

Staffordshire

The *Potteries Museum & Art Gallery* provides near county coverage, in 2024 it was collecting with 5-10 years capacity. Classification: Collecting with capacity.

Tamworth Museum was no longer collecting by 2017, but recorded it hoped to restart. Classification: Previously not collecting.

Suffolk

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service now provides county coverage and has 20 years capacity. Classification: Collecting with capacity.

Surrey

Surrey has 11 districts. In 2003 the *Guildford Museum* was reported as acting as a museum of last resort to support the smaller museums, collecting from Guildford and other parts of Surrey with no alternative museum for archives, including Mole Valley, Reigate & Banstead, Runnymede, Spelthorne, Surrey Heath, Tandridge, Waverley and Woking. The 2012 survey included museums in these areas but had limited responses. 2016 identified *Godalming Museum, Haslemere Museum, Bourne Hall Museum Epsom & Ewell, Spelthorne Museum, and Museum of Farnham* as collecting. In 2024 *Guildford* reported it had made the decision to stop collecting permanently in 2018.

Elmbridge

Elmbridge Museum (Weybridge) has not responded to survey since 2003, when it reported it did not collect. Classification: Does not collect

Epsom and Ewell

Bourne Hall Museum responded in 2024 that they are collecting and have 10 years capacity. Classification: Collecting with capacity

Guildford

Guildford Heritage Services had stopped collecting in 2016-2017 but was collecting again in 2018. In 2024 it reported it was no longer collecting archaeological archives permanently, if it was still assisting with the county coverage, this leaves gaps in: Elmbridge, Guildford, Reigate and Banstead, Runnymede, and Tandridge. Classification: Does not collect.

Mole Valley

Classification: no repository identified.

Reigate and Banstead

Gap with Guildford closing. Classification: Does not collect.

Runnymede

Chertsey Museum has not responded to a survey since 2012 when it said it did not collect. Classification: Does not collect.

Spelthorne

Spelthorne Museum, Staines was collecting 2016-2018. Classification: Previously collecting 2016-2019.

Surrey Heath

Surrey Heath Museum, Camberley is a volunteer run museum that has never responded to a survey. It is known there is a backlog with local archaeology groups. Classification: uncertain.

Tandridge

East Surrey Museum, Caterham. Classification: Does not collect.

Waverley

Godalming Museum was still collecting in 2018. *Haslemere* was still collecting archaeology in 2016 as was *The Museum of Farnham* (part of the *Maltings Association*). Classification: Previously collecting 2016-2019 (for both).

Woking

Classification: No identified repository.

Tyne and Wear

Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums provides county coverage it was collecting in 2024 with 4 years capacity and it does not collect after 1500s, unless of particular interest. Although potential at detriment to the post medieval heritage of the area, this is like to be the case for other museums and therefore the museum is classed as 'Classification: Collecting with 1-5 years capacity' over selective.

South Shields Museum was identified in the 2016-8 surveys but did not respond to these or the 2024 survey. It is not believed to be relevant, with the above collecting from county.

Warwickshire

Warwickshire Museum Service provides county coverage with Rugby Museum. In 2024 *Warwickshire Museum Service* was collecting and had 5-7 years capacity, it reported being unable to take large human remains assemblages. Classification: Collecting without capacity/selective.

Rugby Art Gallery and Museum reported it was collecting in 2024. Classification: Collecting with capacity.

West Midlands

There are long-term known issues in West Midlands for which there are 7 metropolitan districts. In 2003 no repository was identified for Dudley, Solihull, or Wolverhampton.

Sandwell Museums & Art Gallery, Walsall Museums, Wednesbury Museum & Art Gallery, Wolverhampton Art Gallery unlikely to be collecting and still unclear if there is full coverage of Dudley, Solihull.

Birmingham

Birmingham Museums Trust was collecting in 2018. Classification: Previously collecting 2016-2019.

Coventry

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum was collecting in 2024 and reported 10 years capacity. Classification: Collecting with capacity.

Dudley

Classification: no repository identified.

Sandwell

Sandwell Museums & Art Gallery, was first included in 2012, but it could not be confirmed it was collecting, it reported collecting in 2017. There remains a risk that it therefore does not collect developer-funded archaeology. Classification: Uncertain

Solihull

Classification: No repository identified

Walsall

Walsall Leather Museum responded in 2024 that *Walsall Museum* was closed and had stopped collecting of archaeological archives and that *Leather Museum* did not collect, but

would 'consider collecting archaeological material from Walsall, but only if it was exceptionally interesting and limited in extent, and we could care for it properly.'

Classification: Does not collect.

Wolverhampton

Classification: No repository identified.

West Sussex

Like East Sussex, West Sussex is covered by the Sussex Museums Group which had agreed collecting areas to provide county coverage.

Adur and Worthing

Worthing Museum & Art Gallery is collecting with 20 years storage capacity. Classification: Collecting with capacity.

Arun

Coverage from *The Novium* (see below), *Horsham* (see below), *Littlehampton*, *Arundel*, *Rustington*, and *Worthing Museums* (see above).

Littlehampton was officially collecting in 2024 but was turning down requests there are no room for. Classification: Collecting without capacity/selective.

Arundel reported it was no longer collecting in 2024 due to space issues. Classification: Does not collect.

Rustington was accidentally left out of the 2024 survey – it was classed as not a collector for archives as it was not contactable since 2012, and its collecting status was never established. Classification: Uncertain.

Chichester

The Novium was collecting in 2024 and provided detailed capacity data from 2021: Bulk finds 40 years. Metal storage: 50 years. Paper Archive 7.2 years (although there is potential to find more storage space for these). Classification: Collecting with capacity.

Crawley

Crawley Museum last reported collecting in 2017. Classification: Previously collecting 2016-2019.

Horsham

Horsham Museum & Art Gallery last reported collecting in 2017. Classification: Previously collecting 2016-2019.

Steyping Museum reported in 2024 they are collecting have 3 years capacity, that they can take limited documentary archives and are selective in the objects they take and would mostly have to limit these to objects that can be put on display. Classification: Collecting without capacity/selective.

Henfield Museum was accidentally left out of the 2024 survey – it was classed as not a collector for archives as it was not contactable since 2012, and its collecting status never established. Classification: Uncertain.

Mid Sussex

Mid Sussex was mainly covered by *Sussex Archaeological Society (Barbican House Museum)*, Lewes (East Sussex). *Barbican House Museum* stopped collecting in 2014. Classification: Does not collect.

West Yorkshire

West Yorkshire is made up of five Metropolitan boroughs.

Bradford

Bradford Museums reported in 2024 they stopped collecting in 2016. Classification: Does not collect.

Calderdale

Calderdale Museums could not be contacted 2016-2017 and was last known to be collecting in 2012. In 2003 it was not collecting; its existing collections were on loan to *Kirklees* and by formal agreement neither collected from Calderdale. Classification: Previously collecting 2003-2012.

Kirklees

Kirklees Museums & Galleries (including Tolson) was collecting in 2024 with 30 years capacity, but are selective about which archives they take in. Classification: Collecting without capacity/selective.

Leeds

Leeds Museums & Galleries, last reported collecting in 2018. Classification: Previously collecting 2016-2019.

Wakefield

Wakefield Museums reported in 2024 they stopped collecting in 2016 until a store move is completed in 2024. Classification: Collecting with capacity (Short hiatus).

Wiltshire

Wiltshire Heritage Museum provides county coverage with *Chippenham Museum & Heritage Centre*, *Salisbury Museum*, *Swindon Museums & Art Gallery*.

Trowbridge Museum was identified in 2003, could not be contacted in 2012, in 2018 it reported it does not collect archaeology and will not return to collecting. Classification: Previously not collecting.

Chippenham Museum & Heritage Centre last reported collecting in 2017. Classification: Previously collecting 2016-2019.

Salisbury Museum known to be the collector of developer-funded archives has not responded to a survey since 2003. Classification: Previously collecting 2003-2012.

Wiltshire Museum reported it was collecting in 2024 and has 7 years capacity. Classification: Collecting with capacity.

Museum & Art Swindon (formerly *Swindon Museum & Art Gallery*) reported in 2024 it had 5-10 years capacity. Classification: Collecting with capacity.

Worcestershire

County coverage is provided by *Museums Worcestershire* - Worcester City Council and Worcestershire County Council, they are currently collecting and have 10-15 capacity. Classification: Collecting with capacity.

Data comparison review

The comparison of previous survey data and comparison of this to administrative areas creates an overall summary of what is currently known about collecting archives from developer-funded archaeological investigations. This approach provides a more nuanced description of collecting issues, as well as identifying where there are no repositories. It also assists in understanding geographical coverage and areas with issues. This is important for areas like Cambridgeshire, Suffolk, and Northamptonshire where repositories have reduced in numbers, but coverage of the area has increased.

Challenges remain in determining if repositories are collecting developer-funded archaeological archives due to ongoing lack of survey responses. Reviewing previous surveys did not fully identify those at or near capacity or engaging in selective collecting. Further work is needed to provide updates on collecting coverage.

Reviewing collecting data by area created 219 database records, but this included duplicates where a repository covered multiple areas and where areas were covered by multiple repositories. Reviewing previous data also identified several repositories missed from the 2024 survey. After removing duplicated repositories there were 192 records. The 192 figure comprises all the respondents from 2024, all those identified in the initial review who did not respond in 2024, the count of the local authorities without a repository (22) and those missed in the 2024 identification of repositories.

The only alterations to the results were for *Welwyn Hatfield Museum Service (Mill Green Museum & Welwyn Roman Baths)* and *Wakefield Museums & Arts* which responded as not collecting in 2024 but are classified as collecting, as they are only on short hiatuses.

In this section there is: comparison of summary collecting rates of 2024, 2016-2018 and 2012 reports; analysis of collecting statuses of all known data, combining 2024 responses with previous survey and online data where there were gaps in responses; and review of the impact scores of collecting statuses of all known data.

Table 14 provides a total count of repositories or gaps in local authority coverage in ceremonial counties, excluding duplication of repositories.

Table 14: Count of repositories and gaps in local authority coverage in ceremonial counties

Ceremonial county	Count of repository/gaps
Bedfordshire	2
Berkshire	6
Bristol	1
Buckinghamshire	1
Cambridgeshire	2
Cheshire	6
Cornwall	3
County Durham	3
Cumbria	5
Derbyshire	4
Devon	4
Dorset	2
East Riding of Yorkshire	2
East Sussex	5
Essex	8
Gloucestershire	6
Greater London	2
Greater Manchester	10
Hampshire	3
Hereford	1
Hertfordshire	15
Isle of Wight	1
Kent	13
Lancashire	4

Ceremonial county	Count of repository/gaps
Leicestershire	2
Lincolnshire	3
Merseyside	1
Norfolk	1
North Yorkshire	10
Northamptonshire	1
Northumberland	2
Nottinghamshire	9
Oxfordshire	2
Rutland	1
Shropshire	1
Somerset	2
South Yorkshire	3
Staffordshire	2
Suffolk	1
Surrey	12
Tyne and Wear	2
Warwickshire	2
West Midlands	7
West Sussex	8
West Yorkshire	5
Wiltshire	5
Worcestershire	1
Grand Total	192

Comparison of collecting rates

The comparison between the 2024 survey and previous collecting rates is complicated, due to the small size of denominators caused by low survey responses and differences in the research questions. It is required to understand how collecting has changed. Comparison between the 2016-2018 and 2024 collecting rates required several adjustments to be applied to the average of the 2016-2018 collecting rates and therefore had to be considered an approximate.

Analysis and Interpretation of Collection Data 2016-2024

To fully comprehend and accurately interpret the data regarding collection rates, it is necessary to systematically evaluate the figures and implications presented. This will involve a detailed comparison of survey data from 2016-2018 and 2024, adjustments for excluded organisations, and an analysis of capacity issues.

Collecting rates

Data from 2016-2018

The initial collecting rates reported for 2016, 2017, and 2018 were (including those who reported never collecting):

2016: $119/154 = 77.3\%$

2017: $104/142 = 73.2\%$

2018: $88/111 = 79.24\%$

The average (mean) collecting rate for these years was calculated as 76.6%.

Adjusted Collecting Rates

After adjusting the data by excluding repositories that have never collected archaeological archives from the denominator reported in 2016-2018 (see below), the adjusted collecting rates were:

2016: $80/97$ (82.5%)

2017: $81/93$ (87%)

2018: $64/76$ (84%)

The average (mean) adjusted collecting rate for these years was 84.5%.

Collecting Rate in 2024

The collecting rate for 2024 was reported as 81% ($78/96$) (see table 3).

Comparison and Discrepancies

When comparing the adjusted collecting rate average of 84.5% (2016-2018) to the 81% rate in 2024, a minor decrease in collecting is observed, contradicting the expected significant decrease due to capacity issues reported in 2016-2018 surveys.

Adjusting for non-collectors:

Of the heritage organisations included in 2016-18 but excluded from the 2024 data (see methodology), 37 were not collecting and 60 were collecting. This means a much higher proportion of 38% recorded that they do not collect, than the 'not collecting' average for 2016-2018 which was 15.5%.

Of those who answered in 2016-2018 and 2024 only 6 (9%) were previously not collecting and 62 (91%) were collecting, which is also a different ratio to the 2016-2018 and 2024 collecting figures.

This is further complicated by the proportion of organisations that did not respond in 2024, but responded 2016-2018, which is 38/46 (83%) collecting 8/46 (17%) not collecting.

In total 41 identified in 2016-18 as not collecting were not included or did not respond in 2024. That number is significant; it is higher than the count of not collecting for each of the 2016 and 2017 surveys, and over twice compared to the 2018-2024 surveys.

This means that the 2016-2018 data are skewed by those deemed not to collect developer-funded archaeological archives within the 2024 survey and adjustments are needed to compare the collecting ratios.

This also highlights that the cross over between the 2016-2018 and 2024 survey respondents is limited; 24% of 2024 respondents did not respond during 2016-2018. This combined with a small number of both - repositories and responses to surveys means that it is difficult to compare them.

Removing repositories from the 2016-18 data that were excluded from 2024 data, resulted in a more balanced collecting rate over the three years, as well as a slightly higher collecting average when combining the data from those 3 years (see tables 15 and 16).

Capacity Issues 2016-2018

The repositories collecting with capacity issues (space for 5 years or less) in 2016-2018 were:

- **2016:** 61/119
- **2017:** 62/104
- **2018:** 48/88

The average ratio of those collecting with capacity issues was 44.87 : 55.13% collecting >5 years capacity : <5 years capacity. The average collecting rate for 2016-2018 was 84.5%

Estimated Collecting with Capacity Issues (<5 years):

$84.5\% \times 55.13\% \approx 46.6\%$

Estimated Collecting without Capacity Issues:

$84.5 \times 44.87 \approx 37.9\%$

Adjusting for capacity

Of those collecting in 2016-2018; 61/119, 62/104 and 48/88 repositories reported space for 5 years or less capacity. It could not be researched which museums were excluded from the 2024 but had reported capacity issues 2016-2018, therefore this figure needs to be considered an approximate. If we calculate the percentage ratio of collecting and capacity issues and apply it to 2016-2018 repositories included in the 2024 survey, then the average of those collecting with capacity or 5 years or less capacity is 44.87 : 55.13%, see table 16. If you apply this to the average of the included amounts in table 15; the collecting with capacity is approximately 37.9%, collecting with <5 years capacity; 46.6%, and no longer collecting; 15.5%.

Summary

A sizable portion ($\approx 46.6\%$) of collecting organisations reported capacity issues in 2016-2018. In 2024 the rate was 48%; identifying a slight increase in issues with collecting, alongside not collecting.

Initial figures suggested there was an increase in collecting by 2024, when adjusted for capacity and non-collectors, the collecting rates for 2016-2018 are more accurately predicted as:

- 37.9% collecting with capacity
- 46.6% collecting with <5 years capacity
- 15.5% and no longer collecting.

The 2024 figures are (see table 11):

- 33% collecting with capacity
- 48% collecting with <5 years capacity or other issue
- 19% and no longer collecting.

Differential in collecting:

- 4.9% decrease in collecting with capacity
- 1.4% increase collecting with <5 years capacity or other issue
- 3.5% increase in repositories no longer collecting.

Table 15: Summary of adjusted 2016 – 2018 data: the collecting ratio.

Year	Survey collecting count	Survey not collecting count	Survey total count	Count of excluded collecting	Count of excluded not collecting	Included collecting count	Included not collecting count	Included total	Included % collecting	Included % not collecting
2016	119	35	154	39	18	80	17	97	82.5	17.5
2017	104	38	142	23	26	81	12	93	87	13
2018	88	23	111	24	11	64	12	76	84	16

Table 16: Summary of adjusted 2016 – 2018 data: the capacity ratio.

Collecting capacity	2016	2016%	2016 inc. in 2024 survey	2016 % applied to 2024 survey	2017	2017%	2017 inc. in 2024 survey	2017 % applied to 2024 survey %	2018	2018%	2018 inc. in 2024 survey	2018 inc. in 2024 survey %
Collecting with capacity	58	49	75	37	42	40	75	30	40	45	57	26
Collecting <5years capacity	61	51		38	62	60		45	48	55		31
Total	119	100	75	75	104	100	75	75	88	100	57	57

Comparison to 2012 Survey

Comparing the 2016-2018 surveys to the 2024 survey proved challenging, leading to an examination of the 2012 data (table 17). Although the respondents contacted in 2012 broadly align with those contacted in 2024, the time elapsed has resulted in several developments.

The 2012 survey reported collecting overall at 90% 120/134 respondents. This breaks down to:

- **Collecting without issues:** 84/134 (63%)
- **Collecting with issues (partial collecting):** 36/134 (27%)
- **Not collecting:** 14/134 (10%)

When compared to the 2024 survey, a decline in unrestricted collecting is observed from 63% in 2012 to 33% in 2024, with a corresponding increase in collecting with issues from 27% to 48%.

Also identified were gaps in collecting within 47 local authorities. This included temporary hiatuses from areas such as Sheffield and Devon, as well as lack of county coverage in Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire.

Table 17: Comparison between the collecting abilities of repositories 2016-18.

Collecting ability	2012	2012%	2016-18 average	2016-18 average %	2024	2024%
Collecting	84	63	34	37.9	32	33
Collecting with issues	36	27	41	46.6	46	48
Not collecting	14	10	14	15.5	18	19
Total	134	100	89	100	96	100
Local authority gaps	47	-	-	-	22	-

Long-term View

This long-term perspective reveals a 30% decline in collecting without limitations, from 63% in 2012 to 33% in 2024. The proportion of repositories not collecting does not increase by the same amount, only showing a 9% decline in collecting. Instead, the data indicates a 21% increase in issues related to collecting, either due to capacity constraints or selective collecting practices.

Returning to collecting and gaps

Gaps in collecting have been mitigated by the creation of two new county repositories since 2012 and the resuming of collecting activities after hiatuses by two larger repositories.

The returning of collecting was reviewed through analysis of previous surveys whether a positive response was given after a negative. Of those included in the 2024 survey, 164 out of 173 had previously responded to surveys. Among these, 37 had stopped collecting at some point, and 13 of these (35%) have since returned to collecting.

By analysing these trends and comparing historical data, it is evident that while there are significant declines in collecting capacity and increases in issues, some progress has been made in mitigating these gaps through strategic initiatives and resource management.

All data comparison

Analysis of Collecting Statuses

Through the classification of collecting statuses, a comprehensive review of the data allows for a clearer understanding of the current landscape. This overview is summarized in Table 18, which excludes repositories not included in the 2024 survey but includes a count of local authority gaps. This table serves as a snapshot of the current known state of collecting activities, highlighting key trends and challenges identified in the data analysis process.

Comparison and Insights

Comparison with existing data suggests the following breakdown:

Collecting (37%): 71 of 192 repositories/gaps are potentially collecting if the data are considered current. This includes those classified as collecting with capacity (including short hiatus), and those previously collecting (2020-2023, 2016-2019 (with adjustment), and 2003-2012).

Collecting with <5 years capacity or selective (31%): 60 out of 192 repositories fall into this category, indicating ongoing collecting practices with some form of limitations or selectivity.

Not Collecting (26%): This category encompasses repositories on hiatus, those previously not collecting, those identified as not collecting, or where no repository was identified, totalling 52 out of 192.

Uncertain (5%): 10 out of 192 repositories remain of uncertain status, requiring further clarification.

The main challenge identified with this data is the lack of detailed information regarding previous positive responses, such as whether collecting occurred with limited capacity or selective criteria.

Table 18: Summary of all known data, including 2016-2018 capacity adjustment.

Collecting status	Count
Collecting with capacity	36
Previously collecting 2020-2023	16
Previously collecting 2016-2019 with capacity	10
Previously collecting 2003-2012 with capacity	9
Collecting with 1-5 years capacity	24
Previously collecting 2016-2019 with <5 years capacity	12
Collecting without capacity/selective	24
Previous partial collecting	1
Hiatus	2
Previously not collecting	6
Not collecting	20
No repository identified	22
Uncertain	10
Grand Total	192

Key Comparisons

Collecting with Capacity:

2024: 27%

Current Landscape (all known data): 37%

Insight: Overall only 71/192 repositories/areas have been identified as collecting without issues. The 2024 figure shows a downturn in collecting in line with data in table 15, representing a 10% decline in collecting capacities.

Collecting with <5 Years Capacity or Other Issue:

2024: 39%

Current Landscape: 32% (Combination of categories including "collecting with 1- 5 years capacity", "previously collecting 2016-2019 with <5 years capacity", "previous partial collecting", and "collecting without capacity/selective").

Insight: The figures show a similar proportion facing imminent capacity issues or other collecting constraints compared to the current landscape. This represents 61 repositories that have capacity issues, or implementing strategies to continue collecting, which is more likely than stopping collecting.

No Longer Collecting:

2024: 34%

Current Landscape: 26% (Combination of categories including "Hiatus", "Previously not collecting", "Does not collect", and "No repository identified")

Insight: Both datasets suggest a significant portion of repositories are no longer collecting. However, the distribution within this category varies slightly, with the current landscape reflecting a lower rate of not-collecting.

Table 19: Comparison of 2024 data to all known data.

Status	All data, inc. previous responses and gaps	%	2024 repositories/gap count	%
Collecting >5 years capacity/Unknown	71	37	32	27
Collecting with issues	61	32	46	39
Not collecting/gap	50	26	40	34
Total	192	95¹⁴	118	100

¹⁴ The remaining 5% represents uncertain status.

Selective collecting

The impact of selective collecting/partial collecting is significant and carried out by 19/91 (21%) repositories responding in 2024. Here, the term “selective” is not used to define archives which are split between local authority departments (i.e. museums and records offices), but the refusal of whole archives or the collecting of partial archives, normally excluding certain materials. Repositories for the majority collect by area and request complete archives (not partially retained by the landowner), if a repository collects incomplete archives or some archives but not others, it is unlikely there will be a repository for the excluded material, placing the excluded material at risk. Repositories which excluded material did not state what happens to the excluded material. Alongside the previous finding that there is a difference between officially collecting and ability to collect, the practice of selective collecting also highlights the need to expand binary questions about collecting to fully understand collecting practices.

Impact

Due to the variation in the extent to which issues applied to repositories, it was decided that each repository would be given an impact rating as well as a classification (see table 20).

The impact rating were rated 1-5:

1. (Low): No or minimal disruption to collecting
2. (Low-Medium): Low impact, but noticeable or with potential implications
3. (Medium): Moderate impact; significant but not critical
4. (Medium-High): High impact, but not the highest; substantial
5. (High): Maximum impact; critical or severe

189/192 repositories or gaps were given an impact rating and this demonstrated a more even spread of ratings compared to count of classification, because it enabled the responses of those who stated they were collecting, but that collecting was limited to the assessed. It demonstrated that areas with significant issues outnumber areas with collecting capacity, a significant change from ‘collecting’ versus ‘not collecting’, and when the details of survey returns are considered further significant issues are highlighted.

Table 20: Summary impact score.

Impact rating	Count	Percentage
1	33	17
2	47	24
3	31	16
4	28	15
5	50	26
Uncertain	3	2
Grand Total	192	100

Recording impact enabled review by ceremonial county. The summary of the impact, divided by the number of repositories, enabled review of overall impact in the county.

Counties are reviewed because if they stop collecting, the impact is geographically significant. However, use of government data for unitary authorities could also enable impact by population count or actual area size, this is out of scope currently, but a potential for future research.

Counties with a score over three were: Berkshire, Cheshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Surrey, West Midlands, Cumbria, East Sussex, Greater Manchester, Cornwall, Dorset, Nottinghamshire, Shropshire, and Kent.

Although there are exceptions in Hertfordshire and Shropshire, a general pattern emerges:

- where there is county coverage from a repository the likelihood of collecting improves, the average impact for counties is 2.5, whereas it is 3.1 nationally.
- if a repository reduces its collecting area from county coverage there are often difficulties collecting in the areas no longer covered, and
- if there are a number of smaller repositories providing county coverage the likelihood of difficulties increases.

The repositories that provide (or did provide) ceremonial county coverage or support are included in Table 21. Overall, 10/28 (36%) of county repositories are collecting with capacity, matching the overall known collecting with capacity rate of 36%.

Table 21: County repositories impact rating (ordered by impact).

Ceremonial county	Count of repositories/gaps	Sum of impact rating	County impact rating
Bristol	1	1	1
Buckinghamshire	1	1	1
Cambridgeshire	2	2	1
Hereford	1	1	1
Norfolk	1	1	1
Northamptonshire	1	1	1
Northumberland	2	2	1
Suffolk	1	1	1
Worcestershire	1	1	1
Greater London	2	3	1.5
Devon	4	7	1.8
Lancashire	4	7	1.8
Hertfordshire	15	30	2
Isle of Wight	1	2	2
Merseyside	1	2	2
Wiltshire	5	11	2.2
County Durham	3	7	2.3
Hampshire	3	7	2.3
Bedfordshire	2	5	2.5
East Riding of Yorkshire	2	5	2.5
Leicestershire	2	5	2.5
Warwickshire	2	5	2.5
West Sussex	7	19	2.7
Derbyshire	4	11	2.8
Essex	8	23	2.9

Ceremonial county	Count of repositories/gaps	Sum of impact rating	County impact rating
North Yorkshire	10	29	2.9
Lincolnshire	3	9	3
Oxfordshire	1	3	3
Rutland	1	3	3
South Yorkshire	3	9	3
Staffordshire	2	6	3
Tyne and Wear	1	3	3
West Yorkshire	5	16	3.2
Gloucestershire	6	20	3.3
Somerset	2	7	3.5
Cheshire	6	22	3.7
Surrey	12	44	3.7
West Midlands	7	26	3.7
Greater Manchester	10	39	3.9
Berkshire	6	24	4
Dorset	2	8	4
East Sussex	5	20	4
Shropshire	1	4	4
Nottinghamshire	9	38	4.2
Cornwall	3	13	4.3
Kent	13	57	4.4
Cumbria	5	22	4.4
Grand Total	189¹⁵	582	3.1

¹⁵ Excludes repositories with uncertain status and therefore an 'NA' impact score.

Table 22: County repositories collecting status and impact rating.

Repository	Collecting status	Impact Rating
Buckinghamshire County Museum	Collecting with capacity	1
Cambridgeshire County Council County Archaeological Store	Collecting with capacity	1
Museum of London	Collecting with capacity	1
Hereford Museums	Collecting with capacity	1
Norfolk Museums Service	Collecting with capacity	1
Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre	Collecting with capacity	1
The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery	Collecting with capacity	1
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service	Collecting with capacity	1
Wiltshire Heritage Museum	Collecting with capacity	1
Museums Worcestershire	Collecting with capacity	1
Isle of Wight Heritage Service	Previously collecting 2016-2019	2
Lancashire County Museum Service	Previously collecting 2016-2019	2
National Museums Liverpool	Previously collecting 2020-2023	2
Durham County Council	Collecting with 1-5 years capacity	3
Hampshire Cultural Trust	Collecting with 1-5 years capacity	3
Leicestershire County Council Museums	Collecting with 1-5 years capacity	3
The Collection: Art & Archaeology in Lincolnshire	Collecting with 1-5 years capacity	3
York Museums Trust	Collecting with 1-5 years capacity	3
Oxfordshire Museums Service	Collecting with 1-5 years capacity	3
Rutland County Museum	Collecting with 1-5 years capacity	3
Tyne & Wear Museums	Collecting with 1-5 years capacity	3
Warwickshire Museum Service	Collecting without capacity/selective	4
Royal Cornwall Museum	Collecting without capacity/selective	4
Dorset County Museum	Hiatus	4
Gloucester Museums	Hiatus	4

Repository	Collecting status	Impact Rating
Shropshire Museums	Collecting without capacity/selective	4
South West Heritage Trust	Collecting without capacity/selective	4
Guildford Heritage Services	Does not collect	5
		Average : 2.5

Not collecting

50 repositories/gaps have an impact rating of 5. This includes 22 areas without a repository (see table 23) and 20 which do not collect, two of which covered more than one area. There were six repositories that had previously been recorded as not collecting (Stockport Heritage Services, Harrogate Museums & Arts, Canterbury Museums & Galleries, Tamworth Castle Museum, Kendal Museum and Trowbridge Museum), but data could not be updated in 2024. Harrogate and Trowbridge previously stated in the 2016-2018 surveys they did not want to return to collecting. Lastly, the status of Surrey Heath Museum remains uncertain, with the impact rating high. This is due to the repository never responding to a survey, and a known undeposited backlog with a local community archaeology group.

Table 23: List of areas without a repository.

Ceremonial county	Area	Type
Berkshire	Bracknell Forest	Borough
Berkshire	Wokingham	Borough
Cheshire	Cheshire East	Unitary authority
Cheshire	Halton	Borough
Greater Manchester	Bury	Metropolitan Borough
Greater Manchester	Tameside	Metropolitan Borough
Greater Manchester	Trafford	Metropolitan Borough
Greater Manchester	Wigan	Metropolitan Borough
Kent	Folkestone and Hythe	District
Kent	Gravesham	Borough
Kent	Medway	Borough
Kent	Sevenoaks	District
Kent	Swale	Borough
Kent	Tonbridge and Malling	Borough
Nottinghamshire	Ashfield	District
Nottinghamshire	Broxtowe	Borough
Nottinghamshire	Gedling	Borough
Nottinghamshire	Rushcliffe	Borough
Surrey	Mole Valley	District
Surrey	Woking	Borough
West Midlands	Dudley	Metropolitan Borough
West Midlands	Solihull	Metropolitan Borough
West Midlands	Wolverhampton	Metropolitan Borough

Mapping Classification and Impact

To visualise the geographical coverage of collecting and areas of issues the classifications of collecting were grouped as those identified as 'collecting' (classification: collecting with capacity, previously collecting 2020-2023, previously collecting 2016-2019 with capacity and previously collecting 2003-2012 with capacity), 'collecting with < 5years capacity/selective' and 'not collecting/no repository' (does not collect/collecting gap) and mapped out in Figure 1. This map does not identify which organisations had capacity issues in 2016-2018 as these were not individually identified, this would increase areas demarked as 'collecting with <5years capacity/selective, by approximately 13, and reduce 'collecting' equally.

The map overall shows widespread collecting issues, with the southeast having the highest concentration of non-collecting repositories or gaps, and the areas of 'collecting' classification being heavily supported by larger or county repositories (see table 22).

Figure 2 (p.76) maps out the impact ratings, showing a more nuanced mapping and considering qualitative responses. The main visual changes are reduction in uncertainty and the coverage of rating two, which mainly represents non-response to surveys.

Conclusion

The 2024 survey, combined with results from Place Services (2023) identified of a total of 96 respondents of which:

- 19% are not collecting (18)
- 48% have no capacity, <5 years capacity, or are selectively collecting (46)
- 33% have more than >5 years capacity or were not able to comment on capacity (32).

Repositories across England are continuing to face increasing difficulties in collecting developer-funded archaeological archives in terms of declining capacity as proved as by this survey, which partly updates previous reports of collecting capacity and loss of staff resources and expertise (Boyle, Booth & Rawden 2016). Since 2012 there has been a 30% decline in collecting without issues and a 21% increase in collecting with issues, and a 9% increase in not collecting. Also identified were 22 local authority areas without a repository. Findings also demonstrated that rather than officially stopping collecting repositories are increasingly collecting beyond capacity and apply selective collecting strategies to minimize the impact of reduced resources for archaeological archives.

The 2016-2018 surveys were used to create comparative data. This suggested that since then there has been an approximate:

- 4.9% decrease in collecting with capacity
- 1.4% increase collecting with <5 years capacity or other issue
- 3.5% increase in repositories no longer collecting.

Although the average adjusted collecting rate in 2016-2018 was higher (84.5%) than the 2024 rate (81%), it was expected that there would be a greater decline in collecting due to the numbers that reported having <5 years capacity during 2016-2018. This apparent discrepancy is likely due to continued collecting past capacity and selective collecting, as well as other solutions as repositories attempt to alleviate the negative impact of being unable to collect.

Limitations in what was collected reported by repositories in 2024 included both accepted practices and those that would mean whole archives or certain materials are excluded. In total 19 repositories have limitations in place that would leave an archive split (and without another repository) or uncollected. Selective collecting mainly coincided with limited

capacity. Not considered as a limitation was the inability to provide specialist storage conditions, or large objects, nevertheless, these limitations highlight challenges in meeting standards for collecting complete archives. The most common exclusion was sterile (negative) and documentary only archives, potentially representing a positive impact of the ClfA Selection Toolkit's advice on sterile archives¹⁶, and embracing a digital first approach.

Selective collecting, carried out by 19/91 (21%) of respondents to the 2024 survey is a particular risk, as it makes a definitive assessment of collecting difficult, because it is usually excluded in discussions around collecting, i.e. who is and isn't collecting, and risks loss of heritage assets due to the unlikelihood of there being another relevant repository as collecting is mainly based on area.

Charging is now carried out by nearly all respondents (92%), and the majority charge by box. There was high variation in box sizes, but the average maximum charge per box was £112.

In 2012 47 gaps in local authorities were identified, this had reduced by 2024 to 22 mainly through the creation of two new county repositories in Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire, but including the return of repositories to collecting after a hiatus.

Collation of the 2024 survey data and responses given in previous surveys has enabled an overall review and understanding of the current situation. Although previous responses are potentially out of date the collated data still showed widespread issues across England. The discrepancies included the 'all data' responses being overall more positive than the 2024 survey response, and previous data did not always include data on capacity or selective collecting. The significant issues in different areas are visualised in table 24 and figures 1 and 2. The review of impact, although more subjective than classification, was able to take in account other factors. This provided a national impact average of 3.1.

Recommendations and future research

Identified in the 'data comparison' section of this report are gaps in knowledge and uncertainty, especially around collecting areas, combined with response rate for the 2024 survey, shows there is still work to do to provide a clearer picture of collecting in England.

Further work should include discussions with repositories to remove ambiguity in responses and identify other issues. This would assist in more accurately classifying repositories and increase the detail of responses.

¹⁶ <https://www.archaeologists.net/selection-toolkit/sterile-projects>

The 2012 survey (Edwards, 2012) included archaeological contracting organisations to investigate the issue of completed archives which could not be deposited because there was no store or museum willing or able to accept them. This was recommended again by a museum respondent in 2024. Planning archaeologists should also be able to provide further information on collecting, especially what happens to archives for areas with no repository.

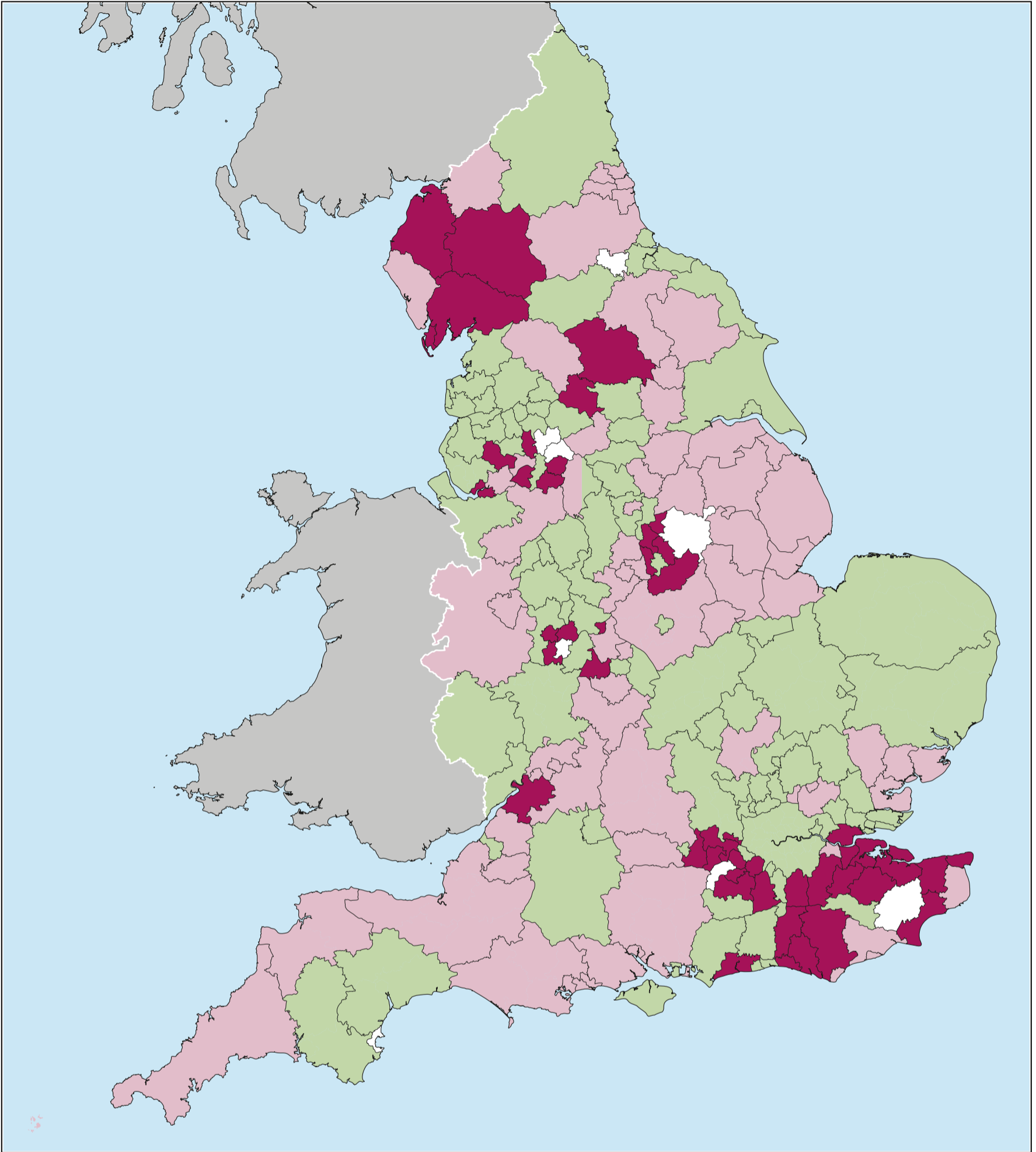
Reviewing collecting policies may also assist with establishing details around selective collecting, as this research identified a discrepancy between what the repository considers a limitation and established practice. This report could be used to improve the questions, ensuring consideration of already identified ways of selectively collecting. Reviewing responses must exclude 'not collecting – never collected' to avoid skewing the analysis.

Although heritage sites were excluded due to the focus on developer-funded archaeological archives, their collecting potentially alleviates collecting pressures on local museums. This demonstrates the importance of classifying regional infrastructure as well as quantifying collecting patterns, which could be addressed in future work.

Selective collecting and collecting beyond capacity were identified as alternatives to stopping collecting. Future studies should differentiate between reporting 'officially collecting' and 'unable to accept new accessions'. Researching these activities are significant to understanding the outcomes of the collecting crisis, alongside classification of collecting and not collecting, and need continued exploration.

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Collecting status





-  Collecting
-  Collecting with <5 years capacity/selective
-  Not collecting/no repository
-  Uncertain

Figure 1: The results of the 2024 and previous surveys by administrative area.

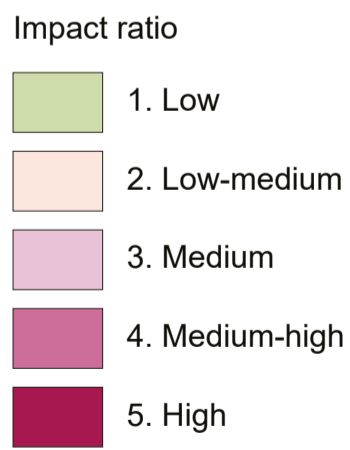
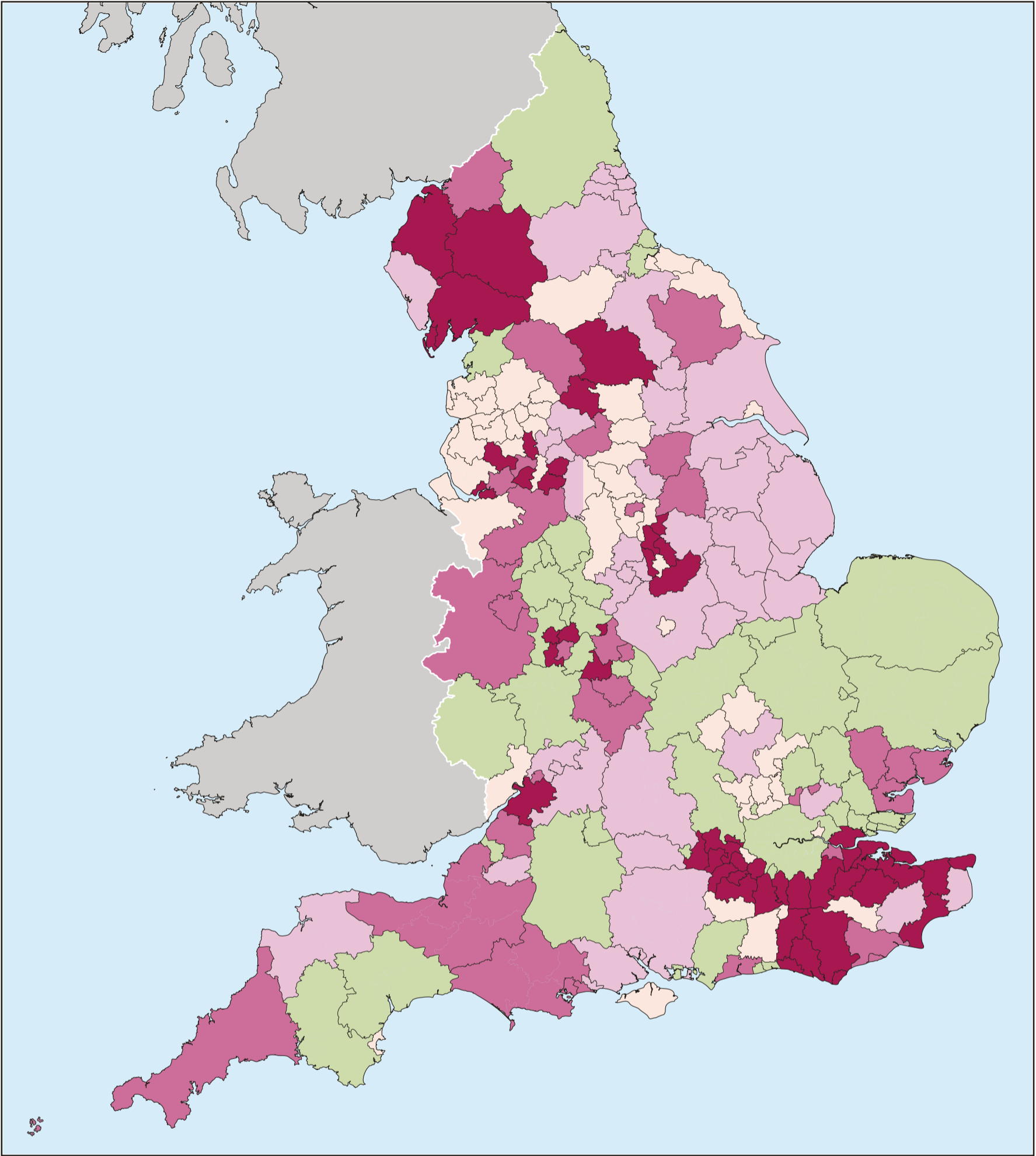


Figure 2: The collecting status impact of the 2024 and previous surveys' results by administrative area.

Table 24: Comparison of the results and the collecting status impact of the 2024 and previous surveys by administrative area.

Ceremonial County	Area Name	Repository	Collecting status	Impact Rating
Bedfordshire	North Bedfordshire and Mid Bedfordshire	The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum, Bedford	Previously collecting 2023-2020	2
Bedfordshire	South Bedfordshire and Luton	Culture Trust Luton	Collecting with 1-5 years capacity	3
Berkshire	Bracknell Forest	No repository identified	No repository identified	5
Berkshire	Reading	Reading Museum	Collecting with capacity	1
Berkshire	Slough	Slough Museum	Does not collect	5
Berkshire	West Berkshire	West Berkshire Museum Service, Newbury	Collecting with 1-5 years capacity	3
Berkshire	Windsor and Maidenhead	Windsor & Royal Borough Museum	Does not collect	5
Berkshire	Wokingham	No repository identified	No repository identified	5
Bristol	Bristol	Bristol Culture (covering Bristol Museums, Galleries & Archives)	Collecting with capacity	1
Buckinghamshire	Buckinghamshire	Buckinghamshire County Museum	Collecting with capacity	1
Buckinghamshire	Milton Keynes	Buckinghamshire County Museum	Collecting with capacity	1
Cambridgeshire	Peterborough	Peterborough Museum & Art Gallery	Collecting with capacity	1
Cambridgeshire		Cambridgeshire County Council County Archaeological Store	Collecting with capacity	1
Cheshire	Cheshire East	Congleton Museum	Previously collecting 2023-2020	2
Cheshire	Cheshire East	Nantwich Museum	Collecting without capacity/selective	4
Cheshire	Cheshire East	No repository identified	No repository identified	5
Cheshire	Cheshire West and Chester	Cheshire West Museums	Previously collecting 2023-2020	2
Cheshire	Halton	No repository identified	No repository identified	5
Cheshire	Warrington	Warrington Museum & Art Gallery	Collecting without capacity/selective	4
Cornwall	Cornwall	Helston Museum (Museum of Cornish life)	Does not collect	5
Cornwall	Cornwall	Royal Cornwall Museum	Collecting without capacity/selective	4
Cornwall	Isles of Scilly	Isles of Scilly Museum	Collecting without capacity/selective	4

Ceremonial County	Area Name	Repository	Collecting status	Impact Rating
County Durham	City of Durham	Museum of Archaeology, Durham	Collecting with 1-5 years capacity	3
County Durham	County Durham	Durham County Council	Collecting with 1-5 years capacity	3
County Durham	Darlington	Durham County Council (?)	Uncertain	3
County Durham	Hartlepool	Tees Archaeology	Collecting with capacity	1
County Durham and North Yorkshire	Stockton-on-Tees	Tees Archaeology	Collecting with capacity	1
Cumbria	Allerdale	Keswick Museum & Art Gallery	Does not collect	5
Cumbria	Barrow-in-Furness	The Dock Museum	Does not collect	5
Cumbria	Carlisle	Tullie House Museum, Carlisle	Collecting without capacity/selective	4
Cumbria	Copeland	The Beacon Museum, Whitehaven	Previous Partial collecting	3
Cumbria	Eden and South Lakeland	Kendal Museum	Previously not collecting	5
Derbyshire	Amber Valley	Derby Museum & Art Gallery	Collecting with 1-5 years capacity	3
Derbyshire	Bolsover	Museums Sheffield	Previously collecting 2019-2016	2
Derbyshire	Chesterfield	Chesterfield Museum & Art Gallery	Collecting without capacity/selective	4
Derbyshire	Derby	Derby Museum & Art Gallery	Collecting with 1-5 years capacity	3
Derbyshire	Derbyshire Dales	Buxton Museum & Art Gallery	Previously collecting 2019-2016	2
Derbyshire	Erewash	Derby Museum & Art Gallery	Collecting with 1-5 years capacity	3
Derbyshire	High Peak	Buxton Museum and Museums Sheffield	Previously collecting 2019-2016	2
Derbyshire	North East Derbyshire	Museums Sheffield	Previously collecting 2019-2016	2
Derbyshire	South Derbyshire	Derby Museum & Art Gallery	Collecting with 1-5 years capacity	3
Derbyshire		Derby Museum & Art Gallery	Collecting with 1-5 years capacity	3
Derbyshire		Museums Sheffield	Previously collecting 2019-2016	2

Ceremonial County	Area Name	Repository	Collecting status	Impact Rating
Devon	Exeter, Mid Devon, East Devon Teignbridge & part of South Hams	Royal Albert Museum, Exeter	Collecting with capacity	1
Devon	North Devon & Torrington, also Lundy	Museum of Barnstaple & North Devon	Collecting with 1-5 years capacity	3
Devon	Plymouth Unitary Area and the Districts of: West Devon & South Hams excluding those parishes collected by RAMM	The Box Plymouth Museum Gallery Archive	Collecting with capacity	1
Devon	Torbay	Torquay Museum	Uncertain	2
Dorset	Dorset	Dorset County Museum	Hiatus	4
Dorset	Poole	Poole Museum	Collecting without capacity/selective	4
East Riding of Yorkshire	East Riding of Yorkshire	East Riding of Yorkshire Museums Service (The Treasure House)	Collecting with capacity	3
East Riding of Yorkshire	Kingston upon Hull	Hull City Council Museums & Galleries	Previously collecting 2019-2016	2
East Sussex	Bexhill	Bexhill Museum	Collecting with capacity	1
East Sussex	Brighton and Hove	Royal Pavilion & Museums, Brighton & Hove	Does not collect	5
East Sussex	Eastbourne	Heritage Eastbourne (Eastbourne Borough Council)	Collecting without capacity/selective	5
East Sussex	Hastings	Hastings Museum & Art Gallery	Collecting without capacity/selective	4
East Sussex	Lewes	Barbican House Museum	Does not collect	5
East Sussex	Rother	Hastings Museum & Art Gallery	Collecting without capacity/selective	4
East Sussex	Wealden	Barbican House Museum	Does not collect	5

Ceremonial County	Area Name	Repository	Collecting status	Impact Rating
Essex	Basildon	Split coverage by Southend Museums Service (Basildon town) and Chelmsford Museum (Billericay)	Split	0
Essex	Braintree	Braintree District Museum	Collecting without capacity/selective	4
Essex	Brentwood	Chelmsford Museum	Collecting with capacity	1
Essex	Castle Point	Southend Museums Service	Collecting with capacity	1
Essex	Chelmsford	Chelmsford Museum	Collecting with capacity	1
Essex	Colchester	Colchester Museums	Collecting without capacity/selective	4
Essex	Epping Forest	Epping Forest District Museum Service	Collecting with 1-5 years capacity	3
Essex	Harlow	The Museum of Harlow	Collecting without capacity/selective	4
Essex	Maldon	Colchester Museums	Collecting without capacity/selective	4
Essex	Rochford	Southend Museums Service	Collecting with capacity	1
Essex	Southend-on-Sea	Southend Museums Service	Collecting with capacity	1
Essex	Tendring	Colchester Museums	Collecting without capacity/selective	4
Essex	Thurrock	Thurrock Museum	Does not collect	5
Essex	Uttlesford	Saffron Walden Museum	Collecting with capacity	1
Gloucestershire	Cheltenham	Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum	Collecting with 1-5 years capacity	3
Gloucestershire	Cotswold	Corinium Museum	Collecting with 1-5 years capacity	3
Gloucestershire	Forest of Dean	Dean Heritage Centre	Previously collecting 2019-2016	2
Gloucestershire	Gloucester	Gloucester Museums	Hiatus	4
Gloucestershire	South Gloucestershire	Gloucester Museums	Hiatus	4
Gloucestershire	Stroud	The Stroud District (Cowle) Museum Service (The Museum in the Park)	Does not collect	5
Gloucestershire	Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury Museum	Collecting with 1-5 years capacity	3

Ceremonial County	Area Name	Repository	Collecting status	Impact Rating
Greater London	Barking and Dagenham	Valence House Museum	Previously collecting 2019-2016	2
Greater London		Museum of London	Collecting with capacity	1
Greater Manchester	Bolton	Bolton Museums	Previously collecting 2012-2003	2
Greater Manchester	Bury	no repository identified	No repository identified	5
Greater Manchester	Manchester	Manchester Museum, University of Manchester	Previously collecting 2019-2016	2
Greater Manchester	Oldham	Saddleworth Museum	Uncertain	3
Greater Manchester	Rochdale	Rochdale Borough Cultural Trust	Uncertain	3
Greater Manchester	Salford	Salford Museum & Art Gallery	Collecting without capacity/selective	4
Greater Manchester	Stockport	Stockport Heritage Services	Previously not collecting	5
Greater Manchester	Tameside	No repository identified	No repository identified	5
Greater Manchester	Trafford	No repository identified	No repository identified	5
Greater Manchester	Wigan	No repository identified	No repository identified	5
Hampshire	Portsmouth	Portsmouth Museums & Records Service	Collecting with capacity	1
Hampshire	Southampton	Southampton City Council Arts & Heritage	Collecting with 1-5 years capacity	3
Hampshire		Hampshire Cultural Trust	Collecting with 1-5 years capacity	3
Hereford		Hereford Museums	Collecting with capacity	1

Ceremonial County	Area Name	Repository	Collecting status	Impact Rating
Hertfordshire	Broxbourne	Lowewood Museum	Collecting without capacity/selective	4
Hertfordshire	Dacorum	Dacorum Heritage Trust (Berkhamsted, Hemel Hempstead, Kings Langley & Tring)	Previously collecting 2023-2020	2
Hertfordshire	East Hertfordshire	Hertford Museum	Previously collecting 2023-2020	2
Hertfordshire	East Hertfordshire	Much Hadham Forge Museum	Previously collecting 2023-2020	2
Hertfordshire	East Hertfordshire	South Mills Arts (Bishop's Stortford Museum)	Collecting with capacity	1
Hertfordshire	East Hertfordshire	Ware Museum	Previously collecting 2023-2020	2
Hertfordshire	Hertsmere	Bushey Museum & Art Gallery (Hertsmere)	Previously collecting 2023-2020	2
Hertfordshire	Hertsmere	Elstree and Borehamwood Museum	Previously collecting 2023-2020	2
Hertfordshire	Hertsmere	Potters Bar Museum	Previously collecting 2023-2020	2
Hertfordshire	North Hertfordshire	North Hertfordshire Museums,	Previously collecting 2023-2020	2
Hertfordshire	St Albans	St Albans Museums Service / Verulamium Museum	Previously collecting 2023-2020	2
Hertfordshire	Stevenage	Stevenage Museum	Previously collecting 2023-2020	2
Hertfordshire	Three Rivers	Three Rivers Museum of Local History	Previously collecting 2023-2020	2
Hertfordshire	Watford	Watford Museum	Collecting with capacity	1
Hertfordshire	Welwyn Hatfield	Welwyn Hatfield Museum Service (Mill Green Museum & Welwyn Roman Baths)	Collecting with capacity (short hiatus)	2
Isle of Wight	Isle of Wight	Isle of Wight Heritage Service	Previously collecting 2019-2016	2

Ceremonial County	Area Name	Repository	Collecting status	Impact Rating
Kent	Ashford	Tenterden & District Museum	Uncertain	3
Kent	Canterbury	Canterbury Museums & Galleries	Previously not collecting	5
Kent	Dartford	Dartford Borough Museum	Collecting without capacity/selective	4
Kent	Dover	Dover Museum	Collecting with 1-5 years capacity	3
Kent	Folkestone and Hythe	No repository identified	No repository identified	5
Kent	Gravesham	No repository identified	No repository identified	5
Kent	Maidstone	Maidstone Museum	Does not collect	5
Kent	Medway	No repository identified	No repository identified	5
Kent	Sevenoaks	No repository identified	No repository identified	5
Kent	Swale	No repository identified	No repository identified	5
Kent	Thanet	Powell-Cotton Museum	Does not collect	5
Kent	Tonbridge and Malling	No repository identified	No repository identified	5
Kent	Tunbridge Wells	Tunbridge Wells Museum & Art Gallery	Previously collecting 2019-2016	2
Lancashire	Blackburn with Darwen	Blackburn Museum & Art Gallery	Previously collecting 2012-2003	2
Lancashire	Burnley	Towneley Hall, Burnley	Previously collecting 2019-2016	2
Lancashire	Lancashire	Lancashire County Museum Service (11 sites)	Previously collecting 2019-2016	2
Lancashire	Lancaster	Lancaster City Museums	Collecting with capacity	1
Leicestershire	Leicester	Leicester City Museum Service	Collecting with capacity	2
Leicestershire		Leicestershire County Council Museums	Collecting with 1-5 years capacity	3
Lincolnshire	North East Lincolnshire	North East Lincolnshire Museums Service, inc Fishing Heritage Centre, Grimsby,	Collecting with 1-5 years capacity	3
Lincolnshire	North Lincolnshire	North Lincolnshire Museum Service	Collecting with 1-5 years capacity	3
Lincolnshire		The Collection: Art & Archaeology in Lincolnshire	Collecting with 1-5 years capacity	3
Merseyside	Liverpool	National Museums Liverpool	Previously collecting 2023-2020	2
Norfolk		Norfolk Museums Service	Collecting with capacity	1

Ceremonial County	Area Name	Repository	Collecting status	Impact Rating
North Yorkshire	Craven	Craven Museum & Gallery	Collecting without capacity/selective	4
North Yorkshire	Hambleton	York Museums Trust	Collecting with 1-5 years capacity	3
North Yorkshire	Harrogate	Harrogate Museums & Arts	Previously not collecting	5
North Yorkshire	Middlesbrough	Dorman Museum, Middlesborough	Previously collecting 2019-2016	2
North Yorkshire	Redcar and Cleveland	Kirkleatham Museum	Previously collecting 2012-2003	2
North Yorkshire	Richmondshire	Richmondshire Museum	Previously collecting 2012-2003	2
North Yorkshire	Ryedale	Malton Museum	Collecting without capacity/selective	4
North Yorkshire	Scarborough	Scarborough Museums Trust	Previously collecting 2019-2016	2
North Yorkshire	Selby	York Museums Trust	Collecting with 1-5 years capacity	3
North Yorkshire	York	York Museums Trust	Collecting with 1-5 years capacity	3
North Yorkshire		Thirsk Museum	Previously collecting 2012-2003	2
North Yorkshire		Whitby Museum	Previously collecting 2019-2016	3
Northamptonshire		Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre	Collecting with capacity	1
Northumberland	Berwick	Berwick Museum & Archives	Collecting with capacity	1
Northumberland	Northumberland	Great North Museum, Hancock	Collecting with capacity	1
Nottinghamshire	Ashfield	No repository identified	No repository identified	5
Nottinghamshire	Bassetlaw	Bassetlaw Museum	Collecting with 1-5 years capacity	4
Nottinghamshire	Broxtowe	No repository identified	No repository identified	5
Nottinghamshire	Gedling	No repository identified	No repository identified	5
Nottinghamshire	Mansfield	Mansfield Museum	Does not collect	5
Nottinghamshire	Newark and Sherwood	Newark & Sherwood Museums	Uncertain	3
Nottinghamshire	Nottingham	University Museum, Nottingham	Previously collecting 2012-2003	2
Nottinghamshire	Rushcliffe	No repository identified	No repository identified	5
Nottinghamshire		Nottingham City Museum & Art Gallery	Previously collecting 2023-2020	4

Ceremonial County	Area Name	Repository	Collecting status	Impact Rating
Oxfordshire		Oxfordshire Museums Service	Collecting with 1-5 years capacity	3
Oxfordshire		Wallingford Museum	Uncertain	NA
Rutland	Rutland	Rutland County Museum	Collecting with 1-5 years capacity	3
Shropshire	Shropshire	Shropshire Museums	Collecting without capacity/selective	4
Shropshire	Telford and Wrekin	Shropshire Museums	Collecting without capacity/selective	4
Somerset	Bath and North East Somerset	Roman Baths Museum, Bath & NE Somerset	Collecting with 1-5 years capacity	3
Somerset		South West Heritage Trust	Collecting without capacity/selective	4
South Yorkshire	Barnsley	Experience Barnsley - Barnsley Museum & Archives Centre	Previously collecting 2012-2003	2
South Yorkshire	Doncaster	Heritage Doncaster (Doncaster Museum & Art Gallery)	Collecting without capacity/selective	4
South Yorkshire	Rotherham	Rotherham Heritage Services South Yorkshire	Collecting with 1-5 years capacity	3
South Yorkshire	Sheffield	Museums Sheffield	Previously collecting 2019-2016	2
Staffordshire	Tamworth	Tamworth Castle Museum	Previously not collecting	5
Staffordshire		The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery	Collecting with capacity	1
Suffolk		Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service	Collecting with capacity	1

Ceremonial County	Area Name	Repository	Collecting status	Impact Rating
Surrey	Elmbridge	Elmbridge Museum, Weybridge	Does not collect	5
Surrey	Epsom and Ewell	Bourne Hall Museum, Epsom & Ewell	Collecting with capacity	1
Surrey	Guildford	Guildford Heritage Services	Does not collect	5
Surrey	Mole Valley	No repository identified	No repository identified	5
Surrey	Reigate and Banstead	Guildford Heritage Services	Does not collect	5
Surrey	Runnymede	Chertsey Museum	Does not collect	5
Surrey	Spelthorne	Spelthorne Museum	Previously collecting 2019-2016	2
Surrey	Surrey Heath	Surrey Heath Museum	Uncertain	5
Surrey	Tandridge	East Surrey Museum, Caterham	Does not collect	5
Surrey	Waverley	Godalming Museum	Previously collecting 2019-2016	2
Surrey	Waverley	Haslemere Museum	Previously collecting 2019-2016	2
Surrey	Waverley	Museum of Farnham (the maltings)	Previously collecting 2019-2016	2
Surrey	Woking	No repository identified	No repository identified	5
Tyne and Wear	South Shields	South Shields Museum & Art Gallery	Uncertain	NA
Tyne and Wear		Tyne & Wear Museums (covers 4 museums, inc Hancock and south shields)	Collecting with 1-5 years capacity	3
Warwickshire	Rugby	Rugby Art Gallery & Museum	Collecting with capacity	1
Warwickshire		Warwickshire Museum Service	Collecting without capacity/selective	4
West Midlands	Birmingham	Birmingham Museums Trust	Previously collecting 2019-2016	1
West Midlands	Coventry	Herbert Art Gallery & Museum	Collecting with capacity	1
West Midlands	Dudley	No repository identified	No repository identified	5
West Midlands	Sandwell	Sandwell Museums & Art Gallery	Uncertain	4
West Midlands	Solihull	No repository identified	No repository identified	5
West Midlands	Walsall	Walsall Museums	Does not collect	5
West Midlands	Wolverhampton	Wolverhampton Art Gallery	Does not collect	5

Ceremonial County	Area Name	Repository	Collecting status	Impact Rating
West Sussex	Adur	Worthing Museum & Art Gallery	Collecting with capacity	1
West Sussex	Arun	Arundel Museum	Does not collect	5
West Sussex	Arun	Littlehampton Museum	Collecting without capacity/selective	4
West Sussex	Arun	Rustington Museum	Uncertain	NA
West Sussex	Chichester	The Novium	Collecting with capacity	1
West Sussex	Crawley	Crawley Museum	Previously collecting 2019-2016	2
West Sussex	Horsham	Horsham Museum & Art Gallery	Previously collecting 2019-2016	2
West Sussex	Mid Sussex	Barbican House, Lewes	Does not collect	5
West Sussex	Steyping	Steyping Museum	Collecting without capacity/selective	4
West Sussex	Worthing	Worthing Museum & Art Gallery	Collecting with capacity	1
West Yorkshire	Bradford	Bradford Museums	Does not collect	5
West Yorkshire	Calderdale	Calderdale Museums	Previously collecting 2012-2003	3
West Yorkshire	Kirklees	Kirklees Museums & Galleries (inc Tolson), Huddersfield	Collecting without capacity/selective	4
West Yorkshire	Leeds	Leeds Museums & Galleries (includes 9 sites)	Previously collecting 2019-2016	2
West Yorkshire	Wakefield	Wakefield MDC Museums & Arts	Collecting with capacity (short hiatus)	2
Wiltshire	Chippenham	Chippenham Museum & Heritage Centre	Previously collecting 2019-2016	2
Wiltshire	Salisbury	Salisbury Museum	Previously collecting 2012-2003	2
Wiltshire	Swindon	Swindon Museums & Art Gallery	Collecting with capacity	1
Wiltshire	Wiltshire	Wiltshire Heritage Museum	Collecting with capacity	1
Wiltshire		Trowbridge Museum	Previously not collecting	5
Worcestershire		Museums Worcestershire	Collecting with capacity	1



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