



Lambeth Archives is moving

...to new, purpose-built premises in
the heart of Brixton.

After 133 years at the Minet Library, Lambeth Archives is moving its rich historic collections of documents, books, maps and photographs about Lambeth and its people, to a new building on Brixton Hill.



Lambeth

The move from our increasingly cramped library building on Knatchbull Road should be complete by summer 2023. This is an exciting time and the move to the larger space has benefits all round.

It will be a highly visible and welcoming presence, close to the Town Hall and Civic Centre.

It will bring Lambeth Archives into Brixton's growing cultural and knowledge hub – alongside Black Cultural Archives, Brixton House, the Ritzy Cinema, and Brixton library – and with the iconic Brixton Markets almost on our doorstep.

With its large open-plan public search room fronting onto Brixton Hill, just a short walk from Brixton underground and national rail stations and with local buses stopping outside, our new location will make us more accessible for all: not only for local people but also visitors from across the UK and the growing number of international researchers who come to use our collections.

The services and facilities will be greatly improved.

The new search room will be three times larger than our existing space, better-appointed and designed to meet the needs of current and future visitors in providing access to digital records as well as paper.

For the first time we will have an exhibition area so that we can display the many previously hidden pictures and museum objects from our collections. We look forward to welcoming schools, groups and other visitors to the Olive Morris Room, our new education space.

We will be able to continue collecting for the future.

In our old building, we were running out of space in which to accept and house new archive deposits.

The new strong room in the basement of Brixton Hill will have over two miles of linear shelving for storing records. This gives us accrual space for decades to come so that we can continue to collect the digital and paper records that document the histories of all Lambeth's communities.





Lambeth's history will be more safely stored and preserved.

Our new space has been designed by Haworth-Tompkins architects to meet all the international standards for archive storage. It will be securely protected from fire, with a gas extinction system in the strong rooms where the records will be stored.

Temperature and humidity will be maintained by the thermal inertia of the basements enormous bare concrete walls and plinth, so that unlike a previous generation of such buildings, the new Lambeth Archives will not rely on costly air handling units to maintain the storage environment for the documents.

Lambeth Archives will close to the public at the Minet Library in January 2023, and we expect to open to visitors in the new building in summer 2023. In the meantime, you can find details of our interim services here:

<https://beta.lambeth.gov.uk/libraries-archives/lambeth-archives>