



Photographic afternoons

Why not come along to visit one of our photographic events? Each month we delve deeper into our large collection of over 5,000 photographs featuring local history, people, transport, industries, buildings and landscapes. For more details and to join our mailing list visit our website.

Take a piece of history home

We have a series of fascinating themed boxes of items of local historical interest that are available for loan to schools, groups and local events. These loan boxes feature handling items, photographs and documents covering local gloving industry, royal connections and old toys and games. Please contact us for more details and costs.



Get involved!

Opening hours are by appointment only

Monday to Friday 9am-5pm (Closed Bank Holidays)

Gifts available – Yeovil Greetings cards, Postcards and First World War Booklets

Is there something in your attic we might be interested in? If it has a local connection contact us and we'll take a look.

Tours, talks, loan boxes and visiting groups

Please contact us for further details

Disabled access to the ground floor only



How to find us



SSDC Lufton Depot, 7 Artillery Road
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Keep in touch

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- 🐦 SouthSomersetHeritageCollection

South Somerset Heritage Collection

Yeovil's secret museum

Discover textiles, costumes, gloves, firearms, ceramic, art, glassware, local photographs and history.

About us

Our collection, which comprises over 35,000 items, is available for public viewing.

Our friendly and helpful Heritage Team provides lectures, resources and advice for community groups and local museums (such as the loan of display cases, panels, props and costume mannequins). We are also happy to organise tours, individual viewings and access for researchers.

South Somerset Heritage Collection (formerly known as CHAC) was established in 2004 as a storage facility for important objects of local history. Since 2011 it has also incorporated thousands of items from the old Yeovil Museum and in recent years has quietly expanded its collection becoming, Yeovil's secret museum - situated opposite the recycling centre on the Lufton Industrial Estate.

Meet the team here at SSHC



Our collection

Local history

Ceramics & glassware

Textiles & costumes

Archaeology



Antique firearms

Industrial history

Fine art

Photo archive



Yeovil's gloves and glovers

Yeovil has been home to the glove-making industry since the 14th Century. This is reflected not just in the nickname of the town's Football League club - The Glovers - but also in the collection at SSHC, featuring hundreds of historic gloves and antique glove-making equipment.

Cheese to helicopters

We also have a fascinating collection of objects and photographs tracing the industrial history of Yeovil, from the cheese press made by the 19th century ironmonger James Petter, to the stationary engines and early motor cars produced by his twin sons Percival and Ernest. The Petters Company, founded in 1910 went on to produce aircraft at their Westland Aircraft Works and world-famous helicopters.

Trace your family history

Family histories are diverse, fascinating and unique, so here at the South Somerset Heritage Collection we appreciate the importance and excitement of uncovering hidden aspects of your family history. We have a range of materials which might be useful in your research, such as our extensive photo archive of 19th and 20th century Yeovil and the Batten archives detailing economic and legal activities for South Somerset dating back as far as 500 years.

We can offer help from a member of the Heritage team, a dedicated research room, a reference library including texts on local history, local history files, a colour photocopier and 35mm slide viewer. There is a small charge for answering involved enquiries, where staff time is taken up finding information.

