

HERITAGE COUNTS 2013

EAST MIDLANDS

Heritage Counts 2013 is the twelfth annual survey of the state of England's historic environment. It is prepared by English Heritage on behalf of the East Midlands Heritage Forum. This year the theme for Heritage Counts is skills in the historic environment. Visitors to the Heritage Counts website can download the complete research projects commissioned to support this year's report and access the full set of local statistics and maps detailing the historic environment for the East Midlands, including asset data, funding information, employment numbers and visitor figures. Please see www.heritagecounts.org.uk.

SKILLS IN THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

This year, Heritage Counts focuses on skills; since the beginning of the financial crisis many parts of the sector have seen significant reductions in budgets and staffing numbers, causing concerns that specialist knowledge is being lost. For the 2013 report, a number of research projects were undertaken to assess these skills provisions, including a survey of the whole cultural heritage sector in the UK. One of the key findings from this study was that the majority of respondents (60%) indicated that they did not have a training budget, which means that initiatives like those outlined in the case studies below are essential for developing skills across the sector. Please see the national Heritage Counts 2013 report for more analysis and further details.

Sharing expertise between university and city

Leicester's past has many layers, including its foundation by the Romans, the heyday of its hosiery industry, and the recent discovery of the bones of Richard III. It is now a confident modern city.

The Leicester University's Centre for Urban History (CUH) has a philosophy of using Leicester's rich character as a 'laboratory' for its MA students in Urban Conservation and Urban History, giving them hands-on experience of, among other things, the challenge of de-industrialisation and the growing diversity of British society.

In 2012 it combined funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and the Heritage Lottery Fund to open up the university's expertise more widely. The aim of the programme is to 'empower local community groups through enhancing their research skills, and to develop networks,' by bringing local groups and university researchers together.

With the help of the City Council and other partners, a series of events has enabled over 400 local people and 100 organisations to enhance their

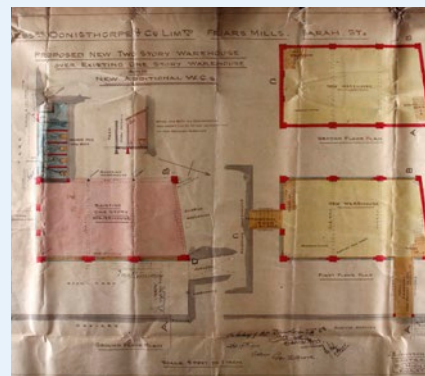
understanding of the city's heritage, and their skills in interpreting it. The university has supported community groups in making their own applications for lottery funding, and CUH are now providing training for groups researching a diversity of topics including shoe machinery, allotments and the city's Secular Society.

At the same time the University has been working with the Record Office for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland to digitise hundreds of records of the city's industrial history which were previously in private hands or poorly maintained. 'Manufacturing Past's' provides online access to help communities understand Leicester's industrial heritage, which is necessary as the city regenerates a number of its buildings at risk.



Cradle of Britain's spinning industry – One of the factories showcased in the Manufacturing Past's digital archive is Friar's Mill. The Grade II building dates from the C18. By the early C20 Donisthorpe & Co Ltd were sending yarns and even 'artificial hair' across Europe from here. Following decades of decline, fire damaged the mill in 2012, after this photograph was taken. However Leicester City Council have bought it with a view to repair and conversion into managed workspaces, so its contribution to the economy is far from over. Photo by Colin Hyde. Licensed under Creative Commons licence – BY-NC

With funding from the AHRC's 'Knowledge Exchange' programme, the CUH is also working with creative businesses to help continue the transformation of a neighbourhood of industrial buildings into the city centre's creative quarter. The scheme illustrates how the partnership between university and city will ensure that local heritage is not only better understood and valued, but cared for and enjoyed into the future.



'Craped hair' trademark (c1900) and plan of new warehouse (1915) digitised by the Manufacturing Pasts project and licensed Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 2.0 UK: England & Wales Licence

SUMMARY OF HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT INDICATORS FOR 2013

Regional Assets	2013 totals
World Heritage Sites	1
Scheduled Monuments	1,528
Listed Buildings Grade I	999
Listed Buildings Grade II*	1,873
Listed Buildings Grade II	26,797
Registered Parks and Gardens	139
Registered Battlefields	5
Protected Ship Wrecks	0
Conservation Areas	1,111
Designated Collections	5
Accredited Museums	102

Caring and sharing

The strength of the economy tends to be reflected in the number of planning applications. Figures for the East Midlands show that the effects of the economic downturn, first visible in 2008/09, continued into 2012/13. The number of decisions in the East Midlands was 30,184, well below the average for the years 2004/05 to 2007/08 of 48,145.

The Heritage Lottery Fund made awards totalling £21.2m last year. Since 2005, Natural England has made nearly £20m of awards for those options of the environmental stewardship scheme which impact on the region's historic environment. At £1.8m, English Heritage's grant expenditure continued to decline in 2012/13, and was nearly a quarter (23.5%) of that in 2002/3.

Using and benefiting

In contrast to the signs of recession in the development sector, heritage tourism is thriving and membership numbers have continued to climb. Between 2006/07 and 2012/13 English Heritage's membership in the East Midlands grew by 32%, and in the National Trust's Midlands region (covering both East and West Midlands) membership grew by 17%. The Historic Houses Association saw growth in the number of Friends of 31% between 2007 and 2012.

Staffed properties in the National Trust's Midlands region received 3 million visitors in 2012/13, similar to the previous year, but 71% more than in 2006/07.

KEY POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

Heritage skills in the East Midlands

There is a healthy supply of a range of heritage skills from academic institutions in the East Midlands. For example the Universities of Nottingham and Leicester offer degree courses in archaeology; the University of Lincoln offers particular expertise in the conservation of objects and Bishop Grosseteste University runs a Master's in Heritage Education. However, building conservation is no longer taught at degree level in the region.

2013 saw the opening of an ambitious Heritage Skills Centre at Lincoln Castle. With the Cathedral Workshop nearby, Lincoln has become a focus in the region for the provision of craft skills.

The commercial scene tells a different story, as contractors are reluctant to

commit to training or apprenticeships, with the consequent risk of a backlog of repairs and maintenance.

Public sector employment too is being squeezed. The number of full-time equivalent historic environment staff in local authorities in the East Midlands has fallen by 27% since 2006, including losses in archaeological staffing between 2012 and 2013 of 3.5%. Conservation staffing in the East Midlands showed a 4% increase last year after falling steadily since the 2006 survey. The reduction in local authority resources is likely to have contributed to a fall in the number of projects seeking Heritage Grant funding from HLF at the Regional Committee level (£100,000 to £2m), although demand for smaller grants over the last year has been strong.

Heritage Counts 2013 is edited by Paul Bodenham on behalf of the East Midlands Heritage Forum:

Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers: East Midlands, Canal and River Trust, Country Land and Business Association, East Midlands Association of Civic and Heritage Societies, Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham (places of worship representative), East Midlands Councils, Bishop Grosseteste University College, Lincoln (education representative), English Heritage, Historic Towns Forum, Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Houses Association, Institute of Historic Building Conservation, National Trust, Natural England, UK Association of Preservation Trusts



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