

HERITAGE COUNTS 2013

NORTH EAST

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 North East of England Historic Environment 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 North East, 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.

Heritage Skills Initiative

The Heritage Skills Initiative (HSI) was initiated by the North East Historic Environment Forum and is hosted by North of England Civic Trust (NECT).

By mapping existing training, assessing the present skills base and reviewing demand for skills in the region, HSI finds ways of stemming heritage skills shortages, creates opportunities for training and supports an active heritage skills network.

The Heritage Skills Initiative has provided over 130,000 hours of training and trained over 32,000 people in traditional heritage skills and conservation from April 2007 until December 2012.

The main funders of this programme are English Heritage, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Limestone Landscapes Partnership.

Heritage Skills Initiative © North of England Civic Trust



Heritage Landscape Skills

The North Pennines AONB Partnership's Heritage Landscape Skills is a four-year project funded by Heritage Lottery's 'Skills for the Future' programme. The project is training nine people in dry stone walling and three graduates in conservation and land management methods.

Dry stone walling helps to maintain upland landscapes. Good quality walls can stand for over 100 years. Dry stone walling trainees are given training and practical experience alongside professional wallers in the North Pennines. Once their training is complete, trainees are also given help in setting up their own businesses as self-employed wallers.

Conservation and land management trainees have been working on habitat monitoring and practical management tasks, species conservation, organising and leading public events, project development, GIS mapping and data analysis. This training is intended to equip trainees for careers in protected landscapes or habitat improvement work.



Heritage Landscape Skills © North Pennines AONB



Heritage Skills in Education © North of England Civic Trust

Heritage Skills in Education

Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Heritage Skills in Education is a three year programme focusing on the skills required to conserve, renovate, adapt and maintain historic buildings and inspires young people to see careers in the heritage sector in a whole new light.

The programme encourages collaboration between education and heritage professionals to deliver heritage-based learning in a real-world context.

Teams from local schools, colleges and universities work alongside heritage professionals on a year-long project and compete against others in their category (school, college, university).

By the end of their project, students are able to understand different materials, the importance of historic buildings, their re-use and the need to tackle heritage at risk.

Engineering Heritage Skills

The North East is famed as the birthplace of the railway and made its fortune through mining and shipbuilding. However, we have now reached a stage where former miners and engineers are aging or retiring and the vital skills needed to preserve our industrial heritage are dying out.

Fortunately, the North East's specialist heritage engineering skills are being passed on to a new generation thanks

to a project supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund's Skills for the Future programme and Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums.

32 fixed-term bursary placements are available for people wanting to learn practical engineering heritage skills.

The training provides participants with varied skills, including tram and steam engine maintenance and the repair of Victorian mining and water pumping equipment, to ensure that the North East's industrial history is preserved for the future.

Placement providers include Beamish Museum, Locomotion, the North East Maritime Trust, South Tynedale Railway, Stanegate Restoration and Replicas, Stephenson Railway Museum and the Tanfield Railway.



Engineering Heritage Skills © North of England Civic Trust



Heritage Skills for Volunteers © Northumberland National Park Authority

Heritage Skills for Volunteers

Local heritage organisations depend heavily on the contribution made by volunteers who help to increase capacity and bring their own valuable experience and perspectives on how things can be done. Volunteers also benefit by developing their own knowledge and skills as a pathway back into learning or employment. The challenge for local heritage organisations is to manage different needs and provide appropriate training and support.

Heritage organisations have recently been working with local volunteers to assess and monitor heritage at risk. Northumberland National Park Authority has been using volunteers to carry out condition surveys and conservation work on scheduled ancient monuments within the National Park. Volunteers receive full training in all aspects of surveying, assessment and monitoring, including a mix of indoor and outdoor sessions.

Hartlepool Borough Council and Tees Archaeology have also been working with volunteers to survey grade II listed buildings in the town as part of a pilot project being funded by English Heritage. Training, information and guidance were produced to support the volunteers and equip them in photographing and recording the town's rich heritage.

Creative Employment Programme

South Tyneside's Cultural Partnership comprises key local venues and cultural providers including Bede's World, the Customs House, the National Trust, South Tyneside Council and Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums Service.

The Cultural Partnership successfully applied to the National Skills Academy for funding from the Creative Employment Programme. The funding, which is provided by the Arts Council, aims to support the cultural sector by widening access to the sector and providing opportunities for the next generation of cultural practitioners. The programme has allocated funds to support 40 apprentices and six internships in South Tyneside over a two-year period.

SUMMARY OF HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT INDICATORS FOR 2013

North East Assets	2013 totals
World Heritage Sites	2
Scheduled Monuments	1,377
Listed Buildings Grade I	388
Listed Buildings Grade II*	751
Listed Buildings Grade II	11,140
Registered Parks and Gardens	55
Registered Battlefields	6
Protected Ship Wrecks	1
Conservation Areas	299
Designated Collections	6
Accredited Museums	63 (48 fully, 15 provisionally)

CARING AND SHARING

The North East continues to have the highest percentage of grade I and II* historic buildings at risk in the country, with 7.1% of buildings at risk in 2013. However, the proportion of grade I and II* buildings at risk in the North East has decreased from a peak of 9.9% in 2001.

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has played a huge role in supporting North East heritage. Since 1994, HLF has invested over £258 million in the North East with £20 million invested during 2012/13.

Since 2005, Natural England has awarded approximately £5.5 million to Environmental Stewardship schemes in the North East, which benefit the historic environment. This includes over £1.5 million of capital funding invested in 2012/13.

English Heritage is the other main source of non-lottery heritage funding and invested £800,000 in the North East during 2012/13.

Planning data provides an indicator of economic growth and development. Between 2002/3 and 2012/13 there was

a 40% reduction in North East planning applications with 22,300 applications received in 2002/3, compared with just 13,417 in 2012/13, reflecting the slower economic growth rate in recent years.

However, applications affecting certain types of heritage asset have increased over the same timeframe suggesting that the development of heritage assets has been more resilient than other parts of the building sector.

Between 2002/3 and 2012/13 there was a 47% increase in conservation area consents and a 50% increase in scheduled monument consents.

USING AND BENEFITING

The 2012/13 Taking Part Survey by DCMS shows that 75% of North East adults have visited a heritage site in the past year.

Held each September, Heritage Open Days (HODs) gives free public access to historic properties that are either not normally open or charge admission. The number of North East venues participating in HODs increased from 326 in 2007 to 399 in 2012.

Membership of local heritage organisations is also increasing. Since 2006, English Heritage membership in the North East has increased by 25% and National Trust membership in the North East and Yorkshire and Humber area by 10%.

KEY POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

Local Enterprise Partnerships in the North East

The two Local Enterprise Partnerships covering the North East (Tees Valley Unlimited and the North East Local Enterprise Partnership) have both identified skills and workforce development as key priorities for their support.

There is an opportunity for both LEPs in developing and implementing their Strategic Economic Plans and Structural & Investment Fund Strategies to also recognise the role played by the heritage sector in supporting local skills agendas.

The North East LEP has also recently published the findings of an economic review, undertaken by Lord Adonis, which highlights issues around school performance, a need for higher level skills and apprenticeships to secure more and better jobs for local people.

The heritage sector in the North East is well-placed to tackle the regional skills deficit. Museums and heritage sites are inspiring places. They provide alternative learning environments and a focus through which aspirations and confidence can be raised.

Many heritage organisations also offer volunteering opportunities, apprenticeships and vocational qualifications that develop people's skills and confidence to prepare them for "better jobs" in the workplace.

New Culture Partnership for the North East



John Mowbray (Co-Chair) Kathryn Tickell (Patron) David Budd (Co-Chair) Lauren Laverne (Patron) Paul Watson (Chair of ANEC) at the launch of the Culture Partnership © Keith Taylor, Cameracraft

A new Culture Partnership for the North East was launched in July 2013 to help raise the profile of the cultural sector and to ensure that it has a coherent voice at regional, national and international levels.

The partnership includes all 12 local authorities, cultural organisations, businesses and educational bodies and plans to build upon the North East's strong foundations in cultural regeneration.

This unique partnership will focus on jobs, regional profile, quality, well-being, protecting and enhancing cultural assets plus the North East's social and economic offer.

In future, the heritage sector will be well-placed to deliver on any programmes emerging from the partnership's work.

The partnership was launched on 17 July 2013 at Durham Castle.

About the North East Historic Environment Forum

The North East Historic Environment Forum is a group of organisations responsible for managing the historic environment in the North East who work together voluntarily in partnership.

The following organisations are represented on the Forum:

- Arts Council
- Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers
- Association of North East Councils
- English Heritage
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- Historic Houses Association
- Institute of Historic Building Conservation
- National Trust
- Natural England
- Northern Architecture
- North of England Civic Trust
- Northumberland National Park Authority, on behalf of protected landscapes
- Tyne and Wear Museums



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