

HERITAGE COUNTS 2013

YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER

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 Yorkshire and Humber 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 Yorkshire and Humber, 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.

PASSING SKILLS TO THE NEXT GENERATION

Five of the traditional land owning estates in the North York Moors came together when they realised they needed to find a way to ensure the in-house building craft skills and expertise of their existing employees would be passed on to the next generation, in order to help conserve the area's rich archaeological and built heritage.

Jack (pictured right) is one of three young people, who secured a place on the Traditional Estates Craft Apprenticeship Project (TECAP) this year. The apprentices carry out general work on the estates as well as undertaking specialist site heritage and conservation training. Each of the three apprenticeships are developing a specialism – bricklaying, joinery and stonemasonry – and they attend York College to study for an NVQ in their respective skills.

A key facet of the programme is that training is designed around the needs



A TECAP apprentice working on their bespoke Helmsley project. © Sophie Norton, NHTG.

of the individuals rather than just the needs of the buildings or the employer which is a more common approach for apprenticeships. In July, the three apprentices were tasked with planning, managing and completing works to a derelict building in Helmsley. The work was tailored around the apprentices' skills gaps such as splicing to repair roof rafters and repairing cracks in walls. Support was always at hand but the apprentices certainly had a sense of ownership and responsibility for the scheme.

Funding for the project is provided by a number of partners: English Heritage, the Ernest Cook Trust, Historic Houses Association (Yorkshire), The Radcliffe Trust, the York Foundation for Conservation and Craftsmanship and the North York Moors, Coast and Hills LEADER programme.



A TECAP apprentice practising stonemasonry skills

Developing heritage skills for economic regeneration

Leeds City Council recognised there was a shortage in heritage construction skills in the city for repair and maintenance of pre-1919 buildings, of which there are over 74,000 buildings in the city and decided to do something about it.

In research commissioned for this project, members of the Federation of Master Builders (FMB) were questioned about their experience of heritage construction work. Tellingly 93% of them wanted to get more involved in repair and maintenance work to pre-1919 buildings and almost a third believed that they had lost contracts and money due to a lack of heritage skills within their company.

In May, Leeds City Council was awarded initial backing under the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Skills for the Future programme and a development grant of £34,500 to develop a full bid for a £810,300 grant to spend on providing practical heritage skills training in the city.

The project will work with Leeds College of Building and York College to offer work-based training for 25 young

people and career changers in NVQ3 in Heritage Construction Skills, along with short craft-based skills training for SMEs already in the construction industry. There will be a practical focus on the heritage sector with specialist training in stonemasonry, lime mortars, roofing, carpentry, brickwork, electrical and plumbing work. The project will also up-skill trainers so that course participants benefit from the latest best practice.

Supplying new trainees to the sector is important but the project also recognises that the demand side needs addressing too. So the project will provide training for construction specifiers so they can advise property owners on how to build in the right heritage skills into their construction schemes at an early stage.

Councillor Lucinda Yeadon, Leeds City Council executive board member with responsibility for leisure and skills, said: "We want to help strengthen a key sector of the Leeds economy by addressing an unmet training need within the heritage sector. We also want to ensure that we help businesses to continue to compete in the sector

by up-skilling their workforce and ensure that young people are given the opportunity to learn new, specific heritage skills to meet the increasing demand."



Teaching youngsters in Armley, Leeds to use lime plaster at a fun day

SUMMARY OF HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT INDICATORS FOR 2013

ASSETS IN YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN 2013	World Heritage Sites	Scheduled Monuments	Listed Buildings Grade I	Listed Buildings Grade II*	Listed Buildings Grade II	Total Listed Buildings	Registered Parks and Gardens	Registered Battlefields	Protected Ship Wrecks	Conservation Areas
EAST YORKSHIRE										
East Riding of Yorkshire	-	340	102	167	2113	2382	7	-	-	106
City of Kingston Upon Hull	-	1	7	17	441	465	2	-	-	26
LINCOLNSHIRE (PART OF)	-									
North East Lincolnshire	-	10	12	13	198	223	1	-	-	16
North Lincolnshire	-	44	40	36	838	914	-	-	-	17
NORTH YORKSHIRE										
City of York	-	21	71	170	1352	1593	3	2	-	35
Craven	-	166	23	50	1528	1601	3	-	-	29
Hambleton	-	204	43	83	1634	1760	4	1	-	48
Harrogate	1	169	49	113	2103	2265	12	3	-	53
Richmondshire	-	160	43	80	1844	1967	6	-	-	41
Ryedale	-	514	63	86	1875	2024	10	-	-	34
Scarborough	-	469	27	88	1847	1962	4	-	1	27
Selby	-	45	29	35	560	624	2	-	-	23
SOUTH YORKSHIRE										
Barnsley	-	23	13	28	627	668	4	-	-	18
Doncaster	-	50	28	33	729	790	4	-	-	46
Rotherham	-	37	16	39	469	524	5	-	-	28
Sheffield	-	45	5	64	1089	1158	11	-	-	38
WEST YORKSHIRE										
Bradford	1	192	21	76	2194	2291	14	1	-	59
Calderdale	-	33	16	110	1998	2124	6	-	-	20
Kirklees	-	22	10	68	2936	3014	4	-	-	59
Leeds	-	54	46	102	2191	2339	13	-	-	77
Wakefield	-	22	25	57	658	740	4	-	-	29
TOTAL	2	2621	689	1515	29227	31,431	119	7	1	890

Note 1: The numbers listed under each local authority may not equal the totals as some assets are shared across authorities and therefore may be listed more than once. Note 2: Conservation Area total does not match local authority data as some include areas within National Parks. (North York Moors National Park, Yorkshire Dales National Park and Peak District National Park)

Understanding the Assets

The table above shows the total number of each asset type for each local authority in Yorkshire and Humber.

Caring and Sharing

The number of planning applications being decided in Yorkshire and Humber is down by 4.6% on last year, reflecting the continued national trend of decline.

Interestingly, Conservation Area Consent decisions have increased by 11% in Yorkshire and Humber; significantly more than the national increase of 1.62%. While Listed Building Consents are also down across the locality by 4.5%, Bradford, Kirklees and Leeds have seen upturns since last year.

In 2012/13, over 120 assets have been removed from the Risk Register in Yorkshire and Humber; including 96

scheduled monuments. Environmental Stewardship Schemes managed for DEFRA by Natural England have helped to deliver significant reductions in Scheduled Monuments at Risk, particularly in the East Riding. The current programme of schemes expires in December 2013. Proposals are in hand for a follow-up although new scheme agreements will not start in earnest until January 2016. A handful of



A volunteer using a tablet to record the condition of Grade II listed buildings in the North York Moors

very high priority expiring agreements will be renewed in 2014 into HLS to ensure previous environmental gains are not lost. It is currently hoped that historic environment benefit will continue.

Three pilots for a national project to explore new methods of surveying Grade II-listed buildings at risk took place in Yorkshire this year. The schemes in the North York Moors, Kirkstiles and Leeds relied on volunteers' commitment and skills. The North York Moors National Park Authority was the only organisation piloting software to help with survey work with volunteers using computer tablets to record data and take photographs on site.

The Heritage Lottery Fund has played a huge role in supporting Yorkshire heritage investing almost £30m during 2012/13.

Using and Benefiting

Nationally, participation in the historic environment in 2012 had declined slightly but Yorkshire and Humber bucked that trend with 3.6% more adults visiting a historic place than the previous year. More people from lower socio-economic groups in Yorkshire and Humber have visited a historic site (+2.7% on last year) and Heritage Open Days, where sites not normally open to the public are made accessible, remain very popular with Yorkshire and Humber hosting 450 in 2012. Disappointingly, educational visits and Discovery visits are the lowest on record nationally with a 90% fall in Discovery visits since 2008/09. Both national declines may be affected by the wet summer in 2012 and high levels of engagement in the activities around the Olympic Games.

More recent evidence shows record visitor numbers at English Heritage sites in August 2013, up 20% on last year.

Volunteers remain a vital contributor to the historic environment bringing much needed skills and resource. National Trust volunteers in Yorkshire and Humber have risen to 3915 and nationally reached a record 70,000 in September 2013. This increase may be a legacy of the exposure that volunteering had through Olympic and Paralympic Games Makers.

KEY POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

The National Planning Policy Framework has been in place for over a year now and the new streamlined planning practice guidance was launched online for testing in August 2013. This year English Heritage published 'Constructive Conservation – Sustainable Growth for Historic Places' to demonstrate how conservation-led developments have delivered real economic benefits across the country. The approach promotes repair and adaptation of existing building stock in a way that contributes to economic recovery and is inherently sustainable.

The state of the economy continues to influence policy matters in the historic environment. Local authorities face further budget cuts and headcounts of conservation and archaeology staff continue to fall nationally. Planning application decisions made in Yorkshire and Humber are also still on the decline reflecting the national trend, with a 36% decline since 2002/03.

Despite challenges for the property industry operating in the current economic climate and the strains that local authorities are facing, Yorkshire and Humber has had cause to celebrate excellence in new heritage developments

over the last year with a number of significant projects standing out alongside other non-heritage schemes. The redevelopment of the Grade II* listed West Offices in York for council offices and a customer care centre won 'Project of the Year' at 2013 RICS Pro-Yorkshire Awards. Bradford City Park, a six-acre public space beside the impressive Grade I listed City Hall was awarded RTPI Yorkshire Planning Excellence Award. The refurbishment of Park Hill Flats in Sheffield won three RIBA regional awards and was shortlisted for the 2013 Stirling Prize.

Looking ahead to 2014, Yorkshire will be hosting Le Grand Depart for the Tour de France and the Heritage Sector will undoubtedly be keen to ensure the historic environment is at its best when the world's spotlight shines on the region.



Heritage Counts 2013 has been produced by English Heritage on behalf of the Yorkshire and Humber Historic Environment Forum:

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