

HERITAGE COUNTS 2012

EAST MIDLANDS

Heritage Counts 2012 is the eleventh 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 resilience 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. This includes asset data, funding information, employment numbers and visitor figures. Many of these indicators were first reported in 2002, so this year also marks 10 years of Heritage Counts indicators. Further analysis has been carried out on some of the key indicators to identify changes and trends in the last ten years.

HERITAGE AND RESILIENCE

This year, Heritage Counts focuses on resilience: the ability of heritage organisations to cope with issues that affect them. Although prompted by the current economic climate, the research found that the resilience evident in the organisations studied predates the current difficulties, suggesting that resilient organisations have a long history of change and adaptation. The research identified barriers to resilience which might make it difficult for organisations to adapt to a changing climate. It looks at a sample of heritage organisations that have adapted in a range of ways, and identifies how these changes can be applied across other organisations in the sector. Please see the national Heritage Counts 2012 report for more detail.

www.heritagecounts.org.uk

Understanding the Assets

The following table shows the number of designated heritage assets in the East Midlands.

Regional Assets	2012 totals
World Heritage Sites	1
Scheduled Monuments	1,518
Listed Buildings Grade I	996
Listed Buildings Grade II*	1,870
Listed Buildings Grade II	26,798
Total Listed Buildings	29,664
Registered Parks & Gardens	138
Registered Battlefields	5
Registered Wrecks	0
Conservation Areas	1,103

Ten years on from the first Heritage Counts for the East Midlands, this summary takes the opportunity to examine some trends in the data.

Caring and Sharing

In the ten years since 2002/03 the rate of development, measured by the number of planning application decisions, rose to a peak in 2004/05 in both the East Midlands and nationwide. It has declined each year since then, except for a slight uplift in 2010/11. Between 2002/03 and 2011/12 the number of planning applications decided fell by 35%. For listed building consents, however, the number of decisions fell by only 17%, and for conservation area consents 11%.

There were more local authority Heritage Champions at the end of 2011/12 than in any previous year, with 37 of the 46 authorities of the East Midlands making such an appointment.

The year 2011/12 was a good one for funding in the East Midlands. The Heritage Lottery Fund awarded more in grants than in any previous year – £24m, up from £9m in 2011. English Heritage's grant spend of £3.1m in the East Midlands was also more than any of the previous nine years, though nationally its expenditure fell over that period by 27%. In the last three years the total amount of English Heritage's grant offers in the

East Midlands has decreased from £3.3m to £1.4m. Under Natural England's Environmental Stewardship scheme £11m was spent on options to benefit the historic environment in the region between January 2005 and May 2012.

Using and Benefiting

According to Visit England, the number of visitors to historic properties in the East Midlands has risen by 45% since 2000, an increase reflected particularly in the number of visitors to properties belonging to the National Trust.

English Heritage membership in the East Midlands has increased by 30% since 2006/07 and now stands at roughly 60,000. National Trust membership figures for the Midlands as a whole, have increased by 16% in that time to around 691,000.

Educational visits to English Heritage properties have increased by 36% since 2002, with 19,000 such visitors in 2011/12.

Resilience: Hodsock Priory

Like many historic houses, Hodsock Priory in Nottinghamshire is diversifying its business to secure its future. The estate requires constant upkeep, and the Grade I listed gatehouse has been on the Heritage at Risk register since 2009 owing to the need for repairs. After being traditionally run as a farm, wider economic opportunities offered by the 800-acre estate are now being pursued.

The gardens have been open each February for the last 20 years for the annual display of snowdrops, and the estate participates in the Higher Level Stewardship scheme. Having taken on the running of the family home,

Hodsock Priory has adopted a theme of 'Secluded Splendour' for its marketing.



George Buchanan is drawing on his experience in theatre management to diversify the Priory's income streams.

Hodsock now hosts civil ceremonies and offers guests and other visitors bed and breakfast accommodation in a new 'Courtyard' development. Income from weddings already equals that from farming, and there are plans to expand the number of weddings to more than 50 a year, and to host business meetings. An events programme will help spread the word about the facilities the Priory has to offer.

Already George is planning ahead, with ideas for a new Board structure to draw in wider expertise and safeguard this historic place for future generations.

local authorities will once again be considering how their human resources can deliver greatest value. As recognised in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the historic environment has a central role in sustainable development. This can be assisted if the overall vision for an area, and individual development decisions, benefit both from expert advice and from the skills and enthusiasm of partners.

Heritage Counts 2012 is produced by English Heritage on behalf of the East Midlands Heritage Forum, which includes representatives from the following organisations:

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, East Midlands Councils, Bishop Grosseteste University College, Lincoln, 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.



Local Authority Capacity

The provision of conservation and archaeological services by local authorities in recent years tells a particularly striking tale. The number of full-time equivalent conservation staff has fallen by over a third since 2006, in line with a national trend. Among archaeological staff there is a less marked, though still significant, fall of 15% since 2006.

The posts lost include temporary and project staff, whose numbers have been particularly vulnerable to the reduced ability of local government to provide match-funding for heritage projects. The East Midlands has seen a number of posts deleted following retirement of the post-holder, or phased retirements of staff whose working hours have

reduced. Some authorities are entering arrangements to share services across boundaries.

As well as this loss in staffing numbers, there has been a shift towards more generic posts. In some cases previously specialist posts no longer benefit from a professional conservation qualification. Specialist skills are still needed to sustain local distinctiveness and the significance of heritage assets. There is continuing demand from the owners of historic buildings for impartial advice on appropriate techniques for repair and refurbishment of historic buildings. Such technical expertise is important for safeguarding the special qualities which people value in their surroundings.

With a new finance settlement for local government in Winter 2012,

If you would like this document in a different format, please contact our Customer Services department:

Telephone: 0870 333 1181
Fax: 01793 414926
Textphone: 01793 414878
E-mail: customers@english-heritage.org.uk