

Middleport Pottery, Stoke-on-Trent

Middleport Pottery opened in Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent in 1888 and is a rare example of a site designed for the traditional production process lost or modernised at other pottery sites. It is Grade II* and was formerly owned by Burgess and Leigh as the production site for the world famous Burleigh ware.

It has been owned by Denby Pottery Ltd (DPL) since 2010 and employs up to 50 people using traditional methods. High capital repair costs had prompted the owners to consider relocating production, leaving the Middleport site at risk.

Identifying an opportunity to show how the sympathetic development of an industrial heritage site can play an important part in regeneration, the Prince's Regeneration Trust (PRT) purchased the site in 2011. With support of £ 1,567,700 from Heritage Lottery Fund, PRT restored the Middleport Pottery and provided mixed uses to give the site a sustainable future.

The rescue package included retaining DPL as principal tenant in an upgraded space, ensuring continued traditional pottery production on site, supported by funding for local workers to learn the traditional skills still used at Middleport. Redundant floor space was refurbished for use as workshops, a gallery, café, and activity space delivering an education programme for local schools, students and others with particular interests in art, design, craft and technology.

The Middleport Pottery project benefits local people in Burslem and Stoke-on-Trent in social and economic ways: valuing heritage skills and developing them, creating jobs, preserving important industrial and artistic collections and the unique Potteries built environment. Visitors now enjoy an exhibition about the history of Middleport Pottery, and tours give them an opportunity to observe first-hand the creation of a piece of Burleigh using hand-crafted, rare techniques.



2000 Kilns project at Middleport Pottery © Heritage Lottery Fund

If you require an alternative accessible version of this document (for instance in audio, Braille or large print) please contact our Customer

Services Department:

Telephone: 0370 333 1181

Fax: 01793 414926

Textphone: 0800 015 0516

E-mail: customers@english-heritage.org.uk