

## The Norfolk Monument Management Project



*Volunteers learning about medieval earthworks and condition monitoring in Thetford Forest, September 2012 © Norfolk County Council*

The Norfolk Monuments Management Project aims to promote best practice management and conservation of Norfolk's most important and best-preserved archaeological sites and ruined buildings for future generations. It started in 1990 and is a partnership between many organisations, including Norfolk County Council, Historic England, Natural England, Forestry Commission, and National Farmers Union, Country Land and Business Association and volunteers. Norfolk County Council currently funds the staff working on the project, while Historic England provides funding for most of the project grants. Earned income and grants from other organisations are sought and, where possible, are used to issue project grants.

Over the last 25 years the project has been involved with over 14,000 sites and has played a key role in ensuring heritage assets in Norfolk are under beneficial management. Its current focus is heritage at risk, including designated sites on the Heritage at Risk Register and undesignated heritage assets of high significance. For example, St Edmund's Church Southwood, where after years with no management, the project provided grant-aid to support the management of scrub and ivy. In 2013, the ruins were removed from the Heritage at Risk Register. Since 2010, 11 heritage assets have been removed from the Register.

The project has provided 865 Higher Level Stewardship consultations and secured more than £4 million of Environment Stewardship funding. The project has also supported 221 Section 17 agreements, providing over £260,000 to support beneficial management of 103 heritage assets. Over 40 volunteers have also been trained in different aspects, with volunteers carrying out over 100 condition monitoring visits out of over 2,500 visits made as part of the project.

Without the work of the project, many heritage assets would have been lost forever. A large number would have suffered from neglect or damage and many more designated assets would be on the Heritage at Risk Register. Far fewer would be in beneficial management. The project continues to be important for Norfolk County Council and its partners. A project plan covering the work of the project up to 2019 has just been completed. This focuses on reducing the risks to Norfolk's heritage assets to ensure their survival for future generations.

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