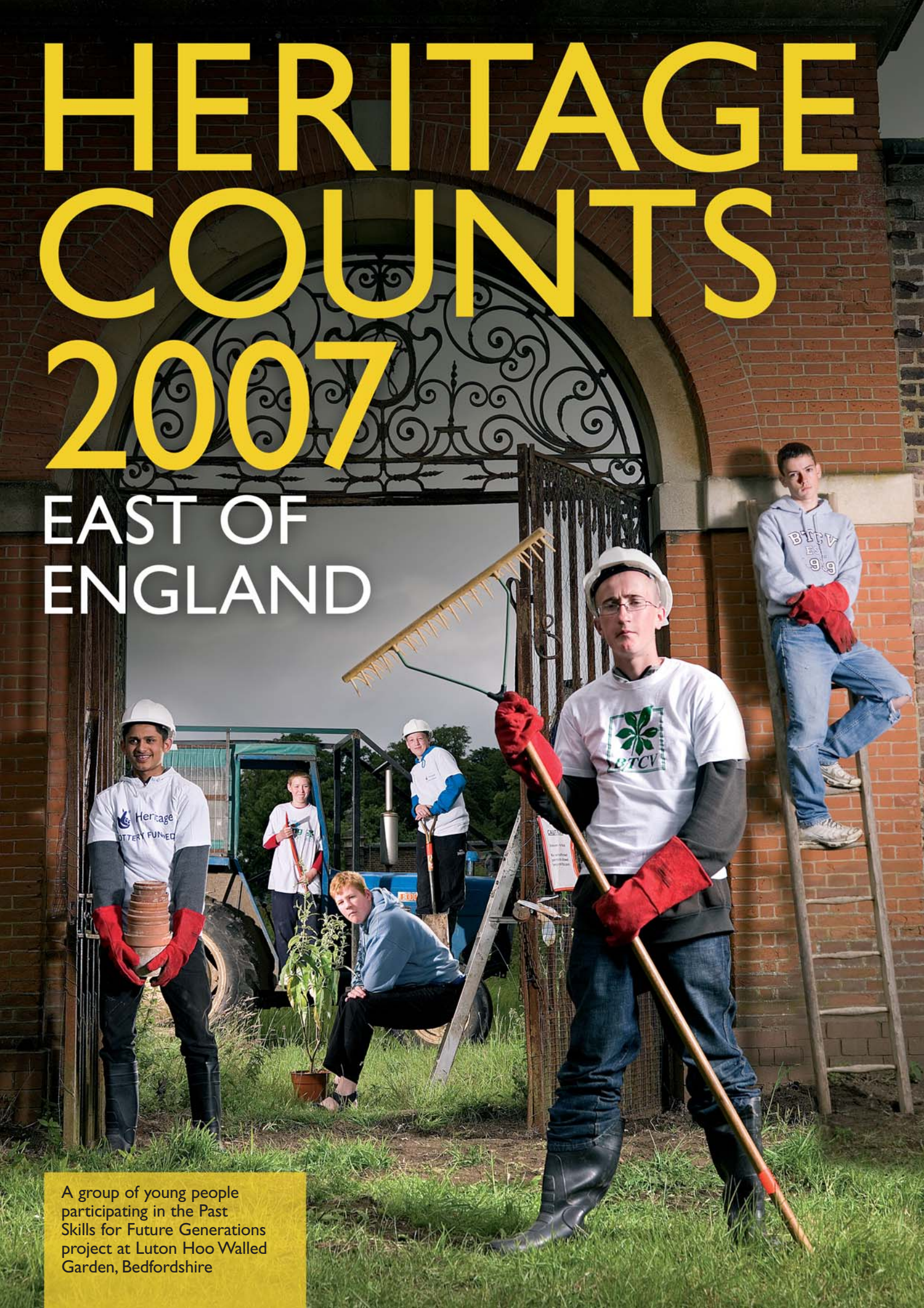


# HERITAGE COUNTS 2007

EAST OF  
ENGLAND



A group of young people participating in the Past Skills for Future Generations project at Luton Hoo Walled Garden, Bedfordshire



# HERITAGE COUNTS 2007

## EAST OF ENGLAND

*Heritage Counts 2007* is the sixth annual survey of the state of England's historic environment. The focus of the report is on the historic environment as a learning resource and on the issues faced by the sector in relation to the skills of the workforce. It is five years since the publication of the original *State of the Historic Environment Report* and this year's report also looks at some of the principal changes which have occurred in the historic environment since 2002. This report is one of nine separate regional reports and has been prepared by English Heritage on behalf of the East of England Historic Environment Forum. It should be read in conjunction with the national *Heritage Counts 2007* report, available at [www.heritagecounts.org.uk](http://www.heritagecounts.org.uk).

*Heritage Counts 2007* examines the role of heritage in developing skills and as a resource for learning in the East of England. The historic environment represents a physical link to the past that can stimulate and inspire in equal measure. Its value as a context for learning about our past is a tremendous asset. However, maintaining this resource requires the specialist skills of craftspeople and the commitment of skills providers such as colleges to ensure those skills are sustained. *Heritage Counts* looks at the way in which the skills and heritage sectors overlap and how they can help each other.

GREG LUTON  
CHAIR OF THE EAST OF ENGLAND HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FORUM

The bicentenary of the abolition of the slave trade was commemorated in 2007. Thomas Clarkson, a leading abolitionist, came from Wisbech in Cambridgeshire and a memorial to his memory was erected there in 1882. The memorial is a Grade II\* listed building that was added to the Buildings at Risk Register in 2007. English Heritage has recently awarded a grant towards the costs of a condition survey, which it is hoped will lead to a full restoration of the monument.



# KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE REGION

- Putting the historic environment at the heart of a reformed planning system.

The historic environment sector would stress the need for a fourth principle:

- A system that is adequately resourced at every level.

## The Planning White Paper

The Department for Communities and Local Government published its White Paper *Planning for a Sustainable Future* in May 2007. Along with its four associated consultation papers, it addressed two key sets of issues:

- Improving the way nationally significant **infrastructure projects** are dealt with through a three stage process, involving *national policy statements* drawn up by Ministers, an *improved application process* to help developers improve their proposals and an *independent commission* to take decisions on major projects. The reforms are designed to speed up the decision making process while providing better opportunities for public engagement. At each stage the historic environment sector will need to make its voice heard.

- Improving the **town and country planning** system, speeding it up and making it more efficient by, for example, allowing households greater flexibility to make minor extensions to their homes. The detail of a number of changes remains to be developed following consultation, including the proposal to replace the 'need test' with a new test that would aim to strengthen the '*town centre first*' policy in relation to retail development while continuing to promote competition and consumer choice.

## Heritage Protection Reform

The Government launched its White Paper on Heritage Protection Reform in March 2007 following four years of review, consultation and testing. The White Paper includes proposals for a unified register of historic sites and buildings for England, a unified consents regime, the introduction of statutory management agreements and new statutory requirements relating to Historic Environment Records. For suitable sites, a new Heritage Partnership Agreement (HPA) between owners, managers, local authorities and, where appropriate, English Heritage will cut time-consuming consent administration and encourage strategic management of large sites. The pilot HPA for the University of East Anglia has now been adopted by Norwich City Council and is already saving the University's estate management a considerable amount of time and money.

The DCMS identified three core principles underpinning the reforms:

- A unified heritage protection system that is easy to understand and to use;
- A system that engages the public on protection decisions and provides wide opportunities for involvement for individuals, owners and community groups;



Aerial view of the University of East Anglia, Norwich

## Strong and prosperous communities – The Local Government White Paper

Published in October 2006, the Government's proposals for local government reform were less radical than anticipated. Local authorities in two-tier areas were invited to make proposals to move to new unitary structures. In two-tier areas, archaeological services are typically located at county level and districts employ conservation specialists, so any changes would have important consequences for the delivery of local historic environment services.

In July 2007, the Government announced that it intended to establish the following unitary authorities in the East of England:

- Bedford Borough Council – for a unitary Bedford;
- Ipswich Borough Council – for a unitary Ipswich.

The Government asked the councils to undertake further work and submit additional information on the financial viability of their proposals.

Where two-tier areas remain, county and district councils will be expected to work better together, which implies that local historic environment services would be expected to work more effectively across boundaries.

### Growth Areas and Growth Points

Over 500,000 new houses in the region are planned by 2021. Three of the Government's four Growth Areas in England affect the region and much of the housing growth will be concentrated within these:

- Thames Gateway (which includes Thurrock, part of Basildon, the boroughs of Castle Point and Southend, and a small part of Rochford);
- London–Stansted–Cambridge–Peterborough;
- Milton Keynes–South Midlands (which includes Luton, Dunstable, Houghton Regis and Bedford).

In addition, the New Growth Points (NGP) initiative is designed to provide support to local authorities who wish to pursue large scale and sustainable growth, including new housing, through a long-term partnership with Government. There are three NGP partners in the region: Haven Gateway, Norwich and Thetford. The East of England was awarded about one-fifth of the total funding for New Growth Points in 2007/08, the highest proportion in England.

The growth agenda will have a major impact on the historic environment sector, which will be working with local and regional planning authorities to ensure that the conservation and re-use of historic buildings and landscapes form part of sustainable development in the East of England. Managing change to the historic environment is part of the wider issue of developing new and existing communities in the region.



Cambridge city centre. Cambridge is part of the London-Stansted-Cambridge-Peterborough growth area.

### East of England Plan

The Government is expected to publish the final East of England Plan towards the end of 2007, following a consultation on its proposed modifications. The Government endorsed many of the recommendations of the Panel of the East of England Plan Examination in Public, while setting a less radical agenda for transport and identifying some additional locations for growth, particularly in Hertfordshire. Reconciling the agendas of growth and the environment and climate change is recognized as a key issue for the region. The draft Plan contains important policies on the historic environment, stating that planning authorities and other agencies should identify, protect, conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment of the region, its archaeology, historic buildings and historic landscapes. It identifies many significant historic features and sites in the East of England, including:

- The historic cities of Cambridge and Norwich;
- An exceptional network of historic market towns;
- The highly distinctive coastal zone including extensive submerged prehistoric landscapes, coastal fortifications, ancient ports and traditional seaside resorts;
- Formal planned settlements of the early twentieth century, including the early garden cities.



# SKILLS SHORTAGES AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

The historic environment needs a workforce with a wide range of skills in order to function effectively. There have been long-standing concerns that recruitment difficulties resulting from *skill shortages* are a major problem, particularly in relation to some traditional rural and building craft skills. However, this is also an issue for transport and industrial heritage organisations. Skills shortages in the heritage sector impact on tourism and the regional economy. Meanwhile *skills gaps* amongst existing staff, for example those working in local authority historic environment services or as volunteers (and their managers) in the sector, have also received attention.

In 2005, the National Heritage Training Group (NHTG) published research that identified the skills shortages and gaps in the built heritage sector in England. This examined the problems that exist in relation to traditional craft building skills. Skills shortages were identified in a number of trades in the East of England, including: carpentry, brickwork, roofing (slate and tile), thatching, joinery and wheelwrighting. A follow up survey will be completed by 2008 to monitor changes. An East of England heritage skills action group was established in May 2007 to examine the best ways to promote traditional building craft skills in the region. The group includes representatives from ConstructionSkills (the Sector Skills Council for construction), English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund. Although it has taken time to establish this group, other initiatives to promote the skills agenda in the region have been taking place in recent years.

The heritage sector's response to skills shortages takes place against the background of constant change in the Government's approach to skills policy. In 2006, the Leitch Review of Skills examined the long-term skills needs of the UK economy. The Review suggested a much greater role for employer-led Sector Skills Councils in relation to adult skills policy. The heritage sector, the relevant Sector Skills Councils, and the Government face the challenge of addressing the current failures in training and ensuring that a basic platform of skills for all is achieved, targeting help where it is needed most. Another issue, not examined in the Review, is how to address the skills needs of the voluntary sector.



## THE POSITION OF TRADITIONAL SKILLS IN THE EAST OF ENGLAND

A study was undertaken by Museums, Libraries and Archives (MLA) East of England in Spring 2007 to examine the loss of traditional rural, maritime, transport, industrial and building skills in the region. It is expected to confirm evidence of a significant decline in traditional and conservation skills capacity, training provider capability and commitment over the last ten years. Changes in society have meant that the passing on of skills from generation to generation has diminished. This is now affecting the extent to which rural and maritime museum collections can be exhibited, interpreted, operated or conserved. Ultimately, this could affect visitor numbers and impact on tourism. The study is likely to recommend that English Heritage, MLA East of England and the National Trust work together and combine resources and advocacy as a traditional skills confederation. This would aim to influence providers, employers, volunteer activity and funding in the light of the Government's new skills priorities.

While the regional economy may be booming, many farmers are struggling to make a living and are looking for ways to diversify and supplement their incomes. ADER (Agricultural Development in the Eastern Region) was formed as a collaborative project of the six regional agricultural colleges and has attracted some £3 million in funding from the East of England Development Agency (EEDA) in its six years of operation, engaging with over 6,000 members of the farming community through its county-based team of qualified advisers to provide advice and support. In 2004/05, ADER ran a pilot Heritage Crafts training programme for 12 farmers on traditional timber frame construction. The pilot was a success and demonstrated the demand for heritage craft training in the region. This could form the basis for a wider training programme in the future, possibly linking with the regional heritage skills action group.



## NATIONAL AVIATION HERITAGE SKILLS INITIATIVE, DUXFORD, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

The project is being led by the British Aviation Preservation Council in partnership with the Imperial War Museum at Duxford. A project grant of £569,500 from the Heritage Lottery Fund has funded the development and delivery of a comprehensive national programme of training in aviation heritage conservation and other relevant skills for volunteers.

Over 2,000 volunteers are engaged nationally in the conservation of aviation heritage. Whilst many volunteers have experience in maintenance skills that were developed in the armed forces or the aviation industry, few were trained in conservations skills or the approaches necessary to conserve and manage an historic collection. The project has addressed these issues by creating the first accredited training courses in relevant skills such as corrosion treatments, sheet metal repair and condition monitoring. Although based at Duxford for administration purposes, the 5-year training programme is being implemented through training courses across the country. This is enabling 650 volunteers to receive direct training, with the benefits extending to all as a result of shared knowledge and improvements in working practices.



## ICON NEW ROUTES INTO CONSERVATION THROUGH WORK-BASED LEARNING

The Institute of Conservation (ICON) is delivering a new internship scheme in conservation, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, which offers new opportunities for those without conventional conservation training to enter the workforce. ICON offers 12-16 work-based internships each year as part of a 4-year scheme. It also helps to bridge the difficult gap between training and first job for new conservation graduates. This internship scheme will tackle the shortage of practical and preventive conservation skills across the UK and increase the number of trained conservators and conservation scientists. More better-trained practitioners will improve the condition of collections, sites and monuments and make them more accessible to the public.

Suzanne Hill enrolled on the scheme to start an internship in natural history conservation at Ipswich Museum. She joined the scheme after gaining work experience in 2006 as a volunteer with Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich Museum and at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter.

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) is providing funding to a partnership of English Heritage, The National Trust, Cadw (the Welsh Assembly Government's historic environment division), ConstructionSkills and the National Heritage Training Group to establish and deliver a £1 million Traditional Building Skills Bursary Scheme. The bursary scheme will run until 2010 and aims to provide a minimum of 80 bursary placements, which will be initially distributed between the nine English regions and Wales. The aims of the scheme are: to address some of the currently recognised skills shortages and gaps within the traditional crafts and built heritage sector; to build diversity in the workforce; and to encourage applications from people who are currently under represented in the workforce.

Funding will be available to help craftspeople, trainees and career changers gain valuable work-based training, develop existing skills or improve their knowledge and experience of conservation and repair of historic buildings, structures or sites. In the East of England the scheme will focus on skills shortages identified in the NHTG research published in 2005.



## LEARNING ON THE JOB IN LONG MELFORD, SUFFOLK

Specialised companies and individuals are a vital source of the traditional skills needed to maintain and restore historic buildings in the region.

Cubitt Theobald Ltd, a family business based in Long Melford, Suffolk, runs a three-year apprenticeship programme to ensure a constant supply of people with traditional skills. "We bring two or three 16 year olds into the company every year", says George Cubitt. "They gain practical experience with us and at the same time study for an NVQ at college. We find it hard to recruit people with traditional skills directly, so we rely on our own training programme."

Harry Taylor has worked for the company for almost 50 years: "We need to inspire young people to help look after our heritage with enthusiasm and care. The best way to learn is on the job – that way you develop a good understanding of historic buildings and how to look after them."





## TRADITIONAL BUILDING SKILLS COURSES, CRESSING TEMPLE, ESSEX

Since 1997 the Historic Buildings and Conservation team at Essex County Council have run a series of short hands-on courses in traditional building skills. The courses aim to address the declining numbers of people trained in traditional craft skills and to raise awareness of the importance of protecting historic buildings by using the appropriate methods and materials to repair and conserve them.

Most courses are run from the Council's workshop at Cressing Temple. The tutors are all excellent craftspeople, who run their own businesses using their skills every day and have a wealth of experience and knowledge. People attending the courses include owners of historic buildings, practising craftsmen who want to specialise in traditional repairs, and general builders and contractors as well as interested amateurs. Courses are open to all skill levels unless specified otherwise.

## PAST SKILLS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS PROJECT, LUTON HOO WALLED GARDEN, BEDFORDSHIRE

A small group of young people aged 11-16 receiving alternative education provision, under the care of Luton Borough Council, are working with the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) and English Heritage to develop skills in conservation, horticulture and heritage crafts. Following a successful pilot project at Luton Hoo Walled Garden (featured in *Heritage Counts 2006*), the project has been expanded with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to include additional courses and more students.

Students are offered National Council for Further Education (NCFE) accredited short courses in practical conservation and horticultural skills. Courses include: coppicing, scrub clearance, tree felling with hand tools, hedge planting, garden design and orchard management. New courses will be offered in organic food growing and craft skills such as fencing and hurdling as well as butterfly identification. Regular taster sessions are run for young people interested in joining the existing team of volunteers, who provide a mentoring role for new students. The intention is that some students will progress from the project to study for further qualifications in horticulture, craft or construction skills.

## REEDS, SEDGE, FENS AND MILLS: HLF BURSARY TRAINING SCHEME

The Heritage Lottery Fund has given a grant of £714,500 from its Bursary Training Scheme to the Broads Authority towards the costs of training people in traditional rural craft skills. In the early 1900s there were approximately 120 reed and sedge cutters in the Broads area. By 2006, there were only 17 left and their skills were at serious risk of dying out. In 2006/07, five trainees were recruited to learn traditional reed and sedge cutting skills on the Broads over 18 months. Another five trainees will be recruited in 2008. Their work has involved commercial reed and sedge cutting, reed bed restoration, conservation work and the maintenance of dykes and waterways.

The Broads currently has 74 remaining drainage mills, with only 3 millwrights in East Anglia. There is a five-year waiting list for work to be done and this could lead to potential losses of mills already in a critical condition. With support from the HLF Bursary Training Scheme, the Broads Authority has recruited five millwright trainees to learn about traditional mill restoration, conservation and maintenance skills over 36 months. This training will include lime mortaring, brickwork techniques and working with green wood. Both the reed and sedge cutters and the millwright trainees are studying for appropriate qualifications, including NVQs.



# LEARNING

The historic environment presents a rich resource for lifelong learning. The Government has indicated its enthusiasm for fostering more learning outside the classroom and using the built environment more effectively for learning. Its biggest priority is to increase participation in education and training post-16, a key means for which is to make the curriculum more interesting and relevant for the 14-19 age group. The number of schoolchildren visiting historic sites has remained constant and history remains one of the most popular GCSE subjects. There are many examples of historic sites being used more creatively for learning, but the sector faces the challenge of evaluating how these experiences impact on young people's attitudes and behaviour, skills and knowledge and their choices.

The historic environment has always stressed its relevance across the curriculum, not just in history, but in geography, science, art and design, design and technology, religious education, the core subjects of English, mathematics and ICT and more recently the citizenship curriculum. The secondary curriculum review proposes changes to programmes of study at Key Stage 3 (11-14 year olds) from September 2008 that seek to encourage field trips and study outside the classroom to help pupils understand how subjects are related to the outside world. In history, this should mean offering pupils opportunities to undertake visits, where possible, to museums, archives and historic sites with an aim of engaging pupils' interests so they continue visiting and using them in their lives beyond school. Religious education should offer opportunities, where possible, to visit places of major religious significance.

The historic environment also has an important role in promoting informal learning through volunteering, including opportunities for people to develop education and interpretation skills. This can include people helping to maintain and open historic sites or sharing their knowledge for the benefit of the wider community.



## SCHOOL ARTS PARTNERSHIP AT SUTTON HOO, SUFFOLK

The Anglo-Saxon burial grounds at Sutton Hoo provide an inspiring outdoor classroom for thousands of children every year. In 2007, two schools from very different backgrounds came together to create original sculptures for the children's play area.

Sixty young people from Rendlesham Community Primary School, a new school in a rural area, and Gusford Primary School in the centre of Ipswich, worked with local sculptor Jenny Hall and National Trust staff and volunteers over the course of several visits.

Using the Sutton Hoo exhibition as their inspiration, the children made drawings and then transformed them into concrete sculptures. Working together, they made new friends and learnt from each other. Each group took a sculpture back to their school as a reminder of the partnership project.

The National Trust School Arts Partnership programme offers opportunities for schools of contrasting backgrounds to work together on curriculum-based activities at National Trust properties. Through sharing ideas and skills, pupils from urban and rural schools combine to produce exhibitions, events and performances that are held at the Trust venue. Their work is enjoyed by other pupils, teachers, families and members of the public.





## COMING TO IPSWICH, SUFFOLK

The Coming to Ipswich project encouraged people from a diverse range of community groups to explore their history in the context of how and when they came to be living in Ipswich. The project helped participants to capture and present their stories in a range of different ways through workshops and mentoring. It was a partnership between Ipswich Museum's Community Studies Project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, and English Heritage. Project partners included the Refugee Council's International Women's Group, Suffolk Interfaith Resource, Stoke Green Baptist Church, Hillside Community Primary School, Broke Hall County Primary School and members of the Ipswich Caribbean community.

Pupils from Broke Hall County Primary School worked with a curator, designer and outreach officer to explore some of Ipswich Museum's stored collections and selected items that had come to Ipswich from countries around the world for display.

An exhibition showcasing work of the participating groups was held in Ipswich Town Hall between June and September 2007, incorporating images and impressions on the theme of Coming to Ipswich past and present. The exhibition continued to develop and evolve after opening by inviting involvement from a wider audience, including long-standing and established communities as well as refugees and recent immigrants to Ipswich.

## NEW APPROACHES TO LEARNING AT ENGLISH HERITAGE PROPERTIES

Tilbury Fort is one of many English Heritage sites where staff have volunteered to deliver Discovery Visits to schools. Using site staff to devise and lead these sessions gives pupils access to expert knowledge in a fun, interactive way that will enhance their learning experience. Whilst staff at Tilbury Fort have years of experience guiding visitors around the Fort, they have not necessarily worked with school groups. As part of their training, they have been working with the Education Manager to develop a good understanding of the National Curriculum and the types of activities that suit different learning styles. Training will be ongoing for all staff running Discovery Visits through the Education Manager, specialist education freelancers or site visits.

Great Yarmouth Row Houses is one of seven sites across England selected to pilot a new Education Volunteer initiative. Two volunteers have been recruited to promote the site to schools and to consider potential future on-site activities. A volunteer training day, organised by the Education Volunteer Manager, has provided them with an introduction to learning at English Heritage. Site staff are supporting them as they find their way around and learn the history of the site. The volunteers will also need to work alongside staff in the Learning Department to gain a better understanding of the National Curriculum, teachers' needs and what makes a successful on-site activity. It is hoped the role will give the volunteers the opportunity to utilise their skills and experience in a new and exciting way, and provide them with the chance to do something different.



## ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL EDUCATION CENTRE, HERTFORDSHIRE

St Albans Cathedral Education Centre has a reputation for being a leader in the field of heritage education. Each year the Cathedral welcomes 16,000 school children, who participate in a variety of trails and workshops that complement the National Curriculum. The Education team works with children of all ages, faiths and abilities and offers them a truly memorable educational experience.

Using role-play, costume, objects and the building itself, pupils encounter the stories of St Albans Cathedral and learn in new, inspiring ways. They may become humble monks or powerful bishops, silent Victorian children, Roman soldiers far from home or pilgrims at the end of a long journey. Among recent special events are 'A Place For Poetry', inviting Year 6 pupils to the Cathedral to write poetry inspired by the building and its history, and the annual Sixth Form Conference where over 600 students assemble in the nave to debate current issues with a platform of high profile speakers.

## KEY INDICATORS

This section summarises some of the important trends in key indicators of the state of the historic environment in the East of England. In most cases the baseline data is from 2002. For a more detailed breakdown and analysis of regional indicators and annual data for the historic environment, please see the East of England web report on [www.heritagecounts.org.uk](http://www.heritagecounts.org.uk)

### HISTORIC ASSETS

- The region had 57,623 **listed buildings** in April 2007 (15% of the total for England). There were 1,741 listed Grade I and 3,421 listed Grade II\* (17% of the national total).
- The number of listed buildings in the East of England has increased by 246 (0.4%) since 2002.
- There were 1,725 **scheduled ancient monuments** recorded in the region in April 2007 (about 9% of the total for England).
- The number of monuments in the East of England has increased by 86 (5%) since 2002, the largest increase of any English region.
- The East of England had 209 **listed parks and gardens** in 2007. This is an increase of 9 on the 2002 total. The East of England has the third highest total of listed parks and gardens in England.
- The East of England has one of England's 43 **registered historic battlefields**, at Maldon in Essex.
- English Heritage's **Register of Buildings at Risk** in 2007 recorded 115 entries of Grade I and II\* buildings and structural Scheduled Ancient Monuments at risk through neglect or decay in the East of England.
- Forty-eight (44%) of the 108 entries that were included on the baseline 1999 Register have now been removed.
- The percentage of Grade I and Grade II\* buildings at risk in the East of England was 1.7% in 2007, the same percentage as in 1999.
- The East of England has the lowest proportion of Grade I and II\* buildings at risk of any region.

### MANAGING THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

- 70,628 **planning applications** were decided in the East of England in 2006/07 (12% of the national total). This is an increase of about 4% on the 2001/02 total.
- 4,525 **applications for listed building consent** were decided in 2006/07, a decrease of about 2% on 2001/02.
- 436 **conservation area consent applications** were determined in 2006/07, an increase of 43% on 2001/02.
- 138 **scheduled monument consent decisions** were made in 2006/07, an increase of 47% on 2001/02.
- 82 **planning applications affecting registered parks and gardens** were received by the Garden History Society in 2006/07, a decrease of one-third on 2003/04.
- **Historic Environment Champions** provide leadership for heritage issues within their local authority. As of 31st July 2007, there were 23 champions in the East of England, representing 43% of the local authorities in the region.

### FUNDING

- The **Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)** is the main source of public funding for the historic environment in the UK. In the East of England, the HLF awarded 2,892 grants between 1994 and 2007 to the value of £244 million.
- **English Heritage East of England grants, 2006/07:**
  - Places of worship = £2.825 million (joint grant scheme with the Heritage Lottery Fund)
  - Secular buildings and monuments = £0.750 million
  - Regional capacity building = £0.065 million
  - Total regional grants = £3.640 million**
- Since 2003, the **East of England Development Agency (EEDA)** has contributed £16.8 million to heritage or historic environment projects.

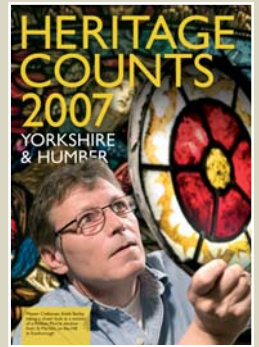
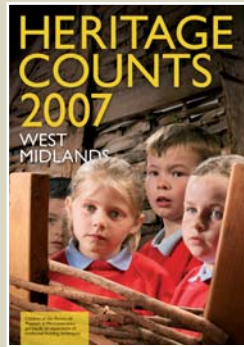
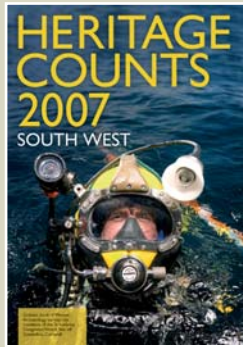
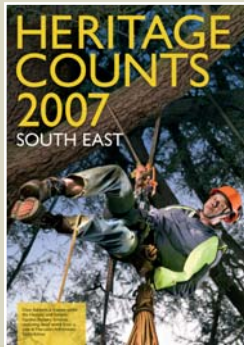
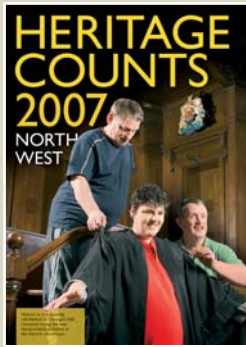
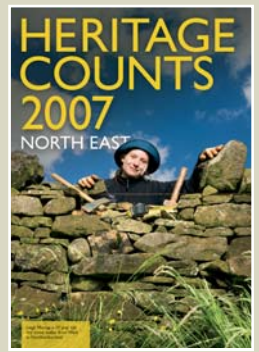
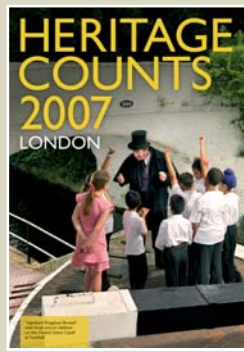
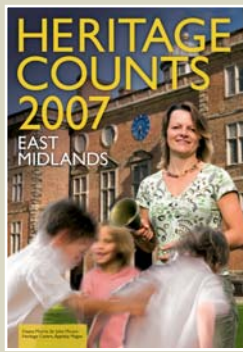
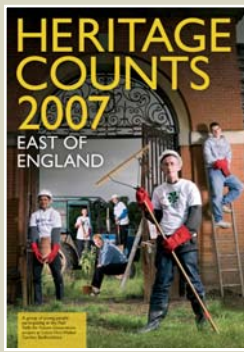
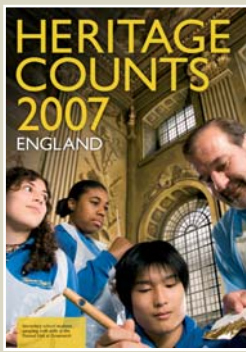


## PARTICIPATION

- Based on the Taking Part survey from June 2005 to December 2006, about **73% of adults had attended at least one historic environment site in the East of England** during the past 12 months. This is one of the highest participation rates in England.
- The **VisitBritain Survey of Visits to Visitor Attractions 2006** found that there were 3.9 million visits to historic properties in the East of England. These figures are a significant underestimate, because they do not cover all historic sites or visitors to special events or free sites.
- The VisitBritain survey suggests that between 2000/01 and 2005/06, visitor numbers in the East of England fell by 13%, which would be the greatest decrease in England.
- The region's historic houses attracted 1.4 million visitors and 0.8 million people visited places of worship.
- There were 1,226,093 visits made to the sites of members belonging to the **Historic Houses Association** in 2006.
- In 2006/07, **English Heritage** had 630,000 members nationally. Around 13% of these were in the East of England, which would equate to about 81,000 members in the region. The East of England has more members than any other region except the South East. The proportion of members in each region has remained relatively unchanged over the past three years.
- In February 2007, there were 341,076 **National Trust** members in the region and almost 5,000 volunteers.

## LEARNING

- In the East of England, **17,682 free educational visits were made to English Heritage sites in 2006/07**. Educational visits are made by schools and also by higher education institutions and groups of young and adult informal learners.
- There were **52,836 educational visits to National Trust properties** in the region in 2006/07, the third highest of all the English regions. There has been a 9% increase in visits since 2002/03.
- Seventeen of the 73 Historic Houses Association open houses in the East of England had a formal education programme in 2006.



*Heritage Counts 2007* is produced by English Heritage on behalf of the East of England Historic Environment Forum:

- Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers
- Campaign to Protect Rural England
- Civic Trust
- East of England Development Agency
- East of England Tourism
- English Heritage
- Government Office for the East of England
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- Historic Houses Association
- Institute for Historic Building Conservation
- Museums, Libraries and Archives Council East of England
- National Trust

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