

HERITAGE COUNTS 2011

YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER

Heritage Counts 2011 is the tenth annual survey of the state of England's historic environment. It is prepared by English Heritage on behalf of Yorkshire and the Humber Historic Environment Forum. This year the theme for Heritage Counts is the role of the historic environment in strengthening civil society. 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 the Humber, including asset data, funding information, employment numbers and visitor figures. www.heritagecounts.org.uk

THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AND BIG SOCIETY

New research shows that the historic environment can provide the context and means for people to get involved in their local areas. Heritage groups are an important source for community input into shaping areas, with 85% of civic societies responding to planning applications. They also provide opportunities for people to take part in their community, with 50% of The Heritage Alliance members offering volunteering opportunities. To encourage more people to play a part in their local heritage, Heritage Counts presents a checklist which local heritage groups can use to widen and strengthen community involvement in their projects and groups. Please see the national Heritage Counts report for more detail. www.heritagecounts.org.uk

KEY POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

LOCALISM BILL

The Government has promised to radically reform the planning system to give communities a greater say in determining the shape of their neighbourhoods.

The Localism Bill was published late last year and is currently being considered by the House of Lords. The Bill devolves greater powers to councils and neighbourhoods and gives local communities more control over housing and planning decisions. Some of the proposed measures, such as the community right to buy and right to challenge and the strengthening of local authority enforcement powers could bring positive benefits for the historic environment. However, the overall impact is currently difficult to gauge as much depends on the content of the regulations that will make the neighbourhood planning process work.

NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

An important step in the Government's proposals is a simplified planning system; all existing planning policy, including *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the*

Historic Environment, will be replaced by a much shorter National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The draft NPPF was issued by Government in July and the consultation will close on 17 October.

HERITAGE PROTECTION REFORM

English Heritage and partners from the historic environment sector have continued to work together to implement Heritage Protection Reform. Recent achievements include:

The National Heritage List for England

This is a searchable online database which brings together information on all designated heritage assets in one place for the first time. The List is now live on the English Heritage website.

Good Practice Guidance for Local Listing

Local listing is an effective way to protect heritage assets that, whilst not meeting the requirements for statutory designation, make a valuable contribution to a community's sense of place. Draft guidance – produced by English Heritage and partners – for the identification of significant local heritage assets, and their management through a local list, was published for consultation earlier this year. The final guidance will be published in late 2011.

UNDERSTANDING THE ASSETS

www.heritagecounts.org.uk provides a comprehensive set of statistics on the historic environment in Yorkshire and the Humber. The key changes for 2010/11 are highlighted below and overleaf.

Yorkshire and the Humber 2011

World Heritage Sites	2
Scheduled monuments	2624
Listed buildings Grade I	686
Listed buildings Grade II*	1510
Listed buildings Grade II	29221
Registered parks and gardens	117
Registered battlefields	7
Protected shipwrecks	1
Designated heritage coastlines	3
Conservation areas	861

CARING AND SHARING

4.2% of high grade (grade I and II*) listed buildings were at risk in 2011, a change from 7.1% in 1999.

Since 2006, the number of scheduled monuments at risk has been reduced from 880 to 701. However, with 21% of monuments at risk, the region still has the highest proportion of monuments at risk of any region in the country.

12% of the region's 124 registered parks and gardens are at risk.

MANAGING POSITIVELY

Since 1994/1995, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has awarded grants of £364 million in Yorkshire and the Humber, representing 6% of the total HLF UK spend. This includes investment of over £144 million in historic buildings and monuments and £79 million on public parks, land and biodiversity projects.

English Heritage has paid out £20 million since 2002/3, with over £3 million in regional grants in 2010/11. (This included over £800,000 for Historic Buildings Monuments and Designed Landscapes and £1.7 million on historic places of worship).

USING AND BENEFITING

38 Historic Houses Association properties in the region were open to the public in 2010/11, providing employment for over 2,000 people.

VOLUNTEERS IN THE HERITAGE SECTOR

Voluntary activity has always been central to the historic environment, be it volunteering at sites, engaging with local history or getting involved in the planning system. This kind of activity is central to the Government's Big Society agenda, and the heritage sector has many examples of its effectiveness.

3,051 volunteers, contributing over 230,000 hours, worked at National Trust properties in Yorkshire and the North East in 2010/11.

North York Moors National Park Authority volunteers (including more than 200 Voluntary Rangers) contributed over 11,000 days in 2010/11.

Approximately 250 volunteers give the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority 6,000 days each year.

SKIPTON CIVIC SOCIETY PROJECT

A research project, led by Skipton Civic Society and supported by English Heritage, is recording the historic fabric of Skipton High Street in the Yorkshire Dales. In addition to surveying and recording the built environment, local people have provided photographs and memories to bring a new understanding and appreciation of the High Street's historic buildings and their community importance.



Skipton Town Hall. © English Heritage

A series of free information leaflets on Skipton is being produced. As there is no dedicated conservation officer for Skipton, the planning committee now has a better understanding of the significance of the historic buildings in the town.

CONISBROUGH CASTLE COMMUNITY CERAMICS VOLUNTEERING PROJECT



Volunteers at the ceramics project Conisbrough Castle. © English Heritage

Excavations at Conisbrough Castle in South Yorkshire across the last 60 years have yielded over 3,000 pottery shards. English Heritage has teamed up with Doncaster Museum and the Heritage Lottery Fund to run a volunteering project to get the local community involved with processing the ceramic material, to improve understanding of the site. The Castle has gained 29 volunteers who, to date, have contributed over 400 hours of their time.

Volunteers gained the skills and knowledge to continue to volunteer at the Castle and share their skills with others. An Open Day event held earlier this year would not have been possible without the contributions of volunteers who shared their knowledge of the collection with visiting local residents.

The majority of the ceramics processing for Conisbrough Castle is now complete and marked for safe long term storage. It is also in a suitable condition for further investigative work and to be used to assist in the interpretation of the Castle; some can now also be safely displayed.

YHHEF representative organisations:

- Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers
- British Waterways (Yorkshire)
- Yorkshire and Humber Association of Civic Societies
- Churches Regional Commission
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- York Consortium for Conservation and Craftsmanship
- Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment
- Historic Houses Association
- Council for British Archaeology (Yorkshire)
- Institute of Historic Building Conservation
- Yorkshire Gardens Trust
- Country Land and Business Association
- Natural England
- English Heritage
- Victorian Society
- The National Trust

For further information on the YHHEF, please visit www.yhhef.org.uk

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