

# HERITAGE COUNTS 2008

## EAST MIDLANDS

### 1 PRIVATE SECTOR COMES TO THE AID OF HERITAGE AT RISK ▶

Codnor Castle, Derbyshire, was constructed after the Norman Conquest of 1066. For most of the last decade the extensive ruined remains have been classified by English Heritage as being at high risk of further decay and loss. Now following the completion of coal extraction nearby, UK Coal has provided £750,000 for the consolidation of this major scheduled monument. A further £700,000 was committed to the restoration of the nearby Jessop Monument Tower and Hall, which are both important legacies of the region's remarkable industrial heritage.

This ambitious conservation project, now successfully completed, is one of the largest and most significant contributions towards meeting the challenges of *Heritage at Risk* that has ever been made by the private sector.

*The chamber block and garderobes at Codnor Castle, Derbyshire following the clearance of scrub vegetation and consolidation of the ruined remains.*



*Heritage Counts 2008* is the seventh annual survey of the state of England's historic environment. This report is one of nine separate regional reports and has been prepared by English Heritage on behalf of the East Midlands Heritage Forum. It should be read in conjunction with the national *Heritage Counts 2008* report, available at [www.heritagecounts.org.uk](http://www.heritagecounts.org.uk) where a full set of statistics relating to the historic environment in the East Midlands region can also be found.



## UNDERSTANDING THE ASSETS

### Listed Buildings

Between 2002 and 2008 the number of listed buildings in the East Midlands rose very slightly by 0.6% from 29,401 to 29,581. The region has 7.9% of England's Listed Buildings. Grade I listed buildings are well represented in the East Midlands; the region has 10.7% of England's total. The number of applications for Listed Building Consent determined in 2007/08 was 2,280, a slight fall on the previous three years.

### Scheduled Monuments

There are 1,512 Scheduled Monuments in the region, 7.7% of the national total. In 2007/08 the Department for Culture, Media and Sport determined 61 applications for Scheduled Monument Consent.

### Registered Landscapes

There are 135 Registered Parks and Gardens in the region, 8 more than in 2002. The number of planning applications received for consultation by the Garden History Society was 68 in 2007/08, higher than any of the previous four years.

-  29,581
-  1,512
-  135
-  5
-  1



### Registered Battlefields

There are five registered battlefields in the region.

### World Heritage Site

The region has one of England's 17 World Heritage Sites – Derwent Valley Mills in Derbyshire.

### Historic Landscape Characterisation

Characterisation is a tool for describing the historic character of places as they are today and how past changes have shaped their present-day appearance. In 2008 56% of the land area of the East Midlands is mapped, compared with 36% in 2002. Studies have been completed in Derby and Derbyshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland, and another is soon expected to be complete in Leicestershire. A similar project is now also underway for Lincolnshire and the city of Leicester.

## CARING AND SHARING

### English Heritage grants

In 2007/08 regional grant expenditure by English Heritage was £2,388,000. This represents a slight fall from spend in the two previous years, but allowing for inflation is similar to expenditure in 2001/02.

A substantial proportion of regional grant expenditure was to meet the nation's longstanding commitment to fund repairs for certain National Trust properties: in 2007/08 £504,000 was awarded to Hardwick Hall for this purpose.

Since 2004 English Heritage has been undertaking repairs worth £4 million to Apethorpe Hall, Northamptonshire,

a Grade I listed building of outstanding significance set within a Grade II registered garden. With the first phase of repairs complete the estate has now been offered on the market.

### Heritage Lottery Fund

Between 1993/94 and 2007/08 the East Midlands attracted 5.2% of the Heritage Lottery Fund's spending across the United Kingdom. A total of £215,536,000 was awarded in 2,735 awards, of which £95,931,000 was for historic buildings and monuments. Awards per capita were the second lowest of the English regions.

### Craft skills

In 2008 the National Heritage Training Group reported concerns about the shortage of skills in the craft sector. It found that 32% of contractors in the region contacted had outstanding vacancies, though it should be noted this was based on a very small sample. Skill shortages appear to have eased since a previous report in 2005. However it is widely recognised that the region needs more coherent provision of training and action is now being planned with training providers, funders and owners.

### Heritage Champions

As of 1 April 2008, 29 of the region's local authorities (64% of its total) had a heritage or Historic Environment Champion, compared with 20 (44%) in July 2006. By 1 July 2008 this had risen to 34 (74%).

## 2 HERITAGE AT RISK PRIZE ►

Its work on scheduled monuments at risk earned the Peak District National Park Authority the first national Heritage at Risk Prize in 2008. From having 17 sites at high risk in 2001, the number is now two. Funding from Defra's environmental stewardship scheme, and a willingness to acquire sites containing monuments at risk are among the factors which contributed to the authority's success.

*HAR Prize winners Pauline Beswick, member of the Peak District National Park Authority and Ken Smith, Cultural Heritage Manager, receive the 2008 Heritage at Risk Prize from English Heritage Chief Executive Simon Thurley.*



## USING AND BENEFITTING

### Participation and attitudes

In the first two years of the *Taking Part* survey (undertaken from July 2005), 71.5% of adults in the region had visited a heritage site in the last 12 months, marginally above the national average. People with a disability or from lower socio-economic groups living in the East Midlands, were slightly more likely to attend historic sites than the average for these groups.

Among adults surveyed from 2005 to 2007, 93% agreed or strongly agreed that it was important to save historic features, also marginally above the national average.

The Historic Houses Association has 45 'open houses' (houses that admit members of the public) in the region out of a total of 121 member houses. These houses attracted 2,024,026 visitors in 2007, the second highest visitor figures of all regions. The National Trust reports 780,268 visitors in 2007/08. Stated sites looked after by English Heritage attracted 261,758 visitors.

The region has 213 museums and 74 organisations which hold archives.

### Educational visits to heritage sites in the region

The Historic Houses Association reports that its 45 open houses received an estimated total of 47,496 educational visits in 2007.

The National Trust received 43,721 educational visits to its properties in the region in 2007/08.

The number of educational visits to English Heritage properties in 2007/08 was 20,672, the highest for the region since records began in 2001/02.

The region's museums received 579,724 visits by pupils and teachers.

### Membership of historic environment organisations

In 2008 the region was home to 8% of National Trust members (292,922) and 7% of English Heritage's members (47,973). This is in line with the region's population. In 2007 7% of the Friends of the Historic Houses Association (1,893) lived in the region.

## HERITAGE AT RISK

This year English Heritage published its first register of *Heritage at Risk*. This extends the register of Grade I and II\* buildings and structural scheduled monuments at risk to include registered battlefields and parks and gardens, and is complemented by an account of scheduled monuments at risk.

Since the 1999 baseline register the total number of Grade I and II\* buildings and structural monuments at risk on the East Midlands register has fallen from 161 to 147, 5.2% of the total number of Grade I and Grade II\* listed assets. This positive outcome is attributable in part to English Heritage's active policy of prioritising resources to assets on the register. However in the past year ten buildings have been added, eight of which have no solution yet in place. Three entries have been removed.

The first survey of *Scheduled Monuments at Risk in the East Midlands* was published in 2006 as a pilot for the national survey. It revealed that 13% of Scheduled Monuments were at high risk, and 22% at medium risk.

By 2007 these proportions had fallen significantly: 11% were at high risk, and 20% at medium risk. This was the result of targeted investment by English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund which the early survey made possible. The East Midlands has well below the national average of 21% high risk and 33% medium risk scheduled monuments, and the smallest proportion of any English region.

The 2008 *Heritage at Risk* publication also featured registered parks and gardens at risk. In the region, 6% were estimated to be at high risk, and 26% at medium risk, similar to the national average (7% and 26% respectively).

In the Peak District and Lincolnshire pioneering work is being undertaken at local level to breathe new life into sites at risk. ▲ **Cases 2 & 6**

### 3 COMMUNITY COHESION THROUGH HERITAGE ▶

Leicester is one of Britain's most diverse cities, having two hundred faith buildings and fifty denominations of the ten major world religions. Leicester Council of Faiths and English Heritage developed a 'trail' of faith buildings which were open for *Heritage Open Days* in 2007. The Council of Faiths also ran a 'Peace Pilgrimage' bus tour of The Jain Centre, Shree Sanatan Mandir, Guru Tegh

Bahadur Gurdwara, Leicester Synagogue, the Central Mosque and St Margaret's Church.

Attended by people from different backgrounds, many reported that the event had helped to increase understanding of other faiths. In 2008 further interfaith work using the vehicle of *Heritage Open Days* is planned in both Leicester and Derby.

*Participants in Leicester's 2007 Peace Pilgrimage.*



## KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE EAST MIDLANDS

### A time of change

Heritage has an important part to play in shaping the places we live and work in. A variety of changes are due to take place which could strengthen that role.

### A new settlement for local government

Local Area Agreements (LAAs) are the cornerstone of the government's 'new settlement' with local government. The Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) in each county or unitary authority area has selected about 35 'National Indicators' from a menu of 198.

The historic environment can benefit from, and contribute to delivering, a wide range of the National Indicators which LSPs have chosen. For instance seven of the region's nine LAAs have chosen to make a commitment to support volunteering or the third sector. Leicester has already shown how heritage can promote community cohesion, a priority for all but one of the region's LAAs. ▲ **Case 3**

### A new approach to regeneration

The East Midlands Development Agency (emda) has developed a framework for investment in the historic environment. Entitled *Old and New – a strategic framework to inform investment in heritage projects*, it establishes a rationale for future funding of heritage. It highlights market failure as emda's mandate for intervention, and the need to build up a body of evidence for the benefits of regeneration involving the historic environment. It is important that the heritage sector presents proposals in

a way that addresses the priorities of non-heritage funders, and a toolkit will be developed to help local partners bring forward projects.

The framework comes in the wake of the England-wide Review of Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration (the SNR). From 2010 local authorities will gain new responsibilities for assessing the economic circumstances of their area and delivering regeneration. From next year emda anticipates handing down funding to local delivery agents, in many cases county councils.

The heritage contribution to regeneration can be significant – even fundamental in some places, as the case study of Swadlincote illustrates. The Forum's forthcoming *Prospectus for the historic environment* aims, among other things, to help communities articulate that case. ▶ **Case 4**

### A new impetus for housing development

The Office for National Statistics expects the East Midlands to have the fastest growing population of any English region in the ten years from 2006. Major housing developments are planned to meet demand in the following places:

- **Growth points** at Nottingham, Newark, Derby, Leicester, Grantham and Lincoln.
- **Milton Keynes / South Midlands Growth Area** including extensions to Daventry, Towcester, Northampton, Wellingborough, Kettering and Corby.
- **'Ecotowns'** proposed at Stoughton (near Leicester) and in Rushcliffe (Nottinghamshire).

In order to attract and retain home buyers and employers, new developments need to respect the existing character of their locality. The first step for planners and developers is to establish a clear common understanding of the character of the area proposed for development.

### ▶ Case 5

### A new system of heritage protection

Underpinning all these changes is reform to the way we protect the historic environment. The draft Heritage Protection Bill is the culmination of several years' work and extensive public consultation.

The new approach set out in the Bill will bring clarity and certainty to the heritage protection system and broaden public engagement with the historic environment.

Local authorities will be able to determine applications for Heritage Asset Consent affecting registered archaeological sites (currently termed Scheduled Monument Consent) as well as continuing their current role of determining Listed Building Consent. They will also have powers to set up Heritage Partnership Agreements between owners, councils and English Heritage to enable long term strategic management of assets and eliminate unnecessary repetitive regulation. They will have more effective controls over conservation areas and locally listed buildings, and their management of the historic environment will be based on statutory Historic Environment Records. Implementation is currently anticipated to begin in 2010.

## 4 HERITAGE AND REGENERATION ▶

The South Derbyshire town of Swadlincote grew rapidly in the nineteenth century when the mining and pottery industries flourished. Now these industries have all but disappeared. The associated nineteenth century buildings survive, but many of these had been neglected or badly treated in the more recent past.

However local partners recognised the distinctive architectural character of the town and since 2001 have used it as a cornerstone for an ambitious programme of regeneration worth £3 million.

Under the *Partnership Schemes in Conservation Areas* programme, South Derbyshire District Council, Derbyshire County Council and English Heritage have been working together to regenerate the town centre, and improve the experience for shoppers and visitors. The scheme has not only delivered a transformation of the town centre but also boosted confidence in the local economy.

*Jon Paul Clothing: before and after.*  
(South Derbyshire District Council)



AFTER



BEFORE

## 5 SENSITIVE PLANNING FOR HOUSING GROWTH ▶

Major housing growth is planned for Northampton, Daventry and Towcester. The area has a rich and distinctive heritage, which the West Northamptonshire Development Corporation wants to help preserve.

The corporation commissioned River Nene Regional Park, in association with LDA Design, to undertake sensitivity and Green Infrastructure studies for Daventry. The West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit commissioned a similar study for Northampton.

Among the sites which would be affected by development east of Daventry is Borough Hill (pictured) a Scheduled Monument with Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and Medieval remains, which also serves as a country park.

The studies assess the relative sensitivity to growth of areas surrounding the towns, in terms of landscape character, biodiversity and cultural heritage; and identify opportunities for the integration of strategic green infrastructure.

At Upton, in Northampton, a site owned by English Partnerships is being developed following an exercise known as 'Enquiry by Design' led by the Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment. This resulted in a masterplan and structured design code which draws on local character.

These approaches offer good practice on how to retain the historic character of places and will help ensure that the big planning decisions ahead take the historic environment fully into account.

*View from Borough Hill towards Daventry.*  
(Daventry District Council)



## 6 LINCOLNSHIRE TAKES ACTION ON HERITAGE AT RISK

Lincolnshire has more heritage assets than any other county in the region. Of the sites which are at risk, 43 of the most significant are on English Heritage's *Heritage at Risk* register. Now Heritage Lincolnshire, a local charitable trust, is leading the county's response to the challenge to secure the future of its historic places.

A study in 2007 showed that information on the current condition of the county's assets was out of date and inconsistent. Working with the Institute of Historic Building Conservation, Heritage Lincolnshire developed a project to collect baseline data to inform a county-wide strategy aimed at safeguarding Lincolnshire's historic environment and engaging local communities in the process.

By training and supporting volunteers from local communities across the county, Heritage Lincolnshire intends to carry out a new survey of all types of heritage, an approach which mirrors the unified designation of heritage assets proposed in the draft Heritage Protection Bill. The project database will be designed so that information can be fed into the County Council's Historic Environment Record and into the *Heritage at Risk* register.

The approach offers a model for addressing heritage at risk through partnership working and strengthening links with the voluntary sector. The county will be well placed to target resources and involve its communities in caring for the historic environment.

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*Heritage Counts 2008* is produced by English Heritage on behalf of the East Midlands Heritage Forum. Other member organisations of the Forum are:

- British Waterways
- Country Land and Business Association
- East Midlands Association of Civic Societies
- East Midlands Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers
- East Midlands Development Agency
- East Midlands Regional Assembly
- Government Office East Midlands
- Heritage Education Trust
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- Historic Houses Association
- Institute of Historic Building Conservation
- Local Government East Midlands
- Museums, Libraries and Archives East Midlands
- National Trust
- UK Association of Preservation Trusts

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