

# HERITAGE COUNTS 2007

NORTH EAST



Leigh Murray a 19 year old  
dry stone waller from Wark  
in Northumberland



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## NORTH EAST

*Heritage Counts 2007* is the sixth annual survey of the state of England's historic environment. The report identifies the principal changes which have occurred in the historic environment, with a particular focus in 2007 on the use of the historic environment as a learning resource and on the issues faced by the sector in relation to the skills of the workforce. This report is one of nine separate regional reports and has been prepared by the North East Historic Environment Forum and published by English Heritage. It should be read in conjunction with the national *Heritage Counts 2007* report available at [www.heritagecounts.org.uk](http://www.heritagecounts.org.uk)

Learning and skills and economic inclusion lie at the heart of the *Regional Economic Strategy Action Plan* launched in May 2007. It is therefore appropriate that *Heritage Counts 2007* focuses on how the heritage sector in the region contributes in these vital areas and the potential offered by our heritage to raise aspirations, develop new skills and encourage enterprise.

Skills, education and lifelong learning are central to the work of the heritage sector. Visits by schools to museums and heritage sites provide a focus for learning and an opportunity to enthuse and inspire those who do not respond in more traditional learning environments. *Heritage Counts 2007* also highlights a wide range of special projects working with those who are underachieving or at risk of exclusion from formal education. As Nathan Geary, who has been involved in the *Aspire to Achieve* project at Bede's World says: 'I am always learning new stuff – stuff that I can do with my hands, and it keeps me out of trouble'. Other projects are providing a bridge into full-time employment through practical work experience, such as that offered in the *Getting into the Past* project by the National Trust and The Prince's Trust.

The voluntary and community sector associated with heritage already plays a substantial role in the region and members of the Historic Environment Forum are supporting and developing this contribution. This is notably recognised by the recent award of the *Investing in Volunteers* standard to the highly successful volunteers programme run by Tyne & Wear Museums Service.

In common with other parts of the region's economy, the heritage sector faces its own challenges. These range from developing skills to ensure a high quality visitor experience at the heritage attractions which bring in over £180 million to the region's tourism economy each year, or addressing skill shortages in traditional crafts and building trades

demonstrated in the National Heritage Training Group's research published in 2005 *Traditional Building Craft Skills: Assessing the Need, Meeting the Challenge*. Through the Historic Environment Forum, the heritage sector in the region is collaborating with contractors, education providers, clients and consumers to develop and support the traditional building skills needed in the region and beyond. For example, through *Train to Gain*, a programme is being rolled out to ensure that the five Centres of Vocational Excellence construction colleges are able to offer the new NVQ level 3 in Heritage Skills.

The case studies in *Heritage Counts 2007* demonstrate the wide-ranging and innovative contribution which the region's heritage sector is making to the 'People' strand of the *Regional Economic Strategy Action Plan*. It also shows the greater potential for the North East of England's heritage to deliver priority activities which will bring about the required step change in economic performance for the region.

CAROL PYRAH  
CHAIR, NORTH EAST HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FORUM

**COVER STORY** – Picture of Leigh Murray, a 19 year old dry stone waller from Wark in Northumberland. Leigh has joined the Northumberland National Park Authority *Traditional Boundaries Traditional Skills* project because she believes it is important to keep traditional skills alive and wants to lead a satisfying outdoor life.

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# KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN REGION

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## North East Regional Economic Strategy

*Leading the Way* is the Regional Economic Strategy for the North East of England and sets out a vision for making the North East a more prosperous region to live and work in. In 2007, an action plan was published to support the strategy, providing a framework for future action and investment. Higher levels of economic activity and increased skills levels are both identified as key priorities for future support. The heritage sector provides pathways to learning and volunteering for all people in the region, from school children to adults. The *Ladder to Learning and Employment* study by MLA North East, for example, demonstrated how the region's museums and archives can support and re-engage adult learners, raise confidence and aspirations as well as inspire those who find it difficult to learn in more formal environments.

## North East Regional Skills Action Plan

Skills North East was formed in 2004 to identify employment and skill needs in the North East and to ensure action is taken to address them. The latest Regional Economic Strategy sets the overall strategic direction for Skills North East whose *Skills Action Plan* for 2006-07 provides a framework for action to address the employment and skills needs of the region. The Action Plan prioritises a number of work areas, including support for Business Link's *Business Brokerage* service and the Learning and Skills Council's National Employer Training Programme *Train to Gain*. This report highlights how *Train to Gain* funding is helping to support traditional craft skills training in the historic environment sector.

## North East Cultural Skills Action Plan

The Northern Cultural Skills Partnership (NCSP) is a group of organisations dedicated to providing opportunities for training and professional development for the cultural sector in the North East region.

NCSP has developed a cultural skills action plan for the region to complement the footprint of the national Sector Skills Council for the cultural sector (Cultural and Creative Skills or CCS). This provides a framework for skills development across the arts and cultural heritage sector and is available from NCSP's website:

<http://www.ncsp.co.uk/>.

## Cultural Sector Development Initiative

The initiative has been developed in partnership with key agencies such as the Government Office for the North East and One NorthEast. Since 2003, funding has been secured for over 60 projects totalling £32 million of which £13.2 million has come from European funds. A number of heritage projects have benefited from this scheme, including Beamish Museum (to support a farm apprentice), Tyne & Wear Museums (to develop archaeological skills and management capacity), Northumberland National Park Authority (for their *Traditional Boundaries* project) and MLA North East for a virtual digitisation project. The CSDI team are also working with the North of England Civic Trust to develop heritage skills projects.

# WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Government is committed to encouraging more learning outside the classroom and to using the historic environment more effectively. In November 2006, the *Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto* was launched by the then Department for Education and Skills (DfES) to encourage the use of places other than the classroom for learning.

For the 2006/07 period, the National Trust received 51,238 school visits in Yorkshire and the Humber and the North East, whilst for the same period, English Heritage received 31,141 school visits in the North East region alone. Alongside the operation of the Free Education Visits Scheme, the EH Education Team has also implemented a programme of Discovery Visits (facilitated workshops) at key sites in the region. Other types of historic attraction are also developing their educational provision. For example, three of the North East region's Historic Houses Association's open houses had formal education programmes in 2007.

Between 2004 and 2006, MLA North East managed a major nationally funded project to develop museums and archives work with schools. The programme, which brought £304,000 from the DfES into the region, was designed to ensure that every young person of school age had the opportunity to enjoy a rich cultural life both within and outside the school curriculum. This was achieved by increasing the number, range and quality of learning opportunities on offer to schools by the region's museums and archives. The programme also sought to raise teacher and parent awareness of relevant opportunities associated with museums and archives.

The North East Regional Museums Hub, through MLA's Renaissance programme, provided £910,000 for education and learning provision for children and young people across the museums sector in 2006/07. Hub museums alone received 106,699 visits from children and young people (aged 5-16 visiting with their school) during that year.

A challenge for all learning and skills programmes is to find ways of motivating students with different interests, needs and levels of attainment. This section explores some of the creative learning opportunities offered by heritage organisations in the region to young people.



## PARK PEOPLE

'Park People' was a sound recording project involving a partnership with Monkwearmouth School and Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens. Sunderland Artist Mark Murison worked with first year secondary pupils (aged 11-12) to interview and record stories from 5 people who had lived or worked near Mowbray Park over the past 50 years. Pupils worked with museum staff to devise questions for their interviews and a day of interviewing followed. Pupils then edited the interviews and added sound to create a 'soundscape' that will be presented on-line.



## BLITZED!

A partnership between Discovery Museum, the Durham Light Infantry Museum and Carlisle's Tullie House Museum, led to the development of simulated World War II evacuations for pupils aged 7-11 (Key Stage 2). Pupils and teachers from Durham and Carlisle were transported by train to the Discovery Museum in Newcastle and pupils from Newcastle schools were transported to Durham and Carlisle. Schools were given suggestions for clothing and ideas for rationed lunches before the visit. They were greeted at the station by a member of the museum learning staff who took the role of a billeting officer and pupils were treated like evacuees from the moment of their arrival. Pupils also took part in handling sessions and activities relating to this period.



## ASPIRE TO ACHIEVE

*Aspire to Achieve* is a project giving young people in South Tyneside, many of whom are excluded or at risk from formal education, the opportunity to enjoy their local heritage and develop new skills. The project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the North East Regional Museums Hub and the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund has involved 250 young people aged 11-19 in diversionary activities at Bede's World. Activities have included dramatic or artistic explorations of Bede's work, craftwork (including stained glass making and stone carving) and traditional skills such as thatching and willow fence making. Many of the young people who participated in the project have now developed an interest in traditional skills. One participant (Nathan Appleton) who took part in dry stone walling activities is now hoping to pursue it as a career and another, Jamie Larkin (featured in the picture), is interested in a career in stone-carving. Another participant (Nathan Geary) commented:

*'Being involved with Bede's World has meant that I am always learning new stuff – stuff that I can do with my hands, and it keeps me out of trouble'.*



## PITY THE POOR PAUPER

Pupils aged 12 from the Walbottle Campus and Heaton Manor in Newcastle were asked to look at how poor people have been treated in the past through a project managed by Newcastle's Culture and Creativity department.

A living history event featured performances by young actors from the region (primarily third year students from Northumbria University) on the life and death of Elizabeth Graham who fell into poverty after the death of her husband and died in a police cell in 1838. Pupils were also given the opportunity to interview characters about how they were treated and even low attaining classes were intellectually engaged in a complex interview with characters. The project made pupils more aware about how poor people were treated and sparked debates over the current welfare state system. All of the teaching material produced is available on Newcastle City Council's website.



## THE TRIAL OF WILLIAM JOBLING

'The Trial of William Jobling' was a workshop run by Discovery Museum in Tyne & Wear designed for 14-16 year olds studying History at Key Stage 4. Pupils were given the opportunity to investigate and recreate a court case from the 19th century in the historical setting of Newcastle's Guildhall. Pupils began by participating in a session with Tyne & Wear Archives where they learnt about the trial of William Jobling, a miner from Jarrow who stood accused of the murder of a magistrate in 1832. Pupils were each assigned a character to play in the re-enactment of William Jobling's trial and were given information about their role in the court room. During the mock trial participants were expected to decide their own verdict by examining the evidence available to them.



## THE MIDDLETON MYSTERY

English Heritage's Belsay Hall in Northumberland has an innovative project targeted at young people at risk from exclusion. *The Middleton Mystery* is a computer game, designed by students from Ashington Community High School. The game aims to inspire young people about their local heritage and how it can be interpreted using modern media techniques. The students formed their own production company *The Mean Machine* to create *The Middleton Mystery*. They took inspiration from this historic setting to create a fictional quest-based adventure game. Players meet characters based on real people from Belsay's past and find imaginary treasures brought back from Charles Monck's grand tour. The students created a game design, filmed themselves as historical characters and created their own art work.

The game will be played at Belsay in a newly designed area for young people. Community groups and members of the public will be able to feed back their ideas for the final version of the game, available on site from 1 October 2007. The project has successfully engaged young people at risk of exclusion from mainstream education by increasing their understanding of the site and its history and by developing their creative, social and technological skills. Initial evaluation has also shown increased confidence amongst the participants – with adults, their peers and in their own abilities. Led by English Heritage's Education in the North of England, the project involved a range of partners and was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.



## GETTING INTO THE PAST

Wallington in Northumberland has participated in *Getting into the Past*, a partnership between the National Trust and The Prince's Trust, funded by the Big Lottery Fund. The initiative saw disadvantaged young people participating in experience-based training, designed to boost personal confidence, develop new skills, encourage physical well-being and it allowed participants to get in touch with their local heritage through a programme of practical work experience. The aim was to see 65% of participants move into education, training or employment following their involvement in the project. As part of their 12-week *Team Programme* with The Prince's Trust, the young people spent a week working at Wallington. For those involved there will be a number of long-term placements on offer at National Trust properties. These will include roles within historic houses, tea-rooms, shops, gardens and the countryside.

## PIX

PIX was an arts project inspired by the Tyne & Wear Museums collections. The project was supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund's *Young Roots* grant scheme. Three groups of deaf young people from Monkhouse Primary School, Heaton Manor School and New College Durham were involved in the project. Each group visited some of Tyne & Wear Museums' venues taking photographs and making sketches while they were there. They then worked with deaf artist Paul Miller to create artworks inspired by what they had seen during their visits. Some of the images were turned into greetings cards and a short film was also made to document the experiences of the young people involved in the project. To celebrate the young people's achievements, the final designs, film and other documentation were displayed in the 'People's Gallery' at Discovery Museum.

## TEESSIDE ARCHIVES – PARKS, PLACES FOR ALL

Teesside Archives together with Ayresome Primary have been working alongside Middlesbrough Parks Service and the Dorman Museum to create a history trail of Albert Park and a curriculum resource pack. As well as raising awareness about the use of archive resources to support schools, the project also helped to promote Middlesbrough's partnership with the *Breathing Places* campaign, which aimed to inspire people not currently active in the environment sector to get involved in the conservation of Britain's green spaces. The school is now working on an online resource.



# WORKING WITH VOLUNTEERS

Organisations looking after the region's heritage depend heavily on the contribution made by volunteers and would struggle to survive without them. Not only do volunteers help to increase the capacity of heritage organisations, they also bring valuable new skills and experience as well as different perspectives on how things should be done. Volunteers benefit by developing their own knowledge, learning new skills and gaining new work experience. For many, volunteering can serve as a pathway back into learning or employment. For others, volunteering can provide new experiences and interests or provide an opportunity to meet new people. The challenge for heritage organisations is to manage these different needs and skills and provide appropriate training and support.



## ISEE GATESHEAD

Gateshead Local Studies Library holds a photographic collection dating back to the 1800s, depicting many aspects of Gateshead's heritage. This collection had grown fragile over time and there was a need to make this local material more accessible. The iSee Gateshead project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, aimed to increase access to the collection through the digitisation of over 5,000 local photographs. In addition, local volunteers were recruited to select and identify items for digitisation. They were trained to scan their own photographs and investigate the local heritage and have helped to create a new learning resource.



## ARCHAEOLOGY SKILLS AT BLAYDON BURN

At Blaydon Burn in Tyne & Wear, an industrial site formerly associated with coke cutting was excavated to find out more about this important area. The event was supervised by John Nolan from Northern Counties Archaeological Services and the County Industrial Archaeologist. Members of the local community and local school children assisted with the excavation, helping to clear large parts of the platform and to identify bricks with maker's marks. In doing so they learnt more about the history of the Blaydon Burn area as well as learning new skills in archaeological excavation.

## SKILLS FOR ENGINEERING RESTORATION

The J72 type number 69,023 owned by the North East Locomotive Preservation Group, is the only locomotive of its type remaining of the 113 built between 1898 and 1952. A project funded through a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £50,000 has enabled the locomotive to be restored and has provided increased public access to the Hopetown Carriage Works. To assist in the restoration, 18 volunteer positions and 2 school placements were established, providing training to develop new practical skills in engineering and mechanics, including fitting, welding, machining and boiler smith work. The locomotive is now fully operational.



## WORKING HOLIDAYS

2007 saw the 40th anniversary of National Trust's working holidays. Since 1967, over 100,000 people have taken a working holiday and played a key role in the vital conservation work undertaken by the Trust. All have assisted wardens, gardeners and property managers with activities that could not get done without their help. Some have been so inspired by their working holiday that they have changed careers and it's a great chance to learn new skills and hobbies and to make new friends. In 2007, working holiday volunteers helped to run one of the largest outdoor concerts in the North East at Gibside, prepared Wallington's magnificent walled garden for its summer visitors, assisted with May Day celebrations at Cherryburn and welcomed visitors to Lindisfarne Castle.



## ANCIENT HEDGEROWS OF STOCKTON

The Ancient Hedgerows of Stockton project recorded hedgerows in the borough of Stockton-on-Tees dating back to the 17th century. Delivered by Wildflower Ark and the Botanic Centre Middlesbrough, with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, it involved detailed research into the location and nature of these historic hedgerows, along with the recording and documentation of hedgerows still present. Volunteers were an integral part of the project and training was provided for them in a number of areas, depending on their interests. Using the volunteers' new skills the project was able to map 546 field boundaries and went on to create heritage trails and information leaflets using the material gathered.

## VOLUNTEERING AT TYNE & WEAR MUSEUMS

Each year, hundreds of people give their time and skills to support Tyne & Wear Museums, which has a strong volunteer programme with almost 300 people per year willing to give their time to help. In return they get the chance to learn new skills, meet new people and become an important part of the organisation. Their work ranges from meeting and greeting visitors to cataloguing and caring for the collections. Tyne & Wear Museums has worked hard to improve the management of volunteers and as a result has recently achieved the 'Investing in Volunteers' standard.



# DEVELOPING THE SECTOR

The historic environment needs a workforce with the right set of skills across a range of occupations. The following section reports on a number of workforce development initiatives for the region's museums and archives.

MLA's *Broadening Horizons* programme supports museums that are not part of the Regional Museums Hub. The current phase of this programme is focusing on audience development and marketing and has involved staff members from 11 museums through training delivered by Audiences North East and Tyne & Wear Museums. Although responsible for marketing their own museum, the participants came to the programme with little or no previous training in this area. Through the programme they have gained the skills to develop and evaluate a regional promotional campaign (funded in part by the North East Regional Museums Hub) and take this experience back to their own museums.

## LEARNING LINKS

Learning Links was a national reciprocal Placement Programme by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council that sought to develop partnerships between museums, archives and schools. Teachers spent a minimum of 5 days working with a Learning Officer from a local museum or archive and the placements were all tasked to create a learning resource. There were 40 placements in the North East in 2006/07.

The value of the Continuous Professional Development (CPD) that has taken place is huge for both teachers and staff from museums and archives. For example, it enabled museums and archives staff to engage with collections in different ways and to think more about the audiences that they were reaching out to. They have developed their skills and confidence to help in their work with educational audiences.

School staff also valued the time they had to develop their skills and knowledge about museum and archive collections, which will inform their teaching in the future and their planning of future school trips.

*The North East Collections Care Framework*, also led by MLA North East in partnership with Durham University and the North East Regional Museums Hub, provides access to the services of conservation experts and facilities for museums, libraries and archives across the region. This support service includes training events and workshops on best practice in care and handling of collections, raising levels of awareness of collections care and developing skills in the sector.



## CORE SKILLS

The core skills programme started in the spring of 2005. This free course, developed by the North East Regional Museums Hub, was designed to provide a basic training programme for people working in the region's museums. The aim was to strengthen the museums workforce by developing essential skills and knowledge. The project has been hugely successful and has benefited over 130 people from 37 different museums in the North East. The course is open to everyone working in a registered museum, whether they are paid staff or volunteers.

The sessions are designed to provide a regular opportunity for people to learn more about a broad range of topics including object handling, conservation, interpretation, exhibitions, marketing, audiences and access. Demand for the programme has been high with every one of the 5 courses being oversubscribed and feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive. The course is now seen as a national exemplar.



## MUSEUM LEARNING NETWORKS

The North East Regional Museums Hub has been working to create a series of learning networks between local museums and educators. Networks currently exist for museum educators, teachers and family practitioners (such as Sure Start and Early Years Centres) and a variety of approaches are being used, from formal conferences to informal practical, participatory sessions after hours. The key objective is to bring people together to generate new ideas and projects and increase understanding of what educators need and what museums can offer. This helps to ensure continued increases in the quality and relevance of museum products to support learning.

## HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AND DESIGN CHAMPIONS

Successful investment in quality of place to support and sustain economic growth requires powerful advocacy within local authorities. English Heritage and One NorthEast (through *Ignite*, the region's centre for excellence in regeneration) are funding the region's Historic Environment and Design Champion's Club. Northern Architecture and the North of England Civic Trust are recruiting Champions, facilitating the joint Historic Environment and Design Champion's network and organising a series of training events. In 2007, Champions participated in seminars on their role and needs as well as on conservation principles and good design practice.

## HERITAGE SKILLS FOR DIGITAL MEDIA WORKERS

One NorthEast and European Regional Development Fund grants of £238,000 have enabled MLA North East to develop new partnerships and opportunities between cultural heritage organisations and the commercial digital media sector. Regionally, the project is contributing to economic and skills development within the digital media sector, ensuring that it can meet the requirements of the cultural heritage sector. Nationally the heritage sector will benefit from the creation of a robust network of accredited digital businesses and skilled staff.



# WORKING WITH TRADITIONAL CRAFTS

The National Heritage Training Group's (NHTG) 2005 report *Traditional Building Craft Skills: Assessing the Need, Meeting the Challenge* was the first attempt to quantify demand, supply and training provision within the built heritage sector [http://www.nhtg.org.uk/assets/pdf/heritage\\_nhtg.pdf](http://www.nhtg.org.uk/assets/pdf/heritage_nhtg.pdf)

The NHTG report found that traditional skills shortages were particularly acute in the North East region. 40% of the region's contractors in 2004 had outstanding vacancies, higher than the national average of 25%. 60% stated that they found recruitment very difficult and 79% attributed this to lack of skills.

To tackle these problems, the North East Historic Environment Forum created the North East Heritage Skills Project in 2006. This is overseen by English Heritage, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the North of England Civic Trust, the Northern Cultural Skills Partnership, One NorthEast and the North East Regional Museums Hub and funded by English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project has established a Heritage Skills Coordinator post based at the North of England Civic Trust.

The Coordinator supports the Regional Heritage Skills Action Group, comprised of a much broader group of regional stakeholders. In view of the extensive work being

undertaken by different organisations in the region to respond to traditional skills shortages, this coordinating role has proven to be extremely valuable as the case studies show. The North East Historic Environment Forum is now looking at how the project could be developed in the future.



## ROMANIAN LIME BURNING PROJECT

In 2007, the County Durham Environment Awards recognised a traditional craft skills project that has helped to rekindle lost traditional lime making skills. The first phase involved a visit to Romania to learn about the production and local marketing of traditionally manufactured lime. The second phase involved a visit by Romanians to the North Pennines to re-establish these traditional techniques in the United Kingdom. The project included constructing and firing a temporary Romanian lime kiln at Levy Pool, Bowes and the restoration and firing of an existing lime kiln at Cowshill in Weardale. This resulted in the contemporary re-use and restoration of historic structures with the aim of establishing a new local business to produce lime permanently and encourage cultural tourism.

## TRADITIONAL SKILLS TASTER DAYS

As part of the regional response to traditional skills shortages, the National Trust has hosted a series of taster days organised by the region's Heritage Skills Coordinator. The days were designed to give participants the confidence to handle traditional materials and try out basic conservation techniques. These courses offer an exciting opportunity for those working in the building trade or those with an interest in old buildings to explore the field of basic conservation repair. Three lime skills workshops were held at the Wallington Estate in Northumberland. These focused on the lime cycle, lime slaking, uses of lime, building with lime, pointing methods, lime plastering and lime washing. Other partners involved with the programme included Historic Property Restoration, English Heritage and the Scottish Lime Centre (which donated material to use for training purposes).



## DRY STONE WALLING SKILLS

In 2007, in partnership with BTCV, the North Pennines AONB launched its own Dry Stone Walling Apprenticeship scheme which placed ten trainees with seven professional wallers on a 30-week practical course. At the end of the course there will be ten newly-qualified and certified wallers that will either be linked to a local business or will have the capacity to strike out on their own. Funding for the scheme has come from Defra, LEADER+ (a European programme), the Learning and Skills Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund. This project supports local employment whilst taking action to conserve a much-loved and important feature of the North Pennines landscape. The funding regime for this project meant that the programme was targeted at younger people.

Northumberland National Park Authority is also running a project to repair and conserve traditional boundaries. Its *Traditional Boundaries* project provides apprenticeships and a volunteer training programme over a five year period. It aims to create a body of people with the right knowledge and technical ability to preserve traditional boundaries within the park. Because the National Park Authority wanted to pitch its training provision at adults, it was unable to access mainstream funding provision and had to turn to alternative sources (such as the Heritage Lottery Fund) for support.

The programme started in 2005 with an initial cohort of ten trainees. Of these, eight passed an examination at level two, seven entered self-employment in the walling sector and three found employment elsewhere. Ten further trainees started in 2006 and another three cohorts are planned by 2009-10. Local school children have also been involved through learning activities in history, geography and citizenship for pupils at Key Stage 2 (aged 7-11) and Key Stage 3 (aged 11-14).

Whilst both schemes have been successful, they indicate the way in which funding regimes drive the main parameters of a scheme and more positively how organisations on the ground can be enterprising in putting together funding packages.

## TRADITIONAL SKILLS BURSARY SCHEME

The Heritage Lottery Fund's Bursary Scheme aims to improve the skills available to the heritage sector by providing extra work-based training opportunities. The scheme sets up specialist training placements with heritage sites and organisations and recruits bursary holders to take up these placements. Bursary holders receive mentoring, training and assessment from skilled heritage professionals and craftspeople. The North East's Traditional Skills Coordinator has been working to ensure that regional organisations are able to benefit from this opportunity. The first trainee to benefit from the bursary scheme in the North East commenced a year-long stone masonry placement with local firm *Historic Property Restoration* in September 2007. A second bursary placement in blacksmithing started in October 2007 for a period of six months.



## TIMBER-FRAMED BUILDING PROJECT AT BEAMISH MUSEUM

Students from Newcastle College have been involved in the design and construction of a traditional timber-frame 'green oak' building at Beamish Museum in County Durham. The project provided an opportunity for students to learn traditional building craft skills, whilst also providing a reconstructed traditional timber-framed structure to enhance the visitor experience at this open air museum. The building effectively provides a 'live laboratory' for students to develop their traditional building skills as well as providing a valuable new resource for the museum. The project resulted from a partnership between Beamish Museum and Newcastle College as a result of work to develop partnership networks between training groups, professional bodies and heritage groups. The project has resulted in a vocationally relevant resource which will be of interest to the past, present and future students of construction as well as the wider audiences for the historic environment.





## NATIONAL TRUST APPRENTICESHIPS

Two North East young people have fended off 118 other hopeful applicants to be the National Trust's first ever apprentice joiners in the region. The apprentices are working with the Trust four days of the week on building and conservation tasks. On the fifth day they are studying for NVQ levels 1-3 in joinery at Northumberland College, Ashington. The trainees are based at the Trust's regional building department at Wallington and carry out a variety of building maintenance tasks on historic properties such as Lindisfarne Castle, Craggside and Gibside. They are keeping a monthly blog on the National Trust's local webpage.

[http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-global/w-localtoyou/w-yorkshire\\_ne.htm](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-global/w-localtoyou/w-yorkshire_ne.htm)

*'Everyone has made us feel welcome from the moment we started in our jobs and that has also helped us a great deal especially as we came in with absolutely no knowledge of the job whatsoever. The tradesmen that we have been working alongside have been excellent and so patient with us, they have also put a great deal of trust in us by allowing us to carry out certain jobs on our own from start to finish from which we are gaining valuable experience.'*



## LABOUR OF LOVE AT BLENKINSOPP CASTLE

The remains of Blenkinsopp Castle are set within the grounds of a holiday home park owned by the Simpsons who also run their own building firm. Already in ruins when the Simpsons bought the estate, the owners were desperate to prevent any further decline. Whilst the Simpsons are more used to working with modern breeze blocks and concrete, they will be stepping back in time and learning how to work with traditional materials such as lime mortar and sandstone to carry out the consolidation work themselves. An English Heritage Management Agreement will fund the erection of scaffolding around the ruins and provide on-site training and supervision.



## TRAINING THE TRAINERS

The National Heritage Training Group has had its new NVQ level three in *Heritage Skills* accredited and is running a programme of *Training the Trainers* to ensure that local training providers have the skills and knowledge to run the qualification. The programme consists of three, week-long blocks of both theoretical and practical learning over a year long period. Two lecturers from Northumberland College have attended the first round of training part funded by the Learning and Skills Council in North Yorkshire and Humberside. The North East Traditional Skills Coordinator has since secured £82,400 in funding from the LSC *Train to Gain* programme to run a North East version of *Training the Trainers*. This will be run for the five Centres of Vocational Excellence construction colleges in the region as well as other Further Education and Higher Education establishments. It will help to address specialist training shortages in brick masonry, plastering, painting and decorating, carpentry and joinery and roofing in the region.

## KEY REGIONAL DATA

For more detailed data on the state of the historic environment in the North East of England, please refer to the data document that accompanies this report at: [www.heritagecounts.org.uk](http://www.heritagecounts.org.uk)

### HERITAGE ASSETS

- The Museum, Library and Archive Council's (MLA) Designation Scheme celebrates the best museum, library and archive collections in England, deemed to be of outstanding national or international importance. There are currently eight designated collections within the North East of England.
- MLA's Museum Accreditation Scheme sets nationally agreed standards for UK museums. There are currently 66 accredited museums within the North East of England.
- Two (of England's seventeen) World Heritage Sites are located within the North East region. These are Durham Castle and Cathedral (inscribed in 1986) and Hadrian's Wall (inscribed in 1987) which is now part of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site. Work is also currently underway to support the additional inscription of the twin monastery site of Wearmouth and Jarrow.
- Of the 19,711 scheduled monuments located in England in April 2007, 1,401 were located within the North East region, representing 7% of the total. In April 2002, there were 1,352 scheduled monuments in the North East and in April 2007 this had grown moderately to 1,401.
- Of the 372,769 entries on the list of buildings in April 2007, 12,150 were located within the North East region, around 3% of the national total. In April 2002, there were 12,089 listed buildings in the North East. In April 2007, this has grown to 12,150 (a small increase of 61 or 0.5%).
- In April 2002, there were 45 registered parks and gardens in the North East. By 2007, this figure had risen to 51. This number also represents about 3% of the national total in 2007.
- There are 7 North East battlefields on the register of historic battlefields.
- Regrettably, in 2007 the North East continues to have the highest proportion of Grade I and II\* listed buildings at risk in the country (7.6% compared with a national average of 3.2%). However, the proportion of North East buildings at risk has fallen from the 1999 figure of 8.5%.

Percentage of Grade I and II\* listed building entries at risk in each region, 1999 and 2007





## MANAGING THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

- In 2006/07, there were 900 decisions on listed building consent within the region.
- There were 79 scheduled monument consent decisions issues in 2006/07 within the North East region.
- There were 100 decisions on applications to make alterations to properties in conservation areas in 2006/07 within the North East region, within a national total of 3,300.
- In 2006/07, there were 8 planning applications affecting registered parks and gardens within the North East region.

## ECONOMIC BENEFITS

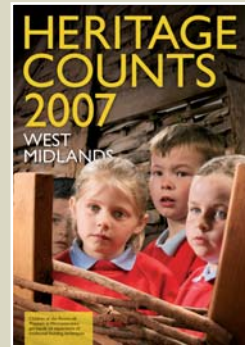
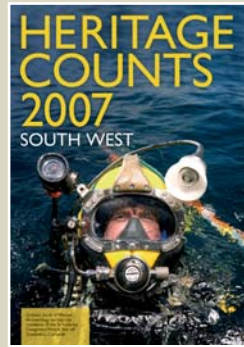
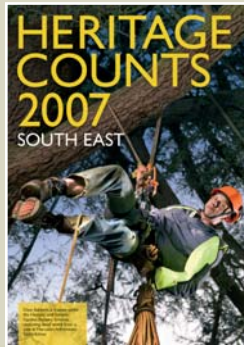
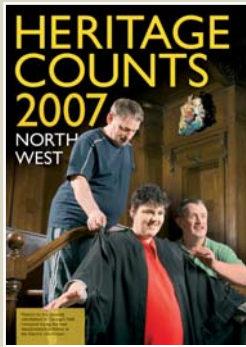
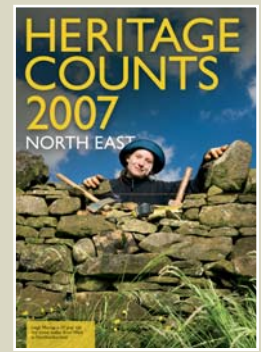
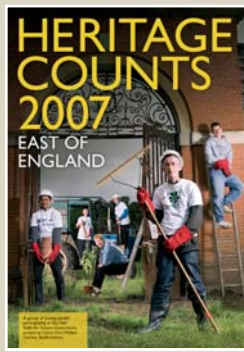
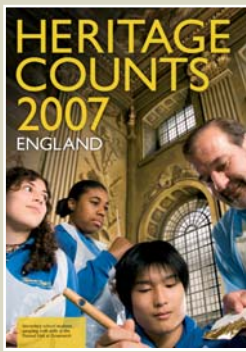
- The 2005 study *An Economic, Social and Cultural Impact Assessment of Heritage in the North East* suggested that a total of 7,345 jobs were supported by the heritage sector in the North East of England in 2003, many of which were employed in the region's historic tourist attractions.
- The same study found that heritage sector organisations generated over £47 million of direct spending in the region in 2003.

## FUNDING

- The Heritage Lottery Fund is the main source of public funding for the historic environment in the UK. Since 1994, the Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded 1,644 grants in the North East region, representing 5.7% of the total number of awards made by the Heritage Lottery Fund between 1994 and 2007. These awards were worth a total of £179,922,425 and represent 4.5% of the UK's total spend.
- English Heritage is the largest source of non-lottery grant funding. English Heritage grant spending in the North East for the 2006/07 period is estimated at £2,112,000.

## PARTICIPATION

- According to the DCMS Taking Part survey, around 70% of all adults in the North East had attended at least one historic environment site in 2005/06, in line with the national average. However, the North East had a higher rate of attendance by Black and Minority Ethnic groups compared with the national average, with a difference of around 12 percentage points. This is potentially due to the fact that the North East region has lower numbers of BME groups in absolute terms in its population, with these smaller communities being atypical of the larger concentrations found elsewhere.
- The North East received 422,887 visitors to Historic Houses Association (HHA) properties in 2006 (about 3% of the total in England). The North East region had a total of 21 HHA open houses in 2006 (about 4% of the total in England).
- The North East region had around 6.5% of English Heritage's total number of members (in England) in 2006/07, which is a slightly higher proportion of members in relation to the region's share of England's population (about 5%).
- In July 2007, 76%, or 19 out of the 25 local authorities within the North East region had a Champion able to represent the historic environment. This represents the highest proportion of local authorities with Champions in place for any English region outside London and is significantly above the national average of 58%.



The North East Historic Environment Forum was formed in 2001 bringing together organisations with experience in the various aspects of heritage to advocate the need for the protection, restoration, promotion and positive management of the region's heritage. This report has been prepared by the North East Historic Environment Forum and published by English Heritage.

Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers  
 Association of North East Councils  
 Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment  
 Country Land and Business Association  
 Culture North East  
 English Heritage  
 Government Office North East  
 Heritage Lottery Fund  
 Historic Houses Association  
 Institute of Historic Building Conservation  
 Museums, Libraries and Archives North East  
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