

# HERITAGE COUNTS 2013

## EAST OF ENGLAND

Heritage Counts 2013 is the twelfth annual survey of the state of England's historic environment. It is prepared by English Heritage on behalf of the East of England Historic Environment Forum. This year the theme for Heritage Counts is skills in the historic environment. 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 the East of England, including asset data, funding information, employment numbers and visitor figures. Please see [www.heritagecounts.org.uk](http://www.heritagecounts.org.uk).

### SKILLS IN THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

This year, Heritage Counts focuses on skills; since the beginning of the financial crisis many parts of the sector have seen significant reductions in budgets and staffing numbers, causing concerns that specialist knowledge is being lost. For the 2013 report, a number of research projects were undertaken to assess these skills provisions, including a survey of the whole cultural heritage sector in the UK. One of the key findings from this study was that the majority of respondents (60%) indicated that they did not have a training budget, which means that initiatives like those outlined in the case studies below are essential for developing skills across the sector. Please see the national Heritage Counts 2013 report for more analysis and further details.



© Steve Cole, English Heritage. *Constructive Conservation: new development in the heart of Southwold*



© Steve Cole, English Heritage. *High Street: the Arc Shopping Centre on the former cattle market, Bury St Edmunds*

### GROWTH AND THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

Several publications this year have highlighted the link between economic growth and the historic environment. They also have used many East Anglian case studies to show what is possible.

*The Changing Face of the High Street: Decline and Revival<sup>1</sup>* written by Allies and Morrison with English Heritage, The Historic Towns Forum and Strutt & Parker, highlights that retail areas with a distinctive historic character have a competitive advantage, which will continue to be important as retailing evolves. 'The Arc' shopping centre in Bury St Edmunds and the Chapelfield shopping centre in Norwich are highlighted for their integration of new retail development within an existing historic town core. Holt, in Norfolk, and 'Heart of Hitchin' in Hertfordshire are hailed for locally-led regeneration or management.

*Constructive Conservation: Sustainable Growth for Historic Places<sup>2</sup>* shows how the historic environment can be an asset for growth in many different sectors. Local case studies range from the new

development in the station quarter in Cambridge to the extension to the Salthouse Harbour Hotel in Ipswich. The Tibby's Triangle development in Southwold has provided housing, new retail and café facilities for local brewer's Adnams and supported the relocation of their distribution centre to an environmentally green building. *Constructive Conservation<sup>3</sup>* is the inspirational companion to *Heritage Works*, produced by English Heritage, the British Property Federation, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and Deloitte. It is a practical guide to using heritage assets in regeneration projects.



© Barefoot & Gilles Architects. *Constructive Conservation: the Salthouse Harbour Hotel in Ipswich.*

<sup>1</sup> [www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/changing-face-high-street-decline-revival/](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/changing-face-high-street-decline-revival/)

<sup>2</sup> [www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/advice/conservation-principles/constructive-conservation/constructive-conservation-sustainable-growth/](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/advice/conservation-principles/constructive-conservation/constructive-conservation-sustainable-growth/)

<sup>3</sup> [www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/advice/advice-by-topic/heritage-and-growth/heritage-works/](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/advice/advice-by-topic/heritage-and-growth/heritage-works/)

# SUMMARY OF HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT INDICATORS FOR 2013

The National Trust has had a 13 per cent increase in the number of volunteers in the East of England in 2012/13 after two years of falling numbers. The number of Historic Houses Association member houses open to the public in the East increased by 28 per cent in 2012. Over half of their members now open their houses to the public. English Heritage membership in the East of England has increased by over eight per cent in the past year. However, both free and Discovery educational visits continue to decline, a trend that is replicated nationwide.

The East of England has the highest percentage of places of worship at risk, at nearly 30 per cent of those assessed, owing to the large number of listed churches in the area. Planning application decisions and listed building consent are both down by four per cent on the previous year and conservation area consent is down nine per cent.

Regional Assets	2013 totals
World Heritage Sites	0
Scheduled Monuments	1,732
Listed Buildings Grade I	1,758
Listed Buildings Grade II*	3,509
Listed Buildings Grade II	52,441
Registered Parks and Gardens	211
Registered Battlefields	2
Protected Ship Wrecks	1
Conservation Areas	1,200
Designated Collections	11
Accredited Museums	162

## Academic rigour and practical experience in Peterborough

University Centre Peterborough, part of Anglia Ruskin University, runs a joint venture with Peterborough Regional College for a popular BA in Archaeology and Landscape History. The Heritage Management module for first year students includes teaching from Peterborough City Council's archaeologist, conservation officers, wildlife officer, and the tree and landscape officer. This partnership gives students an opportunity to comment on recent applications affecting historic places and gain an insight into the development process. They also receive an overview of the evolution of conservation legislation. The link has encouraged students to use the Historic Environment Record as part of their studies. In addition, a small number of 'work shadowing' placements are offered each year.



© Chris Styles. Students get first hand experience of repairing traditional buildings in Bury St Edmunds.

## Broadening horizons and meeting skills shortages in Bury St Edmunds

Bury St Edmunds Town Trust has worked with West Suffolk College to develop a Historic Building Conservation programme, with scholarships, supported by local businesses. The scholarships are aimed at full-time students, undertaking a range of construction courses. Eighteen students have undertaken the free course, involving classroom lectures, practical demonstrations, site visits and architectural tours, ensuring that these new entrants into the building profession understand the differences between modern and traditional construction and importantly, inspiring them to learn traditional building skills in the future.

Four scholarships have been awarded this year. Scholars have undertaken a month's work experience and further training in the use of traditional building materials. During this first year of the scheme, there have been more offers of work placements than there are scholars to take them up. Every year thousands of historic buildings are damaged due to a lack of knowledge among the very people involved in trying to repair them. The training afforded by this unique programme provides valuable experience in this important field.

## A training programme for amateur archaeologists in Cambridgeshire

JIGSAW is a community archaeology project run by Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team and Oxford Archaeology (East), an archaeological contracting unit. JIGSAW encourages existing and new groups to become affiliates to the project so they can get training and resources to allow them to undertake work with greater confidence. The training provided covers fieldwork techniques, survey, research, finds assessment and post excavation. It ranges from basic techniques through

to advanced skills, taught either in classrooms or 'in the field'. Sophisticated equipment is provided for the groups, which includes modern geophysics equipment and other assets.

So far there are 16 local groups participating. The training courses are extremely popular – the 43 courses have had nearly 800 attendees. They are planning to re-run the courses for newly affiliated groups and members. The training courses are being filmed and are to be made available online after the project finishes. There have been about 30 projects using JIGSAW resources, many were developed by the groups themselves using their local knowledge and expertise. The information uncovered by the local groups, and the training provided, has improved the quality of the data by harnessing the power of the army of amateur archaeologists.

The project is Heritage Lottery Fund funded, and is supported by Huntingdonshire District Council and the Council for British Archaeology.

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Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers, Association of Preservation Trusts, Campaign to Protect Rural England, East of England Civic and Amenities Societies, English Heritage, Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Houses Association, Institute for Historic Building Conservation, and National Trust.

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