

# HERITAGE COUNTS 2014 EAST OF ENGLAND

This is the thirteenth annual survey of the East of England's historic environment by the East of England Historic Environment Forum (HEF). On our website you can see the full set of local statistics and, new for this year, create individual local authority data profiles including numbers of heritage assets and heritage

at risk. You also can download national research into the value of heritage at [www.heritagecounts.org.uk](http://www.heritagecounts.org.uk) Further details on our case studies, and more examples, can be found at [www.heritagecounts.org.uk/HC-regional-summaries/HC-East-of-England#heritagecounts](http://www.heritagecounts.org.uk/HC-regional-summaries/HC-East-of-England#heritagecounts)

## THE VALUE OF HERITAGE

### 'Old' technology, new purpose

The National Trust's Blickling Hall is built on the site of a diverted stream and always has had problems with rainwater and sewage flooding the basement. A Victorian architect designed a weir drain, sump and waterwheel to pump out the sewage and water to stop servants having to work on raised wooden boards. This system became redundant after connection to mains sewerage in the 1990s, but has been restored by volunteers and re-engineered to collect rainwater from Blickling Hall's gutters to water the gardens.

The waterwheel and sump are being brought back into use alongside modern submersible pumps, and it is hoped that this will reduce consumption of mains water and save money whilst reusing a valuable piece of engineering heritage. The next project involves the water tower which provided fire-fighting water on the Mount, an artificial hill, pumped up using a turbine at the end of the lake. The plan is to install a lake-source heat pump to heat the Hall itself.

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/blickling-estate](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/blickling-estate) @BlicklingNT

### From field to fork

Globalisation of the food industry has divorced people from understanding how farming shapes landscape. The Campaign to Protect Rural England has researched local food networks over the past five years and found that the benefits of locally produced food go far beyond 'food miles'. It puts people back in touch with seasonality, provides distinctive produce from smaller producers, and awareness of who the food came from. Local food networks also provide vital channels to market. This can help smaller producers survive without intensifying production or being forced to scale up their businesses. Crucially it means that local food can sustain a diversity of scales and ways of producing, including traditional, which maintain or add to the character of the countryside.

In arable areas like ours this means that dairying and beef production (supporting grazing of meadows, pastureland and conservation grasslands) and orchards can survive because local outlets provide a market for their produce. This in turn bolsters local high streets in historic town centres, so supporting the heritage and historic character of towns large and small.

[www.cpre.org.uk/what-we-do/farming-and-food/local-foods](http://www.cpre.org.uk/what-we-do/farming-and-food/local-foods)  
@CPRE

### A Prospectus for Growth

English Heritage's *Prospectus for Growth* shows how the historic environment in the East of England is a key economic driver and not a barrier to growth; supporting routine investment in commercial premises and retail areas, house prices, and the construction industry as well as tourism. See:

[www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/prospectus-for-growth-historic-environment-east-of-england](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/prospectus-for-growth-historic-environment-east-of-england) @HeritageCalling  
#ProspectusforGrowth



**Image:** A trainee doing repair work at a ruined church in Hopton, Norfolk. One of several projects supported by the Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust which are increasing specialist building skills in the area.  
© Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust.

### Charitable trusts rescuing and running heritage

Association of Preservation Trusts' member, Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust, is working with Great Yarmouth Borough Council to address skills shortages, high levels of unemployment and neglected historic buildings. Projects include the RIBA award-winning St Georges Chapel which has been repaired and converted to a successful theatre. A 17th Century merchant house, purchased by the trust with a loan from the Council, has been restored and reinvented as an art gallery and artist studios with previous project trainees employed by the contractor as apprentices. Investment over the last three years of £6 million attracted £7 million of third-party contributions and created a skilled local workforce.

The Suffolk Building Preservation Trust owns and manages the last fully working watermill in Suffolk at Pakenham, an early medieval wool merchant's house in Lavenham, and Thelnetham Windmill. The properties are open to the public and run by over 110 volunteers. Visitor numbers are over 4,000 at Pakenham, 2,500 at Little Hall, with about 800 likely at newly-acquired Thelnetham. The properties generate a small running surplus after ongoing maintenance and running costs, but it does not cover any major repair costs. Instead they have raised funds from other charitable trusts and individuals, not the public sector.

[www.greatyarmouthpreservationtrust.org](http://www.greatyarmouthpreservationtrust.org) @GreatYarmouthPT  
[www.pakenhamwatermill.org.uk](http://www.pakenhamwatermill.org.uk) @Pakenhammill  
[www.littlehall.org.uk](http://www.littlehall.org.uk) @LtHallLavenham

## Preserving locally important heritage

The East of England's civic and amenity societies are champions of local heritage. The Berkhamsted Citizen Association has restored one of only two remaining Sparrows Herne Turnpike markers and a boundary stone for Berkhamsted and Northchurch parishes. The marker is embedded in the wall of a tyre fitting building and was invisible under a thick layer of paint.

The Norwich Society surveyed all non-conservation areas in the city to identify locally important buildings after the demolition of a landmark pub. Volunteer teams from the Society surveyed areas, shared information at regular meetings and were supported by a City Council conservation officer. The list was reviewed before a public consultation on the Society's website and at Heritage Open Days. The City Council adopted most of the final list to add to its own list. The Society's list is available on their website, in libraries and in the Norfolk Historic Environment Record.

[www.thenorwichsociety.co.uk/html/local\\_listing.html](http://www.thenorwichsociety.co.uk/html/local_listing.html)  
@NorwichSociety

## New uses for old buildings

Institute of Historic Building Conservation accredited specialists have worked on Palace House and its stables in Newmarket, which became vacant in the mid-1980s. In 1992 Forest Heath District Council bought the site and restored Palace House, including the remainder of Charles II's 17th Century palace, as a Tourist Information Centre and event venue. An acceptable viable use needed to be found for the stables and Trainers House. The creation of the National Heritage Centre for Horse racing and Sporting Art will see the National Horse racing Museum and British Sporting Art Trust move to the site. Part of the five acre site will be used by the Retraining of Racehorses charity to stable and exercise horses – the original use of site. It is scheduled to open in 2016 and is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

[www.homeofhorseracingtrust.org](http://www.homeofhorseracingtrust.org)  
[www.nhrm.co.uk](http://www.nhrm.co.uk) @nhrm\_newmarket

## Family homes... and wedding venues

Faced with the challenges of regular maintenance and repairs many Historic Houses Association members' family homes also are available for hire and are supporting local suppliers. At Longstowe Hall, near Cambridge, income from wedding ceremonies and receptions is funding a major garden restoration programme using local stone specialists. Island Hall in Godmanchester is another house where a limited number of weddings each year support the restoration of the house and grounds. Layer Marney Tower, in rural Essex, is open for school groups and visitors but also needs the income from c.70 weddings per year to maintain the property. It now employs two people full time and 28 part time in a varied range of roles – from cleaners to mechanics to teachers – and indirectly supports a range of local businesses.

[www.longstowehall.co.uk](http://www.longstowehall.co.uk) @longstowehall  
[www.islandhall.com](http://www.islandhall.com)  
[www.layermarneytower.co.uk](http://www.layermarneytower.co.uk) @LayerMarneyTwr

## Hertfordshire Heritage Watch

Crime is one of the challenges for the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers. Heritage Watch is led by Hertfordshire Constabulary which aims to fight crime and anti-social behaviour on the county's heritage sites by improving communication between people who live near such sites, the county's heritage enthusiasts,

and the police. It seeks to cover all national and local heritage assets such as historic buildings (including churches), archaeological sites, historic parks, battlefields, war memorials, museums and artefacts.

People who live close to historic sites and local history enthusiasts visit the county's heritage sites more often and are more likely to notice anything suspicious or out of the ordinary, which they are encouraged to report to the police. By joining Heritage Watch they become invaluable 'eyes and ears', and they receive regular updates from the police about any issues at heritage sites in their area.

[www.herts.police.uk/advice/rural\\_policing/heritage\\_crime-1/heritage\\_watch.aspx](http://www.herts.police.uk/advice/rural_policing/heritage_crime-1/heritage_watch.aspx)

## Increasing sustainability through investment

Heritage Lottery Fund grants to heritage sites have helped improve their sustainability through increased visitor numbers and revenue. In 2012 the National Trust opened the newly restored servants' basement at Ickworth House near Bury St Edmunds. Overall visitor numbers have increased with the highest year on year growth for any National Trust property in the region. Retail sales also are up and those who buy are spending more. Visits from family groups have doubled to over 30% of all visits and visitor satisfaction scores now place it in the top 10% of publicly valued Trust properties. In 2011 English Heritage conserved and reinstated the gardens at Wrest Park in Bedfordshire and introduced a visitors' centre, café and play area. After it reopened in August 2011, visitor numbers trebled in the first month.

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ickworth](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ickworth) @ickworthnt  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/wrest-park](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/wrest-park)  
@EH\_WrestPark

*Heritage Counts 2014* is edited by Natalie Gates. It is produced by English Heritage on behalf of the East of England Historic Environment Forum:

Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers  
[www.algao.org.uk/membership#eastengland](http://www.algao.org.uk/membership#eastengland)

Association of Preservation Trusts  
[www.ukapt.org.uk/apt-east-anglia](http://www.ukapt.org.uk/apt-east-anglia) @AssocPresTrusts

Campaign to Protect Rural England  
[www.cpreast.org.uk](http://www.cpreast.org.uk) @CPRE

East of England Civic and Amenity Societies  
[www.cambridgeppf.org/eecas](http://www.cambridgeppf.org/eecas)

English Heritage  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk/about/working-locally/east-of-england](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/about/working-locally/east-of-england)  
@HeritageCalling

Heritage Lottery Fund  
[www.hlf.org.uk/inyourarea/EastOfEngland](http://www.hlf.org.uk/inyourarea/EastOfEngland) @HLFEoE

Historic Houses Association  
[www.hha.org.uk/about-the-hha/hha-in-the-regions](http://www.hha.org.uk/about-the-hha/hha-in-the-regions)  
@Historic\_Houses

Institute for Historic Building Conservation  
[www.ihbc.org.uk/about/branches/east\\_anglia/east\\_anglia.html](http://www.ihbc.org.uk/about/branches/east_anglia/east_anglia.html)  
@IHBCtweet

National Trust  
[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/local-to-you/east-of-england](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/local-to-you/east-of-england)  
@East\_England\_NT

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