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Lincolnshire Heritage at Risk Project



Lincolnshire is a vast county of diverse landscapes and regional variations which have resulted in a historic environment with a rich and unique character. This landscape is made up of a number of notable features including 6200 listed buildings 500 of which are designated Grade I or II*, an outstanding collection of almost 600 historic churches, a range of archaeological resources made up of sites ranging from pre-history through to the Second World War and a legacy of over 300 historic parks and gardens, with best examples represented by 26 nationally significant registered spaces.

The principal risk to this unique historic environment is one of gradual erosion. In time this could lead to a loss of features, altering the very character of the landscape described above. Within the last century, the risks to the survival of our heritage have increased significantly. Development pressure for new housing has intensified threatening the character of the county's market towns. Changes in agricultural practices have brought increased pressure on archaeological remains and surviving parks and gardens and also left many historic agricultural buildings unused and vulnerable to decay or inappropriate conversion.

In 2006 Heritage Lincolnshire received funding from English Heritage to undertake a study on Lincolnshire's heritage at risk. This was due to the relevance of the activities of the Trust and its role within the county. The Trust also possessed experience and expertise in fund



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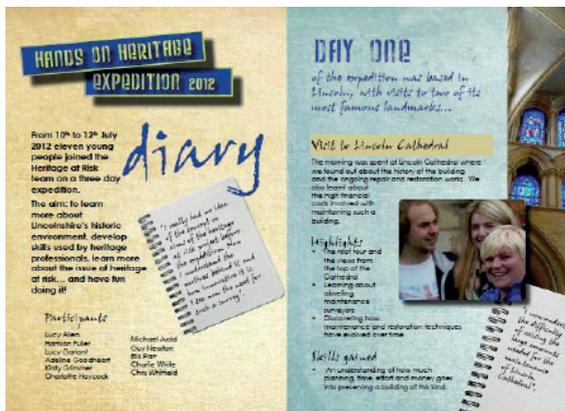


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raising, working with local communities and accommodating and managing project staff. Heritage Lincolnshire's forward plan also noted an aim to raise awareness of the current threats to Lincolnshire's heritage and the need to increase partnership working to manage these threats.

The study indicated that Lincolnshire's historic environment is under grave risk of deterioration and that the current information on the condition of the heritage was out of date and incomplete. Based on this information the Heritage at Risk project was developed and in 2008 a first round application was submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund. This was successful and the development phase of the project began. This led to the recruitment and training of a small number of volunteers to survey heritage assets across 20 parishes within just a few months.

The Lincolnshire Heritage at Risk project was the largest project of its kind when started in 2010. It encompassed the County Council area of Lincolnshire, excluding the unitary authorities of North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire. The project covered a vast geographical area of 5949 square kilometres, encompassing 538 parishes and 9128 heritage assets.





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Survey Results

Lincolnshire Heritage at Risk was based on a survey dataset that included 9,128 heritage assets within the Lincolnshire County Council border comprising of:

- 140 Grade I Listed Buildings
- 363 Grade II* Listed Buildings
- 5719 Grade II Listed Buildings
- 1252 Unlisted Buildings i.e. those included on local lists adopted by the relevant authority and on the HER.
- 578 Places of Worship; a sample for the county devised by English Heritage.
- 607 Archaeological sites; a 5% sample taken from the Lincolnshire HER was intended to make generalisations about the condition of archaeological sites in the county.
- Only undesignated sites were included in the sample as the assessment of Scheduled Monuments requires considerable knowledge and expertise and this information was already completed and available from English Heritage.
- A random sample was used and then filtered to remove features such as find spots. It was felt that a selected list would introduce bias onto the sample which would hamper any effects to present clear usable data to address management issues at a later date.
- 305 Parks and Gardens; a sample taken from the Historic Environment Record featuring registered and non-registered sites.
- 164 Conservation Areas; all designated conservation areas within the county.

The project was viewed as a national pilot scheme for heritage at risk as it was the first to successfully attract volunteers to get involved with their local historic environment.

"I contacted a local volunteer centre as I had some spare time on my hands, but also because volunteering is viewed beneficially on your CV when seeking employment. The project looked interesting so I attended an induction day, but due to illness was unable to begin carrying out surveys straight away. Concerned that I had forgotten much of what I had previously learned, I contacted the Heritage at Risk team who organised for me to carry out some surveys with another steward through their 'buddy' scheme. I found the experience very informative and useful in that I learned how to follow the building descriptions and how to approach occupants. I would highly recommend the scheme for anyone lacking the confidence to get started; I now undertake surveys on a weekly basis!"

