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The National Recording Project

The National Recording Project (NRP) was set up in 1997 with the aim of making a survey of public monuments and sculpture in Britain ranging from Eleanor Crosses to the most contemporary works. No other national overview is known to exist. With the help of a substantial grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund as well as many other donations from others such as the Henry Moore Foundation, Pilgrim Trust, Regional Arts Boards and charitable foundations., the project originally spent five years collecting a wealth of information, which was entered on the NRP database presently found online at: <http://pmsa.cch.kcl.ac.uk/>. The undertaking of the project is part conservation, part archival, with roots in local and social as well as art history. The NRP is probably unique in academic circles for the number of British institutions involved.

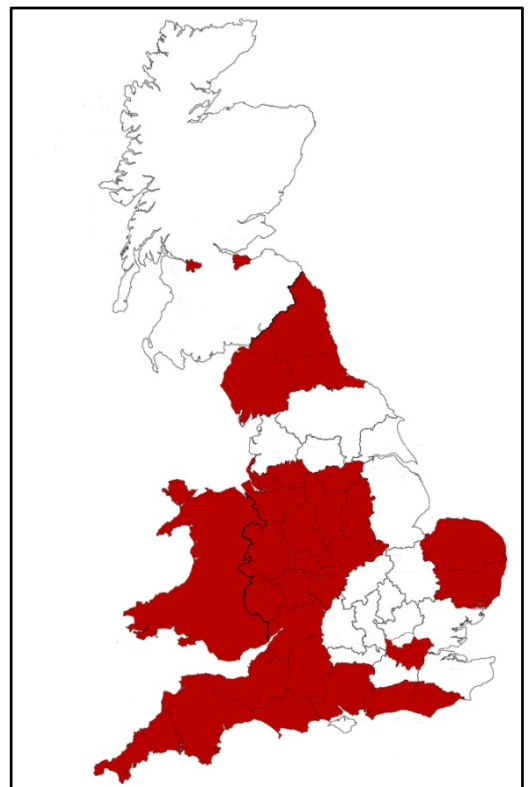
Most recently, grants from English Heritage's National Capacity Building Programme have contributed towards extending coverage across the country, promotion of the existing database and a fund-raising programme for further development and maintenance to the database and website. Working with the University of Brighton, the PMSA is hoping to soon secure funding for a complete redesign of the database allowing extensive search facilities and an overall improvement in functionality.

For NRP purposes, the country is divided into Regional Archive Centres (RACs), mostly run from academic institutions. Each is responsible for the survey and digitised record of its local area, the information from which is then conveyed to the National Archive Centre for collation, storage and dissemination in digital form. Each RAC is also invited to do further in-depth research and to contribute to the series of volumes *Public Sculpture of Britain*. Publication cannot necessarily be guaranteed however. These volumes are published by the Liverpool University Press. As well as those represented on the NRP Database, there are several other active Regional Archive Centres and other groups or individuals who are involved in ongoing surveys.

The map to the right demonstrates the extent of the country already covered by PMSA related activities associated with the National Recording Project.

The NRP Online Database

The database itself is a unique collection containing more than 9,300 entries of public monuments and sculptures, many accompanied by an image. Some fifteen Regional Archive Centres - covering roughly two-thirds of the country - collected core data about works in their area, their provenance, background and current condition, often supported by a photographic record. The database is an excellent resource for students & researchers, conservators, local historians, art buffs, enthusiasts, genealogists and all who want to know more about public sculpture: statues; obelisks; columns; sculptures; installations; fountains; follies; commemorative clocks; wayside markers; and towers – from the Stuart era to the present day.



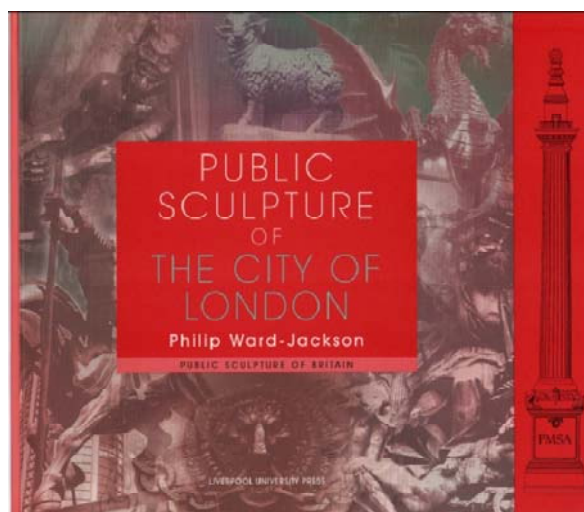
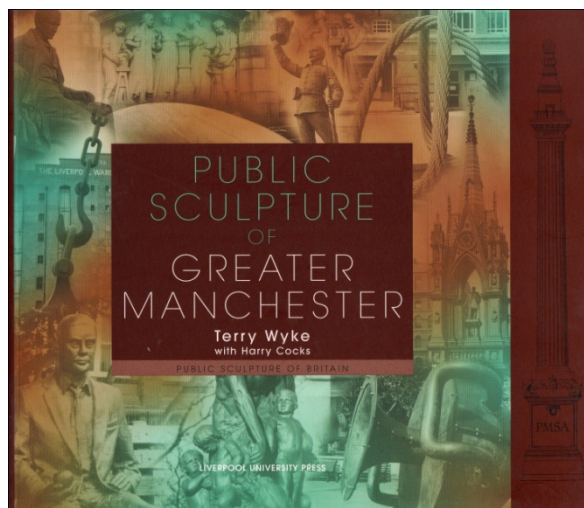
The database contains data from the following areas: **Bristol and S.W. England** including Bournemouth, Cornwall, the Isles of Scilly, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire and Swindon; **East London**, including Greater London; **Edinburgh**, including the Lothians; **Manchester**, including Greater Manchester; **North-East England**, including the Cleveland area, Durham County, Northumberland and Tyne and Wear; **Somerset and Wiltshire**; **Western Central Counties**, including Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands and Worcestershire; **Central London**, including the Greater London Boroughs; **East Midlands**, including Leicestershire and Rutland; **Glasgow**; **Merseyside and Cheshire**; **Nottinghamshire** and **Wales**. Grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund have allowed two Regional Archive Centres to establish online databases for their area. These are **Sussex** (www.publicsculpturesofsussex.co.uk) and **Norfolk and Suffolk** (www.racns.co.uk). The **Sheffield** RAC also has their data online (<http://public-art.shu.ac.uk>)

In addition to all the researchers and other academic staff members working on the NRP, we have been ably assisted by a range of volunteers including students, retired people with time to spare, staff in local government and libraries and other interested members of the public. The National Recording Project needs your help! If you know about local sculpture, have information on artists, or are a practising sculptor / artist yourself, then please take a moment to contact us. If you would like to take part in a more structured manner, such as in a work placement or voluntary capacity, then we would also like to hear from you. Email us at pmsa@btconnect.com

The Public Sculpture of Britain series

The NRP series *Public Sculpture of Britain*, published by Liverpool University Press, aims to provide a full survey of public sculpture nationwide. These fully illustrated volumes deal comprehensively with works occupying public space. They constitute an essential resource for all those involved in researching the nation's public monuments and sculpture. Liverpool University Press books are available from all good bookstores. Alternatively you can purchase direct from their website: www.liverpool-unipress.co.uk where prices and further details can be found.

Liverpool University Press aims to publish at least two new volumes annually. In 2010, *Public Sculpture of Herefordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire* and *Public Sculpture of Bristol* will be published. Other volumes soon to be published include, *Public Sculpture of Historic Westminster*, *Public Sculpture of South-West London* and *Public Sculpture of Sussex*. News of forthcoming and of recently published volumes can always be found on the PMSA website: www.PMSA.org.uk



The Public Monuments and Sculpture Association

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