



Wakefield State of the District: Culture and Sport

Selection: Wakefield

Cultural Attractions and Tourism

The district has nationally important cultural heritage sites at Pontefract Castle, Wakefield Cathedral and the National Coal Mining Museum for England. The Yorkshire Sculpture Park and the Hepworth Wakefield are internationally important contemporary art galleries including works by locally born artists, Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth. The Yorkshire Sculpture Park won the Art Fund Museum of the Year 2014 prize. The leading cultural attractions between them attracted over one million visits in 2015/16.

Although Wakefield missed out on the Grand Depart of the Tour de France 2014 it was selected to host the start of Stage 3 of the new Tour de Yorkshire in May 2015. The Tour de Yorkshire passed through the district again in 2016, with Stage 2 visiting Knottingley, Pontefract and Wentbridge, before heading to North and South Elmsall.

Number of visitors to key attractions		
	2014/15	2015/16
Castleford Museum	14,000	14,000
The Hepworth Wakefield	206,000	195,000
National Coal Mining Museum	119,000	138,000
Nostell Priory	118,000	-
Pontefract Castle	66,000	84,000
Pontefract Museum	39,000	44,000
Wakefield Museum	33,000	41,000
Yorkshire Sculpture Park	429,000	702,000

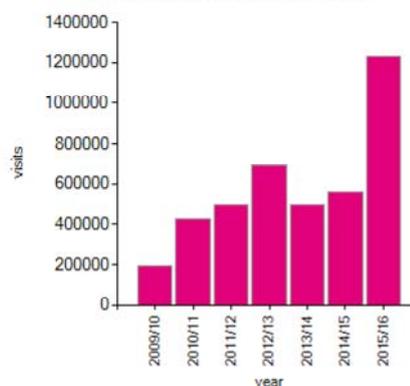
Source: Wakefield Council and National Trust

Tourist Information

There were over one million visits to the experiencewakefield.co.uk website in 2015/16. This was a big increase on the previous year due mainly to the success of the Food, Drink and Rhubarb Festival and the Martin Parr exhibition at The Hepworth Wakefield securing national coverage in the media.



Visits to experiencewakefield.co.uk



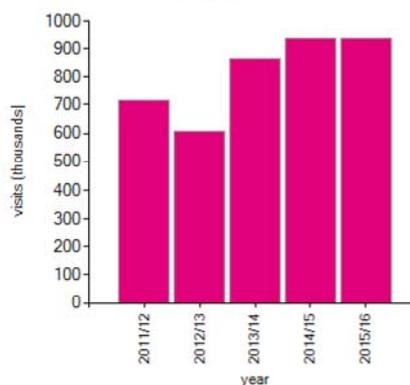
Source: Wakefield Council

Libraries

There are currently 13 libraries in the district being run by Wakefield Council, and a mobile library service. The number of people visiting Council-run libraries has increased over the last five years, although refurbishment works at Airedale and Ossett have impacted on visits during 2015/16.

There were 704,000 books issued across all Council-run libraries in 2014/15. Fiction is more popular than non-fiction, and children's books make up 34% of all book issues. In addition to print books there were 45,000 issues of audio, visual, electronic and other issues, nearly 27,000 of which were issues of talking/audio books. Wakefield One is the busiest library in terms of issues and visits.

Library Visits



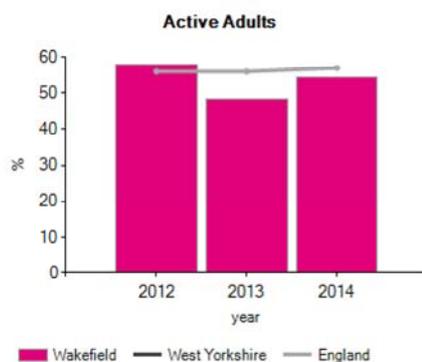
Source: Wakefield Council

Participation in Sport and Exercise

In 2014, 54.5% of the district's adults were physically active. This was a small improvement on the previous year, but the percentage is below the regional and England averages. Being physically active is considered equivalent to at least 150 minutes of at least moderate intensity

physical activity per week in bouts of 10 minutes or more.

Detailed levels of physical activity were also captured by Wakefield's Health and Lifestyle Survey in 2009. This showed variation by age and gender in the frequency of vigorous activity undertaken by local people. Young men undertake substantially more exercise of this sort than their female counterparts, probably due participation in team sport, but that gender gap closes quite quickly as people get older. When asked, over half of residents said they would like to increase their level of physical activity.



Source: Public Health England

Employment in the Cultural, Leisure and Sport Sectors

Employment in the cultural, leisure and sports sectors fell between 2009 and 2011 but has recovered slightly. In 2013, the cultural, creative, leisure and sport businesses accounted for around 9% of all the district's employment.

People in employment, by sector (including sole proprietors)					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Hotels and restaurants i	9000	8300	7700	7800	8000
Sport and recreation i	2900	3100	2600	3400	3200
Creative industries i	1800	1500	1400	1900	1700
Libraries, archives, museums i	500	500	600	500	300

Source: BRES