



Survey of endangered crafts

Can you spare just 10 minutes of your time to help provide current data for the [HCA Red List of Endangered Crafts](#) 2021? From swill baskets to hurdles, many coppice and green wood crafts are classified as endangered on the Red List and our skills remain at threat.

The Green Wood and Coppice Crafts Survey is being run in partnership with the [Heritage Crafts Association \(HCA\)](#), Small Woods and the National Coppice Federation.

If you are a maker of green wood or coppice crafts, professional or amateur, then we would like to hear from you. Complete the survey [here](#) before the closing date of January 31.

The HCA Red List of Endangered Crafts ranks traditional crafts by the likelihood that they will survive to the next generation, based on intangible cultural heritage safeguarding principles.

The 2019 Red List features 212 crafts that include everything from arrowsmithing to wheelwrighting. It found that:

- four crafts were *extinct*;
- 36 crafts are *critically endangered*;
- 71 crafts are *endangered*;
- 102 crafts are deemed *currently viable*. Despite this classification, these crafts are not risk-free or without issues and will continue to be monitored.



Swill basket by Owen Jones. Photo credit: HCA

Crafts that are categorised as endangered or critically endangered have very few practitioners remaining, and there is significant risk that the skills will not be passed on to the next generation.

Heritage Crafts Association

Founded in 2009, The Heritage Crafts Association is the advocacy body for traditional heritage crafts. Working in partnership with Government and key agencies, it provides a focus for craftspeople, groups, societies and guilds, as well as individuals who care about the loss of traditional crafts skills, and works towards a healthy and sustainable framework for the future.



Intangible Cultural Heritage

In 2003, UNESCO adopted a Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, including 'traditional craftsmanship'. It stated:

“Any efforts to safeguard traditional craftsmanship must focus not on preserving craft objects – no matter how beautiful, precious, rare or important they might be – but on creating conditions that will encourage artisans to continue to produce crafts of all kinds, and to transmit their skills and knowledge to others.”

A total of 178 countries, from Albania and Algeria to Zambia and Zimbabwe, have signed up to the convention, effectively making Intangible Cultural Heritage part of their cultural policy. Unfortunately, the UK is not one of them.

The Heritage Crafts Association supports the 2003 UNESCO Convention and its goal of safeguarding traditional craftsmanship by supporting the continuing transmission of knowledge and skills associated with traditional artisanship to help ensure that crafts continue to be practised within their communities, providing livelihoods to their makers and reflecting creativity and adaptation.

The Heritage Crafts Association is one of only three UK-wide NGOs recognised by the UNESCO Convention for Intangible Heritage (accredited as an NGO under the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention 2003), and the only one with an explicit focus on craft skills.

For more details please get in touch with Mary Lewis on redlist@heritagecrafts.org.uk

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