

Case Study: Norton Priory

Casio's lamp-free projectors bring vibrant medieval colours back to one of the UK's historical statue masterpieces

Casio's lamp-free projectors bring vibrant medieval colours back to one of the UK's historical statue masterpieces.

The imposing St Christopher effigy, the patron saint of travellers, reigns over 11ft tall, hand carved from red sandstone in 1391. Historically irreplaceable, the statue remains housed within a bespoke gallery at Norton Priory and is the largest surviving medieval statue in Britain.

Within the last decade, extensive conservation and research work was carried out by the renowned conservationist, John Larson, revealing original bright and vibrant pigment colours. Sadly, the paint was removed deliberately in the 1600s with a coat of wax to

'dull down' the appearance and make it less conspicuous to reformers.

For visitors today, Norton Priory wanted to resurrect the statues' former vibrant medieval colours while enhancing the exhibit with an accompanying animated story. To achieve this, a highly detailed and accurate sustained colour projection technology and a "hearty king sized voice" would be required. Enter Sculpting with Light, one of the UKs leading visual effects companies who specialise in bringing exhibits to life through creative excellence, who embellished Casio's cutting edge projection technology with the heartening voice of the famous English Shakespearean actor, Brian Blessed.

John Hipkiss, Sculpting with Light's Owner and Creative Director, relished the opportunity to recreate visual history with innovative projection lighting. He recalls: *"Originally, the statue would have started life painted in really vibrant colourful hues, common to the vivid paints used in medieval times to show off the wealth of the Priory."*

Thankfully in the restoration process, some of the original pigments were found, enabling the exact colour match to the authentic paint.

"We started with a high resolution 3D laser scan together with John Larson's own reconstruction painting that

Key features

- Lamp-free
- Up to 4,000 ANSI lumens
- Intelligent Brightness Control
- XGA and WXGA resolution
- 3D Ready
- Quick start and stop



 **LampFree**
CASIO Green Technology



Discover more casio.co.uk/projectors

CASIO

“...when we were made aware of Casio’s lamp-free projectors, we were keen to see if in reality the results would be as crisp and consistent as described.”

John Hipkiss, Owner and Creative Director, Sculpting with Light



enabled to achieve the vibrant crimsons, ethereal blue hues required of the true colour spectrum. We also wanted to ensure the colours would not degrade over time through daily exhibiting.” John continues: “We have significant experience in using projection systems within the museum world, hence when we were made aware of Casio’s lampfree projectors, we were keen to see if in reality the results would be as crisp and consistent as described.”

A Casio lamp-free projector was dispatched. In setup, the Casio projectors’ simple intelligent design meant the infrastructure costs were dramatically reduced including the cradle structure support due to Casio’s light-weight construction. John explains: “On similar projects, over 50% of the overall budget was allocated to provisioning equipment, but with Casio, we were able to reduce this proportion to 25%.”

Placed in situ, the imposing statue posed ambient lighting challenges being located in the path of direct sunlight, normally challenging to projection systems. John notes: “This wasn’t a problem for the Casio projector as it featured Intelligent Brightness Control, which automatically adjusts and compensates for varying ambient lighting conditions and the results were truly astounding.”

When it comes to running the exhibition on a relentless daily basis across the year, Norton Priory, a registered charity, continues to benefit from reduced overheads. Featuring near instantaneous start up; low initial capital expenditure and low maintenance operating costs,

museum curators are pleased to note the days of replacing fading lamps, cleaning filters and reduced exhibition down time are over. Thrilled with the resulting animated celestial effigy, Norton Priory curators have embarked on further projects using Casio lamp-free technology.

John explains: “We are now working on the second half of our project at Norton Priory with three more projection pieces, the first of which is a digital recreation of an existing portrait of Lady Brooke, a ‘living portrait’. This is projected in the undercroft of the Priory, using two of Casio’s XJ-H1700 lamp-free projectors to accurately depict the colours from the original oil painting.”

“We will also be displaying a short film about the history of the building and grounds and intend to use a Casio XJ-1700 to project the film onto the unpainted brick wall of the building. The integral 4000 lumens will provide us with the ability to deliver maximum impact, intensity and effect.”

The third piece will be housed in the ‘Walkway’ with polychromatic projection using a Casio XJ short throw projector to accommodate the restricted area, with an animated silhouetted story depicting the Priory’s past.

Experience the divine quality of colours and imagery for yourself at ‘St Christopher at Norton Priory’ video.

www.casio.co.uk
nortonpriory.org

 **LampFree**
CASIO Green Technology



Discover more casio.co.uk/projectors

CASIO