

HERITAGE COUNTS 2015

ENGLAND



CONTENTS

SECTION 1

CARING FOR THE LOCAL HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

Introduction	2
Our designated heritage	3
The value of heritage	4
Caring for heritage	8

SECTION 2

THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT IN 2015

Introduction	16
Management of heritage	16
Changes to the funding and resources landscape	20
Planning system changes	23
Participation	26
Sector Insight	28

SECTION 3

INDICATORS

Introduction	30
Discovery, identification and understanding	31
Constructive conservation and sustainable management	34
Public engagement	36
Capacity building	38
Helping things to happen	41
<i>Heritage Counts</i> indicators 2015	42

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Heritage Counts 2015, produced by the Historic Environment Forum, is the fourteenth annual audit of the historic environment in England. It reports on major developments and trends in the heritage sector. The results of two research projects are particularly interesting.

The first comprehensive survey of listed home owners has provided a valuable insight into their views. It confirms how passionate they feel about owning an important piece of England's history, how much they recognise architectural or historic significance and their acknowledgment of their maintenance responsibilities. The heritage sector must continue to encourage them and provide the necessary support and advice they need.

Similar enthusiasm and commitment emerges from research carried out by the UK Association of Preservation Trusts. This shows a very strong commitment to the future upkeep of buildings in their care, with the majority setting aside funds for future maintenance. Many important historic buildings, with challenging circumstances, would be seriously threatened without the dedication and hard work of these bodies.

The disappearance of heritage expertise in local authorities and the continuing rate of decline in others remains a major concern. Employment of heritage experts has declined by almost one third since 2006. This has major implications for delivering truly sustainable development.

This year marked the demerger of English Heritage to become Historic England and the English Heritage Trust. Historic England is the new name for the public body, known formally as the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England, which continues to champion and protect England's historic environment. The English Heritage Trust is an independent charity now responsible for the care of the 420 historic sites across England which comprise the National Heritage Collection.

Heritage issues, positive and negative, continue to hit the national and local headlines. The breadth and depth of effort that people working within the sector put into managing this nation's heritage is remarkable. Some outstanding success stories are recognised through various heritage awards, but much is done every day that can never be captured in *Heritage Counts*.

All of the information in this year's edition of *Heritage Counts* is available online at www.heritagecounts.org.uk, along with local authority profiles showing local level data, research projects which support this year's report, regional summaries and additional case studies demonstrating how owners and preservation trusts care for the local historic environment.

Heritage Counts is brought together by the combined effort of a number of dedicated people across the sector. I would like to thank all our partners and the organisations involved in its production for their continued help and support.

This document provides many inspiring examples of successful work across the heritage sector in England whilst also highlighting some of our challenges. What is clear is that there is a vast "army" of committed and passionate people involved with our heritage, whether as owners, volunteers or professionals, and that "army" is determined to secure the extraordinary quality and diversity of England's historic fabric for future generations.



Sir Laurie Magnus
CHAIRMAN, HISTORIC ENGLAND

1

HERITAGE COUNTS 2015: CARING FOR THE LOCAL HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

SUMMARY OF CARING FOR THE LOCAL HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

- This year's edition of **Heritage Counts** reports on the views and experiences of those responsible for looking after the local historic environment.
- Research commissioned for **Heritage Counts 2015** has demonstrated that the vast majority of private residential owners and Preservation Trusts successfully care for and protect their listed buildings.
- The first ever survey of residential listed building owners provides evidence that listed building owners see themselves as custodians of history and take pleasure from living in a unique, architecturally or historically significant property. They recognise the need to conserve heritage for future generations. They feel strongly that their listed buildings are important to the character of the local area and are committed to their repair and maintenance.
- Similar findings emerge from the UK Association of Preservation Trusts' research. The research identifies historic and architectural character as the prime motivation for taking on a project and respondents demonstrate a strong commitment to the future upkeep of buildings in their care, with the majority setting aside funds for future maintenance.
- Owners and local communities have an important role to play in the conservation of our built heritage, but the role of government is also important. The heritage sector is concerned about the impact of uncertainty of the future funding of local authority services.

INTRODUCTION

The historic environment shapes the character of many places. It can make an area more attractive to live in, work in and visit. On a more emotional level it can provide a community with a connection to its past – a tangible reminder of the lives and experiences of previous generations. This year's edition of **Heritage Counts** reports on the views and experience of those actually responsible for looking after the local historic environment. To date, there has been little evidence about the experience of listed building owners. A central piece of research commissioned by Historic England and reported on in this section is a listed building owners' survey. The survey had three key objectives: firstly, to understand the value owners place on owning a listed building; secondly, to explore owners' perceptions of the planning process and thirdly to provide greater insight into repairs and maintenance.

The section provides evidence for the value of heritage and reviews how heritage is cared for. After a brief description of designation, the section is structured as follows:

- The value of heritage
 - Economic value – the economic contribution heritage makes to both the national and local economy;
 - Conservation areas – their creation and value;
 - Place-shaping – the contribution heritage makes to the well-being of the local community;
 - Public engagement – the latest findings from the Taking Part Survey, an annual government funded survey of cultural and sport participation.
- Caring for heritage
 - Listed residential property owners – findings from a bespoke survey;
 - Conversion of heritage assets at risk for residential use – findings from a scoping exercise;
 - The community perspective – findings from research amongst building preservation trusts;
 - The role of government – trends in staffing levels amongst local authority specialists.

OUR DESIGNATED HERITAGE

Since the Ancient Monuments Protection Act of 1882, the Government has recognised that important historic assets may be identified and protected by law; through 'scheduling' (1882), 'listing' (1947), 'designating' conservation areas (1967), 'protecting' wrecks (1973), and by 'registering' parks and gardens (1983) and battlefields (1995). There are now over 397,000 entries on the National Heritage List for England (NHLE), maintained by Historic England on behalf of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). Designation, combined with successful management, is a critically important tool for protection¹.

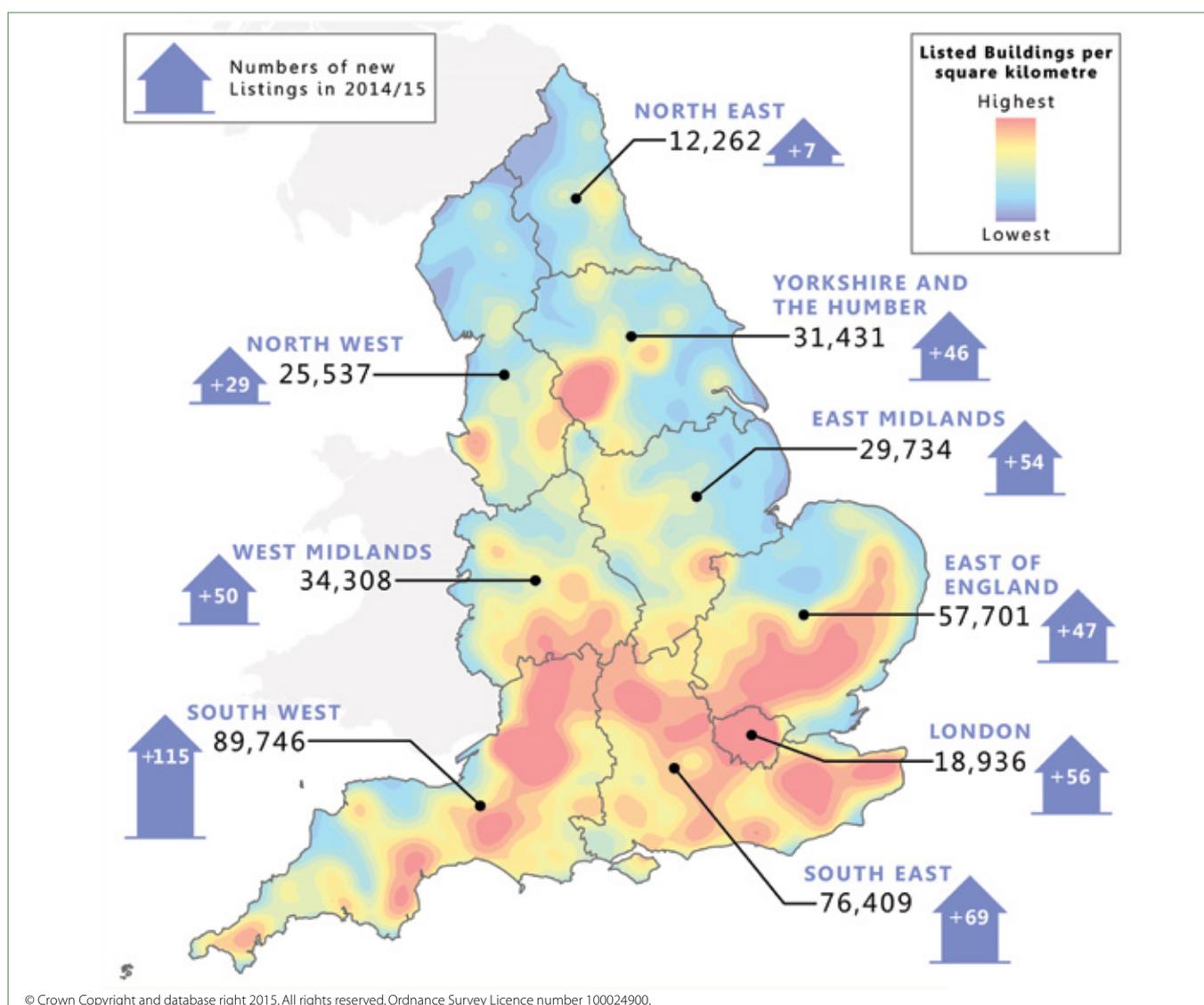
Designating an asset brings additional controls when changes to it are proposed. These are handled by local authorities and in some circumstances, Historic England.

Designation has consequences for its owners and users. Selecting what is to be nationally designated is carried out by Historic England². The map below illustrates the regional spread of listed buildings across England, and the number of new listings.

Designation at the national level seeks to recognise and protect the most notable assets, but there is a considerable stock of buildings, structures, and parks and gardens in England that make a valuable contribution to the local historic environment despite not being formally designated.

In common with nationally listed buildings, many locally important historic buildings face conservation and maintenance issues. Recent studies have demonstrated how regular repair and maintenance can unlock economic benefits embedded in built heritage assets³.

Listed Buildings in England 2014-15



¹ Historic England (2015) Designation Handbook 2014-15. Available at <https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/designation-yearbook-2014-15/designation-yearbook-2014-15.pdf/>

² Historic England has produced 20 thematic selection guides giving detailed guidance about what may be eligible for listing. Available at <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/selection-criteria/listing-selection/>

³ Ecorys (2012) The Economic Impact of Maintaining and Repairing Historic Buildings in England

THE VALUE OF HERITAGE

Economic value

Value to the national economy

Heritage makes a significant contribution to the UK economy, providing jobs and output across a number of industries. Heritage tourism represented 2% of the UK's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2011⁴; this is the direct, indirect and induced effect of both built heritage and natural heritage⁵ tourism. It is estimated that built heritage tourism directly accounted for £5.1 billion in GDP in 2011. The combined direct, indirect and induced impact contributed £14 billion in GDP⁶. Including natural tourism, this figure increases to £26.4 billion GDP. Repair and maintenance on historic buildings⁷ directly generated £4.1 billion GDP in England in 2010⁸. With indirect effects (those produced by purchases made from the supply chain) this increases to £11 billion. Repair and maintenance on historic buildings in England constituted 10% of the total value of the construction industry in 2010⁹.

Ecorys¹⁰ estimated that there were just over 5.4 million traditional buildings in England, all of which require specialist knowledge and skills if they are to be maintained in good order and repaired. The built heritage construction sector directly supports around 180,000 full time equivalent jobs in England. Including indirect and induced effects¹¹, they estimated that this figure rises to nearly 500,000 full time equivalent jobs. In terms of contribution to national income, England's built heritage construction sector is estimated to account for some £11 billion in GDP. At the regional level, the scale of built heritage construction is most marked in the South East, London and East of England.

Value to the local economy

Over recent years, as the regeneration and renewal of our towns and city centres has gathered pace, the careful integration of historic buildings and areas has played an increasingly important role in major regeneration schemes and in creating significant benefits for local economies and communities¹². Using the historic environment as an asset and giving it new life, has been one of the cornerstones of the economic and social revival of our towns and cities.

Research by Amion Consulting and Locum Consulting¹³ commissioned for **Heritage Counts** 2010 provided insight into the role of the historic environment and quantified its impact on economic activity, job creation and perceptions of local areas. The work demonstrated how the historic environment can help stimulate economic activity by providing unique destinations which attract visitors and by encouraging new businesses. A number of reasons for investing in the historic environment were identified:

- *Attracting visitors to local areas* – One of the strongest arguments for investing and promoting the historic environment is its importance in affecting perceptions of how attractive a place is to visit. It was also an important factor in determining where people chose to live (74%) and work (63%)¹⁴;
- *Improving the overall appeal of places by providing a diverse leisure and retail experience* – By attracting independent businesses, the historic environment is often one of the deciding factors in making a place that is distinct from others;
- *Attracting independent businesses* – Property agents often state that one of the most useful functions of the historic environment is to offer accommodation for small businesses that is smaller, more flexible and cost-effective. In the Custard Factory, Birmingham, the basic refurbishment of the property allowed for cheap rentals to small businesses, creative industries and social enterprises;
- *The historic environment is a factor in business location* – A quarter of businesses surveyed as part of the research agreed that the heritage setting was an important factor in their decision to locate in an area. Though not the most important factor in determining where a business is located (availability of premises and proximity to customers were more important), it was ranked as being as important as road access¹⁵;
- *The impact of historic environment regeneration on economic activity* – Improvement in the historic environment delivers economic benefits by creating attractive spaces for people and businesses, while improving perceptions of local areas. This generates further economic activity in the local economy, which helps conserve the buildings for future generations.

⁴ Calculated using Oxford Economics (2013) The Economic Impact of the UK Heritage Tourism Economy, and ONS statistics

⁵ Natural heritage includes national parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), parks and gardens

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Pre-1919, not necessarily listed

⁸ Ecorys (2012) The Economic Impact of Maintaining and Repairing Historic Buildings in England

⁹ Ibid

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ Induced refers to those which accrue in the economy as a result of increased income and spending by people who work in the built heritage construction sector, together with those businesses that supply goods and services to these sectors

¹² English Heritage (2013) Heritage Works The Use of Historic Buildings in Regeneration. Available at <https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/heritage-works/heritage-works-2013.pdf/>

¹³ Amion Consulting and Locum Consulting (2010) Impact of Historic Environment Regeneration

¹⁴ Ibid

¹⁵ Ibid

CASE STUDY: NORTH EAST TOOLKIT

Historic England commissioned Trends Business Research Ltd (TBR) to produce a toolkit for the North East Historic Environment Forum. The rationale was to empower users to extract meaningful data relating to the economic impacts of heritage in North East England. One of the long term goals of the project was to create a sustainable tool that can be updated with new data when required. The key findings from the research are as follows:

- Heritage directly generated an estimated £1,499 million in Gross Value Added (GVA) to the North East economy in 2012, an increase of 3.7% since 2011.
- North East heritage indirectly generated an extra £450 million GVA in the supply chain in 2012 and supported a further £300 million in induced GVA in the wider North East economy.
- The value of heritage-related construction in the North East has decreased between 2010 and 2014 by £15.8million (a 6.6% drop). By comparison, the national heritage-related construction outputs increased by 18.3% in the same period.
- Heritage employment in the North East increased by 19.2% between 2011 and 2013, compared with an increase of 4.7% in heritage employment across England as a whole.
- The proportion of those who have visited a heritage site¹⁶ in the North East in 2013/14 (77.6%) is above that of the national average (72.5%).
- Heritage-related tourism in the North East accounted for 551,000 domestic overnight trips, 11 million domestic day visits and 222,000 inbound (international) visits in 2013.
- £628 million was spent on heritage-related tourism in the North East in 2013, accounting for 18% of all tourism in the North East. (The figure incorporates domestic day visit, domestic overnight and inbound visit spend).
- The revenue total net cost of heritage services in the North East in 2013/14 was £2.56 million.
- Whilst total capital expenditure on culture & heritage¹⁷ in England has continued to decline between 2012/13 and 2013/14, the North East has seen an increase in capital expenditure during this period.
- The decrease in revenue net total costs¹⁸ for the total heritage sector (sum of heritage, museums & galleries, and archives) between 2012/13 and 2013/14 has been less severe in the North East than across England as a whole.
- Capital expenditure on all total culture and related services¹⁹ in England as a whole has continued to decline between 2012/13 and 2013/14. Conversely, capital expenditure on total culture and related services has increased in the North East during this time period.

Conservation Areas

Conservation areas are created where a local planning authority identifies an area of special architectural or historic interest which deserves careful management to protect that character. The first conservation areas were designated in 1967 under the Civic Amenities Act and there are now nearly 10,000 in England.

All local authorities have a conservation area within their boundaries and they are generally valued by those living and working in them as special places, creating a unique sense of place-identity, encouraging community cohesion and promoting regeneration²⁰. Research carried out by the London School of Economics investigated the costs and benefits associated with a property located in a conservation area in England²¹. Commissioned by English Heritage in 2012, the study combined statistical analysis of existing data, a survey of residents in ten conservation areas and interviews with local planning officers.

¹⁶ The definition used in Taking Part is adopted here and refers to a visit to one or more of the following over the last 12 months: a city or town with historic character; a historic building open to the public (non-religious); a historic park or garden open to the public; a place connected with industrial history (e.g. an old factory, dockyard or mine) or historic transport system (e.g. an old ship or railway); a historic place of worship attended as a visitor (not to worship); a monument such as a castle, fort or ruin; a site of archaeological interest (e.g. Roman villa, ancient burial site); a site connected with sports heritage (e.g. Wimbledon) (not visited for the purposes of watching sport)

¹⁷ Total capital expenditure = total payments on fixed assets + expenditure on grants + expenditure on loans and other financial assistance. The figure includes museums and galleries, archives, heritage, arts development and support, theatres and public entertainment. Further information is available here <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/local-authority-revenue-expenditure-and-financing>

¹⁸ Net total cost = net current expenditure + capital charges. Further information is available here <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/local-authority-revenue-expenditure-and-financing>

¹⁹ This figure includes culture and heritage, recreation and sport, open spaces, tourism and library services

²⁰ English Heritage (undated) Heritage at Risk Conservation Areas. Available at https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/Conservation_Areas_at_Risk/caar-booklet-acc.pdf/

²¹ Ahlfed, G.M., Holman, N., Wendland, N. (2012) An Assessment of the Effects of Conservation Areas on Value

Over 1 million property transactions between 1995 and 2010 were analysed, together with data on the characteristics of over 8,000 conservation areas. The key findings include:

- Houses in conservation areas sell for a premium of 9% on average, after controlling for other factors;
- Property prices inside conservation areas have grown at a rate that exceeded comparable properties elsewhere by 0.2% a year;
- Property prices close to conservation areas increased at a relative rate of about 0.1% per year;
- Residents living in conservation areas expressed strong values attached to a green, peaceful residential environment. This finding held irrespective of property value or levels of deprivation;
- Residents living in areas of both high and low deprivation also frequently mentioned the proximity of their home to jobs and amenities as a strongly positive aspect of their area;
- Home owners who had applied for planning permission were generally more likely to have positive attitudes toward planning controls than those who had not applied²².

Place-shaping

Place-shaping encompasses a wide range of activity which contributes to the well-being of the local community. Well-being in this context refers to the fostering of belonging and identity through the creation of successful places²³. Beyond the provision of such services as health, economic development, education and environmental protection, successful place-shaping also includes good urban design, ensuring that new development fits within the historic context.

Research commissioned by ResPublica put forward the case for a 'community right to beauty', giving people the power and incentive to shape, enhance and create beautiful places²⁴. A poll commissioned by ResPublica and conducted by Ipsos MORI demonstrated clear links between dilapidated buildings and perceptions of ugliness. Respondents also tended to associate anti-social behaviour and crime with the ugliness of a place. The authors argue that beauty is central to the concept of a just society contributing to well-being, economic growth and participation.

CASE STUDY: HLF 20 YEARS IN 12 PLACES REPORT²⁶

Since 1994, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has allocated more than £6 billion to nearly 40,000 projects. To celebrate this achievement, and to mark its 20th anniversary, HLF commissioned BritainThinks to conduct research in 12 locations across the UK. The aim of the research was to understand, from a public and local stakeholder point of view, the cumulative impact of HLF investment.

The research re-affirms that heritage is positively linked to local quality of life. For example, 80% of those spoken to think local heritage makes their area a better place to live. Furthermore, 81% see heritage as important to 'me personally'. When asked to rate the impact that local heritage sites have on their personal quality of life, half (50%) of residents give it a score of 7 or more out of 10.

The reasons why residents see heritage as having a range of benefits map on to the key criteria they use to assess local quality of life, including:

- Supporting local pride and encouraging social cohesion;
- Making local areas more visually attractive;
- Providing opportunities for leisure activities – particularly for families;
- Supporting local economies, by promoting tourism and creating employment opportunities.

The research shows us that people can connect with heritage in two ways, in transactional terms and/or emotionally. In the first instance a heritage project might be thought about in terms of the practical benefits it brings, for example supporting the local economy. In the second instance, where the connection is emotional, heritage has a deep, personal resonance and tells people something important about themselves, their family or their community. Through this emotional connection, heritage can provide a route to help us to better navigate the world and is able to deliver the benefits of strengthening local identity, encouraging local pride and fostering social cohesion.

The research provides a clear rationale for continuing to invest in heritage, and to keep searching for ways that connect heritage projects to local needs and aspirations.

²² Ibid

²³ Ibid

²⁴ ResPublica (2015) A Community Right to Beauty

²⁵ Florida, R., Mellander, C., Stolarick, K. (2009) Beautiful Places: The Role of Perceived Aesthetic Beauty in Community Satisfaction, Working Paper Series: Martin Prosperity Research (Online). Available at <http://www.creativeclass.com/rfcgdb/articles/Beautiful%20places.pdf>

²⁶ HLF (2015) 20 Years in 12 Places: 20 Years of Lottery Funding for Heritage, A report prepared by BritainThinks for the Heritage Lottery Fund. Available at <http://www.hlf.org.uk/about-us/research-evaluation/20-years-heritage>

The findings correlate with ethnographic research carried out in Sheffield which concluded that beauty was important in terms of fostering civic pride and respect for places and the people that live there²⁵.

The Heritage Index, launched in September 2015²⁷ was compiled by the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA) in collaboration with the HLF. Designed as a resource to forge stronger links between local heritage and the identity of residents in a place, its intention is to help places prosper both socially and economically. The starting point is defining heritage and, for the purpose of this piece of work, the definition is very broad:

*'We define heritage as anything inherited from the past that helps us, collectively or individually, to understand the present, and create a better future.'*²⁸

To build the Heritage Index, collected data was ordered into seven different categories (including the historic built environment, industrial heritage, natural heritage and parks) and a distinction made between heritage assets and heritage activities. This allowed the overall heritage vitality – how heritage assets and activities improve life for the people living in the local area – to be calculated. The best way to explore the Heritage Index is through interactive on-line maps which are available at www.thersa.org/heritage.

To mark the official launch of Historic England on 1st April 2015, the organisation commissioned YouGov to survey people in England about how they relate to their heritage. According to the survey, the most commonly-valued parts of England's historic environment are country houses and castles, closely followed by monuments, memorials and archaeological sites. However, a substantial proportion of people also consider places of worship, maritime history, parks and gardens, railway stations, shipyards and factories to be an important part of their heritage too. The research hints at a growing trend for people to recognise and appreciate the rich and varied types of heritage across England²⁹. As part of the research, it was found that almost everyone in England (99.3%) lives less than a mile from a listed building, a scheduled monument, an archaeological site, a historic park or garden, a battlefield, a marine wreck or a conservation area.

A poll for the National Churches Trust conducted by ComRes³⁰ measured attitudes to church buildings amongst a representative sample of the population. The survey

found that four out of five people (79%) consider churches and chapels to be an important part of their heritage and history. Likewise, three-quarters (74%) believe church buildings play an important role for society, providing space for community activities.

Research into the social and economic benefits of cathedrals completed by Ecorys³¹ found clear evidence that cathedrals are at the heart of their cities, a place for activities and events, a focus for commemoration and a centre for social regeneration and renewal. Economic impacts are generated directly as a result of the employment of staff and procurement of goods, in addition to the local spending of cathedral visitors. Social benefits include the positive impact cathedrals have on the well-being of participants and society. Specifically, the research revealed:

- 8.3 million people visited cathedrals in 2014 as tourists or visitors. This is in addition to the millions who attend services and the hundreds of thousands of children who visited as part of educational programmes;
- Cathedrals contribute £220 million annually to the national economy. £125 million of this comes directly from visitor-related spend;
- 14,760 people volunteer at cathedrals, in roles ranging from flower arranging and embroidery through to tour guiding and office support.

Public engagement

Numerous studies have explored the benefits that individuals gain through their engagement with heritage and active participation in heritage projects. These range from enjoyment and a sense of fulfilment to the development of new skills and improved physical and mental health³². Some of the most detailed evidence in this area comes from the HLF. The HLF commissioned a three-year study to measure the impact of participating in heritage projects. They found that volunteers in HLF-funded projects reported higher levels of mental health and well-being than the general population or general volunteering population. This was most marked in terms of their ability to 'play a useful part in things', an indicator that combines a measure of self-worth with social connectedness. One in three (35%) volunteers report an increase in self-esteem and confidence in their abilities³³.

²⁷ Schifferes, J. (2015) Heritage, Identity and Place, Seven Themes from the Heritage Index

²⁸ Ibid, page 2

²⁹ Historic England (2015) Exploring English Attitudes to Historic Places, YouGov Poll

³⁰ National Churches Trust (2015) ComRes Perceptions of Church Buildings Survey. Available at <http://comres.co.uk/polls/national-churches-trust/>

³¹ Ecorys (2014) The Economic and Social Impact of England's Cathedrals, A report to the Association of English Cathedrals. Available at <http://www.englishcathedrals.co.uk/documents/2015/06/economic-social-impacts-englands-cathedrals.pdf>

³² HLF (2015) Values and Benefits of Heritage A Research Review. Available at <http://www.hlf.org.uk/values-and-benefits-heritage>

³³ HLF (2011) Assessment of the Social Impact of Volunteering in HLF Projects: Year 3, BOP Consulting

The Taking Part Survey, which began in 2006, has heightened awareness of participation in heritage through volunteering as well as visiting and is now ten years old. Taking Part collects data on many aspects of leisure, culture and sport in England, including heritage. Commissioned by DCMS in partnership with Arts Council England, Historic England and Sport England, the survey is a unique resource for understanding participation. In 2014/2015, 73% of adults had visited a heritage site in the last 12 months, a statistically significant increase since 2005/2006. The proportion of older people visiting heritage sites has increased since 2005/2006, with 77% of 65-74 year olds claiming to have visited a heritage site in the last 12 months and 57% of those over the age of 75. Nearly a quarter (24%) of adults have done voluntary work in the last 12 months and amongst this group, 5% have done voluntary work within the heritage sector.³⁴

In recent years there has been a growing interest in understanding the relationship between culture and well-being. In 2014 **Heritage Counts** commissioned a study on the impact of visiting heritage on subjective well-being³⁵. The research looked at the relationship between heritage visits and well-being, using data from the Understanding Society Survey, which is a large representative sample of the UK population.

The research assessed the impact on life satisfaction (a standard measure of well-being in the academic and policy literature) of visiting eight different types of heritage during the past year. Regression analysis was used and controlled for a range of factors known to be associated with individual well-being; household income, health status (including diet), marital status, employment status, social relationships, gender, age, geographic region, religion and education. The research found that once these variables are accounted for, visiting one or more heritage sites a year has a significant and independent positive relationship with life satisfaction. The impact of heritage visits on life satisfaction was found to be slightly higher than the impacts of participating in sport or the arts. Of the eight different types of heritage sites considered, visits to historic towns and historic buildings were found to have the greatest impact on well-being.

CARING FOR HERITAGE

Listed residential property owners

English Heritage commissioned Green Balance³⁶ to produce an analysis of trends in listed building consents over a three year period, March 2011–March 2014. The research analysed a sample of 936 applications for listed building consent.

The sample of listed building consents was stratified by region, urban/rural authority and whether or not the local authority charged for pre-application advice. Cases were evenly distributed so far as practicable by time (demarking before and after legislation came into effect to reintroduce VAT at 20% on approved works to listed buildings).

Two key findings emerged from the analysis. The first finding was that fewer applicants seek pre-application advice in authorities which charge for pre-application advice. The second finding was that charities, private individuals and institutions applied for listed building consent less frequently after the increase in VAT came into effect. (An assumption has been made that the drop in listed building applications is the result of the VAT increase, although other changes between the two sampled periods cannot be ruled out)³⁷.

The study prompted further research into the views of listed building owners about, amongst other things, the planning process. To date little evidence has been gathered about the experiences of listed residential building owners, and where evidence does exist it tends to be based on relatively small samples. One of the key reasons for this was the lack of a comprehensive data source identifying listed residential properties in England.

The NHLE provides spatial information, but was not set up to provide postcode information, a prerequisite for any postal questionnaire of owners. This was compounded by the nature of the List entries themselves because several individual addresses could be included within one single List entry (such as a house subdivided into flats). Ordnance Survey was commissioned to address these challenges and the resulting database enabled us to make contact with owners and occupiers.

Alastair Coey Architects and ECORYS (previously Ecotec) were appointed to undertake a survey of listed residential building owners. The survey was issued to a total sample of 10,500 listed building owners. Interlocking quotas were used for region and listing grade to ensure sufficient sample size for sub-group analysis.

³⁴ TNS BMRB (2015) Taking Part Initial findings from the longitudinal survey

³⁵ Fujiwara et al. (2014) Heritage and Wellbeing for English Heritage

³⁶ Green Balance (2014) Listed Buildings Consents: A Review of Data

³⁷ Ibid

The survey questions were developed around these areas:

- **Awareness and knowledge:** Familiarity with listed building consent requirements and the planning processes; engagement with heritage organisations; access to information and guidance.
- **Drivers and barriers for repair and maintenance:** The frequency and type of work undertaken; access to specialist workers; access to specialist materials.
- **Attitudes:** Understanding the value owners place on owning a listed building.

The number of respondents who completed the main survey was 1,002, which represents a ten per cent response rate. The numbers were sufficient to explore the response differences by region and grade, which are presented in the full report (found here: www.heritagecounts.org.uk).

The key findings from the research were as follows:

- More than half of listed building owners (55%) have lived in their property for over ten years and over the years have invested significant amounts of time and money in maintaining their property.
- For the majority of owners (89%) their property was listed when they bought or acquired it, but for eight per cent, their property was listed during their ownership.
- More than nine out of ten (93%) listed building owners consider their property to be very important or important to the character of the local area. Likewise, many owners (88%) recognise the importance of listed building consent when it comes to protecting the special architectural and historic character of their property.
- Whilst half (50%) of all respondents have a good or very good overall experience with the listed building consent process a significant proportion (34%) describe their experience as 'poor' or 'very poor'. A respondent's experience is dependent on their clarity of understanding about the kind of work that requires listed building consent and the ease of finding helpful information.
 - Amongst those that have a very good overall experience with the listed building consent process, 59% state that they are always clear about the kind of work that requires consent and 51% find it easy to find helpful information.
 - Amongst those that have a very poor experience, only 26% agree that they are always clear about the kind of work that requires listed building consent and only 12% find it easy to find helpful information.

- Over three-quarters (78%) of listed building owners always or sometimes feel clear about the kind of work that requires listed building consent and over a third (35%) have applied for listed building consent in the last 5 years.
 - Amongst those that applied for consent, more than four out of five were successful (84%).
 - Repairs (29%) and alterations (22%) are the largest categories of work that owners have cited when applying for listed building consent.
- Listed building owners are conscientious about repairs and maintenance to their property with over two-thirds (71%) painting or repairing their windows at least every two to five years.
- The main barrier cited by listed building owners in connection with repair and maintenance is affordable building materials. A third (33%) find it difficult or very difficult to find such materials.
- More than four out of five respondents (82%) were motivated to provide a response to the open ended survey question "Please can you describe in your own words what owning a listed building means to you?". This is indicative of the interest and passion people feel about being a listed building owner.
- Listed building owners felt privileged to own a listed building and demonstrated a real sense of pride. They see themselves as custodians of their property and enjoy being part of history.

"Pride at living in a building with historical interest and happy to be its curators for future generations." (Owner of a Grade II* property in Yorkshire and Humber)
- Owners recognised the importance of conserving heritage for future generations. This was often coupled with an appreciation of how conserving a listed building enhances and brings benefits to the local area.

"I love our beautiful home and I'm proud to be a custodian of a little bit of England's and our local community's heritage; it doesn't feel so much like we own our property, more that we're privileged to be part of its story." (Owner of a Grade II property in the South East)
- Respondents believed that their listed property is expensive to maintain and would appreciate financial support either in the form of VAT exemption or through other sources.

"I feel fortunate to live in such a special place, but there is a lot of responsibility and expense" (Owner of a Grade I listed building in the West Midlands)

LISTED RESIDENTIAL BUILDING OWNERS SURVEY, 2015

Alastair Coey & Ecorys UK, 2015

WHAT DOES OWNING A LISTED PROPERTY MEAN TO YOU? (n=824)



WHICH OF THESE PROPERTY 'TYPES' BEST DESCRIBES YOUR PROPERTY?

Listed building owners (n=999)



English owner occupiers*



*Source: English Housing Survey, HOUSEHOLDS, 2013-14, DCLG

HOW IMPORTANT IS YOUR PROPERTY TO THE CHARACTER OF YOUR LOCAL AREA?

Listed Building Owners

Important/
Very important
93%



Not very/at
all important
5%
Neither
2%

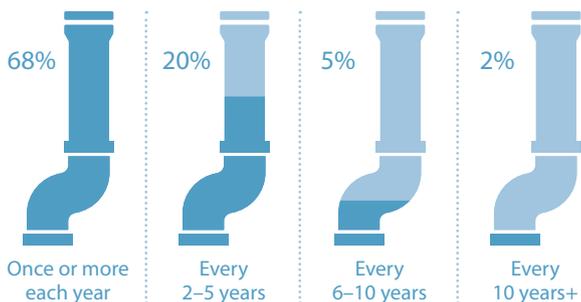
Living in Conservation Areas

Important/
Very important
78%

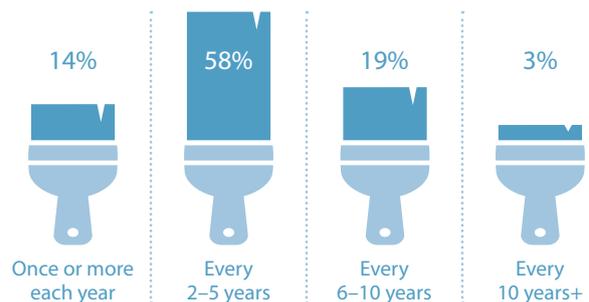


Not very/at
all important
16%
Neither
6%

HOW OFTEN DO YOU CLEAR GUTTERS, DOWN PIPES & DRAINS COVERS? (n=981)



HOW OFTEN DO YOU PAINT OR REPAIR WINDOWS & DOORS? (n=981)



HAVE YOU HAD A POSITIVE PLANNING EXPERIENCE?

Thinking of your most recent application, how would you rate your overall planning experience?



50%
Good/
Very good

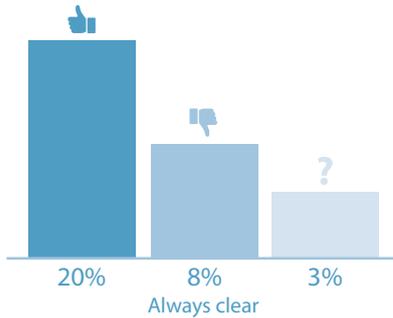


34%
Poor/
Very poor



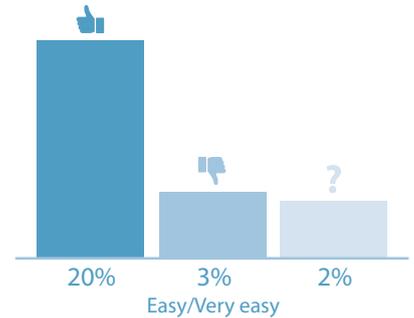
16%
Neither
good/poor

Is it clear to you what kind of work requires Listed building consent?



(n=347)

Is it easy/hard to find helpful information about repairing and maintaining listed properties?



WHY DIDN'T YOU PROCEED WITH YOUR LBC APPLICATION? (n=120)



21%
Application process
was too complex



23%
Skilled professionals
were too expensive



11%
Finding professionals
was too difficult



17%
Difficulty supplying
supporting information



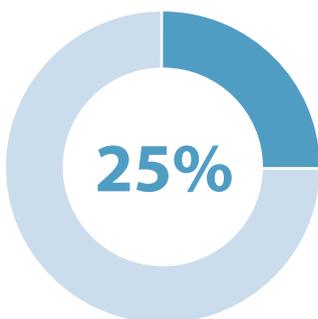
6%
Got negative pre-
application response



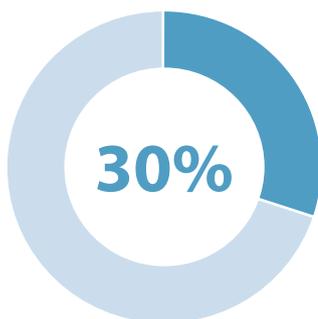
2%
Because of the
local opposition

21% DIDN'T APPLY FOR OTHER REASONS

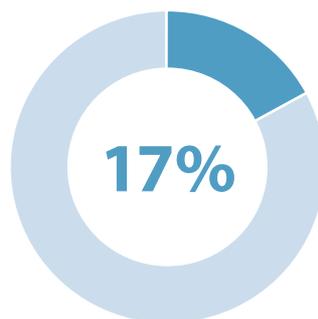
WHAT WAS YOUR BUDGET FOR WORK ON YOUR PROPERTY REQUIRING LBC? (n=355)



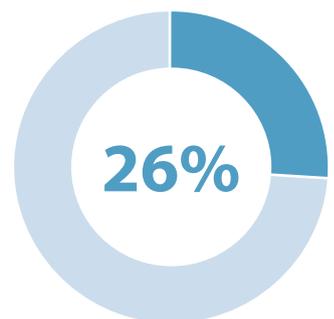
Less than £5,000



£5,001 – £25,000



£25,001 – £50,000



Over £50,001

OWNERS' ATTITUDES TO CONSERVATION (n=987)



**LISTED
BUILDING
CONSENT**

of all listed building owners feel that LBC is either important or very important to protect the special architecture and historic character of the property

CASE STUDY: ROSIE MCTAVISH, OWNER OF GROVE HOUSE, GRADE II LISTED GEORGIAN HOUSE SITUATED ON THE HIGH STREET OF THE FENLAND MARKET TOWN OF CHATTERIS

“What we fell in love with were the period features – the high ceilings, a beautiful moulded ceiling, staircase with curved continuous balustrade, functional shutters, stained glass windows and walled garden. We also love living in a building that has a story – it was just as well we fell in love with it because given the scale of the house and its listed nature it needed new owners that would look past its rotten windows, leaky roof and seemingly endless dirty carpets to see the potential of what it once was and could become again.

“I think the biggest challenge to owning a listed building is that you have to want the building for what it is. Listed buildings aren’t as easy to amend or extend as a non-listed house, and works are often on a longer timeframe to undertake, and limited to the summer periods due to traditional building materials and methods.

“A listed building has a story and a soul, and as an owner you need to work out how to respect its story and soul and bring out the best in it, whilst also giving you what you want.

“So yes, a listed building comes with more admin hassle, yes, it can be more expensive and yes it’s more restrictive to develop, but in our view it’s been well worth it. We have a house with a history, grandeur and story that no modern house could ever live up to.”



(Photo: Rosie McTavish).

Conversion of heritage assets at risk for residential use

Colliers were commissioned by Historic England to investigate what might be done by the public sector to encourage conversion of large heritage assets at risk to residential use³⁸. Specific objectives of the work were to examine the characteristics of historic buildings that have been redeveloped for residential use, and to understand more about the underlying motivation and investment returns in the development of historic properties for residential purposes³⁹. The key findings were as follows:

- The rise in residential values across most of the country has made converting historic buildings for residential purposes a more attractive option. However, values are still not always high enough to cover conservation deficit⁴⁰ especially outside London and the South East;
- Whilst a large number of developers are taking on heritage assets for conversion to residential, only a small number are specialising in them. Developers typically use a higher proportion of employees to contractors on their sites because their employees have developed specialist skills. They differ in their approach and the choice of building they take on, but each places great emphasis on quality of workmanship and respect for the integrity of the heritage assets they develop⁴¹;
- The development of historic buildings for residential purposes can make a valid contribution to the growing need for more housing and ensure historic buildings at risk are conserved. However, there can be a trade-off between public access and commercial viability. Private residential use with no public access will often be the most profitable use for a country house that had a period of institutional use.⁴²

The community perspective

An important community benefit of heritage is the potential to enhance the social capital of local communities. It does this by providing a tangible link to the past and reinforcing the sense of community identity. This enhanced sense of identity can contribute to social cohesion within the community through a common thread of understanding⁴³.

Volunteering is one way in which people can feel connected to their community. Work carried out by the Churches Conservation Trust⁴⁴ concluded that for churches to thrive they must be rooted in the lives of local communities.

³⁸ Colliers International Property Consultants Ltd (2015) Use of Historic Buildings for Residential Purposes

³⁹ Ibid

⁴⁰ The term ‘conservation deficit’ describes a situation whereby the total project cost of restoring a building and returning it to productive use exceeds the market value of the building

⁴¹ Ibid

⁴² Ibid

⁴³ Australian Government Productivity Commission (2006) Conservation of Australia’s Historic Heritage Places, No. 37, 6 April 2006

⁴⁴ The Churches Conservation Trust (2015) Protect, Create and Inspire, the Impact of our Volunteers

The Institute for Volunteering (IVR)⁴⁵ has identified five key areas of capital which volunteering helps develop. Volunteers develop their personal confidence, knowledge and skills (human capital) whilst developing a sense of community, stronger social networks, trust, and citizenship (social capital). They develop an understanding of, and engagement with, local culture and heritage (cultural capital). The activities undertaken benefit the local economy, encouraging community regeneration (economic capital), and make a significant contribution to the development of local infrastructure (physical capital).

The UK Association of Preservation Trusts (UKAPT) was commissioned to undertake research amongst building preservation trusts. The aim was to provide insight into the motivation behind the adoption of particular projects, how work was financed, community involvement and the future maintenance of different projects. The key findings were as follows:

- Historic and architectural character is the prime motivation for trusts taking on a project (over 80%);
- Historic character is more important to trusts when selecting a project than the building being at risk (62%, in comparison to 35%);
- More than three-quarters of trusts (77%) contribute from their own resources to complete projects;
- Donations are also an important source of funding with 57% of trusts using donations to help fund the projects;
- Just over half of trusts surveyed are using Heritage Lottery Fund grants for project funding (52%) and 27% of trusts use Architectural Heritage Fund funding;
- The greatest current challenge for trusts is to secure funding, with over a third of trusts indicating that they found it very difficult;
- Trusts have little difficulty in getting heritage information and securing the services of suitably qualified professionals, reflecting the heritage knowledge embodied in the building preservation trust movement;
- The majority of trusts had few problems securing Listed Building and Planning Consents;
- Community involvement was high through volunteering (73%) and open days, events and visits;
- Over 73% of trusts have revenue income set aside for maintenance and 30% of trusts trained their volunteers to do routine maintenance;
- Over a quarter of trusts (26%) employ an architect or surveyor to do regular maintenance checks⁴⁶.

When asked what the project meant to the local community, one trust commented:

"The community have benefited from new jobs, training opportunities, extensive free community events, really exciting and useful volunteering opportunities and real economic benefit to the area. Cromford Village, once suffering from a high turnover of failed small businesses is now a thriving community with a number of successful high class outlets."⁴⁷

CASE STUDY: TYNE AND WEAR BUILDING PRESERVATION TRUST, BLACKFELL HAULER HOUSE, GATESHEAD, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

Built in 1913, Blackfell Hauler House is one of two remaining hauler houses on the Bowes railway line, a scheduled monument and one of the earliest and best conserved rope haulage railways in the UK. Since the railway ceased carrying coal in the 1970s, the building and its surviving machinery gradually fell into disrepair and were the target of theft and vandalism.

The Tyne and Wear Building Preservation Trust worked with the Bowes Railway Trust and Gateshead Council to undertake a project to repair the building and to bring it back into sustainable use. Funding came from the Architectural Heritage Fund, Historic England, the Challenge Fund and the Pilgrim Trust, the Joicey Trust and the Lamsley Ward Fund.

Work began in May 2014 and consisted of a restored roof, 100% external re-pointing, consolidation of steelwork and new windows and doors to enable the building to be re-used. The main building works were complete in December 2014 and in March 2015 the building was leased to a local resident on a full repairing and insuring lease as a workshop.

In September 2015, the Trust won the "Best Rescue of a Historic Industrial Building or Site" for the project at the annual Historic England Angel Awards.



(Photo: Tyne and Wear Building Preservation Trust).

⁴⁵ Ibid

⁴⁶ Ibid

⁴⁷ Ibid

The role of Government

As described in the previous section, private and commercial owners and building preservation trusts and other voluntary sector bodies play a fundamentally important part in caring for the historic environment, but of course there are some roles they cannot perform. Local government plays a key role in considering the large majority of all planning applications which affect heritage assets. National government and its agencies also have an important role, in setting legislation and policy, assessing heritage significance, and contributing to the impartial assessment of proposals which impact upon heritage. This contribution is crucial in providing clarity and improving decision making.

Responsibilities for the historic environment in England fall principally into three different government departments:

- **Planning:** Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)
- **Culture:** Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)
- **Environment:** Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

At a local level, local authorities play a major role in heritage protection and in ensuring heritage contributes to the growth and regeneration of local areas. Their responsibilities include ensuring that local planning policy and development takes the historic environment properly into account; protecting heritage through appropriate management; promoting awareness and public enjoyment of the historic environment; and developing and maintaining the local Historic Environment Record⁴⁸.

PROFILE: KEVIN MORRIS, ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITY AND COMMISSIONED SERVICES MANAGER, NORTH DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL

"Despite the often negative comments we receive, working with others and in partnership to secure a shared outcome which safeguards a heritage asset is extremely satisfying. This can range from the production of a conservation area appraisal to identifying solutions to secure re-use and restoration of a derelict farm building. Opening people's eyes and enabling them to appreciate and value a previously unloved building or object is very rewarding and reminds me why I chose to work within the heritage industry."

PROFILE: NAIRITA CHAKRABORTY, PRINCIPAL CONSERVATION OFFICER, HARINGEY COUNCIL, LONDON

"One of the most pleasing aspects of my job is to be able to work with architects in finding creative solutions towards adapting listed buildings in a manner sensitive to their fabric."

"I think in-house conservation advice is essential in local authorities. I also think that working positively with the architects and coming up with solutions is equally important. At its purest, conservation philosophy may dictate that certain proposals are not acceptable. But we need to come up with alternatives when we say 'no' so that our advice is taken as 'positive feedback' instead of 'negative criticism'. We need to become 'catalysts' in development management."

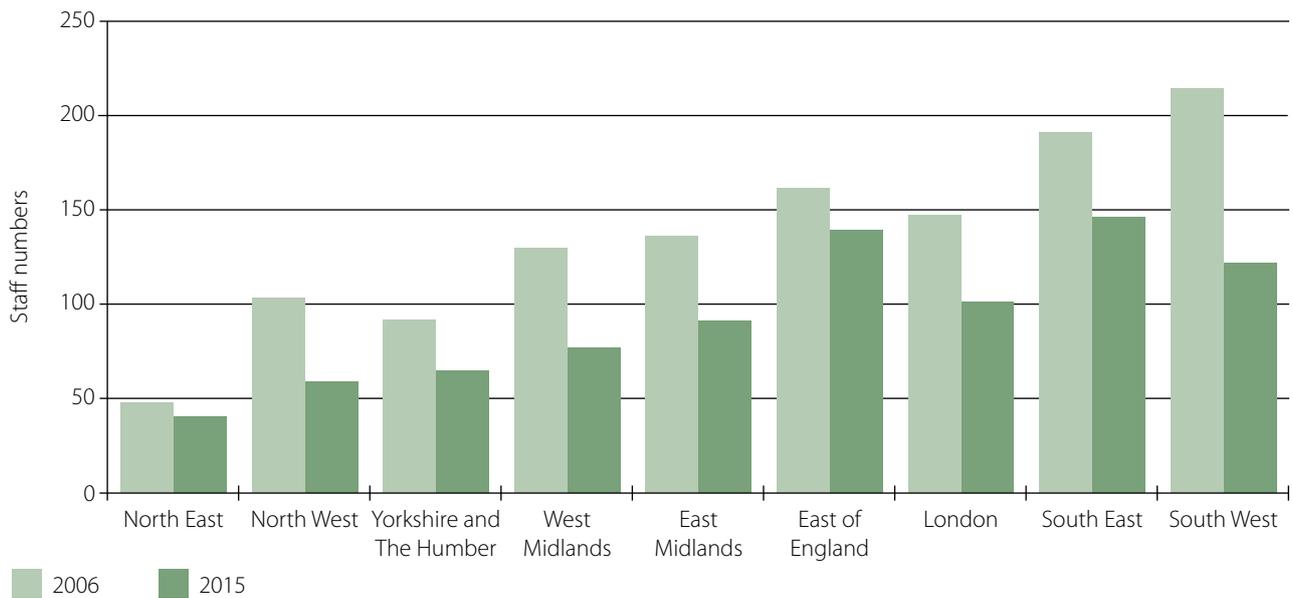
In July 2015, Historic England, the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers and the Institute of Historic Building Conservation produced a seventh report on Local Authority Staff Resources⁴⁹. Since July 2006 the number of archaeological specialists advising local authorities in England has fallen by 23% and the number of conservation specialists has fallen by 35%. The falls are not uniform across the country and the South West region has experienced the greatest drop in combined specialist staff numbers followed by the West Midlands, London and the South East. In the last 12 months, against a backdrop of a very small increase (0.8% overall) in specialist advisers, the number of planning application decisions (an indicator of workload) has decreased by 3.9% whilst Listed Building Consent decisions (also an indicator of workload) increased by 3%. The changes in the type of work local authority planning officers are dealing with (i.e. more Listed Building Consent decisions) demonstrates the ongoing need for specialist advisers.

The graph on the next page summarises trends in the numbers of specialist advisers combining conservation and archaeological FTE (full time equivalent) posts broken down by Historic England local office area.

⁴⁸ Available at <http://www.archaeologyuk.org/conservation/whoprotects#local>

⁴⁹ Available at <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/seventh-report-la-staff-resources/>

Trends in Local Authority Specialist Advisers by Region (2006 and 2015)



All political parties recognise the need to reduce public expenditure to eradicate the budget deficit. If some areas of public spending are protected, this will mean even greater cuts in other areas. Cuts will put heritage at risk if there is a breakdown in effective heritage protection. This could lead to the inappropriate alteration of historic buildings and unauthorised damage. Professional planning advice and a well maintained Historic Environment Record are critical for local economic development, allowing commercial firms to meet statutory requirements promptly and specialists to provide an early indication of the impact on heritage assets.

The long term consequences of a breakdown in effective heritage protection would be: the loss of finite resources, a fall in investment and confidence in the area, and a poorer quality of life for residents and workers.

The national Historic Environment Forum has, for some time, prioritised analysing the problems and devising new solutions to resourcing heritage issues, especially in local authorities. It is pro-actively working with Government and heritage stakeholders on a range of constructive proposals.

CASE STUDY: ALDWYCK HOUSING GROUP, 1-4 ST PAUL'S SQUARE, BEDFORD

The project aimed to rescue a terrace of four historic buildings from dereliction and re-use the floor space to provide affordable town centre accommodation. The buildings trace over 555 years of Bedford's architectural and civic history. The buildings had fallen out of use in 1969, narrowly avoiding demolition. Over the next 46 years the condition of the properties declined, threatening the historic fabric.

The project was led by Aldwyck Housing Group, who were originally approached by Bedford Borough Council with a proposed scheme to bring the buildings back into use for affordable housing. Given the high cost of repair, grant and public funding sources played a significant part in achieving a viable scheme, with funding from Bedford High Street Townscape Heritage Initiative (a Heritage Lottery Fund scheme, managed by the Council), the Homes and Communities Agency Empty Homes Initiative (secured by Aldwyck) and the Council's own

affordable housing budget. The remainder of the project was funded by Aldwyck who purchased the buildings in July 2014. Work started on site in August 2014 to create nine flats and one three bedroom house. The project was completed in June 2015.



(Photo: Adam Smyth)

2

THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT IN 2015: AN OVERVIEW

A number of major changes have been made in the political landscape of heritage this year. The general election in May 2015 led to changes in ministerial positions relating to heritage and the subsequent HM Treasury *Fixing the Foundations* Productivity Plans outlined the intention to further streamline planning processes and advance devolution, with direct and indirect impacts on heritage. The consequences of these changes will be closely monitored by the heritage sector.

2015 also marked the year in which English Heritage was formally restructured into Historic England and the English Heritage Trust. A new Heritage 2020 framework was also finalised this year, managed by the Historic Environment Forum (HEF), which sets out how heritage organisations across England can work together in the coming years to enhance the understanding, protection and enjoyment of the historic environment in England.

New funds have been established and others renewed, and the heritage sector has continued to be extremely active in capacity building through a variety of training courses and events. Participation in heritage also continues to grow, with record participation levels at Heritage Open Days and promising engagement through the Heritage Schools programme.

2015 was not without its challenges, with neglect, decay and inappropriate development continuing to be a problem for heritage. However, the heritage sector has continued to work enthusiastically to save and conserve heritage, with outstanding success stories recognised through various heritage awards.

MANAGEMENT OF HERITAGE

The New Government

The general election in May 2015 returned a Conservative majority government which set out its early intentions to maintain the economic recovery, continue to reduce the deficit and redress regional imbalances.

The Government published its Productivity Plan, *Fixing the Foundations*, following the budget in July (and a further rural productivity plan in August) which outlined significant changes intended to promote the delivery of housing and streamline the planning process. It also promoted devolution, with more powers and responsibilities for the Mayors of London and Manchester and further measures to develop the Northern Powerhouse. Outside the productivity plan, devolution deals for many more areas are also being considered, and a devolution deal was signed for Cornwall in July 2015, the first to relate to a largely rural authority.

HERITAGE 2020

During 2014, the external Advisory Board for the National Heritage Protection Plan (NHPP) concluded that its 2010-2015 Plan should be replaced by a broader sector-wide initiative. This decision was informed by a major public consultation exercise which gave a clear steer on the priorities for action for the period after 2015. The detailed consultation results fed into the deliberations about the future of the Plan which were led by the NHPP External Advisory Board, chaired by Dr Mike Heyworth MBE, Director of the Council for British Archaeology.

Discussions were held with key organisations across the sector via the Historic Environment Forum and as a result a new Heritage 2020 initiative was proposed to cover the period from 2015 to 2020. Its aim is to put together, on behalf of the whole historic environment sector, a unifying framework – as requested through the NHPP consultation – which encourages individual organisations to work together using agreed common priorities to add value to all their work.

The Heritage 2020 framework is 'owned' by the Historic Environment Forum (HEF) on behalf of the sector, and is managed via a HEF sub-group. The framework has been divided into five key themes and each is underpinned by a working group with the chairs of the groups sitting on the HEF sub-committee to ensure a coordinated strategic approach.

The themes for the Heritage 2020 framework are:

- **Discovery, identification and understanding** – Working group chaired by Dr Joseph Elders (Church of England Cathedral & Church Buildings Division) aided by Dr Gary Grubb (Arts & Humanities Research Council);

- **Constructive conservation and sustainable management** – Working group chaired by Carol Pyrah (Historic England) aided by Jonathan Thompson (Country Land & Business Association);
- **Public engagement** – Working group chaired by Rosi Lister (Churches Conservation Trust) aided by Jo Reilly (Heritage Lottery Fund);
- **Capacity Building** – Working group chaired by Mike Brown (Institute of Historic Building Conservation) aided by Jan Wills (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists);
- **Helping things to happen** – Working group chaired by Ingrid Samuels (National Trust) aided by Nick Way (Historic Houses Association).

The membership of the working groups has initially been established by invitation, but following their initial meetings in autumn 2015 to establish key priorities in each area – an updated and revised Heritage 2020 framework moving on from the first draft published in late 2014 (see <http://www.theheritagealliance.org.uk/tha-website/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Heritage-2020-framework.pdf>) will be published to reflect this – membership will be revisited, and other ways to engage with the groups will be publicised.

A new website for the Heritage 2020 initiative will be established in 2016 and support staffing infrastructure will be put in place to help drive forward collaborative actions on the agreed priorities in an open and transparent way. Progress will be regularly reviewed with input sought from across the sector and all resulting actions will be publicised in summary form in **Heritage Counts** each year.

English Heritage and Historic England

The restructure of English Heritage came to fruition this year. From 1 April 2015, English Heritage separated into two organisations:

- *Historic England*, the new name for the public body that champions and protects England's historic environment, and
- *The English Heritage Trust*, a new independent charity, which looks after the National Heritage Collection, consisting of more than 400 historic sites across England.

Historic England champions the historic environment, provides expert advice, promotes constructive conservation, carries out research and gives guidance and grants. It works with local communities, national policy makers, owners of listed and older homes, and volunteers saving buildings at risk. Historic England has licenced the English Heritage Trust to look after the sites in the National Heritage Collection.

The English Heritage Trust is using a Government investment of almost £80m to support the National Heritage Collection. The collection consists of 420 historic sites and monuments. The collection will remain in public ownership but the new charity will have greater freedom to generate commercial and philanthropic income to safeguard some of England's most vulnerable and important cultural treasures.

National Trust's Strategy

In March 2015, the National Trust launched its new ten year strategy: *Playing Our Part*, which set out how the Trust will rise to the 21st century challenges facing heritage and the environment, and work in partnership with others to explore new approaches and identify solutions. In response to climate change and decades of unsustainable land management in the countryside, the National Trust set out its plan to reconnect habitats and restore a healthy and beautiful natural environment, in ways which also seek to enhance and protect the historic character of some of the country's most important natural and cultural landscapes. Recognising the long-term impact of budget cuts which are threatening local heritage and public green spaces, the Trust will also explore how it can help local communities to safeguard their future. It will continue to play a leading role in Heritage Open Days, the country's most popular annual heritage event.

The charity, which has over 4.2 million members and over 20 million visitors to its paid entry properties, also announced that it would spend more than ever on looking after its historic houses and collections, around £1 billion over the next ten years, including £300 million on clearing a backlog of repairs.

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) was launched in December 2014, the successor to the Institute for Archaeologists. The award of the Royal Charter provides recognition from the state that archaeologists work in the interests of the public and that the Chartered Institute is the proper body to regulate the conduct of the profession. Importantly it gives archaeologists parity of status alongside other professionals they work with, notably in property, architecture, planning, engineering, surveying and construction. See: <http://www.archaeologists.net/>

Reinvention of UK Association of Preservation Trusts

A Transition Grant, awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), has allowed the United Kingdom Association of Preservation Trusts (APT) to review the organisation's corporate membership and governance arrangements and to identify a new operating model. The APT acts as the voice of Building Preservation Trusts (BPTs) in the UK, supporting the rescue and sustainable use of historic buildings. This will also result in a widening of the membership remit in the coming

years to embrace other heritage trusts beyond traditional BPTs. A re-launch of the APT and an announcement of the organisation's new strategy is expected in early 2016.

Heritage and Arts Strategy for the North East

On 28 July 2015, a new strategy for arts and heritage was launched to deliver further investment in arts and heritage for the North East of England over the next 15 years. The Strategy, the 'Case for Culture', consulted over 1,000 individuals over a two year period, and is backed by the region's arts and heritage sector (organisations and freelance workers); the business and private sector; all five North East universities and the further education sector as well as all 12 North East local authorities. For more information see: www.case4culture.org.uk

A Framework Action Plan for World Heritage Sites

Periodic Reporting is a requirement of the World Heritage Convention and aims to ensure that World Heritage Sites (WHSs) are adequately protected, well managed and well presented. 2015 saw the completion of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting on European World Heritage Sites and the development of an Action Plan to address the issues identified. Forty-eight European countries took part in the exercise which commenced in 2012. Analysis was undertaken at both national and site specific levels.

Nationally, it was evident that there is increasing pressure on human and financial resources and, in 15% of cases, the amount of money available for managing WHSs was deemed to be inadequate. In addition, decision makers often appeared to place insufficient weight on the protection of heritage.

At site specific level, the majority of WHSs reported that Outstanding Universal Value had been maintained. The greatest threats to WHSs came from housing and transport developments, tourism and recreation (although these scored highly on the positive side as well) and climate change. A need for greater community engagement and participation was a common strand identified across the whole of Europe.

To address these and other challenges, a Framework Action Plan for Europe has been put in place, with the principal responsibility for implementation falling on the states party to the World Heritage Convention. Monitoring of implementation will be by means of a biennial review undertaken by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

The Hague Convention

In June 2015, Culture Secretary, John Whittingdale, announced the Government's intention to ratify the Hague Convention. The 1954 Hague Convention was set up after the Second World War to ensure nations and armies would not target cultural treasures. The UK was one of the original signatories to the convention but has not yet ratified it.

Cultural Heritage Counts for Europe

This year saw the publication of the two year research project Cultural Heritage Counts for Europe (<http://www.encatc.org/culturalheritagecountsforeurope/outcomes/>). Led by Europa Nostra, The Heritage Alliance acted as an associate partner. The report analysed over 220 impact studies from across the European Union, concluding that only a more holistic approach to impact assessment, measuring social, cultural and environmental impacts as well as the economic, will give a true picture of the full power of heritage-related activities. The four domain approach shows how the many areas where impact is recognised can be classified under the four pillars of sustainable development identified by UNESCO's Hangzhou Declaration of 2013. The Report provides a huge resource of case studies and bibliography in which UK research and impact studies are well represented.

Parliament and heritage

In February 2014, Lord Redesdale and John Howell MP were commissioned by the then Minister for Culture, Communications and the Creative Industries, Ed Vaizey MP, to undertake an inquiry and review into the future of local government archaeological services in response to issues raised during an event organised by The Archaeology Forum. The inquiry received valuable evidence from a range of bodies across the heritage sector (including the Council for British Archaeology, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, The Heritage Alliance, and RESCUE), and the new Conservative government continues to consider the report and its response to the recommendations. It is expected that the key recommendations of the report will be carried forward into Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)'s Culture White Paper which is expected in late 2015 or early 2016.

The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Archaeology (<http://www.appag.org.uk/>) was reformed in the new Parliament after the 2015 General Election. Tim Loughton MP and Lord Renfrew of Kaimsthorn are now co-chairs, with Lord Redesdale as Hon Secretary. The group is engaged with issues such as the impact of cuts to local government archaeology advisory services; planning reform and its impact on archaeological heritage; protection of underwater cultural heritage, particularly the HMS Victory wreck of 1744; review of the Treasure Act and future of Portable Antiquities Scheme; and the ratification of The Hague Convention.

Significant progress has also been made this year in setting up the proposed Listed Property Owners All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG). In August 2015, Craig MacKinlay, MP for South Thanet, agreed to head the proposed APPG. The proposed group aims to raise awareness of the issues faced by listed property owners.

In November 2014, the APPG on Wellbeing Economics published a report which included a section on arts and culture, outlining how wellbeing analysis can help capture the importance of non-market goods such as art and culture.

In August 2015, the new House of Lords Select Committee on National Policy for the Built Environment issued a call for evidence and set out the scope of its inquiry into the 'development and implementation of national policy for the built environment'. The Committee will seek to establish what steps can be taken to ensure better planning and design, and whether there is the right balance between national policy and local accountability for planning decisions.

Heritage Crime

In October 2015, the Sentencing Council announced tougher sentences for theft, including heritage crime. The new sentencing guidelines state 'harm [from theft] is assessed by reference to the financial loss that results from the theft and any significant additional harm suffered by the victims or others.' Additional harm specifically includes 'damage to heritage assets'. This is the first time the non-financial impact on heritage has been mentioned in sentencing guidelines and has come about as a result of an increased awareness of the impact of heritage crime on society as a whole.

CHANGES TO THE FUNDING AND RESOURCES LANDSCAPE

Listed Places of Worship Funding

Listed Places of Worship: Roof Repair Fund

In March this year, an additional £40 million was put forward by the government for the Listed Places of Worship: Roof Repair Fund. The fund was set up to award grants to listed places of worship of all faiths and denominations across the UK, to meet the costs of urgent repairs to roofs and rainwater disposal systems. The original £15 million fund was heavily oversubscribed – over 1,900 applications were received, with the combined value of the grant requests totalling over £105 million.

From the additional £40 million, £15 million was allocated to the initial fund and the remaining £25 million made available for another round of funding open to new applications in autumn 2015 to be awarded in 2016.

A total of 502 places of worship have been successful in the first round of funding from all parts of the United Kingdom – from Shetland to the far West of Cornwall. Grants of between £10,000 and £100,000 were awarded. Money is also being provided for further structural investigations where necessary and other specialist reports, such as bat surveys.



St Mary's Church (pictured) in Black Bourton, Oxfordshire, was awarded £20,500 to address urgent works to the chancel, nave and chapel roofs (Photo: HLF). Churchwarden, Richard Betteridge comments:

"Our church roof was in a critical condition, so the LPOW Roof Repair Fund grant arrived in the nick of time."

Information about the grant programme and the next opportunity to apply can be found on the funds website: www.lpowroof.org.uk

First World War Centenary Cathedral Repairs Fund

This announcement of funding for the Listed Places of Worship: Roof Repair Fund follows on from a £20 million investment into the First World War Centenary Cathedral Repair Fund, announced in the 2014 Budget. The aim of the fund was to support urgently needed repairs to allow cathedrals to remain safe, open and beautiful for commemorations of the centenary of the First World War. In total 77 projects were funded, across 55 cathedrals.

Rural Development Programme for England 2015-2020

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has published a formal programme for the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE), setting out in detail what it expects to achieve from 2014 to 2020.

The RDPE provides funding for projects to improve rural life and businesses, to promote environmentally-friendly ways of managing land, and to create new areas of woodlands, while sustaining existing land. Other outcomes include the protection and conservation of the historic environment and landscape character. The RDPE will invest at least £3.5 billion in rural development schemes until 2020, including around £2.1 billion on existing agri-environment scheme commitments and around £900 million on the new Countryside Stewardship Scheme, which provides incentives for land managers to look after their environment. The funds available for the historic environment are significant, and will support the removal of many of the sites currently on the Heritage at Risk Register.

The previous RDPE, which covered the period 2007-13, achieved considerable success in protecting heritage assets through its agri-environmental schemes, while the rural heritage economy also benefited from grant schemes and the LEADER initiative. A recent report suggests that the new programme should continue to target the protection of cultural heritage features and traditional farm buildings.

Environmental Stewardship agreements, under the existing agri-environmental scheme, currently cover 70% of the agricultural area of England, but by 2020, the new Countryside Stewardship scheme is likely to cover only half of this area. The reduced coverage of the new scheme may diminish the protection that Environmental Stewardship scheme afforded to many sites and monuments via direct protection and cross-compliance, a situation that will require close monitoring over the coming years.

Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)

In September 2015, HLF reached the halfway point of the organisation's Strategic Framework (2012-2018) and initiated a low-key review process. HLF asked a range of stakeholders from across the heritage sector questions to ascertain how well HLF were doing and whether any adjustments or new measures were needed to ensure that National Lottery money continues to support UK heritage effectively for the remaining two years of the Strategic Framework.

This year also saw large investments in grant funding. In February, HLF announced an investment of £19.3 million

in 13 historic areas spread across England, Scotland and Wales through the Townscape Heritage Programme. The programme aims to support the conservation of historic townscapes, in particular the re-use of neglected historic places.

In July 2015, HLF and Big Lottery Fund announced an investment of £34 million in the Parks for People programme for projects related to historic parks and cemeteries in the UK. The programme aims to engage the local community to have a say in how they are managed in the future.

EVALUATION OF THE HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND CATALYST: UMBRELLA PROGRAMME

Since 2013, the HLF has invested £4.5 million into the Catalyst: Capacity Building programmes, designed to support the heritage sector in increasing fundraising skills and capacity, and attracting more private giving to heritage. This investment included £3.46 million to nine Umbrella organisations to deliver a range of capacity building services, and learning and networking opportunities to heritage organisations across the UK. The Umbrella programmes to receive funding included: Resourcing Scotland's Heritage, Cornwall Museum Partnership, Inspiring a Culture of Philanthropy, SHARed Enterprise: developing business minded museums, Investing in Northern Ireland's Heritage, Giving to Heritage, Giving Value, Building Resources, Investment and Community Knowledge (BRICK), and Giving the past a future – sustainable heritage in Wales. These programmes will deliver over 15,000 learning opportunities through to 2016-2017. A further £1.13 million was awarded in 2013 in small grants (£3,000-£10,000) to 125 organisations to develop fundraising strategies, train staff and volunteers, and build new relationships with supporters and the private sector, most of which have already completed.

DC Research, in partnership with Emmie Kell Consulting, are working with HLF to capture the progress and impact of this funding. For the small grants recipients, the benefits are already being felt. Reflecting on the evaluation report, Dr Stephen Connolly (DC Research) commented:

"The evaluation findings provide evidence that there has already been a culture shift in the approach of heritage organisations to fundraising generally, and private sources in particular. The results of a survey, carried out in January 2015, show there is already clear progress for completed projects, especially around organisational capacity, staff capabilities and diversification of fundraising sources."

Almost all organisations (97%) with completed projects now have a fundraising plan or strategy (fewer than half did so previously). There are also early signs of achievement in attracting additional private investment in heritage, with 44% of grantees reporting that their organisation has already done so, and over half expecting this to happen in the near future.

Catalyst small grants recipients in their own words:

"Developing a good offer to businesses and having business partners as advocates means that we have increased our overall number of corporate supporters and income levels. Both have approximately doubled and are very likely to increase further."

To read more about the findings of the Catalyst capacity building evaluation and to share thoughts follow this link to the Catalyst online community: <http://www.hlf.org.uk/community/catalyst-community>

GIVING TO HERITAGE

Giving to Heritage (GTH) is an HLF-sponsored Catalyst programme for fundraising training for staff and volunteers at independent heritage organisations and projects in England. The aim of the programme is to increase skills and confidence in fundraising from private sources with the long-term objective of securing a more sustainable future for the independent heritage sector.

The programme is delivered by The Heritage Alliance in partnership with The Institute of Fundraising. It consists of a series of high quality workshops, webinars, consultancy and support sessions, mentoring opportunities and executive coaching, all at low cost or free of charge. The programme is due to finish at the end of March 2016.

Since the start of the programme in June 2014, over 60 of the scheduled 99 workshops have been delivered. Twelve different fundraising subjects are being delivered, ranging from 'Developing a Heritage Fundraising Plan' and 'Making the Heritage Case to Donors' to 'Corporate Partnerships' and 'Using Digital and Social Media'. One hundred consultancy and support sessions have also been undertaken with a fundraising expert. Workshops have been extremely well attended and feedback has been very positive. Examples of comments include:

"A brilliant resource for everyone in heritage. Should be over-subscribed."

"The workshop didn't just tell me things. It made me think."

In addition, the programme is delivering 30 webinars on a variety of fundraising subjects. Examples include Simon Opie, CEO Hastings Pier, on 'community shares' and Howard Lake, 'Digital Fundraising at Colchester Roman Circus'. All the webinars are being recorded and are available on the Giving to Heritage website: www.givingtoheritage.org.uk

A number of mentors and mentees have been matched in a 12 month programme. There has also been a considerable interest in the executive coaching programme for individuals and organisations.



Participants in a Giving to Heritage workshop, standing outside the venue, the SS Great Britain, Bristol (The Heritage Alliance).

CROWD FUNDING AND HERITAGE CAMPAIGNS

In June 2014, SAVE Britain's Heritage launched a crowd funding venture to support the campaign to save Liverpool's Welsh Streets, a large area of Victorian terraced housing and the birthplace of Ringo Starr, threatened with demolition. A public inquiry had been called, at which SAVE was to be a major party, and it was anticipated that the costs involved would be considerable.

Shortly before the inquiry, SAVE, supported by Dig Ventures, a crowd funder which specialises in archaeology and heritage, launched a crowd funding venture for the Welsh Streets campaign. This was the first time SAVE had used crowd funding as the organisation had previously only relied on public donations.

Crowd funding is a way of raising finance by asking a large number of people each for a small amount of money. It provides the opportunity to approach existing

supporters in a novel way and also to engage whole new audiences through the lure of rewards and gifts.

SAVE pitched the campaign along two central themes – a vision for how these properties could look if restored, and the area's links with Ringo Starr and his formative years growing up there. A range of rewards were offered based on the size of an individual's donation, ranging from a postcard of the vision, to tours with Beatle's experts, to tea at Ringo Starr's aunt's house. Many of the rewards were gifted to SAVE which kept overheads down.

For the Welsh Streets, SAVE set a particularly ambitious target of £40,000, with just two months to raise it. Whilst SAVE did not reach their target, they still raised some £15,000, and for a project that had struggled to attract funding previously, this was a major boost.

Coastal Revival Fund

In March 2015, the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) announced a £3 million Coastal Revival Fund (to be spent in the 2015/16 year). The Coastal Revival Fund will help kick-start the revival of at-risk coastal heritage that has the potential to create opportunities for new businesses and jobs. The fund will support communities looking to unlock the economic potential of hard-to-tackle buildings, facilities and amusements, such as piers, lidos and proms. In addition, DCLG also confirmed that further grant funding of £1.1 million has been put aside to establish over a hundred Coastal Community Teams (£10,000 each) in 2015-16, to operate along the lines of the Portas Review Town Team model. The objective is to create a long-term vision and strategy to tackle the specific challenges each coastal town faces, as well as encourage the sustainable use of heritage/cultural assets.

LIBOR Funding

In March, the government committed £75 million of Armed forces covenant (LIBOR) funds over the next five years to support military charities and other good causes, including heritage projects. The funding includes: £2.5 million to renovate the RAF museum at Hendon, £1.5 million to secure the restoration of the Stow Maries Airfields, £1 million to restore the Biggin Hill Chapel Memorial, and £2 million to create a new museum at Filston in Bristol.

Alongside supporting England's aviation heritage, Chancellor George Osborne confirmed that a further £5 million will be given to fund a number of further First World War commemorations, including the Battle of Jutland, the Gallipoli Campaign and the Battle of the Somme. £1 million will also be given to support the 600th anniversary of the Battle of Agincourt, £2 million to support the 70th Anniversary commemoration of VE Day and £1 million to support the commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo.

Funding of Heritage Open Days

2015 saw changes to the funding of the national heritage festival, Heritage Open Days. The central services were transferred from English Heritage to a consortium of the National Trust, Civic Voice and The Heritage Alliance in 2010. A successful bid to the People's Postcode Lottery in 2014, in partnership with Historic England and the National Trust, secured funding for the 2015 Open Days event. Future funding is expected from the People's Postcode Lottery with the National Trust making a significant contribution in kind.

PLANNING SYSTEM CHANGES

Streamlining the planning system

In 2014/15, the government introduced new measures intended to streamline the planning system and encourage sustainable growth, some with direct relevance to the historic environment.

In accordance with DCLG's 2014 Technical Consultation on Planning, much of which was implemented in April 2015, the requirements for consultation with Historic England are now more consistent between different types of heritage assets and at a regional level both within and outside London. A new requirement for Historic England to be consulted on development affecting registered battlefields has also been introduced. Under the new Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015, Article 1(5) land (comprising National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the Broads, World Heritage Sites and conservation areas) is now known as Article 2(3) land.

In August 2015, HM Treasury and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills published its statement of intent, *Fixing the Foundations: The Government's Productivity Plan*, which set-out how the government intends to reverse the UK's long term productivity problem through a number of proposals, including further streamlining the planning system. These proposals include a new zonal system to grant automatic permission "in principle" on brownfield sites, significantly reducing the length and preparation time of local plans, making the compulsory purchase regime clearer, and creating a new commercially-driven approach to land and property management across the central government estate.

Following its publication, a number of heritage bodies – including The National Trust, Rescue: The British Archaeological Trust, the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, and The Heritage Alliance – released statements raising their concerns about the impact of a number of proposals on heritage and the historic environment. In response to The Heritage Alliance's Spatial Planning Advocacy Group, The Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne, confirmed the Government's commitment both "*to meeting housing needs and protecting the historic environment.*"

George Osborne also said in the letter that "*the Government is very clear that there is a need to protect our heritage assets. That is why the National Planning Policy Framework sets out, as part of its focus on sustainable development that a key role of the planning system is to protect and enhance the historic environment.*"

National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has been in place since March 2012 and has been supported by the online Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) since March 2014. The NPPF itself remains unchanged, although Ministerial statements on matters of planning policy have been made separately. Ministerial statements (oral statements made by a government minister after Question Time, usually relating to matters of policy or government actions) are taken into account in the planning process.

Good Practice Advice Notes

Historic England published the first three Good Practice Advice (GPA) notes in late March 2015 to underpin the PPG: *The Historic Environment in Local Plans; Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment*; and *The Setting of Heritage Assets*. All three documents were produced with the assistance of the HEF and were subject to a public consultation exercise in Autumn 2014.

The three GPA notes replace the PPS5 Practice Guide (2010), which has now been withdrawn by DCLG. They provide supporting information and detail for applicants, owners, developers and planners in implementing national planning policy and guidance in relation to the historic environment. The aim of the documents is to ensure that the spatial plans of local authorities properly reflect their local historic environment and that development proposals are designed with knowledge and understanding of heritage significance. Historic England has also started consulting on a fourth GPA, a new edition of Enabling Development.

For more information and a link to the GPA notes, see: <http://www.historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/planning-system/>

Historic England Advice Notes

Historic England Advice (HEA) Notes are produced by Historic England alone, and sit beneath the GPA notes. Three HEA notes have been finalised, on *Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management; Making Changes to Heritage Assets*; and *Historic Environment and Site Allocations in Local Plans*. A further two, *Seeing History in the View* and *Local Designation* are currently under consideration.

Legislation

The Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act

The Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (ERR) Act which came into force in April 2014, introduced a number of new

measures for identifying and managing heritage assets. Some of the key reforms are now being applied:

- The first Listed Building Heritage Partnership Agreement was signed on 4 November 2014 by Historic England, Maldon District Council and the Trustees of Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome. This agreement reduces the need for repetitive applications for listed building consent, and provides certainty for carrying out conservation and maintenance works.
- On 21 July 2015 Bradford Metropolitan District Council adopted a Local Listed Building Consent Order (LLBCO) within the Little Germany and Cathedral Quarter Conservation Areas. The LLBCO grants listed building consent for a range of physical alterations to listed buildings within the LLBCO area to facilitate their repair and adaptation to new uses.
- The Canal & River Trust, along with DCLG and Historic England, is developing a national Listed Building Consent Order (LBCO) that will permit pre-consented, specified works of repair, alteration or extension to Grade II listed locks and bridges of all types, that do not harm their special architectural and historic interest. This LBCO, which should become operational in 2016, will be the first of its kind.

Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill (2015-16)

The Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill outlines measures to extend the range of 'statutory functions' taken on by Combined Authorities (beyond the already permitted transport, economic development and regeneration functions), which could include planning functions.

Enhanced Advisory Services

Following public consultation, Historic England launched its Enhanced Advisory Services on 12 October 2015. These consist of four new charged-for services which provide enhancements to Historic England's existing free planning and listing services:

- **Fast-track Listing** – Listing recommendations sent to DCMS in a quicker and guaranteed timeframe;
- **Listing Enhancement** – Greater clarity over the extent of statutory protection in a guaranteed timeframe;
- **Extended Pre-Application Advice** – Additional pre-application advice beyond Historic England's initial free service;
- **Listing Screening Service** – Assessment of the likelihood of any heritage assets having a degree of interest that would warrant statutory Listing.

Major infrastructure

National Infrastructure Plan

The Government published the first National Infrastructure Plan in 2010, outlining its vision for the future of UK infrastructure. It sets out major priorities and commitments for investment in important infrastructure projects.

The Plan and the 2014 update were issued as part of the Autumn Statement.

The National Infrastructure Plan 2014 identifies over 2,500 projects and schemes that have been delivered during the last Parliament, and also details the Government's top 40 priority investment programmes. A number of these projects could have a significant impact on the historic environment. These impacts may be reduced through early dialogue in order to understand potential impacts on significance, and how these can be avoided or minimised.

More information on the National Infrastructure Plan 2014 and the National Infrastructure Pipeline (which provides information on planned projects and programmes to 2020) can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-infrastructure-plan>.

Roads Investment Strategy

Published at the same time as the National Infrastructure Plan, the Roads Investment Strategy sets out a new long-term programme for England's motorways and major roads, a multi-year investment plan, and high-level objectives for 2015-2021.

The investment plan includes an allocation of £15 billion in over 100 major schemes to enhance, renew and improve the road network by 2021, including the upgrading of the A303 with a tunnel at Stonehenge. The strategy also secures significant funding for cultural heritage alongside other environmental areas to address a range of specific issues over and above the traditional focus of road investment. A second Road Investment Strategy for 2020-25 will be published at the end of the term of this parliament.

Further information can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/road-investment-strategy>

Northern Transport Strategy

As part of the plans to build a Northern Powerhouse, a Northern Transport Strategy was published earlier in 2015. This was prepared jointly by Government, northern city regions and the local enterprise partnerships who have worked together with Highways England, Network Rail and High Speed 2 to present a vision for the north.

Farrell Review and PLACE Alliance update

The Farrell Review (March 2014), presented a broad, industry-wide review of how to collectively plan and design the future built environment. The review made over 60 recommendations under key themes: Education, Outreach & Skills; Design Quality; Cultural Heritage; and Economic Benefits and the Built Environment Policy. Two reports outlining progress on key recommendations were issued in August 2014 and January 2015.

Actions to date, following on from the Farrell Review, include: the launch of the PLACE Alliance; the establishment of a new Design Advisory Panel (December 2014); and the creation of fifteen 'Urban Rooms' across the country (spaces for local communities to meet to debate and understand the 'past, present and future of that place' – the first of which was set up in Blackburn).

The issues raised in the Farrell Review have also been reflected in the establishment of the National Policy for the Built Environment Committee, a House of Lords Select Committee appointed in June 2015, with a reporting deadline of 23 March 2016.

In addition, the review also influenced the transfer of responsibility for architecture policy to the DCLG from the DCMS in March 2015.

National Farmstead Assessment Framework

In 2014, the Government extended permitted development rights to the residential conversion of agricultural buildings. The heritage sector continues to encourage adaptive re-use and the conversion of redundant heritage buildings in ways that retain local distinctiveness and their heritage value.

In March 2015, Historic England, in conjunction with the National Farmers Union and the Country Land and Business Association, published the National Farmstead Assessment Framework. The Framework provides guidance to help secure sustainable development and the conservation of traditional farmsteads and their buildings through the planning system. The guidance presents a four-staged approach for assessing a site, assessing heritage significance, assessing the capacity for change and informing the design and development process.

A link to the Framework is located here: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/national-farmstead-assessment-framework/>

SUSTAINABLE GROWTH IN CATHEDRAL CITIES AND HISTORIC TOWNS

As part of its National Heritage Protection Plan activities, Historic England commissioned research into the effectiveness of local plan-making in conserving heritage across smaller cathedral cities and historic towns. At a time when increasing housing supply is becoming critically important, the research looked at the potential tensions between this and the need to ensure that proper weight is given to protecting local character and distinctiveness.

The project looked at the development pressures affecting a number of historic settlements, and the various strategies and policies adopted to address them in efforts to successfully accommodate new housing. The final report contains a number of detailed case studies that examine specific methodologies utilised by some local planning authorities. It analyses the degree to which they have been successful, and identifies cross-cutting themes and useful lessons for other authorities (and stakeholders) facing similar issues.

See: <http://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainable-growth-of-cathedral-cities-and-historic-towns/>

Onshore Wind Farms

Following a commitment in the Conservative General Election Manifesto, the Communities and Local Government Secretary, Greg Clark, announced in a written statement in June 2015 new considerations to be taken into account before permission could be granted for onshore wind turbines in a local area.

These new rules in the Planning Policy Guidance now state that when considering a planning application for wind turbines in their local area, councils should only grant permission if: the site is in an area identified as suitable for wind energy as part of a Local or Neighbourhood Plan; and following consultation, the planning impacts identified by affected local communities have been fully addressed and therefore has their backing. This decision could lend weight to local community concerns about the impact wind turbines have on the setting of heritage assets.

Neighbourhood Planning

In February, Housing and Planning Minister Brandon Lewis announced a £22 million boost to support communities looking to set up neighbourhood plans. Neighbourhood planning allows people to decide the future development of their area, including where new homes and businesses should be built. The support programme runs to 2018 and also provides community groups with technical assistance and expert advice to support new neighbourhood plans and neighbourhood development orders.

PARTICIPATION

Heritage Schools

Heritage Schools is a programme funded by the Department for Education (DfE) which aims to encourage children to take pride in their local area by engaging them with their local heritage through their schools. Heritage Schools runs in 200 schools in Bristol, Barking and Dagenham, Great Yarmouth, Leicester, Manchester, North Tyneside, Richmond and North Yorkshire and Telford. The Churches Conservation Trust is a key partner in the programme and works with around 50 schools through their regional offices in Bristol, Cambridge and York.

A recent evaluation shows the programme is having a considerable impact. The number of teachers who know 'a lot' or 'quite a lot' about local history and heritage has increased from **19%** to **90%**. The number of teachers who know 'a lot' or 'quite a lot' about how local history connects to the national story has increased from **12%** to **78%**. The number of children who have a good knowledge of local history and heritage has increased from **4%** to **70%**. In the year 2014-2015, **1,879** teachers were trained and the programme was in touch with **c. 100,000** children. Over 3 years the programme has trained **3,122** teachers.

The impact and success of the programme was recognised by the DfE, who agreed to continue funding for a further year until March 2016 by which time a further 2,000 teachers will have been trained, reaching schools in new local authority areas.

20th Anniversary of Heritage Open Days

Heritage Open Days 2014 marked its 20th anniversary with record participation levels. Three million visitors (up by 900,000 on the previous year) followed the invitation to explore 4,685 venues (up almost 100 on the previous year) and events free of charge over four days in September.

Surveys of visitors in 2014 highlight the positive impact the festival has had on local people and their engagement with heritage. Some 40% of visitors had not visited any other heritage attraction in the past twelve months, while 50% said that their experience had encouraged them to visit other historic sites in the future. As a result of their Heritage Open Days experience, 89% of visitors felt inspired to find out more about their local area, and another 84% reported increased pride in their locality. Anecdotal evidence has also suggested that more towns and villages are successfully using Heritage Open Days to boost their domestic tourism appeal.

Heritage Open Days is powered by the collective force of some 45,000 people, mostly local volunteers. Without their generosity and enthusiasm, Heritage Open Days would not have been able to produce such positive outcomes for heritage over the past two decades.



Kings Lynn – Baroque Dance, Heritage Open Days 2015 (Photo: Rahil Ahmad).

First World War Memorials Centenary Programme

Historic England, the War Memorials Trust, the Imperial War Museum and Civic Voice are working closely together on the First World War Memorials Programme to ensure as many of the nation's war memorials as possible are left in good condition by the end of the First World War centenary. Up to £2.5m (in grants ranging from £300 to £30,000) is also being made available to help local communities repair and conserve their war memorials. Resources are being developed for people to find and record more information on their war memorials.

The programme (2014-2018) aims to engage volunteers: hundreds of workshops will be delivered nationally to enable people to research, record and assess the condition of their local war memorials. Volunteers are being invited to get actively involved in listing war memorials that matter to them. Historic England has pledged to add at least 2,500 to the National Heritage List for England by the end of the centenary – effectively tripling the number of memorials currently listed.



Volunteers recording the condition of a war memorial in Winchester, January 2015 (Photo: Civic Voice).

Capability Brown 300th anniversary 2016

2016 is the 300th birthday of the landscape architect, Lancelot 'Capability' Brown (1716 – 1783). Working in a natural style now considered quintessentially English, Brown's landscape design ideas spread across Northern Europe to Russia and to the United States. There are over 200 Brown landscapes in England and Wales.

A new multi-sector partnership of organisations, owners and managers of Brown's landscapes – both public and private, and experts and individuals – passionate about Brown have successfully bid and secured a £911,000 HLF grant to organise a birthday celebration festival in 2016. The Landscape Institute, the professional chartered body for landscape architecture, is hosting the festival team with support from Historic England, the English Heritage Trust, the Gardens Trust¹, Blenheim Palace, the Historic Houses Association, the National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts Societies, National Gardens Scheme, Natural England, the National Trust, Parks & Gardens UK, the Royal Horticultural Society, VisitBritain and VisitEngland.

For more information visit: www.capabilitybrown.org.uk

¹ In July 2015, the Garden History Society and the Association of Garden Truists was merged to form The Gardens Trust.

Heritage Tourism Policy

On 17 July 2015, the Prime Minister announced the Government's five point plan to boost tourism across the UK, committing to promote the UK as a destination for international visitors, and to spread the benefits of tourism across the country.

The Historic Houses Association (HHA) welcomed the publication of the five-point plan for tourism as representing a positive step forward but highlighted that there is still more Government can do to advance the economic potential of heritage tourism. The HHA endorsed the Government's proposals for better co-ordination of tourism policy, common sense regulation, and the forging of innovative links between the transport and tourism sectors to help visitors travel outside the capital – crucial to spreading the benefits of tourism in the regions. The relaxation of rules relating to civil weddings and partnerships and the publication of a discussion paper on reductions in Air Passenger Duty at regional airports are viewed as other positive outcomes.

Capacity building

As in previous years, the heritage sector has been particularly active in sharing information and skills in 2015. In addition to the Giving to Heritage programme, a large number and variety of courses, events, trainings and information sessions have taken place all over England, demonstrating the valuable capacity building work and information exchange carried out in the heritage sector. Examples range from traditional building crafts training (National Heritage Training Group), a day course on managing major building projects in places of worship (Historic Religious Buildings Alliance), public relations coaching (The Heritage Alliance) to a conference on Devon Cobbled Paths (Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings).

SECTOR INSIGHT

Heritage at Risk

Overall, there has been a reduction to the number of entries on the Historic England Heritage at Risk (HAR) Register for 2015 – from 5,753 in 2014 to 5,478 entries this year. As a result, a third of all entries that were on the Register in 2010 have been rescued.

This year, for the first time, all sites on the Register were compared in order to better understand which types of site are most commonly at risk. Nationally, ancient burial mounds (known as barrows) are the most common type of heritage asset to be on the register, making up 15.6% of total entries.

However, whilst there are fewer buildings and structures on the Register than ever before, it is getting more expensive to save them. On average, it costs £501k more to repair a building on the Register than its eventual end value. The estimated difference between the amount it would cost to repair all buildings on the Register to a minimal standard, and their eventual end value has risen by £10m since 2010 to £475.4m. For more findings from Heritage at Risk 2015, and to search this year's Register visit: www.HistoricEngland.org.uk/risk.

Similarly, other heritage at risk registers demonstrate that England's heritage faces significant challenges: the Theatre Trust's risk register for England numbers 26 (two added, three removed for positive reasons, and one removed for negative reasons); SAVE Britain's Heritage Buildings at Risk List increased by over 100 to 1423, and the Victorian Society released its 10 most endangered buildings for 2015.

A striking example of the devastation fire can cause to heritage buildings, is the fire that devastated Clandon Park on 29 April 2015. One of the country's most complete examples of a Palladian mansion, the National Trust property contained a superb collection of 18th century furniture, porcelain and textiles. Most of the building was destroyed, but remarkably, the Speakers' Parlour, one of Clandon Park's most important rooms, survived, and some significant items from the collection were saved. The cause of the fire is unknown. In September, the grounds were re-opened to the public and an exhibition about the fire, house and gardens was set up in marquees in the grounds.

The backlog of urgent repairs facing England's privately-owned historic houses continues to be a concern, standing at an alarming £764 million – the figure nearly doubling since 2009. Another high profile public example of repairs backlog is the Palace of Westminster. A newly commissioned report this year found that the Palace must undergo an urgent renovation programme. The Houses of Parliament, a Grade I listed building and UNESCO World Heritage Site, was re-built over a thirty-year period following a fire in 1834 and restored after World War II bomb damage, but has not undergone any major restoration or renewal in the post-war era. Five scenarios of major restoration and renewal for the Palace have been detailed in an Independent Options Appraisal Report, and are expected to cost between £3.9 and £5.7 billion, and could take up to 32 years to complete. A new Joint Select Committee of the two Houses is expected to make a decision on the five scenarios in spring 2016.

Heritage Awards

Historic England's Angel Awards

The Awards, funded by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation, held its 5th annual award ceremony in London on 7 September 2015. The winners were:

- **Best Rescue of Any Other Type of Historic Building or Place** – Nicholas and Dinah Ashley-Cooper, 12th Earl and Countess of Shaftesbury for the rescue of St Giles House and Park, Wimborne St Giles, Dorset (also the 2015 winner of the Historic Houses Association/Sotheby's Restoration Award);
- **Best Rescue or Repair of a Historic Place of Worship** – Friends of St Mary Church for the rescue of St Mary's, Norfolk;
- **Best Rescue of a Historic Industrial Building or Site** – Tyne & Wear Building Preservation Trust for the rescue of Blackfell Hauler House, Gateshead;
- **Best Craftsmanship by a Trainee or Group Employed on a Heritage Rescue** – Emma Dawson for her work on several heritage at risk sites;
- **The People's Favourite** – The Historic England followers and Telegraph Readers' award: The Newman Brothers Coffin Works, Birmingham.

At the awards it was announced that the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation has renewed and increased its funding until 2018. Next year the categories will be broadened to celebrate inspirational community action groups and leading pieces of heritage research and education.

Heritage Alliance Heroes Awards

On 4 December 2014, the fifth annual Heroes Awards was held. The awards, which were set up to recognise outstanding volunteer contributions to England's heritage, were presented by the Heritage Alliance's Chairman, Loyd Grossman. The joint-winners were: The Save Preston Bus Station Campaign and Howsham Mill.

European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage/ Europa Nostra Awards 2015

The Churches Conservation Trust, the national charity saving historic churches at risk, received a €10,000 award and was declared a Grand Prix laureate at the European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards 2015 in Oslo, Norway, on 11 June 2015. The international award, considered Europe's most prestigious prize in the heritage field, was given in recognition of the CCT's dedicated service over 46 years. The Awards celebrate and promote best practice in heritage conservation, management, research, education and communication.

SPAB's National Maintenance Week

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Building's (SPAB) 2014 National Maintenance Week was launched at SPAB's Maintenance Co-Operatives Project's conference, "From Gutter to Spire" and was held over the week 21-28 November. The annual week-long campaign provides practical and straightforward advice on maintenance and repairs, and aims to encourage people to carry out vital tasks to prepare their buildings for winter. The 2014 campaign was led by Loyd Grossman, Chairman of the Churches Conservation Trust and of The Heritage Alliance.

This year's National Maintenance Week took place on 20-27 November 2015 and was fronted by broadcaster, author, historian and archaeologist, Neil Oliver.

Information, tips and guidance are available on the campaign's website: www.maintainyourbuilding.org.uk

Research on maintaining churches

In 2014, a partnership of Historic England, the Church Commissioners of the Church of England and the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) commissioned research by BOP Consulting to evaluate the impact of large investment work. The research, which analysed financial expenditure for 69 churches between 1971 and 2014, together with an in-depth examination of 11 churches vested in the CCT since 1993, revealed that:

- Investment to achieve a sound building in good repair (rather than an ad-hoc repair approach) results in savings made on expenditure within nine years of investment, and a 53% saving made within a 30 year period;
- Churches in a better state of repair are financially more efficient in their use of utilities;
- A longer period of 'neglect' leads to a higher conservation deficit to a building. More recent vestings (i.e. within the last 20 years) have a higher conservation deficit – on average a third more than older vestings;
- Churches in urban areas are more likely to experience unforeseen occurrences, such as heritage crime, and thus additional expenditure.

It is hoped that the report will help congregations of all faith groups and denominations understand the value of investment in repairs and maintenance, and to fundraise and budget accordingly.

3 INDICATORS

A vital element of valuing and appreciating the historic environment is understanding the scale, scope and breadth of the historic environment. Each year **Heritage Counts** collects and presents indicators about the state of the historic environment. As there is currently no single data source that comprehensively measures the scale and value of the historic environment, data is compiled from multiple sources. In this section of the report, a summary of the main indicators is presented. The detailed heritage indicator datasets can be found online at www.heritagecounts.org.uk.

Heritage Counts has collected indicator data since 2002. Consequently most of the data is available as a time series enabling an analysis of change over time. The indicators are collected for the current year, 2015, at national, regional and local levels where available. Last year, **Heritage Counts** also created online Local Authority Profiles allowing users to compare indicators across Local Authorities – the profiles are also available this year. (<http://hc.historicengland.org.uk/local-authority-profiles/>)

Since the publication of last year's **Heritage Counts**, the heritage sector has published its shared priorities in the **Heritage 2020 framework**. To align with Heritage 2020, this year's **Heritage Counts** presents the heritage indicator datasets according to the five strategic priorities of **Heritage 2020**:

- **Discovery, identification & understanding** – Provides indicators on the scale and scope of the historic environment and assets;
- **Constructive conservation and sustainable management** – Includes indicators on the overall condition of the historic environment with indicators from the Heritage at Risk programme and data on managing the historic environment including planning statistics;
- **Public engagement** – Presents data on participation in heritage, heritage membership and volunteering in the sector;
- **Capacity building** – Indicators of heritage investments from private, public and voluntary sectors as well as the skills and capacity of the sector;

- **Helping things to happen** – Includes indicators of the importance of guardianship including data from Building Preservation Trusts and the Listed Building Owners Survey.

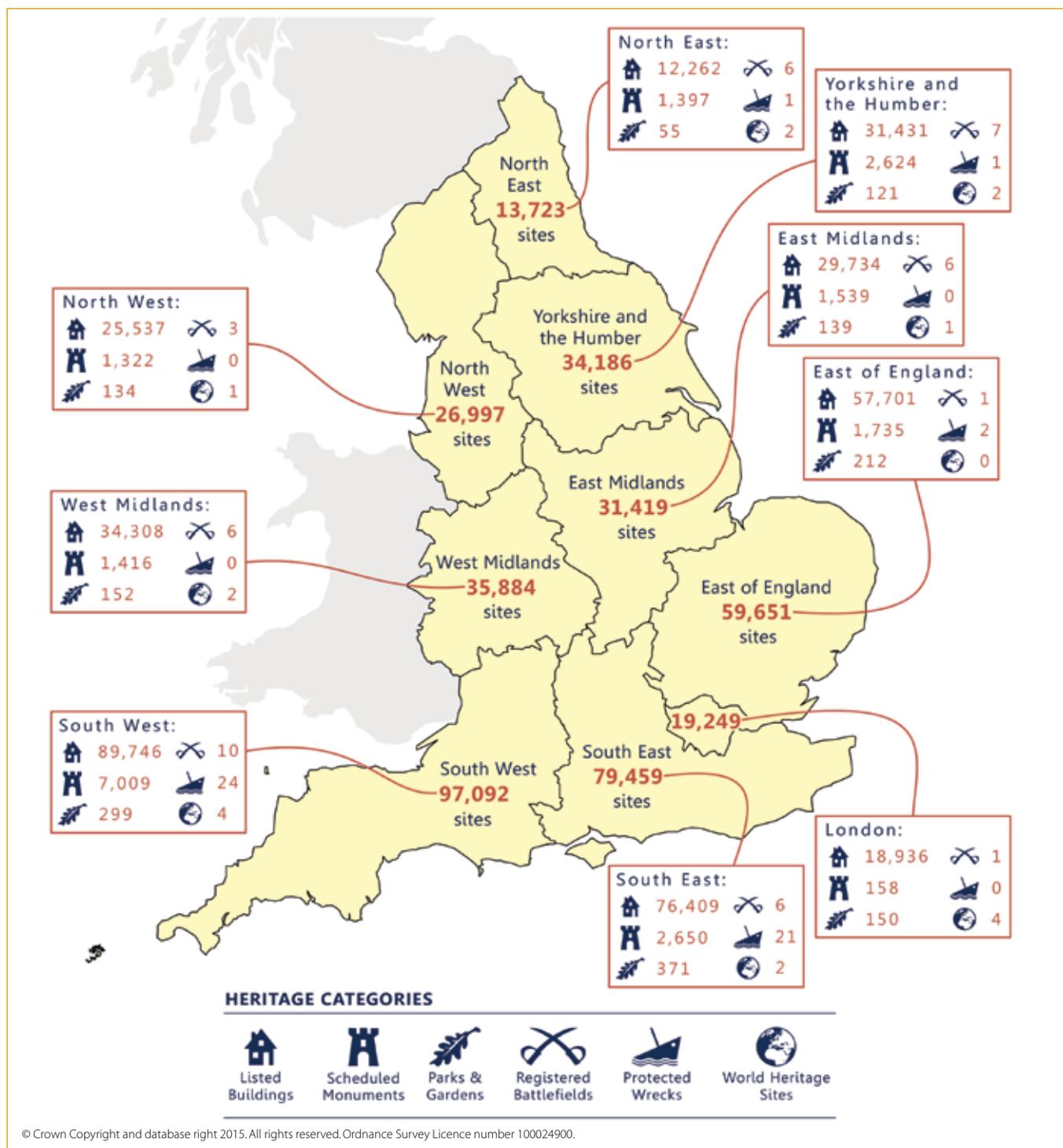
Key findings

- **Listed building consents are an increasing proportion of all applications submitted to planning authorities** – The number of planning applications submitted to planning authorities declined sharply during the recession. While listed building consents also declined in this period, it was at a considerably slower pace. The latest planning statistics show that unlike other planning applications which have stabilised at substantially lower levels than their 2004/05 peak, the numbers of listed building consent applications are now growing.
- **Local Authority capacity remains low** – Despite a marginal increase in the number of Local Authority staff in the historic environment in the last year, employment remains substantially below 2006 levels – historic environment staff numbers have declined by 31% since 2006.
- **Historic properties continue to attract large numbers of visitors** – In the past year the number of visits to historic properties increased by 3% and in 2014 there were an estimated 66.7 million visits to historic properties. This is a 36% increase in heritage visits from 1989 when the visitor data was first collected.
- **Heritage is becoming more inclusive** – As reported in last year's **Heritage Counts**, participation in heritage by key equalities groups is still growing well above the national average.
- **Listed building owners are actively engaged in the repair and maintenance of their properties** – Evidence from the 2015 Listed Building Owners Survey indicates that two thirds of owners clear gutters once or more each year and 71% paint or repair windows and doors at least every 5 years.

DISCOVERY, IDENTIFICATION AND UNDERSTANDING

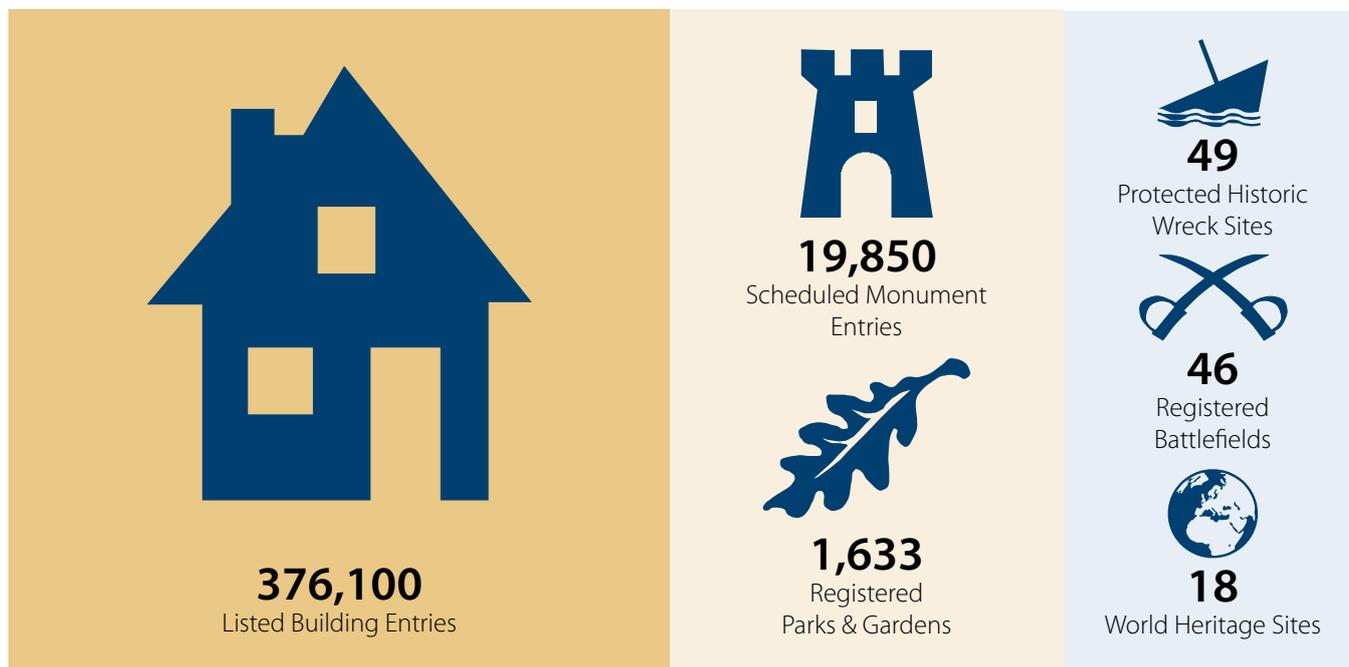
Our historic environment is dynamic: not static. Each year we discover previously unknown sites, learn more about the assets with which we are already familiar and gain new appreciation of aspects of the historic environment that were once neglected.

Heritage 2020 strategic priorities



The National Heritage List for England (NHLE)

397,700 entries on the NHLE, 2015



Source: NHLE 2015

Our heritage assets

The National Heritage List for England (NHLE) provides the official record of nationally designated heritage assets. Containing almost 400,000 entries, the database is available online: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/>

Not all heritage sites are nationally listed or designated. Some sites are locally listed and through this have some level of protection by the local planning authority. In addition there are many heritage assets of archaeological interest that are not currently designated as scheduled monuments, but which are demonstrably of equivalent significance.

Listed Building entries

The majority of the entries on the NHLE are listed buildings. In 2015 there were 376,100 listed building entries- which is approximately 95% of all NHLE entries. Since 2010 the number of listed building entries has increased by approximately 1,200 entries or 0.3%.

The vast majority of the listed building entries (344,900 or 92%) are listed at Grade II. Grade I entries account for just 2% of the total and Grade II* 6% of the total.

The South West Region has the largest concentration of listed building entries with over 24% of the total located in the region. This is equivalent to 17 listed building entries per 1,000 people compared to the national average of 7.0 entries per 1,000 people. In contrast, London has the lowest concentration of

listed building entries per capita (2.3 entries per 1,000 people) however the region has the highest density of listed building entries with 12.0 entries per sq km compared to a national average of 2.9 listed building entries per sq km.

Scheduled Monuments

There were 19,850 scheduled monuments in England in 2015. There has been relatively little change in the number of scheduled monuments nationally – a slight increase of 0.6% since 2010.

The South West region has the highest concentration of scheduled monuments, with 35% of the total located in the region. London on the other hand has just 1% of the total in 2015.

Registered Parks and Gardens

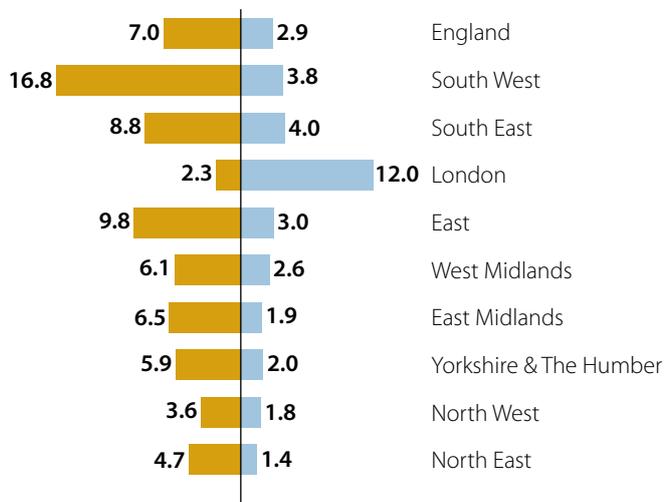
The number of registered parks and gardens in England increased marginally to 1,633 in 2015 – less than 1% difference from the previous year. Nearly a quarter 23% of all registered parks and gardens are situated in the South East region.

Protected Historic Wrecks

There were 49 protected historic wrecks in 2015. Since 2009 there have been three historic wreck sites designated under the 1973 Protection of Wrecks Act. The vast majority of protected historic wrecks are located in the South East and South West regions – 21 and 24 respectively.

Listed Building Densities

Buildings per 1,000 people and Buildings per Sq Km, 2015



 Listed Building entries per 1,000 people
 Listed Building entries per Sq Km

Source: NHLE, ONS Region and Country Profiles: Key Statistics 19 December 2013

World Heritage Sites

The number of World Heritage sites in England remains unchanged, in 2015 there were 18 World Heritage Sites in England.

In 2011 the UK government published a tentative list of sites that may merit World Heritage site status. Following a technical evaluation the UK government agreed that the nomination for the Lake District should go forward in 2017.

Historic Areas and Open Spaces

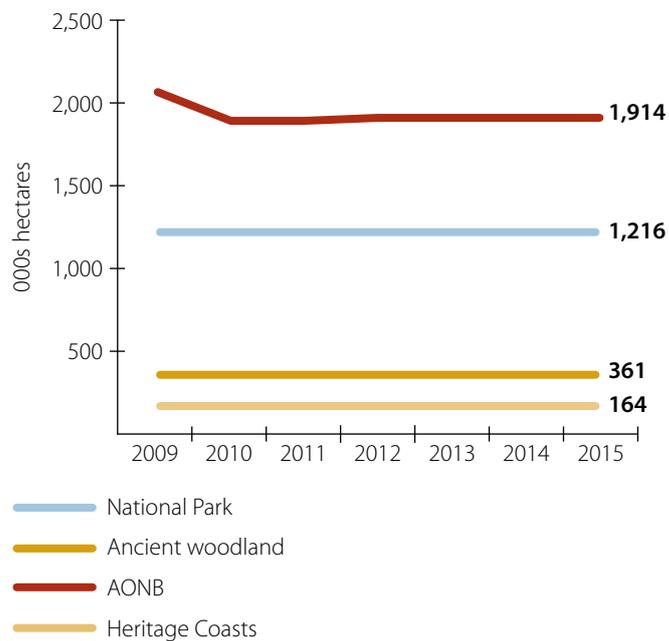
National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) are statutory designations which protect our countryside. In 2015 there were 1,216 thousand hectares of National Parks and 1,914 hectares of AONBs.

There were also 361 thousand hectares of ancient woodland which is land continuously wooded since AD 1600, and 164 thousand hectares of heritage coast which are non-statutory landscape definitions of our most beautiful, undeveloped coastline.

There has been little change to the land area covered by these historic areas and open spaces in the past 5 years.

Historic Areas and Open Spaces

Trends, 000s of hectares, 2009 to 2015



Source: Natural England

Conservation areas

There were nearly 10,000 conservation areas recorded in 2015, an increase of approximately 800 or 9% since 2003. Nearly a quarter of these areas are located in the South East (23%) which is also the region that has seen the largest increase in numbers of conservation areas since 2003 (16% compared to the national average growth of 9%). The North East region, on the other hand has the fewest conservation areas and the number has increased by only 1% since 2003.

Historic Environment Records

Historic Environment Records (HER) are information services that provide access to resources relating to the historic environment of a particular locality. Nearly two-thirds of HERs are available online through the Heritage Gateway where the public can search several national as well as local datasets on the historic environment. A number of HERs are available online through their host authority. In 2015 there were 68 online HERs, up by 7 since the previous year.

Historic Landscape Characterisation

Historic Landscape characterisation is a tool for describing the historic character of places. It maps physical changes in the landscape over time. 99% of England's historic landscape has been mapped. All (100%) of the landscape in the North East, North West, West Midlands, East Midlands and East of England is now mapped.

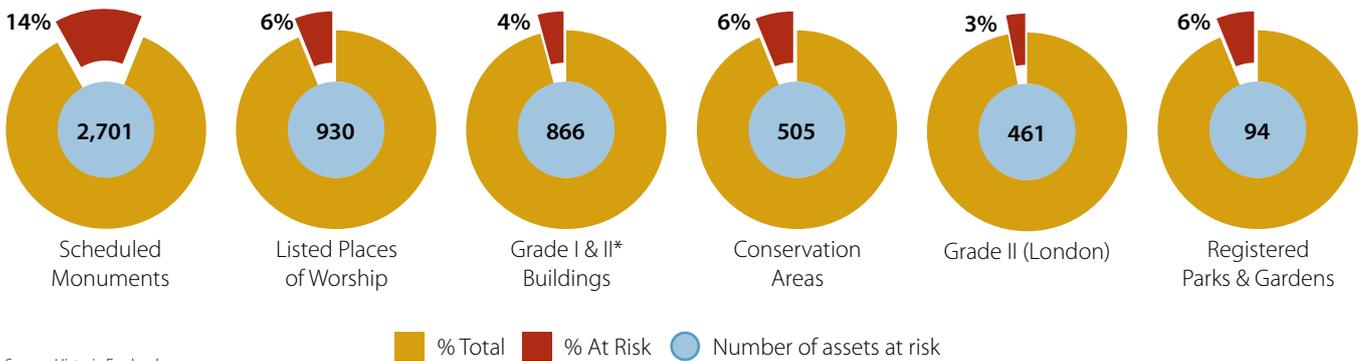
CONSTRUCTIVE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT

“A well-managed and conserved historic environment secures environmental, economic and social benefits... Conservation covers a spectrum of approaches, from public guardianship to bold schemes of adaptive reuse. It includes recognising what is important through formal designation (national and local, statutory and non-statutory); making changes through the planning system; and carrying out repair and maintenance.”

Heritage 2020 strategic priorities

Heritage at Risk Register

5,534 heritage assets at Risk, 2015



Heritage at Risk

Launched in 2008, the Heritage at Risk (HAR) Programme identifies sites that are most at risk of being lost as a result of neglect, decay or inappropriate development.

In 2015 there were 5,534 designated assets on the Register. Over the past year 604 assets have been removed from the Register and 327 added. In total, one third of sites on the 2010 Register have now been removed from the Register.

Buildings and structures on the Register

There are currently fewer buildings and structures on the Register than ever before. In 2015 there were 866 Grade I and II* listed buildings (excluding places of worship) on the Register. Eighty-four building or structure entries have been removed from the 2014 Register because their futures have been positively secured, however, 81 have been added. In total 60.8% of building or structure entries on the 1999 baseline Register have been removed. Only 14% of building or structure entries on the Register are thought to be economically viable to repair, indicating the potential scale of the public subsidy required to secure the future of sites on HAR.

Archaeological entries on the Register

By far the largest type of asset on the 2015 Register, are Scheduled Monuments, accounting for nearly half of all assets on the register (ca 2,700 in total). However, 39% of archaeology entries (1,293) have been removed from the baseline 2009 Register. Nevertheless, there is still a significant need to conserve this heritage as over 14% of the nation's scheduled monuments are currently on the Register.

Places of worship on the Register

Despite over 100 places of worship being removed from the 2014 Register, the overall number of places of worship entries has risen from 887 in 2014 to 930 in 2015. This equates to 6% of all listed places of worship nationally.

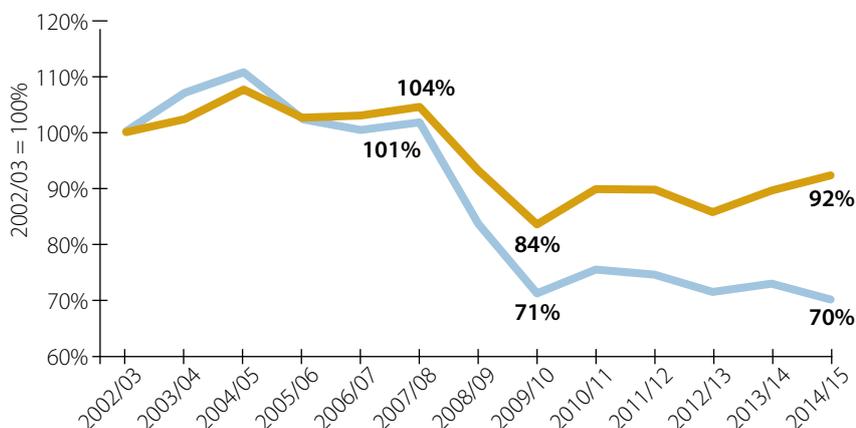
The North West region has the highest proportion of listed places of worship at risk (10% of total) while in the East of England region 4.6% of all listed places of worship are on the Register.

Listed Building Consent Applications & All Applications

Change over time, 2002/03 to 2014/15 (2002/03=100%)

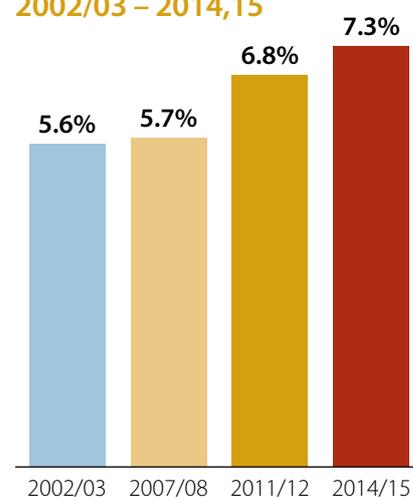
— All Planning Applications — Listed Building Consent Applications

Source: DCLG



Listed Building Consent Applications

% of all planning applications, 2002/03 – 2014,15



Conservation areas on the Register

Over 84% of all conservation areas in England have been surveyed by Local Authorities. 505 of these (6%) are on the Register which represents a 2% increase from last year's HAR.

Over 15 conservation areas have been removed from the 2010 baseline Register for positive reasons.

Managing positively

Planning applications

Planning statistics from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) show that since the peak of the property market and onset of the recession, the number of planning applications has declined rapidly: by 31% between 2007/08 and 2014/15. In the North East, Yorkshire and the Humber and North West regions, planning applications declined by 45%, 42% and 41% respectively in this period. London was less adversely impacted by the recession with a relatively small decline of 12% in this period. The streamlining of the planning system, most notably the new permitted development rights, has most likely contributed to the planning application trends.

Listed building consent

A similar trend is also found in the listed building consent (LBC) statistics, albeit the recessionary decline was at a slower pace: between 2007/08 and 2014/15 the number of LBCs fell by 11% nationally. London is a notable deviation from the norm, the number of LBCs rose by 21% between 2007/08 and 2014/15.

Since 2012/13, the number of LBCs has grown. The result is a proportionate increase in LBCs relative to all planning decisions. In 2014/15 LBCs accounted for 7.3% of all planning permissions compared to just 5.7% in 2007/08. This is problematic given the marked decline in numbers of Local Authority conservation and archaeological staff in the same time period.

Scheduled Monument Consent

Scheduled Monument Consent is required for alterations to any scheduled monument. In 2014/15 there were 1,100 consents decisions, a 12% increase from the previous year.

Registered Parks and Gardens

All planning applications affecting registered parks and gardens must be sent to the Garden Trust¹. However, undercounting is expected due to unreported applications. In 2014/15 there were 912 planning applications affecting registered parks and gardens – a 21% increase since 2003/04.

World Heritage Sites Management Plans

In the UK, any site nominated to UNESCO must be accompanied by a World Heritage Site Management Plan to ensure that sites are managed in a sustainable way. Since 2008 all World Heritage sites in England have a management plan (18 in total).

¹ In July 2015 The Garden History Society (GHS) and the Association of Gardens Trusts (AGT) merged to form the Garden Trust

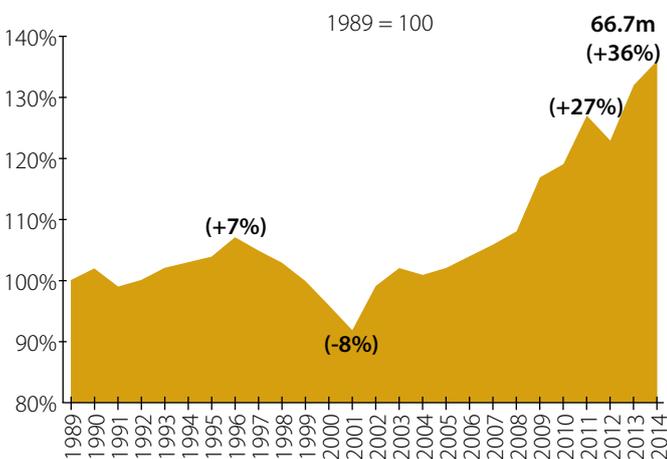
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

“Everyone in England is entitled to define, engage with, and make decisions about the historic environment and how it is cared for... The more people that take part in activities and share the day-to-day responsibilities for the care of our historic environment, the more representative we become as a sector and the more certain we can be that when change occurs, it has broad public support.”

Heritage 2020 strategic priorities

Heritage Visitor trends

Visits to historic properties, 1989 to 2014 (1989= 100%)



Source: Visit England 2014

Visiting historic environment attractions

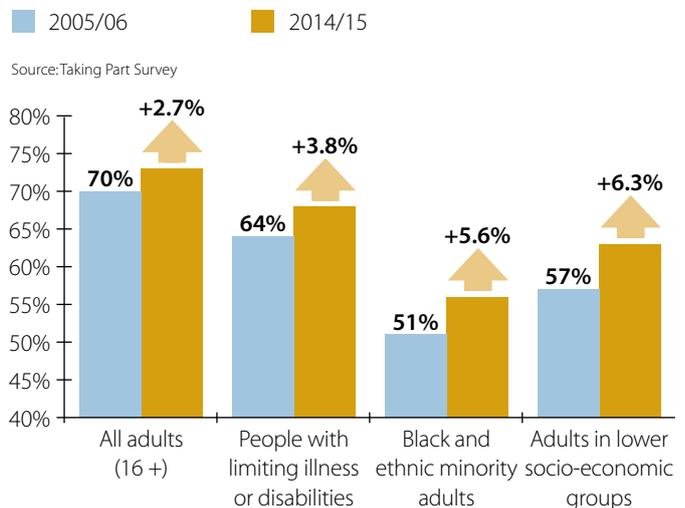
Each year Visit England conduct a survey of visits to visitor attractions in England, including visits to historic properties. In 2014, 735 historic properties responded to the survey indicating that there were 66.7 million visits to historic properties in 2014. On average visits to historic properties increased by 3% between 2013 and 2014 which is an increase of up to 36% since the survey began in 1989.²

The most popular types of historic attractions according to the Visit England survey are historic houses (35% of all heritage visits) and historic gardens (nearly 20% of all heritage visits). In the past year, visits to visitor/heritage centres have increased the most, by 10%. On the other hand, visits to places of worship have declined by 5% over this time period.

In comparison with visits to other types of visitor attractions, heritage visits are more evenly distributed across the English regions. Nevertheless, London remains the most popular

Heritage Participation trends

% of adults who visited a heritage site, 2005/06 and 2014/15



Source: Taking Part Survey

heritage visitor location accounting for 23% of all heritage visits (compared to 32% of visits to all England's visitor attractions). London is closely followed by the South East (18% of heritage visits) and the South West (17% of heritage visits).

Participation in the historic environment

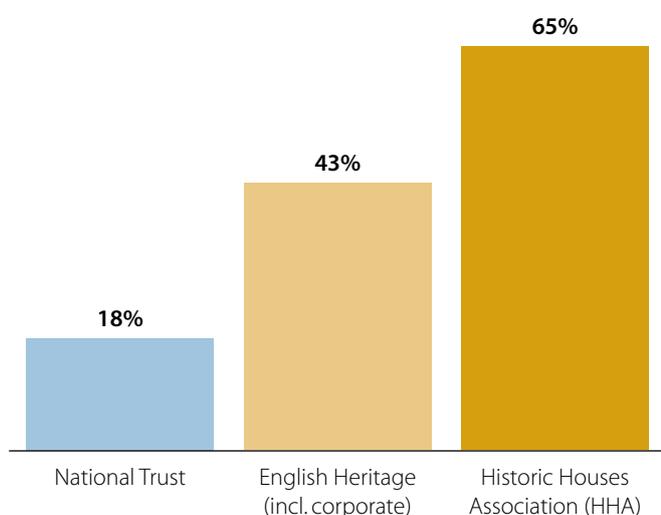
According to the 2014/15 Taking Part Survey, 73% of all adults in England had visited a heritage site at least once during the past 12 months. This is a slight increase from the previous year (+0.1%), but an increase of 3% since 2005-6.

As reported in last year's **Heritage Counts**, participation in heritage is becoming more inclusive – amongst adults from lower socio-economic groups there has been a 6.3% increase in visits to historic sites since 2005/06; a 5.6% increase amongst adults from black and ethnic minorities and a 3.8% increase in participation of people with limiting illness or disabilities. This is well above the increase in total participation rates of 2.7% in the same period.

² Growth is only calculated for attractions that have provided visits figures for both 2013 and 2014

Heritage Membership

% Change, 2007/08 to 2014/15



Source: National Trust, English Heritage, Historic Houses Association

Historic Houses Association visitors

In 2015 the Historic Houses Association (HHA) commissioned an independent study of visits to privately owned historic houses and gardens in England in 2014. Based on survey data the study estimates that there were 18 million visitors to independently owned houses and gardens in 2014.³

Heritage membership

Membership of heritage organisations has grown over the past 8 years. The National Trust currently has 4.2 million members in England alone. English Heritage reports 1.3 million members in 2014/15.

The Historic Houses Association's Friends Membership has increased by 65% from 24,500 members in 2007/08 to 40,500 in 2014/15.

Volunteering

According to the Taking Part Survey, there were almost 575,300 historic environment volunteers in England in 2014/15⁴. A demographic profile of the volunteers indicates that 37% of the volunteers were aged between 45 and 64 and only 6% of adult volunteers were younger than 25.

The National Trust reports that in 2014/15 the organisation had 55,500 volunteers, a 6% increase from 2013/14. The number of English Heritage volunteers has also increased markedly from 1,500 in 2013/14 to 1,900 in 2014/15 – a 27% rise.

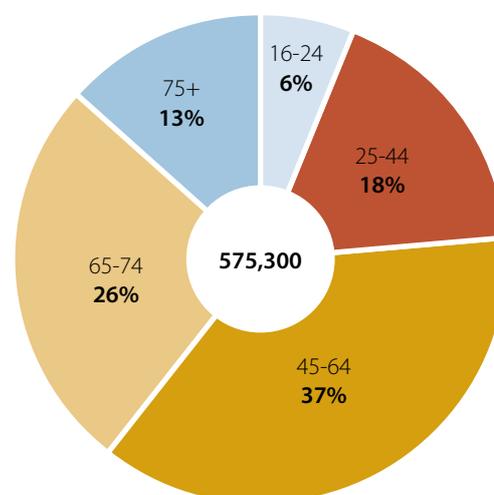
³ DC Research Ltd. and Historic Houses Association, 2015

⁴ Due to sample size it has not been possible to assess change in volunteer numbers over 2005 – 2015

⁵ Nathan Wineinger, (2011) Visiting the past: An analysis of the drivers of visiting historic attractions English Heritage Social and Economic Research working paper

Heritage Volunteers

Total and by age group, 2014/15



Source: Taking Part Survey

For the first time, Heritage Open Days (HOD) have reported data on the number of volunteers participating in HOD 2014. Over 1,500 organisations and 39,900 volunteers organised thousands of site openings and events, jointly attracting over three million visitors in 2014.

Learning and the Historic Environment

There is evidence showing that child participation in heritage increases the probability of engaging in heritage as an adult⁵. According to the Visit England survey there were 1.9 million school visits to historic properties in 2014, which is a 2% increase from 2001 but a 2% decline from the previous year. However, Visit England note that the actual total number of school visits is likely to be significantly higher as the figures only apply to sites that reply to the survey.

English Heritage reports 385,000 free educational visits to their sites during 2014/15, which is a 1% decline from the previous year and a 5% decline since 2001/02. According to the HHA, there were 177,000 education visits reported by the houses participating in their 2014 survey.

There is evidence of increasing numbers of young adults engaging in heritage related qualifications. In 2014, 38% of all GCSE students undertook a history GCSE, compared to 32% in 2008. The proportion of 16-18 year olds attempting a History A-Level has also grown from 5.7% of all students in 2008 to 6.2% in 2014.

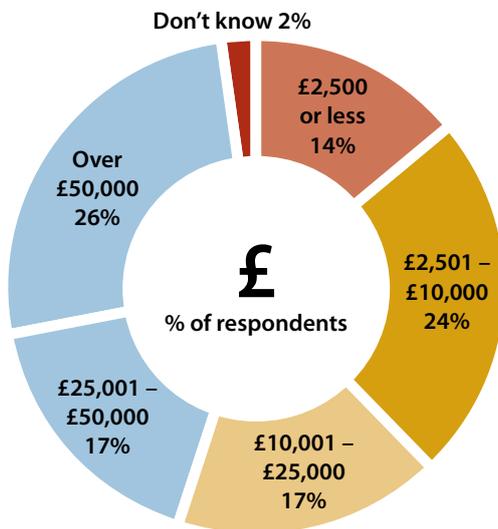
CAPACITY BUILDING

Understanding, conserving, explaining and championing our heritage depends on having the right people with the right skills in our communities and access to relevant infrastructure, knowledge and data, facilities, tools and equipment (both traditional and modern). The heritage sector needs to invest in its human capital today if it wants to achieve its objectives tomorrow and be able to adapt effectively to changes in the economy, environment and society.

Heritage 2020 strategic priorities

Private Heritage Funding

**Listed building owners survey, 2015,
Expected expenditure on works requiring
Listed Building Consent (n=353)**



Source: Ecorys & Alastair Coey (2015) "Survey of Listed Building Owners".

Funding the Historic Environment

Private funding

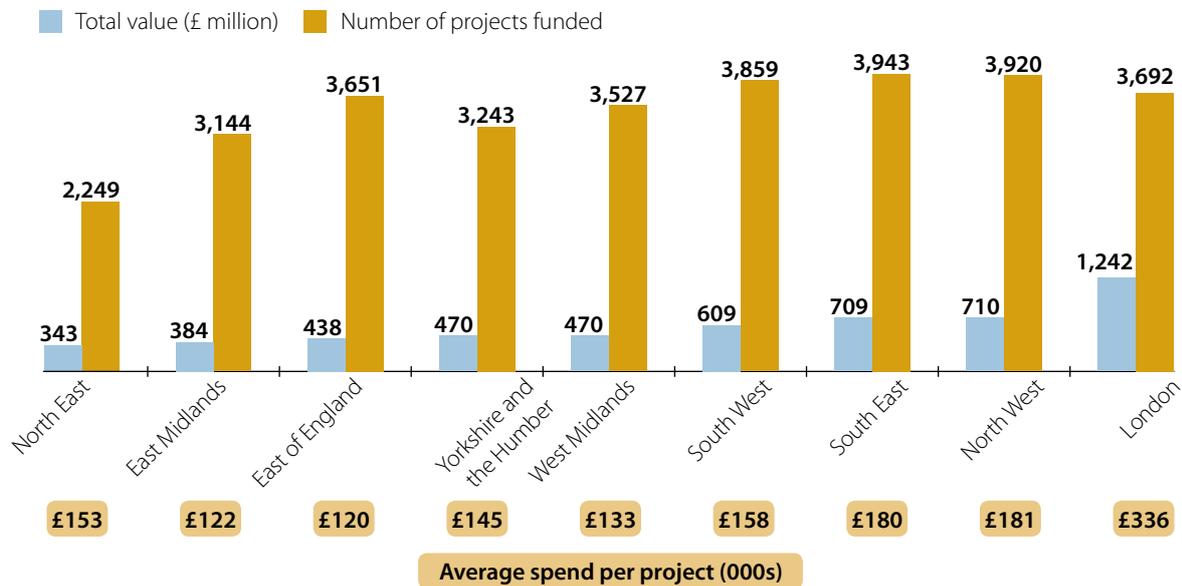
The vast majority of funding for the historic environment is private and commercial, however there is no comprehensive data source of private sector investment in the heritage environment. In this year's **Heritage Counts** we report on listed home owners' investment in their private homes. The survey of owners indicates that owners spend or planned to spend between £10k and £25k (median) on works to their property that require listed building consent.

Heritage Lottery Fund

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) is the largest source of public funding for the historic environment in the UK. Over its lifetime HLF has awarded over £6.6 billion to 38,400 projects (1994/95 to 2014/15). In 2014/15, 1,785 heritage projects were granted over £401.6 million HLF funding. About 40% of the funding was allocated to projects in areas with high levels of deprivation.

Heritage Lottery Funding (HLF)

Expenditure and number of projects by region, 1994/95 to 2014/15



Regionally there is an even distribution of HLF funded projects. In terms of value on the other hand, grants are more highly concentrated: 18.7% of HLF funding was allocated to projects in the London region, despite London having the lowest application success rate (59% compared to the regional average of 63%). In contrast the North East region had the lowest proportion of HLF spend (5.2%) but one of the highest application success rates (66%).

Historic England

In 2015 English Heritage separated into two organisations – English Heritage Trust and Historic England. To support this transition the organisations received a higher than usual grant in aid of £181.1 million from DCMS: £101m plus a one-off £80m passed to the English Heritage Trust.

Over time expenditure has declined, with a 50% reduction in grant spending between 2002/03 to 2014/15. This reflects the wider cuts to the organisation's grant-in aid.

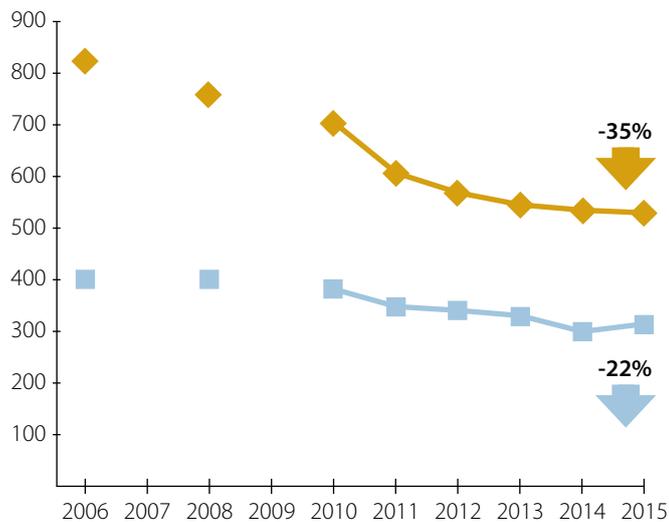
Other public funding

In 2014/15 Department for Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) spent £23m on Listed Places of Worship Grants. Other heritage related funding from DCMS includes National Heritage Memorial Fund (£5.2m); Royal Households Funding (£0.5m) and Royal Parks Funding (£17.6m).

DCMS are a key income source for the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT). Expenditure on conservation and church repair by the CCT increased substantially from £6m in 2013/14 to £10.4 m in 2014/15. Much of the growth represents one-off project investments in repairs to secure the future of some of England's finest Grade I and II* churches.

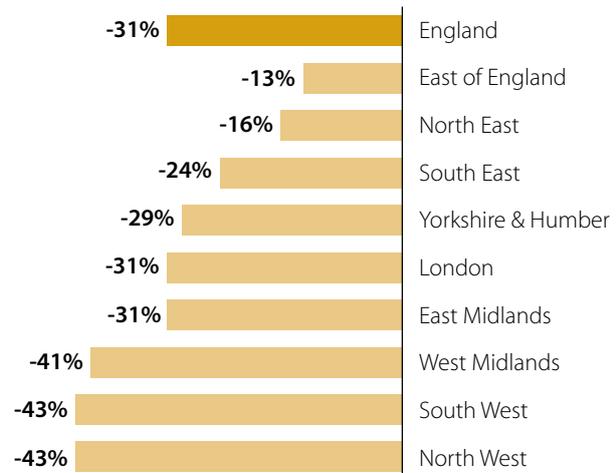
Local Authority, historic environment staff numbers

Trends, 2006-2015



◆ Local Authority Conservation Staff
 ■ Local Authority Archaeology Staff

% change 2006-2015



Voluntary Funding

The National Trust is the largest single voluntary organisation managing historic properties and landscapes across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. During 2014/15 £260m or 52% of the National Trust's total expenditure was for property operating costs and a further £80m or 14% for property projects.

Employment and Skills in the sector

Employee Jobs

The Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) is the official source of UK employee and employment estimates. There is however only one SIC sector⁶ that refers directly to the historic environment (SIC 91030: *operation of historical sites and buildings and similar visitor attractions*). The BRES data shows that there were 13,800 jobs in the sector in 2014. This is an increase of 1,800 jobs or 15% since 2013.

The BRES SIC definition of the heritage sector is a very narrow definition. For example, a study of the built heritage tourism economy by Oxford Economics⁷ estimated that there are 134,000 jobs in heritage tourism or 393,000 jobs if indirect and induced impacts are included.

Local Authority employment

In 2015 there were 846 FTE⁸ jobs in the historic environment in Local Authorities. This included 318 Archaeology staff and 527 Conservation staff. While the overall number of historic environment staff has grown by 1% since 2014, the trend data shows that there has been a 31% decline since 2006.

Archaeological Employment

In 2014 the estimated archaeological workforce stood at a total of 4,800 individuals⁹. This is a net 1.0% increase from the previous year. However within the sector there are large differences by sub-sector: curatorial jobs declined by 9% since the last year while commercial jobs grew by 3%.

The new total represents a decrease of 27% on the estimated workforce of 6,700 in 2007-08.

⁶ Official employment data is collected by industry classified according to 2007 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes. The 2014 data is provisional

⁷ Oxford Economics (2013) The Economic Impact of the UK heritage Tourism Economy

⁸ FTE = Full time Equivalent

⁹ Heritage Market Survey 2015, Heritage Market Survey 2014, Landward 2015 (HMS14)

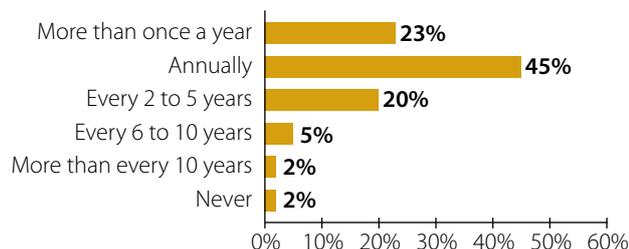
HELPING THINGS TO HAPPEN

Heritage protection has matured into a system where designation, planning and enforcement are intended to work in concert to protect historic significance, while encouraging positive adaptation and change... At the heart of all these changes there have always been dedicated groups of owners and advocates seeking constant improvement in the way that the historic environment is valued and protected.

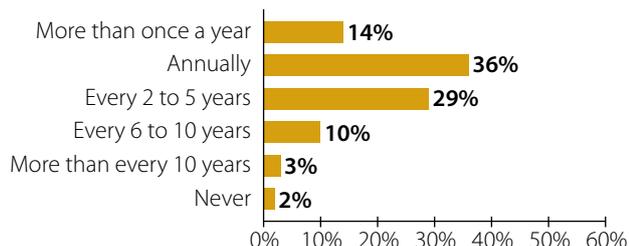
Heritage 2020 strategic priorities

Frequency of maintenance

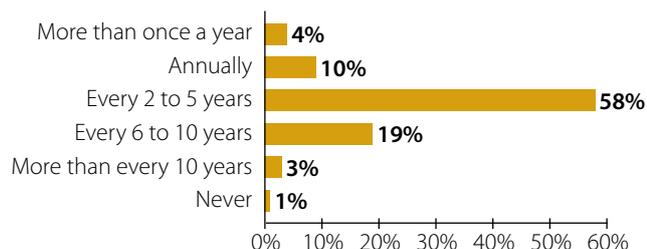
Clearing gutters, down pipes and drain covers



Clearing roof coverings, flashings and chimneys



Painting or repairing windows and doors



Source: Alastair Coey & Ecorys UK, based on Survey of Listed Building Owners 2015

Residential Listed Building Owners Survey

Evidence from the 2015 listed building owners survey¹⁰ shows that owners are actively engaged in the repair and maintenance of their properties and invest large sums in work to their property. More than a third (35%) of owners have applied for listed building consent in the past 5 years and approximately 44% of these spent or planned to spend over £25,000 on the work to their properties. Just over two-thirds (68%) of owners state that they clear gutters once or more each year and 71% paint or repair windows and doors at least every 5 years.

¹⁰ Ecorys and Alastair Coey, "Listed Building Owners Survey" 2015

ADLINGFLEET MEDIEVAL RECTORY, ADLINGFLEET, EAST RIDING, YORKSHIRE



The restored rectory as a polling station in May 2015 (Photo: Tim Harding)

Tim and Amanda Harding bought the site of Adlingfleet Medieval Rectory in the 1990s and after repairing the main house, turned their attention to a derelict-looking outbuilding in the garden. This building turned out to be the standing remains of a 13th century rectory and is a very rare surviving example of a medieval secular building in this part of Yorkshire. It is a scheduled monument and listed as Grade II*.

With their own funding and advice and a grant from Historic England, the rectory has been made weather-tight and usable for the first time in 40 years. Existing parts of the structure, including walls and timbers, have been repaired and a new timber first floor and roof have been added. The couple have made use of the newly-repaired building and grounds for local community uses and events, and intend to continue this into the future.

Building Preservation Trusts

Building Preservation Trusts (BPT) are important organisations in taking on heritage assets and delivering solutions which provide social and economic benefits for communities. In 2014/15 there were 144 BPTs active in England with 102 live projects to rescue historic buildings – 43 of these projects or 42% are on the Heritage at Risk Register.

HERITAGE COUNTS INDICATORS 2015

Where possible the baseline year is 2002, the first year that an equivalent report to *Heritage Counts (State of the Historic Environment 2002)* was produced. When the baseline was collected on another date this is clearly referenced. Unless otherwise specified the value is based on the situation at the end of the financial year 2014/15 (i.e. 31 March 2015).

DISCOVERY, IDENTIFICATION & UNDERSTANDING

Indicator	Measurement	Value	Change
Designated heritage assets	Number of world heritage sites	18	No change since 2010
	Number of scheduled monuments	19,850	Increase of 126 since 2010
	Number of listed building entries	376,100	Increase of 1,198 since 2010
	Number of registered parks and gardens	1,633	Increase of 27 since 2010
Historic areas and open spaces	Number of conservation areas	ca 10,000	Increase of approximately 970 since 2002
	Area of land in England which is a national park or area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB)	1.2m hectares National Parks and 1.9m hectares AONB	Relatively stable since 2010
	Extent of ancient woodland	0.36m hectares	No direct comparison possible because of changes to methodology
Acquiring information	Number of on-line historic environment records	68	An increase of 11 since 2012
	Extent of historic landscape characterisation	99%	Increase of 27% of England's land area since 2007

CONSTRUCTIVE CONSERVATION & SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT

Indicator	Measurement	Value	Change
Historic environment at risk	Percentage of Grade I and II* secular buildings on the Register	3.88%	Decrease from 4.0% in 2014
	Registered parks and gardens on the Register	5.76%	Decrease from 6.0% in 2009
	Archaeological entries on the Register	13.61%	Decrease from 17.9% in 2009
Managing positively	Number of planning applications decided 2014/15	409,809	Decrease from 593,875 in 2007/08 (31% decrease)
	Number of applications for listed building consent decided 2014/15	30,005	Decrease of 12% since 2007/08
	Number of scheduled monument consent decisions 2014/15	1,103	Stable trend since 2002/03
	Number of planning applications affecting registered parks and gardens 2014/15	912	Increase from 2003/4
	World heritage sites with management plans in place (2014)	18 out of 18	Increase from 10 out of 14 in 2002

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Indicator	Measurement	Value	Change
Participation	Participation in the historic environment (2014/15)	72.6% of all adults visited at least one heritage site in the last 12 months, 56.3% BME groups, 63.4% lower socio-economic groups, 67.7% limiting disability or illness	Statistically significant change for all adults, lower socio-economic groups, black and ethnic minority groups and those with a limiting disability or illness since the baseline of 2005/06
	Number of members of historic environment organisations (2014/15)	National Trust: 4.2m; English Heritage: 892,000	Between 2007/08 and 2014/15 membership has grown by 18% for National Trust and 43% for English Heritage Trust
	Number of historic environment volunteers	575,274	Small sample size means it is not possible to make comparisons over time
Visitor statistics	Number of visits to historic visitor attractions	66,664,000	Increase of 3% on 2013
Education and lifelong learning	Number of GCSE/A level history candidates (school year ending 2014)	238,259 GCSE and 46,003 A level candidates	Increase of 23% (GCSE) and 30% (A level) on school year ending 2002
	Number of higher education students studying courses related to the historic environment (Academic Year ending 2014)	109,039	Increase of 5% on academic year ending 2003
	Number of school visits to historic sites	1,901,000	2% increase on 2001 when the data was first published.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Indicator	Measurement	Value	Change
Capacity and resources	Numbers employed in the operation of historic sites and buildings	13,800	Growth of 15% or 1,800 jobs between 2014 and 2015
Developing training and skills	Number of new apprenticeships/trainees in heritage craft skills 2014/15	2,250	Decrease of 11,100 on 2005/06
Local Authority Historic Environment Champions	Number of local authorities with Heritage Champions 2014/15	245 Local Authorities (LAs) with Heritage Champions, 70% of all LAs	Decline from 2009

HELPING THINGS TO HAPPEN

68% of Listed Building owners clear gutters, down pipes and drain covers annually.
71% of listed building owners paint and repair windows and doors at least every 5 years.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Heritage Counts is produced on behalf of the Historic Environment Forum by Historic England. This year we would like to particularly acknowledge and thank the following for their support:

Sarah McLeod and Elizabeth Perkins **United Kingdom Association of Building Preservation Trusts**

Deborah Wall **Historic England**

Kate Pugh and Matthew Rabagliati **The Heritage Alliance**

Ingrid Samuel **National Trust**

Jonathan Thompson **Country Land & Business Association**

Helen Marrison

And all those who provided case studies, profiles, sector updates, and indicator data.

Edited by Louise Sullivan, Adala Leeson and David Bade

Cover image: Owners of Adlingfleet Medieval Rectory, East Riding © Alun Bull, Historic England

Design by Ledgard Jepson

Printed by Park Communications

The Historic Environment Forum also acknowledges the contribution over many years of Frances Garnham, former Director of Policy and Campaigns at the Historic Houses Association. Frances, who sadly passed away earlier this year, consistently provided thoughtful and imaginative ideas and rigorously researched information for *Heritage Counts*, enhancing understanding of our shared past and of the ability of heritage to foster broader well-being in society, in all parts of England.



Historic England