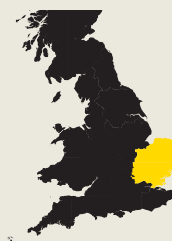


HERITAGE COUNTS

EAST OF ENGLAND



Heritage Counts 2009 is the eighth annual survey of the state of England's historic environment. It is prepared by English Heritage on behalf of the East of England's Historic Environment Forum. This year *Heritage Counts* has increased its web information. Visitors to the *Heritage Counts* website will be able to download the full set of local statistics as well as view maps with details of the historic environment in their region. This year we have also undertaken a new study which shows that the historic environment has a positive impact on sense of place and social capital. Please see www.english-heritage.org.uk/heritagecounts for more information on the historic environment in the East of England and for our sense of place research.

UNDERSTANDING THE ASSETS

EAST OF ENGLAND	2009
WORLD HERITAGE SITES	0
SCHEDULED MONUMENTS	1,727
LISTED BUILDINGS GRADE I	1,744
LISTED BUILDINGS GRADE II*	3,440
LISTED BUILDINGS GRADE II	52,389
REGISTERED PARKS AND GARDENS	210
NUMBER OF CONSERVATION AREAS	1,190
REGISTERED BATTLEFIELDS	1
PROTECTED WRECKS	1

CARING AND SHARING

HERITAGE AT RISK

Whilst heritage is at risk in the East of England; the region has the lowest number of buildings and conservation areas at risk in England. The East of England also has been successful in reducing the number of scheduled monuments at risk from 288 in 2006 to 221 in 2009. Over 70% of these monuments at risk are vulnerable to agricultural damage through modern farming practices which highlights the difficulties of balancing competing land uses.

In 2009, 1.8% of listed buildings (Grade I and II*) are at risk, a change from 1.7% in 1999. 13% of scheduled monuments are at risk, 3% of registered parks and gardens and 4.2% of surveyed conservation areas.

MANAGING POSITIVELY

In 2008/09 there were:

- ▶ 59,168 planning application decisions, a 20% fall on 2002/03.
- ▶ 4,014 listed building consent decisions, a 10% fall on 2002/03.
- ▶ 114 scheduled monuments consent decisions, a 13% increase on 2002/03.
- ▶ 455 conservation area consent decisions, a 3% fall on 2002/03.

Conservation area appraisals, management plans and Article 4 directions are essential for effective conservation and enhancement of some of the East of England's most memorable places. Councils no longer have to report to Government how many they have in place but English Heritage has encouraged their adoption as supplementary planning documents in the Local Development Framework process.

CAPACITY AND RESOURCES

Spending in the historic environment comes from a variety of sources such as private owners, the voluntary sector, local government and central government. It is not possible to collate all this data to produce a grand total for expenditure in the historic environment. In most areas important sources of funding for the historic environment are the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and English Heritage.

In the East of England, no Area Partnership Scheme funding was offered in 2008/09.

This funding supports conservation areas, particularly those at risk, and can be used to good effect in rejuvenating high streets, but it requires match funding and time to develop proposals. However, this has allowed an increase in offers protecting secular buildings, monuments and landscapes.

In 2008/09 HLF funding is down on previous years. In part this is due to legislative changes in the way that Lottery money is funded and changes in how it distributes funding. In the East of England, historic buildings and monuments have been second only to museums in the amount of lottery funding received with over £81 million since April 1994. The Conservation Area Partnership Scheme, in particular, has awarded just under £3.5 million to 27 projects.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Local authorities are central in the protection and management of the historic environment. Their role is set to be even greater under Heritage Protection Reform. An important piece of research this year looked at existing historic environment resources in local government.

In 2008, there were 158.5 full time equivalent staff working in local authorities in the East of England.

Numbers of Heritage Champions have been increasing since 2006 and in September 2009, there were 39 Heritage Champions covering 36 of 52 authorities in the East of England. All champions, except one, are elected members.

USING AND BENEFITING

PARTICIPATION

In 2008, the final figures for measuring Public Service Agreement (PSA) 3 "increasing participation in culture and sport for priority groups" were published. In the East of England in 2007/08 participation in the historic environment was 72.5%. This has not significantly changed from the baseline in 2005/06. There has been no significant change in participation levels among any of the priority groups in the East of England. In 2008/09 for PSA 21, DCMS moved to a new measure of participation in the historic environment, with the definition changing from one visit in the last 12 months to two visits. The baseline figure in East of England is 58.7%.

In 2008/09 financial year the number of visitors to English Heritage sites was up 6%. In 2008/09 the number of visitors to National Trust sites was 3% down on the previous accounting year. In 2008 the number of visitors to Historic Houses Association houses was 1,420,014. So far, visitor figures for the financial year 2009/10 suggest increases in visitors for all three organisations on the same reporting period last year. For 2008, the *Visit Britain Visitor Survey* recorded a 4% rise in visitors to historic properties in the region for those properties which answered the survey in both 2007 and 2008.

EDUCATION

In 2008/09 English Heritage school visits were down 5% on 2007/08 to 14,727. This figure included 1,811 Discovery Visits. English Heritage school visits (excluding Discovery Visits) are free of charge. The *Visit Britain* survey recorded 103,000 school visits in the East of England though the actual total is likely to be much higher as this only includes data from properties which responded to the survey.

MEMBERSHIP

13% of English Heritage members are from the East of England which has remained stable over time and 10% of National Trust members are from the East of England which has remained stable over time. The Historic Houses Association has seen a 9% increase in their Friends of the HHA membership scheme.

KEY POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

REGENERATING OUR COMMUNITIES

The historic environment is central to regenerating our communities and places. In 2008/09 planning applications were down 19% on the previous year but listed building consent and conservation area consent have not been affected as much and this year so far, listed building consent notifications are on par with 07/08. In the East of England, English Heritage has given a grant to develop building skills courses and the Churches Conservation Trust offered a one-week Craft Skills course aimed at builders who want to learn conservation skills. English Heritage also continues to make significant grants for repair of buildings, monuments and landscapes. English Heritage grant offers can help secure more money for the regeneration of an area, such as with St George's Theatre in King Street, Great Yarmouth. If Area Partnership Schemes come forward from local authorities, there is the potential to benefit our high streets too. In addition, English Heritage has funded four workshops this year to ensure the sector has access to free current training on the public realm, climate change, landscapes, and community services in active places of worship.

LOCALISM

Nationally, the legislative and policy framework for the historic environment is being shaped with cross-party support, but at the local level the historic environment shapes, navigates, and inspires people. The addition of conservation areas to English Heritage's annual At Risk list is a timely reminder of what is at risk locally. However, it highlights that we have both individual and collective responsibility to ensure that these do not fall into neglect through well-intentioned but poor quality changes. Appropriate use of materials can help buildings work as they were designed, to keep warmth in and damp out in a sustainable way, contributing aesthetically to the area for the benefit of



Image Taken in the 1950s, this dilapidated house exposing lath through plaster and with a mix of corrugated iron, tiles and pantiles for a roof demonstrates how the historic environment always has been under threat if our vigilance ceases.

all. English Heritage has started working directly with homeowners through the www.climatechangeandyourhome.org.uk website to not only show how to adapt a home to the rigours of a changing climate but also deal with energy supply, warmth and the sustainable use of resources. It is important for all in the historic environment sector to engage with local people so they can appreciate, use and conserve the rich historic resources which can be taken for granted. This forms the anchor for change and progress in a community.

Heritage Counts 2009 is produced by English Heritage on behalf of the East of England Historic Environment Forum:

- Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers
- Campaign to Protect Rural England
- Civic Societies
- East of England Development Agency
- English Heritage
- Government Office for the East of England
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- Historic Houses Association
- Institute for Historic Building Conservation
- Museums, Libraries and Archives Council
- National Trust

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