

# HERITAGE COUNTS 2008

## NORTH EAST

### 1 BYKER ESTATE ►

Byker Estate was constructed to a master plan by British architect, Ralph Erskine and was designed to encourage a sense of community.

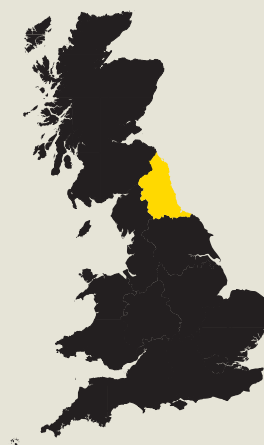
Byker is one of the most influential European social housing schemes of the twentieth century and demonstrates the inextricable relationship between people and place.

A Conservation Plan for the site was published in 2005 following substantial involvement from Byker residents and the site was listed Grade II\* in January 2007.

Newcastle City Council is currently working with partners to pilot a Heritage Partnership Agreement for the future management of the estate.



*Heritage Counts 2008* is the seventh annual survey of the state of England's historic environment. This report is one of nine separate regional reports and has been prepared by the North East Historic Environment Forum. It should be read in conjunction with the national *Heritage Counts 2008* report, available at [www.heritagecounts.org.uk](http://www.heritagecounts.org.uk) where a full set of statistics relating to the historic environment in the North East region can also be found.

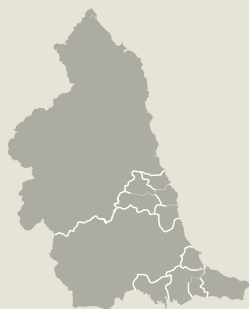


Local councils, encouraged by central government, are working with local partners and local people to create what are referred to as 'sustainable communities'.

A sustainable community is one where people live, work and thrive in high quality places and where there is a balance in the environmental, social and economic components that define an area.

With case studies drawn from across the region, this year's report demonstrates the fundamental role played by the North East region's historic environment sector in creating and underpinning sustainable places and in delivering environmental, social, and economic well being.

 12,237  
 1,389  
 53  
 6  
 2



## KEY REGIONAL DATA

### HERITAGE ASSETS

- In 2008 there were ten designated collections within the North East of England.
- In 2008 there were 67 accredited museums within the North East of England.
- In 2008 there were 40 Visitor Attraction Quality Assurance Service accredited museums in the North East region.
- Two (of England's seventeen) World Heritage Sites are located within the North East region. These are Durham Castle and Cathedral (inscribed in 1986) and Hadrian's Wall (inscribed in 1987).
- Work is also currently underway to support the additional inscription of the twin monastery site of Wearmouth and Jarrow.
- Of the 19,720 scheduled monument entries located in England in April 2008, 1,389 entries were located within the North East region, representing 7% of the total number.
- Of the 373,315 listed building entries found in England in April 2008, 12,237 entries were located within the North East region, around 3% of the national total.

- In April 2008, there were 53 registered park and garden entries in the North East representing about 3% of the national total in 2008.
- In 2008 there were six North East entries on the register of historic battlefields.

### MANAGING THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

- Regrettably, the North East continues to have the highest proportion of Grade I and II\* listed buildings at risk (7.4% compared with a national average of just 3.2%).
- In 2008 there were 123 Grade I and II\* listed buildings and structural monuments at risk within the North East region, 12.6% of the national total of 977.
- However, 46% of those regional entries that were on the original 1999 register have since been removed.
- Published figures indicate that around 55% of the scheduled monuments in the North East region are at risk from damage, decay or loss.
- In 2007/08 there were 896 decisions on Listed Building Consent within the region, out of a national total of 33,927.



- In 2007/08 there were 78 Scheduled Monument Consent decisions issued within the North East region. The national total was 968.
- In 2007/08 there were 130 decisions on applications for Conservation Area Consent in 2007/08 within the North East region, out of a national total of 3,626.
- In 2007/08 there were ten planning applications affecting registered parks and gardens within the North East region.

## FUNDING

- Since 1994, the Heritage Lottery Fund awarded 1,806 grants in the North East region, representing around 7% of the total number of awards made by the Heritage Lottery Fund between 1994 and 2008. These awards were worth a total of £198,216,049.
- English Heritage grant offer for the 2007/08 period is £1,706,271.

## ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- The 2005 study *An Economic, Social and Cultural Impact Assessment of Heritage in the North East* suggests that a total of 7,345 jobs were supported by the heritage sector in the North East of England, many of which are linked to the region's historic tourist attractions.

## PARTICIPATION

- The National Trust properties in the combined North East and Yorkshire and the Humber regions attracted 70,489 educational visits in 2007/08.
- There were 29,799 educational visits to English Heritage properties and an estimated 4,333 to Historic Houses Association (HHA) properties in the North East region in 2007/08.
- The North East region has around 7% of English Heritage's total number of members, which is a higher proportion of members in relation to the regional share of England's population (5%).

- The North East received a relatively low number of HHA visitors with 435,728 (around 3% of the total number of 12,738,604).
- The North East region also has a low proportion of HHA open houses with 4% of the total.
- According to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) *Taking Part* survey, around 71% of all adults in the North East region had attended at least one historic environment site during the past twelve months.
- 92% of all adults in the North East region agreed or strongly agreed that historic features should be saved. (DCMS *Taking Part*)
- Based on data from the Museum, Libraries and Archives (MLA) participation database, 96% of schools in the North East region enhance their pupil's learning experience using museums and archives.



## KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE REGION

### Regional Spatial Strategy

On 15th July 2008, the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) published the final version of the North East of England Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS), which sets out a broad development strategy for the region up to 2021. Covering Northumberland, County Durham, Tyne and Wear and the Tees Valley, it addresses such matters as housing provision, priorities for the environment, transport and infrastructure, economic development, agriculture, mineral extraction and waste.

The RSS recognises the importance of the historic environment and its contribution to regional life and promotes a range of measures to encourage its favourable management. The RSS also highlights the role played by the historic environment in growth and regeneration, highlighting opportunities for conservation-led regeneration.

### Integrated Regional Framework

The Integrated Regional Framework (IRF) is a framework for sustainable development in the North East. It presents a shared vision to ensure that regional strategies share a common purpose in working towards, and achieving, a more sustainable future for the North East and sets out ten regional objectives to achieve this, including Objective 10 – concerned with protecting and enhancing the region's cultural heritage.

The IRF provides the outline to guide the development of strategies, plans, programmes and policy decisions throughout the region to help ensure that the principles of sustainable development are embedded in North East policy making. It is also used to inform the production of other key regional strategies such as the Regional Spatial Strategy and Regional Economic Strategy as well as the future single Integrated Regional Strategy.

### Sub-National Review of Economic Development and Regeneration

The 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review has been informed by a series of policy reviews, one of which was the *Sub-National Review of Economic Development and Regeneration* which considered how to strengthen the economic performance of regions and local areas. The review, which has been led jointly by the Treasury, CLG and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR), outlines plans to refocus powers to support economic growth and tackle deprivation.

In particular, the review announced that by 2010 Regional Assemblies will be phased out and Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) will take on a new strategic role as the regional planning body. They will develop a single Integrated Regional Strategy (IRS) on behalf of the region coordinating jobs, economic growth, housing, planning, transport and environmental objectives.

### Local Area Agreements

Local Area Agreements are three-year agreements between Central Government, local authorities and key local partners. In July 2008, Hazel Blears the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government signed the 12 North East LAAs following their recent refresh. MLA and English Heritage have had a duty to cooperate in this process and have worked alongside Government Office and other cultural partners in the region to review their content.

Each LAA has up to 35 locally-selected targets drawn from a National Indicator Set, complemented by additional statutory targets on education as well as discretionary local targets. NI 10 within the national indicator set is directly concerned with visits to museums and galleries but there are many more indicators where the historic environment plays an important role in their delivery. These include NI 5 (satisfaction with local area), NI 6 (participation in regular volunteering) and NI 110 (young people's participation in positive activities).

### Local Government Reorganisation

2008 has seen a massive period of change for local authorities in the North East region as local government reorganisation creates new unitary councils out of existing two tier arrangements in County Durham and Northumberland. Transitional arrangements are currently in place (at the time of publication) with changes to be completed by 1 April 2009.

## 2 PARTNERSHIP AT HADRIAN'S WALL ◀

The opening of the Hadrian's Wall National Trail increased the need for responsive management to prevent degradation of the path and damage to the underlying archaeology. All parties agreed on the need for maintenance activities to be undertaken as soon as they became necessary to limit damage. However, many of these activities needed separate applications for Scheduled Monument Consent because of the designations attached to this World Heritage Site.

Trail staff therefore worked with rights of way authorities, archaeological consultants and English Heritage to develop a list of routine activities that could be incorporated into a single consent for an on-going programme of maintenance.

This has been of enormous benefit to the condition of both the Trail and monument and has considerably reduced the amount of bureaucracy involved in getting works agreed. It is this holistic approach that will form the basis of the Heritage Partnership Agreements that will be developed as part of Heritage Protection Reform.

## 3 RESTORING ANCIENT WOODLAND AT PONTBURN WOODS, DURHAM ▶



Members of the North East Historic Environment Forum have been working with representatives from the two new authorities to advise on the delivery and resourcing of heritage services within their new structures.

### Heritage Protection Reform

April 2008 saw the government publish its draft Heritage Protection Bill, which will change the way that England's heritage is managed and protected. The draft Bill proposes a less bureaucratic, more accountable and more effective way to identify and manage our nationally important historic places, whilst still maintaining current levels of protection. A single list of designated sites will be created, replacing the current regimes of listing, scheduling and registration, with more information provided on what is special and why.

English Heritage will be given responsibility for designation but will be required to consult owners when a site is being considered. There will be a new right of appeal, whilst interim protection will be introduced for historic places being considered for designation. New powers will also be created to forge Heritage Partnership Agreements for large or complex sites, which will cut the need for repetitive consent applications. A single, heritage asset consent regime will be established, with local authorities given new powers to grant heritage asset consents. ▲ **Case 2**

## ENVIRONMENTAL WELLBEING

On the basis of widely accepted predictions, environmental issues such as climate change are likely to prove detrimental to the historic environment as well as natural environment. Therefore many historic environment organisations are exploring ways to reduce fuel consumption, increase energy efficiency and recycle in order to promote environmental well being for both the natural and historic environment alike.

Education plays an important role, and the historic heritage sector is doing its part to educate the public about environmental issues through special projects and exhibitions, designed to inform and challenge. However, the historic heritage sector faces its own challenges as historic assets (whether sites or artefacts), are themselves a finite resource that cannot easily be replaced. The historic heritage sector therefore plays an important role in ensuring that they are protected, conserved and well managed.

### Restoring ancient woodland at Pontburn Woods, Durham

A £41,700 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund has helped the Woodland Trust to safeguard the future of this ancient woodland, through a project to increase forest cover as well as the diversity of species planted.

A programme of educational activities also helped to raise awareness of environmental issues. The local community has been strongly involved with around 420 school children, cadets and local residents taking part in saving their natural heritage. Members of the public have helped with tree planting as well as the overall running and conservation of the area. This has generated a stronger sense of community spirit and a greater respect for this local area of woodland amongst those involved. ▲ **Case 3**

### Carbon Footprint Project at Wallington, Northumberland

Wallington, near Morpeth, is a working agricultural estate of 13,000 acres and home to over 80 households. The historic house and gardens at Wallington are also a well-loved visitor attraction. In 2007 Wallington set out on an exciting journey to reduce its carbon footprint across the whole estate and reduce emissions thought to contribute towards climate change. Wallington is the first National Trust estate to take on this challenge and will lead the way for other properties.

The Wallington estate has large areas of peat, a soil type which is globally important as a carbon store. The National Trust has therefore commissioned Durham University to research how to manage these peat areas for optimum conservation of the carbon stored.



#### 4 THE GREEN TEAM AT THE BOWES MUSEUM

The National Trust is also supporting tenants, farmers and the local community to take practical action. The Carbon Footprint Project will become part of the Wallington visitor experience and will offer opportunities for visitors to learn about what can be done at home to tackle climate change.

#### The Green Team at the Bowes Museum

In October 2007 the Bowes Museum embarked on a project to minimise its impact on the environment. Working alongside the Green Tourism Business Scheme (GTBS) and Teesdale Environmental Consultancy, the museum identified ways to increase environmental awareness and responsibility amongst its staff. A Green Team was established and an environmental audit conducted to identify ways to reduce the environmental impact of the museum.

A number of simple measures have since been incorporated within the day-to-day operation of the museum. To date, these have included a flora and fauna survey of the grounds, the monitoring and reduction of waste and energy, recycling and composting, sourcing Fairtrade and local products for the cafe and gift shop, encouraging a car sharing scheme amongst staff and using environmentally-friendly cleaning products. These simple changes led to the Bowes Museum receiving a Silver Accreditation from the Green Tourism Business Scheme in 2008.

▲ Case 4



#### 5 LIVING NORTH PENNINES

#### Living North Pennines

Living North Pennines is a three-year project funded with almost £2 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and run by the North Pennines Area of Natural Beauty Partnership. The project aims to conserve and enhance key features of the landscape, biodiversity and historic environment to give a better understanding of the role played by local people in shaping this unique landscape.

Specific projects include the planting of new broadleaved woods, work to improve habitats for local wildlife, and projects to consolidate and interpret four key historic buildings (Muggleswick Grange, Ninebanks Tower, Shildon Engine House, as well as the Whiteskye and Bentyfield Mines).

Local communities have been involved in interpreting their own heritage through creative arts and by recording oral history, while a programme of school activities encourages local children to get out of the classroom and into the landscapes to explore the wildlife and habitats that surround them.

A series of trails will also be developed, for cyclists and horse riders that follow some of the historic routes that were once used by pack ponies to move lead from the mines to surrounding towns.

▲ Case 5



#### 6 2008 HERITAGE SKILLS FAIR

#### 2008 Heritage Skills Fair

Whilst there has been a huge renewal of interest in careers in the heritage sector in recent years, there is still a serious shortage of skilled workers who possess knowledge of the traditional techniques needed to keep the North East's heritage safe.

The North East Heritage Skills Initiative (HSI) aims to reduce the gap in heritage skills and to raise awareness about the need for skilled workers in the heritage sector across the region. As part of the North East Heritage Skills initiative, July 2008 saw the North East Heritage Skills Fair take place at Gibside Estate.

The event was supported by English Heritage, European Social Fund, National Heritage Training Group and the National Trust, among others, and hosted a huge range of exhibitors and demonstrators.

Showcasing the region's heritage skills, the event provided both an exciting learning experience and an unusual family day out where people could learn how to play their part in keeping the past alive. ▲ Case 6



## 7 CLIMATE CHANGE AND HISTORIC HOMES

### Climate change and historic homes

To help further understanding about the ways climate change impacts on houses of traditional construction built before the Second World War, English Heritage has developed a website for home-owners called *Climate Change and Your Home*.

Information can be tailored to the user's chosen house period and location, so a North East homeowner could obtain customised advice relevant to their specific type of property.

The website will be used as the main conduit through which much of English Heritage's knowledge and technical guidance on climate change will be disseminated to homeowners, along with advice to homeowners on how to improve the energy efficiency of traditionally constructed houses.

The website also includes a section on when micro-renewable technologies can be considered and how to install them.

[www.climatechangeandyourhome.org.uk](http://www.climatechangeandyourhome.org.uk)

#### ▲ Case 7



## 8 BIG SWITCH

The National Trust has launched a *Big Switch* project to change 40,000 light bulbs across its historic houses, offices, shops, restaurants and holiday cottages to low energy alternatives. Once installed, the new bulbs will save 2,223 tonnes of carbon per year and will reduce energy and maintenance costs by £431,000 each year. The Trust has committed to using these savings to reduce the environmental impact of its properties even further.

As part of the *Big Switch*, the Trust will make use of a new type of energy efficient bulb that uses halogen tungsten technology and therefore emits less UV, which is harmful for the sensitive materials such as delicate watercolour paintings, textiles and wallpaper found in many National Trust houses. For the National Trust in Yorkshire and the North East, it is envisaged that over 2,100 light bulbs will be replaced at a cost of £17,458. However, annual savings brought about by this change are anticipated at £35,805, with an annual reduction in carbon dioxide emissions of 190 tonnes.



## 9 SUSTAINABLE GARDENING AT LINDISFARNE

### Sustainable gardening at Lindisfarne

As the climate changes, traditional gardens may be affected by changing weather patterns. Lindisfarne Castle on Holy Island is no stranger to extreme weather; but the property manages to keep its garden in good condition through sustainable gardening practices.

Recycling organic materials produces compost to feed the soil. In the winter, the soil is enriched with compost and well-rotted organic manure to mulch the surface and to help maintain vegetation cover. This protects surface-living organisms and the soil structure from damage and erosion by exposure to dry conditions, heavy rain or strong winds.

Annual plants are watered from below using a carefully controlled irrigation system, which minimises water use. The plants are watered regularly and well fed, thus they are less vulnerable to attack by pests and diseases. In the garden there are bug boxes for ladybirds and lacewings that feed on aphids. Providing suitable habitats for such predators encourages the control of garden pests. ▲ **Case 9**



## 10 HERITAGE AT RISK

July 2008 saw the launch of English Heritage's *Heritage at Risk* project, which aims to increase the amount of condition information available on the country's protected heritage assets. The intention is to create the first all-encompassing register of the country's protected assets considered to be at risk. 2008 saw an expansion of the former *Buildings at Risk* register, with new information provided on scheduled monuments, registered historic parks and gardens, battlefields and protected wrecks to inform their management and help safeguard their future.

Regrettably, the North East has the highest proportion of its Grade I and II\* listed buildings at risk in the country (7.4% compared with a national average of just 3.2%) and 55% of its scheduled monuments are at risk from damage, decay or loss.

The *Heritage at Risk* Register provides authorities with a vital tool to help them pinpoint problem cases, enabling them to plan solutions and prioritise action at an early and cost-effective stage. Northumberland Strategic Partnership has included heritage at risk as a local target in its Local Area Agreement, as a means of focusing attention and resources on this issue amongst local partners.

Tarset Castle in Northumberland, for example, is at risk from landslips and erosion from the advancing river, which are destabilising and threatening nationally important archaeological deposits. The mound needs to be stabilised and the river bed reinforced to prevent further erosion. The landowner, Northumberland National Park and the Tarset Archive Group are now working with English Heritage to find a solution.



## 11 YEAR OF FOOD AND FARMING



## 12 ETHNIC MINORITY WELLBEING PROJECT

### SOCIAL WELLBEING

Heritage shapes people's everyday lives in terms of the neighbourhoods in which they live, the places in which they work, the way in which they learn and their spaces for recreation. Heritage is also central to identity as a force that can bring communities together through a sense of mutual belonging, common history or joint interest. Heritage organisations help to strengthen these links. From providing attractive places to live and work, to museum displays about the local area, heritage plays a fundamental role in social well being.

#### Year of Food and Farming

As part of the Year of Food and Farming activities being held around the country, Beamish Museum has found new ways to involve local communities in its agricultural collections, and draw comparisons between past and present experiences of rural living.

Groups from two remote rural areas were invited to produce modern versions of traditional agricultural banners, which use vivid imagery to portray the rural communities represented. These were displayed at Beamish as part of the museum's annual Ploughing Match and Country Crafts weekend.

The museum has also worked with the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) to create an exhibition to raise awareness about the environmental importance of traditional hay meadows, as part of a larger project to restore 400 acres of upland farmland.

Visitors were able to examine the tools and learn about the history of farming and haymaking. Those visitors who could remember taking part in haymaking activities were invited to record their memories which have now been added to the museum's Oral History Archives.

#### ▲ Case 11

#### Primary Sources

A £50,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund helped to fund the Primary Sources project, ran by MLA North East. The project, which involved six North East archives and ten local primary schools, used local archive material to create new learning resources as a focus for literacy and numeracy learning.

Teachers worked alongside archive professionals to create lesson plans and activities that will develop pupils' word and number skills in imaginative new ways. The resources will be made available through workshops, the Internet and on CD.

The Primary Sources project demonstrates the unique contribution that archives can make to teaching

word and number skills, whilst also enabling pupils to study the past 'first hand'. In addition to supporting the development of these basic skills, the resources encourage people to learn about their local heritage in fun and creative ways.

#### Ethnic Minority Wellbeing Project

English Heritage worked with Newcastle Primary Care Trust on its Ethnic Minority Wellbeing Project, funded by New Deal for Communities. The project aims to promote the health and wellbeing of local people in Newcastle.

English Heritage helped to organise a programme of visits to local heritage sites for parents and children. The families visited sites across the region, such as Belsay Hall and Castle, Crook Hall, Durham, Alnwick Castle and Gardens, Lindisfarne Priory, Holy Island, Beamish Museum and Raby Castle.

The visits brought therapeutic benefits as well as providing inspiration for a children's story book, based on the thoughts and memories of the group. *Amali's Adventure*, written and illustrated by Jahnese Maya, has been translated into the languages spoken by the families that participated in this project. Languages include Thai, Arabic, Amharic and Farsi. ▲ Case 12



### Prison aftercare at Woodhorn

The North Eastern Prison After Care Society (NEPACS) is a charity that aims to build bridges between prisoners and their families. The North East Regional Museums Hub worked with NEPACS, and with the families of offenders from Her Majesty's Prisons at Acklington and Castington, on a project to create banners inspired by the miners' banners in the collection of Woodhorn Museum.

Each family created its own individual banners depicting important aspects of their lives, which were combined into one large banner, which was launched at a celebratory event attended by local MP Dennis Murphy. Participants also had the chance to draw and colour their own hands which were joined in the banner's border to symbolise the importance of support and friendship. The banner will be displayed in the visit rooms in both prisons so that offenders can share in the positive outcome of their families' efforts.

### Past, present and future of Cullercoats

The Heritage Lottery Fund provided a £47,500 grant to enable the Dove Marine Laboratory (at Newcastle University), the Watch House Club and Cullercoats primary school to work together to raise pride and awareness of local heritage amongst local people in the Cullercoats area.

Local teachers and over 130 school children have helped to produce a book on *The Flora and Fauna of Cullercoats Bay*, as well as a series of displays and exhibitions about local heritage, based upon historical records and oral history studies. The latter also helped to improve relations between different age groups in the local community by providing older generations with an opportunity to share their experiences with younger people.

### Extended services and regional museums

*Every Child Matters* aims to better coordinate services for children and young people. Extended services help with this by providing access to provision such as summer holiday clubs and after school clubs. Beamish Museum in County Durham worked with extended service providers focusing on health-based learning. Young participants learnt about how people used to live and drew comparisons with how we live now to raise awareness about the importance of a healthy lifestyle. Similarly Mima in Middlesbrough has provided opportunities for children to create their own podcasts during their half term holiday.

A number of Tyne and Wear venues have also run after school clubs for local primary schools. South Shields Museum and Art Gallery ran an art project, taking inspiration from the museum's collection, whilst Segedunum provided curriculum-based activities focusing on the Romans. Both programmes have given local children the opportunity to engage with their local community, gain confidence, and undertake learning outside the classroom within a safe environment.



## 13 REGENERATION OF BLYTH LINKS

### ECONOMIC WELL BEING

Heritage plays a significant role in helping to regenerate communities, and a great deal of heritage funding has this goal in mind. Successful regeneration often requires finding viable and sustainable economic or community uses for heritage assets whose original use has disappeared. The region's museums, libraries and archives also have a role to play in regeneration; contributing to tourism, education and improved quality of life through increased cultural and leisure opportunities. In these ways, heritage plays an important role in economic well being.

#### Regeneration of Blyth Links

Blyth Battery is a coast defence artillery battery that was used in both the First and Second World Wars to defend the port of Blyth. The battery sits within the Links coastal area to the south of Blyth town centre. Consultants were appointed to develop a comprehensive master plan for the Links area. The resultant £3.8 million regeneration scheme has included the development of a pedestrian plaza, an amphitheatre for outdoor performances, children's play area, parking facilities and an amenity building to accommodate the lifeguard club, public toilets and changing rooms.



## 14 ENSURING A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE

The council and its partners have also restored a 1920s bandstand and its surrounding balustrade. Further works are planned to improve the promenade including the restoration of the once popular beach chalets. Extensive consultation on the proposed improvements took place with the local community and local councillors. The regeneration of the Links will culminate with a project to preserve and realise the potential of Blyth Battery's buildings as a cultural facility for the local community. ▲ **Case 13**

#### Ensuring a quality visitor experience

A key objective for MLA North East is to enable the museums and archive sector to improve its visitor offer, and increase its contribution to regional tourism and economic well-being. For the museums sector, museums are encouraged to obtain Accredited Museum status with MLA and to test their visitor services against other industry standards such as the Visitor Attraction Quality Assurance Service. Industry professionals can then be confident that the venues provide a rich visitor experience that will draw visitors to the region.

Evidence suggests that this strategy is working. The 2006 Visit Britain survey identified the top ten regional attractions for the North East region, with museums featuring prominently in lists of both



## 15 STORY GARDEN AT BOWES

charging and free attractions. Museums in the list of the top charging attractions included Beamish, Wallington, Craggside, Gibside and Housesteads. Those included in the free attractions list were the Discovery Museum, Sunderland Museum, South Shields Museum, the Chantry Museum as well as Hartlepool Museum and the Dorman. ▲ **Case 14**

#### Story Garden at Bowes

Bowes Museum worked in partnership with Teesdale School and Montalbo Primary School through the MLA Learning Links Programme, to create a new space in the museum grounds in which to tell stories. A core group of pupils were involved in the project and their ideas for a natural, multi-sensory area fed into the design of the Story Garden. The garden now houses a sound sculpture, audience seating (with fairytale-inspired clay tiles) and a magnificent storyteller's chair.

The level of storytelling in the Story Garden increased in 2008 thanks to funding from the Arts Council. These events proved popular with families and the local community, with over 700 children and adults visiting the space to date. The new Story Garden has provided a unique and creative new environment in which to bring people together, providing a new facility for visitors to enjoy. ▲ **Case 15**



## About the North East Historic Environment Forum

The North East Historic Environment Forum was formed in 2001 bringing together organisations with experience in the various aspects of heritage to advocate the need for the protection, restoration, promotion and positive management of the region's heritage. This report has been prepared by the North East Historic Environment Forum and published by English Heritage.

### Membership

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers</li> <li>• Association of North East Councils</li> <li>• Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment</li> <li>• County Land and Business Association</li> <li>• Culture North East</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English Heritage</li> <li>• Government Office North East</li> <li>• Heritage Lottery Fund</li> <li>• Historic Houses Association</li> <li>• Institute of Historic Building Conservation</li> <li>• Museums, Libraries and Archives North East</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North of England Civic Trust</li> <li>• North East Assembly</li> <li>• North East Regional Museums Hub</li> <li>• One NorthEast</li> <li>• Protected Landscapes</li> <li>• The National Trust</li> </ul> |
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Edited by Nicky Green.

Published by English Heritage.

Designed by [www.evolvedesign.co.uk](http://www.evolvedesign.co.uk)

Printed by the Colourhouse, London.