

State of the Historic Environment Report 2002

NORTH EAST

The State of the Historic Environment in the **North East** Region 2002

COVER IMAGE:
Schoolchildren at
Hadrian's Wall
near Housesteads,
Northumberland.
The pupils of Sherburn
Village Primary School,
County Durham visit
the area to learn about
the Romans. The site
is owned by the
National Trust and
cared for by English
Heritage. The Wall was
designated a World
Heritage Site in 1987.

The publication of the first annual State of the Historic Environment Report (SHER), of which this regional factsheet forms a part, offers the opportunity to collate redundant information and begin to analyse the condition of the historic environment in England. SHER 2002 is a pilot and the Historic Environment Review Steering Group is inviting comment on the format and content of the national and regional documents to ensure that they can be improved upon in future SHERs.

For this first year it has only been possible to produce a summary of basic information for the North East. In future years it is envisaged that this document will be more comprehensive. The Regional Historic Environment Forum will play a key role in guiding regional content and analysis, and will add to the basic content available from the national SHER data collection process. However, views on the usefulness of this document and what should be in future regional SHERs are welcomed. All documents can be viewed at www.historicenvironment.org.uk

Please make your response by 28 February 2003 to:
Peter Bromley, Regional Director, English Heritage,
Bessie Surtees House, 41-44 Sandhill,
Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE1 3JF

The North East Region is England's smallest in terms of its population, but its heritage is second to none. The international significance of prehistoric sites such as the Millfield Basin in Northumberland, and our rock art is echoed across all periods. The World Heritage Site of Hadrian's Wall reflects the region's Roman history, and the medieval religious and secular heritage reaches its best in the region's other World Heritage Site at Durham City. Other sites reflect this religious and often turbulent history: Alnwick Castle; Warkworth Castle; Lindisfarne Priory; Monkwearmouth and Raby Castle.

More recent history has also given us a rich legacy. The walled town of Berwick, the Georgian streets of Grainger Town in Newcastle, and the Victorian and Industrial heritage in Middlesbrough, Newcastle and Sunderland, the lead mining history of the now quiet North Pennines and the great homes of Cragside and Gibside.

And the story still continues. Tomorrow's heritage continues to thrive: Alnwick Gardens, the Angel of the North and Gateshead Millennium Bridge.

This report seeks to show the state of the historic environment but it does so not simply to protect it. It seeks to show how an asset can be used in the future: the historic environment is an important component of the region's economy (40% of visitors come to the area because of the environment, including the historic), education (thousands of educational visits are made each year) and the cultural identity of the region.

Planning documents such as the Regional Economic Strategy and Regional Planning Guidance reflect the importance of the heritage in the North East. In 2000/01 the heritage sector also came together as the Historic Environment Forum and has now begun to identify how the historic environment can be promoted further.

The effects of Foot and Mouth Disease showed how the region depends upon the rural economy and how our historic environment can play a leading role in turning this situation around to one of success with a positive future again.

National schemes such as the Market Towns Initiative, Townscape Heritage Initiative and, Historic Environment Regeneration Schemes will all use the historic environment as a driver for economic and social success.

This report is a starting point in helping to measure the underlying health of this valuable and unique resource.

REGIONAL PROFILE¹

- The North East, at 8,592 sq km, is the second smallest of the nine English regions.
- The total population of the North East is 2,581,300 compared to an average for English regions of 5,528,100. Its population is the lowest for an English Region at less than half the regional average.
- There is an average of 300 people per sq km in the North East. The average density in England is 381 people per sq. km.
- The Gross Domestic Product of the North East in 1999 was £25,875m, the lowest of any region, compared to the average for English regions of £73,300m and a total for England of £660,200m. The North East also has the lowest regional GDP per head Index (for which the UK = 100) with an index of 77.3.
- The ILO Unemployment Rate in Spring 2000 for the North East was 9.2%, the highest of the English regions and above the UK average of 5.6% and nearly three times the South East rate.
- The North East has 1112 sq km of the total 9934 sq.km. of National Park in England covering 13% of the total region, which is nearly two thirds more than the average for England at 8%.
- The North East has 1465 sq.km of Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty covering 13% of the region which is just below the average coverage for England which is 16%. The region has 122 km of Heritage Coast, 12% of the total of 1041km in England.

THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT OF THE NORTH EAST²

SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

- In July 2002 there were 1376 scheduled monuments in the NE compared to 1319 in 2000. The average number of monuments in a region is 2204.
- 61 applications for Scheduled Monument Consent were made in the NE in 2001/2 compared to a national average of 88.
- One indicator of the degree of pressure on the stock of monuments is the number of Scheduled Monument Consent cases as a proportion of all Scheduled Monuments. In the NE this was 4.4% compared to a national figure of 4%³.

LISTED BUILDINGS

- In August 2002 the NE had 12,184 entries on the Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest which was 3.2% of the national total.
- In 2002 9.4% of the NE region's Grade I and II* Listed Buildings were classified as being at Risk. It was significantly above the national average of 3.7% and although it represented a 0.5% fall on 2001, it was a 0.9% increase on 1999.
- Only 1.5% of the entries in the NE on the 2002 English Heritage BAR Register were capable of economic repair (i.e. unlikely to require some public subsidy to make re-use viable). The national figure is 12.8% but this is inflated by the large number of buildings in London capable of economic repair.
- In the NE in 2001/2, 253 listed building consent applications were notified to English Heritage which is consulted on the more important proposals; an average of 1 application for every 48 listed buildings (the figure for all regions except London⁴ was 1 for every 64 listed buildings). In 2000/01 there were a total of 692 listed building consent applications made to local authorities in the region, an average of 1 application for every 17 listed buildings⁵ compared to an average for all regions except London of 1 for every 13 buildings.

¹ Regional Profile information from *Regional Trends 2001* on www.statistics.gov.uk

² All information from English Heritage, except where noted.

³ As some monuments will have more than one application in a year and scheduled monument consent is not always applied for, this figure should be treated with caution and is only one indicator of relative pressure for change.

⁴ There is a different set of criteria for consultation in London.

⁵ As (3) above.

⁶ English Heritage.

⁷ Regulations require that planning applications in or affecting the setting of conservation areas that cover more than 1000 sq m or where a proposal is more than 20m high should be referred to English Heritage.

⁸ *Local Authority Conservation Provision*, Oxford Brookes University for the IHBC and EH, 2002.

⁹ *Local Authority Conservation Provision*, 2002.

CONSERVATION AREAS

- In June 2002 the NE had 275 conservation areas⁶. The average number of conservation areas per English Region was 1003 in 2001/2.
- The NE region of English Heritage was notified of 155 substantial planning applications in conservation areas in 2000/01⁷. This equates to around 0.6 major applications per conservation area in a year. The average per region was 558 applications or 0.6 major applications per conservation area.
- One way of measuring how conservation areas are being managed is the number of Conservation Area Appraisals that have been adopted by local authorities. In the NE an average of five Appraisals per authority had been carried out, with an average of 0.7 being adopted in 2001.

WORLD HERITAGE SITES

- The NE has two of England's fourteen World Heritage sites: Durham Castle and Cathedral (designated in 1986) and Hadrian's Wall (designated in 1987 and also in the NW region). Both have functioning steering committees and the latter has an adopted Management Plan, while one is currently in preparation for Durham.
- Monkwearmouth and Jarrow Monastic Sites form one of the twelve sites in England on the UK Government's Tentative list for inclusion on the list of World Heritage Sites.

HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS

- In October 2002 there were 48 entries on the Historic Parks and Gardens Register in the NE, compared to an average per region of 170. Four sites have been added to the Register since 2000.

REGISTERED BATTLEFIELDS

- Six of England's 43 Registered Historic Battlefields are in the NE Region.

RESOURCES

- In 2001/2, English Heritage offered £1,295,000 in the NE region (4.7% of the total for England) which included £466,000 on secular grants, £54,000 on church grants, £775,000 on area grants (HERS). This represented a 5% drop in offer in the previous year.
- The LACP survey⁸ reported that 22% of local authorities had a historic building grant programme, compared with a national average of 51%. The average grant budget for historic buildings for an average NE local authority was £5,250 compared to a national average of £19,779.
- The Heritage Lottery Fund offered grants during 2001/2 of £18,772,000 in the NE region (7.9 % of the total for England). This included £6,257,000 for Townscape Heritage Initiative and Urban Parks Programme projects and £612,000 on Places of Worship.
- The LACP survey⁹ found that in the NE the average level of staffing for historic building conservation per local authority was one full-time equivalent compared to a national average of 1.7. There is no current figure for local authority staffing for archaeology, but this will be available for next year.



ENGLISH HERITAGE