

HERITAGE CRIME PROGRAMME 2012

Dear ARCH member

We are now already a year on from our launch of ARCH and the Heritage Crime Programme. But what a year we have had. Sadly, it has been rather dominated by the scourge of metal theft - a threat to all heritage, but particularly churches and war memorials.

We have though, made considerable progress. You are now one of over one hundred members of ARCH. The number of signatories to the memorandum of understanding between enforcement agencies is also growing.

Most importantly, there has been lots of change on the ground. Many police forces, local authorities, heritage professionals and concerned societies are working together with increasing expertise and understanding of what a difference they can make. A huge thank you to all those who have grasped the value of this work and made it part of their own. There are some excellent case histories that are developing to show what works in practice. There are also some very innovative ideas coming forward from our partners.

And we now know what a difference we all need to make. Research we have commissioned shows a very worrying scale to the harm being done by crime.

I hope you enjoy reading about all these developments, but most importantly I hope you can contribute to the prevention of heritage crime. Please see the back page for what you can do.

On behalf of our precious and vulnerable heritage, thank you.

Mike Harlow
Governance and Legal Director, English Heritage
March 2012



Progress in Numbers

100+ - Members of Alliance to Reduce Crime against Heritage

9 - Local Authorities signatory to the Memorandum of Understanding

190 – Incidents monitored by English Heritage including major investigations in Kent, Somerset and Northamptonshire

5,000 – Practitioners and volunteers briefing and trained (October 2012)

Research Findings: The Size of the Problem

- 18.7% of all listed buildings physically affected by crime last year. That's over 70,000 listed buildings damaged in one year.
- 15.3% of all scheduled monuments affected last year. That's 3,022 monuments.
- 37.5% of all religious listed buildings affected last year.
- The biggest single threat is metal theft, unsurprisingly. Although criminal damage, covering everything from spray-painting to demolition, is the biggest category. Arson is a small category, but potentially devastating in effect, obviously.
- Respondents were asked to give a sense of the seriousness of the incidences and 8% of owners said their heritage assets were in significantly worse condition after the incident.
- Heritage assets are not necessarily being targeted over other places, save perhaps for their valuable materials and artefacts, but they are suffering a substantial rate of attrition from crime nonetheless. They are susceptible to irreversible harm. Their obvious high value to society and particular vulnerability warrants every effort to ensure they are still around for future generations to enjoy just as much as we enjoy them now.



Richard Crompton QPM

Richard Crompton, ACPO lead for Heritage Crime, has announced that he will be retiring from the Police Service in April 2012. Richard has enjoyed a long and distinguished career that has seen him become the Chief Constable of Lincolnshire and national lead for local policing and wildlife crime. We are very grateful to Richard for his guidance and support and wish him well in his retirement.

We are delighted to announce that Chief Constable Andrew Bliss of Hertfordshire Police will take Richard's place. Andrew has a degree in history and archaeology from Durham and is an active archaeologist. We very much look forward to working with him and drawing on this perfect combination of experience and interest.



Andrew Bliss

More Local Authorities Join Forces

The launch of the heritage programme last year included the formal endorsement of the heritage crime Memorandum of Understanding by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO); the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS); English Heritage; and, participating local authorities. It sets out responsibilities for enforcement and contains cross-promises of assistance.

Local authorities are key players in the arrangement and getting their endorsement is vital. Your help in encouraging your local authority to sign up would be greatly appreciated.

To date nine local authorities have become signatories to the MoU –

- [Canterbury City Council](#)
- [Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)
- [Dover District Council](#)
- [Hertfordshire County Council](#)
- [Ipswich Borough Council](#)
- [London Borough of Lambeth](#)
- [Norfolk County Council](#)
- [Northamptonshire County Council](#)
- [Suffolk County Council](#)

More than twenty other areas are actively considering becoming involved in the programme.

ARCH Membership Grows Beyond 100

Since February 2011 over one hundred organisations, groups and individuals have become members of ARCH. The range of information and intelligence provided by members continues to drive partnership activities that are focused on the prevention and disruption of crime; and, where offences have occurred, effective investigation and enforcement.

Recent additions to the membership include:

A Town Unearthed: Folkestone Before 1500 project
Association of English Cathedrals
Brian Powell – Community Archaeologist
Cheshire East Council – Heritage & Design
Heritage Action
Liverpool Cathedral
The Mausolea & Monuments Trust
Mendip Society
National Council for Metal Detecting (NCMD)
Nautical Archaeology Society
Norfolk Police - Crime Prevention Design Advisor
Diocese of Norwich - Historic Places of Worship Support Officer
Nottingham North Deanery
PID Systems Ltd
Salisbury Diocesan Advisory Committee
Shorne Woods Archaeology Project
Southwell & Nottingham Diocese
South Yorkshire Industrial History Society.
Tarvin Parish Council
The St Albans Diocesan Advisory Committee
University of Manchester - School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering
University of Sheffield - Dept of Archaeology
War Memorials Trust
Wiltshire Police Crime Prevention Designer

A full list of ARCH members can be found on the ARCH pages of the English Heritage website.

Enforcement Operations

Since March 2010 English Heritage has assisted in the strategy for the investigation of over 190 incidents across the country. This represents a small proportion of the overall number of incidents that have occurred.

Operation Arsenic and Godiva – Kent and Essex Police working with the Receiver of Wreck and English Heritage executed five search warrants as part of an investigation into unlawful salvage from protected wrecks. The case remains under investigation.

Operation Totem – Lincolnshire and South Yorkshire Police working with English Heritage and experts from the Portable Antiquities Scheme. A man from Rotherham, South Yorkshire has been charged with a number of offences of theft. The case relates to an allegation of illicit metal detecting. The case will be heard at Skegness Magistrates Court on 14th July 2012.

Operation Denby – Kent Police working with French Customs, English Heritage and the Army to disrupt and deter the importation of artefacts, including live ammunition from Great War battlefields. The operation is preparing a response for the forthcoming anniversary of the start of the First World War in 1914.

Operation Quartile - Northamptonshire County Council, Northamptonshire Police, English Heritage and finds experts from the Portable Antiquities Scheme investigated an allegation of illicit metal detecting and damage to a scheduled monument. Two men have been charged with offences relating to damage to a scheduled monument and theft and will appear at Northampton Crown Court on 27th March 2012.

Collaborative work between the Environment Agency, Surrey County Council and English Heritage to investigate and enforce allegations of unauthorised tipping; damage to a scheduled monument; and a breach of planning regulation. The case is awaiting trial.

Collaborative work has also taken place between English Heritage and Avon and Somerset Police in order to investigate allegations of unauthorised works at a Neolithic site known as Priddy Circles.

There have also been a number of successful prosecutions involving metal thefts and graffiti affecting listed buildings where the police, English Heritage and local authorities have worked closely.

The Role of the Crown Prosecution Service:

CPS policy advisor Arsha Gosine says that heritage crime is one of the lesser known aspects of CPS casework. Heritage crime is defined as 'any offence which harms the value of declared heritage assets and their settings to this and future generations'.

The seriousness of heritage crime is such that almost all offences are triable in the Magistrates or the Crown Courts where the penalties can be higher. Many heritage crimes are those of strict liability. This means a person is legally responsible for damage or loss caused by their actions or oversight, regardless of culpability.

The CPS has appointed 40 heritage and wildlife coordinators responsible for advising and prosecuting these sorts of cases. People often have a limited understanding of the impact of heritage crime. However, there is growing awareness amongst criminal justice partners and more cases are being investigated and prosecuted to a high standard.

In 2011, the Strategy and Policy Directorate invited all heritage and wildlife coordinators to a Wildlife and Heritage Crime Seminar to learn more about the Heritage Crime Programme.

The CPS has signed a Memorandum of understanding with English Heritage and the Association of Chief Police Officers. This agreement emphasises the importance of partnership working and close cooperation in tackling these damaging crimes.

Mark Holmes, the Heritage Crime Coordinator for the East Midlands has been actively involved in the cases of illicit metal detecting in Northamptonshire (Operation Quartile) and Lincolnshire (Operation Totem). Mark has provided expert advice on case and charge preparation.



Heritage Crime Impact Statements

The use of heritage crime impact statements continues to develop across the country. The statement, produced by a historic buildings or archaeological expert, highlights the true loss to society of damage done to the heritage asset. Recent cases include:

Theft of metal – Cheshire, St Luke's Church, Farnworth. The statement was read to the Court. The District Judge stated that the "crimes against our heritage were appalling". The defendants were sentenced to a 12-month community order; electronically monitored curfew for 3 months; 100 hours of unpaid work; and, £400 in compensation.

Illicit metal detecting on a scheduled monument - Northamptonshire, Irchester Roman Town - Statement prepared by Dr Pete Wilson, English Heritage. The case is listed for hearing at the end of March.

Anti-social behaviour - Cheshire West and Chester. The local partnership is developing a statement that highlights the physical, social and health implications of illicit urination in the historic environment.

Events

A programme of conferences, briefings and training sessions have been delivered during the autumn and winter. Since March 2010, training has been delivered to over 5,000 heritage practitioners, law enforcement officers and community volunteers.

Here is some feedback:

Training - West and South Yorkshire Police

"What a cracking three days we had, the Insp saying in his thank you letter that the training programme exceeded his expectations and reported one student saying it was the best training he had had in 5 years !! I thought your interaction with the students was super and your group work went very well, creating lots of discussion.



The results from the 2nd knowledge check demonstrated that the students had gained a great deal of information especially in the area of Heritage Crime. Feedback from the students on your give was epic, the vast majority of the students had no idea of such offences or the legislation surrounding it, but they do now! and they stated that they would have liked longer on the subject too". **Sally Smart – Course Director**

Training - Devon heritage sector and community volunteers

"An interesting and informative day. I now have a good understanding of heritage crime and how we can implement a practical programme for heritage sites across north Devon." **Delegate**

"The conference was a great success and your paper contributed to that success." **Professor Valerie Higgins, Chair of Archaeology and Classics.**

Craig Spence, lecturer at the University College and organiser of the Heritage Crime symposium, said,

"threats to our heritage from criminal activity are very real and have a significant impact on communities. This new working relationship between the heritage and criminal justice sectors together with local government is beginning to have some real success in detecting and prosecuting those criminals who cause so much damage, loss and distress for such small returns."

Forthcoming ARCH events in 2012

Continuing our effort to raise awareness of ARCH, the Heritage Crime Programme and the enforcement memorandum of understanding we are arranging a series of awareness briefings across the country:

26th April - Manchester

17th May - Birmingham

14th June - Portsmouth

13th September - Cambridge

27th September - Sheffield

11th October - London

These are free events open to anyone with an interest.

For more details and to book a place email:

HELMbookings@english-heritage.org.uk, or telephone Sam Powell on 01793 44 5029.

We look forward to seeing you there.

ARCH

ALLIANCE TO REDUCE
CRIME AGAINST HERITAGE

So what can you do as an ARCH member?

- If you are part of an organisation with enforcement powers you can become a **signatory to the Heritage Crime Memorandum of Understanding**. If you would like to become a signatory or learn more about what becoming a signatory will mean for you then please contact us.
- **Set up a Key Individual Network (KIN) in your area**. A KIN is a community engagement mechanism advocated by the Association of Chief Police Officers which is now embedded in Neighbourhood Policing and partnership systems. It is a way of bringing intelligence and information to the attention of those agencies that can prevent damage and enforce the law against offenders. If you would like more information on how to set up a KIN in your area please let us know.
- **Provide intelligence about crimes affecting heritage assets**. Our research into the nature of the problem and how best to tackle it will continue, If you have any data on damage from crime, particularly data on the damage done by owners failing to apply for consents, we would be very happy to hear from you.

If you wish to discuss any of the above or have any other questions please email:

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