

Conservation Area Survey Summary Findings

This document summarises the findings from the two Conservation Area surveys which were open to Civic Voice and IHBC members between 11 November and 5 December 2016.

Q1 Involvement in the protection of Conservation Areas

In what ways are you involved in the protection of Conservation Areas in any of these ways?

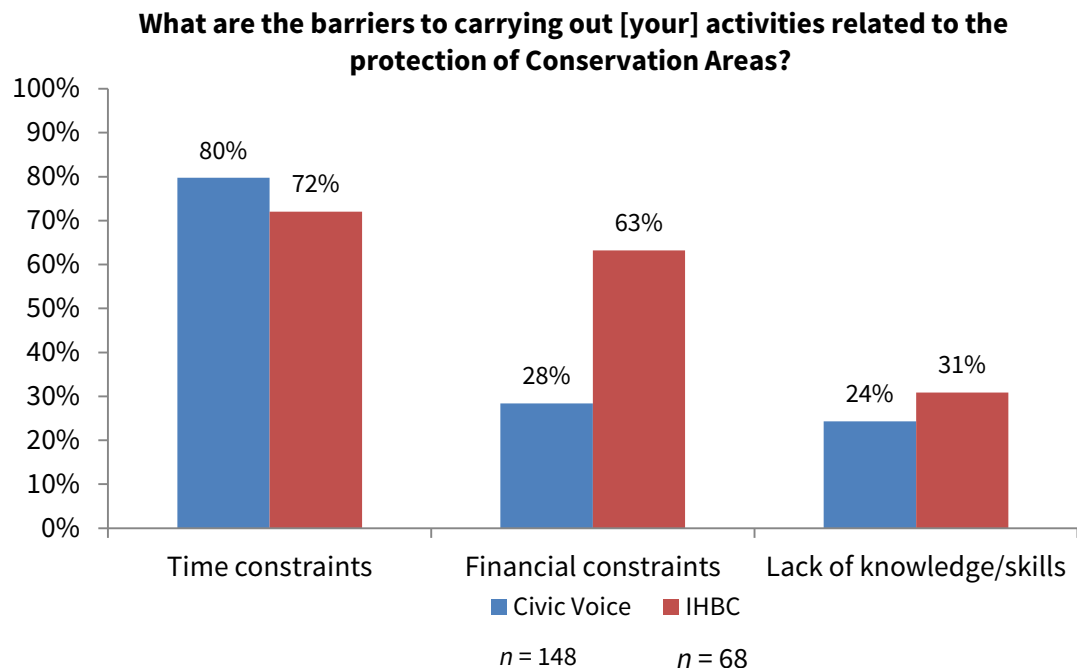
Civic Voice

- 88% 'comment on planning and heritage applications'.
- 62% 'get involved in neighbourhood plans and local plans'
- 54% 'comment or propose CA designation, appraisals and management plans'

IHBC

- 70% deal with planning and heritage applications
- 62% prepare CA designation, character appraisals or management plans
- 59% carry out historical research in CAs

Q2 Barriers to carrying out activities to protect Conservation Areas



Time constraints were identified by both groups as the most significant barrier to protecting Conservation Areas, however, IHBC respondents also identified financial constraints as a significant factor.

Q3 Further support required (open text)

What further support is required to enable you to carry out this activity/these activities more effectively?

Main themes identified from IHBC responses:

- More awareness among the community of the importance of CAs
- More knowledgeable/better trained LA Conservation staff
- More political will from LAs
- More conservation officers and conservation capacity
- More knowledgeable/better trained investment in properly supporting, training and upskilling LA Conservation and Planning staff as well as related heritage and development officers (archaeology, building control etc.).

Main themes identified from Civic Voice responses:

- Support from Local Authorities
- More volunteers/members, especially younger people
- Access to expertise
- Funding
- Time
- Best practice guidance/training/case studies
- More public knowledge and appreciation

Q4 Effectiveness of CA management tools

In your experience, how effective are the following Conservation Area management tools in protecting Conservation Areas?

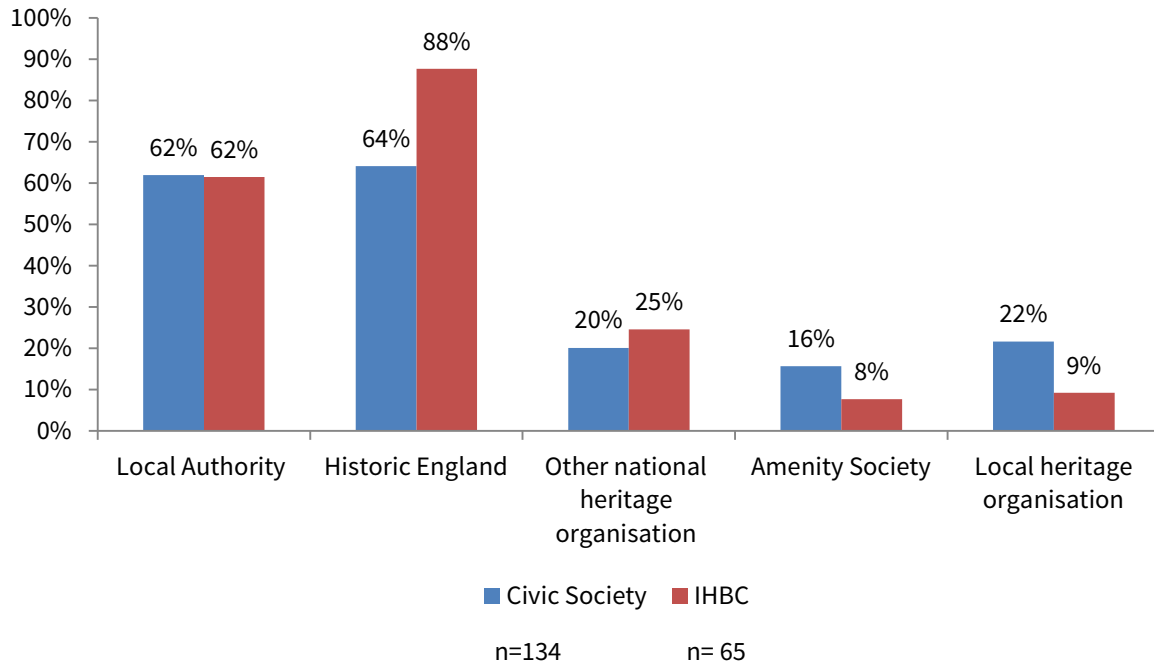
Civic Voice respondents reported lower awareness or views on Conservation Area management tools compared to IHBC professionals, with particularly low awareness of Section 215 notices, urgent works notices, and acquisitions by agreement.

IHBC respondents were also generally more positive about the effectiveness of management tools than Civic Voice respondents and identified Article 4 directions, tree controls, control of demolition and statutory listing as the most effective.

Q5 Further Information

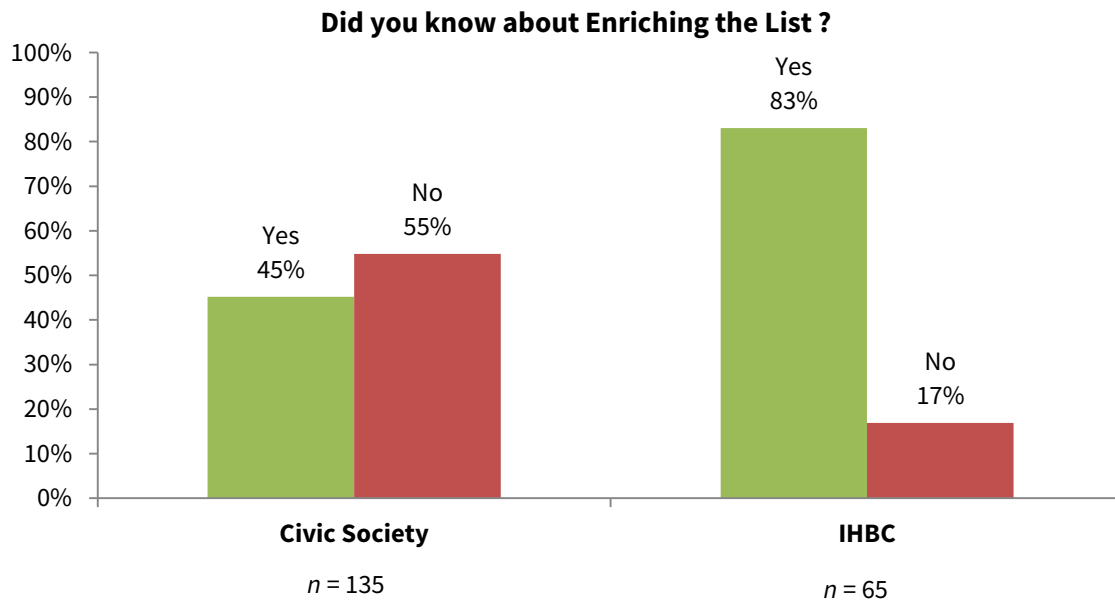
If you wanted more information on Conservation Area management tools, where would you go to find out about them?

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Q6-7 Enriching the List

Did you know about Enriching the List (which allows you to put additional information about listed buildings and other nationally designated assets on the National Heritage List for England on the Historic England website)?

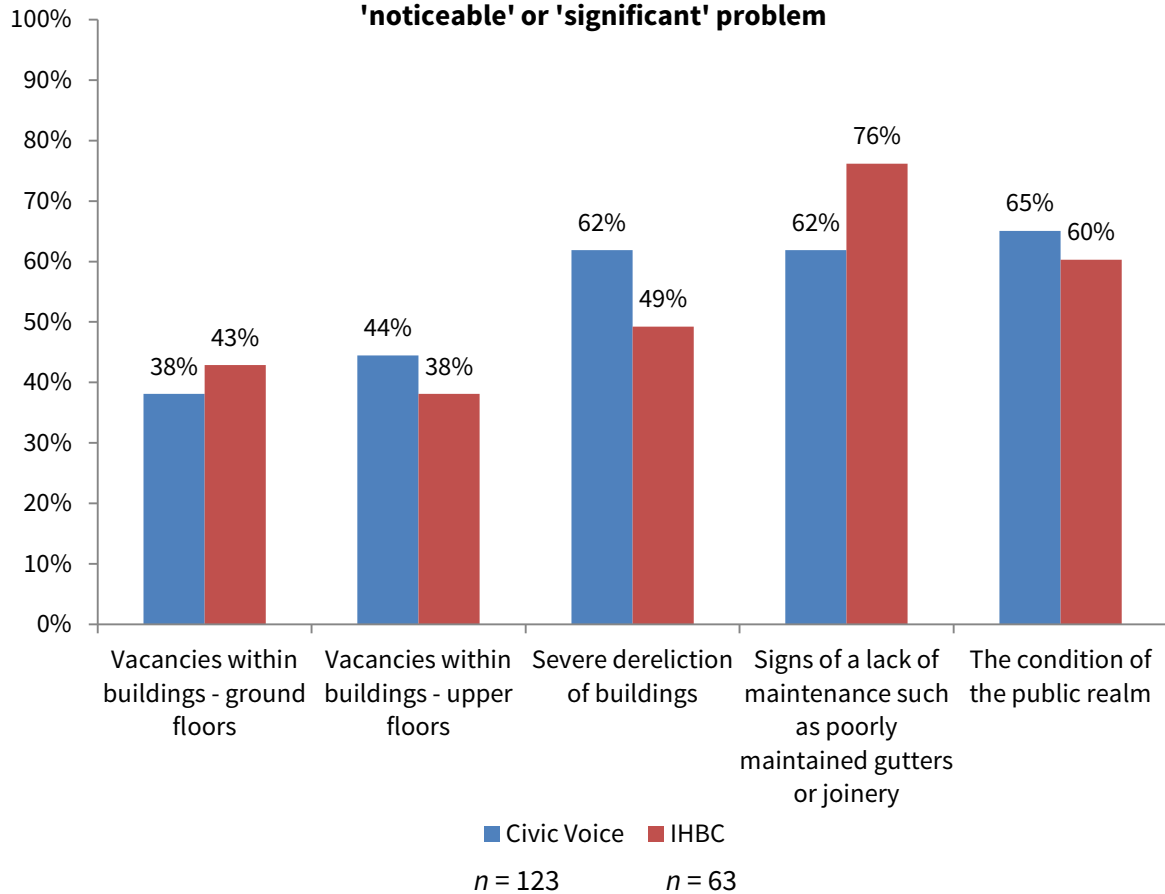


Q7 If there was a national list of Conservation Areas, would it be useful for you to be able to add information online using Enriching the List?

| Responses | Civic Society | IHBC |
|------------|---------------|------|
| Yes | 65% | 65% |
| No | 6% | 14% |
| Don't know | 29% | 22% |

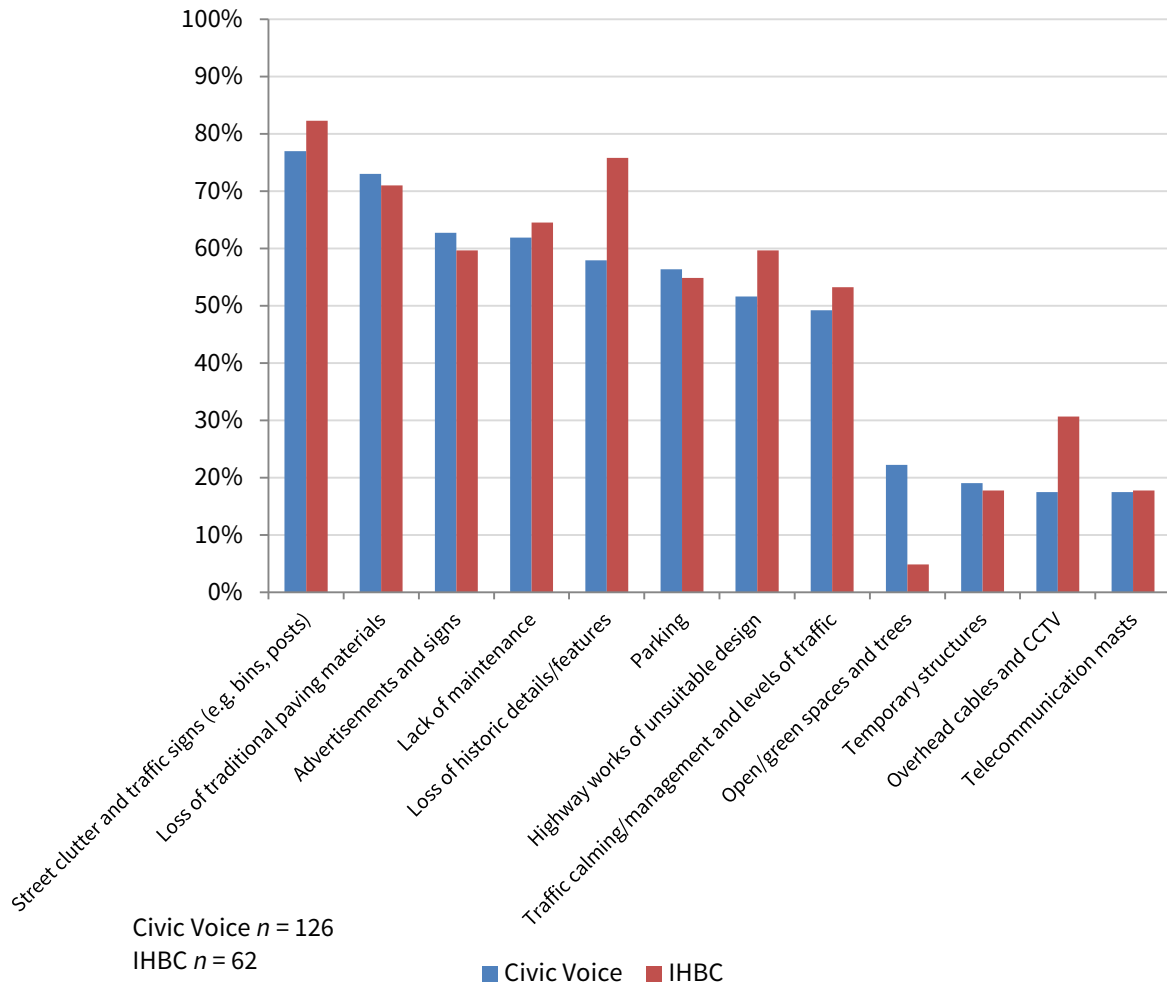
Q8 Neglect Issues

**Thinking of the Conservation Area you know best, please give your impression of whether the following issues affect the special architectural or historic interest, and character and appearance of the Conservation Area:
'noticeable' or 'significant' problem**



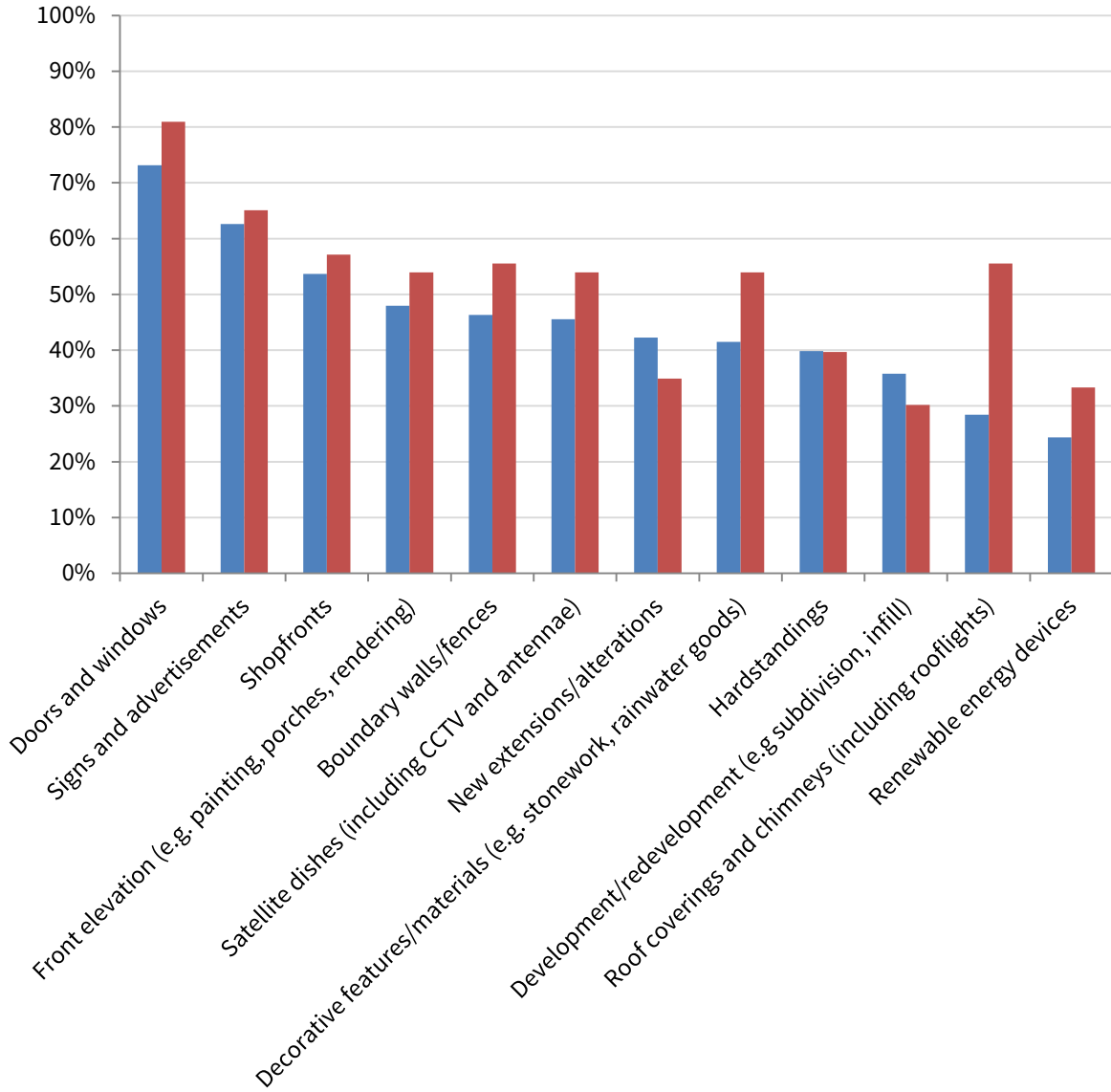
Q9 Public realm issues

If you have noticed an issue with the condition of the public realm within the Conservation Area, please select any of these that represent a particular problem:



Q10 Loss of historic detail or inappropriate change issues

If you have noticed a problem with loss of historic detail or inappropriate change within the Conservation Area, please select any of these that represent a particular problem:

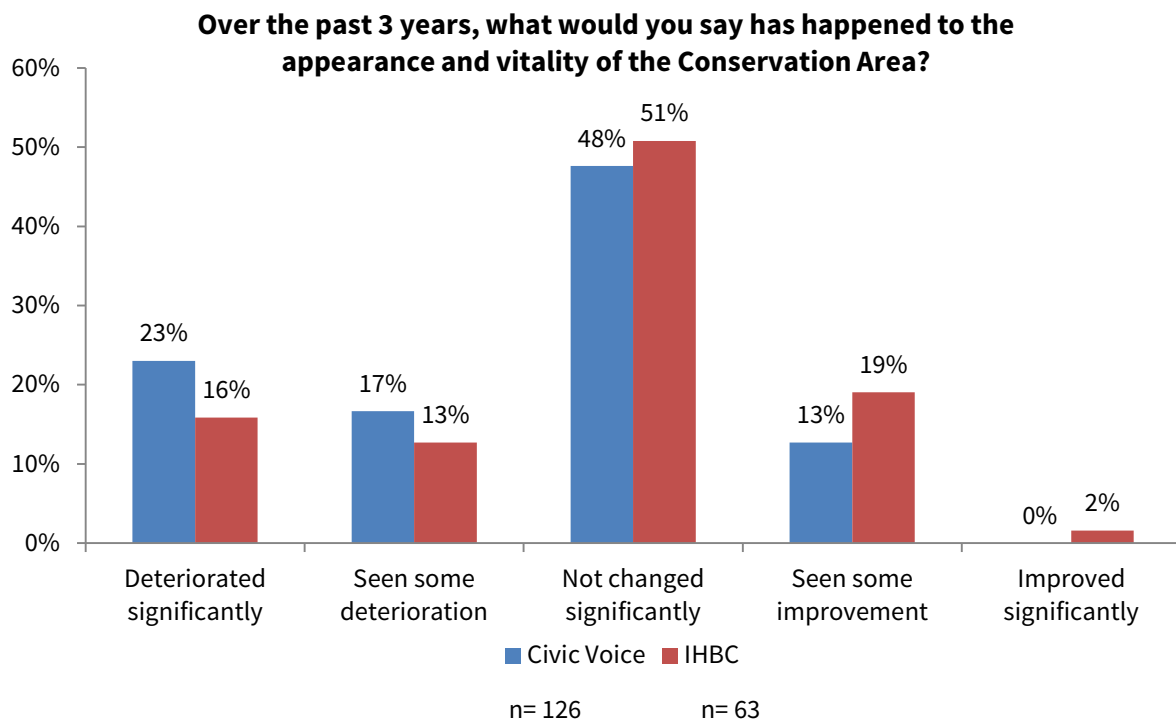


Civic Voice *n* = 123

IHBC *n* = 63

■ Civic Voice ■ IHBC

Q11 Change in appearance of a CA in the past 3 years



Q12 What one piece of advice would you offer local civic societies about how they can be most effective in improving Conservation Areas? (open text)

Civic Voice

Main themes can be identified from Civic Voice responses:

- Form a relationship with the local authority
- Raise awareness/appreciation from residents/public, especially about the benefits
- Monitor regularly
- Investigate funding opportunities
- Attract volunteers/members and train them
- Become involved in character appraisals/neighbourhood planning/local listing

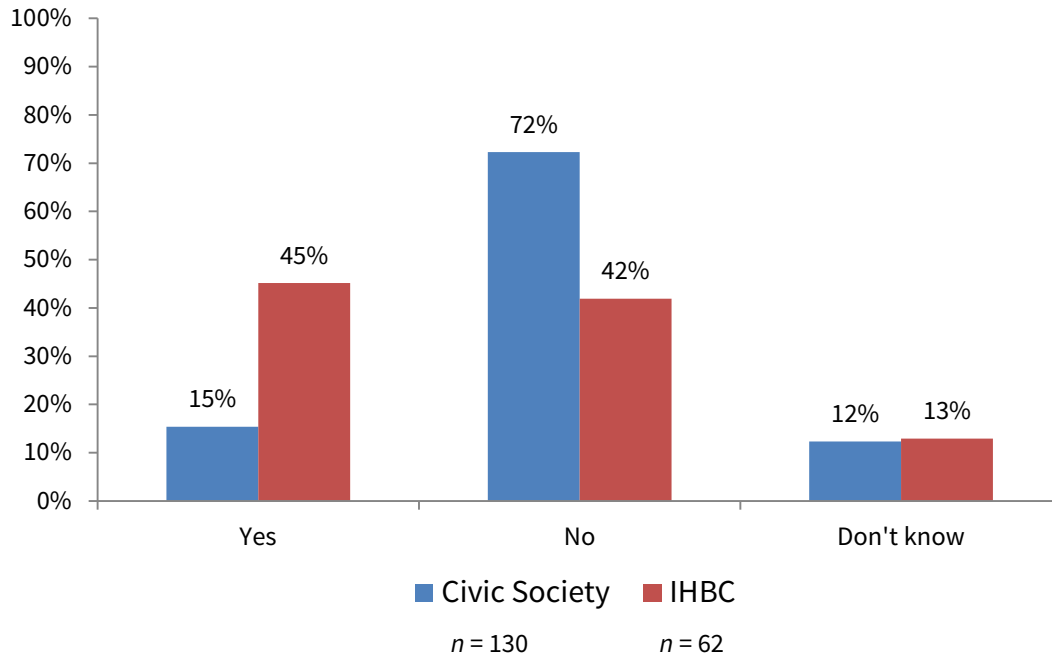
IHBC

Main themes identified from IHBC responses:

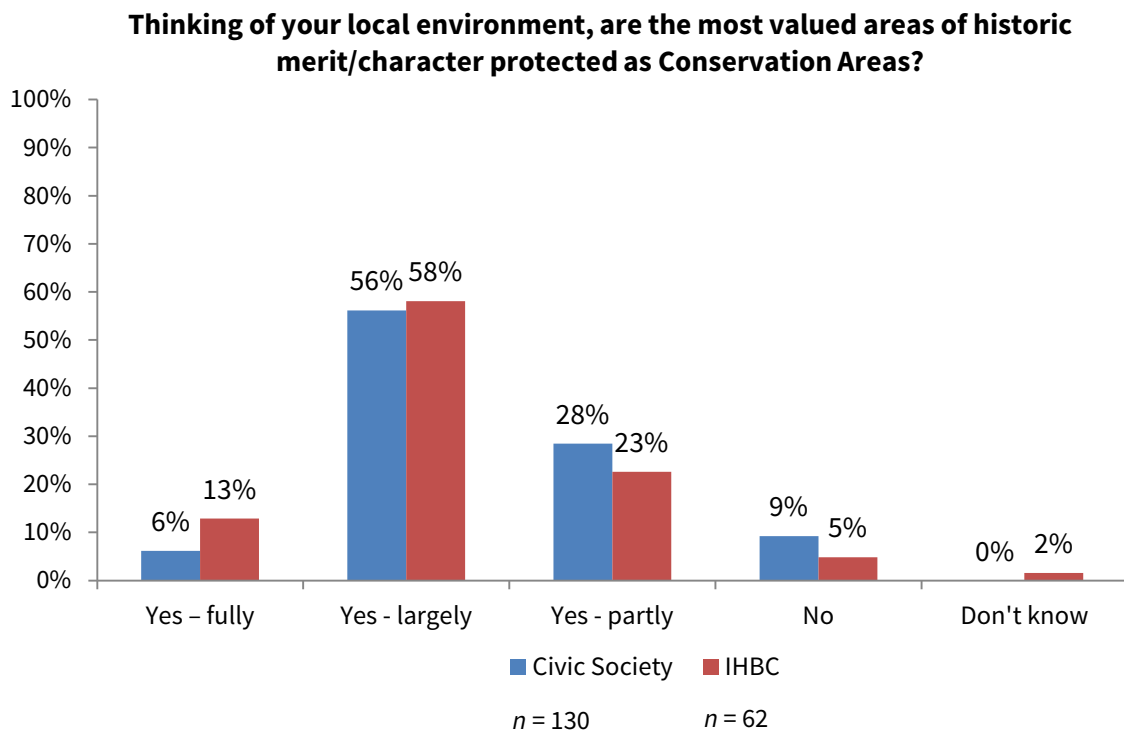
- Raise interest and awareness of CA designation (what contributes/what takes away significance) with owners and the benefits of CA status
- Take an active role in CA management - Monitor change in CAs . Carry out CA appraisals and reviews. Produce statements and local lists Engage with LA and councillors
- Campaign for stronger controls and better enforcement - introduction of Article 4 directions & stronger enforcement action in CAs.
- Form close relations with the press and other media
- Campaign for better highway works and finishes

Q13 Public awareness of Conservation Areas

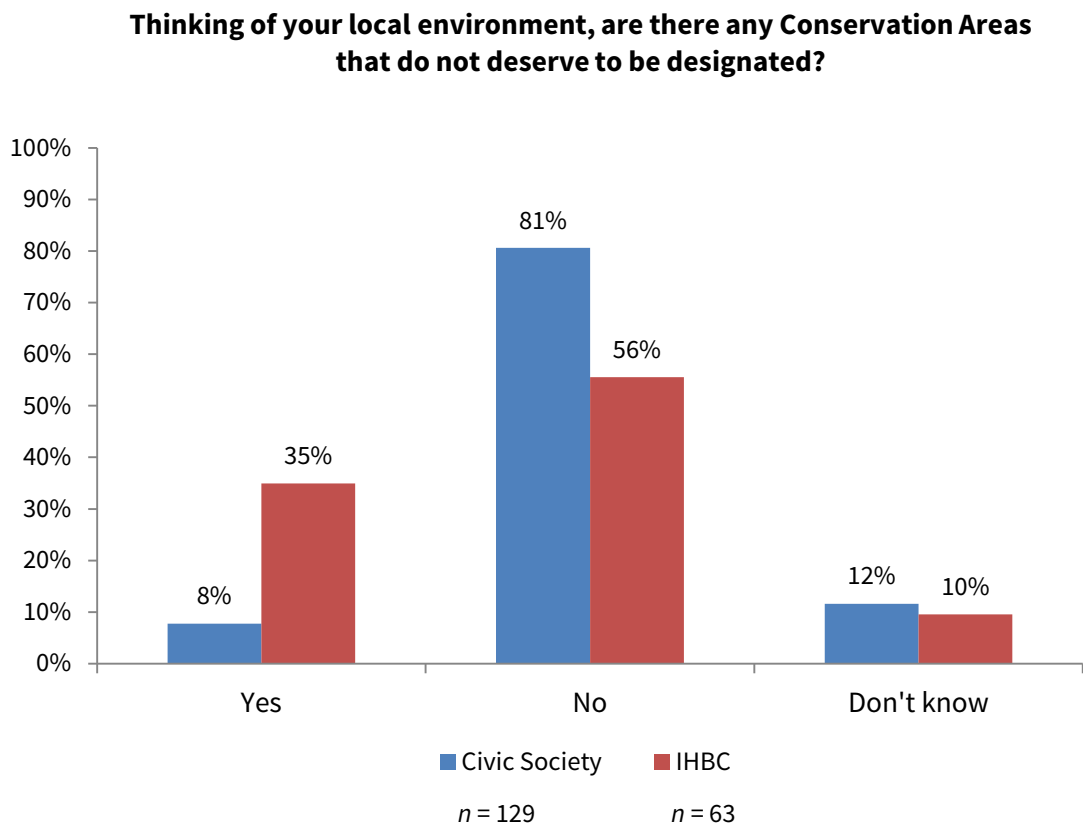
Thinking of the Conservation Area you know best, do you think the general public can tell if they are within a designated Conservation Area?



Q14 Protection of the most valued areas of historic merit/character in Conservation Areas in their local area



Q15 Conservation Areas that do not deserve to be designated



Q16 If yes, why don't they deserve to be designated? (open text)

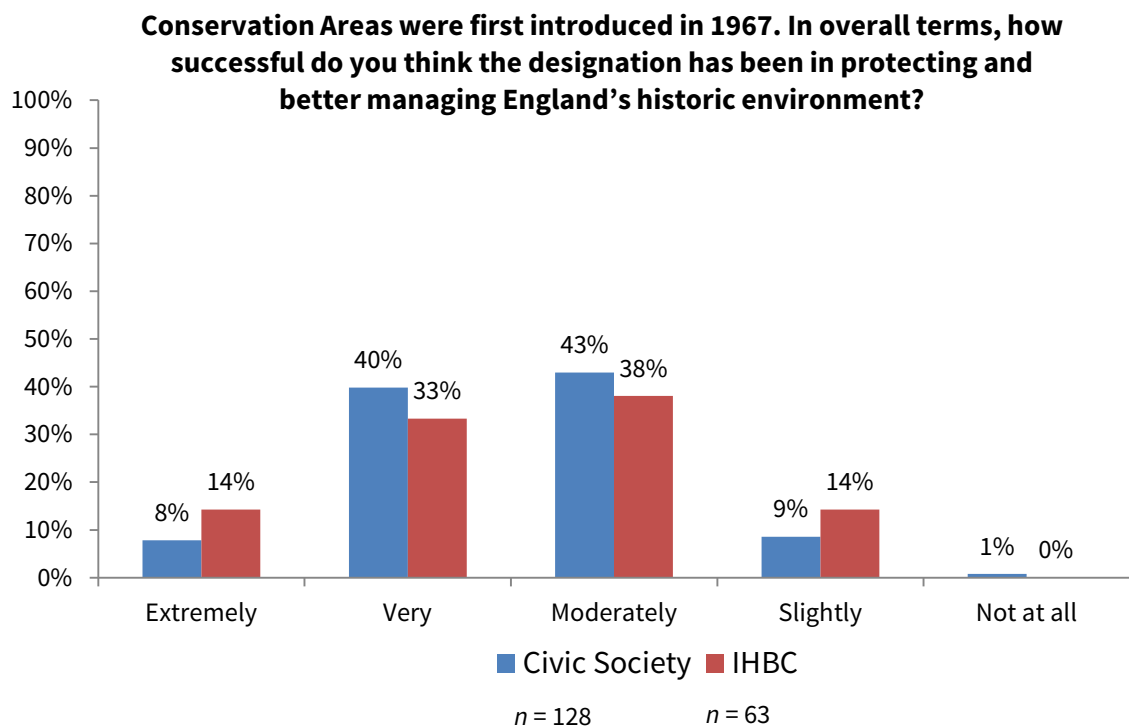
Civic Voice themes (12 responses):

- Areas have degraded since designation and are no longer of the same character or historic significance
- Mediocre quality or lack of architectural value or significance

IHBC themes (22 responses):

- Degradation and 'erosion' of character
- Loss of historical features
- Poor management of development and lack of enforcement
- Potentially shouldn't have been designated in the first place

Q17 – Successfulness of Conservation Areas



Q18 - Reasons for 'Not at all' or 'slightly'

If you answered 'not at all' or 'slightly', what changes to legislation or tools need to be done to make them more successful.

Civic Voice themes (18 responses):

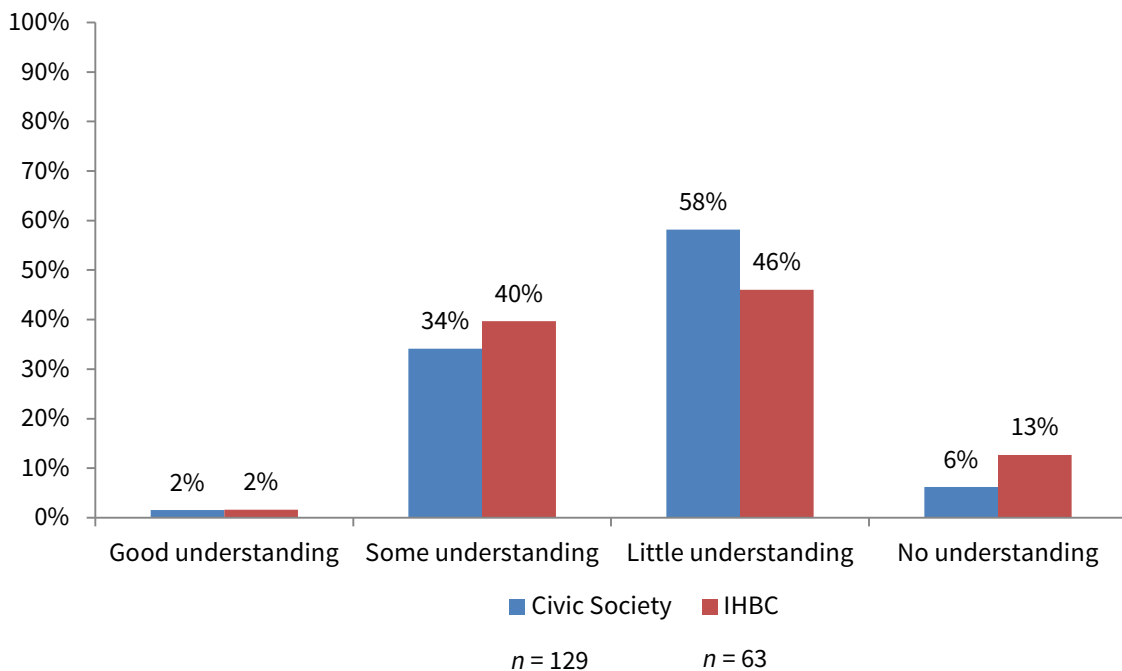
- Greater enforcement of existing Conservation Area tools, especially Article 4 directions.
- More powers for local authorities and stronger penalties for breaches.
- More resources at Local Authorities to be able to manage and enforce Conservation Area tools.

IHBC themes (16 responses):

- Permitted development rights should be removed in Conservation Areas.
- Article 4 directions should be automatic in Conservation Areas.
- More resources for Local Authorities to manage and enforce Conservation Areas.
- Conservation Area appraisals to be carried out by local authorities and kept up to date.

Q19 - Public understanding

How much do you think the general public understands about the extent of additional controls on Conservation Areas?



Q20 - Enthusiasm/support of Conservation Areas from groups

From your experience, how would you rate the enthusiasm and support for Conservation Areas from the following groups, taken as a whole:

Residents

Local authority elected members

Local authority conservation officers

Local Authority Planning Officers

Local Authority Highways Officers

Central government

Historic England

Developers

Planning and heritage consultants

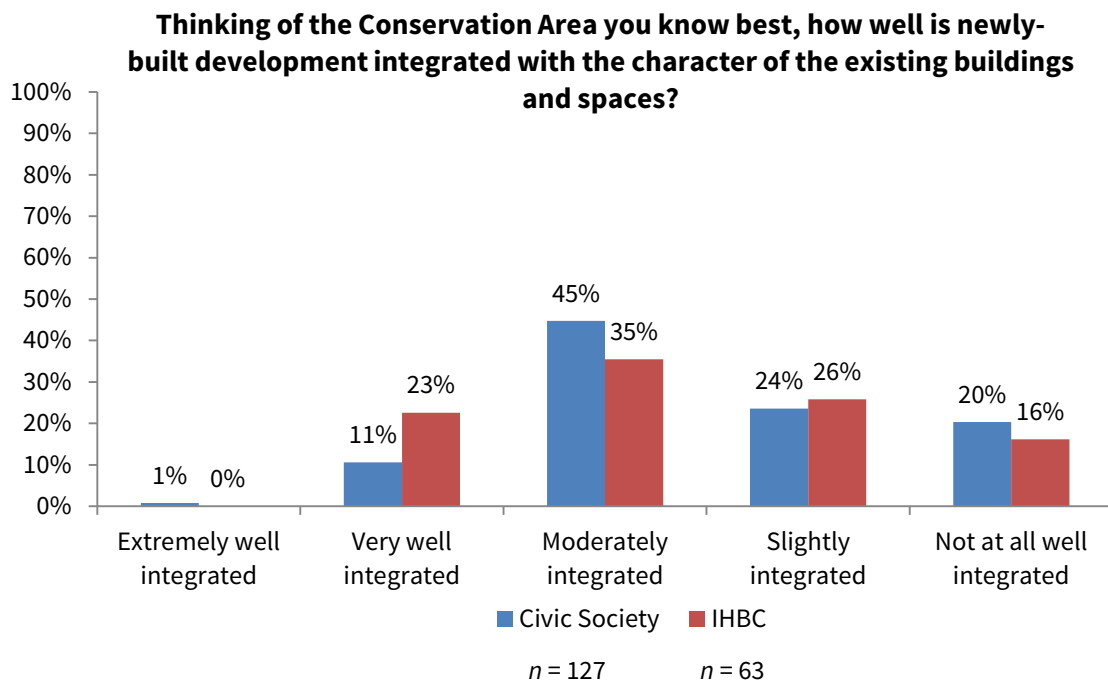
Local civic society members

Civic Voice and IHBC members provided similar responses to this question. Both groups identified Local authority conservation officers, Historic England and local Civic Society members as being the most enthusiastic and supportive of Conservation Areas.

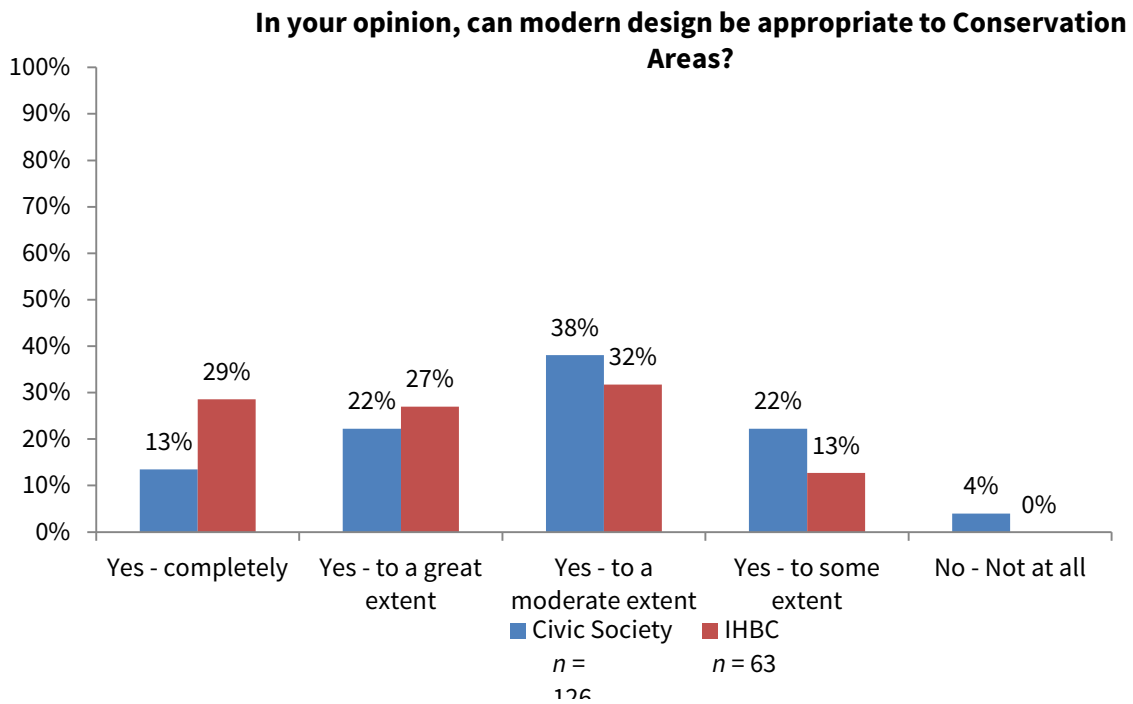
Local authority highways officers, central government and developers were identified by both groups as being the least enthusiastic or supportive of Conservation Areas.

IHBC respondents differed from Civic Voice in their opinion on local authority elected members and planning officers, whom they deemed to be more enthusiastic and supportive than Civic Voice deemed them to be.

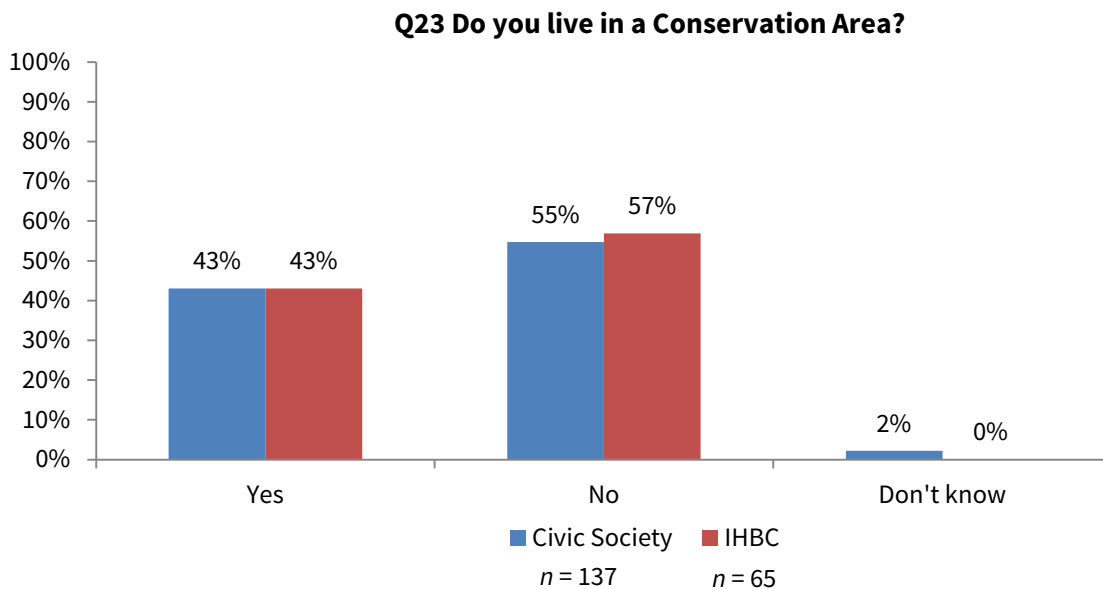
Q21 – How newly-built development is integrated with existing character

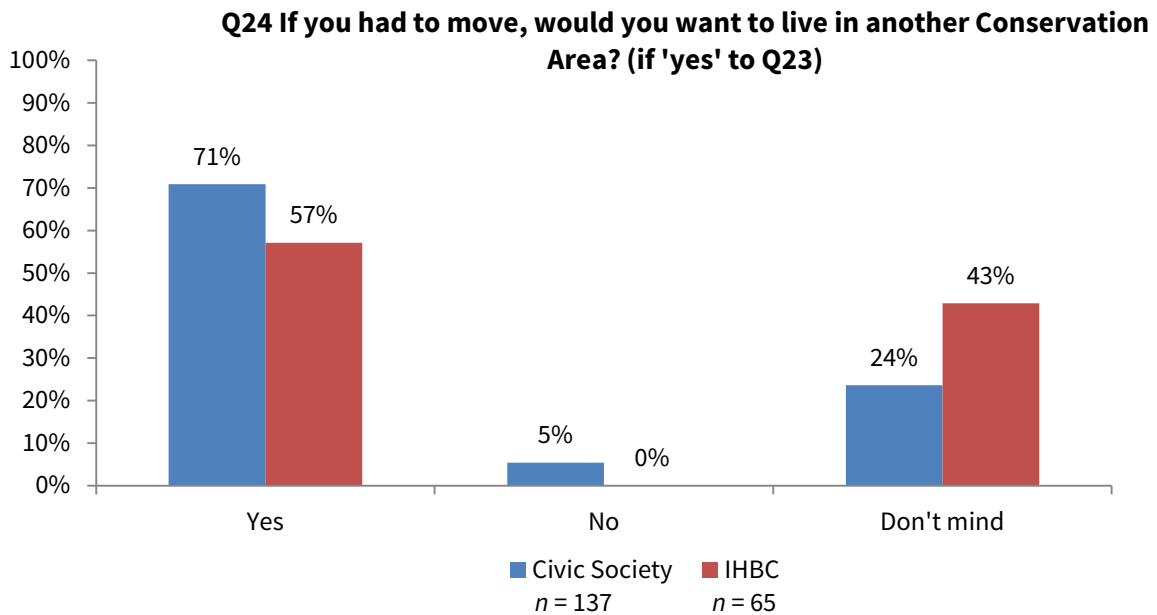


Q22 – Whether modern design can be appropriate to Conservation Areas



Q23/24/ – Living in a Conservation Area





Q25 – If yes (to 24), why?

Civic Society themes (38 responses):

- Quality of the environment, including the preservation of character, aesthetic value and general condition of the area.
- Stable and controlled development and preservation of historic character.
- Personal interest in heritage and the historic environment.

IHBC themes (15 responses):

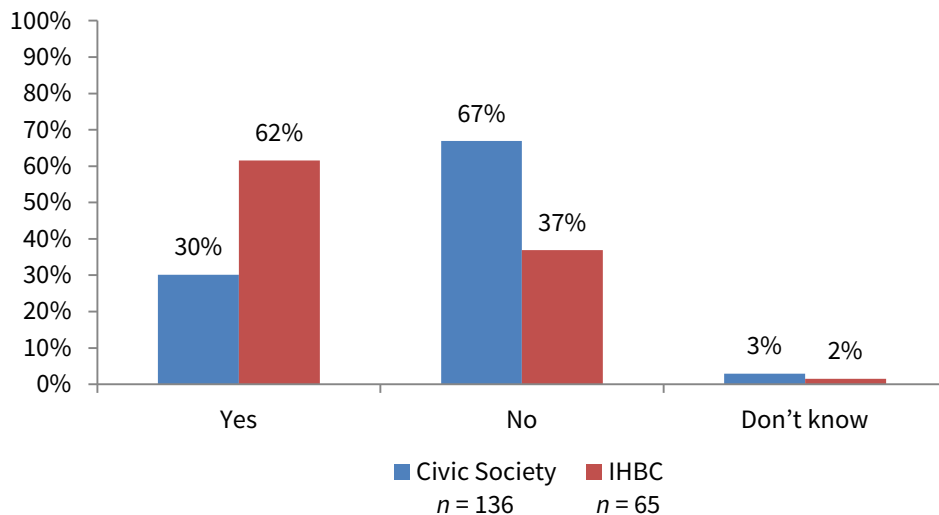
- Quality of the environment, including the preservation of character, aesthetic and general condition of the area.
- Personal interest in heritage and the historic environment.
- More likely to maintain value/protect investment in property.

Q26 – If no (to 24), why?

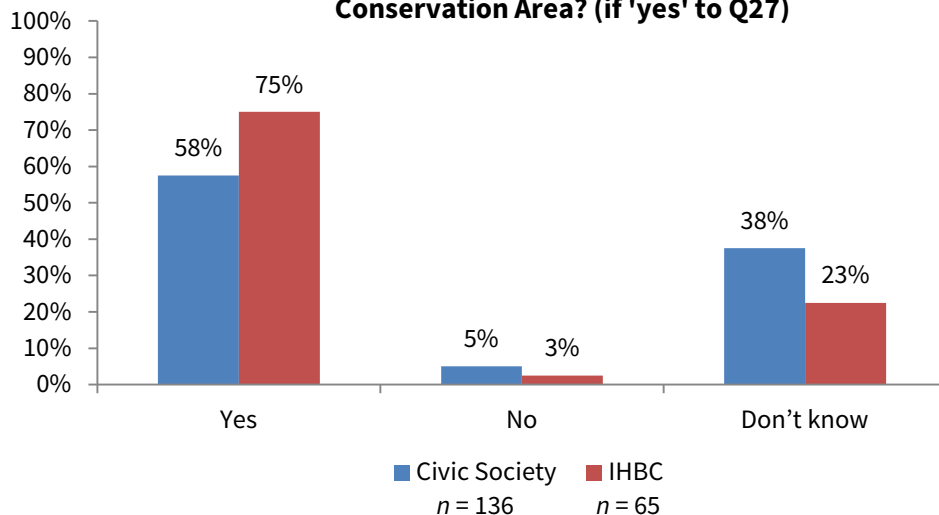
Only 4 responses from Civic Voice – no substantial information to use.

Q27/28/29/30 – Working in a Conservation Area

Q27 Do you work in a conservation area?



Q28 If you had to relocate, would you want to work in another Conservation Area? (if 'yes' to Q27)



Q25 – If yes (to 24), why?

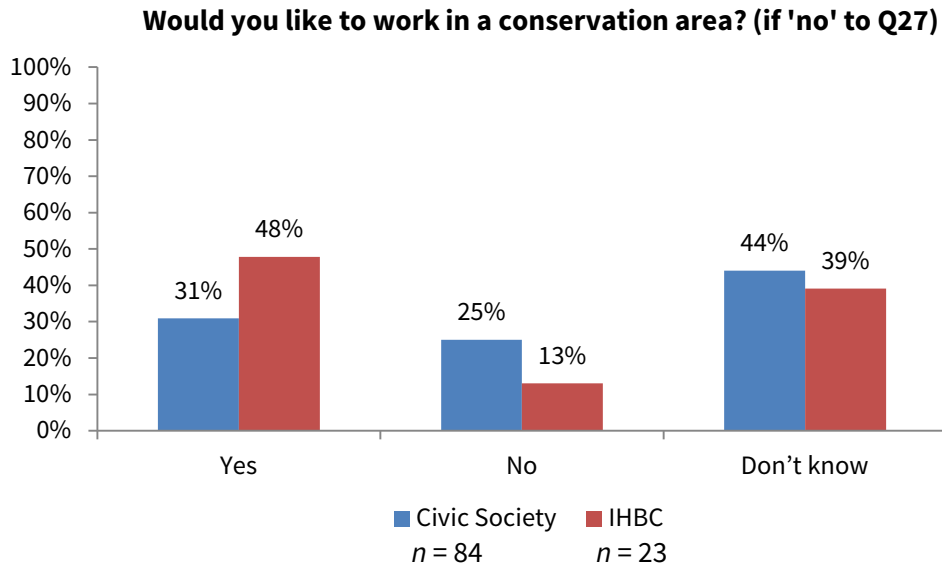
Civic Society themes (38 responses):

- Quality of the environment, including the preservation of character, aesthetic value and general condition of the area.
- Personal interest in heritage and the historic environment.

IHBC themes (24 responses):

- Quality of the environment, including the preservation of character, aesthetic value and general condition of the area.
- Personal interest in heritage and the historic environment.

Q31 – Would you like to live in a Conservation Area? (routed – Q23 – ‘no’)



Q32 – If yes (to 31), why?

Civic Society themes (38 responses):

- Quality of the environment, including the preservation of character, aesthetic value and general condition of the area.
- Personal interest in heritage and the historic environment.

IHBC themes (24 responses):

- Quality of the environment, including the preservation of character, aesthetic value and general condition of the area.
- Personal interest in heritage and the historic environment.

Q33 – If no (to 31), why?

- Most Civic Voice respondents explained that they are retired (22).
- No meaningful responses from IHBC respondents to this question (only 3).

Q34 – One thing to make their local Conservation Area a better place

What one thing would make the conservation area you know best a better place?

Main themes from Civic Voice responses:

- More restrictions e.g. road traffic
- Public information e.g. dos and don'ts
- Local Authority caring/enforcing/monitoring e.g. heritage crime
- Funding
- Community pride

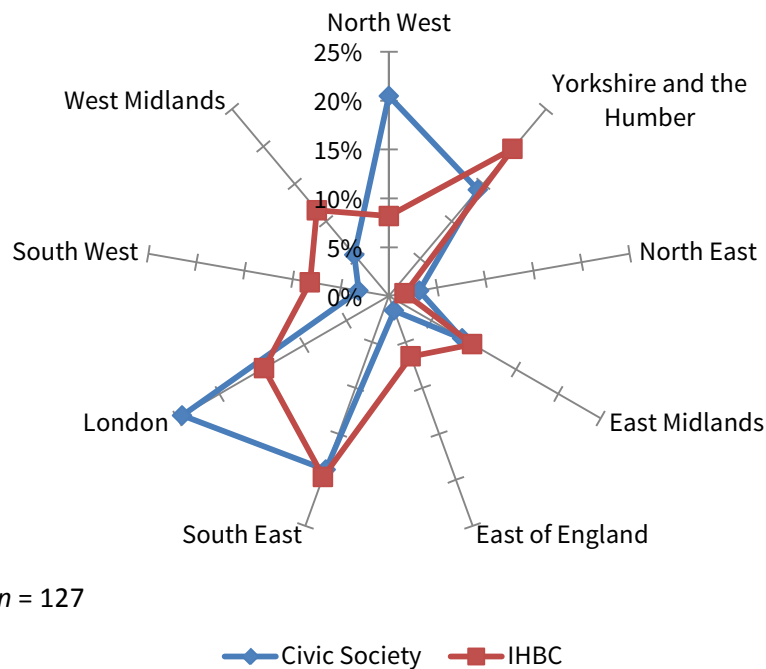
Main themes from IHBC responses:

- More financial investment in Conservation Areas

- Stronger Local Authority support and more resources dedicated to CA management
- Tighter planning restrictions & more Article 4 directions
- Better and stronger enforcement
- Better quality public realm works and finishes
- Education/raise awareness about CA designation
- Continued CA management - updating the conservation area boundaries and management documents

Q37 – Geographic location of respondents

Location of Respondents



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