

# HERITAGE COUNTS 2015 SOUTH WEST

*Heritage Counts 2015* is the fourteenth annual survey of the state of England's historic environment. This Regional Report is prepared by Historic England on behalf of the South West Historic Environment Forum. This year, the theme for Heritage Counts is caring for the local historic environment. Visitors to the Heritage Counts website can

download the complete research projects commissioned to support this year's report and access the full set of local statistics and maps detailing the historic environment for the South West, including asset data, funding information, employment numbers and visitor figures. Please see: [www.heritagecounts.org.uk](http://www.heritagecounts.org.uk) #heritagecounts

## CARING FOR THE LOCAL HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

This year's edition of Heritage Counts reports on the views and experiences of those responsible for looking after the local historic environment.

### Listed Building Owners

The first ever detailed survey of listed home owners in England was carried out as part of the research for *Heritage Counts 2015*. It has demonstrated that the vast majority of private owners successfully care for and protect their listed buildings.

The key findings from the research, which is available in the national Heritage Counts report, were as follows:

- Listed building owners felt privileged to own a listed building and demonstrated a real sense of pride in their property. They see themselves as custodians and enjoy being part of history.
- Owners recognised the importance of preserving heritage for future generations. This was often coupled with an appreciation of how preserving a listed building enhances and brings benefits to the local area.

- Nearly nine out of ten (88%) of listed building owners recognise the importance of listed building consent when it comes to protecting the special architectural and historic character of their property.
- Over three quarters (78%) of listed building owners are always or sometimes clear about the kind of work that requires listed building consent.
- Listed building owners are conscientious about repairs and maintenance to their property, with 71% painting or repairing their windows at least once every five years.
- More than half of listed building owners (55%) have lived in their property for over ten years and over the years have invested significant amounts of time and money in maintaining their property.
- Respondents believed that their listed property is expensive to maintain and would appreciate financial support either in the form of VAT exemption or through other sources.

## CASE STUDY: CORNISH BUILDINGS GROUP ANNUAL AWARDS



**Image:** Winner of the Cornish Buildings Group 2015 Award, Maer Barn, Bude. Its success reflects a happy union between owner, architect and building. (Eric Berry/Cornish Buildings Group ©)

Each year, the Cornish Buildings Group make awards for the best recently completed or renovated buildings. The 'Oscars' of building awards in Cornwall, the Awards are respected and desirable recognitions of achievement by the owners of historic buildings and architectural practices. This year's winning and commended projects are creative, bold solutions to major conservation challenges, and reflect the commitment of the buildings' owners and professional teams to sensitive but creative conservation.

For the full story go to [www.heritagecounts.org.uk](http://www.heritagecounts.org.uk) and for more on the Cornish Buildings Group and the Awards, go to <https://sites.google.com/site/cornishbuildingsgroup/home>

## CASE STUDY: BRADFORD ON AVON BRIDGE AND LOCK UP



Image: The Reopening of the Lock Up as part of Heritage Open Days 2015. (Wiltshire Times ©)

In 2015, a group of volunteers concerned about the condition of Bradford-on-Avon's C17th Town Bridge Lock-Up set about securing its repair. The so-called 'Lock-Up Patch-Up' team harnessed many forms of local support, from the local authority to the town council and the conservation craftsmen who carried out the repairs. Most importantly, the team tapped into huge public enthusiasm for the building. Over 1,000 local people visited the newly repaired Lock-Up during Heritage Open Days in September 2015 and voluntarily donated enough money to cover the project costs.

For the full story, go to [www.heritagecounts.org.uk](http://www.heritagecounts.org.uk).

## POLICY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SOUTH WEST

In 2015:

- A devolution deal was signed for Cornwall in July, the first for a rural authority. A Historic Environment Forum for Cornwall (Heritage Kernow) will be established to provide local strategic direction for heritage in the county.
- The Government's Roads Investment Strategy included an allocation to upgrade the A303 with a tunnel at Stonehenge, securing significant conservation benefits to the World Heritage Site.
- The Heritage Lottery Fund's 20 Years in 12 Places researched what people think about heritage and the local projects HLF have supported. It revealed that residents in Exeter, one of the places selected at random for the study, are particularly positive about where they live. The report is available here: <http://www.hlf.org.uk/about-us/research-evaluation/20-years-heritage>.
- English Heritage was formally restructured into Historic England and the English Heritage Trust <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk> The latter cares for over 100 properties in the National Collection in the South West, from free access sites to major attractions such as Stonehenge and Tintagel Castle. Historic England is the new public body for the historic environment.
- To celebrate the importance of the coast in people's lives the National Trust commissioned a YouGov poll which confirmed that the South West is the nation's favourite destination. It indicated a decline in the number of day trips to the seaside since 2005, and less connection to the coast in the 18-24 age group than those aged 55+. However, 79% of people surveyed from the South West

agree that seeing the coast every day would make them happy (versus national average of 73%). The National Trust in the South West also ran a year-long Coastal Festival to celebrate the 50 year anniversary of the Neptune Campaign. For more details go to <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/swcoast/>.

### Historic Environment Statistics for the South West

For total numbers of assets by local authority, please see <http://hc.historicengland.org.uk/local-authority-profiles/>

South West	2015
World Heritage Sites	4
Scheduled Monuments	7,009
Total Listed Buildings	89,746
Listed Buildings Grade I	2,049
Listed Buildings Grade II*	5,175
Listed Buildings Grade II	82,522
Total Registered Parks and Gardens (RPG)	299
RPG Grade I	30
RPG Grade II*	94
RPG Grade II	175
Registered Battlefields	10
Protected Ship Wrecks	24
Conservation Areas	1524

## Heritage at Risk

The South West has now removed 28% (446) of the entries that were on the 2010 Register, exceeding the national target of 25%. In the last year 213 assets were removed from the 2014 Register. However, 1,562 assets remain at risk in the South West.

The table below compares the proportion of all heritage assets at risk in England and in the South West.

Asset type	% at risk in England	% at risk in the South West
Buildings and structures (grade I and II* buildings excluding places of worship)	3.9	3.0
Places of Worship	6.3	6.2
Scheduled Monuments	13.6	16.6
Parks and Gardens	5.8	6.0
Conservation Areas	6.1	3.3

Building Preservation Trusts in the South West are working on 23 projects in 2015, more than any other region. Thirteen of the projects are on Historic England's Register of Heritage at Risk.

For further details go to [www.historicengland.org.uk/advice/heritage-at-risk](http://www.historicengland.org.uk/advice/heritage-at-risk)

### CASE STUDY: LANDEWEDNACK WINDMILL, CORNWALL



Image: The new spiral stair being installed at Landewednack Windmill, May 2015 (Historic England ©)

Cornwall Wildlife Trust have carried out repairs and made imaginative adaptations to Landewednack Windmill on the Lizard, turning the C17th scheduled monument into a viewing platform and taking it one step closer to removal from the Heritage at Risk Register. Find out more at [www.heritagecounts.org.uk](http://www.heritagecounts.org.uk)

## Planning

The latest planning statistics show that unlike other planning applications which have stabilised at substantially lower levels than their 2004/05 peak, the numbers of listed building consent (LBC) applications are now growing.

Type of application	Number of decisions taken – England	Change on previous year	Number of decisions taken – South West	Change on previous year
Planning	409,809	-4%	51,765	-3%
LBC	30,005	+3%	5,827	+3%

LBCs represent just over 11% of all planning applications in the region, higher than the national figure of 7.3% and more than any other region, largely due to the number of listed buildings in the region. The proportion has grown fairly consistently since 2009/10.

## Funding

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) made awards totalling £55,423,500 to 189 projects in the South West last year, an increase of 47% on 2012/13. The success rate of South West applications is 64%, as opposed to 57% nationally. Historic England spent £1.04m in grants, 8% of the national figure and a decrease of 19% on the previous year's expenditure.

## Staffing

In 2015 there were 122 full-time equivalent (FTE) local authority historic environment staff in the South West, a loss of 2% on the previous year (compared to a 1% increase for England). Since 2006 there has been a 43% drop in FTEs in the South West, compared to a 31% loss for England. Local authority staff working on conservation (Conservation Officers) decreased from 77 to 70 FTEs, down 9% on the previous year and down 48% since 2006, compared to a 35% drop nationally. Local authority staff working on archaeology (Archaeological Officers) went up from 48 to 52 FTEs (up 9% on previous year but down 34% since 2006). The South West Historic Environment Forum is commissioning research to better understand the impacts of cuts to local authority historic environment services. The results will be reported in 2016.

### GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING SERVICE



Image: Robinswood Hill Community Archaeology Dig, Gloucester. (Gloucester City Council ©)

Gloucester City Council's Environmental Planning Service manages a diverse range of projects and initiatives to maintain the city's rich heritage. Alongside day-to-day development management services, the team of four is delivering a £1.2 million Townscape Heritage Initiative in Southgate, maintaining the City's Historic Environment Record, working with local partners such as the Gloucester Historic Buildings Trust, informing masterplanning in areas earmarked for major development, running community archaeology initiatives, and supporting the management of the Council's own portfolio of historic assets.

For the full story, go to [www.heritagecounts.org.uk](http://www.heritagecounts.org.uk)

## Participation

In 2014/15 there were 11.3 million visits to historic properties in the South West. This represents 17% of all visitors to historic properties in England (third after London with 23% and the South East with 18%). The number is up by 3% on the previous year, exactly in line with the national increase. The most visited type of historic property in the South West is historic gardens, which attracted 3.1m visitors last year, far more than any other region, and a little ahead of historic houses, which attracted 3.07m visitors last year.

In 2014/15 there were 1.92 million visits to English Heritage sites, up by 4% on the previous year, but a little behind the national average increase of 6%. National Trust properties in the South West experienced a similar rate of increase, with 5.09 million visits representing a 5% increase on 2013/14.

According to the 2014/15 Taking Part Survey, 76% of all adults in the South West had visited a heritage site at least once during the past 12 months. This is higher than the national rate of 73% and a rate of over 75% or above has been sustained in the region since 2011.

Participation in the historic environment by some priority groups in the region is at its highest levels since 2005. DCMS's Taking Part survey shows that participation by lower socio-economic groups in the South West rose from 61% to 74% last year: the national figure is 63%. Participation by black and minority ethnic groups is also higher in the region than nationally, at 81% (as opposed to 65%), the highest ever figure.

However, there has been a decrease in the percentage of people with disabilities participating in the region's historic environment this year, down from 71% to 68%, a decrease for the third consecutive year. Whilst the rate of participation by 11-15 year olds has gone up this year, from 57% to 65%, this is still behind the national rate of 69%.

The number of Heritage Open Days (HODs) in the South West increased slightly from 564 in 2013 to 583 in 2014. Since 2007, the number of events in the South West has increased by 29% (33% nationally).

The number of education visits to English Heritage sites in the region has remained constant between 2013/14 and 2014/15. Nationally there has been a decrease of 1%. There were 83,075 visits in total, the second highest number of all regions after the South East. There has been a marked growth in the number of English Heritage Discovery Visits (paid-for workshops run by trained educational staff). The 7,063 visits in the South West represent a 24% increase on the previous year.

## BUILDING SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE IN THE SECTOR IN 2015



Image: Hot Lime Training Day at Dartmoor National Park (Historic England ©)

Heritage bodies are actively developing skills and capacity to care for the historic environment. Events in the South West in 2014/15 included the following:

**Volunteers** The Heritage Alliance's Giving to Heritage (GTH) project – an HLF-sponsored catalyst programme to support heritage fundraising in England – delivered 9 workshops in the South West. CivicVoice ran day courses on war memorial conservation and local listing.

**Heritage professionals** Historic England and the Building Limes Forum held a masterclass in hot limes in partnership with Dartmoor National Park. The IHBC programme of training events included a popular day seminar on the conservation of traditional thatch. Historic England delivered training on Housing and the Historic Environment and Enforcement and Compliance as part of its HELM (Historic Environment Local Management) programme.

**Surveyors** RICS South West and Historic England successfully trialled a new half day workshop on constructive conservation.

**Decision-makers** South West Councils and Historic England developed and ran a new day seminar on the value of the historic environment for councillors.

**Planners** Historic England ran the RTPI-accredited Introduction to the Historic Environment for Planners for Cornwall and Wiltshire Councils.

**Police** Historic England ran 3 training workshop to support South West police authorities in tackling heritage crime.

This Heritage Counts 2015 Regional Report is edited by Elizabeth Clare and produced by Historic England on behalf of the South West Historic Environment Forum (SW HEF) which comprises the following organisations: Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers, UK Association of Preservation Trusts, Churches Conservation Trust, CLA, English Heritage, Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic England, Historic Houses Association, Institute of Historic Building Conservation, National Trust, RIBA, University of the West of England.