

# HERITAGE COUNTS

## Heritage Indicators 2016

A vital element of valuing and appreciating the historic environment is understanding the scale, scope and breadth of the historic environment. Since 2002, Heritage Counts has collected and presented indicators about the state of the historic environment. In this document, a summary of the main indicators is presented. The detailed heritage indicator datasets can be found on the [Heritage Counts website](http://www.heritagecounts.org.uk) ([www.heritagecounts.org.uk](http://www.heritagecounts.org.uk)).

The Heritage Counts website also has online [Local Authority Profiles](#) allowing users to compare indicators across Local Authorities.

The Heritage Indicators are presented according to the five strategic priorities of Heritage 2020:

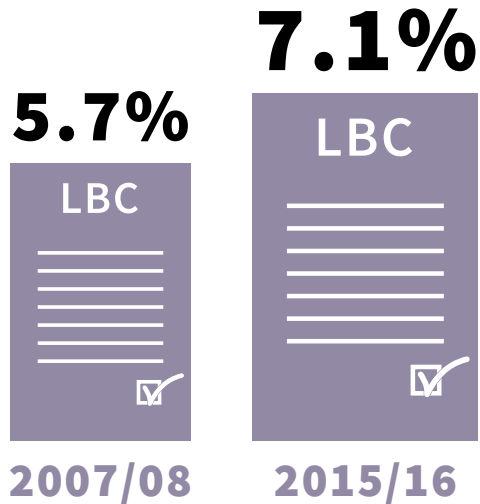
- **Discovery, identification & understanding** – Provides indicators on the scale and scope of the historic environment and assets;
- **Constructive conservation and sustainable management** – Includes indicators on the overall condition of the historic environment with indicators from the Heritage at Risk programme and data on managing the historic environment, including planning statistics;
- **Public engagement** – Presents data on participation in heritage, heritage membership and volunteering in the sector;
- **Capacity building** – Includes indicators of heritage investments from private, public and voluntary sectors as well as the skills and capacity of the sector;
- **Helping things to happen** – Provides data from Building Preservation Trusts and the local authority Heritage Champions initiative.



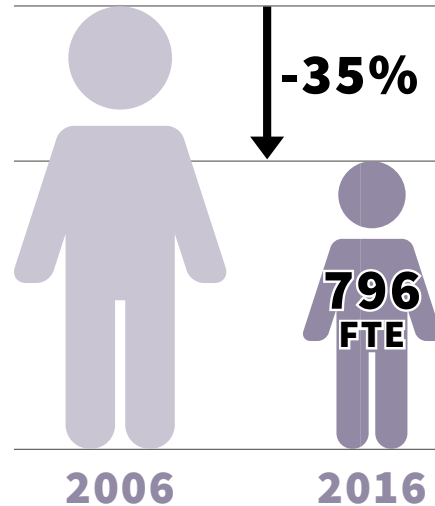
Shakespeare's Globe, London © Historic England

# Key findings

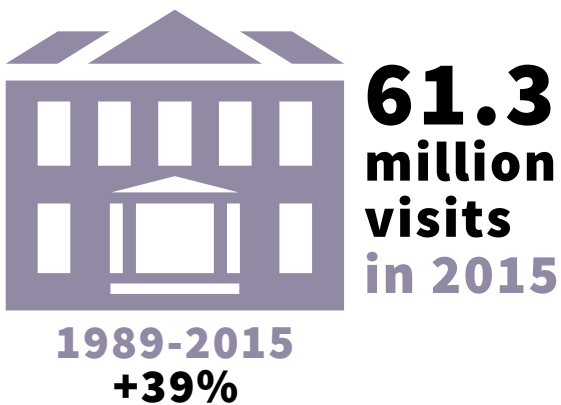
Listed Building Consent applications are an increasing proportion of all planning applications



Declining capacity of Local Authority historic environment staff



Historic properties continue to attract large numbers of visits

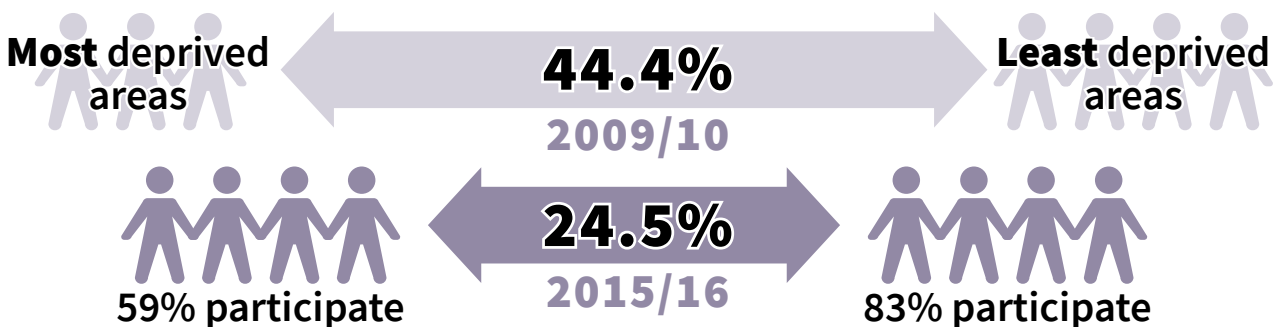


Growing membership of heritage organisations



Heritage participation is becoming more inclusive

Decreasing gap in participation between most and least deprived areas



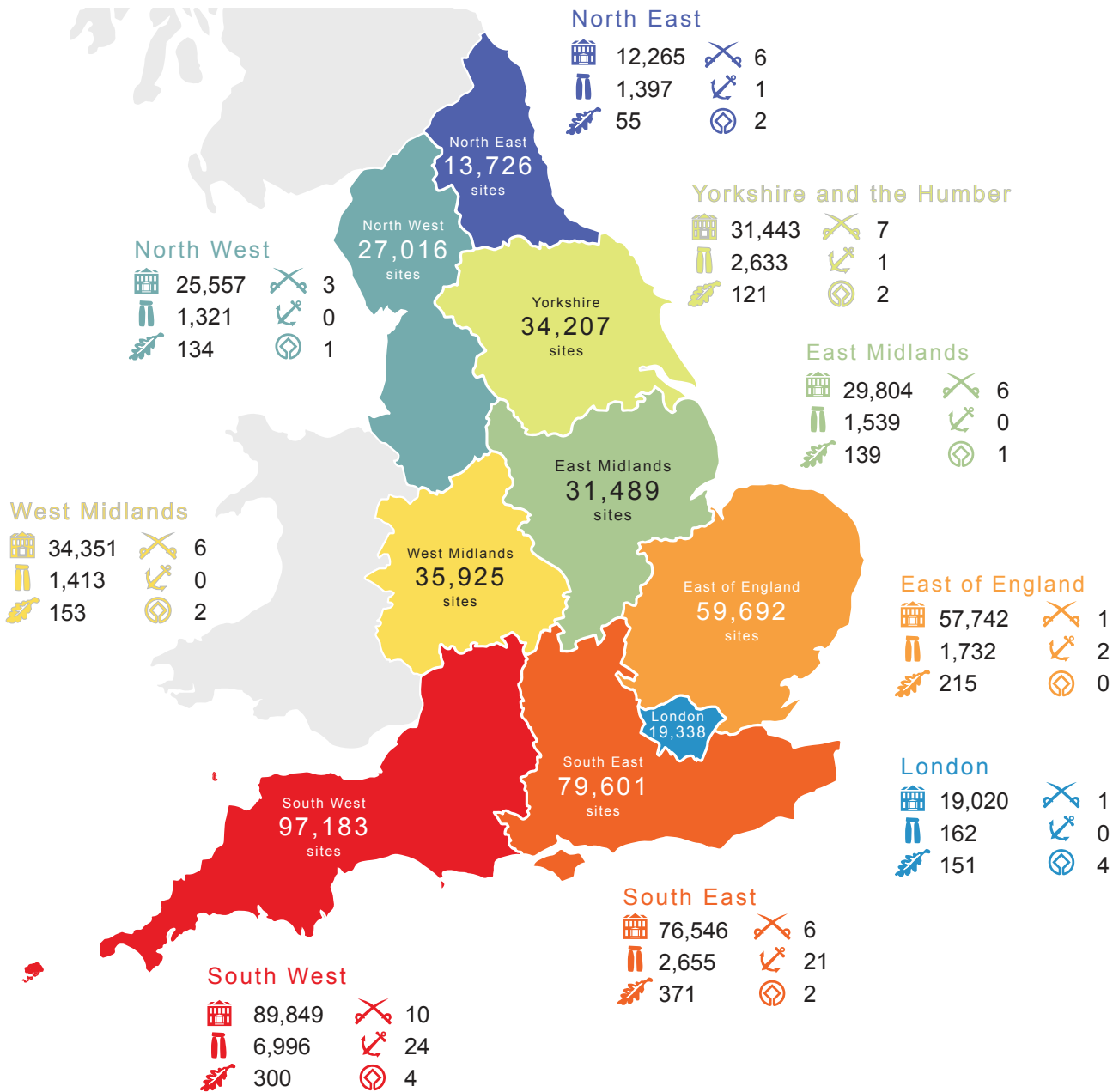
# 1. Discovery, identification & understanding

## 1.1 Our heritage assets

Containing almost 400,000 entries, the [National Heritage List for England](#) (NHLE) provides the official record of nationally designated heritage assets.

## National Heritage List for England: Designated Sites

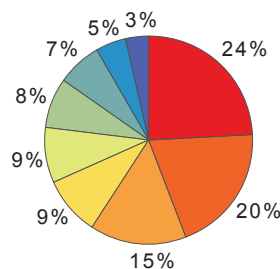
National totals: 376,577 19,848 1,639 46 49 18



- Listed Buildings
- Scheduled Monuments
- Parks and Gardens
- Battlefields
- Protected Wrecks
- World Heritage Sites



Data: 31st March 2016

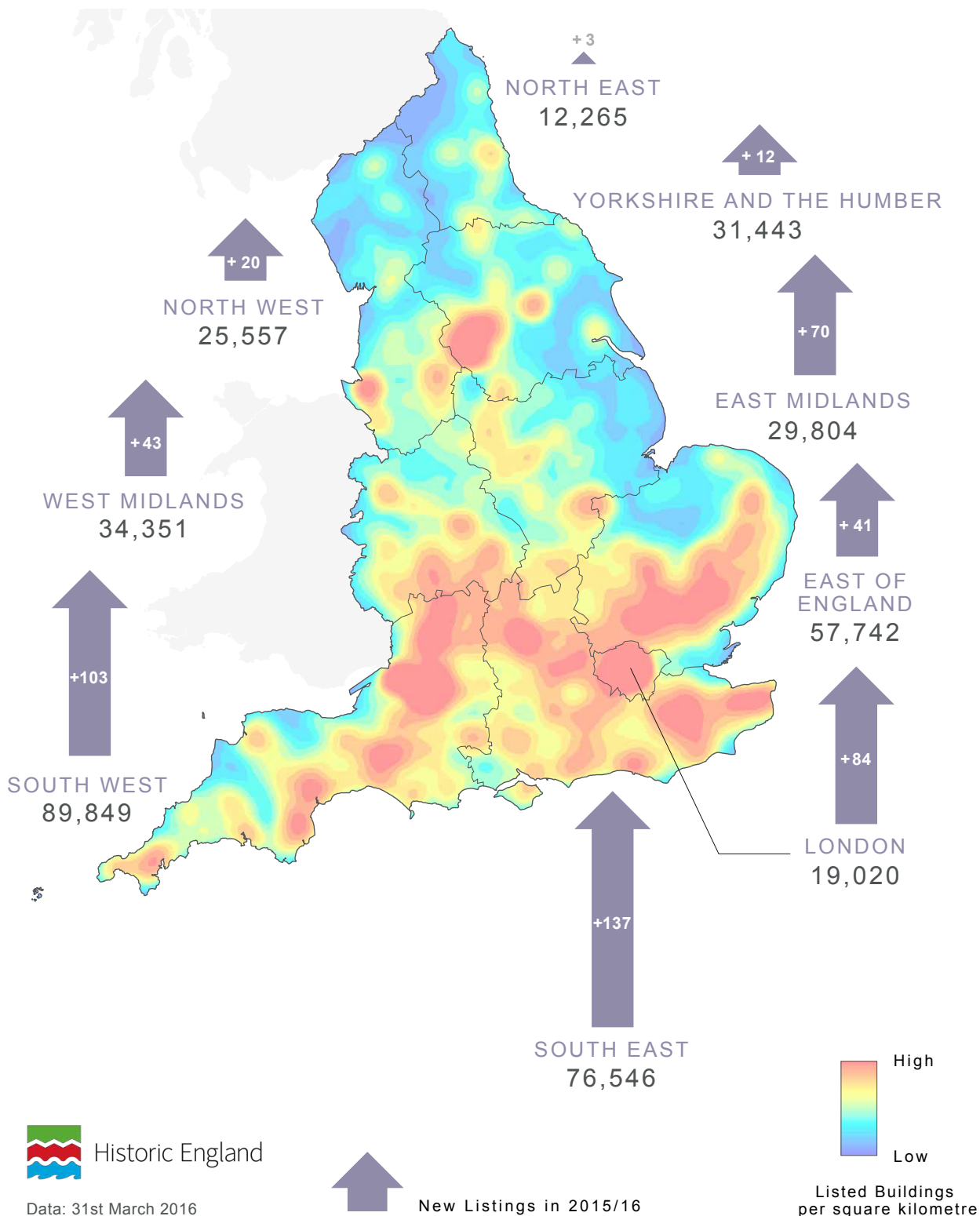


Regional Distribution

### Listed Building Density

- The map below shows the density of listed buildings across England as well as new listings from 2015/16. The South East has the largest concentration of listed building entries per 1,000 people, while London has the highest density of listed building entries per square kilometre.

## National Heritage List for England: Distribution of Listed Buildings



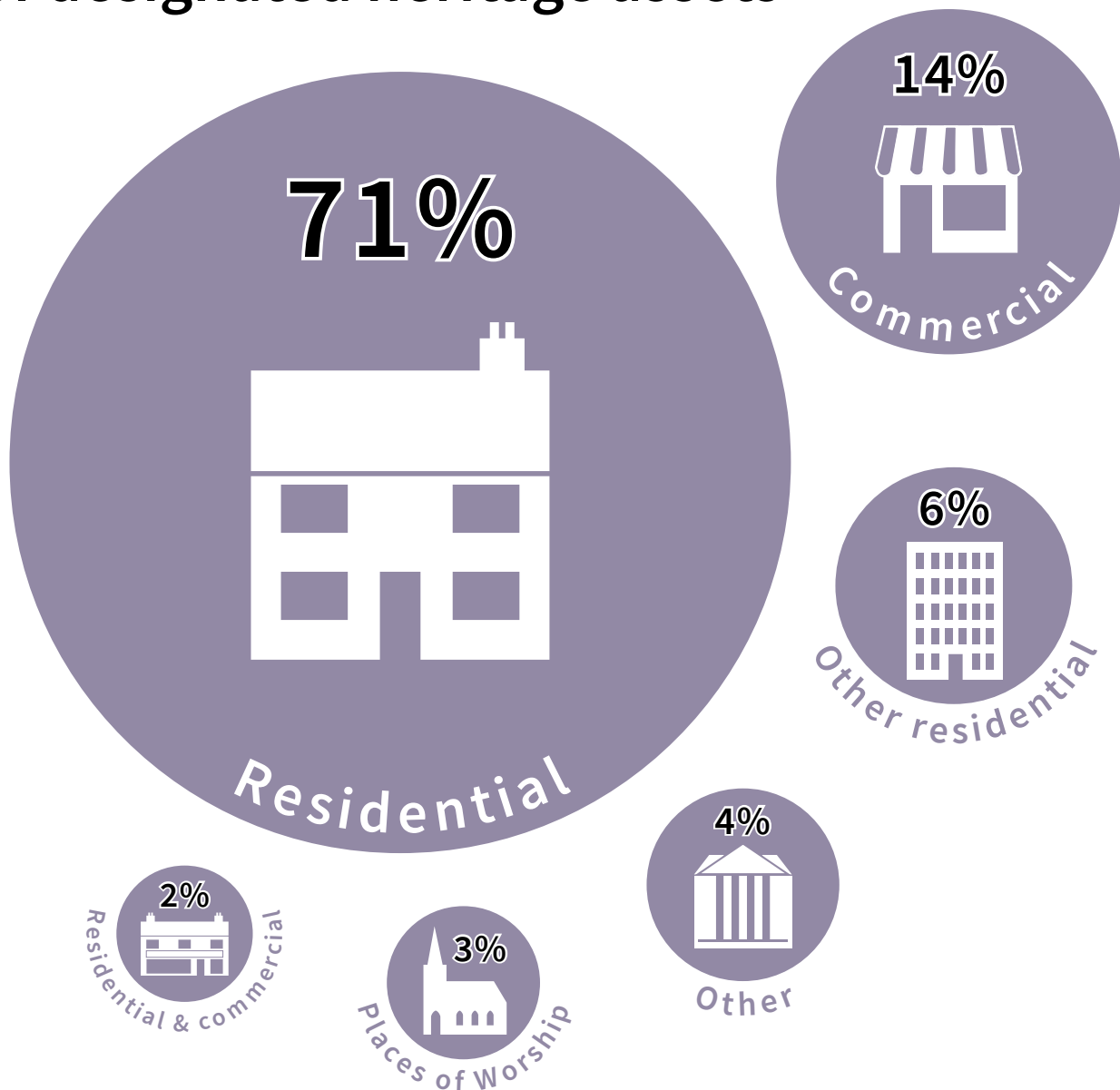
## 1.2 Use of Heritage Assets

- A recent study of the NHLE undertaken by the Ordnance Survey provides an insight into the types of uses of heritage assets. **Note: this data is of a sample of 62 per cent of NHLE.**
  - The **data** indicates that most designated assets are residential (71 per cent).
  - The majority of NHLE entries (55%) are in multiple use or ownership (for example, a listed property split into multiple apartments).

## Local Lists

- In 2016, 46 per cent of all district councils and unitary authorities in England had a **local list**. Local lists can be used to identify significant local heritage assets which are not nationally listed to support the development of Local Plans. The uptake of local lists is not uniform across the country. For instance, in London, 91 per cent had a local list, while only 5 per cent had in Yorkshire and the Humber.

# Types of designated heritage assets



### 1.3 Historic Areas and Open Spaces

National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Ancient woodland

- **National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) are statutory designations which protect our countryside.** In 2016 there were 1,265 thousand hectares of National Parks and 1,915 hectares of AONBs.
- The latest figures indicate that there are also 361 thousand hectares of ancient woodland which is land continuously wooded since AD 1600, and 164 thousand hectares of heritage coast which are non-statutory landscape definitions of our most beautiful, undeveloped coastline.

#### Conservation Areas

- There were approximately 10,000 conservation areas recorded in 2016, an increase from 9,200 in 2003. The greatest proportion of conservation areas are located in the South East (22 per cent), followed by the South West with 16 per cent. The North East region has the fewest conservation areas (3 per cent) and the number has increased by only 1 per cent since 2003.

### 1.4 Historic Environment Records

- **Historic Environment Records (HER)** provide access to resources relating to the historic environment of a particular locality. There are over 85 HERs in England which are maintained and managed by local authorities. Over 80 per cent of HERs are available online through the [Heritage Gateway](#) where the public can search several national as well as local datasets on the historic environment. In 2016, there were 69 online HERs, up by 10 since 2013.

### 1.5 Historic Landscape Characterisation

- **Historic Landscape Characterisation** is a tool for describing the historic character of places. It maps physical changes in the landscape over time. 99 per cent of England's historic landscape has been mapped. All (100 per cent) of the landscape in the North East, North West, Yorkshire and the Humber, West Midlands, East Midlands and East of England is now mapped.

## 2. Constructive conservation and sustainable management

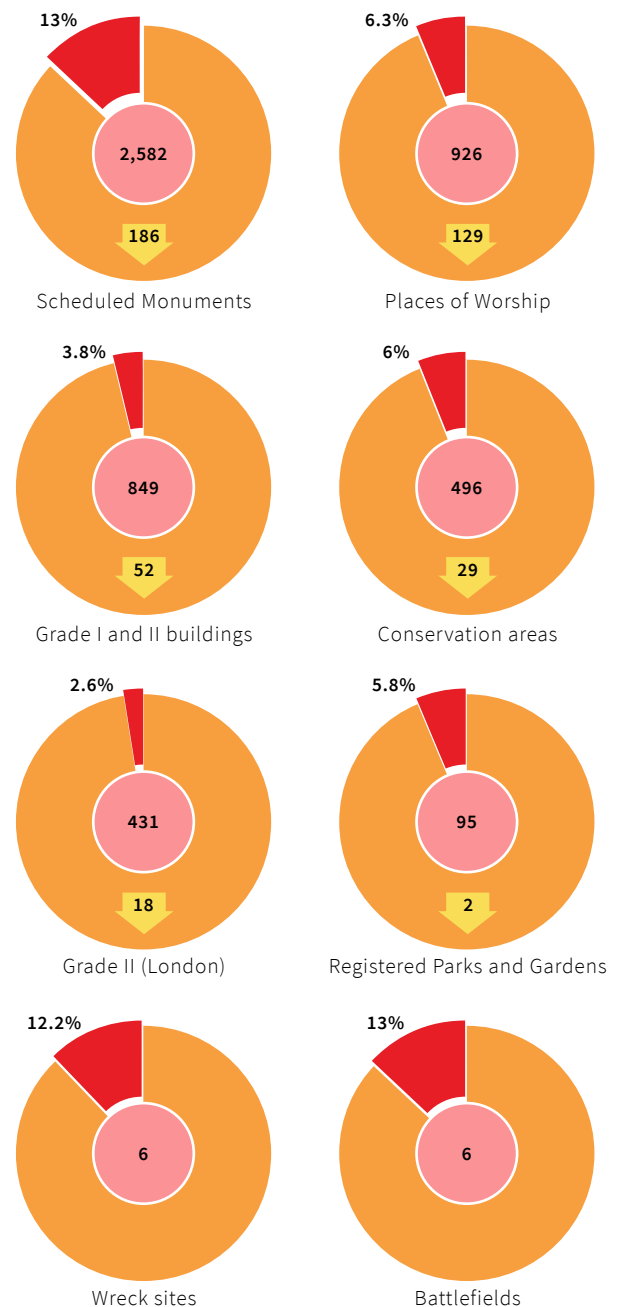
### 2.1 Heritage at Risk

Launched in 2008, the Heritage at Risk (HAR) Programme identifies sites that are most at risk of being lost as a result of neglect, decay or inappropriate development.

- 2016 saw an overall decline in the number of entries present on the Historic England Heritage at Risk (HAR) Register, dropping from last year's total of 5,534 to 5,341.

## 5,341 heritage assets at risk, 2016

■ Total assets ■ % At risk ■ No. assets at risk ■ Assets removed in 2016



Source: Historic England

## 2.2 Managing positively

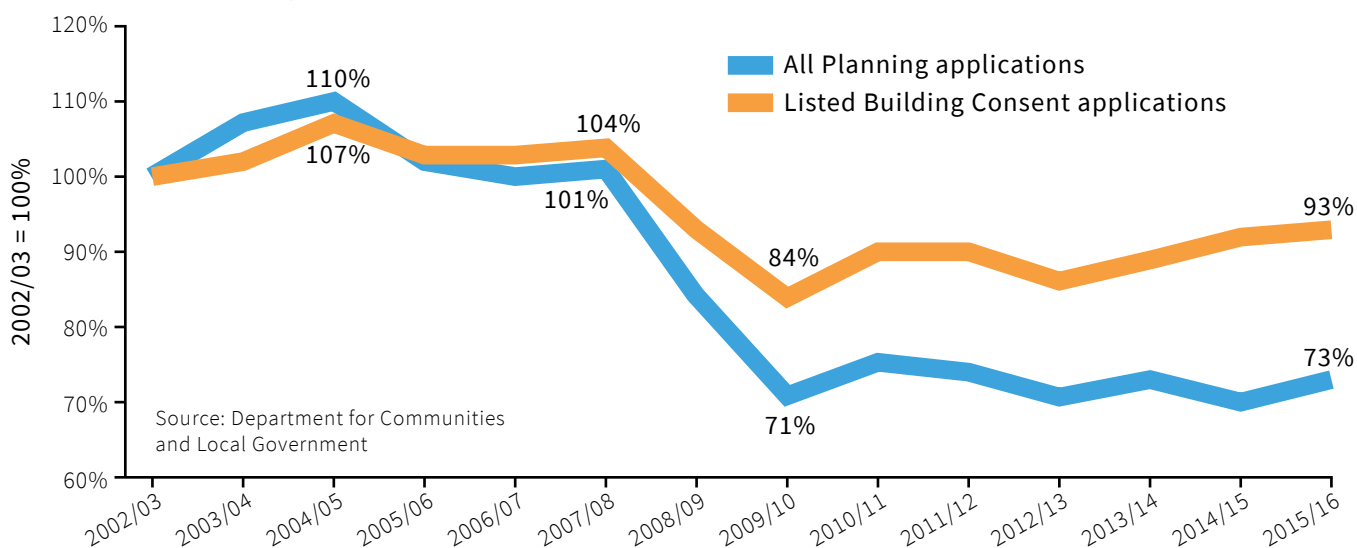
### Planning applications

- Planning statistics from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) show that since the peak of the property market and onset of the recession, the number of planning applications has declined rapidly – by 28 per cent between 2007/08 and 2015/16. In the North East, Yorkshire and the Humber and North West regions, planning applications declined by 45 per cent, 40 per cent and 39 per cent respectively in this period. London has experienced a relatively small decline of 15 per cent.

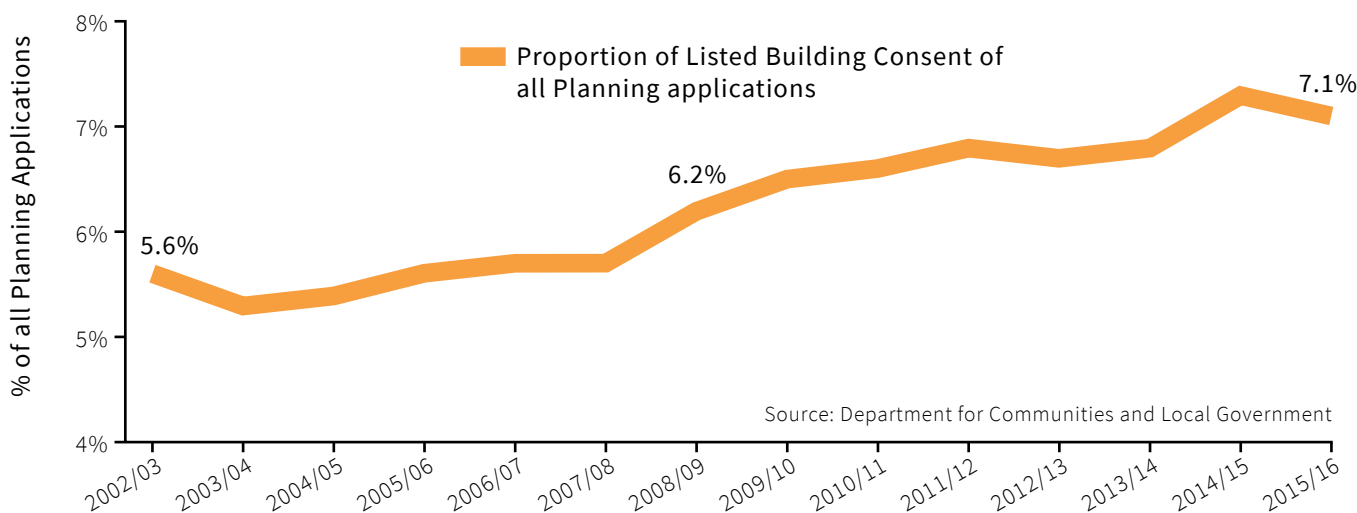
### Listed Building Consent applications

- A similar trend is also found in the Listed Building Consent application (LBCs) statistics, albeit the recessionary decline was at a slower pace: between 2007/08 and 2015/16 the number of LBCs fell by 11 per cent nationally. London is a notable deviation from the norm, the number of LBCs rose by 22 per cent between 2007/08 and 2015/16.
- Since 2012/13, the number of LBCs has grown nationally. The result is a proportionate increase in LBCs relative to all planning decisions. In 2015/16 LBCs accounted for 7.1 per cent of all planning permissions compared to just 5.7 per cent in 2007/08. This trend is problematic given the dramatic 35 per cent decline in numbers of Local Authority historic environment (conservation and archaeological) staff in the same time period.

## Listed Building Consent applications & all applications



## Listed Building Consent applications



## Scheduled Monument Consent

- Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) is required for alterations to any scheduled monument. In 2015/16 there were 1,139 SMC decisions, a 3 per cent increase since 2014/15 and a 31 per cent increase since 2002/03.
- The South East (18 per cent), South West (16 per cent) and East of England (15 per cent) regions have the greatest number of SMCs in England.
- London has had the greatest percentage increase in SMCs since 2002/3, increasing by 104 per cent.

## Registered Parks and Garden planning applications

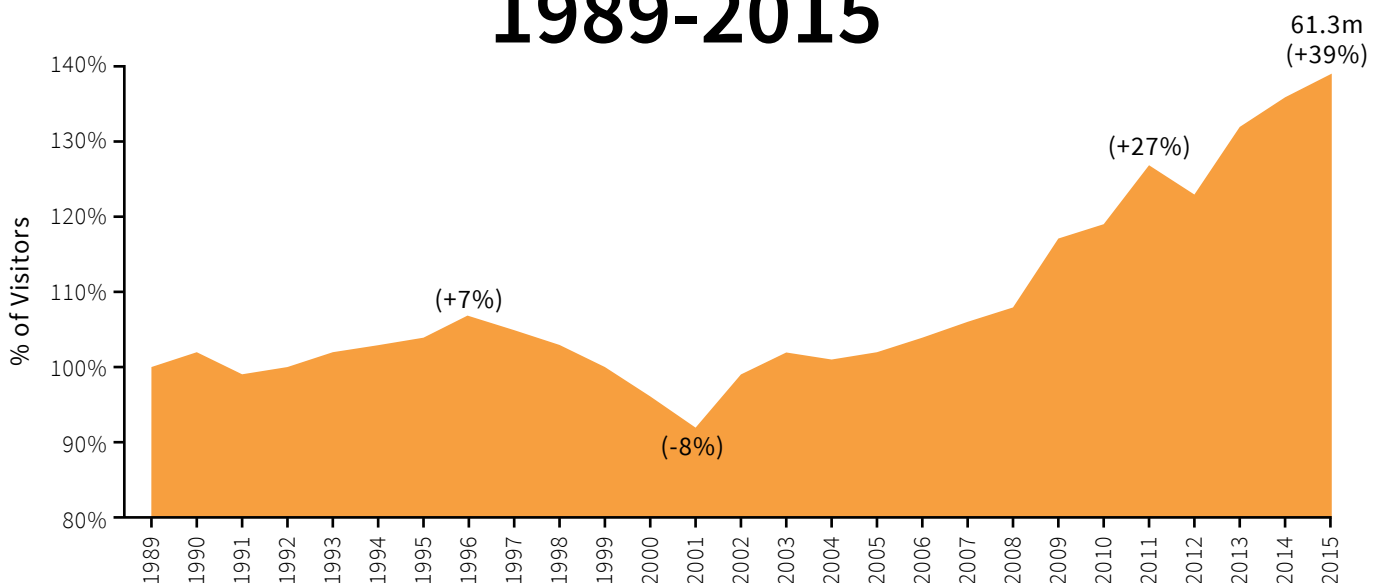
- All planning applications affecting registered parks and gardens must be sent to [The Gardens Trust](#). In 2015/16 there were 949 planning applications affecting registered parks and gardens – a 26 per cent increase since 2003/04.
- The South East (22 per cent) has the greatest proportion of planning applications affecting registered parks and gardens, followed by East of England (16 per cent), London (15 per cent), South West (14 per cent) and West Midlands (14 per cent). London has had the greatest percentage increase since 2002/3, increasing by 137 per cent since 2003/4.

## 3. Public Engagement

### 3.1 Heritage Visitor Trends

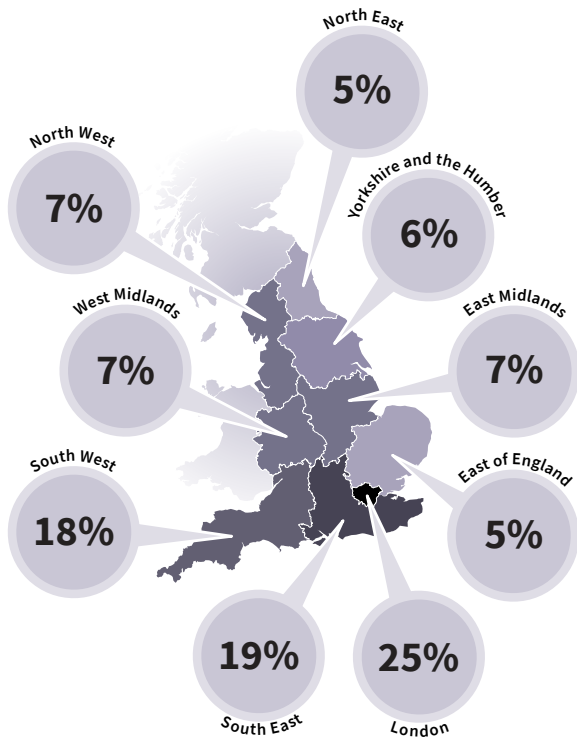
- Each year, VisitEngland conducts a survey of visits to visitor attractions in England, including visits to historic properties. In 2016, 693 historic properties responded to the survey indicating that there were 61.3 million visits to historic properties in 2015. On average, visits to responding historic properties increased by 2 per cent between 2014 and 2015 which is an increase of up to 39 per cent since the survey began in 1989. Full findings can be found in the [BDRC \(2016\) document](#).
- The most popular types of historic attractions according to the VisitEngland survey are historic houses (37 per cent of all heritage visits) and historic gardens (15 per cent of all heritage visits). In the past year, visits to historic gardens have increased the most, by 7 per cent. While visits to castle/forts have declined by 3 per cent over this period.
- Of all visitors to historic attractions, 15 per cent are from overseas, 56 per cent are from local/day trips and 28 per cent are other UK visitors.

# Visits to historic properties 1989-2015





## Regional distribution of visits to historic properties



Source: BDRC (2016)

### Visits to Heritage Properties

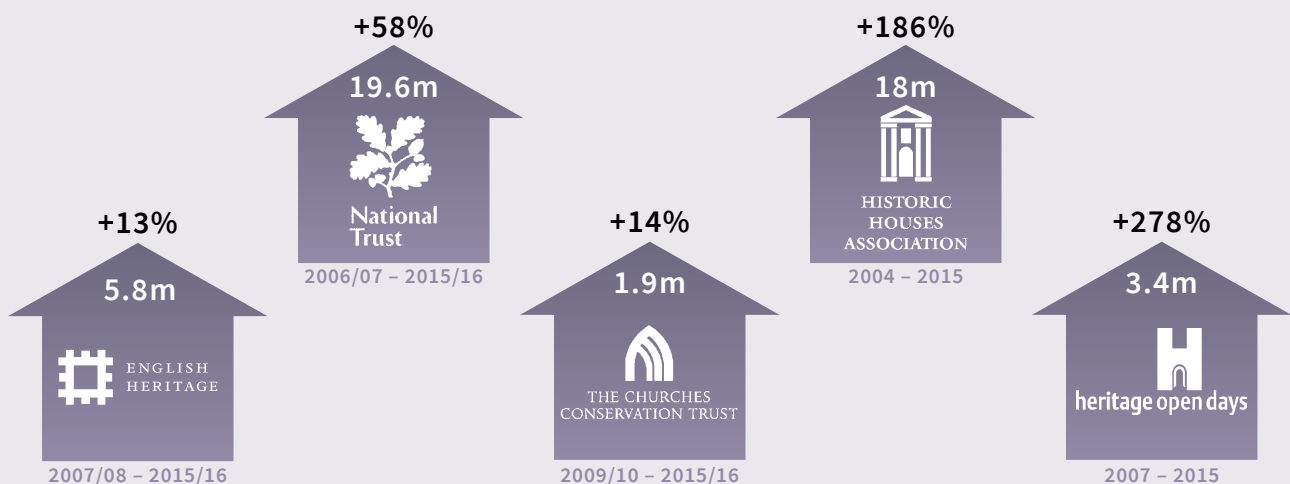
Visits to heritage properties have increased substantially over the last few years (see graphic below).

#### 3.2 Participation in the historic environment

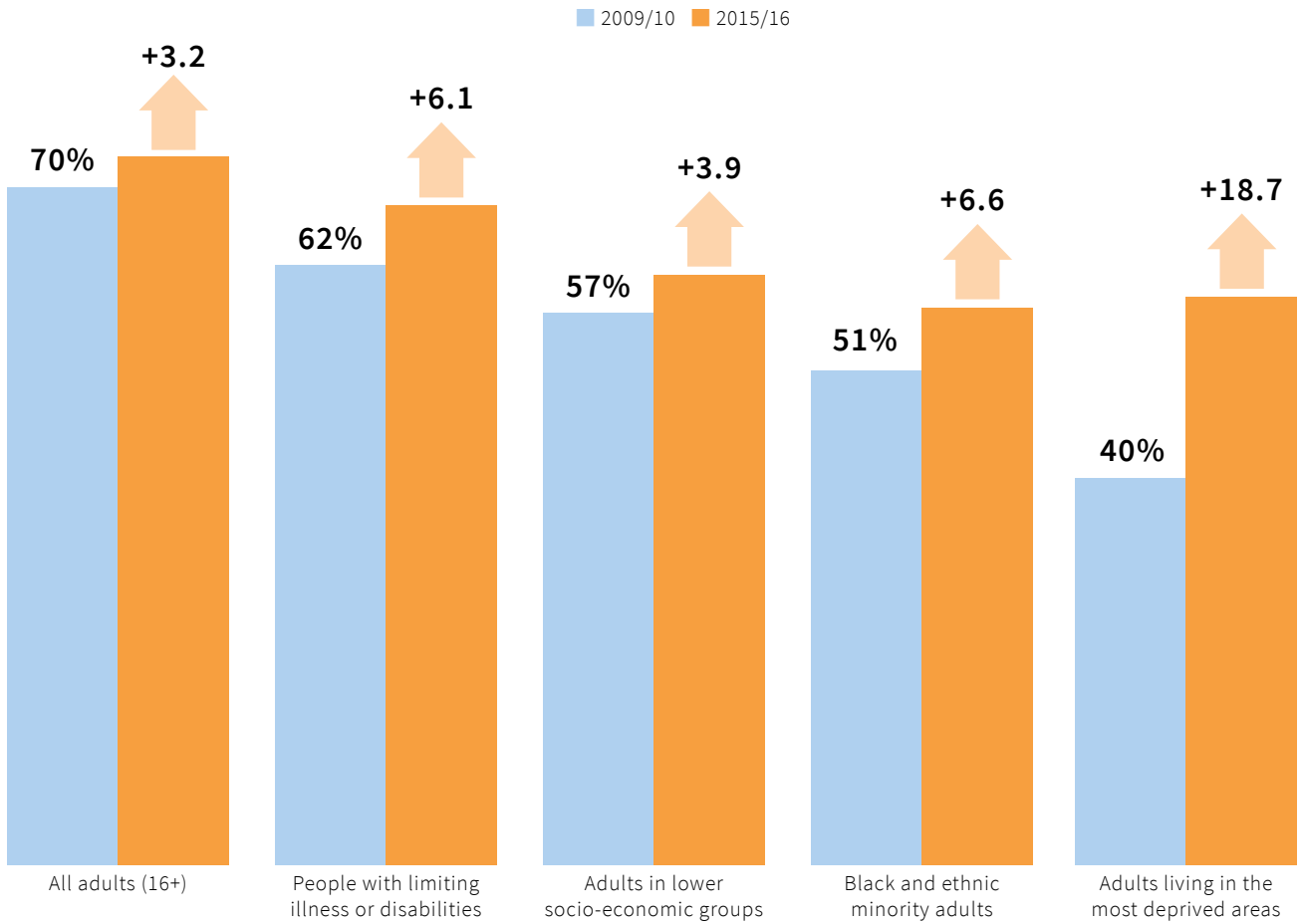
- According to the 2015/16 **Taking Part Survey**, 73.2 per cent of all adults in England had visited a heritage site at least once during the past 12 months – an increase from 70 per cent in 2005/6.

- The Taking Part Survey shows that participation in heritage is becoming more inclusive (see graphic on the next page):
  - In the last ten years heritage participation has grown fastest among adults in lower socio-economic groups and among adults from black and ethnic minority groups.
  - Adults in the most deprived areas who visited a heritage site significantly increased since 2009/10 (from 39.8 per cent to 58.5 per cent in 2015/16).
  - The gap in participation between those in the most deprived areas and those in the least deprived areas has decreased from 44.4 percentage points in 2009/10 to 24.5 percentage points in 2015/16.
- The Taking Part 2015/16 Longitudinal Survey, which surveyed the same individuals over a three year time period, found that (see graphic on the next page):
  - 54 per cent of heritage visitors are “consistent visitors” i.e. they participated in heritage every year over the 3 year period. These adults also participated in heritage more frequently than the other groups.
  - There are more people “disengaging” with heritage (“former” visitors) than there are “new” heritage visitors.
  - “New” heritage participants and “former” participants have a similar demographic profile. Compared to “consistent” participants they are more likely to live in urban areas; live in deprived areas; have a young age profile; and come from a black and minority ethnic group.

## Increase in visits to historic properties

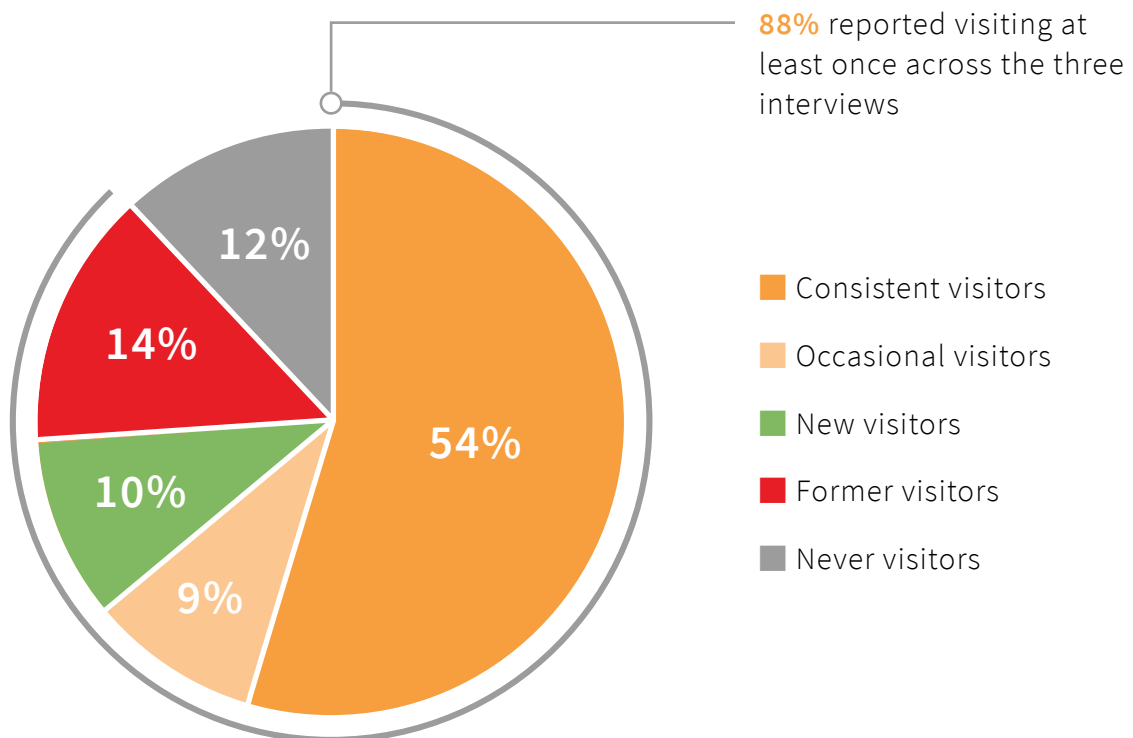


## % of adults who visited a heritage site, 2009/10 and 2015/16



Source: Taking Part Survey 2015/16

## Heritage participation over a three year period, 2012/13 to 2015/16



Source: Taking Part Survey 2015/16

### 3.3 Heritage membership

Membership to heritage organisations has grown considerably over the past ten years.

- The National Trust currently has over 4.3 million members in England (an increase of 8 per cent since the previous year). Including Northern Ireland and Wales, this total increases to nearly 4.6 million.
- The English Heritage Trust reports over 932,000 members in England in 2015/16 (an increase of 10 per cent since the previous year). With corporate members and members outside of England, this figure increases to over 1.5 million.
- The Historic Houses Association's Friends Membership increased by 11 per cent between 2014 and 2015 to 45,080 members.

### 3.4 Volunteering

- According to the Taking Part Survey, there were over 615,500 historic environment volunteers in England in 2015/16. A demographic profile of the volunteers indicates that 45 per cent of the volunteers were aged between 45 and 64 and only 8 per cent of adult volunteers were younger than 25.
- The National Trust reports that in 2015/16 the organisation had nearly 52,800 volunteers.
- English Heritage volunteers have increased markedly from 650 in 2010/11 to nearly 2,200 in 2015/16.
- In 2015, nearly 40,000 people volunteered for Heritage Open Days – a heritage festival organised every September. Nearly 1,700 organisations were involved in 4,855 events which jointly attracted 3.4 million visitors across the country.

### 3.5 Education and the Historic Environment

There is evidence showing that child participation in heritage increases the probability of engaging in heritage as an adult.

- According to the VisitEngland survey, there were over 1.5 million school visits to historic properties in 2015, which is a 3 per cent decline from the previous year and a 1 per cent decline from 2001. However, VisitEngland note that the actual total number of school visits is likely to be significantly higher as the figures only apply to sites that reply to the survey.
- English Heritage reports there were 358,500 free educational visits to their sites during 2015/16, which is a 7 per cent decline from the previous year and a 12 per cent decline since 2001/02.
- According to the HHA, there were nearly 207,000 education visits reported by the houses participating in their 2015 survey.

There is some evidence of increasing numbers of young adults engaging in heritage related qualifications.

- In 2015, 37 per cent of all GCSE students undertook a history GCSE, compared to 32 per cent in 2008.
- The proportion of 16-18 year olds taking History A-Level has also grown from 5.7 per cent of all students in 2008 to 6.5 per cent in 2015.
- 106,080 Higher Education students were enrolled in courses related to the historic environment in the UK, which equates to 4.7 per cent of all students enrolled, slightly down from 4.8 per cent in 2003.

### Well-being and Quality of Life

- Each year, the Taking Part Survey asks respondents to self-assess their happiness on a scale between 1 and 10 (where '1' is extremely unhappy and '10' is extremely happy). In 2016, the average score of heritage participants was 8.1 compared to 7.8 amongst non-participants.

## 4. Capacity building

### 4.1 Funding the Historic Environment

#### Heritage Lottery Fund

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) is the largest source of public funding for the historic environment in the UK.

- Over its lifetime HLF has awarded over £7.1 billion to 40,024 projects (1994/95 to 2015/16). Approximately 46 per cent of the funding was allocated to projects in areas with high levels of deprivation.
- In 2015/16, 1,575 heritage projects were granted over £516.5 million HLF funding.
- Regionally there is an even distribution of HLF funded projects. In terms of value, however, grants are more highly concentrated: 20 per cent of HLF funding was allocated to projects in the London region, despite London having the lowest application success rate (58 per cent compared to the regional average of 63 per cent). In contrast, the North East region had the lowest proportion of HLF spend (5.2 per cent) but one of the highest application success rates (66 per cent).

#### Historic England and the English Heritage Trust

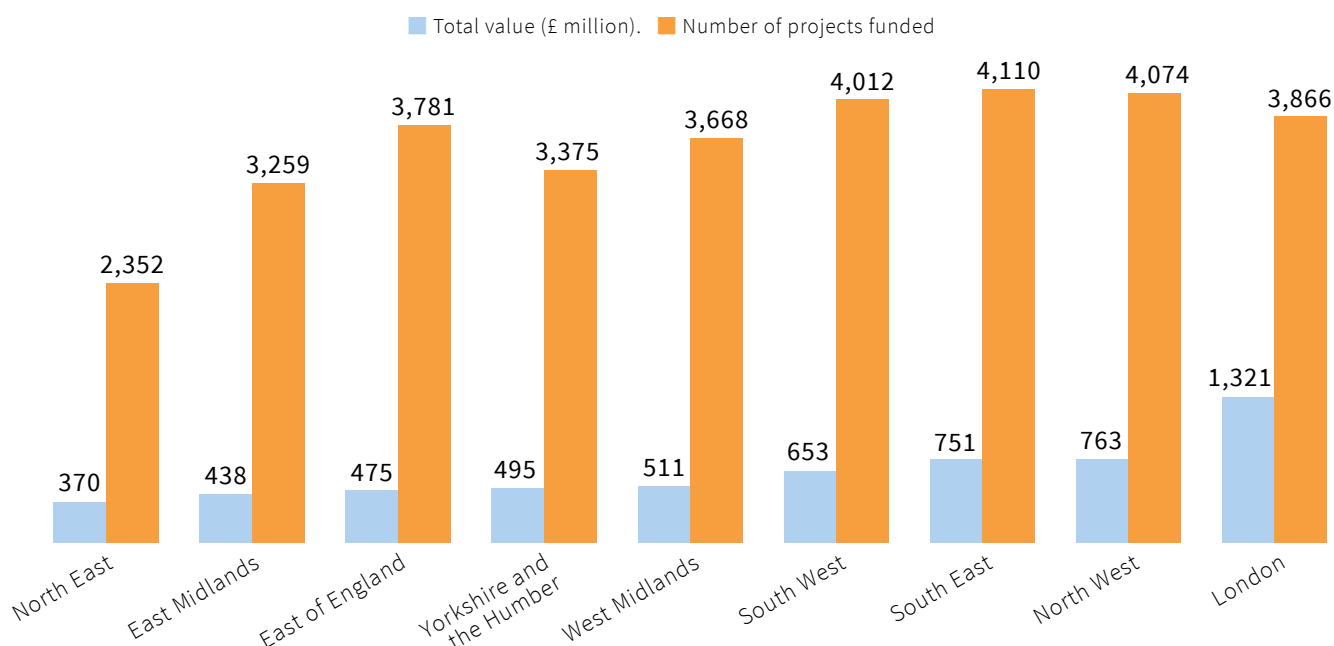
- In 2015 English Heritage separated into two organisations – English Heritage Trust and Historic England. To support this transition the organisations received a higher than usual grant in aid of £181.1 million from DCMS: £101m plus a one-off £80m passed to the English Heritage Trust.
- Over time, expenditure to both organisations has declined, with a 50 per cent reduction in grant spending between 2002/03 to 2015/16.

#### Other public funding

- In 2015/16, Department for Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) spent £18.3m on Listed Places of Worship Grants. Other heritage-related funding from DCMS includes: National Heritage Memorial Fund (£21.5m), Royal Households Funding (£0.5m) and Royal Parks Funding (£13.1m).
- DCMS are a key income source for the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT). Expenditure on conservation and church repair by the CCT was £1.3m in 2015/16.
- The Historic Royal Palaces spend on conservation of Royal Palaces has increased from £10.9m in 2003/4 to £26.8m in 2015/16.

## Heritage Lottery Fund

### expenditure and number of projects by region, 1994/95 to 2015/16



## Voluntary Funding

- The National Trust is the largest single voluntary organisation managing historic properties and landscapes across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. During 2015/16, £275.6m or 51 per cent of the National Trust's total expenditure was for property operating costs and a further £75.2m or 14 per cent for property projects.

## Countryside Stewardship Scheme

- Under the new Rural Development Programme for England 2014-2020, the Environmental Stewardship scheme was replaced by Countryside Stewardship which commenced in January 2016. In 2016, £3,262,500 was taken up by the scheme, including 370 agreements.

## 4.2 Employment and Skills in the sector

### Employee Jobs

Using a method adapted from [DCMS' Creative Industries Estimates](#), employment in the heritage sector is able to be estimated.

- In 2013, there were 164,100 direct heritage jobs in England. If indirect and induced heritage employment is included then this figure rises to 328,700 heritage jobs or 1 per cent of total national employment.

## Local Authority employment

- In 2016 there were 796.2 FTE jobs in the historic environment in Local Authorities. This included 271.7 Archaeology staff and 524.6 Conservation staff. The overall number of historic environment staff has decreased by 5.8 per cent since 2015 and 35 per cent since 2006.

## 5. Helping things to happen

### 5.1 Building Preservation Trusts

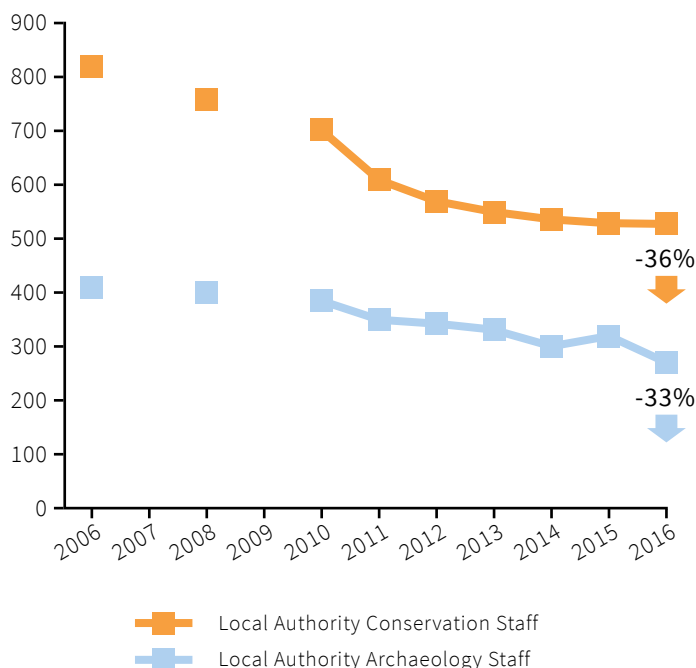
- Building Preservation Trusts (BPTs) are important organisations in taking on heritage assets and delivering solutions which provide social and economic benefits for communities. In 2014/15, there were 144 BPTs active in England with 102 live projects to rescue historic buildings – 43 of these projects or 42 per cent are on the Heritage at Risk Register.

### 5.2 Heritage Champions

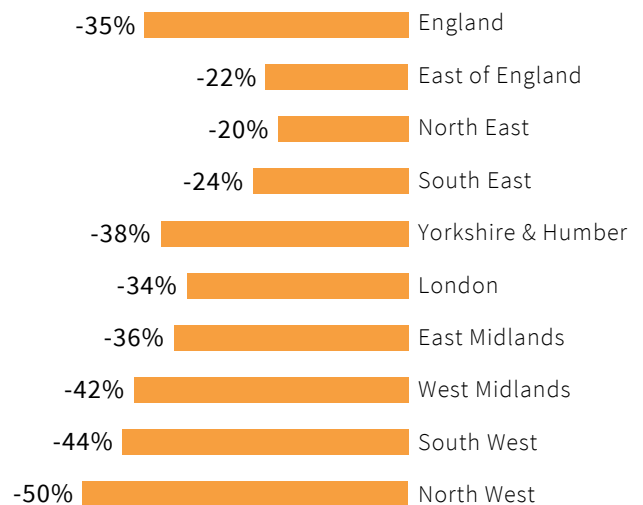
- A **Heritage Champion** is normally a local councillor who has been nominated by their authority to promote all aspects of the historic environment in their area. In 2016, there were 250 Heritage Champions across England, covering 71 per cent of Local Authorities.

## Historic Environment Local Authority Staff Capacity

### Trends, 2006-16



### % Change 2006-2016



Source: *Report on Local Authority Staff Resources*, produced by Historic England, the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers and the Institute of Historic Building Conservation

## Heritage Indicator Summary Tables

### Discovery, Identification & Understanding

Indicator	Measurement	Value	Change
Designated heritage assets	Number of listed building entries	376,577	Increase of 1,711 since 2010
	Number of scheduled monuments	19,848	Increase of 124 since 2010
	Number of registered parks and gardens	1,639	Increase of 33 since 2010
	Number of protected historic wreck sites	49	Increase of 3 since 2010
	Number of registered battlefields	46	Increase of 3 since 2010
	Number of world heritage sites	18	No change since 2010
Historic areas and open spaces	Number of conservation areas	c. 10,000	Increase of approximately 800 since 2002
	Area of land in England which is a national park	1,265,000 ha	Relatively stable since 2010
	Area of land which is an area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB)	1,915,000 ha	Stable since 2012
	Extent of ancient woodland	361 ha	Relatively stable since 2009
Acquiring information	Number of on-line historic environment records	69	An increase of 12 since 2012
	Extent of historic landscape characterisation	99%	Increase of 27% since 2007

## Constructive Conservation & Sustainable Management

Indicator	Measurement	Value	Change
Historic environment at risk	Archaeological entries on the Register	13% (2,582)	Decrease from 13.6% in 2015
	Listed places of worship on the Register	6.3% (926)	Same as 2015
	Grade I and II* secular buildings on the Register	3.8% (849)	Decrease from 3.9% in 2015
	Conservation Areas on the Register	6% (496)	Same as 2015
	Grade II secular buildings on the Register (London only)	2.6% (431)	Same as 2015
	Registered parks and gardens on the Register	5.8% (95)	Same as 2015
	Protected wreck sites on the register	12% (6)	Increase from 8% in 2015
	Registered Battlefields on the register	13% (6)	Same as 2015
Managing positively	Number of Planning applications decided 2015/16	424,707	Decrease of 27% since 2002/3
	Number of applications for Listed Building Consent application decided 2015/16	30,193	Decrease of 7% since 2002/3
	Number of scheduled monument consent decisions 2015/16	1,139	Increase by 32% since 2002/3
	Number of planning applications affecting registered parks and gardens 2015/16	949	Increase of 26% since 2003/4
	World heritage sites with management plans in place	18 out of 18	Increase from 10 out of 14 in 2002

## Public Engagement

Indicator	Measurement	Value	Change
Participation	Participation in the historic environment (2015/16)	73.2% of all adults visited at least one heritage site in the last 12 months	Statistically significant <b>increase</b> for all adults, lower socioeconomic groups, black and ethnic minority groups and those with a limiting disability or illness since the baseline of 2005/06
		57.3% BME groups	
		61% lower socioeconomic groups	
		68% limiting disability or illness	
		69.5% of all 11-15 year olds	
		70.6% of all 5-10 year olds	
	Number of members of historic environment organisations (2015/16)	National Trust: 4.6m	29% <b>increase</b> since 2007/08
English Heritage: 981,000		48% <b>increase</b> since 2007/08	
	Number of historic environment volunteers	615,517	7% <b>increase</b> since 2014/15
Visitor statistics	Number of visits to historic visitor attractions	61,274,000	<b>Increase</b> of 2% from 2014
Education and lifelong learning	Number of GCSE/A level history candidates (school year ending 2016)	229,047 GCSE candidates	<b>Increase</b> of 18% since school year ending 2002
		49,587 A level candidates	<b>Increase</b> of 40% since school year ending 2002
	Number of higher education students studying courses related to the historic environment (Academic Year ending 2016)	106,080	<b>Increase</b> of 2% since academic year ending 2003
	Number of school visits to historic sites	1,543,000	1 per cent <b>decrease</b> since 2001



## Capacity building

Indicator	Measurement	Value	Change
Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grants	Number of projects funded	40,024 (1994/5-2015/6)	Increase of 1,575 since 2014/5
	Total value of projects	£7,138,807,695 (1994/5-2015/6)	Increase of £516,523,867 since 2014/5
Environmental Stewardship Scheme	Total value of uptake of projects	£3,262,498.61 (2016)	*Scheme commenced in January 2016
Capacity and resources	Numbers employed in the operation of historic sites and buildings	Over 328,700 (2013 data)	Decrease of 3.2% since 2011.
Developing training and skills	Number of new apprenticeships/trainees in heritage craft skills 2015/16	1,947	Decrease of 11,368 (85%) since 2005/6

## Helping things to happen

Indicator	Measurement	Value	Change
Building Preservation Trusts (BPT)	Number of active BPTs (2014/15)	144	Stable since 2012/13
	Total projects (2014/15)	116	Increase from 102 in 2011/12
	Live Projects (2014/15)	102	Increase from 97 in 2011/12
	Projects completed (2014/15)	14	Increase from 5 in 2011/12
Local Authority Heritage Champions	Number of local authorities with Heritage Champions	250 Local Authorities (LA) with Heritage Champions, 71% of all LAs	Decline since 2009

This document has been prepared as part of [Heritage Counts 2016](#)  
by Historic England on behalf of the Historic Environment Forum.

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Contact: David Bade, Project Officer (Research & Planning),  
Historic England ([David.Bade@HistoricEngland.org.uk](mailto:David.Bade@HistoricEngland.org.uk))



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