

HERITAGE COUNTS 2017

Heritage Indicators

A vital element of valuing and appreciating England's Heritage 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](#).

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.



Image: Stamford Conversation Area, Lincolnshire © Historic England 2017

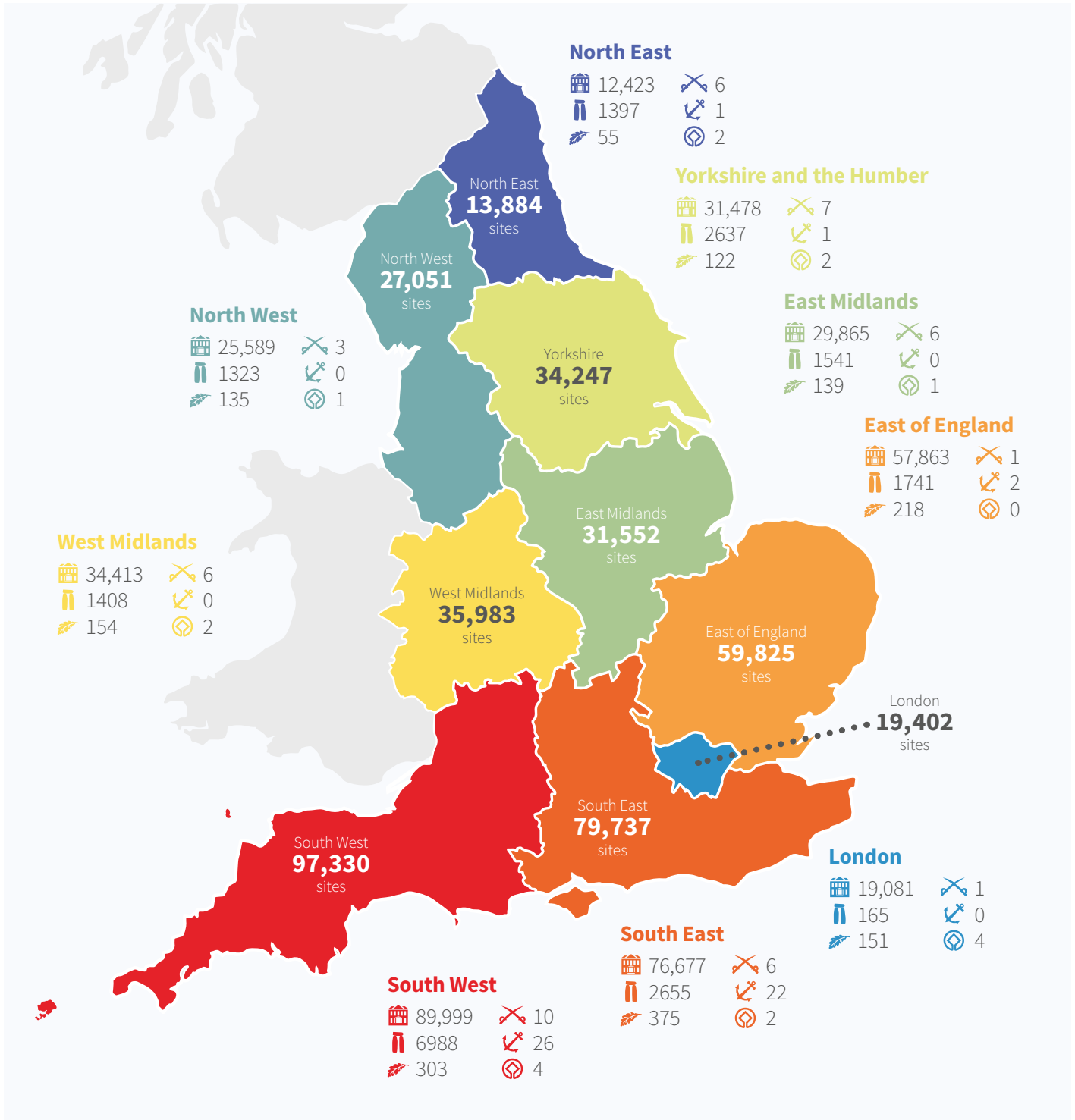
1. Discovery, identification & understanding

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: 377,388 19,855 1,652 46 52 18

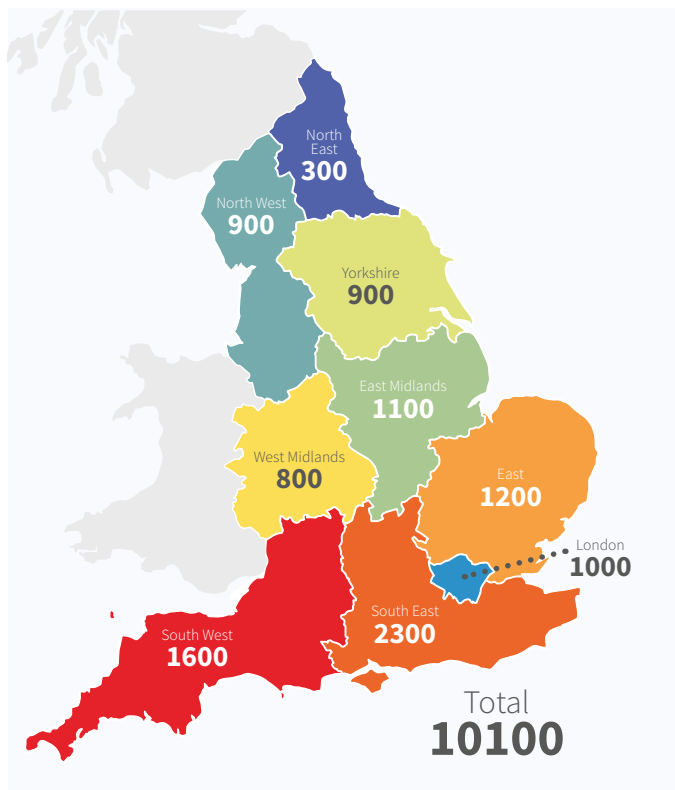


Listed Buildings Scheduled Monuments Park & Gardens Battlefields Protected Wrecks World Heritage Sites

Source: © Historic England 2017

Conservation Areas in Numbers

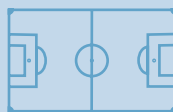
2017 marks the 50th anniversary of the 1967 Civic Amenities Act which introduced the concept of conservation areas. Half a century on, there are now over 10,000 in England.



50 years of CAs since 1967 Civic Amenities Act

83%

of conservation areas are between 2 and 50 hectares (3 and 75 football pitches)



10%

include all or part of a registered park or garden

512

conservation areas are listed on the Heritage at Risk register (5%)



19%

include a scheduled monument



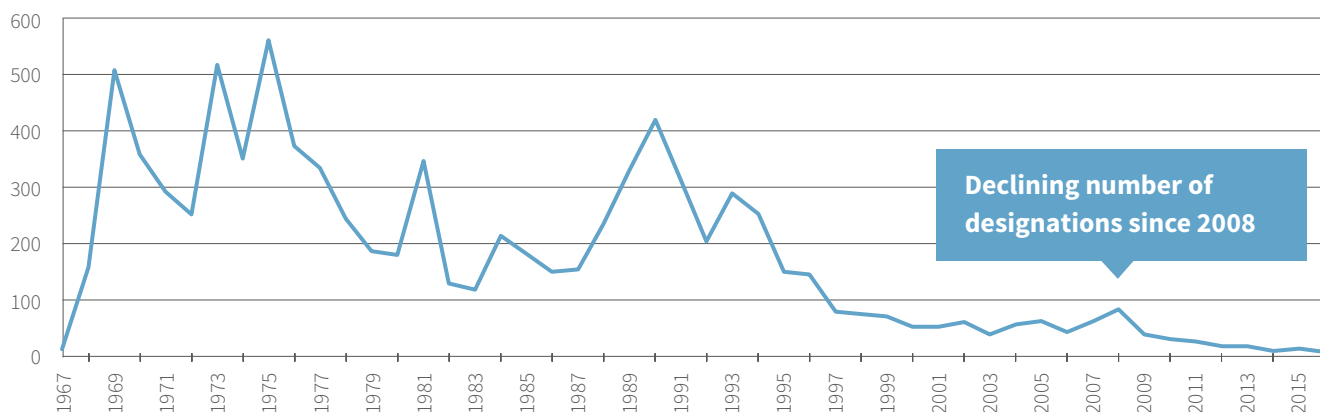
93%

contain listed buildings

Total England CA coverage 2.2% – 2,938sq km



Conservation areas, designations per year



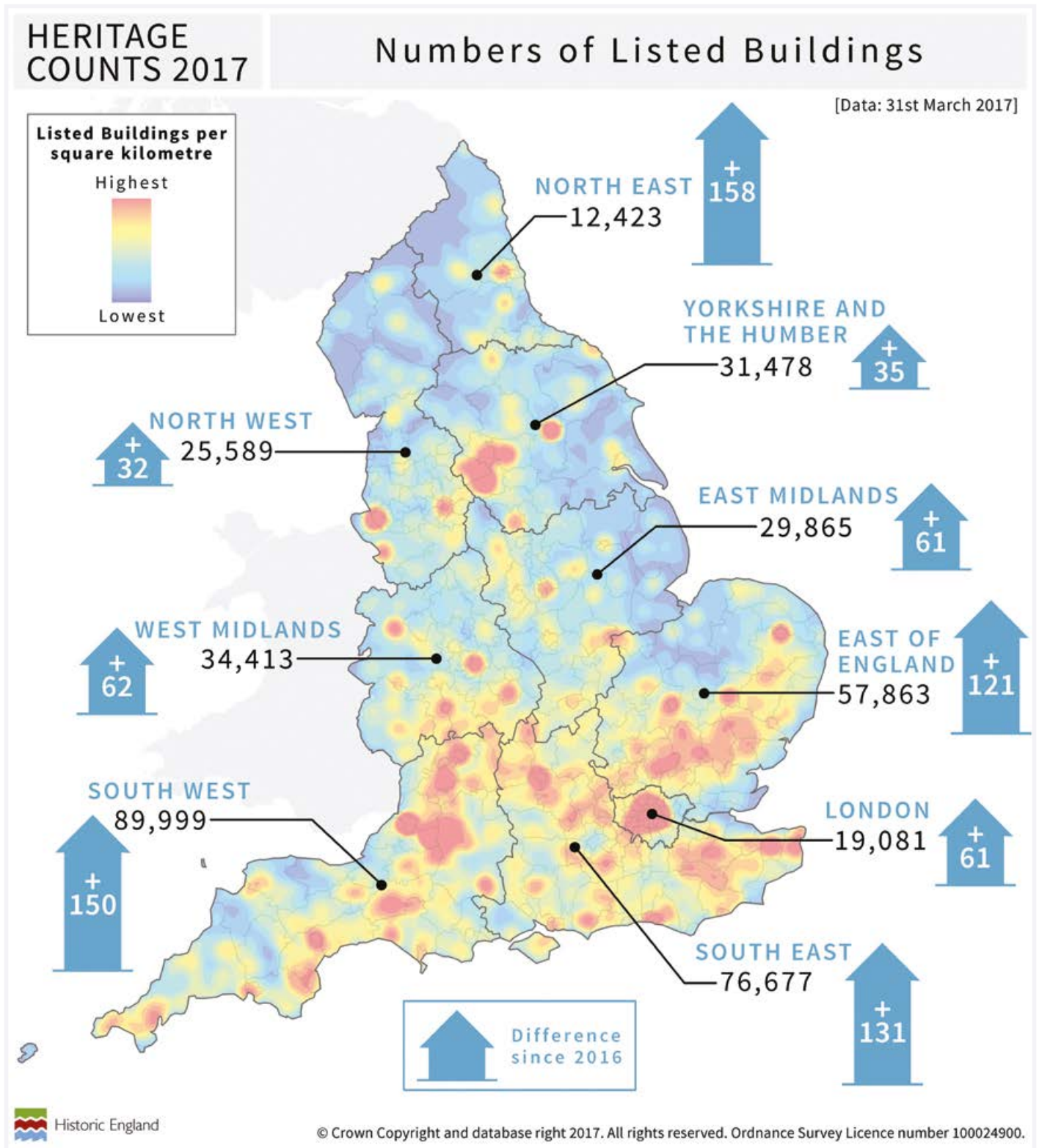
Declining number of designations since 2008

Listed Building Density

- The map below shows the density of listed buildings across England. 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.

Local Lists

- In 2017, 50% 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, 94% had a local list, while only 19% had in East Midlands.



Source: © Historic England 2017

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. **There are currently 1,265,000 hectares of National Parks and 1,926,000 hectares of AONBs.**
- The figures for 2017 indicate that there are also **364,000 hectares of ancient woodland** which is land continuously wooded since AD 1600, and **164,000 hectares of heritage coast** which are non-statutory landscape definitions of our most beautiful, undeveloped coastline.

Conservation Areas

- **There were approximately 10,100 conservation areas recorded in 2017, an increase from 9,200 in 2003.** Difficulties in gathering up to date information from local planning authorities means that there is a margin of error associated with this number. The greatest proportion of conservation areas are located in the South East (22%), followed by the South West with 16%. The North East region has the fewest conservation areas (3%) and the number has increased by only 1% since 2003.

Historic Environment Records

- **Historic Environment Records (HER)** provide access to resources relating to the historic environment of a particular locality. **There are 85 HERs in England which are maintained and managed by local authorities.** 84% 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 70 online HERs, up by 13 since 2012.

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% of England's historic landscape has been mapped. All (100%) of the landscape in 7 of the 9 Government regions have been mapped, with only the South West remaining at 99% (there is no formal historic landscape characterisation in London).

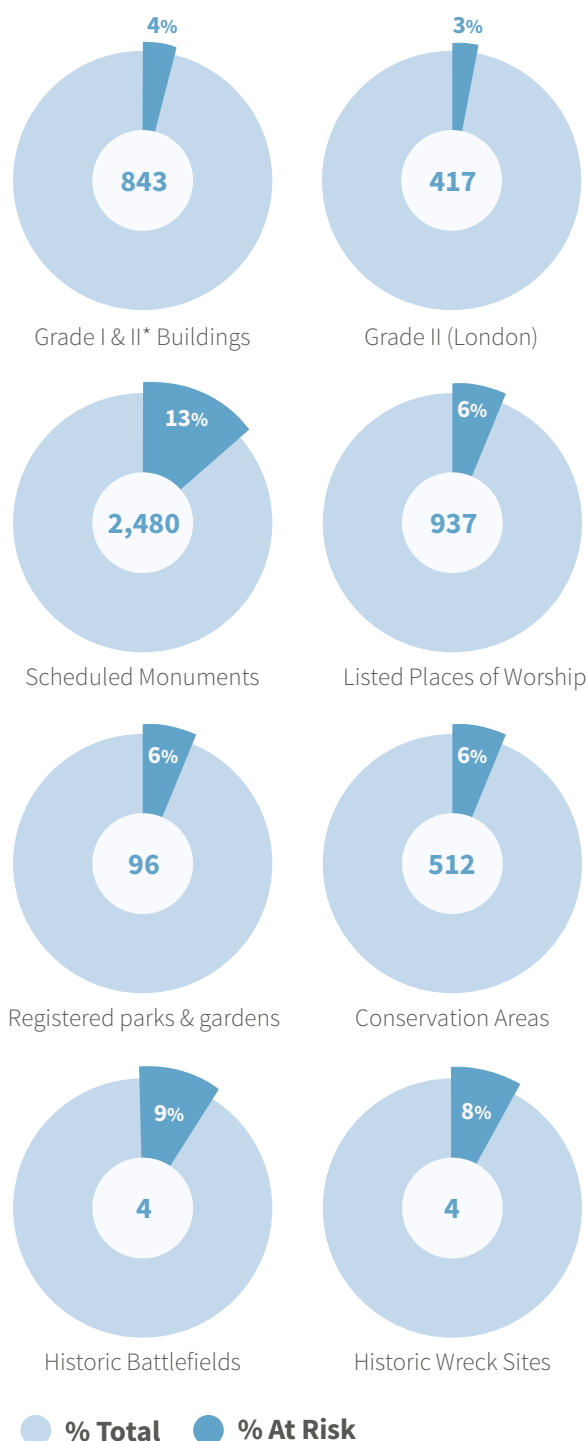
2. Constructive conservation and sustainable management

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.

- 2017 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 5,341 to 5,290.

5,290 heritage assets at Risk 2017



Source: © Historic England 2017

Managing positively

Planning applications

- **Planning statistics from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) show that planning applications have steadily been increasing since falling to a 10 year low in 2014/15.**

In 2016/17 there were 439,612 planning applications, an increase of 4% in the last year. The only region bucking this trend is the West Midlands where there was a 1% decrease in the same period.

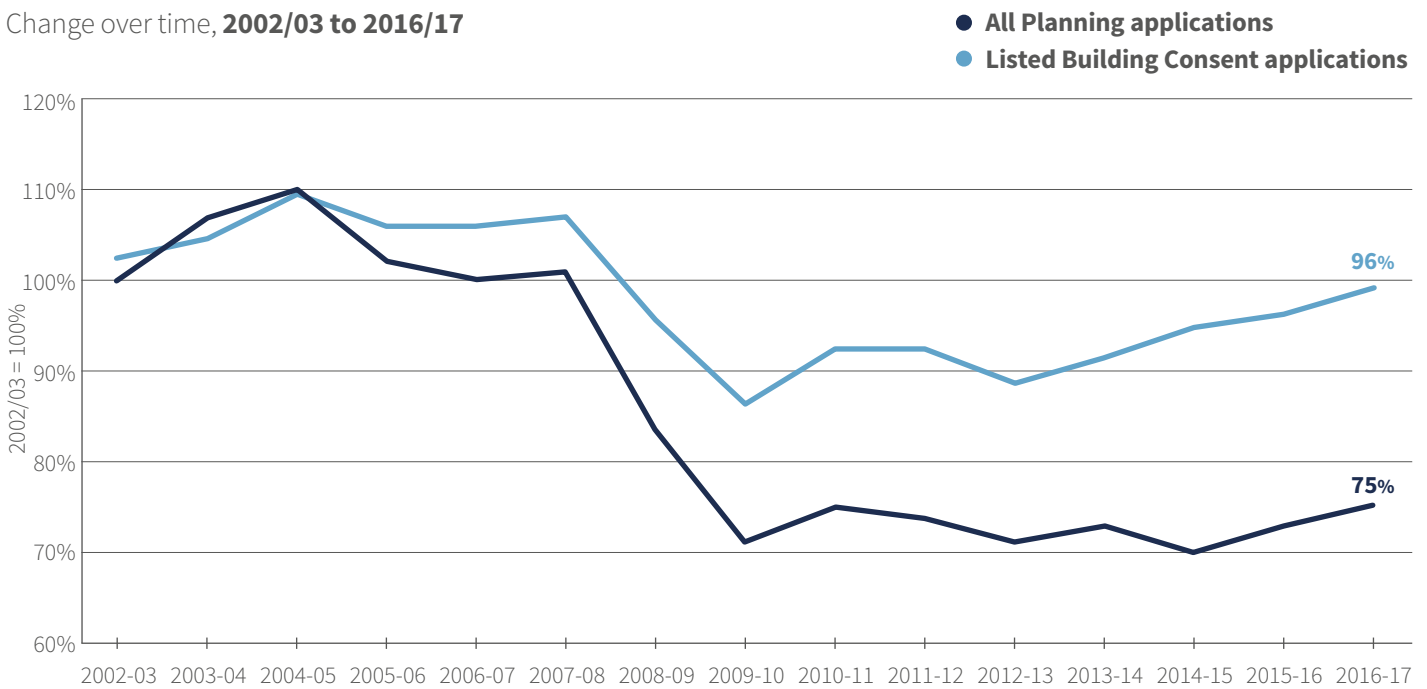
Listed Building Consent applications

- **A similar trend is also found in the Listed Building Consent application (LBCs) statistics with a significant decline following the 2008 financial crisis.** However, the number of Listed Building Consents has been consistently growing since 2012, increasing by 12% between then and 2016/17.

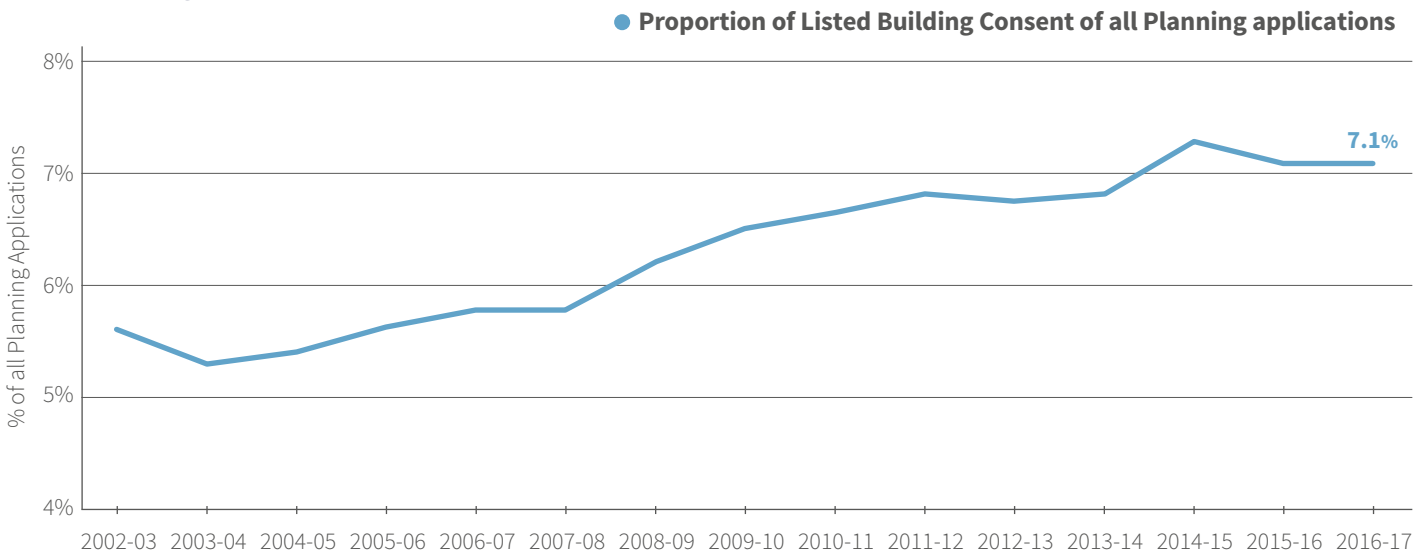
- **The result is a proportionate increase in LBCs relative to all planning decisions.** In 2016/17 LBCs accounted for 7.1% of all planning permissions compared to just 5.7% in 2007/08. This trend is problematic given the dramatic 37% decline in numbers of Local Authority historic environment (conservation and archaeological) staff in the same time period.

Listed Building Consent Applications & All Applications

Change over time, 2002/03 to 2016/17



Listed Building Consent Applications



Source: Department for Communities and Local Government

Scheduled Monument Consent

- **Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) is required for alterations to any scheduled monument.** In 2016/17 there were 1,193 SMC decisions, a 5% increase since 2015/16 and a 38% increase since 2002/03.
- **London has had the greatest percentage increase in SMCs since 2002/3, increasing by 112%.**

Registered Parks and Garden planning applications

- **All planning applications affecting registered parks and gardens must be sent to the Garden Trust.** In 2015/16 there were 912 planning applications affecting registered parks and gardens – a 21% increase since 2003/04.
- **The South East (27%) has the greatest proportion**

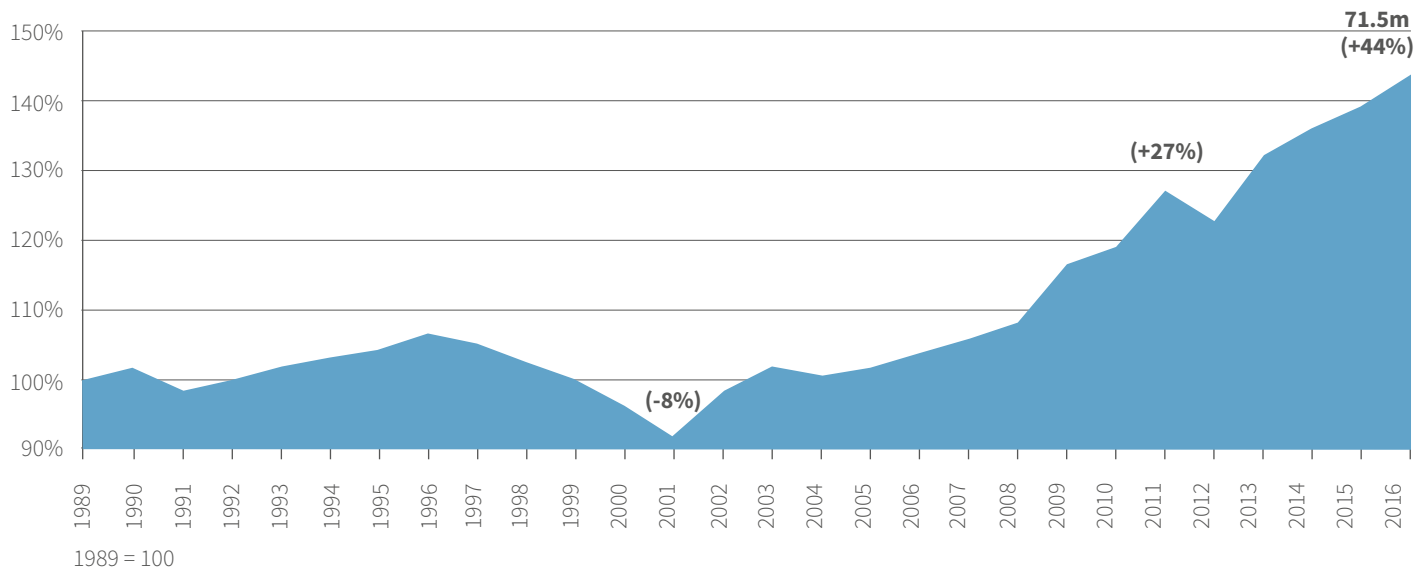
of planning applications affecting registered parks and gardens, followed by the South West (17%) and London (13%).

3. Public Engagement

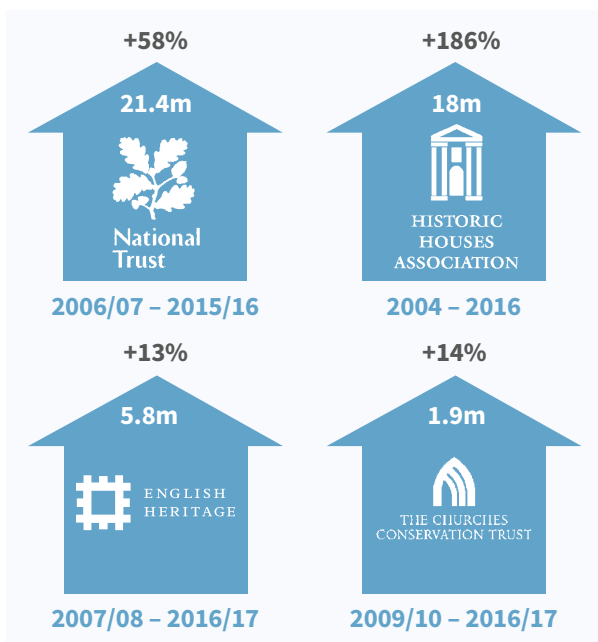
Heritage Visitor Trends

- Each year, VisitEngland conducts a survey of visits to visitor attractions in England, including visits to historic properties. **In 2017, 725 historic properties responded to the survey indicating that there were 71.5 million visits to historic properties in 2016.** On average, visits to responding historic properties increased by 3% between 2015 and 2016 which is an increase of up to 44% since the survey began in 1989.
- Full findings can be found in the BDRC (2016) document.

Visit to historic properties 1989-2016



Source: BDRC (2016)



- **The most popular types of historic attractions according to the VisitEngland survey are historic houses (40% of all heritage visits) and historic gardens (15% of all heritage visits).** In the past year, visits to historic houses have increased the most, by 9%. While, visits to places of worship have declined by 8% over this period.
- **Of all visitors to historic attractions, 23% are from overseas, 52% are from local/day trips and 25% are other UK visitors.**

Visits to Heritage Properties

Visits to heritage properties have increased substantially over the last few years.

DCMS Taking Part Survey 2016/17

• According to the 2016/17 Taking Part Survey, 74.2% of all adults in England had visited a heritage site at least once during the past 12 months – up from 70% in 2005/6.

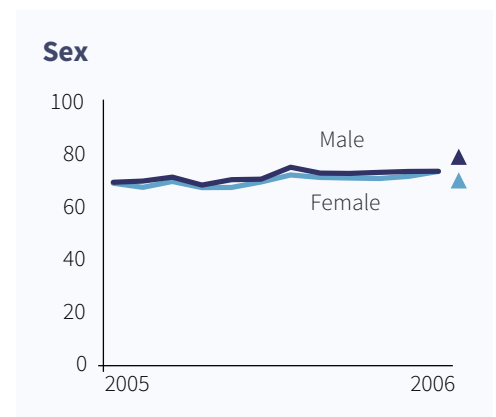
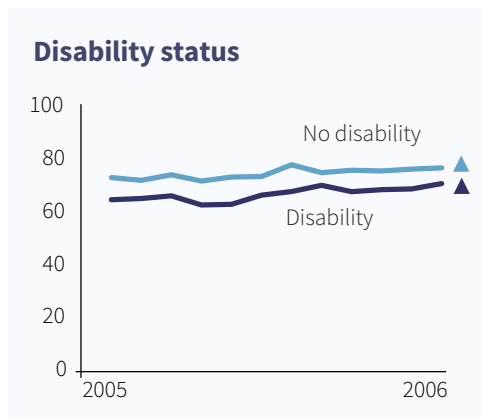
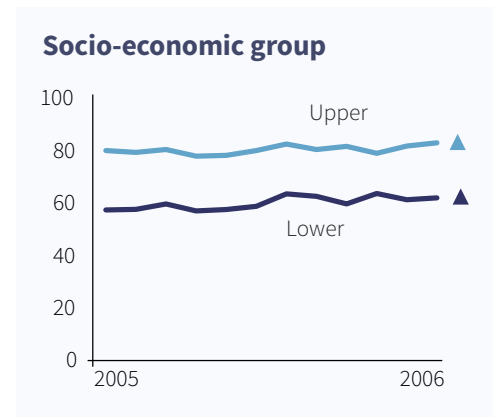
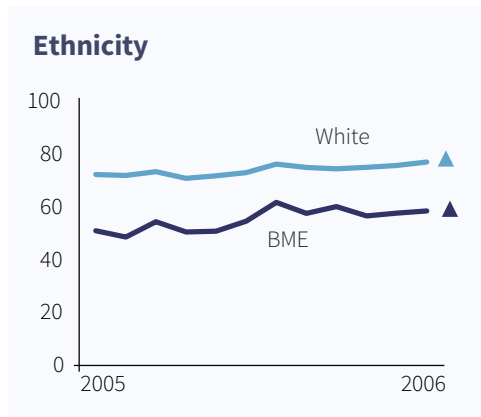
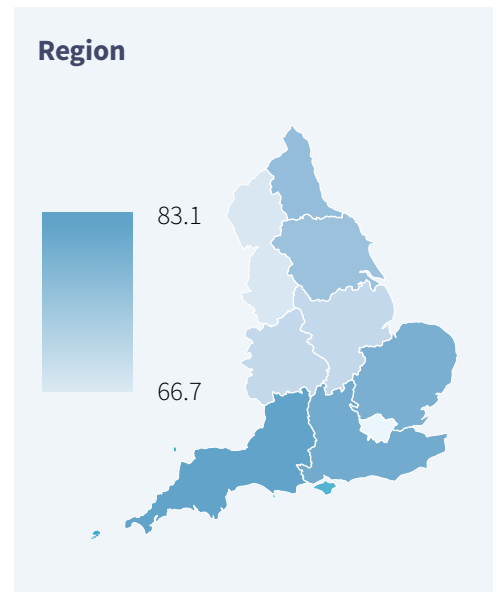
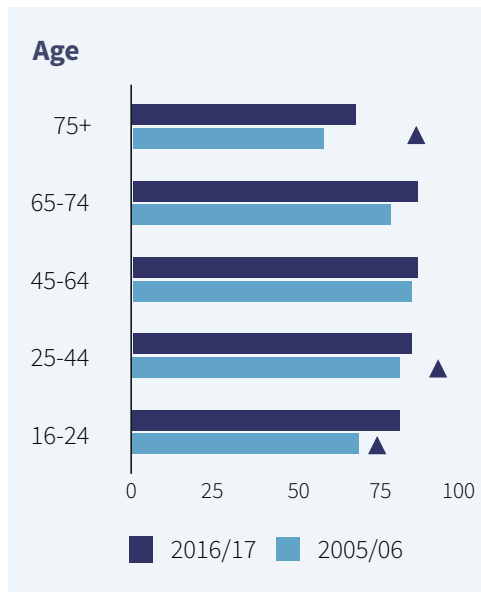
• The **Taking Part Survey** shows that participation in heritage is becoming more inclusive:

• **Adults are visiting heritage sites more frequently**

The proportion of adults who had visited a heritage site at least once a month has increased from 15.3% in 2005/06 to 18.3% in 2016/17. The proportion adults who had visited a heritage site at least 3-4 times a year has increased from 41.8% in 2005/06 to 46.9% in 2016/17.

• **More young people (16-24) are participating in heritage**

Whilst participation in heritage is highest amongst 65-74 year olds (77.5%), heritage participation has increased the most amongst 16-24 year olds - from 61.6% in 2005/06 to 72.4% in 2016/17. An increase in participation has taken place in this age group in the last year - from 66.3% 2015/16, increasing to 72.4% 2016/17.



Heritage membership

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

- **The National Trust currently has over 4.5 million members in England (an increase of 5% since the previous year).** Including Northern Ireland and Wales, this total increases to 4.8 million.
- **The English Heritage Trust membership has exceeded 1 million for the first time (1,087,000) (an increase of 11% since the previous year).** With corporate members and members outside of England, this figure increases to over 1.6 million.
- **The Historic Houses Association's Friends Membership increased by 11% between 2015 and 2016 to 47,772 members.**

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% of the volunteers were aged between 45 and 64 and only 8% of adult volunteers were younger than 25.
- **The National Trust reports that in 2016/17 the organisation had nearly 61,853 volunteers.**
- **English Heritage volunteers have increased markedly from 650 in 2010/11 to nearly 2,724 in 2016/17.**
- **In 2016, nearly 40,800 people volunteered for Heritage Open Days – a heritage festival organised every September.** Over 2,000 organisers were involved in 5,293 events which jointly attracted approximately 3 million visitors across the country.

Education and the Historic Environment

- **According to the VisitEngland survey, there were over 1.6 million school visits to historic properties in 2016, which is a 6% decline from the previous year and a 7% 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 357,690 free educational visits to their sites during 2016/17, which is a 13% 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 evidence of increasing numbers of young adults engaging in heritage related qualifications.

- **In 2015, 42% of all GCSE students undertook a history GCSE, compared to 32% in 2008.**
- **The proportion of 16-18 year olds taking History A-Level has also grown from 5.7% of all students in 2008 to 6.5% in 2016.**
- **106,645 Higher Education students were enrolled in courses related to the historic environment in the UK, which equates to 4.7% of all students enrolled, slightly down from 4.8% 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. 2017 data was not available at the time of publication.

4. Capacity building

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 £7.6 billion to 41,799 projects (1994/95 to 2016/17). Approximately 39% of the funding was allocated to projects in areas with high levels of deprivation.**
- **In 2016/17, 1,775 heritage projects were granted over £496.7m HLF funding.**
- **£639.5m has been awarded by the HLF to 656 projects within Conservation Areas, between 1994-2016.** This represents 13% of the total amount of grants awarded by the HLF in the period.

Other Public Funding

- **In 2016/17, Department for Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) spent £31m on Listed Places of Worship Grants.** Other heritage-related funding from DCMS includes: National Heritage Memorial Fund (£29m), 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 £5.9m in 2016/17.**
- The Historic Royal Palaces spend on conservation of Royal Palaces has dropped from £26.8m in 2015/16 to £22.9m in 2016/17.

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, £255.6m or 43% of the National Trust's total expenditure was for property operating costs and a further £139.3m or 24% 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 2017, £3,008,711 was taken up by the scheme, including 414 historic environment agreements.

Employment and Skills in the sector

Employee Jobs

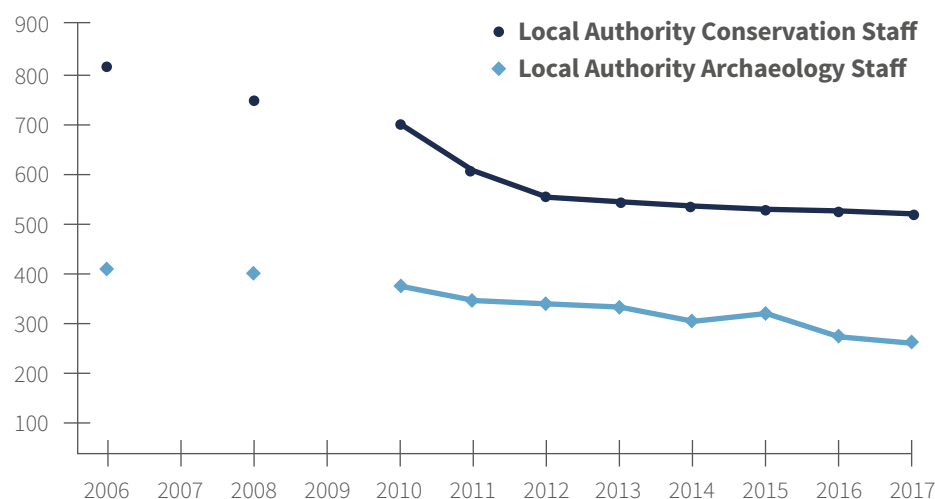
Using a method adapted from DCMS' Creative Industries Estimates, employment in the heritage sector can be estimated.

- **In 2014, there were 168,000 direct heritage jobs in England.** If indirect and induced heritage employment is included then this figure rises to 278,000 heritage jobs or 1% of total national employment.

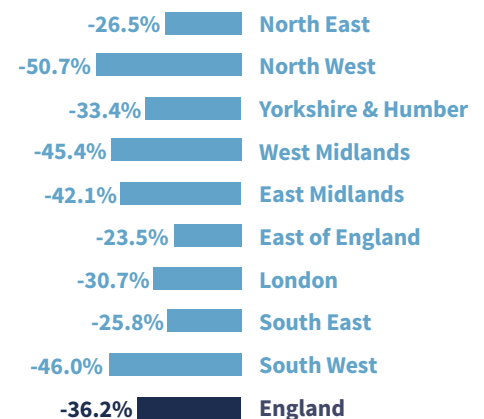
Local Authority employment

- **In 2017 there were 781 FTE jobs in the historic environment in Local Authorities.** This included 263 Archaeology staff and 518 Conservation staff. The overall number of historic environment staff has decreased by 2% since 2016 and by 36.2% since 2006.

Local Authority Staff Trends 2006-17



% Change 2006-2017



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

5. Helping things to happen

Building Preservation Trusts

- **Building Preservation Trusts (BPTs) are important organisations that take on heritage assets and deliver solutions which provide social and economic benefits for communities.** In 2015/16 there were 192 BPTs active in England with 105 live projects to rescue historic buildings – 44 of these projects or 42% are on the Heritage at Risk Register.

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 253 Heritage Champions across England, covering 72% of Local Authorities.

Heritage Indicator Summary Tables

Discovery, Identification & Understanding

| Indicator | Measurement | Value | Change |
|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|
| Designated heritage assets | Number of listed building entries | 377,388 | Increase of 2,522 since 2010 |
| | Number of scheduled monuments | 19,855 | Increase of 131 since 2010 |
| | Number of registered parks and gardens | 1,652 | Increase of 46 since 2010 |
| | Number of protected historic wreck sites | 52 | 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 | approximately 10,100 | Increase of approximately 800 since 2002 |
| | Area of land in England which is a national park (2016) | 1,265,000 ha | Stable since 2010 |
| | Area of land which is an area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB) (2016) | 1,926,000 ha | Stable since 2012 |
| | Extent of ancient woodland (2016) | 364 ha | Stable since 2009 |
| Acquiring information | Number of on-line historic environment records | 70 | An increase of 13 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 | 12.5% (2,480) | Same as 2016 |
| | Listed places of worship on the Register | 6.3% (937) | Same as 2016 |
| | Grade I and II* secular buildings on the Register | 3.8% (840) | Same as in 2016 |
| | Conservation Areas on the Register | 5% (512) | Increase of 16 from 2016 |
| | Grade II secular buildings on the Register (London only) | 2.5% (417) | Same as 2016 |
| | Registered parks and gardens on the Register | 5.8% (96) | Same as 2016 |
| | Protected wreck sites on the register | 8% (4) | Decrease from 12% in 2016 |
| | Registered Battlefields on the register | 13% (6) | Same as 2015 |
| Managing positively | Number of Planning applications decided 2015/16 | 439,612 | Decrease of 25% since 2002/3 |
| | Number of applications for Listed Building Consent application decided 2015/16 | 31,285 | Decrease of 4% since 2002/3 |
| | Number of scheduled monument consent decisions 2015/16 | 1,193 | Increase by 38% since 2002/3 |
| | Number of planning applications affecting registered parks and gardens 2015/16 | 912 | Increase of 21% since 2003/4 |
| | World heritage sites with management plans reviewed in last 5 years | 13 out of 18 | First time this has been recorded |

Public Engagement

| Indicator | Measurement | Value | Change |
|---|--|---|---|
| Participation | Participation in the historic environment (2016/17) | 74.2% of all adults visited at least one heritage site in the last 12 months | Statistically significant increase 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 |
| | | 58.1% BME groups | |
| | | 61.7% lower socioeconomic groups | |
| | | 70% limiting disability or illness | |
| | | 70.4% of all 11-15 year olds | |
| | | 70.6% of all 5-10 year olds | |
| | Number of members of historic environment organisations (2016/17) | National Trust: 4.8m | 34% increase since 2007/08 |
| English Heritage (excl. corporate members): 1,087,000 | | 58% increase since 2007/08 | |
| Number of historic environment volunteers (2015/16) | 615,500 | 7% increase since 2014/15 | |
| Visitor statistics | Number of visits to historic visitor attractions | 71,516,000 | Increase of 3% from 2015 |
| Education and lifelong learning | Number of GCSE/A level history candidates (school year ending 2016) | 243,078 GCSE candidates | Increase of 25% since school year ending 2002 |
| | | 48,360 A level candidates | Increase of 36% since school year ending 2002 |
| | Number of higher education students studying courses related to the historic environment (Academic Year ending 2016) | 106,645 | Increase of 3% since academic year ending 2003 |
| | Number of school visits to historic sites | 1,566,000 | 7% decrease 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 | £3,008,711 | *Scheme commenced in January 2016 |
| Capacity and resources | Numbers employed in the operation of historic sites and buildings (Business Register and Employment Survey) | Over 13,000 (provisional 2016) | Increase of 21% since 2008. |
| Developing training and skills | Number of new apprenticeships/trainees in heritage craft skills 2016/17 | 2,301 | Decrease of 11,014 (83%) since 2005/6 |

Helping things to happen

| Indicator | Measurement | Value | Change |
|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| Building Preservation Trusts (BPT) | Number of active BPTs (2015/16) | 192 | Increase from 144 in 2014/15 |
| | Total projects (2015/16) | 117 | Increase from 116 in 2014/15 |
| | Live Projects (2015/16) | 105 | Increase from 102 in 2014/15 |
| | Projects completed (2015/16) | 12 | Decrease from 14 in 2014/15 |
| Local Authority Heritage Champions | Number of local authorities with Heritage Champions | 253 Local Authorities (LA) with Heritage Champions, 72% of all LAs | Same as 2016 |

This document has been prepared as part of Heritage Counts 2017
by Historic England on behalf of the Historic Environment Forum.

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