

HERITAGE COUNTS 2018

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Foreword from Sir Laurie Magnus, Chairman of Historic England

This has been an eventful year for heritage with two notable centenaries: we have celebrated The Representation of the People Act in 1918, which saw women gaining the right to vote, and commemorated the end of the First World War.

Heritage Counts this year has examined the use of heritage assets in towns and cities across the country. Its findings demonstrate growing demand for characterful commercial premises and confirms that businesses increasingly attach a premium to the uniqueness and authenticity that heritage sites can provide. Historic buildings have proven to be highly flexible in accommodating a wide range of new functions in response to technological advances and changing consumer behaviours. We are therefore particularly delighted by the Government's recent budget commitment of £675m to the Future High Streets Fund, which includes an allocation of £55m for the restoration and revitalisation of historic high streets.

I want to acknowledge the tireless efforts of the Historic Environment Forum, on behalf of the heritage sector, in promoting the importance of the historic environment in our countryside, towns and cities. Our historic fabric is increasingly recognised as an important capital asset which, if properly nurtured, can yield wide ranging benefits in terms of environmental welfare, community pride, personal wellbeing and economic impact. Historic England is committed to working with partners across the cultural and heritage sectors to establish an authoritative framework for measuring the contribution of cultural heritage capital to our national welfare.



Foreword from John Sell CBE, Chairman of Historic Environment Forum

Heritage Counts has been invaluable in demonstrating how heritage plays a positive part in England's continued successful national and international development. The evidence in this year's *Heritage Counts* includes a wide range of interesting research projects which underline why historic buildings and areas are so attractive to the creative industries. At times like this, with England's relations with the rest of the world under the spotlight, it is vital that we show how heritage adds value to places, for society, for business and for the wider environment.

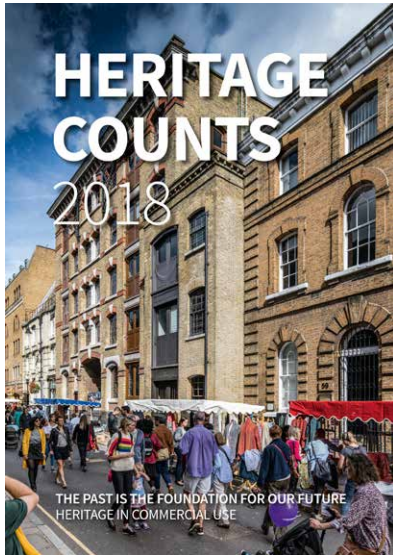
Towns and cities must protect their heritage as an essential resource for existing and emerging economic activity. We found good examples of how planning and conservation policies can combine with community engagement, developers and entrepreneurs to deliver economic growth through regeneration of historic areas. The art of a successful place is to get the right balance; the right balance between old and new; the right balance between commercial and residential. The challenge is only partly about re-using the historic buildings themselves; it is also about creating interesting, dynamic and imaginative environments that allow the past to provide the foundation for a successful future.

I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in the preparation of this year's research. I hope it will provide everyone with useful and interesting material to help make the case for heritage.



Heritage Counts 2018 is the seventeenth annual audit of England's historic environment. It is produced on behalf of the Historic Environment Forum, the cross-sector committee of chief executives and senior officers from wide range of organisations with an interest in heritage.

Heritage Counts 2018 consists of **five documents** summarising the rich and multidimensional evidence base that demonstrates the value and importance of our heritage from a social, cultural, environmental, economic and political perspective:

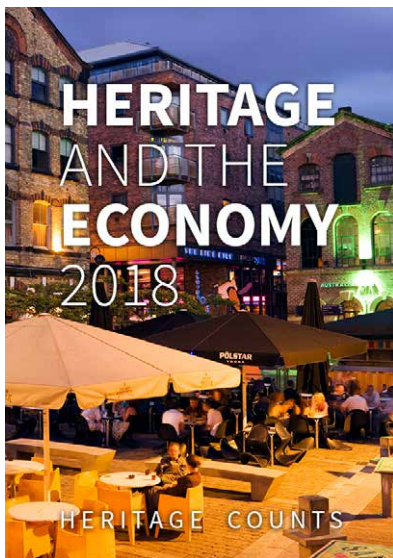
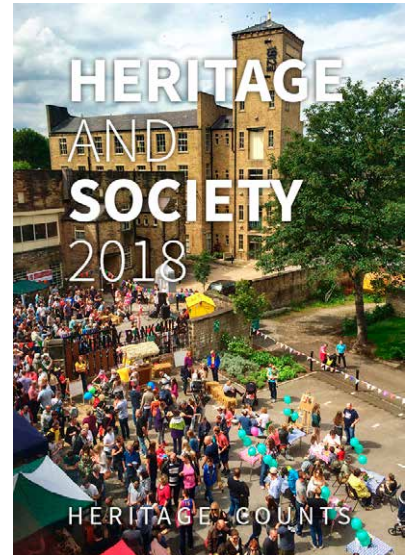


Heritage Counts 2018

The past is the foundation for our future: heritage in commercial use

◀ New research demonstrates that heritage assets in commercial use are crucial ingredients in the vitality and regeneration of our towns and cities.

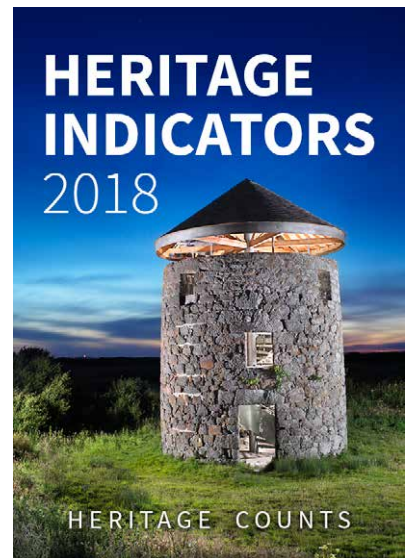
▶ Evidence of how heritage enhances our wellbeing and quality of life.



▲ Illustrates the economic contribution of heritage to the national economy and local economies.



▲ An audit of key policies and developments in the heritage sector during 2018.



▲ Indicators demonstrating the scale, scope and change to the historic environment over time.

In addition *Heritage Counts* 2018 presents regional and local evidence and indicators of the value of the historic environment in the **Regional Reports** and **Local Authority Profiles 2018**.

All of the information presented within this year's *Heritage Counts* and further evidence from this year's research can be found online at: www.heritagecounts.org.uk