

HERITAGE INDICATORS 2020



HERITAGE COUNTS

HERITAGE INDICATORS 2020

Since 2002, Heritage Counts has collected and presented indicators about the state of the historic environment using data from government and leading heritage sector bodies. This document presents a summary of the main indicators for the year 2019-20. The detailed heritage indicator datasets can be found on the [Heritage Counts website](#). For Heritage Counts 2020, many of these datasets have been enhanced with ONS geography codes, making them compatible with a range of official data sources.

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

Overshadowed by the developing COVID-19 pandemic and public health restrictions, 2020 has been an exceptionally challenging year for the heritage sector. With few exceptions noted in the text, the indicators included in this report do not represent the period after March 2020 when the impacts of the pandemic were becoming apparent. Therefore, this year's Heritage Indicators begins with an overview of recent developments in the sector in response to COVID-19, including links to research, new projects, and relevant datasets (p.4).

The Heritage Indicators are presented according to the five strategic priorities of [Heritage 2020](#):

- **Discovery, identification and understanding** – Provides indicators on the scale and scope of the historic environment and assets (p.9);
- **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 (p.14);
- **Public engagement** – Presents data on participation in heritage, heritage membership and volunteering in the sector (p.18);
- **Capacity building** – Includes indicators of heritage investments from private, public and voluntary sectors as well as the skills and capacity of the sector (p.24);
- **Helping things to happen** – Provides data from Building Preservation Trusts and the local authority Heritage Champions initiative (p.26).

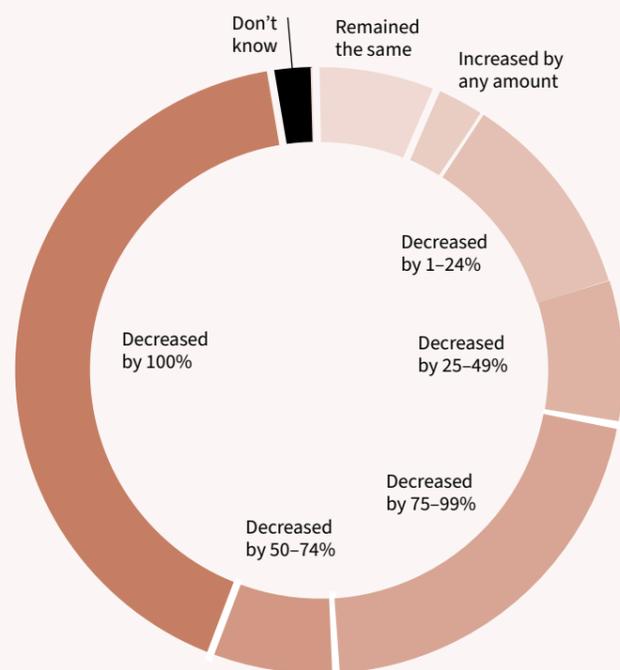
Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance student Sye Naet Nin performs in the restored undercroft of the Guest Hall at Bradenstoke Priory. The mediaeval undercroft was recently removed from Historic England's Heritage at Risk register. © Historic England Archive

Impacts

The wider community

Responding to the growing public health crisis caused by the COVID-19 virus, on 23 March 2020 Prime Minister Boris Johnson gave a televised address in which he announced the first national lockdown of 2020. This extraordinary public health intervention precipitated significant economic impacts; each month of stringent containment measures was estimated to cost the economy 2 percentage points of annual GDP growth (OECD). The results of the April-May DCMS Business Survey showed that businesses in DCMS sectors had been particularly badly affected by these economic effects, with 87.6% reporting loss of revenue, and 5% having already halted trading (DCMS). Similar results were found when the survey was repeated in August-September 2020 (DCMS).

Revenue Impact - Approximate increase or decrease of businesses' revenue, compared to what was expected over the last month (DCMS)



Impacts on heritage organisations

The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) was among the first sector bodies to measure the impact of COVID-19 on the sector. Its survey of heritage organisations focused on the Fund's grantees who had received grants of over £250,000 in the past 10 years. Results suggested that the financial impact was likely to be high; 91% of respondents had to cancel events, 69% had lost revenue, and 90% of charity, third sector or private organisation respondents reported a high or moderate risk to their long-term viability (NLHF).

Responding to early reports of heritage organisations in financial difficulty, Historic England (HE) conducted its own survey of COVID-19 Effects on the Heritage Sector in March-April 2020. Heritage organisations of all types were invited to respond, and 803 organisations did so, of whom 557 were microbusinesses (with up to 10 employees), and 79 were larger businesses with over 100 employees. 76% of respondents had lost business in the short term, 58% had postponed or cancelled income-generating events, and 31% had borne additional costs to cope with social distancing measures.

In contrast with the NLHF's survey, HE found that the economic effects were not experienced evenly across the sector; craft-based small businesses and professional services providers were found to be at particular risk, with 43% and 45% of respondents in these categories expecting their businesses to cease trading within three months (Historic England).

Crafts, conservation and construction

The heritage sector relies on a wide range of specialist disciplines, each of which has experienced the pandemic differently. To appropriately mitigate the business impacts of the pandemic and the public health restrictions, it is necessary to properly understand who has been affected and how, and several specialist bodies have accordingly produced research on the challenges faced in their areas.

In March, the Crafts Council reported that orders with surveyed craft businesses were down 67%, and that 31% of surveyed businesses expected losses of between £5,000 and £10,000 (an additional 25% expected losses of over £10,000). Closures of galleries and shops, and fairs and markets, had affected large numbers of craft businesses (71% and 64% respectively), and supply chain and logistical problems were becoming apparent (Crafts Council).

56% of respondents to an April 2020 survey by the Heritage Crafts Association reported that they believed there was a less than 50:50 chance that their business would survive the next six months. 73% of businesses were at reduced capacity or unable to work at all, and 38% were experiencing supply chain problems as clay, wool, animal hair and other essential materials were in short supply (Heritage Crafts Association).

The Institute of Conservation (ICON) carried out a survey of conservators (members and non-members) to gather evidence of the effect of the COVID-19 crisis on the profession, which includes specialists in archaeology, historic buildings, and places of worship. 70% of respondents had experienced a decrease in monthly income, and 24% had experienced cashflow issues to a very considerable extent. 91% had experienced loss or postponement of work, although only 3% reported having to lay staff off. Looking to the future, 52% of respondents reported that the Coronavirus situation posed a moderate risk to their business (ICON).

In April, the Federation of Master Builders (FMB) surveyed its members working specifically in the heritage sector. 76% of respondents had stopped at least 91% of their operations, and the top reasons for this included supply chain issues and the inability to maintain social distancing on site. 59% of respondents expected to be able to continue operating for at least two months under the present conditions, and 72% had furloughed their staff (FMB, unpublished).

Funding and support

Government and leading national organisations have worked hard to protect heritage and support at-risk businesses through ambitious grant funding programmes. DCMS have led these efforts with a £1.57bn rescue package for organisations in the cultural and heritage sectors (DCMS).

Historic England

Emergency Response Funds

In response to early reports of distressed businesses, and informed by the results of its sector survey, Historic England launched the 'COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund' and the 'COVID-19 Emergency Heritage at Risk Response Fund'. These funds were designed to provide a safety net to help heritage organisations prepare for recovery, and to fund urgent repair, maintenance and survey projects at at-risk heritage sites with the goal of helping specialist heritage businesses.

The Emergency Response Fund has awarded £0.4m in emergency revenue funding, and £1.4m in funding for projects that will build capacity, develop techniques and share knowledge. A further £1.4m was awarded by the Heritage at Risk Response fund to support 74 projects benefiting at-risk heritage buildings across England.

Grants for Programmes of Major Works

In order to support stalled repair and restoration works at nationally important heritage sites, Historic England is administering £38m of funding for works that will be delivered in conjunction with 12 partner organisations. These grants have the potential to benefit many historic places, as projects will be delivered by organisations with national portfolios of properties.

Repair Grants for Heritage at Risk

Additional funding of around £5m will be disbursed through Historic England's existing Repair Grants for Heritage at Risk scheme. Existing Heritage at Risk projects will benefit from additional funding, as well as new projects where an urgent need for funding has been identified (Historic England).

Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage

The National Lottery Heritage Fund and Historic England are distributing £88m of funds that form part of the £1.57bn rescue package, announced by DCMS, that will benefit cultural and heritage organisations. Grants of between £10,000 and £3m will benefit organisations that have exhausted all other financing options and that are at imminent risk of failure (HE and NLHF).

The National Lottery Heritage Fund

Heritage Emergency Fund

The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) has created a £50m fund to support the heritage sector in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Organisations will benefit from grants of between £3,000 and £50,000 where there are no or limited alternative options for support, where heritage is most at risk, and where an organisation is at severe risk of financial crisis. This funding complements the NLHF's support for over 2,500 projects, totalling more than £1bn (NLHF).

Heritage Capital Kickstart Fund

The NLHF's £15m Heritage Capital Kickstart Fund will support up to 30 capital projects in England that have been stalled or put at risk by COVID-19. 85% of eligible organisations are located outside London (NLHF).

Rebuilding Heritage

Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and supported by the Heritage Alliance, Rebuilding Heritage will support the heritage sector to recover from the COVID-19 crisis by delivering coaching, training, webinars and online resources (Rebuilding Heritage).

Public engagement with heritage

Heritage, wellbeing and COVID-19

The significant negative wellbeing impacts of the COVID-19 crisis have been well documented. In March 2020, 49.6% of people surveyed in Great Britain reported feeling 'high' levels of anxiety, which is a sharp increase from 2019 when these levels of anxiety were reported by 21% of respondents (ONS).

Engaging with heritage is one among the many activities that people use to improve their wellbeing, and [Heritage and Society](#) has provided evidence of the wellbeing benefits associated with visits to heritage sites. While lockdown restrictions between March and May limited the public's ability to visit heritage sites, as lockdown eased, visitors began to return; while in May 21% of those surveyed had visited a heritage site, in July this had increased to 31%.

Digital engagement with heritage

As public health restrictions reduced our ability to visit heritage sites, many people turned to opportunities to engage with heritage digitally. The [ONS Opinion and Lifestyle Survey](#) has shown that 3.9% of all adults included taking virtual tours of cultural or historic sites amongst their strategies for coping during the lockdown. That people aged over 70 engaged digitally with heritage at almost double that rate (7.4%) is significant, as this group typically has the lowest levels of digital engagement with heritage (DCMS).

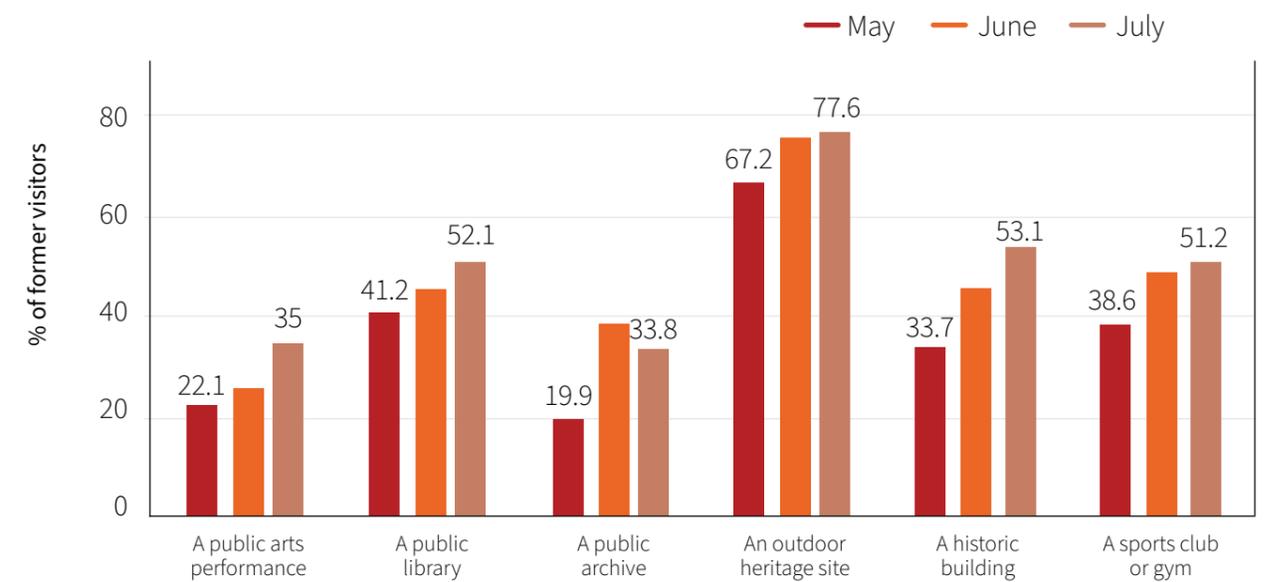
Charity Digital has identified the COVID-19 pandemic as a factor in the accelerating adoption of digital technologies by the charitable sector ([Charity Digital](#)). Within the heritage sector more widely, research by Historic England has identified the move to more digital ways of working as a potential long-term outcome of the first lockdown ([Historic England](#)). The Heritage Alliance is supporting organisations in the sector to use digital technologies to engage even broader audiences. Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, led by the Heritage Alliance, and delivered by a consortium of specialist partners, Heritage Digital will support the sector to engage new audiences through a programme of resources and practical training ([Heritage Digital](#)).

Public perceptions

As the Coronavirus situation has changed over recent months, so too has the public's confidence about visiting heritage sites. Visit England has commissioned a 'COVID-19 Consumer sentiment Tracker' survey to understand the intent of people in the UK to take holidays and short overnight trips. The most recent report, for the period 31 August to 2 October of the survey, found that UK residents were more likely to visit a 'garden or country park', or a 'castle, fort or other historic site' than any other type of attraction over the 'next few months' ([Visit England](#)).

Research from the Taking Part Survey web panel shows that the proportion of former visitors who feel comfortable visiting a heritage site in 30 days' time (subject to relaxation of restrictions) has grown monthly since May 2020. In May, 67.2% of those surveyed felt comfortable visiting and outdoor heritage site, and 33.7% felt comfortable visiting a historic building; by July these figures had increased to 77.6% and 53.1% respectively (DCMS).

% of former visitors who would feel comfortable visiting in 30 days' time if restrictions were lifted



The coming year

Unless otherwise noted, the statistics presented in this publication relate to the period before the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic were widely felt. Nevertheless, Heritage Counts will continue to monitor the unfolding effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the heritage sector.

The RSA Heritage Index

The Heritage Indicators included in Heritage Counts are complemented by the Heritage Index published by the RSA. The Index is a unique tool that supports local, data-driven decision-making. Attempting to capture the breadth of heritage across the country and at a local level, the index captures over 120 measures, split over six heritage 'domains'.



If preserved and adaptively reused, historic buildings like the Loft Bar on Kelham Island, Sheffield, can add character to new developments.
 © Historic England Archive

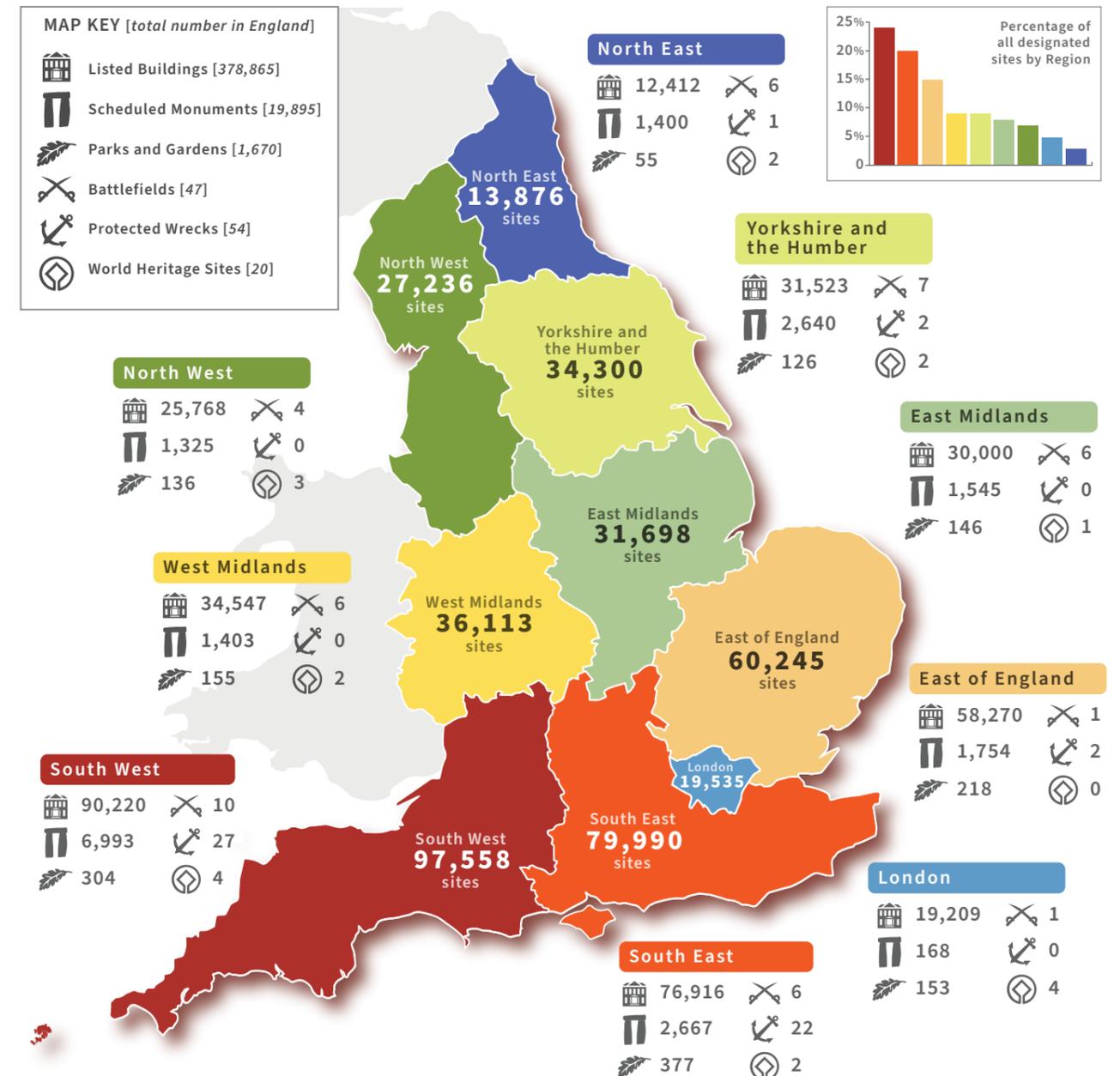


1. Discovery, identification and understanding

Our heritage assets

The **National Heritage List for England** (NHLE) provides the official record of nationally designated heritage assets. The total number of list entries has grown from 400,175 in 2019, to 400,551 as of 31 March 2020. Listed Buildings has experienced the greatest increase (+339), and the largest regional increase in this category has been in the East Midlands (+69).

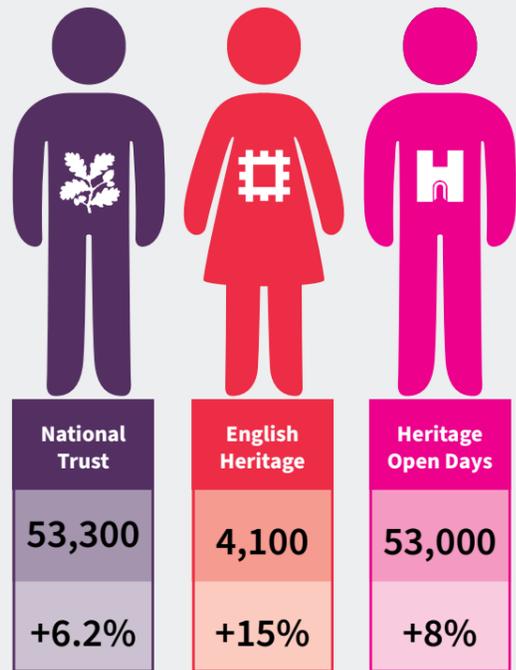
Numbers of designated heritage sites by region



Historic England. © Crown Copyright and database right 2019. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100024900. [Data: 31st March 2020]

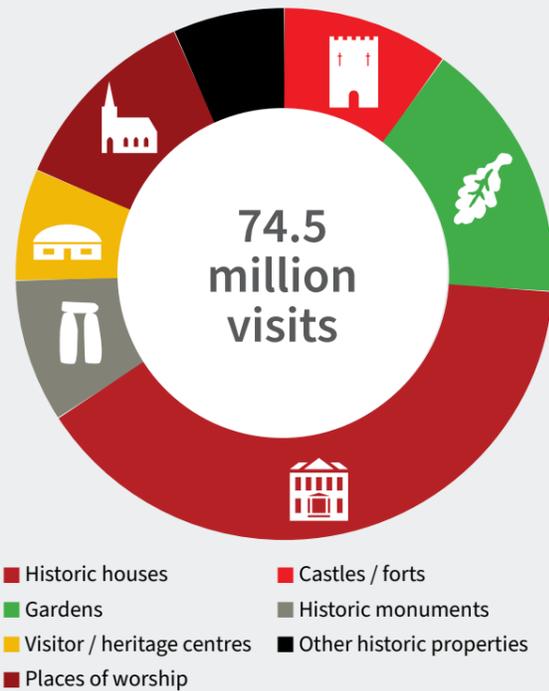
Key findings

Numbers of volunteers in heritage, 2019-20



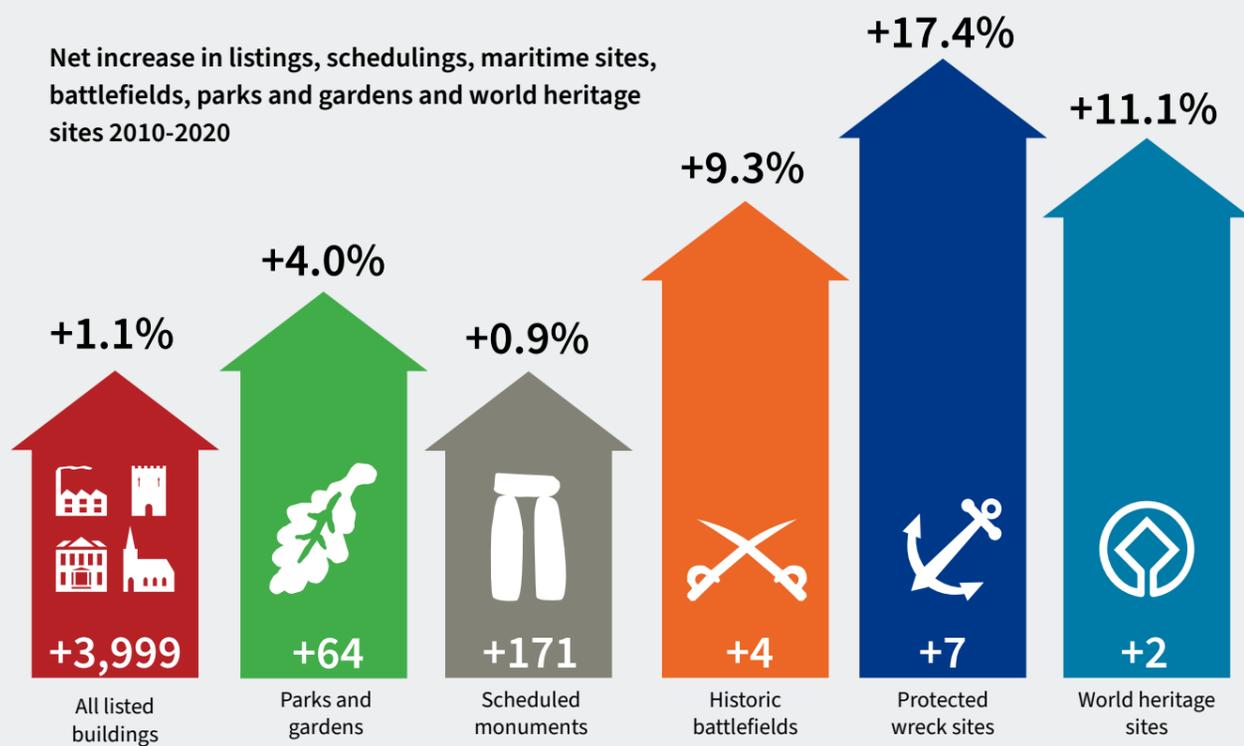
Source: Heritage Volunteering (p22)

Visits to historic properties, 2019



Source: BDRC Visitor Attractions Trends in England 2019

Net increase in listings, schedulings, maritime sites, battlefields, parks and gardens and world heritage sites 2010-2020

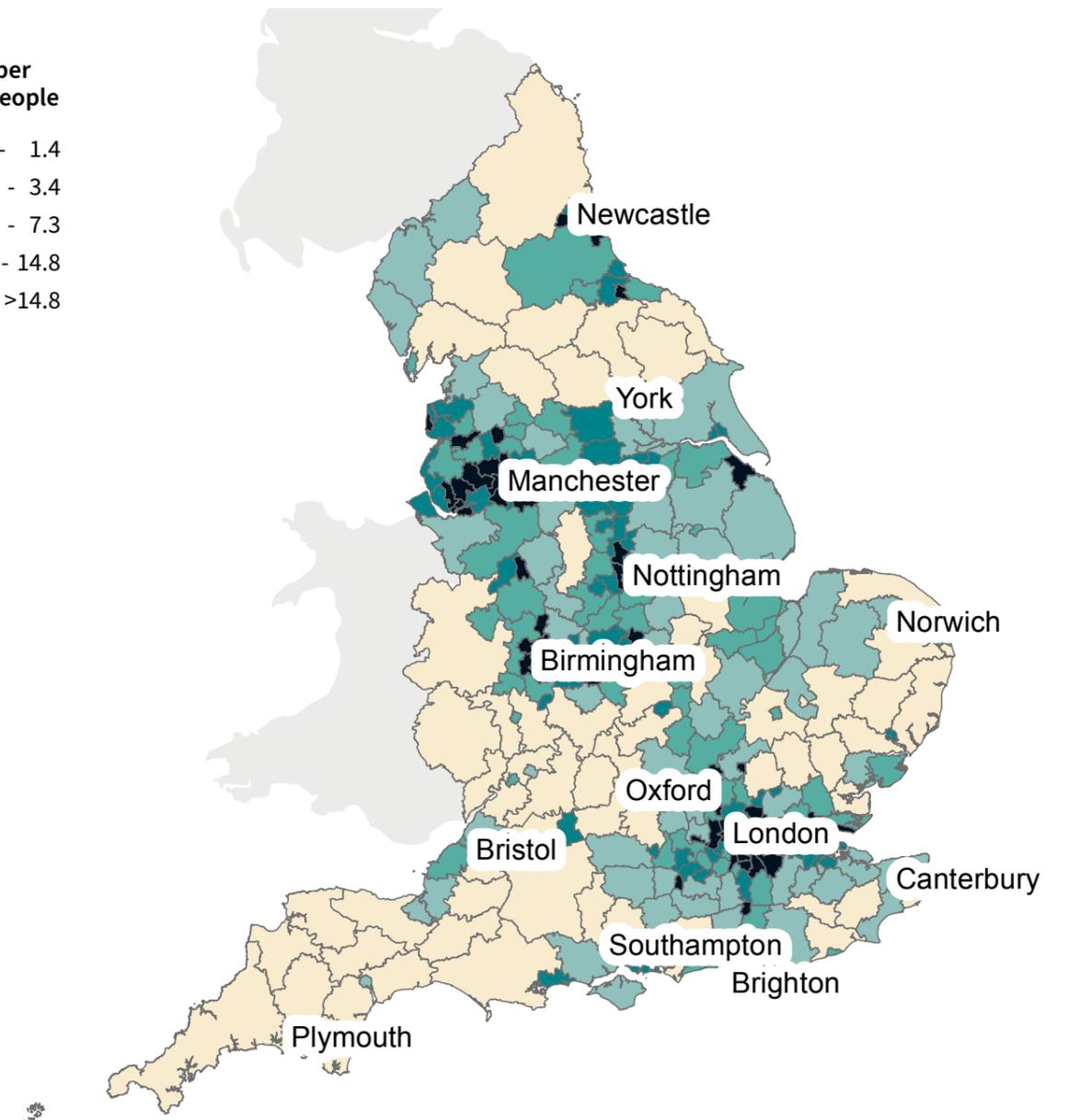


Source: Heritage Counts Indicators, 'Discovery, Identification & Understanding' (2020)

Number of listed buildings, scheduled monuments and registered parks and gardens per thousand people (quintiles).

Assets per 1,000 people

- 0 - 1.4
- 1.4 - 3.4
- 3.4 - 7.3
- 7.3 - 14.8
- >14.8



Distribution of Heritage Sites in England

- Listed buildings, scheduled monuments and registered parks and gardens are the most numerous categories of designated asset found in the National Heritage List for England.
- The map above shows English local authorities, shaded according to the number of listed buildings, scheduled monuments and registered parks and gardens per thousand of population (darker areas

have fewest assets per thousand people, and lighter areas have the most). Although the South West contains the most local authorities in the top quintile of heritage assets per thousand people, in England's other regions we find a more mixed picture, with built-up areas where there are comparatively few heritage sites per thousand people, and a patchwork of local authorities in the second, third and fourth quintiles.

Local lists

- In 2020, 58% 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% of local planning authorities had a local list, while in Yorkshire and the Humber only 16% did. The proportion of local authorities with local lists has remained relatively stable this year, with the largest increase being found in the South East where the number of authorities covered by a local list has grown from 36 to 41.
- The [local heritage list campaign](#) delivered by Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) will provide funding for local authorities to support the further development of these valuable local resources.

Historic areas and open spaces

- National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) are statutory designations which protect our countryside. There are currently 1,264,424 hectares of National Parks and 1,897,794 hectares of AONBs.
- The figures for 2020 indicate that there are also 364,004 hectares of ancient woodland which is land continuously wooded since AD 1600, and 164,310 hectares of heritage coast which are non-statutory landscape definitions of our most beautiful, undeveloped coastline.

Conservation areas

- [Conservation areas](#) exist to manage and protect the special architectural and historic interest of a place. There were approximately 9,902 conservation areas recorded in 2020, an increase from 9,195 in 2003. The greatest proportion of England's total conservation areas are located in London and the South East (32%), followed by the Midlands with 19%. The North West region has the fewest conservation areas (9%).

Historic Environment Records

- Historic Environment Records (HERs) provide access to resources relating to the historic environment of a particular locality. England's 83 HERs are maintained and managed by local authorities. 72% of HERs are available online through the [Heritage Gateway](#) where anyone can search several local and national datasets on the historic environment. In 2020, one new online HER was added, bringing the total to 70, 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. With the completion of Historic Landscape Characterisation for East Berkshire in March 2020, the County HLC programme is formally complete. Although there is no formal historic landscape characterisation in London, characterisation projects have been completed for individual boroughs.

At Bridge End Farm, Netherhouse, farmer Andrew Sutton and his sheep dog are pictured by the farm's newly restored field barn. © Historic England Archive

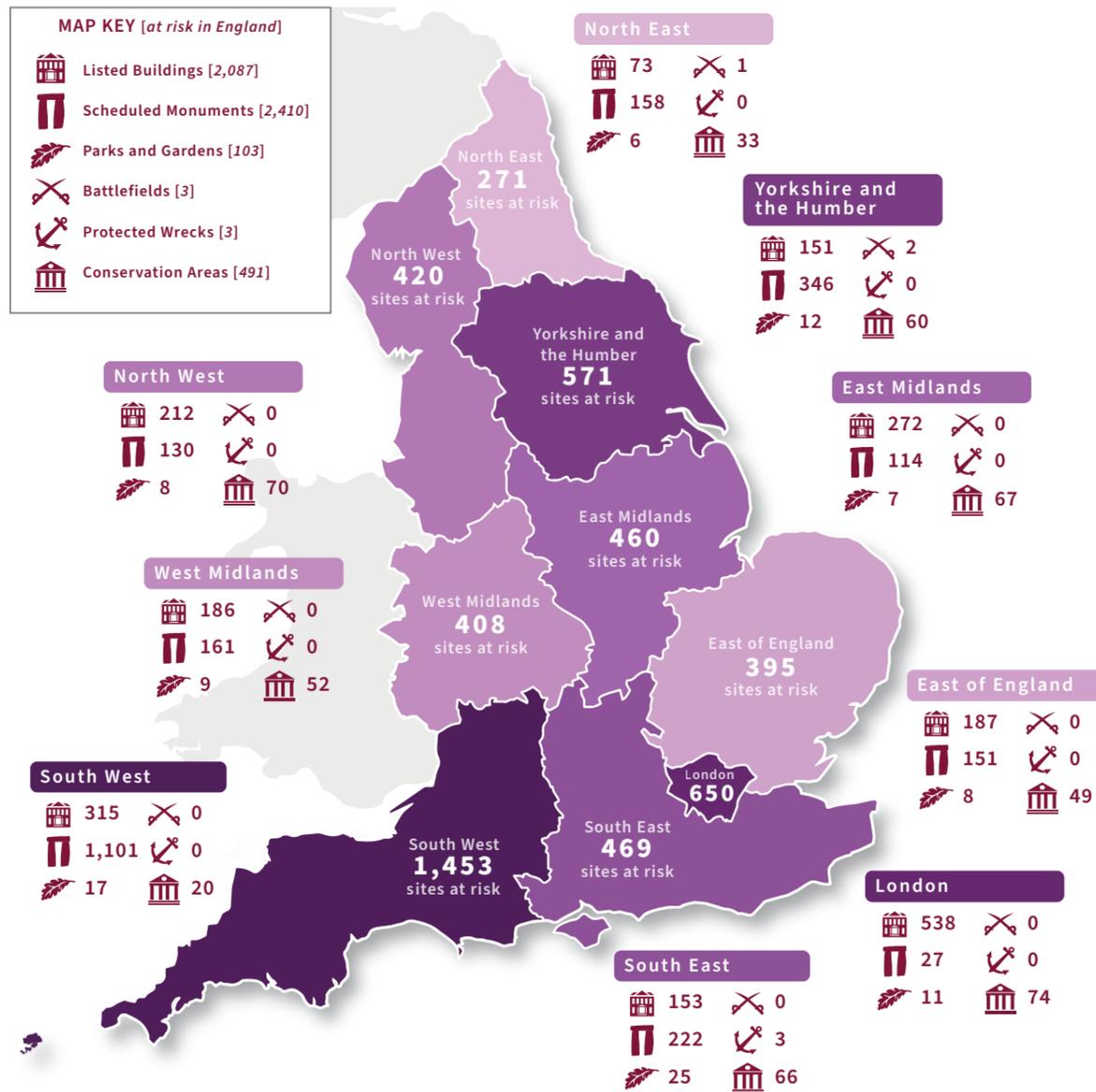


2. Constructive conservation and sustainable management

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.
- The number of entries present on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register continued to decline in 2020, dropping 5,097 from last year's total of 5,153.
- Most Grade I and II* listed buildings entries on the register are found in the Midlands (198 out of 766), representing 5.4% of all the Grade I and II* listed buildings at in the region. Historic England granted £1,722,377 to save 12 at risk assets in this region.

Numbers of heritage sites at risk by region, 2019-20



Historic England. © Crown Copyright and database right 2019. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100024900. [Data: 17th October 2020]

Members of the Brusselton Incline Group maintaining the incline which forms part of the historic Stockton and Darlington Railway. © Historic England Archive



Planning applications

- Planning statistics from the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) show that planning applications have been affected by COVID-19 and its economic consequences.
- Despite a slight recovery from the effects of the 2008 recession in 2015 and 2016, there was an 8% decrease in the number of planning decisions between 2016/17 and 2018/19, which saw the number of planning application decisions fall from 439,612 to 403,217.
- Between 2018/19 and 2019/20, the total number of planning application decisions fell to 369,606 – the lowest annual total recorded by Heritage Counts, and a decline of 33,611 (8.3%).
- On 23 March 2020, the Government announced a suite of public health restrictions in response to the developing COVID-19 pandemic. Because the reporting period for 2019/20 planning statistics ended in June, an impact of COVID-19 can be seen: the reported number of planning application decisions made in April-June 2020 (82,124) is 21,778 (20%) less than the same period in 2019 (Live Table P120).
- The marked reduction in the number of decisions in the April-June quarter exacerbated a pre-existing decline. When the period July-March 2018/19 is compared with the same period in 2019/20, a decline of 11,859 decisions (4%) is found.

Listed Building Consent applications

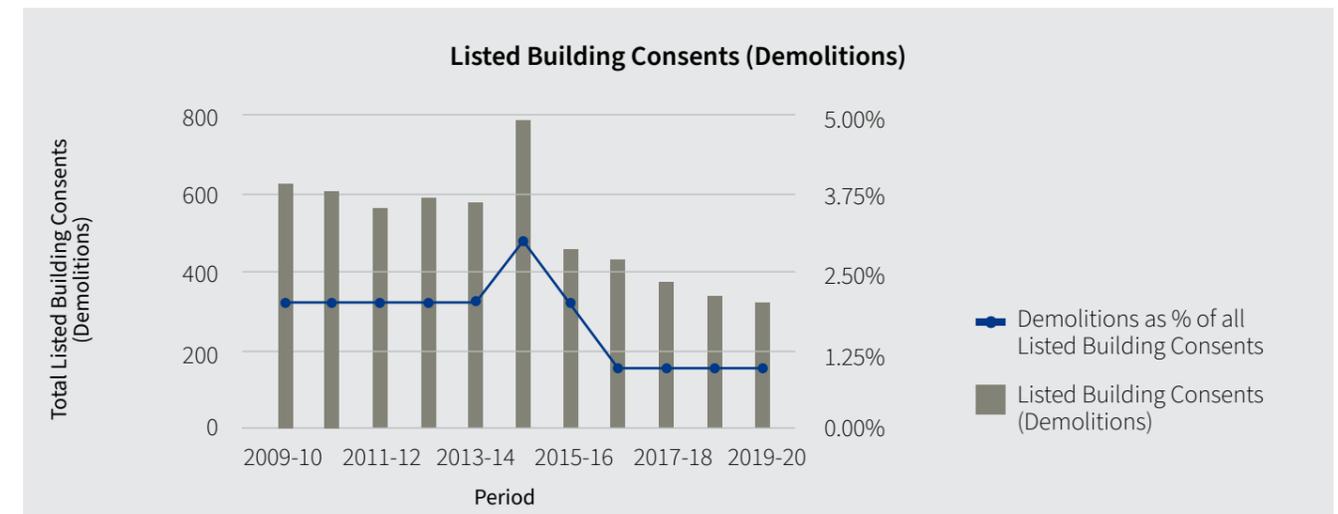
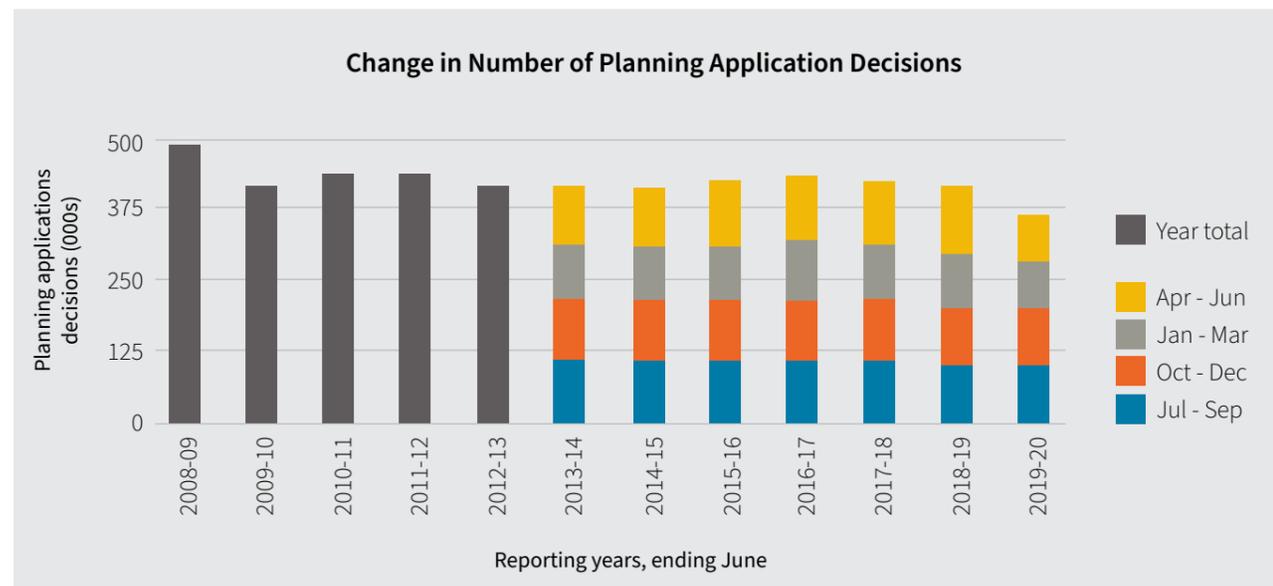
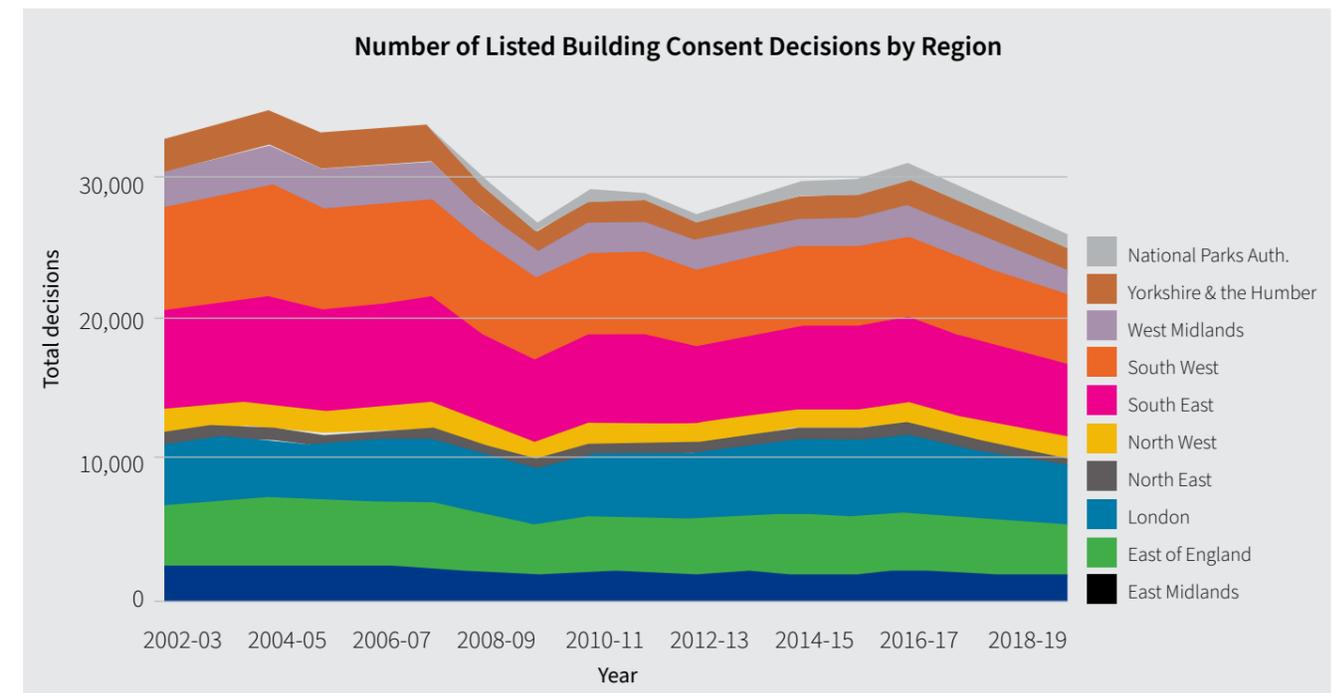
- The number of Listed Building Consent applications (LBCs) has continued to decline following the 2008 financial crisis. After a period of consistent growth between 2012/13 and 2016/17, in 2017/18 and 2018/19 a 6% annual decrease was recorded. This annual rate of decrease has slowed to 5% in 2019/20.
- The result is a proportionate increase in LBCs relative to all planning decisions. In 2019/20 LBCs accounted for 7.1% of all planning decisions, compared to 5.7% in 2007/08. This trend is problematic given the dramatic 31% decline in numbers of local authority historic environment (conservation and archaeological) staff in the same time period.
- In 2019/20, official demolitions made up 1.2% of national listed building consent decisions; a decrease of 3.8% on 2018/19 and of 47.8% against the total for 2009/10. Demolition decisions have declined in most regions between 2018/19 and 2019/20, with four regions experiencing an increase. The largest increase in the rate of demolitions decisions was in the East Midlands, where the number grew from 19 to 40, an increase of 110.5%.

Scheduled Monument Consent

- Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) is required for alterations to any scheduled monument. In 2019/20 there were 1,044 SMC decisions, an 11% decrease over 2018/19 and a 20% increase since 2002/03.
- SMCs in the South West region reduced by 21% between 2018/19 and 2019/20, and the region remains the only one to experience a reduction (26%) on its 2002/03 baseline figure.

Registered Parks and Garden planning applications

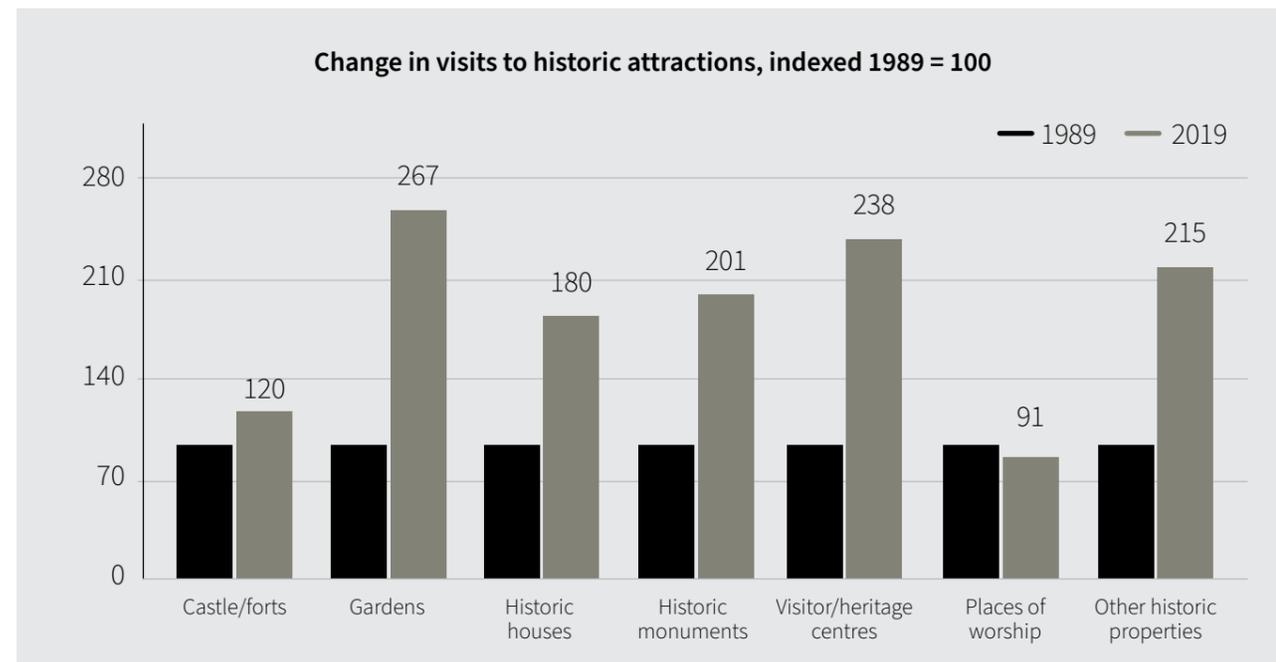
- All planning applications affecting registered parks and gardens must be sent to the Garden Trust. In 2019/20 there were 1,030 planning applications affecting registered parks and gardens, a 0.6% increase on the previous year and a 37% increase since 2003/04.
- The South East (22.5%, 232 applications) had the greatest proportion of planning applications affecting registered parks and gardens. In four out of nine regions, the number of planning applications affecting parks and gardens decreased between 2018/19 and 2019/20.



3. Public engagement

Heritage visitor trends

- Each year, VisitEngland conducts a survey of visitor attractions in England, including historic properties. In 2019, 674 historic properties responded to the survey and indicated that there were 74.5 million visits to historic properties that year. On average, visits to responding historic properties increased by 5% between 2018 and 2019.
- Full findings can be found in the [BDRC Visitor Attractions Trends in England 2018](#) report.
- The most popular types of historic attractions according to the VisitEngland survey are historic houses (40% of all heritage visits) and historic gardens (16% of all heritage visits). In the past year, places of worship experienced a 7% increase in visits, while visits to castles and forts neither increased nor decreased.
- Of all visitors to historic attractions, 23% are from overseas, 51% are from local/day trips and 26% are other UK visitors.



Visits to historic properties

- Visitor numbers to historic properties continued to grow or were successfully maintained in 2019/20, reflecting the health of the sector before the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In 2019/20, visits to National Trust sites totalled approximately 28m.
- Visits to Historic Houses member properties totalled 26.8m in 2019.
- Visits to English Heritage sites totalled over 6.2m in 2018/19.



Historic buildings can be highly versatile spaces. The Biscuit Factory in Newcastle upon Tyne, once a Victorian warehouse, now operates as an independent art, craft and design gallery. © Historic England Archive



DCMS Taking Part Survey

Taking Part is a national, face-to-face survey of over 8,000 UK citizens that records participation and engagement in heritage through visits to a monument such as a castle, fort or ruin; a historic park or garden open to the public; or a city or town with historic character.

The figures reported here describe people's activities in the period April 2019 to March 2020, before the effects of COVID-19 could be readily observed.

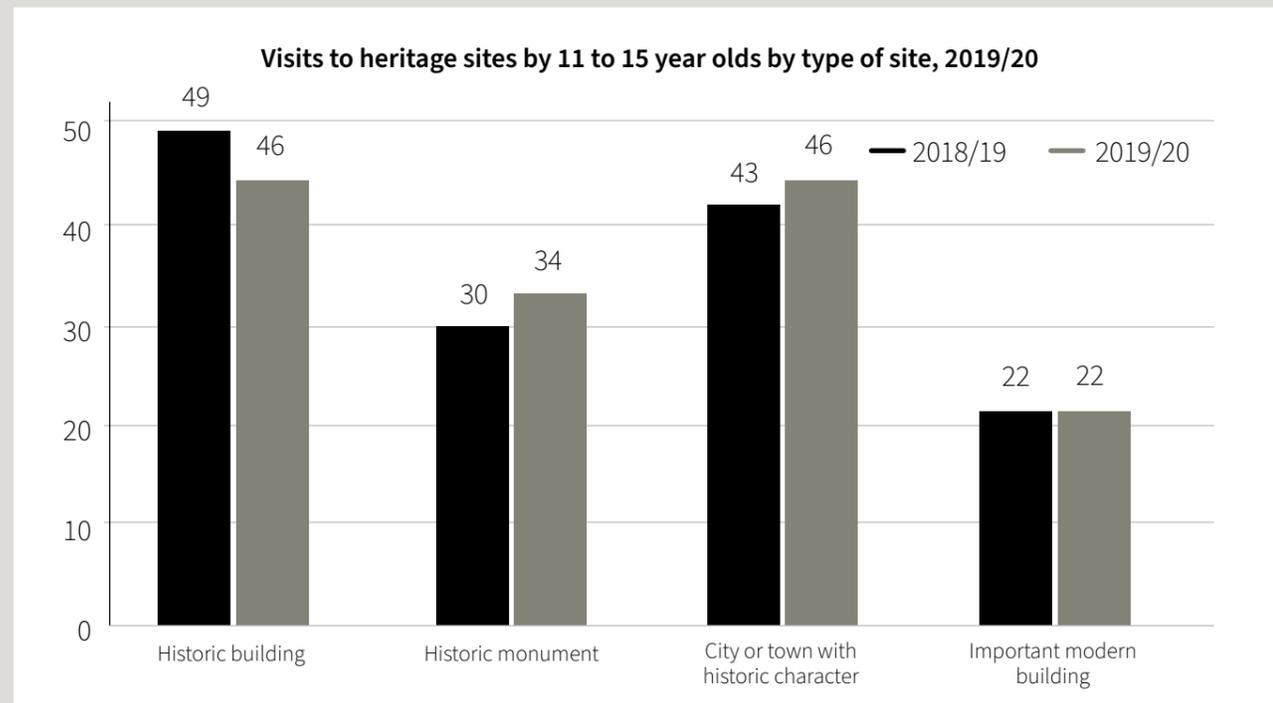
Engagement

- In 2019/20, 72.7% of adults reported having visited a heritage site in the last 12 months, similar to the rate of 72.4% surveyed in 2018/19. The most common reason given for visiting heritage sites was to spend time with friends and family (46.1%), closely followed by having a general interest in heritage or history (43.6%).
- A heritage participation gap persists, reflecting different patterns in several socio-demographic groups, although significant increases have been recorded for all adults, those in lower socioeconomic groups, ethnic minority groups and those with a limiting disability or illness, since the baseline of 2005/06.

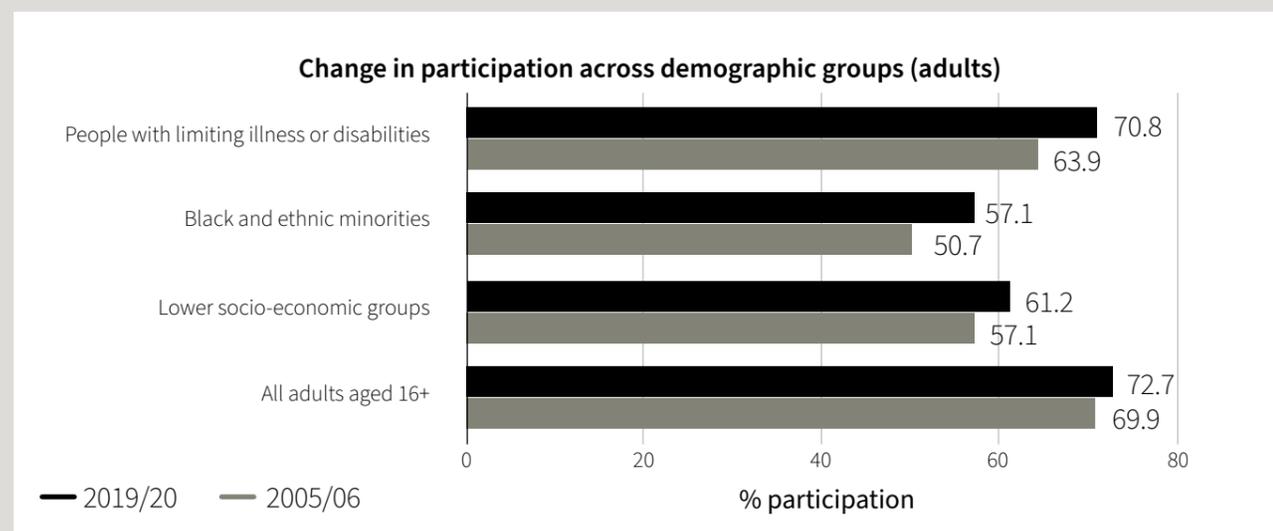
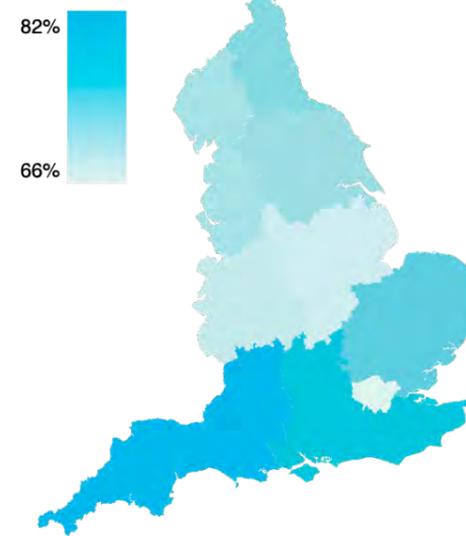
- The participation gap has narrowed between those with a long-term illness or disability and those without. In 2005/06, 63.9% of respondents with a limiting illness or disability participated in the historic environment; by 2019/20, this figure has risen to 70.8%.
- The participation gap between adults in different occupations persists at a similar rate to 2018/19; 84% of surveyed adults in higher managerial, administrative and professional occupations (like lawyers, architects and doctors) participated in heritage, while only 61.7% of those in routine and manual occupations (like cleaners, labourers and bus drivers) did.

Engagement among Children

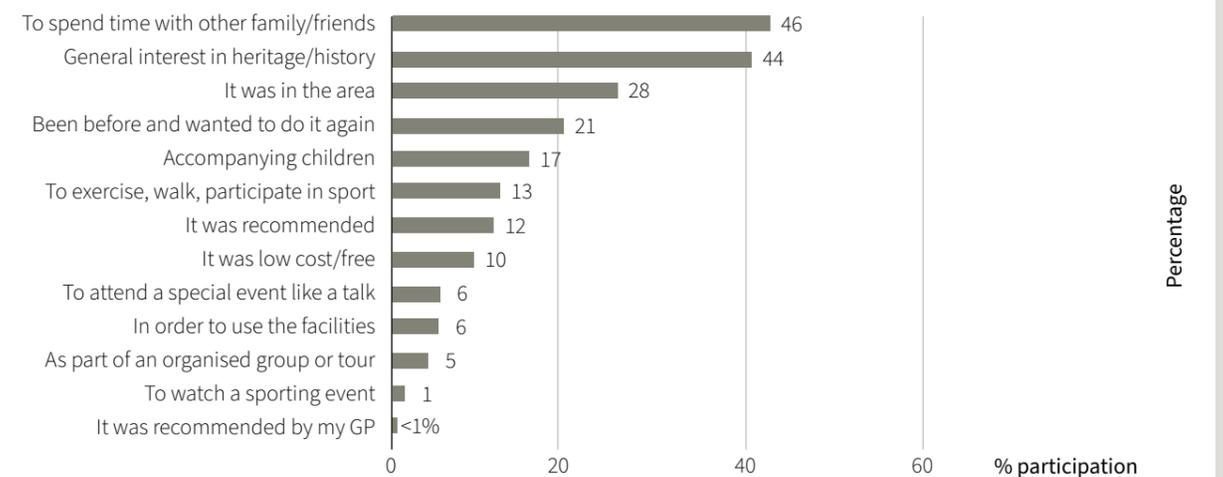
- 2019/20, 66% of surveyed 5 to 10 year olds had visited a heritage site in the last 12 months, a decrease from 2018/19 when 71% of this group had done so. Among 11 to 15 year olds, there has been no change in the rate of participation from 2018/19 to 2019/20, which has remained at 67%.
- Child respondents aged 11 to 15 who had visited a heritage site in the last 12 months were also asked about the types of site they had visited:
 - 46% had visited a historic building, garden or landscape open to the public
 - 34% had visited a historic monument or site of archaeological interest
 - 46% had visited a city or town with historic character
 - 22% had visited an important modern building or public space.



Percentage of respondents who visited a heritage site in the last 12 months by region, 2019/20



Reasons given for visiting a heritage site reported by respondents in the last 12 months, 2019/20





Tradesmen carry out a shopfront restoration as part of the Coventry High Street Heritage Action Zone project. 67 high streets across England will benefit from Historic England's £95 million programme of funding for restoration, development and cultural activities. © Historic England Archive

Heritage membership

- Membership of heritage organisations has grown considerably over the past 10 years.
- The National Trust currently has over 5.5 million members in England (an increase of 9% on 2019). Including Northern Ireland and Wales, this total increases to 5.9 million.
- Membership of the English Heritage Trust continues to grow. In 2020, there were 1,138,999 members (an increase of 5% since the previous year).
- Historic Houses membership increased to 56,536 in 2019/20.
- Membership of the Institute of Historic Building Conservation increased by 20.8% to 2,732 members in 2019-20.

Volunteering in heritage

- The National Trust reports that in 2019/20 the organisation had 53,315 volunteers.
- English Heritage volunteers have increased markedly from 650 in 2010/11 to 4,100 in 2019/20.
- In 2019, 53,000 people volunteered for Heritage Open Days – an increase of 4,000 over the previous year. Over 2,159 organisers were involved in 5,794 events which jointly attracted approximately 2.4 million visitors across the country, a 23% decrease on the previous year.

Education and the Historic Environment

- According to the VisitEngland survey, there were almost 1.25 million school visits to historic properties in 2019, which accelerates the decline observed in the previous year at 4%, while showing a 12% 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 325,167 free educational visits to their sites during 2019/20, which is a 20% decline since 2001/02.
- A third of Historic Houses places work with primary schools, and a fifth work with secondary schools, universities and colleges.
- There is evidence of increasing numbers of young adults engaging in heritage related qualifications.
- In 2019, 44% 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 7.2% in 2019.
- In 2019, 111,305 Higher Education students were enrolled in courses related to the historic environment in the UK, which equates to 4.8% of all students enrolled, 0.1% decrease on 2018.

4. Capacity building

Funding the Historic Environment National Lottery Heritage Fund

- In 2019 the Heritage Lottery Fund changed its name to become The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF). The NLHF is the largest source of public funding for the historic environment in the UK.
- Over its lifetime the NLHF has awarded over £6.6 billion to 37,086 projects (1994/95 to 2019/20). Approximately 33% of the funding was allocated to projects in areas with high levels of deprivation.
- In 2019/20, 845 heritage projects were granted over £159.3 million of NLHF funding, compared with £153.7 million in 2018/19. Over £54.4 million of funding was awarded to projects in the 25% most deprived local authorities.

Other public funding

- In 2019/20, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) spent £34.6m on Listed Places of Worship Grants. Other heritage-related funding from DCMS includes: National Heritage Memorial Fund (£6.3m) and Royal Parks Funding (£10.0m).
- DCMS are a key income source for the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT). Expenditure on conservation and church repair by the CCT was £5.2m in 2019/20.
- The Historic Royal Palaces launched a new strategic framework in 2019/20 that re-mapped its charitable expenditure. Under the new headings, £30.4m was spent on conservation in 2018/19, increasing to £31.5m in 2019/20.

Voluntary funding

- The National Trust is the largest single voluntary organisation managing historic properties and landscapes across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. During 2019/20, £308.1m or 44% of the National Trust's total expenditure was for property operating costs and a further £168.8m 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 2020, grants totalling £6,591,104 were taken up via the scheme, including 849 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 is able to be estimated.
- In 2020, there were 206,000 direct heritage jobs in England, an increase of 3.79% from the 2019 estimate of 198,000 jobs. If indirect and induced heritage employment is included then this figure rises to 564,000 heritage jobs in 2020, up from 464,000 jobs in 2019.

Local authority employment

- Updated local authority employment figures will be available in 2021. In 2018 there were 798 FTE jobs in the historic environment in local authorities. This included 265 Archaeology staff and 533 Conservation staff. The overall number of historic environment staff has increased by 2.2% since 2017 but represents a 34.8% decrease since 2006.



In a public submission to Historic England's 'Picturing Lockdown' collection, a member of the public sits at a sewing machine. The almost 3,000 public submissions to the collection represent a visual record of this extraordinary moment in our history. Source: Historic England Archive

Further education and training

- In 2018, there were 51,150 people enrolled on heritage-related construction courses*. This is a 7% increase on the previous year, and a 9% increase since 2012/13. The courses are for:
 - Bricklayers
 - Building envelope specialists
 - Floorers
 - Glaziers
 - Painters and decorators
 - Plasterers
 - Roofers
 - Specialist building operatives
 - Wood trades and interior fit-out

*The Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) Trainee Numbers Survey (TNS) from which this data was previously derived has now been discontinued. As a result the data reported for 2018 differs from that which has reported in previous Heritage Counts, and now includes the stats on all Further Education Courses for publically funded courses and apprenticeships in England, provided by the Skills Funding Agency, and is more representative of the full scope of activity. This will be kept under review to capture the most relevant and useful data and trends, particularly in light of the developments of new apprenticeships standards and T levels.

5. Helping things to happen

Building Preservation Trusts

- No new data was available in 2020. Building Preservation Trusts (BPTs) are important organisations in taking on heritage assets and delivering 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: <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/local-heritage/heritage-champions/>. In 2020 there were 202 Heritage Champions across England, covering 64% of local authorities.

Advice for homeowners

- Heritage 2020 commits the heritage sector to engaging more effectively with owners and suggesting how heritage can help meet their needs. Historic England has published a set of documents on the subject of improving energy efficiency for owners of listed buildings, forming part of a wider suite of good practice advice on adaptation for energy efficiency and the impact of carbon legislation on older buildings.
- The complete series is available to download from the Historic England website: <https://historicengland.org.uk/energyefficiency>

Advice

How to Improve Energy Efficiency

Energy Efficiency and Traditional Homes:
Historic England Advice Note 14

Energy Efficiency in Historic Buildings -
Solar Electric (Photovoltaics)

Energy Efficiency in Historic Buildings
Heat Pumps

Windows and doors

Draught-proofing windows and doors

Secondary glazing for windows

Walls

Insulating early cavity walls

Insulating solid walls

Insulating timber framed walls

Roofs

Insulating dormer windows

Insulating flat roofs

Insulating pitched roofs at ceiling
level - cold roofs

Insulating pitched roofs at rafter
level - warm roofs

Insulating thatched roofs

Open fires, chimneys and flues

Consent and regulations

Energy Efficiency and Historic
Buildings Application of Part L

Energy Performance Certificates

Floors

Insulating solid ground floors

Insulation of suspended timber floors

The National Parks Pilot Scheme for Field Barns is an £8 million project to bring life back to traditional agricultural buildings. At Highbury Farm, Chagford, shepherd Lewis Steer holds two new born lambs from his flock of native Dartmoor Longwool sheep. © Historic England Archive



Heritage Indicator Summary Tables

Discovery, identification and understanding

Indicator	Measurement	Value	Change
Designated heritage assets	Number of listed building entries	378,865	Increase of 3,999 since 2010
	Number of scheduled monuments	19,895	Increase of 171 since 2010
	Number of registered parks and gardens	1,670	Increase of 64 since 2010
	Number of protected historic wreck sites	54	Increase of 8 since 2010
	Number of registered battlefields	47	Increase of 4 since 2010
	Number of world heritage sites	20	Increase of 2 since 2010
Historic areas and open spaces	Number of conservation areas (2020)	9,902	Increase of 119 since 2011
	Area of land in England which is a national park	1,265,000 ha	Increase of 49,000 hectares since 2010
	Area of land which is an area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB)	1,927,000 ha	Increase of 30,000 hectares since 2010
	Extent of ancient woodland	364 ha	Increase of 13 hectares since 2010
Acquiring information	Number of online historic environment records	70	An increase of 13 since 2010
	Extent of historic landscape characterisation	99%	Increase of 27% since 2007

Constructive conservation and sustainable management

Indicator	Measurement	Value	Change
Historic environment at risk	Scheduled monuments on the Register	12% (2,410)	No change from 12% in 2019
	Listed places of worship on the Register	6.3% (932)	Increase of from 6.2% in 2019
	Grade I and II* secular buildings on the Register	3.4% (766)	Increase from 3.3% in 2019
	Conservation Areas on the Register	5.0% (491)	Decrease of 10 since 2018
	Grade II secular buildings on the Register (London only)	2.3% (389)	No change from 2.3% in 2019
	Registered parks and gardens on the Register	6.0% (103)	Decrease of 1 from 2019
	Protected wreck sites on the register	6% (3)	No change from 3 in 2019
	Registered Battlefields on the register	6% (3)	No change from 3 in 2019
	Managing positively	Number of Planning applications decided 2019/20	369,606
Number of applications for Listed Building Consent application decided 2019/20		26,400	Decrease of 19% since 2002/3
Number of scheduled monument consent decisions 2019/20		1,044	Increase by 20% since 2002/3
Number of planning applications affecting registered parks and gardens 2019/20		1,030	Increase of 37% since 2003/4
World heritage sites with management plans reviewed in last 5 years		15 out of 20	Decrease of 2 since 2019

Public engagement

Indicator	Measurement	Value	Change
Participation	Participation in the historic environment (2019/20)	72.7% 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
		57.1% BME groups	
		61.2% lower socioeconomic groups	
		70.8% limiting disability or illness	
		67.5% of all 11-15 year olds	
		66.3% of all 5-10 year olds	
	Number of members of historic environment organisations	National Trust: 5.9m	62% increase since 2009/10
English Heritage: 1,138,999		71% increase since 2007/08	
Historic Houses visiting members: 56,536		131% increase since 2007	
Visitor statistics	Number of visits to historic visitor attractions	74,500,000	Increase of 7% from 2018
Education and lifelong learning	Number of GCSE/A level history candidates (school year ending 2019)	265,575 GCSE candidates	Increase of 37% since school year ending 2002
		49,920 A level candidates	Increase of 35% since school year ending 2002
	Number of higher education students studying courses related to the historic environment (Academic Year ending 2017)	111,305	Increase of 7% since academic year ending 2003
	Number of school visits to historic sites	1,252,000	14% decrease since 2001

Capacity building

Indicator	Measurement	Value	Change
National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) grants	Number of projects funded	37,068 (1994/5-2019/20)	Increase of 845 in 2019/20
	Total value of projects	£6,641,052,314 (1994/5-2019/20)	
Environmental Stewardship Scheme	Total value of uptake of projects	£6,591,104	Increase of 2.7% since 2019
Capacity and resources	Numbers employed in the operation of historic sites and buildings (Business Register and Employment Survey)	Over 14,000	Increase of 31% since 2008.

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	202 local authorities with Heritage Champions,	Decrease from 254 in 2018

This document has been prepared as part of **Heritage Counts 2020**
by Historic England on behalf of the Historic Environment Forum.

December 2020 – Project Code: HE0026

Contact: Simon Wilson, Evidence and Evaluation Officer, Historic England
(simon.wilson@HistoricEngland.org.uk)

Front cover: Members of the public enjoying the green space around Salisbury Cathedral. During the Covid-19 pandemic, open spaces like this have provided valuable places for people to safely meet and relax in. © Historic England Archive



Historic England