

HERITAGE COUNTS

The State of the
EAST OF ENGLAND'S
Historic Environment

2006



Volunteers with steam
powered paper machine,
Frogmore Mill, The Paper Trail
Project, Hemel Hempstead

HERITAGE COUNTS 2006

EAST OF ENGLAND

Heritage Counts 2006 is the fifth annual survey of the state of the historic environment in the East of England. The report identifies the principal trends and challenges facing the historic environment, with a particular focus in 2006 on the role that *communities* play by valuing and engaging in the heritage of the region. This document is one of nine separate regional reports and has been prepared by English Heritage on behalf of the East of England Historic Environment Forum. It is supplemented by a set of indicators for the historic environment, which is available on the www.heritagecounts.org.uk website and should be read in conjunction with the text provided here. The national report *Heritage Counts* is also available online at www.heritagecounts.org.uk

The East of England is facing a period of rapid change. New communities are developing across the region, particularly in three growth areas. The East of England Historic Environment Forum is working with a wide range of partners to reach new audiences and improve community understanding and participation in heritage issues. This is particularly important in the areas that are most affected by growth. The whole of the sector is committed to involving more people who can benefit from the historic environment in different ways. This report includes examples of successful projects that are doing just that. All across the East of England communities and heritage organisations are actively involved in conserving and finding new uses for the historic buildings and landscapes that add so much to the quality of life in the region. I hope you enjoy finding out more about this work from *Heritage Counts 2006*.

GREG LUTON CHAIR OF THE EAST OF ENGLAND HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FORUM



John Webber, who is from Huntingdon in Cambridgeshire, has been an Images of England volunteer since the project started in 1999. He has taken more than 1,500 images for the project across the East of England, including the Church of All Saints, Huntingdon.

Images of England is a major heritage initiative run by the National Monuments Record (NMR), the public archive of English Heritage. The project aims to create a 'point in time' photographic record of every listed building in England. There will be over 300,000 images available when complete. Hundreds of volunteer photographers are currently participating in this huge photographic survey.

COVER STORY Apsley and Frogmore Mills were the birthplace of paper's industrial revolution. Now, this unique project contributes to the regeneration of Hemel Hempstead in Hertfordshire by attracting visitors and working closely with the education, training and business sectors. Commercial paper making continues at Frogmore Mill, specialising in recycled paper and developing sustainable production systems. A large group of volunteers support The Paper Trail, guiding visitors, restoring machinery and demonstrating papermaking.

THE REGIONAL CONTEXT

Growth Areas and Sustainable Communities

Three of the four main growth areas in England affect the region:

- Thames Gateway (which includes Thurrock, part of Basildon, the boroughs of Castle Point and Southend, and a small part of Rochford);
- London-Stansted-Cambridge-Peterborough;
- Milton Keynes-South Midlands (which includes Luton, Dunstable, Houghton Regis and Bedford).

Nearly 500,000 new houses are planned by 2021. Managing change to the historic environment is part of the wider issue of developing new and existing communities in the region.

Draft East of England Plan Examination in Public

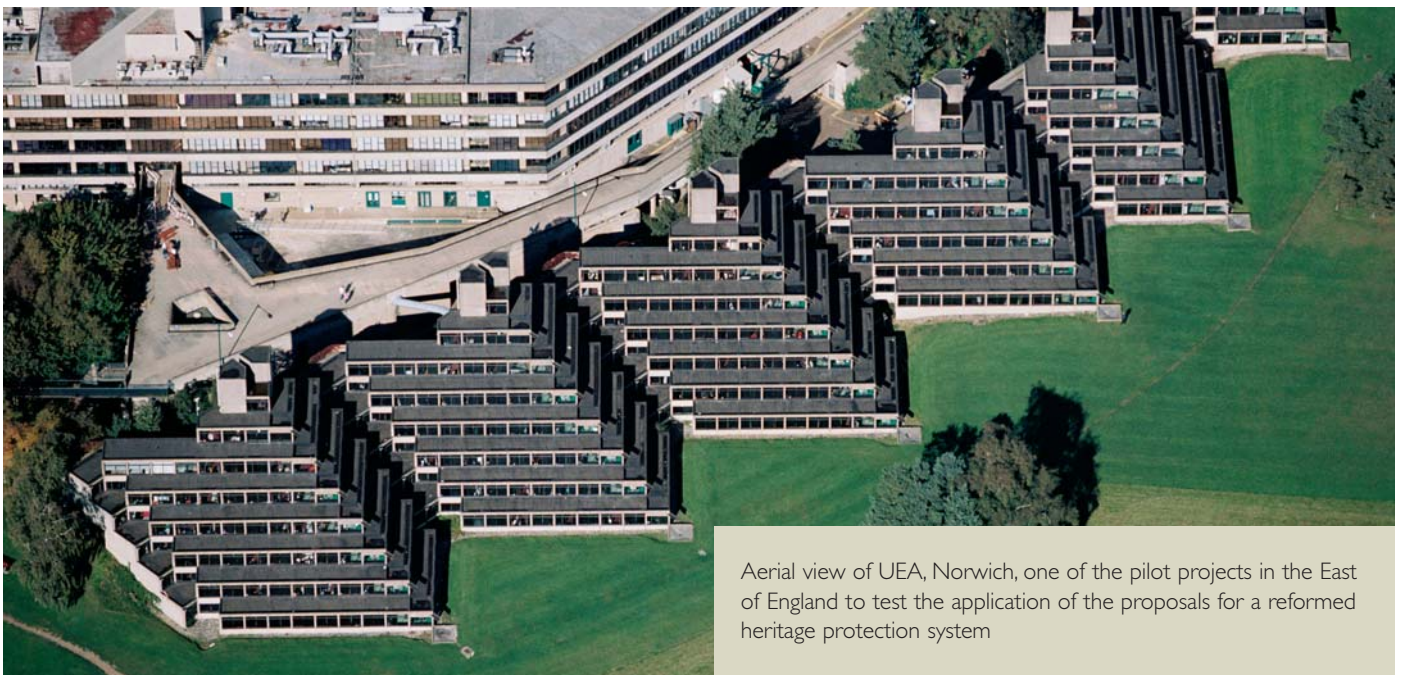
The draft East of England Plan Examination in Public was published in June 2006. The Panel considered that reconciling the agendas of growth and the environment and climate change was a key issue for the region. The Panel believed that it was important to show how the Regional Spatial Strategy is making a contribution to sustainable development. It recognised that this would require marked change in habits and attitudes to water use, energy consumption and waste. For further information, please see www.eera.gov.uk/category.asp?cat=447

KEY REGIONAL FACTS

- Population of 5.4 million in 2001, which had increased by 11% over the previous two decades. The East of England is one of the fastest growing of the English regions and the population is expected to increase by 9% (an additional 493,000 people) by 2021.
- In 2003, 6.2% of the region's population belonged to black and minority ethnic communities.
- The region's economy is strong and growing. After London and the South East, it had the third highest Gross Value Added (GVA) per head in the UK in 2004.
- Pockets of severe deprivation exist, especially in urban areas and isolated rural and coastal areas (for example Bedford, Luton and Great Yarmouth).
- The second largest of the nine English regions (after the South-West), with an area of 19,110 km, 15% of England's total.
- Four fifths of the land area is rural and home to 44% of the region's population.
- A fifth of England's market towns are in the East of England.

Heritage Protection Review

The Government is currently preparing its White Paper on Heritage Protection reform. The proposed system includes proposals for a unified Register of Historic Sites and Buildings for England, a unified consents regime, the introduction of statutory management agreements, and new statutory requirements relating to Historic Environment Records. English Heritage in the East of England has undertaken pilot studies to test the proposed changes at Holkham Estate, Norfolk, and the University of East Anglia, Norwich.



Aerial view of UEA, Norwich, one of the pilot projects in the East of England to test the application of the proposals for a reformed heritage protection system

DEFINING COMMUNITIES

Historically, the East of England has been the focus for developing new communities as people moved out of London looking for a better quality of life. The foundation of Letchworth Garden City in the early 20th century was part of this movement. It was the first Garden City in the world and was designed to create an alternative to the poverty and slum conditions that were prevalent at the time. Stevenage and Harlow New Towns were developed in the aftermath of the Second World War to provide new communities for people from London.

Now three growth areas are in development that will affect the East of England: Thames Gateway, London-Stansted-Cambridge-Peterborough, and Milton Keynes-South Midlands. There is a strong focus on ensuring that these new communities will be sustainable by making effective use of natural resources, protecting the environment, promoting social cohesion and strengthening the economy. The historic environment can help to create an immediate sense of pride in an area, a shared sense of belonging, and assist people to identify with the place they live and with their neighbours.



CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF STEVENAGE NEW TOWN

In 1946 Stevenage was declared the site for the first post-war new town. Sixty years on the memories need

to be captured before they are lost. In December 2005, Stevenage Museum was awarded £50,000 by the Heritage Lottery Fund. This has enabled the Museum to redesign the new town gallery to provide exciting, up-to-date displays. Visitors can watch film footage, listen to the voices of local people telling their stories, step into a 1950s new town kitchen and explore the recent past using hands on, family-friendly activities. The Museum is transcribing and editing oral histories, storing them digitally and making them available to all visitors using an interactive database in the gallery. Museum staff are visiting community groups and working with local primary and secondary schools to talk to older residents and capture their memories of the early years of the new town. This project contributes to town-wide celebrations of the sixtieth anniversary of Stevenage new town.



ORSETT AGRICULTURAL SHOW: PROMOTING THURROCK'S RURAL HERITAGE

Thurrock is situated in South Essex and within the Thames Gateway area. It is often perceived as an industrial and residential district, including areas of deprivation. In fact, in spatial terms Thurrock comprises 60% agricultural land and 40% industry and housing. In 2006, the agricultural community celebrated the 100th Orsett Agricultural Show, which was founded to encourage the skills of ploughing and animal husbandry and to celebrate the hard work of the agricultural labour force. The show was an excellent opportunity to promote the rich variety of local heritage to both older and new communities of the Thames Gateway in the Thurrock area.

The Thurrock Museum Service co-ordinated an approach to all local heritage groups, working in partnership with the Community Volunteer Service and Heritage Development Officer, Thames Gateway South Essex. Fifteen community groups signed up to work together at the Orsett Agricultural Show, including family history, archaeology, local history, industrial history, fire service, military heritage and community heritage groups. They gave presentations about their group's activities and, where possible, live demonstrations. There is no doubt that the groups achieved a greater impact on the public by working together, both in terms of entertainment, learning and access to local heritage. The Heritage Development Officer develops community heritage projects in the Thames Gateway South Essex area on behalf of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council East of England.

WHAT COMMUNITIES VALUE

In recent years the historic environment sector has been engaged in a keen debate about how we identify what people value. This is challenging us to think about how we interact with different communities and how we justify the decisions we make about allocating limited resources. Organisations working with those communities need to engage in an ongoing conversation with them in order to work effectively. Although there is still no agreed definition of what public value means in the context of the historic environment, the debate is challenging each part of the sector to think hard about its values and its relationship with the public it serves, encouraging them to operate in a more transparent way.

In many communities, key public and community buildings are seen to play a role in helping those communities to identify themselves. Some of those buildings are at risk. As their original function falls redundant, their survival depends on finding a viable alternative use. Complementary to this, the sector has a responsibility to nurture and increase public interest in heritage. We have seen popular support for heritage through the 2006 national campaign *History Matters: Pass it on!* This unprecedented, sector-wide campaign was designed to celebrate and promote the importance of history.

THE CROWN INN, BROUGHTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE: A HISTORIC PUB SAVED BY VILLAGERS

Throughout the region, small communities have shown how much they value their village pub by joining together to save it. Campaigns, consortiums and companies have been formed to keep pubs open, rather than being converted to other uses. Village pubs are often historic buildings that have long played a vital role in rural social and economic life. Some pubs are developing other roles beyond their traditional functions. In Cambridgeshire, village pubs provide some of the computer access points in the Huntingdonshire e-Learning Points and East Cambs On-Line projects.

The Crown, Broughton is a Grade II listed early 19th century village pub. The pub was closed in 2000 and put up for sale. Around 40 village residents raised the money to buy and renovate the building and formed a company that still owns and leases the pub. The Crown re-opened in March 2001 and continues to be a thriving business.



Church warden Colin Smith outside Lackford Church

LACKFORD CHURCH, SUFFOLK: A LOCAL COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER TO SAVE ITS VILLAGE CHURCH

Lackford Church was forced to close in 2002 for safety reasons due to severe roof damage. However, the Parochial Church Council, with the support of the parish council and the village community council, undertook a fundraising campaign to find the £181,000 needed for the repair work to the Grade II* listed medieval church. There was strong support for the fundraising in the village, because local people valued the church as a beautiful building and a focal point of village life. When the church closed, there was nowhere in the village for people to meet.

Villagers managed to raise £12,000, with most of the remaining funding coming from the Repair Grants for Places of Worship in England scheme, a partnership programme between English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). The church also received grants from Viridor, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Historic Churches Trust and several charitable trusts. The first service in the re-opened church took place in October 2005 and fundraising is underway to convert part of the nave into a community room. This project demonstrated the important role that English Heritage and the HLF have in ensuring that historic places of worship at risk can remain in use by their communities.



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Participation in the historic environment can be deemed as one of the principle ways people express interest and place value on heritage. The government has set a Public Service Agreement (PSA) target to increase participation in heritage by people from under-represented groups. This means increasing the number of people from black and minority ethnic groups, from lower socio-economic groups and from those with a limiting disability, who attend designated historic environment sites, by 3 percentage points by 2008.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has commissioned Taking Part, a major national survey to measure public participation in all forms of cultural activity, including attending heritage sites. Some initial results from the survey's first year are explored here. The baseline target, against which progress will be judged, will be established in late 2006, after a first full year of results are available. The challenge remains for the sector to widen participation for the key groups identified as priorities by the Government.

Most agencies operating in the sector undertake specific projects to increase participation in heritage by various groups in the community and to meet their diverse needs. Through projects and events such as *Heritage Open Days*, the sector-wide *History Matters* campaign, *National Archaeology Week* and television programmes like the BBC's *Restoration*, the sector is reaching out and broadening participation in the nation's heritage. Heritage Open Days (HODs) are England's largest voluntary cultural event, offering free access to properties that are often closed to the public or charge admission. The event takes place on four days every September and is co-ordinated nationally by the Civic Trust in partnership with English Heritage outreach officers. English Heritage has been involved with HODs since 2004 and has worked to engage new organisers and audiences. It works closely with the new organisers to help improve the interpretation, activities and marketing of their properties. In 2005, there were 435 properties/events participating across the East of England.



Bhangra dancing in the grounds of Thetford Priory, Norfolk, during Heritage Open Days

THE TAKING PART SURVEY

Heritage Counts 2006 is the first edition to be able to report on initial findings from this new DCMS continuous annual survey, designed to measure participation in cultural and sporting activities. Most of the data available is on a national basis and is reported fully in the national *Heritage Counts 2006* report, alongside any caveats on how the data should be interpreted. Some of the key findings are:

- Based on the first three quarters of the Taking Part survey, **the participation rate in the East of England is one of the highest of the English regions with around 72% of adults attending at least one historic environment site during the last 12 months.** Statistically, this is significantly higher than the national average participation rate of around 69%. The higher participation rate in the East of England could be explained at least in part by population characteristics such as a greater proportion of adults from higher socio-economic groups living in the generally more affluent parts of the region such as Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire.
- Nationally, participation by priority groups is significantly lower: 48% of adults from black and minority ethnic backgrounds, 58% of adults with a limiting disability, and 56% of adults from lower socio-economic groups.
- Historic towns or cities are the most frequently visited sites nationally (51%), followed by visits to a historic park, garden or landscape (38%) and visits to monuments such as castles (36%) and historic buildings (36%).
- National data on why people do and do not attend historic environment sites reveals that the overwhelming reason for attending a site (53%) was for personal enjoyment/relaxation.
- For those who do not attend historic environment sites at all, the main reason for this (30%) was that they were not really interested, followed by those who said it was hard to find the time (29%), and those who said their health was not good enough (15%). These reasons will be challenging for the sector to address directly.



LEISTON ABBEY YOUNG ROOTS, SUFFOLK: WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

Young people from Can You Do Something (CYDS), a Leiston based youth group working in an isolated part of East Suffolk, undertook a dig at Leiston Abbey in partnership with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service. Finds included two skeletons, up to 700 years old. Fieldwork was conducted for five weeks during the school Easter and summer holidays. At the end of each period of fieldwork, there was a Saturday open day, attended by over 100 visitors on each occasion. Young people talked to the public about what they had found in the open trenches and showed their finds. Refreshments were provided and there were guided tours of the abbey by the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History. The project culminated in a live drama event run by Red Rose Chain at the abbey during a December evening. Access and assistance was granted by English Heritage and by Pro Corda music school, who are the present occupiers of the abbey. The excavation was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund's Young Roots programme.



A group of local people participating in one of the craft activities from the Challenging Perceptions project at Norwich Cathedral

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: THE CHALLENGING PERCEPTIONS PROJECT

Norwich Cathedral's innovative community outreach project has been sharing the resources of the cathedral with the wider community to promote citizenship and community cohesion. Drama, art, photography, exhibitions and creative activities, all inspired by the building and its history, have been undertaken giving local people new opportunities for personal development and the chance to celebrate their heritage. Over the three years of the project, which was supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Cathedral worked with over 11,000 people and 122 organisations, including opportunities for work placements and volunteering. Through the project, the Cathedral's reputation as a place of welcome at the heart of the community has been established. It has demonstrated its commitment to all aspects of family and community learning, and many old barriers to participation have been broken down.



Rosetta, one of the volunteers who were interviewed as part of the ICE project

THE IPSWICH CARIBBEAN EXPERIENCE (ICE) PROJECT: LEARNING FROM THE PAST TO BUILD FOR THE FUTURE

The experiences of the first generation of people to emigrate from the Caribbean to Ipswich are being discovered through this oral history project. Memories have been gathered by volunteers and stored digitally. Members of the local community took part in video production training and interviewed and filmed people's stories. Data gained through this project will also be stored at the Suffolk Records Office and an educational resource for teachers is being created. An exhibition has toured libraries to share these remarkable first-hand stories of migration with everyone. The ICE project received support from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



One of the young people from the Past Skills for Future Generations outreach project, working at a nursery participating in the programme

LUTON HOO, BEDFORDSHIRE: PAST SKILLS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS PROJECT

A small group of young people receiving alternative education provision, under the care of Luton Borough Council, are working with the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV), local historians and horticulturalists to develop skills in conservation, horticulture and heritage crafts. The young people are learning new skills in horticulture at Luton Hoo, a Victorian walled garden nursery. They wish to continue such activities within other historic locations and are eager to gain ownership of the project development. BTCV are the main training provider and offer horticultural and heritage craft based skills at various locations of historic interest across Bedfordshire. The training programme is tailored to each of the young people's needs and they can potentially gain accreditation in practical conservation, heritage craft skills and horticulture. This is a six-month pilot project that is intended to link in with the Government's healthy living agenda. It has been developed in partnership with English Heritage's East of England outreach programme.

The historic environment sector can be justifiably proud that more than 7 out of 10 adults in the East of England attended at least one designated historic site in 2005/06. However, there are other forms of engagement by communities in the historic environment that go well beyond simply attending a site. The sector depends heavily on the contribution made by volunteers in safeguarding, maintaining, stewarding and interpreting historic sites and collections; indeed the sector would struggle to survive without them. The National Trust alone has 4,200 volunteers in the East of England.

A key concern for the sector is how to build the capacity of the voluntary sector to engage effectively with public agencies on behalf of different communities. Another key concern is the capacity of those agencies to respond to the needs of these communities. This is particularly important for local authorities, which are expected to play a growing role in relation to the historic environment. There are some interesting new initiatives in relation to local government, including identifying and supporting historic environment champions in each authority. As of 31st July 2006, there were 27 champions in the East of England, representing 50% of the local authorities in the region.



Cllr Hilary Nelson, the Historic Environment Champion for North Norfolk District Council

THE CROMER TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE INITIATIVE AND SEAFRONT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME

The Cromer Townscape Heritage Initiative and Seafront Enhancement Programme have made a significant contribution to Cromer's future as a modern seaside resort, while at the same time protecting and enhancing the town's heritage. North Norfolk District Council's Historic Environment Champion, Councillor Hilary Nelson, has chaired the Seafront Steering Group. This group included representatives from the community and several public bodies and has overseen a programme of works including refurbishment and improvements to the historic pier, promenade and esplanade, as well as incorporating exciting public art schemes celebrating the town's proud lifeboat history. The works have complemented the Victorian and Edwardian character of the seafront area, and form part of the wider regeneration project underway in the town. The programme was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, North Norfolk District Council and the European Union.

COMMUNITY REGENERATION AND PROSPERITY

The historic environment can play a significant role in helping to regenerate communities. A great deal of funding related to the historic environment has had this very goal in mind. In many areas, successful regeneration often requires finding viable economic uses for heritage assets whose original use has become redundant. However, there is also a need to develop a rigorous methodology to demonstrate the economic impact of the historic environment in regeneration projects.

The future of any community is determined to a large degree by the prosperity of the local economy. Without jobs and incomes a community will not be able to sustain itself. In recent years the historic environment sector has been developing the argument that putting more resources into heritage can play a role in enhancing the prosperity of communities. This can have a direct impact on the tourist economy or can help indirectly because it enhances the image and quality of life of a place, which in turn may help attract and retain economic activity. The distinctiveness of a place can be important in attracting skills and investment.

THE REGENERATION OF OLD HARWICH, ESSEX: A NEW FUTURE FOR A UNIQUE PLACE

Once a busy, prosperous town, Old Harwich has declined as port activities have moved further up the River Stour to new facilities. The area is also currently under development pressure as part of the Haven Gateway area of new growth. Recently approved proposals to expand the existing port in Bathside Bay will create the second largest container port in the United Kingdom. However, Old Harwich has a rich nautical history, a strong identity and a wide range of high quality historic buildings and archaeology. These heritage assets are being used to inform plans to regenerate Old Harwich by improving the economy, the quality of life and the environment.

A masterplan (<http://www.harwichmasterplan.co.uk>) provides a strategy for regeneration. It includes an analysis of Old Harwich's current attributes and outlines proposals to develop industrial, commercial and residential areas. Leisure and recreational opportunities could be enhanced by developing a marina and the existing beach and foreshore areas. Improvements to public spaces and the public realm are also suggested. The masterplan has been influenced by public consultation in the form of an exhibition, a meeting and contact with various groups.

The proposed changes aim to fit with the grain, scale and character of Old Harwich and to maximise its potential. For example, its rich architectural, industrial and maritime heritage and its proximity to a passenger port mean it could attract many more tourists. The masterplan was developed by the Haven Gateway Partnership's Harwich Regeneration Group, which comprises Tendring District Council, the East of England Development Agency, Trinity House and various local organisations based in the town.



A medieval re-enactment at Bedford Castle

CASTLE LANE DEVELOPMENT, BEDFORD: ARCHAEOLOGY AND REGENERATION

As part of plans to revitalise the town centre, Bedford Borough Council are developing a new cultural quarter using land they own at Castle Lane, formerly a car park. The area has a rich historic context in terms of archaeology, buildings and street patterns. It also contains two scheduled monuments, Bedford Museum and the Cecil Higgins Art Gallery. The local authorities, developers and archaeologists are working together to ensure that the area's heritage is used as an asset and that the archaeology and conservation are recognised as prominent features of the scheme; this approach is guiding the location and design of the development.

Archaeological information from previous excavations, ground probing radar surveys and the Bedford Extensive Urban Survey have been used at the planning stage to assess where remains are, their significance and the impact of development proposals. The cultural quarter project, including an open air archaeological park displaying the ruins of the Castle's inner bailey, will receive £2.8 million in Growth Area Funding from the Department for Communities and Local Government.



MARCH TOWN HALL, CAMBRIDGESHIRE: THE TRANSFORMATION OF A CIVIC BUILDING THROUGH VOLUNTARY ACTION

March Town Hall is a landmark building at the heart of this Fenland town. It faces a square that has been used as a market place from 1670 to the present day. The present Grade II listed building was built in 1900 as a Corn Exchange. In March 2000, March Civic Trust were able to buy the building, which had fallen into disuse, thanks to a generous private donation. Work began in May 2004; the building now houses refurbished offices, a new community performance space and a conference suite. The Town Hall is used by March Town Council, Fenland Arts Association and a range of voluntary sector groups and has its own arts programme. On the ground floor original shop front openings in the principal façade have been reinstated and facilities include a café and a tourist information access point. The Town Hall, once run down and redundant, has become a vibrant economic, social and cultural hub for March. This transformation was achieved mainly through the efforts of a voluntary group, the March Civic Trust. The Trust secured funding from a range of sources including the Heritage Lottery Fund, European Union Objective 2 and East of England Development Agency to give the Town Hall a viable future as a community facility.



CHILTERN'S GATEWAY CENTRE, DUNSTABLE DOWNS: A NEW GATEWAY TO THE CHILTERN'S

A £2.3 million project to create new visitor facilities at Dunstable Downs in South Bedfordshire is nearing completion. The new centre is part of the Chilterns Gateway Project, a far-reaching countryside access and landscape management programme for the Dunstable Downs. This will see the creation of new walking, cycling and riding routes, new areas for outdoor enjoyment, new indoor catering and shop facilities, opportunities for learning and better access opportunities for all.

The new Chilterns Gateway Centre, managed by the National Trust, is situated on top of the Downs and includes a 50m long expanse of glass, giving excellent panoramic views of the Vale of Aylesbury that can be enjoyed in comfort throughout the year. Inside, the new centre offers visitors a range of quality facilities to make their stay more enjoyable and informative. These include a café, shop, educational zones, viewing areas, interpretative displays and changing exhibitions about the countryside, wildlife, history and archaeology of the Dunstable Downs and Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The project is being managed through a partnership between Bedfordshire County Council and the National Trust.



HERTFORD FARMERS' MARKET: HELPING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN A MARKET TOWN

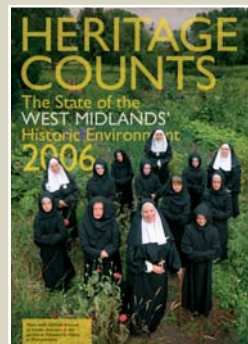
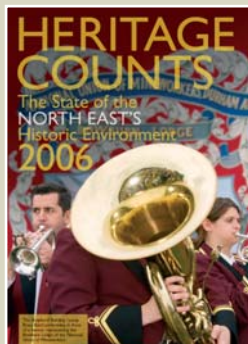
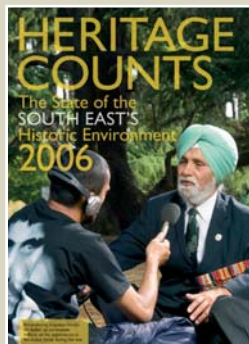
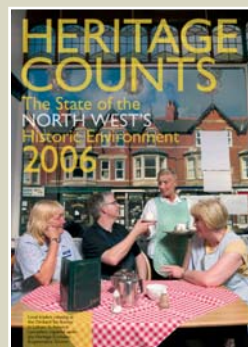
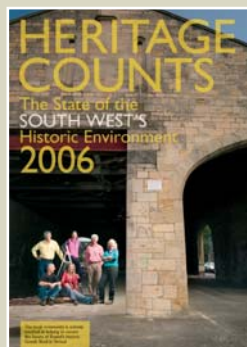
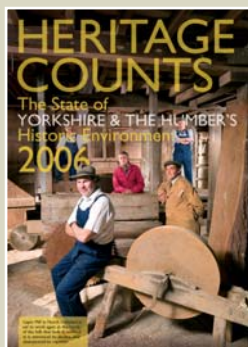
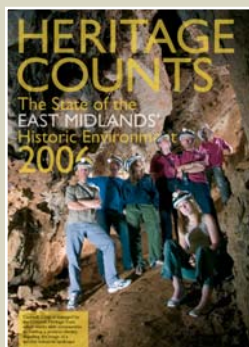
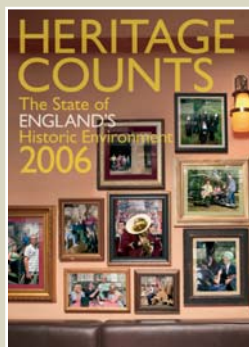
The rapid growth of farmers' markets over the past decade has given consumers all over the country the opportunity to buy local and seasonal produce. This helps to reduce food miles and greenhouse gas emissions as well as strengthening communities economically and socially.

The historic market town of Hertford hosts a farmers' market once per month. There are currently 29 stalls that sell a wide range of local produce, including locally raised beef, Hertfordshire blue cheese, vegetables and soft fruits in season. The farmers' market enables the producers to sell their produce direct to the consumer, providing a viable alternative to supermarket contracts. It allows consumers to help support their local economy. The market also attracts more people into the town, who then visit other shops and cafes, thereby providing a boost to local businesses. Funding from the East of England Development Agency paid for the stalls and training for the producers, including food hygiene, business skills and customer care.

KEY INDICATORS

- English Heritage's **Register of Buildings at Risk** in 2006 recorded 118 entries of Grade I and II* buildings and structural Scheduled Ancient Monuments at risk through neglect or decay in the East of England. This is the same number as 2005. Ten entries have been removed, but a further 10 have been added.
 - There is no single register of **Landscapes at Risk**. However, *Heritage Counts 2005* reported that nearly half of all parkland recorded in 1918 had been lost by 1995 as a result of agricultural development, conversion to golf courses and other changes. Breckland Council in Norfolk is one of the 10 local authorities in England that have seen the largest absolute loss of parkland, having lost 46.4% between 1918 and 1995.
 - The **Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)** is the main source of public funding for the historic environment in the UK. In the East of England, the HLF has awarded 2,155 grants since 1994 to the value of £226 million.
 - **Historic Environment Champions** provide leadership for heritage issues within their local authority. As of 31st July 2006, there were 27 champions in the East of England, representing 50% of the local authorities in the region.
 - Based on the first three quarters of the Taking Part survey, from mid-July 2005 to mid-April 2006, **72% of adults attended at least one historic environment site in the East of England** during the past 12 months. This is one of the highest participation rates in England.
 - The Visit Britain annual survey found that there were **3.7 million visits to historic properties in the East of England** in 2005. These figures are a significant underestimate, because they do not cover all historic sites or visitors to special events or free sites. The region's historic houses attracted 1.4 million visitors and 0.9 million people visited places of worship.
 - In 2005/06, **English Heritage** had 595,000 members nationally. In September 2005 it was estimated that around 13.1% of these were in the East of England, which would equate to about 78,000 members in the region. There were 350,000 **National Trust** members in the region.
 - In the East of England, **21,237 free educational visits were made to English Heritage sites in 2005/06**. Educational visits are made by schools and also by higher education institutions and groups of young and adult informal learners. There were **47,382 formal learning visits to National Trust** properties in the East of England.
 - The East of England has one of England's 43 **registered historic battlefields**, at Maldon in Essex.
 - **English Heritage East of England grants, 2005/06**
 - Places of worship = £1.688 million (excludes Heritage Lottery Fund contribution)
 - Secular buildings and monuments = £0.708 million
 - Conservation areas = £0.141 million
 - Regional capacity building = £0.042 million
 - Total regional grants = £2.579 million
 - Strategic grants by region = £0.784 million (includes Historic Environment Enabling Programme and Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund)
- One half of English Heritage grants in the East of England are awarded to Grade I and II* places of worship. This reflects the significance that places of worship have in the region and a high proportion of these buildings are of outstanding historic interest.

For a more detailed breakdown of regional indicators for the historic environment, please visit www.heritagecounts.org.uk



Heritage Counts 2006 is produced by English Heritage on behalf of the East of England Historic Environment Forum:

Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers
 Campaign to Protect Rural England
 Civic Trust
 East of England Development Agency
 East of England Tourist Board
 English Heritage
 Government Office for the East of England
 Heritage Lottery Fund
 Historic Houses Association
 Institute for Historic Building Conservation
 Museums, Libraries and Archives Council East of England
 National Trust

Photographic credits

All Images © English Heritage, except: P2 Church of All Saints © Mr John Webber. P4 Orsett Agricultural Show © Tony Guyon. P5 Lackford Church © Bury Free Press. P6 Thetford Priory © Nick Strugnell. P7 Leiston Abbey © Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service. Norwich Cathedral © Norwich Cathedral. ICE © Ipswich Caribbean Experience. P8 Luton Hoo © David Pymont. P9 Bedford Castle © Mark Phillips. P10 March Town Hall © March Civic Trust. Chilterns Gateway Centre © National Trust. Hertford Farmers' Market © Carole Skidmore.

All Text © English Heritage 2006. Edited by Andrew Holley. Published by English Heritage. Designed by Evolve, London. Printed by the Colourhouse, London. Front and back cover images by James O. Davies.