

HERITAGE COUNTS

The State of
LONDON'S
Historic Environment
2006



Liberty Drives buggies help disabled and elderly visitors enjoy Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens

HERITAGE COUNTS 2006

LONDON

Heritage Counts 2006 is the fifth annual survey of the state of England's historic environment. 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 England's heritage. This report is one of nine separate regional reports and has been prepared by English Heritage on behalf of the London Historic Environment Forum. It should be read in conjunction with the national *Heritage Counts 2006* report, available at www.heritagecounts.org.uk, where additional regional data can also be found.

Whilst London has many iconic and globally famous attractions, it may also be said that what matters to most Londoners is what can be seen within a short distance of their front door; the local high street, their place of work, the park in which they relax and play. Conservation of the historic environment has to concern itself with those things that on the one hand might be seen as ordinary and everyday, but yet play a vital part in all Londoners' lives. Such "ordinary" neighbourhoods provide the distinctiveness that can make life in the city so enjoyable. In this report we take a look at the relationship between the historic environment and Londoners, how it can focus local aspirations to engender closer community bonding and interaction, bring people together to fight for their local heritage and help develop skills for those who would not normally see "heritage" in this light. We also consider what is being done to identify the "gaps"; looking at why some Londoners appear to feel that the historic environment is not really for them. Finally we also see how historic buildings and areas can play their part in revitalising neighbourhoods, helping in the fight against deprivation and building better communities for all.

DREW BENNELICK
CHAIR OF THE LONDON HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT FORUM

The **IMAGES OF ENGLAND** project, funded by English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund, is creating a 'point in time' photographic website of all England's listed buildings using volunteers to capture the images. With over 280,000 images so far, it is the largest online archive of its kind. Of the 4,000 volunteers who have been involved in the project so far, Anthony Rau from London has, since 2002, taken over 2,000 images across London and the South East, including the City of London boundary marker he is pictured with here.



DEFINING COMMUNITIES

Most people might identify themselves as belonging to more than one community – the neighbourhood or area in which they live, a group which often expresses itself in terms of ethnicity, religious belief, social class, profession or key interests. Such categories of shared identity are numerous and varied, making a single definition of the term “community” somewhat difficult.

The capital has always been a city of immigrants and newcomers and in terms of ethnic diversity London is now home to people from all over the globe (over 300 languages are spoken in London schools). The historic environment has many physical reminders of this, with each generation leaving its mark with buildings, in the names of streets and in the character of whole areas. At the very least this reminds newcomers and older inhabitants alike that the city has been repeatedly energised by successive diverse communities, be they Roman, Saxon or Sikh. The 2001 Government report on heritage *A Force for Our Future* argued that the historic environment was one means of establishing pride in where people live and bringing communities together in a shared sense of identity. Examples of this can be seen in diverse historic areas such as Spitalfields and Chinatown as well as in the post-war high-rise complex that is the Barbican.



CHINATOWN: THE ORIENT IN LONDON

London's first Chinese people arrived by sea at the end of the 18th century settling near to the docks at Limehouse. From the 1950s onwards Soho, in the West End, developed as the main focal point for the Chinese community in London and although communities now exist in many areas of the capital, it is the “Chinatown” area sandwiched between Shaftesbury Avenue and Leicester Square that is the most famous. Centred on and around Gerrard Street, Chinatown is a unique mix of the Oriental overlaying distinctly London architectural styles from the late 16th century onward (it has many listed buildings and in its entirety is a conservation area). Recognition of this special quality led to a collaborative programme of improvements from the mid-1980s which saw both restoration of original features and the introduction of traditional Chinese elements such as the large gates and stone lions. Much of which has been achieved followed the setting up of the London Chinatown Chinese Association in 1978 and subsequent partnership working with Westminster City Council and other pan-London and local organisations. See more at www.chinatown-online.co.uk and www.chinatownchinese.com

David Graves, Chair of the Barbican Association

THE BARBICAN: A MODERN URBAN VILLAGE

Dominating the western parts of the City of London, the Barbican complex with its three residential towers and lower blocks, arts centre and girls' school is Grade II listed, with gardens and water features separately registered Grade II*. Once the site of a Roman stronghold, this fortress-like “urban village” houses around 4,000 people in 2,000 flats and has proved very popular, both for its location and the pride and community spirit that has developed. It has exemplary management guidelines, prepared with residents to reduce the conflicts that can arise when living in a listed building of this size and type. There are proposals for “heritage flats” which will retain their original fixtures and fittings and be made available for viewing. Residents' interests are served by the Barbican Association. Staffed by volunteers, it has a healthy membership, regular newsletters and a lively and popular web-based forum – learn more at www.barbicanassociation.com



WHAT COMMUNITIES VALUE

Whether they live in Brick Lane or Park Lane, Highgate or New Cross Gate, Londoners are bound together by the city's historic environment. Permeating their daily lives, it can be present in the dwellings they live in; the views from their windows; the schools or workplaces they attend; their places of recreation; along the routes they take in between. It is a source of commonality for all Londoners, and their understanding of it and place within it must be fostered and developed as an invaluable tool for improving social cohesion, helping break down those barriers which threaten to cause division.

Different communities are likely to value different elements of the historic environment. For many, key public and community buildings, familiar neighbourhoods and landmarks play a prominent role in helping them to identify themselves – providing a sense of place and belonging in a city that can sometimes seem overwhelmingly hostile. Some of these features are at risk, whilst others (as their original function falls redundant) seek survival by securing a viable alternative use, although this is not always a straightforward process. Illustrated here are two classic examples of buildings designed specifically for the enjoyment of their local communities, but which have faced their own share of uncertainties in recent years.



LONDON'S HISTORIC SWIMMING POOLS

London's historic swimming pools are a major issue for many local communities. A significant number, listed and otherwise, have either

closed or survive from day-to-day, as cash-conscious local authorities seek to consolidate facilities into fewer, multi-purpose complexes. Ironically, given the current concern over levels of obesity (particularly amongst children) many of the older facilities are actually better at promoting physical fitness than their leisure centre rivals, as they almost invariably feature larger pools. A pool which has found itself at the centre of much local debate is the Grade II listed Kentish Town Baths. Opened in 1901, it is an impressive building notable for its terracotta dressings, and replete with original features and signage. Although in use, it is badly in need of refurbishment and in 2005, amid fears of possible closure, the Save Kentish Town Baths campaign raised a petition of 3,500 signatures, with a number of local people dressing up in their swimming costumes to protest their concerns outside the baths. Camden Council are now actively pursuing proposals to fund a major programme of refurbishment and modernisation that will retain both the historic character of the building yet also improve the facilities on offer. Whilst the future for Kentish Town may now be looking more assured, the situation with many other similar facilities remains in doubt. The level of concern across local communities can be gauged from the web site of the London Pools Campaign (www.londonpools.com) which provides a platform for the distribution of news and a forum for discussion about the state of swimming facilities in London.

THE HIMALAYA PALACE: ADAPTING TO SURVIVE

This striking Grade II* listed cinema in Southall, which dates from 1929, is an example of a building which, despite best efforts, now seems destined to serve out its days providing space for uses it was never intended for. Having closed as a cinema many years ago, it became an indoor market for local people before fire ruined its fine decorative interiors. Placed on English Heritage's Register of Buildings at Risk, a project was funded that saw the interiors repaired and restored to their original colour schemes and sympathetic modifications carried out to enable the building to become a multi-screen cinema, specialising in showing "Bollywood" productions to cater for the local population, many of whom are from the Indian sub-continent. Unfortunately early promise did not last. As a non-chain cinema, it was not able to obtain films early enough after release, and it soon began to lose custom to nearby multiplex attractions. It is now proposed, subject to planning permissions, to return the building to market use once more.



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

One of the key challenges facing the sector is widening participation; trying to encourage more people from under-represented elements of the population to access the historic environment. To this end, the Government has set a Public Service Agreement (PSA) target to increase by three percentage points by 2008, the proportion of people from black and minority ethnic communities from lower socio-economic backgrounds and those with a limiting disability, attending historic environment sites. To measure performance against this target, the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) with the support of English Heritage and MLA London, amongst others, commissioned a major national survey called Taking Part to measure public participation in all forms of cultural activity.

This section also looks at some examples of initiatives which have been undertaken to widen participation from different elements of the community. As the Taking Part survey develops, it remains to be seen just how effective such attempts have been in reaching out to new audiences. The challenge remains for the sector to pursue an evidence-based approach to developing further initiatives to widen participation for the key groups identified as priorities by the Government.



FARTHING DOWN: INVOLVING LOCAL PEOPLE IN ARCHAEOLOGY

For the second year running, English Heritage led a successful two week community archaeology project to coincide with National Archaeology Week 2006 at Farthing Down near Croydon. The site, which is both public open space and a scheduled monument, comprises an Iron Age field system with Anglo-Saxon barrows and cemetery overlaying it. Building upon the interest generated by last year's excavations, local people were invited to take part in a series of events designed to provide an introduction to basic archaeological techniques. In addition, local groups are being trained so that they may extend the survey work across the Down and neighbouring open land. The project was manned by volunteers from English Heritage, the Museum of London Archaeology Service, three universities, the Friends of Farthing Down and Croydon Scientific and Natural History Society. A number of prehistoric features were recorded, including ditches, pits and substantial scatters of prehistoric pottery. A number of talks were also given on the archaeology of the area and an exhibition of pictures was created showing the artefacts recovered.

THE TOWER: DEVELOPING SKILLS FOR THE DISADVANTAGED

With generous funding from Sir John Cass's Foundation, Historic Royal Palaces has been piloting projects in 2006 in the first of a three-year programme working with Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) in east London to engage in the heritage of the Tower of London. The programme of heritage and arts-based projects is aimed at providing learning and development opportunities for young people who for varying reasons are unable to attend a mainstream school. The participating Units are drawn from the boroughs around the Tower, including Tower Hamlets, Newham and Southwark: amongst the most deprived in the UK. In the first pilot, working with a professional artist, Porlock Hall PRU from Southwark produced their own photographic exhibition: *Dark Tower: Captured stories from East London* (pictured). The youngsters involved gain new skills and knowledge, as well as the opportunity for growth in their personal confidence, social awareness and future expectations.





Visitors to the Museum of London galleries

THE TAKING PART SURVEY: INTERIM RESULTS AND INITIAL ANALYSIS

Launched in July 2005, the first full year data will not be available until late 2006, so the results reported here are provisional, though there are good reasons for believing that the final results will not be significantly different. Although many of the differences found between regions in the proportion of adults attending designated historic environment sites are not statistically significant, London stands out in having a significantly lower participation rate, with only around 61 per cent of adults having visited a historic environment site in the 12 months covered, compared with 69 per cent of adults in England as a whole. Possible reasons for this gap in participation are:

- demographic effect. London's population includes 31 per cent from black and minority ethnic backgrounds. The survey data suggests that these groups are significantly less likely to attend historic environment sites at present than the population as a whole. Adults in London are also less likely to have children and arguably visits to historic sites may be more likely with children in the household
- expenditure displacement effect. Official figures show that London households devote a smaller proportion of their average weekly household expenditure to recreation and culture than in any other region in England. London households instead devote a higher proportion of their spending to housing and related utility costs. High housing related costs could be a reason for a lower proportion of spending on recreation and culture which in turn may help explain the lower participation rate in the historic environment
- attractions displacement effect. Another finding from the survey is that adults in London appear to have a higher than average attendance rate at museums. Many of the leading museums have free entry. It may be the case that faced with financial and time constraints, Londoners chose to go to free museums rather than the more expensive historic environment attractions like the Tower
- overseas visitor displacement effect. London's historic attractions can afford to charge high entrance fees because of the high demand from overseas visitors, but this could be a deterrent to some Londoners who cannot afford to match the spending of those visitors. They may be more likely to visit free attractions such as museums instead. It is significant that Historic Royal Palaces which manages sites such as the Tower and Hampton Court receives no current subsidy from the taxpayer, its entry fees and other commercial income being high enough to make it self-financing.

These explanations are of course potentially complementary rather than competing. Once the full year's data from the survey is available further research could establish whether these hypotheses or others could explain the significantly lower participation rates.

Work emanating from the report *Delivering Shared Heritage*, published by the Mayor's Commission for African and Asian Heritage in 2005 (and reported on in *Heritage Counts London: 2005*) is also actively looking at the sort of issues that appear to be emerging from the Taking Part survey – see www.london.gov.uk/view_press_release.jsp?releaseid=5346



CHISWICK HOUSE AND GARDENS: GETTING THE COMMUNITY INVOLVED

Heritage Counts London: 2005 reported on the successful Community Arts Festival held at Chiswick House that year which sought to inspire new audiences to participate in plans for the future regeneration of the stunning 18th century House and Gardens. Following this, English Heritage's Outreach team ran a consultation programme with those sections of the wider Borough of Hounslow community who were, by and large, not currently engaged with the site (including black and ethnic minorities, young people, people on low incomes and those with disabilities). This focussed on the perceived barriers to visiting, with each of the groups consulted giving recommendations as to how these could be tackled. These included such issues as improved disabled access, better toilets and refreshments, family and child-based activities and better transport connections. The findings were then fed into the successful submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund for Stage One funding for a major project of restoration to the House and Gardens. Future consultation will take the form of active practical outreach work to build on the links already made with these and other groups, and feed into the long term access and audience development plans for the site.



SUTTON HOUSE: REACHING OUT TO THE OVER 55s

This National Trust programme aimed to meaningfully engage local people aged 55 and over with Sutton House, particularly those who would not normally see the place as relevant to them. Participants studied the history of the house and created a play (subsequently made into a film) that told this story. In partnership with The Sharp End, Kingsmead Kabin and Hackney Caribbean Elders Organisation nearly 500 people participated, over 60 per cent being from Black Minority Ethnic groups. The power of using drama and art to bring the past to life and engage people was evident in the descriptive style with which Hackney in the Tudor and Victorian eras was described, indicating that an emotional *and* intellectual connection was made by participants. The majority taking part stated that they had developed new skills, an important core objective of attracting new audiences.

I found out that I could contribute to making stories and acting them out, something I wouldn't have done otherwise

Many commented upon how special the house was in relation to breaking down stereotypical views of such sites evidencing a desire to learn about heritage, to celebrate the heritage of the group members, and to enjoy the Sutton House environment.

Yes – the liveliness – I thought places like this were dead

“MANY CONNECTIONS”: BRINGING GENERATIONS TOGETHER

The *Many Connections* project brought together adults from the Hackney Caribbean Elders Organisation with children from De Beauvoir School in the Tudor surrounds of the National Trust's Sutton House. The Elders taught songs and told stories from their Caribbean childhood, evoking a spirit that both groups share through common heritage, but which the youngsters only knew remotely having grown up in London. Care and sensitivity was needed, as many of the children found it difficult to focus for any length of time, and there was not always an easy natural bond between the two groups. However, the courtesy and affection of the elders had quite an impact on the children, whilst the elders blossomed under the curious and friendly attention of the young.

A focus on fostering relationships within the group built their capacity to look outwards, connecting with their own heritage and those aspects reflected in Sutton House itself. This relationship with heritage becomes a dynamic one, in which individuals learn and teach, discovering about all that is on offer, leaving their own mark, and knowing that their voices have been heard. This also demonstrated the importance and challenge of maintaining long term commitments to such groups, an important aspect as heritage organisations seek to adapt to the needs of communities.

Working in Sutton House meant that neither group was the host; they were both on an equal footing. Sutton House was our host and I think it made both groups feel valued that we were being hosted by a beautiful place of significance. Surya Turner

I was no good at school; my head was too full of thoughts. So now, this is where I do my learning. Caribbean elder

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Engagement by communities in the historic environment often goes well beyond simply visiting an historic site or building. For example, the sector depends heavily on the contribution made by volunteers from within the local community itself (indeed it would struggle to survive without them) and voluntary heritage-based organisations such as societies and Friends groups, play a major part in the care and management of the historic environment. The role that volunteers play is quite diverse, from directly assisting sector bodies such as the National Trust (about 850 volunteers in London with a “value” set at £282,000) to local groups focussed on, for example, a specific building, green space, or even a whole area. The exact number of volunteers supporting the historic environment sector in London is difficult to ascertain. The following case studies illustrate just some of the areas of work that these vitally important individuals and groups are involved with.



BRIXTON WINDMILL: PUTTING WIND BACK IN THE SAILS

Just outside Brixton town centre stands a majestic

survivor of the rural activity once common to the area. Redundant by the mid 1930s, the Grade II listed Brixton Windmill is now owned by Lambeth Council. The Friends of Windmill Gardens was established in 2003 to raise the profile of the Mill and find it a role in the community. Working with the Council, the Friends are seeking to raise support and funds to repair the Mill, making it safe for access. A purpose-built “heritage centre” is also proposed for both local residents and school groups that, along with the surrounding green space, will have a variety of uses. Recent attractions included a very popular annual summer festival attended by over 2,000 local people in 2006 and a “Discovering Archaeology” project that involved local primary and special needs schools. For the archaeology project, local adults and children literally dug up evidence of the Mill’s working life, and learned to interpret what they had found. Momentum is crucial, requiring no small effort by the Friends and partner bodies, but due to them the Mill has shaken off a forlorn appearance and is becoming an active part of Brixton once again.

LONDON’S CIVIC SOCIETIES

London has almost 100 Civic Societies, voluntary organisations set up to promote high standards of planning, conservation and regeneration for the benefit of their communities. They often become involved in specific projects to save historic buildings and improve public open spaces and have a formal role in commenting on planning applications and developments and guarding against unsympathetic changes to the local historic environment. Operating under the auspices of the Civic Trust, which acts as a national umbrella body, regionally the London Societies interests are served by the London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies. See www.civictrust.org.uk/csocs/index.shtml.

A good example of one such Society is the Hackney Society. Now approaching its 40th year, its continuing remit is to “*preserve Hackney’s unique heritage and make the area a better place in which to live and work*”. In addition to its crucial role in the local planning process, the extent of the Society’s involvement in projects and on-going initiatives relating to the borough’s rich mix of historic buildings and areas is quite remarkable, spanning community involvement, physical restoration and archival work. A detailed summary of the Society and its work can be seen at www.hackneysociety.org.

LIBERTY DRIVES: IMPROVING ACCESS TO HISTORIC OPEN SPACE

“Liberty Drives” is a service run by The Hyde Park Appeal (a registered charity) to provide free mobility for anyone who finds it difficult to see all 760 acres of the historic Grade I registered Royal Parks of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens. Catering for those whose personal mobility is restricted, electric buggies (see cover image) glide around the parks providing half hour rides, with drop-off and pick-up points en route. This successful and popular scheme is supported entirely by voluntary donations from the community and operated by a pool of 25 volunteer drivers from all over London. Starting in 1997, up to 12,000 people a year now benefit from this facility – meeting new friends, visiting its cafés, experiencing the marvellous landscape. This is something that the majority would previously have found extremely difficult, if not impossible, including the paraplegic and quadriplegic children who can now enjoy these famous spaces.

Although having to rely solely on donated funds, the Chairman of the Appeal (Richard Briggs O.B.E) is always looking to improve the services it can offer, and is hoping (for example) to increase its fleet of buggies to accommodate those who need to remain in their wheelchairs. This is an expensive business, with buggies costing about £15,000 each plus £1,500 on average per buggy per season to maintain. However, the joy they bring is priceless. Further details can be found at www.hydeparkappeal.org.

COMMUNITY REGENERATION

Regeneration is seen as crucial to London's development in order to maintain and enhance the region's economic position and to provide sufficient accommodation for Londoners. The historic environment can play a significant role in this by helping to regenerate communities as well. In addition to the obvious environmental benefits to be obtained from working with existing building stock, good use of the historic environment can be the difference between a durable, successful regeneration and a mere skin-deep "makeover". This is down to its value as a "cultural identifier" – helping distinguish one place from another, generating cultural activity and creating a sense of community and cultural identity. A significant amount of "heritage" funding continues to be directed to these very goals, be it from key national players such as the Heritage Lottery Fund and English Heritage or smaller local and regionally based bodies such as the Heritage of London Trust. In many areas, successful regeneration often requires finding viable economic uses for heritage assets whose original use has become redundant, and we reflect upon some current case examples in this section.

TOTTENHAM HIGH ROAD: RESTORING PAST GLORIES

Originally the Roman Ermine Street, the modern A10 attracted development away from the old city boundaries but urban growth led to its general decline. Historic residential properties were sub-divided, or converted with shop front extensions, but many were listed and became the nucleus of the local neighbourhood. Since 1995, English Heritage has invested over £2.5 million in this area matched by Haringey, the Upper Lea Valley Single Regeneration Budget and European Regional Development Funding. Five former "Buildings at Risk" have been redeemed as part of a wider strategy to revitalise Tottenham High Road with improved housing, streetscape and lighting that retains and enhances its historic features. A £1 million Townscape Heritage Initiative grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Bruce Grove area has provided a further boost. English Heritage has also granted £325,000 for the Grade II* listed 810 Tottenham High Road – one of the most intractable Buildings at Risk cases in London, now in the care of the Haringey Buildings Preservation Trust. Pictured at No. 810 are Heritage Minister David Lammy and English Heritage Chief Executive, Simon Thurley.



POPLAR RIVERSIDE: JEWELS AMONGST THE BLIGHT

"Blackwall Tunnel Northern Approach" may not sound historic, but alongside it are an impressive Grade II listed classical building of 1904 (Poplar Public Library until 1990) and Grade II* listed Bromley Old Hall (pictured here) which dates

back to Tudor times in the late 15th century. Seemingly long-term entries on the English Heritage "Buildings at Risk" register, the buildings and surrounding land, were acquired by Leaside Regeneration Ltd a few years ago. Supported by partners including English Heritage, Tower Hamlets Partnership, the EU and the Heritage of London Trust, Leaside Regeneration Ltd sympathetically adapted the buildings for small office use. Now the heart of the Leaside Business Centre, they are part of the wider regeneration vision Poplar Riverside, to develop underused sites along both sides of the historic River Lea. Aiming to benefit local communities suffering high levels of deprivation, this vision integrated a high density mixed-use area of apartments and live/work units with business premises and community uses. The conservation-led approach to Bromley Old Hall won Leaside Regeneration Ltd the RICS Building Conservation Award 2006 for the London Region. See more at www.leasideregeneration.com



COMMUNITY PROSPERITY

It is widely understood that 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. The historic environment sector has been trying to articulate the argument that putting more resources into heritage can play a role in enhancing the prosperity of communities, either directly because of the impact on the tourist economy or indirectly because it enhances the 'image' and quality of life of a place which in turn may help attract and retain economic activity. In this section we report on some examples of how the distinctive qualities of the local historic environment can be a key element in attracting investment and revenue.



BOROUGH MARKET, LONDON BRIDGE

London's oldest wholesale fruit and vegetables market has been trading here since 1756. By the mid 1990s, a general lack of funds and

loss of surrounding businesses had given the Market an air of despondency, visibly manifested in the deterioration of its historic fabric. In 1995, the Market's Trustees secured funding for an ambitious 10-year revival plan including the installation of the Portico to Covent Garden's former Floral Hall. Coupled with a marked shift toward retail (six stalls to over one hundred in just seven years), this has induced bakeries, coffee shops and specialist stores to set up nearby and open at weekends, attracting more people from further afield and helping rebuild the economy of the area. A registered charity, the Market passes surplus monies to the local authority to reduce the amount of Council Tax levied on residents living within St Saviour's parish. To achieve the charity's purpose of financially supporting the residents, the Trustees believe they must not only manage the Market and their investments efficiently but also help regenerate the Market and its surrounding shops, flats and offices. An example is the successful sponsorship of an SRB bid for Challenge Funding for the London's Larder Partnership Board. This funds community programmes giving advice to local small businesses, food related specialist training to local residents and funding to child care programmes to allow local parents to go back to work.

MORDEN HALL PARK: A LOCAL, SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Morden Hall Park in Merton was created in the late 19th century by Gilliat Hatfeild using a fortune made from snuff milling. Its 125 acres combine elements of a formal landscape and garden, valuable wetland habitats, remnants of an agricultural past and a large number of listed historic buildings such as a Snuff Mill, cottages and other ancillary buildings associated with former industrial uses. The Park (Grade II listed) owned and operated by the National Trust, is now an important community asset enjoyed by over 500,000 visitors every year. There is also a successful environmental education programme, volunteering opportunities and major community events such as a May Fair.

Although the site has no endowment and is entirely free to access it produces a surplus income in excess of £175,000 per year which is then invested in the care and maintenance of the Park. The main source of income is from the careful management of the 30 or so historic buildings which are let to a mixture of residential, commercial and community based tenants including a pub chain, garden centre and city farm. These generate an income of around £350,000 per annum which is then supplemented through a National Trust shop and café and other income generating events, adding a further £135,000 on top. All revenue generated is ploughed directly back into the management of the Park thereby keeping the financial as well as the social and environmental benefits within the local community.

It costs around £300,000 a year to run, including supporting over 20 full and part-time staff as well as providing over £100,000 worth of business for other companies providing services to the park, many of which are locally or regionally based. Morden Hall Park demonstrates how even a free to access historic site can be managed profitably, sensitively and in a way that delivers social and economic benefit to its community.

The Snuff Mill at Morden Hall



KEY INDICATORS FOR THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

With four World Heritage Sites and almost 40,000 listed buildings, London possesses an immensely rich built fabric of outstanding historic and architectural interest. It is central to much of every day life in London, plays a crucial role in an immensely lucrative tourist industry and contributes significantly to the regeneration of the capital's deprived areas.

Understanding the Assets

Currently historic sites and buildings are designated through separate listing, scheduling and registration schemes. Under the proposals of the Heritage Protection Review, there will be a new unified Register of Historic Sites and Buildings of England (RHSBE). The 'main section' compiled by English Heritage will include nationally significant heritage assets, incorporating all existing listed, scheduled and registered assets and World Heritage Sites. The 'local' section compiled by local authorities will include conservation areas and other local designations such as local lists. In April 2006, London had:

- 18,528 entries on the statutory list, representing approximately 40,000 listed buildings
- 148 entries on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest
- an estimated 955 conservation areas
- 4 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- 1 battlefield on the English Heritage Register of Battlefields
- 164 scheduled monuments

Caring and Sharing

In 2006, English Heritage published the sixteenth *Register of Buildings at Risk* in London. It comprises information on all listed buildings and scheduled monuments (structures) identified as "at risk" from neglect, decay, under-use or redundancy. The 2006 register reported that 678 buildings and structures were at risk, comprising 23 grade I, 63 grade II*, 566 grade II, 7 scheduled monuments and 19 cemeteries and churchyards. In total a net reduction of 14 on 2005.

There is no single register of Landscapes at Risk. However, research undertaken by the Rural Development Service (DEFRA) shows that approximately 30 per cent of all parkland recorded in 1918 has been lost, mostly due to a combination of agricultural development, conversion to golf courses and other changes. Those boroughs worst affected were Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest, losing all of their 1918 parkland.

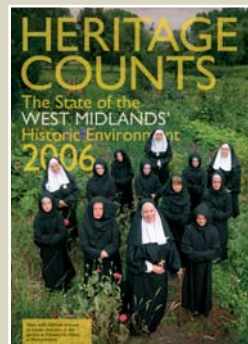
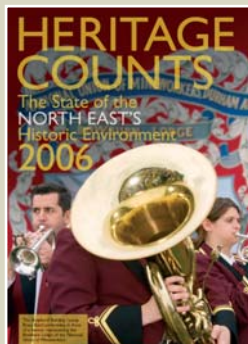
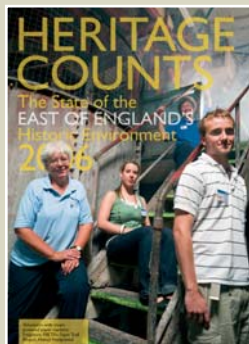
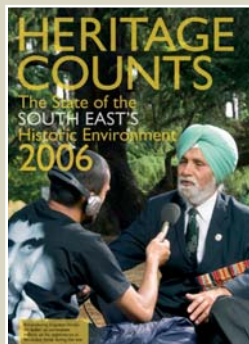
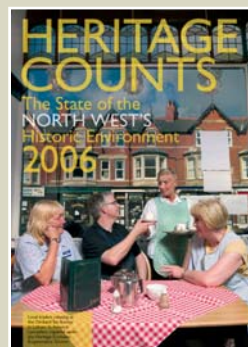
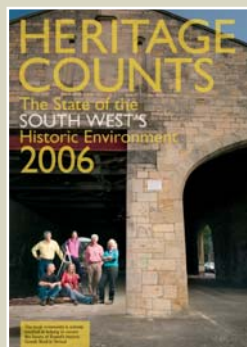
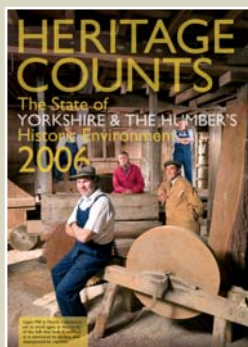
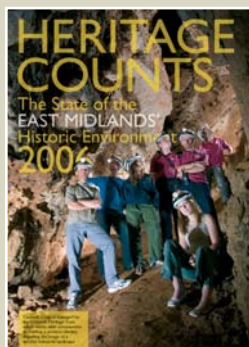
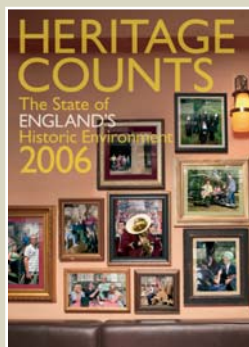
The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and English Heritage are the main source of public funding for the historic environment in the UK. In London, across the period 1994/95 to 2005/06, the HLF made 2,042 awards with a total value of £741.8 million representing a UK share of 20.7 per cent. By comparison, the real value of English Heritage grants has declined nationally by about one-third over the same period. In 2005/06, English Heritage offered grants in London totalling approximately £2.8 million.

Historic Environment Champions provide leadership for heritage issues within their local authority. As of July 31st 2006, 15 of London's 33 authorities had a Champion plus one at the Great London Authority.

Using and Benefiting

Based on the first three quarters of the Taking Part survey, from mid-July 2005 to mid-April 2006, around 61 per cent of all adults in London attended a designated historic environment site during the past 12 months. The VisitBritain *Survey of Visits to Visitor Attractions 2005* reported 10.1 million visits to historic environment attractions in London in 2004-05 (18 per cent of the total for England). Across all attraction types, visits were down 5 per cent on the previous year, although results for individual "heritage" attractions varied widely (e.g. Tower of London down 10 per cent but Kew Gardens up 27 per cent). For full details visit www.tourismtrade.org.uk/MarketIntelligenceResearch/.

A more detailed breakdown of some of the above figures can be found within the London section at www.heritagecounts.org.uk.



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