

Regional Profile



At 8,592 sq km, the North East is the second smallest of the nine English Regions, and it forms less than 7% of the total land area of England. In the last available official data of June 2001, it had a population of 2,516,500 (about 5% of the total for the country) at an average density of 293 persons per sq km (compared to the national average of 378 persons per sq km). However, across the region, there were considerable variations. More than three quarters of the region's population lives on only 10% of its land area – the urban areas of Tyne and Wear and Tees Valley, South East Northumberland and the eastern half of County Durham. ¹

In 2001 the North East experienced a fall in population of around 5,000 people (-0.2%). It is the only UK region with a declining population. ² The North East has the lowest life expectancy for both men and women ³ and the highest standardised mortality ratio. ⁴ It has over 30% of wards in the 10% most deprived in England. It has the highest unemployment rates with only 68.8% of people employed (the national average is 74.58%). The North East region's GDP per head (£10,000) is the lowest in the UK, at 77.3% of the UK average. ⁵

The North East is renowned for the quality of its landscapes with 6% of the region designated as green belt land, 13% designated as National Park (Northumberland) and 17% as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (Northumberland Coast and North Pennines). 122 km of coastline is Heritage Coast and there are over 240 Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Conversely, 11.75 km² of the region is derelict, ⁶ although, since 1988 over 26.49 km² have been reclaimed.

¹ State of the region report June 2001.

² ONS: General Register Office of Scotland; Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency 1991-1997.

³ Figures in years, covering life expectancy at birth from the period of 1998-2000. Source: Office of National Statistics.

⁴ Figures for 1997: Office of National Statistics.

⁵ State of the Region Report, 2003.

⁶ Phase One of National Land use Database, 1998.

The Historic Environment of the North's East Historic Region

■ At March 2003.

INTRODUCTION

The North East region has a rich and diverse historic environment that is central to the character of the region and an important part of our strong regional identity. The images of Lindisfarne Castle, the Tees bridges, Durham Cathedral and Hadrian's Wall are among the most enduring of the region. The North East has a high proportion of defence buildings and ruins such as bastles and pele towers, compared to the rest of the nation, reflecting the border disputes. There is also a large number of industrial buildings, reflecting the primary and secondary manufacturing heritage of the region.

The historic environment is more than just that which is listed. It is all around us and new ways need to be developed to monitor the state of it as a whole.

Heritage Counts concentrates upon those elements of the historic environment that are recognized, through specific designations, as their numbers and condition are recorded and monitored. This section explains how and why they are chosen, the amount of protection provided by the designation, an assessment of their condition and the amount of development pressure they are under.

LISTED BUILDINGS

What they are and how they are chosen

The list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest is compiled by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on the advice of English Heritage. There has been an increase of 6 entries on the list for this region since March 2002, making a total of 12,148. ■ This represents around 3.3% of the total number of listed building entries in England.

Listed buildings range from tombs to temples and from town walls to tower houses. Grade I buildings are deemed of outstanding interest. 387 (3.2%) of the listed buildings in the region fall into this category (compared to 2.4 % nationally). Grade II* listings are considered to be particularly important buildings of more than local interest. Approximately 5.5% (657) of the listed buildings in the North East fall within this Grade (compared to 5.6% in England). The majority of listed buildings are listed Grade II (91% of the regional total, the same as the national average).

However, these numbers do not come close to representing the full extent of the historic resource in the region. Hundreds of buildings are not included on the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) list yet are of import and interest. Local planning authorities (LPAs) are encouraged to create and maintain lists of these buildings in order for them to have the recognition of which they are worthy, but few do.

Work is also being carried out on characterisation – a process that seeks to capture the character of an area, rather than revere individual buildings. Examples of this in the region include the Tyne Gorge Study, the Market Towns Initiative, Rural Areas/Historic Landscape Characterisation, defensible building survey in County Durham, chapels and meeting houses and the extensive surveys of towns in Northumberland.

Degree of protection provided by the designation

Once a building is listed, listed building consent is required for any works which materially affect its character. In determining these applications, LPAs are required to have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building, its setting and any special features of interest it possesses.

Listed building consent may not be granted by an LPA without an application being first notified to the Secretary of State. Under the directions in Circular 01/01, this provision does not apply to Grade II buildings, except where demolition is involved. English Heritage advises the Secretary of State on whether to call-in applications, and is consulted on those applications which are notified to the Secretary of State.

CONDITION OF LISTED BUILDINGS WITHIN THE REGION

Proportion of Grade I and II* listed buildings 'at risk'

Since 1998, English Heritage has published an annual *Register of Buildings at Risk*. This register lists details of all Grade I and II* listed buildings and scheduled monuments known to be 'at risk'. 'Risk' is assessed on the basis of condition and occupancy. The North East has 8.5% of England's buildings at risk. 6.5% of its Grade I listed buildings are considered to be at risk (the comparable figure for England is 3.1%). 9.7% of the region's Grade II* listed buildings in the North East are considered to be at risk (compared to a national figure of 3.8%). This gives a total of 8.5% of the top two grades of buildings (compared to a national average of 3.6%). This number is down from 9.4% in 2002, though it is still the highest proportion of all the regions. The 1999 register for the North East contained 115 buildings and monuments. Of these 31 (13.6%) have been secured for the future and removed from the register (2.2% of the national baseline).

Proportion of Grade II listed buildings at risk

The English Heritage Buildings at Risk Register only provides information on 8.8% of the total number of listed buildings in the region. There is no central source for data on Grade II buildings at risk. Information on the condition of 91.2% of the stock of the region, therefore, is only available from the LPAs themselves. However, only 40% of them have a register of Grade II buildings at risk and only a quarter of them have been updated recently.

Development pressure

In 2002/03, 852 applications were made for listed building consent in the North East, affecting about 7% of the total number of listed building entries in the region. Applications for listed building consent represent just over 3% of the total number of applications determined by the region's LPAs. Over 90% of these applications were granted. Less than 0.4% of all proposals in the region are prevented because of listed building status.



Millburngate, Durham

Only a small corner group of buildings survive of the old medieval street of Millburngate. They include a listed timber-framed house and now serve as the entrance to the award-winning Millburngate Shopping Centre. This group has been examined for possible redevelopment, but working closely with the City Council and the Shopping Centre owners, English Heritage has agreed a scheme which will retain these valuable townscape buildings whilst injecting new vitality into this part of the city.

2 At March 2003.

In 2002/03, English Heritage was consulted on 244 listed building consent applications in the North East. This represents a 3.6% decrease from the 253 applications referred in 2001/02, despite the fact that there was a 14.6% increase in the overall number of listed building consents submitted to LPAs (19.6% overall application increase). The available figures suggest that up to one-third of notifications to English Heritage by LPAs are non-statutory.

SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

What they are and how they are chosen

Scheduled monuments are nationally important archaeological remains designated by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on the advice of English Heritage. These range from nineteenth-century lead mines to prehistoric ringmarked stones in Teesdale. Within the North East there are 1,349 scheduled monuments, 2 37.6% lower than the regional average in England of 2,161. The number of scheduled monuments is growing as the country's archaeological heritage is being systematically reviewed and evaluated as part of the Monuments Protection Programme (MPP) to identify the best surviving monuments and sites. There has been a 0.4% increase since March 2002.



Doddington Bastle, Northumberland

A pilot scheme is being carried out at Doddington Bastle to undertake emergency consolidation work on the sixteenth-century ruin in order to prevent further loss of historic fabric. Defra have recognised the importance of this building at risk to the local landscape and community. They have approached English Heritage to obtain expertise and advice that will result in the successful conservation of the building using traditional materials and repair techniques.

Degree of protection provided by the designation

Once a site is scheduled, it becomes an offence to disturb it without first obtaining permission – known as scheduled monument consent – from the Secretary of State. LPAs are advised in national policy guidance to have regard to the effect of any development upon the setting of a monument in undertaking their planning functions.

CONDITION OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS WITHIN THE REGION

Monuments at risk

Within the North East, English Heritage employs two field monument wardens to monitor the condition of the North East's monuments. On average, each site is visited once every 7 years, although some sites will be visited more frequently. Under the MPP, monuments are assessed from 'Good' to 'Poor'. A 'Poor' site is one which is in a deteriorating condition with no solution agreed. However, a full picture cannot be ascertained as many of the sites are not visited frequently enough. A pilot project is currently underway in the East Midlands to get a better idea of how many monuments are at risk, how to best monitor this and how this information can be used to best protect them.

Development pressure

English Heritage advises the Secretary of State on all applications for scheduled monument consent and is consulted by LPAs on other applications which may affect their setting. The number of applications for consent each year is small. In 2002/03, in this region there were only 70 applications referred to English Heritage, (affecting the equivalent of 5% of the monuments in the North East). Only 61 applications were referred to English Heritage in 2001/02.

CONSERVATION AREAS

What they are and how they are chosen

Conservation areas are areas of architectural or historic interest the character and appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. They are usually designated by LPAs after a period of consultation with the local community. Within this region there are 277 conservation areas (about 3% of the national total, and more than 72% lower than the English regional average of 1,009). Only two new conservation areas have been designated in the region since last year, though many have had their boundaries redrawn.

Degree of protection provided by the designation

Once a conservation area is designated, the LPA has a duty in considering development proposals to preserve or enhance its character or appearance. Additional restrictions may be placed upon the rights to carry out alterations without planning consent. Conservation area consent is required for the demolition of any part of an unlisted building of more than 115 cubic metres.

CONDITION OF CONSERVATION AREAS WITHIN THE REGION

There is no nationally defined indicator for assessing the condition of conservation areas. Therefore, it is very difficult to assess the degree of change that might be taking place within them. Both Planning Policy Guidance note¹⁵ and the English Heritage publication *Conservation Areas – Policy and Practice* advocate the production of conservation area appraisals to assist in the understanding and management of conservation areas. In addition, the appraisal procedures are not standardised and the existence of a conservation area appraisal does not necessarily imply that it is actually being implemented. At the moment only an estimated 2.5% of conservation areas in the region have appraisals.

1 Proportion of Buildings at Risk as a percentage of Grade I and Grade II* listed entries for the North East and England

	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003	
	NE	England	NE	England	NE	England	NE	England	NE	England
TOTAL GRADE I AND II* LISTED BUILDINGS	1,037	29,874	1,033	30,239	1,040	30,270	1,043	30,469	1,044	30,369
TOTAL GRADE I AND II* BAR ENTRIES	89	1,158	100	1,167	103	1,148	98	1,117	89	1,100
% OF GRADE I AND II* LISTED BUILDINGS AT RISK	8.5	3.8	9.7	3.9	9.9	3.8	9.4	3.7	8.5	3.8

Source: English Heritage Register of Buildings at Risk

2 Total of Grade I and Grade II* Buildings at Risk in the North East

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
TOTAL GRADE I LISTED BUILDINGS	388	387	387	387	387
TOTAL GRADE I BAR ENTRIES	22	26	27	27	25
% OF GRADE I LISTED BUILDINGS AT RISK	5.6	6.7	7.0	7.0	6.5
TOTAL GRADE II* LISTED BUILDINGS	649	615	653	656	657
TOTAL GRADE II* BAR ENTRIES	67	74	76	71	64
% OF GRADE II* LISTED BUILDINGS AT RISK	10.3	12	11.6	10.8	9.7

Source: English Heritage Register of Buildings at Risk

3 Baker, D and Chitty, G
– *Heritage Under Pressure:
a rapid study of resources
in English local authorities,*
2002.



Tynemouth Village

The designation of Tynemouth Village Conservation Area has enabled local people and various conservation agencies to work in partnership to protect the special character of this ancient village, castle and priory. It has enabled much effort and finance to be focussed on not only restoring the medieval remains, clock tower, railway station (only partial so far) and massive Collingwood monument but also on repairing and improving the buildings, spaces and surfaces of Tynemouth's handsome front street. Designation means that this success in Tynemouth can be repeated – and is being repeated – in other North East conservation areas.

Development pressure

No data is specifically collected of the number of applications received each year within, or otherwise affecting, the region's conservation areas. Therefore, it is difficult to get a true picture of the extent of the development pressure they might be facing. Nationally, it has been estimated that up to a third of planning applications have the potential for direct impact upon the historic environment. 3 Within this region, in 2002/03, there were just 72 decisions on applications for conservation area consent. This represented only 0.3% of the total number of applications to LPAs across the region and equates to one application for every four conservation areas in the region. This number is down from last year in which English Heritage was notified of 155 applications, nearly one application for every two conservation areas.

WORLD HERITAGE SITES

What they are and how they are chosen

World Heritage Sites are selected (or 'inscribed') by an international Committee of UNESCO on the advice of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). These sites are considered to be of outstanding universal value. There are 15 World Heritage Sites in England of which two, Durham Castle and Cathedral (inscribed in 1986) and Hadrian's Wall (inscribed in 1987), are in this region. In addition, work has started on a nomination for Monkwearmouth/Jarrow associated with the Venerable Bede.

Degree of protection provided by the designation

There are no additional planning controls over development in, or affecting, a World Heritage Site. However, the existence of a World Heritage Site is a material consideration which must be taken into account by LPAs when considering development proposals. National policy guidance advises LPAs to include policies for their protection in development plans.

Condition of World Heritage Sites within the region

There is, at present, no indicator to monitor the condition of World Heritage Sites. In the absence of such an indicator, the UK Government requires a management plan to protect the outstanding universal value of World Heritage Sites and ensure management decisions affecting them are made in a fully informed context. Hadrian's Wall has a completed management plan and an agreed setting for development control purposes and work has begun on one for Durham Castle and Cathedral. Considerable investment is being put into various collaborative efforts such as the Hadrian's Wall Trail which opened this year.

Development pressure

There is no specific information available on the number of applications within either of the World Heritage Sites or their settings. Of the LPAs in which world heritage sites lie, 86% have specific policies that take the world heritage site into account.

3 Applications for listed building consent and referrals to English Heritage 2000-2003

	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
TOTAL NO. OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED TO LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITIES IN THE REGION ^[A]	17,051	18,607	22,252
NO. APPLICATIONS FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT ^[A]	694	743	852
NO. APPLICATIONS FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT AS A % OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS DETERMINED BY LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITIES	4%	3.9%	3.8%
NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT AFFECTING GRADE I AND II* BUILDINGS AND DEMOLITIONS OF GRADE II BUILDINGS REFERRED TO ENGLISH HERITAGE ^[B]	213	252	244
NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT AFFECTING GRADE I AND II* BUILDINGS AND DEMOLITIONS OF GRADE II BUILDINGS REFERRED TO ENGLISH HERITAGE AS A % OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS DETERMINED BY LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITIES	1.25%	1.35%	1.1%
NO. OF APPLICATIONS FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT AS A % OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF LISTED BUILDINGS IN THE REGION		12,184 6.1%	12,148 7%

Sources: ^[A] Planning Application Statistics, www.planning.dtlr.gov.uk

^[B] English Heritage, North East region

4 Applications for scheduled monument consent and other referrals to English Heritage 2000-2003

	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
NO. OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS ^[A]	1,318.5	1,343.5	1,349.5
NO. APPLICATIONS FOR SCHEDULED MONUMENT CONSENT ^[B]	50	61	70
SCHEDULED MONUMENT CONSENTS AS % OF TOTAL NO. OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS	3.8%	4.5	5.2%
TOTAL NO. OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED TO LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITIES IN THE REGION ^[B]	17,051	18,607	22,252
NO. OF CONSULTATIONS ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS AFFECTING A SCHEDULED MONUMENT AS % OF THE TOTAL NO. OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS IN THE REGION	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%

Sources: ^[A] English Heritage Scheduled Ancient Monument database

^[B] Planning Application Statistics, www.planning.dtlr.gov.uk

HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS

What they are and how they are chosen

The Register of Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest is compiled by English Heritage, though LPAs are encouraged to set up local registers. The main purpose of the register is to help ensure that the features and qualities which make these parks and landscapes of national importance can be safeguarded. Within this region there are 50 entries on the register, 72% lower than the English regional average), representing about 3% of the national total. Gibside is one of three entries in this region categorised as Grade I as it is considered of international importance. Those registered Grade II* are considered to be of exceptional historic interest. There are nine within this region (2.2% of the national total). The largest number of historic parks and gardens (76%) fall within Grade II. These are of a sufficiently high level of interest to merit a national designation. Over the past year, four historic parks and gardens have been added to the register in the North East.

Degree of protection provided by the designation

There are no additional planning controls over development affecting the site or setting of a historic park and garden. However, the existence of such a designation is a material consideration which must be taken into account by LPAs when considering development proposals. National policy guidance advises LPAs to include policies for their protection in development plans. Planning permission is only required for building or engineering works undertaken in these areas, and not for changes to planting or landscape.

Condition of historic parks and gardens within the region

Although work is underway in Yorkshire to develop a methodology for determining whether a historic park and garden is at risk, there is, at present, no nationally agreed indicator to assess their condition.

Development pressure

The Garden History Society is notified of all planning applications affecting a registered park or garden or its setting. In 2000/01, it was notified of 648 such applications, of which 25 were in the North East. In 2001/02 they recorded having received 742 nationally, only 10 of which were in the North East.

REGISTERED BATTLEFIELDS

What they are and how they are chosen

The Register of Historic Battlefields is compiled by English Heritage. The sites identified on this Register represent areas where important battles in the history of England are sufficiently well documented to be identified on the ground. There are 43 Registered Battlefields in England. Within this region there are six (14% of England's total) ranging in date from the Anglo-Scot battle on Halidon Hill in 1333 to Newburn Ford where Leven was victorious in 1640.

Degree of protection provided by the designation

There are no additional planning controls over development affecting the site of a registered battlefield. However, their existence is a material consideration which must be taken into account by LPAs when considering development proposals. National policy guidance advises LPAs to include policies for their protection in their development plans.

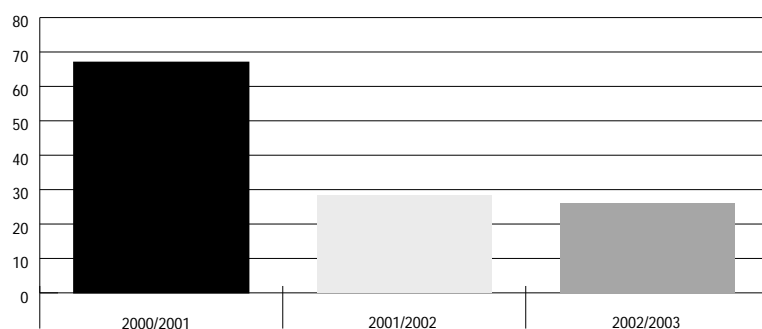
Condition of registered battlefields within the region

There are no nationally agreed indicators to assess the condition of registered battlefields. Moreover, unlike conservation areas and World Heritage Sites, few across the country have management agreements by which one can ensure decisions affecting their character or interpretation are made in an informed context. None of the battlefields in the region have formal management plans. However, all but Newburn Ford have interpretation. As part of the review of historic protection measures currently underway, English Heritage is looking at piloting management agreements and statements of significance for battlefields.

Development pressure

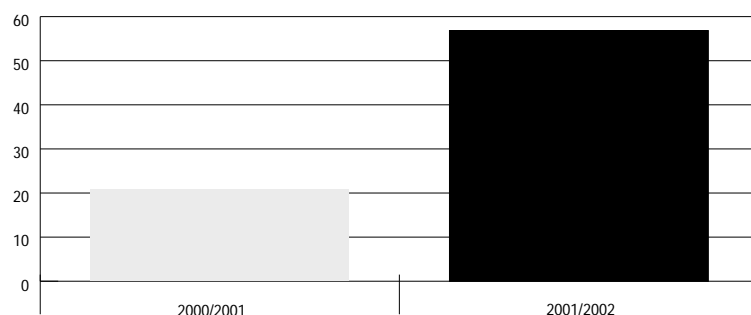
Information on applications affecting the sites of registered battlefields is not currently recorded.

5 Conservation area consent as a % of total conservation areas by year



Source: www.planning.dtlr.gov.uk

6 Planning applications affecting historic parks and gardens as a % of the total historic parks and gardens by year



Source: The Garden History Society

OTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS

What they are and how they are chosen

Scheduled monuments represent only a small proportion of the total archaeological resource of the region. The National Monuments Record (NMR – English Heritage's public archive) contains thousands more entries. In addition, LPA archaeologists are responsible for maintaining a register of all the known archaeological sites including monuments, buildings and find spots in their area – known as 'Sites and Monuments Records' (SMRs). There are five SMR offices in the North East, Durham County, Durham City, Newcastle/Tyne and Wear, Northumberland and Tees. SMRs are the major source of information for understanding the local historic environment. The inclusion of a site on an SMR gives it formal recognition in the planning process, and LPAs take account of this in drawing up development plans and reaching planning decisions. They also provide the basis for the formulation of management policies and provide a valuable resource for research and education.

In May 2001 Durham County launched the first online SMR (www.durham.gov.uk/archaeology) and since then has been working in partnership with Northumberland County Council on the HLF-funded *Keys to the Past* project has placed a complete record of the region's known archaeology online (www.keystothepast.info).

The role of SMRs has recently been broadened and a re-branding exercise means that they will in future be referred to as Historic Environment Records (HERs). The Government is conducting a consultation process to identify resources and set benchmarks for best practice.

Condition of other monuments within the region

Given the extent of this resource, there is little prospect of assessing its true condition or how much threat it might be under. However, in 1995, English Heritage undertook a sample survey (*Monuments at Risk Survey* (MARS)) to provide a general picture of the condition of England's monuments, the risks to them, and to create benchmarks against which future changes can be monitored.

New emphasis is also being put on understanding and monitoring maritime archaeology. Tees Archaeology, the Maritime Forum and the Nautical Archaeology Society are creating a Maritime archive resource for the region.

ARCHIVES

There are more than 40 archives in the North East in LPAs, universities, museums and private ownership that hold maps, plans, letters and other manuscripts documenting the social, domestic, business and political developments of the region. Beside preserving the documentary evidence of the past, they also manage records to create the historic documents of tomorrow.

INTRODUCTION

The previous section showed that, where information was available, a large number of designated areas of the historic environment were in decline and in need of action to prevent further decay and, in some cases, their total loss. This section examines the major sources of public finance available for the historic environment together with the number of specialist staff employed within the public sector who care for and conserve our heritage assets.

THE LEVEL OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES MADE AVAILABLE TO THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

English Heritage grant aid

English Heritage is one of the major providers of grant aid for the historic environment in the region. In the period 1999 to 2003 it provided grants totaling £6,394,411. Of this total 35% was spent on Historic Buildings, 16% on Churches and Places of Worship, and 49% on Conservation Areas. English Heritage is one of the only organisations that give grant aid to private owners. And, as much of the Historic Environment is under private ownership, English Heritage plays an important role in the region. In 2002/03 English Heritage gave £149,877 to private owners. The overall level of grant funding from English Heritage was fairly stable over this period at around £1.36 million per year. Though grants in 2001/02 fell considerably, they have picked up again in 2002/03, with the highest grant spend since 1999 of £2,198,000. A new scheme for historic church repairs was launched, in partnership with the Heritage Lottery Fund, in April 2002, providing £25 million per annum nationally. English Heritage produces *The Heritage Dividend* that outlines how English Heritage grants are used to lever more money for the improvement and conservation of the historic environment. A new grants programme is being devised to better meet the needs and priorities of the region.

Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF): Funded by Defra and in conjunction with English Heritage, English Nature and the Countryside Agency, this project will distribute grants to fund a wide range of projects which encourage environmental protection and community involvement in areas affected by aggregates extraction.

Heritage Lottery Fund grant aid

In the North East, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) represents the single largest source of funding for conservation of the historic environment. However, the HLF is not able to fund privately or commercially owned properties. In the region, between 1998 and 2003, the HLF provided a total of £47,418,900 grant aid for Historic Buildings (17%); Industrial, transport and maritime (15%); and Land (68%). The HLF also provides funding for museums and archives in the region. In this five-year period, annual allocations to the North East represented 7.4% of total HLF expenditure in these three categories in England.

Local planning authority expenditure

It is difficult to assess the true extent of grant aid from this source since there are significant gaps in the data available. A number of authorities had grant schemes running to match funding being provided by English Heritage and the HLF. In 2001/02 22% of LPAs had grants programmes (compared to 51% nationally). The average budget in the North East was £5,250, compared to a national average of £19,779. In 2002/03 31% of responding LPAs ¹ had grants programmes, averaging £20,900.

STAFFING

LPA staffing

The majority of applications for development affecting the historic environment are determined by the Region's LPAs. Each has a responsibility for protecting, on average, 486 listed buildings, 55 scheduled monuments, 2 historic parks and 11 conservation areas. In addition, 17% of buildings at risk are owned by central government or LPAs ². Thus, a huge responsibility rests with the LPAs who are at the front line of safeguarding the historic environment.

Whilst LPAs have certain duties and responsibilities to respect the historic environment through the relevant Acts, Regulations and Circular advice, they are under no obligation to employ specialist staff to fulfil them. Though it is incumbent upon the Planning Service as a whole to have regard to the historic environment, all of the LPAs within the Region are able to draw upon some specialist advice from planning officers, conservation officers or archaeologists. The average establishment of specialist Historic Building Conservation staff within the LPAs in the Region is currently 0.9 FTE. This is significantly less than the national average of 2.0 FTE. ³

¹ Of the 26 LPA in the region, 17 responded, giving a 65% sample.

² English Heritage register of Buildings at Risk, 2002.

³ Oxford Brookes University, 2002.

Historic Building Conservation specialists within LPAs deal with development control, advice to owners, education/outreach work, administering grant schemes, developing enhancement schemes and undertaking appraisals and regeneration work.

SMR staffing

In the North East there are five SMR staff responsible for providing planning advice, both to LPAs and to developers or their agents.

English Heritage staffing in the region

English Heritage is the national advisor to the Secretary of State (DCMS) on all matters relating to the historic environment. Within the region, its staff also provide advice and assistance to LPAs and other organisations involved with the historic environment. It also provides grants to owners and occupiers of historic buildings, scheduled monuments and conservation areas and manages an estate of 45 historic properties. Its regional staff provide expertise in a wide range of areas including cultural resource management, architectural history, archaeology and archaeological science, historic buildings, architecture, historic environment planning and policy, artefact curation, marketing, education and visitor outreach. In the region there are 116 staff members to carry out this work. 71% are responsible for the care and management of the sites, 12.9% provide advice and administer casework.

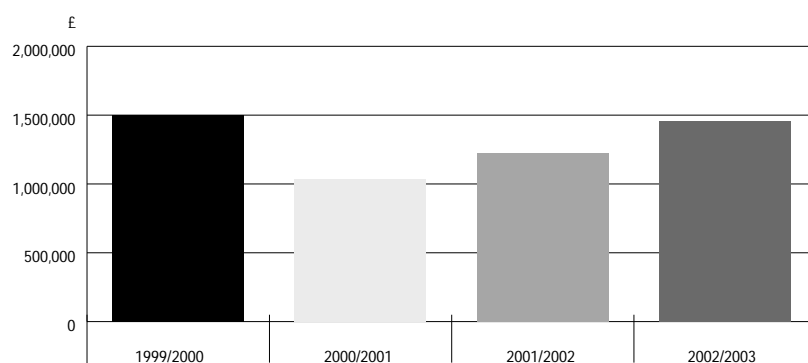
Heritage attraction staffing

The average heritage-based attraction in the North East employs five full-time and two part-time permanent staff, two full-time and three part-time seasonal staff and 16 volunteers. Though attractions in the North East only employ 54% of the English regional average of staffing in heritage attractions, the heritage sector is a significant employer in the North East. It also shows that there are many people helping to deliver quality enjoyment and education.

Significance

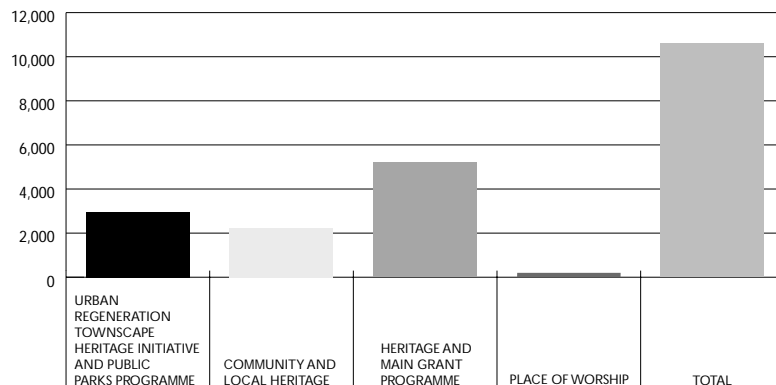
These figures, though significant, do not come close to representing the number of people who work with the historic environment. The private and voluntary sectors also contribute to the success of conservation and the care of the historic environment. This contribution is hard to quantify, but it must be recognised to get a true picture of the state of the historic environment. A study is being undertaken in the North East to map the current skills that exist in the region in the public, private and voluntary areas of the heritage sector. This information will be used to help fill skills gaps and engineer programmes that will target areas of need to ensure an adequately skilled staff in the heritage sector.

7 English Heritage grant offers in the North East 1999-2003



Source: English Heritage

8 Grant aid from Heritage Lottery Fund 1998-2003 (£000)



Source: The Heritage Lottery Fund

Visitors to the Historic Environment of the Region

■ Key Facts of Tourism for Northumbria, 2002. (www.staruk.org.uk)

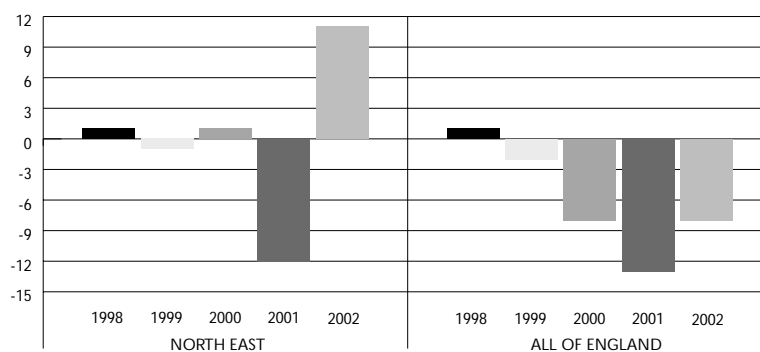
VISITORS TO HERITAGE ATTRACTIONS

Historic attractions in the North East range from privately owned stately homes to community run museums, from gardens managed by LPAs to the management partnership of Hadrian's Wall. They not only provide education and enjoyment for their visitors but also make a significant contribution to the economy of the Region. Of the 280 million visits to the UK in 2003, 4.8 million were to the North East. It is estimated that 30% of the visits were to historic attractions. The total visitor spend last year in the North East was an estimated £800 million, over £266 million of which was brought to the region by heritage tourism. ■

However, it should not be forgotten that the heritage sector contributes to the economy in many more ways than just tourism. In order to get a more thorough understanding of the impact of the historic environment on the region's economy the Historic Environment Forum is undertaking research to explore every dimension of the heritage's contribution to the economy. This will build on work previously undertaken by the National Trust.

Visitor numbers across the heritage sector as a whole have shown a steady decline in England between 1998 and 2002. However, the North East visitor numbers remained fairly consistent, save for a drop in 2001 due to Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD). In 2002, there has been a general increase in visitors to heritage visitor attractions. In fact, the North East has seen a 10% increase on its 1998 numbers.

9 Visitors to historic attractions as increase on 1998 numbers in the North East region and England 1998-2002



Source: Visit Britain

The historic environment is an invaluable educational resource. It is a tangible link with the past and helps bring history to life.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS TO HERITAGE PROPERTIES

From 1998 to 2002 there was a general downward trend in the number of educational trips to English Heritage sites in the North East, reflecting the wider national experience. The primary reason for this is thought to have been concerns by schools and other educational establishments about insurance and safety. The drop in visitor numbers in 1999/00 was thought to be due to the changes to the national curriculum which resulted in teachers delaying making educational visits. The significant reduction in educational visits to the sites across the region in 2001/02 was due to the impact of FMD which resulted in the closure of several sites and severely affected a number of the other rural properties. However, in 2002/03 there were 38,832 educational visits to English Heritage sites in the North East, up 22.34% from the previous year.

Heritage Open Days

Heritage Open Days open up places in diverse neighbourhoods to the public. In 2002 173 sites were opened up, attracting an estimated 19,500 visitors. In 2003 there were 199 sites open to the public. Numbers are not yet known but there was significant interest reported.

Accessibility

The state of the historic environment is not just about the condition of the historic fabric. It is also about people understanding, valuing, enjoying and caring for it. The historic environment belongs to all of us and we should all have the opportunity to enjoy it to the fullest extent, regardless of mobility or sensory impairments, cultural background, gender or class. The Disability Discrimination Act takes effect in Autumn 2004 and the heritage sector will have to respond. Currently about 66% of historic attractions in the region are (mostly) accessible by wheelchair. ■ A great deal of work still needs to be done to make sites accessible to all.

However, the heritage sector is taking steps to ensure that heritage is more inclusive. North East Museums and Libraries Advisory Council and the Regional Tourism Board are spear-heading a project entitled *Northumbria for All*. This project aims to explore why many of the region's economically and socially excluded communities do not visit heritage-based attractions and to find ways to improve their participation by making heritage more relevant and inclusive.

Also, heritage organizations are beginning to understand the importance of inclusion and are beginning to employ social inclusion, access and outreach officers to help ensure the heritage belongs to everyone. To date none of the top ten heritage attractions in the region has a member of staff dedicated to outreach and access, though they do have staff members who take care of these matters.

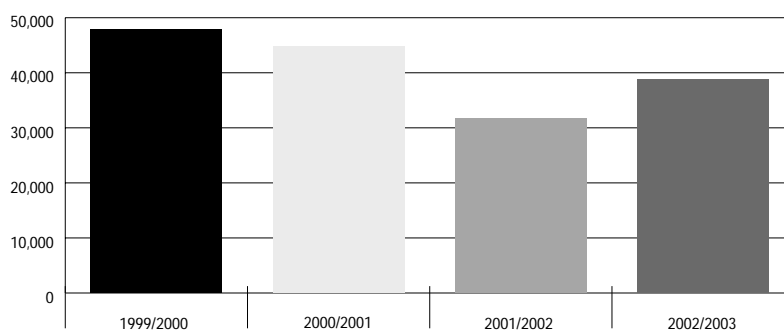
■ Based on 6 responses from the 10 historic sites with the highest visitor numbers in the North East.

10 Educational visits to heritage properties in the North East 1999-2002

	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003
ENGLISH HERITAGE NORTH EAST TOTALS	47,923	44,790	31,741	38,832
CRAGSIDE	7,413	6,889	6,294	6,261
HOUSESTEADS	13,829	11,412	1,169	10,006
NORTHUMBERLAND CRAFT CENTRE	156,219	147,689	157,243	–
TOTAL				

Source: English Heritage

11 Total number of education visits to English Heritage sites in the North East against year



Source: English Heritage