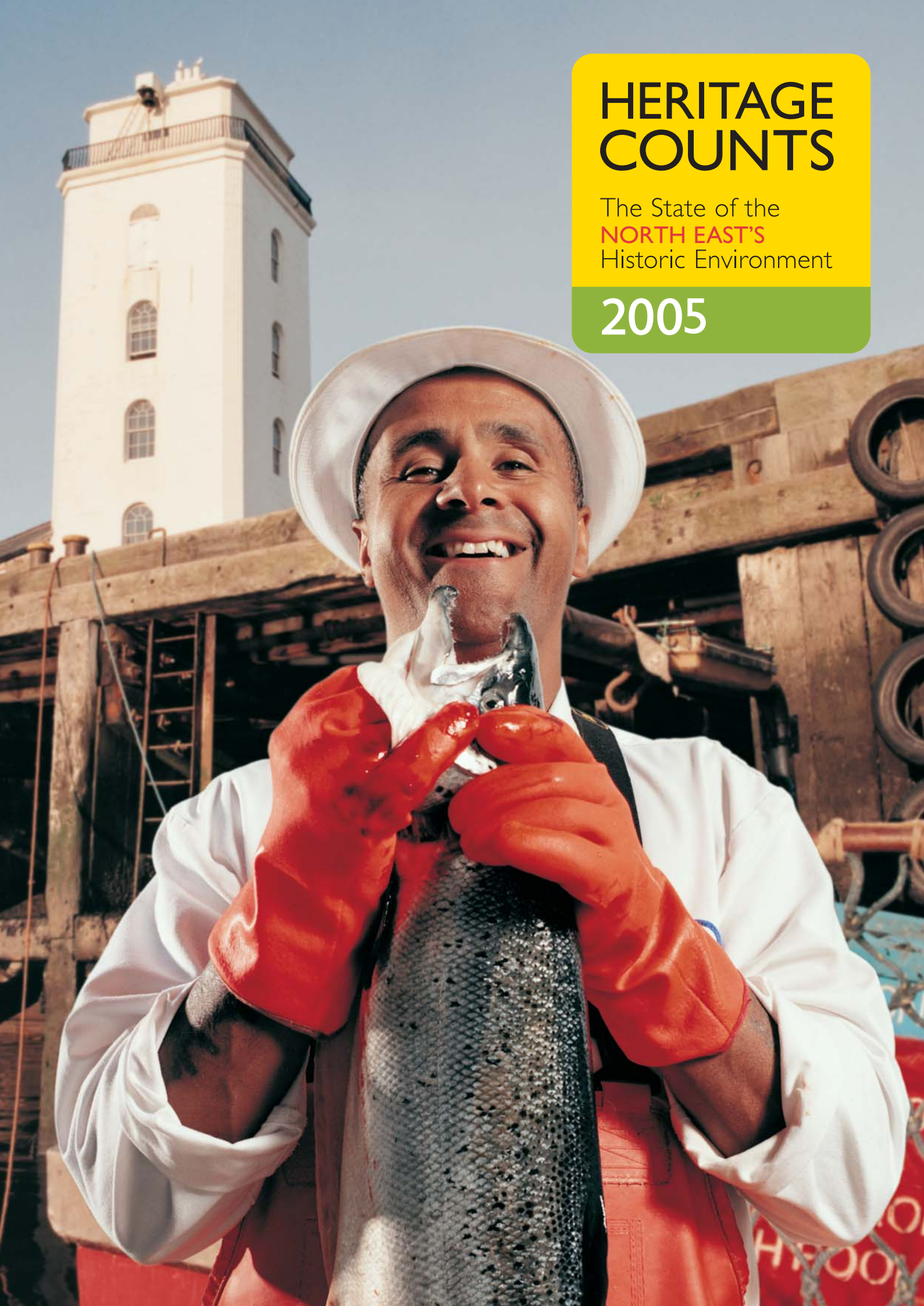


HERITAGE COUNTS

The State of the
NORTH EAST'S
Historic Environment

2005



Heritage Counts 2005 in the North East

Cover image: North Shields Fish Quay is an important regeneration project based around the scheduled 17th-century Clifford's Fort within the Fish Quay Conservation Area. The regeneration of this maritime area focuses upon Fish Quay as a site for commerce, living and tourism. Key to this is the restoration and interpretation of historic buildings and structures as part of a multi-million pound project funded by English Heritage, the Single Programme and the European Regional Development Fund.

Heritage Counts is the annual report on the state of England's historic environment. The report identifies the principal trends and challenges affecting the historic environment, with a particular focus in 2005 on England's rural and maritime heritage. This is one of nine separate regional reports and has been produced on behalf of the North East Historic Environment Forum. It should be read in conjunction with the national *Heritage Counts 2005* report, which is available at www.heritagecounts.org.uk

In 2005 the North East Historic Environment Forum published *An Economic, Social and Cultural Impact Assessment of Heritage in the North East*, a piece of independent research, which demonstrated the richness and diversity of heritage in the North East and the contribution it makes to the economy and quality of life by: providing jobs, giving competitive advantage, driving tourism, broadening education and skills, stimulating regeneration and underpinning social identity and pride. For example, regional heritage sites and attractions generate £180 million in visitor related spending and attract over 6 million visitors annually, while a recent study by Tyne & Wear Museums Service indicated that 88 per cent of those surveyed felt more confident and 64 per cent experienced a positive impact upon their health and wellbeing as a result of their museum experience.

This year's *Heritage Counts* builds on this solid evidence base and charts trends in the region. Its themes are maritime heritage, celebrating the 2005 Year of the Sea, and the rural historic environment. Both of these themes have particular resonance in the North East. The case studies, drawn widely from across the heritage sector, demonstrate the cumulative and wide-ranging contribution of rural and maritime projects to the economic and cultural vitality of the region.

The continuing challenges facing the region, including the highest percentage of buildings at risk in the country and a deficit of skills across the sector, need to be taken seriously. The capacity of the historic environment to deliver sustainable social and economic benefits is dependent on effective protection and constructive management.

The case studies in *Heritage Counts* and the work of the Historic Environment Forum demonstrate the importance of partnership. From close collaboration between Defra, English Heritage and individual landowners on the new agri-environment schemes to a new management organisation for Hadrian's Wall, the heritage sector is working closely together and with others to make a real difference to the people of the North East.

Carol Pyrah
Chair of the North East Historic Environment Forum

KEY HEADLINES

Whilst the North East comprises just seven per cent of the total land area of England, it has:

- the highest proportion of listed buildings at risk in the country (7.9 per cent compared with a national average of 3.4 per cent)
- 14 per cent of England's historic battlefields
- 12.5 per cent of England's World Heritage Sites
- 7 per cent of England's scheduled monuments
- approximately 3 per cent of England's listed buildings
- around 3 per cent of England's registered parks and gardens
- the lowest levels of re-use or conversion of historic farm buildings (20 per cent compared with a national average of approximately 30 per cent).

REGIONAL CONTEXT

The North East has a population of 2.54 million and is the second smallest of the nine English regions, forming just seven per cent of the total land area of England. The North East is a region of contrasts, ranging from the remote rural communities of the Cheviots and Northern Pennines to the densely populated urban conurbations of Teesside and Tyne & Wear. Most of the region is classified as rural, with 75 per cent of the region's population living on just 10 per cent of its land. The region has some of the most valuable natural and cultural assets in England, including two World Heritage Sites, recognised for their universal importance.

RURAL HERITAGE

Until the 19th century, agriculture formed the main industry of the region and even today farming and agriculture dominate large areas of the North East. This long tradition of agricultural practice has shaped the North East countryside that we see today. Traditional farm buildings, historic field boundaries and ruins of past rural and industrial activities are all testament to the relationship between the natural environment and our ancestors.

However, as agriculture has intensified, many historic features have been damaged or lost. The countryside has always been subject to change, but that change needs to be managed sensitively if we are to maintain the historical value of our rural areas. This is particularly relevant in a year when fundamental reforms are being made to the way in which agriculture and land management are supported.

MARITIME HERITAGE

The sea has also played an essential role in the history of the region, forming an important link between the North East and other areas of Britain and beyond. Major ports developed along the region's rivers, supporting a range of industries (from shipbuilding to fishing), which relied upon links with the sea.

The maritime historic environment of the region is extremely varied, ranging from lighthouses (like the Souter Lighthouse), quay and dock structures (such as Dunston Staiths), to wreck sites (including the wreck at Seaton Carew) and submerged prehistoric landscapes (such as Hartlepool's submerged prehistoric forest). However, this maritime heritage is facing increasing pressure from wind farm construction, port development and dredging.

The complexity of changes, particularly to remains under the sea, requires a more joined-up approach to the protection and management of the region's maritime heritage. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has recently published a consultation paper on the conservation of the marine historic environment, seeking closer integration with land-based protection mechanisms. The outcomes of the review process will have important implications for the future management and protection of the region's maritime heritage.

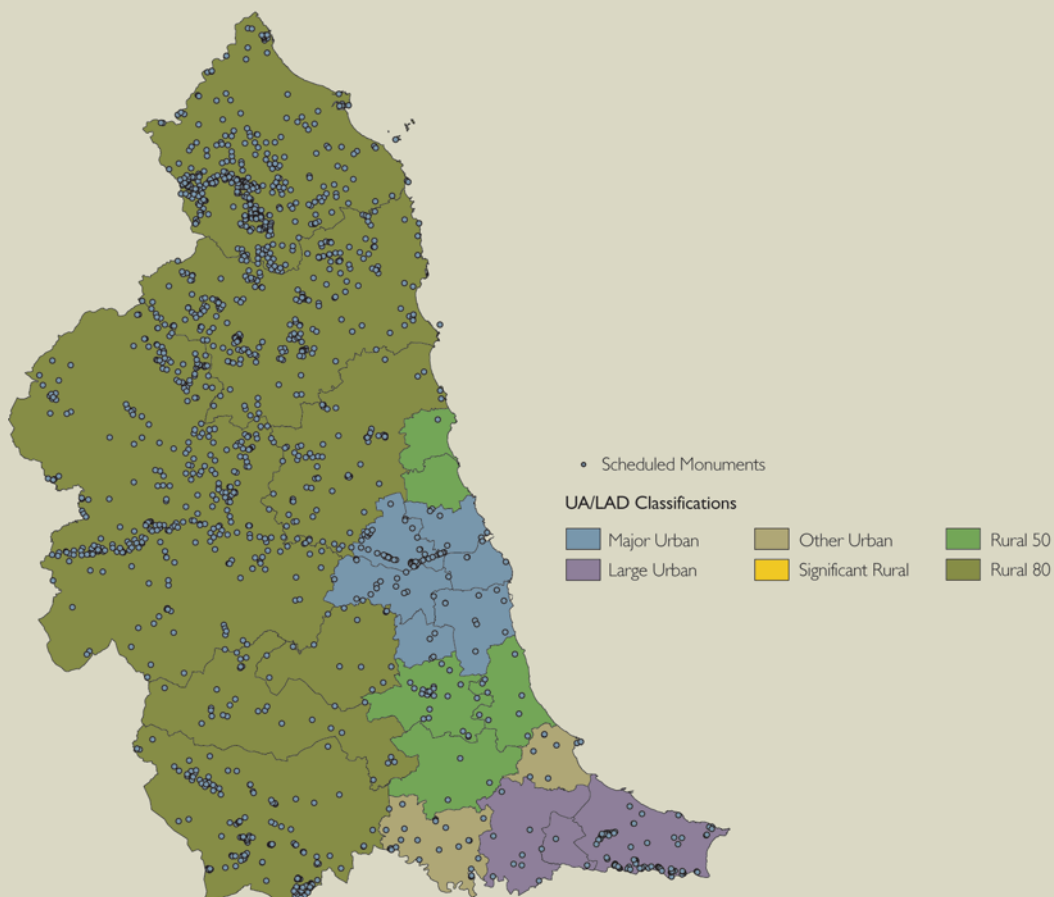
The historic environment in the North East: distribution of assets

North East – Regional Data

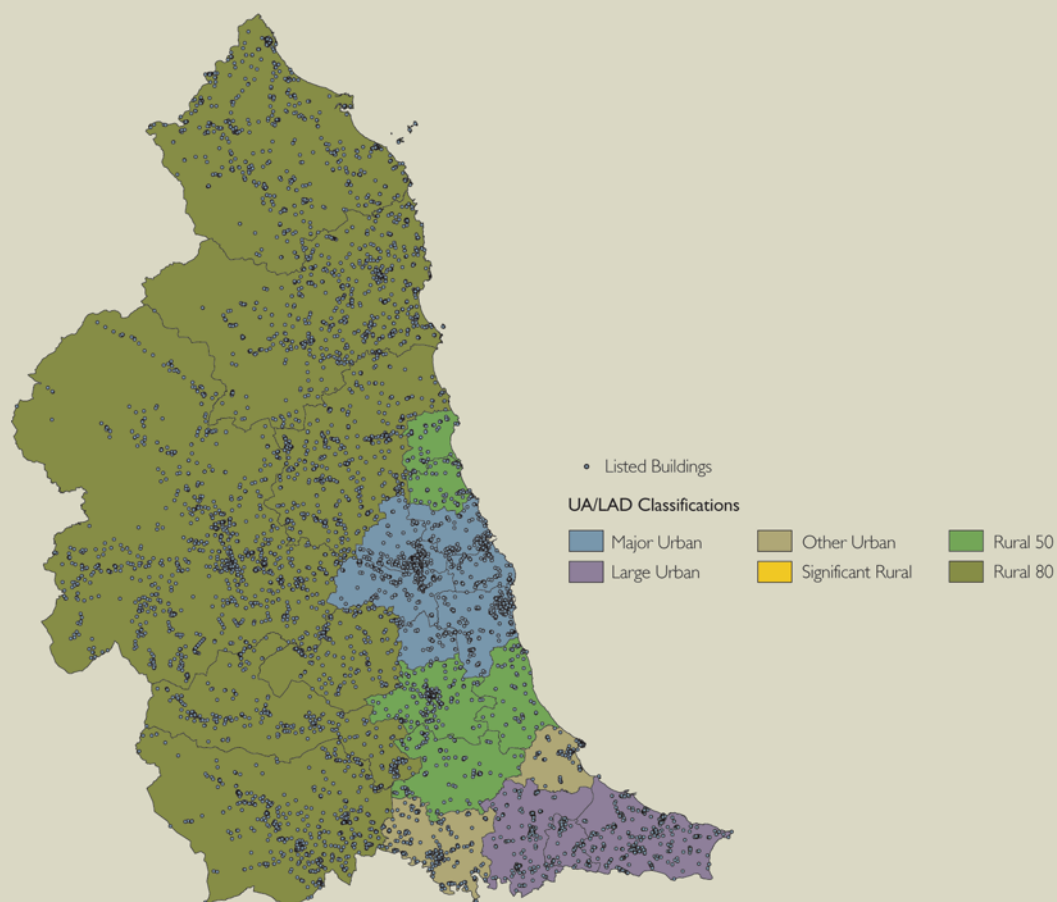
AUTHORITY	DISTRIBUTION OF LISTED BUILDINGS	DISTRIBUTION OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS	DISTRIBUTION OF REGISTERED PARKS & GARDENS	DISTRIBUTION OF CONSERVATION AREAS
DURHAM	3,075	232	15	93
NORTHUMBERLAND	5,555	967	18	61
TEES VALLEY				
DARLINGTON	530	20	2	16
HARTLEPOOL	153	8	1	8
MIDDLESBROUGH	126	3	1	6
REDCAR AND CLEVELAND	616	83	1	15
STOCKTON-ON-TEES	469	8	2	11
TYNE & WEAR				
GATESHEAD	240	16	4	22
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE	681	42	6	11
NORTH TYNESIDE	195	8	0	13
SOUTH TYNESIDE	194	4	1	11
SUNDERLAND	372	9	2	13

Source: English Heritage

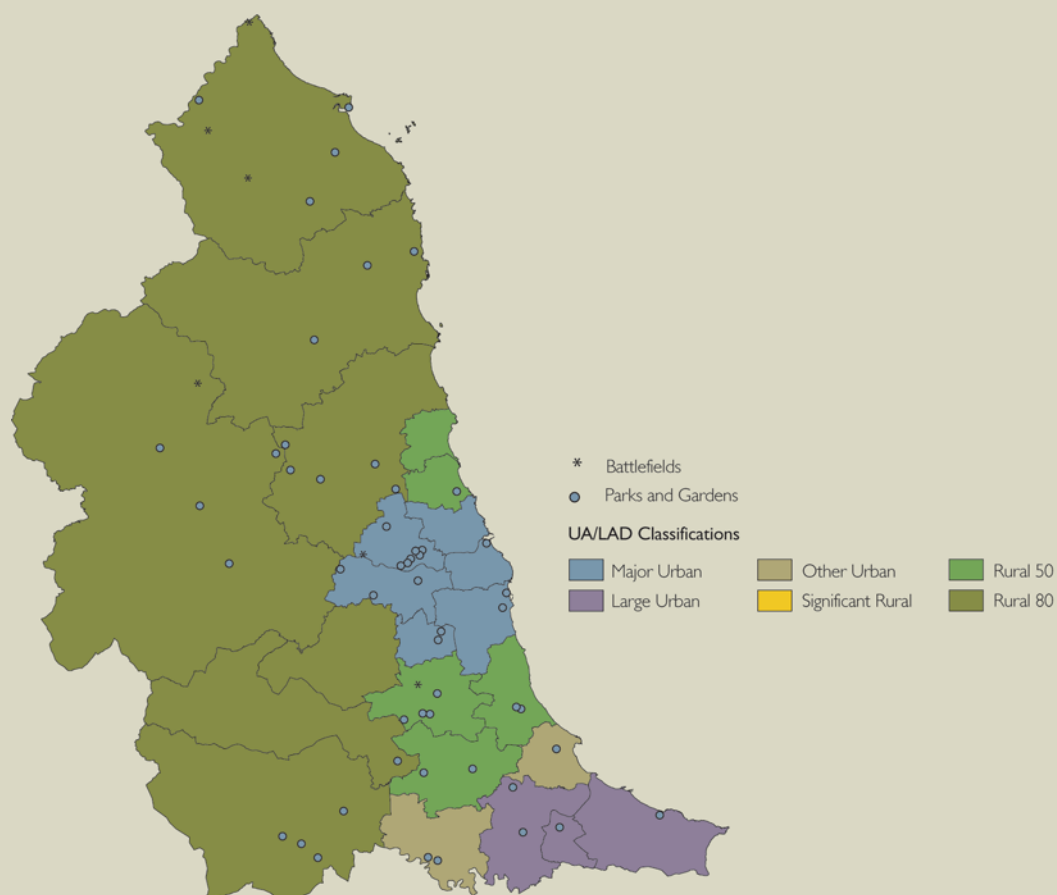
Scheduled Monuments in the North East Region against the Rural/Urban Classification of Local Authorities



Listed Buildings in the North East Region against the Rural/Urban Classification of Local Authorities



Battlefields and Parks & Gardens in the North East Region against the Rural/Urban Classification of Local Authorities



Policy context

Regional policy can have major implications for the protection and management of local heritage. Experts from the North East Historic Environment Forum advise regional strategy and policy makers so that they understand the condition of the historic environment and its contribution to regional life. Some of the key policy issues for the North East region include: the Sustainable Communities Programme (including Housing Market Renewal and Pathfinder Initiatives), the Northern Way, the Regional Spatial Strategy, and the Regional Economic Strategy.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME

The Sustainable Communities Programme is a long term plan for delivering sustainable communities in both rural and urban areas, including the provision of good quality, affordable housing.

NewcastleGateshead is one of nine housing market renewal pathfinders set up by the government to tackle the issue of low demand housing in urban areas, by improving existing housing stock, building new homes and demolishing redundant properties.

The historic environment sector is currently assisting local authorities in the region to ensure that the historical character of pathfinder areas is retained, as well as advising on historic character appraisal. For example, Gateshead Borough Council has commissioned the North of England Civic Trust to produce an Urban Landscape and Townscape Assessment of the pathfinder area within Gateshead Borough. The resulting character assessment reports have informed further work undertaken by consultants examining options for the future regeneration of the area.

RURAL PATHFINDERS

New approaches to the delivery of rural policy are also to be piloted through eight rural pathfinders. These will investigate: how to improve the coordination of service delivery at a local level, how to maximise the value received from the wide range of funding streams available, and how to establish local priorities. The West Durham area has been chosen as the rural pathfinder for the North East.

THE NORTHERN WAY

The Northern Way Growth Strategy seeks to reinvigorate the economies of Northern England and to reduce the disparities in its economic performance. The strategy, which focuses upon the three northern regions, is intended to unlock the economic potential of the North beyond that which could be achieved at a regional level. The heritage sector is currently considering the strategy and the potential of the historic environment to contribute to key issues identified in the strategy (such as growth, tourism, sustainability, quality of life, education and skills development).

REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY

In line with new Government Policy, a Regional Spatial Strategy will replace the Regional Planning Guidance and become part of the Statutory Development Plan. Representatives from the historic environment sector are currently working with the North East Assembly (the regional planning body) to identify opportunities for the region's historic environment to contribute to the social, environmental and economic objectives of the strategy and to put forward recommendations for an appropriate policy framework for the historic environment.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC STRATEGY

The North East Historic Environment Forum has recently produced a response on the revised draft Regional Economic Strategy for the North East, produced by the Regional Development Agency, ONE North East. The response demonstrates the economic contribution of the historic environment sector in the region, especially as a force for heritage-led regeneration and cultural tourism, as well as its contribution to sustainability, quality of life and well-being.

The historic environment refers to everything that has been created, shaped or influenced by past human activity. Certain aspects of the historic environment are recognised as being of special local, national or international importance through statutory and non-statutory designations, which provide special recognition and protection.

A.1

DESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS

- Two of England's sixteen World Heritage Sites are located within the North East region. Durham Castle and Cathedral (inscribed in 1986) and Hadrian's Wall (inscribed in 1987). Work is currently underway to support the additional inscription of the twin monastery site of Wearmouth and Jarrow.
- Of the 19,717 scheduled monuments located in England, 1,400 are located within the North East region, representing a slight increase upon last year's figure of 1,381.
- The North East currently has around 12,206 listed buildings, representing 3 per cent of the total number of listed building entries for England (372,038). The majority (59 per cent) of the region's listed buildings are located in rural areas, compared with those (41 per cent) found in more urban settings.
- There are currently 1,587 registered parks and gardens in England, with 53 entries from the North East (approximately 3.3 per cent of the national total).
- Within the North East there are six battlefield sites on the register of historic battlefields, representing approximately 14 per cent of England's total (43).
- There are 93 museums in the North East, including three nationally designated collections (at Beamish, Bowes Museum and Tyne & Wear Museums). Locomotion, the National Railway Museum at Shildon, is the first national museum to be built in the North East.



Hadrian's Wall, Sustrans Cycle Route

Plans for a new national cycle route along Hadrian's Wall gave English Heritage the chance to work in partnership with the project lead body, Sustrans, to provide safe access to the area for cyclists while safeguarding the heritage of the area. The route, which will run through the civilian settlement associated with the Roman fort at Carvoran, was drawn up in consultation with English Heritage. This served to limit disturbance to the archaeology of the site and also provided an opportunity for some archaeological fieldwork to record any remains brought to light by the development. The scheme will improve safe access for cyclists to the World Heritage Site, as well as providing an opportunity to study probable third century Roman occupation remains in this area.

© English Heritage

- There are 46 archive collections in the North East. The main Record Offices of Teesside, Durham, Tyne & Wear and Northumberland hold 3,400 cubic meters of records.
- The region's libraries contain 10 million items and 40,000 journal titles.

A.2 HISTORIC AREAS AND OPEN SPACES

A.3 RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE



The Seaton Shipwreck

There is currently one designated wreck site within the region, the Seaton Shipwreck, which is one of the most substantially intact wooden shipwrecks yet to be discovered on the North East coast. Discovered on Seaton Carew beach (having been uncovered by a chance combination of local tide and weather conditions), a team from Tees Archaeology immediately visited the site to establish its extent, content and position. Volunteers from a 'Rapid Response Register' (set up by Tees Archaeology and the Nautical Archaeology Society North East) were quickly called upon to assist in recording the wreck before it was lost once again to the sands.

The Seaton Wreck was given Historic Wreck designation in August 1996. It is one of four wrecks designated on the east coast between the Wash and the Orkneys and continues to be monitored by Tees Archaeology (the Wreck Licensees). The wreck demonstrates the difficulties associated with the recording, conservation and management of such wreck sites in unstable marine environments.

© Tees Archaeology

- Landscape conservation designations recognise and protect the cultural and natural elements of the countryside. Approximately 17 per cent of the region is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), comprising the Northumberland Coast and the North Pennines.
- The region encompasses the entirety of Northumberland National Park as well as the northern areas of the North York Moors. Approximately 13 per cent of the region's total land area has National Park status.
- Ancient woodland refers to land that has had continuous woodland since 1600 AD. The North East has 11,849 hectares of ancient woodland, representing approximately 1.38 per cent of its entire land cover.
- Heritage Coasts are non-statutory landscape designations, defined in agreement between the Countryside Agency and the local Maritime Authority. Within the North East, 146.4km of Northumberland, Durham and Tees Valley coastline have Heritage Coast status.
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) represent important sites for wildlife and geology. Within the North East, there are over 250 SSSIs, some of which are also of archaeological interest.

A.3

RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE

A.3.1

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORDS

Historic Environment Records (HERs) contain details about an area's historic assets and inform the conservation and management of the historic environment. There are currently five HERs within the North East region.

These records also have an increasing role in public education, as more become available online. Within the North East, the Historic Environment Records of both County Durham and Northumberland are currently available online, at <http://www.keys.tothepast.info/>

A.2

HISTORIC AREAS AND OPEN SPACES

- There are currently 280 conservation areas within the North East region, designated by local authorities for their special architectural or historical interest. Currently just 26% of the region's conservation areas have completed appraisals, though this represents an increase upon last year's figure of 15%.

A.3 RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE

A.3.2

LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION

A.3.2.1

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE
CHARACTERISATION IN THE
NORTH EAST

Historic landscape characterisation is a specific tool developed by English Heritage to provide a more detailed understanding of the historic elements of landscape character. This national programme is being conducted on a county-by-county basis, in collaboration with the local authorities. The North East currently has one project in progress within Northumberland, another at project design stage in County Durham, and a third programme planned for the Tees Valley.

A.3.3

REGIONAL RESEARCH

A3.3.1

NORTH EAST REGIONAL
RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

The North East Regional Research Framework (NERRF) is one of a series of regional and thematic research frameworks for the historic environment. It comprises a resource assessment (summarising existing research and knowledge of the region) and a research agenda (identifying gaps in the existing evidence base). This year will also see the publication of a thematic research strategy to complete the framework, which identifies research priorities for the future and addresses how these might practically be approached. Further details about this framework can be accessed from: <http://www.durham.gov.uk/research>

A3.3.2

NORTHUMBERLAND HISTORIC
VILLAGE ATLAS PROJECT

The Northumberland National Park Historic Village Atlas Project is a collaborative project between the National Park Authority and local communities, the main product of which is an atlas of historic villages within the National Park. The study sought to redress the lack of systematic research into the historic settlements within Northumberland National Park. The increased pace of development within the park area has put pressure on its cultural heritage.

North Pennines AONB
Building Design and
Conservation Awards

A new award scheme to recognise excellence in building design and conservation has had a successful start in the North Pennines AONB. Eight entries from across the area were received, including a mill conversion, the extension of a former miner's cottage and the restoration of a lead mining memorial and the re-building of a water treatment works site. The judges were impressed by the diversity and standard of entries. The eventual winner was the sensitive restoration of a vernacular cow byre. The awards will become an annual event, helping to raise the profile of those who use best practice techniques to conserve and enhance the historic features of the AONB.

© North Pennines AONB Partnership

This collaborative project will provide a resource to inform the future management and understanding of areas of historic importance.

A3.3.3

THE CHARACTER OF HISTORIC
FARM BUILDINGS

The Historic Farm Building Photo System comprises a database of photographic records of listed farmstead buildings. The database is capable of being updated to demonstrate changes taking place in terms of the structure, condition and use of the buildings recorded. Analysis of the data in 2005 indicated that the historic farmsteads in the North East show the lowest levels of re-use or conversion (20 per cent compared with a national average of around 30 per cent).

A.3 RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE

1 A Review of the Rural Churches in Community Service Programme, Susan Rowe, 2004.



Rural churches and the community, St Thomas' Church, County Durham

Rural church buildings face particular difficulties as highlighted in the in the *Building Faith for our Future* paper, produced by the Church Heritage Forum. Rural churches play an important role in rural communities, contributing to local identity and community cohesion. However, rising repair costs and declining populations are presenting particular challenges for this type of heritage. 1

Stanley Crook is a small rural community in County Durham where the local church building provides a symbol of continuity in a changing coalfield landscape. The closure of a local opencast mine, left the community with high levels of unemployment. St Thomas' Church, a Victorian and Grade II listed building, has survived these changes, due to the will of the local community.

A series of improvements has been undertaken at the church, to provide a community resource that has helped to rebuild local confidence. The church is now used for coffee sessions (with facilities for toddlers), charity sales, concerts and art and crafts exhibitions.

© Johnathon D. L. Kindleysides

Hartlepool Submerged Forest – SSSI

Hartlepool Submerged Forest is a site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), that lies on the foreshore at Hartlepool Bay. Thousands of years ago this whole area was covered with trees and peat bog. Neolithic man, which may have been deliberately buried in the peat around 2,700 years ago, was discovered at the forest site. More recent programmes of investigation conducted as part of sea defence works have uncovered lines of wooden stakes, worked flints and wattle hurdling – all indicative of past human activity. While this SSSI site is designated for its environmental importance, the site also provides a rich archaeological resource, demonstrating the need for the integrated management of archaeological features with those of the natural environment. The results of investigations at the site are available from Tees Archaeology, at www.teesarchaeology.com

A3.3.4

THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FORUM MARITIME RESEARCH PROJECT

The North of England Civic Trust is currently examining the local importance of maritime heritage and its contribution to regional life. The HLF is one of the greatest funders of maritime projects in the North East, having donated over £13 million to maritime projects to date. Approximately £12 million has been used to regenerate coastal areas. Projects have ranged from the restoration of buildings, such as the Brigade Watch House at South Shields, to the improvement of areas such as Hartlepool Headland.

The rest has been invested in maritime projects associated with training and skills development, including the Maritime Discovery Days project. This will provide training on interpretation and public relations, to help community groups make their maritime sites more accessible to the general public.

B.1

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AT RISK

B.1.1

BUILDINGS AT RISK

Regrettably, the North East continues to have the highest proportion of grade I and grade II* listed buildings at risk in the country (7.9 per cent compared with a national average of 3.4 per cent). Nine buildings have been added to the register this year, though 14 buildings have been removed (due to a combination of new uses and grant funding). The condition of a further 25 entries has improved.

The risk to the region's grade II* buildings remains notably higher than that to the region's grade I buildings (9.2 percent grade II* compared with 5.7 per cent grade I).

B.1.2

SCHEDULED MONUMENTS AT RISK

Following the 1995 *Monuments at Risk Survey*, English Heritage has developed a methodology for assessing the level and character of risks affecting scheduled monuments. Work is currently underway in the North East to implement this methodology at a regional level. Currently, the framework has been applied to County Durham and the Unitary Authority of Darlington, but figures should be available for the whole region by 2006. Initial findings suggest that:

- 75 percent of the two areas' monuments are stable, 15 per cent are declining in condition, 7 percent are improving and 3 percent are unknown
- 65 percent of the two areas' monuments are low risk, 23 per cent are medium risk and 11 percent high risk
- threats to the two areas' monuments are varied and include: plant growth (affecting 11 percent), scrub/tree growth (affecting 5 per cent), neglect (4 per cent), arable farming (3 per cent) and localised animal burrowing (3 per cent).

Positively, most monuments are classed as stable and low risk due to the efforts of English Heritage field monument wardens who inspect the sites and advise

Renovation of stables at Gibside Estate

Gibside Stables are located at Gibside Estate in Gateshead, originally home to the 18th century industrialists and major landowners, the Bowes, ancestors of the late Queen Mother's family, the Bowes-Lyons. The Stables were built in 1746 to house George Bowes's racing stock and are now owned and managed by the National Trust, which has undertaken the conservation and restoration of the site to give the building an active and sustainable future.

The project has been a fine balancing act complying with the demands of 21st century building regulations and conservation principles in adapting an 18th century building for a beneficial new use.

Visitors to the property are now able to enter the stables and follow a special route incorporating interpretation and a video presentation of a carriage ride through Gibside. Some parts of the stables will also be used by horses, maintaining the original use of the building. However, the building will mostly be used for learning and volunteering (with volunteer accommodation provided on the first floor).

on their management. English Heritage is also working to improve the condition of those monuments currently classed as declining or at medium/high risk, through close monitoring and liaison with the owner/occupier, management agreements, or through environmental stewardship schemes.

B.2

MANAGING POSITIVELY

The historic environment needs to be sensitively managed if it is to be protected for the benefit of future generations. This requires a holistic approach to the management of the historic environment, in order to conserve historic landscapes, both terrestrial and maritime.

B.2.1

PLANNING APPLICATION TRENDS

County and district planning authorities in the North East received approximately 26,936 applications across the North East region for the 2004/5 period. This was the lowest number of applications for any English region, followed by the East Midlands with 51,213 applications.

B.2 MANAGING POSITIVELY



New Management Organisation for Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site

English Heritage is supporting the creation of a new, single management organisation for Hadrian's Wall, subject to approval from the Department of Trade and Industry. The new organisation will provide clear and consistent leadership and focus, coordinating a range of disparate activities in the delivery of the World Heritage Site Management Plan. It will lead on issues of heritage, conservation, access, and education and it is hoped that the new organisation will become operational by April 2006.

© English Heritage

Conservation Management Plan for Byker, River Tyne Gorge

Byker is a large housing estate overlooking the River Tyne Gorge in the east of Newcastle. It was built between 1969 and 1983 to a master plan by British architect Ralph Erskine and is regarded as one of the most important social housing schemes of the period. However, in recent years, a number of social and environmental issues have threatened the stability of the area. English Heritage and Newcastle City Council have recently published the conservation plan *A Byker Future* by the North East Civic Trust. The plan, developed in consultation with local residents, explores how to preserve the features that make Byker special and secure a positive future for the area.

Conservation Management Plan for Traditional Boundaries in Northumberland National Park

Traditional field boundaries (such as dry stonewalls, earth banks and hedges) contribute to the overall character of Northumberland National Park. Created by generations of farmers and landowners, these boundaries are an essential component of the historical landscape and also have considerable ecological value. Unfortunately, many of the boundaries are at risk from reduced labour inputs and a lack of expert management.

Consequently, Northumberland National Park Authority has recently produced a conservation management plan for traditional boundaries within the Park. The plan addresses some of the information gaps about the state of the Park's traditional boundaries and reviews a number of mechanisms for their protection, management and conservation as an important economic, natural and cultural heritage resource.

B.2.2 CONSENT APPLICATIONS

Buildings, sites, objects and areas of heritage importance require special consideration in the planning process and where works materially affect the special character of a listed building, involve demolition within a conservation area, or involve works affecting a scheduled monument, additional consents may be necessary.

Regional figures from the Office for the Deputy Prime Minister for the 2004/5 period indicate that there were 928 decisions made on listed building consent, of which 837 were granted and 92 decisions on conservation area consent, of which 74 were granted. In addition, English Heritage casework data for the region suggests that there were also 82 decisions on scheduled monument consent, of which 80 were granted.

This demonstrates that consent applications are granted in the vast majority of cases, enabling constructive change.

B.2.3 WORLD HERITAGE SITE MANAGEMENT PLANS

Hadrian's Wall was one of the first World Heritage Sites in England to have a site management plan. UNESCO recommends that management plans

B.2 MANAGING POSITIVELY

B.3 CAPACITY AND RESOURCES

are developed for World Heritage Sites to ensure that they are protected and beneficially managed within their landscapes.

Currently, ONE North East is helping to fund a management plan for Durham Castle and Cathedral (about to go to public consultation) as well as the development of nomination documents for the Wearmouth and Jarrow site, which is on the tentative list. The latter is being developed by a consortium of different organisations including: Sunderland, South Tyneside, Bede's World, English Heritage and the Diocese of Durham.

B.2.4

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLANS

Conservation management plans are tools for assessing what matters and why and provide a means of working out what needs doing and how to go about it. The best plans integrate the views of both local stakeholders and community interest groups.

B.3

CAPACITY AND RESOURCES

B.3.1

EMPLOYMENT

A total of 7,345 jobs are currently supported by the heritage sector in the North East of England, many of which are employed in the region's historic tourist attractions. ² However, data from the *Survey of Visits to Visitor Attractions* report indicates that the North East accounted for the lowest proportion of all staff employed at historic properties (excluding museums) in 2004, representing less than four per cent of the national total.

Data from the North East Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, suggests that 2,350 (full time equivalent) staff are employed in museums, libraries or archives in the region.

Of the 27 local authorities within the North East region, just 19 authorities benefit from an internal conservation officer resource and five of these share their conservation officer with one or more other local authorities.



Agri-environment Scheme at Doddington Bastle

Doddington Bastle is a rare surviving medieval strong house, nestling among the buildings of a working farm in Northumberland. This grade II* listed building was on English Heritage's Buildings at Risk Register and was in danger of being lost forever until Defra, English Heritage and the owner developed a rescue plan for the 16th-century structure. The building is now being protected in a partnership project under Defra's agri-environment schemes, delivered by the Rural Development Service. As part of the scheme, Defra is funding the first phase of conservation at the site, with a grant of £80,000 and English Heritage is overseeing the work.

The new scheme provides farmers with payments in return for conserving the countryside, which includes taking care of the heritage assets on their land.

© English Heritage

B.3.2

FUNDING AND INVESTMENT

B.3.2.1

AGRI-ENVIRONMENT SCHEMES

A key mechanism for encouraging conservation and the beneficial management of the historic environment in rural areas is through agri-environment schemes, administered by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). For example, the Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) and Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) schemes have encouraged conservation within farming and land

² *Economic, Social and Cultural Impact Assessment of Heritage in the North East* (North East Historic Environment Forum, 2005).

B.3 CAPACITY AND RESOURCES



Till Tweed Landscape Management Project, Northumberland

The expansion of aggregates extraction and transportation has led to an increase in its impact upon historic sites and buildings (especially in rural areas), through a range of physical factors such as noise, vibration and dust. Introduced to reduce the impact of aggregates extraction upon local environments and communities, the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund has allowed English Heritage to distribute over £3.5 million to over 70 projects in the past year, including the Till Tweed Landscape Management Project, Northumberland.

The valleys of the rivers Till and Tweed in Northumberland host spectacular crop marks and other archaeological remains dating from the Mesolithic to the present. This ALSF project (undertaken jointly by the Archaeological Research Services Ltd and the School of Geography at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne) has involved mapping all known archaeology in relation to geomorphological landforms. This information has been incorporated into a Geographical Information System and is being used to assist local planning authorities; the aggregates industry, curators and the researchers in the future landscape management and development in the area.

© ARS Ltd

management practices, through payment of financial incentives. In 2004, the North East had 1,081 CSS agreements covering approximately 158,996 hectares of land and 532 ESA schemes covering approximately 17,584 hectares.

In 2005, Defra introduced a new agri-environment scheme to replace the CSS and ESA schemes. The new scheme will provide financial incentives for land managers to enhance the environmental management of their land, including the conservation of historic features or landscapes, and will be administered by Natural England, the Government's new environmental agency.

B.3.2.3

ENGLISH HERITAGE GRANT AID

For the 2004/5 period, English Heritage granted a total of £423,000 towards historic buildings, monuments and designed landscapes. A total of £427,000 was awarded to places of worship (in partnership with the HLF) and £83,000 was offered as respect of cathedral grants. A further £732,900 was offered to historic environment regeneration schemes, £22,150 was awarded to increase the capacity of the heritage sector in the region, and £15,000 was offered to owners of scheduled monuments for management agreements. The Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle also received a grant of £800,000 from English Heritage to allow urgent repairs to the roof. The grant is the largest amount ever to be awarded to a single building by English Heritage in the North East.

B.3.2.4

HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) represents the single largest source of funding for the historic environment in the North East. Since 1994, the HLF has awarded over £146 million to 860 projects in the North East of England.

B.4 SKILLS

B.4
SKILLS

The historic environment sector faces its own very particular challenges in the recruitment and retention of suitably skilled workers – both paid and voluntary.

B.4.1
SKILLS ANALYSIS

The National Heritage Training Group, including the CITB-Construction Skills and English Heritage, published a national report in 2005 on traditional craft skills. This skills mapping research estimates that the region has 1,061 traditional building crafts professionals (4.8 per cent of the national total). Approximately 36 per cent of the region's contractors employ joiners, 29 per cent employ stonemasons, 24 per cent employ general builders, 22 per cent employ lime plasterers and 22 per cent employ slate and tile roofers.

B.4.2
NORTH EAST HERITAGE SKILLS FAIR

September 2005 saw the North East Heritage Skills Fair; a two day event to promote the development of heritage skills and highlight the problem of the current skills deficit. Held at the National Trust's Wallington Hall, over 2,500 people visited the Fair, including over 1,500 young people in school groups. Events included a professional conference, public seminars from local celebrities such as John Grundy, a seminar for careers advisors, a schools programme and a large number of individual exhibitors and demonstrators. The main partners organising the event were: Northumberland National Park Authority, the National Trust, the Heritage Information Trust, the Heritage Lottery Fund, English Heritage and the Learning and Skills Council.

B.4.3
HELM

HELM (Historic Environment Local Management) is an English Heritage initiative aimed at increasing awareness amongst decision-makers within local authorities and government agencies about the value of the historic environment. The project website www.helm.org.uk provides a range of expert guidance relating to historic buildings, archaeology and landscapes. It also promotes opportunities to attend a number of training courses and seminars relating to the historic environment.

Tyne & Wear Archives
Maritime Collections

The significance of Tyneside's industrial maritime past is often overlooked as the region changes and looks towards its future as a cultural destination. Tyne & Wear Archive Service holds the evidence of the social, economic and industrial impact of the region's maritime legacy. Holdings include the company records of all the major shipyards (including those of Tyneside company Swan Hunter and Wearside's William Doxford and Sons Ltd), marine engineering records (including technical drawings of the world's first steam turbine driven ship), and evidence of maritime trade.

This vast archive of the shipyards and shipping industry is currently being investigated to assess its content and explore how these items can be made available to the public. This is part of a longer term project to transform access to the archive, made possible by a project planning grant from HLF.

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Training in traditional trades
and rural crafts

The nationwide shortage in skilled professionals in a number of traditional trades, particularly in the construction industry is having a negative impact on the region's museums. For example, Beamish and Bede's World specialise in recreating historic environments and have experienced difficulties in finding individuals to maintain buildings and landscapes. Discussions are therefore underway to develop a regional training centre for heritage building trades, coordinating offsite training projects at centres such as Beamish or Bede's World.

B.4 SKILLS



The Work of Giants, the Corbridge Roman Bridge Project

Archaeologists from Tyne & Wear Museums Service have revealed the monumental remains of part of the Roman bridge crossing the Tyne just outside Corbridge, Northumberland. The project, funded mainly by the HLF and English Heritage is necessary because river erosion and floods were gradually revealing and dislodging the remains of the bridge. These will be stabilised, protected and displayed to the public, providing a new heritage asset on this rural riverside walk. The project benefits from an education and outreach programme and is designed to maximise the participation of volunteers from the local community, working alongside New Deal trainees and professional archaeologists.

© Tyne & Wear Museums



Museum core skills course

The North East Regional Museums Hub is a partnership between Tyne & Wear Museums Service, Beamish: the North of England Open Air Museum, the Bowes Museum and Hartlepool Museums. April saw the launch of the Hub's Core Museum Skills Training programme. Open to all staff, paid or voluntary, working in museums and galleries in the North East, this free ten-session course aims to provide an overview of the various aspects of museum work. The programme covers three themes: 'Technical Issues' (such as conservation and security), 'Interpretation' and 'Audiences'. Delivered by trainers with expert knowledge of current museum practice, the course is proving enormously popular, with the initial twenty places being five times oversubscribed. More courses are planned to cope with demand.

© North East Regional Museums Hub

Training in archaeological recording for divers

The coastline of the North East has a huge array of wrecks and underwater archaeology. The Nautical Archaeology Society, North East works with local divers and archaeologists of all levels to conduct fieldwork and research along the coastline, to help increase understanding about the maritime historic environment. As part of the Maritime Discovery Days project, a purpose sunk boat will be used to provide a training opportunity for those wishing to develop their diving and marine archaeology skills. Shore-based opportunities will also be provided for anyone wishing to help with the identification, recording and research of finds and materials.

B.4.4

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT CHAMPIONS

Local authorities play an essential role in the protection and management of the region's historic environment. The appointment of Members or Senior Officers as Historic Environment Champions enables local authorities to fulfil this role more effectively and maximise the social and economic contribution of the historic environment to the local community. The North East currently has 14 local authority Historic Environment Champions.

Northern Architecture and the North of England Civic Trust are currently working to promote and

B.4 SKILLS

B.5 BROADENING ACCESS

develop the role of Historic Environment and Design Champions within the region as part of a project co-funded by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment and English Heritage. To date, the project has involved a mapping exercise, a promotional campaign, the establishment of a Champions Club and networking events to share skills and experience. This year will also see the publication of an induction pack, providing support and advice for new Champions.

B.4.5

SECTOR SKILLS COUNCIL

The Sector Skills Council with a remit for the cultural heritage was granted its licence to operate by the Sector Skills Development Agency on 1 June 2005. This industry-led organisation has the potential to influence the supply of education and skills for the historic environment sector across the UK.

The Northern Cultural Skills Partnership (NCSP) is currently developing a Skills Action Plan on behalf of the region's cultural sector to inform the work of the Creative and Cultural Sector Skills Council. The North East Historic Environment Forum is working with NCSP to ensure that the needs of the region's heritage sector are represented.

B.5

BROADENING ACCESS

The historic environment belongs to everybody and all should have the opportunity to enjoy it to the fullest extent, regardless of gender, class, cultural background, mobility levels or sensory ability. The sector is currently attempting to broaden access to the historic environment through public consultation and programmes of outreach.

B.5.1

TAKING PART SURVEY 2005

The 2005 *Taking Part* survey has been commissioned by the DCMS and its partner non-departmental public bodies (including English Heritage). It will provide quality-assured data on cultural participation across the cultural sectors to inform future policy and planning. The survey will also collect vital information on what encourages or prevents people from taking part in cultural activities, and will provide data at a regional level.



Stepping out in Stockton

'Stepping Out in Stockton' is a partnership project between English Heritage, the North East Regional Museums Hub, Sure Start Stockton and Stockton Council. A heritage trail around Stockton has been created for families along with a new family area at the Green Dragon Museum. Both have been developed in consultation with families from the Sure Start Programme in Stockton. The trail covers ten buildings of historical interest chosen by the families and the Green Dragon Museum. This is one of a series of projects around the region designed to encourage Sure Start groups to engage with heritage.

© North East Regional Museums Hub

Inner City Project

The publication of 'Working in Urban Areas', by the National Trust demonstrated that two thirds of the Trust's properties are located within a 20-minute drive of our 15 largest cities. Initiatives such as the Inner City Project in Newcastle are developing these connections and bringing widely different sections of the community in touch with the Trust's work. Based within Holy Jesus Hospital, the National Trust's 'Inner City Project' seeks to promote access to the coast and countryside amongst young people and older adults from inner city areas of Tyneside.

Education at historic houses

The Historic Houses Association and English Heritage have developed a number of pilot initiatives aimed at developing educational provision at historic houses. The initiatives aimed to develop a framework of best practice that could be applied to other historic houses and included provision for those in formal education (that is, provision for teachers, tutors, pupils and students) as well as family-based learning provision.

In 2005, a series of seminars were held to disseminate the findings of the pilots and to explore options for the future roll out of the scheme. One of the most recent seminars, aimed at houses in the North East, explored ways in which different heritage organisations could work together through a future learning network to facilitate a more coordinated approach to educational provision.

The Mineral Valleys Project

West County Durham is steeped in a rich social, industrial and natural heritage, which has shaped the social and economic fabric of the area. The Mineral Valleys Project aims to use environment-led regeneration to help these communities celebrate their heritage, whilst enhancing their environment.

The project is led by English Nature and is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund (£2.8 million is provided by HLF, out of a £5.2 million total investment programme). The project aims to deliver environmental, social and economic benefits to the former mining and coalfield areas of West Durham.

The Mineral Valleys Project brings together a diverse range of programmes, which focus upon conservation and regeneration, stimulating the economy, or improving social conditions. The projects draw upon local heritage and involve local communities, building capacity and human capital.

C.I

EDUCATION

The historic environment sector creates pathways to learning for all people in the region, from school children to adults, providing an informal learning environment in a unique setting.

C.I.I

LADDER TO LEARNING

The North East Museums, Libraries and Archives Council published the *Ladder to Learning and Employment* study in 2005, which demonstrated the impact of the sector in encouraging adult learners onto further education or employment. The report found that museums, libraries and archives were particularly successful in engaging 'hard to reach' groups who do not respond to more formal learning environments, increasing confidence and aspiration amongst the learners involved.

C.2

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

C.2.I

HERITAGE-LED REGENERATION

The historic environment provides a positive focus for the renewal of communities that have previously displayed symptoms of economic disadvantage or decline.

For the 2004/05 period, English Heritage granted £732,900 to historic environment regeneration schemes in the region. The region is also currently benefiting from a number of HLF Townscape Heritage Initiative regeneration schemes including:

- £1 million (of a total fund of £2 million) awarded in 2003 for Gateshead Bridges conservation area
- £1 million (of £7,361,100) awarded in 2001 to the Hartlepool Headland conservation area
- £750,000 (of £2,030,000) awarded in 2001 to the historic quarter in Middlesbrough
- £600,000 (of £1.2 million) awarded in 2001 for the regeneration of historic Sunnyside in Sunderland
- £200,000 (of a total of £400,000) awarded in 2000 for Bishop Auckland town centre.

C.2 ECONOMIC IMPACTS
C.3 PARTICIPATIONC.2.2
HERITAGE TOURISM

The historic environment plays a fundamental role in supporting cultural tourism. For example, heritage sites and attractions generate over £180 million in visitor related spending and account for 17 per cent of total tourism spending in the region. ³

Regional data from the Historic Houses Association indicates that historic houses in the North East attract 1,370,000 visitors, contribute £120.6 million to the regional economy, employ 578 staff and pay an annual wage bill of £5.78 million.

Data from the North East Museums Libraries and Archives Council shows that the sector manages an annual budget of around £100 million and attracts almost 24 million visitors a year. Within the regional museums, libraries and archives sector, there are 93 museums attracting 3.6 million visits.

VisitBritain's 2004 *Survey of Visits to Visitor Attractions* demonstrated that:

- the North East region saw a high proportion of visits to historic gardens (32 per cent compared with a national average of 20 per cent) and a low proportion of visits to historic houses (9 per cent compared with 29 per cent)
- historic properties in the North East also received high proportions of domestic visitors from outside the region (66 per cent compared with a national average of 53 per cent)
- the North East had the greatest proportion of historic properties reporting a decline in their gross revenue (with a 35 per cent decrease compared with a national decrease of 29 per cent)

C.3
PARTICIPATION

The state of the historic environment is not just about the physical condition of historic sites and objects, but also the extent to which the public understand, value and care for them.

Heritage-led regeneration
of Fish Quay and New Quay
conservation areas

The Fish Quay and New Quay conservation areas are currently receiving investment from North Tyneside Council and English Heritage, with local heritage being used to engage the local community and encourage regeneration. The newly established Fish Quay Heritage Partnership (which includes local residents and business people) is now delivering £400,000 between 2005 and 2007 on heritage-led initiatives to support the revival of the area.

With professional guidance, local people are also involved in the preparation of conservation area character appraisals for the two areas, which will be adopted by the Council for planning purposes. Together with urban design 'know-how' sessions run by Northern Architecture and the North of England Civic Trust, this demonstrates how heritage is being harnessed to involve local people in the regeneration of a fascinating historic riverside quarter.

Sea Britain North East

As part of an International Festival of Rivers and the Sea, museums across the North East from Berwick to Middlesbrough delivered a programme of over 30 maritime-related exhibitions and events throughout 2005. Highlights included: *Heroes of Trafalgar*: Collingwood and Nelson at South Shields Museum and Art, *The Wonderful Undersea World of Dr Johnson* at Berwick Museum and Art Gallery and *Over Ocean – Ships at the Roman Frontier* at Segedunum Roman Fort, Wallsend.

The programme was funded by the North East Regional Museums Hub and the NewcastleGateshead Initiative (through its Culture10 programme). It is an example of the way in which the museum sector is working in the spirit of greater partnership and co-operation, in order to present an ever more dynamic and engaging programme for its users.

³ *Economic, Social and Cultural Impact Assessment of Heritage in the North East* (North East Historic Environment Forum, 2005)

C.4 WELL BEING AND QUALITY OF LIFE



Tall Ships Race 2005

July 2005 saw the hosting of the Tall Ships Races on the River Tyne. The fleet congregated near the historic quayside area, before setting sail along the Tyneside coastline. The races were accompanied by live nautical entertainment and activities, including a Tall Ship Races Parade Party at Tynemouth Priory, which featured music from the age of Nelson. Approximately 1.5 million people are believed to have visited the Tall Ships event overall, which is thought to have generated an economic boost of over £50 million to the local economy. This demonstrates how the region's maritime heritage can be used as a focus for regional tourism.

More information about the impact of the Tall Ships event can be accessed from <http://www.visitnewcastlegateshead.com/>

© English Heritage

Community archaeology, North Pennines AONB

The North Pennines AONB Partnership is actively encouraging community archaeology initiatives by supporting local surveys and digs led by prominent local archaeologists. Two phases of survey work at Stanhope Deer Park have been funded by the AONB small grants scheme. These have enabled local volunteers to learn archaeological survey methods, while participating in research. One project has revealed a complex archaeological landscape, preserving Bronze Age remains, Romano-British fields and settlements, medieval features and later industrial remains. Archaeology students and local residents have also benefited from a separate excavation project focusing on a Romano-British roundhouse and its enclosure. Both projects have been accompanied by a series of talks, walks and displays to communicate the findings.

and West Durham Coalfield. The study involved a consultation exercise about people's perceptions of the term 'tranquillity', focusing upon the qualitative, experiential aspects of the landscape. Responses highlighted the importance of landscape areas that were 'unspoilt and traditional'. Many heritage sites were also perceived as tranquil places including: Durham Cathedral, Holy Island and Craggside Gardens.

C.4.2

SOCIAL IMPACT OF MUSEUMS

Tyne & Wear Museums Service has recently commissioned a study to explore the social impact of museum and gallery visiting. Initial findings from the study suggest that participation in museum and gallery-related activities contributes towards people's psychological health and well-being. For example:

- 88 per cent of those questioned felt that their museum and gallery experience had increased their confidence
- 83 per cent were more inclined to explore their ideas, values and dreams following their museum and gallery experience
- 64 per cent felt that their museum and gallery experience had positively impacted upon their health and well-being.

C.4

WELL BEING AND QUALITY OF LIFE

Participation in cultural activities is included in the list of indicators published in the *Quality of Life Counts* 2004 publication. There is also increasing evidence to suggest that visits to historic landscapes, sites or museums can have a positive impact upon peoples' emotional health and well-being.

C.4.1

TRANQUILLITY MAPPING

In 2004 the *Tranquillity Mapping* project was undertaken in Northumberland National Park

C.5 SUSTAINABILITY

Renewable energy and historic buildings

The repair and conservation of the historic Falstone Village School in Northumberland to create Falstone tearooms, village shop and information centre was successful in the Civic Trust Rural Design Awards. A former Victorian schoolhouse, the building has been sensitively restored and extended, incorporating a sustainable technology such as a biomass boiler and rainwater collector. This demonstrates the successful integration of renewable energy production with the conservation of the historic environment and sustainable re-use of heritage assets.

C.5 SUSTAINABILITY

The historic environment and the natural environment are intrinsically linked through millennia of human interaction with the environments in which they inhabit. The historic environment is a finite resource that is worthy of conservation and protection for the benefit of future generations.

C.5.1 CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

Climate change is forecast to increase significantly the scale and pace of coastal erosion. This can affect ancient monuments and historic buildings and presents difficult decisions concerning the future management of historic assets along our coastline.

Stretches of the North East coastline are already changing. The National Trust publication *Shifting Shores* predicts that up to 23 kilometres of coastal frontage in the North East (including areas of the Durham, South Shields and Northumberland coastlines) might retreat inland by 10 to 50 metres over the next hundred years. A further two kilometre stretch at Druridge Bay could retreat by 100 to 200 metres over the same time frame.



Coquetdale Community Archaeology Project, Northumberland National Park

Education and engagement encourage a greater understanding of, and respect for, the historic environment. Northumberland National Park Authority, in partnership with Northumberland County Council and numerous local community groups, has developed a community project which links local people to the rich archaeological heritage of their surroundings. Residents of Upper Coquetdale are getting involved in exploring and investigating the hidden history of their homes, farms, villages and the local landscape. Through a programme of activities such as field walking, recording ancient monuments and summer excavations, local people are developing the skills needed to undertake much needed research into the archaeology of their area.

© Northumberland National Park Authority

C.5.2 RENEWABLE ENERGY AND THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

All forms of energy generation, including that generated from renewable sources, have environmental impacts. The challenge for the future will be to ensure that renewable energy developments are sympathetic to both the natural and cultural heritage.

The North East Regional Historic Environment Forum

The North East Historic Environment Forum is a group of organisations that work together to strengthen the strategic direction of the historic environment sector in the North East. Its membership comprises those with specific expertise or those at chief executive level amongst the principal organisations involved in the management of the historic environment. The Forum has representatives from the private sector; central and local government, non-departmental public bodies and heritage funding bodies, museums, charities and professional institutes.

The Forum works to advise and influence local decision makers and funding agencies so that they understand the condition of the historic environment and its contribution to regional life. The Forum also strives to add value to the work of individual organisations through a coordinated and cooperative sharing of views, skills and experience. Key priorities include:

- a raised profile for the historic environment
- greater understanding of the importance and condition of the historic environment
- the historic environment as a central consideration in other regional strategies such as the Regional Economic, Spatial, Cultural and Tourism Strategies, the Rural Action Plan and the Agri-Environment Review
- the prioritisation of conservation work by local authorities
- the encouragement of wider access and participation through Heritage Open Days and similar events
- an emphasis upon the historic environment's socio-economic impact and importance
- a positive relationship between the historic environment and the handling of development and change.



The North East Historic Environment Forum was formed in 2001, bringing together organisations with experience in the various aspects of the heritage sector, to advocate the need for the protection, restoration, promotion and positive management of the historic environment.

- Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers
- Association of North East Councils
- Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment
- Country Land and Business Association
- Culture North East
- English Heritage
- Government Office North East
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- Historic Houses Association
- Institute of Historic Building Conservation
- The National Trust
- North of England Civic Trust
- The North East Museums, Libraries and Archives Council
- North East Assembly
- North East Regional Museum Hub
- ONE North East



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