

HERITAGE COUNTS

The State of the
NORTH EAST'S
Historic Environment
2006



The Shepherd Building Group
Brass Band performing in front
of a banner representing the
Bowburn Lodge of the National
Union of Mineworkers

HERITAGE COUNTS 2006

NORTH EAST

Heritage Counts 2006 is the fifth annual survey of the state of England's historic environment. The report identifies the principal trends and challenges facing the historic environment, with a particular focus in 2006 on the role that *communities* play by valuing and caring for England's heritage. This report is one of nine separate regional reports and has been prepared by the North East Historic Environment Forum and published by English Heritage. It should be read in conjunction with the national *Heritage Counts 2006* report, available at www.english-heritage.org.uk/heritagecounts

This year *Heritage Counts* builds upon the evidence in the North East Historic Environment Forum's 2005 research report *An Economic, Social and Cultural Impact Assessment of Heritage in the North East* by focusing on the relationship between heritage and communities. Drawing on case studies from across the region, the report demonstrates the importance of heritage to different communities and how it plays a significant role in shaping their sense of identity. The report also showcases some of the exciting initiatives in the region supported and undertaken by different heritage organisations to widen and encourage participation for all.

Heritage Counts 2006 shows some of the ways in which heritage can help to sustain, regenerate and revitalise communities. This can be achieved through finding viable economic or community uses for heritage assets whose original use has disappeared, through the contribution of heritage to tourism or through the educational, cultural and leisure opportunities offered by North East England's

superb cultural, portable and built heritage. Tangible and intangible, our heritage has a positive impact on image, identity and quality of life. It offers a wealth of opportunity for developing our skills, and enhancing our health and well-being.

Communities in the North East care about the historic environment on a level that goes well beyond simply visiting a museum, historic site, landscape or collection. The region's heritage depends heavily on the contributions made by individual owners, volunteers and special interest groups. It would struggle to survive without them. The case studies in *Heritage Counts 2006* are a tribute to the communities and local groups who care about our heritage and the organisations who support them in a range of innovative projects.

CAROL PYRAH
CHAIR OF THE NORTH EAST HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FORUM

IMAGES OF ENGLAND

Bob Cottrell in front of the new Tyne Bridge. Bob, who lives near Durham, has volunteered for the Images of England project since 1999 and has taken over 3,500 images of listed buildings across the North East.



DEFINING COMMUNITIES

The historic environment can bring communities together through a sense of mutual belonging, common history or joint interest. It can underpin a collective identity. Many people identify themselves as belonging to more than one community according to locality, generation, ethnicity, social class, profession and personal interests. This section demonstrates the importance of the historic environment to different communities and how it can play a significant role in shaping their sense of identity.

THE BOWBURN CENTENARY BANNER PROJECT

The Bowburn Banner Group has been awarded a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to repair and conserve two existing miners' lodge banners. These include the last banner to be used by the local miners' lodge in 1967, the year the local colliery was closed. The Group has also commissioned an entirely new banner to celebrate the village's mining heritage. This was marched into Durham on Miners' Gala Day in July 2006 (see front cover). The replica banner was produced by local children, young people and adults using traditional skills and materials. The award is also funding the permanent care and display of all three banners in Bowburn Community Centre, the former Miners' Social Institute and Welfare Hall. The Bowburn Banner Project is a great example of a community working together to ensure that memories of their industrial past are preserved for future generations to enjoy and learn from.

NORTHUMBERLAND COMMUNITIES PROJECT

Communities are often based around geographical settlements, especially where there has been a long tradition of human habitation. The Northumberland Communities project (run by Northumberland County Council and funded by the New Opportunities Fund) has made available original archive material relating to the history and development of 76 towns including Alnwick, Hexham, Berwick and Morpeth, and villages such as Craster, Bamburgh, Allendale and Bellingham. Since its launch in May 2003 the project website has attracted over 975,000 visitors, drawn by the high quality maps, photographs and copies of original parish registers. The project website provides a starting point for understanding the development of communities in Northumberland and an important resource for family and local history research. The website is accessible from <http://communities.northumberland.gov.uk/>



Two residents, possibly seamen, at Clive St, North Shields, 1933

LEGACY PROJECT

Archives are an important route to the past, yet evidence about the lives, contributions and traditions of diverse communities in the North East of England often remains hidden. *Legacy* was a two-year initiative begun in August 2004 by Tyne & Wear Archives Service, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, to develop greater knowledge and understanding of Tyne and Wear's cultural identity through the local community. The Archives Service ran a series of open days and workshops and hosted its first Black History Month event in 2005. Several *Legacy* resources are now available from Tyne & Wear Archives to sustain awareness and inspire local communities to use the service. These include the *Legacy* website (<http://www.legacyarchives.org.uk/>), *Eye on the Past* (an educational resource representing Black Presence in Tyne and Wear) and two new publications available free of charge, *User Guide to Ethnicity* and *Migration and Legacy: a resource for black and minority ethnic community groups*.



MEMORYNET FOR MARITIME COMMUNITIES

MemoryNet is a web-based project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the North East Regional Museums Hub and led by Tyne & Wear Museums. It aims to capture memories and experiences of communities linked to the sea including surfers in Saltburn, fish merchants, historical societies and Cullercoats RNLI. The resulting oral histories and digitised images have been added to the permanent collections of Tyne & Wear Museums. The project website (www.twmuseums.org.uk/memorynet) is accompanied by a free publication, available from Tyne & Wear Museums, which includes general advice on how to conduct oral history projects. The equipment used for the project is also now available to other community groups wishing to carry out their own projects.

WHAT COMMUNITIES VALUE

Different communities value different aspects of the historic environment for different reasons at different times. Community value isn't fixed, it is constantly changing. This section explores some of the diverse ways that communities value cultural heritage, as well as efforts to capture these values.

Capturing Cultural Value Conference

Cultural stakeholders from across the North East region came together in May 2006 to debate the value of culture. Hosted by the North East Regional Information Partnership, Culture North East and the Association of North East Councils, the event was also an opportunity to hear John Holden of Demos present his ideas for a value-based approach to cultural measurement. Cultural organisations in the North East are continuing to work together to develop intelligence about the sector with the development of a Regional Cultural Observatory.

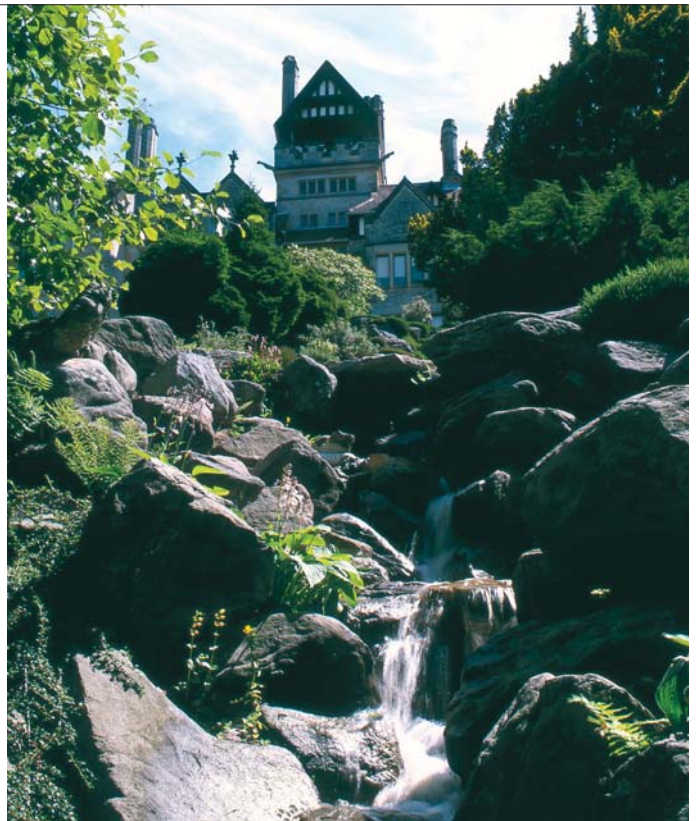
The community value of war memorials

War memorials are an important part of our national history and serve as a reminder of the effects of war and a celebration of the bravery and contribution of individuals and their families. The Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded a grant to fund the North East War Memorials Project. Volunteers from the Project Group, working alongside local historians, will make a record of over 4,000 war memorials and place the findings on a searchable database on the project website.

The funding will also enable volunteers to raise awareness about the variety of war memorials in the region and their significance. Education packs will be produced, as well as guidelines for those wishing to conduct their own research.

Valuing Heritage at the Metro Centre

The English Heritage Metro Centre open weekend was held in March 2006 to increase public awareness of heritage in the region. A survey was conducted with 108 visitors to the event to determine what heritage meant to them and what impact they felt heritage had on their lives. 92% of those surveyed agreed that heritage was an important part of their culture and tradition, with a further 92% agreeing that heritage could help them learn and develop new skills. 91% agreed that heritage could enhance the landscape and scenery of the local areas and 70% agreed that heritage could have a positive impact on their health and well being.



PUBLIC DONATIONS TO SUPPORT REGENERATION OF CRAGSIDE

The survival of the region's heritage is dependent upon continued public support. This support can be demonstrated in various ways, whether visiting sites or attractions, committing time to volunteering or making financial contributions towards the upkeep of our heritage.

The National Trust has embarked on a £6 million programme to restore important historic features at Cragside in Northumberland, plus total rewiring and a new heating system in the house. Whilst this programme of work has been largely funded by the National Trust (along with grants from funding bodies such as English Heritage), the Trust has also raised money through a special appeal. To date, this has generated over £500,000 through donations from in excess of 20,000 people, demonstrating widespread public support for this important site.

THE COMMUNITY VALUE OF BENSHAM GROVE

Bensham Grove is a Grade II listed building in Gateshead that formed a hub for the Arts and Crafts movement in the 1800's. Following this cultural tradition, the building now houses a local community centre providing opportunities to learn various arts and crafts. The management committee and local history group play an active role in interpreting and looking after the building. They are currently working with Gateshead Council on a project which will see many of the rooms and their plasterwork, ironwork and stained glass windows restored. The project will also fund the training of volunteers in research techniques to investigate the history of different groups from the local community.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

One of the challenges set by government is the need to encourage participation from under-represented communities in activities related to the historic environment. This section explores some of the initiatives in the region undertaken by different heritage organisations to widen and encourage participation by all.

Taking Part Survey

To monitor cultural participation rates the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, with the support of its cultural agencies has set up the Taking Part survey. This provides an opportunity for the cultural sector to explore levels of cultural participation amongst groups that have traditionally been under-represented in cultural activity. The final baseline for participation, against which progress will be judged, will be known in late 2006. Provisional findings suggest that about 67% of adults in the North East visited at least one type of historic environment site in the last twelve months – not significantly different from the national figure of about 69%.

Heritage Open Days in Tyne and Wear

Innovations like Heritage Open Days (HODs) target new audiences for heritage. Part of a wider Council of Europe initiative to increase public access to heritage, HODs are the nation's biggest free celebration of England's historic environment and are coordinated nationally by the Civic Trust in partnership with English Heritage. In 2006, Heritage Open Days were linked to the 'History Matters' campaign, intended to raise awareness of the importance of history to people's every day lives.

In 2006, the national launch of HODs by the Civic Trust was held at Seven Stories, the Centre for Children's Books in the Ouseburn Valley, Newcastle. The launch was sponsored by Seven Stories, the Centre for Children's Books and Newcastle City Council. It marked the fifth annual HODs event in the Tyne and Wear area (alongside similar events both regionally and nationally). The 2006 Heritage Open Days programme in Tyne and Wear included a range of tours and talks, including a new Historic Architecture Tour for children.



ACCESS FOR CARE HOME RESIDENTS AT WALLINGTON

For many years, the National Trust at Wallington in Northumberland has been holding a free access day for residents of care homes and nursing homes throughout the North East. Special arrangements are made for around 1000 people to visit and a specially-adapted minibus is provided to transport people around the grounds to the renowned walled garden. A special tour route round the house includes the kitchen area, which holds many memories for older visitors. Musicians and other entertainers play in the courtyard and marquee.

HERITAGE SKILLS TRAINING FOR DEERBOLT YOUNG OFFENDERS

English Heritage has been working with Deerbolt Young Offenders Institution in County Durham to enable young offenders to gain practical experience in traditional heritage-based skills such as dry stone walling. In 2005, a group of young offenders was given the opportunity to participate in a number of taster sessions in dry stone walling. 2006 will see a further programme of workshops with promising individuals being selected to progress onto a further apprenticeship stage to work towards a Level One LANTRA qualification. The project seeks to provide vocational training in dry stone walling as well as helping to rehabilitate the young offenders and create practical career opportunities for them upon their release.

One of the walls constructed by the young offenders





COMMUNITY SOUNDS FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED AT STEPHENSON RAILWAY MUSEUM

Community Sounds and Voices was a joint venture between The National Museum of Science and Industry, Tyne & Wear Museums and the Blind Society for North Tyneside. The project aimed to create a new multi-sensory form of interpretation at the Stephenson Railway Museum in North Tyneside. The project team worked with society members and groups of the visually impaired across Tyne and Wear to create ten new audio display panels and a multi-sensory soundscape of a train journey. The project has involved close partnership working between the museums and community groups and will form the basis of future approaches to interpretative work for both organisations.



CLUED UP PROJECT – MUSEUMS, REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

The Clued Up project involved five young asylum seekers and refugees in the production of a short DVD documentary. Based on their experiences of life as a group of asylum seekers and refugees in the City of Sunderland, they recorded these as oral histories. The participants also interviewed adult refugees and asylum seekers who talked about their experiences of living in Sunderland. The DVD has been used in schools and community groups to raise awareness about refugees and asylum seekers and challenge preconceptions. The project was developed and delivered by Tyne & Wear Museums.

COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS FOR AFRICAN ARCHIVES PROJECT IN TEESSIDE

The aim of the African Archives Project was to develop a contemporary African archive in conjunction with Teesside Archives. Thirty oral histories have been collected from members of the African community in the Tees Valley area. The research has been done by archive champions recruited from the local community and trained in the collection of oral history, its uses and value. Through this process the archive champions have also created important links with the local community, whilst making local archive collections more representative of the area's diverse cultural mix.



PRIVATE LIVES AND PUBLIC BATTLES

Some communities are often hidden from public view, forced underground by society's beliefs of what is correct and what is taboo. One such community is the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) community. The exhibition Private Lives and Public Battles at the Discovery Museum, Newcastle, was mainly written and prepared by the LGBT history group 'Our Place in History' working with Tyne & Wear Museums. The exhibition aimed to give this community a voice and to show how it had thrived despite society's perceptions. It featured stories from the 1950s to the 1990s and a range of objects to reflect the lives and struggles of this community. The project was a celebration of the achievements of the LGBT people on Tyneside and coincided with LGBT History Month.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Communities care about the historic environment on a level that goes well beyond simply visiting a historic site, landscape or collection. Organisations looking after the region's heritage depend heavily on the contribution made by volunteers and would struggle to survive without them. This section presents a range of case studies that demonstrate best practice in encouraging involvement from community volunteers.

SCHOOL CHILDREN VOLUNTEER FOR WAGGONWAYS PROJECT

North Tyneside Council is working to keep the rich mining legacy of the area alive and unlock its community potential as part of a £2 million Waggonways Project, part funded by a £100,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The waggonways were originally used to transport coal from the pit to colliery ships. A number of them still survive and are being given a face lift by the project for use as footpaths, cycle ways and bridleways.

Local school children have helped with the project by talking to former miners, assisting with an archaeological excavation (with support from Tyne & Wear Museums) and by producing a range of interpretative materials.



THE PENSHAW VOLUNTEERING MEGABASH

This successful event run by the National Trust saw volunteers from local community groups, schools and companies take part in a major one-day refurbishment project at Penshaw Hill in Sunderland. The area is home to the Penshaw Monument, erected in 1848 in honour of John George Lambton, first Earl of Durham (1792 – 1840). A total of 60 volunteers took part: 147 steps were repaired, 45 metres of new hedging planted, a kissing gate replaced, 75 metres of path repaired, 10 metres of path created, 10 metres of hawthorn hedge cut back and foundations laid for a new information plinth.



HARTLEPOOL VOLUNTEERS DIG, DIVE AND DISCOVER

Hartlepool's 'Dig, Dive and Discover' project aims to enable volunteers to gain a greater awareness and understanding of Hartlepool's maritime heritage and how they can contribute to its recording, preservation and presentation. Through a package of activities funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, volunteers from Hartlepool's Sea Cadets will be given the opportunity to learn how to scuba dive, learn about maritime archaeology, participate in the archaeological excavation of a wreck site at Middleton Sands and develop their research skills using library and archive materials relating to the area's maritime past.

Volunteers will also be given an opportunity to learn web authoring so that they can share the story of their project and the results of research. The project is being run by Hartlepool Borough Council's Library Service.



COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS FOR ROCK ART RECORDING

The Rock Art Recording Project, which is funded by English Heritage (in partnership with both Northumberland and Durham County Councils), has given community volunteers an introduction to research and conservation of local rock art. Over 100 volunteers, most with little or no previous archaeological experience, have been trained and equipped to record approximately 1,500 known examples of Neolithic and Bronze Age rock art in the two counties.

The resulting digital archive will be invaluable in helping to inform conservation and management of the sites. But above all, the pilot has created a pool of energetic and skilled volunteers, who have developed a deeper understanding of the historic environment. Many are interested in being involved in the long-term monitoring and stewardship of rock art and its associated landscapes.



COMMUNITY ACTION IN BERWICK

Close to the Scottish border, the historic town of Berwick-upon-Tweed has a wealth of unique historic features. Careful management is required to balance the need for development in the town with the conservation of these special qualities. As part of a wider masterplanning process initiated in 2005 by the Borough Council, Northumberland Strategic Partnership and One NorthEast, an English Heritage research team has prepared a rapid character assessment of the town to inform a wider project involving local residents and community groups in investigating the history and significance of Berwick. English Heritage has also grant-aided conservation area appraisals and a management plan being prepared by North of England Civic Trust with the assistance of local people through a series of community workshops.

SPECIAL NEEDS VOLUNTEERS AT GIBSIDE

Gibside in Tyne and Wear has been the flagship property for the National Trust in pioneering volunteering by special needs groups. The Trust has seen a huge increase in this form of volunteering as support organisations have started to recognise the value of volunteering for those who take part. These groups have undertaken conservation and maintenance crucial to the upkeep of the estates and countryside areas owned by the National Trust. At Gibside, special needs volunteers have been particularly involved in the community garden, harvesting kitchen crops. Volunteering has helped individuals to learn new skills and increase their self-esteem, whilst participating in a healthy activity.

COMMUNITY REGENERATION

The historic environment can play a significant role in helping to regenerate communities and a great deal of heritage funding has this goal in mind. Successful regeneration often requires finding viable economic or community uses for heritage assets whose original use has disappeared. The region's museums, libraries and archives also have a role to play in regeneration, contributing to tourism, education and improved quality of life through increased cultural and leisure opportunities.

SEVEN STORIES, CENTRE FOR CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Seven Stories, the Centre for Children's Books in the Lower Ouseburn Valley has helped to kick-start regeneration in the cradle of Newcastle's industrial revolution. The Centre is a new national asset and a great resource for children's literature. Funding bodies supporting this £6.5 million project included One NorthEast (who contributed £2.4 million through the Tyne and Wear Partnership and the European Regional Development Fund), Newcastle City Council (who contributed £1.2 million) and the Arts Council (£650,000).

Heritage sector partners such as the Heritage Lottery Fund, English Heritage and Museums, Libraries and Archives North East were also involved through cataloguing and digitising the archive and a programme of outreach and education.

DOWN YOUR WAY? HERITAGE PROJECT

Newcastle City Council's Down Your Way? project is involving residents in the interpretation of their local historic environment. Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Down Your Way? has just completed the first year of a five year programme, involving 13 community groups, 140 older residents and 43 schools. An illustrated Picture Box Guide has also been produced by adults with learning difficulties as the first of a number of projects designed to help people with reading difficulties access heritage information and explore their locality. The value of this approach to community heritage is especially relevant to Newcastle's riverside communities who have experienced a profound change through economic decline and subsequent regeneration.



BOWES RAILWAY

Bowes Railway is the world's only surviving rope-hauled railway. Originally a colliery railway, it was built to carry coal mainly from pits in North West Durham to the Tyne at Jarrow. The earliest sections were designed by George Stephenson. The Heritage Lottery Fund has recently given a grant to help restore the railway. Upon completion, the restored track will enable steam locomotives and rope haulage wagons to operate on the railway once again, securing the future of the railway for the local community and for visitors.

The restoration work involves volunteers from the local YMCA who will learn new skills and learn about the railway. Bowes Railway will also work alongside Beamish Museum to provide school visits and educational tours to the site alongside special events and open days.



FRIENDS OF HOUGHTON HILLSIDE CEMETERY

The Friends of Houghton Hillside Cemetery were formed to promote the cultural, historical and recreational opportunities offered by the dilapidated Victorian detached burial ground of the Church of St Michael, Houghton-le-Spring. The group has developed a website providing information on the history of the burial ground, details about individual monuments and stories about the people buried there. The Friends have also held two annual open days, entertained visitors in period dress, and produced a map to the site and a set of vintage postcards. They have regular newsletters and annual reports and run guided tours and photographic exhibitions for Heritage Open Days. Currently, the group is applying for funding to restore the lych gate, record oral histories, produce a book and hold further community events. Their website is available at: <http://www.houghton-hillside-cemetery.org.uk/>

COMMUNITY PROSPERITY

The future of any community is determined to a large degree by the prosperity of the local economy: without jobs and incomes a community will not be able to sustain itself. The historic environment can play a role in enhancing the prosperity of communities, either directly because of the impact on the economy or indirectly because of its contribution to image, quality of life, and learning and skills.

THE GREAT NORTH MUSEUM

European Regional Development Fund, the Heritage Lottery Fund, One NorthEast, Newcastle University, Newcastle City Council, Tyne & Wear Museums and various charitable trusts (including the Northern Rock Foundation) have joined together to fund the development of the Great North Museum. This £26.25 million scheme will transform the existing Hancock Museum into a major new community resource and tourist attraction for the region. It will also bring together the collections in the University Museums onto one site.

The Natural History Society of Northumbria (owners of the Hancock building and collections) and the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne (owners of many artefacts in the Antiquities Museum) are key stakeholders whose members have contributed to the development proposals. The project team has also liaised with local teachers, disability groups, university students and members of the general public in devising the vision for the project. The Hancock Museum closed in April for construction to begin in October 2006. For more information about the project, please visit <http://www.greatnorthmuseum.org/>



NORTH EAST RURAL HISTORIC ESTATES

There are between 300-500 historic rural estates in the North East region. They play a significant role in regenerating rural areas and

supporting prosperous and sustainable communities.

One NorthEast and Business Link in partnership with the Historic Houses Association commissioned a study to examine the contribution of privately-owned rural estates and how these can be supported. The 2006 report identified a wide range of economic, social and community services provided by estates that would otherwise require public funding.

One NorthEast is now appointing a Project Manager to build on this research with four pilot estates to develop a support programme that can be rolled out to other estates in the future. In particular, One NorthEast hopes to develop a regional programme that will unlock the potential for historic estates to contribute to sustainable rural communities and the economic performance of the region as a whole.

CULTURAL HERITAGE AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENTS

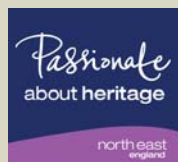
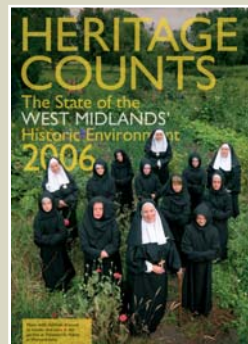
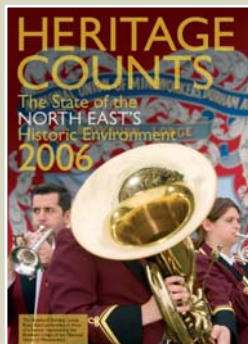
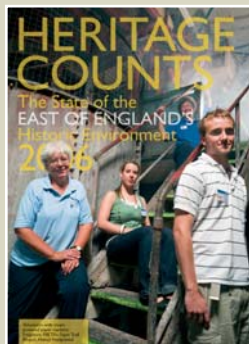
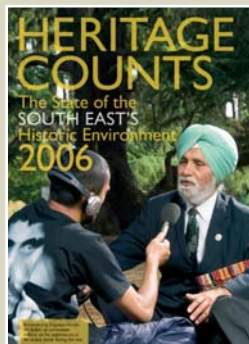
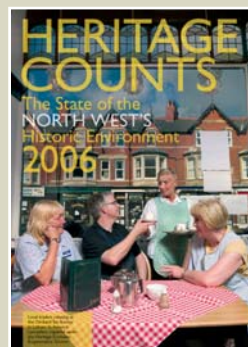
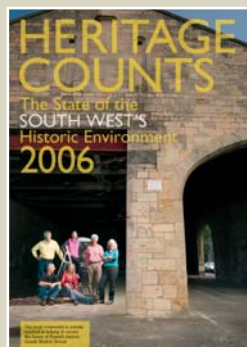
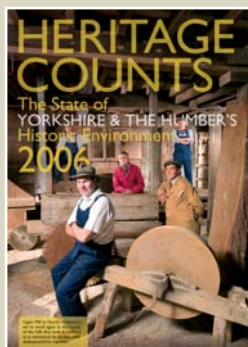
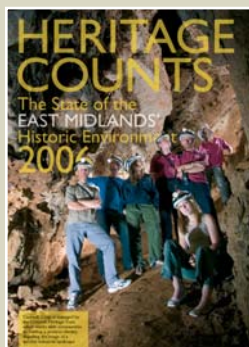
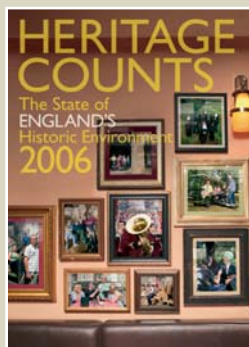
Local authorities have a remit to enhance the economic, social and environmental well-being of the communities they serve. An important means of doing this is through Local Area Agreements, using culture and the historic environment to contribute to the delivery of key local priorities.

South Tyneside Council has produced a single framework called The Spirit of South Tyneside which combines the Local Area Agreement with other relevant local strategies to identify priorities for the South Tyneside area. It is organised into six priority themes, one of which explicitly recognises the value of heritage under the heading 'Celebrating our Heritage and Culture'. Heritage is integrated with service delivery across the board, with clear performance measures and targets (such as the number of children involved in cultural activity).

KEY REGIONAL DATA

- Provisional findings from the DCMS Taking Part Survey suggest that about 67% of adults in the North East attended at least one type of historic environment site in the last twelve months. This is similar to the national figure of about 69%.
- The VisitBritain *Survey of Visits to Visitor Attractions 2005* reported 56.4 million visits to 874 historic environment attractions nationally and 3.083 million visitors to regional attractions in the North East.
- Recent research by Museums, Libraries and Archives North East found that 98% of museums, 83% of archives and 64% of libraries involved volunteers.
- In July 2006, 19 out of the 25 (76%) local authorities within the North East region had Champions able to represent the historic environment, compared with the national average of just 54%. This represents the highest proportion of local authority coverage for any English region.
- The Heritage Lottery Fund is the main source of public funding for the historic environment in the UK. Since 1994, the Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded 1,193 grants worth a total of £163,507,974 within the North East. English Heritage is the largest source of non-lottery grant funding in England and awarded £1,179,000 in the North East during 2005-06.
- Two of England's seventeen World Heritage Sites are located within the North East region. These are Durham Castle and Cathedral (inscribed in 1986) and Hadrian's Wall (inscribed in 1987). A further site on the UK Tentative List of candidate sites is the twin Anglo-Saxon monasteries of Wearmouth and Jarrow.
- In July 2006, there were 1,412 scheduled monuments located within the North East region. English Heritage has a rolling programme of surveys to assess the vulnerability of all scheduled monuments. The findings of the North East survey will be published in 2006.
- In 2006, the North East had 12,228 listed building entries, representing 3.3 per cent of the total number of listed building entries for England (372,583). In 2006, the North East had the highest proportion of grade I and grade II* listed buildings at risk in the country (7.8 per cent compared with a national average of 3.3 per cent).
- In 2006, there were 1,588 registered parks and gardens in England with 54 entries from the North East (approximately 3.4 per cent of the national total).
- The North East has 6 registered historic battlefields (14 per cent of England's total of 43) and one designated wreck site out of a national total of 42.
- There are 68 accredited museums within the North East of England that meet nationally agreed standards.
- There are also eight designated museum, library and archive collections in the region, deemed to be of national or international significance.
- The award-winning Locomotion Museum opened at Shildon, proving both the popularity and regenerative potential of railway heritage.

For more detailed data on the state of the historic environment in the North East of England, please refer to the data document that accompanies this report at: <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/heritagecounts/>



The North East Historic Environment Forum was formed in 2001, bringing together organisations with experience in the various aspects of heritage to advocate the need for the protection, restoration, promotion and positive management of the region's heritage. This report has been prepared by the North East Historic Environment Forum and published by English Heritage.

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
 Museums, Libraries and Archives North East
 The National Trust
 North of England Civic Trust
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