

Executive Summary

This report is one of nine regional documents that are being published alongside the national document *Heritage Counts 2003: The State of the Historic Environment*. The suite of *Heritage Counts* documents builds on the first *State of the Historic Environment Report* (SHER), which was published in 2002 in response to the Government's statement *The Historic Environment: A Force for Our Future* (2001). This regional report has been prepared by English Heritage on behalf of the North West's Historic Environment Forum. It aims to quantify and monitor the condition of the historic environment in the region, the pressures it faces and its contribution to economic and social well being. The report focuses on the collection and synthesis of key data relating to the region's historic environment, and should be viewed as an evolving document in its second year of development.

The NWHEF is comprised of representatives of key regional organisations ¹ and has been adopted by the The Cultural Consortium England's Northwest as its formal adviser on matters relating to the historic environment. The Cultural Consortium and its partners share a remit to champion the whole spectrum of cultural interests in the North West.

The NWHEF will steer the production of an annual *Heritage Counts* report, drawing together comprehensive statistical data about the rich and diverse historic environment of the region, addressing gaps in information and identifying changes. ² *Heritage Counts* is an important first step although it is acknowledged that there are gaps in the data currently available. The NWHEF will address this issue and develop methods for improving the provision of information for *Heritage Counts* in future years. By understanding such processes, change in the region's historic environment can be more effectively understood and managed.

Heritage Counts will enable the sector to strengthen its role in ensuring that the region's historic environment makes a positive contribution to the regional strategies developed by the North West Regional Development Agency, The Cultural Consortium England's Northwest, the North West Regional Assembly, and Government Office North West. It is being published alongside an additional report, *The North West's Historic Environment: Making it Count*, which identifies key regional issues, opportunities and future actions to enable our historic environment to assist more effectively in the delivery of key North West regional objectives. ³ In producing this report and *Making it Count*, the NWHEF has involved a number of regional organisations. Regional partners have been extremely generous in contributing their time and their data on the region's historic environment.

¹ Membership of the NWHEF is listed on the back cover.

² In September 2003 the Department for Culture, Media and Sport announced a major review of heritage protection in England. *Protecting our historic environment: Making the system work better* DCMS (July 2003) which proposes the creation of a unified designation framework covering all historic assets. The outcomes of this review will be reflected in future editions of *Heritage Counts*.

³ A number of strategies focused on the continuing renaissance of the North West have been developed including: The Regional Economic Strategy and Action Plan (NWDA), Regional Planning Guidance (NWRRA) Action for Sustainability (NWRRA); Vital Signs to Inform on the State of the Region (GONW); Rural Renaissance (NWDA).

Regional profile

ODPM.



18% of the region lies within a National Park (the second highest area among the English regions). 11% has been designated as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and 18% (2,519 square km) of the region is Green Belt land.

Over the last twenty years the North West has responded energetically to the opportunities that the abundant economic diversity of our region has presented. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the North West in 1999 was £77,562 million, or £11,273 per head, equivalent to 10% of the GDP of the United Kingdom. The employment rate for people of working age in the region during Spring 2002 was 72%, slightly lower than the UK average of 74.4%.

The region does, however, have 21 of the 88 most deprived communities in England. ■ Areas of the region which are economically disadvantaged receive support via the Objective 1 and Objective 2 programmes of the European Structural Funds, aimed at assisting their economic development.

The region has one of the largest concentrations of universities in Europe; 21,260 students are registered annually for full or part-time culturally related higher education courses. In 2000 the region welcomed 1.5 million overseas visitors spending £500 million and in 2001 the North West welcomed 13% of English domestic visits and 8% of overseas visits.

The North West's historic environment is a key factor in the delivery of regional strategies. It contributes to quality of life, health, learning, tourism, sustainable development and to the region's economy. It demonstrates our region's diversity and adds to its sense of identity. The historic environment is central to the image of the North West and contributes to the region's national and international profile.

1.1

REGIONAL PROFILE

The 2001 Census gives the population of the North West as 6.7 million, the third largest population of the English regions after the South East and London. The region covers some 14,165 sq km, or 11% of the country. Almost 14% of the population of England live in the North West at an average density of 477 inhabitants per sq km. The density of the population varies across the region, the highest being recorded in Greater Manchester and Merseyside and the lowest in Cumbria. Eden, in Cumbria has a density of only 23 inhabitants per sq km and is the most sparsely populated local authority area in England and Wales.

Condition of World Heritage Sites within the region

The presence of a management plan is an important indication that management decisions affecting World Heritage Sites are made in a fully-informed context. The Hadrian's Wall WHS Management Plan was produced by English Heritage on behalf of the Hadrian's Wall Site Management Plan Committee. A Management Plan has also been developed for Liverpool's Commercial Centre and Waterfront World Heritage Site. Partners are developing the WHS bid for the Lake District, which will lead to a management plan. The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) has established a programme of periodic monitoring of World Heritage Sites.

2.4 NATIONAL PARKS

National Parks are designated under the Access to the Countryside Act 1949, amended by the Environmental Act 1995. The statutory duties of National Parks Authorities are to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area, to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the area and to foster social and economic well-being of local communities in the park. Planning control within National Parks is expected to be exercised in a way that affords the highest level of protection to their landscape and built environment. There are 8 National Parks in England of which the Lake District National Park and a small part of the Yorkshire Dales National Park lie within the North West. 5,990 planning opportunities were reviewed by the Lake District National Park Authority in the period 1998-2002.

2.5 SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

What they are and how they are chosen

Scheduled monuments are nationally important archaeological remains designated by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on the advice of English Heritage. There are over 19,000 scheduled monuments in England, and within the North West the schedule identifies 1,283.5 scheduled monuments (where monuments fall across administrative boundaries, they are 'shared' between adjoining areas).

Degree of protection provided by the designation

Once a site is scheduled, any work on it, either above or below ground, requires scheduled monument consent from the Secretary of State. Local planning authorities are also advised to consider the impact of proposed development on scheduled monuments and their settings, as part of their planning function.

Condition of scheduled monuments within the region

English Heritage employs 1.3 part-time Field Monument Wardens in the North West to monitor the condition of the region's scheduled monuments, although the information that can be gathered by the wardens is often limited. The region has been taking part in an experimental programme of monitoring monuments in upland areas and under arable land by aerial photography, and this process may in future be extended to other areas in the North West. 21 of the region's structural scheduled monuments have been included on the *Buildings at Risk Register* as being at particular risk.

Enabling change

English Heritage advises the Secretary of State on all applications for scheduled monument consent and is consulted by local planning authorities on planning applications affecting them or their setting. In 2002/03 in this region there were 50 scheduled monument consent applications affecting the equivalent of just under 3.8% of the total number of scheduled monuments in the North West. The number of planning applications referred to English Heritage because of their impact upon the setting of a scheduled monument was very small, representing just 1% of the total number of scheduled monuments in the region. In 2000/01 this represented less than 4% of the total number of planning applications determined by the local planning authorities of the region. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) promotes agri-environment schemes that reward farmers for protecting the environment, promoting bio-diversity, and landscape and archaeological heritage. In the North West in 2003/03, 210 scheduled monuments (16.2%) were located in Environmentally Sensitive Areas and a further 154 (11.9%) were in areas covered by Countryside Stewardship Schemes. Through this scheme advice is given on the management, restoration and interpretation of archaeological sites, farm buildings and historic landscapes.

1 Scheduled monuments in the North West

NORTH WEST	NUMBER
CHESHIRE	239.5
CUMBRIA	826.5
GREATER MANCHESTER	44.0
LANCASHIRE	135.5
MERSEYSIDE	38.0
REGIONAL TOTAL	1283.5

Source: English Heritage

2 Applications for scheduled monument consent and other referrals to English Heritage 2002/03

	AT 31 MARCH 02	AT 31 MARCH 03
NO. OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS	1274.5	1283.5
NO. OF APPLICATIONS FOR SCHEDULED MONUMENT CONSENT	64	50
SCHEDULED MONUMENT CONSENTS AS A % OF TOTAL NO. OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS	5%	3.8%



Pupils from Plymouth Grove Junior School outside Victoria Baths, Manchester



Changing facilities await restoration

Victoria Baths

Victoria Baths, the stunningly ornate baths complex situated in a disadvantaged area of Manchester, has been voted as the nation's favourite building by BBC *Restoration* viewers and will undergo a major repairs project. Situated in the Longsight area of Manchester, the Baths were opened in 1906 and described by the Lord Mayor as, 'A water palace of which every citizen of Manchester is proud.'

The *Victoria Baths Trust* was formed in 1993 and now leases the building. Friends of the Trust include 'Sunny' Lowry, the first woman to swim the channel, who trained at the Baths. The Grade II* building is included in English Heritage's *Buildings At Risk Register*. The interior has Art Nouveau stained glass depicting sporting themes and rich decorative tiling.

English Heritage grant aid to Victoria Baths totals £187,000 to date. This has paid for condition reports on the building and emergency repairs to make the building watertight. English Heritage is currently working with the Trust, the Heritage Lottery Fund and Manchester City Council to identify a way forward for the building. The Heritage Lottery Fund has identified £3 million in principle and around £400,000 was raised during the *Restoration* programme.

2.6

OTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

What they are and how they are chosen

Scheduled monuments represent only a small proportion of the total archaeological resource of the region. In the North West they equate to just 5.1% of the approximate number of 24,900 monuments recorded on the National Monuments Record (NMR) for this Region (The NMR is English Heritage's public archive). England's NMR and Historic Environment Records (HERs) contain over 600,000 records of archaeological sites, monuments, buildings and findspots.

In addition to the NMR, local authorities are responsible for maintaining a register of all the known archaeological sites in their area, (HERs), previously known as Sites and Monuments Records (SMRs) which are held either by county councils, local authorities or other organisations. Information held on the HERs comes from a variety of sources including members of the public, archaeological fieldwork and other research. The records range from excavation archives to single artefacts.

Enabling change

The inclusion of a site on a HER gives it formal recognition in the planning process, and local planning authorities take this into account in development plans and when reaching planning decisions. The HER also informs the formulation of management policies and provides a valuable resource for research and learning.

Condition of other monuments within the region

Given the extent of this resource, assessment of its condition is limited. In 1995, English Heritage undertook a sample survey to provide a general picture of the condition of England's monuments, the risks to them, and to create benchmarks against which future changes could be monitored. An English Heritage survey of monuments, piloted in the East Midlands, is due to be extended to other regions over the next two years.

2.7

LISTED BUILDINGS

What they are and how they are chosen

The list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest is compiled by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on the advice of English Heritage. Within the North West region there are 25,612 listed building entries. This represents 6.8% of the 371,591 listed building entries for England.

Listed buildings are categorised into one of three grades. Grade I buildings (of outstanding interest) make up 1.8% of the listed buildings in the region compared to 2.4% nationally. Grade II* buildings (particularly important buildings) make up approximately 5.8% of the listed stock in the North West compared to 5.6% nationally. The majority of listed buildings are Grade II (of national importance) and constitute 92.4% of the regional total compared to 91% nationally.

3 Summary of Grade I and II* listed building entries at risk for England and the North West

	NORTH WEST 2003	ENGLAND 2003
TOTAL GRADE I LISTED BUILDINGS	477	9,167
TOTAL GRADE I BAR ENTRIES	17	288
% OF GRADE I LISTED BUILDINGS AT RISK	3.6	3.1
TOTAL GRADE II* LISTED BUILDINGS	1,508	21,202
TOTAL GRADE II* BAR ENTRIES	114	812
% OF GRADE II* LISTED BUILDINGS AT RISK	7.6	3.8
TOTAL GRADE I AND II* LISTED BUILDINGS	1,985	30,369
TOTAL GRADE I AND II* BAR ENTRIES	131	1,100
% OF GRADE I AND II* LISTED BUILDINGS AT RISK	6.6	3.6

Source: *Buildings at Risk Register* (July 2003)

4 Distribution of Grade I and II* agricultural building list entries 2001/03

	ALL GRADES	% GRADES	GRADE I & II*	% GRADE I & II*	% ON BUILDINGS AT RISK REGISTER
NORTH WEST	4,512	6.5%	256	7.4%	6%
ENGLAND	69,280	100.0%	3,446	100.0%	5.9%

Source: English Heritage

5 Applications for listed building consent to English Heritage 1998-2002

	2000/01	2002/03
TOTAL NO. OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED TO LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITIES IN THE REGION	55,300	62,000
NO. APPLICATIONS FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT	1,872	1,988
NO. APPLICATIONS FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT AS A % OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS DETERMINED BY LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITIES	3.4%	3.2%
NO. OF APPLICATIONS FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT AFFECTING GRADE I AND II* BUILDINGS AND DEMOLITIONS OF GRADE II BUILDINGS REFERRED TO ENGLISH HERITAGE	765	723
NO. OF APPLICATIONS FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT AFFECTING GRADE I AND II* BUILDINGS AND DEMOLITIONS OF GRADE II BUILDINGS REFERRED TO ENGLISH HERITAGE AS A % OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS DETERMINED BY LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITIES	3.3%	1.1%
NO. OF APPLICATIONS FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT AS A % OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF LISTED BUILDINGS IN THE REGION	2.9%	2.7%



The exterior of Staircase House Stockport showing the glass roof of the viewing gallery



A wall at Staircase House Stockport that demonstrates construction methods

Staircase House – 500 years of change in one building

Staircase House in the Market Place in Stockport is being restored by Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council with support from both the Heritage Lottery Fund and English Heritage. The house contains elements from five centuries of use. The partial destruction of the building by fire in 1995 has allowed the rich history of the building to be uncovered.

The true value, interest and beauty of Staircase House lies in the evidence it provides for over 500 years occupation and a variety of uses over that time. The restoration of the house is enabling many layers of history to be exposed and conserved. The project also involves the use of many different traditional construction skills.

All of this adds up to a particularly rich addition to the historic environment of Stockport. It is planned that a building adjacent to Staircase House will house 'The Stockport Story' – a local history exhibition. This will enable visitors to understand the broader context in which Staircase House exists

Degree of protection provided by the designation

Once a building is listed, listed building consent is required from the local planning authority for any works, both external and internal, which affect its character. Local planning authorities are required to consult English Heritage on listed building applications that affect Grade I and II* buildings as well as those that involve demolition or substantial alteration to Grade II buildings. In 2001/02, English Heritage was notified of 723 listed building consent applications in the region and 710 in 2002/03.

Proportion of Grade I and II* buildings at risk

Since 1998, English Heritage has published an annual *Register of Buildings at Risk*. This register lists details of all Grade I and II* listed buildings (and structural scheduled monuments) known to be 'at risk'.

'Risk' is assessed on the basis of condition and, where applicable, occupancy. Of the over 470 Grade I listed buildings in the region 17 (or 3.6% of the total number) are considered to be at risk (the comparable figure for England as a whole is 3.1%).

114 (or 7.6% of the regional total) of Grade II* listed buildings in the North West are considered to be at risk (compared to a national figure of 3.8%). Since 1999, 20 buildings have been taken off the register and have had their future secured.

17% (4,512) of the total number of listed building entries for the North West are in rural areas. 6.5% of England's rural listed buildings are in the North West. 6% of the region's Grade I and Grade II* agricultural buildings in the region are on the at risk register, slightly higher than the national figure of 5.9%.

Proportion of Grade II listed buildings at risk

There is no central source for data on Grade II buildings at risk. Information on the condition of the vast majority of the listed building stock of the region is only available from local planning authorities. However, not all local planning authorities in the North West have a register of Grade II buildings at risk.

Enabling change

In 2002/03, 1,988 applications were made for listed building consent (LBC) to local authorities in the North West. This figure equates to an average of one application for listed building consent for every 15 listed buildings in the region in comparison with a national average of one every 13 listed buildings nationally (excluding London).

This figure has remained almost constant since 1997/98 (5.6%-5.8% of all applications), compared to a national figure of between 6.2% and 6.7%. Applications for LBC represent a small number of the total number of applications determined by regional authorities.

2.7

CONSERVATION AREAS

What they are and how they are chosen

Conservation areas are areas of architectural or historic interest, the character of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. They are designated by local planning authorities, usually after a period of consultation with the local community. As at August 2003 there were 807 conservation areas in the region (equivalent to approximately 8.6% of the national total).

Degree of protection provided by the designation

Once a conservation area is designated the local planning authority has a duty to preserve or enhance its character when considering development proposals. Conservation area consent is necessary for felling or lopping trees, the demolition of any unlisted building, or part of a building with a content greater than 115 cubic metres.

Condition of conservation areas within the region

There is no nationally defined indicator for assessing the condition of conservation areas. Therefore, it is very difficult to assess the degree of change that might be taking place within the region's conservation areas. Both Planning Policy Guidance 15 and The English Heritage publication *Conservation Area Practice* **1** advocates the production of conservation area appraisals. Responses from local planning authorities indicate that a relatively small number of conservation areas are covered by appraisals. The existence of a conservation area appraisal does not imply that it is actually being used. There, however, appears to be a strong link between conservation planning resource capacity within local authorities and the number of appraisals carried out.

Enabling change

There is no data available about the number of applications that take place each year within, or have an impact upon, the region's conservation areas and it is difficult to ascertain the extent of development pressure in the region's conservation areas. In 2001/02 there were 2,900 applications for conservation area consent and referrals in the North West. In 2002/03 this figure rose slightly to 3,000.



Ilex Mill, Rawtenstall, Lancashire



Land and Estates Surveyor working for the developer refurbishing Ilex Mill

Ilex Mill, Rawtenstall

Ilex Mill is an integrated cotton spinning and weaving mill dating from the mid 1850s, situated close to Rawtenstall town centre. The Mill was originally connected by a private siding to the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway and forms part of a cluster of mills that together tell the complete history of the textile industry. Grade II listed, the Mill is a prominent landmark within the Rawtenstall conservation area and a local heritage trust is actively working to ensure that the story of this historic complex is accessible to the community of East Lancashire and visitors.

In 1998 English Heritage granted £290,000 to Rossendale Borough Council to acquire the vacant mill and a further £110,000 towards urgent work. This exceptional level of grant-funding to a Grade II building was made on the basis that the proposals for its future would re-establish the mill in the centre of civic and community life in Rawtenstall.

When confidence in the viability of proposals for the mill waned and further grant funding failed to be secured, the mill was placed on the open market. A number of developers expressed an interest in the mill and the P J Livesey Group offered to buy the building for adaptive re-use.

One of 6 large mills in Britain identified as pilot projects by the Prince's Foundation's 'Regeneration through Heritage' initiative, a secure future for Ilex Mill is likely as the P J Livesey Scheme develops. The restoration of Ilex Mill demonstrates how the vast potential of East Lancashire's derelict industrial heritage can be sustainably re-used to help regenerate its town centres.

These figures represented a mere 5.2% and 4.8% respectively of planning applications to local planning authorities across the region. Local planning authorities are required to notify English Heritage of developments over a certain scale within conservation areas. In 2002/03, the North West was consulted on 436 applications, the equivalent of one 'major' application for every two conservation areas in the region.

1 *Conservation Area Practice: English Heritage Guidance on the Management of Conservation Areas*
English Heritage 1995

6 Listed building entries within the North West region

	TOTAL NUMBER OF LISTED BUILDING ENTRIES 2003	GRADE I	GRADE II*	GRADE II
CHESHIRE				
ELLESMERE PORT AND NESTON	193	1	8	184
CHESTER	1,611	76	132	1,403
VALE ROYAL	700	10	37	653
MACCLESFIELD	1,449	20	89	1,340
CREWE AND NANTWICH	715	19	57	639
CONGLETON	483	7	33	443
HALTON	122	2	17	103
WARRINGTON	360	8	16	336
CHESHIRE TOTALS	5,633	143	389	5,101
CUMBRIA				
CARLISLE	1,142	55	69	1,018
ALLERDALE	1,175	29	41	1,105
EDEN	2,006	45	144	1,817
COPELAND	481	14	28	439
SOUTH LAKELAND	2,570	35	158	2,377
BARROW IN FURNESS	284	8	15	261
CUMBRIA TOTALS	7,658	186	455	7,017
LANCASHIRE				
LANCASTER	1,390	25	68	1,297
WYRE	271	2	5	264
RIBBLE VALLEY	828	18	45	765
BLACKPOOL	39	1	4	34
FYLDE	191	1	5	185
PRESTON	477	3	20	454
PENDLE	326	2	21	303
WEST LANCASHIRE	515	5	23	487
SOUTH RIBBLE	147	2	11	134
CHORLEY	436	5	24	407
BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN	223	2	15	206
HYNBURN	116	1	10	105
BURNLEY	304	4	13	287
ROSSENDALE	243	0	8	235
LANCASHIRE TOTALS	5,506	71	272	5,163

GREATER MANCHESTER				
WIGAN	362	1	30	331
BOLTON	344	4	16	324
BURY	232	4	7	221
ROCHDALE	317	2	22	293
OLDHAM	531	0	9	522
SALFORD	231	3	14	214
TRAFFORD	244	6	11	227
MANCHESTER	875	15	90	770
STOCKPORT	370	6	22	342
TAMESIDE	315	1	19	295
GREATER MANCHESTER TOTALS	3,821	42	240	3,539
MERSEYSIDE				
SEFTON	558	2	19	537
WIRRAL	701	8	27	666
LIVERPOOL	1,506	26	98	1,382
KNOWSLEY	96	1	2	91
ST HELENS	135	2	13	120
MERSEYSIDE TOTALS	2,994	39	159	2,796
TOTAL NORTH WEST REGION	25,612	481	1,515	23,616

Source: 2003 Data – English Heritage



Birkenhead Park, Merseyside. The Covered Bridge from across the lake



Detail of the Covered Bridge

Birkenhead Park

Birkenhead Park, Merseyside, opened in 1847, was the first public park to be established at public expense in the UK. It was designed by Joseph Paxton and incorporated a number of innovative features. It was influential in the design of public parks both nationally and internationally and is considered an outstanding example of Paxton's work. In recent years the park has suffered a decline in its buildings and planting due to a decrease in revenue budgets and reductions in the workforce.

A package of investment totalling £11.5 million has been agreed including a grant of £7.4 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund. This will lead to the building of a new Pavillion and facilities for the public, as well as repairs and improvements to the park. A programme of learning, access and outreach is planned, including prevocational training in horticulture for people with learning disabilities, and a PENTRA Scheme will be established to promote training and work opportunities for unemployed people.

The largest number of registered parks and gardens are Grade II. These are considered to be of a sufficiently high level of importance to merit a national designation. 109 historic parks and gardens are listed Grade II in the region (representing over 80% of the total number of Registered Historic Parks and Gardens in the North West.)

The North West has a particularly significant number of important cemeteries. Of the total of 89 on the national register, 20 are in the North West. 14 of these have been added to the register since January 2002 representing 37% of those added in the last year.

Degree of protection provided by the designation

There are no additional statutory planning controls over development affecting a registered park or garden. However, the existence of a registered park or garden is a material consideration which must be taken into account by local planning authorities when considering development proposals. National policy guidance advises local planning authorities to include policies for their protection in their development plans. English Heritage must be consulted on proposals affecting Grade I and II* registered parks and gardens.

Condition of historic designed landscapes

Work is underway developing a methodology for determining whether a historic park and garden is at risk, as there is, at present, no nationally agreed indicator to assess their condition.

Enabling chance

The Garden History Society is notified of all planning applications affecting a registered park or its setting and was notified of 67 such applications in 2002/03, equating to one application for every two parks and gardens on the Register in the North West region.

Of this total (1%) affected Grade I Parks, (9%) Grade II* Parks, and (90%) Grade II Parks. Although this gives a broad indication that change is taking place, the figures do not indicate the type of change. Moreover, planning permission is only required for building or engineering works and not for changes to planting or landscaping.

2.8

HISTORIC DESIGNED LANDSCAPES

What they are and how they are chosen

English Heritage compiles a register of parks and gardens of historic interest. Within this region there are 129 historic parks and gardens, which represents just over 8% of the national total.

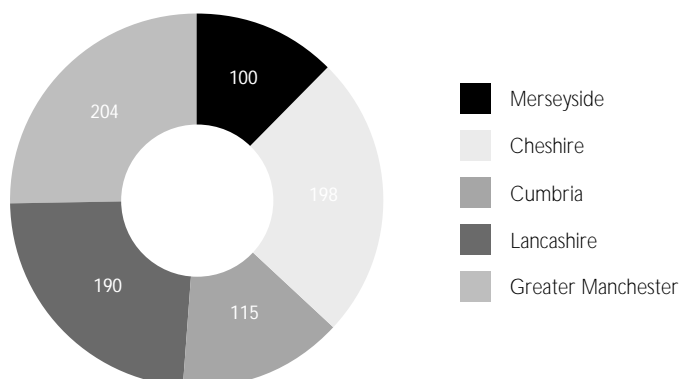
As with listed buildings, historic parks and gardens are categorised into three Grades. Grade I are of international importance. There are three parks or gardens in this category in the region. Grade II* historic parks and gardens, of which there are 19 in the North West, are considered to be of exceptional historic interest.

8 Applications for conservation area consent and referrals to English Heritage

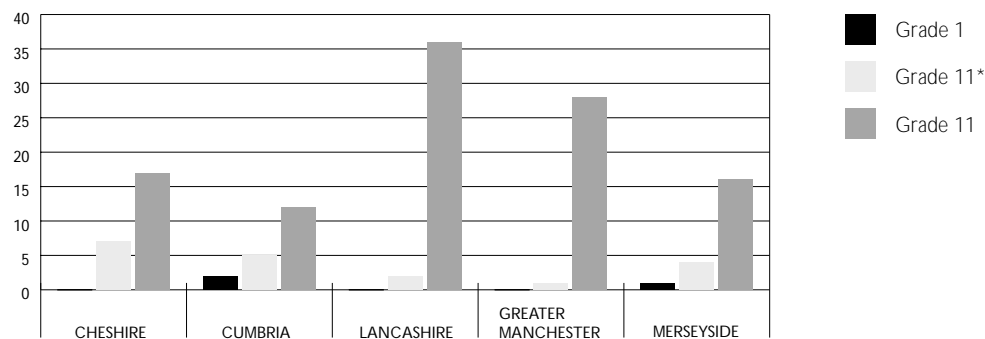
	2000/02	2001/03
TOTAL NO. OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED TO LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITIES IN THE REGION	55,300	62,000
NO. APPLICATIONS FOR CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT	2,900	3,000
NO. APPLICATIONS FOR CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT AS A % OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS DETERMINED BY LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITIES	5.2%	4.8%

Source: English Heritage, ODPM Planning Applications Statistics.

9 Conservation areas within the North West region



10 Historic designated landscapes within the North West region



2.9

REGISTERED BATTLEFIELDS

What they are and how they are chosen

The register of historic battlefields is compiled by English Heritage and comprises sites of important battles in the history of England. Within the region there are three registered battlefields, at Rowton Heath and Nantwich in Cheshire, and Solway Moss in Cumbria. There are 43 registered battlefields in England.

Degree of protection provided by the designation

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

Condition of registered battlefields within the region

There are no nationally agreed indicators to assess the condition of registered battlefields. Moreover, few across the country have management plans. English Heritage will be piloting management plans for battlefields as part of the wider review of heritage protection.

2.10

MUSEUMS, LOCAL STUDIES LIBRARIES AND PUBLIC ARCHIVES

The museums, local studies libraries and archives of the North West are an exciting, rich and diverse resource. Maps, plans, letters and other manuscripts document the social, domestic, business and political life in the region and beyond. Museums also have a significant part to play in the on-going process of record management, creating future historic documents. A number of museums also preserve and present the historic environment, e.g., Norton Priory, Ribchester, the Merseyside Maritime Museum and the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester.

The museums, libraries and archives sector in the North West also has a wide range of projects focused on outreach activities with local communities. In the North West there are 165 (this includes 11 on the Isle of Man) museum sites either fully or provisionally Registered under the national standards scheme administered by Resource (The Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries). This represents 9% of the national total. Among this number are eight containing collections designated by Resource as being of national and international importance:

- 1 **Dove Cottage and the Wordsworth Museum, Grasmere:** All collections.
- 2 **The Manchester Museum:** All collections.
- 3 **Museum of Science & Industry in Manchester:** All collections.
- 4 **Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester:** Fine arts, textiles and wallpaper;
- 5 **Manchester City Galleries:** Fine Art, decorative art and costume.
- 6 **Peoples History Museum, Manchester:** All collections.
- 7 **National Waterways Collection (includes the Boat Museum, Ellesmere Port):** All collections
- 8 **Museum of the Lancashire Textile Industry (Helmshore Textile Museums and Queen Street Mill, Burnley):** All collections

Museums are funded in varied ways, the largest single group being directly operated by local authorities.

11 Funders of museums

LOCAL AUTHORITY	70
INDEPENDENT	56
NATIONAL TRUST	13
ARMED SERVICES	9
NATIONAL	8
UNIVERSITY	6
ENGLISH HERITAGE	3

Note: This includes 11 on the Isle of Man

Source: North West Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (NWMLAC)

12 Registered museums in the North West 2003 (excluding Isle of Man)

CHESHIRE	19
CUMBRIA	31
GREATER MANCHESTER	42
LANCASHIRE	40
MERSEYSIDE (a)	22
TOTAL	154

Source: NWMLAC

(a) This figure includes the National Museums Liverpool.

3

Managing the Historic Environment



Campbell Square and the Bridewell, a popular restaurant, Ropewalks, Liverpool



Arts and Crafts Shop, Ropewalks area Liverpool

Townscape Heritage Initiatives

Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) schemes focus on community-led initiatives to revitalise streets and stimulate small-scale regeneration by repairing historic properties with special architectural character which are derelict or under-used. Successful THI schemes create and nourish a framework for viable community and commercial investment. In 2003/03 the Heritage Lottery Fund invested £1.5 million in the Liverpool Rope Walks THI in the Duke Street/Bold Street area of Liverpool, a thriving industrial district in the 18th and 19th centuries.

The four-year programme combines building repair with bringing vacant floor space back into use to encourage commercial and social regeneration. It forms part of a wider strategy of an investment of £20 million in the area over a four-year period.

owners of heritage assets are responsible for many of the region's most prized historic resources and make significant investments in their care and maintenance as do many of the developers involved in regeneration of the region's built environment.

A large number of organisations provide financial resources for the care, interpretation and display of the historic environment assets of the region. These range from regional bodies and agencies such as the North West Development Agency, the Heritage Lottery Fund and other lottery distributors, the National Trust, English Heritage, the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church, and other land and property owners in the region. The investment by local authorities in the historic environment in their care is significant but varies between authorities, making the level of investment difficult to calculate.

Within the North West the Heritage Lottery Fund represents the largest single source of funding for conservation of the historic environment. Between 1998 and 2002, 283 grants were made to countryside, parks and gardens, objects and sites linked to industrial, transport and maritime history, records collections such as local history archives, photographic collections or spoken history, historic buildings, and museum and gallery collections. In the region, a total of £6,237,000 was provided between 2001 and 2002, and £7,164,000 between 2002 and 2003.

English Heritage is one of the major providers of grant aid for England's historic environment and in the period 2002 to 2003 offered grants of over £2.8 million in the North West region. Of this total £663,000 was offered for conservation areas, £1,053,000 was offered for historic buildings, monuments and parks and gardens, and £1,587,000 was offered under its Places of Worship scheme, delivered in partnership with the Heritage Lottery Fund. English Heritage is contributing funds over a three-year period to support the post of Historic Churches Officer in the Diocese of Manchester. In the period 2002/03, grants in the North West represented some 10% of total English Heritage grants nationally.

English Heritage has embarked upon a national grants review which aims to ensure that its grants programme is sufficiently flexible to meet the needs of the region's historic environment. The grants strategy will also be supported by modernised procedures which will include regionally based strategies for the delivery of both advice and grants casework.

3.1

INTRODUCTION

There is much to learn about the condition of heritage assets in the North West. Future editions of *Heritage Counts* will demonstrate emerging trends and developments which will inform policy and decision-making and help identify where resources are needed most in order to protect and safeguard the historic environment.

3.2

THE LEVEL OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE REGION'S HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

Many community groups and private owners are active in funding the region's historic environment, including the Historic Houses Association, the North West Association of Civic Trusts, and the Association of Building Preservation Trusts. The region's private

15 Grant aid from Heritage Lottery Fund (£000)

	2001	2002	2003
HISTORIC BUILDINGS	4,478	4,564	-
INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORT AND MARITIME	139	-	7,164
LAND	4,049	1,673	-
TOTAL NORTH WEST	8,666	6,237	7,164

Source: Heritage Lottery Fund

16 English Heritage grant offers

2002/03	£k
HISTORIC BUILDINGS	1,053
PLACES OF WORSHIP	750
CONSERVATION AREAS	993
TOTAL NORTH WEST REGION	2,796

Source: English Heritage

English Heritage contributes to the cost of archaeological research into the historic environment through its Archaeology Commissions budget, which also funds Extensive Urban Surveys and Historic Landscape Characterisation. Contributions to projects in the North West amounted to £359,400 in 2002/03. These also include archaeological projects funded through the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund made available by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). Administered by English Heritage working in partnership with English Nature, the Countryside Agency, the aggregates industry and other organisations, cross-agency working is being used to ensure a co-ordinated approach to the handling of joint interest projects.

English Heritage continues to fund the Historic Environment of Liverpool (HELP) officer and Buildings At Risk Officer in Liverpool and is also funding a WHS Officer for Manchester, and an Archaeology Officer in the Lake District National Park. All posts are jointly funded with partners.

The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE), together with English Heritage, the Environment Agency, the Sustainable Development Commission, and the Commission for Integrated Transport have produced the joint statement *Building Sustainable Communities: Actions for Housing Market Renewal 2003*. A key theme of the statement is that the heritage value of buildings, urban layouts and public spaces are drivers for recovery and potential assets in the creation of sustainable neighbourhoods. The region's four Pathfinder areas identified by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister as being of low housing demand and are:

- East Lancashire (Blackburn, Hyndburn, Burnley, Pendle, Rossendale)
- Manchester and Salford
- Merseyside (Liverpool, Sefton and Wirral)
- Oldham and Rochdale

British Waterways Northern Waterways manages approximately 400 miles of canal and river navigations in the region and manages approximately 750 listed buildings, 15 Sites of Special Scientific Interest in a sustainable way, balancing increased access with conservation of the environment. In the North West over £20 million worth of regeneration projects are being implemented.

In relation to the other sources of funding for the historic environment, the overall expenditure by local authorities is small but significant. Although it is difficult to assess the true extent of grant aid from this source as there are significant gaps in the data available, and further research is necessary.

3.3 VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

Volunteering in the UK is valued at £24 billion, equivalent to some 7.9% of GDP. Volunteering in the region's historic environment is of immense social and economic value to the North West and brings many rewards. It is an opportunity for people to explore the historic environment, acquire and apply new skills, gain practical work experience and enjoy new challenges.

Over 3,500 people volunteer with the National Trust in the North West every year, helping the Trust with practical countryside conservation, and interacting with the public as room stewards and giving professional, technical and administrative support.

There are 18 local Associations in the North West which exist to promote the work of the National Trust and make membership more enjoyable by allowing members to share their interest with like-minded people in their area. At the end of 2002 the Trust had 282,573 members in the North West region and has recently appointed a Community, Learning and Volunteering team in the region with a remit of developing volunteering opportunities and reaching new audiences.

There are 14 societies or trusts working with the region's canals, membership of which is estimated to be around 5000.

17 North West Civic Societies

GRADE	NUMBER
CHESHIRE	15
CUMBRIA	16
GREATER MANCHESTER	25
LANCASHIRE	20
MERSEYSIDE	19
TOTAL	95

18 Local authority archaeology services in North West

GRADE	NUMBER	
LANCASHIRE	3	COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGIST (VACANT POST) SMR OFFICER PLANNING / DC OFFICER
GREATER MANCHESTER	2	COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGIST SMR OFFICER PLANNING/DC OFFICER
MERSEYSIDE	1.5	COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGIST PLANNING/DC OFFICER
CHESHIRE	3	COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGIST SMR OFFICER PLANNING/DC OFFICER
CHESTER	2.5	CITY ARCHAEOLOGIST PLANNING ARCHAEOLOGIST
CUMBRIA	3	COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGIST SMR OFFICER PLANNING/DC OFFICER
LAKE DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK	2	NATIONAL PARK ARCHAEOLOGIST SMR OFFICER



The Boardroom, Martin's Bank,
Liverpool



The restored ceiling of the Grand
Theatre, Blackpool

Heritage Open Days

Heritage Open Days celebrate England's architecture and culture by allowing visitors free access to properties that are either not usually open, or would normally charge an entrance fee. They also include tours, events and activities that focus on local architecture and culture. Organised by volunteers or the owners of properties, Heritage Open Days are England's biggest and most popular voluntary cultural event, attracting some 800,000 people every year. The Civic Trust gives central co-ordination and a national voice to the event, which is made possible by funding and support from English Heritage. English Heritage is looking to expand the scheme in the regions.

During 2003, 270 Heritage Open Days were held in the North West, 43 in Cheshire, 22 in Cumbria, 70 in Greater Manchester, 80 in Lancashire and 55 in Merseyside.

The Civic Trust is the national umbrella body for nearly 900 Civic Societies. Civic Societies are voluntary organisations promoting high standards of planning, conservation and regeneration for the benefit of their local community. They also undertake practical projects, including restoring old buildings, improving the quality of public places and finding solutions to traffic problems. Civic Societies have a formal role as community watchdogs commenting on planning applications for new buildings and developments and guarding against unsympathetic changes to conservation areas and historic buildings. More than 10% of the nation's civic societies are based in the North West, all members of the North West Association of Civic Trust Societies.

The Civic Trust and the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) acknowledge good design and creativity in the built environment. These are given to projects that reach the highest standards in terms of both their design and their contribution to their environment or community. In 2002/03 the Civic Trust gave an award to Blackwell, the arts and

crafts house in the Lake District National Park, a commendation to the river Lune Millennium Bridge in Lancashire. The Civic Trust Awards also mentioned the Parish Centre at St Christopher's Church Blackpool, the main campus development at Cumbria Institute of the Arts and the EH Booth Foodstore, Kirkby Lonsdale in Cumbria.

This section of the report by no means tells the whole story about the number of volunteer groups and individuals involved in the advocacy of the region's heritage. It does, however, offer insight into the value ascribed to the historic environment by communities who live and work in it.

WORKING WITH THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

A study sponsored by the North West Regional intelligence Unit (RIU) *Benchmarking Employment in the Creative and Cultural Industries in North West England (2003)* estimates that there are 1,027 'business units' in the region's heritage sector and that 9,629 jobs in the region are in the heritage sector.

SHER 2002 highlighted the issue of conservation craft skill shortages. Indicators produced by the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) suggest that there are considerable shortages in both general construction skills and the specialist skills that are drawn upon in specialist conservation work.

English Heritage has commenced research, to be reported on in next year's *Heritage Counts*, into the likely demand for specialist construction skills in the next 5 years. The report will comprise data from the range of organisations that commission work on the refurbishment, repair and maintenance of larger historic buildings. This information will enable the mapping of likely future skills 'hotspots', as well as contribute towards assessment of the multiplier effect of heritage regeneration in terms of the skills and jobs that it helps to sustain.

Local planning authorities (LPAs) are at the front-line of safeguarding the historic environment. The majority of applications affecting the historic environment are determined by LPAs which are responsible for protecting listed buildings, archaeology and monuments, and conservation areas. All of the local planning authorities within the region are able to draw upon some specialist in-house advice. Importantly, local authorities must ensure that they have formalised and effective access to all areas of conservation advice provided by appropriately qualified and experienced staff, supported by reliable inventories and records.

Historic Building Conservation specialists within LPAs are engaged in development control, advice to owners, education and outreach work, administering grant schemes, developing enhancement schemes and undertaking appraisals and regeneration work. Given the varied workload of each authority (with the resultant diversity of activities, which each conservation officer is required to undertake), it is impossible to make a meaningful comparison between the staffing levels of one authority and another.

Historic Environment Records (HERs) staff (formerly known as Sites and Monuments Records) provide information about archaeological sites from their records. They form part of local archaeological services which advise local planning officers, developers, landowners and government agencies such as Defra. Planning applications are checked against SMRs/HERs and recommendations for archaeological investigations on proposed development sites are made in line with government guidelines. There are 4.5 full time equivalent archaeological posts engaged in maintaining HER/SMRs in the region.

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) regional team co-ordinates North West grants and includes a Development team responsible for developing its regional work. The HLF has established a separate Committee for the North West, the members of which understand the region and its particular needs. They are responsible to the main board of trustees, and make decisions on grant requests of up to £1 million in the region.

English Heritage is the national adviser to the Secretary of State on all matters relating to the historic environment. Its regional staff provide advice and assistance to local authorities and other organisations involved with the historic environment. English Heritage is also responsible for providing grants to owners and

occupiers of historic buildings, ancient monuments and conservation areas and for managing an estate of historic properties. Its regional staff provide expertise in a wide range of areas including cultural resource management, architectural history, archaeology and archaeological science, historic buildings architecture, historic environment planning, artefact curation, marketing, education and visitor outreach.

The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) has three regional representatives in the North West, that work with English Heritage, the North West Development Agency and others to champion good design in the region. CABE staff will also work in East Lancashire to assist local authorities, communities and the housing market renewal pathfinder, Elevate East Lancashire, in the design of the Urban Landscape.

The National Trust directly employs 302 full time and 140 part time staff in the North West. 79 of these staff are regional posts based at the Trust's two regional offices in Grasmere in Cumbria and Altrincham in Cheshire.

The Institute of Historic Building Conservation in the North West represents conservation professionals. The IHBC exists to establish the highest standards of conservation practice to support effective protection and enhancement of the historic environment.

The North West Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (NWMLAC) is currently implementing a *Workforce Development Plan* for the region's museums and galleries, the aim of which is to support the development of a skilled and creative workforce that is accessible to all of the region's communities. **■** The *Workforce Development Plan* will support the development of a skills development and training supply infrastructure appropriate to the needs of the region's museums

■ *Workforce Development Plan* available from NWMLAC website.

4

Tourism and the Region's Historic Environment

1 The Tourism Vision for England's Northwest (NWDA) 2003, p9.



Making bread at Dunham Massey



Carrying on the tradition of a 'Whit Walk' along the Bridgewater Canal to Dunham Massey

Redrow Schools Partnership Project

The project is run by the National Trust, sponsored by Redrow, at a number of properties across the country. The emphasis is on partnership, and two schools, from inner city and a rural areas, work together on a common project to interpret properties through art and explore the Historic Environment.

In the North West a project took place at Dunham Massey involving over 70 children from Broadheath School in Altrincham and Moss Park School in Stretford who experienced the lifestyles of factory and rural workers who lived in Manchester during the 1850s.

'A Grand Day Out' at Dunham Massey was the culmination of the project in which, through a series of workshops, the children explored the lives and leisure activities of nineteenth-century workers: from cookery, including the making of "Goosnargh" cakes and home-made lemonade, to workshops exploring rural life on the Dunham Massey estate and a trip to Quarry Bank Mill to discover the hardships of factory mill work.

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The North West Development Agency is now responsible for the strategic direction of tourism in the region. *The Tourism Vision for England's Northwest* 1 identifies that the region's tourism offer shows great potential for growth in its contribution to city, town and rural regeneration initiatives. The numerous historic buildings, gardens, museums and visitor centres of the North West not only provide education and enjoyment for visitors but also make a significant contribution to the economy of the region.

Destination Management Organisations (DMOs) are being established as partnerships to execute the new vision and strategy.

This new Forum is a reflection of the Tourist Industry's need to respond to changes and challenges in the global tourism market. The Forum and DMOs will drive through the region's response to these challenges and cover the following areas:

- 1 Cheshire/Warrington
- 2 Cumbria
- 3 Greater Manchester
- 4 Lancashire/Blackpool
- 5 Merseyside

The North West Tourist Board is currently undertaking a study of *Visitor Spending in North West England*. The report will offer a robust methodology to collect accurate data on the volume and value of tourism within the North West region, capable of being used to assess the economic impact of tourism.

Table 19 is based upon information provided to the English Tourism Council from 438 tourism operators within the region. Of these, 127 are from attractions which were either historic sites in their own right or which provided access to the historic heritage of the region, such as museums and visitor centres.

The National Trust (NT) manages a range properties in the region, this includes nearly 60,000 hectares of land and hundreds of smaller properties in the region managed as working farms or let for private use. The Trust's properties, range from large mansions, gardens and parks such as Dunham Massey and Lyme Park in Cheshire, to Tudor houses like Speke Hall in Merseyside and Lancashire's Rufford Old Hall. The NT also cares for two of the Beatles' childhood homes, Forthlin Road and John Lennon's childhood home Mendips in Liverpool. The NT is responsible for the conservation and management of over quarter of the Lake District National Park, including England's highest mountain, Scafell Pike and over 90 farms, constituting almost one quarter of the Trust's entire land holding across England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Table 20 shows visitors through pay for entry areas. Visitors (greater than 50,000) to NT properties in the region at a charge during 2003 were up 21% on 2002. Visitors to estate are not included, for example, at Dunham Massey in Cheshire it is estimated that a further 300,000 visits were made to the parkland, on foot or by car. Dunham Massey is one of the Trust's four major attractions in the region which together attract more than 1.5 million visits each year.

19 Visitors to historic attractions in the North West region 2001-2002

CATEGORY	2001	2002
MUSEUMS/ART GALLERIES	4,750,738	5,948,322
HISTORIC PROPERTIES	1,217,582	1,597,747
CATHEDRALS/CHURCHES	1,447,256	1,504,407
GARDENS	64,743	87,359
HERITAGE/VISITOR CENTRES	862,089	947,335
TOTAL	8,342,408	10,085,170

Source: North West Tourist Board

20 Visitor numbers greater than 50,000 to National Trust properties at a charge (2003)

PROPERTY	2002	2003
DUNHAM MASSEY (CHESHIRE)	82,963	106,713
LITTLE MORETON HALL (CHESHIRE)	54,355	64,803
LYME PARK (CHESHIRE)	55,441	72,985
QUARRY BANK MILL (CHESHIRE)	98,761	100,797
HILL TOP (CUMBRIA)	32,090	62,850
SIZERGH CASTLE (CUMBRIA)	42,599	56,317
SPEKE HALL (MERSEYSIDE)	80,691	76,635
TOTAL	446,900	541,100

Source: *The Year on Record 2003* The National Trust

2 Attitudes Towards the Heritage in Liverpool, a research study conducted for English Heritage, MORI February – March 2002.

English Heritage manages 42 properties in the North West, some in partnership with local authorities, owners and voluntary organisations. The historical and geographical diversity of our region are demonstrated by the properties managed by English Heritage including:

- 8 castles, such as Beeston Castle in Cheshire and Carlisle Castle in Cumbria
- 7 properties demonstrating the development of the region's religious history including Lanercost Priory, situated near the Scottish border in Cumbria and Furness Abbey, also in Cumbria
- King Arthur's Round Table and Caslterigg Stone Circle in Cumbria
- Stott Park Bobbin Mill in Cheshire

In the North West, 62 properties grant aided by English Heritage allow public access. The extent of public access to these properties varies depending on the building's size, nature and function.

The Historic Houses Association (HHA) represents the interests of Britain's historic houses, castles and gardens that are in private ownership (this also includes properties owned and managed by local authorities). In the North West there are 77 properties with membership of the HHA, of these 33 are open to visitors on a commercial basis. In 2001, 20 HHA properties in the North West received a total of over 700,000 visitors.

4.2 LEARNING AND THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT OF THE NORTH WEST

The North West's historic environment is a key educational resource. It is relevant across the National Curriculum and contributes to training, community outreach and lifelong learning initiatives. Respondents to a MORI poll carried out in Liverpool in 2002 rated education as the highest priority for historic environment funding. 2

English Heritage supports teachers by offering training and published resources on exploring the local environment, such as in the Liverpool Ropewalks

Project and the 'Getting in the Swim' project at Victoria Baths in Manchester. English Heritage is also continuing the development of the educational potential of new and existing on-site interpretation. There were 17,677 recorded educational visits to English Heritage sites in 2002/03.

Following a successful joint bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Historic Houses Association and English Heritage are piloting an education project to develop learning resources in the North West and South East.

Each year in the North West over 90,000 school children participate in the National Trust's learning programme and a further 600,000 are estimated to visit Trust properties in the region. The Trust's Guardianship Scheme promotes environmental education for primary and secondary schools.

A number of higher education courses to postgraduate level are based in the region's universities offering the opportunity to gain skilled professional training in the historic environment sector:

- MA/PG Diploma in Arts and Museum Management (Salford)
- MA/PG Diploma in Museums and Heritage Exhibition Design (Salford)
- BA (Hons) History, Museums and Heritage (University of Central Lancashire)
- MA in Art Gallery and Museums Studies (Manchester). The Centre for Museology, based in the School of Art History and Archaeology at the University of Manchester develops and promote research and teaching in museum theory and practice. The Centre also promotes academic and professional collaboration between the University and the Museum profession in the North West of England, throughout the UK and overseas.

There is scope for further research to be undertaken to consolidate the range and depth of learning generated by and focusing on the region's historic environment. The contribution of the North West's historic environment to learning, social inclusion and objectives aimed at widening access and participation, demonstrates the strength of the region's historic environment as an educational resource.