



HERITAGE COUNTS 2004

The State of the
NORTH WEST'S
Historic Environment

Heritage Counts 2004 in the North West

Cover image: Chester Amphitheatre Project is a joint initiative between English Heritage and Chester City Council. Over the next two years the largest uncovered amphitheatre in the UK is to be the subject of a major archaeological project. During 2004 a team of archaeologists aided by University students and local volunteers investigated the historic Roman site. Over 35,000 visitors watched the excavations from a raised walkway and viewing gallery and a live web cam gave worldwide access to the excavations.

Heritage Counts 2004 is the third annual state of the historic environment report. It provides new information and analysis on the condition of heritage assets, the pressures they face and the social and economic benefits that they provide. This report has been prepared by English Heritage on behalf of the North West Historic Environment Forum and is one of nine separate regional documents. It should be read in conjunction with the national *Heritage Counts 2004* report, available at www.heritagecounts.org.uk.

A traditional and widely held image of the historic environment is that it comprises sites such as castles, abbeys, and stately homes, and cities in the North West such as Chester and Lancaster. But the historic environment goes much wider than this. It comprises the heritage all around us – the streets, buildings, green spaces and landscapes that surround us in our daily lives and in particular the legacy of industry and urbanism. As such they have an enormous capacity to generate a better quality of life for people living, working and visiting the North West.

The heritage sector, working together through the North West Historic Environment Forum (NWHEF), is challenging people's perceptions about heritage. The BBC's television programme *Restoration* has helped to raise the profile of the region's heritage and captured local people's imagination with Victoria Baths in Manchester being the national winner of the 2003 series.

In 2003 NWHEF published *Making it Count – the North West's Historic Environment*, which looked at the ways in which the historic environment could be more effectively engaged with the delivery of wider regional objectives. The report was launched at a conference in Manchester Town Hall in November 2003 which was attended by representatives of over 150 regional and national organisations with an interest in the heritage and culture of the Region. The conference was hosted by the North West Cultural Consortium on behalf of the NWHEF and chaired by Loyd Grossman. The NWHEF is now starting to take forward the action plan in *Making it Count* and progress will be reviewed in future *Heritage Counts* reports.

Henry Owen – John
Chair of the North West Historic Environment Forum

The regional context

The North West region covers some 14,165 square kilometres, or 11 per cent of England. The region comprises three county councils (Cheshire, Cumbria and Lancashire); two metropolitan counties (Greater Manchester and Merseyside) which form a major and densely populated urban belt running east-west across the region; 25 borough authorities; 15 metropolitan areas; and four unitary authorities. It also includes the Lake District National Park and parts of both the Peak District National Park and the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Rural Cumbria accounts for almost half the area of the region. The district of Eden in Cumbria has the lowest population density at 23 people per square kilometre while the highest is in Blackpool at over 4,300 per square kilometre. The 2001 Census showed that the North West region had the largest population of all English regions outside London and the South East; almost 14 per cent of the country lives here.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister published new Indices of Deprivation in 2004. For the first time data on crime and the local environment has been taken into account, as well as more traditional measures of income, employment, health, education and skills, housing and access to local services. The Index shows that of the 4,459 communities in the North West, 1,461 (32.8 per cent) are among the fifth most deprived in England. This is the greatest number for any region, and the second-highest percentage behind the North East. 14 North West districts fall within the 50 most deprived in the country, and Knowsley, Liverpool and Manchester are the top three most disadvantaged areas nationally.

The North West: key facts

AREA	14,165 square kilometres
POPULATION	6,729,800
GVA	£93.1 billion (2002)

MAP KEY

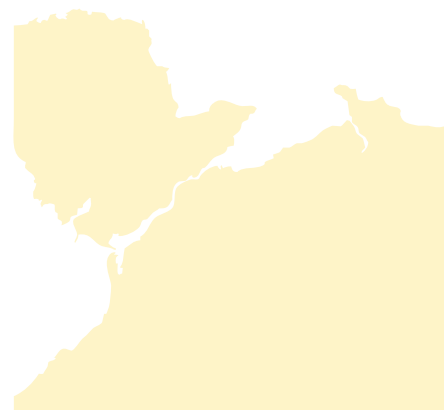
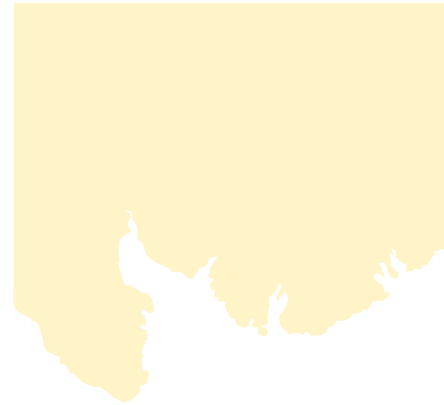
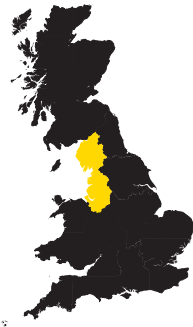

Scheduled
Monuments

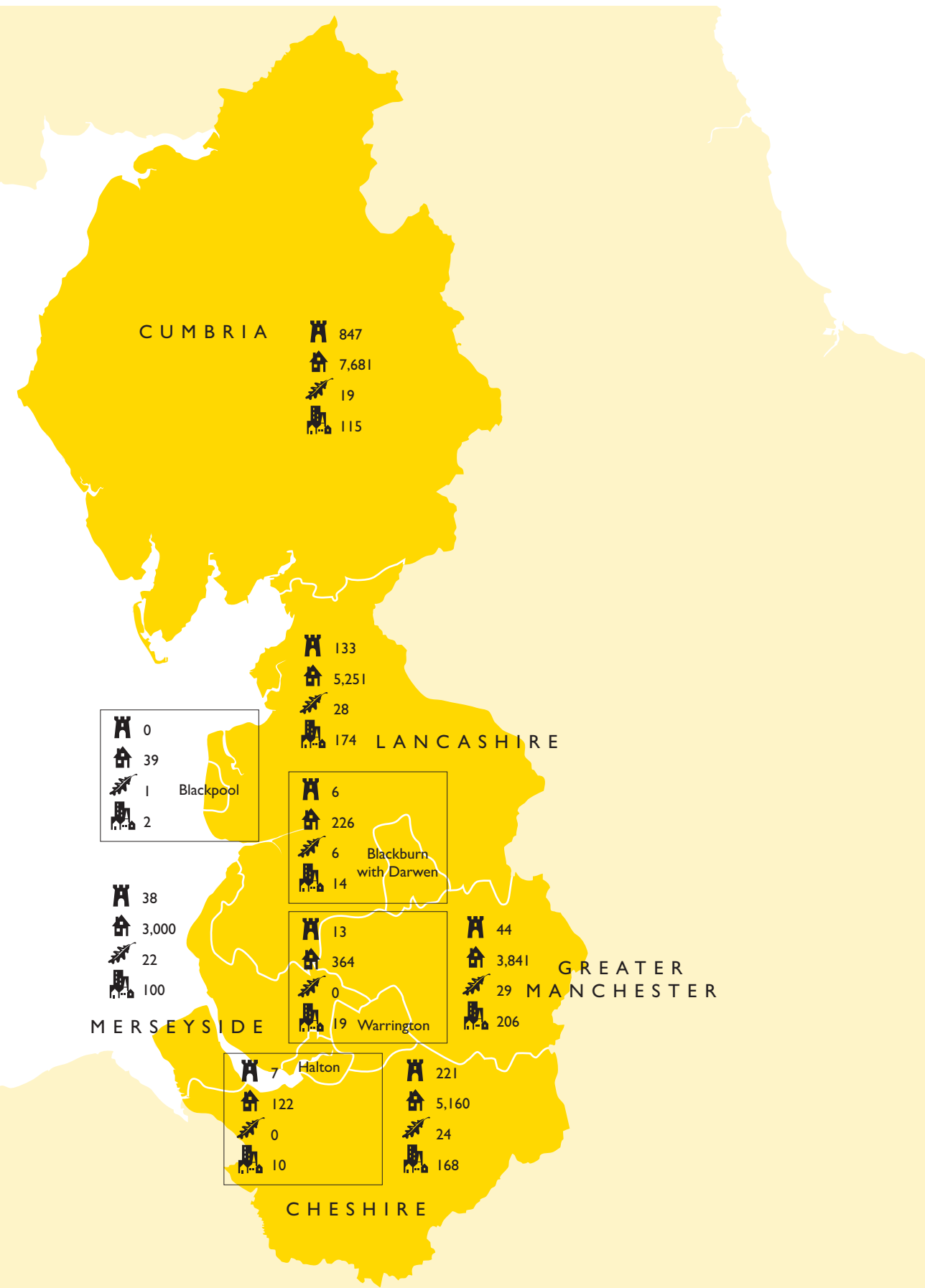

Listed
Buildings


Parks &
Gardens


Conservation
Areas

 Unitary authority





A

Understanding the Region's assets



Langdale axe factories
© English Heritage

Langdale axe factories

The area of the prehistoric axe factories at Langdale and Scafell in Cumbria has been selected as one of the pilot projects for the government's proposed new heritage protection system. The area lies in the Lake District National Park and within an Environmentally Sensitive Area and includes rock outcrops quarried during the Neolithic period for the raw material for polished stone axes. The sites have working floors, discarded imperfect axes, and scatters of stone chippings from the manufacturing process, together with a range of other historic sites and structures. None of the axe factory sites is currently designated. The pilot project will look at ways in which these unique sites might be designated and the issues which would need to be addressed in a management agreement. Most important of these is erosion by fell walkers, as the sites are in an area which is extremely popular with hikers. Organisations involved in the pilot project include the National Trust, which owns or manages the majority of the sites, the Lake District National Park Authority and English Heritage.

AI DESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS

Following its review of heritage protection, the government announced its intention to replace the range of existing heritage designations with a single *Register of Historic Sites and Buildings of England*. In April 2004 English Heritage launched 15 pilot projects, designed to test key elements of the proposals – the creation of a single unified system, allowing separate archaeological, architectural and landscape elements found on a site to be treated as a single entity (under the existing system they would be designated using different systems), and the creation of statutory management agreements which would provide for long-term strategic management of designated sites.

AI.I WORLD HERITAGE SITES

The North West features two sites on the list of world heritage sites maintained by UNESCO; Hadrian's Wall and Liverpool Maritime and Mercantile City. Hadrian's Wall was among the first world heritage sites in the UK to be inscribed in 1987 by UNESCO, and was the first site in the UK for which a management plan was published in 1996 (a revised edition appeared in 2002). *The Hadrian's Wall Major Study Report* (September 2004) looked at the potential of Hadrian's Wall to support the regeneration of the North of England through tourist visits to the 'Greatest Roman Frontier'.

A large area of Liverpool's waterfront and commercial centre was inscribed as a world heritage site in July 2004. UNESCO's decision acknowledged Liverpool as, 'The supreme example of a commercial port at the time of Britain's greatest global influence'. The site includes a number of the famous docks, areas of historic warehousing, and many of the great civic and commercial buildings constructed with the wealth generated as a result of the city's dominant trading position. A management plan for the site was adopted by Liverpool City Council in December 2003.

A nomination for world heritage site status for Manchester is being developed by a partnership led by Manchester City Council. The city's significance lies in its innovative role in the development of the textile industry and its supporting transport infrastructure. It is intended that work on the management plan will start early in 2005 and that the full bid will be available for consideration by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport during 2006.

A1.2 SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

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 19,594 scheduled monuments in England and 1,308 within the North West Region.

A1.3 LISTED BUILDINGS

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 25,684 listed building entries. This represents 6.8 per cent of the 373,988 listed building entries for England.

A1.4 HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS

English Heritage is responsible for maintaining a *Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England*. There are no statutory controls to protect historic parks and gardens, but local authorities must consider the importance of these registered sites when determining planning applications. Within this region there are 129 historic parks and gardens representing eight per cent of the national total.



Birdoswald Roman fort
© English Heritage

Birdoswald

Birdoswald is one of 16 forts on the line of Hadrian's Wall and lies in one of its most complex stretches. It is of great importance in understanding the history of the Wall as a whole. Construction of the original wall commenced in AD122. It was built in stone from Newcastle to the River Irthing at Willowford to the east of Birdoswald, and then continued as a turf wall to Bowness on Solway to the west. English Heritage is in the process of acquiring Birdoswald from Cumbria County Council. It is a popular visitor attraction with the potential for further growth. English Heritage proposes to further develop educational, access and outreach projects for Hadrian's Wall.

UNDERSTANDING THE REGION'S ASSETS

A2 HISTORIC AREAS AND OPEN SPACES



Falkner Square, Liverpool
© English Heritage

Liverpool's Open Spaces

Liverpool has a rich heritage of more than 500 open spaces. Many of these are of historic importance, such as the grounds of large private houses that were taken into public ownership as the city expanded in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These open spaces are now a focus of community life, but can face threats from the pace of development in the city.

A2 HISTORIC AREAS AND OPEN SPACES

A2.1 CONSERVATION AREAS

Conservation areas are areas of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance 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. There are 808 conservation areas in the region, 8.9 per cent of the national total. Once a conservation area is designated the local planning authority has a duty to preserve or enhance its character when considering development proposals.

A2.2 URBAN OPEN SPACES

A detailed survey of Liverpool's open spaces was commissioned by the city council, and additional funding from English Heritage enabled the study's brief to be expanded to include a strong historic focus to the work. The survey has led to the creation of a mini-gazetteer of characteristic landscape 'types' based on a representative sample of the city's open spaces. The survey is a contribution to the Historic Environment of Liverpool Project (HELP), which seeks to promote greater understanding of 'place'. It will enable a greater appreciation of Liverpool's designed landscapes and will provide contextual material to inform the development of appropriate local planning policies and conservation designations.

A2.3 HISTORIC COUNTRYSIDE

29 per cent of the North West region is protected landscape, either National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). There are four AONBs within the region, out of a total of 41 in England and Wales: The Forest of Bowland, Arnsdale Silverdale, Solway Coast and North Pennines. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) created new legislation for the protection of AONBs and placed a duty on local authorities to produce a management plan for all 37 English AONBs by March 2004. This involved wide-ranging consultation on all aspects of managing the AONBs. The management, understanding and interpretation of the historic environment were highlighted in the management plans for the North West's AONBs.

The Arnsdale Silverdale AONB is the smallest in England and Wales, at only 75 kilometres squared, and has nationally important landscapes of limestone pavement and intertidal mudflats. It contains ten scheduled monuments, including Warton Old Rectory, a monument in the guardianship of English Heritage. The Solway Coast AONB has nationally important landscapes of salt marshes and raised mires. Its boundaries also include 49 scheduled monuments and part of the Hadrian's Wall world heritage site. English Heritage has provided advice not only on designated monuments, but also on the policies

for the management and interpretation on historic landscapes, buildings of historical significance and archaeological sites. Each AONB has policies specific to their unique historic character. Thus the Solway Coast area has policies reflecting Hadrian's Wall and the monastic landscapes of Holmcultrum, while the North Pennines area has policies for its lead-mining landscapes.

A3 ACQUIRING INFORMATION

A3.1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORDS

The historic environment record (formerly the sites and monuments record) for Greater Manchester is a record of information on sites of archaeological and historic significance in the area. It is maintained by the Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit on behalf of the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA). Following discussions between AGMA and English Heritage, the establishment of a dedicated officer post is to be jointly funded by the two organisations. An appointment is due to be made before the end of 2004.

A3.2 HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION

Characterisation is a way of understanding the distinctive character of a place and how it evolved. It is not restricted to special buildings and places but also looks at people's everyday surroundings. In the North West this has included looking at the region's Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder areas. Historic landscape characterisation (HLC) has been completed in Lancashire and is currently underway in Cheshire, Cumbria and Merseyside.

HLC in Cumbria is being carried out in partnership between English Heritage, the Lake District National Park Authority and the county council, and is scheduled for completion in late summer 2006. It uses modern and historic maps as well as a



Lamonby Farm Cottage, Burgh by Sands
© Oxford Archaeology North

Clay Buildings Survey

In 2003, English Heritage commissioned an extensive thematic study of the clay buildings on the Solway Plain in Cumbria. Also known as clay dabbins, they are a distinctive part of the vernacular architecture of the area, the result of a lack of a building stone in this low-lying area. The majority date from between 1650 and 1800, although they continued to be built until the early twentieth century. Around 150 such buildings were known before the survey, a figure that increased to 230 during the survey; of these 195 are domestic, and the remainder agricultural or redundant, 62 are listed. The survey found that around 40 per cent of the surviving stock was in poor condition, and some at serious risk of deterioration. English Heritage is planning to produce a small publication aimed at owners of clay buildings with information and advice on the history, use and maintenance of the building type. This will be a step forward in encouraging owners to protect and maintain these important structures.

variety of environmental data sources, to define landscape character and predict future change. Seven case studies will be undertaken, including one on a National Trust estate, and all will encompass a variety of landscape types and land management regimes. HLC in Cheshire is due for completion in late 2004 and covers Cheshire, the unitary authorities of Halton and Warrington and the metropolitan borough of Wirral. The work complements the *Cheshire Historic Towns Survey* (which assessed the archaeological and historic development of Cheshire's towns), by examining and assessing the rural areas of the county. The extension of the project into Wirral not only enables the project to examine an area with close historic and landscape ties to Cheshire, but also provides an opportunity to work closely with the *Merseyside Urban Characterisation team*. Work in progress was shared with the public at Cheshire Archaeology Day.

Extensive Urban Surveys, assessing the archaeological and historic resource of the region's towns, and providing information and guidance for local planning authorities, have been completed for Cheshire and Cumbria, while that for Lancashire is due to be completed in March 2005. The Merseyside Characterisation Project is due to be completed in March 2006 and will provide character assessments of the urban industrial landscapes of Merseyside. In addition English Heritage has undertaken rapid characterisation surveys in parts of the Merseyside Pathfinder area (New Heartlands). The more detailed survey of the Anfield / Breckfield area of north Liverpool is intended not only to inform housing market renewal in this area, but also to provide a methodology which can be applied elsewhere.

Three of the region's most historic cities, Carlisle, Chester and Lancaster, have been selected as subjects for Urban Archaeological Databases (UADs), which use Geographical Information Systems to provide very detailed models of buried archaeological deposits, an assessment of their importance and guidance for local authorities on their preservation.

B1 HERITAGE AT RISK

B1.1 BUILDINGS AT RISK

Each year English Heritage publishes a *Register of Buildings at Risk* covering grade I- and grade II*-listed buildings and structural scheduled monuments. In 2004 the *Register* showed there were 1,338 entries for England, of which 157 were in the North West region (11.7 per cent). Of the region's 2,010 grade I- and II*- listed building entries, 122 were included in the *Register* representing 6.1 per cent of the region's stock – the second-highest proportion in England. Although six new entries were added to the list and the condition of three deteriorated in 2004, there were 20 entries whose condition improved and 11 buildings removed from the *Register*.

English Heritage is jointly funding building-at-risk officer posts in Liverpool and Manchester, and has contributed to the funding of a post with the Anglican Diocese in Manchester to address the particular problems faced by churches in the region. Building preservation trusts in the North West region actively work to find new uses for buildings at risk and restore them for future generations.

B2 MANAGING POSITIVELY

English Heritage must be consulted on listed building consent applications relating to a grade I- or II*-listed building or for partial demolition of a grade II-listed building; applications for planning permission for development which affects the setting of a grade I- or II*-listed building and (in some circumstances) for development which affects the character or appearance of a conservation area or a registered park or garden; and all applications for scheduled monument consent.



The Temple, Heaton Park, Manchester
© English Heritage

Heaton Park, Manchester

One of Europe's largest urban parks, Heaton Park covers some 600 acres, a quarter of the green space in Manchester, and is listed at grade II on the English Heritage register of historic parks and gardens. At the centre lies grade-I listed Heaton Hall, which is open to the public as a museum and art gallery and as function rooms. However, the west wing requires repair, and the surrounding designed landscape has suffered from some unsympathetic improvements since the park came into municipal use in the early twentieth century. In 1996, Manchester City Council embarked on an ambitious regeneration strategy which would ensure the provision of full facilities while respecting the historic landscape and buildings. As well as improving park infrastructure and security, the first two phases have restored the boundaries and entrances, the Dower House (grade II), the Stable Block (grade II) and the designed landscape and ha-ha around the Hall. The Grand Lodge, Smithy Lodge and the Temple all grade II*-listed and previously on the 'at-risk' *Register* are being removed this year as repairs are complete and new uses have been identified including residential and arts uses. The Heritage Lottery Fund has contributed £8.6 million to this through its Urban Parks programme, and English Heritage provided design advice, guidance and monitoring of standards. A further bid will be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund in January 2005 for the third phase, to begin the restoration of Heaton Hall. The Temple, pictured here, is an ornamental feature in the park, probably relating to the late-eighteenth century remodelling and by James Wyatt. English Heritage contributed £40,000 to repairs to the copper roof in the mid-1990s and recent repairs have dealt with dry rot and structural problems.

CARING AND SHARING

B3 CAPACITY AND RESOURCES



Furness Abbey, Cumbria
© English Heritage

Furness Abbey Development Group

Furness Abbey, which has been managed by English Heritage and its predecessors since the 1920s, is one of the finest monasteries in England. It is set in a wooded valley on the outskirts of Barrow-in-Furness, where the industrialist James Ramsden made his home (now demolished) in the mid-nineteenth century. A Development Group, chaired by Lord Cavendish of Furness, has been set up to develop ideas on how the Abbey and its surroundings can play a much more significant role in the economy and society of Barrow. A study has been commissioned by West Lakes Renaissance (the Urban Regeneration Company for the area) to support this work. The Development Group has members drawn from West Lakes Renaissance, English Heritage, Barrow Borough Council, Furness Enterprise, Community Action Furness, the Lake District Peninsulas Tourism Partnership and local businesses.

In 2003/04 English Heritage in the North West dealt with 69 scheduled monument consent applications, 659 Listed Building Consent consultations (one per 39 listed buildings), as well as 37 referrals from Government Office North West; and 509 Conservation Area Consent notifications.

B3 CAPACITY AND RESOURCES

B3.1 INVESTING IN THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

In the last ten years Heritage Lottery Fund grant support has contributed to changing the face of the North West. £324.8 million has been given to over 1,400 projects in the region, resulting in a total investment of almost £545 million in the heritage of the North West when partnership funding is taken into account. This has undoubtedly had a significant impact not just on the heritage of the North West but on its people, economy and environment.

No other UK organisation covers such a breadth of heritage or funds heritage projects on such a huge scale as the HLF. It can take an integrated approach to funding of the heritage – for example, supporting projects on sites which combine a range of interests such as a museum collection housed in a historic building in a designed parkland setting. A high priority is to encourage communities to identify, be involved in and make decisions about their heritage. HLF support has significantly increased the number of people with an active interest in heritage: through the 'Young Roots' scheme over £1 million has been awarded to projects involving and encouraging young people aged 13-20 to take an active interest in their heritage. Many projects supported by the HLF have involved finding new community uses for sites that have fallen into dereliction or disrepair. Each project has also led to provision for broad public access and opportunities for learning and enjoyment.

Projects such as the £8 million awarded for Murray's Mill and St. Peter's Church, have to led to the large-scale regeneration now being achieved in Ancoats, Manchester. Schemes to improve the management of areas of land for people and wildlife have significantly enhanced the region's distinctive heritage character and ensured its continued contribution to the North West's economy, tourism, education, and quality of life.

English Heritage also offers grant support towards the historic environment. In 2003/04 it offered £3.22 million in the region, which included £526,000 on historic buildings and monuments grants, £100,000 towards capacity building, £1.3 million on repairs grants for places of worship and £1.3 million on heritage economic regeneration grants. The capacity-building fund supports projects which encourage greater access to the historic environment for excluded groups, helps local communities to champion conservation and enhancement, promotes best practice standards for conservation, or helps meet regional information needs. As well as supporting the 'Making It Count' conference, the fund has been used to support a project manager post at the Victoria Baths, to help produce a project plan for the St Frances Gorton project (see B4 below) and to provide funding for exhibitions and public work by the Whitefield Conservation Action Group.

The Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) was introduced in April 2002 to provide funds to reduce the impact of aggregate extraction on the environment. In the North West this has funded national strategic research and outreach projects aimed at reducing the impact of extraction through better understanding of the historic environment in these areas.



Valley of Stone – Rossendale Quarries and Trackways

© David Greenall, Groundwork

Valley of Stone – Rossendale Quarries and Trackways

£74,318 of Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund money is being used by Groundwork Rossendale to develop a conservation and management plan for the Valley of Stone – a relict landscape of the once great stone quarrying industry on the Lancashire moors. The money will be used to develop a programme of Heritage Guided Walks, for the training of volunteers, and to produce educational and interpretative material. By developing people's interest, it is hoped to attract new visitors to the area.

Heritage Lottery Fund investing in the historic environment

	PROJECTS	£
CUMBRIA	247	£31,795,628
MERSEYSIDE	242	£93,976,490
CHESHIRE	209	£21,528,773
LANCASHIRE	266	£49,888,629
GREATER MANCHESTER	440	£127,651,391
TOTAL		£324,840,911

Source: Heritage Lottery Fund

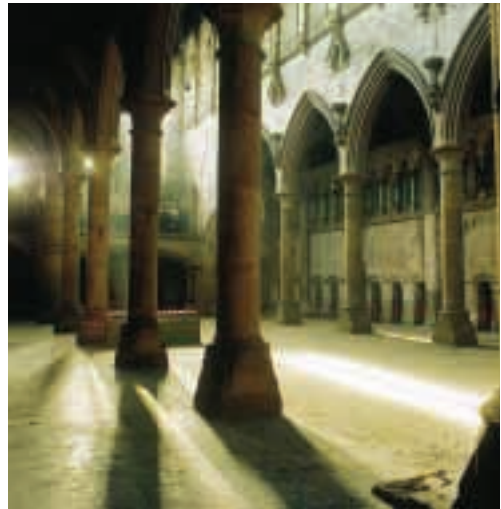
CARING AND SHARING

B4 SKILLS AND TRAINING



Roman Middlewich project

© Heritage Lottery Fund



Gorton Monastery, Manchester

© Imagine-CGA and The Monastery of St Francis and Gorton Trust

Roman Middlewich Project

This project focuses on events and activities which encourage a wide range of people from Middlewich and the surrounding area to become involved in and learn more about the Roman heritage of the area. The project includes a guided archaeological tour of Middlewich, permanent display panels and a virtual reality tour of the Roman Fort that once existed in the town. A Roman festival weekend was also organised.

B4 SKILLS AND TRAINING

The Monastery of St Francis at Gorton, Manchester

The Roman Catholic Church and monastery of St Francis of Assisi was for many decades the centre of religious and social life in Gorton. Designed by E W Pugin and built between 1863 and 1872, the church fell into disuse in 1989. In 1996 the Monastery of St Francis and Gorton Trust was established with the aim of saving the church and turning it once more into the focus of community life and the economic regeneration of Gorton, East Manchester. Following the announcement in 2002 of the award of grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the North West Regional Development Agency and English Heritage for the repair the church, English Heritage has worked with the Trust to pilot the development of an exemplary access and craft-skills training scheme to run during the life of the building refurbishment contract. It is hoped that public access will be permitted to the site for periods during the repair phase so people can see close-at-hand craft-skills in operation.

B5 ATTRACTING NEW AUDIENCES

The Disability Discrimination Act (1995) (DDA) sets out duties for employers, service providers and educational institutions with respect to the rights and expectations of people with disabilities. In 2004 English Heritage published *Easy Access to Historic Buildings* providing guidelines for developing physical access strategies for historic buildings.

English Heritage has completed access audits for all its staffed sites and all larger or well-visited unstaffed sites. The audits will be used to formulate access plans for each individual site and physical works will be carried out where required. All English Heritage staffed sites now have induction loops fitted at pay points, educational resource areas and audio tours. A consultation exercise is being carried out in conjunction with local charitable groups to explore the potential of Stott Park Bobbin Mill to become an exemplary site for visually impaired visitors.



DAWN Arts launch event Werneth 27th August 2004

© AKSA Housing Trust

DAWN Arts

Culture and heritage are vital mechanisms for community engagement in neighbourhood regeneration. DAWN (Derker and Werneth Network) Arts has been set up to benefit residents from the Oldham and Rochdale Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder Project. The DAWN Arts scheme engages residents in the regeneration process, facilitating creative input into design and underpinning a sense of ownership and belonging in the area.

DAWN Arts offers residents the opportunity to celebrate the past, reflect on the present and help build a positive future for their neighbourhood. It is being developed by Oldham's Community Cohesion Agency, part of Oldham Housing Investment Partnership, alongside Action Factory Community Arts, English Heritage, Groundwork, the Hartford Community Group, Werneth and Freehold Project, Pukhtoon Resource Centre and local social landlords, residents groups and schools. Funding has been secured from the Arts Council North West and English Heritage.



I dig Moston 2004

© Manchester City Council

Moston Old Hall Archaeological Dig

'I dig Moston' is a unique neighbourhood archaeological project based in Moston, North Manchester, on the site of the former Moston Hall and medieval farmyard buildings. It is a dig based on a collaborative venture between Manchester City Council, the University of Manchester Archaeology Unit and the local community, leading to the establishment of a local amateur archaeology group known as MADASH (Moston and District Archaeology and Social History Group). The project, which is now in its second year, has been funded through a partnership of the City Council, local private sector stakeholders, Greater Manchester Police and English Heritage.



CI HERITAGE AND REGENERATION

In April 2002, the Deputy Prime Minister announced a programme of housing market renewal to address problems of low demand. This is a key part of the Government's strategy set out in *Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future*. Nine 'Pathfinders' have been identified, covering 450,000 houses, to tackle the areas' problems and provide models for successful renewal elsewhere. The programme will involve the refurbishment of existing dwellings, replacing unpopular housing with new-build, and where necessary, clearance to reduce the problem of over-supply.

Four of the nine Housing Market Renewal Pathfinders are located in the North West; on Merseyside, in Manchester and Salford, in Oldham and Rochdale, and in East Lancashire. The Pathfinder Partnerships are charged with developing sustainable communities in those areas where the housing market has failed, leading to abandonment, anti-social behaviour, criminality, poor health and low incomes. CABE and English Heritage are working closely with all four pathfinders, providing advice on

how historic character and local distinctiveness can be used as positive drivers for regeneration and renewal. English Heritage is also continuing its involvement with the Whitefield area of Nelson, working alongside Elevate East Lancashire (the Pathfinder for East Lancashire), Pendle Borough Council, Heritage Trust for the North West, the local community and other partners to try to ensure that a community-led, conservation-based approach to regeneration can be taken forward.

From 2004/05 a new English Heritage programme for partnership schemes in conservation areas will build on the work carried out through Heritage Economic Regeneration Schemes (HERS), and will initially operate alongside the existing HERS. In 2002/03 English Heritage offered HERS grants totalling £993,000 and in 2003/04 £1,299,000. The new scheme, as with the HERS, will focus on heritage-led regeneration in areas of particular economic need. In the North West region this includes former urban industrial areas, including waterside environments, in need of adaptive re-use to drive regeneration; housing market renewal pathfinders; historic market towns with a key role in rural renaissance; and seaside towns.

Heritage Economic Regeneration Schemes in the North West

	LANCASHIRE	CUMBRIA	MERSEYSIDE	GREATER MANCHESTER	CHESHIRE
2001/02	AVENHAM, PRESTON	WHITEHAVEN, COPELAND	DUKE ST, CASTLE ST. LIVERPOOL		
	BURNLEY AND PADIHAM	MARYPORT, ALLERDALE			
2002/03	CHURCH, HYNDBURN	APPLEBY, EDEN	GEORGE ST. QUARTER, ST HELENS	WARDLE, ROCHDALE	FRODSHAM, VALE ROYAL
	BARNOLDSWICK, PENDLE	WIGTON ALLERDALE	HAMILTON SQ. WIRRAL		BROOK ST, CHESTER
	FLEETWOOD, WYRE				
2003/04	ST ANNE'S FYLDE	ULVERSTON, SOUTH LAKELAND DC		STOCKPORT	
	BARNOLDSWICK PENDLE	MILLOM, COPELAND			
		LONGTOWN, CARLISLE			

Source: English Heritage



Volunteer Matthew Whitfield with Hardman's print of the Ark Royal at 59 Rodney Street, Liverpool

© The National Trust

Personal snapshots. Edward Chambré Hardman's studio

59 Rodney Street in Liverpool is the former home and photographic studio of Edward Chambré Hardman. After many months of hard work by a dedicated team of National Trust staff and volunteers this property opened to the public in 2004. Over 25 volunteers worked on the project at 59 Rodney Street to conserve the contents of the property. Volunteers learnt a range of conservation skills, ranging from conservation cleaning, dressing of the house and cataloguing, to archiving the collection. Now the property is open to the public a further team of 100 volunteers are working as house guides and room stewards to share the story of 59 Rodney Street and Edward Chambré Hardman with the visitors. The project has been funded and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Liverpool City Council, the Chambré Hardman Trustees and a range of other partners.

C2 HERITAGE TOURISM

Each year 18 million people visit England's North West, contributing almost £3 billion to the region's economy. The tourism sector is a significant employer, providing a job for one in every ten people across the region. Tourism is set to grow into one of the most important sources of wealth and jobs for the region. It is already a multi-billion pound industry.

The region's environment and heritage offers a diversity of options for potential visitors. It incorporates the Lake District and urban centres such as Manchester and Liverpool. It contains 32 National Nature Reserves, four Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, three National Parks, and one Heritage Coast. The region is home to England's most popular coastal resort (Blackpool), longest lake (Windermere) and tallest mountain (Scafell Pike). The North West also hosts an abundance of historical and industrial heritage sites and leading museums and galleries, including the Lowry arts centre and Imperial War Museum North. Liverpool, in addition to being home of the Beatles, has been named the European Capital of Culture for 2008.

The North West Development Agency is responsible for the strategic direction of tourism in the region and has put in place five new tourist boards. North West Tourism has been established to implement the Tourism Vision for England's North West. NWDA have also produced a 50-page guide to the gardens of the North West and a 'Great Days Out' guide which features the full range of the region's historic attractions.

The National Trust in the North West cares for 72 properties and sites, including ancient castles, stretches of coastline, industrial heritage sites, woods, mansions and nature reserves. Many of these are open sites with no admission price or visitor counts. In 2003/04 the National Trust in the North West recorded 777,348 visitors to its pay-for-entry properties, the figures indicating a 4.3 per cent increase in the number of visitors to North West properties compared to the 2002/03 season.

C3 PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT
C4 EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING

C3 PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Volunteering is one of the nation's favourite pastimes and every year over 40,000 people of all ages and from all around the country give more than 2.6 million hours of their time to the National Trust alone. Through volunteering, adult training, education and youth programmes the National Trust and other heritage organisations are helping people to realise their full potential, to contribute to their communities and to develop life skills.

The National Trust has over 2,500 volunteers in the North West region and in 2003 they contributed a total of 219,344 hours of volunteer time which was worth around £987,048. Like many other charities. The National Trust relies on gifts of time and money from its supporters. Volunteers are not paid for the work they do, but give their time freely because they wish to discover, to help, or just to enjoy. Without volunteers to help the Trust and other heritage organisations, vital work could not be done.



Children using the Topiary Trail

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Levens Hall Topiary Trail

Levens Hall is a fine example of an Elizabethan manor house that has had remarkably little alteration over the past 400 years. The house is perhaps most famous for its Topiary Garden created around 1694 by William Beaumont, a French designer and gardener to King James II. Many visitors come solely to look at the gardens. A family activity building on this interest has been developed. The Topiary Trail has proved very popular with family visitors to Levens; in its first two months more than 80 activity sheets have been sold. Visitors have been encouraged to look closely at the individual topiary as well as appreciate the garden as a whole. One of the children using the Topiary Trail said 'some activities for kids are a bit babyish, but this is good'.

C4 EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING

In the North West, English Heritage has been working closely with the Historic Houses Association (HHA) on a one-year pilot project funded by the HLF aimed at sharing English Heritage's educational expertise and experience with privately owned historic houses.

The project has involved developing a range of education-related activities and the production of a handbook giving guidance to HHA members, together with an updated HHA website and regional seminars. Six pilot projects are being run in the Regions: Holker Hall, Levens Hall, Dalemain, and Mirehouse in Cumbria; Belmont Hall, Cheshire; and Leighton Hall, Lancashire.



This document has been produced by English Heritage on behalf of the North West Historic Environment Forum.

The North West Historic Environment Forum is a consultative body comprising organisations and agencies from across the region's historic environment sector. The Forum aims to develop a coherent voice to give effective advocacy to the region's historic environment.

- Association of Building Preservation Trusts
- Association of Local Government Archaeology Officers
- Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment
- Council for British Archaeology
- Country Land and Business Association
- Culture Northwest
- Department for Culture Media and Sport
- English Heritage
- Garden History Society
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- Historic Houses Association
- ICOMOS for World Heritage Sites
- Institute of Historic Building Conservation
- Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester
- National Museums Liverpool
- North West Association of Civic Trust Societies
- North West Development Agency
- North West Museums, Libraries and Archives Council
- North West Regional Assembly
- The Dean of Manchester
- The National Trust



ENGLISH HERITAGE